The logical model of computation

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Introduction

Course topics

- This course is about *basic programming concepts* (DEV I)
- We will discuss computational concepts
- Computational thinking
- Describing computations clearly

Introduction

Course topics

- *How does a programming language work?*
- Memory, variables, conditionals, if-statements, and loops
- These are already enough to implement anything (of course not handily!)

Introduction

At the end of the course you will be able to...

- ...describe algorithms clearly
- ...write basic programs in Python
- ...describe the semantics of a basic Python program

A programming language

What is programming not about?

- computers
- programming languages
- technology
- programs
- websites
- smartphones
- ...

A programming language

What is programming about?

- the encoding of logical thought
- non-ambiguity: there is only one possible mode of execution
- precision: there is no appeal to vagueness or intuition

A programming language

What is programming about?

- especially if a machine will eventually run our program
- machines are **dumb as **ck**[a]

[a] rock

A programming language

A programming language specifies

- what instructions we have
- what do they perform
- in what order

Let's start programming

The `stdNt` programming language

- In `stdNt` we let students perform some actions
- It does not require a machine, but only a white-board and alive (and complying students)

Following instructions *(we need a "volunteer")*

```
take 3 steps forward
sit on the chair
turn left
slide 3 steps forward
```

Let's start programming

The features of `stdNt` so far

- **Instructions**, in English
- **Order of execution** is left-to-right, top-to-bottom
- **State** made up of a living, breathing student

Following instructions with state *(we need a "volunteer")*

A	B	C
your age	2	-3

```
take A/4 steps forward
sit on the chair
turn left by 90 * B degrees
slide C steps forward
```

Let's start programming

The features of `stdNt` so far

- **Instructions**, in English
- **Order of execution** is left-to-right, top-to-bottom
- **State** made up of a living, breathing student plus a bunch of cards with data written on them

What if the state makes no sense? *(we need a "volunteer")*

A	B	C
your age	``nice day today''	-3

```
take A/4 steps forward
sit on the chair
turn left by 90 * B degrees
slide C steps forward
```

Let's start programming

State comes with big preconditions

- It only contains information that is:
  - used in a way that makes sense with respect to the instructions
  - logically expressed (numbers, strings, etc. rather than emotions or riddles)
  - actually accessible (there is some connection from the executor to the accessed data)

The state may change *(we need a "volunteer")*

B	C
-1	today's weather

```
make a comment on C
write on C the index of today's␣day␣of␣the␣week
sit␣on␣the␣chair
turn␣left␣by␣90␣*␣B␣degrees
slide␣C␣steps␣forward
```

Let's start programming

The features of `stdNt` so far

- **Instructions**, in English
- **Order of execution** is left-to-right, top-to-bottom
- **Mutable state** made up of a living, breathing student plus a bunch of cards with data written on them

We can make decisions *(we need a "volunteer")*

A	B	C	D
today's weather	-1	2	3

```
sit on the chair
if A is ``sunny'' then
  turn left by 90 * B degrees
otherwise
  turn left by 90 * C degrees
slide D steps forward
```

Let's start programming

The features of `stdNt` so far

- **Instructions**, in English
- **Order of execution** is left-to-right, top-to-bottom
- **Mutable state** made up of a living, breathing student plus a bunch of cards with data written on them
- **Decisions** based on elements of the state

We can repeat behavior *(we need a "volunteer")*

```
while there are green soldiers alive
      AND
      there are brown soldiers alive
  TEAM 1:
    a = pick green soldier
    d = pick brown soldier
    fight(a,d)
  TEAM 2:
    a = pick green soldier
    d = pick brown soldier
    fight(a,d)
```

```
fight(a,d):
  if a = BAZOOKA AND d = GRENADIER then
    both die
  else if a = BAZOOKA then
    d dies
  else if d = GRENADIER then
    a dies
  else if brown team still has leader t
    a dies
  else
    d dies
```

Let's start programming

The features of `stdNt` so far

- **Instructions**, in English
- **Order of execution** is left-to-right, top-to-bottom
- **Mutable state** made up of a living, breathing student plus a bunch of cards with data written on them
- **Decisions** based on elements of the state
- **Repetition** of code based on elements of the state

Let's start programming

Assignment in groups of four

- Reprogram the game
- Make it so that the positioning of defending soldiers makes a difference (positive or negative)
- *One group will be "randomly selected" to present*

This is it!

The best of luck, and thanks for the attention!