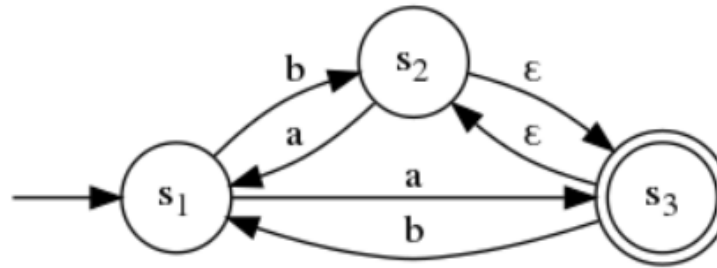


Checkin 4

These questions use the following state machine:



1. Draw out an equivalent finite automaton to the given one after applying the ϵ -elimination technique described in class.
2. Is the state machine that results from 1. an NFA or DFA?
3. If the machine is a DFA, create an NFA that recognizes the same language. If the machine is an NFA, create a DFA that recognizes the same language.

Administrivia

Housekeeping

- Quiz 1 NEXT Friday
- Project 1 due **NEXT** Wednesday (or that Thursday for 1 late mark or that Friday for 2 late marks)
 - Sorta/Kinda delayed – kept original start date, gave extra time for kickstart
 - Additional delay so it isn't due on Labor Day

ECCS 665 **COMPILER** ***CONSTRUCTION***

4 – Syntactic Ambiguity

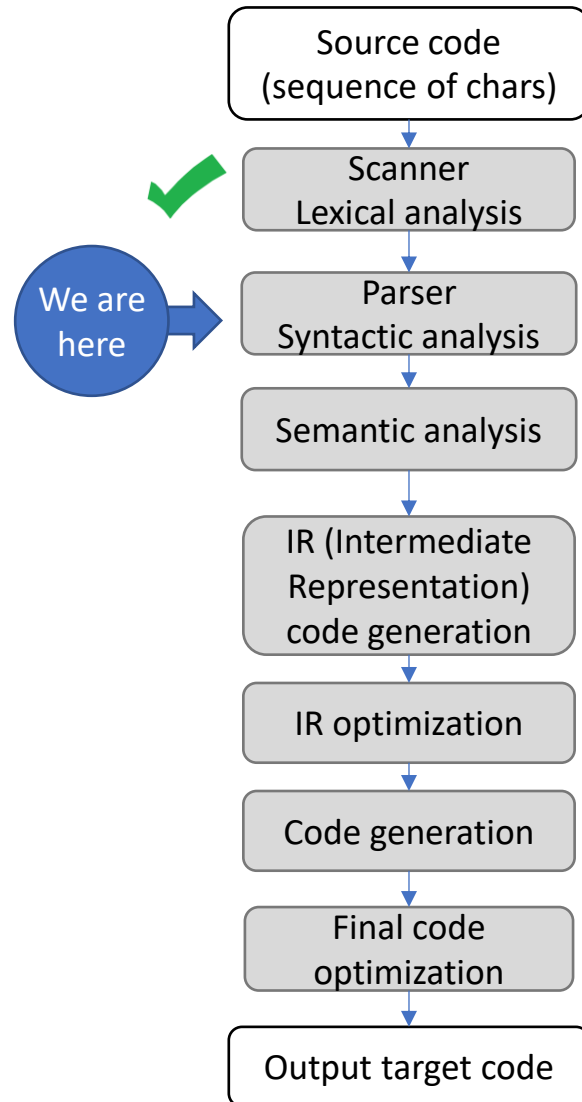
I *Think* We're Mostly Done with Review

Lecture 4 – Syntactic Ambiguity



Compiler Construction

Progress Pics



Quick Comparison

Lexer **VS** Parser

Lexer Parser

Definition: RegExes

Input: char stream

Output: token stream

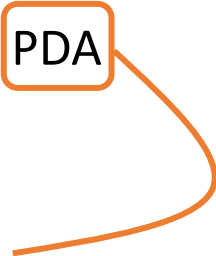
Recognizer: DFA

Definition: CF Grammar

Input: token stream

Output: parse tree

Recognizer: PDA



**Let's breeze through this
(I bet you've seen it already)**

Lexer Parser

Definition: RegExes

Input: char stream

Output: token stream

Recognizer: DFA

Translator: Tokenizer

Definition: CF Grammar

Input: token stream

Output: parse tree

Recognizer: PDA

Translator: Parser

Last Time

Review Lecture 3 – Defining Syntax

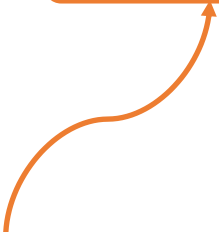
From regular language recognition to stream tokenization

- Lexer achieved!

Reviewed Context-Free Grammars

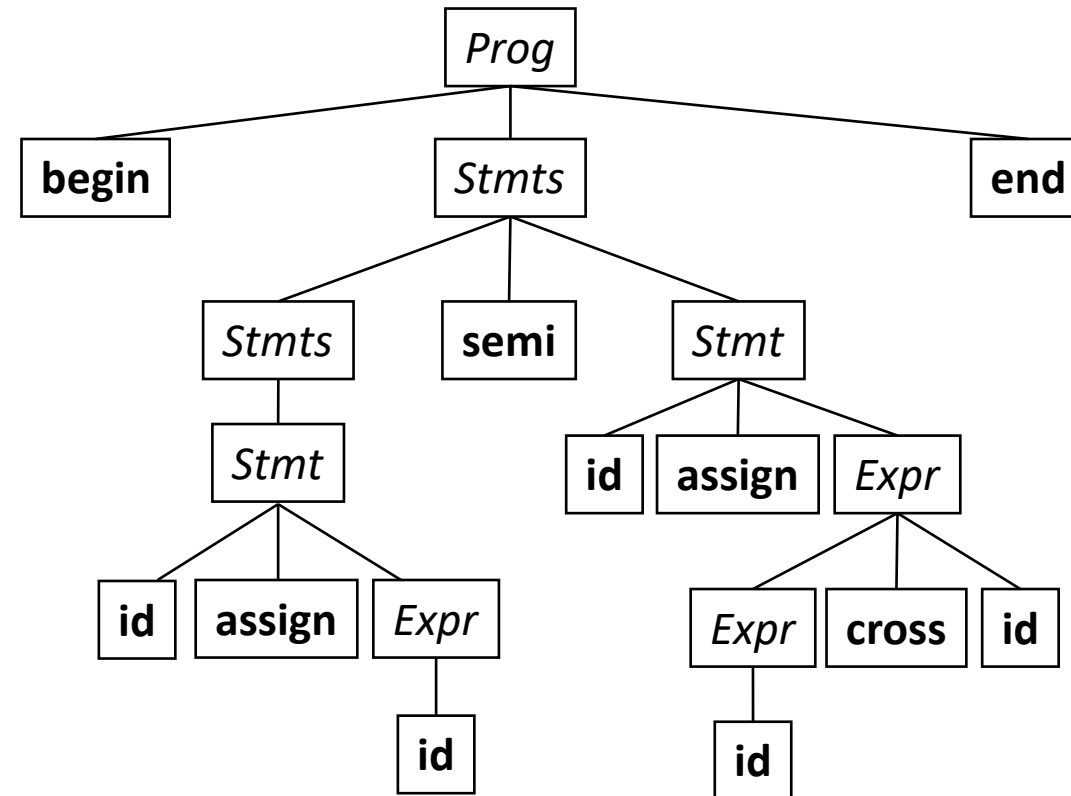
- Language Definition via grammar
- BNF notation
- Parse trees

CFGs - usable for syntactic definition



*BNF is a good way for
programmers to
communicate syntax*

Parse Tree



Derivation Sequence

Prog
⇒ **begin** Stmts **end** Prod. 1
⇒ **begin** Stmts **semi** Stmt **end** Prod. 2
⇒ **begin** Stmts **semi** Stmt **end** Prod. 3
⇒ **begin** Stmt **semi** Stmt **end** Prod. 4
⇒ **begin** id assign Expr **semi** Stmt **end** Prod. 4
⇒ **begin** id assign Expr **semi** id assign Expr **end** Prod. 5
⇒ **begin** id assign id **semi** id assign Expr **end** Prod. 6
⇒ **begin** id assign id **semi** id assign Expr cross id **end** Prod. 5
⇒ **begin** id assign id **semi** id assign id **cross** id **end**

Productions

1. *Prog* ::= **begin** *Stmts* **end**
2. *Stmts* ::= *Stmts* **semi** *Stmt*
3. | *Stmt*
4. *Stmt* ::= **id** **assign** *Expr*
5. *Expr* ::= **id**
6. | *Expr* **cross** **id**

Lecture Outline

Lecture 4 –Syntactic Ambiguity

Compiler Concerns in Syntactic Analysis

- Recognizing CF-Languages
- Constraining Derivations
- Ambiguous Syntax
 - What it is
 - How we resolve it

Constraining Derivations

Lecture 4 –Syntactic Ambiguity

Goal: 1-1 map derivation sequences to sentences

- Reason #1: predictable, reliable algorithms
- Reason #2: we care about the structure of sentences



Consistency is key

Derivation Order

Syntactic Ambiguity: Constraining Derivations

Grammar

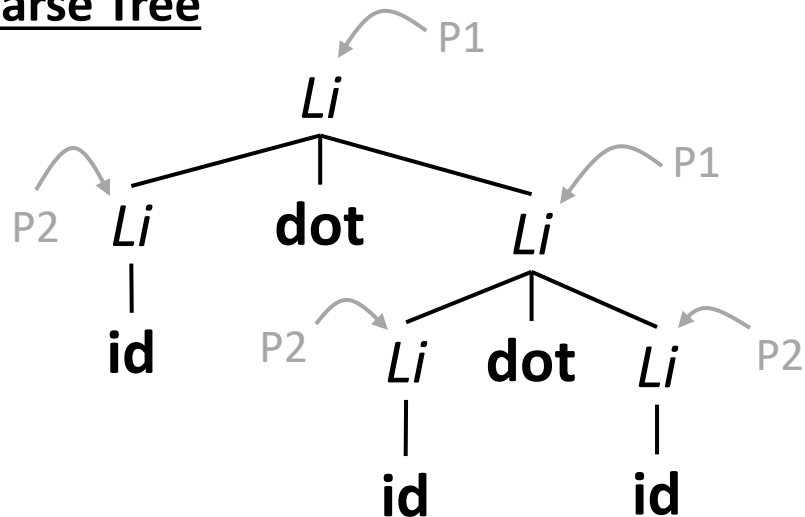
P1: $Li ::= Li \text{ dot } Li$

P2: $\quad | \text{ id}$

Token stream

id dot id dot id

Parse Tree



How can we derive the sentence?

- Multiple orderings of the same productions to generate sentence
 - That's bad for consistency!
- We usually commit to a single ordering
 - *Leftmost derivation*: expand the leftmost nonterminal
 - *Rightmost derivation*: expand the rightmost nonterminal

Derivation Order

Syntactic Ambiguity: Constraining Derivations

Grammar

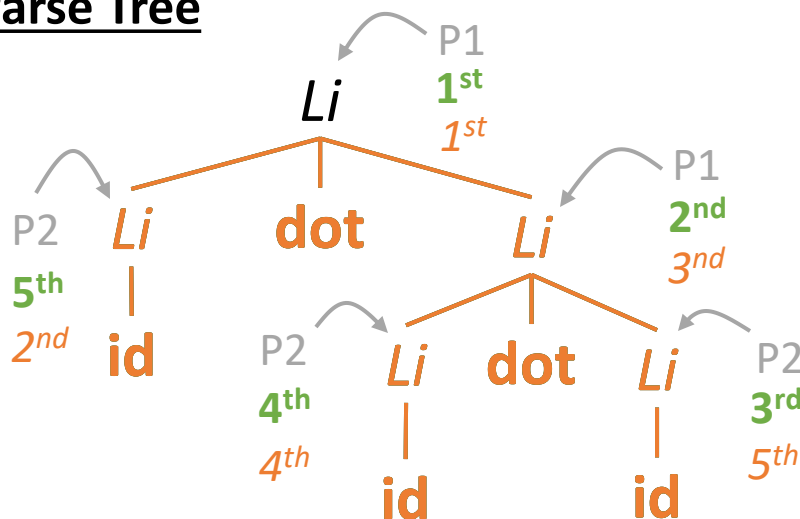
P1: $Li ::= Li \text{ dot } Li$

P2: $\quad | id$

Token stream

id dot id dot id

Parse Tree



How can we derive the sentence?

- Multiple orderings of the same productions to generate sentence
 - That's bad for consistency!
- We usually commit to a single ordering
 - *Leftmost derivation*: expand the leftmost nonterminal
 - *Rightmost derivation*: expand the rightmost nonterminal

Leftmost derivation

$Li \Rightarrow Li \text{ dot } Li$
 $\Rightarrow id \text{ dot } Li$
 $\Rightarrow id \text{ dot } Li \text{ dot } Li$
 $\Rightarrow id \text{ dot } id \text{ dot } Li$
 $\Rightarrow id \text{ dot } id \text{ dot } id$

Rightmost derivation

$Li \Rightarrow Li \text{ dot } Li$
 $\Rightarrow Li \text{ dot } Li \text{ dot } Li$
 $\Rightarrow Li \text{ dot } Li \text{ dot } id$
 $\Rightarrow Li \text{ dot } id \text{ dot } id$
 $\Rightarrow id \text{ dot } id \text{ dot } id$

Bigger Problems On the Horizon

Syntactic Ambiguity: Constraining Derivations



**May be able to produce different parse trees
even under the same derivation order!**

The Real Problem

Syntactic Ambiguity: Constraining Derivations

Grammar

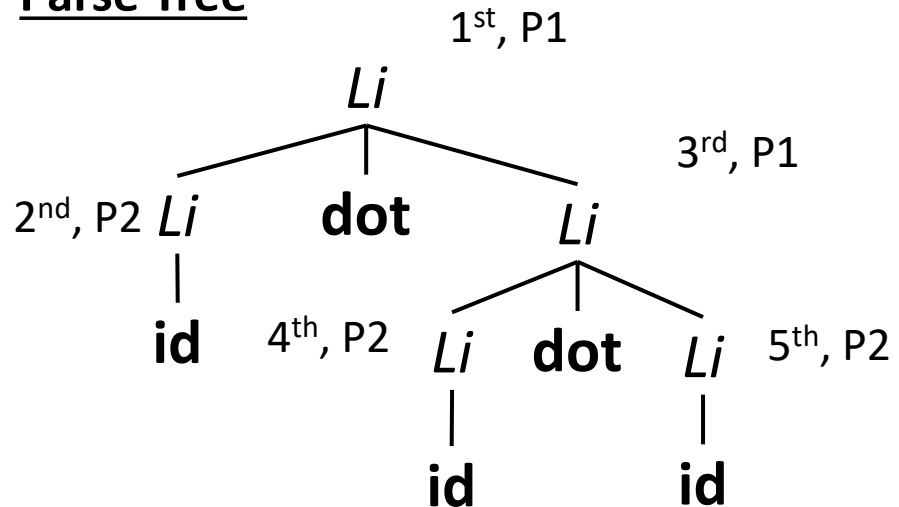
P1. $Li ::= Li \text{ dot } Li$

P2. $\quad \mid id$

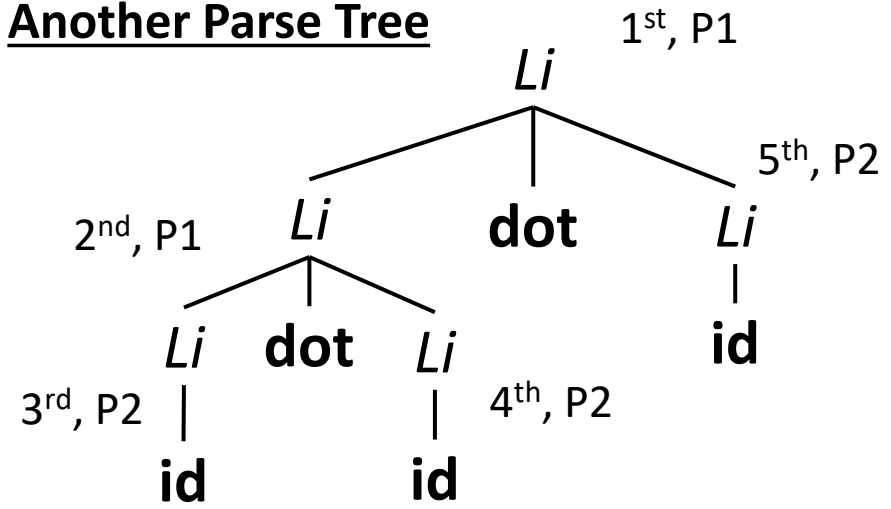
Input

id dot id dot id

Parse Tree



Another Parse Tree



Same (leftmost) derivation order, different productions

The Real Problem

Syntactic Ambiguity: Constraining Derivations

- Even with a fixed derivation order, possible to derive the same sentence in multiple ways

Syntactic Ambiguity (Definition):

For Grammar G and string w

- G is ambiguous if
 - >1 leftmost derivation of w
 $\equiv$
>1 rightmost derivation of w
 $\equiv$
> 1 parse tree for w

Why is syntactic ambiguity a problem?

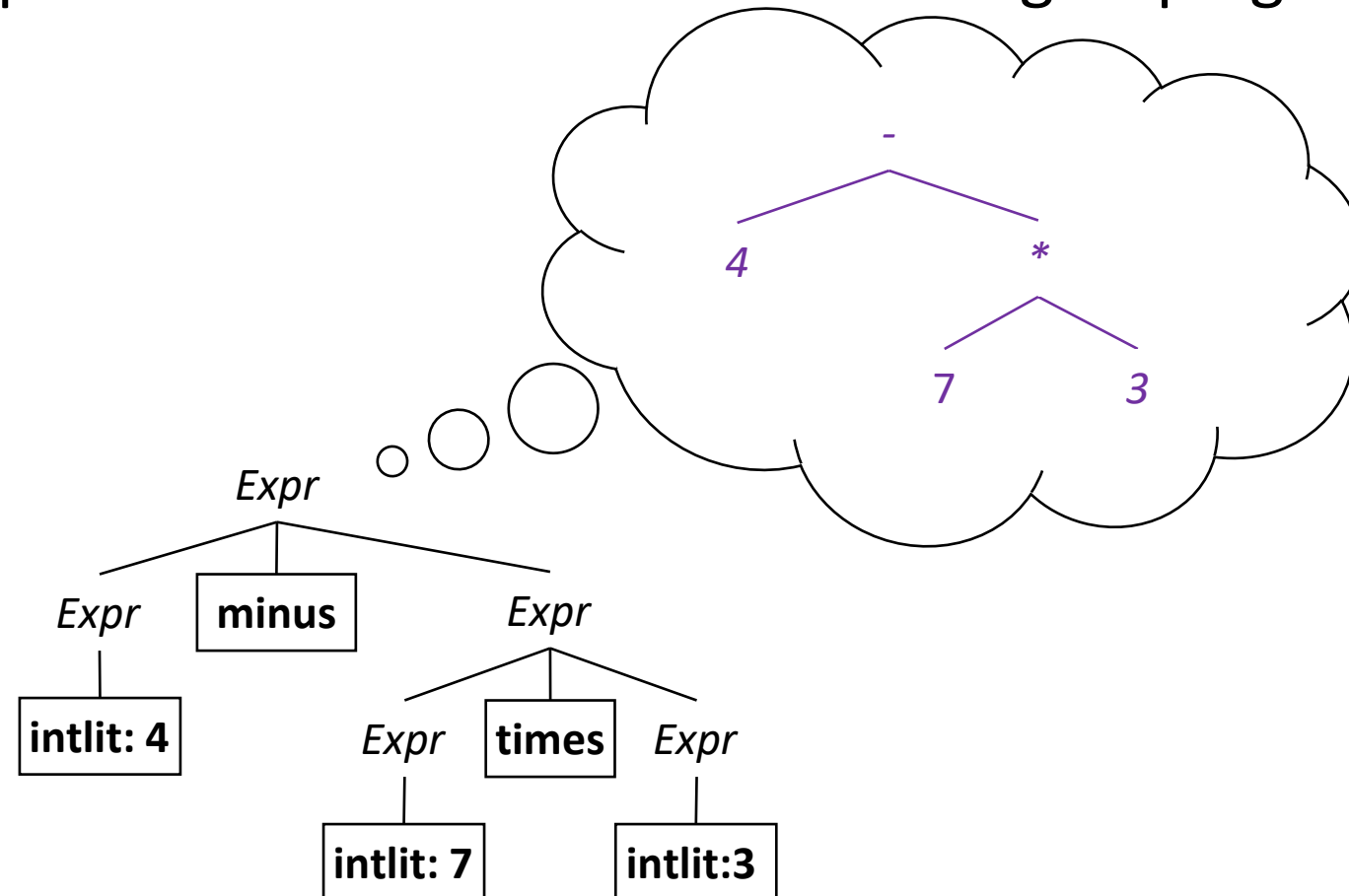
- Allows inconsistency
- Unreliable tree structure

Particularly troubling

Parse Tree Structure

Syntactic Ambiguity: Constraining Derivations

- Maintain the integrity of the underlying operations
- Intuitively, parse tree should mimic semantic grouping



Parse Tree Structure

Syntactic Ambiguity: Constraining Derivations

Grammar

- P1. *Expr* ::= **intlit**
P2. | *Expr* **minus** *Expr*
P3. | *Expr* **times** *Expr*

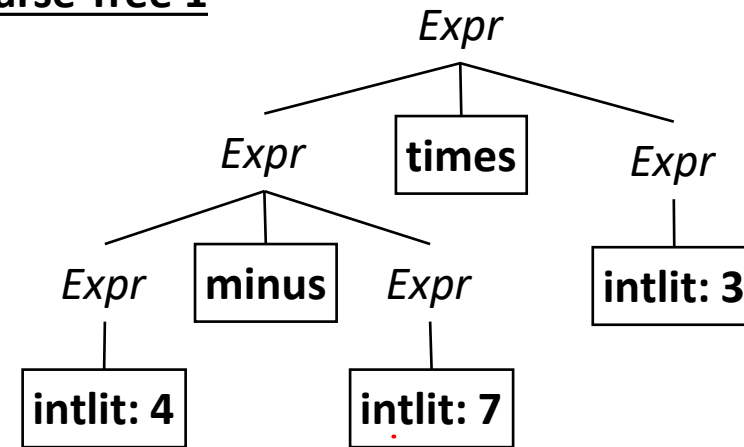
Char Stream:

4 – 7 * 3

Token Stream:

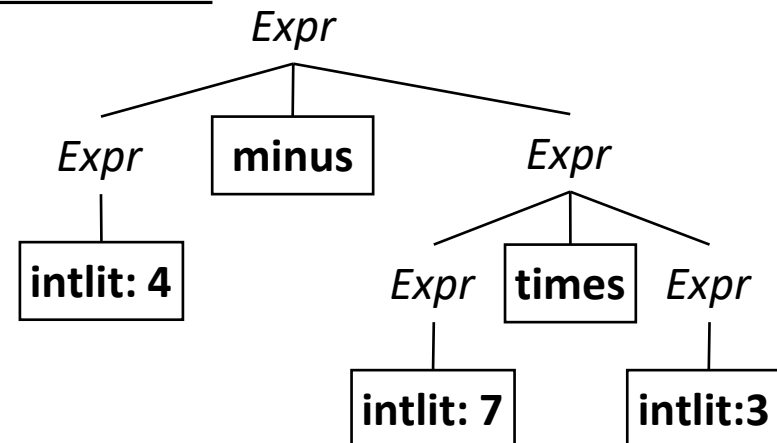
intlit minus intlit times intlit

Parse Tree 1



Which
tree is
correct?

Parse Tree 2



Parse Tree Structure

Syntactic Ambiguity: Constraining Derivations

Grammar

P1. $Expr ::= intlit$

P2. $Expr ::= Expr \text{ times } Expr$

P3. $Expr ::= Expr \text{ minus } Expr$

Char Stream:

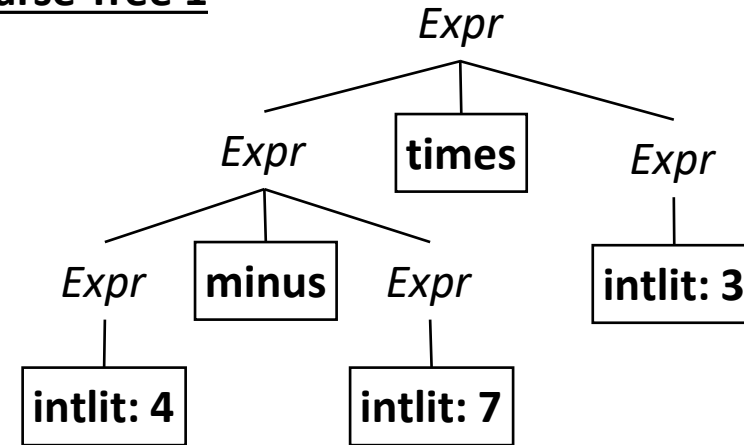
$(4 - 7) * 3$

Token Stream:

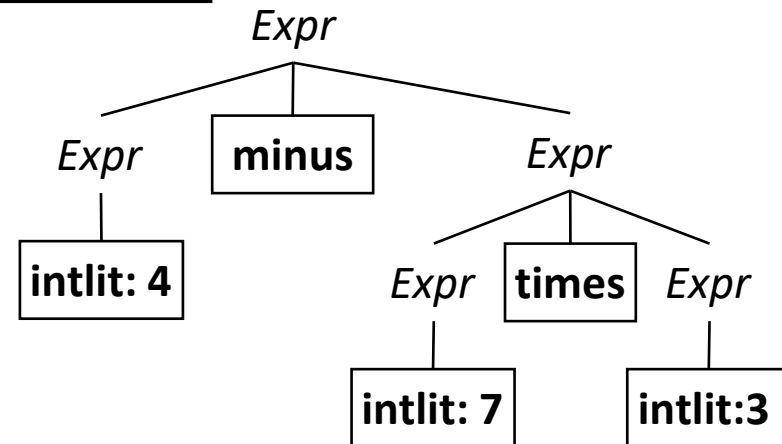
intlit minus intlit



Parse Tree 1



Parse Tree 2



Parse Tree Structure

Syntactic Ambiguity: Constraining Derivations

Grammar

- P1. $Expr ::= \text{intlit}$
P2. $| Expr \text{ minus } Expr$
P3. $| Expr \text{ times } Expr$

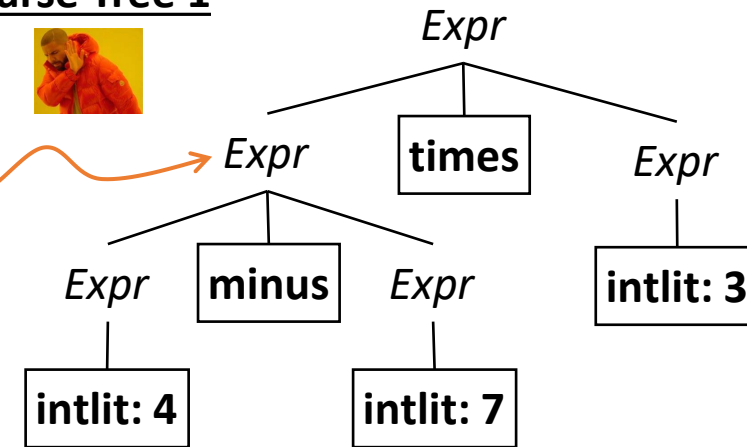
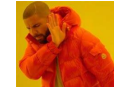
Char Stream:

4 - 7 * 3

Token Stream:

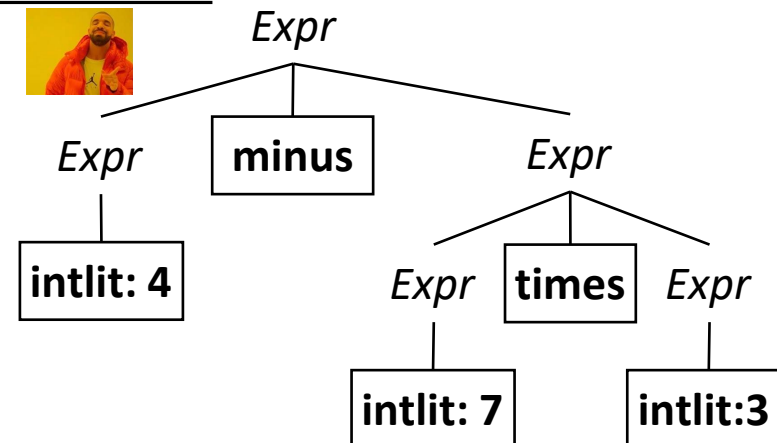
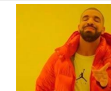
intlit minus intlit times intlit

Parse Tree 1



*Intuitive problem: Depth
Minus subtrees
(can be) produced
beneath times subtrees*

Parse Tree 2



Parse Tree Structure

Syntactic Ambiguity: Constraining Derivations

Grammar

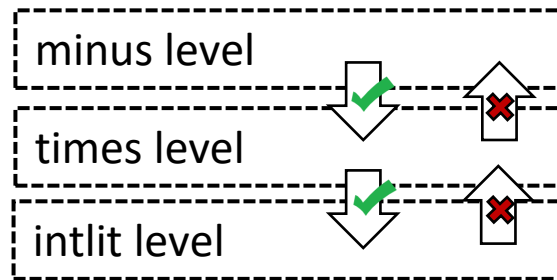
- P1. $Expr ::= \text{intlit}$
P2. | $Expr \text{ minus } Expr$
P3. | $Expr \text{ times } Expr$

*Intuitive problem: Depth
Minus subtrees
(can be) produced
beneath times subtrees*

Fixed Grammar

- P1. $Expr ::= Expr \text{ minus } Expr$
P2. | $Term$
P3. $Term ::= Term \text{ times } Term$
P4. | $Factor$
P5. $Factor ::= \text{intlit}$

Solution: Embed precedence “levels” into the grammar



- You can go down a level “for free”
- You can’t go up a level

Use a new nonterminal for each precedence level

Parse Tree Structure

Syntactic Ambiguity: Constraining Derivations

Fixed Grammar

- P1. $Expr ::= Expr \textbf{minus} Expr$
P2. | $Term$
P3. $Term ::= Term \textbf{times} Term$
P4. | $Factor$
P5. $Factor ::= \textbf{intlit}$

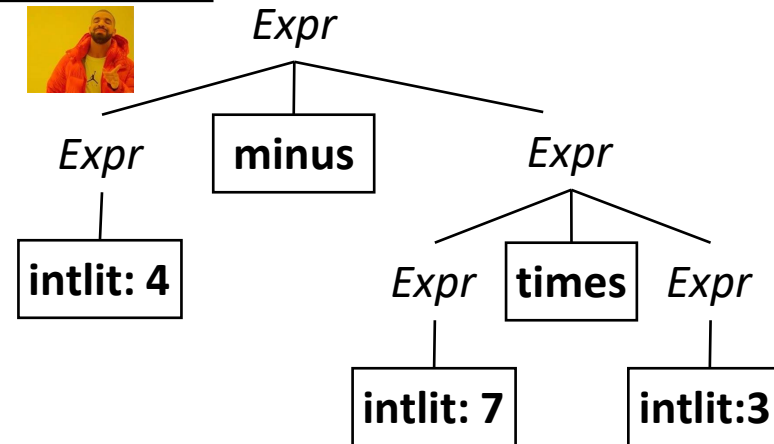
Char Stream:

4 – 7 * 3

Token Stream:

intlit minus intlit times intlit

Parse Tree 2



Parse Tree Structure

Syntactic Ambiguity: Constraining Derivations

Fixed Grammar

- P1. $Expr ::= Expr \textbf{minus} Expr$
P2. $\quad \quad | Term$
P3. $Term ::= Term \textbf{times} Term$
P4. $\quad \quad | Factor$
P5. $Factor ::= \textbf{intlit}$

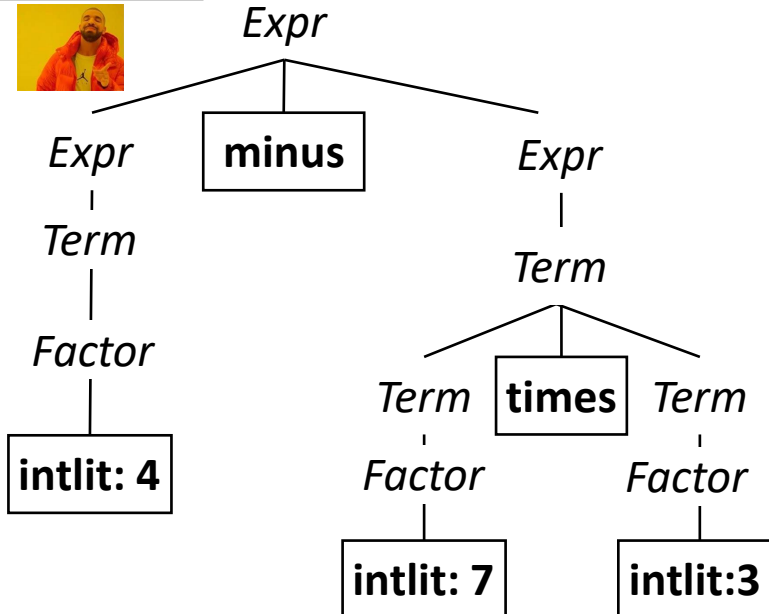
Char Stream:

4 – 7 * 3

Token Stream:

intlit minus intlit times intlit
.

Parse Tree 2



Parse Tree Structure

Syntactic Ambiguity: Constraining Derivations

Fixed Grammar

P1. *Expr* ::= *Expr* **minus** *Expr*

P2. | *Term*

P3. *Term* ::= *Term* **times** *Term*

P4. | *Factor*

P5. *Factor* ::= **intlit**

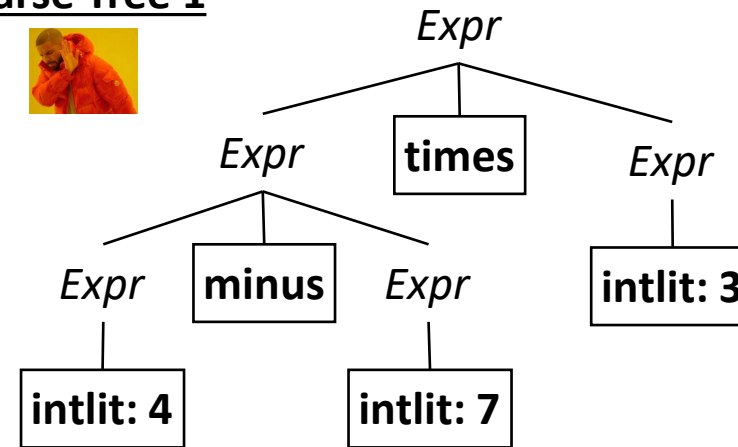
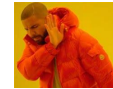
Char Stream:

4 – 7 * 3

Token Stream:

intlit minus intlit times intlit

Parse Tree 1



Parse Tree Structure

Syntactic Ambiguity: Constraining Derivations

Fixed Grammar

P1. $Expr ::= Expr \text{ minus } Expr$

P2. $\quad \quad \quad | \text{ Term}$

P3. $Term ::= Term \text{ times } Term$

P4. $\quad \quad \quad | \text{ Factor}$

P5. $Factor ::= \text{intlit}$

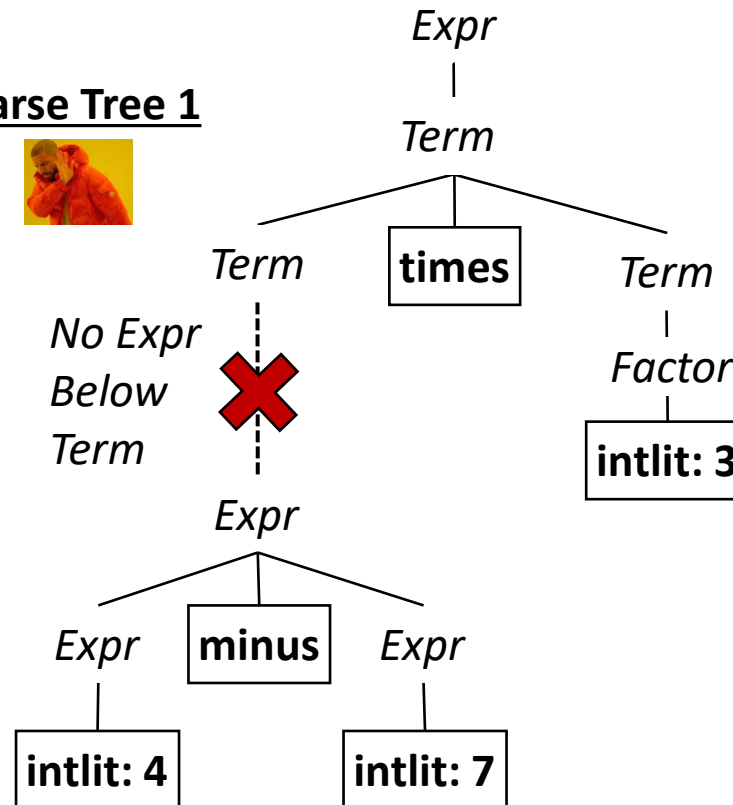
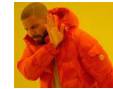
Char Stream:

4 – 7 * 3

Token Stream:

intlit minus intlit times intlit

Parse Tree 1



Did We Fix All Ambiguity?

Resolving Syntactic Ambiguity

Fixed Grammar

P1. $Expr ::= Expr \text{ minus } Expr$

P2. $\quad \quad \quad | Term$

P3. $Term ::= Term \text{ times } Term$

P4. $\quad \quad \quad | Factor$

P5. $Factor ::= \text{intlit}$

Nope!

Grammar
is still
ambiguous!

Char Stream:

3 – 4 – 7



Did We Fix All Ambiguity?

Resolving Syntactic Ambiguity

Fixed Grammar

P1. $Expr ::= Expr \text{ minus } Expr$

P2. $\quad \quad | Term$

P3. $Term ::= Term \text{ times } Term$

P4. $\quad \quad | Factor$

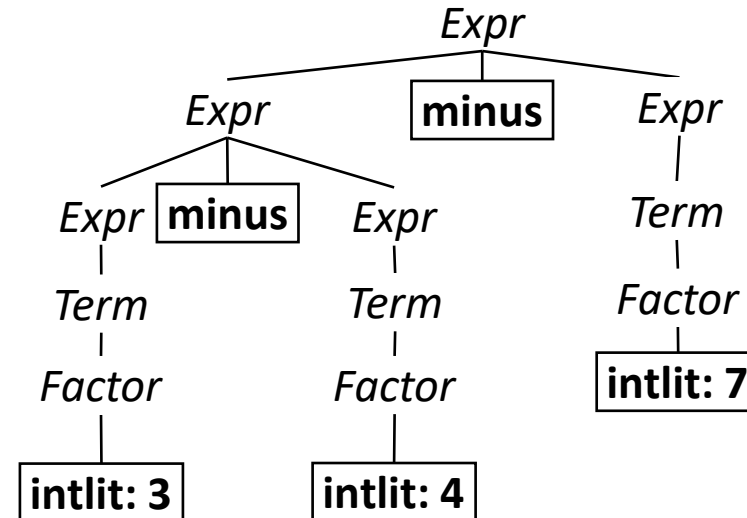
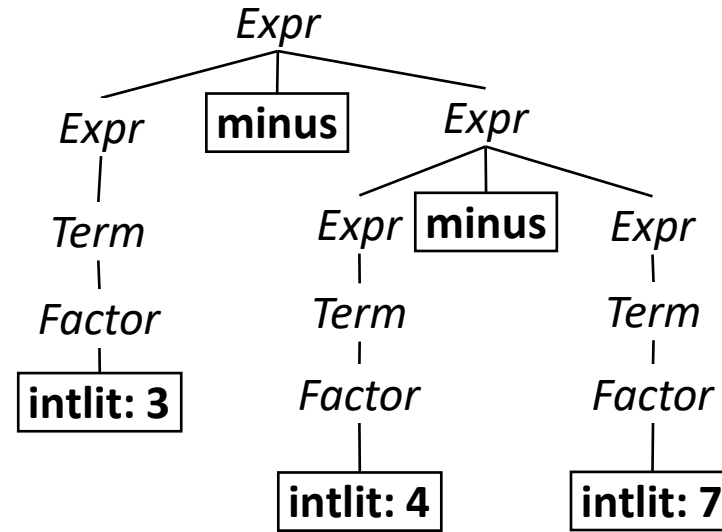
P5. $Factor ::= \text{intlit}$

Nope!

Grammar
is still
ambiguous!

Char Stream:

3 – 4 – 7



A Second Ambiguity Issue

Syntactic Ambiguity: Constraining Parse Trees

Precedence

Solved!
enforce depth with
nonterminal “levels”

- We want correct behavior on

$4 - 7 * 9$

- High-precedence operators
deeper in the tree

Associativity

Idea...
enforce with
production “skew”

- We want correct behavior on

$4 - 7 - 9$

- Minus should be *left associative*:

$a - b - c - d = ((a - b) - c) - d$

A Second Ambiguity Issue

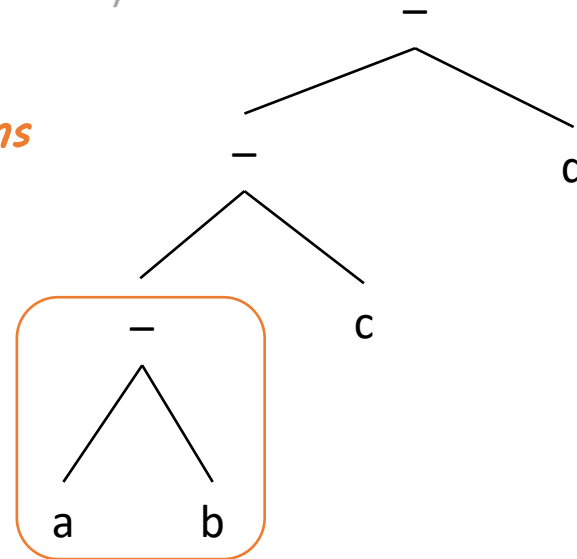
Syntactic Ambiguity: Constraining Parse Trees

Associativity

- We want correct behavior on
4 - 7 - 9
- Minus should be *left associative*:

$$a - b - c - d = ((a - b) - c) - d$$

Deeply nested parens
=
Deep in the tree



Idea...
enforce with
production "skew"

Enforcing Associativity

Resolving Syntactic Ambiguity

- Recognize left-associative operators with *left-recursive* productions
- Recognize right-associative operators with *right-recursive* productions
- **A grammar is *recursive* in (nonterminal) X if**
$$X \stackrel{+}{\Rightarrow} \alpha X \gamma \text{ for arbitrary strings of symbols } \alpha \text{ and } \gamma$$

Enforcing Associativity

Resolving Syntactic Ambiguity

- Recognize left-associative operators with *left-recursive* productions
- Recognize right-associative operators with *right-recursive* productions
- **A grammar is *recursive* in (nonterminal) X if**
$$X \xRightarrow{+} \alpha X \gamma \text{ for arbitrary strings of symbols } \alpha \text{ and } \gamma$$
- **A grammar is *left-recursive* in X if**
$$X \xRightarrow{+} X \gamma \text{ for non-empty string of symbols } \gamma$$

Enforcing Associativity

Resolving Syntactic Ambiguity

- Recognize left-associative operators with *left-recursive* productions
- Recognize right-associative operators with *right-recursive* productions
- **A grammar is *recursive* in (nonterminal) X if**
$$X \stackrel{+}{\Rightarrow} \alpha X \gamma \text{ for arbitrary strings of symbols } \alpha \text{ and } \gamma$$
- **A grammar is *left-recursive* in X if**
$$X \stackrel{+}{\Rightarrow} X \gamma \text{ for non-empty string of symbols } \gamma$$
- **A grammar is *right-recursive* in X if**
$$X \stackrel{+}{\Rightarrow} \alpha X \text{ for non-empty string of symbols } \alpha$$

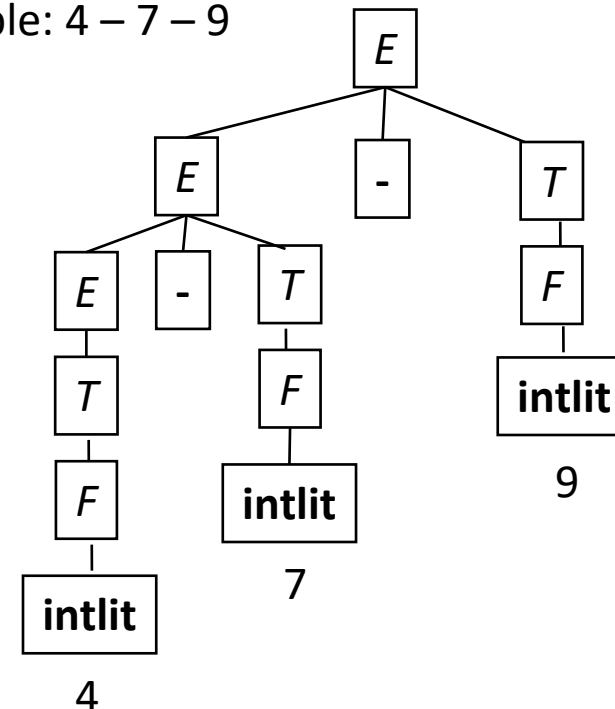
Enforcing Associativity

Resolving Syntactic Ambiguity

- Recognize left-associative operators with *left-recursive* productions
- Recognize right-associative operators with *right-recursive* productions

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Expr} \rightarrow \text{Expr} \text{ minus } \text{Term} \\ & \quad | \text{Term} \\ & \text{Term} \rightarrow \text{Term} \text{ times } \text{Factor} \\ & \quad | \text{Factor} \\ & \text{Factor} \rightarrow \text{intlit} \mid \text{lparen Expr rparen} \end{aligned}$$

Example: 4 – 7 – 9



Enforcing Associativity

Resolving Syntactic Ambiguity

$\text{Expr} \rightarrow \text{Expr} \text{ minus Term}$

| Term

$\text{Term} \rightarrow \text{Term times Factor}$

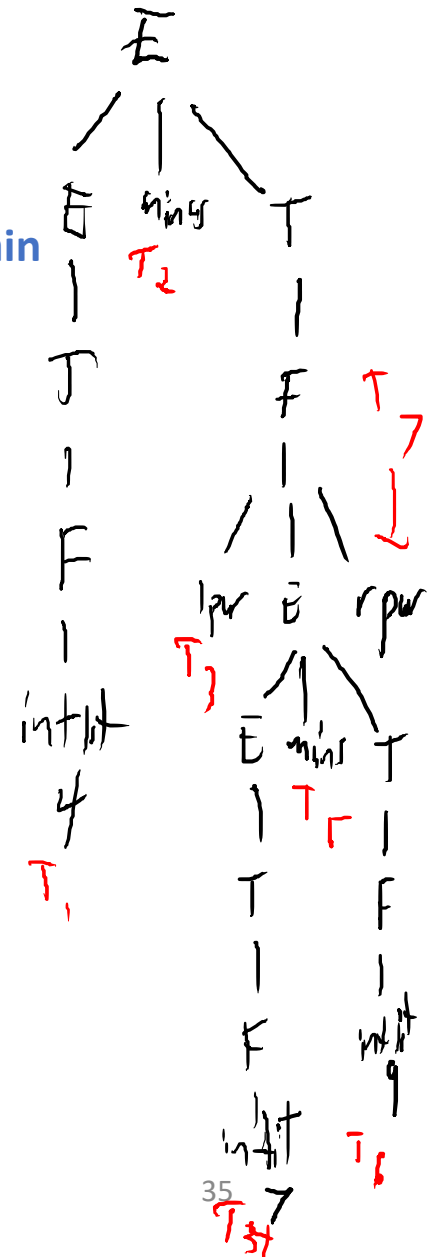
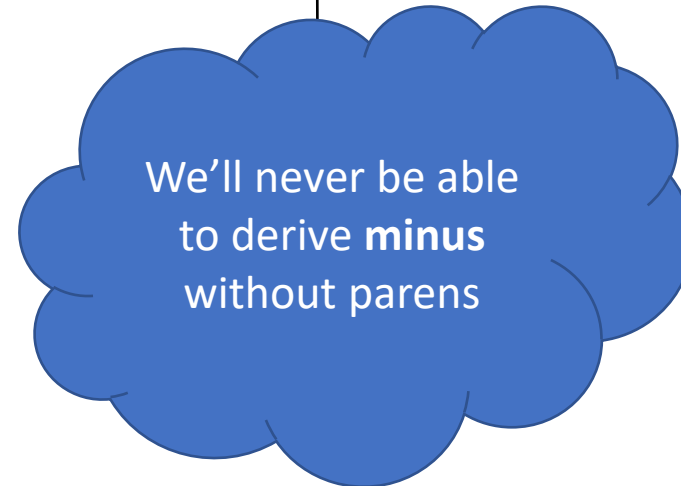
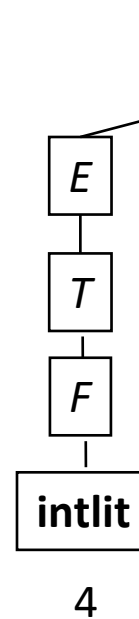
| Factor

$\text{Factor} \rightarrow \text{intlit}$

| lpar Expr rpar

Example: 4 - 7 - 9

Let's try to re-build the ~~wrong~~ parse tree again



Syntactic Ambiguity

Syntactic Ambiguity

2¹ 5¹ 4
1-1 2 (3 4)

Summary

- We set out to make derivations and parse trees map 1-1 with any string in a grammar
- We note several forms of ambiguity and consider fixes:
 - Derivation order: use a fixed strategy
 - Syntactic ambiguity (precedence) – “stratify” the grammar
 - Syntactic ambiguity (associativity) – “lean” the grammar

Next Time

Parse tree translation: ascribing meaning to parse trees

