

# *Essential Abstractions in GCC*

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Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay



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# Outline

- Compilation Models
- GCC: The Great Compiler Challenge
- Meeting the GCC Challenge: CS 715  
The course plan



*Part 1*

# *Compilation Models*

# Compilation Models

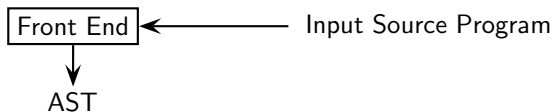
*Aho Ullman  
Model*

*Davidson Fraser  
Model*



## Compilation Models

*Aho Ullman  
Model*



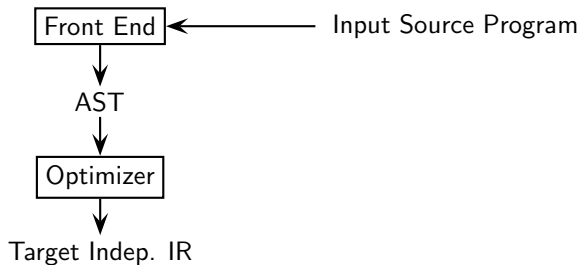
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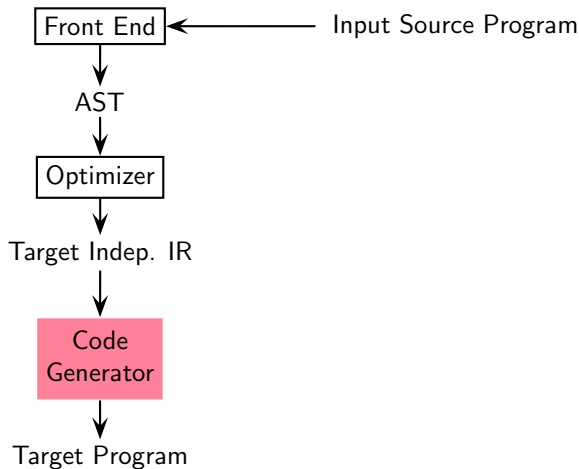
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# Compilation Models

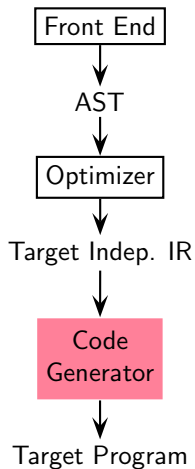
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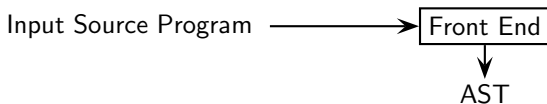


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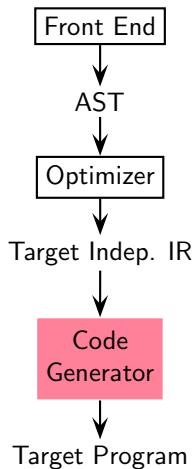
### Davidson Fraser Model



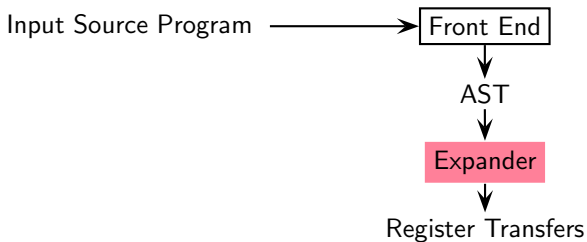


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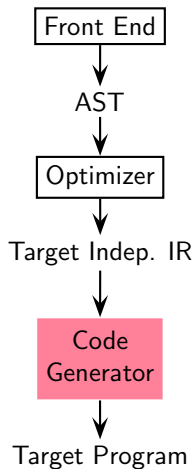


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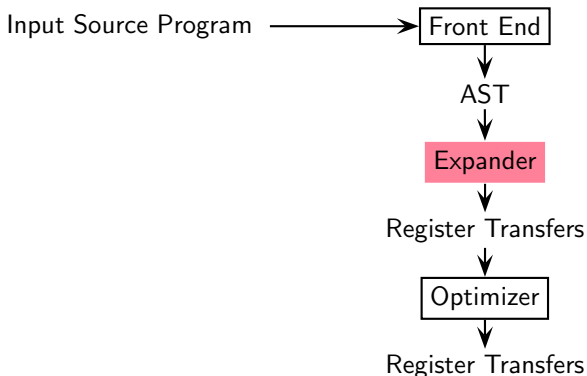


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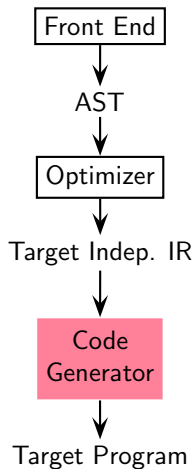


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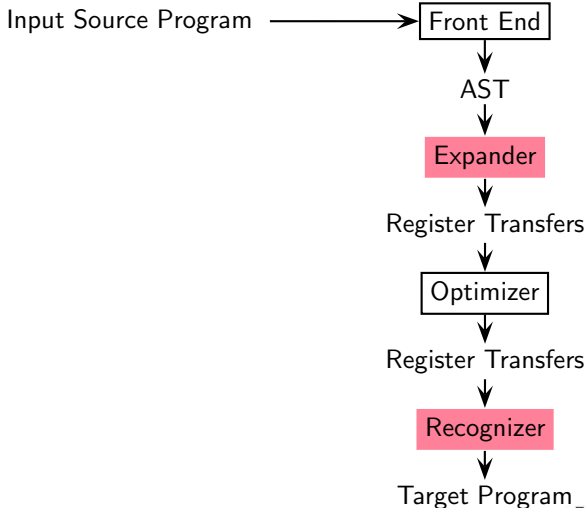


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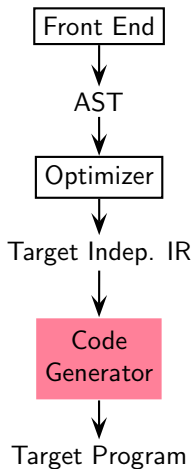


### Davidson Fraser Model



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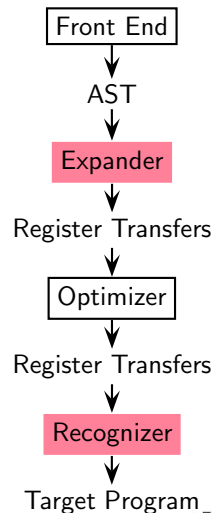
Aho Ullman: Instruction selection

- over optimized IR using
- cost based tree tiling matching

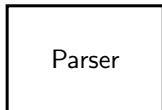
Davidson Fraser: Instruction selection

- over AST using
- simple full tree matching based algorithms that generate
- naive code which is
  - ▶ target dependent, and is
  - ▶ optimized subsequently

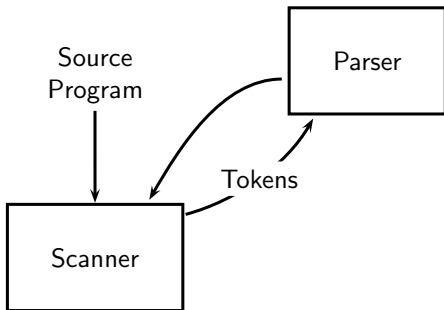
### Davidson Fraser Model



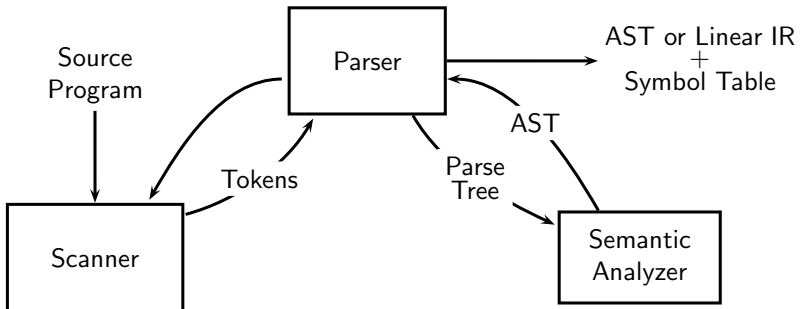
## Typical Front Ends



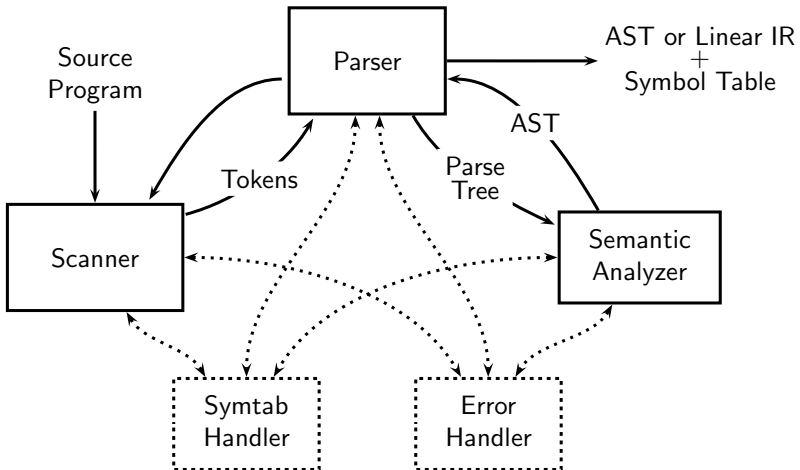
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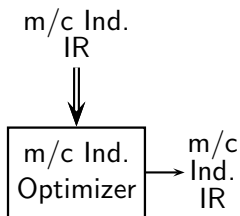


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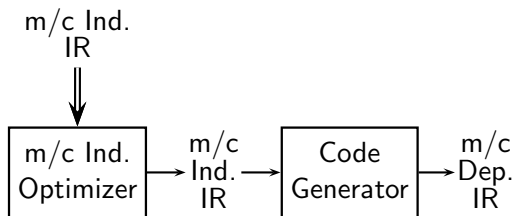
## Typical Back Ends in Aho Ullman Model



- Compile time evaluations
- Eliminating redundant computations



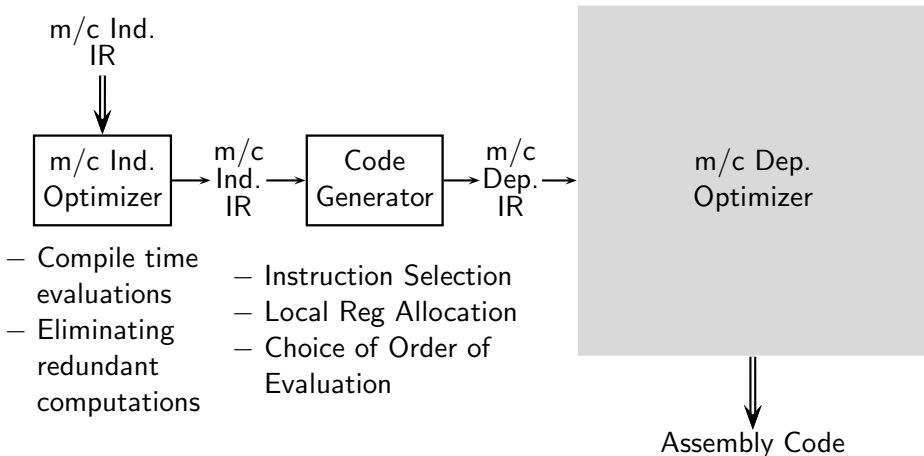
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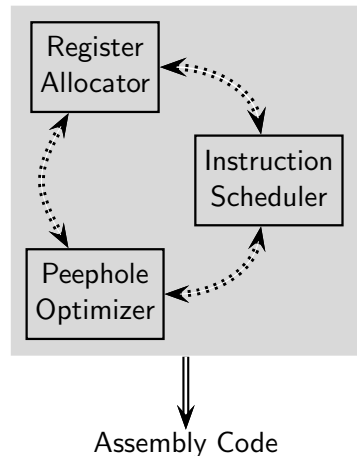
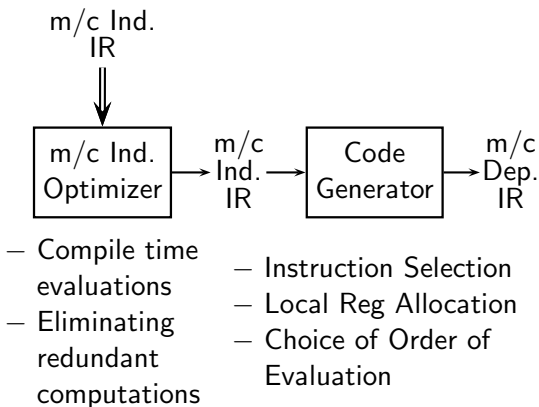
- Compile time evaluations
- Eliminating redundant computations
- Instruction Selection
- Local Reg Allocation
- Choice of Order of Evaluation



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## Retargetability in Aho Ullman and Davidson Fraser Models

	Aho Ullman Model	Davidson Fraser Model
Instruction Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Machine independent IR is expressed in the form of trees</li><li>• Machine instructions are described in the form of trees</li><li>• Trees in the IR are “covered” using the instruction trees</li></ul>	
Optimization		



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	Cost based tree pattern matching	Structural tree pattern matching
Optimization	Machine independent	Machine dependent
		Key Insight: <i>Register transfers are target specific but their form is target independent</i>



*Part 2*

*GCC ≡ The Great Compiler Challenge*

## What is GCC?

- For the GCC developer community: [The GNU Compiler Collection](#)
- For other compiler writers: [The Great Compiler Challenge](#) 😊



# The GNU Tool Chain for C

Source Program



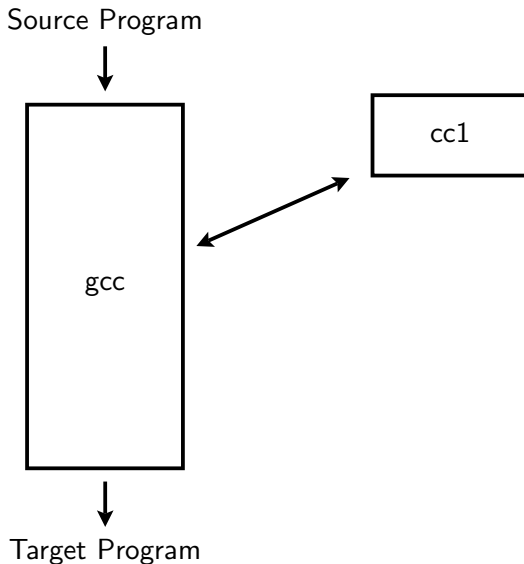
gcc



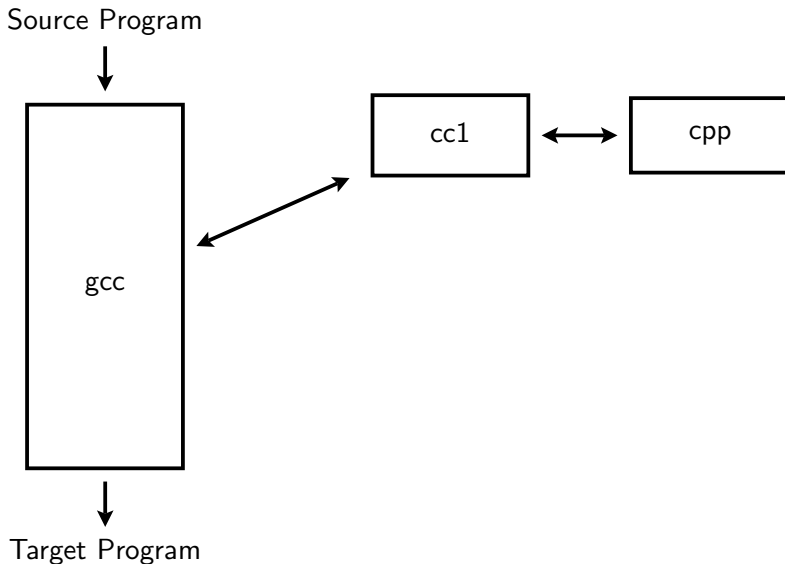
Target Program



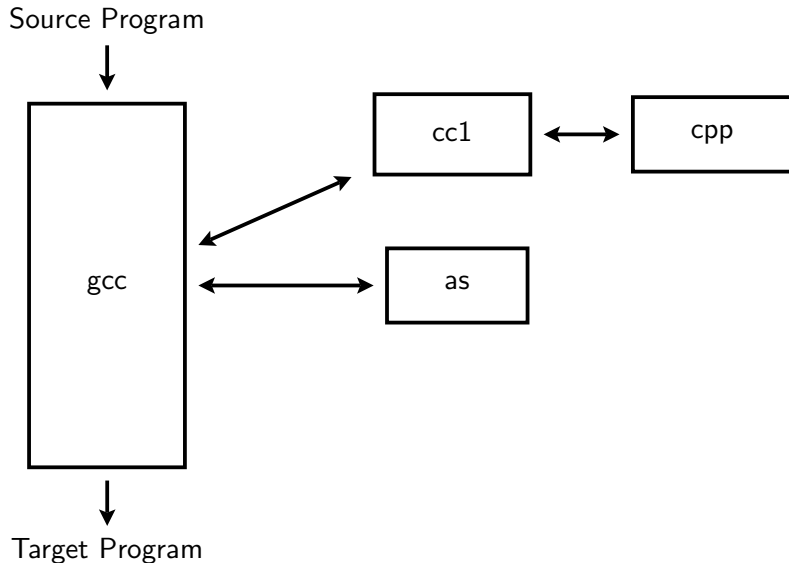
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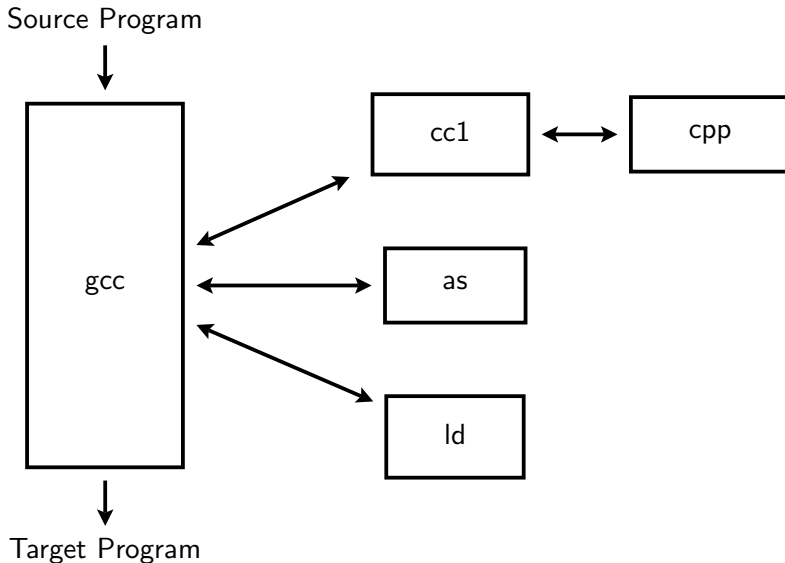


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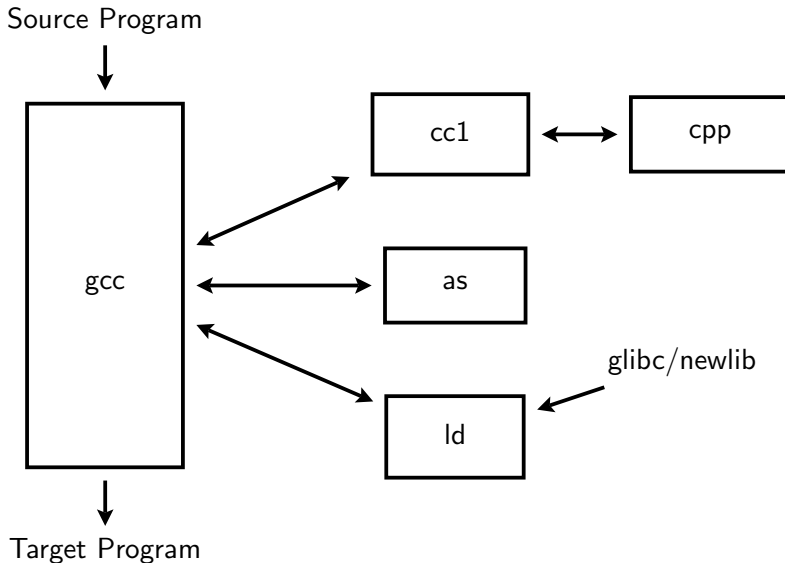




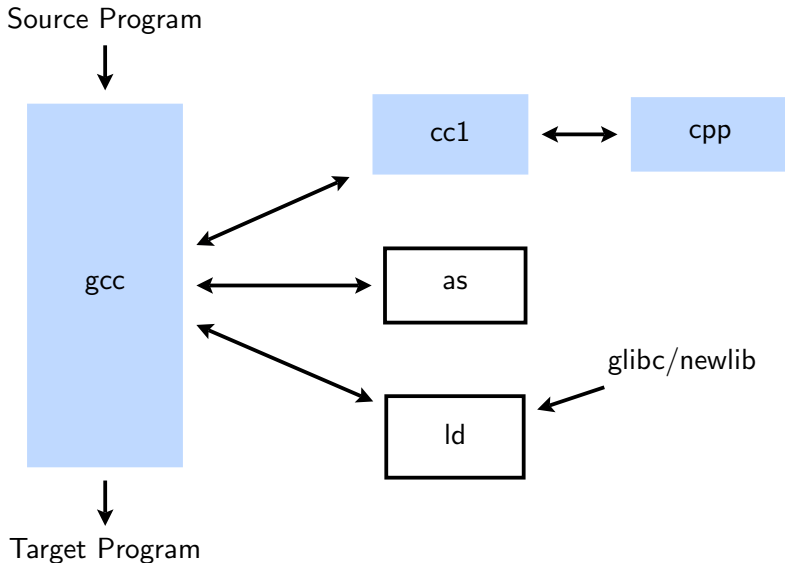
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## Why is Understanding GCC Difficult?

Some of the obvious reasons:

- **Comprehensiveness**

GCC is a production quality framework in terms of completeness and practical usefulness

- **Open development model**

Could lead to heterogeneity. Design flaws may be difficult to correct

- **Rapid versioning**

GCC maintenance is a race against time. Disruptive corrections are difficult



## Comprehensiveness of GCC: Wide Applicability

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C, C++, Objective-C, Objective-C++, Java, Fortran, and Ada
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  - ▶ Lesser-known target processors:
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A29K, ARC, ETRAX CRIS, D30V, DSP16xx, FR-30, FR-V, Intel i960, IP2000,
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D10V,



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## Comprehensiveness of GCC: Size

- Overall size

	Subdirectories	Files
gcc-4.4.2	3794	62301
gcc-4.6.0	4383	71096
gcc-4.7.2	4658	76287

- Core size (src/gcc)

	Subdirectories	Files
gcc-4.4.2	257	30163
gcc-4.6.0	336	36503
gcc-4.7.2	402	40193

- Machine Descriptions (src/gcc/config)

	Subdirectories	.c files	.h files	.md files
gcc-4.4.2	36	241	426	206
gcc-4.6.0	42	275	466	259
gcc-4.7.2	43	103	452	290



## ohcount: Line Count of gcc-4.7.2

Language	Files	Code	Comment	Comment %	Blank	Total
c	20857	2289353	472640	17.1%	449939	3211932
cpp	23370	1030227	243717	19.1%	224079	1498023
ada	4913	726638	334360	31.5%	252044	1313042
java	6342	681938	645506	48.6%	169046	1496490
autoconf	94	428267	523	0.1%	66647	495437
html	336	151194	5667	3.6%	33877	190738
fortranfixed	3256	112286	2010	1.8%	15599	129895
make	106	110762	3875	3.4%	13811	128448
xml	76	50179	571	1.1%	6048	56798
assembler	240	49903	10975	18.0%	8584	69462
shell	157	49148	10848	18.1%	6757	66753
objective_c	882	28226	5267	15.7%	8324	41817
fortranfree	872	14474	3445	19.2%	1817	19736
tex	2	11060	5776	34.3%	1433	18269
scheme	6	11023	1010	8.4%	1205	13238
automake	72	10496	1179	10.1%	1582	13257
perl	29	4551	1322	22.5%	854	6727
ocaml	6	2830	576	16.9%	378	3784
xslt	20	2805	436	13.5%	563	3804
awk	16	2103	556	20.9%	352	3011
python	10	1672	400	19.3%	400	2472
css	25	1590	143	8.3%	332	2065
pascal	4	1044	141	11.9%	218	1403
csharp	9	879	506	36.5%	230	1615
dcl	2	402	84	17.3%	13	499
tcl	1	392	113	22.4%	72	577
javascript	3	208	87	29.5%	33	328
haskell	49	153	0	0.0%	17	170
matlab	2	57	0	0.0%	8	65
Total	61760	5773867	1751733	23.3%	1264262	8789862



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automake	72	10496	1179	10.1%	1582	13257
perl	29	4551	1322	22.5%	854	6727
ocaml	6	2830	576	16.9%	378	3784
xslt	20	2805	436	13.5%	563	3804
awk	16	2103	556	20.9%	352	3011
python	10	1672	400	19.3%	400	2472
css	25	1590	143	8.3%	332	2065
pascal	4	1044	141	11.9%	218	1403
cssharp	9	879	506	36.5%	230	1615
dcl	2	402	84	17.3%	13	499
tcl	1	392	113	22.4%	72	577
javascript	3	208	87	29.5%	33	328
haskell	49	153	0	0.0%	17	170
matlab	2	57	0	0.0%	8	65
Total	61760	5773867	1751733	23.3%	1264262	8789862

## ohcount: Line Count of gcc-4.7.2/gcc

Language	Files	Code	Comment	Comment %	Blank	Total
c	17849	1601863	335879	17.3%	344693	2282435
ada	4903	724957	333800	31.5%	251445	1310202
cpp	9563	275971	63875	18.8%	71647	411493
fortranfixed	3158	105987	1961	1.8%	15175	123123
autoconf	3	30014	12	0.0%	4139	34165
objective_c	877	28017	5109	15.4%	8249	41375
fortranfree	834	13516	3234	19.3%	1716	18466
scheme	6	11023	1010	8.4%	1205	13238
make	6	6248	1113	15.1%	916	8277
tex	1	5441	2835	34.3%	702	8978
ocaml	6	2830	576	16.9%	378	3784
shell	22	2265	735	24.5%	391	3391
awk	11	1646	390	19.2%	271	2307
perl	3	913	226	19.8%	163	1302
assembler	7	343	136	28.4%	27	506
haskell	49	153	0	0.0%	17	170
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## Why is Understanding GCC Difficult?

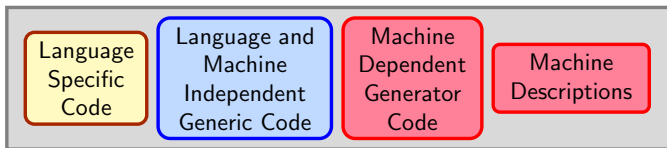
Deeper technical reasons

- GCC is not a compiler but a *compiler generation framework*  
Two distinct gaps that need to be bridged
  - ▶ Input-output of the generation framework  
The target specification and the generated compiler
  - ▶ Input-output of the generated compiler  
A source program and the generated assembly program
- GCC generated compiler uses a derivative of the Davidson-Fraser model of compilation
  - ▶ Early instruction selection
  - ▶ Machine dependent intermediate representation
  - ▶ Simplistic instruction selection and retargetability mechanism



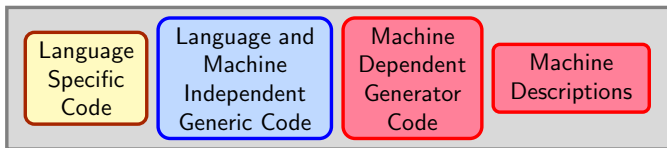
# The Architecture of GCC

Compiler Generation Framework



# The Architecture of GCC

Compiler Generation Framework



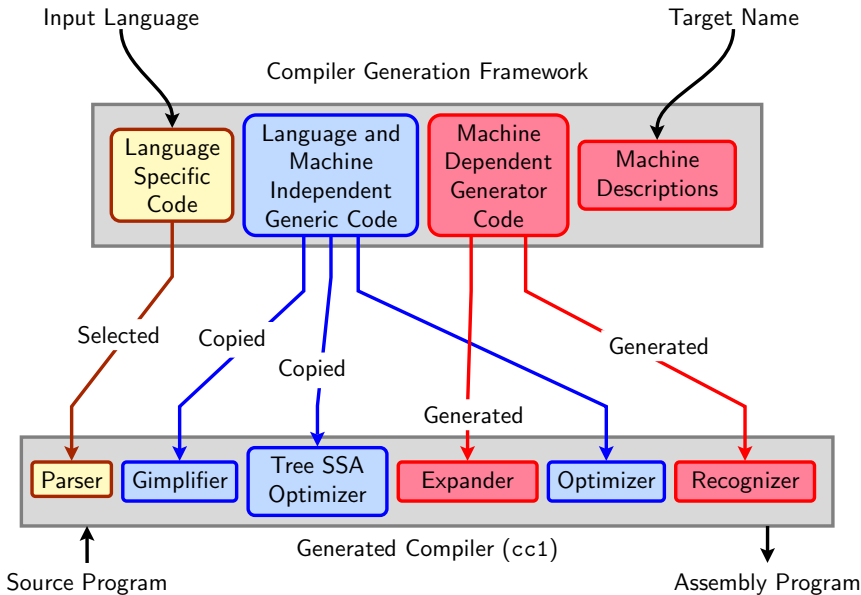
Source Program  
↑

Generated Compiler (cc1)

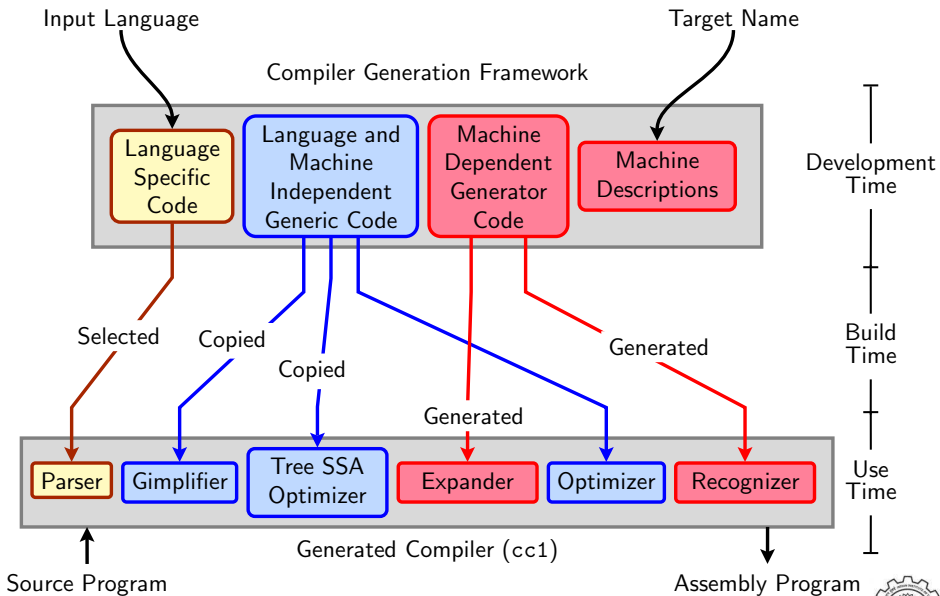
↓  
Assembly Program



# The Architecture of GCC



# The Architecture of GCC



## An Example of The Generation Related Gap

- Predicate function for invoking the loop distribution pass

```
static bool
gate_tree_loop_distribution (void)
{
    return flag_tree_loop_distribution != 0;
}
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static bool
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- It is described in `common.opt` as follows

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ftree-loop-distribution
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Enable loop distribution on trees
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- The required C statements are generated during the build



## Another Example of The Generation Related Gap

- Locating the `main` function in `gcc-4.7.2/gcc` using `cscope -R`



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- What if we do not search recursively?



## Another Example of The Generation Related Gap

Locating the `main` function in the directory `gcc-4.7.2/gcc` using `cscope`





## Another Example of The Generation Related Gap

Locating the main function in the directory gcc-4.7.2/gcc using cscope

File	Line
0 s-oscons-tmpl.t.c	238 main (void ) {
1 collect2.c	1021 main (int argc, char **argv)
2 divtab-sh4-300.c	31 main ()
3 divtab-sh4.c	30 main ()
4 divtab.c	131 main ()
5 gen-mul-tables.cc	1224 main ()
6 vms-ar.c	122 main (int argc, char *argv[])
7 vms-ld.c	559 main (int argc, char **argv)
8 fp-test.c	85 main (void )
9 gcc-ar.c	36 main(int ac, char **av)
a gcc.c	6105 main (int argc, char **argv)
b gcov-dump.c	78 main (int argc ATTRIBUTE_UNUSED, cha
c gcov-io.v.c	29 main (int argc, char **argv)
d gcov.c	397 main (int argc, char **argv)
e genattr-common.c	64 main (int argc, char **argv)
f genattr.c	141 main (int argc, char **argv)



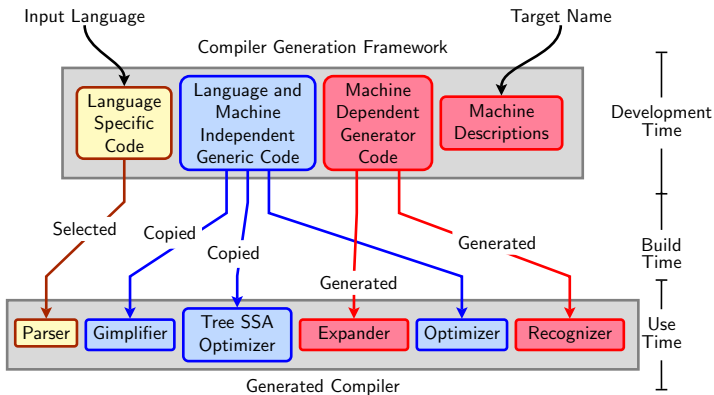
## Another Example of The Generation Related Gap

Locating the main function in the directory gcc-4.7.2/gcc using cscope

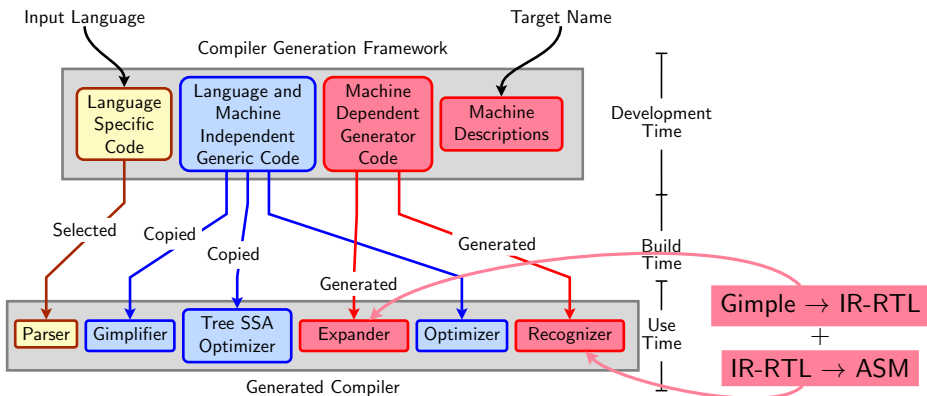
g	genattrtab.c	4880	main	(int	argc,	char	**argv)
h	genautomata.c	9617	main	(int	argc,	char	**argv)
i	genchecksum.c	97	main	(int	argc,	char	**argv)
j	gencodes.c	51	main	(int	argc,	char	**argv)
k	genconditions.c	209	main	(int	argc,	char	**argv)
l	genconfig.c	261	main	(int	argc,	char	**argv)
m	genconstants.c	79	main	(int	argc,	char	**argv)
n	genemit.c	775	main	(int	argc,	char	**argv)
o	genenums.c	48	main	(int	argc,	char	**argv)
p	genextract.c	402	main	(int	argc,	char	**argv)
q	genflags.c	251	main	(int	argc,	char	**argv)
r	gengenrtl.c	286	main	(void	)		
s	gengtype.c	4925	main	(int	argc,	char	**argv)
t	genhooks.c	342	main	(int	argc,	char	**argv)
u	genmddeps.c	43	main	(int	argc,	char	**argv)
v	genmodes.c	1388	main	(int	argc,	char	**argv)
w	genopinit.c	504	main	(int	argc,	char	**argv)
x	genoutput.c	997	main	(int	argc,	char	**argv)



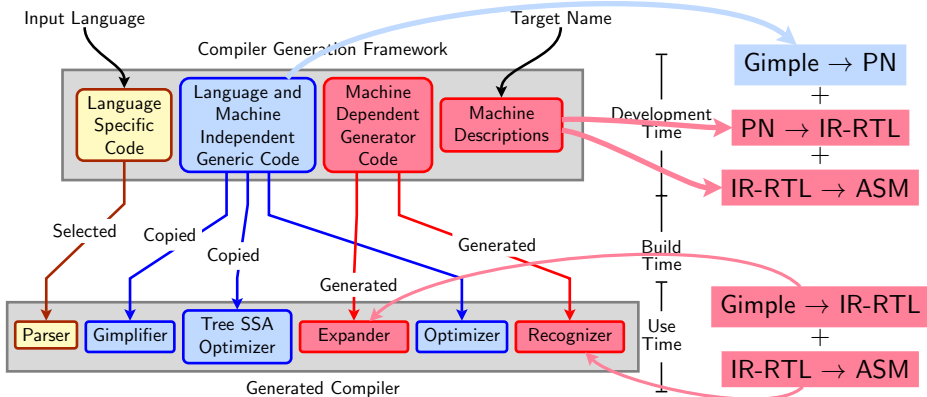
# GCC Retargetability Mechanism



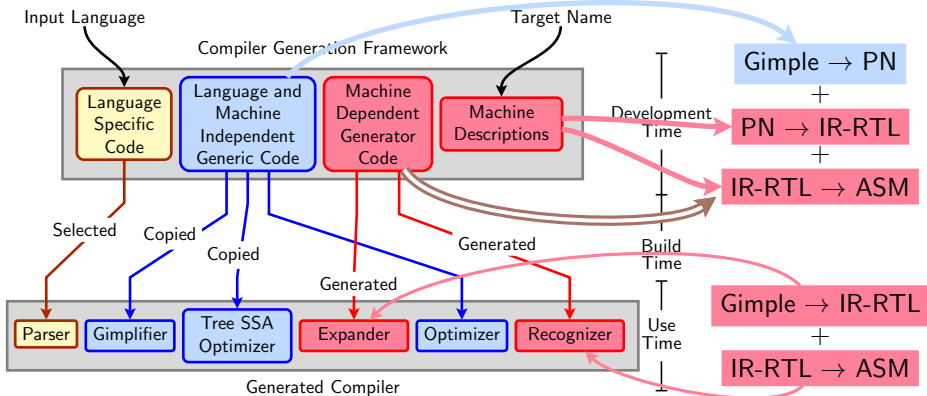
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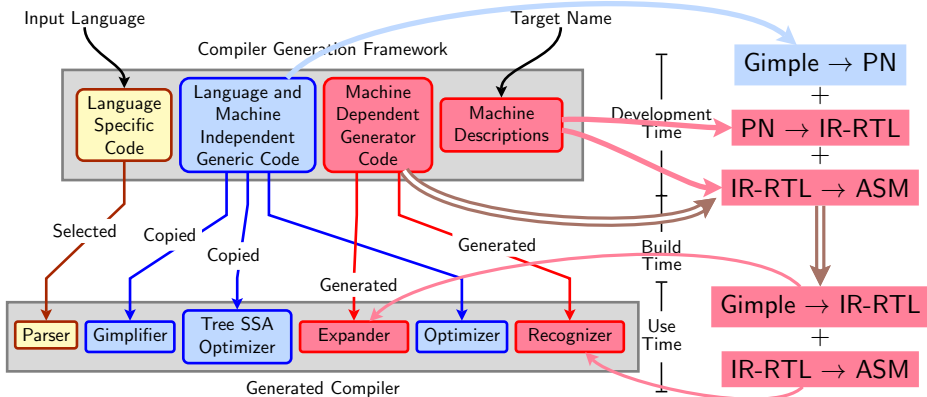
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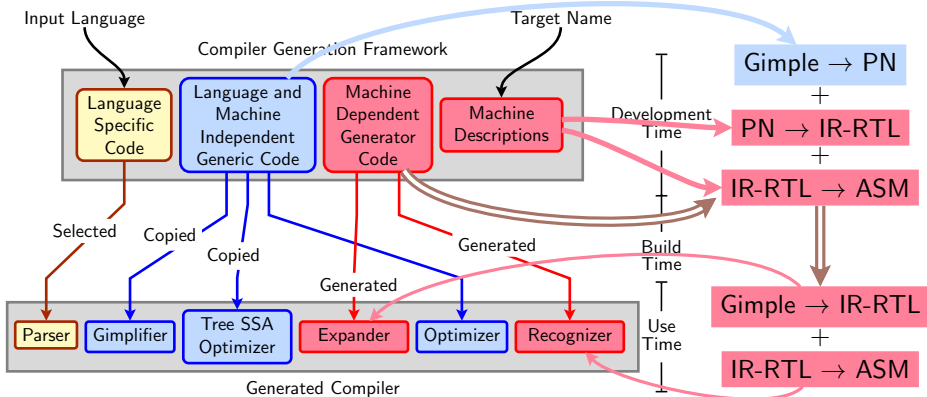
# GCC Retargetability Mechanism



# GCC Retargetability Mechanism



# GCC Retargetability Mechanism



The generated compiler uses an adaptation of the Davidson Fraser model

- Generic expander and recognizer
- Machine specific information is isolated in data structures
- Generating a compiler involves generating these data structures





## The GCC Challenge: Poor Retargetability Mechanism

Symptoms:

- Machine descriptions are large, verbose, repetitive, and contain large chunks of C code

Size in terms of line counts (counted using `wc -l`)

gcc-4.6.2

Files	i386	mips	arm
*.md	38851	15534	30951
*.c	39780	16793	26165
*.h	17879	5667	18713
Total	96510	37996	75929

gcc-4.7.2

Files	i386	mips	arm
*.md	39582	16437	32385
*.c	41985	17761	26006
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Total	100741	39784	76403



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- Machine descriptions are difficult to construct, understand, debug, and enhance



*Part 3*

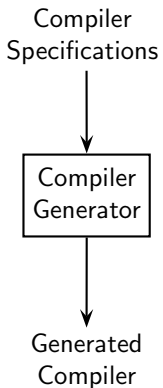
# *Meeting the GCC Challenge*

## Meeting the GCC Challenge

Goal of Understanding	Methodology	Needs Examining		
		Makefiles	Source	MD
Translation sequence of programs	Gray box probing	No	No	No
Build process	Customising the configuration and building	Yes	No	No
Retargetability issues and machine descriptions	Incremental construction of machine descriptions	No	No	Yes
IR data structures and access mechanisms	Adding passes to massage IRs	No	Yes	Yes
Retargetability mechanism		Yes	Yes	Yes



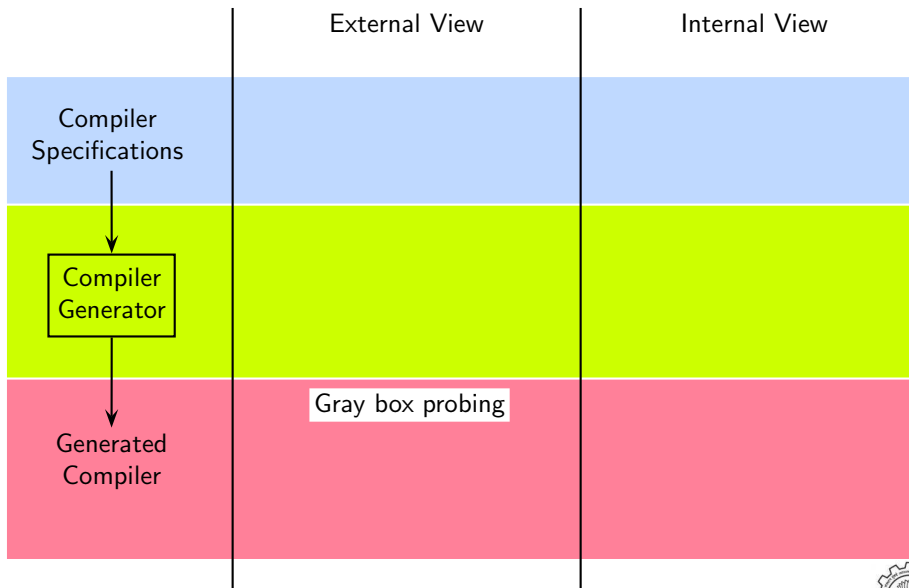
# The Grand Picture and Our Coverage



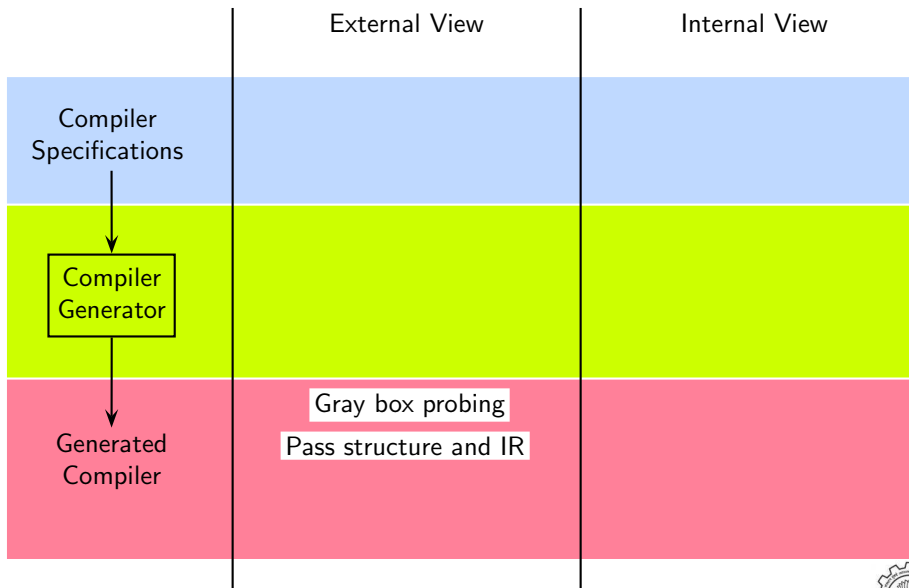
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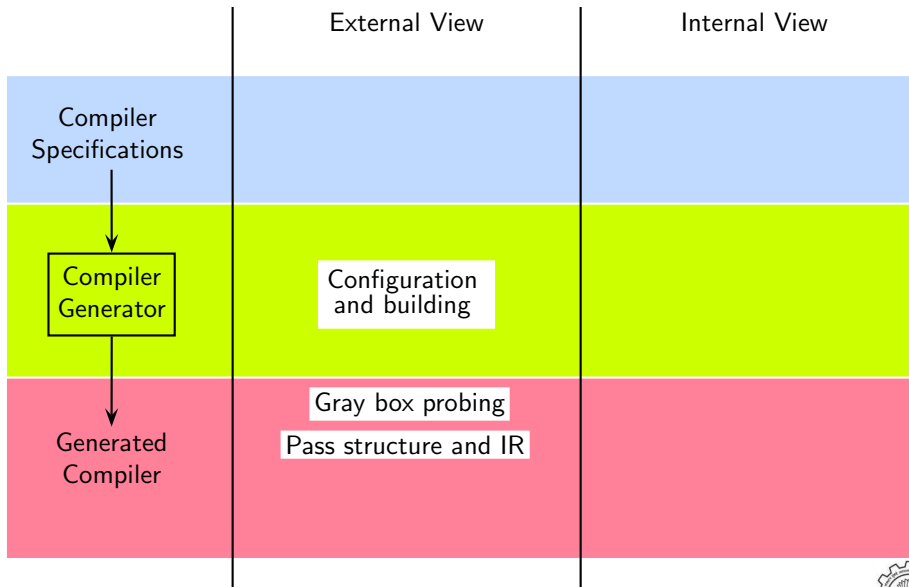


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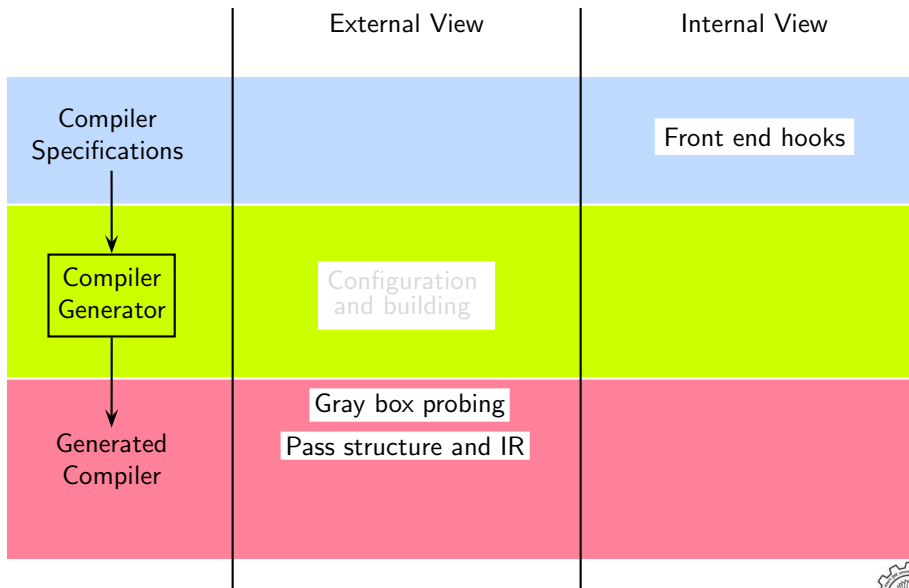




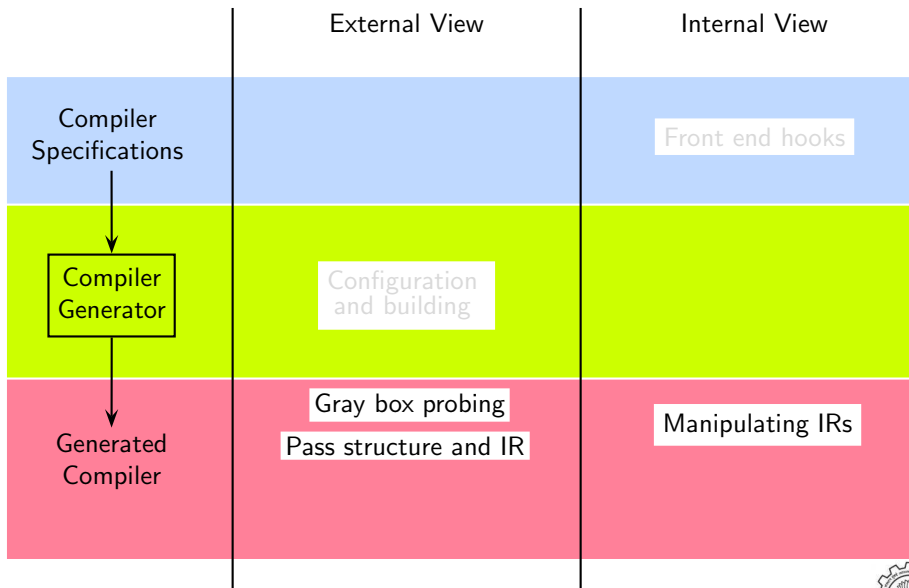
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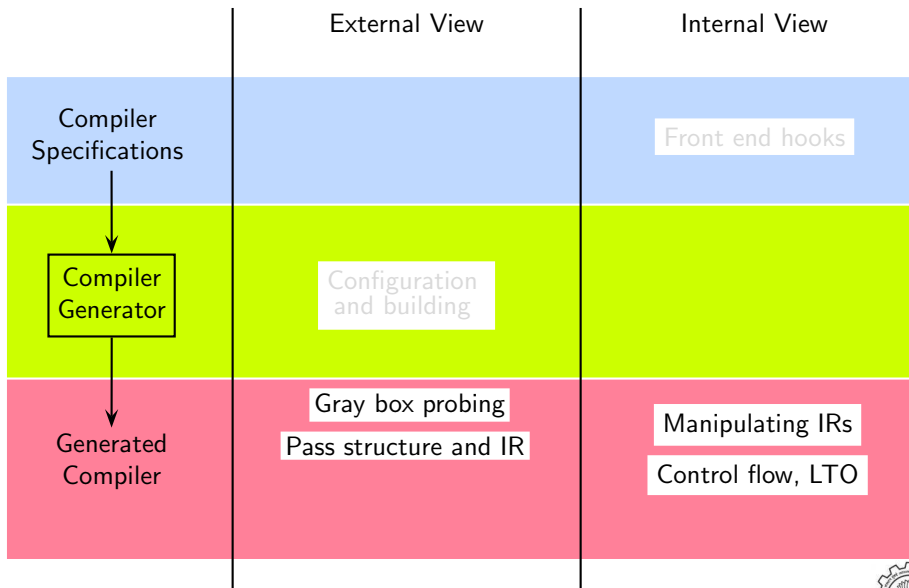
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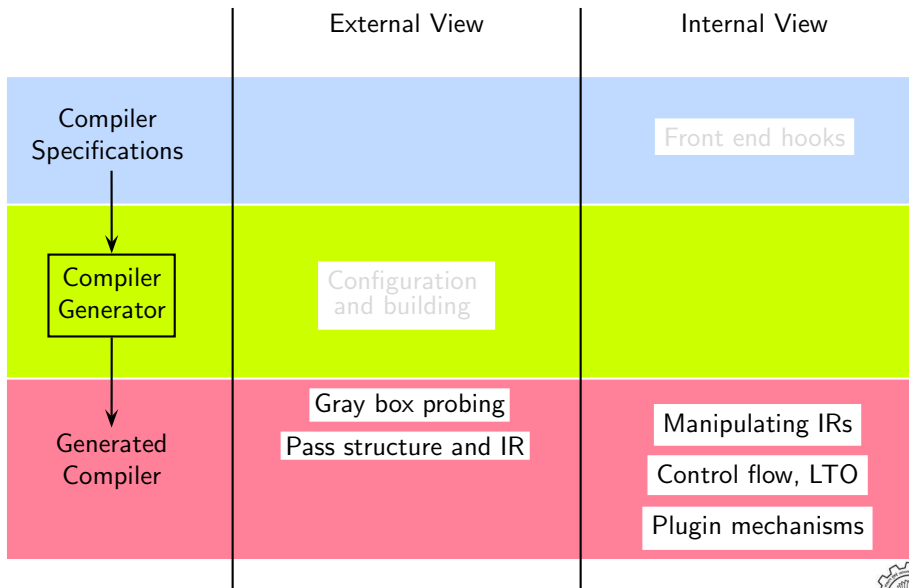
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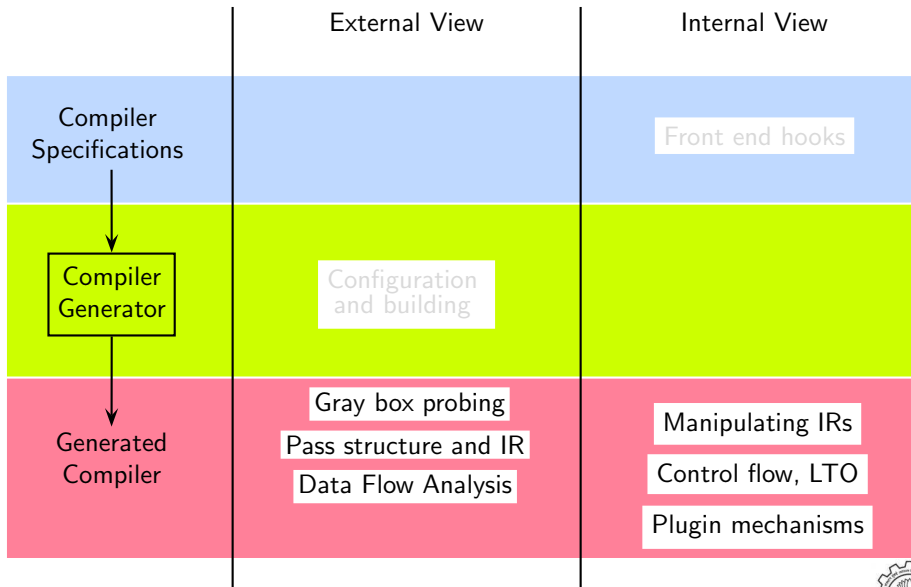
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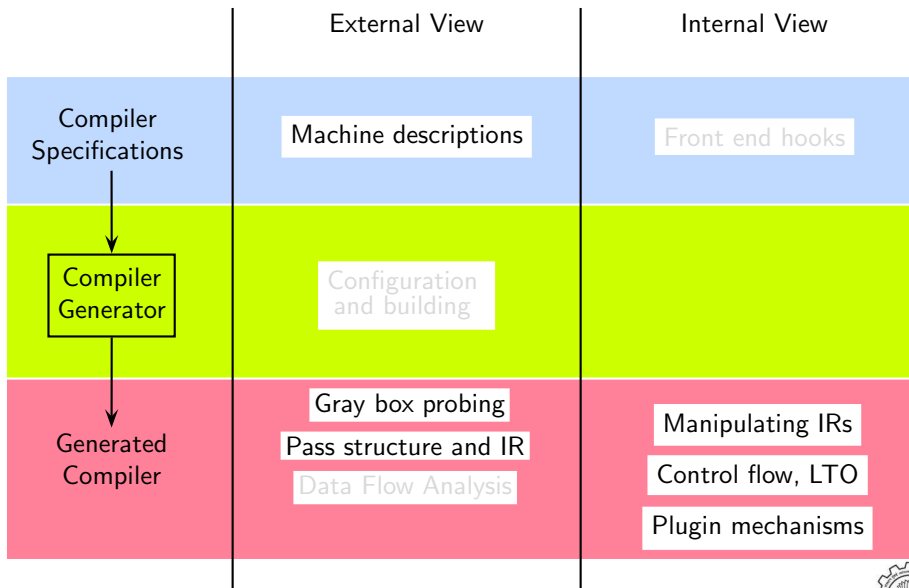
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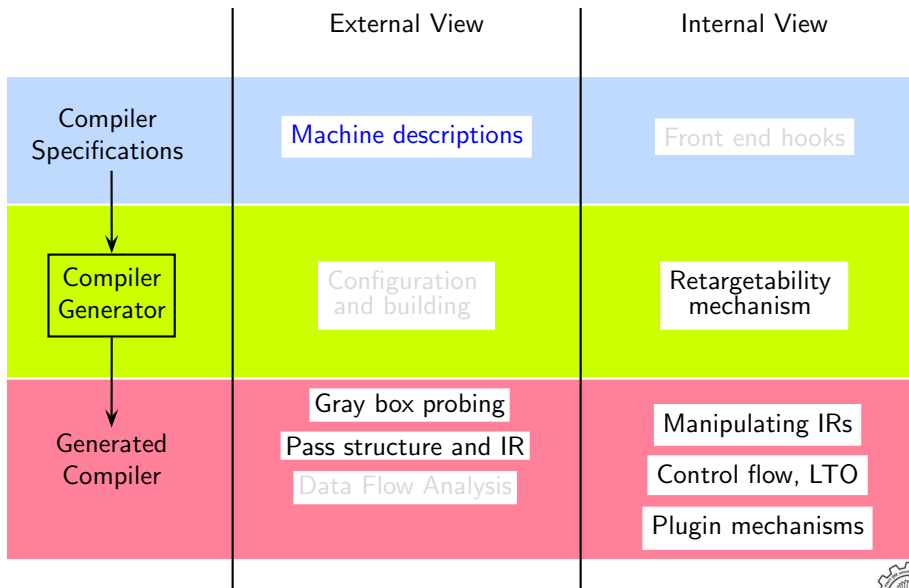
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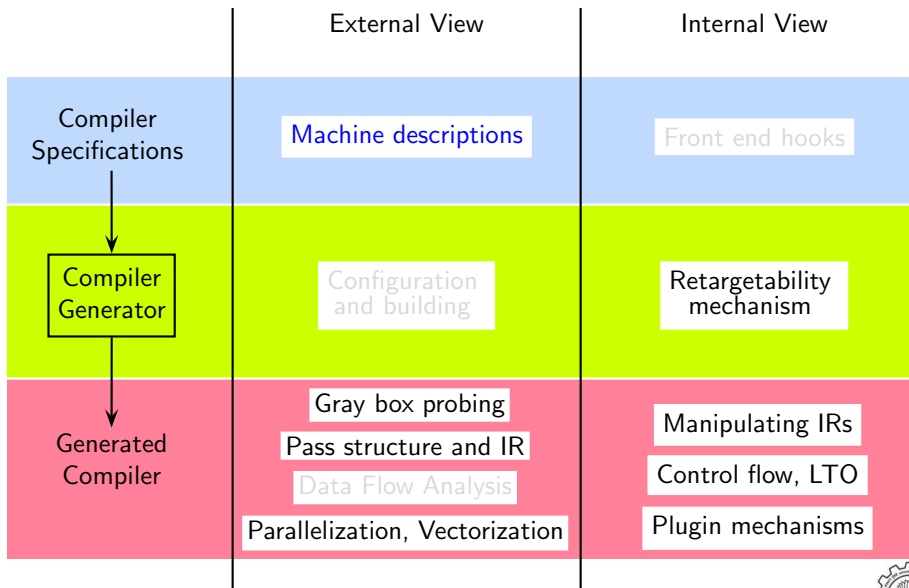


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