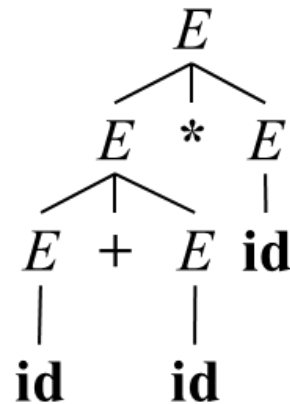


Syntax Analysis



Limitations of Regular Languages

- Weakest formal languages widely used
- Lots of applications
 - search/replace
 - lexical analysis
- Main limitation
 - regular languages cannot count past $|S|$

Limitations of Regular Languages

- Example: balanced parentheses

$$\{ (i)^i \mid i \geq 0 \}$$

()

(())

((((()))

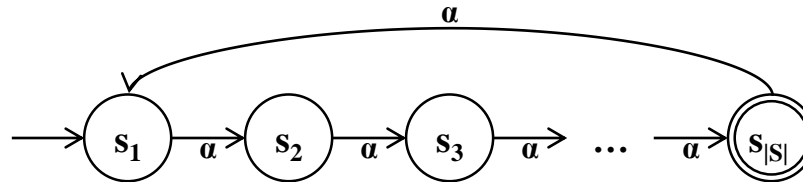
...

- Any balanced structure
 - nested expressions
 - if-else
 - statement blocks

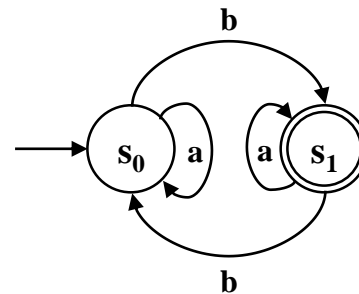
Limitations of Regular Languages

- Regular languages can count up to $|S|$ and modulo $|S|$

- $\{ a^{i|S|} \mid i \geq 0 \}$



- $\{ (a^*b^*)^* \mid |b| \bmod 2 = 1 \}$



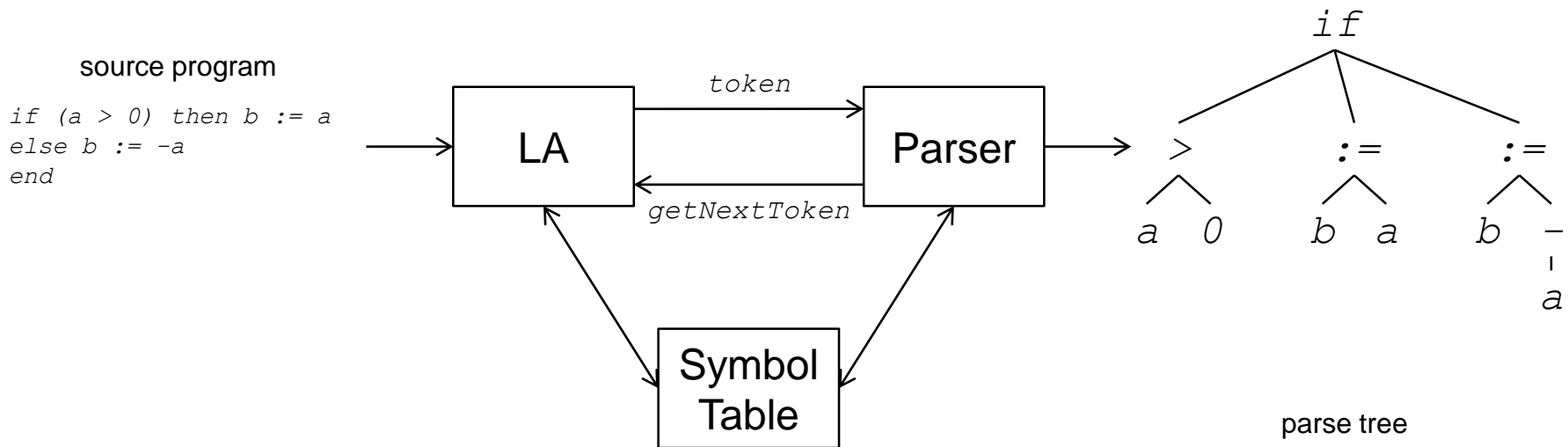
$a^*ba^*(ba^*ba^*)^*$

- $\{ (i)^i \mid i \geq 0 \}$

regular languages can count one thing, but not two

Role of Syntax Analysis

- Input: tokenized input stream from the lexer
- Output: parse tree of program



Context-Free Grammars

Context-Free Grammars

- Not all (valid) token strings are also valid programs

```
if (if while end begin) := (a + (* 3( -) 2);
```

- Formalism to describe valid strings of tokens
 - parsing: an algorithm to distinguish valid from invalid strings of tokens
 - context-free grammars are a natural notation for describing recursive structures

```
begin
  begin
    begin end
  end
end
```

Context-Free Grammars

■ Formal Definition

A context-free grammar (CFG) $G = (T, N, P, S)$ consists of

- **terminals T**
basic symbols from which the strings belonging to the grammar are formed. Aka *tokens*.
- **nonterminals N**
syntactic variables that denote sets of strings and impose a hierarchical structure on the language.
- **productions P**
specifications on how terminals and nonterminals can be combined to form strings. Productions have the form
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{nonterminal} & \rightarrow & \{ \text{terminal} \mid \text{nonterminal} \mid \varepsilon \} \\ \text{head} & & \text{body} \end{array}$$
- **a start symbol S**
one of the nonterminals. The set of strings that can be generated starting with the start symbol denotes the language generated by the grammar.

Context-Free Grammars

■ Example: balanced parentheses

$$\begin{array}{lcl} S & \rightarrow & (S) \\ S & \rightarrow & \varepsilon \end{array}$$

- nonterminals: $N = \{ S \}$
- terminals: $T = \{ (,) \}$
- start symbol: S
(unless explicitly stated: nonterminal on LHS of first production)
- productions: $\{ S \rightarrow (S), S \rightarrow \varepsilon \}$

Context-Free Grammars

■ Productions are **replacement rules**

- start with the start symbol S
- replace nonterminal X by the RHS of a production of the form

$$X \rightarrow Y_1 Y_2 \dots Y_n$$

- repeat until no nonterminals are left.

$$S \rightarrow (S)$$

$$S \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

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

$$S \rightarrow (S) \quad S \rightarrow (S) \quad S \rightarrow (S) \quad S \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

Context-Free Grammars

■ Another Example

<i>expression</i>	→	<i>expression</i> + <i>term</i>
<i>expression</i>	→	<i>expression</i> – <i>term</i>
<i>expression</i>	→	<i>term</i>
<i>term</i>	→	<i>term</i> * <i>factor</i>
<i>term</i>	→	<i>term</i> / <i>factor</i>
<i>term</i>	→	<i>factor</i>
<i>factor</i>	→	(<i>expression</i>)
<i>factor</i>	→	id

Context-Free Grammars

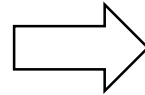
■ Notational Conventions

- terminals: $a, b, c, +, -, ., (,), 0, 1, 2, \dots, 9, \text{if}, \text{else}$
 - ▶ lowercase letters, operator and punctuation symbols, digits, bold strings
- nonterminals: $A, B, C, S, \text{expression}, \text{term}$
 - ▶ uppercase letters, lowercase *italic* names
- grammar symbols: X, Y, Z
 - ▶ either non-terminals or terminals
- strings of terminals: u, v, z
- strings of grammar symbols: α, β, γ
 - ▶ $A \rightarrow \alpha$
- empty string: ε
- end-of-input marker: $\$$
- alternatives: merge bodies of productions with common head

Context-Free Grammars

■ Example

$expression \rightarrow expression + term$
 $expression \rightarrow expression - term$
 $expression \rightarrow term$
 $term \rightarrow term * factor$
 $term \rightarrow term / factor$
 $term \rightarrow factor$
 $factor \rightarrow (expression)$
 $factor \rightarrow id$



$E \rightarrow E + T \mid E - T \mid T$
 $T \rightarrow T * F \mid T / F \mid F$
 $F \rightarrow (E) \mid id$

Derivational View

- Every production is a replacement rule
- Starting with the start symbol, repeatedly apply a production until all nonterminals have been eliminated
- Notation: $A \Rightarrow$ applied production
- Example: derivation for $-(id)$

$$E \rightarrow E + E \mid E - E \mid - E \mid (E) \mid id$$

$$E \Rightarrow - E \Rightarrow - (E) \Rightarrow - (id)$$

- $\alpha \Rightarrow^* \alpha$: derives in **zero** or more steps
- $\alpha \Rightarrow^+ \alpha$: derives in **one** or more steps

Languages and Grammars

- A sentence of $G = (T, N, P, S)$, w , is a string of terminals for which a derivation

$$S \Rightarrow^* w$$

exists

- The language of a grammar, $L(G)$, is the set of sentences generated by G .

$$\{ a_1 \dots a_n \mid \forall i a_i \in T \wedge S \Rightarrow^* a_1 \dots a_n \}$$

- Not surprisingly, a context-free language is generated by a context-free grammar.
- Two grammars G_1 and G_2 are said to be equivalent if $L(G_1) = L(G_2)$

Languages and Grammars

■ Simplified extract from SnuPL/1

expression \rightarrow *expression* + *expression*
 | *expression* * *expression*
 | (*expression*)
 | **id**

■ some valid strings

id

id + id

id + (id * id)

id + id + id + id + id

...

Languages and Grammars

■ Simplified extract from SnuPL/1

statSequence \rightarrow *statement* { ; *statement* }

statement \rightarrow **if** (*expression*) **then** *statSequence* [**else** *statSequence*] **end**

 | **while** (*expression*) **do** *statSequence* **end**

 | *ident* ([*expression* { , *expression* }])

 | **return** [*expression*]

 | *ident* := *expression*

expression \rightarrow *ident* + *ident*

 | *ident* * *ident*

 | *ident*

Leftmost and Rightmost Derivations

- For each derivation
 - choose which nonterminal to replace
 - pick a production with that nonterminal as its head

$$E \rightarrow E + E \mid E - E \mid - E \mid (E) \mid \mathbf{id}$$

$$- (\mathbf{id} + \mathbf{id})$$

$$E \Rightarrow - E \Rightarrow - (E) \Rightarrow - (E + E) \Rightarrow - (\mathbf{id} + E) \Rightarrow - (\mathbf{id} + \mathbf{id})$$

$$E \Rightarrow - E \Rightarrow - (E) \Rightarrow - (E + E) \Rightarrow - (E + \mathbf{id}) \Rightarrow - (\mathbf{id} + \mathbf{id})$$

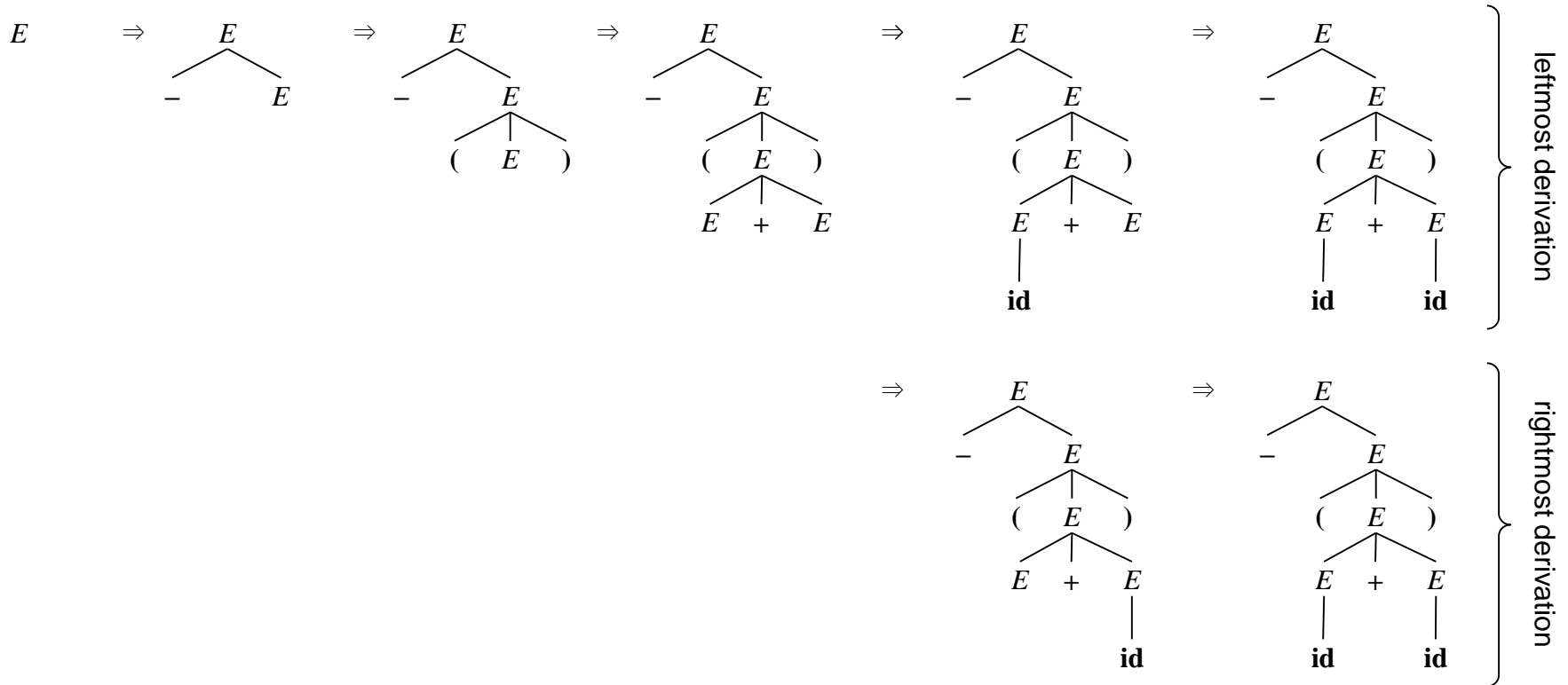
- leftmost derivation: always pick *leftmost* nonterminal
- rightmost derivation: always pick *rightmost* nonterminal

From Derivations to Parse Trees

- A parse tree is a visualization of derivations

– (id + id)

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



Ambiguity

- Grammars that produce more than one parse tree for some sentence are said to be *ambiguous*.

$$E \rightarrow E + E \mid E * E \mid (E) \mid \text{id}$$

$$\text{id} + \text{id} * \text{id}$$

has two possible leftmost derivations*:

$$E \Rightarrow E + E$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{id} + E$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{id} + E * E$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{id} + \text{id} * E$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{id} + \text{id} * \text{id}$$

$$E \Rightarrow E * E$$

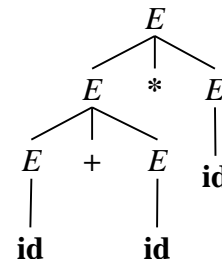
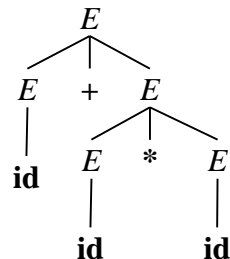
$$\Rightarrow E + E * E$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{id} + E * E$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{id} + \text{id} * E$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{id} + \text{id} * \text{id}$$

* also two possible rightmost derivations



Eliminating Ambiguity

- Ambiguity is bad
 - decision which production to pick is up to the compiler
 - may lead to semantically different programs
- Idea: rewrite grammar to eliminate ambiguity

$$E \rightarrow E + E \mid E * E \mid (E) \mid \mathbf{id}$$

$$E \rightarrow E + T \mid T$$
$$T \rightarrow T * F \mid F$$
$$F \rightarrow (E) \mid \mathbf{id}$$

Eliminating Ambiguity

■ Parse $\text{id} + \text{id} * \text{id}$

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

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

$$F \rightarrow (E) \mid \text{id}$$

$$E \Rightarrow E + T$$

$$\Rightarrow T + T$$

$$\Rightarrow F + T$$

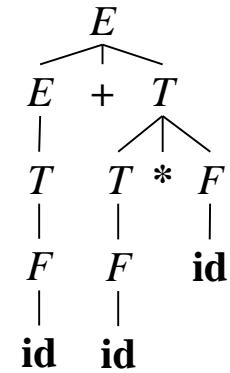
$$\Rightarrow \text{id} + T$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{id} + T * F$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{id} + F * F$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{id} + \text{id} * F$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{id} + \text{id} * \text{id}$$



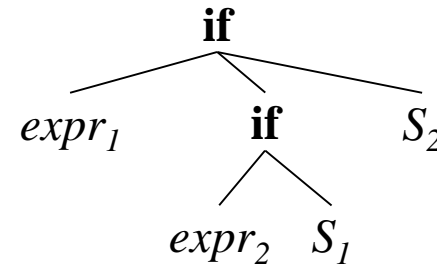
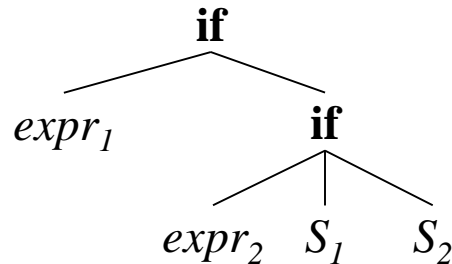
Eliminating Ambiguity

- Dangling else

$stmt \rightarrow$

- if** $expr$ **then** $stmt$
- if** $expr$ **then** $stmt$ **else** $stmt$
- other**

- Consider **if** $expr_1$ **then** **if** $expr_2$ **then** S_1 **else** S_2

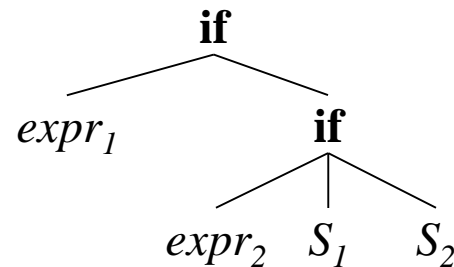


Eliminating Ambiguity

- Dangling else: **else** matches closest **then**

$stmt$	\rightarrow	mif
		uif
mif	\rightarrow	if $expr$ then mif else mif
		other
uif	\rightarrow	if $expr$ then $stmt$
		if $expr$ then mif else uif

- Consider **if** $expr_1$ **then** **if** $expr_2$ **then** S_1 **else** S_2



Eliminating Ambiguity

- There is no automatic way to eliminate ambiguity
 - eliminate by hand
 - ▶ lead to significantly more complex grammars
 - allow some ambiguity (use with care!)
 - ▶ allows for more natural definitions
 - ▶ need some disambiguation mechanism
- Typically, some ambiguity is allowed

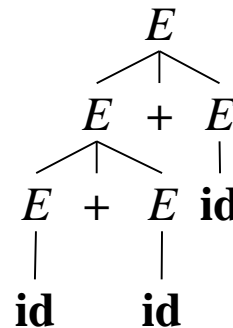
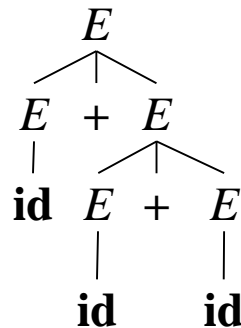
Ambiguous Grammars for PLs

- Provide additional means to define the semantics of the program even in the presence of ambiguity
 - precedence
 - association

- Example

$$E \rightarrow E + E \mid \text{id}$$

id + id + id



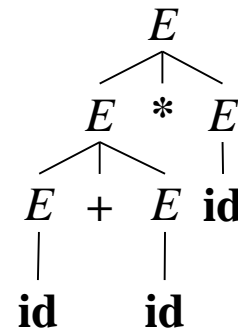
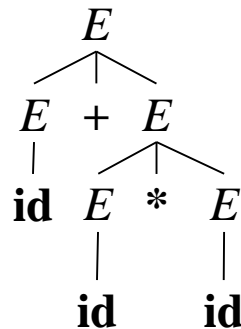
- declare left associativity: (Yacc/bison) `%left +`

Ambiguous Grammars for PLs

■ Another Example

$$E \rightarrow E + E \mid E - E \mid E * E \mid E / E \mid \mathbf{id}$$

id + id * id



- declare left associativity and precedence of operators: (Yacc/bison)

```
%left + -
```

```
%left * /
```

Left Recursive Grammars

- A grammar is left recursive if it has a production rule where the nonterminal on the LHS is identical to the first symbol of the production body, i.e.

$$X \rightarrow Y_1 Y_2 \dots Y_n \quad \text{where} \quad X = Y_1$$

- This can lead to endless recursion in a predictive (top-down) parser

$$E \rightarrow E + T / \mathbf{id}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} 1 + 2 \\ \uparrow \end{array}$$

$$\underline{E} \rightarrow \underline{E} + T \rightarrow \underline{E} + T + T \rightarrow \underline{E} + T + T + T \rightarrow \underline{E} + T + T + T + T \rightarrow \dots$$

Eliminating Left-Recursion

- Rewrite left-recursive productions

$$\begin{array}{lcl} A \rightarrow A\alpha / \beta & \Rightarrow & A \rightarrow \beta A' \\ & & A' \rightarrow \alpha A' \mid \varepsilon \end{array}$$

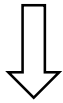
- This simple rule suffices for most grammars

$$\begin{array}{lll} E & \rightarrow & E + T \mid T \\ T & \rightarrow & T * F \mid F \\ F & \rightarrow & (E) \mid \mathbf{id} \end{array}$$

Eliminating Left-Recursion

- More elaborate rule:

$$A \rightarrow A\alpha_1 / A\alpha_2 \mid \dots \mid A\alpha_m / \beta_1 / \beta_2 \mid \dots \mid \beta_n \quad \text{no } \beta_i \text{ begins with } A$$



$$\begin{aligned} A &\rightarrow \beta_1 A' / \beta_2 A' \mid \dots \mid \beta_n A' \\ A' &\rightarrow \alpha_1 A' / \alpha_2 A' \mid \dots \mid \alpha_m A' \mid \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

- However, this rule still fails on

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow A\mathbf{a} \mid \mathbf{b} \\ A &\rightarrow A\mathbf{c} / S\mathbf{d} / \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

Systematically Eliminating Left-Recursion

■ Systematically eliminate left-recursion

- input: grammar G (no cycles, no ε -productions)
- output: equivalent grammar with no left recursion (may include ε -productions)
- algorithm

```
arrange nonterminals in some order  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$ 
for i := 1 to n do
  for j := 1 to i-1 do
    replace each production of the form  $A_i \rightarrow A_j \gamma$ 
    by the production  $A_i \rightarrow \delta_1 \gamma | \delta_2 \gamma | \dots | \delta_k \gamma$ , where
     $A_j \rightarrow \delta_1 | \delta_2 | \dots | \delta_k$  are all current  $A_j$ -productions
  od
  eliminate immediate left recursion in  $A_i$ 
od
```

■ Example

$$\begin{array}{lcl} S \rightarrow Aa | b & \Rightarrow & S \rightarrow Aa | b \\ A \rightarrow Ac / Sd / \varepsilon & & A \rightarrow Ac / Aad | bd / \varepsilon \end{array} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{lcl} S \rightarrow Aa | b \\ A \rightarrow bdA' | A' \\ A' \rightarrow cA' / adA' / \varepsilon \end{array}$$

Left Factoring

- Left factoring transforms a grammar into a form that is suitable for top-down parsing

$$\begin{array}{l} stmt \rightarrow \text{if } expr \text{ then } stmt \text{ else } stmt \\ \quad | \quad \text{if } expr \text{ then } stmt \end{array}$$

if (a < b) then ...

<if> <(> <id, "a"> <relop, "<"> <id, "b"> <)> <then> ...
↑

which production should the parser choose?

Left Factoring

- Left factoring transforms a grammar into a form that is suitable for top-down parsing

- idea: defer decision until the common prefix has been consumed

$$\begin{array}{l} A \rightarrow \alpha\beta_1 \\ \quad | \alpha\beta_2 \end{array} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{array}{l} A \rightarrow \alpha A' \\ A' \rightarrow \beta_1 / \beta_2 \end{array}$$

- left factoring

- ▶ input: grammar G
- ▶ output: left-factored equivalent grammar
- ▶ algorithm

do

for each nonterminal A , find the longest prefix α common to two or more of its alternatives. If $\alpha \neq \epsilon$ replace all A -productions $A \rightarrow \alpha\beta_1 / \alpha\beta_2 / \dots / \alpha\beta_n / \gamma$ with where γ represents all alternatives that do not begin with α by

$$A \rightarrow \alpha A' \mid \gamma$$

$$A' \rightarrow \beta_1 / \beta_2 / \dots / \beta_n$$

until no change occurs

Limits of Context-Free Grammars

- Variable declaration before use

```
int i;  
if (a > b) then a := a-b;  
else a := b-a;  
i = a + 7;
```

$$L = \{ w cw \mid w \text{ in } (a|b)^* \}$$

- Number of actual parameters match with formal parameters

```
int foo(int p1, int p2) {...}
```

```
int main(void) {  
    foo(1, 2, 3, 4, 5);  
}
```

$$L = \{ a^n b^m c^n d^m \mid n \geq 1 \text{ and } m \geq 1 \}$$

Context-Free Grammars vs. Regular Expressions

■ Which are more powerful?

- We can easily construct a grammar from a regular expression (details see textbook 4.2.7)

$(a|b)^*abb$

$A \rightarrow aA \mid bA \mid aB$

$B \rightarrow bC$

$C \rightarrow bD$

$D \rightarrow \varepsilon$

- The opposite is not true:

$A \rightarrow aAb \mid \varepsilon$

- “regular expressions can count one thing, but not two”
“context-free grammars can count two things, but not three”

Recap: Context-Free Grammars

- A context-free grammar G consists of
 - T , the set of terminal symbols
 - N , the set of nonterminals
 - $S \in N$, the start symbol
 - P , the set of productions of the form

$$X \rightarrow Y_1 Y_2 \dots Y_k \quad \text{where } X \in N, Y_i \in N \cup T$$

- Representation of choice for most programming languages
 - ideal to represent nested constructs
 - ▶ balanced brackets, if...else, begin...end
 - however, CFGs cannot express context
 - ▶ declaration before use of variables
 - ▶ # of actual parameters = # of formal parameters to a function

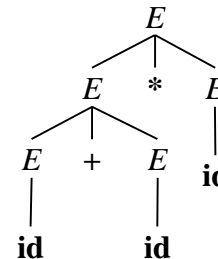
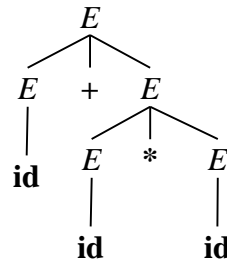
Recap: Context-Free Grammars

■ Ambiguous Grammars

- a grammar that allows different parse trees for the same input

$$E \rightarrow E + E \mid E * E \mid (E) \mid \text{id}$$

id + id * id



- resolutions
 - ▶ rewrite grammar
 - cleanest solution, but: more complex grammar, cannot be automated
 - ▶ allow some ambiguity, use other means to clarify which parse tree should be generated
 - associativity, precedence

Recap: Context-Free Grammars

■ Recursive Grammars

- a grammar is left-recursive if there exists a derivation

$$A \Rightarrow^+ A\alpha$$

for some nonterminal A . (right-recursion analogous)

- resolutions

- ▶ none necessary for bottom-up (LR) parsers, however, recursive-descent parsers may end up in an endless loop if the grammar is left-recursive

- illustration for immediate left-recursion:

$$A \rightarrow A\alpha / \beta \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{array}{l} A \rightarrow \beta A' \\ A' \rightarrow \alpha A' \mid \varepsilon \end{array}$$

- eliminate left-recursion using the algorithm on slide [31](#)

Recap: Context-Free Grammars

■ Left factoring

- eliminates common nontrivial prefixes from productions

$$A \rightarrow \alpha\beta_1 \mid \alpha\beta_2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{array}{l} A \rightarrow \alpha A' \\ A' \rightarrow \beta_1 \mid \beta_2 \end{array}$$

- useful for top-down parsers because it defers the decision whether to select production $A \rightarrow \alpha\beta_1$ or $A \rightarrow \alpha\beta_2$ until after α has been seen
- use algorithm discussed on slide [33](#)

Extended Backus-Naur Form

Extended Backus-Naur Form

■ Notation for context free grammars

● Backus-Naur Form (BNF)

- ▶ a formal way to specify context-free grammars
- ▶ developed by John Backus for ALGOL

`<symbol> ::= __expression__`

meta symbols: `::=` (definition), `< >` (nonterminal), `|` (alternation)

`<digit> ::= 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9`

`<number> ::= <digit> | <number> <digit>`

● Extended Backus-Naur Form

- ▶ originally developed by Niklaus Wirth as an extension of his Wirth syntax notation ([link to paper](#))
 - introduced `[]` (option), `{ }` (repetition)
- ▶ later standardized ([ISO/IEC 14977](#))

Extended Backus-Naur Form

■ Notation: Extended Backus-Naur Form

- standardized notation (ISO/IEC 14977:1996)
 - ▶ meta symbols: “=” (definition), “,” (concatenation), “;” (end of production)

```
module    =  "module", ident, ";",  
              { [typeDecl], [varDecl], [funcDecl] },  
              "begin", stmtSeq, "end", ident, ".";
```

- we use no symbol for concatenation, and “.” to indicate the end of the production

```
module    =  "module" ident ";"  
              { [typeDecl] [varDecl] [funcDecl] }  
              "begin" stmtSeq "end" ident ".".
```

Extended Backus-Naur Form

■ Notation: Extended Backus-Naur Form

Notation	Usage	Example
=	definition	<code>letter = "A".."Z".</code>
.	termination	<code>letter = "A".."Z".</code>
	alternation	<code>letter = "A".."Z" "a".."z".</code>
[...]	option	<code>number = ["-"] digit.</code>
{ ... }	repetition (≥ 0)	<code>number = ["-"] digit {digit}.</code>
(...)	grouping	<code>factor = [unaryOp] (ident number).</code>
"...", '...'	terminal symbol	<code>"module", ''</code>

Example: SnuPL/1

■ EBNF of SnuPL/1

```
module          = "module" ident ";" varDeclaration { subroutineDecl } "begin"  
                statSequence "end" ident ".".  
  
letter          = "A".."Z" | "a".."z" | "_".  
  
digit          = "0".."9".  
  
character       = ASCIIchar | "\n" | "\t" | "\"" | "'" | "\\" | "\0"  
  
char            = "'" character "'"  
  
string          = "'" {character} "'".  
  
  
ident           = letter { letter | digit }.  
  
number          = digit { digit }.  
  
boolean         = "true" | "false".  
  
type            = basetype | type "[" [ number ] "]".  
  
basetype        = "boolean" | "char" | "integer".
```

Example: SnuPL/1

■ EBNF of SnuPL/1 (cont'd)

qualident = *ident* { "[" *expression* "]" }.

factOp = "*" | "/" | "&&".

termOp = "+" | "-" | "||".

relOp = "=" | "#" | "<" | "<=" | ">" | ">=".

factor = *qualident* | *number* | *boolean* | *char* | *string* |
"(" *expression* ")" | *subroutineCall* | "!" *factor*.

term = *factor* { *factOp* *factor* }.

simpleexpr = ["+" | "-"] *term* { *termOp* *term* }.

expression = *simpleexpr* [*relOp* *simpleexpr*].

Example: SnuPL/1

■ EBNF of SnuPL/1 (cont'd)

assignment = *qualident* " :=" *expression*.

subroutineCall = *ident* "(" [*expression* { "," *expression* }] ")".

ifStatement = "if" "(" *expression* ")" "then" *statSequence*
["else" *statSequence*] "end".

whileStatement = "while" "(" *expression* ")" "do" *statSequence* "end".

returnStatement = "return" [*expression*].

statement = *assignment* | *subroutineCall* | *ifStatement* | *whileStatement* |
returnStatement.

statSequence = [*statement* { ";" *statement* }].

varDeclaration = ["var" *varDeclSequence* ";"].

varDeclSequence = *varDecl* { ";" *varDecl* }.

varDecl = *ident* { "," *ident* } ":" *type*.

Example: SnuPL/1

■ EBNF of SnuPL/1 (cont'd)

```
subroutineDecl      =  (procedureDecl | functionDecl)  
                      subroutineBody ident ";"  
procedureDecl      =  "procedure" ident [ formalParam ] ";"  
  
functionDecl       =  "function" ident [ formalParam ] ":" type ";"  
  
formalParam        =  "(" [ varDeclSequence ] ")"  
  
subroutineBody     =  varDeclaration "begin" statSequence "end"  
  
  
comment            =  "//" { [ ^\n ] } \n  
  
whitespace        =  { " " | \t | \n }
```

Error Handling

Error Handling

- Error handling is an important part of the parser

```
$ snuplc fibonacci.mod  
Segmentation fault
```

```
$ snuplc fibonacci.mod  
snuplc: parser.c:184: module: Assertion '!strcmp(tmpid,  
token.value)' failed.  
Aborted.
```

- not very helpful
- we want something like

```
$ snuplc fibonacci.mod  
syntax error in fibonacci.mod:8:5 :  
module identifier mismatch (expected 'fibonacci', got 'huga').
```

Error Types

■ Possible types of errors

- lexical errors

```
module test;@  
var a: integer
```

- syntax errors

```
a := b +/ c
```

- semantic errors

```
var a, b: integer;  
    d: boolean;  
begin  
    a := b + c + d
```

Error Handling

- Error handling should be
 - precise
 - quick recovery
 - efficient
- Methods to handle errors
 - panic mode
 - error productions
 - automatic error correction

Panic Mode

- Idea: when an error is detected skip tokens until a synchronizing token is found, and continue from there
 - synchronizing token: tokens that have a well-known role in the language
 - ▶ statement separator (";"), end of current block/function ("end")
 - pros: detects unrelated errors
 - cons: may swamp the user with follow-up errors caused by the initial error
- Example: (1 + * 2) + 3
 - synchronizing token in an expression: next integer
 - Bison: indicate synchronizing tokens using the terminal error

$E \rightarrow \text{int} \mid E + E \mid (E) \mid \text{error int} \mid (\text{error})$

Error Productions

- Idea: specify known common mistakes as part of the grammar
 - promote common errors to alternative syntax
 - cons: complicates grammar, especially if used extensively
 - also used to warn user about special/deprecated syntax
- Example: $3x$ instead of $3 * x$
 - modify original production

$$E \rightarrow \text{int} \mid E + E \mid E * E \mid (E)$$

to

$$E \rightarrow \text{int} \mid E + E \mid E * E \mid \mathbf{EE} \mid (E)$$

Error Correction

- Idea: try to fix the error by inserting/deleting some tokens from the original program
 - try to be as close to the original program as possible
 - ▶ edit distance
 - ▶ exhaustive search within a certain scope (e.g. within a begin..end block)
 - disadvantages
 - ▶ fixing the error does not guarantee that the intended meaning of the programmer is maintained
 - ▶ hard to implement
 - ▶ slows down the compiler
 - PL/C (Cornell, 1975)

Intermediate Representations: Abstract Syntax Trees

Abstract Syntax Trees

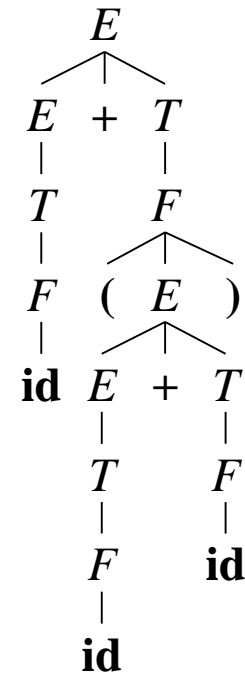
- ASTs (Abstract Syntax Trees) are a common form of an intermediate representation in a parser
 - represent the same information as the parse tree
 - do not preserve the derivations

Abstract Syntax Trees

- Consider the grammar

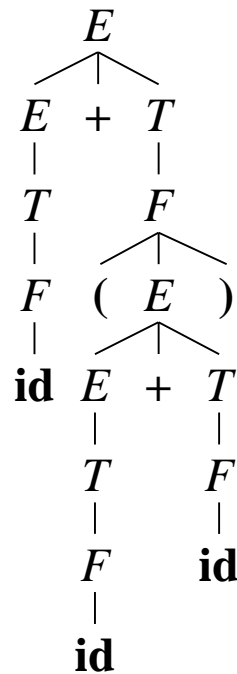
$$E \rightarrow E + T \mid T$$
$$T \rightarrow T * F \mid F$$
$$F \rightarrow (E) \mid \mathbf{id}$$

and the parse tree for $1 + (2 + 3)$:

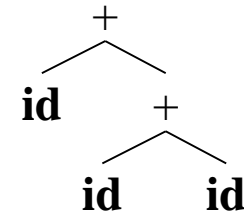
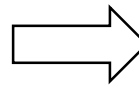


Abstract Syntax Tree

- An AST is a concise representation of the parse tree:



parse tree



AST

Construction of the AST

- Represent each construct in the program with a node in the AST
 - operations (expressions)
 - while, if, for loops
 - assignments
 - functions
 - the entire program

- Base node:

```
class Node {  
};
```

Construction of the AST

■ Binary Operations

```
class BinaryOp : public Node {
public:
    BinaryOp(Op op, Node *left, Node *right)
        : _op(op), _left(left), _right(right) {};

private:
    Op _op;
    Node *_left, *_right;
};
```

■ Unary Operations

```
class UnaryOp : public Node {
public:
    UnaryOp(Op op, Node *node) : _op(op), _node(node) {};

private:
    Op _op;
};
```

Construction of the AST

■ Statement sequence

```
class StmtSeq : public Node {
public:
    StmtSeq(Node *stmts, Node *stmt) : _stmts(stmts), _stmt(stmt) {};

private:
    Node *_stmts, *_stmt;
};
```

■ if-then-else statement

```
class If : public Node {
public:
    If(Node *cond, Node *iftrue, Node *iffalse)
    : _cond(cond), _iftrue(iftrue), _iffalse(iffalse) {};

private:
    Node *_cond, *_iftrue, *_iffalse;
};
```

Construction of the AST

■ While

```
class While : public Node {
public:
    While(Node *cond, Node *body) : _cond(cond), _body(body) {};

private:
    Node *_cond, *_body;
};
```

■ Assignment

```
class Assign : public Node {
public:
    Assign(Node *lhs, Node *rhs) : _lhs(lhs), _rhs(rhs) {};

private:
    Node *_lhs, *_rhs;
};
```

Construction of the AST

■ Subroutine Call

```
class Call : public Node {
public:
    Call(Node *params, Symbol *target) : _params(params), _target(target) {};

private:
    Node *_params;
    Symbol *_target;
};
```

■ Identifier

```
class Ident : public Node {
public:
    Ident(Symbol *ident) : _ident(ident) {};

private:
    Symbol *_ident;
};
```

AST Construction w/ Syntax-Directed Translation

- Annotate production rules with actions that build up the parse tree

E	\rightarrow	$E + T$	<code>{ return new BinaryOp('+', E(), T()); }</code>
		T	<code>{ return T(); }</code>
T	\rightarrow	$T * F$	<code>{ return new BinaryOp('*', T(), F()); }</code>
		F	<code>{ return F(); }</code>
F	\rightarrow	(E)	<code>{ return E(); }</code>
		id	<code>{ return new Ident(GetSymbol(id)); }</code>

AST Construction w/ Syntax-Directed Translation

■ Example: $1 + (2 + 3)$

$E \rightarrow E + T$	{ return new BinaryOp('+', E(), T()); }
T	{ return T(); }
$T \rightarrow T * F$	{ return new BinaryOp('*', T(), F()); }
F	{ return F(); }
$F \rightarrow (E)$	{ return E(); }
id	{ return new Ident(GetSymbol(id)); }

