



# Compiler Construction

**Lecture 11: Syntax Analysis VII (Practical Issues) &  
Semantic Analysis I (Attribute Grammars)**

**Summer Semester 2017**

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<https://moves.rwth-aachen.de/teaching/ss-17/cc/>

# Recap: $LR(1)$ Parsing

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## Outline of Lecture 11

Recap:  $LR(1)$  Parsing

Generating Top-Down Parsers Using ANTLR

Generating Bottom-Up Parsers Using yacc and bison

LL and LR Parsing in Practice

Overview

Semantic Analysis

Attribute Grammars

## Recap: $LR(1)$ Parsing

### $LR(1)$ Items and Sets

**Observation:** not every element of  $\text{fo}(A)$  can follow every occurrence of  $A$   
 $\implies$  refinement of  $LR(0)$  items by adding possible lookahead symbols

#### Definition ( $LR(1)$ items and sets)

Let  $G = \langle N, \Sigma, P, S \rangle \in \text{CFG}_\Sigma$  be start separated by  $S' \rightarrow S$ .

- If  $S' \Rightarrow_r^* \alpha A a w \Rightarrow_r \alpha \beta_1 \beta_2 a w$ , then  $[A \rightarrow \beta_1 \cdot \beta_2, a]$  is called an  $LR(1)$  item for  $\alpha \beta_1$ .
- If  $S' \Rightarrow_r^* \alpha A \Rightarrow_r \alpha \beta_1 \beta_2$ , then  $[A \rightarrow \beta_1 \cdot \beta_2, \varepsilon]$  is called an  $LR(1)$  item for  $\alpha \beta_1$ .
- Given  $\gamma \in X^*$ ,  $LR(1)(\gamma)$  denotes the set of all  $LR(1)$  items for  $\gamma$ , called the  $LR(1)$  set (or:  $LR(1)$  information) of  $\gamma$ .
- $LR(1)(G) := \{LR(1)(\gamma) \mid \gamma \in X^*\}$ .

# Recap: $LR(1)$ Parsing

## $LR(1)$ Conflicts

### Definition ( $LR(1)$ conflicts)

Let  $G = \langle N, \Sigma, P, S \rangle \in CFG_{\Sigma}$  and  $I \in LR(1)(G)$ .

- $I$  has a **shift/reduce conflict** if there exist  $A \rightarrow \alpha_1 a \alpha_2$ ,  $B \rightarrow \beta \in P$  and  $x \in \Sigma_{\epsilon}$  such that

$$[A \rightarrow \alpha_1 \cdot a \alpha_2, x], [B \rightarrow \beta \cdot, a] \in I.$$

- $I$  has a **reduce/reduce conflict** if there exist  $x \in \Sigma_{\epsilon}$  and  $A \rightarrow \alpha$ ,  $B \rightarrow \beta \in P$  with  $A \neq B$  or  $\alpha \neq \beta$  such that

$$[A \rightarrow \alpha \cdot, x], [B \rightarrow \beta \cdot, x] \in I.$$

### Lemma

$G \in LR(1)$  iff no  $I \in LR(1)(G)$  contains conflicting items.

## Recap: $LR(1)$ Parsing

### The $LR(1)$ Action Function

Definition ( $LR(1)$  action function)

The  $LR(1)$  action function

$$\text{act} : LR(1)(G) \times \Sigma_\varepsilon \rightarrow \{\text{red } i \mid i \in [p]\} \cup \{\text{shift, accept, error}\}$$

is defined by

$$\text{act}(I, x) := \begin{cases} \text{red } i & \text{if } i \neq 0, \pi_i = A \rightarrow \alpha \text{ and } [A \rightarrow \alpha \cdot, x] \in I \\ \text{shift} & \text{if } [A \rightarrow \alpha_1 \cdot x \alpha_2, y] \in I \text{ and } x \in \Sigma \\ \text{accept} & \text{if } [S' \rightarrow S \cdot, \varepsilon] \in I \text{ and } x = \varepsilon \\ \text{error} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

### Corollary

*For every  $G \in CFG_\Sigma$ ,  $G \in LR(1)$  iff its  $LR(1)$  action function is well defined.*

# Generating Top-Down Parsers Using ANTLR

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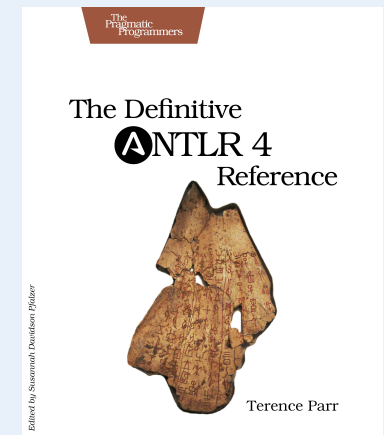
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# Generating Top-Down Parsers Using ANTLR

## Overview of ANTLR

### ANother Tool for Language Recognition

- Input: language description using EBNF grammars
- Output: recogniser for the language
- Supports recognisers for three kinds of input:
  - character streams (generation of scanner)
  - token streams (generation of parser)
  - node streams (generation of tree walker)
- Current version: ANTLR 4.7
  - generates  $LL(*)$  recognisers: flexible choice of lookahead length
  - applies “longest match” principle
  - supports ambiguous grammars by using “first match” principle for rules
  - supports direct left recursion
  - targets Java, C++, C#, Python, JavaScript, Go, Swift
- Details:
  - <http://www.antlr.org/>
  - T. Parr: *The Definitive ANTLR 4 Reference*, Pragmatic Bookshelf, 2013



# Generating Top-Down Parsers Using ANTLR

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## Example: Infix → Postfix Translator (Simple.g4)

```
grammar Simple;

// productions for syntax analysis
program returns [String s]: e=expr EOF {$s = $e.s;};
expr returns [String s]: t=term r=rest {$s = $t.s + $r.s;};
rest returns [String s]:
    PLUS t=term r=rest {$s = $t.s + "+" + $r.s;};
    | MINUS t=term r=rest {$s = $t.s + "-" + $r.s;};
    | /* empty */ {$s = "";};
term returns [String s]: DIGIT {$s = $DIGIT.text;};

// productions for lexical analysis
PLUS : '+';
MINUS : '-';
DIGIT : [0-9];
```



# Generating Top-Down Parsers Using ANTLR

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## Java Code for Using Translator

```
import java.io.*;
import org.antlr.v4.runtime.*;
public class SimpleMain {
    public static void main(final String[] args)
        throws IOException {
        String printSource = null, printSymTab = null,
            printIR = null, printAsm = null;
        SimpleLexer lexer = /* Create instance of lexer */
            new SimpleLexer(new ANTLRInputStream(args[0]));
        SimpleParser parser = /* Create instance of parser */
            new SimpleParser(new CommonTokenStream(lexer));
        String postfix = parser.program().s; /* Run translator */
        System.out.println(postfix);
    }
}
```

# Generating Top-Down Parsers Using ANTLR

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## An Example Run

1. After installation, invoke ANTLR:

```
$ java -jar /usr/local/lib/antlr-4.7-complete.jar Simple.g4  
(will generate SimpleLexer.java, SimpleParser.java, Simple.tokens, and  
SimpleLexer.tokens)
```

2. Use Java compiler:

```
$ javac -cp /usr/local/lib/antlr-4.7-complete.jar Simple*.java
```

3. Run translator:

```
$ java -cp ./usr/local/lib/antlr-4.7-complete.jar SimpleMain '9-5+2'  
95-2+
```

## Advantages of ANTLR

### Advantages of ANTLR

- Generated (Java) code is similar to hand-written code
  - possible (and easy) to read and debug generated code
- Syntax for specifying scanners, parsers and tree walkers is identical
- Support for many target programming languages
- ANTLR is well supported and has an active user community

# Generating Bottom-Up Parsers Using yacc and bison

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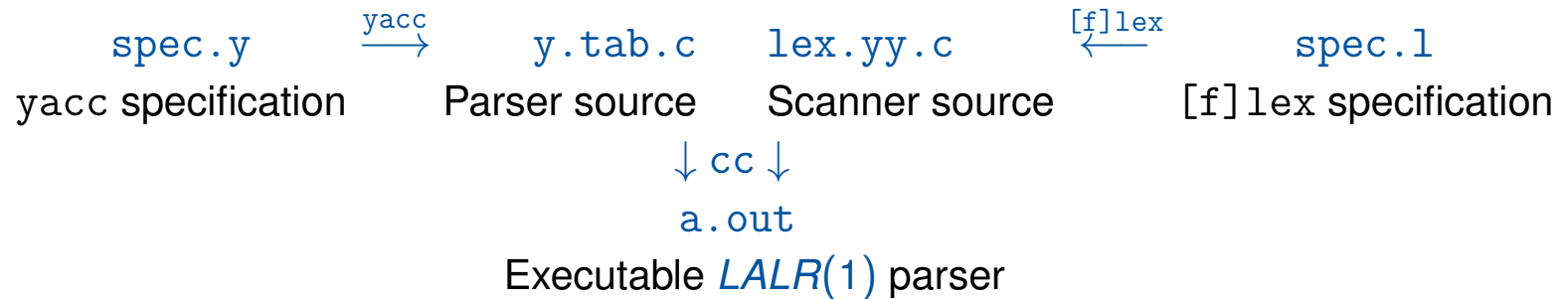
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# Generating Bottom-Up Parsers Using yacc and bison

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## The yacc and bison Tools

Usage of **yacc** (“yet another compiler compiler”):

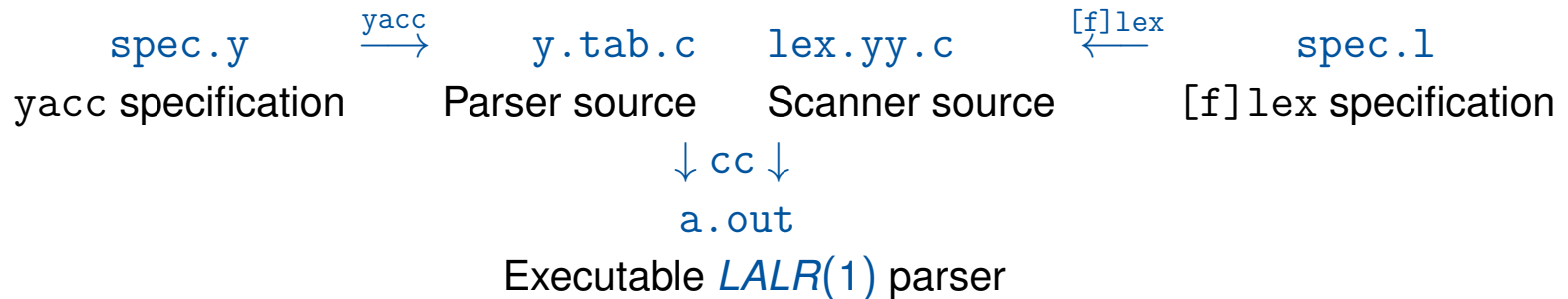


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Like for [f]lex, a **yacc specification** is of the form

*Declarations (optional)*

%%

*Rules*

%%

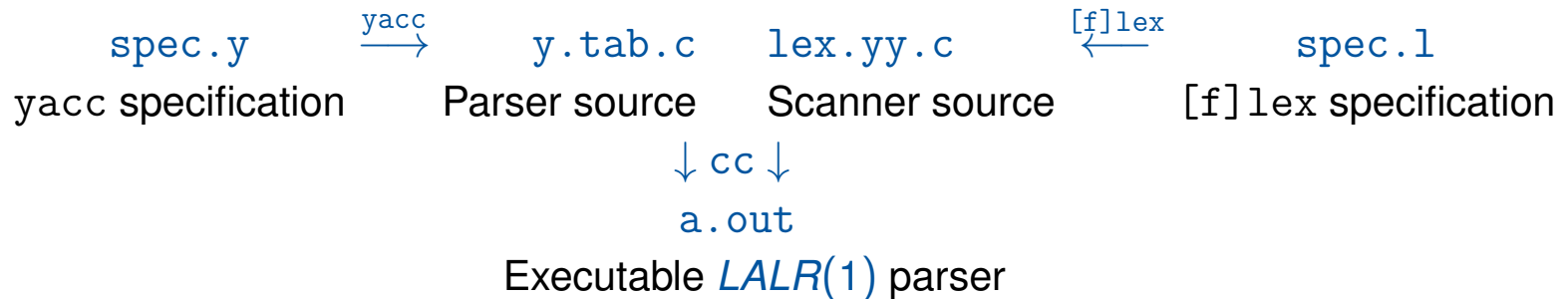
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*Rules*

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*Auxiliary procedures (optional)*

**bison** : upward-compatible GNU implementation of yacc  
(more flexible w.r.t. file names, ...)

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# Generating Bottom-Up Parsers Using yacc and bison

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## yacc Specifications

Declarations: • Token definitions: `%token Tokens`

- Not every token needs to be declared (`'+'`, `'='`, ...)
- Start symbol: `%start Symbol` (optional)
- C code for declarations etc.: `%{ Code %}`



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- C code for declarations etc.: `%{ Code %}`

**Rules:** context-free productions and semantic actions

- $A \rightarrow \alpha_1 \mid \alpha_2 \mid \dots \mid \alpha_n$  represented as

$$\begin{array}{lcl} A & : & \alpha_1 \{Action_1\} \\ & & \mid \alpha_2 \{Action_2\} \\ & & \vdots \\ & & \mid \alpha_n \{Action_n\}; \end{array}$$

- Semantic actions = C statements for computing attribute values
- `$$` = attribute value of  $A$
- `$i` = attribute value of  $i$ -th symbol on right-hand side
- Default action: `$$ = $1`

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**Auxiliary procedures:** scanner (if not generated by `[f]lex`), error routines, ...

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# Generating Bottom-Up Parsers Using yacc and bison

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## Example: Simple Desk Calculator I

```
%{ /* SLR(1) grammar for arithmetic expressions (Example 9.9) */
#include <stdio.h>
#include <ctype.h>
%}
%token DIGIT
%%
line      : expr '\n'          { printf("%d\n", $1); };
expr      : expr '+' term      { $$ = $1 + $3; }
          | term               { $$ = $1; };
term      : term '*' factor    { $$ = $1 * $3; }
          | factor             { $$ = $1; };
factor    : '(' expr ')'       { $$ = $2; }
          | DIGIT              { $$ = $1; };
%%
yylex() {
    int c;
    c = getchar();
    if (isdigit(c)) yylval = c - '0'; return DIGIT;
    return c;
}
```

## Example: Simple Desk Calculator II

```
$ yacc calc.y
$ cc y.tab.c -ly
$ a.out
2+3
5
$ a.out
2+3*5
17
```

# Generating Bottom-Up Parsers Using yacc and bison

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## An Ambiguous Grammar I

```
%{/* Ambiguous grammar for arithmetic expressions (Example 10.17) */
#include <stdio.h>
#include <ctype.h>
%}
%token DIGIT
%%
line      : expr '\n'          { printf("%d\n", $1); };
expr      : expr '+' expr      { $$ = $1 + $3; }
          | expr '*' expr      { $$ = $1 * $3; }
          | DIGIT              { $$ = $1; };
%%
yylex() {
    int c;
    c = getchar();
    if (isdigit(c)) {yylval = c - '0'; return DIGIT;}
    return c;
}
```

# Generating Bottom-Up Parsers Using yacc and bison

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## An Ambiguous Grammar II

Invoking yacc with the option `-v` produces a report `y.output`:

State 8

```
2 expr: expr . '+' expr
2      | expr '+' expr .
3      | expr . '*' expr

'+'    shift and goto state 6
'*'    shift and goto state 7
'+'    [reduce with rule 2 (expr)]
'*'    [reduce with rule 2 (expr)]
```

State 9

```
2 expr: expr . '+' expr
3      | expr . '*' expr
3      | expr '*' expr .

'+'    shift and goto state 6
'*'    shift and goto state 7
'+'    [reduce with rule 3 (expr)]
'*'    [reduce with rule 3 (expr)]
```

# Generating Bottom-Up Parsers Using yacc and bison

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## Conflict Handling in yacc

Default conflict resolving strategy in yacc:

reduce/reduce: choose **first conflicting production** in specification

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**reduce/reduce:** choose **first conflicting production** in specification

**shift/reduce:** prefer **shift**

- resolves dangling-else ambiguity (Example 10.18) correctly
- also adequate for strong following weak operator ( $*$  after  $+$ ; Example 10.17) and for right-associative operators
- not appropriate for weak following strong operator and for left-associative operators ( $\Rightarrow$  reduce; see Example 10.17)



# Generating Bottom-Up Parsers Using `yacc` and `bison`

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## Conflict Handling in `yacc`

Default conflict resolving strategy in `yacc`:

**reduce/reduce**: choose **first conflicting production** in specification

**shift/reduce**: prefer **shift**

- resolves dangling-else ambiguity (Example 10.18) correctly
- also adequate for strong following weak operator (`*` after `+`; Example 10.17) and for right-associative operators
- not appropriate for weak following strong operator and for left-associative operators (`(  $\Rightarrow$  reduce; see Example 10.17)`

For ambiguous grammar:

```
$ yacc ambig.y
conflicts: 4 shift/reduce
$ cc y.tab.c -ly
$ a.out
2+3*5
17
$ a.out
2*3+5
16
```

## Precedences and Associativities in yacc I

General mechanism for resolving conflicts:

$$\begin{array}{c} \%[\text{left}|\text{right}] \textit{Operators}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \%[\text{left}|\text{right}] \textit{Operators}_n \end{array}$$

- operators in one line have given associativity and same precedence
- precedence increases over lines

# Generating Bottom-Up Parsers Using yacc and bison

## Precedences and Associativities in yacc I

General mechanism for resolving conflicts:

```
%[left|right] Operators1  
:  
%[left|right] Operatorsn
```

- operators in one line have given associativity and same precedence
- precedence increases over lines

### Example 11.1

```
%left '+' '-'  
%left '*' '/'  
%right '^'
```

^ (right associative) binds stronger than \* and / (left associative), which in turn bind stronger than + and - (left associative)

# Generating Bottom-Up Parsers Using yacc and bison

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## Precedences and Associativities in yacc II

```
%{/* Ambiguous grammar for arithmetic expressions
    with precedences and associativities */
#include <stdio.h>
#include <ctype.h>
%}
%token DIGIT
%left '+'
%left '*'
%%
line      : expr '\n' { printf("%d\n", $1); };
expr      : expr '+' expr { $$ = $1 + $3; }
          | expr '*' expr { $$ = $1 * $3; }
          | DIGIT         { $$ = $1; };
%%
yylex() {
    int c;
    c = getchar();
    if (isdigit(c)) {yylval = c - '0'; return DIGIT;}
    return c;
}
```

## Precedences and Associativities in yacc III

```
$ yacc ambig-prio.y
```

```
$ cc y.tab.c -ly
```

```
$ a.out
```

```
2*3+5
```

```
11
```

```
$ a.out
```

```
2+3*5
```

```
17
```

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Detailed comparison (cf. Fischer/LeBlanc: *Crafting a Compiler*, Benjamin/Cummings, 1988):

**Simplicity:** LL wins

- LL parsing technique easier to understand
- recursive-descent parser easier to debug than LALR action tables



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Detailed comparison (cf. Fischer/LeBlanc: *Crafting a Compiler*, Benjamin/Cummings, 1988):

**Simplicity:** LL wins

**Generality:** LALR wins

- “almost”  $LL(1) \subseteq LALR(1)$  (only pathological counterexamples)
- LL requires elimination of left recursion and left factorization

# LL and LR Parsing in Practice

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Detailed comparison (cf. Fischer/LeBlanc: *Crafting a Compiler*, Benjamin/Cummings, 1988):

**Simplicity:** LL wins

**Generality:** LALR wins

**Semantic actions:** (see semantic analysis) LL wins

- actions can be placed anywhere in LL parsers without causing conflicts
- in LALR: implicit  $\epsilon$ -productions  
     $\Rightarrow$  may generate conflicts

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**Simplicity:** LL wins

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**Error handling:** LL wins

- top-down approach provides context information  
     $\Rightarrow$  better basis for reporting and/or repairing errors

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**Simplicity:** LL wins

**Generality:** LALR wins

**Semantic actions:** (see semantic analysis) LL wins

**Error handling:** LL wins

**Parser size:** comparable

- LL: action table
- LALR: action/goto table

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**Parser size:** comparable

**Parsing speed:** comparable

- both linear in length of input program ( $LL(1)$ : see Lemma 7.15 for  $\varepsilon$ -free case)
- concrete figures tool dependent

# LL and LR Parsing in Practice

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## LL and LR Parsing in Practice

In practice: use of  $LL(1)$ / $LL(*)$  or  $LALR(1)$

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**Simplicity:** LL wins

**Generality:** LALR wins

**Semantic actions:** (see semantic analysis) LL wins

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**Parser size:** comparable

**Parsing speed:** comparable

**Conclusion:** choose LL when possible  
(depending on available grammars and tools)

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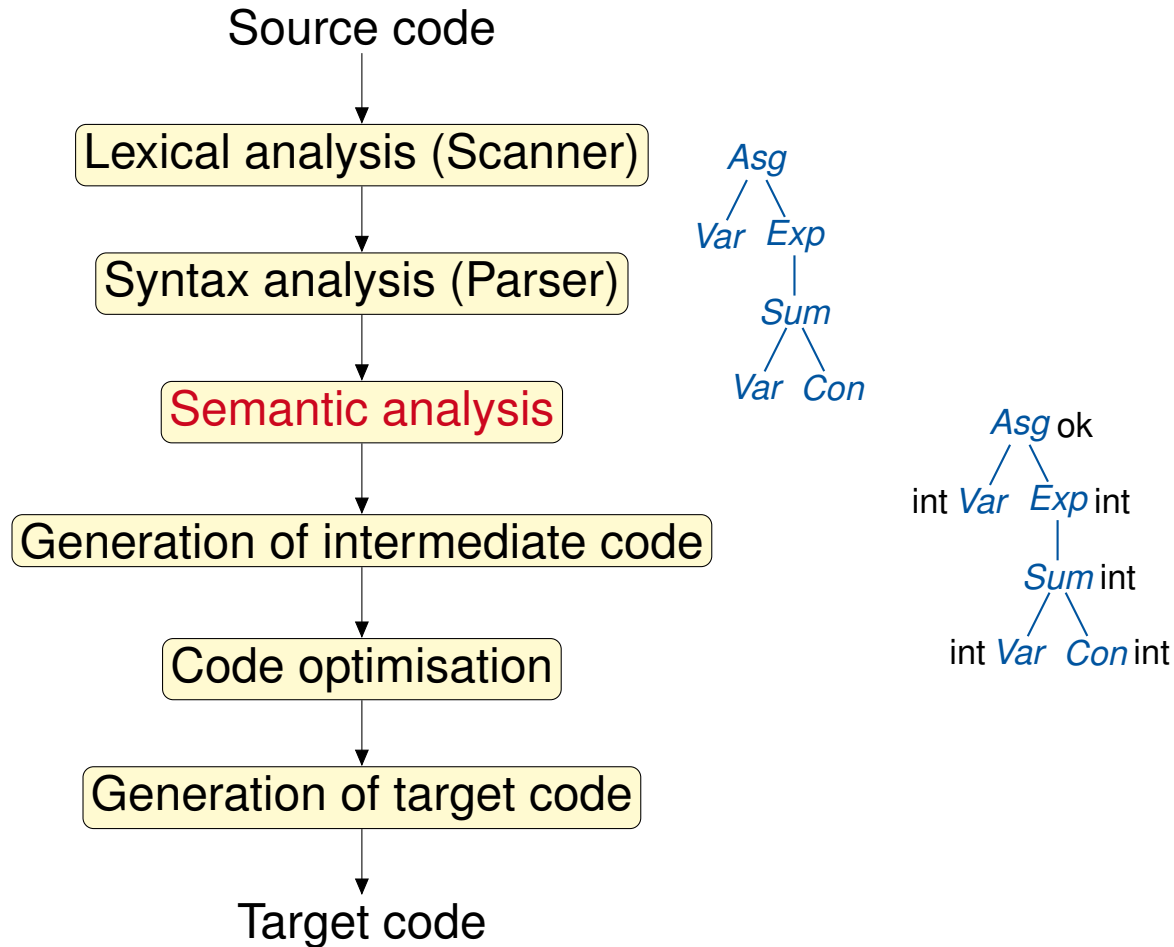
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# Overview

## Conceptual Structure of a Compiler



attribute grammars



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- ...

**These cannot be expressed using context-free grammars!**

(For example,  $\{ww \mid w \in \Sigma^+\} \notin CFL_\Sigma$ )

## Static Semantics

### Static semantics

Refers to properties of program constructs

- which are true for every occurrence of this construct in every program execution and
- can be decided at compile time (“static”)
- but are context-sensitive and thus not expressible using context-free grammars (“semantics”).

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### Example properties

**Static:** type or declaredness of an identifier, number of registers required to evaluate an expression, ...

**Dynamic:** value of an expression, size of procedure stack, ...

# Attribute Grammars

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## Attribute Grammars I

**Goal:** compute context-dependent but runtime-independent properties of a given program

**Idea:** enrich context-free grammar by **semantic rules** which annotate syntax tree with **attribute values**

⇒ **Semantic analysis = attribute evaluation**

**Result:** **attributed syntax tree**

## Attribute Grammars I

**Goal:** compute context-dependent but runtime-independent properties of a given program

**Idea:** enrich context-free grammar by **semantic rules** which annotate syntax tree with **attribute values**

⇒ **Semantic analysis = attribute evaluation**

**Result:** **attributed syntax tree**

### In greater detail:

- With every grammar symbol a set of attributes is associated.
- Two types of attributes are distinguished:
  - Synthesized:** bottom-up computation (from the leaves to the root)
  - Inherited:** top-down computation (from the root to the leaves)
- With every production a set of semantic rules is associated.

## Attribute Grammars II

**Advantage:** attribute grammars provide a very flexible and broadly applicable mechanism for transporting information through the syntax tree (“syntax-directed translation”)

- Attribute values: symbol tables, data types, code, error flags, ...
- Application in Compiler Construction:
  - static semantics
  - program analysis for optimisation
  - code generation
  - error handling
- Automatic attribute evaluation by compiler generators (cf. ANTLR’s and yacc’s synthesized attributes)
- Originally designed by D. Knuth for defining the **semantics of context-free languages** (Math. Syst. Theory 2 (1968), pp. 127–145)



## Example: Type Checking I

### Example 11.1 (Attribute grammar for type checking)

```
Pgm → Dcl Cmd
Dcl → ε
      | Typ var ; Dcl
Typ → int
      | bool
Cmd → ε
      | var := Exp ; Cmd
Exp → num
      | var
      | Exp + Exp
      | Exp < Exp
      | Exp && Exp
```

## Example: Type Checking I

### Example 11.1 (Attribute grammar for type checking)

$Pgm \rightarrow Dcl\ Cmd$	$ok.0 = ok.2$
$Dcl \rightarrow \varepsilon$	$st.0 = [id \mapsto err \mid id \in Id]$
$\quad   \quad Typ\ var; Dcl$	$st.0 = st.4[id.2 \mapsto typ.1]$
$Typ \rightarrow int$	$typ.0 = int$
$Typ \rightarrow bool$	$typ.0 = bool$
$Cmd \rightarrow \varepsilon$	$ok.0 = true$
$\quad   \quad var := Exp; Cmd$	$ok.0 = (env.0(id.1) = typ.3 \wedge ok.5)$
$Exp \rightarrow num$	$typ.0 = int$
$\quad   \quad var$	$typ.0 = env.0(id.1)$
$\quad   \quad Exp + Exp$	$typ.0 = (typ.1 = typ.3 = int ? int : err)$
$\quad   \quad Exp < Exp$	$typ.0 = (typ.1 = typ.3 = int ? bool : err)$
$\quad   \quad Exp \&\& Exp$	$typ.0 = (typ.1 = typ.3 = bool ? bool : err)$

- **Synthesized attributes:**  $id$  (identifier name),  $ok$  (Boolean result),  $st$  (symbol table, mapping identifiers to types),  $typ$  (data type in  $\{bool, int, err\}$ )

## Example: Type Checking I

### Example 11.1 (Attribute grammar for type checking)

$Pgm \rightarrow Dcl\ Cmd$	$ok.0 = ok.2$	$env.2 = st.1$
$Dcl \rightarrow \varepsilon$	$st.0 = [id \mapsto err \mid id \in Id]$	
$\quad   \quad Typ\ var; Dcl$	$st.0 = st.4[id.2 \mapsto typ.1]$	
$Typ \rightarrow int$	$typ.0 = int$	
$Typ \rightarrow bool$	$typ.0 = bool$	
$Cmd \rightarrow \varepsilon$	$ok.0 = true$	
$\quad   \quad var := Exp; Cmd$	$ok.0 = (env.0(id.1) = typ.3 \wedge ok.5)$	$env.3 = env.0 \quad env.5 = env.0$
$Exp \rightarrow num$	$typ.0 = int$	
$\quad   \quad var$	$typ.0 = env.0(id.1)$	
$\quad   \quad Exp + Exp$	$typ.0 = (typ.1 = typ.3 = int ? int : err)$	$env.1 = env.0 \quad env.3 = env.0$
$\quad   \quad Exp < Exp$	$typ.0 = (typ.1 = typ.3 = int ? bool : err)$	$env.1 = env.0 \quad env.3 = env.0$
$\quad   \quad Exp \&\& Exp$	$typ.0 = (typ.1 = typ.3 = bool ? bool : err)$	$env.1 = env.0 \quad env.3 = env.0$

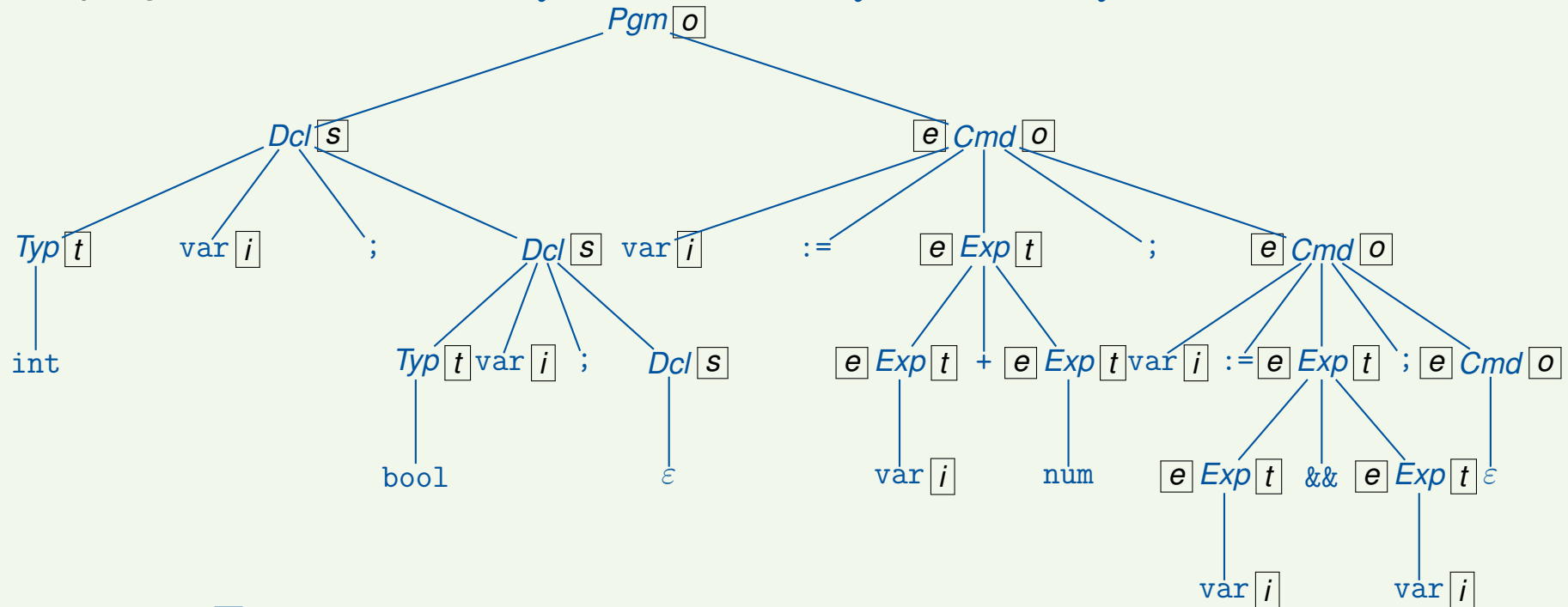
- **Synthesized attributes:**  $id$  (identifier name),  $ok$  (Boolean result),  $st$  (symbol table, mapping identifiers to types),  $typ$  (data type in  $\{bool, int, err\}$ )
- **Inherited attributes:**  $env$  (environment – same type as symbol table)

# Attribute Grammars

## Example: Type Checking II

### Example 11.2 (Attributed syntax tree)

For program `int x; bool y; x := x+1; y := x && y:`



$([e] = env, [i] = id, [o] = ok, [s] = st, [t] = typ)$