
UNIT-4: Part - I
Error Detection and
Recovery in PARSERS

M.B.Chandak

Building a parser

- Original grammar:

$$\begin{aligned} E &\rightarrow E + E \\ E &\rightarrow E * E \\ E &\rightarrow (E) \\ E &\rightarrow \text{id} \end{aligned}$$

- This grammar is left-recursive, ambiguous and requires left-factoring. It needs to be modified before we build a predictive parser for it:

Remove ambiguity:

$$\begin{aligned} E &\rightarrow E + T \\ T &\rightarrow T * F \\ F &\rightarrow (E) \\ F &\rightarrow \text{id} \end{aligned}$$

Remove left recursion:

$$\begin{aligned} E &\rightarrow TE' \\ E' &\rightarrow +TE' \mid \varepsilon \\ T &\rightarrow FT' \\ T' &\rightarrow *FT' \mid \varepsilon \\ F &\rightarrow (E) \\ F &\rightarrow \text{id} \end{aligned}$$

Building a parser

- The grammar:

$$\begin{aligned} E &\rightarrow TE' \\ E' &\rightarrow +TE' \mid \varepsilon \\ T &\rightarrow FT' \\ T' &\rightarrow *FT' \mid \varepsilon \\ F &\rightarrow (E) \\ F &\rightarrow id \end{aligned}$$
$$\text{FIRST}(E) = \text{FIRST}(T) = \text{FIRST}(F) = \{(, id\}$$
$$\text{FIRST}(E') = \{+, \varepsilon\}$$
$$\text{FIRST}(T') = \{*, \varepsilon\}$$
$$\text{FOLLOW}(E) = \text{FOLLOW}(E') = \{\$, \}$$
$$\text{FOLLOW}(T) = \text{FOLLOW}(T') = \{+, \$, \}$$
$$\text{FOLLOW}(F) = \{*, +, \$, \}$$

Now, we can either build a table or design a recursive descend parser.

Parsing Table

| NT | id | + | * | (|) | \$ |
|----|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| E | $E \rightarrow TE'$ | | | $E \rightarrow TE'$ | | |
| E' | | $E' \rightarrow +TE'$ | | | $E' \rightarrow \epsilon$ | $E' \rightarrow \epsilon$ |
| T | $T \rightarrow FT'$ | | | $T \rightarrow FT'$ | | |
| T' | | $T \rightarrow \epsilon$ | $T' \rightarrow *FT'$ | | $T \rightarrow \epsilon$ | $T \rightarrow \epsilon$ |
| F | $F \rightarrow id$ | | | $F \rightarrow (E)$ | | |

Error detection in LL(1) parsing

- An error is detected whenever an empty table slot is encountered.
- We would like our parser to be able to recover from an error and continue parsing.
- Phase-level recovery
 - We associate each empty slot with an error handling procedure.
- Panic mode recovery
 - Modify the stack and/or the input string to try and reach state from which we can continue.

Error recovery in LL(1) parsing

■ Panic mode recovery

■ Idea:

- Decide on a set of synchronizing tokens.
- When an error is found and there's a nonterminal at the top of the stack, discard input tokens until a synchronizing token is found.
- Synchronizing tokens are chosen so that the parser can recover quickly after one is found
 - e.g. a semicolon when parsing statements.
- If there is a terminal at the top of the stack, we could try popping it to see whether we can continue.
 - Assume that the input string is actually missing that terminal.

Error recovery in LL(1) parsing

- Panic mode recovery
 - Possible synchronizing tokens for a nonterminal A
 - the tokens in FOLLOW(A)
 - When one is found, pop A of the stack and try to continue
 - the tokens in FIRST(A)
 - When one is found, match it and try to continue
 - tokens such as semicolons that terminate statements

Modified Parse Table

- Refer FOLLOW information for modifying parsing table.

| NT | id | + | * | (|) | \$ |
|----|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| E | $E \rightarrow TE'$ | | | $E \rightarrow TE'$ | SYNCH | SYNCH |
| E' | | $E' \rightarrow +TE'$ | | | $E' \rightarrow \epsilon$ | $E' \rightarrow \epsilon$ |
| T | $T \rightarrow FT'$ | SYNCH | | $T \rightarrow FT'$ | SYNCH | SYNCH |
| T' | | $T' \rightarrow \epsilon$ | $T' \rightarrow *FT'$ | | $T' \rightarrow \epsilon$ | $T' \rightarrow \epsilon$ |
| F | $F \rightarrow id$ | SYNCH | SYNCH | $F \rightarrow (E)$ | SYNCH | SYNCH |

STRING PARSING

| STACK | INPUT | REMARKS |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| \$E |) id * + id \$ | Error, Check $E \rightarrow) \rightarrow$ Synch Skip) |
| \$E | id * + id \$ | E with id $\rightarrow E \rightarrow T E'$ |
| \$ E' T | id * + id \$ | T with id $\rightarrow T \rightarrow F T'$ |
| \$ E' T' F | id * + id \$ | F with id $\rightarrow F \rightarrow id$ |
| \$ E' T' id | id * + id \$ | id with id \rightarrow pop id |
| \$ E' T' | * + id \$ | T' with * $\rightarrow T' \rightarrow * F T'$ |
| \$ E' T' F * | * + id \$ | * With * \rightarrow pop * |
| \$ E' T' F | + id \$ | F with + \rightarrow Synch Skip F |
| \$ E' T' | + id \$ | T' with + $\rightarrow T \rightarrow \epsilon$ |
| \$ E' | + id \$ | E' with + $\rightarrow E' \rightarrow + T E'$ |
| Continue .. | | |

LR PARSERS

- In the parsing table, all the empty cells are considered as error cells.
- The error routines are designed by proper understanding of grammar and string generated by grammar.
- The methodology is called as: Phrase based error detection and recovery.
- The method provides the error messages to be displayed and also suggest necessary corrective actions.

The Closure Operation -- Example

$E' \rightarrow E$

$E \rightarrow E+T$

$E \rightarrow T$

$T \rightarrow T^*F$

$T \rightarrow F$

$F \rightarrow (E)$

$F \rightarrow id$

$\text{closure}(\{E' \rightarrow \bullet E\}) =$

$\{E' \rightarrow \bullet E$
kernel items

$E \rightarrow \bullet E+T$

$E \rightarrow \bullet T$

$T \rightarrow \bullet T^*F$

$T \rightarrow \bullet F$

$F \rightarrow \bullet (E)$

$F \rightarrow \bullet id \}$

Example

$$I = \{ \begin{array}{l} E' \rightarrow .E, \\ E \rightarrow .E+T, \\ E \rightarrow .T, \\ T \rightarrow .T^*F, \\ T \rightarrow .F, \\ F \rightarrow .(E), \\ F \rightarrow .id \end{array} \}$$
$$\text{goto}(I, E) = \{ E' \rightarrow E., E \rightarrow E.+T \}$$
$$\text{goto}(I, T) = \{ E \rightarrow T., T \rightarrow T.^*F \}$$
$$\text{goto}(I, F) = \{ T \rightarrow F. \}$$
$$\text{goto}(I, id) = \{ F \rightarrow id. \}$$
$$\text{goto}(I, () = \{ F \rightarrow (.E), E \rightarrow .E+T, \\ E \rightarrow .T, T \rightarrow .T^*F, T \rightarrow .F, \\ F \rightarrow .(E), F \rightarrow .id \}$$

The Canonical LR(0) Collection -- Example

$I_0: E' \rightarrow .E .$
 $E \rightarrow .E+T$

$E \rightarrow .T$
 $T \rightarrow .T^*F$

$T \rightarrow .F$
 $F \rightarrow .(E)$
 $F \rightarrow .id$

$I_1: \text{goto}(I_0, E)$
 $E' \rightarrow E .$
 $E \rightarrow E .+T$

$I_2: \text{goto}(I_0, T)$
 $E \rightarrow T .$
 $T \rightarrow T .^*F$

$I_3: \text{goto}(I_0, F)$
 $T \rightarrow F .$

$I_4: \text{goto}(I_0, ()$
 $F \rightarrow (.E)$

$E \rightarrow .T$

$T \rightarrow .T^*F$
 $T \rightarrow .F$
 $F \rightarrow .(E)$
 $F \rightarrow .id$

$I_5: \text{goto}(I_0, id)$
 $F \rightarrow id .$

$I_6: \text{goto}(I_1, +)$

$E \rightarrow E+.T$
 $T \rightarrow .T^*F$
 $T \rightarrow .F$
 $F \rightarrow .(E)$
 $F \rightarrow .id$

$I_7: \text{goto}(I_2, ^*)$

$T \rightarrow T^*.F$
 $F \rightarrow .(E)$

$F \rightarrow .id$

$I_8: \text{goto}(I_4, E)$
 $F \rightarrow (E.)$

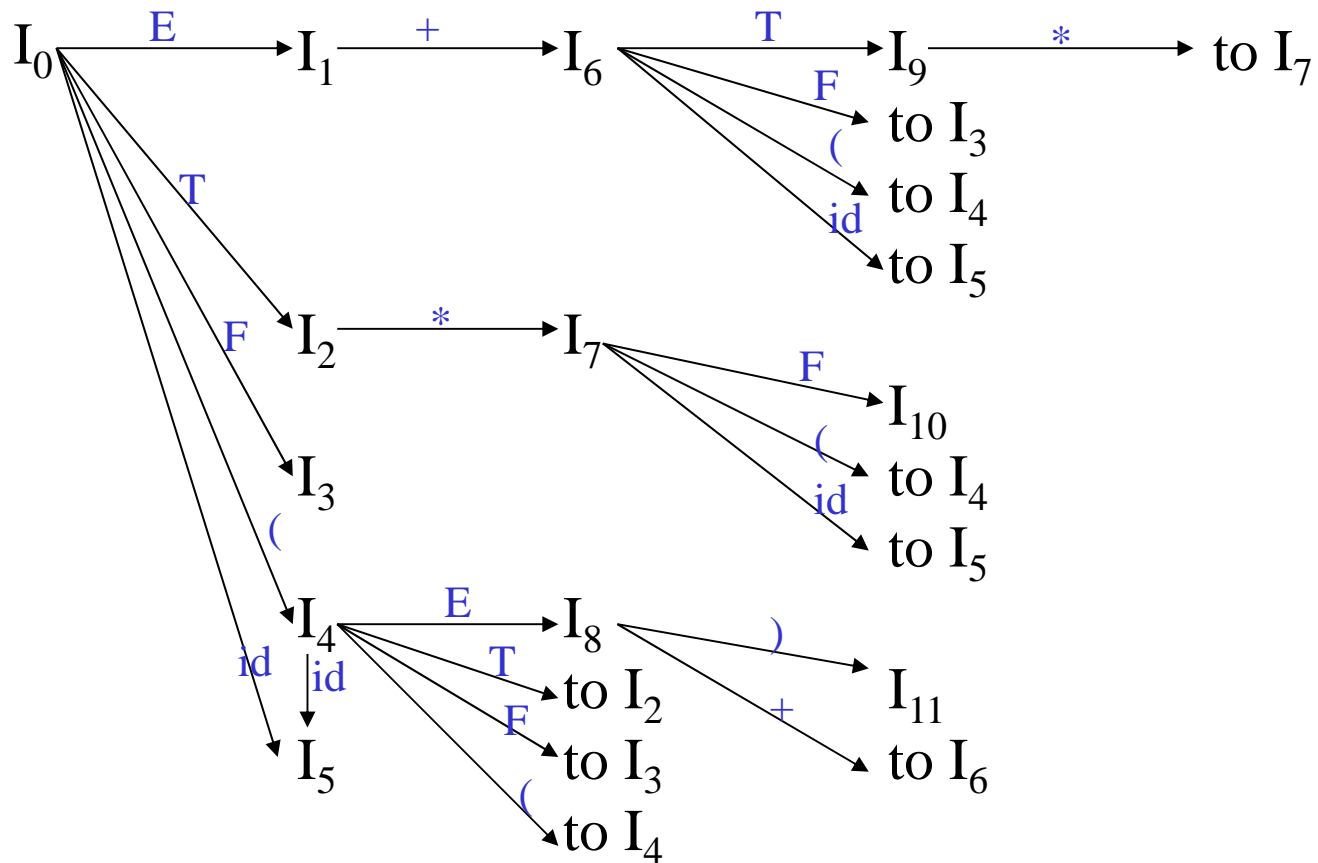
$E \rightarrow E.+T$

$I_9: \text{goto}(I_6, T)$
 $E \rightarrow E+T.$
 $T \rightarrow T.^*F$

$I_{10}: \text{goto}(I_7, F)$
 $T \rightarrow T^*F.$

$I_{11}: \text{goto}(I_8,)$
 $F \rightarrow (E).$

Transition Diagram (DFA) of Goto Function



Parsing Tables of Expression Grammar

Action Table

Goto Table

| state | id | + | * | (|) | \$ | | E | T | F |
|-------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|--|---|---|----|
| 0 | s5 | | | s4 | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1 | | s6 | | | | acc | | | | |
| 2 | | r2 | s7 | | r2 | r2 | | | | |
| 3 | | r4 | r4 | | r4 | r4 | | | | |
| 4 | s5 | | | s4 | | | | 8 | 2 | 3 |
| 5 | | r6 | r6 | | r6 | r6 | | | | |
| 6 | s5 | | | s4 | | | | | 9 | 3 |
| 7 | s5 | | | s4 | | | | | | 10 |
| 8 | | s6 | | | s11 | | | | | |
| 9 | | r1 | s7 | | r1 | r1 | | | | |
| 10 | | r3 | r3 | | r3 | r3 | | | | |
| 11 | | r5 | r5 | | r5 | r5 | | | | |

Example-2

- Consider Grammar:

$$E \rightarrow E+E \mid E^*E \mid (E) \mid id$$

After Closure and Goto operation the parsing table generated will be:

| State | id | + | * | (|) | \$ | E |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|---|
| I0 | s3 | e1 | e1 | s2 | e2 | e1 | 1 |
| I1 | e3 | s4 | s5 | e3 | e2 | Acc | |
| I2 | s3 | e1 | e1 | s2 | e2 | e1 | 6 |
| I3 | r4 | r4 | r4 | r4 | r4 | r4 | |
| I4 | s3 | e1 | e1 | s2 | e2 | e1 | 7 |
| I5 | s3 | e1 | e1 | s2 | e2 | e1 | 8 |
| I6 | e3 | s4 | s5 | e3 | s9 | e4 | |
| I7 | r1 | r1 | s5 | r1 | r1 | r1 | |
| I8 | r2 | r2 | r2 | r2 | r2 | r2 | |
| I9 | r3 | r3 | r3 | r3 | r3 | r3 | |

Example

- Originally only shift and reduce entries are added in the table.
- The error entries are designed based on grammar and string knowledge base.

- Description of Error Entries:

- Entry "e1": For states 0,2,4 and 5

Expected operand found operator: Push an imaginary operand on stack [missing operand error]

- Entry "e2": For states: 0, 1, 2, 4 and 5

Right parenthesis is found, without left parenthesis, remove it from input.

[unbalanced right parenthesis]

Example

- Entry "e3": called for states 1 and 6

Expected operator and "id" or right parenthesis is found.

Push operator onto stack [missing operator error]

- Entry "e4": Called from state 6

End of input is found, but expected is right parenthesis.
"missing right parenthesis"

Stack Example

- For the same parser consider string: id +) \$

| Stack | Input | Remarks |
|----------------|-----------|--|
| 0 | id +) \$ | |
| 0 id 3 | +) \$ | |
| 0 E 1 | +) \$ | |
| 0 E 1 + 4 |) \$ | |
| | \$ | CALL E2 REMOVE) |
| 0 E 1 + 4 | \$ | MISSING OPERAND call E1 push id 3 on stack |
| 0 E 1 + 4 id 3 | \$ | |
| 0 E 1 + 4 E 7 | \$ | |
| 0 E 1 | \$ | |