

# CONTEXT FREE GRAMMAR

COMP 4200 – Formal Language



# OVERVIEW

- Grammar
  - Derivation from a grammar
  - Types
- Context-Free Grammars
  - Formal Definition
  - Examples of CFG
  - Designing CFG
  - Parse/derivation tree
  - Ambiguity
  - Simplification of CFG
  - Chomsky Normal Form
  - Greibach Normal form
- Pushdown Automata
  - Formal Definition
  - Examples of PDA
  - Equivalence with CFGs
- Non-Context Free Languages
  - The pumping lemma for context-free languages



# GRAMMAR

- Regular grammar  $\rightarrow$  set of rules that we use for proper composition.
- Grammar can be formally described using 4 tuples as  $G = \{V, T, S, P\}$ 
  - $V \rightarrow$  set of variables/non terminal symbols
  - $T \rightarrow$  Terminal symbols
  - $S \rightarrow$  Start symbol
  - $P \rightarrow$  Production rule for terminal and non terminal symbols.
- Production rule, has the form  $a \rightarrow \beta$ , where  $a$  and  $\beta$  are strings on  $V \cup T$  and atleast one symbol of ' $a$ ' belongs to  $V$ .
- Example:  $G = (\{S, A, B\}, \{a, b\}, S, \{S \rightarrow AB, A \rightarrow a, B \rightarrow b\})$



# STEPS

- Write down the start variable. It is the variable on the left-hand side of the top rule, unless specified otherwise.
- Find a variable that is written down and a rule that starts with that variable. Replace the written down variable with the right-hand side of that rule.
- Repeat step 2 until no variables remain.



# EXAMPLE

$$A \rightarrow 0A1$$

$$A \rightarrow B$$

$$B \rightarrow \#$$

- Grammar  $G_1$  generates the string  $000\#111$ . The sequence of substitutions to obtain a string is called a derivation.
- A derivation of string  $000\#111$  in grammar  $G_1$  is



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- A derivation of string  $000\#111$  in grammar  $G_1$  is
- $A \Rightarrow 0A1 \Rightarrow 00A11 \Rightarrow 000A111 \Rightarrow 000B111 \Rightarrow 000\#111$ .



$$G = (\{S,A,B\}, \{A,B\}, S, \{S \rightarrow AB, A \rightarrow a, B \rightarrow b\})$$

- $V = \{S,A,B\}$
- $T = \{a,b\}$
- $S = s$
- $P = S \rightarrow AB, A \rightarrow a, B \rightarrow b$ 
  - $S \rightarrow AB$ , we know that  $A \rightarrow a$
  - $S \rightarrow aB$
  - $S \rightarrow ab$



# DERIVATION FROM A GRAMMAR

- The set of all the strings that can be derived from a grammar is said to be the Language generated from that grammar.
- Example:  $G = (\{S, A\}, \{a, b\}, S, \{S \rightarrow aAb, A \rightarrow aaAbb, A \rightarrow \varepsilon\})$ 
  - $S \rightarrow \underline{aAb}$ ,  $A \rightarrow aaAbb$
  - Expanding,  $S \rightarrow \underline{aaaAbbb}$
  - $S \rightarrow aaaAbbb, A \rightarrow \varepsilon$
  - $S \rightarrow aaabbb$ , String derived from grammar  $G$
  - $L = a^n b^n$





# DERIVATION FROM A GRAMMAR

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# TYPES OF GRAMMAR

<b>Grammar Type</b>	<b>Grammar Accepted</b>	<b>Language Accepted</b>	<b>Automaton</b>
Type 0	Unrestricted grammar	Recursively enumerable language	Turing Machine
Type 1	Context-sensitive grammar	Context-sensitive language	Linear-bounded automaton
Type 2	Context-free grammar	Context-free language	Pushdown Automaton
Type 3	Regular grammar	Regular language	Finite state automaton



# CONTEXT FREE GRAMMAR

- Methods of describing languages:
  - Finite automata
  - Regular expressions
- Some simple languages, such as  $\{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\}$ , cannot be described by these languages.
- We study Context-Free Grammars, a more powerful method of describing languages. Such grammars can describe certain features that have a recursive structure.
- The collection of languages associated with context-free grammars are called the Context-Free languages
- PDA: a class of machines recognizing the context-free languages A Context Free Grammar is a “machine” that creates a language. A language created by a CFG is called A Context Free Language



# CONTEXT FREE LANGUAGE

Consider language  $\{ 0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0 \}$ , which is nonregular.

- Start variable  $S$  with “substitution rules”:  $S \rightarrow 0S1$   $S \rightarrow \varepsilon$
- Rules can yield string  $0^k 1^k$  by applying rule “ $S \rightarrow 0S1$ ”  $k$  times, followed by rule “ $S \rightarrow \varepsilon$ ” once.
- Derivation of string  $0^3 1^3$   $S \Rightarrow 0S1 \Rightarrow 00S11 \Rightarrow 000S111 \Rightarrow 000\varepsilon111 = 000111$



# EXAMPLE

- Example of CFG Example: Language  $\{ 0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0 \}$  has CFG  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$
- Variables  $V = \{S\}$
- Terminals  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$
- Start variable  $S$
- Rules  $R: S \rightarrow 0S1 \mid S \rightarrow \varepsilon$
- Combine rules with same left-hand side in **Backus-Naur (or Backus Normal) Form (BNF)**:

$$S \rightarrow 0S1 \mid \varepsilon$$



The following is an example of CFG, which we call G1.

$$A \rightarrow 0A1$$
$$A \rightarrow B$$
$$B \rightarrow \#$$

- A grammar consists of a **collection of rules**. Each rule appears as a line in the grammar, comprising a symbol and a string separated by an arrow.
- The **symbol** is called a **variable**.
- The string consists of variables and other symbols called **terminals**.
- One variable is designated as the start variable.
- It usually occurs on the LHS of the topmost rule.
- For example, grammar G1 contains 3 rules. G1's variables are A and B, where A is the start variable. Its terminals are 0, 1, and #.



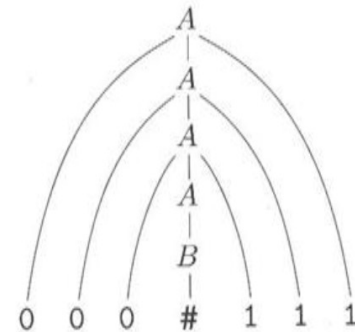
$$\begin{array}{l}
 A \rightarrow 0A1 \\
 A \rightarrow B \\
 B \rightarrow \#
 \end{array}
 \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{l} A \rightarrow 0A1 \\ A \rightarrow B \\ B \rightarrow \# \end{array}} \right\} A \rightarrow 0A1 \mid B$$

For example, grammar  $G_1$  generates the string  $000\#111$ . The sequence of substitutions to obtain a string is called a **derivation**.

A derivation of string  $000\#111$  in grammar  $G_1$  is

$A \rightarrow 0A1 \rightarrow 00A11 \rightarrow 000A111 \rightarrow 000B111 \rightarrow 000\#111$ .

Language defined by grammar  $G_1$   $\{0^n\#1^n \mid n \geq 0\}$



Parse tree for  $000\#111$  in grammar  $G_1$



# EXAMPLE

- Consider grammar  $G3 = (\{S\}, \{a, b\}, R, S)$ . The set of rules,  $R$ , is
- $S \rightarrow aSb \mid SS \mid \varepsilon$
- What are some of the strings generated by this grammar?
- Can you verify if the strings  $abab$ ,  $aaabbbb$ , and  $aababb$ , belong to the grammar.





# EXAMPLE

▪ CFG  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$  with

1.  $V = \{S\}$

2.  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$

3. Rules  $R: S \rightarrow 0S \mid \varepsilon$

Then  $L(G) = \{0^n \mid n \geq 0\}$ .

For example,  $S$  derives  $0^3$

$S \Rightarrow 0S \Rightarrow 00S \Rightarrow 000S \Rightarrow 000\varepsilon = 000$

Note that  $\rightarrow$  and  $\Rightarrow$  are different.

$\rightarrow$  used in defining rules

$\Rightarrow$  used in derivation



# EXAMPLE

▪ CFG  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$  with

1.  $V = \{S\}$
2.  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$
3. Rules  $R: S \rightarrow 0S \mid 1S \mid \varepsilon$

Then  $L(G) = \Sigma^*$ .

For example,  $S$  derives 0100

$S \Rightarrow 0S \Rightarrow 01S \Rightarrow 010S \Rightarrow 0100S \Rightarrow 0100$



# EXAMPLE

Consider grammar  $G4 = (V, \Sigma, R, \langle \text{EXPR} \rangle)$

$V$  is  $\{\langle \text{EXPR} \rangle, \langle \text{TERM} \rangle, \langle \text{FACTOR} \rangle\}$  and  $\Sigma$  is  $\{a, +, x, (, )\}$ .

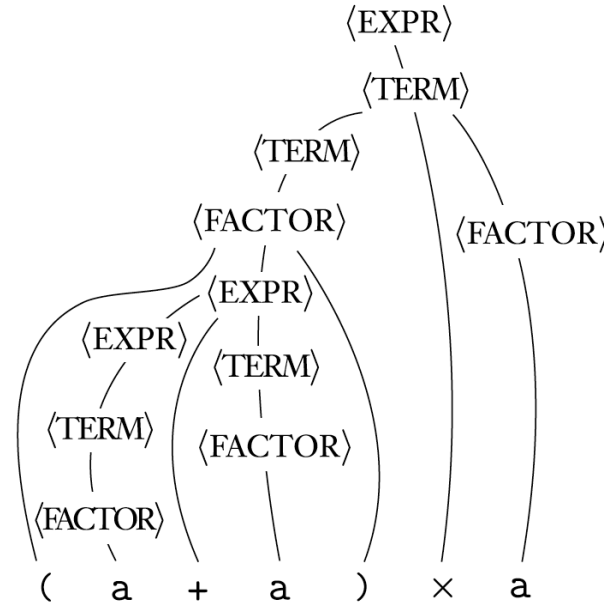
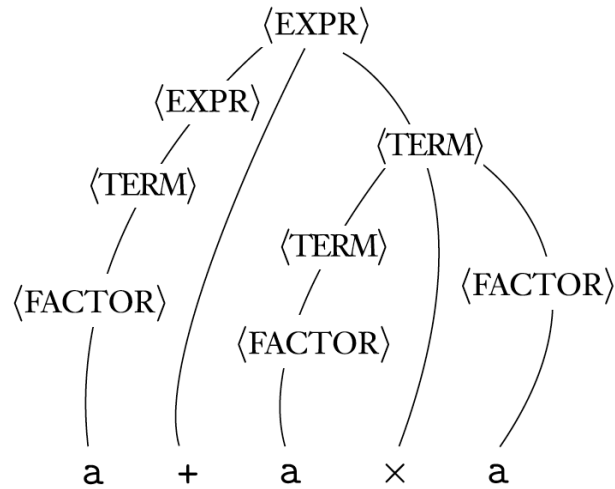
The rules are

$$\langle \text{EXPR} \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{EXPR} \rangle + \langle \text{TERM} \rangle \mid \langle \text{TERM} \rangle$$
$$\langle \text{TERM} \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{TERM} \rangle * \langle \text{FACTOR} \rangle \mid \langle \text{FACTOR} \rangle$$
$$\langle \text{FACTOR} \rangle \rightarrow ( \langle \text{EXPR} \rangle ) \mid a$$

The two strings  $a + a * a$  and  $(a + a) * a$  can be generated with grammar  $G4$ .



# PARSE TREE



Consider grammar  $G_4 = (V, \Sigma, R, \langle \text{EXPR} \rangle)$

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The rules are

$$\langle \text{EXPR} \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{EXPR} \rangle + \langle \text{TERM} \rangle \mid \langle \text{TERM} \rangle$$
$$\langle \text{TERM} \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{TERM} \rangle * \langle \text{FACTOR} \rangle \mid \langle \text{FACTOR} \rangle$$
$$\langle \text{FACTOR} \rangle \rightarrow ( \langle \text{EXPR} \rangle ) \mid a$$
$$\langle \text{EXPR} \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{EXPR} \rangle + \langle \text{TERM} \rangle$$
$$\rightarrow \langle \text{TERM} \rangle + \langle \text{TERM} \rangle$$
$$\rightarrow \langle \text{FACTOR} \rangle + \langle \text{TERM} \rangle$$
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$$\rightarrow a + \langle \text{FACTOR} \rangle$$
$$\rightarrow a + ( \langle \text{EXPR} \rangle )$$
$$\rightarrow a + ( \langle \text{TERM} \rangle )$$
$$\rightarrow a + ( \langle \text{TERM} \rangle * \langle \text{FACTOR} \rangle )$$
$$\rightarrow a + ( \langle \text{FACTOR} \rangle * \langle \text{FACTOR} \rangle )$$
$$\rightarrow a + ( a * \langle \text{FACTOR} \rangle ) = a + ( a * a )$$


# TRY YOURSELF!

- CFG  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$  with  $V = \{S\}$ ,  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , Rules  $R: S \rightarrow 0S \mid 1S \mid 1$
- CFG  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$  with  $V = \{S, Z\}$ ,  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , Rules  $R: S \rightarrow 0S1 \mid ZZ \rightarrow 0Z \mid \varepsilon$
- $\text{PALINDROME} = \{ w \in \Sigma^* \mid w = w^R \}$ , where  $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$ . CFG  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$  with  $V = \{S\}$ ,  $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$ , Rules  $R: S \rightarrow aSa \mid bSb \mid a \mid b \mid \varepsilon$



# TRY YOURSELF!

- CFG  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$  with  $V = \{S\}$ ,  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , Rules  $R: S \rightarrow 0S \mid 1S \mid 1$ .  
Derive 011
- CFG  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$  with  $V = \{S, Z\}$ ,  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , Rules  $R: S \rightarrow 0S1 \mid Z$   
 $Z \rightarrow 0Z \mid \varepsilon$ .  $L(G) = \{0^i 1^j \mid i \geq j\}$
- PALINDROME =  $\{ w \in \Sigma^* \mid w = w^R \}$ , where  $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$ . CFG  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$  with  $V = \{S\}$ ,  $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$ , Rules  $R: S \rightarrow aSa \mid bSb \mid a \mid b \mid \varepsilon$
- $A \rightarrow 0A, A \rightarrow 1B \mid 1, B \rightarrow 0A \mid 1B \mid 1$ , Derive the string 10011011
- $S \rightarrow 0S1 \mid 1S0 \mid SS \mid \varepsilon$ , derive the string 00011011.



# CFG FOR SIMPLE ARITHMETIC EXPRESSIONS

■ CFG  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$  with

1.  $V = \{S\}$
2.  $\Sigma = \{ +, -, \times, /, (, ), 0, 1, 2, \dots, 9 \}$
3. Rules  $R: S \rightarrow S + S \mid S - S \mid S \times S \mid S/S \mid (S) \mid -S \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid \dots \mid 9$

$L(G)$  is a set of valid arithmetic expressions over single-digit integers.

$S$  derives string  $2 \times (3 + 4)$





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$L(G)$  is a set of valid arithmetic expressions over single-digit integers.

$S$  derives string  $2 \times (3 + 4)$

$S \Rightarrow S \times S \Rightarrow S \times (S) \Rightarrow S \times (S + S) \Rightarrow 2 \times (S + S) \Rightarrow 2 \times (3 + S) \Rightarrow 2 \times (3 + 4)$



# DERIVATION TREE

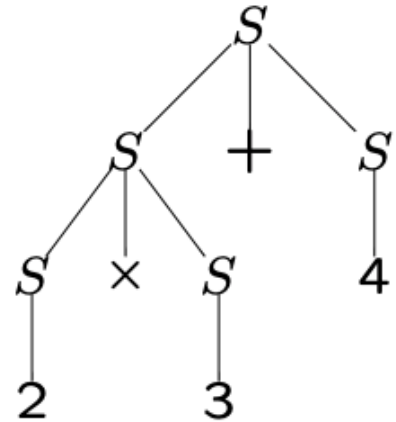
- CFG

$S \rightarrow S + S \mid S - S \mid S \times S \mid S / S \mid (S) \mid -S \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid \dots \mid 9$

- Can generate string  $2 \times 3 + 4$  using derivation

$S \Rightarrow S + S \Rightarrow S \times S + S \Rightarrow 2 \times S + S \Rightarrow 2 \times 3 + S \Rightarrow 2 \times 3 + 4$

- Leftmost derivation:** leftmost variable replaced in each step.
- Corresponding **derivation (or parse) tree**



# DESIGNING CFG

For example, to get a grammar for the language  $\{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\} \cup \{1^n 0^n \mid n \geq 0\}$ , first construct the grammar

$$S_1 \rightarrow 0 S_1 1 \mid \varepsilon$$

for the language  $\{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\}$  and the grammar

$$S_2 \rightarrow 1 S_2 0 \mid \varepsilon$$

for the language  $\{1^n 0^n \mid n \geq 0\}$  and then add the rule

$S \rightarrow S_1 \mid S_2$  to give the grammar

$$S \rightarrow S_1 \mid S_2$$

$$S_1 \rightarrow 0 S_1 1 \mid \varepsilon$$

$$S_2 \rightarrow 1 S_2 0 \mid \varepsilon$$



# EXAMPLE

- Generate CFG for given language  $L = \{a^n b^n / n \geq 0\}$
- Let  $L = \{a^n b^{2n} / n \geq 1\}$ . Find CFG
- $L = \{a^n b a^n / n \geq 1\}$ . Find CFG.
- $L = \{w c w^r / w \text{ is element of } (a, b)^*\}$ . Find the CFG.



# CONTEXT FREE LANGUAGE (CFL)

- The CFG is given as  $S \rightarrow aSb/ab$ . Find the CFL.



# CONTEXT FREE LANGUAGE (CFL)

- The CFG is given as  $S \rightarrow aSb/ab$ . Find the CFL.
- Let  $G = (\{S\}, \{a, b\}, \{S \rightarrow aSb, S \rightarrow ab\}, \{S\})$
- $S \rightarrow ab$
- $S \rightarrow aSb$ 
  - $S \rightarrow aabb$
- $S \rightarrow aSb$ 
  - $S \rightarrow aaSbb$
  - $S \rightarrow aaabbb$
- $L(G) = \{ab, aabb, aaabbb, \dots\}$  Therefore,  $L(G) = \{a^n b^n / n \geq 1\}$



# EXAMPLE

- Find the CFL for  $S \rightarrow a B/bA$ ,  $A \rightarrow a/aS/bAA$ ,  $B \rightarrow b/bS/aBB$



# TRY YOURSELF!

- Find  $L(G)$   $S \rightarrow aSa/bSb/\varepsilon$
- Find  $L(G)$   $S \rightarrow aSa/bSa/\varepsilon$
- Find  $L(G)$   $S \rightarrow aSa/bSb/a/b$
- Find  $L(G)$   $S \rightarrow SS/bS/a$
- Find  $L(G)$  for  $S \rightarrow aS/bS/a$
- Find  $L(G)$   $S \rightarrow aSa/bSb/\varepsilon$





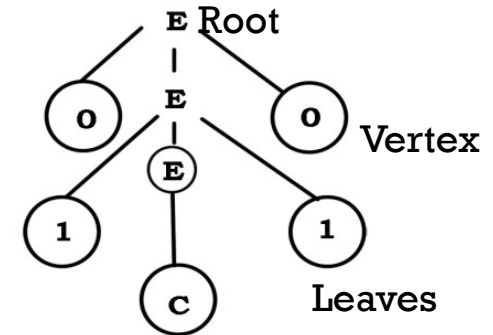
# TRY YOURSELF!

- Consider the grammar  $G = (\{A, S\}, \{a, b\}, P, S)$  where  $P$  consists of  $S \rightarrow aAS/a$   $A \rightarrow SbA/SS/ba$  Draw the derivation for string "aabbbaa"
- Draw the derivation for the string abb where  $S \rightarrow aAB$   $A \rightarrow bBb$   $B \rightarrow A/\varepsilon$



# PARSE OR DERIVATION TREE

- Parse tree is an ordered rooted tree that graphically presents the semantic information of string derived from CFG.
- Any one production or derivation derived from tree format.
- It is the graph form of representation.
- RULE
  - Start with 'S'. → Root
  - The final answer should be terminal. → Leaves
  - The derivation should be applied from left to right.
  - The intermediate derivation should be terminal or nonterminal. → vertex



■  $W = 01C10, E \rightarrow 0E0 \quad E \rightarrow 1E1 \quad E \rightarrow C$

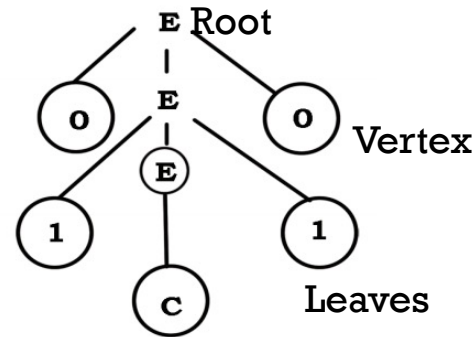
■ DERIVATION  $E \Rightarrow 0E0$

$\Rightarrow 01E10 \therefore E \Rightarrow 1E1$

$\Rightarrow 01C10 \therefore E \Rightarrow C$

$\Rightarrow E \Rightarrow 01C10$

■ PARSE TREE (OR) DERIVATION TREE



# TYPES OF DERIVATION

- LEFT MOST DERIVATION (LMD): If at each step-in derivation, a production is applied to the left most variable (or) left most non-terminal then the derivation method is called left most derivation.
- Example  $w = id+id*id$   $E \rightarrow E+E$ ,  $E \rightarrow E*E$ ,  $E \rightarrow id$

$E \rightarrow E+E$

$E \rightarrow id+E \therefore E \Rightarrow id$

$E \rightarrow id+E*E \therefore E \Rightarrow E*E$

$E \rightarrow id+id*E \therefore E \Rightarrow id$

$E \rightarrow id+id* id$



- **RIGHT MOST DERIVATION (RMD):** A derivation in which the right most variable is replaced at each step then, the derivation method is called right most derivation.

- Example

$E \rightarrow E + E$

$E \rightarrow E + E * E \therefore E \Rightarrow E * E$

$E \rightarrow E + E * id \therefore E \Rightarrow id$

$E \rightarrow E + id * id \Rightarrow id + id * id$



# EXAMPLE

- Draw derivation for the string abbabba For the CFG given G where production is  $S \rightarrow bA/aB$   $A \rightarrow a/aS/Baa$   $B \rightarrow b/bS/Abb$ 
  - $s \rightarrow aB$
  - $s \rightarrow aBB$
  - $s \rightarrow abSB$
  - $s \rightarrow abSbs$
  - $s \rightarrow abbAbs$
  - $s \rightarrow abbAbbA$
  - $s \rightarrow abbabbA$
  - $s \rightarrow abbabba$



# EXAMPLE

Draw derivation tree for the string abaaba for the CFG given by  $G$  where  $p$  is  $S \rightarrow aSa/bSb/b/a/\varepsilon$

Solution:

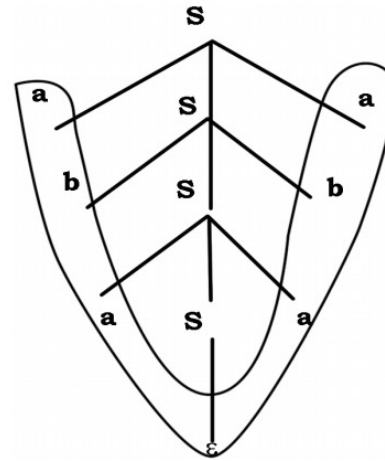
$S \rightarrow aSa$

$S \rightarrow abSba$

$S \rightarrow abaSaba$

$S \rightarrow aba\varepsilon aba$

$S \rightarrow abaaba$



# TRY YOURSELF!

- Draw derivation tree for the string aabbaabba For the CFG given G where production is  $S \rightarrow bA/aB$   $A \rightarrow a/aS/bAA$   $B \rightarrow b/bS/aBB$
- Draw the derivation tree for the string abb where  $S \rightarrow aAB$   $A \rightarrow bBb$   $B \rightarrow A/\epsilon$ .
- Draw the derivation tree for the given graph CFG  $G=(V,T,P,S)$  where  $P=\{S \rightarrow aSb/\epsilon\}$  and the input string :aabb





# EXAMPLE

- Draw derivation for the string abbabba For the CFG given G where production is  $S \rightarrow bA/aB$   $A \rightarrow a/aS/Baa$   $B \rightarrow b/bS/Abb/BB$ 
  - $s \rightarrow aB$
  - $s \rightarrow aBB$
  - $s \rightarrow abSB$
  - $s \rightarrow abSbS$
  - $s \rightarrow abbAbS$
  - $s \rightarrow abbAbbA$
  - $s \rightarrow abbabbA$
  - $s \rightarrow abbabba$



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- Example  $w = id+id*id$   $E \rightarrow E+E$ ,  $E \rightarrow E*E$ ,  $E \rightarrow id$

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$E \rightarrow id+E \therefore E \Rightarrow id$

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- **RIGHT MOST DERIVATION (RMD):** A derivation in which the right most variable is replaced at each step then, the derivation method is called right most derivation.

- Example

$E \rightarrow E + E$

$E \rightarrow E + E * E \therefore E \Rightarrow E * E$

$E \rightarrow E + E * id \therefore E \Rightarrow id$

$E \rightarrow E + id * id \Rightarrow id + id * id$



# TRY YOURSELF!

- Draw derivation tree for the string aabbaabba For the CFG given G where production is  $S \rightarrow bA/aB$   $A \rightarrow a/aS/bAA$   $B \rightarrow b/bS/aBB$
- Draw the derivation tree for the string abb where  $S \rightarrow aAB$   $A \rightarrow bBb$   $B \rightarrow A/\epsilon$ .
- Draw the derivation tree for the given graph CFG  $G=(V,T,P,S)$  where  $P=\{S \rightarrow aSb/\epsilon\}$  and the input string :aabb



# AMBIGUITY

- CFG  $G$  is ambiguous if string  $w \in L(G)$  having different parse trees (or equivalently, different leftmost derivations).
- A string is derived ambiguously in a CFG if it has two or more different leftmost derivations
- A grammar that produces **more than one parse tree (or) derivation tree** for some string then the grammar is said to be an ambiguous grammar.
- An ambiguous grammar produces more than one LMD (or) more than 1 RMD then, the given grammar is said to be an ambiguous grammar.
- Leftmost derivation : At every step in the derivation the leftmost variable is replaced
- A grammar is ambiguous if it generates some string ambiguously
- Some context free languages are inherently ambiguous, that is, every grammar for the language is ambiguous



■ LMD:

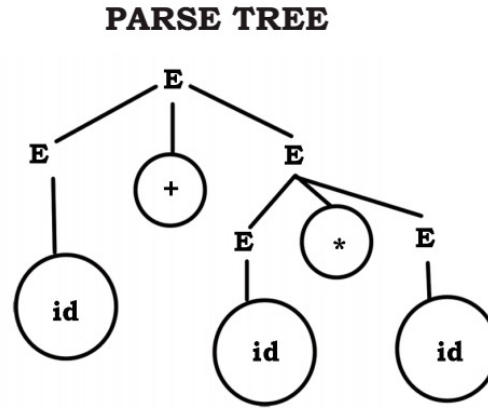
$E \Rightarrow id + E \therefore E \Rightarrow id$

$E \Rightarrow id + E * E$

$E \Rightarrow id + id * E$

$E \Rightarrow id + id * id$

$E \Rightarrow id + id * id$



Rules:

$E \rightarrow E + E, E \rightarrow E * E, E \rightarrow (E), E \rightarrow id$

$w = id + id * id$

■ RMD:

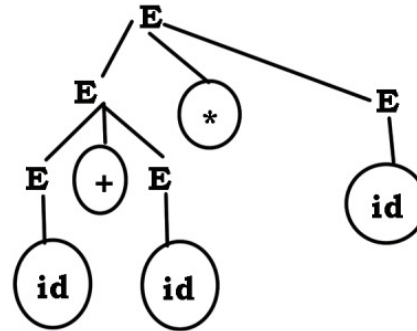
$E \Rightarrow E * E$

$E \Rightarrow E + E * E$

$E \Rightarrow E + E * id$

$E \Rightarrow E + id * id$

$E \Rightarrow id + id * id$



Therefore, the above grammar is ambiguous.



Show that CFG having productions  $A \rightarrow a/Aa/bAA/AAb/AbA$  is ambiguous. The string can be baaaa

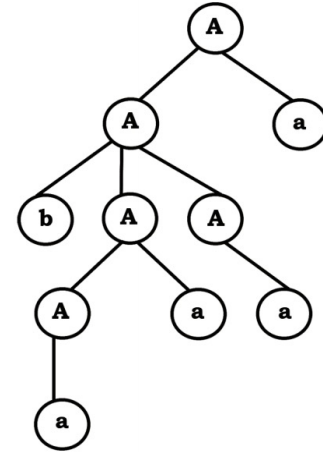




Show that CFG having productions  $A \rightarrow a/Aa/bAA/AAb/AbA$  is ambiguous.

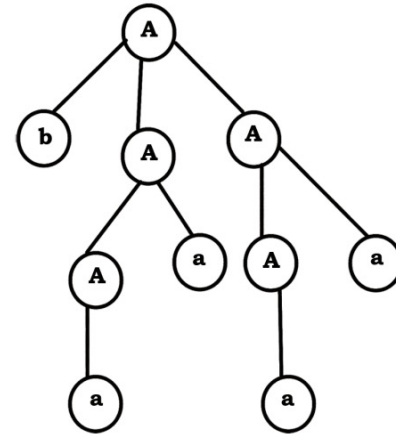
Parse tree 1  $A \rightarrow Aa \Rightarrow bAAa \Rightarrow bAaaa$

$A \rightarrow baaaa$



▪ Parse tree 2  $A \rightarrow bAA \Rightarrow bAaA \Rightarrow bAaAa$

$A \rightarrow baaaa$



▪ Therefore, the above grammar is ambiguous.



# TRY YOURSELF!

- Prove that given CFG is ambiguous,  $S \rightarrow 0B/1A$   $A \rightarrow 0/0S/1AA$   $B \rightarrow 1/1S/0BB$ . The string can be randomly chosen. For reference I have chosen “0011010”
- Show that grammar is  $S \Rightarrow aSbS/ bSaS/ \varepsilon$  ambiguous.



# RESOLVING AMBIGUITY

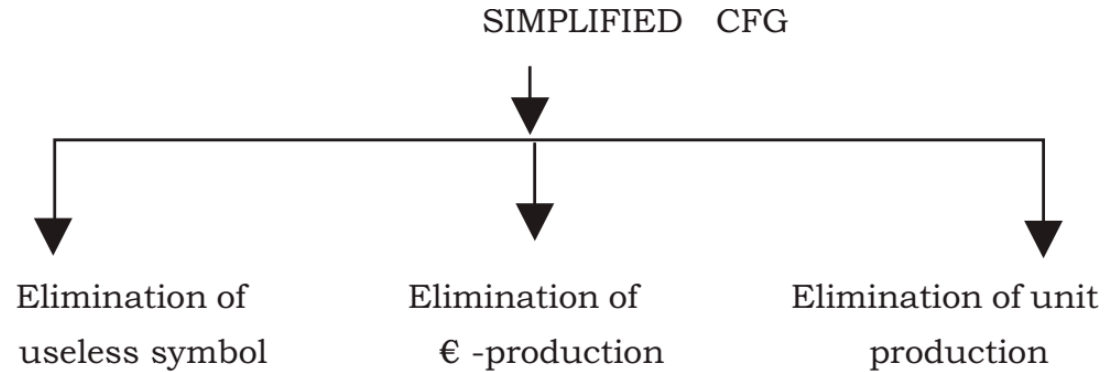
- Designing unambiguous grammars is tricky and requires planning from the start.
- It's hard to start with an ambiguous grammar and to manually convert it into an unambiguous one.
- Often, must throw the whole thing out and start over.
- We have just seen that this grammar is ambiguous:
$$E \rightarrow E+E \mid E * E \mid \text{id}$$
If we take a string  $\text{id}+\text{id}*\text{id}$  or  $\text{id}+\text{id}+\text{id}$  we get two parse trees.
- Goals:
  - Eliminate the ambiguity from the grammar.
  - Make the only parse trees for the grammar the ones corresponding to operator precedence.



# SIMPLIFYING GRAMMAR



# SIMPLIFIED CONTEXT FREE GRAMMAR



1. **Eliminate useless symbols** i.e., symbols or terminals which do not appear in any derivation of a terminal string from start symbol.
2. **Eliminate  $\varepsilon$ -productions** which are of the form  $A \rightarrow \varepsilon$  for some variable  $A$ .
3. **Eliminate unit production** which are of the form  $A \rightarrow B$  for variables  $A$  and  $B$ .



# ELIMINATING USELESS PRODUCTIONS

- **Non-generating symbols** are those symbols which do not produce any terminal string.
- **Non-reachable symbols** are those symbols which cannot be reached at any time starting from the start symbol.
- Find the non-generating symbols, i.e., the symbols which do not generate any terminal string. If the start symbol is found non-generating, leave that symbol. For removing non-generating symbols, remove those productions whose right side and left side contain those symbols.
- Now find the non-reachable symbols, i.e., the symbols which cannot be reached, starting from the start symbol. Remove the non-reachable symbols.



- Remove the useless symbols from the given CFG.

$$S \rightarrow AC,$$

$$S \rightarrow BA,$$

$$C \rightarrow CB,$$

$$C \rightarrow AC,$$

$$A \rightarrow a,$$

$$B \rightarrow aC/b$$

- Those symbols which do not produce any terminal string are non-generating symbols. Here, C is a non-generating symbol. So, we have to remove the symbol C.
- Minimized grammar will be:  $S \rightarrow BA, A \rightarrow a, B \rightarrow b$
- Now, we have to find non-reachable symbols, the symbols which cannot be reached at any time starting from the start symbol. There is no non-reachable symbol in the grammar.
- The minimized grammar is,  $S \rightarrow BA, A \rightarrow a, B \rightarrow b$





# EXAMPLE

Remove the useless symbols from the given CFG.

1.  $S \rightarrow aB/bX, A \rightarrow Bad/bSX/a, B \rightarrow aSB/bBX, X \rightarrow SBD/aBx/ad$
2.  $S \rightarrow AB \mid CA, A \rightarrow a, B \rightarrow BC \mid AB, C \rightarrow aB \mid b$
3.  $S \rightarrow aA \mid a \mid Bb \mid cC, A \rightarrow aB, B \rightarrow a \mid Aa, C \rightarrow cCD, D \rightarrow ddd$



# TRY YOURSELF!

- $S \rightarrow aC \mid SB, A \rightarrow bSCa \mid ad, B \rightarrow aSB \mid bBC, C \rightarrow aBC \mid ad$
- $S \rightarrow a\bar{A}a, A \rightarrow bBB, B \rightarrow ab, C \rightarrow aB$
- $S \rightarrow aS \mid A \mid C, A \rightarrow a, B \rightarrow aa, C \rightarrow aCb$



# REMOVAL OF UNIT PRODUCTIONS

- Any production rule of the form  $A \rightarrow B$ , where  $A, B \in \text{Non terminal}$  is called Unit production.
- Steps:
  - To remove  $A \rightarrow B$ , add production,  $A \rightarrow X$  to the grammar rule whenever  $B \rightarrow x$  occurs in grammar.  $X \rightarrow \text{Null}$
  - Delete  $A \rightarrow B$
  - Repeat step 1 until all the unit productions are removed.



# REMOVAL OF UNIT PRODUCTIONS

- A unit production is a production which is of form  $A \rightarrow B$ , where both  $A$  and  $B$  are variables.
- Production in the form ***non-terminal***  $\rightarrow$  ***single non-terminal*** is called unit production.
- Let there be a grammar  $S \rightarrow AB, A \rightarrow E, B \rightarrow C, C \rightarrow D, D \rightarrow b, E \rightarrow a$
- From here, if we are going to generate a language, then it will be generated by the following way
  - $S \rightarrow AB \Rightarrow EB \Rightarrow aB \Rightarrow aC \Rightarrow aD \Rightarrow ab \Rightarrow 6$  steps
- The grammar, by removing unit production and as well as minimizing, will be
  - $S \rightarrow AB, A \rightarrow a, B \rightarrow b \Rightarrow 3$  steps



# TRY YOURSELF!

- $S \rightarrow 0AB \quad A \rightarrow 01 \mid B \quad B \rightarrow 0A \mid 1$
- $S \rightarrow 0A \mid 1B \mid C \quad A \rightarrow 0S \mid 00 \quad B \rightarrow 1 \mid A \quad C \rightarrow 01$
- Remove the unit production from the following grammar.  $S \rightarrow AB, A \rightarrow a, B \rightarrow C, C \rightarrow D, D \rightarrow b$
- Remove the unit production from the following grammar.  $S \rightarrow aX/Yb/Y, X \rightarrow S, Y \rightarrow Yb/b$
- Remove the unit production from the following grammar.  $S \rightarrow AA, A \rightarrow B/BB, B \rightarrow abB/b/bb$



# REMOVAL OF NULL PRODUCTIONS

- In CFG, a nonterminal symbol  $A$  is a nullable variable if there is a production,  $A \rightarrow \varepsilon$  or there is a derivation that starts at  $A$  and leads to  $\varepsilon$ .
- Steps:
  - To remove  $A \rightarrow \varepsilon$  look for all productions whose right side contains  $A$ .
  - Replace each occurrences of  $A$  in each of these productions with  $\varepsilon$ .
  - Add the resultant production to the grammar.
- Example:  $S \rightarrow ABAC$ ,  $A \rightarrow aA/\varepsilon$ ,  $B \rightarrow bB/\varepsilon$ ,  $C \rightarrow c$ 
  - Null productions:  $A \rightarrow \varepsilon$  and  $B \rightarrow \varepsilon$
- To eliminate  $A \rightarrow \varepsilon$ , look for production whose right side contains  $A$ .
  - $S \rightarrow ABAC$ , replace  $A \rightarrow \varepsilon$
  - Possible outcomes,  $S \rightarrow ABC/BAC/BC$
  - $A \rightarrow aA$ , replace  $A \rightarrow \varepsilon$ ,  $A \rightarrow a$
  - $S \rightarrow ABAC/ABC/BAC/BC$ ,  $A \rightarrow aA/a$ ,  $B \rightarrow bB/\varepsilon$ ,  $C \rightarrow c$



# REMOVAL OF NULL PRODUCTIONS

- To eliminate  $B \rightarrow \varepsilon$ , look for production whose right side contains B.
  - $S \rightarrow ABAC$ , replace  $B \rightarrow \varepsilon$
  - Possible outcomes,  $S \rightarrow AAC/AC/C$
  - $B \rightarrow bB$ , replace  $B \rightarrow \varepsilon$ ,  $B \rightarrow b$
  - $S \rightarrow ABAC/ABC/BAC/BC/AAC/AC/C$ ,  $A \rightarrow aA/a$ ,  $B \rightarrow bB/b$ ,  $C \rightarrow c$



# TRY YOURSELF!

- $S \rightarrow aSa \mid bSb \mid \varepsilon$
- $S \rightarrow aS \mid A, A \rightarrow aA \mid \varepsilon$
- $S \rightarrow a \mid Ab \mid aBa, A \rightarrow b \mid \varepsilon, B \rightarrow b \mid A$
- $S \rightarrow AB, A \rightarrow aAA \mid \varepsilon, B \rightarrow bBB \mid \varepsilon$

