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Unit III - Semantic Analysis

Syntax directed definition and translation, s-attributed and l-attributed grammars, type checking, type conversion, equivalence of type expressions, Overloading of functions and operators, Chomsky hierarchy of languages and recognizers.



Semantic Analysis

- **Semantic Analysis** computes additional information related to the meaning of the program once the syntactic structure is known.
- In typed languages as C, semantic analysis involves adding information to the symbol table and performing type checking.
- The information to be computed is beyond the capabilities of standard parsing techniques, therefore it is not regarded as syntax.
- As for Lexical and Syntax analysis, also for Semantic Analysis we need both a *Representation Formalism* and an *Implementation Mechanism*.
- As representation formalism this lecture illustrates what are called *Syntax Directed Translations*.



Syntax Directed Translation: Intro

- The **Principle of Syntax Directed Translation** states that the meaning of an input sentence is related to its syntactic structure, i.e., to its Parse-Tree.
- By **Syntax Directed Translations** we indicate those formalisms for specifying translations for programming language constructs guided by context-free grammars.
 - We associate **Attributes** to the grammar symbols representing the language constructs.
 - Values for attributes are computed by **Semantic Rules** associated with grammar productions.



Syntax Directed Translation: Intro (Cont.)

- Evaluation of Semantic Rules may:
 - Generate Code;
 - Insert information into the Symbol Table;
 - Perform Semantic Check;
 - Issue error messages;
 - etc.
- There are two notations for attaching semantic rules:
 1. **Syntax Directed Definitions.** High-level specification hiding many implementation details (also called **Attribute Grammars**).
 2. **Translation Schemes.** More implementation oriented: Indicate the order in which semantic rules are to be evaluated.



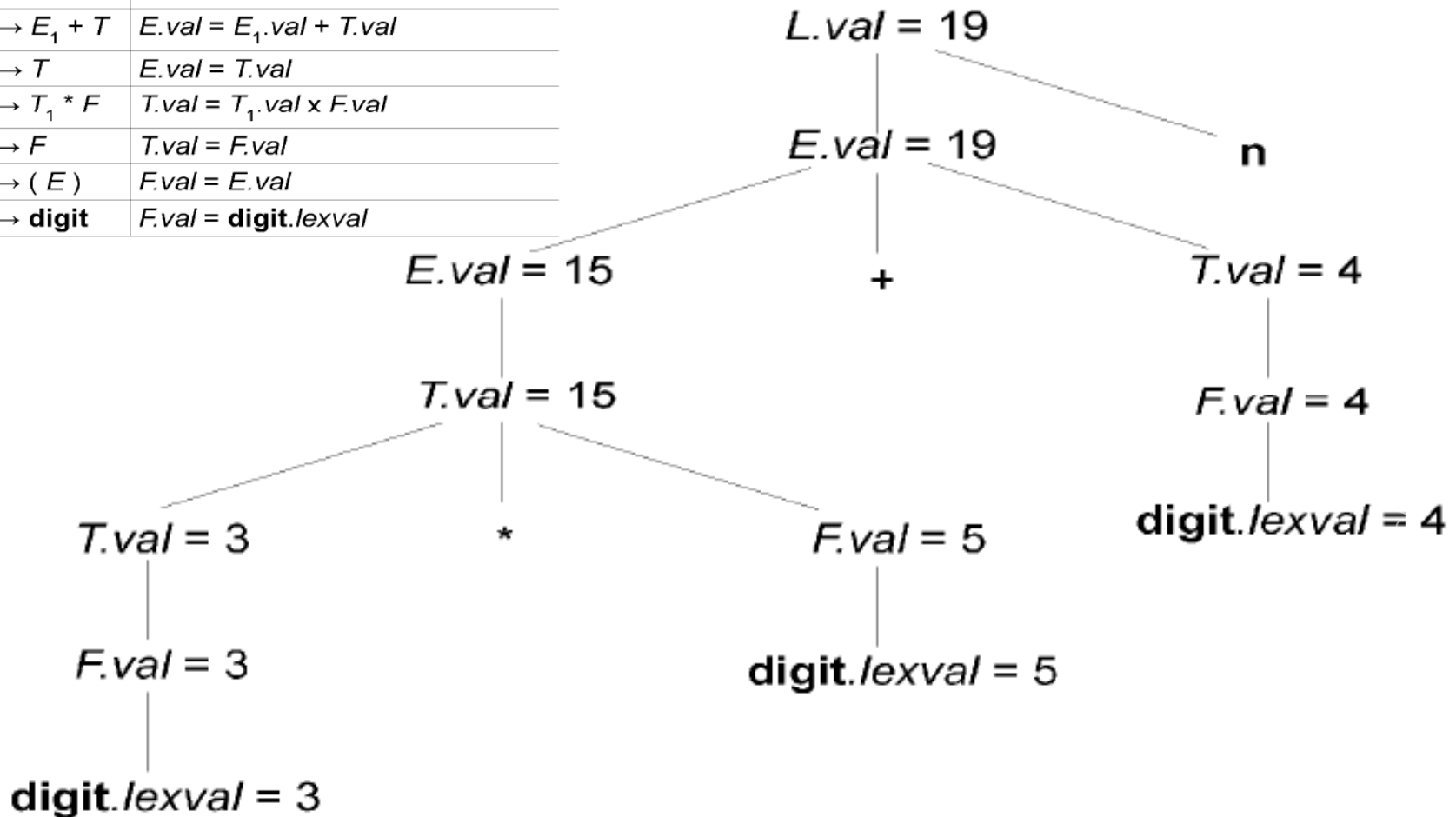
Syntax Directed Definitions

- **Syntax Directed Definitions** are a generalization of context-free grammars in which:
 1. Grammar symbols have an associated set of **Attributes**;
 2. Productions are associated with **Semantic Rules** for computing the values of attributes.
- Such formalism generates **Annotated Parse-Trees** where each node of the tree is a record with a field for each attribute (e.g., $X.a$ indicates the attribute a of the grammar symbol X).



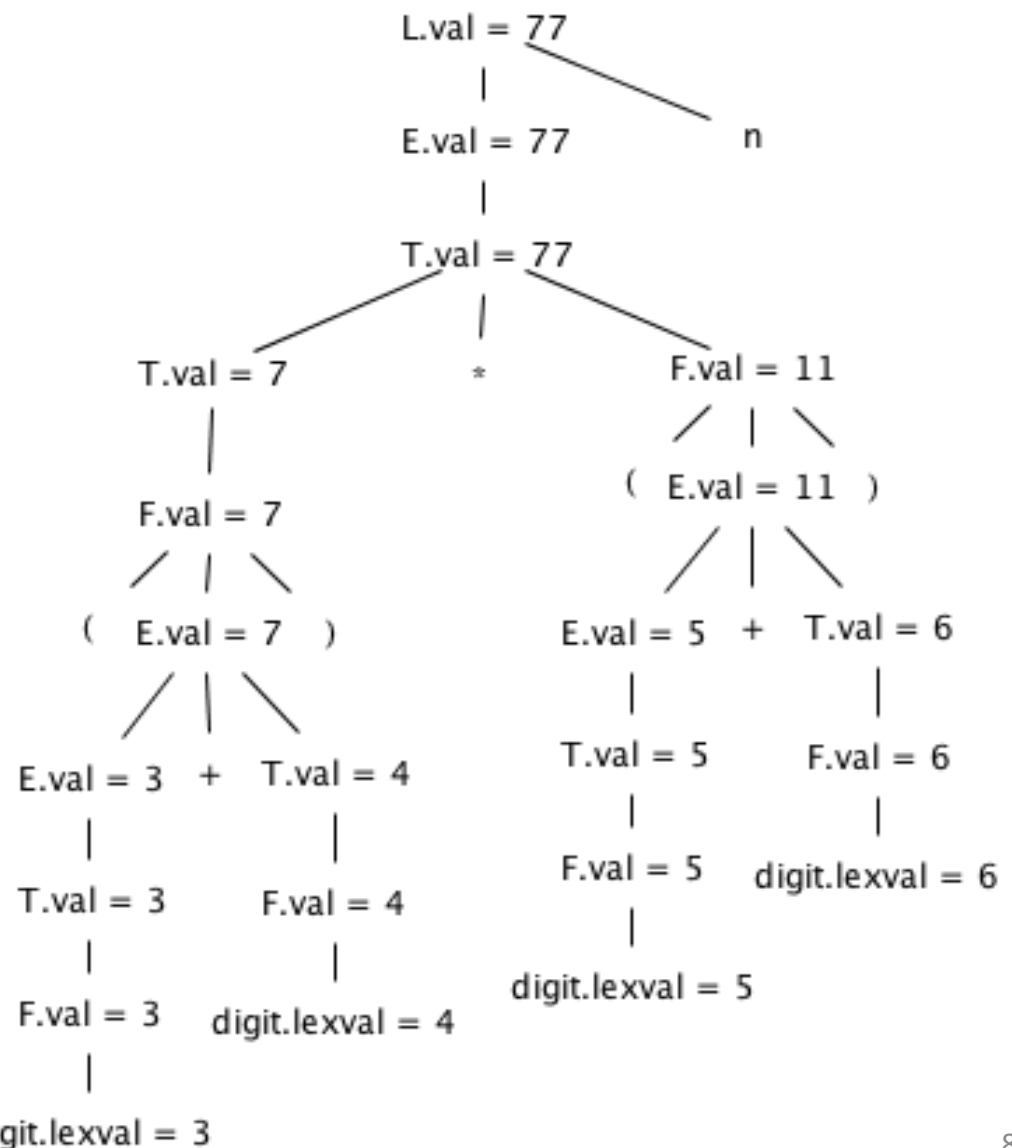
Annotated Parse Tree for $3*5+4n$

Production	Semantic Rules
1) $L \rightarrow E n$	$L.val = E.val$
2) $E \rightarrow E_1 + T$	$E.val = E_1.val + T.val$
3) $E \rightarrow T$	$E.val = T.val$
4) $T \rightarrow T_1 * F$	$T.val = T_1.val \times F.val$
5) $T \rightarrow F$	$T.val = F.val$
6) $F \rightarrow (E)$	$F.val = E.val$
7) $F \rightarrow \text{digit}$	$F.val = \text{digit.lexval}$





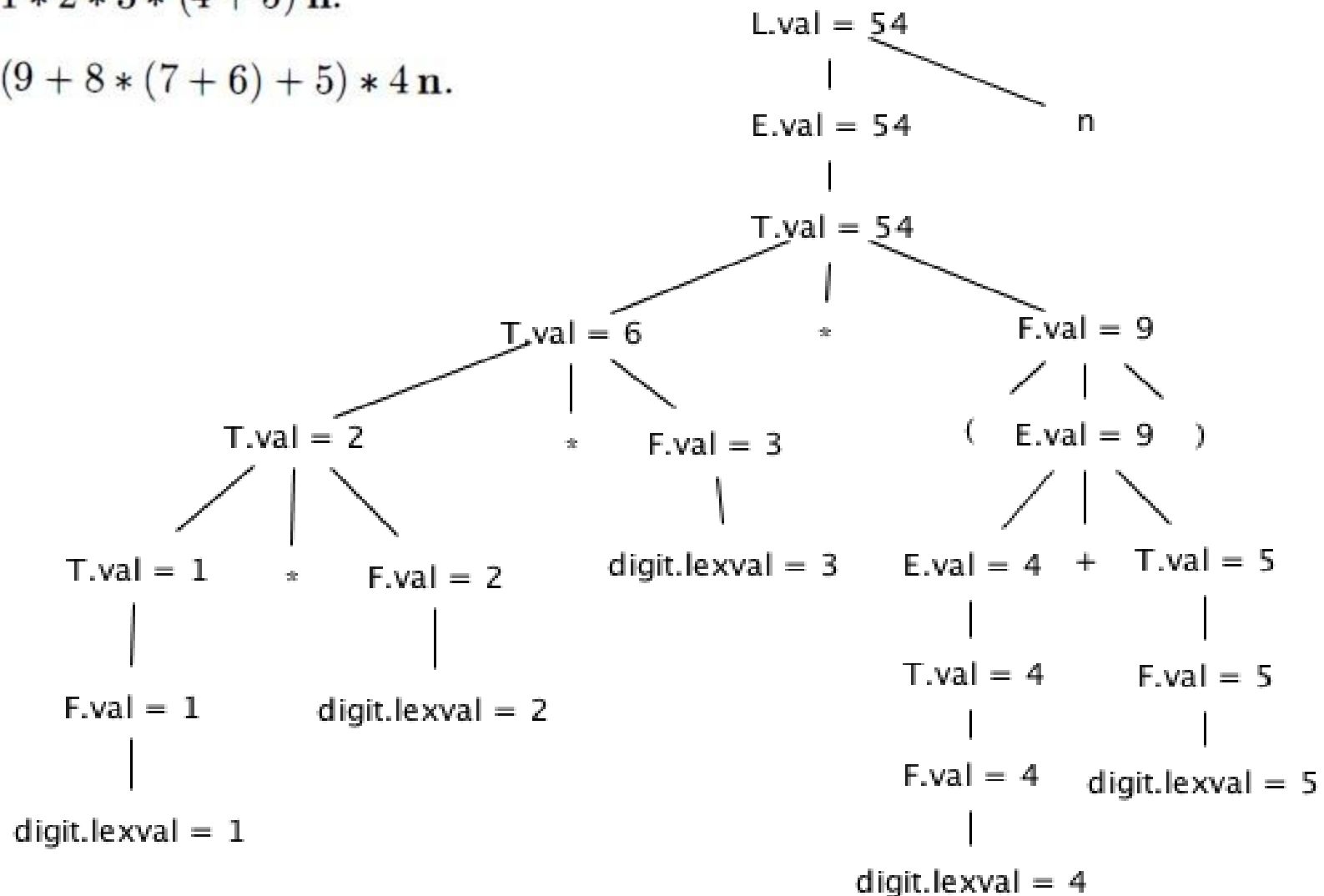
$(3 + 4) * (5 + 6) n.$





$1 * 2 * 3 * (4 + 5) n.$

$(9 + 8 * (7 + 6) + 5) * 4 n.$





Syntax Directed Definitions (Cont.)

- The value of an attribute of a grammar symbol at a given parse-tree node is defined by a semantic rule associated with the production used at that node.
- We distinguish between two kinds of attributes:
 1. **Synthesized Attributes.** They are computed from the values of the attributes of the children nodes.
 2. **Inherited Attributes.** They are computed from the values of the attributes of both the siblings and the parent nodes.

Form of Syntax Directed Definitions

- Each production, $A \rightarrow \alpha$, is associated with a set of semantic rules:
 $b := f(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k)$, where f is a function and either
 1. b is a **synthesized** attribute of A , and c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k are attributes of the grammar symbols of the production, or
 2. b is an **inherited** attribute of a grammar symbol in α , and c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k are attributes of grammar symbols in α or attributes of A .
- **Note.** Terminal symbols are assumed to have synthesized attributes supplied by the lexical analyzer.
- Procedure calls (e.g. *print* in the next slide) define values of *Dummy* synthesized attributes of the non terminal on the left-hand side of the production.

Syntax Directed Definitions: An Example

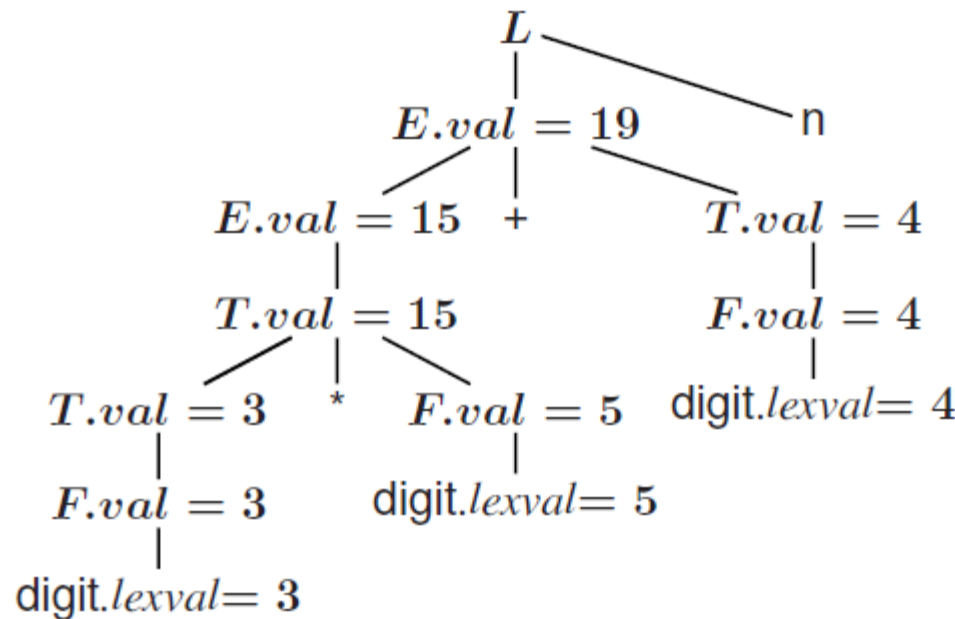
- **Example.** Let us consider the Grammar for arithmetic expressions. The Syntax Directed Definition associates to each non terminal a synthesized attribute called *val*.

PRODUCTION	SEMANTIC RULE
$L \rightarrow En$	$print(E.val)$
$E \rightarrow E_1 + T$	$E.val := E_1.val + T.val$
$E \rightarrow T$	$E.val := T.val$
$T \rightarrow T_1 * F$	$T.val := T_1.val * F.val$
$T \rightarrow F$	$T.val := F.val$
$F \rightarrow (E)$	$F.val := E.val$
$F \rightarrow digit$	$F.val := digit.lexval$

S-Attributed Definitions

Definition. An **S-Attributed Definition** is a Syntax Directed Definition that uses only synthesized attributes.

- **Evaluation Order.** Semantic rules in a S-Attributed Definition can be evaluated by a bottom-up, or PostOrder, traversal of the parse-tree.
- **Example.** The above arithmetic grammar is an example of an S-Attributed Definition. The annotated parse-tree for the input $3*5+4n$ is:



PRODUCTION	SEMANTIC RULE
$L \rightarrow En$	$print(E.val)$
$E \rightarrow E_1 + T$	$E.val := E_1.val + T.val$
$E \rightarrow T$	$E.val := T.val$
$T \rightarrow T_1 * F$	$T.val := T_1.val * F.val$
$T \rightarrow F$	$T.val := F.val$
$F \rightarrow (E)$	$F.val := E.val$
$F \rightarrow digit$	$F.val := digit.lexval$



Inherited Attributes

- **Inherited Attributes** are useful for expressing the dependence of a construct on the context in which it appears.
- It is always possible to rewrite a syntax directed definition to use only synthesized attributes, but it is often more natural to use both synthesized and inherited attributes.
- **Evaluation Order.** Inherited attributes cannot be evaluated by a simple PreOrder traversal of the parse-tree:
 - Unlike synthesized attributes, the order in which the inherited attributes of the children are computed is important!!! Indeed:
 - * **Inherited attributes of the children can depend from both left and right siblings!**

Inherited Attributes: An Example

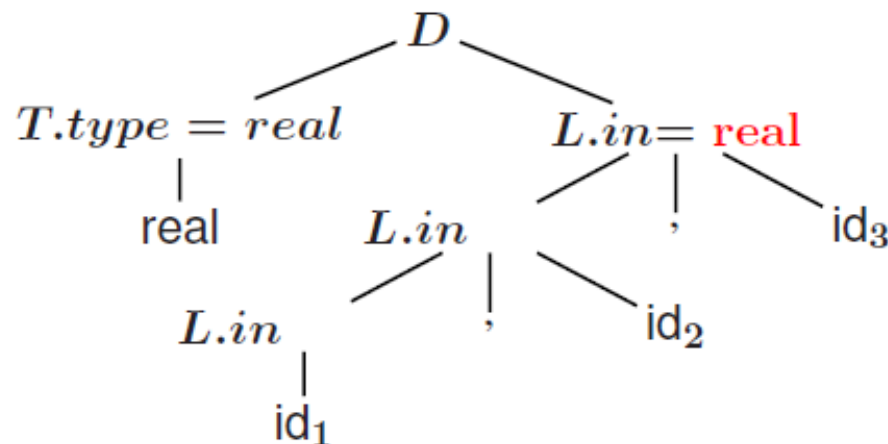
- **Example.** Let us consider the syntax directed definition with both inherited and synthesized attributes for the grammar for “type declarations”:

PRODUCTION	SEMANTIC RULE
$D \rightarrow TL$	$L.in := T.type$
$T \rightarrow \text{int}$	$T.type := \text{integer}$
$T \rightarrow \text{real}$	$T.type := \text{real}$
$L \rightarrow L_1, \text{id}$	$L_1.in := L.in; \text{ addtype}(\text{id.entry}, L.in)$
$L \rightarrow \text{id}$	$\text{ addtype}(\text{id.entry}, L.in)$

- The non terminal T has a synthesized attribute, $type$, determined by the keyword in the declaration.
- The production $D \rightarrow TL$ is associated with the semantic rule $L.in := T.type$ which set the *inherited* attribute $L.in$.
- Note: The production $L \rightarrow L_1, \text{id}$ distinguishes the two occurrences of L .

Inherited Attributes: An Example (Cont.)

- Synthesized attributes can be evaluated by a PostOrder traversal.
- Inherited attributes that *do not depend from right children* can be evaluated by a classical PreOrder traversal.
- The annotated parse-tree for the input `real id1, id2, id3` is:



PRODUCTION	SEMANTIC RULE
$D \rightarrow TL$	$L.in := T.type$
$T \rightarrow \text{int}$	$T.type := \text{integer}$
$T \rightarrow \text{real}$	$T.type := \text{real}$
$L \rightarrow L_1, id$	$L_1.in := L.in; \text{addtype}(id.entry, L.in)$
$L \rightarrow id$	$\text{addtype}(id.entry, L.in)$

- $L.in$ is then inherited top-down the tree by the other L -nodes.
- At each L -node the procedure *addtype* inserts into the symbol table the type of the identifier.

Dependency Graphs

- Implementing a Syntax Directed Definition consists primarily in finding an order for the evaluation of attributes
 - Each attribute value must be available when a computation is performed.
- **Dependency Graphs** are the most general technique used to evaluate syntax directed definitions with both synthesized and inherited attributes.
- A Dependency Graph shows the interdependencies among the attributes of the various nodes of a parse-tree.
 - There is a node for each attribute;
 - If attribute b depends on an attribute c there is a link from the node for c to the node for b ($b \leftarrow c$).
- **Dependency Rule:** If an attribute b depends from an attribute c , then we need to fire the semantic rule for c first and then the semantic rule for b .



Evaluation Order

- The evaluation order of semantic rules depends from a *Topological Sort* derived from the dependency graph.
- **Topological Sort:** Any ordering m_1, m_2, \dots, m_k such that if $m_i \rightarrow m_j$ is a link in the dependency graph then $m_i < m_j$.
- Any topological sort of a dependency graph gives a valid order to evaluate the semantic rules.



Implementing Attribute Evaluation: General Remarks

- Attributes can be evaluated by building a dependency graph at compile-time and then finding a topological sort.
- **Disadvantages**
 1. This method fails if the dependency graph has a cycle: We need a test for non-circularity;
 2. This method is time consuming due to the construction of the dependency graph.
- **Alternative Approach.** Design the syntax directed definition in such a way that attributes can be evaluated with a *fixed order* avoiding to build the dependency graph (method followed by many compilers).



Evaluation of S-Attributed Definitions

- Synthesized Attributes can be evaluated by a bottom-up parser as the input is being analyzed avoiding the construction of a dependency graph.
- The parser keeps the values of the synthesized attributes in its stack.
- Whenever a reduction $A \rightarrow \alpha$ is made, the attribute for A is computed from the attributes of α which appear on the stack.
- Thus, a translator for an S-Attributed Definition can be simply implemented by extending the stack of an LR-Parser.

Extending a Parser Stack

- Extra fields are added to the stack to hold the values of synthesized attributes.
- In the simple case of just one attribute per grammar symbol the stack has two fields: *state* and *val*

<i>state</i>	<i>val</i>
<i>Z</i>	<i>Z.x</i>
<i>Y</i>	<i>Y.x</i>
<i>X</i>	<i>X.x</i>
...	...

- The current top of the stack is indicated by the pointer *top*.
- Synthesized attributes are computed just before each reduction:
 - Before the reduction $A \rightarrow XYZ$ is made, the attribute for A is computed: $A.a := f(val[top], val[top - 1], val[top - 2])$.

Extending a Parser Stack: An Example

- **Example.** Consider the S-attributed definitions for the arithmetic expressions. To evaluate attributes the parser executes the following code

PRODUCTION	CODE
$L \rightarrow En$	$print(val[top - 1])$
$E \rightarrow E_1 + T$	$val[ntop] := val[top] + val[top - 2]$
$E \rightarrow T$	
$T \rightarrow T_1 * F$	$val[ntop] := val[top] * val[top - 2]$
$T \rightarrow F$	
$F \rightarrow (E)$	$val[ntop] := val[top - 1]$
$F \rightarrow digit$	

- The variable $ntop$ is set to the *new top of the stack*. After a reduction is done top is set to $ntop$: When a reduction $A \rightarrow \alpha$ is done with $|\alpha| = r$, then $ntop = top - r + 1$.
- During a shift action both the token and its value are pushed into the stack.

Extending a Parser Stack: An Example (Cont.)

- The following Figure shows the moves made by the parser on input $3*5+4n$.
 - Stack states are replaced by their corresponding grammar symbol;
 - Instead of the token **digit** the actual value is shown.

INPUT	state	val	PRODUCTION USED
3*5+4 n	–	–	
*5+4 n	3	3	
*5+4 n	F	3	$F \rightarrow \text{digit}$
*5+4 n	T	3	$T \rightarrow F$
5+4 n	T *	3 _	
+4 n	T * 5	3 _ 5	
+4 n	T * F	3 _ 5	$F \rightarrow \text{digit}$
+4 n	T	15	$T \rightarrow T * F$
+4 n	E	15	$E \rightarrow T$
4 n	E +	15 _	
n	E + 4	15 _ 4	
n	E + F	15 _ 4	$F \rightarrow \text{digit}$
n	E + T	15 _ 4	$T \rightarrow F$
n	E	19	$E \rightarrow E + T$
	E n	19 _	
	L	19	$L \rightarrow E n$

PRODUCTION	CODE
$L \rightarrow En$	<code>print(val[top - 1])</code>
$E \rightarrow E_1 + T$	<code>val[ntop] := val[top] + val[top - 2]</code>
$E \rightarrow T$	
$T \rightarrow T_1 * F$	<code>val[ntop] := val[top] * val[top - 2]</code>
$T \rightarrow F$	
$F \rightarrow (E)$	<code>val[ntop] := val[top - 1]</code>
$F \rightarrow \text{digit}$	

L-Attributed Definitions

- **L-Attributed Definitions** contain both synthesized and inherited attributes but do not need to build a dependency graph to evaluate them.
- **Definition.** A syntax directed definition is *L-Attributed* if each *inherited attribute* of X_j in a production $A \rightarrow X_1 \dots X_j \dots X_n$, depends only on:
 1. The attributes of the symbols to the **left** (this is what *L* in *L-Attributed* stands for) of X_j , i.e., $X_1 X_2 \dots X_{j-1}$, and
 2. The *inherited* attributes of A .
- **Theorem.** Inherited attributes in L-Attributed Definitions can be computed by a **PreOrder** traversal of the parse-tree.

Evaluating L-Attributed Definitions

- **L-Attributed Definitions** are a class of syntax directed definitions whose attributes can always be evaluated by single traversal of the parse-tree.
- The following procedure evaluate L-Attributed Definitions by mixing PostOrder (synthesized) and PreOrder (inherited) traversal.

Algorithm: L-Eval(n : Node)

Input: Node of an annotated parse-tree.

Output: Attribute evaluation.

Begin

For each child m of n , from left-to-right Do

Begin

Evaluate inherited attributes of m ;

L-Eval(m)

End;

Evaluate synthesized attributes of n

End.



Translation Schemes

- **Translation Schemes** are more implementation oriented than syntax directed definitions since they **indicate the order** in which semantic rules and attributes are to be evaluated.
- **Definition.** A Translation Scheme is a context-free grammar in which
 1. Attributes are associated with grammar symbols;
 2. Semantic Actions are enclosed between braces {} and **are inserted within the right-hand side of productions.**
- Yacc uses Translation Schemes.



Translation Schemes (Cont.)

- Translation Schemes deal with both synthesized and inherited attributes.
- **Semantic Actions are treated as terminal symbols:** Annotated parse-trees contain semantic actions as children of the node standing for the corresponding production.
- Translation Schemes are useful to evaluate L-Attributed definitions at parsing time (even if they are a general mechanism).
 - **An L-Attributed Syntax-Directed Definition can be turned into a Translation Scheme.**



Translation Schemes: An Example

- Consider the Translation Scheme for the L-Attributed Definition for “type declarations”:

$$D \rightarrow T \{L.in := T.type\} L$$

$$T \rightarrow \text{int} \{T.type := \text{integer}\}$$

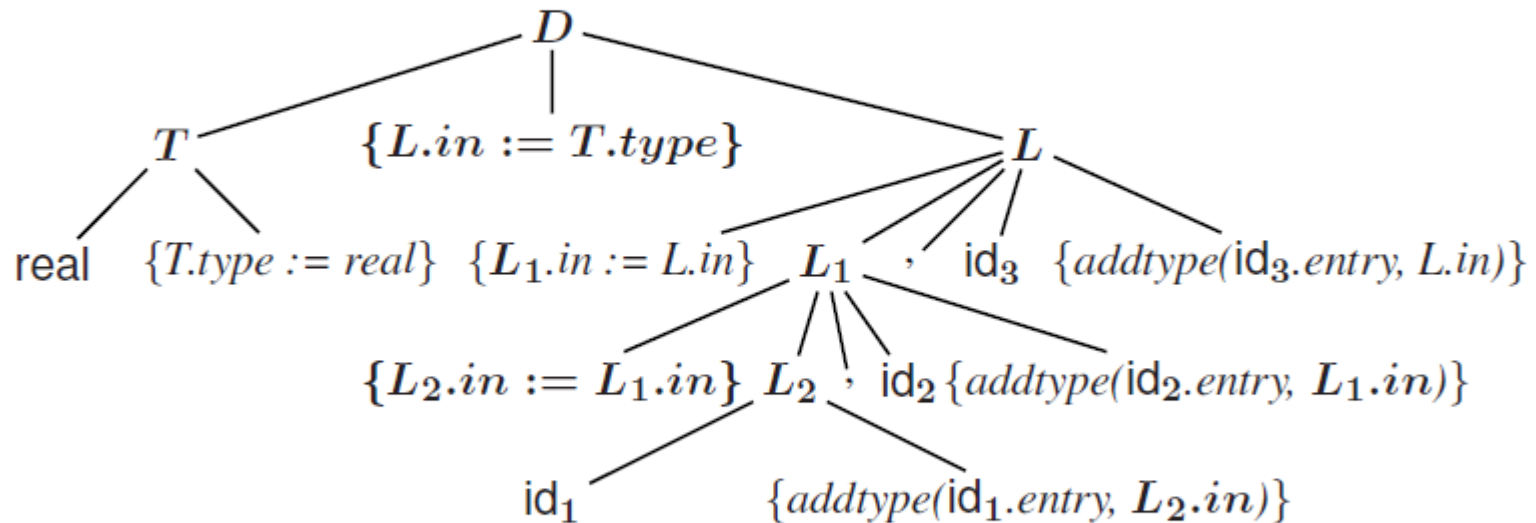
$$T \rightarrow \text{real} \{T.type := \text{real}\}$$

$$L \rightarrow \{L_1.in := L.in\} L_1, \text{id} \{addtype(\text{id.entry}, L.in)\}$$

$$L \rightarrow \text{id} \{addtype(\text{id.entry}, L.in)\}$$

Translation Schemes: An Example (Cont.)

- Example (Cont).** The parse-tree with semantic actions for the input $\text{real id}_1, \text{id}_2, \text{id}_3$ is:



- Traversing the Parse-Tree in depth-first order (PostOrder) we can evaluate the attributes.**

Design of Translation Schemes

- When designing a Translation Scheme we must be sure that an attribute value is available when a semantic action is executed.
- **When the semantic action involves only synthesized attributes: The action can be put at the end of the production.**
 - **Example.** The following Production and Semantic Rule:

$$T \rightarrow T_1 * F \quad T.val := T_1.val * F.val$$

yield the translation scheme:

$$T \rightarrow T_1 * F \quad \{T.val := T_1.val * F.val\}$$



Design of Translation Schemes (Cont.)

- **Rules for Implementing L-Attributed SDD's.** If we have an L-Attributed Syntax-Directed Definition we must enforce the following restrictions:
 1. An inherited attribute for a symbol in the right-hand side of a production must be computed in an action before the symbol;
 2. A synthesized attribute for the non terminal on the left-hand side can only be computed when all the attributes it references have been computed:
The action is usually put at the end of the production.



Compile-Time Evaluation of Translation Schemes

- Attributes in a Translation Scheme following the above rules can be computed at compile time similarly to the evaluation of S-Attributed Definitions.
- **Main Idea.** Starting from a Translation Scheme (with embedded actions) we introduce a transformation that makes all the actions occur at the right ends of their productions.
 - For each embedded semantic action we introduce a new *Marker* (i.e., a non terminal, say M) with an empty production ($M \rightarrow \epsilon$);
 - The semantic action is attached at the end of the production $M \rightarrow \epsilon$.

Compile-Time Evaluation of Translation Schemes (Cont.)

- **Example.** Consider the following translation scheme:

$$S \rightarrow aA\{C.i = f(A.s)\}C$$

$$S \rightarrow bAB\{C.i = f(A.s)\}C$$

$$C \rightarrow c\{C.s = g(C.i)\}$$

Then, we add new markers M_1, M_2 with:

$$S \rightarrow aAM_1C$$

$$S \rightarrow bABM_2C$$

$$M_1 \rightarrow \epsilon \quad \{M_1.s := f(val[top])\}$$

$$M_2 \rightarrow \epsilon \quad \{M_2.s := f(val[top - 1])\}$$

$$C \rightarrow c \quad \{C.s := g(val[top - 1])\}$$

The inherited attribute of C is the synthesized attribute of either M_1 or M_2 :

The value of $C.i$ is *always* in $val[top - 1]$ when $C \rightarrow c$ is applied.

Compile-Time Evaluation of Translation Schemes (Cont.)

General rules to compute translations schemes during bottom-up parsing assuming an L-attributed grammar.

- For every production $A \rightarrow X_1 \dots X_n$ introduce n new markers M_1, \dots, M_n and replace the production by $A \rightarrow M_1 X_1 \dots M_n X_n$.
- Thus, we know the position of every synthesized and inherited attribute of X_j and A :
 1. $X_j.s$ is stored in the *val* entry in the parser stack associated with X_j ;
 2. $X_j.i$ is stored in the *val* entry in the parser stack associated with M_j ;
 3. $A.i$ is stored in the *val* entry in the parser stack immediately before the position storing M_1 .
- **Remark 1.** Since there is only one production for each marker a grammar remains LL(1) with addition of markers.
- **Remark 2.** Adding markers to an LR(1) Grammar can introduce conflicts for not L-Attributed SDD's!!!

Compile-Time Evaluation of Translation Schemes (Cont.)

Example. Computing the inherited attribute $X_j.i$ after reducing with $M_j \rightarrow \epsilon$.

	M_j	$X_j.i$
$top \rightarrow$	X_{j-1}	$X_{j-1}.s$
	M_{j-1}	$X_{j-1}.i$

	X_1	$X_1.s$
	M_1	$X_1.i$
$(top-2j+2) \rightarrow$	M_A	$A.i$
$(top-2j) \rightarrow$		

- $A.i$ is in $val[top - 2j + 2]$;
- $X_1.i$ is in $val[top - 2j + 3]$;
- $X_1.s$ is in $val[top - 2j + 4]$;
- $X_2.i$ is in $val[top - 2j + 5]$;
- and so on.



Type Checking

- ❑ Parsing cannot detect some errors. Some errors are **captured during compile time called static checking.**
- ❑ Static checking is even called **early binding.** During static checking programming errors are caught early. This causes program execution to be efficient.
- ❑ Static checking not only increases the **efficiency and reliability** of the compiled program, but also **makes execution faster.**
- ❑ Type checking is not only limited to compile time, it is **even performed at execution time.** This is done with the help of information gathered by a compiler.
- ❑ Languages like **C, C++, C#, Java, and Haskell** uses static checking.
- ❑ Languages like **Perl, python, and Lisp** use dynamic checking.
- ❑ Dynamic checking is also called **late binding.** Dynamic checking allows some constructs that are rejected during static checking.



Type Checking

- ❑ A semantic analyzer mainly performs **static checking**. Static checks can be any one of the following **type of checks**:
- ❑ **Uniqueness checks**: This ensures uniqueness of variables/objects in situations where it is required.
- ❑ **Flow of control checks**: Statements that cause flow of control to leave a construct should have a place to transfer flow of control. If this place is missing, it is confusion.
- ❑ **Type checks**: A compiler should report an error if an operator is applied to incompatible operands.
- ❑ **Name-related checks**: Sometimes, the same name must appear two or more times.



Type Checking

- ❑ To do **type checking** a compiler needs to assign a **type expression** to each component of the source program.
- ❑ The compiler must then determine that these type expressions conform to a **collection of logical rules** that is called the **type system** for the source language.
- ❑ In principle, any check can be done dynamically, if the target code carries the **type of an element along with the value of the element**.
- ❑ A **sound type system** eliminates the need for dynamic checking for type errors, because it allows us to determine statically that these errors cannot occur when the target program runs.
- ❑ An implementation of a language is **strongly typed** if a compiler guarantees that the programs it accepts will run without type errors.



Type Checking

- ❑ What does semantic analysis do? It performs checks of many kinds which may include
 - All identifiers are declared before being used.
 - Type compatibility.
 - Inheritance relationships.
 - Classes defined only once.
 - Methods in a class defined only once.
 - Reserved words are not misused.
- ❑ The above examples indicate that most of the other static checks are routine and can be implemented using the techniques of SDT.
- ❑ Some of them can be combined with other activities. For example, **for uniqueness check**, while entering the identifier into the symbol table, we can ensure that it is entered only once.

Rules for Type Checking

- ❑ Type checking can take on two forms: **synthesis and inference**.
- ❑ Type synthesis builds up the **type of an expression** from the types of its sub expressions. **It requires names to be declared before they are used.**
- ❑ The type of $E1 + E2$ is defined in terms of the types of $E1$ and $E2$. A typical rule for type synthesis has the form

if f has type $s \rightarrow t$ **and** x has type s ,
then expression $f(x)$ has type t

- ❑ Here, f and x denote expressions, and $s \rightarrow t$ denotes a function from s to t . This rule for functions with one argument carries over to functions with several arguments.
- ❑ The rule can be adapted for $E1 + E2$ by viewing it as a function application
 $\text{add}(E1; E2)$.

Rules for Type Checking

- ❑ **Type inference** determines the type of a language construct from the way it is used.
- ❑ Variables representing type expressions allow us to talk about unknown types.

if $f(x)$ is an expression,
then for some α and β , f has type $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ and x has type α

- ❑ Type inference is needed for languages like ML, which check types, **but do not require names to be declared.**
- ❑ The rules for checking statements are similar to those for expressions. For example, we treat the conditional statement **"if (E) S;"** as if it were the application of a function if to E and S .
- ❑ Let the **special type void** denote the absence of a value. Then function if expects to be applied to a boolean and a void; the result of the application is a void.



Type Systems

- ❑ Consider the assembly language program fragment.

Add R1, R2, and R3. What are the types of operands R1, R2, R3?

- ❑ Based on the possible type of operands and its values, operations are legal.
- ❑ It doesn't make sense to add a character and a function pointer in C language. It does make sense to add two float or int values.
- ❑ A language's type system specifies **which operations are valid for which types**. A type system is a **collection of rules for assigning types to the various parts of a program**.
- ❑ A **type checker implements a type system**. Types are represented by **type expressions**.
- ❑ Type system has a **set of rules defined** that take care of extracting the data types of each variables and check for the compatibility during the operation.



Type Expressions

- ❑ The type expressions are used to represent the **type of a programming language construct**.
- ❑ Type expression can be a **basic type** or formed by recursively applying an operator called a **type constructor** to other type expressions.
- ❑ The basic types and constructors depend on the source language to be verified.

Let us define type expression as follows:

- ❑ A basic type is a type expression
- ❑ Boolean, char, integer, real, void, type_error
- ❑ A type constructor applied to type expressions is a type expression



Type Expressions

Array: $\text{array}(I, T)$

- Array (I, T) is a type expression denoting the type of an array with elements of type T and index set I , where T is a type expression. Index set I often represents a range of integers. For example, the Pascal declaration

$\text{var } C: \text{array}[1..20] \text{ of integer};$

associates the type expression $\text{array}(1..20, \text{integer})$ with C .

Product: $T1 \times T2$

- If $T1$ and $T2$ are two type expressions, then their Cartesian product $T1 \times T2$ is a type expression. We assume that \times associates to the left.

Record: $\text{record}((N1 \times T1) \times (N2 \times T2))$

- A record differs from a product. The fields of a record have names. The record type constructor will be applied to a tuple formed from field types and field names.

Design Of Simple Type Checker

- ❑ Let us consider a simple language that has **declaration statements followed by statements**, where these **statements are simple arithmetic statements, conditional statements, iterative statements, and functional statements.**
- ❑ The program block of code can be generated by defining the rules as follows:

Type Declarations

$P \rightarrow D \text{ “,” } E$	
$D \rightarrow D \text{ “,” } D$	
$ \text{ id “:” } T$	$\{ \text{add_type}(\text{id.entry}, T.\text{type}) \}$
$T \rightarrow \text{char}$	$\{ T.\text{type} := \text{char} \}$
$T \rightarrow \text{integer}$	$\{ T.\text{type} := \text{int} \}$
$:\dots$	$:\dots$
$T \rightarrow \text{“*” } T_1$	$\{ T.\text{type} := \text{pointer}(T_1.\text{type}) \}$
$T \rightarrow \text{array “[” num “]” of } T_1$	$\{ T.\text{type} := \text{array}(\text{num.value}, T_1.\text{type}) \}$

So the above SDT collects type information and stores in symbol table. 45



TYPE CHECKING OF EXPRESSIONS

- ❑ The expressions like $3 \bmod 5$, $A[10]$, $*p$ can be generated by the following rules.
- ❑ The semantic rules are defined as follows to extract the type information and to check for compatibility.

➤ write a statement as

$i \bmod 10$, then

➤ while parsing it uses the rule as **$E \rightarrow id$** and performs the action.

➤ When it parses the lexeme 10, it uses the rule

$E \rightarrow num$

➤ While parsing the complete statement $i \bmod 10$, it uses the rule

$E \rightarrow E1 \bmod E2$.

$E \rightarrow literal$	{E.type := char}
$E \rightarrow num$	{E.type := int}
$E \rightarrow id$	{E.type := lookup(id.entry)}
$E \rightarrow E1 \bmod E2$	{E.type := if E1.type = int and E2.type = int then int else type_error}
$E \rightarrow E1 "[" E2 "]"$	{E.type := if E1.type = array(s, t) and E2.type = int Then t else type_error}
$E \rightarrow "*" E1$	{E.type := if E1.type = pointer(t) then t else type_error}
Prepared by Dr R Raja	

Table 3.2: Type Checking Of Expressions

TYPE CHECKING OF STATEMENTS

- ❑ The statements are simple of the form “ $a = b + c$ ” or “ $a = b$.” It can be a combination of statements followed by another statement or a conditional statement or iterative
- ❑ To generate either a simple or a complex group of statements, the rules can be framed as follows:
 - To validate the statement a special data type void is defined, which is assigned to a statement only when it is valid at expression level,
 - otherwise type_error is assigned to indicate that it is invalid.
 - If there is an error at expression level, then it is propagated to the statement, from the statement it is propagated to a set of statements and then to the entire block of program.
- ❑ The semantic rules are defined as follows to extract the type information and to check for compatibility.



TYPE CHECKING OF STATEMENTS

- ❑ The semantic rules are defined as follows to extract the type information and to check for compatibility.

$P \rightarrow D \text{ ","} S$	
$S \rightarrow \text{id "=:"} E$	{S.type := if lookup(id.entry)= E.type
$S \rightarrow S_1 \text{ ","} S_2$	then void
	else type_error}
	{S.type := if $S_1.type = \text{void}$ and $S_2.type$
	= void
	then void
	else type_error}
$S \rightarrow \text{if } E \text{ then } S_1$	{S.type := if E.type = boolean
	then $S_1.type$
	else type_error}
$S \rightarrow \text{while } E \text{ do } S_1$	{S.type := if E.type = boolean
	then $S_1.type$
	else type_error}

Table 3.3: Type Checking Of Statements



Type Conversion

- ❑ In an expression, if there are two operands of different type, then it may be required to convert one type to another in order to perform the operation.
- ❑ For example, the expression “a + b,” if a is of integer and b is real, then to perform the addition a may be converted to real.
- ❑ The type checker can be designed to do this conversion. The conversion done automatically by the compiler is **implicit conversion** and this process is known as **coercion**.
- ❑ If the compiler insists the programmer to specify this conversion, then it is said to be **explicit**. Explicit conversions are also called **casts**.
- ❑ For instance, all conversions in Ada are said to be explicit.



Type Conversion

- The semantic rules for type conversion are listed below.

$E \rightarrow \text{num}$	$\{E.\text{type} := \text{int}\}$
$E \rightarrow \text{num.num}$	$\{E.\text{type} := \text{real}\}$
$E \rightarrow \text{id}$	$\{E.\text{type} := \text{lookup}(\text{id.entry})\}$

$E \rightarrow E1 \text{ op } E2$	$\{E.\text{type} := \text{if } E1.\text{type} = \text{int and } E2.\text{type} = \text{int}$
	then int
	else if $E1.\text{type} = \text{int and } E2.\text{type} = \text{real}$
	then real
	else if $E1.\text{type} = \text{real and } E2.\text{type} = \text{int}$
	then real
	else if $E1.\text{type} = \text{real and } E2.\text{type} = \text{real}$
	then real
	else type_error}

Table 3.4: Type Conversion



Overloading Of Functions And Operators

- ❑ An operator is overloaded if the same operator performs different operations.
- ❑ For example, in arithmetic expression $a + b$, the addition operator “+” is overloaded because it performs different operations, when a and b are of different types like integer, real, complex, and so on.
- ❑ Another example of operator overloading is overloaded parenthesis in ada, that is, the expression $A(i)$ has different meanings. It can be the i th element of an array, or a call to function A with argument i , and so on.
- ❑ Operator overloading is resolved when the unique definition for an overloaded operator is determined.
- ❑ The process of resolving overloading is called **operator identification** because it specifies what operation an operator performs.
- ❑ The overloading of arithmetic operators can be easily resolved by processing only the operands of an operator.



Overloading Of Functions And Operators

- ❑ Like operator overloading, the function can also be overloaded.
- ❑ In function overloading, the functions have the same name but different numbers and arguments of different types.
- ❑ In Ada, the operator “*” has the standard meaning that it takes a pair of integers and returns an integer.
- ❑ The function of “*” can be overloaded by adding the following declarations:
 - ✓ Function “*”(a,b: integer) return integer.
 - ✓ Function “*”(a,b: complex) return integer.
 - ✓ Function “*”(a,b: complex) return complex.
- ❑ By addition of the above declarations, now the operator “*” can take the following possible types:
 - ✓ It takes a pair of integers and returns an integer
 - ✓ It takes a pair of integers and returns a complex number
 - ✓ It takes a pair of complex numbers and returns a complex number



Overloading Of Functions And Operators

- ❑ Function overloading can be resolved by the type checker based on the number and types of arguments.
- ❑ The type checking rule for function by assuming that each expression has a unique type is given as

```
E → E1(E2)
{
  E.type := t
  E2.type := t → u then
  E.type := u
  else E.type := type_error
}
```

$E' \rightarrow E$	$\{E'.type := E.type\}$
$E \rightarrow id$	$\{E.type := lookup(id.entry)\}$
$E \rightarrow E_1(E_2)$	$\{E.type := \{ u \mid \text{there exists an } s \text{ in } E_2.type$ Such that $s \rightarrow u \text{ is in } E_1.type \}$

Table 3.5: Overloading Of Functions and Operators



Polymorphic Functions

- ❑ A piece of code is said to be polymorphic if the statements in the body can be executed with different types.
- ❑ A function that takes the arguments of different types and executes the same code is a polymorphic function.
- ❑ The type checker designed for a language like Ada that supports polymorphic functions, the type expressions are extended to include the expressions that vary with type variables.
- ❑ The same operation performed on different types is called overloading and are often found in object-oriented programming.
- ❑ For example, let us consider the function that takes two arguments and returns the result.

```
int add(int, int)
int add(real, real)
real add(real, real)
```

The type expression for the function add is given as

```
int × int → int
real × real → int
real × real → real
```



Chomsky hierarchy of languages and recognizers.

❑ Chomsky Hierarchy represents the class of languages that are accepted by the different machine. The category of language in Chomsky's Hierarchy is as given below:

- ✓ **Type 0** known as Unrestricted Grammar.
- ✓ **Type 1** known as Context Sensitive Grammar.
- ✓ **Type 2** known as Context Free Grammar.
- ✓ **Type 3** Regular Grammar.

Therefore every language of type 3 is also of type 2, 1 and 0. Similarly, every language of type 2 is also of type 1 and type 0, etc.

Recursively enumerable grammars –recognizable by a Turing machine

Context-sensitive grammars –recognizable by the linear bounded automaton

Context-free grammars - recognizable by the pushdown automaton

Regular grammars –recognizable by the finite state automaton

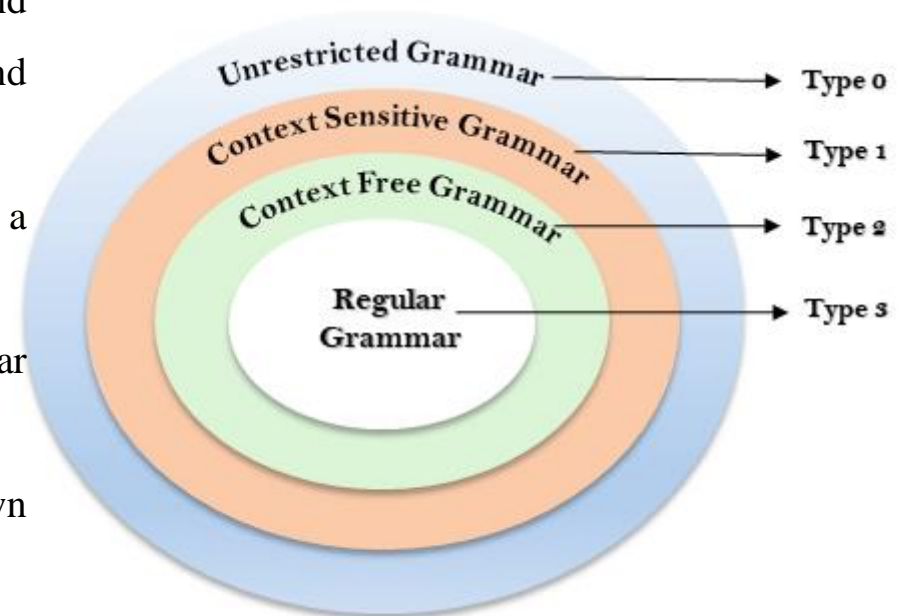


Fig: Chomsky Hierarchy



Chomsky hierarchy of languages and recognizers.

Type 0 –Recursively enumerable grammar (unrestricted grammars)

- Type-0 grammars (unrestricted grammars) include all formal grammars. They generate exactly all languages that can be recognized by a Turing machine.
- These languages are also known as the recursively enumerable languages. Note that this is different from the recursive languages which can be decided by an always-halting Turing machine.
- Class 0 grammars are too general to describe the syntax of programming languages and natural languages.

Ex:

$\mathbf{bAa \rightarrow aa}$

$\mathbf{S \rightarrow s}$



Chomsky hierarchy of languages and recognizers.

Type 1 –Context-sensitive grammars

- Type-1 grammars generate the context-sensitive languages.
- These grammars have rules of the form $\alpha A \beta \rightarrow \alpha \gamma \beta$ with A a nonterminal and α, β and γ strings of terminals and nonterminals.
- The strings α and β may be empty, but γ must be nonempty.
- The languages described by these grammars are exactly all languages that can be recognized by a linear bounded automaton.

Example:

$AB \rightarrow CDB$

$AB \rightarrow CdEB$

$ABcd \rightarrow abCDBcd$

$B \rightarrow b$



Chomsky hierarchy of languages and recognizers.

Type- 2 – Context-free grammars

- Type-2 grammars generate the context-free languages.
- These are defined by rules of the form $A \rightarrow \gamma$ with A a nonterminal and γ a string of terminals and nonterminals.
- These languages are exactly all languages that can be recognized by a non-deterministic pushdown automaton.
- Context-free languages are the theoretical basis for the syntax of most programming languages.

Example:

$$A \rightarrow aBc$$



Chomsky hierarchy of languages and recognizers.

Type 3 –Regular grammars

- Type-3 grammars generate the regular languages.
- Such a grammar restricts its rules to a single nonterminal on the left-hand side and a right-hand side consisting of a single terminal, possibly followed (or preceded, but not both in the same grammar) by a single nonterminal.
- The rule $S \rightarrow \varepsilon$ is also allowed here if S does not appear on the right side of any rule.
- These languages are exactly all languages that can be decided by a finite state automaton.
- Additionally, this family of formal languages can be obtained by regular expressions.
- Regular languages are commonly used to define search patterns and the lexical structure of programming languages.

Example:

$A \rightarrow \varepsilon$ $A \rightarrow a$ $A \rightarrow abc$ $A \rightarrow B$ $A \rightarrow abcB$