

# Parsing ...

Top-down parsing

- Regular languages
  - The weakest formal languages widely used
  - Many applications
- Lexical Analysis
- VLSI design → minimum DFA is useful
- Scene understanding – components, relationships.
  - Reconstructing a crime event.
- Etc

# But,

Consider the language:

$$\{(C^i)^i \mid i \geq 0\}$$

$\left[ \begin{array}{l} () \\ (( )) \\ ((( ))) \\ \vdots \end{array} \right]$

$((1+2) * 3)$   
if then  
if then  
if then

fi  
fi  
fi

**Palindromes, Etc.**

- Not all strings of tokens are programs . . .
- . . . parser must distinguish between valid and invalid strings of tokens
- We need
  - A language for describing valid strings of tokens
  - A method for distinguishing valid from invalid strings of tokens

- Programming languages have recursive structure
- An **EXPR** is
  - if EXPR then EXPR else EXPR fi
  - while EXPR loop EXPR pool
  - ...
- Context-free grammars are a natural notation for this recursive structure

## CFGs

Which of the strings are in the language of the given CFG?

☐ abcba

☐ acca

☐ aba

☐ abcbcbaba

$S \rightarrow aXa$

$X \rightarrow \varepsilon$

$\mid bY$

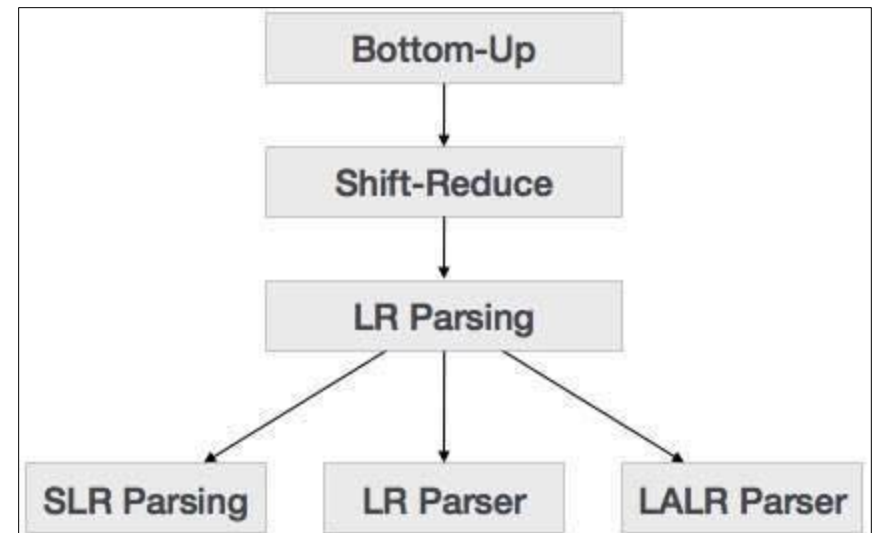
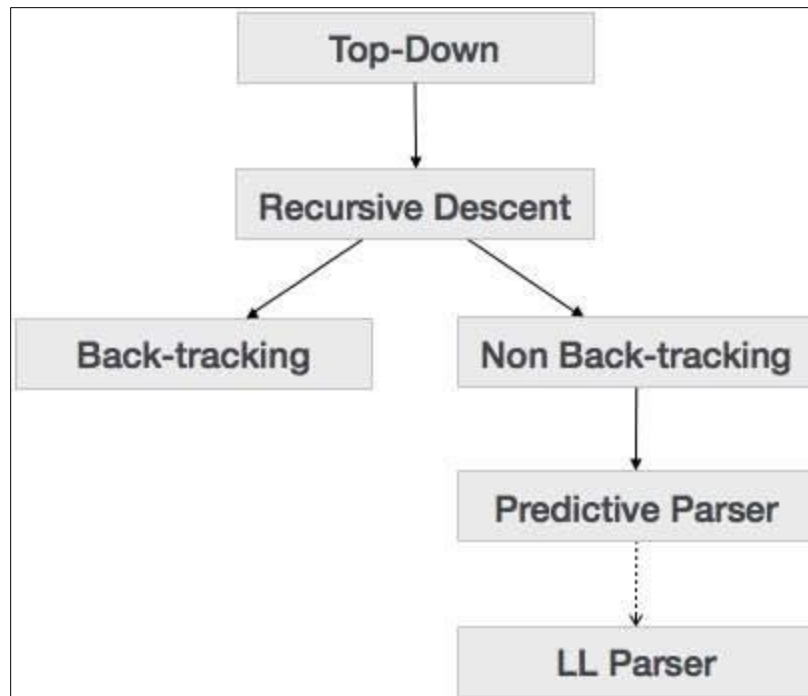
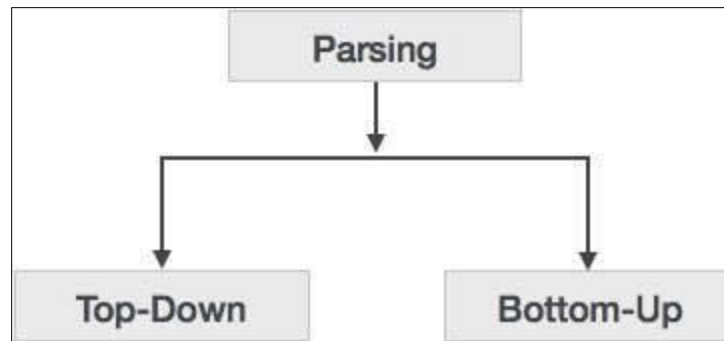
$Y \rightarrow \varepsilon$

$\mid cXc$

---

## Derivations

- We are not just interested in whether  $s \in L(G)$ 
  - We need a parse tree for  $s$
- A derivation defines a parse tree
  - But one parse tree may have many derivations
- Left-most and right-most derivations are important in parser implementation





# Top-Down Parsing

# Top-down Parsing

- Tree is built from root to leaves
- Depth first (preorder)
- Leftmost derivations are used
- General technique requires backtracking
- Recursive algorithms seems alright, but are quite expensive
  - So, we may look ahead in the input string for  $k$  characters, do some preprocessing like building some tables, etc (*and thus choose the right production to be used*) and thus may be the need for backtracking can be eliminated.

## 4.4.1 Recursive-Descent Parsing

Order A productions, and choose according to this order.

```
void A() {  
1)    Choose an A-production,  $A \rightarrow X_1X_2 \cdots X_k$ ;  
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 input symbol  $a$  )  
6)            advance the input to the next symbol;  
7)        else /* an error has occurred */;  
    }  
}
```

Break the loop and go for the next A production. You need to retract in reading the input string.

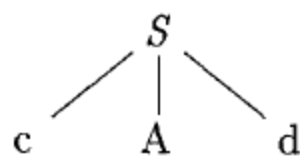
Figure 4.13: A typical procedure for a nonterminal in a top-down parser

For each variable we write a function like this.  
First we call  $S()$ ; /\*  $S$  is the start symbol \*/

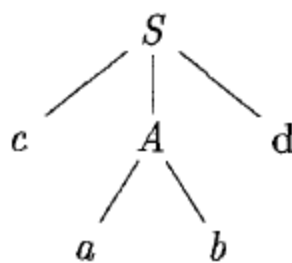
**Example 4.29:** Consider the grammar

$$\begin{array}{lcl} S & \rightarrow & c A d \\ A & \rightarrow & a b \mid a \end{array}$$

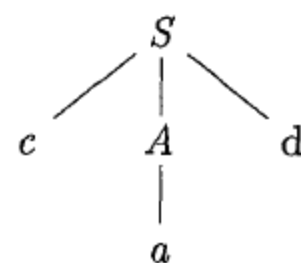
$$w = cad$$



(a)



(b)



(c)

Figure 4.14: Steps in a top-down parse

$E \rightarrow T \mid T + E$

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

E  
|  
T  
|  
int

*Mismatch: int does not match (  
Backtrack ...*

( int<sub>5</sub> )  
↑

$E \rightarrow T \mid T + E$

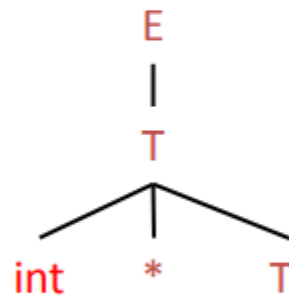
$T \rightarrow \text{int} \mid \text{int} * T \mid ( E )$

E  
|  
T

( int<sub>5</sub> )  
↑

$E \rightarrow T \mid T + E$

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



*Mismatch: int does not match (  
Backtrack ...*

( int<sub>5</sub> )  
↑

$E \rightarrow T \mid T + E$

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

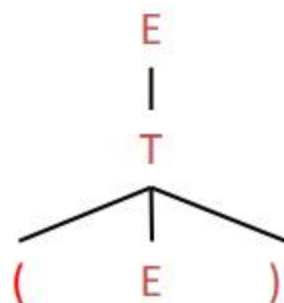
E  
|  
T

( int<sub>5</sub> )  
↑



$E \rightarrow T \mid T + E$

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

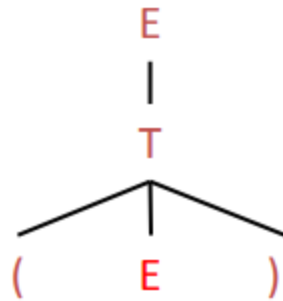


*Match! Advance input.*

( int<sub>5</sub> )  
↑

$E \rightarrow T \mid T + E$

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



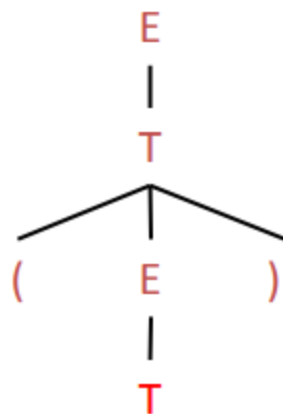
$( \text{int}_5 )$



$E \rightarrow T \mid T + E$

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

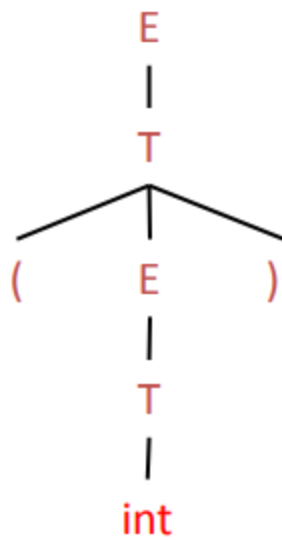
( int<sub>5</sub> )  
↑



$E \rightarrow T \mid T + E$

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

( int<sub>5</sub> )  
↑

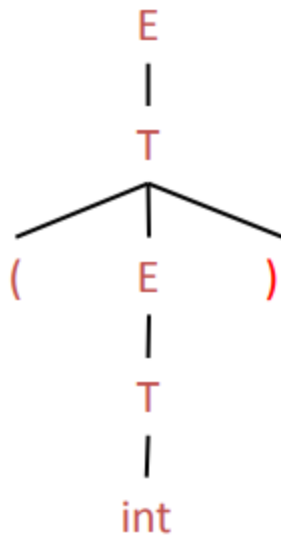


*Match! Advance input.*

$E \rightarrow T \mid T + E$

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

( int<sub>5</sub> )  
↑

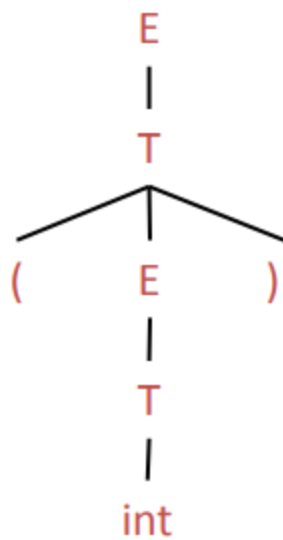


*Match! Advance input.*

$E \rightarrow T \mid T + E$

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

( int<sub>5</sub> )  
↑



*End of input, accept.*

# Predictive Parsing

- We want to predict the correct production to be used (at a given stage of parsing).
- We do not want backtracking.
- These are called LL(1)
- A **parse table** is built which gives us the production to be used (in a given stage of parsing).

## Parse table

---

The parse table tells a top-down parser which productions might possibly be applicable to the current input token.

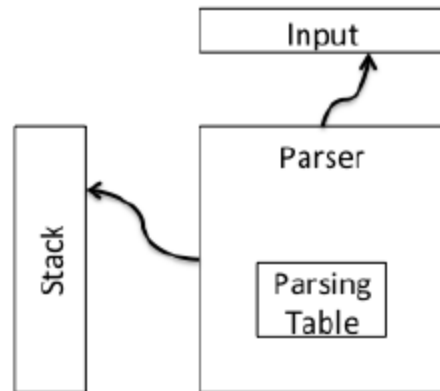
So if we are doing top-down parsing, possibly with backtracking, the parse table limits the search — we only try productions that can actually lead (eventually) to production of the current input symbol.

In the best case — with predictive parsing — the parse table is deterministic, eliminating the need for backtracking.

So, if  $A$  is the current leftmost variable, then the parse table tells us which  $A$ -productions can be used to produce the current input token. (Or, if  $A$  is nullable, whether it would be a good idea to derive  $\epsilon$  from  $A$ .)



# LL(1) Parsing Algorithm



Initial configuration: Stack =  $S$ , Input =  $w\$$ ,  
where,  $S$  = start symbol,  $\$$  = end of file marker  
repeat {  
    let  $X$  be the top stack symbol;  
    let  $a$  be the next input symbol /\*may be  $\$$ \*/;  
    if  $X$  is a terminal symbol or  $\$$  then  
        if  $X == a$  then {  
            pop  $X$  from Stack;  
            remove  $a$  from input;  
        } else ERROR();  
    else /\*  $X$  is a non-terminal symbol \*/  
        if  $M[X, a] == X \rightarrow Y_1 Y_2 \dots Y_k$  then {  
            pop  $X$  from Stack;  
            push  $Y_k, Y_{k-1}, \dots, Y_1$  onto Stack;  
            ( $Y_1$  on top)  
        }  
} until Stack has emptied;

## FIRST( $\alpha$ )

---

In order to conveniently specify the parse table for a grammar, we define two auxiliary functions: **FIRST** and **FOLLOW**.

For every string  $\alpha$  over  $V \cup \Sigma$ , **FIRST**( $\alpha$ ) is the set consisting of

- all terminals  $a$  s.t.

$$\alpha \xRightarrow{*} a\beta$$

for some string  $\beta$  over  $V \cup \Sigma$ , along with

- $\epsilon$ , if

$$\alpha \xRightarrow{*} \epsilon.$$

Remember this. There is a scope for confusion here.

$\epsilon$  is in **FIRST**( $\alpha$ ), if  $\alpha \xRightarrow{*} \epsilon$ .  
That is, Entire sentential form  $\alpha$  can vanish

### Example

$$S \rightarrow XSa \mid Yc$$

$$X \rightarrow aY \mid YY$$

$$Y \rightarrow bSa \mid cX \mid \epsilon$$

$$\text{FIRST}(S) = \{a, b, c\}$$

$$\text{FIRST}(X) = \{a, b, c, \epsilon\} \text{ so } \text{FIRST}(XSa) = \{a, b, c\}$$

$$\text{FIRST}(Y) = \{b, c, \epsilon\} \text{ so } \text{FIRST}(Yc) = \{b, c\}$$

$$\text{FIRST}(a) = \{a\} = \text{FIRST}(aY) \qquad \text{FIRST}(cX) = \{c\}$$

$$\text{FIRST}(YY) = \{b, c, \epsilon\} \qquad \text{FIRST}(\epsilon) = \{\epsilon\}$$

$$\text{FIRST}(bSa) = \{b\}$$

- Find nullable variables first. It helps a lot.

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

1. If  $X$  is a terminal, then  $\text{FIRST}(X) = \{X\}$ .
2. If  $X$  is a nonterminal and  $X \rightarrow Y_1 Y_2 \cdots Y_k$  is a production for some  $k \geq 1$ , then place  $a$  in  $\text{FIRST}(X)$  if for some  $i$ ,  $a$  is in  $\text{FIRST}(Y_i)$ , and  $\epsilon$  is in all of  $\text{FIRST}(Y_1), \dots, \text{FIRST}(Y_{i-1})$ ; that is,  $Y_1 \cdots Y_{i-1} \xRightarrow{*} \epsilon$ . If  $\epsilon$  is in  $\text{FIRST}(Y_j)$  for all  $j = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , then add  $\epsilon$  to  $\text{FIRST}(X)$ . For example, everything in  $\text{FIRST}(Y_1)$  is surely in  $\text{FIRST}(X)$ . 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 production, then add  $\epsilon$  to  $\text{FIRST}(X)$ .

Now, we can compute  $\text{FIRST}$  for any string  $X_1 X_2 \cdots X_n$  as follows. Add to  $\text{FIRST}(X_1 X_2 \cdots X_n)$  all non- $\epsilon$  symbols of  $\text{FIRST}(X_1)$ . Also add the non- $\epsilon$  symbols of  $\text{FIRST}(X_2)$ , if  $\epsilon$  is in  $\text{FIRST}(X_1)$ ; the non- $\epsilon$  symbols of  $\text{FIRST}(X_3)$ , if  $\epsilon$  is in  $\text{FIRST}(X_1)$  and  $\text{FIRST}(X_2)$ ; and so on. Finally, add  $\epsilon$  to  $\text{FIRST}(X_1 X_2 \cdots X_n)$  if, for all  $i$ ,  $\epsilon$  is in  $\text{FIRST}(X_i)$ .

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 E & \rightarrow T E' \\
 E' & \rightarrow + T E' \mid \epsilon \\
 T & \rightarrow F T' \\
 T' & \rightarrow * F T' \mid \epsilon \\
 F & \rightarrow ( E ) \mid \text{id}
 \end{array}
 \quad (4.28)$$

| Variable | FIRST  |
|----------|--|
| F        | { (, id }  |
| T        | FIRST(FT') = FIRST(F) = { (, id }<br>/* F is not nullable */ |
| E        | FIRST(TE') = FIRST(T) = { (, id }<br>/* T is not nullable */ |
| E'       | { +, ε }   |
| T'       | { *, ε }   |

## FOLLOW( $X$ )

---

For every variable  $A$ , FOLLOW( $A$ ) is the set consisting of

- all terminals  $a$  s.t.

$$S \xRightarrow{*} \alpha A a \beta$$

for some strings  $\alpha, \beta$  over  $V \cup \Sigma$ , along with

- \$, if

$$S \xRightarrow{*} \alpha A$$

for some string  $\alpha$  over  $V \cup \Sigma$ .

(Note: Here we have assumed that  $S$  is the start symbol!)

So, \$ is in FOLLOW( $S$ ) always.

In practice, we act as if the input string is always terminated with the special token \$. (This helps explain the fact that we include \$ in FOLLOW( $A$ ) iff  $A$  appears at the end of some sentential form.) Therefore, ...

### Example

$$S \rightarrow XSa \mid Yc$$

$$X \rightarrow aY \mid YY$$

$$Y \rightarrow bSa \mid cX \mid \epsilon$$

$a \in \text{FOLLOW}(S)$  since  $S \xRightarrow{*} XSa$   $c \notin \text{FOLLOW}(S)$

$b \notin \text{FOLLOW}(S)$   $\$ \in \text{FOLLOW}(S)$  since  $S \xRightarrow{*} S$

$a, b, c \in \text{FOLLOW}(X)$

since  $S \xRightarrow{*} XXSaa$  and  $\text{FIRST}(X) = \{a, b, c, \epsilon\}$

$\$ \notin \text{FOLLOW}(X)$

since every sentential form (except  $S$ ) ends with  $a$  or  $c$


$a, b, c \in \text{FOLLOW}(Y)$

since  $S \xRightarrow{*} aYXSaa$  and  $\text{FIRST}(X) = \{a, b, c, \epsilon\}$

$\$ \notin \text{FOLLOW}(Y)$

To compute  $\text{FOLLOW}(A)$  for all nonterminals  $A$ , apply the following rules until nothing can be added to any FOLLOW set.

1. Place  $\$$  in  $\text{FOLLOW}(S)$ , where  $S$  is the start symbol, and  $\$$  is the input right endmarker.
2. If there is a production  $A \rightarrow \alpha B \beta$ , then everything in  $\text{FIRST}(\beta)$  except  $\epsilon$  is in  $\text{FOLLOW}(B)$ .
3. If there is a production  $A \rightarrow \alpha B$ , or a production  $A \rightarrow \alpha B \beta$ , where  $\beta \xRightarrow{*} \epsilon$ , then everything in  $\text{FOLLOW}(A)$  is in  $\text{FOLLOW}(B)$ .



We can also say this, as:  $\text{FIRST}(\beta)$  contains  $\epsilon$

**Note,**  $\$$  is never in FIRST of anything.  $\epsilon$  is never in FOLLOW of anything.  $\text{FOLLOW}(S)$  always contains  $\$$ .  
FIRST of something may contain  $\epsilon$ , or may not contain.



$$\begin{array}{lll}
E & \rightarrow & T E' \\
E' & \rightarrow & + T E' \mid \epsilon \\
T & \rightarrow & F T' \\
T' & \rightarrow & * F T' \mid \epsilon \\
F & \rightarrow & ( E ) \mid \mathbf{id}
\end{array} \tag{4.28}$$

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

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

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

## Specification of parse table

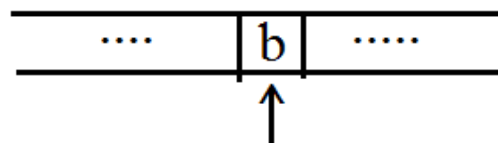
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For leftmost variable  $A$  and current input token  $b$ , the *applicable productions* are

- all productions  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  s.t.  $b \in \text{FIRST}(\alpha)$ , and
- all productions  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  s.t.  $\epsilon \in \text{FIRST}(\alpha)$  and  $b \in \text{FOLLOW}(A)$ .

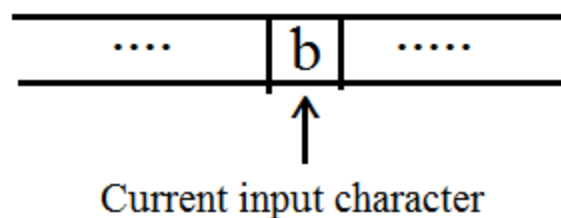
For leftmost variable  $A$  and current input token  $\$,$  the *applicable productions* are

- all productions  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  s.t.  $\epsilon \in \text{FIRST}(\alpha)$  and  $\$ \in \text{FOLLOW}(A)$ .



Current input character

$\epsilon$  is in  $\text{FIRST}(\alpha)$ , if  $\alpha \xRightarrow{*} \epsilon$ .  
That is, Entire sentential form  $\alpha$  can vanish



### More concise characterization of the applicable productions

---

For leftmost variable  $A$  and current input token  $b \in \Sigma \cup \{\$\}$ ,  
the applicable productions are

- all productions  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  s.t.  $b \in \text{FIRST}(\alpha)$ , and
- all productions  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  s.t.  $\epsilon \in \text{FIRST}(\alpha)$  and  $b \in \text{FOLLOW}(A)$ .

Let's construct the parse table for the grammar we've been looking at.

$$S \rightarrow XSa \mid Yc$$

$$X \rightarrow aY \mid YY$$

$$Y \rightarrow bSa \mid cX \mid \epsilon$$

$$\text{FIRST}(XSa) = \{a, b, c\}$$

$$\text{FOLLOW}(S) = \{a, \$\}$$

$$\text{FIRST}(Yc) = \{b, c\}$$

$$\text{FOLLOW}(X) = \{a, b, c\}$$

$$\text{FIRST}(YY) = \{b, c, \epsilon\}$$

$$\text{FOLLOW}(Y) = \{a, b, c\}$$

| LEFTMOST<br>VARIABLE | CURRENT INPUT TOKEN        |                                   |                                  |      |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------|
|                      | $a$                        | $b$                               | $c$                              | $\$$ |
| $S$                  | $S \rightarrow XSa$        | $S \rightarrow XSa \mid Yc$       | $S \rightarrow XSa \mid Yc$      | none |
| $X$                  | $X \rightarrow aY \mid YY$ | $X \rightarrow YY$                | $X \rightarrow YY$               | none |
| $Y$                  | $Y \rightarrow \epsilon$   | $Y \rightarrow bSa \mid \epsilon$ | $Y \rightarrow cX \mid \epsilon$ | none |

| LEFTMOST<br>VARIABLE | CURRENT INPUT TOKEN        |                                   |                                  |      |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------|
|                      | $a$                        | $b$                               | $c$                              | $\$$ |
| $S$                  | $S \rightarrow XSa$        | $S \rightarrow XSa \mid Yc$       | $S \rightarrow XSa \mid Yc$      | none |
| $X$                  | $X \rightarrow aY \mid YY$ | $X \rightarrow YY$                | $X \rightarrow YY$               | none |
| $Y$                  | $Y \rightarrow \epsilon$   | $Y \rightarrow bSa \mid \epsilon$ | $Y \rightarrow cX \mid \epsilon$ | none |

Input string:  $aca$

*Note: There is no need to add  $S' \rightarrow S\$$  always. If we add this then an entry in the parse table with  $S'$  should exist!*

| STACK    | CURRENT INPUT | PRODUCTION TO APPLY                                      |
|----------|---------------|--|
| $S\$$    | $aca\$$       | $S \rightarrow XSa$                                      |
| $XSa\$$  | $aca\$$       | $X \rightarrow aY$ (backtrack $X \rightarrow YY$ )       |
| $aYSa\$$ | $aca\$$       | match $a$  |
| $YSa\$$  | $ca\$$        | $Y \rightarrow \epsilon$ (backtrack $Y \rightarrow cX$ ) |
| $Sa\$$   | $ca\$$        | $S \rightarrow Yc$ (backtrack $S \rightarrow XSa$ )      |
| $Yca\$$  | $ca\$$        | $Y \rightarrow \epsilon$ (backtrack $Y \rightarrow cX$ ) |
| $ca\$$   | $ca\$$        | match $c$  |
| $a\$$    | $a\$$         | match $a$  |
| $\$$     | $\$$          | successful parse   |

## LL(1) grammars, for predictive parsing

A grammar  $G$  is LL(1) if and only if whenever  $A \rightarrow \alpha \mid \beta$  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  $\text{FOLLOW}(A)$ .

**Definition** A grammar is LL(1) if there is at most one production in the parsing table for each variable, token pair.

LL(1) grammars are without left recursion and are left factored.

It is a good practice to eliminate left recursion, and doing left factoring, before building the parse table.

# Left Recursion and its elimination

- A grammar is left recursive, if for a variable  $A$ , there is a derivation  $A \xRightarrow{+} A\alpha$
- Top-down parsing can fall into infinite loop because of this
  - Hence these type of derivation should not be allowed.


# Immediate left-recursion

$$A \rightarrow A\alpha_1 \mid A\alpha_2 \mid \cdots \mid A\alpha_m \mid \beta_1 \mid \beta_2 \mid \cdots \mid \beta_n$$

Replace these by the following

$$\begin{aligned} A &\rightarrow \beta_1 A' \mid \beta_2 A' \mid \cdots \mid \beta_n A' \\ A' &\rightarrow \alpha_1 A' \mid \alpha_2 A' \mid \cdots \mid \alpha_m A' \mid \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

Can be replaced by

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"><math display="block">\begin{aligned} E &amp;\rightarrow E + T \mid E - T \mid T \\ T &amp;\rightarrow T * F \mid T / F \mid F \\ F &amp;\rightarrow (E) \mid \text{id} \end{aligned}</math></div> |  | $\begin{aligned} E &\rightarrow TE' \\ E' &\rightarrow +TE' \mid -TE' \mid \epsilon \\ T &\rightarrow FT' \\ T' &\rightarrow *FT' \mid /FT' \mid \epsilon \\ F &\rightarrow (E) \mid \text{id} \end{aligned}$ |
|--|--|---|



# But, several productions can lead to left-recursion

- $A_1 \rightarrow A_2\alpha; A_2 \rightarrow A_3\beta; A_3 \rightarrow A_1\gamma$
- Can give rise to  $A_1 \Rightarrow A_1\gamma\beta\alpha$
- This happened because of the third production  $A_3 \rightarrow A_1\gamma$
- If we order variables  $A_1, A_2, \dots$ ,
- A production  $A_i \rightarrow A_j\gamma$  where  $j \leq i$  is problematic. So clean-up these!

**Algorithm 4.19:** Eliminating left recursion.

**INPUT:** Grammar  $G$  with no cycles or  $\epsilon$ -productions.

**OUTPUT:** An equivalent grammar with no left recursion.

**METHOD:** Apply the algorithm in Fig. 4.11 to  $G$ . Note that the resulting non-left-recursive grammar may have  $\epsilon$ -productions.  $\square$

Cyclic, if  $A \xRightarrow{+} A$

Remove unit productions it removes this too 😊

- 1) arrange the nonterminals in some order  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$ .
- 2) **for** ( each  $i$  from 1 to  $n$  ) {
- 3)     **for** ( each  $j$  from 1 to  $i - 1$  ) {
- 4)         replace each production of the form  $A_i \rightarrow A_j \gamma$  by the  
              productions  $A_i \rightarrow \delta_1 \gamma \mid \delta_2 \gamma \mid \dots \mid \delta_k \gamma$ , where  
               $A_j \rightarrow \delta_1 \mid \delta_2 \mid \dots \mid \delta_k$  are all current  $A_j$ -productions
- 5)     }
- 6)     eliminate the immediate left recursion among the  $A_i$ -productions
- 7) }

Figure 4.11: Algorithm to eliminate left recursion from a grammar

$$\begin{array}{l} A \rightarrow BA \\ B \rightarrow \epsilon \end{array}$$

Can cause left recursion.



Consider the grammar

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow SX \mid SSb \mid XS \mid a \\ X &\rightarrow Xb \mid Sa \mid b \end{aligned}$$

Let's order the variables  $S, X$ :

The first time through we simply eliminate immediate left recursion in  $S$ -productions, yielding

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow XSS' \mid aS' \\ S' &\rightarrow XS' \mid SbS' \mid \epsilon \\ X &\rightarrow Xb \mid Sa \mid b \end{aligned}$$

So at this point we have grammar

$$\begin{aligned}S &\rightarrow XSS' \mid aS' \\S' &\rightarrow XS' \mid SbS' \mid \epsilon \\X &\rightarrow Xb \mid Sa \mid b\end{aligned}$$

and the next obligation is to replace the production

$$X \rightarrow Sa$$

with the productions

$$X \rightarrow XSS'a \mid aS'a.$$

We then eliminate immediate left recursion among

$$X \rightarrow XSS'a \mid aS'a \mid Xb \mid b.$$

Eliminating immediate left recursion among

$$X \rightarrow XSS'a \mid Xb \mid b \mid aS'a$$

yields

$$\begin{aligned} X &\rightarrow bX' \mid aS'aX' \\ X' &\rightarrow SS'aX' \mid bX' \mid \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

So the final result is

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow XSS' \mid aS' \\ S' &\rightarrow XS' \mid SbS' \mid \epsilon \\ X &\rightarrow bX' \mid aS'aX' \\ X' &\rightarrow SS'aX' \mid bX' \mid \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

# Left Factoring

- ▶ Left factoring is required when two or more grammar rule choices share a common prefix string, as in the rule

$$A \rightarrow \alpha \beta \mid \alpha \gamma$$

- Which one to use when we want to replace A?
- If wrong choice is made we need to backtrack.
- So, let us postpone the choice making moment.

– replace all of the  $A$ -productions  $A \rightarrow \alpha\beta_1 \mid \alpha\beta_2 \mid \cdots \mid \alpha\beta_n \mid \gamma$ , where  $\gamma$  represents all alternatives that do not begin with  $\alpha$ , by

$$\begin{aligned} A &\rightarrow \alpha A' \mid \gamma \\ A' &\rightarrow \beta_1 \mid \beta_2 \mid \cdots \mid \beta_n \end{aligned}$$

Here  $A'$  is a new nonterminal. Repeatedly apply this transformation until no two alternatives for a nonterminal have a common prefix.

**Example 4.22:** The following grammar abstracts the “dangling-else” problem:

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow i E t S \mid i E t S e S \mid a \\ E &\rightarrow b \end{aligned} \tag{4.23}$$

Here,  $i$ ,  $t$ , and  $e$  stand for **if**, **then**, and **else**;  $E$  and  $S$  stand for “conditional expression” and “statement.” Left-factored, this grammar becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow i E t S S' \mid a \\ S' &\rightarrow e S \mid \epsilon \\ E &\rightarrow b \end{aligned} \tag{4.24}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
S &\rightarrow AaS \mid b \\
A &\rightarrow c \mid d \mid B \\
B &\rightarrow AgC \mid AhC \mid DgC \mid DhC \\
C &\rightarrow c \mid d \mid D \\
D &\rightarrow eBf
\end{aligned}$$

Is this grammar left-recursive?

Let's eliminate left recursion, with variable ordering  $S, A, B, C, D$ .

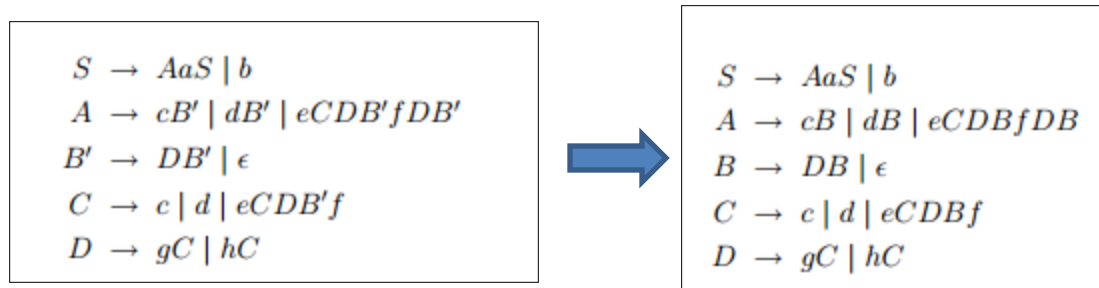
1. There's no immediate left recursion among  $S$ -productions.
- 2a. There are no productions from  $A$  whose rhs begins with  $S$ .
- 2b. There's no immediate left recursion among  $A$ -productions.
- 3a. There are no productions from  $B$  whose rhs begins with  $S$ .
- 3b. There are two productions from  $B$  whose rhs begins with  $A$ .

We replace

$$B \rightarrow AgC \mid AhC$$

with what?

After eliminating left recursion and after doing left factoring ...



$$\text{FIRST}(AaS) = \{c, d, e\}$$

$$\text{FIRST}(DB) = \{g, h\}$$

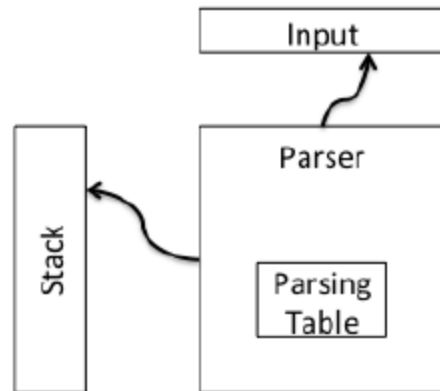
$$\text{FIRST}(\epsilon) = \{\epsilon\}$$

$$\text{FOLLOW}(B) = \{a, f\}$$

| VAR | CURRENT INPUT TOKEN |   |     |     |         |   |    |    |    |
|-----|---------------------|---|-----|-----|---------|---|----|----|----|
|     | a                   | b | c   | d   | e       | f | g  | h  | \$ |
| S   |                     | b | AaS | AaS | AaS     |   |    |    |    |
| A   |                     |   | cB  | dB  | eCDBfDB |   |    |    |    |
| B   | ε                   |   |     |     |         | ε | DB | DB |    |
| C   |                     |   | c   | d   | eCDBf   |   |    |    |    |
| D   |                     |   |     |     |         |   | gC | hC |    |

So, the grammar is LL(1)

# LL(1) Parsing Algorithm



Initial configuration: Stack =  $S$ , Input =  $w\$$ ,  
where,  $S$  = start symbol,  $\$$  = end of file marker  
repeat {  
    let  $X$  be the top stack symbol;  
    let  $a$  be the next input symbol /\*may be  $\$$ \*/;  
    if  $X$  is a terminal symbol or  $\$$  then  
        if  $X == a$  then {  
            pop  $X$  from Stack;  
            remove  $a$  from input;  
        } else ERROR();  
    else /\*  $X$  is a non-terminal symbol \*/  
        if  $M[X, a] == X \rightarrow Y_1 Y_2 \dots Y_k$  then {  
            pop  $X$  from Stack;  
            push  $Y_k, Y_{k-1}, \dots, Y_1$  onto Stack;  
            ( $Y_1$  on top)  
        }  
} until Stack has emptied;

## LL(1) Parsing Algorithm Example

## Grammar

$$S' \rightarrow S\$$$
$$S \rightarrow aAS \mid c$$
$$A \rightarrow ba \mid SB$$
$$B \rightarrow bA \mid S$$

string: *acbbac*

### LL(1) Parsing Table

|    | a                    | b                  | c                    | \$ |
|----|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----|
| S' | $S' \rightarrow S\$$ |                    | $S' \rightarrow S\$$ |    |
| S  | $S \rightarrow aAS$  |                    | $S \rightarrow c$    |    |
| A  | $A \rightarrow SB$   | $A \rightarrow ba$ | $A \rightarrow SB$   |    |
| B  | $B \rightarrow S$    | $B \rightarrow bA$ | $B \rightarrow S$    |    |

