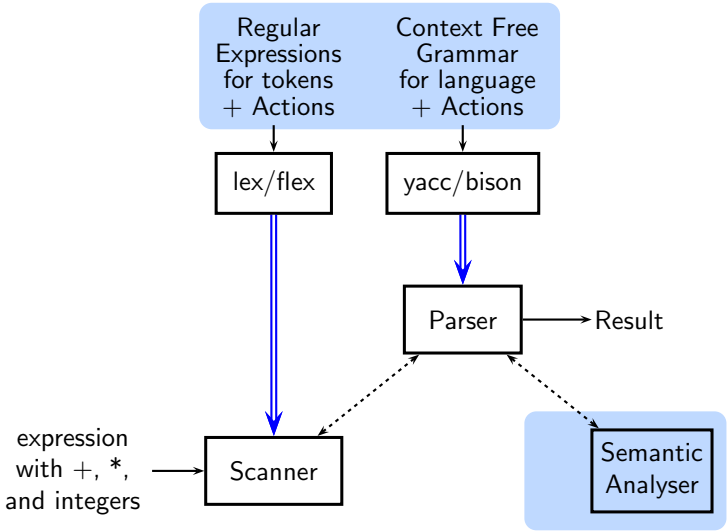
Introduction to Parsing Using Lex/Flex and Yacc/Bison

Uday Khedker
(www.cse.iitb.ac.in/~uday)

Department of Computer Science and Engineering,
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

Jan 2025

simCalc: A Simple Calculator



Introduction to Lex and Yacc

- 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

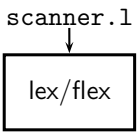
- Grammar

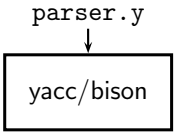
```
Expr  :  Expr '+' Expr
      |  Expr '*' Expr
      |  NUM
```

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

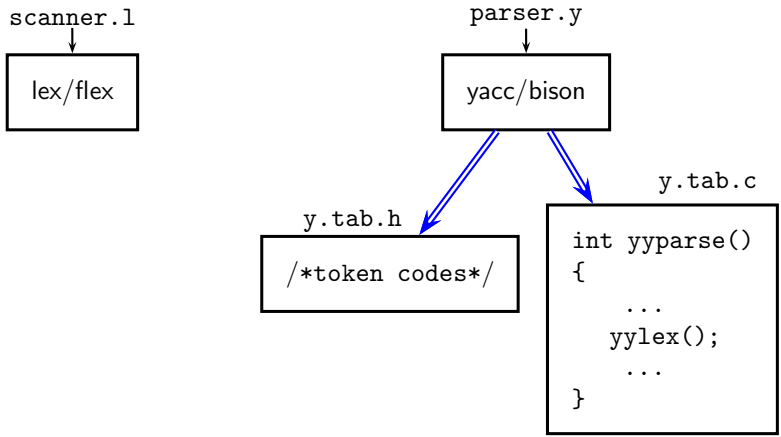
Token Name	Token Lexemes	Token Value	Token Code
Number	"10" "345" "03"	10 345 3	NUM
+ operator	"+"		'+'
* operator	"*"		'*'

The Interaction Between Scanner and Parser

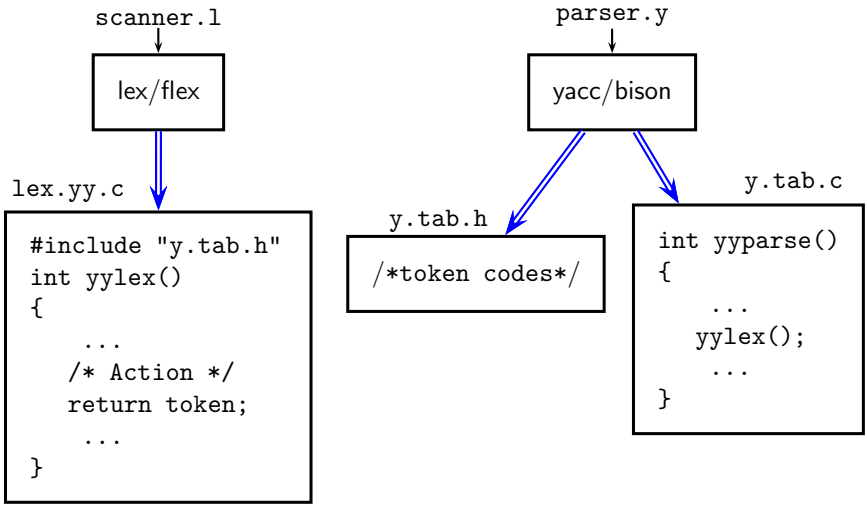




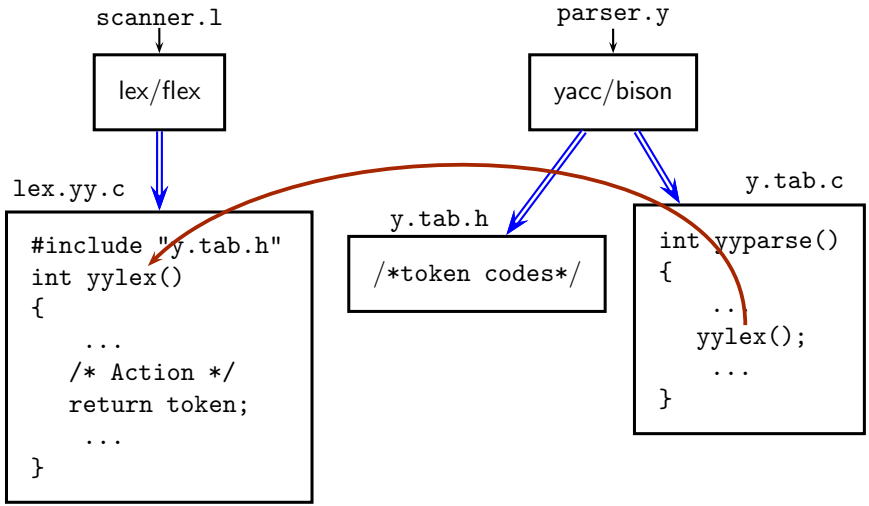
The Interaction Between Scanner and Parser



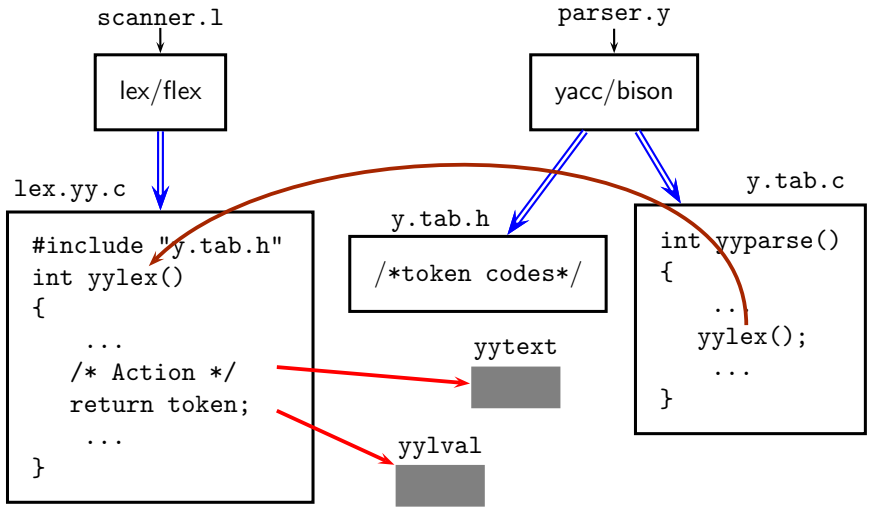
The Interaction Between Scanner and Parser



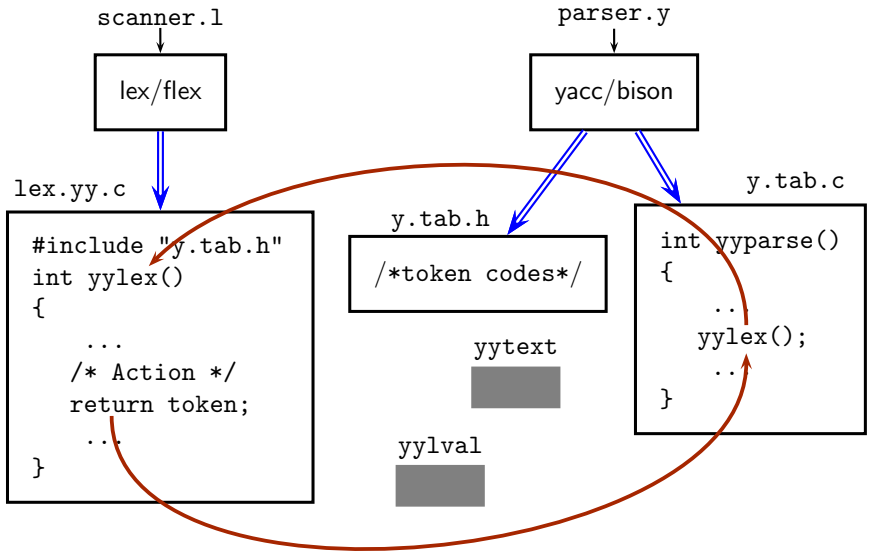
The Interaction Between Scanner and Parser



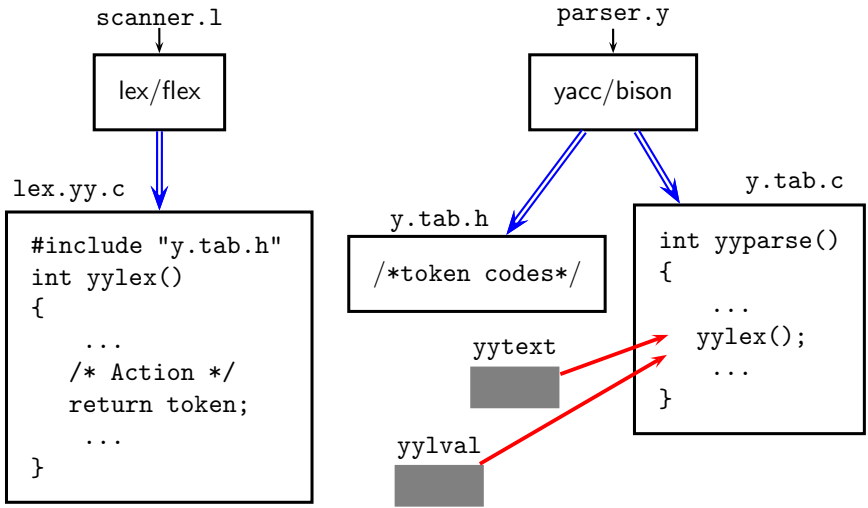
The Interaction Between Scanner and Parser



The Interaction Between Scanner and Parser



The Interaction Between Scanner and Parser



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

An Overview of Shift Reduce Parsing

- Grammar

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

- The process of parsing

10 + 20 * 3 eof

+

top → | NUM |

Parsing Stack

Action: Reduce by "Expr: NUM"

An Overview of Shift Reduce Parsing

- Grammar

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

- The process of parsing

10 + 20 * 3 eof

+

top → | Expr | Parsing Stack

Action: Shift +

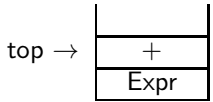
An Overview of Shift Reduce Parsing

- Grammar

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

- The process of parsing

10	+	20	*	3	eof
		NUM			



Action: Shift NUM

An Overview of Shift Reduce Parsing

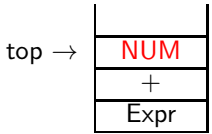
- Grammar

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

- The process of parsing

10 + 20 * 3 eof

*



Action: Reduce by "Expr: NUM"

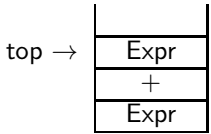
An Overview of Shift Reduce Parsing

- Grammar

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

- The process of parsing

10	+	20	*	3	eof
			*		



Action: Shift $*$ or Reduce by "Expr: Expr $+$ Expr"?

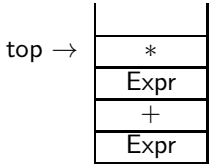
An Overview of Shift Reduce Parsing

- Grammar

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

- The process of parsing

10 + 20 * 3 eof
NUM



Action: Shift NUM

An Overview of Shift Reduce Parsing

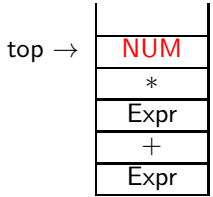
- Grammar

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

- The process of parsing

10 + 20 * 3 | eof

EOF



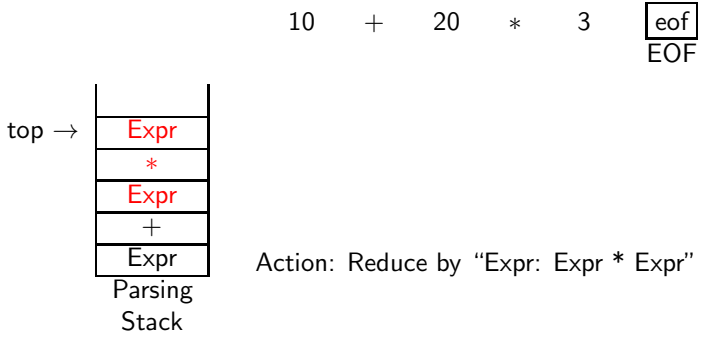
Action: Reduce by "Expr: NUM"

An Overview of Shift Reduce Parsing

- Grammar

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

- The process of parsing



An Overview of Shift Reduce Parsing

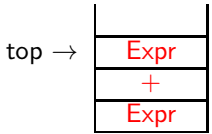
- Grammar

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

- The process of parsing

10 + 20 * 3 [eof]

EOF



Action: Reduce by "Expr: Expr + Expr"

An Overview of Shift Reduce Parsing

- Grammar

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

- The process of parsing

10 + 20 * 3 | eof

EOF

top → | Expr |

Parsing Stack

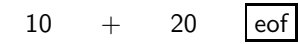
Action: Accept

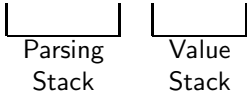
An Overview of Attribute Evaluation

- Grammar and the associated actions

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

- The process of parsing and attribute evaluation





An Overview of Attribute Evaluation

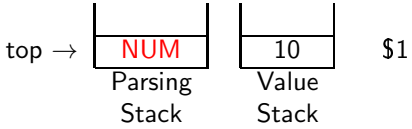
- Grammar and the associated actions

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

- The process of parsing and attribute evaluation

10 + 20 eof

+

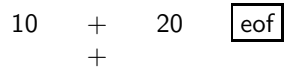


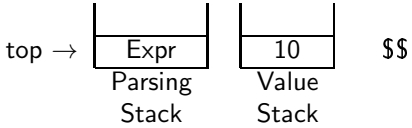
An Overview of Attribute Evaluation

- Grammar and the associated actions

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

- The process of parsing and attribute evaluation



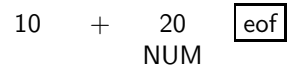


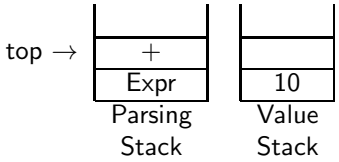
An Overview of Attribute Evaluation

- Grammar and the associated actions

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

- The process of parsing and attribute evaluation





An Overview of Attribute Evaluation

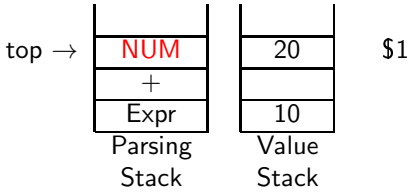
- Grammar and the associated actions

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

- The process of parsing and attribute evaluation

10 + 20 eof

EOF

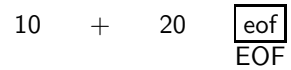


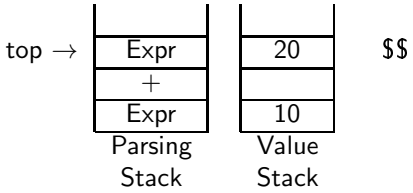
An Overview of Attribute Evaluation

- Grammar and the associated actions

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

- The process of parsing and attribute evaluation



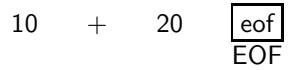


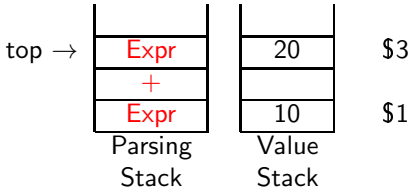
An Overview of Attribute Evaluation

- Grammar and the associated actions

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

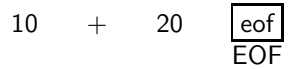
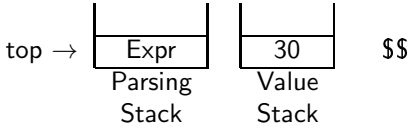
- The process of parsing and attribute evaluation





An Overview of Attribute Evaluation

- Grammar and the associated actions

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

- The process of parsing and attribute evaluation