



Compilers

First Sets

- Consider non-terminal A , production $A \rightarrow \alpha$, & token t
- $T[A, t] = \alpha$ in two cases:
- If $\alpha \rightarrow^* t \beta$
 - α can derive a t in the first position
 - We say that $t \in \text{First}(\alpha)$
- If $A \rightarrow \alpha$ and $\alpha \rightarrow^* \varepsilon$ and $S \rightarrow^* \beta A t \delta$
 - Useful if stack has A , input is t , and A cannot derive t
 - In this case only option is to get rid of A (by deriving ε)
 - Can work only if t can follow A in at least one derivation
 - We say $t \in \text{Follow}(A)$

Definition

$$\text{First}(X) = \{ t \mid X \rightarrow^* t\alpha \} \cup \{ \varepsilon \mid X \rightarrow^* \varepsilon \}$$

Algorithm sketch:

1. $\text{First}(t) = \{ t \}$
2. $\varepsilon \in \text{First}(X)$
 - if $X \rightarrow \varepsilon$
 - if $X \rightarrow A_1 \dots A_n$ and $\varepsilon \in \text{First}(A_i)$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$
3. $\text{First}(\alpha) \subseteq \text{First}(X)$ if $X \rightarrow A_1 \dots A_n \alpha$
 - and $\varepsilon \in \text{First}(A_i)$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$

- Recall the grammar

$$E \rightarrow T X$$

$$X \rightarrow + E \mid \varepsilon$$

$$T \rightarrow (E) \mid \text{int } Y$$

$$Y \rightarrow * T \mid \varepsilon$$