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mutable struct TensorParser
  preprocessors::Vector{Any} # any preprocessing steps
  contractiontreebuilder::Any # determine a contraction tree for a contraction
    involving multiple tensors
  contractiontreesorter::Any # transforms the contraction expression into an
    expression of nested binary contractions using the tree output from the
    contractiontreebuilder

  postprocessors::Vector{Any}
  function TensorParser()
    preprocessors = [normalizeindices,
                     expandconj,
                     nconindexcompletion,
                     extracttensorobjects]
    contractiontreebuilder = defaulttreebuilder
    contractiontreesorter = defaulttreesorter
    postprocessors = [_flatten, removelinenumbernode, addtensoroperations]
    return new(preprocessors,
               contractiontreebuilder,
               contractiontreesorter,
               postprocessors)
  end
end

function (parser::TensorParser)(ex::Expr)
  if ex isa Expr && ex.head == :function
    return Expr(:function, ex.args[1], parser(ex.args[2]))
  end
  for p in parser.preprocessors
    ex = p(ex)::Expr
  end
  treebuilder = parser.contractiontreebuilder
  treesorter = parser.contractiontreesorter
  ex = processcontractions(ex, treebuilder, treesorter)::Expr
  ex = tensorify(ex)::Expr
  for p in parser.postprocessors
    ex = p(ex)::Expr
  end
  return ex
end

function processcontractions(ex::Expr, treebuilder, treesorter)
  if ex.head == :macrocall && ex.args[1] == Symbol("@notensor")
    return ex
  end
  ex = Expr(ex.head, map(e->processcontractions(e, treebuilder, treesorter),
ex.args)...)
  if istensorcontraction(ex) && length(ex.args) > 3
    args = ex.args[2:end]
    network = map(getindices, args)
    for a in getallindices(ex)
      count(a in n for n in network) <= 2 ||
        throw(ArgumentError("invalid tensor contraction: $ex"))
    end
  end
end

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        tree = treebuilder(network)
        ex = treesorter(args, tree)
    end
    return ex
end
processcontractions(ex, treebuilder, treesorter) = ex

function defaulttreesorter(args, tree)
    if isa(tree, Int)
        return args[tree]
    else
        return Expr(:call, :*,
                      defaulttreesorter(args, tree[1]),
                      defaulttreesorter(args, tree[2]))
    end
end

function defaulttreebuilder(network)
    if isnconststyle(network)
        tree = ncontree(network)
    else
        tree = Any[1,2]
        for k = 3:length(network)
            tree = Any[tree, k]
        end
    end
    return tree
end

# functions for parsing and processing tensor expressions
function tensorify(ex::Expr)
    if ex.head == :macrocall && ex.args[1] == Symbol("@notensor")
        return ex.args[3]
    end
    # assignment case
    if isassignment(ex) || isdefinition(ex)
        lhs, rhs = getlhs(ex), getrhs(ex)
        if isa(rhs, Expr) && rhs.head == :call && rhs.args[1] == :throw
            return rhs
        end

        # process left hand side
        if istensor(lhs) && istensorexpr(rhs)
            indices = getindices(rhs)
            if hastraceindices(lhs)
                err = "left hand side of an assignment should have unique indices:
$lhs"
                return :(throw(IndexError($err)))
            end
            dst, leftind, rightind = decomposetensor(lhs)
            if Set(vcat(leftind, rightind)) != Set(indices)
                err = "non-matching indices between left and right hand side: $ex"
                return :(throw(IndexError($err)))
            end
        end
        if isassignment(ex)

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    if ex.head == :(:=)
        return instantiate(dst, false, rhs, true, leftind, rightind)
    elseif ex.head == :(:+=)
        return instantiate(dst, true, rhs, 1, leftind, rightind)
    else
        return instantiate(dst, true, rhs, -1, leftind, rightind)
    end
else
    return Expr(:(:=), dst, instantiate(nothing, false, rhs, true,
leftind, rightind, false))
end
elseif isassignment(ex) && isscalarexpr(lhs)
    if istensorexpr(rhs) && isempty(getindices(rhs))
        return Expr(ex.head, instantiate_scalar(lhs), Expr(:call, :scalar,
instantiate(nothing, false, rhs, true, [], [], true)))
    elseif isscalarexpr(rhs)
        return Expr(ex.head, instantiate_scalar(lhs),
instantiate_scalar(rhs))
    end
else
    return ex # likely an error
end
end
if ex.head == :block
    return Expr(ex.head, map(tensorify, ex.args)...)
end
if ex.head == :for
    return Expr(ex.head, ex.args[1], tensorify(ex.args[2]))
end
if ex.head == :function
    return Expr(ex.head, ex.args[1], tensorify(ex.args[2]))
end
# constructions of the form: a = @tensor ...
if isscalarexpr(ex)
    return instantiate_scalar(ex)
end
if istensorexpr(ex)
    if !isempty(getindices(ex))
        err = "cannot evaluate $ex to a scalar: uncontracted indices"
        return :(throw(IndexError($err)))
    end
    return Expr(:call, :scalar, instantiate(nothing, false, ex, true, [], [],
true))
end
error("invalid syntax in @tensor macro: $ex")
end
tensorify(ex) = ex

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