



Universiteit Utrecht

[Faculty of Science  
Information and Computing Sciences]

# Talen en Compilers

2022 - 2023, period 2

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# 15. LR parsing (2)



# This lecture

## LR parsing (2)

### LR parsing algorithms



# 15.1 LR parsing algorithms



# Balanced parentheses

$S \rightarrow E\$$

$E \rightarrow (E)E$

$E \rightarrow \varepsilon$

start  $\rightarrow$

$S \rightarrow \bullet E\$$

$E \rightarrow \bullet (E)E$

$E \rightarrow \bullet$

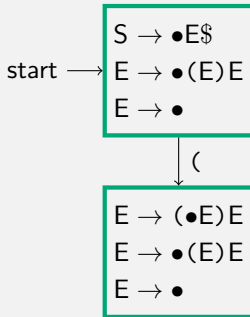


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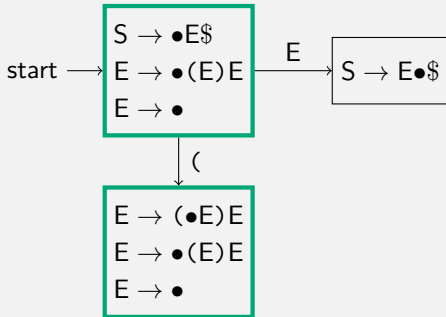


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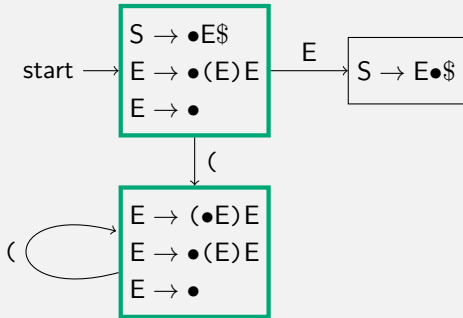


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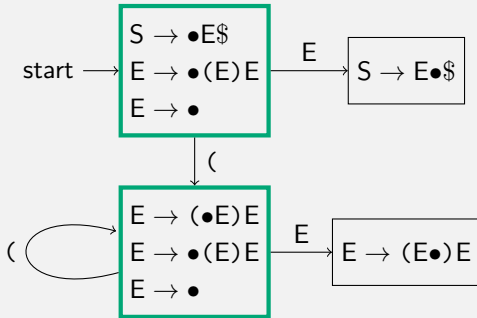


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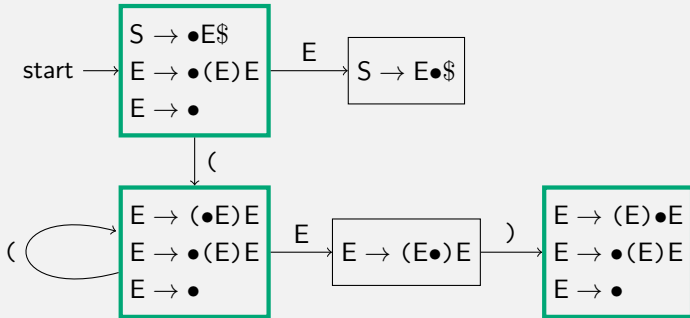


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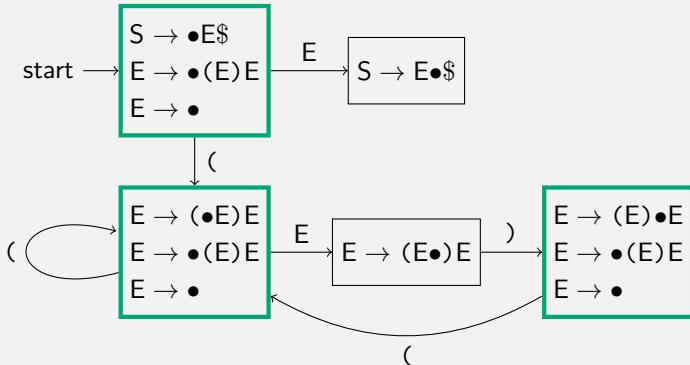


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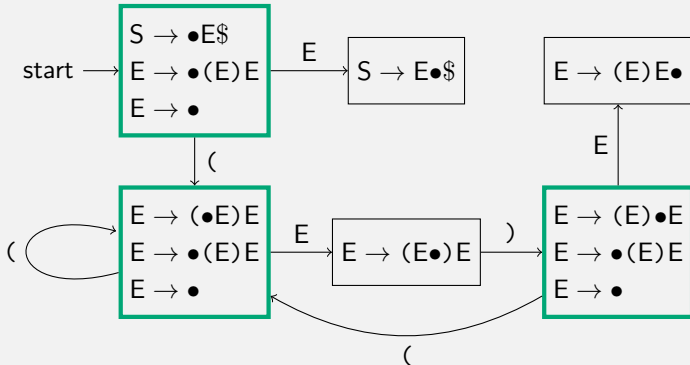


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# SLR(1)

The follow set (in LL sense) of E is  $\{), \$\}$ . We can use this information to remove the conflicts:

- ▶ Reducing by E only makes sense if the next input symbol is in that set.
- ▶ We can always shift (, resolving all conflicts in this case.



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SLR(1) is LR(0) extended with **simple lookahead**:

- ▶ Resolve conflicts by looking at the next symbol.
- ▶ Use the follow sets of each nonterminal.



# SLR(1) Tables

LR(0) and SLR(1) automata can be defined using a table:

- ▶ **States** are numbered, and correspond to item sets,
- ▶ **Production rules** in the grammar are also numbered,
- ▶ For every state and input symbol, you can:
  - ▶ Shift and go to state  $n$ :  $sn$ ,
  - ▶ Reduce using rule  $n$ :  $rn$ ,
  - ▶ Go to state  $n$  without shifting:  $gn$ .

When running an automaton from a table, we push both **states** and symbols to the stack, and we pop when we reduce a **rule**.



# SLR(1) Table

$$\left| \begin{array}{l} S \rightarrow E\$ \quad (1) \\ E \rightarrow (E)E \quad (2) \\ E \rightarrow \varepsilon \quad (3) \end{array} \right.$$

state	action			
	(	)	\$	E
1	s2	r3	r3	g3
2	s2	r3	r3	g4
3			acc	
4		s5		
5	s2	r3	r3	g6
6		r2	r2	





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SLR(1) uses the follow set of nonterminals, but one could be more specific.



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## Definition

An LR(1) item is a pair of an LR(0) item and a single terminal.

An item encodes where in the parsing process we are, and what is the first symbol that is expected after the current production is finished.

- ▶ The closure operation is adapted to keep track of lookahead symbols.
- ▶ As a result, the automaton is usually significantly larger. Therefore, canonical LR(1) parsers are rarely used in practice.



# Using the LR(1) automaton

Once computed, we can use the lookahead symbols to resolve situations that would be conflicts in the LR(0) situation:

- ▶ A reduction applies only if the next input symbol matches the lookahead symbol of the item.
- ▶ In a state with multiple reduce options, the lookahead symbol can be compared with the next input symbol in order to choose one.
- ▶ In a state with shift and reduce options, there is only a conflict if there is both a shift and reduce option for the next input symbol.



# Balanced parentheses using LR(1)

$S \rightarrow \bullet E, \$$

$E \rightarrow \bullet (E)E, \$$

$E \rightarrow \bullet, \$$

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# LALR(1)

The LALR(1) algorithm tries to find a compromise between the power of LR(1) and the simplicity of SLR(1):

- ▶ LR(1) items are used for computing fine-grained lookahead information,
- ▶ only the LR(0) automaton is used.



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There are several algorithms for computing LALR(1) lookahead information more efficiently, so that the full LR(1) automaton is not required.



# LR(1) vs. LALR(1) vs. SLR(1)

Unfortunately, merging the LR(1) states can introduce conflicts.

Therefore:

- ▶ there are more LR(1) grammars than LALR(1) grammars,
- ▶ but there are more LALR(1) grammars than SLR(1) grammars.

The LALR(1) algorithm is the one that is used in most parser generators (like Yacc, Bison, or Happy).





# Generalized LR (GLR)

Another option to deal with conflicts is to accept that locally, there are multiple options:

- ▶ on a conflict, we split the stack and try all options in a breadth-first manner;
- ▶ if the common parts of the stack are shared and the resulting nondeterminism can be resolved quickly, there is not much performance overhead.



# Let's do an example

Compute the LR (0) automaton for

$$\begin{array}{l} E' \rightarrow E\$ \\ E \rightarrow T \mid E + T \\ T \rightarrow i \mid (E) \end{array}$$



