

# cse 311: foundations of computing

Fall 2015

## Lecture 21: Context-free grammars and finite state machines

$\gamma^*(0U1)0$



- All binary strings that have at least one 1.

$$(0^*1)^* \mid (0^*1)^*$$

- All binary strings that have an even # of 1's

$$(0^*10^*10^*)^* 0^*$$

- All binary strings that *don't* contain 101

$$0^* (11^*00^*)^* 1^* 0^*$$

# limitations of regular expressions

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- Not all languages can be specified by regular expressions

$$L = \{0^n 1^n : n \geq 0\}$$

- Even some easy things like
  - Palindromes
  - Strings with equal number of 0's and 1's
- But also more complicated structures in programming languages
  - Matched parentheses
  - Properly formed arithmetic expressions
  - etc.

( ) ( ( ) )

- A Context-Free Grammar (CFG) is given by a finite set of substitution rules involving
  - A finite set  $V$  of *variables* that can be replaced
  - Alphabet  $\Sigma$  of *terminal symbols* that can't be replaced
  - One variable, usually  $S$ , is called the *start symbol*
- The rules involving a variable  $A$  are written as

$$A \rightarrow w_1 \mid w_2 \mid \cdots \mid w_k$$

where each  $w_i$  is a string of variables and terminals:

$$w_i \in (V \cup \Sigma)^*$$

# how CFGs generate strings

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- Begin with start symbol **S**
- If there is some variable **A** in the current string you can replace it by one of the  $w$ 's in the rules for **A**
  - $A \rightarrow w_1 \mid w_2 \mid \cdots \mid w_k$   $B \rightarrow w_{k+1} \mid w_{k+2}$
  - Write this as  $xAy \Rightarrow xw_1y$
  - Repeat until no variables left
- The set of strings the CFG generates are all strings produced in this way that have no variables

# example

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Example:  $S \rightarrow 0S0 \mid 1S1 \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid \varepsilon$

$S \rightarrow 0S0 \rightarrow 01S10 \rightarrow 011S110 \rightarrow 0110110$

$L = \text{palindromes}$

Example:  $S \rightarrow 0S \mid S1 \mid \varepsilon$

$L = \{0^*1^*\}$

# example

Grammar for  $\{0^n 1^n : n \geq 0\}$

(all strings with same # of 0's and 1's with all 0's before 1's)

$$S \rightarrow 0S1 \mid \varepsilon$$

Example: Grammar for Matched Parenthesis  $\Sigma = \{ (, ) \}$ .

~~$S \rightarrow (S) \mid S(S) \mid (S)S \mid \varepsilon$~~

$( ) \quad ( ( ) ) \quad ) ($   
          ✓                  X

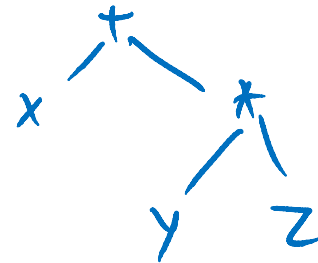
$( ( ) ) ( ( ) )$

$$S \rightarrow SS \mid (S) \mid \varepsilon$$

$$S \rightarrow S(S)S \mid \varepsilon$$

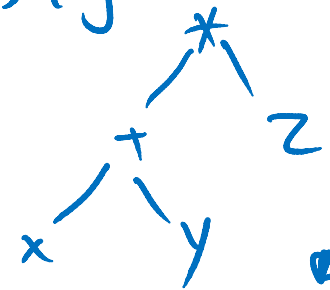
# simple arithmetic expressions

$E \rightarrow E + E \mid E * E \mid (E) \mid x \mid y \mid z \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid 3 \mid 4$   
 $\mid 5 \mid 6 \mid 7 \mid 8 \mid 9$



Generate  $(2 * x) + y$

$E \rightarrow E + E \rightarrow E + y \rightarrow (E) + y \rightarrow (E * E) + y$   
 $\rightarrow (2 * E) + y \rightarrow (2 * x) + y$



Generate  $x + y * z$  in two fundamentally different ways

$E \rightarrow E + E \rightarrow x + E \rightarrow x + E * E \rightarrow x + y * E \rightarrow x + y * z.$

$E \rightarrow E * E \rightarrow E * z \rightarrow E + E * z \rightarrow x + E * z \rightarrow x + y * z$



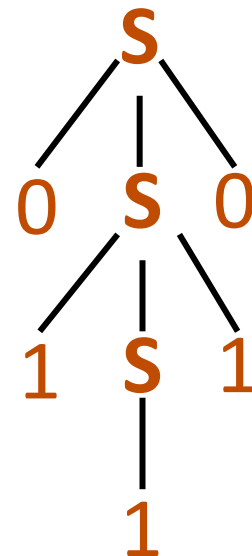
Suppose that grammar  $G$  generates a string  $x$

A **parse tree** of  $x$  for  $G$  has

- Root labeled  $S$  (start symbol of  $G$ )
- The children of any node labeled  $A$  are labeled by symbols of  $w$  left-to-right for some rule  $A \rightarrow w$
- The symbols of  $x$  label the leaves ordered left-to-right

$$S \rightarrow OSO \mid 1S1 \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid \varepsilon$$

Parse tree of  $01110$ :



# CFGs and recursively-defined sets of strings

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- A CFG with the start symbol **S** as its only variable recursively defines the set of strings of terminals that **S** can generate
- A CFG with more than one variable is a simultaneous recursive definition of the sets of strings generated by *each* of its variables
  - Sometimes necessary to use more than one

# building precedence in simple arithmetic expressions

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- **E** – expression (start symbol)
- **T** – term   **F** – factor   **I** – identifier   **N** – number

$$E \rightarrow T \mid \textcircled{E+T}$$

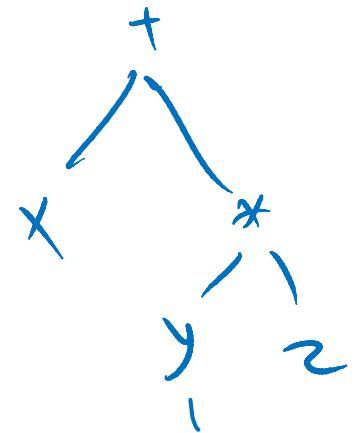
$$T \rightarrow F \mid F * T$$

$$F \rightarrow (E) \mid I \mid N$$

$$I \rightarrow x \mid y \mid z$$

$$N \rightarrow 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid 3 \mid 4 \mid 5 \mid 6 \mid 7 \mid 8 \mid 9$$

$x + y * z$



$E \rightarrow E + T \rightarrow E + F * T \rightarrow E + I * T \rightarrow E + y * T$   
 $\rightarrow E + y * F \rightarrow E + y * I \rightarrow E + y * z \rightarrow T + y * z$   
 $\rightarrow F + y * z \rightarrow I + y * z \rightarrow x + y * z$

# Backus-Naur form (same as CFG)

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## BNF (Backus-Naur Form) grammars

- Originally used to define programming languages
- Variables denoted by long names in angle brackets, e.g.  
    <identifier>, <if-then-else-statement>,  
    <assignment-statement>, <condition>  
    ::= used instead of  $\rightarrow$

```
statement:
  ((identifier | "case" constant-expression | "default") ":")*
  (expression? ";" |
   block |
   "if" "(" expression ")" statement |
   "if" "(" expression ")" statement "else" statement |
   "switch" "(" expression ")" statement |
   "while" "(" expression ")" statement |
   "do" statement "while" "(" expression ")" ";" |
   "for" "(" expression? ";" expression? ";" expression? ")" statement |
   "goto" identifier ";" |
   "continue" ";" |
   "break" ";" |
   "return" expression? ";"
  )

block: "{" declaration* statement* "}"

expression:
  assignment-expression%

assignment-expression: (
  unary-expression (
    "=" | "*" = " | "/" = " | "%=" | "+=" | "-=" | "<<=" | ">>=" | "&=" |
    "^=" | "|="
  )
)* conditional-expression

conditional-expression:
  logical-OR-expression ( "?" expression ":" conditional-expression )?
```

Back to middle school:

$\langle \text{sentence} \rangle ::= \langle \text{noun phrase} \rangle \langle \text{verb phrase} \rangle$

$\langle \text{noun phrase} \rangle ::= \langle \text{article} \rangle \langle \text{adjective} \rangle \langle \text{noun} \rangle$

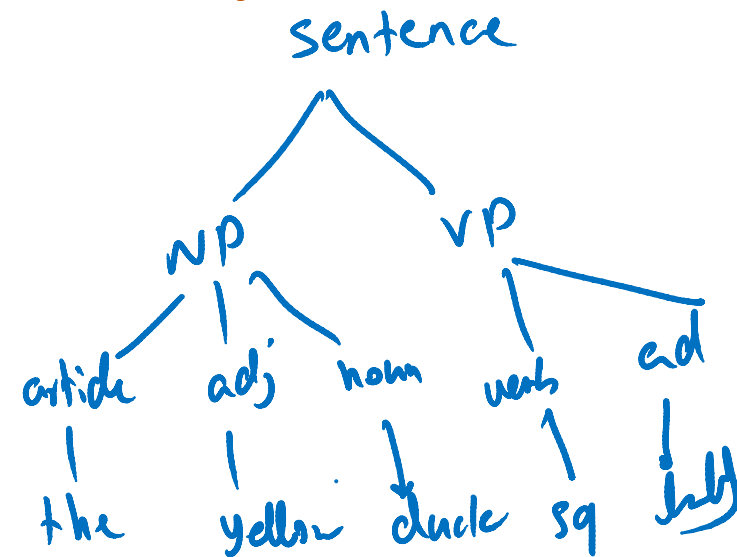
$\langle \text{verb phrase} \rangle ::= \langle \text{verb} \rangle \langle \text{adverb} \rangle | \langle \text{verb} \rangle \langle \text{object} \rangle$

$\langle \text{object} \rangle ::= \langle \text{noun phrase} \rangle$

Parse:

The yellow duck squeaked loudly

The red truck hit a parked car

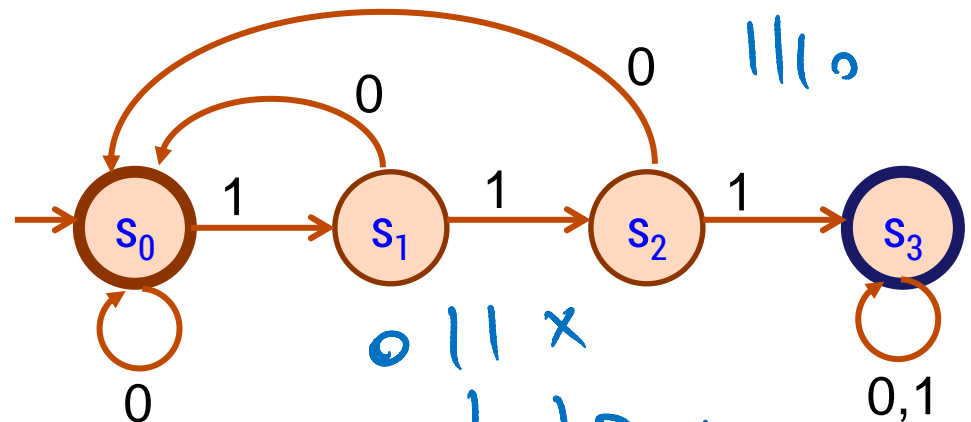


# finite state machines

- States
- Transitions on inputs
- Start state and final states
- The language recognized by a machine is the set of strings that reach a final state

$L = \{ \text{three consecutive ones} \}$

State	0	1
$s_0$	$s_0$	$s_1$
$s_1$	$s_0$	$s_2$
$s_2$	$s_0$	$s_3$
$s_3$	$s_3$	$s_3$



0 1 1 x

0 1 0 1 0 x

0 1 1 0 0 1 0

# applications of FSMs (aka finite automata)

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- Implementation of regular expression matching in programs like **grep**
- Control structures for sequential logic in digital circuits
- Algorithms for communication and cache-coherence protocols
  - Each agent runs its own FSM
- Design specifications for reactive systems
  - Components are communicating FSMs



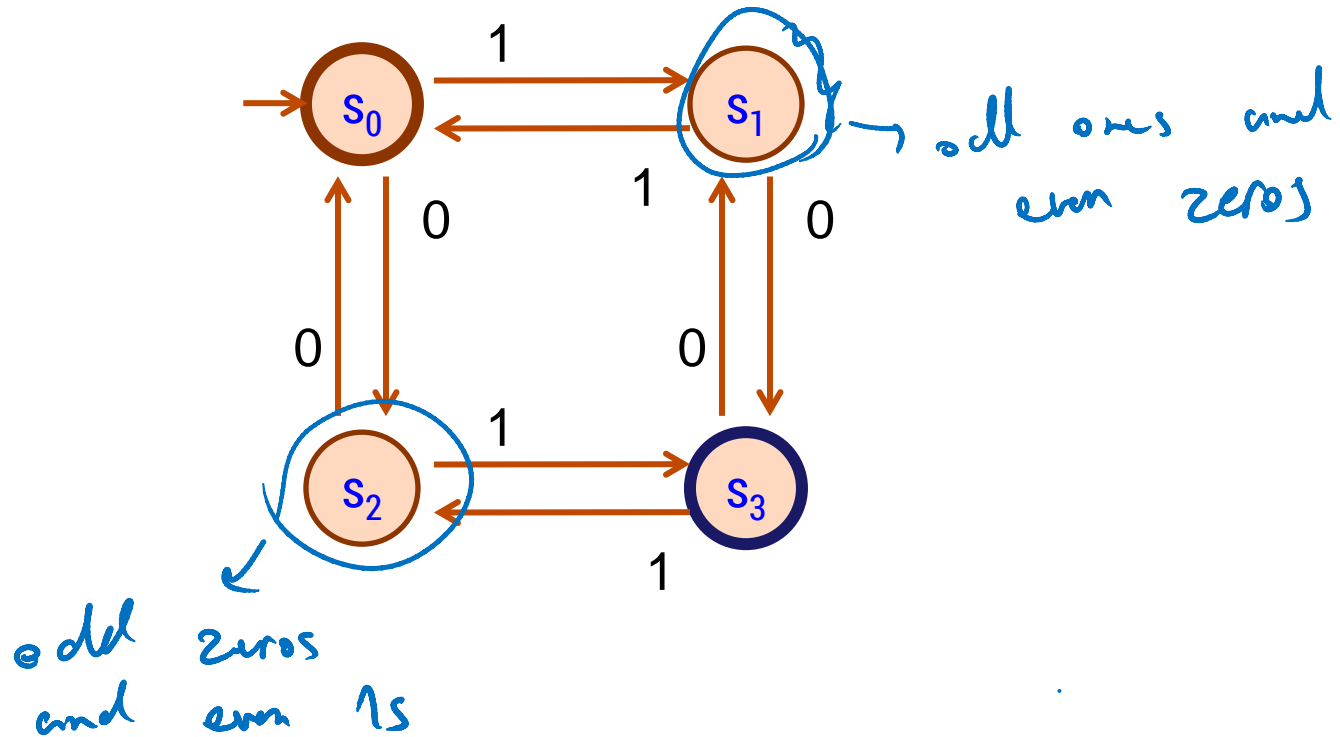
# applications of FSMs (aka finite automata)

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- Formal verification of systems
  - Is an unsafe state reachable?
- Computer games
  - FSMs provide worlds to explore
- Minimization algorithms for FSMs can be extended to more general models used in
  - Text prediction
  - Speech recognition

# what language does this machine recognize?

$L_2$  { all strings when  
they have an odd  
number of 0s  
and odd # of 1s }



## can we recognize these languages with DFAs?

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- $\emptyset$
- $\Sigma^*$
- $\{ x \in \{0,1\}^* : \text{len}(x) > 1 \}$

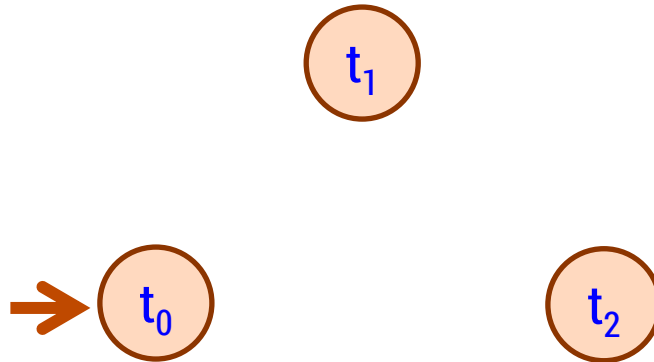
FSM that accepts binary strings with a 1 three positions from the end

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$M_1$ : Strings with an even number of 2's

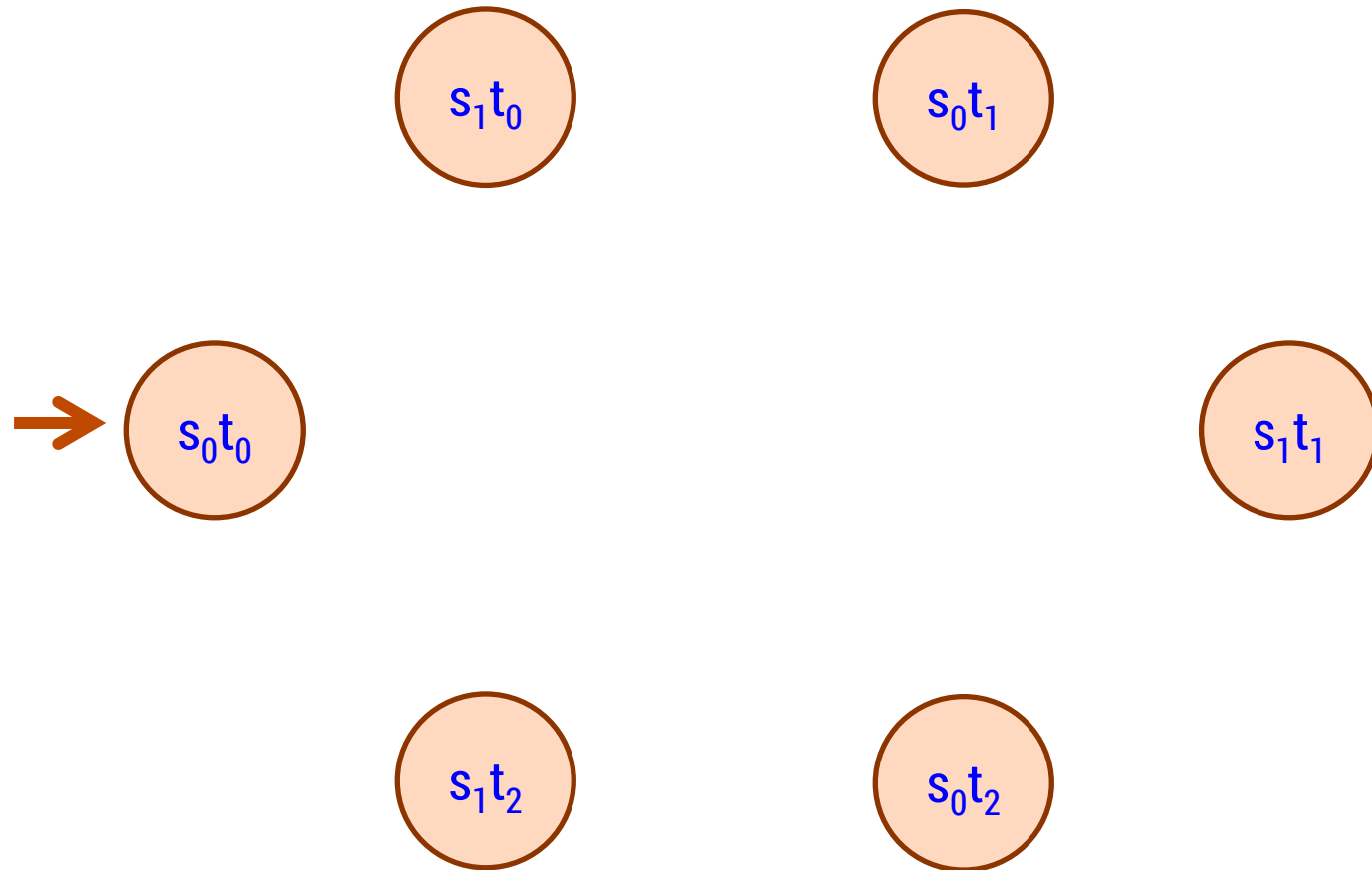


$M_2$ : Strings where the sum of digits mod 3 is 0



both: even number of 2's and sum mod 3 = 0

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DFA that accepts strings of a's, b's, c's with no more than 3 a's

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“Remember the last three bits”

## 3 bit shift register

