Lecture 1: Course Introduction

CS164: Programming Languages and Compilers
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Administrivia

Public service announcement: Blueprint is a nonprofit student club aimed at developing technologies for local nonprofit organizations that are making social change. Info sessions Thursday, Sept 5 at 7pm in HP Auditorium and Monday, September 9 at 7pm in 220 Wheeler. Web page: www.calblueprint.org

- All course information, readings, and documentation is online from the course web page (constantly under construction).

- Pick up class accounts in lecture today or Wednesday. Go to the class web page and register (Under account/teams/grades).

- Projects require partnerships of 2 or 3. Start looking. The web page allows you to register teams.

- For Tuesday, please read Chapter 2 of the online Course Notes.
Course Structure

- Lectures, discussions intended to discuss and illustrate material that you have previously read.
- Regular homework does theory, practical “finger exercises.” Done individually.
- Projects are long programming assignments, done in teams.
- All submissions electronic.
Generic General Advice

DBC!
RTFM!
Plagiarism: Obligatory Warning

- We have software to detect plagiarism, and we Know How to Use It!
- If you must use others’ work (in moderation), cite it!
- Remember that on projects, you necessarily involve your partner.
- Most cheating cases result from time pressure. Keep up, and talk to us as early as possible about problems.
Project

- Hidden agenda: programming design and experience.
- Substantial project in modules.
- Provides example of how complicated problem might be approached.
- Validation (testing) part of project.
- Chance to use version control for real.
- And this semester (shudder) C++.
- General rule: start early!
Implementing Programming Languages

- **Strategy 1:** Interpreter: program that runs programs.
- **Strategy 2:** Compiler: program that translates program into machine code (interpreted by machine).
- **Modern trend is hybrid:**
  - Compilers that produce virtual machine code for bytecode interpreters.
  - “Just-In-Time” (JIT) compilers interpret parts of program, compile other parts during execution.
Languages

- Initially, programs “hard-wired” or entered electro-mechanically
  - Analytical Engine, Jacquard Loom, ENIAC, punched-card-handling machines

- Next, stored-program machines: programs encoded as numbers (machine language) and stored as data:
  - Manchester Mark I, EDSAC.

- 1953: IBM develops the 701; all programming done in assembly

- Problem: Software costs > hardware costs!

- John Backus: “Speedcoding” made a 701 appear to have floating point and index registers. Interpreter ran 10-20 times slower than native code.
FORTRAN

• Also due to John Backus (1954–7).

• Revolutionary idea at the time: convert high-level (algebraic formulae) to assembly.

• Called “automatic programming” at the time. Some thought it impossible.

• Wildly successful: language could cut development times from weeks to hours; produced machine code almost as good as hand-written.

• Start of extensive theoretical work (and Fortran is still with us!).

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After FORTRAN

- Lisp, late 1950s: dynamic, symbolic data structures.

- Algol 60: Europe's answer to FORTRAN: modern syntax, block structure, explicit declaration.
  - Dijkstra: "A marked improvement on its successors."
  - Algol report Set standard for language description.

The Language Explosion

- APL (arrays), SNOBOL (strings), FORMAC (formulae), and many more.
- Algol 68: Combines FORTRANish numerical constructs, COBOLish records, pointers, all described in rigorous formalism. Remnants remain in C, but Algol 68 deemed too complex.
The 1970s

• Emphasis on “methodology”: modular programming, CLU, Modula family.

• Mid 1970’s: Prolog. Declarative logic programming.

• Mid 1970’s: ML (Metalanguage) type inference, pattern-driven programming. (Led to Haskell, OCaml).

• Late 1970’s: DoD starts to develop Ada to consolidate >500 languages.
Into the Present

- Complexity increases with C++.
- Then decreases with Java.
- Then increases again (C#, Java 1.5).
- Proliferation of little or specialized languages and scripting languages: HTML, PHP, Perl, Python, Ruby, ...
Example: FORTRAN

C FORTRAN (OLD-STYLE) SORTING ROUTINE
C
SUBROUTINE SORT (A, N)
    DIMENSION A(N)
    IF (N - 1) 40, 40, 10
10    DO 30 I = 2, N
        L = I-1
        X = A(I)
        DO 20 J = 1, L
            K = I - J
            IF (X - A(K)) 60, 50, 50
                C FOUND INSERTION POINT: X >= A(K)
                50        A(K+1) = X
                GO TO 30
                C ELSE, MOVE ELEMENT UP
                60        A(K+1) = A(K)
        20        CONTINUE
    A(1) = X
30    CONTINUE
40    RETURN
END

C MAIN PROGRAM
    DIMENSION Q(500)
100 FORMAT(I5/(6F10.5))
200 FORMAT(6F12.5)
    READ(5, 100) N, (Q(J), J = 1, N)
    CALL SORT(Q, N)
    WRITE(6, 200) (Q(J), J = 1, N)
    STOP
    END

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Example: Algol 60

```algol
comment An Algol 60 sorting program;
procedure Sort (A, N)
  value N;
  integer N; real array A;
begin
  real X;
  integer i, j;
  for i := 2 until N do begin
    X := A[i];
    for j := i-1 step -1 until 1 do
      if X >= A[j] then begin
        A[j+1] := X; goto Found
      end else
  end
  Found:
end
end Sort
```
Example: APL

⊙ An APL sorting program

∇ Z ← SORT A

Z ← A [△ A]

∇
import sys, re

def format(x):
    return "%10.5f" % x

vals = map(float, re.split(r'\s+', sys.stdin.read().strip()))
vals.sort()
print '\n'.join([' '.join(map(format, vals[i:i+6])) for i in xrange(0,len(vals),6)])
/* A naive Prolog sort */

/* permutation(A,B) iff list B is a permutation of list A. */
permutation(L, [H | T]) :-
    append(V, [H|U], L),
    append(V, U, W),
    permutation(W, T).
permutation([], []).

/* ordered(A) iff A is in ascending order. */
ordered([]).
ordered([X]).
ordered([X,Y|R]) :- X <= Y, ordered([Y|R]).

/* sorted(A,B) iff B is a sort of A. */
sorted(A,B) :- permutation(A,B), ordered(B).
Problems to Address

• How to describe language clearly for programmers, precisely for implementors?

• How to implement description, and know you’re right? Ans: Automatic conversion of description to implementation

• How to test?

• How to save implementation effort?
  - With multiple languages to multiple targets: can we re-use effort?

• How to make languages usable?
  - Handle errors reasonably
  - Detect questionable constructs
  - Compile quickly
* Example *

```c
salary = base + rate[years];
output(salary);
```

```
<ID#1, '=' = ID#2, 
'+' + ID#3, ']' ]
ID#4, ',' , '; ',
ID#5, '(' , ID#1,
')', ', ';' , ...>
```

```
+ (double)
ID#2 [] (double)
(double)
ID#3 ID#4 (int)
(double[])
```

```
Push #2
Push_Addr #3
Push_Addr #4
Index
Add
```