CSE 303 (Compilers) Lexical Analysis

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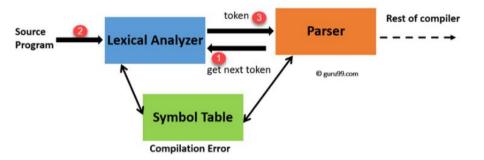
The Role of the Lexical Analyzer

- As the first phase of a compiler, the main task of the lexical analyzer is to,
 - read the input characters of the source program,
 - group them into lexemes,
 - and produce as output a sequence of tokens for each lexeme in the source program.



- The stream of tokens is sent to the parser for syntax analysis.
- It is common for the lexical analyzer to interact with the symbol table as well.
- When the lexical analyzer discovers a lexeme constituting an identifier, it needs to enter that lexeme into the symbol table.

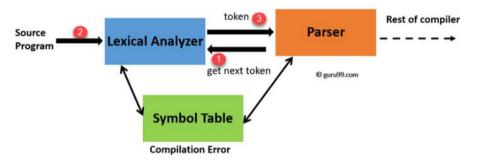




- These interactions are suggested in figure.
- Commonly, the interaction is implemented by having the parser call the lexical analyzer.







- "Get next token" is a command which is sent from the parser to the lexical analyzer.
- On receiving this command, the lexical analyzer scans the input until it finds the next token.
- It returns the token to Parser.



- Converts source code to stream of tokens
- Removing comments
- Stripping out whitespace (blank, newline, tab, and perhaps other characters that are used to separate tokens in the input).
- Recognizing keywords, identifiers and operators.
- Show errors when lexeme does not match any pattern.
- Correlating error messages generated by the compiler with the source program.



- Sometimes, lexical analyzers are divided into a cascade of two processes:
 - a) Scanning consists of the simple processes that do not require tokenization of the input, such as deletion of comments and compaction of consecutive whitespace characters into one.
 - b) Lexical analysis proper is the more complex portion, where the scanner produces the sequence of tokens as output.



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 - b) Lexical analysis proper is the more complex portion, where the scanner produces the sequence of tokens as output.



Lexical Analysis Versus Parsing — continued

- 1. Simplicity of design is the most important consideration.
 - Simplify at least one of these tasks.
 - If a parser had to deal with comments and whitespacetask is hard to design.



Lexical Analysis Versus Parsing — continued

- 2. Compiler efficiency is improved.
 - Specific techniques to improve lexical analyzer or syntax analyzer alone can be implemented
 - In addition, specialized buffering techniques for reading input characters can speed up the compiler significantly.



Lexical Analysis Versus Parsing — continued

- 3. Compiler portability is enhanced.
 - Input-device-specific peculiarities can be restricted to the lexical analyzer.



Tokens, Patterns, and Lexemes

When discussing lexical analysis, we use three related but distinct terms:

A token is a pair consisting of a token name and an optional attribute value.

- The token name is an abstract symbol representing a kind of lexical unit, e.g., a particular keyword, or a sequence of input characters denoting an identifier.
- The token names are the input symbols that the parser processes.
- We shall generally write the name of a token in boldface.
- We will often refer to a token by its token name.





Tokens, Patterns, and Lexemes

When discussing lexical analysis, we use three related but distinct terms:

A pattern is a description of the form that the lexemes of a token may take.

- In the case of a keyword as a token, the pattern is just the sequence of characters that form the keyword.
- For identifiers and some other tokens, the pattern is a more complex structure that is matched by many strings.



Tokens, Patterns, and Lexemes

When discussing lexical analysis, we use three related but distinct terms:

A lexeme is a sequence of characters in the source program that matches the pattern for a token and is identified by the lexical analyzer as an instance of that token.

TOKEN	INFORMAL DESCRIPTION	SAMPLE LEXEMES
if	characters i, f	if
else	characters e, 1, s, e	else
comparison	<pre>< or > or <= or >= or !=</pre>	<=, !=
\mathbf{id}	letter followed by letters and digits	pi, score, D2
number	any numeric constant	3.14159, 0, 6.02e23
literal	anything but ", surrounded by "'s	"core dumped"

Examples of tokens

■ Figure gives some typical tokens, their informally described patterns, and some sample lexemes.



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Examples of tokens

■ To see how these concepts are used in practice, in the C statement printf("Total = %d\n", score);} both printf and score are lexemes matching the pattern for token id, and "Total = %d\n" a lexeme matching literal.





Tokens, Patterns, and Lexemes — *continued*

In many programming languages, the following classes cover most or all of the tokens:

- 1. One token for each keyword.
 - The pattern for a keyword is the same as the keyword itself.
- 2. Tokens for the operators, either individually or in classes such as the token comparison mentioned.
- 3. One token representing all identifiers.
- 4. One or more tokens representing constants, such as numbers and literal strings.
- 5. Tokens for each punctuation symbol, such as left and right parentheses, comma, and semicolon.





Attributes for Tokens

- When more than one lexeme can match a pattern, the lexical analyzer must provide the subsequent compiler phases additional information about the particular lexeme that matched.
- For example, the pattern for token number matches both 0 and 1, but it is extremely important for the code generator to know which lexeme was found in the source program.



Attributes for Tokens — continued

- Thus, in many cases the lexical analyzer returns to the parser not only a token name, but an attribute value that describes the lexeme represented by the token.
- The token name influences parsing decisions, while the attribute value influences translation of tokens after the parse.



Attributes for Tokens — continued

- We shall assume that tokens have at most one associated attribute, although this attribute may have a structure that combines several pieces of information.
- The most important example is the token id, where we need to associate with the token a great deal of information.



Attributes for Tokens — continued

- Normally, information about an identifier e.g.,
 - its lexeme,
 - its type,
 - and the location at which it is first found— is kept in the symbol table.
- Thus, the appropriate attribute value for an identifier is a pointer to the symbol-table entry for that identifier.



Example

The token names and associated attribute values for the Fortran statement

```
E = M * C ** 2

are written below as a sequence of pairs.

<id, pointer to symbol-table entry for E>

<assign-op>

<id, pointer to symbol-table entry for M>

<mult-op>

<id, pointer to symbol-table entry for C>

<exp-op>

<number, integer value 2>
```





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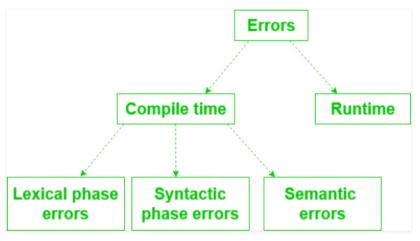
<exp-op>

<number, integer value 2>
```

- In certain pairs, especially operators, punctuation, and keywords, there is no need for an attribute value.
- In this example, the token **number** has been given an integer-valued attribute.



Errors









Lexical Errors

- It is hard for a lexical analyzer to tell, without the aid of other components, that there is a source-code error.
- For instance, if the string fi is encountered for the first time in a C program in the context:

```
fi ( a == f(x)) ...
a lexical analyzer cannot tell whether fi is a misspelling of
```

- a lexical analyzer cannot tell whether $\pm i$ is a misspelling of the keyword $\pm f$ or an undeclared function identifier.
- Since fi is a valid lexeme for the token id, the lexical analyzer must return the token id to the parser and let some other phase of the compiler — probably the parser in this case — handle an error due to transposition of the letters.





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- For instance, if the string fi is encountered for the first time in a C program in the context: fi (a == f(x)) dots a lexical analyzer cannot tell whether fi is a misspelling of the keyword if or an undeclared function identifier.
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Exceeding length of identifier or numeric constants.

- Appearance of illegal characters
- Unmatched string





Exceeding length of identifier or numeric constants.

Appearance of illegal characters

Unmatched string

Ex: printf("Hello World"); \$
This is a lexical error since an illegal character appears at the end of the statement.





- Suppose a situation does arise in which the lexical analyzer is unable to proceed because none of the patterns for tokens matches a prefix of the remaining input.
- Perhaps the simplest recovery strategy is "panic mode" recovery.
- We delete successive characters from the remaining input until the lexical analyzer can find a well-formed token.
- This recovery technique may occasionally confuse the parser, but in an interactive computing environment it may be quite adequate.





Other possible error-recovery actions are:

- 1. deleting an extraneous character,
- inserting a missing character,
- 3. replacing an incorrect character by a correct character,
- 4. transposing two adjacent characters.



lexerror1.cpp

```
#include <iostream>
int main()
{
    'int i, j, k;
    return 0;
}
```

Response from gcc

```
lexerror1.cpp:4: error: stray ' in program
```



lexerror2.cpp

```
int main()
{
  int 5test;

return 0;
}
```

Response from gcc

```
lexerror2.cpp:3:7: error: invalid suffix
"test" on integer constant
```



Input Buffering

- Let us examine some ways that the simple but important task of reading the source program can be speeded.
- This task is made difficult by the fact that we often have to look one or more characters beyond the next lexeme before we can be sure we have the right lexeme.
- There are many situations where we need to look at least one additional character ahead.



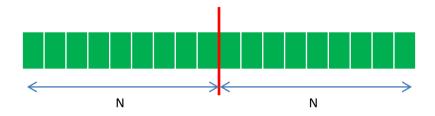
Input Buffering — continued

- For instance, we cannot be sure we've seen the end of an identifier until we see a character that is not a letter or digit, and therefore is not part of the lexeme for id.
- In C, single-character operators like ¬, =, or < could also be the beginning of a two-character operator like ¬ >, ==, or <=.</p>
- Thus, we shall introduce a two-buffer scheme that handles large lookaheads safely.
- We then consider an improvement involving "sentinels" that saves time checking for the ends of buffers.





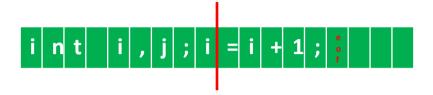
Input Buffering — continued



Buffer is divided into two N-characters half.



Buffer Pairs — continued



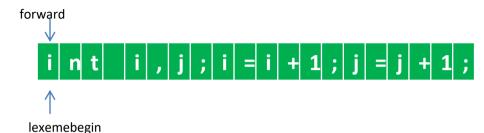
- If fewer than N characters remain in the input file, then a special character, represented by eof, marks the end of the source file.
- This **eof** is different from any possible character of the source program.



Buffer Pairs — continued

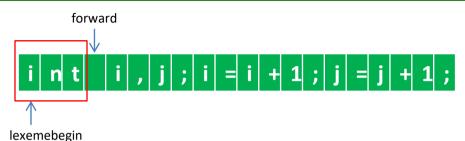
- Two pointers to the input are maintained:
 - 1. Pointer lexemeBegin, marks the beginning of the current lexeme, whose extent we are attempting to determine.
 - 2. Pointer forward scans ahead until a pattern match is found.





■ Initially both the pointers point to the first character of the input string

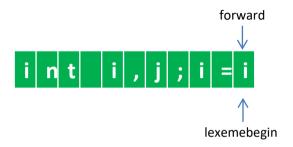




- The forward ptr moves ahead to search for end of lexeme.
- As soon as the blank space is encountered, it indicates end of lexeme.
- In above example as soon as forward ptr encounters a blank space the lexeme "int" is identified.





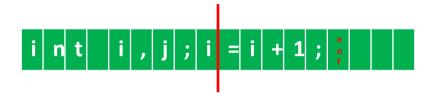


One Scheme Buffer

- if lexeme is very long then it crosses the buffer boundary
- to scan rest of the lexeme the buffer has to be refilled
- which makes overwriting the first of lexeme







Two Scheme Buffer

- The first buffer and second buffer are scanned alternately
- When end of current buffer is reached the other buffer is filled.



- If we use the previous scheme as described, we must check, each time we advance forward, that we have not moved off one of the buffers.
- If we do, then we must also reload the other buffer.
- Thus, for each character read, we make two tests:
 - one for the end of the buffer.
 - And one to determine what character is read (the latter may be a multiway branch).



```
if (fwd at the end of the first half)
reload the second half
set fwd to point to the beginning of second half
```

else if (fwd at the end of the second half)
reload the first half
set fwd to point to the beginning of first half

```
else
fwd++;
```



if (fwd at the end of the first half)
reload the second half
set fwd to point to the beginning of second half

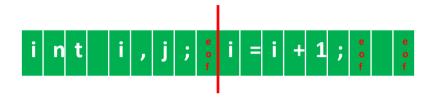
else if (fwd at the end of the second half)
reload the first half
set fwd to point to the beginning of first half







Sentinels— continued



- Adds extra eof at the end of each buffer as sentinels
- It optimizes the code by reducing the number of tests





```
fwd++:
If(fwd == eof)
        if (fwd at the end of the first half)
          reload the second half
          set fwd to point to the beginning of second
        half
        else if (fwd at the end of the second half)
          reload the first half
          set fwd to point to the beginning of first half
        else /* end of input*/
```

terminate lexical analysis;





Recognition of Tokens

Our discussion will make use of the following running example.





Example

- The grammar fragment describes a simple form of branching statements and conditional expressions.
- This syntax is similar to that of the language Pascal, in that then appears explicitly after conditions.





Example

■ For **relop**, we use the comparison operators of languages like Pascal or SQL, where = is "equals" and <> is "not equals," because it presents an interesting structure of lexemes.



Example

■ The terminals of the grammar, which are if, then, else, relop, id, and number, are the names of tokens as far as the lexical analyzer is concerned.





```
digit \rightarrow [0-9]
  digits \rightarrow digit^+
number \rightarrow digits (. digits)? (E [+-]? digits)?
   letter \rightarrow [A-Za-z]
       id \rightarrow letter (letter | digit)^*
        if \rightarrow if
    then \rightarrow then
     else \rightarrow else
   relop \rightarrow \langle | \rangle | \langle = | \rangle = | \langle \rangle
```

Patterns for tokens of Example

The patterns for these tokens are described using regular definitions.





Patterns for tokens of Example

- To simplify matters, we make the common assumption that keywords are also *reserved* words.
- They are not identifiers, even though their lexemes match the pattern for identifiers.



In addition, we assign the lexical analyzer the job of stripping out white- space, by recognizing the "token" ws defined by:

ws → (blank / tab /newline)+

- Here, blank, tab, and newline are abstract symbols that we use to express the ASCII characters of the same names.
- Token ws is different from the other tokens in that, when we recognize it, we do not return it to the parser.
- We rather restart the lexical analysis from the character that follows the whitespace.
- It is the following token that gets returned to the parser.





Recognition of Tokens-continued

TOKEN NAME	ATTRIBUTE VALUE
_	_
if	
${f then}$	_
$_{ m else}$	
id	Pointer to table entry
\mathbf{number}	Pointer to table entry
relop	LT
relop	ĹE
relop	EQ
relop	NE
relop	GŤ
relop	GE
	if then else id number relop relop relop relop

Tokens, their patterns, and attribute values

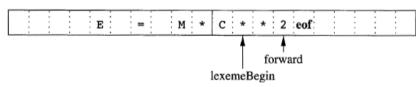
Our goal for the lexical analyzer is summarized in figure.

Transition Diagrams

- As an intermediate step in the construction of a lexical analyzer, we first convert patterns into stylized flowcharts, called "transition diagrams."
- In this section, we perform the conversion from regular-expression patterns to transition diagrams by hand.
- Later we shall see that there is a mechanical way to construct these diagrams from collections of regular expressions.



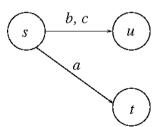
- Transition diagrams have a collection of nodes or circles, called states.
- Each state represents a condition that could occur during the process of scanning the input looking for a lexeme that matches one of several patterns.
- We may think of a state as summarizing all we need to know about what characters we have seen between the lexemeBegin pointer and the forward pointer.







- Edges are directed from one state of the transition diagram to another.
- Each edge is labeled by a symbol or set of symbols.
- If we are in some state s, and the next input symbol is a, we look for an edge out of state s labeled by a (and perhaps by other symbols, as well).
- If we find such an edge, we advance the forward pointer and enter the state of the transition diagram to which that edge leads.







■ We shall assume that all our transition diagrams are deterministic, meaning that there is never more than one edge out of a given state with a given symbol among its labels.



Some important conventions about transition diagrams are:

- 1. Certain states are said to be accepting, or final.
 - These states indicate that a lexeme has been found

- We always indicate an accepting state by a double circle.
- If there is an action to be taken typically returning a token and an attribute value to the parser - we shall attach that action to the accepting state.



Some important conventions about transition diagrams are:

- 2. In addition, if it is necessary to retract the forward pointer one position (i.e., the lexeme does not include the symbol that got us to the accepting state), then we shall additionally place a *near that accepting state.
 - In our example, it is never necessary to retract forward by more than one position, but if it were, we could attach any number of *'s to the accepting state.

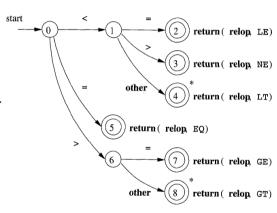


Some important conventions about transition diagrams are:

- One state is designated the start state, or initial state it is indicated by an edge, labeled "start," entering from nowhere.
 - The transition diagram always begins in the start state before any input symbols have been read.



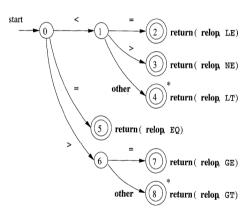
- We begin in state 0, the start state.
- If we see < as the first input symbol, then among the lexemes that match the pattern for relop we can only be looking at <, <>, or <=.</p>
- We therefore go to state 1, and look at the next character.







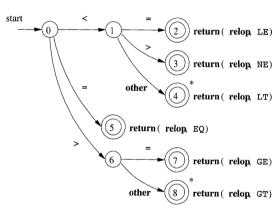
- If it is =, then we recognize lexeme <=, enter state 2, and return the token relop with attribute LE, the symbolic constant representing this particular comparison operator.
- If in state 1 the next character is >, then instead we have lexeme <>, and enter state 3 to return an indication that the not-equals operator has been found.
- On any other character, the lexeme is <, and we enter state 4 to return that information.
- Note, however, that state 4 has a *to indicate that we must retract the input one position.







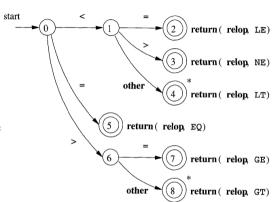
- On the other hand, if in state 0 the first character we see is =, then this one character must be the lexeme.
- We immediately return that fact from **state 5**.







- The remaining possibility is that the first character is >.
- Then, we must enter state 6 and decide, on the basis of the next character, whether the lexeme is >= (if we next see the = sign), or just > (on any other character).



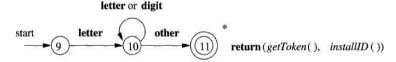
Note that if, in state 0, we see any character besides <, =, or >, we can not possibly be seeing a **relop** lexeme, so this transition diagram will not be used.





Recognition of Reserved Words and Identifiers

- Recognizing keywords and identifiers presents a problem.
- Usually, keywords like if or then are reserved, so they are not identifiers even though they look like identifiers.
- Thus, we typically use a transition diagram like the following to search for identifier lexemes.



A transition diagram for id's and keywords

But, this diagram will also recognize the keywords if, then, and else.





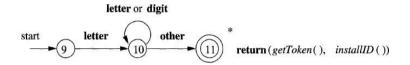
There are two ways that we can handle reserved words that look like identifiers.

- 1. Install the reserved words in the symbol table initially.
- A field of the symbol-table entry indicates that these strings are never ordinary identifiers, and tells which token they represent.
- This method is applicable below.

letter or digit

start | letter | other | 10 | return(getToken(), installID())



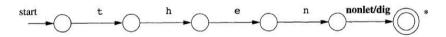


- installID() checks if the lexeme is already in the table. If it is not present, the lexeme is installed as an id token.
- Of course, any identifier not in the symbol table during lexical analysis cannot be a reserved word, so its token is id.
- gettoken() examines the lexeme and returns the token name, either id or a name corresponding to a reserved keyword.





- 2. Create separate transition diagrams for each keyword.
- An example for the keyword then is shown in figure.



Hypothetical transition diagram for the keyword then





- Note that such a transition diagram consists of states representing the situation after each successive letter of the keyword is seen, followed by a test for a "nonletter-or-digit," i.e., any character that cannot be the continuation of an identifier.
- It is necessary to check that the identifier has ended, or else we would return token then in situations where the correct token was id, with a lexeme like thenextvalue that has then as a proper prefix.

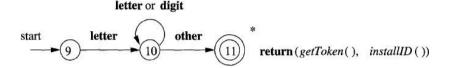




If we adopt this approach, then we must prioritize the tokens so that the reserved-word tokens are recognized in preference to id, when the lexeme matches both patterns.



Completion of the Running Example — continued

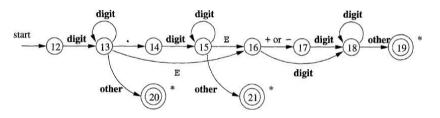


- Starting in state 9, it checks that the lexeme begins with a letter and goes to state 10 if so.
- We stay in state 10 as long as the input contains letters and digits.
- When we first encounter anything but a letter or digit, we go to state 11 and accept the lexeme found.
- Since the last character is not part of the identifier, we must retract the input one position.
- We enter what we have found in the symbol table and determine whether we have a keyword or a true identifier.



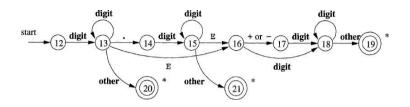


■ The transition diagram for token **number** is shown in figure.



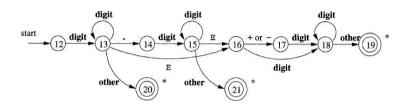
A transition diagram for unsigned numbers





123

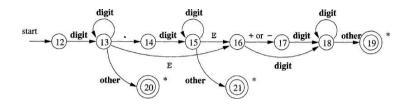
- Beginning in state 12, if we see a digit, we go to state 13.
- In that state, we can read any number of additional digits.
- However, if we see anything but a digit or a dot, we have seen a number in the form of an integer.
- That case is handled by entering state 20, where we return token number and a pointer to a table of constants where the found lexeme is entered.



123,456

- If we instead see a dot in state 13, then we have an "optional fraction."
- State 14 is entered, and we look for one or more additional digits; state 15 is used for that purpose.





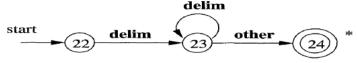
123.456E789 123.456E+789 123.456E-789

- If we see an E, then we have an "optional exponent," whose recognition is the job of states 16 through 19.
- Should we, in state 15, instead see anything but E or a digit, then we have come to the end of the fraction, there is no exponent, and we return the lexeme found, via state 21.





■ Transition diagram for whitespace is shown.



A transition diagram for whitespace

- The delim in the diagram represents any of the whitespace characters, say space, tab, and newline.
- The final star is there because we needed to find a nonwhitespace character in order to know when the whitespace ends and this character begins the next token.
- There is no action performed at the accepting state. Indeed the lexer does not return to the parser, but starts again from its beginning as it still must find the next token.





Architecture of a Transition-Diagram-Based Lexical Analyzer

- The idea is that we write a piece of code for each decision diagram.
- This piece of code contains a case for each state, which typically reads a character and then goes to the next case depending on the character read.
- The numbers in the circles are the names of the cases.
- Accepting states often need to take some action and return to the parser. Many of these accepting states (the ones with stars) need to restore one character of input. This is called retract() in the code.





Architecture of a Transition-Diagram-Based Lexical Analyzer

- What should the code for a particular diagram do if at one state the character read is not one of those for which a next state has been defined? That is, what if the character read is not the label of any of the outgoing arcs?
- This means that we have failed to find the token corresponding to this diagram.
- The code calls fail(). This is not an error case.
- It simply means that the current input does not match this particular token.
- So, we start the next diagram at the point where this failing diagram started.
- If we have tried all the diagram, then we have a real failure and need to print an error message and perhaps try to repair the input.





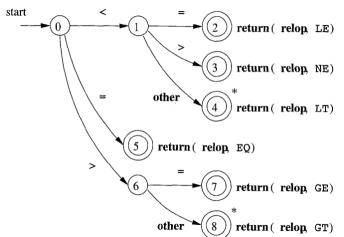
Example

■ In figure we see a sketch of getRelop(), a C++ function whose job is to simulate the transition diagram for relop.

```
TOKEN getRelop()
ł
    TOKEN retToken = new(RELOP);
    while(1) { /* repeat character processing until a return
                  or failure occurs */
        switch(state) {
            case 0: c = nextChar();
                    if ( c == '<' ) state = 1:
                    else if (c == '=') state = 5;
                    else if ( c == '>' ) state = 6:
                    else fail(): /* lexeme is not a relop */
                    break:
            case 1: ...
            case 8: retract();
                    retToken.attribute = GT:
                    return(retToken):
```

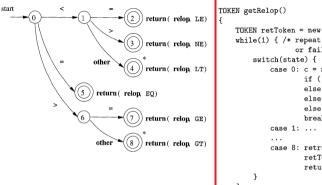
Example

In figure we see a sketch of getRelop(), a C++ function whose job is to simulate the transition diagram for relop.



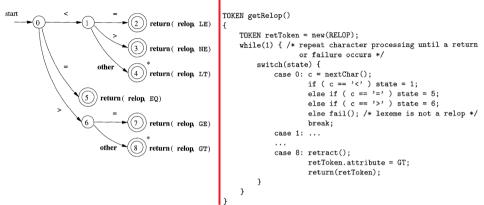




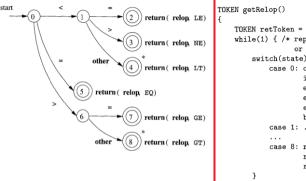


```
TOKEN retToken = new(RELOP);
while(1) { /* repeat character processing until a return
              or failure occurs */
        case 0: c = nextChar():
                if ( c == '<' ) state = 1:
                else if ( c == '=' ) state = 5:
                else if ( c == '>' ) state = 6:
                else fail(): /* lexeme is not a relop */
                break:
        case 8: retract():
                retToken.attribute = GT:
                return(retToken):
```

- Function getRelop() returns an object of type TOKEN, that is, a pair consisting of the token name **relop** and an attribute value (the code for one of the six comparison operators in this case).
- getRelop() first creates a new object retToken and initializes its first component to RELOP, the symbolic code for token relop.

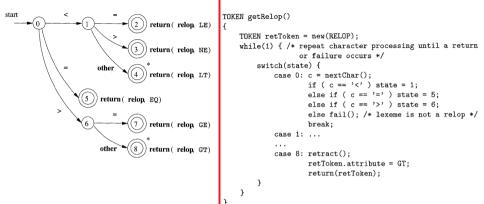


- We see the typical behavior of a state in case 0, the case where the current state is 0.
- A function nextchar() obtains the next character from the input and assigns it to local variable c.

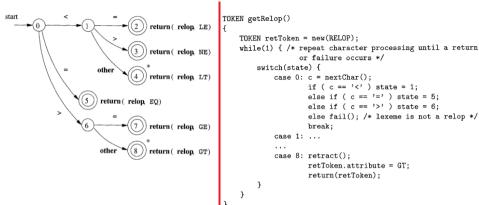


```
TOKEN retToken = new(RELOP);
while(1) { /* repeat character processing until a return
              or failure occurs */
    switch(state) {
        case 0: c = nextChar():
                if ( c == '<' ) state = 1:
                else if ( c == '=' ) state = 5:
                else if ( c == '>' ) state = 6:
                else fail(): /* lexeme is not a relop */
                break;
        case 1: ...
        case 8: retract():
                retToken.attribute = GT:
                return(retToken):
```

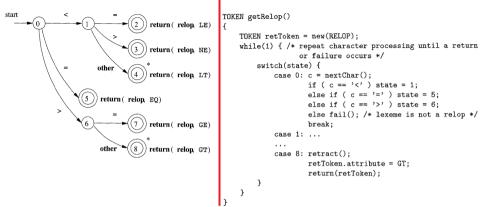
- We then check c for the three characters we expect to find, making the state transition dictated by the transition diagram in each case.
- For example, if the next input character is =, we go to state 5.



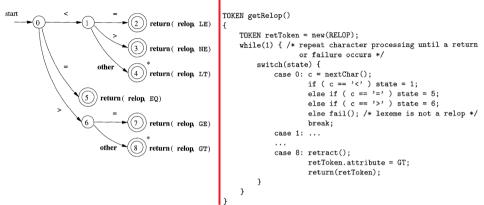
- If the next input character is not one that can begin a comparison operator, then a function fail() is called.
- What fail() does depends on the global error recovery strategy of the lexical analyzer.



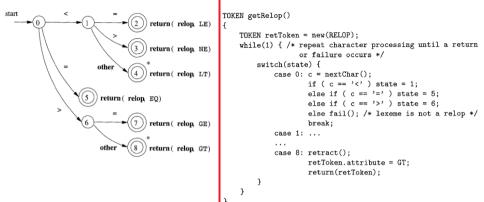
- It should reset the forward pointer to lexemeBegin, in order to allow another transition diagram to be applied to the true beginning of the unprocessed input.
- It might then change the value of state to be the start state for another transition diagram, which will search for another token.



■ Alternatively, if there is no other transition diagram that remains unused, fail() could initiate an error-correction phase that will try to repair the input and find a lexeme.



- We also show the action for state 8.
- Because state 8 bears a *, we must retract the input pointer one position (i.e., put c back on the input stream).
- That task is accomplished by the function retract().



■ Since state 8 represents the recognition of lexeme >=, we set the second component of the returned object, which we suppose is named attribute, to GT, the code for this operator.

To place the simulation of one transition diagram in perspective, let us consider the ways code could fit into the entire lexical analyzer.

```
TOKEN getRelop()
ł
    TOKEN retToken = new(RELOP);
    while(1) { /* repeat character processing until a return
                  or failure occurs */
        switch(state) {
            case 0: c = nextChar():
                    if ( c == '<' ) state = 1;
                    else if ( c == '=' ) state = 5;
                    else if ( c == '>' ) state = 6;
                    else fail(); /* lexeme is not a relop */
                    break:
            case 1: ...
            case 8: retract():
                    retToken.attribute = GT;
                    return(retToken):
```

- 1. We could arrange for the transition diagrams for each token to be tried sequentially.
- Then, the function fail() resets the pointer forward and starts the next transition diagram, each time it is called.

```
TOKEN getRelop()
    TOKEN retToken = new(RELOP):
    while(1) { /* repeat character processing until a return
                  or failure occurs */
        switch(state) {
            case 0: c = nextChar();
                    if ( c == '<' ) state = 1;
                    else if ( c == '=' ) state = 5;
                    else if ( c == '>' ) state = 6:
                    else fail(): /* lexeme is not a relop */
                    break:
            case 1: ...
             . . .
            case 8: retract():
                    retToken.attribute = GT:
                    return(retToken):
```

■ This method allows us to use transition diagrams for the individual keywords.



We have only to use these before we use the diagram for id, in order for the keywords to be reserved words.



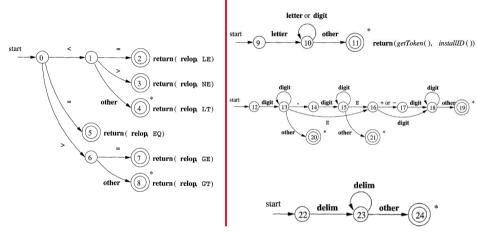
- Unlike the method above, which tries the diagrams one at a time, the first new method tries them in parallel. That is, each character read is passed to each diagram (that hasn't already failed).
- Care is needed when one diagram has accepted the input, but others still haven't failed and may accept a longer prefix of the input..
- The normal strategy is to take the longest prefix of the input that matches any pattern.
- That rule allows us to prefer identifier thenext to keyword then, or the operator -> to -, for example.





- 3. The preferred approach, is to combine all the transition diagrams into one.
 - We allow the transition diagram to read input until there is no possible next state.
 - And then take the longest lexeme that matched any pattern, as we discussed in item (2) above.





- Thus, we could simply combine states 0, 9, 12, and 22 into one start state, leaving other transitions intact.
- However, in general, the problem of combining transition diagrams for several tokens is more complex.

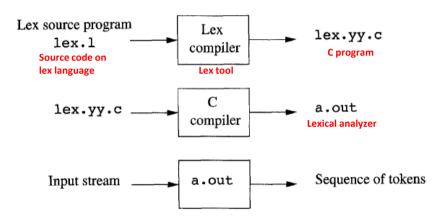
The Lexical- Analyzer Generator Lex

- We introduce a tool called Lex, or if a more recent implementation Flex.
- This allows one to specify a lexical analyzer by specifying regular expressions to describe patterns for tokens.
- The input notation for the Lex tool is referred to as the Lex language and the tool itself is the Lex compiler.
- Behind the scenes, the Lex compiler transforms the input patterns into a transition diagram and generates code, in a file called lex.yy.c, that simulates this transition diagram.



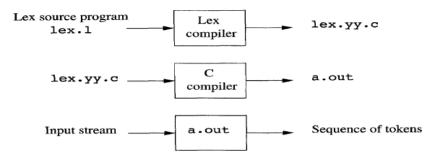
Use of Lex

Figure suggests how Lex is used.



Creating a lexical analyzer with Lex



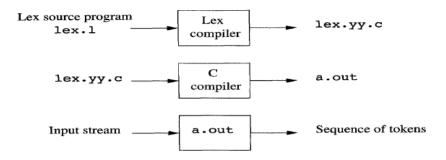


Creating a lexical analyzer with Lex

- An input file, which we call lex.1, is written in the Lex language and describes the lexical analyzer to be generated.
- The Lex compiler transforms lex.1 to a C program, in a file that is always named lex.yy.c.





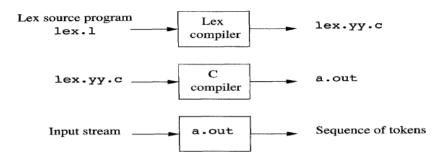


Creating a lexical analyzer with Lex

- The latter file is compiled by the C compiler into a file called a.out, as always.
- The C-compiler output is a working lexical analyzer that can take a stream of input characters and produce a stream of tokens.





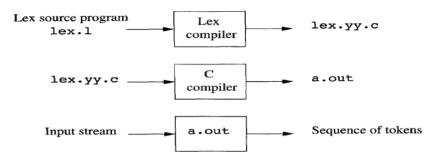


Creating a lexical analyzer with Lex

- The normal use of the compiled C program, referred to as a .out, is as a subroutine of the parser.
- It is a C function that returns an integer, which is a code for one of the possible token names.







Creating a lexical analyzer with Lex

■ The attribute value, whether it be another numeric code, a pointer to the symbol table, or nothing, is placed in a global variable yylval which is shared between the lexical analyzer and parser, thereby making it simple to return both the name and an attribute value of a token.





Structure of Lex Programs

■ A Lex program has the following form:

```
declarations
%%
translation rules
%%
auxiliary functions
```



```
declarations
%%
translation rules
%%
auxiliary functions
```

- The declarations section includes
 - declarations of variables,
 - manifest constants (identifiers declared to stand for a constant, e.g., the name of a token),
 - and regular definitions.





```
declarations
%%
translation rules
%%
auxiliary functions
```

The translation rules each have the form

```
Pattern {Action }
```

- Each pattern is a regular expression, which may use the regular definitions of the declaration section.
- The actions are fragments of code, typically written in C, although many variants of Lex using other languages have been created.





```
declarations
%%
translation rules
%%
auxiliary functions
```

- The third section holds whatever additional functions are used in the actions.
- Alternatively, these functions can be compiled separately and loaded with the lexical analyzer.



- The lexical analyzer created by Lex behaves in concert with the parser as follows.
- When called by the parser, the lexical analyzer begins reading its remaining input, one character at a time, until it finds the longest prefix of the input that matches one of the patterns *P_i*.
- It then executes the associated action A_i.
- Typically, A_i will return to the parser.
- But if it does not (e.g., because *P_i* describes whitespace or comments), then the lexical analyzer proceeds to find additional lexemes, until one of the corresponding actions causes a return to the parser.
- The lexical analyzer returns a single value, the token name, to the parser, but uses the shared, integer variable yylval to pass additional information about the lexeme found, if needed.





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- The lexical analyzer returns a single value, the token name, to the parser, but uses the shared, integer variable <u>yylval</u> to pass additional information about the lexeme found, if needed.





Example

Figure is a Lex program that recognizes the tokens of the definitions and returns the token found.

```
/* definitions of manifest constants
   LT. LE. EQ. NE. GT. GE.
    IF. THEN. ELSE. ID. NUMBER, RELOP +/
/* regular definitions */
delin
          [ \t\n]
          fdeliml+
letter
          F4-74-91
digit
id
          (letter)((letter)|(digit))+
number
          {digit}+(\.{digit}+)?(E[+-]?{digit}+)?
2%
          {/* no action and no return */}
if
          {return(IF):}
then
          (return(THEN):)
else
          {return(ELSE);}
(id)
          (vvlval = (int) installID(): return(ID):}
(number)
         (vylval = (int) installNum(): return(NUMRER):)
          {yylval = LT; return(RELOP);}
HC==
          {vylval = LE: return(RELOP):}
          (vylval = E0: return(RELOP):)
          (yylval = NE; return(RELOP);)
">=
          (yylval = GT; return(RELOP);)
#>=#
          (vvlval = GE: return(RELOP):)
22
int installID() {/* function to install the lexeme, whose
                    first character is pointed to by yytext,
                    and whose length is yyleng, into the
                    symbol table and return a pointer
                    thereto */
```

LEXEMES	TOKEN NAME	ATTRIBUTE VALUE
Any ws	_	_
if	if	
then	then	
else	else	
Any id	id	Pointer to table entry
${\rm Any}\ number$	number	Pointer to table entry
<	relop	LT
<=	relop	ĹE
=	relop	EQ
<>	relop	NE
>	relop	GŤ
>=	relop	GE

ical constants into a separate table */

```
%{
    /* definitions of manifest constants
    LT, LE, EQ, NE, GT, GE,
    IF, THEN, ELSE, ID, NUMBER, RELOP */
%}
```

- In the declarations section we see a pair of special brackets, %{ and %}.
- Anything within these brackets is copied directly to the file lex.yy.c, and is not treated as a regular definition.
- It is common to place there the definitions of the manifest constants, using C #define statements to associate unique integer codes with each of the manifest constants.
- In our example, we have listed in a comment the names of the manifest constants, LT, IF, and so on, but have not shown them defined to be particular integer.

```
%{
    /* definitions of manifest constants
    LT, LE, EQ, NE, GT, GE,
    IF, THEN, ELSE, ID, NUMBER, RELOP */
%}
```

- In the declarations section we see a pair of special brackets, % { and % }.
- Anything within these brackets is copied directly to the file lex.yy.c, and is not treated as a regular definition.
- It is common to place there the definitions of the manifest constants, using C #define statements to associate unique integer codes with each of the manifest constants.
- In our example, we have listed in a comment the names of the manifest constants, LT, IF, and so on, but have not shown them defined to be particular integer.



```
/* regular definitions */
delim [ \t\n]
ws {delim}+
letter [A-Za-z]
digit [0-9]
id {letter}({letter}|{digit})*
number {digit}+(\.{digit}+)?(E[+-]?{digit}+)?
%%
```

- Also in the declarations section is a sequence of regular definitions.
- These use the extended notation for regular expressions.

```
/* regular definitions */
delim [ \t\n]
ws {delim}+
letter [A-Za-z]
digit [0-9]
id {letter}({letter}|{digit})*
number {digit}+(\.{digit}+)?(E[+-]?{digit}+)?
```

%%

- Regular definitions that are used in later definitions or in the patterns of the translation rules are surrounded by curly braces.
- Thus, for instance, delim is defined to be a shorthand for the character class consisting of the blank, the tab, and the newline.
- Then, ws is defined to be one or more delimiters, by the regular expression {delim}.



```
/* regular definitions */
delim [ \t\n]
ws {delim}+
letter [A-Za-z]
digit [0-9]
id {letter}({letter}|{digit})*
number {digit}+(\.{digit}+)?(E[+-]?{digit}+)?
%%
```

- Notice that in the definition of id and number, parentheses are used as grouping metasymbols and do not stand for themselves.
- In contrast, E in the definition of number stands for itself.

```
/* regular definitions */
delim [ \t\n]
ws {delim}+
letter [A-Za-z]
digit [0-9]
id {letter}({letter}|{digit})*
number {digit}+(\.{digit}+)?(E[+-]?{digit}+)?
```

%%

- If we wish to use one of the Lex metasymbols, such as any of the parentheses, +, *, or ?, to stand for themselves, we may precede them with a backslash.
- For instance, we see \ . in the definition of number, to represent the dot, since that character is a metasymbol representing "any character," as usual in UNIX regular expressions.

- In the auxiliary-function section, we see two such functions, installID() and installNum().
- Like the portion of the declaration section that appears between % { . . . % } everything in the auxiliary section is copied directly to file lex.yy.c, but may be used in the actions.





```
{ws}
          {/* no action and no return */}
if
          {return(IF):}
then
          {return(THEN):}
else
          {return(ELSE):}
{id}
          {vvlval = (int) installID(); return(ID);}
{number} {vylval = (int) installNum(); return(NUMBER);}
11 < 11
          {vvlval = LT; return(RELOP);}
11<=11
          {vvlval = LE: return(RELOP):}
11=11
          {vylval = EQ: return(RELOP):}
11<>11
          {vylval = NE: return(RELOP):}
11>11
          {yylval = GT; return(RELOP);}
">="
          {yylval = GE; return(RELOP);}
```

%%

- First, ws, an identifier declared in the first section, has an associated empty action.
- If we find whitespace, we do not return to the parser, but look for another lexeme.

```
{ws}
          {/* no action and no return */}
if
          {return(IF):}
then
          {return(THEN):}
else
          {return(ELSE):}
{id}
          {vvlval = (int) installID(); return(ID);}
{number} {vvlval = (int) installNum(); return(NUMBER);}
11 < 11
          {vvlval = LT: return(RELOP):}
11<=11
          {vvlval = LE: return(RELOP):}
11=11
          {vylval = EQ: return(RELOP):}
11<>11
          {vylval = NE: return(RELOP):}
11>11
          {yylval = GT; return(RELOP);}
">="
          {yylval = GE; return(RELOP);}
%%
```

■ The second token has the simple regular expression pattern if.

```
{ws}
          {/* no action and no return */}
if
          {return(IF):}
then
          {return(THEN):}
else
          {return(ELSE):}
{id}
          {vvlval = (int) installID(); return(ID);}
{number} {vylval = (int) installNum(); return(NUMBER);}
11 < 11
          {vvlval = LT; return(RELOP);}
11<=11
          {vvlval = LE: return(RELOP):}
11=11
          {vylval = EQ: return(RELOP):}
11<>11
          {vylval = NE: return(RELOP):}
11>11
          {yylval = GT; return(RELOP);}
">="
          {yylval = GE; return(RELOP);}
%%
```

Should we see the two letters if on the input, and they are not followed by another letter or digit, then the lexical analyzer consumes these two letters from the input and returns the token name if, that is, the integer for which the manifest constant if stands.

◆□▶ ◆圖▶ ◆團▶ ■■

```
{ws}
          {/* no action and no return */}
if
          {return(IF):}
then
          {return(THEN):}
else
          {return(ELSE):}
{id}
          {vvlval = (int) installID(); return(ID);}
{number} {vvlval = (int) installNum(); return(NUMBER);}
11 < 11
          {yylval = LT; return(RELOP);}
11<=11
          {vvlval = LE: return(RELOP):}
11=11
          {vylval = EQ: return(RELOP):}
11<>11
          {vylval = NE: return(RELOP):}
11>11
          {yylval = GT; return(RELOP);}
">="
          {yylval = GE; return(RELOP);}
%%
```

- If we see letters or digits after if this would cause the lexical analyzer to find a longer prefix of the input matching the pattern for id.
- Keywords then and else are treated similarly.

```
{ws}
          {/* no action and no return */}
if
          {return(IF):}
then
          {return(THEN):}
else
          {return(ELSE):}
{id}
          {vvlval = (int) installID(); return(ID);}
{number}
          {vvlval = (int) installNum(); return(NUMBER);}
11 < 11
          {vvlval = LT; return(RELOP);}
11<=11
          {vvlval = LE: return(RELOP):}
11=11
          {vylval = EQ: return(RELOP):}
11<>11
          {vylval = NE: return(RELOP):}
11>11
          {yylval = GT; return(RELOP);}
">="
          {yylval = GE; return(RELOP);}
%%
```

- The fifth token has the pattern defined by id.
- Note that, although keywords like if match this pattern as well as an earlier pattern, Lex chooses whichever pattern is listed first in situations where the longest matching prefix matches two or more patterns.

```
{ws}
          {/* no action and no return */}
if
          {return(IF):}
then
          {return(THEN):}
else
          {return(ELSE):}
          {vvlval = (int) installID(); return(ID);}
{id}
{number} {vvlval = (int) installNum(); return(NUMBER);}
11 < 11
          {vvlval = LT: return(RELOP):}
11<=11
          {vvlval = LE: return(RELOP):}
11=11
          {vylval = EQ: return(RELOP):}
11<>11
          {vylval = NE: return(RELOP):}
11>11
          {yylval = GT; return(RELOP);}
">="
          {yylval = GE; return(RELOP);}
%%
```

The action taken when id is matched is threefold.

```
{ws}
          {/* no action and no return */}
if
          {return(IF):}
then
          {return(THEN):}
else
          {return(ELSE):}
{id}
          {vvlval = (int) installID(); return(ID);}
{number} {vvlval = (int) installNum(); return(NUMBER);}
11 < 11
          {vvlval = LT: return(RELOP):}
11<=11
          {vvlval = LE: return(RELOP):}
11=11
          {vylval = EQ: return(RELOP):}
11<>11
          {vylval = NE: return(RELOP):}
11>11
          {yylval = GT; return(RELOP);}
">="
          {yylval = GE; return(RELOP);}
%%
```

1. Function installID() is called to place the lexeme found in the symbol table.

```
{ws}
          {/* no action and no return */}
if
          {return(IF):}
then
          {return(THEN):}
else
          {return(ELSE):}
{id}
          {vvlval = (int) installID(); return(ID);}
{number} {vvlval = (int) installNum(); return(NUMBER);}
11 < 11
          {vvlval = LT; return(RELOP);}
11<=11
          {vvlval = LE: return(RELOP):}
11=11
          {yylval = EQ; return(RELOP);}
11<>11
          {yylval = NE: return(RELOP):}
11 > 11
          {yylval = GT; return(RELOP);}
">="
          {yylval = GE; return(RELOP);}
%%
```

2. This function returns a pointer to the symbol table, which is placed in global variable yylval, where it can be used by the parser or a later component of the compiler.

```
{ws}
          {/* no action and no return */}
if
          {return(IF):}
then
          {return(THEN):}
else
          {return(ELSE):}
{id}
          {vvlval = (int) installID(); return(ID);}
{number}
          {vylval = (int) installNum(); return(NUMBER):}
11 < 11
          {yylval = LT; return(RELOP);}
11<=11
          {vvlval = LE: return(RELOP):}
11=11
          {vylval = EQ: return(RELOP):}
11<>11
          {vylval = NE: return(RELOP):}
11>11
          {yylval = GT; return(RELOP);}
">="
          {yylval = GE; return(RELOP);}
%%
```

■ Note that installID() has available to it two variables that are set automatically by the lexical analyzer that Lex generates:

```
{ws}
          {/* no action and no return */}
if
          {return(IF):}
then
          {return(THEN):}
else
          {return(ELSE):}
{id}
          {vvlval = (int) installID(); return(ID);}
{number} {vvlval = (int) installNum(); return(NUMBER);}
11 < 11
          {vvlval = LT: return(RELOP):}
11<=11
          {vvlval = LE: return(RELOP):}
11=11
          {vylval = EQ: return(RELOP):}
11<>11
          {vylval = NE: return(RELOP):}
11>11
          {yylval = GT; return(RELOP);}
">="
          {yylval = GE; return(RELOP);}
%%
```

- (a) yytext is a pointer to the beginning of the lexeme, analogous to lexemeBegin.
- (b) yyleng is the length of the lexeme found.

```
{ws}
          {/* no action and no return */}
if
          {return(IF):}
then
          {return(THEN):}
else
          {return(ELSE):}
{id}
          {vvlval = (int) installID(); return(ID);}
{number} {vylval = (int) installNum(); return(NUMBER);}
11 < 11
          {vvlval = LT; return(RELOP);}
11<=11
          {vvlval = LE: return(RELOP):}
11=11
          {vylval = EQ: return(RELOP):}
11<>11
          {vylval = NE: return(RELOP):}
11>11
          {yylval = GT; return(RELOP);}
">="
          {yylval = GE; return(RELOP);}
%%
```

3. The token name ID is returned to the parser.

```
{ws}
          {/* no action and no return */}
if
          {return(IF):}
then
          {return(THEN):}
else
          {return(ELSE):}
{id}
          {vvlval = (int) installID(); return(ID);}
{number} {vvlval = (int) installNum(); return(NUMBER);}
11 < 11
          {vvlval = LT: return(RELOP):}
11<=11
          {vvlval = LE: return(RELOP):}
11=11
          {vylval = EQ: return(RELOP):}
11<>11
          {vylval = NE: return(RELOP):}
11>11
          {yylval = GT; return(RELOP);}
">="
          {yylval = GE; return(RELOP);}
%%
```

■ The action taken when a lexeme matching the pattern number is similar, using the auxiliary function installNum().

Thank You

