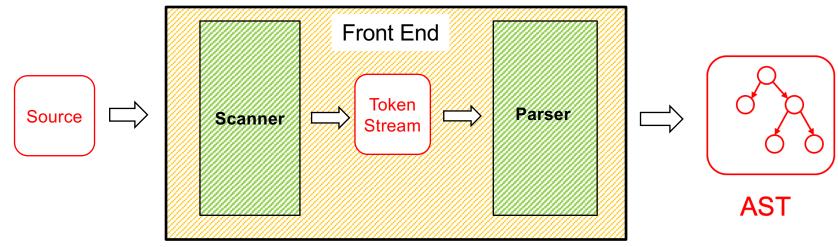
CMSC 330: Organization of Programming Languages

Parsing

Recall: Front End Scanner and Parser



- Scanner / lexer / tokenizer converts program source into tokens (keywords, variable names, operators, numbers, etc.) with regular expressions
- Parser converts tokens into an AST (abstract syntax tree) based on a context free grammar

Scanning ("tokenizing")

- Converts textual input into a stream of tokens
 - These are the terminals in the parser's CFG
 - Example tokens are keywords, identifiers, numbers, punctuation, etc.

Scanner typically ignores/eliminates whitespace

Scanning ("tokenizing")

```
type token =
   Tok_Num of char
| Tok_Sum
| Tok_END
```

```
tokenize "1+2" =
[Tok_Num '1'; Tok_Sum; Tok_Num '2'; Tok_END]
```

A Scanner in OCaml

```
type token =
   Tok Num of char
   Tok Sum
   Tok END
let tokenize (s:string) = (* returns token list *)
let re num = Str.regexp "[0-9]" (* single digit *)
let re add = Str.regexp "+"
let tokenize str =
 let rec tok pos s =
   if pos >= String.length s then
     [Tok END]
   else
     if (Str.string match re num s pos) then
       let token = Str.matched string s in
         (Tok Num token.[0])::(tok (pos+1) s)
     else if (Str.string match re add s pos) then
       Tok Sum::(tok (pos+1) s)
     else
       raise (IllegalExpression "tokenize")
 in
 tok 0 str
```

Uses **Str**library module for regexps

Parsing (to an AST)

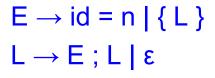
type token =

type expr =

Implementing Parsers

- Many efficient techniques for parsing
 - LL(k), SLR(k), LR(k), LALR(k)...
 - Take CMSC 430 for more details
- One simple technique: recursive descent parsing
 - This is a top-down parsing algorithm
- Other algorithms are bottom-up

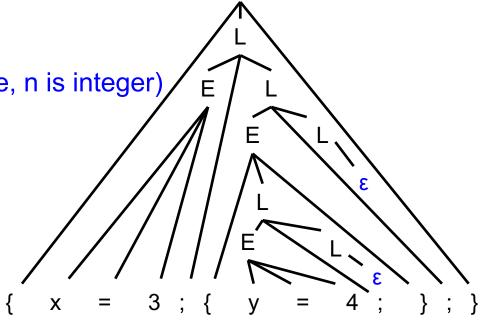
Top-Down Parsing (Intuition)



(Assume: id is variable name, n is integer)

Show parse tree for

$$\{x = 3; \{y = 4; \}; \}$$



Recursive Descent Parsing

- Goal
 - Can we "parse" a string does it match our grammar?
 - > We will talk about constructing an AST later
- Approach: Try to produce leftmost derivation

Begin with start symbol S, and input tokens t Repeat:

Rewrite S and consume tokens in t via a production in the grammar Until all tokens matched, or failure

Recursive Descent Parsing

- At each step, we keep track of two facts
 - What grammar element are we trying to match/expand?
 - What is the lookahead (next token of the input string)?
- At each step, apply one of three possible cases
 - If we're trying to match a terminal
 - If the lookahead is that token, then succeed, advance the lookahead, and continue
 - If we're trying to match a nonterminal
 - > Pick which production to apply based on the lookahead
 - Otherwise fail with a parsing error

Example

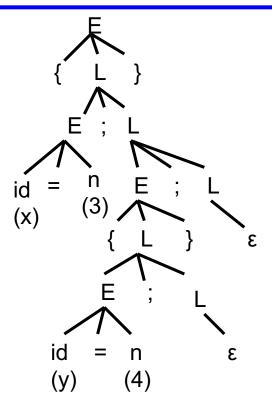
```
E \rightarrow id = n \mid \{L\}
 L \rightarrow E ; L \mid \epsilon
```

- Here n is an integer and id is an identifier
- One input might be
 - $\{x = 3; \{y = 4; \}; \}$
 - This would get turned into a list of tokens

```
\{ x = 3 ; \{ y = 4 ; \} ; \}
```

- And we want to parse it
 - > i.e., just determine if it's in the grammar's language; no AST for now

Parsing Example Input



Parsing Example: Previewing the Code

```
type token = Tok Num (* of int *)
E \rightarrow id = n \mid \{L\}
                                                                   | Tok Id (* of string *)
L \rightarrow E ; L \mid \varepsilon
                                                                  | Tok Eq | Tok Semi
                                                                   | Tok Lbrace
                                                                   | Tok Rbrace
let rec parse E () =
                                                   and parse L () =
  if lookahead () = Tok Id then
                                                      if lookahead () = Tok Id
     (* E \rightarrow id = n *)
                                                      || lookahead () = Tok Lbrace then
                                                        (* L \rightarrow E ; L *)
     (match tok Tok Id;
     match tok Tok Eq;
                                                        (parse E ();
     match tok Tok Num)
                                                         match tok Tok Semi;
                                                         parse L ())
   else if lookahead () = Tok Lbrace then
    (* E \rightarrow \{ L \} *)
                                                     else
                                                        (* L \rightarrow \epsilon *)
     (match tok Tok Lbrace;
     parse L ();
                                                        ()
     match tok Tok Rbrace)
  else raise (ParseError "parse A")
```

Parsing Example: Previewing the Code

```
type token = Tok Num (* of int *)
E \rightarrow id = n \mid \{L\}
                                                             | Tok Id (* of string *)
L \rightarrow E ; L \mid \varepsilon
                                                             | Tok Eq | Tok Semi
                                                             | Tok Lbrace
                                                             | Tok Rbrace
let rec parse E () = ...
and parse L () = ...
  tok list := tokenize "{ x = 3 ; { y = 4 ; } ";;
    (* tok list := [ Tok Lbrace; Tok Id; Tok Eq; Tok Num; Tok Semi; ...] *)
  parse E ();;
    (* returns () -- successfully parses input *)
  tok list := tokenize "{ x = ; }";;
    (* tok list := [ Tok Lbrace; Tok Id; Tok Eq; Tok Semi; Tok Rbrace ] *)
  parse E ();;
    (* raises exception ParseError "bad match" *)
```

Recursive Descent Parsing: Key Step

- Key step: Choosing the right production
- Two approaches
 - Backtracking
 - Choose some production
 - > If fails, try different production
 - > Parse fails if all choices fail
 - Predictive parsing (what we will do)
 - Analyze grammar to find FIRST sets for productions
 - Compare with lookahead to decide which production to select
 - > Parse fails if lookahead does not match FIRST

Selecting a Production

- Motivating example
 - If grammar S → xyz | abc and lookahead is x
 - Select S → xyz since 1st terminal in RHS matches x
 - If grammar $S \rightarrow A \mid B \quad A \rightarrow x \mid y \quad B \rightarrow z$
 - \triangleright If lookahead is x, select S \rightarrow A, since A can derive string beginning with x
- In general
 - Choose a production that can derive a sentential form beginning with the lookahead
 - Need to know what terminal may be first in any sentential form derived from a nonterminal / production

First Sets

- Definition
 - First(γ), for any terminal or nonterminal γ, is the set of initial terminals of all strings that γ may expand to
 - We'll use this to decide which production to apply
- Example: Given grammar

```
S \rightarrow A \mid B

A \rightarrow x \mid y

B \rightarrow z
```

- First(A) = { x, y } since First(x) = { x }, First(y) = { y }
- First(B) = { z } since First(z) = { z }
- So: If we are parsing S and see x or y, we choose S → A; if we see z we choose S → B

Calculating First(γ)

- For a terminal a
 - First(a) = { a }
- For a nonterminal N
 - If $N \to \epsilon$, then add ϵ to First(N)
 - If $N \to \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_n$, then (note the α_i are all the symbols on the right side of one single production):
 - > Add First($\alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_n$) to First(N), where First($\alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_n$) is defined as
 - First(α_1) if $\epsilon \notin First(\alpha_1)$
 - Otherwise $(First(\alpha_1) \varepsilon) \cup First(\alpha_2 \dots \alpha_n)$
 - \triangleright If ε ∈ First(α_i) for all i, 1 ≤ i ≤ k, then add ε to First(N)

First() Examples

```
E \rightarrow id = n \mid \{L\}
L \rightarrow E ; L \mid \epsilon
First(id) = { id }
First("=") = { "=" }
First(n) = { n }
First("{")= { "{" }
First("}")= { "}" }
First(";")= { ";" }
First(E) = { id, "{" }
First(L) = \{ id, "\{", \epsilon \} \}
```

```
E \rightarrow id = n | \{L\} | \epsilon
L \rightarrow E ; L
First(id) = { id }
First("=") = { "=" }
First(n) = { n }
First("{")= { "{" }
First("}")= { "}" }
First(";")= { ";" }
First(E) = \{ id, "\{", \epsilon \} \}
First(L) = { id, "{", ";" }
```

Given the following grammar:

What is First(S)?

```
A. {b,c}
B. {b}
C. {a,b}
D. {c}
```

```
S -> aAB |B
A -> CBC
B -> b
C -> cC | \epsilon
```

Given the following grammar:

What is First(S)?

```
S -> aAB |B
A -> CBC
B -> b
C -> cC | \epsilon
```

Given the following grammar:

What is First(B)?

```
A. {a}
B. {b,c}
C. {b}
D. {c}
```

```
S -> aAB
A -> CBC
B -> b
C -> cC | £
```

Given the following grammar:

What is First(B)?

```
A. {a}
B. {b,c}
C. {b}
D. {c}
```

```
S -> aAB
A -> CBC
B -> b
C -> cC | \epsilon
```

Given the following grammar:

What is First(A)?

Given the following grammar:

What is First(A)?

```
A. {a}
B. {b,c}
C. {b}
D. {c}
```

```
<u>Note:</u>
First(B) = {b}
First(C) = {c,ε}
```

Recursive Descent Parser Implementation

- For all terminals, use function match_tok a
 - If lookahead is a it consumes the lookahead by advancing the lookahead to the next token, and returns
 - Fails with a parse error if lookahead is not a
- For each nonterminal N, create a function parse_N
 - Called when we're trying to parse a part of the input which corresponds to (or can be derived from) N
 - parse_S for the start symbol S begins the parse

match_tok in OCaml

```
let tok list = ref [] (* list of parsed tokens *)
exception ParseError of string
let match tok a =
  match !tok list with
    (* checks lookahead; advances on match *)
    | (h::t) \text{ when } a = h \rightarrow tok \ list := t
    -> raise (ParseError "bad match")
(* used by parse X *)
let lookahead () =
  match !tok list with
    [] -> raise (ParseError "no tokens")
  | (h::t) -> h
```

Parsing Nonterminals

- The body of parse_N for a nonterminal N does the following
 - Let $N \to \beta_1 \mid ... \mid \beta_k$ be the productions of N
 - \triangleright Here β_i is the entire right side of a production- a sequence of terminals and nonterminals
 - Pick the production $N \to \beta_i$ such that the lookahead is in First(β_i)
 - > It must be that First($β_i$) ∩ First($β_i$) = Ø for i ≠ j
 - > If there is no such production, but $N \rightarrow \epsilon$ then return
 - > Otherwise fail with a parse error
 - Suppose $\beta_i = \alpha_1 \alpha_2 ... \alpha_n$. Then call parse_ $\alpha_1()$; ...; parse_ $\alpha_n()$ to match the expected right-hand side, and return

Example Parser

- ▶ Given grammar S → xyz | abc
 - First(xyz) = { x }, First(abc) = { a }
- Parser

```
let parse_S () =
  if lookahead () = "x" then (* S → xyz *)
     (match_tok "x";
     match_tok "y";
     match_tok "z")
  else if lookahead () = "a" then (* S → abc *)
     (match_tok "a";
     match_tok "b";
     match_tok "c")
  else raise (ParseError "parse S")
```

Note: We are not producing an AST here; we are only determining if the string is in the language. We'll produce an AST later.

Another Example Parser

▶ Given grammar $S \rightarrow A \mid B \quad A \rightarrow x \mid y \quad B \rightarrow z$

let(rec)parse S () =

if lookahead () = "x" | |

- First(A) = { x, y }, First(B) = { z }
- Parser:

```
lookahead () = "y" then
Syntax for
                    parse A () (* S \rightarrow A *)
mutually
                  else if lookahead () = "z" then
recursive
                    parse B () (* S \rightarrow B *)
functions in
                  else raise (ParseError "parse S")
OCaml –
parse S and
                and parse A () =
parse A and
                 f lookahead () = "x" then
parse B can
                    match tok "x" (* A \rightarrow x *)
each call the
                  else if lookahead () = "y" then
other
                    match tok "y" (* A \rightarrow y *)
                  else raise (ParseError "parse A")
```

and parse B () = ...

Execution Trace = Parse Tree

- If you draw the execution trace of the parser
 - You get the parse tree
- Examples

```
    Grammar
```

$$S \rightarrow xyz$$

$$S \rightarrow abc$$

String "xyz"

```
parse_S ()
match_tok "x"
match_tok "y"
match_tok "z"
```

Grammar

$$S \rightarrow A \mid B$$

$$A \rightarrow x \mid y$$

$$B \rightarrow z$$

Predictive Parsing

- This is a predictive parser
 - Because the lookahead determines exactly which production to use
- This parsing strategy may fail on some grammars
 - Production First sets overlap
 - Production First sets contain ε
 - Possible infinite recursion
- Does not mean grammar is not usable
 - Just means this parsing method not powerful enough
 - May be able to change grammar

Conflicting First Sets

Consider parsing the grammar E → ab | ac

```
    First(ab) = a
```

Parser cannot choose between

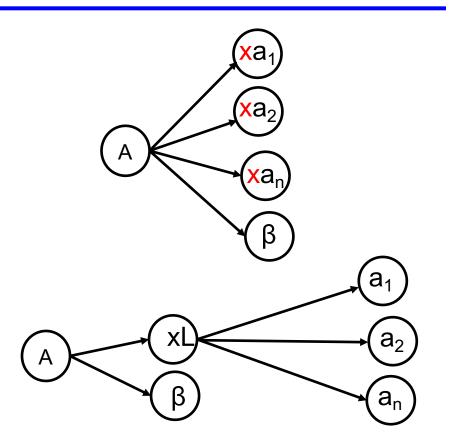
• First(ac) = a

RHS based on lookahead!

- ▶ Parser fails whenever $A \rightarrow \alpha_1 \mid \alpha_2$ and
 - First(α_1) \cap First(α_2) != ϵ or \emptyset
- Solution
 - Rewrite grammar using left factoring

Left Factoring Algorithm

- Given grammar
 - $A \rightarrow x\alpha_1 \mid x\alpha_2 \mid ... \mid x\alpha_n \mid \beta$
- Rewrite grammar as
 - $A \rightarrow xL \mid \beta$
 - $L \rightarrow \alpha_1 \mid \alpha_2 \mid \dots \mid \alpha_n$
- Repeat as necessary



Left Factoring Algorithm

- Given grammar
 - $A \rightarrow x\alpha_1 \mid x\alpha_2 \mid ... \mid x\alpha_n \mid \beta$
- Rewrite grammar as
 - $A \rightarrow xL \mid \beta$
 - L $\rightarrow \alpha_1 \mid \alpha_2 \mid \dots \mid \alpha_n$
- Examples
 - S → ab | ac
 - $S \rightarrow abcA \mid abB \mid a$
 - L \rightarrow bcA | bB | ϵ

- \Rightarrow S \rightarrow aL L \rightarrow b | c
- \Rightarrow S \rightarrow aL L \rightarrow bcA | bB | ϵ
- \Rightarrow L \rightarrow bL' | ϵ L' \rightarrow cA | B

Alternative Approach

- Change structure of parser
 - First match common prefix of productions
 - Then use lookahead to chose between productions
- Example
 - Consider parsing the grammar E → a+b | a*b | a

```
let parse_E () =
  match_tok "a"; (* common prefix *)

if lookahead () = "+" then (* E → a+b *)
      (match_tok "+";
      match_tok "b")

else if lookahead () = "*" then (* E → a*b *)
      (match_tok "*";
      match_tok "b")

else () (* E → a *)
```

Left Recursion

- Consider grammar S → Sa | ε
 - Try writing parser

- Body of parse_S () has an infinite loop!
 - > Infinite loop occurs in grammar with left recursion

Right Recursion

- ► Consider grammar $S \rightarrow aS \mid \epsilon$ Again, First(aS) = a
 - Try writing parser

```
let rec parse_S () =
  if lookahead () = "a" then
      (match_tok "a";
      parse_S ()) (* S → aS *)
  else ()
```

- Will parse_S() infinite loop?
 - > Invoking match tok will advance lookahead, eventually stop
- Top-down parsers handles grammar w/ right recursion

Algorithm To Eliminate Left Recursion

- Given grammar
 - $A \rightarrow A\alpha_1 \mid A\alpha_2 \mid ... \mid A\alpha_n \mid \beta$ β must exist or no derivation will yield a string
- Rewrite grammar as (repeat as needed)
 - $A \rightarrow \beta L$
 - $L \rightarrow \alpha_1 L \mid \alpha_2 L \mid ... \mid \alpha_n L \mid \epsilon$
- Replaces left recursion with right recursion
- Examples

•
$$S \rightarrow Sa \mid \epsilon$$

$$\Rightarrow S \rightarrow L$$

$$\Rightarrow$$
 S \rightarrow cL

$$\Rightarrow$$
 S \rightarrow L L \rightarrow aL | ϵ

$$\Rightarrow S \to cL \hspace{1cm} L \to aL \mid bL \mid \epsilon$$

What does the following code parse?

```
let parse_S () =
  if lookahead () = "a" then
     (match_tok "a";
     match_tok "x";
     match_tok "y";
     match_tok "q")
  else
    raise (ParseError "parse_S")
```

```
A. S \rightarrow axyq
B. S \rightarrow a \mid q
C. S \rightarrow aaxy \mid qq
D. S \rightarrow axy \mid q
```

What does the following code parse?

```
let parse_S () =
  if lookahead () = "a" then
     (match_tok "a";
     match_tok "x";
     match_tok "y";
     match_tok "q")
  else
    raise (ParseError "parse_S")
```

```
A. S \rightarrow axyq
B. S \rightarrow a \mid q
C. S \rightarrow aaxy \mid qq
D. S \rightarrow axy \mid q
```

What Does the following code parse?

```
let rec parse_S () =
  if lookahead () = "a" then
      (match_tok "a";
      parse_S ())
  else if lookahead () = "q" then
      (match_tok "q";
      match_tok "p")
  else
    raise (ParseError "parse_S")
```

```
A. S \rightarrow aS \mid qp
B. S \rightarrow a \mid S \mid qp
C. S \rightarrow aqSp
D. S \rightarrow a \mid q
```

What Does the following code parse?

```
let rec parse_S () =
  if lookahead () = "a" then
      (match_tok "a";
      parse_S ())
  else if lookahead () = "q" then
      (match_tok "q";
      match_tok "p")
  else
    raise (ParseError "parse_S")
```

```
A. S \rightarrow aS \mid qp
B. S \rightarrow a \mid S \mid qp
C. S \rightarrow aqSp
D. S \rightarrow a \mid q
```

Can recursive descent parse this grammar?

$$S \rightarrow aBa$$
 $B \rightarrow bC$
 $C \rightarrow \epsilon \mid Cc$

- A. Yes
- B. No

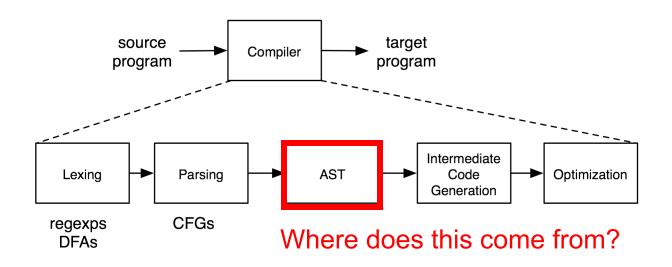
Can recursive descent parse this grammar?

$$S \rightarrow aBa$$

 $B \rightarrow bC$
 $C \rightarrow \epsilon \mid Cc$

- A. Yes
- B. No (due to left recursion)

Recall: The Compilation Process

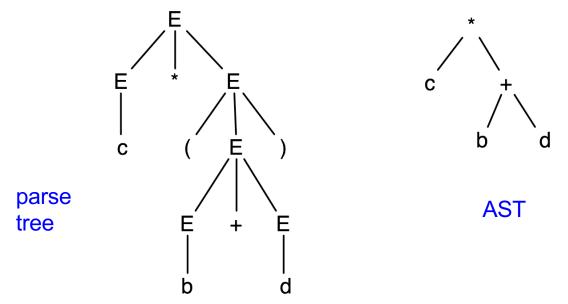


Parse Trees to ASTs

- Parse trees are a representation of a parse, with all of the syntactic elements present
 - Parentheses
 - Extra nonterminals for precedence
- This extra stuff is needed for parsing
- Lots of that stuff is not needed to actually implement a compiler or interpreter
 - So in the abstract syntax tree we get rid of it

Abstract Syntax Trees (ASTs)

An abstract syntax tree is a more compact, abstract representation of a parse tree, with only the essential parts



Example: Simple Assignment

```
E \rightarrow id = n \mid \{L\}
L \rightarrow E; L \mid E
type token = Tok_Num (* of string *)
\mid Tok_I d \ (* of string *)
\mid Tok_E q \mid Tok_S emi
\mid Tok_L brace
\mid Tok_R brace
```

- Here, id stands for a general identifier (variable), like a, bob, chandra, toy, etc.
 - The scanner will match this via a regular expression, and can track of what the actual string was; we'll ignore here
- ▶ Similar situation for *n*, which represents an integer

Matching Strings; no AST

```
type token = Tok Num (* of string *)
E \rightarrow id = n \mid \{L\}
                                                                | Tok Id (* of string *)
L \rightarrow E ; L \mid \varepsilon
                                                                | Tok Eq | Tok Semi
                                                                 | Tok Lbrace
                                                                  Tok Rbrace
let rec parse E () = (* First(E) = { id, "{" } *)
                                                    and parse L () =
  match lookahead () with
                                                        match lookahead () with
   | Tok Id ->
                                                         | Tok Id | Tok Lbrace ->
    (* E \rightarrow id = n *)
                                                          (* L \rightarrow E : L *)
    (match tok Tok Id;
                                                          (parse E ();
     match tok Tok Eq;
                                                           match tok Tok Semi;
     match tok Tok Num)
                                                           parse L ())
                                                         | ->
   | Tok Lbrace ->
                                                          (* L → E *)
    (* E \rightarrow \{ L \} *)
     (match tok Tok Lbrace;
     parse L ();
     match tok Tok Rbrace)
   | -> raise (ParseError "parse A")
```

CMSC 330 Fall 2021

Defining the AST

```
E \rightarrow id = n \mid \{L\}
L \rightarrow E ; L \mid \epsilon
let match tok a : string option =
 match !tok list,a with
  | (Tok Id s)::t,(Tok Id ) ->
    tok list := t; (Some s)
  | (Tok Num s)::t,(Tok Num ) ->
    tok list := t; (Some s)
  | h::t, ->
    if h = a then
       (tok list := t; None)
    else
      raise (ParseError "bad match")
  -> raise (ParseError "no tokens")
```

- The AST is just a sequence of assignment statements
- Match_tok now returns the string that was matched for Tok_Num and Tok_Id

Parsing, producing AST

```
type token = Tok Num of string
E \rightarrow id = n \mid \{L\}
                                                              | Tok Id of string
L \rightarrow E ; L \mid \varepsilon
                                                              | Tok Eq | Tok Semi
                                                              | Tok Lbrace
                                                              | Tok Rbrace
let rec parse E () : stmt =
                                                  type stmt =
  match lookahead () with
                                                    Assign of string * int
    Tok Id ->
                                                  | Block of stmt list
      (let Some ▼ = match tok (Tok Id "") in
      match tok Tok Eq;
      let Some n = match tok (Tok Num "") in
                                                 and parse L () : stmt list =
      Assign (v, int of string n))
                                                   match lookahead () with
                                                   | Tok Id | Tok Lbrace ->
  | Tok Lbrace ->
                                                        (let stm = parse E () in
      (match tok Tok Lbrace;
                                                       match tok Tok Semi;
      let stms = parse L () in
                                                       let stms = parse L () in
      match tok Tok Rbrace;
                                                       stm :: stms)
      Block stms)
                                                   | -> []
  -> raise (ParseError "parse A")
```