

# *Introduction to Parsing Using Lex/Flex and Yacc/Bison*

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([www.cse.iitb.ac.in/~uday](http://www.cse.iitb.ac.in/~uday))

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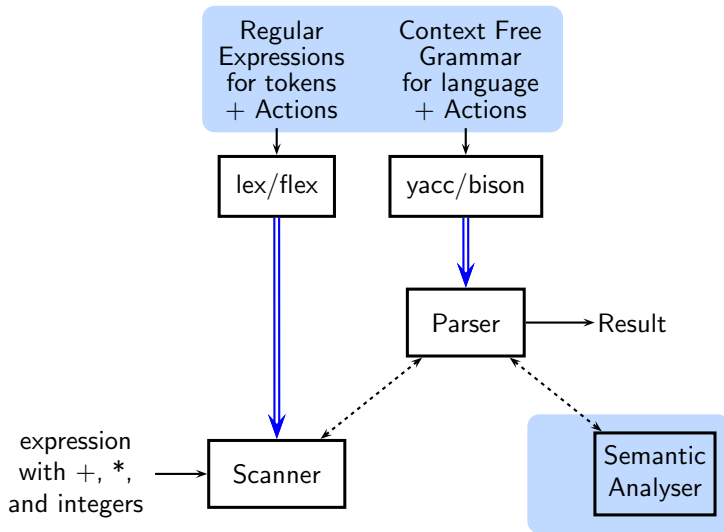
Jan 2025



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Languages

Topic:  
Lex & Yacc  
Section:

## simCalc: A Simple Calculator





# Introduction to Lex and Yacc

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Lex & Yacc

Section:

- lex script exp.l to show token identification
- exp1.y to show a simple expression. Use the lex script exp.l
- exp2.y to show construction of a PLUS expression  
Interesting input:  $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6$
- exp3.y fixes the problem by making + left associative
- exp4.y includes + and \*  
Interesting inputs:  $1 + 2 * 3$  and  $1 * 2 + 3$
- exp5.y fixes the above problem

# The Interaction Between Scanner and Parser



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Topic:

Lex & Yacc

Section:

- Grammar

```
Expr  :  Expr '+' Expr
       |  Expr '*' Expr
       |  NUM
```

- Terminals and non-terminals get defined by the grammar
- Scanner identifies the tokens and communicates the details to the parser

Token Name	Token Lexemes	Token Value	Token Code
Number	"10"	10	NUM
	"345"	345	
	"03"	3	
+ operator	"+"		'+'
* operator	"*"		'*'

# The Interaction Between Scanner and Parser



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Lex & Yacc

Section:

scanner.l



lex/flex

parser.y



yacc/bison

# The Interaction Between Scanner and Parser

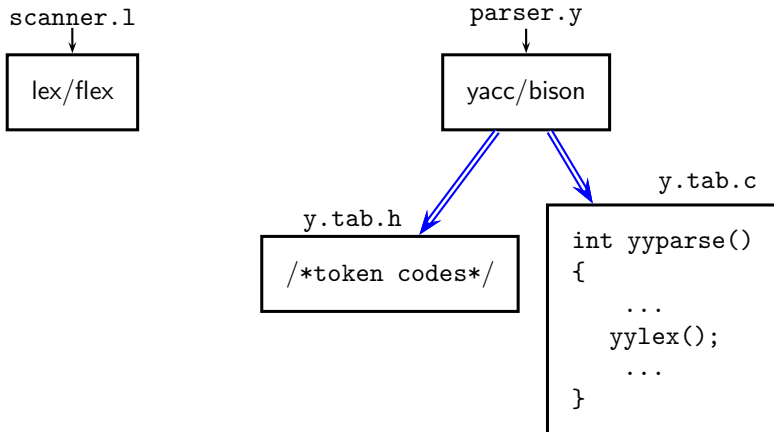


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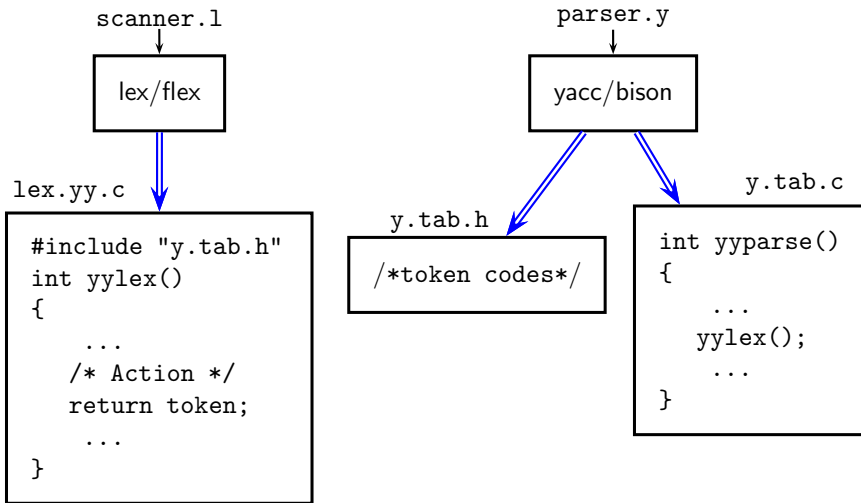


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# The Interaction Between Scanner and Parser

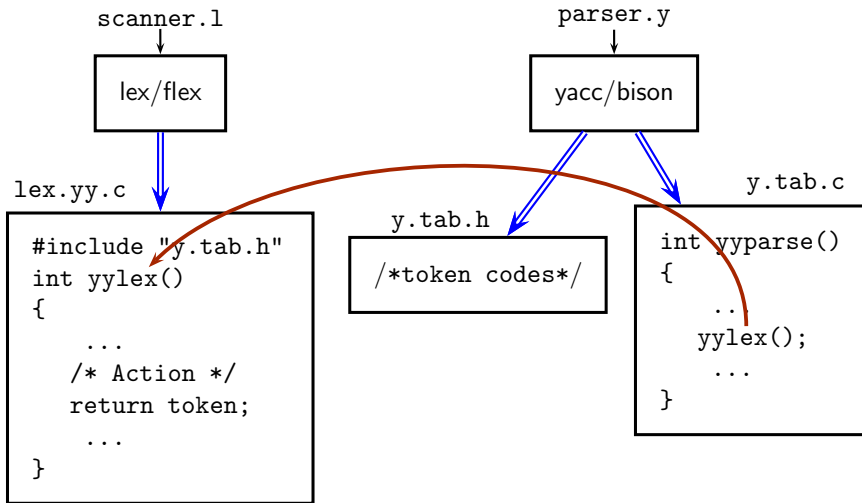


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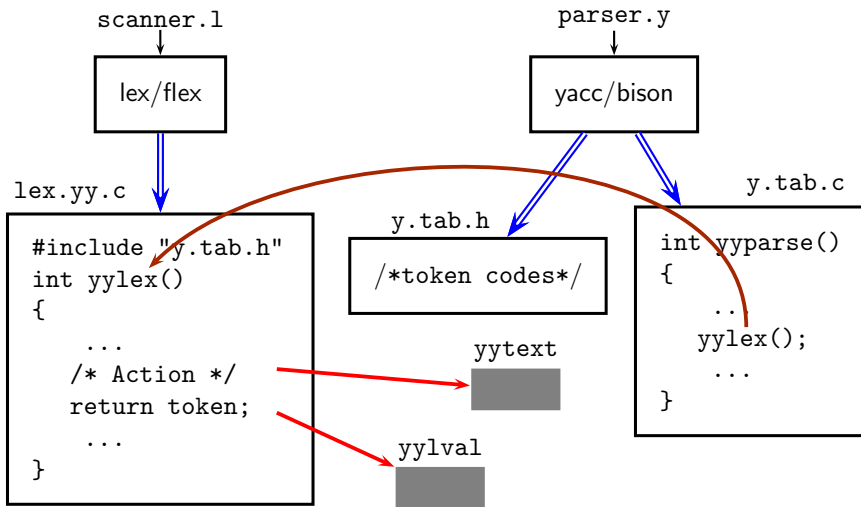


# The Interaction Between Scanner and Parser



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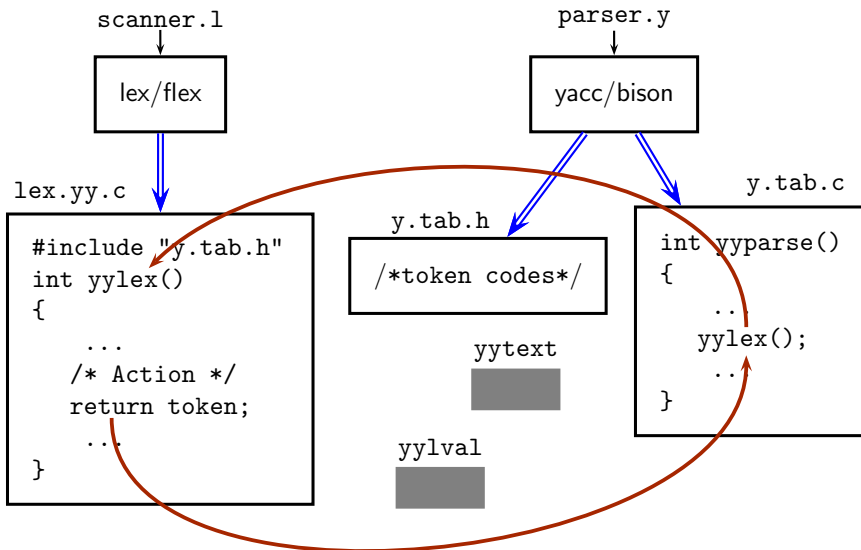


# The Interaction Between Scanner and Parser



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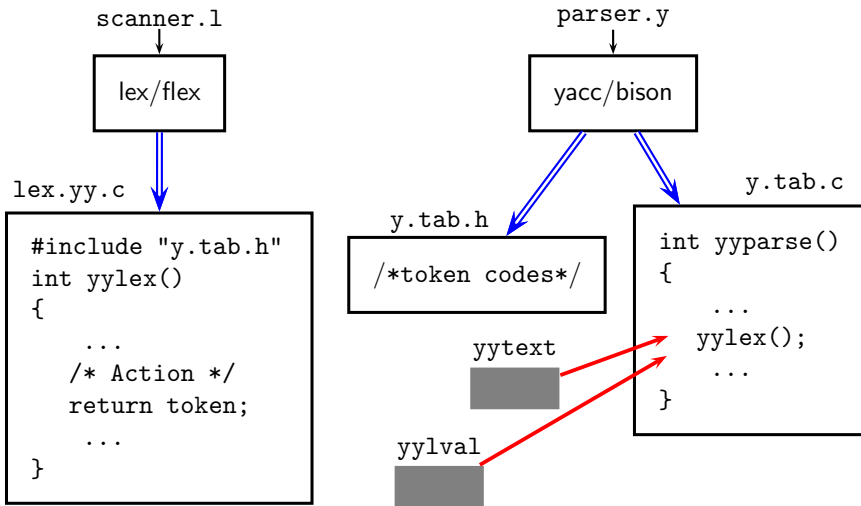


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# An Overview of Shift Reduce Parsing

- Grammar

```
Expr  :  Expr '+' Expr
       |  Expr '*' Expr
       |  NUM
```

- The process of parsing

10   +   20   \*   3   eof  
NUM

Parsing  
Stack

Action: Shift NUM



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# An Overview of Shift Reduce Parsing

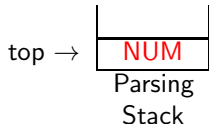
- Grammar

```
Expr  : Expr '+' Expr
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```

- The process of parsing

10    +    20    \*    3    eof

+



Action: Reduce by "Expr: NUM"



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- Grammar

```
Expr  :  Expr '+' Expr
       |  Expr '*' Expr
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10    +    20    \*    3    eof

+

top → 

Expr

  
Parsing  
Stack      Action: Shift +



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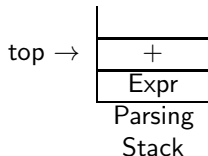
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          NUM



Action: Shift NUM



# An Overview of Shift Reduce Parsing

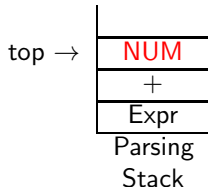
- Grammar

```
Expr  : Expr '+' Expr
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      | NUM
```

- The process of parsing

10    +    20    \*    3    eof

\*



Action: Reduce by "Expr: NUM"





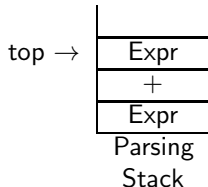
# An Overview of Shift Reduce Parsing

- Grammar

```
Expr  : Expr '+' Expr  
      | Expr '*' Expr  
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```

- The process of parsing

10    +    20    \*    3    eof  
                  \*



Action: Shift \* or Reduce by “Expr: Expr + Expr”?



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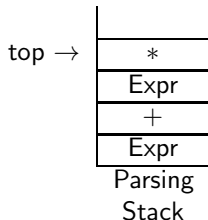
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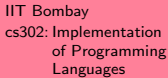
10    +    20    \*    3    eof  
                        NUM



Action: Shift NUM



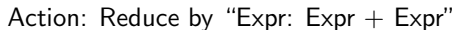




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Section:

- ```
Expr  :  Expr '+' Expr
      |  Expr '*' Expr
      |  NUM
```

- ```
10      +      20      *      3      eof
                                           EOF
```





## An Overview of Shift Reduce Parsing

- Grammar

```
Expr  :  Expr '+' Expr
      |  Expr '*' Expr
      |  NUM
```

- The process of parsing

```
10      +      20      *      3      eof
                                     EOF
```

top → 

Expr

      Action: Accept

Parsing  
Stack



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Section:

# An Overview of Attribute Evaluation

- Grammar and the associated actions

Expr : Expr '+' Expr { \$\$ = \$1 + \$3; }  
| NUM

- The process of parsing and attribute evaluation

10 + 20 eof  
NUM

Parsing Stack	Value Stack



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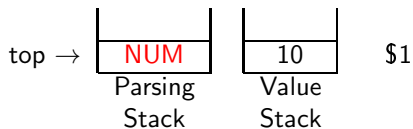
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      +







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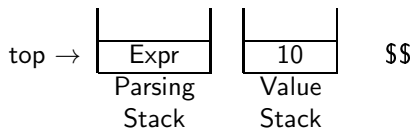
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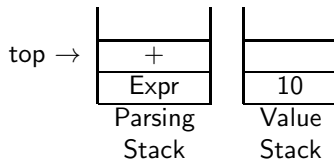
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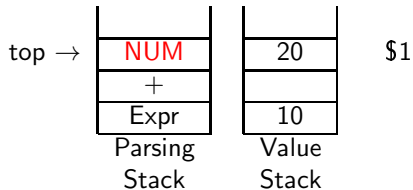
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10 + 20 eof  
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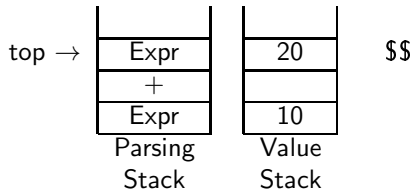
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10 + 20 

eof
-----

  
EOF





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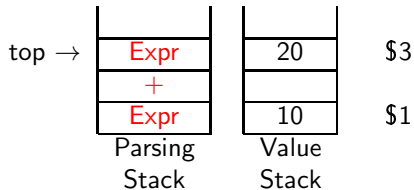
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- Grammar and the associated actions

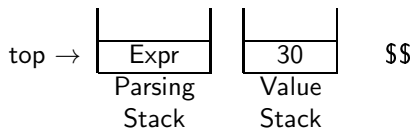
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- The process of parsing and attribute evaluation

10 + 20 

eof
-----

  
EOF



# How to Get Started with Assignment A2 (1)



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Lex & Yacc  
Section:

Study the code of compiler-interpreter-with-TAC-data-structure

Understand the following:

- The role of %union in a yacc script
  - Defines the type of value stack as a C union
  - Type annotations of grammar symbols (using the field names of the union) in the yacc script enable the selection of appropriate field of the union
  - The union becomes available in the lex script by including the .tab.h file
  - Appropriate field name is used with the yylval variable
  - The value of yylval (with appropriate field name) gets pushed on the value stack whenever a token is pushed on the parsing stack
- The Expression\_Attributes, Code, TAC\_Statement, and TAC\_Opd classes and their relationships

## How to Get Started with Assignment A2 (2)



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Section:

- Add a SymbolTable class to store variables and their types  
Create separate tables for global and local variables  
Hint: Check the --show-symtab option of the reference implementation
- Create AST data structure
  - Use class hierarchy and virtual functions wisely
  - Do not store strings representing variables, operators, or numbers in AST nodes  
Use numbers, enums, and pointers (the only exception is a string constant)
- Check types
  - The types of operands should match with the allowable types for each operator  
Hint: Store the type of an expression in the root node of its AST
  - The type of LHS of an assignment should match with that of the RHS expression

Hint: First construct the ASTs without worrying about the types, process the declarations later and then add the type checking code

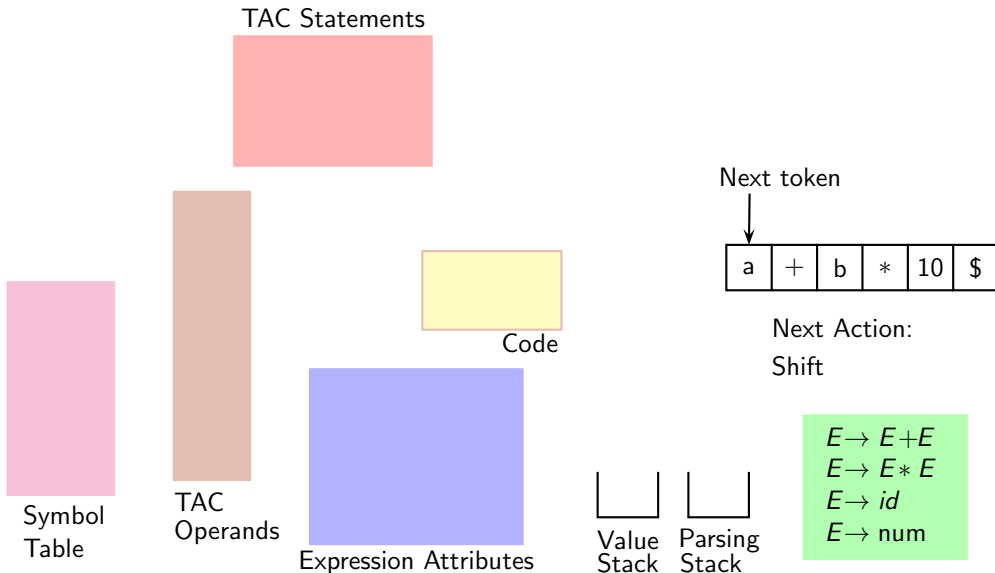




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# Constructing TAC Statements During Parsing

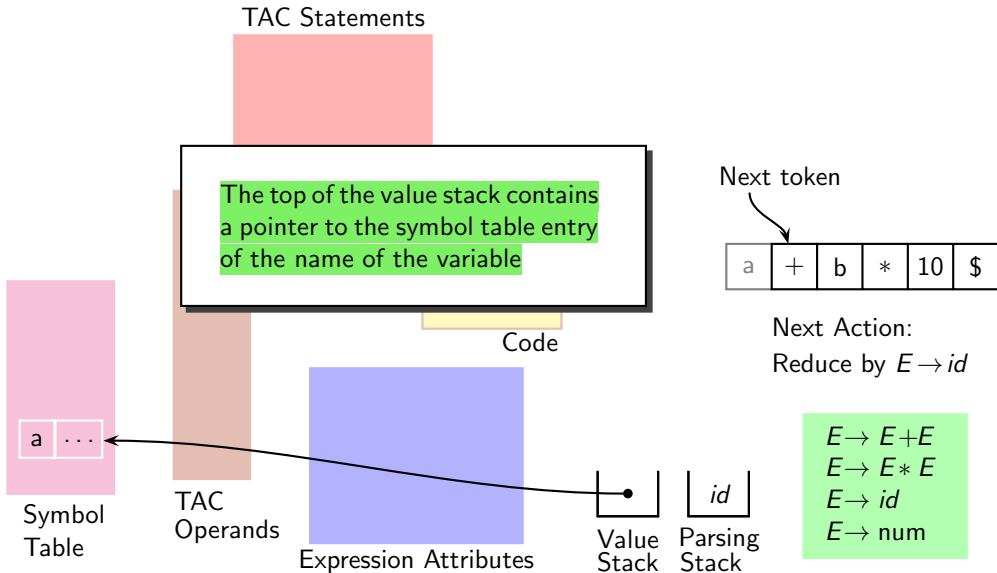




# Constructing TAC Statements During Parsing

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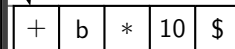
# Constructing TAC Statements During Parsing

## TAC Statements

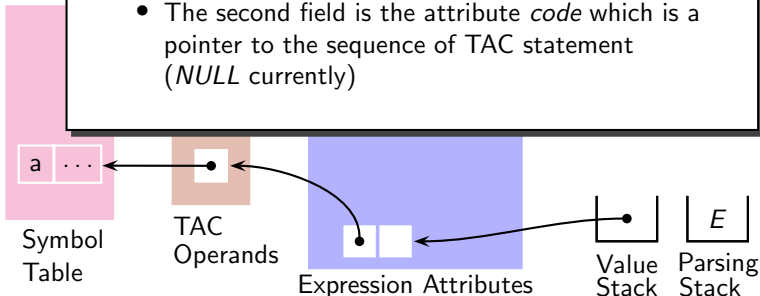
The top of the value stack now contains a pointer to an expression attribute object.

- The first field of the object is the attribute *place* (which is pointer to the TAC operand representing the variable holding the result)
- The second field is the attribute *code* which is a pointer to the sequence of TAC statement (*NULL* currently)

Next token



Next Action:  
Shift



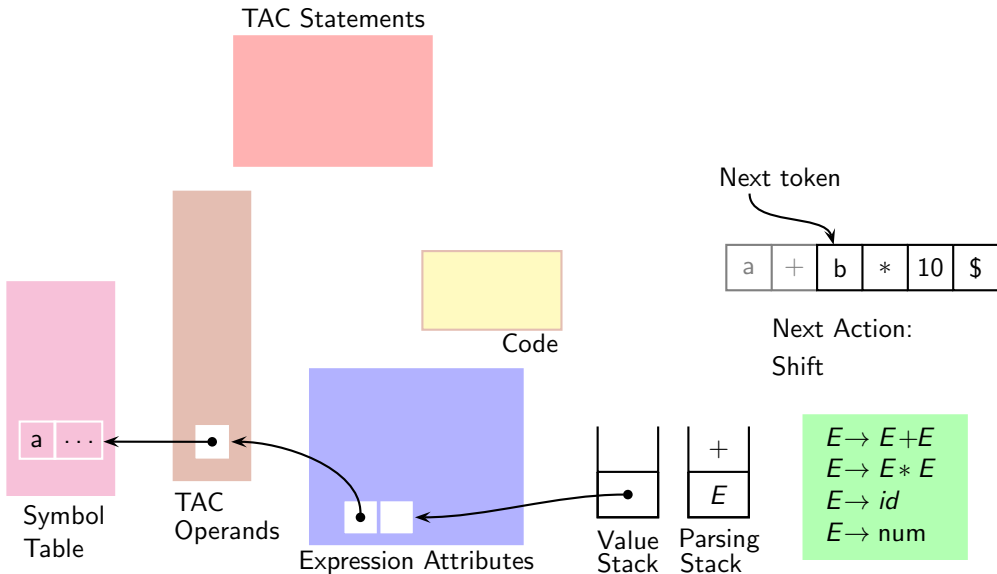
$E \rightarrow E + E$   
 $E \rightarrow E * E$   
 $E \rightarrow id$   
 $E \rightarrow num$



# Constructing TAC Statements During Parsing

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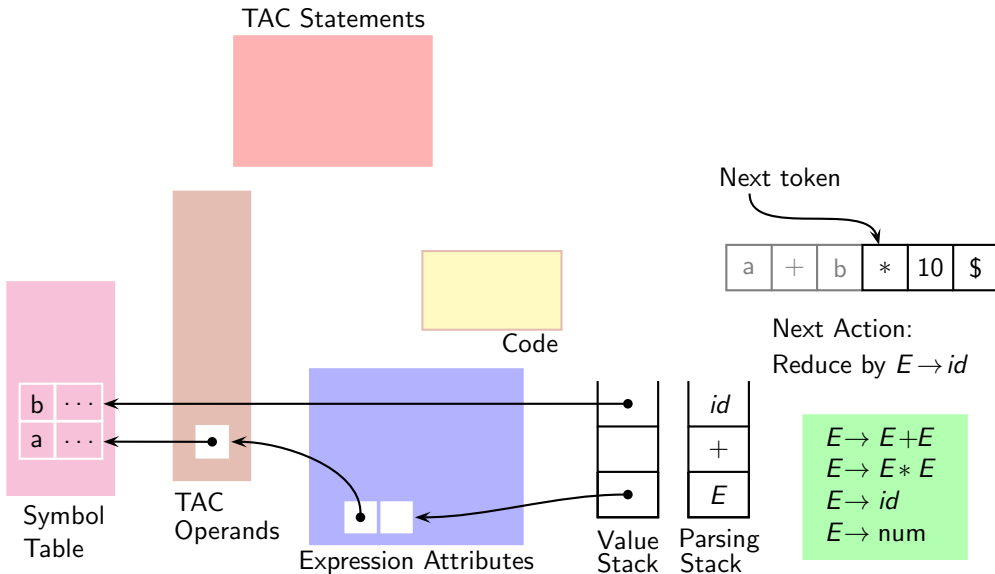




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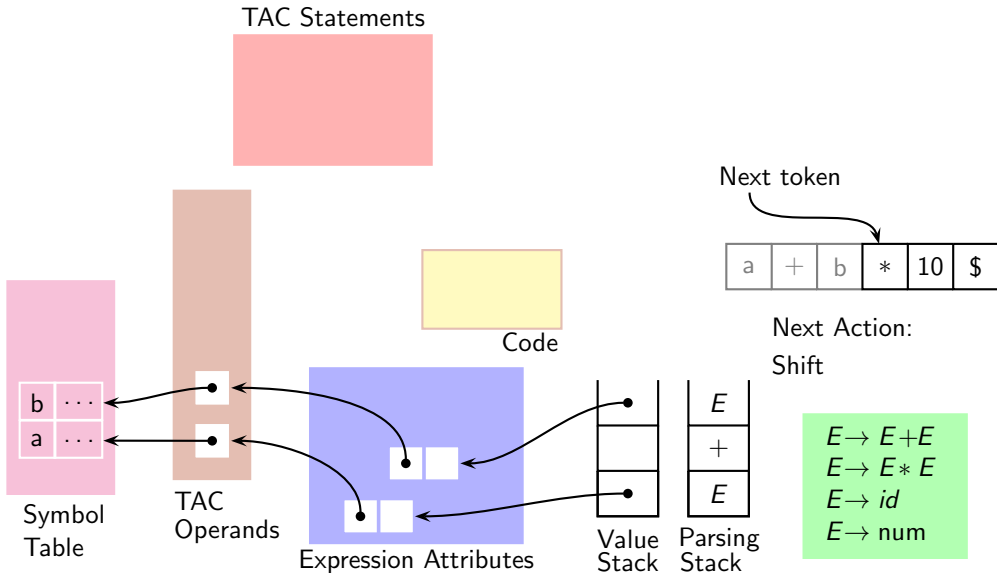




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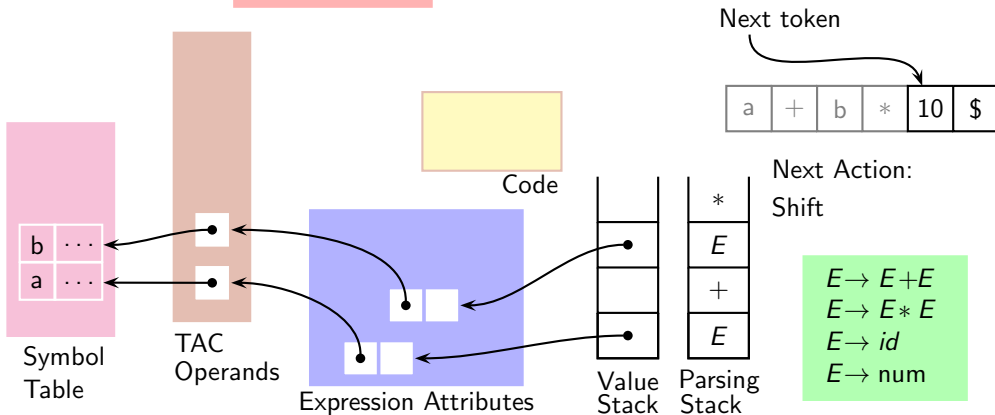




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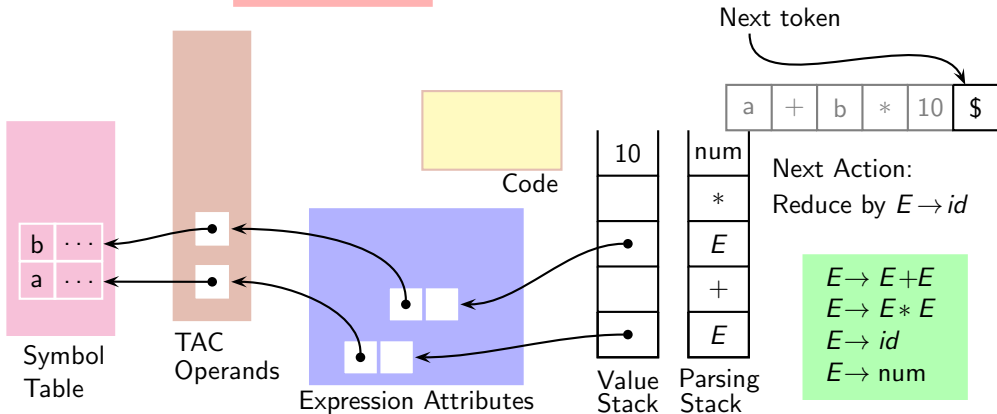




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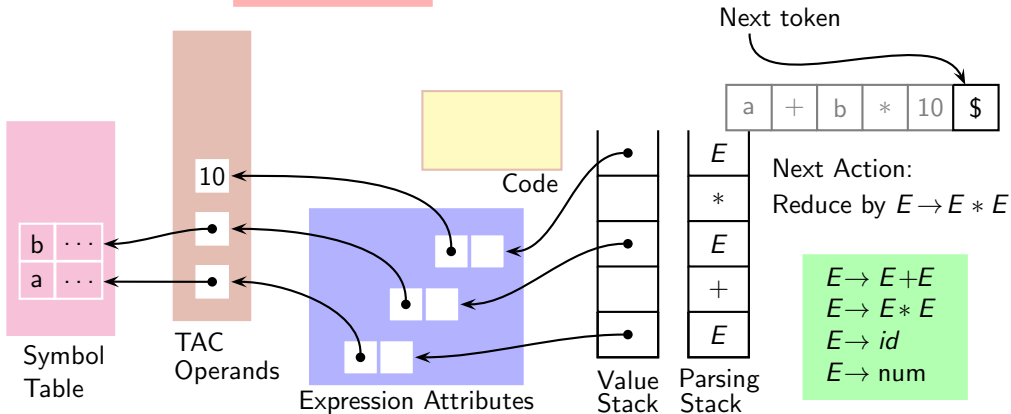




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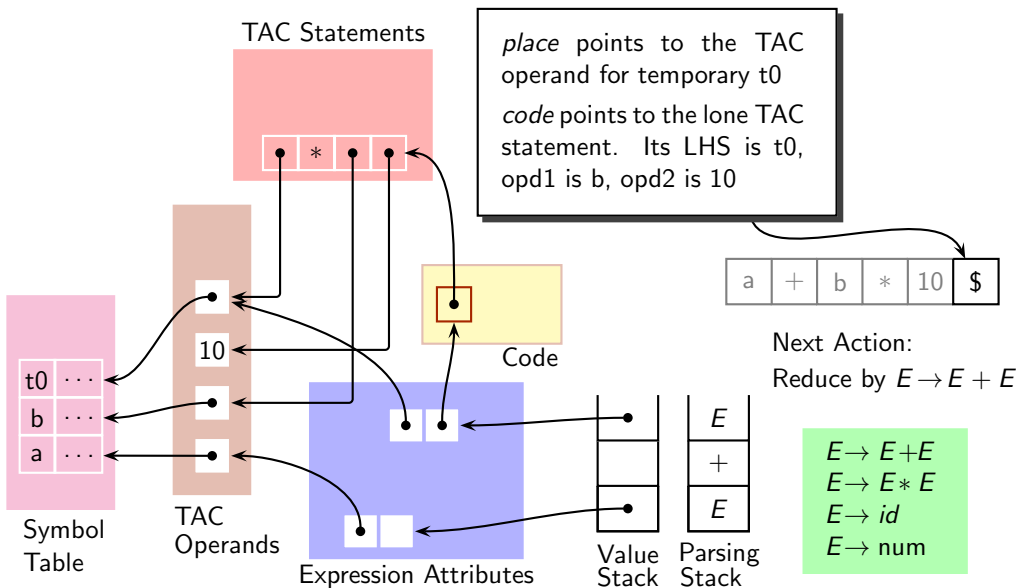




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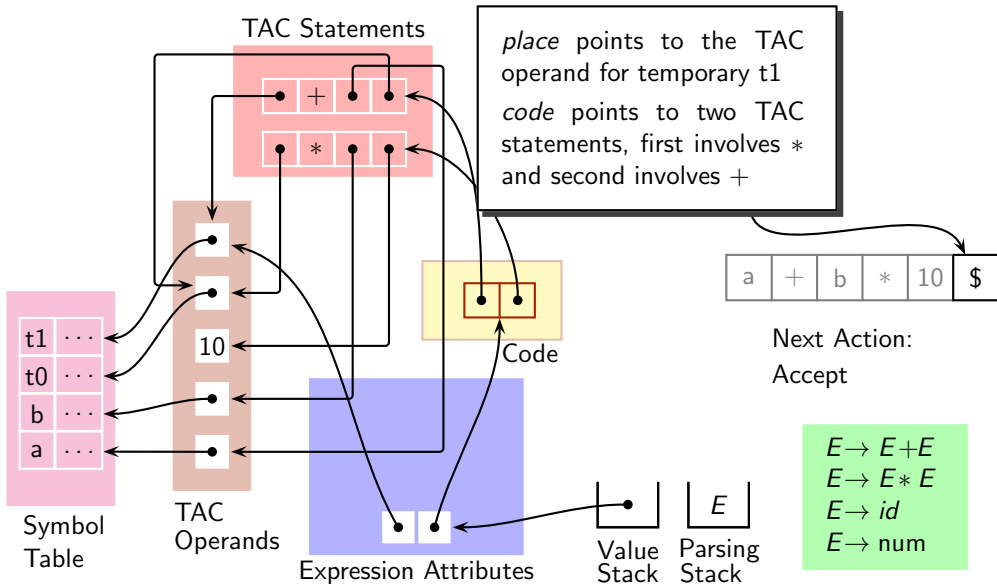




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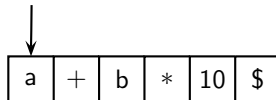


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# Constructing ASTs During Parsing

Next token



Next Action:  
Shift



Symbol  
Table

Value  
Stack

Parsing  
Stack

$E \rightarrow E + E$   
 $E \rightarrow E * E$   
 $E \rightarrow id$   
 $E \rightarrow num$



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# Constructing ASTs During Parsing

The top of the value stack contains  
a pointer to the symbol table entry  
of the name of the variable



Symbol  
Table

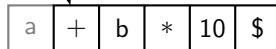


Value  
Stack



Parsing  
Stack

Next token



Next Action:  
Reduce by  $E \rightarrow id$

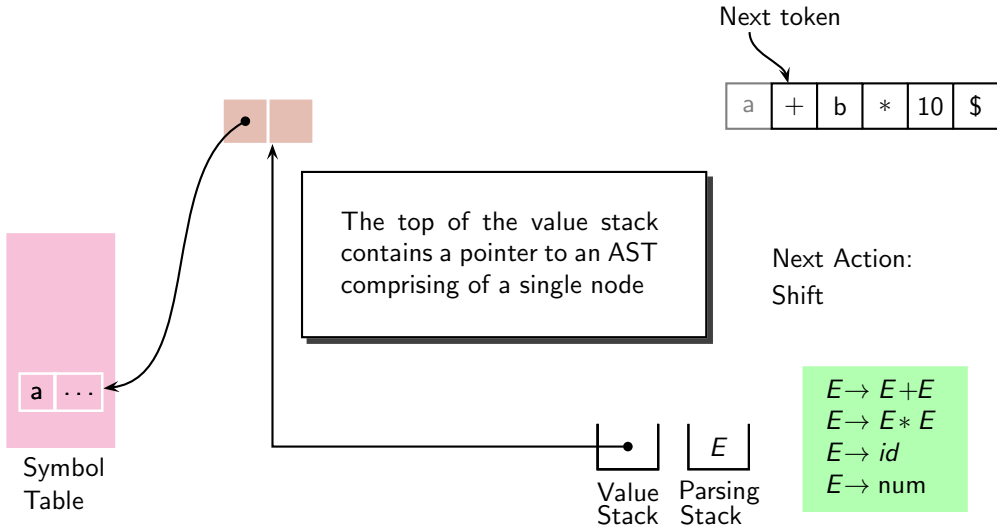
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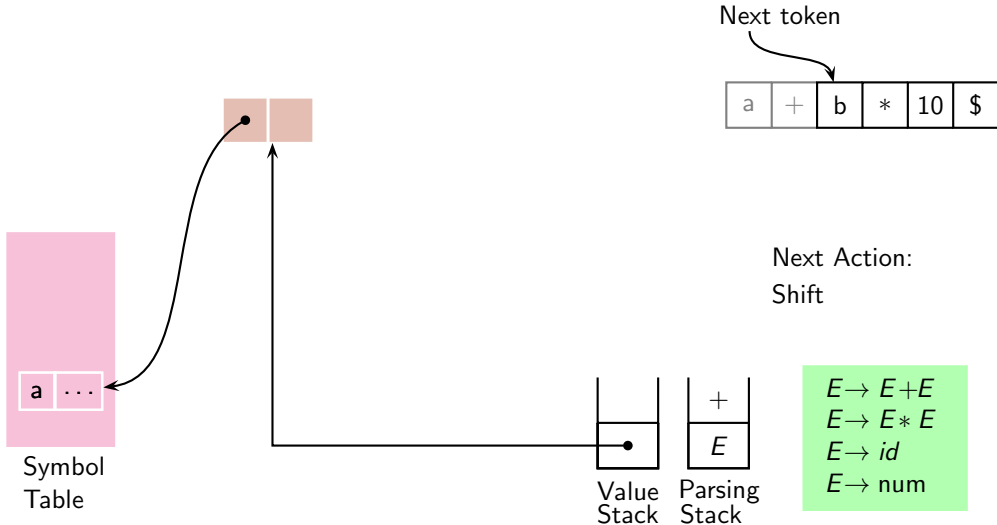




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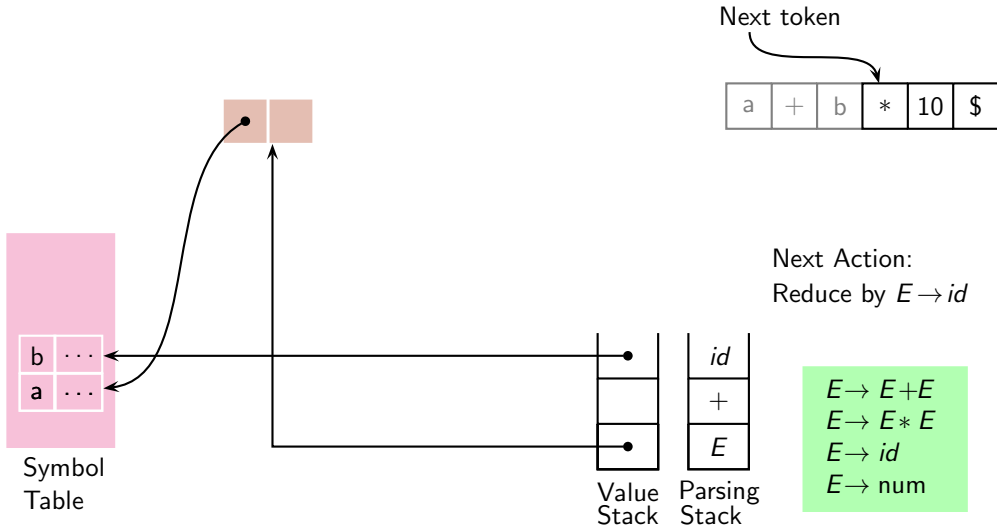




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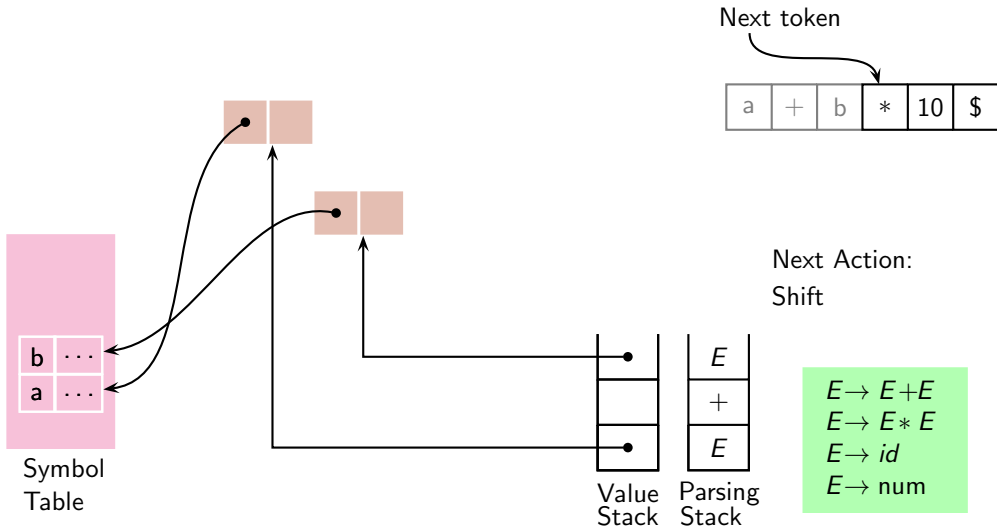




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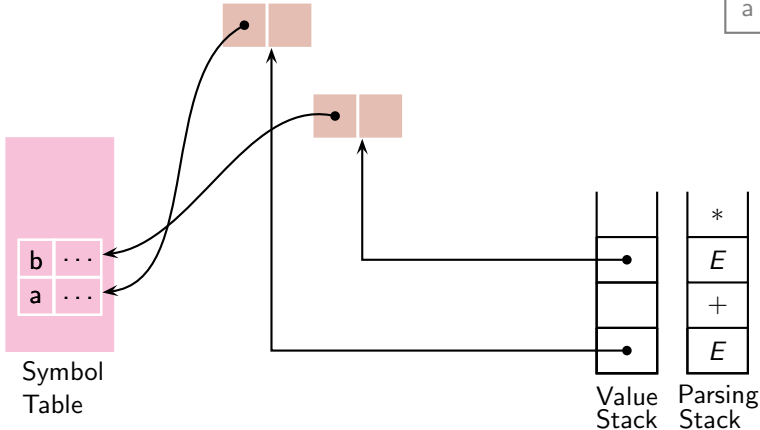


# Constructing ASTs During Parsing

Next token

a	+	b	*	10	\$
---	---	---	---	----	----

Next Action:  
Shift



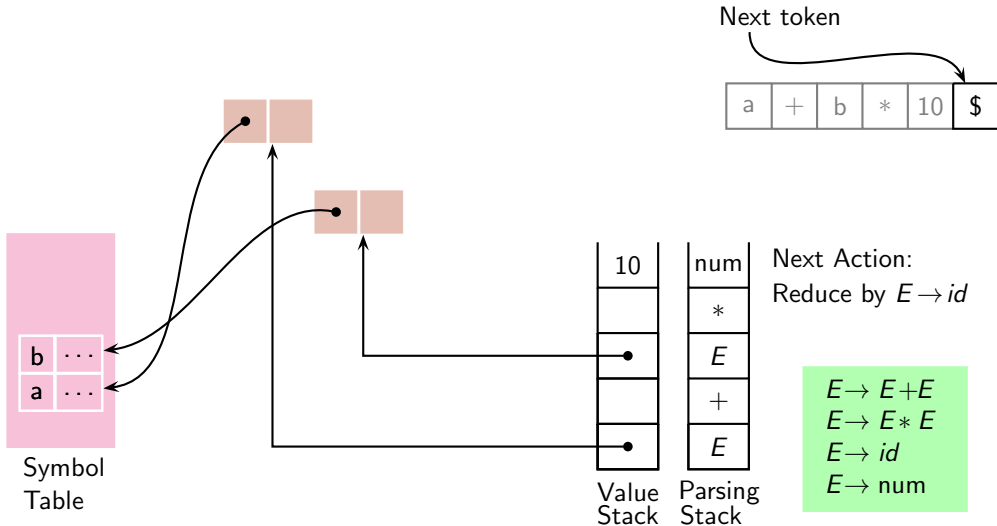
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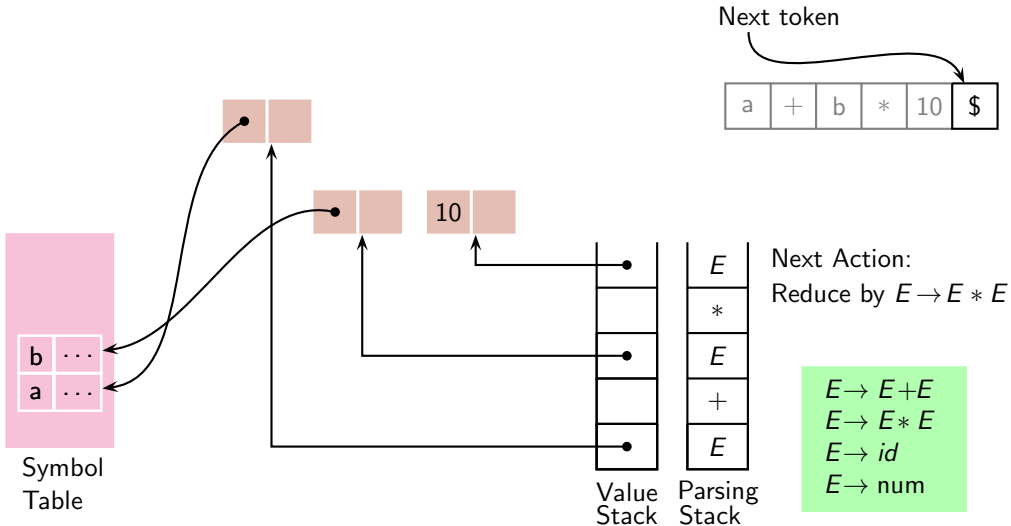




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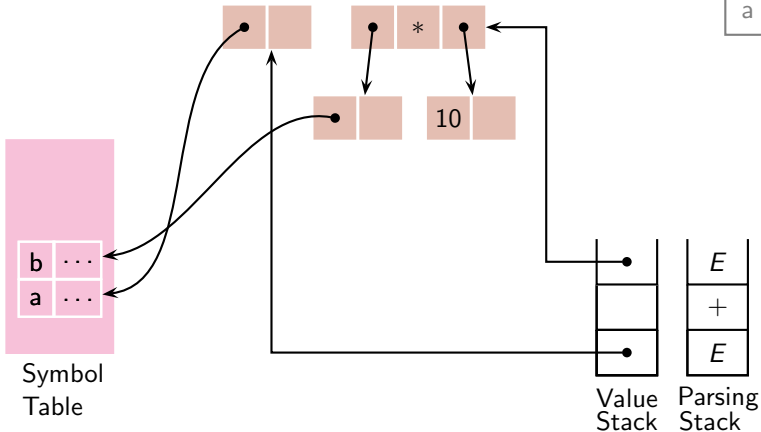
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Section:

## Constructing ASTs During Parsing

The top of the value stack contains a pointer to an AST representing the multiplication (temporary variables are not generated)

Next token

a	+	b	*	10	\$
---	---	---	---	----	----



Next Action:  
Reduce by  $E \rightarrow E + E$

$E \rightarrow E + E$   
 $E \rightarrow E * E$   
 $E \rightarrow id$   
 $E \rightarrow num$



IIT Bombay  
cs302: Implementation  
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Lex & Yacc  
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