# Motivating example

In this lecture we discuss techniques (that sometimes work) to convert a grammar that is not LL(1) into an equivalent grammar that is LL(1).

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- In general, rules of the form
   A → Aα | β are called left recursive and rules of the form
   A → αA | β right recursive.
- Grammars equivalent to the regular expression a<sup>\*</sup> are given by pause A → Aa | ε or A → aA | ε

#### If we remove the left recursion from the rule

 $exp \rightarrow exp + term \mid exp - term \mid term$ 

we obtain

Left Recursion Removal and Left Factoring

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- Left factoring is required when two or more grammar rule choices share a common prefix string, as in the rule A → α β | α γ
- Obviously, an LL(1) parser cannot distinguish between the production choices in such a situation.
- ▶ In the following example we have exactly this problem:

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#### Consider the following grammar of if-statements:

if-stmt  $\rightarrow$  if ( exp ) statement  $\mid$  if ( exp ) statement else statement

#### The left factored form of this grammar is

## Left factoring continue

Here is a typical example where a programming language fails to be LL(1):

```
statement \rightarrow assign-stmt \mid call-stmt \mid other
assign-stmt \rightarrow identifier := exp
call-stmt \rightarrow identifier ( exp-list )
```

This grammar is not in a form that can be left factored. We must first replace assign-stmt and call-stmt by the right-hand sides of their defining productions:

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Then we left factor to obtain:

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```
\begin{array}{l} \textit{statement} \rightarrow \textit{identifier statement}' \mid \textit{other} \\ \textit{statement}' \rightarrow := exp \mid (exp-list) \end{array}
```

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