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CD: COMPILER DESIGN

TOPIC On: Removing Ambiguity
Ambiguous to Unambiguous

By SHWETA TIWARI

Under On: Unit-2

TOPIC On: Removing Ambiguity Ambiguous to Unambiguous

Grammar Ambiguity

We will discuss how to convert ambiguous grammar to unambiguous grammar.

Converting Ambiguous Grammar To Unambiguous Grammar-

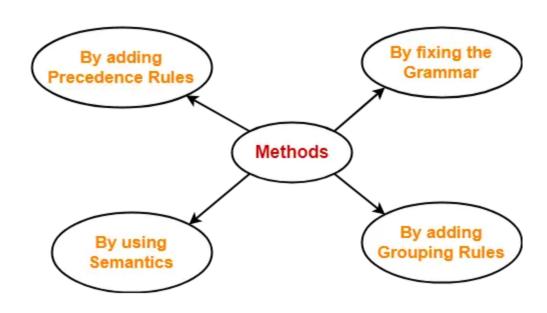
- Causes such as left recursion, common prefixes etc makes the grammar ambiguous.
- The removal of these causes may convert the grammar into unambiguous grammar.
- However, it is not always compulsory.

NOTE

It is not always possible to convert an ambiguous grammar into an unambiguous grammar.

Methods To Remove Ambiguity-

The ambiguity from the grammar may be removed using the following methods-



- By fixing the grammar
- By adding grouping rules
- By using semantics and choosing the parse that makes the most sense
- By adding the precedence rules or other context sensitive parsing rules

Removing Ambiguity By Precedence & Associativity Rules-

An ambiguous grammar may be converted into an unambiguous grammar by implementing-

- Precedence Constraints
- Associativity Constraints

These constraints are implemented using the following rules-

Rule-01:

The precedence constraint is implemented using the following rules-

• The level at which the production is present defines the priority of the operator contained in it.

- The higher the level of the production, the lower the priority of the operator.
- The lower the level of the production, the higher the priority of the operator.

Rule-02:

The associativity constraint is implemented using the following rules-

- If the operator is left associative, induce left recursion in its production.
- If the operator is right associative, induce right recursion in its production.

PROBLEMS BASED ON CONVERSION INTO UNAMBIGUOUS GRAMMAR-

Problem-01:

Convert the following ambiguous grammar to unambiguous grammar-

$$R \rightarrow R + R / R$$
 . $R / R \ast / a / b$

where * is kleene closure and . is concatenation.

Solution-

To convert the given grammar into its corresponding unambiguous grammar, we implement the precedence and associativity constraints.

We have-

Given grammar consists of the following operators-

• Given grammar consists of the following operands-

The priority order is-

$$(a, b) > * > . > +$$

where-

- . operator is left associative
- + operator is left associative

Using the precedence and associativity rules, we write the corresponding unambiguous grammar as-

$$E \rightarrow E + T / T$$

$$T \rightarrow T \cdot F / F$$

$$F \rightarrow F^* / G$$

$$G \rightarrow a / b$$

Unambiguous Grammar

OR

$$E \rightarrow E + T / T$$

$$T \rightarrow T$$
 . F / F

$$F \rightarrow F^* / a / b$$

Unambiguous Grammar

Problem-02:

Convert the following ambiguous grammar to unambiguous grammar-

bexp
$$\rightarrow$$
 bexp or bexp / bexp and bexp / not bexp / T / F

where bexp represents Boolean expression, T represents True and F represents False.

Solution-

To convert the given grammar into its corresponding unambiguous grammar, we implement the precedence and associativity constraints.

We have-

• Given grammar consists of the following operators-

or, and, not

· Given grammar consists of the following operands-

T, **F**

The priority order is-

where-

- and operator is left associative
- **or** operator is left associative

Using the precedence and associativity rules, we write the corresponding unambiguous grammar as-

$$bexp \rightarrow bexp \text{ or } M / M$$

$$M \rightarrow M$$
 and N / N

$$N \rightarrow \text{not } N / G$$

$$G \to T \ / \ F$$

Unambiguous Grammar

OR

$$bexp \rightarrow bexp \text{ or } M / M$$

$$M \rightarrow M$$
 and $N \slash N$

$N \rightarrow not N / T / F$

Unambiguous Grammar