Programming style

Victor Eijkhout and Carrie Arnold and Charlie Dey

Fall 2017



Abstraction is the name of the game

A good program has a layered design:

- You use the language features to make a set of tools (sometimes called a 'Domain-Specific Language') that talks about your application.
- You write your model or solve your problem using those tools.
- ⇒ You program should read like a story about your problem.



Clean coding principles

- Use meaningful names. (Try a wordcloud on you program.)
- Code should be clear: Keep It Simple, Student!
- Program units should have one clear function: Single Responsibility principle.
- Any functionality should be implemented only once: Don't Repeat Yourself



Language features

Just because a language has a certain feature, does not mean you need to use it.

- Being too clever may give hard-to-read code. May even make your code slower.
- Some C++ features are really from C: no longer needed.
- The four-letter word that starts with g should never be used.



About using the internet

- Yes, you can find solutions on the internet.
- No, that will not make you understand what you're doing.
- We are giving you a sequence of building blocks: try not to use things that you haven't been taught.

