



Programming Languages and Compilers (CS 421)

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<https://courses.grainger.illinois.edu/cs421/fa2023/>

Based heavily on slides by Elsa Gunter, which were based in part on slides by Mattox Beckman, as updated by Vikram Adve and Gul Agha



Objectives for Today

- **Reminder:** We want to turn strings (code) into computer instructions
- Done in **phases**
 - Turn strings into abstract syntax trees (**parse**)
 - Translate abstract syntax trees into executable instructions (**interpret** or **compile**)
- Thursday, we showed much of **parsing**, including how to use a **parser generator**
- Today we will learn **the algorithm beneath** the generated parser



Objectives for Today (TODO update)

- **Reminder:** We want to turn strings (code) into computer instructions
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- Thursday, we showed much of **parsing**, including how to use a **parser generator**
- Today we will learn **the algorithm beneath** the generated parser



Questions from last week?



Reminder: Implementing Parsers



Example - Base types

(* File: expr.ml *)

type expr =

- | Term_as_Expr of term
- | Plus_Expr of (term * expr)
- | Minus_Expr of (term * expr)

and term =

- | Factor_as_Term of factor
- | Mult_Term of (factor * term)
- | Div_Term of (factor * term)

and factor =

- | Id_as_Factor of string
- | Parenthesized_Expr_as_Factor of expr

Example - Lexer (exprlex.mll)

```
{ (*open Exprparse*) }  
let numeric = ['0' - '9']  
let letter = ['a' - 'z' 'A' - 'Z']  
rule token = parse  
| "+" {Plus_token}  
| "-" {Minus_token}  
| "*" {Times_token}  
| "/" {Divide_token}  
| "(" {Left_parenthesis}  
| ")" {Right_parenthesis}  
| letter (letter|numeric|"_" )* as id {Id_token id}  
| [' ' '\t' '\n'] {token lexbuf}  
| eof {EOL}
```



Example - Parser (exprparse.mly)

```
%{ open Expr
```

```
%}
```

```
%token <string> Id_token
```

```
%token Left_parenthesis Right_parenthesis
```

```
%token Times_token Divide_token
```

```
%token Plus_token Minus_token
```

```
%token EOL
```

```
%start main
```

```
%type <expr> main
```

```
%%
```




Example - Parser (exprparse.mly)

expr:

| term { Term_as_Expr \$1 }

| term Plus_token expr { Plus_Expr (\$1, \$3) }

| term Minus_token expr { Minus_Expr (\$1, \$3) }

term:

| factor { Factor_as_Term \$1 }

| factor Times_token term { Mult_Term (\$1, \$3) }

| factor Divide_token term { Div_Term (\$1, \$3) }



Example - Parser (exprparse.mly)

factor:

| Id_token { Id_as_Factor \$1 }

| Left_parenthesis expr Right_parenthesis
{Parenthesized_Expr_as_Factor \$2 }

main:

| expr EOL { \$1 }



Example - Using Parser

```
# #use "expr.ml";;
```

```
...
```

```
# #use "exprparse.ml";;
```

```
...
```

```
# #use "exprlex.ml";;
```

```
...
```

```
# let test s =
```

```
  let lexbuf = Lexing.from_string (s^"\n") in  
    main token lexbuf;;
```



Example - Using Parser

```
# test "a + b";;
```

```
- : expr =
```

```
Plus_Expr
```

```
(Factor_as_Term
```

```
(Id_as_Factor "a"),
```

```
Term_as_Expr
```

```
(Factor_as_Term (Id_as_Factor "b"))))
```



Example - Using Parser

```
# test "a + b";;
```

```
- : expr =
```

```
Plus_Expr
```

```
(Factor_as_Term
```

```
(Id_as_Factor "a"),
```

```
Term_as_Expr
```

```
(Factor_as_Term (Id_as_Factor "b"))))
```

How did the parser generator actually generate something that parses input strings like this, given the grammar we provided?

Implementing Parsers



The Parsing Algorithm



LR Parsing

- Read tokens **left to right** (L)
- Create a **rightmost derivation** (R)
- How is this possible?
 - Start at the **bottom (left)** and **work your way up**
 - **Last step** has only **one non-terminal** to be replaced, so is rightmost
 - Working backwards, **replace mixed strings by non-terminals**
 - Always proceed so that there are **no non-terminals to the right** of the string to be replaced



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More Details Later



LR Parsing Example



Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

$\langle \text{Sum} \rangle ::= 0 \mid 1 \mid \langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \langle \text{Sum} \rangle \mid (\langle \text{Sum} \rangle)$

Problem: How can we derive $(0 + 1) + 0 : \langle \text{Sum} \rangle$?



Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

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Problem: How can we derive $(0 + 1) + 0 : \langle \text{Sum} \rangle$?

Work from the **bottom up**



Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

<Sum> =>

Work from the **bottom up**

□ (0 + 1) + 0

LR Parsing Example



Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

<Sum> =>

Work from the **bottom up**

$(\square 0 + 1) + 0$
 $= \square (0 + 1) + 0$ **shift**

LR Parsing Example



Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

<Sum> =>

$(0 \square + 1) + 0$
= $(\square 0 + 1) + 0$ **shift**
= $\square (0 + 1) + 0$ **shift**

LR Parsing Example



Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

<Sum> =>

Now we want to replace

$$\begin{aligned} & (0 \square + 1) + 0 \\ = & (\square 0 + 1) + 0 && \text{shift} \\ = & \square (0 + 1) + 0 && \text{shift} \end{aligned}$$

LR Parsing Example



Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

<Sum> =>

	(<Sum> □ + 1) + 0	
=>	(0 □ + 1) + 0	reduce
=	(□ 0 + 1) + 0	shift
=	□ (0 + 1) + 0	shift

LR Parsing Example

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

<Sum> =>

Keep working **up**

$(\langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 1) + 0$
 $\Rightarrow (0 \square + 1) + 0$ **reduce**
 $= (\square 0 + 1) + 0$ shift
 $= \square (0 + 1) + 0$ shift

LR Parsing Example

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

<Sum> =>

Keep working **up**

	(<Sum> + □ 1) + 0	
=	(<Sum> □ + 1) + 0	shift
=>	(0 □ + 1) + 0	reduce
=	(□ 0 + 1) + 0	shift
=	□ (0 + 1) + 0	shift

LR Parsing Example

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

<Sum> =>

	(<Sum> + 1 □) + 0	
=	(<Sum> + □ 1) + 0	shift
=	(<Sum> □ + 1) + 0	shift
=>	(0 □ + 1) + 0	reduce
=	(□ 0 + 1) + 0	shift
=	□ (0 + 1) + 0	shift

LR Parsing Example

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

<Sum> =>

Now what?

	(<Sum> + 1 □) + 0	
=	(<Sum> + □ 1) + 0	shift
=	(<Sum> □ + 1) + 0	shift
=>	(0 □ + 1) + 0	reduce
=	(□ 0 + 1) + 0	shift
=	□ (0 + 1) + 0	shift

LR Parsing Example

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

<Sum> =>

	(<Sum> + <Sum> □) + 0	
=>	(<Sum> + 1 □) + 0	reduce
=	(<Sum> + □ 1) + 0	shift
=	(<Sum> □ + 1) + 0	shift
=>	(0 □ + 1) + 0	reduce
=	(□ 0 + 1) + 0	shift
=	□ (0 + 1) + 0	shift

LR Parsing Example

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

<Sum> =>

	(<Sum> □) + 0	
=>	(<Sum> + <Sum> □) + 0	reduce
=>	(<Sum> + 1 □) + 0	reduce
=	(<Sum> + □ 1) + 0	shift
=	(<Sum> □ + 1) + 0	shift
=>	(0 □ + 1) + 0	reduce
=	(□ 0 + 1) + 0	shift
=	□ (0 + 1) + 0	shift

LR Parsing Example

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

<Sum> =>

=	(<Sum>) □ + 0	
=	(<Sum> □) + 0	shift
=>	(<Sum> + <Sum> □) + 0	reduce
=>	(<Sum> + 1 □) + 0	reduce
=	(<Sum> + □ 1) + 0	shift
=	(<Sum> □ + 1) + 0	shift
=>	(0 □ + 1) + 0	reduce
=	(□ 0 + 1) + 0	shift
=	□ (0 + 1) + 0	shift

LR Parsing Example

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

<Sum> =>

	<Sum> □ + 0	
=>	(<Sum>) □ + 0	reduce
=	(<Sum> □) + 0	shift
=>	(<Sum> + <Sum> □) + 0	reduce
=>	(<Sum> + 1 □) + 0	reduce
=	(<Sum> + □ 1) + 0	shift
=	(<Sum> □ + 1) + 0	shift
=>	(0 □ + 1) + 0	reduce
=	(□ 0 + 1) + 0	shift
=	□ (0 + 1) + 0	shift

LR Parsing Example

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

<Sum> =>

	<Sum> + □ 0	
=	<Sum> □ + 0	shift
=>	(<Sum>) □ + 0	reduce
=	(<Sum> □) + 0	shift
=>	(<Sum> + <Sum> □) + 0	reduce
=>	(<Sum> + 1 □) + 0	reduce
=	(<Sum> + □ 1) + 0	shift
=	(<Sum> □ + 1) + 0	shift
=>	(0 □ + 1) + 0	reduce
=	(□ 0 + 1) + 0	shift
=	□ (0 + 1) + 0	shift

LR Parsing Example

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

<Sum>	=>		
	=	<Sum> + 0 □	
	=	<Sum> + □ 0	shift
	=	<Sum> □ + 0	shift
	=>	(<Sum>) □ + 0	reduce
	=	(<Sum> □) + 0	shift
	=>	(<Sum> + <Sum> □) + 0	reduce
	=>	(<Sum> + 1 □) + 0	reduce
	=	(<Sum> + □ 1) + 0	shift
	=	(<Sum> □ + 1) + 0	shift
	=>	(0 □ + 1) + 0	reduce
	=	(□ 0 + 1) + 0	shift
	=	□ (0 + 1) + 0	shift

LR Parsing Example

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

<Sum>	=>	<Sum> + <Sum >	□	
	=>	<Sum> + 0	□	reduce
	=	<Sum> +	□ 0	shift
	=	<Sum>	□ + 0	shift
	=>	(<Sum>)	□ + 0	reduce
	=	(<Sum>	□) + 0	shift
	=>	(<Sum> + <Sum>	□) + 0	reduce
	=>	(<Sum> + 1	□) + 0	reduce
	=	(<Sum> +	□ 1) + 0	shift
	=	(<Sum>	□ + 1) + 0	shift
	=>	(0	□ + 1) + 0	reduce
	=	(□ 0 + 1) + 0	shift
	=	□	(0 + 1) + 0	shift

LR Parsing Example

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

$\langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square$	$\Rightarrow \langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square$	reduce
	$\Rightarrow \langle \text{Sum} \rangle + 0 \square$	reduce
	$= \langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \square 0$	shift
	$= \langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 0$	shift
	$\Rightarrow (\langle \text{Sum} \rangle) \square + 0$	reduce
	$= (\langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square) + 0$	shift
	$\Rightarrow (\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square) + 0$	reduce
	$\Rightarrow (\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + 1 \square) + 0$	reduce
	$= (\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \square 1) + 0$	shift
	$= (\langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 1) + 0$	shift
	$\Rightarrow (0 \square + 1) + 0$	reduce
	$= (\square 0 + 1) + 0$	shift
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LR Parsing Example

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

$\langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square$	$\Rightarrow \langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square$	reduce
	$\Rightarrow \langle \text{Sum} \rangle + 0 \square$	reduce
	$= \langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \square 0$	shift
	$= \langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 0$	shift
	$\Rightarrow (\langle \text{Sum} \rangle) \square + 0$	reduce
	$= (\langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square) + 0$	shift
	$\Rightarrow (\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square) + 0$	reduce
	$\Rightarrow (\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + 1 \square) + 0$	reduce
	$= (\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \square 1) + 0$	shift
	$= (\langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 1) + 0$	shift
	$\Rightarrow (0 \square + 1) + 0$	reduce
	$= (\square 0 + 1) + 0$	shift
	$= \square (0 + 1) + 0$	shift

LR Parsing Example



Questions so far?



Building the Parse Tree

LR Parsing Example



Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

(0 + 1) + 0



*

LR Parsing Example



Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

(0 + 1) + 0





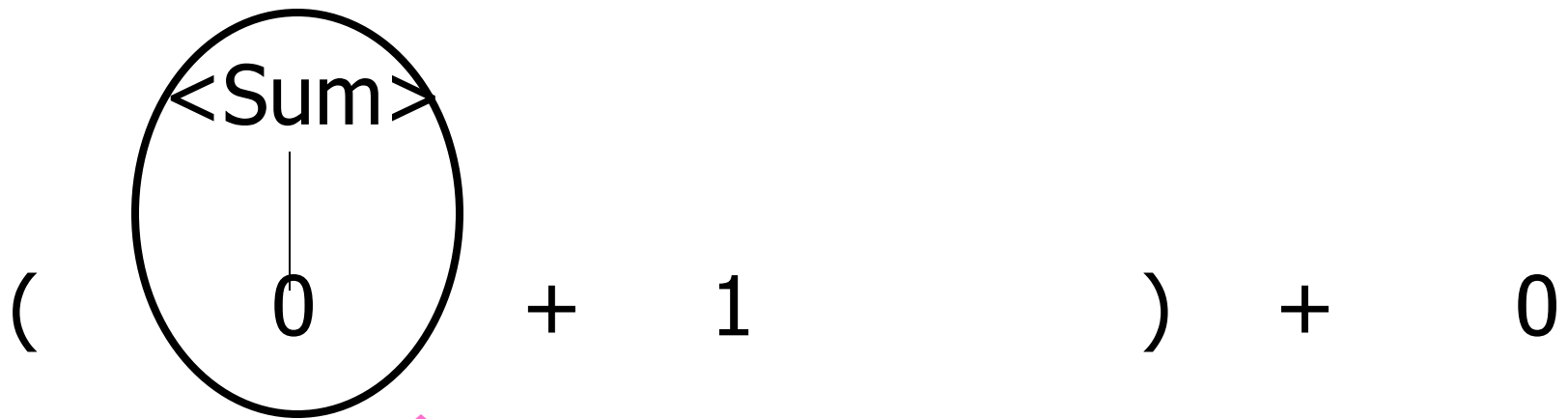
Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

(0 + 1) + 0



LR Parsing Example

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s



LR Parsing Example

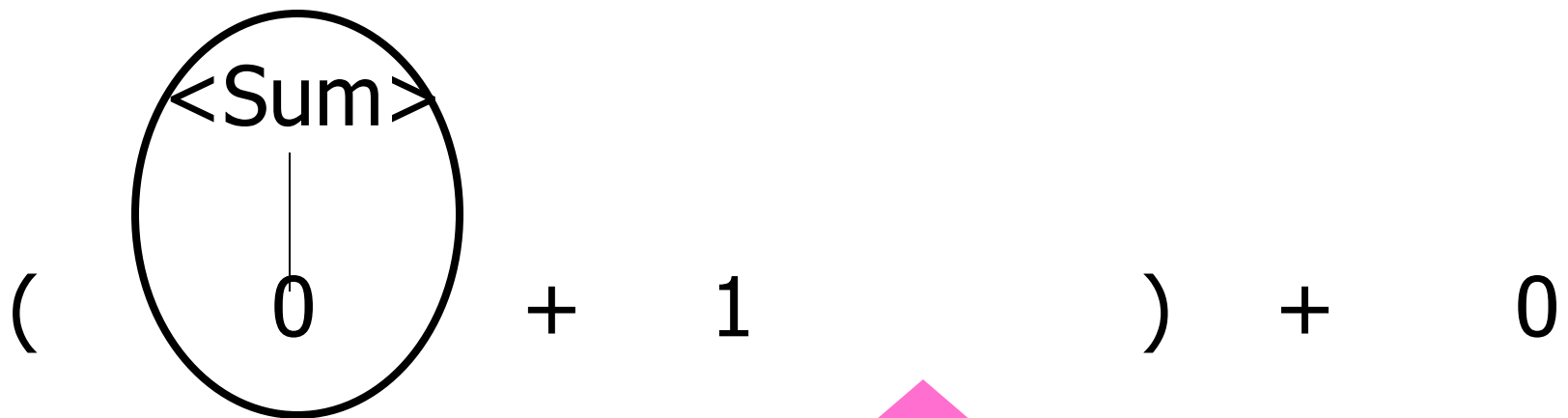
Example: Sums of 0s and 1s



LR Parsing Example

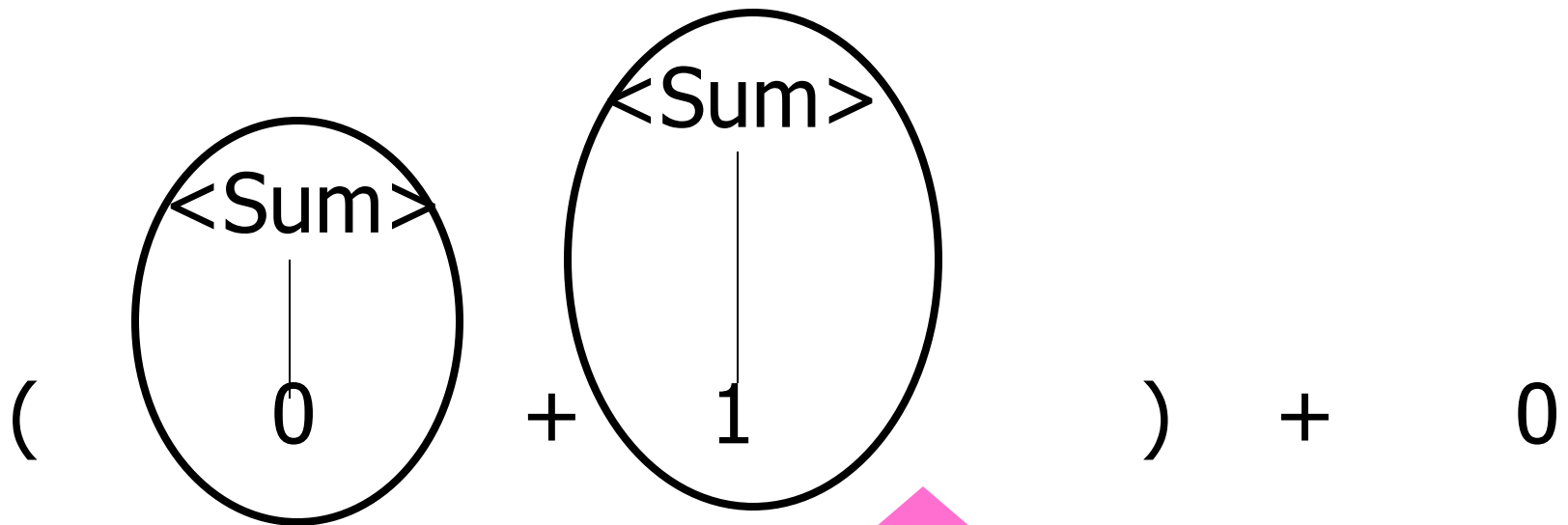


Example: Sums of 0s and 1s



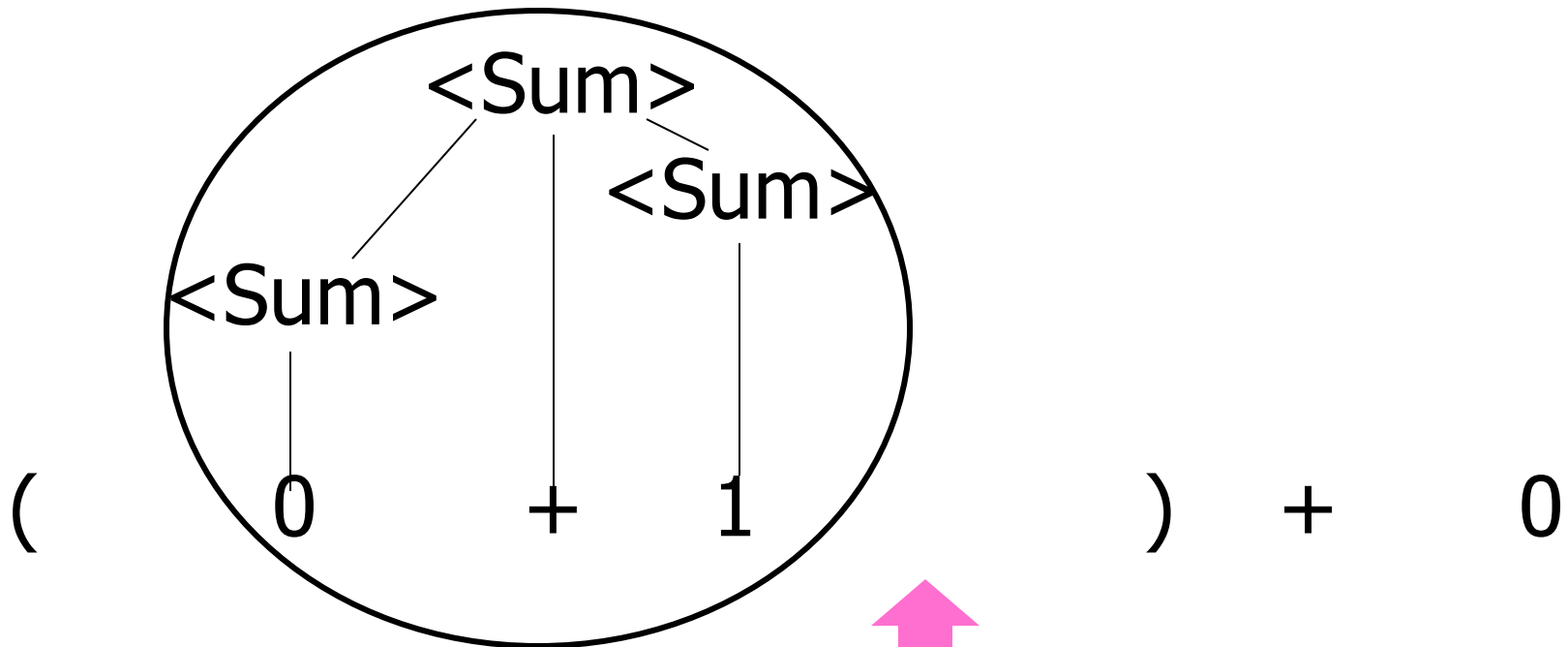
LR Parsing Example

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s



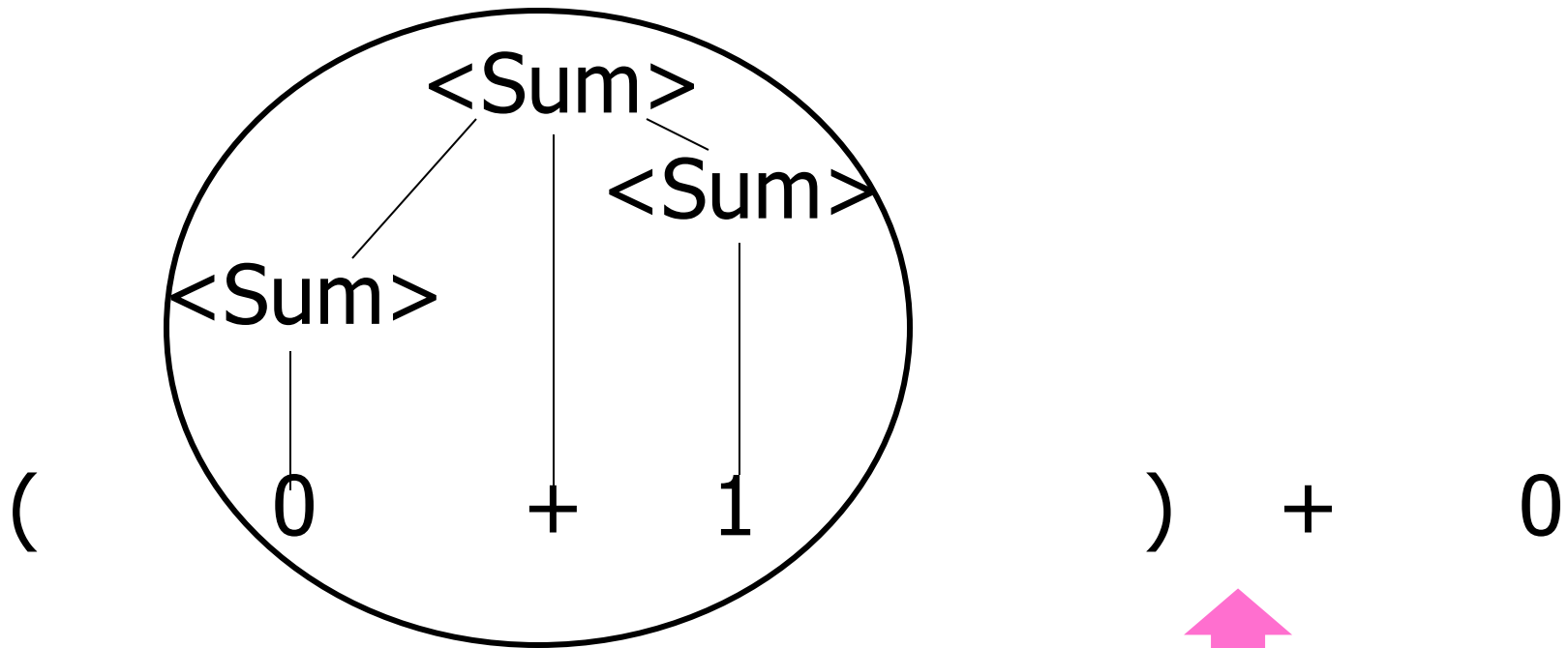
LR Parsing Example

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s



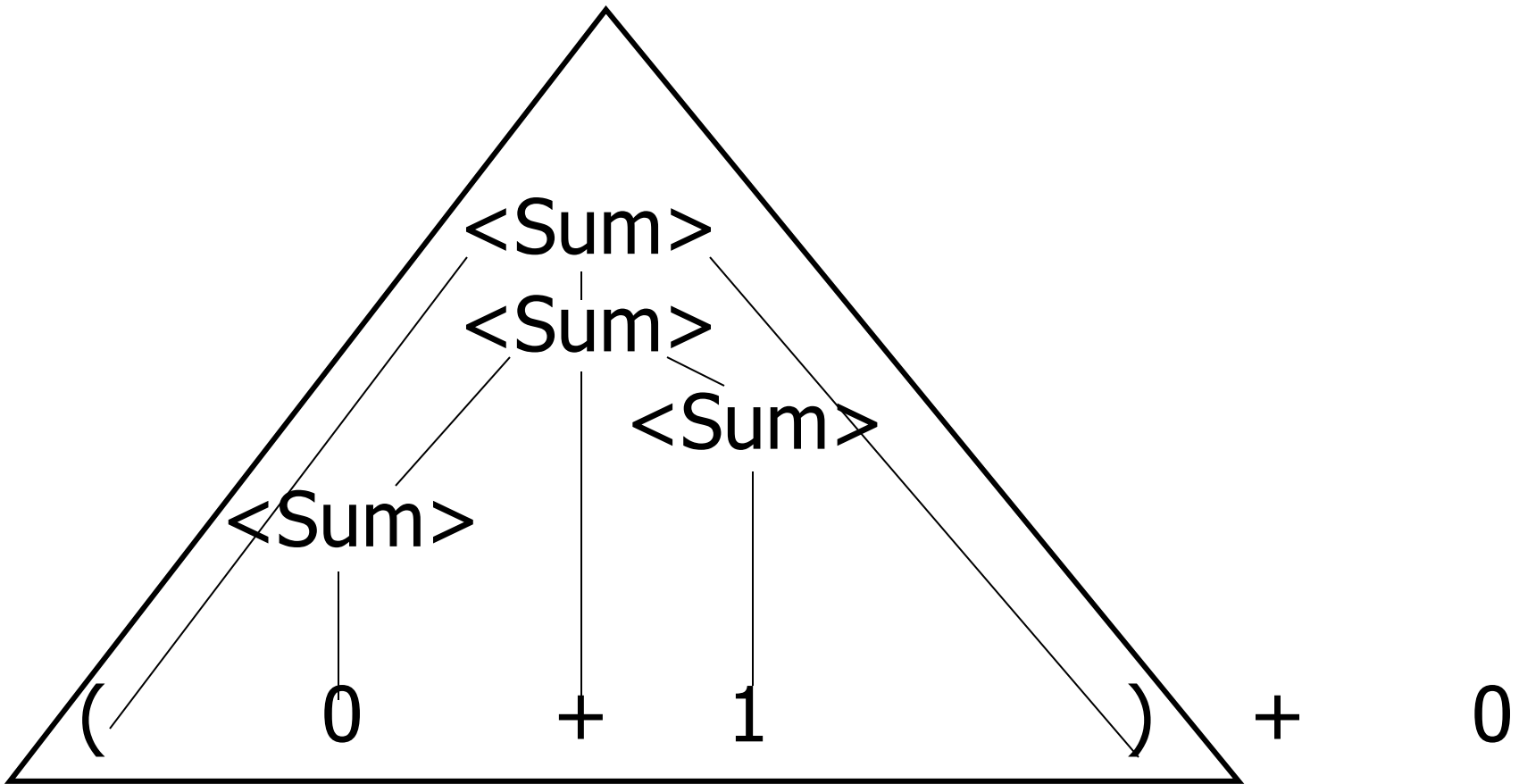
LR Parsing Example

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s



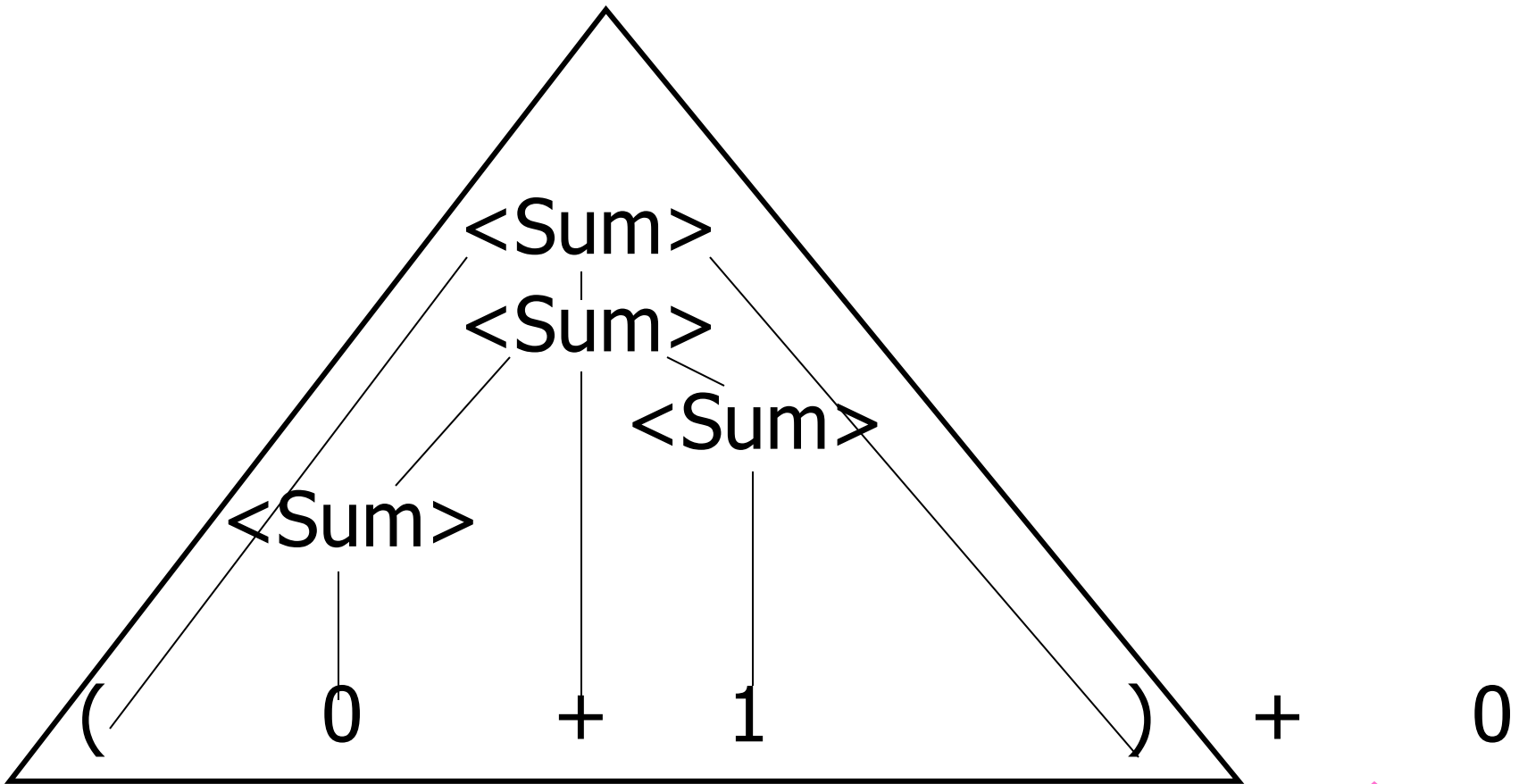
LR Parsing Example

Example



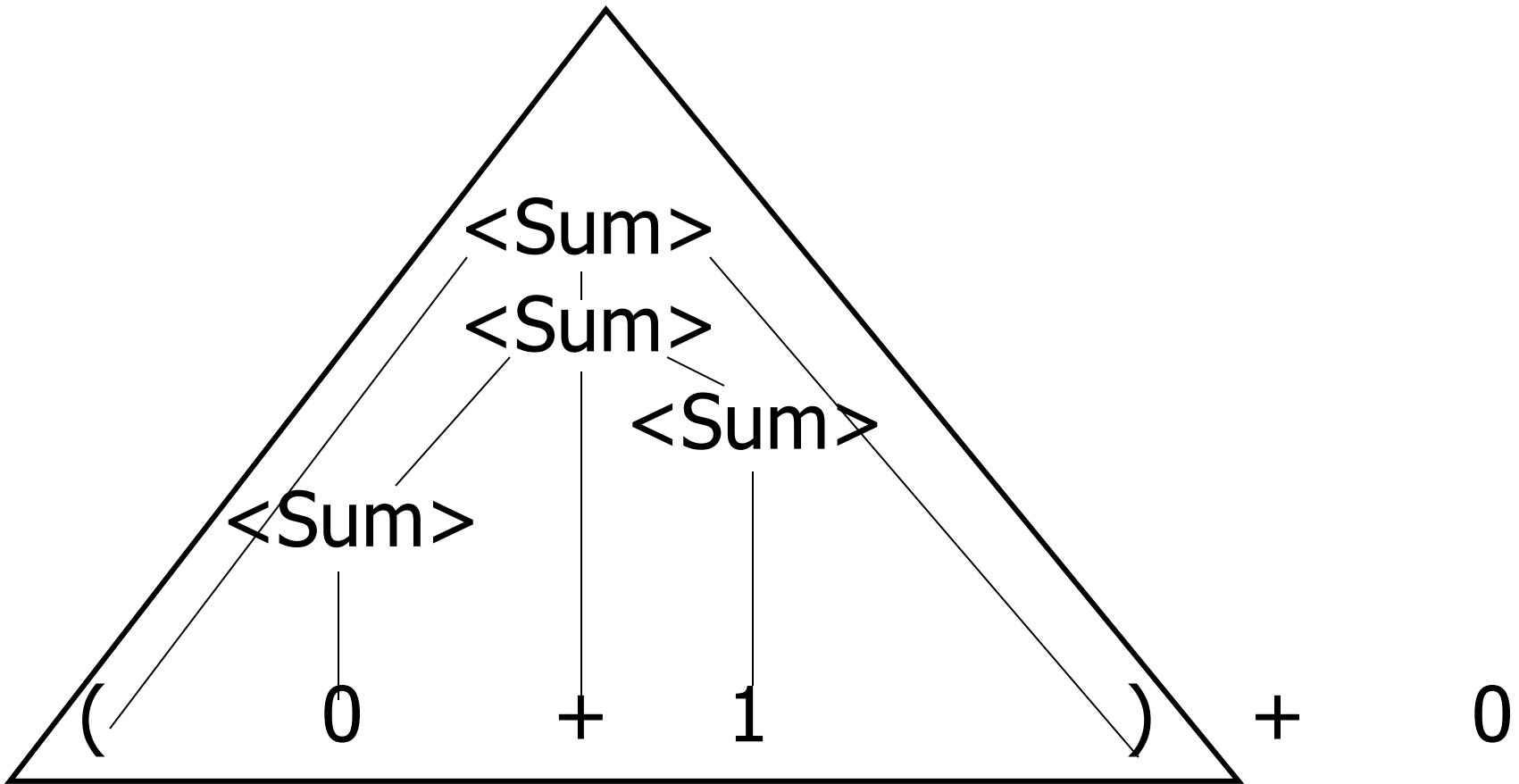
LR Parsing Example

Example



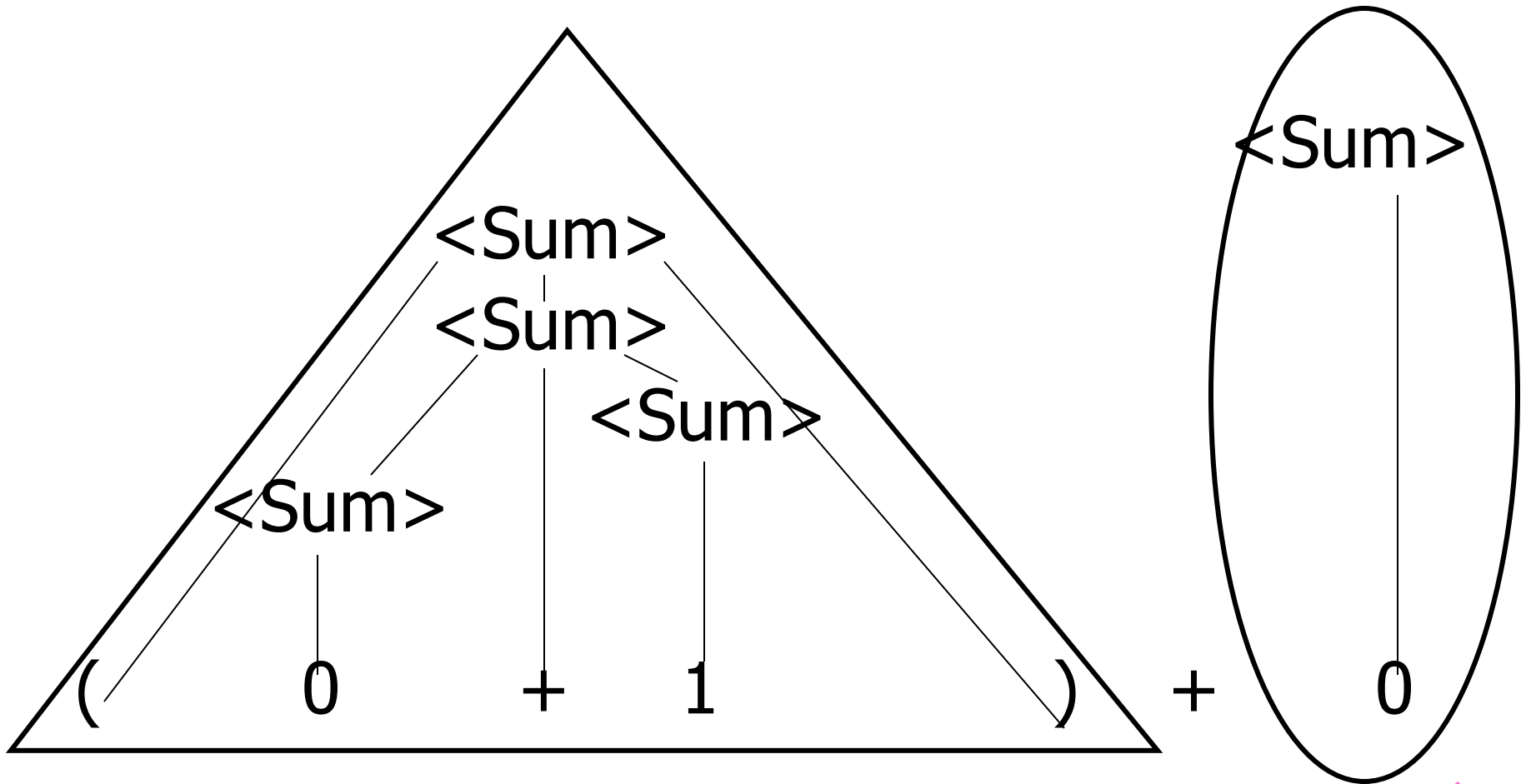
LR Parsing Example

Example



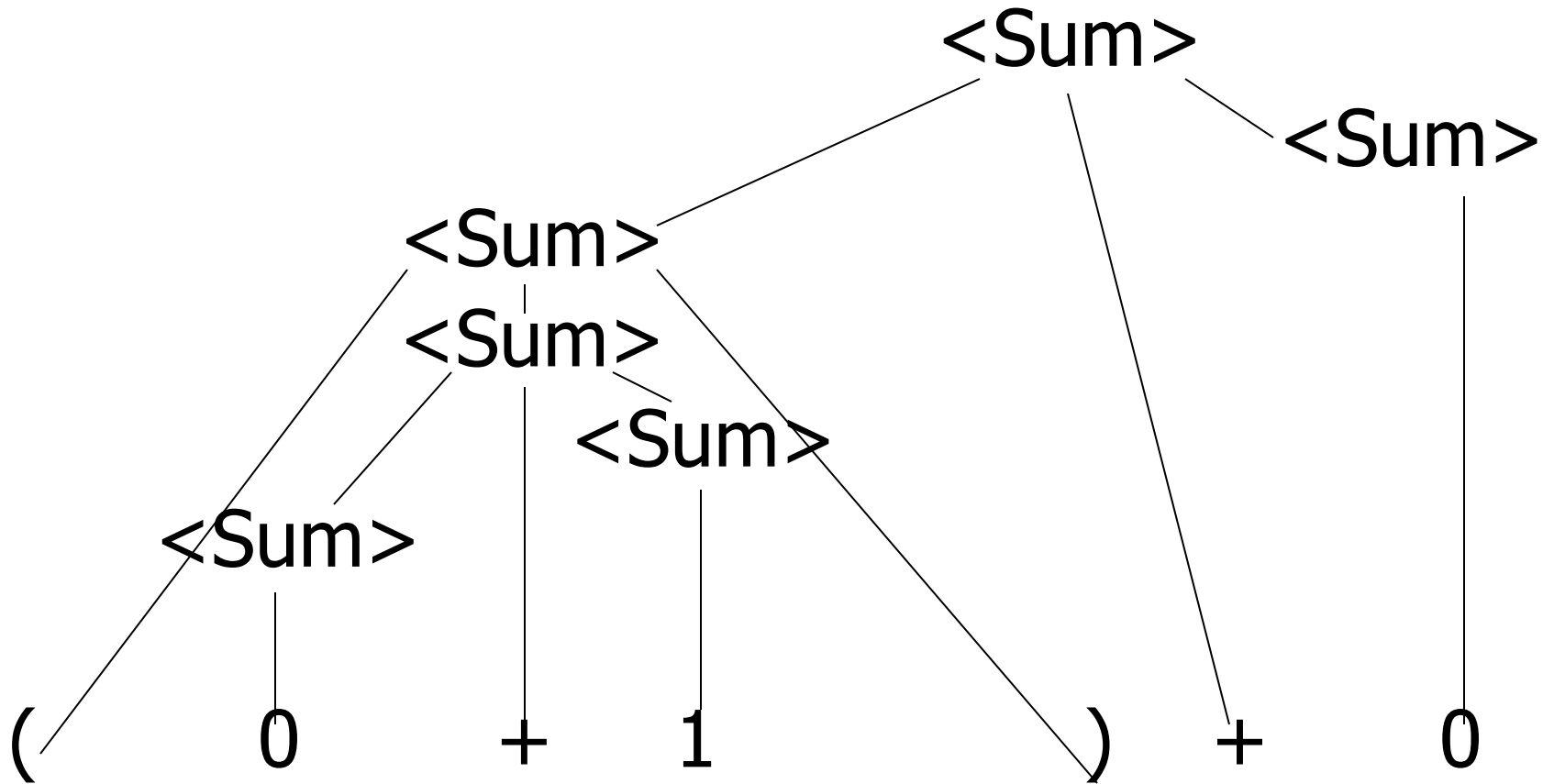
LR Parsing Example

Example



LR Parsing Example

Example



LR Parsing Example



Questions so far?



How LR Parsing Works



LR Parsing Tables

- Build a pair of tables, **Action** and **Goto**, from the grammar
 - This is the hardest part; we omit here
 - Rows labeled by states
 - For **Action**, columns labeled by terminals and “end-of-tokens” marker (more generally strings of terminals of fixed length)
 - For **Goto**, columns labeled by non-terminals



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 - For **Goto**, columns labeled by non-terminals



Action and Goto Tables

- Given a state and the next input, **Action** table says either
 - **shift** and go to state n , or
 - **reduce** by production k (explained in a bit)
 - **accept** or **error**
- Given a state and a non-terminal, Goto table says
 - **go to** state m



Action and Goto Tables

- Given a state and the next input, **Action** table says either
 - **shift** and go to state n , or
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LR(i) Parsing Algorithm

- Based on **push-down automata**
- Uses **states** and **transitions** (as recorded in Action and Goto tables)
- Uses a **stack** containing states, terminals and non-terminals



LR(i) Parsing Algorithm

0. Ensure token stream ends in special “end-of-tokens” symbol
1. Start in state 1 with an empty stack
2. Push **state**(1) onto stack
3. **Look at** next i tokens from token stream ($toks$) (don't remove yet)
4. If top symbol on stack is **state**(n), look up action in Action table at $(n, toks)$



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LR(i) Parsing Algorithm

0. Ensure token stream ends in special “end-of-tokens” symbol
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2. Push **state**(1) onto stack
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4. If top symbol on stack is **state**(n), look up action in Action table at $(n, toks)$



LR(i) Parsing Algorithm

5. If action = **shift** m ,

- a) **Remove the top token** from token stream and **push it onto the stack**
- b) Push **state**(m) onto stack
- c) Go back to step 3



LR(i) Parsing Algorithm

6. If action = **reduce** k where production k is $E ::= u$
 - a) **Remove $2 * \text{length}(u)$ symbols from stack**
(u and all the interleaved states)
 - b) If new top symbol on stack is **state**(m), look up new state p in $\text{Goto}(m, E)$
 - c) Push E onto the stack, then push **state**(p) onto the stack
 - d) Go to step 3



LR(i) Parsing Algorithm

7. If action = **accept**
 - Stop parsing, return success
8. If action = **error**,
 - Stop parsing, return failure



Adding Synthesized Attributes

- AKA building the actual **parse tree** with the **values** it stores
- Add to each **reduce** a **rule** for calculating the new synthesized attribute from the component attributes
- Add to each **nonterminal** pushed onto the stack, the **attribute** calculated for it
- When performing a **reduce**,
 - gather the recorded attributes from each nonterminal popped from stack
 - Compute new attribute for nonterminal pushed onto stack



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 - gather the recorded attributes from each nonterminal popped from stack
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Questions so far?



Dealing with Ambiguity



Shift-Reduce Conflicts

- **Problem:** can't decide whether the action for a state and input character should be **shift** or **reduce**
- Caused by **ambiguity** in grammar
- Usually caused by lack of **associativity** or **precedence** information in grammar



Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

$\square 0 + 1 + 0$ shift
-> $0 \square + 1 + 0$ reduce
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 1 + 0$ shift
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \square 1 + 0$ shift
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + 1 \square + 0$ reduce
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 0$



Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

$\square 0 + 1 + 0$ shift
-> $0 \square + 1 + 0$ reduce
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 1 + 0$ shift
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \square 1 + 0$ shift
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + 1 \square + 0$ reduce
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 0$



Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

$\square 0 + 1 + 0$ shift
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-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 1 + 0$ shift
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \square 1 + 0$ shift
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + 1 \square + 0$ reduce
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 0$



Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

$\square 0 + 1 + 0$ shift
-> $0 \square + 1 + 0$ reduce
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 1 + 0$ shift
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \square 1 + 0$ shift
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + 1 \square + 0$ reduce
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 0$



Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

$\square 0 + 1 + 0$ shift
-> $0 \square + 1 + 0$ reduce
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 1 + 0$ shift
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \square 1 + 0$ shift
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + 1 \square + 0$ reduce
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 0$



Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

$\square 0 + 1 + 0$ shift
-> $0 \square + 1 + 0$ reduce
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 1 + 0$ shift
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \square 1 + 0$ shift
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + 1 \square + 0$ reduce
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 0$

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

$\square 0 + 1 + 0$ shift
-> $0 \square + 1 + 0$ reduce
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 1 + 0$ shift
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \square 1 + 0$ shift
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + 1 \square + 0$ reduce
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 0$

Do we **shift** or **reduce**?
We could do either.

Example: Sums of 0s and 1s

$\square 0 + 1 + 0$ shift
-> $0 \square + 1 + 0$ reduce
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 1 + 0$ shift
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \square 1 + 0$ shift
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + 1 \square + 0$ reduce
-> $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle + \langle \text{Sum} \rangle \square + 0$

Shift first - right associative
Reduce first - left associative



Reduce - Reduce Conflicts

- **Problem:** can't decide between **two different rules** to **reduce** by
- Again caused by **ambiguity** in grammar
- **Symptom:** RHS of one production suffix of another
- Requires examining grammar and rewriting it
- Harder to solve than shift-reduce errors



Example

$S ::= A \mid aB$

$A ::= abc$

$B ::= bc$

abc shift

a bc shift

ab c shift

abc



Example

$S ::= A \mid aB$

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abc shift

a bc shift

ab c shift

abc

Example

$S ::= A \mid aB$

$A ::= abc$

$B ::= bc$

Which rule to reduce by?

abc shift

a bc shift

ab c shift

abc

Example

S ::= A | aB

A ::= abc

B ::= bc

Which rule to reduce by?

abc shift

a bc shift

ab c shift

abc

Example

S ::= A | aB

A ::= abc

B ::= bc

Which rule to reduce by?

abc shift

a bc shift

ab c shift

abc



Questions?

Extra time?

Disambiguate $\langle \text{Sum} \rangle$ again, then run algorithm by hand on some strings to get shift/reduce sequences.



Next Class: More Disambiguation



Next Class

- **WA8** due next **Thursday**
- **MP9** due next **Tuesday**
- **Please sign up with CBTF** for **Midterm 3**
- All deadlines can be found on **course website**
- Use **office hours** and **class forums** for help