

An ANTLR Grammar for Esterel

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ANTLR

Esterel.g

```
class EsterelParser
extends Parser;

file : expr EOF!;

class EsterelLexer
extends Lexer;

ID : LETTER (LETTER
| DIGIT)* ;
```



EsterelParser.java

```
public class
EsterelParser extends
antlr.LLkParser
implements
EsterelParserTokenTypes
{ }
```

EsterelLexer.java

```
public class EsterelLexer
extends antlr.CharScanner
implements
EsterelParserTokenTypes,
TokenStream { }
```

ANTLR Lexer Specifications

Look like

```
class MyLexer extends Lexer;  
options {  
    option = value  
}
```

```
Token1 : 'char' 'char' ;
```

```
Token2 : 'char' 'char' ;
```

```
Token3 : 'char' ('char')? ;
```

Tries to match all non-protected tokens at once.

ANTLR Parser Specifications

Look like

```
class MyParser extends Parser;  
options {  
    option = value  
}
```

```
rule1 : Token1 Token2  
        | Token3 rule2 ;  
rule2 : (Token1 Token2)* ;  
rule3 : rule1 ;
```

Looks at the next k tokens when deciding which option to consider next.

An ANTLR grammar for Esterel

Esterel: Language out of France. Programs look like

```
module ABRO:  
  input A, B, R;  
  output O;  
  
  loop  
    [ await A || await B ];  
    emit O  
  each R  
  
end module
```

The Esterel LRM

Lexical aspects are classical:

- Identifiers are sequences of letters, digits, and the underline character `_`, starting with a letter.
- Integers are as in any language, e.g., `123`, and floating-point numerical constants are as in C++ and Java; the values `12.3`, `.123E2`, and `1.23E1` are constants of type double, while `12.3f`, `.123E2f`, and `1.23E1f` are constants of type float.
- Strings are written between double quotes, e.g., `"a string"`, with doubled double quotes as in `"a "" double quote"`.

The Esterel LRM

- Keywords are reserved and cannot be used as identifiers. Many constructs are bracketed, like “**present . . . end present**”. For such constructs, repeating the initial keyword is optional; one can also write “**present . . . end**”.
- Simple comments start with % and end at end-of-line. Multiple-line comments start with %{ and end with }% .

A Lexer for Esterel

Operators from the language reference manual:

. # + - / * || < > , = ; : := ()
[] ? ?? <= >= <> ==>

Main observation: none longer than two characters. Need $k = 2$ to disambiguate, e.g., ? and ??.

```
class EsterelLexer extends Lexer;
options {
    k = 2;
}
```

A Lexer for Esterel

Next, I wrote a rule for each punctuation character:

```
PERIOD :      ' .' ;
POUND  :      ' #' ;
PLUS   :      ' +' ;
DASH   :      ' -' ;
SLASH  :      ' /' ;
STAR   :      ' *' ;
PARALLEL :    " || " ;
```

A Lexer for Esterel

Identifiers are standard:

ID

**: (' a' .. ' z' | ' A' .. ' Z')
(' a' .. ' z' | ' A' .. ' Z' | ' _' | ' 0' .. ' 9') *
;**

A Lexer for Esterel

String constants must be contained on a single line and may contain double quotes, e.g.,

```
"This is a constant with ""double quotes"""
```

ANTLR makes this easy: annotating characters with ! discards them from the token text:

```
StringConstant
```

```
  : ' "' !  
    ( ~ ( ' "' | '\n' )  
    | ( ' "' ! ' "' )  
    ) *  
  ' "' !  
  ;
```

A Lexer for Esterel

I got in trouble with the `~` operator, which inverts a character class. Invert with respect to what?

Needed to change options:

```
options {  
    k = 2;  
    charVocabulary = '\3' .. '\377';  
    exportVocab = Esterel;  
}
```

A Lexer for Esterel

Another problem: ANTLR scanners check each recognized token's text against keywords by default.

A string such as "abort" would scan as a keyword!

```
options {  
    k = 2;  
    charVocabulary = '\3' .. '\377';  
    exportVocab = Esterel;  
    testLiterals = false;  
}
```

```
ID options { testLiterals = true; }  
    : ('a' .. 'z' | 'A' .. 'Z') /* ... */ ;
```

Numbers Defined

From the LRM:

Integers are as in any language, e.g., `123`, and floating-point numerical constants are as in C++ and Java; the values `12.3`, `.123E2`, and `1.23E1` are constants of type double, while `12.3f`, `.123E2f`, and `1.23E1f` are constants of type float.

Numbers

With $k = 2$, for each rule ANTLR generates a set of characters that can appear first and a set that can appear second. But it doesn't consider the possible **combinations**.

I split numbers into Number and FractionalNumber to avoid this problem: If the two rules were combined, the lookahead set for Number would include a period (e.g., from “.1”) followed by end-of-token e.g., from “1” by itself).

Example numbers:

	First	Second
.1\$.	EOT
.2	1	.
1\$	2	1

Number Rules

Number

```
: ('0'..'9')+  
  ( '.' ('0'..'9')* (Exponent)?  
    ( ('f'|'F') { setType(FloatConst); }  
    | /* empty */ { setType(DoubleConst); }  
    )  
  | /* empty */ { setType(Integer); }  
  )  
;
```

Number Rules Continued

FractionalNumber

```
: '.' ('0'..'9')+ (Exponent)?  
    ( ('f'|'F') { setType(FloatConst); }  
    | /* empty */ { setType(DoubleConst); }  
    )  
;
```

protected

Exponent

```
: ('e'|'E') ('+'|'-')? ('0'..'9')+  
;
```

Comments

From the LRM:

Simple comments start with % and end at end-of-line.

Multiple-line comments start with %{ and end with }%.

Comments

Comment

```
: '%'
  ( ('{' ) => '{'
    ( // Prevent .* from eating the whole file
      options {greedy=false};
      (
        ('\r' '\n') => '\r' '\n' { newline(); }
        | '\r' { newline(); }
        | '\n' { newline(); }
        | ~( '\n' | '\r' )
      )
    ) *
    "}% "
    | ((~'\n'))* '\n' { newline(); }
  )
{ setType(Token.SKIP); }
;
```

A Parser for Esterel

Esterel's syntax started out using ; as a separator and later allowed it to be a terminator.

The language reference manual doesn't agree with what the compiler accepts.

Grammar from the LRM

NonParallel:

AtomicStatement

Sequence

Sequence:

SequenceWithoutTerminator ; opt

SequenceWithoutTerminator:

AtomicStatement ; AtomicStatement

SequenceWithoutTerminator ; AtomicStatement

AtomicStatement:

nothing

pause

...

Grammar from the LRM

But in fact, the compiler accepts

```
module TestSemicolon1:  
    nothing;  
end module  
module TestSemicolon2:  
    nothing; nothing;  
end module  
module TestSemicolon3:  
    nothing; nothing  
end module
```

Rule seems to be “one or more statements separated by semicolons except for the last, which is optional.”

Grammar for Statement Sequences

Obvious solution:

sequence

: atomicStatement

(SEMICOLON atomicStatement) *

(SEMICOLON) ?

;

warning: nondeterminism upon

k==1:SEMICOLON

between alt 1 and exit branch of block

Which option do you take when there's a semicolon?

Nondeterminism

```
sequence : atomicStatement  
          (SEMICOLON atomicStatement)*  
          (SEMICOLON)? ;
```

Is equivalent to

```
sequence : atomicStatement seq1 seq2 ;
```

```
seq1 : SEMICOLON atomicStatement seq1  
      | /* nothing */ ;
```

```
seq2 : SEMICOLON  
      | /* nothing */ ;
```

Nondeterminism

```
sequence : atomicStatement seq1 seq2 ;  
seq1    : SEMICOLON atomicStatement seq1  
        | /* nothing */ ;  
seq2    : SEMICOLON  
        | /* nothing */ ;
```

How does it choose an alternative in `seq1`?

First choice: next token is a semicolon.

Second choice: next token is one that may follow `seq1`.

But this may also be a semicolon!

Nondeterminism

Solution: tell ANTLR to be greedy and prefer the iteration solution.

sequence

```
: atomicStatement  
  ( options { greedy=true; }  
    : SEMICOLON! atomicStatement ) *  
  (SEMICOLON!)?  
;
```

Nondeterminism

Delays can be “A” “X A” “immediate A” or “[A and B].”

```
delay : expr bSigExpr  
      | bSigExpr  
      | "immediate" bSigExpr ;
```

```
bSigExpr : ID  
          | "[" signalExpression "]" ;
```

```
expr : ID | /* ... */ ;
```

Which choice when next token is an ID?

Nondeterminism

```
delay : expr bSigExpr  
      | bSigExpr  
      | "immediate" bSigExpr ;
```

What do we really want here?

If the delay is of the form “expr bSigExpr,” parse it that way.

Otherwise try the others.

Nondeterminism

```
delay : ( (expr bSigExpr) => delayPair
         | bSigExpr
         | "immediate" bSigExpr
         ) ;
```

```
delayPair : expr bSigExpr ;
```

The => operator means “try to parse this first. If it works, choose this alternative.”

Greedy Rules

The author of ANTLR writes

I have yet to see a case when building a parser grammar where I did not want a subrule to match as much input as possible.

However, it is particularly useful in scanners:

COMMENT

```
: "/*" (.)* "*/"  
;
```

This doesn't work like you'd expect...

Turning Off Greedy Rules

The right way is to disable greedy:

```
COMMENT
```

```
    : "/"*"  
      (options {greedy=false;} :.)*  
      "*" /" ;
```

This only works if you have two characters of lookahead:

```
class L extends Lexer;  
options {  
    k=2;  
}
```

```
CMT : "/"* (options {greedy=false;} :.)* "*" /" ;
```

The Dangling Else Problem

```
class MyGram extends Parser;
```

```
stmt : "if" expr "then" stmt ("else" stmt)? ;
```

Gives

```
ANTLR Parser Generator Version 2.7.1
```

```
gram.g:3: warning: nondeterminism upon
```

```
gram.g:3:      k==1:"else"
```

```
gram.g:3:      between alts 1 and 2 of block
```

Generated Code

```
stmt : "if" expr "then" stmt ("else" stmt)? ;
match(LITERAL_if);
expr();
match(LITERAL_then);
stmt();
if ((LA(1)==LITERAL_else)) {
    match(LITERAL_else); /* Close binding else */
    stmt();
} else if ((LA(1)==LITERAL_else)) {
    /* go on: else can follow a stmt */
} else {
    throw new SyntaxError(LT(1));
}
```

Removing the Warning

```
class MyGram extends Parser;
```

```
  stmt
```

```
    : "if" expr "then" stmt
```

```
      (options {greedy=true;} : "else" stmt) ?
```

```
    ;
```

A Simpler Language

```
class MyGram
    extends Parser;
```

```
stmt
: "if" expr
  "then" stmt
  ("else" stmt)?
  "fi"
;
```

```
match(LITERAL_if);
expr();
match(LITERAL_then);
stmt();
switch (LA(1)) {
case LITERAL_else:
    match(LITERAL_else);
    stmt();
    break;
case LITERAL_fi:
    break;
default:
    throw new SyntaxError(LT(1));
}
match(LITERAL_fi);
```