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Before evaluating an expression, my php code will first check for illegal characters within the input string. If the expression passes this test, the code will then check the expression for correctness in syntax. If successful, expression will be evaluated, otherwise an error message will show up.

$number is a string that will later be concatenated to the regular expression to check if a numerical token is valid. A number may start with a negative number. Then there are two choices: one or more digits from 0-9 plus zero or more digits after a decimal point, or a decimal point followed by one or more digits from 0-9. In the regular expression, an expression is valid if it starts with a number, followed by one or more sub expressions consisting of a +-*/ operator and a number.

error_reporting is turned off as is done in the sample calculator provided by the instructor.