

Syntactic Analysis

Top-Down Parsing

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Parsing Techniques

Top-Down Parsers (*LL(1), recursive descent*)

- Start at the root of the parse tree and grow toward leaves
- Pick a production & try to match the input
- Bad “pick” \Rightarrow may need to backtrack
- Some grammars are backtrack-free (*predictive parsing*)

Bottom-Up Parsers (*LR(1), operator precedence*)

- Start at the leaves and grow toward root
- As input is consumed, encode possibilities in an internal state
- Start in a state valid for legal first tokens
- Bottom-up parsers handle a large class of grammars

Top-Down Parsing

*A top-down parser starts with the root of the parse tree
The root node is labeled with the goal symbol of the grammar*

Top-Down parsing algorithm:

Construct the root node of the parse tree

Repeat until the fringe of the parse tree matches the input string

- 1 *At a node labeled A, select a production with A on its lhs and, for each symbol on its rhs, construct the appropriate child*
 - 2 *When a terminal symbol is added to the fringe and it doesn't match the fringe, backtrack*
 - 3 *Find the next node to be expanded ($label \in NT$)*
- The key is picking the right production in step 1
 - *That choice should be guided by the input string*

Remember the Expression Grammar?

Example CFG:

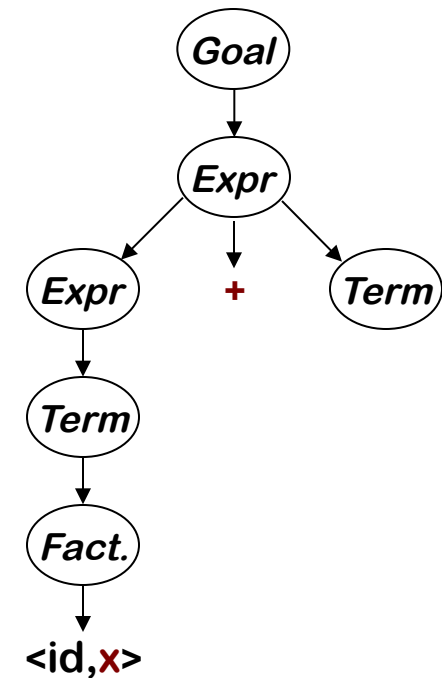
1	$Goal \rightarrow Expr$
2	$Expr \rightarrow Expr + Term$
3	$ Expr - Term$
4	$ Term$
5	$Term \rightarrow Term * Factor$
6	$ Term / Factor$
7	$ Factor$
8	$Factor \rightarrow \underline{number}$
9	$ \underline{id}$

And the input $x - 2 * y$

Example

Let's try $\underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$:

Rule	Sentential Form	Input
—	Goal	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
1	Expr	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
2	Expr + Term	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
4	Term + Term	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
7	Factor + Term	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
9	<id,x> + Term	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
9	<id,x> + Term	$\underline{x} \uparrow - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$

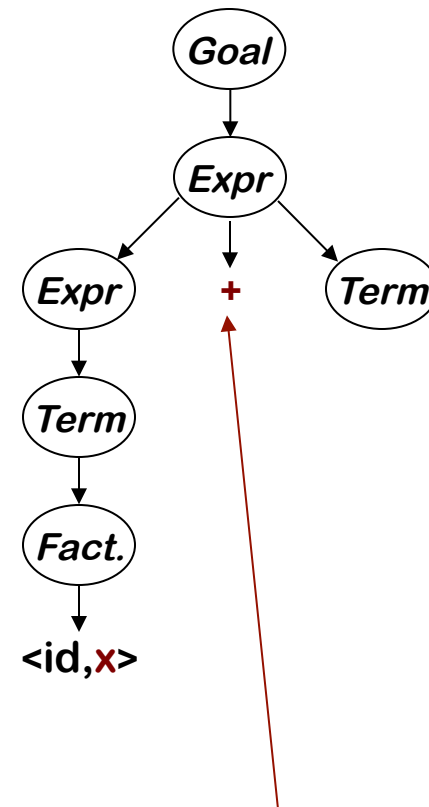


Leftmost derivation, choose productions in an order that exposes problems

Example

Let's try $\underline{x} \ominus \underline{2} * \underline{y}$:

Rule	Sentential Form	Input
—	Goal	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
1	Expr	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
2	Expr + Term	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
4	Term + Term	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
7	Factor + Term	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
9	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle + \text{Term}$	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
9	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle + \text{Term}$	$\underline{x} \uparrow \ominus \underline{2} * \underline{y}$

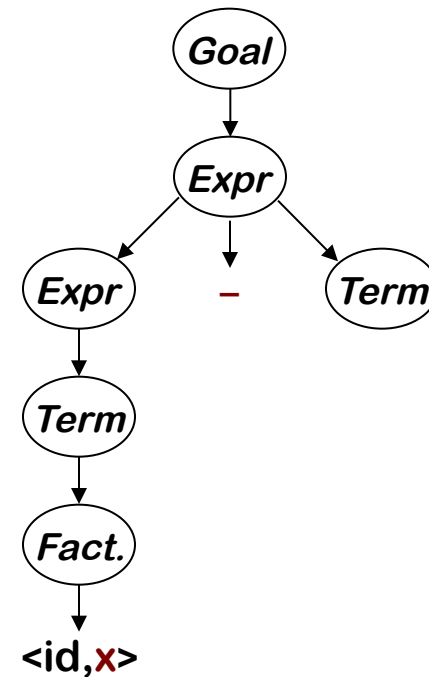


This worked well, except that “−” doesn’t match “+”
The parser must backtrack to here

Example

Continuing with $\underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$:

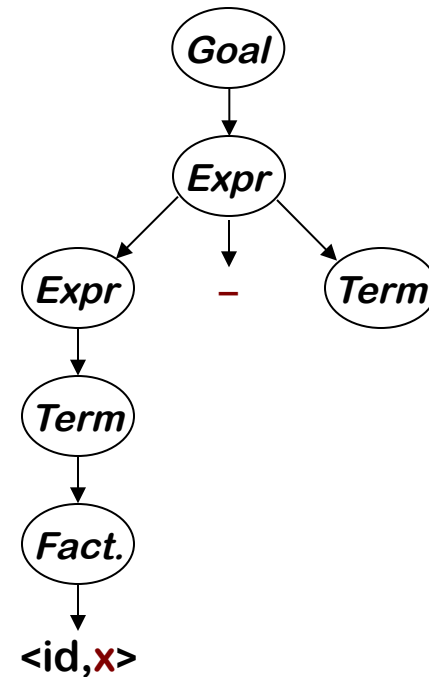
Rule	Sentential Form	Input
—	Goal	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
1	Expr	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
3	Expr – Term	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
4	Term – Term	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
7	Factor – Term	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
9	<id,x> – Term	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
9	<id,x> – Term	$\underline{x} \uparrow - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
—	<id,x> – Term	$\underline{x} - \uparrow \underline{2} * \underline{y}$



Example

Continuing with $\underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$:

Rule	Sentential Form	Input
—	<i>Goal</i>	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
1	<i>Expr</i>	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
3	<i>Expr</i> – <i>Term</i>	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
4	<i>Term</i> – <i>Term</i>	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
7	<i>Factor</i> – <i>Term</i>	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
9	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle$ – <i>Term</i>	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
9	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle$ – <i>Term</i>	$\underline{x} \uparrow - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
—	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle$ – <i>Term</i>	$\underline{x} - \uparrow \underline{2} * \underline{y}$



This time, “–” and
“–” matched

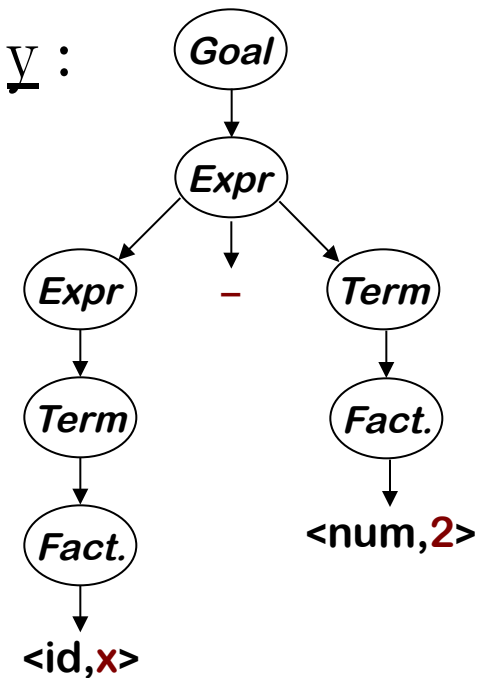
We can advance past
“–” to look at “2”

⇒ Now, we need to expand *Term* - the last *NT* on the fringe

Example

Trying to match the “2” in $\underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$:

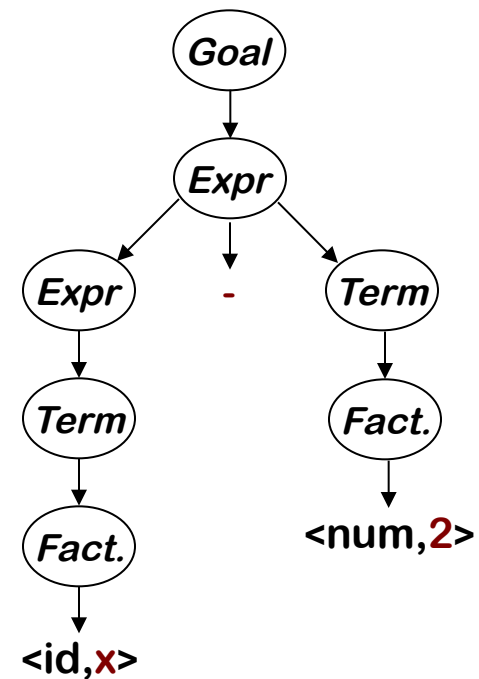
Rule	Sentential Form	Input
—	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle - \text{Term}$	$\underline{x} - \uparrow \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
7	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle - \text{Factor}$	$\underline{x} - \uparrow \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
9	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle - \langle \text{num}, 2 \rangle$	$\underline{x} - \uparrow \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
—	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle - \langle \text{num}, 2 \rangle$	$\underline{x} - \underline{2} \uparrow * \underline{y}$



Example

Trying to match the “2” in $\underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$:

Rule	Sentential Form	Input
—	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle - \text{Term}$	$\underline{x} - \uparrow \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
7	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle - \text{Factor}$	$\underline{x} - \uparrow \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
9	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle - \langle \text{num}, 2 \rangle$	$\underline{x} - \uparrow \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
—	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle - \langle \text{num}, 2 \rangle$	$\underline{x} - \underline{2} \uparrow * \underline{y}$



Where are we?

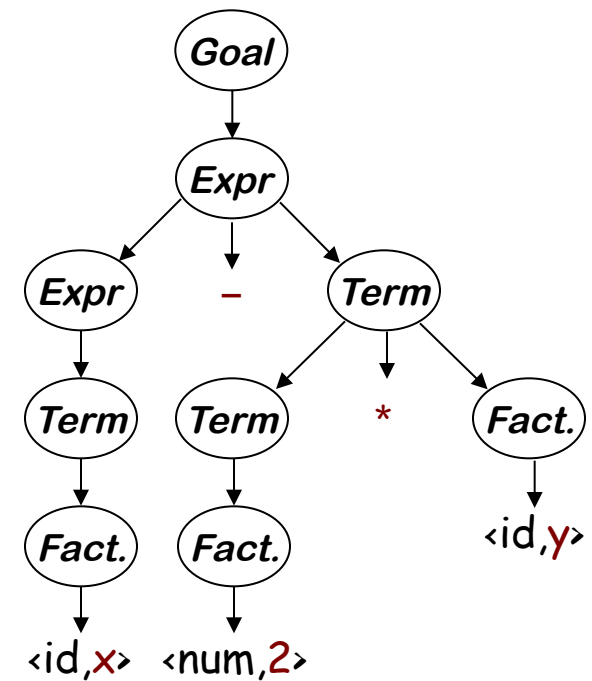
- “2” matches “2”
- We have more input, but no *NTs* left to expand
- The expansion terminated too soon

⇒ Need to backtrack

Example

Trying again with “2” in $\underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y}$:

Rule	Sentential Form	Input
—	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle - \text{Term}$	$\underline{x} - \uparrow \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
5	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle - \text{Term} * \text{Factor}$	$\underline{x} - \uparrow \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
7	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle - \text{Factor} * \text{Factor}$	$\underline{x} - \uparrow \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
8	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle - \langle \text{num}, 2 \rangle * \text{Factor}$	$\underline{x} - \uparrow \underline{2} * \underline{y}$
—	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle - \langle \text{num}, 2 \rangle * \text{Factor}$	$\underline{x} - \underline{2} \uparrow * \underline{y}$
—	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle - \langle \text{num}, 2 \rangle * \text{Factor}$	$\underline{x} - \underline{2} * \uparrow \underline{y}$
9	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle - \langle \text{num}, 2 \rangle * \langle \text{id}, y \rangle$	$\underline{x} - \underline{2} * \uparrow \underline{y}$
—	$\langle \text{id}, x \rangle - \langle \text{num}, 2 \rangle * \langle \text{id}, y \rangle$	$\underline{x} - \underline{2} * \underline{y} \uparrow$



This time, we matched & consumed all the input
⇒ Success!

Another Possible Parse

Other choices for expansion are possible

Rule	Sentential Form	Input
—	Goal	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * y$
1	Expr	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * y$
2	Expr + Term	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * y$
2	Expr + Term + Term	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * y$
2	Expr + Term + Term + Term	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * y$
2	Expr + Term + Term + ... + Term	$\uparrow \underline{x} - \underline{2} * y$

consuming no input !

This doesn't terminate (*obviously*)

- Wrong choice of expansion leads to non-termination
- Non-termination is a bad property for a parser to have
- Parser must make the right choice

Left Recursion

Top-Down parsers cannot handle left-recursive grammars

Formally,

A grammar is *left recursive* if $\exists A \in NT$ such that

\exists a derivation $A \Rightarrow^+ A\alpha$, for some string $\alpha \in (NT \cup T)^+$

Our expression grammar is left recursive

- This can lead to non-termination in a Top-down parser
- For a Top-down parser, any recursion must be right recursion
- We would like to convert the left recursion to right recursion

Non-termination is a bad property in any part of a compiler

Eliminating Left Recursion

To remove left recursion, we can transform the grammar

Consider a grammar fragment of the form

$$\begin{aligned} Fee &\rightarrow Fee \alpha \\ &\quad | \beta \end{aligned}$$

where neither α nor β start with Fee

We can rewrite this as

$$\begin{aligned} Fee &\rightarrow \beta Fie \\ Fie &\rightarrow \alpha Fie \\ &\quad | \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

where Fie is a new non-terminal

This accepts the same language, but uses only right recursion

Eliminating Left Recursion

The expression grammar contains two cases of left recursion

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \text{Expr} & \rightarrow \text{Expr} + \text{Term} \\
 & | \text{Expr} - \text{Term} \\
 & | \text{Term} \\
 \text{Term} & \rightarrow \text{Term} * \text{Factor} \\
 & | \text{Term} / \text{Factor} \\
 & | \text{Factor}
 \end{array}$$

Applying the transformation yields

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \text{Expr} & \rightarrow \text{Term Expr}' \\
 \text{Expr}' & | + \text{Term Expr}' \\
 & | - \text{Term Expr}' \\
 & | \epsilon \\
 \text{Term} & \rightarrow \text{Factor Term}' \\
 \text{Term}' & | * \text{Factor Term}' \\
 & | / \text{Factor Term}' \\
 & | \epsilon
 \end{array}$$

These fragments use only right recursion

They retain the original left associativity

Eliminating Left Recursion

Substituting them back into the grammar yields

1	<i>Goal</i>	\rightarrow	<i>Expr</i>
2	<i>Expr</i>	\rightarrow	<i>Term Expr'</i>
3	<i>Expr'</i>	\rightarrow	$+ \textit{Term Expr'}$
4		$ $	$- \textit{Term Expr'}$
5		$ $	ϵ
6	<i>Term</i>	\rightarrow	<i>Factor Term'</i>
7	<i>Term'</i>	\rightarrow	$* \textit{Factor}$
			$\textit{Term'}$
8		$ $	$/ \textit{Factor}$
			$\textit{Term'}$
9		$ $	ϵ
10	<i>Factor</i>	\rightarrow	<u>number</u>
11		$ $	<u>id</u>
12		$ $	<u>(Expr)</u>

- This grammar is correct, if somewhat non-intuitive.
- It is left associative, as was the original
- A top-down parser will terminate using it.
- A top-down parser may need to backtrack with it.

Eliminating Left Recursion

The transformation (above) eliminates *immediate* left recursion

What about more general, indirect left recursion ?

The general algorithm:

arrange the NTs into some order A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n

for $i \leftarrow 1$ to n

for $s \leftarrow 1$ to $i - 1$

replace each production $A_i \rightarrow A_s \gamma$ with $A_i \rightarrow \delta_1 \gamma \mid \delta_2 \gamma \mid \dots \mid \delta_k \gamma$,

where $A_s \rightarrow \delta_1 \mid \delta_2 \mid \dots \mid \delta_k$ are all the current productions for A_s

eliminate any immediate left recursion on A_i

using the direct transformation

Must start with 1 to ensure that $A_1 \rightarrow A_1 \beta$ is transformed

This assumes that the initial grammar has no cycles ($A_i \Rightarrow^+ A_i$),
and no epsilon productions (may need to transform grammar)

And back

Eliminating Left Recursion

How does this algorithm work?

1. Impose arbitrary order on the non-terminals
2. Outer loop cycles through NT in order
3. Inner loop ensures that a production expanding A_i has no non-terminal A_s in its *rhs*, for $s < i$
4. Last step in outer loop converts any direct recursion on A_i to right recursion using the transformation showed earlier
5. New non-terminals are added at the end of the order & have no left recursion

At the start of the i^{th} outer loop iteration

*For all $k < i$, no production that expands A_k contains a non-terminal A_s in its *rhs*, for $s < k$*

Example

- Order of symbols: G, E, T

$G \rightarrow E$

$E \rightarrow E + T$

$E \rightarrow T$

$T \rightarrow E \sim T$

$T \rightarrow \underline{\text{id}}$

Example

- Order of symbols: G, E, T

1. $A_i = G$

$G \rightarrow E$

$E \rightarrow E + T$

$E \rightarrow T$

$T \rightarrow E \sim T$

$T \rightarrow \underline{\text{id}}$

Example

- Order of symbols: G, E, T

1. $A_i = G$

2. $A_i = E$

$G \rightarrow E$

$G \rightarrow E$

$E \rightarrow E + T$

$E \rightarrow TE'$

$E \rightarrow T$

$E' \rightarrow +TE'$

$T \rightarrow E \sim T$

$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$

$T \rightarrow \underline{\text{id}}$

$T \rightarrow E \sim T$

$T \rightarrow \underline{\text{id}}$

Example

- Order of symbols: G, E, T

1. $A_i = G$

$G \rightarrow E$

$E \rightarrow E + T$

$E \rightarrow T$

$T \rightarrow E \sim T$

$T \rightarrow \underline{\text{id}}$

2. $A_i = E$

$G \rightarrow E$

$E \rightarrow TE'$

$E' \rightarrow +TE'$

$E' \rightarrow \varepsilon$

$T \rightarrow E \sim T$

$T \rightarrow \underline{\text{id}}$

3. $A_i = T, A_s = E$

$G \rightarrow E$

$E \rightarrow TE'$

$E' \rightarrow +TE'$

$E' \rightarrow \varepsilon$

$T \rightarrow TE' \sim T$

$T \rightarrow \underline{\text{id}}$

Go to
Algorithm

Example

- Order of symbols: G, E, T

1. $A_i = G$

$G \rightarrow E$

$E \rightarrow E + T$

$E \rightarrow T$

$T \rightarrow E \sim T$

$T \rightarrow \underline{\text{id}}$

2. $A_i = E$

$G \rightarrow E$

$E \rightarrow TE'$

$E' \rightarrow +TE'$

$E' \rightarrow \varepsilon$

$T \rightarrow E \sim T$

$T \rightarrow \underline{\text{id}}$

3. $A_i = T, A_s = E$

$G \rightarrow E$

$E \rightarrow TE'$

$E' \rightarrow +TE'$

$E' \rightarrow \varepsilon$

$T \rightarrow TE' \sim T$

$T \rightarrow \underline{\text{id}}$

4. $A_i = T$

$G \rightarrow E$

$E \rightarrow TE'$

$E' \rightarrow +TE'$

$E' \rightarrow \varepsilon$

$T \rightarrow \underline{\text{id}} T'$

$T' \rightarrow E \sim TT'$

$T' \rightarrow \varepsilon$

Roadmap (Where are we?)

We set out to study parsing

- Specifying syntax
 - Context-free grammars ✓
 - Ambiguity ✓
- Top-Down parsers
 - Algorithm & its problem with left recursion ✓
 - Left-recursion removal ✓
- Predictive Top-Down parsing
 - The LL(1) condition
 - Simple recursive descent parsers
 - Table-driven LL(1) parsers

Picking the “Right” Production

If it picks the wrong production, a top-down parser may backtrack

Alternative is to look ahead in input & use context to pick correctly

How much lookahead is needed?

- In general, an arbitrarily large amount
- Use the Cocke-Younger, Kasami algorithm or Earley’s algorithm

Fortunately,

- Large subclasses of CFGs can be parsed with limited lookahead
- Most programming language constructs fall in those subclasses

Among the interesting subclasses are $LL(1)$ and $LR(1)$ grammars

Predictive Parsing

Basic idea

Given $A \rightarrow \alpha \mid \beta$, the parser should be able to choose between α and β

FIRST Sets

For some *rhs* $\alpha \in G$, define **FIRST**(α) as the set of tokens that appear as the first symbol in some string that derives from α

That is, $\underline{x} \in \text{FIRST}(\alpha)$ iff $\alpha \Rightarrow^* \underline{x}\gamma$, for some γ

Predictive Parsing

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The LL(1) Property

If $A \rightarrow \alpha$ and $A \rightarrow \beta$ both appear in the grammar, we would like

$$\text{FIRST}(\alpha) \cap \text{FIRST}(\beta) = \emptyset$$

This would allow the parser to make a correct choice with a lookahead of exactly one symbol !

This is almost correct
See the next slide

Predictive Parsing

What about ϵ -productions?

\Rightarrow They complicate the definition of $LL(1)$

If $A \rightarrow \alpha$ and $A \rightarrow \beta$ and $\epsilon \in \text{FIRST}(\alpha)$, then we need to ensure that $\text{FIRST}(\beta)$ is disjoint from $\text{FOLLOW}(\alpha)$, too

Define $\text{FIRST}^+(\alpha)$ as

- $\text{FIRST}(\alpha) \cup \text{FOLLOW}(\alpha)$, if $\epsilon \in \text{FIRST}(\alpha)$
- $\text{FIRST}(\alpha)$, otherwise

Then, a grammar is $LL(1)$ iff $A \rightarrow \alpha$ and $A \rightarrow \beta$ implies

$$\text{FIRST}^+(\alpha) \cap \text{FIRST}^+(\beta) = \emptyset$$

$\text{FOLLOW}(\alpha)$ is the set of all words in the grammar that can legally appear immediately after an α

Predictive Parsing

Given a grammar that has the $LL(1)$ property

- Can write a simple routine to recognize each lhs
- Code is both simple & fast

Consider $A \rightarrow \beta_1 \mid \beta_2 \mid \beta_3$, with

$$\text{FIRST}^+(\beta_1) \cap \text{FIRST}^+(\beta_2) \cap \text{FIRST}^+(\beta_3) = \emptyset$$

```
/* find an A */
if (current_word ∈ FIRST(β1))
    find a β1 and return true
else if (current_word ∈ FIRST(β2))
    find a β2 and return true
else if (current_word ∈ FIRST(β3))
    find a β3 and return true
else
    report an error and return false
```

Grammars with the $LL(1)$ property are called *predictive grammars* because the parser can “predict” the correct expansion at each point in the parse.

Parsers that capitalize on the $LL(1)$ property are called *predictive parsers*.

One kind of predictive parser is the *recursive descent* parser.

Recursive Descent Parsing

Recall the expression grammar, after transformation

1	<i>Goal</i>	\rightarrow	<i>Expr</i>
2	<i>Expr</i>	\rightarrow	<i>Term Expr'</i>
3	<i>Expr'</i>	\rightarrow	<i>+ Term Expr'</i>
4		$ $	<i>- Term Expr'</i>
5		$ $	ϵ
6	<i>Term</i>	\rightarrow	<i>Factor Term'</i>
7	<i>Term'</i>	\rightarrow	<i>* Factor Term'</i>
8		$ $	<i>/ Factor Term'</i>
9		$ $	ϵ
10	<i>Factor</i>	\rightarrow	<u>number</u>
11		$ $	<u>id</u>

This produces a parser with six mutually recursive routines:

- *Goal*
- *Expr*
- *EPrime*
- *Term*
- *TPRime*
- *Factor*

Each recognizes one *NT* or *T*

The term descent refers to the direction in which the parse tree is built.

Recursive Descent Parsing (Procedural)

A couple of routines from the expression parser

Goal()

```
token ← next_token( );
if (Expr() = true & token = EOF)
  then next compilation step;
else
  report syntax error;
  return false;
```

Expr()

```
if (Term() = false)
  then return false;
else return Eprime();
```

looking for EOF,
found token

Factor()

```
if (token = Number) then
  token ← next_token( );
  return true;
else if (token = Identifier) then
  token ← next_token( );
  return true;
else
  report syntax error;
  return false;
```

EPrime, **Term**, & **TPRime** follow the
same basic lines

looking for Number or Identifier,
found token instead

Recursive Descent Parsing

To Build a Parse Tree:

- Augment parsing routines to build nodes
- Pass nodes between routines using a stack
- Node for each symbol on *rhs*
- Action is to pop *rhs* nodes, make them children of *lhs* node, and push this subtree

To Build an Abstract Syntax Tree

- Build fewer nodes
- Put them together in a different order

```

Expr()
  result  $\leftarrow$  true;
  if (Term() = false)
    then return false;
  else if (EPrime() = false)
    then result  $\leftarrow$  false;
  else
    build an Expr node
    pop EPrime node
    pop Term node
    make EPrime & Term
    children of Expr
    push Expr node
  return result;
  
```

Success \Rightarrow build a piece of the parse tree

Left Factoring

What if my grammar does not have the LL(1) property?

⇒ Sometimes, we can transform the grammar

The algorithm

$\forall A \in NT,$
find the longest prefix α that occurs in two or more right-hand sides of A
if $\alpha \neq \epsilon$ then replace all of the A productions,
$$A \rightarrow \alpha\beta_1 \mid \alpha\beta_2 \mid \dots \mid \alpha\beta_n \mid \gamma,$$

with
$$A \rightarrow \alpha Z \mid \gamma$$

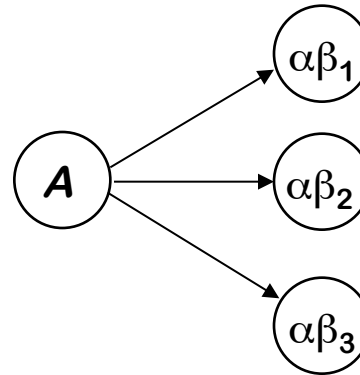
$$Z \rightarrow \beta_1 \mid \beta_2 \mid \dots \mid \beta_n$$

where Z is a new element of NT
Repeat until no common prefixes remain

Left Factoring

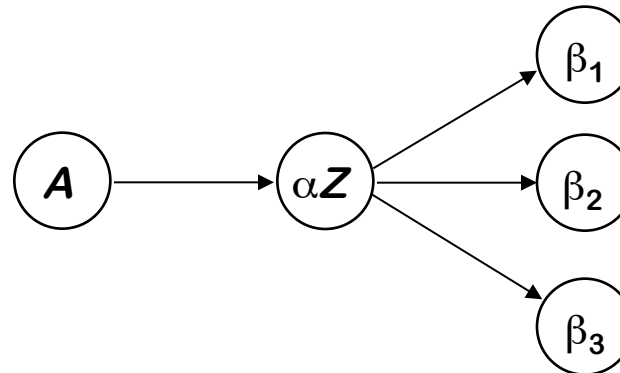
A graphical explanation for the same idea

$$\begin{array}{l} A \rightarrow \alpha\beta_1 \\ \quad | \alpha\beta_2 \\ \quad | \alpha\beta_3 \end{array}$$



becomes ...

$$\begin{array}{l} A \rightarrow \alpha Z \\ Z \rightarrow \beta_1 \\ \quad | \beta_2 \\ \quad | \beta_n \end{array}$$



Left Factoring (An example)

Consider the following fragment of the expression grammar

Factor \rightarrow Identifier
 | Identifier [*ExprList*]
 | Identifier (*ExprList*)

$\text{FIRST}(rhs_1) = \{ \text{Identifier} \}$
 $\text{FIRST}(rhs_2) = \{ \text{Identifier} \}$
 $\text{FIRST}(rhs_3) = \{ \text{Identifier} \}$
 \Rightarrow It does not have the $LL(1)$ property

After left factoring, it becomes

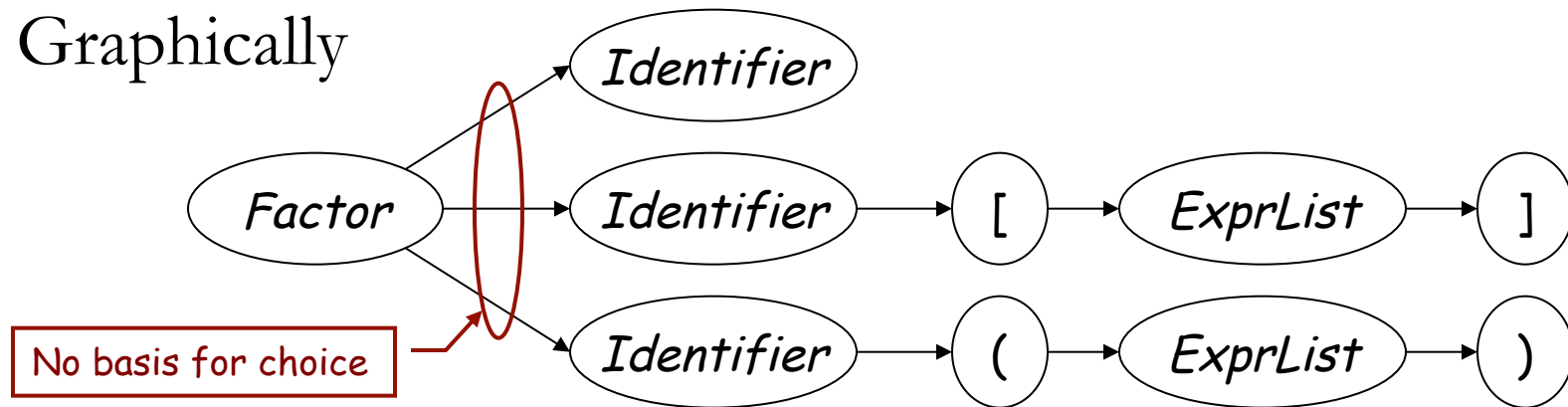
Factor \rightarrow Identifier *Arguments*
Arguments \rightarrow [*ExprList*]
 | (*ExprList*)
 | ϵ

$\text{FIRST}(rhs_1) = \{ \text{Identifier} \}$
 $\text{FIRST}(rhs_2) = \{ [\}$
 $\text{FIRST}(rhs_3) = \{ (\}$
 $\text{FIRST}(rhs_4) \supset \text{FIRST}(\text{Arguments})$
 $\qquad\qquad\qquad \supset \text{FOLLOW}(\text{Factor})$
 \Rightarrow It has the $LL(1)$ property

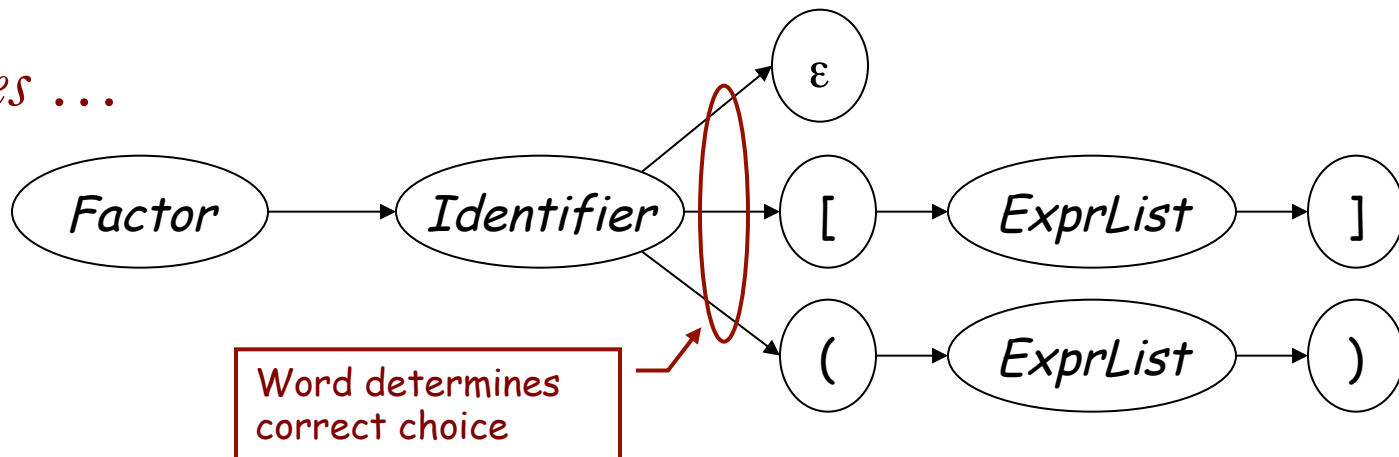
This form has the same syntax, with the $LL(1)$ property

Left Factoring

Graphically



becomes ...



Left Factoring (Generality)

Question

By *eliminating left recursion* and *left factoring*, can we transform an arbitrary CFG to a form where it meets the $LL(1)$ condition? (and can be parsed predictively with a single token lookahead?)

Answer

Given a CFG that doesn't meet the $LL(1)$ condition, it is undecidable whether or not an equivalent $LL(1)$ grammar exists.

Example

$\{a^n 0 b^n \mid n \geq 1\} \cup \{a^n 1 b^{2n} \mid n \geq 1\}$ has no $LL(1)$ grammar

Recursive Descent (Summary)

1. Build FIRST (and FOLLOW) sets
2. Massage grammar to have $LL(1)$ condition
 - a. Remove Left Recursion
 - b. Left Factor It
3. Define a procedure for each non-terminal
 - a. Implement a case for each right-hand side
 - b. Call procedures as needed for non-terminals
4. Add extra code, as needed
 - a. Perform context-sensitive checking
 - b. Build an IR to record the code

Can we automate this process?

FIRST and FOLLOW Sets

FIRST(α)

For some $\alpha \in T \cup NT$, define **FIRST**(α) as the set of tokens that appear as the first symbol in some string that derives from α

That is, $\underline{x} \in \text{FIRST}(\alpha)$ iff $\alpha \Rightarrow^* \underline{x}\gamma$, for some γ

FOLLOW(A)

For some $A \in NT$, define **FOLLOW**(A) as the set of symbols that can occur immediately after A in a valid sentence.

$\text{FOLLOW}(S) = \{\text{EOF}\}$, where S is the start symbol

To build **FIRST** sets, we need **FOLLOW** sets ...

Computing FIRST Sets

Define FIRST as

- If $\alpha \Rightarrow^* \underline{a}\beta$, $\underline{a} \in T$, $\beta \in (T \cup NT)^*$, then $\underline{a} \in \text{FIRST}(\alpha)$
- If $\alpha \Rightarrow^* \epsilon$, then $\epsilon \in \text{FIRST}(\alpha)$
- If $\alpha \Rightarrow \beta_1\beta_2 \dots \beta_k$ then $\underline{a} \in \text{FIRST}(\alpha)$ if for some i $a \in \text{FIRST}(\beta_i)$ and $\epsilon \in \text{FIRST}(\beta_1), \dots, \text{FIRST}(\beta_{i-1})$

Note: if $\alpha = X\beta$, $\text{FIRST}(\alpha) = \text{FIRST}(X)$

To compute FIRST

- Use a fixed-point method
- $\text{FIRST}(A) \in 2^{(T \cup \epsilon)}$
- Loop is monotonic

\Rightarrow Algorithm halts

Computing FIRST Sets

```

for each  $x \in T$ ,  $FIRST(x) \leftarrow \{x\}$ 
for each  $A \in NT$ ,  $FIRST(A) \leftarrow \emptyset$ 

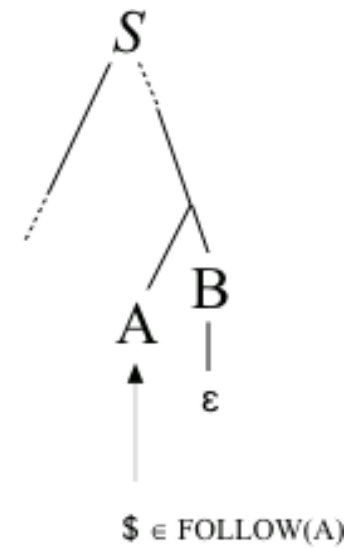
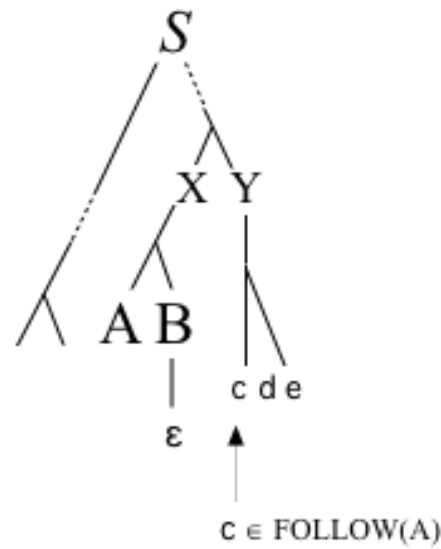
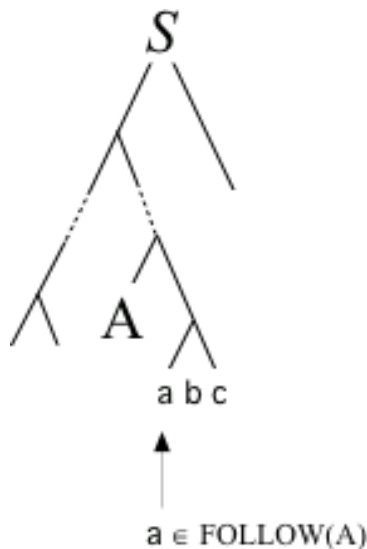
while (FIRST sets are still changing)
  for each  $p \in P$ , of the form  $A \rightarrow \beta$ ,
    if  $\beta$  is  $\epsilon$  then
       $FIRST(A) \leftarrow FIRST(A) \cup \{\epsilon\}$ 
    else if  $\beta$  is  $B_1 B_2 \dots B_k$  then begin
       $FIRST(A) \leftarrow FIRST(A) \cup (FIRST(B_1) - \{\epsilon\})$ 
      for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $k-1$  by 1 while  $\epsilon \in FIRST(B_i)$ 
         $FIRST(A) \leftarrow FIRST(A) \cup (FIRST(B_{i+1}) - \{\epsilon\})$ 
      if  $i = k-1$  and  $\epsilon \in FIRST(B_k)$ 
        then  $FIRST(A) \leftarrow FIRST(A) \cup \{\epsilon\}$ 
      end
  for each  $A \in NT$ 
    if  $\epsilon \in FIRST(A)$  then
       $FIRST(A) \leftarrow FIRST(A) \cup FOLLOW(A)$ 

```

Computing FOLLOW Sets

Define FOLLOW as

- Place $\$$ in $\text{FOLLOW}(S)$ where S is the start symbol
- If $A \rightarrow \alpha B \beta$ then any $(a/\epsilon) \in \text{FIRST}(\beta)$ is in $\text{FOLLOW}(B)$
- If $A \rightarrow \alpha B$ or $A \rightarrow \alpha B \beta$ where $\epsilon \in \text{FIRST}(\beta)$, then everything in $\text{FOLLOW}(A)$ is in $\text{FOLLOW}(B)$.



Note: $\epsilon \notin \text{Follow}(\alpha)$

Computing FOLLOW Sets

To compute FOLLOW Sets

- Use a fixed-point method
- $\text{FOLLOW}(A) \in 2^{(T \cup \epsilon)}$
- Loop is monotonic

\Rightarrow Algorithm halts

```

FOLLOW(S)  $\leftarrow$  {$}
for each  $A \in NT$ , FOLLOW(A)  $\leftarrow$   $\emptyset$ 
while (FOLLOW sets are still changing)
  for each  $p \in P$ , of the form  $A \rightarrow \beta_1 \beta_2 \dots \beta_k$ 
    FOLLOW( $\beta_k$ )  $\leftarrow$  FOLLOW( $\beta_k$ )  $\cup$  FOLLOW(A)
    TRAILER  $\leftarrow$  FOLLOW(A)
    for  $i \leftarrow k$  down to 2
      if  $\epsilon \in \text{FIRST}(\beta_i)$  then
        FOLLOW( $\beta_{i-1}$ )  $\leftarrow$  FOLLOW( $\beta_{i-1}$ )  $\cup$  { FIRST( $\beta_i$ ) - {  $\epsilon$  } }  $\cup$  TRAILER
      else
        FOLLOW( $\beta_{i-1}$ )  $\leftarrow$  FOLLOW( $\beta_{i-1}$ )  $\cup$  FIRST( $\beta_i$ )
    TRAILER  $\leftarrow$   $\emptyset$ 
  
```

Building Top-Down Parsers

Given an $LL(1)$ grammar, and its FIRST & FOLLOW sets ...

- Emit a routine for each non-terminal
 - Nest of if-then-else statements to check alternate rhs' s
 - Each returns true on success and throws an error on false
 - Simple, working (*, perhaps ugly,*) code
- This automatically constructs a recursive-descent parser

I don't know of a
system that does this ...

Improving matters

- Nest of if-then-else statements may be slow
 - Good case statement implementation would be better
- What about a table to encode the options?
 - Interpret the table with a skeleton, as we did in scanning

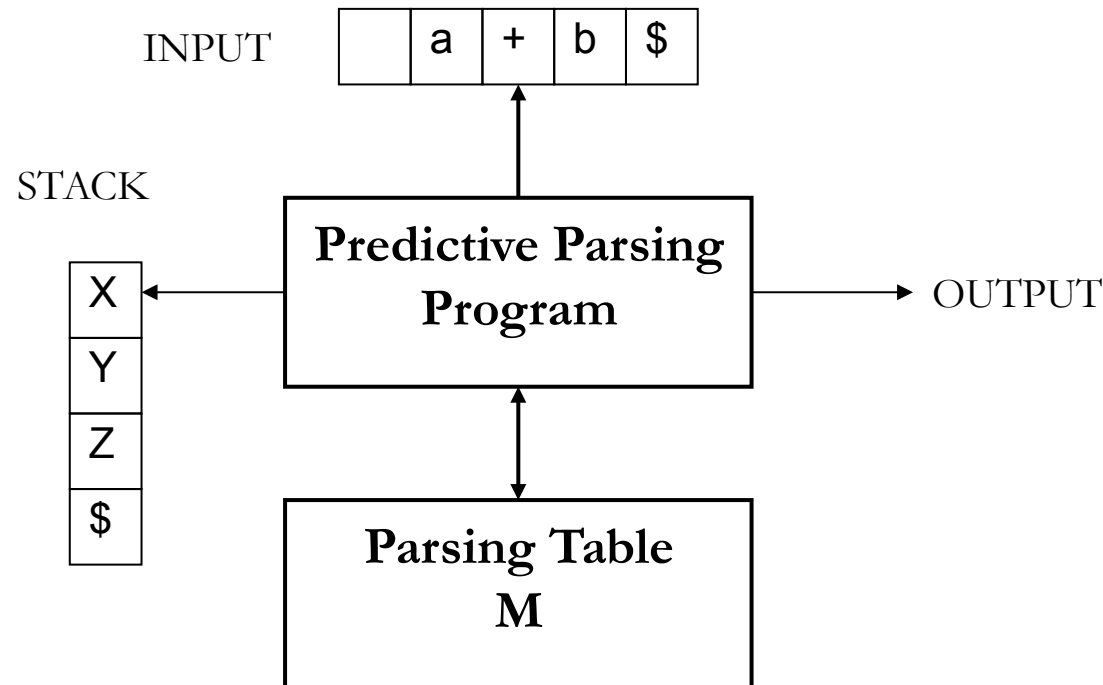
Example: First and Follow Sets

$$\begin{aligned} E &\rightarrow TE' \\ E' &\rightarrow +TE' \mid \epsilon \\ T &\rightarrow FT' \\ T' &\rightarrow *FT' \mid \epsilon \\ F &\rightarrow (E) \mid \text{id} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{First}(F) &= \{ (, \text{id} \} \Rightarrow \text{First}(T) = \text{First}(E) = \{ (, \text{id} \} \\ \text{First}(E') &= \{ +, \epsilon \} \\ \text{First}(T') &= \{ *, \epsilon \} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Follow}(E) &= \{ \$ \} \text{ but since } F \rightarrow (E) \text{ then } \text{Follow}(E) = \{), \$ \} \\ \text{Follow}(E') &= \{), \$ \} \\ \text{Follow}(T) &= \text{Follow}(T') = \{ +,), \$ \} \text{ because } E' \Rightarrow \epsilon \\ \text{Follow}(F) &= \{ *, +,), \$ \} \text{ because } T' \Rightarrow \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

Table-driven Top-Down Parsers



Strategy:

- Encode knowledge in a table
- Use standard “skeleton” parser to interpret the table

Table-driven Top-Down Parsers

Non-Terminal	Input Symbol					
	id	+	*	()	\$
E	$E \rightarrow TE'$			$E \rightarrow TE'$		
E'		$E' \rightarrow +TE'$			$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$
T	$T \rightarrow FT'$			$T \rightarrow FT'$		
T'		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow *FT'$		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
F	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$			$F \rightarrow (E)$		

Building Top-Down Parsers

Building the complete Table

- Need a row for every NT & a column for every T
- Need a table-driven interpreter for the Table
- Algorithm:
 - consider X the symbol on top of the symbol stack (TOS) and the current input symbol a
 - This tuple (X,a) determines the action as follows:
 - If $X = a = \$$ the parser halts and announces success
 - If $X = a \neq \$$ the parser pops X off the stack and advances the input
 - If X is non-terminal, consults entry $M[X,a]$ of parsing table M . If not an error entry, and is a production i.e., $M[X,a] = \{ X \rightarrow UVW \}$ then replace X with WVU (reverse production RHS). If error invoke error recovery routine.

LL(1) Skeleton Parser

```

token ← next_token()
push EOF onto Stack
push the start symbol, S, onto Stack
TOS ← top of Stack
loop forever
  if TOS = EOF and token = EOF then
    break & report success
  else if TOS is a terminal then
    if TOS matches token then
      pop Stack
      token ← next_token()
    else report error looking for TOS
  else
    if TABLE[TOS,token] is A → B1B2...Bk then
      pop Stack
      push Bk, Bk-1, ..., B1
    else report error expanding TOS
  TOS ← top of Stack

```

exit on success



// recognized TOS

// TOS is a non-terminal

// get rid of A

// in that order

Building Top-Down Parsers

Building the complete Table

- Need a row for every NT & a column for every T
- Need an Algorithm to build the Table

Filling in $M[X,y]$, $X \in NT$, $y \in T$

1. Entry is the rule $X \rightarrow \beta$, if $y \in \text{FIRST}(\beta)$
2. Entry is the rule $X \rightarrow \epsilon$ if $y \in \text{FOLLOW}(X)$ and $X \rightarrow \epsilon \in G$
3. Entry is **error** if neither 1 nor 2 define it

If any entry is defined multiple times, G is not $LL(1)$

This is the $LL(1)$ Table construction Algorithm

Table-driven Top-Down Parsers

Non-Terminal	Input Symbol					
	id	+	*	()	\$
E	$E \rightarrow TE'$			$E \rightarrow TE'$		
E'		$E' \rightarrow +TE'$			$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$
T	$T \rightarrow FT'$			$T \rightarrow FT'$		
T'		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow *FT'$		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
F	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$			$F \rightarrow (E)$		

Table-driven Top-Down Parsers

STACK

$\$E$

INPUT

id + id * id\$

OUTPUT

```

token ← nextToken()
push EOF onto Stack
push the start symbol, S, onto Stack
TOS ← top of Stack
loop forever
  if TOS = EOF and token = EOF then
    break & report success
  else if TOS is a terminal then
    if TOS matches token then
      pop Stack // recognized TOS
      token ← nextToken()
    else report error looking for TOS
  else // TOS is a non-terminal
    if M[TOS,token] is A → B1B2...Bk then
      pop Stack // get rid of A
      push Bk, Bk-1, ..., B1 // in that order
    else report error expanding TOS
  TOS ← top of Stack
    
```

Non-Terminal	Input Symbol					
	id	+	*	()	\$
E	$E \rightarrow TE'$			$E \rightarrow TE'$		
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T	$T \rightarrow FT'$			$T \rightarrow FT'$		
T'		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow *FT'$		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
F	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$			$F \rightarrow (E)$		

$M[X,a]$

Table-driven Top-Down Parsers

STACK	INPUT	OUTPUT
\$E	id + id * id\$	
\$E' T	id + id * id\$	$E \rightarrow TE'$

```

token ← nextToken()
push EOF onto Stack
push the start symbol, S, onto Stack
TOS ← top of Stack
loop forever
  if TOS = EOF and token = EOF then
    break & report success
  else if TOS is a terminal then
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      push Bk, Bk-1, ..., B1 // in that order
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Non-Terminal	Input Symbol					
	id	+	*	()	\$
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T	$T \rightarrow FT'$			$T \rightarrow FT'$		
T'		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow *FT'$		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
F	$F \rightarrow id$			$F \rightarrow (E)$		

$M[X,a]$

Table-driven Top-Down Parsers

STACK	INPUT	OUTPUT
$\$E$	id + id * id\$	
$\$E' T$	id + id * id\$	$E \rightarrow TE'$
$\$E' T' F$	id + id * id\$	$T \rightarrow FT'$

```

token ← nextToken()
push EOF onto Stack
push the start symbol, S, onto Stack
TOS ← top of Stack
loop forever
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  TOS ← top of Stack

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Non-Terminal	Input Symbol					
	id	+	*	()	\$
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T'		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow *FT'$		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
F	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$			$F \rightarrow (E)$		

$M[X,a]$

Table-driven Top-Down Parsers

STACK	INPUT	OUTPUT
$\$E$	id + id * id\$	
$\$E' T$	id + id * id\$	$E \rightarrow TE'$
$\$E' T' F$	id + id * id\$	$T \rightarrow FT'$
$\$E' T' \text{id}$	id + id * id\$	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$

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```

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	id	+	*	()	\$
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T	$T \rightarrow FT'$			$T \rightarrow FT'$		
T'		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow *FT'$		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
F	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$			$F \rightarrow (E)$		

$M[X,a]$

Table-driven Top-Down Parsers

STACK	INPUT	OUTPUT
$\$E$	id + id * id\$	
$\$E' T$	id + id * id\$	$E \rightarrow TE'$
$\$E' T' F$	id + id * id\$	$T \rightarrow FT'$
$\$E' T' \text{id}$	id + id * id\$	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$
$\$E' T'$	+ id * id\$	

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  else // TOS is a non-terminal
    if M[TOS,token] is  $A \rightarrow B_1B_2...B_k$  then
      pop Stack // get rid of A
      push  $B_k, B_{k-1}, ..., B_1$  // in that order
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```

Non-Terminal	Input Symbol					
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T'		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow *FT'$		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
F	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$			$F \rightarrow (E)$		

$M[X,a]$

Table-driven Top-Down Parsers

STACK	INPUT	OUTPUT
$\$E$	id + id * id\$	
$\$E' T$	id + id * id\$	$E \rightarrow TE'$
$\$E' T' F$	id + id * id\$	$T \rightarrow FT'$
$\$E' T' \text{id}$	id + id * id\$	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$
$\$E' T'$	+ id * id\$	
$\$E'$	+ id * id\$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$

```

token ← nextToken()
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push the start symbol, S, onto Stack
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loop forever
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F	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$			$F \rightarrow (E)$		

$M[X,a]$

Table-driven Top-Down Parsers

STACK	INPUT	OUTPUT
$\$E$	id + id * id\$	
$\$E' T$	id + id * id\$	$E \rightarrow TE'$
$\$E' T' F$	id + id * id\$	$T \rightarrow FT'$
$\$E' T' \text{id}$	id + id * id\$	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$
$\$E' T'$	+ id * id\$	
$\$E'$	+ id * id\$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
$\$E' T +$	+ id * id\$	$E' \rightarrow + TE'$

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T'		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow *FT'$		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
F	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$			$F \rightarrow (E)$		

$M[X,a]$

Table-driven Top-Down Parsers

STACK	INPUT	OUTPUT
$\$E$	id + id * id\$	
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$\$E' T' \text{id}$	id + id * id\$	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$
$\$E' T'$	+ id * id\$	
$\$E'$	+ id * id\$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
$\$E' T +$	+ id * id\$	$E' \rightarrow + TE'$
$\$E' T$	id * id\$	

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      push  $B_k, B_{k-1}, \dots, B_1$  // in that order
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```

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F	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$			$F \rightarrow (E)$		

$M[X,a]$

Table-driven Top-Down Parsers

STACK	INPUT	OUTPUT
$\$E$	id + id * id\$	
$\$E' T$	id + id * id\$	$E \rightarrow TE'$
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$\$E' T' \text{id}$	id + id * id\$	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$
$\$E' T'$	+ id * id\$	
$\$E'$	+ id * id\$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
$\$E' T +$	+ id * id\$	$E' \rightarrow + TE'$
$\$E' T$	id * id\$	
$\$E' T' F$	id * id\$	$T \rightarrow FT'$

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  else // TOS is a non-terminal
    if M[TOS,token] is A → B1B2...Bk then
      pop Stack // get rid of A
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    else report error expanding TOS
  TOS ← top of Stack

```

Non-Terminal	Input Symbol					
	id	+	*	()	\$
E	$E \rightarrow TE'$			$E \rightarrow TE'$		
E'		$E' \rightarrow +TE'$			$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$
T	$T \rightarrow FT'$			$T \rightarrow FT'$		
T'		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow *FT'$		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
F	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$			$F \rightarrow (E)$		

$M[X,a]$

Table-driven Top-Down Parsers

STACK	INPUT	OUTPUT
$\$E$	id + id * id\$	
$\$E' T$	id + id * id\$	$E \rightarrow TE'$
$\$E' T' F$	id + id * id\$	$T \rightarrow FT'$
$\$E' T' \text{id}$	id + id * id\$	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$
$\$E' T'$	+ id * id\$	
$\$E'$	+ id * id\$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
$\$E' T +$	+ id * id\$	$E' \rightarrow + TE'$
$\$E' T$	id * id\$	
$\$E' T' F$	id * id\$	$T \rightarrow FT'$
$\$E' T' \text{id}$	id * id\$	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$

```

token ← nextToken()
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```

Non-Terminal	Input Symbol					
	id	+	*	()	\$
E	$E \rightarrow TE'$			$E \rightarrow TE'$		
E'		$E' \rightarrow +TE'$			$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$
T	$T \rightarrow FT'$			$T \rightarrow FT'$		
T'		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow *FT'$		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
F	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$			$F \rightarrow (E)$		

$M[X,a]$

Table-driven Top-Down Parsers

STACK	INPUT	OUTPUT
$\$E$	id + id * id\$	
$\$E' T$	id + id * id\$	$E \rightarrow TE'$
$\$E' T' F$	id + id * id\$	$T \rightarrow FT'$
$\$E' T' \text{id}$	id + id * id\$	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$
$\$E' T'$	+ id * id\$	
$\$E'$	+ id * id\$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
$\$E' T +$	+ id * id\$	$E' \rightarrow + TE'$
$\$E' T$	id * id\$	
$\$E' T' F$	id * id\$	$T \rightarrow FT'$
$\$E' T' \text{id}$	id * id\$	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$
$\$E' T'$	* id\$	

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$M[X,a]$

Table-driven Top-Down Parsers

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$E' T' F$	id + id * id\$	$T \rightarrow FT'$
$E' T' \text{id}$	id + id * id\$	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$
$E' T'$	+ id * id\$	
E'	+ id * id\$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
$E' T +$	+ id * id\$	$E' \rightarrow + TE'$
$E' T$	id * id\$	
$E' T' F$	id * id\$	$T \rightarrow FT'$
$E' T' \text{id}$	id * id\$	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$
$E' T'$	* id\$	
$E' T' F *$	* id\$	$T' \rightarrow * FT'$

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$M[X,a]$

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$\$E' T +$	+ id * id\$	$E' \rightarrow + TE'$
$\$E' T$	id * id\$	
$\$E' T' F$	id * id\$	$T \rightarrow FT'$
$\$E' T' \text{id}$	id * id\$	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$
$\$E' T'$	* id\$	
$\$E' T' F *$	* id\$	$T' \rightarrow * FT'$
$\$E' T' F$	id\$	

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$\$E' T +$	+ id * id\$	$E' \rightarrow + TE'$
$\$E' T$	id * id\$	
$\$E' T' F$	id * id\$	$T \rightarrow FT'$
$\$E' T' \text{id}$	id * id\$	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$
$\$E' T'$	* id\$	
$\$E' T' F *$	* id\$	$T' \rightarrow * FT'$
$\$E' T' F$	id\$	
$\$E' T' \text{id}$	id\$	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$

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$\$E' T$	id * id\$	
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$\$E' T' F *$	* id\$	$T' \rightarrow * FT'$
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$\$E' T' F$	id\$	
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\$E'	+ id * id\$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
\$E' T +	+ id * id\$	$E' \rightarrow + TE'$
\$E' T	id * id\$	
\$E' T' F	id * id\$	$T \rightarrow FT'$
\$E' T' id	id * id\$	$F \rightarrow id$
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\$E' T' F *	* id\$	$T' \rightarrow * FT'$
\$E' T' F	id\$	
\$E' T' id	id\$	$F \rightarrow id$
\$E' T'	\$	
\$E'	\$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
\$	\$	$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$

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M[X,a]

Table-driven Top-Down Parsers

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\$E' T'	+ id * id\$	
\$E'	+ id * id\$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
\$E' T +	+ id * id\$	$E' \rightarrow + TE'$
\$E' T	id * id\$	
\$E' T' F	id * id\$	$T \rightarrow FT'$
\$E' T' id	id * id\$	$F \rightarrow id$
\$E' T'	* id\$	
\$E' T' F *	* id\$	$T' \rightarrow * FT'$
\$E' T' F	id\$	
\$E' T' id	id\$	$F \rightarrow id$
\$E' T'	\$	
\$E'	\$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
\$	\$	$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$

```

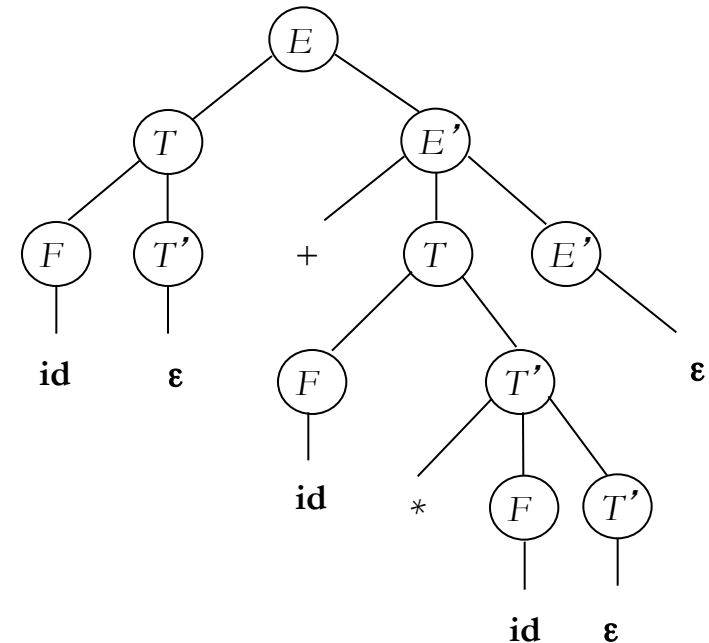
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M[X,a]

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$\$E' T +$	+ id * id\$	$E' \rightarrow + TE'$
$\$E' T$	id * id\$	
$\$E' T' F$	id * id\$	$T \rightarrow FT'$
$\$E' T' \text{id}$	id * id\$	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$
$\$E' T'$	* id\$	
$\$E' T' F *$	* id\$	$T' \rightarrow * FT'$
$\$E' T' F$	id\$	
$\$E' T' \text{id}$	id\$	$F \rightarrow \text{id}$
$\$E' T'$	\$	
$\$E'$	\$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
$\$$	\$	$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$



Error Recovery in Predictive Parsing

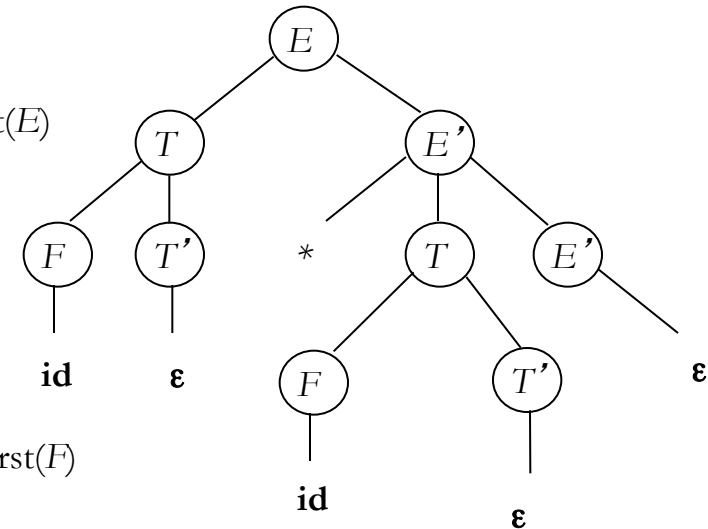
- What happens when $M[X,a]$ is empty?
- Announce Error, Stop and Terminate ! ?
- Engage in Error Recovery mode:
 - Panic-mode:
 - skip symbols on the input until a token in a synchronizing (synch) set of tokens appears on the input;
 - complete entries to the table
 - Phrase-level mode:
 - invoke an external (possibly programmer-defined) procedure that manipulates the stack and the input;
 - less structure, more ad-hoc

Panic-Mode Error Recovery

- No Universally Accepted Method
- Heuristics to Fill in Empty Table Entries Include:
 - Place all symbols in Follow(A) a synch set of the non-terminal A;
 - Skip input tokens until on elements of synch is seen and then pop A
 - Pretends like we have seen A and successfully parsed it.
 - Use hierarchical relation between grammar symbols (*e.g.*, Expr and Stats).
 - Example: use First(Stats) as sync of Expr, sync(Expr).
 - In effect skip or ignore lower constructs popping then off the stack
 - Add First(A) to sync set of A without popping. Skip input until they match
 - Try to move on to the beginning of the next occurrence of A
 - If $A \Rightarrow \epsilon$, then try to use this production as default and proceed
 - If a terminal cannot be matched, pop it from the stack
 - In effect mimicking its insertion in the input stream

Panic-mode Error Recovery Example

STACK	INPUT	REMARK
\$E) id * + id\$	error: skip) until id in First(E)
\$E	id * + id\$	
\$E' T	id * + id\$	
\$E' T' F	id * + id\$	
\$E' T' id	id * + id\$	
\$E' T'	* + id\$	
\$E' T' F *	* + id\$	
\$E' T' F	+ id\$	error: skip + until id in First(F)
\$E' T' F	id\$	
\$E' T' id	id\$	
\$E' T'	\$	
\$E'	\$	
\$	\$	



Non-Terminal	Input Symbol					
	id	+	*	()	\$
E	$E \rightarrow TE'$			$E \rightarrow TE'$	{ (, id }	
E'		$E' \rightarrow +TE'$			$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$
T	$T \rightarrow FT'$	{ (, id }		$T \rightarrow FT'$	{ (, id }	
T'		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow *FT'$		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
F	$F \rightarrow id$	{ (, id }	{ (, id }	$F \rightarrow (E)$	{ (, id }	

Summary

- Top-Down Parsing
 - Predictive-Procedural Parsing
 - Eliminating Left-Recursion & Left Factoring
 - First and Follow Sets
 - Table-driven Parsing
- Error Recovery