

University of Kansas | Drew Davidson

ECS 665

# COMPILER CONSTRUCTION

Lecture 5  
Syntax-Directed Definition



# I Think We're Done with Review

*Lecture 5 – Syntax-Directed Definition*

# COMPILER

LAND  
A MILTON BRADLEY GAME



# Lecture Outline

*Syntax-Directed Definition*

## Recall Syntactic Ambiguity

## Assigning Meaning to (Parse) Trees

- Tree translation intuition
- Introduce Syntax-Directed Definition

## Tools for SDD

- Bison



**Syntax-Directed  
Definition**

# Last Time

## *Review Lecture 4 –Syntactic Ambiguity*

### **Recognizing Context-Free Grammars**

- The parser wants a parse tree

### **Some Challenges in Syntactic Analysis**

- Ambiguous Syntax
  - Precedence
  - Associativity



**Syntactic  
Definition**

# Last Time

## Review Lecture 4 –Syntactic Ambiguity

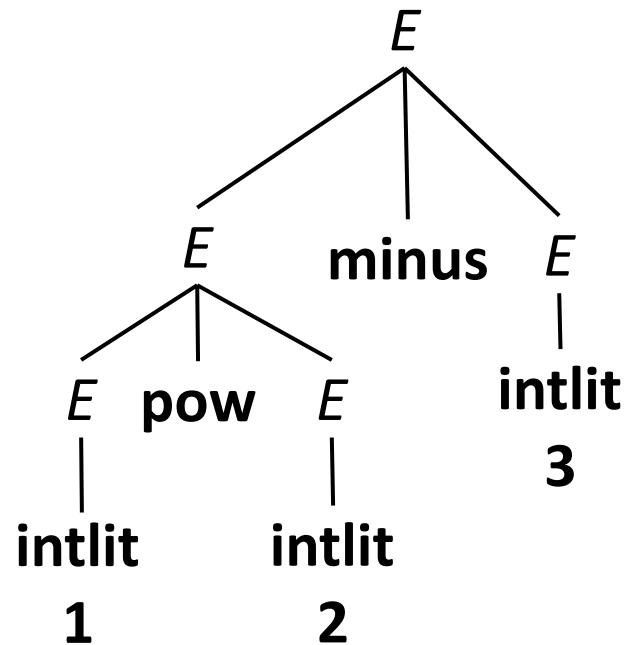
Force precedence constraints	Force associativity constraints
$E := E \text{ minus } E$	$E := E \text{ minus } E$
$E := E \text{ times } E$	$  \quad T$
$E := E \text{ pow } E$	$T := T \text{ times } T$
	$  \quad F$
	$F := F \text{ pow } F$
	$  \quad G$
	$G := \text{intlit}$
	$E := E \text{ minus } T$
	$  \quad T$
	$T := T \text{ times } F$
	$  \quad F$
	$F := G \text{ pow } F$
	$  \quad G$
	$G := \text{intlit}$



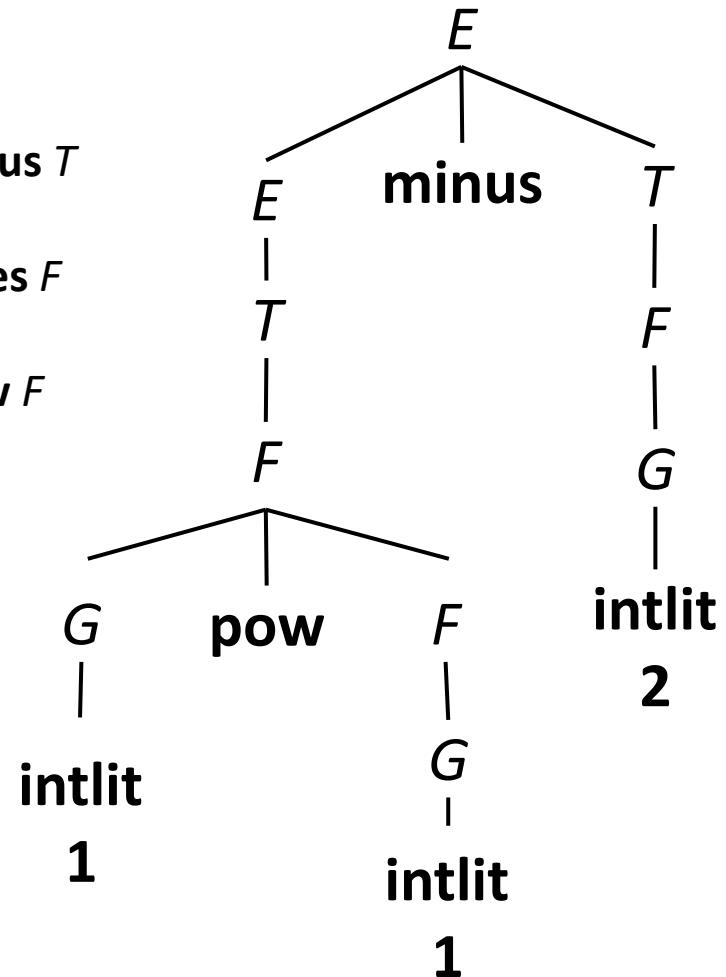
Syntactic  
Definition

# Ensure Bad Exprs are Invalid Syntax

*Working with Parse Trees*



$E := E \text{ minus } T$   
|  
 $T := T \text{ times } F$   
|  
 $F := G \text{ pow } F$   
|  
 $G := \text{intlit}$



# Lecture Outline

*Preview Lecture 5 – Syntax-Directed Translation*

## Recall Syntactic Ambiguity

## Assigning Meaning to (Parse) Trees

- Tree translation intuition
- Introduce Syntax-Directed Definition

## Tools for SDD

- Bison



Syntax-Directed  
Definition

# Benefits of Parse Trees

## *Assigning Meaning to Parse Trees*

All of the known methods for defining the meaning of computer programs were based on rather intricate algorithms having roughly the same degree of complexity as compilers, or worse. This was in stark contrast to Chomsky's simple and elegant method of syntax definition via context-free grammars. As Dr. Caracciolo said, "How simple to realize [semantic correctness] if you write a procedure. The problem is, however, to find a metalanguage for doing that in a declarative way, not in an operational way" [3].

# Benefits of Parse Trees

*Assigning Meaning to Parse Trees*

- Impose structure on tokens
- Easy to specify
- **Easy** to process

good algorithms  
are known



**More generally:**

Trees are great data structures  
for nesting relationships

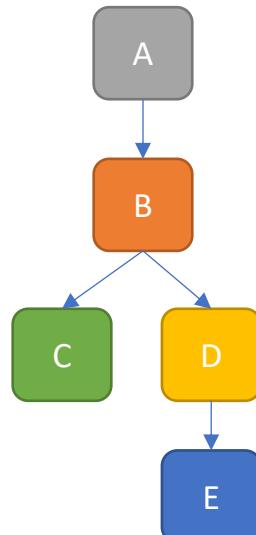
# Two Ways of Thinking About Trees

*Working with Trees*

## As a type of graph

Root is a node, children are successors

Work “root-down” vs “leaves-up”

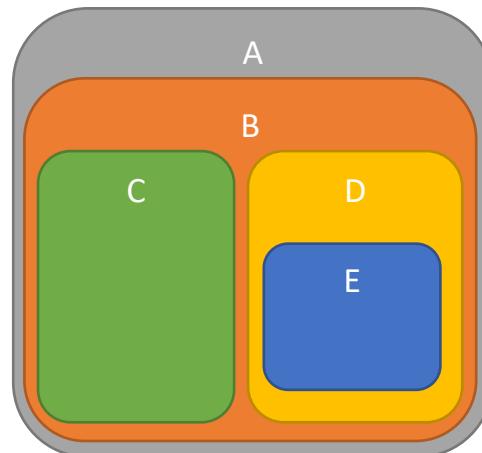


Compilers  
use insights  
from both  
views

## As a type of nesting

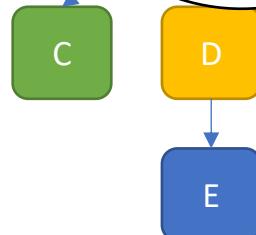
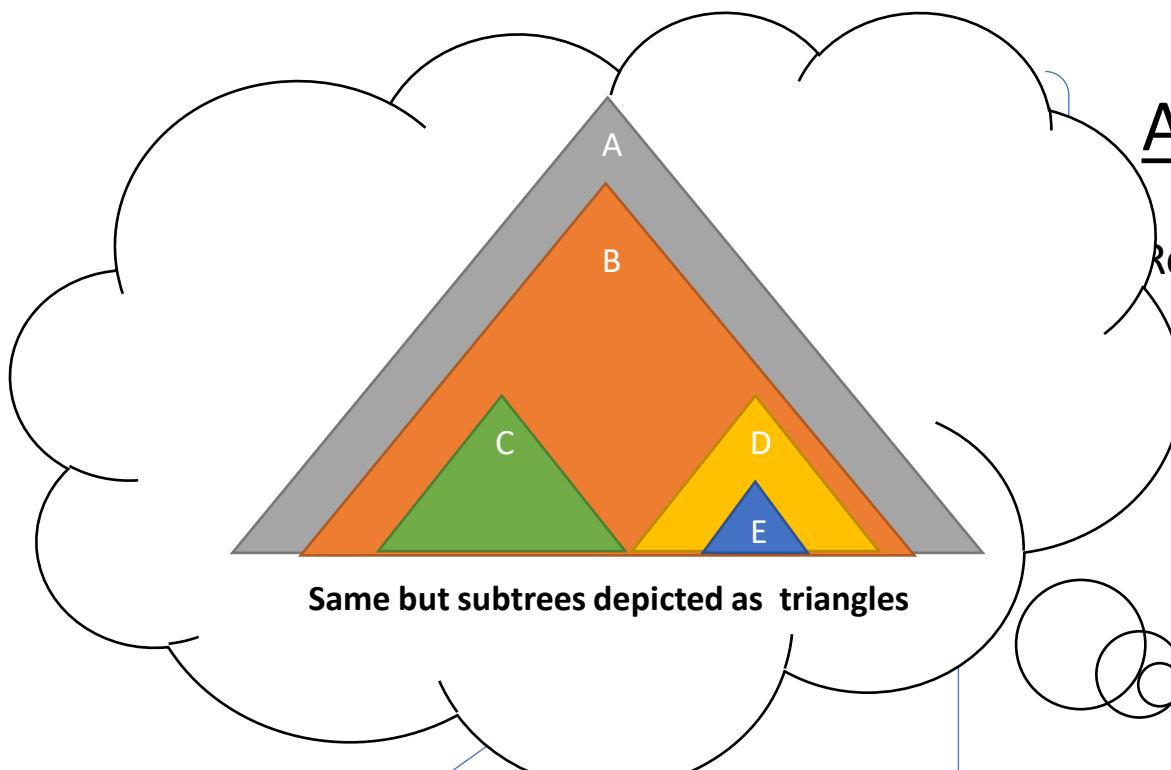
Root is a tree, children are inside

Work “outside in” vs “inside out”



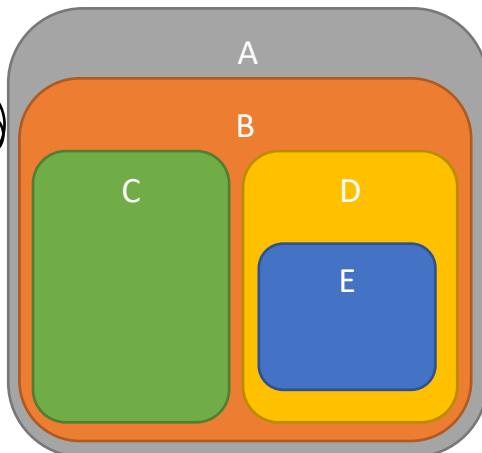
# Two Ways of Thinking About Trees

*Working with Trees*



As a type of nesting

Root is a tree, children are inside  
Work “outside in” vs “inside out”



# Trees as a Nesting

*Working with Trees*



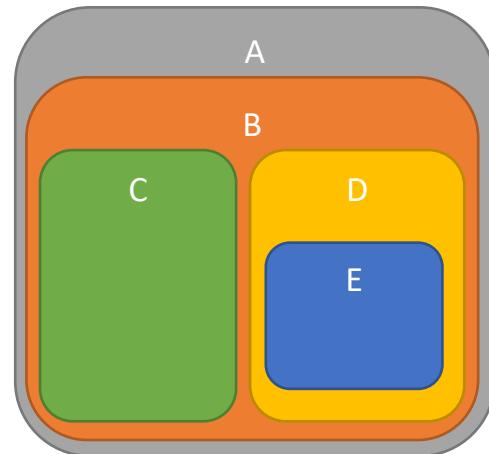
$$A = (B)$$

$$B = C + D$$

$$C = 1$$

$$D = (E)$$

$$E = 2$$



# Trees as a Nesting

## *Working with Trees*

also 10, 11]. If we know the meaning of  $\alpha$  and the meaning of  $\beta$ , then we know the meanings of such things as  $\alpha + \beta$ ,  $\alpha - \beta$ ,  $\alpha \times \beta$ ,  $\alpha/\beta$ , and  $(\alpha)$ . Thus the meaning of an arbitrarily large expression can be synthesized in a straightforward way by recursively building up the meanings of its subexpressions.

# Assigning Meaning to Subtrees

Processing Parse Trees

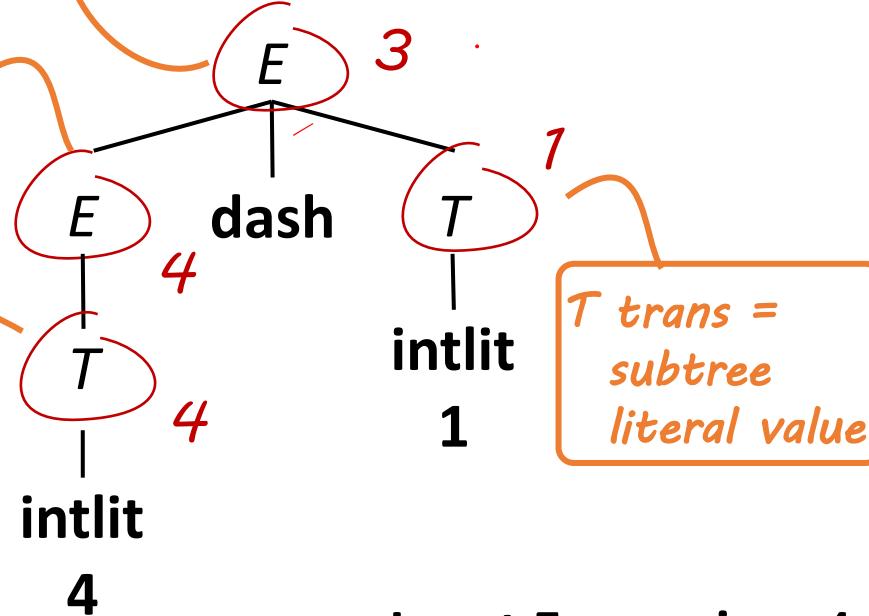
Assign a **translation** for each node / subtree

**Goal:**  
Translation is the value of the expression

$E \text{ trans} =$   
subtree 1 - subtree 3  
translation translation

$E \text{ trans} =$   
subtree  
translation

$T \text{ trans} =$   
subtree  
literal value



**Grammar:**  
 $E ::= E \text{ dash } T$   
 $| T$   
 $T ::= \text{intlit}$

Input Expression: 4 – 1

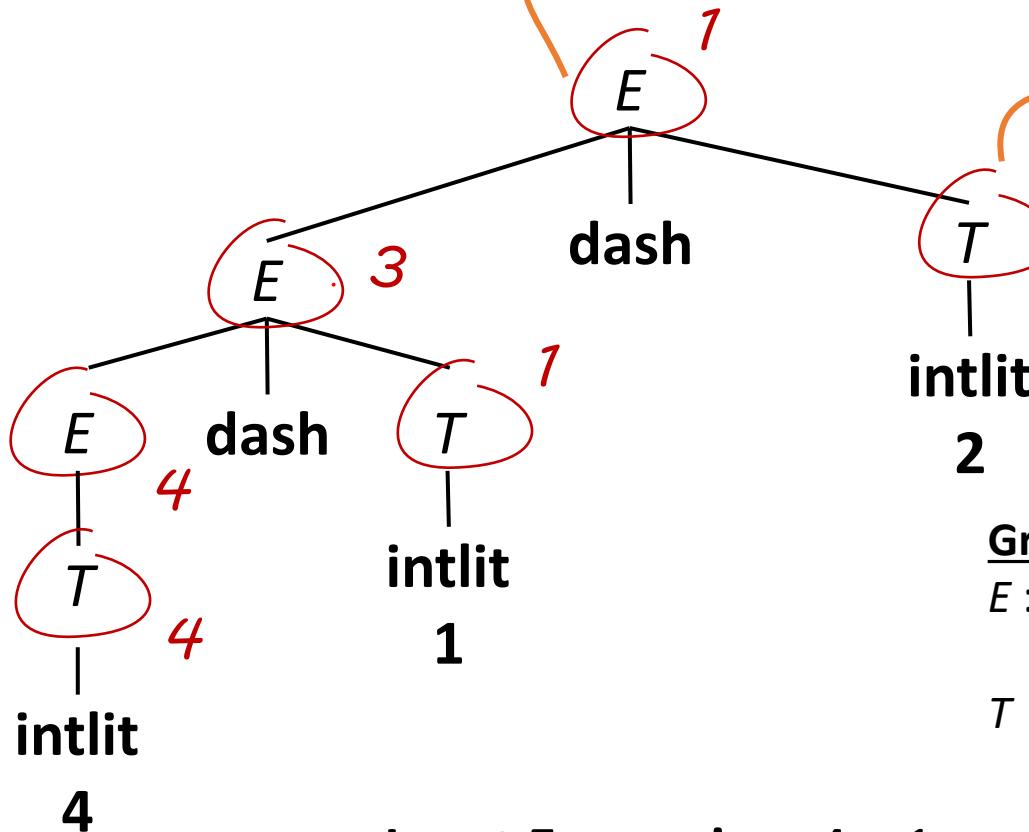
# Assigning Meaning to Subtrees

Processing Parse Trees

Assign a **translation** for each node / subtree

$E \text{ trans} =$   
subtree 1 translation - subtree 3 translation

**Goal:**  
Translation is the value of the expression



$T \text{ trans} =$   
subtree literal value

**Grammar:**  
 $E ::= E \text{ dash } T$   
|  $T$   
 $T ::= \text{intlit}$

# Assigning Meaning to Subtrees

Processing Parse Trees

Assign a **translation** for each node / subtree

$E \text{ trans} =$   
subtree 1 - subtree 3  
translation translation

**Goal:**  
Translation is the value of the expression

$E \text{ trans} =$   
subtree 1 - subtree 3  
translation translation

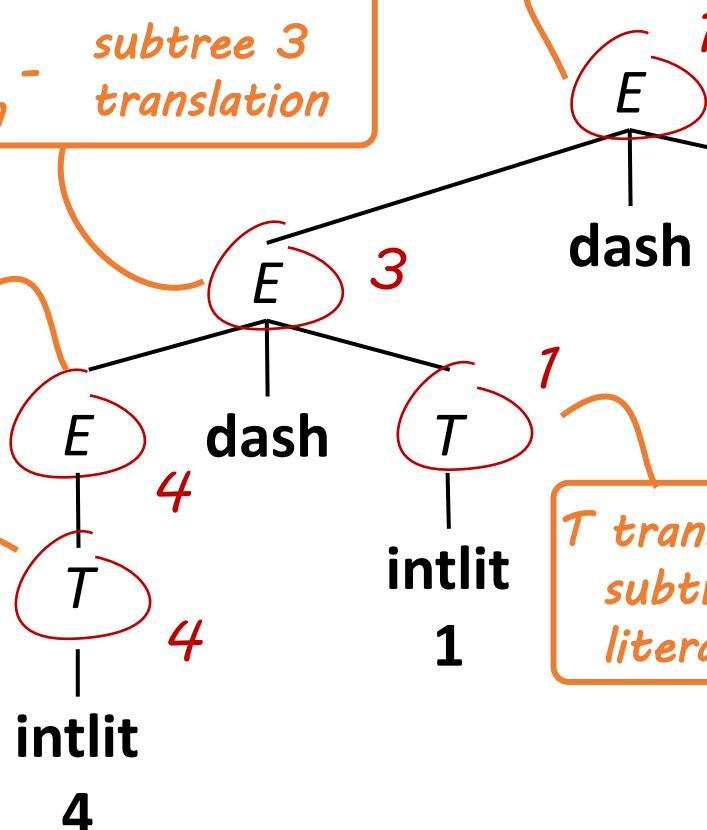
$E \text{ trans} =$   
subtree  
translation

$T \text{ trans} =$   
subtree  
literal value

$T \text{ trans} =$   
subtree  
literal value

intlit  
2

**Grammar:**  
 $E ::= E \text{ dash } T$   
|  
 $T ::= \text{intlit}$



Input Expression: 4 – 1 – 2

# In Summary

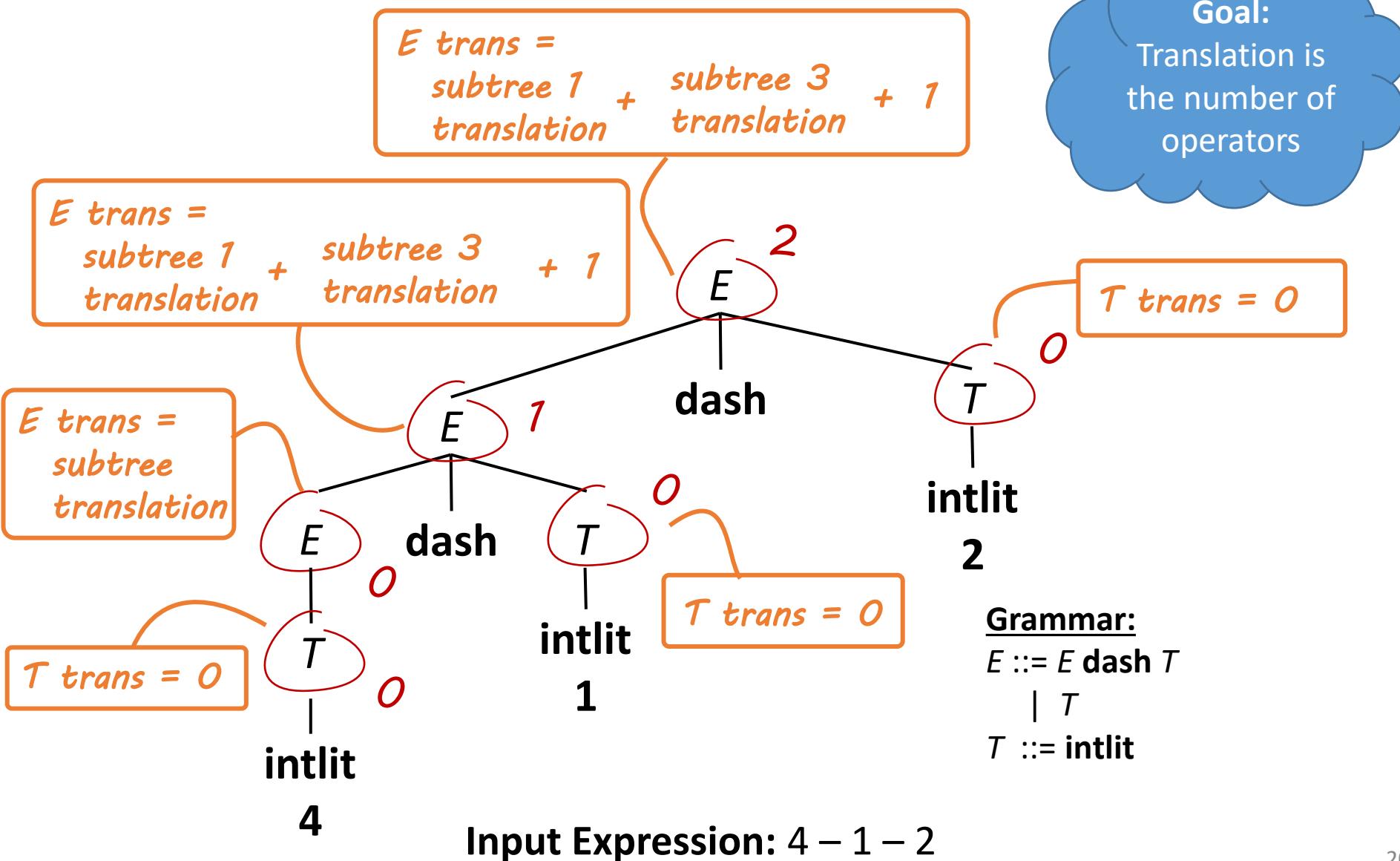
*Processing Parse Trees*

- Translation depends on the goal



# Assigning Meaning to Subtrees

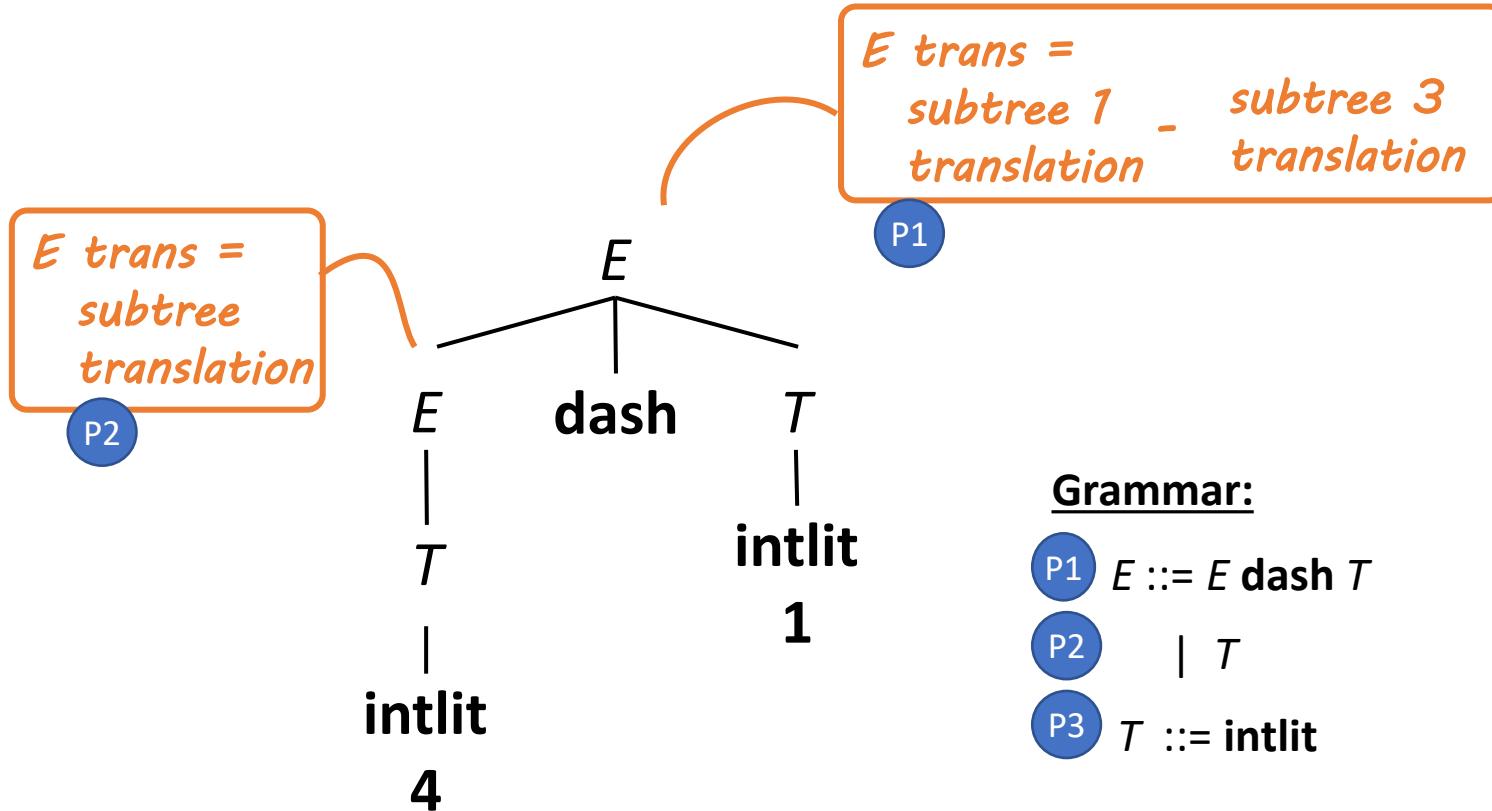
Processing Parse Trees



# Tree Translation Intuition: Summary

*Processing Parse Trees*

- Translation depends on the goal
- Translation is selected based on the production
- Conceptually, a post-pass over the complete parse tree



# Lecture Outline

*Preview Lecture 5 – Syntax-Directed Translation*

## Recall Syntactic Ambiguity

## Assigning Meaning to (Parse) Trees

- Tree translation intuition
- Introduce Syntax-Directed Definition

## Tools for SDD

- Bison



Syntax-Directed  
Definition

# Syntax-Directed Definitions

*Processing Parse Trees*

## **Semantics of Context-Free Languages**

by

**DONALD E. KNUTH**

California Institute of Technology

### **ABSTRACT**

“Meaning” may be assigned to a string in a context-free language by defining “attributes” of the symbols in a derivation tree for that string. The attributes can be defined by functions associated with each production in the grammar. This paper

# Syntax-Directed Definitions

*Processing Parse Trees*

- Attach translation rules per-production

$X ::= \alpha_1 \dots \alpha_n \{ LHS.trans = <translation of X that can use translations of \alpha_1 \dots \alpha_n> \}$

$| \beta_1 \dots \beta_n \{ LHS.trans = <translation of X that can use translations of \beta_1 \dots \beta_n> \}$

$Y ::= \gamma_1 \dots \gamma_n \{ LHS.trans = <translation of Y that can use translations of \gamma_1 \dots \gamma_n> \}$



Grammar:

P1  $E ::= E \text{ dash } T \{ LHS.trans = E.trans - T.trans \}$

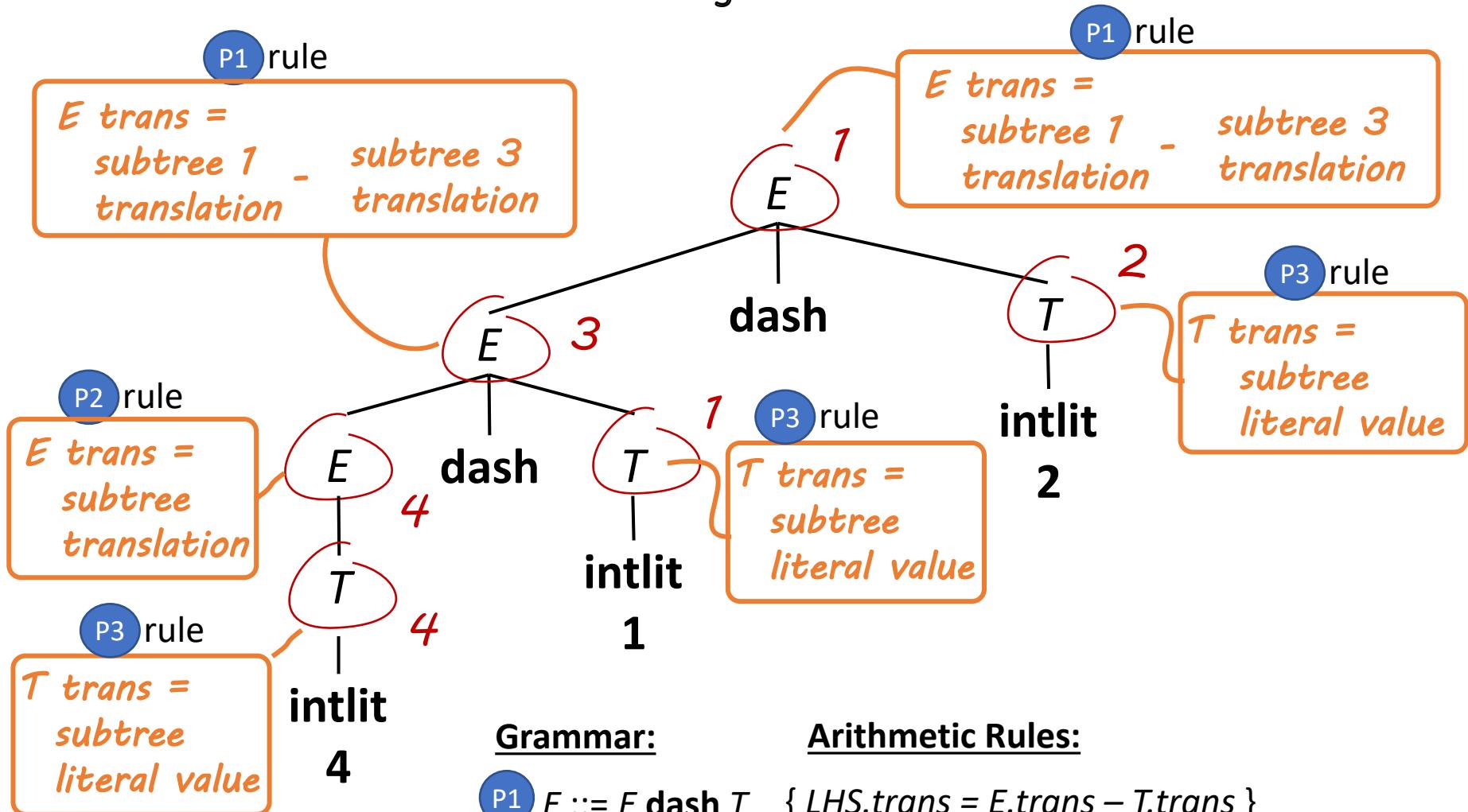
P2  $| T \{ LHS.trans = T.trans \}$

P3  $T ::= \text{intlit} \{ LHS.trans = \text{intlit.value} \}$

Arithmetic Rules:

# SDD: Example

## Processing Parse Trees



### Grammar:

P1  $E ::= E \text{ dash } T$

P2  $| T$

P3  $T ::= \text{intlit}$

### Arithmetic Rules:

{ LHS.trans =  $E.\text{trans} - T.\text{trans}$  }

{ LHS.trans =  $T.\text{trans}$  }

{ LHS.trans =  $\text{intlit.value}$  }

# Lecture Outline

## *Syntax-Directed Definition*

### Working with Parse Trees

- Benefits of Parse Trees / Trees in general
- Tree translation intuition
- Syntax-Directed Definition
  - Finer points

### Tools for SDD

- Bison



**Syntax-Directed  
Definition**

# SDD: Parse Tree Processing Multitool

*Processing Parse Trees*

**SDD is a flexible tool for assigning meaning to parse trees**

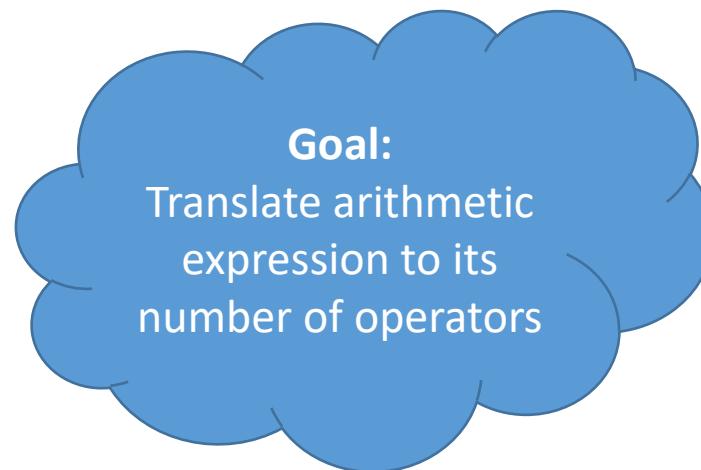
- Useful beyond compilers
- We won't even use the full power of the technique



# SDD: A Different Translation Scheme

*Processing Parse Trees*

- SDD can do more than evaluate expressions



**Grammar:**

P1  $E ::= E \text{ dash } T$

P2  $| \quad T$

P3  $T ::= \text{intlit}$

P4  $T ::= T \text{ mult intlit}$

**Operator Count Rules:**

{  $LHS.\text{trans} = E.\text{trans} + T.\text{trans} + 1$  }

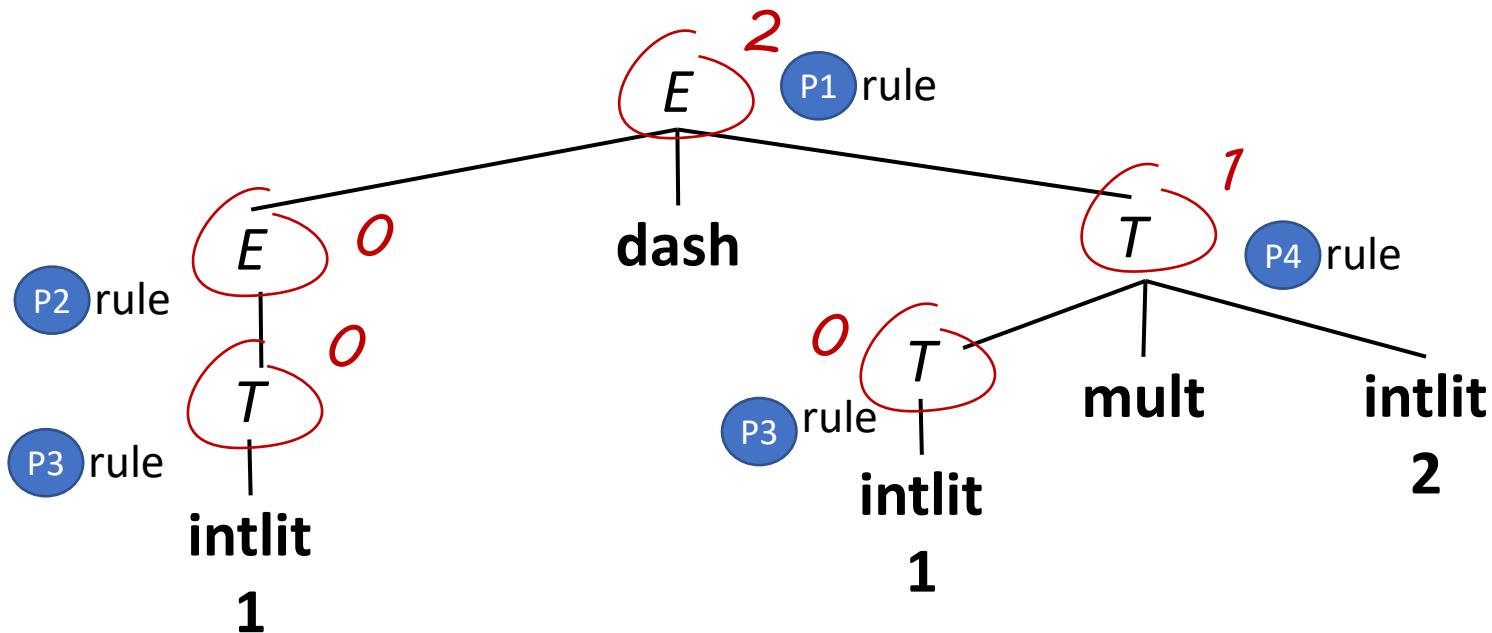
{  $LHS.\text{trans} = T.\text{trans}$  }

{  $LHS.\text{trans} = 0$  }

{  $LHS.\text{trans} = T.\text{trans} + 1$  }

# SDD: A Different Translation Scheme

*Processing Parse Trees*



### Grammar:

P1  $E ::= E \text{ dash } T$

P2  $| \quad T$

P3  $T ::= \text{intlit}$

P4  $T ::= T \text{ mult intlit}$

### Operator Count Rules:

{  $LHS.\text{trans} = E.\text{trans} + T.\text{trans} + 1$  }

{  $LHS.\text{trans} = T.\text{trans}$  }

{  $LHS.\text{trans} = 0$  }

{  $LHS.\text{trans} = T.\text{trans} + 1$  }

# SDD: Yet Another Translation

*Processing Parse Trees*

- Myth: SDD translations are always int values



## Grammar:

P1  $E ::= E \text{ dash } T$

P2  $| \quad T$

P3  $T ::= \text{intlit}$

P4  $T ::= T \text{ mult intlit}$

## List of integers Rules:

{  $LHS.\text{trans} = E.\text{trans}.\text{extend}(T.\text{trans})$  }

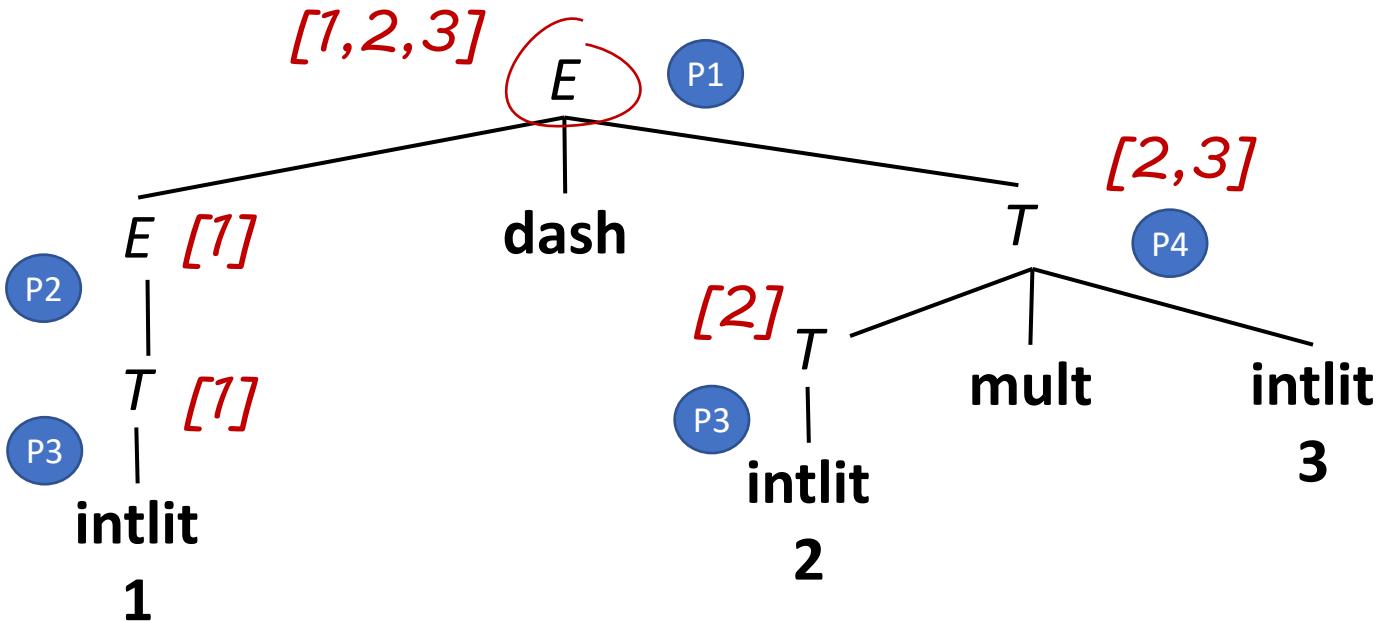
{  $LHS.\text{trans} = T.\text{trans}$  }

{  $LHS.\text{trans} = [\text{intlit.value}]$  }

{  $LHS.\text{trans} = T.\text{trans}.\text{extend}([\text{intlit.value}])$  }

# SDD: Yet Another Translation

*Processing Parse Trees*



## Grammar:

P1  $E ::= E \text{ dash } T$  {  $LHS.\text{trans} = E.\text{trans}.\text{extend}(T.\text{trans})$  }

P2  $| \quad T$  {  $LHS.\text{trans} = T.\text{trans}$  }

P3  $T ::= \text{intlit}$  {  $LHS.\text{trans} = [\text{intlit.value}]$  }

P4  $T ::= T \text{ mult intlit}$  {  $LHS.\text{trans} = T.\text{trans}.\text{extend}([\text{intlit.value}])$  }

# SDD: Binary Numbers

*Processing Parse Trees*

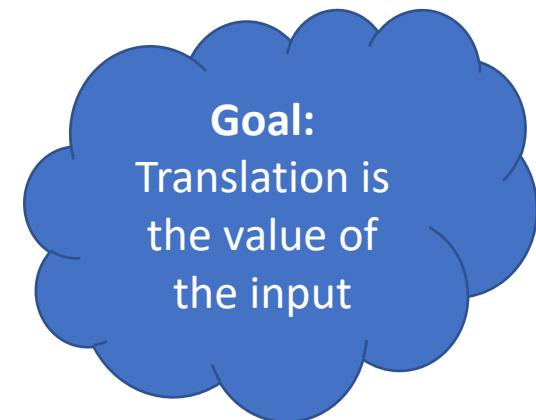
## CFG      Rules

P1:  $B ::= 0$      $LHS.trans = ???$

P2:    |  $1$      $LHS.trans = ???$

P3:    |  $B 0$      $LHS.trans = ???$

P4:    |  $B 1$      $LHS.trans = ???$



## Example:

Input string 10110  
should be 22

# SDD: Binary Numbers

*Processing Parse Trees*

CFG

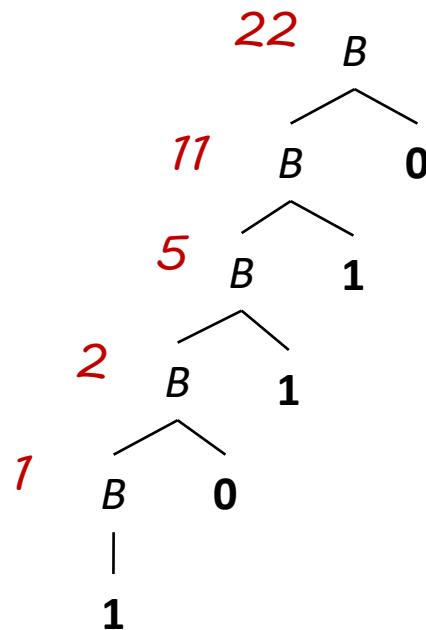
Rules

P1:  $B ::= 0$      $LHS.\text{trans} = 0$

P2:     $| 1$      $LHS.\text{trans} = 1$

P3:     $| B 0$      $LHS.\text{trans} = B_1.\text{trans} * 2$

P4:     $| B 1$      $LHS.\text{trans} = B_1.\text{trans} * 2 + 1$



Example:

Input string 10110  
should be 22

# SDD: Int Declaration List

*Processing Parse Trees*

## CFG

*DList* ::=  $\epsilon$   
| *DList Decl*

*Decl* ::= *Type id ;*

*Type* ::= **int**  
| **bool**

## Input string

int xx;  
bool yy;

Translation is a  
String of **int** ids  
only

## Rules

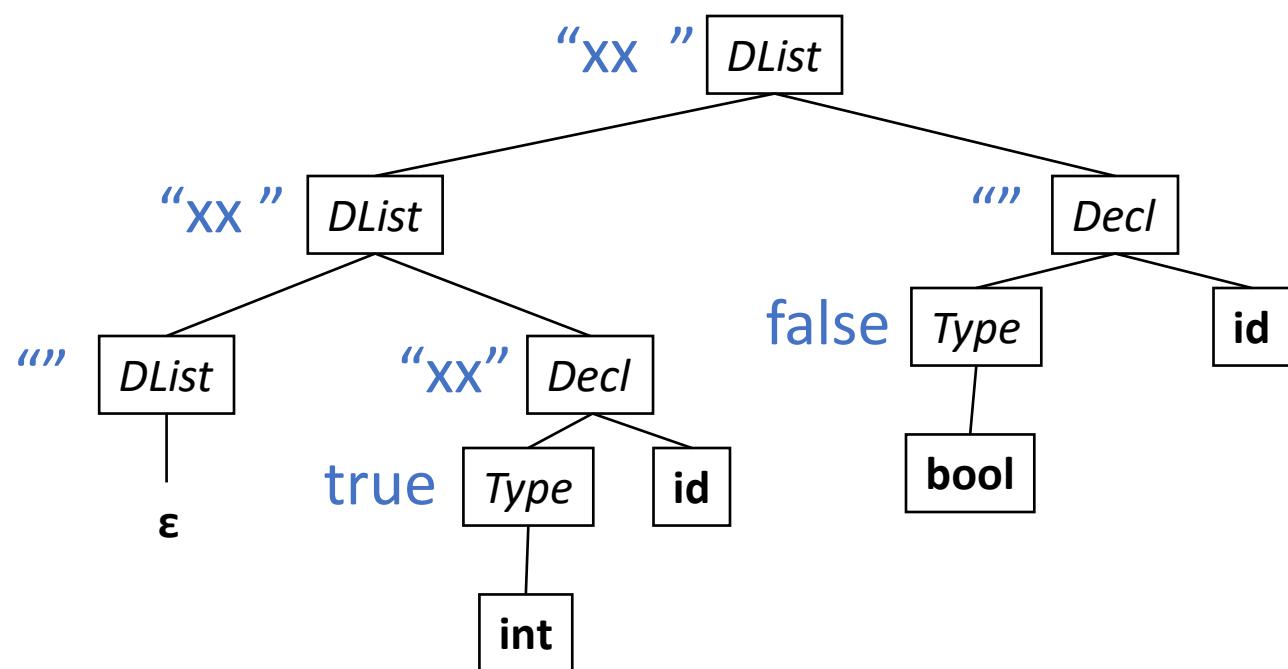
*LHS.trans* = ""

*LHS.trans* = *Decl.trans* + " " + *DList<sub>2</sub>.trans*

if (*Type.trans*) {*LHS.trans* = *id.value*} else {*Decl.trans* = ""}

*LHS.trans* = true

*LHS.trans* = false



# BISON: A tool for SDD

## *Assigning Meaning to Parse Trees*

```
15 %union {  
16     int intval;  
17 }  
18  
19 %token zero  
20 %token one  
21  
22  
23 %type <intval> B  
24  
25 %%  
26  
27 S : B      { printf("Value is %d\n", $1); }  
28 B : zero   { $$ = 0; }  
29 | one     { $$ = 1; }  
30 | B zero  { $$ = $1 * 2 + 0; }  
31 | B one   { $$ = $1 * 2 + 1; }  
32 ;  
33  
34 %%
```

# Next Time

## *Lecture Preview*

**Discuss a use of SDD of particular use to Compilers:**

- Translating the parse tree into an *Abstract Syntax Tree*