

**MY HEAD IS FULL OF**

**BrainFuck - how  
does this work?**

**FUCK**

Vladimir Alekseichenko

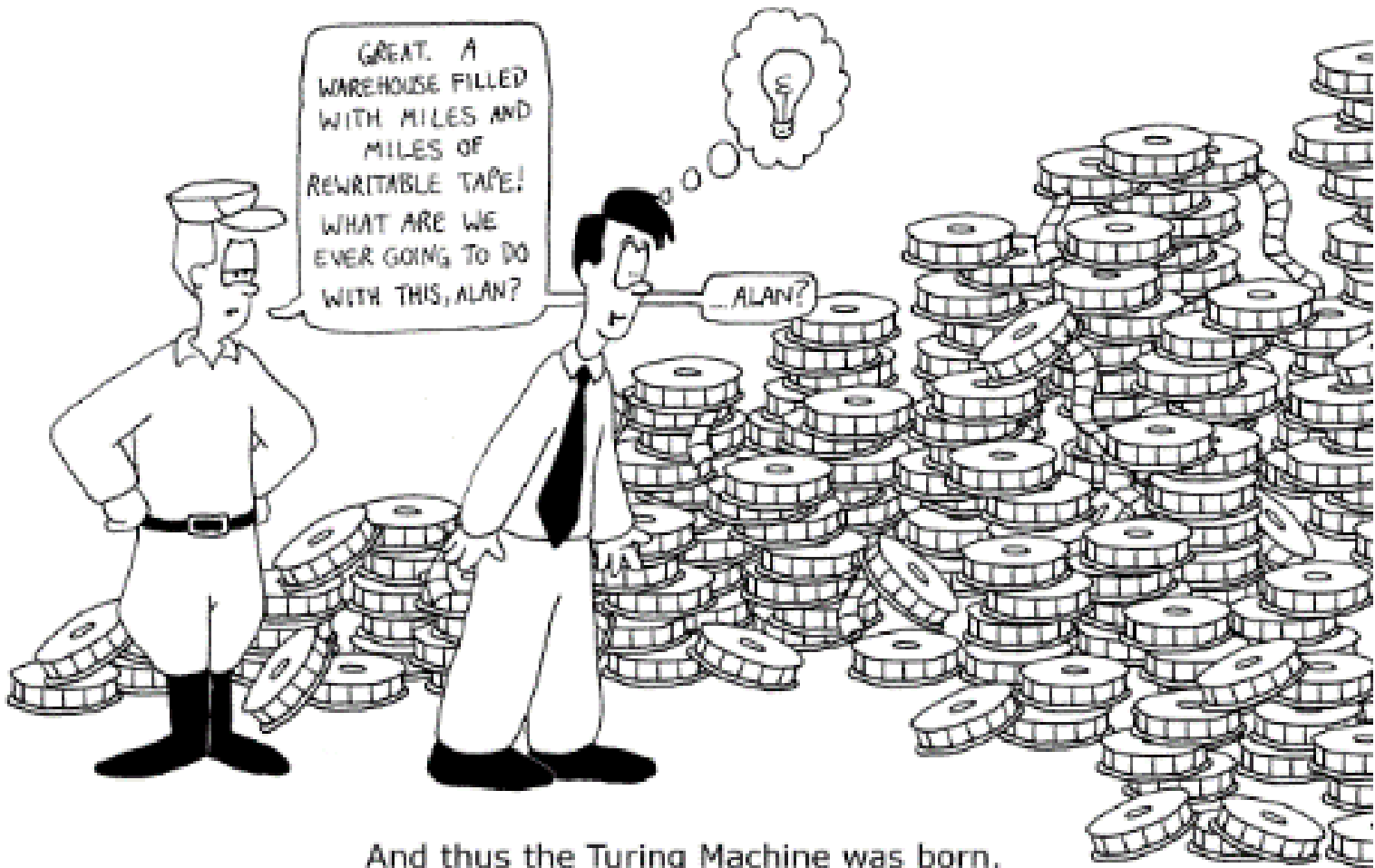
# Agenda

- A brief history
- Basic commands
- Input/Output
- Control structures
- Some examples
- Program „Hello world!“

# Alan Turing



# Turing machine

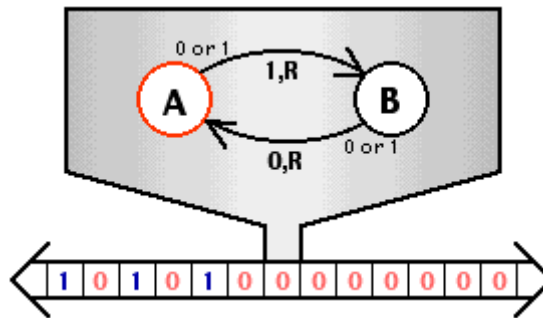


# Turing machine

It's a hypothetical device that manipulates symbols on a strip of tape according to a table of rules.

The "Turing" machine was invented in **1936** by **Alan Turing** who called it an "a-machine" (automatic machine).

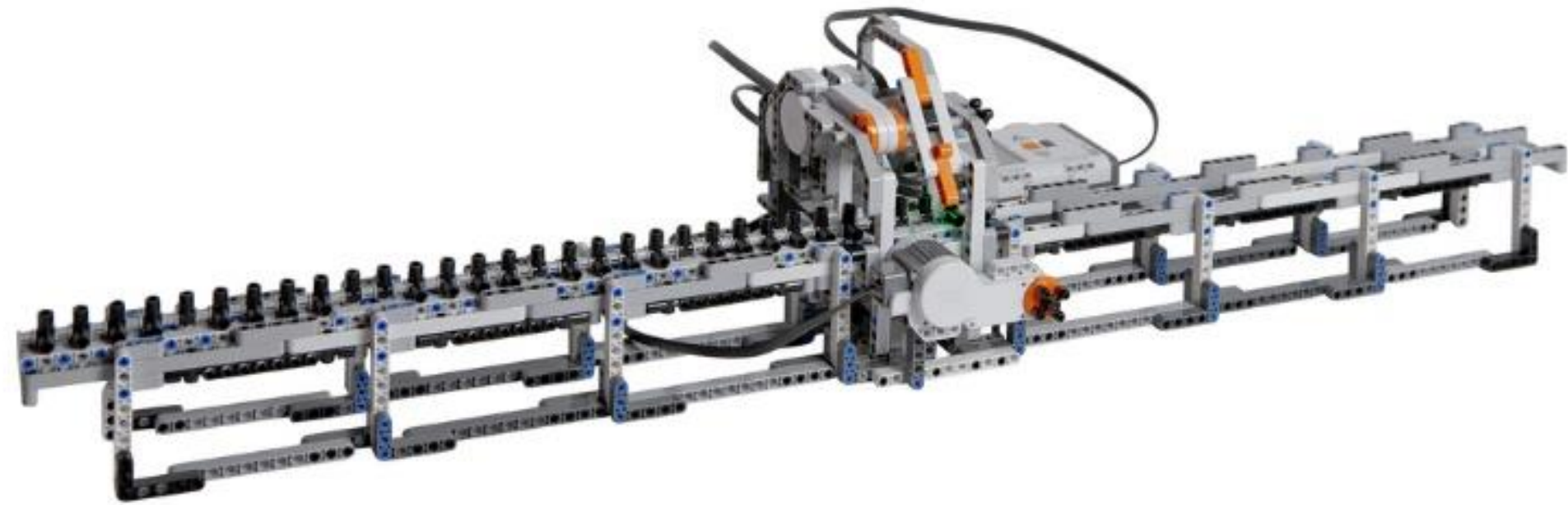
# Turing machine



# A Turing Machine built using LEGO

To honor Alan Turing, we built a simple LEGO Turing Machine, to show everyone how simple a computer actually is.

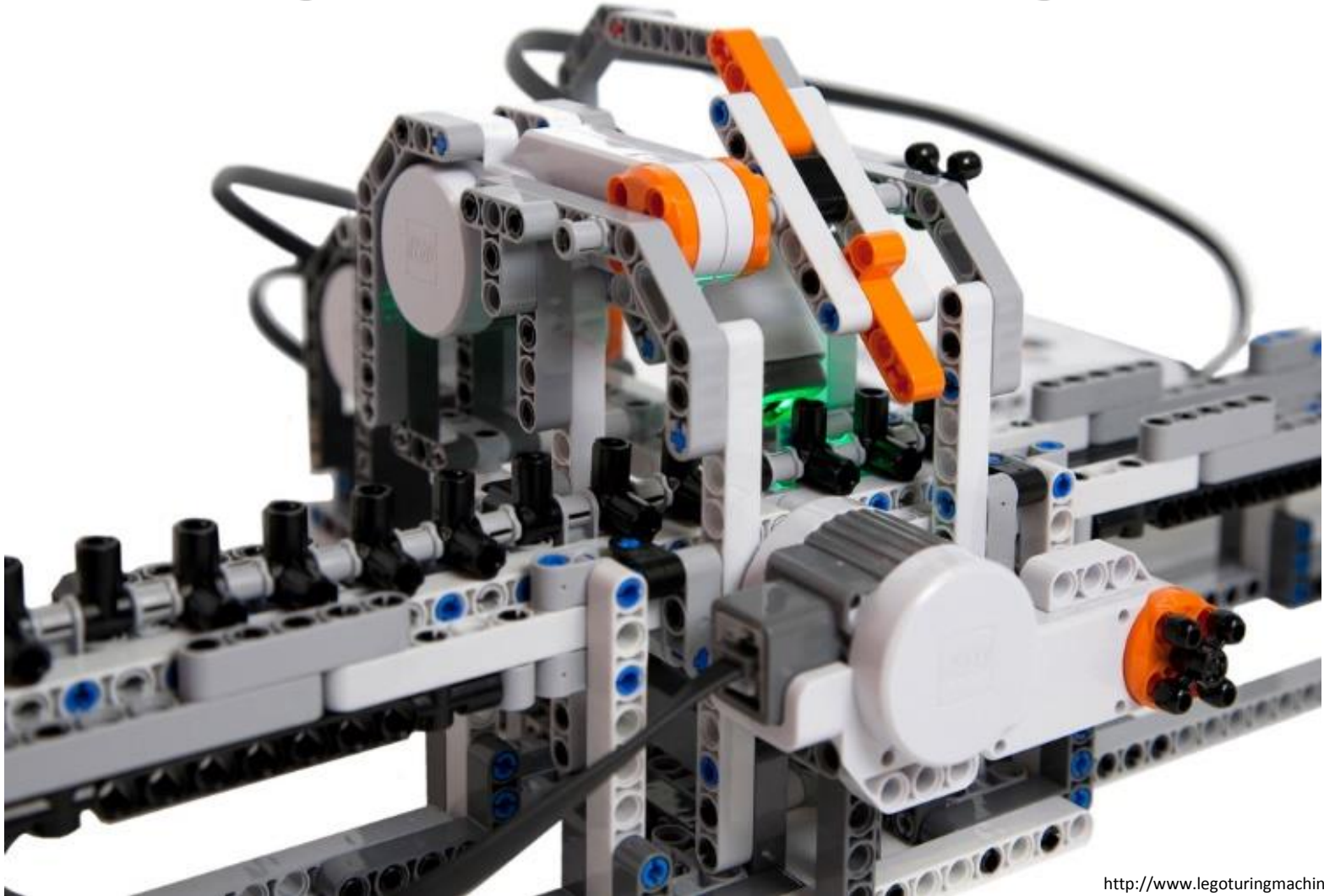
# A Turing Machine built using LEGO





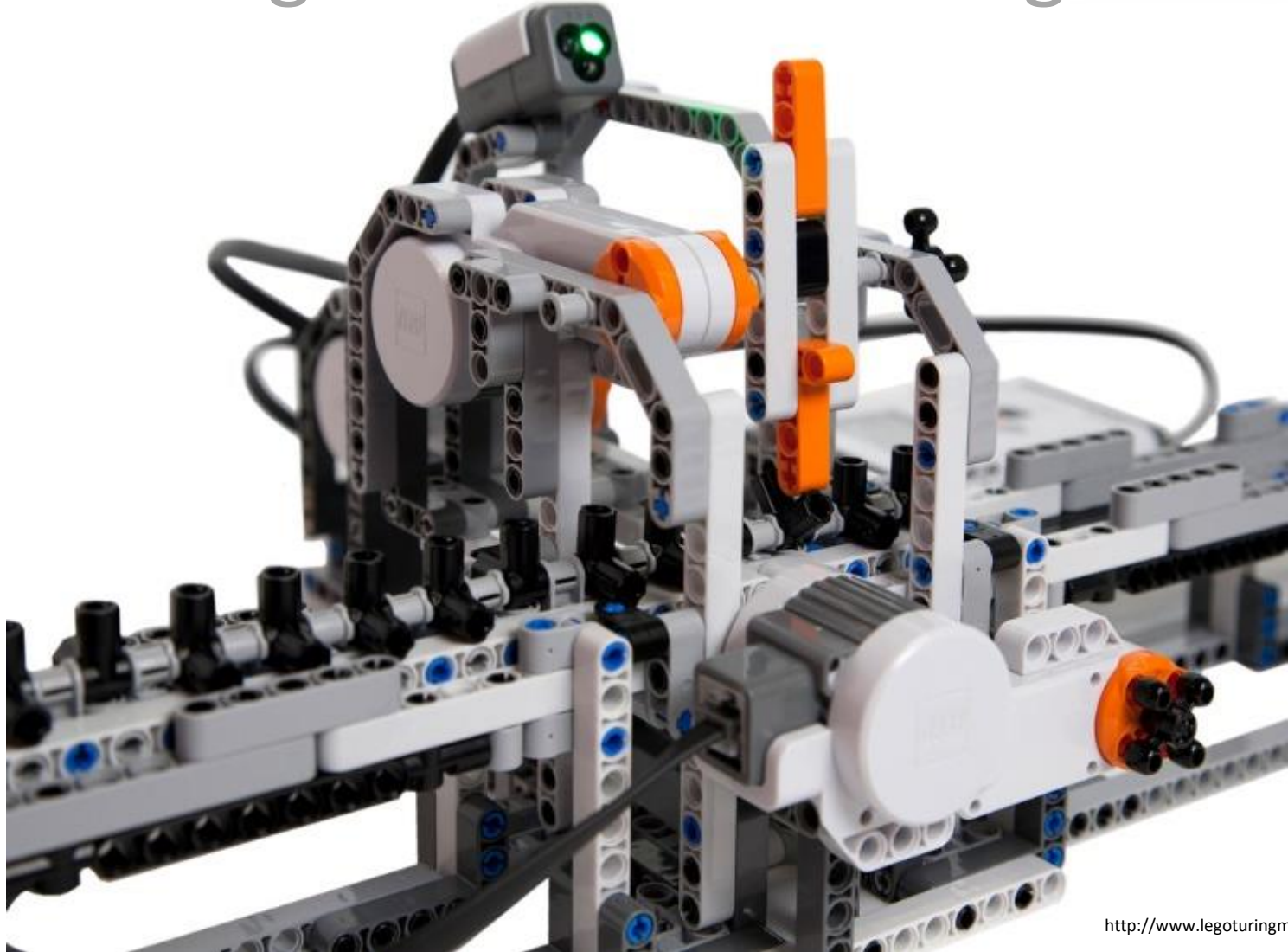
# Reading the memory

## A Turing Machine built using LEGO



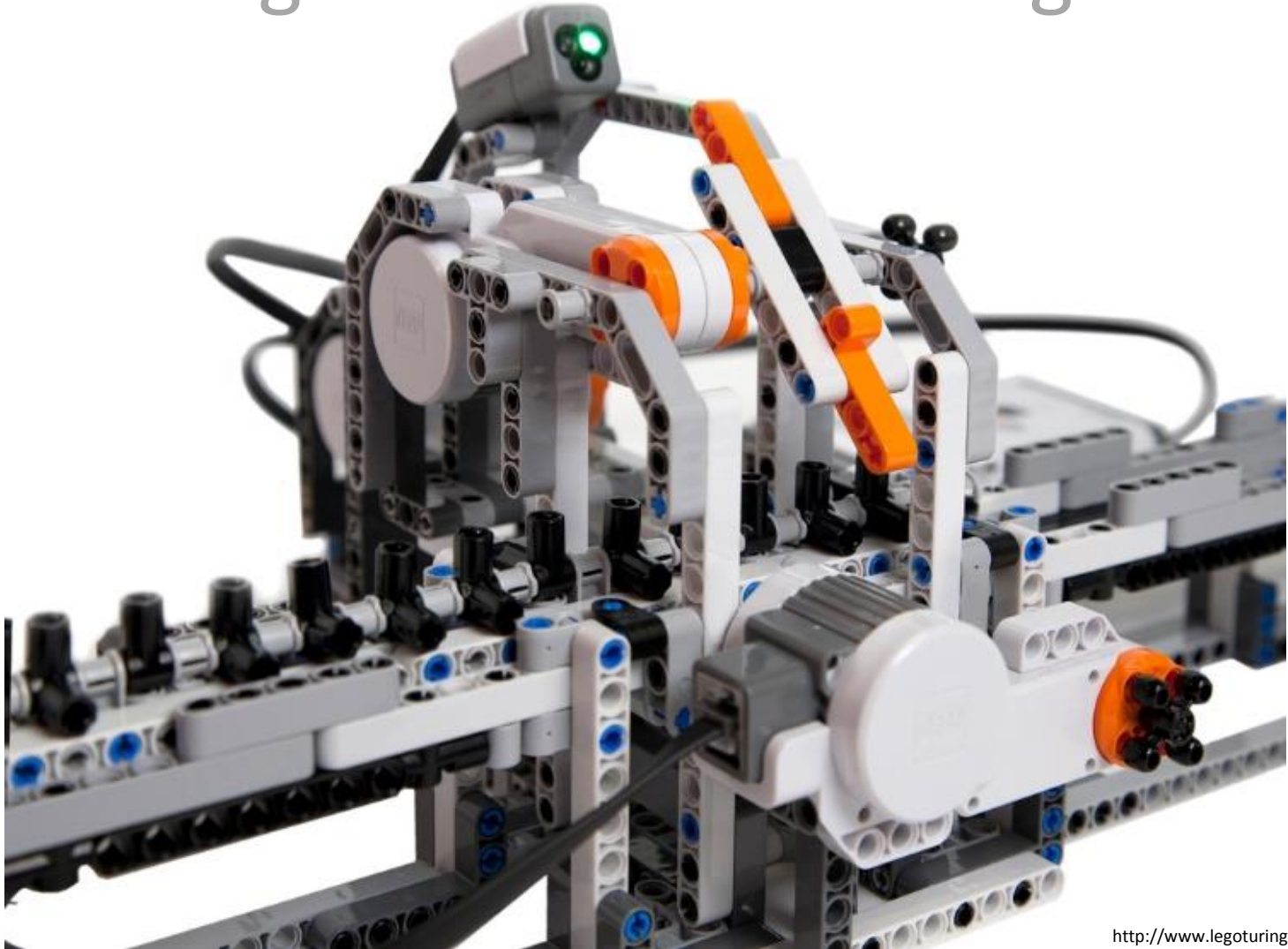
# Writing the memory

## A Turing Machine built using LEGO



# Moving the memory

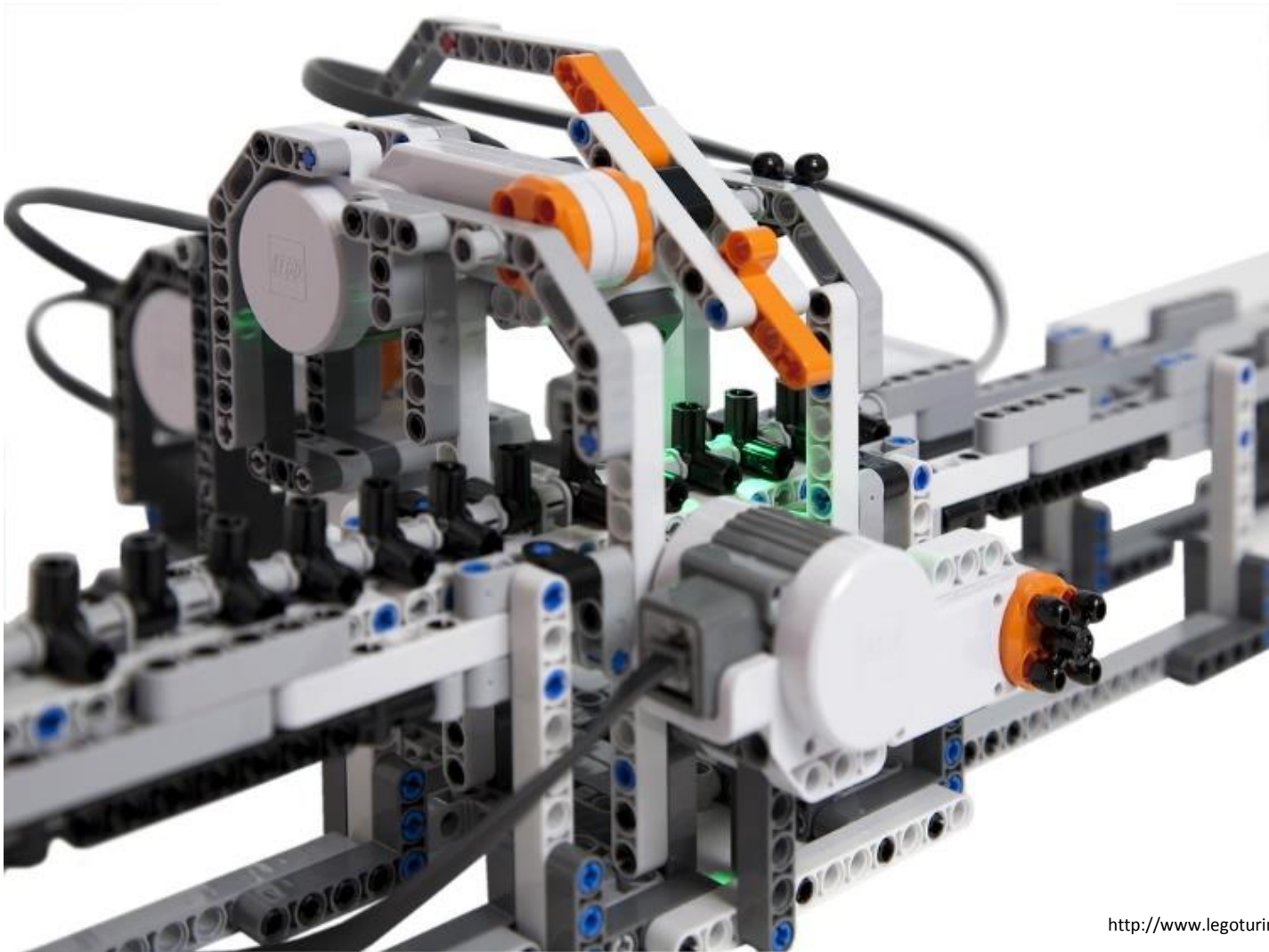
## A Turing Machine built using LEGO





# Detail shot

A Turing Machine built using LEGO



# Turing completeness

Turing complete or computationally universal if it can be used to simulate any single-taped Turing machine.

A classic example is lambda calculus.

# Corrado Böhm



$P''$

$P''$  is a primitive computer programming language created by Corrado Böhm in 1964 to describe a family of Turing machines.

# P''

- P'' was the **first** "GOTO-less" imperative structured programming language to be proven Turing-complete.
- The brainfuck language (apart from its I/O commands) is a minor informal variation of P''.



# Urban Dominik Müller



# BrainFuck

[illegible]

# The name

Sometimes also called:

- Brainf \* ck
- Brainf \*\*\*
- BF

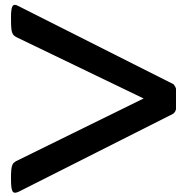
BF

> < + - . , [ ] #

# Tape with compartments

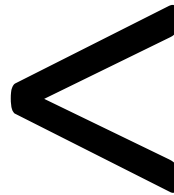


# Commands (1)



Step to the right

## Commands (2)



Step to the left

Commands (3)

+

Increment the value

(increase by one)



# Commands (4)



Decrement the value

(decrease by one)

# Input/Output (1)



Write a sybmol

# Input/Output (2)



Read a symbol

# Control structures (1)

[

The begin loop

# Control structures (2)

]

The end loop

# Brainfuck in hardware

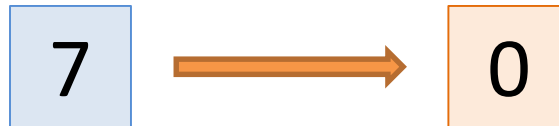


# The first example



# Reset in C#

```
while (tape[0] != 0)
{
    tape[0]--;
}
```





# Reset in BF

**[ - ]**



# The second example



# Move in C#

## The first way

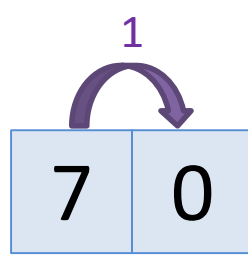
```
while (tape[0] != 0)
{
    tape[1]++;
    tape[0]--;
}
```

## The second way

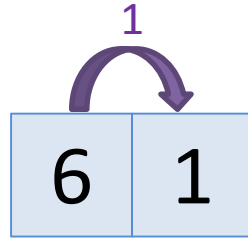
```
while (tape[0] != 0)
{
    tape[0]--;
    tape[1]++;
}
```



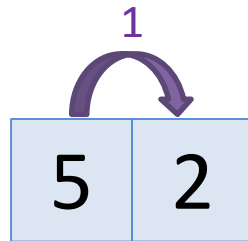
0



1

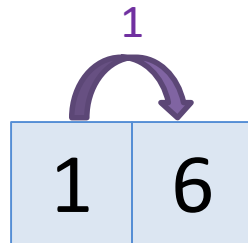


2



...

6



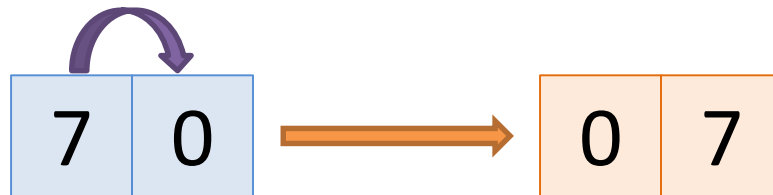
# Move in BF

The first way

[>+<-]

The second way

[->+<]



# The third example

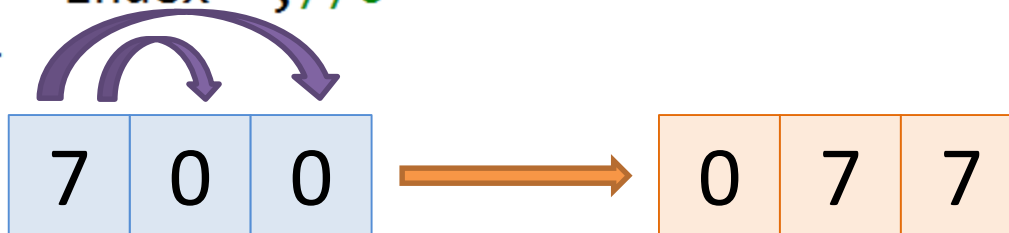




The wolf, the goat,  
and the cabbage problem

# Copy in C# (1)

```
var tape = new Dictionary<int, byte>();  
var index = 0;  
while (tape[index] != 0)  
{  
    tape[index]--;  
    index++; //1  
    tape[index]++;  
    index++; //2  
    tape[index]++;  
    index--; //1  
    index--; //0  
}
```





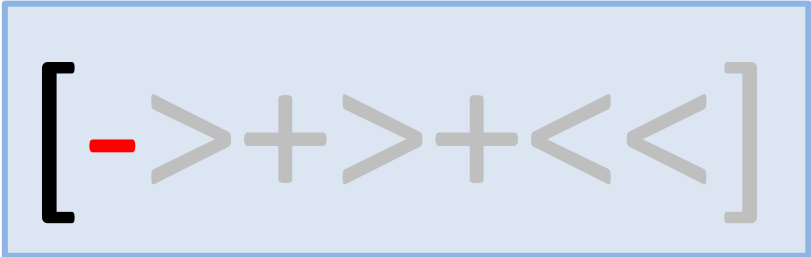
# Copy in C# (1)

```
var tape = new Dictionary<int, byte>();  
var index = 0;  
while (tape[index] != 0)  
{  
    tape[index]--;  
    index++; //1  
    tape[index]++;  
    index++; //2  
    tape[index]++;  
    index--; //1  
    index--; //0  
}
```

[ - > + > + < < ]

# Copy in C# (1)

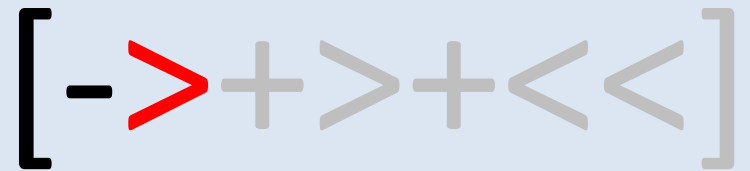
```
var tape = new Dictionary<int, byte>();  
var index = 0;  
while (tape[index] != 0)  
{  
    tape[index]--;  
    index++; //1  
    tape[index]++;  
    index++; //2  
    tape[index]++;  
    index--; //1  
    index--; //0  
}
```



A diagram representing a tape state. It consists of a light blue rectangular box containing a sequence of symbols enclosed in large black square brackets. The symbols are: a red minus sign, a gray greater-than sign, a gray plus sign, a gray greater-than sign, a gray plus sign, a gray less-than sign, and a gray less-than sign. The entire sequence is: [- > + > + < < ]

# Copy in C# (1)

```
var tape = new Dictionary<int, byte>();  
var index = 0;  
while (tape[index] != 0)  
{  
    tape[index]--;  
    index++; //1  
    tape[index]++;  
    index++; //2  
    tape[index]++;  
    index--; //1  
    index--; //0  
}
```



A diagram showing a sequence of operations enclosed in square brackets. The sequence is: [- > + > + < < ]. The first operation, '>', is highlighted in red, while the others are in gray.

# Copy in C# (1)

```
var tape = new Dictionary<int, byte>();  
var index = 0;  
while (tape[index] != 0)  
{  
    tape[index]--;  
    index++; //1  
    tape[index]++;  
    index++; //2  
    tape[index]++;  
    index--; //1  
    index--; //0  
}
```

[ - > + > + < < ]

# Copy in C# (1)

```
var tape = new Dictionary<int, byte>();  
var index = 0;  
while (tape[index] != 0)  
{  
    tape[index]--;  
    index++; //1  
    tape[index]++;  
    index++; //2  
    tape[index]++;  
    index--; //1  
    index--; //0  
}
```

[ - > + > + < < ]

# Copy in C# (1)

```
var tape = new Dictionary<int, byte>();  
var index = 0;  
while (tape[index] != 0)  
{  
    tape[index]--;  
    index++; //1  
    tape[index]++;  
    index++; //2  
    tape[index]++;  
    index--; //1  
    index--; //0  
}
```

[ - > + > + < < ]

# Copy in C# (1)

```
var tape = new Dictionary<int, byte>();  
var index = 0;  
while (tape[index] != 0)  
{  
    tape[index]--;  
    index++; //1  
    tape[index]++;  
    index++; //2  
    tape[index]++;  
    index--; //1  
    index--; //0  
}
```

[ - > + > + < < ]

# Copy in C# (1)

```
var tape = new Dictionary<int, byte>();  
var index = 0;  
while (tape[index] != 0)  
{  
    tape[index]--;  
    index++; //1  
    tape[index]++;  
    index++; //2  
    tape[index]++;  
    index--; //1  
    index--; //0  
}
```

[ - > + > + < < ]



# Copy in C# (1)

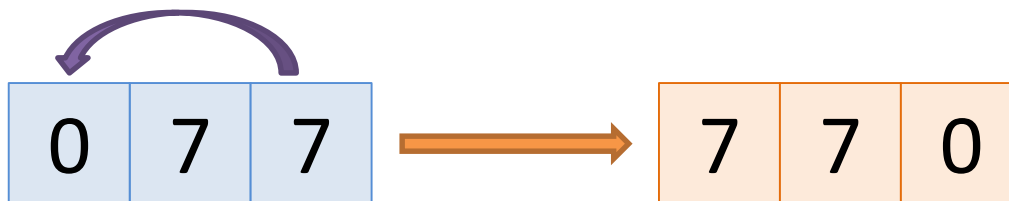
```
var tape = new Dictionary<int, byte>();  
var index = 0;  
while (tape[index] != 0)  
{  
    tape[index]--;  
    index++; //1  
    tape[index]++;  
    index++; //2  
    tape[index]++;  
    index--; //1  
    index--; //0  
}
```

[ - > + > + < < ]



# Copy in C# (2)

```
index++; //1
index++; //2
while (tape[index] != 0)
{
    tape[index]--;
    index--; //1
    index--; //0
    tape[index]++;
    index++; //1
    index++; //2
}
```



# Copy in C# (2)

```
index++; //1  
index++; //2
```

```
while (tape[index] != 0)  
{  
    tape[index]--;  
    index--; //1  
    index--; //0  
    tape[index]++;  
    index++; //1  
    index++; //2  
}
```

>>[-<<+>>]

# Copy in C# (2)

```
index++; //1
index++; //2
while (tape[index] != 0)
{
    tape[index]--;
    index--; //1
    index--; //0
    tape[index]++;
    index++; //1
    index++; //2
}
```

>>[-<<+>>]

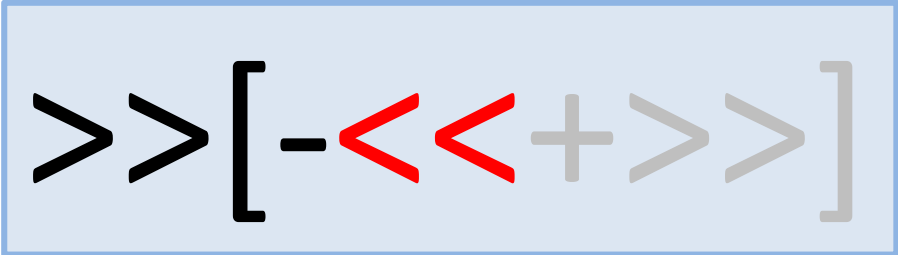
# Copy in C# (2)

```
index++; //1
index++; //2
while (tape[index] != 0)
{
    tape[index]--;
    index--; //1
    index--; //0
    tape[index]++;
    index++; //1
    index++; //2
}
```

>>[-<<+>>]

# Copy in C# (2)

```
index++; //1
index++; //2
while (tape[index] != 0)
{
    tape[index]--;
    index--; //1
    index--; //0
    tape[index]++;
    index++; //1
    index++; //2
}
```



A diagram of a Turing machine tape configuration. It shows a sequence of symbols: two black greater-than signs (> >), followed by a bracketed sequence of symbols: a black minus sign (-), two red less-than signs (< <), a gray plus sign (+), and two gray greater-than signs (> >). The entire sequence is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

# Copy in C# (2)

```
index++; //1
index++; //2
while (tape[index] != 0)
{
    tape[index]--;
    index--; //1
    index--; //0
    tape[index]++;
    index++; //1
    index++; //2
}
```

>>[-<<+>>]

# Copy in C# (2)

```
index++; //1
index++; //2
while (tape[index] != 0)
{
    tape[index]--;
    index--; //1
    index--; //0
    tape[index]++;
    index++; //1
    index++; //2
}
```

>>[-<<+>>]



# Copy in C# (2)

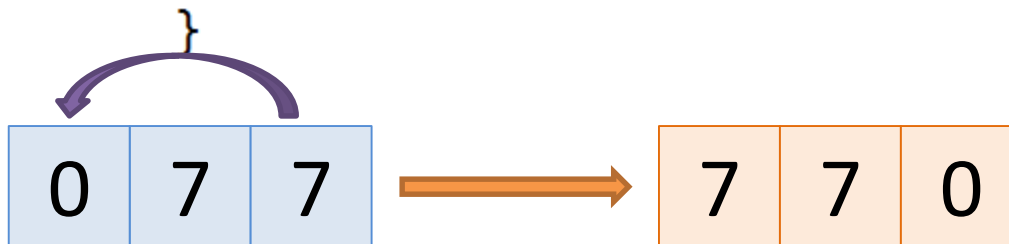
```
index++; //1
index++; //2
while (tape[index] != 0)
{
    tape[index]--;
    index--; //1
    index--; //0
    tape[index]++;
    index++; //1
    index++; //2
}
```

>>[-<<+>>]

# Copy in C# (2)

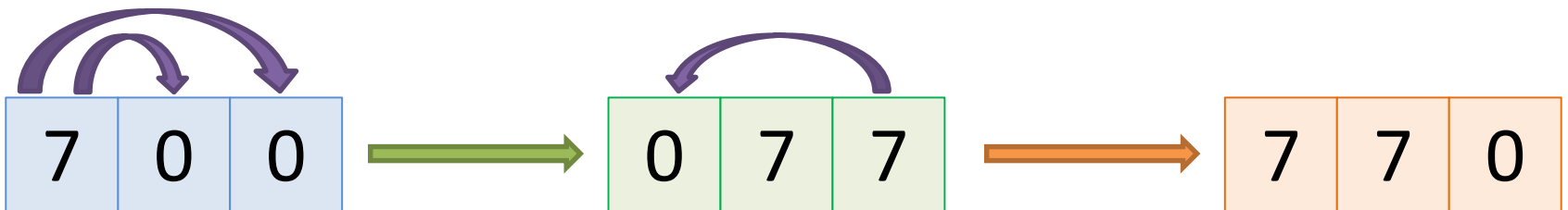
>>[-<<+>>]

```
index++; //1
index++; //2
while (tape[index] != 0)
{
    tape[index]--;
    index--; //1
    index--; //0
    tape[index]++;
    index++; //1
    index++; //2
}
```



# Copy in BF

$[->+>+<<]>>[-<<+>>]$



# The fourth example



# Echo in C# (1)

```
var tape = new Dictionary<int, byte>();  
var index = 0;  
  
tape[index] = (byte)Console.Read();  
while (tape[index] != 0)  
{  
    Console.Write((char)tape[index]);  
    tape[index] = (byte)Console.Read();  
}
```

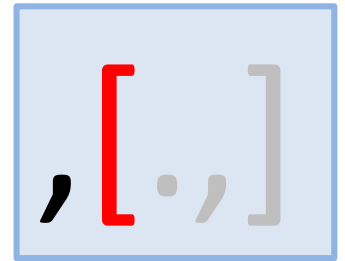
# Echo in C# (1)

```
var tape = new Dictionary<int, byte>();  
var index = 0;  
tape[index] = (byte)Console.Read();  
while (tape[index] != 0)  
{  
    Console.Write((char)tape[index]);  
    tape[index] = (byte)Console.Read();  
}
```



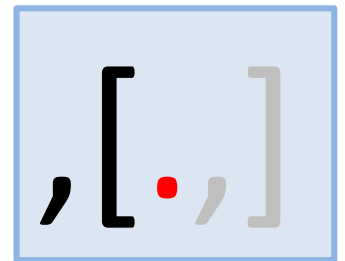
# Echo in C# (1)

```
var tape = new Dictionary<int, byte>();  
var index = 0;  
  
tape[index] = (byte)Console.Read();  
while (tape[index] != 0)  
{  
    Console.Write((char)tape[index]);  
    tape[index] = (byte)Console.Read();  
}
```



# Echo in C# (1)

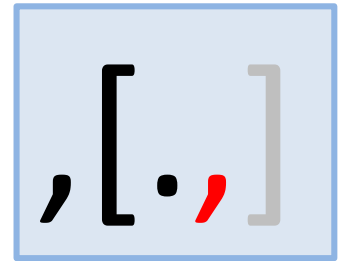
```
var tape = new Dictionary<int, byte>();  
var index = 0;  
  
tape[index] = (byte)Console.Read();  
while (tape[index] != 0)  
{  
    Console.Write((char)tape[index]);  
    tape[index] = (byte)Console.Read();  
}
```





# Echo in C# (1)

```
var tape = new Dictionary<int, byte>();  
var index = 0;  
  
tape[index] = (byte)Console.Read();  
while (tape[index] != 0)  
{  
    Console.Write((char)tape[index]);  
    tape[index] = (byte)Console.Read();  
}
```



# Echo in C# (1)

```
var tape = new Dictionary<int, byte>();  
var index = 0;
```

```
tape[index] = (byte)Console.Read();  
while (tape[index] != 0)  
{  
    Console.Write((char)tape[index]);  
    tape[index] = (byte)Console.Read();  
}
```



# Echo in C# (1)

```
var tape = new Dictionary<int, byte>();  
var index = 0;  
  
tape[index] = (byte)Console.Read();  
while (tape[index] != 0)  
{  
    Console.Write((char)tape[index]);  
    tape[index] = (byte)Console.Read();  
}
```



,[.,],

# Echo in BF

,[.,]

# The fifth example



# „Hello world!” in C# (1)

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        Console.WriteLine("Hello world!");
    }
}
```

# Really, it works... but it's so boring



# „Hello world!” in C# (2)

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        var tape = new char[]
        {
            'H', 'e', 'l', 'l', 'o',
            ' ',
            'w', 'o', 'r', 'l', 'd',
            '!'
        };
        Console.Write(tape);
    }
}
```



# The American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII)

It's a character-encoding scheme originally based on the English alphabet that encodes 128 specified characters.

# ASCII

010 0001	041	33	21	!	100 0001	101	65	41	A	110 0001	141	97	61	a
010 0010	042	34	22	"	100 0010	102	66	42	B	110 0010	142	98	62	b
010 0011	043	35	23	#	100 0011	103	67	43	C	110 0011	143	99	63	c
010 0100	044	36	24	\$	100 0100	104	68	44	D	110 0100	144	100	64	d
010 0101	045	37	25	%	100 0101	105	69	45	E	110 0101	145	101	65	e
010 0110	046	38	26	&	100 0110	106	70	46	F	110 0110	146	102	66	f
010 0111	047	39	27	'	100 0111	107	71	47	G	110 0111	147	103	67	g
010 1000	050	40	28	(	100 1000	110	72	48	H	110 1000	150	104	68	h
010 1001	051	41	29	)	100 1001	111	73	49	I	110 1001	151	105	69	i
010 1010	052	42	2A	*	100 1010	112	74	4A	J	110 1010	152	106	6A	j
010 1011	053	43	2B	+	100 1011	113	75	4B	K	110 1011	153	107	6B	k
010 1100	054	44	2C	,	100 1100	114	76	4C	L	110 1100	154	108	6C	l
010 1101	055	45	2D	-	100 1101	115	77	4D	M	110 1101	155	109	6D	m

# „Hello world!” in C# (3)

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        var tape = new int[]
        {
            72/*'H'*/, 101/*'e'*/, 108/*'l'*/, 108/*'l'*/, 111/*'o'*/,
            32/*' '*/,
            119/*'w'*/, 111/*'o'*/, 114/*'r'*/, 108/*'l'*/, 100/*'d'*/,
            33/*'!'*/
        };

        foreach (var value in tape)
            Console.Write((char)value);
    }
}
```

# „Hello world!” in C# (4)

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        var tape = new int[12];
        tape[0] = 72; /*'H'*/ tape[1] = 101; /*'e'*/
        tape[2] = 108; /*'l'*/ tape[3] = 108; /*'l'*/
        tape[4] = 111; /*'o'*/ tape[5] = 32; /*' '*/
        tape[6] = 119; /*'w'*/ tape[7] = 111; /*'o'*/
        tape[8] = 114; /*'r'*/ tape[9] = 108; /*'l'*/
        tape[10] = 100; /*'d'*/ tape[11] = 33; /*'!'*/

        foreach (var value in tape)
            Console.Write((char)value);
    }
}
```

# „Hello world!” in ASCII


0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
72	101	108	108	111	32	119	111	114	108	100	33
H	e	l	l	o		w	o	r	l	d	!

# „Hello world!” in C# (5)

- Suppose, in our set of tools no ready-numeric value.
- We have only a zero value and the ability to increase it by one (or decrease by one)

# „Hello world!” in C# (5)


```
tape[0]++;  
.  
.  
.  
tape[0]++;
```



72 times == ,H'

# „Hello world!” in C# (5)

```
tape[1]++;  
.  
.  
.  
tape[1]++;
```



101 times == ,e'



„Hello world!” in C# (5)

...

# „Hello world!” in C# (6)

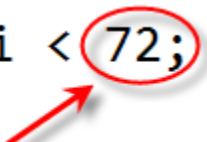
```
for (int i = 0; i < 72; i++)  
    tape[0]++;
```

# „Hello world!” in C# (6)

```
for (int i = 0; i < 101; i++)  
    tape[1]++;
```

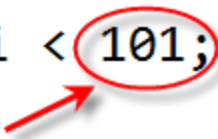
Suppose we do not have  
a predefined value...

```
for (int i = 0; i < 72; i++)  
    tape[0]++;
```




or

```
for (int i = 0; i < 101; i++)  
    tape[1]++;
```



# „Hello world!” in C# (7)


```
tape[0]++;  
.  
.  
.  
tape[0]++;
```



10 times

# „Hello world!” in C# (7)

```
for (int i = 0; i < tape[0]; i++)  
    tape[1]++;
```



10

# „Hello world!” in C# (8)

```
var tape = new int[3];  
tape[0] += 10;  
  
for (int i = 0; i < tape[0]; i++)  
{  
    tape[1] += 7;  
  
    tape[2] += 10;  
  
    tape[3] += 3;  
}
```

# „Hello world!” in C# (8)

```
var tape = new int[3];  
tape[0] += 10;  
  
for (int i = 0; i < tape[0]; i++)  
{  
    tape[1] += 7;  
    tape[2] += 10;  
    tape[3] += 3;  
}
```



```
var tape = new int[3];
```

```
tape[0] += 1; tape[0] += 1; tape[0] += 1;
```

```
tape[0] += 1; tape[0] += 1; tape[0] += 1;
```

```
tape[0] += 1; tape[0] += 1; tape[0] += 1;
```

```
tape[0] += 1;
```

10 times

```
for (int i = 0; i < tape[0]; i++)
```

7 times

```
{
```

```
    tape[1] += 1; tape[1] += 1; tape[1] += 1; tape[1] += 1;
```

```
    tape[1] += 1; tape[1] += 1; tape[1] += 1;
```

10 times

```
    tape[2] += 1; tape[2] += 1; tape[2] += 1; tape[2] += 1;
```

```
    tape[2] += 1; tape[2] += 1; tape[2] += 1; tape[2] += 1;
```

```
    tape[2] += 1; tape[2] += 1;
```

3 times

```
    tape[3] += 1; tape[3] += 1; tape[3] += 1;
```

```
}
```

```
var tape = new int[3];
int position = 0;
tape[position] += 10;

for (int i = 0; i < tape[position]; i++)
{
    position++; //1
    tape[position] += 7;

    position++; //2
    tape[position] += 10;

    position++; //3
    tape[position] += 3;

    position--; //2
    position--; //1
    position--; //0
}
```

+++++++++ p0v+10

[>+++++ p1v+7

>+++++ p2v+10

>+++ p3v+3

<<<-] p0v-1

# Four cells

0	1	2	3
0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0
9	7	10	3
8	14	20	6
7	21	30	9
6	28	40	12
5	35	50	15
4	42	60	18
3	49	70	21
2	56	80	24
1	63	90	27
<b>0</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30</b>


+++++ p0v10



0	10												
0	0												
0	0												
0	0												

72	101	108	108	111	32	119	111	114	108	100	33
H	e	l	l	o		w	o	r	l	d	!

$[>+++++++ \text{ p1v}+7$   
 $>+++++++ \text{ p2v}+10$   
 $>+++ \text{ p3v}+3$   
 $<<<-] \text{ p0v}-1$



0	10	0											
0	0	70											
0	0	100											
0	0	30											

72	101	108	108	111	32	119	111	114	108	100	33
H	e	l	l	o		w	o	r	l	d	!


>++. p1v+2



0	10	0	0										
0	0	70	72										
0	0	100	100										
0	0	30	30										

72	101	108	108	111	32	119	111	114	108	100	33
H	e	l	l	o		w	o	r	l	d	!

$>+.p_{2v+1}$



0	10	0	0										
0	0	70	72										
0	0	100	101										
0	0	30	30										

72	101	108	108	111	32	119	111	114	108	100	33
H	e	l	l	o		w	o	r	l	d	!



+++++. p2v+7

0	10	0	0	0									
0	0	70	72	72									
0	0	100	101	108									
0	0	30	30	30									

72	101	108	108	111	32	119	111	114	108	100	33
H	e	i	l	o		w	o	r	l	d	!

• p2



0	10	0	0	0	0								
0	0	70	72	72	72								
0	0	100	101	108	108								
0	0	30	30	30	30								

72	101	108	108	111	32	119	111	114	108	100	33
H	e	l	l	o		w	o	r	l	d	!

+++ . p2v+3

0	10	0	0	0	0	0							
0	0	70	72	72	72	72							
0	0	100	101	108	108	111							
0	0	30	30	30	30	30							


72	101	108	108	111	32	119	111	114	108	100	33
H	e	l	l	o		w	o	r	l	d	!

>++. p3v+2

0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0						
0	0	70	72	72	72	72	72						
0	0	100	101	108	108	111	111						
0	0	30	30	30	30	30	32						

72	101	108	108	111	32	119	111	114	108	100	33
H	e	l	l	o		w	o	r	l	d	!

<+++++. p2v+8



0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
0	0	70	72	72	72	72	72	72					
0	0	100	101	108	108	111	111	119					
0	0	30	30	30	30	30	32	32					

72	101	108	108	111	32	119	111	114	108	100	33
H	e	l	l	o		w	o	r	l	d	!

----- . p2v-8

0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
0	0	70	72	72	72	72	72	72	72				
0	0	100	101	108	108	111	111	119	111				
0	0	30	30	30	30	30	32	32	32				

72	101	108	108	111	32	119	111	114	108	100	33
H	e	l	l	o		w	o	r	l	d	!

+++ . p2v+3

0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
0	0	70	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72			
0	0	100	101	108	108	111	111	119	111	114			
0	0	30	30	30	30	30	32	32	32	32			

72	101	108	108	111	32	119	111	114	108	100	33
H	e	l	l	o		w	o	r	l	d	!

----- . p2v-6

0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
0	0	70	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72		
0	0	100	101	108	108	111	111	119	111	114	108		
0	0	30	30	30	30	30	32	32	32	32	32		

72	101	108	108	111	32	119	111	114	108	100	33
H	e	l	l	o		w	o	r	I	d	!



----- . p2v-8

0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	70	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	
0	0	100	101	108	108	111	111	119	111	114	108	100	
0	0	30	30	30	30	30	32	32	32	32	32	32	

72	101	108	108	111	32	119	111	114	108	100	33	
H	e	l	l	o		w	o	r	l	d	!	

$>+.p3v+1$

0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	70	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72
0	0	100	101	108	108	111	111	119	111	114	108	100	100
0	0	30	30	30	30	30	32	32	32	32	32	32	33

72	101	108	108	111	32	119	111	114	108	100	33
H	e	l	l	o		w	o	r	l	d	!



0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	70	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72
0	0	100	101	108	108	111	111	119	111	114	108	100	100
0	0	30	30	30	30	30	32	32	32	32	32	32	33

72	101	108	108	111	32	119	111	114	108	100	33
H	e	l	l	o		w	o	r	l	d	!

# "Hello world!" in BF

+++++

[>++++>++++>+++>+  
<<<<-]

>++.>+.+++++.+++.>+.

<<+++++.>+.+++.-  
.-.-----.>+.>.

# "Hello world!" in BF



+++++

[>++++>++++>+++>+

<<<<-]

>++.>+.+++++.+++.>+.

<<+++++.>+.+-----

.-----.>+.>.

# How to do well?



# "Hello world!" in BF



+++++

[>+++++>+++++>+++>+  
<<<<-]

>++.>+.+++++.++++.>+.

<+++++.-----+.+.-----  
--.>+.

# Resources

- The Brainfuck Programming Language
- <http://esolangs.org/wiki/Brainfuck>
- <http://www.hevanet.com/cristofd/brainfuck/>
- [http://www.iwriteiam.nl/Ha\\_bf\\_Turing.html](http://www.iwriteiam.nl/Ha_bf_Turing.html)