Parsing & Error Recovery

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Error Recovery

- What should happen when your parser finds an error in the user's input?
 - stop immediately and signal an error
 - record the error but try to continue
- In the first case, the user must recompile from scratch after possibly a trivial fix
- In the second case, the user might be overwhelmed by a whole series of error messages, all caused by essentially the same problem
- We will talk about how to do error recovery in a principled way

Error Recovery

- Error recovery:
 - process of adjusting input stream so that the parser can continue after unexpected input
- Possible adjustments:
 - delete tokens
 - insert tokens
 - substitute tokens
- Classes of recovery:
 - local recovery: adjust input at the point where error was detected (and also possibly immediately after)
 - global recovery: adjust input before point where error was detected.
- Error recovery is possible in both top-down and bottomup parsers

```
exp : NUM () exps : exp () | exp PLUS exp () | exps ; exp () | LPAR exp RPAR ()
```

- general strategy for both bottom-up and top-down:
 - look for a synchronizing token

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- accomplished in bottom-up parsers by adding error rules to grammar:

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exps : exp ()
error ; exp ()
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exps : exp ()
error ; exp ()
```

- in general, follow error with a synchronizing token. Recovery steps:
 - Pop stack (if necessary) until a state is reached in which the action for the error token is shift
 - Shift the error token
 - Discard input symbols (if necessary) until a state is reached that has a non-error action
 - Resume normal parsing

yet to read

input: NUM PLUS (NUM PLUS @#\$ PLUS NUM) PLUS NUM

stack: exp PLUS (exp PLUS

@#\$ is an unexpected token!

```
exp : NUM () exps : exp () | exps ; exp () | (exp ) () | exps : exp () | exps : exp () | exps : exp () | error ; exp ()
```

input: NUM PLUS (NUM PLUS @#\$ PLUS NUM) PLUS NUM

yet to read

stack: exp PLUS (

pop stack until shifting "error" can result in correct parse

yet to read

input: NUM PLUS (NUM PLUS @#\$ PLUS NUM) PLUS NUM

stack: exp PLUS (error

shift "error"

yet to read

input: NUM PLUS (NUM PLUS @#\$ PLUS NUM) PLUS NUM

stack: exp PLUS (error

discard input until we can legally shift or reduce

```
exp: NUM () exps: exp () | exps; exp () | (exp) () | exps; exp () () | exps: (error) () | exps: exp () | error; exp ()
```

yet to read

input: NUM PLUS (NUM PLUS @#\$ PLUS NUM) PLUS NUM

stack: exp PLUS (error)

SHIFT)

```
exp: NUM () exps: exp () | exps; exp () | (exp) () ()

exp: (error) ()

exps: exp () | error; exp ()
```

yet to read

input: NUM PLUS (NUM PLUS @#\$ PLUS NUM) PLUS NUM

stack: exp PLUS exp

REDUCE using exp ::= (error)

yet to read

input: NUM PLUS (NUM PLUS @#\$ PLUS NUM) PLUS NUM

stack: exp PLUS exp

continue parsing...

Top-down Local Error Recovery

- also possible to use synchronizing tokens
- here, a synchronizing token for non terminal X is a member of Follow(X)
 - when parsing X and an error is found; eat input stream until you get to a member of Follow(X)

```
non-terminals: S, E, L
```

terminals: NUM, IF, THEN, ELSE, BEGIN, END, PRINT, ;, =

rules:

- 1. S ::= IF E THEN S ELSE S 4. L ::= END
- 2. | BEGIN S L
- I PRINT E 3.

- 5. |; S L
 - 6. E ::= NUM = NUM

```
val tok = ref (getToken ())
fun advance () = tok := getToken ()
fun eat t = if (! tok = t) then advance () else error ()
```

```
fun skipto toks =
 if member(!tok, toks) then ()
 else
   eat(!tok); skipto toks
```

```
fun S () = case !tok of
            IF => ... | BEGIN => ... | PRINT => ...
```

```
non-terminals: S, E, L
                NUM, IF, THEN, ELSE, BEGIN, END, PRINT, ;, =
     terminals:
     rules:
              1. S ::= IF E THEN S ELSE S 4. L ::= END
              2. | BEGIN S L
                                     5. |; S L
                     | PRINT E
              3.
                                               6. E ::= NUM = NUM
                                                    fun skipto toks =
val tok = ref (getToken ())
                                                      if member(!tok, toks) then ()
fun advance () = tok := getToken ()
                                                     else
fun eat t = if (! tok = t) then advance () else error ()
                                                       eat(!tok); skipto toks
             fun S () = case !tok of
                         IF => ... | BEGIN => ... | PRINT => ...
                       | => skipto [ELSE,END,SEMI]
             and L () = case !tok of
                        END => eat END
                       | SEMI => eat SEMI; S (); L ()
             and E () = case !tok of
                         NUM => eat NUM; eat EQ; eat NUM
```

```
non-terminals: S, E, L
     terminals: NUM, IF, THEN, ELSE, BEGIN, END, PRINT, ;, =
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              2. | BEGIN S L
                                     5. |; S L
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              3.
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                                                     else
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             and L () = case !tok of
                        END => eat END
                       | SEMI => eat SEMI; S (); L ()
                           => skipto [ELSE, END,SEMI]
             and E () = case !tok of
                        NUM => eat NUM; eat EQ; eat NUM
                              => skipto [THEN,ELSE,END,SEMI]
```

- global error recovery determines the smallest set of insertions, deletions or replacements that will allow a correct parse, even if those insertions, etc. occur before an error would have been detected
- ML-Yacc uses Burke-Fisher error repair
 - tries every possible single-token insertion, deletion or replacement at every point in the input up to K tokens before the error is detected
 - eg: K = 20; parser gets stuck at token 500; all possible repairs between token 480-500 tried
 - best repair = longest successful parse

- Consider Burke-Fisher with
 - K-token window
 - N different token types
- Total number of repairs = K + 2K*N
 - deletions (K) +
 - insertions (K + 1)*N +
 - replacements (K)(N-1)
- Affordable in the uncommon case when there is an error

- Parser must be able to back up K tokens and reparse
- Mechanics:
 - parser maintains old stack and new stack

```
K-token window
maintained in queue
by parser

K-token window
yet to read

input: ID := NUM; ID := ID + (ID := NUM + ...

new stack: S; ID := E + (
old stack: ID := NUM
```

- Parser must be able to back up K tokens and reparse
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K-token window
yet to read

input:

ID := NUM; ID := ID + (ID := NUM + ...

new stack: S; ID := E + (
old stack: ID := NUM
old stack lags the new stack by K=6 tokens
```

Reductions (E ::= NUM) and (S ::= ID := NUM) applied to old stack in turn

- Parser must be able to back up K tokens and reparse
- Mechanics:
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K-token window
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K-token window
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input:

ID := NUM; ID := ID + (ID := NUM + ...

new stack: S; ID := E + (
old stack: ID := NUM
```

semantic actions performed once when reduction is "committed" on the old stack

Burke-Fisher in ML-Yacc

- ML-Yacc provides additional support for Burke-Fisher
 - to continue parsing, we need semantics values for inserted tokens

```
%value ID {make_id "bogus"}
%value INT {0}
%value STRING {""}
```

 some multiple-token insertions & deletions are common, but it is too expensive for ML-Yacc to try every 2,3,4- token insertion, deletion

%change EQ -> ASSIGN | SEMI ELSE -> ELSE | -> IN INT END

ML-Yacc would do this anyway but by specifying, it tries it first

yet to read

input: NUM PLUS (NUM PLUS NUM) PLUS NUM

stack: exp PLUS (exp PLUS

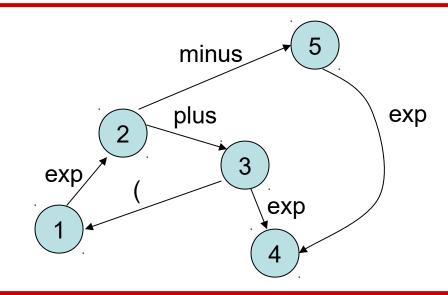
- At every point in the parse, the LR parser table tells us what to do next
 - shift, reduce, error or accept
- To do so, the LR parser keeps track of the parse "state" ==> a state in a finite automaton

yet to read

input: NUM PLUS (NUM PLUS NUM) PLUS NUM

stack: exp PLUS (exp PLUS

finite automaton; terminals and non terminals label edges

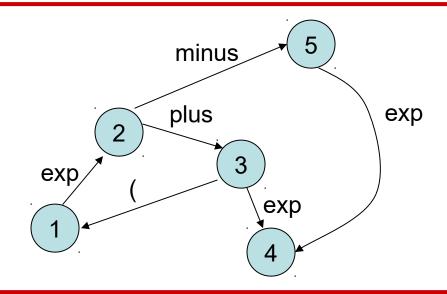


yet to read

NUM PLUS (NUM PLUS NUM) PLUS NUM input:

stack: exp PLUS (exp PLUS

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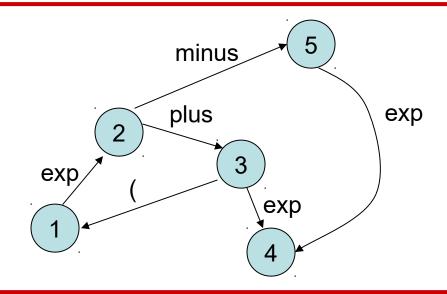


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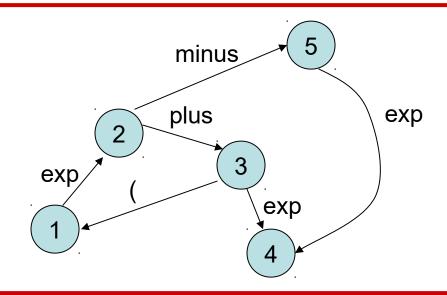
state-annotated stack: 1 exp 2

yet to read

input: NUM PLUS (NUM PLUS NUM) PLUS NUM

stack: exp PLUS (exp PLUS

finite automaton; terminals and non terminals label edges



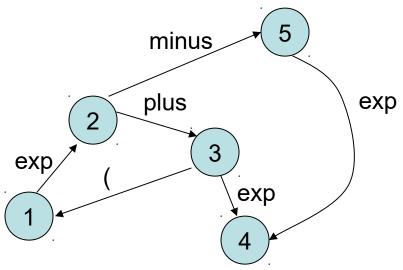
state-annotated stack: 1 exp 2 PLUS 3

yet to read

input: NUM PLUS (NUM PLUS NUM) PLUS NUM

stack: exp PLUS (exp PLUS

finite automaton; terminals and non terminals label edges



this state and input tell us what to do next

The Parse Table

- At every point in the parse, the LR parser table tells us what to do next according to the automaton state at the top of the stack
 - shift, reduce, error or accept

states	Terminal seen next ID, NUM, :=	
1		
2	sn = shift & goto state n	
3	rk = reduce by rule k	
	a = accept	
n	= error	

The Parse Table

- Reducing by rule k is broken into two steps:
 - current stack is:

```
A 8 B 3 C ...... 7 RHS 12
```

– rewrite the stack according to X ::= RHS:

figure out state on top of stack (ie: goto 13)

states	Terminal seen next ID, NUM, :=	Non-terminals X,Y,Z
1		
2	sn = shift & goto state n	gn = goto state n
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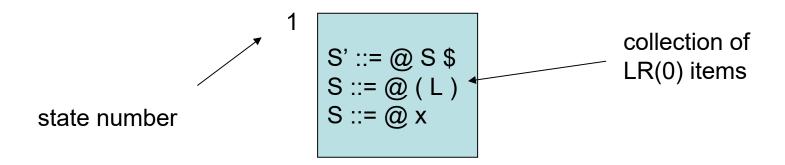
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LR(0) parsing

- each state in the automaton represents a collection of LR(0) items:
 - an item is a rule from the grammar combined with "@" to indicate where the parser currently is in the input
 - eg: S' ::= @ S \$ indicates that the parser is just beginning to parse this rule and it expects to be able to parse S then \$ next
- A whole automaton state looks like this:



LR(1) states look very similar, it is just that the items contain some look-ahead info

LR(0) parsing

- To construct states, we begin with a particular LR(0) item and construct its closure
 - the closure adds more items to a set when the "@" appears to the left of a non-terminal
 - if the state includes X ::= s @ Y s' and Y ::= t is a rule then the state also includes Y ::= @ t

Grammar:

- 0. S' ::= S \$
- S ::= (L)
- S ::= x
- L ::= S
- L ::= L , S

1 S' ::= @ S \$

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S::=@(L)
```

LR(0) parsing

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- 0. S' ::= S \$• S ::= (L)• S ::= x• L ::= S
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```
1
S' ::= @ S $
S ::= @ ( L )
S ::= @ x

Full
Closure
```

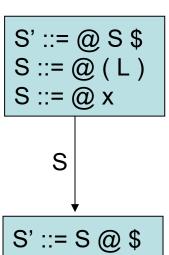
LR(0) parsing

- To construct an LR(0) automaton:
 - start with start rule & compute initial state with closure
 - pick one of the items from the state and move "@" to the right one symbol (as if you have just parsed the symbol)
 - this creates a new item ...
 - ... and a new state when you compute the closure of the new item
 - mark the edge between the two states with:
 - a terminal T, if you moved "@" over T
 - a non-terminal X, if you moved "@" over X
 - continue until there are no further ways to move "@" across items and generate new states or new edges in the automaton

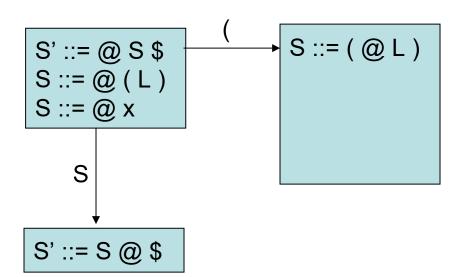
- 0. S' ::= S \$
- S ::= (L)
- S ::= x
- L ::= S
- L ::= L , S

- S' ::= @ S \$ S ::= @ (L) S ::= @ x

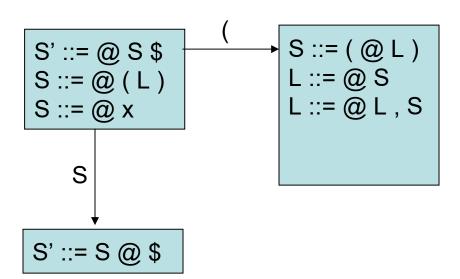
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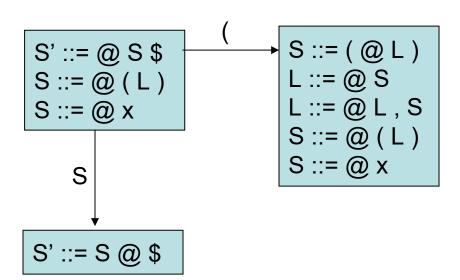
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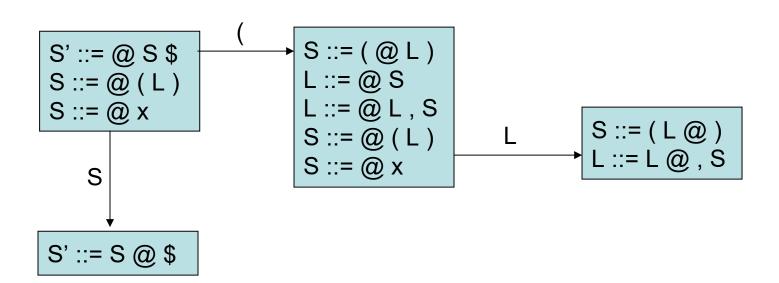
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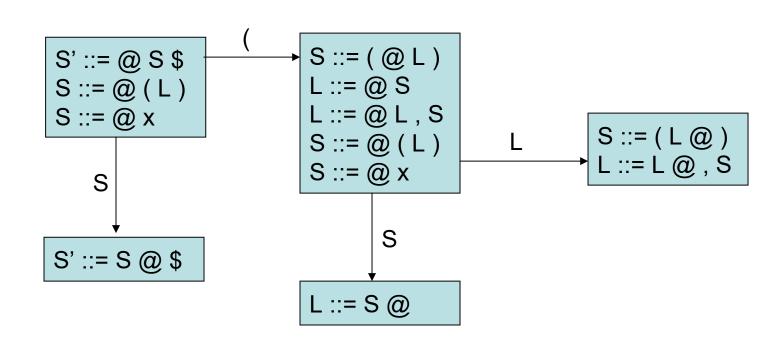
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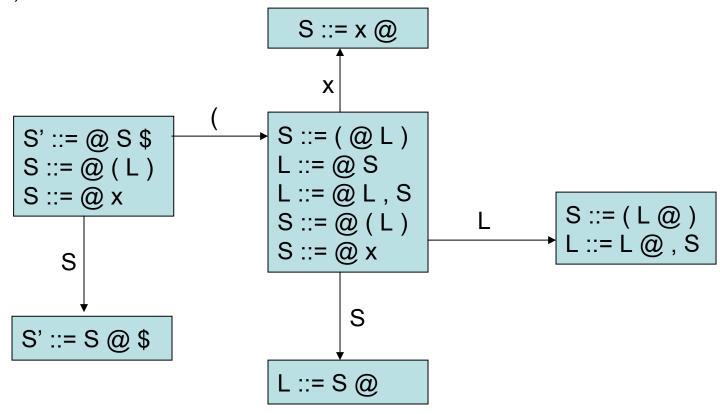
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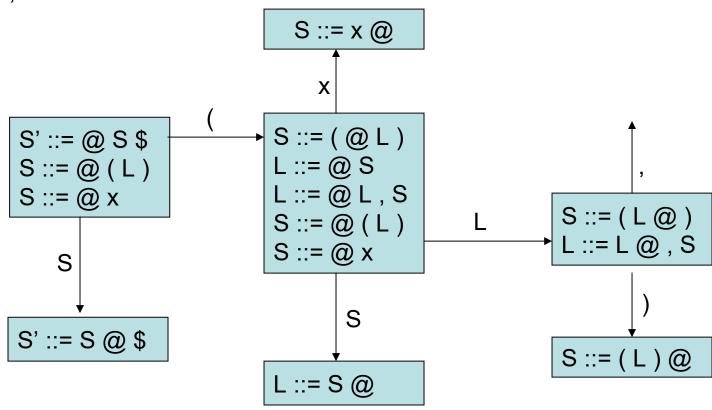
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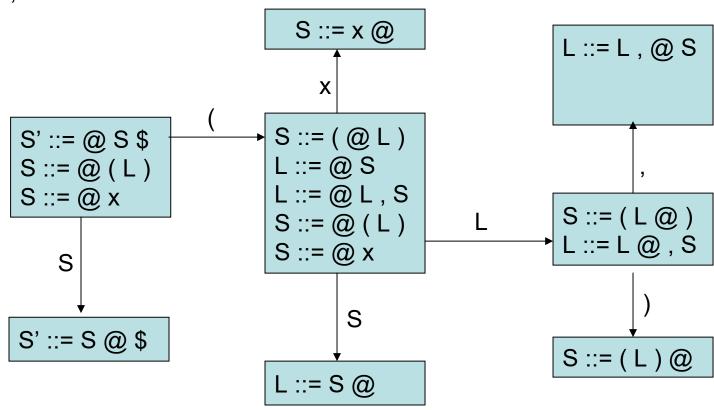
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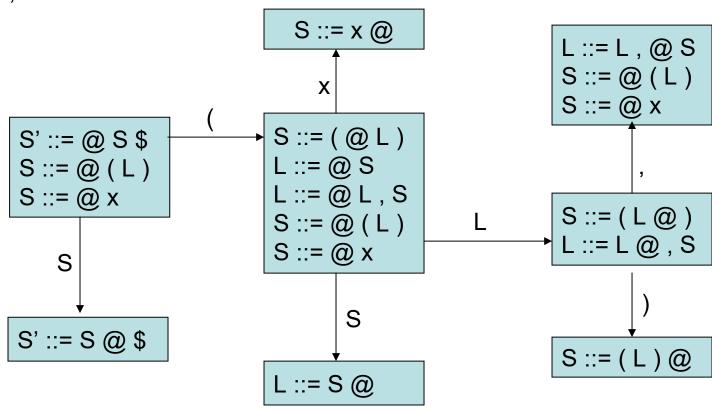
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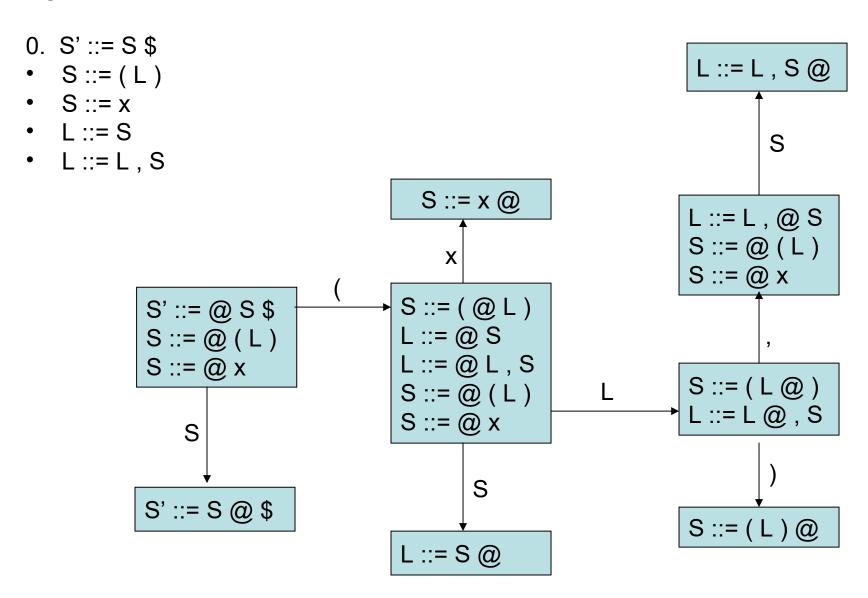


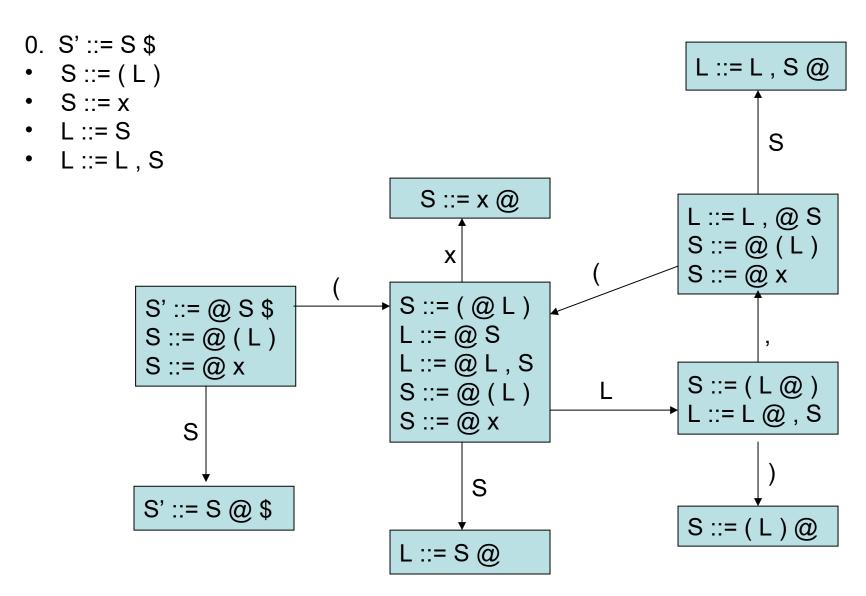
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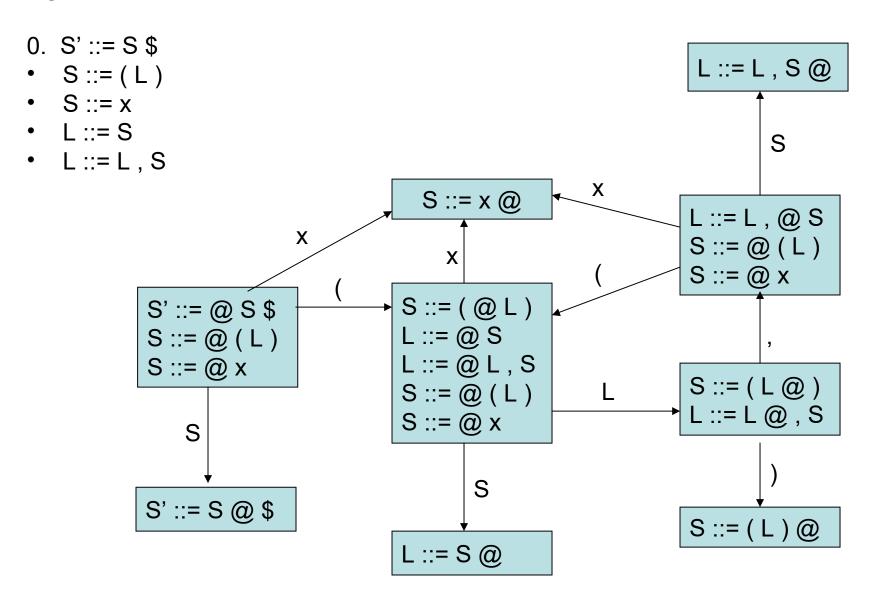


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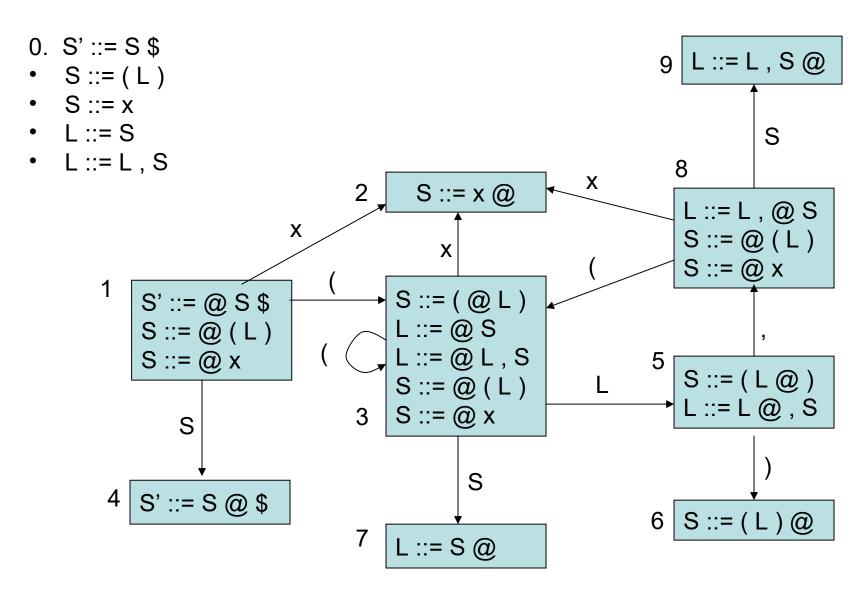








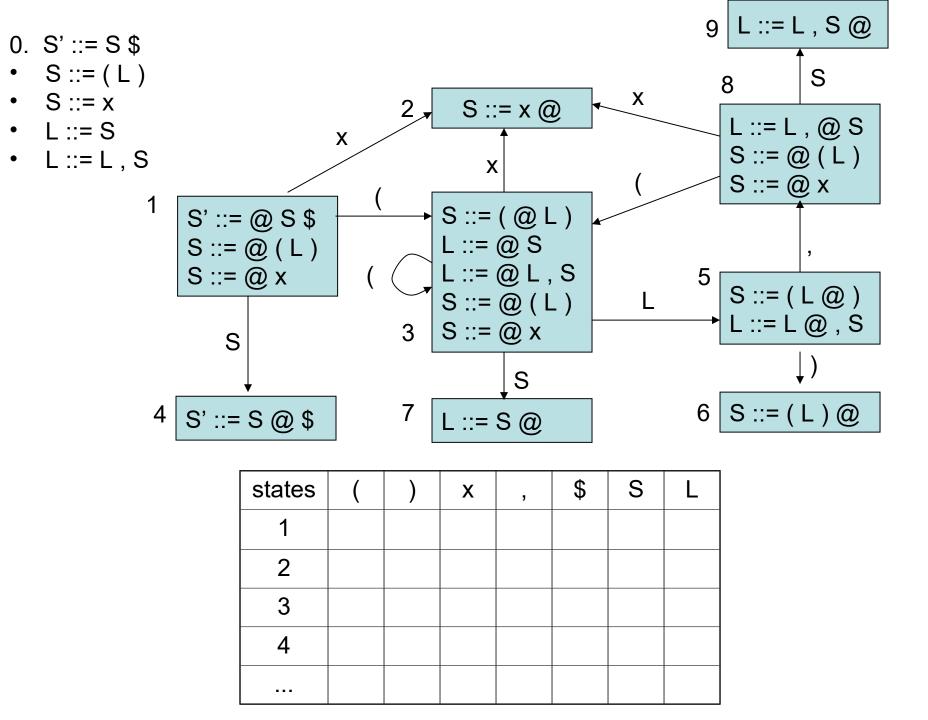
Assigning numbers to states:

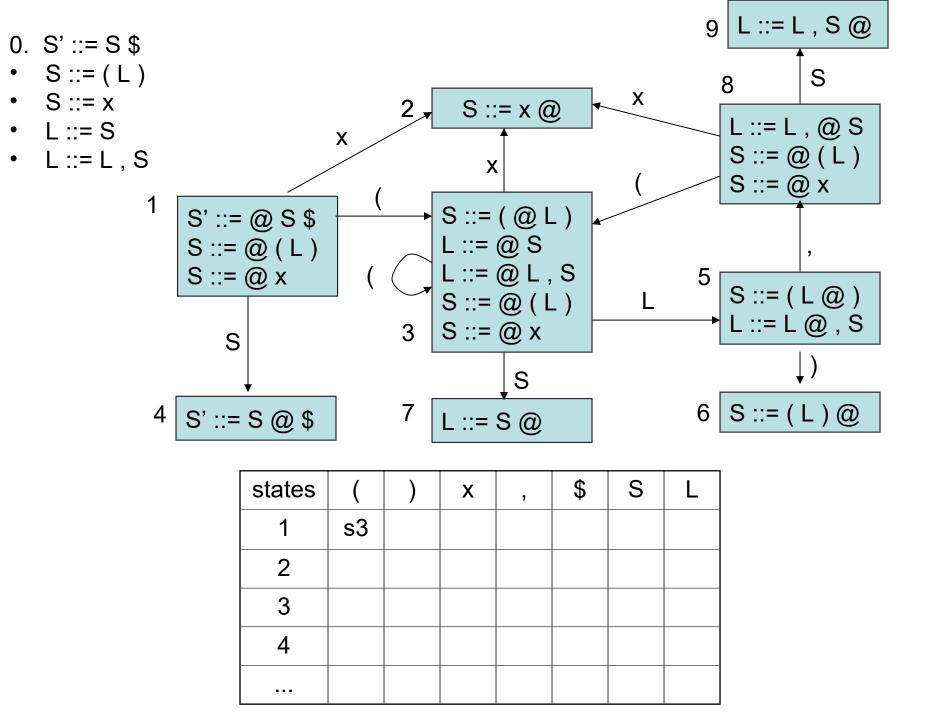


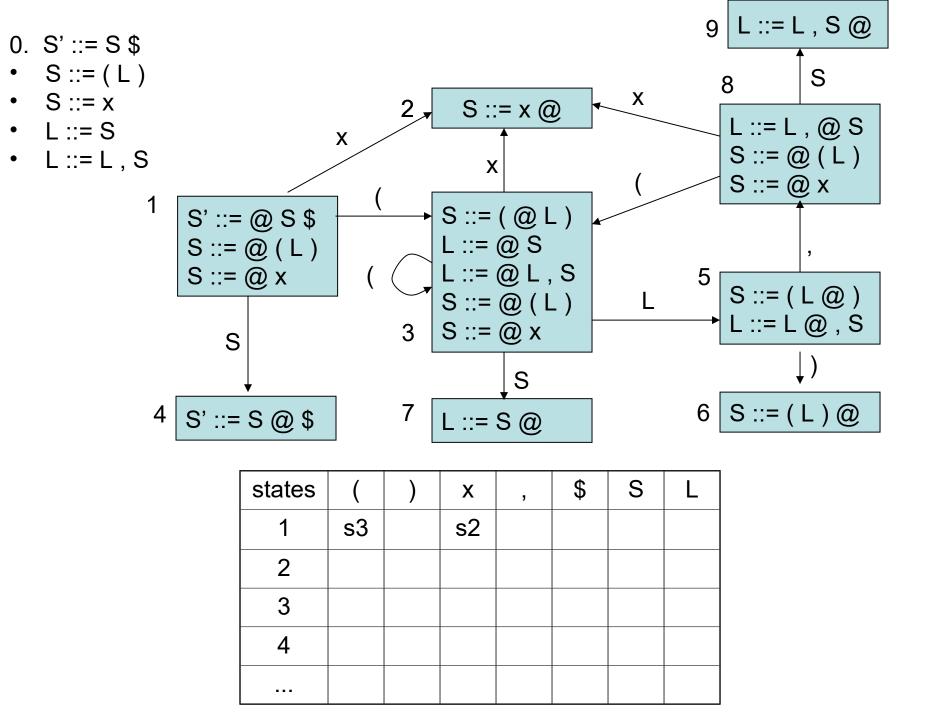
computing parse table

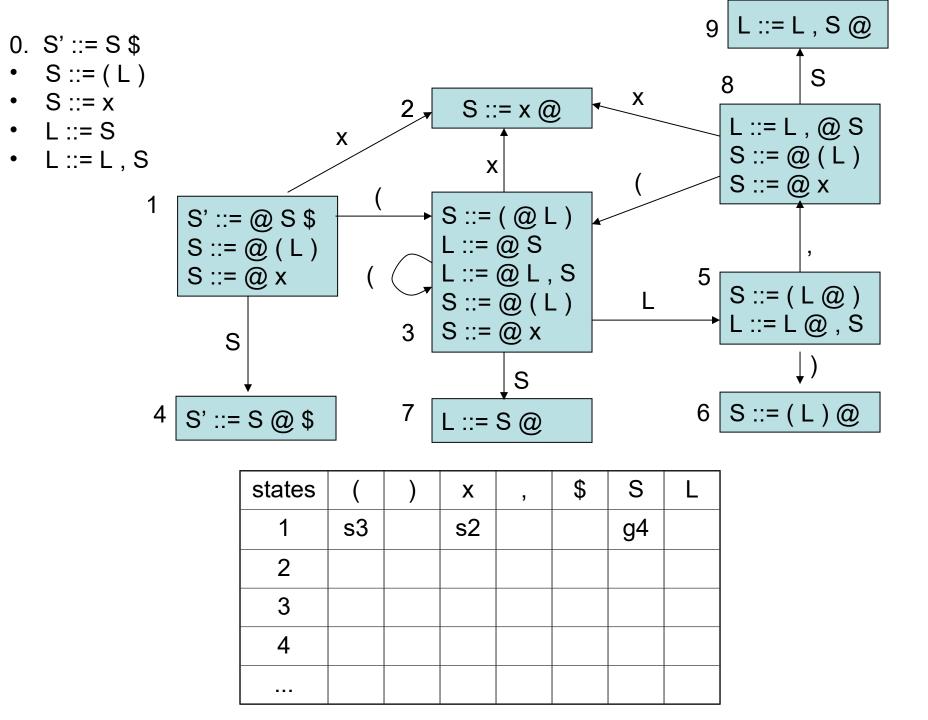
- State i contains X ::= s @ \$ ==> table[i,\$] = a
- State i contains rule k: X ::= s @ ==> table[i,T] = rk for all terminals T
- Transition from i to j marked with T ==> table[i,T] = sj
- Transition from i to j marked with X ==> table[i,X] = gj

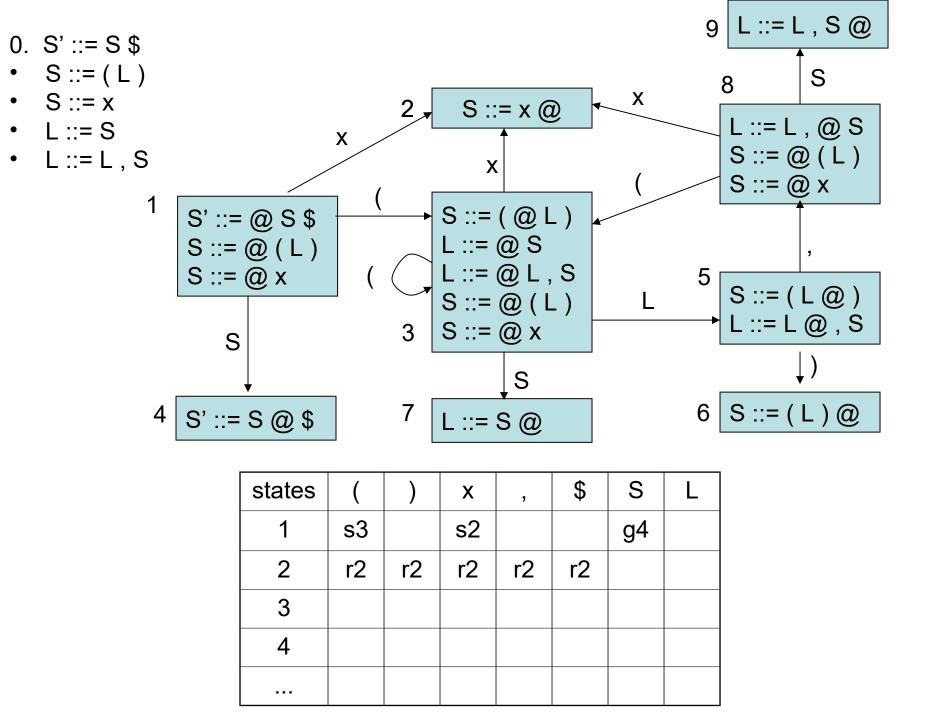
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1		
2	sn = shift & goto state n	gn = goto state n
3	rk = reduce by rule k	
	a = accept	
n	= error	

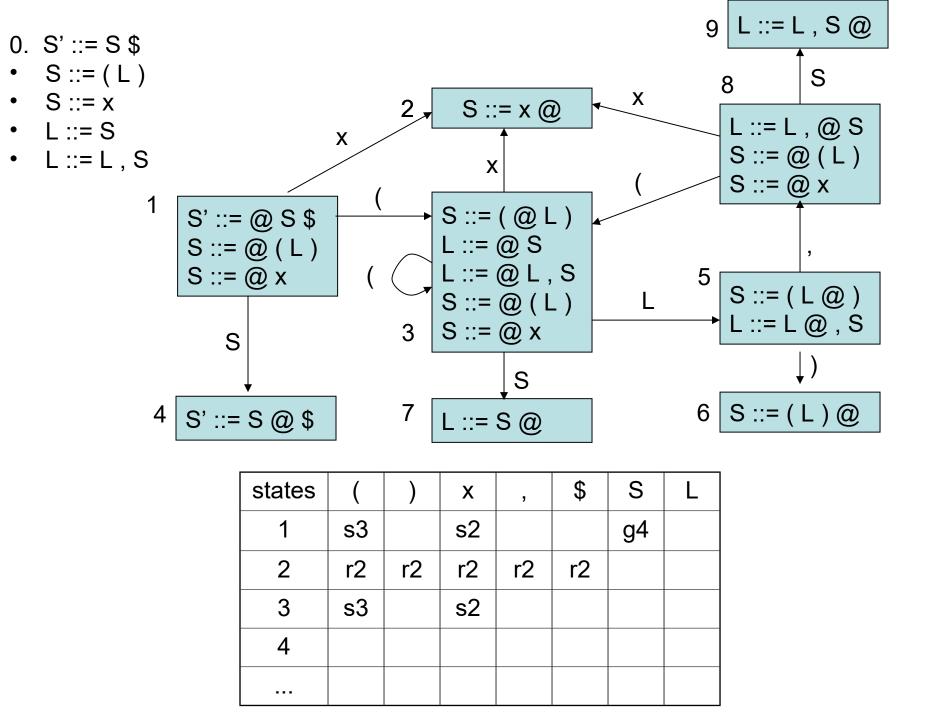


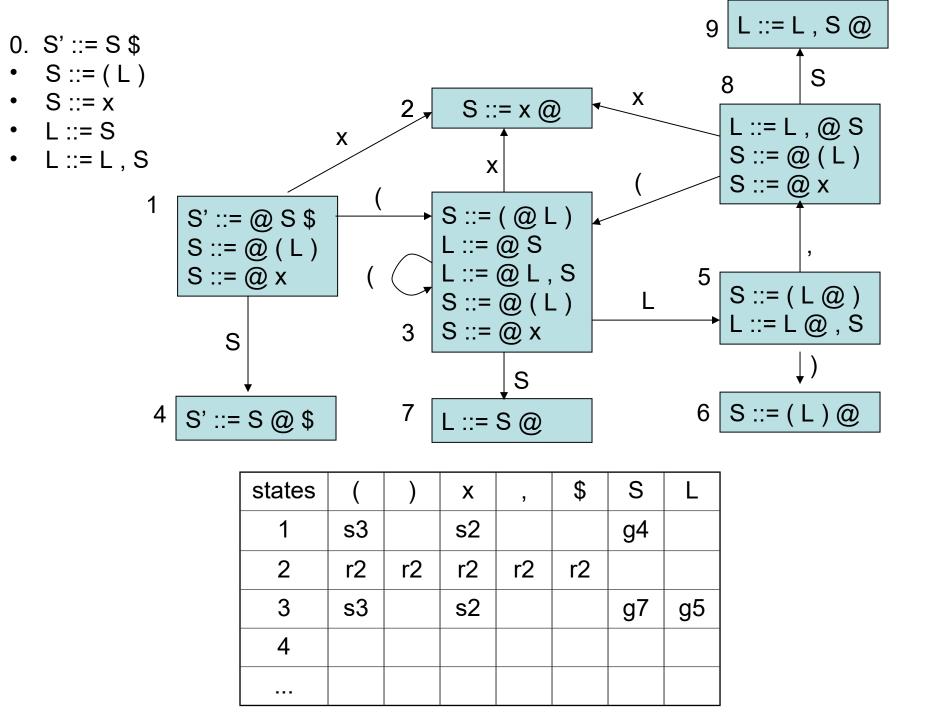


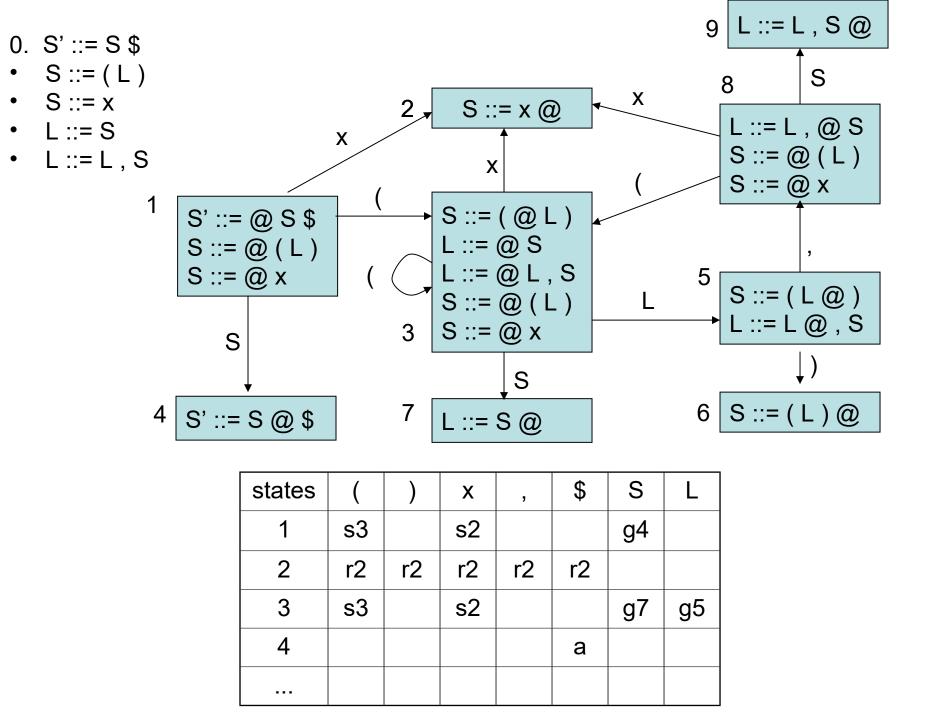












states	()	Х	,	\$	S	L
1	s3		s2			g4	
2	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2		
3	s3		s2			g7	g5
4					а		
5		s6		s8			
6	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1		
7	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3		
8	s3		s2			g9	
9	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4		

input: (x , x) \$

stack: 1

0. S' ::= S \$

• S ::= (L)

• S ::= x

• L ::= S

states	()	Х	,	\$	S	L
1	s3		s2			g4	
2	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2		
3	s3		s2			g7	g5
4					а		
5		s6		s8			
6	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1		
7	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3		
8	s3		s2			g9	
9	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4		

input: (x, x)\$

stack: 1 (3

0. S' ::= S \$

• S ::= (L)

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• L ::= S

states	()	Х	,	\$	S	L
1	s3		s2			g4	
2	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2		
3	s3		s2			g7	g5
4					а		
5		s6		s8			
6	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1		
7	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3		
8	s3		s2			g9	
9	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4		

input: (x , x) \$

stack: 1 (3 x 2

1. S' ::= S \$

2. S ::= (L)

3. S ::= x

4. L ::= S

states	()	Х	,	\$	S	L
1	s3		s2			g4	
2	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2		
3	s3		s2			g7	g5
4					а		
5		s6		s8			
6	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1		
7	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3		
8	s3		s2			g9	
9	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4		

states	()	Х	,	\$	S	L
1	s3		s2			g4	
2	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2		
3	s3		s2			g7	g5
4					а		
5		s6		s8			
6	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1		
7	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3		
8	s3		s2			g9	
9	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4		

input: (x , x) \$

stack: 1 (3 S 7

0. S' ::= S \$

• S ::= (L)

• S ::= x

• L ::= S

states	()	Х	,	\$	S	L
1	s3		s2			g4	
2	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2		
3	s3		s2			g7	g5
4					а		
5		s6		s8			
6	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1		
7	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3		
8	s3		s2			g9	
9	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4		

states	()	Х	,	\$	S	L
1	s3		s2			g4	
2	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2		
3	s3		s2			g7	g5
4					а		
5		s6		s8			
6	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1		
7	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3		
8	s3		s2			g9	
9	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4		

states	()	Х	,	\$	S	L
1	s3		s2			g4	
2	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2		
3	s3		s2			g7	g5
4					а		
5		s6		s8			
6	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1		
7	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3		
8	s3		s2			g9	
9	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4		

input: (x, x)\$

stack: 1 (3 L 5, 8

0. S' ::= S \$

• S ::= (L)

• S ::= x

• L ::= S

states	()	Х	,	\$	S	L
1	s3		s2			g4	
2	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2		
3	s3		s2			g7	g5
4					а		
5		s6		s8			
6	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1		
7	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3		
8	s3		s2			g9	
9	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4		

input: (x , x) \$

stack: 1 (3 L 5 , 8 x 2

0. S' ::= S \$

• S ::= (L)

• S ::= x

• L ::= S

states	()	Х	,	\$	S	L
1	s3		s2			g4	
2	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2		
3	s3		s2			g7	g5
4					а		
5		s6		s8			
6	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1		
7	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3		
8	s3		s2			g9	
9	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4		

input: (x , x) \$

stack: 1 (3 L 5 , 8 S

0. S' ::= S \$

• S ::= (L)

• S ::= x

• L ::= S

states	()	Х	,	\$	S	L
1	s3		s2			g4	
2	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2		
3	s3		s2			g7	g5
4					а		
5		s6		s8			
6	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1		
7	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3		
8	s3		s2			g9	
9	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4		

input: (x , x) \$

stack: 1 (3 L 5 , 8 S 9

0. S' ::= S \$

• S ::= (L)

• S ::= x

• L ::= S

states	()	Х	,	\$	S	L
1	s3		s2			g4	
2	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2		
3	s3		s2			g7	g5
4					а		
5		s6		s8			
6	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1		
7	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3		
8	s3		s2			g9	
9	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4		

input: (x , x) \$

stack: 1 (3 L

0. S' ::= S \$

• S ::= (L)

• S ::= x

• L ::= S

states	()	Х	,	\$	S	L
1	s3		s2			g4	
2	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2		
3	s3		s2			g7	g5
4					а		
5		s6		s8			
6	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1		
7	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3		
8	s3		s2			g9	
9	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4		

LR(0)

- Even though we are doing LR(0) parsing we are using some look ahead (there is a column for each non-terminal)
- however, we only use the terminal to figure out which state to go to next, not to decide whether to shift or reduce

states	()	Х	,	\$	S	L
1	s3		s2			g4	
2	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2		
3	s3		s2			g7	g5

LR(0)

- Even though we are doing LR(0) parsing we are using some look ahead (there is a column for each non-terminal)
- however, we only use the terminal to figure out which state to go to next, not to decide whether to shift or reduce

states	()	Х	,	\$	S	L
1	s3		s2			g4	
2	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2		
3	s3		s2			g7	g5

ignore next automaton state

states	no look-ahead	S	L
1	shift	g4	
2	reduce 2		
3	shift	g7	g5

LR(0)

- Even though we are doing LR(0) parsing we are using some look ahead (there is a column for each non-terminal)
- however, we only use the terminal to figure out which state to go to next, not to decide whether to shift or reduce
- If the same row contains both shift and reduce, we will have a conflict ==> the grammar is not LR(0)
- Likewise if the same row contains reduce by two different rules

states	no look-ahead	S	L
1	shift, reduce 5	g4	
2	reduce 2, reduce 7		
3	shift	g7	g5

SLR

- SLR (simple LR) is a variant of LR(0) that reduces the number of conflicts in LR(0) tables by using a tiny bit of look ahead
- To determine when to reduce, 1 symbol of look ahead is used.
- Only put reduce by rule (X ::= RHS) in column T if T is in Follow(X)

states	()	х	,	\$	S	L
1	s3		s2			g4	
2	r2	s5	r2				
3	∕ <mark>,</mark> r1		r1	r5	r5	g7	g5
	7/						

cuts down the number of rk slots & therefore cuts down conflicts

LR(1) & LALR

- LR(1) automata are identical to LR(0) except for the "items" that make up the states
- LR(0) items:

```
X ::= s1 @ s2
```

look-ahead symbol added

• LR(1) items

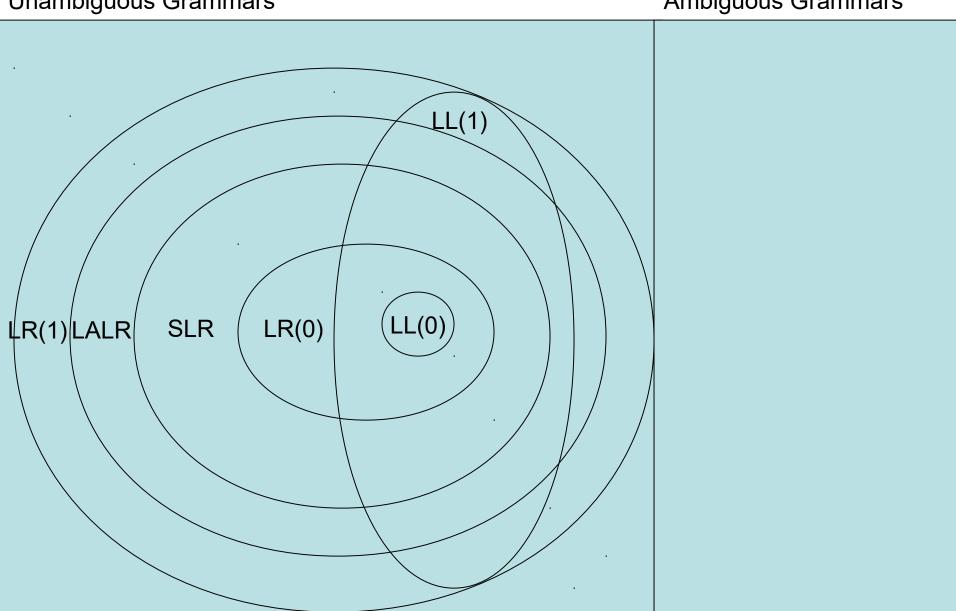
```
X ::= s1 @ s2, T
```

- Idea: sequence s1 is on stack; input stream is s2 T
- Find closure with respect to X ::= s1 @ Y s2, T by adding all items Y ::= s3, U when Y ::= s3 is a rule and U is in First(s2 T)
- Two states are different if they contain the same rules but the rules have different look-ahead symbols
 - Leads to many states
 - LALR(1) = LR(1) where states that are identical aside from look-ahead symbols have been merged
 - ML-Yacc & most parser generators use LALR
- READ: Appel 3.3 (and also all of the rest of chapter 3)

Grammar Relationships

Unambiguous Grammars

Ambiguous Grammars



summary

- LR parsing is more powerful than LL parsing, given the same look ahead
- to construct an LR parser, it is necessary to compute an LR parser table
- the LR parser table represents a finite automaton that walks over the parser stack
- ML-Yacc uses LALR, a compact variant of LR(1)