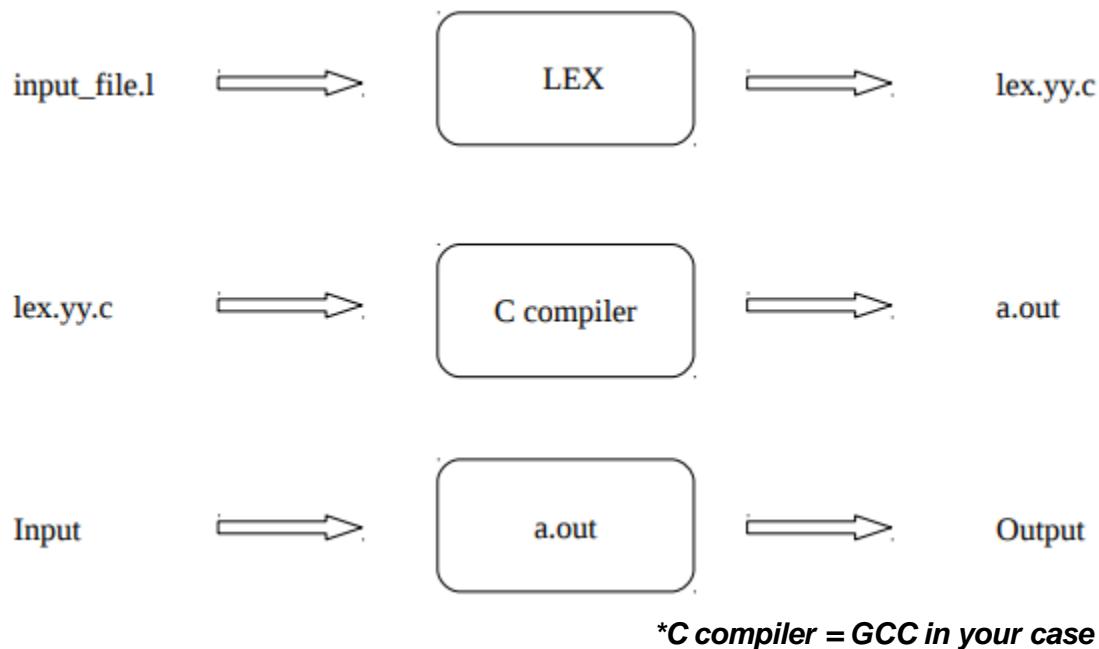


## 1. Introduction to LEX

LEX is a tool used to generate a lexical analyzer. This document is a tutorial for the use of LEX for SIL Compiler development. Technically, LEX translates a set of regular expression specifications (given as input in `input_file.l`) into a C implementation of a corresponding finite state machine (`lex.yy.c`). This C program, when compiled, yields an executable lexical analyzer.



## 2. The structure of LEX programs

A LEX program consists of three sections : Declarations, Rules and Auxiliary functions

DECLARATIONS  
%%  
RULES  
%%  
AUXILIARY FUNCTIONS

## Example of LEX program

### \ Declarations

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

### \Rules

Rules in a LEX program consist of two parts:

- i. The pattern to be matched
- ii. The corresponding action to be executed

```
%%  
(go|GO|gO|eat|EAT|eAT) { printf("Verbs: %s\n", yytext); }  
[0-9]+ { printf("NUMBER: %s\n", yytext); }  
[a-zA-Z]+ { printf("WORD: %s\n", yytext); }  
[\t\n]+ ; /* ignore whitespace */  
. { printf("others: %s\n", yytext); }  
%%
```

### \ Auxiliary functions

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

```
int yywrap(void)  
{  
    return 1;  
}
```

### References:

1. <https://silcnitc.github.io/lex.html#navintro>
2. <https://cse.iitkgp.ac.in/~bivasm/notes/LexAndYaccTutorial.pdf>