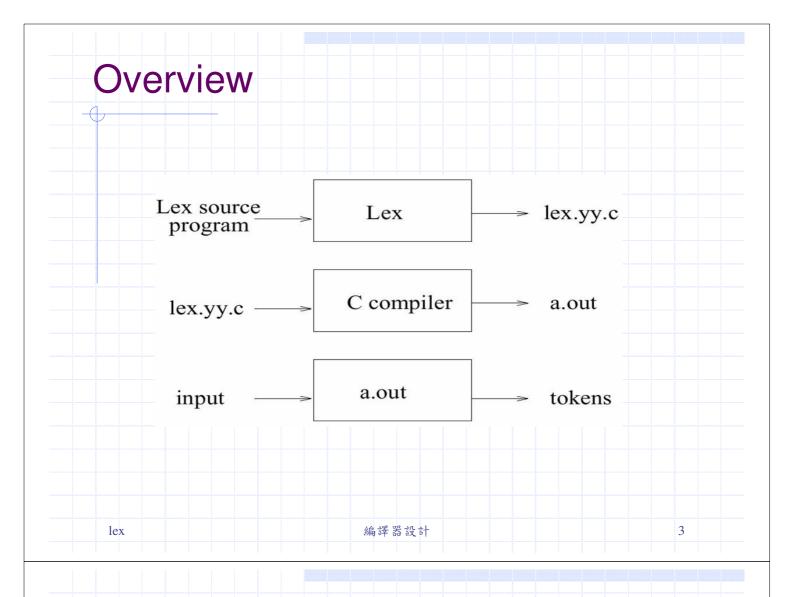


lex A Lexical Analyzer Generator

lex: A Tool for Creating Lexical Analyzers

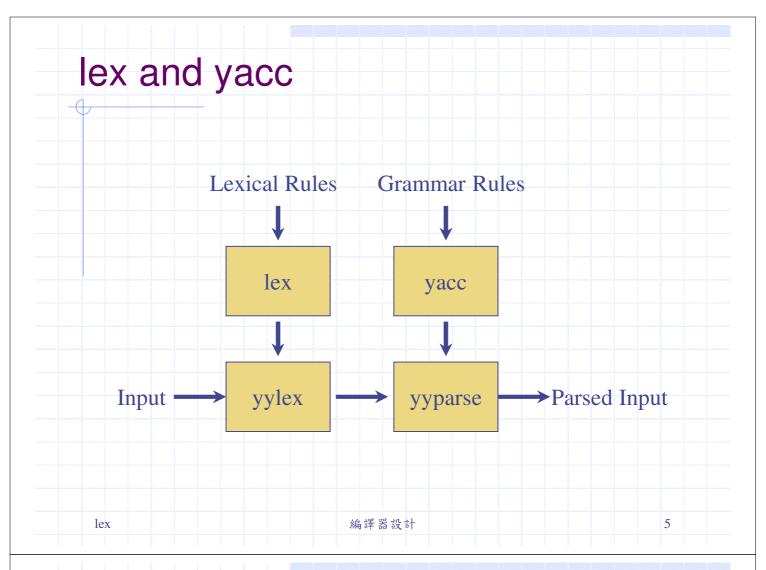
- Lexical analyzers tokenize input streams.
- Regular expressions define tokens.
- Tokens are the terminals of a language.

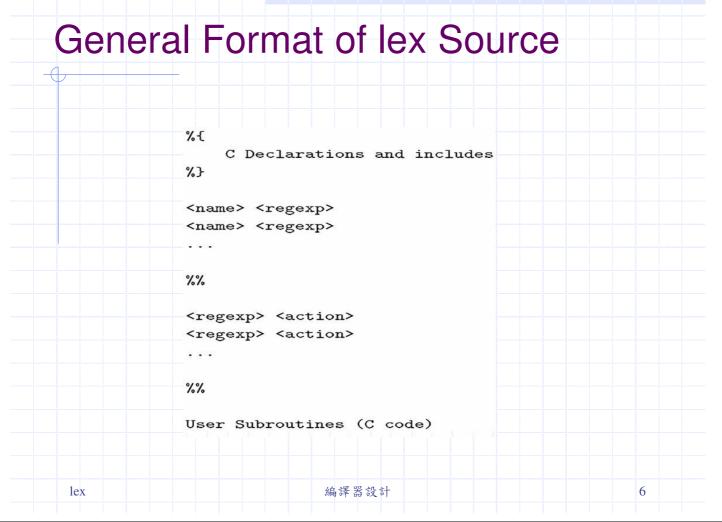
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lex Internals

- Converts regular expressions into NFAs.
- NFAs are implemented as table driven state machines.





General Format of lex Source

- Input specification file is in 3 parts
 - Declarations: Definitions
 - Transition Rules: Token Descriptions and actions
 - Auxiliary Procedures: User-Written code
- Three parts are separated by %%
- Tips: In the first part we define patterns, in the third part we define actions, in the second part we put them together.

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General Format of lex Source

- The first and second part must exist, but may be empty, the third part and the second %% are optional.
- A minimum lex program:
 %%
 - It only copies the input to the output unchanged.
- Another trivial example:

%%

 $[\t] + \$;$

 It deletes from the input all blanks or tabs at the ends of lines.

A lex Source File Example

```
% {
    /*
    * Example lex source file
    * This first section contains necessary
    * C declarations and includes
    * to use throughout the lex specifications.
    */
    #include <stdio.h>
    % }
    bin_digit [01]
```

A lex Source File Example

```
%%
{bin_digit}* {
    /* match all strings of 0's and 1's */
    /* Print out message with matching text
    */
    printf("BINARY: %s\n", yytext);
}
([ab]*aa[ab]*bb[ab]*)|([ab]*bb[ab]*aa[ab]*) {
    /* match all strings over
    * (a,b) containing aa and bb
    */
    printf("AABB\n");
}
\n; /* ignore newlines */
```

A lex Source File Example

Running lex

- To run lex on a source file, use the command: lex source.
- This produces the file lex.yy.c which is the C source for the lexical analyzer.
- To compile this, use:
 cc -o scanner -O lex.yy.c -ll

lex

Different Versions Of lex

- ◆ AT&T -- lex http://www.combo.org/lex_yacc_page/lex.html
- GNU -- flex
 http://www.gnu.org/manual/flex-2.5.4/flex.html
- Find a Win32 version of flex:
 http://www.cygwin.com/

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lex.yy.c: What it produces

```
# define YYTYPE unsigned char
  struct yywork { YYTYPE verify, advance; } yycrank[] = {
  0,0, 0,0, 1,3, 0,0,
0,0, 0,0, 0,0, 0,0,
  struct yysvf yysvec[] = {
 yycrank+-1,
yycrank+-3,
  0, 0, 0,
                              yyvstop+1,
                0,
               yysvec+1,
                             yyvstop+3,
  yycrank+0,
                              yyvstop+5,
  unsigned char yymatch[] = {
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                                                   14
lex.
```

Token Definitions

- Elementary Operations
 - single characters
 - except "\.\$^[]-?*+|()/{}%<>
 - concatenation (put characters together)
 - alternation (a|b|c)
 - [ab] == a|b
 - [a-k] == a|b|c|...|i|j|k
 - [a-z0-9] == any letter or digit
 - [^a] == any character but a

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Token Definitions

- Elementary Operations (cont.)
 - NOTE: . matches any character except the newline
 - * -- Kleene Closure
 - + -- Positive Closure
- Examples:
 - **•** [0-9]+"."[0-9]+
 - note: without the quotes it could be any character
 - [\t]+ -- is whitespace
 - (except CR).
 - Yes there is a space inside the box before the \t

Token Definitions

- Special Characters:
 - -- matches any single character (except newline)
 - " and \ -- quote the part as text
 - \t -- tab
 - \n -- newline
 - \b -- backspace
 - \" -- double quote

 - this means the preceding was optional
 - ab? == a|ab
 - (ab)? == $ab|_{\epsilon}$

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Token Definitions

- Special Characters (cont.)
 - means at the beginning of the line (unless it is inside of a [])
 - \$ means at the end of the line, same as /\n
 - [^] means anything except
 - \"[^\"]*\" is a double quoted string
 - {n,m} means m through n occurrences
 - a{1,3} is a or aa or aaa
 - {definition} means translation from definition
 - matches only if followed by right part of /
 0/1 means the 0 of 01 but not 02 or 03 or ...
 - () grouping

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Definitions

NAME REG_EXPR

digs [0-9]+

• integer {digs}

plain_real {digs}"."{digs}

expreal {digs}"."{digs}[Ee][+-]?{digs}

real {plainreal}|{expreal}

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Definitions

le_x

- The definitions can also contain variables and other declarations used by the code generated by lex.
 - These usually go at the start of this section, marked by %{ at the beginning and %} at the end or the line which begins with a blank or tab.
 - Includes usually go here.
 - It is usually convenient to maintain a line counter so that error messages can be keyed to the lines in which the errors are found.

%{
int linecount = 1;
%}

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Transition Rules

- The code copied into the generated lex program are the same as the definitions section
- The unmatched token is using a default action that ECHO from the input to the output
- A null statement; will ignore the input
- An action character | indicates that the action for this rule is the action for the next rule

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Tokens and Actions

return INTEGER;
}

printf("I found an integer\n");

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Tokens and Actions

- identifiers used by lex and yacc begin with yy
 - yytext -- a string containing the lexeme
 - yyleng -- the length of the lexeme
 - yylval -- holds the lexical value of the token.

Example:

■ C++ Comments -- // //.* ;

lex.

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Lex library function calls

- yylex()
 - default main() contains a return yylex();
- yywarp()
 - called by lexical analyzer if end of the input file
- yyless(n)
 - n characters in yytext are retained
- yymore()
 - the next input expression recognized is to be tacked on to the end of this input

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Lex I/O Functions

- ◆ c = input()
 - reads another character
- unput(c)
 - puts a character back to be read again a moment later
- output(c)
 - writes a character on an output device

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States

- lex allows the user to explicitly declare multiple states
 %s COMMENT
- Default states is INITIAL or 0
- Actions for a matched string may be different states

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BEGIN is used to change state

User Written Code

- The actions associated with any given token are normally specified using statements in C. But occasionally the actions are complicated enough that it is better to describe them with a function call, and define the function elsewhere.
- Definitions of this sort go in the last section of the lex input.

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Ambiguous Source Rules

- If 2 rules match the same pattern, lex will use the first rule.
- lex always chooses the longest matching substring for its tokens.
- To override the choice, use action REJECT ex: she {s++; REJECT;} he {h++; REJECT;}
 . | \n;

More Example 1

```
int lengs[100];
 응응
 [a-z] + lengs[yyleng] ++;
 \n ;
 응응
 yywrap()
   int i;
   printf("Length No. words\n");
   for(i=0; i<100; i++)
       if (lengs[i] > 0)
              printf("%5d%10d\n",i,lengs[i]);
   return(1);
 }
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                                                     29
```

More Example 2

Using yacc with lex

• yacc will call yylex() to get the token from the input so that each lex rule should end with: return(token);

where the appropriate token value is returned.

An easy way is placing the line: #include "lex.yy.c" in the last section of yacc input.

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Special Notes

- lex on different machines is not created equal.
- Manual page has more advanced topics for the specified lex version.
- Try things early. If you get stuck, ask!

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Reference Books ♦ lex & yacc ,2/e by John R.Levine, Tony Mason & Doug Brown, O'Reilly Mastering Regular Expressions, by Jeffrey E.F. Friedl, O'Reilly 33 lex 編譯器設計