

## 2.1 Role of Syntax Analyzer or Parser

The analysis phase of a compiler breaks up a source pgm into constituent pieces and produces an intermediate representation for it, called intermediate code. The synthesis phase translates the intermediate code into the target pgm.

Analysis is organized around the "syntax" of the language to be compiled. The syntax of a programming language describes the proper form of its pgms, while the semantics of the language defines what its pgms mean, that is, what each pgrm does when it executes.

- context-free grammars or BNF (Backus Naur Form) are widely used for specifying syntax.
- Informal descriptions and suggestive examples are used for specifying semantics.
- The parser obtains a string of tokens from the lexical analyzer and verifies that the string of token names can be generated by the grammar for the source language.
- The parser constructs a parse tree and passes it to the rest of the compiler for further processing.

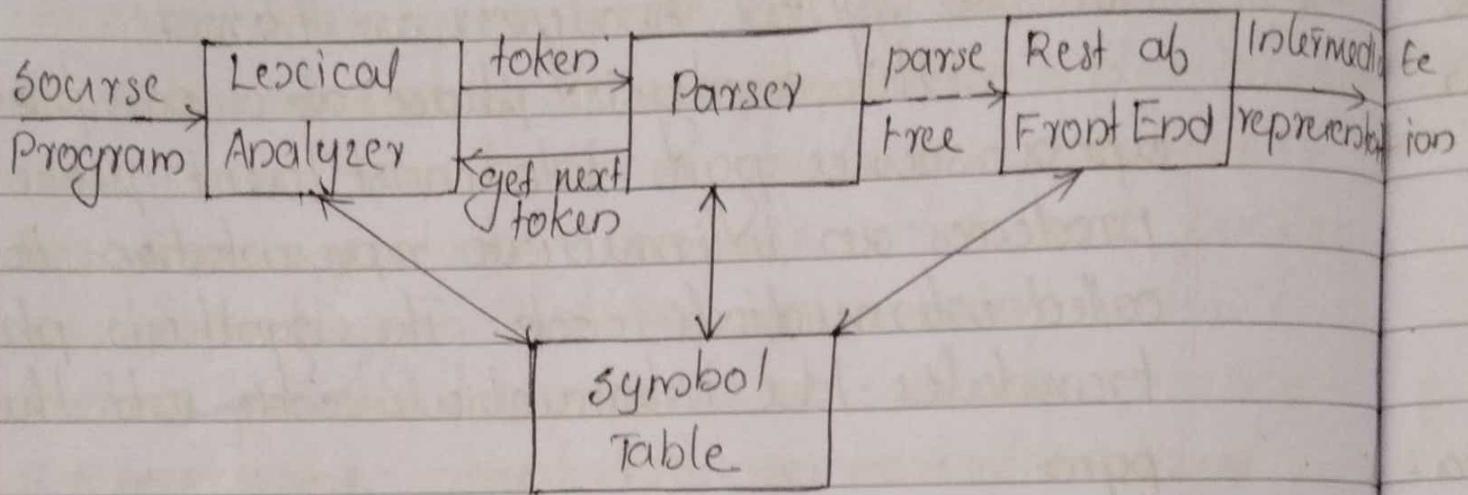


Fig: position of parser in compiler model.

- The parser should report any syntax error and recover from commonly occurring errors to continue processing the remainder of the pgm.

A grammar generally describes the hierarchical structure of most programming language constructs. There are three general types of parsers for grammars.

1. Universal - can parse any grammar. Too inefficient to use in production compilers.
2. Top-down - build parse tree from top (Root) to the bottom (leaves). moves from top to leaves
3. Bottom-up - start from the leaves and work their way up to the root. moves from leaves to root

The I/p to the parser is scanned from left to right one symbol at a time.

## Definition of grammars / Context-free grammar

A context-free grammar has four components ( $V, T, P, S$ )

- 1) A set of terminal symbols, sometimes referred to as tokens. Tokens are elementary symbols of the language defined by the grammar.
2. A set of nonterminals - some lines called syntactic variables. Each nonterminal represents a set of strings of terminals (e.g., stmt expr).
3. Productions, where each pdn consists of a non-terminal, called the head or left-side of the pdn; an arrow ( $\rightarrow$  or  $::=$ ), and a sequence of terminals or non-terminals, called body or right side of the pdn.
4. start symbol. One non-terminal is designated as the start symbol.

- grammars are specified by listing their pdns with the pdns for the start symbol first.

eg:

$list \rightarrow list + digit$	}	can be also written as $list \rightarrow list + digit \mid list - digit \mid digit$
$list \rightarrow list - digit$		
$list \rightarrow digit$		
$digit \rightarrow 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid 3 \mid 4 \mid 5 \mid 6 \mid 7 \mid 8 \mid 9$		

$0, 1, 2, 3, +, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, +, -$  are terminals.  
here, list, digit are nonterminals.

- A grammar derives strings by beginning with the start symbol and repeatedly replacing a non-terminal by the body of a pdn for that non-terminal.

e.g.: Consider the context-free grammar

$$S \rightarrow SS+ | SS* | a$$

Show how the string  $aa+a+a*$  can be generated by this grammar

Ans.  $S \rightarrow SS*$

$$\rightarrow SS+S*$$

$$\rightarrow aS+S*$$

$$\rightarrow aa+S*$$

$$\rightarrow aa+a*$$

Parsing is the problem of taking a string of terminals and figuring out how to derive it from the start symbol of the grammar, and if it cannot be derived from the start symbol of the grammar then reporting syntax errors within the string

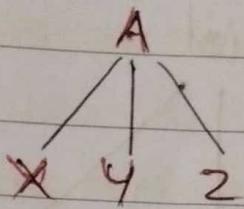
### Parse trees

- A parse tree pictorially shows how the start symbol of a grammar derives a string in the language.

e.g. If non-terminal  $A$  has a pdn

$$A \rightarrow xyz, \text{ then the parse tree may have}$$

as interior node labeled A with three children labeled x, y and z from left to right



Thus, given a context free grammar, a parse tree according to grammar is a tree with the following properties:

1. The root is labeled by the start symbol
2. Each leaf is labeled by a terminal or  $\epsilon$
3. Each interior node is labeled by a nonterminal
4. If A is the nonterminal labeling some interior nodes and  $x_1, x_2 \dots, x_n$  are the labels of the children of that node from left to right, then there must be a pdn  $A \rightarrow x_1 x_2 \dots x_n$ . Here,  $x_1, x_2 \dots, x_n$ , each stand for a symbol that is either a terminal or a nonterminal.

If  $A \rightarrow \epsilon$  is a pdn, then a node labeled A may have a single child labeled  $\epsilon$ .

Consider the following pdns,

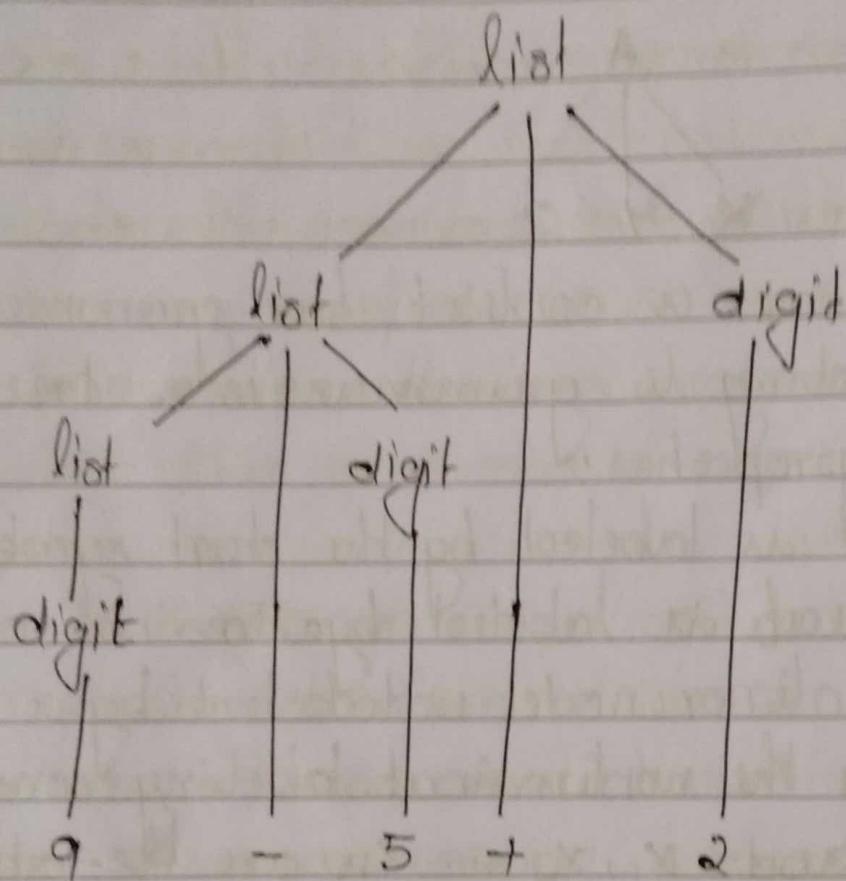
$$\text{list} \rightarrow \text{list} + \text{digit}$$

$$\text{list} \rightarrow \text{list} - \text{digit}$$

$$\text{list} \rightarrow \text{digit}$$

$$\text{digit} \rightarrow 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9$$

Parse tree for  $9 - 5 + 2$  according to the grammar



The following grammar is used for simple arithmetic expressions:

expression  $\rightarrow$  expression + term

expression  $\rightarrow$  expression - term

expression  $\rightarrow$  term

term  $\rightarrow$  term \* factor

term  $\rightarrow$  term / factor

term  $\rightarrow$  factor

factor  $\rightarrow$  (expression)

factor  $\rightarrow$  id

expression, factor and term are non terminals

expression is the start symbol.

id, + - \* / ) - terminals.

## Notational conventions

The following symbols are terminals

- lowercase letters such as a, b, c etc
- operator symbols such as +, -, \* etc
- punctuation symbols such as parentheses, comma -
- digits such as 0, 1, ..., 9
- Boldface strings** such as id, or if

The following symbols are nonterminals

- uppercase letters such as A, B, C - .
  - letter s is usually the start symbol
  - lowercase italic names such as expr or stmt
  - when discussing pyping construct, uppercase letters may be used to represent nonterminals e.g.: expr, term
- eg: expr, term  $\rightarrow$  E, T resp.

so the above grammar can be replaced by

$$E \rightarrow E+T \mid E-T \mid T$$

$$T \rightarrow T\times F \mid T/F \mid F$$

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

here, E, T and F are nonterminals, with E as the start symbol. The remaining symbols are terminals.

## Derivations:

Productions are treated as rewriting rules.

Beginning with the start symbol, each rewriting

skip replaces a nonterminal by body ab one ab its  
pds.

Eg: Consider, the following grammar, with a single  
nonterminal  $E$

$$E \rightarrow E+E | E * E | -E | (E) | id$$

The following sequence represents the derivation  
ab - (id) from  $E$

$$E \Rightarrow -E \Rightarrow -(E) \Rightarrow -(id)$$

Such a sequence ab replacement is called  
derivation ab - (id) from  $E$ . This derivation  
provides a proof that the string - (id) is one  
particular instance ab an expression.

### Definition of derivation

Consider a nonterminal  $A$  in the middle  
ab a sequence ab grammar symbols, as in  $\alpha A \beta$   
where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are arbitrary strings ab grammar  
symbols. Suppose  $A \rightarrow \gamma$  is a pdn. Then we  
can write  $\alpha A \beta \Rightarrow \alpha \gamma \beta$ .

The symbol  $\Rightarrow$  means "derives in one step"

$$\text{eg: } E \Rightarrow -E, -E \Rightarrow -(E)$$

$\xrightarrow{*}$  means derivation in zero or more steps

$$\text{eg: } E \xrightarrow{*} -(id), E \xrightarrow{*} E, E \xrightarrow{*} (E)$$

$\xrightarrow{+}$  means derivation in one or more steps.

e.g.  $E \xrightarrow{+} -(\text{id})$

### Sentential form:

A sentential form may contain both terminals & nonterminals, and may be empty.

e.g.  $S \xrightarrow{*} \alpha$ ,  $S$  - start symbol

$\alpha$  - sentential forms ab a

A sentence ab a is a sentential form with no non-terminals. The language generated by a grammar is its set ab sentences.

Thus,  $w$  is in  $L(G)$ , iff  $w$  is a sentence ab a (or  $S \xrightarrow{*} w$ )

A language that can be generated by a grammar is said to be a context-free language. If two grammars generate the same language, the grammars are said to be equivalent.

The string  $- (\text{id} + \text{id})$  is a sentence ab grammar because there is a derivation

$$\begin{aligned} E &\Rightarrow -E \Rightarrow -(E) \Rightarrow -(E+E) \Rightarrow -(Id+Id) \\ &\qquad\qquad\qquad \Rightarrow -(Id+Id) \end{aligned}$$

The strings  $E$ ,  $-E$ ,  $-(E)$ , ...,  $-(Id+Id)$  are all sentential forms ab this grammar

We write  $E \xrightarrow{*} -(Id+Id)$  to indicate that  $-(Id+Id)$  can be derived from  $E$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{LMD} \quad E &\Rightarrow E * E \\
 &\Rightarrow E + E * E \\
 &\Rightarrow id + E * E \\
 &\Rightarrow id + id * E \\
 &\qquad\qquad\qquad id + id * id
 \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 E * E &\Rightarrow E * id \\
 &\Rightarrow E + E * id \\
 &\Rightarrow E + id * id \\
 &\Rightarrow id + id * id
 \end{aligned}$$

- There are two types of derivations.

1. **Leftmost derivation:** For each derivation the leftmost nonterminal in each sentential form is replaced. If  $\alpha \Rightarrow \beta$  is a step in which the leftmost nonterminal in  $\alpha$  is replaced, we write  $\alpha \xrightarrow{lm} \beta$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{eg: } E &\xrightarrow{lm} -E \xrightarrow{lm} -(E) \xrightarrow{lm} -(E+E) \xrightarrow{lm} -(id+E) \\
 &\qquad\qquad\qquad \xrightarrow{lm} -(id+id)
 \end{aligned}$$

2. **Rightmost derivation:** For each derivation, the rightmost nonterminal in each sentential form is replaced, we write  $\alpha \Rightarrow \beta$  in this case.

$$\text{eg: } E \xrightarrow{rm} -E \xrightarrow{rm} -(E+E) \xrightarrow{rm} -(E+id) \xrightarrow{rm} (id+id)$$

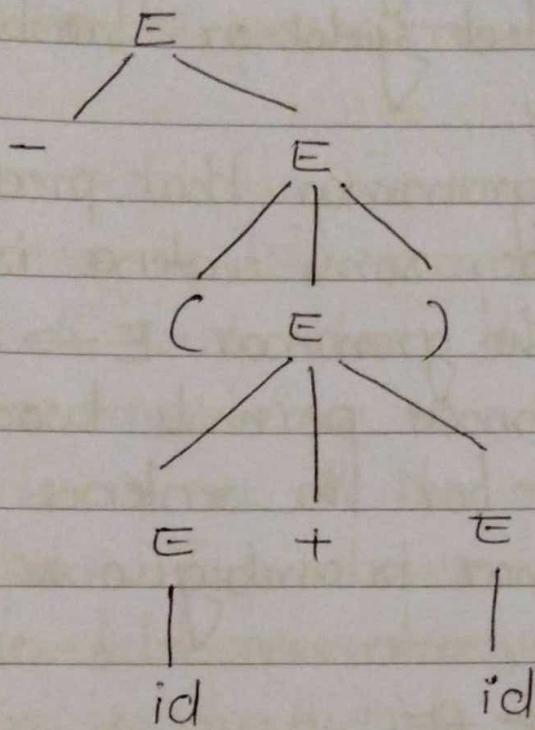
Rightmost derivations are sometimes called canonical derivations.

### Parse Trees and Derivations:

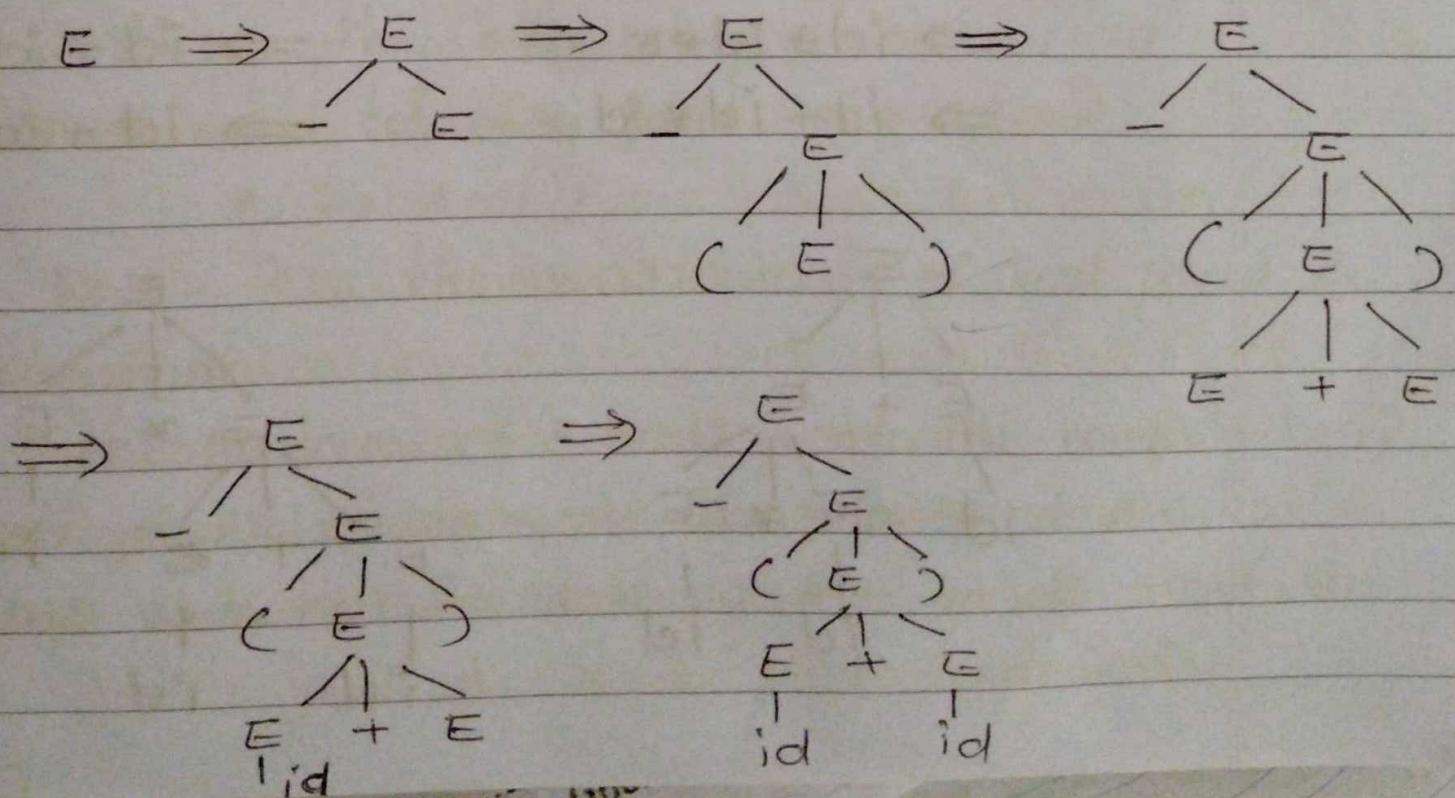
- A parse tree is a graphical representation of a derivation that filters out the order in which productions are applied to replace nonterminals.
- Each interior node of a parse tree represents the application of a rule.

- The children of the node are labeled, from left to right, by the symbols in the body of the PDR.

e.g. parse tree for  $(\text{id} + \text{id})$



Sequence of parse trees for  $(\text{id} + \text{id})$

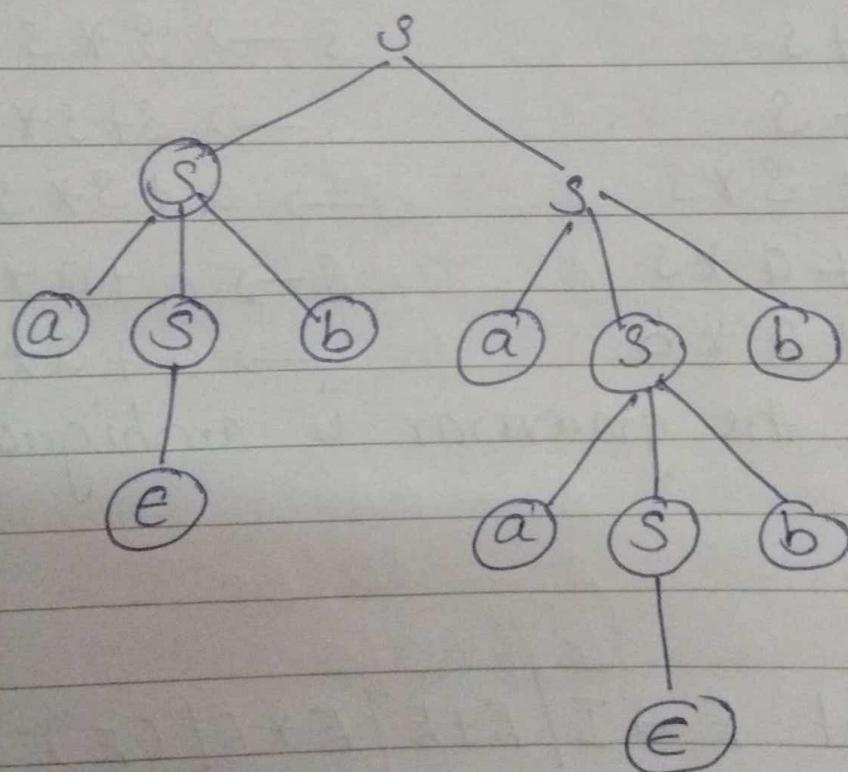


## Example for Parse Tree

$$CFG = (\{S\}, \{a, b\}, \{P = S \rightarrow SS / aSb / \epsilon\}, \{\epsilon\})$$

find the derivation and parse tree for the string abaabb.

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow SS \rightarrow aSbS \rightarrow abS \rightarrow abaSb \rightarrow abaabb \\ &\quad \rightarrow abaabb \end{aligned}$$



## Ambiguous Grammar

A grammar is said to be ambiguous if there exist two or more derivation tree for a string  $w$ .

Example  $G_1 = \{S\}, \{a+b, +, *^3 P, S\}$

where ' $P$ ' consists of  $S \rightarrow S+S | S*S | a/b$   
the string  $a+a*b$  can be generated as

$$S \rightarrow S+S$$

$$\rightarrow a+S$$

$$\rightarrow a+S*S$$

$$\rightarrow a+a*S$$

$$\rightarrow a+a+b$$

$$S \rightarrow S*S$$

$$S \rightarrow S+S*S$$

$$S \rightarrow a+S*S$$

$$S \rightarrow a+a*S$$

$$\rightarrow a+a+b$$

Thus the grammar is ambiguous.

## Eliminating left recursion

Let  $G_1$  be a context free grammar. A production  $A \rightarrow \alpha \cdot B \beta, a/b$  of  $G_1$  is said left recursive if it has the form  $A \rightarrow A \alpha$

where  $A$  is a non-terminal and  $B \rightarrow \gamma \cdot a/b$ .  $\alpha$  is a string of grammar symbols.

$$\rightarrow A \rightarrow A\alpha / \beta \text{ by } \begin{array}{l} A \rightarrow \beta A' \\ A' \rightarrow \alpha A' / e \end{array}$$

eg.

$E \rightarrow E + T / T$	$E \rightarrow TE'$
$T \rightarrow T * F / F$	$E' \rightarrow + TE' / e$
$F \rightarrow (E) / id$	$T \rightarrow FT'$
	$T' \rightarrow * FT' / e$
	$F \rightarrow (E) / id$

## Eliminating left factoring

$A \rightarrow \alpha \beta_1 / \alpha \beta_2$  are two  $A$  productions

$$\begin{array}{l} A \rightarrow \alpha A' \\ A' \rightarrow \beta_1 / \beta_2 \end{array}$$

①  $S \rightarrow iEIS / iEIS_eS/a$   
 $E \rightarrow b$   
↓

$S \rightarrow iEISS'/a$   
 $S' \rightarrow eS/e$   
 $E \rightarrow b$

②  ~~$A \rightarrow aA'$~~   $A \rightarrow aAB / aBc / aAc$   
 ~~$A$~~

$A \rightarrow aA'$   
 $A' \rightarrow AB / Bc / Ac$   
↓

$A \rightarrow aA'$   
 $A' \rightarrow AD / Bc$   
 $D \rightarrow B/c$

(3)

$$S \rightarrow bSSaas / bSSaSb / bSb / a$$

$$S \rightarrow bSS' / a$$
$$S' \rightarrow Saas / SaSb / b$$

$$S \rightarrow bSS' / a$$
$$S' \rightarrow SaA / b$$
$$A \rightarrow aS / Sb$$

- ⊕ For most parsers, it is desirable that the grammar be made unambiguous, for if it is not, we cannot uniquely determine which parse tree to select for a sentence.
- ⊕ In other cases, it is convenient to use carefully chosen ambiguous grammars, together with disambiguating rules that "throw away" undesirable parse trees, leaving only one tree for each sentence.

### EXAMPLE

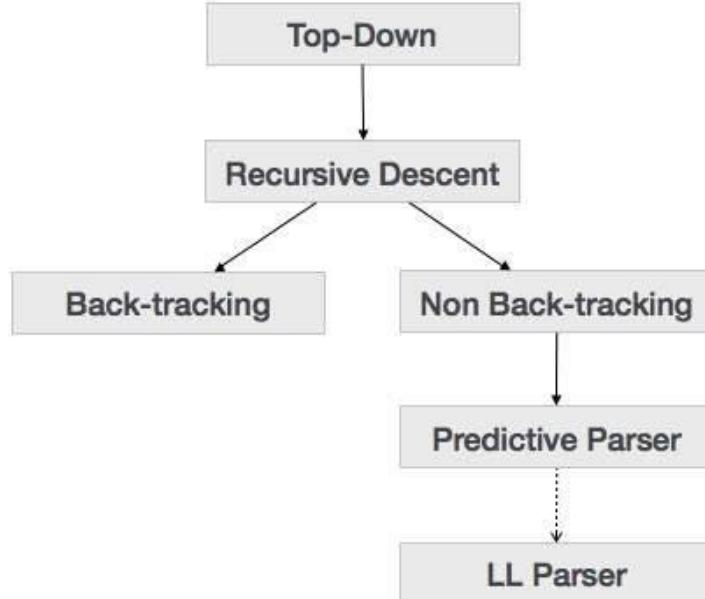
Consider very simple sentence  $\text{id}^+ \text{id}^* \text{id}$ .

1st Leftmost Derivation	2nd Leftmost Derivation
$\begin{aligned} E & \implies E + E \\ & \implies id + E \\ & \implies id + E * E \\ & \implies id + id * E \\ & \implies id + id * id \end{aligned}$	$\begin{aligned} E & \implies E * E \\ & \implies E + E * E \\ & \implies id + id * E \\ & \implies id + id * E \\ & \implies id + id * id \end{aligned}$
1st Parse Tree	2nd Parse Tree
$\begin{array}{c} E \\ / \quad   \quad \backslash \\ E \quad + \quad E \\   \quad / \quad   \quad \backslash \\ id \quad E \quad * \quad E \\   \quad   \\ id \quad id \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} E \\ / \quad   \quad \backslash \\ E \quad * \quad E \\ / \quad   \quad \backslash \quad   \\ E \quad + \quad E \quad id \\   \quad   \\ id \quad id \end{array}$

## 2.2 TOP DOWN PARSING

- ⊕ Parsing is the process of determining if a string of token can be generated by a grammar.
- ⊕ Mainly 2 parsing approaches:
  - **Top Down Parsing**
  - **Bottom Up Parsing**
- ⊕ In **top down parsing**, parse tree is constructed from top (root) to the bottom (leaves).
- ⊕ In **bottom up parsing**, parse tree is constructed from bottom (leaves) to the top (root).
- ⊕ It can be viewed as an attempt to construct a parse tree for the input starting from the root and creating the nodes of parse tree in preorder.
- ⊕ Pre-order traversal means: 1. Visit the root 2. Traverse left subtree 3. Traverse right subtree.

- Top down parsing can be viewed as an attempt to find a leftmost derivation for an input string (that is expanding the leftmost terminal at every step).



## 2.2.1 RECURSIVE DESCENT PARSING

It is the most general form of top-down parsing.

It may involve **backtracking**, that is making repeated scans of input, to obtain the correct expansion of the leftmost non-terminal. Unless the grammar is ambiguous or left-recursive, it finds a suitable parse tree

### EXAMPLE

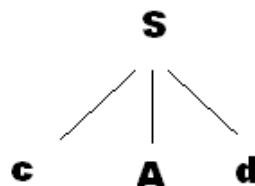
Consider the grammar:

$S \rightarrow cAd$

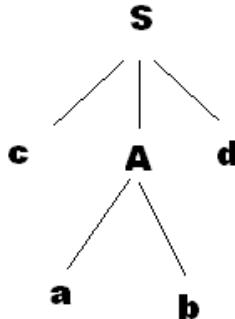
$A \rightarrow ab \mid a$

and the input string  $w = cad$ .

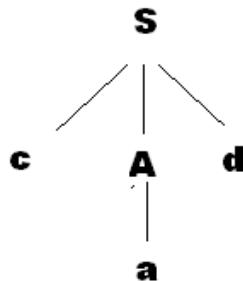
- To construct a parse tree for this string top down, we initially create a tree consisting of a single node labelled  $S$ .
- An input pointer points to  $c$ , the first symbol of  $w$ .  $S$  has only one production, so we use it to expand  $S$  and obtain the tree as:



- ❖ The leftmost leaf, labeled **c**, matches the first symbol of input **w**, so we advance the input pointer to **a**, the second symbol of **w**, and consider the next leaf, labeled **A**.
- ❖ Now, we expand **A** using the first alternative  $A \rightarrow ab$  to obtain the tree as:



- ❖ We have a match for the second input symbol, **a**, so we advance the input pointer to **d**, the third input symbol, and compare **d** against the next leaf, labeled **b**.
- ❖ Since **b** does not match **d**, we report failure and go back to **A** to see whether there is another alternative for **A** that has not been tried, but that might produce a match.
- ❖ In going back to **A**, we must reset the input pointer to position 2, the position it had when we first came to **A**, which means that the procedure for **A** must store the input pointer in a local variable.
- ❖ The second alternative for **A** produces the tree as:



- ❖ The leaf **a** matches the second symbol of **w** and the leaf **d** matches the third symbol. Since we have produced a parse tree for **w**, we halt and announce successful completion of parsing. (that is the string parsed completely and the parser stops).
- ❖ The leaf **a** matches the second symbol of **w** and the leaf **d** matches the third symbol. Since we have produced a parse tree for **w**, we halt and announce successful completion of parsing. (that is the string parsed completely and the parser stops).

## 2.2.2 PREDICTIVE PARSING

- ❖ A predictive parsing is a special form of recursive-descent parsing, in which the current input token unambiguously determines the production to be applied at each

step. The goal of predictive parsing is to construct a top-down parser that never backtracks. To do so, we must transform a grammar in two ways:

- **Eliminate left recursion, and**
- **Perform left factoring.**

- ❖ These rules eliminate most common causes for backtracking although they do not guarantee a completely backtrack-free parsing (called LL(1) as we will see later).

## Left Recursion

- ❖ A grammar is said to be left -recursive if it has a non-terminal A such that there is a derivation  $A \rightarrow A\alpha$ , for some string  $\alpha$ .

### EXAMPLE

Consider the grammar

$$A \rightarrow A\alpha$$

$$A \rightarrow \beta$$

- ❖ It recognizes the regular expression  $\beta\alpha^*$ . The problem is that if we use the first production for top-down derivation, we will fall into an infinite derivation chain. This is called left recursion.
- ❖ Top-down parsing methods cannot handle left recursive grammars, so a transformation that eliminates left-recursion is needed. The left-recursive pair of productions  $A \rightarrow A\alpha|\beta$  could be replaced by two non-recursive productions.

$$A \rightarrow \beta A'$$

$$A' \rightarrow \alpha A' |\epsilon$$

- ❖ Consider The following grammar which generates arithmetic expressions

$$E \rightarrow E + T | T$$

$$T \rightarrow T * F | F$$

$$F \rightarrow ( E ) | id$$

Eliminating the immediate left recursion to the productions for E and then for T, we obtain

$$E \rightarrow T E'$$

$$E' \rightarrow + T E' | \epsilon$$

$$T \rightarrow F T'$$

$$T' \rightarrow * F T' | \epsilon$$

$$F \rightarrow ( E ) | id$$

- No matter how many A-productions there are, we can eliminate immediate left recursion from them by the following technique. First, we group the A productions as

$$A \rightarrow A\alpha_1 | A\alpha_2 | \dots | A\alpha_m | \beta_1 | \beta_2 | \dots | \beta_n$$

where no  $\beta_i$  begins with an A. Then we replace the A-productions by

$$A \rightarrow \beta_1 A' | \beta_2 A' | \dots | \beta_n A'$$

$$A' \rightarrow \alpha_1 A' | \alpha_2 A' | \dots | \alpha_m A' | \epsilon$$

## Left Factoring

- Left factoring is a grammar transformation that is useful for producing a grammar suitable for predictive parsing.
- The basic idea is that when it is not clear which of two alternative productions to use to expand a non-terminal A, we may be able to rewrite the A-productions to defer the decision until we have seen enough of the input to make the right choice

$$A \rightarrow \alpha \beta_1 | \alpha \beta_2$$

- are two A-productions, and the input begins with a non-empty string derived from  $\alpha$  we do not know whether to expand A to  $\alpha \beta_1$  or  $\alpha \beta_2$ .
- However, we may defer the decision by expanding A to  $\alpha B$ . Then, after seeing the input derived from  $\alpha$ , we may expand B to  $\beta_1$  or  $\beta_2$ .
- The left factored original expression becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} A &\rightarrow \alpha B \\ B &\rightarrow \beta_1 | \beta_2 \end{aligned}$$

- For the “dangling else” grammar:

$$\text{stmt} \rightarrow \text{if cond then stmt else stmt} | \text{if cond then stmt}$$

The corresponding left - factored grammar is:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{stmt} &\rightarrow \text{if cond then stmt else\_clause} \\ \text{else\_clause} &\rightarrow \text{else stmt} | \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

## Non Recursive Predictive parser

- It is possible to build a nonrecursive predictive parser by maintaining a stack explicitly, rather than implicitly via recursive calls.
- The key problem during predictive parsing is that of determining the production to be applied for a nonterminal.
- The nonrecursive parser in looks up the production to be applied in a parsing table

## Requirements

1. Stackv
2. Parsing Table
3. Input Buffer
4. Parsing

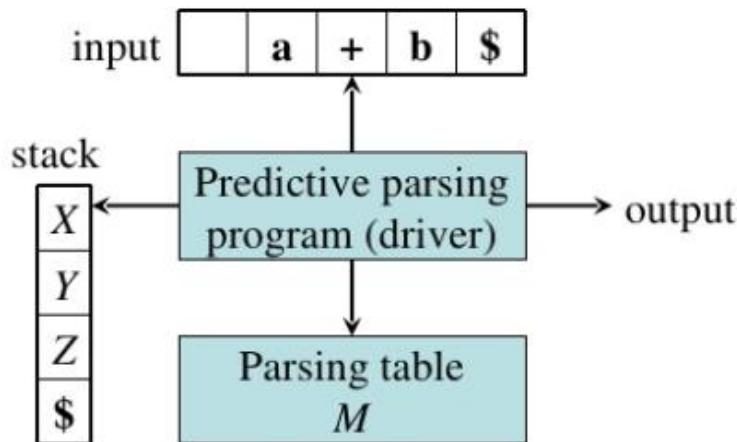


Figure : Model of a nonrecursive predictive parser

- ✚ **Input buffer** - contains the string to be parsed, followed by \$(used to indicate end of input string)
- ✚ **Stack** - initialized with \$, to indicate bottom of stack.
- ✚ **Parsing table** - 2 D array  $M[A,a]$  where A is a nonterminal and a is terminal or the symbol \$
- ✚ The parser is controlled by a program that behaves as follows. The program considers **X**, the symbol on top of the stack, and **a** current input symbol. These two symbols determine the action of the parser.
- ✚ There are three possibilities,
  1. If  $X = a = \$$  , the parser halts and announces successful completion of parsing.
  2. If  $X = a \neq \$$  , the parser pops **X** off the stack and advances the input pointer to the next input symbol,
  3. If **X** is a nonterminal, the program consults entry  $M[X, a]$  of the parsing table **M**. The entry will be either an **X**-production of the grammar or an error entry. If, for example,  $M[X, a] = \{X \rightarrow UVW\}$ , the parser replaces **X** on top of the stack by WVU (with U on top). As output we shall assume that the parser just prints the production used; any other code could be executed here. If  $M[X, a] = \text{error}$ , the parser calls an error recovery routine.

## Predictive Parsing Algorithm

**INPUT:** A string  $w$  and a parsing table  $M$  for grammar  $G$ .

**OUTPUT:** If  $w$  is in  $L(G)$ , a leftmost derivation of  $w$ ; otherwise, an error indication.

**METHOD:** Initially, the parser is in a configuration in which it has  $\$S$  on the stack with  $S$ , the start symbol of  $G$  on top, and  $w\$$  in the input buffer. The program that utilizes the predictive parsing table  $M$  to produce a parse for the input is shown below.

```

set ip to point to the first symbol of w$;
repeat
    let X be the top stack symbol and a the symbol pointed to by ip;
    if X is a terminal or $ then
        if X = a then
            pop X from the stack and advance ip
        else error ()
    else /* X is a nonterminal */
        if M | X, a | = X → Y1 Y2 . . . Yi then begin
            pop X from the stack;
            push Yk, Yk-1, . . . , Y1 onto the stack, with Y1 on top;
            output the production X → Y1 Y2 . . . Yk
        end
        else error ()
    until X = S /* stack is empty */

```

### EXAMPLE

Consider Grammar:

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

## Construction Of Predictive Parsing Table

- ❖ Uses 2 functions:
  - **FIRST()**
  - **FOLLOW()**
- ❖ These functions allows us to fill the entries of predictive parsing table

### FIRST

- ❖ If ' $\alpha$ ' is any string of grammar symbols, then  $\text{FIRST}(\alpha)$  be the set of terminals that begin the string derived from  $\alpha$ . If  $\alpha==^*\epsilon$  then add  $\epsilon$  to  $\text{FIRST}(\alpha)$ . First is defined for both terminals and non terminals.
- ❖ To Compute First Set
  1. If  $X$  is a terminal , then  $\text{FIRST}(X)$  is  $\{X\}$
  2. If  $X \rightarrow \epsilon$  then add  $\epsilon$  to  $\text{FIRST}(X)$
  3. If  $X$  is a non terminal and  $X \rightarrow Y_1 Y_2 Y_3 \dots Y_n$  , then put 'a' in  $\text{FIRST}(X)$  if for some  $i$ ,  $a$  is in  $\text{FIRST}(Y_i)$  and  $\epsilon$  is in all of  $\text{FIRST}(Y_1), \dots, \text{FIRST}(Y_{i-1})$ .

### EXAMPLE

Consider Grammar:

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

Non-terminal	FIRST
E	(, id
E'	+, $\epsilon$
T	(, id
T'	*, $\epsilon$
F	(, id

## 2.2.2 PREDICTIVE PARSING

A predictive parsing is a special form of recursive-descent parsing, in which the current input token unambiguously determines the production to be applied at each step. The goal of predictive parsing is to construct a top-down parser that never backtracks. To do so, we must transform a grammar in two ways:

Eliminate left recursion, and Perform left factoring.

These rules eliminate most common causes for backtracking although they do not guarantee a completely backtrack-free parsing (called LL(1) as we will see later)

## Non recursive Predictive Parsing:

- A nonrecursive predictive parser can be built by maintaining a stack explicitly, rather than ~~recursion~~ implicitly via recursive calls.  
The table-driven parser has an I/p buffer, a stack containing a sequence of grammar symbols, a parsing table and an O/p stream.
- The I/p buffer contains the string to be parsed, followed by the end marker \$.

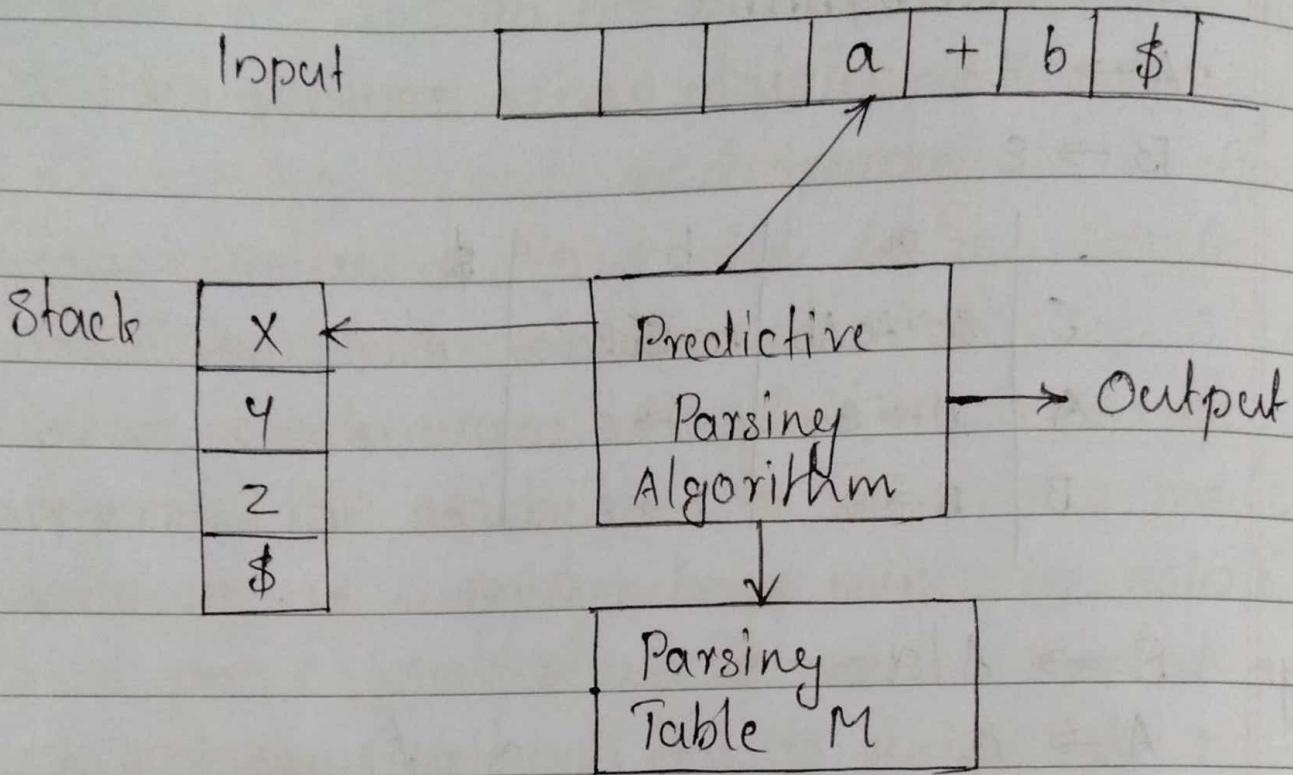


Fig: Model of a predict table-driven predictive Parser

- The symbol \$ is reused to mark the bottom of the stack, which initially contains the start symbol of the grammar on top of \$.

The parser is controlled by a program that considers x, the symbol on top of the stack, and a the current i/p symbol. If x is a non-terminal the parser chooses an x-pds by consulting entry  $M[x,a]$  of the parsing table M. otherwise, it checks for a match between the terminal x and current i/p symbol a.

## Algorithm:

INPUT: A string  $w$  and a parsing table  $M$  for grammar  $\mathcal{G}$ .

OUTPUT: If  $w$  is in  $L(\mathcal{G})$ , a leftmost derivation of  $w$ ; otherwise, an error indication.

METHOD: Initially, the parser is in a configuration with  $w\$$  in the i/p buffer and the start symbol  $S$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  on top of the stack, above  $\$$ .

set ip to point to the first symbol of  $w$ ; (ie,  $a$ )

set  $x$  to the top of stack symbol;

while ( $x \neq \$$ ) /\* stack not empty \*/

{

  if ( $x = a$ ) pop the stack and advance ip;

  else if ( $x$  is a terminal) error();

  else if ( $M[x, a]$  is an error entry) error();

  else if ( $M[x, a] = x \rightarrow y_1 y_2 \dots y_k$ )

{

    output the production  $x \rightarrow y_1 y_2 \dots y_k$ ;

    pop the stack;

    push  $y_k, y_{k-1} \dots y_1$  on to the stack with  $y_1$  on top;

{

  set  $x$  to the top of stack symbol;

{

NON Terminal	I/P 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	$F \rightarrow id$			$F \rightarrow (E)$		

e.g: Consider the following grammar

$$E \rightarrow TE'$$

$$E' \rightarrow +TE' \mid \epsilon$$

$$T \rightarrow ET'$$

$$T' \rightarrow *FT' \mid \epsilon$$

$$F \rightarrow (\epsilon) / id.$$

Input:  $id + id * id$

The moves corresponds to the LMD

$$E \xrightarrow{lm} TE' \xrightarrow{lm} FT'E' \xrightarrow{} id T'E' \xrightarrow{} id E' \xrightarrow{} id + TE' \xrightarrow{...}$$

Matched	Stack	Input	Action
$E\$$	$id + id * id \$$		
$TE' \$$	$id + id * id \$$		output $E \rightarrow TE'$
$FT'E' \$$	$id + id * id \$$		output $T \rightarrow FT'$
$id T'E' \$$	$id + id * id \$$		output $F \rightarrow id$
$id$	$T'E' \$$	$+ id * id \$$	match $id$
$id$	$E' \$$	$+ id * id \$$	output $T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
$id$	$+ TE' \$$	$+ id * id \$$	output $E' \rightarrow + TE'$
$idt$	$TE' \$$	$id * id \$$	match $+$
$idt$	$FT'E' \$$	$id * id \$$	output $T \rightarrow FT'$
$idt$	$id T'E' \$$	$id * id \$$	output $F \rightarrow id$
$id + id$	$T'E' \$$	$* id \$$	match $id$
$id + id$	$* FT'E' \$$	$* id \$$	output $T' \rightarrow * FT'$
$id + id *$	$FT'E' \$$	$id \$$	match $*$
$id + id *$	$id T'E' \$$	$id \$$	output $F \rightarrow id$

$id + id * id$	$T'E'\$$	$\$$	match $id$
$id + id * id$	$E'\$$	$\$$	output $T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
$id + id * id$	$\$$	$\$$	output $E' \rightarrow \epsilon$

- An error is detected during predictive parsing when the terminal on top of the stack does not match the next i/p symbol or when non-terminal A is on top of the stack, a is the next i/p symbol and  $M[A, a]$  is error (i.e. parsing table entry is empty).

## FIRST and FOLLOW:

The construction of both top-down and bottom-up parsers is aided by two functions, FIRST and FOLLOW, associated with grammar G.

- During top-down parsing, FIRST and FOLLOW allows us to choose which rule to apply, based on the next input symbol.

- Define  $\text{FIRST}(\alpha)$ , where  $\alpha$  is any string of grammar symbols to be the set of terminals that begin strings derived from  $\alpha$ .

e.g.: If  $\alpha \xrightarrow{*} \epsilon$ , then  $\epsilon$  is also in  $\text{FIRST}(\alpha)$

If  $s \Rightarrow \alpha A \alpha \beta \Rightarrow \alpha c \alpha \beta$ ,

then  $c$  is in  $\text{FIRST}(A)$

- Consider two A-rules  $A \rightarrow \alpha | \beta$ , where  $\text{FIRST}(\alpha)$  and  $\text{FIRST}(\beta)$  are disjoint sets. we can

Then choose between these A pdns by looking at the next 1/p symbol  $\alpha$ , since  $\alpha$  can be in at most one of  $\text{FIRST}(\alpha)$  and  $\text{FIRST}(\beta)$ , not both.

For instance, if  $\alpha$  is in  $\text{FIRST}(\beta)$  choose the pdn  $A \rightarrow \beta$ .

To compute  $\text{FIRST}(x)$  for all grammar symbol  $x$ , apply the following rules until no more terminals or  $\epsilon$  can be added to any FIRST set.

1. If  $x$  is a terminal, then  $\text{FIRST}(x) = \{x\}$ .
2. If  $x$  is a non-terminal and  $x \rightarrow y_1 y_2 \dots y_k$  is a pdn for some  $k \geq 1$ , then place  $\alpha$  in  $\text{FIRST}(x)$ , if for some  $i$ ,  $\alpha$  is in  $\text{FIRST}(y_i)$ , and  $\epsilon$  is in all of  $\text{FIRST}(y_1) \dots \text{FIRST}(y_{i-1})$

i.e.,  $y_1 \dots y_{i-1} \xrightarrow{*} \epsilon$

If  $\epsilon$  is in  $\text{FIRST}(y_j)$  for all  $j = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , then add  $\epsilon$  to  $\text{FIRST}(x)$

If  $y_1$  does not derive  $\epsilon$ , then we add nothing more to  $\text{FIRST}(x)$ , but if  $y_1 \xrightarrow{*} \epsilon$ , then we add  $\text{FIRST}(y_2)$  and so on.

3. If  $x \rightarrow \epsilon$  is a pdn, then add  $\epsilon$  to  $\text{FIRST}(x)$ .

Eg: Consider the following grammar

$$E \rightarrow TE'$$

$$E' \rightarrow +TE'| \epsilon$$

$$T \rightarrow FT'$$

$$T' \rightarrow *FT' | \epsilon$$

$$F \rightarrow (E) | id$$

$$\text{FIRST}(E) = \text{FIRST}(T) = \text{FIRST}(T') = \{ \epsilon, id \}$$

$$\text{FIRST}(E') = \{ +, \epsilon \}$$

$$\text{FIRST}(T') = \{ *, \epsilon \}$$

- Define FOLLOW(A), for a nonterminal A, to be the set of terminals a that can appear immediately to the right of A in some sentential forms.

e.g.: If  $s \xrightarrow{*} \alpha A \alpha \beta$ , then  $\alpha$  is in FOLLOW(A)

- If A is the rightmost symbol in some sentential form, then \$ is in FOLLOW(A). (\$ is a special end marker symbol that is assumed not to be a symbol of any grammar).

- To compute FOLLOW(A), for all nonterminals A apply the following rules until nothing can be added to any FOLLOW set:

1. Place \$ in 'FOLLOW(s)', where s is the start symbol, and \$ is the if right end marker.

2. If there is a pdn  $A \rightarrow \alpha B \beta$ , then everything

in FIRST( $\beta$ ), except  $\epsilon$  is in FOLLOW( $\beta$ ).

3. If there is a pdn  $A \rightarrow \alpha B$ , or a pdn  $A \rightarrow \alpha B\beta$  where FIRST( $\beta$ ) contains  $\epsilon$ , then everything in FOLLOW( $A$ ) is in FOLLOW( $B$ ).

e.g. Consider the following grammar

$$E \rightarrow TE'$$

$$E' \rightarrow +TE' \mid \epsilon$$

$$T \rightarrow FT'$$

$$T' \rightarrow *FT' \mid \epsilon$$

$$F \rightarrow (E) \mid id$$

$$\text{FOLLOW}(E) = \text{FOLLOW}(E') = \{ , \$ \}$$

$$\text{FOLLOW}(T) = \text{FOLLOW}(T') = \{ +, , \$ \}$$

$$\text{FOLLOW}(F) = \{ *, +, , \$ \}.$$

	FIRST	FOLLOW
Eg.: 1) $S \rightarrow ABCDE$	{a, b, c}	{\\$}
$A \rightarrow a \mid \epsilon$	{a, $\epsilon$ }	{b, c}
$B \rightarrow b \mid \epsilon$	{b, $\epsilon$ }	{c}
$C \rightarrow c$	{c}	{d, e, \\$}
$D \rightarrow d \mid \epsilon$	{d, $\epsilon$ }	{e, \\$}
$E \rightarrow e \mid \epsilon$	{e, $\epsilon$ }	{\\$}.

// whenever a variable is at the right end of a pdn and if nothing after it then the follow FOLLOW of that variable is follow of left hand side.

whenever a variable, after which everything goes to  $\epsilon$ , for eg. in FOLLOW(c), D and E are going to  $\epsilon$ , in this case c is coming to the right end, so FOLLOW at right end is equal to the FOLLOW at left end //

	FIRST	FOLLOW
2) $S \rightarrow Bb   Cd$	$\{a, b, c, d\}$	$\{\$\}$
$B \rightarrow aB   \epsilon$	$\{a, \epsilon\}$	$\{b\}$
$C \rightarrow cC   \epsilon$	$\{c, \epsilon\}$	$\{d\}$

	FIRST	FOLLOW
3. $E \rightarrow TE'$	$\{id, \epsilon\}$	$\{\$, )\}$
$E' \rightarrow +TE'   \epsilon$	$\{+, \epsilon\}$	$\{\$, )\}$
$T \rightarrow FT'$	$\{id, \epsilon\}$	$\{+, \$, )\}$
$T' \rightarrow *FT'   \epsilon$	$\{* , \epsilon\}$	$\{+, \$, )\}$
$F \rightarrow id   (E)$	$\{id, c\}$	$\{* , +, \$, )\}$

//  $E$  is the start symbol, so FOLLOW( $E$ ) always contains  $\$$ . and  $E$  is also in the r.h.s  
so FOLLOW( $E$ ) =  $\{\$\}\}$

FOLLOW( $E'$ ) -  $E'$  is at the right end  
so FOLLOW( $E'$ ) = FOLLOW( $E$ ).

Now FOLLOW( $T$ ) = FIRST( $E'$ )

FIRST( $E'$ ) contains  $\epsilon$ , so replace  $E'$  with  $\epsilon$

now T is at the right end so

$\text{FOLLOW}(T)$  contains  $\text{FOLLOW}(\epsilon)$

i.e.,  $\text{FOLLOW}(T) = \{+, \$, )\}.$  //

4)

	FIRST	FOLLOW
$S \rightarrow A \epsilon B \mid C b B \mid B a$	$\{d, g, h, \epsilon, b, a\}$	$\{\$\}$
$A \rightarrow d a \mid B c$	$\{d, g, h, \epsilon\}$	$\{h, g, \$\}$
$B \rightarrow g \mid \epsilon$	$\{g, \epsilon\}$	$\{\$, a, h, g\}$
$C \rightarrow h \mid \epsilon$	$\{h, \epsilon\}$	$\{g, \$, b, h\}$

an algorithm does.

## Construction of a Predictive Parsing Table:

This algm collects information from FIRST and FOLLOW sets into a predictive parsing table  $M[A,a]$ , a two-dimensional array

- where  $A$  is a non-terminal and  $a$  is a terminal or the symbol  $\$$ , the 1/p end marker

The algm is based on the following idea.

The production  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  is chosen, if the next 1/p symbol  $a$  is in  $\text{FIRST}(\alpha)$ . The only complication occurs when  $\alpha \Rightarrow \epsilon$ , or more generally  $\alpha \xrightarrow{*} \epsilon$ . In this case, we should again choose  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  if the current 1/p symbol is in  $\text{FOLLOW}(A)$ , or if the  $\$$  on the 1/p has been reached and  $\$$  is in

FOLLOW(A).

ALGORITHM:

Input : Grammar G

Output: Parsing Table M.

Method: For each production  $A \rightarrow \alpha \in \text{the grammar}$ , do the following

1. For each terminal  $a$  in  $\text{FIRST}(\alpha)$ , add  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  to  $M[A,a]$
2. If  $\epsilon$  is in  $\text{FIRST}(\alpha)$ , then for each terminal  $b$  in  $\text{FOLLOW}(A)$ , add  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  to  $M[A,b]$ .  
If  $\epsilon$  is in  $\text{FIRST}(\alpha)$  and  $\$$  is in  $\text{FOLLOW}(A)$ , add  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  to  $M[A,\$]$  as well.

If after performing the above, there is no production at all in  $M[A,a]$ , then set  $M[A,a]$  to error.

(normally represent by an empty string in the table.)

Eg: For the expression grammar

$$E \rightarrow TE'$$

$$E' \rightarrow +TE'/\epsilon$$

$$T \rightarrow FT'$$

$$T' \rightarrow *FT'/\epsilon$$

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

String: id + id \* id,

NON TERMINAL	I/P SYMBOL					
	id	+	*	(	)	\$
E	$E \rightarrow TE'$				$E \rightarrow TE'$	
$E'$		$E' \rightarrow +TE'$				$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$
T	$T \rightarrow FT'$				$T \rightarrow FT'$	
$T'$		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow *FT'$		$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$	$T' \rightarrow \epsilon$
F	$F \rightarrow id$			$F \rightarrow (E)$		

	FIRST	FOLLOW
$E \rightarrow TE'$	{id, (}	{\$, )}
$E' \rightarrow +TE'/\epsilon$	{+, \epsilon}	{\$, )}
$T \rightarrow FT'$	{id, (}	{+, ), \$}
$T' \rightarrow *FT'/\epsilon$	{*, \epsilon}	{+, ), \$}
$F \rightarrow id   (E)$	{id, (}	{*, +, ), \$}

\$- is included because there is a chance for there is a \$ in the input string

$E' \rightarrow \epsilon$  place the production in the follow of rhs.

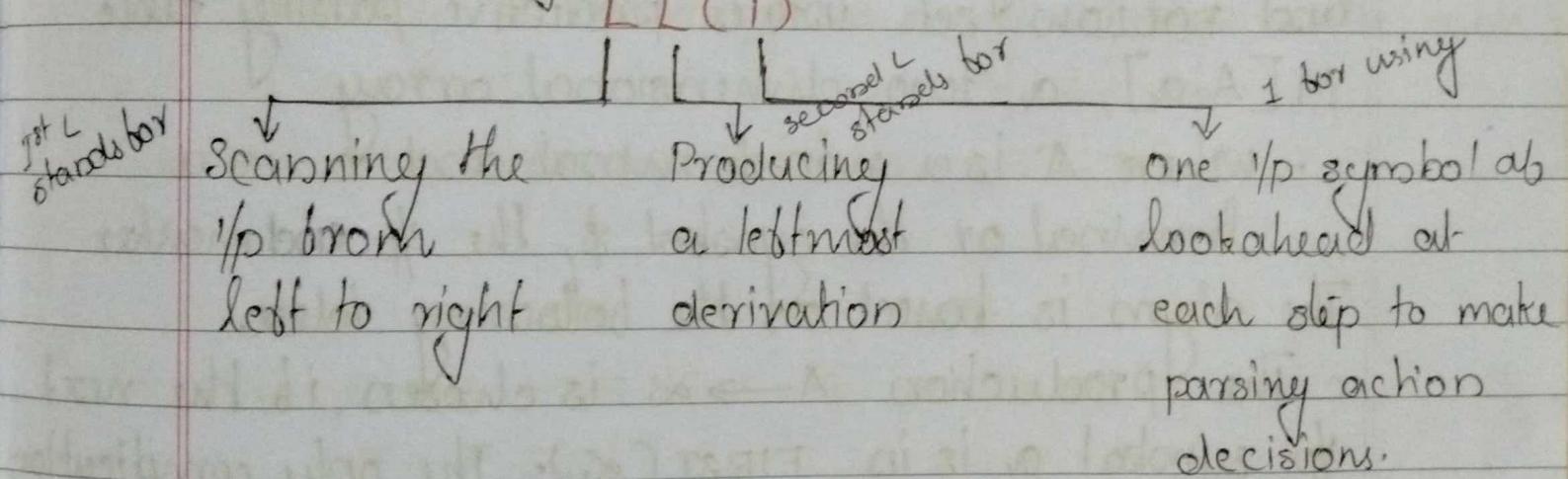
Eg: (id  $E'$ ) \$

Apply  $\epsilon$  production to  $E'$  if the next symbol is )  
ie, (id) //

## LL(1) Grammars

Predictive parsers (i.e., recursive descent parsers needing no backtracking) can be constructed for a class of grammars called LL(1).

### LL(1)



A grammar  $G$  is LL(1) if and only if whenever  $A \rightarrow \alpha / \beta$  are two distinct productions of  $G$ , the following conditions hold:

1. For no terminal  $a$  do both  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  derive strings

beginning with a.

2. At most one of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  can derive the empty string.
3. If  $\beta \xrightarrow{*} \epsilon$ , then  $\alpha$  does not derive any string beginning with a terminal in  $\text{FOLLOW}(A)$ .  
Likewise, if  $\alpha \xrightarrow{*} \epsilon$ , then  $\beta$  does not derive any string beginning with a terminal in  $\text{FOLLOW}(A)$ .

- The first two conditions are equivalent to the statement that  $\text{FIRST}(\alpha)$  and  $\text{FIRST}(\beta)$  are disjoint sets.
- The third condition is equivalent to stating that if  $\epsilon$  is in  $\text{FIRST}(\beta)$ , then  $\text{FIRST}(\alpha)$  and  $\text{FOLLOW}(A)$  are disjoint sets.

## 1. Recursive Descent Parsing:

- A recursive descent parsing program consists of a set of procedures, one for each non-terminal. Execution begins with the procedure for the start symbol, which halts and announces success if its procedure body scans the entire I/P string.
- General recursive descent may require backtracking (i.e., it may require repeated scans

over the 1/p).

A typical procedure for a nonterminal in a top-down parser

void A() {

- 1) choose an A-pdn,  $A \rightarrow x_1 x_2 \dots x_k$ ;
- 2) for ( $i = 1$  to  $k$ ) {
- 3) if ( $x_i$  is a nonterminal)
- 4) call procedure  $x_i()$ ;
- 5) else if ( $x_i$  equals the current 1/p symbol  $\alpha$ )
- 6) advance the 1/p to the next symbol;
- 7) else /\* an error has occurred \*/;

}

}

To allow backtracking, the above code need to be modified. If it is not possible to choose a unique A-pdn at line 1, so several pdns have to be tried out in some order. Then failure at line 7 is not ultimate failure, but suggest that we need to return to line(1) and try another A-pdn. Only if there are no more A-pdns to try, we say that an error has been found. So in order to try another A-pdn, 1/p pointer has to be reset to the point where it was when it reached line 1. Thus a local variable is needed to store the 1/p pointer for further use.

Modifying the above pdns code to indicate

include the following:

- 7) else if A has any alternative pdns
- 8) choose any one alternative path for A and reset I/p pointer.
- 9) else error();

Eg: Consider the grammar

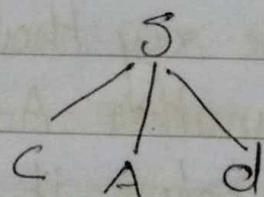
$$S \rightarrow cAd$$

$$A \rightarrow ab/a$$

construct a parse tree for the I/p string  
 $w = cad.$

Ans: To construct a parse tree top-downs for the I/p string  $w = cad$ , begin with a tree consisting of a single node labeled S, and the I/p pointer pointing to c, the first symbol ab w. S has only one pdn, so it is used to expand S.

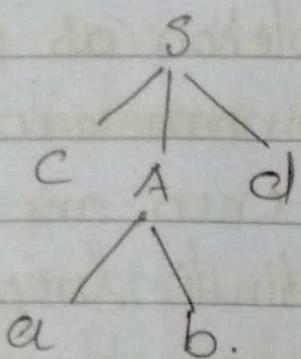
Thus the parse tree becomes



The leftmost leaf, labeled 'c' matches the first symbol ab input w, so I/p pointer is advanced by 1 position and thus it now points

to 'a', the second symbol of  $w$ .

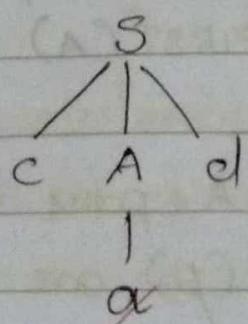
- The next leaf is A, when the 1st alternative  $A \rightarrow ab$  is chosen, the tree becomes



A match is obtained for the second symbol 'a' so the 'p' pointer is advanced by 1. and hence, it points to 'd' is compared with the next leaf, labeled 'b'. Since 'b' does not match with 'd', we must go back to A to see whether there is another alternative for A that has not been tried.

In going back to A, we must reset the 'p' pointer to position 2. (the position it had, when it first came to A) which means that the procedure for A must store the 'p' pointer in a local variable.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> alternative for A produces the tree



The leaf 'a' matches 2nd symbol ab and  
leaf 'd' matches the 3rd symbol. Since we have  
produced a parse tree for w, we halt and  
announce successful completion of parsing.

A left recursive grammar can cause  
a recursive descent parser, even one with back-  
tracking, to go into an infinite loop.