

# LR Parsing

## Compiler Design

CSE 504

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Shift-Reduce Parsing

## Leftmost and Rightmost Derivations

$$\begin{array}{c} \overline{E \rightarrow E+T} \\ E \rightarrow T \\ T \rightarrow \text{id} \end{array}$$

Derivations for  $\text{id} + \text{id}$ :

$$\begin{array}{ll|ll} E & \Rightarrow & E+T & E & \Rightarrow & E+T \\ & \Rightarrow & T+T & & \Rightarrow & E+\text{id} \\ & \Rightarrow & \text{id}+T & & \Rightarrow & T+\text{id} \\ & \Rightarrow & \text{id}+\text{id} & & \Rightarrow & \text{id}+\text{id} \\ \text{LEFTMOST} & & & \text{RIGHTMOST} & & \end{array}$$

## Bottom-up Parsing

Given a stream of tokens  $w$ , *reduce* it to the start symbol.

$$\begin{array}{c} \overline{E \rightarrow E+T} \\ E \rightarrow T \\ T \rightarrow \text{id} \end{array}$$

Parse input stream:  $\text{id} + \text{id}$ :

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{id} + \text{id} \\ T + \text{id} \\ E + \text{id} \\ E + T \\ E \end{array}$$

**Reduction  $\equiv$  Derivation $^{-1}$ .**

## Shift-Reduce Parsing: An Example

$$\begin{array}{c} \overline{E \rightarrow E+T} \\ E \rightarrow T \\ T \rightarrow \text{id} \end{array}$$

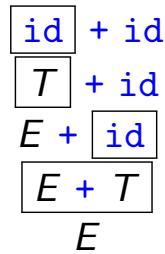
STACK	INPUT STREAM	ACTION
\$	$\text{id} + \text{id} \$$	<b>shift</b>
\$ $\text{id}$	$+ \text{id} \$$	<b>reduce by</b> $T \rightarrow \text{id}$
\$ $T$	$+ \text{id} \$$	<b>reduce by</b> $E \rightarrow T$
\$ $E$	$+ \text{id} \$$	<b>shift</b>
\$ $E +$	$\text{id} \$$	<b>shift</b>
\$ $E + \text{id}$	\$	<b>reduce by</b> $T \rightarrow \text{id}$
\$ $E + T$	\$	<b>reduce by</b> $E \rightarrow E+T$
\$ $E$	\$	<b>ACCEPT</b>

## Handles

“A structure that furnishes a means to perform reductions”

$$\begin{array}{rcl} E & \longrightarrow & E + T \\ E & \longrightarrow & T \\ T & \longrightarrow & \text{id} \end{array}$$

Parse input stream:  $\text{id} + \text{id}$ :



## Handles

Handles are substrings of sentential forms:

- ① A substring that matches the right hand side of a production
- ② Reduction using that rule can lead to the start symbol
- ③ The rule forms one step in a rightmost derivation of the string

$$\begin{array}{lcl} E & \implies & \boxed{E + T} \\ & \implies & \boxed{E + \text{id}} \\ & \implies & \boxed{T + \text{id}} \\ & \implies & \boxed{\text{id} + \text{id}} \end{array}$$

**Handle Pruning:** replace handle by corresponding LHS.

# Shift-Reduce Parsing

Bottom-up parsing

- **Shift:** Construct leftmost handle on top of stack
- **Reduce:** Identify handle and replace by corresponding RHS
- **Accept:** Continue until string is reduced to start symbol and input token stream is empty
- **Error:** Signal parse error if no handle is found.

## Implementing Shift-Reduce Parsers

- **Stack** to hold grammar symbols (corresponding to tokens seen thus far).
- **Input stream** of yet-to-be-seen tokens.
- **Handles** appear on top of stack.
- Stack is initially empty (denoted by \$).
- Parse is successful if stack contains only the start symbol when the input stream ends.

# Preparing for Shift-Reduce Parsing

- ① Identify a handle in string.  
Top of stack is the *rightmost* end of the handle. What is the leftmost end?
- ② If there are multiple productions with the handle on the RHS, which one to choose?

Construct a parsing table, just as in the case of LL(1) parsing.

## Shift-Reduce Parsing: Derivations

STACK	INPUT STREAM	ACTION
\$	$\text{id} + \text{id}$ \$	shift
\$ $\text{id}$	+ $\text{id}$ \$	reduce by $T \rightarrow \text{id}$
\$ $T$	+ $\text{id}$ \$	reduce by $E \rightarrow T$
\$ $E$	+ $\text{id}$ \$	shift
\$ $E +$	$\text{id}$ \$	shift
\$ $E + \text{id}$	\$	reduce by $T \rightarrow \text{id}$
\$ $E + T$	\$	reduce by $E \rightarrow E + T$
\$ $E$	\$	<b>ACCEPT</b>

Left to Right Scan of input

Rightmost Derivation in reverse.

# A Simple Example of LR Parsing

$\begin{array}{l} S \rightarrow BC \\ B \rightarrow a \\ C \rightarrow a \end{array}$		
STACK	INPUT STREAM	ACTION
\$	a a \$	shift
\$ a	a \$	reduce by $B \rightarrow a$
\$ B	a \$	shift
\$ B a	\$	reduce by $C \rightarrow a$
\$ B C	\$	reduce by $S \rightarrow BC$
\$ S	\$	<b>ACCEPT</b>

# A Simple Example of LR Parsing: A Detailed Look

STACK	INPUT	STATE	ACTION
\$	a a \$	$S' \rightarrow \bullet S$ $S \rightarrow \bullet BC$ $B \rightarrow \bullet a$	shift
\$ a	a \$	$B \rightarrow a \bullet$	reduce by 3
\$ B	a \$	$S \rightarrow B \bullet C$ $C \rightarrow \bullet a$	shift
\$ B a	\$	$C \rightarrow a \bullet$	reduce by 4
\$ B C	\$	$S \rightarrow BC \bullet$	reduce by 2
\$ S	\$	$S' \rightarrow S \bullet$	<b>ACCEPT</b>

$S' \rightarrow S$   
 $S \rightarrow B C$   
 $B \rightarrow a$   
 $C \rightarrow a$

## LR Parsing: Another Example

STACK	INPUT	STATE	ACTION
\$	id + id \$	$E' \rightarrow \bullet E$ $E \rightarrow \bullet E^+ T$ $E \rightarrow \bullet T$ $T \rightarrow \bullet id$	shift
$E' \rightarrow E$			
$E \rightarrow E^+ T$			
$E \rightarrow T$			
$T \rightarrow id$			
$\$ id$	+ id \$	$T \rightarrow id \bullet$	reduce by 4
$\$ T$	+ id \$	$E \rightarrow T \bullet$	reduce by 3
$\$ E$	+ id \$	$E' \rightarrow E \bullet$ $E \rightarrow E \bullet + T$	shift
$\$ E^+$	id \$	$E \rightarrow E^+ \bullet T$ $T \rightarrow \bullet id$	shift
$\$ E^+ id$	\$	$T \rightarrow id \bullet$	reduce by 4
$\$ E^+ T$	\$	$E \rightarrow E^+ T \bullet$	reduce by 2
$\$ E$	\$	$E \rightarrow E \bullet + T$ $E' \rightarrow E \bullet$	ACCEPT

## States of an LR parser

$I_0:$	$E' \rightarrow \bullet E$
	$E \rightarrow \bullet E^+ T$
	$E \rightarrow \bullet T$
	$T \rightarrow \bullet id$

- Item:** A production with “•” somewhere on the RHS. Intuitively,
- grammar symbols before the “•” are on stack;
  - grammar symbols after the “•” represent symbols in the input stream.

**Item set:** A set of items; corresponds to a state of the parser.

## States of an LR parser (contd.)

$I_0$	$E' \rightarrow \bullet E$ $E \rightarrow \bullet E + T$ $E \rightarrow \bullet T$ $T \rightarrow \bullet id$	Initial State $= closure(\{E' \rightarrow \bullet E\})$
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### Closure:

- What other items are “equivalent” to the given item?
- Given an item  $A \rightarrow \alpha \bullet B \beta$ ,  $closure(A \rightarrow \alpha \bullet B \beta)$  is the smallest set that contains
  - ① the item  $A \rightarrow \alpha \bullet B \beta$ , and
  - ② every item in  $closure(B \rightarrow \bullet \gamma)$  for every production  $B \rightarrow \gamma \in G$

## States of an LR parser (contd.)

$I_0$	$E' \rightarrow \bullet E$ $E \rightarrow \bullet E + T$ $E \rightarrow \bullet T$ $T \rightarrow \bullet id$	Initial State $= closure(\{E' \rightarrow \bullet E\})$
$I_3$	$T \rightarrow id \bullet$	$= goto(I_0, id)$

### Goto:

- $goto(I, X)$  specifies the next state to visit.
  - X is a terminal: when the next symbol on input stream is X.
  - X is a nonterminal: when the last reduction was to X.
- $goto(I, X)$  contains all items in  $closure(A \rightarrow \alpha X \bullet \beta)$  for every item  $A \rightarrow \alpha \bullet X \beta \in I$ .

## Collection of LR(0) Item Sets

The canonical collection of LR(0) item sets,  $\mathcal{C} = \{I_0, I_1, \dots\}$  is the smallest set such that

- $\text{closure}(\{S' \longrightarrow \bullet S\}) \in \mathcal{C}$ .
- $I \in \mathcal{C} \Rightarrow \forall X, \text{goto}(I, X) \in \mathcal{C}$ .

## Canonical LR(0) Item Sets: An Example

$$\begin{array}{rcl} E' & \longrightarrow & E \\ E & \longrightarrow & E^+ T \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{rcl} E & \longrightarrow & T \\ T & \longrightarrow & \text{id} \end{array}$$

$I_0$	$= \text{closure}(\{E' \longrightarrow \bullet E\})$	$E' \longrightarrow \bullet E$ $E \longrightarrow \bullet E^+ T$ $E \longrightarrow \bullet T$ $T \longrightarrow \bullet \text{id}$
$I_1$	$= \text{goto}(I_0, E)$	$E' \longrightarrow E \bullet$ $E \longrightarrow E \bullet + T$
$I_2$	$= \text{goto}(I_0, T)$	$E \longrightarrow T \bullet$
$I_3$	$= \text{goto}(I_0, \text{id})$	$T \longrightarrow \text{id} \bullet$
$I_4$	$= \text{goto}(I_1, +)$	$E \longrightarrow E^+ \bullet T$ $T \longrightarrow \bullet \text{id}$
$I_5$	$= \text{goto}(I_4, T)$	$E \longrightarrow E^+ T \bullet$

## LR Action Table

$E' \rightarrow E$	$E \rightarrow T$
$E \rightarrow E + T$	$T \rightarrow id$

	$id$	$+$	$\$$
0	$S, 3$		
1		$S, 4$	$A$
2	$R3$	$R3$	$R3$
3	$R4$	$R4$	$R4$
4	$S, 3$		
5	$R2$	$R2$	$R2$

## LR Goto Table

$E' \rightarrow E$	$E \rightarrow T$
$E \rightarrow E + T$	$T \rightarrow id$

	$E$	$T$
0	1	2
1		
2		
3		
4		5
5		

# LR Parsing: States and Transitions

**Action Table:**

	<b>id</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>\$</b>
0	$S, 3$		
1		$S, 4$	$A$
2	$R3$	$R3$	$R3$
3	$R4$	$R4$	$R4$
4	$S, 3$		
5	$R2$	$R2$	$R2$

$$\begin{array}{l} E' \rightarrow E \quad E \rightarrow T \\ E \rightarrow E + T \quad T \rightarrow id \end{array}$$

STATE STACK	SYMBOL STACK	INPUT	ACTION
\$ 0	\$	<b>id + id \$</b>	shift, 3
\$ 0 3	\$ id	+ id \$	reduce by 4
\$ 0 2	\$ T	+ id \$	reduce by 3
\$ 0 1	\$ E	+ id \$	shift, 4
\$ 0 1 4	\$ E +	id \$	shift, 3
\$ 0 1 4 3	\$ E + id	\$	reduce by 4
\$ 0 1 4 5	\$ E + T	\$	reduce by 2
\$ 0 1	\$ E	\$	<b>ACCEPT</b>

**Goto Table:**

	<b>E</b>	<b>T</b>
0	1	2
1		
2		
3		
4		5
5		

## LR Parser

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```

while (true) {
    switch (action(state_stack.top(), current_token)) {
        case shift s':
            symbol_stack.push(current_token);
            state_stack.push(s');
            next_token();
        case reduce A → β:
            pop |β| symbols off symbol_stack and state_stack;
            symbol_stack.push(A);
            state_stack.push(goto(state_stack.top(), A));
        case accept: return;
        default: error;
    }
}

```

---

## LR Parsing: A review

$E' \rightarrow E$	$E \rightarrow T$
$E \rightarrow E + T$	$T \rightarrow id$

Table-driven shift reduce parsing:

Shift Move **terminal** symbols from input stream to stack.

Reduce Replace top elements of stack that form an instance of the RHS of a production with the corresponding LHS

Accept Stack top is the start symbol when the input stream is exhausted

Table constructed using LR(0) Item Sets.

## Conflicts in Parsing Table

### Grammar:

$S' \rightarrow S$
$S \rightarrow a S$
$S \rightarrow \epsilon$

### Item Sets:

$I_0$	$= closure(\{S' \rightarrow \bullet S\})$	$S' \rightarrow \bullet S$ $S \rightarrow \bullet a S$ $S \rightarrow \bullet$
$I_1$	$= goto(I_0, S)$	$S' \rightarrow S \bullet$
$I_2$	$= goto(I_0, a)$	$S \rightarrow a \bullet S$ $S \rightarrow \bullet a S$ $S \rightarrow \bullet$
$I_3$	$= goto(I_2, S)$	$S \rightarrow a S \bullet$

### Action Table:

	a	\$
0	S, 2 R 3	R 3
1		A
2	S, 2 R 3	R 3
3	R 2	R 2

Shift-Reduce Conflict

## “Simple LR” (SLR) Parsing

Constructing Action Table  $action$ , indexed by  $states \times terminals$ ,  
and Goto Table  $goto$ , indexed by  $states \times nonterminals$ :

- Construct  $\{I_0, I_1, \dots, I_n\}$ , the LR(0) sets of items for the grammar.  
For each  $i$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq n$ , do the following:
- If  $A \rightarrow \alpha \bullet a \beta \in I_i$ , and  $goto(I_i, a) = I_j$ , set  $action[i, a] = shift \ j$ .
- If  $A \rightarrow \gamma \bullet \in I_i$  ( $A$  is not the start symbol),  
for each  $a \in FOLLOW(A)$ , set  $action[i, a] = reduce \ A \rightarrow \gamma$ .
- If  $S' \rightarrow S \bullet \in I_i$ , set  $action[i, \$] = accept$ .
- If  $goto(I_i, A) = I_j$  ( $A$  is a nonterminal), set  $goto[i, A] = j$ .

## SLR Parsing Table

**Grammar:**

$$\begin{array}{l} S' \rightarrow S \\ S \rightarrow a \ S \\ S \rightarrow \epsilon \end{array}$$

$$FOLLOW(S) = \{\$\}$$

**Item Sets:**

		$S' \rightarrow \bullet S$
$I_0$	$= closure(\{S' \rightarrow \bullet S\})$	$S \rightarrow \bullet a \ S$
		$S \rightarrow \bullet$
$I_1$	$= goto(I_0, S)$	$S' \rightarrow S \bullet$
		$S \rightarrow a \bullet \ S$
		$S \rightarrow \bullet a \ S$
$I_2$	$= goto(I_0, a)$	$S \rightarrow \bullet$
$I_3$	$= goto(I_2, S)$	$S \rightarrow a \ S \bullet$

**SLR Action Table:**

	a	\$
0	$S, 2$	R 3
1		A
2	$S, 2$	R 3
3		R 2

## Deficiencies of SLR Parsing

- SLR(1) treats all occurrences of a RHS on stack as identical.
- Only a few of these reductions may lead to a successful parse.
- Example:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} S & \longrightarrow & AaAb \quad A \longrightarrow \epsilon \\ S & \longrightarrow & BbBa \quad B \longrightarrow \epsilon \end{array}$$

$$I_0 = \{[S' \rightarrow \bullet S], [S \rightarrow \bullet AaAb], [S \rightarrow \bullet BbBa], [A \rightarrow \bullet], [B \rightarrow \bullet]\}.$$

- Since  $FOLLOW(A) = FOLLOW(B)$ , we have reduce/reduce conflict in state 0.

## LR(1) Item Sets

Construct LR(1) items of the form  $A \longrightarrow \alpha \bullet \beta, a$ , which means:

*The production  $A \longrightarrow \alpha\beta$  can be applied when the next token on input stream is  $a$ .*

$$\begin{array}{rcl} S & \longrightarrow & AaAb \quad A \longrightarrow \epsilon \\ S & \longrightarrow & BbBa \quad B \longrightarrow \epsilon \end{array}$$

An example LR(1) item set:

$$I_0 = \{[S' \rightarrow \bullet S, \$], [S \rightarrow \bullet AaAb, \$], [S \rightarrow \bullet BbBa, \$], [A \rightarrow \bullet, a], [B \rightarrow \bullet, b]\}.$$

# LR(1) and LALR(1) Parsing

LR(1) parsing: Parse tables built using LR(1) item sets.

LALR(1) parsing: Look Ahead LR(1)

- Merge LR(1) item sets; then build parsing table.
- Typically, LALR(1) parsing tables are much smaller than LR(1) parsing table.
- $SLR(1) \subset LALR(1) \subset LR(1)$ .
- $LL(1) \not\subseteq SLR(1)$ , but  $LL(1) \subset LR(1)$ .

# YACC

Yet Another Compiler Compiler:  
LALR(1) parser generator.

- Grammar rules written in a specification (.y) file, analogous to the regular definitions in a lex specification file.
- Yacc translates the specifications into a parsing function `yyparse()`.

$$\text{spec.y} \xrightarrow{\text{yacc}} \text{spec.tab.c}$$

- `yyparse()` calls `yylex()` whenever input tokens need to be consumed.
- `bison`: GNU variant of yacc.
- `ply`: Python's "yacc"; provides function `yacc()` that is similar to Yacc's `yyparse()`

# Using Yacc

```
%{
    ... C headers (#include)
}

... Yacc declarations:
    %token ...
    %union{...}
    precedences
%%
... Grammar rules with actions:

Expr: Expr TOK_PLUS Expr
      | Expr TOK_STAR Expr
      ;
%%
... C support functions
```

# Parsing in PLY

See <http://www.dabeaz.com/ply/ply.html>

```
import ply.yacc as yacc
... import tokens from PLY/lexer

# precedences:
precedence = ( ('left', 'TOK_PLUS'), ('left', 'TOK_STAR') )

# Grammar rules with actions:
def p_expression_plus(p):
    'expr: expr TOK_PLUS expr'
    pass    #action, if necessary

def p_expression_minus(p):
    'expr: expr TOK_STAR expr'
    pass    #action, if necessary
```