# Compiler Construction

Lecture 5 - Top-Down Parsing

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## What is top-down parsing?

- Top-down parsing is a parsing-method where a sentence is parsed starting from the root of the parse tree (with the "Start" symbol), working recursively down to the leaves of the tree (with the terminals).
- In practice, top-down parsing algorithms are easier to understand than bottom-up algorithms.
- Not all grammars can be parsed top-down, but most context-free grammars can be parsed bottomup.

## An example of top-down parsing

Let's consider the expression grammar:

E ::= E + T | T

T := T \* F | F

 $F ::= id \mid const \mid (E)$ 

How will it begin parsing the expression:

3\*x + y\*z

T



F

const

# LL(k) grammars

- Top-down grammars are referred to as LL(k) grammars:
  - The first L indicates *L*eft-to-Right scanning.
  - The second L indicates *L*eft-most derivation
  - The k indicates k lookahead characters.
- We will be examining LL(1) grammars, which spot errors at the earliest opportunity but provide strict requirements on our grammars.

## LL(1) grammars

- LL(1) grammars determine from a single lookahead token which alternative derivation to use in parsing a sentence.
- This requires that if a nonterminal A has two different productions:

 $A := \alpha$  and  $A := \beta$ 

- that a and  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  cannot begin with the same token.
- $-\alpha \underline{or} \beta$  can derive an empty string but not both.
- if  $\beta =>^* \epsilon$ , α cannot derive any string that begins with a token that could immediately follow A.

## LL(1) grammars (continued)

If you look at the first token of expression

$$3*x + y*z$$

(which is **const**) and the productions for the start symbol E

$$E := E + T | T$$

How can you tell whether it derives E + T or simply T? This requires information about the subsequent tokens.

## LL(1) grammars (continued)

- It becomes necessary to convert many grammars into LL(1). The most common conversions involve:
- Removing left-recursion (whether it is direct or indirect)
- Factoring out any terminals found out the beginning of more than one production for a given nonterminal

## Removing left-recursion

• Aho, Sethi and Ullman show that left recursion of the form:

$$A := A\alpha \mid \beta$$

can be converted to right-recursion (which <u>is</u> LL(1)) by replacing it with the following productions:

$$A ::= \beta A'$$

$$A' ::= \alpha A' \mid \epsilon$$

# Removing indirect left recursion

Indirect recursion has nonterminals appear on the right-hand side of productions which appear in its own right sentential form: e.g.,  $A := B \alpha \mid c$ 

$$B ::= B \beta | A \delta | d$$

This can be removed by arranging the nonterminals in order and by then substituting for A in B's right sentential form:

$$A := B \alpha \mid c$$

$$B := B \beta | B \alpha \delta | c \delta | d$$

Now we simply eliminate the direct left-recursion:

$$A := B \alpha \mid c$$

$$B := c \delta B' \mid d B'$$

$$B' ::= \beta B' \mid \alpha \ \delta B' \mid \epsilon$$

## **Left-Factoring**

Many grammars have the same prefix symbols at the beginning of alternative right sentential forms for a nonterminal:

e.g., 
$$A := \alpha \beta \mid \alpha \gamma$$

We replace these production with the following:

$$A := \alpha A'$$

A' ::= 
$$\beta \mid \gamma$$

### Converting an expression grammar into LL(1) form

• Our expression grammar is:

$$E ::= E + T \mid T$$
 $T ::= T * F \mid F$ 
 $F ::= id \mid const \mid (E)$ 

• Following our rule for removing direct left-recursion, our grammar becomes:

$$E ::= T E'$$

$$E' ::= + T E' \mid \varepsilon$$

$$T ::= F T '$$

$$T' ::= * F T' \mid \varepsilon$$

$$F ::= id \mid const \mid (E)$$

### Parse Table

Once the grammar is in LL(1) form, we create a table showing which production we use in parsing each nonterminal for every possible lookahead token:

	Е	E'	T	T'	F
+		2		6	
*				5	
(	1		4		9
)		3		6	
id	1		4		7
const	1		4		8
\$		3		6	

1	E ::= TE'
2	E' ::= +TE'
3	E' ::= $\varepsilon$
4	T ::= FT'
5	T' ::= *FT'
6	$T' ::= \varepsilon$
7	F := id
8	F := const
9	F ::= (E)

#### Parsing an expression using the LL(1) parse table

Let's take a look at the expression

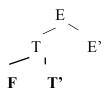
$$3*x + y$$

Our parse tree is initially just the start symbol *E* and our lookahead token is **const** (the lexeme is **3**)

The production for E and a lookahead token of **const** is is #1, making our parse tree

T E'

The production for T and a lookahead token of **const** is is #4, making our parse tree:



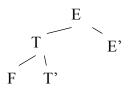
# Parsing an expression using the LL(1) parse table (continued)

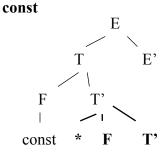
The production for F and a lookahead token of **const** is #8, making our parse tree:

Since we have now matched the token, we get a new lookahead

The production for T' and a lookahead token of \* is is #5, making our parse tree:

We get another lookahead

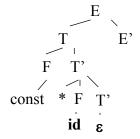




# Parsing an expression using the LL(1) parse table (continued)

The production for F and a lookahead token of **id** is #7, making our parse tree:

We get a new lookahead



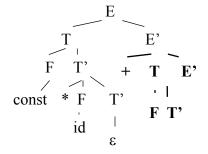
The production for T' and a lookahead token of + is #6, making our parse tree:

# Parsing an expression using the LL(1) parse table (continued)

The production for E' and a lookahead token of + is #2, making our parse tree:

We get a new lookahead

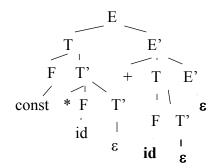
The production for T and a lookahead token of id is #4, making our parse tree:



# Parsing an expression using the LL(1) parse table (continued)

The production for F and a lookahead token of **id** is #7, making our parse tree:
We get a new lookahead

Having reached the EOF (represented by \$), the productions for T' and E' are 6 and 3 respectively. Our parse tree is complete.



### FIRST and FOLLOW sets

- Since LL(1) grammars are *predictive* (the first lookahead determines how we parse the nonterminal), the set of tokens that can appear at the beginning of any derivation for that nonterminal becomes extremely important. This is the *FIRST set*.
- Since LL(1) grammars include epsilon productions, the set of token that can appear immediately following the nonterminal becomes important in determining the FIRST set and is called the *FOLLOW set*.

#### FIRST sets

- Definition: FIRST(A) (where A is a nonterminal) is the set of symbols beginning strings generated by A.
- Examples

```
-FIRST(E) = \{ id, const, ( \} \}
```

$$- FIRST(E') = \{ +, \}, \}$$

$$- FIRST(T) = \{id, const, (\cdot)\}$$

$$-FIRST(T') = \{+, *, \}, \}$$

$$- FIRST(F) = \{id, const, ()\}$$

#### **FOLLOW** sets

- Definition: FOLLOW(A) (where A is a nonterminal) is a set of symbol appearing to the right of A in a sentential form.
- Examples:

```
- FOLLOW(E) = \{ \}, \$ \}
```

$$- FOLLOW(E') = \{\}, \$\}$$

$$- FOLLOW(T) = (+, ),$$
\$

$$- FOLLOW(T') = \{ +, \}, \}$$

$$- FOLLOW(F) = \{ *, +, ), \$ \}$$

## Computing FIRST sets

To compute FIRST sets:

WHILE there are still terminals that may be added:

FOR each production and for each nonterminal (in the form  $A := \beta_i$ :

IF  $\beta_1$  is a terminal, add it to the FIRST set for A (& Production i)

ELSE IF  $\beta_1$  is  $\epsilon$ , add the FOLLOW set for A to the FIRST set for A (& Production i)

ELSE ( $\beta_1$  is a nonterminal), add the FIRST set for  $\beta_1$  to the FIRST set for A (& Production i).

## Computing FOLLOW sets

Initialize FOLLOW(S) to { \$ }

Initialize the other FOLLOW sets to { }

WHILE there are terminals that can be added:

FOR each nonterminal B:

Look for productions  $P_i$  in the form  $A ::= \alpha \ B \ \gamma$ 

IF  $\gamma$  is a terminal, add it to the set FOLLOW(B)

ELSE IF  $\gamma = \varepsilon$ , add FOLLOW(A) to FOLLOW(B)

ELSE ( $\gamma$  is a nonterminal), add FIRST( $\gamma$ ) to FOLLOW(B)

#### Determining FIRST sets for LL(1) grammars

Let's take another look at our expression grammar in LL(1) form:

```
1 E ::= TE'
                           FIRST(1) = FIRST(T)
2 E' ::= +TE'
                           FIRST(2) = \{ + \}
3 E' ::= \varepsilon
                           FIRST(3) = FOLLOW(E')
4 T ::= FT'
                           FIRST(4) = FIRST(F)
5 T' ::= *FT'
                           FIRST(5) = \{ * \}
6 T' ::= \varepsilon
                           FIRST(6) = FOLLOW(T')
7 \text{ F} := id
                           FIRST(7) = \{ id \}
8 F ::= const
                           FIRST(8) = \{ const \}
9 F ::= (E)
                           FIRST(9) = \{ ( ) \}
```

It becomes useful to work with the FIRST(i), which is the first set for the derivations of the nonterminal coming from production i.

Determining FIRST sets for LL(1) grammars (continued)

```
= FIRST(7) U FIRST(8) U FIRST (9)
FIRST(F)
                 = \{ id, const, ( ) \}
Therefore, FIRST(4) = FIRST(F) = \{ id, const, ( \} \}
Also, FIRST(T) = FIRST(4) = \{ id, const, ( ) \}
1 E ::= TE'
                          FIRST(1) = \{ id, const, () \}
2 E' ::= +TE'
                          FIRST(2) = \{ + \}
3 E' ::= \varepsilon
                          FIRST(3) = FOLLOW(E')
4 T ::= FT'
                          FIRST(4) = \{ id, const, () \}
                          FIRST(5) = \{ * \}
5 T' ::= *FT'
6 T' ::= \varepsilon
                          FIRST(6) = FOLLOW(T')
7 \text{ F} := id
                          FIRST(7) = \{ id \}
8 F ::= const
                          FIRST(8) = \{ const \}
9 F ::= (E)
                          FIRST(9) = \{ ( ) \}
```

Determining FIRST sets for LL(1) grammars (continued)

FOLLOW(E) is initially { \$ }.

Since E is on the right side of Production #9, we add ) to the set.

Since E' is in both Productions 1 and 2 without anything following it (and Production is recursive, adding nothing), we add FOLLOW(E) to FOLLOW(E')

$$FOLLOW(E') = FOLLOW(E) = \{ \}, \}$$

Similarly,

Determining FIRST sets for LL(1) grammars (continued)

After determining the FOLLOW sets for E' and T', we have:

```
1 E ::= TE'
                             FIRST(1) = \{ id, const, () \}
2 E' ::= +TE'
                             FIRST(2) = \{ + \}
3 E' ::= \varepsilon
                             FIRST(3) = \{ \}, \$ \}
4 T ::= FT'
                             FIRST(4) = \{ id, const, () \}
5 T' ::= *FT'
                             FIRST(5) = \{ * \}
6 T' ::= \varepsilon
                             FIRST(6) = \{+, \}, \}
7 F := id
                             FIRST(7) = \{ id \}
                             FIRST(8) = \{ const \}
8 F ::= const
9 F ::= (E)
                             FIRST(9) = \{ ( ) \}
```

How do we use this information in Parsing?

To determine which production to use in expanding a nonterminal.

#### Parse Table - the final result

By looking up the token and nonterminal, we determine how to expand a given nonterminal.

We can build the parse recursively, or nonrecursively by using a stack.

	Е	E'	T	T'	F
+		2		6	
*				5	
(	1		4		9
)		3		6	
id	1		4		7
const	1		4		8
\$		3		6	

1	E ::= TE'
2	E' ::= +TE'
3	E' ::= ε
4	T ::= FT'
5	T' ::= *FT'
6	T' ::= ε
7	F := id
8	F := const
9	F := (E)

## The LL(1) JASON Grammar

- 1 Program ::= Header DeclSec Block.
- 2 *Header* ::= **program identifier**;
- 3 DeclSec ::= VarDecls ProcDecls
- 4 VarDecls ::= VarDecl VarDecls
- 5  $VarDecls := \varepsilon$
- 6 VarDecl ::= DataType IdList;
- 7 DataType ::= integer
- 8 *DataType* ::= **real**
- 9 *IdList* ::= **identifier** *MoreIdList*

## The LL(1) JASON Grammar (continued)

```
10 MoreIdList ::= , identifier MoreIdList
11 MoreIdList := ε
12 ProcDecls ::= ProcDecl ProcDecls
13 ProcDecls ::= ε
14 ProcDecl ::= ProcHeader DeclSec Block;
15 ProcHeader ::= procedure identifier ParamList;
16 ParamList ::= ( ParamDecls )
17 ParamList ::= ε
18 ParamDecls ::= ParamDecl MoreParamDecls
```

## The LL(1) JASON Grammar (continued)

```
19 MoreParamDecls ::= ; ParamDecl MoreParamDecls
20 MoreParamDecls ::= ε
21 ParamDecl ::= DataType identifier
22 Block ::= begin Statements end
23 Statements ::= Statement MoreStatements
24 MoreStatements ::= ; Statement MoreStatements
25 MoreStatements ::= ε
26 Statement ::= read identifier
27 Statement ::= set identifier = Expression
```

# The LL(1) JASON Grammar (continued)

```
28 Statement ::= write identifier
20 Statement ::= if Condition then S
```

- 29 Statement ::= if Condition then Statements ElseClause endif
- 30 Statement ::= while Condition do Statements endwhile
- 31 Statement ::= until Condition do Statements enduntil
- 32 Statement ::= call identifier ArgList
- 33 Statement ::=  $\varepsilon$
- 34 *ElseClause* ::= **else** *Statements*
- 35 *ElseClause* ::=  $\varepsilon$
- 36 ArgList := (Args)

## The LL(1) JASON Grammar (continued)

```
37 ArgList := \varepsilon
```

- 38 Args ::= identifier MoreArgs
- 39 MoreArgs ::= , identifier MoreArgs
- $40 \; MoreArgs := \epsilon$
- 41 Condition ::= Expression RelOp Expression
- 42 RelOp :==
- 43 *RelOp* ::=!
- 44 *RelOp* ::=>
- 45 *RelOp* ::= <

# The LL(1) JASON Grammar (continued)

```
46 Expression ::= Term MoreExpression
```

- 47 MoreExpression ::= AddOp Term MoreExpression
- 48 *MoreExpression* ::=  $\epsilon$
- 49 Term ::= Factor MoreTerm
- 50 MoreTerm ::= MultOp Factor MoreTerm
- 51 *MoreTerm* ::=  $\varepsilon$
- 52 *Factor* ::= identifier
- 53 Factor::= constant
- $54 \ AddOp := +$

## The LL(1) JASON Grammar (continued)

```
55 \ AddOp ::= -
```

56 *MultOp* ::= \*

57 *MultOp* ::= /

#### FIRST set for JASON

#### FIRST set for JASON (continued)

#### FIRST set for JASON (continued)

### FIRST set for JASON (continued)

```
FIRST(26) = { read }

FIRST(27) = { set }

FIRST(28) = { write }

FIRST(29) = { if }

FIRST(30) = { while }

FIRST(31) = { until }

FIRST(32) = { call }

FIRST(33) = FOLLOW(Statement)

FIRST(34) = { else }

FIRST(35) = FOLLOW(ElseClause) = { endif }

FIRST(36) = { ( }
```

#### FIRST set for JASON (continued)

```
FIRST(37) = FOLLOW(ArgList) = FOLLOW(Statement)

FIRST(38) = { identifier }

FIRST(39) = { , }

FIRST(40) = FOLLOW(MoreArgs) = { ) }

FIRST(41) = FIRST(Expression)

FIRST(42) = { = }

FIRST(43) = { ! }

FIRST(44) = { > }

FIRST(45) = { < }

FIRST(46) = FIRST(Term) = FIRST(Factor)

FIRST(47) = FIRST(AddOp) = { +, - }
```

### FIRST set for JASON (continued)

```
FIRST(48) = FOLLOW(MoreExpression)

FIRST(49) = FIRST(Factor)

FIRST(50) = FIRST(MultOp) = (*, / }

FIRST(51) = FOLLOW(MoreTerm)

FIRST(52) = { identifier }

FIRST(53) = { constant }

FIRST(54) = { + }

FIRST(55) = { - }

FIRST(56) = { * }

FIRST(57) = { / }
```

### Determining the FIRST set for JASON

```
Let's determine the FIRST sets for the nonterminals:

FIRST(3) = FIRST(4) = FIRST(VarDecl) =

FIRST(DataType) = { integer, real }

FIRST(23) = FIRST(Statement) = FIRST(26) \cup FIRST(27) \cup FIRST(28) \cup FIRST(29) \cup FIRST(30) \cup FIRST(31) \cup FIRST(32) \cup FIRST(33) = { read, set, write, if, while, until, call} \cup FOLLOW(Statement)

FIRST(41) = FIRST(46) = FIRST(49) = FIRST(Expression) = FIRST(Term) = FIRST(Factor) = { identifier, constant }
```

#### Determining the FIRST set for JASON (continued)

```
Now we must find the necessary FOLLOW sets:

FIRST(5) = FIRST(ProcDecl) U FOLLOW(ProcDecls) = { procedure } U FOLLOW (DeclSec) = { procedure, begin } 

FIRST(11) = FOLLOW(IdList) = FOLLOW(VarDecl) = { integer, real, procedure, begin } 

FIRST(25) = FOLLOW(33) = FOLLOW(37) = FOLLOW(Statement) = FOLLOW(MoreStatements) = { ;, end, endif, endwhile, enduntil, else } 

FIRST(48) = FOLLOW(MoreExpression) = FOLLOW(Condition) = { ;, end, endif, endwhile, enduntil, else, then, do } 

FIRST(51) = FIRST(MoreExpression) U FOLLOW(Expression) = {+, ;, end, endif, endwhile, enduntil, else, then, do }
```

#### Implementing the Parse Table

```
// The production table for predictive parsing.
// The nonzero entries are the production numbers for a
// particular nonterminal matched with a lookahead token
// Zero entries means that there is no such production
// and it is a parsing error.
const int
                    prodtable[][numtokens+3] = {
/*Program*/ { 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
               1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
               0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0},
             { 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
/*Header*/
               2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
               0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0},
/*DeclSect*/ { 3, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 3, 0, 3,
               0, 0, 3, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
               0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0},
```

#### Implementing the parse table (continued)

```
/*VarDecls*/ { 5, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 4, 0, 5,
               0, 0, 4, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
               0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0},
/*VarDecl*/ { 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 6, 0, 0,
               0, 0, 6, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
               0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0},
/*DataType*/ { 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 7, 0, 0,
               0, 0, 8, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
               0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0},
/*IdList*/
            { 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
               0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
               0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 9, 0},
/*MoreIdList*/{ 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
               0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
               0,11,10, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0},
```

## The Parsing Algorithm

Processing context-free expressions requires the use of a stack. The Parsing algorithm uses a stack:

Place the start symbol in a node and push it onto the stack.

Fetch a token

REPEAT

Pop a node from the stack

IF it contains a terminal, match it to the current token (no match indicates a parsing error) and fetch another token

ELSE IF it contains a nonterminal, look it up in the production table using the nontermina and the current token. Place the variables in REVERSE order on the stack

UNTIL the stack is empty

# Recursive-Descent Parsing

- Recursive-descent parsing is a top-down parsing technique which shows a series of recursive procedures to parse the program
- There is a separate procedure for each individual nonterminal.
- Each procedure is essentially a large if-then-else structure which looks for the appropriate tokens when the grammar requires a particular terminal and calls another procedure recursively when the grammar requires a nonterminal.

#### Recursive descent parsing of JASON

```
class parser
                  : scanner
                               {
public:
                  argcount, char *args[]);
  parser(int
  parser(void);
  void
            ProcProgram(void);
private:
  void
            ProcHeader(void);
  void
            ProcDeclSec(void);
  ... ...
  void
            error(char message[], int linenum);
  tokentype thistoken;
  int
                  tabindex, level;
};
```

```
symboltable
                  st;
// main() - Just a simple-minded driver
int
      main(int argc, char *argv[])
  parser
                  p(argc, argv);
  p.ProcProgram();
  st.dump();
  return(0);
}
parser::parser(int argcount, char *args[])
                         : scanner (argcount,args)
{
      level = 0;
      thistoken = gettoken(tabindex);
}
```

```
void parser::ProcProgram(void)
{
    level++;
    cout << level << '\t' << "Program" << endl;
    // Program ::= Header    DeclSec    Block .
    ProcHeader();
    ProcDeclSec();
    ProcBlock();
    if (thistoken != tokperiod)
        error("Expected \".\"", linenum);
    getchar();
    ++level;
}</pre>
```

```
if (thistoken != toksemicolon)
    error("Expected \";\"", linenum);
cout << level+1 << '\t' << ";" << endl;
thistoken = gettoken(tabindex);

--level;
}
void parser::ProcDeclSec(void)
{
    level++;
    cout << level << '\t' << "DeclSec" << endl;

// DeclSec ::= VarDecls ProcDecls
ProcVarDecls();
ProcProcDecls();
--level;
}</pre>
```