

## Discussion Week of 2/25: Shift-Reduce Parsing

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### 1. Shift-Reduce Parsing the Lambda Calculus.

We'll look again at the lambda calculus grammar:

1. `expr` : `var`
2.        | `'(' 'λ' var '.' expr ')'`
3.        | `'(' expr expr ')'` ;
4. `var` : `ID` ;

(a) Is this grammar LL(1)?

**Answer.** No. `FIRST(expr2)` and `FIRST(expr3)` both contain `'('`.

(b) We'll now use the following LR(1) parsing table to parse some strings with this grammar.

	(	)	.	ID	λ	\$	var	expr
0	s1			s2			s4	s3
1	s1			s2	s5		s4	s6
2	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4		
3						s7		
4	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1		
5				s2			s8	
6	s1			s2			s4	s9
7	ACC	ACC	ACC	ACC	ACC	ACC		
8			s10					
9		s11						
10	s1			s2			s4	s12
11	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3		
12		s13						
13	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2		

Here's how we use this parsing table:

- Maintain a stack of states. Initialize it with state 0.
- Use the state on top of the parse stack and the lookahead symbol to find the corresponding action in the parse table.

- If the action is a shift to a new state, push the new state onto the stack and advance the input.
- If the action is a reduce that reduces  $k$  symbols, pop  $k$  symbols off the stack. If we reduced to a rule A, consult the “A” entry in the state now at the top of the stack.
- If the action is ACC, then we have succeeded.

Use the parsing table above to parse the following:

i.  $(xx)$

**Answer.**

Iteration	States on stack	Input	Actions
1	0	$\bullet (x x) \$$	s1
2	0 1	$(\bullet x x) \$$	s2
3	0 1 2	$(x \bullet x) \$$	r4
4	0 1 4	$(var \bullet x) \$$	r1
5	0 1 6	$(expr \bullet x) \$$	s2
6	0 1 6 2	$(expr x \bullet) \$$	r4
7	0 1 6 4	$(expr var \bullet) \$$	r1
8	0 1 6 9	$(expr expr \bullet) \$$	s11
9	0 1 6 9 11	$(expr expr) \bullet \$$	r3
10	0 3	$expr \bullet \$$	s7
11	0 3 7	$expr \$ \bullet$	ACC

ii.  $(\lambda x.x)$

**Answer.**

Iteration	States on stack	Input	Actions
1	0	$\bullet (\lambda x . x) \$$	s1
2	0 1	$(\bullet \lambda x . x) \$$	s5
3	0 1 5	$(\lambda \bullet x . x) \$$	s2
4	0 1 5 2	$(\lambda x \bullet . x) \$$	r4
5	0 1 5 8	$(\lambda var \bullet . x) \$$	s10
6	0 1 5 8 10	$(\lambda var . \bullet x) \$$	s2
7	0 1 5 8 10 2	$(\lambda var . x \bullet) \$$	r4
8	0 1 5 8 10 4	$(\lambda var . var \bullet) \$$	r1
9	0 1 5 8 10 12	$(\lambda var . expr \bullet) \$$	s13
10	0 1 5 8 10 12 13	$(\lambda var . expr) \bullet \$$	r2
11	0 3	$expr \bullet \$$	s7
12	0 3 7	$expr \$ \bullet$	ACC

iii.  $(x(\lambda x.x))$

**Answer.**

Iteration	States on stack	Input	Actions
1	0	$\bullet (x (\lambda x . x)) \$$	s1
2	0 1	$(\bullet x (\lambda x . x)) \$$	s2
3	0 1 2	$(x \bullet (\lambda x . x)) \$$	r4
4	0 1 4	$(\text{var} \bullet (\lambda x . x)) \$$	r1
5	0 1 6	$(\text{expr} \bullet (\lambda x . x)) \$$	s1
6	0 1 6 1	$(\text{expr} (\bullet \lambda x . x)) \$$	s5
7	0 1 6 1 5	$(\text{expr} (\lambda \bullet x . x)) \$$	s2
8	0 1 6 1 5 2	$(\text{expr} (\lambda x \bullet . x)) \$$	r4
9	0 1 6 1 5 8	$(\text{expr} (\lambda \text{var} \bullet . x)) \$$	s10
10	0 1 6 1 5 8 10	$(\text{expr} (\lambda \text{var} . \bullet x)) \$$	s2
11	0 1 6 1 5 8 10 2	$(\text{expr} (\lambda \text{var} . x \bullet )) \$$	r4
12	0 1 6 1 5 8 10 4	$(\text{expr} (\lambda \text{var} . \text{var} \bullet )) \$$	r1
13	0 1 6 1 5 8 10 12	$(\text{expr} (\lambda \text{var} . \text{expr} \bullet )) \$$	s13
14	0 1 6 1 5 8 10 12 13	$(\text{expr} (\lambda \text{var} . \text{expr} ) \bullet ) \$$	r2
15	0 1 6 9	$(\text{expr expr} \bullet ) \$$	s11
16	0 1 6 9 11	$(\text{expr expr} ) \bullet \$$	r3
17	0 3	$\text{expr} \bullet \$$	s7
18	0 3 7	$\text{expr} \$ \bullet$	ACC

(c) Is this grammar LR(0)?

**Answer.** Yes. There is no need for a lookahead to disambiguate a shift versus reduce, nor to disambiguate between two reduces.

## 2. Altering the Lambda Calculus.

Suppose we want to add an optional extension that allows raising a **var** to a power. We define the grammar as

```

expr : var
      | var '^' NUM
      | '(' 'λ' var '.' expr ')'
      | '(' expr expr ')' ;
var  : ID ;

```

(a) Is this grammar LR(0)?

**Answer.** Nope. We don't know whether to reduce 'var' until we check for '^'. It is LR(1).

(b) Which state in the parsing table would we need to modify to parse this grammar?

**Answer.** We would need to add an extra case for shifting on the lookahead symbol '^' in State 4.

### 3. Stack in Shift-Reduce Parsing.

Suppose it is given that shift-reduce parsing is equivalent to finding the rightmost derivation in reverse. Prove that during shift-reduce parsing, we can only reduce the topmost items in the stack (i.e. we don't need to worry about reducing something in the middle; hence the usage of a stack is justified).

**Answer.** Suppose the state of the stack is given by  $\alpha\beta\gamma$ , where the Greek letters are strings of 0 or more symbols and capital Roman letters are non-terminal symbols. Suppose we want to reduce  $\beta$  using the rule  $B \rightarrow \beta$  when it is not at the top of the stack (i.e.  $\gamma \neq \epsilon$ ). Then  $\gamma$  can be either 1) a string of terminals, or 2)  $\gamma = \gamma'A\gamma''$ , where  $A$  is a non-terminal. In Case 1, we could have reduced  $\beta$  before shifting the terminal symbols in  $\gamma$ , since the terminals in  $\gamma$  don't help in matching the right hand side of a rule. Case 2 is problematic, because shift-reduce parsing finds the rightmost derivation in reverse order, but

$$(\text{input}) \Leftarrow \alpha\beta\gamma'A\gamma'' \Leftarrow S$$

is not a rightmost derivation if we reduce  $\beta$  using the rule  $B \rightarrow \beta$ . Consequently, in both cases, a reduction in the middle of the stack cannot occur, and we can only reduce the topmost items in the stack.