Computational Linguistics II: Parsing

Overview, Left-Recursion, Bottom-up Parsing

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http://www.english-linguistics.de/fr/teaching/ws06-07/cl2/slides/cl2-lecture16.pdf

The Big Picture

hierarchy	grammar	machine	other
type 3	reg. grammar	DFA	reg. expressions
det. cf.	LR(k) grammar	DPDA	
type 2	CFG	PDA	
type 1	CSG	LBA	
type 0	unrestricted grammar	Turing machine	

DFA: Deterministic finite state automaton

(D)PDA: (Deterministic) Pushdown automaton

CFG: Context-free grammar

CSG: Context-sensitive grammar

LBA: Linear bounded automaton

Problem: Left-Recursion

- Grammar: $S \rightarrow Sb \mid a$
- Derivation for “abb”:

	abb
	S

$\Rightarrow$

	abb
	Sb

$\Rightarrow$

	abb
	Sbb

$\Rightarrow$

	abb
	Sbbb

$\Rightarrow$

	abb
	Sbbbb

$\Rightarrow$

	abb
	Sbbbbb

$\ldots$

- Problem: will never get around to finding a terminal in first position which it can match against the input $\Rightarrow$ infinite loop

Left-Recursion

- What exactly is left recursion?
- Two cases:
  1. **immediate left recursion**: A $\rightarrow$ A α
     lefthand side symbol is the same as **first** righthand side symbol
  2. **indirect left recursion**: A $\rightarrow$ B $\alpha \rightarrow \ldots \rightarrow$ A β
     A extends via intermediate steps into another derivation part that **starts** with A.
- Only *first*, *non-terminal* righthand side symbols are problematic.

Eliminating Immediate Left-Recursion

- rule again: $S \rightarrow Sb \mid a$
  $\Rightarrow$ a, ab, abb, abbb
  $\Rightarrow$ a(b)*
- i.e. one part **in front** which ends the recursion, and the recursive part **at the end**
- idea: reformulated rule: $S \rightarrow a\ X \mid a$
  $X \rightarrow b\ X \mid b$
- more complicated ex.: $S \rightarrow Sb \mid Sd \mid ac \mid e$
- language: ac, acb, acbb, acbbb, acbd, acdb, e, eb, ebb, ebd, edb, . . . $\Rightarrow$ (ac | e) (b | d)*
- reformulated:
  $S \rightarrow acX \mid eX \mid ac \mid e$; $X \rightarrow bX \mid dX \mid b \mid d$

Eliminating Immediate Left-Recursion

- rule form: A $\rightarrow$ A $\alpha_1 \mid \ldots \mid$ A $\alpha_n \mid \beta_1 \mid \ldots \mid \beta_m$
- **A_head**: righthand sides that are not left-recursive: betas
  A_head $\rightarrow \beta_1 \mid \ldots \mid \beta_m$
- **A_tail**: righthand sides to be duplicated: alphas
  A_tail $\rightarrow \alpha_1 \mid \ldots \mid \alpha_n$
- **A_tails**: recursion over alphas:
  A_tails $\rightarrow$ A_tail | A_tail A_tails
- **A**: puts it together:
  A $\rightarrow$ A_head | A_head A_tails

Immediate Left-Recursion

- left-recursive rule:
  A $\rightarrow$ A $\alpha_1 \mid \ldots \mid$ A $\alpha_n \mid \beta_1 \mid \ldots \mid \beta_m$
- non-left-recursive rules:
  A $\rightarrow$ A_head | A_head A_tails
  A_head $\rightarrow \beta_1 \mid \ldots \mid \beta_m$
  A_tails $\rightarrow$ A_tail | A_tail A_tails
  A_tail $\rightarrow \alpha_1 \mid \ldots \mid \alpha_n$

Eliminating Indirect Left-Recursion

- grammar:

  $S \rightarrow A\ B$

  $A \rightarrow C\ B \mid b$

  $C \rightarrow S\ a$

  $B \rightarrow b$

- derivation: $S \Rightarrow A\ B \Rightarrow C\ B\ B \Rightarrow S\ a\ B\ B \Rightarrow A\ B\ a\ B\ B \Rightarrow C\ B\ B\ a\ B\ B \Rightarrow S\ a\ B\ B\ a\ B\ B \Rightarrow A\ B\ a\ B\ B\ a\ B\ B \Rightarrow \ldots \Rightarrow$ bb(abb)*
- idea: move left recursion closer, until it is in the same rule

Indirect Left-Recursion (2)

- steps:
  1. enumerate all non-terminals: A_1, A_2, ..., A_n
  2. check for A_1 whether it is immediately left-recursive, eliminate left-recursion
  3. check for A_2 whether it has a rule: $A_2 \rightarrow A_1\ \alpha$
  4. yes? if $A_1 \rightarrow \beta_1 \mid \ldots \mid \beta_m$:
     $A_2 \rightarrow \beta_1\ \alpha \mid \ldots \mid \beta_m\ \alpha$
  5. check for A_n whether it has rules:
     $A_n \rightarrow A_1\ \alpha$
     ...
     $A_n \rightarrow A_n\ \alpha$
  6. yes? eliminate according to step 4

Indirect Left-Recursion – Example

- enumerated grammar:

  S1 $\rightarrow$ A B

  A2 $\rightarrow$ C B | b

  C3 $\rightarrow$ S a

  B4 $\rightarrow$ b

- 1: is S immediately left-recursive? no.
- 2 $\rightarrow$ 1: rule A $\rightarrow$ S α? no.
- 2 $\rightarrow$ 2: is A immediately left-recursive? no.
- 3 $\rightarrow$ 1: rule C $\rightarrow$ S α? yes: C3 $\rightarrow$ S1 a
- replace by: C $\rightarrow$ A B a

Indirect Left-Recursion – Example

- $3 \rightarrow 2$: rule C $\rightarrow$ A α? yes (new rule!):
  C3 $\rightarrow$ A2 B a
- replace by: C $\rightarrow$ C B B a | b B a
- $3 \rightarrow 3$ (immediate left recursion): rule C $\rightarrow$ C α? yes (new rule!): C3 $\rightarrow$ C3 B B a | b B a
- replace by:
  C $\rightarrow$ C_head | C_head C_tails
  C_head $\rightarrow$ b B a
  C_tails $\rightarrow$ C_tail | C_tail C_tails
  C_tail $\rightarrow$ a B B