

Grammar Trees

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Definition

A **parse tree** is a visualization of the generation of a string by a context-free grammar.

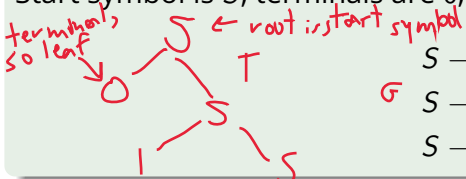
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Example 1: Binary Strings

Start symbol is S , terminals are 0, 1, and ϵ , rules are:



- $S \rightarrow 0S$
- $S \rightarrow 1S$
- $S \rightarrow \epsilon$

- 010
- S
- 0S
- 01S
- 010S
- 010ε
- 010

T "matches" G
T is generated by G

string \equiv leaves read from left to right

Parse Trees, a.k.a. Grammar Trees

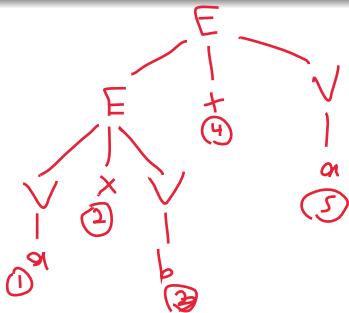
Example 2: Simple Arithmetic Expressions

Start symbols are E and V (also non-terminals),
terminals are a , b , $+$, and \times , rules are:

$axb + a$

$$E \rightarrow E + V \mid E \times V \mid V + V \mid V \times V$$

$$V \rightarrow a \mid b$$



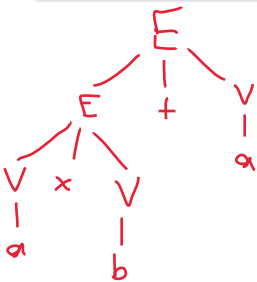
Ambiguity

Example 3: Where are the implicit parentheses?

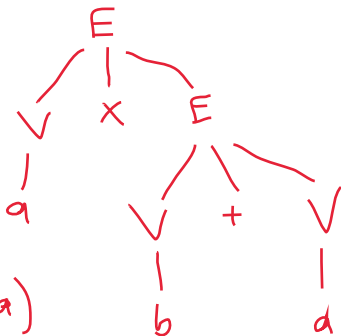
$a \times b + a$

$E \rightarrow E + V \mid E \times V \mid \mathbf{V \times E} \mid V + V \mid V \times V$

$V \rightarrow a \mid b$



$(a \times b) + a$



$a \times (b + a)$

Designing Parse Trees, and Impossible Strings

$\{A, B, C, S\}$ $\{a, b, c\}$

$S \rightarrow AB \mid C$

$A \rightarrow Aa \mid a$

$B \rightarrow Bb \mid b$

$C \rightarrow \cancel{c}c$

Designing Parse Trees, and Impossible Strings

$$S \rightarrow \overbrace{AB} \mid \overbrace{C}$$

$$A \rightarrow Aa \mid a$$

$$B \rightarrow Bb \mid b$$

$$C \rightarrow \cancel{c}$$

Can G generate the following strings? If so, give a parse tree. If not, explain why not.

- $aabca$

No. If a string contains a c , then it cannot contain a 's or b 's.

Designing Parse Trees, and Impossible Strings

$$S \rightarrow AB \mid C$$

$$A \rightarrow \textcircled{Aa} \mid a \mid \varepsilon$$

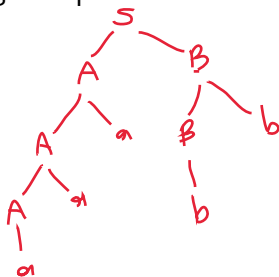
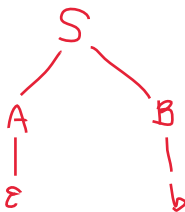
$$B \rightarrow Bb \mid b$$

$$C \rightarrow \cancel{c}$$

$$\left[\{c\} \cup \{a^n b^m : n, m \in \mathbb{Z}, n \geq 0, m \geq 1\} \right]$$

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- $aabca$
- b Yes.
- $a^n a^m b^k$



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