

# Compilers

## Program

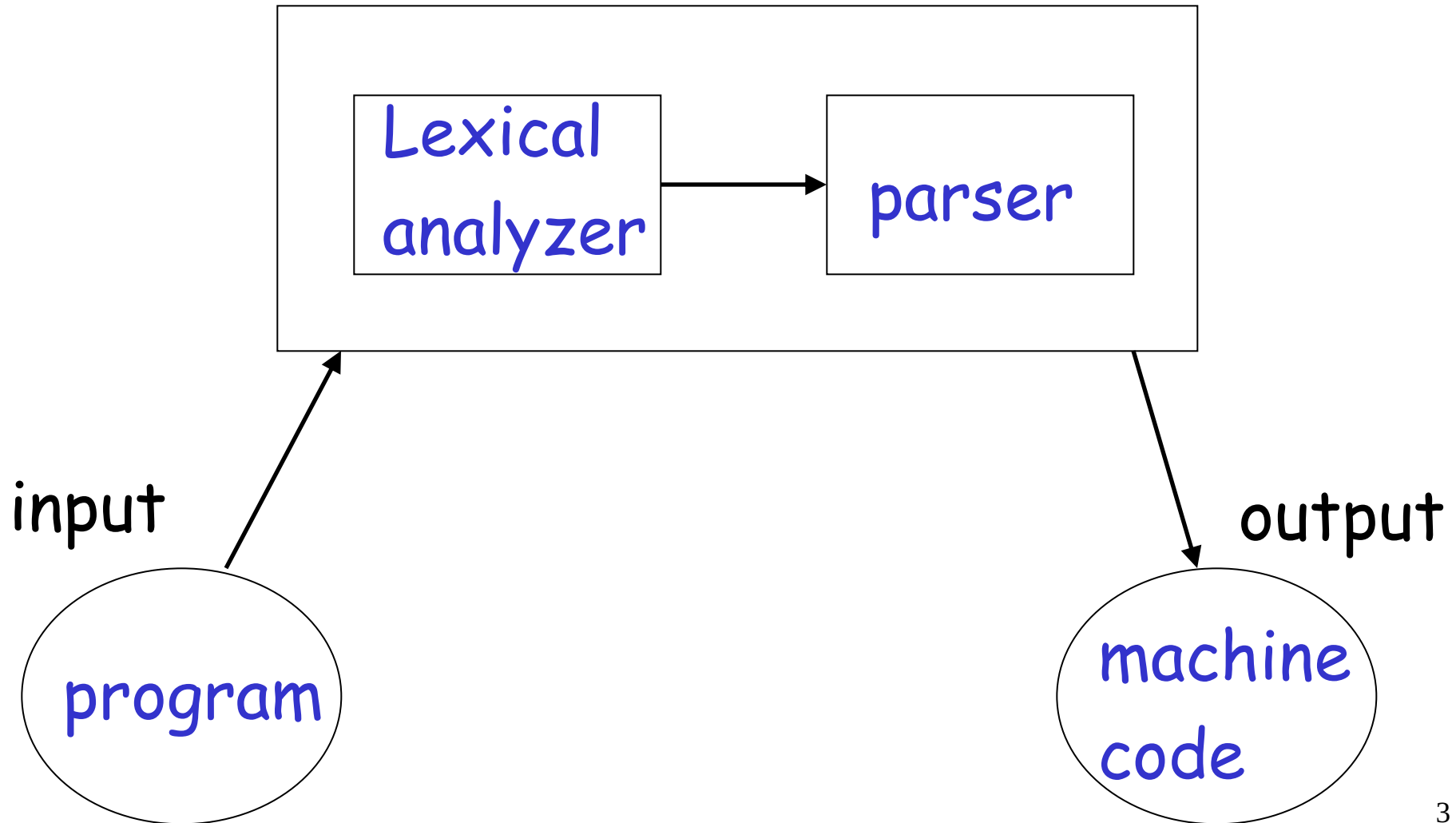
```
v = 5;  
if (v>5)  
    x = 12 + v;  
while (x != 3) {  
    x = x - 3;  
    v = 10;  
}  
.....
```

Compiler

## Machine Code

```
Add v,v,0  
cmp v,5  
jmplt ELSE  
THEN:  
    add x, 12,v  
ELSE:  
    WHILE:  
    cmp x,3  
...
```

# Compiler



A **parser** knows the grammar  
of the programming language

# Parser

$\text{PROGRAM} \rightarrow \text{STMT\_LIST}$

$\text{STMT\_LIST} \rightarrow \text{STMT}; \text{STMT\_LIST} \mid \text{STMT};$

$\text{STMT} \rightarrow \text{EXPR} \mid \text{IF\_STMT} \mid \text{WHILE\_STMT}$   
 $\mid \{ \text{STMT\_LIST} \}$

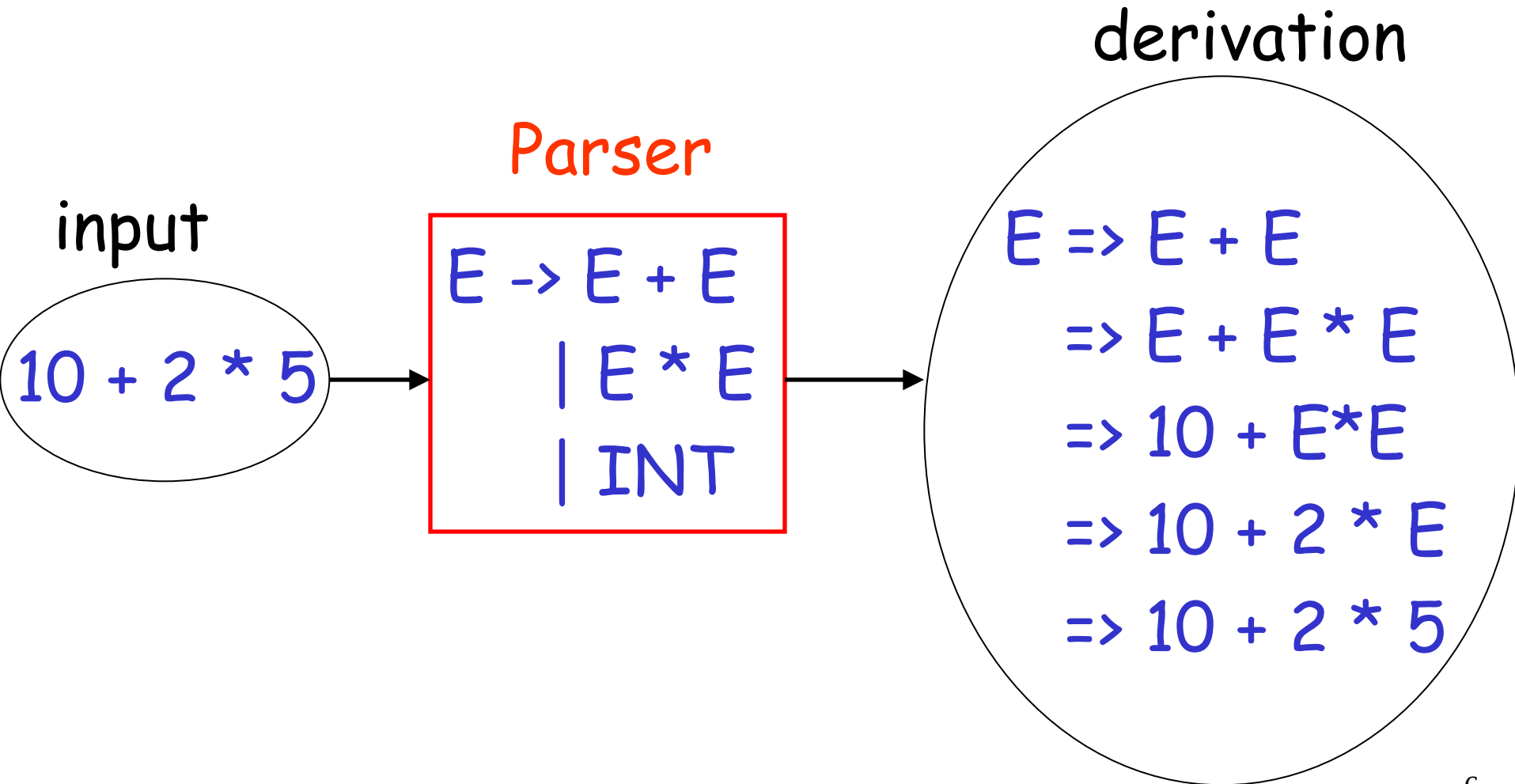
$\text{EXPR} \rightarrow \text{EXPR} + \text{EXPR} \mid \text{EXPR} - \text{EXPR} \mid \text{ID}$

$\text{IF\_STMT} \rightarrow \text{if (EXPR) then STMT}$

$\mid \text{if (EXPR) then STMT else STMT}$

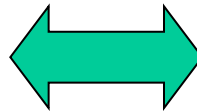
$\text{WHILE\_STMT} \rightarrow \text{while (EXPR) do STMT}$

The parser finds the derivation  
of a particular input

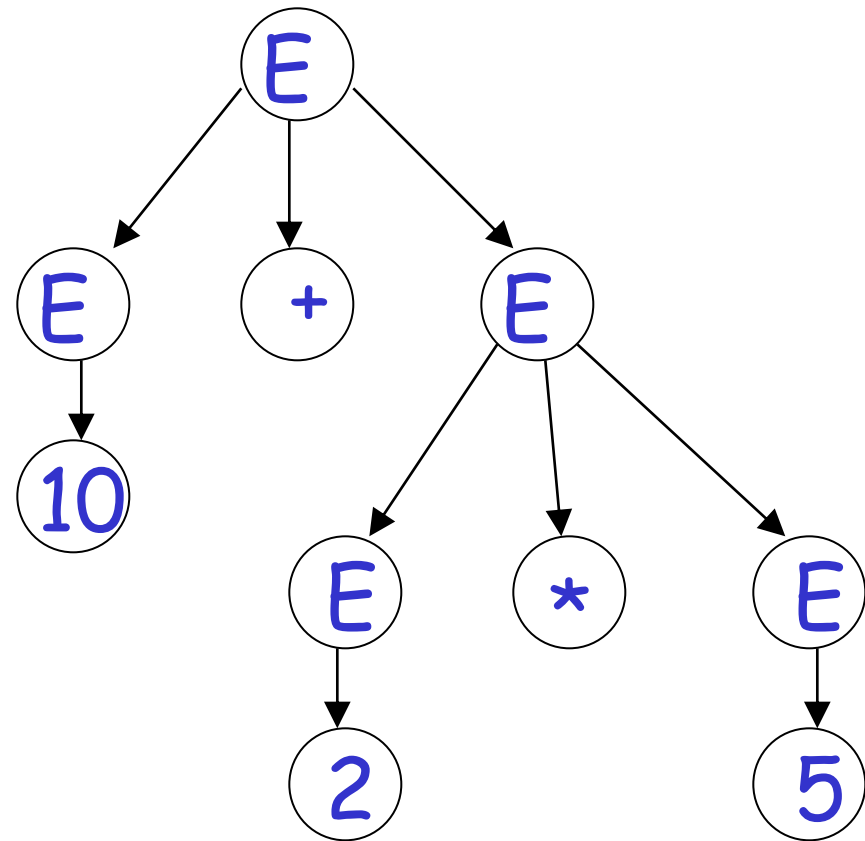


derivation

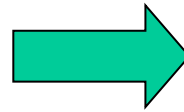
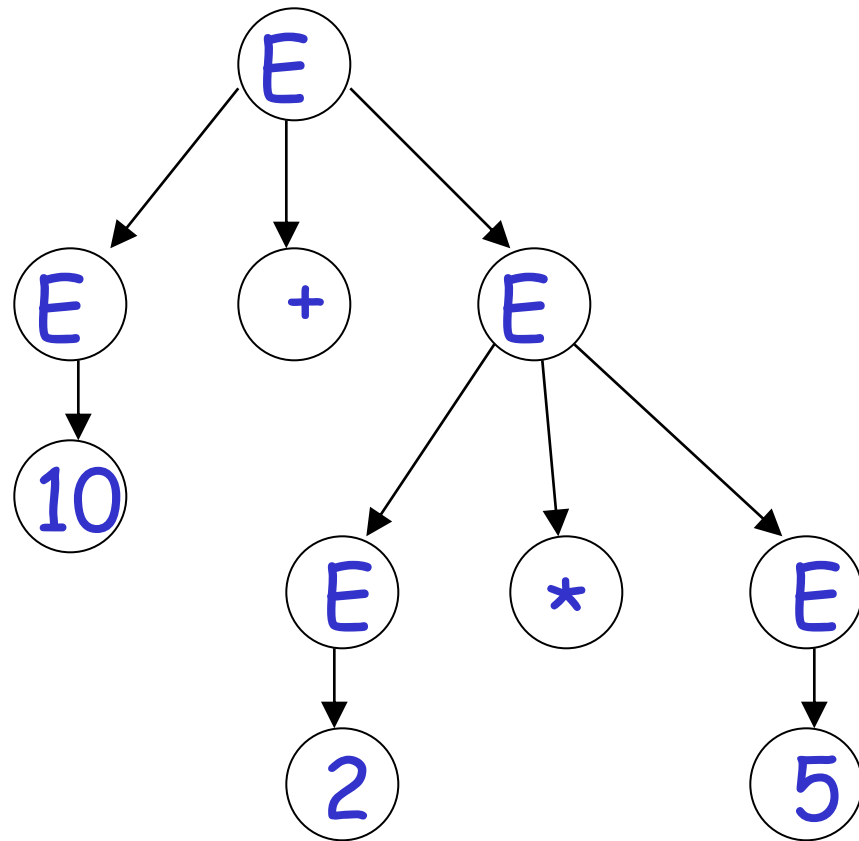
$E \Rightarrow E + E$   
 $\Rightarrow E + E * E$   
 $\Rightarrow 10 + E * E$   
 $\Rightarrow 10 + 2 * E$   
 $\Rightarrow 10 + 2 * 5$



derivation tree



derivation tree

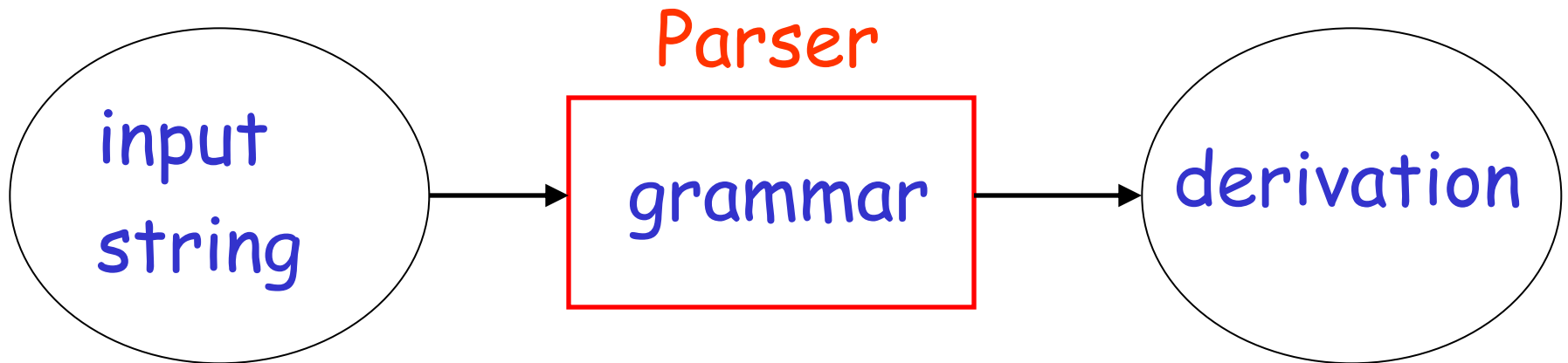


machine code

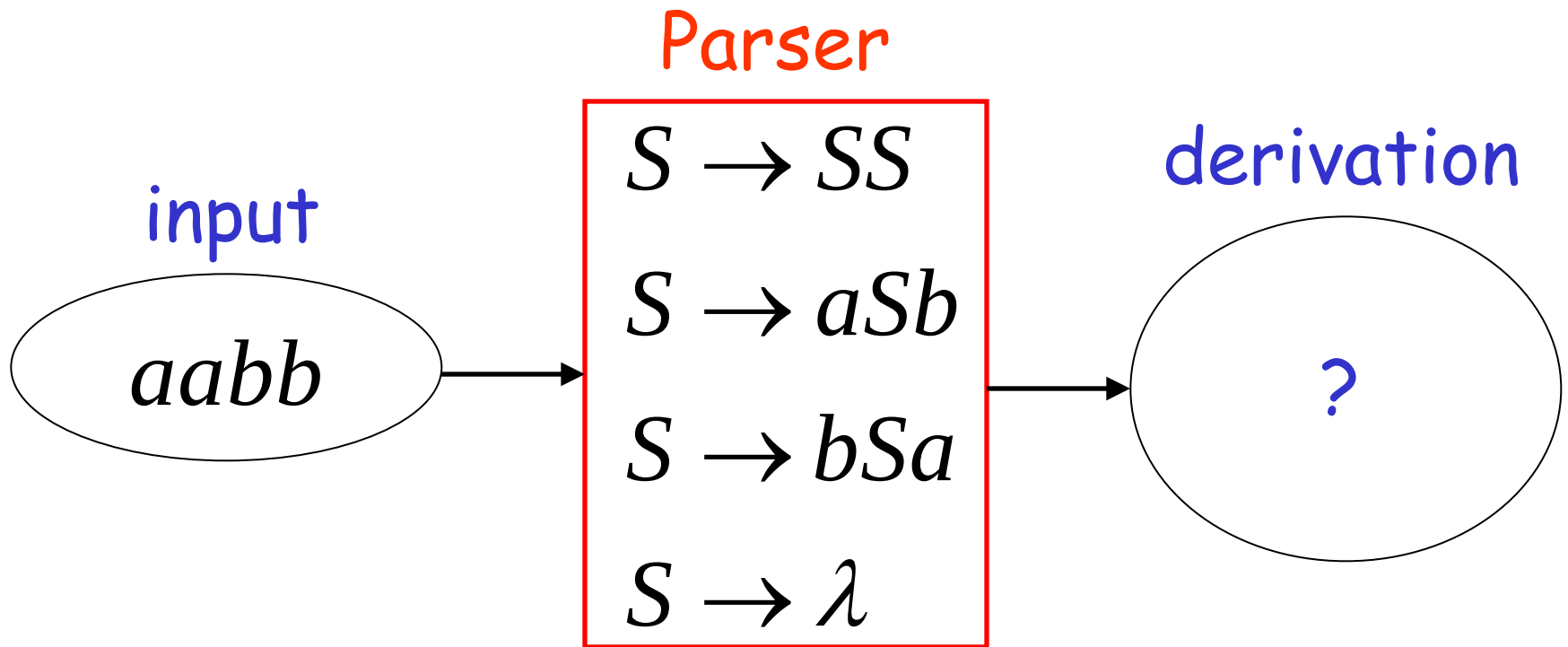
mult a, 2, 5  
add b, 10, a



# Parsing



Example:



# Exhaustive Search

$$S \rightarrow SS \mid aSb \mid bSa \mid \lambda$$

Phase 1:       $S \Rightarrow SS$       Find derivation of  
 $S \Rightarrow aSb$        $aabb$   
 $S \Rightarrow bSa$   
 $S \Rightarrow \lambda$

All possible derivations of length 1

$$S \Rightarrow SS$$

*aabb*

$$S \Rightarrow aSb$$

~~$$S \Rightarrow bSa$$~~

~~$$S \Rightarrow \lambda$$~~

Phase 2  $S \rightarrow SS \mid aSb \mid bSa \mid \lambda$

$S \Rightarrow SS \Rightarrow SSS$

$S \Rightarrow SS \Rightarrow aSbS$

$aabb$

~~$S \Rightarrow SS \Rightarrow bSaS$~~

$S \Rightarrow SS \Rightarrow S$

Phase 1

$S \Rightarrow SS$

$S \Rightarrow aSb$

$S \Rightarrow aSb \Rightarrow aSSb$

$S \Rightarrow aSb \Rightarrow aaSbb$

~~$S \Rightarrow aSb \Rightarrow abSab$~~

~~$S \Rightarrow aSb \Rightarrow ab$~~

$$S \rightarrow SS \mid aSb \mid bSa \mid \lambda$$

## Phase 2

$$S \Rightarrow SS \Rightarrow SSS$$

$$S \Rightarrow SS \Rightarrow aSbS$$

$$aabb$$

$$S \Rightarrow SS \Rightarrow S$$

$$S \Rightarrow aSb \Rightarrow aSSb$$

$$S \Rightarrow aSb \Rightarrow aaSbb$$

## Phase 3



$$S \Rightarrow aSb \Rightarrow aaSbb \Rightarrow aabb$$

# Final result of exhaustive search (top-down parsing)

Parser

$S \rightarrow SS$

$S \rightarrow aSb$

$S \rightarrow bSa$

$S \rightarrow \lambda$

input

$aabb$

derivation

$S \Rightarrow aSb \Rightarrow aaSbb \Rightarrow aabb$



# Time complexity of exhaustive search

Suppose there are no productions of the form

$$A \rightarrow \lambda$$

$$A \rightarrow B$$

Number of phases for string  $w$  :  $2^{|w|}$

Each step in the derivation increases the length of the sentential form or the number of nonterminal symbols.

Why  $2|w|$  and not just  $|w|$ ?

Because  $S \Rightarrow AS \Rightarrow ABS \Rightarrow ABC \Rightarrow aBC \Rightarrow abC \Rightarrow abc$

For grammar with  $k$  rules

Time for phase 1:  $k$

$k$  possible derivations

Time for phase 2:  $k^2$

$k^2$  possible derivations

Time for phase  $2|w|$ :  $k^{2|w|}$

$k^{2|w|}$  possible derivations

Total time needed for string  $w$ :

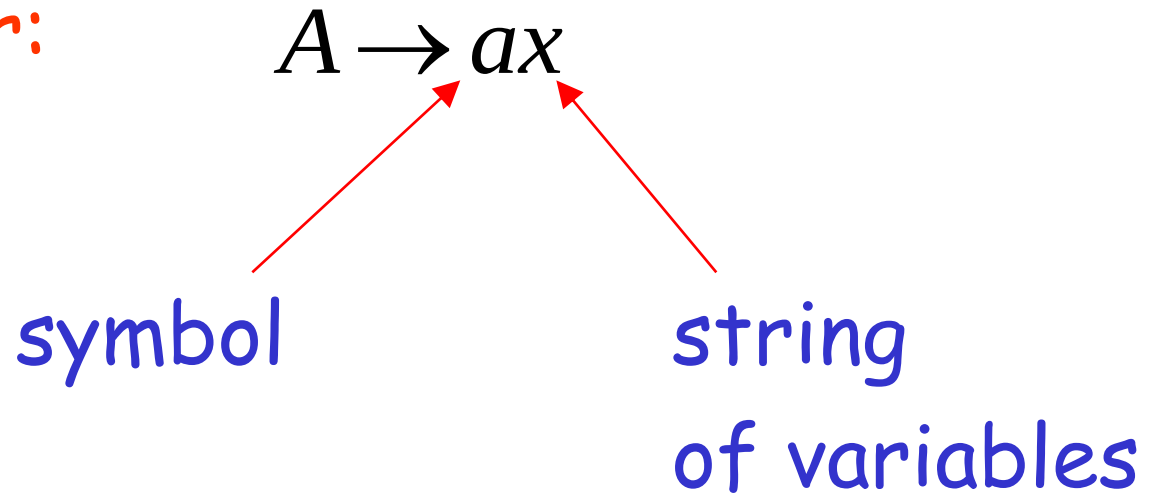
$$k + k^2 + \dots + k^{2|w|}$$

phase 1                  phase 2                  phase  $2|w|$

Extremely bad!!!

There exist faster algorithms  
for specialized grammars

**S-grammar:**



Pair  $(A, a)$  appears once

S-grammar example:

$$S \rightarrow aS$$

$$S \rightarrow bSS$$

$$S \rightarrow c$$

Each string has a unique derivation...

$$S \Rightarrow aS \Rightarrow abSS \Rightarrow abcS \Rightarrow abcc$$



For S-grammars:

In the exhaustive search parsing  
there is only one choice in each phase

Time for a phase: 1

Total time for parsing string  $w$ :  $|w|$

For general context-free grammars:

There exists a parsing algorithm  
that parses a string  $|w|$   
in time  $|w|^3$

Linz 6<sup>th</sup>, Theorem 5.3, page 144.

Linz 6<sup>th</sup>, Section 6.3, page 178ff - the  
CYK algorithm.

# Simplifications of Context-Free Grammars

# A Substitution Rule

Equivalent  
grammar

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$A \rightarrow aaA$$

$$A \rightarrow abBc$$

$$B \rightarrow abbA$$

$$B \rightarrow b$$

Substitute  $B$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$A \rightarrow aaA$$

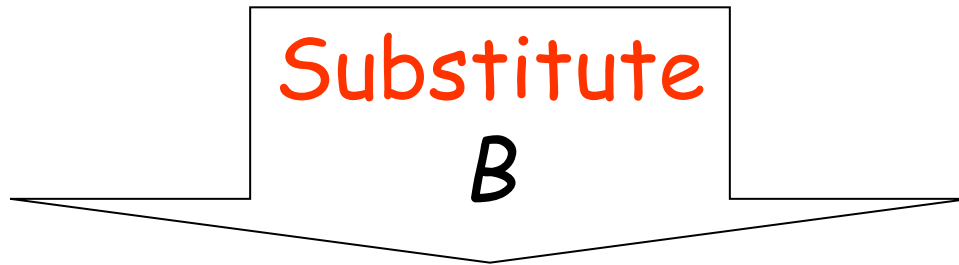
$$A \rightarrow ababbAc$$

$$A \rightarrow abbc$$

In general:

$$A \rightarrow xBz$$

$$B \rightarrow y_1 \mid y_2 \mid \cdots \mid y_n$$



$$A \rightarrow xy_1z \mid xy_2z \mid \cdots \mid xy_nz$$

equivalent  
grammar

# Useless Productions

$$S \rightarrow aSb$$

$$S \rightarrow \lambda$$

$$S \rightarrow A$$

$$A \rightarrow aA \text{ Useless Production}$$

Some derivations never terminate...

$$S \Rightarrow A \Rightarrow aA \Rightarrow aaA \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow aa \dots aA \Rightarrow \dots$$

Another grammar:

$$S \rightarrow A$$

$$A \rightarrow aA$$

$$A \rightarrow \lambda$$


$$B \rightarrow bA$$

Useless Production

Not reachable from S

In general:

If  $S \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow xAy \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow w$

  
 $w \in L(G)$

Then variable  $A$  is useful

Otherwise, variable  $A$  is useless



A production  $A \rightarrow x$  is useful  
if all its variables are useful

# Removing Useless Productions

Example Grammar:

$$S \rightarrow aS \mid A \mid C$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$B \rightarrow aa$$

$$C \rightarrow aCb$$

**First:** find all variables that produce strings with only terminals

$$S \rightarrow aS \mid A \mid C$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$B \rightarrow aa$$

$$C \rightarrow aCb$$

Round 1:  $\{A, B\}$



Round 2:  $\{A, B, S\}$

Keep only the variables  
that produce terminal symbols

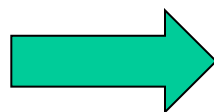
$\{A, B, S\}$

$$S \rightarrow aS \mid A \mid \cancel{C}$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$B \rightarrow aa$$

$$\cancel{C \rightarrow aCb}$$



$$S \rightarrow aS \mid A$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$B \rightarrow aa$$

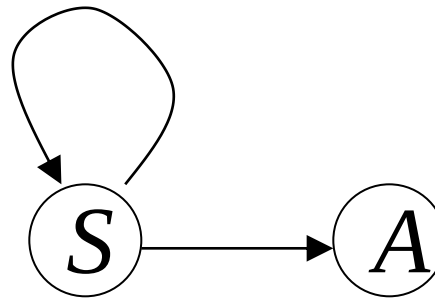
**Second:** Find all variables  
reachable from  $S$

Dependency Graph

$S \rightarrow aS \mid A$

$A \rightarrow a$

$B \rightarrow aa$



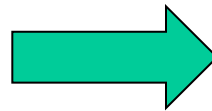
not  
reachable

Keep only the variables  
reachable from  $S$

$$S \rightarrow aS \mid A$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

~~$$B \rightarrow aa$$~~



Final Grammar

$$S \rightarrow aS \mid A$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

# Nullable Variables

$\lambda$  – production :  $A \rightarrow \lambda$

Nullable Variable:  $A \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow \lambda$

# Removing Nullable Variables

Example Grammar:

$$S \rightarrow aMb$$

$$M \rightarrow aMb$$

$$M \rightarrow \lambda$$

Nullable variable





## Final Grammar

$$S \rightarrow aMb$$

$$M \rightarrow aMb$$

~~$$M \rightarrow \lambda$$~~

Substitute  
 $M \rightarrow \lambda$

$$S \rightarrow aMb$$

$$S \rightarrow ab$$

$$M \rightarrow aMb$$

$$M \rightarrow ab$$

# Unit-Productions

Unit Production:  $A \rightarrow B$

# Removing Unit Productions

Observation:

$$A \rightarrow A$$

Is removed immediately

## Example Grammar:

$$S \rightarrow aA$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$A \rightarrow B$$

$$B \rightarrow A$$

$$B \rightarrow bb$$

$$S \rightarrow aA$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

~~$$A \rightarrow B$$~~

$$B \rightarrow A$$

$$B \rightarrow bb$$

Substitute

$$A \rightarrow B$$

$$S \rightarrow aA \mid aB$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$B \rightarrow A \mid B$$

$$B \rightarrow bb$$

$$S \rightarrow aA \mid aB$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$B \rightarrow A \mid \cancel{B}$$

$$B \rightarrow bb$$

Remove

$$B \rightarrow B$$

$$S \rightarrow aA \mid aB$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$B \rightarrow A$$

$$B \rightarrow bb$$

$$S \rightarrow aA \mid aB$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

~~$$B \rightarrow A$$~~

$$B \rightarrow bb$$

Substitute

$$B \rightarrow A$$

$$S \rightarrow aA \mid aB \mid aA$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

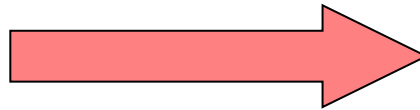
$$B \rightarrow bb$$

# Remove repeated productions

$$S \rightarrow aA \mid aB \mid \cancel{aA}$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$B \rightarrow bb$$



## Final grammar

$$S \rightarrow aA \mid aB$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$B \rightarrow bb$$



# Removing All

**Step 1:** Remove Nullable Variables

**Step 2:** Remove Unit-Productions

**Step 3:** Remove Useless Variables