

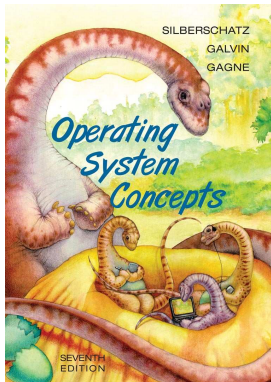
Syntax Analysis - Parsing

Frédéric Haziza <daz@it.uu.se>

Department of Computer Systems
Uppsala University

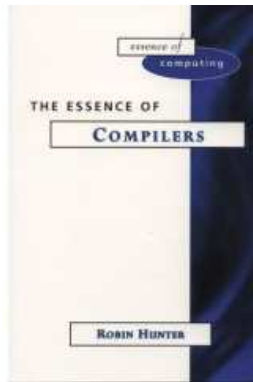
Spring 2008





Operating Systems

- Process Management
- Memory Management
- Storage Management



Compilers

- Compiling process & Lexical analysis
- Parsing
- Semantic & Code generation

Recall – Lexical Analysis

- Transforms the stream of characters into **tokens**
 - Uses **regular expression** to validate tokens
 - Uses **Finite Automata** for transformation mechanism
-
- Lexical Analysers referred as **lexers**

Analysis

Lexical
analysis

Syntax
analysis

Semantics
analysis

Synthesis

Machine
independ-
ant code
generation

Optimization
of machine
independ-
ant code

Storage
Allocation

Machine
code
generation

Optimization
of machine
code

Goal

Identify if (input) token streams satisfy the program syntax

We need:

- Expressive way to describe the syntax
- Acceptor that determine if the token streams satisfy the syntax of the program

For Lexical analysis:

- Regular expressions, to describe tokens
- Finite Automata, as acceptors for regular expressions

Regular Expressions?

Why not using RE again but, this time, on tokens?

Reason: Not enough power to express the syntax in programming languages

Example: Nested constructs like Blocks, Expressions, Statements.

Solution: Use Context-Free Grammars



Context-Free Grammars

- **Terminal symbols:** token or ϵ
- **Non-terminal symbols:** syntactic variables
- **Start Symbol S :** special non-terminal
- **Productions** of the form $LHS \rightarrow RHS$
 - LHS: a single non-terminal
 - RHS: a string of terminals and non-terminals
 - Specifies how non-terminals may be expanded

Example

- $S \rightarrow a S a$
- $S \rightarrow T$
- $T \rightarrow b T b$
- $T \rightarrow \epsilon$

Example: Balanced-parenthesis

Grammar for balanced parenthesis:

$$1 \quad S \rightarrow \{ S \} S$$

$$2 \quad S \rightarrow \epsilon$$

If a grammar accepts a string, there is a **derivation** of that string using productions.

Example (String $\{\{\}\}\}$)

$$S \rightarrow \{ S \} S \rightarrow \{ S \} \epsilon \rightarrow \{ \{ S \} S \} \epsilon \rightarrow \{ \{ S \} \epsilon \} \epsilon \rightarrow \{ \{ \epsilon \} \epsilon \} \epsilon$$

Short-Hand notation

■ $S \rightarrow a S a$

■ $S \rightarrow T$

■ $T \rightarrow b T b$

■ $T \rightarrow \epsilon$

\Rightarrow

■ $S \rightarrow a S a \mid T$

■ $T \rightarrow b T b \mid \epsilon$



Derivation order

2 standard orders: left-most and right-most

Left-most derivation: in the string, find the left-most non-terminal and apply a production

$$E + S \rightarrow 1 + S$$

Right-most derivation: in the string, find the right-most non-terminal and apply a production

$$E + S \rightarrow E + E + S$$



Grammar for Sum

- $S \rightarrow E + S \mid E$
- $E \rightarrow \textit{number} \mid (S)$

Expanded:

- 1 $S \rightarrow E + S$
- 2 $S \rightarrow E$
- 3 $E \rightarrow \textit{number}$
- 4 $E \rightarrow (S)$

Example of accepted input:
(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5



Derivation Example

Example (Derivation of $(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5$)

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow E + S \rightarrow (S) + S \rightarrow (E + S) + S \rightarrow \\ &\rightarrow (1 + S) + S \rightarrow (1 + E + S) + S \rightarrow \\ &\rightarrow (1 + 2 + S) + S \rightarrow (1 + 2 + E) + S \rightarrow \\ &\rightarrow (1 + 2 + (S)) + S \rightarrow (1 + 2 + (E + S)) + S \rightarrow \\ &\rightarrow (1 + 2 + (3 + S)) + S \\ &\rightarrow (1 + 2 + (3 + E)) + S \\ &\rightarrow (1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + S \\ &\rightarrow (1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + E \\ &\rightarrow (1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5 \end{aligned}$$

Parse Tree vs Abstract Syntax Tree

Concrete Syntax Tree = Parse Tree



Ambiguous grammar

Example

$S \rightarrow S + S \mid S * S \mid \textit{number}$

Different derivations produce different parse trees

Expression: $1 + 2 * 3$

Derivation 1:

$S \rightarrow S + S \rightarrow 1 + S \rightarrow 1 + S * S \rightarrow 1 + 2 * S \rightarrow 1 + 2 * 3$

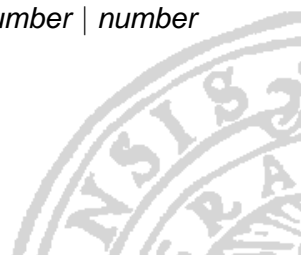
Derivation 2:

$S \rightarrow S * S \rightarrow S * 3 \rightarrow S + S * 3 \rightarrow S + 2 * 3 \rightarrow 1 + 2 * 3$

Eliminating ambiguity

- By adding non-terminals
- By allowing recursion to the right only, or to the left only

$$S \rightarrow S + S \mid S * S \mid \textit{number} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{array}{l} S \rightarrow S + T \mid T \\ T \rightarrow T * \textit{number} \mid \textit{number} \end{array}$$



Conclusion on Grammars

- Context-Free Grammar allow concise syntax specification of programming languages
- A CFG specifies how to convert token stream to parse tree (if non ambiguous!)



Parsing Top-Down

Goal

Construct a derivation of a string,
while reading in the token stream

Top-Down = Left-most

We start from the start symbol and
generate the sentence

Bottom-Up = Right-most

We start from the sentence and
reduce it to the start symbol

Top-Down Lookahead

Want to decide which production to apply based on the next symbols

- $\{x^m y^n \mid m, n > 0\}$
- $S \rightarrow XY$
- $X \rightarrow xX$
- $X \rightarrow x$
- $Y \rightarrow yY$
- $Y \rightarrow y$

Generate xxxyyy:

$S \rightarrow XY \rightarrow xXY \rightarrow xxXY \rightarrow xxxY \rightarrow xxxyY \rightarrow xxxyyy$



Top-Down Lookahead

At most stages of the derivation, knowledge was required of *two* symbols beyond those generated so far

Wish

Seek grammars which require at most a single symbol of **lookahead** at each stage of the derivation, in order to identify the correct production to apply

LL(1)

Left-to-right scanning, **L**eft-most derivation, **1** lookahead symbol

Bad example

Example (Bad)

- $S \rightarrow E + S \mid E$
- $E \rightarrow \textit{number} \mid (S)$

(1)

$S \rightarrow E \rightarrow (S) \rightarrow (E) \rightarrow (1)$

(1)+2

$S \rightarrow E + S \rightarrow (S) + S \rightarrow$
 $(E) + S \rightarrow (1) + S \rightarrow (1) + 2$

Making the grammar LL(1)

Problem: Can't decide which S production to apply until we see symbol after the expression

Left-factoring: Factor common S prefix and add a new non-terminal S' at the decision point

$$S \rightarrow E+S$$

$$S \rightarrow E$$

$$E \rightarrow \textit{number}$$

$$E \rightarrow (S)$$

$$S \rightarrow ES'$$

$$S' \rightarrow +S$$

$$S' \rightarrow \epsilon$$

$$E \rightarrow \textit{number}$$

$$E \rightarrow (S)$$



Predictive Parsing

For LL(1) grammar

For a given non-terminal, the lookahead symbol determines uniquely the production to apply

Top-Down parsing = Predictive parsing

| | | | |
|---------------------|--|---|---------------|
| S | | (| (1+2+(3+4))+5 |
| → E S' | | (| (1+2+(3+4))+5 |
| → (S)S' | | 1 | (1+2+(3+4))+5 |
| → (E S')S' | | 1 | (1+2+(3+4))+5 |
| → (1 S')S' | | + | (1+2+(3+4))+5 |
| → (1 S)S' | | 2 | (1+2+(3+4))+5 |
| → (1 E S')S' | | 2 | (1+2+(3+4))+5 |
| → (1+2 S)S' | | + | (1+2+(3+4))+5 |

Using table

| | | |
|----------------------|---|---------------|
| S | (| (1+2+(3+4))+5 |
| → E S' | (| (1+2+(3+4))+5 |
| → (S)S' | 1 | (1+2+(3+4))+5 |
| → (E S')S' | 1 | (1+2+(3+4))+5 |
| → (1 S')S' | + | (1+2+(3+4))+5 |
| → (1 S)S' | 2 | (1+2+(3+4))+5 |
| → (1 E S')S' | 2 | (1+2+(3+4))+5 |
| → (1+2 S ')S' | + | (1+2+(3+4))+5 |

| | number | + | (|) | ⊥ |
|-----------|-----------------|------|--------------|-----|-----|
| S | → <i>ES'</i> | | → <i>ES'</i> | | |
| S' | | → +S | | → ε | → ε |
| E | → <i>number</i> | | → (S) | | |

Recursive-Descent Parser

| | number | + | (|) | \perp |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| $\hookrightarrow S$ | $\rightarrow ES'$ | | | $\rightarrow ES'$ | |
| S' | | $\rightarrow +S$ | | $\rightarrow \epsilon$ | $\rightarrow \epsilon$ |
| E | $\rightarrow number$ | | $\rightarrow (S)$ | | |

```
void parse_S(){
    switch(token){
        case number: parse_E(); parse_S'(); return;
        case '(': parse_E(); parse_S'(); return;
        default: error();
    }
}
```



Recursive-Descent Parser

| | number | + | (|) | \perp |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| S | $\rightarrow ES'$ | | | $\rightarrow ES'$ | |
| $\hookrightarrow S'$ | | $\rightarrow +S$ | | $\rightarrow \epsilon$ | $\rightarrow \epsilon$ |
| E | $\rightarrow number$ | | | $\rightarrow (S)$ | |

```
void parse_S'(){
    switch(token){
        case '+':token=input.read();parse_S();return;
        case ')':return;
        case EOF: return;
        default: error();
    }
}
```



Recursive-Descent Parser

| | number | + | (|) | \perp |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| S | $\rightarrow ES'$ | | | $\rightarrow ES'$ | |
| S' | | $\rightarrow +S$ | | $\rightarrow \epsilon$ | $\rightarrow \epsilon$ |
| $\hookrightarrow E$ | $\rightarrow \textit{number}$ | | | $\rightarrow (S)$ | |

```
void parse_E(){
    switch(token){
        case number: token = input.read(); return;
        case '(': token = input.read(); parse_S();
                if(token != ')') error();
        token = input.read(); return;
        default: error();
    }
}
```



Parse table

Grammar \Rightarrow Parse Table

For every non-terminal, every lookahead symbol can be handled by at most one production

Grammar is LL(1) = no conflicting entries in the table

Example (Ambiguous \Rightarrow Conflicts)

$S \rightarrow S + S \mid S * S \mid \textit{number}$

| | number | + | * |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| S | $\rightarrow \textit{number}$ | $\rightarrow S + S$ | $\rightarrow S * S$ |

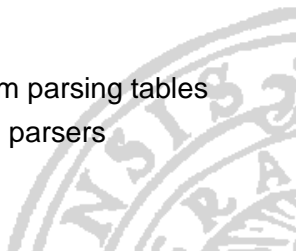
Summary

LL(k) grammar

- left-to-right scanning
- left-most derivation
- can determine what production to apply from the next k symbols
- Can automatically build predictive parsing tables

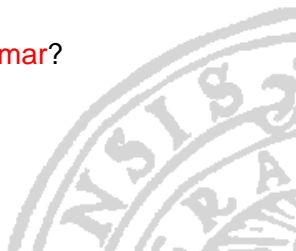
Predictive Parsers

- Can be easily built for LL(k) grammars from parsing tables
- Also called **recursive-descent** or **top-down** parsers



So far

- Have been using grammar for language of “sums with parenthesis”: $(1+2+(3+4))+5$
- Started with simple, **right-associative grammar**:
 - $S \rightarrow E+S \mid E$
 - $E \rightarrow \textit{number} \mid (S)$
- Transformed it into LL(1) grammar by **left-factoring**:
 - $S \rightarrow ES'$
 - $S' \rightarrow \epsilon \mid +S$
 - $E \rightarrow \textit{number} \mid (S)$
- What if we start with **left-associative grammar**?
 - $S \rightarrow E+S \mid E$
 - $E \rightarrow \textit{number} \mid (S)$



Left vs Right associative

Right-recursion: right-associative

- $S \rightarrow E+S \mid E$
- $E \rightarrow \textit{number}$

Left-recursion: left-associative

- $S \rightarrow E+S \mid E$
- $E \rightarrow \textit{number}$



Problem

Left-recursive grammar are not LL(1)

There exists an algorithm for **left-recursion elimination**:
Left-recursion \Rightarrow Right-recursion



Creating LL(1) grammar

1 Start with **left-recursive grammar**:

- $S \rightarrow S+E$
- $S \rightarrow E$

2 Apply **left-recursion elimination**:

- $S \rightarrow ES'$
- $S' \rightarrow +ES' \mid \epsilon$

3 Start with **right-associative grammar**

- $S \rightarrow E+S$
- $S \rightarrow E$

4 Apply **left-factoring** to eliminate common prefixes:

- $S \rightarrow ES'$
- $S' \rightarrow +S \mid \epsilon$



Top-Down Parsing Summary

Language Grammar



Left-recursion elimination / left-factoring



LL(1) Grammar



Predictive parsing table



Recursive-descent parser



Parser with AST generation



Bottom-Up Parsing

- More powerfull
- **LR grammars** – more expressive than LL
 - construct right-most derivations
 - left-recursive: virtually all programming languages
 - Easier to express programming language syntax
- **Shift-reduce parsers**
 - Parsers for LR grammars
 - Automatic parser generators, like YACC



Parsing Top-Down

Goal

Construct a derivation of a string,
while reading in the token stream

Top-Down = Left-most

We start from the start symbol and
generate the sentence

Bottom-Up = Right-most

We start from the sentence and
reduce it to the start symbol

Backwards...

Start with tokens and
end with the start symbol

$$\blacksquare S \rightarrow S + E \mid E$$

$$\blacksquare E \rightarrow \textit{number} \mid (S)$$

$(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5 \leftarrow (E + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5$
 $\leftarrow (S + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5 \leftarrow (S + E + (3 + 4)) + 5$
 $\leftarrow (S + (3 + 4)) + 5 \leftarrow (S + (E + 4)) + 5$
 $\leftarrow (S + (S + 4)) + 5 \leftarrow (S + (S + E)) + 5$
 $\leftarrow (S + (S)) + 5$
 $\leftarrow (S + E) + 5$
 $\leftarrow (S) + 5$
 $\leftarrow E + 5$
 $\leftarrow S + 5$
 $\leftarrow S + E$
 $\leftarrow S$

↑ Right-most derivation

Advantages

Advantages of bottom-up parsing

Can postpone the selection of productions until more of the input is scanned



Example

- $\{x^m y^n \mid m, n > 0\}$
- $S \rightarrow XY$
- $X \rightarrow xX$
- $X \rightarrow x$
- $Y \rightarrow yY$
- $Y \rightarrow y$

Generate xxxyyy:

$S \rightarrow XY \rightarrow XyY \rightarrow Xyy \rightarrow xXyy \rightarrow xxXyy \rightarrow xxxyy$

Recall with top-down/left-most:

$S \rightarrow XY \rightarrow xXY \rightarrow xxXY \rightarrow xxxY \rightarrow xxxyY \rightarrow xxxyy$

Example

Generate xxxyyy:

$S \rightarrow XY \rightarrow XyY \rightarrow Xyy \rightarrow xXyy \rightarrow xxXyy \rightarrow xxxyy$

$xxxxyy \rightarrow xxXyy \rightarrow xXyy \rightarrow Xyy \rightarrow XyY \rightarrow XY \rightarrow S$

In bottom-up parsing, right sides of productions are not recognized until they have been completely read
 \Rightarrow Need to store partially recognized right sides (until replacable): **a Stack**

Bottom-Up information = Information like in top-down + **Stack**

Shift-Reduce Parsing

Parsing

Sequence of **shift** and **reduce**

- **Shift**: Move lookahead token to stack

| Stack | Input | Action |
|-------|--------------|---------|
| (| 1+2+(3+4))+5 | Shift 1 |
| (1 | +2+(3+4))+5 | |

- **Reduce**: Replace symbol γ from top of stack with non-terminal symbol X , corresponding to production $X \rightarrow \gamma$ (pop γ , push X)

| Stack | Input | Action |
|-------|-----------|------------------------------|
| (S+E | +(3+4))+5 | Reduce $S \rightarrow S + E$ |
| (S | +(3+4))+5 | |

$S \rightarrow S + E \mid E$ $E \rightarrow \textit{number} \mid (S)$

| Derivation | Stack | Input | Action |
|----------------------------|-------|-----------------|----------------------------------------|
| $(1+2+(3+4))+5 \leftarrow$ | | $(1+2+(3+4))+5$ | Shift |
| $(1+2+(3+4))+5 \leftarrow$ | (| $1+2+(3+4))+5$ | Shift |
| $(1+2+(3+4))+5 \leftarrow$ | (1 | $+2+(3+4))+5$ | Reduce $E \rightarrow \textit{number}$ |
| $(E+2+(3+4))+5 \leftarrow$ | (E | $+2+(3+4))+5$ | Reduce $S \rightarrow E$ |
| $(S+2+(3+4))+5 \leftarrow$ | (S | $+2+(3+4))+5$ | Shift |
| $(S+2+(3+4))+5 \leftarrow$ | (S+ | $2+(3+4))+5$ | Shift |
| $(S+2+(3+4))+5 \leftarrow$ | (S+2 | $+(3+4))+5$ | Reduce $E \rightarrow \textit{number}$ |
| $(S+E+(3+4))+5 \leftarrow$ | (S+E | $+(3+4))+5$ | Reduce $S \rightarrow S + E$ |
| $(S+(3+4))+5 \leftarrow$ | (S | $+(3+4))+5$ | Shift |
| $(S+(3+4))+5 \leftarrow$ | (S+ | $(3+4))+5$ | Shift |
| $(S+(3+4))+5 \leftarrow$ | (S+(| $3+4))+5$ | Shift |
| $(S+(3+4))+5 \leftarrow$ | (S+(3 | $+4))+5$ | Reduce $E \rightarrow \textit{number}$ |

⋮

Problem

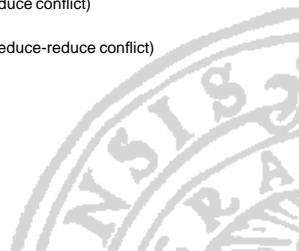
How do we know which action to take?

Shift or Reduce?

Which production?

Issues:

- Sometimes can reduce but shouldn't (shift-reduce conflict)
- Sometimes can reduce in different ways (reduce-reduce conflict)



Solution

We have algorithms to determine which actions to take

We can construct parsing tables (like top-down but different shapes) and we check for conflicts.

We have theoretical results like

Any language which is $LR(k)$ for a given k is also $LR(1)$

No need to consider lookaheads of more than one symbol

We have automated tools to do it: **YACC**.

Works like **Lex** and can be combined

Overall

LR parsing has the following features:

- May be applied to a wide class of grammars and languages
- Grammar transformations are usually minimal
- The analysis time is linear in the length of the input
- Syntax errors discovered on the first inadmissible symbol
- It is well supported by tools



Recall – Goal

Goal

Identify if (input) token streams satisfy the program syntax

We need

- Expressive way to describe the syntax
⇒ LL(1) and LR(1) grammars, ...
- Acceptor that determine if the token streams satisfy the syntax of the program
⇒ Recursive-Descent and Shift-Reduce Parsers

