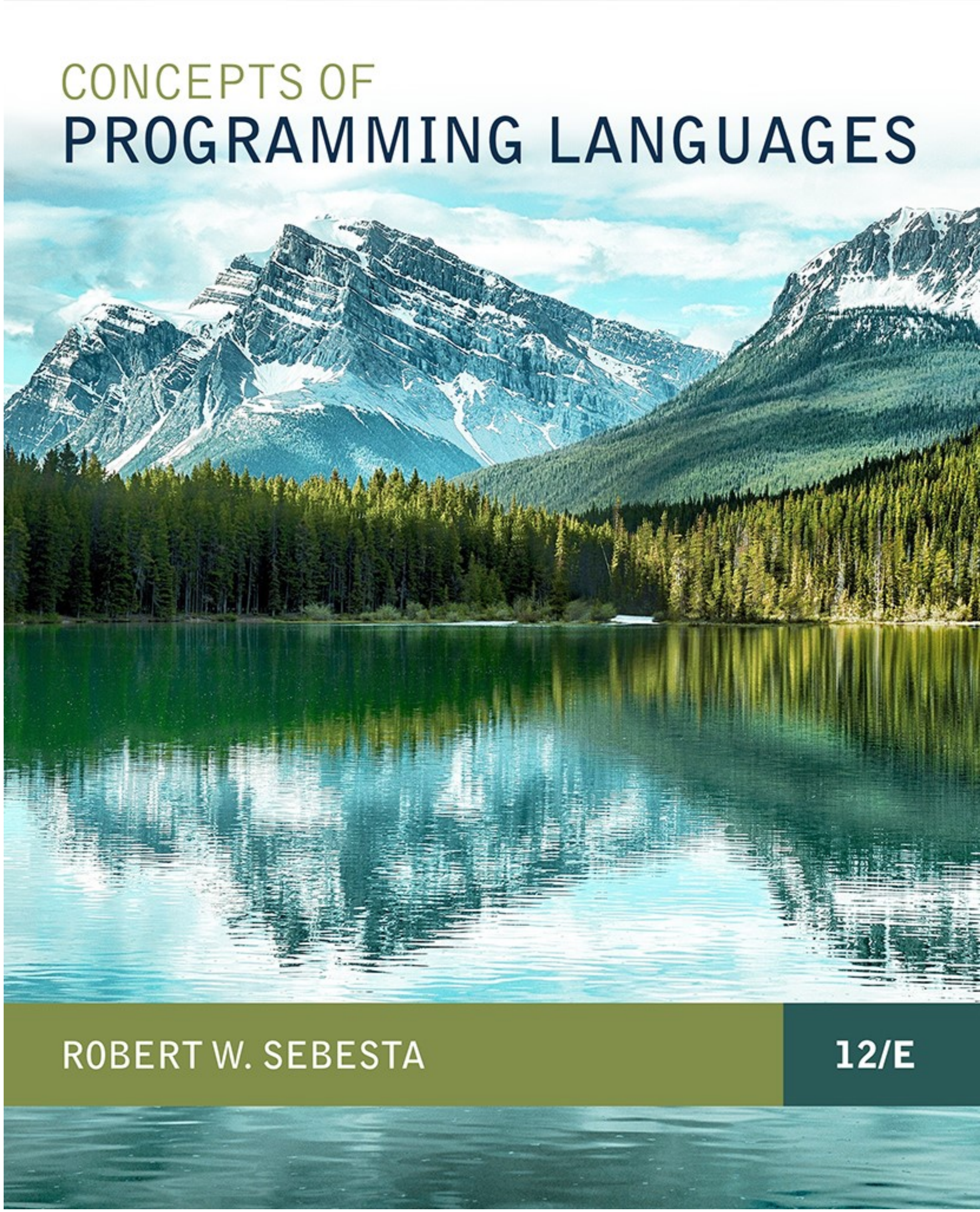
Chapter 4

Lexical and Syntax Analysis



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Chapter 4 Topics

- Introduction
- Lexical Analysis
- The Parsing Problem
- Recursive-Descent Parsing
- Bottom-Up Parsing

Introduction

- Language implementation systems must analyze source code, regardless of the specific implementation approach
- Nearly all syntax analysis is based on a formal description of the syntax of the source language (BNF)

Syntax Analysis

- The syntax analysis portion of a language processor nearly always consists of two parts:
  - A low-level part called a *lexical analyzer* (mathematically, a finite automaton based on a regular grammar)
  - A high-level part called a *syntax analyzer*, or parser (mathematically, a push-down automaton based on a context-free grammar, or BNF)

Advantages of Using BNF to Describe Syntax

- Provides a clear and concise syntax description
- The parser can be based directly on the BNF
- Parsers based on BNF are easy to maintain

Reasons to Separate Lexical and Syntax Analysis

- *Simplicity* – less complex approaches can be used for lexical analysis; separating them simplifies the parser
- *Efficiency* – separation allows optimization of the lexical analyzer
- *Portability* – parts of the lexical analyzer may not be portable, but the parser always is portable

Lexical Analysis

- A lexical analyzer is a pattern matcher for character strings
- A lexical analyzer is a “front-end” for the parser
- Identifies substrings of the source program that belong together – *lexemes*
  - Lexemes match a character pattern, which is associated with a lexical category called a *token*
  - `sum` is a lexeme; its token may be `IDENT`

Lexical Analysis (continued)

- The lexical analyzer is usually a function that is called by the parser when it needs the next token
- Three approaches to building a lexical analyzer:
  - Write a formal description of the tokens and use a software tool that constructs a table-driven lexical analyzer from such a description
  - Design a state diagram that describes the tokens and write a program that implements the state diagram
  - Design a state diagram that describes the tokens and hand-construct a table-driven implementation of the state diagram

State Diagram Design

- A naïve state diagram would have a transition from every state on every character in the source language – such a diagram would be very large!

Lexical Analysis (continued)

- In many cases, transitions can be combined to simplify the state diagram
  - When recognizing an identifier, all uppercase and lowercase letters are equivalent
    - Use a character class that includes all letters
  - When recognizing an integer literal, all digits are equivalent – use a digit class

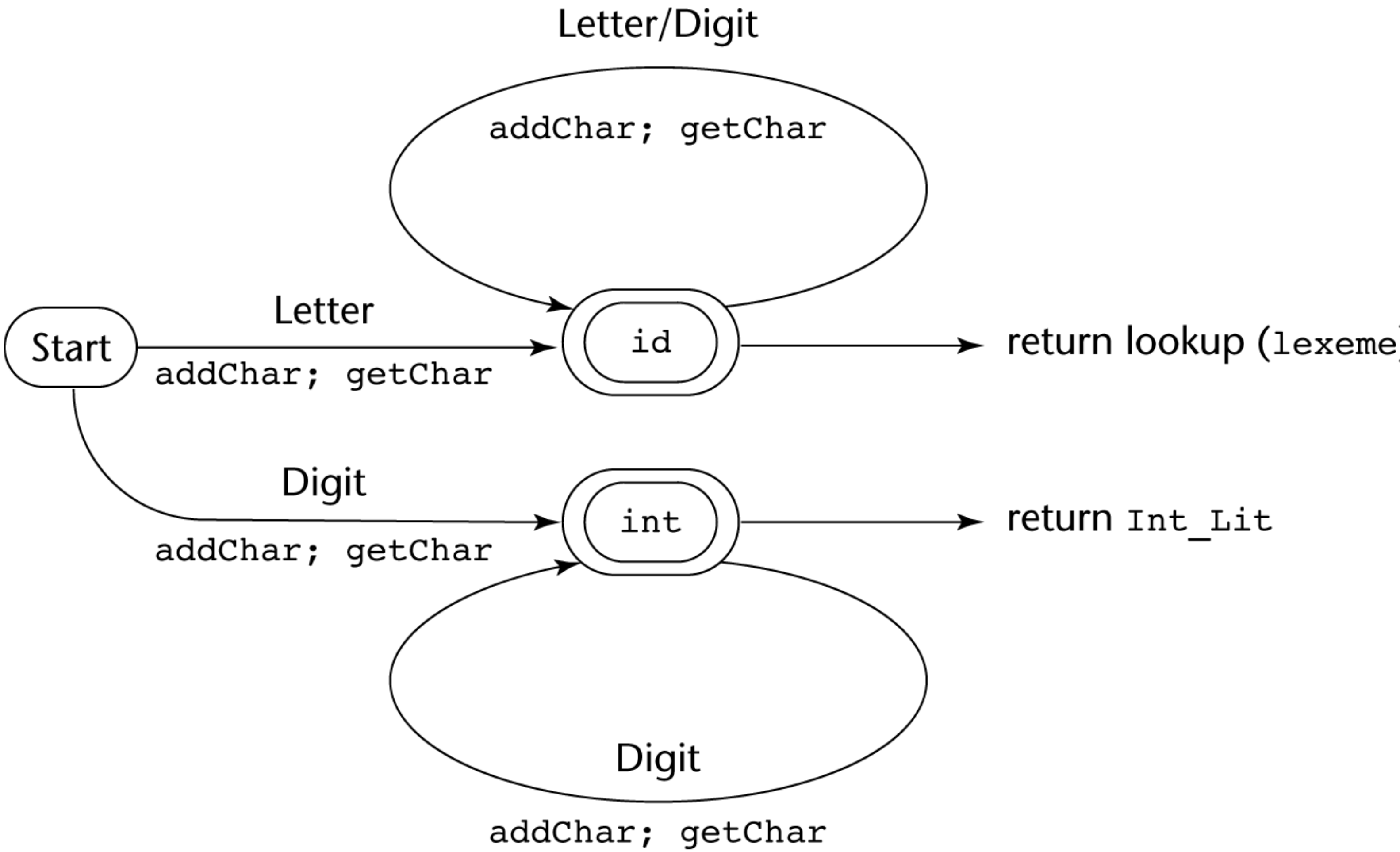
Lexical Analysis (continued)

- Reserved words and identifiers can be recognized together (rather than having a part of the diagram for each reserved word)
  - Use a table lookup to determine whether a possible identifier is in fact a reserved word

Lexical Analysis (continued)

- Convenient utility subprograms:
  - **`getChar`** – gets the next character of input, puts it in **`nextChar`**, determines its class and puts the class in **`charClass`**
  - **`addChar`** – puts the character from **`nextChar`** into the place the lexeme is being accumulated, **`lexeme`**
  - **`lookup`** – determines whether the string in **`lexeme`** is a reserved word (returns a code)

State Diagram



Lexical Analyzer

Implementation:

→ SHOW `front.c` (pp. 172–177)

– Following is the output of the lexical analyzer of `front.c` when used on `(sum + 47) / total`

```
Next token is: 25 Next lexeme is (
Next token is: 11 Next lexeme is sum
Next token is: 21 Next lexeme is +
Next token is: 10 Next lexeme is 47
Next token is: 26 Next lexeme is )
Next token is: 24 Next lexeme is /
Next token is: 11 Next lexeme is total
Next token is: -1 Next lexeme is EOF
```

The Parsing Problem

- Goals of the parser, given an input program:
  - Find all syntax errors; for each, produce an appropriate diagnostic message and recover quickly
  - Produce the parse tree, or at least a trace of the parse tree, for the program

The Parsing Problem (continued)

- Two categories of parsers
  - *Top down* – produce the parse tree, beginning at the root (preorder)
    - Order is that of a leftmost derivation
    - Traces or builds the parse tree in preorder
  - *Bottom up* – produce the parse tree, beginning at the leaves(postorder)
    - Order is that of the reverse of a rightmost derivation
- Useful parsers look only one token ahead in the input

The Parsing Problem (continued)

- Top-down Parsers
  - Given a sentential form, $xA\alpha$, the parser must choose the correct A-rule to get the next sentential form in the leftmost derivation, using only the first token produced by A
- The most common top-down parsing algorithms:
  - Recursive descent - a coded implementation
  - LL parsers - table driven implementation

The Parsing Problem (continued)

- Bottom-up parsers
  - Given a right sentential form, α, determine what substring of α is the right-hand side of the rule in the grammar that must be reduced to produce the previous sentential form in the right derivation
  - The most common bottom-up parsing algorithms are in the LR family

The Parsing Problem (continued)

- The Complexity of Parsing
  - Parsers that work for any unambiguous grammar are complex and inefficient ($O(n^3)$, where n is the length of the input)
  - Compilers use parsers that only work for a subset of all unambiguous grammars, but do it in linear time ($O(n)$, where n is the length of the input)

Recursive-Descent Parsing

- There is a subprogram for each nonterminal in the grammar, which can parse sentences that can be generated by that nonterminal
- EBNF is ideally suited for being the basis for a recursive-descent parser, because EBNF minimizes the number of nonterminals

Recursive-Descent Parsing (continued)

- A grammar for simple expressions:

```
<expr> → <term> {(+ | -) <term>}
<term> → <factor> {(* | /) <factor>}
<factor> → id | int_constant | ( <expr> )
```

Recursive-Descent Parsing (continued)

- Assume we have a lexical analyzer named `lex`, which puts the next token code in `nextToken`
- The coding process when there is only one RHS:
  - For each terminal symbol in the RHS, compare it with the next input token; if they match, continue, else there is an error
  - For each nonterminal symbol in the RHS, call its associated parsing subprogram

Recursive-Descent Parsing (continued)

```
/* Function expr
   Parses strings in the language
   generated by the rule:
   <expr> → <term> {(+ | -) <term>}
 */

void expr() {

/* Parse the first term */

  term();
/* As long as the next token is + or -, call
   lex to get the next token and parse the
   next term */

  while (nextToken == ADD_OP ||
         nextToken == SUB_OP){
    lex();
    term();
  }
}
```

Recursive-Descent Parsing (continued)

- This particular routine does not detect errors
- Convention: Every parsing routine leaves the next token in **`nextToken`**

Recursive-Descent Parsing (continued)

- A nonterminal that has more than one RHS requires an initial process to determine which RHS it is to parse
  - The correct RHS is chosen on the basis of the next token of input (the lookahead)
  - The next token is compared with the first token that can be generated by each RHS until a match is found
  - If no match is found, it is a syntax error

Recursive-Descent Parsing (continued)

```
/* term
Parses strings in the language generated by the rule:
<term> -> <factor> {(* | /) <factor>)
*/
void term() {

/* Parse the first factor */
  factor();

/* As long as the next token is * or /,
   next token and parse the next factor */
  while (nextToken == MULT_OP || nextToken == DIV_OP) {
    lex();
    factor();
  }
} /* End of function term */
```

Recursive-Descent Parsing (continued)

```
/* Function factor
   Parses strings in the language
   generated by the rule:
   <factor> -> id  |  (<expr>)  */

 void factor() {

 /* Determine which RHS */
   if (nextToken) == ID_CODE || nextToken == INT_CODE)

 /* For the RHS id, just call lex */
     lex();

/* If the RHS is (<expr>) - call lex to pass over the left parenthesis,
   call expr, and check for the right parenthesis */
  else if (nextToken == LP_CODE) {
   lex();
      expr();
     if (nextToken == RP_CODE)
        lex();
      else
        error();
    }  /* End of else if (nextToken == ...  */

   else error(); /* Neither RHS matches */
}
```

Recursive-Descent Parsing (continued)

- Trace of the lexical and syntax analyzers on `(sum + 47) / total`

```
Next token is: 25 Next lexeme is (
Enter <expr>
Enter <term>
Enter <factor>
Next token is: 11 Next lexeme is sum
Enter <expr>
Enter <term>
Enter <factor>
Next token is: 21 Next lexeme is +
Exit <factor>
Exit <term>
Next token is: 10 Next lexeme is 47
Enter <term>
Enter <factor>
Next token is: 26 Next lexeme is )
Exit <factor>
Exit <term>
Exit <expr>
Next token is: 24 Next lexeme is /
Exit <factor>
Next token is: 11 Next lexeme is total
Enter <factor>
Next token is: -1 Next lexeme is EOF
Exit <factor>
Exit <term>
Exit <expr>
```