

# Parse Tree

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TEXAS TECH  
UNIVERSITY.

# Parse tree

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- A parse tree is a graphical representation of a derivation

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  - Example:

$$S \rightarrow AB$$

$$A \rightarrow aA|e$$

$$B \rightarrow bB|e$$

$$S \Rightarrow AB$$

$$\Rightarrow aAB$$

$$\Rightarrow aAbB$$

$$\Rightarrow abB$$

$$\Rightarrow abbB$$

$$\Rightarrow abb$$

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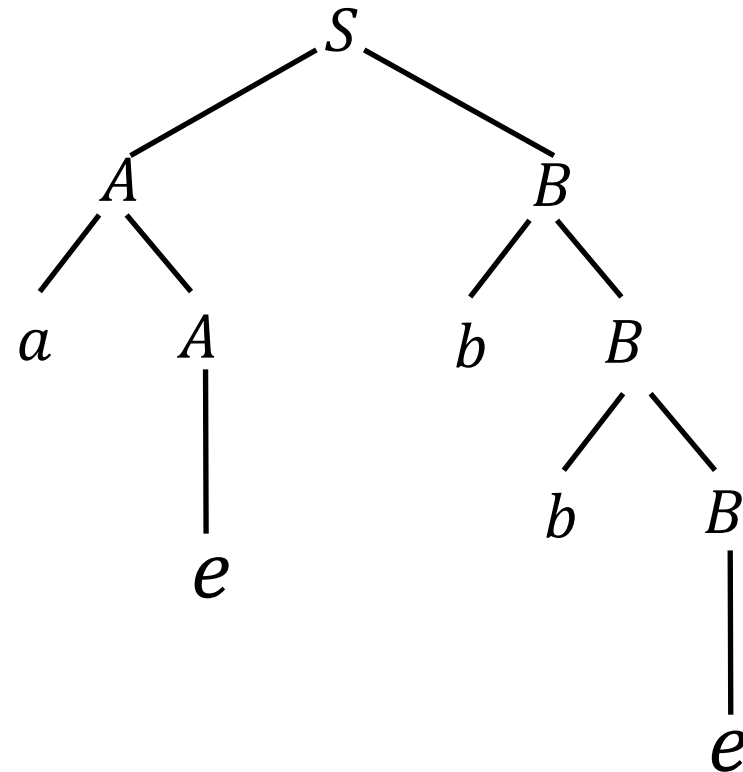
$$\Rightarrow aAB$$

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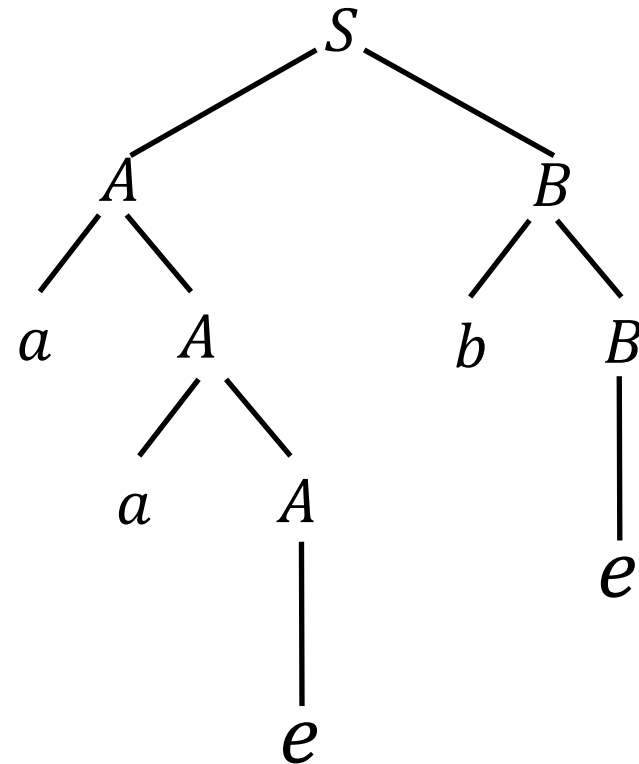
$$\Rightarrow AbB$$

$$\Rightarrow aAbB$$

$$\Rightarrow aaAbB$$

$$\Rightarrow aaAb$$

$$\Rightarrow aab$$



# Parse tree

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- A parse tree is a graphical representation of a derivation
- Formally, we define a parse tree in an inductive way:
  - A single node for  $a \in \Sigma$  is a parse tree

$a$



# Parse tree

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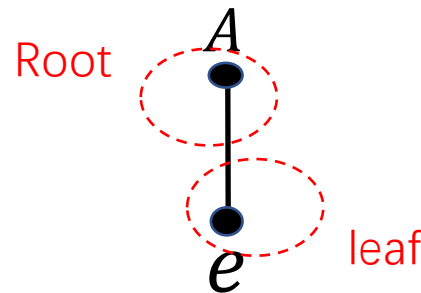
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  - If  $A \rightarrow e$  is a rule in  $R$ , then the following is a parse tree



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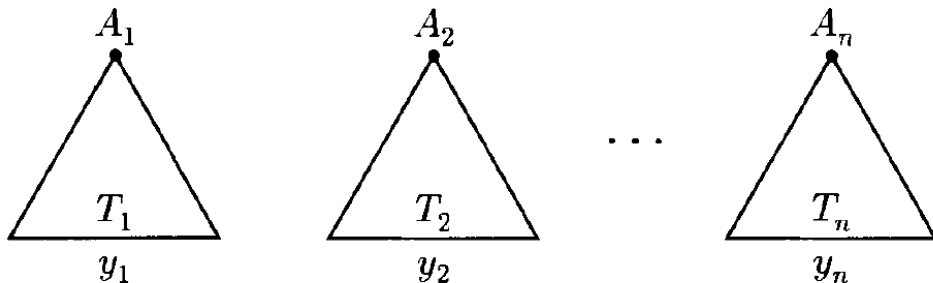
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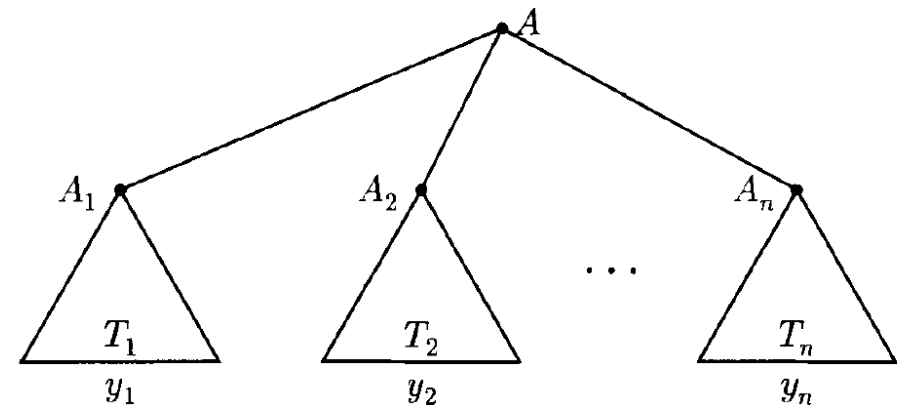
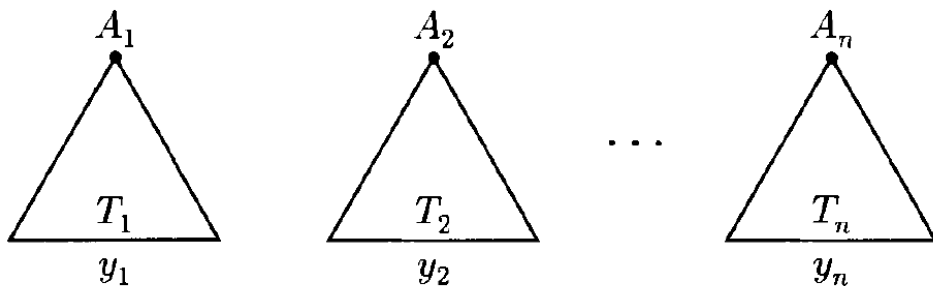
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  - If the left-belows are parse trees with roots  $A_i$  and yield  $y_i$ , and  $A \rightarrow A_1 \cdots A_n$  is a rule in  $R$



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  - If  $A \rightarrow e$  is a rule in  $R$ , then the following is a parse tree
  - If the left-belows are parse trees with roots  $A_i$  and yield  $y_i$ , and  $A \rightarrow A_1 \cdots A_n$  is a rule in  $R$ , then the right-below is also a parse tree



# Parse tree

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- A parse tree is a graphical representation of a derivation
- Formally, we define a parse tree in an inductive way:
  - A single node for  $a \in \Sigma$  is a parse tree
  - If  $A \rightarrow e$  is a rule in  $R$ , then the following is a parse tree
  - If the left-below are parse trees with roots  $A_i$  and yield  $y_i$ , and  $A \rightarrow A_1 \cdots A_n$  is a rule in  $R$ , then the right-below is also a parse tree
  - Nothing else is a parse tree

# Parse tree

- A parse tree is a graphical representation of a derivation
- Formally, we define a parse tree in an inductive way:
  - More examples:

$$V = \{+, *, (, ), \text{id}, T, F, E\}$$

$$\Sigma = \{+, *, (, ), \text{id}\}$$

$$E \rightarrow T + E$$

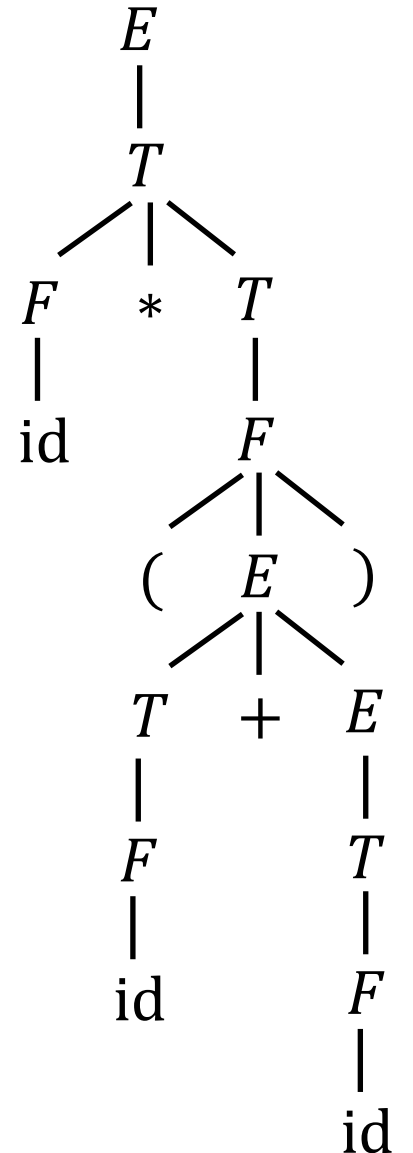
$$E \rightarrow T$$

$$T \rightarrow F * T$$

$$T \rightarrow F$$

$$F \rightarrow (E)$$

$$F \rightarrow \text{id}$$



# Parse tree

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$$E \rightarrow T + E$$

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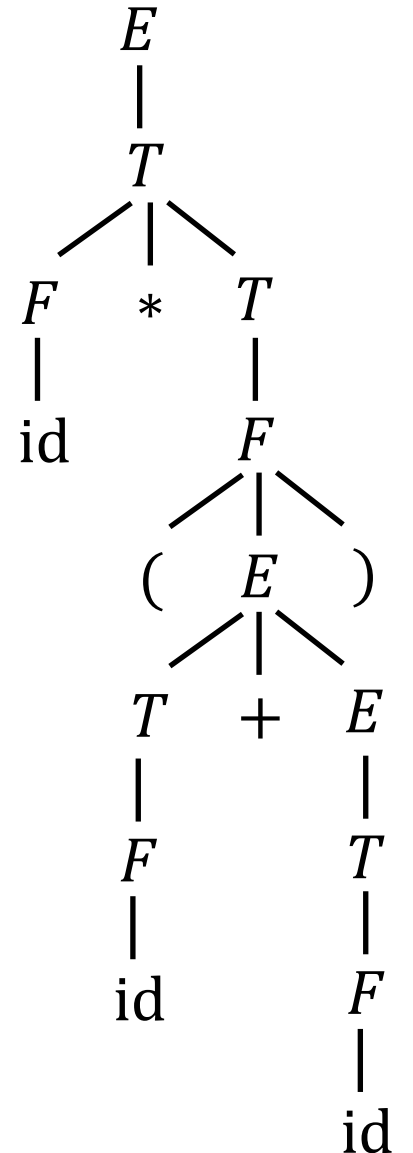
$$T \rightarrow F * T$$

$$T \rightarrow F$$

$$F \rightarrow (E)$$

$$F \rightarrow \text{id}$$

id \* (id + id)



# Parse tree

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- Formally, we define a parse tree in an inductive way:
  - More examples:

$$V = \{S, (, )\},$$

$$\Sigma = \{ (, ) \},$$

$$R = \{ S \rightarrow e, \\ S \rightarrow SS, \\ S \rightarrow (S) \}.$$

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

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

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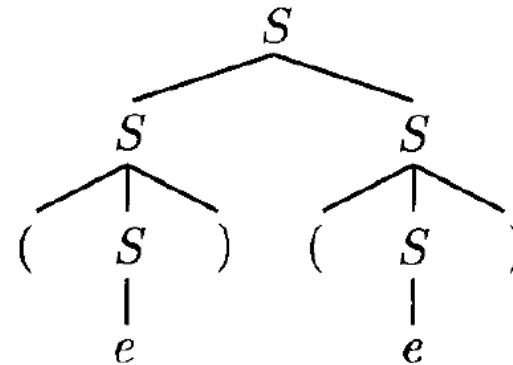
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# Parse tree

- Let  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$  be a context-free grammar, and let

$$D \Rightarrow \textcolor{red}{x_1} \Rightarrow x_2 \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow \textcolor{blue}{x_n}$$

$$D' \Rightarrow \textcolor{red}{x_1'} \Rightarrow x_2' \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow \textcolor{blue}{x_n'}$$

$$\textcolor{red}{\in V - \Sigma}$$

$$\textcolor{blue}{\in \Sigma^*}$$

We say  $D$  precedes  $D'$ ,  $D < D'$ , if  $n > 2$  and there is some integer  $1 < k < n$  such that

- 1.  $x_i = x_i'$  for  $i \neq k$
- 2.  $x_{k-1} = x_{k-1}' = uAvBw$ ,  $u, v, w \in V^*$ ,  $A, B \in V - \Sigma$
- 3.  $x_k = uylvBw$ , where  $A \rightarrow y \in R$
- 4.  $x_k' = uAvzw$ , where  $B \rightarrow z \in R$
- 5.  $x_{k+1} = x_{k+1}' = uylvzw$



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Differs in the order of only one step

# Parse tree

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- Example:

$$V = \{S, (, )\},$$

$$\Sigma = \{ (, ) \},$$

$$R = \{ S \rightarrow e, \\ S \rightarrow SS, \\ S \rightarrow (S) \}.$$

$$D_1 = S \Rightarrow SS \Rightarrow (S)S \Rightarrow ((S))S \Rightarrow (())S \Rightarrow (())(S) \Rightarrow (())()$$

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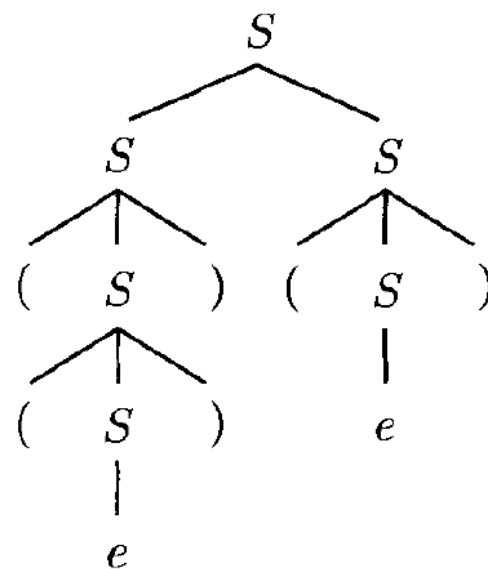
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$$D_1 < D_2$$

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$$D_1 < D_2$$

$$D_2 < D_3$$

$D, D'$  are **similar** if  $D < \dots < D'$  or  $D' < \dots < D$

-  $D_1, D_2, D_3$  are similar

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$$D_5 = S \Rightarrow SS \Rightarrow (S)S \Rightarrow (S)(S) \Rightarrow ((S))(S) \Rightarrow ((S))() \Rightarrow (()>()$$

$$D_6 = S \Rightarrow SS \Rightarrow (S)S \Rightarrow (S)(S) \Rightarrow (S>() \Rightarrow ((S))() \Rightarrow (()>()$$

$$D_7 = S \Rightarrow SS \Rightarrow S(S) \Rightarrow (S)(S) \Rightarrow ((S))(S) \Rightarrow (())(S) \Rightarrow (()>()$$

$$D_8 = S \Rightarrow SS \Rightarrow S(S) \Rightarrow (S)(S) \Rightarrow ((S))(S) \Rightarrow ((S))() \Rightarrow (()>()$$

$$D_9 = S \Rightarrow SS \Rightarrow S(S) \Rightarrow (S)(S) \Rightarrow (S>() \Rightarrow ((S))() \Rightarrow (()>()$$

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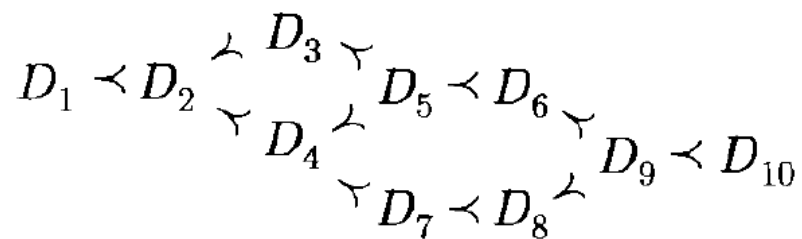
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# Parse tree

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- Similarity is an equivalence relation (reflexive, symmetric, transitive)
- Similar derivations have the same parse tree

# Parse tree

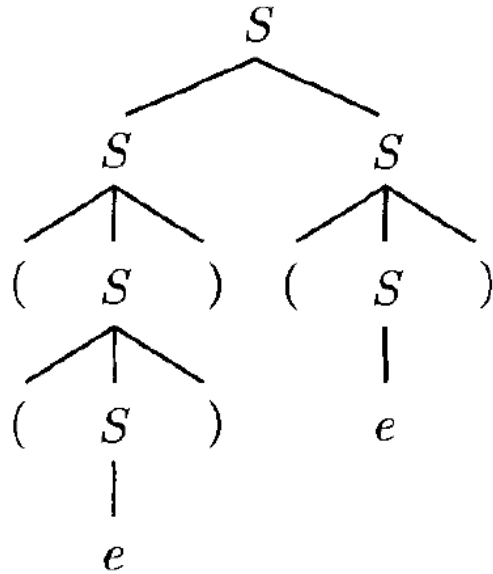
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- Similarity is an equivalence relation (reflexive, symmetric, transitive)
- Similar derivations have the same parse tree
- Similar derivations generate the same string at last
  - Is the opposite true?

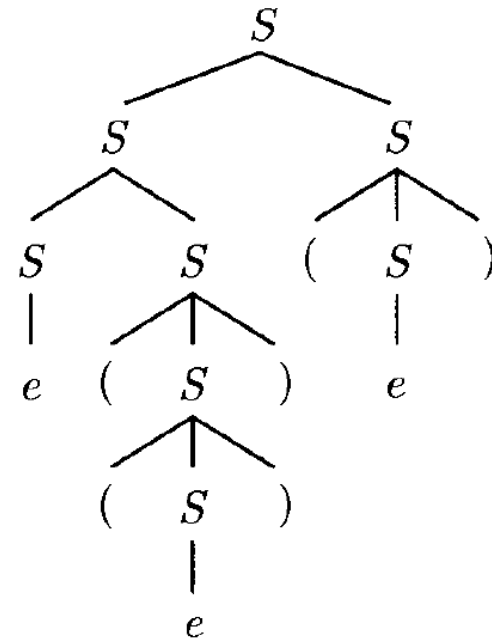
# Parse tree

- Similar derivations generate the same string at last
  - Is the opposite true?

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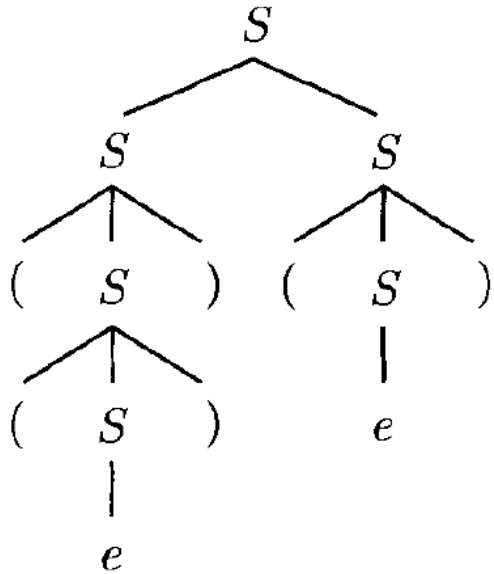
# Ambiguity

- Same parse tree yields same string
  - Is the opposite true?

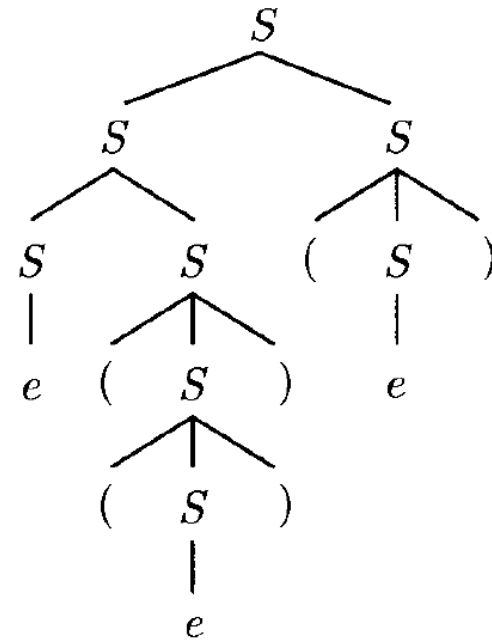
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- Same parse tree yields same string
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$$\Sigma = \{+, *, (, ), \text{id}\}$$

$$E \rightarrow T + E$$

$$E \rightarrow T$$

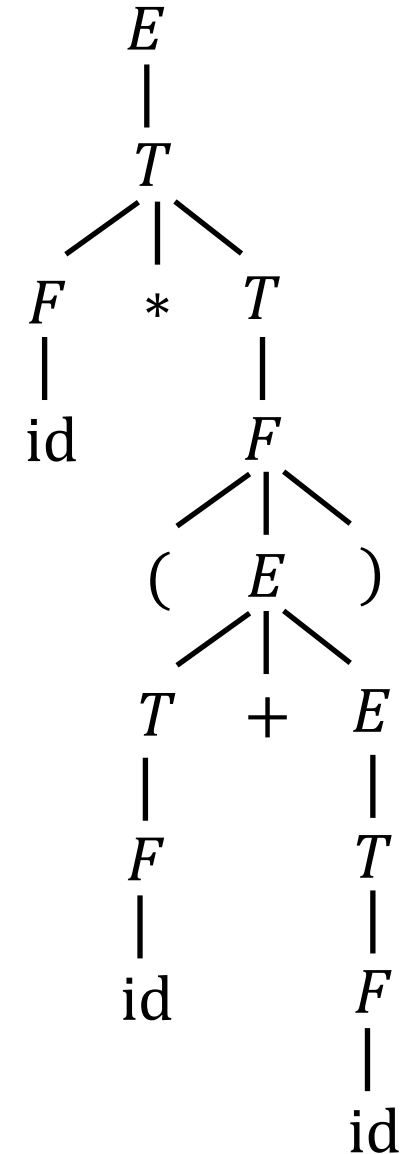
$$T \rightarrow F * T$$

$$T \rightarrow F$$

$$F \rightarrow (E)$$

$$F \rightarrow \text{id}$$

id \* (id + id)



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  - Is the opposite true?

$$V = \{+, *, (, ), \text{id}, T, F, E\}$$

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$$E \rightarrow T + E \quad E \rightarrow E + E$$

~~$$E \rightarrow T$$~~

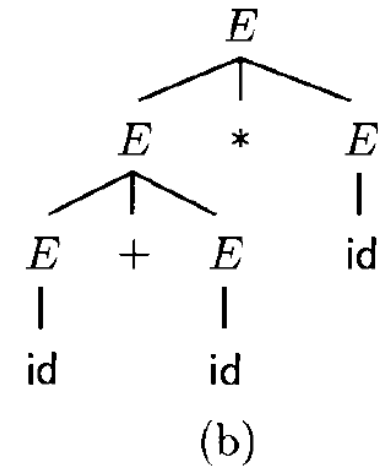
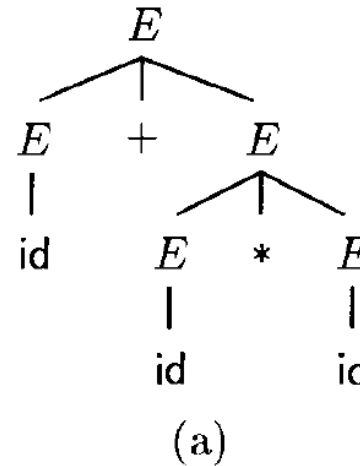
$$T \rightarrow F * T \quad E \rightarrow E * E$$

~~$$T \rightarrow F$$~~

$$F \rightarrow (E) \quad E \rightarrow (E)$$

$$F \rightarrow \text{id} \quad E \rightarrow \text{id}$$

We can generate  $\text{id} + \text{id} * \text{id}$ , but...



# Ambiguity

English ambiguity: I saw someone on the hill with a telescope.

- A Grammar with a string that has two or more distinct parse trees is called **ambiguous**

$$V = \{+, *, (, ), \text{id}, T, F, E\}$$

$$\Sigma = \{+, *, (, ), \text{id}\}$$

$$E \rightarrow T + E \quad E \rightarrow E + E$$

~~$$E \rightarrow T$$~~

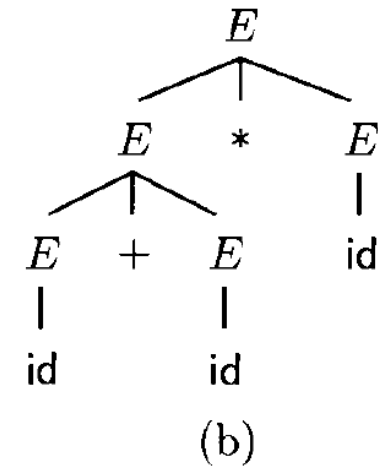
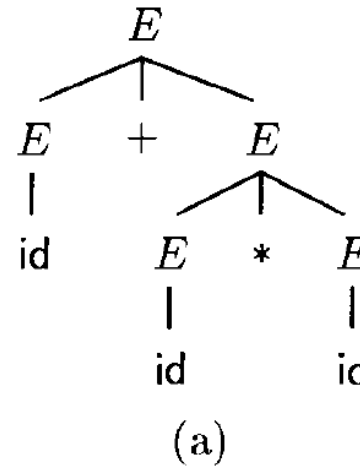
$$T \rightarrow F * T \quad E \rightarrow E * E$$

~~$$T \rightarrow F$$~~

$$F \rightarrow (E) \quad E \rightarrow (E)$$

$$F \rightarrow \text{id} \quad E \rightarrow \text{id}$$

We can still generate  $\text{id} * (\text{id} + \text{id})$ , but...





# Ambiguity

- A Grammar with a string that has two or more distinct parse trees is called **ambiguous**
- Can we construct an unambiguous grammar?

$$V = \{S, (, )\},$$

$$\Sigma = \{ (, ) \},$$

$$R = \{ S \rightarrow e,$$

$$S \rightarrow SS,$$

$$S \rightarrow (S) \}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} D_1 = S &\Rightarrow SS \Rightarrow (S)S \Rightarrow ((S))S \\ &\Rightarrow (())S \Rightarrow (())(S) \Rightarrow (())() \end{aligned}$$

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- A Grammar with a string that has two or more distinct parse trees is called **ambiguous**
- Can we construct an unambiguous grammar?

$$V = \{S, (, )\},$$

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$$R = \{ S \rightarrow e,$$

$$S \rightarrow AS,$$

$$A \rightarrow (S) \}.$$

# Ambiguity

---

- A Grammar with a string that has two or more distinct parse trees is called **ambiguous**
- There exist context-free languages such that all context-free grammars that generate them must be ambiguous (**inherently ambiguous**)
- A programming language should not be ambiguous