

# List of Topics

<https://csci-1301.github.io/about#authors>

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## 0.1 General Concepts

*Students should understand the meaning and importance of the following notions. This statement should be read as “understand the first sentence or paragraph on a wikipedia article”, taking high-level programming language<sup>1</sup> as an example.*

- Programming languages types and paradigms
  - Machine language instructions
  - Assembly instructions
  - High-Level Programming Languages
  - Object-oriented paradigm and data hiding
- The difference between roles (user, tester, programmer)
- How complex piece of software *reuse* previous pieces.
- The importance of security ☹
  - Types of attack (malware, phishing, social engineering, zero-day)
  - Types of loss (loss of integrity / availability / confidentiality)

## 0.2 Writing and Compiling Programs

- Understand what the “flow of development” is:
  - Having a goal
  - Writing down specifications
  - Creating the source code
  - Running the compiler
  - Reading the compiler’s output, warning and error messages
  - Looking for documentation and help on-line and off-line
  - Testing
  - Making sure the program is secure ☹
  - Editing
  - Reusing
- Using an IDE to
  - Create a project,
  - Perform some of the steps of the “flow of development”,
  - Correctly save and re-open projects,
  - Understand basic features of break points and debugging. ?

*The IDE used can be MonoDevelop<sup>2</sup> or Visual Studio<sup>3</sup>, the student can pick other IDEs if they wish but they will not be supported.*

## 0.3 Computer Usage

- How to download and install an IDE in a secure way ☹
- How to share and zip a project
- How to use shortcuts ?
- How to look for on-line documentation

<sup>1</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High-level\\_programming\\_language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High-level_programming_language)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.monodevelop.com/>

<sup>3</sup><https://visualstudio.microsoft.com/>

## 0.4 The Structure of a Program

### 0.4.1 First Program - Hello World

*The students should understand all the components of a simple “Hello World” program:*

- Comments (in line and block)
- `using` statements and namespace / API concepts
- blank lines and spacing
- indentation
- intro to classes and methods’ structures (body / header)
- status of `main` method
- intro to Console’s `Write` and `WriteLine`
- string literal

### 0.4.2 Rules and Conventions

- The difference between a “rule” (e.g. case-sensitivity) and a “convention” (commenting your code).
- Reserved words
- Identifiers and naming conventions
- That the distinction can vary with the programming language
- Importance and role of `{` and `}`

## 1 Datatypes and Operators

### 1.1 Variable

- Datatype (numerical, boolean, string, character) – including a mention of reference datatypes
- Declaration, assignment, initialization
- Naming variables correctly
- The absence of default value after declaration (un-assigned variables)

### 1.2 Numerical Values

- Integers (`int`, `long`) – range and size, signature (`uint`)
- Floating Point (`float`, `double`, and `decimal`) – range, size and precision,
- Type casting (e.g. from `int` to `double`, and legal operations between different datatypes) and casting operator (e.g. `(int)`).
- Overflow and underflow ☹

### 1.3 Booleans

- Possible values (`true`, `false`)
- Usage
- That boolean variables are called “switches”

## 1.4 Operators

- Binary arithmetic operators: `*`, `/`, `%`, `+`, `-`
- Unary arithmetic operators: `++`, `--`
- The difference between postfix and infix notation for unary operators ?
- Comparison operators: `!=`, `==`, `>`, `>=`, `<`, `<=`
- Boolean logical operators: `&&`, `||`, `!`
- Precedence and “validity” of some expressions (typically, `! 2 < 3` is not a valid expression)
- Combined assignment operators: `+=`, `*=`, `-=`, `/=`, `%=`

## 1.5 Strings

- `ReadLine` method
- Concatenation (`+`)
- Interpolation
- Additional methods: `ToLower`, `ToUpper`, `Contains` ?

### 1.5.1 Displaying Strings on the Screen

- Format specifiers<sup>4</sup> for numbers: – Currency (`C`),
  - Fixed-point (`F`) or Number (`N`)
  - Percent (`P`) ?
  - Exponential (`E`) ?
- The `String.Format` method

## 1.6 Characters

- Possible values and the existence of binary, oct, dec and hex representation (cf. for instance wikipedia<sup>5</sup>)
- Escape character and sequences: `\n`, `\t`, `\\`
- Conversion between glyph and decimal value.
- Various methods: `ToLower`, `ToUpper`, `Contains`, `StartsWith`, `EndsWith` ?

## 2 Lists ?

- Creating a list of numbers or strings
- Adding items using the `Add` method
- Accessing items using `[]`
- Removing and Inserting (`Remove`, `RemoveAt`, `Insert`)
- `Count` property

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<sup>4</sup><https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/standard/base-types/standard-numeric-format-strings>

<sup>5</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASCII#Printable\\_characters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASCII#Printable_characters)

## 3 Basic Control Structures

### 3.1 Selection Statements

For each of the following structure:

- `if`
- `if-else`
- `if-else if`
- nested `ifs`
- `switch`

The student should understand

- Their importance,
- Their usage,
- Their syntax,
- Their flow,
- When to use one or the other,
- The common pitfalls (e.g., writing a condition in a `switch`).

### 3.2 Repetition Statements

For each of the following structure:

- `foreach`
- `while`
- `for`
- `do{...}while(...)` ?

The student should understand:

- Their importance,
- Their usage,
- Their syntax,
- Their flow,
- When to use one or the other,
- The common pitfalls (e.g. = instead of ==, <= n vs < n)

As well as being capable of identifying the difference between

- Counter-controlled,
- Sentinel-controlled,
- User-controlled

and defining the term “accumulator”

## 4 Object-oriented programming

### 4.1 Class Conception

- Need and interest of specification ☹
- UML Class diagram: interest, usage, and simple case (single class with attributes, methods and constructor).
- Access modifier (private, public)
- Principle of least privilege (private variables and methods where possible) ☹

### 4.2 Class Implementation

- Attributes (and their default value, as well as how to change them)
- Get and Set methods
- Properties ?
- Method signature
- Overloading
- Variable shadowing<sup>6</sup> ?
- Constructors: default constructor and “custom” constructor

### 4.3 Class Usage

- The **new** keyword
- Object creation using default and custom constructors
- Object manipulation: calling a method, setting an attribute, calling the **ToString** method implicitly.

### 4.4 Additional Considerations

- **ToString** method
- static class and methods
- **Math Class**<sup>7</sup> (**Abs**, **Sqrt**, **Pow**) ?

## 5 Random Class

- Creating a generator with **new Random()**
- Generating non-negative integers,
- Generating integers between ranges,
- Generating double,
- Generating a random word ?
- Potential problems with deterministic generators ☹

## 6 Testing and Debugging

- How to test intelligently
- How to test every instruction
- How to test boundary conditions

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<sup>6</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Variable\\_shadowing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Variable_shadowing)

<sup>7</sup><https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/api/system.math?view=net-5.0>

## 7 Interacting with Users

- Input validation ☹
- TryParse in the `int` and `decimal` classes.
- Reading a single character from the user ?

## 8 Data structures

### 8.1 Constant

- The `const` keyword
- Example usages (Avogadro constant, miles-to-kilometer ratio, speed of light) and use case.
- `Math.PI` ?
- Static constant ?

### 8.2 Enumerated Datatype

- Define enumerated datatypes using `enum`
- Enum values (i.e. numerical values assigned to enumerated values by default) ?
- Use enumerated datatypes (variable declaration, assignment, displaying).

### 8.3 Arrays

Only one-dimensional arrays should be discussed.

- Vocabulary: index (starting at 0), bounds.
- `Length` property
- `Resize` method ?
- Different syntaxes for initializing and declaring arrays ?
- Buffer overflow ☹

## 9 Exceptions ➡ SOON

- `try...catch` blocks
- Types of exceptions
- `finally`
- Defining your own exception

## 10 File I/O ➡ SOON

- `StreamWriter` and `StreamReader` classes
- Manipulating binary and text files
- `File` class ?