



LUND  
UNIVERSITY

# EDAP15: Program Analysis

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INTRODUCTION TO JASTADD

Christoph Reichenbach



EDAN65: Compilers

# Lectures on Abstract grammars, Reference Attribute Grammars, and JastAdd

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Revised: 2023-09-05

Adapted for EDAP15: Program Analysis  
Christoph Reichenbach  
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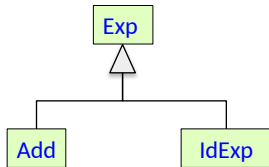
# Abstract grammars

# Abstract grammar vs. OO model

| Abstract grammar | OO model   | Other terminology used (algebraic datatypes) |
|------------------|------------|--|
| nonterminal      | superclass | type, sort                                   |
| production       | subclass   | constructor, operator                        |

Abstract grammar

Add:  $\text{Exp} \rightarrow \text{Exp Exp}$   
IdExp:  $\text{Exp} \rightarrow \text{ID}$



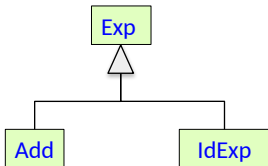
*A canonical abstract grammar corresponds to a two-level class hierarchy!*

# Example Java implementation

Abstract grammar

Add:  $\text{Exp} \rightarrow \text{Exp Exp}$

IdExp:  $\text{Exp} \rightarrow \text{ID}$



```
abstract class Exp {
}
class Add extends Exp {
    Exp exp1, exp2;
}
class IdExp extends Exp {
    String ID;
}
```

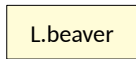
# JastAdd

- A compiler generation tool. Generates Java code.
- Supports ASTs and modular computations on ASTs.
- JastAdd: "Just **add** computations to the **ast**"
- Independent of the parser used.
- Developed at LTH, see <http://jastadd.org>

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Parser specification

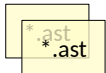


Parser

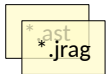


(Not something we will worry about in EDAP15)

Abstract grammar



Computations



creates objects



AST classes

# JastAdd abstract grammars

[abstract] *Class* [: *Superclass*] ::= *RightHandSide*;



# JastAdd abstract grammars

[abstract] *Class* [: *Superclass*] ::= *RightHandSide*;

```
Program ::= Stmt*;  
abstract Stmt;  
Assignment : Stmt ::= IdExpr Expr;  
IfStmt : Stmt ::= Expr Then:Stmt [Else:Stmt];  
abstract Expr;  
IdExpr : Expr ::= <ID:String>;  
IntExpr : Expr ::= <INT:String>;  
BinExpr : Expr ::= Left:Expr Right:Expr;  
Add : BinExpr;
```

# JastAdd abstract grammars

[abstract] *Class* [: *Superclass*] ::= *RightHandSide*;

```
Program ::= Stmt*;  
abstract Stmt;  
Assignment : Stmt ::= IdExpr Expr;  
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abstract Expr;  
IdExpr : Expr ::= <ID:String>;  
IntExpr : Expr ::= <INT:String>;  
BinExpr : Expr ::= Left:Expr Right:Expr;  
Add : BinExpr;
```

Compared to canonical abstract grammars:

- **Classes** instead of nonterminals and productions
- Classes can be **abstract** (like in Java)
- Arbitrarily deep **inheritance hierarchy** (not just two levels)
- Support for *optional*, *list*, and *token* components
- Components can be **named**
- Right-hand side can be inherited from superclass (see **BinExpr**).
- No parentheses! You need to name all node classes in the AST.

# Generated Java API, ordinary components

```
abstract Stmt;  
WhileStmt : Stmt ::= Cond:Expr Stmt;
```

# Generated Java API, ordinary components

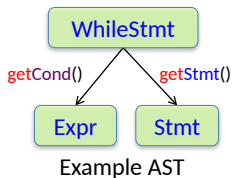
```
abstract Stmt;  
WhileStmt : Stmt ::= Cond:Expr Stmt;
```

```
abstract class Stmt extends ASTNode {}  
  
class WhileStmt extends Stmt {  
    Expr getCond();  
    Stmt getStmt();  
}
```

# Generated Java API, ordinary components

```
abstract Stmt;  
WhileStmt : Stmt ::= Cond:Expr Stmt;
```

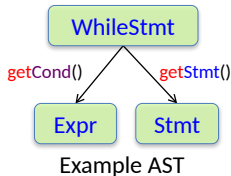
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abstract class Stmt extends ASTNode {}  
  
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# Generated Java API, ordinary components

```
abstract Stmt;  
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```

```
abstract class Stmt extends ASTNode {}  
  
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    Expr getCond();  
    Stmt getStmt();  
}
```



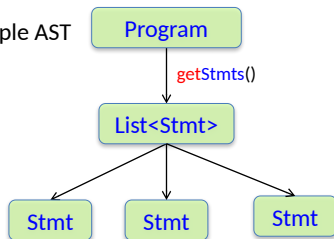
- A general class `ASTNode` is used as implicit superclass.
- A **traversal API** with `get` methods is generated.
- If component names are given, they are used in the API (`getCond`).
- Otherwise the type names are used (`getStmt`).

# Generated Java API, lists

`Program ::= Stmt*`;

```
class Program extends ASTNode {  
    int getNumStmt(); // 0 if empty  
    Stmt getStmt(int i); // numbered from 0  
    List<Stmt> getStmts(); // iterator  
}
```

Example AST

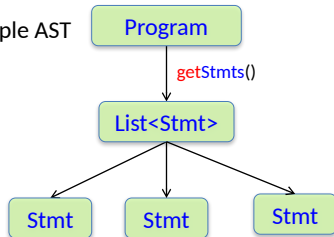


# Generated Java API, lists

```
Program ::= Stmt*;
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```
class Program extends ASTNode {  
    int getNumStmt(); // 0 if empty  
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    List<Stmt> getStmts(); // iterator  
}
```

Example AST



The list is represented by a `List` object that can be used as an `iterator`:

```
Program p = ...;  
for (Stmt s : p.getStmts()) {  
    ...  
}
```



# Generated Java API, lists

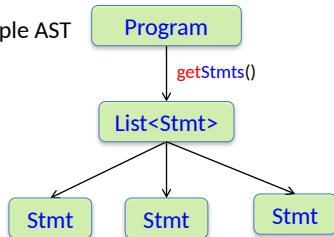
```
Program ::= Stmt*;
```

```
class Program extends ASTNode {  
    int getNumStmt(); // 0 if empty  
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}
```

The list is represented by a `List` object that can be used as an `iterator`:

```
Program p = ...;  
for (Stmt s : p.getStmts()) {  
    ...  
}
```

Example AST



Or access a specific statement:

```
Program p = ...;  
if (p.getNumStmt() >= 1) {  
    Stmt s = p.getStmt(0);  
    ...  
}
```

# Generated Java API, lists

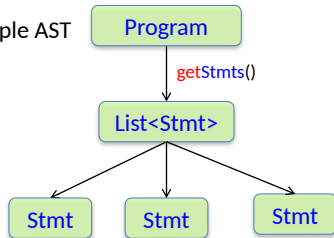
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Program ::= Stmt*;
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class Program extends ASTNode {  
    int getNumStmt(); // 0 if empty  
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}
```

The list is represented by a `List` object that can be used as an `iterator`:

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Program p = ...;  
for (Stmt s : p.getStmts()) {  
    ...  
}
```

Example AST



Or access a specific statement:

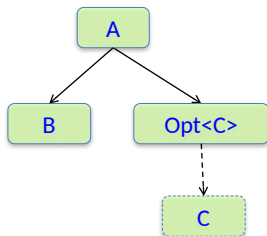
```
Program p = ...;  
if (p.getNumStmt() >= 1) {  
    Stmt s = p.getStmt(0);  
    ...  
}
```

*Note!* `List` is a JastAdd-specific class (like `ASTNode` and `Opt`). It is *not* the same class as `java.util.List`.

# Generated Java API, optionals

`A ::= B [C];`

```
class A extends ASTNode {  
  B getB();  
  boolean hasC();  
  C getC(); //Exception if not hasC()  
}
```



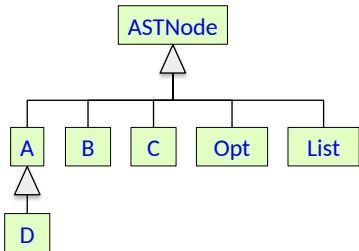
Example AST

- The **traversal API** includes a *has* method for the optional component.

# General traversal

Abstract grammar

```
A ::= B [C];  
B ::= ...;  
C ::= ...;  
D : A ::= ...;
```



Will stop also at **Opt** and **List** nodes.

Can be used for general traversal of the children of a node.

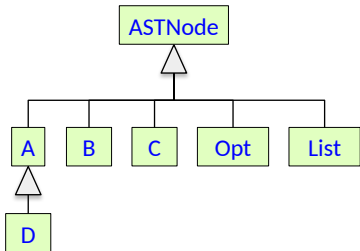
```
class ASTNode {  
    Iterable astChildren(); //Iterator for the children  
}
```

```
void ASTNode.m() {  
    ...  
    for (ASTNode child : astChildren()) { ... }  
}
```

# Low-level traversal API

Abstract grammar

```
A ::= B [C];  
B ::= ...;  
C ::= ...;  
D : A ::= ...;
```



Will stop also at **Opt** and **List** nodes.

This low-level API is not recommended.

Use iterator or high-level API instead - much more readable.

```
class ASTNode {  
    int getNumChild();  
    ASTNode getChild(int i);  
    ASTNode getParent(); // null for the root  
}
```

# Defining an abstract grammar

This is object-oriented modeling!

- What kinds of **objects** are there in the AST?  
E.g., **Program**, **WhileStmt**, **Assignment**, **Add**, ...
- What are the **generalized concepts** (abstract classes)?  
E.g., **Statement**, **Expression**, ...
- What are the **components** of an object?  
E.g., an **Assignment** has an **Identifier** and an **Expression**...

# Defining an abstract grammar

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E.g., **Statement**, **Expression**, ...
- What are the **components** of an object?  
E.g., an **Assignment** has an **Identifier** and an **Expression**...

```
Program ::= ...;  
abstract Statement;  
abstract Expression;  
abstract Declaration;  
WhileStmt : Statement ::= ...;  
Assignment : Statement ::= Identifier Expression;  
...
```

# Defining an abstract grammar

This is object-oriented modeling!

- What kinds of **objects** are there in the AST?  
E.g., **Program**, **WhileStmt**, **Assignment**, **Add**, ...
- What are the **generalized concepts** (abstract classes)?  
E.g., **Statement**, **Expression**, ...
- What are the **components** of an object?  
E.g., an **Assignment** has an **Identifier** and an **Expression**...

```
Program ::= ...;  
abstract Statement;  
abstract Expression;  
abstract Declaration;  
WhileStmt : Statement ::= ...;  
Assignment : Statement ::= Identifier Expression;  
...
```

Teal syntax (used in the labs):

```
Program ::= ...;  
abstract Stmt;  
abstract Expr;  
abstract Decl;  
WhileStmt : Stmt ::= ...;  
Assignment : Stmt ::= IdUse Expr;  
...
```



# Summary questions: Abstract syntax trees

- What is the correspondence between an abstract grammar and an object-oriented model?
- Orientation about JastAdd abstract grammars, traversal API.
- What are properties of a good abstract grammar?

# The Expression Problem

Easy to add  
language  
construct

**OOP**

**OOP  
with Static Aspects\***

\* Not Java,  
no separate  
compilation.

Hard to add  
language  
construct

**OOP  
with Visitor Pattern**

**FP**

Hard to add  
computation

Easy to add  
computation

# Ordinary programming

Example: Printing an AST

```
class Exp {
    abstract void print();
}
class Add extends Exp {
    Exp e1, e2;
    void print() {
        e1.print();
        System.out.print("+");
        e2.print();
    }
}
class IntExp extends Exp {
    int value;
    void print() {
        System.out.print(value);
    }
}
...
```

# Ordinary programming

Example: Printing an AST

```
class Exp {
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class IntExp extends Exp {
    int value;
    void print() {
        System.out.print(value);
    }
}
...
```

## Pros:

- Straightforward code
- Modular extension in the language dimension (subclasses)

## Cons:

- No modular extension in the operation dimension – all classes need to be modified.
- Tangled code – many different concerns in the same class.

# Visitor solution

Example: Printing an AST

```
class Exp {  
}  
class Add extends Exp {  
    Exp e1, e2;  
    void accept(Visitor v) {  
        v.visit(this);  
    }  
}  
class IntExp extends Exp {  
    int value;  
    void accept(Visitor v) {  
        v.visit(this);  
    }  
}  
...
```

```
class UnparserVisitor implements Visitor {  
    void visit(Add node) {  
        node.e1.accept(this);  
        System.out.print("+");  
        node.e2.accept(this);  
    }  
    void visit(IntExpr node) {  
        System.out.print(node.value);  
    }  
}
```

# Visitor solution

Example: Printing an AST

```
class Exp {  
}  
class Add extends Exp {  
    Exp e1, e2;  
    void accept(Visitor v) {  
        v.visit(this);  
    }  
}  
class IntExp extends Exp {  
    int value;  
    void accept(Visitor v) {  
        v.visit(this);  
    }  
}  
...
```

```
class UnparserVisitor implements Visitor {  
    void visit(Add node) {  
        node.e1.accept(this);  
        System.out.print("+");  
        node.e2.accept(this);  
    }  
    void visit(IntExp node) {  
        System.out.print(node.value);  
    }  
}
```

## Pros:

- Modular extension in the operation dimension (add new visitor).

## Cons:

- Boilerplate code needed (accept and visit methods).
- Limited modular extensibility in the language dimension. Needs lots of boilerplate.

# Static Aspect-Oriented Programming

Example: Printing an AST

```
class Exp {  
}  
class Add extends Exp {  
    Exp e1, e2;  
}  
class IntExp extends Exp {  
    int value;  
}  
...
```

```
aspect Unparser {  
    abstract void Exp.print();  
    void Add.print() {  
        e1.print();  
        System.out.print("+");  
        e2.print();  
    }  
    void IntExp.print() {  
        System.out.print(value);  
    }  
}
```

# Static Aspect-Oriented Programming

## Example: Printing an AST

```
class Exp {  
}  
class Add extends Exp {  
    Exp e1, e2;  
}  
class IntExp extends Exp {  
    int value;  
}  
...
```

```
aspect Unparser {  
    abstract void Exp.print();  
    void Add.print() {  
        e1.print();  
        System.out.print("+");  
        e2.print();  
    }  
    void IntExp.print() {  
        System.out.print(value);  
    }  
}
```

### Pros:

- Straightforward code.
- Modular extension in the operation dimension (can be added in aspect).
- Modular extension in the language dimension (add new subclass, add operation code for those constructs in aspect).

### Cons:

- Cannot use plain Java. Need more advanced language like AspectJ or JastAdd.
- Typically no separate compilation of modules. (Modules woven before compilation)



# Inter-type declarations

The key construct in static AOP

```
class C {  
  int x;  
}
```

```
class D {  
}
```

```
aspect A {  
  T C.m() {  
    x = ...;  
    ...  
  }  
  int D.f = 3;  
}
```



inter-type declared method



inter-type declared field

# Inter-type declarations

The key construct in static AOP

```
class C {  
  int x;  
}
```

```
class D {  
}
```

```
aspect A {  
  T C.m() {  
    x = ...;  
    ...  
  }  
  int D.f = 3;  
}
```



inter-type declared method



inter-type declared field

is equivalent to:

```
class C {  
  int x;  
  T m() {  
    x = ...;  
    ...  
  }  
}
```

```
class D {  
  int f = 3;  
}
```

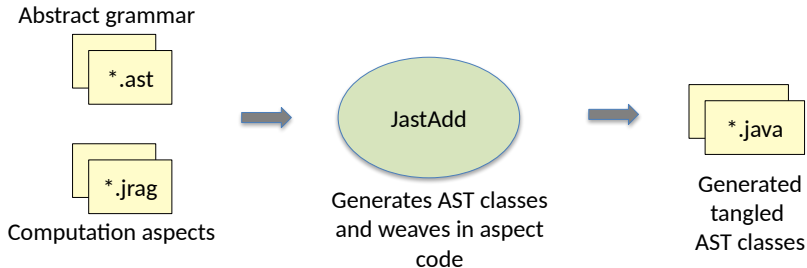
# Recall: Dealing with the expression problem

- **Edit the AST classes** (i.e., actually not solving the problem)
  - Non-modular, non-compositional.
  - **It is always a VERY BAD IDEA to edit generated code!**
  - Sometimes used anyway in industry.
- **Visitors: an OO design pattern.**
  - Modularize operations through double dispatch.
  - Not full modularization, not composition.
  - Supported by many parser generators.
  - Reasonably useful, commonly used in industry.
- **Static Aspect-Oriented Programming (AOP)**
  - Also known as *inter-type declarations* (ITDs) or *introduction*
  - Use new language constructs (aspects) to factor out code.
  - Solves the expression problem in a nice simple way.
  - The drawback: you need a new language: AspectJ, JastAdd, ...
- **Advanced language constructs**
  - Use more advanced language constructs: virtual classes in gbeta, traits in Scala, typeclasses in Haskell, ...
  - Drawbacks: Much more complex than static AOP. You need an advanced language. Not much practical experience (so far).

This lecture: Static AOP

# Static AOP in JastAdd

# Static AOP in JastAdd



# Example aspect: expression evaluation

Abstract grammar

```
abstract Exp;  
abstract BinExp : Exp ::= Left:Exp Right:Exp;  
Add : BinExp;  
Sub : BinExp;  
IntExp : Exp ::= <INT:String>;
```

# Example aspect: expression evaluation

## Abstract grammar

```
abstract Exp;  
abstract BinExp : Exp ::= Left:Exp Right:Exp;  
Add : BinExp;  
Sub : BinExp;  
IntExp : Exp ::= <INT:String>;
```

## Aspect

```
aspect Evaluator {  
  abstract int Exp.value();  
  int Add.value() { return getLeft().value() + getRight().value(); }  
  int Sub.value() { return getLeft().value() - getRight().value(); }  
  int IntExp.value() { return String.parseInt(getINT()); }  
}
```

**Inter-type declarations:** The value methods will be woven into the classes (Expr, Add, Sub, IntExpr).

Inter-type declarations are also known as *introductions*.

# Another example: unparsing

Abstract grammar

```
abstract Exp;  
abstract BinExp : Exp ::= Left:Exp Right:Exp;  
Add : BinExp;  
Sub : BinExp;  
IntExp : Exp ::= <INT:String>;
```



# Another example: unparsing

## Abstract grammar

```
abstract Exp;  
abstract BinExp : Exp ::= Left:Exp Right:Exp;  
Add : BinExp;  
Sub : BinExp;  
IntExp : Exp ::= <INT:String>;
```

## Aspect

```
aspect Unparser {  
  abstract void Exp.unparse(Stream s, String indent);  
  void BinExp.unparse(Stream s, String indent) {  
    getLeft().unparse(s,indent);  
    s.print(operatorString());  
    getRight().unparse(s,indent);  
  }  
  abstract String BinExp.operatorString();  
  String Add.operatorString() { return "+"; }  
  String Sub.operatorString() { return "-"; }  
  void IntExp.unparse(Stream s, String indent) { s.print(getINT()); }  
}
```

# Weaving the classes in JastAdd

toy.ast

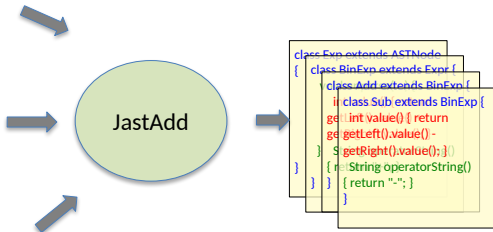
```
abstract Exp;  
abstract BinExp : Exp ::= Left:Exp Right:Exp;  
Add : BinExp;  
Sub : BinExp;  
IntExp : Exp ::= <INT:String>;
```

Evaluator.jrag

```
aspect Evaluator {  
  abstract int Exp.value();  
  int Add.value() { return getLeft().value() + getRight().value(); }  
  int Sub.value() { return getLeft().value() - getRight().value(); }  
  int IntExp.value() { return String.parseInt(getINT()); }  
}
```

Unparser.jrag

```
aspect Unparser {  
  abstract void Exp.unparse(Stream s, String indent);  
  void BinExp.unparse(Stream s, String indent) {  
    getLeft().unparse(s,indent);  
    s.print(operatorString());  
    getRight().unparse(s,indent);  
  }  
  abstract BinExp.operatorString();  
  String Add.operatorString() { return "+"; }  
  String Sub.operatorString() { return "-"}  
  void IntExp.unparse(Stream s, String indent) { s.print(getINT()); }  
}
```



*Tangled generated code*

*Untangled source code*

# Features that can be factored out to aspects in JastAdd

- Methods
- Instance variables
- "implements" clauses
- "import" clauses
- attribute grammars (see later lecture)

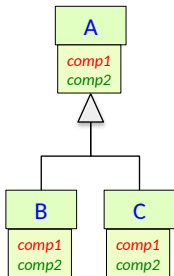
# Static aspects vs Visitors

|  | Static aspects                                      | Visitors   |
|--|---|--|
| What can be factored out from AST classes? | instance variables<br>methods<br>implements clauses | only methods   |
| Type safety?                               | full type precision                                 | Casts may be needed, depending on framework  |
| Method parameters                          | any number  | only one   |
| Ease of use?                               | Very simple   | Clumsy, boilerplate code needed.   |
| Arbitrary composition of modules?          | Yes   | No - you can extend a visitor, but then you need factories to create them. And you cannot not easily combine two extensions. |
| Separate compilation?                      | Not for JastAdd or AspectJ.                         | Yes  |
| Mainstream OO language?                    | No - you need JastAdd, AspectJ, or similar          | Yes, use Java or any other OO language.  |

# Recall: The expression problem

How add both classes and computations in a modular way?

Ordinary OO

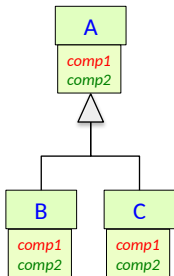


Classes can be added modularly, but not computations.  
Simple code.

# Recall: The expression problem

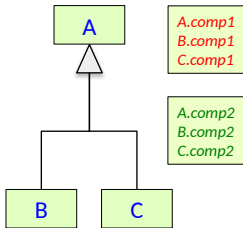
How add both classes and computations in a modular way?

Ordinary OO



Classes can be added modularly, but not computations.  
Simple code.

Aspects with inter-type declarations

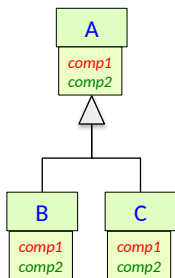


Fully modular.  
Simple code.

# Recall: The expression problem

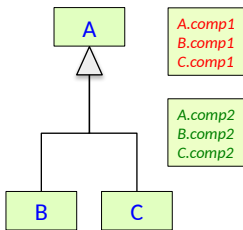
How add both classes and computations in a modular way?

Ordinary OO



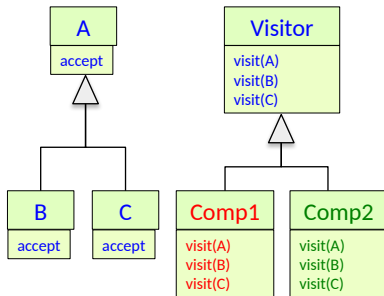
Classes can be added modularly, but not computations.  
Simple code.

Aspects with inter-type declarations



Fully modular.  
Simple code.

The Visitor design pattern



Computations can be added modularly, but not classes.  
Complex code.

# Full Aspect-Oriented Programming

$$\boxed{\text{Full AOP}} = \boxed{\text{Static AOP}} + \boxed{\text{Dynamic AOP}}$$



# Full Aspect-Oriented Programming

Full AOP

=

Static AOP

+

Dynamic AOP

inter-type declarations

advice  
joinpoints  
pointcuts

Modularize declarations.

Modularize instrumentation.

# Full Aspect-Oriented Programming

- JastAdd supports only a small part of AOP, namely *static* AOP with *inter-type declarations*.
- Aspect-oriented programming is a wider concept that usually focuses on *dynamic* behavior: a general code instrumentation technique:
  - A *joinpoint* is a point at runtime where advice code can be added.
  - A *pointcut* is a set of joinpoints defined at compile-time, and that can be described in a simple way, e.g.,
    - all calls to a method *m()*
    - all accesses of a variable *v*
  - *Advice* is code you can specify in an aspect and that can be added at joinpoints, either *after*, *before*, or *around* the joinpoint.
  - Example applications:
    - Add logging of method calls in an aspect (instead of adding print statements all over your code)
    - Add synchronization code to basic code that is unsynchronized

# Computations on the AST

IMPERATIVE COMPUTATIONS

DECLARATIVE COMPUTATIONS

# Computations on the AST

## IMPERATIVE COMPUTATIONS

- Computations that "do" something. (have an effect)
  - Modify state
  - Output to files
- Useful for
  - Interpretation
  - Printing error messages
  - Output of code
- Technique:
  - Methods, modularized with
    - Inter-type declarations, or
    - Visitors

## DECLARATIVE COMPUTATIONS

- Computations of properties (of nodes in the AST)
  - No side-effects
- Useful for computing
  - Name bindings
  - Types of expressions
  - Error information
- Technique
  - Attribute grammars

# Properties of AST nodes

## INTRINSIC PROPERTIES

- Given directly by the AST:
  - children
  - token values (like the name of an identifier)

## DERIVED PROPERTIES

- Computed using the AST. E.g.,
  - the type of an expression
  - the decl of an identifier
  - the code of a method
  - ...
- Can be defined using attribute grammars

# Example derived properties

Does this method have any compile-time errors?

```
int gcd2(int a, int b) {  
    if (b == 0) {  
        return a;  
    }  
    return gcd2(b, a % b);  
}
```

What is the type of this expression?

What is the declaration of this b?

## Attribute grammars:

Express these properties as *attributes* of AST nodes.  
Define the attributes by simple directed *equations*.  
The equations can be solved automatically.

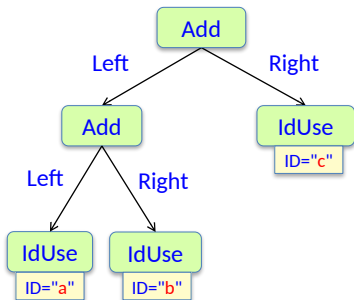
# Abstract grammar

defines the *structure* of ASTs

Abstract grammar:

```
abstract Exp;  
Add : Exp ::= Left:Exp  
Right:Exp;  
IdUse : Exp ::= <ID:String>;
```

Example AST for "a + b + c"  
(an *instance* of the abstract grammar)



# Abstract grammar

defines the *structure* of ASTs

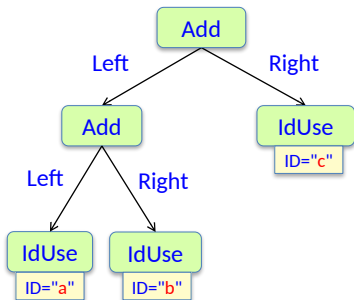
Abstract grammar:

```
abstract Exp;  
Add : Exp ::= Left:Exp  
Right:Exp;  
IdUse : Exp ::= <ID:String>;
```

The terminal symbols (like ID) are **intrinsic** attributes – constructed when building the AST. They are not defined by equations.

Also the children can be seen as intrinsic attributes.

Example AST for "a + b + c"  
(an *instance* of the abstract grammar)





# Attribute grammars

extends abstract grammars with attributes

Abstract grammar:

```
abstract Exp;  
Add : Exp ::= Left:Exp  
Right:Exp;  
IdUse : Exp ::= <ID:String>;
```

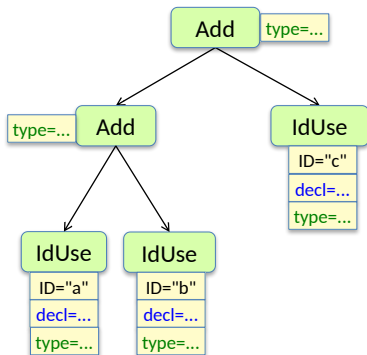
Attribute grammar modules:

```
syn IdDecl IdUse.decl() = ...;
```

```
syn Type Exp.type();  
eq Add.type() = ...;  
eq IdUse.type() = ...;
```

Each declared attribute ...

Example AST for "a + b + c"  
(an instance of the abstract grammar)



... will have instances in the AST

# Attributes and equations

Abstract grammar:

```
abstract Exp;  
Add : Exp ::= Left:Exp  
Right:Exp;  
IdUse : Exp ::= <ID:String>;
```

Think of attributes as "fields" in the tree nodes.

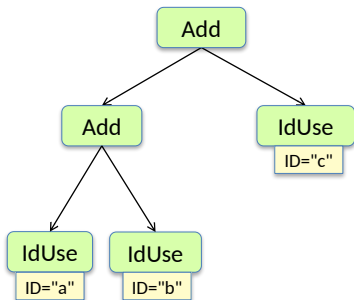
```
syn Type ASTClass.attribute();
```

Each equation *defines* an attribute in terms of other attributes in the tree.

```
eq definedAttribute = function of other  
attributes;
```

An *evaluator* computes the values of the attributes (solves the equation system).  
Think of the equations as "methods" called by the evaluator.

Example AST for "a + b + c"  
(an *instance* of the abstract grammar)



# Attribute mechanisms

**Intrinsic\*** - given value when the AST is constructed (no equation)

**Synthesized\*** - the equation is in the same node as the attribute

**Inherited\*** - the equation is in an ancestor

**Broadcasting\*** - the equation holds for a complete subtree

**Reference\*** - the attribute can be a reference to an AST node.

**Parameterized** - the attribute can have parameters

**NTA** - the attribute is a "nonterminal" (a fresh node or subtree)

**Collection** - the attribute is defined by a set of contributions, instead of by an equation.

**Circular** - the attribute may depend on itself (solved using fixed-point iteration)

\* **Treated in this lecture**

# Introduction to attribute grammars

# Simple example

## attributes and equations

AST node



attribute

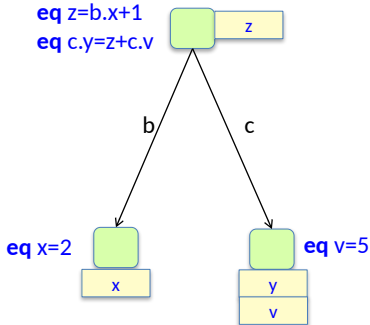


equation:

$$\text{eq } a_0 = f(a_1, \dots, a_n)$$

defined attribute

function of other attributes



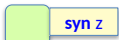
What is the value of  $y$ ?  
Solve the equation system!  
(Easy! Just use substitution.)

# Simple example

## synthesized and inherited attributes

defines attribute in the node - the attribute is *synthesized*

eq  $z = b.x + 1$   
eq  $c.y = z + c.v$



defines attribute in the child - the attribute is *inherited*

eq  $x = 2$



b

c

eq  $v = 5$



Donald Knuth introduced attribute grammars in 1968.

The term "inherited" is *not* related to inheritance in object-orientation.

Both terms originated during the 1960s.

# Simple example

declaring attributes and equations in a (JastAdd) grammar

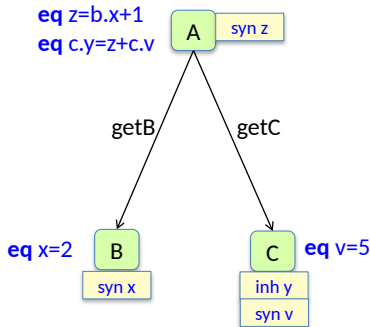
Abstract grammar:

```
A ::= B C ;  
B ;  
C ;
```

Attribute grammar module:

```
aspect SomeAttributes {  
  syn int A.z();  
  syn int B.x();  
  syn int C.v();  
  inh int C.y();  
  eq A.z() = getB().x()+1;  
  eq A.getC().y() = z() +  
  getC().v();  
  eq B.x() = 2;  
  eq C.v() = 5;  
}
```

uses inter-type declarations for attributes and equations



Note! The grammar is declarative. The order of the equations is irrelevant.  
JastAdd solves the equation system automatically.

# Shorthands and alternative forms

equation in attribute declaration, method body syntax

Canonical form:

```
syn int A.z();  
eq  A.z() = getB().x()+1;
```

Alternative shorthand form with equation directly in attribute declaration:

```
syn int A.z() = getB().x()+1;
```

Alternative form with method body syntax:

```
syn int A.z() {  
    return getB().x()+1;  
}
```



# Equations must be observationally pure

(free from externally visible side effects)

```
syn int A.z() {  
  return getB().x()+1;  
}
```

# Equations must be observationally pure

(free from externally visible side effects)

Which of these examples are ok?

```
syn int A.z() {  
  return getB().x()+1;  
}
```

```
syn int A.z() {  
  int r = 0;  
  r = getB().x()+1;  
  return r;  
}
```

```
int B.f = 0;  
syn int B.x() {  
  f++;  
  return f;  
}  
syn int B.y() {  
  f++;  
  return f;  
}
```

# Equations must be observationally pure

(free from externally visible side effects)

Which of these examples are ok?

**OK - no side effects**

```
syn int A.z() {  
  return getB().x()+1;  
}
```

**OK - side effects, but only local**

```
syn int A.z() {  
  int r = 0;  
  r = getB().x()+1;  
  return r;  
}
```

**Not OK - visible side effects!**

```
int B.f = 0;  
syn int B.x() {  
  f++;  
  return f;  
}  
syn int B.y() {  
  f++;  
  return f;  
}
```

**Will give different results if  
evaluated more than once, and  
depending on order of evaluation.**

**Warning! JastAdd does not check observational purity**

Abstract grammar:

```
A ::= B C;  
B ::= D;  
C ::= D;  
D;
```

## Well-formed attribute grammar

An AG is *well-formed* if there is exactly one defining equation for each attribute in any AST.

Abstract grammar:

```
A ::= B C;  
B ::= D;  
C ::= D;  
D;
```

# Well-formed attribute grammar

An AG is *well-formed* if there is exactly one defining equation for each attribute in any AST. Which of these are well-formed?

```
syn int A.x();
```

```
inh int B.y();  
eq A.getB().y() = 5;
```

```
syn int A.x();  
eq A.x() = 3;
```

```
inh int D.z();  
eq B.getD().z() = 7;
```

```
syn int A.x();  
eq A.x() = 3;  
eq A.x() = 17;
```

```
inh int D.z();  
eq B.getD().z() = 7;  
eq C.getD().z() = 11;
```

Abstract grammar:

```
A ::= B C;  
B ::= D;  
C ::= D;  
D;
```

# Well-formed attribute grammar

An AG is *well-formed* if there is exactly one defining equation for each attribute in any AST. Which of these are well-formed?

**Not well formed**

```
syn int A.x();
```

**Well formed**

```
inh int B.y();  
eq A.getB().y() = 5;
```

**Well formed**

```
syn int A.x();  
eq A.x() = 3;
```

**Not well formed**

```
inh int D.z();  
eq B.getD().z() = 7;
```

**Not well formed**

```
syn int A.x();  
eq A.x() = 3;  
eq A.x() = 17;
```

**Well formed**

```
inh int D.z();  
eq B.getD().z() = 7;  
eq C.getD().z() = 11;
```

JastAdd checks well-formedness at generation time

Abstract grammar:

```
A ::= B C;  
B ::= D;  
C ::= D;  
D;
```

## Well-defined attribute grammar

An AG is **well-defined** if it is well-formed, and there is a unique solution that can be computed.

Abstract grammar:

```
A ::= B C;  
B ::= D;  
C ::= D;  
D;
```

## Well-defined attribute grammar

An AG is **well-defined** if it is well-formed, and there is a unique solution that can be computed.  
Which of these are well-defined?

```
syn int A.x() = 3;
```

```
syn int A.y() {  
  int x = 0;  
  while (true)  
    x++;  
  return x;  
}
```

```
syn int A.s() = t();  
syn int A.t() = s();
```



Abstract grammar:

```
A ::= B C;  
B ::= D;  
C ::= D;  
D;
```

# Well-defined attribute grammar

An AG is **well-defined** if it is well-formed, and there is a unique solution that can be computed.  
Which of these are well-defined?

```
syn int A.x() = 3;
```

Well defined

```
syn int A.y() {  
  int x = 0;  
  while (true)  
    x++;  
  return x;  
}
```

Not well defined.  
Computation does not terminate.

```
syn int A.s() = t();  
syn int A.t() = s();
```

Not well defined. Circular definition.

**JastAdd checks circularity dynamically, at evaluation time.**

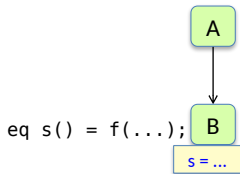
JastAdd supports well-defined circular attributes by a special construction, see later lecture.

# Synthesized attributes

# Synthesized attributes

**Synthesized** attribute:

The equation is in the *same* node as the attribute.



# Synthesized attributes

**Synthesized** attribute:

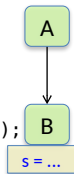
The equation is in the *same* node as the attribute.

JastAdd syntax:

```
syn T B.s() = f(...);
```

this code is in the context of B

eq  $s() = f(\dots);$



For properties that depend on information in the node (or its children).

Typically used for propagating information *upwards* in the tree.

# Synthesized attributes

## simple example

```
A ::=  
B;  
B;
```

```
syn int B.s() = 3;
```

*Draw the attribute and its value!*



# Synthesized attributes

## simple example

```
A ::=  
B;  
B;
```

```
syn int B.s() = 3;
```



Or equivalently, write the declaration and equation separately.

```
syn int B.s();  
eq B.s() = 3;
```

Or equivalently, write the equation as a method body:

```
syn int B.s() {  
    return 3;  
}
```

*Nota bene!*

The method body must be observationally pure.

# Synthesized attributes

subtypes can have different equations

```
A ::= B;  
abstract B;  
C : B;  
D : B;  
E : D;
```

Different subclasses can have different equations.

```
syn int B.s();  
eq C.s() = 4;  
eq D.s() = 5;  
eq E.s() = 6;
```

*Three different ASTs.  
Draw the attributes and their values!*

A

C

A

D

A

E

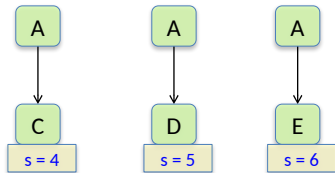
# Synthesized attributes

subtypes can have different equations

```
A ::= B;  
abstract B;  
C : B;  
D : B;  
E : D;
```

Different subclasses can have different equations.

```
syn int B.s();  
eq C.s() = 4;  
eq D.s() = 5;  
eq E.s() = 6;
```





# Synthesized attributes

an equation in the supertype can be overridden

```
A ::= B;  
abstract B;  
C : B;  
D : B;  
E : D;
```

```
syn int B.s() = 11;  
eq E.s() = 17;
```

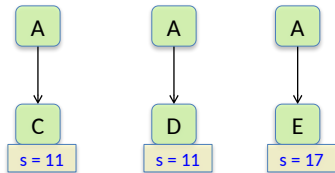


# Synthesized attributes

an equation in the supertype can be overridden

```
A ::= B;  
abstract B;  
C : B;  
D : B;  
E : D;
```

```
syn int B.s() = 11;  
eq E.s() = 17;
```



The equation in B holds for all subtypes, except for those overriding the equation.

A synthesized attribute is similar to a side-effect free method, but:

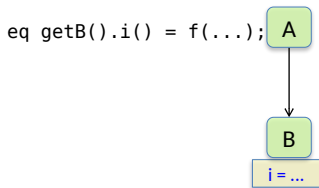
- its value is cached (memoized) the first time it is accessed.
- circularity is checked at runtime (results in exception)

# Inherited attributes

# Inherited attributes

**Inherited** attribute:

The equation is in an ancestor



# Inherited attributes

**Inherited** attribute:

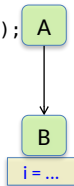
The equation is in an ancestor

JastAdd syntax:

```
inh T B.s();  
eq  A.getB().i() = f(...);
```

this code is in the context of A

eq getB().i() = f(...);



For computing a property that depends on the *context* of the node.

Typically used for propagating information *downwards* in the tree.

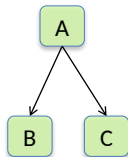
# Inherited attributes

## simple example

```
A ::= B C ;  
B ;  
C ;
```

```
inh int B.i();  
eq A.getB().i() = 2;
```

*Draw the attribute and its value!*

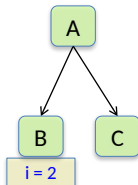


# Inherited attributes

## simple example

```
A ::= B C ;  
B ;  
C ;
```

```
inh int B.i();  
eq A.getB().i() = 2;
```



# Inherited attributes

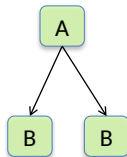
## different equations for different children

```
A ::= Left:B Right:B;  
B;
```

*Draw the attributes and their values!*

The parent can specify different equations for its different children.

```
inh int B.i();  
eq A.getLeft().i() = 2;  
eq A.getRight().i() = 3;
```





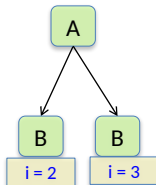
# Inherited attributes

## different equations for different children

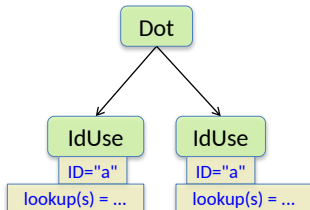
```
A ::= Left:B Right:B;  
B;
```

The parent can specify different equations for its different children.

```
inh int B.i();  
eq A.getLeft().i() = 2;  
eq A.getRight().i() = 3;
```



This is useful, for example, when defining scope rules for qualified access. The lookup attributes should have different values for the different IdUses.

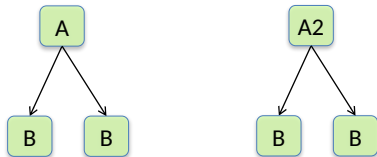


# Inherited attributes

a subtype can override an equation

```
A ::= Left:B Right:B;  
B;  
A2 : A;
```

```
inh int B.i();  
eq A.getLeft().i() = 2;  
eq A.getRight().i() = 3;  
eq A2.getLeft().i() = 4;
```

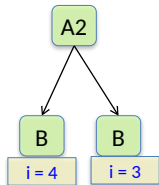
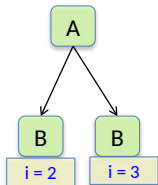


# Inherited attributes

a subtype can override an equation

```
A ::= Left:B Right:B;  
B;  
A2 : A;
```

```
inh int B.i();  
eq A.getLeft().i() = 2;  
eq A.getRight().i() = 3;  
eq A2.getLeft().i() = 4;
```



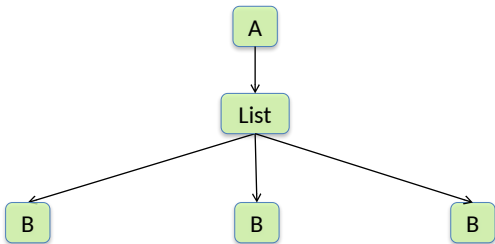
# Inherited attributes

## a list child has an index

```
A ::= B*;  
B;
```

For list children, an index can be used in the equation

```
eq A.getB(int index).x() = (index+1) * (index+1);  
inh int B.x();
```



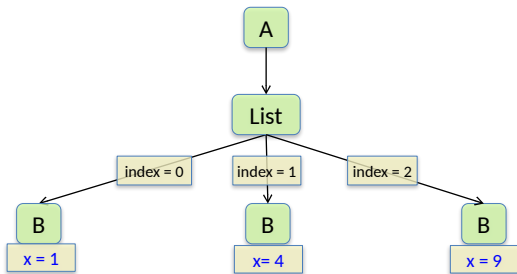
# Inherited attributes

## a list child has an index

```
A ::= B*;  
B;
```

For list children, an index can be used in the equation

```
eq A.getB(int index).x() = (index+1) * (index+1);  
inh int B.x();
```



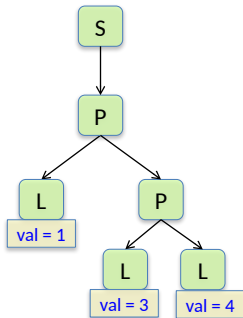
This is useful, for example, when defining name analysis with declare-before-use semantics.

# Example: Fractions

# Goal

Compute  $f$  for each L, where  $f$  is L's fraction of the sum of all *val* attributes.

```
S ::= N;  
abstract N;  
P : N ::= Left:N Right:N;  
L : N ::= <val:int>;
```

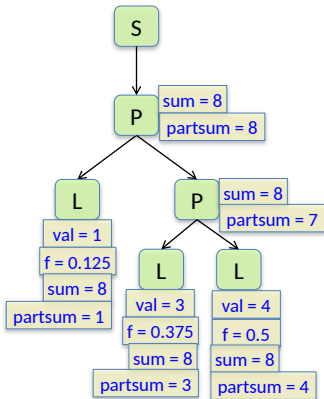


# Goal

Compute  $f$  for each L, where  $f$  is L's fraction of the sum of all *val* attributes.

```
S ::= N;  
abstract N;  
P : N ::= Left:N Right:N;  
L : N ::= <val:int>;
```

```
syn float L.f() = getval()/sum();  
inh int N.sum();  
eq int P.getLeft().sum() = sum();  
eq int P.getRight().sum() = sum();  
eq int S.getN().sum() =  
getN().partsum();  
syn int N.partsum();  
eq P.partsum() =  
    getLeft().partsum() +  
    getRight().partsum();  
eq L.partsum() = getval();
```





# Demand evaluation and memoization

```

S ::= N;
abstract N;
P : N ::= Left:N
Right:N;
L : N ::= <val:int>;

```

```

S root = ...;
L leaf1 = root...; L leaf2 = root...;
System.out.println(leaf1.f());
System.out.println(leaf2.f());

```

```

syn float L.f() = sum()/getval();
inh int N.sum();
eq int P.getLeft().sum() = sum();
eq int P.getRight().sum() = sum();
eq int S.getN().sum() =
getN().partsum();
syn int N.partsum();
eq P.partsum() =
    getLeft().partsum() +
    getRight().partsum();
eq L.partsum() = getval();

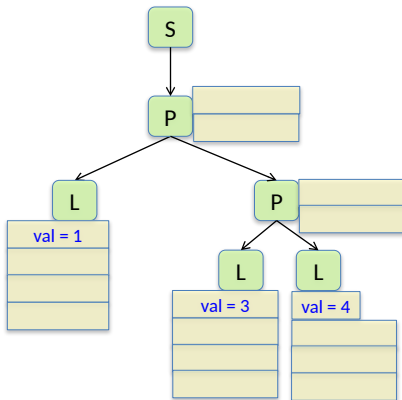
```

Recursive evaluation algorithm  
with memoization

```

If not cached
  find the equation
  compute its right-hand side
  cache the value
fi
Return the cached value

```



```

S ::= N;
abstract N;
P : N ::= Left:N
Right:N;
L : N ::= <val:int>;

```

```

S root = ...;
L leaf1 = root...; L leaf2 = root...;
System.out.println(leaf1.f());
System.out.println(leaf2.f());

```

```

syn float L.f() = sum()/getval();
inh int N.sum();
eq int P.getLeft().sum() = sum();
eq int P.getRight().sum() = sum();
eq int S.getN().sum() =
getN().partsum();
syn int N.partsum();
eq P.partsum() =
    getLeft().partsum() +
    getRight().partsum();
eq L.partsum() = getval();

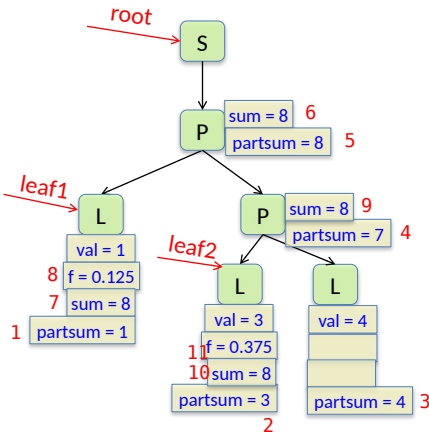
```

Recursive evaluation algorithm  
with memoization

```

If not cached
  find the equation
  compute its right-hand side
  cache the value
fi
Return the cached value

```



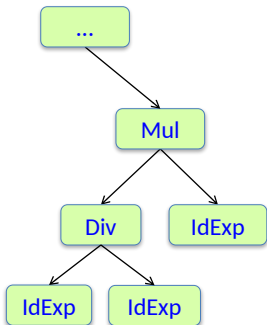
memoization order

# Summary questions

- What is an attribute grammar?
- What is an intrinsic attribute?
- What is an externally visible side-effect? Why are they not allowed in the equations?
- What is a synthesized attribute?
- What is an inherited attribute?
- What is the difference between a declarative and an imperative specification?
- What is demand evaluation?
- Why are attributes cached?

You can now do all of Assignment 3.  
But it is recommended to do the 7B quiz first!

# Example computations on an AST



**Name analysis:** find the declaration of an identifier

**Type analysis:** compute the type of an expression

**Expression evaluation:** compute the value of a constant expression

**Code generation:** compute an intermediate code representation of the program

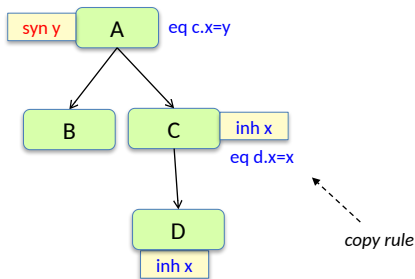
**Unparsing:** compute a text representation of the program

# Broadcasting

# Broadcasting of inherited attributes

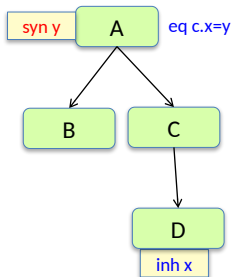
## Traditional AG:

Equation for inherited attribute must be in the immediate parent. Leads to "copy rules".



## JastAdd:

Equation for inherited attribute is "broadcasted" to complete subtree. No "copy rules" are needed.



# Inherited attributes

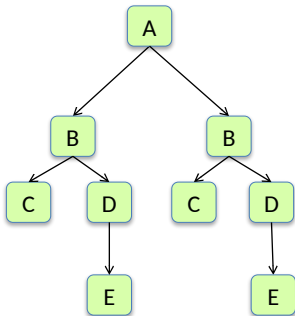
*broadcasting*: equations hold for complete subtrees

```
A ::= Left:B Right:B;  
B ::= C D;  
C;  
D ::= E;  
E;
```

*Draw the attributes and their values!*

The equations hold for the complete children subtrees.

```
eq A.getLeft().i() = 2;  
eq A.getRight().i() = 3;  
inh int C.i();  
inh int E.i();
```





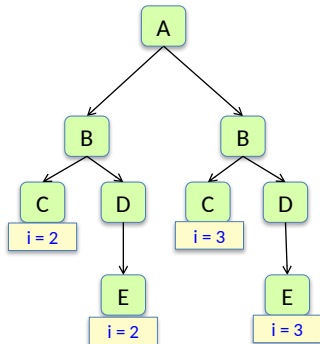
# Inherited attributes

*broadcasting*: equations hold for complete subtrees

```
A ::= Left:B Right:B;  
B ::= C D;  
C;  
D ::= E;  
E;
```

The equations hold for the complete children subtrees.

```
eq A.getLeft().i() = 2;  
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inh int C.i();  
inh int E.i();
```



# Inherited attributes

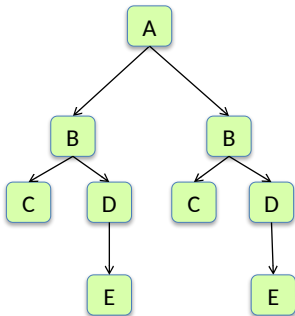
broadcasted equation can be overruled in subtree

```
A ::= Left:B Right:B;  
B ::= C D;  
C;  
D ::= E;  
E;
```

*Draw the attributes and their values!*

An equation can be overruled in a subtree.  
The nearest equation applies.

```
eq A.getLeft().i() = 2;  
eq A.getRight().i() = 3;  
eq B.getD().i() = i() + 5;  
inh int B.i();  
inh int C.i();  
inh int E.i();
```



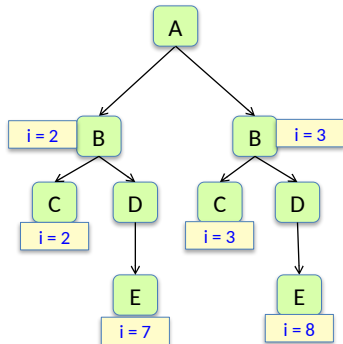
# Inherited attributes

broadcasted equation can be overruled in subtree

```
A ::= Left:B Right:B;  
B ::= C D;  
C;  
D ::= E;  
E;
```

An equation can be overruled in a subtree.  
The nearest equation applies.

```
eq A.getLeft().i() = 2;  
eq A.getRight().i() = 3;  
eq B.getD().i() = i() + 5;  
inh int B.i();  
inh int C.i();  
inh int E.i();
```



# Inherited attributes

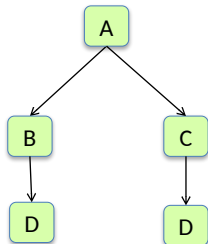
shorthand for equation applying to all children

```
A ::= B C;  
B ::= D;  
C ::= D;  
D;
```

The parent can write an equation that applies to *all* children.

```
eq A.getChild().i() = 8;  
inh int D.i();
```

*Draw the attributes and their values!*



# Inherited attributes

shorthand for equation applying to *all* children

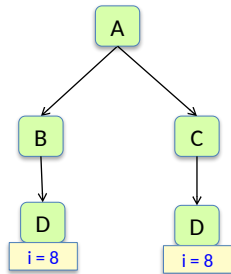
```
A ::= B C;  
B ::= D;  
C ::= D;  
D;
```

The parent can write an equation that applies to all children.

```
eq A.getChild().i() = 8;  
inh int D.i();
```

This is equivalent to writing an equation for each child:

```
eq A.getB().i() = 8;  
eq A.getC().i() = 8;  
inh int D.i();
```

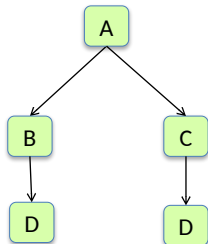


# Inherited attributes

overruling is possible for getChild too

```
A ::= B C;  
B ::= D;  
C ::= D;  
D;
```

```
eq A.getChild().i() = 8;  
inh int D.i();  
eq B.getD().i() = 5;
```

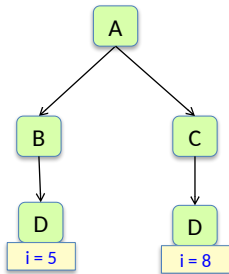


# Inherited attributes

overruling is possible for getChild too

```
A ::= B C;  
B ::= D;  
C ::= D;  
D;
```

```
eq A.getChild().i() = 8;  
inh int D.i();  
eq B.getD().i() = 5;
```

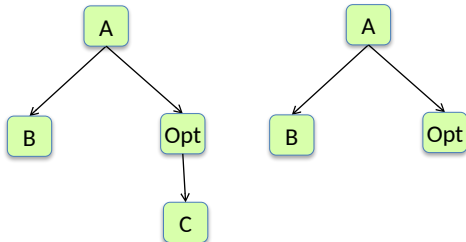


# Inherited attributes

defining attributes for optional children

```
A ::= B [C];  
B;  
C;
```

```
eq A.getC().i() = 4;  
inh int C.i();
```



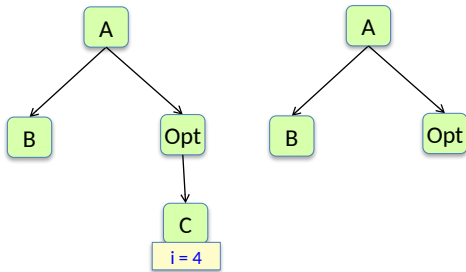


# Inherited attributes

defining attributes for optional children

```
A ::= B [C];  
B;  
C;
```

```
eq A.getC().i() = 4;  
inh int C.i();
```



The equation applies if there is a C node.

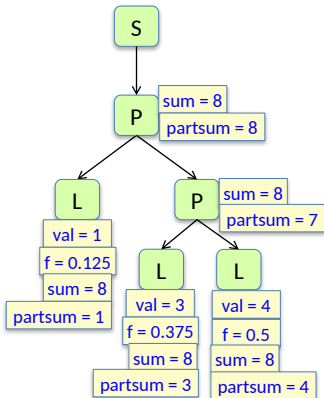
# Fractions example revisited

# Fractions example

Compute  $f$  for each L, where  $f$  is L's fraction of the sum of all *val* attributes.

```
S ::= N;  
abstract N;  
P : N ::= Left:N Right:N;  
L : N ::= <val:int>;
```

```
syn float L.f() = sum()/getval();  
inh int N.sum();  
eq int P.getLeft().sum() = sum();  
eq int P.getRight().sum() = sum();  
eq int S.getN().sum() =  
getN().partsum();  
syn int N.partsum();  
eq P.partsum() =  
    getLeft().partsum() +  
    getRight().partsum();  
eq L.partsum() = getval();
```

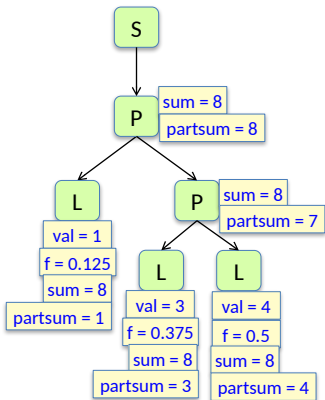


# Fractions example

Compute  $f$  for each L, where  $f$  is L's fraction of the sum of all *val* attributes.

```
S ::= N;  
abstract N;  
P : N ::= Left:N Right:N;  
L : N ::= <val:int>;
```

```
syn float L.f() = sum()/getval();  
inh int N.sum();  
eq int P.getLeft().sum() = sum();  
eq int P.getRight().sum() = sum();  
eq int S.getN().sum() =  
getN().partsum();  
syn int N.partsum();  
eq P.partsum() =  
    getLeft().partsum() +  
    getRight().partsum();  
eq L.partsum() = getval();
```



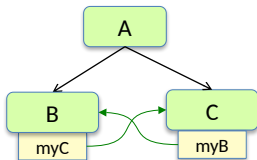
Because of broadcasting, the copy equations are unnecessary.

## Reference attributes

# Reference attributes

for defining graphs on top of the AST

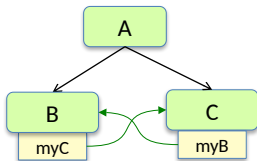
```
A ::= B C ;  
B ;  
C ;
```



# Reference attributes

for defining graphs on top of the AST

```
A ::= B C;  
B;  
C;
```



Attribute grammar

```
aspect Graph {  
  inh C B.myC();  
  inh B C.myB();  
  eq A.getB().myC() =  
  getC();  
  eq A.getC().myB() =  
  getB();  
}
```

*Note!*

The defined structure is cyclic, but the attribute dependencies are not circular.

# Summary questions:

## reference attributes, name analysis

- What is broadcasting?
- What is a reference attribute grammar?
- What is a reference attribute?