

# Microproject

Write a Scala program which reads a string from the user, and uses either a recursive descent parser or parser combinators to determine if the input string matches the below grammar (i.e., is made up of a's and b's), building a parse tree along the way. Output the generated tree if the match is successful.

```
1  S -> E$
2  E -> C E2
3  E2 -> E
4  E2 -> NIL
5  C -> 'a' | 'b'
```

Read the below project description for assistance.

# Main Project

Write a Scala program that performs pattern matching on strings, where patterns are expressed using only the concatenation, alternation (“|”) optional (“?”) operators of regular expressions (no loops/“\*”, no escape characters), and the tokens are letters and digits, plus period (“.”) to mean any letter. Each run of the program should accept a pattern, and then any number of strings, reporting only whether they match. Your program should represent expressions as trees (use case classes) and evaluate on the inputs, **without using any regular expressions or Scala’s regular expression library**. For example:

```
1  pattern? ((hlj)ell. worl?d)l(42)
2  string? hello world
3  match
4  string? jello word
5  match
6  string? jelly word
7  match
8  string? 42
9  match
10 string? 24
11 no match
12 string? hello world42
13 no match
```

# Bootstrap

An ambiguous grammar for patterns is:

1	E -> C   EE   E' E   E'?'   '(' E ')'
2	C -> '0'   '1'   ...   '9'   'a'   'b'   ...   'z'   '.'

To reflect that option('?') has highest precedence, then concatenation, then alternation('|'), This can be transformed into an ugly but simpler-to-use form:

1	S -> E\$
2	E -> T E2
3	E2 -> ' ' E3
4	E2 -> NIL
5	E3 -> T E2
6	T -> F T2
7	T2 -> F T2
8	T2 -> NIL
9	F -> A F2
10	F2 -> '?' F2
11	F2 -> NIL
12	A -> C
13	A -> '(' A2
14	A2 -> E ')'

where '\$' is eof/end-of-string, and NIL means empty (which in these productions means take the rhs only if others do not apply).

You may decide to implement a recursive descent parser yourself to build a tree from the input string, or use Scala's parser combinators to do the same (see Blackboard for a chapter on this topic). Remember not to use any regular expression processing (either built in or in external libraries)!

Note: As of Scala 2.11 parser combinators are in an external library, so you may need the jar file (<https://mvnrepository.com/artifact/org.scala-lang/scala-parser-combinators/2.11.0-M4>).