

Unit 9. Recursive descent parsing

Characteristics

- Used to parse LL(1) language
- Can be extended for parsing LL(k) grammars, but algorithms are complicated
- Parsing non LL(k) grammars can cause infinite loops



Recursive-descent parsing

- A top-down parsing method
- The term *descent* refers to the direction in which the parse tree is traversed (or built).
- Use a set of *mutually recursive* procedures (one procedure for each nonterminal symbol)
 - Start the parsing process by calling the procedure that corresponds to the start symbol
 - Each production becomes one branch in procedure for its LHS
- We consider a special type of recursive-descent parsing called predictive parsing
 - Use a lookahead symbol to decide which production to use



Recursive Descent Parsing

• For every BNF rule (production) of the form

```
<phrase1>\rightarrowE
```

the parser defines a function to parse phrase1 whose body is to parse the rule E

```
void compilePhrase1()
{ /* parse the rule E */ }
```

- Where E consists of a sequence of non-terminal and terminal symbols
- Requires no left recursion in the grammar.



Parsing a rule

- A sequence of non-terminal and terminal symbols,
 Y₁ Y₂ Y₃ ... Y_n
 is recognized by parsing each symbol in turn
- For each non-terminal symbol, Y, call the corresponding parse function compileY
- For each terminal symbol, y, call a function eat(y)

that will check if y is the next symbol in the source program

- The terminal symbols are the token types from the lexical analyzer
- If the variable currentsymbol always contains the next token:
- eat(y):if (currentsymbol == y)
- then getNextToken()
- else SyntaxError()



Simple parse function example

```
• Suppose that there was a grammar rule
  Prog ::= KW PROGRAM Ident SB SEMICOLON
  Block SB PERIOD
• Then the function for par
void compileProgram(void)
  eat(KW PROGRAM);
  eat(TK IDENT);
  eat(SB SEMICOLON);
  compileBlock();
  eat(SB PERIOD);
```



Look-Ahead

- In general, one non-terminal may have more than one production, so more than one function should be written to parse that non-terminal.
- Instead, we insist that we can decide which rule to parse just by looking ahead one symbol in the input

```
BasicType ::= KW INTEGER |
                                       KW CHAR
Then compileBasicType can have the form
  switch (lookAhead->tokenType) {
  case KW INTEGER:
    eat(KW INTEGER);
    break;
  case KW CHAR:
    eat(KW CHAR);
    break:
  default:
    error (ERR INVALIDBASICTYPE, lookAhead->lineNo, lookAhead->colNo)
    break:
```



KPL Parser

- Can be built using BNF rules or syntax diagrams
- Use syntax diagrams: consists of 13 functions, each function for a syntax diagram
- Use BNF rules: consist of approximate 50 functions, each function for a variable (non-terminal symbol)



```
//Follow rules of slide 19 unit 8
void compileFactor(void) {
  switch (lookAhead->tokenType) {
  case TK NUMBER:
    eat(TK NUMBER);
    break;
  case TK CHAR:
    eat(TK CHAR);
    break;
  case TK IDENT:
    eat(TK IDENT);
    switch (lookAhead->tokenType) {
    case SB LSEL:
      compileIndexes();
      break:
    case SB LPAR:
      compileArguments();
      break;
    default: break;
    break:
```

Compile factor function

```
case SB_LPAR:
    eat(SB_LPAR);
    compileExpression();
    eat(SB_RPAR);
    break;
    default:
       error(ERR_INVALIDFACTOR, lookAhead-
>lineNo, lookAhead->colNo);
    }
}
```

BNF Rules for term

```
82) Term ::= Factor Term2
83) Term2 ::= SB_TIMES Factor Term2
84) Term2 ::= SB_SLASH Factor Term2
85) Term2 ::= ε
```



compileTerm and compileTerm2 functions

```
void compileTerm(void) {
  compileFactor();
  compileTerm2();
void compileTerm2(void) {
  switch (lookAhead->tokenType) {
  case SB TIMES:
    eat(SB TIMES);
    compileFactor();
    compileTerm2();
    break;
  case SB SLASH:
    eat(SB SLASH);
    compileFactor();
    compileTerm2();
    break;
```

```
// check the FOLLOW set
 case SB PLUS:
 case SB MINUS:
 case KW TO:
  case KW DO:
  case SB RPAR:
 case SB COMMA:
 case SB EQ:
 case SB NEQ:
 case SB LE:
  case SB LT:
 case SB GE:
 case SB GT:
 case SB RSEL:
 case SB SEMICOLON:
  case KW END:
 case KW ELSE:
 case KW THEN:
   break;
  default:
   error(ERR INVALIDTERM, lookAhead->lineNo,
lookAhead->coTNo);
```



CompileTerm function (Use SD)

```
void CompileTerm (void)
 compileFactor();
 while(lookAhead->tokenType== SB TIMES ||
 lookAhead->tokenType == SB SLASH)
{switch (lookAhead->tokenType)
  case SB TIMES:
    eat(SB TIMES);
    compileFactor();
    break;
  case SB SLASH:
                          term
                                factor
    eat(SB SLASH);
    break;
```



Statement

```
49) Statement ::= AssignSt
50) Statement ::= CallSt
51) Statement ::= GroupSt
52) Statement ::= IfSt
53) Statement ::= WhileSt
54) Statement ::= ForSt
55) Statement ::= ε
```

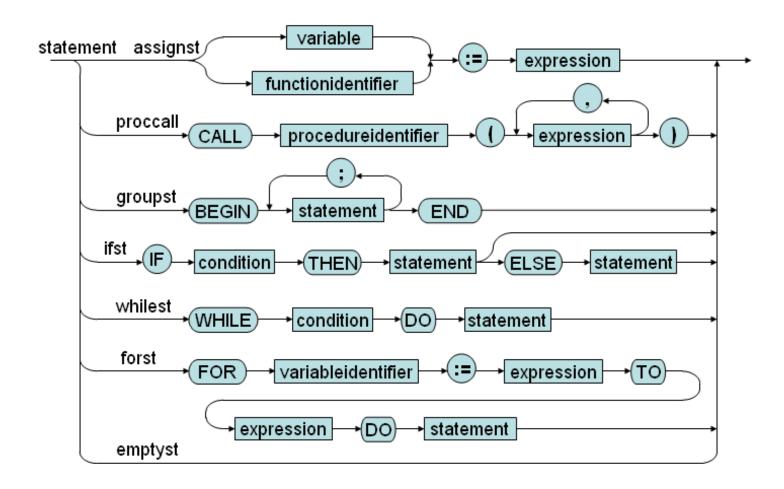


compileStatement function (using BNF)

```
void compileStatement(void) {
  switch (lookAhead->tokenType) {
  case TK IDENT:
    compileAssignSt();
    break:
  case KW CALL:
    compileCallSt();
    break;
  case KW BEGIN:
    compileGroupSt();
    break;
  case KW IF:
    compileIfSt();
    break:
  case KW WHILE:
    compileWhileSt();
    break:
  case KW FOR:
    compileForSt();
    break;
```

```
// EmptySt needs to check FOLLOW tokens
case SB SEMICOLON:
  case KW END:
  case KW ELSE:
    break;
    // Error occurs
  default:
    error (ERR INVALIDSTATEMENT, lookAhead-
>lineNo, look\(\bar{A}\)head->colNo);
    break;
```

Syntax diagram for statement





compileStatement function (using SD)

```
case KW BEGIN:.....
void compileStatement(void) {
                                                   break;
  switch (lookAhead->tokenType) {
                                                 case KW_IF:......
case TK IDENT:
                                                   break;
 eat(TK IDENT);
                                                 case KW WHILE:....
while (lookAhead->tokenType==SB LSEL)
                                                   break;
    {eat(SB LSEL);
                                                 case KW FOR:......
    compileExpression();
                                                   break;
    eat(SB RSEL); }
                                               // EmptySt needs to check FOLLOW tokens
  eat(SB ASSIGN);
                                                 case SB SEMICOLON:
  compileExpression();
                                                 case KW END:
 break;
                                                 case KW ELSE:
 case KW CALL:
                                                   break;
 eat(KW CALL);
                                                   // Error occurs
  eat(TK IDENT);
                                                 default:
if (lookAhead->tokenType== SB LPAR)
                                                   error (ERR INVALIDSTATEMENT, lookAhead->lineNo,
    eat(SB LPAR);
                                               lookAhead->coTNo);
    compileExpression();
                                                   break;
    while (lookAhead->tokenType== SB COMMA)
      {eat (SB COMMA);
      compileExpression();}
    eat(SB RPAR);
       Check FOLLOW set ...............
```