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PREPARED FOR  
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# CD: COMPILER DESIGN

## TOPIC On : UNIT-2 PREDUCTIVE PARSER

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Under On: Basic Parsing Techniques

# TOPIC On : UNIT-2 PREDUCTIVE PARSER

## II. PREDICTIVE PARSER

### Predictive Parser:

A grammar after eliminating left recursion and left factoring can be parsed by a recursive descent parser that needs no backtracking is called a predictive parser. Let us understand how to eliminate left recursion and left factoring.

### Eliminating Left Recursion:

A grammar is said to be left recursive if it has a non-terminal A such that there is a derivation  $A \Rightarrow A\alpha$  for some string  $\alpha$ . Top-down parsing methods cannot handle left-recursive grammars. Hence, left recursion can be eliminated as follows:

If there is a production  $A \rightarrow A\alpha \mid \beta$  it can be replaced with a sequence of two productions

$$A \rightarrow \beta A'$$

$$A' \rightarrow \alpha A' \mid \epsilon$$

Without changing the set of strings derivable from A.

**Example :** Consider the following grammar for arithmetic expressions:

$$E \rightarrow E+T \mid T$$

$$T \rightarrow T * F \mid F$$

$$F \rightarrow (E) \mid \text{id}$$

First eliminate the left recursion for E as

$$E \rightarrow TE'$$

$$E' \rightarrow +TE' \mid \epsilon$$

Then eliminate for T as

$$T \rightarrow FT'$$

$$T' \rightarrow *FT' \mid \epsilon$$

Thus the obtained grammar after eliminating left recursion is

$$E \rightarrow TE'$$

$$E' \rightarrow +TE' \mid \varepsilon$$

$$T \rightarrow FT'$$

$$T' \rightarrow *FT' \mid \varepsilon$$

$$F \rightarrow (E) \mid \text{id}$$

**Algorithm to eliminate left recursion:**

1. Arrange the non-terminals in some order  $A_1, A_2 \dots A_n$ .
2. **for**  $i := 1$  to  $n$  **do begin**
  - for**  $j := 1$  to  $i-1$  **do begin**
    - replace each production of the form  $A_i \rightarrow A_j \gamma$
    - by the productions  $A_i \rightarrow \delta_1 \gamma \mid \delta_2 \gamma \mid \dots \mid \delta_k \gamma$ .
    - where  $A_j \rightarrow \delta_1 \mid \delta_2 \mid \dots \mid \delta_k$  are all the current  $A_j$ -productions;
  - end**
  - eliminate the immediate left recursion among the  $A_i$ - productions
  - end**

**Left factoring:**

Left factoring is a grammar transformation that is useful for producing a grammar suitable for predictive parsing. When it is not clear which of two alternative productions to use to expand a non-terminal  $A$ , we can rewrite the  $A$ -productions to defer the decision until we have seen enough of the input to make the right choice.

If there is any production  $A \rightarrow \alpha\beta_1 \mid \alpha\beta_2$ , it can be rewritten as

$$A \rightarrow \alpha A'$$

$$A' \rightarrow \alpha\beta_1 \mid \alpha\beta_2$$

Consider the grammar,

$$S \rightarrow \text{ifEtS} \mid \text{ifEtSeS} \mid a$$

$$E \rightarrow b$$

Here, **i**, **t**, **e** stand for **if**, **the**, and **else** and **E** and **S** for “expression” and “statement”.

After Left factored, the grammar becomes

$$S \rightarrow \text{ifEtSS}' \mid a$$

$$S' \rightarrow eS \mid \varepsilon$$

$$E \rightarrow b$$

**Non-recursive Predictive Parsing:**

It is possible to build a non-recursive predictive parser by maintaining a stack explicitly, rather than implicitly via recursive calls. The key problem during predictive parsing is that of

determining the production to be applied for a non-terminal. The non-recursive parser in Fig 2.22 looks up the production to be applied in a parsing table.

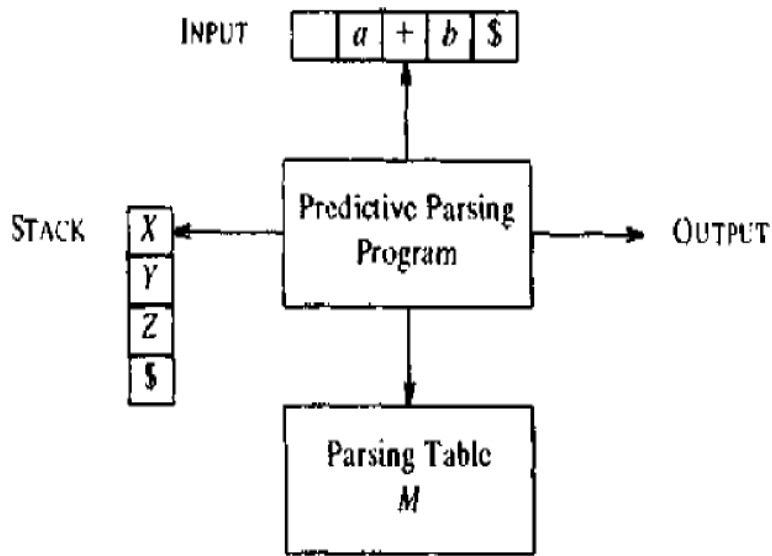


Fig 2.22 Model of a Non-recursive predictive parser

A table-driven predictive parser has an input buffer, a stack, a parsing table, and an output stream. The input buffer contains the string to be parsed, followed by \$, a symbol used as a right end marker to indicate the end of the input string. The stack contains a sequence of grammar symbols with \$ on the bottom, indicating the bottom of the stack. Initially, the stack contains the start symbol of the grammar on top of S. The parsing table is a two-dimensional array  $M[A,a]$ , where  $A$  is a non-terminal, and  $a$  is a terminal or the symbol \$.

The program considers  $X$ , the symbol on top of the stack, and  $a$ , the current input symbol. These two symbols determine the action of the parser. There are three possibilities.

1. If  $X = a = \$$ , the parser halts and announces successful completion of parsing.
2. If  $X = a \neq \$$ , the parser pops  $X$  off the stack and advances the input pointer to the next input symbol.
3. If  $X$  is a nonterminal, the program consults entry  $M[X,a]$  of the parsing table  $M$ . This entry will be either an  $X$ -production of the grammar or an error entry. If, for example,  $M[X,a] = \{X \rightarrow UVW\}$ , the parser replaces  $X$  on top of the stack by  $WVU$  (with  $U$  on top). If  $M[X, a] = \text{error}$ , the parser calls an error recovery routine.

### Predictive parsing table construction:

The construction of a predictive parser is aided by two functions associated with a grammar

G .These functions are FIRST and FOLLOW.

**Rules for FIRST():**

1. If X is terminal, then FIRST(X) is {X}.
2. If  $X \rightarrow \epsilon$  is a production, then add  $\epsilon$  to FIRST(X).
3. If X is non-terminal and  $X \rightarrow a\alpha$  is a production then add a to FIRST(X).
4. If X is non-terminal and  $X \rightarrow Y_1 Y_2 \dots Y_k$  is a production, then place a in FIRST(X) if for some i, a is in FIRST( $Y_i$ ), and  $\epsilon$  is in all of FIRST( $Y_1$ ),...,FIRST( $Y_{i-1}$ ); that is,  $Y_1, \dots, Y_{i-1} \Rightarrow \epsilon$ . If  $\epsilon$  is in FIRST( $Y_j$ ) for all  $j=1,2,\dots,k$ , then add  $\epsilon$  to FIRST(X).

**Rules for FOLLOW():**

1. If S is a start symbol, then FOLLOW(S) contains \$.
2. If there is a production  $A \rightarrow \alpha B \beta$ , then everything in FIRST( $\beta$ ) except  $\epsilon$  is placed in follow(B).
3. If there is a production  $A \rightarrow \alpha B$ , or a production  $A \rightarrow \alpha B \beta$  where FIRST( $\beta$ ) contains  $\epsilon$ , then everything in FOLLOW(A) is in FOLLOW(B).

**Algorithm for construction of predictive parsing table:**

Input : Grammar G

Output : Parsing table M

Method :

1. For each production  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  of the grammar, do steps 2 and 3.
2. For each terminal a in FIRST( $\alpha$ ), add  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  to  $M[A, a]$ .
3. If  $\epsilon$  is in FIRST( $\alpha$ ), add  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  to  $M[A, b]$  for each terminal b in FOLLOW(A). If  $\epsilon$  is in FIRST( $\alpha$ ) and \$ is in FOLLOW(A) , add  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  to  $M[A, \$]$ .
4. Make each undefined entry of M be error.

**Algorithm : Non-recursive predictive parsing.**

**Input:** A string w and a parsing table M for grammar G.

**Output:** If w is in L(G), a leftmost derivation of w; otherwise, an error .

**Method:** Initially, the parser is in a configuration in which it has \$\$ on the stack with S, the start symbol of G on top, and w\$ in the input buffer. The program that utilizes the predictive parsing table M to produce a parse for the input.

set ip to point to the first symbol of w\$:

```

repeat
    let X be the top stack symbol and a the symbol pointed to by ip;
    if X is a terminal or $ then
        if X = a then
            pop X from the stack and advance ip
        else error()
    else /* X is a nonterminal */
        if M[X,a] =  $X \rightarrow Y_1 Y_2 \dots Y_k$ , then
            begin
                pop X from the stack;
                push  $Y_k, Y_{k-1} Y_1$ , onto the stack, with  $Y_1$  on top;
                output the production  $X \rightarrow Y_1 Y_2 \dots Y_k$ 
            end
        else error()
    until  $X \neq \$$  /* stack is empty */

```

### Example:

Consider the following grammar:

$E \rightarrow E+T \mid T$

$T \rightarrow T * F \mid F$

$F \rightarrow (E) \mid \text{id}$

After eliminating left recursion the grammar is

$E \rightarrow TE'$

$E' \rightarrow +TE' \mid \varepsilon$

$T \rightarrow FT'$

$T' \rightarrow *FT' \mid \varepsilon$

$F \rightarrow (E) \mid \text{id}$

### FIRST( ) :

$\text{FIRST}(E) = \{ (, \text{id} \}$

$\text{FIRST}(E') = \{ +, \varepsilon \}$

$\text{FIRST}(T) = \{ (, \text{id} \}$

$\text{FIRST}(T') = \{ *, \varepsilon \}$

$\text{FIRST}(F) = \{ (, \text{id} \}$

**FOLLOW():**

$$\text{FOLLOW}(E) = \{ \$, ) \}$$

$$\text{FOLLOW}(E') = \{ \$, ) \}$$

$$\text{FOLLOW}(T) = \{ +, \$, ) \}$$

$$\text{FOLLOW}(T') = \{ +, \$, ) \}$$

$$\text{FOLLOW}(F) = \{ +, *, \$, ) \}$$

Predictive parsing table for the given grammar is shown in Fig 2.23.

M[X,a]	id	+	*	(	)	\$
E	$E \rightarrow TE'$			$E \rightarrow TE'$		
E'		$E' \rightarrow +TE'$			$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$
T	$T \rightarrow FT'$			$T \rightarrow FT'$		
T'		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow *FT'$		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
F	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$			$F \rightarrow (E)$		

Fig 2.23 Parsing table

With input **id+id\*id** the predictive parser makes the sequence of moves shown in Fig 2,24.

STACK	INPUT	OUTPUT
\$E	<b>id+id*id\$</b>	$E \rightarrow TE'$
\$E'T	<b>id+id*id\$</b>	$T \rightarrow FT'$
\$E'T'F	<b>id+id*id\$</b>	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$
\$E'T'id	<b>id+id*id\$</b>	pop
\$E'T'	<b>+id*id\$</b>	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
\$E'	<b>+id*id\$</b>	$E' \rightarrow +TE'$
\$E'T+	<b>+id*id\$</b>	pop
\$E'T	<b>id*id\$</b>	$T \rightarrow FT'$
\$E'T'F	<b>id*id\$</b>	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$
\$E'T'id	<b>id*id\$</b>	Pop
\$E'T'	<b>*id\$</b>	$T' \rightarrow *FT'$
\$E'T'F*	<b>*id\$</b>	Pop
\$E'T'F	<b>id\$</b>	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$
\$E'T'id	<b>id\$</b>	Pop
\$E'T'	<b>\$</b>	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
\$E'	<b>\$</b>	$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$
\$	<b>\$</b>	Accept

Fig 2.24 Moves made by predictive parser on input **id+id\*id**



### LL(1) Grammars:

For some grammars the parsing table may have some entries that are multiply-defined. For example, if  $G$  is left recursive or ambiguous, then the table will have at least one multiply-defined entry. A grammar whose parsing table has no multiply-defined entries is said to be LL(1) grammar.

**Example:** Consider this following grammar:

$$S \rightarrow iEtS \mid iEtSeS \mid a$$

$$E \rightarrow b$$

After eliminating left factoring, we have

$$S \rightarrow iEtSS' \mid a \quad S' \rightarrow eS \mid \varepsilon$$

$$E \rightarrow b$$

To construct a parsing table, we need FIRST() and FOLLOW() for all the non-terminals.

$$\text{FIRST}(S) = \{ i, a \}$$

$$\text{FIRST}(S') = \{ e, \varepsilon \}$$

$$\text{FIRST}(E) = \{ b \}$$

$$\text{FOLLOW}(S) = \{ \$, e \}$$

$$\text{FOLLOW}(S') = \{ \$, e \}$$

$$\text{FOLLOW}(E) = \{ t \}$$

Parsing Table for the grammar:

NON- TERMINAL	a	b	e	i	t	\$
S	$S \rightarrow a$			$S \rightarrow iEtSS'$		
S'			$S' \rightarrow eS$ $S' \rightarrow \varepsilon$			$S' \rightarrow \varepsilon$
E		$E \rightarrow b$				

Since there are more than one production for an entry in the table, the grammar is not LL(1) grammar.