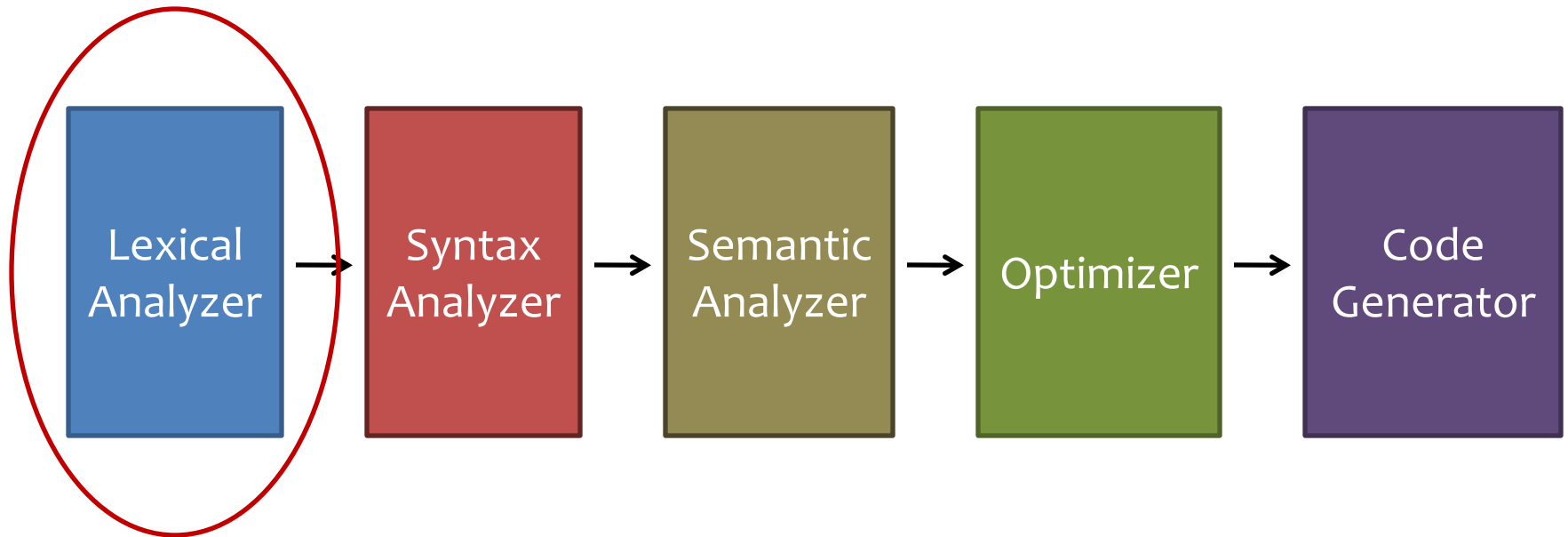


Lexical Analysis using FLEX

Compiler Overview



Lexical Analysis

- First phase of compiler
- Process of converting sequence of **characters** to sequence of **tokens**



Role of Lexical Analyzer

- Identify **Tokens**
- Insert **lexemes** into Symbol Table
- Remove all white spaces
- Return **Tokens** to Parser

How we build Lexer?

- From Scratch?
- **No!** There are tools that generate lexer.

Life Savers

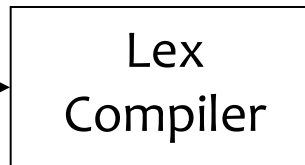
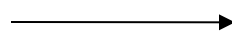
- lex
 - Lexical Analyzer Generator
 - Not used anymore
- flex
 - Free, open source alternative
 - We will use this

flex/lex

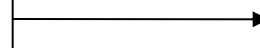
Scanner Generator Source Code



scanner.l



Lex
Compiler

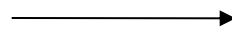


Scanner Source Code

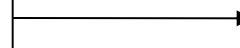


lex.yy.c

lex.yy.c



C
Compiler

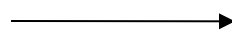


a.out

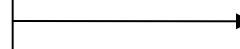
Scanner



Source
program



a.out



Tokens

flex Installation

- Run following commands in terminal

```
sudo apt-get update  
sudo apt-get install flex
```


flex Program Structure

```
/**** Definition Section *****/
```

```
%%
```

```
/**** Rules Section *****/
```

```
%%
```

```
/**** User SubRoutines *****/
```

i. Definition Section

- Definition Section typically includes
 - Options
 - C code to be copied in `lex.yy.c`
 - Definitions

i. Definition Section

%option noyywrap



Options

%{

#include<stdio.h>

#include<stdlib.h>



C Code

int line_count=0;

%}

whitespace [\t\v\f\r]+



Definitions

newline [\n]

%%

ii. Rules Section

- Rules Section may includes
 - Pattern Lines
 - C code to be copied in `lex.yy.c`
- Usually it only contains some pattern lines with corresponding actions

ii. Rules Section

%%

[0-9]+	{printf("%s is a number",yytext);}
{whitespace}	{printf("whitespace encountered");}
{newline}	{line_count++;}
.	{printf("Mysterious character found");}

%%

Pattern

Action


Do not place any whitespace at the beginning of a pattern line

iii. Subroutine Section

- Subroutine section usually includes C code to be copied in `lex.yy.c` file
- If you want `yywrap()` or `main()`, you should write here

iii. Subroutine Section

```
%%  
int main(int argc, char **argv){  
    yyin= fopen(argv[1], "r");  
    yylex();  
    fclose(yyin);  
    return 0;  
}
```



This function matches
pattern

Example 1

Regular Expressions

- Metacharacters

Metacharacter	Meaning	Example
[]	Match any character within this bracket	[abc] [a-z] [A-z] [-aZ]
{-} and {+}	Set Difference or Union	[a-z]{-}[aeiou]
*	Zero or more occurrence of preceding expression	a* 12*3
+	One or more occurrence of preceding expression	a+ 12+3

Regular Expressions

- Metacharacters

Metacharacter	Meaning	Example
?	Zero or one occurrence of preceding expression	-?[0-9]+
{ }	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To specify already defined namesTo specify number of occurrence	{whitespace} 1{2}3{4}5{6}
	Or	a b
()	Group series of regular expression together	(ab cd)+

Regular Expressions

- Metacharacters

Metacharacter	Meaning	Example
^	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If within [], then means except following charactersOtherwise means start of line	[^ab] ^ab
\$	End of line	124\$
“”	Match anything literally	“^124\$”
<<EOF>>	End of file	

Frequently encountered terms

- `yylex()`
- `yywrap()`
- `yytext`
- `yylineno`
- `yyin`
- `yyout`

Example 2

Start States

- One can declare start state in lex file
- By default the start state is INITIAL

Example 3

Thank You!