Pushdown Automata and Parser

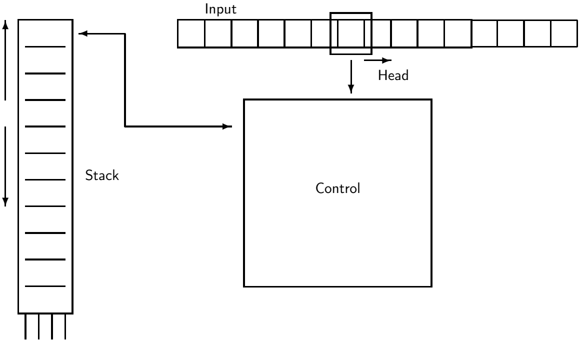
Reinhard Wilhelm
Universität des Saarlandes
wilhelm@cs.uni-sb.de
and
Mooly Sagiv
Tel Aviv University
sagiv@math.tau.ac.il

25. Oktober 2011

Pushdown Automata

Memory unboundedly extensible at one end,

- grows (by push),
- shrinks (by pop),
- test for emptiness.



Example Automaton

Accepted language $L = \{a^i\ b^i \mid i \geq 0\}$
Context Free Grammar $S \rightarrow aSb|\varepsilon$
Pushdown automaton

top-stack	input a	input b	input ε	\$
(0)	$\begin{pmatrix}1\\0\end{pmatrix}$	(3)	(3)	(4)
(1)	$\begin{pmatrix}1\\1\end{pmatrix}$	(3)	$\begin{pmatrix}2\\1\end{pmatrix}$	(3)
$\begin{pmatrix}2\\1\end{pmatrix}$	(3)	(2)	(3)	(3)
$\begin{pmatrix}2\\0\end{pmatrix}$	(3)	(3)	(3)	(4)

state 0: Initial state,
state 1: reading a's
state 2: reading b's
state 3: error state
state 4: final state.

Pushdown Automaton (PDA) Definition

A tuple $P = (V, Q, \Delta, q_0, F)$ where:

- V — **input-alphabet**
- Q — finite set of **states** (stack symbols)
- $q_0 \in Q$ — **initial state**
- $F \subseteq Q$ — **final states**
- $\Delta \subseteq (Q^+ \times (V \cup \{\varepsilon\})) \times Q^*$
- Alternatively: $\delta\colon (Q^+ \times (V \cup \{\varepsilon\})) \to 2^{Q^*}$ where δ is a partial function

The Language Accepted by a PDA

- PDA $P = (V, Q, \Delta, q_0, F)$
- For $\gamma \in Q^+$, $w \in V^*$, (γ, w) is a **configuration**
- The binary relation **step** on configurations is defined by: $(\gamma, aw) \vdash_P (\gamma', w)$ if
  - $\gamma \equiv \gamma_1 \, \gamma_2$
  - $\gamma' \equiv \gamma_1 \, \gamma_3$
  - $(\gamma_2, a, \gamma_3) \in \Delta$
- $\vdash_P^*$ is the **reflexive transitive closure** of $\vdash_P$
- The language accepted by P

$$L(P) = \{w \in V^* \mid \exists q_f \in F : (q_0, w) \vdash_M^* (q_f, \varepsilon)\}$$

Deterministic Pushdown Automaton

- For every $a \in V$, $(\gamma_1, a, \gamma_2), (\gamma_1', a, \gamma_2') \in \Delta$ such that γ_1' is a suffix of γ_1 implies
  - $\gamma_1 = \gamma_1'$ and
  - $\gamma_2 = \gamma_2'$
- There exist no $(\gamma_1, \varepsilon, \gamma_2), (\gamma_1', a, \gamma_2') \in \Delta$ such that $a \in V \cup \{\varepsilon\}$ and γ_1' is a suffix of γ_1 or vice versa.

Theoretical Results

Theorem

For every context free grammar G there exists a non-deterministic pushdown automaton P such that $L(G) = L(P)$

Proof: A PDA is given which emulates the original grammar.

Context Free Items

- A (context–free) **item** is a triple (A, α, β) where $A \rightarrow \alpha\beta \in P$
- An item (A, α, β) is denoted by $[A \rightarrow \alpha.\beta]$
- Interpretation:

  "In an attempt to recognize a word for A, a word for α has already been recognized"

  α — **history** of the item $[A \rightarrow \alpha.\beta]$
- $[A \rightarrow \alpha.]$ — A **complete** item
- IT_G — The set of items of G
- $hist([A_1 \rightarrow \alpha_1.\beta_1][A_2 \rightarrow \alpha_2.\beta_2]\ldots[A_n \rightarrow \alpha_n.\beta_n]) = \alpha_1\alpha_2\ldots\alpha_n$

Extended Context Free Grammar

- New start symbol S'
- Additional production $S' \rightarrow S$

The Item Pushdown Automaton

- A context-free-grammar $G = (V_N, V_T, P, S)$
- $P_G = (V_T, IT_G, \delta, [S' \rightarrow .S], \{[S' \rightarrow S.]\})$
- Control δ

top-stack	**inp.**	**new top-stack**	**comment**
$([X \rightarrow \beta.Y\gamma])$	ε	$([X \rightarrow \beta.Y\gamma][Y \rightarrow .\alpha])$	$Y \rightarrow \alpha \in P$ "expand"
$([X \rightarrow \beta.a\gamma])$	a	$([X \rightarrow \beta a.\gamma])$	"shift"
$([X \rightarrow \beta.Y\gamma][Y \rightarrow \alpha.])$	ε	$([X \rightarrow \beta Y.\gamma])$	"reduce"

Sources of **nondeterminism**: expansion transitions;
there may be several productions for Y.

Example:

$P = \{1 : S' \to S, 2 : S \to \varepsilon, 3 : S \to aSb\}$

top-stack	input	new top-stack	comment
$[S' \to .S]$	ε	$[S' \to .S][S \to .]$	$e_{1,2}$
$[S' \to .S]$	ε	$[S' \to .S][S \to .aSb]$	$e_{1,3}$
$[S \to a.Sb]$	ε	$[S \to a.Sb][S \to .]$	$e_{2,2}$
$[S \to a.Sb]$	ε	$[S \to a.Sb][S \to .aSb]$	$e_{2,3}$
$[S \to .aSb]$	a	$[S \to a.Sb]$	s_1
$[S \to aS.b]$	b	$[S \to aSb.]$	s_2
$[S' \to .S][S \to .]$	ε	$[S' \to S.]$	r_1
$[S' \to .S][S \to aSb.]$	ε	$[S' \to S.]$	r_2
$[S \to a.Sb][S \to .]$	ε	$[S \to aS.b]$	r_3
$[S \to a.Sb][S \to aSb.]$	ε	$[S \to aS.b]$	r_4

Top-Stack	Input	New Top-Stack
$[S \to .E]$	ε	$[S \to .E][E \to .E + T]$
$[S \to .E]$	ε	$[S \to .E][E \to .T]$
$[E \to .E + T]$	ε	$[E \to .E + T][E \to .E + T]$
$[E \to .E + T]$	ε	$[E \to .E + T][E \to .T]$
$[F \to (.E)]$	ε	$[F \to (.E)][E \to .E + T]$
$[F \to (.E)]$	ε	$[F \to (.E)][E \to .T]$
$[E \to .T]$	ε	$[E \to .T][T \to .T * F]$
$[E \to .T]$	ε	$[E \to .T][T \to .F]$
$[T \to .T * F]$	ε	$[T \to .T * F][T \to .T * F]$
$[T \to .T * F]$	ε	$[T \to .T * F][T \to .F]$
$[E \to E + .T]$	ε	$[E \to E + .T][T \to .T * F]$
$[E \to E + .T]$	ε	$[E \to E + .T][T \to .F]$
$[T \to .F]$	ε	$[T \to .F][F \to .(E)]$
$[T \to .F]$	ε	$[T \to .F][F \to .\mathbf{id}]$
$[T \to T * .F]$	ε	$[T \to T * .F][F \to .(E)]$
$[T \to T * .F]$	ε	$[T \to T * .F][F \to .\mathbf{id}]$

Top-Stack	Input	New Top-Stack
$[F \to .(E)]$	(	$[F \to (.E)]$
$[F \to .\textbf{id}]$	**id**	$[F \to \textbf{id}.]$
$[F \to (E.)]$	)	$[E \to (E).]$
$[E \to E. + T]$	$+$	$[E \to E + .T]$
$[T \to T. * F]$	$*$	$[T \to T * .F]$
$[T \to .F][F \to \textbf{id}.]$	ε	$[T \to F.]$
$[T \to T * .F][F \to \textbf{id}.]$	ε	$[T \to T * F.]$
$[T \to .F][F \to (E).]$	ε	$[T \to F.]$
$[T \to T * .F][F \to (E).]$	ε	$[T \to T * F.]$
$[T \to .T * F][T \to F.]$	ε	$[T \to T. * F]$
$[E \to .T][T \to F.]$	ε	$[E \to T.]$
$[E \to E + .T][T \to F.]$	ε	$[E \to E + T.]$
$[E \to E + .T][T \to T * F.]$	ε	$[E \to E + T.]$
$[T \to .T * F][T \to T * F.]$	ε	$[T \to T. * F]$
$[E \to .T][T \to T * F.]$	ε	$[E \to T.]$
$[F \to (.E)][E \to T.]$	ε	$[F \to (E.)]$
$[F \to (.E)][E \to E + T.]$	ε	$[F \to (E.)]$
$[E \to .E + T][E \to T.]$	ε	$[E \to E. + T]$
$[E \to .E + T][E \to E + T.]$	ε	$[E \to E. + T]$
$[S \to .E][E \to T.]$	ε	$[S \to E.]$
$[S \to .E][E \to E + T.]$	ε	$[S \to E.]$

Accepting $id + id * id$

Stack	Remaining Input
$[S \to .E]$	$\text{id} + \text{id} * \text{id}$
$[S \to .E][E \to .E + T]$	$\text{id} + \text{id} * \text{id}$
$[S \to .E][E \to .E + T][E \to .T]$	$\text{id} + \text{id} * \text{id}$
$[S \to .E][E \to .E + T][E \to .T][T \to .F]$	$\text{id} + \text{id} * \text{id}$
$[S \to .E][E \to .E + T][E \to .T][T \to .F][F \to .\text{id}]$	$\text{id} + \text{id} * \text{id}$
$[S \to .E][E \to .E + T][E \to .T][T \to .F][F \to \text{id}.]$	$+\text{id} * \text{id}$
$[S \to .E][E \to .E + T][E \to .T][T \to F.]$	$+\text{id} * \text{id}$
$[S \to .E][E \to .E + T][E \to T.]$	$+\text{id} * \text{id}$
$[S \to .E][E \to E. + T]$	$+\text{id} * \text{id}$
$[S \to .E][E \to E + .T]$	$\text{id} * \text{id}$
$[S \to .E][E \to E + .T][T \to .T * F]$	$\text{id} * \text{id}$
$[S \to .E][E \to E + .T][T \to .T * F][T \to .F]$	$\text{id} * \text{id}$
$[S \to .E][E \to E + .T][T \to .T * F][T \to .F][F \to .\text{id}]$	$\text{id} * \text{id}$
$[S \to .E][E \to E + .T][T \to .T * F][T \to .F][F \to \text{id}.]$	$*\text{id}$
$[S \to .E][E \to E + .T][T \to .T * F][T \to F.]$	$*\text{id}$
$[S \to .E][E \to E + .T][T \to T. * F]$	$*\text{id}$
$[S \to .E][E \to E + .T][T \to T * .F]$	id
$[S \to .E][E \to E + .T][T \to T * .F][F \to .\text{id}]$	id
$[S \to .E][E \to E + .T][T \to T * .F][F \to \text{id}.]$	
$[S \to .E][E \to E + .T][T \to T * F.]$	
$[S \to .E][E \to E + T.]$	
$[S \to E.]$	

The Simulation Lemma

Lemma

If $([S' \to .S], uv) \vdash^*_{P_G} (\rho, v)$ *then* $hist(\rho) \overset{*}{\underset{G}{\Longrightarrow}} u$

Corollary: $L(P_G) \subseteq L(G)$

The Other Direction

Lemma

Let $A \in V_N$ and $w \in V_T^*$.
If $A \overset{*}{\underset{G}{\Longrightarrow}} w$, there exists $A \rightarrow \alpha \in P$ such that for all $\rho \in IT_G^*$ and $v \in V_T^*$

$$(\rho[A \rightarrow .\alpha], wv) \vdash_{P_G}^{*} (\rho[A \rightarrow \alpha.], v)$$

Corollary: $L(P_G) \supseteq L(G)$

Automaton with Output

A tuple $P = (V, Q, \Delta, O, q_0, F)$ where:

- V — **input-alphabet** O — **output-alphabet**
- Q — finite set of **states** $q_0 \in Q$ — **initial state** $F \subseteq Q$ — **final states**
- $\Delta \subseteq (Q^+ \times (V \cup \{\varepsilon\})) \times Q^* \times (O \cup \{\varepsilon\})$
- Alternatively:
  $\delta\colon (Q^+ \times (V \cup \{\varepsilon\})) \to 2^{Q^*} \times (O \cup \{\varepsilon\})$
  where δ is a partial function

Left/Predictive/Top-Down Parser

$P_G^l = (V_T, IT_G, P, \delta_l, [S' \rightarrow .S], \{[S' \rightarrow S.]\})$ where

$\delta_l([X \rightarrow \beta.Y\gamma], \varepsilon) = \{([X \rightarrow \beta.Y\gamma][Y \rightarrow .\alpha], Y \rightarrow \alpha) \mid Y \rightarrow \alpha \in P\}$

Configuration: $IT_G^+ \times V_T^* \times P^*$

Step : $(\rho[X \rightarrow \beta.Y\gamma], w, o) \vdash_{P_G^l} (\rho([X \rightarrow \beta.Y\gamma][Y \rightarrow .\alpha], w, o(Y \rightarrow \alpha))$

Right/Bottom-Up Parser

$P_G^r = (V_T, IT_G, P, \delta_r, [S' \to .S], \{[S' \to S.]\})$ where

$$\delta_r([X \to \beta.Y\gamma][Y \to \alpha.], \varepsilon) = \{([X \to \beta Y.\gamma], Y \to \alpha)\}$$

Configuration: $IT_G^+ \times V_T^* \times P^*$
Step: $(\rho[X \to \beta.Y\gamma][Y \to \alpha.], w, o) \vdash_{P_G^r} (\rho([X \to \beta Y.\gamma], w, o(Y \to \alpha)))$

Deterministic Parsers

LL(k): Deterministic left parsers

- Read the input from left to right
- Find leftmost derivation
- Take decisions as early as possible, i.e. on expansion
- Use k symbols look ahead to decide about expansions

LR(k): Deterministic right parsers

- Read the input from left to right
- Find rightmost derivation in reverse order
- Delay decisions as long as possible, i.e. until reduction
- Use k tokens look ahead to
  - decide whether to shift or reduce (in “shift-reduce-conflicts”)
  - decide by which rule to reduce (in “reduce-reduce-conflicts”)

Example: Predictive Parser

$$S' \to S, S \to aSb|\varepsilon$$

- 1-symbol look ahead for expansions

top-stack	LA	new top-stack	used production
$([S' \to .S])$	$\$$	$\begin{pmatrix} [S \to .] \\ [S' \to .S]\} \end{pmatrix}$	$S \to \varepsilon$
$([S' \to .S])$	a	$\begin{pmatrix} [S \to .aSb] \\ [S' \to .S]\} \end{pmatrix}$	$S \to aSb$
$([S \to a.Sb])$	b	$\begin{pmatrix} [S \to .] \\ [S \to a.Sb] \end{pmatrix}$	$S \to \varepsilon$
$([S \to a.Sb])$	a	$\begin{pmatrix} [S \to .aSb] \\ [S \to a.Sb] \end{pmatrix}$	$S \to aSb$

- shift rules

top-stack	Input	new top-stack
$([S \to .aSb])$	a	$([S \to a.Sb])$
$([S \to aS.b])$	b	$([S \to aSb.])$

- reduction rules

top-stack	Input	new top-stack
$\begin{pmatrix} [S \to .] \\ [S' \to .S] \end{pmatrix}$	ε	$([S' \to S.])$
$\begin{pmatrix} [S \to aSb.] \\ [S' \to .S] \end{pmatrix}$	ε	$([S' \to S.])$
$\begin{pmatrix} [S \to .] \\ [S \to a.Sb] \end{pmatrix}$	ε	$([S \to aS.b])$
$\begin{pmatrix} [S \to aSb.] \\ [S \to a.Sb] \end{pmatrix}$	ε	$([S \to aS.b])$