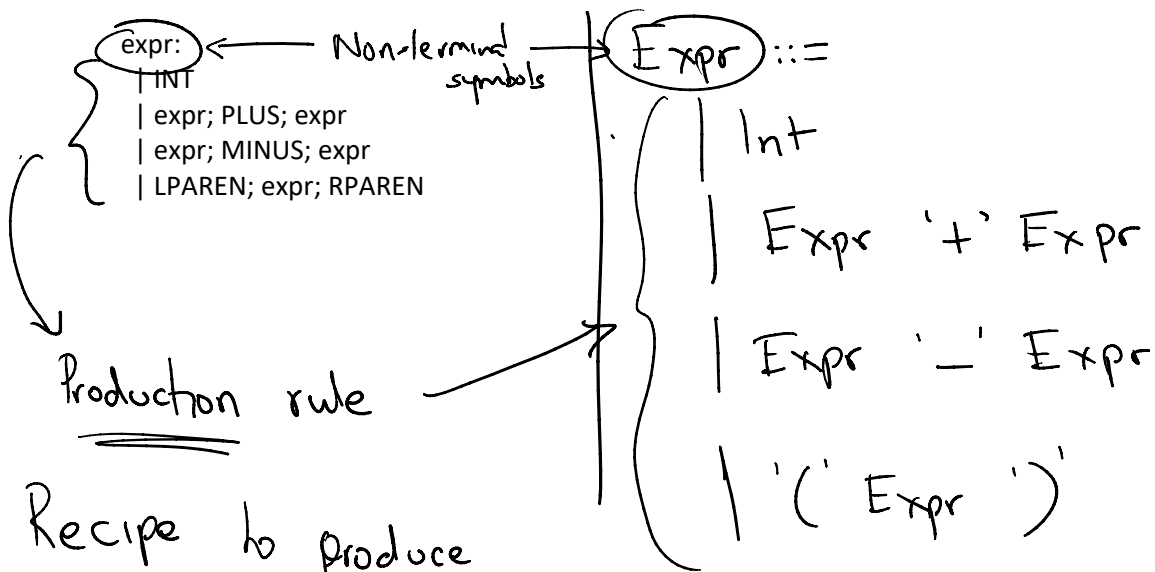


$$0.5 = 2^{-1}$$

# Describing the syntax of arithmetic expressions

(Attempt 1)



Recipe to produce  
all valid expressions  
that we can provide  
to the calculator

type expr =  
| Int of int  
| Plus of expr \* expr  
| Minus of expr \* expr

Expression as it  
lives in the Int.

lives in the text  
file / string

Plus of  $expr + expr$   
Minus of  $expr - expr$

Expression as it lives in  
our interpreter (which is  
itself written in Ocaml.)

---

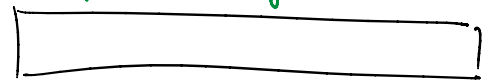
$Expr ::= INT$

|  $Expr + Expr$

|  $Expr - Expr$

|  $'(' Expr ')'$

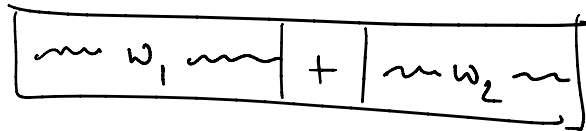
① Sequence of characters



② Parser tells us that  
it is well formed.

③ In addition it is

well-formed because:

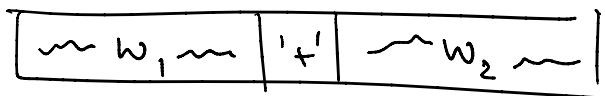


a. There is a '+' <sup>somewhere</sup> in the middle

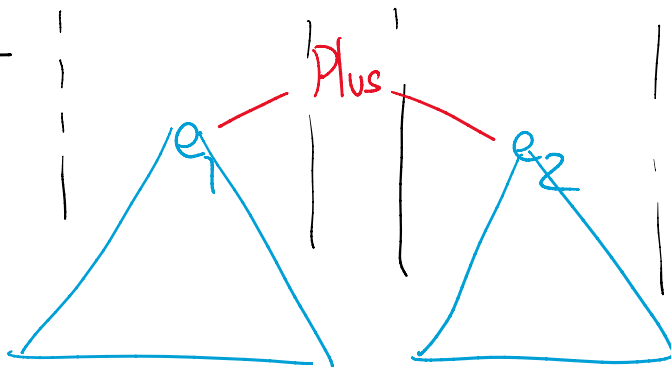
b. Both substrings  $w_1$  &  $w_2$  to the left & right are well-formed.

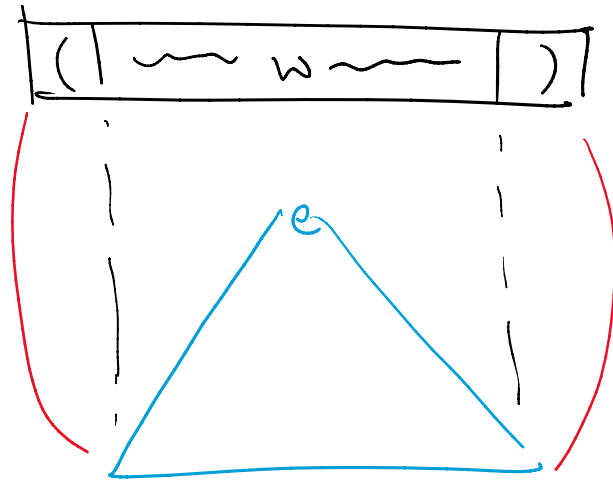
c. In other words, there must be ASTs  $e_1$  &  $e_2$

String world



OCaml world





$$3 + 4 - 5$$

$$(3 + 4) - 5$$

or

$$3 + (4 - 5)$$

The AST associated with the full string

"( w )"

is the same as the AST associated with  
the substring

"w"