

## HIGH LEVEL VIEW OF A COMPILER

- must recognize legal (and illegal) programs.
- must generate correct and efficient code.
- must manage storage of all variables (& code).
- must agree with OS & linker on format for object code.

+ big step up from assembly language  
use higher level notations.

## TRADITIONAL 2-PASS COMPILER

FRONTEND  $\rightarrow$  IR  $\rightarrow$  BACKEND  
 $O(n^2)/O(n \log n)$  NDC

classic principle from software engineering:

separation of concerns

- admits multiple frontends ~~and multiple~~.
- admits multiple passes

Structure of a 3-phase compiler:

Optimizer that outputs IR.

(must preserve "meaning" of the code)

## LEVELS OF IR

- high level IRs

abstract syntax trees

↳ loop transformations

procedure inlining

} useful for

- intermediate level IR

three address code

static single assignment form

↳ constant propagation

} useful for.

- low-level IR

↳ good for low level machine dependent code.  
optimizations

