



Working with **lex and Yacc**

Seminar - 09

ABOUT LEX AND YACC

Lex is a lexical analyser generator used in **compiler design** to convert a sequence of **characters** (source code) into a sequence of **tokens**.

Characters:

[a-z]	[A-Z]	[0-9]	[!,@,#,\$,%,^,&*,(,)[,],.,]
			
Alphabets and numbers			Special characters

Tokens:

- **Keywords:** reserved words like **if,else,return,in,while** etc..
- **Identifiers:** variable and function names like **x,sum,myFunction** etc..
- **Operators:** **+,=,-,*,/,&,%,!,**etc..
- **Punctuations:** like **;,{}[].** etc...
- **Literals:** numeric and string constants like **123,"hello",3.14** etc..

EXAMPLE:

```
%{
    #include <stdio.h> //header file
}%
%% //lex rule
int | float | return { printf("KEYWORD: %s\n", yytext); }
[a-zA-Z_][a-zA-Z0-9_]* { printf("IDENTIFIER: %s\n", yytext); }
[0-9]+ { printf("NUMBER: %s\n", yytext); }
[+ \- * / =] { printf("OPERATOR: %s\n", yytext); }
. | \n { /* Ignore other characters */ }
%%
int main()
{
    yylex(); // Call lexical analyzer
    return 0;
}
```

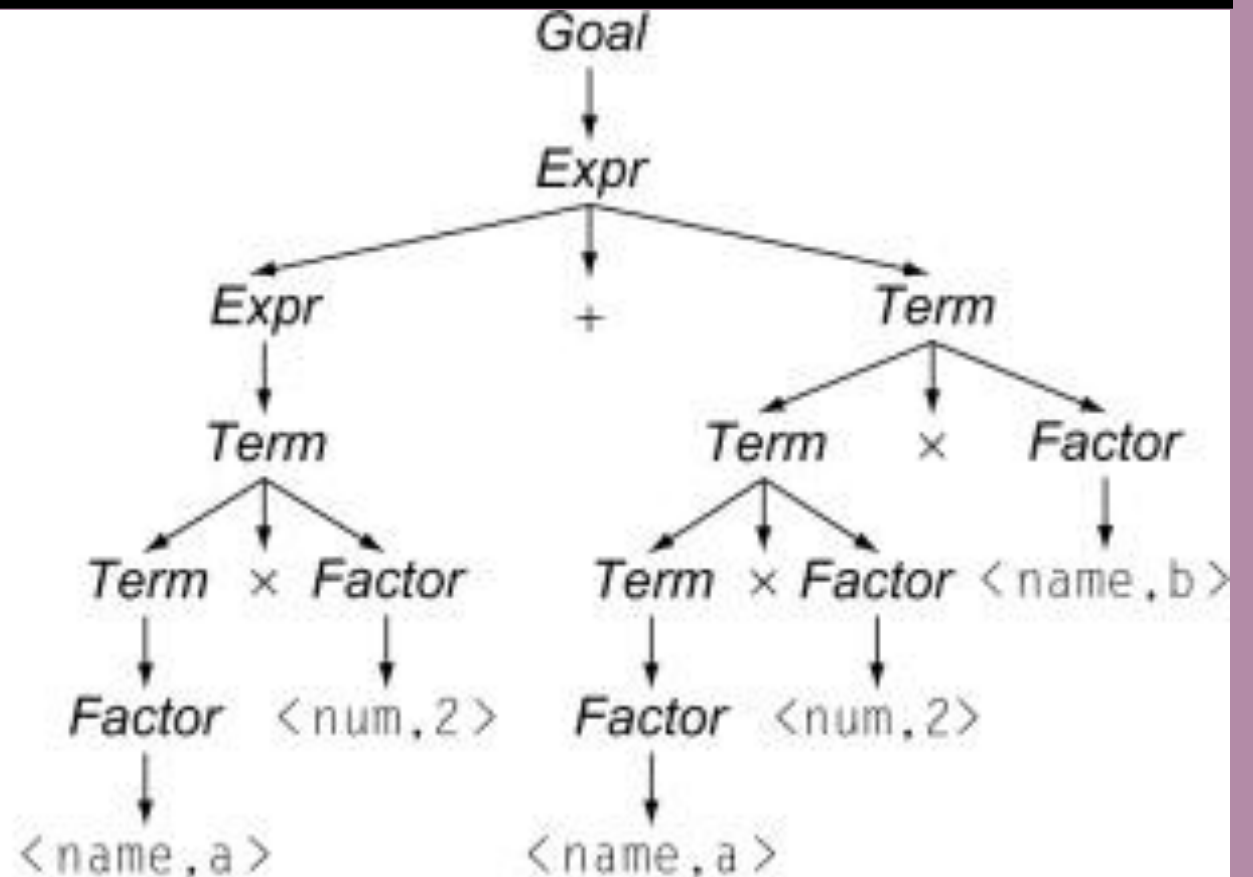
YACC (YET ANOTHER COMPILER COMPILER)

YACC is a **parser generator** used with **Lex** to build compilers or interpreters.

Yacc does:

- Takes **tokens** from Lex.
 - Uses a **grammar (BNF - Backus-Naur Form)** to construct a syntax tree.
 - Detects and reports **syntax errors**.
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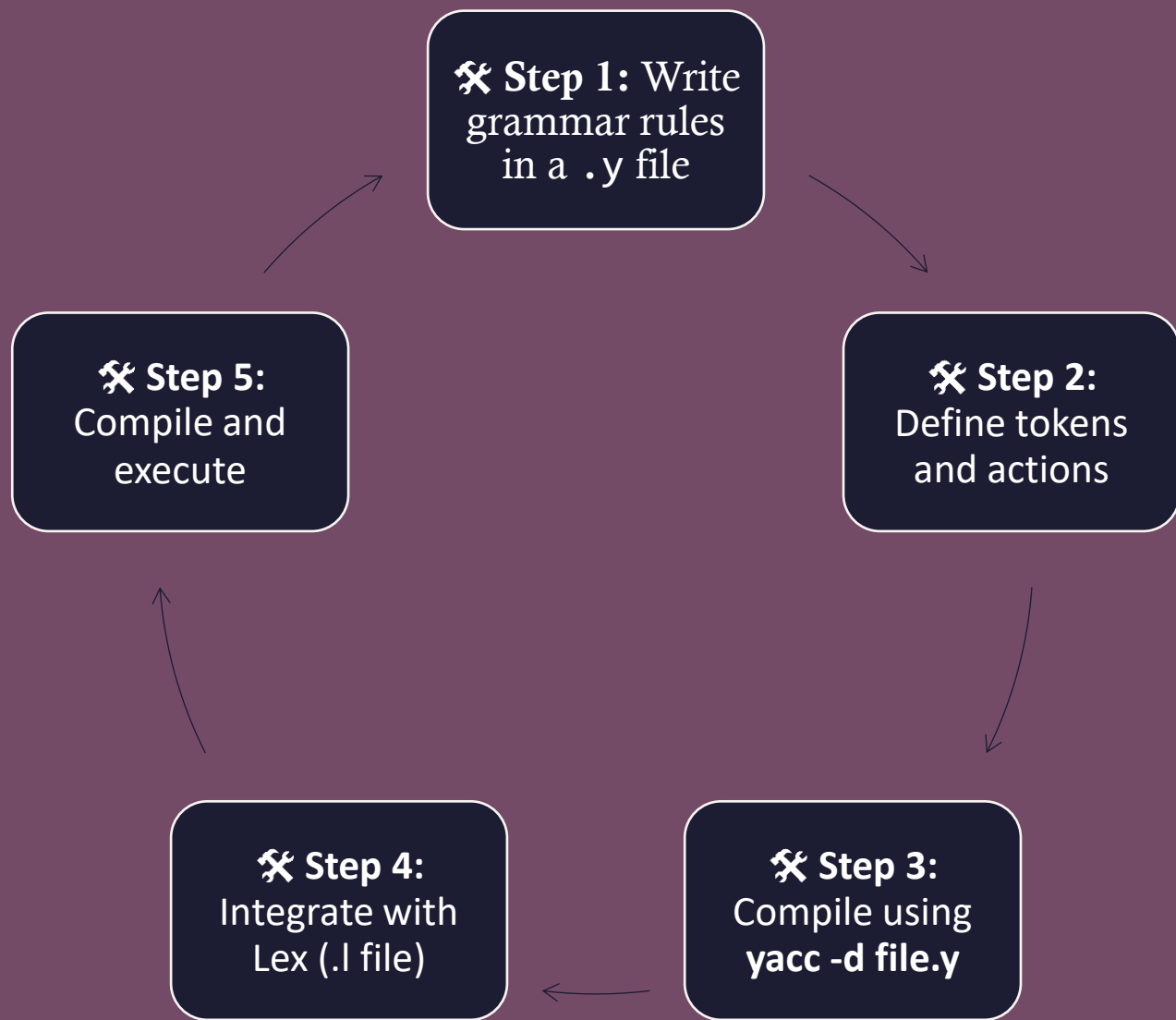
$Goal \rightarrow Expr$
 $Expr \rightarrow Expr + Term$
 $\quad | Expr - Term$
 $\quad | Term$
 $Term \rightarrow Term \times Factor$
 $\quad | Term \div Factor$
 $\quad | Factor$
 $Factor \rightarrow (Expr)$
 $\quad | num$
 $\quad | name$



(a) Classic Expression Grammar

(b) Parse Tree for $a \times 2 + a \times 2 \times b$

Source: [ScienceDirect](#)



Yacc workflow

```

%{
#include <stdio.h>  //header file
%}
%token NUMBER PLUS MULTIPLY //tokens defined and passed from lex file
%%
expr: expr PLUS term { printf("Addition\n"); } //grammar rules-01
    | term
    ;
term: term MULTIPLY factor { printf("Multiplication\n"); } //grammar rules-02
    | factor
    ;
factor: NUMBER //grammar rule-03
    ;
%%
int yyerror(char *msg) { //function to handle error
    printf("Syntax Error!\n");
}
int main() {
yyparse(); //to make parsing input as per rules defined.
return 0;
}

```

THANK YOU....!