

# THEORY OF COMPIRATION

LECTURE 00



## Introduction

# Who?

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Office hours should be scheduled in advance

TAs:

- Hila
- Andrey
- Tomer
- Guy

# What?

- Understand:

- ▶ What a compiler is
- ▶ How it works
- ▶ Proven techniques
  - (most can be re-used in other settings)

# How?

- What will help us:

- ▶ Textbooks

- Modern Compiler Design (Grune)
    - Modern Compiler Implementation in C
    - Compilers: Principles, Techniques & Tools

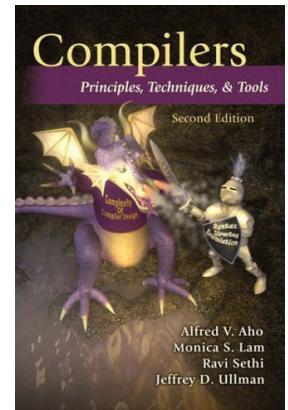
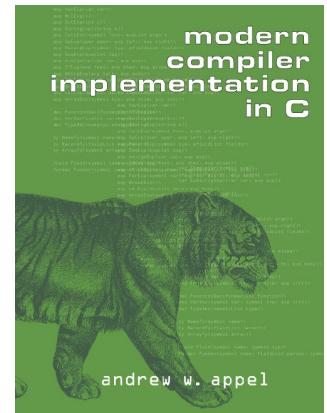


- ▶ Homework assignments

- “Dry”: deepen understanding of theory

- “Wet”: build a compiler yourself

- ▶ Ask questions, answer questions!



# piazza

# How?



[piazza.com/technion.ac.il/winter2024/236360](https://piazza.com/technion.ac.il/winter2024/236360)



Piazza Navona, Roma, Italia

The screenshot shows the Piazza interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for LIVE Q&A, Drafts, hw1 through hw4, hw5, exam, logistics, other, Unread, Updated, Unresolved, Following, and a gear icon for settings. Below the navigation is a search bar with placeholder text "Search or add a post...". A "New Post" button is visible. On the left, there's a sidebar titled "PINNED" containing a post titled "Search for Teammates!" with 1 reply and a "TODAY" section with three private posts: "Introduce Piazza to your stu...", "Get familiar with Piazza", and "Tips & Tricks for a successf...". Below that is a "Welcome to Piazza!" message. The main content area has a title "private note @5" with a lock icon and "1 views". It contains the heading "Search for Teammates!". Below it, a text block says "Need to form teams? Create a post below to initiate a search and we'll notify you via email when others respond." A section titled "add new post:" includes two radio button options: "I'm one student looking for more people to work with." (selected) and "I'm from a group looking for more students.". There are input fields for "Name" (Shachar Itzhaky) and "Email" (shachari@cs.technion.ac.i). A text area for "About Me" asks "Introduce yourself. What kind of teammate(s) are you looking for?" with a note "(Things you could include: your location, grad/undergrad, when you're available... help people get to know you!)" and a "Submit" button.

# How Not?!

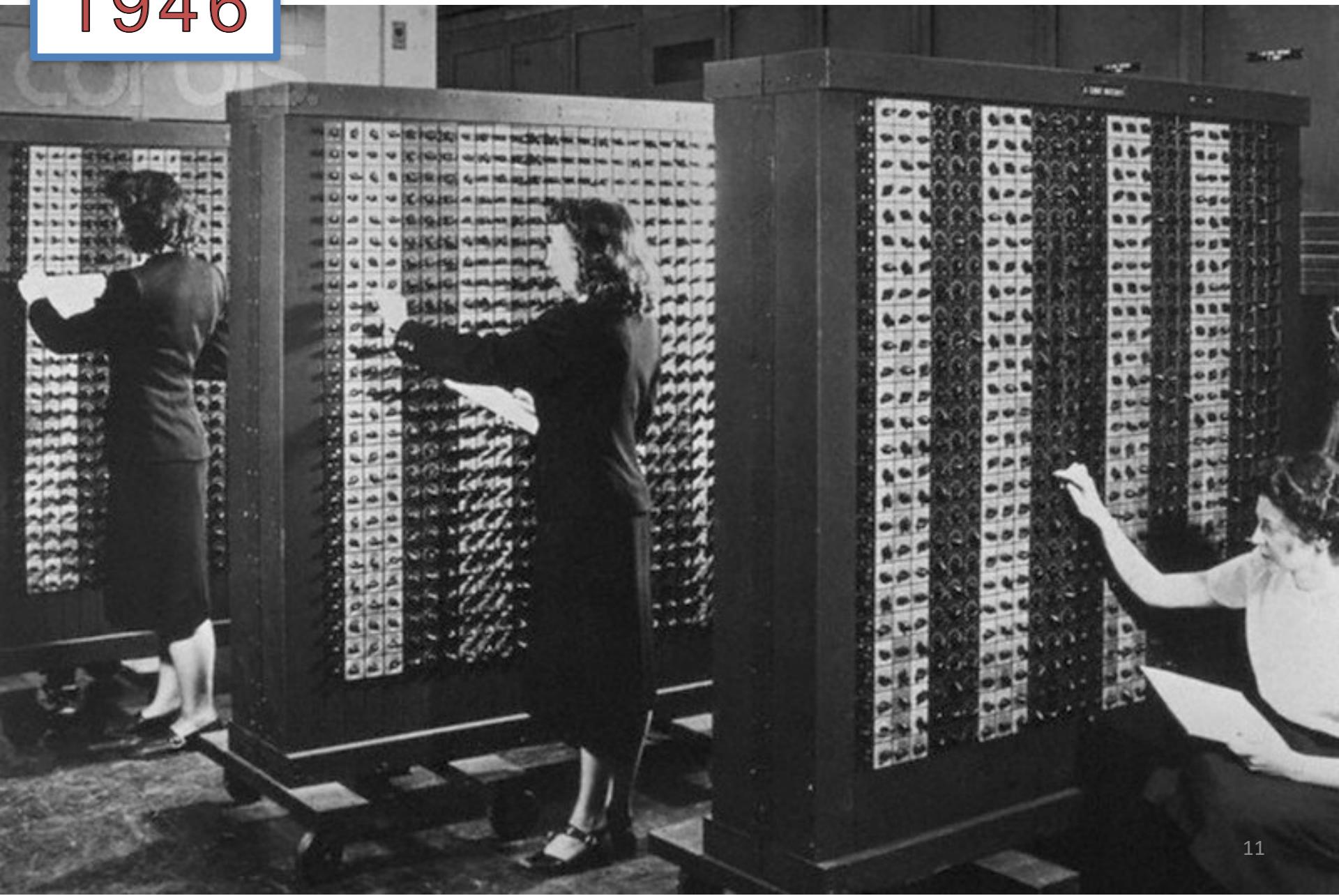
- “Your slides don’t have everything you say written on them” (*colloquial*)
  - ▶ Yes, I know, this is by design
  - ▶ Presentations are a teaching aid,  
not a substitute for coming to lectures
- If you don’t attend lectures or attend and don’t listen,  
you will inevitably miss some things
- If you want slides that have all the material written on  
them nicely, that format is indeed **available** and  
**commonly known as a textbook**
- See how horrible this slide is? This is why you won’t see  
many slides with as much text as this one for the rest of  
the course

# Exam

- 80% of the final grade
- Look at exams from previous years (2013–)
- Prepare *throughout* the semester...
  - ▶ If you attend lectures and finish the assignments, you should do well in the exam; if you've missed a lecture, try to keep up with the material
  - ▶ Historical evidence — attending leads to *higher success rate* in the final exam!

1946

ENIAC



1952

# “The Education of a Computer” (Grace Hopper)

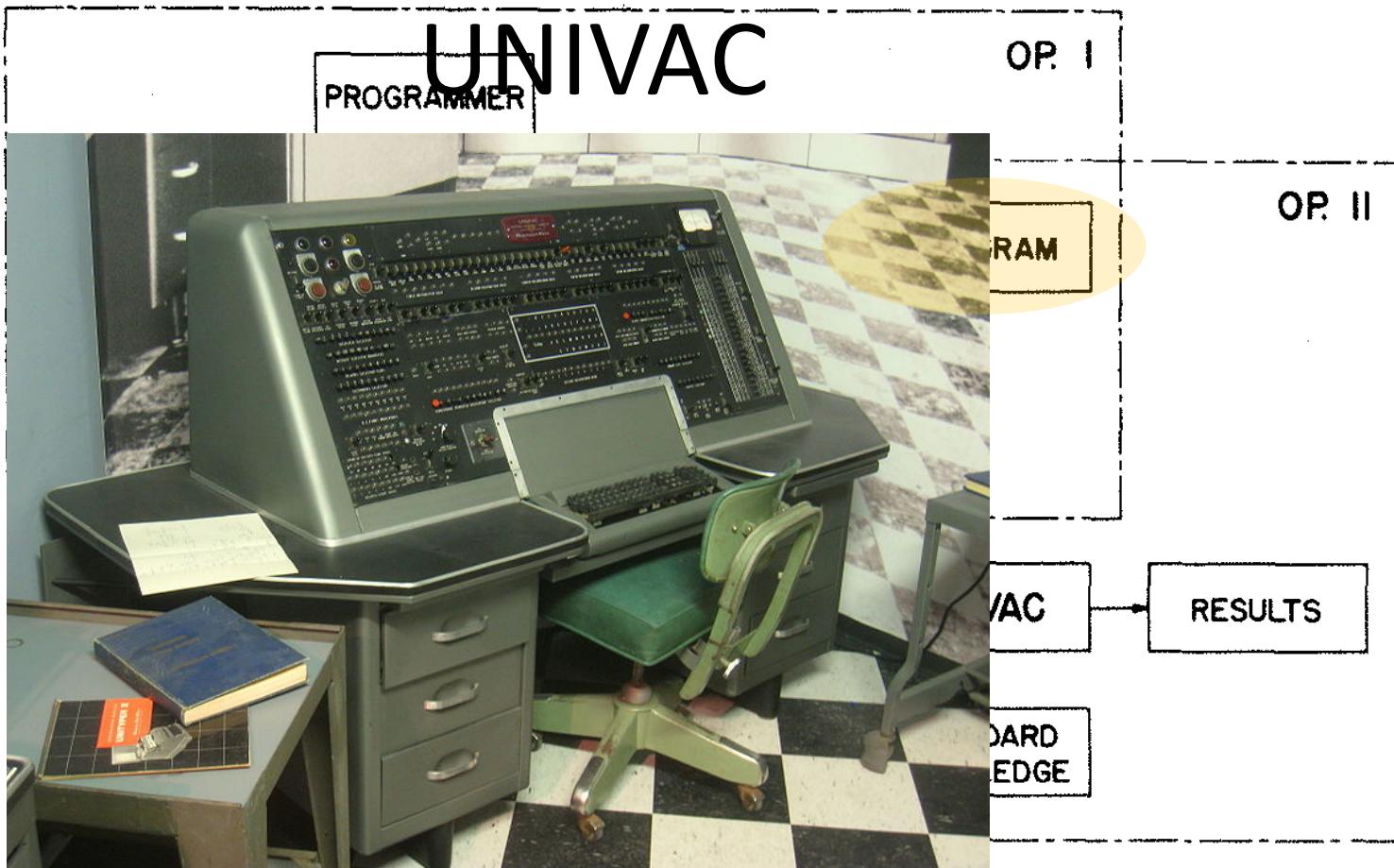


Fig. 4 - SOLUTION OF A PROBLEM

1952

# “The Education of a Computer” (Grace Hopper)

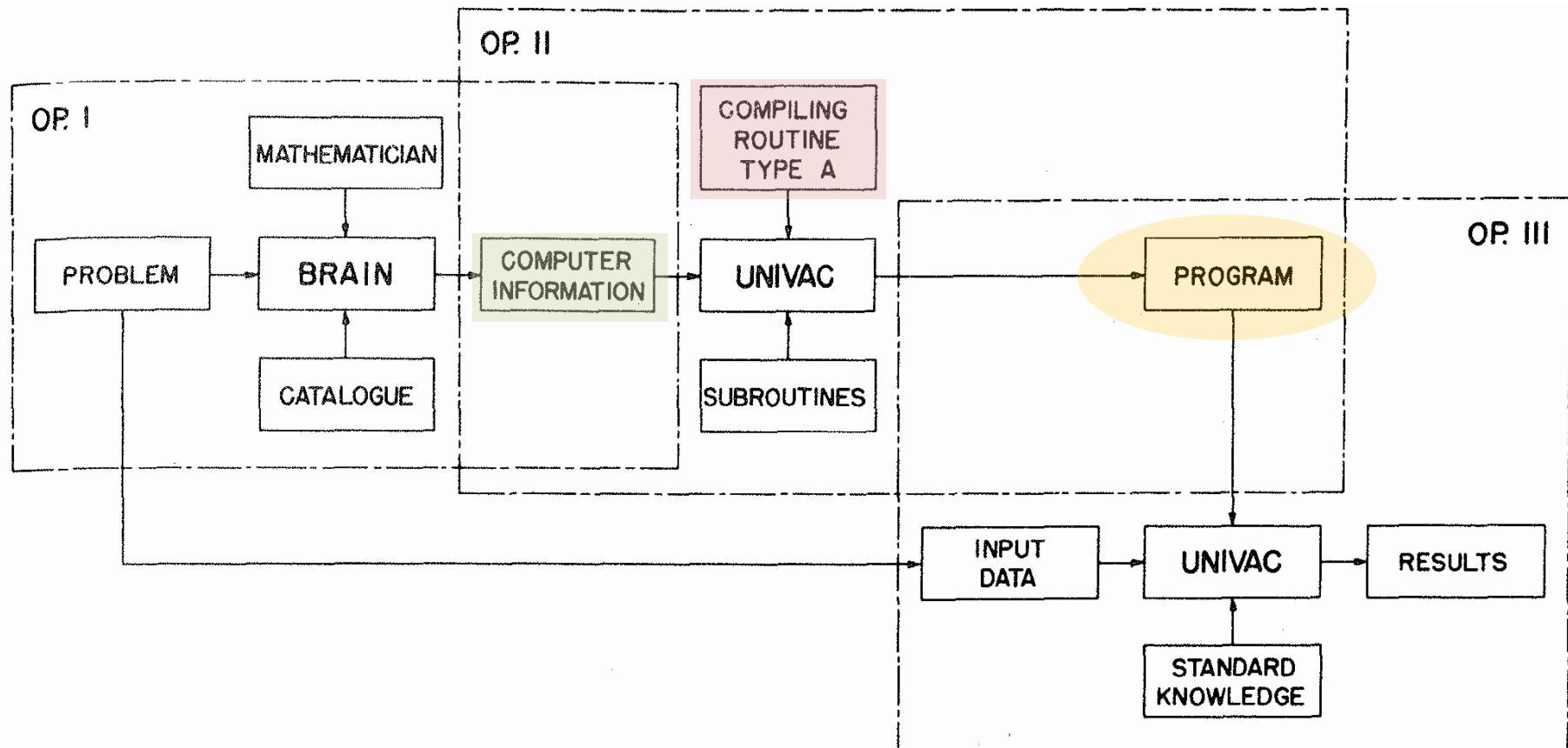
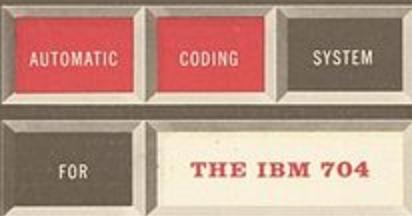


Fig. 5 - COMPILE ROUTINES AND SUBROUTINES

1957

PROGRAMMER'S REFERENCE MANUAL

# Fortran



John Backus and team at IBM

The first complete compiler



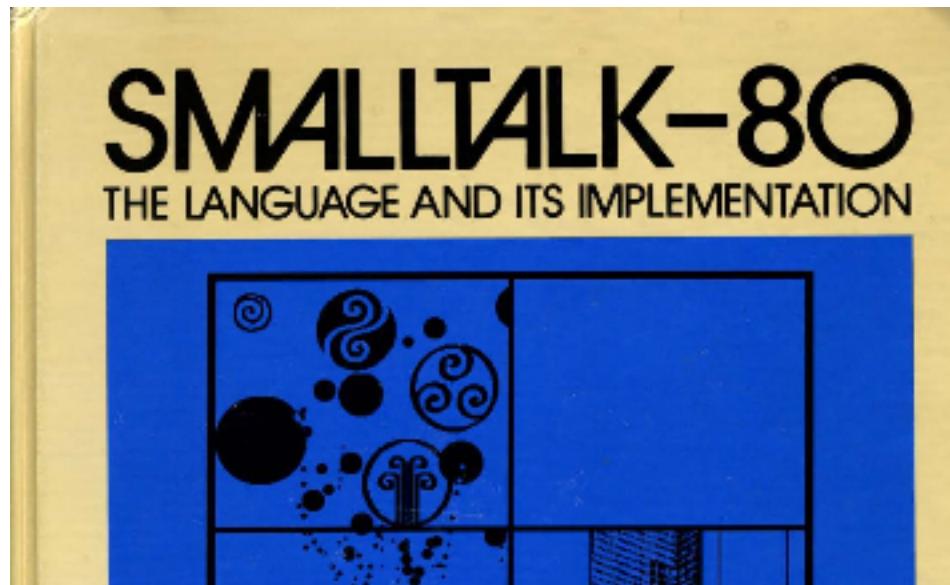
1962

Norwegian  
Computing Center,  
Oslo



Classes • Objects • Inheritance  
Virtual Methods • Garbage Collection

1972



Classes are made of:

Begin  
  Class A(P); Integer P;  
  Begin *LifeA1* Inner; *LifeA2* End;  
  *Part1*  
  A(3) Begin  
    *Block body*  
  End;  
  *Part2*  
End;

Parameters  
Attributes  
Methods  
Life (Body)

Xerox PARC  
(Palo Alto  
Research Center)



2024

# What is a Compiler?

“A compiler is a **computer program** that **translates** computer code written in one programming language (the **source language**) into another language (the **target language**). ...primarily to a lower level language (e.g. assembly language, object code, or machine code) to create an **executable program**.”



-- *Wikipedia*

# What is a Compiler?

source language

C  
C++  
Pascal  
Java

Perl      txt  
Source  
text  
JavaScript  
Python  
Ruby

Lisp  
Scheme  
ML  
OCaml

Prolog

Postscript  
TeX

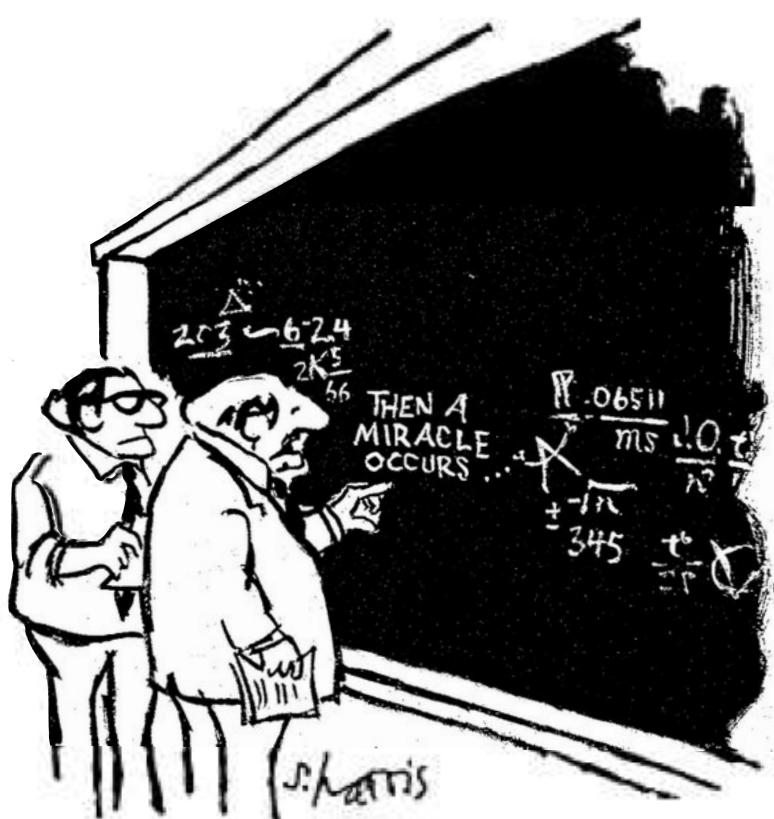
target language

IA32  
IA64  
ARM  
SPARC

exe  
Java Bytecode  
**Executable**  
C code  
C++  
Pascal  
Java

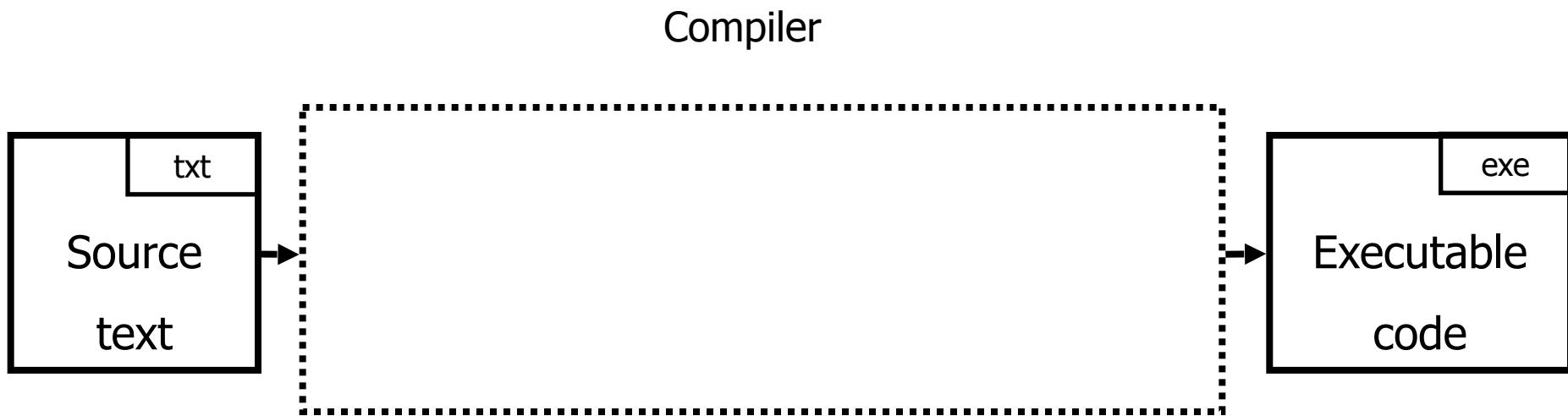
JavaScript

PDF  
Bitmap  
...



"I THINK YOU SHOULD BE MORE EXPLICIT  
HERE IN STEP TWO."

# What is a Compiler?

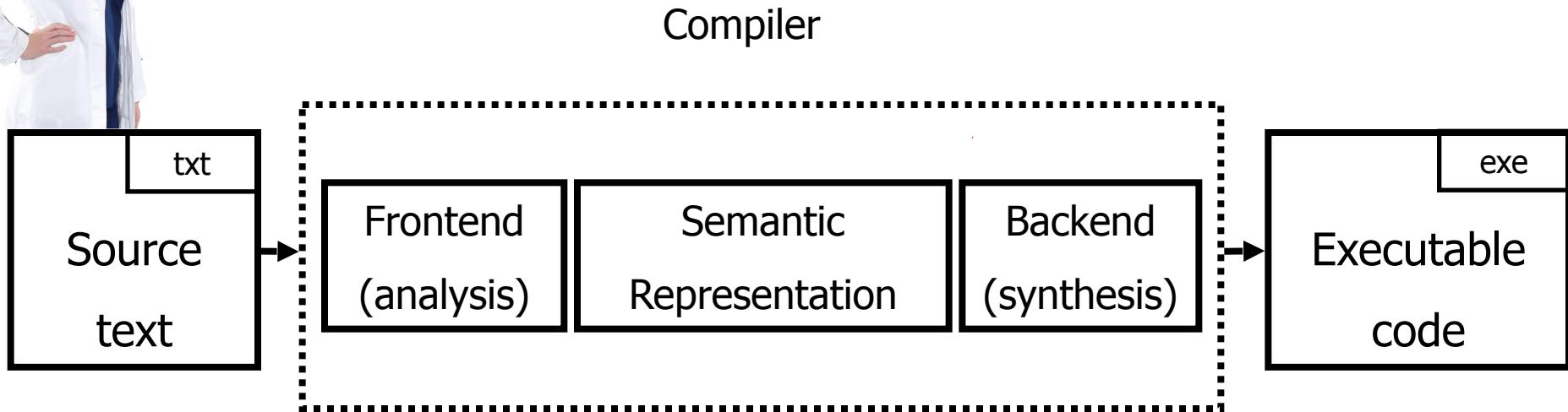


```
int a, b;  
a = 2;  
b = a*2 + 1;
```

```
MOV R1,2  
SAL R1  
INC R1  
MOV R2,R1
```



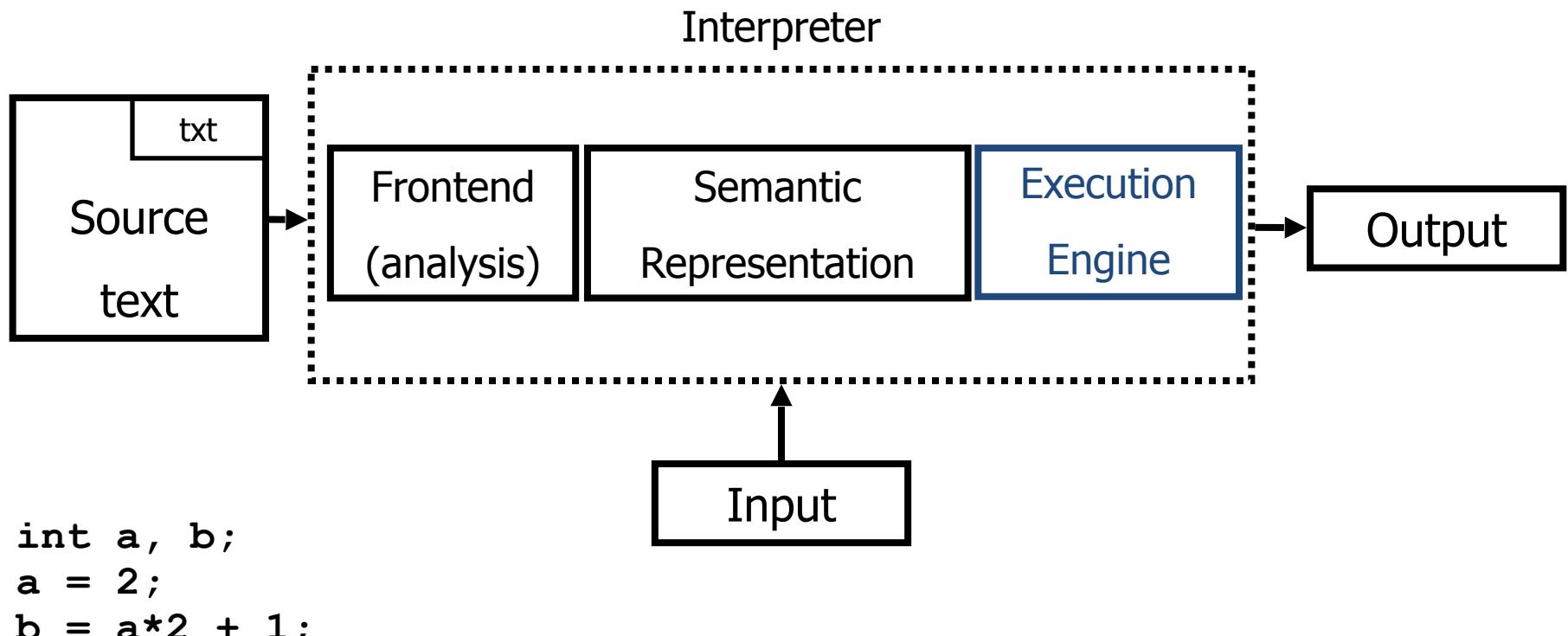
# Anatomy of a Compiler



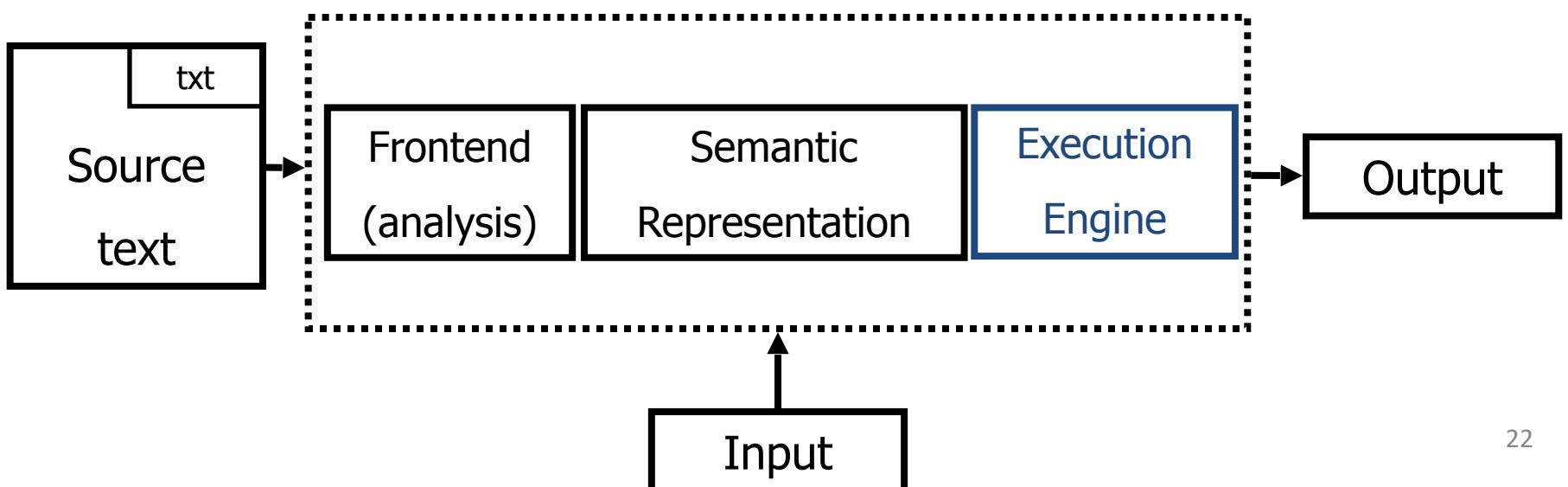
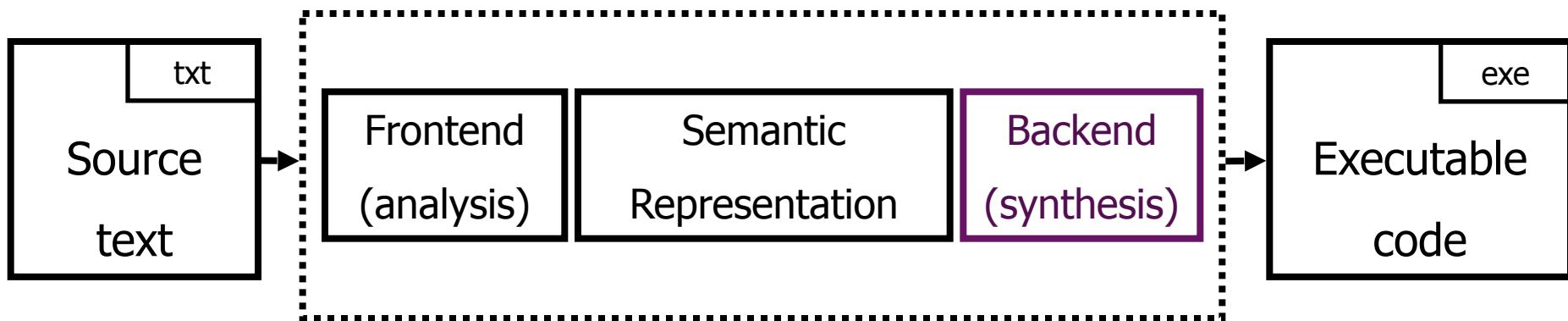
```
int a, b;  
a = 2;  
b = a*2 + 1;
```

```
mov eax, 2  
sal eax  
inc eax  
mov ebx, eax
```

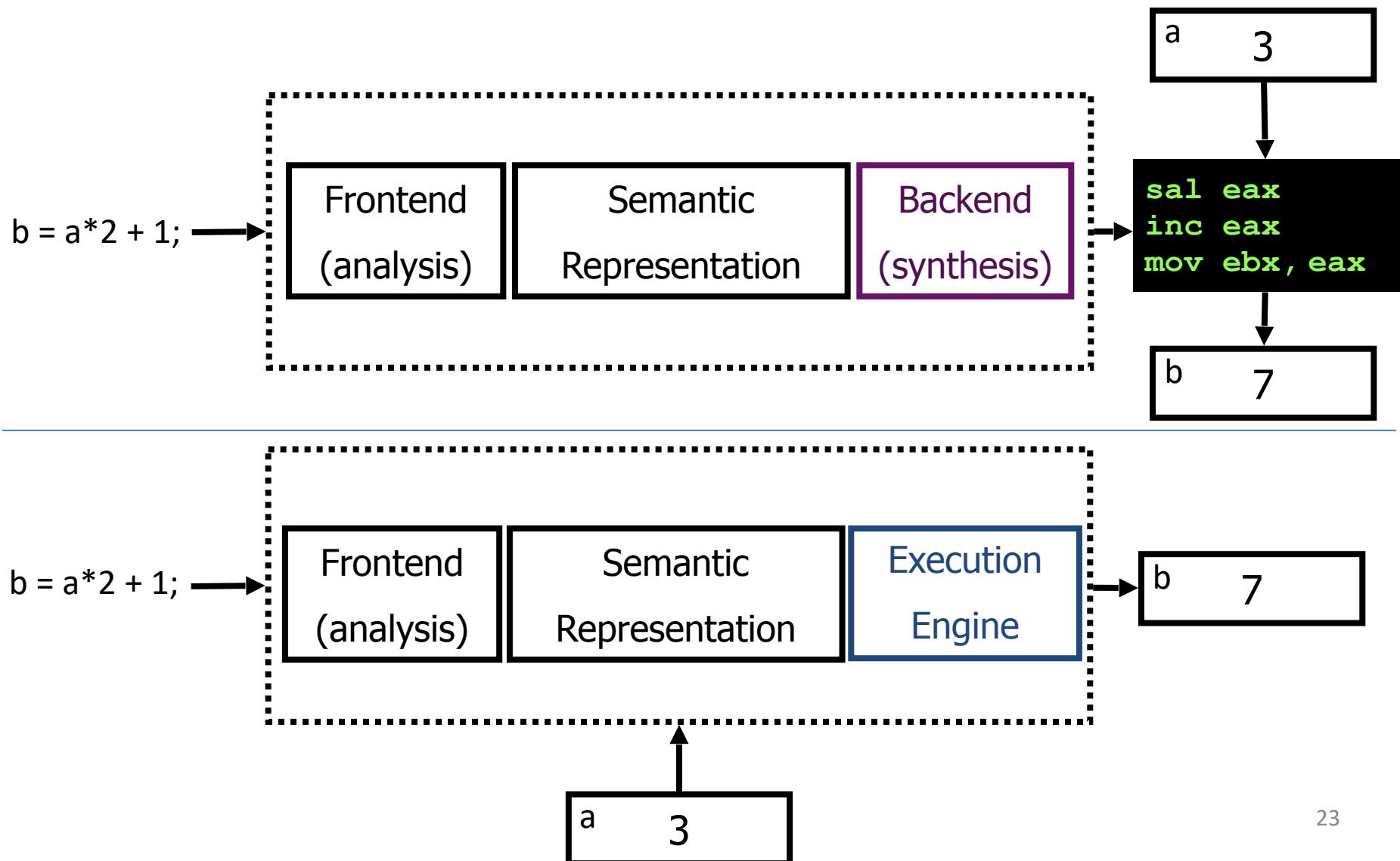
# Interpreter



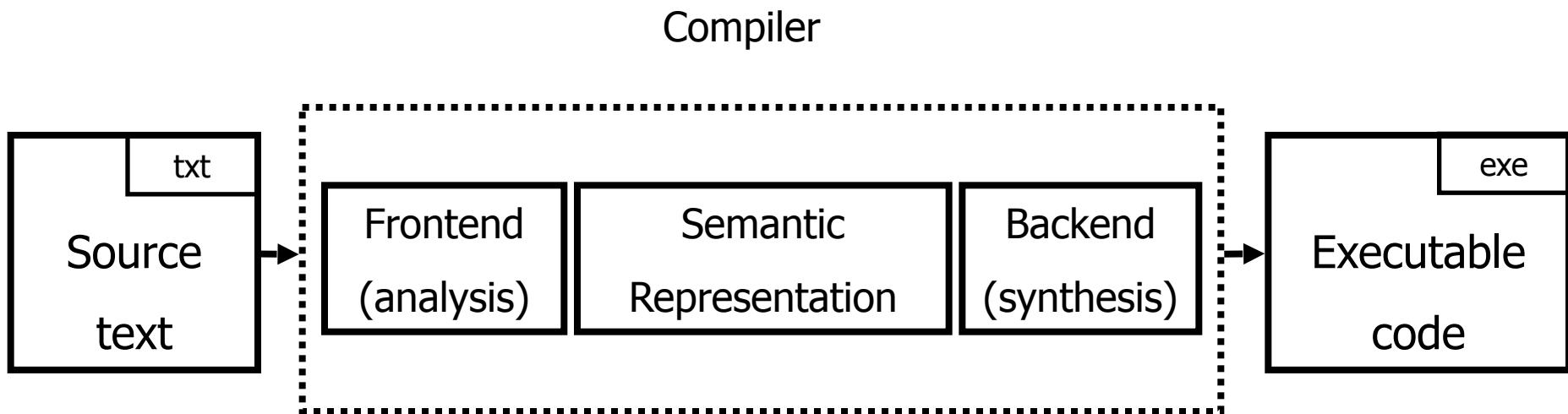
# Compiler vs. Interpreter



# Compiler vs. Interpreter



# Anatomy of a Compiler: Why?



```
int a, b;  
a = 2;  
b = a*2 + 1;
```

```
mov eax, 2  
sal eax  
inc eax  
mov ebx, eax
```

```

var
  x, y : integer;
begin
  x := 2;
  y := x*2 + 1;
end.

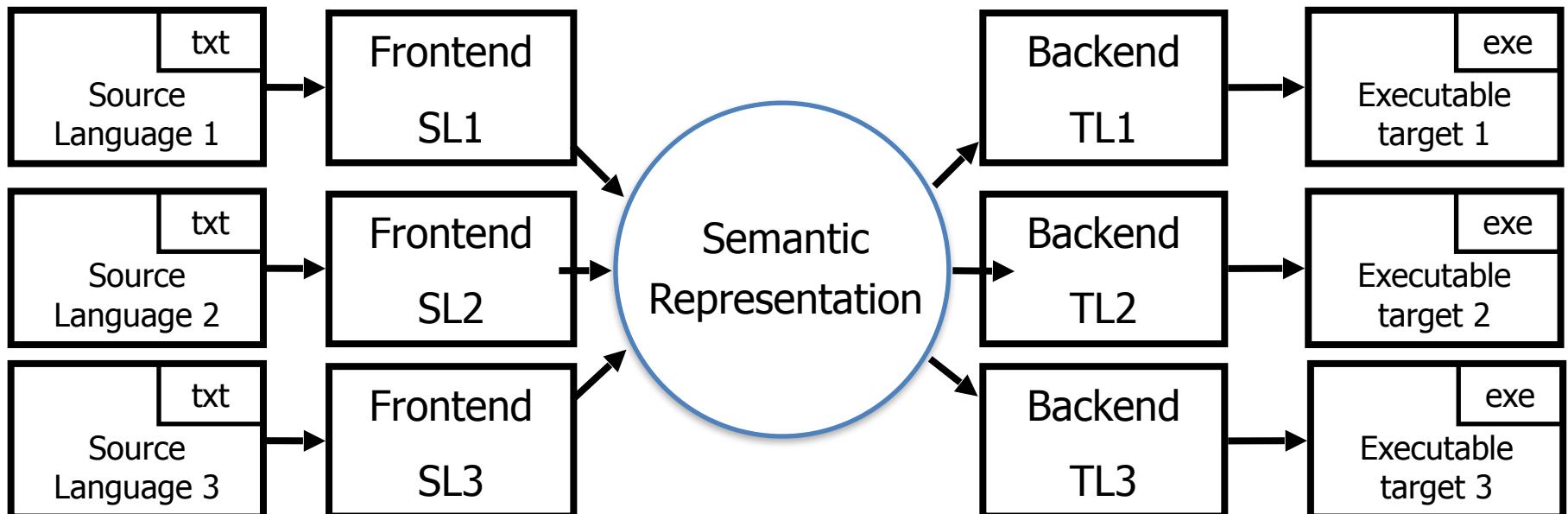
```

# Modularity

```

iconst 2
iconst 1
ishl
istore_2
iinc 2, 1

```



```

int x, y;
x = 2;
y = x*2 + 1;

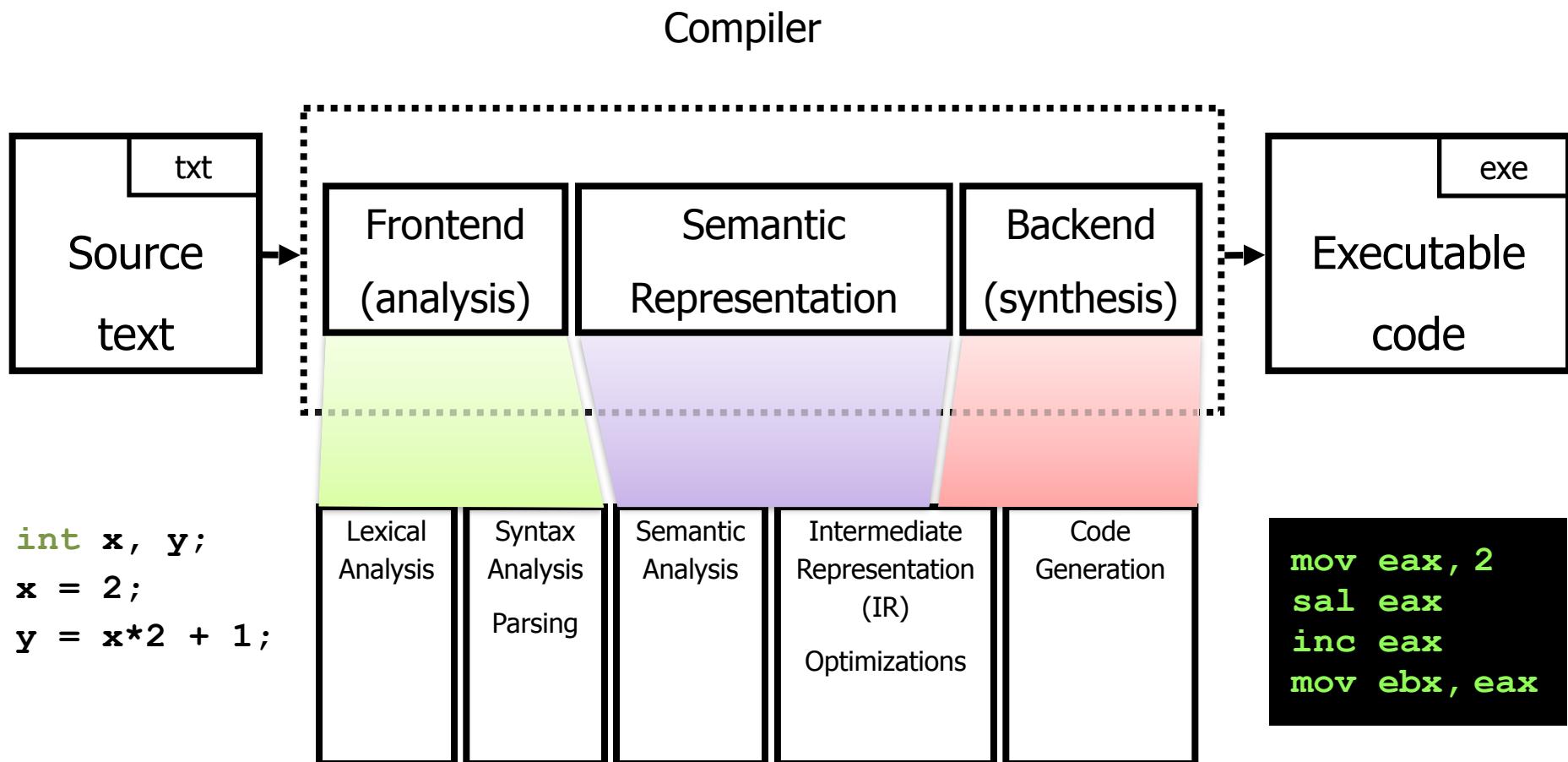
```

```

mov eax, 2
sal eax
inc eax
mov ebx, eax

```

# Anatomy of a Compiler



# Why should you care?

- Every person in this class will build a “compiler” some day
  - Or wish they knew how to build one...
- But that is not all!

# Why should you care?

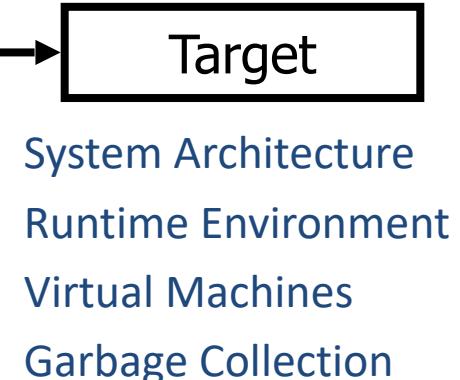
Better  
understanding  
of programming  
languages



Programming Languages  
Software Engineering

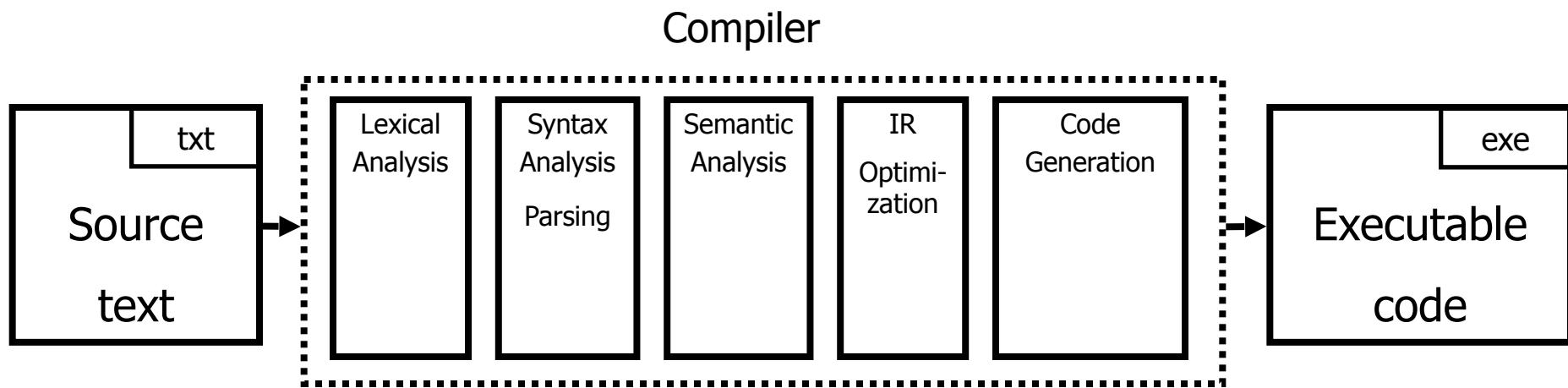
- Compiler
- Useful formalisms
    - ▶ Regular expressions
    - ▶ Context-free grammars
  - Data structures
  - Algorithms
  - Design concepts
    - ▶ Abstractions
    - ▶ Modularity

Understand  
(some) details  
of target  
architectures



Understand internals of  
compilers

# Course Overview

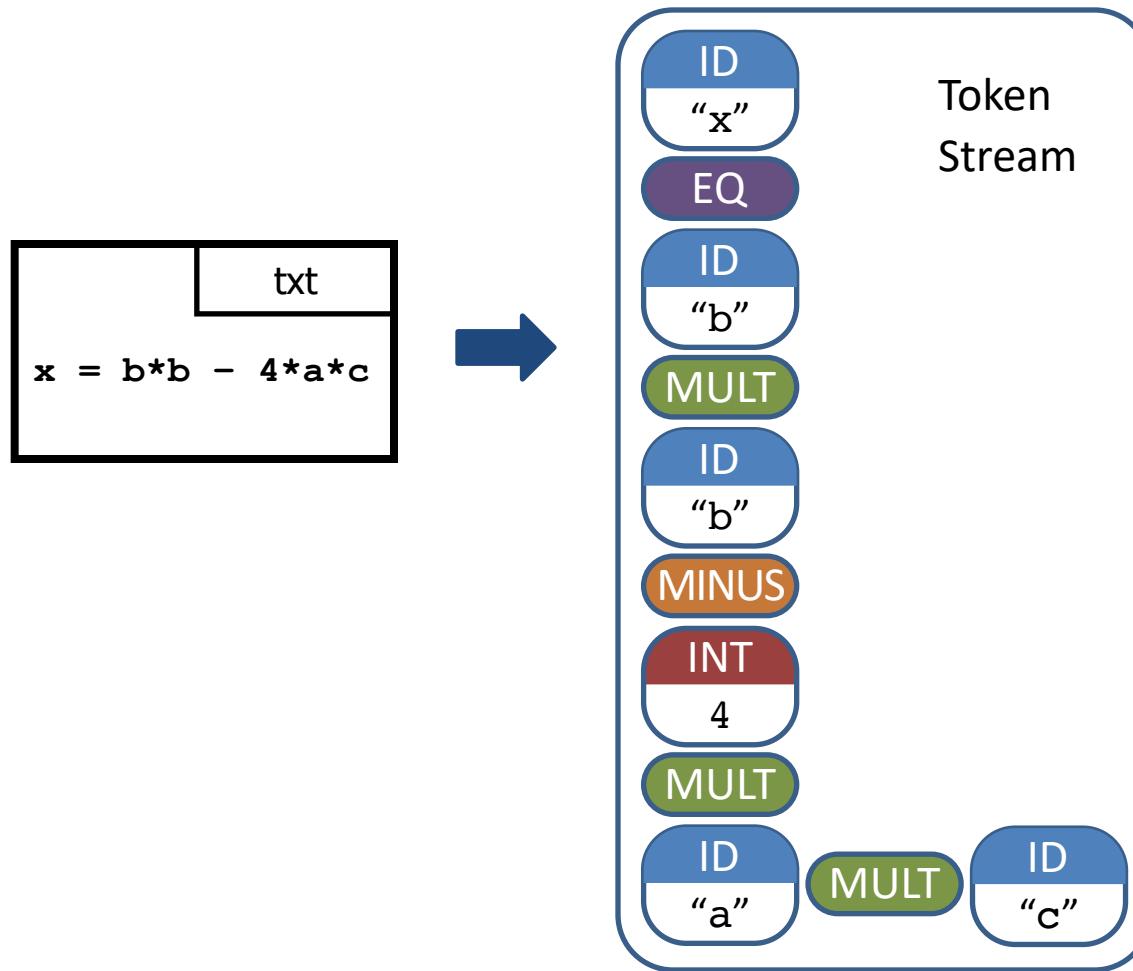


# Journey inside a compiler

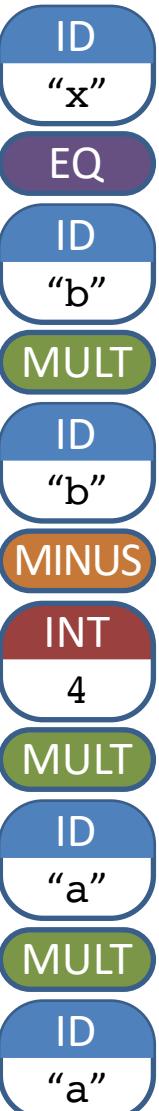
txt

**x = b\*b - 4\*a\*c**

# Journey inside a compiler



# Journey inside a compiler

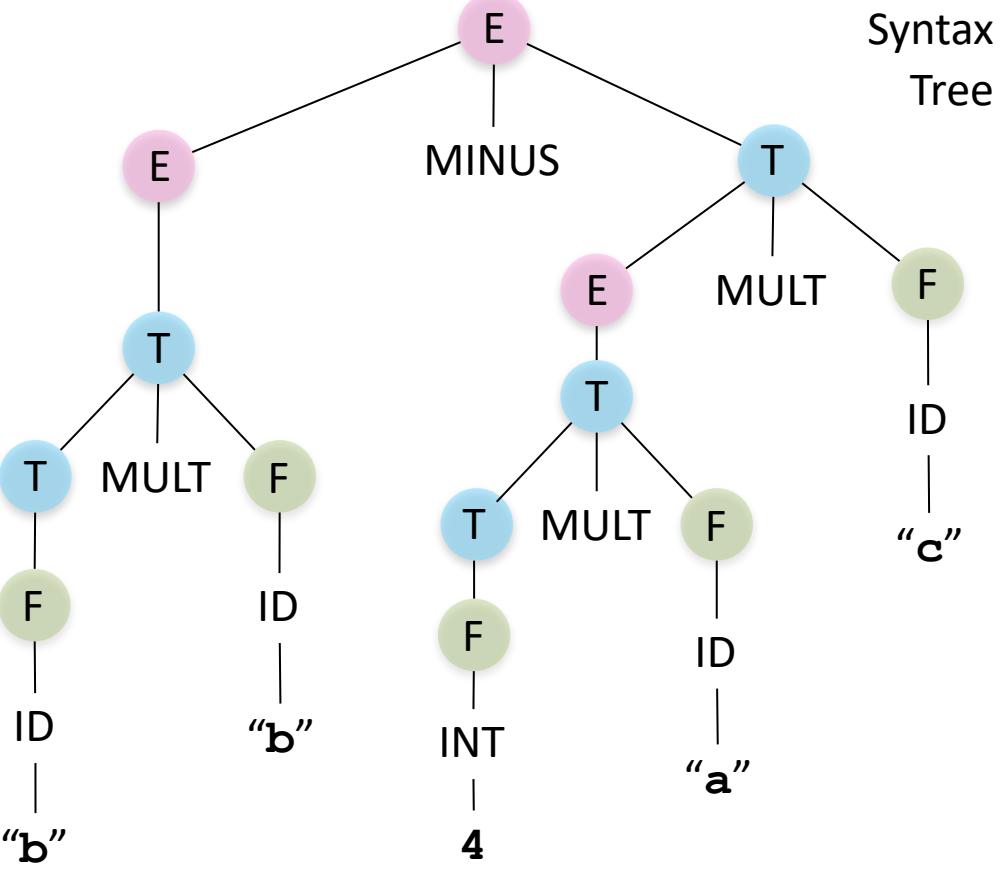


Grammar

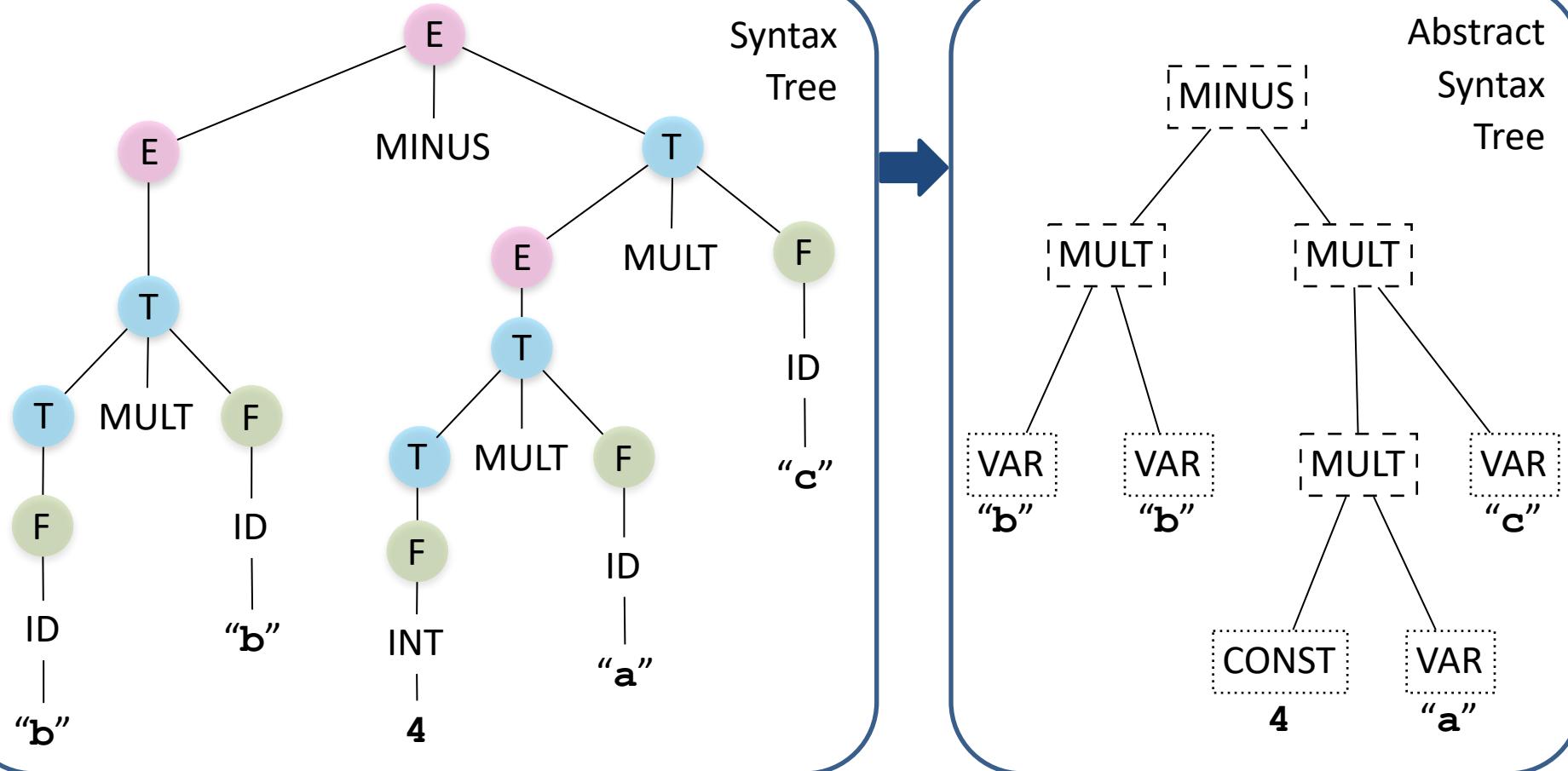
$E \rightarrow E \text{ (PLUS) } T$   
 $E \rightarrow E \text{ (MINUS) } T$   
 $T \rightarrow T \text{ (MULT) } F$   
 $T \rightarrow T \text{ (DIV) } F$   
 $F \rightarrow (\text{ID})$   
 $F \rightarrow (\text{INT})$



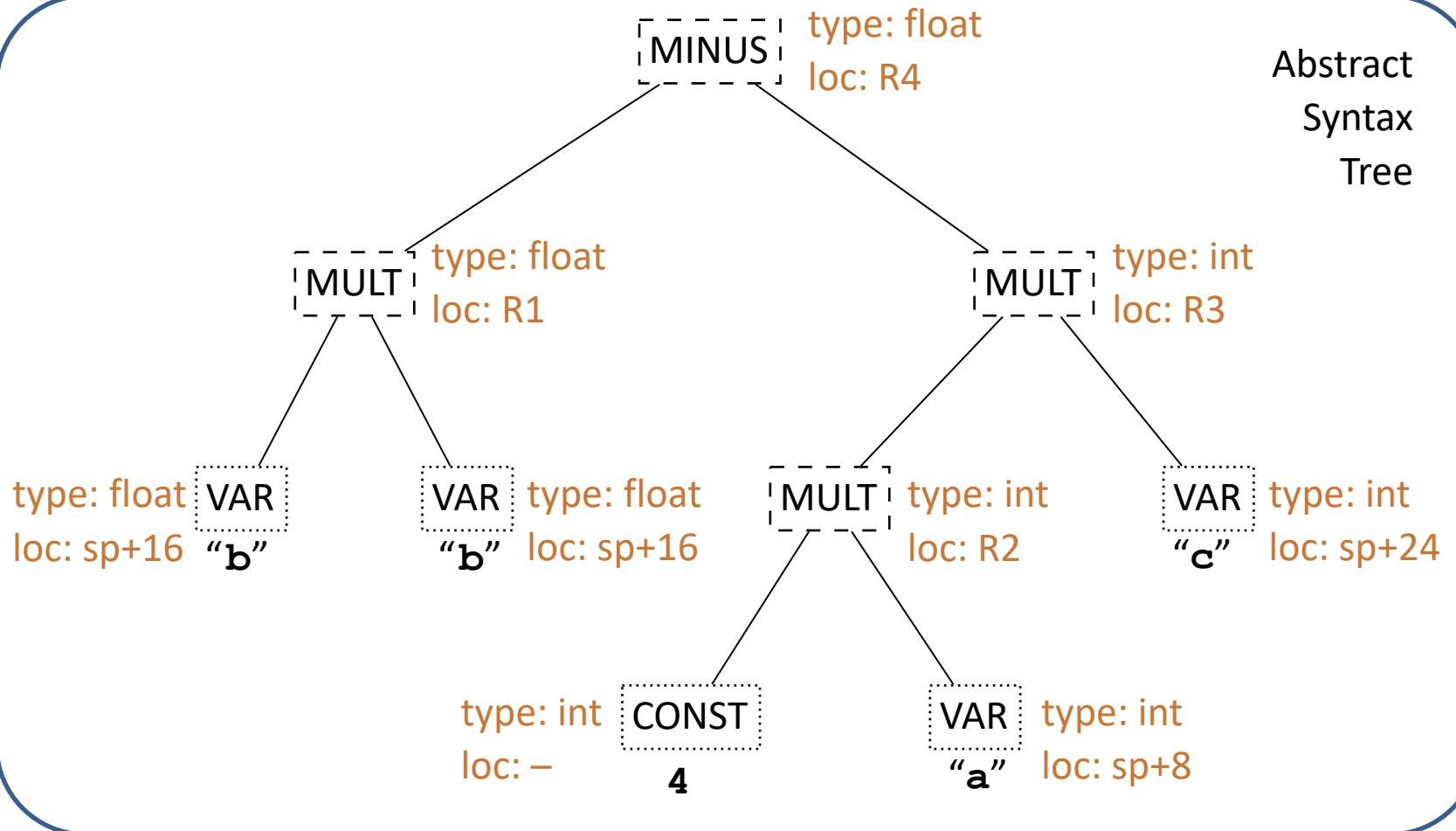
Token Stream



# Journey inside a compiler

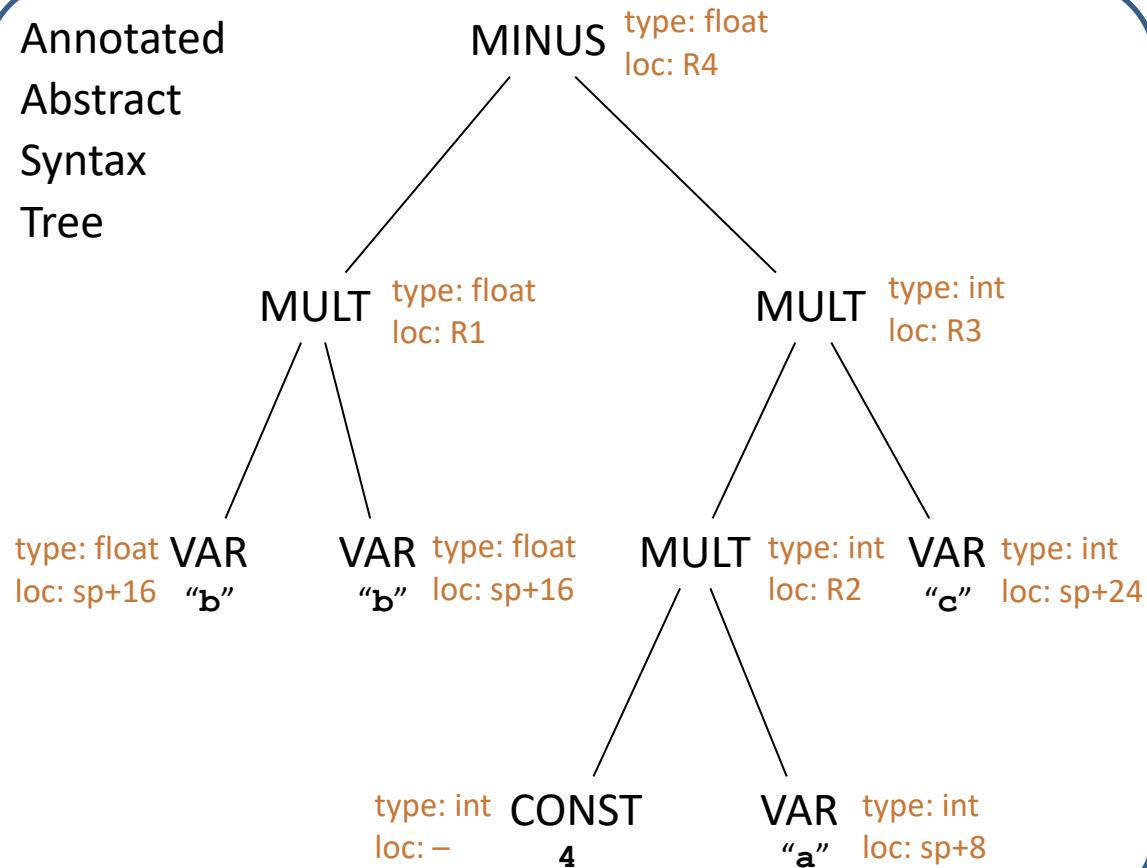


# Journey inside a compiler



# Journey inside a compiler

Annotated  
Abstract  
Syntax  
Tree

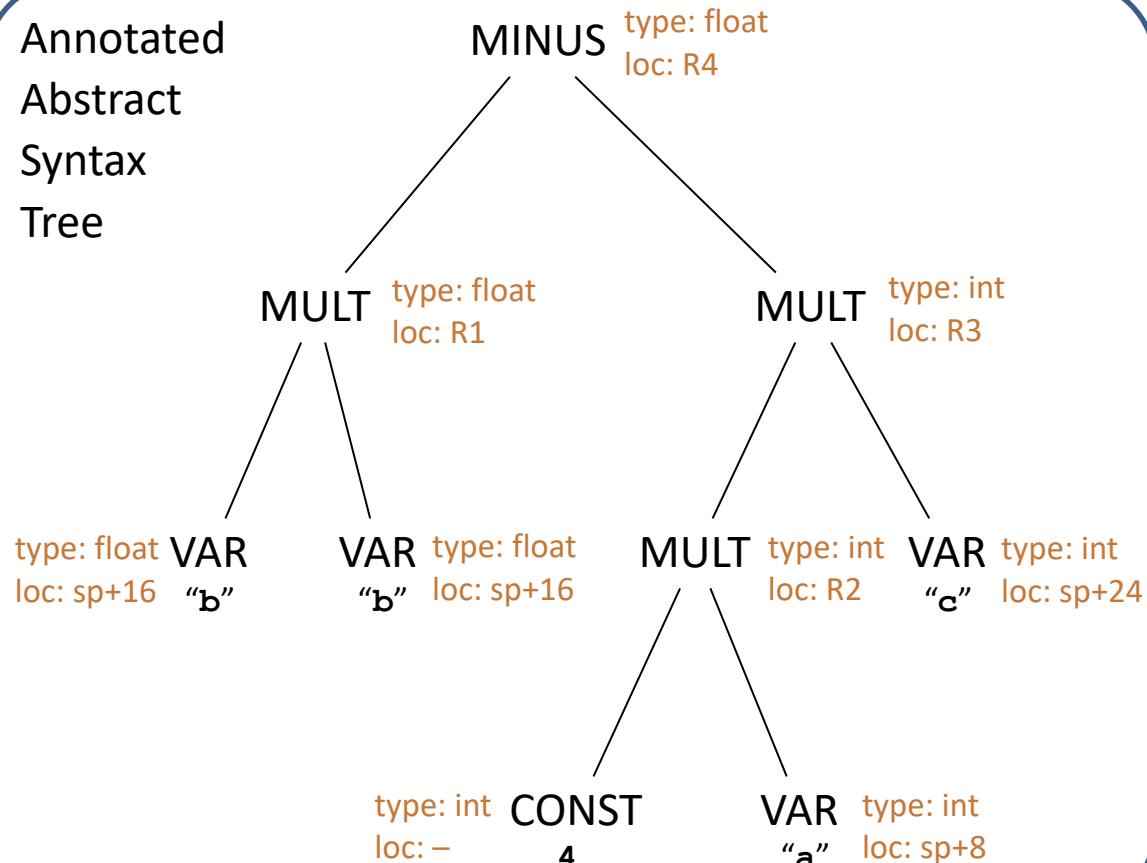


Intermediate Representation

```
R1 = b * b
R2 = 4 * a
R3 = R2 * c
R5 = (float)R3
R4 = R1 - R5
```

# Journey inside a compiler

Annotated  
Abstract  
Syntax  
Tree



Intermediate Representation

```
R1 = b * b
R2 = 4 * a
R3 = R2 * c
R5 = (float)R3
R4 = R1 - R5
```

Assembly Code

```
fild    [esp+16]
fmul   st0, st0
mov    ebx, [esp+8]
sal    ebx, 2
mul    ebx, [sp+24]
fild    ebx
fsub   st0, st1
```

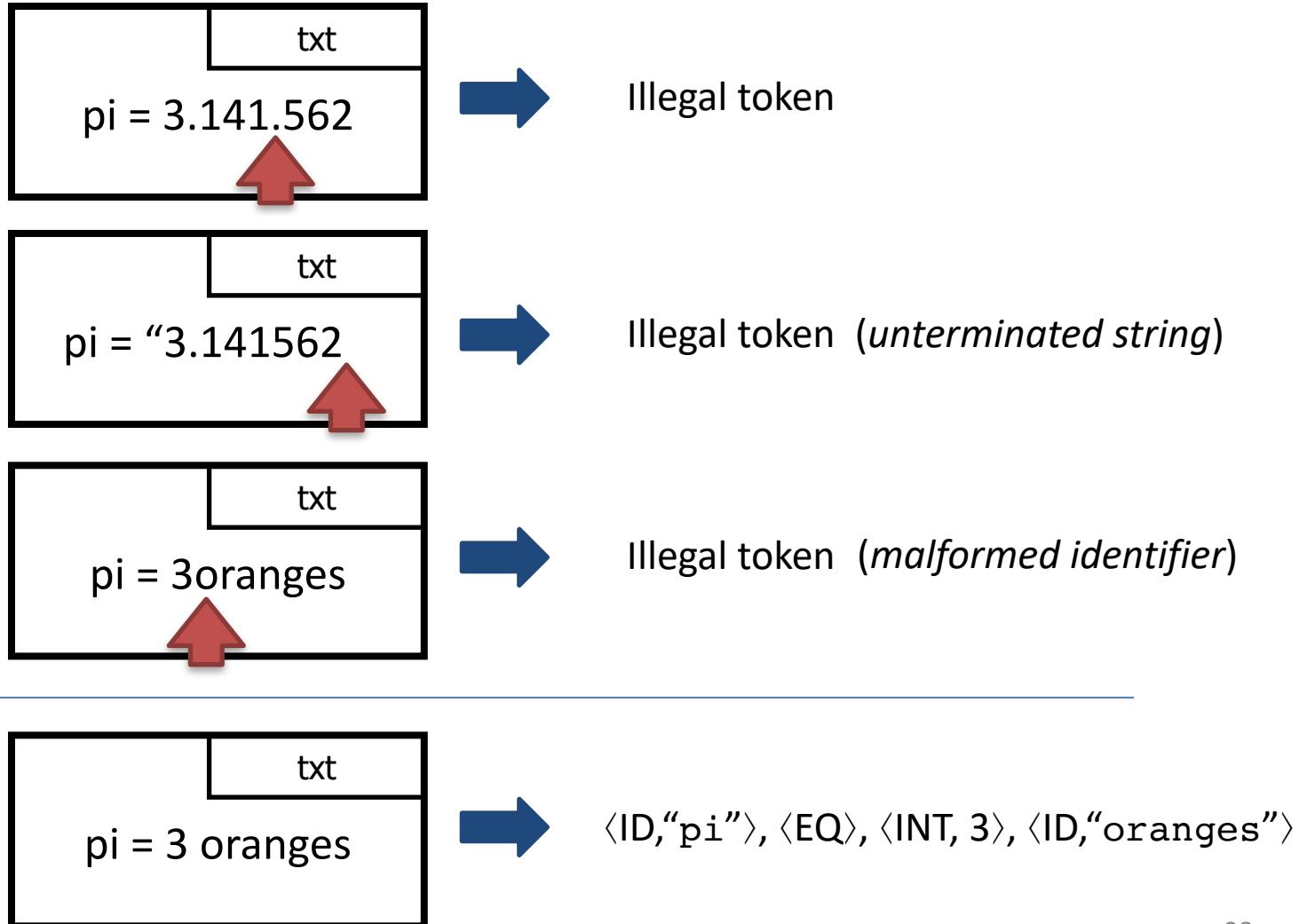
# Error Checking

*Check on every stage.  
Report as soon as possible.*

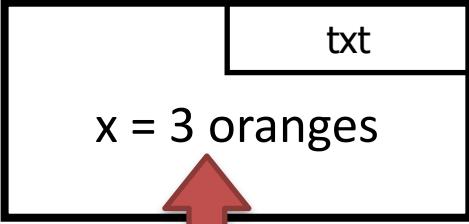
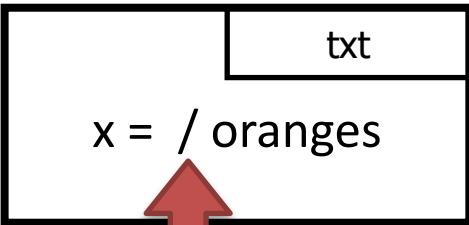
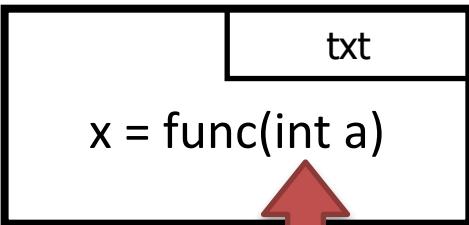
- Lexical analysis: illegal tokens
- Syntax analysis: illegal syntax
- Semantic analysis: incompatible types, undefined variables, ...
- Even at runtime: division by zero, array bounds,...
- Every phase tries to recover and proceed with compilation



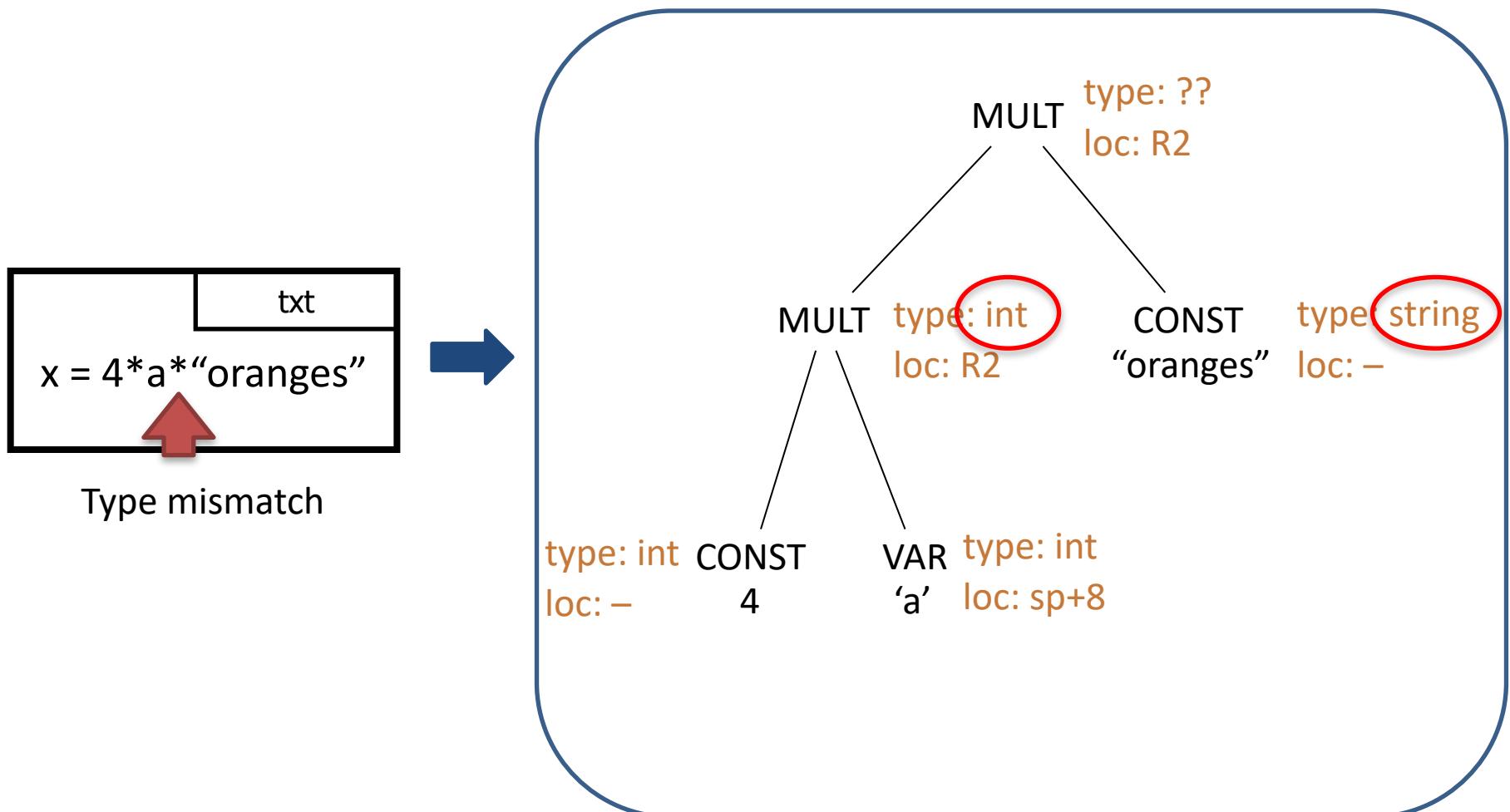
# Lexical Errors



# Syntax Errors

-   Missing operator
-   Wrong number of arguments  
to operator “/”
-   A declaration is not expected  
inside a call

# Semantic Errors: Type Checking



# Runtime Errors

```
txt  
x = det(singular_matrix)  
y = 100 / x
```



Division by zero



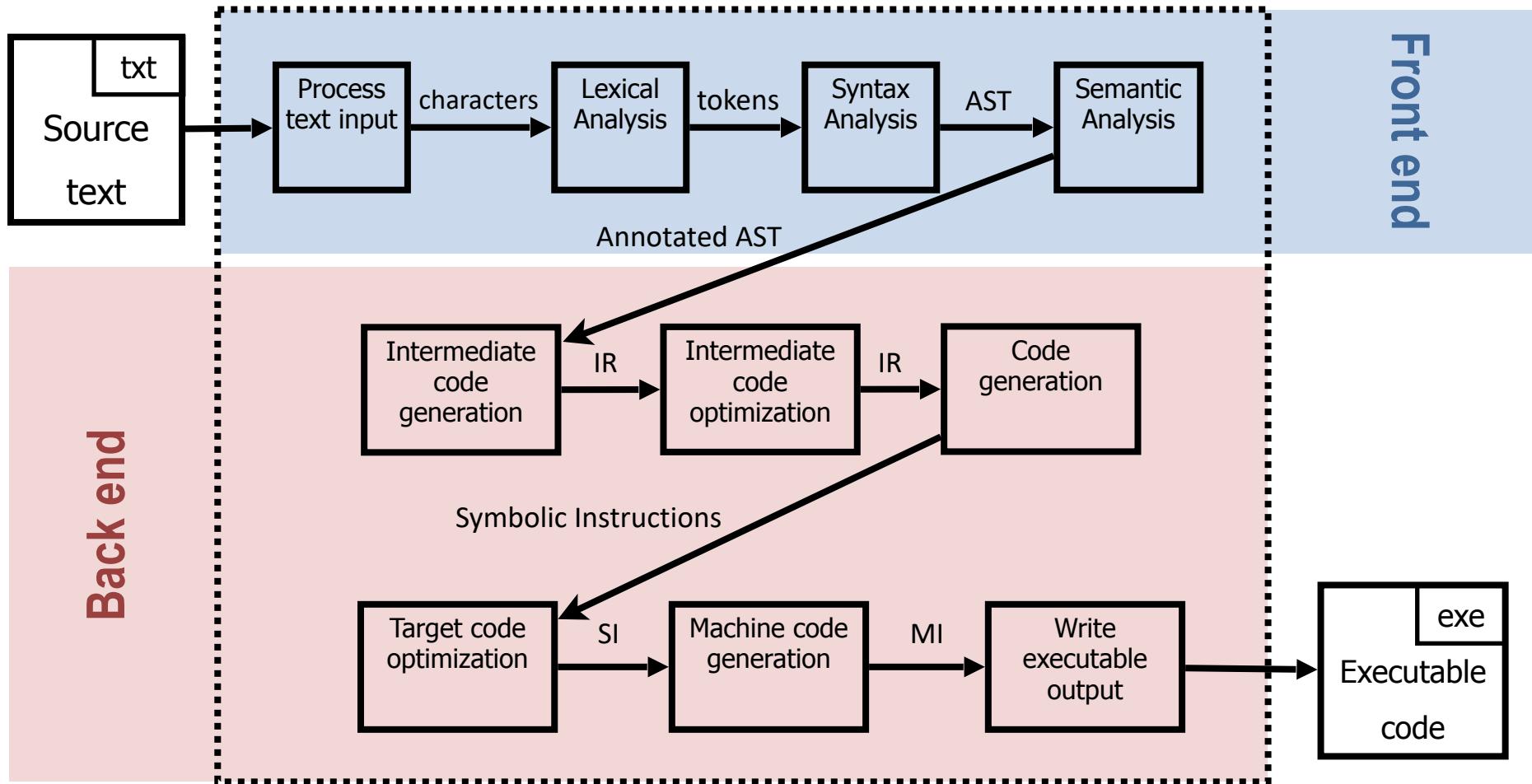
```
txt  
a = new int[9] // a[0..8]  
b = a[answer]
```



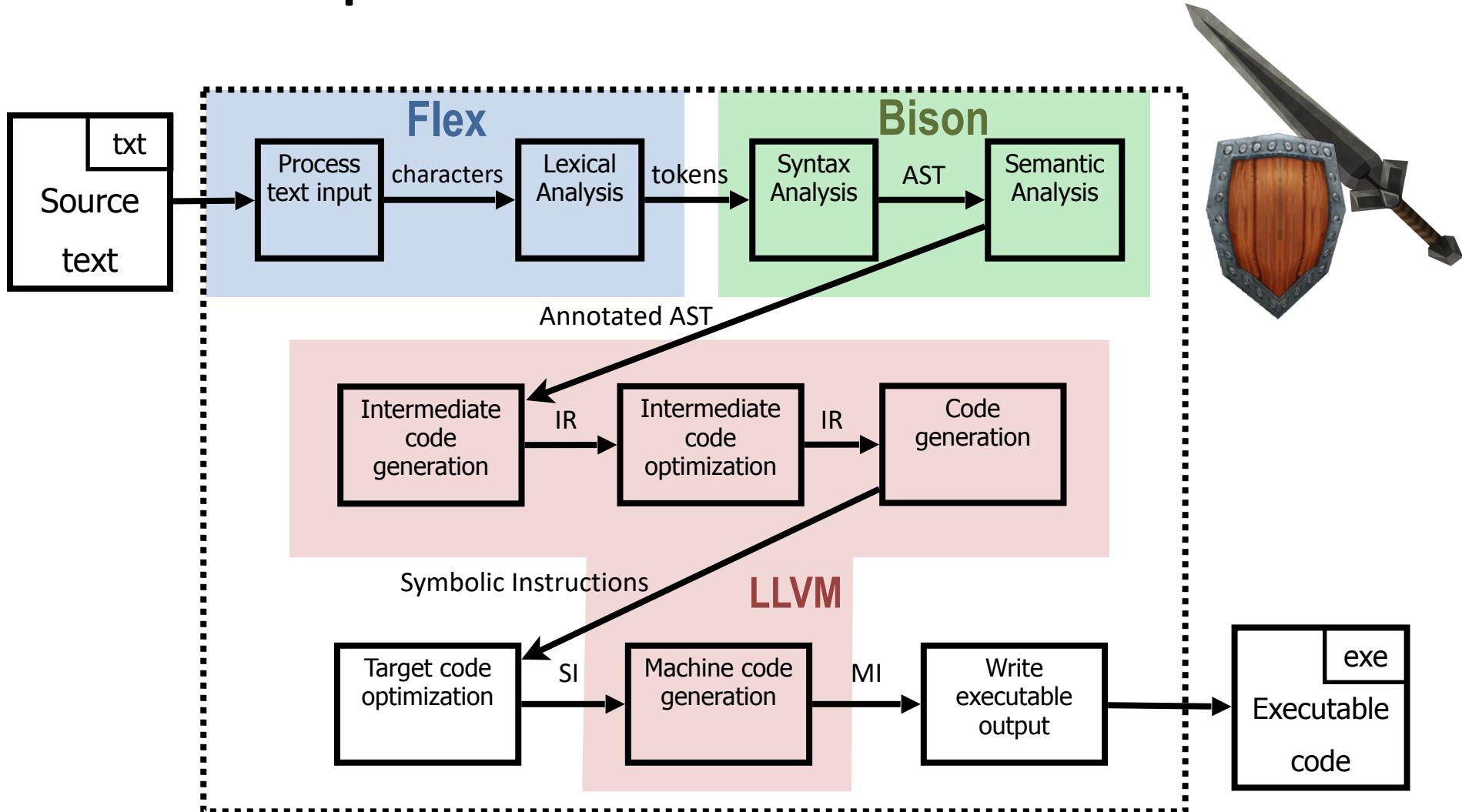
Array index out of bounds: 42 > 8



# *Detailed Anatomy of a Compiler*



# Compiler Construction Toolset



# Summary

- ✓ Compiler = a program that translates code from source language (high level) to target language (low level)
- ✓ Compiler constructed from modular phases
  - ▶ Reusable components
  - ▶ Different front/back end combinations
- ✓ Compilers play a critical role
  - ▶ Bridge programming languages to the machine
  - ▶ Many useful techniques and algorithms
  - ▶ Many useful tools (e.g., lexer/parser generators)

# Next

