Class 11: Lex and Flex

Held: Monday, 19 September 2011

Summary: We consider lex (also flex), one of the more popular lexical analyzer generators.

Related Pages:
- EBoard.
- Lab: Lex and Flex.
- Reading: Aho et al., 3.5, 3.8.

Notes:
- Assignment coming soon: Lexical analyzer for Pascal.
- EC for the Bread and Puppets thing tonight.
- EC for town hall meeting next week. (You should go anyway - What Kington has to say about the budget it interesting and important.)
- EC for this week’s CS extra on Grad School in CS.
- EC for attending Saturday’s poster session (provided AH or someone else in this class has a poster).

Overview:
- flex basics
- flex lab.

flex basics
- lex (GNU version, flex) is a lexical analyzer generator.
- It follows much of what we’ve done in the past week: Given a series of annotated regular expressions, it builds a DFA (C code) to identify the regular expressions.
- The annotations are C code. The code gets executed when the pattern gets matched. Then flex goes on to match the next pattern.
- You start the lexer with yylex.

flex lab
Do the lab.