
Programming Language Syntax

長庚大學資訊工程學系 陳仁暉 助理教授

Tel: (03) 211-8800 Ext: 5990

Email: jhchen@mail.cgu.edu.tw

URL: <http://www.csie.cgu.edu.tw/~jhchen>

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Syntax of Programming Languages

- Formal Languages and Grammars
- Regular Grammars and Languages
- Context-free Grammars and Languages
- Context-sensitive Grammars and Languages
- Attribute Grammars

Formal Languages and Grammars

■ Formal Languages

- Programming languages are formal languages.
- A formal language is a set of finite strings of symbols taken from some alphabet.
- Example
 - Here are some languages over the alphabet $\{0,1\}$
 - $L_1 = \{\}$
 - $L_2 = \{0,1\}$
 - $L_3 =$ the set of all binary strings ending in 10
 $= \{10, 010, 110, 0010, 0110, 1010, 1110, \dots\}$
 - $L_4 =$ the set of all binary strings
 $= \{\varepsilon, 0, 1, 00, 01, 10, 11, 000, 001, 010, 011, \dots\}$
 - Programming language $C =$ the set of all syntactically correct C programs over C 's alphabet

Grammars & Terminals

■ Grammars

- Grammars are used to define formal languages.
- A grammar consists of four parts:
 - 1. A set of terminal symbols
 - 2. A set of nonterminal symbols
 - 3. A set of rewriting rules (or production rules) of the form

$$\alpha \rightarrow \beta$$

where α and β are strings of terminals and nonterminals, and α contains at least one nonterminal.

- Terminals are symbols of the language being defined.
Nonterminals are symbols of the defining language.
A rewriting rule specifies that the string α may produce or be rewritten as the string β .
The rewriting process begins with the start symbol.

Grammars & Terminals

- A grammar G generates a language $L(G)$ defined by
 - $L(G)$ = the set of all strings of terminals, called sentences, that can be derived from the start symbol through a sequence of applications of the rewriting rules of G .
- Example
 - Let G_1 be a grammar that consists of a terminal a , two terminals S and A , the start symbol S , and the rules:

$$S \rightarrow a$$

$$S \rightarrow aA$$

$$A \rightarrow aS$$

- Conventions
 - Small letters are terminals, and capital letters are nonterminals
 - The nonterminal in the left-hand side of the first rule is the start symbol.
 - The first two rules are usually abbreviated as

$$S \rightarrow a \mid aA$$

Grammars & Terminals

- Example (continued)
 - The string aaaaa is a sentence of the language generated by G.
 $S \rightarrow aA \rightarrow aaS \rightarrow aaaA \rightarrow aaaaS \rightarrow aaaaa$
 - This sequence is called a **derivation** of the sentence aaaaa.
 - The symbol \rightarrow means “derive in one step,” whereas the symbol \rightarrow means “**produce**”.
 - $L(G_1)$ = the set of all strings containing odd number of a’s = $\{ a^n \mid n \geq 1 \text{ is odd} \}$
 - A language may be generated by many different grammars. For example, the language $L(G_1)$ may also be generated by the following grammars:
 - $G_2 \quad S \rightarrow a \mid aaS$
 - $G_3 \quad S \rightarrow a \mid Saa$
 - $G_4 \quad S \rightarrow a \mid aSa$

Regular Grammars and Languages

- Regular grammars and languages

- A regular grammar is a left- or right-linear grammar whose production rules are of the form

$$A \rightarrow \omega \mid B\omega \quad \leftarrow \text{left-linear}$$

or, $A \rightarrow \omega \mid \omega B \quad \leftarrow \text{right-linear}$

where A and B are nonterminals, and ω is a (possibly empty) string of terminals.

- Regular grammars generate regular languages.

- Example

- The language of all binary strings ending in 10 is regular.
- Right-linear grammar

$$S \rightarrow 0S \mid 1S \mid 10$$

Right-linear grammars generate sentences from the left end

$$S \rightarrow 0S \rightarrow 01S \rightarrow 0110$$

Regular Grammars and Languages

- Example (Continued)

- Left-linear grammar

$$S \rightarrow A10$$

$$A \rightarrow A0 \mid A1 \mid \varepsilon$$

Left-linear grammars generate sentences from the right end

$$S \rightarrow A10 \rightarrow A110 \rightarrow A0110 \rightarrow 0110$$

- Here is an equivalent left-linear grammar without rules that produce the empty string ε .

$$S \rightarrow A10 \mid 10$$

$$A \rightarrow A0 \mid A1 \mid 0 \mid 1$$

Regular Grammars and Languages

■ Lexical syntax

- The lexical syntax of a programming language (i.e., the syntax of tokens, including keywords, identifiers, numeric constants, etc), can be described by regular grammars.

□ Example

- The language of C's keywords is regular.

$S \rightarrow \text{if} \mid \text{while} \mid \text{for} \mid \text{int} \mid \text{long} \mid \text{double} \mid \dots$

- The language of C's identifiers (a letter or `_` followed by any number of letters, digits, or `_`) is regular, too.

Right-linear grammar

$S \rightarrow aA \mid \dots \mid zA \mid `A'A \mid \dots \mid `Z'A \mid _A$

$A \rightarrow aA \mid \dots \mid zA \mid `A'A \mid \dots \mid `Z'A \mid _A$

$0A \mid \dots \mid 9A \mid \varepsilon$

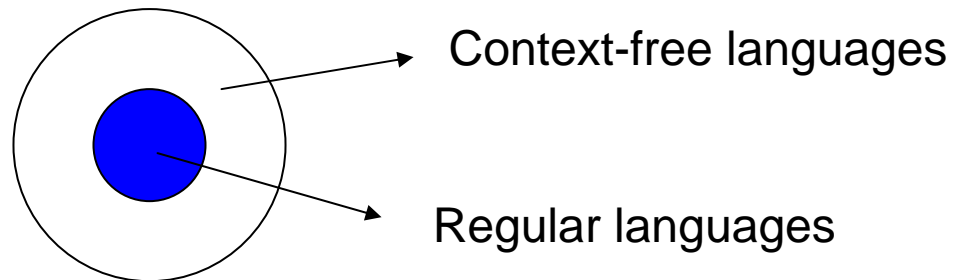
Context-free Grammars and Languages

- Context-free grammars and language
- A context-free grammar (CFG) has production rules of the form

$$A \rightarrow \alpha$$

where A is a nonterminal, α is a (possibly empty) string of terminals and nonterminals.

- Context-free grammars generate context-free language (CFL).
- Context-free grammars are so called because the rewriting of a nonterminal is independent of its context.
- A regular grammar (language) is also a CFG (CFL) but a CFG (CFL) may not be a regular grammar (language).



Context-free Grammars and Languages

□ Example (Continued)

- Consider the following language

L = the set all nested balanced parentheses

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

= $\{ ({}^n)^n \mid n \geq 0 \}$

- It can be shown that L is not a regular language, i.e., no regular grammars can generate L.
- That L is not regular implies that programming languages are not regular, since nested balanced parentheses are parts of expression syntax, e.g., $((x+((2))))$.

Context-free Grammars and Languages

■ Parse tree (derivation tree)

□ A parse tree is a graphical representation of derivations.

□ Example

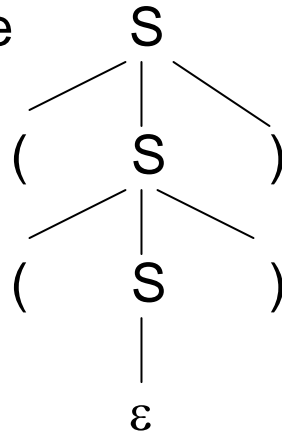
■ Let the CFG be

$$S \rightarrow (S) \mid \varepsilon$$

■ Derivation

$$S \rightarrow (S) \rightarrow ((S)) \rightarrow (())$$

■ Parse tree



□ Leaves, from left to right, contain the sentence ()

■ Every sentence has a single derivation and a single parse tree.

Specifying Syntax

■ Regular expression

- Any set of strings that can be defined in terms of the first three rules (**concatenation**, **alternation** (choice among a finite set of alternatives), and so-called “**Kleene closure**” (repetition an arbitrary number of times)) is called a *regular set*, or sometimes a *regular language*.

■ Context-Free Grammars

- Any set of strings that can be defined if we add **recursion** is called a *context-free language* (CFL).

Tokens and Regular Expressions

- Tokens are the basic building blocks of programs.
 - Pascal, for example, has 64 kinds of tokens, including 21 symbols (+, -, ,, :=, .., etc.), 35 keywords (begin, end, div, record, while, etc.), integer literals (e.g., 137), real (floating-point) literals (e.g., 6.022e23), character/string literals (e.g., `snerk').
- To specify tokens, we use the notation of regular expressions. A regular expression is one of the following:
 - 1. a character
 - 2. the empty string, denoted ε
 - 3. two regular expressions next to each other, meaning any string generated by the first one followed by (concatenated with) any string generated by the second one
 - 4. two regular expressions separated by a vertical bar (|), meaning any string generated by the first one or any string generated by the second one
 - 5. a regular expression followed by a Kleene star, meaning the concatenation of zero or more strings generated by the expression in front of the star

Tokens and Regular Expressions

- $\text{digit} \rightarrow 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid 3 \mid 4 \mid 5 \mid 6 \mid 7 \mid 8 \mid 9$
- $\text{unsigned_integer} \rightarrow \text{digit digit}^*$
- $\text{unsigned_number} \rightarrow \text{unsigned_integer} ((. \text{unsigned_integer}) \mid \varepsilon) ((e (+ \mid - \mid \varepsilon) \text{unsigned_integer}) \mid \varepsilon)$

Context-Free Grammar

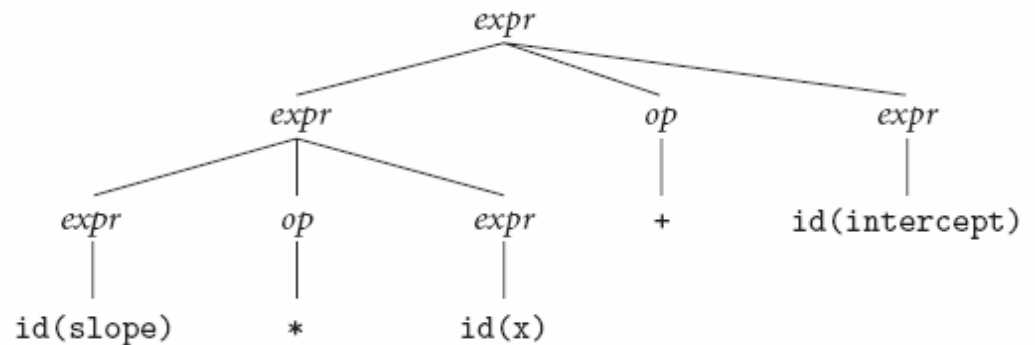
- CFG can help us to specify nested constructs, which are central to programming languages.
 - $\text{express} \rightarrow \text{identifier} \mid \text{number} \mid - \text{expression} \mid (\text{expression}) \mid \text{expression operator expression}$
 - $\text{operator} \rightarrow + \mid - \mid * \mid /$
 - Each of the rules in a context-free grammar is known as a *production*.
 - The symbols on the left-hand sides of the productions are known as variables, or *nonterminals*.
 - Symbols that are to make up the strings derived from the grammar are known as *terminals*.
 - One of the nonterminals, usually the one on the left-hand side of the first production, is called the *start symbol*.

Context-Free Grammar

- The notation for context-free grammars is sometimes called **Backus-Naur Form (BNF)**, in honor of John Backus and Peter Naur, who devised it for the definition of the Algol-60 programming language [NBB⁺ 63].
- The vertical bar, Kleene star, and meta-level parentheses of regular expressions are not allowed in BNF.
- These extra operators, the notation is often called **extended BNF (EBNF)**.

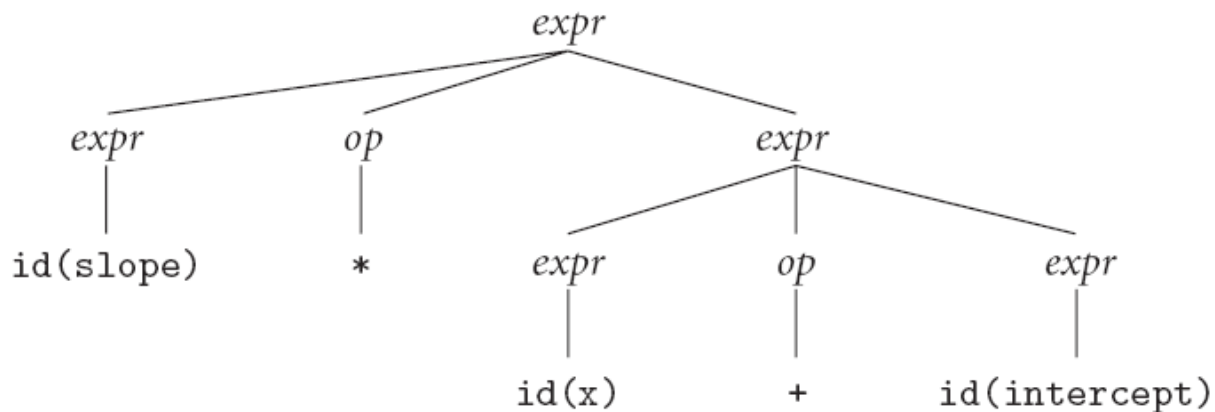
Derivations and Parse Trees

- Parsing the string “slope * x + intercept”
- $\text{expr} \rightarrow \text{expr op expr}$
 - $\rightarrow \text{expr op id}$
 - $\rightarrow \text{expr} + \text{id}$
 - $\rightarrow \text{expr op expr} + \text{id}$
 - $\rightarrow \text{expr op id} + \text{id}$
 - $\rightarrow \text{expr} * \text{id} + \text{id}$
 - $\rightarrow \text{id} * \text{id} + \text{id}$



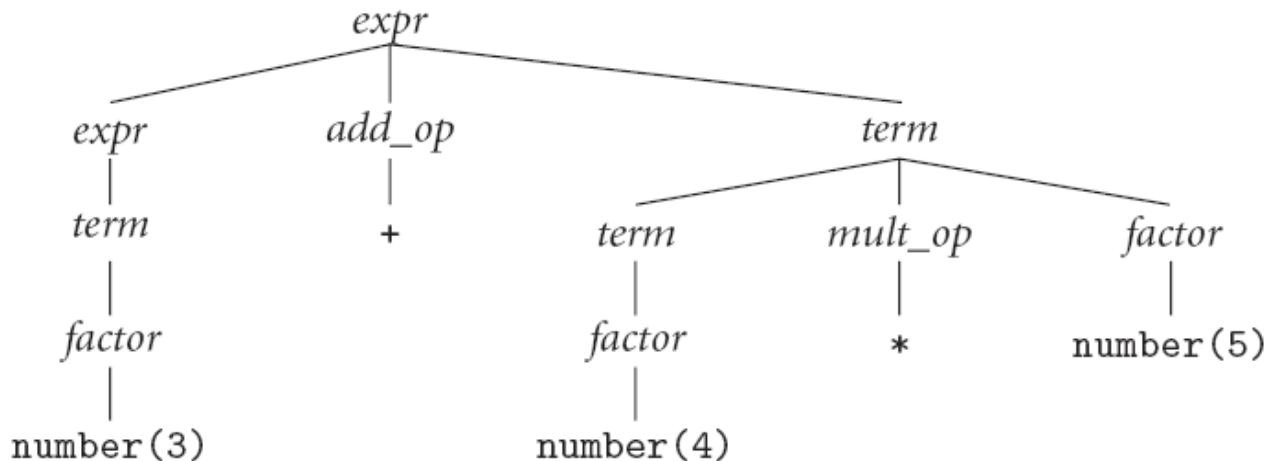
Ambiguous

- The above example chooses at each step to replace the right-most nonterminal with the *right-most* derivation, also called a *canonical* derivation.
- There are many other possible derivations, including *left-most* and options in-between.



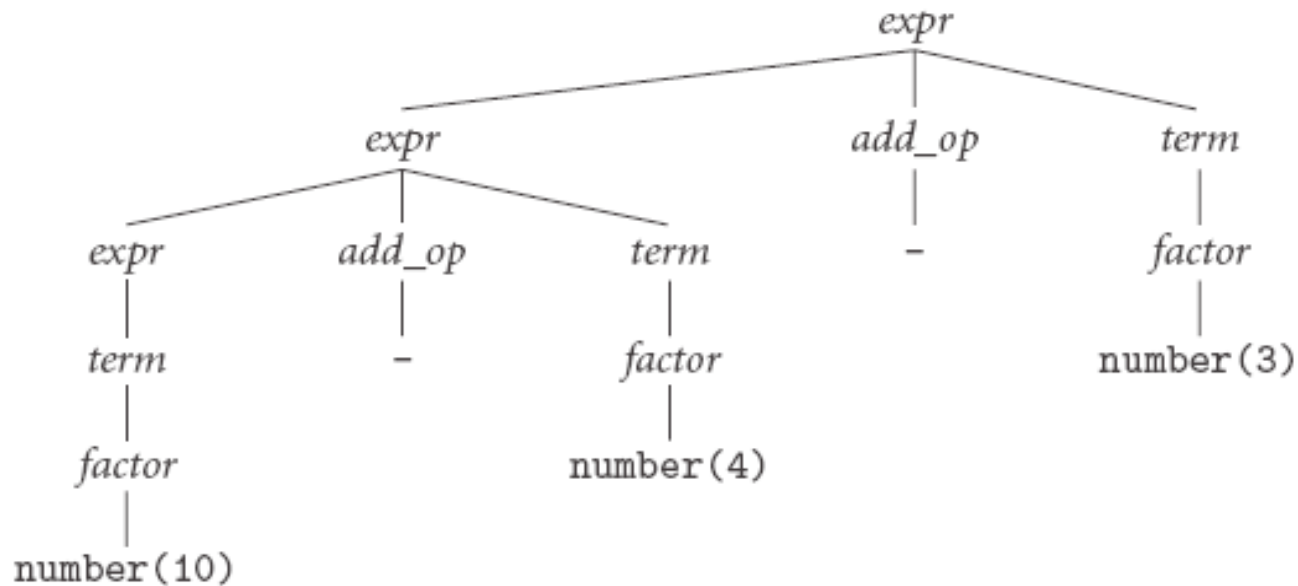
Parse Tree

- Parse tree for $3+4*5$, with precedence.
 - $\text{expr} \rightarrow \text{term} \mid \text{expr add_op term}$
 - $\text{term} \rightarrow \text{factor} \mid \text{term mult_op factor}$
 - $\text{factor} \rightarrow \text{id} \mid \text{number} \mid - \text{factor} \mid (\text{expr})$
 - $\text{add_op} \rightarrow + \mid -$
 - $\text{mult_op} \rightarrow * \mid /$



Another Example of Parse Tree

- The subtraction groups more tightly to the left, so that $10 - 4 - 3$ would be evaluated to 3, rather than to 9. (Grammar shown in page 38)



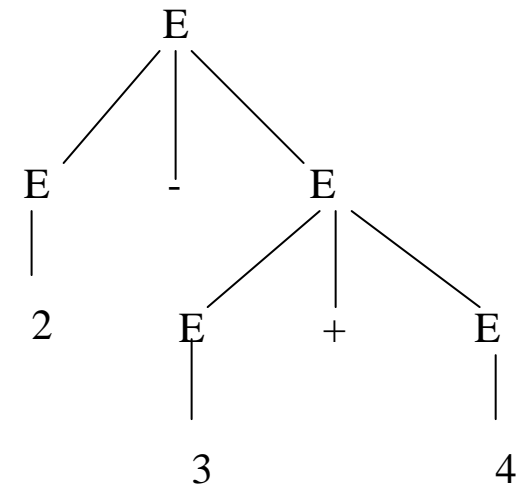
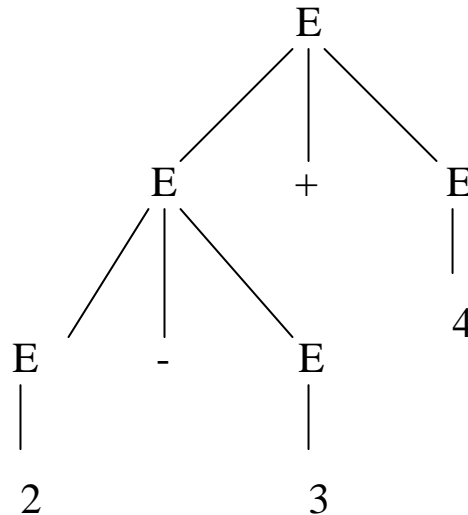
Another example of ambiguity

Two (or more) parse trees or leftmost derivations for the *same string*

$E \rightarrow E + E$

$E \rightarrow E - E$

$E \rightarrow 0 \mid \dots \mid 9$



- Two leftmost derivations

$E \rightarrow E + E$
 $\rightarrow E - E + E$
 $\rightarrow 2 - E + E$
 $\rightarrow 2 - 3 + E$
 $\rightarrow 2 - 3 + 4$

$E \rightarrow E - E$
 $\rightarrow 2 - E$
 $\rightarrow 2 - E + E$
 $\rightarrow 2 - 3 + E$
 $\rightarrow 2 - 3 + 4$

- An ambiguous grammar can sometimes be made unambiguous

$E \rightarrow E + T \mid E - T \mid T$

$T \rightarrow 0 \mid \dots \mid 9$

Recognizing Syntax: Scanners & Parsers

- The scanner and parser for a programming language are responsible for discovering the syntactic structure of a given program.
- The parser is the heart of a typical compiler.
- Parser calls the scanner to obtain the **tokens** of the input program, assembles the tokens together into a parse tree, and passes the tree (perhaps one subroutine at a time) to the later phases of the compiler, which perform semantic analysis and code generation and improvement.

Recognizing Syntax: Scanners & Parsers

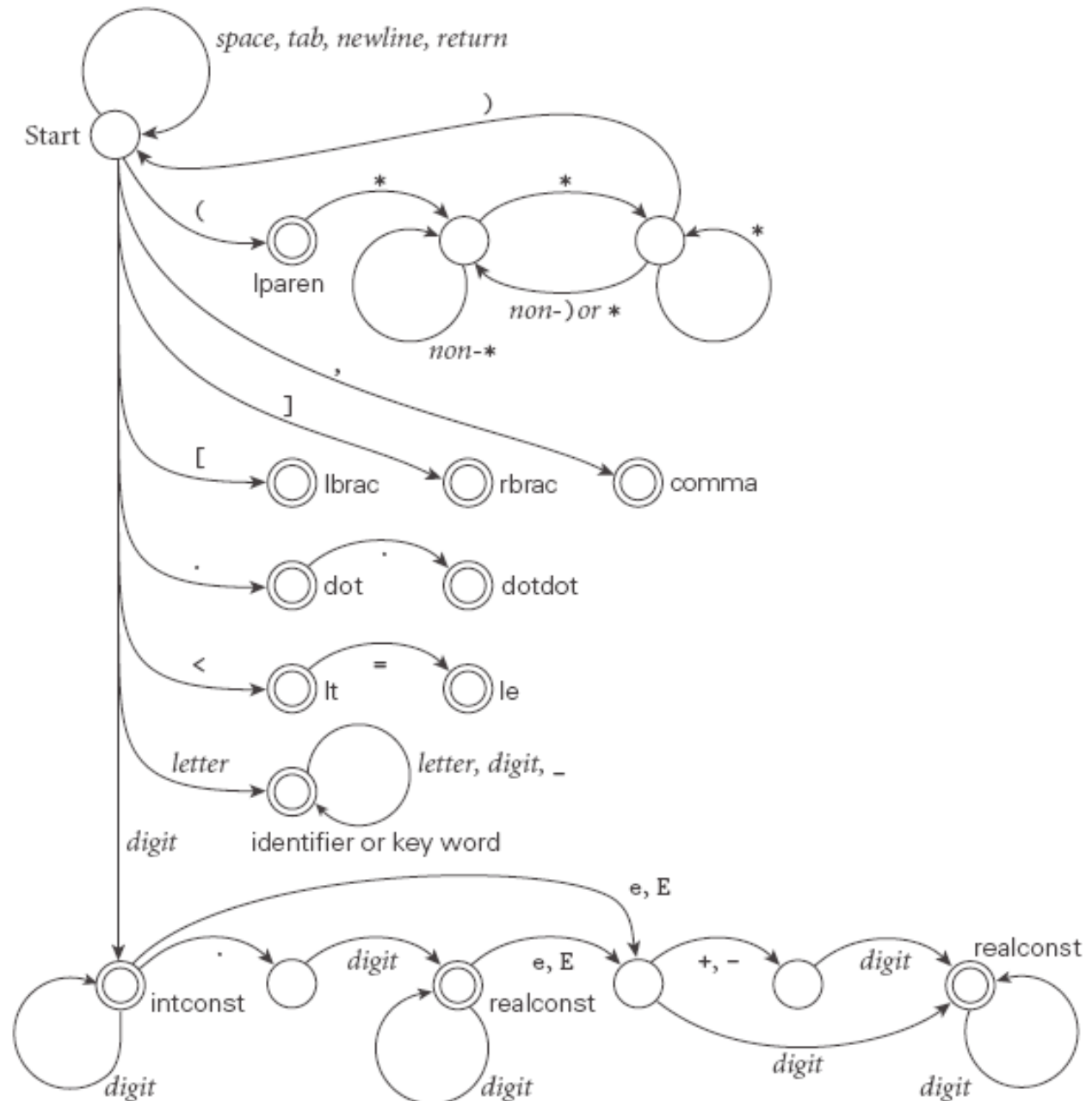
- Scanner
 - It dramatically reduces the number of individual items.
 - Typically remove comments (so the parser doesn't have to worry about them appearing throughout the context-free grammar).
- Scanners normally deal only with nonrecursive constructs, nested comments require special treatment.
- In theoretical parlance, a scanner is a **deterministic finite automaton (DFA)** that recognize the tokens of a programming language.
- A parser is a deterministic **push-down automaton (PDA)** that recognizes the language' context-free syntax.
- This task is performed by tools such as Unix's **lex** and **yacc**.
 - At many sites, lex and yacc have been superseded by the GNU **flex** and **bison** tools. These independently developed, noncommercial alternatives are available without charge from the Free Software Foundation at www.fsf.org/software.

Scanning

- Please refer to textbook on page 40.
- This algorithm is a pseudo code of scanner for Pascal.
- It is not difficult to flesh out the algorithm above by hand, to produce code in some programming language.
- We can write the code by hand (this option basically amounts to a highly stylized ad hoc scanner), or we can use a scanner *generator* (e.g., lex) to build it automatically from a set of regular expressions.

Scanning

- Pictorial representation of (part of) a Pascal scanner as a finite automaton.



Top-Down and Bottom-Up Parsing

- A context-free grammar (CFG) is a generator for a CF language.
- A parser is a language *recognizer*.
- LL stands for “Left-to-right, Left-most derivation.” LR parser is called “top-down,” or “predictive” parser.
- LR stands for “Left-to-right, Right-most derivation.” LR parser is called “bottom-up” parser.

Common Orderings

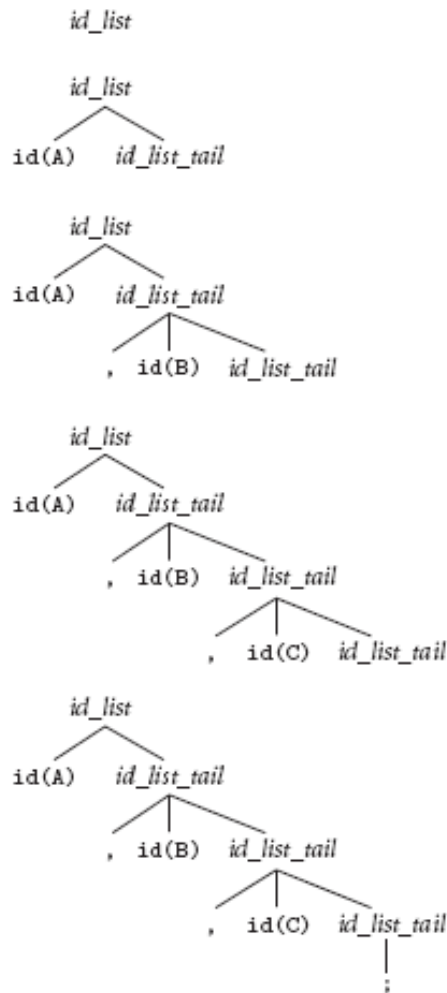
- Top-down
 - Start with the root
 - Traverse the parse tree depth-first, left-to-right (leftmost derivation)
 - LL(k)
- Bottom-up
 - Start at leaves and build up to the root
 - Effectively a rightmost derivation in reverse(!)
 - LR(k) and subsets (Look Ahead Left Recursive, LALR(k), Simple Left Recursive, SLR(k), etc.)

Top-down vs. bottom-up

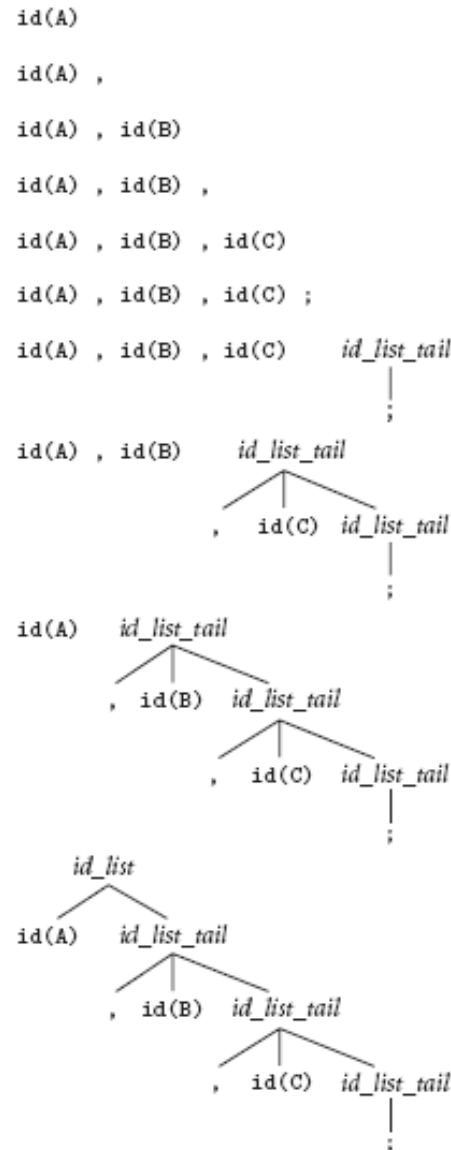
- Consider the grammar (Scott, p. 49)
 - $id_list \rightarrow i d id_list_tail$
 - $id_list_tail \rightarrow , i d id_list_tail$
 - $id_list_tail \rightarrow ;$

- And input text:
 - A, B, C;

Top-down vs. bottom-up Parsing



$id_list \rightarrow id\ id_list_tail$
 $id_list_tail \rightarrow ,\ id\ id_list_tail$
 $id_list_tail \rightarrow ;$



Disadvantage of Bottom-Up Parsing

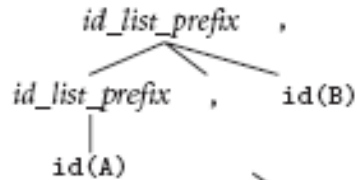
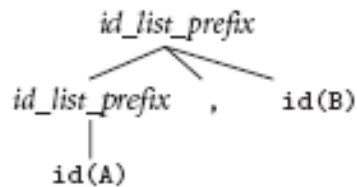
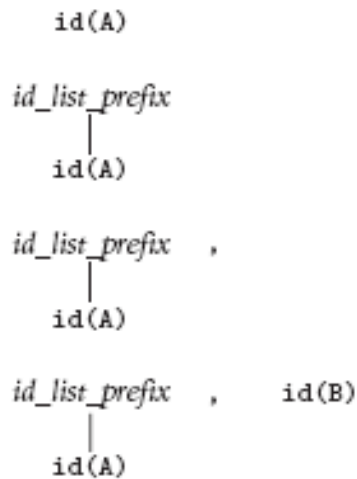
- The problem with previous grammar, for the purpose of bottom-up parsing, is that it forces the compiler to shift all the tokens of an `id_list` into its forest before it can reduce any of them.

`id_list` \rightarrow `id_list_prefix`;

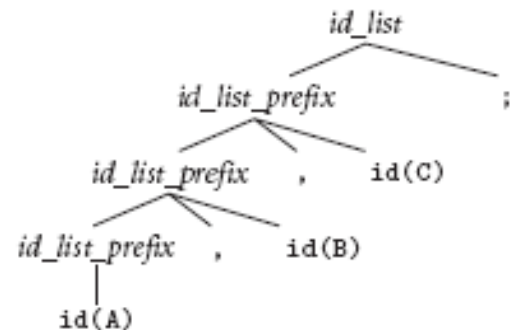
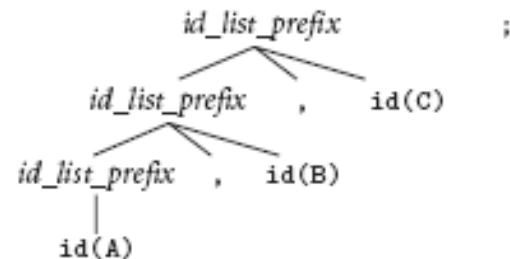
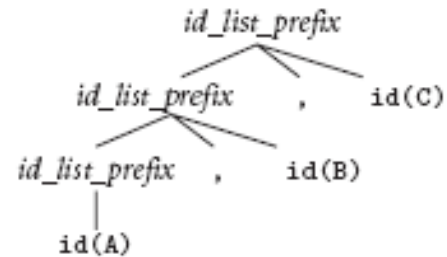
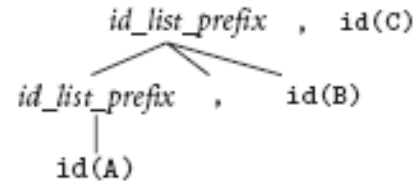
`id_list_prefix` \rightarrow `id_list_prefix, id` | `id`

- This grammar cannot be parsed top-down, because when we see an `id` on the input and we're expecting an `id_list_prefix`, we have no way to tell which of the two possible productions we should predict.

Bottom-up Revision



$id_list \rightarrow id_list_prefix ;$ $id_list_prefix \rightarrow id_list_prefix , id$ $\rightarrow id$



Recursive Descent

- An example of “calculate” language.

read A

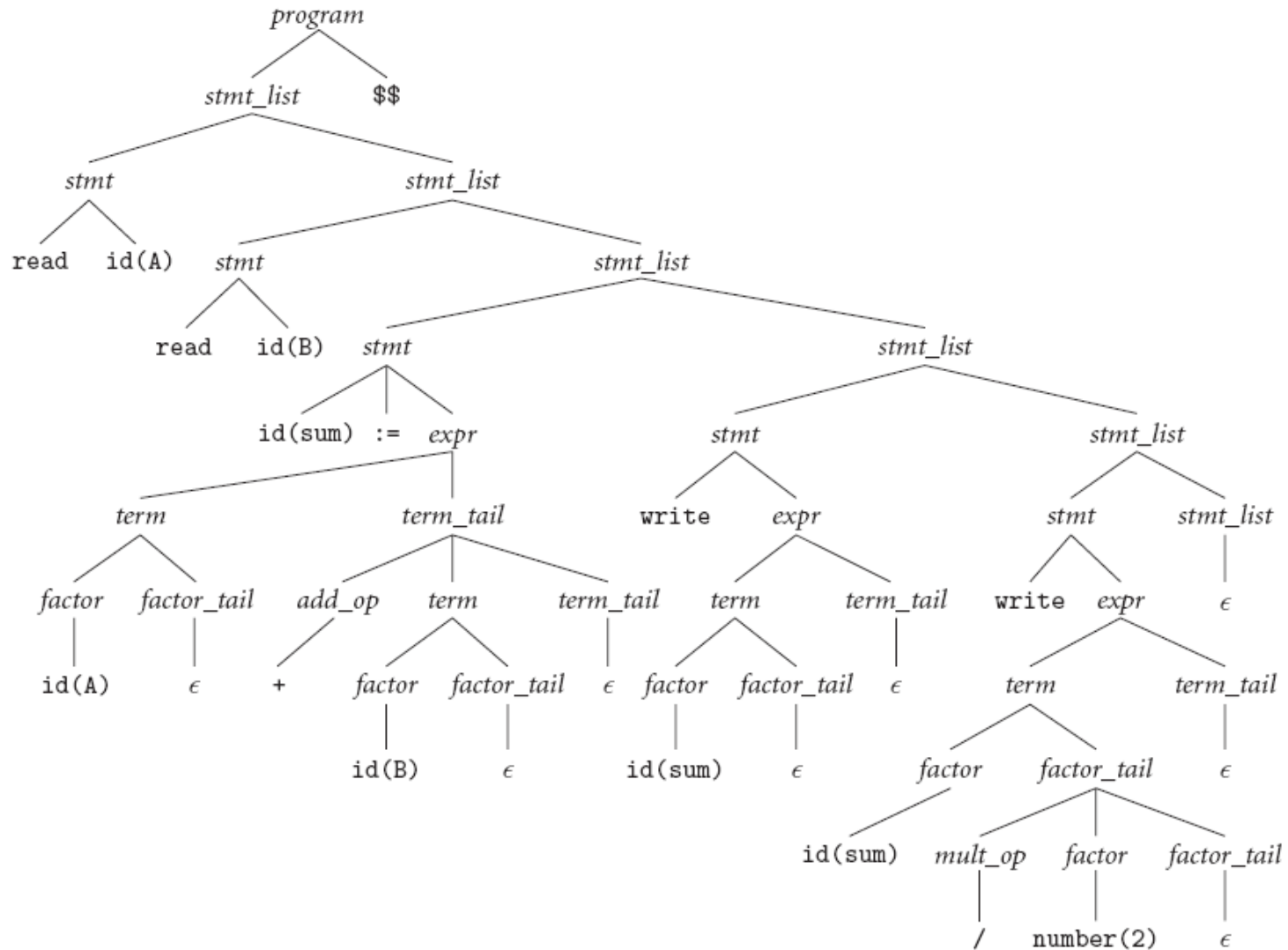
read B

sum := A + B

write sum

write sum / 2

Sum-and-average program



FIRST Sets

- $\text{FIRST}(\alpha)$ is the set of all terminal symbols that can begin some sentential form that starts with α
- $\text{FIRST}(\alpha) = \{a \text{ in } V_t \mid \alpha \rightarrow^* a\beta\} \cup \{\varepsilon\}$ if $\alpha \rightarrow^* \varepsilon$
- Example:
 $\langle \text{stmt} \rangle \rightarrow \text{simple} \mid \text{begin } \langle \text{stmts} \rangle \text{ end}$
 $\text{FIRST}(\langle \text{stmt} \rangle) = \{\text{simple}, \text{begin}\}$

Computing FIRST sets

Initially $\text{FIRST}(A)$ is empty

1. For productions $A \rightarrow a \beta$, where $a \in V_t$
Add $\{ a \}$ to $\text{FIRST}(A)$
2. For productions $A \rightarrow \varepsilon$
Add $\{ \varepsilon \}$ to $\text{FIRST}(A)$
3. For productions $A \rightarrow \alpha B \beta$, where $\alpha \xrightarrow{*} \varepsilon$ and
NOT $(B \rightarrow \varepsilon)$
Add $\text{FIRST}(\alpha B)$ to $\text{FIRST}(A)$
4. For productions $A \rightarrow \alpha$, where $\alpha \xrightarrow{*} \varepsilon$
Add $\text{FIRST}(\alpha)$ and $\{ \varepsilon \}$ to $\text{FIRST}(A)$

To compute FIRST across strings of terminals and non-terminals:

$$\text{FIRST}(\varepsilon) = \{ \varepsilon \}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{FIRST}(A\alpha) &= A \text{ if } A \text{ is a terminal} \\ &= \text{FIRST}(A) \cup \text{FIRST}(\alpha) \\ &\quad \text{if } A \rightarrow \varepsilon \\ &= \text{FIRST}(A) \text{ otherwise} \end{aligned}$$

Example 1

- $S \rightarrow a S e$
- $S \rightarrow B$
- $B \rightarrow b B e$
- $B \rightarrow C$
- $C \rightarrow c C e$
- $C \rightarrow d$

- $\text{FIRST}(C) =$
- $\text{FIRST}(B) =$
- $\text{FIRST}(S) =$

Example 1

- $S \rightarrow a S e$
- $S \rightarrow B$
- $B \rightarrow b B e$
- $B \rightarrow C$
- $C \rightarrow c C e$
- $C \rightarrow d$
- $\text{FIRST}(C) = \{c,d\}$
- $\text{FIRST}(B) = \{b,c,d\}$
- $\text{FIRST}(S) = \{a,b,c,d\}$

Example 2

- $P \rightarrow i \mid c \mid n T S$
- $Q \rightarrow P \mid a S \mid b S c S T$
- $R \rightarrow b \mid \varepsilon$
- $S \rightarrow c \mid R n \mid \varepsilon$
- $T \rightarrow R S q$
- $\text{FIRST}(P) =$
- $\text{FIRST}(Q) =$
- $\text{FIRST}(R) =$
- $\text{FIRST}(S) =$
- $\text{FIRST}(T) =$

Example 2

- $P \rightarrow i \mid c \mid n T S$
- $Q \rightarrow P \mid a S \mid b S c S T$
- $R \rightarrow b \mid \varepsilon$
- $S \rightarrow c \mid R n \mid \varepsilon$
- $T \rightarrow R S q$
- $\text{FIRST}(P) = \{i, c, n\}$
- $\text{FIRST}(Q) = \{i, c, n, a, b\}$
- $\text{FIRST}(R) = \{b, \varepsilon\}$
- $\text{FIRST}(S) = \{c, b, n, \varepsilon\}$
- $\text{FIRST}(T) = \{b, c, n, q\}$

Example 3

- $S \rightarrow a S e \mid S T S$
- $T \rightarrow R S e \mid Q$
- $R \rightarrow r S r \mid \varepsilon$
- $Q \rightarrow S T \mid \varepsilon$

- $\text{FIRST}(S) =$
- $\text{FIRST}(R) =$
- $\text{FIRST}(T) =$
- $\text{FIRST}(Q) =$

Example 3

- $S \rightarrow a S e \mid S T S$
- $T \rightarrow R S e \mid Q$
- $R \rightarrow r S r \mid \varepsilon$
- $Q \rightarrow S T \mid \varepsilon$
- $\text{FIRST}(S) = \{a\}$
- $\text{FIRST}(R) = \{r, \varepsilon\}$
- $\text{FIRST}(T) = \{r, a, \varepsilon\}$
- $\text{FIRST}(Q) = \{a, \varepsilon\}$

FOLLOW Sets

- FOLLOW(A) is the set of terminals (including end of file) that may follow non-terminal A in some sentential form.
- $\text{FOLLOW}(A) = \{a \text{ in } V_t \mid S \Rightarrow^+ \dots Aa\dots\} \cup \{\$$
(end of file) $\}$ if $S \Rightarrow^+ \dots A$
- For example, consider $L \Rightarrow^+ (())(L)L$ --
Both ‘)’ and end of file can follow L

Computing FOLLOW(A)

- If S is a start symbol, put \$ in FOLLOW(S)
 - Productions of the form $B \rightarrow \alpha A a$, then add { a } to FOLLOW(A)
 - Productions of the form $B \rightarrow \alpha A \beta$,
Add $\text{FIRST}(\beta) - \{\epsilon\}$ to FOLLOW(A)
- INTUITION: Suppose $B \rightarrow AX$ and $\text{FIRST}(X) = \{c\}$
- $$S \rightarrow^+ \alpha B \beta \rightarrow \alpha A X \beta \rightarrow^+ \alpha A c \delta \beta$$

- Productions of the form $B \rightarrow \alpha A$ or $B \rightarrow \alpha A \beta$ where $\beta \rightarrow^* \epsilon$

Add FOLLOW(B) to FOLLOW(A)

INTUITION:

- Suppose $B \rightarrow Y A$
 $S \rightarrow^+ \alpha B \beta \rightarrow \alpha Y A \beta$
- Suppose $B \rightarrow A X$ and $X \rightarrow \epsilon$
 $S \rightarrow^+ \alpha B \beta \rightarrow \alpha A X \beta \rightarrow \alpha A \beta$

NOTE: ϵ *never* in FOLLOW sets

Example 4

- $S \rightarrow a S e \mid B$

- $B \rightarrow b B C f \mid C$

- $C \rightarrow c C g \mid d \mid \varepsilon$

- $FIRST(C) = \{c, d, \varepsilon\}$

- $FIRST(B) = \{b, c, d, \varepsilon\}$

- $FIRST(S) = \{a, b, c, d, \varepsilon\}$

- $FOLLOW(C) =$

- $FOLLOW(B) =$

- $FOLLOW(S) =$

Example 4

- $S \rightarrow a S e \mid B$
- $B \rightarrow b B C f \mid C$
- $C \rightarrow c C g \mid d \mid \varepsilon$
- $FIRST(C) = \{c, d, \varepsilon\}$
- $FIRST(B) = \{b, c, d, \varepsilon\}$
- $FIRST(S) = \{a, b, c, d, \varepsilon\}$
- $FOLLOW(C) = g, f$
 $FOLLOW(C) = \{c, d, e, f, g, \$\}$
- $FOLLOW(B) = c, d, f$
 $FOLLOW(B) = \{c, d, e, f, \$\}$
- $FOLLOW(S) = \{ \$, e \}$

Example 5

- $S \rightarrow (A) \mid \varepsilon$
- $A \rightarrow T E$
- $E \rightarrow , T E \mid \varepsilon$
- $T \rightarrow (A) \mid a \mid b \mid c$
- $FOLLOW(S) =$
- $FOLLOW(A) =$
- $FOLLOW(E) =$
- $FOLLOW(T) =$
- $FIRST(T) = \{(, a, b, c\}$
- $FIRST(E) = \{', ', \varepsilon\}$
- $FIRST(A) = \{(, a, b, c\}$
- $FIRST(S) = \{(, \varepsilon\}$

Example 5

- $S \rightarrow (A) \mid \varepsilon$
- $A \rightarrow T E$
- $E \rightarrow , T E \mid \varepsilon$
- $T \rightarrow (A) \mid a \mid b \mid c$
- $FOLLOW(S) = \{ \$ \}$
- $FOLLOW(A) = \{) \}$
- $FOLLOW(E) = \{) \}$
- $FOLLOW(T) = \{ ', ',) \}$
- $FIRST(T) = \{ (, a, b, c \}$
- $FIRST(E) = \{ ', ', \varepsilon \}$
- $FIRST(A) = \{ (, a, b, c \}$
- $FIRST(S) = \{ (, \varepsilon \}$

Example 6

- $E \rightarrow T E'$
 - $E' \rightarrow + T E' \mid \varepsilon$
 - $T \rightarrow F T'$
 - $T' \rightarrow * F T' \mid \varepsilon$
 - $F \rightarrow (E) \mid id$
-
- $FOLLOW(E) =$
 - $FOLLOW(E') =$
 - $FOLLOW(T) =$
 - $FOLLOW(T') =$
 - $FOLLOW(F) =$
-
- $FIRST(F) = FIRST(T) = FIRST(E) = \{ (, id \}$
 - $FIRST(T') = \{ *, \varepsilon \}$
 - $FIRST(E') = \{ +, \varepsilon \}$

Example 6

- $E \rightarrow T E'$
 - $E' \rightarrow + T E' \mid \varepsilon$
 - $T \rightarrow F T'$
 - $T' \rightarrow * F T' \mid \varepsilon$
 - $F \rightarrow (E) \mid id$
- $FOLLOW(E) = \{\$, \,)\}$
 - $FOLLOW(E') = \{\$, \,)\}$
 - $FOLLOW(T) = \{+, \$, \,)\}$
 - $FOLLOW(T') = \{+, \$, \,)\}$
 - $FOLLOW(F) = \{*, +, \$, \,)\}$
-
- $FIRST(F) = FIRST(T) = FIRST(E) = \{(, id\}$
 - $FIRST(T') = \{*, \varepsilon\}$
 - $FIRST(E') = \{+, \varepsilon\}$

Example 7

- $S \rightarrow A B C \mid A D$
- $A \rightarrow a \mid a A$
- $B \rightarrow b \mid c \mid \varepsilon$
- $C \rightarrow D a C$
- $D \rightarrow b b \mid c c$

- $FIRST(D) = FIRST(C) = \{b,c\}$
- $FIRST(B) = \{b,c,\varepsilon\}$
- $FIRST(A) = FIRST(S) = \{a\}$

- $FOLLOW(S) =$
- $FOLLOW(A) =$
- $FOLLOW(B) =$
- $FOLLOW(C) =$
- $FOLLOW(D) =$

Example 7

- $S \rightarrow A B C \mid A D$
 - $A \rightarrow a \mid a A$
 - $B \rightarrow b \mid c \mid \varepsilon$
 - $C \rightarrow D a C$
 - $D \rightarrow b b \mid c c$
-
- $FOLLOW(S) = \{\$ \}$
 - $FOLLOW(A) = \{b, c\}$
 - $FOLLOW(B) = \{b, c\}$
 - $FOLLOW(C) = \{\$ \}$
 - $FOLLOW(D) = \{a, \$ \}$
-
- $FIRST(D) = FIRST(C) = \{b, c\}$
 - $FIRST(B) = \{b, c, \varepsilon\}$
 - $FIRST(A) = FIRST(S) = \{a\}$

Writing an LL(1) Grammar

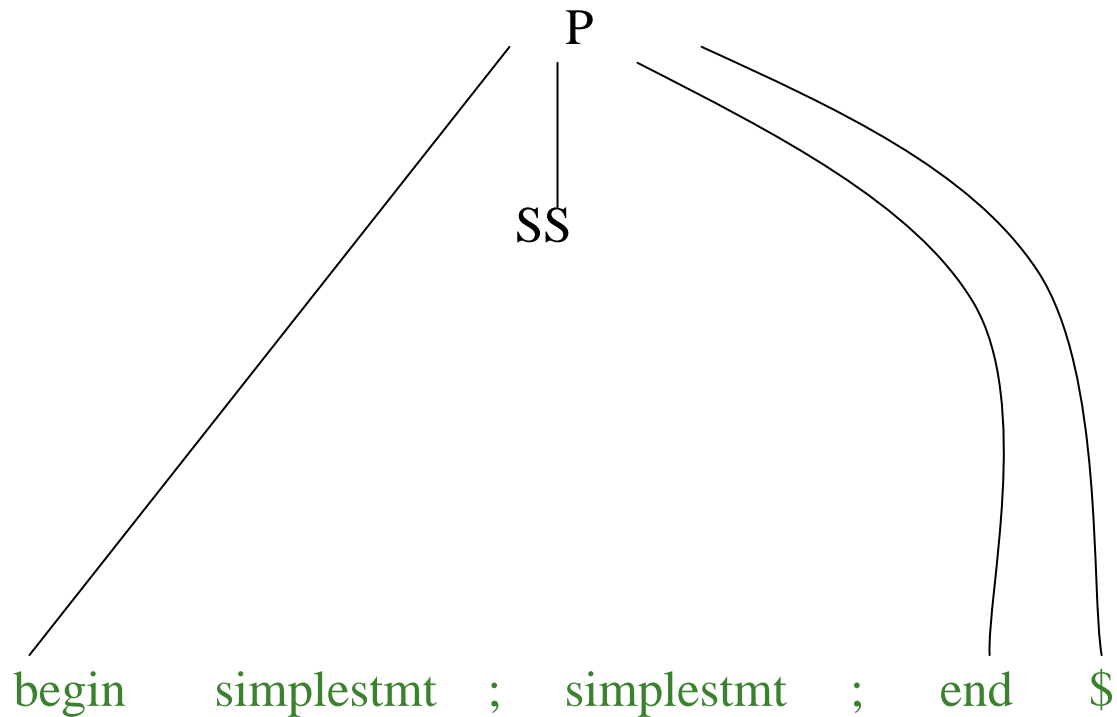
- The two most common obstacles to “LL(1)-ness” are
 - Left recursion
 - Common prefixes

Top Down (LL) Parsing

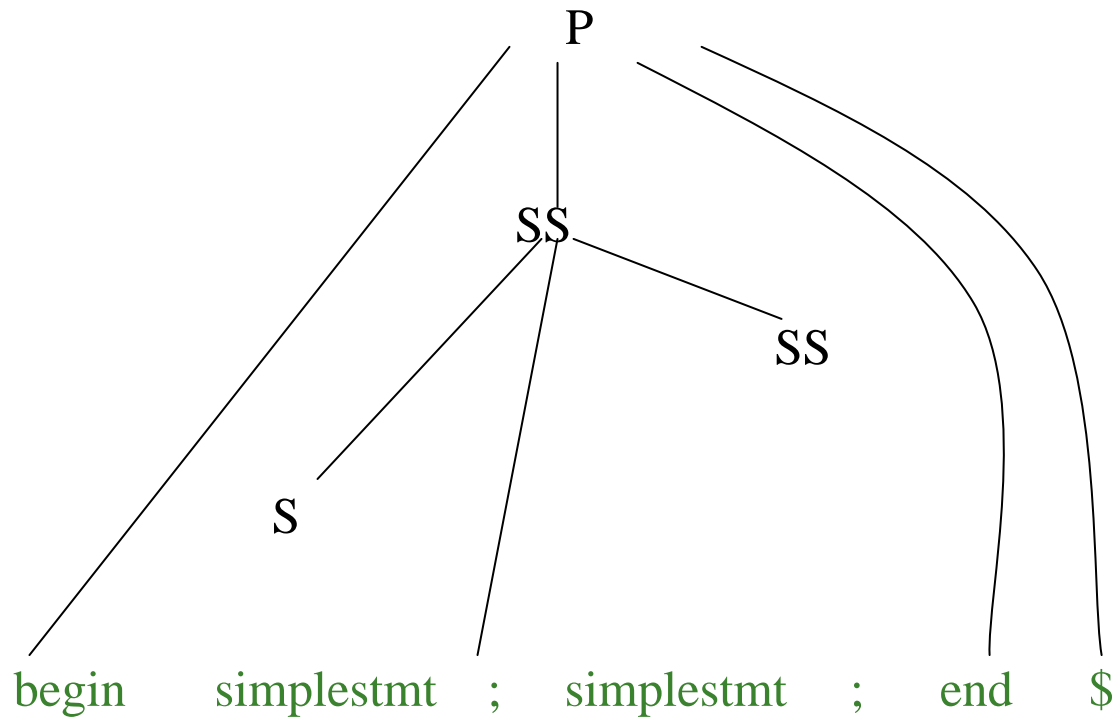
P

begin simplestmt ; simplestmt ; end \$

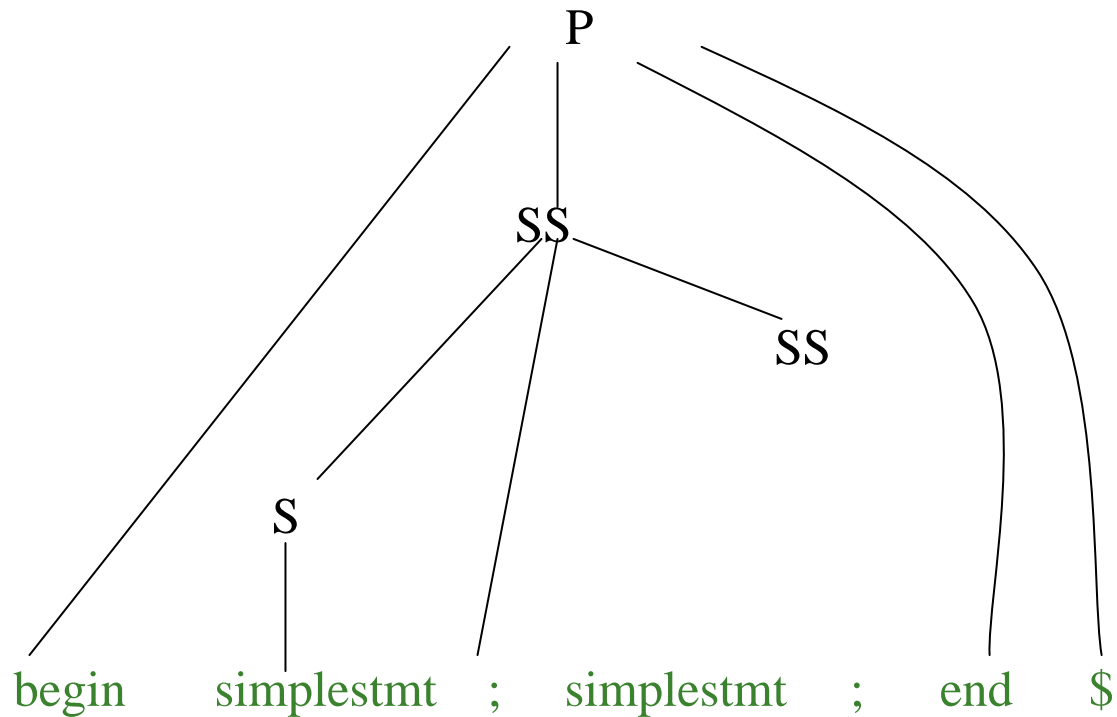
Top Down (LL) Parsing



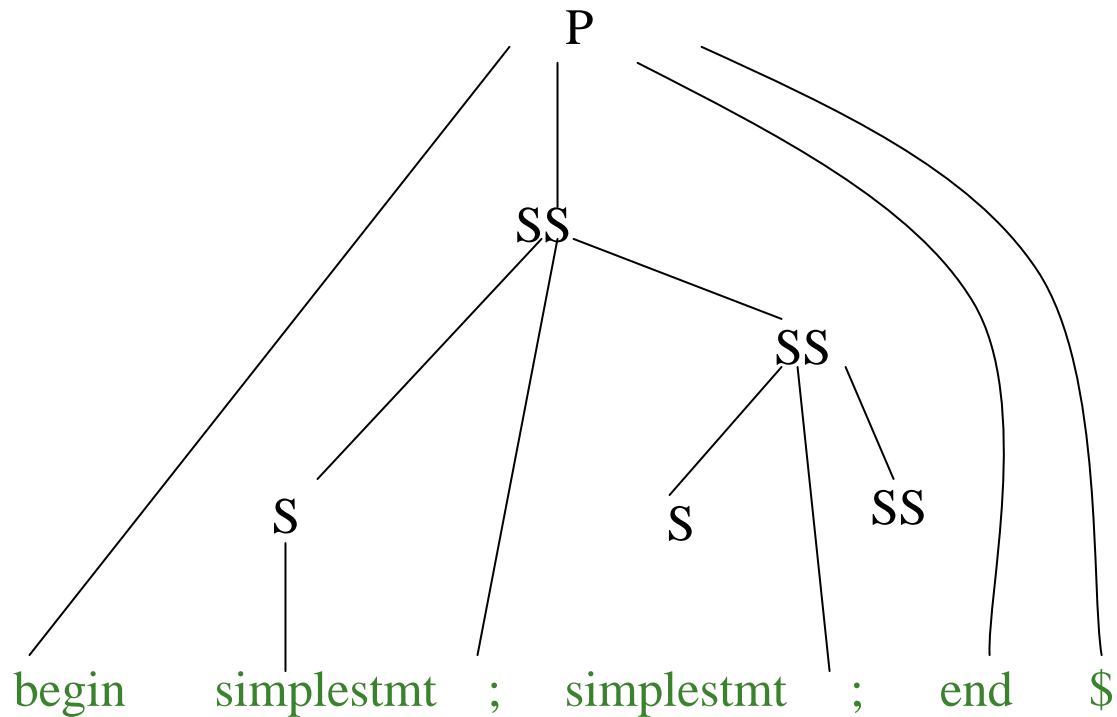
Top Down (LL) Parsing



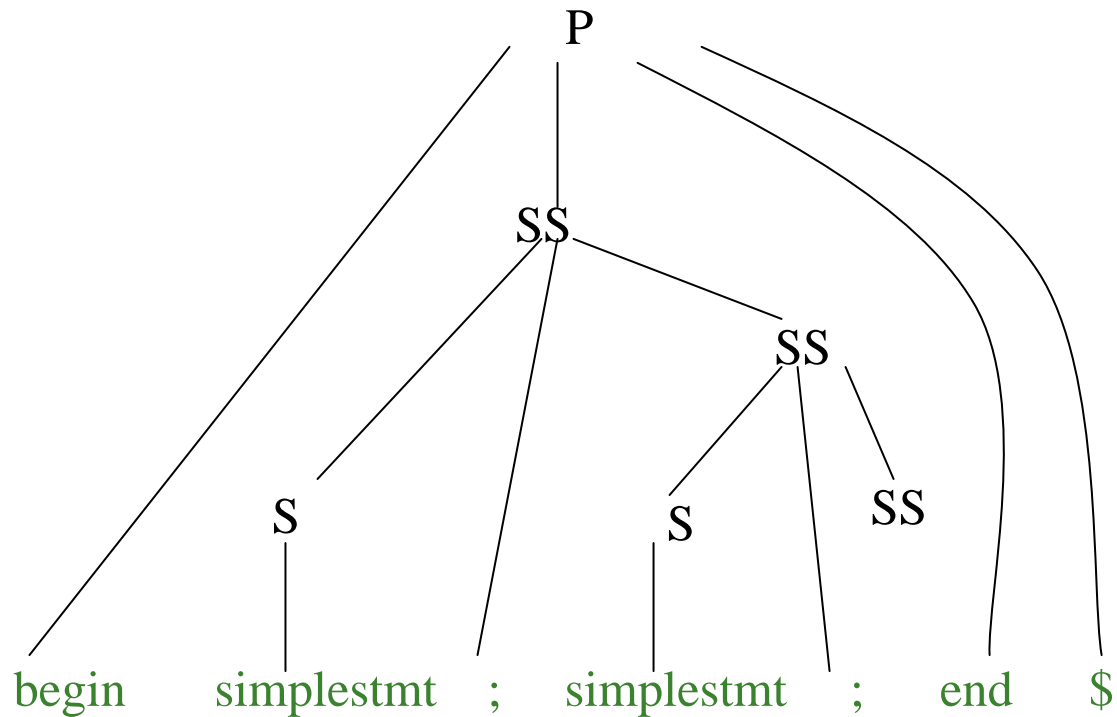
Top Down (LL) Parsing



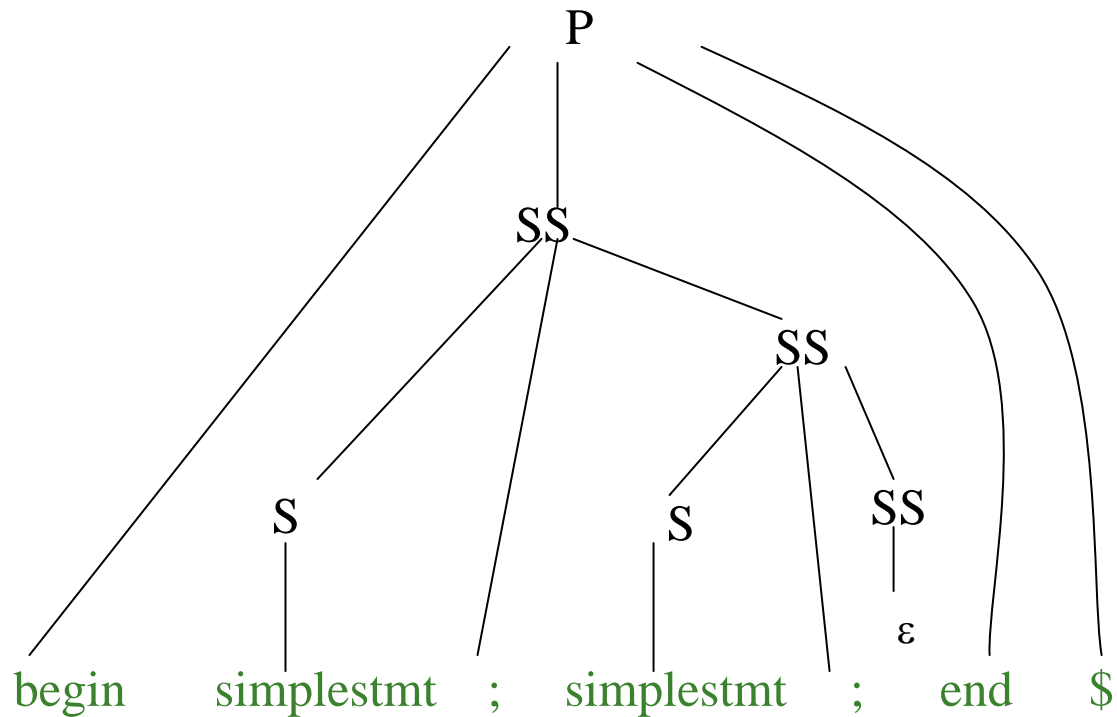
Top Down (LL) Parsing



Top Down (LL) Parsing



Top Down (LL) Parsing



Grammar

$S \rightarrow a B$

$\quad | b C$

$B \rightarrow b b C$

$C \rightarrow c c$

Two strings in the language: `abbcc` and `bcc`

Can choose between them based on the first character of the input.

LL(k) parsing

- Process input k symbols at a time.
- Initially, current non-terminal is start symbol.
- Algorithm
 - Given next k input tokens and current non-terminal T , choose a rule R ($T \rightarrow \dots$)
 - For each element X in rule R from left to right,
 - if X is a non-terminal, call function for X
 - else if symbol X is a terminal, see if next input symbol matches X ;
 - if so, update from the input
- Typically, we consider LL(1)

Two Approaches

- Recursive Descent parsing
 - Code tailored to the grammar
- Table Driven – predictive parsing
 - Table tailored to the grammar
 - General Algorithm

Writing a Recursive Descent Parser

- Procedure for each non-terminal.

Use next token (lookahead) to choose which production to mimic.

- for non-terminal X, call procedure X()
- for terminals X, call 'match(X)'

- ```
match(symbol) {
 if (symbol = lookahead)
 lookahead = yylex()
 else error() }
```

- Call `yylex()` before the first call to get first lookahead.

# Back to grammar

```
S() {
 if (lookahead==a) { match(a);B(); }
 else if (lookahead == b) { match(b);
 C(); }
 else error("expecting a or b");
}
```

```
B() {match(b); match(b); C();}
```

```
C() { match(c) ; match(c) ;}
```

```
main() {
 lookahead==yylex();
 S();
}
```

$$S \rightarrow a B$$
$$| b C$$
$$B \rightarrow b b C$$
$$C \rightarrow c c$$

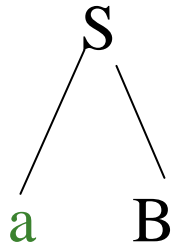
---

# Parsing abbcc

S

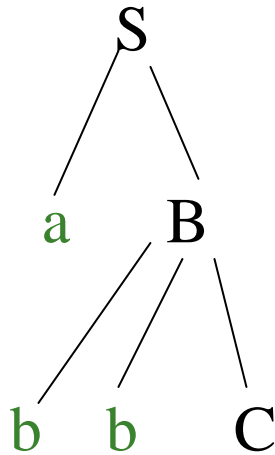
Remaining input: abbcc

# Parsing abbcc



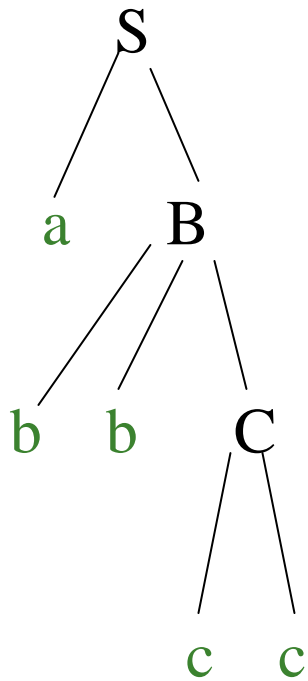
Remaining input: bbcc

# Parsing abbcc



Remaining input: cc

# Parsing abbcc



Remaining input:



---

# How do we find the lookaheads?

- Can compute PREDICT sets from FIRST and FOLLOW
- $\text{PREDICT}(A \rightarrow \alpha) =$   
FIRST( $\alpha$ ) – { $\epsilon$ }  $\cup$  FOLLOW(A) if  $\epsilon$  in FIRST( $\alpha$ )  
FIRST( $\alpha$ ) if  $\epsilon$  not in FIRST( $\alpha$ )

**NOTE:  $\epsilon$  never in PREDICT sets**

For LL( $k$ ) grammars, the PREDICT sets for a given non-terminal will be disjoint.

# Example

| Production                   | Predict                                  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| $E \rightarrow T E'$         | $= \text{FIRST}(T) = \{ (, \text{id} \}$ |
| $E' \rightarrow + T E'$      | $\{ + \}$                                |
| $E' \rightarrow \varepsilon$ | $= \text{FOLLOW}(E') = \{ \$, ) \}$      |
| $T \rightarrow F T'$         | $= \text{FIRST}(F) = \{ (, \text{id} \}$ |
| $T' \rightarrow * F T'$      | $\{ * \}$                                |
| $T' \rightarrow \varepsilon$ | $= \text{FOLLOW}(T') = \{ +, \$, ) \}$   |
| $F \rightarrow \text{id}$    | $\{ \text{id} \}$                        |
| $F \rightarrow ( E )$        | $\{ ( \}$                                |

- $\text{FIRST}(F) = \{ (, \text{id} \}$
- $\text{FIRST}(T) = \{ (, \text{id} \}$
- $\text{FIRST}(E) = \{ (, \text{id} \}$
- $\text{FIRST}(T') = \{ *, \varepsilon \}$
- $\text{FIRST}(E') = \{ +, \varepsilon \}$
- $\text{FOLLOW}(E) = \{ \$, ) \}$
- $\text{FOLLOW}(E') = \{ \$, ) \}$
- $\text{FOLLOW}(T) = \{ +, \$, ) \}$
- $\text{FOLLOW}(T') = \{ +, \$, ) \}$
- $\text{FOLLOW}(F) = \{ *, +, \$, ) \}$

```
E() {
 if (lookahead in {(,id}) T(); E_prime(); } E → T E'
 else error("(E) expecting (or identifier");
}
```

```
E_prime() {
 if (lookahead in {+}) {match(+); T(); E_prime();} E' → + T E'
 else if (lookahead in {),end_of_file}) return; E' → ε
 else error("(E') expecting +,) or end of file");
}
```

```
T() {
 if (lookahead in {(,id}) F(); T_prime(); } T → F T'
 else error("(T) expecting (or identifier");
}
```

```

T_prime() {
 if (lookahead in {*}) {match(*); F(); T_prime();} T' → * F T'
 else if (lookahead in {},end_of_file}) return; T' → ε
 else error("(T') expecting *,) or end of file"); }

```

```

F() {
 if (lookahead in {id}) match(id); F → id
 else if (lookahead in {(}) match({); E(); match (}); } F → (E)
 else error("(F) expecting (or identifier");}

```

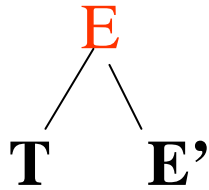
---

# Parsing $a + b * c$

E

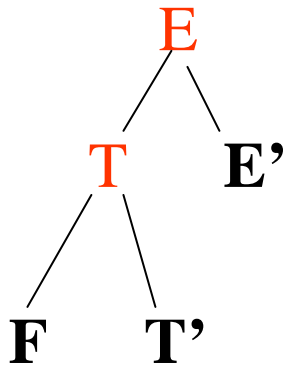
Remaining input:  $a+b*c$

# Parsing $a + b * c$



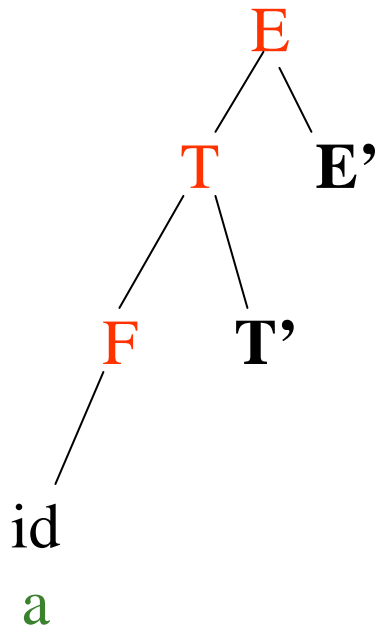
Remaining input:  $a+b*c$

# Parsing $a + b * c$



Remaining input:  $a+b*c$

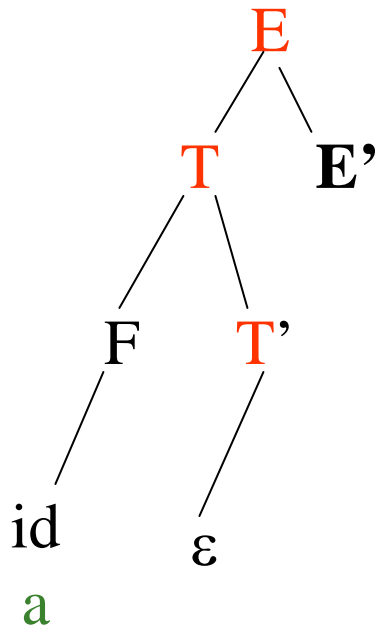
# Parsing $a + b * c$



Remaining input:  $+b*c$

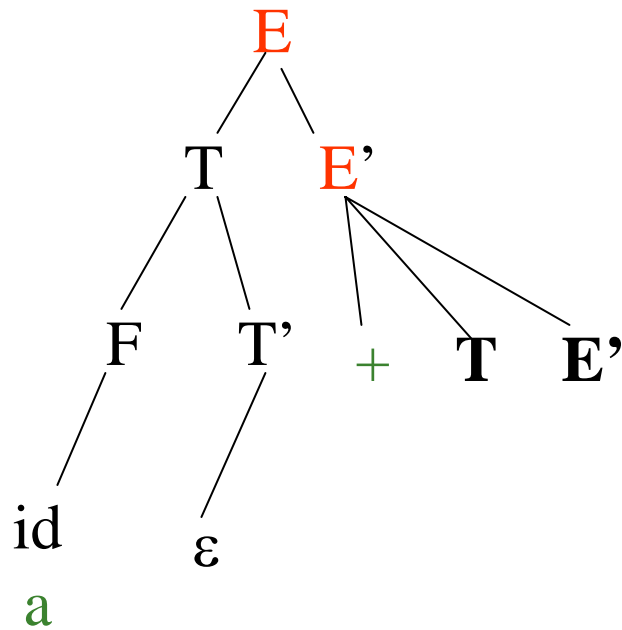


# Parsing $a + b * c$



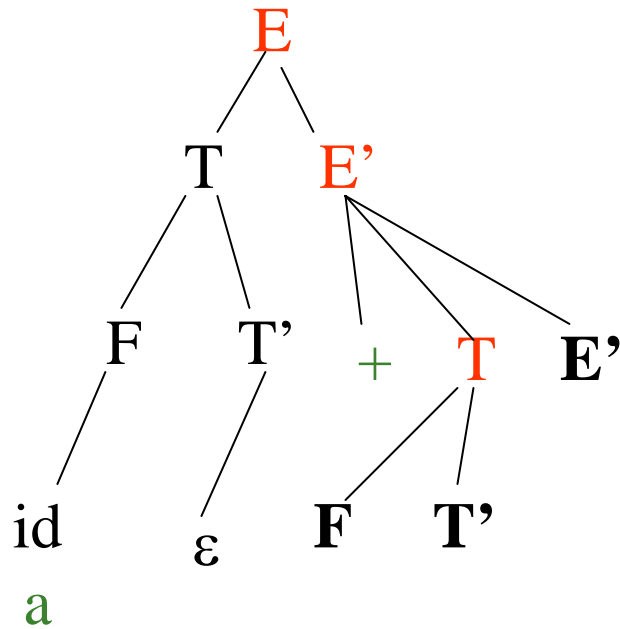
Remaining input:  $+b*c$

# Parsing $a + b * c$



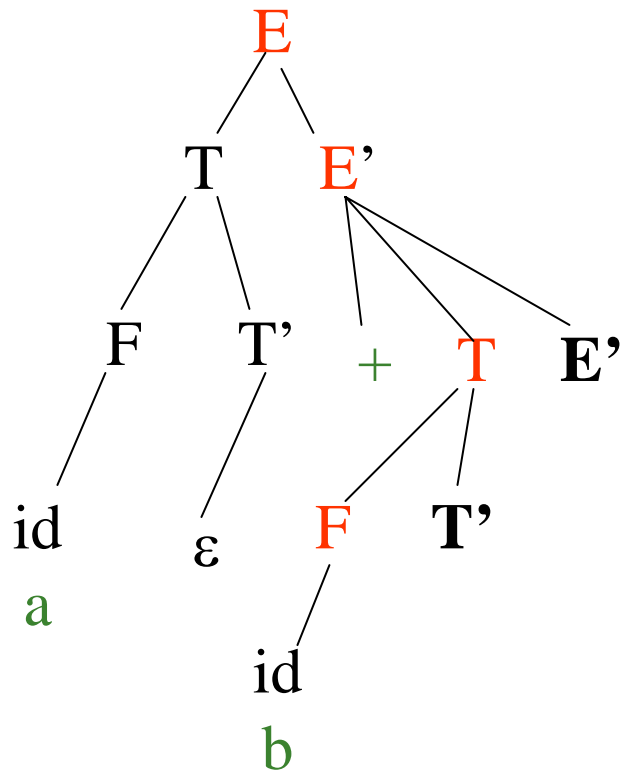
Remaining input:  $b * c$

# Parsing $a + b * c$



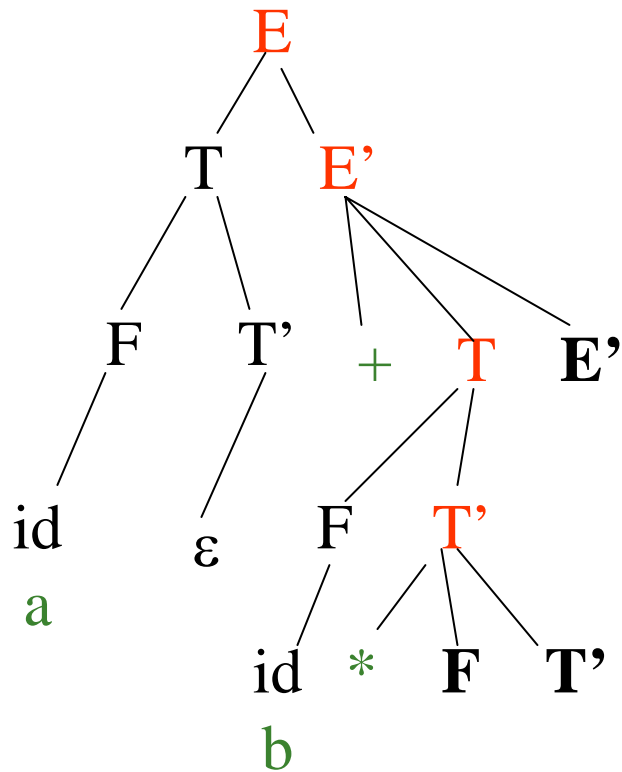
Remaining input:  $b * c$

# Parsing $a + b * c$



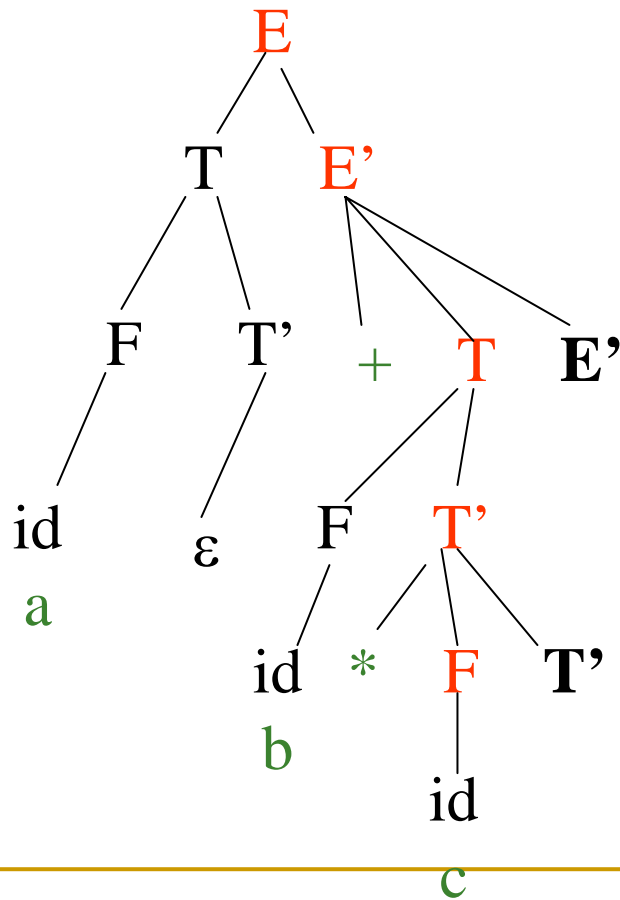
Remaining input:  $*c$

# Parsing $a + b * c$



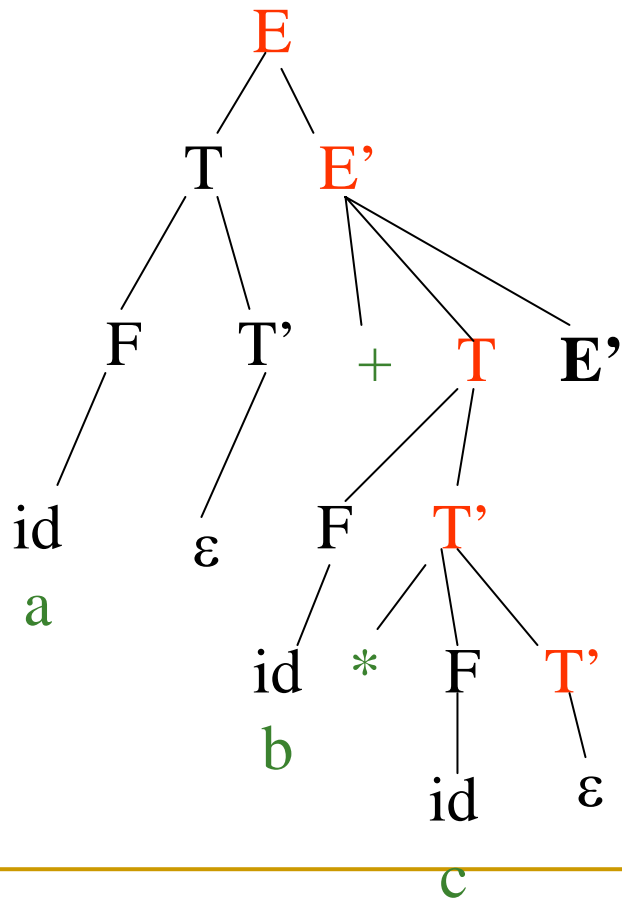
Remaining input: **c**

# Parsing $a + b * c$



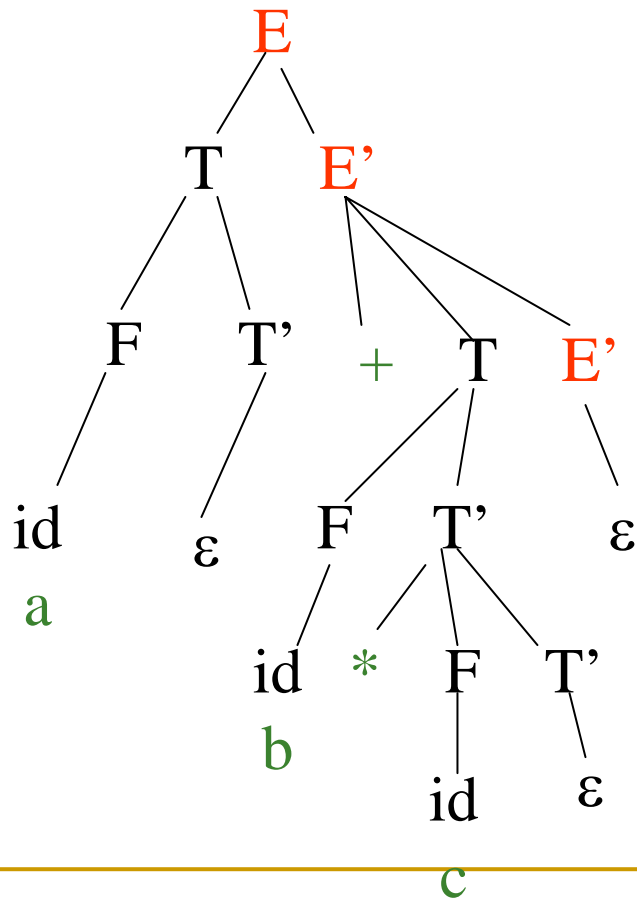
Remaining input:

# Parsing $a + b * c$



Remaining input:

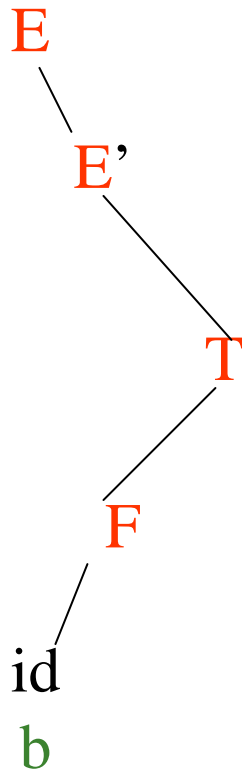
# Parsing $a + b * c$



Remaining input:



# Stacks in Recursive Descent Parsing



- Runtime stack
- Procedure activations correspond to a path in parse tree from root to some interior node

# LL(1) Predictive Parse Tables

An LL(1) Parse table is a mapping  $T: V_n \times V_t \rightarrow$   
production  $P$  or error

1. For all productions  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  do
  - For each terminal  $a$  in  $\text{Predict}(A \rightarrow \alpha)$ ,  
 $T[A][a] = A \rightarrow \alpha$
2. Every undefined table entry is an error.

---

# Using LL(1) Parse Tables

## ALGORITHM

INPUT: token sequence to be parsed, followed by '\$' (end of file)

## DATA STRUCTURES:

- Parse stack: Initialized by pushing '\$' and then pushing the start symbol
- Parse table T

---

```
push($); push(start_symbol); lookahead = yylex()
repeat
 X = pop(stack)
 if X is a terminal symbol or $ then
 if X = lookahead then
 lookahead = yylex()
 else error()
 else /* X is non-terminal */
 if T[X][lookahead] = X → Y1 Y2 ... Ym
 push(Ym) ... push (Y1)
 else error()
until X = $ token
```

# Expression Grammar

| NT/T | +                      | *                    | (                   | )                      | ID                 | \$                     |
|------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| E    |                        |                      | $\rightarrow T E'$  |                        | $\rightarrow T E'$ |                        |
| E'   | $\rightarrow + T E'$   |                      |                     | $\rightarrow \epsilon$ |                    | $\rightarrow \epsilon$ |
| T    |                        |                      | $\rightarrow F T'$  |                        | $\rightarrow F T'$ |                        |
| T'   | $\rightarrow \epsilon$ | $\rightarrow * F T'$ |                     | $\rightarrow \epsilon$ |                    | $\rightarrow \epsilon$ |
| F    |                        |                      | $\rightarrow ( E )$ |                        | $\rightarrow ID$   |                        |

# Parsing $a + b * c$

| Stack    | Input   | Action                    |
|----------|---------|---------------------------|
| \$E      | a+b*c\$ | $E \rightarrow T E'$      |
| \$E'T    | a+b*c\$ | $T \rightarrow F T'$      |
| \$E'T'F  | a+b*c\$ | $F \rightarrow id$        |
| \$E'T'id | a+b*c\$ | match                     |
| \$E'T'   | +b*c\$  | $T' \rightarrow \epsilon$ |
| \$E'     | +b*c\$  | $E' \rightarrow + T E'$   |
| \$E'T+   | +b*c\$  | match                     |
| \$E'T    | b*c\$   | $T \rightarrow F T'$      |

| Stack    | Input | Action                    |
|----------|-------|---------------------------|
| \$E'T'F  | b*c\$ | $F \rightarrow id$        |
| \$E'T'id | b*c\$ | match                     |
| \$E'T'   | *c\$  | $T' \rightarrow * F T'$   |
| \$E'T'F* | *c\$  | match                     |
| \$E'T'F  | c\$   | $F \rightarrow id$        |
| \$E'T'id | c\$   | match                     |
| \$E'T'   | \$    | $T' \rightarrow \epsilon$ |
| \$E'     | \$    | $E' \rightarrow \epsilon$ |
| \$       | \$    | accept                    |

---

# Stack in Predictive Parsing

- Algorithm data structure
- Holds terminals and non-terminals from the grammar
  - terminals – still need to be matched from the input
  - non-terminals – still need to be expanded

---

# Making a grammar LL(1)

- Not all context free languages have LL(1) grammars
- Can show a grammar is not LL(1) by looking at the predict sets
  - For LL(a) grammars, the PREDICT sets for a given non-terminal will be disjoint.



# Example

| Production            | Predict                    |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| $E \rightarrow E + T$ | = $FIRST(E) = \{ (, id \}$ |
| $E \rightarrow T$     | = $FIRST(T) = \{ (, id \}$ |
| $T \rightarrow T * F$ | = $FIRST(T) = \{ (, id \}$ |
| $T \rightarrow F$     | = $FIRST(F) = \{ (, id \}$ |
| $F \rightarrow id$    | = $\{ id \}$               |
| $F \rightarrow ( E )$ | = $\{ ( \}$                |

- $FIRST(F) = \{ (, id \}$
- $FIRST(T) = \{ (, id \}$
- $FIRST(E) = \{ (, id \}$
- $FIRST(T) = \{ *, \epsilon \}$
- $FIRST(E') = \{ +, \epsilon \}$
- $FOLLOW(E) = \{ \$, ) \}$
- $FOLLOW(E') = \{ \$, ) \}$
- $FOLLOW(T) = \{ +, \$, ) \}$
- $FOLLOW(T') = \{ +, \$, ) \}$
- $FOLLOW(F) = \{ *, +, \$, ) \}$

Two problems: E and T

---

# Making a non-LL(1) grammar LL(1)

- Eliminate common prefixes

Ex:  $A \rightarrow B a C D \mid B a C E$

- Transform left recursion to right recursion

Ex:  $E \rightarrow E + T \mid T$

---

# Eliminate Common Prefixes

- $A \rightarrow \alpha \beta \mid \alpha \delta$

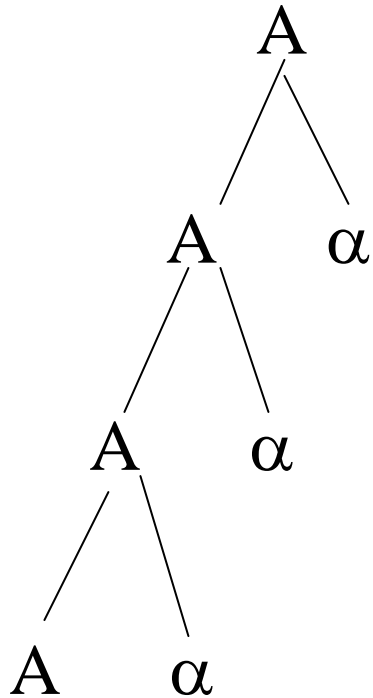
Can become:

$$A \rightarrow \alpha A'$$

$$A' \rightarrow \beta \mid \delta$$

Doesn't always remove the problem. *Why?*

# Why is left recursion a problem?



---

# Remove Left Recursion

$$A \rightarrow A \alpha_1 \mid A \alpha_2 \mid \dots \mid \beta_1 \mid \beta_2 \mid \dots$$

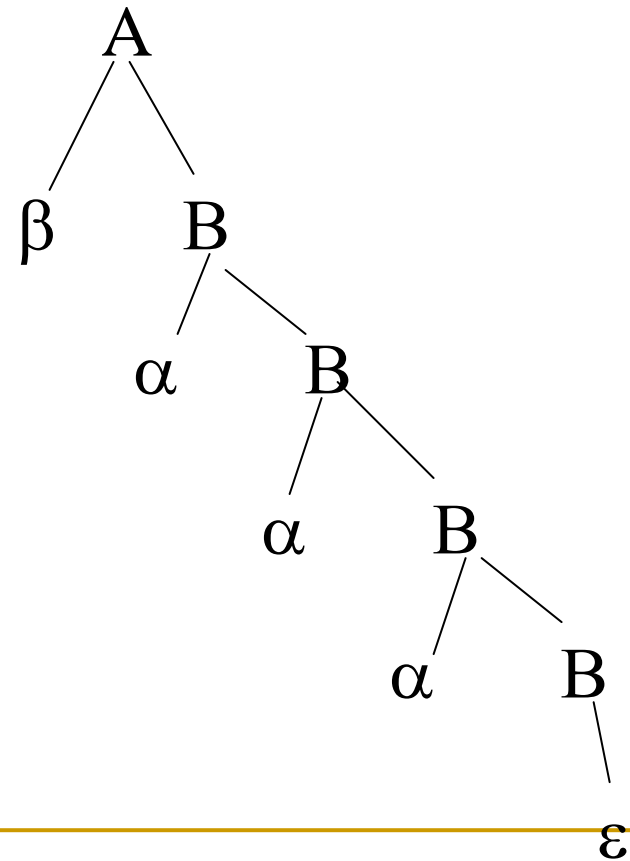
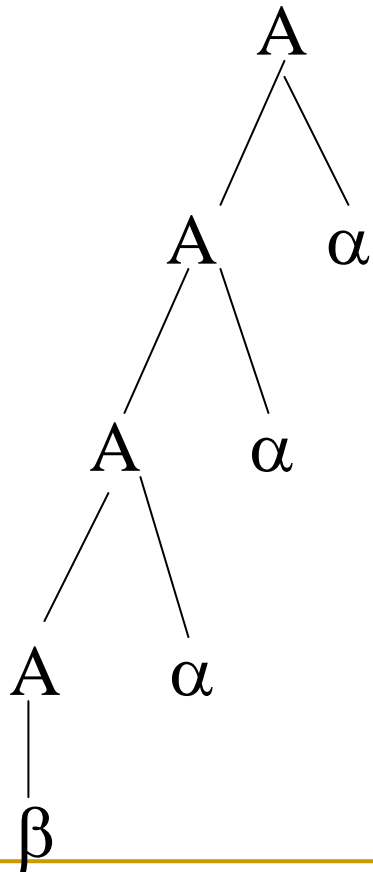
becomes

$$A \rightarrow \beta_1 A' \mid \beta_2 A' \mid \dots$$

$$A' \rightarrow \alpha_1 A' \mid \alpha_2 A' \mid \dots \mid \varepsilon$$

The left recursion becomes right recursion

$A \rightarrow A \alpha \mid \beta$  becomes  $A \rightarrow \beta B, B \rightarrow \alpha B \mid \lambda$



# Expression Grammar

- $E \rightarrow E + T \mid T$

$$T \rightarrow T * F \mid F$$

$$F \rightarrow \text{id} \mid ( E ) \quad \text{NOT LL(1)}$$

- Eliminate left recursion:

$$E \rightarrow T E', \quad E' \rightarrow + T E' \mid \varepsilon$$

$$T \rightarrow F T', \quad T' \rightarrow * F T' \mid \varepsilon$$

$$F \rightarrow \text{id} \mid ( E )$$

# Non-Immediate Left Recursion

■ Ex:  $A_1 \rightarrow A_2 a \mid b$

$A_2 \rightarrow A_1 c \mid A_2 d$

■ Convert to immediate left recursion

■ Substitute  $A_1$  in second set of productions by  $A_1$ 's definition:

$A_1 \rightarrow A_2 a \mid b$

$A_2 \rightarrow A_2 a c \mid b c \mid A_2 d$

■ Eliminate recursion:

$A_1 \rightarrow A_2 a \mid b$

$A_2 \rightarrow b c A_3$

$A_3 \rightarrow a c A_3 \mid d A_3 \mid \varepsilon$



# Example

- $A \rightarrow B c \mid d$   
 $B \rightarrow C f \mid B f$   
 $C \rightarrow A e \mid g$
- Rewrite: replace C in B  
 $B \rightarrow A e f \mid g f \mid B f$
- Rewrite: replace A in B  
 $B \rightarrow B c e f \mid d e f \mid g f \mid B f$

- Now grammar is:

$$A \rightarrow B c \mid d$$

$$B \rightarrow B c e f \mid d e f \mid g f \mid B f$$

$$C \rightarrow A e \mid g$$

- Get rid of left recursion (and C if A is start)

$$A \rightarrow B c \mid d$$

$$B \rightarrow d e f B' \mid g f B'$$

$$B' \rightarrow c e f B' \mid f B' \mid \varepsilon$$

---

# Error Recovery in LL parsing

- Simple option: When see an error, print a message and halt
- “Real” error recovery
  - Insert “expected” token and continue – can have a problem with termination
  - Deleting tokens – for an error for non-terminal  $F$ , keep deleting tokens until see a token in  $\text{follow}(F)$ .

For example:

```
E() {
 if (lookahead in {(,id}) T(); E_prime(); } E → T E'
 else { printf("(E) expecting (or identifier"); Follow(E) = $)
 while (lookahead != (or $) lookahead = yylex();
 }
}
```