CS 302.1 - Automata Theory

Lecture 05

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Quick Recap

Context-Free Grammars: If the *rules* of the underlying grammar *G* are of the form

$$V \to (V \cup T)^*$$

then such a grammar is called **Context-Free**.

- Σ is the set of **Terminals**
- *P* is the set of production **Rules**

S is the **Start Variable**

$$[(V \cup T)^*V(V \cup T)^* \to (V \cup T)^*]$$

[The variable in the LHS of the first rule is generally the start variable]

- To show that a string $w \in L(G)$, we show that there exists a **derivation ending up in** $w \in S \Rightarrow w$.
- The language of the grammar, L(G) is $\{w \in \Sigma^* | S \stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow} w\}$

Right Linear grammar: If the *rules* of the underlying grammar *G* are of the form

$$Var \rightarrow Ter Var$$
 $Var \rightarrow Ter$
 $Var \rightarrow \epsilon$

then it is **Right-linear grammar.**

Left linear grammar: If the *rules* of the underlying grammar *G* are of the form

$$Var \rightarrow Var Ter$$
 $Var \rightarrow Ter$
 $Var \rightarrow \epsilon$

then such a grammar is called **Left-linear grammar**.

Left-linear grammar \equiv Right-linear grammar \equiv DFA \equiv NFA \equiv Regular Expressions

Quick Recap

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- *P* is the set of production **Rules**
- *S* is the **Start Variable**

 $[(V \cup T)^*V(V \cup T)^* \rightarrow (V \cup T)^*]$

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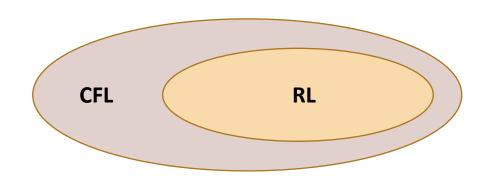
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then such a grammar is called **Context-Free**.

$$L(G) = \{\omega | \omega = 0^n 1^n, n \ge 0\}$$

So although L(G) is not regular, it is context-free.



Consider the Grammar *G* with the following rules:

$$S \rightarrow 0S1|SS|\epsilon$$

One derivation:

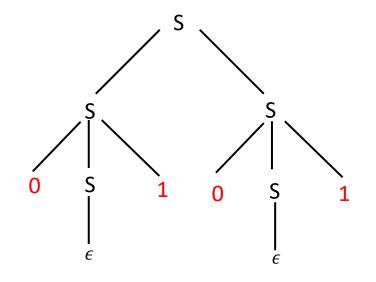
$$S \rightarrow SS \rightarrow 0S1S \rightarrow 0S10S1 \rightarrow 0101$$

Parse trees: These are ordered trees that provide alternative representations of the derivation of a grammar.

Parsing is a useful technique for compilers (Analysis of syntax eg: take sequence of tokens as input & output parse trees which provides structural representation of the input while checking for the correct syntax).

Features:

- The root node is the Start variable
- Branch out to nodes of the next level by following any of the rules of the grammar
- Stop when all the leaf nodes of the tree are terminals
- Read the terminals in the leaves from left to right.
- If w is the string obtained, then $S \stackrel{\hat{}}{\Rightarrow} w$ and $w \in L(G)$



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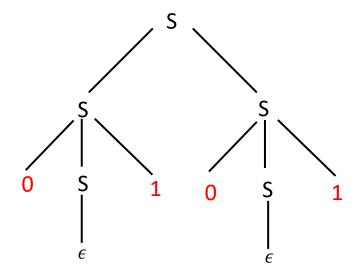
Consider the following derivations for 0101:

1.
$$S \to SS \to 0S1S \to 0S10S1 \to 0101$$

2.
$$S \rightarrow SS \rightarrow 0S1S \rightarrow 01S \rightarrow 010S1 \rightarrow 0101$$

3.
$$S \rightarrow SS \rightarrow S0S1 \rightarrow S01 \rightarrow 0S101 \rightarrow 0101$$

• The parse trees for all these derivations are the same.



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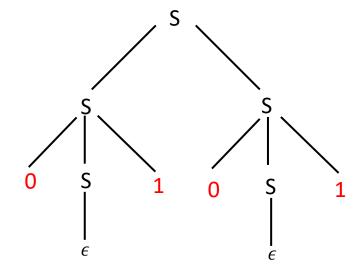
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- The parse trees for all these derivations are the same.
- If a string is derived by replacing only the leftmost variable at every step, then the derivation is a **leftmost derivation**. (e.g. derivation 2.)
-rightmost variable = **rightmost derivation** (e.g. derivation 3.)
- Derivations may not always be **leftmost** or **rightmost** (e.g. derivation 1.)



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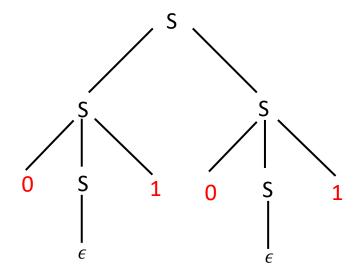
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Ambiguous grammars: A CFG G is said to be **ambiguous** if there exists $\omega \in L(G)$, such that there are **two or more leftmost derivations for** ω (or equivalently two or more rightmost derivations) or equivalently **two or more parse trees for** ω .

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Show that Grammar G is ambiguous, i.e. $\exists \omega \in L(G)$, such that there are two or more parse trees for ω .

- Show that there exist two different parse trees for **010101**.
- Show that there exist two leftmost derivations for 010101.

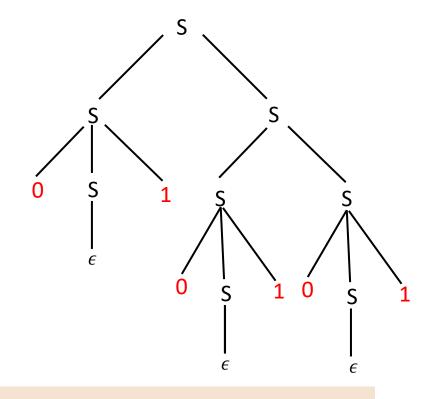
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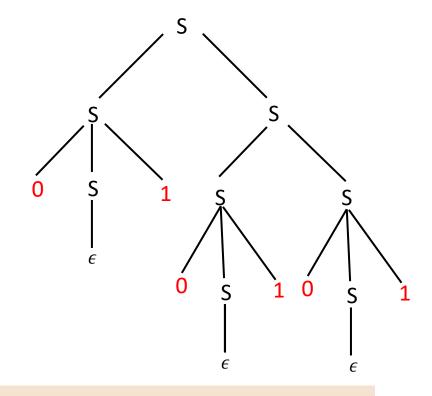
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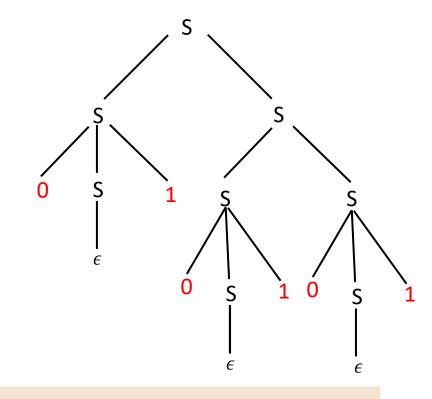
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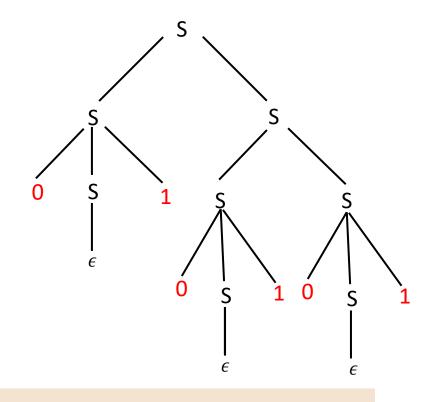
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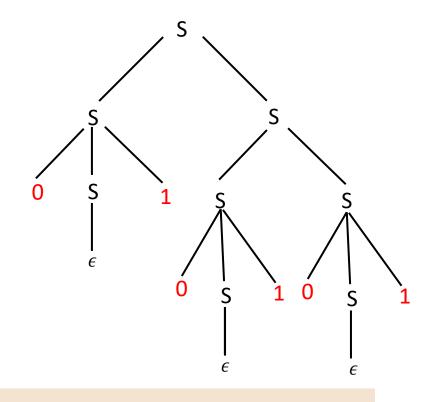
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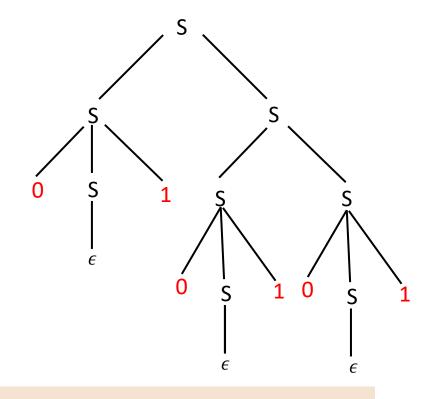
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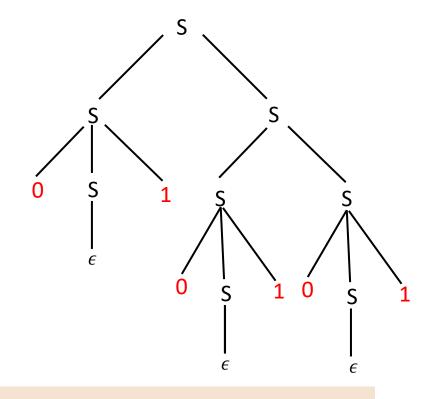


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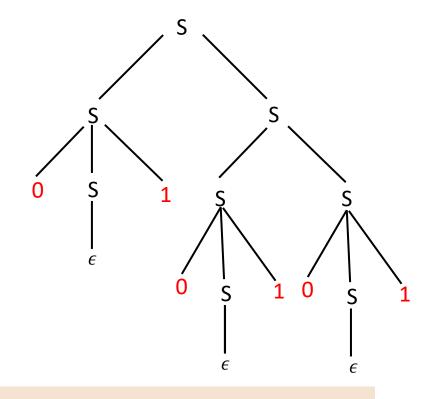
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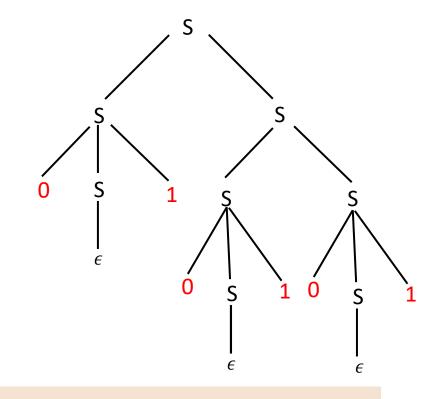
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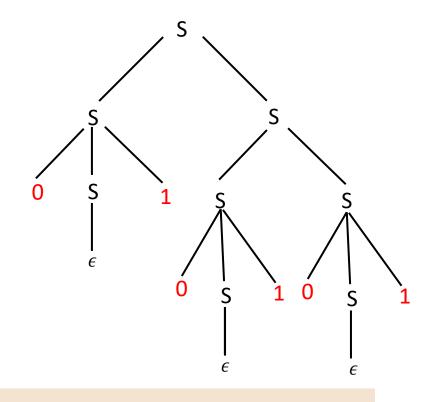
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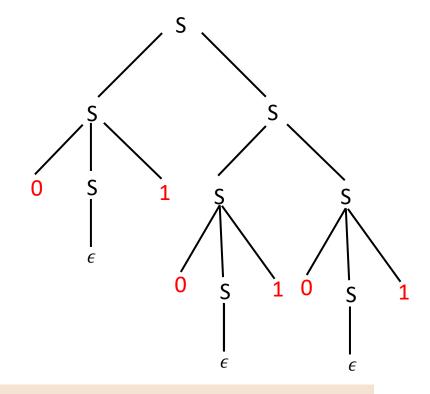
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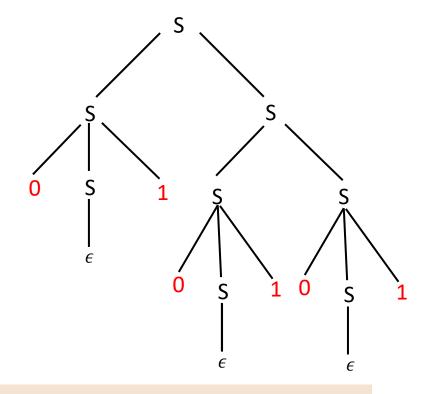


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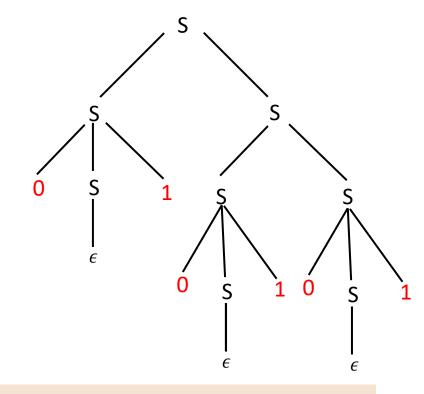


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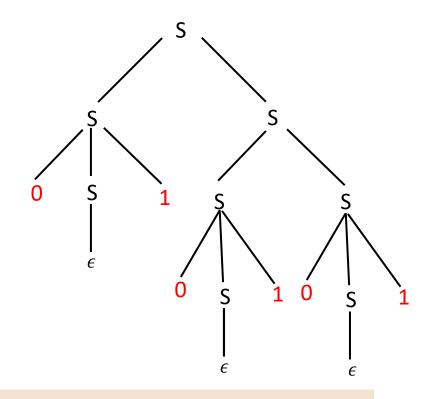
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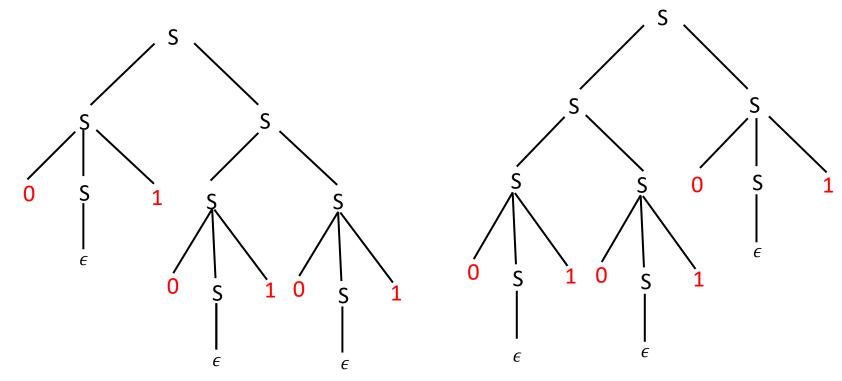
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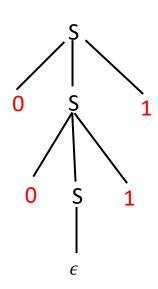
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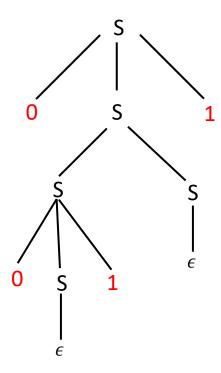


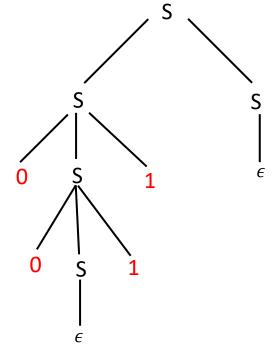
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Show that the Grammar G with the following rules: $S \to 0S1|SS|\epsilon$ is ambiguous.

Consider string $\omega = 0011$







LD: $S \to 0S1 \to 00S11 \to 0011$

LD: $S \to \mathbf{0S1} \to 0\mathbf{SS}1 \to 0\mathbf{0S1}S1 \to 001S1 \to \mathbf{001}S1 \to \mathbf{001}S1$

LD: $S \to SS \to 0S1S \to 00S11S \to 0011S \to 0011$

Unique structures are important. For example:

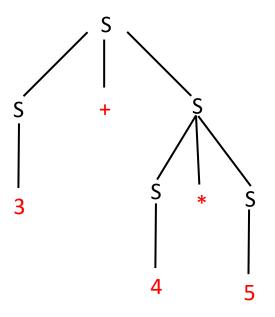
- The syntax of a programming language can be represented by a CFG.
- A compiler
 - translates the code written in the programming language into a form that is suitable for execution.
 - checks if the underlying programming language is syntactically correct.
- Parse trees are data structures that represent such structures.
- Parse tree for the code helps analyze the syntax. So ambiguity might lead to different interpretations and hence, different outcomes for the same code.

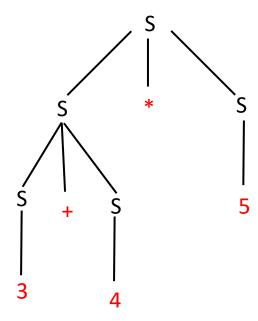
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Consider the grammar: $S \rightarrow S + S \mid S * S \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid \cdots \mid 9$

and the derivation of the string 3 + 4 * 5



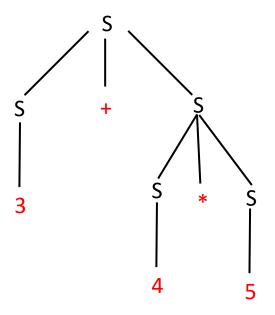


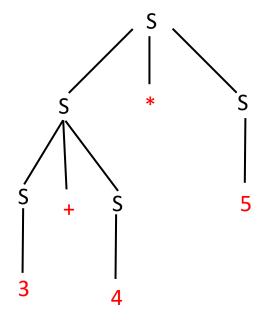
- The grammar contains no information on the precedence relations of the various arithmetic operations.
- The grammar may group + before *

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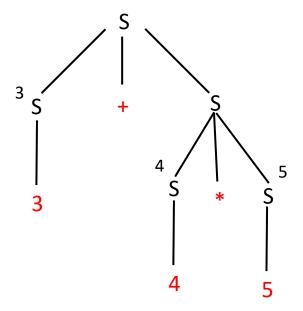


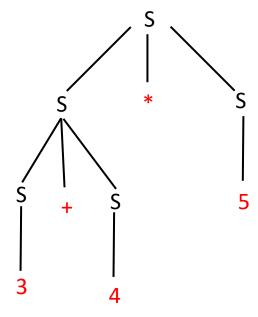
• What will be the result obtained from each of these *parsings*?

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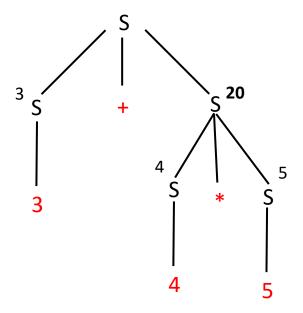


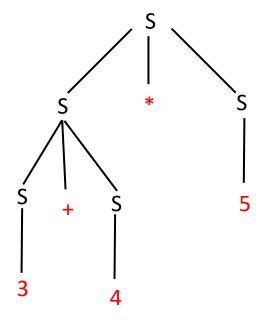
If the compiler compiles the left parse tree

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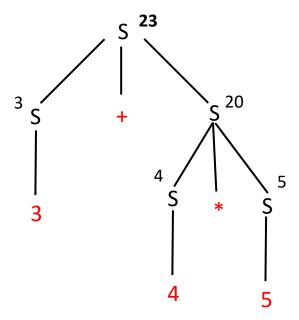


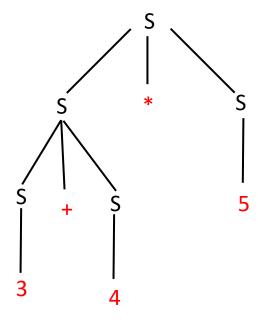
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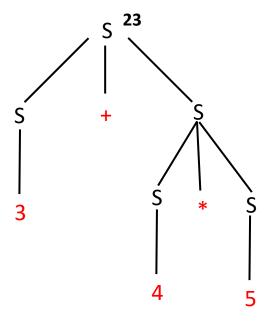


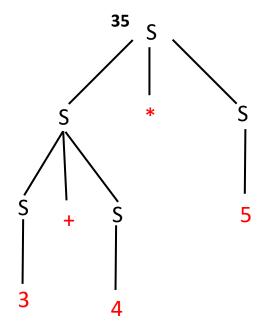
• If the compiler compiles the left parse tree. Outcome = 23

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and the derivation of the string 3 + 4 * 5



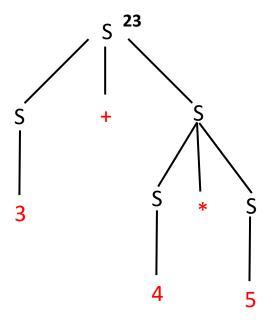


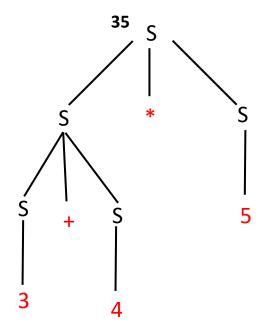
• If the compiler compiles the **right** parse tree. Outcome = **35**

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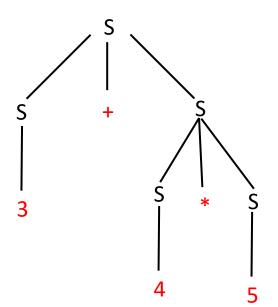
How can we get rid of this ambiguity?

Consider the grammar: $S \rightarrow S + S \mid S * S \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid \cdots \mid 9$

How can we get rid of this ambiguity? Change the production rules

1) Add parenthesis

New Grammar: $S \to (S + S) | (S * S) | 0 | 1 | 2 | \cdots | 9$



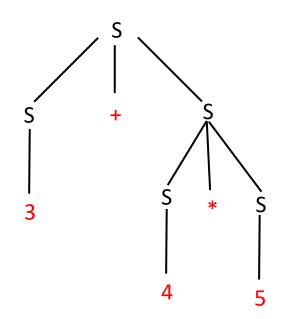
Old Parse tree (before adding parenthesis)

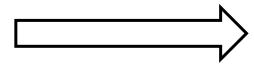
Consider the grammar: $S \rightarrow S + S \mid S * S \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid \cdots \mid 9$

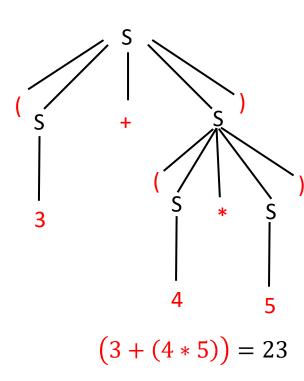
How can we get rid of this ambiguity? Change the production rules

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- 1) Add parentheses
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New Grammar:

$$E \rightarrow E + T \mid T$$

$$T \rightarrow T * F \mid F$$

$$F \rightarrow 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid \cdots \mid 9 \mid E$$

Ambiguity

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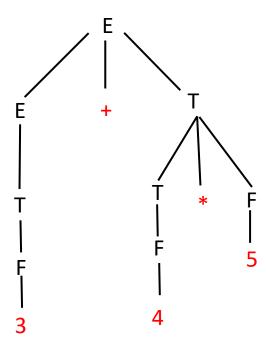
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Parse tree to derive: 3 + (4 * 5)



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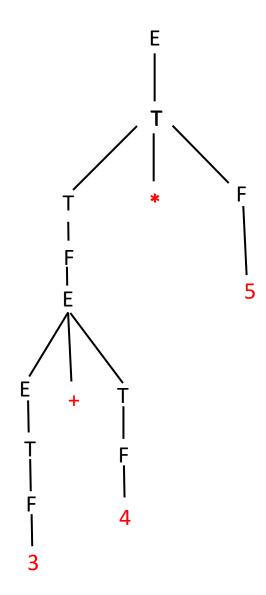
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Ambiguity

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- In general, it is not possible to write an algorithm that takes as input a grammar G and outputs, YES if G is ambiguous and NO, otherwise. (Undecidable)
- A CFL L' is **inherently ambiguous** if all grammars G such that L(G) = L' are ambiguous.
- So removing ambiguity is impossible in general.

Often it is easier to work with CFG in a simple standardized form - the Chomsky Normal Form (CNF) is one of them.

Chomsky Normal Form

A CFG G is in CNF if every rule of G is of the form

 $Var \rightarrow Var Var$ $Var \rightarrow ter$ $Start Var \rightarrow \epsilon$

where *Var* can be any variable, including the Start Variable, *Start Var*.

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Why are CNFs useful?

- Suppose you are given a CFG G and a string w as input and you have to write an algorithm that decides whether G generates w.
- Your algorithm outputs YES if G generates w and NO, otherwise.

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- The algorithm outputs YES if G generates w and NO, otherwise.
- One idea is to go through ALL derivations one by one and output YES if any of them generates w.
- * However, infinitely many derivations may have to tried.
- \diamond So if G does not generate w, the algorithm will never stop.
- So this problem appears to be **undecidable**.

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Suppose you are given a CFG G as and a string w as input and you have to write an algorithm that decides whether G generates w.

- Converting G first to a CNF alleviates this and makes the problem decidable.
- It limits the number of steps in derivations required to generate any $w \in L(G)$.
- If $w \in L(G)$, then a CFG in Chomsky Normal Form has **derivations of 2n 1 steps** for input strings w of length n (We will prove this shortly).

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Why are CNFs useful?

Suppose you are given a CFG G as and a string w as input and you have to write an algorithm that decides whether G generates w.

- 1. Convert *G* to CNF.
- 2. List all derivations of 2n-1 steps, where |w|=n. (There are a finite number of these)
- 3. If ANY of these derivations generate w, output YES, otherwise output NO.

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- 1) A CFG in Chomsky Normal Form has derivations of 2n-1 steps for generating strings $w \in L(G)$ of length n.
- 2) Any CFL can be generated by a CFG written in Chomsky Normal Form.

To prove 1) use induction!

Prove that a CFG in Chomsky Normal Form has derivations of 2n-1 steps for generating strings $w \in L(G)$ of length n.

Proof: Note that any CFG in CNF can be written as:

 $A \rightarrow BC$ [B, C are not start variables]

 $A \rightarrow a$ [a is a terminal]

 $S \rightarrow \epsilon$ [S is the Start Variable]

We will prove this by **induction**.

(Basic step) Let |w| = 1. Then **one** application of the second rule would suffice. So any derivation of w would need 2|w| - 1 = 1 step.

(Inductive hypothesis) Assume the statement of the theorem to be true for any string of length at most k where $k \ge 1$. Now we shall show that it holds for any $w \in L(G)$ such that |w| = k + 1.

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Since |w| > 1, any derivation will start from the rule $A \to BC$. So w = xy, where $B \stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow} x$, |x| > 0 and $C \stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow} y$, |y| > 0. But since $|x|, |y| \le k$, and we have that by the inductive hypothesis: (i) number of steps in the derivation $B \stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow} x$ is 2|x| - 1 and (ii) number of steps in the derivation $C \stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow} y$ is 2|y| - 1. So the number of steps in the derivation of w is

$$1 + (2|x| - 1) + (2|y| - 1) = 2(|x| + |y|) - 1 = 2|w| - 1 = 2(k + 1) - 1.$$

A CFG *G* is in **CNF** if every rule of *G* is of the form

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Any CFL can be generated by a CFG written in Chomsky Normal Form.

Proof: The proof is constructive. Suppose we have a CFG G with a set of rules. To convert G into CNF, we do the following:

- 1. Add a new start variable $S' \rightarrow S$
- 2. Remove ϵ rules of the form $A \rightarrow \epsilon$
 - Remove nullable symbols/rules
- 3. Remove unit (short) rules of the form $A \rightarrow B$
 - Remove useless symbols/rules
- 4. Remove long rules of the form $A \rightarrow u_1 u_2 \cdots u_k$
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We remove the rule $A \to \epsilon$. For each occurrence of A in the right side of the rule, we add a new rule with the occurrence of A deleted.

E.g.: Consider any rule $B \rightarrow uAvAw$

(u, v, w) can be strings of variables and terminals)

Then new rules: $B \rightarrow uAvAw|uvAw|uAvw|uvw$

What if you had a rule such as $B \to A$? Then we would have needed to add a rule $B \to \epsilon$ (unless this rule has been already removed) as B is a **nullable variable**.

Repeat this procedure, until all ϵ -rules are removed.

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E.g.:
$$S \to 0|X0|ZYZ$$

 $X \to Y|\epsilon$
 $Y \to 1|X$

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To remove
$$X \to \epsilon$$
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To remove $X \to \epsilon$, we add new rules: $S \to 0|X0|ZYZ$ $X \to Y$ $Y \to 1|X|\epsilon$

To remove
$$Y \to \epsilon$$
, we add:
$$S \to 0|X0|ZYZ|ZZ$$

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- 3. Remove unit rules of the form $A \rightarrow B$

We remove the rule $A \to B$ and whenever a rule $B \to u$ appears (u is a string of terminals and variables), we add a new rule $A \to u$, unless this rule was already removed.

Repeat these steps until all unit rules are removed.

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E.g.:

$$S \to A|11$$

$$A \rightarrow B|1$$

$$B \rightarrow S|0$$

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| Remove $A \rightarrow S$ | Remove $S \rightarrow B$ | Remove $B \rightarrow B$ | Remove $B \rightarrow S$ | Remove $A \rightarrow B$ | Remove $S \to A$ |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| $S \to 11 0 1$ $A \to 1 11 0$ | $S \to 11 0 1$ $A \to 1 S 0$ | $S \to 11 B 1$ $A \to 1 S 0$ | $S \to 11 B 1$ $A \to 1 S 0$ | $S \to 11 B 1$ $A \to 1 S 0$ | $S \to 11 \mathbf{B} 1$ $A \to B 1$ |
| $B \to 0 11 1$ | $B \to 0 11 1$ | $B \to 0 11 1$ | $B \to 0 11 1 \mathbf{B}$ | $B \to S 0$ | $B \to S 0$ |

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- 1. Add a new start variable $S' \rightarrow S$
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- 3. Remove unit rules of the form $A \rightarrow B$
- 4. Remove long rules of the form $A o u_1 u_2 \cdots u_k$

Note that each u_i could be a variable or a terminal. We do the following:

- Replace $A \to u_1u_2 \cdots u_k$, $(k \ge 3)$ with the rules $A \to u_1A_1$, $A_1 \to u_2A_2$, \cdots , $A_{k-2} \to u_{k-1}u_k$
- We replace any terminal u_i in the preceding rules with the new variable U_i and add the rule $U_i o u_i$

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Remove ϵ **rules of the form** $A \to \epsilon$ (For each occurrence of A in the right side of the rule, add a new rule with the occurrence of A deleted; Remove nullable variables, Repeat the procedure until all ϵ rules are removed).

Remove unit rules of the form $A \to B$ (Whenever a rule $B \to u$ appears, we add a new rule $A \to u$, unless this rule was already removed. Repeat these steps until all unit rules are removed.)

Remove long rules of the form $A \to u_1u_2 \cdots u_k$ (Replace $A \to u_1u_2 \cdots u_k$, $(k \ge 3)$ with the rules $A \to u_1A_1$, $A_1 \to u_2A_2, \cdots, A_{k-2} \to u_{k-1}u_k$; Replace any terminal u_i in the preceding rules with the new variable U_i and add the rule $U_i \to u_i$).

CNF:

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 $A \rightarrow BC$ [B, C are not start variables]

$$A \rightarrow a$$

 $A \rightarrow a$ [a is a terminal]

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 $S \rightarrow \epsilon$ [S is the Start Variable]

Convert the CFG

$$S \rightarrow ASA|aB$$

$$A \rightarrow B|S$$

$$B \rightarrow b | \epsilon$$

to CNF.

1. Add a new start variable

2a. Remove
$$\epsilon$$
 rules ($B \rightarrow \epsilon$)

2b. Remove
$$\epsilon$$
 rules (A $\rightarrow \epsilon$)

$$S' \rightarrow S$$

$$S \rightarrow ASA|aB$$

$$A \rightarrow B|S$$

$$B \rightarrow b|\epsilon$$

$$S' \to S$$

$$S \to ASA|aB|\mathbf{a}$$

$$A \to B|S|\mathbf{\epsilon}$$

$$B \to b$$

$$S' \to S$$

$$S \to ASA|aB|a|AS|SA|S$$

$$A \to B|S$$

$$B \to b$$

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$$A \rightarrow B|S$$

$$B \rightarrow b | \epsilon$$

to CNF.

3a. Remove $S \rightarrow S$

3b. Remove
$$S' \rightarrow S$$

3c. Remove
$$A \rightarrow B$$

3d. Remove A
$$\rightarrow$$
 S

$$S' \to S$$

$$S \to ASA|aB|a|AS|SA$$

$$A \to B|S$$

$$B \to b$$

$$S' \rightarrow ASA|aB|a|AS|SA$$

 $S \rightarrow ASA|aB|a|AS|SA$
 $A \rightarrow B|S$
 $B \rightarrow b$

$$S' \rightarrow ASA|aB|a|AS|SA$$

 $S \rightarrow ASA|aB|a|AS|SA$
 $A \rightarrow S|\mathbf{b}$
 $B \rightarrow b$

$$S' \rightarrow ASA|aB|a|AS|SA$$

 $S \rightarrow ASA|aB|a|AS|SA$
 $A \rightarrow b|ASA|aB|a|AS|SA$
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Convert the CFG

$$S \rightarrow ASA|aB$$

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$$B \rightarrow b | \epsilon$$

to CNF.

3d. Remove $A \rightarrow S$

$$S' \rightarrow ASA|aB|a|AS|SA$$

 $S \rightarrow ASA|aB|a|AS|SA$
 $A \rightarrow b|ASA|aB|a|AS|SA$
 $B \rightarrow b$

4a. Remove long rules

$$S' o ASA|aB|a|AS|SA$$
 $S' o ASA|aB|a|AS|SA$
 $S o ASA|aB|a|AS|SA$ $S o ASA|aB|a|AS|SA$
 $A o b|ASA|aB|a|AS|SA$ $A o b|ASA|aB|a|AS|SA$
 $B o b$ $B o b$

There are other rules of the form: $Var \rightarrow ASA$

4b. Remove long rules

$$S' \to A\mathbf{U}|aB|a|AS|SA$$

$$S \to A\mathbf{U}|aB|a|AS|SA$$

$$A \to b|A\mathbf{U}|aB|a|AS|SA$$

$$U \to SA$$

$$B \to b$$

4c. Remove long rules

$$S' \to AU|VB|a|AS|SA$$

$$S \to AU|VB|a|AS|SA$$

$$A \to b|AU|VB|a|AS|SA$$

$$U \to SA$$

$$V \to a$$

$$B \to b$$

CNF:

 $A \rightarrow BC$

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Convert the CFG

$$S \rightarrow ASA|aB$$

$$A \rightarrow B|S$$

$$B \rightarrow b | \epsilon$$

to CNF.

$$S' \rightarrow AU|VB|\alpha|AS|SA$$

$$S \rightarrow AU|VB|a|AS|SA$$

$$A \rightarrow b|AU|VB|\alpha|AS|SA$$

$$U \rightarrow SA$$

$$V \rightarrow a$$

$$B \rightarrow b$$

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Intuition to build an Automata for CFL

• It should be some **Finite State Machine** that has access to a memory device with infinite memory, i.e.

Automata for CFL = FSM + Memory device

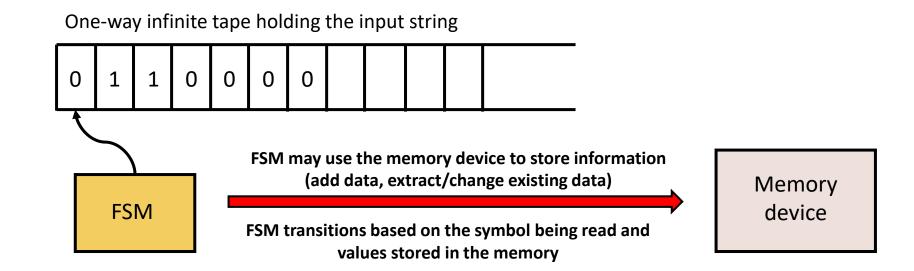
- FSM may choose to ignore the memory device completely in which case it behaves like a DFA/NFA.
- FSM makes use of the Memory device to recognize "non-Regular" CFLs.

E.g.:
$$\{0^n 1^n, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

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Thank You!