

BCSE307P – Compiler Design Lab (L41 + L42)

Experiment 1 – Phases of a Compiler

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Introduction

A compiler is a software system that translates high-level source code into machine-level instructions. Its design is organized into a sequence of well-defined phases, each responsible for ensuring correctness, structure, meaning, and efficiency. These phases work together to transform human-readable code into executable programs.

1. Lexical Analysis (Scanner Phase)

Lexical analysis reads the input program character by character and groups them into **tokens**, which are the smallest meaningful units like keywords, identifiers, operators, constants, and punctuation symbols. It also removes comments and whitespace.

Responsibilities

- Token generation
- Removal of whitespace/comments
- Error detection for illegal characters

Examples

Example 1 – Variables and Literals

C Code:

```
int x = 10;
```

Tokens: int, x, =, 10, ;

Example 2 – Keywords and Operators

```
float y = x + 2.5;
```

Tokens: float, y, =, x, +, 2.5, ;

Example 3 – Strings and Identifiers

```
printf("Hello");
```

Tokens: printf, (, "Hello",), ;

2. Syntax Analysis (Parsing Phase)

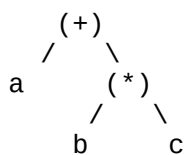
The parser takes tokens and checks whether they follow the **grammar** of the language. It builds a **Parse Tree** or **Syntax Tree**, representing the program's structure.

Responsibilities

- Grammar checking
- Construction of parse tree / AST
- Syntax error reporting

Parse Tree Example

Expression: `a + b * c`



Examples

Example 1 – Valid Statement

```
int x = 10;
```

Grammar accepted.

Example 2 – Invalid Syntax

```
int = x 10;
```

Error: unexpected token '='.

Example 3 – Missing Bracket

```
if (x > 0)
    printf("ok");
```

Valid.

```
if (x > 0
    printf("ok");
```

Error: missing ')'.
(Note: The original image contains a typo in the code block above, which has been corrected to match the visual content.)

3. Semantic Analysis

Semantic analysis verifies whether the program has meaningful and type-correct operations.

Responsibilities

- Type checking
- Scope resolution
- Declaration checking
- Function argument validation

Examples

Example 1 – Type Mismatch

```
int x = "hello";
```

Error: string cannot be assigned to int.

Example 2 – Undeclared Variable

```
x = 5;
```

Error: x is not declared.

Example 3 – Parameter Type Check

```
void f(int a) {}  
f("hello");
```

Error: expected int, got string.

4. Intermediate Code Generation (ICG)

The compiler converts the syntax tree into **intermediate representation (IR)** such as TAC (Three Address Code). This representation is machine-independent.

Responsibilities

- Convert expressions to TAC
- Introduce temporary variables
- Preserve semantics

Examples

Example 1 – Arithmetic Expression

C Code:

```
a = b + c * d;
```

IR:

```
t1 = c * d  
a = b + t1
```

Example 2 – Conditional

```
if (a > b) c = a;
```

IR:

```
if a > b goto L1  
goto L2  
L1: c = a  
L2:
```

Example 3 – Function Call

```
x = sum(a, b);
```

IR:

```
push a  
push b  
call sum  
x = return_value
```

5. Code Optimization

Optimization improves intermediate code by removing redundancy and improving speed.

Responsibilities

- Remove common subexpressions
- Constant folding
- Dead code elimination
- Loop optimization

Examples

Example 1 – Common Subexpression Elimination

Before:

```
t1 = a + b  
t2 = a + b
```

After:

```
t1 = a + b
```

Example 2 – Constant Folding

Before:

```
t1 = 5 * 10
```

After:

```
t1 = 50
```

Example 3 – Dead Code Elimination

Before:

```
x = 10  
x = 20
```

After:

```
x = 20
```

6. Target Code Generation

Generates assembly or machine code for the target architecture.

Responsibilities

- Register allocation
- Instruction selection
- Memory layout

Examples

Example 1 – Simple Assignment

C Code:

```
x = y + 1;
```

Assembly:

```
LOAD y, R1  
ADD 1, R1  
STORE R1, x
```

Example 2 – Multiplication

```
z = a * b;
```

```
LOAD a, R1  
LOAD b, R2  
MUL R1, R2, R3  
STORE R3, z
```

Example 3 – Conditional Jump

```
if (x > y) z = 1;
```

```
LOAD x, R1  
LOAD y, R2  
CMP R1, R2  
JLE L1  
MOV 1, z  
L1:
```

Example: Demonstrating All Compiler Phases

C Program

```
int main() {  
    int a = 5;  
    int b = 10;  
    int c = a + b;  
    return c;  
}
```

1. Lexical Analysis

Tokens:

int, main, (,), {, int, a, =, 5, :, int, b, =, 10, :, int, c, =, a, +, b, :, return, c, :, }

2. Syntax Analysis

- Valid function definition
- Valid declarations and expressions
- Parse tree created

3. Semantic Analysis

- a, b, c declared before use
- int types compatible
- return type correct

4. Intermediate Code Generation

```
t1 = 5  
t2 = 10  
t3 = t1 + t2  
return t3
```

5. Code Optimization

```
t3 = 15  
return t3
```

6. Target Code Generation

```
LOAD 5, R1  
LOAD 10, R2  
ADD R1, R2, R3  
MOV R3, return_register
```