CS 480
Fall 2015

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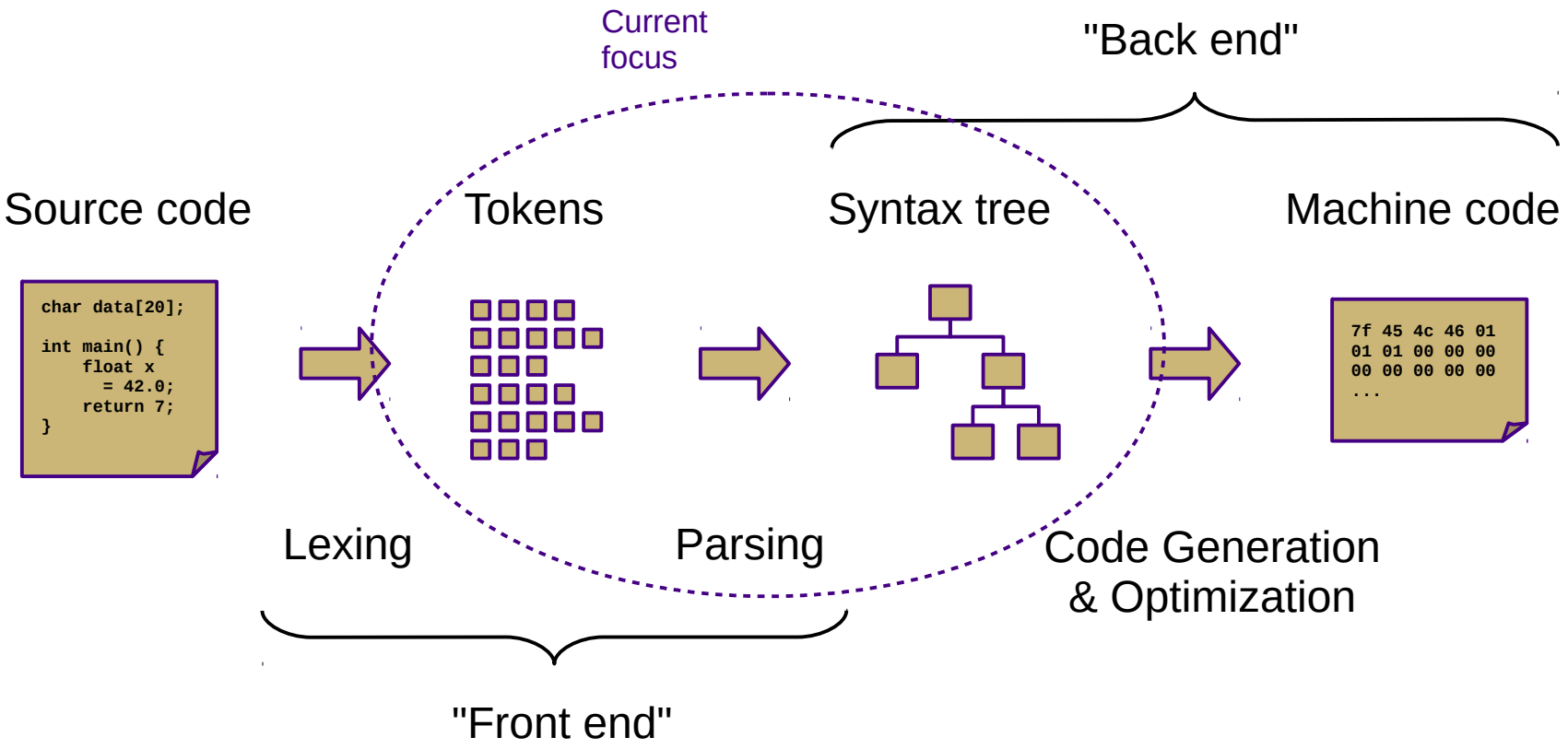
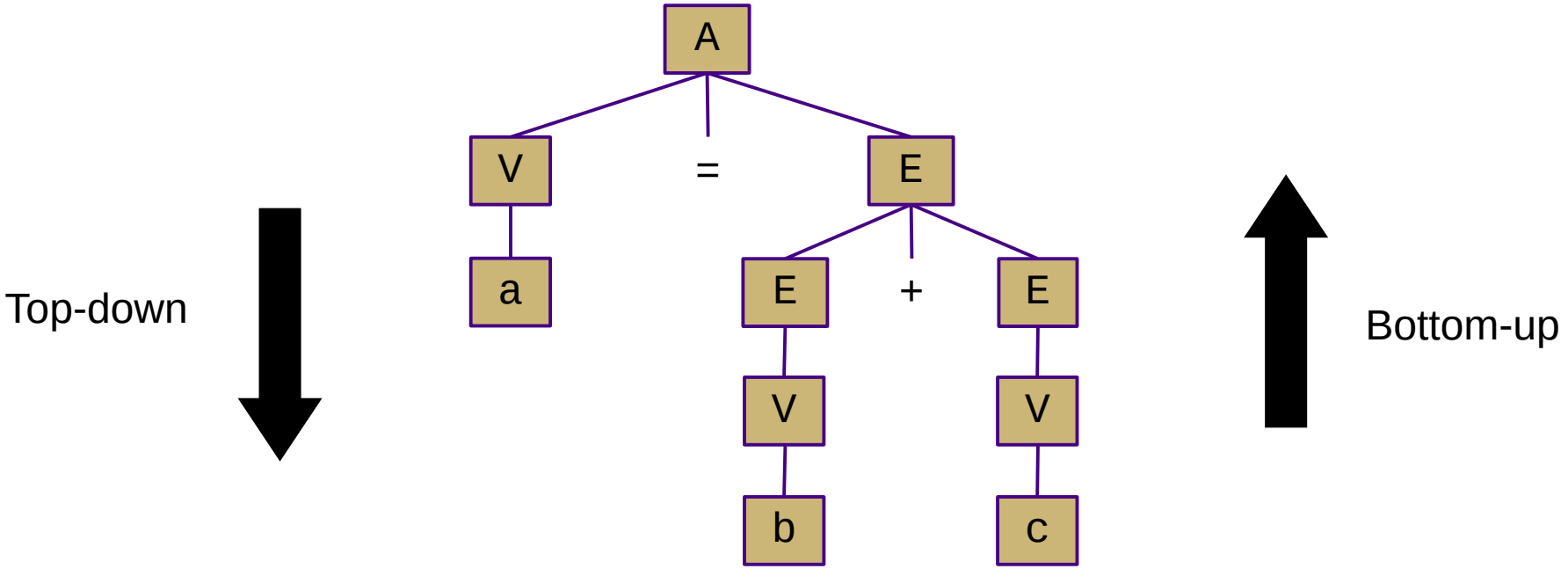
Top-Down (LL) Parsing

Compilation



Overview

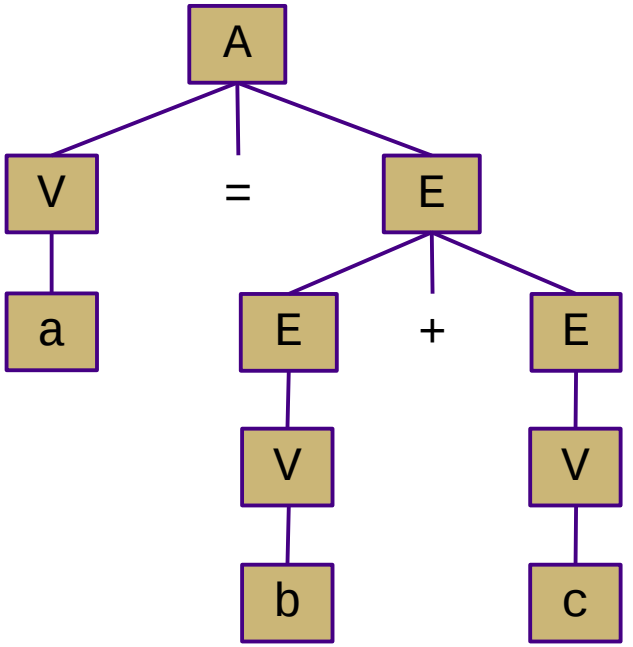
- Two general parsing approaches
  - Top-down: begin with start symbol (root of parse tree), and gradually expand non-terminals
  - Bottom-up: begin with terminals (leaves of parse tree), and gradually connect using non-terminals



Top-Down Parsing

```
root = createNode(S)
focus = root
push(null)
token = nextToken()

loop:
    if (focus is non-terminal):
        B = chooseRuleAndExpand(focus)
        for each b in B.reverse():
            focus.addChild(createNode(b))
            push(b)
        focus = pop()

    else if (token == focus):
        token = nextToken()
        focus = pop()

    else if (token == EOF and focus == null):
        return root

    else:
        exit(ERROR)
```

A → V = E
V → a | b | c
E → E + E
  | V



Top-Down Parsing

- Main issue: choosing which rule to use
  - With full lookahead, it would be relatively easy
    - This would be very inefficient
  - Can we do it with a single lookahead?
    - That would be much faster

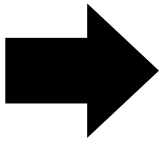
LL(1) Parsing

- LL(1) grammars
  - Left-to-right scan of the input string
  - Leftmost derivation
  - 1 symbol of lookahead
  - Highly restricted form of context-free grammar
    - No left recursion
    - No backtracking

Eliminating Left Recursion

- Left recursion: $A \rightarrow A\,\alpha \mid \beta$
  - Often a result of left associativity (e.g., expression grammar)
  - Leads to infinite looping/recursion in an LL(1) parser (try it!)
  - To fix, unroll the recursion into a new non-terminal

$$A \rightarrow A\ \alpha \mid \beta$$



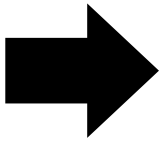
$$A \rightarrow \beta\ A'$$

$$A' \rightarrow \alpha\ A' \mid \varepsilon$$

Left Factoring

- Backtracking required: $A \rightarrow \alpha\ \beta_1 \mid \alpha\ \beta_2$
  - Leads to ambiguous rule choice in LL(1) parser
    - One lookahead (α) is not enough to pick a rule
  - To fix, factor the choices into a new non-terminal

$$A \rightarrow \alpha\ \beta_1 \mid \alpha\ \beta_2$$



$$A \rightarrow \alpha\ A'$$

$$A' \rightarrow \beta_1 \mid \beta_2$$

LL(1) Parsing

- LL(1) grammars are a subset of context-free grammars
  - Often, non-LL(1) grammars can be transformed into LL(1) grammars by left-factoring and eliminating left recursion
- LL(1) grammars can be parsed using a simple paradigm called *recursive descent*
  - Mutually-recursive procedures, one for each non-terminal
  - Can be hand-coded relatively easily
  - Implementation is directly guided by the grammar
- LL(1) parsers can also be auto-generated
  - Similar to auto-generated lexers
  - Tables created by a *parser generator* using FIRST and FOLLOW helper sets

LL(1) Parsing

- FIRST(α)
  - Set of terminals (and ε) that can appear at the start of a sentence derived from α (can be a terminal or non-terminal)
- FOLLOW(A) set
  - Set of terminals (and $) that can occur immediately after non-terminal A in a sentential form
- $FIRST^{+}(A \rightarrow \beta)$
  - If ε is not in FIRST(β)
    - $FIRST^{+}(A) = FIRST(\beta)$
  - Otherwise
    - $FIRST^{+}(A) = FIRST(\beta) \cup FOLLOW(A)$

Calculating FIRST(α)

- Rule 1: α is a terminal **a**
  - FIRST(a) = { **a** }
- Rule 2: α is a non-terminal X
  - Examine all productions $X \rightarrow Y_1\ Y_2 \ldots Y_k$
    - add $FIRST(Y_1)$ if not $Y_1 \rightarrow^* \varepsilon$
    - add $FIRST(Y_i)$ if $Y_1 \ldots Y_j \rightarrow^* \varepsilon$, where j = i-1 (skip disappearing symbols)
  - FIRST(X) is union of all of the above
- Rule 3: α is a non-terminal X and $X \rightarrow \varepsilon$
  - FIRST(X) includes ε

Calculating FOLLOW(A)

- Rule 1: FOLLOW(S) includes **EOF** / **$**
  - Where S is the start symbol
- Rule 2: for every production A → α B β
  - FOLLOW(B) includes everything in FIRST(β) except *ε*
- Rule 3: if A → α B or (A → α B β and FIRST(β) contains *ε*)
  - FOLLOW(B) includes everything in FOLLOW(A)