

CS 516: COMPILERS

Lecture 11

Topics

- Parsing (finding derivations in a grammar)
 - via Recursive Descent
 - LL(1) Grammars
 - Next week: Shift/Reduce, LR Grammars

Materials

- `lec11.zip`

CFGs Mathematically

- A Context-free Grammar (CFG) consists of
 - A set of *terminals* (e.g., a token or ϵ)
 - A set of *nonterminals* (e.g., S and other syntactic variables)
 - A designated nonterminal called the *start symbol*
 - A set of productions: $\text{LHS} \mapsto \text{RHS}$
 - LHS is a nonterminal
 - RHS is a *string* of terminals and nonterminals
- Example: The balanced parentheses language:

$$S \mapsto (S)S$$

$$S \mapsto \epsilon$$

- How many terminals? How many nonterminals? Productions?

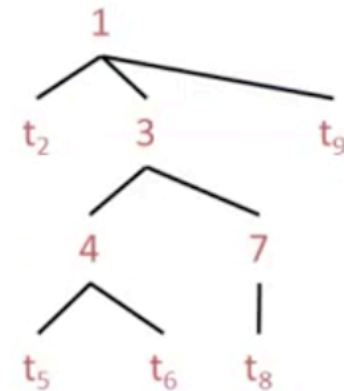
Brute-force parsing

RECURSIVE DESCENT

Recursive Descent Parsing

- The parse tree is constructed
 - From the top
 - From left to right
- Terminals are seen in order of appearance in the token stream:

t_2 t_5 t_6 t_8 t_9



Recursive Descent Parsing

- Consider the grammar

$$\begin{aligned} E &\mapsto T \mid T + E \\ T &\mapsto \text{int} \mid \text{int} * T \mid (E) \end{aligned}$$

- Token stream is: (int_5)
- Start with top-level non-terminal E
 - Try the rules for E in order

Recursive Descent Parsing

$$E \mapsto T \mid T + E$$
$$T \mapsto \text{int} \mid \text{int} * T \mid (E)$$

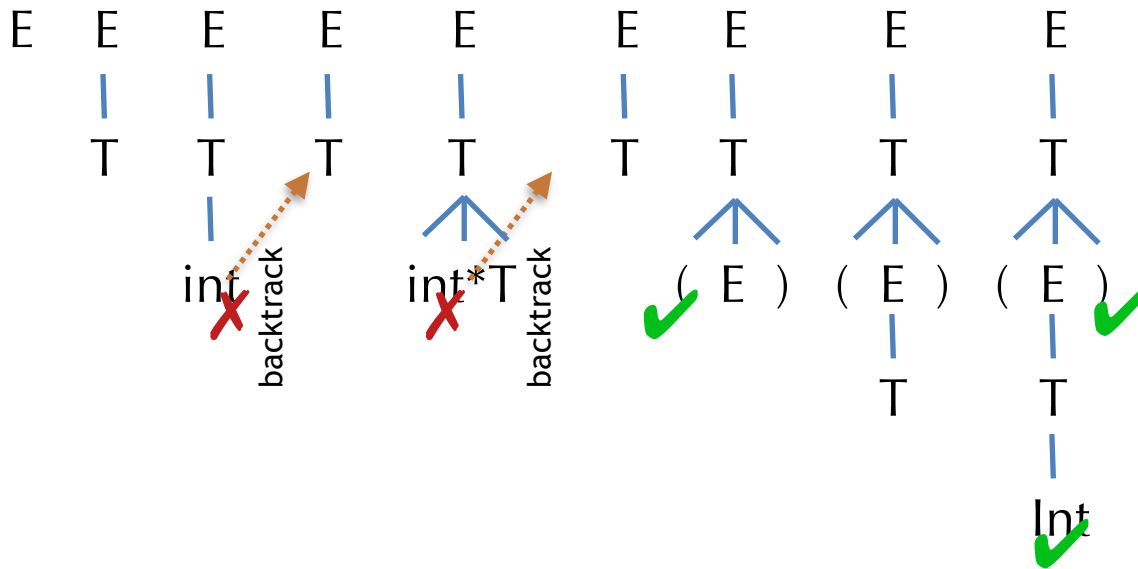
E

(int)

Recursive Descent Parsing

$E \mapsto T \mid T + E$

$T \mapsto \text{int} \mid \text{int} * T \mid (E)$



`(int)`

Recursive Descent Parsing

```
let stream = Tok array
let next = ref 0

let term tok : bool =
  if stream.(next) == peek() then (next++; true) else false

let E1 () : bool = T ()
let E2 () : bool = T () && term(PLUS) && E ()
let E () : bool =
  let save = !next in
    (next := save; E1()) || (next := save; E2 ())

let T1 () : bool = term(INT)
let T2 () : bool = term(INT) && term(TIMES) && T ()
let T3 () : bool = term(OPEN) && E() && term(CLOSE)
let T () : bool =
  let save = !next in
    (next := save; T1()) || (next := save; T2 ())
    || (next := save; T3 ())
```




Can we avoid backtracking?

Searching for derivations.

LL PARSING

LL(1) GRAMMARS

Consider finding left-most derivations

- Look at only one input symbol at a time.

$$S \mapsto E + S \mid E$$
$$E \mapsto \text{number} \mid (S)$$

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Partly-derived String

Parsed/Unparsed Input

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Partly-derived String

Parsed/Unparsed Input

<u>S</u>	(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5
----------	-----------------------

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Partly-derived String	Parsed /Unparsed Input
<u>S</u>	(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5
$\mapsto \underline{E} + S$	(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5

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\mapsto <u>E</u> + S	(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5
\mapsto (<u>S</u>) + S	(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5

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$\mapsto (\underline{S}) + S$	(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5
$\mapsto (\underline{E} + S) + S$	(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5

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\mapsto (1 + 2 + <u>S</u>) + S	(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5
\mapsto (1 + 2 + <u>E</u>) + S	(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5
\mapsto (1 + 2 + (<u>S</u>)) + S	(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5
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\mapsto (1 + 2 + (<u>S</u>)) + S	(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5
\mapsto (1 + 2 + (<u>E</u> + S)) + S	(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5
...	...

There is a problem

- We want to decide which production to apply based on the look-ahead symbol.

$$\begin{array}{l} S \mapsto E + S \mid E \\ E \mapsto \text{number} \mid (S) \end{array}$$

- But, there is a choice:

(1) $S \mapsto E \mapsto (S) \mapsto (E) \mapsto (1)$

vs.

(1) + 2 $S \mapsto E + S \mapsto (S) + S \mapsto (E) + S \mapsto (1) + S$
 $\dots \mapsto (1) + E \mapsto (1) + 2$

- Given the look-ahead symbol: '(' it isn't clear whether to pick $S \mapsto E$ or $S \mapsto E + S$ first.

Grammar is the problem

- Not all grammars can be parsed “top-down” with only a single lookahead symbol.
- *Top-down*: starting from the start symbol (root of the parse tree) and going down (eg, recursive descent)
- LL(1) means
 - Left-to-right scanning
 - Left-most derivation,
 - 1 lookahead symbol
- This language isn’t “LL(1)”
- Is it LL(k) for some k?
- What can we do?

$$\begin{aligned} S &\mapsto E + S \mid E \\ E &\mapsto \text{number} \mid (S) \end{aligned}$$

Making a grammar LL(1)

- *Problem:* We can't decide which S production to apply until we see the symbol after the first expression.
- *Solution:* “Left-factor” the grammar. There is a common S prefix for each choice, so add a new non-terminal S' at the decision point:

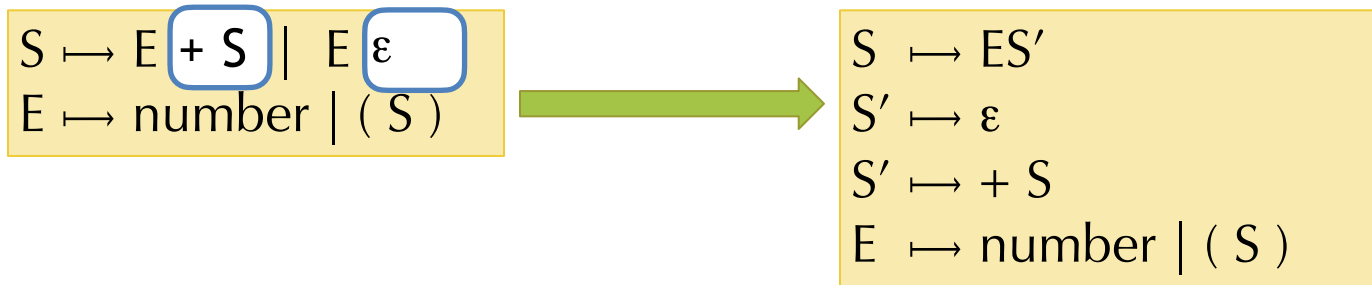
$$\begin{aligned} S &\mapsto E + S \mid E \\ E &\mapsto \text{number} \mid (S) \end{aligned}$$

- Also need to eliminate left-recursion somehow. Why?
- Consider:

$$\begin{aligned} S &\mapsto S + E \mid E \\ E &\mapsto \text{number} \mid (S) \end{aligned}$$

Making a grammar LL(1)

- *Problem:* We can't decide which S production to apply until we see the symbol after the first expression.
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- Also need to eliminate left-recursion somehow. Why?
- Consider:

$$\begin{aligned} S &\mapsto S + E \mid E \\ E &\mapsto \text{number} \mid (S) \end{aligned}$$

LL(1) Parse of the input string

- Look at only one input symbol at a time.

$$S \mapsto ES'$$

$$S' \mapsto \epsilon$$

$$S' \mapsto + S$$

$$E \mapsto \text{number} \mid (S)$$

Partly-derived String

S

$\mapsto \underline{E} S'$

$\mapsto (\underline{S}) S'$

$\mapsto (\underline{E} S') S'$

$\mapsto (1 \underline{S}') S'$

$\mapsto (1 + \underline{S}) S'$

$\mapsto (1 + \underline{E} S') S'$

$\mapsto (1 + 2 \underline{S}') S'$

$\mapsto (1 + 2 + \underline{S}) S'$

$\mapsto (1 + 2 + \underline{E} S') S'$

$\mapsto (1 + 2 + (\underline{S})S') S'$

Parsed/Unparsed Input

(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5

(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5

(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5

(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5

(1 + 2 + (3 + 4)) + 5

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Predictive Parsing

$T \mapsto S\$$
 $S \mapsto ES'$
 $S' \mapsto \epsilon$
 $S' \mapsto + S$
 $E \mapsto \text{number} \mid (S)$

- Given an **LL(1)** grammar:
 - For a given nonterminal, the *lookahead symbol uniquely determines* the production to apply.
 - Top-down parsing = predictive parsing
 - Driven by a predictive parsing table:
nonterminal * input token \rightarrow production

	number	+	()	\$ (EOF)
T	$\mapsto S\$$		$\mapsto S\$$		
S	$\mapsto E S'$		$\mapsto E S'$		
S'		$\mapsto + S$		$\mapsto \epsilon$	$\mapsto \epsilon$
E	$\mapsto \text{num.}$		$\mapsto (S)$		

- Note: it is convenient to add a special *end-of-file* token \$ and a start symbol T (top-level) that requires \$.

How do we construct the parse table?

- Consider a given production: $A \mapsto \gamma$
- We construct two **Sets**:
 1. **First(A)**: The set of all input *tokens* that may appear *first* in strings that can be derived from γ
 - Add the production “ $\mapsto \gamma$ ” to the entry **(A, token)** for each such token.
 2. **Follow(A)**: If γ can derive ϵ (the empty string), then we construct the set of all input tokens that may *follow* the nonterminal A in the grammar.
 - Add the production “ $\mapsto \gamma$ ” to the entry **(A, token)** for each such token.
- Note: if there are two different productions for a given entry, the grammar is not LL(1)

Example

- $\text{First}(T) = \text{First}(S)$
- $\text{First}(S) = \text{First}(E)$
- $\text{First}(S') = \{ '+' \}$
- $\text{First}(E) = \{ \text{number}, '(' \}$

$T \mapsto S\$$
 $S \mapsto ES'$
 $S' \mapsto \epsilon$
 $S' \mapsto + S$
 $E \mapsto \text{number} \mid (S)$




	number	+	()	\$ (EOF)
T					
S					
S'					
E					

Example

- $\text{First}(T) = \text{First}(S) = \{ \text{number}, ' (' \}$
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	number	+	()	\$ (EOF)
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- $\text{First}(E) = \{ \text{number}, ' (' \}$
- $\text{Follow}(S') = \text{Follow}(S)$
- $\text{Follow}(S) = \{ \$, ') ' \} \cup \text{Follow}(S')$

$T \mapsto S\$$
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Note: we want the *least* solution to this system of set equations... a *fixpoint* computation. More on these later in the course.

	number	+	()	\$ (EOF)
T	$\mapsto S\$$		$\mapsto S\$$		
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Converting the table to code

- Define n mutually recursive functions
 - one for each nonterminal A : `parse_A`
 - The type of `parse_A` is `unit -> ast` if A is *not* an auxiliary nonterminal
 - Parse functions for auxiliary nonterminals (e.g. S') take extra `ast`'s as inputs, one for each nonterminal in the “factored” prefix.
- Each function “peeks” at the lookahead token and then follows the production rule in the corresponding entry.
 - Consume terminal tokens from the input stream
 - Call `parse_X` to create sub-tree for nonterminal X
 - If the rule ends in an auxiliary nonterminal, call it with appropriate `ast`'s. (The auxiliary rule is responsible for creating the `ast` after looking at more input.)
 - Otherwise, this function builds the `ast` tree itself and returns it.

Predictive Parsing

Improves over “brute-force” Recursive Descent by peeking ahead

	number	+	()	\$ (EOF)
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S	$\mapsto E S'$		$\mapsto E S'$		
S'		$\mapsto + S$		$\mapsto \epsilon$	$\mapsto \epsilon$
E	$\mapsto \text{num.}$		$\mapsto (S)$		

Hand-generated LL(1) code for the table above.

DEMO: PARSER.ML

LL(1) Summary

- Top-down parsing that finds the leftmost derivation.
- Language Grammar \Rightarrow recursive descent parser
- Language Grammar \Rightarrow LL(1) grammar \Rightarrow prediction table \Rightarrow recursive-descent **predictive** parser
- Notes:
 - With prediction table, don't need backtracking
 - Can extend to LL(k) (it just makes the table bigger)
 - Some **k** that allows the recursive descent parser to decide production by looking at the next **k** input tokens
 - LL(k) exclude ambiguous grammars and left-recursion
- Problems:
 - Grammar must be LL(1)
 - Grammar cannot be left recursive (parser functions will loop!)
- Is there a better way?