École Polytechnique

CSC_52064 – Compilation

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parsing

parsing

the goal of parsing is to identify the programs that belong to the syntax of the language

its input is concrete syntax, that is a sequence of characters, and its output is abstract syntax

parsing is split into two phases

- **lexical analysis**, which splits the input in “words” called *tokens*
- **syntax analysis**, which recognizes legal sequences of tokens

example

source = sequence of characters

```
fun x -> (* my function *)
    x+1
```

↓

lexical analysis

↓

sequence of tokens

$\boxed{\texttt{fun}}\ \boxed{\texttt{x}}\ \boxed{\texttt{->}}\ \boxed{\texttt{x}}\ \boxed{\texttt{+}}\ \boxed{\texttt{1}}$

⋮

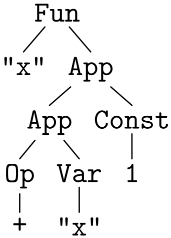
⋮

↓

syntax analysis

↓

abstract syntax



lexical analysis

blanks

blanks (spaces, newlines, tabs, etc.) play a role in lexical analysis; they can be used to separate two tokens

for instance, `funx` is understood as a single token (identifier `funx`) and `fun x` is understood as two tokens (keyword `fun` and identifier `x`)

yet several blanks are useless (as in `x + 1`)
and simply ignored

blanks do not appear in the returned sequence of tokens

blanks

lexical conventions differ according to the languages, and some blanks may be significant

examples:

- tabs for `make`
- newlines and indentation in Python or Haskell
  (indentation defines the structure of blocks)

comments

comments act as blanks

```
    fun(* go! *)x -> x + (* adding one *) 1
```

here the comment `(* go!  *)` is a significant blank (splits two tokens) and the comment `(* adding one *)` is a useless blank

note: comments are sometimes interpreted by other tools (`javadoc`, `ocamldoc`, etc.), which handle them differently in their own lexical analysis

```
  val length: 'a list -> int
    (** Return the length (number of elements) of ...
```

which tools?

to implement lexical analysis, we are going to use

- **regular expressions** to describe tokens
- **finite automata** to recognize them

we exploit the ability to automatically construct a deterministic finite automaton recognizing the language described by a regular expression

regular expressions

syntax

let A be some alphabet

$$
\begin{array}{rcll}
r & ::= & \emptyset & \text{empty language} \\
  & | & \epsilon & \text{empty word} \\
  & | & a & \text{character } a \in A \\
  & | & r\,r & \text{concatenation} \\
  & | & r \mid r & \text{alternation} \\
  & | & r\star & \text{Kleene star}
\end{array}
$$

conventions: in forthcoming examples, star has strongest priority, then concatenation, then alternation

semantics

the **language** defined by the regular expression r is the set of words $L(r)$ defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
L(\emptyset) &= \emptyset \\
L(\epsilon) &= \{\epsilon\} \\
L(a) &= \{a\} \\
L(r_1\, r_2) &= \{w_1 w_2 \mid w_1 \in L(r_1) \land w_2 \in L(r_2)\} \\
L(r_1 \mid r_2) &= L(r_1) \cup L(r_2) \\
L(r\star) &= \textstyle\bigcup_{n\geq 0} L(r^n) \quad \text{where } r^0 = \epsilon,\ \ r^{n+1} = r\, r^n
\end{aligned}$$

examples

with alphabet $\{a, b\}$

- words with exactly three letters

$$(a|b)(a|b)(a|b)$$

- words ending with a

$$(a|b) \star a$$

- words alternating a and b

$$(b|\epsilon)(ab) \star (a|\epsilon)$$

integer literals

decimal integer literals, possibly with leading zeros

$$(0|1|2|3|4|5|6|7|8|9)\,(0|1|2|3|4|5|6|7|8|9)\star$$

identifiers

identifiers composed of letters, digits and underscore, starting with a letter

$$(a|b|\dots|z|A|B|\dots|Z)\,(a|b|\dots|z|A|B|\dots|Z|\_|0|1|\dots|9)\star$$

floating point literals

floating point numbers (`3.14` `2.` `1e-12` `6.02e23` etc.)

$$d\,d\star\;(.d\star\;|\;(\epsilon\;|\;.d\star)(e|E)\,(\epsilon|+|-)d\,d\star)$$

with $d = 0|1|\ldots|9$

comments

comments such as `(* ... *)`, **not nested**, can be described with the following regular expression

$$\boxed{(}\,\boxed{*}\,\left(\boxed{*}\star r_1 \mid r_2\right)\star\,\boxed{*}\,\boxed{*}\star\,\boxed{)}$$

where r_1 = all characters but $*$ and)
and r_2 = all characters but $*$

nested comments

regular expressions are not expressive enough to describe **nested** comments (we say that the language of balanced parentheses is not regular)

we will explain later how to get around this problem

finite automata

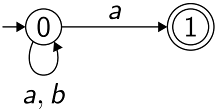
finite automaton

Definition

A finite automaton over some A is a tuple (Q, T, I, F) where

- *Q is a finite set of states*
- *$T \subseteq Q \times A \times Q$ is a set of transitions*
- *$I \subseteq Q$ is a set of initial states*
- *$F \subseteq Q$ is a set of final states*

example: $Q = \{0,1\},\ T = \{(0,a,0),(0,b,0),(0,a,1)\},\ I = \{0\},\ F = \{1\}$



language

a word $a_1 a_2 \ldots a_n \in A^\star$ is **recognized** by the automaton (Q, T, I, F) if and only if

$$s_0 \xrightarrow{a_1} s_1 \xrightarrow{a_2} s_2 \cdots s_{n-1} \xrightarrow{a_n} s_n$$

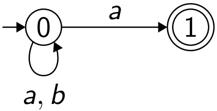
with $s_0 \in I$, $(s_{i-1}, a_i, s_i) \in T$ for all i, and $s_n \in F$

the **language** defined by an automaton is the set of words it recognizes

Theorem (Kleene, 1951)

Regular expressions and finite automata define the same languages.

$(a|b) \star a$

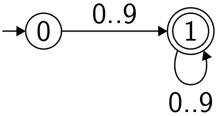


integer literals

regular expression

$$(0|1|2|3|4|5|6|7|8|9)\,(0|1|2|3|4|5|6|7|8|9)\star$$

automaton

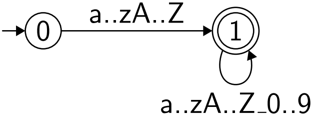


identifiers

regular expression

$$(a|b|\ldots|z|A|B|\ldots|Z)\,(a|b|\ldots|z|A|B|\ldots|Z|\_|0|1|\ldots|9)\star$$

automaton



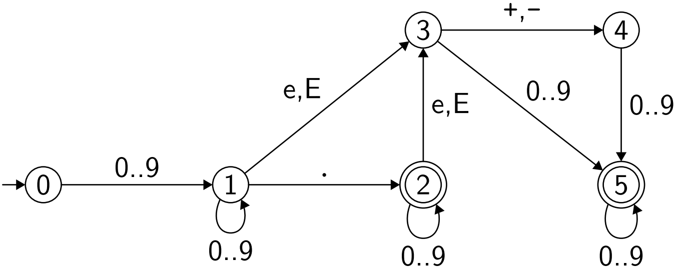
floating point literals

regular expression

$$d\, d\star\ (.d\star \mid (\epsilon \mid .d\star)(e|E)\,(\epsilon| + |-)d\,d\star)$$

where $d = 0|1|\dots|9$

automaton



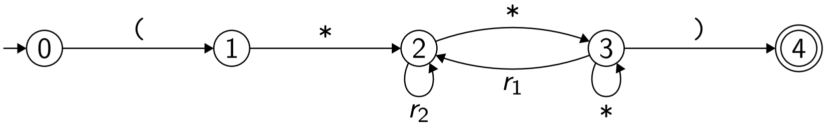
comments

regular expression

$$\boxed{(}\,\boxed{*}\,\left(\boxed{*}\star r_1 \mid r_2\right)\star\,\boxed{*}\,\boxed{*}\star\,\boxed{)}$$

where r_1 = all characters but $*$ and)
and r_2 = all characters but $*$

automaton



lexical analyzer

lexical analyzer

a **lexical analyzer** is a finite automaton for the "union" of all regular expressions describing the tokens

however, it differs from the mere analysis of a single word by an automaton, since

- we must split the input into a **sequence** of words
- there are possible **ambiguities**
- we have to build tokens (final states contain **actions**)

ambiguities

the word `funx` is recognized by the regular expression for identifiers, but contains a prefix recognized by another regular expression (keyword `fun`)

⇒ we choose to match the **longest** token

the word `fun` is recognized by the regular expression for the keyword `fun` but also by that of identifiers

⇒ we order regular expressions using **priorities**

no backtracking

with the three regular expressions

$$a, \quad ab, \quad bc$$

a lexical analyzer will **fail** on input

$$abc$$

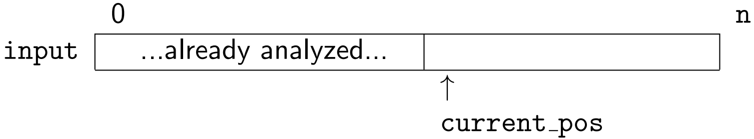
(ab is recognized, as longest, then failure on c)

yet the word abc belongs to the language $(a|ab|bc)\star$

in practice

tokens are output one by one, on demand (from the syntax analyzer)

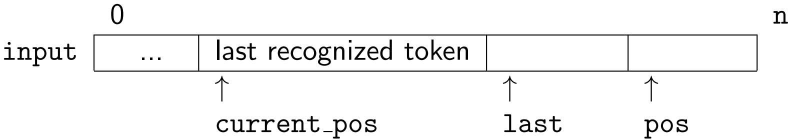
the lexical analyzer memorizes the position where the analysis will resume



in practice

when a new token is required, we start from the initial state of the automaton, from position `current_pos`

as long as a transition exists, we follow it, while memorizing any token that was recognized (any final state that was reached)



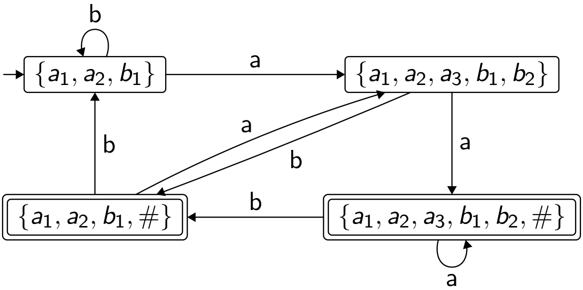
when there is no transition anymore, there are two cases:

- if a token was recognized, we return it and `current_pos`←`last`
- otherwise, we signal a lexical error

building the automaton

one can build the finite automaton corresponding to a regular expression using an intermediate non deterministic finite automaton (Thompson, 1968)

but one can build a deterministic finite automaton in a single step (Berry, Sethi, 1986); for $(a|b) \star a(a|b)$ we get


b
$\{a_1, a_2, b_1\}$
a
$\{a_1, a_2, a_3, b_1, b_2\}$
a
b
b
a
b
$\{a_1, a_2, b_1, \#\}$
$\{a_1, a_2, a_3, b_1, b_2, \#\}$
a

see the polycopié sec 3.2

tools

tools

in practice, we have tools to build lexical analyzers from a decription with regular expressions and actions

this is the `lex` family: `lex`, `flex`, `jflex`, `ocamllex`, etc.

we illustrate `jflex` (for Java) and `ocamllex` (for OCaml)

minimal example

to illustrate these tools, let us write a lexical analyzer for a language of arithmetic expressions with

- integer literals
- parentheses
- subtraction

jflex

syntax

a jflex file has suffix .flex and the following structure

```
... preamble ...
%{
... some Java code
%}
%%
<YYINITIAL> {
  regular expression { action }
  ...
  regular expression { action }
}
```

where each action is Java code
(returning a token most of the time)

example 1/2

we set up a file Lexer.flex for our language

```
import static sym.*;    /* imports the tokens */

%%

%class Lexer            /* our class will be Lexer   */
%unicode                /* we use unicode characters */
%cup                    /* syntax analysis using cup */
%line                   /* activate line numbers     */
%column                 /* and column numbers        */
%yylexthrow Exception   /* we can raise Exception    */

%{
   /* no need for a Java preamble here */
%}
```

...

example 2/2

...

```
WhiteSpace         = [ \t\r\n]+      /* shortcuts */
Integer            = [:digit:]+
%%
<YYINITIAL> {
  "-"   { return new Symbol(MINUS, yyline, yycolumn); }
  "("   { return new Symbol(LPAR,  yyline, yycolumn); }
  ")"   { return new Symbol(RPAR,  yyline, yycolumn); }
  {Integer}
        { return new Symbol(INT, yyline, yycolumn,
                            Integer.parseInt(yytext())); }
  {WhiteSpace}
        { /* ignore */ }
  .     { throw new Exception (String.format (
           "Line %d, column %d: illegal character: ’%s’\n",
           yyline, yycolumn, yytext())); }
}
```

explanations

- tokens are freely implemented;
  here, we use the class `Symbol` that comes with `cup` (see later)

- `MINUS`, `LPAR`, `RPAR` and `INT` are integers (token kinds)
  built by the tool `cup` and imported from `sym.java`

- variables `yyline` and `yycolumn` are updated automatically

- `yytext()` returns the string that was recognized by the regular expression

running the tool

we compile file Lexer.flex with jflex

```
jflex Lexer.flex
```

we get pure Java code in Lexer.java, with

- a constructor

  ```
  Lexer(java.io.Reader)
  ```

- a method

  ```
  Symbol next_token()
  ```

`jflex` regular expressions

`.`	any character
`a`	the character `'a'`
`"foobar"`	the string `"foobar"` (in particular $\epsilon =$ `""`)
`[`*characters*`]`	set of characters (e.g. `[a-zA-Z]`)
`[^`*characters*`]`	set complement (e.g. `[^"]`)
`[:`*ident*`:]`	predefined set of characters (e.g. `[:digit:]`)
$\{$*ident*$\}$	named regular expression
$r_1 \mid r_2$	alternation
$r_1\, r_2$	concatenation
r `*`	star
r `+`	one or more repetitions of r ($\overset{\text{def}}{=}\ r\, r\star$)
r `?`	zero or one occurrence of r ($\overset{\text{def}}{=}\ \epsilon \mid r$)
`(` r `)`	grouping

ocamllex

syntax

an ocamllex file has suffix .mll and the following structure

```
{
  ... some OCaml code ...
}
rule ident = parse
| regular expression { action }
| regular expression { action }
| ...
{
  ... some OCaml code ...
}
```

where each action is some OCaml code

example

```
let white_space = [’ ’ ’\t’ ’\n’]+
let integer     = [’0’-’9’]+
rule next_token = parse
  | white_space
      { next_token lexbuf }
  | integer as s
      { INT (int_of_string s) }
  | ’-’
      { MINUS }
  | ’(’
      { LPAR }
  | ’)’
      { RPAR }
  | eof
      { EOF }
  | _ as c
      { failwith ("illegal character" ^ String.make 1 c) }
```

explanations

- we assume the following type for the tokens

```
    type token =
    | INT of int
    | MINUS
    | LPAR
    | RPAR
    | EOF
```

  (will be built by the syntax analyzer)

- contrary to `jflex`
  - we explicitly call `next_token` to ignore blanks
  - we do not handle lines and columns explicitly

running the tool

we compile the file `lexer.mll` with `ocamllex`

```
  ocamllex lexer.mll
```

it outputs some pure OCaml code in `lexer.ml`, which provides

```
val next_token: Lexing.lexbuf -> token
```

(such an argument can be built with `Lexing.from_channel`)

ocamllex regular expressions

_	any character
'a'	the character 'a'
"foobar"	the string "foobar" (in particular $\epsilon =$ "")
[*characters*]	set of characters (e.g. ['a'-'z' 'A'-'Z'])
[^*characters*]	set complement (e.g. [^ '"'])
ident	named regular expression
r_1 | r_2	alternation
$r_1\ r_2$	concatenation
r *	star
r +	one or more repetitions of r ($\overset{\text{def}}{=}\ r\, r\star$)
r ?	zero or one occurrence of r ($\overset{\text{def}}{=}\ \epsilon \mid r$)
(r)	grouping
eof	end of input

documentation

for more details, see the documentations of `jflex` and `ocamllex`, available from

- the course website
- lab 3

- **regular expressions** are the basis of lexical analysis
- the job is **automatized** with tools such as `jflex` and `ocamllex`
- `jflex`/`ocamllex` are **more expressive** than regular expressions

  indeed, actions can call the lexical analyzer recursively
  ⇒ allows us to recognize nested comments for instance
  (poly page 55)

syntax analysis

goal

sequence of tokens

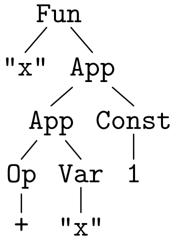
`fun` `x` `->` `(` `x` `+` `1` `)`

↓

syntax analysis

↓

abstract syntax



syntax errors

syntax analysis must detect syntax errors and

- signal them with a position in the source
- explain them (most often limited to “syntax error” but also “unclosed parenthesis”, etc.)
- possibly resume the analysis to discover further errors

which tools?

to implement syntax analysis, we are using

- a **context-free grammar** to define the syntax
- a **pushdown automaton** to recognize it

similar to regular expressions / finite automata used in lexical analysis

context-free grammar

Definition

A context-free grammar is a tuple (N, T, S, R) *where*

- N *is a finite set of* **nonterminal symbols**
- T *is a finite set of* **terminal symbols**
- $S \in N$ *is the start symbol (the* **axiom***)*
- $R \subseteq N \times (N \cup T)^\star$ *is a finite set of* **production** *rules*

example: arithmetic expressions

$N = \{E\}$, $T = \{\texttt{+}, \texttt{*}, \texttt{(}, \texttt{)}, \texttt{int}\}$, $S = E$,
and $R = \{\, (E, E\texttt{+}E), (E, E\texttt{*}E), (E, \texttt{(}E\texttt{)}), (E, \texttt{int})\,\}$

in practice, we write production rules as follows:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} E & \rightarrow & E \texttt{ + } E \\ & | & E \texttt{ * } E \\ & | & \texttt{(} \ E \ \texttt{)} \\ & | & \texttt{int} \end{array}$$

the terminals are the tokens produced by the lexical analysis

here `int` stands for an integer literal token (*i.e.* its nature, not its value)

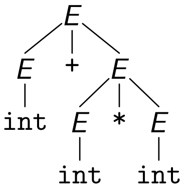
derivation tree

Definition

A **derivation tree** *is a tree whose nodes are labeled with grammar symbols, such that*

- *the root is the axiom S*
- *any internal node X is a nonterminal whose subnodes are labeled by $\beta \in (N \cup T)^\star$ with $X \to \beta$ a production rule*
- *leaves are terminal symbols*

example:



careful: this is **different** from the abstract syntax tree

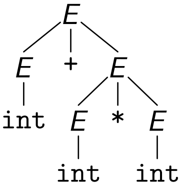
language

Definition

The **language** *$L(G)$ defined by a context-free grammar $G = (N, T, S, R)$ is the set of words $w \in T^\star$ for which there is a derivation tree whose leaves form the word w.*

in our example

`int + int * int` $\in L(G)$

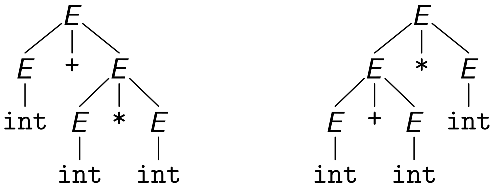


ambiguity

Definition

A context-free grammar is **ambiguous** *if at least one word accepts several derivation trees.*

example: the word `int + int * int` accepts two derivation trees



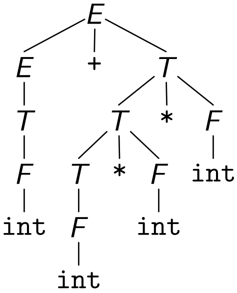
and thus our grammar is ambiguous

non-ambiguous grammar

it is possible to propose another grammar, that is not ambiguous and that defines the same language

$$\begin{array}{rcl} E & \rightarrow & E + T \\ & \mid & T \\ T & \rightarrow & T * F \\ & \mid & F \\ F & \rightarrow & (\ E\ ) \\ & \mid & \texttt{int} \end{array}$$

this new grammar reflects the priority of multiplication over addition, and the choice of a left associativity for these two operations now, the word `int + int * int * int` has a single derivation tree,



negative result

whether a context-free grammar is ambiguous is **not decidable**

(reminder: decidable means that we can write a program that, for any input, terminates and outputs yes or no)

approach

we are going to us **decidable sufficient criteria** to ensure that a grammar is not ambiguous, and for which we know how to decide membership efficiently (using a pushdown automaton)

the corresponding grammar classes are called
LR(0), SLR(1), LALR(1), LR(1), LL(1), etc.

bottom-up parsing

main idea

scan the input from left to right, and look for right-hand sides of production rules to build the derivation tree from bottom to top (*bottom-up parsing*)

principle

the parser uses a **stack** that is a word of $(T \cup N)^\star$

at each step, two actions can be performed

- a **shift** operation: we read a terminal from the input and we push it on the stack
- a **reduce** operation: the top of the stack is the right-hand side β of a production $X \to \beta$, and we replace β with X on the stack

initially, the stack is empty

when no more action can be performed, the input is recognized if it was read entirely and if the stack is limited to the axiom S

example

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
E & \rightarrow & E + E \\
  & | & (\; E \;) \\
  & | & \mathtt{int}
\end{array}
$$

stack	input	action
ϵ	`int+int+int`	shift
`int`	`+int+int`	reduce $E \rightarrow$ `int`
E	`+int+int`	shift
E+	`int+int`	shift
E+`int`	`+int`	reduce $E \rightarrow$ `int`
E+E	`+int`	reduce $E \rightarrow E$+E
E	`+int`	shift
E+	`int`	shift
E+`int`		reduce $E \rightarrow$ `int`
E+E		reduce $E \rightarrow E$+E
E		success

LR parser (Knuth, 1965)

how to choose between shift and reduce?

using an automaton and considering the first k tokens of the input; this is called LR(k) analysis

(LR means "**L**eft to right scanning, **R**ightmost derivation")

in practice $k = 1$
i.e. we only consider the first token to take the decision

the automaton is implemented as follows:

	action					*goto*
state	`(`	`)`	`+`	`int`	#	E
1	`shift` 4			`shift` 2		3
2	`reduce` $E \to$ `int`					
3			`shift` 6		success	
4	`shift` 4			`shift` 2		5
5		`shift` 7	`shift` 6			
6	`shift` 4			`shift` 2		8
7	`reduce` $E \to$ `(`E`)`					
8	`reduce` $E \to E$`+`E					

(we show later how to built it)

the stack looks like

$$s_0\, x_1\, s_1\, x_2 \dots x_n\, s_n$$

where s_i is a state of the automaton and $x_i \in T \cup N$ as before

let a be the first token from the input; we look in the **action** table for state s_n and character a

- if success or failure, we stop
- if shift, we push a and then the target state of the transition on the stack
- if reduce rule $X \to \alpha$, with α of length p, then we have α on top of the stack

  $$s_0\, x_1\, s_1\ \dots\ x_{n-p}\, s_{n-p}\, |\alpha_1\, s_{n-p+1} \dots \alpha_p\, s_n$$

  we pop it and we push $X\, s$, where s is the target state of the **goto** table for s_{n-p} and X, *i.e.*

  $$s_0\, x_1\, s_1\ \dots\ x_{n-p}\, s_{n-p}\, X\, s$$

execution example

	(	)	+	int	#	*E*
1	s4			s2		3
2	reduce *E* → int					
3			s6		ok	
4	s4			s2		5
5		s7	s6			
6	s4			s2		8
7	reduce *E* → (*E*)					
8	reduce *E* → *E*+*E*					

stack	input	action
1	int+int+int	s2
1 int 2	+int+int	*E* → int, g3
1 *E* 3	+int+int	s6
1 *E* 3 + 6	int+int	s2
1 *E* 3 + 6 int 2	+int	*E* → int, g8
1 *E* 3 + 6 E 8	+int	*E* → *E*+*E*, g3
1 *E* 3	+int	s6
1 *E* 3 + 6	int	s2
1 *E* 3 + 6 int 2	#	*E* → int, g8
1 *E* 3 + 6 *E* 8	#	*E* → *E*+*E*, g3
1 *E* 3	#	success

tools

bottom-up parsing is powerful but computing the tables is complex

we have tools to automate the process

this is the big family of `yacc`, `bison`, `ocamlyacc`, `cup`, `menhir`, ...
(YACC means *Yet Another Compiler Compiler*)

here we illustrate `cup` (for Java) and `menhir` (for OCaml)

example

we keep using the language of arithmetic expressions with

- integer literals
- parentheses
- subtraction

we assume that abstract syntax and lexical analysis are already implemented

CUP (Java)

in a file Parser.cup, we start with a prelude where we declare terminals and nonterminals

```
terminal Integer INT;
terminal LPAR, RPAR, MINUS;

non terminal Expr file;
non terminal Expr expr;
```

...

syntax

then we declare the production rules and the corresponding actions

```
start with file;

file ::=
  expr:e
    {: RESULT = e; :}
;

expr ::=
  INT:n
    {: RESULT = new Ecst(n); :}
| expr:e1 MINUS expr:e2
    {: RESULT = new Esub(e1, e2); :}
| LPAR expr:e RPAR
    {: RESULT = e; :}
;
```

running CUP

we compile file Parser.cup with

```
  java -jar java-cup-11a.jar -parser Parser Parser.cup
```

which signals an error:

```
Warning : *** Shift/Reduce conflict found in state #6
  between expr ::= expr MINUS expr (*)
  and     expr ::= expr (*) MINUS expr
  under symbol MINUS
  Resolved in favor of shifting.

Error : *** More conflicts encountered than expected
         -- parser generation aborted
```

conflict resolution

we can declare MINUS to be left associative

```
precedence left MINUS;
```

(which favors reduction)

if there are more operators, we list them in increasing priorities

```
precedence left PLUS, MINUS;
precedence left TIMES, DIV, MOD;
```

running CUP

now CUP successfully terminates and produces two Java files:

- sym.java contains the declarations of tokens (INT, LPAR, RPAR, etc.)
- Parser.java contains the syntax analyzer, with a constructor

  ```
  Parser(Scanner scanner)
  ```

  and a method

  ```
  Symbol parse()
  ```

connecting jflex and CUP

we combine the code generated by jflex and CUP as follows:

```
Reader reader = new FileReader(file);
Lexer lexer = new Lexer(reader);
Parser parser = new Parser(lexer);
Expr e = (Expr)parser.parse().value;
try {
  System.out.println(e.eval());
} catch (Error err) {
  System.out.println("error: " + err.toString());
  System.exit(1);
}
```

the program must include the library java-cup-11a-runtime.jar

Menhir (OCaml)

syntax

in a file `parser.mly`, we first declare terminals and nonterminals

```
%{
  ... arbitrary OCaml code ...
%}

%token MINUS LPAR RPAR EOF
%token <int> INT

%start <expr> file
```

...

note: contrary to `CUP`, one has to declare `EOF`

syntax

then we give the grammar production rules and the corresponding actions

```
%%

file:
  e = expr; EOF  { e }
;

expr:
| i = INT                      { Cte i }
| e1 = expr; MINUS; e2 = expr { Sub (e1, e2) }
| LPAR; e = expr; RPAR         { e }
;

%%
```

note: contrary to CUP, one has to add `EOF`

running Menhir

we compile file `arith.mly` as follows:

```
menhir -v arith.mly
```

it emits a warning

```
Warning: one state has shift/reduce conflicts.
Warning: one shift/reduce conflict was arbitrarily resolved.
```

conflicts

when the grammar is not LR(1), Menhir shows the **conflicts** to the user

- the file `.automaton` contains the LR(1) automaton (more later), with conflicts listed
- the file `.conflicts` contains an explanation for each conflict, as a sequence of tokens leading to two distinct derivation trees

conflict resolution

we can declare MINUS to be left associative

```
%left MINUS
```

(which favors reduction)

if there are more operators, we list them in increasing priorities

```
%left PLUS MINUS
%left TIMES DIV MOD
```

now menhir successfully terminates and outputs two OCaml files arith.ml(i) that contain

- a data type token

```
type token = RPAR | MINUS | LPAR | INT of int | EOF
```

- a function

```
val file: (Lexing.lexbuf -> token) -> Lexing.lexbuf -> int
```

connecting `ocamllex` and Menhir

we combine `ocamllex` and `menhir` as follows:

```
let c  = open_in file in
let lb = Lexing.from_file c in
let e  = Parser.file Lexer.next_token lb in
...
```

building the automaton

definitions

Definition (NULL)

Le $\alpha \in (T \cup N)^\star$. $\textsc{null}(\alpha)$ *holds if and only if we can derive* ϵ *from* α *i.e.* $\alpha \rightarrow^\star \epsilon$.

Definition (FIRST)

Let $\alpha \in (T \cup N)^\star$. $\textsc{first}(\alpha)$ *is the set of all terminals starting words derived from* α, *i.e.* $\{a \in T \mid \exists w.\, \alpha \rightarrow^\star aw\}$.

Definition (FOLLOW)

Let $X \in N$. $\textsc{follow}(X)$ *is the set of all terminals that may appear after* X *in a derivation, i.e.* $\{a \in T \mid \exists u, w.\, S \rightarrow^\star uXaw\}$.

computing NULL, FIRST, and FOLLOW

to compute $\textsc{null}(\alpha)$, we simply need to compute $\textsc{null}(X)$ for $X \in N$

$\textsc{null}(X)$ holds if and only if

- there exists a production $X \to \epsilon$,
- or there exists a production $X \to Y_1 \dots Y_m$ where $\textsc{null}(Y_i)$ for all i

issue: this is a set of mutually recursive equations

said otherwise, if $N = \{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$ and if $\vec{V} = (\textsc{null}(X_1), \dots, \textsc{null}(X_n))$, we look for **the least fixpoint** to an equation such as

$$\vec{V} = F(\vec{V})$$

two examples

Theorem (existence of a least fixpoint (Tarski))

Let A be a finite set with an order relation $\leq$ and a least element ε. Any monotonically increasing function $f : A \to A$, i.e. such that $\forall x, y. x \leq y \Rightarrow f(x) \leq f(y)$, has a least fixpoint.

proof: since ε is a least element, we have $\varepsilon \leq f(\varepsilon)$
f being increasing, we have $f^k(\varepsilon) \leq f^{k+1}(\varepsilon)$ for any k
A being finite, there exists a least k_0 such that $f^{k_0}(\varepsilon) = f^{k_0+1}(\varepsilon)$
$a_0 = f^{k_0}(\varepsilon)$ is thus a fixpoint of f

let b another fixpoint of f
we have $\varepsilon \leq b$ and thus $f^k(\varepsilon) \leq f^k(b)$ for any k
in particular $a_0 = f^{k_0}(\varepsilon) \leq f^{k_0}(b) = b$
a_0 is thus a least fixpoint of f □

computing $\textsc{null}$

to compute $\textsc{null}$, we have
$A = \textsc{Bool} \times \cdots \times \textsc{Bool}$ avec $\textsc{Bool} = \{\texttt{false}, \texttt{true}\}$

we can equip $\textsc{Bool}$ with order $\texttt{false} \leq \texttt{true}$ and A with point-wise order

$$(x_1, \dots, x_n) \leq (y_1, \dots, y_n) \quad \text{if and only if} \quad \forall i.\, x_i \leq y_i$$

the theorem applies with

$$\varepsilon = (\texttt{false}, \dots, \texttt{false})$$

since computing $\textsc{null}(X)$ from $\textsc{null}(X_i)$ is monotonic to compute $\textsc{null}(X_i)$, we thus start with

$$\textsc{null}(X_1) = \texttt{false},\ \ldots,\ \textsc{null}(X_n) = \texttt{false}$$

and we use the equations until we get a fixpoint *i.e.* until the values $\textsc{null}(X_i)$ do not change anymore

example

$$\begin{array}{rcl} E & \rightarrow & T\ E' \\ E' & \rightarrow & +\ T\ E' \\ & | & \epsilon \\ T & \rightarrow & F\ T' \\ T' & \rightarrow & *\ F\ T' \\ & | & \epsilon \\ F & \rightarrow & (\ E\ ) \\ & | & \texttt{int} \end{array}$$

E	E'	T	T'	F
false	false	false	false	false
false	true	false	true	false
false	true	false	true	false

why do we seek for a **least** fixpoint?

$\Rightarrow$ by induction on the number of steps of the fixpoint computation, we show that if $\textsc{null}(X) = \texttt{true}$ then $X \rightarrow^\star \epsilon$

$\Leftarrow$ by induction on the number of steps of derivation $X \rightarrow^\star \epsilon$, we show that $\textsc{null}(X) = \texttt{true}$ in the previous computation similarly, the equations defining FIRST are mutually recursive

$$\text{FIRST}(X) = \bigcup_{X \to \beta} \text{FIRST}(\beta)$$

and

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \text{FIRST}(\epsilon) & = & \emptyset \\ \text{FIRST}(a\beta) & = & \{a\} \\ \text{FIRST}(X\beta) & = & \text{FIRST}(X), \quad \text{if } \neg\text{NULL}(X) \\ \text{FIRST}(X\beta) & = & \text{FIRST}(X) \cup \text{FIRST}(\beta), \quad \text{if } \text{NULL}(X) \end{array}$$

again, we compute a least fixpoint using Tarski's theorem, with $A = \mathcal{P}(T) \times \cdots \times \mathcal{P}(T)$, point-wise ordered with $\subseteq$, and with $\varepsilon = (\emptyset, \ldots, \emptyset)$

example

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
E & \rightarrow & T\ E' \\
E' & \rightarrow & +\ T\ E' \\
 & | & \epsilon \\
T & \rightarrow & F\ T' \\
T' & \rightarrow & *\ F\ T' \\
 & | & \epsilon \\
F & \rightarrow & (\ E\ ) \\
 & | & \texttt{int}
\end{array}
$$

NULL

E	E'	T	T'	F
false	true	false	true	false

FIRST

E	E'	T	T'	F
$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$
$\emptyset$	$\{+\}$	$\emptyset$	$\{*\}$	$\{(,\texttt{int}\}$
$\emptyset$	$\{+\}$	$\{(,\texttt{int}\}$	$\{*\}$	$\{(,\texttt{int}\}$
$\{(,\texttt{int}\}$	$\{+\}$	$\{(,\texttt{int}\}$	$\{*\}$	$\{(,\texttt{int}\}$
$\{(,\texttt{int}\}$	$\{+\}$	$\{(,\texttt{int}\}$	$\{*\}$	$\{(,\texttt{int}\}$

computing FOLLOW

again, the equations defining FOLLOW are mutually recursive

$$\textsc{follow}(X) = \bigcup_{Y \to \alpha X \beta} \textsc{first}(\beta) \ \cup \bigcup_{Y \to \alpha X \beta,\, \textsc{null}(\beta)} \textsc{follow}(Y)$$

we compute a least fixpoint, using the same domain as for FIRST

we add a special symbol # in FOLLOW(S)
(which we can do directly, or by adding a rule $S' \to S\#$)

example

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
E & \rightarrow & T\ E' \\
E' & \rightarrow & +\ T\ E' \\
 & | & \epsilon \\
T & \rightarrow & F\ T' \\
T' & \rightarrow & *\ F\ T' \\
 & | & \epsilon \\
F & \rightarrow & (\ E\ ) \\
 & | & \texttt{int}
\end{array}
$$

NULL

E	E'	T	T'	F
false	true	false	true	false

FIRST

E	E'	T	T'	F
$\{(,\texttt{int}\}$	$\{+\}$	$\{(,\texttt{int}\}$	$\{*\}$	$\{(,\texttt{int}\}$

FOLLOW

E	E'	T	T'	F
$\{\#\}$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$
$\{\#,)\}$	$\{\#\}$	$\{+,\#\}$	$\emptyset$	$\{*\}$
$\{\#,)\}$	$\{\#,)\}$	$\{+,\#,)\}$	$\{+,\#\}$	$\{*,+,\#\}$
$\{\#,)\}$	$\{\#,)\}$	$\{+,\#,)\}$	$\{+,\#,)\}$	$\{*,+,\#,)\}$
$\{\#,)\}$	$\{\#,)\}$	$\{+,\#,)\}$	$\{+,\#,)\}$	$\{*,+,\#,)\}$

LR(0) automaton

let us use $k = 0$ for the moment

we consider the following grammar:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} S & \rightarrow & E \\ \\ E & \rightarrow & E\texttt{+}E \\ & | & \texttt{(}E\texttt{)} \\ & | & \texttt{int} \end{array}$$

LR(0) automaton

states are sets of *items* of the shape

$$[X \to \alpha \bullet \beta]$$

where $X \to \alpha\beta$ is a grammar production rule; interpretation is “we want to recognize X, we have already seen α and we still need to see β”

the initial state is that containing $S \to \bullet E\#$

LR(0) automaton

each state s is **closed** under

$$\begin{array}{rl} \text{if} & Y \to \alpha \bullet X\beta \in s \\ \text{and if} & X \to \gamma \text{ is a production} \\ \text{then} & X \to \bullet\gamma \in s \end{array}$$

example:

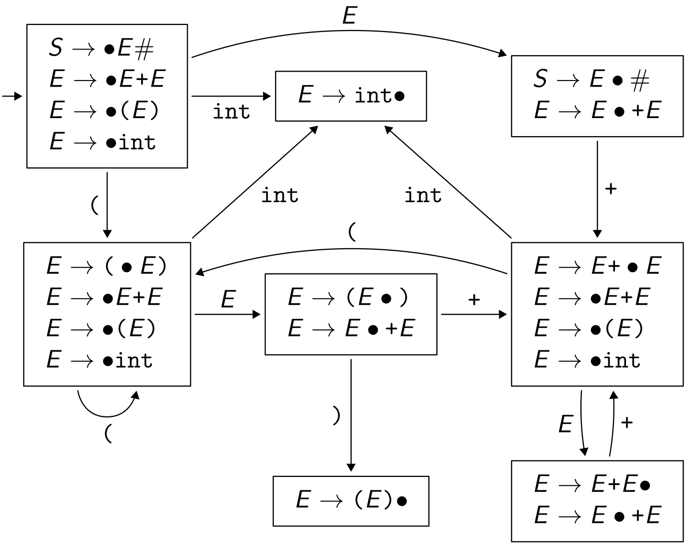
$$\boxed{\begin{array}{lcl} E & \to & E\texttt{+} \bullet E \\ E & \to & \bullet E\texttt{+}E \\ E & \to & \bullet\texttt{(}E\texttt{)} \\ E & \to & \bullet\texttt{int} \end{array}}$$

transitions are labeled with $T \cup N$ and are as follows:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} [Y \to \alpha \bullet a\beta] & \xrightarrow{a} & [Y \to \alpha a \bullet \beta] \\ [Y \to \alpha \bullet X\beta] & \xrightarrow{X} & [Y \to \alpha X \bullet \beta] \end{array}$$

example

$$
\begin{array}{lcl}
S & \rightarrow & E \\
 & & \\
E & \rightarrow & E\texttt{+}E \\
 & | & (E) \\
 & | & \texttt{int}
\end{array}
$$



$S \rightarrow \bullet E\#$
$E \rightarrow \bullet E\texttt{+}E$
$E \rightarrow \bullet(E)$
$E \rightarrow \bullet\texttt{int}$
E
int
$E \rightarrow \texttt{int}\bullet$
$S \rightarrow E \bullet \#$
$E \rightarrow E \bullet \texttt{+}E$
(
int
int
+
(
$E \rightarrow (\bullet E)$
$E \rightarrow \bullet E\texttt{+}E$
$E \rightarrow \bullet(E)$
$E \rightarrow \bullet\texttt{int}$
E
$E \rightarrow (E \bullet)$
$E \rightarrow E \bullet \texttt{+}E$
+
$E \rightarrow E\texttt{+} \bullet E$
$E \rightarrow \bullet E\texttt{+}E$
$E \rightarrow \bullet(E)$
$E \rightarrow \bullet\texttt{int}$
(
)
E
+
$E \rightarrow (E)\bullet$
$E \rightarrow E\texttt{+}E\bullet$
$E \rightarrow E \bullet \texttt{+}E$

building the tables

the action table is built as follows:

- $\texttt{action}(s, \#) =$ success if $[S \to E \bullet \#] \in s$
- $\texttt{action}(s, a) = \texttt{shift}\ s'$ if we have $s \xrightarrow{a} s'$
- $\texttt{action}(s, a) = \texttt{reduce}\ X \to \beta$ if $[X \to \beta\bullet] \in s$, for all a
- failure otherwise

the goto table is built as follows:

- $\texttt{goto}(s, X) = s'$ if and only if we have $s \xrightarrow{X} s'$

example

on our example, we get

	action					*goto*
state	(	)	+	int	#	E
1	shift 4			shift 2		3
2	reduce $E \rightarrow$ int					
3			shift 6		success	
4	shift 4			shift 2		5
5		shift 7	shift 6			
6	shift 4			shift 2		8
7	reduce $E \rightarrow$ (E)					
8			shift 6			
	reduce $E \rightarrow E$+E					

conflicts

the LR(0) table may contain two kinds of conflicts

- a **shift/reduce** conflict, if we can do both a shift and a reduce action
- a **reduce/reduce** conflict, if we can do two different reduce actions

Definition (LR(0) grammar)

A grammar is said to be LR(0) if the table contains no conflict.

conflict

we have a shift/reduce conflict in state 8

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{l} E \rightarrow E\texttt{+}E\bullet \\ E \rightarrow E\bullet\texttt{+}E \end{array}}$$

it illustrates the ambiguity of the grammar on input `int+int+int`

we can remove the conflict in two different ways:

- if we favor **shift**, we make + right associative
- if we favor **reduce**, we make + left associative
  (and we get the table we used earlier)

SLR(1) analysis

LR(0) tables quickly contain conflicts,
so let us try to remove some reduce actions

a simple idea is to set $\mathtt{action}(s, a) = \mathtt{reduce}\ X \rightarrow \beta$ if and only if

$$[X \rightarrow \beta\bullet] \in s \quad \text{and} \quad a \in \textsc{follow}(X)$$

Definition (SLR(1) grammar)

A grammar is said to be SLR(1) if the resulting table contains no conflict.

(SLR means *Simple LR*)

example

the grammar

$$\begin{array}{rcl} S & \rightarrow & E\# \\ E & \rightarrow & E + T \\ & | & T \\ T & \rightarrow & T * F \\ & | & F \\ F & \rightarrow & (\; E \;) \\ & | & \texttt{int} \end{array}$$

is SLR(1)

exercise: check it (the automaton has 12 states)

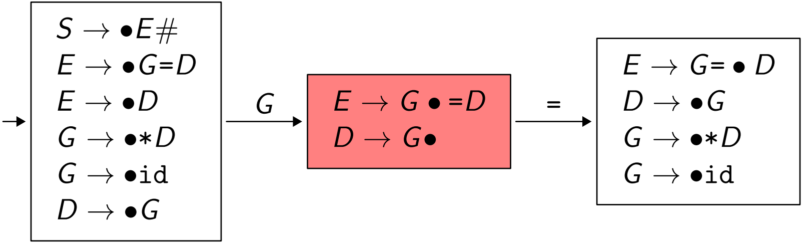
limits of SLR(1) analysis

in practice, SLR(1) grammars are not powerful enough

example:

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
S & \rightarrow & E\# \\
E & \rightarrow & G = D \\
 & | & D \\
G & \rightarrow & * \, D \\
 & | & \texttt{id} \\
D & \rightarrow & G
\end{array}
$$

	=	
1	...	...
2	shift 3 reduce $D \rightarrow G$	...
3	⋮	⋱


$S \rightarrow \bullet E\#$
$E \rightarrow \bullet G{=}D$
$E \rightarrow \bullet D$
$G \rightarrow \bullet * D$
$G \rightarrow \bullet \texttt{id}$
$D \rightarrow \bullet G$

G

$E \rightarrow G \bullet {=}D$
$D \rightarrow G \bullet$

$=$

$E \rightarrow G{=} \bullet D$
$D \rightarrow \bullet G$
$G \rightarrow \bullet * D$
$G \rightarrow \bullet \texttt{id}$

LR(1) analysis

we introduce a larger class of grammars, **LR(1)**, with larger tables

items now look like

$$[X \to \alpha \bullet \beta, a]$$

and the meaning is "we want to recognize X, we have already seen α, we still need to see β and then to check that the next token is a"

LR(1) analysis

the LR(1) automaton has transitions

$$\begin{array}{rcl}[Y \to \alpha \bullet a\beta, b] & \xrightarrow{a} & [Y \to \alpha a \bullet \beta, b] \\ [Y \to \alpha \bullet X\beta, b] & \xrightarrow{X} & [Y \to \alpha X \bullet \beta, b]\end{array}$$

and in a state containing $[Y \to \alpha \bullet X\beta, b]$ we only include

$$[X \to \bullet\gamma, c] \quad \text{for all } c \in \textsc{first}(\beta b)$$

the initial state is that containing $[S \to \bullet\alpha, \#]$

there is a reduce action for (s, a) only when s contains an item $[X \to \alpha\bullet, a]$

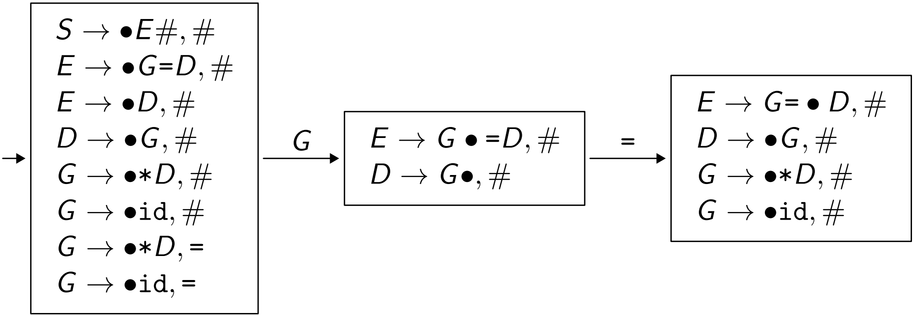
Definition (LR(1) grammar)

A grammar is said to be LR(1) if the resulting table contains no conflict.

example

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
S & \to & E\# \\
E & \to & G = D \\
  & \mid & D \\
G & \to & * D \\
  & \mid & \texttt{id} \\
D & \to & G
\end{array}
$$

	#	=	
1	...	...	...
2	reduce $D \to G$	shift 3	...
3	⋮	⋮	⋱



$S \to \bullet E\#, \#$
$E \to \bullet G{=}D, \#$
$E \to \bullet D, \#$
$D \to \bullet G, \#$
$G \to \bullet * D, \#$
$G \to \bullet \texttt{id}, \#$
$G \to \bullet * D, =$
$G \to \bullet \texttt{id}, =$

$\xrightarrow{G}$

$E \to G \bullet {=}D, \#$
$D \to G\bullet, \#$

$\xrightarrow{=}$

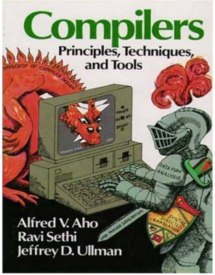
$E \to G{=}\bullet\ D, \#$
$D \to \bullet G, \#$
$G \to \bullet * D, \#$
$G \to \bullet \texttt{id}, \#$

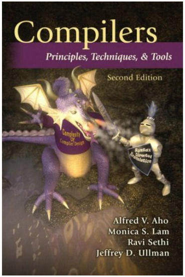
LALR(1)

the LR(1) tables can be large, so we introduced approximations

the class LALR(1) (*lookahead LR*) is such an approximation, used in tools of the yacc family

for more details, see *Compilers* ("the dragon book") by A. Aho, R. Sethi, J. Ullman, section 4.7





other approach

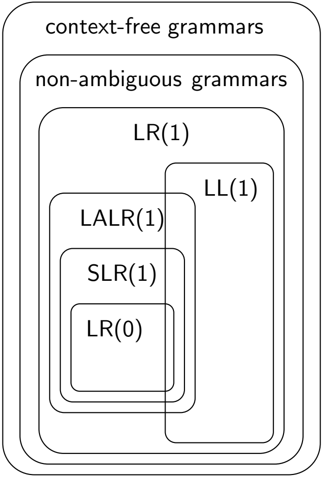
one can also use a **recursive descent parser** = successive expansions of the leftmost nonterminals, starting from S, using an expansion table

defines the LL(k) classes of grammars; cf poly chapter 4

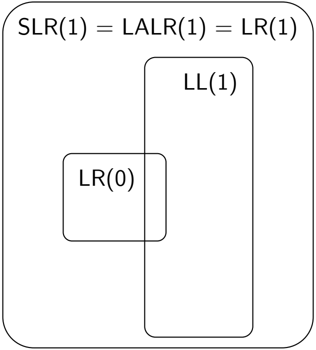
LL(1) analyzers are rather simple to implement
but they require grammars that are less natural

grammar hierarchies

grammars



languages



next

- lab 3
  - syntax analysis of mini-Turtle
  - (interpreter is given)
  - Java or OCaml

- poly chapters 3 and 4

- next lecture
  - typing
  - lab: project start