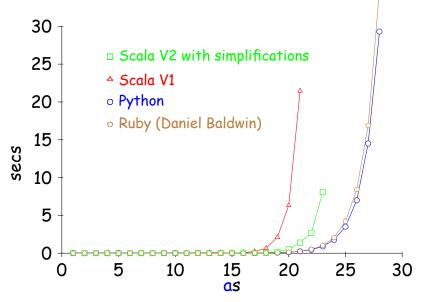
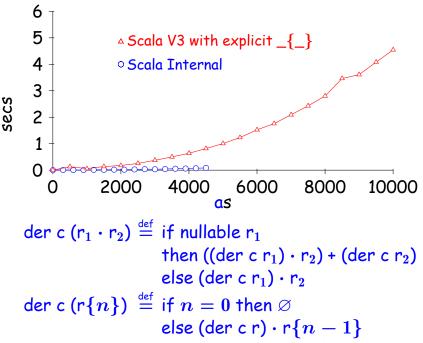
# Automata and Formal Languages (7)

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 $(a?{n})a{n}$ 



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#### **CFGs**

A context-free grammar (CFG) G consists of:

- a finite set of nonterminal symbols (upper case)
- a finite terminal symbols or tokens (lower case)
- a start symbol (which must be a nonterminal)
- a set of rules

#### $A ightarrow \mathsf{rhs}$

where **rhs** are sequences involving terminals and nonterminals (can also be empty).

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where rhs are sequences involving terminals and nonterminals (can also be empty).

We can also allow rules

 $A 
ightarrow \mathsf{rhs}_1 |\mathsf{rhs}_2| \dots$ 

## **A CFG Derivation**

- 0 Begin with a string with only the start symbol S
- Replace any non-terminal X in the string by the right-hand side of some production  $X \rightarrow rhs$
- Repeat 2 until there are no non-terminals

$$S o \ldots o \ldots o \ldots o \ldots$$

# Language of a CFG

Let G be a context-free grammar with start symbol S. Then the language L(G) is:

 $\{c_1\ldots c_n\mid orall i.\ c_i\in T\wedge S o^* c_1\ldots c_n\}$ 

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- Terminals are so-called because there are no rules for replacing them
- Once generated, terminals are "permanent"
- Terminals ought to be tokens of the language (at least in this course)

## **Arithmetic Expressions**

 $egin{array}{rcl} E & 
ightarrow \ num\_token \ E & 
ightarrow \ (\cdot E \cdot) \end{array}$ 

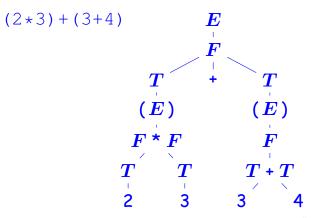
## **Arithmetic Expressions**

$$egin{array}{rcl} E & 
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ightarrow & E \cdot - \cdot E \ E & 
ightarrow & E \cdot - \cdot E \ E & 
ightarrow & E \cdot * \cdot E \ E & 
ightarrow & (\cdot E \cdot) \end{array}$$

A CFG is left-recursive if it has a nonterminal E such that  $E \rightarrow^+ E \cdot \ldots$ 

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#### **Parse Trees**



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# **Ambiguous Grammars**

A CFG is ambiguous if there is a string that has at least parse trees.

 $egin{array}{rcl} E & 
ightarrow \ num\_token \ E & 
ightarrow \ E \cdot + \cdot E \ E & 
ightarrow \ E \cdot - \cdot E \ E & 
ightarrow \ E \cdot * \cdot E \ E & 
ightarrow \ E \cdot * \cdot E \ E & 
ightarrow \ (\cdot E \cdot) \end{array}$ 

1 + 2 + 3 + 4

# **Dangling Else**

Another ambiguous grammar:

# $egin{array}{rcl} E & ightarrow & ext{if $E$ then $E$} \ & & & ext{if $E$ then $E$ else $E$} \ & & & ext{id} \end{array}$

if a then if x then y else c

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