

Compilers and Formal Languages (4)

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Slides: KEATS (also homework is there)

Survey: Thanks!

“...Thanks a million! Thanks without end!”



*“Urban is a very talented lecturer:
thorough, concise, clear, and cares to make
sure that we are learning!”*

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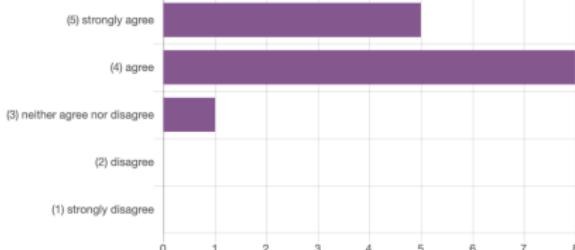
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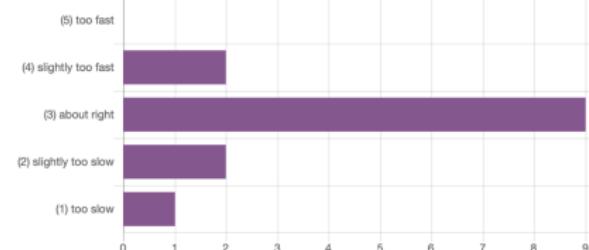
(Audible) ...is (are) audible

Responses



(AppropriatePace) ...teaches at a pace that is:

Responses



Survey: Thanks!

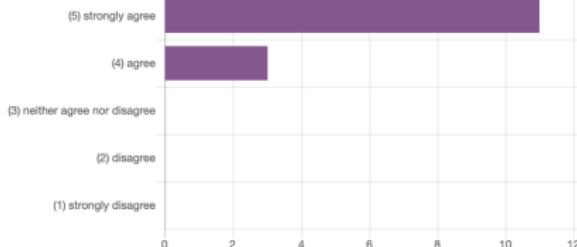
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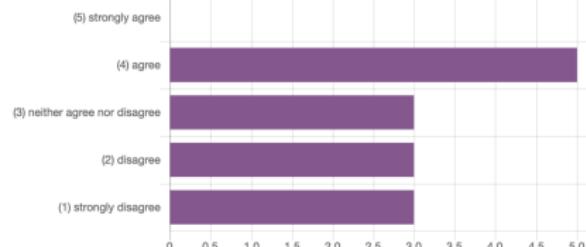
(ExplainsMaterialClearly) ...explains the material clearly

Responses



(facilities) The facilities and room function well

Responses



Survey: Thanks!

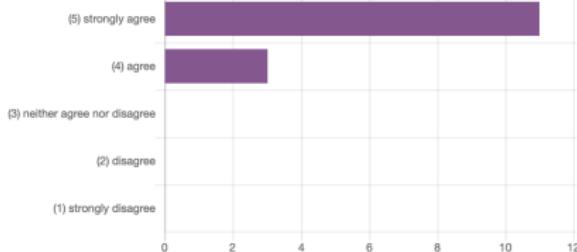
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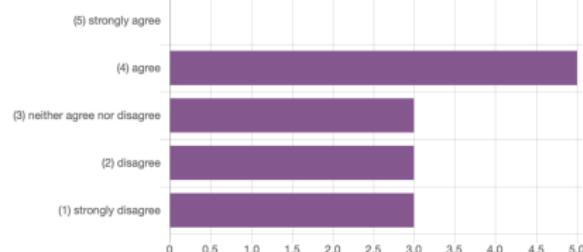
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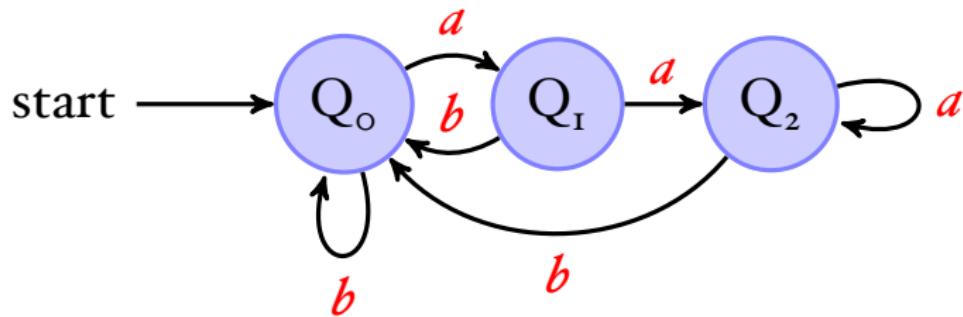


(facilities) The facilities and room function well

Responses



room too hot, 3h lecture



$$Q_o = \mathbf{1} + Q_o b + Q_I b + Q_2 b$$

$$Q_I = Q_o a$$

$$Q_2 = Q_I a + Q_2 a$$

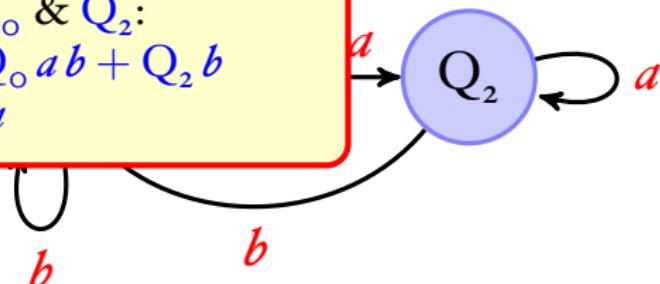
Arden's Lemma:

If $q = qr + s$ then $q = sr^*$

substitute Q_I into Q_o & Q_2 :

$$Q_o = \mathbf{1} + Q_o b + Q_o a b + Q_2 b$$

$$Q_2 = Q_o a a + Q_2 a$$



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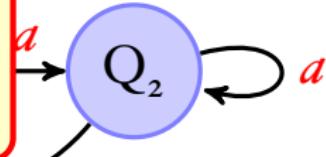
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$$Q_2 = Q_o a a + Q_2 a$$



simplifying Q_o :

$$Q_o = \mathbf{I} + Q_o (b + a b) + Q_2 b$$

$$Q_2 = Q_o a a + Q_2 a$$

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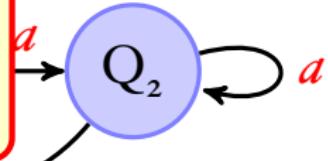
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Arden for Q_2 :

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$$Q_2 = Q_o a a (a^*)$$

$$Q_2 = Q_1 a + Q_2 a$$

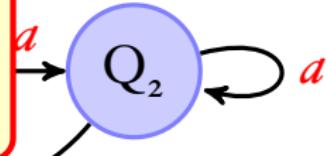
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$$Q_o = \mathbf{I} + Q_o b + Q_o ab + Q_2 b$$

$$Q_2 = Q_o aa + Q_2 a$$



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Substitute Q_2 and simplify:

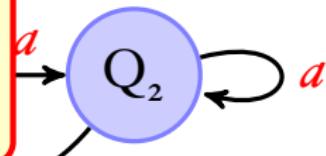
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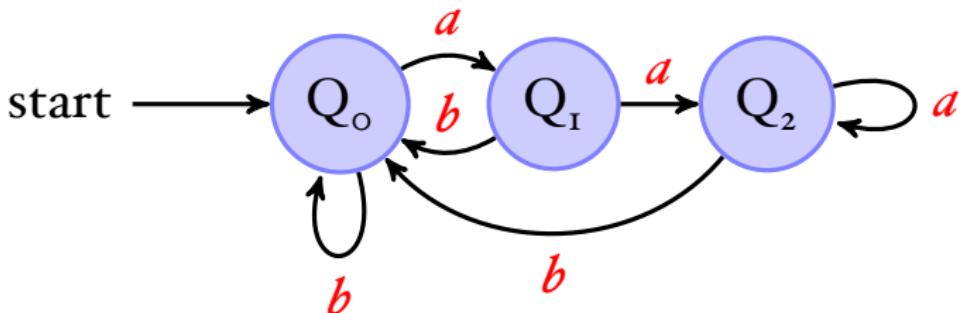
$$Q_2 = Q_o aa (a^*)$$

Substitute Q_2 and simplify:

$$Q_o = \mathbf{I} + Q_o (b + ab + aa (a^*) b)$$

If Arden again for Q_o :

$$Q_o = (b + ab + aa (a^*) b)^*$$



$$Q_o = \mathbf{1} + Q_o b + Q_I b + Q_2 b$$

$$Q_I = Q_o a$$

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Arden's Lemma:

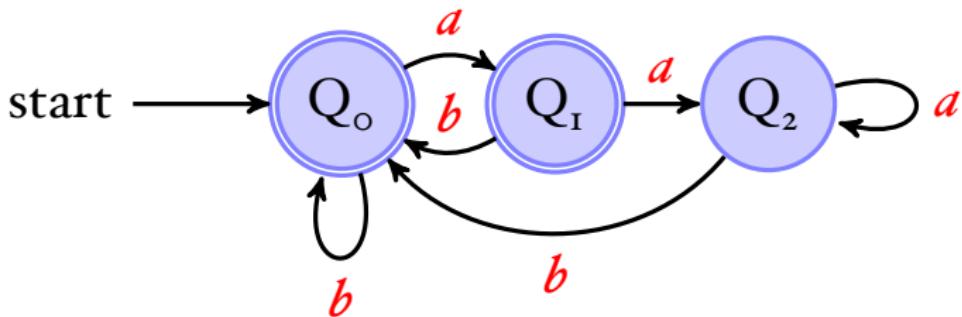
If $q =$

Finally:

$$Q_o = (b + ab + aa(a^*)b)^*$$

$$Q_I = (b + ab + aa(a^*)b)^* a$$

$$Q_2 = (b + ab + aa(a^*)b)^* aa(a^*)$$



$$Q_o = \mathbf{1} + Q_o b + Q_I b + Q_2 b$$

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Arden's Lemma:

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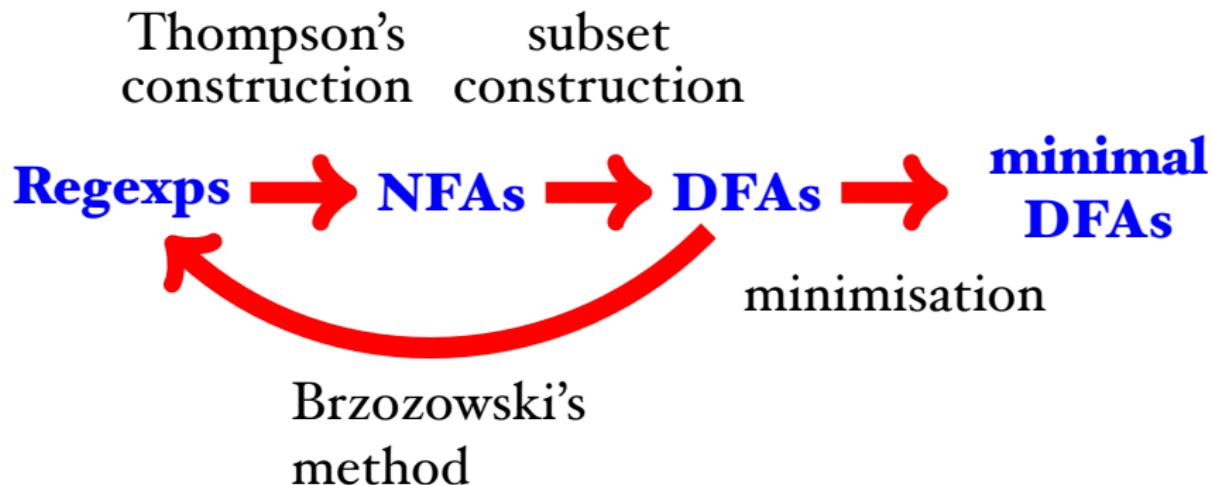
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$$Q_o = (b + ab + aa(a^*)b)^*$$

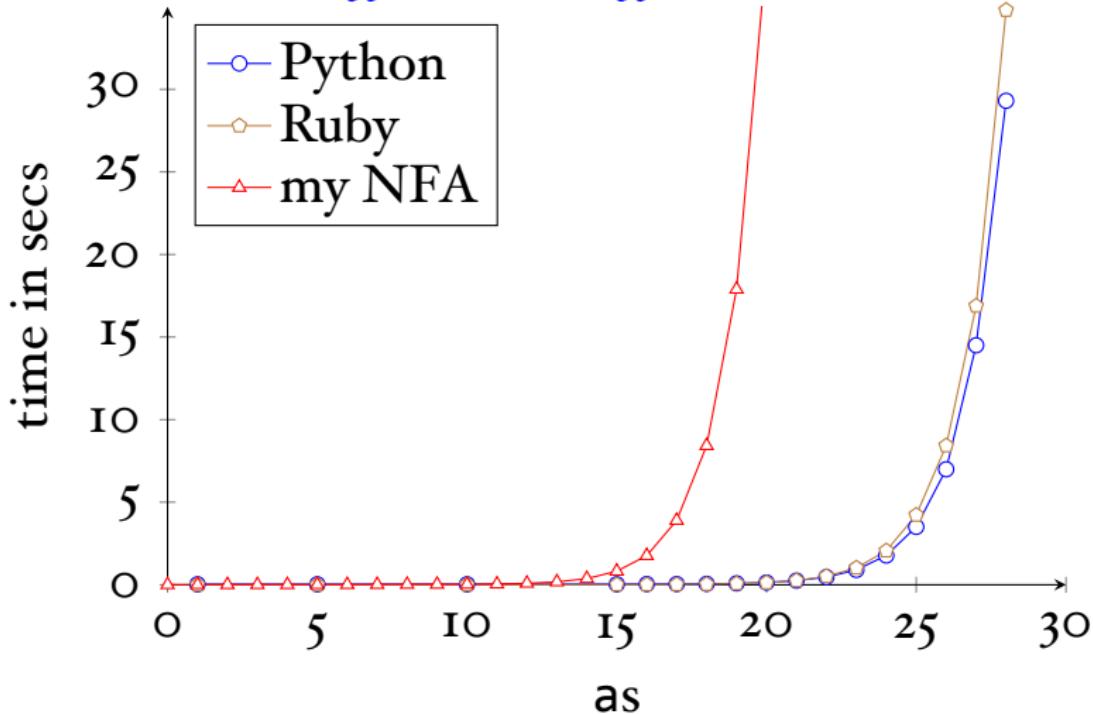
$$Q_I = (b + ab + aa(a^*)b)^* a$$

$$Q_2 = (b + ab + aa(a^*)b)^* aa(a^*)$$

Regexp and Automata



$$a^? \{n\} \cdot a^{\{n\}}$$



The punchline is that many existing libraries do depth-first search in NFAs (backtracking).

Regular Languages

Two equivalent definitions:

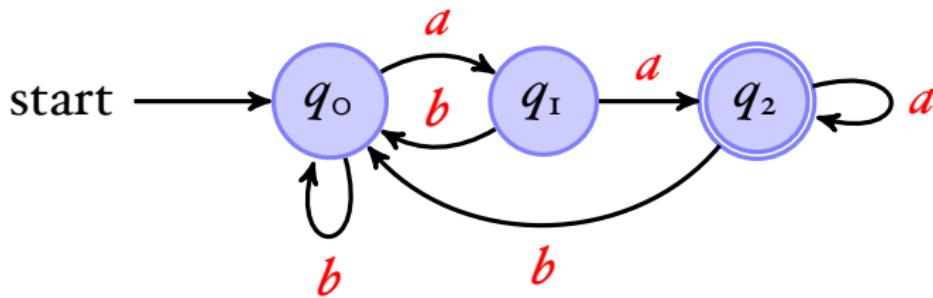
A language is **regular** iff there exists a regular expression that recognises all its strings.

A language is **regular** iff there exists an automaton that recognises all its strings.

for example $a^n b^n$ is not regular

Negation

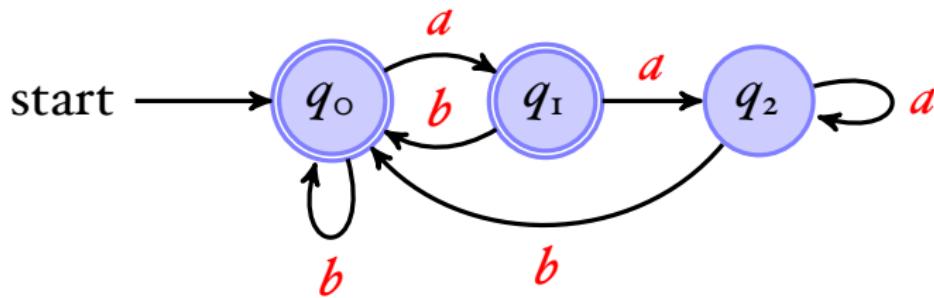
Regular languages are closed under negation:



But requires that the automaton is **completed!**

Negation

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The Goal of this Course

Write a compiler



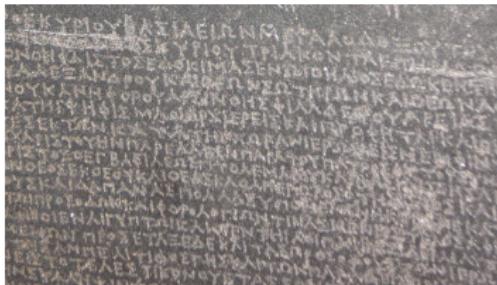
Today a lexer.

The Goal of this Course

Write a compiler



Today a lexer.



lexing \Rightarrow recognising words (Stone of Rosetta)

Regular Expressions

In programming languages they are often used to recognise:

- symbols, digits
- identifiers
- numbers (non-leading zeros)
- keywords
- comments

<http://www.regexper.com>

Lexing: Test Case

```
write "Fib";
read n;
minus1 := 0;
minus2 := 1;
while n > 0 do {
    temp := minus2;
    minus2 := minus1 + minus2;
    minus1 := temp;
    n := n - 1
};
write "Result";
write minus2
```

“if true then then 42 else +”

KEYWORD:

if, then, else,

WHITE SPACE:

”, \n,

IDENTIFIER:

LETTER · (LETTER + DIGIT + _)*

NUM:

(NONZERO DIGIT · DIGIT*) + 0

OP:

+, -, *, %, <, <=

COMMENT:

/* · ~(ALL* · (* /) · ALL*) · */

”if true then then 42 else +”

KEYWORD(if),
WHITESPACE,
IDENT(true),
WHITESPACE,
KEYWORD(then),
WHITESPACE,
KEYWORD(then),
WHITESPACE,
NUM(42),
WHITESPACE,
KEYWORD(else),
WHITESPACE,
OP(+)

”if true then then 42 else +”

KEYWORD(if),
IDENT(true),
KEYWORD(then),
KEYWORD(then),
NUM(42),
KEYWORD(else),
OP(+)

There is one small problem with the tokenizer.
How should we tokenize...?

”x - 3”

ID: ...

OP:

”, ”-”

NUM:

(NONZERO DIGIT · DIGIT*) + ”0”

NUMBER:

NUM + (”-” · NUM)

The same problem with

$$(ab + a) \cdot (c + bc)$$

and the string $\textcolor{blue}{abc}$.

The same problem with

$$(ab + a) \cdot (c + bc)$$

and the string $\textcolor{blue}{abc}$.

The same problem with

$$(ab + a) \cdot (c + bc)$$

and the string *abc*.

Or, keywords are **if** and identifiers are letters followed by “letters + numbers + _”*

if *iffoo*

POSIX: Two Rules

- Longest match rule (“maximal munch rule”): The longest initial substring matched by any regular expression is taken as the next token.
- Rule priority: For a particular longest initial substring, the first regular expression that can match determines the token.

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http://www.haskell.org/haskellwiki/Regex_Posix

traditional lexers are fast, but hairy

Sulzmann & Lu Matcher

We want to match the string $\textcolor{blue}{abc}$ using r_1 :

$$r_1 \xrightarrow{\text{der } a} r_2$$

Sulzmann & Lu Matcher

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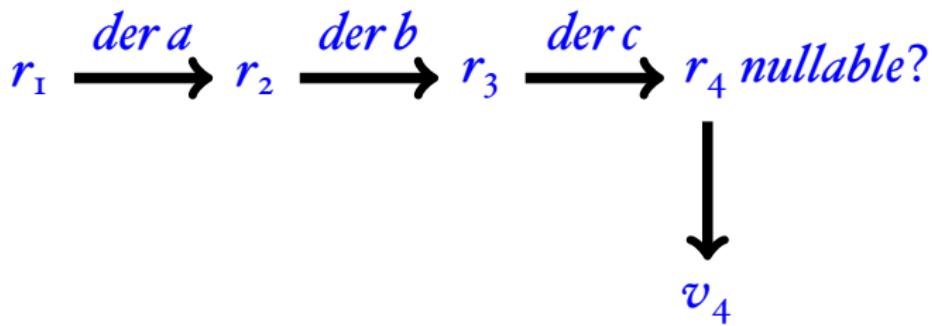
Sulzmann & Lu Matcher

We want to match the string abc using r_1 :



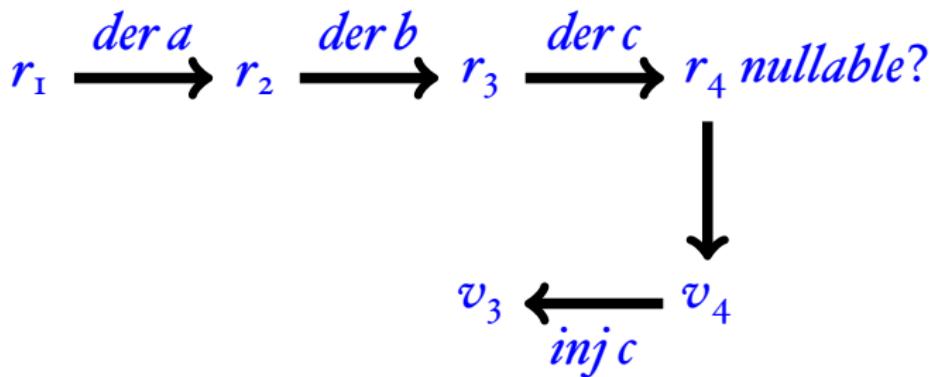
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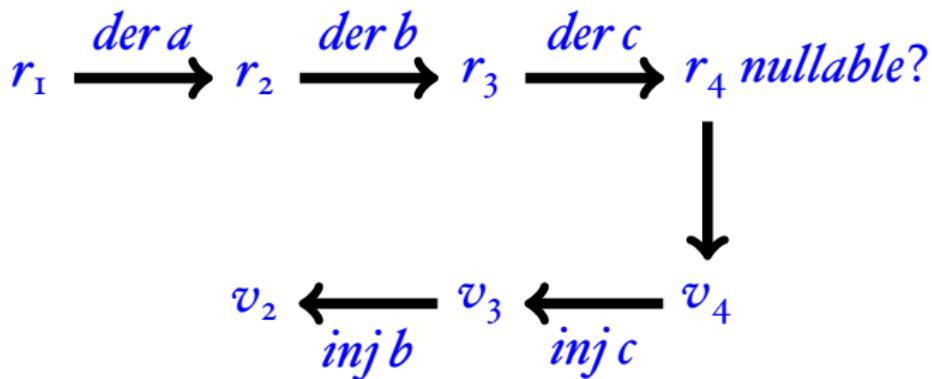
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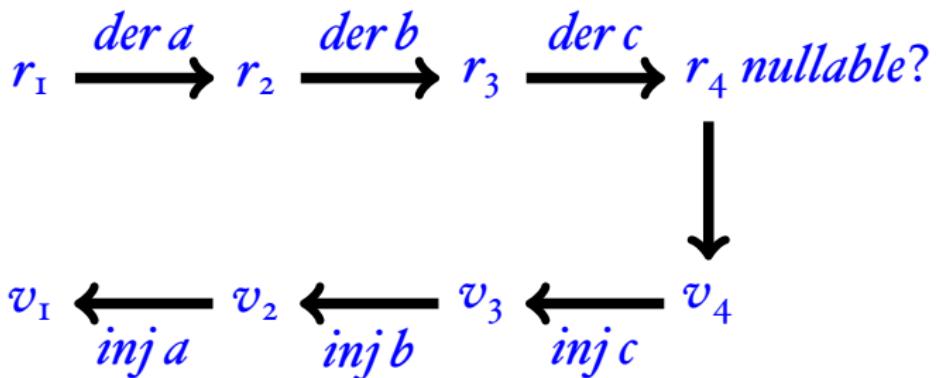
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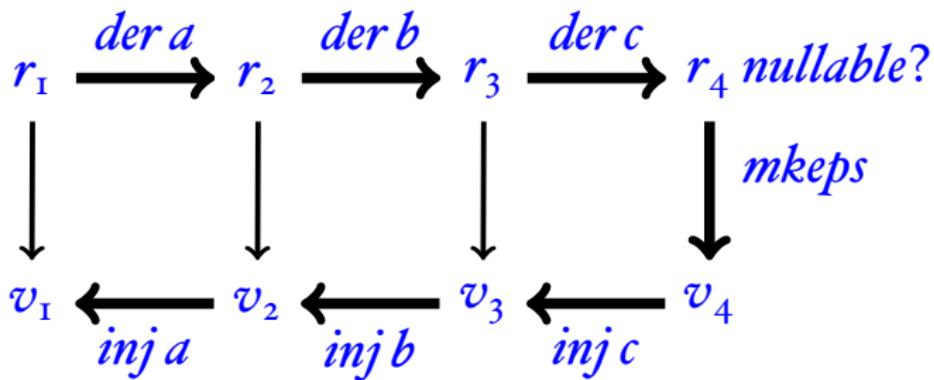
Sulzmann & Lu Matcher

We want to match the string $\textcolor{blue}{abc}$ using r_I :



Sulzmann & Lu Matcher

We want to match the string abc using r_1 :



Regexes and Values

Regular expressions and their corresponding values:

| $r ::=$ | $v ::=$ |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| \bullet | <i>Empty</i> |
| \mathtt{x} | $Char(c)$ |
| c | $Seq(v_1, v_2)$ |
| $r_1 \cdot r_2$ | $Left(v)$ |
| $r_1 + r_2$ | $Right(v)$ |
| r^* | $Stars []$ |
| | $Stars [v_1, \dots, v_n]$ |

```
abstract class Rexp
case object ZERO extends Rexp
case object ONE extends Rexp
case class CHAR(c: Char) extends Rexp
case class ALT(r1: Rexp, r2: Rexp) extends Rexp
case class SEQ(r1: Rexp, r2: Rexp) extends Rexp
case class STAR(r: Rexp) extends Rexp
```

```
abstract class Val
case object Empty extends Val
case class Chr(c: Char) extends Val
case class Sequ(v1: Val, v2: Val) extends Val
case class Left(v: Val) extends Val
case class Right(v: Val) extends Val
case class Stars(vs: List[Val]) extends Val
```

Mkeps

Finding a (posix) value for recognising the empty string:

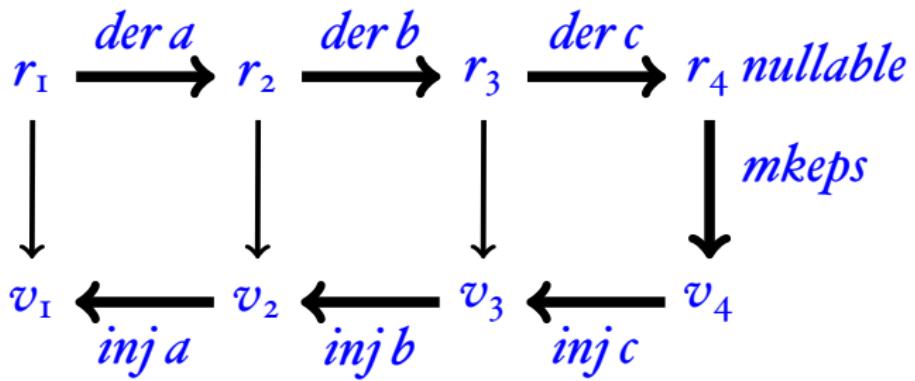
$$\begin{aligned} mkeps(r_1) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Empty} \\ mkeps(r_1 + r_2) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{if } \text{nullable}(r_1) \\ &\quad \text{then } \text{Left}(mkeps(r_1)) \\ &\quad \text{else } \text{Right}(mkeps(r_2)) \\ mkeps(r_1 \cdot r_2) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Seq}(mkeps(r_1), mkeps(r_2)) \\ mkeps(r^*) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Stars}[] \end{aligned}$$

Inject

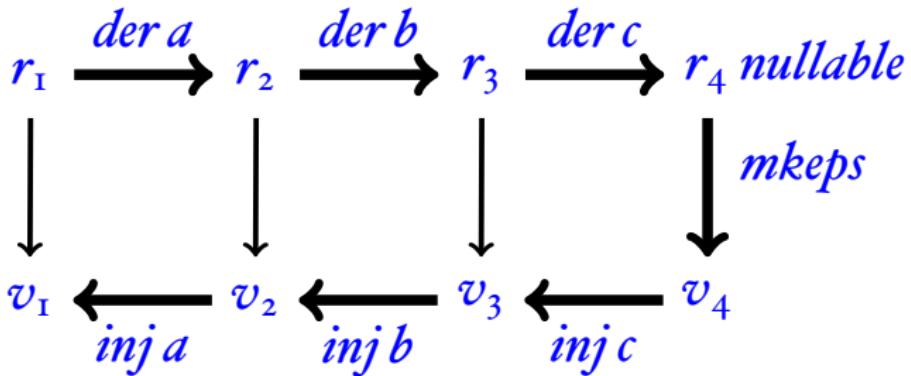
Injecting (“Adding”) a character to a value

| | |
|---|---|
| $\text{inj}(c)c(\text{Empty})$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Char } c$ |
| $\text{inj}(r_1 + r_2)c(\text{Left}(v))$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Left}(\text{inj } r_1 c v)$ |
| $\text{inj}(r_1 + r_2)c(\text{Right}(v))$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Right}(\text{inj } r_2 c v)$ |
| $\text{inj}(r_1 \cdot r_2)c(\text{Seq}(v_1, v_2))$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Seq}(\text{inj } r_1 c v_1, v_2)$ |
| $\text{inj}(r_1 \cdot r_2)c(\text{Left}(\text{Seq}(v_1, v_2)))$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Seq}(\text{inj } r_1 c v_1, v_2)$ |
| $\text{inj}(r_1 \cdot r_2)c(\text{Right}(v))$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Seq}(\text{mkeps}(r_1), \text{inj } r_2 c v)$ |
| $\text{inj}(r^*)c(\text{Seq}(v, \text{Stars } vs))$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Stars}(\text{inj } r c v :: vs)$ |

inj: 1st arg \mapsto a rexp; 2nd arg \mapsto a character; 3rd arg \mapsto a value



- $r_1: a \cdot (b \cdot c)$
 $r_2: \mathbf{i} \cdot (b \cdot c)$
 $r_3: (\mathbf{o} \cdot (b \cdot c)) + (\mathbf{i} \cdot c)$
 $r_4: (\mathbf{o} \cdot (b \cdot c)) + ((\mathbf{o} \cdot c) + \mathbf{i})$



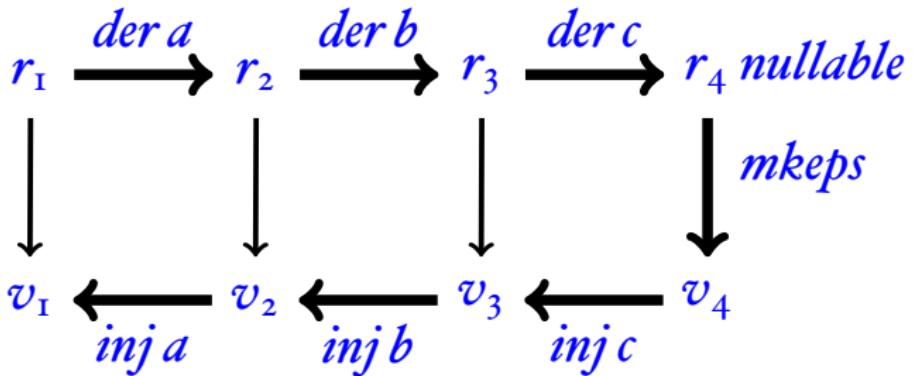
- $v_1: Seq(Char(a), Seq(Char(b), Char(c)))$
 $v_2: Seq(Empty, Seq(Char(b), Char(c)))$
 $v_3: Right(Seq(Empty, Char(c)))$
 $v_4: Right(Right(Empty))$

Flatten

Obtaining the string underlying a value:

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| $ Empty $ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$ | $[]$ |
| $ Char(c) $ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$ | $[c]$ |
| $ Left(v) $ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$ | $ v $ |
| $ Right(v) $ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$ | $ v $ |
| $ Seq(v_1, v_2) $ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$ | $ v_1 @ v_2 $ |
| $ (v_1, \dots, v_n) $ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$ | $ v_1 @ \dots @ v_n $ |

- $r_1: a \cdot (b \cdot c)$
 $r_2: \mathbf{I} \cdot (b \cdot c)$
 $r_3: (\mathbf{0} \cdot (b \cdot c)) + (\mathbf{I} \cdot c)$
 $r_4: (\mathbf{0} \cdot (b \cdot c)) + ((\mathbf{0} \cdot c) + \mathbf{I})$



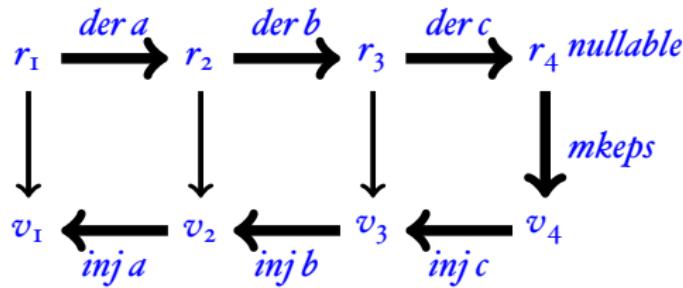
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 $v_4: Right(Right(Empty))$

| | |
|----------|-------|
| $ v_1 :$ | abc |
| $ v_2 :$ | bc |
| $ v_3 :$ | c |
| $ v_4 :$ | $[]$ |

Lexing

$\text{lex } r [] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{if } \text{nullable}(r) \text{ then } \text{mkeps}(r) \text{ else error}$
 $\text{lex } r\ c :: s \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{inj}\ r\ c\ \text{lex}(\text{der}(c, r), s)$

lex: returns a value



Records

- new regex: $(x : r)$ new value: $Rec(x, v)$

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- $nullable(x : r) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} nullable(r)$
- $der\ c\ (x : r) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (x : der\ c\ r)$
- $mkeps(x : r) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} Rec(x, mkeps(r))$
- $inj\ (x : r)\ c\ v \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} Rec(x, inj\ r\ c\ v)$

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- $inj\ (x : r)\ c\ v \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} Rec(x, inj\ r\ c\ v)$

for extracting subpatterns $(z : ((x : ab) + (y : ba)))$

- A regular expression for email addresses

(name: $[a\text{-}z0\text{-}9\text{-.-}]^+$).@.
(domain: $[a\text{-}z0\text{-}9\text{-.-}]^+$..
(top_level: $[a\text{-}z\text{.}]^{\{2,6\}}$)

christian.urban@kcl.ac.uk

- the result environment:

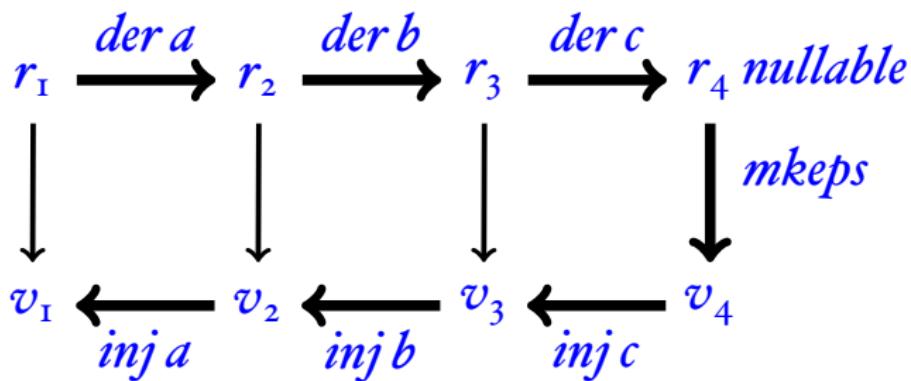
$[(name : \text{christian.urban}),$
 $(domain : \text{kcl}),$
 $(top_level : \text{ac.uk})]$

While Tokens

```
WHILE_REGS   $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$   ((”k” : KEYWORD) +
    (“i” : ID) +
    (“o” : OP) +
    (“n” : NUM) +
    (“s” : SEMI) +
    (“p” : (LPAREN + RPAREN)) +
    (“b” : (BEGIN + END)) +
    (“w” : WHITESPACE))*
```

Simplification

- If we simplify after the derivative, then we are building the value for the simplified regular expression, but **not** for the original regular expression.



$$(\mathbf{0} \cdot (b \cdot c)) + ((\mathbf{0} \cdot c) + \mathbf{1}) \mapsto \mathbf{1}$$

Normally we would have

$$(\mathbf{o} \cdot (b \cdot c)) + ((\mathbf{o} \cdot c) + \mathbf{i})$$

and answer how this regular expression matches
the empty string with the value

$$\text{Right}(\text{Right}(\text{Empty}))$$

But now we simplify this to \mathbf{i} and would produce
 Empty (see *mkeps*).

Rectification

rectification
functions:

$$r \cdot \mathbf{0} \mapsto \mathbf{0}$$

$$\mathbf{0} \cdot r \mapsto \mathbf{0}$$

$$r \cdot \mathbf{I} \mapsto r \quad \lambda f_1 f_2 v. Seq(f_1 v, f_2 Empty)$$

$$\mathbf{I} \cdot r \mapsto r \quad \lambda f_1 f_2 v. Seq(f_1 Empty, f_2 v)$$

$$r + \mathbf{0} \mapsto r \quad \lambda f_1 f_2 v. Left(f_1 v)$$

$$\mathbf{0} + r \mapsto r \quad \lambda f_1 f_2 v. Right(f_2 v)$$

$$r + r \mapsto r \quad \lambda f_1 f_2 v. Left(f_1 v)$$

Rectification

rectification
functions:

$$r \cdot \mathbf{0} \mapsto \mathbf{0}$$

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old *simp* returns a rexp;

new *simp* returns a rexp and a rectification function.

Rectification

$\text{simp}(r)$:

case $r = r_1 + r_2$

let $(r_{1s}, f_{1s}) = \text{simp}(r_1)$

$(r_{2s}, f_{2s}) = \text{simp}(r_2)$

case $r_{1s} = \mathbf{0}$: return $(r_{2s}, \lambda v. \text{Right}(f_{2s}(v)))$

case $r_{2s} = \mathbf{0}$: return $(r_{1s}, \lambda v. \text{Left}(f_{1s}(v)))$

case $r_{1s} = r_{2s}$: return $(r_{1s}, \lambda v. \text{Left}(f_{1s}(v)))$

otherwise: return $(r_{1s} + r_{2s}, f_{alt}(f_{1s}, f_{2s}))$

$f_{alt}(f_1, f_2) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$

$\lambda v. \text{case } v = \text{Left}(v'): \text{return } \text{Left}(f_1(v'))$

$\text{case } v = \text{Right}(v'): \text{return } \text{Right}(f_2(v'))$

```
def simp(r: Rexp): (Rexp, Val => Val) = r match {
    case ALT(r1, r2) => {
        val (r1s, f1s) = simp(r1)
        val (r2s, f2s) = simp(r2)
        (r1s, r2s) match {
            case (ZERO, _) => (r2s, F_RIGHT(f2s))
            case (_, ZERO) => (r1s, F_LEFT(f1s))
            case _ =>
                if (r1s == r2s) (r1s, F_LEFT(f1s))
                else (ALT (r1s, r2s), F_ALT(f1s, f2s))
        }
    }
    ...
}
```

```
def F_RIGHT(f: Val => Val) = (v:Val) => Right(f(v))
def F_LEFT(f: Val => Val) = (v:Val) => Left(f(v))
def F_ALT(f1: Val => Val, f2: Val => Val) =
    (v:Val) => v match {
        case Right(v) => Right(f2(v))
        case Left(v) => Left(f1(v)) }
```

Rectification

$\text{simp}(r)$:...

case $r = r_1 \cdot r_2$

let $(r_{1s}, f_{1s}) = \text{simp}(r_1)$

$(r_{2s}, f_{2s}) = \text{simp}(r_2)$

case $r_{1s} = \mathbf{0}$: return $(\mathbf{0}, f_{error})$

case $r_{2s} = \mathbf{0}$: return $(\mathbf{0}, f_{error})$

case $r_{1s} = \mathbf{1}$: return $(r_{2s}, \lambda v. \text{Seq}(f_{1s}(\text{Empty}), f_{2s}(v)))$

case $r_{2s} = \mathbf{1}$: return $(r_{1s}, \lambda v. \text{Seq}(f_{1s}(v), f_{2s}(\text{Empty})))$

otherwise: return $(r_{1s} \cdot r_{2s}, f_{seq}(f_{1s}, f_{2s}))$

$$f_{seq}(f_1, f_2) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$$

$\lambda v. \text{case } v = \text{Seq}(v_1, v_2) : \text{return } \text{Seq}(f_1(v_1), f_2(v_2))$

```
def simp(r: Rexp): (Rexp, Val => Val) = r match {
    case SEQ(r1, r2) => {
        val (r1s, f1s) = simp(r1)
        val (r2s, f2s) = simp(r2)
        (r1s, r2s) match {
            case (ZERO, _) => (ZERO, F_ERROR)
            case (_, ZERO) => (ZERO, F_ERROR)
            case (ONE, _) => (r2s, F_SEQ_Void1(f1s, f2s))
            case (_, ONE) => (r1s, F_SEQ_Void2(f1s, f2s))
            case _ => (SEQ(r1s, r2s), F_SEQ(f1s, f2s))
        }
    }
    ...
}
```

```
def F_SEQ_Void1(f1: Val => Val, f2: Val => Val) =
  (v:Val) => Sequ(f1(Void), f2(v))
def F_SEQ_Void2(f1: Val => Val, f2: Val => Val) =
  (v:Val) => Sequ(f1(v), f2(Void))
def F_SEQ(f1: Val => Val, f2: Val => Val) =
  (v:Val) => v match {
    case Sequ(v1, v2) => Sequ(f1(v1), f2(v2)) }
```

Rectification Example

$$(b \cdot c) + (\mathbf{o} + \mathbf{r}) \mapsto (b \cdot c) + \mathbf{r}$$

Rectification Example

$$(\underline{b \cdot c}) + (\underline{\mathbf{o} + \mathbf{r}}) \mapsto (b \cdot c) + \mathbf{r}$$

Rectification Example

$$(\underline{b \cdot c}) + (\mathbf{o} + \mathbf{i}) \mapsto (b \cdot c) + \mathbf{i}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_{s1} &= \lambda v.v \\ f_{s2} &= \lambda v.Right(v) \end{aligned}$$

Rectification Example

$$\underline{(b \cdot c) + (\mathbf{o} + \mathbf{r})} \mapsto (b \cdot c) + \mathbf{r}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_{s1} &= \lambda v. v \\ f_{s2} &= \lambda v. Right(v) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_{alt}(f_{s1}, f_{s2}) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \\ \lambda v. \text{ case } v = Left(v') &: \text{ return } Left(f_{s1}(v')) \\ \text{case } v = Right(v') &: \text{ return } Right(f_{s2}(v')) \end{aligned}$$

Rectification Example

$$\underline{(b \cdot c) + (\mathbf{o} + \mathbf{r})} \mapsto (b \cdot c) + \mathbf{r}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_{s1} &= \lambda v. v \\ f_{s2} &= \lambda v. Right(v) \end{aligned}$$

$\lambda v.$ case $v = Left(v')$: return $Left(v')$
case $v = Right(v')$: return $Right(Right(v'))$

Rectification Example

$$\underline{(b \cdot c) + (\mathbf{o} + \mathbf{i})} \mapsto (b \cdot c) + \mathbf{i}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_{s1} &= \lambda v. v \\ f_{s2} &= \lambda v. Right(v) \end{aligned}$$

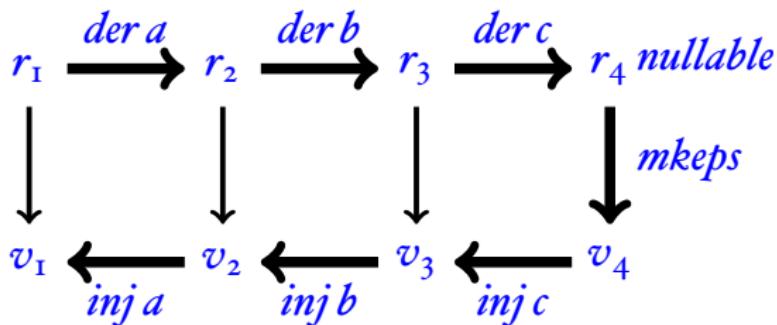
$\lambda v.$ case $v = Left(v')$: return $Left(v')$
case $v = Right(v')$: return $Right(Right(v'))$

mkeps simplified case: $Right(Empty)$
rectified case: $Right(Right(Empty))$

Lexing with Simplification

$\text{lex } r [] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{if } \text{nullable}(r) \text{ then } \text{mkeps}(r) \text{ else error}$

$\text{lex } r\ c :: s \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{let } (r', \text{frect}) = \text{simp}(\text{der}(c, r))$
 $\quad \text{inj } r\ c (\text{frect}(\text{lex}(r', s)))$



Environments

Obtaining the “recorded” parts of a value:

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| $\text{env}(\text{Empty})$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$ | $[]$ |
| $\text{env}(\text{Char}(c))$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$ | $[]$ |
| $\text{env}(\text{Left}(v))$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$ | $\text{env}(v)$ |
| $\text{env}(\text{Right}(v))$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$ | $\text{env}(v)$ |
| $\text{env}(\text{Seq}(v_1, v_2))$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$ | $\text{env}(v_1) @ \text{env}(v_2)$ |
| $\text{env}(\text{Stars}[v_1, \dots, v_n])$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$ | $\text{env}(v_1) @ \dots @ \text{env}(v_n)$ |
| $\text{env}(\text{Rec}(x : v))$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$ | $(x : v) :: \text{env}(v)$ |

While Tokens

```
WHILE_REGS  $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$  ((”k” : KEYWORD) +
    (”i” : ID) +
    (”o” : OP) +
    (”n” : NUM) +
    (”s” : SEMI) +
    (”p” : (LPAREN + RPAREN)) +
    (”b” : (BEGIN + END)) +
    (”w” : WHITESPACE))*
```

”if true then then 42 else +”

KEYWORD(if),
WHITESPACE,
IDENT(true),
WHITESPACE,
KEYWORD(then),
WHITESPACE,
KEYWORD(then),
WHITESPACE,
NUM(42),
WHITESPACE,
KEYWORD(else),
WHITESPACE,
OP(+)

“if true then then 42 else +”

KEYWORD(if),
IDENT(true),
KEYWORD(then),
KEYWORD(then),
NUM(42),
KEYWORD(else),
OP(+)

Lexer: Two Rules

- Longest match rule (“maximal munch rule”): The longest initial substring matched by any regular expression is taken as next token.
- Rule priority: For a particular longest initial substring, the first regular expression that can match determines the token.

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| $\text{zeroable}(\mathbf{0})$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{true}$ |
| $\text{zeroable}(\mathbf{1})$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$ |
| $\text{zeroable}(c)$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$ |
| $\text{zeroable}(r_1 + r_2)$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{zeroable}(r_1) \wedge \text{zeroable}(r_2)$ |
| $\text{zeroable}(r_1 \cdot r_2)$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{zeroable}(r_1) \vee \text{zeroable}(r_2)$ |
| $\text{zeroable}(r^*)$ | $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$ |

$\text{zeroable}(r)$ if and only if $L(r) = \{\}$