Programming Languages and Compilers (CS 421)

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Based in part on slides by Mattox Beckman, as updated by Vikram Adve and Gul Agha

General Input

{ *header* }
let *ident* = *regexp* ...
rule *entrypoint* [*arg1*... *argn*] = parse
    regexp { *action* }
  | ...
  | *regexp* { *action* }
and *entrypoint* [*arg1*... *argn*] =
  parse ...and ...
{ *trailer* }

Ocamllex Input

- *header* and *trailer* contain arbitrary ocaml code put at top an bottom of <*filename*>.ml
- let *ident* = *regexp* ... Introduces *ident* for use in later regular expressions

Ocamllex Input

- <*filename*>.ml contains one lexing function per *entrypoint*
  - Name of function is name given for *entrypoint*
  - Each entry point becomes an Ocaml function that takes n+1 arguments, the extra implicit last argument being of type Lexing.lexbuf
- *arg1*... *argn* are for use in *action*

Ocamllex Regular Expression

- Single quoted characters for letters: 'a'
- _: (underscore) matches any letter
- Eof: special "end_of_file" marker
- Concatenation same as usual
- "*string*": concatenation of sequence of characters
- $e_1 \mid e_2$: choice - what was $e_1 \vee e_2$

Ocamllex Regular Expression

- [c_1 - c_2]: choice of any character between first and second inclusive, as determined by character codes
- [^c_1 - c_2]: choice of any character NOT in set
- e*: same as before
- e+: same as e e*
- e?: option - was $e_1 \vee \varepsilon$

Ocamllex Regular Expression

- e_1 # e_2: the characters in e_1 but not in e_2; e_1 and e_2 must describe just sets of characters
- *ident*: abbreviation for earlier reg exp in let *ident* = *regexp*
- e_1 as *id*: binds the result of e_1 to *id* to be used in the associated *action*

Ocamllex Manual

- More details can be found at

http://caml.inria.fr/pub/docs/manual-ocaml/manual026.html

Example : test.mll

```
{ type result = Int of int | Float of float |
  String of string }
let digit = ['0'-'9']
let digits = digit +
let lower_case = ['a'-'z']
let upper_case = ['A'-'Z']
let letter = upper_case | lower_case
let letters = letter +
```

Example : test.mll

```
rule main = parse
  (digits)'.'digits as f  { Float (float_of_string f) }
 | digits as n             { Int (int_of_string n) }
 | letters as s            { String s}
 | _ { main lexbuf }
 { let newlexbuf = (Lexing.from_channel stdin) in
 print_string "Ready to lex.";
 print_newline ();
 main newlexbuf  }
```

Example

```
# #use "test.ml";;
…
val main : Lexing.lexbuf -> result = <fun>
val __ocaml_lex_main_rec : Lexing.lexbuf -> int ->
  result = <fun>
Ready to lex.
hi there 234 5.2
- : result = String "hi"
```

What happened to the rest?!?

Example

```
# let b = Lexing.from_channel stdin;;
# main b;;
hi 673 there
- : result = String "hi"
# main b;;
- : result = Int 673
# main b;;
- : result = String "there"
```

Your Turn

- Work on MP8
  - Add a few keywords
  - Implement booleans and unit
  - Implement Ints and Floats
  - Implement identifiers

Problem

- How to get lexer to look at more than the first token at one time?
- One Answer: *action* tells it to -- recursive calls
- Side Benefit: can add “state” into lexing
- Note: already used this with the _ case

Example

```
rule main = parse
   (digits) '.' digits as f { Float
   (float_of_string f) :: main lexbuf}
 | digits as n          { Int (int_of_string n) ::
   main lexbuf }
 | letters as s         { String s :: main lexbuf}
 | eof                   { [] }
 | _                     { main lexbuf }
```

Example Results

```
Ready to lex.
hi there 234 5.2
- : result list = [String "hi"; String "there"; Int
  234; Float 5.2]
#
```

Used Ctrl-d to send the end-of-file signal

Dealing with comments

First Attempt

```
let open_comment = "(*"
let close_comment = "*)"
rule main = parse
   (digits) '.' digits as f { Float (float_of_string
  f) :: main lexbuf}
 | digits as n         { Int (int_of_string n) ::
  main lexbuf }
 | letters as s        { String s :: main lexbuf}
```

Dealing with comments

```
 | open_comment         { comment  lexbuf}
 | eof                 { [] }
 | _ { main lexbuf }
and comment = parse
   close_comment       { main lexbuf }
 | _                  { comment lexbuf }
```

Dealing with nested comments

```
rule main = parse …
 | open_comment        { comment 1 lexbuf}
 | eof              { [] }
 | _ { main lexbuf }
and comment depth = parse
   open_comment       { comment (depth+1)
   lexbuf }
 | close_comment     { if depth = 1
                       then main lexbuf
                      else comment (depth - 1) lexbuf }
 | _                 { comment depth lexbuf }
```

Dealing with nested comments

```
rule main = parse
   (digits) '.' digits as f { Float (float_of_string f) ::
   main lexbuf}
 | digits as n         { Int (int_of_string n) :: main
   lexbuf }
 | letters as s        { String s :: main lexbuf}
 | open_comment          { (comment 1 lexbuf}
 | eof                { [] }
 | _ { main lexbuf }
```

Dealing with nested comments

```
and comment depth = parse
   open_comment        { comment (depth+1) lexbuf }
 | close_comment      { if depth = 1
                        then main lexbuf
                       else comment (depth - 1) lexbuf }
 | _                  { comment depth lexbuf }
```

Types of Formal Language Descriptions

- Regular expressions, regular grammars
- Context-free grammars, BNF grammars, syntax diagrams
- Finite state automata

- Whole family more of grammars and automata – covered in automata theory

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Sample Grammar

- Language: Parenthesized sums of 0's and 1's

- <Sum> ::= 0
- <Sum >::= 1
- <Sum> ::= <Sum> + <Sum>
- <Sum> ::= (<Sum>)

BNF Grammars

- Start with a set of characters, **a,b,c,…**
  - We call these *terminals*
- Add a set of different characters, **X,Y,Z, …**
  - We call these *nonterminals*
- One special nonterminal **S** called *start symbol*

BNF Grammars

- BNF rules (aka *productions*) have form

  X ::= *y*

  where **X** is any nonterminal and *y* is a string of terminals and nonterminals
- BNF *grammar* is a set of BNF rules such that every nonterminal appears on the left of some rule

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Sample Grammar

- Terminals: 0 1 + ( )
- Nonterminals: <Sum>
- Start symbol = <Sum>

- <Sum> ::= 0
- <Sum >::= 1
- <Sum> ::= <Sum> + <Sum>
- <Sum> ::= (<Sum>)
- Can be abbreviated as

<Sum> ::= 0 | 1
| <Sum> + <Sum> | (<Sum>)

BNF Deriviations

- Given rules

X::= *y***Z***w* and **Z**::=*v*

we may replace **Z** by *v* to say

X => *y***Z***w* => *yvw*

- Sequence of such replacements called *derivation*
- Derivation called *right-most* if always replace the right-most non-terminal

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BNF Derivations

- Start with the start symbol:

<Sum> =>

BNF Derivations

- Pick a non-terminal

<Sum> =>

BNF Derivations

- Pick a rule and substitute:
  - <Sum> ::= <Sum> + <Sum>

<Sum> => <Sum> + <Sum >

BNF Derivations

- Pick a non-terminal:

<Sum> => <Sum> + <Sum >

BNF Derivations

- Pick a rule and substitute:
  - <Sum> ::= (<Sum>)

<Sum> => <Sum> + <Sum >
=> (<Sum>) + <Sum>

BNF Derivations

- Pick a non-terminal:

<Sum> => <Sum> + <Sum >
=> (<Sum>) + <Sum>

BNF Derivations

- Pick a rule and substitute:
  - <Sum> ::= <Sum> + <Sum>

<Sum> => <Sum> + <Sum >
=> (<Sum>) + <Sum>
=> (<Sum> + <Sum>) + <Sum>

BNF Derivations

- Pick a non-terminal:

<Sum> => <Sum> + <Sum >
=> (<Sum>) + <Sum>
=> (<Sum> + <Sum>) + <Sum>

BNF Derivations

- Pick a rule and substitute:
  - <Sum >::= 1

<Sum> => <Sum> + <Sum >
=> (<Sum>) + <Sum>
=> (<Sum> + <Sum>) + <Sum>
=> (<Sum> + 1) + <Sum>

BNF Derivations

- Pick a non-terminal:

<Sum> => <Sum> + <Sum >
=> (<Sum>) + <Sum>
=> (<Sum> + <Sum>) + <Sum>
=> (<Sum> + 1) + <Sum>

BNF Derivations

- Pick a rule and substitute:
  - <Sum >::= 0

<Sum> => <Sum> + <Sum >
=> (<Sum>) + <Sum>
=> (<Sum> + <Sum>) + <Sum>
=> (<Sum> + 1) + <Sum>
=> (<Sum> + 1) + 0

BNF Derivations

- Pick a non-terminal:

<Sum> => <Sum> + <Sum >
=> (<Sum>) + <Sum>
=> (<Sum> + <Sum>) + <Sum>
=> (<Sum> + 1) + <Sum>
=> (<Sum> + 1) + 0

BNF Derivations

- Pick a rule and substitute
  - <Sum> ::= 0

<Sum> => <Sum> + <Sum >
=> (<Sum>) + <Sum>
=> (<Sum> + <Sum>) + <Sum>
=> (<Sum> + 1) + <Sum>
=> (<Sum> + 1) 0
=> (0 + 1) + 0

BNF Derivations

- (0 + 1) + 0 is generated by grammar

<Sum> => <Sum> + <Sum >
=> (<Sum>) + <Sum>
=> (<Sum> + <Sum>) + <Sum>
=> (<Sum> + 1) + <Sum>
=> (<Sum> + 1) + 0
=> (0 + 1) + 0

<Sum> ::= 0 | 1 | <Sum> + <Sum> | (<Sum>)

<Sum> =>

BNF Semantics

- The meaning of a BNF grammar is the set of all strings consisting only of terminals that can be derived from the Start symbol

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Regular Grammars

- Subclass of BNF
- Only rules of form
  <nonterminal>::=<terminal><nonterminal> or
  <nonterminal>::=<terminal> or
  <nonterminal>::= ε
- Defines same class of languages as regular expressions
- Important for writing lexers (programs that convert strings of characters into strings of tokens)
- Close connection to nondeterministic finite state automata – nonterminals ≅ states; rule ≅ edge

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Example

- Regular grammar:
  <Balanced> ::= ε
  <Balanced> ::= 0<OneAndMore>
  <Balanced> ::= 1<ZeroAndMore>
  <OneAndMore> ::= 1<Balanced>
  <ZeroAndMore> ::= 0<Balanced>
- Generates even length strings where every initial substring of even length has same number of 0's as 1's

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Extended BNF Grammars

- Alternatives: allow rules of from X::=*y*|*z*
  - Abbreviates X::= *y*, X::= *z*
- Options: X::=*y*[*v*]*z*
  - Abbreviates X::=*yvz*, X::=*yz*
- Repetition: X::=*y*{*v*}**z*
  - Can be eliminated by adding new nonterminal V and rules X::=*yz*, X::=yVz, V::=*v*, V::=*v*V

Parse Trees

- Graphical representation of derivation
- Each node labeled with either non-terminal or terminal
- If node is labeled with a terminal, then it is a leaf (no sub-trees)
- If node is labeled with a non-terminal, then it has one branch for each character in the right-hand side of rule used to substitute for it

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Example

- Consider grammar:

```
<exp>  ::= <factor>
          |  <factor> +  <factor>
<factor>  ::=  <bin>
             |  <bin>   *   <exp>
<bin> ::=  0  | 1
```

- Problem: Build parse tree for 1 * 1 + 0 as an <exp>

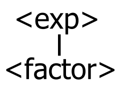
Example cont.

- 1 * 1 + 0: <exp>

<exp> is the start symbol for this parse tree

Example cont.

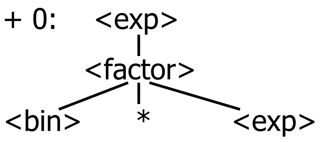
- 1 * 1 + 0:



Use rule: <exp> ::= <factor>

Example cont.

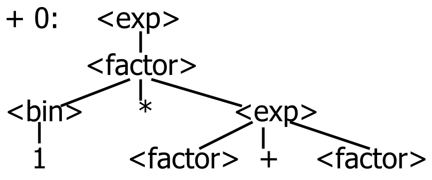
- 1 * 1 + 0:



Use rule: <factor> ::= <bin> * <exp>

Example cont.

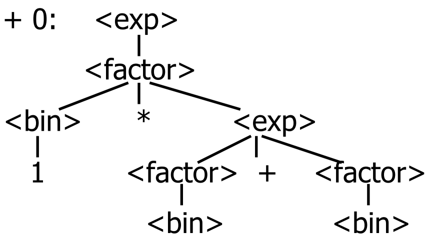
- 1 * 1 + 0:



Use rules: <bin> ::= 1 and
<exp> ::= <factor> + <factor>

Example cont.

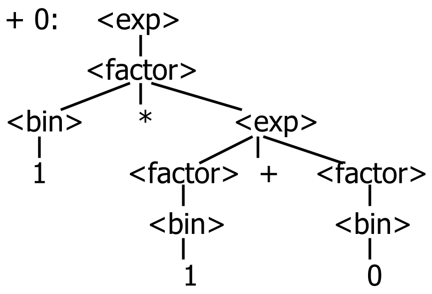
- 1 * 1 + 0:



Use rule: <factor> ::= <bin>

Example cont.

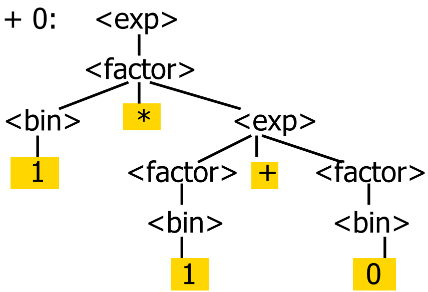
- 1 * 1 + 0:



Use rules: <bin> ::= 1 | 0

Example cont.

- 1 * 1 + 0:



<exp>
<factor>
<bin> * <exp>
1 <factor> + <factor>
<bin> <bin>
1 0

Fringe of tree is string generated by grammar

Your Turn: 1 * 0 + 0 * 1

Parse Tree Data Structures

- Parse trees may be represented by OCaml datatypes
- One datatype for each nonterminal
- One constructor for each rule
- Defined as mutually recursive collection of datatype declarations

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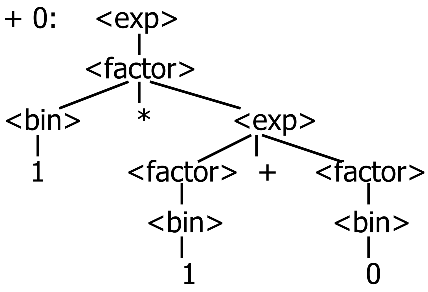
Example

- Recall grammar:
  <exp> ::= <factor> | <factor> + <factor>
  <factor> ::= <bin> | <bin> * <exp>
  <bin> ::= 0 | 1
- type exp = Factor2Exp of factor
  | Plus of factor * factor
  and factor = Bin2Factor of bin
  | Mult of bin * exp
  and bin = Zero | One

Example cont.

- 1 * 1 + 0:



<exp>
<factor>
<bin> * <exp>
1 <factor> + <factor>
<bin> <bin>
1 0

Example cont.

- Can be represented as

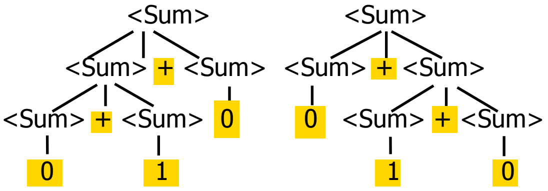
Factor2Exp
(Mult(One,
Plus(Bin2Factor One,
Bin2Factor Zero)))

Ambiguous Grammars and Languages

- A BNF grammar is *ambiguous* if its language contains strings for which there is more than one parse tree
- If all BNF's for a language are ambiguous then the language is *inherently ambiguous*

Example: Ambiguous Grammar

- 0 + 1 + 0



Example

- What is the result for:

3 + 4 * 5 + 6

Example

- What is the result for:

3 + 4 * 5 + 6

- Possible answers:
  - 41 = ((3 + 4) * 5) + 6
  - 47 = 3 + (4 * (5 + 6))
  - 29 = (3 + (4 * 5)) + 6 = 3 + ((4 * 5) + 6)
  - 77 = (3 + 4) * (5 + 6)

Example

- What is the value of:

7 – 5 – 2

Example

- What is the value of:

7 – 5 – 2

- Possible answers:
  - In Pascal, C++, SML assoc. left

    7 – 5 – 2 = (7 – 5) – 2 = 0
  - In APL, associate to right

    7 – 5 – 2 = 7 – (5 – 2) = 4

Two Major Sources of Ambiguity

- Lack of determination of operator precedence
- Lack of determination of operator assoicativity

- Not the only sources of ambiguity