Syntax Analysis
(a.k.a. Parsing)

Grammar analysis and recursive descent parsing.

Parser

- Verifies that the grammatical rules of the language are satisfied
- Overall parser structure is based on context-free grammars (a.k.a. BNF/EBNF grammars)
- Input: stream of tokens from the scanner
 From the perspective of the parser, each token is treated as a terminal symbol.
- Output: intermediate representation of the source code (e.g., abstract syntax trees)

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Functions of the Parser

- Language recognition based on syntax, as defined by a context-free grammar
- Error Handling/Recovery
- Generation of intermediate representation (We will generate abstract syntax trees.)

The primary focus of this section is language recognition. Subsequent sections will cover error recovery and generation of abstract syntax trees.

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Recursive Descent Parsing

- Parsing technique used in this course: recursive descent with single symbol lookahead.
 (Briefly discuss other options.)
- Uses recursive methods to "descend" through the parse tree (top-down parsing) as it parses a program.
- The parser is constructed systematically from the grammar using a set of programming refinements.

grammar using a set of programming refinements.

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Initial Grammar Transformations

- Start with an unambiguous grammar.
- Separate lexical grammar rules from structural rules.
 - Let the scanner handle simple rules (operators, identifiers, etc.).
 - Symbols from the scanner become terminal symbols in the grammar for the parser.
- Use a single rule for each nonterminal; i.e., each nonterminal appears on the left side of only one rule.
- Eliminate left recursion.
- Left factor wherever possible.
- Certain grammar restrictions will be discussed in subsequent slides.

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• For every rule in the grammar

we define a parsing method with the name parseN()

- Example: For the rule
 assignmentStmt = variable ":=" expression ";" .
 we define a parsing method named
 parseAssignmentStmt()
- Grammar transformations can be used to simplify the grammar before applying this refinement; e.g., substitution of nonterminals.

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Parsing the "Right" Side of a Rule

- We now turn our attention to refinement of the method parseN() associated with a production rule "N =" by examining the form of the grammatical expression on the right side of the rule.
- As an example, for the rule
 assignmentStmt = variable ":=" expression ";" .
 we have defined a parsing method named
 parseAssignmentStmt()

We focus on systematic implementation of this method by examining the right side of the rule.

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Example: Recursive Descent Parsing Refinement 2

The algorithm used to parse

variable ":=" expression ";"

is simply

- the algorithm used to parse variable followed by
- the algorithm used to parse ":=" followed by
- $\,-\,$ the algorithm used to parse expression followed by
- the algorithm used to parse ";"

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Recursive Descent Parsing Methods

The parseN() methods of the parser function as follows:

- The scanner method getSymbol() provides one symbol "lookahead" for the parsing methods.
- On entry into the method parseN(), the symbol returned from the scanner should contain a symbol that could start on the right side of the rule N = ...
- On exit from the method parseN(), the symbol returned from the scanner should contain the first symbol that could follow a syntactic phrase corresponding to N.
- If the production rules contain recursive references, the parsing methods will also contain recursive calls.

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Recursive Descent Parsing Refinement 2

- A sequence of syntax factors F₁ F₂ F₃ ... is recognized by parsing the individual factors one at a time in order.
- In other words, the algorithm for parsing F₁ F₂ F₃ ... is simply
 - the algorithm for parsing F_1 followed by
 - the algorithm for parsing F₂ followed by
 - $-\,$ the algorithm for parsing ${\rm F_3}$ followed by

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Recursive Descent Parsing Refinement 3

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 A single terminal symbol t on the right side of a rule is recognized by calling the "helper" parsing method match(t) defined as

Example: The algorithm for recognizing the assignment operator ":=" is simply the method call

match(Symbol.assign);

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- A nonterminal symbol N on the right side of a rule is recognized by calling the method corresponding to the rule for N; i.e., the algorithm for recognizing nonterminal N is simply a call to the method parseN().
- Example: The algorithm for recognizing the nonterminal symbol expression on the right side of a rule is simply a call to the method parseExpression().

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First Sets

- The set of all terminal symbols that can appear at the start of a syntax expression E is denoted First(E).
- First sets provide important information that can be used to guide decisions during parser development.

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Rules for Computing First Sets

- If t is a terminal symbol, First(t) = { t }
- If all strings derived from E are nonempty, then First(EF) = First(E)
- If some strings derived from E can be empty, then $First(E F) = First(E) \cup First(F)$
- First(E | F) = First(E) U First(F)

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Example: Application of the **Recursive Descent Parsing Refinements**

- Consider the rule for an assignment statement: assignmentStmt = variable ":=" expression ";"
- The complete parsing method for recognizing an assignment statement is as follows:

```
public void parseAssignmentStmt()
    parseVariable():
    match(Symbol.assign);
    parseExpression();
    match(Symbol.semicolon);
```

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First Set Examples from CPRL

- constDecl = "const" constId ":=" literal ";" . First(constDecl) = { "const" }
- varDecl = "var" identifiers ":" typeName ";" . First(varDecl) = { "var" }
- arrayTypeDecl = "type" typeId "=" "array" ... ";" .
 First(arrayTypeDecl) = { "type" }
- initialDecl = constDecl | arrayTypeDecl | varDecl .
 First(initialDecl) = { "const", "var", "type" }
- statementPart = "begin" statements "end" . First(statementPart) = { "begin" }
- loopStmt = ("while" booleanExpr)? "loop" ... ";" .
 First(loopStmt) = { "while", "loop" }

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Computing First Sets: Special Cases

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The following rules can be derived as special cases of the previous rules

- First((E)*) = First(E)
- First((E)+) = First(E)
- First((E)?) = First(E)
- First((E)* F) = First(E) \cup First(F)
- First((E)+ F) = First(E) if all strings derived from E are nonempty
- First((E)+ F) = First(E) ∪ First(F) if some strings derived from
- First((E)? F) = First(E) ∪ First(F)

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Strategy for Computing First Sets

- · Use a bottom-up approach
- Start with simplest rules and work toward more complicated (composite) rules.

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Follow Set Examples from CPRL

- · What can follow an initialDecl?
 - From the rule
 - initialDecls = (initialDecl)*.

 we know that any initialDecl can follow an initialDecl, so the
 - follow set for initialDecl includes the first set of initialDecl; i.e., "const", "var", and "type".
 - From the rules
 - declarativePart = initialDecls subprogramDecls .
 subprogramDecls = (subprogramDecl)* .
 - subprogramDec1 = procedureDec1 | functionDec1 . we know that a procedureDecl or functionDecl can follow an initialDecl, so the follow set for initialDecl includes "procedure" and "function".

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Rules for Computing Follow Sets

Computing Follow(T)

- Consider all production rules similar to the following:
 N = S T U . N = S (T)* U . N = S (T)? U .
 - Follow(T) includes First(U).
 - $-\,$ If U can be empty, then Follow(T) also includes Follow(N).
- Consider all production rules similar to the following:
 N = S T .
 N = S (T)* .
 N = S (T)? .
 In all these cases, Follow(T) includes Follow(N).
- If T occurs in the form (T)* or (T)+, then Follow(T) includes First(T).

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Follow Sets

- The set of all terminal symbols that can follow immediately after a syntax expression E is denoted Follow(E).
- Understanding Follow sets is important not only for parser development but also for error recovery.
- If N is a nonterminal, we will use Follow(N) during error recovery when trying to parse N. To compute Follow(N) for a nonterminal N, you must analyze all rules that reference N.
- Computation of follow sets can be a bit more involved than computation of first sets.

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Follow Set Examples from CPRL (continued)

- From the rules

program = declarativePart statementPart "." .
statementPart = "begin" statements "end" .

we know that statementPart can follow an initialDecl, so the follow set for initialDecl includes "begin".

- Conclusion:

Follow(initialDecl) =
{ "const", "var", "type", "procedure", "function", "begin" }

- What can follow a loopStmt?
 - ... (left as an exercise)
 - Conclusion:

Follow(loopStmt) =

{ identifier, "return", "end", "if", "elsif", "else", "while", "loop", "exit", "read", "write", "writeln" }

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Strategy for Computing Follow Sets

- Use a top-down approach.
- Start with first rule (the one containing the start symbol) and work toward the simpler rules.

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• A syntax factor of the form (E)* is recognized by the following algorithm:

while current symbol is in First(E) loop apply the algorithm for recognizing E

• Grammar Restriction 1: First(E) and Follow((E)*) must be disjoint in this context; i.e., $First(E) \cap Follow((E)^*) = \emptyset$ (Why?)

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Example: Recursive Descent Parsing Refinement 5

- · Consider the rule for initialDecls: initialDecls = (initialDecl)* .
- The CPRL method for parsing initialDecls is

```
public void parseInitialDecls()
     while (scanner.getSymbol() == Symbol.constRW ||
             scanner.getSymbol() == Symbol.varRW
scanner.getSymbol() == Symbol.typeRW)
         parseInitialDecl();
  }
```

In CPRL, the symbols "const", "var", and "type" cannot follow initialDecls. (Which symbols can follow?)

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Helper Methods in Class Symbol

Class Symbol provides several helper methods for testing properties of symbols.

```
public boolean isReservedWord()
public boolean isInitialDeclStarter()
public boolean isSubprogramDeclStarter()
public boolean isStmtStarter()
public boolean isLogicalOperator()
public boolean isRelationalOperator()
public boolean isAddingOperator()
public boolean isMultiplyingOperator()
public boolean isLiteral()
public boolean isExprStarter()
```

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Method isStmtStarter()

```
* Returns true if this symbol can start a statement.
public boolean isStmtStarter()
     return this == Symbol.exitRW
    || this == Symbol.identifier
    || this == Symbol.ifRW
           || this == Symbol.loopRW
          || this == Symbol.whileRW
|| this == Symbol.readRW
          || this == Symbol.writeRW
           || this == Symbol.writelnRW
          || this == Symbol.returnRW;
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                                                                            Slide 28
```

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Method isInitialDeclStarter()

```
* Returns true if this symbol can start an initial declaration.
public boolean isInitialDeclStarter()
     return this == Symbol.constRW
         || this == Symbol.varRW
|| this == Symbol.typeRW;
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```

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Using Helper Methods in Class Symbol

Using the helper methods in class Symbol, we can rewrite the code for parseInitialDecls() as follows:

```
public void parseInitialDecls()
   while (scanner.getSymbol().isInitialDeclStarter())
       parseInitialDecl();
```

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Since a syntax factor of the form (E)+ is equivalent to E (E)*, a syntax factor of the form (E)+ is recognized by the following algorithm:

apply the algorithm for recognizing E while current symbol is in First(E) loop apply the algorithm for recognizing E end loop

Equivalently, the algorithm for recognizing (E)+ can be written using a loop that tests at the bottom.

apply the algorithm for recognizing E exit when current symbol is **not** in First(E)

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Recursive Descent Parsing Refinement 6 (continued)

In Java, the loop structure that tests at the bottom is called a do-while loop, so the algorithm implemented in Java would more closely resemble the following:

apply the algorithm for recognizing E while current symbol is in First(E)

Grammar Restriction 2: If E can generate the empty string, then First(E) and Follow((E)+) must be disjoint in this context; i.e., $First(E) \cap Follow((E+)) = \emptyset$ (Why?)

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Recursive Descent Parsing Refinement 7

· A syntax factor of the form (E)? is recognized by the following algorithm:

if current symbol is in First(E) then apply the algorithm for recognizing E

 Grammar Restriction 3: First(E) and Follow((E)?) must be disjoint in this context; i.e.,

 $First(E) \cap Follow((E)?) = \emptyset$ (Same reason as before.)

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Helper Method matchCurrentSymbol()

- Method matchCurrentSymbol() is similar to method match() except that it takes no parameters and doesn't throw an exception. It simply advances the scanner.
- Method matchCurrentSymbol() is used when we already know that the next symbol in the input stream is the one we want. We could use match() for this purpose, but matchCurrentSymbol() is slightly more efficient.
- Method matchCurrentSymbol() private void matchCurrentSymbol() throws IOException scanner.advance(): ©SoftMoore Consulting Slide 34

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Example: Recursive Descent Parsing Refinement 7

- Consider the rule for an exit statement: exitStmt = "exit" ("when" booleanExpr)? ";" .
- The method for parsing an exit statement is

```
public void parseExitStmt()
                                                    first check for
                                                    optional when
      match(Symbol.exitRW);
                                                    clause
      if (scanner.getSymbol() == Symbol.whenRW)
          matchCurrentSymbol(); 
                                        slightly more efficient than
          parseExpression();
                                        match(Symbol.whenRW)
     match(Symbol.semicolon);
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```

Example: Recursive Descent Parsing Refinement 7 (continued)

- The first set for the optional when clause is simply { "when" }, so we use the reserved word when to tell us whether or not to parse a when clause.
- Questions: What is the follow set for the optional when clause? What problem would we have if it contained the reserved word "when"?

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• A syntax factor of the form E | F is recognized by the following algorithm:

```
if current symbol is in First(E) then
   apply the algorithm for recognizing E
elsif current symbol is in First(F) then
   apply the algorithm for recognizing F
   parsing error
end if
```

• Grammar Restriction 4: First(E) and First(F) must be disjoint in this context; i.e., $First(E) \cap First(F) = \emptyset$

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LL(1) Grammars

- If a grammar satisfies the restrictions imposed by the previous parsing rules, then the grammar is called an
- · Recursive descent parsing using one symbol lookahead can be used only if the grammar is LL(1).
 - First 'L': read the source file from left to right
 - Second 'L': descend into the parse tree from left to right
 - Number '1': one token lookahead
- Not all grammars are LL(1).
 - e.g., any grammar has left recursion is not LL(1)

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Recursive Decent Parsing

• The "recursive" part of the phrase "recursive descent" comes from the use of recursive method calls in the parser; e.g., to parse nested loop statements. // called when parsing the outer loop parseLoop()

```
parseStatements()
   parseLoop() // called when paring the inner loop
```

• For the "descent" part of "recursive descent", consider a portion of the parse tree for a simple CPRL program.

var x : Integer; begin end.

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Example: Recursive Descent Parsing Refinement 8

- Consider the rule in CPRL for initialDecl: initialDecl = constDecl | varDecl | arrayTypeDecl .
- The CPRL method for parsing initialDecl is

```
public void parseInitialDecl()
    if (scanner.getSymbol() == Symbol.constRW)
    parseConstDecl();
else if (scanner.getSymbol() == Symbol.varRW)
        parseVarDecl();
    else if (scanner.getSymbol() == Symbol.typeRW)
   parseArrayTypeDecl();
    else
         ... // throw an InternalErrorException
```

(This logic could also be implemented using a switch statement.)

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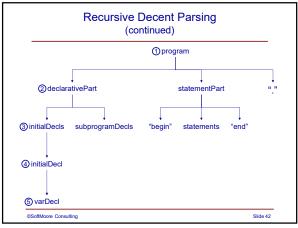
LL(1) Grammars (continued)

- In practice, the syntax of most programming languages can be defined, or at least closely approximated, by an LL(1) grammar.
 - e.g., by using grammar transformations such as eliminating left recursion
- The phrase "recursive descent" refers to the fact that we descend (top-down) the parse tree using recursive method/function calls.

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Recursive Decent Parsing (continued)

 The numbers on the left side of the parse tree correspond to the order of calls to parsing methods; i.e., these are the first five paring methods called when parsing the program.

parseProgram()
parseDeclarativePart()
parseInitialDecls()
parseInitialDecl()
parseVarDecl()

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Developing a Parser for CPRL Version 1: Language Recognition

- Use the parsing refinements discussed earlier.
- Verify that the grammar restrictions (in terms of first and follow sets) are satisfied by the grammar for CPRL.
- Use the grammar to develop version 1 of the parser.
 - requires grammar analysis
 - computation of first and follow sets

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Variables versus Named Values (continued)

- Loosely speaking, it's a variable if it appears on the left side of an assignment statement, and it's a named value if it is used as an expression.
- The distinction between a variable and a named value will become important later when we consider the topics of error recovery and code generation – the error recovery and code generation are different for a variable than for a named value.

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Developing a Parser

Three major versions of the parser for the compiler project:

- Version 1: Language recognition based on a context-free grammar (with minor checking of language constraints)
- Version 2: Add error-recovery
- Version 3: Add generation of abstract syntax trees

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Variables versus Named Values

- From the perspective of the grammar, there is no real distinction between a variable and a named value.
 variable = (varId | paramId) ("[" expression "]")* .
 namedValue = variable .
- Both are parsed similarly, but we make a distinction based on the context where the identifier appears.
- For example, consider the assignment statement
 x := y;

The identifier "x" represents a variable, and the identifier "y" represents a named value.

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Handling Grammar Limitations

- As given, the grammar for CPRL is "not quite" LL(1)
- Example: Parsing a statement.

- Use the lookahead symbol to select the parsing method.
 - "if" \rightarrow parse an "if" statement
 - "while" \rightarrow parse a loop statement
 - $\text{ "loop" } \quad \to \text{ parse a loop statement}$
 - identifier → parse either an assignment statement or procedure call statement (which one?)
- An identifier is in the first set of both an assignment statement and a procedure call statement.

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Handling Grammar Limitations (continued)

- A similar problem exists when parsing a factor.
 factor = "not" factor | constValue | namedValue
 | functionCall | "(" expression ")" .
- An identifier is in the first set of constValue, namedValue, and functionCall.

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Possible Solutions

1. Use additional token lookahead – LL(2)

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- If the symbol following the identifier is "[" or ":=", parse an assignment statement.
- If it is "(" or ";", parse a procedure call statement.
- 2. Redesign/factor the grammar; e.g., replace "s = i x | i y ." with "s = i (x | y) ."
- 3. Use an identifier table to store information about how the identifier was declared, and then later use the declaration information to determine if the identifier is a constant, variable, procedure name, etc.

We will use the third approach.

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Class IdTable (Version 1)

- We will create a preliminary version class IdTable to help track identifiers that have been declared and to assist with basic constraint analysis of scope rules.
- · Types of Identifiers

```
enum IdType
{
   constantId, variableId, arrayTypeId,
   procedureId, functionId;
}
```

Class IdTable will be extended in subsequent assignments to perform a more complete analysis of CPRL scope rules.

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Procedure Example - Scope

```
var x : Integer;
var y : Integer;
procedure p is
  var x : Integer;
   var n : Integer;
begin
  x := 5;
                // which x?
   n := y;
                // which y?
end p;
 begin
                // which x?
    x := 8;
 end.
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                                                             Slide 52
```

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Handling Scopes within Class IdTable

- Variables and constants can be declared at the program level or at the subprogram level, introducing the concept of scope.
- Class IdTable will need to search for names both within the current scope and possibly in enclosing scopes.
- Class IdTable is implemented as a stack of maps from identifier strings to their IdType.
 - When a new scope is opened, a new map is pushed onto the stack.
 - Searching for a declaration involves searching within the current level (top map in the stack) and then within enclosing scopes (maps under the top).

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Selected Methods in IdTable

/** * Returns the IdType associated with the identifier * token's text. Returns null if the identifier is not found. * Searches enclosing scopes if necessary. */ public IdType get(Token idToken)

Adding Declarations to IdTable

- When an identifier is declared, the parser will attempt to add its token and IdType to the table within the current scope.
 - throws an exception if an identifier with the same name (same token text) has been previously declared in the current scope.
- Example from method parseConstDecl()
 idTable.add(constId, IdType.constantId);

Throws a ParserException if the identifier is already defined in the current scope

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Using IdTable to Check Applied Occurrences of Identifiers

When an identifier is encountered in the statement part of the program or a subprogram, the parser will

- · check that the identifier has been declared
- use the information about how the identifier was declared to facilitate correct parsing (e.g., you can't assign a value to an identifier that was declared as a constant.)

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Example Using IdTable to Check Applied Occurrences of Identifiers

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Example Using IdTable to Check Applied Occurrences of Identifiers (continued)

Example: Parsing a Procedure Declaration

```
// procedureDecl = "procedure" procId ( formalParameters )?
        "is" initialDecls statementPart procId ";" .
match(Symbol.procedureRW);
Token procId = scanner.getToken();
match(Symbol.identifier);
idTable.add(procId,\ IdType.procedureId); \leftarrow
idTable.openScope(): <
if (scanner.getSymbol() == Symbol.leftParen)
    parseFormalParameters(); ←
                                  Note that the procedure name is
match(Symbol.isRW);
                                  defined in the outer (program)
parseInitialDecls();
                                  scope, but its parameters and
parseStatementPart():
                                  initial declarations are defined
idTable.closeScope();
                                  within the scope of the procedure.
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```

Example: Parsing a Procedure Declaration (continued)

Note the check that the procedure names (procId and procId2) match. Technically, ensuring that the procedure names match goes beyond simple syntax analysis and represents more of a constraint check. As far as the context-free grammar is concerned, they are both just identifiers.

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Example: Parsing a Statement

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Example: Parsing a Statement (continued)

```
else if (symbol == Symbol.ifRW)
    parseIfStmt();
else if (symbol == Symbol.loopRW || symbol == Symbol.whileRW)
    parseLoopStmt();
else if (symbol == Symbol.exitRW)
    parseExitStmt();
...
```

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Class ErrorHandler

- · Used for consistency in error reporting.
- Implements the singleton pattern (only one instance)
- Obtain an instance of ErrorHandler by calling ErrorHandler.getInstance()

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Key Methods Class ErrorHandler

```
/**

* Reports the error. Stops compilation if the maximum

* number of errors have been reported.

*/
public void reportError(CompilerException e)

/**

* Reports the error and exits compilation.

*/
public void reportFatalError(Exception e)

/**

* Reports a warning and continues compilation.

*/
public void reportWarning(String warningMessage)
```

Using ErrorHandler for Parser Version 1

- Version 1 of the parser does not implement error recovery. When an error is encountered, the parser will print an error message and then exit.
- In order to ease the transition to error recovery in the next version of the parser, most parsing methods will wrap the basic parsing logic in a try/catch block.
- Any parsing method that calls match() or the add() method of IdTable will need to have a try/catch block
- Error reporting will be implemented within the catch clause of the try/catch block.

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Using ErrorHandler for Parser Version 1 (continued) public void parseAssignmentStmt() throws IOException parseVariable(); wrap the parsing match(Symbol.assign); statements in a parseExpression(); try/catch block match(Symbol.semicolon); catch (ParserException e) ErrorHandler.getInstance().reportError(e); exit(); This approach provides the framework that we will use for error recovery in the next section. ©SoftMoore Consulting Slide 67

- To implement methods parseVariable() and parseNamedValue() we use a helper method to provide common logic for both methods.
- The helper method does not handle any parser exceptions but instead throws them back to the calling method where they can be handled appropriately.
- An outline of the helper method, parseVariableExpr(), is shown on the next couple of slides.
- Both parseVariable() and parseNamedValue() call the helper method to parse the grammar rule for variable.

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```
Method parseVariableExpr()
```

Method parseVariableExpr()
(continued)

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Method parseVariable()

 Method parseVariable() simply calls the helper method to parse its grammar rule.

```
public void parseVariable() throws IOException
{
    try
    {
        parseVariableExpr();
     }
    catch (ParserException e)
    {
        ErrorHandler.getInstance().reportError(e);
        exit();
    }
}
```

Method parseNamedValue() is implemented similarly.

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