# CSE110A: Compilers

April 21, 2023

### **Topics**:

- Syntactic Analysis continued
  - Precedence and associativity part 2
  - Top down parsing
    - Oracle parser
    - Rewriting to avoid left recursion

```
int main() {
  printf("");
  return 0;
}
```

### Announcements

• HW 1 is due on Monday at midnight

- For help
  - Ask on Piazza: No guaranteed help over the weekend or off business hours
- Striving to get HW 2 released early next week

### Announcements

• How to tokenize "7."

- For part 4:
  - You must use the same tokens that you created in part 2 and used in part 3
  - You must build the RE programmatically
  - Keep track of the token actions in a separate data structure

### Next week

- Gone to a conference (ISPASS in North Carolina)
  - My only travel plans this quarter
  - Gone on Monday and Wednesday, back on Friday
  - Async lecture on Monday (recording from last year)
  - Wednesday lecture canceled
  - Back on Friday
  - Will post announcements
  - Still plan on HW 2 being posted

What is an example of input recognized by the following grammar?

 $A \rightarrow A x$ 

 $\mathsf{A} \to \mathsf{y}$ 

○ xxxxxxxxxy

○ xyyyyyyyy

yxxxxxxxx

○ yyyyyyyyx

What is an example of input recognized by the following grammar?

- 1  $A \rightarrow A \times$
- 2  $A \rightarrow y$

How about this one?

xxxxxxxxy

RULE	Sentential Form
start	A

What is an example of input recognized by the following grammar?

- 1  $A \rightarrow A \times$
- 2  $A \rightarrow y$

How about this one?

xxxxxxxxy

RULE	Sentential Form
start	A

Applying either rule gives us a sentential form that won't create the string

What is an example of input recognized by the following grammar?

- 1  $A \rightarrow A \times$
- 2  $A \rightarrow y$

How about this one?

хууууууу

RULE	Sentential Form
start	A

What is an example of input recognized by the following grammar?

- 1  $A \rightarrow A \times$
- 2  $A \rightarrow y$

How about this one?

хууууууу

RULE	Sentential Form
start	A

Similar reason: strings that are longer than 1 character cannot end in y

What is an example of input recognized by the following grammar?

- 1  $A \rightarrow A \times$
- 2  $A \rightarrow y$

How about this one?

yxxxxxxx

RULE	Sentential Form
start	А

What is an example of input recognized by the following grammar?

- 1  $A \rightarrow A \times$
- 2  $A \rightarrow y$

How about this one?

yxxxxxxx

RULE	Sentential Form
start	A
1	Ax
1	Axx
2	y xxxxxxx

9 more rows, then eventually

What is an example of input recognized by the following grammar?

- 1  $A \rightarrow A \times$
- 2  $A \rightarrow y$

How about this one?

ууууууух

RULE	Sentential Form
start	А

What is an example of input recognized by the following grammar?

- 1  $A \rightarrow A \times$
- 2  $A \rightarrow y$

How about this one?

ууууууух

RULE	Sentential Form
start	А

We can only produce 1 y, so we cannot derive this string

What is an example of input recognized by the following grammar?

- 1  $A \rightarrow A \times$
- 2  $A \rightarrow y A$

What if we changed the rules?? Does this work?

How about this one?

ууууууух

RULE	Sentential Form
start	А

What is an example of input recognized by the following grammar?

- 1  $A \rightarrow A \times$
- 2  $A \rightarrow y A$

What if we changed the rules?? Does this work?

How about this one?

ууууууух

We need a terminating string: A -> ""

RULE	Sentential Form
start	A

Which grammar is ambiguous?

- $\bigcirc \ E \rightarrow E + E$ 
  - $E \rightarrow x$
- $\bigcirc \ E \to E + x$ 
  - $E \rightarrow x$
- $\bigcirc$  E  $\rightarrow$  x + E
  - $E \rightarrow x$
- $\bigcirc$  E  $\rightarrow$  x + x
  - $E \rightarrow x$

Which grammar is ambiguous?

$$\bigcirc E \rightarrow E + E$$
$$E \rightarrow x$$

$$\bigcirc E \to E + x$$
$$E \to x$$

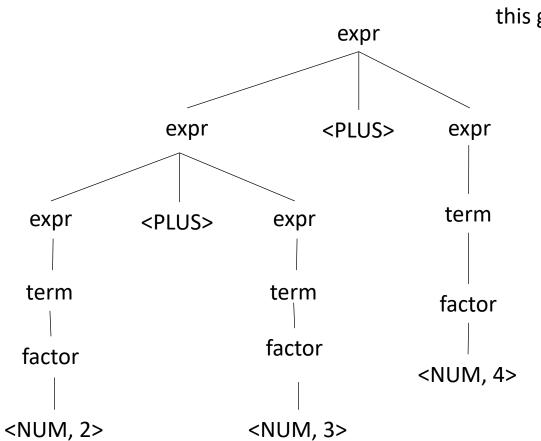
$$\bigcirc E \rightarrow x + E$$
$$E \rightarrow x$$

$$\bigcirc E \rightarrow x + x$$
$$E \rightarrow x$$

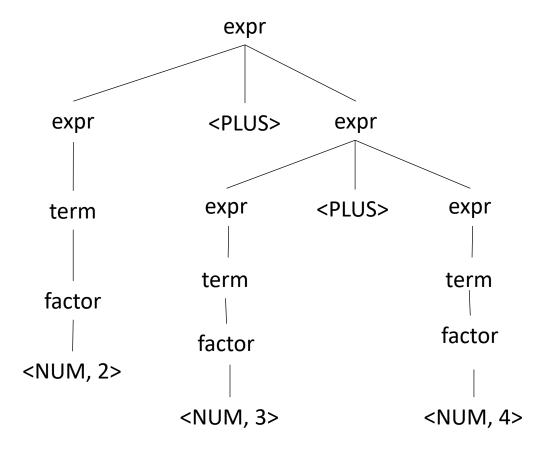
Let's look at some examples.

Let's assume that E is an "expr" and x is a number

$$\bigcirc E \to E + E$$
$$E \to x$$

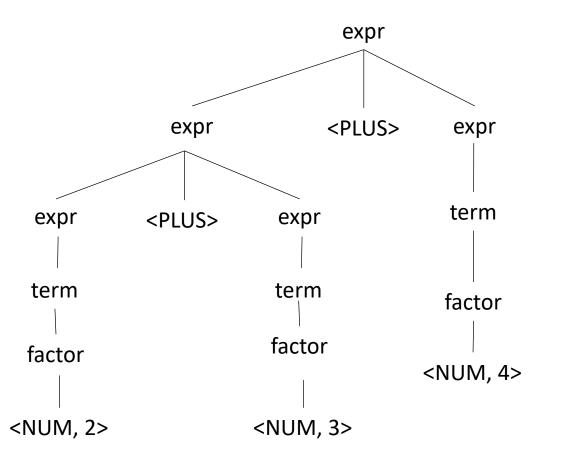


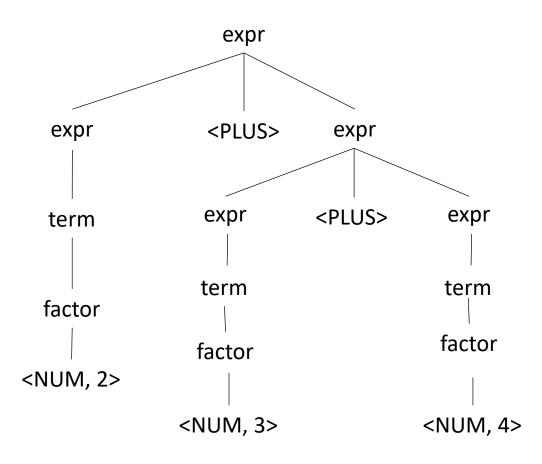
Both parse trees are valid, this grammar is ambiguous



$$\bigcirc E \to E + x$$
$$E \to x$$

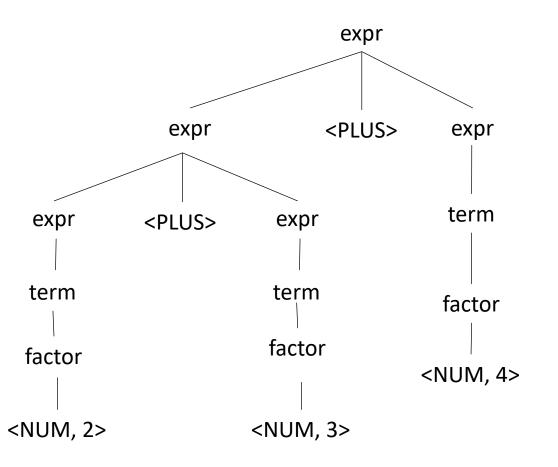
#### What about this one?



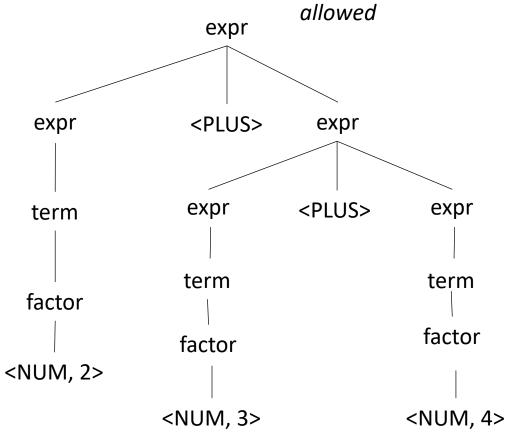


$$\bigcirc E \to E + x$$
$$E \to x$$

What about this one?

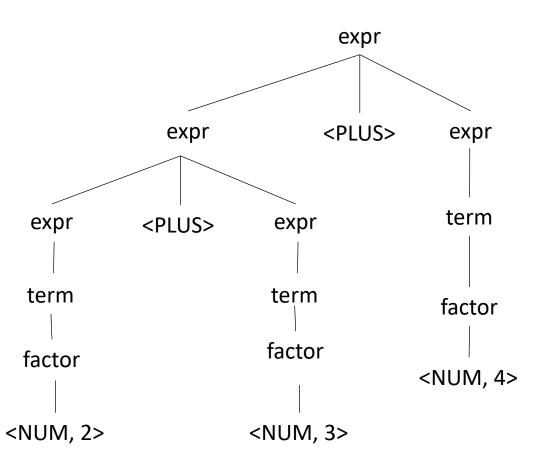


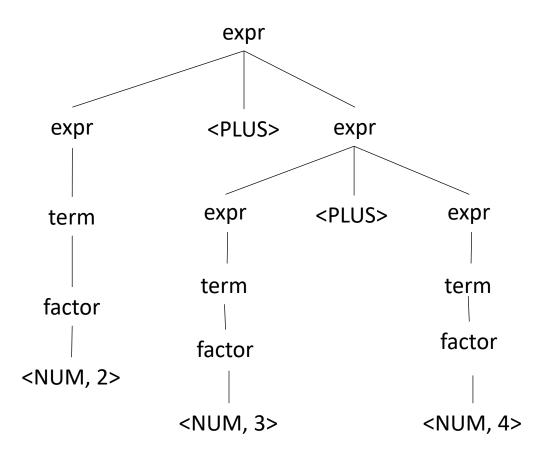
Doesn't allow an expression on the RHS.
This parse tree is not allowed



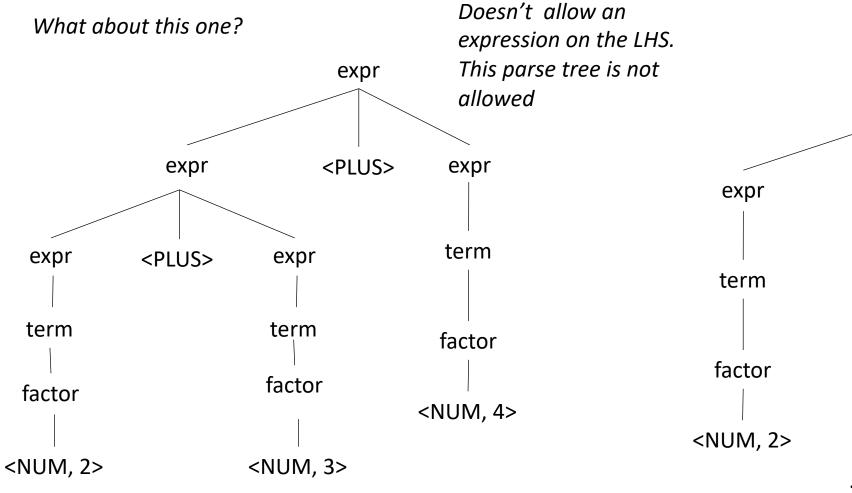
$$\bigcirc E \to x + E$$
$$E \to x$$

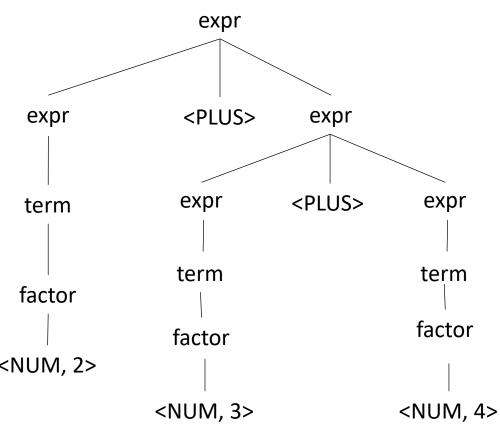
#### What about this one?





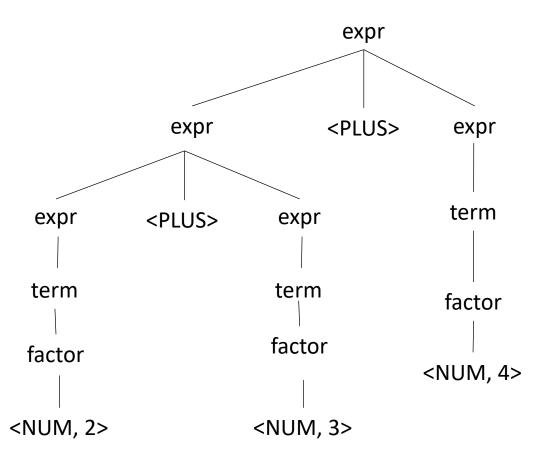
$$\bigcirc E \rightarrow x + E$$
$$E \rightarrow x$$

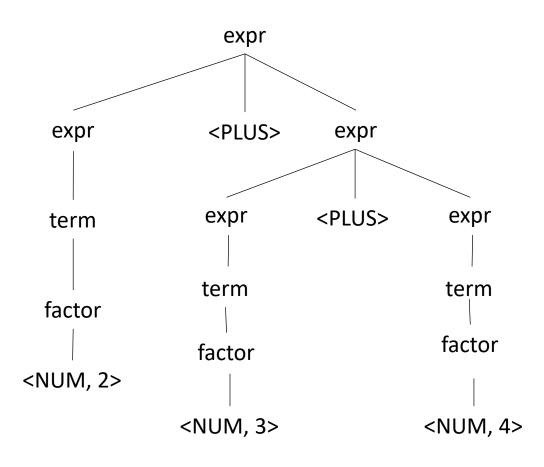




$$\bigcirc E \to x + x$$
$$E \to x$$

#### What about this one?

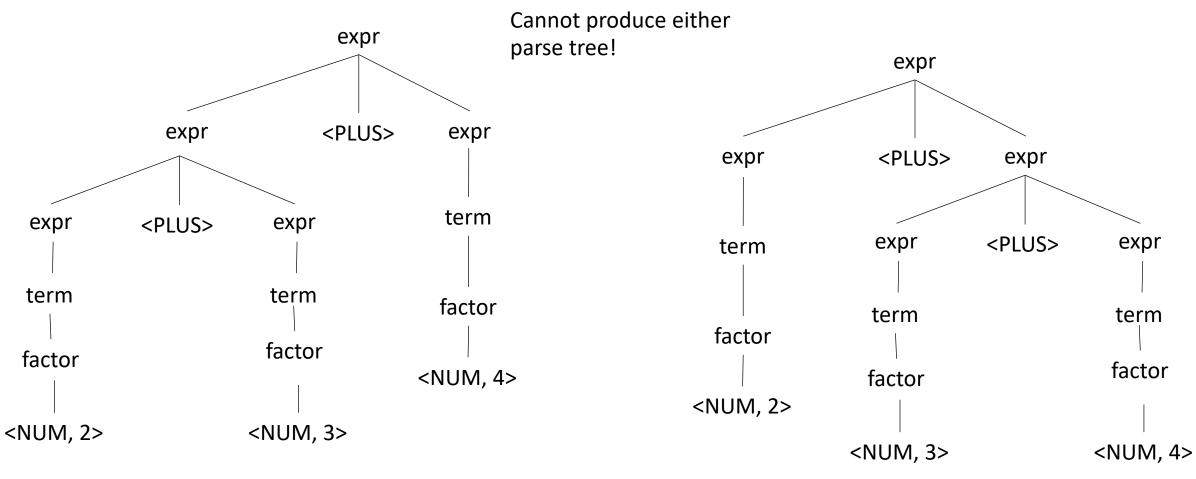




$$\bigcirc E \to x + x$$

$$E \to x$$

What about this one?

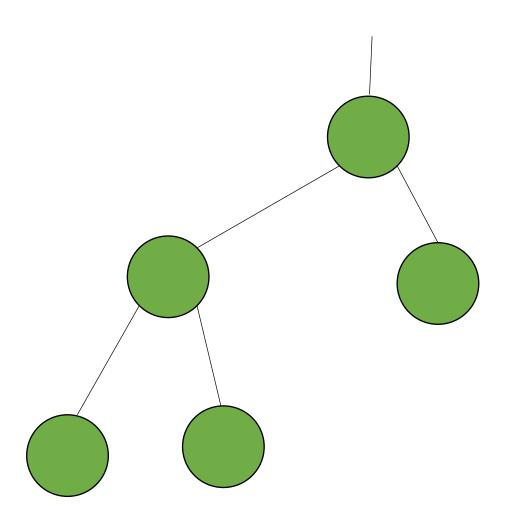


operators with higher precedence should appear in production rules that appear higher in the parse tree

 $\bigcirc$  True

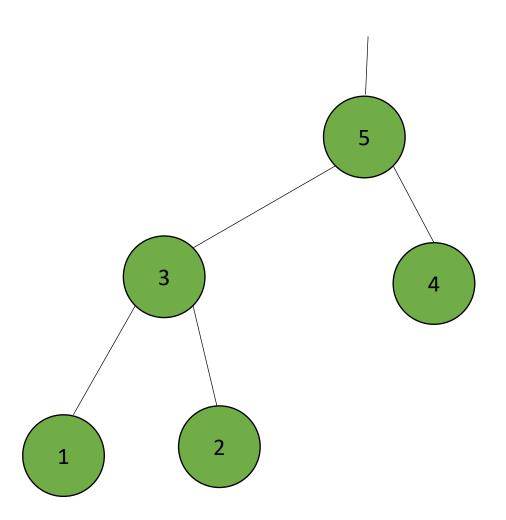
○ False

## Post order traversal



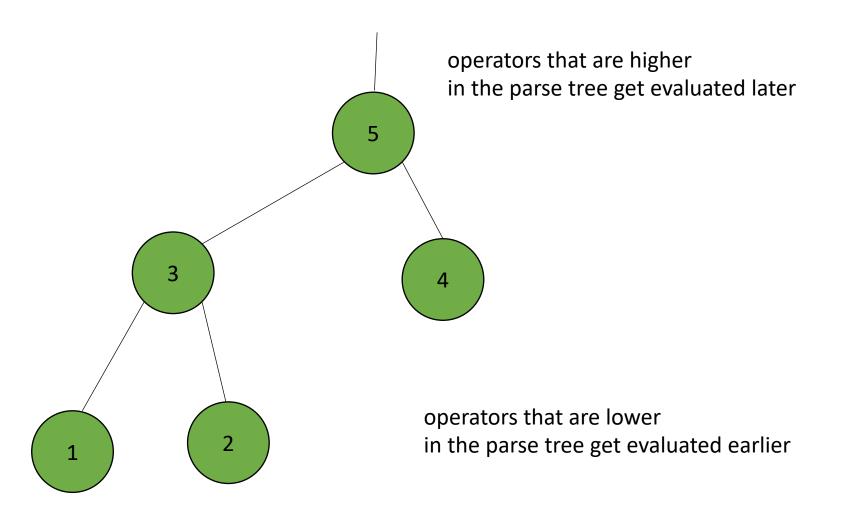
What is the post order traversal of this tree?

## Post order traversal



What is the post order traversal of this tree?

## Post order traversal

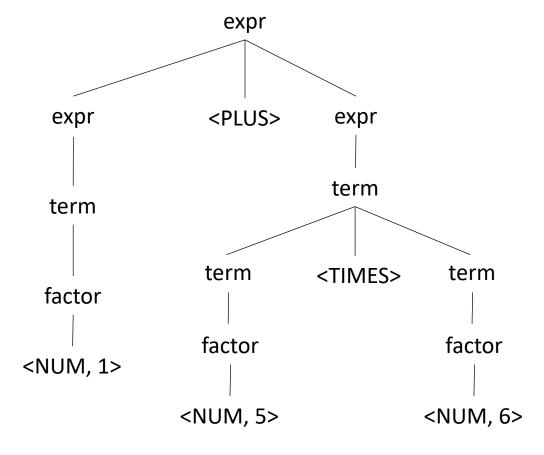


What is the post order traversal of this tree?

# Evaluating a parse tree

Operator	Name	Productions
+	expr	: expr PLUS expr
*	term	: term TIMES term   factor
()	factor	: LPAREN expr RPAREN   NUM

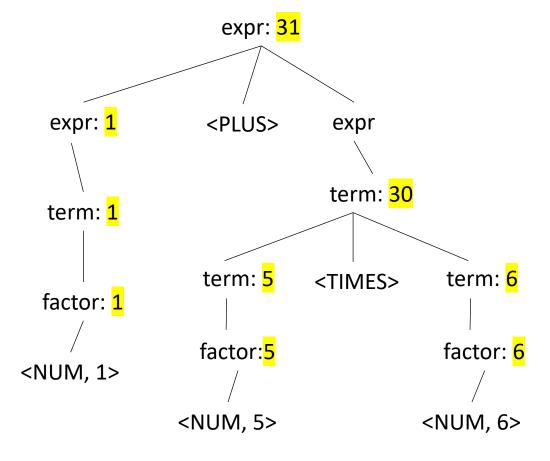
### input: 1+5\*6



# Evaluating a parse tree

Operator	Name	Productions
+	expr	: expr PLUS expr
*	term	: term TIMES term   factor
()	factor	: LPAREN expr RPAREN   NUM

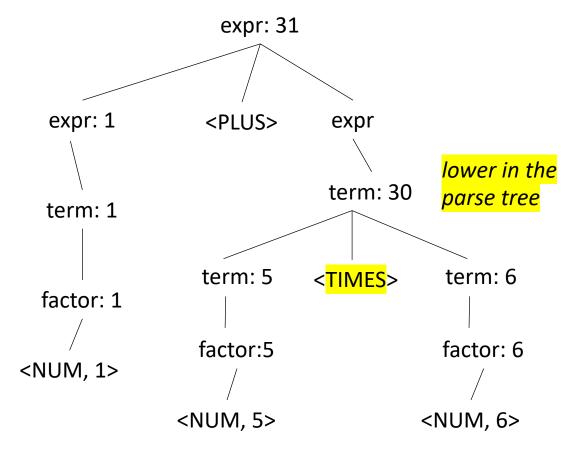
### input: 1+5\*6



# Evaluating a parse tree

Operator	Name	Productions
+	expr	: expr PLUS expr
*	term	: term TIMES term   factor
()	factor	: LPAREN expr RPAREN   NUM

### input: 1+5\*6



# **Avoiding Ambiguity**

- new production rules
  - One non-terminal for each level of precedence
  - lowest precedence at the top
  - highest precedence at the bottom
- How would we add power? ^

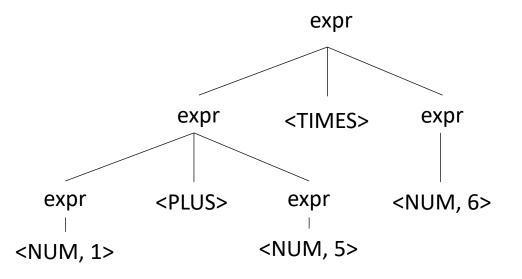
## Precedence increases going down

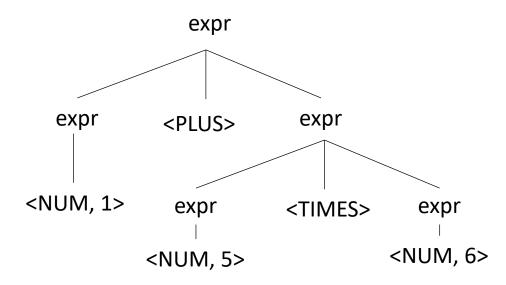
Operator	Name	Productions
+	expr	: expr PLUS expr
*	term	: term TIMES term   factor
()	factor	: LPAREN expr RPAREN   NUM

Write a few sentences about why it might be bad to have an ambiguous grammars

## Ambiguous grammars

•input: 1 + 5 \* 6

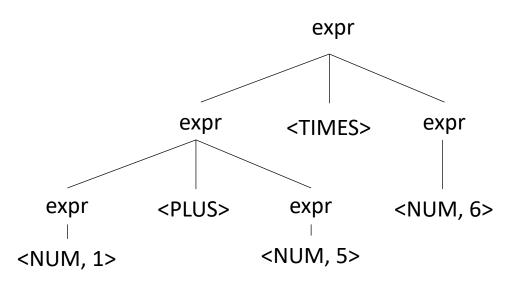


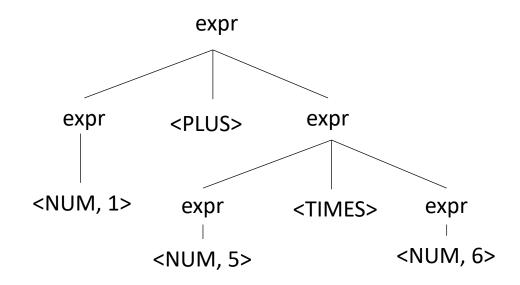


# Ambiguous grammars

•input: 1 + 5 \* 6

#### Evaluations are different!





### New material

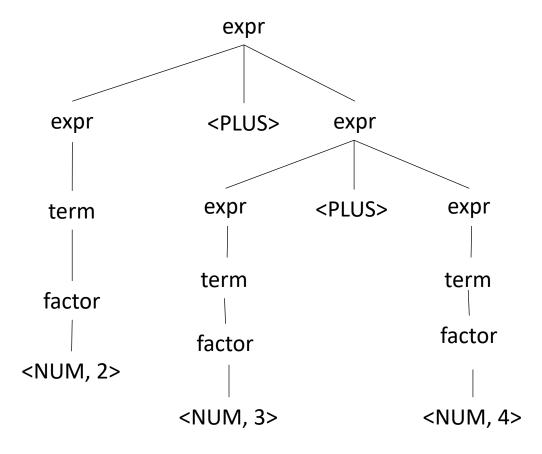
Continue our discussion on associativity

# Let's make some more parse trees

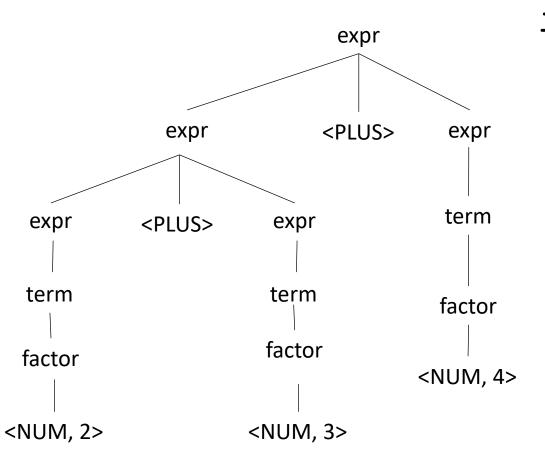
Operator	Name	Productions
+	expr	: expr PLUS expr
*	term	: term TIMES term   factor
()	factor	: LP expr RP   NUM

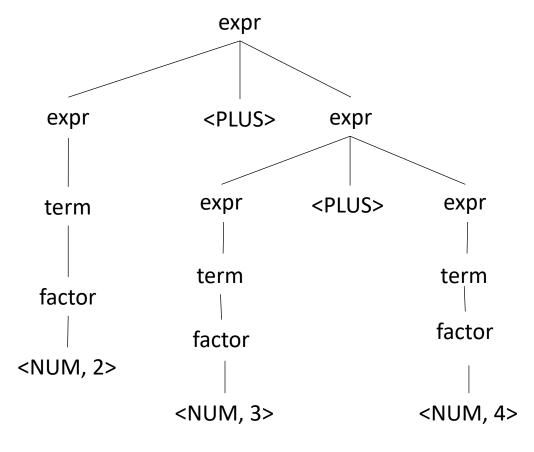
### Let's make some more parse trees

Operator	Name	Productions
+	expr	: expr PLUS expr
*	term	: term TIMES term   factor
()	factor	: LP expr RP   NUM



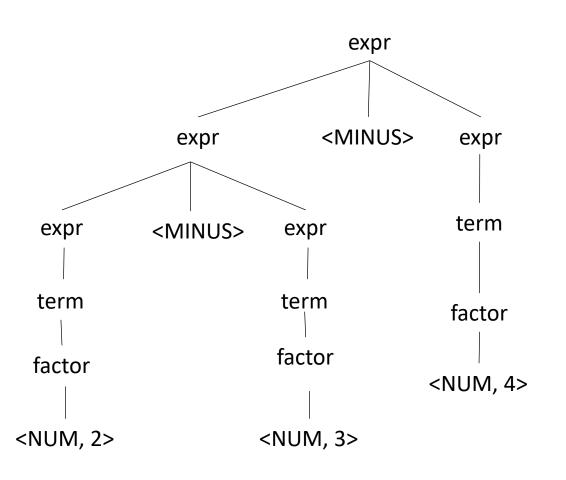
# This is ambiguous, is it an issue?

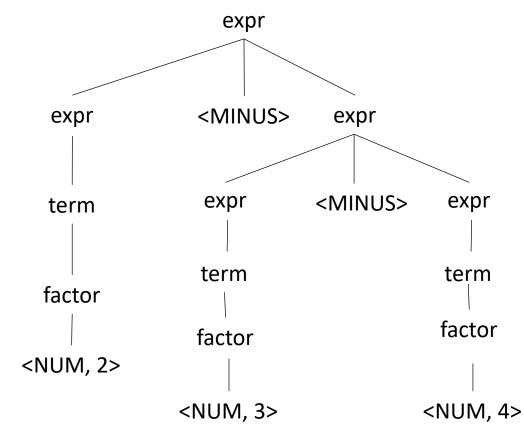




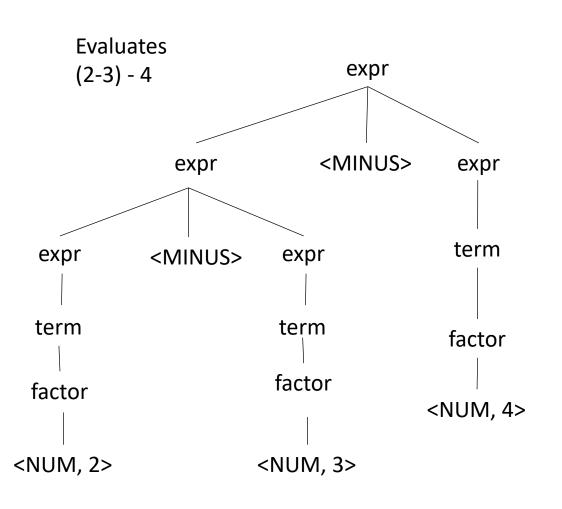
# What about for a different operator?

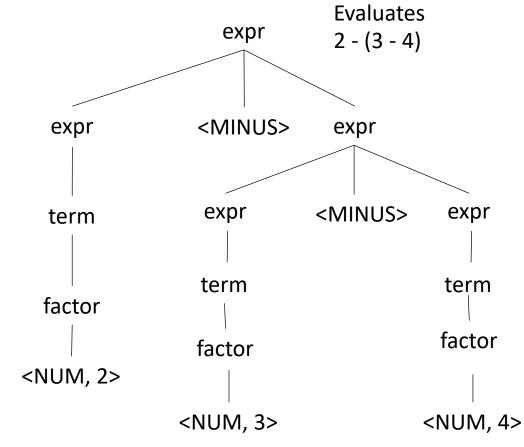
### What about for a different operator?





### What about for a different operator?





### Associativity

If an operator is not associative then we define

- left to right (left-associative)
  - 2-3-4 is evaluated as ((2-3) 4)
  - What other operators are left-associative

- right-to-left (right-associative)
  - Any operators you can think of?

### Associativity

If an operator is not associative then we define

- left to right (left-associative)
  - 2-3-4 is evaluated as ((2-3) 4)
  - What other operators are left-associative

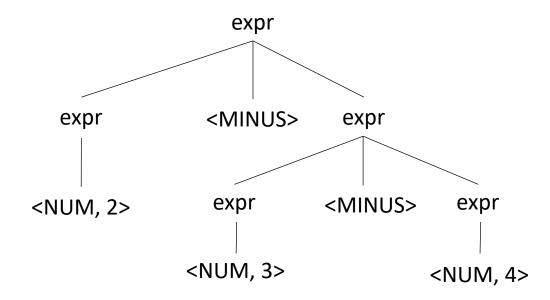
- right-to-left (right-associative)
  - Assignment, power operator

### How to encode associativity?

- Like precedence, some tools (e.g. YACC) allow associativity specification through keywords:
  - "+": left, "^": right
- Also like precedence, we can also encode it into the production rules

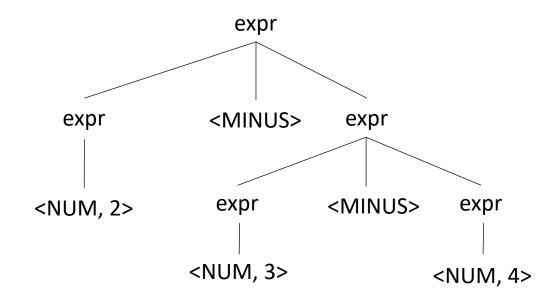
Operator	Name	Productions
-	expr	: expr MINUS expr   NUM





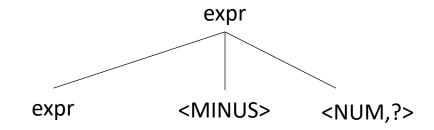
We want to disallow this parse tree

Operator	Name	Productions
-	expr	: expr MINUS NUM   NUM



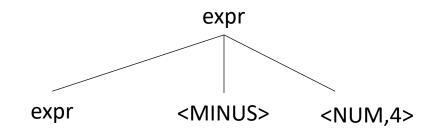
No longer allowed

input: 2-3-4



Operator	Name	Productions
-	expr	: expr MINUS NUM

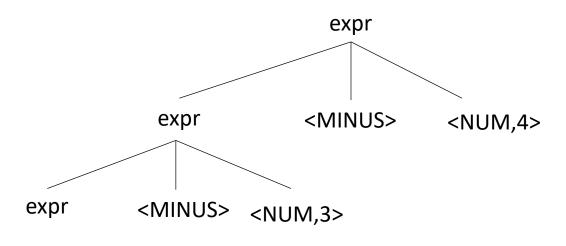
Lets start over



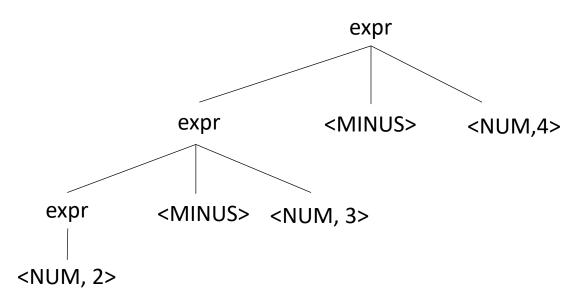
Operator	Name	Productions
-	expr	: expr MINUS NUM   NUM

input: 
$$2-3-4$$

Operator	Name	Productions
-	expr	: expr MINUS NUM   NUM



Operator	Name	Productions
-	expr	: expr MINUS NUM

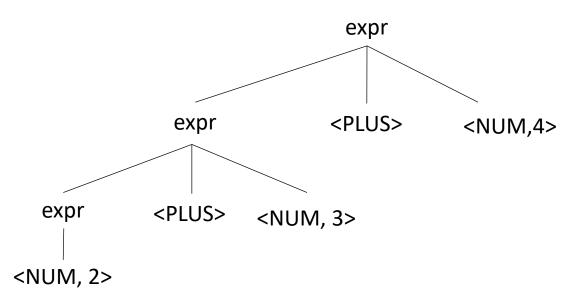


# Should you have associativity when its not required?

Benefits?
Drawbacks?

Operator	Name	Productions
+	expr	: expr PLUS expr



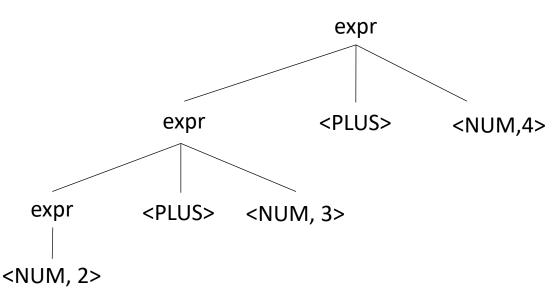


# Should you have associativity when its not required?

Benefits?
Drawbacks?

Operator	Name	Productions
+	expr	: expr PLUS NUM   NUM

input: 2+3+4



Good design principle to avoid ambiguous grammars, even when strictly not required too.

Helps with debugging, etc. etc.

Many tools will warn if it detects ambiguity

### Let's make a richer expression grammar

Let's do operators  $[+,*,-,/,^]$  and ()

Operator	Name	Productions

### Tokens:

```
NUM = "[0-9]+"

PLUS = '\+'

TIMES = '\*'

LP = '\('

RP = \)'

MINUS = '-'

DIV = '/'

CARROT = '\^'
```

### Let's make a richer expression grammar

Let's do operators  $[+,*,-,/,^]$  and ()

Operator	Name	Productions
+,-	expr	: expr PLUS term   expr MINUS term   term
*,/	term	<pre>term TIMES pow term DIV pow pow</pre>
٨	pow	: factor CARROT pow   factor
()	factor	: LPAR expr RPAR   NUM

# Tokens: NUM = "[0-9]+" PLUS = '\+' TIMES = '\\*' LP = '\(' RP = \)' MINUS = '-' DIV = '/' CARROT = '\^'

### What associativity do operators in C have?

• <a href="https://en.cppreference.com/w/c/language/operator">https://en.cppreference.com/w/c/language/operator</a> precedence

New topic: Algorithms for parsing

### New topic: Algorithms for parsing

### One goal:

• Given a string s and a CFG G, determine if G can derive s

We will do that be implicitly attempting to derive a parse tree for s

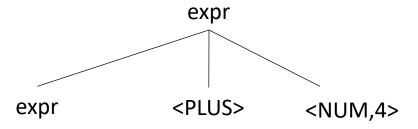
- Two different approaches, each with different trade-offs:
  - Top down
  - Bottom up

input: 2+3+4

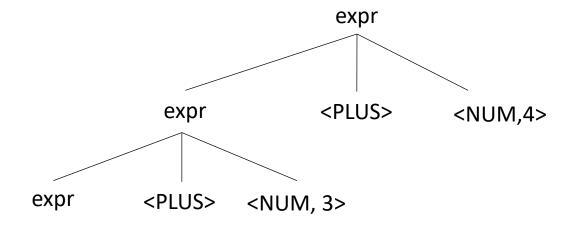
expr

Operator	Name	Productions
+	expr	: expr PLUS NUM

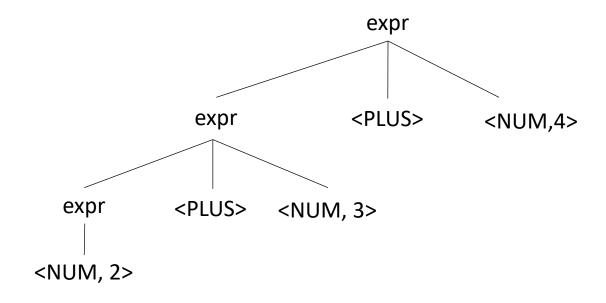
Operator	Name	Productions
+	expr	: expr PLUS NUM   NUM



Operator	Name	Productions
+	expr	: expr PLUS NUM



Operator	Name	Productions
+	expr	: expr PLUS NUM



### Pros:

- Algorithm is simpler
- Faster than bottom-up
- Easier recovery

### Cons:

- Not efficient on arbitrary grammars
- Many grammars need to be re-written

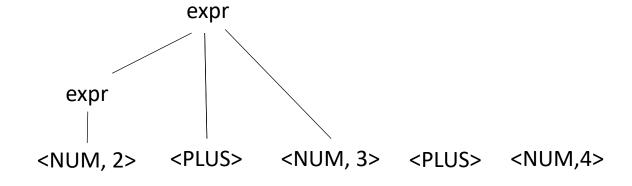
input: 2+3+4

Operator	Name	Productions
+	expr	: expr PLUS NUM   NUM

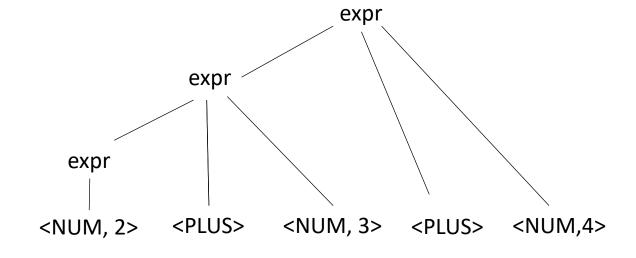
<NUM, 2> <PLUS> <NUM, 3> <PLUS> <NUM,4>

Operator	Name	Productions
+	expr	: expr PLUS NUM   NUM

Operator	Name	Productions
+	expr	: expr PLUS NUM



Operator	Name	Productions
+	expr	: expr PLUS NUM



### Bottom up

### Pros:

- can handle grammars expressed more naturally
- can encode precedence and associativity even if grammar is ambiguous

### Cons:

- algorithm is complicated
- in many cases slower than top down

Let's start with top down

```
root = start symbol;
focus = root;
push(None);
to match = s.token();
while (true):
  if (focus is a nonterminal)
    pick next rule (A ::= B1, B2, B3...BN);
    push(BN... B3, B2);
    focus = B1
  else if (focus == to match)
    to match = s.token()
    focus = pop()
  else if (to match == None and focus == None)
    Accept
```

Variable	Value
focus	
to_match	
s.istring	
stack	

### Can we derive the string (a+b) \*c

Expanded Rule	Sentential Form
start	Expr

```
root = start symbol;
focus = root;
push(None);
                                    Currently we assume this
to match = s.token();
                                    is magic and picks
                                    the right rule every time
while (true):
  if (focus is a nonterminal)
    pick next rule (A ::= B1, B2, B3...BN);
    push(BN... B3, B2);
    focus = B1
  else if (focus == to match)
    to match = s.token()
    focus = pop()
  else if (to match == None and focus == None)
    Accept
    Variable
                          Value
     focus
     to_match
     s.istring
```

stack

Can we derive the string (a+b) \*c

Expanded Rule	Sentential Form
start	Expr

```
root = start symbol;
focus = root;
push(None);
                                   Currently we assume this
to match = s.token();
                                   is magic and picks
                                   the right rule every time
while (true):
  if (focus is a nonterminal)
    pick next rule (A ::= B1,B2,B3...BN);
    push(BN... B3, B2);
    focus = B1
  else if (focus == to match)
    to match = s.token()
    focus = pop()
  else if (to match == None and focus == None)
    Accept
```

Variable	Value
focus	Ор
to_match	<b>'</b> +'
s.istring	b)*c
stack	Unit ')' Op, Expr, None

#### Can we derive the string (a+b) \*c

Expanded Rule	Sentential Form
start	Expr
1	Expr Op Unit
2	Unit Op Unit
3	'(' Expr ')' Op Unit
1	'(' Expr Op Unit ')' Op Unit
2	'(' Unit Op Unit ')' Op Unit
4	'(' ID Op Unit ')' Op Unit

And so on...

```
root = start symbol;
focus = root;
push(None);
                                    What can go wrong if
to match = s.token();
                                    we don't have a magic
                                   choice
while (true):
  if (focus is a nonterminal)
    pick next rule (A ::= B1, B2, B3...BN);
    push(BN... B3, B2);
    focus = B1
  else if (focus == to match)
    to match = s.token()
    focus = pop()
  else if (to match == None and focus == None)
    Accept
    Variable
                          Value
    focus
    to_match
```

s.istring

stack

#### Can we derive the string (a+b) \*c

Expanded Rule	Sentential Form
start	Expr

```
root = start symbol;
focus = root;
push(None);
                                  What can go wrong
to match = s.token();
while (true):
  if (focus is a nonterminal)
    pick next rule (A ::= B1,B2,B3...BN);
    push(BN... B3, B2);
    focus = B1
  else if (focus == to match)
    to match = s.token()
    focus = pop()
  else if (to match == None and focus == None)
    Accept
```

Variable	Value
focus	
to_match	
s.istring	
stack	

#### Can we derive the string (a+b) \*c

Expanded Rule	Sentential Form
start	Expr
2	Expr Op Unit
2	Expr Op Unit Op Unit
2	Expr Op Unit Op Unit
2	Expr Op Unit

Infinite recursion!

# Top down parsing does not handle left recursion

direct left recursion

indirect left recursion

Top down parsing cannot handle either

# Top down parsing does not handle left recursion

• In general, any CFG can be re-written without left recursion

```
Fee ::= Fee "a"
| "b"
```

What does this grammar describe?

```
Fee ::= Fee "a"
| "b"
```

The grammar can be rewritten as

In general, A and B can be any sequence of non-terminals and terminals

Lets do this one as an example:

```
Fee ::= B Fee2

| B | Fee2 ::= B Fee2
| Fee2 ::= A Fee2
| ""
```

```
A = ?
B = ?
```

Lets do this one as an example:

```
A = Op Unit
B = Unit
```

Lets do this one as an example:

```
root = start symbol;
focus = root;
push(None);
to match = s.token();
while (true):
  if (focus is a nonterminal)
    pick next rule (A ::= B1, B2, B3...BN);
    push(BN... B3, B2);
    focus = B1
  else if (focus == to match)
    to_match = s.token()
    focus = pop()
  else if (to match == None and focus == None)
    Accept
  Variable
                      Value
  focus
```

to\_match

s.istring

stack

1:	Expr	::= Unit Expr2
2:	Expr2	::= Op Unit Expr2
3:		ш п
4:	Unit	::= '(' Expr ')'
5:		ID
<b>6:</b>	0p	::= '+'
7:		/*/

Expanded Rule	Sentential Form
start	Expr

```
root = start symbol;
focus = root;
                                               How to handle
push(None);
to_match = s.token();
                                               this case?
while (true):
  if (focus is a nonterminal)
    pick next rule (A ::= B1, B2, B3...BN);
    push(BN... B3, B2);
    focus = B1
  else if (focus == to match)
    to match = s.token()
    focus = pop()
  else if (to match == None and focus == None)
    Accept
  Variable
                       Value
  focus
  to_match
  s.istring
  stack
```

1:	Expr	::= Unit Expr2
2:	Expr2	::= Op Unit Expr2
3:		11 11
4:	Unit	::= '(' Expr ')'
5:		ID
6:	0p	::= '+'
7:		/*/

Expanded Rule	Sentential Form
start	Expr

```
root = start symbol;
focus = root;
                                               How to handle
push(None);
to_match = s.token();
                                               this case?
while (true):
  if (focus is a nonterminal)
    pick next rule (A ::= B1, B2, B3...BN);
    if A == "": focus=pop(); continue;
    push(BN... B3, B2);
    focus = B1
  else if (focus == to match)
    to match = s.token()
    focus = pop()
  else if (to match == None and focus == None)
    Accept
 Variable
                      Value
 focus
 to_match
 s.istring
 stack
```

1:	Expr	::= Unit Expr2
2:	Expr2	::= Op Unit Expr2
3:		11 17
4:	Unit	::= '(' Expr ')'
5:		ID
<b>6:</b>	0p	::= '+'
7:		/ * /

Expanded Rule	Sentential Form
start	Expr

direct left recursion

indirect left recursion

Top down parsing cannot handle either

Identify indirect left left recursion

$$Expr\_base \rightarrow_{lhs} Expr\_op \rightarrow_{lhs} Expr\_base$$

Identify indirect left left recursion

$$Expr\_base \rightarrow_{lhs} Expr\_op \rightarrow_{lhs} Expr\_base$$

Substitute indirect non-terminal closer to initial non-terminal

```
1: Expr base ::= Unit
                                      1: Expr base ::= Unit
2:
               Expr op
                                      2:
                                                      Expr base Op Unit
3: Expr_op ::= Expr_base Op Unit
                                      3: Expr_op ::= Expr_base Op Unit
4: Unit ::= '(' Expr_base ')'
                                      4: Unit ::= '(' Expr_base ')'
5:
                ID
                                      5:
                                                      ID
6: Op ::= '+'
                                      6: Op
                                                 ::= '+'
7:
                                      7:
                                                      1 * 1
```

Identify indirect left left recursion

What to do with production rule 3?

$$Expr\_base \rightarrow_{lhs} Expr\_op \rightarrow_{lhs} Expr\_base$$

Substitute indirect non-terminal closer to initial non-terminal

```
1: Expr base ::= Unit
                                      1: Expr base ::= Unit
2:
                Expr op
                                      2:
                                                       Expr base Op Unit
3: Expr_op ::= Expr_base Op Unit
                                      3: Expr_op ::= Expr_base Op Unit
4: Unit ::= '(' Expr_base ')'
                                      4: Unit ::= '(' Expr_base ')'
5:
                ID
                                      5:
                                                       ID
6: Op ::= '+'
                                       6: Op
                                                   ::= '+'
7:
                                       7:
                                                       1 * 1
```

Identify indirect left left recursion

What to do with production rule 3? It may need to stay if another production rule references it!

$$Expr\_base \rightarrow_{lhs} Expr\_op \rightarrow_{lhs} Expr\_base$$

Substitute indirect non-terminal closer to initial non-terminal

# Next time: algorithms for syntactic analysis

- Continue with our top down parser.
  - Backtracking
  - Lookahead sets