

skill in defining syntax:

- a. given a grammar, write set of sentences (this can be infinite)
- b. given a language, write its CFG. (this is similar to write a spec. in engineering job)  
practical grammar

in order to implement a parser, the grammar must be of some specific form.

it has to avoid "left recursion".

ເລີ່ມຕົ້ນ infinite loop

① ດຸກ Grammar ນຸ້ມ  
② ກາງກຳເນື້ອມນຸ້ມ Grammar ຕິດຢັ້ງ

# Context-Free Grammars

## Using grammars in parsers

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# Outline

## ■ Parsing Process

## ■ Grammars

- Context-free grammar
- Backus-Naur Form (BNF)

↙ output from parse

## ■ Parse Tree and Abstract Syntax Tree

## ■ Ambiguous Grammar

## ■ Extended Backus-Naur Form (EBNF)

# Parsing Process

- Call the scanner to get tokens
- Build a parse tree from the stream of tokens
  - A parse tree shows the syntactic structure of the source program.  
*โครงสร้าง*
- Add information about identifiers in the symbol table
- Report error, when found, and recover from thee error

# Grammar

- a quintuple  $(V, T, P, S)$  where
  - $V$  is a finite set of nonterminals, containing  $S$ ,
  - $T$  is a finite set of terminals,
  - $P$  is a set of production rules in the form of  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are strings over  $VUT$ , and
  - $S$  is the start symbol.

## ■ Example

$$G = (\{S, A, B, C\}, \{a, b, c\}, P, S)$$

$$P = \{ \underline{S} \rightarrow SABC, \quad BA \rightarrow AB, \quad CB \rightarrow BC, \quad CA \rightarrow AC,$$
$$\underline{SA} \rightarrow a, \quad \underline{aA} \rightarrow aa, \quad \underline{aB} \rightarrow ab, \quad bB \rightarrow bb,$$
$$\underline{bC} \rightarrow bc, \quad \underline{cC} \rightarrow cc \}$$

မြန်မာစာ context free grammar

# Context-Free Grammar

- a quintuple  $(V, T, P, S)$  where
  - $V$  is a finite set of nonterminals, containing  $S$ ,
  - $T$  is a finite set of terminals,
  - $P$  is a set of production rules in the form of $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  where  $\alpha$  is in  $V$  and  $\beta$  is in  $(VUT)^*$ , and
  - $S$  is the start symbol.  
*α (អ្នករួម) នៃបញ្ជីនឹង nonterminal*
- Any string in  $(VUT)^*$  is called a *sentential form*.

# Examples

$E \rightarrow E O E$

$E \rightarrow (E)$

$E \rightarrow id$

$O \rightarrow +$

$O \rightarrow -$

$O \rightarrow *$

$O \rightarrow /$

$S \rightarrow SS$

$S \rightarrow (S)S$

$S \rightarrow ()$

$S \rightarrow \lambda$

กฎของอนุกรมนี้ใน grammar  
เป็น infinity ที

# Backus-Naur Form (BNF)

- Nonterminals are in  $\langle \rangle$ .
- Terminals are any other symbols.
- $::=$  means  $\rightarrow$ .
- | means or.
- Examples:

$\langle E \rangle ::= \langle E \rangle \langle O \rangle \langle E \rangle \mid (\langle E \rangle) \mid ID$

$\langle O \rangle ::= + \mid - \mid * \mid /$

$\langle S \rangle ::= \langle S \rangle \langle S \rangle \mid (\langle S \rangle) \langle S \rangle \mid () \mid \lambda$

# Derivation

= մասնակի սենտիոնալ ֆորմ

- A sequence of replacement of a substring in a sentential form.

## Definition

- Let  $G = (V, T, P, S)$  be a CFG,  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  be strings in  $(V \cup T)^*$  and  $A$  is in  $V$ .

$\alpha A \beta \Rightarrow_G \alpha \gamma \beta$  if  $A \rightarrow \gamma$  is in  $P$ .

- $\Rightarrow_G^*$  denotes a derivation in zero step or more.

# Examples

$$S \rightarrow SS \mid (S)S \mid () \mid \lambda$$

S

$\Rightarrow SS$

$\Rightarrow (S)SS$

$\Rightarrow (S)S(S)$

$\Rightarrow (S)S((())S$

$\Rightarrow ((S)S)S((())S$

$\Rightarrow ((S)())S((())S$

$\Rightarrow (((())())S((())S$

$\Rightarrow (((())()) ((())S$

$\Rightarrow (((())())((())$

$$E \rightarrow EOE \mid (E) \mid id$$

$$O \rightarrow + \mid - \mid * \mid /$$

E

$\Rightarrow EOE$

$\Rightarrow (E)OE$

$\Rightarrow (EOE)OE$

$\Rightarrow^* ((EOE)OE)OE$

$\Rightarrow ((id O)E)OE$

$\Rightarrow ((id + E)OE)OE$

$\Rightarrow ((id + id))OE)OE$

$\Rightarrow^* ((id + id)) * id) + id$

(កំឡុងសម្រាប់)

(កំឡុងសម្រាប់)

## Leftmost Derivation / Rightmost Derivation

- Each step of the derivation is a replacement of the **leftmost** nonterminals in a sentential form.



**E**  
 $\Rightarrow E O E$   
 $\Rightarrow (E) O E$   
 $\Rightarrow (E O E) O E$   
 $\Rightarrow (id O E) O E$   
 $\Rightarrow (id + E) O E$   
 $\Rightarrow (id + id) O E$   
 $\Rightarrow (id + id) * E$   
 $\Rightarrow (id + id) * id$

- Each step of the derivation is a replacement of the **rightmost** nonterminals in a sentential form.



**E**  
 $\Rightarrow E O E$   
 $\Rightarrow E O id$   
 $\Rightarrow E * id$   
 $\Rightarrow (E) * id$   
 $\Rightarrow (E O E) * id$   
 $\Rightarrow (E O id) * id$   
 $\Rightarrow (E + id) * id$   
 $\Rightarrow (id + id) * id$

# Language Derived from Grammar

- Let  $G = (V, T, P, S)$  be a CFG.
- A string  $w$  in  $T^*$  is derived from  $G$  if  $S \xrightarrow{*} G w$ .
- A language generated by  $G$ , denoted by  $L(G)$ , is a set of strings derived from  $G$ .
  - $L(G) = \{w \mid S \xrightarrow{*} G w\}$ .

# Right/Left Recursive

- A grammar is a *left recursive* if its production rules can generate a derivation of the form  $A \Rightarrow^* A X.$

- Examples:

- $E \rightarrow E O id \mid (E) \mid id$
- $E \rightarrow F + id \mid (E) \mid id$
- $F \rightarrow E * id \mid id$
- $E \Rightarrow F + id$   
 $\Rightarrow E * id + id$

- A grammar is a *right recursive* if its production rules can generate a derivation of the form  $A \Rightarrow^* X A.$

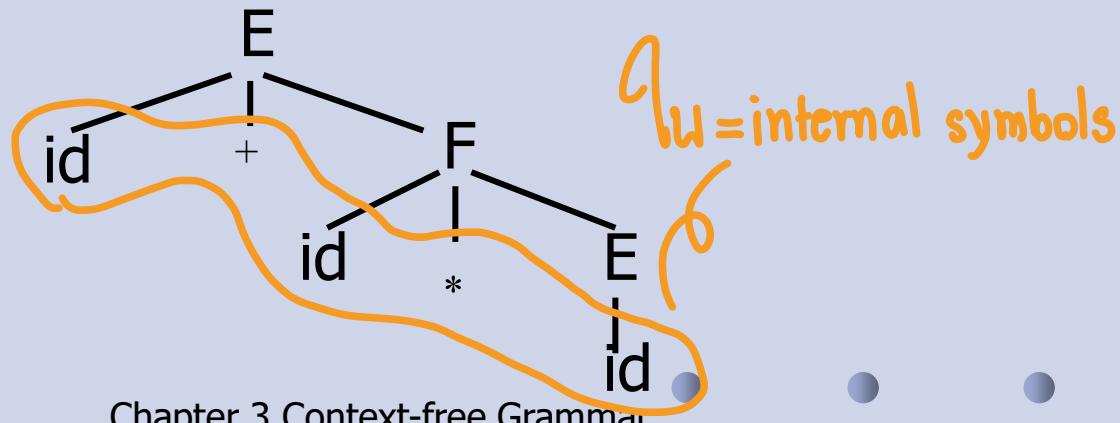
- Examples:

- $E \rightarrow id O E \mid (E) \mid id$
- $E \rightarrow id + F \mid (E) \mid id$
- $F \rightarrow id * E \mid id$
- $E \Rightarrow id + F$   
 $\Rightarrow id + id * E$

# Parse Tree

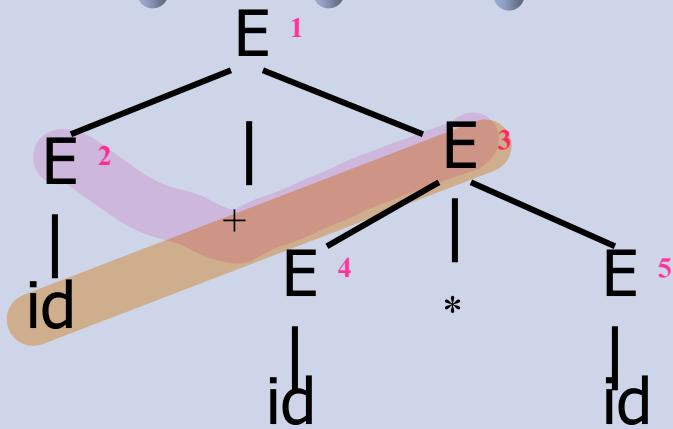
- A labeled tree in which

- the interior nodes are labeled by nonterminals
- leaf nodes are labeled by terminals
- the children of an interior node represent a replacement of the associated nonterminal in a derivation
- corresponding to a derivation

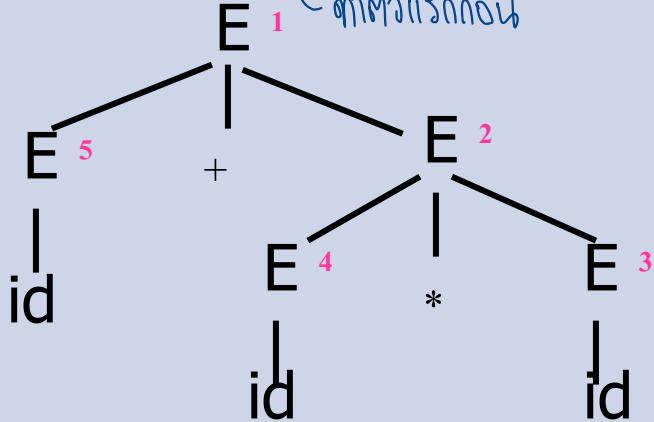


# Parse Trees and Derivations

ສະກຳລົດກັນ



Preorder numbering



Reverse of postorder numbering

$$E \Rightarrow E + E \quad (1)$$

$$\Rightarrow id + E \quad (2)$$

$$\Rightarrow id + E * E \quad (3)$$

$$\Rightarrow id + id * E \quad (4)$$

$$\Rightarrow id + id * id \quad (5)$$

$$E \Rightarrow E + E \quad (1)$$

$$\Rightarrow E + E * E \quad (2)$$

$$\Rightarrow E + E * id \quad (3)$$

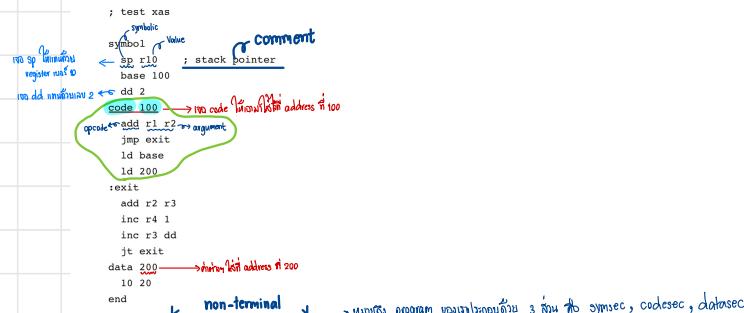
$$\Rightarrow E + id * id \quad (4)$$

$$\Rightarrow id + id * id \quad (5)$$

# Example of Writing Grammar to Specify a Language

\* ภาษาที่เขียนมา → ภาษาที่ต้องการ Grammar ที่

We will do one example to learn how to write a grammar of a language. Here is an assembly language source file.



We will write a grammar to specify this ASM language. Assuming that the comment line that begins ";" will be removed by the scanner. Here is the grammar.

```
program → symsec codesecc datasec  
symsec = tkSYMBOL sympair  
sympair = tkNAME symval sympair nil  
codesecc = tkCODE tkNUMBER codeline  
codeline = tkLABEL oparg | oparg nil  
oparg = opargs  
datasec = tkDATA tkNUMBER dataline  
dataline = tkNUMBER dataline | tkEND
```

Where tkxxxx denotes a terminal symbol; nil is an empty string.

These non-terminal symbols are special:

symval (the scanner gets either: a name, a register name (r0, r1...), a constant  
opargs parse the line: opcode operand ... (the machine instruction). We will not get into the details here.

These terminal symbols are more general:

tkNAME match any non-reserved word (reserved words are all terminal symbols), also keep the string in the symbol table.  
tkLABEL match string begins with ":" (a label), also keep it in the symbol table  
tkNUMBER match an integer

ASM grammar reads this way.

A program consists of three sections: symbol section, code section and data section.

The symbol section begins with "symbol" followed by any number of symbol pair.

A symbol pair consists of a name and a symbol-value.

The code section begins with "code" followed by a number followed by any number of code-line.

A code-line is either

- 1) begin with "label" followed by "opcode-arguments" or
- 2) "opcode-arguments" (no label)

Where "opcode-arguments" is the actual machine code. We will not get into details here.

The data section begins with "data" followed by a number followed by any number of data-line terminated by "end"

A data-line is a number.

Please note how we write a right recursive grammar to represent "any number of ...". We need a "nil" to denote a finite repeat (that it will end). Here is the grammar for "any number of sympair".

```
symssec = tkSYMBOL sympair  
sympair = tkNAME symval sympair | nil
```

From this grammar we can generate a parser (in any language) automatically. Here is an excerpt from the grammar of ASM language (in C).

```
int program(void){  
    if( symsec() ){  
        commit(codesecc());  
        commit(datasec());  
        return 1;  
    }  
    return 0;  
}  
int symsec(void){  
    if( tok == tkSYMBOL ){  
        mylex();  
        commit(sympair());  
        return 1;  
    }  
    return 0;  
}  
int sympair(void){  
loop:  
    if( tok == tkNAME ){  
        push(tokstring);  
        mylex();  
        commit(symval());  
        goto loop;  
    }  
    return 1;  
}
```

Where mylex() is the scan function. It reads the next token. tok is the current token. commit() calls a function and makes sure that it returns true. "push()" is an extra "action routine" that is defined outside the grammar. It is necessary so that the parser can generate output. In this particular example, the parser saves the string of the token in a stack to be used later.

## Example of Writing Grammar to Specify a Language

We will do one example to learn how to write a grammar of a language. Here is an assembly language source file.

```
; test.xas

symbol
sp r10 ; stack pointer
base 100
dd 2
code 100
add r1 r2
jmp exit
ld base
ld 200
:exit
add r2 r3
inc r4 1
inc r3 dd
jt exit
data 200
10 20
end
```

We will write a grammar to specify this ASM language. Assuming that the comment line that begins with ";" will be removed by the scanner. Here is the grammar.

```
program = symsec codesec datasec
symsec = tkSYMBOL symplir
sympair = tkNAME symal sympair | nil
codesec = tkCODE tkNUMBER codeline
codeline = tkLABEL oparg | oparg | nil
oparg = opargs1 codeline
datasec = tkDATA tkNUMBER dataline
dataline = tkNUMBER dataline | tkEND
```

Where `tkxxx` denotes a terminal symbol; `nil` is an empty string.

# Grammar: Example

List of parameters in:

- Function definition
  - function sub(a,b,c)
- Function call
  - sub(a,1,2)

$\langle \text{argList} \rangle$

$\Rightarrow \text{id}, \langle \text{arglist} \rangle$

$\rightarrow \text{id } \text{id } \langle \text{arglist} \rangle$

$\langle \text{argList} \rangle$

$\Rightarrow \langle \text{arglist} \rangle, \text{id}$

$\Rightarrow \langle \text{arglist} \rangle, \text{id}, \text{id}$

$\Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow \text{id } (, \text{id })^*$

$\langle \text{Fdef} \rangle \rightarrow \text{function id ( } \langle \text{argList} \rangle \text{ )}$

$\langle \text{argList} \rangle \rightarrow \text{id }, \langle \text{arglist} \rangle | \text{id }$

$\langle \text{Fcall} \rangle \rightarrow \text{id ( } \langle \text{parList} \rangle \text{ )}$

$\langle \text{parList} \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{par} \rangle , \langle \text{parlist} \rangle | \langle \text{par} \rangle$

$\langle \text{par} \rangle \rightarrow \text{id } | \text{const}$

$\langle \text{Fdef} \rangle \rightarrow \text{function id ( } \langle \text{argList} \rangle \text{ )}$

$\langle \text{argList} \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{arglist} \rangle, \text{id } | \text{id }$

$\langle \text{Fcall} \rangle \rightarrow \text{id ( } \langle \text{parList} \rangle \text{ )}$

$\langle \text{parList} \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{parlist} \rangle, \langle \text{par} \rangle | \langle \text{par} \rangle$

$\langle \text{par} \rangle \rightarrow \text{id } | \text{const}$

# Grammar: Example

List of parameters

- If zero parameter is allowed, then ?

Work ?

NO!

Generate  
**id , id , id ,**

$\langle Fdef \rangle \rightarrow \text{function id} ( \langle argList \rangle ) |$   
 $\text{function id} ( )$   
 $\langle argList \rangle \rightarrow \text{id} , \langle arglist \rangle | \text{id}$   
 $\langle Fcall \rangle \rightarrow \text{id} ( \langle parList \rangle ) | \text{id} ( )$   
 $\langle parList \rangle \rightarrow \langle par \rangle , \langle parlist \rangle | \langle par \rangle$   
 $\langle par \rangle \rightarrow \text{id} | \text{const}$

$\langle Fdef \rangle \rightarrow \text{function id} ( \langle argList \rangle )$   
 $\langle argList \rangle \rightarrow \text{id} , \langle arglist \rangle | \text{id} | \lambda$   
 $\langle Fcall \rangle \rightarrow \text{id} ( \langle parList \rangle )$   
 $\langle parList \rangle \rightarrow \langle par \rangle , \langle parlist \rangle | \langle par \rangle$   
 $\langle par \rangle \rightarrow \text{id} | \text{const}$

# Grammar: Example

List of statements:

- No statement → = กว้าง
- One statement:
  - s;
- More than one statement:
  - s; s; s;
- A statement can be a block of statements.
  - {s; s; s;}

Is the following correct?

{ {s; {s; s; } s; {} } s; }

↳ ถูกต้องหรือไม่

$\langle St \rangle ::= \lambda | s; | s; \langle St \rangle | \{ \langle St \rangle \} \langle St \rangle$

$\langle St \rangle$

⇒ {  $\langle St \rangle$  }  $\langle St \rangle$

⇒ {  $\langle St \rangle$  }

⇒ { {  $\langle St \rangle$  }  $\langle St \rangle$  }

⇒ { {  $\langle St \rangle$  } s;  $\langle St \rangle$  }

⇒ { {  $\langle St \rangle$  } s; }

⇒ { { s;  $\langle St \rangle$  } s; }

⇒ { { s; {  $\langle St \rangle$  }  $\langle St \rangle$  } s; }

⇒ { { s; {  $\langle St \rangle$  } s;  $\langle St \rangle$  } s; }

⇒ { { s; {  $\langle St \rangle$  } s; {  $\langle St \rangle$  }  $\langle St \rangle$  } s; }

⇒ { { s; {  $\langle St \rangle$  } s; {  $\langle St \rangle$  } } s; }

⇒ { { s; {  $\langle St \rangle$  } s; {} } s; }

⇒ { { s; { s;  $\langle St \rangle$  } s; {} } s; }

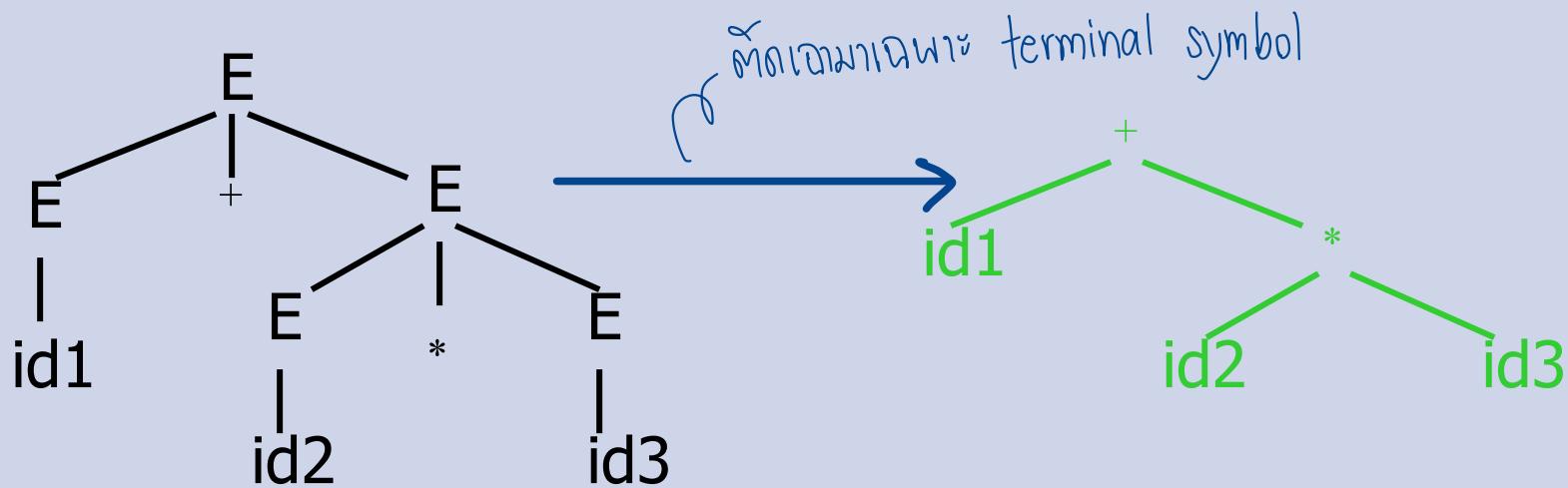
⇒ { { s; { s; s; } s; {} } s; }

棘ນកោ start symbol  
សម្រាប់  
កែវាណាំបាតា  
( ពីរឈូ ! )

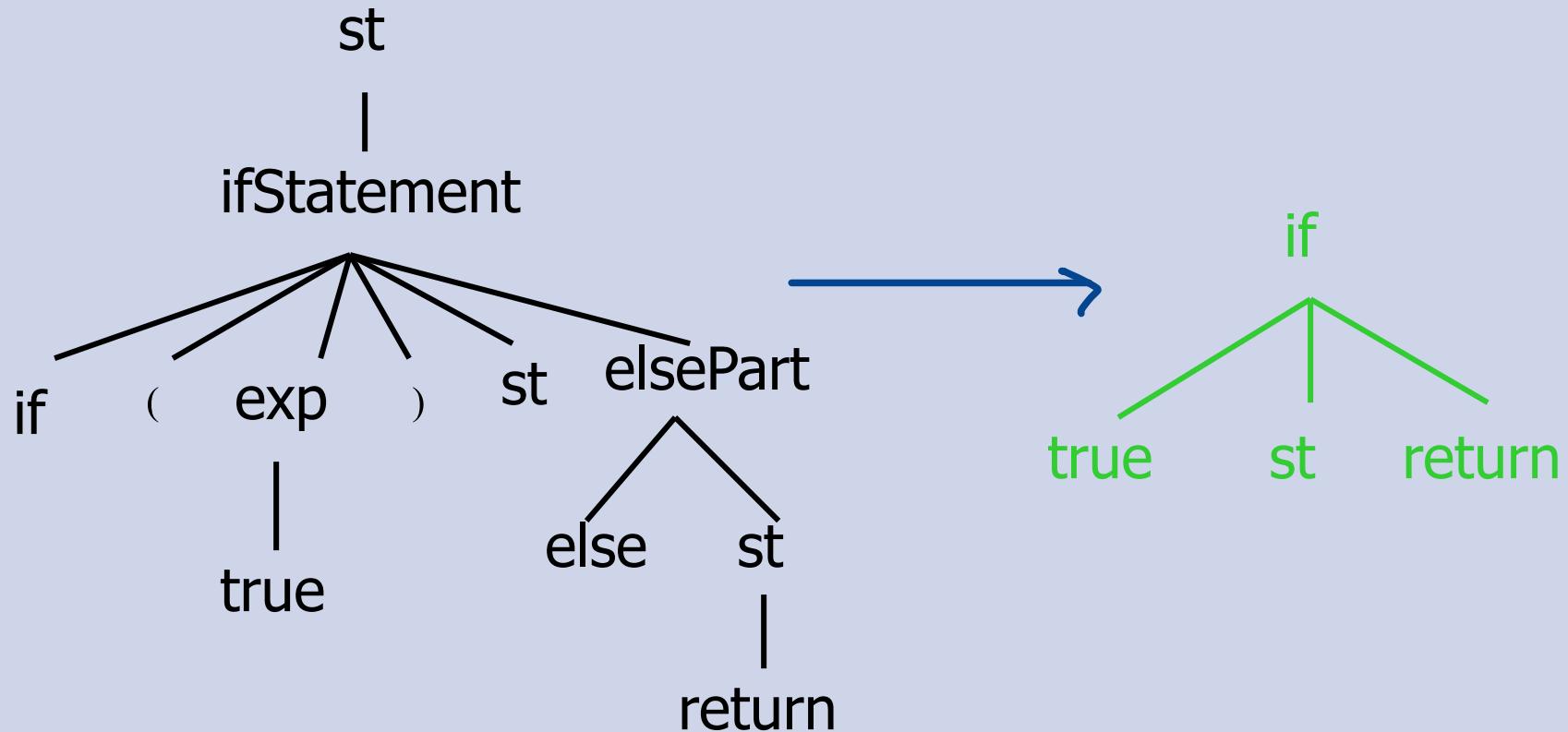
# Abstract Syntax Tree

- Representation of actual source tokens
- Interior nodes represent operators.
- Leaf nodes represent operands.

# Abstract Syntax Tree for Expression



# Abstract Syntax Tree for If Statement



# Ambiguous Grammar

- A grammar is **ambiguous** if it can generate **two different parse trees** for one string.
- Ambiguous grammars can cause inconsistency in parsing.

# Example: Ambiguous Grammar



$E \rightarrow E + E$

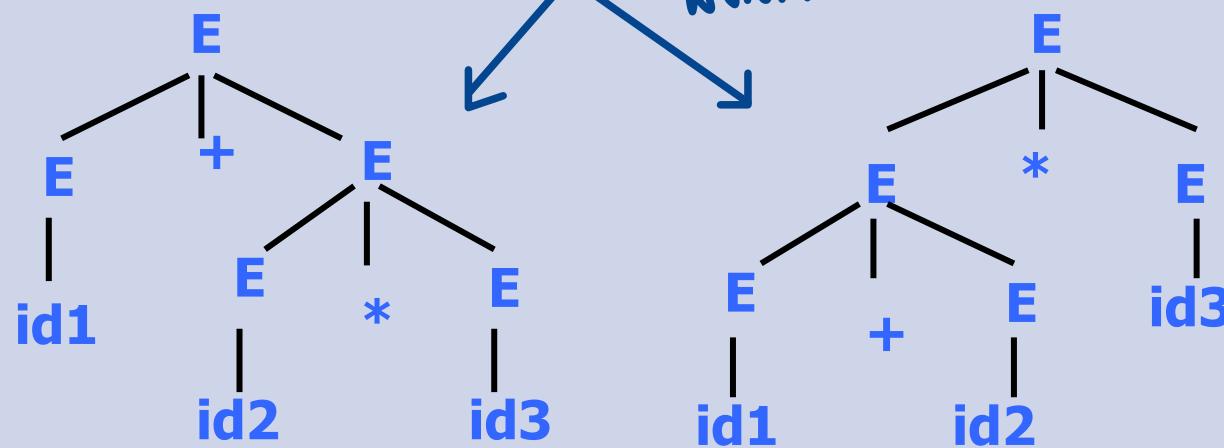
$E \rightarrow E - E$

$E \rightarrow E * E$

$E \rightarrow E / E$

$E \rightarrow id$

สร้างเป็น tree ได้ 2 แบบ



# Ambiguity in Expressions

## ■ Which operation is to be done first?

### ■ solved by precedence

ลักษณะ!

- An operator with higher precedence is done before one with lower precedence.

- An operator with higher precedence is placed in a rule (logically) further from the start symbol.

### ■ solved by associativity

- If an operator is right-associative (or left-associative), an operand in between 2 operators is associated to the operator to the right (left).

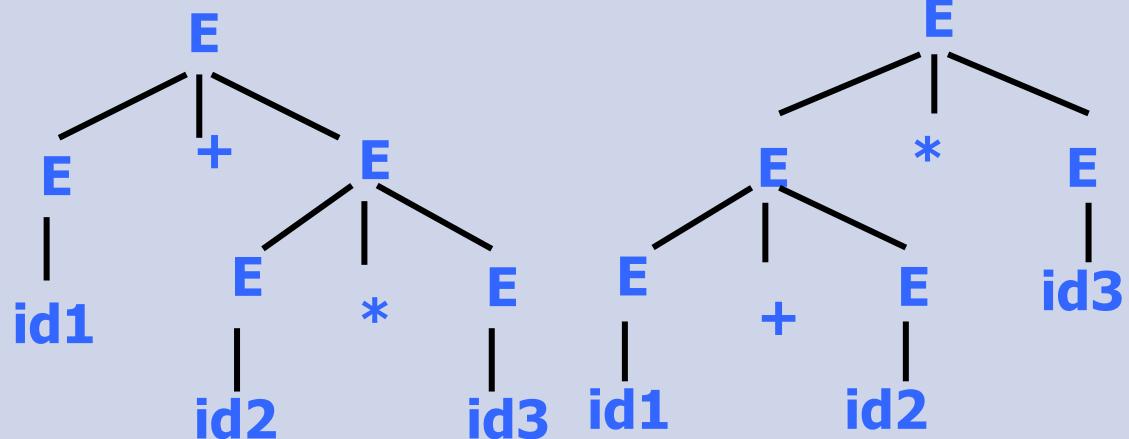
Right-associated :  $W + (X + (Y + Z))$

Left-associated :  $((W + X) + Y) + Z$

# Precedence

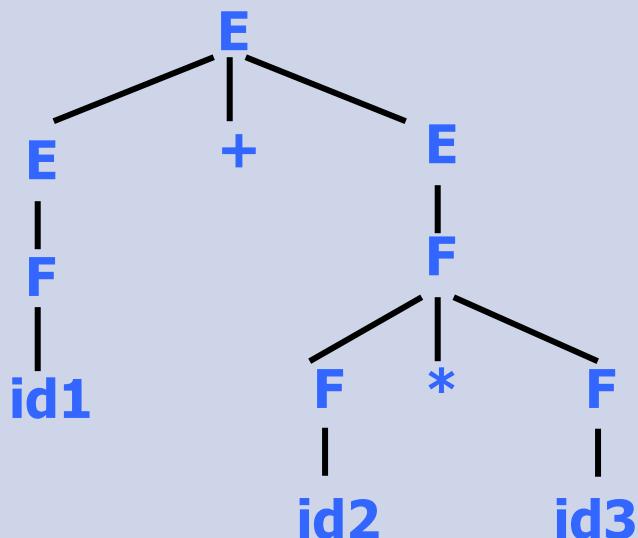


$E \rightarrow E + E$   
 $E \rightarrow E - E$   
 $E \rightarrow E * E$   
 $E \rightarrow E / E$   
 $E \rightarrow id$



$E \rightarrow E + E$   
 $E \rightarrow E - E$   
 $E \rightarrow F$  \*\*  
 $F \rightarrow F * F$   
 $F \rightarrow F / F$   
 $F \rightarrow id$

แก้แล้ว  
ต้องแยก F ออกจาก E  
(สอดคล้องกับ E)  
แสดงว่า F มีหน้าที่มากกว่า



# Precedence (cont'd)

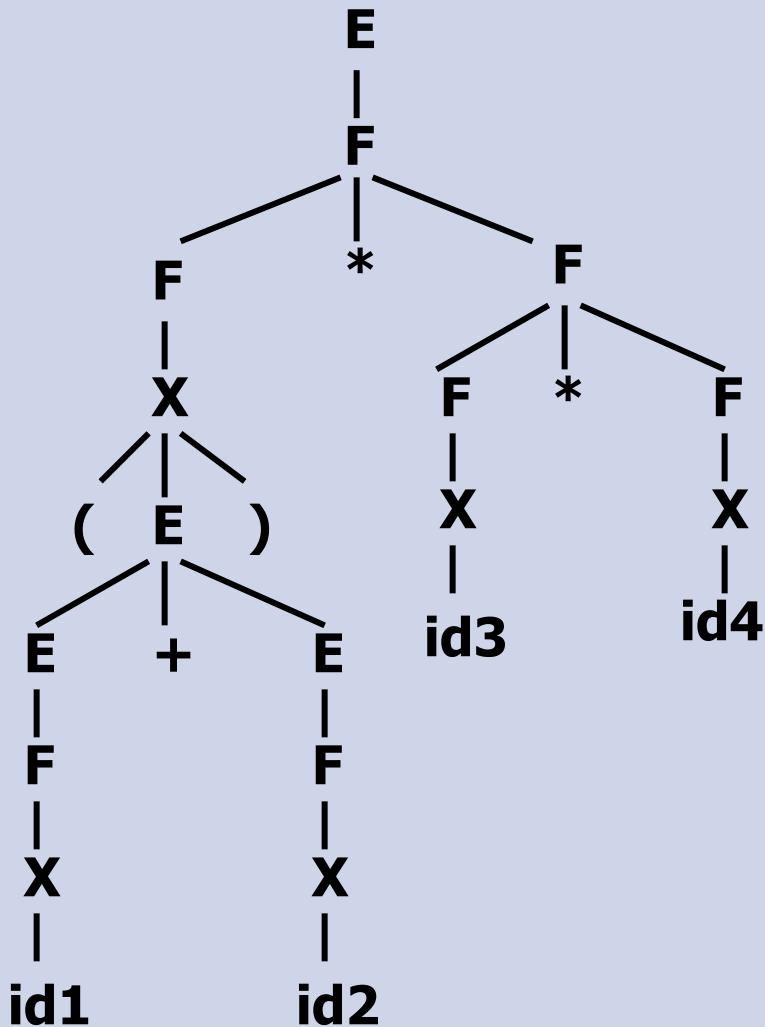
$E \rightarrow E + E \mid E - E \mid F$

$F \rightarrow F * F \mid F / F \mid X$

$X \rightarrow ( E ) \mid id$

ເຕີມໄດ້ priority  
ຈະເລີນສູງຫຼືນ

$(id1 + id2) * id3 * id4$



# Associativity

## Left-associative operators

$$E \rightarrow E + F \mid E - F \mid F$$

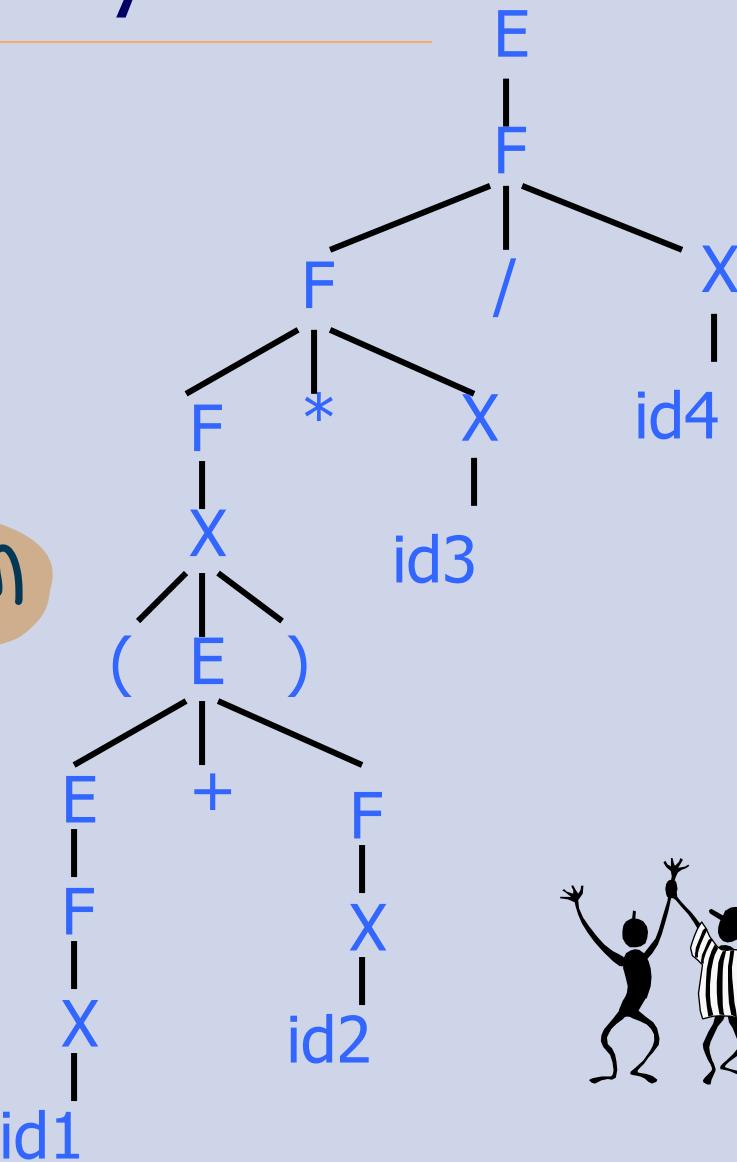
$$F \rightarrow F * X \mid F / X \mid X$$

$$X \rightarrow ( E ) \mid id$$

Priority ສູງສຸດ ຂໍ້ຕິດສູດ

$$(id1 + id2) * id3 / id4$$

$$= ((id1 + id2) * id3) / id4$$



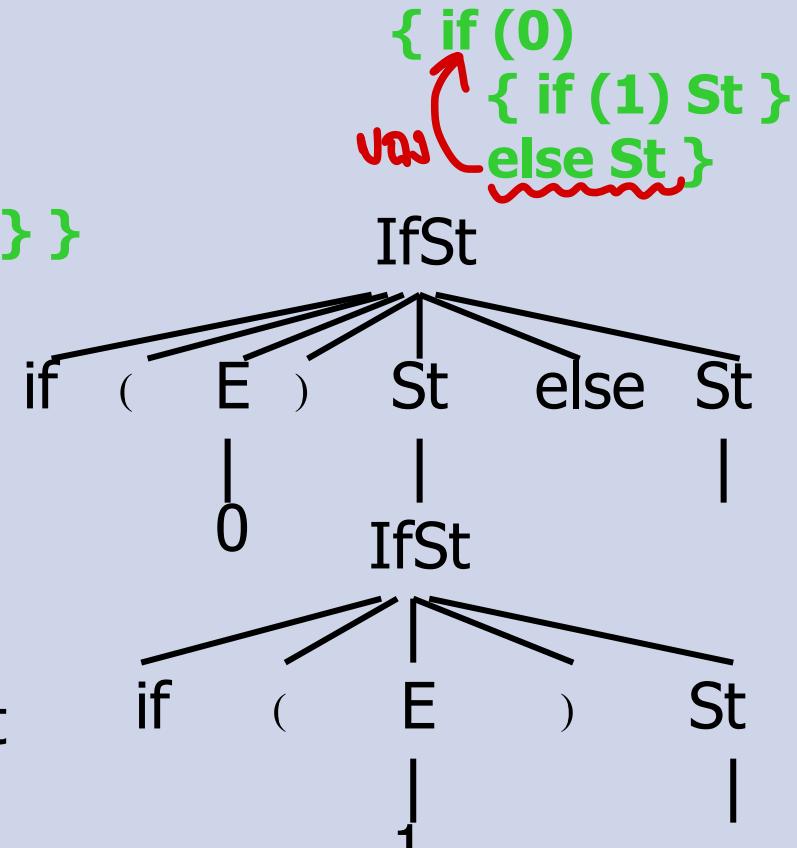
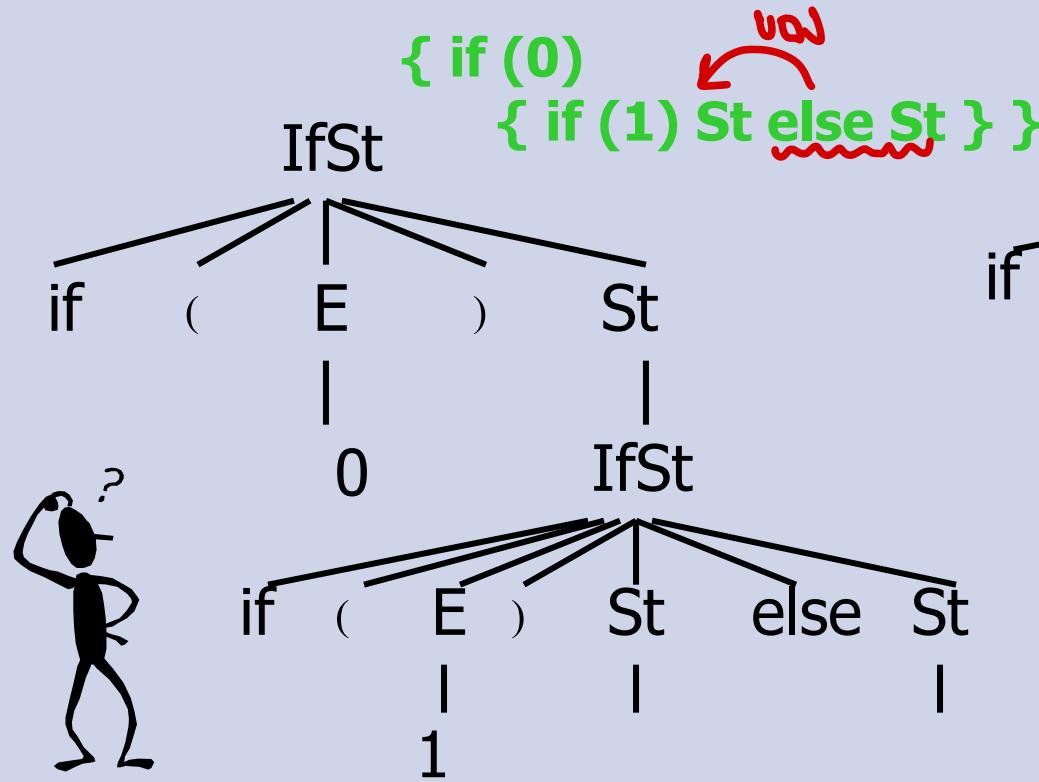
# Ambiguity in Dangling Else

St  $\rightarrow$  IfSt | ...

else voids

IfSt  $\rightarrow$  if ( E ) St | if ( E ) St else St

E  $\rightarrow$  0 | 1 | ...



# Disambiguating Rules for Dangling Else

St →

MatchedSt | UnmatchedSt

UnmatchedSt →

if (E) St |  
if (E) MatchedSt else UnmatchedSt

MatchedSt →

if (E) MatchedSt else MatchedSt |

...

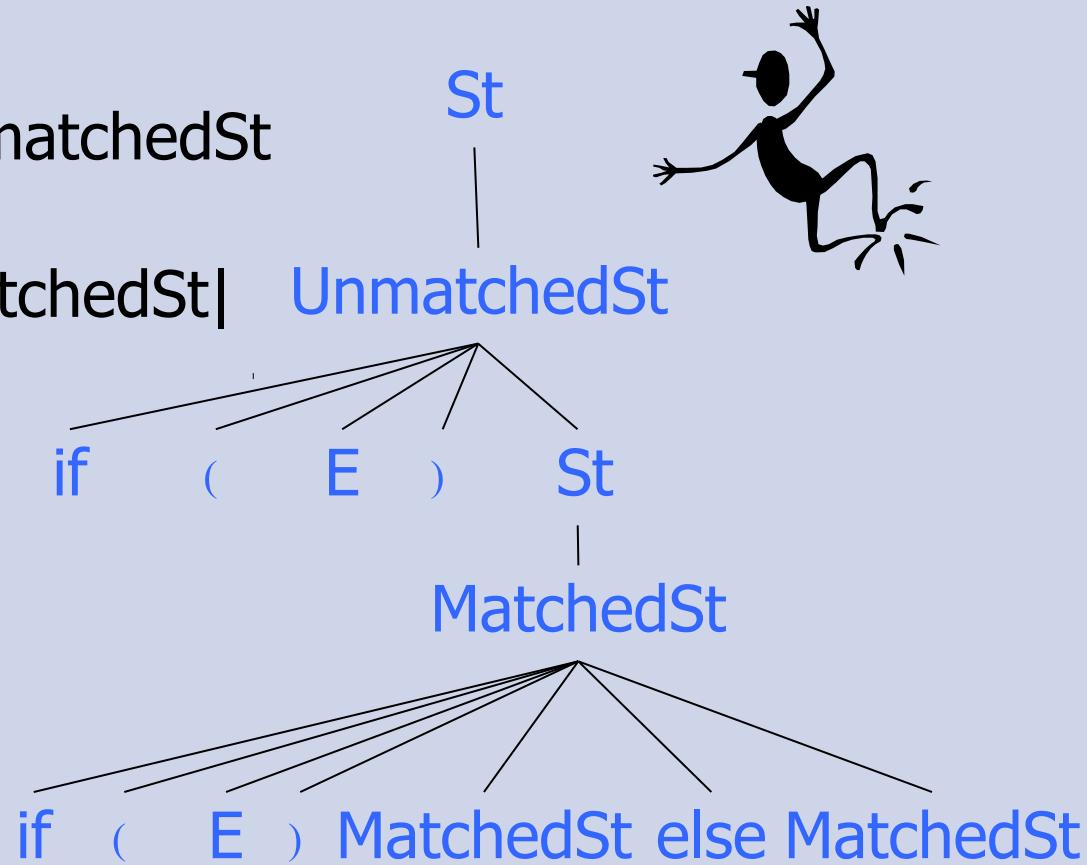
E →

0 | 1

■ if (0) if (1) St else St

= if (0)

    if (1) St else St



# Extended Backus-Naur Form (EBNF)

## ■ Kleene's Star/ Kleene's Closure

- Seq ::= St {; St}
- Seq ::= {St ;} St

## ■ Optional Part

- IfSt ::= if ( E ) St [else St]
- E ::= F [+ E] | F [- E]



# Syntax Diagrams

## Graphical representation of EBNF rules

- nonterminals: IfSt

- terminals: id

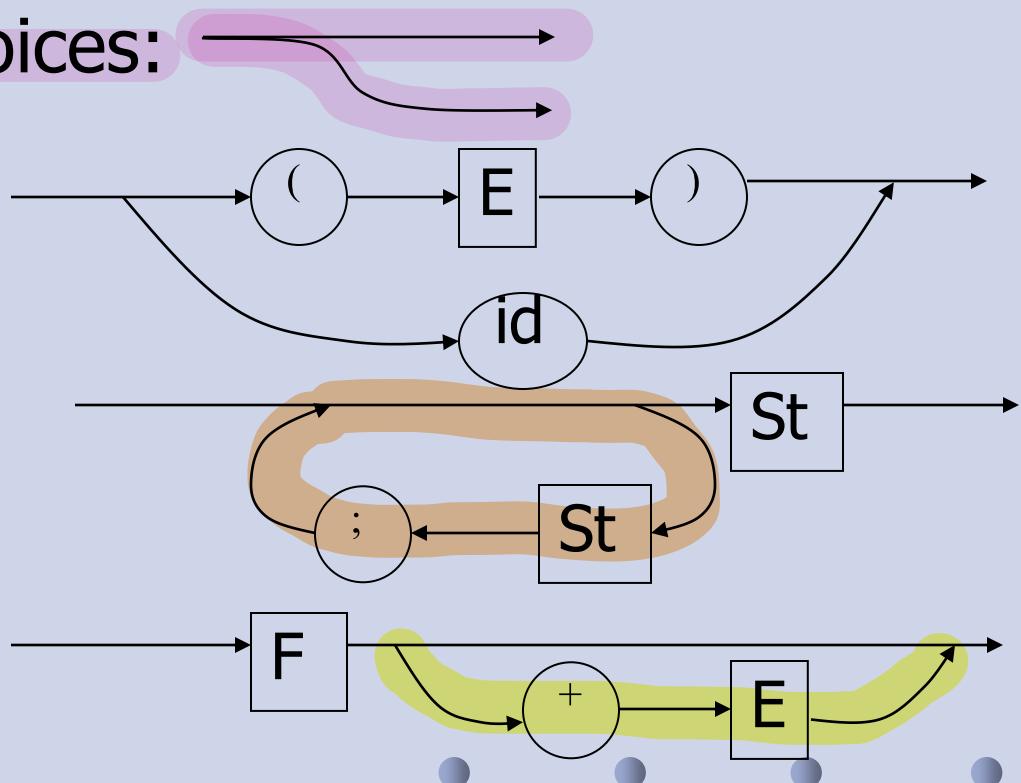
- sequences and choices:

## Examples

- $X ::= (E) \mid id$

- $Seq ::= \{St ;\} St$

- $E ::= F [+ E]$



# Reading Assignment

- Louden, Compiler construction
  - Chapter 3

# Recursive Programming with List:

## A gentle and fun introduction

In this note, I will introduce you to start writing a program in recursive style. All examples here can be written in C using [my list library here](#).

### List and operations

A list contains varying numbers of different objects, for example number (integer) and string (name). A simple object is called an atom. A list can contain another list. Here is a list.

(1 3 "hello") ( (3 4) ("a" "b" "c") ) ← List

Many kind of objects can be represented by lists. For example an expression:

a = b + c

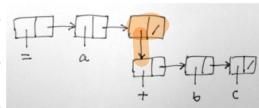
can be drawn as a tree where the root is an operator like this,



Assume we use a list to represent a tree, the first element is an operator, the rest is the operands.

("=" "a" ("+" "b" "c" ))

This data structure is built from a number of cells. A cell contains two fields, head and tail. There are two types of cell: atom and dot-pair. An atom is the end of a branch (a kind of leaf node). A dot-pair is a pointer to another list. The above example can be draw like this:



The cell that pointed to "=" and "a" are atoms. The cell pointed to the list ("+" "b" "c") is a dot-pair. How to distinguish a cell and a dot-pair depends on the choice of implementation of the data structure. A special atom called NIL is used to denotes the end of list. To make it easier to write a list, I will omit ":" in the string.

### Functions on List

Before we proceed further let define functions on List used in this session.

**head(L)** returns first element of the list  
**tail(L)** returns the list without the first element  
**cons(X,L)** returns a new list with X as its head and L as its tail.

↳ Method

Therefore

L is cons( head(L), tail(L) )

number(n) returns an atom of number n  
string(s) returns an atom of string s  
isatom(X) checks if X is an atom

To make a list we "cons" an atom with NIL.  
(1 2) is cons(number(1), cons(number(2), NIL))

With these few functions we can now play with our little "program".

### Given a list, return a number

Now that we know list, let us start by writing a simple program to count the number of elements in a list. We will start with a simple iterative version using "while".

Let input be a list of numbers such as (1 2 3 4)

```
count1(L)
    s = 0
    while L != NIL
        L = tail(L)
        s++
    return s
```

The iteration works as L is shortening until it is empty. Instead of using "while", we can do a recursion on tail(L).

```
count2(L)
1. if L == NIL return 0
2. return 1 + count2(tail(L))
```

The recursion on Line 2 continue on the tail(L). Line 1 tells us when to stop. The result is pending  $1 + 1 + \dots 0$  until L is empty on the last call and return 0, then all the  $1 + 1 + \dots 0$  are executed and return. Let us see how the list L behaves.

```
count2( (1 2 3) )
1 + count2( (2 3) )
    1 + count2( (3) )
        1 + count2( NIL )
            0
```

Now count1 and count2 give the same result. count2 is a recursive version. However count2 will not count "inside" the element which is a list, for example `count2( ((1 2) 3) )` returns 2 instead of 3. We will refine it to do that.

```

count3(L)
1. if L == NIL return 0
2. if isatom(head(L)) return 1 + count3(tail(L))
3. ... if head(L) is a list, what to do?

```

The count3 is similar to count2. Line 2 of count3 is modified from Line 2 of count2 but now it checks that the current element is not a list. So, what to do if it is a list? Let us consider what count3 is written to do. It can count "inside" a list. If we assume for now that it can do that, then we can use count3 to work in Line 3.

```

count3(L)
1. if L == NIL return 0
2. if isatom(head(L)) return 1 + count3(tail(L))
3. return count3(head(L)) + count3(tail(L))

```

So, Line 3 is where the magic occurs. When you think of it, if head(L) is an atom, Line 3 will be reduced to  $1 + \text{count3}(\text{tail}(L))$  which is exactly like Line 2 of count2. Let us try count3 on (1 (2 3))

```

count3((1 (2 3)))
2> 1 + count3((2 3)) notice that head(L) is now a list not an atom.
3> count3((2 3)) + count3(NIL) (**)
2> 1 + count3(( )) . .
2> 1 + count3(NIL)
1>     0 back to (**) for the last count3(NIL)
1>     0

```

We can refine count3 a bit further. Noticing that Line 2 can be simplified.

```

count3(L)
1. if L == NIL return 0
2. if isatom(L) return 1
3. return count4(head(L)) + count4(tail(L))

```

## Given a number, return a list

We have learned how to write a recursive program to take apart a complex structure. Next exercise is to "build" a recursive structure. Let us start with building a unary number which is represented by a list of 1's. Given a number n, write a program to produce a list of n 1's. As before we will start with an iterative version.

```

unum1(n)
L = NIL
while n > 0
    L = cons(number(1), L)
    n--
return L

```

We use iteration to cons' "1"s into a list, n times.

```

unum1(2) returns (1 1)
unum1(3) returns (1 1 1)

```

A recursive version use the recursion of reducing n until it is 0.

```

unum2(n)
1. if n == 0 return NIL
2. return cons(number(1), unum2(n-1))

```

Line 2 did exactly that. The cons' of 1 is pending while unum2 keeps producing the next 1 ... until  $n == 0$ .

```

unum2(3)
cons(1, unum2(2))
    cons(1, unum2(1))
        cons(1, unum2(0))
            NIL

return cons(1, cons(1, cons(1, NIL ))) == (1 1 1)

```

Let try to define some arithmetic operation on this unary number. Starting with add.

```
(1 1) + (1 1 1) = (1 1 1 1) that is 2 + 3 = 5
```

So, adding two unary numbers is just merging two lists. We start by trying to write a concatenate function for two lists. We will take one element from the fist list and "cons" it to the second list. An iterative version is this.

```

cat1(a b)
1. while a != NIL
2.     b = cons(head(a), b)
3.     a = tail(a)
return b

```

Now we can try a recursive version.

```

cat2(a b)
1. if a == NIL return b
2. return cat2(tail(a), cons(head(a), b))

```

Line 2 of cat2 did the work similar to Line 2,3 of cat1. Building up a result is done by "cons". Reducing a (hence converge to a stop in the end) is done by tail(a). However please observe the order of "cons". For illustration, we will use lists of integer.

```

cat2((1 2) (3 4 5))
cat2((2) (1 3 4 5))
cat2(( ) (2 1 3 4 5))

```

Fortunately, for unary addition, the order is not relevant. So, uadd(a b) == cat2(a b). We can refine it a bit more by recognising an arithmetic identity.

```

n + 0 = n, 0 + n = n

uadd(n m)
if m == NIL return n
if n == NIL return m
return uadd(tail(n), cons(head(n), m))

```

To complete the arithmetic operation, let try a subtraction. We notice that we can take an element away from both number one-by-one until one list is empty. The remaining list is the difference. Let assume  $n \geq m$ , so m will be empty first.

```

usub(m n) we assume n >= m
if m == NIL return n
if n == NIL return m
return usub(tail(n), tail(m))

```

It turns out that subtraction is easier than addition in this unary system. (In tenary number, subtraction is more difficult than addition).

There is one more thing I want to tell you. When you want to build up a result, you can use an additional variable to hold it. This variable is usually passed as an extra parameter to your recursive function. Let me give an example of reversing a list. Write a program to reverse a list, returning a new reversed copy of the original. Where will you keep the result in progress?

```
reverse(L)
```

but if you have an extra parameter, you can keep your intermediate result there.

```
reverse2(L, L1)
  if L == NIL return L1
  return reverse2( tail(L), cons(head(L), L1) )
```

*intuition*

Now you can write your reverse. The "accumulating" variable starts with NIL. Did you notice that reverse2 is like cat2? (Think why?)

```
reverse(L)
return reverse2(L, NIL)
```

## Data == Program

I will show how to represent a program with List. Use count\_simple(L) as a case study.

We will represent a statement by a list with the first element as "operator" and the rest of the list are the arguments to that operation.

```
( op arg1 arg2 ... )
```

to define a function we will use the operator "def". So, to define count\_simple(L):

```
program -> ( "def" "count_simple" arglist body )
```

```
arglist -> ( "L" )
```

the body of this function consists of two lines.

```
line1 -> ("if" ( "==" "L" nil) ( "ret" 0))
line2 -> ("ret" ("+" 1 ("count_simple" ("tail" "L"))))
```

nil is a special atom is our universe of objects. To represent a "block" of statement we use the operator "do".

```
body -> ("do" line1 line2)
```

with this representation of a program as a list (data), we can write an interpreter to evaluate (run) this program.

This is a complete picture of a list representing the count\_simple function:

```
("def" "count_simple" ("L")
("do"
 ("if" ( "==" "L" nil) ( "ret" 0))
 ("ret" ("+" 1 ("count_simple" ("tail" "L")))))
```

## Exercises

### Must do!

Here are some exercises for you to practice.

- 1) A simple one first, write a function to multiply two unary numbers.
- 2) A famous function. Write an append function to put an element at "the end" of a list.
- 3) How to clone a list? A more ambitious program should also cope with a complex structure (list in list)
- 4) Write a program to check "equality" of two lists. (again, a more ambitious program should cope with complex list)
- 5) \* In my youth (many many years ago :-), I am intrigued by this puzzle. Write a function to "flatten" a complex list. Here is an example  
input: ((1 2) (3 (4 5)))      output: (1 2 3 4 5)
- 6) If you feel "oh my gosh, this is fun!", you can try this exercise. Write an interpreter for the language that uses list as its main data structure. You need to be able to "execute" this kind of list (+ 1 2). The needed operators are (if cond true-act false-act) for if, then, else and (do ex1 ex2) for executing ex1 followed by ex2. Defining a function will be a bit tricky, you need to be able to create a variable (called lambda in programming language theory). An example of this language (of the above reverse2 definition):

```
(def reverse2 (L L1) (if (eq L NIL) (L1) (reverse2 (tail L) (cons (head L) L1))))
```

\* means one hour of thinking.

## Enjoy programming.

No you don't need to fire up your compiler. You can write all of them down in a sheet of paper. How can you know that you got it right? Simply, prove it :-)

But if you want to try to run it, you can code it in C. [Here is the C program](#) of the above examples. This program is used in conjunction with the [aiplib.c \(aiplib.h\)](#) library.

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```

1. number(L)
  if (L == NIL) return 0;
  return 1 + number(tail(L));
}

multiply1(num) {
  if (num == 0) return L;
  return multiply1(cons(L, num * num));
}

mult1(a, b) {
  int num = number(a);
  int num2 = number(b);
  multiply(NIL, num * num2);
}

2. append(L1, L2)
  if (L1 == NIL) return cons('s, NIL);
  return cons(head(L1), append(tail(L1), L2));
}

clone(L) {
  if (L == NIL) return NIL;
  if (isatom(head(L))) return cons(head(L), clone(tail(L)));
  return cons(clone(head(L)), clone(tail(L)));
}
  
```

```

4. equal(a, b) {
  if (a == NIL && b == NIL) return TRUE;
  if (a == NIL || b == NIL) return FALSE;
  if (isatom(head(a)) && isatom(head(b))) {
    if (head(a) == head(b)) {
      return equal(tail(a), tail(b));
    }
    return (tail(a), tail(b));
  }
  else if (isatom(head(a)) || isatom(head(b))) {
    return FALSE;
  }
  else {
    if (equal(head(A), head(B))) {
      return equal(tail(a), tail(b));
    }
    return FALSE;
  }
}
  
```