Chapter 4 Top-Down Parsing

- Study Goals:
- Master

Recognition of LL(1) grammar, Construction of Recursive-descent parsing, LL(1) parsing

Understand

First set, Follow set, LL(1) grammar

Know

Backtracking Parsing, Error Recovery in Top-Down parsers, Syntax Tree Construction in Top-down parsers

Top-Down Parsing

Definition

Parsing begins with the start symbol of grammar and tries to find out the derivation of the input string tracing out the steps in a leftmost derivation

The construction of Parse Tree:

Start symbol of grammar is the root, parse tree is constructed from the root to leaves in preorder, the leaves of the parse tree are just input string of tokens

Example G: $S \rightarrow cAd$ $A \rightarrow ab$

 $A \rightarrow a$

Top-down parsing of string "cabd"

Derivation: S =>cAd =>cabd



The Key of Top-down Parsing

Another top-down parsing process for input string "cabd" is:



Fail, because a derivation step has selected a wrong production

- So the problem of top-down parsing is the choice of a production for a derivation step
- If the leftmost nonterminal to be replaced is B, there are totally n productions of B: B→A1|A2|...|An, how can we determine which one to use?

- Categories of Top-down parsing
- 1. Backtracking Parsing
- A nonterminal has more than one productions
- and basing on the current input symbol, the parser can't determine which one to choose
- it must try different possibilities, backing up an arbitrary amount in the input if one possibility fails.

Example: Grammar :S \rightarrow xAy A \rightarrow ab|a
Top-down parsing of string "xay"

S
backtrack S
x A y x A y x A y
a b

2. Predictive parsing
 Parser attempts to predict the next construction in the input string using one or more lookahead tokens

 Two Kinds of Predictive Parsing
 Recursive-descent parsing
 LL(1) parsing

4.1 Predictive Parsing
4.2 Recognition of LL(1) Grammar
4.3 Non LL(1) grammar to LL(1) grammar
4.4 Top-Down Parsing by Recursive-Descent
4.5 LL(1) Parsing
4.6 Error Recovery in Top-Down Parsers

4.1 Predictive Parsing

1 The Condition of Predictive Parsing

2 The Definition of Lookahead Sets

3 The Definition of LL(1) Grammar

* Parsing of the input string begins with the start symbol of the grammar if it can uniquely determine which production to use next in derivation basing on the current token of the input, parsing is predictive

The Condition of Predictive Parsing
 Predictive parsing require that the
 grammar must be a LL(1) grammar
 What is LL(1) grammar?
 It's definition depends on the definition of
 lookahead sets--First set and Follow set

2 The Definition of Lookahead Sets 1) First Sets • Definition G=(V_N, V_T, P, S) is a grammar, β∈(V_N∪V_T)* FIRST(β) = { a ∈ V_T | β ⇒* a......} if β⇒* ε then ε ∈ FIRST(β) Intuitively, the first set of string β is the set of first terminals(including ε) that can be derived from β

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Example G[S]:
   S→Ap
               FIRST(Ap)=\{a,c\}
   S→Bq
               FIRST(Bq)={b,d}
   A→a
               FIRST(a)={a}
   A→cA
               FIRST(cA)={c}
   B→b
               FIRST(b)={b}
   B \rightarrow dB
               FIRST(dB)=\{d\}
If there are more than one productions of
nonterminal A: A-> \alpha \mid \beta \mid ..., but FIRST(\alpha) \cap FIRST(\beta)
\bigcap ...= \emptyset, this grammar can be predictive parsed.
Basing on the current input symbol which
production to choose is determined
```

```
Definition
G=(V<sub>T</sub>, V<sub>N</sub>, S,P) is a grammar, A∈V<sub>N</sub>,
FOLLOW(A)={a ∈V<sub>T</sub> |S=>*...Aa...},
if S=>* ...A, then $ ∈ FOLLOW(A)
($ is used to mark the end of the input)

Intuitively, the follow set of nonterminal A is the set of terminals(include $) following A in all sentential form of the grammar
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```
Example G<sub>3</sub>[S]:
S→aA|d
A→bAS|E
S=>*aA,$ ∈FOLLOW(A)
S=>*abAS=>*abAaA, a ∈FOLLOW(A)
... =>*abAd, d ∈FOLLOW(A)
FOLLOW(A)={$,a,d}
S=>*S,$ ∈FOLLOW(S)
S=>aA=>abAS=>abbASS=>abbASaA
...=>abbASd
FOLLOW(S)={$,a,d}
```

```
There are two productions of nonterminal A:

A→bAS and A→ε, let the current input symbol is "x"

If x ∈ FIRST(bAS)={b}, then choose A→bAS for derivation

If x ∈ FOLLOW(A)={$,a,d}, then choose A→εfor derivation

Because FIRST(bAS)∩FOLLOW(A)=ф, which production to choose is determined
```

```
S→AB|bC
A→a|ε
B→aD|ε
C→AD|b
D→aS|c
aac
```

3 The Definition of LL(1) Grammar

LL(1) Grammar

A grammar is LL(1) if the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1. For each production A-> $\alpha_1 |\alpha_2| ... |\alpha_n|$ $First(\alpha_i) \cap First(\alpha_i) = \Phi$ for all i and $i, 1 \le i, j \le i$ n,i≠j
- 2. For each nonterminal A such that First(A) contains ε , First(A) \cap Follow(A) = Φ

```
Example G[S]:
S→aAS
                 First(aAS) = \{a\}
S→b
                 First(b)
                            = \{b\}
A→bA
                 First(bA) = \{b\}
A→ε
                 First(ε)
                            =\{\epsilon\}
                 First(A)=\{b, \epsilon\} Follow(A)=\{a,b\}
Because First(A)∩Follow(A)={b}≠Φ,
G[S] is not a LL(1) grammar, when the leftmost
nonterminal to be replaced is A and the current
input symbol is "b", parsing can't determine
which productions of A to choose :A→bA or
```

4.2 Recognition of LL(1) Grammar

Recognition of LL(1) grammar has the following four steps:

- Compute the set of nullable nontermianls
- 2. Compute FIRST(α) for the right-hand side string a of each production
- Compute FOLLOW(A) for each nonterminal
- Recognize basing on the definition of LL(1)

1 Compute the set of nullable nontermiants

Nullable

A nonterminal A is nullable if there exists a derivation A=>*ε

- Algorithm
- Let S is the set of nullable nonterminals
- First, S={A_j | A_j→ ε is a production}
 For each production p: A_p→X₁....X_n, if X₁....X_n∈S, then S:= S∪ {A_p}
 Repeat step 2 until there is no change to

Example G[S]: Set S S→AB|bC Origin {A,B} A→b|ε Pass 1 {A,B,S} B→aD|ε Pass 2 {A,B,S} C→AD|b D→aSlc The set of nullable nonterminals is {A,B,S}

2 Compute FIRST(α) for the right-hand string a of each production

- Algorithm for computing First(A) for each grammar symbol $A(A \in V_T \cup V_N)$
- Algorithm for computing $First(\alpha)$ for a string a

Algorithm for computing First(A) for each grammar symbol A (A∈V_T ∪V_N) 1. For all a∈ V_T do First(a)={ a } 2. For all A∈ V_N ,if A ⇒*εthen First(A)={ε} else First(A)={ } 3. For each production A→X1...Xj...Xn , First(A)=First(A)∪SectionFirst(X1...Xj...Xn) 4. Repeat step 3 until there is no change to any First set

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SectionFirst(X1...Xj...Xn)

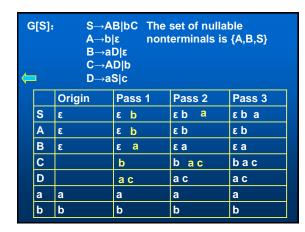
= (First(X₁) -{ε}) ∪(First(X₂)-{ε})∪...
∪(First(Xϳ) -{ε}) ∪First(Xϳ₁)

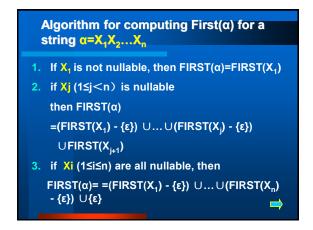
Xᵢ₁ is the first symbol that is not nullable in the right-hand of production

If X₁ is not nullable, then SectionFirst(X1...Xj...Xn) =First(X₁)

If X1...Xn are all nullable, then SectionFirst(X1...Xn)

= (First(X₁) -{ε}) ∪(First(X₂)-{ε})∪...
∪(First(Xₙ) -{ε}) ∪{ε}
```





```
Example <
                              First set for nonterminals
G[S] S→AB|bC
         A→blε
                              First(S)=\{a,b, \epsilon\} First(A)=\{b, \epsilon\}
        B→aD|ε
                              First(B)=\{a, \epsilon\} First(C)=\{a,b,c\}
        C→ADIb
        D→aS|c
                              First(D)={a,c}
First sets for strings in the right-hand side of productions
S→AB
                  FIRST(AB)= (FIRST(A) - \{\epsilon\}) \cup
                                    (FIRST(B) - \{\epsilon\}) \cup \{\epsilon\} = \{a,b,\epsilon\}
S→bC
                  FIRST(bC)= {b}
A→ε
                  FIRST(\varepsilon) = \{\varepsilon\}
A→b
                  FIRST(b)= {b}
                  \mathsf{FIRST}(\mathsf{AD}) \mathord= (\mathsf{FIRST}(\mathsf{A}) \mathord- \{\epsilon\}) \cup \mathsf{FIRST}(\mathsf{D}) \mathord= \{\mathsf{b},\mathsf{a},\mathsf{c}\}
C \rightarrow AD
D<sub>→aS</sub>
                  FIRST(aS)= {a}
```

```
3 Compute FOLLOW(A) ft s∈FOLLOW(S) all A

1.S is the start symbol, Follow(S)={$}; for all A∈V<sub>N</sub>, and A≠S,Follow(A)={ };

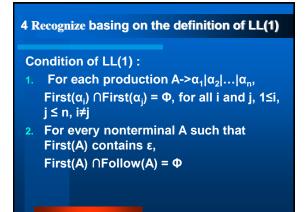
2.For each production B→αAγ, for each A that is a nonterminal do
Follow(A)=Follow(A)∪(First(γ) -{ε})
if ε∈ First(γ) then add Follow(B) to Follow(A)

if b∈FOLLOW(B), then S=>*...Bb..., because B→αAγ, and γ=>*, so S=>*...Bb..., aAγ b=>...αAb..., that is S=>*...αAb..., b∈FOLLOW(A)
```

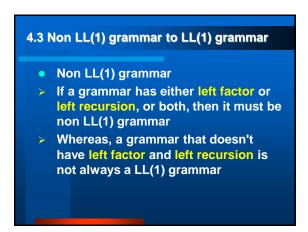
G[S]: [1]S->AB [2]S->bC [3]A->b [4]A->ε	First sets of nonterminals are: First(S)={a,b, ϵ } First(A)={b, ϵ } First(B)={a, ϵ } First(C)={a,b,c} First(D)={a,c}							
[5]B->aD [6]B->ε		Origin	Pass 1	Pass 2				
[7]C->AD [8]C->b	S	\$	\$	\$				
[9]D->aS	A B		a \$ c \$	a \$ c \$				
[10]D->c	C D		\$ \$	\$ \$				

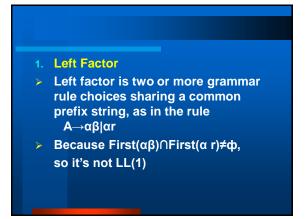
Compare First set with Follow set

 Eis an element of First set but never of Follow set
 First set is defined for nonterminals and strings of terminals and nonterminals, while Follow set is defined only for nonterminals
 The definition of Follow set works "on the right" of production, while the definition of the First set works "on the left"



G[S]:		nullable	First	Follow						
S→AB bC	S	yes	{a,b, ε}	{\$}						
A→b ε	Α	yes	{b, ε}	{a,c,\$}						
B→aD ε C→AD b	В	yes	{a, ε}	{\$}						
D→aS c	С	no	{a,b,c}	{\$}						
	D	no	{a,c}	{\$}						
≻S->AB bC : Fir	st(<i>l</i>	AB)={a,b, ε},	First(bC)	={b}						
First(AB) ∩First(bC)	={b}≠ф								
>C->AD b : Firs	>C->AD b : First(AD)={b,a,c}, First(b)={b}									
First(AD)∩First(b) =	{b}≠φ								
≻This grammar is not LL(1)										





2. Left Recursion

A grammar is left recursive if its productions have the following forms:
a) A→Aβ
b) A→Bβ B→Aα

a) is called immediate left recursion, where the left recursion occurs only within the production of a single nonterminal
b) is called indirect left recursion, where A=>Bβ=>Aαβ, that is A=>+A...

Take immediate left recursion for example, if there are productions: $A \rightarrow A \alpha \mid A \rightarrow \beta$ where α and β are arbitrary strings because First($A \alpha) \supseteq First(\beta)$ so it is not a LL(1) grammar

Techniques for rewriting non LL(1) grammar into LL(1)
 Left recursion removal
 Left factoring

 Notice:There is no guarantee that the application of these techniques will turn a grammar into LL(1) grammar

1 Left Recursion Removal

Immediate left recursion removal

Simple case

A->Aα| β rewrite this rule into

A-> βA', A'-> αA'| ε

General case

A→Aα||Aα₂|...|Aα_m|β₁|β₂|...|β_n

rewrite this rule into:

A→β₁A'|β₂A'|...|β_nA'

A'→α₁ A'|α₂ A'|...|α_m A'|ε

2 Left Factoring

> Simple case
Rewrite the rule $A \rightarrow \alpha \beta | \alpha r$ as $A \rightarrow \alpha (\beta | r), \text{ let } A' \text{ represents } \beta | r, \text{ we get}$ $A \rightarrow \alpha A' \qquad A' \rightarrow \beta | r$ $\alpha \text{must be the longest string shared by the right-hand sides.}$ > General case $A \rightarrow \alpha \beta_1 | \alpha \beta_2 | \dots | \alpha \beta_n,$ rewrite the rule as: $A \rightarrow \alpha A' \qquad A' \rightarrow \beta_1 | \beta_2 | \dots | \beta_n$

Example
 G1: S→aSb|aS|ε
 Left factoring:
 S→aS(b|ε)|ε
 The same as:
 S→aSS'|ε
 S'→b|ε

4.4 Top-Down Parsing by Recursive-Descent

- Main Idea of Recursive-Descent
- Define a procedure for each nonterminal A that will recognize A
- The right-hand side of the grammar rule for A specifies the structure of the code for this procedure
 - Terminals correspond to matches of the input
 - Nonterminals correspond to calls to other procedures
 - Choices correspond to alternatives(case or if statement) within the code

– G R	vill talk about: General method for construc Recursive-Descent parser A simpler method based on E	

General method for constructing Recursive-Descent parser 1. Determine whether the grammar is LL(1) Example 1) After left recursion removal we get grammar G': E→E+T|T E→TE' E'→+TE'|ε T→T*F|F F→(E)|i T→FT' T'→*FT'|ε

F→(E) | i

	nullable	First	Follow	E→TE'
Ε	no	{ (, i }	{), \$ }	E'→+TE' ε
E'	yes	{ +, ε}	{), \$ }	T→FT'
Т	no	{ (, i }	{ + ,), \$ }	T'→*FT' ε
T'	yes	{ *, ε}	{ + ,), \$ }	F→(E) i
F	no	{ (, i }	{ *, +,),\$}	G' is LL(1) gramma
		(6.7	(, 1,),Ψ]	

2 Construct Recursive-Descent Parser for G'

- When a grammar is LL(1), we can construct recursive-descent parser for it.
- The parser consists of a main procedure and a group of recursive procedures, each corresponds to a nonterminal of the grammar

Construction of procedure for a nonterminal

- Sub procedures used :
 - match is a procedure that matches the current next token with its parameter, advances the input if it succeeds, and declares error if it does not
 - error is a procedure that prints an error message and exit
- Variable used:
 - TOKEN is a variable that keeps the current next token in the input

```
1) If productions of nonterminal U are

U->x1 | x2 |...|xn, and x1,...xn≠ε, then the code for procedure U is as follow:

if TOKEN in First(x1) then p_x1

else if TOKEN in First(x2) then p_x2

else ...

if TOKEN in First(xn) then p_xn

else ERROR
```

```
2) If a production of U is U-> ε, then rewrite code if TOKEN in First(xn) then p_xn else ERROR into if TOKEN in First(xn) then p_xn else if TOKEN not in Follow(U) then ERROR
3) The code for p_x where x=y1y2...yn is: begin p_y1;p_y2;...;p_yn end if yi∈V<sub>N</sub> then p_yi is the call of procedure yi; otherwise, if yi∈V<sub>T</sub> then p_yi is match(yi)
```

```
Example:Recursive-descent parser for G'

E→TE ' E'→+TE' | ε
T→FT ' T'→*FT' | ε
F→(E) | i

(1) program MAIN; /* main */
begin
GETNEXT (TOKEN);
E; /* call E */
if TOKEN ≠'$' then ERROR
end.
```

```
(2) procedure E;
                                        /*E→TE'*/
    begin
     T;
                                        /*call T*/
     E'
                                        /*call E'*/
   end;
(3) procedure T;
                                       /*T→FT' */
    begin
      F;
                                        /*call F*/
      T'
                                        /*call T'*/
    end;
```

```
(4) procedure E';
                                   /*E' \rightarrow +TE' \mid \epsilon*/
    begin
      if TOKEN='+' then
                                    /*E'→+TE'*/
        begin
          match('+');
          T;
                                    /*call T*/
          E'
                                    /*call E'*/
        end
                                    /*Ε'->ε*/
     else
     if TOKEN≠')' and TOKEN≠'$' then ERROR
   end;
```

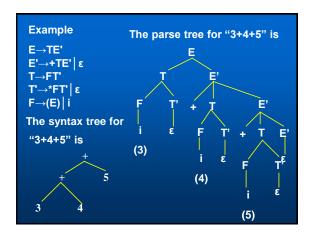
```
(5) procedure T';
                                /* T'→*FT' ε */
    begin
     if TOKEN = '*' then
                                 /* T'→*FT' */
        begin
        match("");
                                /* call F */
        F;
        T'
                                /* call T' */
        end
                                 /* T'→ε*/
 if TOKEN≠'+' and TOKEN≠')' and TOKEN≠'$'
 then ERROR
end;
```

```
(6) procedure F;
                                   /* F→(E) | i */
    begin
     if TOKEN = '(' then
                                      /*F→(E) */
        begin
          match('(');
                                       /* call E */
          E;
          match(')')
        end
                                       /* F→i */
     else
           if TOKEN='i' then match('i')
           else error;
   end;
```

```
Note:

Left factoring and left recursion removal change the grammar, these changes cause the complication of the parser

Left factoring and left recursion removal can obscure the semantics of the language structure (for example, they obscure the associativity in arithmetic expressions)
```



A simpler method based on EBNF
 Notations of EBNF (extended BNF)
 {} is used to express repetition
 Example:
 A->Aα|β is written as
 A->β{α}

```
> Construct Recursive-Descent Paring for G'
-[] is translated into a test in the code
-{} is translated into the code for a while loop
```

```
if-stmt->if (exp) stmt [else stmt]

can be translated into the procedure:

Procedure ifStmt;
begin
    match('if');
    match('('));
    Exp;
    match(')');
    Stmt;
    if token='else' then
        match('else');
    Stmt;
    end if;
    end ifStmt;
```

```
E-> T {+ T}
                         T-> F {* F}
(1) procedure E;
                         (2) procedure T;
    begin
                             begin
                               F;
     while token='+' do
                               while token="*' do
          match('+');
                                    match("");
          T:
     end while;
                               end while;
     end
                               end
```

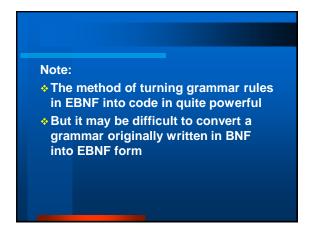
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Sub functions used

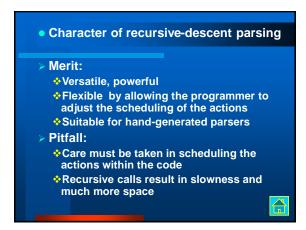
- MakeOpNode that receives an operator token as a parameter and returns a newly constructed syntax tree node

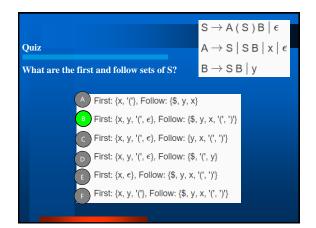
- leftChild(t):=p or rightChild(t):=p indicates the assignment of a syntax tree p as a left or right child of a syntax tree t
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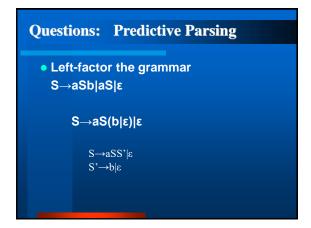
```
function E:syntaxTree;
    var temp,newtemp:syntaxTree;
    begin
        temp:=T;
        while token='+' do
            newtemp:=makeOpNode(token);
            match('+');
        leftChild(newtemp):=temp;
        rightChild(newtemp):=T;
        temp:=newtemp;
    end while;
    return temp;
end
```

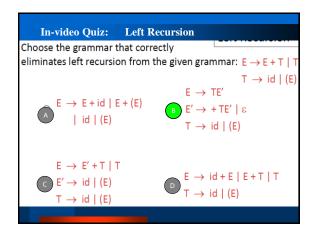
```
function ifStmt: syntaxTree;
                          /* if-stmt->if (exp) stmt [else stmt] */
var temp :syntaxTree;
begin
   match('if');
   match('(');
   temp:=makeStmtNode('if');
   testChild(temp):=Exp;
   match(')');
   thenChild(temp):=Stmt;
   if token='else' then
      match('else');
      elseChild(temp):=Stmt;
      elseChild(temp):=nil;
   end if;
end
```

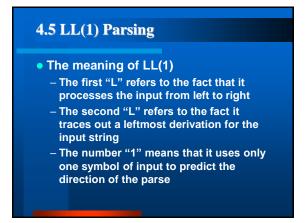


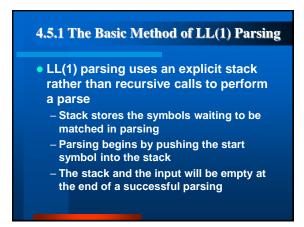


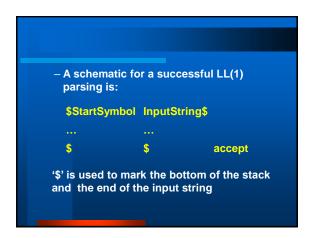


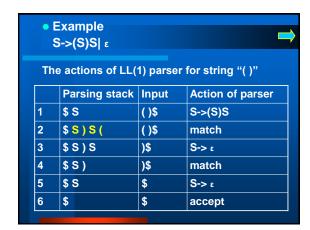


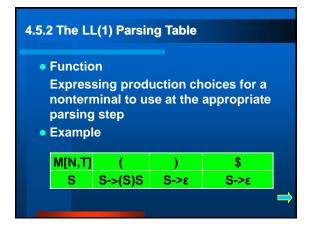










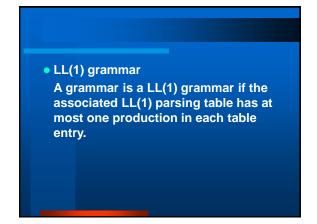


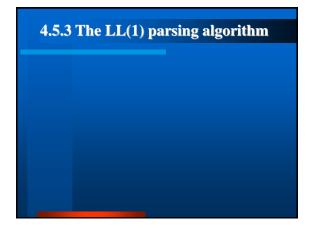


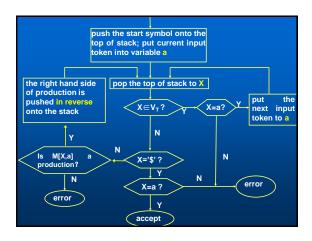
The Construction of Parsing Tables
Repeat the following two steps for each nonterminal A and production choice A→ α
1. For each token 'a' in First(α), add A→ α to the entry M[A,a]
2. if εis in First(α), for each element 'a' of Follow(A) (token or \$), add A→ α to M[A,a]

Example :Grammar of arithmetic expression $E {\to} E {+} T {\mid} T$ $T {\to} T {+} F {\mid} F$ $F {\to} (E) {\mid} i$
(1) After left recursive removal gets G'
E→TE '
E'→+TE' ε
T→FT '
T'→*FT' ε
F→(E) i

E→	TE'	(2) F	irst a	nd Fo	llow s	et	for no	onte	erminals	
-	arrel a			nulla	ble	First		Follow		
	+ΤΕ' ε		Е	no		{(,i}		{),\$}		
T→l	FT'		E'	yes		{+	+, ε} {),		5}	
T '→	*FT' ε		Т	no		{(,	{(,i}		{+,),\$}	
			T'	yes	yes {		*, ε} {		{+,),\$}	
F→(E) i				no		{(,	{(,i} {*,-		⊦,),\$}	
(3)	Construct	parsing ta	ble							
	i	+		*	()		\$	
Е	E→TE'				E→TE'					
E'						E'→	3	E' → ε		
Т	T→ FT'				T→ FT'					
T'		T '→ ε	T '	* FT'			T' →	3	$T'\!\!\to \epsilon$	
F	F→ i				F→ (E	≣)				

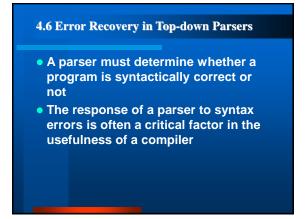






			i + * (()		\$		
E		E→T	E'			E-	∍TE'			
E	•			E'→+TE'				E'→ ε	E	Ξ'→ ε
1		T→ F	·T'			T-	FT'			
T	•			T' → ε	T'→* FT'			T'→ ε	1	Γ'→ ε
F	F F→i				F-	→ (E)				
	S	Step S		ack	Input		Action			
	1		\$E		i+i*i\$		E→	TE'		
	2		\$E	'T	i+i*i\$		T→I	-T'		
	3		\$E	'T'F	i+i*i\$		F→i	i e		
	4		\$E	'T'i	i+i*i\$		mat	ch i		
	5	\$E		'T'	+i*i\$		T'→ ε			
	6	5 \$E		'	+i*i\$		E'→	+TE'		
	7		\$E	'T+	+i*i\$		mat	ch +		

	i		+	*		()	\$	
E	E→TI	E'			E→TE'				
E'			E'→+TE'				E'→ ε	E' → ε	
T	T→ F	T'			T	→ FT'			
T'			T' → ε	T'→* FT'			T '→ ε	T'→ ε	
F	F→	i			F	→ (E)			
	8 \$E		E'T	i*i\$		T→FT'			
	9 \$E		E'T'F	i*i\$		F→i			
	10 \$E		E'T'i	i*i\$		matcl	ı i		
	11 \$E		Ξ'Τ'	*i\$		T '→ *	FT'		
	12 \$E		E'T'F*	*i\$		match	ı *		
	13 \$E		E'T'F	i\$		F→i			
	14 \$E		E'T'i	i\$		match i			
	15	\$E	Ξ'T'	\$		T'→ ε			
	16	\$E	≣'	\$		E '→ ε			\$
	17	\$		\$		accep	ot		



 Normal syntactical errors Start and following symbols error The start and following symbol of program, expressions and statements for example, the TINY language start symbol following symbol ; else end until statement if, repeat, identifier, read, write (, number,) then ; exp identifier

Identifiers and constants error
 Such as "const", "var", "procedure" is not
 followed by identifiers
 Parenthesis matching error
 Such as, begin—end, if—then don't match
 Symbols error
 Such as symbol in assignment is not ":="

- Error handing
 Give a meaningful error message
 Pick a likely place to resume the parse.
 A parser should always try to parse as much of the code as possible, in order to find as many real errors as possible during a single translation
- Categories of Error Handing
 Error Recovery: after an error has occurred, the parser picks a likely place to resume the parsing
 Error Repair: the parser attempts to infer a correct program from the incorrect one given

4.6.1 Error Recovery in Recursive-Descent Parsers

Panic Mode

In complex situations, the error handler will consume a possibly large number of tokens in an attempt to find a place to resume parsing

- The Basic Mechanism of Panic Mode
- Provide each recursive procedure with an extra parameter consisting of a set of synchronizing tokens
- As parsing proceeds, tokens that may function as synchronizing tokens are added to this set as each call occurs
- If an error is encountered, the parser scans ahead, throwing away tokens until one of the synchronizing set of tokens is seen in the input

Follow sets are important candidates for synchronizing tokens

Assume SynchSetS is the synchronizing **Example** set of S S->id:=E1 S->if E2 then S1 else S2 SynchSetE1=SynchSetS SynchSetE₂={then} S->while E₃ do S₃ SynchSetS₁={else} S->repeat S4 until E4 SynchSetS₂=SynchSetS S->begin SL end SynchSetE₃={do} SynchSetS₃=SynchSetS SynchSetS₄={until} SynchSetE₄=SynchSetS SynchSetSL={end}

- First sets may also be used to prevent the error handler from skipping important tokens that begin major new constructs
- First sets are also important, in that they allow a recursive descent parser to detect errors early in the parse

- Realization of Panic Mode
- At the beginning of each procedure, check whether the current input token is in FirstSet. If not, scan ahead until find the first token in FirstSet ∪SynchSet, parsing is resumed from this token
- 2) Before returning from a procedure, check whether the next token is in SynchSet. If not, scan ahead until find the first token in FirstSet ∪SynchSet, parsing is resumed from this token

```
Example

E-> T {+ T}

T-> F {* F}

F->(E) | i

procedure checkinput( firstset, followset ); begin

if not (token in firstset) then

error;

getToken;

while not (token in (firstset ∪ followset))

do getToken;
end if;
end;
```

```
E-> T {+ T}

procedure E(synchset);

begin

checkinput( { (, i }, synchset );

if not (token in synchset) then

T(synchset);

while token='+' do

match('+');

T(synchset);

end while;

checkinput( synchset, { (, i } );

end if;

end
```