LR(1) Parsers

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Building LR(1) Tables

How do we build the parse tables for an LR(1) grammar?

- Encode actions & transitions into the ACTION & GOTO tables
- If construction succeeds, the grammar is LR(1)
 - "Succeeds" means defines each table entry uniquely

The Big Picture

- Model the state of the parser with "LR(1) items"
- The states will be set of LR(1) items
- Use two functions goto(s, X) and closure(s)
 - goto() tells which state you reach
 - closure() adds information to round out a state
- Build up the states (sets of LR(1) items) and transitions
- Use this information to fill in the ACTION and GOTO tables

s is a state X is T or NT

fixed-point algorithm

LR(1) Items

We represent a valid configuration of an LR(1) parser with a data structure called an LR(1) item

An LR(1) item is a pair $[P, \delta]$, where P is a production $A \rightarrow \beta$ with a \cdot at some position in the rhs δ is a lookahead string of length ≤ 1 (word or EOF)

The · in an item indicates which portion of the righthandside of the production we have on the top of the stack

Meaning of an LR(1) Item

- $[A \rightarrow \cdot \beta \gamma, \underline{a}]$ means that the input seen so far is consistent with the use of
- $A \rightarrow \beta \gamma$ immediately after the symbol on top of the stack

"possibility"

- $[A \rightarrow \beta \cdot \gamma, \underline{a}]$ means that the input sees so far is consistent with the use of
- $A \rightarrow \beta \gamma$ at this point in the parse, <u>and</u> that the parser has already recognized β (that is, β is on top of the stack)

"partially complete"

 $[A \rightarrow \beta \gamma \cdot , \underline{a}]$ means that the parser has seen $\beta \gamma$, and that a lookahead symbol of \underline{a} is consistent with reducing to A

LR(1) Items

The production $A \rightarrow \beta$, where $\beta = B_1 B_2 B_3$ with lookahead \underline{a} , can give rise to 4 items

$$[A \rightarrow \cdot B_1 B_2 B_3,\underline{a}], [A \rightarrow B_1 \cdot B_2 B_3,\underline{a}], [A \rightarrow B_1 B_2 \cdot B_3,\underline{a}], \& [A \rightarrow B_1 B_2 B_3 \cdot ,\underline{a}]$$

The set of LR(1) items for a grammar is finite

What's the point of all these lookahead symbols?

- Carry them along to help choose the correct reduction
- Lookaheads are bookkeeping, unless item has at right end
 - Has no direct use in $[A \rightarrow \beta \cdot \gamma, \underline{a}]$
 - In $[A \rightarrow \beta \cdot ,\underline{a}]$, a lookahead of \underline{a} implies a reduction by $A \rightarrow \beta$
 - For a parser state modeled with items { $[A \rightarrow \beta \cdot ,\underline{a}], [B \rightarrow \gamma \cdot \delta,\underline{b}]$ }, lookahead of $\underline{a} \rightarrow \text{reduce to } A$; lookahead in FIRST(δ) \rightarrow shift
- ⇒ Limited right context is enough to pick the actions

LR(1) Table Construction

For convenience, we will require that the grammar have an obvious & unique initial symbol — one that does not appear on the rhs of any production.

High-level overview

- 1 Build the canonical collection of sets of LR(1) Items
 - a Start with an appropriate initial state s_0
 - $[5' \rightarrow \cdot S, EOF]$, along with any equivalent items
 - Derive equivalent items as closure(s_0)
 - b Repeatedly compute, for each s_k , and each symbol X, goto(s_k ,X)
 - If the set is not already in the collection, add it
 - Record all the transitions created by goto()

This eventually reaches a fixed point

Computing Closures

Closure(s) adds all the items implied by the items already in s

- Item $[A \rightarrow \beta \bullet C \delta,\underline{a}]$ in s implies $[C \rightarrow \bullet \tau,x]$ for each production with C on the lhs, and each $x \in FIRST(\delta\underline{a})$
- Since $\beta {\pmb C} \delta$ is a valid rewriting , any way to derive $\beta {\pmb C} \delta$ is a valid rewritting , too

The algorithm

```
Closure(s)
while (s is still changing)
\forall items [A \rightarrow \beta \cdot C \delta, \underline{a}] \in s
\forall productions C \rightarrow \tau \in P
\forall \underline{x} \in FIRST(\delta\underline{a}) // \delta might be \epsilon
if [C \rightarrow \cdot \tau, \underline{x}] \notin s
then s \leftarrow s \cup \{[C \rightarrow \cdot \tau, \underline{x}]\}
```

- Classic fixed-point method
- Halts because s ⊂ ITEMs
- Closure "fills out" a state

Lookaheads are generated here

0 Goal → SheepNoise 1 SheepNoise → SheepNoise baa 2 | baa

Example From SheepNoise

Initial step builds the item [Goal \rightarrow ·SheepNoise,EOF] and takes its closure()

Closure([Goal→·SheepNoise, <u>EOF</u>])

#	Item	Derived from
1	$[Goal \rightarrow \bullet SheepNoise, EOF]$	Original item
2	[SheepNoise $\rightarrow \bullet$ SheepNoise baa, EOF]	1, δ <u>α</u> is <u>EOF</u>
3	[SheepNoise → • baa, EOF]	1, δ <u>α</u> is <u>EOF</u>
4	[SheepNoise $\rightarrow \bullet$ SheepNoise baa, baa]	2,δ <u>a</u> is <u>baa</u>
5	[SheepNoise → • baa, baa]	2,δ <u>a</u> is <u>baa</u>

stop! 4 $\delta \alpha$ is baa baa

```
S<sub>0</sub> (the first state) is

{ [Goal→• SheepNoise, <u>EOF</u>], [SheepNoise→• SheepNoise <u>baa, EOF</u>],
    [SheepNoise→• <u>baa, EOF</u>], [SheepNoise→• SheepNoise <u>baa, baa</u>],
    [SheepNoise→• <u>baa, baa</u>]}
```

Computing Gotos

Goto(s,x) computes the state that the parser would reach if it recognized an x while in state s

- Goto({ [$A \rightarrow \beta \bullet X \delta, \underline{a}$]}, X) produces [$A \rightarrow \beta X \bullet \delta, \underline{a}$] (obviously)
- It finds all such items & uses closure() to fill out the state

The algorithm

```
Goto(s, X)

new \leftarrow \emptyset

\forall items [A \rightarrow \beta \cdot X \delta, \underline{a}] \in s

new \leftarrow new \cup \{[A \rightarrow \beta X \cdot \delta, \underline{a}]\}

return closure(new)
```

- Not a fixed-point method!
- Straightforward computation
- Uses closure()

0 Goal → SheepNoise 1 SheepNoise → SheepNoise baa 2 | baa

Example from SheepNoise

```
S<sub>0</sub> is { [Goal→• SheepNoise, <u>EOF</u>], [SheepNoise→• SheepNoise <u>baa, EOF</u>], [SheepNoise→• <u>baa, EOF</u>], [SheepNoise→• SheepNoise <u>baa, baa</u>], [SheepNoise→• <u>baa, baa</u>] }
```

 $Goto(S_0, \underline{baa})$

Loop produces

Item	Source
[SheepNoise → baa •, EOF]	Item 3 in s_0
[SheepNoise → baa •, baa]	Item 5 in s_0

Closure adds nothing since • is at end of rhs in each item

Building the Canonical Collection: The algorithm

```
s_0 \leftarrow closure([S' \rightarrow .cS, EOF])
5 \leftarrow \{s_0\}
k \leftarrow 1
while (S is still changing)
  \forall s_i \in S \text{ and } \forall x \in (T \cup NT)
         t \leftarrow goto(s_i,x)
         if t \notin S then
              name clousure(t) as s_k
              5 \leftarrow 5 \cup \{s_k\}
             record s_i \rightarrow s_k on x
             k \leftarrow k + 1
         else
            t is s_m \in S
            record s_i \rightarrow s_m on x
```

Start from s_0 = closure([S' \rightarrow •S,<u>EOF</u>])

Repeatedly construct new states, until all are found

- Fixed-point computation
- Loop adds to S
- $S \subseteq 2^{\text{ITEMS}}$, so S is finite

```
0 Goal → SheepNoise

1 SheepNoise → SheepNoise baa

2 | baa
```

Starts with S_0

```
S<sub>0</sub>: { [Goal→·SheepNoise, <u>EOF</u>], [SheepNoise→·SheepNoise <u>baa</u>, <u>EOF</u>], [SheepNoise→·<u>baa</u>, <u>EOF</u>], [SheepNoise→·SheepNoise <u>baa</u>, <u>baa</u>], [SheepNoise→·<u>baa</u>, <u>baa</u>]}
```

Iteration 1 computes

```
S<sub>1</sub> = Goto(S<sub>0</sub>, SheepNoise) =
{ [Goal→ SheepNoise •, <u>EOF</u>], [SheepNoise→ SheepNoise • <u>baa</u>, <u>EOF</u>],
    [SheepNoise→ SheepNoise • <u>baa</u>, <u>baa</u>] }
No more for closure!
```

```
S_2 = Goto(S_0, \underline{baa}) = \{ [SheepNoise \rightarrow \underline{baa} \cdot, \underline{EOF}], [SheepNoise \rightarrow \underline{baa} \cdot, \underline{baa}] \}
```

No more for closure!

Iteration 2 computes

```
S_3 = Goto(S_1, \underline{baa}) = \{ [SheepNoise \rightarrow SheepNoise \underline{baa} \cdot, \underline{EOF}], [SheepNoise \rightarrow SheepNoise \underline{baa} \cdot, \underline{baa}] \}
```

No more for closure!

0 Goal → SheepNoise 1 SheepNoise → SheepNoise baa 2 | baa

```
S_0: \{ [Goal \rightarrow \cdot SheepNoise, EOF], [SheepNoise \rightarrow \cdot SheepNoise baa, EOF], \}
        [SheepNoise→·baa, EOF], [SheepNoise→·SheepNoise baa, baa],
        [SheepNoise→ · baa, baa]}
S_1 = Goto(S_0, SheepNoise) =
    { [Goal→ SheepNoise •, <u>EOF</u>], [SheepNoise→ SheepNoise • <u>baa</u>, <u>EOF</u>],
        [SheepNoise → SheepNoise · baa, baa]}
S_2 = Goto(S_0, \underline{baa}) = \{ [SheepNoise \rightarrow \underline{baa}, \underline{EOF}], \}
                 [SheepNoise→ baa ·, baa]}
S_3 = Goto(S_1, \underline{baa}) = \{ [SheepNoise \rightarrow SheepNoise \underline{baa}, \underline{EOF}], \}
                               [SheepNoise → SheepNoise baa ·, baa]}
```

Filling in the ACTION and GOTO Tables

```
x is the state number
The algorithm
    \forall set S_x \in S
        \forall item i \in S_x

    before terminal

            if i is [A \rightarrow \beta \bullet \underline{a} \delta, \underline{b}] and goto(S_x,\underline{a}) = S_k, \underline{a} \in then ACTION[x,\underline{a}] \leftarrow "shift k"
                                                                                                 \Rightarrow shift
            else if i is [S' \rightarrow S \bullet, EOF]
                                                                                                    have accept
                   then ACTION[x, EOF] \leftarrow "accept"
        ⊂else if i is [A→β•<u>,α</u>] ←
                     then ACTION[x,\underline{a}] \leftarrow "reduce A \rightarrow \beta"
                                                                                                        • at end \Rightarrow reduce
        \forall n \in NT
           if goto(S_x, n) = S_k
                then GOTO[x,n] \leftarrow k
```

```
0 Goal → SheepNoise
1 SheepNoise → SheepNoise baa
2 | baa
```

```
S_0: { [Goal \rightarrow · SheepNoise, <u>EOF</u>], [SheepNoise \rightarrow · SheepNoise <u>baa</u>, <u>EOF</u>],
       [SheepNoise → · baa, EOF], [SheepNoise → · SheepNoise baa, baa],
       [SheepNoise→ · baa, baa]}

    before terminal ⇒ shift (R)

S_1 = Goto(S_0, SheepNoise) =
    { [Goal → SheepNoise · , EOF], [SheepNoise → SheepNoise · baa, EOF],
       [SheepNoise → SheepNoise · baa, baa]}
                                                                         so, ACTION[s_0, baa] is
                                                                         "shift S_2" (case 1)
S_2 = Goto(S_0, \underline{baa}) = \{ [SheepNoise \rightarrow \underline{baa} \cdot, \underline{EOF}],
                    [SheepNoise → baa ·, baa]}
S_3 = Goto(S_1, \underline{baa}) = \{ [SheepNoise \rightarrow SheepNoise \underline{baa} \cdot, \underline{EOF}], \}
                              [SheepNoise → SheepNoise baa ·, baa]}
```

```
O Goal → SheepNoise
O SheepNoise → SheepNoise baa
O SheepNoise baa
O SheepNoise baa
O SheepNoise baa
```

```
S_0: \{ [Goal \rightarrow \cdot SheepNoise, EOF], [SheepNoise \rightarrow \cdot SheepNoise baa, EOF], \}
        [SheepNoise → · baa, EOF], [SheepNoise → · SheepNoise baa, baa],
        [SheepNoise → · baa, baa]}
S_1 = Goto(S_0, SheepNoise) =
     { [Goal → SheepNoise ·, EOF], [SheepNoise → SheepNoise · baa, EOF],
        [SheepNoise → SheepNoise · baa, baa]}
S_2 = Goto(S_0, \underline{baa}) = \{ [SheepNoise \rightarrow \underline{baa} \cdot, \underline{EOF}],
                     [SheepNoise→ baa ·, baa]}
                                                                                  so, ACTION[S_1,baa] is
                                                                                  "shift S_3" (case 1)
S_3 = Goto(S_1, \underline{baa}) = \{ [SheepNoise \rightarrow SheepNoise \underline{baa} \cdot, \underline{EOF}],
                              [5heepNoise→ SheepNoise <u>baa</u> ·, <u>baa]</u>}
```

```
0 Goal → SheepNoise

1 SheepNoise → SheepNoise baa

2 | baa
```

```
S_0: { [Goal \rightarrow · SheepNoise, EOF], [SheepNoise \rightarrow · SheepNoise \underline{baa}, EOF],
       [SheepNoise → · baa, EOF], [SheepNoise → · SheepNoise baa, baa],
       [SheepNoise→ · baa, baa]}
S_1 = Goto(S_0, SheepNoise) =
    { [Goal \rightarrow SheepNoise \cdot, EOF], {SheepNoise \rightarrow SheepNoise \cdot baa, EOF],
       [SheepNoise → SheepNoise · baa, baa]}
                                                                          so, ACTION[S<sub>1</sub>,EOF]
                                                                          is "accept" (case 2)
S_2 = Goto(S_0, \underline{baa}) = \{ [SheepNoise \rightarrow \underline{baa} \cdot, \underline{EOF}],
                    [SheepNoise→ baa ·, baa]}
S_3 = Goto(S_1, \underline{baa}) = \{ [SheepNoise \rightarrow SheepNoise \underline{baa} \cdot, \underline{EOF}], \}
                               [SheepNoise → SheepNoise baa ·, baa]}
```

```
0 Goal → SheepNoise
1 SheepNoise → SheepNoise baa
2 | baa
```

```
S_0: { [Goal \rightarrow · SheepNoise, EOF], [SheepNoise \rightarrow · SheepNoise baa, EOF],
       [SheepNoise → · baa, EOF], [SheepNoise → · SheepNoise baa, baa],
       [SheepNoise→ · baa, baa]}
S_1 = Goto(S_0, SheepNoise) =
    { [Goal \rightarrow SheepNoise \cdot, EOF], [SheepNoise \rightarrow SheepNoise \cdot baa, EOF],
       [SheepNoise → SheepNoise · baa, baa]}
                                                                   so, ACTION[S2,EOF] is
                                                                   "reduce 2" (case 3)
S_2 = Goto(S_0, \underline{baa}) = \{ [SheepNoise \rightarrow \underline{baa} \cdot, \underline{EOF}] \}
                   [SheepNoise→ <u>baa</u> ·, <u>baa</u>]}
                                                             ACTION[S2,baa] is
S_3 = Goto(S_1, \underline{baa}) = \{ [SheepNoise \rightarrow SheepNoise] "reduce 2" (case 3) \}
                             [SheepNoise → SheepNoise baa ·, baa]}
```

```
0 Goal → SheepNoise
1 SheepNoise → SheepNoise baa
2 | baa
```

```
S_0: \{ [Goal \rightarrow \cdot SheepNoise, EOF], [SheepNoise \rightarrow \cdot SheepNoise baa, EOF], \}
        [SheepNoise → · baa, EOF], [SheepNoise → · SheepNoise baa, baa],
        [SheepNoise → · baa, baa]}
S_1 = Goto(S_0, SheepNoise) =
 ACTION[S_3, EOF] is
                                  EOF], [SheepNoise → SheepNoise · baa, EOF],
 "reduce 1" (case 3)
                                 Noise · <u>baa</u>, <u>baa</u>]}
S_2 = Goto(S_0 \setminus \underline{baa}) = \{ [SheepNoise \rightarrow \underline{baa} \cdot, \underline{EOF}],
                    [SheepNoise→ <u>baa</u> ·, <u>baa</u>]}
S_3 = Goto(S_1, baa) = \{ [SheepNoise \rightarrow SheepNoise baa \cdot, EOF], \}
                              [SheepNoise → SheepNoise baa ·, baa]}
                                                                                ACTION[S_3, baa] is
                                                                                 "reduce 1", as well
```

The GOTO Table records Goto transitions on NTs

```
S_0: { [Goal \rightarrow · SheepNoise, <u>EOF</u>], [SheepNoise \rightarrow · SheepNoise <u>baa</u>, <u>EOF</u>],
        [SheepNoise → · baa, EOF], [SheepNoise → · SheepNoise baa, baa],
        [SheepNoise→ · baa, baa]}
                                                                         Puts s_1 in GOTO[s_0, SheepNoise]
s_1 = Goto(S_0, SheepNoise) =
    { [Goal → SheepNoise ·, EOF], [SheepNoise → SheepNoise · baa, EOF],
        [SheepNoise → SheepNoise · baa, baa]}
                                                                                   Based on T, not NT and
s_2 = Goto(S_0, \underline{baa}) = \{ [SheepNoise \rightarrow \underline{baa} \cdot, \underline{EOF}],
                                                                                   written into the
                     [SheepNoise→ baa ·, baa]}
                                                                                   ACTION table
S_3 = Goto(S_1, \underline{baa}) = \{ [SheepNoise \rightarrow SheepNoise \underline{baa} \cdot, \underline{EOF}], \}
                              <mark>[Sh</mark>eepNoise→ SheepNoise <u>baa</u>・, <u>baa]</u>}
```

Only 1 transition in the entire GOTO table

Remember, we recorded these so we don't need to recompute them.

0	Goal	\rightarrow	SheepNoise
1	SheepNoise	\rightarrow	SheepNoise <u>baa</u>
2		-	<u>baa</u>

ACTION & GOTO Tables

Here are the tables for the augmented left-recursive SheepNoise grammar

The tables

ACTION TABLE			
State	EOF	<u>baa</u>	
0	_	shift 2	
1	accept	shift 3	
2	reduce 2	reduce 2	
3	reduce 1	reduce 1	

GOTO TABLE		
State	SheepNoise	
0	1	
1	0	
2	0	
3	0	

Note that this is the left-recursive SheepNoise; the book shows the right-recursive version.

What can go wrong?

What if set s contains $[A \rightarrow \beta \cdot \underline{a}\gamma, \underline{b}]$ and $[B \rightarrow \beta \cdot \underline{a}]$?

- First item generates "shift", second generates "reduce"
- Both define ACTION[s,a] cannot do both actions
- This is a fundamental ambiguity, called a shift/reduce error
- Modify the grammar to eliminate it (if-then-else)
- Shifting will often resolve it correctly

What if set s contains $[A \rightarrow \gamma^{\bullet}, \underline{a}]$ and $[B \rightarrow \gamma^{\bullet}, \underline{a}]$?

- Each generates "reduce", but with a different production
- Both define ACTION[s,a] cannot do both reductions
- This is a fundamental ambiguity, called a reduce/reduce conflict
- Modify the grammar to eliminate it

In either case, the grammar is not LR(1)

LR(k) versus LL(k)

Finding Reductions

 $LR(k) \Rightarrow Each reduction in the parse is detectable with$

- → the complete left context,
- → the reducible phrase, itself, and
- → the k terminal symbols to its right

generalizations of LR(1) and LL(1) to longer lookaheads

 $LL(k) \Rightarrow$ Parser must select the reduction based on

- → The complete left context
- → The next k terminals

Thus, LR(k) examines more context

Non-LL Grammars

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
0 & B & \rightarrow & R \\
1 & | & (B) \\
2 & R & \rightarrow & E = E \\
3 & E & \rightarrow & \underline{a} \\
4 & | & \underline{b} \\
5 & | & (E + E)
\end{array}$$

Example from D.E Knuth, "Top-Down Syntactic Analysis," Acta Informatica, 1:2 (1971), pages 79-110

This grammar is actually LR(0)

Example from Lewis, Rosenkrantz, & Stearns book, "Compiler Design Theory," (1976), Figure 13.1

Summary

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Top-down Recursive descent, LL(1)	Fast Good locality Simplicity Good error detection	Hand-coded High maintenance Right associativity
LR(1)	Fast Deterministic langs. Automatable Left associativity	Large working sets Poor error messages Large table sizes

Exercise

Consider the following grammar:

- **a.** Construct the canonical collection of sets of LR(1) items for this grammar.
- **b.** Derive the Action and Goto tables.
- **c.** Is the grammar LR(1)?

Parse the string bcfa and the string bca