



What is ANTLR?

- ANTLR (ANother Tool for Language Recognition) is a powerful parser generator for reading, processing, executing, or translating structured text or binary files. It's widely used to build languages, tools, and frameworks.
- From a grammar, ANTLR generates a parser that can build and walk parse trees.

Setup

- We will introduce 2 ways to use antlr:
 - First one using only cmd/PowerShell.
 - Second one using intellij plugins.
 - There are another plugins, for example for eclipse (there is a link that might help in the references).

Setup:

- We should first:
 - Download java.
 - Download ANTLR.
 - <https://www.antlr.org/download/>

First Method

Nardeen M.

Setup:

- Create folder (**C:\Javalib**).
- Create in this folder 2 files:
 - **antlr4.bat**
 - **grun.bat**
- Also put the antlr.zip in this folder.

antlr4.bat

- Write in this file:
`java org.antlr.v4.Tool %*`
- Save this file.

grun.bat

- Write in this file:

```
@ECHO OFF
```

```
SET TEST_CURRENT_DIR=%CLASSPATH:.;=%
```

```
if "%TEST_CURRENT_DIR%" == "%CLASSPATH%" ( SET CLASSPATH=.;%CLASSPATH% )
```

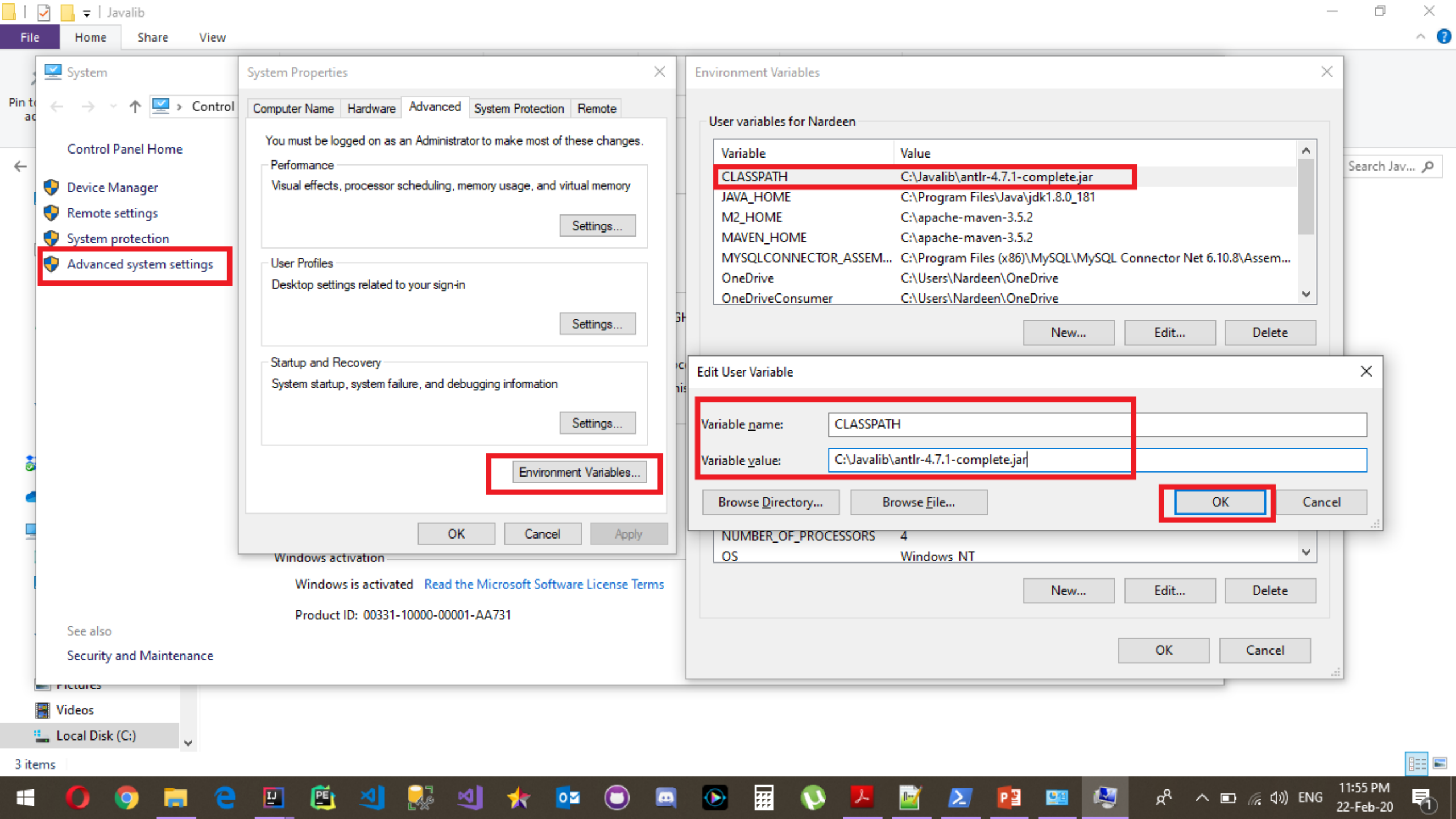
```
@ECHO ON
```

```
java org.antlr.v4.gui.TestRig %*
```

- Save this file.

Setup:

- Open File Explorer.
- Right Click on This PC.
- Select Properties.
- Select Advanced System Settings (from the left hand side).
- Select Environment Variable (at the bottom of the screen).
- At User Variable:
 - Click New.
Variable Name: **CLASSPATH**
Variable Value: **C:\Javalib\antlr-4.7.1-complete.jar** //antlr path
 - Click Ok



System Properties

Computer Name Hardware **Advanced** System Protection Remote

You must be logged on as an Administrator to make most of these changes.

Performance
Visual effects, processor scheduling, memory usage, and virtual memory
Settings...

User Profiles
Desktop settings related to your sign-in
Settings...

Startup and Recovery
System startup, system failure, and debugging information
Settings...

Environment Variables...

OK Cancel Apply

Environment Variables

User variables for Nardeen

Variable	Value
CLASSPATH	C:\Javalib\antlr-4.7.1-complete.jar
JAVA_HOME	C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.8.0_181
M2_HOME	C:\apache-maven-3.5.2
MAVEN_HOME	C:\apache-maven-3.5.2
MYSQLCONNECTOR_ASSEM...	C:\Program Files (x86)\MySQL\MySQL Connector Net 6.10.8\Assem...
OneDrive	C:\Users\Nardeen\OneDrive
OneDriveConsumer	C:\Users\Nardeen\OneDrive

New... Edit... Delete

Edit User Variable

Variable name: CLASSPATH

Variable value: C:\Javalib\antlr-4.7.1-complete.jar

Browse Directory... Browse File... **OK** Cancel

NUMBER_OF_PROCESSORS 4

OS Windows NT

New... Edit... Delete

OK Cancel

Setup:

- At User Variable: (Continue)
 - Choose Variable : **Path**
 - Then Click Edit.
 - Then Click New:
C:\Javalib
 - Then Click New:
 - Also make sure that there is a variable for your **java jdk** in user variable, if not: then add it.

Make sure that everything works correctly

- Open PowerShell/cmd.
- Write these commands:
 - `antlr4`
 - `grun`

```
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

Try the new cross-platform PowerShell https://aka.ms/pscore6

PS C:\Users\Nardeen> antlr4

C:\Users\Nardeen>java org.antlr.v4.Tool
ANTLR Parser Generator Version 4.7.1
-o ____ specify output directory where all output is generated
-lib ____ specify location of grammars, tokens files
-atn generate rule augmented transition network diagrams
-encoding ____ specify grammar file encoding; e.g., euc-jp
-message-format ____ specify output style for messages in antlr, gnu, vs2005
-long-messages show exception details when available for errors and warnings
-listener generate parse tree listener (default)
-no-listener don't generate parse tree listener
-visitor generate parse tree visitor
-no-visitor don't generate parse tree visitor (default)
-package ____ specify a package/namespace for the generated code
-depend generate file dependencies
-D<option>=value set/override a grammar-level option
-Werror treat warnings as errors
-XdbgST launch StringTemplate visualizer on generated code
-XdbgSTWait wait for STViz to close before continuing
-Xforce-atn use the ATN simulator for all predictions
-Xlog dump lots of logging info to antlr-timestamp.log
-Xexact-output-dir all output goes into -o dir regardless of paths/package
PS C:\Users\Nardeen> grun

C:\Users\Nardeen>java org.antlr.v4.gui.TestRig
java org.antlr.v4.gui.TestRig GrammarName startRuleName
[-tokens] [-tree] [-gui] [-ps file.ps] [-encoding encodingname]
[-trace] [-diagnostics] [-SLL]
[input-filename(s)]
Use startRuleName='tokens' if GrammarName is a lexer grammar.
Omitting input-filename makes rig read from stdin.
PS C:\Users\Nardeen>
```

Example 1

- Create a new file: **Hello.g4** in your code folder.
- Add your grammar in it, then save it.

```
grammar Hello;  
r : 'hello' ID ; // match keyword hello followed by an identifier  
ID : [a-z]+ ; // match lower-case identifiers  
WS : [ \t\r\n]+ -> skip ; // skip spaces, tabs, newlines
```

- Note: The File name must be the same as your grammar

Return to the cmd/PowerShell

- Cd to your code folder where you placed the grammar, for example:

```
cd F:\GUC\5.2\Example_1
```

- Then write the command :

```
antlr4 Hello.g4
```

- Then Compile your grammar:

```
javac Hello*.java
```

- Then Write:

```
grun Hello r -tokens
```

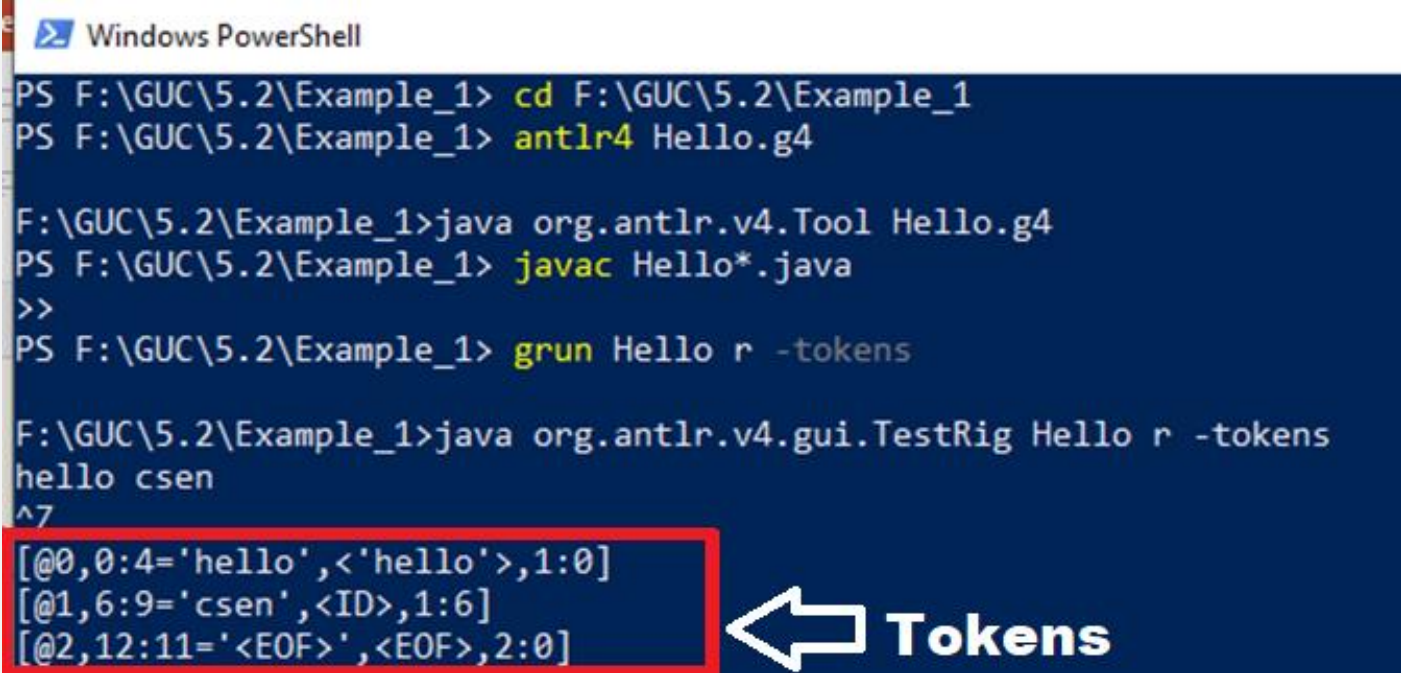
// r is the start of your grammar

//token for tokenize the input

- Then you write any string, for example:

```
hello csen // any string
```

```
^Z //Press Ctrl+Z (EOF) in Windows
```



```
Windows PowerShell
PS F:\GUC\5.2\Example_1> cd F:\GUC\5.2\Example_1
PS F:\GUC\5.2\Example_1> antlr4 Hello.g4

F:\GUC\5.2\Example_1> java org.antlr.v4.Tool Hello.g4
PS F:\GUC\5.2\Example_1> javac Hello*.java
>>
PS F:\GUC\5.2\Example_1> grun Hello r -tokens

F:\GUC\5.2\Example_1> java org.antlr.v4.gui.TestRig Hello r -tokens
hello csen
^Z
[@0,0:4='hello',<'hello'>,1:0]
[@1,6:9='csen',<ID>,1:6]
[@2,12:11='<EOF>',<EOF>,2:0]
```

← Tokens

Actions

- Actions are blocks of text written in the target language and enclosed in curly braces. The recognizer triggers them according to their locations within the grammar.
- For example, the following rule emits "decl" after the parser has seen a valid declaration:

```
decl: type ID ';' {System.out.println("decl");} ;  
type: 'int' | 'float' ;
```

- Only actions within the outermost token rule are executed.

Example 2

```
grammar Expr;  
prog: (expr NEWLINE)*;  
expr: expr('*'|'/')expr{System.out.println("111");}  
| expr('+'|'-')expr{System.out.println("222");}  
| INT  
| '('expr')';  
NEWLINE: [\r\n]+;  
INT: [0-9]+;
```


Example 2 Test:

```
Windows PowerShell
PS F:\GUC\5.2\Example_1> cd F:\GUC\5.2\Example_2
PS F:\GUC\5.2\Example_2> antlr4 Expr.g4

F:\GUC\5.2\Example_2>java org.antlr.v4.Tool Expr.g4
PS F:\GUC\5.2\Example_2> javac Expr*.java
PS F:\GUC\5.2\Example_2> grun Expr prog -tokens

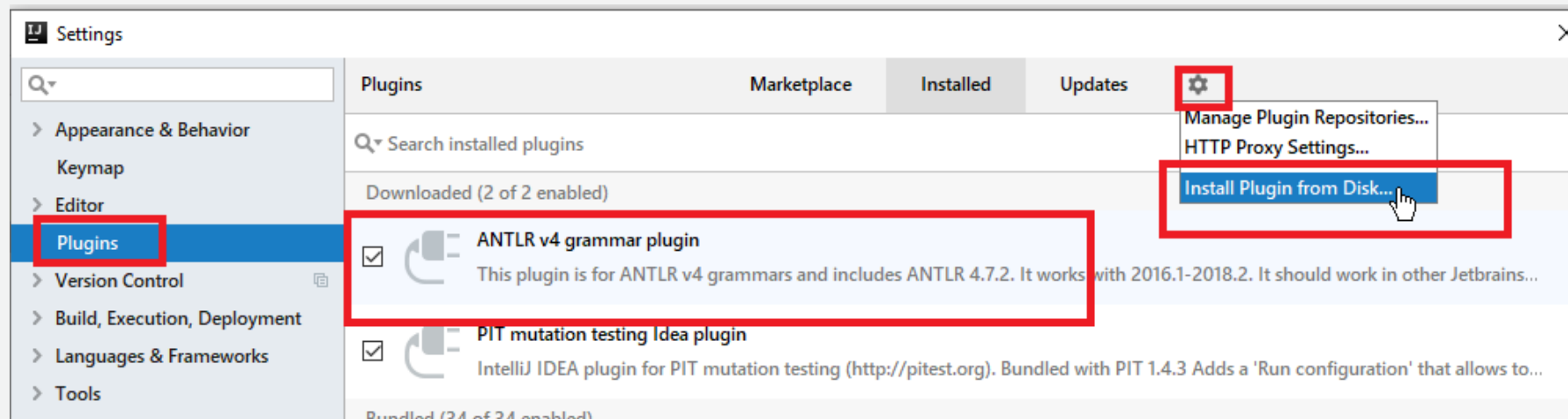
F:\GUC\5.2\Example_2>java org.antlr.v4.gui.TestRig Expr prog -tokens
100+3*44
^Z
[@0,0:2='100',<INT>,1:0]
[@1,3:3='+',<'+'>,1:3]
[@2,4:4='3',<INT>,1:4]
[@3,5:5='*',<'*'>,1:5]
[@4,6:7='44',<INT>,1:6]
[@5,8:9='\r\n',<NEWLINE>,1:8]
[@6,10:9='<EOF>',<EOF>,2:0]
111
222
```

Second Method

Nardeen M.

Setup:

- We should first:
 - Download antlr intellj plugins:
 - <https://plugins.jetbrains.com/plugin/7358-antlr-v4-grammar-plugin/versions>
- Open a new project, then you should add the plugin in intellj:
 - File > Settings > Plugins > Install Plugins form disk (at the top right), the choose the file.



Setup:

- In **src** folder:
 - Create your grammar file: **Hello.g4**
- Add your grammar in it: (Like example 1)

```
grammar Hello;
```

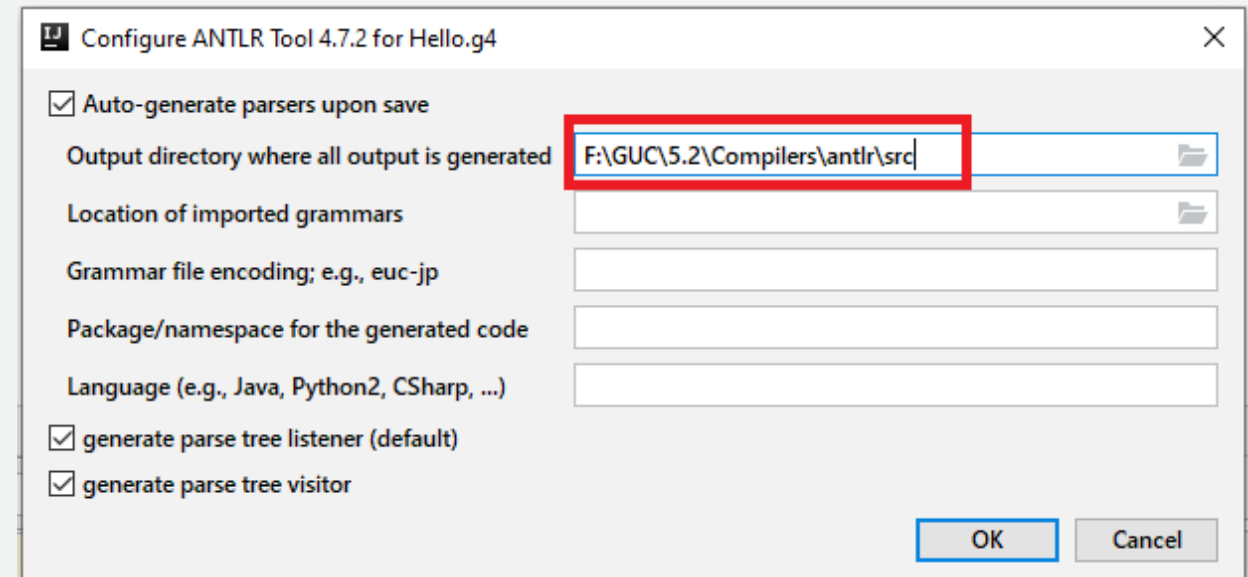
```
r : 'hello' ID ; // match keyword hello followed by an identifier
```

```
ID : [a-z]+ ; // match lower-case identifiers
```

```
WS : [ \t\r\n]+ -> skip ; // skip spaces, tabs, newlines
```

Setup:

- On the grammar, Right Click then choose **Configure Antlr**.
- Write the dir of the src (as shown in the figure).
- Then Right Click then choose **Generate Antlr Regonizer**.



Go to the cmd/PowerShell

- Cd to your code folder where you placed the grammar, for example:

```
cd F:\GUC\5.2\Example_1
```

- Then write the command :

```
antlr4 Hello.g4
```

- Then Compile your grammar:

```
javac Hello*.java
```

- Then Write:

```
grun Hello r -tokens
```

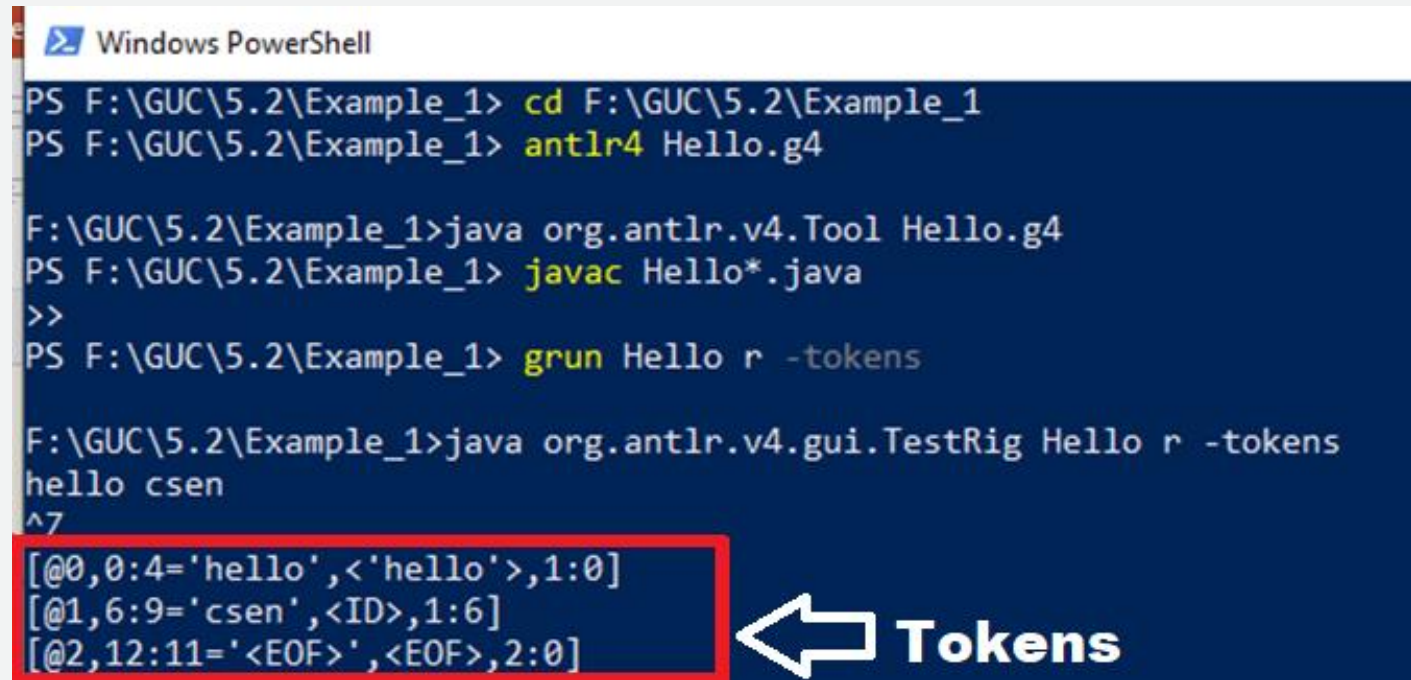
// r is the start of your grammar

//token for tokenize the input

- Then you write any string, for example:

```
hello csen // any string
```

```
^Z //Press Ctrl+Z (EOF) in Windows
```



```
Windows PowerShell
PS F:\GUC\5.2\Example_1> cd F:\GUC\5.2\Example_1
PS F:\GUC\5.2\Example_1> antlr4 Hello.g4

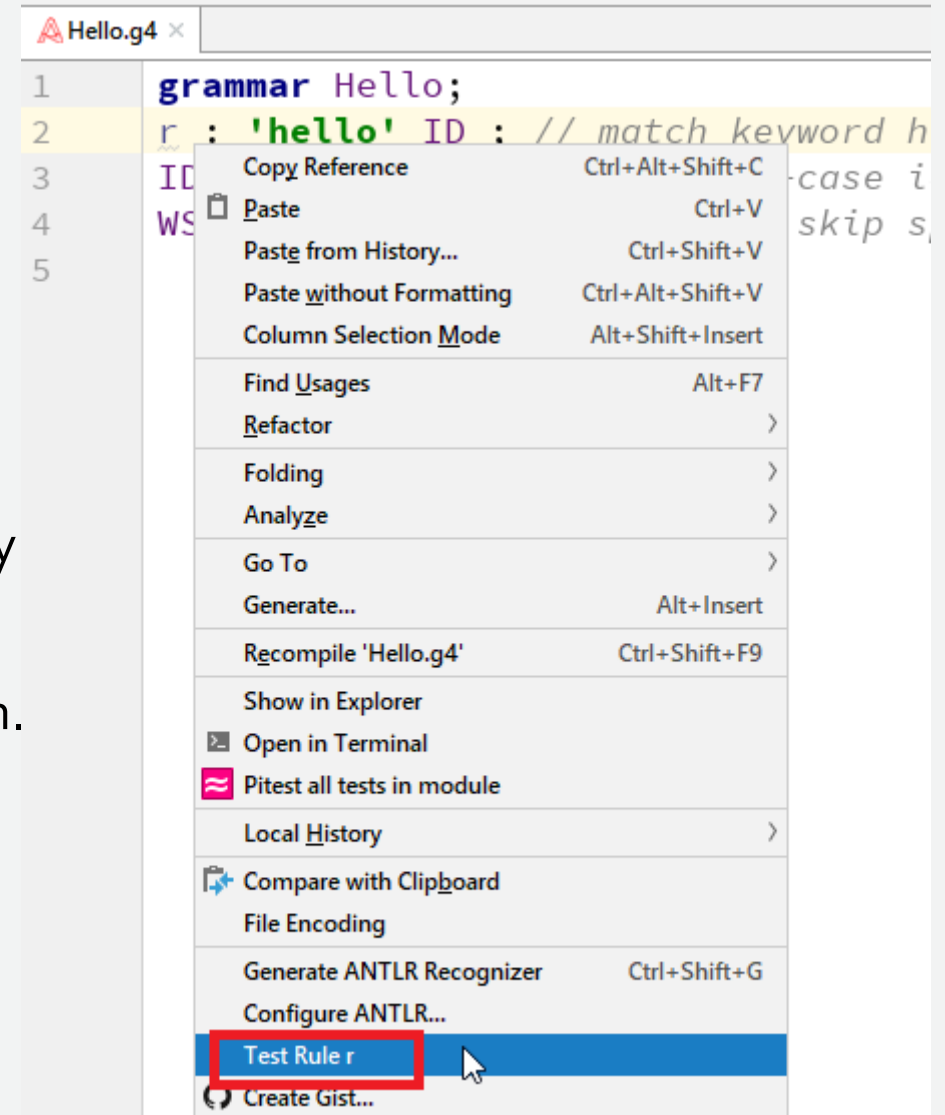
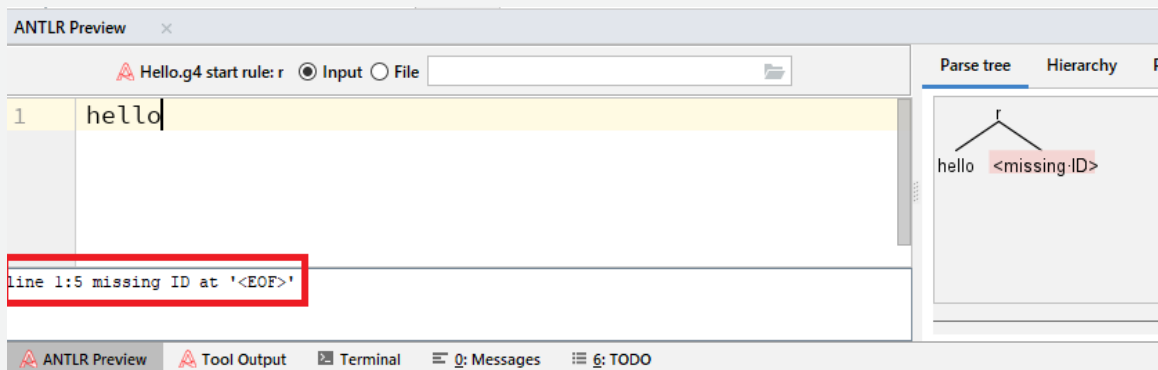
F:\GUC\5.2\Example_1> java org.antlr.v4.Tool Hello.g4
PS F:\GUC\5.2\Example_1> javac Hello*.java
>>
PS F:\GUC\5.2\Example_1> grun Hello r -tokens

F:\GUC\5.2\Example_1> java org.antlr.v4.gui.TestRig Hello r -tokens
hello csen
^Z
[@0,0:4='hello',<'hello'>,1:0]
[@1,6:9='csen',<ID>,1:6]
[@2,12:11='<EOF>',<EOF>,2:0]
```

← Tokens

Back to intellj

- We can also run the grammar and see the parse tree:
 - Right click on the start of your regular expression in the grammar, then choose **Test Rule r**.
- Now **Antlr Preview** is opened at the bottom, you can write any string, and see its parse tree.
- Also if there is an error in tokens, it will appear at the bottom.



Example 1 Test:

The screenshot displays the IntelliJ IDEA interface with the ANTLR grammar editor open. The main editor shows the following grammar rules for `Hello.g4`:

```
grammar Hello;  
r : 'hello' ID ; // match keyword hello followed by an identifier  
ID : [a-z]+ ; // match lower-case identifiers  
WS : [ \t\r\n]+ -> skip ; // skip spaces, tabs, newlines
```

The left sidebar shows the project structure with the `src` folder expanded, listing files like `Hello.g4`, `Hello.interp`, `Hello.tokens`, and various listener/visitor classes.

The bottom panel is split into two sections:

- ANTLR Preview:** Shows the input text `hello csen` at line 1.
- Parse tree:** Displays a tree structure where the root node `r` has two children: `hello` and `csen`.

The status bar at the bottom indicates the parser for `Expr.g4` was generated to `F:\GUC\5.2\Compilers\antlr\gen` (yesterday 10:06 PM). The encoding is UTF-8 with 4 spaces.

References:

- Antlr intellij plugins:
 - Download:
 - <https://plugins.jetbrains.com/plugin/7358-antlr-v4-grammar-plugin/versions>
 - Steps:
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=121&v=svEZtRjVBTY&feature=emb_logo
- Antlr tools
 - <https://www.antlr.org/tools.html>
- Guide:
 - <https://github.com/antlr/antlr4/blob/master/doc/getting-started.md>