CSE P 501 – Compilers

LR Parsing

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Spring 2018

Agenda

- LR Parsing
- Table-driven Parsers
- Parser States
- Shift-Reduce and Reduce-Reduce conflicts

Bottom-Up Parsing

- Idea: Read the input left to right

- Whenever we've matched the right hand side of a production, reduce it to the appropriate non-terminal and add that non-terminal to the parse tree

- The upper edge of this partial parse tree is known as the *frontier*

Example

- Grammar

  S ::= aAB e

  A ::= Abc | b

  B ::= d

- Bottom-up Parse

  a   b   b   c   d   e

LR(1) Parsing

- We'll look at LR(1) parsers
  - <u>L</u>eft to right scan, <u>R</u>ightmost derivation, <u>1</u> symbol lookahead
  - Almost all practical programming languages have a LR(1) grammar
  - LALR(1), SLR(1), etc. – subsets of LR(1)
    - LALR(1) can parse most real languages, tables are more compact, and is used by YACC/Bison/CUP/etc.

LR Parsing in Greek

- The bottom-up parser reconstructs a reverse rightmost derivation

- Given the rightmost derivation

  $S => \beta_1 => \beta_2 => ... => \beta_{n-2} => \beta_{n-1} => \beta_n = w$

  the parser will first discover $\beta_{n-1} => \beta_n$, then $\beta_{n-2} => \beta_{n-1}$, etc.

- Parsing terminates when
  - β_1 reduced to S (start symbol, success), or
  - No match can be found (syntax error)

How Do We Parse with This?

- Key: given what we've already seen and the next input symbol (the lookahead), decide what to do.

- Choices:
  - Perform a reduction
  - Look ahead further

- Can reduce $A => \beta$ if both of these hold:
  - $A => \beta$ is a valid production, *and*
  - $A => \beta$ is a step in *this* rightmost derivation

- This is known as a *shift-reduce* parser

Sentential Forms

- If $S \Rightarrow^* \alpha$, the string α is called a *sentential form* of the grammar

- In the derivation
  $$S \Rightarrow \beta_1 \Rightarrow \beta_2 \Rightarrow \ldots \Rightarrow \beta_{n-2} \Rightarrow \beta_{n-1} \Rightarrow \beta_n = w$$
  each of the β_i are sentential forms

- A sentential form in a rightmost derivation is called a right-sentential form (similarly for leftmost and left-sentential)

Handles

- Informally, a production whose right hand side matches a substring of the tree frontier *that is part of the rightmost derivation of the current input string* (i.e., the "correct" production)
  - Even if $A ::= \beta$ is a production, it is a handle only if β matches the frontier at a point where $A ::= \beta$ was used in *this specific* derivation
  - β may appear in many other places in the frontier without designating a handle
- Bottom-up parsing is all about finding handles

Handle Examples

- In the derivation

  S => a*AB*e => a*A*de => a*A*bcde => abbcde

  – abbcde is a right sentential form whose handle is *A*::=b at position 2

  – a*A*bcde is a right sentential form whose handle is *A*::=*A*bc at position 4

    - Note: some books take the left end of the match as the position

Handles – The Dragon Book Defn.

- Formally, a *handle* of a right-sentential form γ is a production $A ::= \beta$ and a position in γ where β may be replaced by A to produce the previous right-sentential form in the rightmost derivation of γ

Implementing Shift-Reduce Parsers

- Key Data structures
  - A stack holding the frontier of the tree
  - A string with the remaining input (tokens)
- We also need something to encode the rules that tell us what action to take next, given the state of the stack and the lookahead symbol
  - Typically a table that encodes a finite automata

Shift-Reduce Parser Operations

- *Reduce* – if the top of the stack is the right side of a handle $A ::= \beta$, pop the right side β and push the left side A

- *Shift* – push the next input symbol onto the stack

- *Accept* – announce success

- *Error* – syntax error discovered

Shift-Reduce Example

$S ::= \text{a}AB\text{e}$
$A ::= A\text{bc} \mid \text{b}$
$B ::= \text{d}$

Stack	Input	Action
$	abbcde$	*shift*

How Do We Automate This?

- Cannot use clairvoyance in a real parser (alas...)

- Defn. *Viable prefix* – a prefix of a right-sentential form that can appear on the stack of the shift-reduce parser

  - Equivalent: a prefix of a right-sentential form that does not continue past the rightmost handle of that sentential form

  - In Greek: γ is a *viable prefix* of G if there is some derivation $S =>^*_{rm} \alpha A w =>^*_{rm} \alpha \beta w$ and γ is a prefix of $\alpha\beta$.

  - The occurrence of β in $\alpha\beta w$ is a *handle* of $\alpha\beta w$
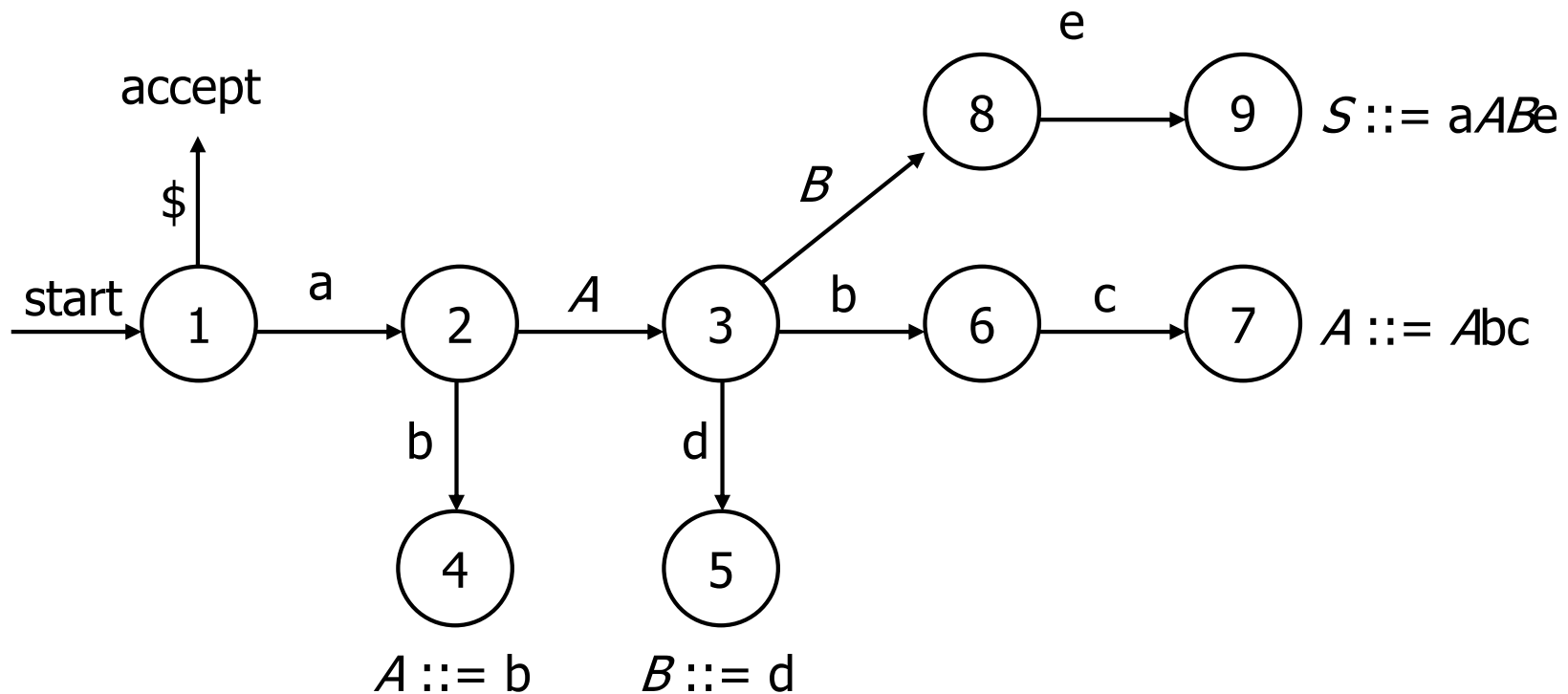
How Do We Automate This?

- Fact: the set of viable prefixes of a CFG is a regular language(!)

- Idea: Construct a DFA to recognize viable prefixes given the stack and remaining input
  - Perform reductions when we recognize them
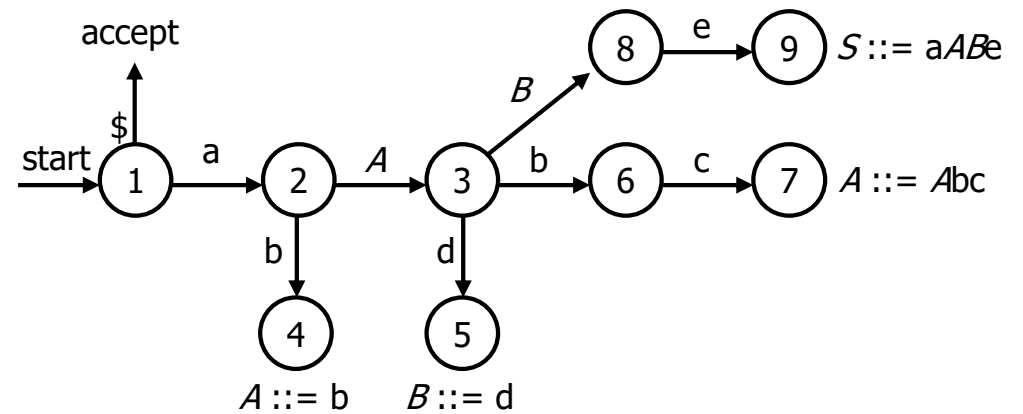
DFA for prefixes of

$S ::= aABe$
$A ::= Abc \mid b$
$B ::= d$

Trace

$$S ::= aABe$$
$$A ::= Abc \mid b$$
$$B ::= d$$

Stack   Input

$ abbcde$

accept

8 --e--> 9 $S ::= aABe$

start --> 1 --a--> 2 --A--> 3 --b--> 6 --c--> 7 $A ::= Abc$

(3 --B--> 8)

1 --$--> accept

2 --b--> 4 $A ::= b$

3 --d--> 5 $B ::= d$

Observations

- Way too much backtracking
  - We want the parser to run in time proportional to the length of the input

- Where the heck did this DFA come from anyway?
  - From the underlying grammar
  - Defer construction details for now

Avoiding DFA Rescanning

- Observation: no need to restart DFA after a shift. Stay in the same state and process next token.

- Observation: after a reduction, the contents of the stack are the same as before except for the new non-terminal on top

  - $\therefore$ Scanning the stack will take us through the same transitions as before until the last one

  - $\therefore$ If we record state numbers on the stack, we can go directly to the appropriate state when we pop the right hand side of a production from the stack

Stack

- Change the stack to contain pairs of states and symbols from the grammar

  $\$s_0\ X_1\ s_1\ X_2\ s_2\ ...\ X_n\ s_n$

  - State s_0 represents the accept (start) state

    (Not always explicitly on stack – depends on particular presentation)

  - When we push a symbol on the stack, push the symbol plus the FA state

  - When we reduce, popping the handle will reveal the state of the FA just prior to reading the handle

- Observation: in an actual parser, only the state numbers are needed since they implicitly contain the symbol information. But for explanations / examples it can help to show both.

Encoding the DFA in a Table

- A shift-reduce parser's DFA can be encoded in two tables
  - One row for each state
  - *action* table encodes what to do given the current state and the next input symbol
  - *goto* table encodes the transitions to take after a reduction

Actions (1)

- Given the current state and input symbol, the main possible actions are
  - s*i* – shift the input symbol and state *i* onto the stack (i.e., shift and move to state *i*)
  - r*j* – reduce using grammar production *j*
    - The production number tells us how many <symbol, state> pairs to pop off the stack (= number of symbols on rhs of production)

Actions (2)

- Other possible *action* table entries

  - *accept*

  - blank – no transition – syntax error

    - A LR parser will detect an error as soon as possible on a left-to-right scan

    - A real compiler needs to produce an error message, recover, and continue parsing when this happens

Goto

- When a reduction is performed using A ::= β, we pop |β| <symbol, state> pairs from the stack revealing a state *uncovered_s* on the top of the stack

- goto[*uncovered_s , A*] is the new state to push on the stack when reducing production *A* ::= β (after popping handle β and pushing A)

Reminder: DFA for

$S ::= aABe$
$A ::= Abc \mid b$
$B ::= d$
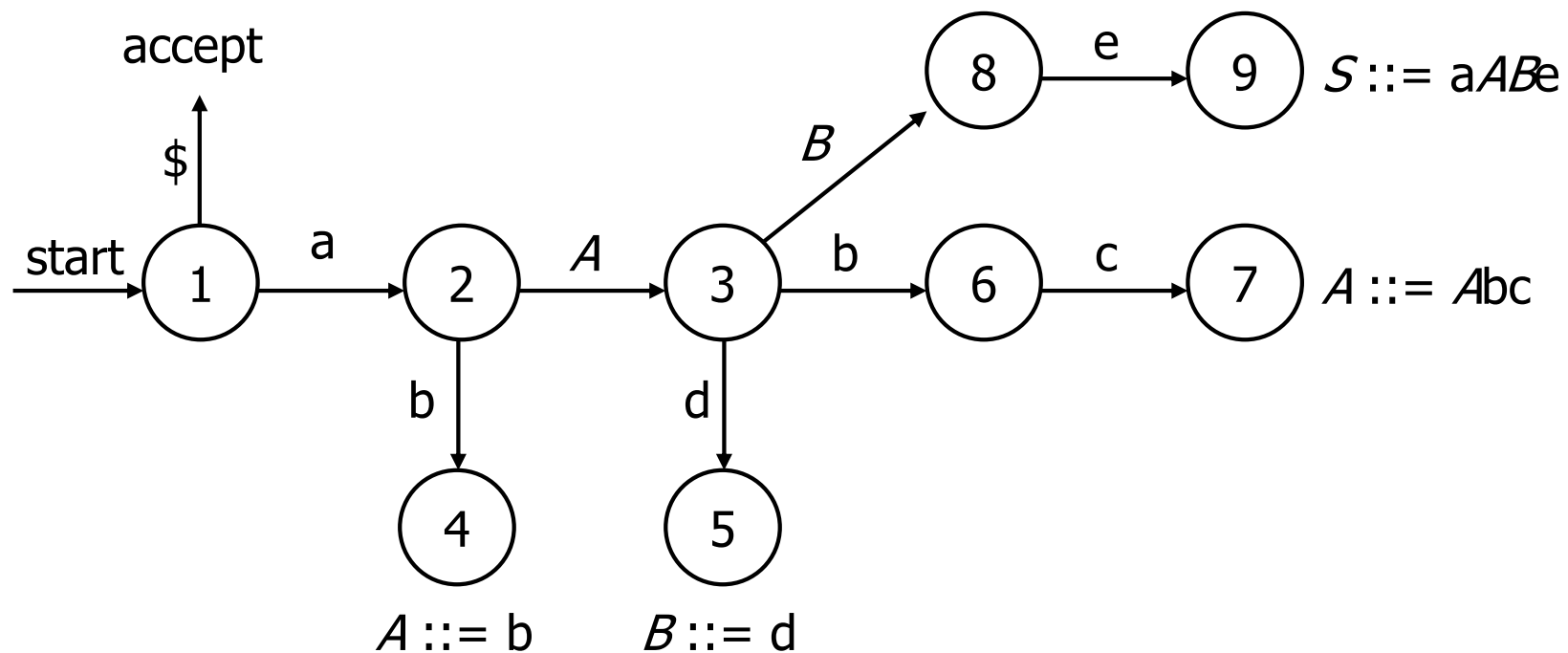
LR Parse Table for

1. $S ::= aABe$
2. $A ::= Abc$
3. $A ::= b$
4. $B ::= d$

State	action						goto		
	a	b	c	d	e	$	A	B	S
0						acc			
1	s2								g0
2		s4					g3		
3		s6		s5				g8	
4	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3			
5	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4			
6			s7						
7	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2			
8					s9				
9	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1			

LR Parsing Algorithm

```
tok = scanner.getToken();
while (true) {
    s = top of stack;
    if (action[s, tok] = si ) {
        push tok; push i  (state);
        tok = scanner.getToken();
    } else if (action[s, tok] = rj ) {
        pop 2 * length of right side of
        production j  (2*|β|);
        uncovered_s = top of stack;
        push left side A of production j ;
        push state goto[uncovered_s, A];
    }
```

```
} else if (action[s, tok] = accept ) {
    return;
} else {
    // no entry in action table
    report syntax error;
    halt or attempt recovery;
}
```

Example

1. $S ::= aABe$
2. $A ::= Abc$
3. $A ::= b$
4. $B ::= d$

Stack   Input

$ abbcde$

S	action						goto		
	a	b	c	d	e	$	A	B	S
0	s2					ac			
1	s2								g0
2		s4					g3		
3		s6		s5				g8	
4	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3	r3			
5	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4	r4			
6			s7						
7	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2	r2			
8					s9				
9	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1	r1			

LR States

- Idea is that each state encodes
  - The set of all possible productions that we could be looking at, given the current state of the parse, and
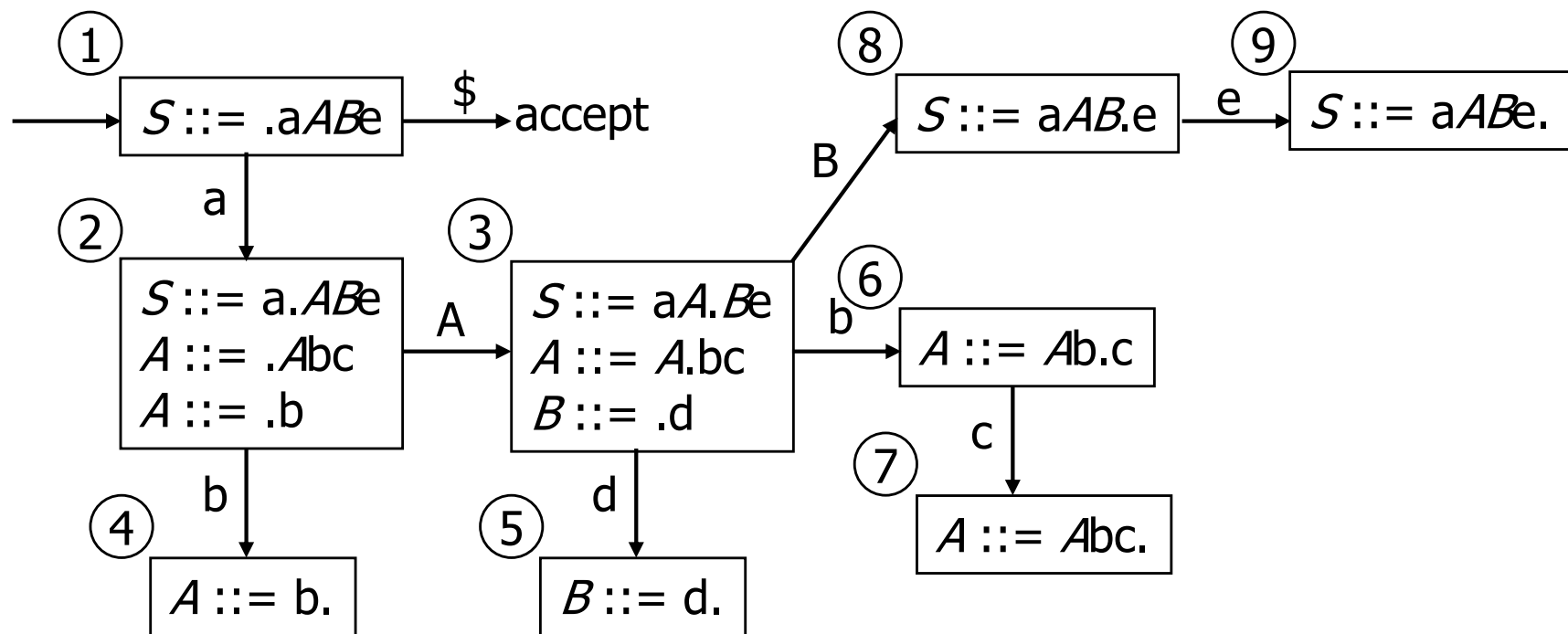 - *Where* we are in the right hand side of each of those productions

Items

- An *item* is a production with a dot in the right hand side

- Example: Items for production *A* ::= *X Y*

  A ::= **.** *X Y*

  A ::= *X* **.** *Y*

  A ::= *X Y* **.**

- Idea: The dot represents a position in the production

DFA for

$$S ::= aABe$$
$$A ::= Abc \mid b$$
$$B ::= d$$

① $S ::= .aABe$ — $\$$ → accept

② $S ::= a.ABe$
$A ::= .Abc$
$A ::= .b$

a (from ① to ②)

③ $S ::= aA.Be$
$A ::= A.bc$
$B ::= .d$

A (from ② to ③)

⑧ $S ::= aAB.e$ — e → **⑨** $S ::= aABe.$

B (from ③ to ⑧)

⑥ $A ::= Ab.c$

b (from ③ to ⑥)

⑦ $A ::= Abc.$

c (from ⑥ to ⑦)

④ $A ::= b.$

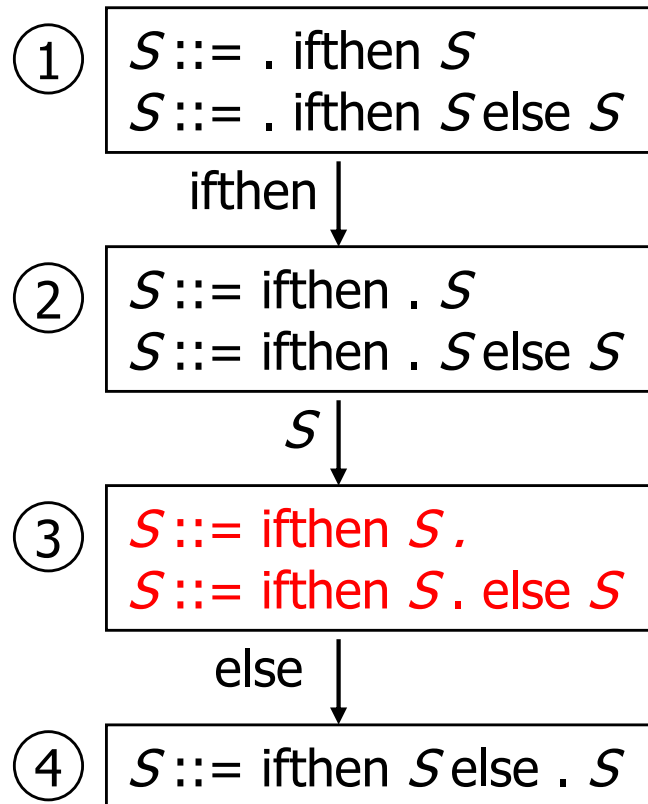b (from ② to ④)

⑤ $B ::= d.$

d (from ③ to ⑤)

Problems with Grammars

- Grammars can cause problems when constructing a LR parser
  - Shift-reduce conflicts
  - Reduce-reduce conflicts

Shift-Reduce Conflicts

- Situation: both a shift and a reduce are possible at a given point in the parse (equivalently: in a particular state of the DFA)

- Classic example: if-else statement

    S ::= ifthen S | ifthen S else S

Parser States for

1. $S ::=$ ifthen S
2. $S ::=$ ifthen S else S

① $S ::=$. ifthen S
$S ::=$. ifthen S else S

ifthen ↓

② $S ::=$ ifthen . S
$S ::=$ ifthen . S else S

S ↓

③ $S ::=$ ifthen S .
$S ::=$ ifthen S . else S

else ↓

④ $S ::=$ ifthen S else . S

- State 3 has a shift-reduce conflict
  - Can shift past else into state 4 (s4)
  - Can reduce (r1)
    $S ::=$ ifthen S

(Note: other $S ::=$. ifthen items not included in states 2-4 to save space)

Solving Shift-Reduce Conflicts

- Fix the grammar
  - Done in Java reference grammar, others

- Use a parse tool with a "longest match" rule – i.e., if there is a conflict, choose to shift instead of reduce
  - Does exactly what we want for if-else case
  - Guideline: a few shift-reduce conflicts are fine, but be sure they do what you want (and that this behavior is guaranteed by the tool specification)

Reduce-Reduce Conflicts

- Situation: two different reductions are possible in a given state
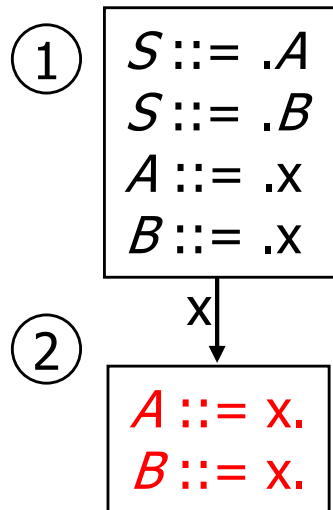
- Contrived example

  S ::= *A*

  S ::= *B*

  A ::= x

  B ::= x

Parser States for

1. $S ::= A$
2. $S ::= B$
3. $A ::= x$
4. $B ::= x$

①
$$S ::= .A$$
$$S ::= .B$$
$$A ::= .x$$
$$B ::= .x$$

x

②
$$A ::= x.$$
$$B ::= x.$$

- State 2 has a reduce-reduce conflict (r3, r4)

Handling Reduce-Reduce Conflicts

- These normally indicate a serious problem with the grammar.

- Fixes

  – Use a different kind of parser generator that takes lookahead information into account when constructing the states

    - Most practical tools use this information

  – Fix the grammar

Another Reduce-Reduce Conflict

- Suppose the grammar tries to separate arithmetic and boolean expressions

    expr ::= *aexp | bexp*

    aexp ::= *aexp * aident | aident*

    bexp ::= *bexp* && *bident | bident*

    aident ::= *id*

    bident ::= *id*

- This will create a reduce-reduce conflict after recognizing *id*

Covering Grammars

- A solution is to merge *aident* and *bident* into a single non-terminal like *ident* (or just use *id* in place of *aident* and *bident* everywhere they appear)

- This is a *covering grammar*

  - Will generate some programs (sentences) that are not generated by the original grammar

  - Use the type checker or other static semantic analysis to weed out illegal programs later

Coming Attractions

- Constructing LR tables
  - We'll present a simple version (SLR(0)) in lecture, then talk about adding lookahead and then a little bit about how this relates to LALR(1) used in most parser generators
- LL parsers and recursive descent
- Continue reading ch. 3