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LL(1) Grammars

Predictive parsers, that is, recursive-descent parsers needing no backtracking, can be constructed for a class of grammars called $\mathrm{LL}(1)$. The first "L" in $\mathrm{LL}(1)$ stands for scanning the input from left to right, the second "L" for producing a leftmost derivation, and the "1" for using one input symbol of lookahead at each step to make parsing action decisions.

The class of $\mathrm{LL}(1)$ grammars is rich enough to cover most programming constructs, although care is needed in writing a suitable grammar for the source language. For example, no left-recursive or ambiguous grammar can be $\mathrm{LL}(1)$.

شرط لازم و کافی برای
$$\mathrm{LL}(1)$$
 بودن یک گرامر

A grammar G is $\mathrm{LL}(1)$ if and only if whenever $A \to \alpha | \beta$ are two distinct productions of G, the following conditions hold:

- 1. For no terminal a do both α and β derive strings beginning with a.
- **2.** At most one of α and β can derive the empty string.
- 3. If $\beta \Rightarrow^* \varepsilon$, then α does not derive any string beginning with a terminal in $\mathrm{FOLLOW}(A)$. Likewise, if $\alpha \Rightarrow^* \varepsilon$, then β does not derive any string beginning with a terminal in $\mathrm{FOLLOW}(A)$.

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

Predictive parsers can be constructed for $\mathrm{LL}(1)$ grammars since the proper production to apply for a nonterminal can be selected by looking only at the current input symbol. Flow-of-control constructs, with their distinguishing keywords, generally satisfy the $\mathrm{LL}(1)$ constraints. For instance, if we have the productions

$$stmt \rightarrow \mathbf{if} (expr) stmt \mathbf{else} stmt$$
 $| \mathbf{while} (expr) stmt$
 $| \{ stmt_list \}$

then the keywords if, while, and the symbol $\{$ tell us which alternative is the only one that could possibly succeed if we are to find a statement.

Predictive Parsing Table

The next algorithm collects the information from FIRST and FOLLOW sets into a predictive parsing table M[A,a], a two-dimensional array, where A is a nonterminal, and a is a terminal or the symbol \$, the input endmarker.

- The algorithm is based on the following idea: the production $A \to \alpha$ is chosen if the next input symbol a is in $FIRST(\alpha)$.
- The only complication occurs when $\alpha = \varepsilon$ or, more generally, $\alpha \Rightarrow^* \varepsilon$. In this case, we should again choose $A \to \alpha$, if the current input symbol is in $\mathrm{FOLLOW}(A)$, or if the \$ on the input has been reached and \$ is in $\mathrm{FOLLOW}(A)$.

پروسهٔ ساخت جدول تجزیهٔ پیشبین

Algorithm 4.31: Construction of a predictive parsing table.

INPUT: Grammar G.

OUTPUT: Parsing table M.

METHOD: For each production $A \to \alpha$ of the grammar, do the following:

- 1. For each terminal a in FIRST(α), add $A \to \alpha$ to M[A, a].
- 2. If ϵ is in FIRST(α), then for each terminal b in FOLLOW(A), add $A \to \alpha$ to M[A,b]. If ϵ is in FIRST(α) and \$\$ is in FOLLOW(A), add $A \to \alpha$ 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** (which we normally represent by an empty entry in the table). \square

Example 4.32:

NON -	INPUT SYMBOL					
TERMINAL	id	+	*	()	\$
E	$E \to TE'$			$E \to TE'$		
E'		$E' \rightarrow +TE'$			$E' \to \epsilon$	$E' \to \epsilon$
T	$T \to FT'$			$T \to FT'$		
T'		$T' \to \epsilon$	$T' \to *FT'$		$T' \to \epsilon$	$T' \to \epsilon$
F	$F o \mathbf{id}$			$F \to (E)$		

Consider production $E \to TE'$. Since

$$FIRST(TE') = FIRST(T) = \{(, id)\}$$

this production is added to M[E,(]] and $M[E,\mathbf{id}]$. Production $E' \to +TE'$ is added to M[E',+] since FIRST $(+TE') = \{+\}$. Since FOLLOW $(E') = \{\}$, production $E' \to \epsilon$ is added to M[E',] and M[E',\$]. \square

جدول برای گرامرهای $\mathrm{LL}(1)$ واجد این ویژگیست که درایهها تنها یک عضو دارند

Algorithm 4.31 can be applied to any grammar G to produce a parsing table M. For every $\mathrm{LL}(1)$ grammar, each parsingtable entry uniquely identifies a production or signals an error. For some grammars, however, M may have some entries that are multiply defined. For example, if G is left-recursive or ambiguous, then M will have at least one multiply defined entry. Although left-recursion elimination and left factoring are easy to do, there are some grammars for which no amount of alteration will produce an $\mathrm{LL}(1)$ grammar.

Example 4.33: The grammar is ambiguous, and the corresponding language has no $\mathrm{LL}(1)$ grammar at all.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S & \rightarrow & iEtSS' \mid a \\ S' & \rightarrow & eS \mid \epsilon \\ E & \rightarrow & b \end{array}$$

Non -	INPUT SYMBOL					
TERMINAL	a	b	e	i	t	\$
S	$S \to a$			$S \rightarrow iEtSS'$		
S'			$S' \to \epsilon \\ S' \to eS$			$S' \to \epsilon$
E		$E \rightarrow b$				

یک گرامر که $\mathrm{LL}(1)$ نیست

EXAMPLE [A Grammar Which is Not an LL(1) Grammar] Let us consider the grammar G whose axiom is S and whose productions are:

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} S \rightarrow \varepsilon & | & a \, b \, A \\ A \rightarrow S \, a \, a & | & b \end{array}$$

We have that:

$$First_1(\varepsilon) = \{\varepsilon\} \qquad First_1(a b A) = \{a\} \qquad First_1(S) = \{\varepsilon, a\}$$

$$First_1(S a a) = \{a\} \qquad First_1(b) = \{b\}$$

$$Follow_1(S) = \{\$, a\} \qquad Follow_1(A) = \{\$, a\}$$

The parsing table is:

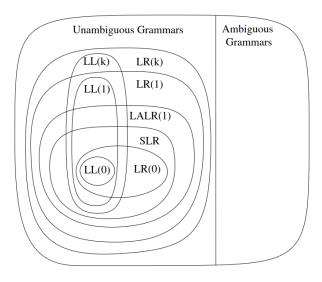
	a	b	\$
S	$S \to a bA$ $S \to \varepsilon$		$S o \varepsilon$
A	$A \to S a a$	$A \rightarrow b$	$A \to S a a$

The given grammar is $not\ LL(1)$ because in this parsing table for the symbol S on the top of the stack and the input symbol a, there are two productions.

چند نکتهٔ درخور توجه

- An ambiguous grammar will always lead to duplicate entries in a predictive parsing table.
- $lue{}$ Grammars whose predictive parsing tables contain no duplicate entries are called LL(1). This stands for left-to-right parse, leftmost-derivation, 1-symbol lookahead.
- We can generalize the notion of FIRST sets to describe the first k tokens of a string, and to make an $\mathrm{LL}(k)$ parsing table whose rows are the nonterminals and columns are every sequence of k terminals. This is rarely done (because the tables are so large), but sometimes when you write a recursive-descent parser by hand you need to look more than one token ahead. Grammars parsable with $\mathrm{LL}(2)$ parsing tables are called $\mathrm{LL}(2)$ grammars, and similarly for $\mathrm{LL}(3)$, etc. Every $\mathrm{LL}(1)$ grammar is an $\mathrm{LL}(2)$ grammar, and so on. No ambiguous grammar is $\mathrm{LL}(k)$ for any k.

A hierarchy of grammar classes



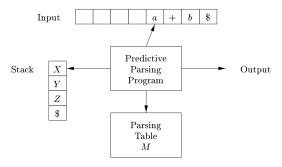
Nonrecursive Predictive Parsing

A nonrecursive predictive parser can be built by maintaining a stack explicitly, rather than implicitly via recursive calls. The parser mimics a leftmost derivation. If w is the input that has been matched so far, then the stack holds a sequence of grammar symbols α such that

$$S \Rightarrow_{lm}^* w\alpha$$

The table-driven parser has an input buffer, a stack containing a sequence of grammar symbols, a parsing table constructed by Algorithm 4.31, and an output stream. The input buffer contains the string to be parsed, followed by the endmarker \$. We reuse the symbol \$ 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 input symbol. If X is a nonterminal, the parser chooses an X-production by consulting entry M[X,a] of the parsing table M. (Additional code could be executed here, for example, code to construct a node in a parse tree.) Otherwise, it checks for a match between the terminal X and current input symbol a.



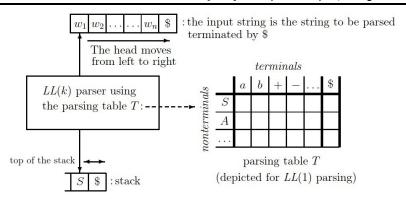


FIGURE A deterministic pushdown automaton for LL(k) parsing, with $k \geq 1$. The string to be parsed is $w_1w_2\dots w_n$. Initially, the stack has two symbols only: (i) S on top of the stack, and (ii) \$ at the bottom of the stack. The input string is the string to be parsed with the extra rightmost symbol \$. We have depicted the parsing table T for the LL(1) parsers. For the LL(k) parsers, with k>1, different tables should be used.

Table-driven predictive parser

Algorithm 4.34: Table-driven predictive parsing.

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 **METHOD:** Initially, the parser is in a configuration with w\$ in the input buffer and the start symbol S of G on top of the stack, above \$. The program in Fig. 4.20 uses the predictive parsing table M to produce a predictive parse for the input. \square

```
 \begin{array}{l} \textbf{let } a \text{ be the first symbol of } w; \\ \textbf{let } X \text{ be the top stack symbol;} \\ \textbf{while } (X \neq \$) \ \{\ / * \text{ stack is not empty */} \\ \textbf{if } (X = a) \text{ pop the stack and let } a \text{ be the next symbol of } w; \\ \textbf{else if } (X \text{ is a terminal }) \ error(); \\ \textbf{else if } (M[X,a] \text{ is an error entry }) \ error(); \\ \textbf{else if } (M[X,a] = X \rightarrow Y_1Y_2 \cdots Y_k) \ \{ \\ \text{output the production } X \rightarrow Y_1Y_2 \cdots Y_k; \\ \text{pop the stack;} \\ \text{push } Y_k, Y_{k-1}, \ldots, Y_1 \text{ onto the stack, with } Y_1 \text{ on top;} \\ \} \\ \textbf{let } X \text{ be the top stack symbol;} \\ \} \\ \end{aligned}
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Chop move and expand move

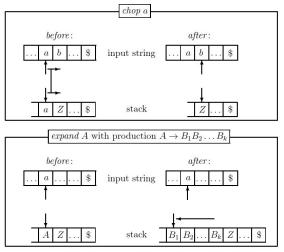
chop move:

if the input head is pointing at a terminal symbol, say a, and the same symbol a is at the top of the stack, then the input head is moved one cell to the right and the stack is popped;

expand move:

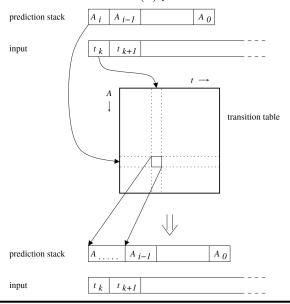
if the input head is pointing at a terminal symbol, say a, and the top of the stack is a nonterminal symbol, say A, then the stack is popped and a new string $\alpha_1\alpha_2\ldots\alpha_n$, with $\alpha_i\in V_T\cup V_N$, for $i=1,\ldots,n$, is pushed onto the stack if the production $A\to\alpha_1\alpha_2\ldots\alpha_n$ is at the entry (A,a) of the parsing table T (thus, after this move the new top symbol of the stack will be α_1).

Chop move and expand move



The chop move and the expand move of an LL(1) parser. a and b are symbols in V_T and Z is a symbol in $V_T \cup V_N \cup \{\$\}$.

Prediction move in an LL(1) push-down automaton



Match move in an LL(1) push-down automaton

prediction stack

$$t_k \mid A_{i-1} \mid A_0$$

input



prediction stack

$$A_{i-1}$$
 A_0

input

$$t \mid k+1 \mid$$

The sequence of moves on input $\mathbf{id} + \mathbf{id} * \mathbf{id}$

Matched	Stack	Input	ACTION
	E\$	id + id * id\$	
	TE'\$	$\mathbf{id} + \mathbf{id} * \mathbf{id} \$$	output $E \to TE'$
	FT'E'\$	$\mathbf{id} + \mathbf{id} * \mathbf{id} \$$	output $T \to FT'$
	id $T'E'$ \$	$\mathbf{id} + \mathbf{id} * \mathbf{id} \$$	output $F \to \mathbf{id}$
id	T'E'\$	+ id * id \$	$\mathrm{match}\ \mathbf{id}$
id	E'\$	$+\operatorname{id}*\operatorname{id}\$$	output $T' \to \epsilon$
id	+ TE'\$	+ id * id\$	output $E' \to + TE'$
id +	TE'\$	$\mathbf{id} * \mathbf{id} \$$	match +
id +	FT'E'\$	$\mathbf{id} * \mathbf{id} \$$	output $T \to FT'$
id +	id $T'E'$ \$	$\mathbf{id} * \mathbf{id} \$$	output $F \to \mathbf{id}$
id + id	T'E'\$	* id $$$	$\mathrm{match}\ \mathbf{id}$
$\mathbf{id} + \mathbf{id}$	*FT'E'\$	*id\$	output $T' \to *FT'$
$\mathbf{id} + \mathbf{id} \ *$	FT'E'\$	id\$	$\mathrm{match} *$
$\mathbf{id} + \mathbf{id} \ *$	id $T'E'$ \$	id\$	output $F \to \mathbf{id}$
$\mathbf{id} + \mathbf{id} * \mathbf{id}$	T'E'\$	\$	$\mathrm{match}\ \mathbf{id}$
$\mathbf{id} + \mathbf{id} * \mathbf{id}$	E'\$	\$	output $T' \to \epsilon$
id + id * id	\$	\$	output $E' \to \epsilon$

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

https://github.com/javacc/javacc

- JavaCC generates top-down (recursive descent) parsers as opposed to bottom-up parsers
 generated by YACC-like tools. This allows the use of more general grammars, although leftrecursion is disallowed. Top-down parsers have a number of other advantages (besides more
 general grammars) such as being easier to debug, having the ability to parse to any non-terminal
 in the grammar, and also having the ability to pass values (attributes) both up and down the
 parse tree during parsing.
- By default, JavaCC generates an LL(1) parser. However, there may be portions of grammar that
 are not LL(1). JavaCC offers the capabilities of syntactic and semantic lookahead to resolve shiftshift ambiguities locally at these points. For example, the parser is LL(k) only at such points, but
 remains LL(1) everywhere else for better performance. Shift-reduce and reduce-reduce
 conflicts are not an issue for top-down parsers.