Lexical and Syntax Analysis

In Text: Chapter 4

Lexical and Syntactic Analysis

- Two steps to discover the syntactic structure of a program
  - Lexical analysis (Scanner): to read the input characters and output a sequence of tokens
  - Syntactic analysis (Parser): to read the tokens and output a parse tree and report syntax errors if any

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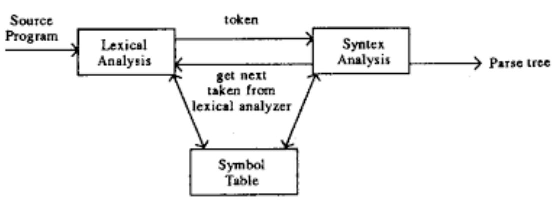
Interaction between lexical analysis and syntactic analysis



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Reasons to Separate Lexical and Syntax Analysis

- *Simplicity* - less complex approaches can be used for lexical analysis; separating them simplifies the parser
- *Efficiency* - separation allows optimization of the lexical analyzer
- *Portability* - parts of the lexical analyzer may not be portable, but the parser is always portable

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Scanner

- Pattern matcher for character strings
  - If a character sequence matches a pattern, it is identified as a token
- Responsibilities
  - Tokenize source, report lexical errors if any, remove comments and whitespace, save text of interesting tokens, save source locations, (optional) expand macros and implement preprocessor functions

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Tokenizing Source

- Given a program, identify all lexemes and their categories (tokens)

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Motivating Example

- Token set:
  - assign -> :=
  - plus -> +
  - minus -> -
  - times -> *
  - div -> /
  - lparen -> (
  - rparen ->)
  - id -> letter(letter|digit)*
  - number -> digit digit*|digit*(.digit|digit.)digit*

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Motivating Example

- What are the lexemes in the string "a_var:=b*3" ?
- What are the corresponding tokens ?
- How do you identify the tokens?

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Lexical Analysis

- Three approaches to building a lexical analyzer:
  - Write a formal description of the tokens and use a software tool that constructs a table-driven lexical analyzer from such a description
  - Design a state diagram that describes the tokens and write a program that implements the state diagram
  - Design a state diagram that describes the tokens and hand-construct a table-driven implementation of the state diagram

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State Diagram Design

- A naïve state diagram would have a transition from every state on every character in the source language - such a diagram would be very large!

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Lexical Analysis (continued)

- In many cases, transitions can be combined to simplify the state diagram
  - When recognizing an identifier, all uppercase and lowercase letters are equivalent
    - Use a character class that includes all letters
  - When recognizing an integer literal, all digits are equivalent - use a digit class

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Lexical Analysis (continued)

- Reserved words and identifiers can be recognized together (rather than having a part of the diagram for each reserved word)
  - Use a table lookup to determine whether a possible identifier is in fact a reserved word

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Lexical Analysis (continued)

- Convenient utility subprograms:
  - **`getChar`** - gets the next character of input, puts it in nextChar, determines its class and puts the class in charClass
  - **`addChar`** - puts the character from nextChar into the place the lexeme is being accumulated
  - **`lookup`** - determines whether the string in lexeme is a reserved word (returns a code)

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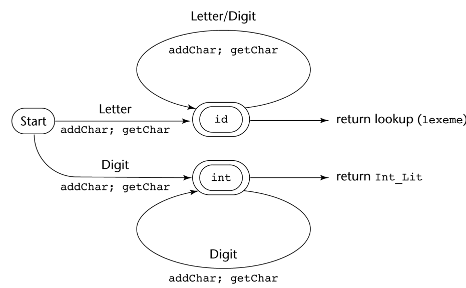
State Diagram



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Implementation Pseudo-code

```
static TOKEN nextToken;

static CHAR_CLASS charClass;

int lex() {
  switch (charClass) {
    case LETTER:
    // add nextChar to lexeme
      addChar();
    // get the next character and determine its class
      getChar();
      while (charClass == LETTER || charClass == DIGIT)
      {
        addChar();
        getChar();
      }
      nextToken = ID;
      break;
```

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```
case DIGIT:
  addChar();
  getChar();
  while (charClass == DIGIT) {
    addChar();
    getChar();
  }
  nextToken = INT_LIT;
  break;
…
case EOF:
  nextToken = EOF;
  lexeme[0] = 'E';
  lexeme[1] = 'O';
  lexeme[2] = 'F';
  lexeme[3] = 0;
}
printf ("Next token is: %d, Next lexeme is %s\n",
   nextToken, lexeme);
  return nextToken;
}  /* End of function lex */
```

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Lexical Analyzer

Implementation:
→ `front.c` (pp. 166-170)

- Following is the output of the lexical analyzer of `front.c` when used on `(sum + 47) / total`

```
Next token is: 25 Next lexeme is (
Next token is: 11 Next lexeme is sum
Next token is: 21 Next lexeme is +
Next token is: 10 Next lexeme is 47
Next token is: 26 Next lexeme is )
Next token is: 24 Next lexeme is /
Next token is: 11 Next lexeme is total
Next token is: -1 Next lexeme is EOF
```

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The Parsing Problem

- Goals of the parser, given an input program:
  - Find all syntax errors; for each, produce an appropriate diagnostic message and recover quickly
  - Produce the parse tree, or at least a trace of the parse tree, for the program

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The Parsing Problem (continued)

- The Complexity of Parsing
  - Parsers that work for any unambiguous grammar are complex and inefficient (O(n3), where n is the length of the input)
  - Compilers use parsers that only work for a subset of all unambiguous grammars, but do it in linear time (O(n), where n is the length of the input)

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Two Classes of Grammars

- Left-to-right, Leftmost derivation (LL)
- Left-to-right, Rightmost derivation (LR)
- We can build parsers for these grammars that run in linear time

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Grammar Comparison

LL	LR
E -> T E' E' -> + T E' | ε T -> F T' T' -> * F T' | ε F -> id	E -> E + T | T T -> T * F | F F -> id

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Two Categories of Parsers

- LL(1) Parsers
  - L: scanning the input from left to right
  - L: producing a leftmost derivation
  - 1: using one input symbol of lookahead at each step to make parsing action decisions
- LR(1) Parsers
  - L: scanning the input from left to right
  - R: producing a rightmost derivation **in reverse**
  - 1: the same as above

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Two Categories of Parsers

- LL(1) parsers (predicative parsers)
  - Top down
    - Build the parse tree from the root
    - Find a left most derivation for an input string
- LR(1) parsers (shift-reduce parsers)
  - Bottom up
    - Build the parse tree from leaves
    - Reducing a string to the start symbol of a grammar

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Top-down Parsers

- Given a sentential form, $xA\alpha$, the parser must choose the correct A-rule to get the next sentential form in the leftmost derivation, using only the first token produced by A
- The most common top-down parsing algorithms:
  - Recursive descent - a coded implementation
  - LL parsers - table driven implementation

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Bottom-up parsers

- Given a right sentential form, α, determine what substring of α is the right-hand side of the rule in the grammar that must be reduced to produce the previous sentential form in the right derivation
- The most common bottom-up parsing algorithms are in the LR family

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