

Tiger Lexical Analysis Documentation

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Handle comments

- Use states. On encountering “/*”, state transits from <INITIAL> to <COMMENT>.
- Use @variable `commentLayer` to handle nested comments, determine when to transit back to <INITIAL>. The pseudocode:

```
commentLayer = 0;
if encounters '/*' in initial state:
    commentLayer ++;
    transit to comment state;
if encounters '/*' in comment state:
    commentLayer ++;
if encounters '*/' in comment state:
    commentLayer --;
    if commentLayer == 0:
        transit to initial state;
```

Handle strings

- Use states, similar with above.
 - Use @variable `stringBuf` to temporarily store the current String object content and @variable `stringPos` to record the header of `stringBuf`.
 - Handle special char, for example ‘\n’ should not be interpreted as char ‘\’ and char ‘n’.
- (Future work) This part should be improved.

Handle errors

Not did much. Only trigger error when encountering illegal char in <INITIAL> state.

Handle EOF

When writing code, I didn’t think about that at all. When I searched online, I found ([link](#)):

“Flex has <<EOF>> pattern which matches only end-of-file. Probably you can return some token indicating end-of-file to the parser as the following.

```
<<EOF>>      return END_OF_FILE;”
```

That means the EOF pattern is <<EOF>>. If we want to return tokens or do things on EOF, we can use this pattern.