



Attribute Grammars

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Attribute Grammar



Extended context-free grammar (CFG):

- **Attribute(s)** (value fields) for each nonterminal
- **Semantic rule(s)** for each production
 - imperative or equational computation on attributes
 - executed at reduce (LR parsing) or expand (LL parsing)
- **Inherited Attributes**
 - Information propagated from left to right in a production and downwards in a parse tree
 - E.g., type in declarations, addresses of variables
- **Synthesised Attributes**
 - Information propagated from right to left in a production and upwards in a parse tree
 - E.g., value of expressions, type of expressions, transl. to internal form

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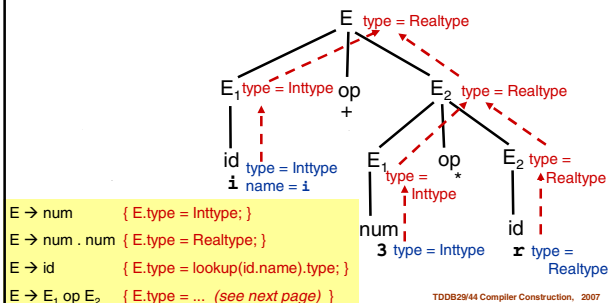
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Attribute Grammar Example 1 Semantic Analysis – Type Inference



- Given: Attribute Grammar, Parse tree for string `i+3*x`
- Compute: Type for each subexpression (nonterminal)



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(cont.)



- Attribute grammar for syntax-directed type checking

```

E → num      { E.type = Inttype; }
E → num . num { E.type = Realttype; }
E → id       { E.type = lookup(id.name).type; }
E → E1 op E2 { E.type = (E1.type == Inttype && E2.type == Inttype)? Inttype :
    ( E1.type == Inttype && E2.type == Realttype
    || E1.type == Realttype && E2.type == Inttype
    || E1.type == Realttype && E2.type == Realttype ) ?
    Realttype :
    error("Type error"), Notype; }
    
```

type is a synthesised attribute:
information flows right-to-left, bottom-up

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(cont.)



- Attribute grammar extended for assignment statement with implicit type conversion

```

...
E → E1 op E2 { E.type = ... }
...
S → V := E     { if (V.type == E.type)
    ... // generate code directly according to type
    else
        if (V.type == Inttype && E.type == Realttype)
            error("Type error");
        else
            if (V.type == Realttype && E.type == Inttype)
                // Code generation / evaluation with type conversion:
                E.value = ...;
                V.value = ConvertIntToReal( E.value );
            }
    }
    
```

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Attribute Grammar Example 2: Intermediate Code Generation



- Given: Attribute grammar G
- Translate expressions in the language over G(E) to intermediate code in postfix notation

```

E → E1 + E2 { E.code = concat( E1.code, E2.code, "+" ); }
E → E1 - T    { E.code = concat( E1.code, T.code, "-" ); }
E → T          { E.code = T.code; }
T → '0'        { T.code = "0"; }
T → '1'        { T.code = "1"; }
...
T → '9'        { T.code = "9"; }
    
```

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Attribute grammar example 3: Calculator (an interpreter of expressions)

- Semantic rules calculate the value of an arithmetic expression without generating any intermediate code
- Synthesised attribute N.val for each nonterminal N

```

S → E = { display( E.val ); }
E → E1 + T { E.val = E1.val + T.val; }
    | T { E.val = T.val; }
T → T1 * F { T.val = T1.val * F.val; }
    | F { T.val = F.val; }
F → ( E ) { F.val = E.val; }
    | num { F.val = num.val; }
    
```

value of integer-constant token num
as computed by the scanner

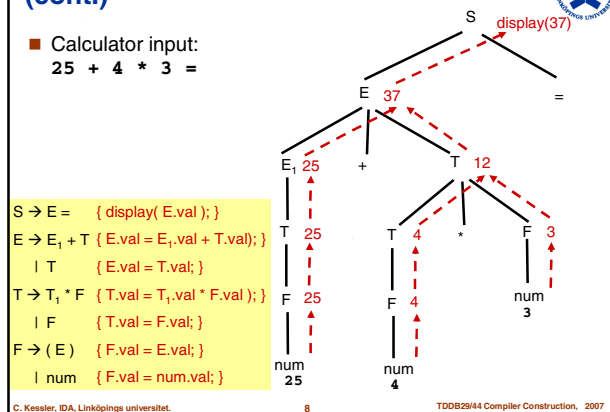
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(cont.)

- Calculator input:
25 + 4 * 3 =



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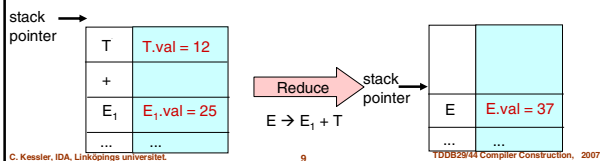
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Implementation of Attribute Grammars

- In a LR parser:
 - Semantic stack in parallel with the parse stack (common stack pointer)
 - Each entry can store all attributes of a nonterminal
 - When performing a reduction $[A \rightarrow \beta_1 \beta_2 \dots \beta_k]$
 - calculate all attributes attr by

$$A.attr = f(\beta_1.attr, \dots, \beta_k.attr)$$



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Implementation of Attribute Grammars

- In a Recursive Descent Parser:
 - Recall: One procedure for each nonterminal
 - Interpretation:
 - Add a parameter for each attribute
 - implicit semantic stack
 - parameters for synthesised attributes to be passed by reference
 - Code generation:
 - Write the translated code to a memory buffer or file or return a pointer to generated code block to caller

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Example: Calculator for Recursive Descent

LL(1) grammar for calculator:

```

S → E = { display( E.val ); }
E → T1 { E.val = T1.val; }
    [ + T2 ] { E.val = T1.val + T2.val; }
T → F1 { T.val = F1.val; }
    [ * F2 ] { T.val = F1.val * F2.val; }
F → ( E ) { F.val = E.val; }
    | num { F.val = num.val; }
    
```

```

void E ( int *E_val )
{
    int T1_val, T2_val;
    T ( & T1_val );
    *E_val = T1_val;
    while (token == '+') {
        scan();
        T ( & T2_val );
        *E_val += T2_val;
    }
}
    
```

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Syntax-directed translation of assignment statements and arithmetic expressions into quadruples

using a bottom-up approach

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Generating quadruples

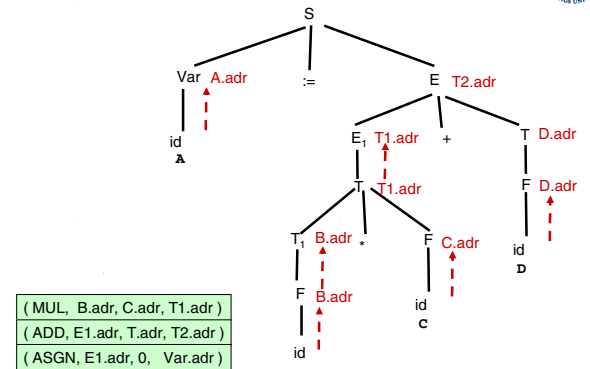
	op	opnd1	res
1. $S \rightarrow \text{Var} := E$	{ GEN(ASGN, E.adr, 0, Var.adr); }		
2. $E \rightarrow E_1 + T$	{ temp = gen_tempvar(); GEN(ADD, E1.adr, T.adr, temp); E.adr = temp; }		
3. T	{ E.adr = T.adr; }		
4. $T \rightarrow T_1 * F$	{ temp = gen_tempvar(); GEN(MUL, T1.adr, F.adr, temp); T.adr = temp; }		
5. F	{ T.adr = F.adr; }		
6. $F \rightarrow (E)$	{ F.adr = E.adr; }		
7. id	{ F.adr = lookup(id.name); }		
8. $\text{Var} \rightarrow \text{id}$	{ Var.adr = lookup(id.name); }		

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Generating quadruples for $A := B * C + D$



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Generating quadruples for control structures Example: IF-THEN-ELSE

■ $S \rightarrow \text{if } E \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2$

in: <Quadruples for temp := E>
p: (JEQZ, temp, q+1, 0) // jump over S_1 if false
<Quadruples for S_1 >
q: (JUMP, r, 0, 0)
q+1: <Quadruples for S_2 >
r: ...

- Problem: jump target quadruple indices q+1, r are unknown when the jumps are generated
- Solution: factorise the grammar, store jump index in attribute

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Generate quadruples for if-then-else (2)

■ Factorised grammar:

1. <ifstmt> ::= <>truepart> S_2
2. <>truepart> ::= <ifclause> S_1 else
3. <ifclause> ::= if E then

Attributes:

addr = address to the symbol table entry for result of E
quad = quadruple number

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Generate quadruples for if-then-else (3)

3. <ifclause> ::= if E then

```
{ <ifclause>.quad = currentquad + 1;
  // save address p of jump over  $S_1$  for later in <ifclause>.quad
  GEN ( JEQZ, E.adr, 0, 0 );
  // jump to  $S_2$ . Target q+1 not known yet.
}
```

2. <>truepart> ::= <ifclause> S_1 else

```
{ <>truepart>.quad = currentquad + 1;
  // save address q of jump over  $S_2$  for later
  GEN ( JUMP, 0, 0, 0 );
  // jump over  $S_2$ . Target r not known yet.
  QUADRUPL[ <ifclause>.quad ][ 2 ] = currentquad + 1;
  // backpatch JEQZ target to q+1
}
```

3. <ifstmt> ::= <>truepart> S_2

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Generate quadruples for if-then-else (4)

3. <ifclause> ::= if E then

...

2. <>truepart> ::= <ifclause> S_1 else

```
{ <>truepart>.quad = currentquad + 1;
  // save address q of jump over  $S_2$  for later
  GEN ( JUMP, 0, 0, 0 );
  // jump over  $S_2$ . Target r not known yet.
  QUADRUPL[ <ifclause>.quad ][ 2 ] = currentquad + 1;
  // backpatch JEQZ target to q+1
}
```

1. <ifstmt> ::= <>truepart> S_2

```
{ QUADRUPL[ <>truepart>.quad ][ 1 ] = currentquad + 1;
  // backpatch JUMP target to (r-1)+1
}
```

Similarly: while statement, repeat statement ...

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