

“Firsts” : terminals that may eventually start a non-terminal

Prior to “follows”, let’s look at easier “firsts”

Definition of $\text{First}_G(N) \subseteq \mathcal{T} \cup \{\epsilon\}$

$c \in \text{First}_G(N) \iff \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists a syntactic tree } G \text{ rooted by } N \\ \text{which leftmost terminal leaf is } c. \end{array} \right.$

Example with

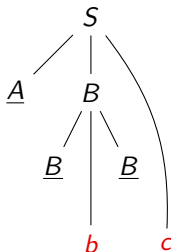
$S ::= ABc$

$A ::= \epsilon$

$\quad | aA$

$B ::= \epsilon$

$\quad | BbB$



Thus

$b \in \text{First}(S)$

Firsts without Empty Rules

Firsts: Terminals that can start a word of non-terminals and terminals w

$$\text{First}(w \in (\mathcal{N} \cup \mathcal{T})^*) \subseteq \mathcal{T}$$

First is defined as the smallest set such that:

- if $t \in \mathcal{T}$, $\text{First}(t) = \{t\}$,
- for any rule $N \mapsto w$, $\text{First}(N) \supseteq \text{First}(w)$,
- $\text{First}(w_1 w_2) = \text{First}(w_1)$.

Example of *Firsts* without Empty Rules By Fixed Point

Grammar

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \text{exp} \rangle &::= \langle \text{exp} \rangle - \langle \text{term} \rangle \\ &\quad | \langle \text{term} \rangle \\ \langle \text{term} \rangle &::= \langle \text{term} \rangle * \langle \text{fac} \rangle \\ &\quad | \langle \text{fac} \rangle \\ \langle \text{fac} \rangle &::= (\langle \text{exp} \rangle) \\ &\quad | - \langle \text{fac} \rangle \\ &\quad | \langle \text{NB} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Firsts

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Example of *Firsts* with Empty Rules

Grammar

$$\begin{aligned} S &::= T;S \\ &\quad | ! \\ T &::= T+T \\ &\quad | a \\ &\quad | \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

Firsts ??

$$\begin{aligned} \text{First}(S) &= \{a, !\} \\ \text{First}(T) &= \{a\} \end{aligned}$$

False: ';' must be in $\text{First}(S)$

Firsts

Firsts: Terminals that can start a word of non-terminals and terminals w

Attention, we use ε as an additional symbol to signify that w can recognize the empty word:

$$\text{First}(w \in (\mathcal{N} \cup \mathcal{T})^*) \subseteq \mathcal{T} \cup \{\varepsilon\}$$

First is defined as the smallest set such that:

- if $t \in \mathcal{T}$, $\text{First}(t) = \{t\}$,
- for any rule $N \mapsto w$, $\text{First}(N) \supseteq \text{First}(w)$,
- $\text{First}(\epsilon) = \{\epsilon\}$,
- $\text{First}(w_1 w_2) = \text{First}(w_1) \uplus \text{First}(w_2)$.

Notation: Let $A, B \subseteq \mathcal{T} \cup \{\epsilon\}$, then we denote

$$A \uplus B := \begin{cases} A & \text{if } \epsilon \notin A \\ (A - \{\epsilon\}) \cup B & \text{if } \epsilon \in A \end{cases}$$

“Follows” : terminals that may eventually follow a non-terminal.

Definitions of $\text{Follow}_G(N) \subseteq \Sigma \cup \{\$ \}$

$c \in \text{Follow}_G(N) \iff \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{There exists a ST } G \text{ with an internal node } N \\ \text{which leftmost terminal leaf RIGHT OF } N \text{ is } c. \end{array} \right.$

Example ins

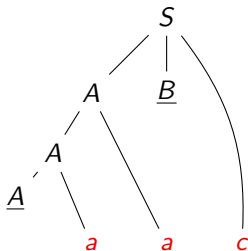
$S ::= ABc$

$A ::= \epsilon$

| aA

$B ::= \epsilon$

| BbB



Thus

$a \in \text{Follow}(A)$

$c \in \text{Follow}(A)$

Follows

Follows : the terminals that can follow a non-terminal N

The symbol \$ is used to denote the fact that N can be at the end of a file

$$\text{Follow}(N \in \mathcal{N}) \subseteq \mathcal{T} \cup \{\$\}$$

Follow is defined by the smallest set such that :

- if S is the main NT,

$$\text{Follow}(S) \ni \$,$$

- for each rule $N' \mapsto w_1 N w_2$,

$$\text{Follow}(N) \supseteq \text{First}(w_2) \cup \text{Follow}(N')$$

- for each rule $N' \mapsto w_1 N$,

$$\text{Follow}(N) \supseteq \text{Follow}(N')$$

Example of *Follow* (without ϵ rule)

Grammar

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \text{exp} \rangle &::= \langle \text{exp} \rangle - \langle \text{term} \rangle \\ &\quad | \langle \text{term} \rangle \\ \langle \text{term} \rangle &::= \langle \text{term} \rangle * \langle \text{fac} \rangle \\ &\quad | \langle \text{fac} \rangle \\ \langle \text{fac} \rangle &::= (\langle \text{exp} \rangle) \\ &\quad | - \langle \text{fac} \rangle \\ &\quad | \langle \text{NB} \rangle\end{aligned}$$

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$\text{Follow}(\langle \text{exp} \rangle) \supseteq \{ \$, - \}$

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Example of complexe *Follow* (with ϵ)

Grammaire

$$\begin{aligned} S &::= TS; \\ &\quad | \epsilon \\ T &::= T+T \\ &\quad | a \\ &\quad | \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

Follows

$\text{Follow}(S) \supseteq \{\$, \}$

$\text{Follow}(T) \supseteq \{ \}$

Knowing that:

$\text{First}(S) = \{\epsilon, a, +, ;\}$

$\text{First}(T) = \{\epsilon, a, +\}$

Example of complexe *Follow* (with ϵ)

Grammaire

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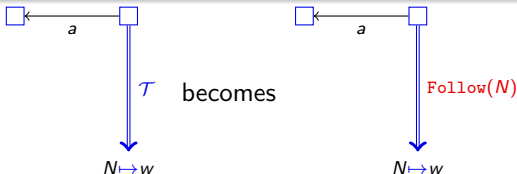
SLR Parser: narrowing conditions of actions

If a would-be NT can't be followed by peeked at terminal
there is no reason to take the action

This is why we compute **“follows”** :
the set of terminals that may eventually follow a given non-terminal.

Idea : narrowing reductions paths to *Follows* only

Same construction as LR₀ except that reduction action $N \mapsto w$ are are narrowed to $\text{Follow}(N)$ (before or after determinisation).



LL : Guessing using Firsts and Follows

Reminder : in Java, a non-terminal is mapped to a regexp of terminals+NT

Cases disjunction $r \mid s$

These cases correspond to Firsts of each pattern

ex : **First**($+\langle\text{term}\rangle$) = $\{+\}$

Kleene star r^* (or recursive non-terminal)

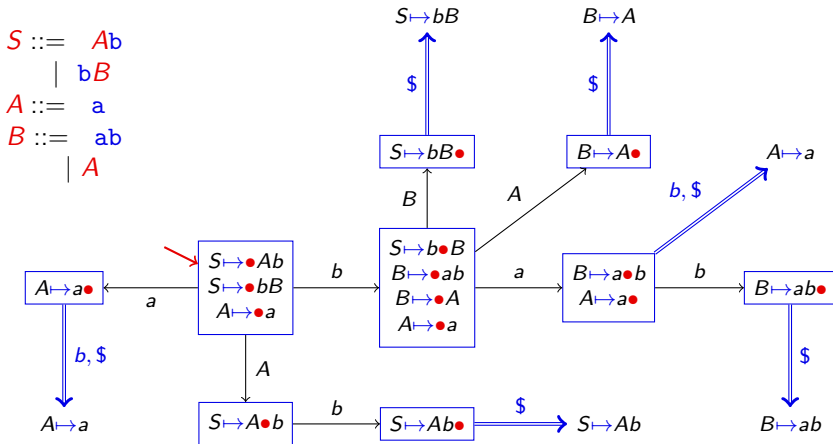
Idem plus an additional case to exit the loop using a Follow.

ex : **Follow**($\langle\text{term}\rangle$) = $\{\backslash n, +, -,)\}$

Conflict

If these are two conflicting “cases” in a switch then the grammar is not considered LL₁

Some artificial conflicts remaining



LR₁ Automaton: a distinct non-terminal for each follow

The grammar is refined by duplicating non-terminals

- For each $N \in \mathcal{T}$ and each $t \in \text{Follow}(N)$ we create N_t ,
- Rules of N_t are those of N , but split for each encountered non-terminal
- Compute the SLR automaton on resulting grammar,
- Remove annotations.

$$\begin{aligned} S &::= Ab \\ &\quad | bB \\ A &::= a \\ B &::= ab \\ &\quad | A \end{aligned}$$

becomes

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\$} &::= A_b b \\ &\quad | bB_{\$} \\ A_{\$} &::= a \\ A_b &::= a \\ B_{\$} &::= ab \\ &\quad | A_{\$} \end{aligned}$$

Computing intermediate grammar for LR₁ algorithm

Reminder: $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{N}, \mathcal{R})$

\mathcal{T} : terminals \mathcal{N} : non terminals
 $\mathcal{R} \subseteq \mathcal{N} \times (\mathcal{N} + \mathcal{T})^*$ rules of the form $N \mapsto w$.

$\text{LR1}(\mathcal{G}) = (\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{N}', \mathcal{R}')$

$\mathcal{N}' = \{N_t \mid N \in \mathcal{N}, t \in \text{Follow}(N)\}$
 $\mathcal{R}' = \{N_t \mapsto w' \mid (N \mapsto w) \in \mathcal{R}, w' \in \langle w \mid t \rangle\}$

$$\begin{aligned}\langle wt' \mid t \rangle &= \langle w \mid t' \rangle t' \\ \langle wN \mid t \rangle &= \bigcup_{t' \in \text{First}(Nt)} \langle w \mid t' \rangle N_t\end{aligned}$$

LR₁ parser are huge

$S ::= AbB$		$S_{\$} ::= A_b b$	$S_a ::= A_b b$
bAB		$bA_a B_{\$}$	$bA_a B_a$
$A ::= Ba$	devient	$A_{\$} ::= B_a a$	$A_b ::= B_a a$
$B ::= aS$		$A_a ::= B_a a$	
bA		$B_{\$} ::= ab$	$B_a ::= ab$
		$bA_{\$}$	bA_a

The resulting grammar has its size multiplied by T^p

where T it the number of terminals and p the maximum number of terminals appearing in a single rule.

... and this is before determinisation which is potentially exponential.

Used in modern generators

Minimized version

Minimisation can be performed on the fly, resulting in a more reasonably sized parser.

Modern LR parser generators use LR_1 .

They are not seen in TP because they are more difficult to install.

LR_k

It is possible to perform a LR algorithms splitting the grammar using more “look-ahead” information (similar to a follow but looking for sub-words of size k rather than letters), the resulting algorithm is called LR_k .

The resulting grammar becomes of size

$$T^{p*k}$$

which soon becomes unrealistic, for little gain.

Universality of LR_1

As we have seen, any grammair LR_k can be modified into an “equivalent” SLR grammar.

In fact any non-ambiguous grammar can be modified into a SLR grammar, but there is no generic algorithm and there can't be any (the proof is fundamentally non-constructive).

LALR :

A SLR-sized parser nearly as expressive as LR₁

Principle

- Create a psedo-deterministic LR₁ parser
- errase annotation,
- fuse states with the same names

The fusion will not create new shift-action conflict

Because shifts are forced by names.

However, there could be new action-action conflicts (corresponding to the creation of the same non-terminals from diferent follows).

Size of SLR

Since the names are set of the the non-deterministic LR₀

Used by “old” parser generators such as Bison or Yacc.

Why not using a unic algorithm

Ambiguity is not decidable

It is only recursively enumerable, which mean that it is always possible to have a proof of ambiguity, but not necessarily the other way around.

Prouvable via a reduction to “Post correspondance” problem.

Consequence: to accept any non-ambiguous grammar, we have to accept any (context-free) grammar.

Not interesting for programming language: we need to be sure that there is no ambiguity in order not to confuse the programmer.
In addition those are longer to parse.

Chart parsers : GLR, Earley, CYK, Packrat...

Those are “universal” parser generators that accept any (context-free) grammar, but which parsers can produce several trees from the same input.

Generated parsers work in time $o(n^{2+\epsilon})$

When the grammar is non-ambiguous, they are linear, but with arbitrarily large constant.

Same complexity as the matrix multiplication

Used for natural language processing

Human language are all ambiguous.

Potatoes view of parser generators

