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Parsing:
Top-Down Parsing,
Recursive Descent & Predictive
Parser & LL(1)

# Steps for developing a predictive recursive descent parser

- Input: Context free grammar (non-ambiguous)
- Remove left-recursion
- Left-factoring: postponing the decision time to the time it is needed
- Calculate First and Follow for non-terminals
- Building LL(1) parse table
- Develop the parser

#### Elimination of the left-recursion

#### Elimination of Left Recursion (recall)

· Consider the left-recursive grammar

$$S \rightarrow S \alpha \mid \beta$$

- 5 generates all strings starting with a  $\beta$  and followed by a number of  $\alpha$
- Can rewrite using right-recursion

$$S \rightarrow \beta S'$$
  
 $S' \rightarrow \alpha S' \mid \epsilon$ 

#### More Elimination of Left-Recursion (recall)

In general

$$S \rightarrow S \alpha_1 \mid ... \mid S \alpha_n \mid \beta_1 \mid ... \mid \beta_m$$

- All strings derived from S start with one of  $\beta_1,...,\beta_m$  and continue with several instances of  $\alpha_1,...,\alpha_n$
- Rewrite as

$$S \rightarrow \beta_1 S' \mid ... \mid \beta_m S'$$
  
 $S' \rightarrow \alpha_1 S' \mid ... \mid \alpha_n S' \mid \epsilon$ 

#### General Left Recursion (recall)

The grammar

$$S \rightarrow A \alpha \mid \delta$$

$$A \rightarrow S \beta$$

is also left-recursive because

$$S \rightarrow + S \beta \alpha$$

- · This left-recursion can also be eliminated
- See Dragon Book for general algorithm
  - Section 4.3.3

#### Left factoring

#### Left-Factoring Example

Recall the grammar

$$E \rightarrow T + E \mid T$$
  
 $T \rightarrow int \mid int * T \mid (E)$ 

Factor out common prefixes of productions

$$E \rightarrow TX$$

$$X \rightarrow + E \mid \epsilon$$

$$T \rightarrow (E) \mid \text{int } Y$$

$$Y \rightarrow * T \mid \epsilon$$

#### Calculating first and follow

#### **Definitions**

#### Basic Tools:

First: Let  $\alpha$  be a string of grammar symbols. First( $\alpha$ ) is the set that includes every terminal that appears leftmost in  $\alpha$  or in any string originating from  $\alpha$ .

NOTE: If  $\alpha \Rightarrow \varepsilon$ , then  $\varepsilon$  is First( $\alpha$ ).

Follow: Let A be a non-terminal. Follow(A) is the set of terminals a that can appear directly to the right of A in some sentential form. ( $S \Rightarrow \alpha A \alpha \beta$ , for some  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ ). NOTE: If  $S \Rightarrow \alpha A$ , then \$ is Follow(A).

#### Nullable Non-Terminal

- Non-terminal X is Nullable only if the following constraints are satisfied
  - base case:
    - if  $(X \rightarrow \varepsilon)$  then X is Nullable
  - inductive case:
    - if (X → ABC...) and A, B, C, ... are all Nullable then
       X is Nullable

#### Computing Nullable Sets

- Compute X is Nullable by iteration:
  - Initialization:
    - Nullable := { }
    - if  $(X \rightarrow \varepsilon)$  then Nullable := Nullable U  $\{X\}$
  - While Nullable different from last iteration do:
    - for all X,
      - if (X → ABC...) and A, B, C, ... are all Nullable then Nullable := Nullable U {X}

#### First Sets

- First(X) := First'(X) U E
  - E = {epsilon} if X is nullable
- First'(X) is specified like this:
  - base case:
    - if T is a terminal symbol then First'(T) = {T}
  - inductive case:
    - if X is a non-terminal and (X → ABC...) then
      - First'(X) = First'(ABC...)
        where First'(ABC...) = F1 U F2 U F3 U ... and
        - » F1 = First'(A)
        - » F2 = First'(B), if A is Nullable; emptyset otherwise
        - » F3 = First'(C), if A is Nullable & B is Nullable; emp...
        - » ...

#### Computing First Sets

- Compute First(X):
  - initialize:
    - if T is a terminal symbol then First (T) = {T}
    - if T is non-terminal then First(T) = { }
  - while First(X) changes (for any X) do
    - for all X and all rules (X → ABC...) do

#### Computing Follow Sets

- Follow(X) is computed iteratively
  - base case:
    - initially, we assume nothing in particular follows X
      - (when computing, Follow (X) is initially { })
      - $Follow(S) = \{\$\}$
  - inductive case:
    - if (Y := s1 X s2) for any strings s1, s2 then
      - Follow (X) U= First'(s2)
      - Follow (X) U= Follow(Y), if s2 is Nullable

# Example

Z ::= X Y Z Z ::= d Y ::= c Y ::= X ::= a X ::= b Y e

	nullable	first'	follow
Z			
Y			
X			

	nullable	first'	follow
Z			
Υ			
X			

base case

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no		
Υ			
X			

base case

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no		
Υ	yes		
X			

base case

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no		
Υ	yes		
X	no		

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no		
Υ	yes		
X	no		

after one round of induction, we realize we have reached a fixed point

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no	{}	
Υ	yes	{}	
X	no	{}	

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no	d	
Υ	yes	С	
X	no	a,b	

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no	d	
Υ	yes	С	
X	no	a,b	

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no	d	
Υ	yes	С	
X	no	a,b	

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no	d	
Υ	yes	С	
X	no	a,b	

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no	d,a,b	
Υ	yes	С	
X	no	a,b	

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no	d,a,b	
Υ	yes	С	
X	no	a,b	

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no	d,a,b	
Υ	yes	С	
X	no	a,b	

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no	d,a,b	
Υ	yes	С	
X	no	a,b	

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no	d,a,b	
Υ	yes	С	
X	no	a,b	

after three rounds of iteration, no more changes ==> fixed point

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no	d,a,b	\$
Y	yes	С	{}
X	no	a,b	{ }

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no	d,a,b	\$
Y	yes	С	d,a,b,e
X	no	a,b	c,d,a,b

after one round of induction, no fixed point

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no	d,a,b	\$
Υ	yes	С	d,a,b,e
X	no	a,b	c,d,a,b

after one round of induction, no fixed point

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no	d,a,b	\$
Y	yes	С	d,a,b,e
X	no	a,b	c,d,a,b

after one round of induction, no fixed point

# building a predictive parser

	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no	d,a,b	\$
Y	yes	С	d,a,b,e
X	no	a,b	c,d,a,b

after one round of induction, no fixed point

# building a predictive parser

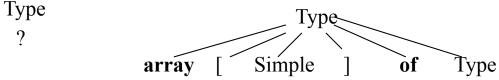
	nullable	first'	follow
Z	no	d,a,b	\$
Y	yes	С	d,a,b,e
X	no	a,b	c,d,a,b

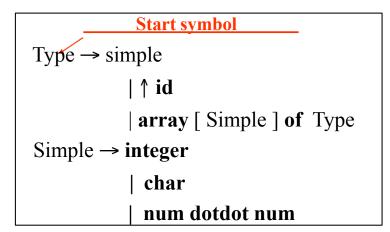
after two rounds of induction, fixed point (but notice, computing Follow(X) before Follow (Y) would have required 3<sup>rd</sup> round)

# Building LL(1) parse table

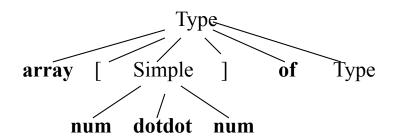
### Predictive Parsing Example

Input: array [ num dotdot num ] of integer





Input: array [ num dotdot num ] of integer



Z ::= X Y Z Y ::= c X ::= a

Z := d Y := X := b Y e

#### Computed Sets:

	nullable	first	follow
Z	no	d,a,b	\$
Y	yes	С	d,a,b,e
X	no	a,b	c,d,a,b

$$Z := X Y Z$$
  $Y := c$   $X := a$ 

$$Z := d$$
  $Y := X := b Y e$ 

#### Computed Sets:

	nullable first		follow	
Z	no	d,a,b	\$	
Y	yes	С	d,a,b,e	
Х	no	a,b	c,d,a,b	

Z := X Y Z Y := c X := a

Z := d Y := X := b Y e

#### Computed Sets:

	nullable first		follow
Z	no	d,a,b	\$
Y	yes	С	d,a,b,e
Х	no	a,b	c,d,a,b

	а	b	С	d	е
Z					
Υ					
Х					

$$Z := X Y Z Y := c X := a$$

$$Z := d$$
  $Y := X := b Y e$ 

#### Computed Sets:

	nullable first		follow	
Z	no	d,a,b	\$	
Υ	yes	С	d,a,b,e	
Х	no	a,b	c,d,a,b	

- if T ∈ First(s) then
   enter (X ::= s) in row X, col T
- if s is Nullable and T ∈ Follow(X)
   enter (X ::= s) in row X, col T

	а	b	С	d	е
Z					
Y					
Х					

Z := X Y Z Y := c X := a

Z := d Y := X := b Y e

#### Computed Sets:

	nullable first		follow	
Z	no	d,a,b	\$	
Υ	yes	С	d,a,b,e	
Х	no	a,b	c,d,a,b	

- if T ∈ First(s) then
   enter (X ::= s) in row X, col T
- if s is Nullable and T ∈ Follow(X)
   enter (X ::= s) in row X, col T

	а	b	С	d	е
Z	Z ::= XYZ	Z ::= XYZ			
Y					
Х					

Z := X Y Z Y := c X := a

Z := d Y := X := b Y e

#### Computed Sets:

	nullable first		follow	
Z	no	d,a,b	\$	
Υ	yes	С	d,a,b,e	
Х	no	a,b	c,d,a,b	

- if T ∈ First(s) then
   enter (X ::= s) in row X, col T
- if s is Nullable and T ∈ Follow(X)
   enter (X ::= s) in row X, col T

	а	b	С	d	е
Z	Z ::= XYZ	Z ::= XYZ		Z ::= d	
Υ					
Х					

Z := X Y Z Y := c X := a

Z := d Y := X := b Y e

#### Computed Sets:

	nullable	first	follow
Z	no	d,a,b	\$
Υ	yes	С	d,a,b,e
Х	no	a,b	c,d,a,b

- if T ∈ First(s) then
   enter (X ::= s) in row X, col T
- if s is Nullable and T ∈ Follow(X)
   enter (X ::= s) in row X, col T

	а	b	С	d	е
Z	Z ::= XYZ	Z ::= XYZ		Z ::= d	
Υ			Y ::= c		
X					

$$Z := X Y Z Y := c X := a$$

$$Z := d$$
  $Y := X := b Y e$ 

#### Computed Sets:

	nullable	first	follow
Z	no	d,a,b	\$
Υ	yes	С	d,a,b,e
Х	no	a,b	c,d,a,b

- if T ∈ First(s) then
   enter (X ::= s) in row X, col T
- if s is Nullable and T ∈ Follow(X)
   enter (X ::= s) in row X, col T

	а	b	С	d	е
Z	Z ::= XYZ	Z ::= XYZ		Z ::= d	
Υ	Y ::=	Y ::=	Y ::= c	Y ::=	Y ::=
Х					

$$Z := X Y Z Y := c X := a$$

$$Z := d$$
  $Y := X := b Y e$ 

#### Computed Sets:

	nullable	first	follow
Z	no	d,a,b	\$
Y	yes	С	d,a,b,e
Х	no	a,b	c,d,a,b

- if T ∈ First(s) then
   enter (X ::= s) in row X, col T
- if s is Nullable and T ∈ Follow(X)
   enter (X ::= s) in row X, col T

	а	b	С	d	е
Z	Z ::= XYZ	Z ::= XYZ		Z ::= d	
Υ	Y ::=	Y ::=	Y ::= c	Y ::=	Y ::=
Х	X ::= a	X ::= b Y e			

Z ::= X Y Z Y ::= c X ::= a

Z := d Y := X := b Y e

Computed Sets:

	nullable	first	follow
Z	no	d,a,b	\$
Υ	yes	С	d,a,b,e
Х	no	a,b	c,d,a,b

What are the blanks?

	а	b	С	d	е
Z	Z ::= XYZ	Z ::= XYZ		Z ::= d	
Υ	Y ::=	Y ::=	Y ::= c	Y ::=	Y ::=
Х	X ::= a	X ::= b Y e			

Z ::= X Y Z Y ::= c X ::= a

Z := d Y := X := b Y e

Computed Sets:

	nullable	first	follow
Z	no	d,a,b	\$
Y	yes	С	d,a,b,e
X	no	a,b	c,d,a,b

What are the blanks? --> syntax errors

	а	b	С	d	е
Z	Z ::= XYZ	Z ::= XYZ		Z ::= d	
Y	Y ::=	Y ::=	Y ::= c	Y ::=	Y ::=
Х	X ::= a	X ::= b Y e			

$$Z := X Y Z Y := c X := a$$

$$Z := d$$
  $Y := X := b Y e$ 

#### Computed Sets:

	F					
	nullable	first	follow			
Z	no	d,a,b	\$			
Υ	yes	С	d,a,b,e			
Х	no	a,b	c,d,a,b			

Is it possible to put 2 grammar rules in the same box?

	а	b	С	d	е
Z	Z ::= XYZ	Z ::= XYZ		Z ::= d	
Υ	Y ::=	Y ::=	Y ::= c	Y ::=	Y ::=
Х	X ::= a	X ::= b Y e			

$$Z := X Y Z Y := c X := a$$

Z := d e

#### Computed Sets:

	nullable	first	follow
Z	no	d,a,b	\$
Υ	yes	С	d,a,b,e
X	no	a,b	c,d,a,b

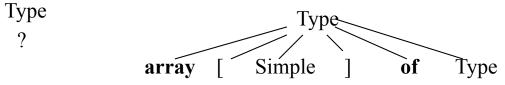
Is it possible to put 2 grammar rules in the same box?

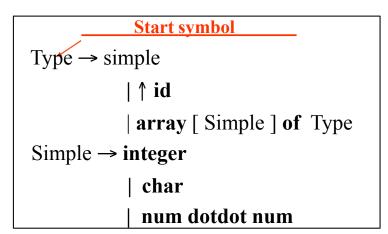
	а	b	С	d	е
Z	Z ::= XYZ	Z ::= XYZ		Z ::= d Z ::= d e	
Y	Y ::=	Y ::=	Y ::= c	Y ::=	Y ::=
X	X ::= a	X ::= b Y e			

# The parser

### Predictive Parsing Example

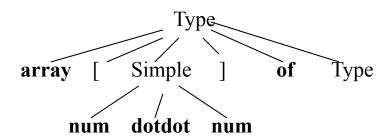
Input: array [ num dotdot num ] of integer





Lookahead symbol

Input: array [ num dotdot num ] of integer



Left-factored grammar

$$E \rightarrow T X$$
  $X \rightarrow + E \mid \varepsilon$   
 $T \rightarrow (E) \mid \text{int } Y$   $Y \rightarrow * T \mid \varepsilon$ 

· Left-factored grammar

$$E \rightarrow T X$$
  $X \rightarrow + E \mid \varepsilon$   
 $T \rightarrow (E) \mid \text{int } Y$   $Y \rightarrow * T \mid \varepsilon$ 

The LL(1) parsing table:

	int	*	+	(	)	\$
E	TX			ΤX		
X			+ E		3	3
T	int Y			(E)		
У		* T	3		3	3

Left-factored grammar

$$E \rightarrow T X$$
  $X \rightarrow + E \mid \varepsilon$   
 $T \rightarrow (E) \mid \text{int } Y$   $Y \rightarrow * T \mid \varepsilon$ 

The LL(1) parsing table: next input token

	int	*	+	(	)	\$
E	TX			ΤX		
X			+ E		3	3
T	int Y			(E)		
У		* T	3		3	3

· Left-factored grammar

$$E \rightarrow T X$$
  $X \rightarrow + E \mid \varepsilon$   
 $T \rightarrow (E) \mid \text{int } Y$   $Y \rightarrow * T \mid \varepsilon$ 

The LL(1) parsing table: next input token

	int	*	+	(	)	\$
E	ΤX			ΤX		
X			+ E		3	3
T	int Y			(E)		
У		* T	3		3	3

rhs of production to use

Left-factored grammar

$$E \rightarrow TX$$
  $X \rightarrow + E \mid \varepsilon$   
 $T \rightarrow (E) \mid \text{int } Y$   $Y \rightarrow * T \mid \varepsilon$ 

The LL(1) parsing table: next input token

	int	*	+	(	)	\$
E	TX			ΤX		
X			+ E		3	3
T	int Y			(E)		
У		* T	3		3	3

leftmost non-terminal

rhs of production to use

## LL(1) Parsing Table Example (Cont.)

	int	*	+	(	)	\$
E	ΤX			ΤX		
X			+ E		3	3
T	int Y			(E)		
У		* T	ε		3	3

## LL(1) Parsing Table Example (Cont.)

- Consider the [E, int] entry
  - "When current non-terminal is E and next input is int, use production  $E \rightarrow T X$ "
  - This can generate an int in the first position

	int	*	+	(	)	\$
Ш	ΤX			ΤX		
X			+ E		3	3
T	int Y			(E)		
У		* T	ε		3	3

## LL(1) Parsing Table Example (Cont.)

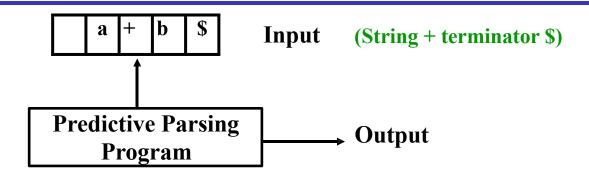
- Consider the [E, int] entry
  - "When current non-terminal is E and next input is int, use production  $E \rightarrow T X$ "
  - This can generate an int in the first position
- Consider the [Y,+] entry
  - "When current non-terminal is Y and current token

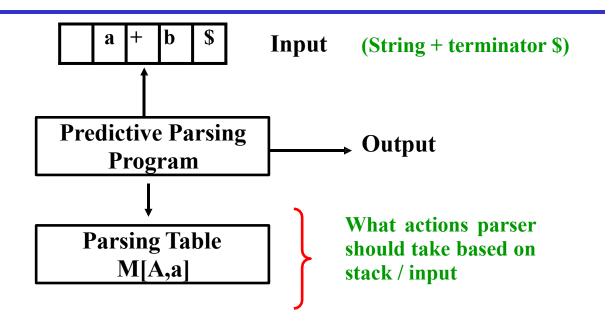
is +, get rid of Y"

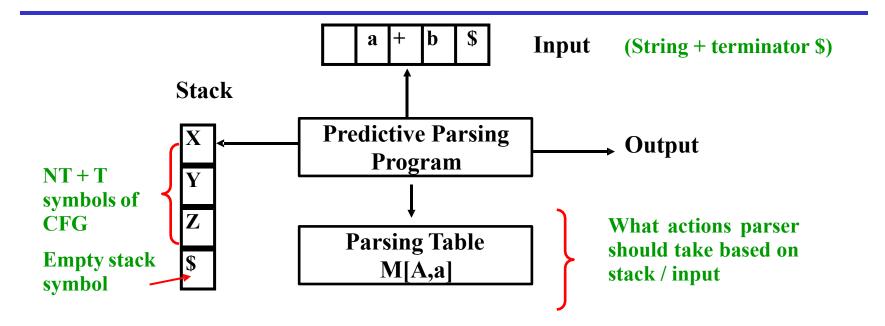
- Y can be followed by +

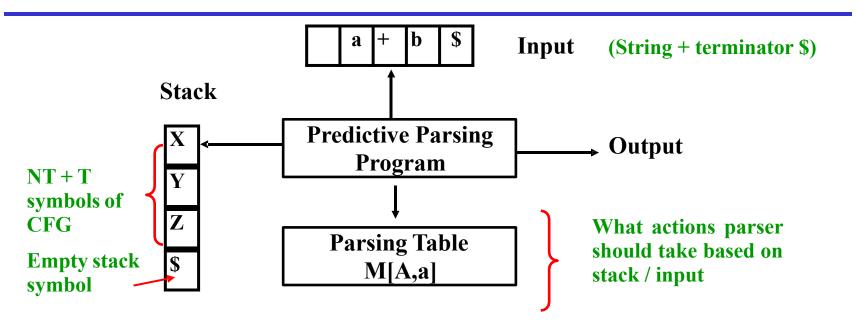
- only if  $Y \rightarrow \varepsilon$ 

	int	*	+	(	)	\$
E	TX			TX		
X			+E		3	3
T	int Y			(E)		
У		* T	8		3	ε

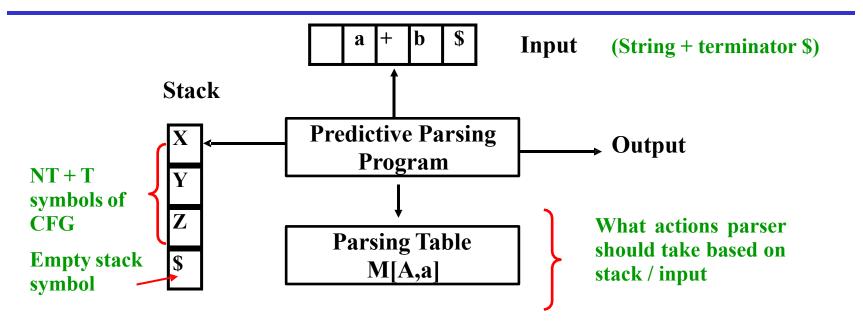








General parser behavior: X: top of stack a: current token



General parser behavior: X: top of stack a: current token

- 1. When X=a = \$ halt, accept, success
- 2. When  $X=a \neq \$$ , POP X off stack, advance input, go to 1.
- 3.When X is a non-terminal, examine M[X, a], if it is an error, call recovery routine if  $M[X, a] = \{UVW\}$ , POP X, PUSH U,V,W, and DO NOT advance input

## LL(1) Parsing Example

	int	*	+	(	)	\$
E	ΤX			TX		
X			+E		3	3
T	int Y			(E)		
У		* T	3		3	3

LL(1) Parsing E	xample
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	int	*	+	(	)	\$
E	TX			TX		
X			+E		3	3
Т	int Y			(E)		
У		* T	3		3	3

LL(1) Parsing Example				int	*	+	(	)	\$
T int Y (E)	LL(1) Parsing Example		E	TX			TX		
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$			X			+E		3	3
y * T ε ε ε			T	int Y			(E)		
Stack Input Action ————————————————————————————————————	Stack Inn	out Action	У		* T	3		3	3

				int	*	+	(	)	4
LL(1) Parsing Example		E	ΤX			ΤX			
		X			+ E		3	8	
			T	int Y			(E)		
Stack	Input	Action	У		* T	3		3	8
E\$	int * int \$	ΤX							

				int
II (1) Don	sina Evampl		E	TX
LL(1) Pars	sing Example	E	X	
			T	int \
Stack	Input	Action	У	
Jiuck	Tripui	ACTION		
E \$	int * int \$	TX		
TX\$	int * int \$	int Y		

\$

3

3

\*

\* T

+

+ E

3

TX

(E)

3

3

LL(1) Po	E	int T>		
			Т	int '
Stack	Input	Action	У	
E\$	int * int \$	ΤX		
T X \$	int * int \$	int Y		

int Y X \$ int \* int \$ terminal

\*

\* T

TX

(E)

3

3

3

3

+ E

3

<b>LL(1)</b>	Parsing	Example
•		

	int	*	+	(	)	\$
E	ΤX			ΤX		
X			E +		3	3
T	int Y			(E)		
У		* T	3		3	3

Stack	Input	Action <u></u> —
E\$	int * int \$	TX
TX\$	int * int \$	int Y
int Y X \$	int * int \$	terminal
Y X \$	* int \$	* T

bb(1) I di sing transpic	<b>LL(1)</b>	Parsing	Example
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	int	*	+	(	)	\$
E	TX			ΤX		
X			E +		3	3
Т	int Y			(E)		
У		* T	3		3	3

Stack	Input	Action
E\$	int * int \$	TX
TX\$	int * int \$	int Y
int Y X \$	int * int \$	terminal
<b>YX</b> \$	* int \$	* T
* T X \$	* int \$	terminal

	int	*	+	(	)	\$
E	ΤX			TX		
X			+E		3	3
T	int Y			(E)		
У		* T	3		3	3

Stack	Input	Action	
E\$	int * int \$	ΤX	
TX\$	int * int \$	int Y	
int Y X \$	int * int \$	terminal	
Y X \$	* int \$	* T	
* T X \$	* int \$	terminal	
TX\$	int \$	int Y	

	int	*	+	(	)	\$
E	ΤX			ΤX		
X			E +		3	3
T	int Y			(E)		
У		* T	3		3	3

Stack	Stack Input	
E \$	int * int \$	ΤX
TX\$	int * int \$	int Y
int Y X \$	int * int \$	terminal
<b>YX</b> \$	* int \$	* T
* T X \$	* int \$	terminal
TX\$	int \$	int Y
int Y X \$	int \$	terminal

	int	*	+	(	)	\$
E	ΤX			ΤX		
X			+E		3	3
T	int Y			(E)		
У		* T	3		3	3

Stack	Input	Action L'
E\$	int * int \$	ΤX
TX\$	int * int \$	int Y
int Y X \$	int * int \$	terminal
Y X \$	* int \$	* T
* T X \$	* int \$	terminal
TX\$	int \$	int Y
int Y X \$	int \$	terminal
Y X \$	\$	3

	int	*	+	(	)	\$
Ш	ΤX			ΤX		
X			+E		3	3
T	int Y			(E)		
У		* T	3		3	3

Stack	Input	Action
E\$	int * int \$	ΤX
TX\$	int * int \$	int Y
int Y X \$	int * int \$	terminal
Y X \$	* int \$	* T
* T X \$	* int \$	terminal
TX\$	int \$	int Y
int Y X \$	int \$	terminal
Y X \$	\$	3
X \$	\$	3

	int	*	+	(	)	\$
E	TX			TX		
X			E +		3	3
T	int Y			(E)		
У		* T	3		3	3

Stack	Input	Action /
E\$	int * int \$	ΤX
TX\$	int * int \$	int Y
int Y X \$	int * int \$	terminal
<b>YX</b> \$	* int \$	* T
* T X \$	* int \$	terminal
TX\$	int \$	int Y
int Y X \$	int \$	terminal
Y X \$	\$	3
X \$	\$	3
\$	\$	ACCEPT

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## Some notes

# How to deal with multiple entries in a cell?

	а	b	С	d	е
Z	Z ::= XYZ	Z ::= XYZ		Z ::= d Z ::= d e	
Y	Y ::=	Y ::=	Y ::= c	Y ::=	Y ::=
X	X ::= a	X ::= b Y e			

the example non-LL(1) grammar we just
 saw: z:=xyz

Z::= X Y Z Z::= d Y::= c X::= a Z::= d e Y::= X::= b Y e

how do we fix it?

## another trick

- Previously, we saw that grammars with leftrecursion were problematic, but could be transformed into LL(1) in some cases
- the example non-LL(1) grammar we just saw:

```
Z ::= X Y Z
Z ::= d Y ::= c X ::= a
Z ::= d e Y ::= X ::= b Y e
```

solution here is left-factoring:

```
Z := X Y Z
Z := d W
W := e
Y := c
X := a
X := b Y e
```

#### LL(1) Predictive Parsers

- Parser can "predict" which production to use
  - By looking at the next few tokens
  - No backtracking
- Predictive parsers accept LL(k) grammars
  - L means "left-to-right" scan of input
  - L means "leftmost derivation"
  - k means "predict based on k tokens of lookahead"
  - In practice, LL(1) is used

## predictive parsing tables

LL(k) parsing table

aa	ab	ba	bb	ac	са	

- LL(k) parser
- LL(k) grammer: a grammer that can be parsed with an LL(k) parser

#### Notes on LL(1) Parsing Tables

- If any entry is multiply defined then G is not LL(1)
  - If G is ambiguous
  - If G is left recursive
  - If G is not left-factored
  - And in other cases as well
- Most programming language CFGs are not LL(1)

#### Notes on LL(1) Grammars

Grammar is LL(1) ==> for all 
$$A \rightarrow \alpha \mid \beta$$

- 1. First( $\alpha$ )  $\cap$  First( $\beta$ ) =  $\emptyset$ ;
  - besides, only one of  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$  can derive  $\varepsilon$
- 2. if  $\alpha$  derives  $\varepsilon$ , then Follow(A)  $\cap$  First( $\beta$ ) =  $\emptyset$

It may not be possible for a grammar to be manipulated into an LL(1) grammar

#### Parser

to be continued ...