

# PetitParser

**[www.tudorgirba.com](http://www.tudorgirba.com)**

based on the work of Lukas Renggli  
[www.lukas-renggli.ch](http://www.lukas-renggli.ch)

# PetitParser

**built by Lukas Renggli  
deeply integrated with Smalltalk  
part of the Moose Suite**

input

parse

output



Petit**Parser**

```
Root := Document ?
Document := OPEN ElementNode * CLOSE
ElementNode := OPEN ELEMENTNAME AttributeNode * CLOSE
AttributeName := OPEN SIMPLENAME ValueNode * CLOSE
ValueNode := Primitive | ElementNode
Primitive := STRING | NUMBER
OPEN := "("
CLOSE := ")"
ELEMENTNAME := letter ( letter | digit ) * ( "." letter ( letter | digit ) ) *
SIMPLENAME := letter ( letter | digit ) *
NUMBER := "-" ? digit + ( "." digit + ) ? ( ( "e" | "E" ) ( "-" | "+" ) ? digit + ) ?
STRING := ( ' "' [^'] * ' "' ) +
digit := [0-9]
letter := [a-zA-Z_]
comment := "''' [^"] * """
```

target

Workspace

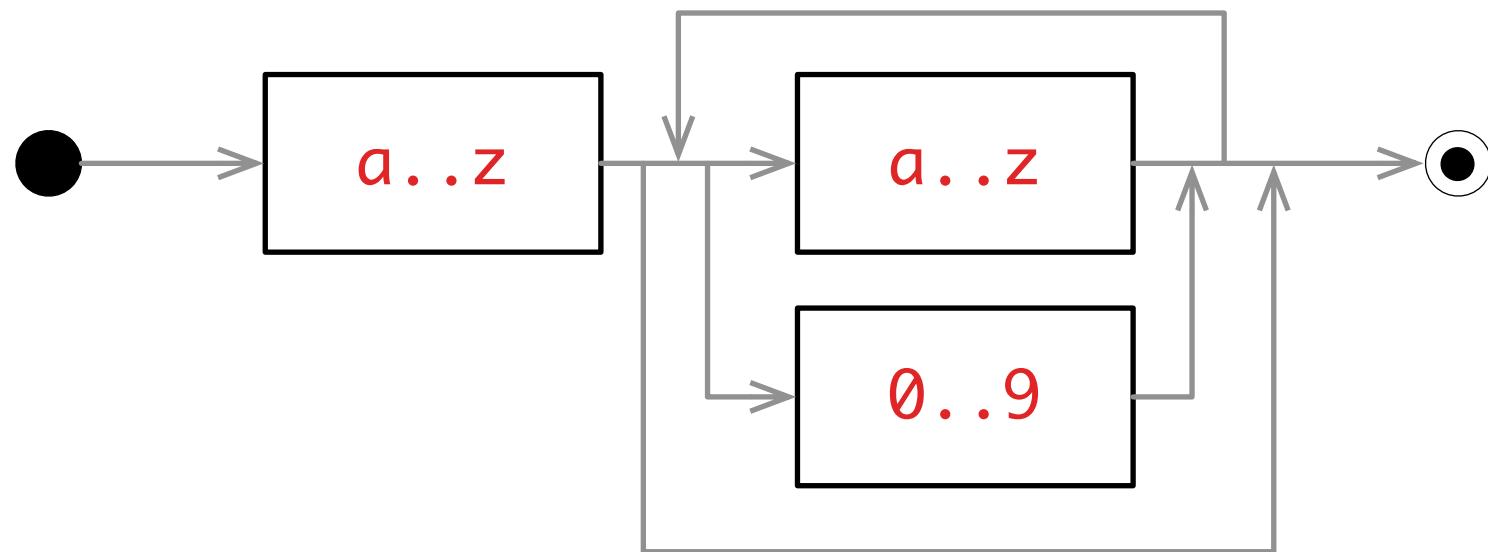
```
mse matches: '(  
  (FAMIX.Package  
    (name "PackageP"))  
  (FAMIX.Class  
    (name "ClassA"))  
  (FAMIX.Method  
    (name "methodM"))  
)' true
```

x - □

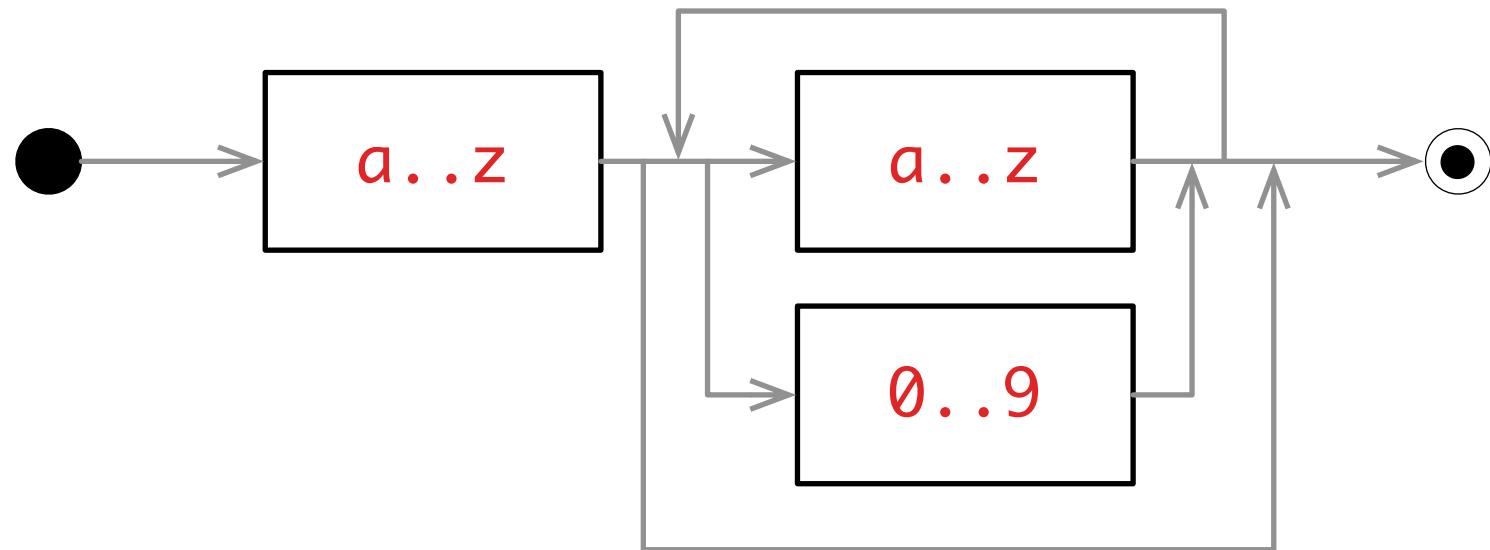
## Workspace

```
element := PPUnresolvedParser new.  
open := $( asParser trim.  
close := $) asParser trim.  
string := ($' asParser ,  
           (''' asParser / '$' asParser negate) star flatten ,  
           '$' asParser) trim.  
natural := #digit asParser plus flatten.  
e := ($e asParser / $E asParser) , ($- asParser / $+ asParser) optional , natural.  
number := ($- asParser optional , natural ,  
           ($. asParser , natural , e optional) optional) flatten trim.  
primitive := string / number.  
simpleName := #word asParser star flatten.  
elementName := (simpleName , ($. asParser , simpleName) optional) token trim.  
attributeValue := (primitive / element) star.  
attribute := (open , simpleName , attributeValue , close) trim.  
id := (open , 'id:' asParser , natural trim , close) trim.  
element def: ( (open , elementName , id optional , attribute star , close) trim).  
elements := open , element star , close.  
mse := elements end.
```

IDENTIFIER ::= letter  
              ( letter |  
              digit ) \*



```
identifier := #letter asParser ,  
              ( #letter asParser /  
                #digit asParser ) star.
```



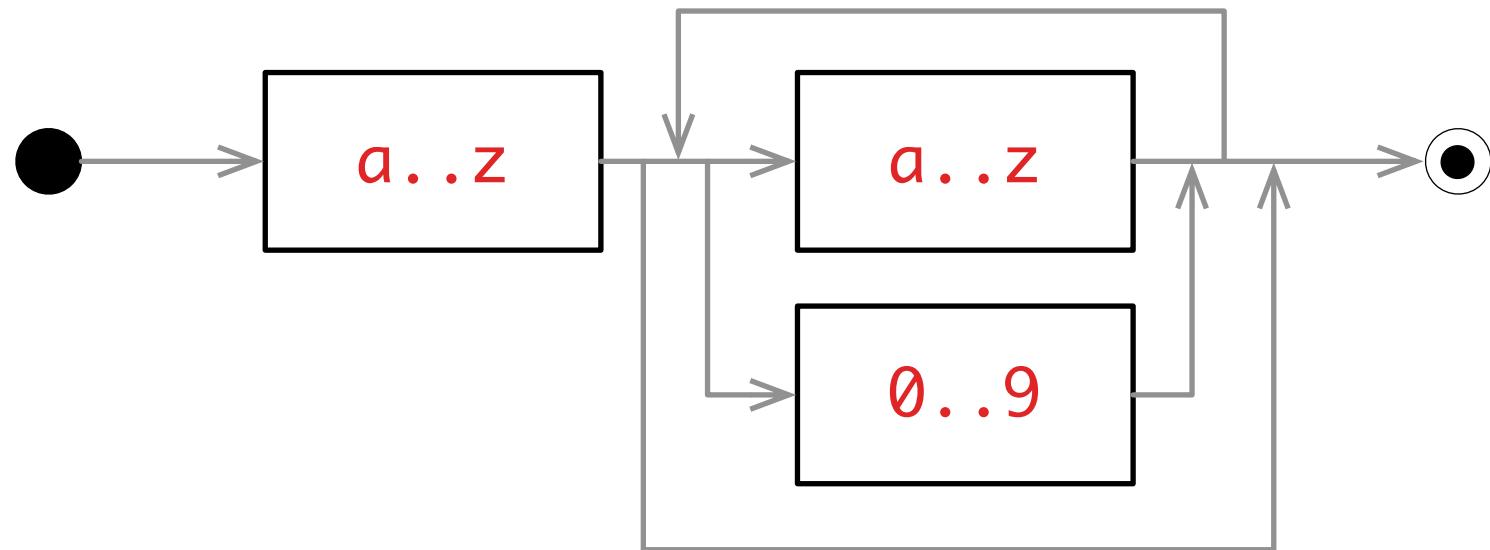
exercise

```
x - □          Workspace  
identifier := #letter asParser ,  
  ( #letter asParser /  
    #digit asParser ) star.  
identifier parse: 'valid' #($v #($a $l $i $d))
```

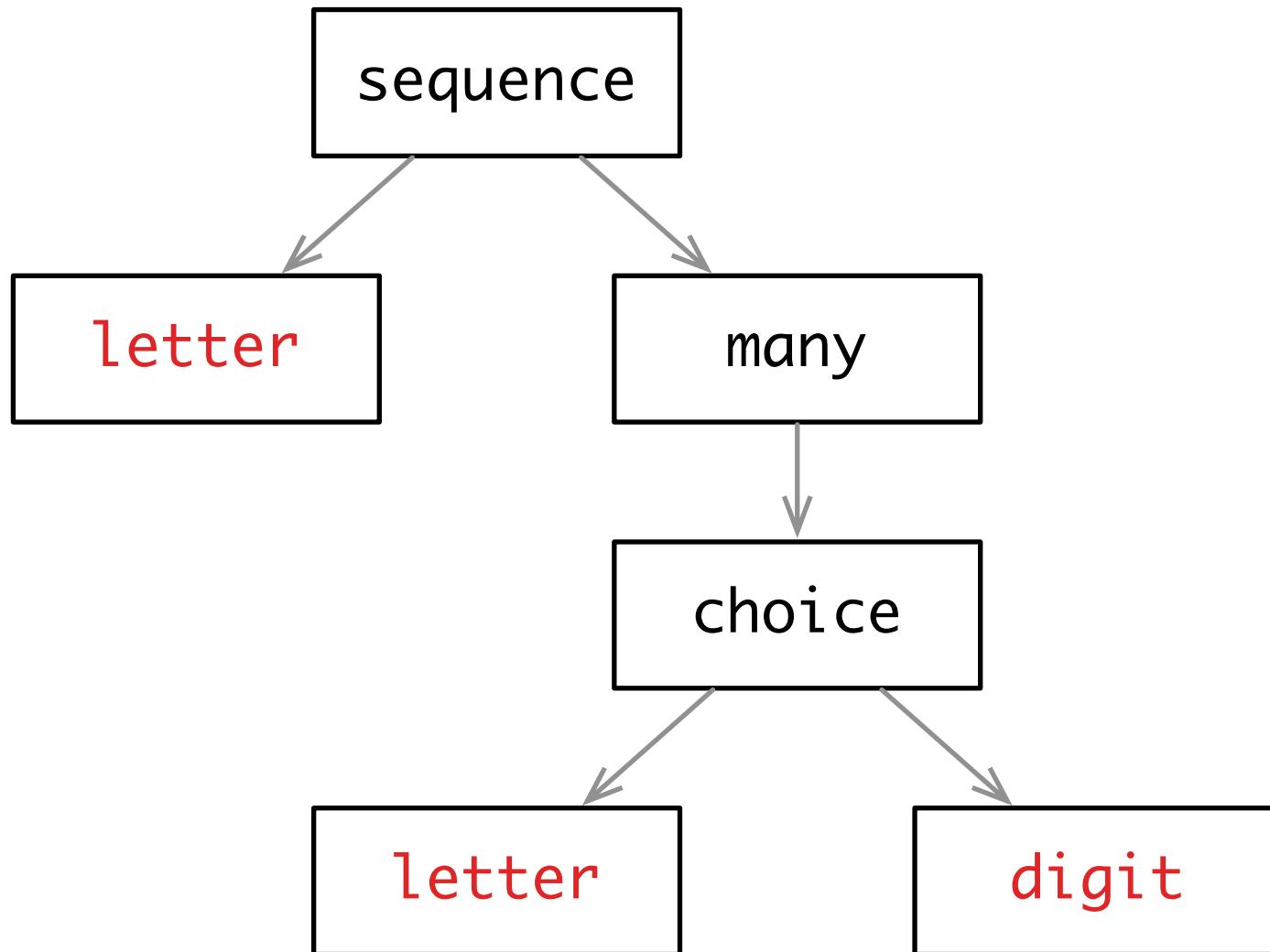
```
x - □          Workspace  
identifier := #letter asParser ,  
  ( #letter asParser /  
    #digit asParser ) star.  
identifier parse: 'valid2' #($v #($a $l $i $d $2))
```

```
x - □          Workspace  
identifier := #letter asParser ,  
  ( #letter asParser /  
    #digit asParser ) star.  
identifier parse: '2' letter expected at 0
```

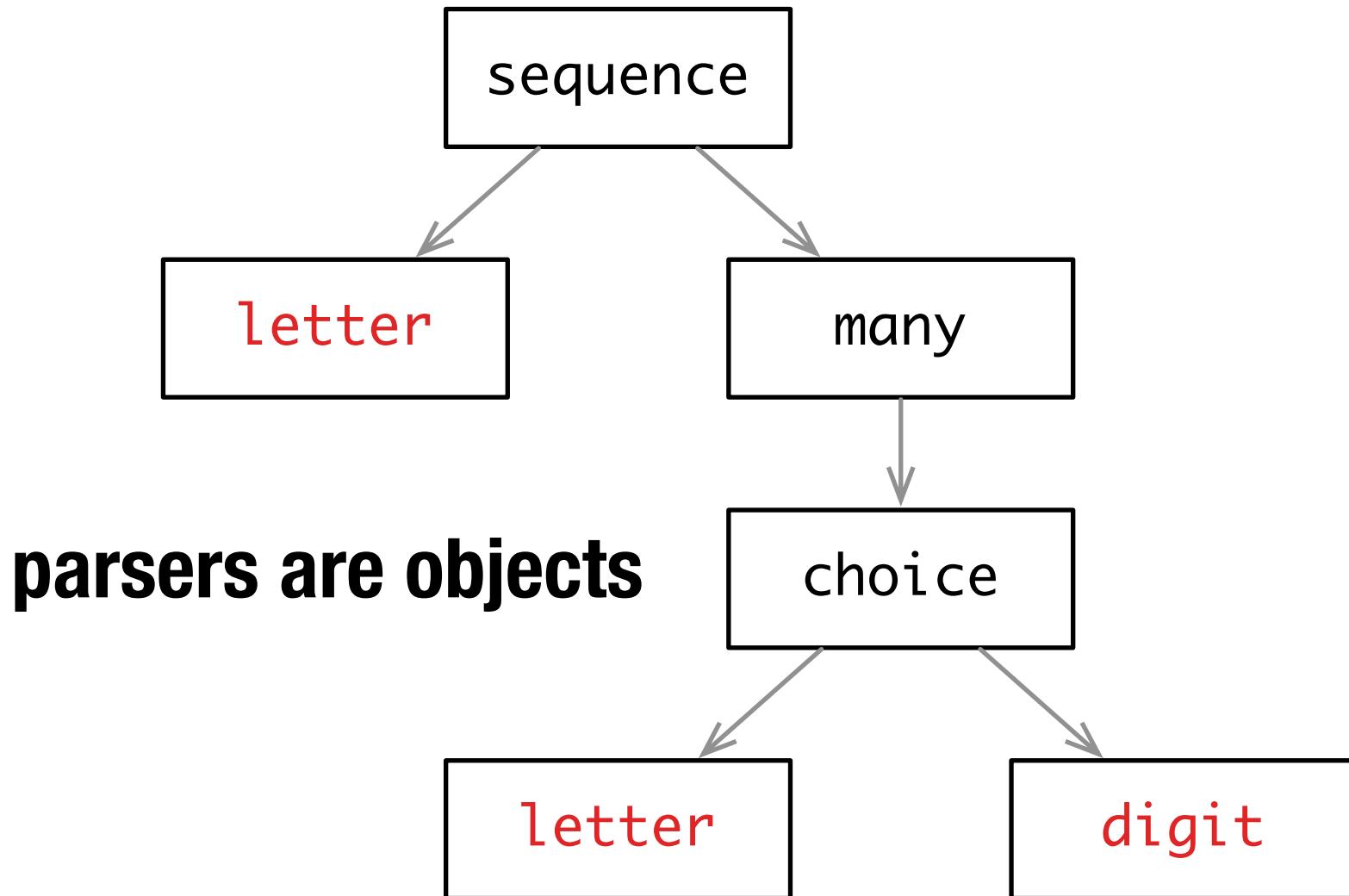
```
identifier := #letter asParser ,  
              ( #letter asParser /  
                #digit asParser ) star.
```



```
identifier := #letter asParser ,  
              ( #letter asParser /  
                #digit asParser ) star.
```



```
identifier := #letter asParser ,  
              ( #letter asParser /  
                #digit asParser ) star.
```



# terminals

\$c            asParser    parse character “c”

‘string’ asParser    parse string “string”

#any        asParser    parse any character

#digit      asParser    parse one digit

#letter     asParser    parse one letter

# terminals are defined in PPPredicateObjectParser

The screenshot shows the Pharo Smalltalk browser interface with the title bar "PPPPredicateObjectParser". The left pane displays a tree of packages: "PetitParser-Parsers", "PetitParser-Tools", "PetitTests-Core", "PetitTests-Tests", "PetitTests-Examples", and "PetitAnalyzer-Core". The right pane shows the class hierarchy for "PPPPredicateObjectParser", with "PPPluggableParser" as the superclass. A dropdown menu lists "factory-chars", "factory-objects", and "instance creation". The "Class" tab is selected. A list of terminals is shown on the right: "chars:message:", "cr", "digit", "hex", "letter", "If", and "lowercase". The "digit" terminal is highlighted. The bottom navigation bar includes "Browse", "Hierarchy", "Variables", "Implementors", "Inheritance", "Senders", "Versions", and "View".

exercise: browse PPPredicateObjectParser

# combinators

p1 , p2                        parse p1 followed by p2 (sequence)

p1 / p2                        parse p1, otherwise parse p2 (ordered choice)

p star                        parse zero or more p

p plus                        parse one or more p

p optional                    parse p if possible

# predicates

p not                        negation (non-consuming look-ahead)

p negate                    negation (consuming)

p end                        end of input

## PPParser is the root of all parsers

The screenshot shows the Pharo Smalltalk Inspector interface for the class `PPParser`. The title bar says "PPParser". The left pane lists categories: `PetitParser-Parsers`, `PetitParser-Tools`, `PetitTests-Core`, `PetitTests-Tests`, `PetitTests-Examples`, and `PetitAnalyzer-Core`. The right pane shows the `PPParser` class with its subclasses: `PPDelegateParse`, `PPActionParser`, `PPWrappingPa`, and `PPAndParser`. Below the class list are buttons for `Instance`, `?`, and `Class`. A list of operations is shown on the right, with `operations` selected: `,`, `/`, `and`, `def:`, `end`, `max:`, and `memoized`. At the bottom, tabs for `Browse`, `Hierarchy`, `Variables`, `Implementors`, `Inheritance`, `Senders`, `Versions`, and `View` are visible. The text area contains the following code:

```
, aParser
    "Answer a new parser that parses the receiver followed by aParser."
    ^ PPSequenceParser with: self with: aParser
```

**all operations are defined in this class**

exercise: browse PPParser operations

x - □ PPParser

PetitParser-Parsers PPParser PPDelegateParse converting  
PetitParser-Tools PPActionParser copying  
PetitTests-Core PPWrappingPa initialization  
PetitTests-Tests PPAndParser operations  
PetitTests-Examples PetitParser operations-convenie  
PetitAnalyzer-Core Instance ? Class operations-mapping  
Browse Hierarchy Variables Implementors Inheritance Senders Versions View

/ aParser

"Answer a new parser that parses the receiver, if the receiver fails try with aParser (ordered-choice)."

^ PPChoiceParser with: self with: aParser

The screenshot shows the Pharo Smalltalk browser interface. The top bar displays the title 'PPParser'. The left sidebar lists packages: 'PetitParser-Parsers', 'PetitParser-Tools', 'PetitTests-Core', 'PetitTests-Tests', 'PetitTests-Examples', and 'PetitAnalyzer-Core'. The main pane shows the 'PPParser' class selected. Below it, a list of operations is shown: 'converting', 'copying', 'initialization', 'operations', 'operations-convenie', and 'operations-mapping'. A tooltip for 'operations' lists methods: ',', '/', 'and', 'def:', 'end', 'max:', and 'memoized'. At the bottom of the browser are tabs: 'Browse', 'Hierarchy', 'Variables', 'Implementors', 'Inheritance', 'Senders', 'Versions', and 'View'. Below the tabs, there is a note about answering a new parser if the receiver fails. At the very bottom, there is a link '^ PPChoiceParser with: self with: aParser'.

# exercise

x - □                  **Workspace** ▾

```
string parse: "string" #($' #($s $t $r $i $n $g) $')
```

x - □                  **Workspace** ▾

```
number parse: '-123.45E-2' #($- #($1 $2 $3) #($. #($4  
$5) #($E $- #($2))))
```

# actions

p ==> aBlock      Transforms the result of p through aBlock.

p flatten      Creates a string from the result of p.

p token      Creates a token from the result of p.

p trim      Trims whitespaces before and after p.

x - □ PPParser

PetitParser-Parsers  
PetitParser-Tools  
PetitTests-Core  
PetitTests-Tests  
PetitTests-Examples  
PetitAnalyzer-Core  
PetitAnalyzer-Tests

PPParser  
PPDelegateParser  
PPActionParser  
PPWrappingParser  
PPAndParser

operations  
operations-convenience  
operations-mapping  
parsing  
printing  
testing

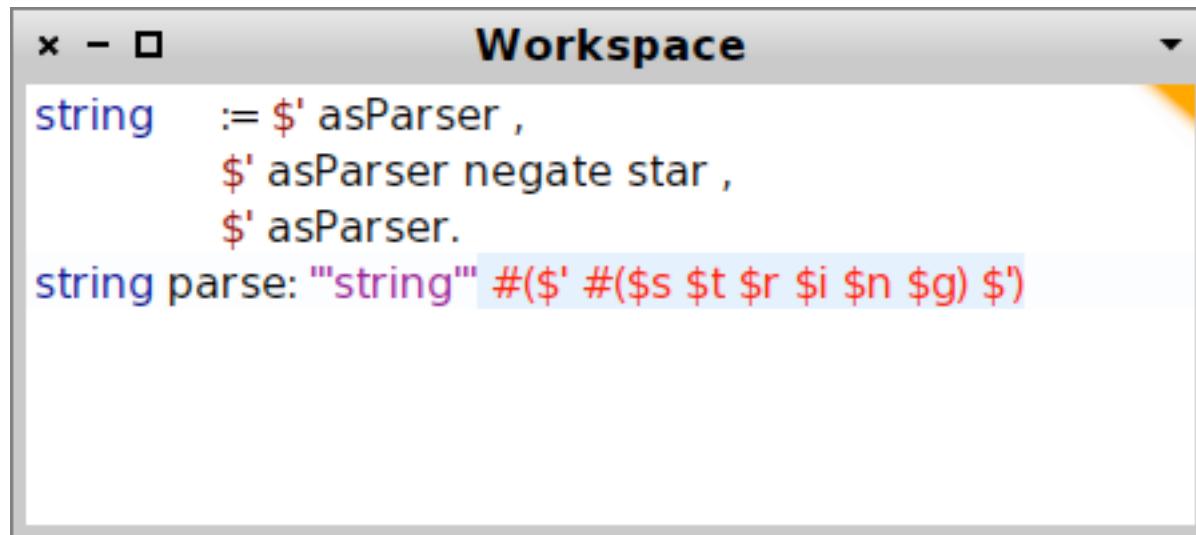
==>  
>=>  
answer:  
flatten  
foldLeft:  
foldRight:  
map:

Instance ? Class

Browse Hierarchy Variables Implementors Inheritance Senders Versions View

**==> aBlock**  
"Answer a new parser that performs aBlock as action handler on success."  
  
**^ PPActionParser on: self block: aBlock**

```
string      := $' asParser ,  
              $' asParser negate star ,  
              $' asParser.
```



A screenshot of a workspace window titled "Workspace". The window contains the following Groovy code:

```
string      := $' asParser ,  
              $' asParser negate star ,  
              $' asParser.  
string parse: "string" #($' #($s $t $r $i $n $g) $')
```

The code defines a variable "string" with three possible values: an empty string, a string preceded by a negation operator, or a string followed by a dot. It also defines a "parse" method for strings, which takes a string and returns a list of tokens (\$s, \$t, \$r, \$i, \$n, \$g).

```
string      := $' asParser ,  
              $' asParser negate star flatten ,  
              $' asParser  
              ==> [:token | token second ].
```

The screenshot shows a 'Workspace' window with the following content:

```
x - □          Workspace  
string := $' asParser ,  
          $' asParser negate star flatten ,  
          $' asParser  
          ==> [:token | token second ].  
string parse: "string" 'string'
```

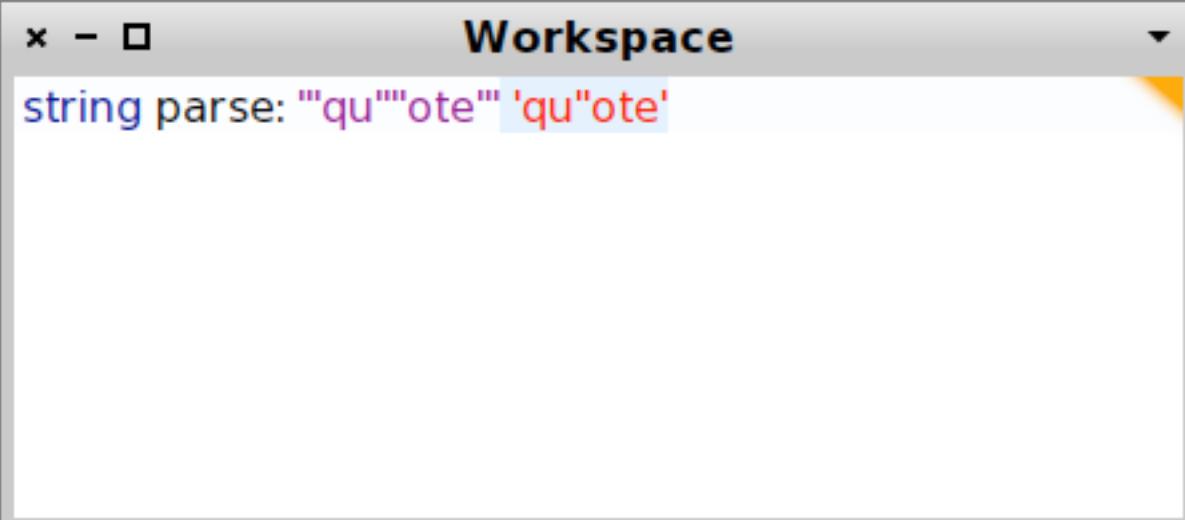
The code defines a 'string' variable as a closure that takes an argument and returns either a single token or a list of tokens. The 'parse' method is then called on the 'string' variable with the argument 'string'.

```
stringText := $' asParser negate star flatten.  
string      := $' asParser ,  
               stringText ,  
               $' asParser  
               ==> [:token | token second ].
```

The screenshot shows a window titled "Workspace" containing Smalltalk code. The code defines two parser rules: `stringText` and `string`. The `stringText` rule uses a negated star operator (`negate star`) to flatten a sequence of tokens. The `string` rule matches a sequence of tokens separated by commas, where each token is either a single character or another `stringText` parser. A sample parse is shown at the bottom: `string parse: "string" 'string'`.

```
x - □          Workspace  
stringText := $' asParser negate star flatten.  
string      := $' asParser ,  
               stringText ,  
               $' asParser  
               ==> [:token | token second ].  
string parse: "string" 'string'
```

# exercise



A screenshot of a Java IDE's workspace window. The title bar says "Workspace". In the editor area, the following code is shown:

```
string parse: "qu""ote" 'qu"ote'
```

The word "parse" is in blue, indicating it's a method name. The strings "qu""ote" and 'qu"ote' are partially highlighted in light blue, suggesting they are being compared or are part of a code completion suggestion.

Root := Document ?  
 Document := OPEN ElementNode \* CLOSE  
 ElementNode := OPEN ELEMENTNAME AttributeNode \* CLOSE  
 AttributeNode := OPEN SIMPLENAME ValueNode \* CLOSE  
 ValueNode := Primitive | ElementNode  
 Primitive := STRING | NUMBER  
 OPEN := "("  
 CLOSE := ")"  
 ELEMENTNAME := letter ( letter | digit ) \* ( "." letter ( letter | digit ) \*)  
 SIMPLENAME := letter ( letter | digit ) \*  
 NUMBER := "-" ? digit + ( "." digit + ) ? ( ( "e" | "E" ) ( "-" | "+" ) ? digit + ) ?  
 STRING := ( ' "' [^'] \* ' "' ) +  
 digit := [0-9]  
 letter := [a-zA-Z\_]  
 comment := "''' [^"] \* """

( FAMIX.Package  
   (name 'PackageP'))  
 (FAMIX.Class  
   (name 'ClassA'))  
 (FAMIX.Method  
   (name 'methodM'))  
)

exercise

**Workspace**

```
mse matches: '(  

  (FAMIX.Package  

    (name "PackageP"))  

  (FAMIX.Class  

    (name "ClassA"))  

  (FAMIX.Method  

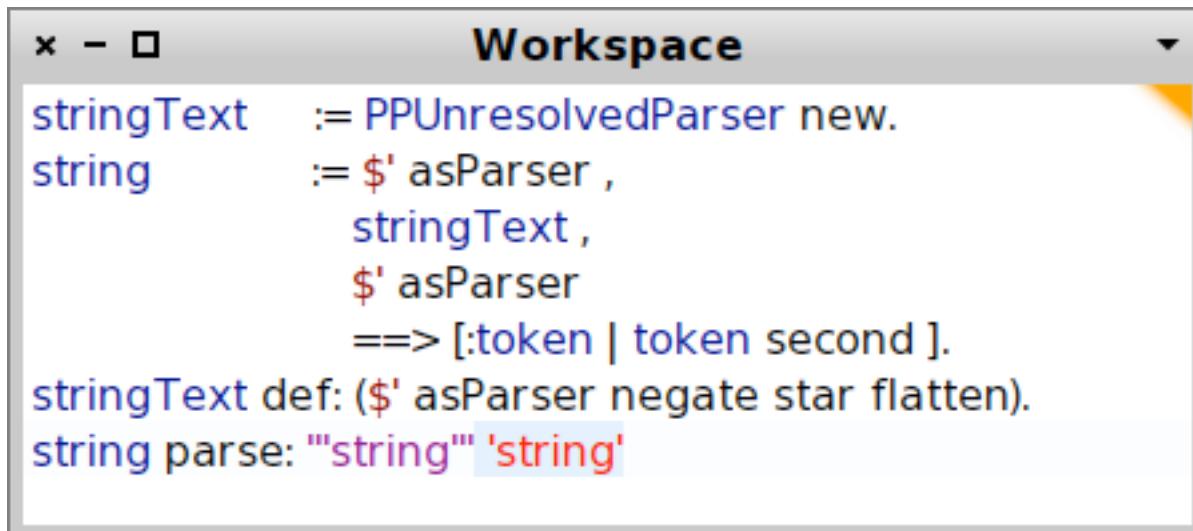
    (name "methodM")))  
' true
```

```
stringText  := $' asParser negate star flatten.  
string       := $' asParser ,  
                  stringText ,  
                  $' asParser  
                ==> [:token | token second ].
```

x - □                    **Workspace** ▾

```
stringText  := $' asParser negate star flatten.  
string       := $' asParser ,  
                  stringText ,  
                  $' asParser  
                ==> [:token | token second ].  
string parse: "string" 'string'
```

```
stringText := PPUnresolvedParser new.  
string      := $' asParser ,  
              stringText ,  
              $' asParser  
              ==> [:token | token second ].  
stringText def: ($' asParser negate star flatten).
```



A screenshot of a "Workspace" window from a Smalltalk IDE. The window title is "Workspace". Inside, there is a text area containing the following Smalltalk code:

```
stringText := PPUnresolvedParser new.  
string      := $' asParser ,  
              stringText ,  
              $' asParser  
              ==> [:token | token second ].  
stringText def: ($' asParser negate star flatten).  
string parse: "string" 'string'
```

x - □

## Workspace

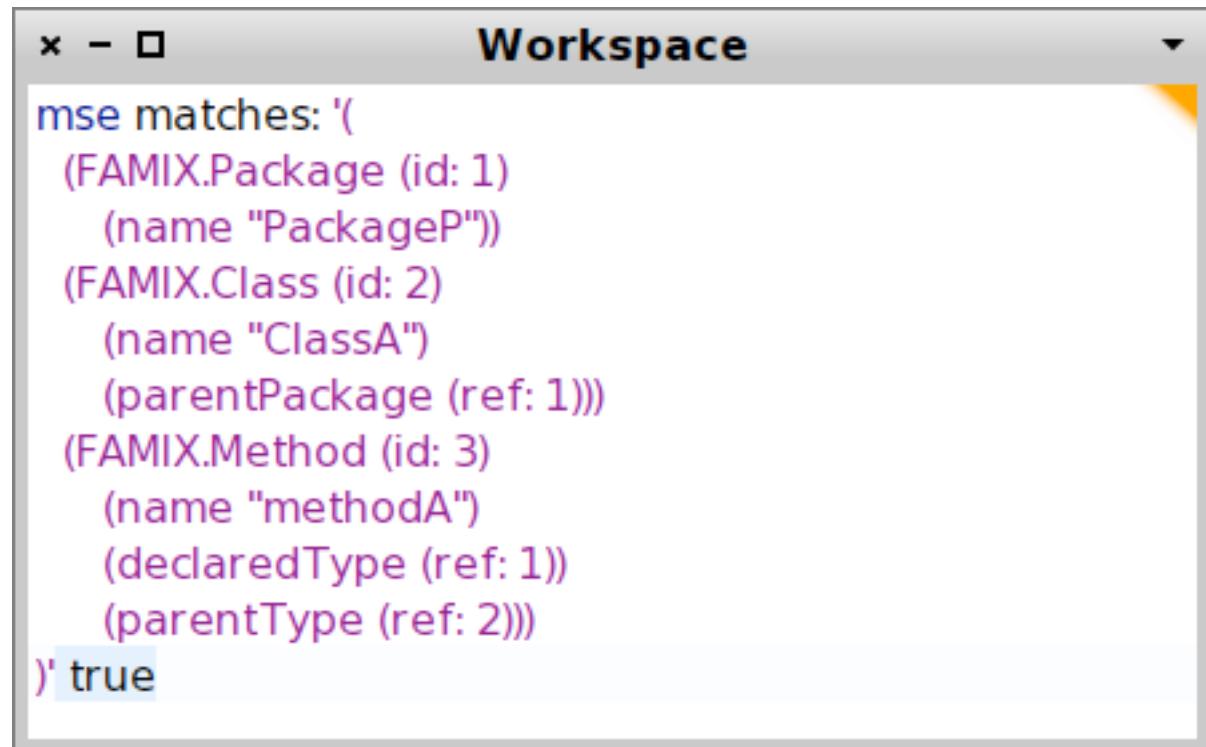
```
element := PPUnresolvedParser new.  
open := $( asParser trim.  
close := $) asParser trim.  
string := ($' asParser ,  
           (''' asParser / '$' asParser negate) star flatten ,  
           '$' asParser) trim.  
natural := #digit asParser plus flatten.  
e := ($e asParser / $E asParser) , ($- asParser / $+ asParser) optional , natural.  
number := ($- asParser optional , natural ,  
           ($. asParser , natural , e optional) optional) flatten trim.  
primitive := string / number.  
simpleName := #word asParser star flatten.  
elementName := (simpleName , ($. asParser , simpleName) optional) token trim.  
attributeValue := (primitive / element) star.  
attribute := (open , simpleName , attributeValue , close) trim.  
id := (open , 'id:' asParser , natural trim , close) trim.  
element def: ( (open , elementName , id optional , attribute star , close) trim).  
elements := open , element star , close.  
mse := elements end.
```

# exercise

```
Root := Document ?
Document := OPEN ElementNode * CLOSE
ElementNode := OPEN ELEMENTNAME Serial ? AttributeNode * CLOSE
Serial := OPEN ID INTEGER CLOSE
AttributeNode := OPEN SIMPLENAME ValueNode * CLOSE
ValueNode := Primitive | Reference | ElementNode
Primitive := STRING | NUMBER | Boolean | Unlimited
Boolean := TRUE | FALSE
Unlimited := NIL
Reference := IntegerReference | NameReference
IntegerReference := OPEN REF INTEGER CLOSE
NameReference := OPEN REF ELEMENTNAME CLOSE
OPEN := "("
CLOSE := ")"
ID := "id:"
REF := "ref:"
TRUE := "true"
FALSE := "false"
ELEMENTNAME := letter ( letter | digit ) * ( "." letter ( letter | digit ) ) *
SIMPLENAME := letter ( letter | digit ) *
INTEGER := digit +
NUMBER := "-" ? digit + ( "." digit + ) ? ( ( "e" | "E" ) ( "-" | "+" ) ? digit + ) ?
STRING := ( ' "' [^'] * ' "' ) +
digit := [0-9]
letter := [a-zA-Z_]
comment := "''' [^"] * """
```

# exercise

```
(FAMIX.Package (id: 1)
  (name 'PackageP'))
(FAMIX.Class (id: 2)
  (name 'ClassA')
  (parentPackage (ref: 1)))
(FAMIX.Method (id: 3)
  (name 'methodA')
  (declaredType (ref: 1))
  (parentType (ref: 2)))
)
```



The screenshot shows a window titled "Workspace" containing a list of FAMIX objects. The list includes a package, a class, and a method, each with its ID, name, and references to other objects. The text is color-coded: package names are in blue, class names in green, method names in red, and their respective IDs in black. The word "mse" is also highlighted in blue.

```
x - □          Workspace
mse matches: (
  (FAMIX.Package (id: 1)
    (name "PackageP"))
  (FAMIX.Class (id: 2)
    (name "ClassA")
    (parentPackage (ref: 1)))
  (FAMIX.Method (id: 3)
    (name "methodA")
    (declaredType (ref: 1))
    (parentType (ref: 2))))
)' true
```

**scripting = nice for prototyping  
but messy**

## subclass PPCompositeParser

x - □ PPMSEGrammar Hierarchy

The screenshot shows the PPMSEGrammar Hierarchy browser window. The left pane displays a class hierarchy with nodes: PPParser, PPDelegateParser, PPCompositeParser, PPMSEGrammar (selected), and PPMSEArrayParser. The right pane shows the contents of the selected node, PPMSEGrammar, which includes categories like -- all --, accessing, basic, grammar, and a list of tokens: number, open, primitive, reference, simpleName, start, and string. The 'start' token is highlighted. Below the tree view are tabs for Instance, ?, Class, and several navigation buttons (Browse, Hierarchy, Variables, Implementors, Inheritance, Senders, Versions, View). A search bar at the bottom contains the text "start".

PPParser  
PPDelegateParser  
PPCompositeParser  
PPMSEGrammar  
PPMSEArrayParser

-- all --  
accessing  
basic  
grammar

number  
open  
primitive  
reference  
simpleName  
start  
string

Instance ? Class

Browse Hierarchy Variables Implementors Inheritance Senders Versions View

start

elements end

**start = default start parser**

**externally, parsers map on methods**

The screenshot shows a software interface titled "PPMSEGrammar Hierarchy". On the left, there is a tree view of classes: PPParser, PPDelegateParser, PPCompositeParser, PPMSEGrammar (which is selected and highlighted in blue), and PPMSEArrayParser. Below the tree are three buttons: "Instance", "?", and "Class". At the bottom of the window are several tabs: "Browse" (selected), "Hierarchy", "Variables", "Implementors", "Inheritance", "Senders", "Versions", and "View". In the center-right area, there is a list of nodes under the heading "-- all --": accessing, basic, grammar, attribute, attributeValue (which is also highlighted in blue), boolean, close, e, element, and elementName. The "attributeValue" node is currently selected. The text "attributeValue" is also displayed prominently below the tree view.

**internally, parsers map on instance variables**

## to specify actions, subclass the base grammar

x - □ PPMSEArrayParser Hierarchy

PPParser  
PPDelegateParser  
PPCompositeParser  
PPMSEGrammar  
**PPMSEArrayParser**

-- all --  
accessing  
values

attribute  
attributeValue  
boolean  
element  
elementName  
elements  
id

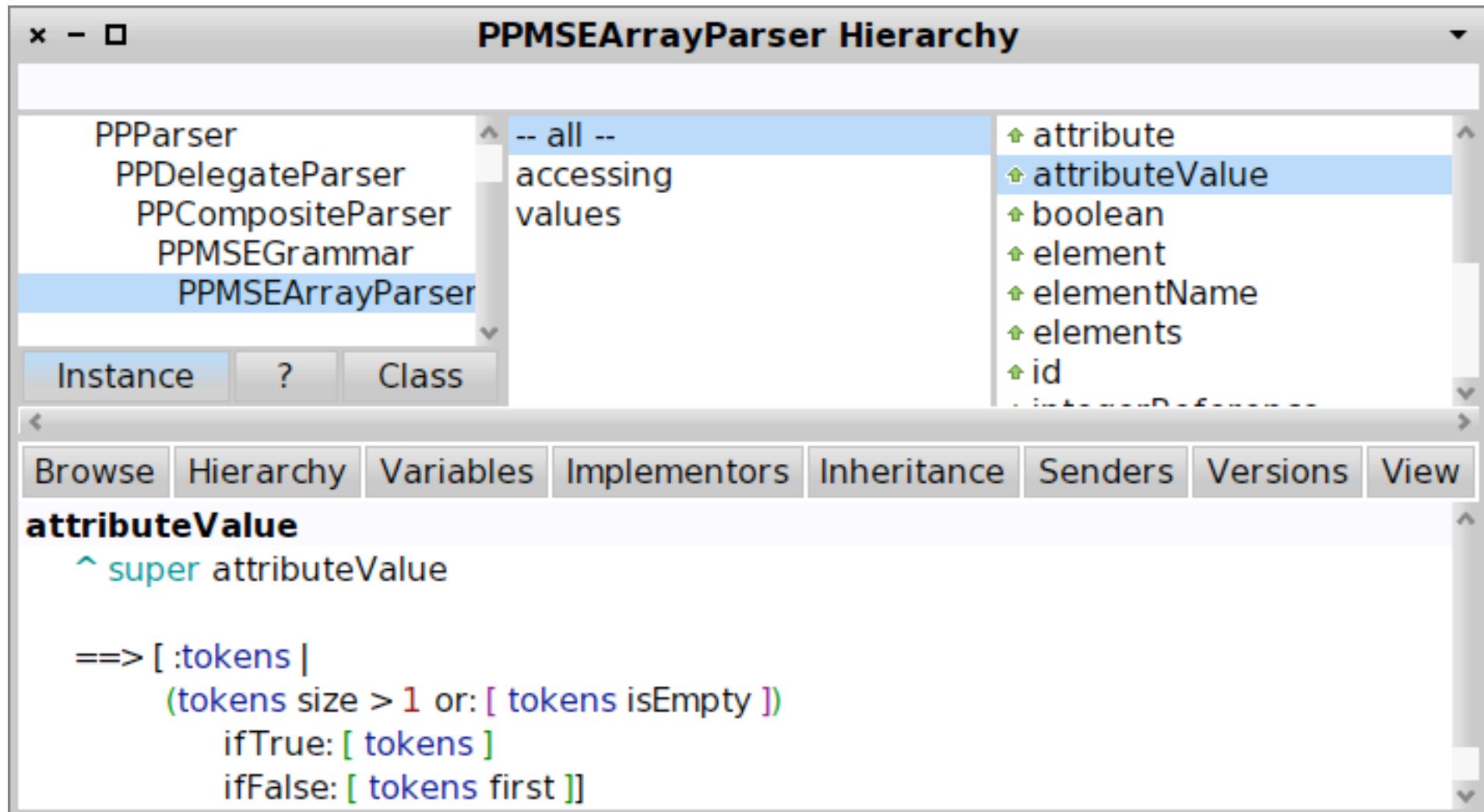
Instance ? Class

Browse Hierarchy Variables Implementors Inheritance Senders Versions View

**attributeValue**

super attributeValue

==> [ :tokens |  
 (tokens size > 1 or: [ tokens isEmpty ])  
 ifTrue: [ tokens ]  
 ifFalse: [ tokens first ]]



## subclass tests from PPCompositeParserTest

The screenshot shows the Pharo Smalltalk Inspector interface for the `PPMSEGrammarTest` class. The left sidebar lists various packages: `PetitMSE`, `PetitJava-Core`, `PetitJava-Tests`, `PetitJava-AST`, `PetitJava-AST-Visitor`, `Arki-Reporter-Core`, and `Arki-Tests-Reporter`. The main pane displays the class hierarchy for `PPMSEGrammar`. The `PPMSEGrammarTest` class is highlighted in blue, indicating it is the current selection. Below the hierarchy, there are tabs for `Instance`, `?`, and `Class`. To the right of the hierarchy, there are sections for `-- all --` (containing `accessing` and `tests`) and `tests-basic`. A detailed list of test methods is shown on the far right, starting with `parserClass` and followed by `testClose`, `testElementName`, `testNatural`, `testNaturalWithSp`, `testNumberWithE`, and `testOpen`. At the bottom of the inspector, there are tabs for `Browse`, `Hierarchy`, `Variables`, `Implementors`, `Inheritance`, `Senders`, `Versions`, and `View`.

**specify the parserClass**

## use #parse:rule: to check the grammar

The screenshot shows the Pharo Smalltalk browser interface with the following details:

- Title Bar:** PPMSEGrammarTest
- Left pane (Class Browser):** Shows the class hierarchy:
  - PetitMSE (selected)
  - PetitJava-Core
  - PetitJava-Tests
  - PetitJava-AST
  - PetitJava-AST-Visitor
  - Arki-Reporter-Core
  - Arki-Tests-Reporter
- Center pane (Method Browser):** Displays the methods for PPMSEGrammarTest:
  - all --
  - accessing
  - tests
  - tests-basic
- Right pane (Method Browser):** Shows the methods for the selected method:
  - #parserClass
  - testClose
  - testElementName
  - **testNatural** (selected)
  - testNaturalWithSp
  - testNumberWithE
  - testOpen
- Bottom Navigation Bar:** Instance, ?, Class, Browse, Hierarchy, Variables, Implementors, Inheritance, Senders, Versions, View.
- Text Area:** **testNatural**  
self parse: '123' rule: #natural

## subclass to check the parser result

x - □ PPMSEArrayParserTest

PetitMSE      PPMSEGrammar      -- all --  
PetitJava-Core      PPMSEArrayParser      accessing  
PetitJava-Tests      PPMSEGrammarTest      tests  
PetitJava-AST      PPMSEArrayParser      tests-basic  
PetitJava-AST-Visitor      tests-start  
Arki-Reporter-Core  
Arki-Tests-Reporter

Instance ? Class

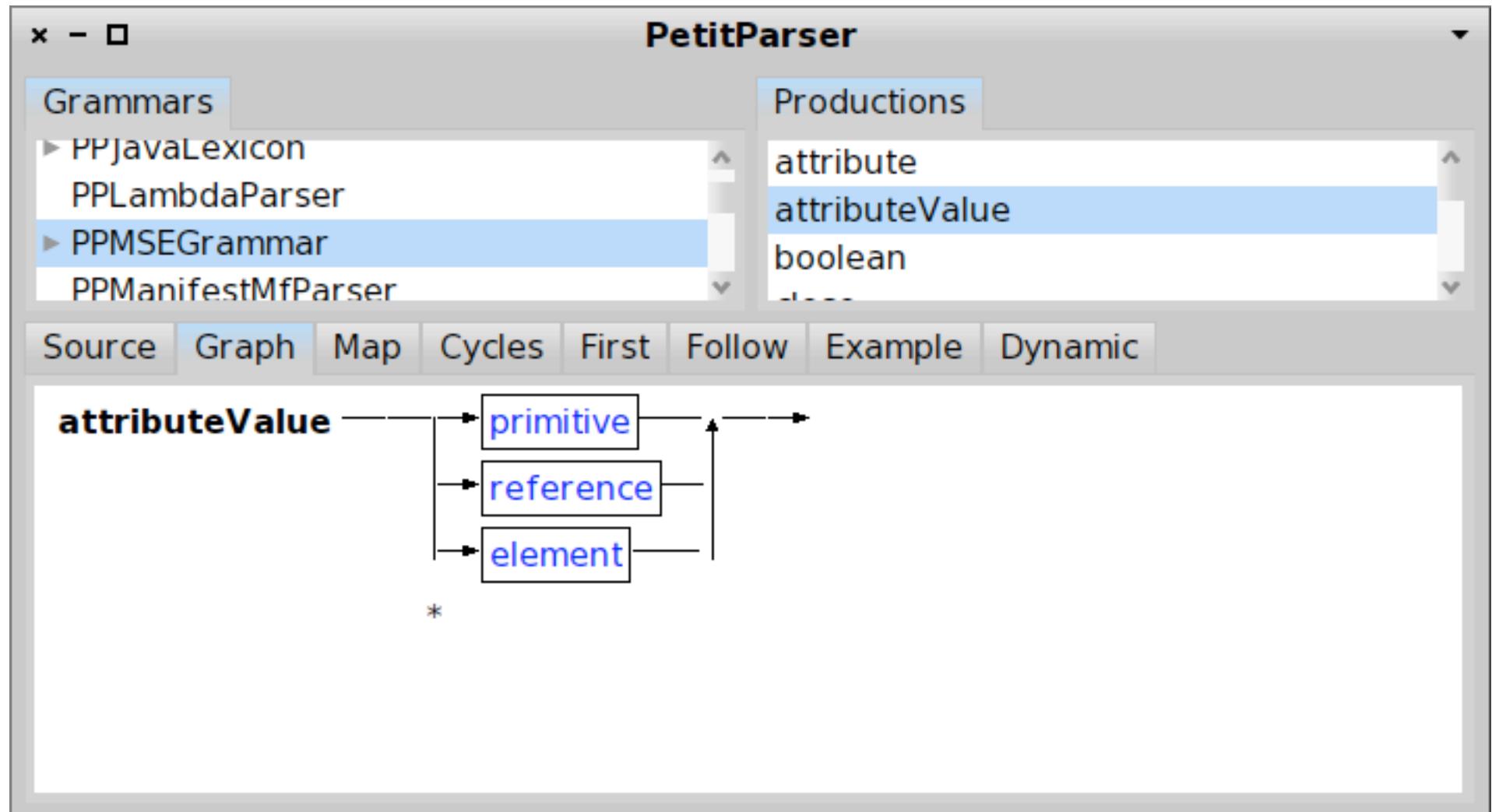
parserClass  
testElementName  
testEmpty  
testNatural  
testNaturalWithSp  
testNumberWithE  
testOneElement

Browse Hierarchy Variables Implementors Inheritance Senders Versions View

**testNatural**

```
super testNatural.  
self assert: result = 123
```

# PetitParser comes with a dedicated user interface

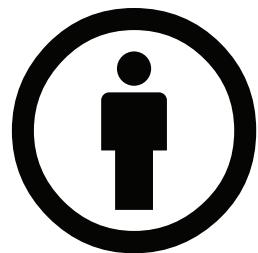


PPBrowser open.

# PetitParser

**built by Lukas Renggli  
deeply integrated with Smalltalk  
part of the Moose Suite**

**Tudor Gîrba**  
[www.tudorgirba.com](http://www.tudorgirba.com)



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