



# Programming Languages CSCI 4430

## Fall 2022

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[www.cs.rpi.edu/~milanova/csci4430/](http://www.cs.rpi.edu/~milanova/csci4430/)

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# Lecture Outline

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- Introduction: the rules
  - We are back in the classroom!
- Programming language spectrum
- Why study programming languages?
- Compilation

Read: Scott Chapter 1



# Introduction

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- Course webpage

<https://www.cs.rpi.edu/~milanova/csci4430>

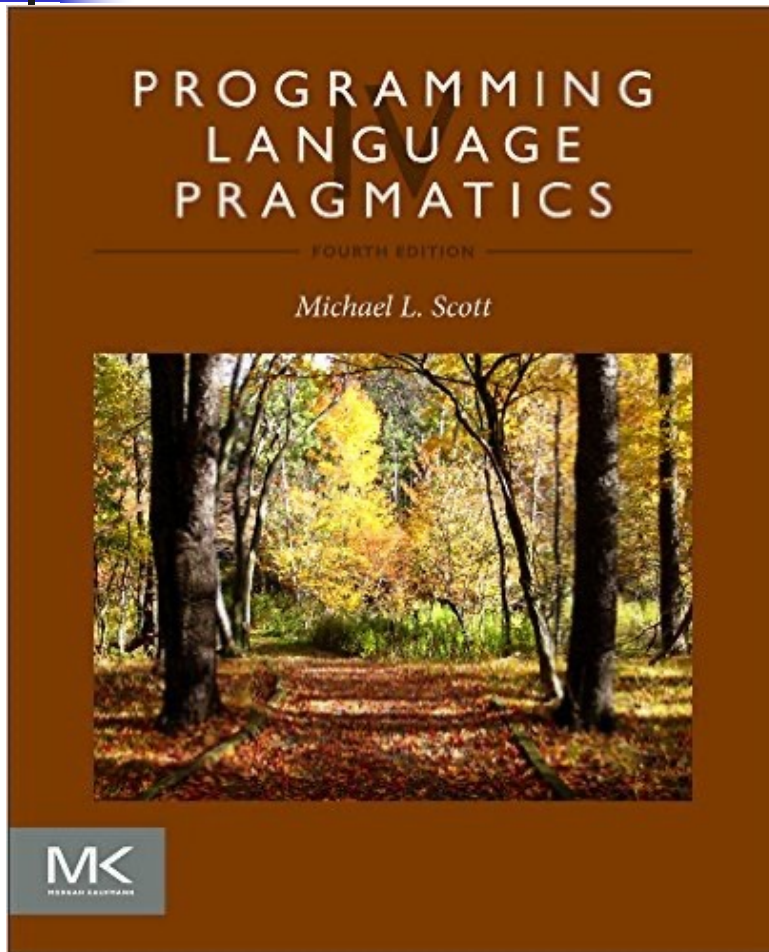
- Schedule, Notes, Reading

- Schedule, lecture slides, assigned reading, and homework links

- Submittity

- Homework and quiz submission and grades (Rainbow grades)
- Discussion forum

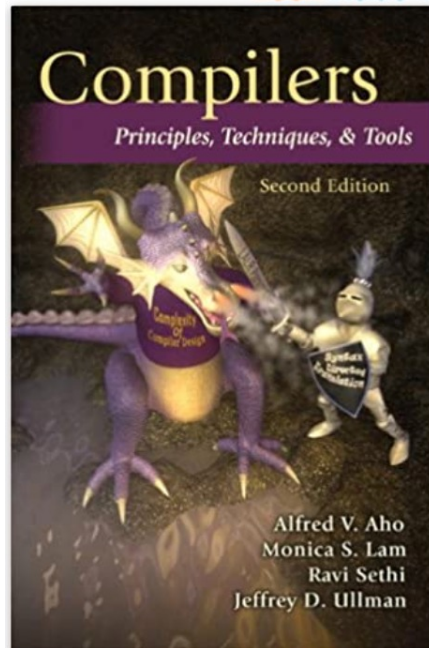
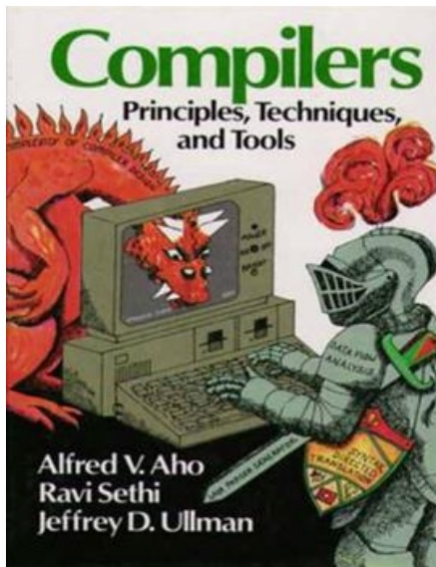
# Introduction



- Required textbook
  - **Programming Language Pragmatics, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition**, by Michael Scott, Morgan Kaufmann, 2015

# Introduction

- Recommended textbook
  - **Compilers: Principles, Techniques, and Tools**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, by **A. Aho**, M. Lam, R. Sethi and **J. Ullman**, AW, 2007 (Dragon Book)



Aho and Ullman 2020 Turing Award citation:

For fundamental algorithms and theory underlying **programming language implementation** and for synthesizing these results and those of others in their highly influential books, which educated generations of computer scientists.



# Introduction

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- Syllabus

<https://www.cs.rpi.edu/~milanova/csci4430/syllabus.html>

Topics, outcomes, policies, and grading

- 2 midterm exams and a final exam: 50%
- 7 homework assignments: 42%
- 8 quizzes: 8%
  
- 1% attendance and participation



# Introduction

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- Lectures are live here in DCC 308 Tuesdays and Fridays 2:00–4:00pm
  - If you are unable to attend due to medical reasons, please notify us by September 9<sup>th</sup>
- Fall 2020 pre-recorded lectures are available at [https://mediasite.mms.rpi.edu/Mediasite5/Channel/programming\\_languages](https://mediasite.mms.rpi.edu/Mediasite5/Channel/programming_languages)
- PDF notes:  
<https://www.cs.rpi.edu/~milanova/csci4430/schedule.html>



# Introduction

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- Homework is due at **2pm** on the due date
- Submit typed homework as a PDF electronically in Submitty
- Submit programming homework in Submitty for autograding
  
- Homework, including submission instructions, will be posted at
  - <https://www.cs.rpi.edu/~milanova/csci4430/schedule.html>





# Introduction

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- Homework is due at **2pm** on the due date
- 6 late days in total
- 2 late days at most per homework
- Extensions only with a formal excuse note from your class dean. See syllabus for details.



# Introduction

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- 9 **quizzes** during scheduled class hours
  - Quiz dates are marked in Schedule
- Will cover material of previous weeks
- Quiz will show on Submitty at 2pm, 10-15min
  - Multiple choice and short answer, upload text file
  - Work in groups is encouraged (4-5 people)
    - Physical attendance not required but encouraged
  - Do not post questions or discussion on public sites/channels!



# Introduction

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- **Exams will be in person in DCC 308**
  - If unable to attend due to medical reasons, please notify us by September 9<sup>th</sup>
- **Quiz or exam makeup** will be arranged only after we have received an excuse note from your class dean. See syllabus for details.



# Introduction

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- We plan for ample office hours on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. TBD.
- Instructor office hours
  - Mondays 12:30-2:30pm in Lally 314. Please wear a mask
  - Immediately after class on Tuesdays and Fridays



# Other Notes

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- Asking questions
  - First, go to Submitty forum
    - Do not post code on forum
    - You cannot post code to any website
  - Second, go to office hours
    - Sessions are individual, run through Submitty queues
- We will not be answering questions coming in late at night or in the morning on day HW is due



# Other Notes

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- Submitty forum
  - Announcements – check regularly
  - Ask **all non-personal** questions on the forum
  - Check out prior messages before you post a question – the answer is probably already there
- Mailing list [proglang@cs.lists.rpi.edu](mailto:proglang@cs.lists.rpi.edu) (instructors)
  - Personal questions (extensions, grade disputes, etc.)
  - Unsolicited debugging emails to instructors or mailing list will likely go unanswered!



# Other Notes

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- Debugging and homework help in office hours
  - Instructor, TA and mentor office hours will be finalized by beginning of next week



# Academic Integrity

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- In short, **do not copy** and **do not post solutions or code on public forums or repos**
- Excessive similarities between homework submissions will be considered cheating and handled accordingly
- I trust you. Submittity has advanced plagiarism detection tools that course stuff runs regularly





# How to Study

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- Read textbook chapter in advance of lecture
  - Chapters are announced on Schedule page
- Read/listen lecture and read textbook chapter immediately after class
  - Lecture pdfs will be available shortly before class
- Solve exercises in lectures
- **Form study groups**
- **ASK QUESTIONS** – in class, on forum



# Course Topics

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- Programming language syntax: Scanning and parsing
- Programming language semantics: Attribute grammars
- Naming, binding and scoping
- Data abstraction and types
- Control abstraction and parameter passing
- Concurrency
  
- Logic-oriented language: **Prolog**
- Functional languages: **Scheme and Haskell**
- Imperative languages
  - An object-oriented language: **Java**
  - A dynamic language: **Python**



# Course Topics

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- Schedule at [www.cs.rpi.edu/~milanova/csci4430/schedule.html](http://www.cs.rpi.edu/~milanova/csci4430/schedule.html)
- Lists major and minor topics
- Homework links, dates and due dates
- Quiz and exam schedule



# Lecture Outline

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- Introduction to the course
- **Programming language spectrum**
- Why study programming languages?
- Compilation



# The Programming Language Spectrum

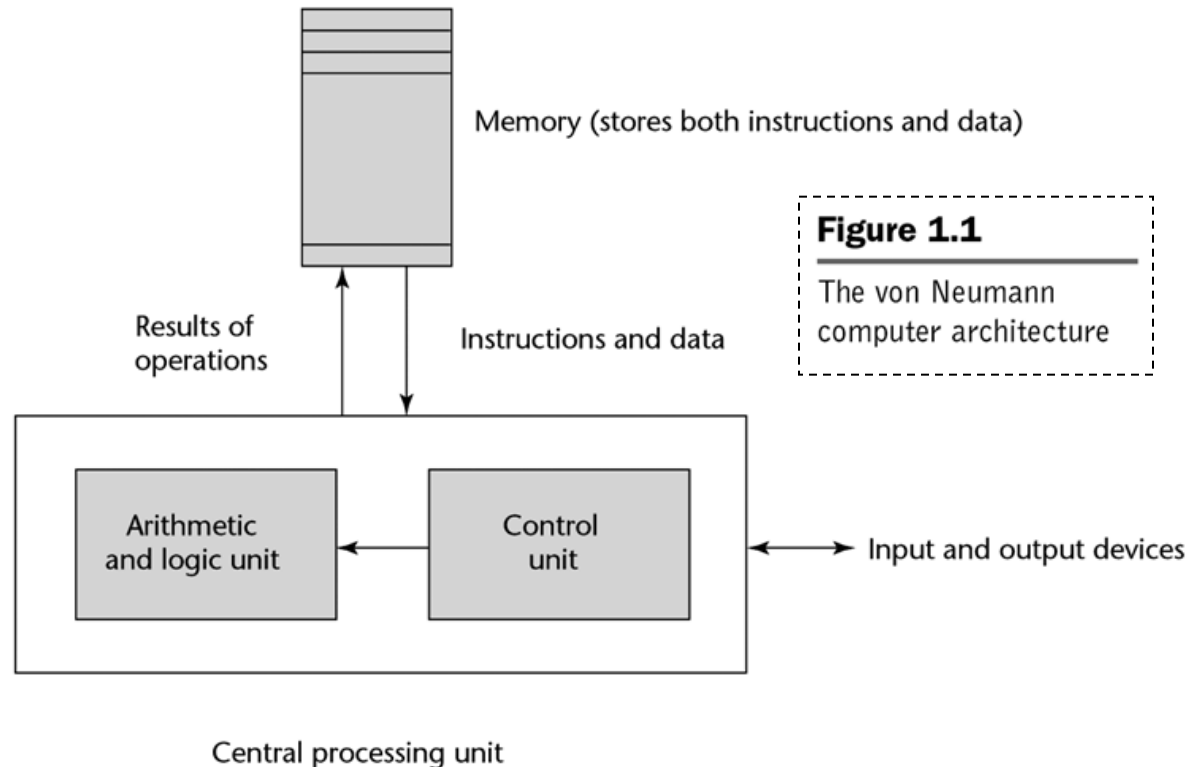
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- **Imperative** languages
  - Von Neumann languages: Fortran, C,...
  - Object-oriented languages: Java, C++, Smalltalk,...
  - Dynamic languages: Perl, Python, PHP,...
- **Declarative** languages
  - **Functional** languages: Scheme/Lisp, ML, Haskell
  - **Logic** languages: Prolog
  - There are other declarative languages: e.g., dataflow languages

# The Programming Language Spectrum

## ■ Imperative languages

- Evolved from the von Neumann Architecture
- Variable
- Assignment Statement



# The Programming Language Spectrum

- Imperative languages
  - Most widely popular programming style
    - FORTRAN, C, C++, C#, Java, Python, Visual BASIC, Perl, JavaScript, Ruby, etc.
  - Variable and assignment statement are central concepts
  - Program is a sequence of statements:  
 $j := i - j;$   
 $k := j * l;$ 
    - Execution is a sequence of transitions on memory state



# The Programming Language Spectrum

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- FORTRAN was invented in mid-1950
- John Backus, the inventor of FORTRAN, wrote the following paper in 1979:  
“Can programming be liberated from the von Neumann style? A **functional style** and its algebra of programs”
  - Problems with imperative languages
    - Difficult to understand programs
    - Difficult to reason about correctness of programs



# The Programming Language Spectrum



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- John Backus 1977 Turing award citation
  - ... contributions to the design of practical **high-level programming systems**, notably through his work on **FORTRAN**, and for seminal publication of formal procedures for the specification of **programming languages**.
- More history...
  - 1969: Hoare logic and program verification
  - 78-79: Enthusiasm cools, Perlis' paper, Backus' paper
  - 1980-ties and onward: Functional languages

# The Programming Language Spectrum

- Functional Programming
  - Main alternative to imperative programming
    - Lisp/Scheme, ML/OCaml, Haskell
  - Program consists of function definitions + evaluation expr
    - (fun3 (fun2 (fun1 data)))
    - (fun3 (fun2 data2))
    - (fun3 data3)
    - data4
  - Execution is a sequence of **function applications** (i.e., reductions)
- Logic Programming
  - Perform queries against knowledge base
  - Prolog, Datalog, SQL



# An Example: Inner Product

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- Inner product in FORTRAN:

1. `C := 0;`

2. `for I := 1 step 1 until N do`

3. `T := a[I]*b[I];`

4. `C := C + T;`

- Illustrates **state-transition semantics**

# An Example: Inner Product

- Inner product in FP:

Function composition

Def  $IP = (Insert +) \circ (ApplyToAll *) \circ Transpose$

$IP \langle\langle 1,2,3 \rangle, \langle 6,5,4 \rangle\rangle$  is

$(Insert +) ((ApplyToAll *) (Transpose \langle\langle 1,2,3 \rangle, \langle 6,5,4 \rangle\rangle))$

$(Insert +) ((ApplyToAll *) \langle\langle 1,6 \rangle, \langle 2,5 \rangle, \langle 3,4 \rangle\rangle)$

$(Insert +) \langle 6,10,12 \rangle$

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- Illustrates reduction (applicative) semantics



# Why Study Programming Languages

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- Goal of the course: **learn to analyze programming languages**
  - What are the questions we ask when facing a new programming language
  - Helps learn new languages, choose the right language for a problem, understand language features, design languages



# Lecture Outline

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- Introduction to the course
- The programming language spectrum
- Why study programming languages
- **Compilation**



# Compilation and Interpretation

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- **Compilation**

- **Compiler**

- A “high-level” program is translated into executable machine code

- **Pure interpretation**

- **Interpreter**

- A program is translated and executed one statement at a time

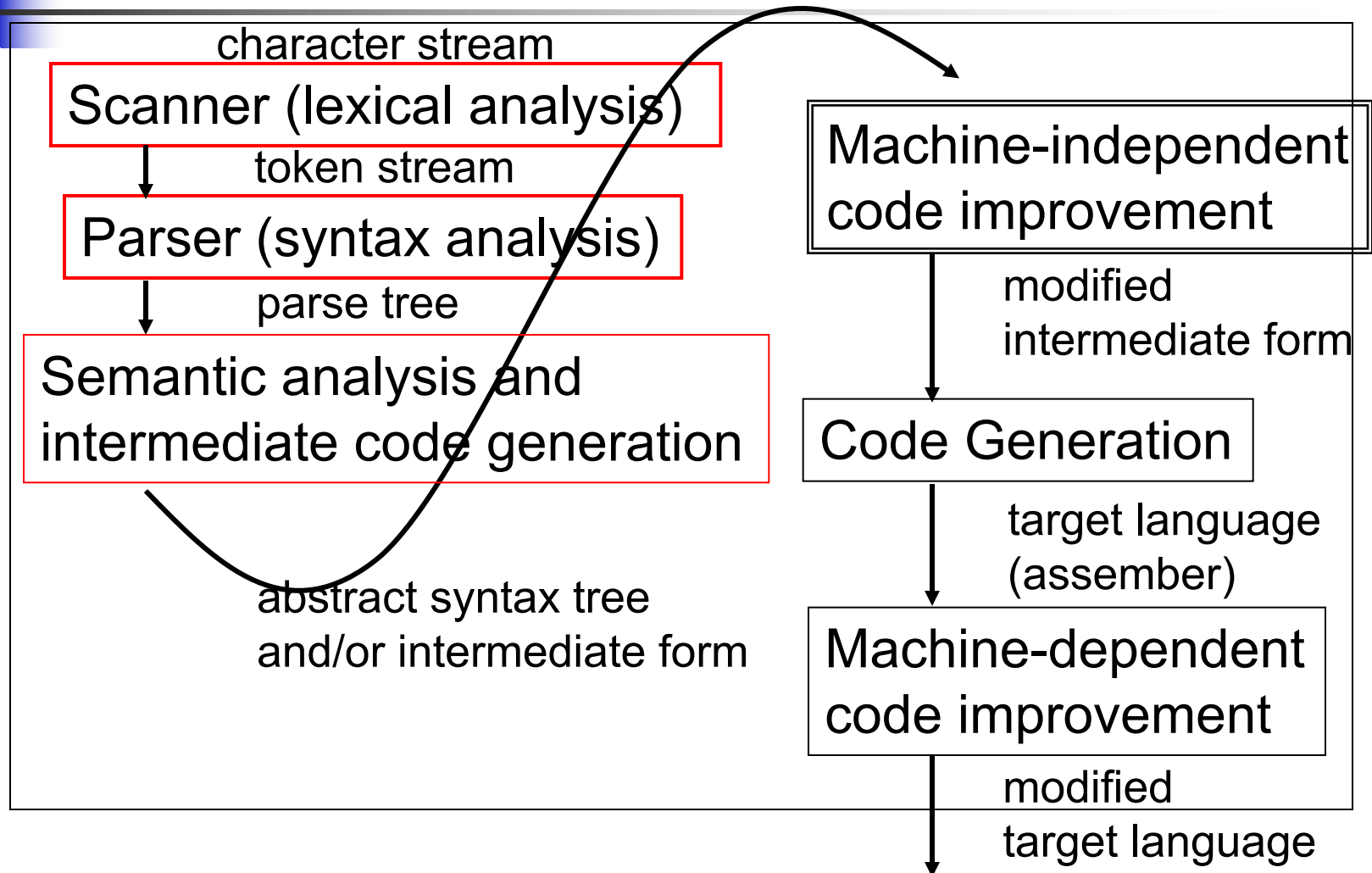
- **Hybrid interpretation**

- Both a compiler and an interpreter

- A program is “compiled” into intermediate code; intermediate code is “interpreted”

# Compilation

COMPILER





# Compilation

*position = initial + rate \* 60;*

Scanner

*<id,1> <=> <id,2> <+> <id,3> <\*> <60>*

Parser

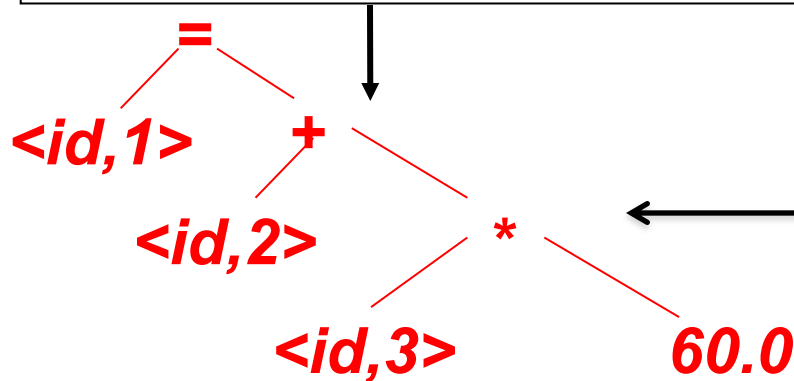
Semantic analysis and  
intermediate code generation

Symbol table

1. *position, ...*
2. *initial, ...*
3. *rate, ...*

# Compilation

Semantic analysis and  
intermediate code generation



Abstract Syntax Tree

*tmp1 = id3 \* 60.0*  
*tmp2 = id2 + tmp1*  
*id1 = tmp2*

Intermediate form  
(three-address code)

# Compilation

Machine-independent  
code improvement

*tmp1 = id3 \* 60.0*  
*id1 = id2 + tmp1*

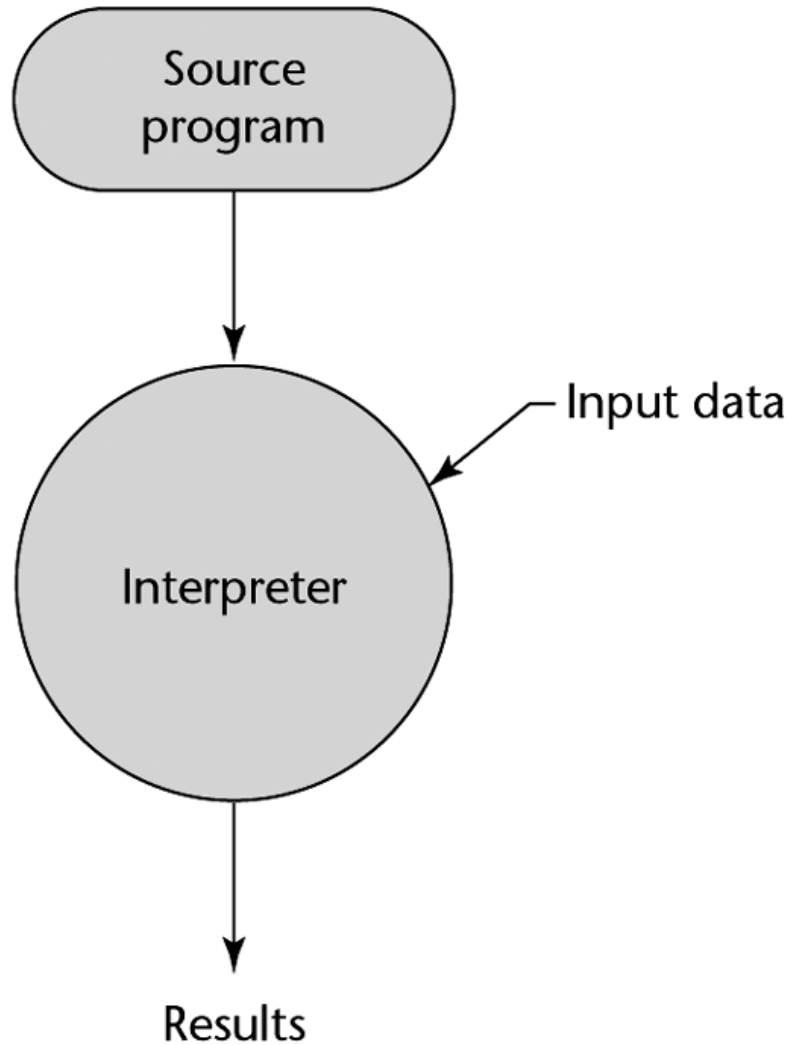
← Improved  
intermediate form

Code generation

*movf id3, R2*  
*mulf #60.0, R2*  
*movf id2, R1*  
*addf R2, R1*  
*movf R1, id1*

← Target language

# Interpretation

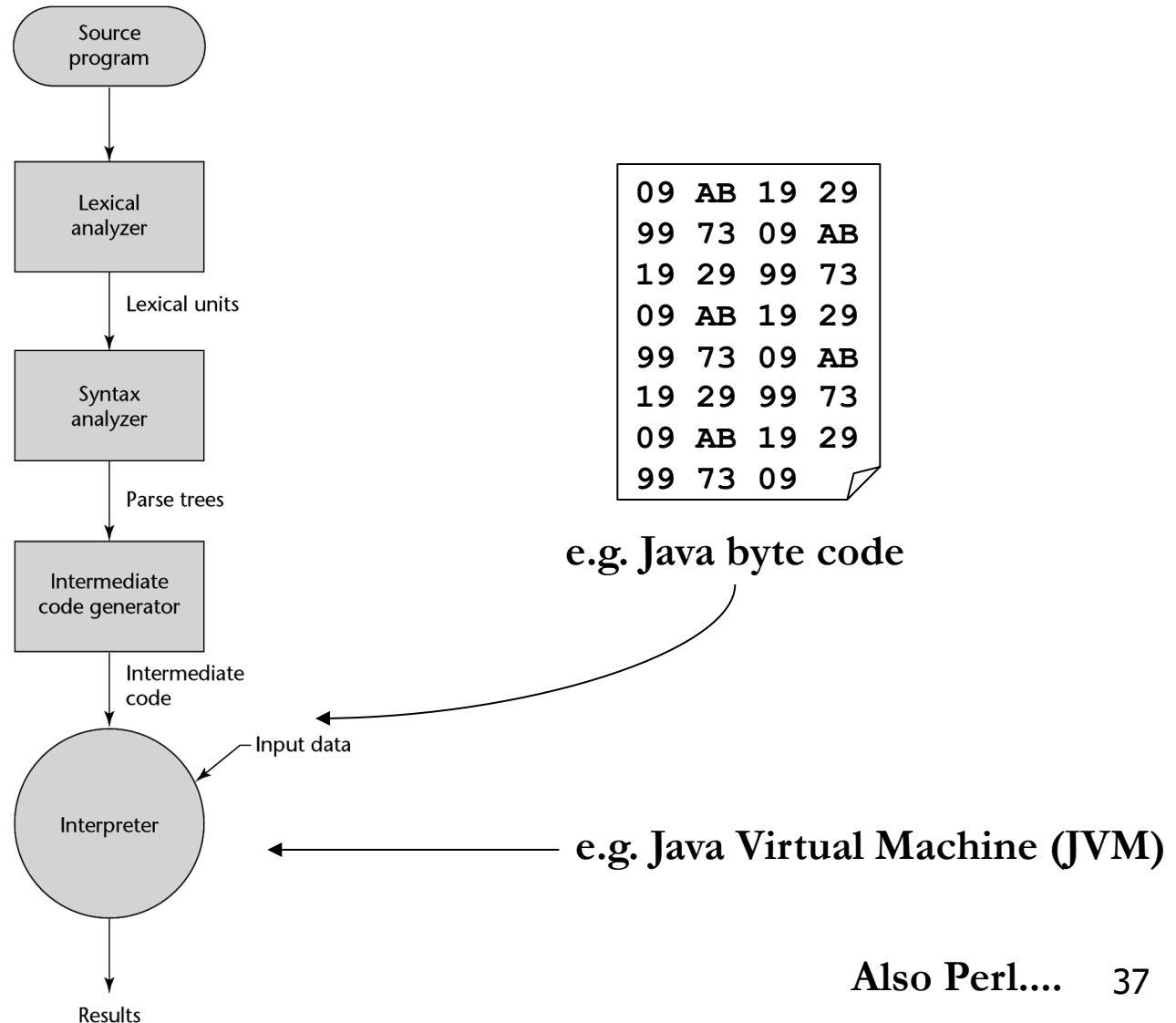


e.g. BASIC

```
REM  
COMMENT  
LET X = 5  
LET Y = 8  
PRINT X  
PRINT Y  
LET Z = X  
PRINT Z
```

...

# Hybrid Interpretation





# Compilation vs. Interpretation

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- Advantages of compilation?
  - Faster execution
  
- Advantages of interpretation?
  - Greater flexibility
    - Dynamic code generation and execution, sandboxing



# Compilation vs. Interpretation

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- A language can be implemented using a compiler or using an interpreter
  - One can build a compiler for Lisp and one can easily build an interpreter for C or Fortran
- However, language features (determined during language design) have significant impact on “compilability” and the decision “compiler vs. interpreter”



# Next Class

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- We will review regular expressions and context free grammars
- Read Chapter 2.1 and 2.2 from Scott's book





# The End

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