# CS 302.1 - Automata Theory

Lecture 05

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## Quick Recap

**Grammars:** A Grammar is a 4-tuple  $(V, \Sigma, P, S)$ , such that

- V is the set of Variables
- $\Sigma$  is the set of **Terminals**
- *P* is the set of production **Rules**

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

S is the Start Variable

[ 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**  $w \in S \stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow} w$ .
- 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

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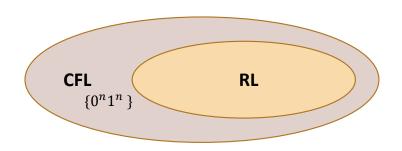
**Context-Free Grammars:** If the rules of the underlying grammar G are of the form

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

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.



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**Regular languages** ⊂ **Context Free Languages**.

Consider the Grammar *G* with the following rules:

Strings that can be derived by *G*:

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

$$S \rightarrow \epsilon$$

 $\{\epsilon\}$ 

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$$S \to 0$$
**S**1  $\to 0$ **0S**11 ...

$$\{\epsilon, 01, 0011, \dots 0^n 1^n\}$$

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$$S \rightarrow \mathbf{0S1} \rightarrow 0\mathbf{SS1} \rightarrow 0\mathbf{0S1}S1 \rightarrow 001S1 \rightarrow 001\mathbf{0S1}1 \rightarrow 001011$$

$$\{\epsilon, 01, 0011, \dots 0^n 1^n, 001011, \dots\}$$

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Show that the string  $010101 \in L(G)$ .

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You can see what the language is, if you replace  $oldsymbol{0}$  with ( and  $oldsymbol{1}$  with )

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Strings that can be derived by G:  $\{\epsilon,01,0011,\ldots,0^n1^n,001011,010101,\ldots\}$ 

 $\{\epsilon,()\}$ 

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$$\{\epsilon, (-), ((-)), \dots, ((((\dots)))\}$$

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Strings that can be derived by  $G: \{\epsilon, 01, 0011, ..., 0^n1^n, 001011, 010101, ....\}$ 

$$\left\{ \varepsilon, (\quad), \left( (\quad) \right), \dots, \left( \left( \left( (\dots) \right) \right) \right), ((\quad) (\quad)), () (), \dots \right\}$$

So, L(G) is the language of all strings of properly nested parentheses.

 $L(G) = \{\omega | \omega \text{ is a correctly nested parenthesis}\}$ 

#### Constructing CFG corresponding to a Language.

There is no fixed recipe for doing this. Requires some level of creativity.

Some tips might come in handy:

• Check if the CFL is a union of simpler languages. If  $L(G) = L(G_1) \cup L(G_2)$  and  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are known. If  $S_1$  is the start variable for  $G_1$  and  $S_2$  is the start variable for  $G_2$  then the rules of G:

$$S \to S_1 | S_2$$

$$S_1 \to \cdots \cdots$$

$$S_2 \to \cdots \cdots$$

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$$S \to S_1 | S_2$$

$$S_1 \to \cdots \cdots$$

$$S_2 \to \cdots \cdots$$

• Grammars with rules such as  $S \to aSb$  help generate strings where the corresponding machine would need unbounded memory to *remember* the number of a's needed to verify that there are an equal number of b's. This was not possible with regular expressions/linear grammars.

#### **Constructing CFG corresponding to a Language.**

- Check if the CFL is a union of simpler languages.
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Example: Construct the grammar G such that  $L(G) = \{\omega | \omega \text{ has equal number of 0's and 1's}\}$ 

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- The first thing to notice is that  $L_1 = \{0^n 1^n, n \ge 0\} \subset L(G)$ . We know the grammar for this language.
- Any string  $\omega \in L_1$  has a series of 0's followed by an equal number of 1's.
- Again, consider  $L_2$  to comprise all strings that start with a series of 1's followed by an equal number of 0's, i.e.

$$L_2 = \{1^n 0^n, n \ge 0\}$$

- The grammar for  $L_2$  is similar to that of  $L_1$ : replace the 0's with 1's and vice versa. Importantly,  $L_2 = \{1^n0^n, n \ge 0\} \subset L(G)$  also.
- Also,  $L_1 \cup L_2 \subset L(G)$

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- So  $L'(G') = \{0^n 1^n | n \ge 0\} \cup \{1^n 0^n | n \ge 0\} \subset L(G)$
- Grammar for  $L_1: S \to 0S1|\epsilon$
- Grammar for  $L_2: S \to 1S0 | \epsilon$
- Grammar for  $L_1 \cup L_2$ :

$$S \to S_1 | S_2$$

$$S_1 \to 0S_1 1 | \epsilon$$

$$S_2 \to 1S_2 0 | \epsilon$$

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• Grammar for  $L_1 \cup L_2$ :

$$S \rightarrow S_1 | S_2$$

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• Is that all? Is  $L_1 \cup L_2 = L(G)$ ?  $L_1 \cup L_2$  contains all strings that have equal number 0's followed by equal number of 1's or vice versa.

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- Is that all? Is  $L_1 \cup L_2 = L(G)$ ?  $L_1 \cup L_2$  contains all strings that have equal number 0's followed by equal number of 1's or vice versa.
- What about strings such as  $s_1 = 0101 \cdots$  and  $s_2 = 1010 \cdots$ ? For this we need to be able to go from

$$0S_11 \to 0S_21 \to 01S_201 \to \cdots$$

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$$S_1 \to 0S_1 1 | \epsilon$$
  

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• What about strings such as  $s_1=0101\cdots$  and  $s_2=1010\cdots$ ? Add transitions  $S_1\to S_2$  and  $S_2\to S_1$ .

$$\begin{split} S &\to S_1 | S_2 \\ S_1 &\to 0 S_1 1 | \epsilon \\ S_2 &\to 1 S_2 0 | \epsilon \\ S_1 &\to S_2 \\ S_2 &\to S_1. \end{split}$$

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$$S_2 \rightarrow 1S_2 0 | \epsilon$$

$$S_1 \rightarrow S_2$$

$$S_2 \rightarrow S_1$$

- Can't we simplify this? We can replace  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  with a single Start variable as follows:  $S o 0S1|1S0|\epsilon$
- What kind of strings does the grammar generate? Well if we use Rule  $S \to 0S1$ , m times, we get to rules such as  $0^mS1^m$ .
- Now applying the rule  $S \to 1S0$ , k times, we get  $\mathbf{0}^m \mathbf{1}^k \mathbf{S} \mathbf{0}^k \mathbf{1}^m$ .
- So the strings we obtain are of the form:

$$\{0^{m_1}1^{n_1}0^{m_2}1^{n_2}\cdots 0^{n_2}1^{m_2}0^{n_1}1^{m_1}\}\cup\{1^{m_1}0^{n_1}1^{m_2}0^{n_2}\cdots 1^{n_2}0^{m_2}1^{n_1}0^{m_1}\}\in L(G)$$

#### **Constructing CFG corresponding to a Language.**

Example: Construct the grammar G such that  $L(G) = \{\omega | \omega \text{ has equal number of 0's and 1's}\}$ 

$$S \rightarrow S_1 | S_2$$

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• Simplified grammar:

$$S \rightarrow 0S1|1S0|\epsilon$$

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- Is that all? What about strings such as {0110, 00111100}?
- More generally, what about strings that are a concatenation of  $L_1$  and  $L_2$ ?

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• Simplified grammar:

$$S \to 0S1|1S0|\epsilon$$

- Is that all? What about strings such as {0110, 00111100}?
- More generally, what about strings that are a concatenation of  $L_1$  and  $L_2$ ?
- Adding transitions like  $S \to S_1 S_2$  incorporates this.

#### **Constructing CFG corresponding to a Language.**

Example: Construct the grammar G such that  $L(G) = \{\omega | \omega \text{ has equal number of 0's and 1's}\}$ 

$$\begin{split} S &\to S_1 |S_2| S_1 S_2 \\ S_1 &\to 0 S_1 1 |\epsilon \\ S_2 &\to 1 S_2 0 |\epsilon \\ S_1 &\to S_2 \\ S_2 &\to S_1 \end{split}$$

• Simplify this further.

G:  $S \rightarrow SS|0S1|1S0|\epsilon$ 

Consider the Grammar *G* with the following rules:

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

One derivation:

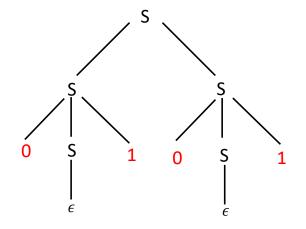
$$S \rightarrow SS \rightarrow 0S1S \rightarrow 0S10S1 \rightarrow 0101$$

**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  $w \in L(G)$



Consider the Grammar *G* with the following rules:

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

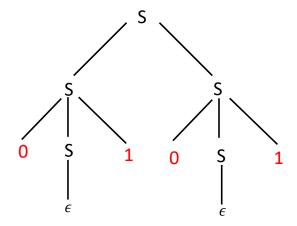
Consider the following derivations for 0101:

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

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.



Consider the Grammar *G* with the following rules:

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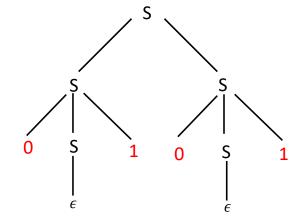
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- The parse trees for all these derivations are the same.
- If a string is derived by replacing only the leftmost variable at every step, then the derivation is a **leftmost derivation**. (e.g. derivation 2.)
- .....rightmost variable = **rightmost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



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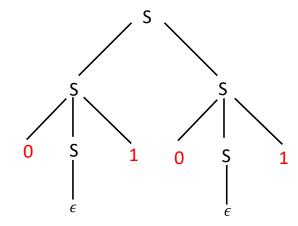
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$$S \rightarrow SS \rightarrow SOS1 \rightarrow SO1 \rightarrow OS101 \rightarrow O101$$

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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**  $\omega$  (or equivalently two or more rightmost derivations) or equivalently **two or more parse trees for**  $\omega$ .

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Consider the Grammar G with the following rules:  $S \rightarrow 0S1|SS|\epsilon$ 

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

Consider the string  $\omega = 010101$ :

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

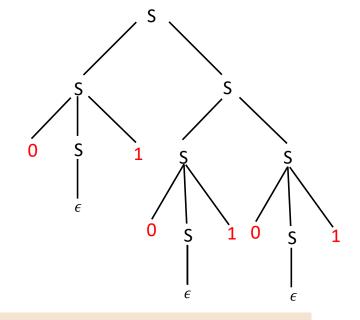
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Leftmost Derivation:  $S \rightarrow SS$ 

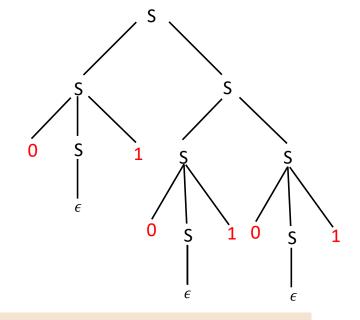
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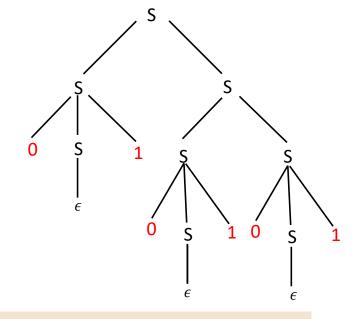
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Consider the string  $\omega = 010101$ :

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Leftmost Derivation:  $S \rightarrow SS \rightarrow 0S1S$ 

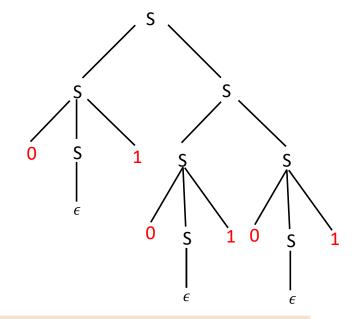
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Consider the string  $\omega = 010101$ :

- Show that there exist two different parse trees for **010101**.
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Leftmost Derivation:  $S \rightarrow SS \rightarrow 0S1S$ 

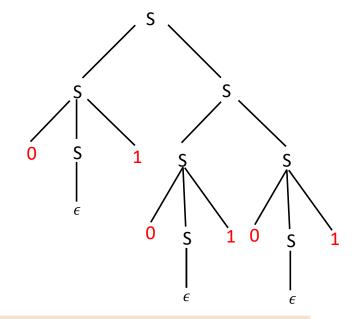
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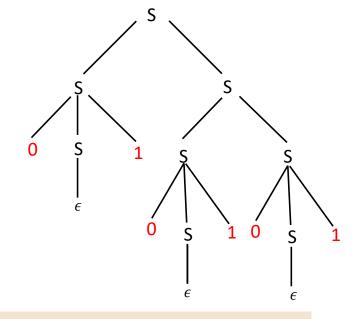
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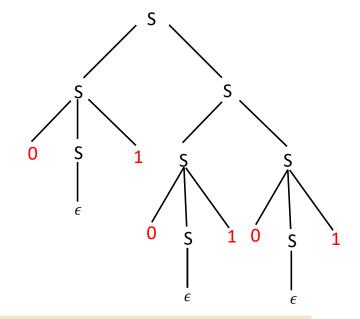
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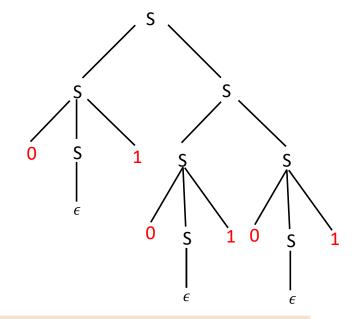
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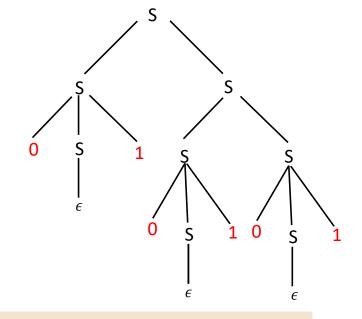
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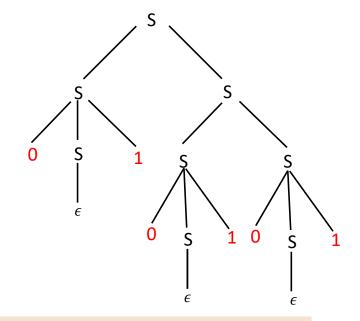
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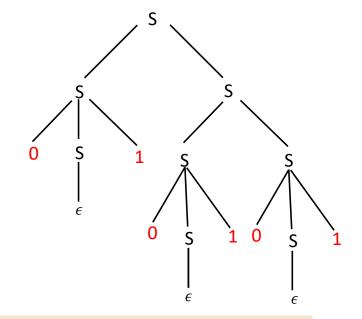
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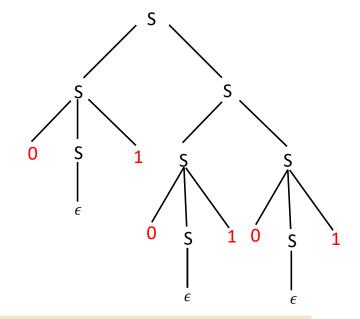
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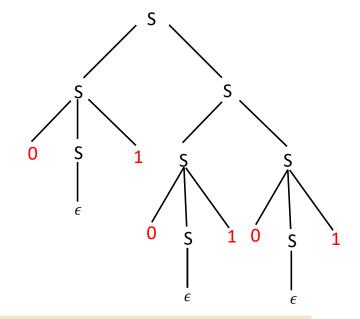
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Leftmost Derivation:  $S \rightarrow SS \rightarrow 0S1S \rightarrow 01S \rightarrow 01SS \rightarrow 010S1S \rightarrow 0101S \rightarrow 01010S1$ 

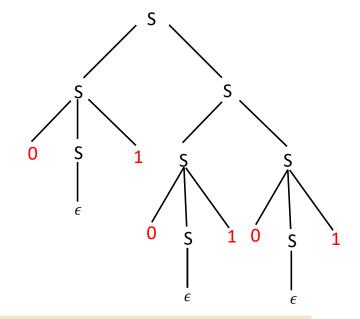
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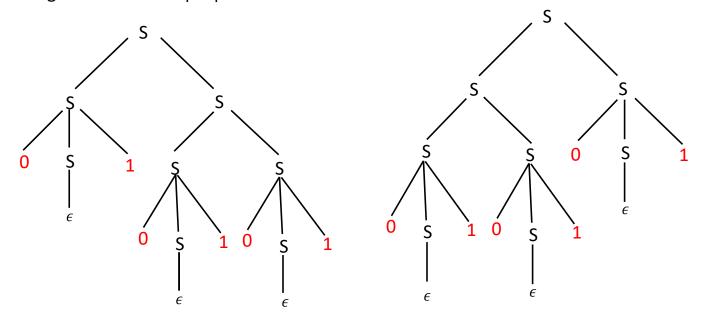
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Consider the string  $\omega = 010101$ :

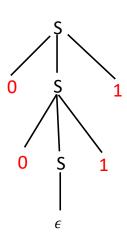
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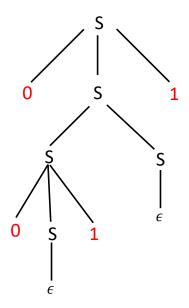


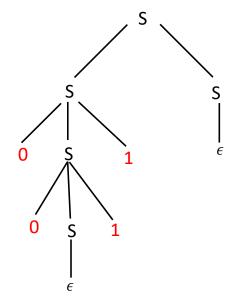
Leftmost Derivation:  $S \rightarrow SS \rightarrow SSS \rightarrow 0S1SS \rightarrow 01SS \rightarrow 010S1S \rightarrow 0101S \rightarrow 01010S1 \rightarrow 01010S1$ 

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

**LD:**  $S \rightarrow SS \rightarrow 0S1S \rightarrow 00S11S \rightarrow 0011S \rightarrow 0011$ 

#### **Unique** structures are important. For example:

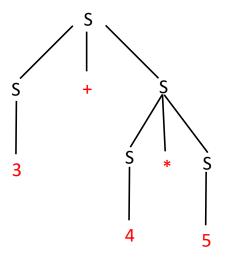
- The syntax of a programming language can be represented by a CFG.
- A compiler
  - translates the code written in the programming language into a form that is suitable for execution.
  - checks if the underlying programming language is syntactically correct.
- Parse trees are data structures that represent 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.

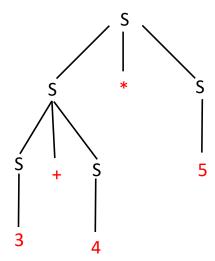
Ambiguity may not be desirable.

#### Ambiguity may not be desirable.

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  $\mathbf{3} + \mathbf{4} * \mathbf{5}$ 



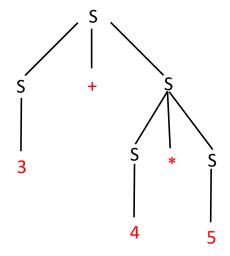


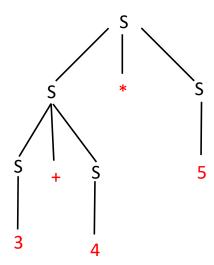
- The grammar contains no information on the precedence relations of the various arithmetic operations.
- The grammar may group + before \*

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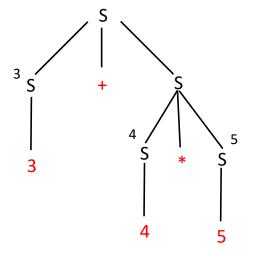


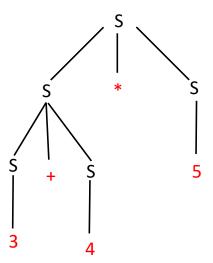
• What will be the result obtained from each of these *parsings*?

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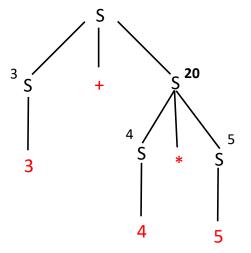


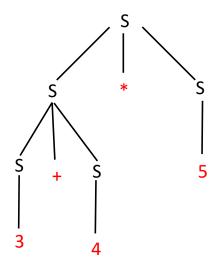
• If the compiler compiles the left parse tree

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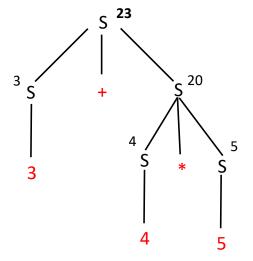


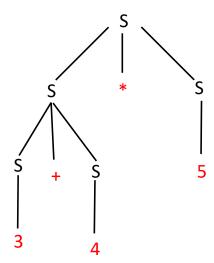
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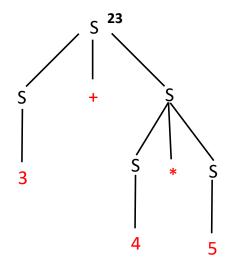


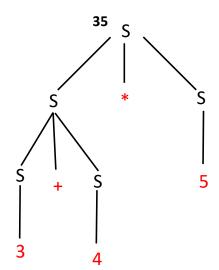
• If the compiler compiles the left parse tree. Outcome = 23

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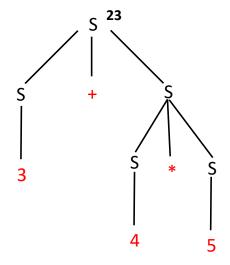


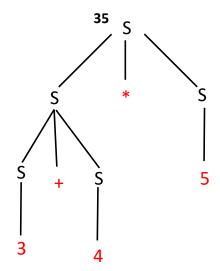
• If the compiler compiles the **right** parse tree. Outcome = **35** 

#### Ambiguity may not be desirable.

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

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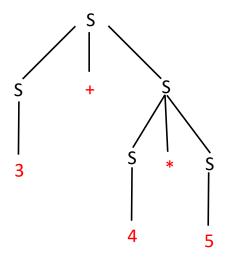
• How can we get rid of this ambiguity?

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



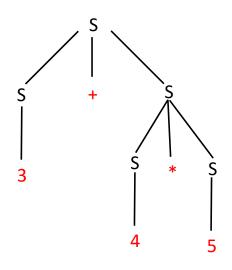
Old Parse tree (before adding parenthesis)

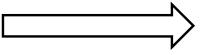
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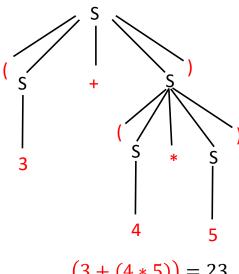
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$$(3+(4*5))=23$$

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 parentheses
- 2) Add new variables

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 parentheses
- 2) Add new variables

New Grammar:

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

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

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

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

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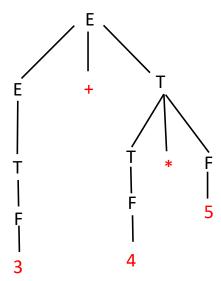
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Parse tree to derive: 3 + (4 \* 5)



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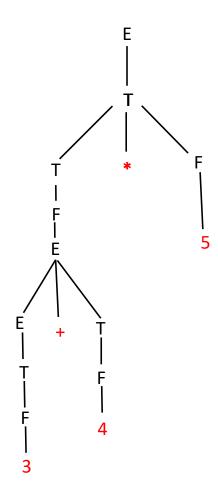
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Parse tree to derive: (3 + 4) \* 5



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

- 1) Add parentheses
- 2) Add new variables
- 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)
- 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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- 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.
- 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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#### 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.

- 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).

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

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

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

#### 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.

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,  $Start\ Var$ .

- 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.

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

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 $S \rightarrow \epsilon$  [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.

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 of  $E \stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow} x$  is  $E \stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow} x$  is E

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

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

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

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

- 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.

# Thank You!