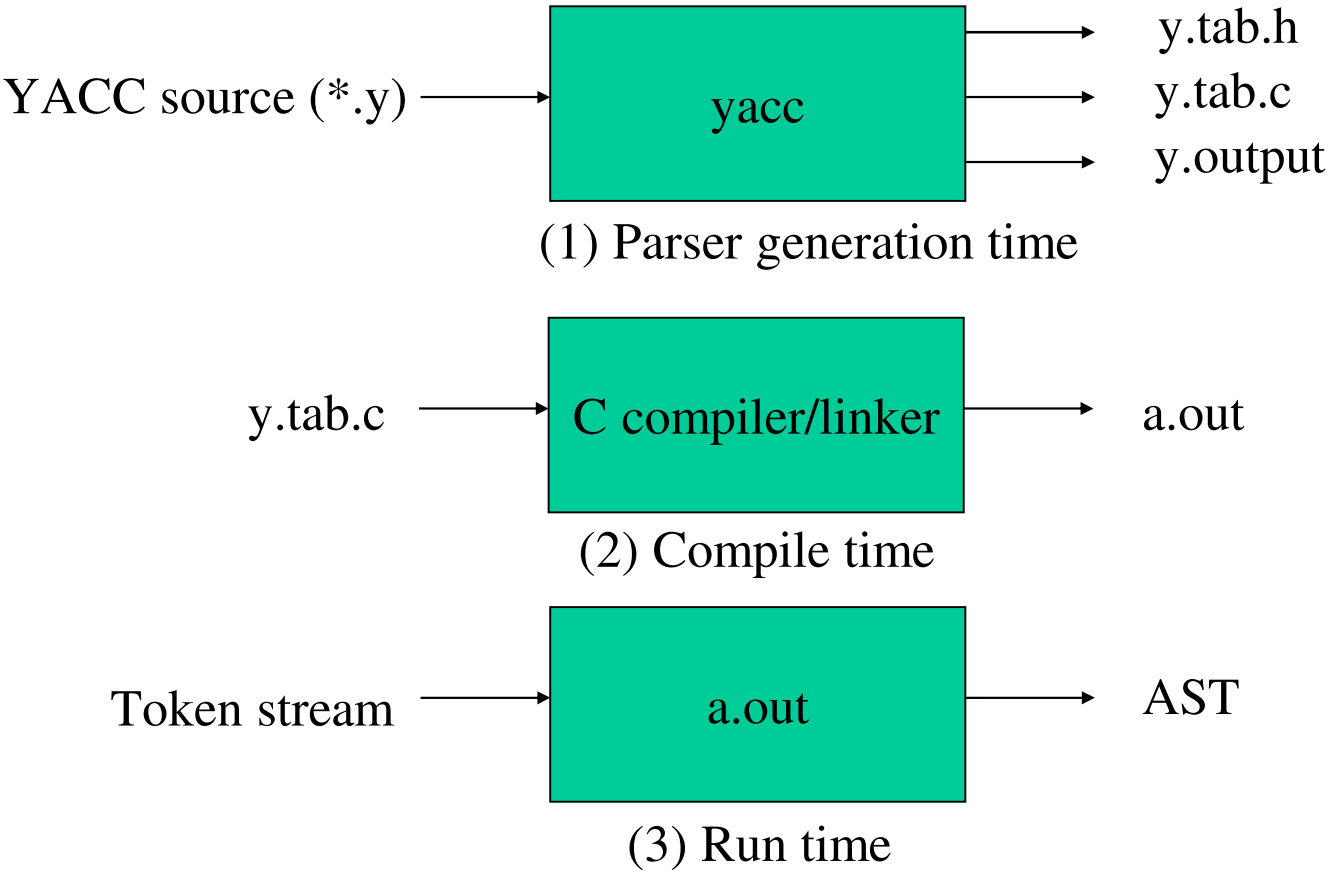
Lecture on YACC
(Yet Another Compiler-compiler)

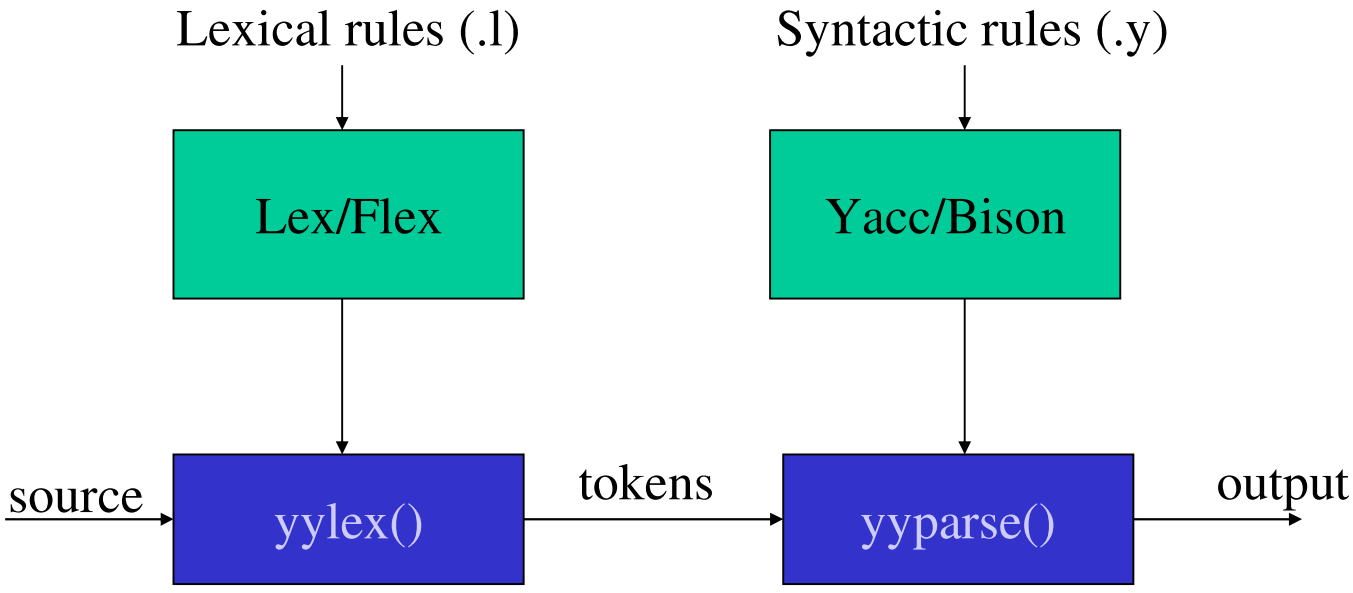
Introduction

- YACC (Yet Another Compiler Compiler) is a program designed to compile a LALR(1) grammar and to produce the source code of the syntactic analyzer of the language produced by this grammar.
- It is also possible to perform semantic actions.
- Written by Stephen C. Johnson, 1975.
- Variants: YACC(AT&T), BISON (GNU), PCYACC.

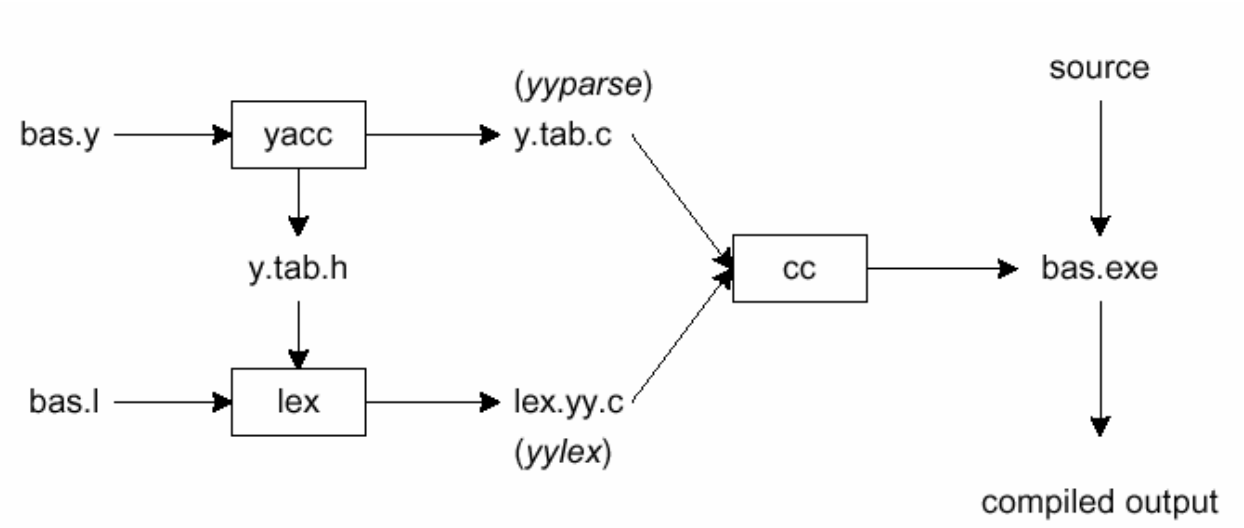
How YACC Works



Works with Lex



Building a Compiler With Lex/Yacc



Bottom-Up Reverse rightmost

```
1    E -> E + E
2    E -> E * E
3    E -> id
```

```
 1    . x + y * z      shift
 2    x . + y * z      reduce(r3)
 3    E . + y * z      shift
 4    E + . y * z      shift
 5    E + y . * z      reduce(r3)
 6    E + E . * z      shift
 7    E + E * . z      shift
 8    E + E * z .      reduce(r3)
 9    E + E * E .      reduce(r2)
10    E + E .          reduce(r1)
11    E .              accept
```

Structure of a YACC Program

%{

C declarations

%}

yacc declarations

%%

Grammar rules

%%

Additional C code

– only the first %% and the second part are mandatory

Declaration Part

- Specifications written in the target language (C), enclosed between %{ and %}

```
%{
#define  YYSTYPE TreeNode *
#include "util.h"
static char * savedName; /* for use in assignments */
…
%}
```

- Declaration of the tokens

```
%token IF THEN ELSE END REPEAT READ WRITE
%token ID NUM
```

Declaration Part

- Information about operators' priority or associativity.
- The *type* of the terminal, using the reserved word "%union": *(typed token)*

```
%union {
  double dval;
  int vblno;
}
%token <vblno> NAME
%token <dval> NUMBER
%left '-' '+'
%left '*' '/'
%nonassoc UMINUS
```

UMINUS has the highest precedence

Production Part

- This part is a specification of the grammar in LALR(1) of whatever we want to parse.
- If the grammar is ambiguous, you will get error messages such as shift/reduce conflicts and/or reduce/reduce conflicts. •May include semantic action.

```
%start stmts    /* or default to the first nonterminal*/
%%
stmts: stmts stmt
      |   ;
stmt: assignment | if_stmt | ...
…
%%
```

Production Part

- To obtain the values returned by previous actions and the lexical analyzer, the action can use the pseudo-variables $1, $2, …, $n
- The pseudo-variable $$ represents the value returned by the complete action


```
expr:   expr '+' expr  {$$ = $1 + $3;}
      | expr '*' expr  {$$ = $1 * $3;}
      | '(' expr ')'   {$$ = $2;}

expr:   expr '+' expr  {$$ = makenode('+', $1, $3);}
      | expr '*' expr  {$$ = makenode('+', $1, $3);}
      | '(' expr ')'   {$$ = $2;}
```


Support Code Part

- This optional section may contain a number of supporting C functions or compiler directives to include a file containing these functions.
- The parser also requires that a scanner yylex() be provided.

```
%%
void yyerror(char *)
{ … }
void main(void) {
   yyparse();
}
```

- The function yyerror() allows user to specify action taken by the parser when a finite state machine enters an error state.

Example: A small calculator

```
%{
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include "y.tab.h"
%}

%%
[0-9]+   {
           yylval = atoi(yytext);
           return NUMBER;
         }
\n       return 0;
[ \t]    ;
.        return yytext[0];
```

lex file: d.l

```
#ifndef YYSTYPE
#define YYSTYPE int
#endif
#define NAME    257
#define NUMBER  258


extern YYSTYPE yylval;
```

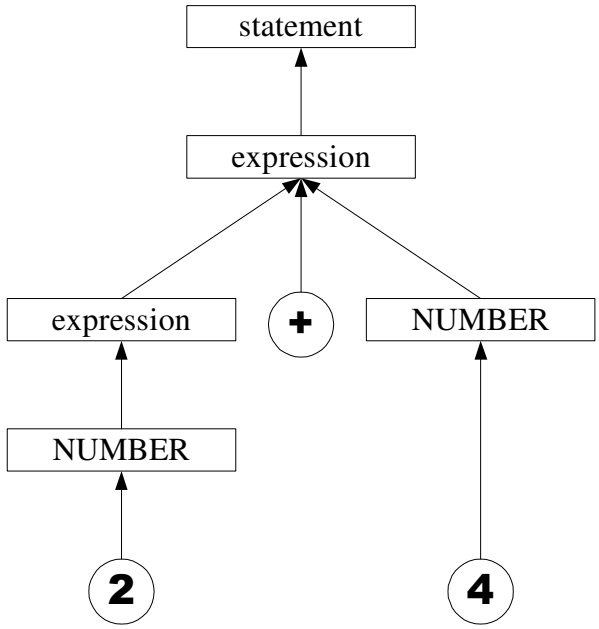
y.tab.h


```
%{
#include <stdio.h>
%}

%token NAME NUMBER
%%

statement: NAME '=' expression
        | expression            { printf("= %d\n", $1); }
        ;

expression: expression '+' NUMBER { $$ = $1 + $3; }
        |   expression '-' NUMBER { $$ = $1 - $3; }
        |   NUMBER                { $$ = $1; }
        ;
%%
int yyerror(char *s)
{
   fprintf(stderr, "%s\n", s);
   return 0;
}

int main(void)
{
   yyparse();
   return 0;
}
```

yacc file: d.y

```
% bison -y -d d.y
% flex d.l
% gcc y.tab.c lex.yy.c -ll -ly
% ./a.out
2+4
= 6
%./a.out
10+-4
syntax error
%
```

```
statement => expression
          => expression + NUMBER
          => expression + 4
          => NUMBER + 4
          => 2 + 4
```



Communication between Lex and YACC

- Lex predefined variables
  - yytext
    - A pointer to matched string.
- Yacc
  - yylval: access value of token.

Token/Non-terminal Value Types

- The declaration

```
%union {
    double dval;
    int vblno;
}
```

  is translated to

```
%typedef  union {
    double dval;
    int vblno;
  }  YYSTYPE;
```

- Structured values are also allowed.

```
#define YYSTYPE  TreeNode *
{ $$.left = $1.right; }
```


Example Refined

```
...
%token <val_value> NUMBER
%token <val_number> NAME
%%
statement_list:   statement '\n'
        |         statement_list statement '\n'
        ;
statement:        NAME '=' expression          { vbltable[$1] = $3; }
        |         expression                   { printf("= %g\n", $1); }
        ;
expression:       expression '+' expression    { $$ = $1 + $3; }
        |         expression '-' expression    { $$ = $1 - $3; }
        |         expression '*' expression    { $$ = $1 * $3; }
        |         expression '/' expression    { if($3 == 0) yyerror("divide by zero");
                                                  else $$ = $1 / $3;}
        |         '-' expression  %prec UMINUS        { $$ = -$2; }
        |         '(' expression ')'                  { $$ = $2; }
        |         NUMBER
        |         NAME                                { $$ = vbltable[$1]; }
        ;
%%
```

```
%{
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include "y.tab.h"
%}

%%
[0-9]+          {
                   yylval.var_value = atoi(yytext);
                   return NUMBER;
                }
[a-z]           {
                   yylval.var_number = yytext[0] - 'a';
                   return NAME;
                }
"$"             return 0;
[ \t]           ;
\n |
.               return yytext[0];
```

```
% ./a.out
a=100
b=20
a=a+b-10
a
= 110
abc=10
= 110
parse error
```


Embedded Actions (Mid-Rule Action)

- Occasionally it is necessary to execute some code prior to the complete parsing of a grammar rule.
- A mid-rule action may refer to the components preceding it using $*n*, but it may not refer to subsequent components because it is run before they are parsed.
- The mid-rule action itself counts as one of the components of the rule. (I.e. has semantic value)
- Ex: A: B { /* Embedded action)/ } C ;

An Example of Embedded Action

- *assignment* statement

```
assign_stmt :   ID
                { savedName = copyString(yylex);
                  savedLineNo = lineno; }
                ASSIGN  exp
                { $$ = newStmtNode(AssignK);
                  $$->child[0] = $4;
                  $$->attr.name = savedName;
                  $$->lineno = savedLineNo;
                }
```


Conflicts

- Shift/Reduce conflict
  Default resolution: Shift

- Reduce/Reduce conflict
  Default resolution: Reduce the rule declared earlier

- When there are more than one operator appear in a single rule, Yacc uses the precedence of the rightmost operator's as the precedence of the rule

Error Messages

- Bad error message:
  - Syntax error.
- It is better to track the line number in lex:

```
void yyerror(char *s)
{
   fprintf(stderr, "line %d: %s\n:", yylineno, s);
}
```


YACC Declaration Summary

`%start'

Specify the grammar's start symbol

`%union'

Declare the collection of data types that semantic values may have

`%token'

Declare a terminal symbol (token type name) with no precedence or associativity specified

`%type'

Declare the type of semantic values for a nonterminal symbol

YACC Declaration Summary

`%right'

Declare a terminal symbol (token type name) that is right-associative

`%left'

Declare a terminal symbol (token type name) that is left-associative

`%nonassoc'

Declare a terminal symbol (token type name) that is nonassociative

(using it in a way that would be associative is a syntax error)