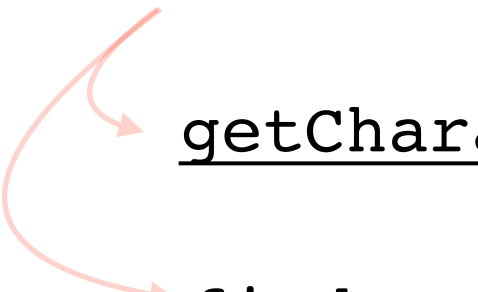
The Scanner

- The heart of the scanner is the procedure `getSymbol()`, which finds the next valid symbol in a sequence of characters and stores it in a global variable (`symbol`).

- It internally uses two procedures `getCharacter()` and `findNextCharacter()`.

- `getCharacter()` simply reads the next character of the input stream and stores it into a global variable (`character`).

- `findNextCharacter()` is the implementation of whitespace.


getSymbol()
getCharacter()
findNextCharacter()

calls

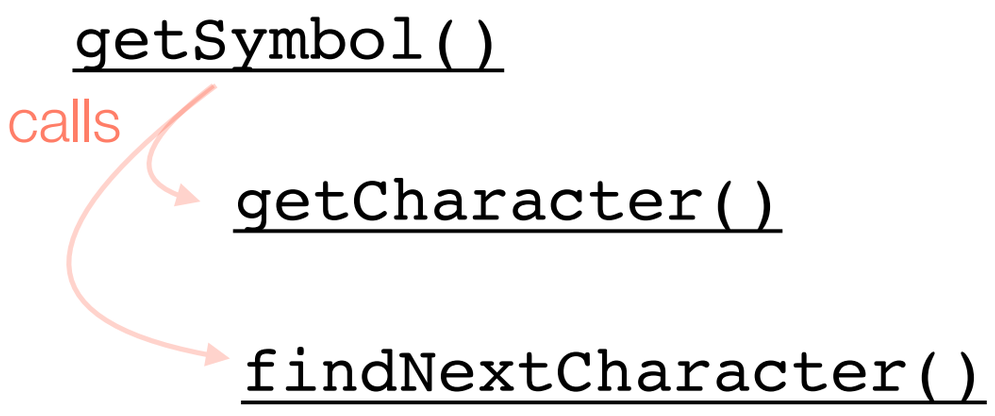
Sequence of Characters

- The procedure `getCharacter()` is used to read the next byte into the buffer.

- The return value is either the number of read bytes or 0, which indicates end of file (EOF).

- Any input file is nothing more than a **sequence of characters** to the scanner. It will even accept meaningless sequences as long as it consists of valid symbols in the specified language.

The Scanner



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