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4. Parsing in Practice

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Thanks to Jens Palsberg and Tony Hosking for their kind permission to reuse and adapt the CS132 and CS502 lecture notes.

http://www.cs.ucla.edu/~palsberg/

http://www.cs.purdue.edu/homes/hosking/

Roadmap



- > Bottom-up parsing
- > LR(k) grammars
- > JavaCC, Java Tree Builder and the Visitor pattern
- > Example: a straightline interpreter

See, Modern compiler implementation in Java (Second edition), chapters 3-4.

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Some definitions

Recall:

- > For a grammar G, with start symbol S, any string α such that S ⇒* α is called a sentential form
 - —If $\alpha \in V_t^*$, then α is called a <u>sentence</u> in L(G)
 - —Otherwise it is just a sentential form (not a sentence in L(G))
- > A <u>left-sentential form</u> is a sentential form that occurs in the leftmost derivation of some sentence.
- > A <u>right-sentential form</u> is a sentential form that occurs in the rightmost derivation of some sentence.

Bottom-up parsing

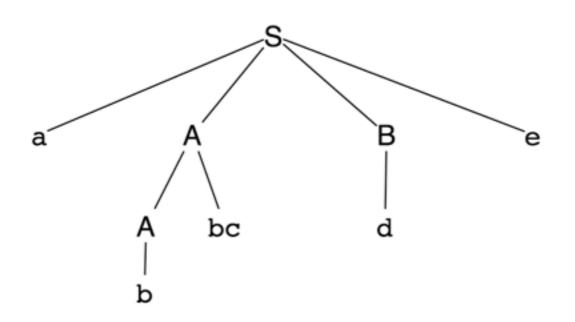
Goal:

- —Given an input string w and a grammar G, construct a parse tree by starting at the leaves and working to the root.
- > The parser repeatedly matches a *right-sentential form* from the language against the tree's upper frontier.
- At each match, it applies a *reduction* to build on the frontier:
 - —each reduction matches an upper frontier of the partially built tree to the RHS of some production
 - —each reduction adds a node on top of the frontier
- > The final result is a *rightmost derivation*, in reverse.

Example

Consider the grammar:

- 1. $S \rightarrow aABe$
- 2. A \rightarrow Abc
- 3. b
- 4. B \rightarrow d



and the input string: abbcde

Sentential Form	Action	
abbcde	shift a	
<u>a</u> bbcde	no match; shift b	
a b bcde	match; reduce (3)	
a <u>A</u> bcde	no match; shift b	
aA b cde	lookahead ⇒ shift c	
a Abc de	match; reduce (2)	
aA d e	shift d	
аА <u>в</u> е	match; reduce (4)	
<u>aABe</u>	shift e	
S	match; reduce (1)	

Handles

> A <u>handle</u> of a right-sentential form γ is a production A → β and a position in γ where β may be found and replaced by A to produce the previous right-sentential form in a rightmost derivation of γ

- —Suppose: $S \Rightarrow^* \alpha Aw \Rightarrow \alpha \beta w$
- —Then $A \rightarrow \beta$ in the position following α is a *handle* of $\alpha\beta w$

NB: Because γ is a right-sentential form, the substring to the right of a handle contains *only terminal symbols*.

Handles

 α W

The handle $A \rightarrow \beta$ in the parse tree for $\alpha\beta w$

Handles

> Theorem:

—If G is unambiguous then every right-sentential form has a unique handle.

> Proof: (by definition)

- 1. G is unambiguous ⇒ rightmost derivation is unique
- 2. \Rightarrow a unique production A \rightarrow β applied to take γ_{i-1} to γ_i
- $3. \Rightarrow$ a unique position k at which A $\rightarrow \beta$ is applied
- 4. ⇒ a unique handle A → β

Example — rightmost derivation

The left-recursive expression grammar (original form)

Prod'n.	Sentential Form	
_	(goal)	
1	(expr)	
3	$\overline{\langle \text{expr} \rangle} - \langle \text{term} \rangle$	
5	$\overline{\langle \text{expr} \rangle - \langle \text{term} \rangle} * \langle \text{factor} \rangle$	
9	$\langle \exp r \rangle - \overline{\langle \operatorname{term} \rangle * \underline{id}}$	
7	$\langle \exp r \rangle - \langle \operatorname{factor} \rangle * id$	
8	$\langle \exp r \rangle - \overline{\underline{\mathtt{num}} * \mathtt{id}}$	
4	$\langle \text{term} \rangle - \text{num} * \text{id}$	
7	$\overline{\langle factor \rangle} - num * id$	
9	id — num * id	

How do we parse (bottom-up) to arrive at this derivation?

$$x - 2 * y$$

Handle-pruning

The process to construct a bottom-up parse is called handle-pruning

To construct a rightmost derivation

$$S = \gamma_0 \Rightarrow \gamma_1 \Rightarrow \gamma_2 \Rightarrow ... \Rightarrow \gamma_{n-1} \Rightarrow \gamma_n = W$$

we set i to n and apply the following simple algorithm:

For i = n down to 1

- 1. Find the handle $A_i \rightarrow \beta_i$ in γ_i
- 2. Replace β_i with A_i to generate γ_{i-1}

This takes 2n steps, where n is the length of the derivation

Stack implementation

- > One scheme to implement a handle-pruning, bottom-up parser is called a *shift-reduce parser*.
- > Shift-reduce parsers use a *stack* and an *input buffer*
 - 1. initialize stack with \$
 - 2. Repeat until the top of the stack is the goal symbol and the input token is \$
 - a) Find the handle.

 If we don't have a handle on top of the stack, shift (push) an input symbol onto the stack
 - b) Prune the handle. If we have a handle $A \rightarrow \beta$ on the stack, reduce
 - Pop IβI symbols off the stack
 - II. Push A onto the stack

NB: In practice we also lookahead to determine whether to shift or reduce!

Example: back to x-2*y

1.	<goal></goal>	::=	<expr></expr>
2.	<expr></expr>	::=	<expr> + <term></term></expr>
3.		1	<expr> - <term></term></expr>
4.		1	<term></term>
5.	<term></term>	::=	<term> * <factor></factor></term>
6.		1	<term> / <factor></factor></term>
7.		1	<factor></factor>
8.	<factor></factor>	::=	num
9.		I	id

- 1. Shift until top of stack is the right end of a handle
- 2. Find the left end of the handle and reduce

```
Stack
                                               Input
                                                               Action
                                         id - num * id shift
$id
                                             num * id|reduce 9
$\langle factor \rangle
                                             - num * id reduce 7
$\langle term
                                             - num * id|reduce 4
$\left(\text{expr}\right)
                                             - num * id|shift
$\left(\text{expr}\right)
                                                 num * id shift
                                                        * id reduce 8
(\exp r) - \underline{\text{num}}
                                                        * id reduce 7
(\exp r) - (factor)
\alpha = (\exp - \langle \text{term} \rangle)
                                                        * id|shift
(\exp - \langle term \rangle *
                                                           id shift
(\exp - \langle term \rangle * \underline{id})
                                                               reduce 9
(\exp - \langle \text{term} \rangle * \langle \text{factor} \rangle)
                                                               reduce 5
(\exp r) - (term)
                                                               reduce 3
$\left(\text{expr}\right)
                                                               reduce 1
$\langle goal \rangle
                                                               accept
```

5 shifts + 9 reduces + 1 accept

Shift-reduce parsing

A shift-reduce parser has just four canonical actions:

shift	next input symbol is shifted (pushed) onto the top of the stack		
reduce	right end of handle is on top of stack; locate left end of handle within the stack; pop handle off stack and push appropriate non- terminal LHS		
accept	pt terminate parsing and signal success		
error	call an error recovery routine		

Roadmap



- > Bottom-up parsing
- > LR(k) grammars
- > JavaCC, Java Tree Builder and the Visitor pattern
- > Example: a straightline interpreter

LR(k) grammars

A grammar G is LR(k) iff:

1.
$$S \Rightarrow_{rm}^* \alpha Aw \Rightarrow_{rm} \alpha \beta w$$

2.
$$S \Rightarrow_{rm}^{*} \gamma Bx \Rightarrow_{rm} \alpha \beta y$$

3.
$$FIRST_k(w) = FIRST_k(y) \Rightarrow \alpha Ay = \gamma Bx$$

I.e., if αβw and αβy have the same k-symbol lookahead, then there is a unique handle to reduce in the rightmost derivation.

Why study LR grammars?

LR(1) grammars are used to construct LR(1) parsers.

- —everyone's favorite parser
- virtually all context-free programming language constructs can be expressed in an LR(1) form
- LR grammars are the most general grammars parsable by a deterministic, bottom-up parser
- —efficient parsers can be implemented for LR(1) grammars
- —LR parsers detect an error as soon as possible in a left-to-right scan of the input
- LR grammars describe a proper superset of the languages recognized by predictive (i.e., LL) parsers
- **LL(k)**: recognize use of a production $A \rightarrow \beta$ seeing first k symbols of β
- **LR(k):** recognize occurrence of β (the handle) having seen all of what is derived from β plus k symbols of look-ahead

Left versus right recursion

> Right Recursion:

- —needed for termination in predictive parsers
- —requires more stack space
- —right associative operators

> Left Recursion:

- —works fine in bottom-up parsers
- —limits required stack space
- —left associative operators

> Rule of thumb:

- —right recursion for *top-down parsers*
- —left recursion for *bottom-up parsers*

Parsing review

> Recursive descent

— A hand coded recursive descent parser directly encodes a grammar (typically an LL(1) grammar) into a series of mutually recursive procedures. It has most of the linguistic limitations of LL(1).

> LL(k):

—must be able to recognize the use of a production after seeing only the first k symbols of its right hand side.

> LR(k):

—must be able to recognize the occurrence of the right hand side of a production after having seen all that is derived from that right hand side with k symbols of look-ahead.

> The dilemmas:

- —LL dilemma: pick $A \rightarrow b$ or $A \rightarrow c$?
- —LR dilemma: pick A → b or B → b?

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The Java Compiler Compiler

- > "Lex and Yacc for Java."
- > Based on **LL(k)** rather than LR(1) or LALR(1).
- > Grammars are written in EBNF.
- > Transforms an EBNF grammar into an LL(k) parser.
- Supports embedded action code written in Java (just like Yacc supports embedded C action code)
- > The look-ahead can be changed by writing LOOKAHEAD (...)
- > The whole input is given in just one file (not two).

The JavaCC input format

- > Single file:
 - -header
 - —token specifications for lexical analysis
 - -grammar

Examples

Token specification:

Production:

Declarations

Productions and actions

```
void StmList():
{}
{
   Stm() ( "; " Stm() ) *
}
```

Generating a parser with JavaCC

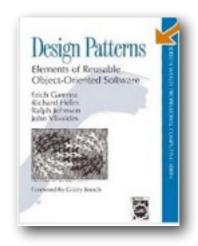
```
javacc fortran.jj  // generates a parser
javac Main.java  // Main.java calls the parser
java Main < prog.f  // parses the program prog.f</pre>
```

NB: JavaCC is just one of many tools available ... See: http://catalog.compilertools.net/java.html

The Visitor Pattern

> Intent:

—Represent an operation to be performed on the elements of an object structure. Visitor lets you define a new operation without changing the classes of the elements on which it operates.



Sneak Preview

- > When using the Visitor pattern,
 - —the set of classes must be fixed in advance, and
 - —each class must have an accept method.

First Approach: instanceof and downcasts

The running Java example: summing an integer list.

```
public interface List {}
public class Nil implements List {}
public class Cons implements List {
  int head;
  List tail;
  Cons(int head, List tail) {
    this.head = head;
    this.tail = tail;
  }
}
```

Advantage: The code does not touch the classes Nil and Cons.

Drawback: The code must use downcasts and instanceof to check what kind of List object it has.

```
public class SumList {
public static void main(String[] args) {
 List l = new Cons(5, new Cons(4,
   new Cons(3, new Nil()));
 int sum = 0;
 boolean proceed = true;
 while (proceed) {
  if (l instanceof Nil) {
  proceed = false;
  } else if (l instanceof Cons) {
   sum = sum + ((Cons) l).head;
   1 = ((Cons) 1).tail;
 System.out.println("Sum = " + sum);
```

Second Approach: Dedicated Methods

```
public interface List {
public int sum();
public class Nil implements List {
public int sum() {
 return 0;
public class Cons implements List {
int head;
List tail;
Cons(int head, List tail) {
 this.head = head;
 this.tail = tail;
public int sum() {
 return head + tail.sum();
```

The classical OO approach is to offer dedicated methods through a common interface.

Advantage: Downcasts and instanceof calls are gone, and the code can be written in a systematic way.

Disadvantage: For each new operation on List-objects, new dedicated methods have to be written, and all classes must be recompiled.

Third Approach: The Visitor Pattern

> The Idea:

- —Divide the code into an object structure and a Visitor
- —Insert an accept method in each class. Each accept method takes a Visitor as argument.
- —A Visitor contains a visit method for each class (overloading!). A method for a class C takes an argument of type C.

Third Approach: The Visitor Pattern

```
public interface List {
public void accept(Visitor v);
public class Nil implements List {
public void accept(Visitor v) {
 v.visit(this);
public class Cons implements List {
int head;
List tail;
Cons(int head, List tail) {... }
public void accept(Visitor v) {
 v.visit(this);
public interface Visitor {
void visit(Nil 1);
void visit(Cons 1);
```

```
public class SumVisitor implements Visitor
int sum = 0;
public void visit(Nil 1) { }
public void visit(Cons 1) {
 sum = sum + 1.head;
 1.tail.accept(this);
public static void main(String[] args) {
 List l = new Cons(5, new Cons(4,
      new Cons(3, new Nil()));
 SumVisitor sv = new SumVisitor();
 1.accept(sv);
 System.out.println("Sum = " + sv.sum);
```

NB: The visit methods capture both (1) actions, and (2) access of subobjects.

Comparison

The Visitor pattern combines the advantages of the two other approaches.

	Frequent downcasts?	Frequent recompilation?
instanceof + downcasting	Yes	No
dedicated methods	No	Yes
Visitor pattern	No	No

JJTree (Sun) and Java Tree Builder (Purdue/UCLA) are front-ends for JavaCC that are based on Visitors

Visitors: Summary

- > A visitor gathers related operations.
 - It also separates unrelated ones.
 - —Visitors can accumulate state.
- > Visitor makes adding new operations easy.
 - Simply write a new visitor.
- > Adding new classes to the object structure is hard.
 - Key consideration: are you most likely to change the algorithm applied over an object structure, or are you most like to change the classes of objects that make up the structure?
- Visitor can break encapsulation.
 - Visitor's approach assumes that the interface of the data structure classes is powerful enough to let visitors do their job. As a result, the pattern often forces you to provide public operations that access internal state, which may compromise its encapsulation.

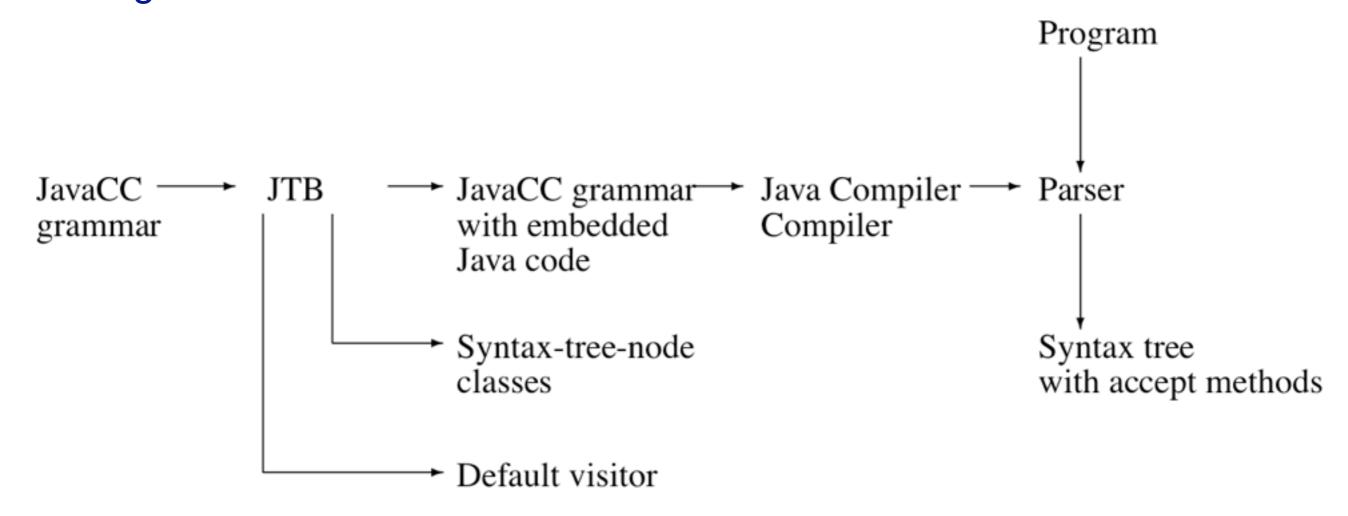
The Java Tree Builder (JTB)

- > front-end for The Java Compiler Compiler.
- > supports the building of syntax trees which can be traversed using visitors.
- > transforms a bare JavaCC grammar into three components:
 - —a JavaCC grammar with embedded Java code for building a syntax tree;
 - —one class for every form of syntax tree node; and
 - —a default visitor which can do a depth-first traversal of a syntax tree.

http://compilers.cs.ucla.edu/jtb/

The Java Tree Builder

The produced JavaCC grammar can then be processed by the Java Compiler Compiler to give a parser which produces syntax trees. The produced syntax trees can now be traversed by a Java program by writing subclasses of the default visitor.



Using JTB

```
jtb fortran.jj  // generates jtb.out.jj
javacc jtb.out.jj  // generates a parser
javac Main.java  // Main.java calls the parser and visitors
java Main < prog.f  // builds a syntax tree and executes visitors</pre>
```

Roadmap

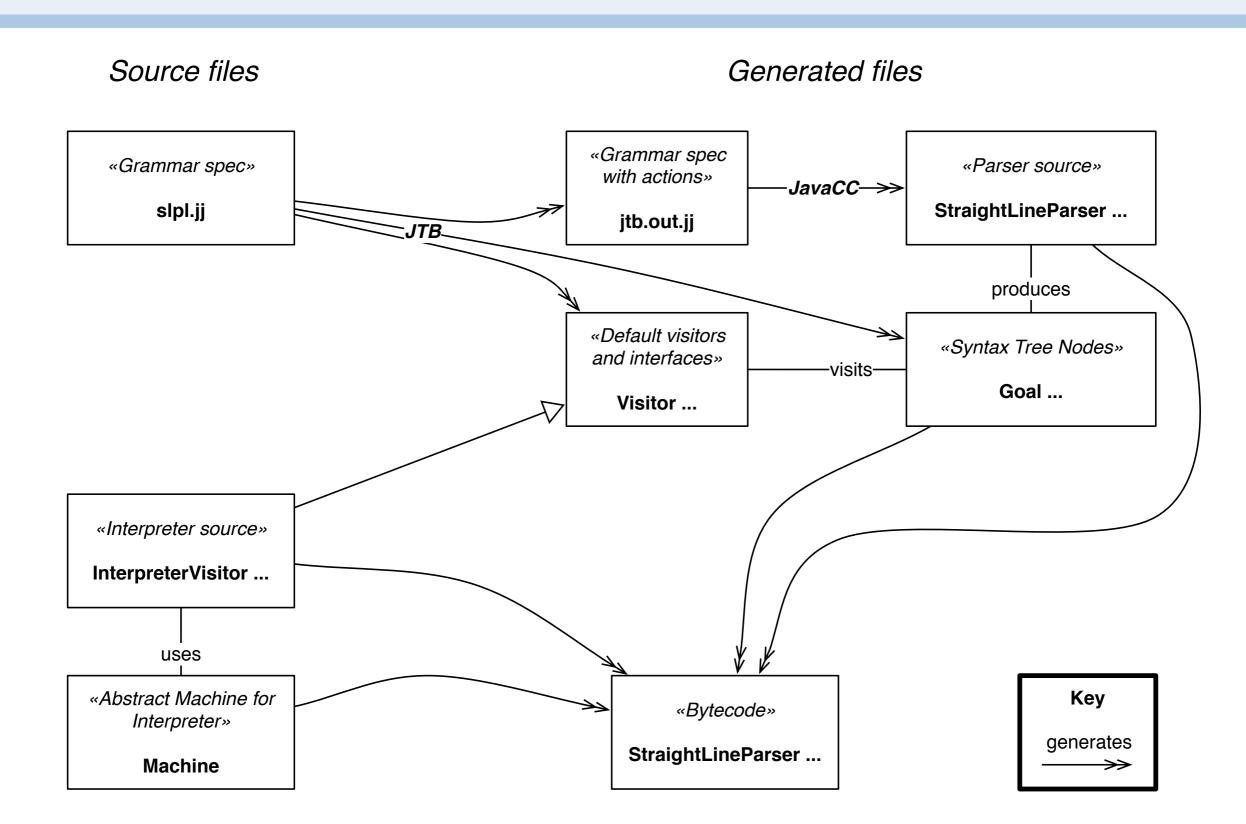


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Recall our straight-line grammar

```
Stm
         → Stm; Stm
                                         CompoundStm
         \rightarrow id := Exp
Stm
                                            AssignStm
Stm
             print (ExpList)
                                              PrintStm
Exp
              id
                                                IdExp
Exp
                                              NumExp
              num
         → Exp Binop Exp
Exp
                                                OpExp
         \rightarrow (Stm, Exp)
Exp
                                              EseqExp
         → Exp , ExpList
ExpList
                                           PairExpList
         → Exp
ExpList
                                           LastExpList
Binop
                                                  Plus
                                                Minus
Binop
         \rightarrow \times
Binop
                                                 Times
Binop
                                                   Div
```

Straightline Interpreter Files



Tokens

slpl.jj starts with the scanner declarations

```
options {
  JAVA_UNICODE_ESCAPE = true;
PARSER BEGIN(StraightLineParser)
 package parser;
 public class StraightLineParser {}
PARSER_END(StraightLineParser)
SKIP: /* WHITE SPACE */
{ " " | "\t" | "\n" | "\r" | "\f" }
TOKEN:
{ < SEMICOLON: ";" >
 < ASSIGN: ":=" >
        more tokens here!
TOKEN: /* LITERALS */
{ < INTEGER_LITERAL: ( ["1"-"9"] (["0"-"9"])*</pre>
  "0")>
TOKEN: /* IDENTIFIERS */
{ < IDENTIFIER: <LETTER> (<LETTER> | <DIGIT>) * >
  < #LETTER: [ "a"-"z", "A"-"Z" ] >
 < #DIGIT: ["0"-"9" ] >
```

Rewriting our grammar

```
Goal
                  StmList
StmList
             → Stm (; Stm)*
             \rightarrow id := Exp
Stm
                  print "(" ExpList ")"
Exp
                  MulExp((+ | -) MulExp)*
             → PrimExp ((* | /) PrimExp ) *
MulExp
                  id
PrimExp
                  num
                  "(" StmList, Exp")"
ExpList
                  Exp (, Exp) *
```

We introduce a start rule, eliminate all leftrecursion, and establish precedence.

Grammar rules

The grammar rules directly reflect our BNF!

NB: We add some non-terminals to help our visitors.

```
void Goal() : {} { StmList() <EOF> }
void StmList() : {}{ Stm() ( "; " Stm() ) * }
void Stm() : {} { Assignment() | PrintStm() }
/* distinguish reading and writing Id */
void Assignment() : {} { WriteId() ":=" Exp() }
void WriteId() : {} { <IDENTIFIER> }
void PrintStm() : {} { "print" "(" ExpList() ")" }
void ExpList() : {} { Exp() ( AppendExp() ) * }
void AppendExp() : {} { "," Exp() }
void Exp() : {} { MulExp() ( PlusOp() | MinOp() ) * }
void PlusOp() : {} { "+" MulExp() }
void MinOp() : {} { "-" MulExp() }
void MulExp() : {} { PrimExp() ( MulOp() | DivOp() ) * }
void MulOp() : {} { "*" PrimExp() }
void DivOp() : {} { "/" PrimExp() }
void PrimExp() : {}{ ReadId() | Num() | StmExp() }
void ReadId() : {}{ <IDENTIFIER> }
void Num() : {} { <INTEGER LITERAL> }
void StmExp() : {}{ "(" StmList() "," Exp() ")" }
                                                       41
```

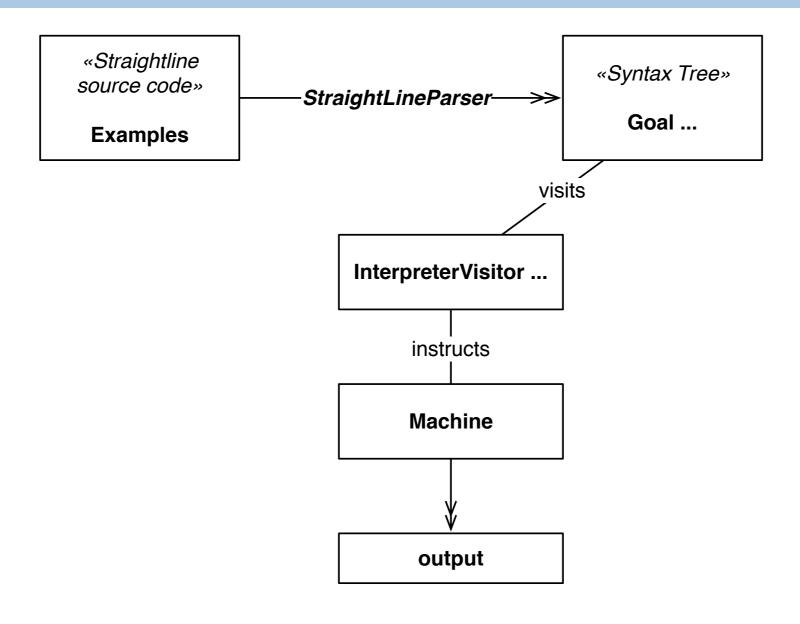
Java Tree Builder

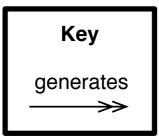
JTB automatically generates actions to build the syntax tree, and visitors to visit it.

original source LOC	441
generated source LOC	4912

```
// Generated by JTB 1.3.2
options {
   JAVA UNICODE ESCAPE = true;
PARSER BEGIN(StraightLineParser)
package parser;
import syntaxtree.*;
import java.util.Vector;
public class StraightLineParser
Goal Goal() :
   StmList n0;
   NodeToken n1;
   Token n2;
   n0=StmList()
   n2 = \langle EOF \rangle  {
      n2.beginColumn++; n2.endColumn++;
      n1 = JTBToolkit.makeNodeToken(n2);
   { return new Goal(n0,n1); }
                                          42
```

Straightline Interpreter Runtime





The interpreter

```
package interpreter;
import ...;
public class StraightLineInterpreter {
 Goal parse;
 StraightLineParser parser;
 public static void main(String [] args) {
   System.out.println(new StraightLineInterpreter(System.in).interpret());
 public StraightLineInterpreter(InputStream in) {
   parser = new StraightLineParser(in);
   this.initParse();
 private void initParse() {
   try { parse = parser.Goal(); }
   catch (ParseException e) { ... }
                                              The interpreter simply
                                              runs the parser and
 public String interpret() {
   assert(parse != null);
                                              visits the parse tree.
   Visitor visitor = new Visitor();
   visitor.visit(parse);
   return visitor.result();
```

An abstract machine for straight line code

```
package interpreter;
import java.util.*;
public class Machine {
 private Hashtable<String,Integer> store; // current values of variables
 private StringBuffer output;
                                          // print stream so far
 private int value;
                                         // result of current expression
 private Vector<Integer> vlist;
                                          // list of expressions computed
 public Machine() {
   store = new Hashtable<String,Integer>();
   output = new StringBuffer();
   setValue(0);
   vlist = new Vector<Integer>();
 void assignValue(String id) { store.put(id, getValue()); }
 void appendExp() { vlist.add(getValue()); }
 void printValues() {...}
 void setValue(int value) {...}
 int getValue() { return value; }
 void readValueFromId(String id) {
   assert isDefined(id); // precondition
   this.setValue(store.get(id));
 private boolean isDefined(String id) { return store.containsKey(id); }
 String result() { return this.output.toString(); }
```

The Visitor interacts with this machine as it visits nodes of the program.

The visitor

```
package interpreter;
import visitor.DepthFirstVisitor;
import syntaxtree.*;
public class Visitor extends DepthFirstVisitor {
 Machine machine:
 public Visitor() { machine = new Machine(); }
 public String result() { return machine.result(); }
 public void visit(Assignment n) {
   n.f0.accept(this);
                                     f0 \rightarrow WriteId()
   n.fl.accept(this);
                                     f1 → ":="
   n.f2.accept(this);
   String id = n.f0.f0.tokenImage;
                                     f2 \rightarrow Exp()
   machine.assignValue(id);
 public void visit(PrintStm n) { ... }
 public void visit(AppendExp n) { ... }
 public void visit(PlusOp n) { ... }
 public void visit(MinOp n) { ... }
 public void visit(MulOp n) { ... }
 public void visit(DivOp n) { ... }
 public void visit(ReadId n) { ... }
 public void visit(Num n) { ... }
```

The Visitor interprets interesting nodes by directly interacting with the abstract machine.

What you should know!

- Why do bottom-up parsers yield rightmost derivations?
- What is a "handle"? How is it used?
- What is "handle-pruning"? How does a shift-reduce parser work?
- When is a grammar LR(k)?
- ™ Which is better for hand-coded parsers, LL(1) or LR(1)?
- What kind of parsers does JavaCC generate?
- Mow does the Visitor pattern help you to implement parsers?

Can you answer these questions?

- What are "shift-reduce" errors?
- How do you eliminate them?
- ™ Which is more expressive? LL(k) or LR(k)?
- How would you implement the Visitor pattern in a dynamic language (without overloading)?
- How can you manipulate your grammar to simplify your JTB-based visitors?



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