

CSC110AB Notes

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Word Document Notes

[Java Foundations Notes Chapter 1](#)

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More likely to be up-to-date

“This is a Direct copy-paste, all credit goes to Wade Huber

Java Syntax & Semantics

A Java **program** is made up of one or more classes. A **class** is a template for the features of **objects** which contains members (methods & attributes).

A **method** is a procedure that is tied to an object. It contains local variables and statements. Attributes (also called fields or properties) are the data members of a class. A Java **application** contains a method called `main()`.

The **syntax** rules of a language define the legal ways to arrange the identifiers and symbols (**tokens**) of a language to make a valid program. The **semantics** of a program statement define what that means. An incorrect program can still be syntactically correct! A program does what you tell it to do, not what you want it to do. The distinction between syntax and semantics can sometimes be hard to grasp at first. Roughly, think of syntax as the thing your compiler checks, while semantics are what you check when you test your code.

Identifiers

An **identifier** is the name given to the entities of a program, such as variables, classes, methods, packages, labels, constants, etc. In Java, identifiers are made up of letters, digits, and the symbols `_` and `$`. Identifiers are case-sensitive and cannot begin with a digit. That means that `Total`, `total`, and `TOTAL` are three distinct identifiers. (they are also an indication of a programmer who is not using a good coding style!).

Java programmers typically follow these naming conventions:

- Capitalize class names
- ALL CAPS for constants
- lowercase names for packages
- camelCaseNames for method and variable names

Coding Style

Whatever your particular coding style, you should always strive for simplicity. Using coding tricks and clever code can be fun, until you have to decipher it later. Any time you use an advanced feature of your language, always ask yourself if you could be doing it in a simpler way. Code has a way of changing over time and simple code is much easier to change than clever code.

The most important thing about your coding style is that you are consistent. Select an indentation style and naming convention and **stick to it** throughout your code. Java ignores extra whitespace, so use it to improve readability.

I personally could not possibly care less about your coding style. In the code examples for this class I try to use 4-spaces to indent (not a tab), though I use a lot of different editors over time while editing the code so that may not always be consistent.

Use **comments** for inline documentation. They do not affect how the program works, but they can help others understand how your code works. However, don't go overboard with your comments - make sure they are all helpful to another programmer without being too verbose. Keep in mind that variable and method names can also be used to write clear code. You should try to write code that does not need to be documented. Comments should be used only to provide the big picture.

A few other things to keep in mind that we will expound on later:

- Classes/methods should encapsulate/do one thing
- Provide tests to demonstrate how your code works
- Bad programmers write complex code, good programmers write simple code.

☞ *Always code as if the guy who ends up maintaining your code will be a violent psychopath who knows where you live. Code for readability.*
-- John F. Woods, comp.lang.c++

Bad code style example

Notice how in the example below, none of the variable or method names describe what the thing is. And, even worse, the comments just describe the syntax, not the purpose of the code. I would argue that in this example the only reason the comments seem to be there are to make the code even harder to read!

```
int num = 0;    // declare int
int num2 = 0;   // declare int
// Call some function
num = someFunction();
// If num is more than 100 call doSomething
if (num > 100) { doSomething();}
// else call doSomethingElse
else {doSomethingElse();
      num2 ++; // increment ++
}
// for 0 to count call prepareSomeStuff
for (ii=0;ii<num;ii++) {
    prepareSomeStuff();
}
```

Better code style example

The example below is exactly the same as the code above other than the variable and method names have been changed, the comments updated, and better use was made of white space. Notice how the code is much easier to understand even though there are fewer comments.

```

int errorCount = 0;    // Number of errors
int successfulCount = 0; // Number of jobs with acceptable error rate

errorCount = getErrorCount();

// Acceptable error count is less than 100
if (errorCount > 100) {
    reportExcessiveErrors();
}
else {
    releaseForProcessing();
    successfulCount++;
}

// Clear errors from system to prepare for next run
for (ii=0;ii<errorCount;ii++) {
    resetError();
}

```

Programming Notes

Errors

There are different types of **errors** you can run across:

- **Compile-time Errors:** Occur when you try to compile your program. These are typically syntax errors or type errors.
- **Run-time Errors:** Occur when your code runs. They typically lead to exceptions and your program will crash if the exception is not caught.
- **Logical Errors:** are bugs, not in your code itself, but in the design of your program. These are the worst kind of errors since they can only be detected by thorough testing. Compile-time errors are the best kind of errors since they are easiest to spot, if not always to fix.

Programming Pitfalls

As you write your code, try to avoid the following types of (*very common*) errors that programmers make:

- **Random Walk Programming** is making small, random changes until your code compiles.
 - This is a bad habit!
 - When you find an error you should always try to figure out why the error occurred and then fix it in a way that ensures it is really fixed.
 - Keep in mind that just because your code compiles that doesn't mean it will

work.

- **Cargo Cult Programming / Magical Incantations** is copying and pasting code you don't understand.
 - If you don't understand code you should never include it - it could be dangerous.
- **Big Ball of Mud** is "A haphazardly structured, sprawling, sloppy, duct-tape-and-baling-wire, spaghetti-code jungle." Big balls of mud usually result when you start programming before fully understanding the requirements without a good design and frequently incorporate the 2 problems above.

Program Development Process

Steps in the Development Process

The programming development process consists of multiple steps. In practice, there is a lot of overlap between the steps and there may be cycles where consecutive steps are repeated multiple times. The important part here is not that you always rigidly follow the steps below, but that, at some point while your code is under development, you visit each step. Notice that actual coding is a small part of the overall process.

- The **requirements** are an informal description of the program's needed functionality from the user's point of view.
- A **specification** is a formal description of the program's requirements from the programmer's point of view.
- The **design** process entails translating the specification into procedures.
- **Implementation** involves actually instantiating the design (programming)
- **Verification** ensures that the implementation meets the requirements.
- **Validation** ensures that the implementation meets the specification.

Program Testing

Program testing is executing a program by applying test cases in an attempt to find programming errors in a given environment.

Test cases test a set of inputs to a program and the expected output given those inputs.

- Test cases are created based on pre / post conditions.
- Keep in mind that exhaustive testing (testing all possible inputs) is rarely feasible. Your test cases should check for edge cases - situations that are especially difficult for your program to handle.
 - These may be things such as negative numbers entered as dates, strings entered when integers are expected, or adding elements to the start or end of a data structure.

Programmers often will create a **driver class** to test a class. A driver class is a class that usually has just a main method.

The main method of a driver class instantiates one or more instances of the class you are testing and exercises the methods to verify the class works as expected.

- Output or exception handling can be used to detect errors.
- *Note:* There is nothing magical about a driver class or the name driver. Driver classes are not required, but they can be a helpful tool on your programming toolbelt.

Debugging is the process of finding the location and root cause of program errors.

Types of Testing

- **Functional Testing (Black-box testing):** covers some subset of the requirements of the program. The idea is to ensure the program does what it is supposed to do - the output is correct for a given input. The test cases should be implementation independent, so if the implementation changes the test cases should still be applicable.
- **Structural Testing (White-box testing):** covers the structure of the program with an aim of discovering if there are any bugs in the program code. With structural testing, test cases are aware of the implementation so if there are changes to the implementation the test cases have to change.

Types of Program Maintenance

With most programs, especially in industry, you will need to perform maintenance to ensure that your program continues to meet the requirements. There are many different types of maintenance:

- **Corrective maintenance** is fixing bugs and other problems as they crop up.
- **Adaptive maintenance** is required when the execution environment changes (OS upgrades, new technology).
- **Perfective maintenance** involves implementing new features or enhancements based on user requests.
- **preventive maintenance** involves proactively making bug fixes and making enhancements to improve maintainability.

You should design your programs with these in mind to make your future self happy.

Proof of Program Correctness

There are two factors in proving a program is correct:

1. Partial Correctness
 - ☐ Does the program satisfy the pre-conditions?
 - ☐ Does the program satisfy the post-conditions?
2. Termination

- ☐ Does the program end?

A program is considered to be correct when it meets the conditions of both partial correctness and termination.

Overview of Object-Oriented Programming

Java is an **Object-Oriented Programming (OOP)** language.

- That isn't 100% true, but it is close enough for our purposes.

In Object-Oriented Programming, the fundamental entity is the “**object**”. An object has some information (**state**) & some operations (**behaviors**) and usually represents some real-world entity such as:

- A particular student in a class
- A window in a GUI
- A character in a game

Objects should handle their own processing and data management.

Object-Oriented languages vary widely, but typically they contain the following features, often called “The Four Pillars of Object-Oriented Programming”:

- **Abstraction:** Shifting the focus on what an object does instead of the details of its implementation
- **Encapsulation:** Separating the interface from the implementation
- **Inheritance:** Subclasses can include attributes & methods from a superclass
- **Polymorphism:** Methods get called based on the type of the object no matter what the type of the reference is (late-binding)

The explanations above are by necessity fairly hand-wavy for now.

In Object-Oriented Programming there are usually multiple ways to represent a problem and there is often no “one right answer”.

- In fact, in many cases OOP itself is not always the answer (though for purposes of this class it will nearly always be).
- In practice, there are usually multiple ways to solve a problem, with a few of them being good choices.
- There are also lots of ways to poorly solve a problem, which is why experience is your best friend when it comes to programming. The more you practice the better you will get.

Google Slides

What is a computer?

- A **computer** is machine that manipulates data and performs arithmetic and logical operations

- A computer consists of:
 - **Hardware** - the parts of a computer that you touch
 - **Software** - the programs and data used by the computer
- We tell a computer what to do using a **program** (application) - a set of instructions that the computer executes to perform a task

Programming Languages

- Programs are written using programming language
 - A **programming language** is a set of words and symbols (tokens) that we use to write programs
 - Each programming language has a **syntax** that describes how the tokens of the language can be put together to form valid **statements**
 - The **semantics** of a program defines what the statements mean
 - A syntactically correct program may not be semantically correct!
 - A program will always do *exactly what you tell it to do*, not what we *meant* to tell it to do
-

- There are many programming languages in use today such as:
 - Python
 - C++
 - JavaScript
 - C#
 - and hundreds of others...
 - In this course, we will be using **Java** as our programming language of choice
 - Many concepts you will learn will carry over to other languages
 - For example, most languages have for-loops, and the Java syntax is identical to C & C++
-

Programming languages are constantly evolving

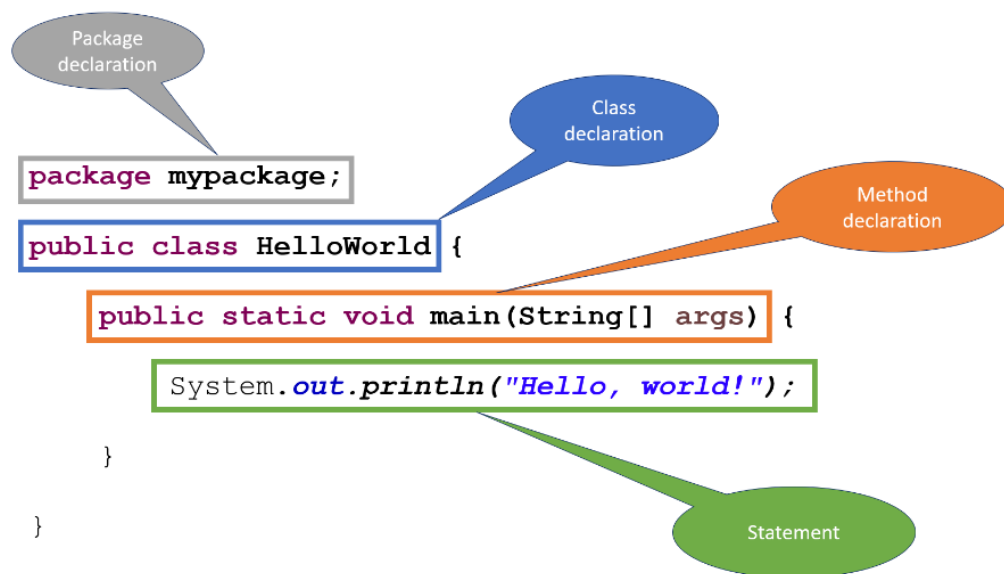
- **Machine language** is the language of the CPU (binary code)
 - But, they are CPU-specific!
- **Assembly language** is a mnemonic device that maps human-readable identifiers to machine language
- **High level languages** are more human-readable and get converted to machine language by a compiler
- **Fourth-generation languages** are more natural-language like

The Java Programming Language

- Java was introduced in 1995
- It was created by a team at Sun Microsystems led by James Gosling
- Java is an **object-oriented programming** language (more on that later!)
- A Java program is made up of one or more **classes** that contain **methods** that contain **statements**
- Every Java application must contain a method called `main` which is where the program starts
- The `main` method often uses other classes and calls other methods

A Java Program

A Java Program



Comments

Comments are code that the compiler ignores - they allow the programmer to document their code.

Java has 3 comment formats:

- **C style:** `/* this is a comment */`
 - can extend multiple lines
- **C++ style:** `// this is a one line comment`
- **Javadoc:** `/** this is a javadoc comment */`

Comments do not affect how the program runs - they serve to give hints to other programmers about what the program is doing

Use comments to clarify the *thought* behind your code, not what it does. For example, here are 3 lines of code that do the same thing:

- Bad: `a = t / c; // A is equal to t divided by c`
- Better: `a = t / c; // Compute the average`
- Best: `averageStudents = totalStudents / numberOfClasses;`
- Notice that the best use of comments is using descriptive names instead of comments!

Identifiers

- **Identifiers** are names chosen for things in their program
- **Reserved words** have a predefined meaning to the language, so you cannot use them as identifiers

See https://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/java/nutsandbolts/_keywords.html for a list

- Java identifiers are made up of letters (A-Z), digits (0-9), and the underscore (`_`) and dollar sign (`$`) characters
- Java identifiers cannot begin with a digit
- Java identifiers are **case-sensitive**
 - So `value`, `Value`, `VALUE`, `VaLuE`, and `vAlUe` are 5 distinct identifiers
 - `Value`, `_Value`, `Value$`, and `Value1` are also 4 distinct identifiers
 - Note that it is best to use descriptive *names*, not different case to differentiate identifiers

Conventions

- **Capitalize** class names
 - `Circle`
 - `GameBoard`
- Use **ALLCAPS** for constants
 - `PI`
 - `DEFAULT_LENGTH`
- **lowercase** names for packages
 - `project01`
 - `mystuff`
- **camelCase** for method & variable names
 - `avgGrade`
 - `myValue`
 - `bestCaseScenario`
 - `thisOneIsALittleBitLong`

White Space

- The spaces, blank lines, and tabs in your program are called **white space**
- White space is used to separate the tokens (symbols & words) in your program
- Extra white space in your program is ignored by the compiler
- Use white space to make your code more clear (readable)
 - But, as with comments, you can have too much of a good thing

Example

These programs are identical in what they do, but one is a bit clearer

```
package videoexamples.chapter01;

public class HelloWorld {

    public static void main(String[] args) {

        System.out.println("Hello, world!");

    }

}
```

Use whitespace for clarity!

```
package
videoexamples.chapter01;

public      class
HelloWorld { public static
void        main(String
            []

            args) {
            System.out.println
("Hello, world!"
) ; }

}
```

Documenting Your Code

- Strive to write code that does not need to be documented
 - Descriptive variable/method names
 - Classes/methods should encapsulate/do one thing
- Comments should be used to provide the big picture
- Use white space to make your code more readable
- Provide tests to demonstrate how your code works
- Bad programmers write complex code, good programmers write simple code

“ Always code as if the guy who ends up maintaining your code will be a violent psychopath who knows where you live. Code for readability.

-- John F. Woods, comp.lang.c++

What Is The Purpose of Programming?

- The purpose of writing any program is to *solve a problem*
- Actually writing the code is not particularly valuable
- Companies do not pay software engineers to write code - they pay them to solve problems
 - Code is just the tool they use to solve the problems
- Your value as a programmer is in your problem-solving ability

- The reason you should learn to code is so that you can implement your solutions!

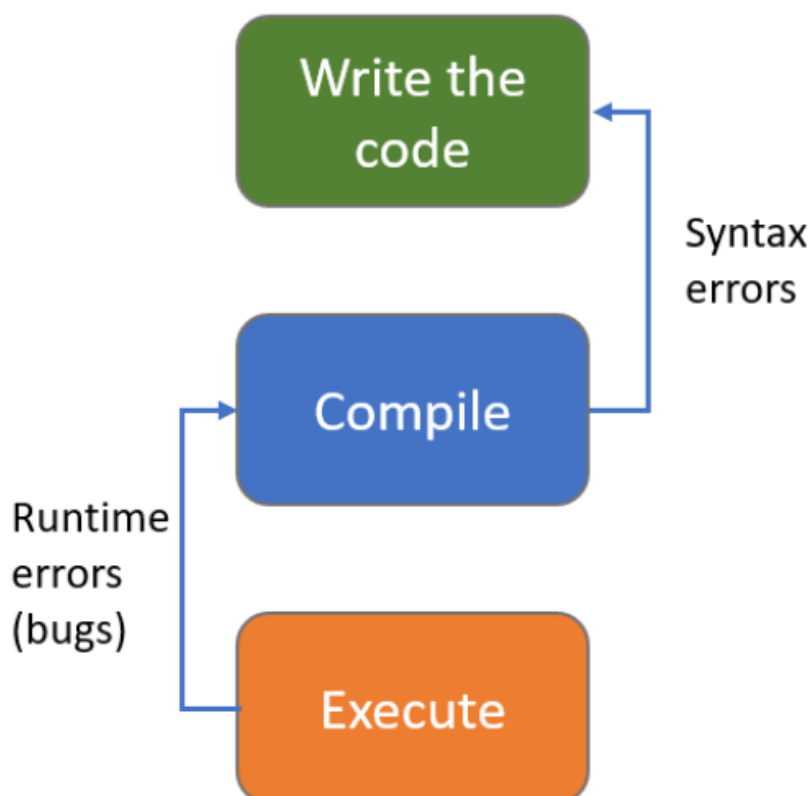
Problem-Solving With Programming

1. Understand the problem
2. Establish requirements
3. Design a solution - break the problem into manageable pieces
4. Implement your solution
5. Refine the solution & consider alternatives
6. Test your solution

The Program Development Process

1. **Requirements** – an informal description of the program's needed functionality from the user's point of view
2. **Specification** – a formal description of the programs requirements from the programmer's point of view.
3. **Preconditions & Postconditions** (what the inputs & outputs are)
4. **Design** – translating the specification into procedure
5. **Implementation** – instantiating the design (programming)
6. **Testing** – verifying that the implementation works correctly
7. **Verification & Validation** - verifying that the implementation meets the requirements & specification

How Code Runs



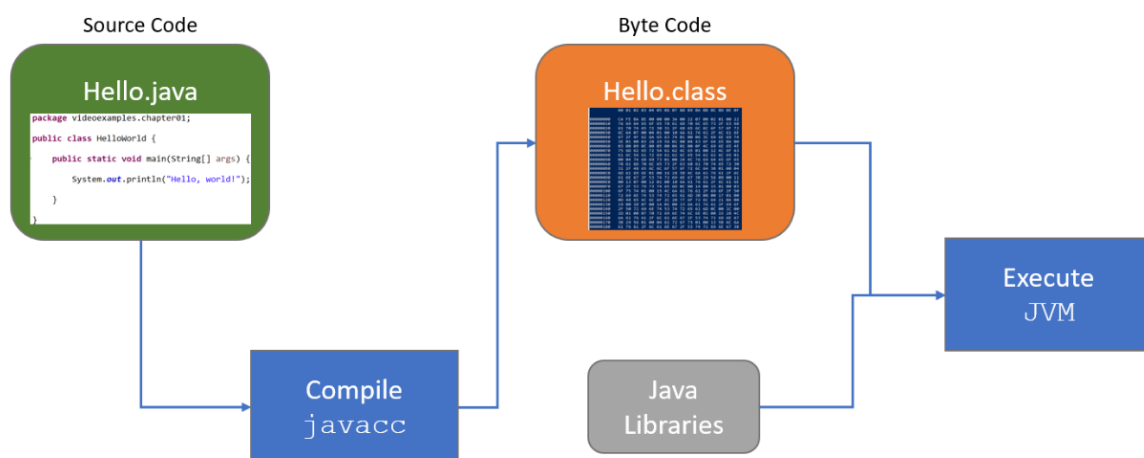
- Write your code using an editor
 - Save your code as ASCII text
- Converts (**compiles**) your **source code** to a form that the computer understands (machine language)
 - The compiler may find places where you wrote the code incorrectly (syntax errors)
 - If there are syntax errors, you will need to fix them before you move on
- Run (**execute**) your code
 - Errors at this point are called runtime errors and usually indicate a problem with the logic of your solution

How Java Code Runs



Java has a 2-step compilation process - your code is first converted into Java **Bytecode** and then the **Java Virtual Machine** executes the Java Bytecode

- Note that this means Java is more CPU-independent than other languages as it can run on any CPU that has a JVM!



Program Errors

- **Compile-time Errors** are syntax errors and other problems with your *code* that the compiler will find
- **Run-time Errors** occur during program execution and cause the program to terminate abnormally (crash)
 - Example: divide by 0, using a null reference
- **Logic Errors** occur when the program terminates successfully, but produces incorrect results
 - Example: use of an incorrect formula, incorrectly updating a variable

Development Environment

- To write and execute your own programs, you will need a development environment
- that consists of the tools you need (**toolchain**):
 - **Editor**: create & modify your source
 - **Compiler**: convert your code to executable format
 - **Test environment (Unit testing)**
 - **Debugger**: help you find errors in your program
- You can use individual programs for each step of the software development process
- There are also programs called **integrated development environments (IDEs)** that combine all the tools into one software application

Java IDEs

- There are several popular Java IDEs
 - **Eclipse**
 - IntelliJ
 - NetBeans
 - Repl.it
- They all work a little differently, but the edit/compilation/execution process is essentially the same for all of them
- You can also go hardcore and use the command line tools such as javacc to compile your source code and java (to run the JVM)

Object-Oriented Programming

- Java is an **Object-Oriented Programming Language**
- The **object** is the fundamental entity in a Java program
 - A Java program is made up of objects
- An object has some information & some operations
- Represents some real-world entity
- A particular employee in a company
- A window in a GUI
- A character in a game
- Each object handles its own processing and data management

Each object has state and behaviors

- **State - data members / fields / instance variables**
 - What an object knows about itself
- **Behaviors - members / methods / functions**
 - What an object does

The behavior of an object may change its state

- There are often multiple ways to represent a problem

- Usually there is no “one right answer”
- In fact, OOP itself is not always the answer - other paradigms such as functional programming are better at solving some problems

Methods

- Methods define the possible behaviors of the object
- Think of calling a method as “sending a message” that asks the object to do something
 - We say the sender of the method is the **client**
- The message contains the operations name and arguments
- The client doesn't care *how* the message is handled, only that it produces an expected result

Objects vs Classes

A *class* represents a abstract concept

An *object* is the realization of a class

- We **instantiate** one or more objects of a specific class
- The Java new operator creates a new object

There can be multiple objects of a given class (called **instances**), but each object is an instantiation of a single class

Examples

Class	Example Objects
Room	Kitchen, Bedroom, Study, Bathroom
Movie	Star Wars, Clueless, Knives Out, Casablanca
Team	Diamondbacks, Sun Devils, Cardinals, JoesGarage
CSCClass	CSC110AA, CSC205, CSC230, CSC240
States	Arizona, Louisiana, New York, Alaska

Programming Basics

Below are the two beginning chapters for learning Java, but the overall tree for all the chapters can be viewed

here: <https://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/java/TOC.html>

- [Object-Oriented Programming Concepts](#)
- [Java Tutorials: Language Basics](#)

```
// -----Hello World-----
package mypackage;

public class helloWorld {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("Hello World!");
    }
}

// -----Commenting Styles-----

// Comment style 1
/* Comment style 2 */
/** Javadoc */

// -----Data Types-----

String Text = "This is a string";
int myNum = 15;
char alphabet = 'b';
float fractionalNumber = 15.44f; // End floats with f
float scientificNumber = 34e3f; // Scientific numbers can be used as well
double d1 = 12E4d; // End doubles with d
double veryLongNumber = 15.22222323232;
boolean thisIsTrue = true;
boolean thisIsAlsoTrue = 1;
long myLong = 1_500_000_000_000_000L; // Remember to end longs with an L

// -----Constants-----

final int myNum = 15; // Makes variable read-only.
constant float myFloat = 15.12f;

// -----Declaring & Initializing-----

int x, y, z;
x = y = z = 50;

int x = 5, y = 5, z = 5;

// -----Printing-----

System.out.println("Hello World!"); // Prints newline, doesn't require args
System.out.print("Hello World!\n"); // Does not print a newline, requires args
System.out.println("" + 2 + 4 + 56 + 2); // Passing a string as first arg concatenates
```

Data Types

Data Type	Size	Description
byte	1 byte	Stores whole numbers from -128 to 127
short	2 bytes	Stores whole numbers from -32,768 to 32,767
int	4 bytes	Stores whole numbers from -2,147,483,648 to 2,147,483,647
long	8 bytes	Stores whole numbers from -9,223,372,036,854,775,808 to 9,223,372,036,854,775,807
float	4 bytes	Stores fractional numbers. Sufficient for storing 6 to 7 decimal digits
double	8 bytes	Stores fractional numbers. Sufficient for storing 15 decimal digits
boolean	1 bit	Stores true or false values
char	2 bytes	Stores a single character/letter or ASCII values

Objects

- An object is a software bundle of related state and behavior.
 - *fields* and *methods*
- In Java, the information about a class are stored in **fields** (*Attributes in python*).
- **Methods** are the actions that an object can perform
- **Data Encapsulation:** Hiding internal state and requiring all interaction to be performed through an object's methods.

Benefits of bundling code into individual software objects:

1. **Modularity:** The source code for an object can be written and maintained independently of the source code for other objects. Once created, an object can be easily passed around inside the system.
2. **Information-hiding:** By interacting only with an object's methods, the details of its internal implementation remain hidden from the outside world.
3. **Code re-use:** If an object already exists (perhaps written by another software developer), you can use that object in your program. This allows specialists to implement/test/debug complex, task-specific objects, which you can then trust to run in your own code.
4. **Pluggability and debugging ease:** If a particular object turns out to be problematic, you can simply remove it from your application and plug in a different object as its replacement. This is analogous to fixing mechanical problems in the real world. If a bolt breaks, you replace it, not the entire machine.

Example

Create the class

```
class Bicycle {  
  
    int cadence = 0;  
    int speed = 0;  
    int gear = 1;  
  
    void changeCadence(int newValue) {  
        cadence = newValue;  
    }  
  
    void changeGear(int newValue) {  
        gear = newValue;  
    }  
  
    void speedUp(int increment) {  
        speed = speed + increment;  
    }  
  
    void applyBrakes(int decrement) {  
        speed = speed - decrement;  
    }  
  
    void printStates() {  
        System.out.println("cadence:" +  
            cadence + " speed:" +  
            speed + " gear:" + gear);  
    }  
}
```

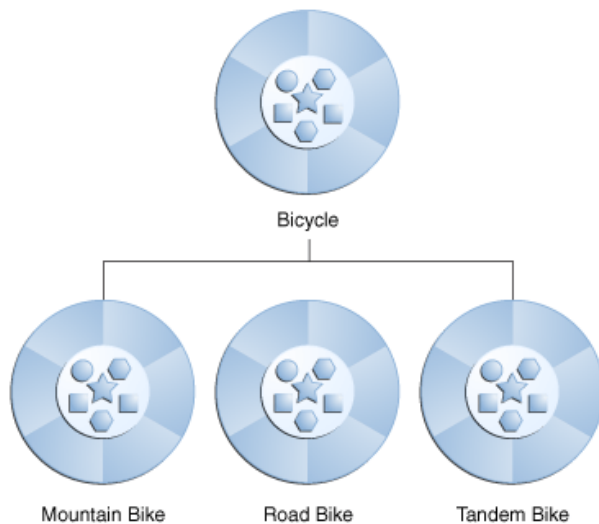
Instantiate The Class & Invoke Methods

```
class BicycleDemo {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
  
        // Create two different  
        // Bicycle objects  
        Bicycle bike1 = new Bicycle();  
        Bicycle bike2 = new Bicycle();  
  
        // Invoke methods on  
        // those objects  
        bike1.changeCadence(50);  
        bike1.speedUp(10);  
        bike1.changeGear(2);  
        bike1.printStates();  
  
        bike2.changeCadence(50);  
        bike2.speedUp(10);  
        bike2.changeGear(2);  
        bike2.changeCadence(40);  
        bike2.speedUp(10);  
        bike2.changeGear(3);  
        bike2.printStates();  
    }  
}
```

Output

```
cadence:50  
speed:10  
gear:2  
cadence:40  
speed:20  
gear:3
```

Inheritance



A hierarchy of bicycle classes.

- Inheritance allows a class to *inherit* commonly used state and behavior from other classes.
- In this example, `Bicycle` is now the **superclass** of the other three classes.
 - Each class can only have one superclass, but can have unlimited subclasses.

Inheritance Syntax

```
class MountainBike extends Bicycle {  
  
    // new fields and methods defining  
    // a mountain bike would go here  
  
}
```

- `MountainBike` now has all the same fields and methods as `Bicycle`, yet it allows its code to focus exclusively on the features that make it unique.
- Remember to properly document the state and behavior that each superclass defines, since that code will not appear in the source file of each subclass.

Interface

Methods form an object's *interface* with the outside world.

- Similar to the buttons on the front of a tv set. The buttons are the interface between you and the inner workings on the other side.

In its most common form, an interface is a group of related methods with empty bodies. A bicycle's behavior, if specified as an interface, might appear as follows:

```
interface Bicycle {

    // wheel revolutions per minute
    void changeCadence(int newValue);

    void changeGear(int newValue);

    void speedUp(int increment);

    void applyBrakes(int decrement);
}
```

To implement this interface, the name of your class would change (to a particular brand of bicycle, for example, such as ACMEBicycle), and you'd use the implements keyword in the class declaration:

```
class ACMEBicycle implements Bicycle {

    int cadence = 0;
    int speed = 0;
    int gear = 1;

    // The compiler will now require that methods
    // changeCadence, changeGear, speedUp, and applyBrakes
    // all be implemented. Compilation will fail if those
    // methods are missing from this class.

    void changeCadence(int newValue) {
        cadence = newValue;
    }

    void changeGear(int newValue) {
        gear = newValue;
    }

    void speedUp(int increment) {
        speed = speed + increment;
    }

    void applyBrakes(int decrement) {
        speed = speed - decrement;
    }

    void printStates() {
        System.out.println("cadence:" +
            cadence + " speed:" +
            speed + " gear:" + gear);
    }
}
```

- This forms a contract between a class and the outside world that is enforced by the compiler at build time.
- All methods in the interface must appear in its source code before the class will successfully compile.
- The `public` keyword needs to be added at the beginning of the implemented interface methods to actually compile the `ACMEBicycle` class.

What Is a Package?

A package is a namespace that organizes a set of related classes and interfaces.

- Similar to different folders on a PC. Keeps things organized, like having HTML in one folder, images in another, and scripts or applications in yet another.
- The Java platform provides a vast class library (a set of packages) for personal use.
 - The library is called the **Application Programming Interface (API)**.
 - Examples are:
 - `String` object
 - `File` object
 - `Socket` object

Variables

Java defines the following kinds of variables:

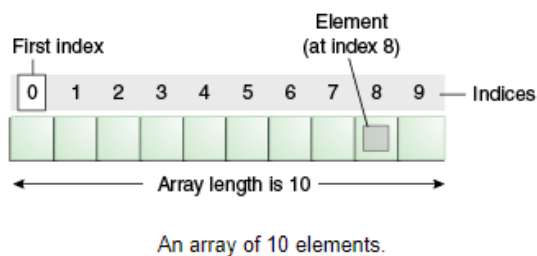
- **Instance Variables (Non-Static Fields)** Technically speaking, objects store their individual states in "non-static fields", that is, fields declared without the static keyword. Non-static fields are also known as *instance variables* because their values are unique to each *instance* of a class (to each object, in other words); the `currentSpeed` of one bicycle is independent of the `currentSpeed` of another.
- **Class Variables (Static Fields)** A *class variable* is any field declared with the static modifier; this tells the compiler that there is exactly one copy of this variable in existence, regardless of how many times the class has been instantiated. A field defining the number of gears for a particular kind of bicycle could be marked as static since conceptually the same number of gears will apply to all instances. The code `static int numGears = 6;` would create such a static field. Additionally, the keyword `final` could be added to indicate that the number of gears will never change.
- **Local Variables** Similar to how an object stores its state in fields, a method will often store its temporary state in local variables. The syntax for declaring a local variable is similar to declaring a field (for example, `int count = 0;`). There is no special keyword designating a variable as `local`; that determination comes entirely from the location in which the

variable is declared — which is between the opening and closing braces of a method. As such, local variables are only visible to the methods in which they are declared; they are not accessible from the rest of the class.

- **Parameters** There are examples of parameters, both in the `Bicycle` class and in the main method of the "Hello World!" application. Recall that the signature for the main method is `public static void main(String[] args)`. Here, the `args` variable is the parameter to this method. The important thing to remember is that parameters are always classified as variables **not** fields. This applies to other parameter-accepting constructs as well (such as constructors and exception handlers) that you'll learn about later in the tutorial.

Arrays

An array is a container object that holds a fixed number of values of a single type.



- The length of an array is established when the array is created. After creation, its length is fixed.
- Each item in an array is called an **element**, and each element is accessed by its numerical **index**.

Array Example

```
class ArrayDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        // declares an array of integers
        int[] anArray;

        // allocates memory for 10 integers
        anArray = new int[10];

        // initialize first element
        anArray[0] = 100;
        // initialize second element
        anArray[1] = 200;
        // and so forth
        anArray[2] = 300;
        anArray[3] = 400;
        anArray[4] = 500;
        anArray[5] = 600;
        anArray[6] = 700;
        anArray[7] = 800;
        anArray[8] = 900;
        anArray[9] = 1000;

        System.out.println("Element at index 0: "
            + anArray[0]);
        System.out.println("Element at index 1: "
            + anArray[1]);
        System.out.println("Element at index 2: "
            + anArray[2]);
        System.out.println("Element at index 3: "
            + anArray[3]);
        System.out.println("Element at index 4: "
            + anArray[4]);
        System.out.println("Element at index 5: "
            + anArray[5]);
        System.out.println("Element at index 6: "
            + anArray[6]);
        System.out.println("Element at index 7: "
            + anArray[7]);
        System.out.println("Element at index 8: "
            + anArray[8]);
        System.out.println("Element at index 9: "
            + anArray[9]);
    }
}
```

- In a real-world example, you'd print out each item an an array using a looping construct:
 - for
 - while

- do-while

Output

```
Element at index 0: 100
Element at index 1: 200
Element at index 2: 300
Element at index 3: 400
Element at index 4: 500
Element at index 5: 600
Element at index 6: 700
Element at index 7: 800
Element at index 8: 900
Element at index 9: 1000
```

Declaring Arrays

```
int[] anArray;
byte[] anArrayOfBytes;
short[] anArrayOfShorts;
long[] anArrayOfLongs;
float[] anArrayOfFloats;
double[] anArrayOfDoubles;
boolean[] anArrayOfBooleans;
char[] anArrayOfChars;
String[] anArrayOfStrings;

// this form is discouraged
float anArrayOfFloats[];
```

Creating, Initializing, and Accessing an Array

```
// -----Create An Array of Integers-----
anArray = new int[10]; // Method 1
int[] anArray;        // Method 2
int[] anArray = {      // Method 3
    100, 200, 300,
    400, 500, 600,
    700, 800, 900, 1000
};

// -----Initializing-----
anArray[0] = 100; // initialize first element
anArray[1] = 200; // initialize second element
anArray[2] = 300; // and so forth

// -----Accessing-----
System.out.println("Element 1 at index 0: " + anArray[0]);
System.out.println("Element 2 at index 1: " + anArray[1]);
System.out.println("Element 3 at index 2: " + anArray[2]);

// -----Multi-dimensional Array-----

String[][] names = {
    {"Mr. ", "Mrs. ", "Ms. "},
    {"Smith", "Jones"}
};

// Mr. Smith
System.out.println(names[0][0] + names[1][0]);

// Ms. Jones
System.out.println(names[0][2] + names[1][1]);

// -----Get array length-----

System.out.println(anArray.length);

// -----Copying Arrays-----

// Constructor
public static void arraycopy(Object src, int srcPos,
                             Object dest, int destPos, int length)

// Create the arrays
String[] copyFrom = {
    "Affogato", "Americano", "Cappuccino",
    "Corretto", "Cortado", "Doppio",
    "Espresso", "Frappucino", "Freddo",
    "Lungo", "Macchiato", "Marocchino",
    "Ristretto"
};
String[] copyTo = new String[7];
```

```
// Copy from one array to another
System.arraycopy(copyFrom, 2, copyTo, 0, 7);
for (String coffee : copyTo) {
    System.out.print(coffee + " ");
}
```

Array Manipulation

Array manipulations can be found in `java.util.Arrays` class.

```
class ArrayCopyOfDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        String[] copyFrom = {
            "Affogato", "Americano", "Cappuccino", "Corretto", "Cortado",
            "Doppio", "Espresso", "Frappuccino", "Freddo", "Lungo", "Macchiato",
            "Marocchino", "Ristretto" };

        String[] copyTo = java.util.Arrays.copyOfRange(copyFrom, 2, 9);
        for (String coffee : copyTo) {
            System.out.print(coffee + " ");
        }
    }
}
```

- Note that the second parameter of the `copyOfRange` method is the initial index of the range to be copied, **inclusively**, while the third parameter is the final index of the range to be copied, **exclusively**.
- In this example, the range to be copied does not include the array element at index 9 (which contains the string Lungo).

Some other useful methods in `java.util.Arrays` class:

- `binarySearch` - Search for a specific value to get the index of where it is.
- `equals` - Compares two arrays to determine if they're equal or not.
- `fill` - Fill an array to place a specific value at each index
- `sort` - Sequentially sorts.
- `parallelSort` - Concurrently sorts.
- `stream` - Creates a stream that uses an array as its source.
 - ````java`

```
java.util.Arrays.stream(copyTo).map(coffee -> coffee + " ").forEach(System.out::print);
```
```

- `toString` - Converts each element of the array to a string ,separates them with commas, then surrounds them with brackets.
  - ````java`

```
System.out.println(java.util.Arrays.toString(copyTo));
...

```

## Operators

Operators are special symbols that perform specific operations on one, two, or three *operands*, and then return a result.

| Operators            | Precedence                                  |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| postfix              | expr++ expr--                               |
| unary                | ++expr --expr +expr -expr ~ !               |
| multiplicative       | * / %                                       |
| additive             | + -                                         |
| shift                | << >> >>>                                   |
| relational           | < > <= >= instanceof                        |
| equality             | == !=                                       |
| bitwise AND          | &                                           |
| bitwise exclusive OR | ^                                           |
| bitwise inclusive OR | &#124;                                      |
| logical AND          | &&                                          |
| logical OR           | &#124;&#124;                                |
| ternary              | ? :                                         |
| assignment           | = += -= *= /= %= &= ^= &#124;= <<= >>= >>>= |

## Math Operators

| Operator | Description                                            |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| +        | Additive operator (also used for String concatenation) |
| -        | Subtraction operator                                   |
| *        | Multiplication operator                                |
| /        | Division operator                                      |
| %        | Remainder operator                                     |

## Unary Operators

Unary operators require only one operand and perform various operations such as incrementing / decrementing a value by one, negating an expression, or inverting the value of a boolean.

| Operator | Description                                                                                |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| +        | Unary plus operator; indicates positive value (numbers are positive without this, however) |
| -        | Unary minus operator; negates an expression                                                |
| ++       | Increment operator; increments a value by 1                                                |
| --       | Decrement operator; decrements a value by 1                                                |
| !        | Logical complement operator; inverts the value of a boolean                                |

- Using a unary operator as a **prefix** evaluates to the incremented value.
- Using a unary operator as the **postfix** evaluates the original value.

## Type Comparison Operator - instanceof

`instanceof` operator compares an object to a specified type.

- You can use it to test if an object is an instance of a class, an instance of a subclass, or an instance of a class that implements a particular interface.

```

class InstanceofDemo {
 public static void main(String[] args) {

 Parent obj1 = new Parent();
 Parent obj2 = new Child();

 System.out.println("obj1 instanceof Parent: "
 + (obj1 instanceof Parent));
 System.out.println("obj1 instanceof Child: "
 + (obj1 instanceof Child));
 System.out.println("obj1 instanceof MyInterface: "
 + (obj1 instanceof MyInterface));
 System.out.println("obj2 instanceof Parent: "
 + (obj2 instanceof Parent));
 System.out.println("obj2 instanceof Child: "
 + (obj2 instanceof Child));
 System.out.println("obj2 instanceof MyInterface: "
 + (obj2 instanceof MyInterface));
 }
}

class Parent {}
class Child extends Parent implements MyInterface {}
interface MyInterface {}

```

## Output

```

obj1 instanceof Parent: true
obj1 instanceof Child: false
obj1 instanceof MyInterface: false
obj2 instanceof Parent: true
obj2 instanceof Child: true
obj2 instanceof MyInterface: true

```

## Bitwise and Bit Shift Operators

The bitwise complement operator `~` inverts a bit pattern.

## Expressions, Statements, and Blocks

An **expression** is a construct made up of variables, operators, and method invocations, which are constructed according to the syntax of the language, that evaluates to a single value.

Statements are roughly equivalent to sentences in natural languages. A *\*statement\**

forms a complete unit of execution and is terminated with a semicolon (`;`).



A **block** is a group of zero or more statements between balanced braces and can be used anywhere a single statement is allowed.

## Control Flow Statements

Control flow statements employ decision-making, looping, and branching, enabling a program to *conditionally* execute specific blocks of code.

### Decision-Making Statements

- if-then
- if-then-else
- switch

switch statements work with:

- byte
- short
- char
- int
- Enum
- String
- Character
- Byte
- Short
- Integer

```
public class SwitchDemo {
 public static void main(String[] args) {

 int month = 8;
 String monthString;
 switch (month) {
 case 1: monthString = "January";
 break;
 case 2: monthString = "February";
 break;
 case 3: monthString = "March";
 break;
 case 4: monthString = "April";
 break;
 case 5: monthString = "May";
 break;
 case 6: monthString = "June";
 break;
 case 7: monthString = "July";
 break;
 case 8: monthString = "August";
 break;
 case 9: monthString = "September";
 break;
 case 10: monthString = "October";
 break;
 case 11: monthString = "November";
 break;
 case 12: monthString = "December";
 break;
 default: monthString = "Invalid month";
 break;
 }
 System.out.println(monthString);
 }
}
```

## Looping Statements

- for
- while
- do-while

## Branching Statements

- break
- continue
- return

## Computer Program Basics

- **Input:** A program gets data, perhaps from a file, keyboard, touchscreen, network, etc.
- **Process:** A program performs computations on that data, such as adding two values like  $x + y$ .
- **Output:** A program puts that data somewhere, such as to a file, screen, network, etc.

Programs use **variables** to refer to data, like `x`, `y`, and `z`. The name is due to a variable's value varying as a program assigns a variable like `x` with new values.

## Computational Thinking

*Mathematical thinking* became increasingly important throughout the industrial age to enable people to successfully live and work. In the information age, many people believe **computational thinking**, or creating a sequence of instructions to solve a problem, will become increasingly important for work and everyday life. A sequence of instructions that solves a problem is called an **algorithm**.

## Basic Input

A **Scanner** is a text parser that can get numbers, words, or phrases from an input source such as the keyboard. Getting input is achieved by first creating a Scanner object via the statement: `Scanner scnr = new Scanner(System.in);`. `System.in` corresponds to keyboard input. Then, given Scanner object `scnr`, the following statement gets an input value and assigns `x` with that value:

```
x = scnr.nextInt();
```

```
// Step 1 - Import the scanner
import java

.
util.Scanner

// Step 2 - Instantiate a scanner object
Scanner
scn = new Scanner(System.in); // Gets input

// Step 3 - Run the desired object method
age = scn.nextInt(); // Gets the int from the input
```

## Example 1

```
import java.util.Scanner;

public class Main {
 public static void main(String[] args) {
 System.out.print("Please enter a number: ");
 Scanner scnr = new Scanner(System.in);

 int age = scnr.nextInt();
 int ageMultiplier = 3;

 System.out.print(age);
 System.out.print(" is what you think your cat's age is. It's actually: ");
 System.out.println(age * ageMultiplier);
 }
}
```

## Basic output: Text

- Text in double quotes is a **string literal**.
- `System.out.println` prints a **newline** and `System.out.print` does not.

## Whitespace

**Whitespace** refers to blank spaces (space and tab characters) between items within a statement and blank lines between statements (called newlines). A compiler ignores most whitespace.

- Use blank lines to separate conceptually distinct statements.
- Indent lines the same amount.
- Align items to reduce visual clutter.
- Use a single space before and after any operators like `=`, `+`, `*`, or `/` to make statements more readable.

## Good Example of Whitespace

```
import java.util.Scanner;

public class WhitespaceEx {
 public static void main(String[] args) {
 Scanner scnr = new Scanner(System.in);
 int myFirstVar; // Aligned comments yield less
 int yetAnotherVar; // visual clutter
 int thirdVar;

 // Above blank line separates variable declarations from the rest
 System.out.print("Enter a number: ");
 myFirstVar = scnr.nextInt();

 // Above blank line separates user input statements from the rest
 yetAnotherVar = myFirstVar; // Aligned = operators
 thirdVar = yetAnotherVar + 1;
 // Also notice the single-space on left and right of + and =
 // (except when aligning the second = with the first =)

 System.out.println("Final value is " + thirdVar); // Single-space on each side of +
 }
}
```

## Bad Example of Whitespace

```
import java.util.Scanner;
public class PastaCalculator {
 public static void main (String [] args) {
 Scanner scnr = new Scanner(System.in);int numPeople;int totalOuncesPasta;
 System.out.println("Enter number of people:");
 numPeople = scnr.nextInt(); totalOuncesPasta = numPeople * 3;
 System.out.println("Cook "+totalOuncesPasta+" ounces of pasta.");}}
```

## Errors and Warnings

### Syntax Errors

When a programming language's rules on how symbols can be combined to create a program are violated.

- Such as forgetting to end a statement with a semicolon.
- An error message is generated by the compiler.

Because a syntax error is detected by the compiler, a syntax error is known as a type of **compile-time error**.

## Unclear error messages

Sometimes the compiler error message refers to a line that is actually many lines past where the error actually occurred. Not finding an error at the specified line, the programmer should look to *previous* lines.

- It's good practice to fix the first error reported by the compiler and then recompile.
  - The remaining error messages may be real but are more commonly due to the compiler's confusion caused by the first error, and are irrelevant.

## Logic Errors

A **logic error**, also called a **bug**, is an error that occurs while a program runs.

*The term bug to describe a runtime error was popularized when in 1947 engineers discovered their program on a Harvard University Mark II computer was not working because a moth was stuck in one of the relays (a type of mechanical switch). They taped the bug into their engineering log book, still preserved today ([The Moth](#)).*

## Compiling Frequently

It's good practice to compile frequently after a few lines of code to make sure that everything works, instead of writing large amounts of code only to not be able to figure out which part is not working.

## Compiler Warnings

A compiler will sometimes report a **warning**, which doesn't stop the compiler from creating an executable program but indicates a possible logic error.

- I.e. Some compilers will report a warning like "Warning, dividing by 0 is not defined."
- By default, Java compilers don't print every possible warning if it thinks the code may still run fine, so it's recommended to configure compilers to be more picky with warnings than the default.
  - `javac -Xlint <yourFile>` enables all recommended warnings.

## Precision

In programming, every detail counts:

- `=` and `==` have different meanings.
- Using `i` where `j` was meant can yield a hard-to-find bug.
- Declaring a variable as `int` when `char` was needed can cause confusing errors.
- Not considering that `n` could be `0` in `sum/n` can cause a program to fail entirely in rare but not insignificant cases.

- The difference between typing `x/2` vs. `x/2.0` can have huge impacts.
- Counting from `i` being `0` to `i < 10` vs. `i <= 10` can mean the difference between correct output and a program outputting garbage.
- [Attention To Detail Test](#)
- [Attention To Detail Article](#)

# Computers and Programs

## Switches

Switches use **bits** (*binary digits*) set to either **0** or **1** to build connections of switches called *circuits*.

## Processors and Memory

To support different calculations, circuits called **processors** were created to process (aka execute) a list of desired calculations, with each calculation called an **instruction**. The instructions were specified by configuring external switches, as in the figure above. Processors used to take up entire rooms but today fit on a chip about the size of a postage stamp, containing millions or even billions of switches.

---

Instructions are stored in a memory. A **memory** is a circuit that can store **0s** and **1s** in each of a series of thousands of addressed locations, like a series of addressed mailboxes that each can store an envelope (the 0s and 1s). Instructions operate on data, which is also stored in memory locations as 0s and 1s.

Thus, a computer is basically a processor interacting with a memory.

- The arrangement is akin to a chef (processor) who executes instructions of a recipe (program), each instruction modifying ingredients (data), with the recipe and ingredients kept on a nearby counter (memory).

## Instructions

Sample types of instructions, where `X`, `Y`, `Z`, and `num` are each an integer:

| Instruction      | Description                                                                        |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Add X , #num , Y | Adds data in memory location X to the number num , storing result in location Y .  |
| Sub X , #num , Y | Subtracts num from data in location X , storing result in location Y .             |
| Mul X , #num , Y | Multiplies data in location X by num , storing result in location Y .              |
| Div X , #num , Y | Divides data in location X by num , storing result in location Y .                 |
| Jmp Z            | Tells the processor that the next instruction to execute is in memory location Z . |

For example, the instruction `Mul 97, #9, 98` would multiply the data in memory location 97 by the number 9, storing the result into memory location 98 .

So if the data in location 97 were 20 , then the instruction would multiply 20 by 9 , storing the result 180 into location 98 . That instruction would

actually be stored in memory as **0s** and **1s**, such as 011 1100001 001001 1100010 , where 011 specifies a multiply instruction and 1100001 , 001001 , and 1100010 represent 97 , 9 , and 98 (as described previously).

- The programmer-created sequence of instructions is called a **program**, **application**, or just **app**

When powered on, the processor starts by executing the instruction at location 0 , then location 1 , then location 2 , etc. The above program performs the calculation over and over again. If location 97 is connected to external switches and location 99 to external lights, then the computer programmer could set the switches to represent a particular Celsius number, and the computer would automatically output the Fahrenheit number using the lights.

## Writing Computer Programs

Originally programmers in the 1940's wrote instructions in binary, known as **machine instructions**, and a sequence of machine instructions together form an **executable program**.

Because binary is difficult to understand, programmers created programs called *assemblers* to automatically translate human-readable instructions, such as `Mul 97, #9, 98` , known as **assembly** language instructions, into machine instructions.

In the 1960's and 1970's, programmers created **high-level languages** to support programming using formulas or algorithms.

- Early high-level languages included **FORTRAN** (*Formula Translator*) or **ALGOL** (*Algorithmic Language*)



To support high-level languages, programmers created **compilers**, which are programs that automatically translate high-level language programs into executable programs.

Using this approach, executables can only run on a particular processor type (like an x86 processor); to run a program on multiple processor types, the programmer must have the compiler generate multiple executables. Some newer high-level languages like Java use an approach that allows the same executable to run on different processor types.

The approach involves having the compiler generate an executable using machine instructions of a "virtual" processor; such an executable is sometimes called **bytecode**. Then, the real processor runs a program, sometimes called a **virtual machine**, that executes the instructions in the bytecode. Such an approach may yield slower program execution, but has the advantage of portable executables.

## Computer Tour

- *This section is a direct copy-paste due to the history behind everything and the length of it all*
- 

## Short History

The term computer has changed meaning over the years. The term originally referred to a person that performed computations by hand, akin to an accountant ("We need to hire a computer.") In the 1940s/1950s, the term began to refer to large machines like in the earlier photo. In the 1970s/1980s, the term expanded to also refer to smaller home/office computers known as personal computers or PCs ("personal" because the computer wasn't shared among multiple users like the large ones) and to portable/laptop computers. In the 2000s/2010s, the term may also cover other computing devices like pads, book readers, and smartphones.

The term computer even refers to computing devices embedded inside other electronic devices such as medical equipment, automobiles, aircraft, consumer electronics, military systems, etc.

In the early days of computing, the physical equipment was prone to failures. As equipment became more stable and as programs became larger, the term `_software_` became popular to distinguish a computer's programs from the hardware on which they ran.

---

# Computer Components

- **Input/output devices:** A **screen** (or monitor) displays items to a user.

The above examples displayed textual items, but today's computers display graphical items, too. A **keyboard** allows a user to provide input to the computer, typically accompanied by a mouse for graphical displays. Keyboards and mice are increasingly being replaced by touchscreens. Other devices provide additional input and output means, such as microphones, speakers, printers, and USB interfaces. I/O devices are commonly called *peripherals*

- **Storage:** A **disk** (aka *hard drive*) stores files and other data, such as program files, song/movie files, or office documents. Disks are *non-volatile*, meaning they maintain their contents even when powered off. They do so by orienting magnetic particles in a 0 or 1 position. The disk spins under a head that pulses electricity at just the right times to orient specific particles (you can sometimes hear the disk spin and the head clicking as the head moves). New *flash* storage devices store 0s and 1s in a non-volatile memory, rather than disk by tunneling electrons into special circuits on the memory's chip and removing them with a "flash" of electricity that draws the electrons back out.
- **Memory: RAM (random-access memory)** temporarily holds data read from storage and is designed such that any address can be accessed much faster than disk, in just a few clock ticks (see below) rather than hundreds of ticks. The "random access" term comes from being able to access any memory location quickly and in arbitrary order, without having to spin a disk to get a proper location under a head. RAM is costlier per bit than disk, due to RAM's higher speed. RAM chips typically appear on a printed-circuit board along with a processor chip. RAM is volatile, losing its contents when powered off. Memory size is typically listed in bits or in bytes, where a byte is 8 bits. Common sizes involve megabytes (million bytes), gigabytes (billion bytes), or terabytes (trillion bytes).
- **Processor:** The **processor** runs the computer's programs, reading and executing instructions from memory, performing operations, and reading/writing data from/to memory. When powered on, the processor starts executing the program whose first instruction is (typically) at memory location 0. That program is commonly called the **BIOS (basic input/output system)**, which sets up the computer's basic peripherals. The processor then begins executing a program called an operating system (OS). The **operating system** allows a user to run other programs and interfaces with the many other peripherals. Processors are also called CPUs (central processing units) or microprocessors (a term introduced when processors began fitting on a single chip, the "micro-"suggesting something small). Because speed is so important, a processor may contain a small amount of RAM on its own chip, called **cache** memory, accessible in one clock tick rather than several, for maintaining a copy of the most-used instructions/data.
- **Clock:** A processor's instructions execute at a rate governed by the processor's **clock**, which ticks at a specific frequency. Processors have

clocks that tick at rates such as 1 MHz (1 million ticks/second) for an inexpensive processor (

1) *like those found in a microwave oven or washing machine, to 1 GHz (1 billion ticks/second) for cost 10-\$100*) processors

like those found in mobile phones and desktop computers. Executing about 1 instruction per clock tick, processors thus execute millions or billions of instructions per second.

Computers typically run multiple programs simultaneously, such as a web browser, an office application, a photo editing program, etc. The operating system actually runs a little of program A, then a little of program B, etc., switching between programs thousands of times a second.

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After computers were invented and occupied entire rooms, engineers created smaller switches called **transistors**, which in 1958 were integrated onto a single chip called an **integrated circuit**, or IC. Engineers continued to make transistors smaller, leading to **Moore's Law**: the doubling of IC capacity roughly every 18 months, which continued for several decades.

Note: Moore actually said every 2 years. And the actual trend has varied from 18 months. The key is that doubling occurred roughly every two years, causing much improvement over time. [Intel: Moore's Law](#).

By 1971, Intel produced the first single-IC processor named the 4004, called a *microprocessor* (*micro-* suggesting something small), having 2,300 transistors. New, more powerful microprocessors appeared every few years, and by 2012, a single IC had several billion transistors containing multiple processors (each called a *core*).

- **A side note:** A common way to make a PC faster is to add more RAM. A processor spends much of its time moving instructions/data between memory and storage, because not all of a program's instructions/data may fit in memory—akin to a chef who spends most of his/her time walking back and forth between a stove and pantry. Just as adding a larger table next to the stove allows more ingredients to be kept close by, a larger memory allows more instructions/data to be kept close to the processor. Moore's Law results in RAM being cheaper a few years after buying a PC, so adding RAM to a several-year-old PC can yield good speedups for little cost.

## Exploring Further

- [Video: Where's the disk/memory/processor in a desktop computer \(20sec\)](#)
- [Link: What's Inside a Computer](#)  
(HowStuffWorks.com)
- [Video: How Memory Works \(1:49\)](#)

- [Link: How Microprocessors Work](#)  
(HowStuffWorks.com)

## Language History

- *This section is a direct copy-paste due to the history behind everything and the length of it all*

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In 1978, Brian Kernighan and Dennis Ritchie at AT&T Bell Labs (which used computers extensively for automatic phone call routing) published a book describing a new high-level language with the simple name **C**, being named after another language called B (whose name came from a language called BCPL). C became the dominant programming language in the 1980s and 1990s.

In 1985, Bjarne Stroustrup published a book describing a C-based language called **C++**, adding constructs to support a style of programming known as object-oriented programming, along with other improvements. The unusual ++ part of the name comes from ++ being an operator in C that increases a number, so the name C++ suggests an increase or improvement over C.

In 1991, James Gosling and a team of engineers at Sun Microsystems (acquired by Oracle in 2010) began developing the **Java** language with the intent of creating a language whose executable could be ported to different processors, with the first public release in 1995.

The language had a C/C++ style and for portability reasons was designed to execute on a virtual machine. Java was initially intended to be run on consumer appliances like interactive TVs. Web browsers like Netscape Navigator began providing support for running Java programs within the browser, bringing much attention to the language. The Java language continues to evolve for the programming of traditional computers and consumer devices. Java should not be confused with JavaScript, which is an entirely different language used for developing web applications that was named similarly.

A January 2022 survey ranking languages by their popularity, based on programming related searches using popular search engines, yielded the following:

| Language          | Percentage |
|-------------------|------------|
| Python            | 13.58%     |
| C                 | 12.44%     |
| Java              | 10.66%     |
| C++               | 8.29%      |
| C#                | 5.68%      |
| Visual Basic      | 4.74%      |
| JavaScript        | 2.09%      |
| Assembly language | 1.85%      |
| SQL               | 1.80%      |
| Swift             | 1.41%      |

## Precision, logic, and computational thinking

Many people find that programming encourages precise, logical thought that can lead to better writing and speaking, clearer processes, and more. The thought processes needed to build correct, precise, logical programs is sometimes called **computational thinking** and has benefits beyond programming.