

TDDB29 Compilers and Interpreters  
TDDB44 Compiler Construction



## LR Parsing

Updated/New slide material 2007:

- LR parsing concept
- Parser table construction
- Conflict handling
- Using a parser generator
- Parse Tree Generation

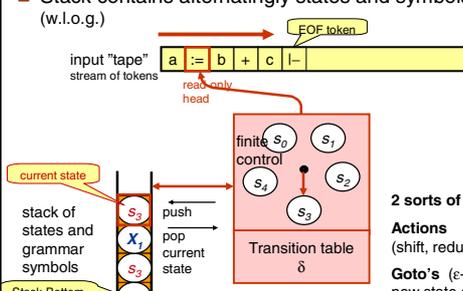
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## Pushdown Automaton for LR-Parsing

### Finite-state pushdown automaton

- Stack contains alternately states and symbols in  $M \cup \Sigma$  (w.l.o.g.)



**2 sorts of transitions:**  
**Actions** (shift, reduce, accept, error)  
**Goto's** ( $\epsilon$ -transitions to find new state after reductions)

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## Configurations of the LR-Parser

- Configuration = ( stack contents, remaining input )  
 $= (s_0 X_1 s_1 \dots X_{m-1} s_{m-1} X_m s_m a_i a_{i+1} \dots a_n)$   
current state (ToS)
- Shift:** read current input symbol  $a_i$  and push it with new state  $s$   
 $l = (s_0 X_1 s_1 \dots X_{m-1} s_{m-1} X_m s_m a_i s a_{i+1} \dots a_n)$
- Reduce:** read  $\epsilon$ , pop 2r stack symbols for handle  $X_{m-r+1} \dots X_m$ , push LHS nonterminal + new state (see below)
- Invariants:**
  - Nonterminals on stack + remaining input  $(X_1 \dots X_{m-1} X_m a_i a_{i+1} \dots a_n)$  is a rightmost-derived sentential form of G.
  - State on top of stack represents a viable prefix of G  
 Needs to be reconstructed after a reduce, using the GOTO table

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## Example: A SLR(1) Grammar

- Terminals:** ,  
a  
b
- Nonterminals:** <list> (or L) (is also the start symbol)  
<element> (or E)
- Productions:**
  - <list>  $\rightarrow$  <list> , <element>
  - | <element>
  - <element>  $\rightarrow$  a
  - | b

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## Example (cont.): Extend Grammar with new start symbol

- Terminals:** |- (end-of-input symbol)  
,  
a  
b
- Nonterminals:** <SYS> (or S') (new start symbol)  
<list> (or L)  
<element> (or E)
- Productions:**
  - <SYS>  $\rightarrow$  <list> |-
  - <list>  $\rightarrow$  <list> , <element>
  - | <element>
  - <element>  $\rightarrow$  a
  - | b

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## Example: Tables (given); Parsing input string a,b

Step	Stack	Input	Table entries
1	-- 0	a , b  -	ACTION[ 0, a ] = S4

S = Shift  
4 = successor state

**ACTION table:**

state	-	,	a	b
0	X	X	S4	S5
1	A	S2	*	*
2	X	X	S4	S5
3	R1	R1	*	*
4	R3	R3	X	X
5	R4	R4	X	X
6	R2	R2	*	*

**GOTO table:**

state	L	E
0	1	6
1	*	*
2	*	3
3	*	*
4	*	*
5	*	*
6	*	*

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**Example: Tables (given); Parsing input string a,b**

0. S' -> L | -  
1. L -> L, E  
2. | E  
3. E -> a  
4. | b

Step	Stack	Input	Table entries
1	--  0	a, b   -	ACTION[ 0, a ] = S4
2	--  0a4	, b   -	ACTION[ 4, , ] = R3 (E -> a)

R = Reduce  
3 = production rule (comment)

state	- , a b
0	X X S4 S5
1	A S2 * *
2	X X S4 S5
3	R1 R1 * *
4	R3 R3 X X
5	R4 R4 X X
6	R2 R2 * *

state	L E
0	1 6
1	* *
2	* 3
3	* *
4	* *
5	* *
6	* *

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**Example: Tables (given); Parsing input string a,b**

0. S' -> L | -  
1. L -> L, E  
2. | E  
3. E -> a  
4. | b

Step	Stack	Input	Table entries
1	--  0	a, b   -	ACTION[ 0, a ] = S4
2	--  0a4	, b   -	ACTION[ 4, , ] = R3 (E -> a)
	--  0E	, b   -	GOTO[ 0, E ] = 6

Reconstruct successor state after a Reduce from top stack items via the GOTO table

state	- , a b
0	X X S4 S5
1	A S2 * *
2	X X S4 S5
3	R1 R1 * *
4	R3 R3 X X
5	R4 R4 X X
6	R2 R2 * *

state	L E
0	1 6
1	* *
2	* 3
3	* *
4	* *
5	* *
6	* *

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**Example: Tables (given); Parsing input string a,b**

0. S' -> L | -  
1. L -> L, E  
2. | E  
3. E -> a  
4. | b

Step	Stack	Input	Table entries
1	--  0	a, b   -	ACTION[ 0, a ] = S4
2	--  0a4	, b   -	ACTION[ 4, , ] = R3 (E -> a)
	--  0E	, b   -	GOTO[ 0, E ] = 6
3	--  0E6	, b   -	ACTION[ 6, , ] = R2 (L -> E)

... and so on ...

state	- , a b
0	X X S4 S5
1	A S2 * *
2	X X S4 S5
3	R1 R1 * *
4	R3 R3 X X
5	R4 R4 X X
6	R2 R2 * *

state	L E
0	1 6
1	* *
2	* 3
3	* *
4	* *
5	* *
6	* *

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**Example: Tables (given); Parsing input string a,b**

0. S' -> L | -  
1. L -> L, E  
2. | E  
3. E -> a  
4. | b

Step	Stack	Input	Table entries
1	--  0	a, b   -	ACTION[ 0, a ] = S4
2	--  0a4	, b   -	ACTION[ 4, , ] = R3 (E -> a)
	--  0E	, b   -	GOTO[ 0, E ] = 6
3	--  0E6	, b   -	ACTION[ 6, , ] = R2 (L -> E)
	--  0L	, b   -	GOTO[ 0, L ] = 1
4	--  0L1	, b   -	ACTION[ 1, , ] = S2
5	--  0L1,2	b   -	ACTION[ 2, b ] = S5
6	--  0L1,2b5	-	ACTION[ 5,   - ] = R4 (E -> b)
	--  0L1,2E	-	GOTO[ 2, E ] = 3
7	--  0L1,2E3	-	ACTION[ 3,   - ] = R1 (L -> L, E)
	--  0L	-	GOTO[ 0, L ] = 1
8	--  1	-	ACTION[ 1,   - ] = A (accept)

state	- , a b
0	X X S4 S5
1	A S2 * *
2	X X S4 S5
3	R1 R1 * *
4	R3 R3 X X
5	R4 R4 X X
6	R2 R2 * *

state	L E
0	1 6
1	* *
2	* 3
3	* *
4	* *
5	* *
6	* *

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### Handle, Viable Prefix

- Consider a rightmost derivation  $S \Rightarrow_m^* \beta X u \Rightarrow_m \beta \alpha u$  for a context-free grammar G.
- $\alpha$  is called **handle** of the right sentential form  $\beta \alpha u$
- Each prefix of  $\beta \alpha$  is called a **viable prefix** of G.

**Example:** Grammar G with productions  $\{ S \rightarrow aSb \mid c \}$

- Right sentential forms: e.g. c, acb, aSb, aaaaaSbbbbb, ....
- For c: Handle: c Viable prefixes:  $\epsilon, c$
- For acb: c  $\epsilon, a, ac$
- For aSb: aSb  $\epsilon, a, aS, aSb$
- For aaaSbb: aSb  $\epsilon, a, aa, aaS, aaSb$
- ...

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### Recognizing Handles

How to recognize if a handle appears as the top elements on the stack?

- Naive approach:** Examine the entire stack (e.g. from top to bottom, or vice versa) at every step
  - Leads to unnecessarily long worst-case parsing time
  - Need to actually store grammar symbols on stack
- Idea:** Incremental handle recognition
  - Keep information about partially recognized handles (= viable prefixes) on top of stack, encoded in state
    - Characteristic automaton (NFA) to recognize viable pr.
    - DFA by subset construction with  $\epsilon$ -closure
    - Parser tables (ACTION / GOTO)

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## A NFA Recognizing Viable Prefixes

- A.k.a. the "characteristic finite automaton" for a grammar G
- States: LR(0) items (= context-free items) of ext. grammar
- Input stream: The grammar symbols on the stack
- Start state: [S' -> -I.S]      Final state: [S' -> -I.S.]
- Transitions:
  - "move dot across symbol" if symbol found next on stack:
    - A->α.Bγ to A->αB.γ
    - A->α.bγ to A->αb.γ
  - ε-transitions to LR(0)-items for nonterminal productions from items where the dot precedes that nonterminal:
    - A->α.Bγ to B->β
- (Example: see whiteboard)

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## Computing the Closure

For a set I of LR(0) items compute Closure(I):

1. Closure(I) := I
2. If  $\exists [A \rightarrow \alpha.B\beta]$  in Closure(I) and  $\exists$  production B->γ then add [B->γ] to Closure(I) (if not already there)
3. Repeat Step 2 until no more items can be added to Closure(I)

Remarks:

- For  $s=[A \rightarrow \alpha.B\gamma]$ , Closure(s) contains all NFA states reachable from s via ε-transitions, i.e., starting from which any substring derivable from Bβ could be recognized. A.k.a. ε-closure(s).
- Then apply the well-known subset construction to transform Closure-NFA -> DFA.
- DFA states will be sets unioning closures of NFA states

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## Representing Sets of Items

- Any item [A->α.β] can be represented by 2 integers:
  - production number
  - position of the dot within the RHS of that production
- The resulting sets often contain "closure" items (where the dot is at the beginning of the RHS).
  - Can easily be reconstructed (on demand) from other ("kernel") items
    - ▶ **Kernel items:** start state [S'->-I.S], plus all items where the dot is not at the left end.
  - Store only kernel items explicitly, to save space

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## GOTO Function and DFA States

Given: Set I of items, grammar symbol X

- $GOTO(I, X) := \bigcup_{[A \rightarrow \alpha.X\beta] \text{ in } I} Closure(\{ [A \rightarrow \alpha.X\beta] \})$ 
  - To become the state transitions in the DFA
- Now do the **subset construction** to obtain the DFA states:
  - C := Closure({ [S'->-I.S] }) // C: Set of sets of NFA states
  - repeat**
  - for** each set of items I of C:
  - for** each grammar symbol X
  - if** (GOTO(I,X) is not empty and not in C)
  - add GOTO(I,X) to C
  - until** no new states are added to C on a round.

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## Resulting DFA

- (Example: see whiteboard)
- All states correspond to some viable prefix
- Final states: contain at least one item with dot to the right
  - recognized some handle -> reduce *may (must)* follow
- Other states: handle recognition incomplete -> shift will follow
- The DFA is also called the GOTO graph.
- This automaton is deterministic as a FA (i.e., selecting transitions considering only input symbol consumption) but can still be nondeterministic as a pushdown automaton (e.g., in state I<sub>1</sub> above: to reduce or not to reduce?)

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## From DFA to parser tables: ACTION

1. For each DFA transition  $I_i \rightarrow I_j$  reading a terminal a in Σ (thus, I<sub>i</sub> contains items of kind [X->α.aβ])
  - enter S<sub>j</sub> (shift, new state I<sub>j</sub>) in ACTION[ i, a ]
2. For each DFA final state I<sub>i</sub> (containing a complete item [X->α.])
  - enter R<sub>x</sub> (reduce, x = prod. rule number for X->α) in ACTION[ i, t ] ...
    - ▶ LR(0) parser: for all t in Σ (all entries in row i)
    - ▶ SLR(1) parser: for all t in LA<sub>SLR</sub>(i, [X->α.]) = FOLLOW<sub>1</sub>(X)
    - ▶ LALR(1) parser: for all t in LA<sub>LALR</sub>(i, [X->α.]) (see later)
  - Collision with an already existing S or R entry? Conflict!!
3. For each DFA state containing [S' -> S.I-]
  - enter A in ACTION[ i, I- ] (accept). NB - Conflict? (as in 2.)

ACTION table:				
state	I-	a	b	
0	X X	S4	S5	
1	A S2	*	*	
2	X X	S4	S5	
3	R1	R1	*	*
4	R3	R3	*	*
5	R4	R4	*	*
6	R2	R2	*	*

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## From DFA to parser tables: GOTO

- For each DFA transition  $i_i \rightarrow i_j$  reading nonterminal  $A$  (i.e.,  $i_i$  contains an item  $[X \rightarrow \alpha.A\beta]$ )
  - enter  $GOTO[i, A] = j$

GOTO table:

state	L	E
0	1	6
1	*	*
2	*	3
3	*	*
4	*	*
5	*	*
6	*	*

## Conflicts in LR Grammars

**Observe conflicts** in DFA (GOTO graph) kernels or at the latest when filling the ACTION table.

- **Shift-Reduce conflict**
  - A DFA accepting state has an outgoing transition, i.e. contains items  $[X \rightarrow \alpha.]$  and  $[Y \rightarrow \beta.Z\gamma]$  for some  $Z$  in  $Nu\Sigma$
- **Reduce-Reduce conflict**
  - A DFA accepting state can reduce for multiple nonterminals i.e. contains at least 2 items  $[X \rightarrow \alpha.]$  and  $[Y \rightarrow \beta.]$ ,  $X \neq Y$
- **(Shift/Reduce-Accept conflict)**
  - A DFA accepting state containing  $[S' \rightarrow S.l-]$  contains another item  $[X \rightarrow \alpha.S.]$  or  $[X \rightarrow \alpha.S.b\beta]$

Only for LR(0) grammars there are no conflicts.

## Conflict examples

### Shift – Reduce conflict:

- $E \rightarrow id + E$   
|  $id$

### Reduce – Reduce conflict:

- $E \rightarrow id$   
 $Pcall \rightarrow id$

### (Shift – Accept conflict)

- $S' \rightarrow L$   
 $L \rightarrow L, E$

## Handling Conflicts in LR Grammars

(Overview):

- Use lookahead
  - if lucky, the LR(0) states + a few fixed lookahead sets are sufficient to eliminate all conflicts in the LR(0)-DFA
    - SLR(1), LALR(1)
  - otherwise, use LR(1) items  $[X \rightarrow \alpha.\beta, a]$  to build new, larger NFA/DFA
    - expensive (many items/states  $\rightarrow$  very large tables)
  - if still conflicts, may try again with  $k > 1 \rightarrow$  even larger tables
- Rewrite the grammar (factoring / expansion) and retry...
- If nothing helps, re-design your language syntax
  - Some grammars are not LR(k) for any constant  $k$  and cannot be made LR(k) by rewriting either

## Lookahead Sets

- For a LR(0) item  $[X \rightarrow \alpha.\beta]$  in DFA-state  $i_i$ , define **lookahead set**  $LA(i_i, [X \rightarrow \alpha.\beta])$  (a subset of  $\Sigma$ )

For SLR(1), LALR(1) etc., the LA sets only differ for reduce items

### For SLR(1):

- $LA_{SLR}(i_i, [X \rightarrow \alpha.]) = \{ a \text{ in } \Sigma : S' \Rightarrow^* \beta X a \gamma \} = FOLLOW_1(X)$  for all  $i_i$  with  $[X \rightarrow \alpha.]$  in  $i_i$
- depends on nonterminal  $X$  only, not on state  $i_i$

### For LALR(1):

- $LA_{LALR}(i_i, [X \rightarrow \alpha.]) = \{ a \text{ in } \Sigma : S' \Rightarrow^* \beta X a w \text{ and the LR(0)-DFA started in } i_0 \text{ reaches } i_i \text{ after reading } \beta \alpha \}$
- usually a subset of  $FOLLOW_1(X)$ , i.e. of SLR LA set
- depends on state  $i_i$

## Made it simple: Is my grammar SLR(1) ?

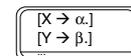
- Construct the (LR(0)-item) characteristic NFA and its equivalent DFA (= GOTO graph) as above.
- Consider all conflicts in the DFA states:

### Shift-Reduce:



Consider all pairs of conflicting items  $[X \rightarrow \alpha.]$ ,  $[Y \rightarrow \beta.b\gamma]$ : If  $b$  in  $FOLLOW_1(X)$  for any of these  $\rightarrow$  not SLR(1).

### Reduce-Reduce:



Consider all pairs of conflicting items  $[X \rightarrow \alpha.]$ ,  $[Y \rightarrow \beta.]$ : If  $FOLLOW_1(X)$  intersects with  $FOLLOW_1(Y)$   $\rightarrow$  not SLR(1)

### (Shift-Accept: similar to Shift-Reduce)

### Example: L-Values in C

- Part of a C grammar:
  - $S' \rightarrow S$
  - $S \rightarrow L = R$
  - $| R$
  - $L \rightarrow *R$
  - $| id$
  - $R \rightarrow L$
- Avoids that R (for R-values) appears as LHS of assignments
- But  $*R = \dots$  is ok.
- This grammar is LALR(1) but not SLR(1):

### Example (cont.)

- LR(0) parser has a shift-reduce conflict in kernel of state  $I_2$ :
- $I_0 = \{ [S' \rightarrow S], [S \rightarrow L=R], [S \rightarrow R], [L \rightarrow *R], [L \rightarrow id], R \rightarrow L ] \}$
  - $I_1 = \{ [S' \rightarrow S.] \}$
  - $I_2 = \{ [S \rightarrow L=R], [R \rightarrow L.] \}$  Shift = or reduce to R?
  - $I_3 = \{ [S \rightarrow R.] \}$
  - $I_4 = \{ [L \rightarrow *R], [R \rightarrow L], [L \rightarrow *R], [L \rightarrow id] \}$
  - $I_5 = \{ [L \rightarrow id.] \}$
  - $I_6 = \{ [S \rightarrow L=R], [R \rightarrow L], [L \rightarrow *R], L \rightarrow id ] \}$
  - $I_7 = \{ [L \rightarrow *R.] \}$
  - $I_8 = \{ [R \rightarrow L.] \}$
  - $I_9 = \{ [S \rightarrow L=R.] \}$
- $FOLLOW_1(R) = \{ |-, = \}$  → SLR(1) still shift-reduce conflict in  $I_2$   
 as = does not disambiguate

### Example (cont.)

- $I_0 = \{ [S' \rightarrow S], [S \rightarrow L=R], [S \rightarrow R], [L \rightarrow *R], [L \rightarrow id], R \rightarrow L ] \}$
  - $I_1 = \{ [S' \rightarrow S.] \}$
  - $I_2 = \{ [S \rightarrow L=R], [R \rightarrow L.] \}$
  - $I_3 = \{ [S \rightarrow R.] \}$
  - $I_4 = \{ [L \rightarrow *R], [R \rightarrow L], [L \rightarrow *R], [L \rightarrow id] \}$
  - $I_5 = \{ [L \rightarrow id.] \}$
  - $I_6 = \{ [S \rightarrow L=R], [R \rightarrow L], [L \rightarrow *R], L \rightarrow id ] \}$
  - $I_7 = \{ [L \rightarrow *R.] \}$
  - $I_8 = \{ [R \rightarrow L.] \}$
  - $I_9 = \{ [S \rightarrow L=R.] \}$
- $LA_{LALR}(I_2, [R \rightarrow L]) = \{ | - \}$  → LALR(1) parser is conflict-free  
 as computation path  $I_0 \dots I_2$  does not really allow = following R.  
 = can only occur after R if "\*\*R" was encountered before.

### LALR(1) Parser Construction

- Method 1:** (simple but not practical)
- Construct the LR(1) items (see later). (If there is already a conflict, stop.)
  - Look for sets of LR(1) items that have the same kernel, and merge them.
  - Construct the ACTION table as for LR(1).  
If a conflict is detected, the grammar is not LALR(1).
  - Construct the GOTO function:  
For each merged  $J = I_1 \cup I_2 \cup \dots \cup I_n$ , the kernels of  $GOTO(I_1, X), \dots, GOTO(I_n, X)$  are identical because the kernels of  $I_1, \dots, I_n$  are identical.  
Set  $GOTO(J, X) := \bigcup \{ I : I \text{ has the same kernel as } GOTO(I_i, X) \}$
- Method 2:** (details see textbook)
- Start from LR(0) items and construct kernels of DFA states  $I_0, I_1, \dots$
  - Compute lookahead sets by propagation along the  $GOTO(I_i, X)$  edges (fixed point iteration).

### Solve Conflicts by Rewriting the Grammar

- Eliminate Reduce-Reduce Conflict:
 

**Factoring**

$S \rightarrow (A) | (B)$   
 $A \rightarrow \text{char} | \text{integer} | \text{ident}$   
 $B \rightarrow \text{float} | \text{double} | \text{ident}$

$[A \rightarrow \text{ident} .]$   
 $[B \rightarrow \text{ident} .]$   
 ...

}

$S \rightarrow (A) | (B) | (C)$   
 $A \rightarrow \text{char} | \text{integer}$   
 $B \rightarrow \text{float} | \text{double}$   
 $C \rightarrow \text{ident}$
- Eliminate Shift-Reduce Conflict: (one token lookahead: '(' )
 

**Inline-Expansion**

$S \rightarrow (A) | \text{OptY}(B)$   
 $\text{OptY} \rightarrow Y | \epsilon$   
 $Y \rightarrow \dots$   
 $A \rightarrow \dots$   
 $B \rightarrow \dots$

$[S \rightarrow .(A)]$   
 $[S \rightarrow .\text{OptY}(B)]$   
 $[\text{OptY} \rightarrow .Y]$   
 $[\text{OptY} \rightarrow \epsilon .]$   
 $[Y \rightarrow \dots .]$  ...

}

$S \rightarrow (A) | (B)$   
 $| Y(B)$   
 $Y \rightarrow \dots$   
 $A \rightarrow \dots$   
 $B \rightarrow \dots$

### LR(k) Grammar - Formal Definition

- p.116
- Let  $G'$  be the augmented grammar for  $G$  (i.e., extended by new start symbol  $S'$  and production rule  $S' \rightarrow S | \epsilon$ )
  - $G'$  is called a **LR(k) grammar** if
    - $S' \xrightarrow{m} \alpha X w \xrightarrow{m} \alpha \beta w$  and
    - $S' \xrightarrow{m} \gamma Y x \xrightarrow{m} \alpha \beta y$  and
    - $w[1:k] = y[1:k]$
 imply that  $\alpha = \gamma$  and  $X = Y$  and  $x = y = w$ .
 

i.e., considering at most  $k$  symbols after the handle, in each rightmost derivation the handle can be localized and the production to be applied can be determined.
  - Remark:  $w, x, y$  in  $\Sigma^*$   $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  in  $(N \cup \Sigma)^*$   $X, Y$  in  $N$
  - Example: see whiteboard

### Some grammars are not LR(k) for any fixed k



- Example:
 
$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow a B c \\ B &\rightarrow b B b \\ &\mid b \end{aligned}$$

- describes language  $\{ a b^{2N+1} c : N \geq 0 \}$

- This grammar is not LR(k) for any fixed k.

**Proof:** As k is fixed (constant), consider for any  $n > k$ :

- $S \Rightarrow^* a b^n B b^n c \Rightarrow a b^n \underline{b} b^n c$
- $S \Rightarrow^* a b^{n+1} B b^{n+1} c \Rightarrow a b^{n+1} \underline{b} b^{n+1} c$

By the LR(k) definition,

- $\alpha = a b^n \quad \beta = b \quad w = b^n c$
- $\gamma = a b^{n+1} \quad \beta = b \quad y = b^{n+1} c$

Although  $w[1:k] = y[1:k]$ , we have  $\alpha \neq \gamma \rightarrow$  grammar is not LR(k).

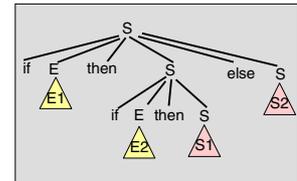
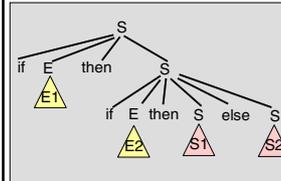
The handle cannot be localized with only limited lookahead size k

### No ambiguous grammar is LR(k) for any fixed k



- $S \rightarrow$  if E then S  
 | if E then S else S  
 | other statements

...  
 is ambiguous – the following statement has 2 parse trees:  
 if E1 then if E2 then S1 else S2



### (cont.)



- Consider situation (configuration of shift-reduce parser)

--| ... if E then S else ... |--

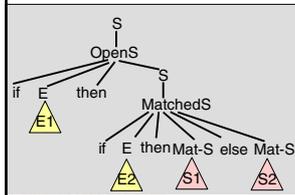
- Not clear whether to
  - shift else (following production 2, i.e. if E then S is not handle), or
  - reduce handle if E then S to S (following production 1)
- Any fixed-size lookahead (else and beyond) does not help!
- Suggestion: Rewrite grammar to make it unambiguous

### Rewriting the grammar...



- $S \rightarrow$  MatchedS  
 | OpenS
- MatchedS  $\rightarrow$  if E then MatchedS else MatchedS  
 | other statements
- OpenS  $\rightarrow$  if E then S  
 | if E then MatchedS else OpenS

...  
 is no longer ambiguous



Impossible now to derive any sentential form containing an OpenS nonterminal from a MatchedS

### Some grammars are not LR(k) for any fixed k



- Grammar with productions
 
$$S \rightarrow a S a \mid \epsilon$$
 is unambiguous but not LR(k) for any fixed k. (Why?)

- An equivalent LR grammar for the same language is
 
$$S \rightarrow a a S \mid \epsilon$$

### LR(1) Items and LR(k) Items



**LR(k) parser:** Construction similar to LR(0) / SLR(1) parser, but plan for distinguishing between states for k>0 tokens lookahead already from the beginning

- States in the LR(0) GOTO graph may be split up
- LR(1) items:
  - $[ A \rightarrow \alpha \cdot \beta , a ]$  for all productions  $A \rightarrow \alpha \beta$  and all  $a$  in  $\Sigma$
- Can be combined for lookahead symbols with equal behavior:
  - $[ A \rightarrow \alpha \cdot \beta , alb ]$  or  $[ A \rightarrow \alpha \cdot \beta , L ]$  for a subset L of  $\Sigma$
- Generalized to k>1:
  - $[ A \rightarrow \alpha \cdot \beta , a_1 a_2 \dots a_k ]$

**Interpretation of  $[ A \rightarrow \alpha \cdot \beta , a ]$  in a state:**

- If  $\beta \neq \epsilon$ , ignore second component (as in LR(0))
- If  $\beta = \epsilon$ , i.e.  $[ A \rightarrow \alpha \cdot , a ]$ , reduce only if next input symbol = a

## LR(1) Parser

- NFA start state is [ S' -> . S, | - ]
- Modify computation of *Closure(I)*, *GOTO(I,X)* and the subset computation for LR(1) items
  - Details see [ASU86, p.232] or [ALSU06, p.261]
- Can have many more states than LR(0) parser
  - Which may help to resolve some conflicts

## Interesting to know...

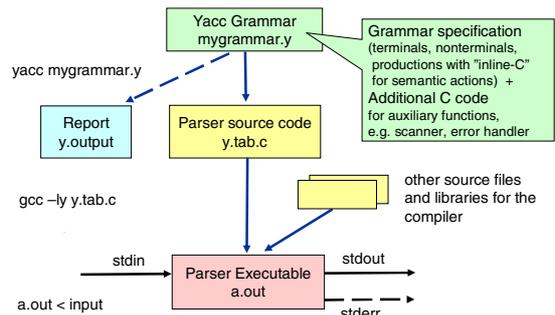
- For each LR(*k*) grammar with some constant *k*>1 there exists an equivalent\* grammar G' that is LR(1).
- For any LL(*k*) grammar there exists an equivalent LR(*k*) grammar (but not vice versa!)
  - e.g., language { a<sup>n</sup> b<sup>n</sup>: n>0 } U { a<sup>n</sup> c<sup>n</sup>: n > 0 }
  - has a LR(0) grammar
  - but no LL(*k*) grammar for any constant *k*.
- Some grammars are LR(0) but not LL(*k*) for any *k*
  - e.g., S → A b
  - A → Aa | a (left recursion, could be rewritten)

\* Two grammars are *equivalent* if they describe the same language.

## Using a Parser Generator

## Using a Parser Generator

- Example: UNIX Yacc, GNU Bison for LALR(1) grammars



## Example Grammar for Yacc

```
%{
#include <ctype.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#define YYSTYPE char /* char type for Yacc stack */
}%

%token ' '
%token 'a'
%token 'b'

%*
list : list ' ' element { printf("%c", $3); }
      | element         { printf("%c", $1); }
      ;
element : 'a'          { $$ = 'A'; }
         | 'b'          { $$ = 'B'; }
         ;

%*
yylex() { /* hand-crafted scanner for toy example */
char c;
while (1)
switch (c = getchar()) {
case ' ':
case 'a':
case 'b': return c;
case '\n':
case EOF: return EOF;
default: continue; /* eat whitespace */
}
}
```

**Extra data field for each stack entry.**  
Can be used to store values (e.g. in an interpreter, as here) or pointers to tree nodes to construct an explicit tree representation (see Slides 114+115).

**Semantic actions:**  
C code to be "pasted into the parser" and executed when reducing for a production. Can access the extra data field of the production's stacked grammar symbols by \$\$, \$1, \$2, ...

## Example (cont.) Yacc Report

```
state 0
$accept: _list $end
a shift 3
b shift 4
. error
list goto 1
element goto 2

state 1
$accept: list_$end
list: list_ element
Send accept
. shift 5
. error

state 2
list: element_ (2)
. reduce 2

state 3
element: a_ (3)
. reduce 3

state 4
element: b_ (4)
. reduce 4

state 5
list: list_ element
a shift 3
b shift 4
. error
element goto 6

state 6
list: list_ element_ (1)
. reduce 1

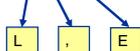
5/127 terminals, 2/600 nonterminals
5/300 grammar rules, 7/1000 states
0 shift/reduce, 0 reduce/reduce conflicts reported
5/601 working sets used
memory: states,etc. 18/2000, parser 2/4000
3/3001 distinct lookahead sets
0 extra closures
5 shift entries, 1 exceptions
3 goto entries
0 entries saved by goto default
Optimizer space used: input 16/2000, output 10/4000
10 table entries, 4 zero
maximum spread: 98, maximum offset: 97
```



## Parse Tree Construction

in a LR-Parser  
using the Semantic Stack

Step	Stack	Input	Table entries
...	-- 0 L1, 2 E 3	...	...



Semantic stack  
now stores pointers  
to parse tree nodes

Christoph Kessler, IDA,  
Linköpings universitet, 2007.

## Parse Tree Construction Parsing input string a,b

0.  $S' \rightarrow L | \dots$
1.  $L \rightarrow L, E$
2.  $L \rightarrow E$
3.  $E \rightarrow a$
4.  $E \rightarrow b$

Step	Stack	Input	Table entries
1	-- 0	a, b  --	ACTION[0, a] = S4
2	-- 0a4	, b  --	ACTION[4, ,] = R3 (E -> a)



Shift: Create a  
one-node tree  
containing the  
shifted symbol.

### ACTION table:

state	--	,	a	b
0	X	X	S4	S5
1	A	S2	*	*
2	X	X	S4	S5
3	R1	R1	*	*
4	R3	R3	X	X
5	R4	R4	X	X
6	R2	R2	*	*

### GOTO table:

state	L	E
0	1	6
1	*	*
2	*	3
3	*	*
4	*	*
5	*	*
6	*	*

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## Example: Tables (given); Parsing input string a,b

0.  $S' \rightarrow L | \dots$
1.  $L \rightarrow L, E$
2.  $L \rightarrow E$
3.  $E \rightarrow a$
4.  $E \rightarrow b$

Step	Stack	Input	Table entries
1	-- 0	a, b  --	ACTION[0, a] = S4
2	-- 0a4	, b  --	ACTION[4, ,] = R3 (E -> a)
	-- 0E	, b  --	GOTO[0, E] = 6



Reduce  $[X \rightarrow \alpha]$ :  
Create a new tree node for X  
whose children are those  
former root nodes pointed to  
from the handle elements'  
semantic stack fields  
(in Yacc: \$1, \$2, ...)

### ACTION table:

state	--	,	a	b
0	X	X	S4	S5
1	A	S2	*	*
2	X	X	S4	S5
3	R1	R1	*	*
4	R3	R3	X	X
5	R4	R4	X	X
6	R2	R2	*	*

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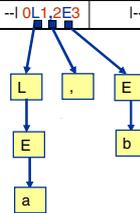
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## Example: Tables (given); Parsing input string a,b

0.  $S' \rightarrow L | \dots$
1.  $L \rightarrow L, E$
2.  $L \rightarrow E$
3.  $E \rightarrow a$
4.  $E \rightarrow b$

Step	Stack	Input	Table entries
4	-- 0L1	, b  --	ACTION[1, ,] = S2
5	-- 0L1,2	b  --	ACTION[2, b] = S5
6	-- 0L1,2b5	--	ACTION[5,  --] = R4 (E -> b)
	-- 0L1,2E	--	GOTO[2, E] = 3
7	-- 0L1,2E3	--	ACTION[3,  --] = R1 (L -> L,E)



During parsing:  
Forest of subtrees,  
roots pointed from the  
semantic stack

### ACTION table:

state	--	,	a	b
0	X	X	S4	S5
1	A	S2	*	*
2	X	X	S4	S5
3	R1	R1	*	*
4	R3	R3	X	X
5	R4	R4	X	X
6	R2	R2	*	*

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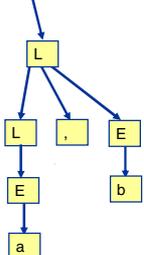
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## Example: Tables (given); Parsing input string a,b

0.  $S' \rightarrow L | \dots$
1.  $L \rightarrow L, E$
2.  $L \rightarrow E$
3.  $E \rightarrow a$

Step	Stack	Input	Table entries
7	-- 0L1,2E3	--	ACTION[3,  --] = R1 (L -> L,E)
	-- 0L	--	GOTO[0, L] = 1



At accept  $[S' \rightarrow S, |--]$ :  
Emit the parse tree  
computed for S.

### ACTION table:

state	--	,	a	b
0	X	X	S4	S5
1	A	S2	*	*
2	X	X	S4	S5
3	R1	R1	*	*
4	R3	R3	X	X
5	R4	R4	X	X
6	R2	R2	*	*

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