Syntax-Directed Translation

- Grammar symbols are associated with **attributes** to associate information with the programming language constructs that they represent.
- Values of these attributes are evaluated by the **semantic rules** associated with the production rules.
- Evaluation of these semantic rules:
  - may generate intermediate codes
  - may put information into the symbol table
  - may perform type checking
  - may issue error messages
  - may perform some other activities
  - in fact, they may perform almost any activities.
- An attribute may hold almost any thing.
  - a string, a number, a memory location, a complex record.

Syntax-Directed Definitions and Translation Schemes

- When we associate semantic rules with productions, we use two notations:
  - **Syntax-Directed Definitions**
  - **Translation Schemes**
- **Syntax-Directed Definitions:**
  - give high-level specifications for translations
  - hide many implementation details such as order of evaluation of semantic actions.
  - We associate a production rule with a set of semantic actions, and we do not say when they will be evaluated.
- **Translation Schemes:**
  - indicate the order of evaluation of semantic actions associated with a production rule.
  - In other words, translation schemes give a little bit information about implementation details.

Syntax-Directed Definitions

- A syntax-directed definition is a generalization of a context-free grammar in which:
  - Each grammar symbol is associated with a set of attributes.
  - This set of attributes for a grammar symbol is partitioned into two subsets called **synthesized** and **inherited** attributes of that grammar symbol.
  - Each production rule is associated with a set of semantic rules.
- *Semantic rules* set up dependencies between attributes which can be represented by a *dependency graph*.
- This *dependency graph* determines the evaluation order of these semantic rules.
- Evaluation of a semantic rule defines the value of an attribute. But a semantic rule may also have some side effects such as printing a value.

Annotated Parse Tree

- A parse tree showing the values of attributes at each node is called an **annotated parse tree**.
- The process of computing the attributes values at the nodes is called **annotating** (or **decorating**) of the parse tree.
- Of course, the order of these computations depends on the dependency graph induced by the semantic rules.

Syntax-Directed Definition

- In a syntax-directed definition, each production $A \rightarrow \alpha$ is associated with a set of semantic rules of the form:

  $b=f(c_1,c_2,\ldots,c_n)$ where f is a function,

  and b can be one of the followings:

  ➔ b is a synthesized attribute of A and $c_1,c_2,\ldots,c_n$ are attributes of the grammar symbols in the production ($A \rightarrow \alpha$).

  OR

  ➔ b is an inherited attribute one of the grammar symbols in α (on the right side of the production), and $c_1,c_2,\ldots,c_n$ are attributes of the grammar symbols in the production ($A \rightarrow \alpha$).

Attribute Grammar

- So, a semantic rule $b=f(c_1,c_2,\ldots,c_n)$ indicates that the attribute b *depends* o*n* attributes $c_1,c_2,\ldots,c_n$.
- In a **syntax-directed definition**, a semantic rule may just evaluate a value of an attribute or it may have some side effects such as printing values.

- An **attribute grammar** is a syntax-directed definition in which the functions in the semantic rules cannot have side effects (they can only evaluate values of attributes).

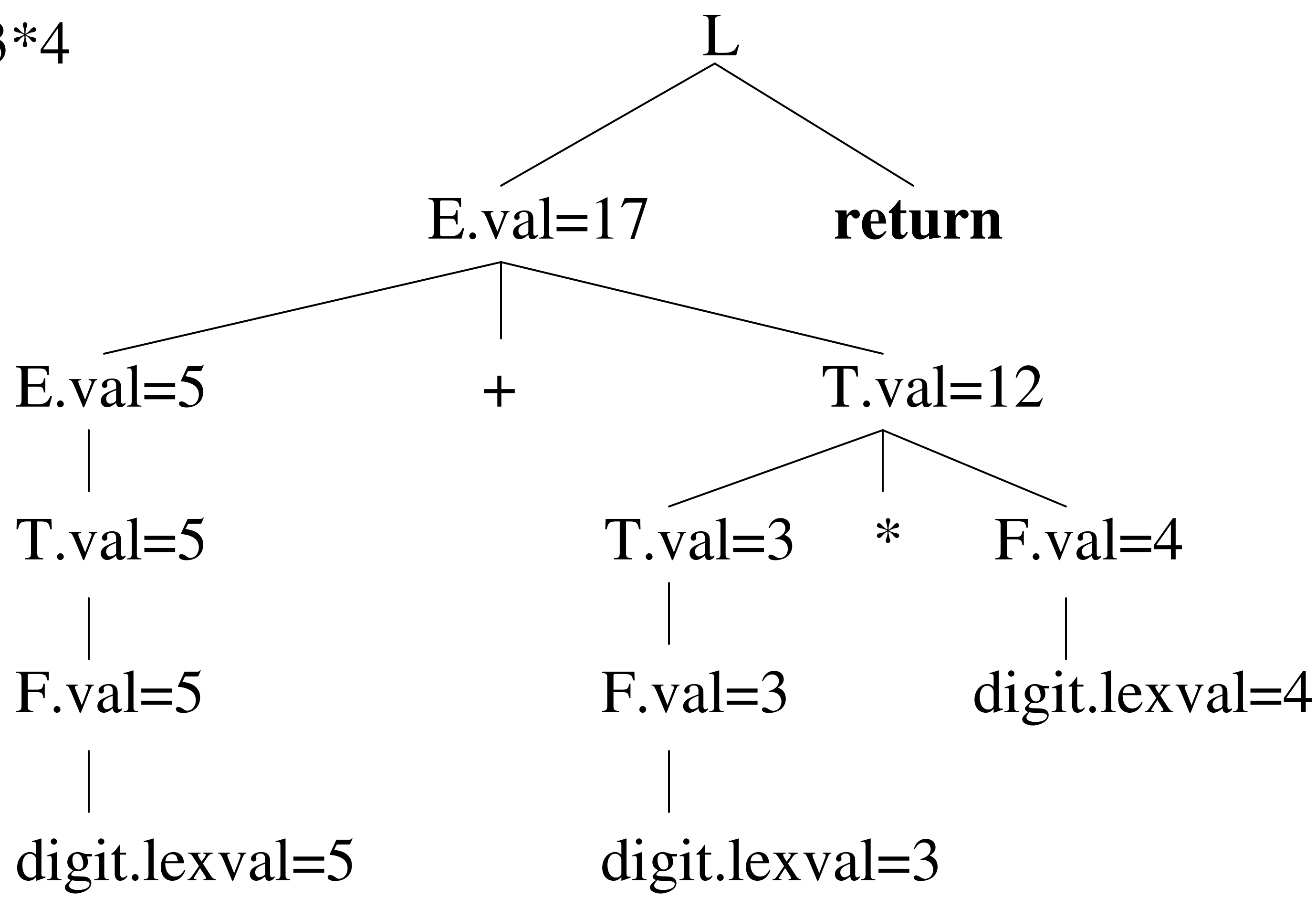
Syntax-Directed Definition -- Example

Production	**Semantic Rules**
$L \rightarrow E$ **return**	print(E.val)
$E \rightarrow E_1 + T$	$E.val = E_1.val + T.val$
$E \rightarrow T$	$E.val = T.val$
$T \rightarrow T_1 * F$	$T.val = T_1.val * F.val$
$T \rightarrow F$	$T.val = F.val$
$F \rightarrow (E)$	$F.val = E.val$
$F \rightarrow$ **digit**	F.val = **digit**.lexval

- Symbols E, T, and F are associated with a synthesized attribute *val*.
- The token **digit** has a synthesized attribute *lexval* (it is assumed that it is evaluated by the lexical analyzer).

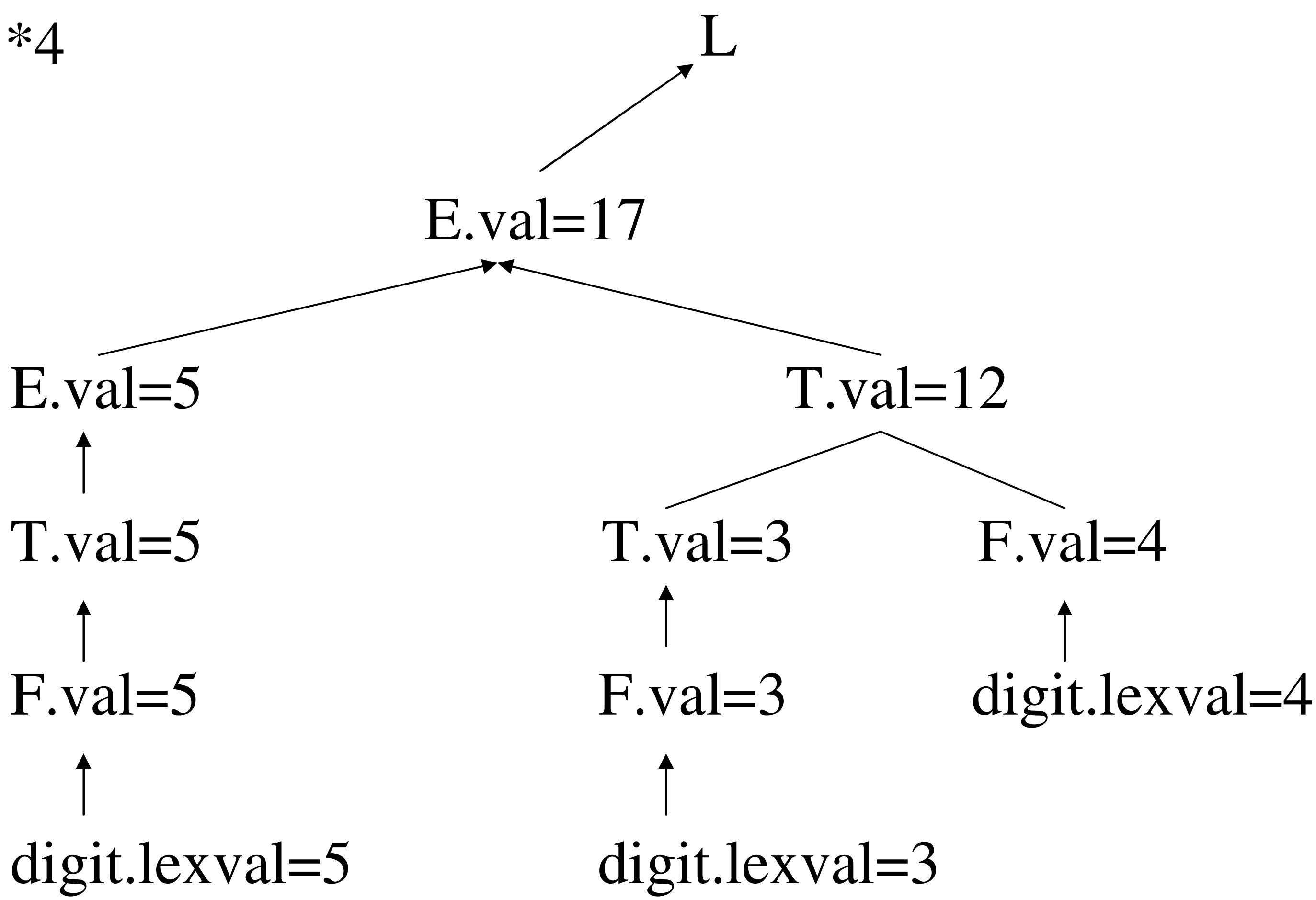
Annotated Parse Tree -- Example

Input: 5+3*4



Dependency Graph

Input: 5+3*4



Syntax-Directed Definition – Example2

Production	**Semantic Rules**
$E \rightarrow E_1 + T$	E.loc=newtemp(), E.code = E_1.code || T.code || add E_1.loc,T.loc,E.loc
$E \rightarrow T$	E.loc = T.loc, E.code=T.code
$T \rightarrow T_1 * F$	T.loc=newtemp(), T.code = T_1.code || F.code || mult T_1.loc,F.loc,T.loc
$T \rightarrow F$	T.loc = F.loc, T.code=F.code
$F \rightarrow (E)$	F.loc = E.loc, F.code=E.code
$F \rightarrow$ **id**	F.loc = **id**.name, F.code=""

- Symbols E, T, and F are associated with synthesized attributes *loc* and *code*.
- The token **id** has a synthesized attribute *name* (it is assumed that it is evaluated by the lexical analyzer).
- It is assumed that || is the string concatenation operator.

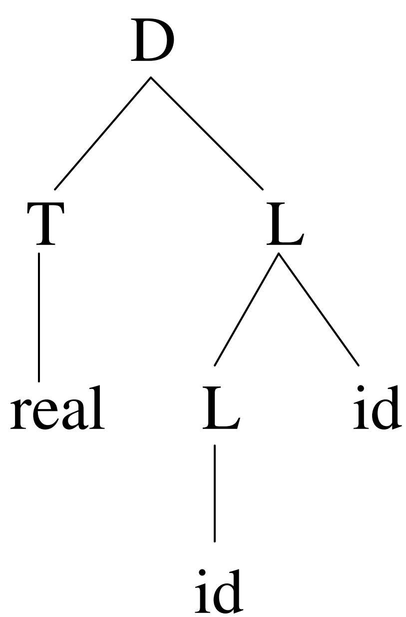
Syntax-Directed Definition – Inherited Attributes

Production	**Semantic Rules**
$D \rightarrow T\ L$	L.in = T.type
$T \rightarrow$ **int**	T.type = integer
$T \rightarrow$ **real**	T.type = real
$L \rightarrow L_1$ **id**	L_1.in = L.in, addtype(**id**.entry,L.in)
$L \rightarrow$ **id**	addtype(**id**.entry,L.in)

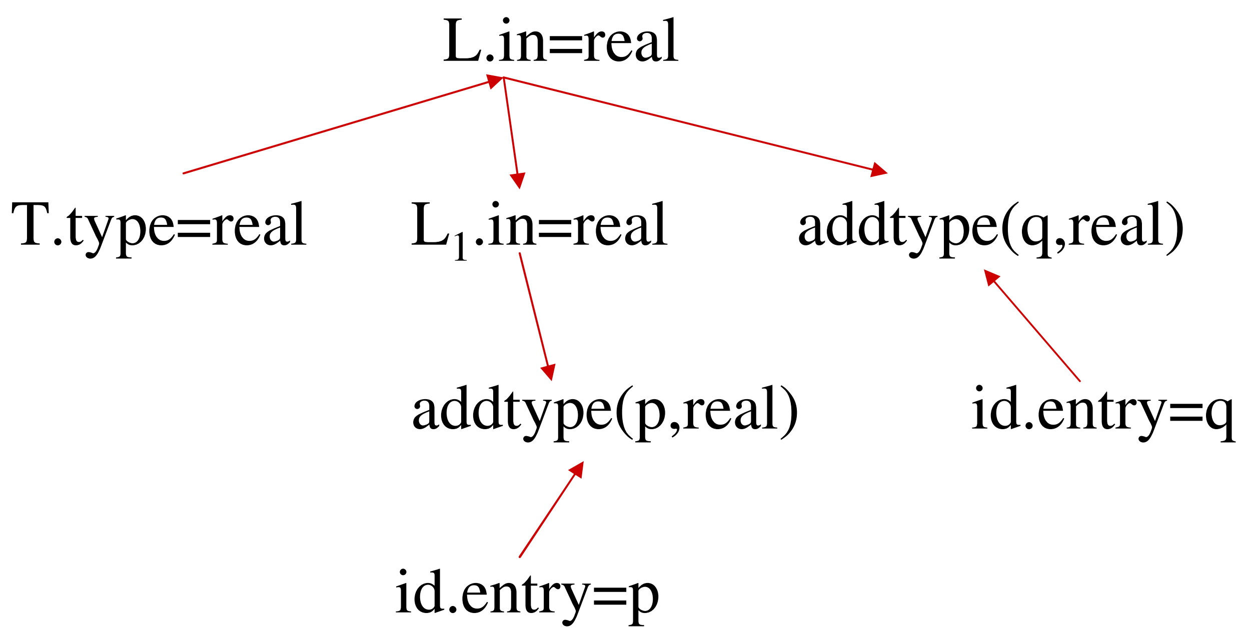
- Symbol T is associated with a synthesized attribute *type*.
- Symbol L is associated with an inherited attribute *in.*

A Dependency Graph – Inherited Attributes

Input: `real p q`



parse tree



dependency graph