

# Advanced C++ Programming

Introduction



Background

# Goals of this Lecture

- Become literate in *modern* C++ (both reading and writing)
- Become better programmers
- Be prepared for real-world development rather than just “University programs”

I use this as a shorthand for “*a relatively small program which accomplishes a single, well-defined task, and is written in a few days or weeks*”.

**Most real programming tasks aren't like that.**

# Prerequisites

- This lecture assumes a few prerequisites – it is called “*Advanced C++ Programming*” after all
  1. Some general programming experience
  2. Familiarity with the C programming language
  3. Familiarity with at least one object-oriented language

This includes the **pre-processor** and basics of **translation units / linking** – we will touch on some of the finer details of those during the lecture.

# About Me

- C++ programming for ~19 years now
- I have been working on the Insieme C/C++ source-to-source compiler since 2011
- Industry consulting experience
  - Bachmann electronic
  - Enhance Games
  - XSEED Games
  - NIS America
  - ...



# Additional Materials – Internet



**CORE GUIDELINES**

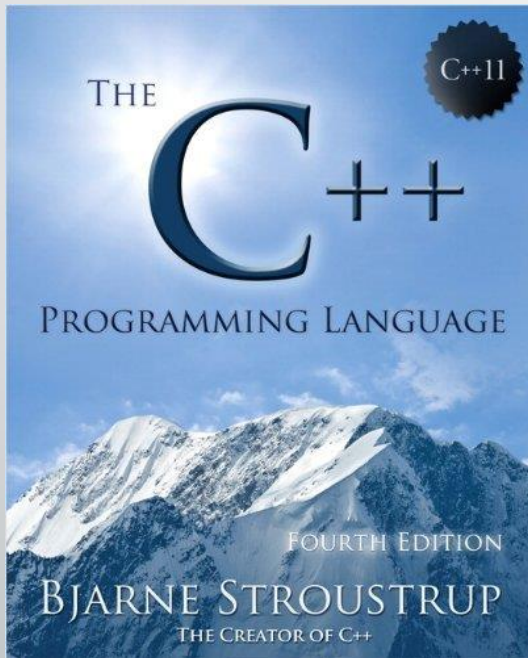
<https://github.com/isocpp/CppCoreGuidelines>

Best practices for how to write good C++

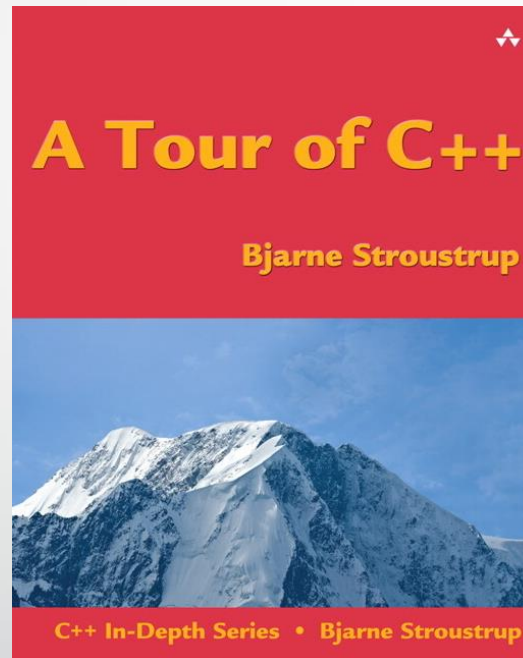
C++ Reference: <http://en.cppreference.com>

Collection: <https://github.com/rigtorp/awesome-modern-cpp>

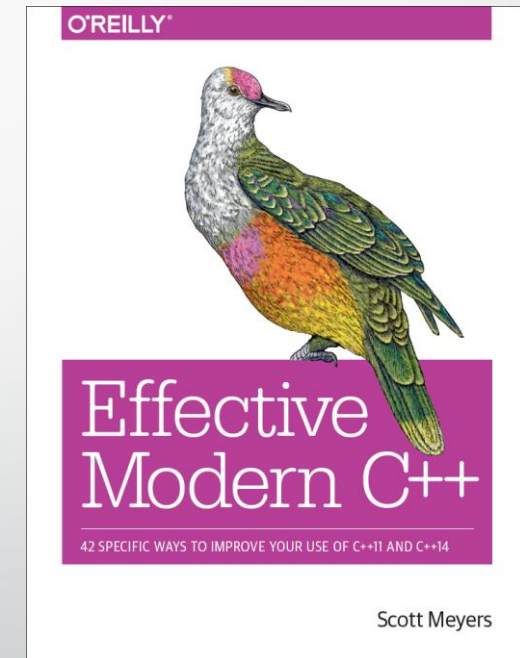
# Additional Material – Books



Reference  
(but really, use the internet)



Keeping up-to-date on  
Modern C++



All of Scott Meyer's  
"effective ..." books  
are worth reading



Organizational



# Lecture Style


- I'll try to interleave **theory** and **code** as much and as frequently as possible
- This is the only second time I'm doing this lecture, and I'm using entirely new material made by myself, so please *do* provide feedback

# Test

- Will consist entirely of reading, understanding, and answering questions about the behaviour of code
- Is designed to be closed-book

# Lab

- Handled by **Alexander Hirsch**
- Right after the lecture
- In **RR15**
- Hands-on programming experience is fundamentally important for getting the most out of this lecture



# Basic C++ Facts

# C++ is a Language with many Applications

- Many languages target only one or a few niches
  - Often makes them very well-suited for those, but completely inapplicable to others
- C++ is used in many distinct fields:

Desktop Applications	System-level Tools
Games	High-Performance Computing
Embedded Systems	GPUs
Drivers	Server Software

# *Why* is C++ used in those Scenarios?

- Static Type Safety → Well-specified interfaces
- Resource Safety → Resource Acquisition is Initialization (RAII)
- Abstraction → Often with zero overhead
- Encapsulation → Classes
- Generic Programming → Templates
- Large Ecosystem → Industrial-strength tools, high-quality libraries

- Many languages offer some of these, but rarely all

# What are the weaknesses of C++?

- Compile times for large applications
- Hard-to-interpret compiler error messages for highly templated code
- Legacy baggage, both in terms of overall architecture and in terms of language features
- Steep learning curve; large, complicated language specification
- No memory safety

# C++ is an ISO standard

- **ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22/WG21**
- This is rather rare – many popular languages are defined by an informal process or just a single implementation
- **Advantages:** many mature implementations, industry trust, well-defined process should weed out destructive changes
- **Disadvantages:** slower adaptation, bureaucracy



# Common C++ Myths

- C++ is C with a few extra bits attached
  - No! Idiomatic C++ is often very different from idiomatic C
- C++ is an object-oriented language
  - It can be, but it can also be a functional language, or an imperative language, or ...
  - C++ is a multi-paradigm language, use whatever is appropriate for the problem at hand

*Sometimes, the elegant implementation is just a function.  
Not a method. Not a class. Not a framework. Just a function.*

- John Carmack



Q & A