

Modern C++ Programming

1. INTRODUCTION

Federico Busato

University of Verona, Dept. of Computer Science
2021, v3.09



Table of Context

- 1 A Little History of C/C++ Programming Language**
- 2 Areas of Application and Popularity**
- 3 C++ Philosophy**
- 4 Books and References**
- 5 The Course**

*"When recruiting research assistants, I look at grades as the last indicator. I find that **imagination, ambition, initiative, curiosity, drive**, are far better predictors of someone who will do useful work with me. Of course, these characteristics are themselves correlated with high grades, but there is something to be said about a student who decides that a given course is a waste of time and that he works on a side project instead.*

*Breakthroughs don't happen in regular scheduled classes, they happen in side projects. We want people who complete the work they were assigned, but **we also need people who can reflect critically on what is genuinely important**"*

Daniel Lemire, Prof. at the University of Quebec

Academic excellence is not a strong predictor of career excellence

“Across industries, research shows that the correlation between grades and job performance is modest in the first year after college and trivial within a handful of years...”

*“Academic grades rarely assess qualities like creativity, leadership and teamwork skills, or social, emotional and political intelligence. Yes, straight-A students master cramming information and regurgitating it on exams. But **career success is rarely about finding the right solution to a problem — it's more about finding the right problem to solve...**”*

*"Getting straight A's requires conformity. **Having an influential career demands originality.***

This might explain why Steve Jobs finished high school with a 2.65 G.P.A., J.K. Rowling graduated from the University of Exeter with roughly a C average, and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. got only one A in his four years at Morehouse

*If your goal is to graduate without a blemish on your transcript, you end up taking easier classes and staying within your comfort zone. If you're willing to tolerate the occasional B... **You gain experience coping with failures and setbacks, which builds resilience**"*

"Straight-A students also miss out socially. More time studying in the library means less time to start lifelong friendships, join new clubs or volunteer...Looking back, I don't wish my grades had been higher. If I could do it over again, I'd study less"

Adam Grant, the New York Times

"Got a 2.4 GPA my first semester in college. Thought maybe I wasn't cut out for engineering. Today I've landing two spacecraft on Mars, and designing one for the moon.

*STEM is hard for everyone. Grades ultimately aren't what matters.
Curiosity and persistence matter"*

*Ben Cichy, Chief Software Engineer,
NASA Mars Science Laboratory*

“And programming computers was so fascinating. You create your own little universe, and then it does what you tell it to do”

Vint Cerf, TCP/IP co-inventor and Turing Award

“Most good programmers do programming not because they expect to get paid or get adulation by the public, but because it is fun to program”

Linus Torvalds, principal developer of the Linux kernel

“You might not think that programmers are artists, but programming is an extremely creative profession. It’s logic-based creativity”

John Romero, co-founder of id Software

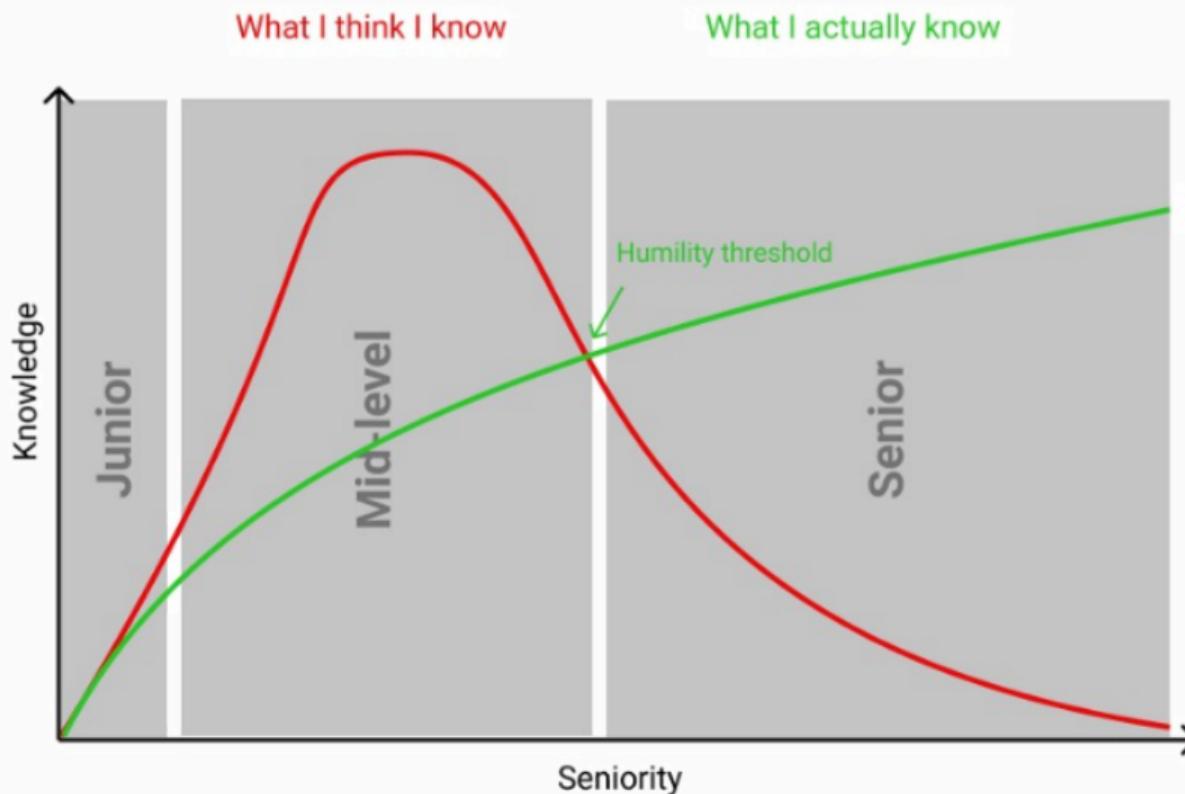
Creativity Programming is extremely creative. The ability to perceive the problem in a novel ways, provide new and original solutions. Creativity allows recognizing and generating alternatives

Form of Art Art is the expression of human creative skills. Every programmer has his own style. Codes and algorithms show elegance and beauty in the same way of painting or music

Learn Programming gives the opportunity to learn new things everyday, improve own skills and knowledge

Challenge Programming is a challenge. A challenge against yourself, the problem, and the environment

Knowledge-Experience Relation



A Little History of C/C++ Programming Language

The Assembly Programming Language



A long time ago, in a galaxy far,
far away....there was **Assembly**

- Extremely simple instructions
- Requires lots of code to do simple tasks
- Can express anything your computer can do
- Hard to read, write
- ...redundant, boring programming, bugs proliferation

```
main:  
.Lfunc_begin0:  
    push rbp  
.Lcfi0:  
.Lcfi1:  
    mov rbp, rsp  
.Lcfi2:  

```

In the 1969 **Dennis M. Ritchie** and **Ken Thompson** (AT&T, Bell Labs) worked on developing a operating system for a large computer that could be used by a thousand users. The new operating system was called **UNIX**

The whole system was still written in assembly code. Besides assembler and Fortran, UNIX also had an interpreter for the **programming language B**. A high-level language like B made it possible to write many pages of code task in just a few lines of code. In this way the code could be produced much faster then in assembly

A drawback of the B language was that it did not know data-types (everything was expressed in machine words). Another functionality that the B language did not provide was the use of “structures”. The lag of these things formed the reason for Dennis M. Ritchie to develop the **programming language C**. In 1988 they delivered the final standard definition ANSI C



Dennis M. Ritchie, and Ken Thompson

```
#include "stdio.h"

int main() {
    printf("Hello World\n");
}
```

Areas of Application:

- UNIX operating system
- Computer games
- Due to their power and ease of use, C were used in the programming of the special effects for Star Wars

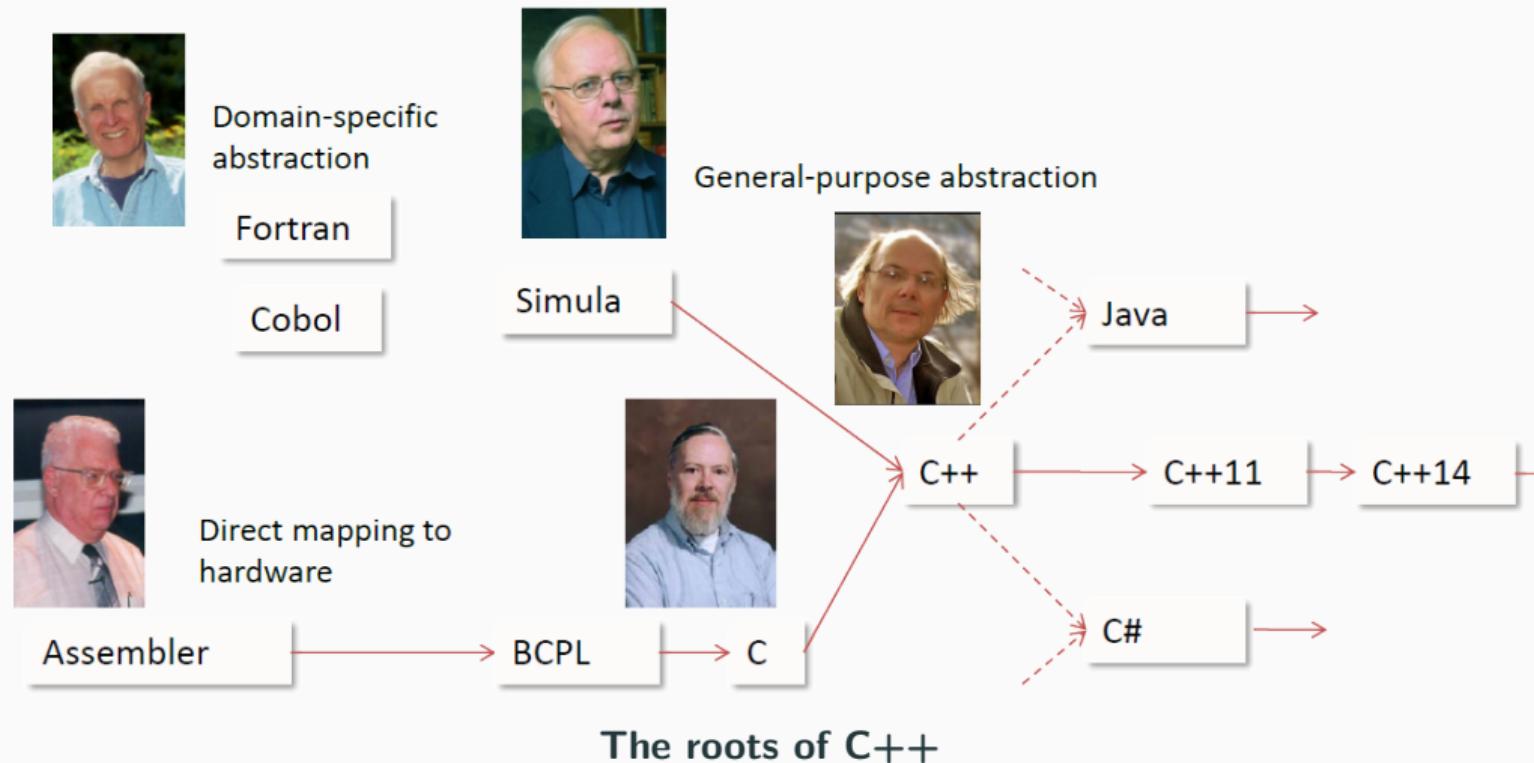


Star Wars - The Empire Strikes Back

The **C++ programming language** (originally named “C with Classes”) was devised by **Bjarne Stroustrup** also an employee from Bell Labs (AT&T). Stroustrup started working on C with Classes in 1979. (The ++ is C language operator)

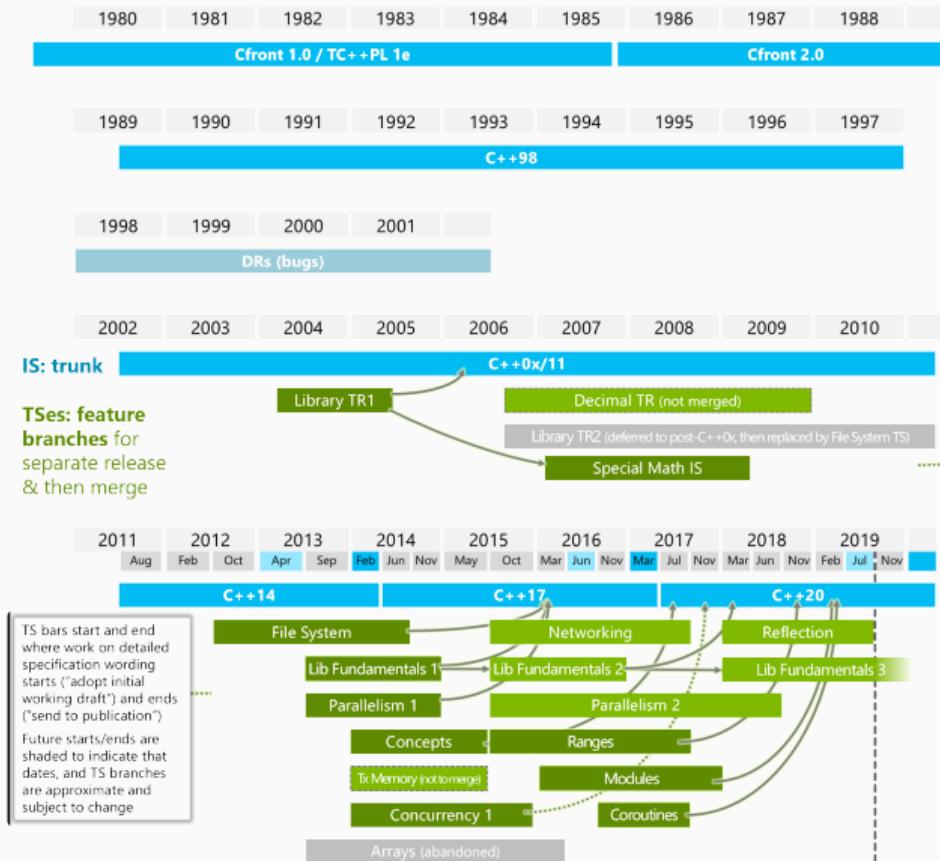
The first commercial release of the C++ language was in October of 1985





A Little History of C++

3/3



16/53

“If you’re teaching today what you were teaching five years ago, either the field is dead or you are”

Noam Chomsky



Areas of Application and Popularity

- **Operating systems:** Windows, Android, OS X, Linux
- **Artificial Intelligence:** TensorFlow, Caffe, Microsoft Cognitive Toolkit
- **Image Editing:** Adobe Premier, Photoshop, Illustrator
- **Web browser:** Firefox, Chrome, etc. + WebAssembly
- **High-Performance Computing:** drug developing and testing, large scale climate models, physic simulations
- **Embedded systems** IoT, network devices (e.g. GSM), automotive
- Google uses C++ for web indexing

- **Scientific computation:** Data analysis at CERN/NASA*, SETI@home, Folding@home
 - **Database:** MySQL, ScyllaDB
 - **Compilers:** LLVM, Swift compiler
 - **Video Games:** Unreal Engine, Unity
 - **Entertainment:** Movie rendering, virtual reality
- ... and many more

The flight code of the NASA Mars drone for the **Perseverance** Mission is mostly written in C++
github.com/nasa/fprime

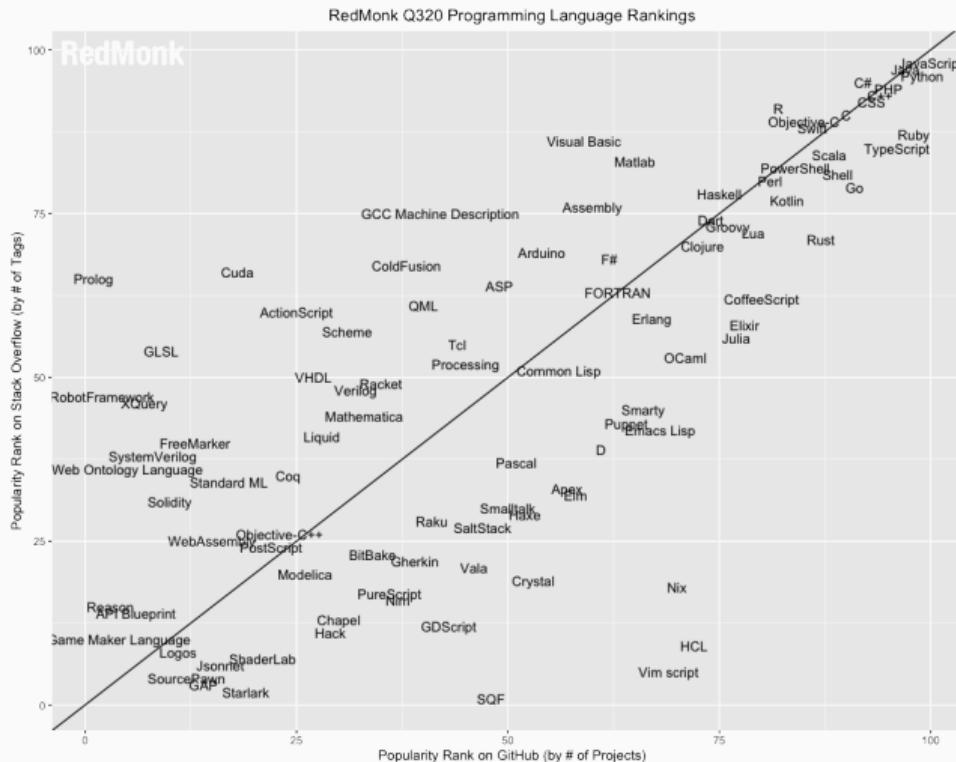
Most Popular Programming Languages (IEEE Spectrum - 2020)

Rank	Language	Type	Score
1	Python▼	🌐💻⚙️	100.0
2	Java▼	🌐📱💻	95.3
3	C▼	📱💻⚙️	94.6
4	C++▼	📱💻⚙️	87.0
5	JavaScript▼	🌐	79.5
6	R▼	💻	78.6
7	Arduino▼	⚙️	73.2
8	Go▼	🌐💻	73.1

Most Popular Programming Languages (TIOBE - Nov. 2020)

Jan 2021	Jan 2020	Change	Programming Language	Ratings	Change
1	2	▲	C	17.38%	+1.61%
2	1	▼	Java	11.96%	-4.93%
3	3		Python	11.72%	+2.01%
4	4		C++	7.56%	+1.99%
5	5		C#	3.95%	-1.40%
6	6		Visual Basic	3.84%	-1.44%
7	7		JavaScript	2.20%	-0.25%
8	8		PHP	1.99%	-0.41%
9	18	↗	R	1.90%	+1.10%

Most Popular Programming Languages (Redmonk - Q3, 2020)

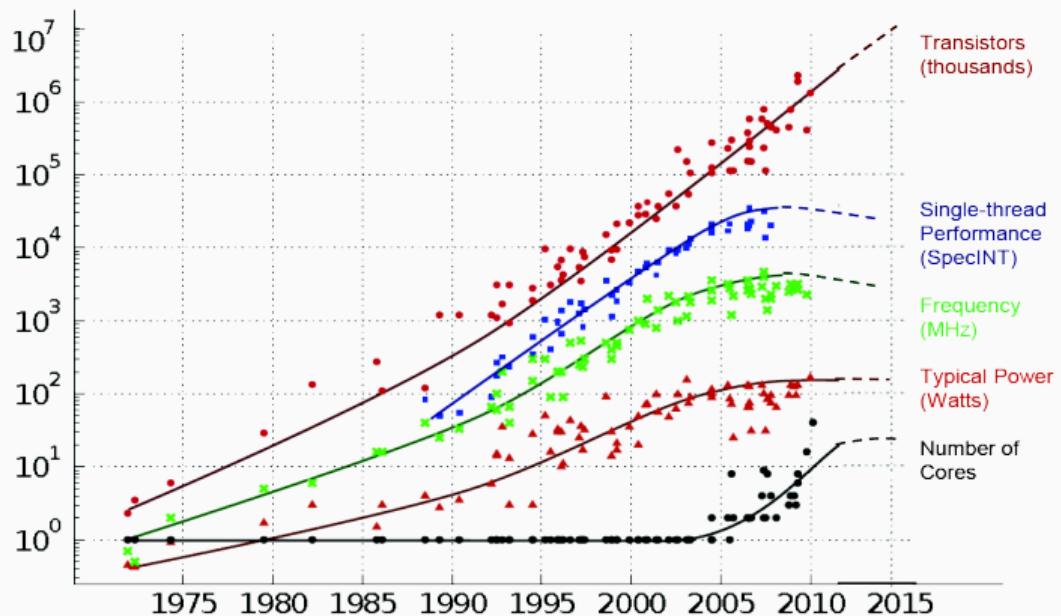


Why C++ is so Popular?

- *Extreme performance*
theoretically enables highest performance
- *Allow writing low-level code*
drivers, kernels, etc.
- *Many support tools*
debuggers, memory checkers, coverage, static analysis, profiling, etc.

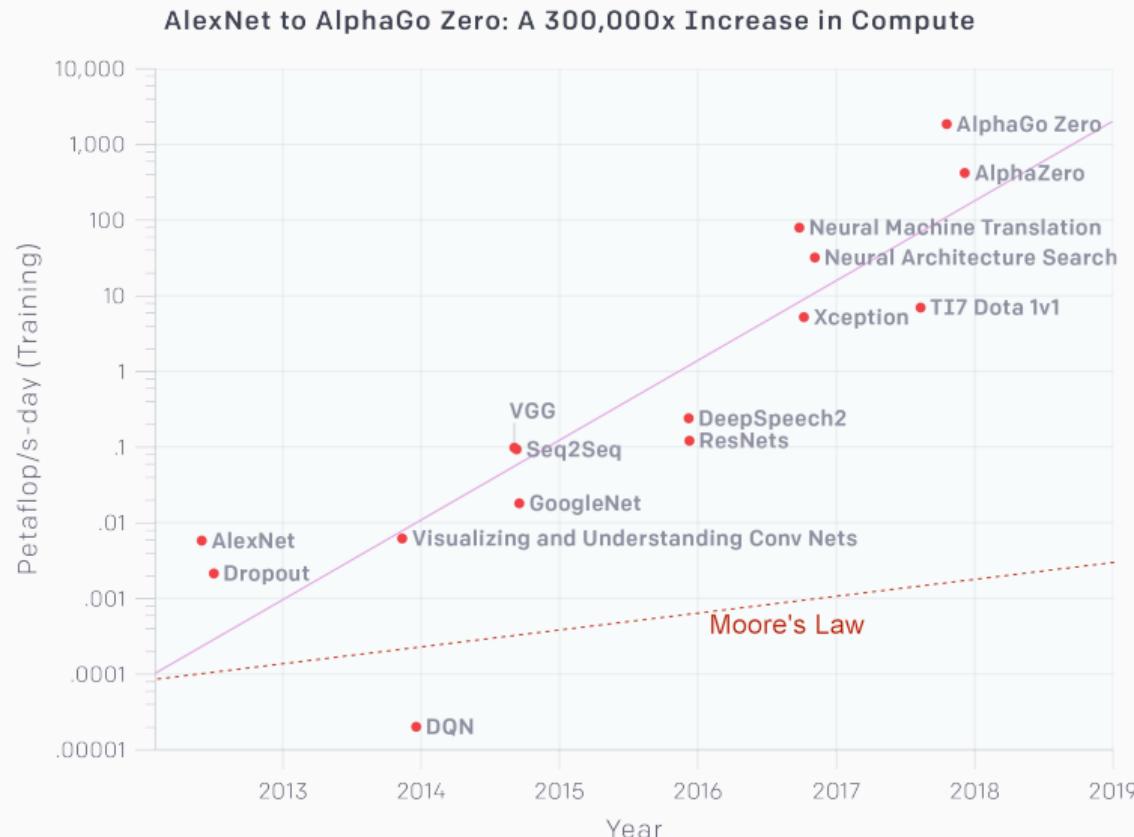
Why C++ is so Important?

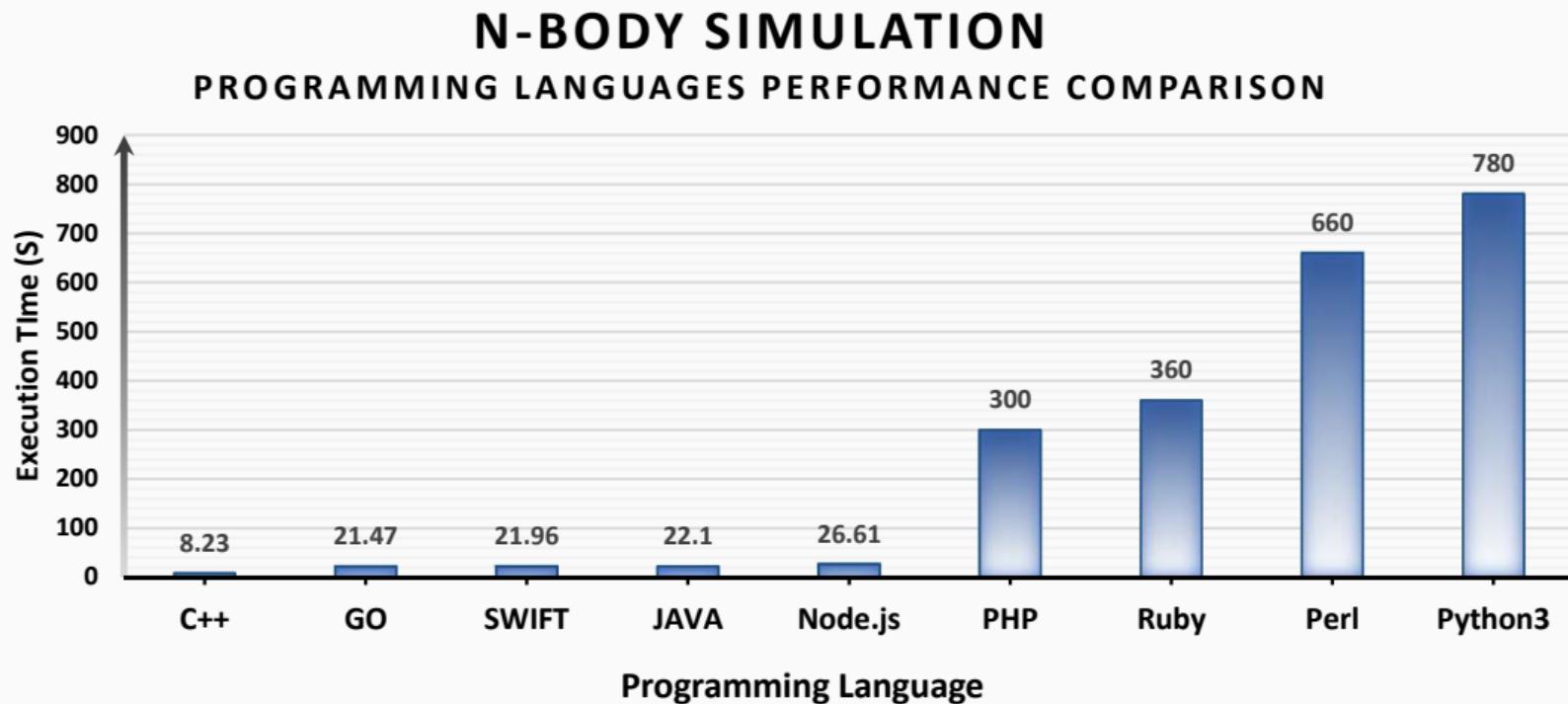
The End of Historical Performance Scaling

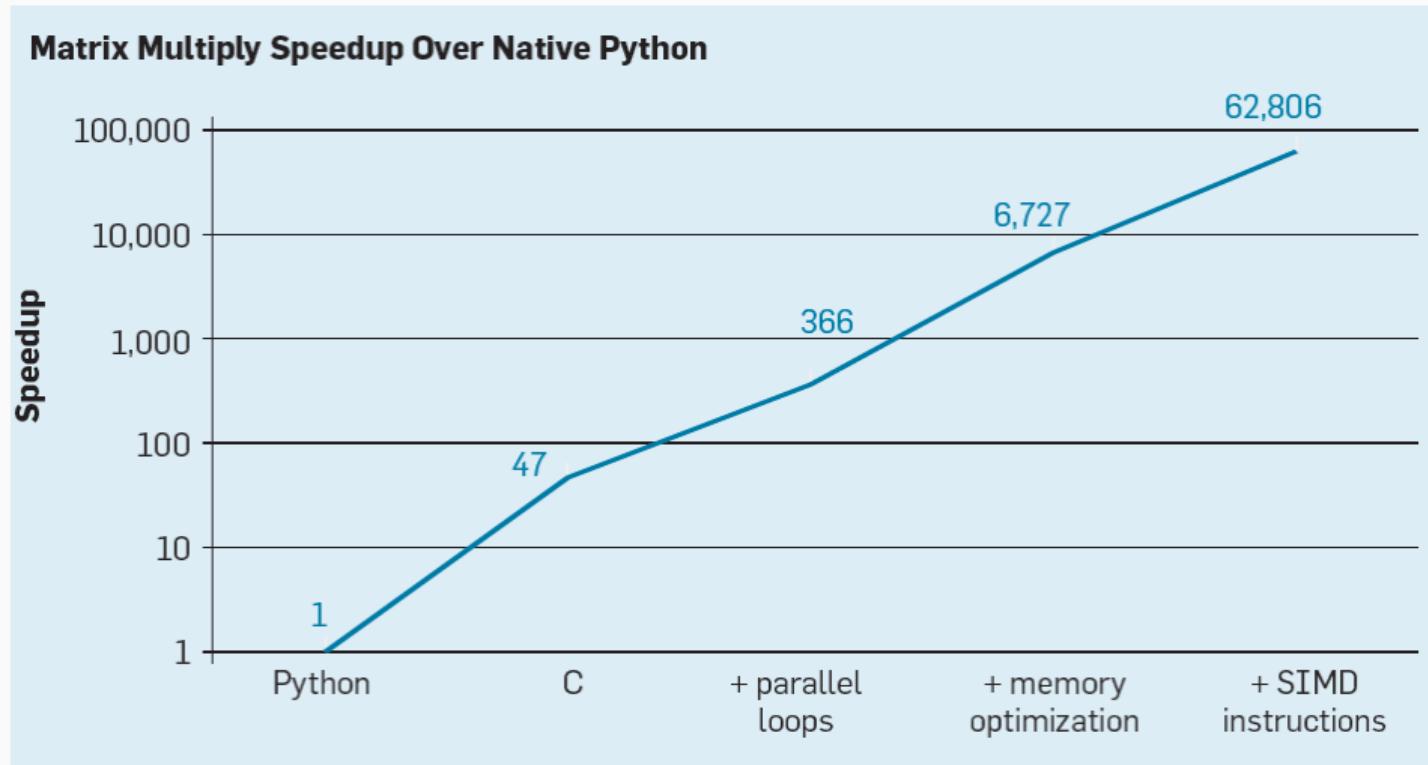


Performance limitations influence algorithm design
and research directions

An Important Example... (AI Evolution)



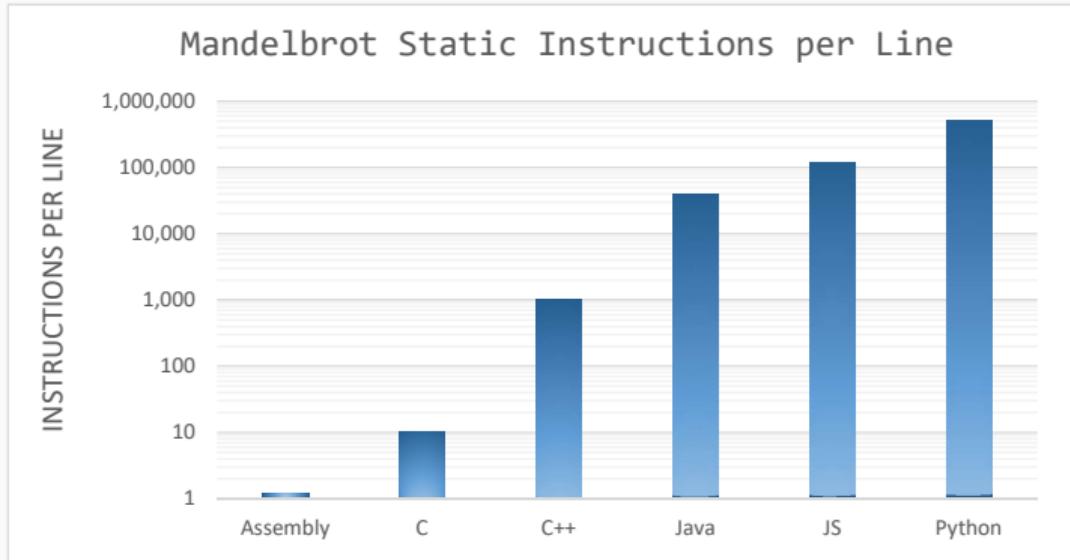
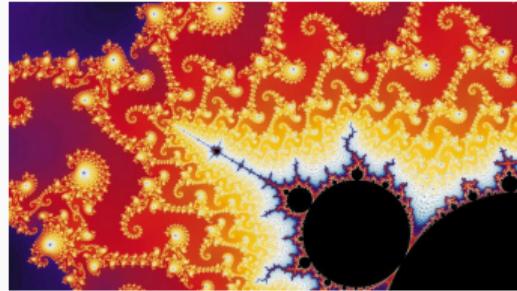




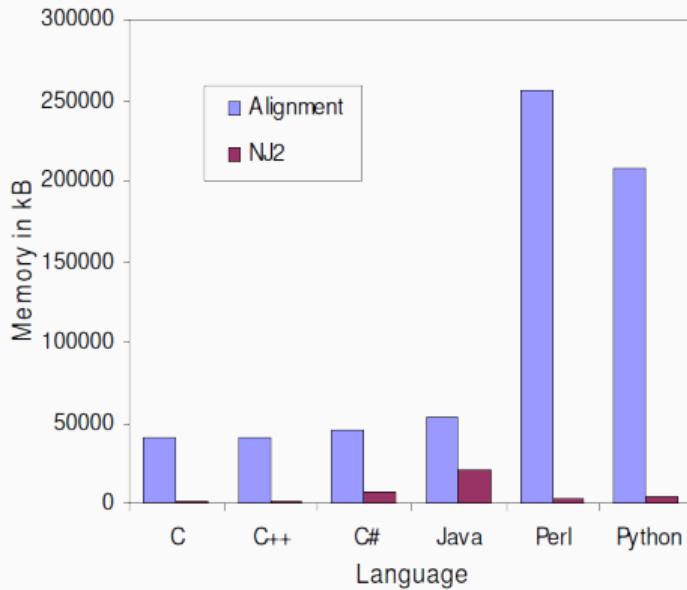
Hello World

Language	Execution Time
C (on my machine)	0.7 ms
C	2 ms
Go	4 ms
Crystal	8 ms
Shell	10 ms
Python	78 ms
Node	110 ms
Ruby	150 ms
jRuby	1.4 s

Performance/Expressiveness Trade-off



Memory Usage



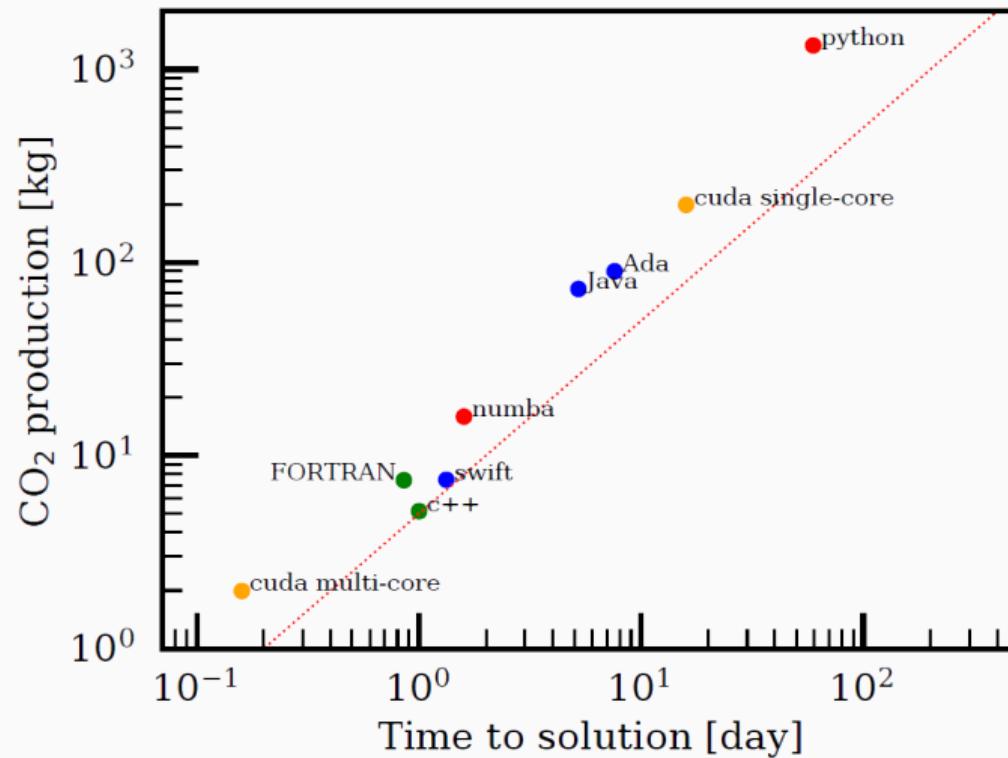
Memory usage comparison of the
Neighbor-Joining and global alignment programs

A comparison of common programming languages used in bioinformatics (BMC Informatic)

Energy Efficiency

	Energy		Time
(c) C	1.00	(c) C	1.00
(c) Rust	1.03	(c) Rust	1.04
(c) C++	1.34	(c) C++	1.56
(c) Ada	1.70	(c) Ada	1.85
(v) Java	1.98	(v) Java	1.89
(c) Pascal	2.14	(c) Chapel	2.14
(c) Chapel	2.18	(c) Go	2.83
(v) Lisp	2.27	(c) Pascal	3.02
(c) Ocaml	2.40	(c) Ocaml	3.09
(c) Fortran	2.52	(v) C#	3.14
(c) Swift	2.79	(v) Lisp	3.40
(c) Haskell	3.10	(c) Haskell	3.55
(v) C#	3.14	(c) Swift	4.20
<hr/>			
(i) Hack	24.02	(i) PHP	27.64
(i) PHP	29.30	(v) Erlang	36.71
(v) Erlang	42.23	(i) Jruby	43.44
(i) Lua	45.98	(i) TypeScript	46.20
(i) Jruby	46.54	(i) Ruby	59.34
(i) Ruby	69.91	(i) Perl	65.79
(i) Python	75.88	(i) Python	71.90
(i) Perl	79.58	(i) Lua	82.91

CO₂ Production



C++ Philosophy

- Only add features if they solve an actual problem
- **Compartmentalization** is the key
- Allow the programmer **full control** if they want it
- Do not sacrifice **performance** except as a last resort
- Enforce **safety at compile time** whenever possible

Zero Overhead Principle (zero-cost abstraction)

"it basically says if you have an abstraction it should not cost anything compared to write the equivalent code at lower level"

"so I have say a matrix multiply it should be written in a such a way that you could not drop to the C level of abstraction and use arrays and pointers and such and run faster"

Bjarne Stroustrup

Statically Typed Language

"The C++ compiler provides type safety and catches many bugs at compile time instead of run time (a critical consideration for many commercial applications.)"

www.python.org/doc/FAQ.html

- The *type annotation* makes the code more readable
- Promote compiler optimizations and runtime efficiency
- Allow users to define their own type system

Predictable runtime (under constraints): no garbage collector, no dynamic type system → *real-time systems*

Low resources: low memory and energy consumption → *restricted hardware platforms*

Well suited for static analysis → *safety critical software*

Portability → Modern C++ standards are highly portable

Who is C++ for?

“C++ is for people who want to use hardware very well and manage the complexity of doing that through abstraction”

Bjarne Stroustrup

“a language like C++ is not for everybody. It is generated via sharp and effective tool for professional basically and definitely for people who aim at some kind of precision”

Bjarne Stroustrup

... and why teaching C++ as first programming language is a bad idea?

C++ is the hardest language from students to master

- *More languages in one*
 - Standard C/C++ programming
 - Object-Oriented features
 - Preprocessor
 - Templates and Meta-Programming
- *Huge set of features*
- *Worry about memory management*
- *Low-level implementation details*: pointer arithmetics, structure, padding, undefined behavior, etc.
- *Frustrating*: compiler/runtime errors (e.g. seg. fault)

“C makes it easy to shoot yourself in the foot; C++ makes it harder, but when you do it blows your whole leg off”

Bjarne Stroustrup, Creator of the C++ language

“The problem with using C++...is that there's already a strong tendency in the language to require you to know everything before you can do anything”

Larry Wall, Creator of the Perl language

“Despite having 20 years of experience with C++, when I compile a non trivial chunk of code for the first time without any error or warning, I am suspicious. It is not, usually, a good sign”

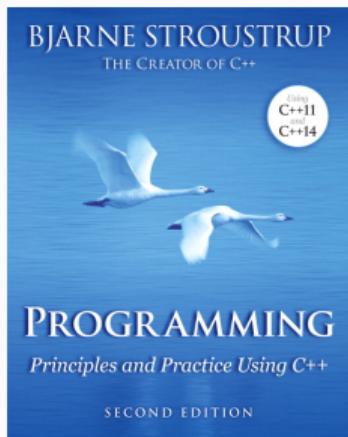
Daniel Lemire, Prof. at the University of Quebec

Suggested Video

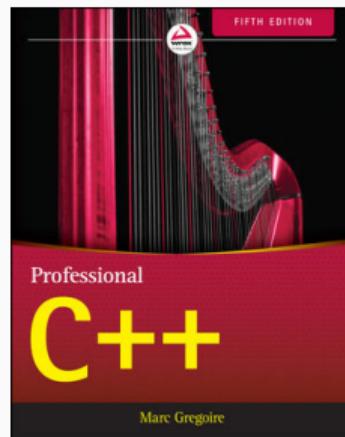


Books and References

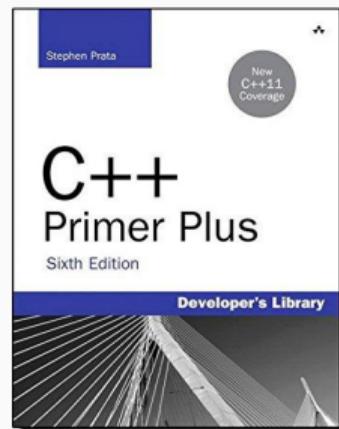
Suggested Books



**Programming and Principles
using C++ (2nd)**
B. Stroustrup, 2008

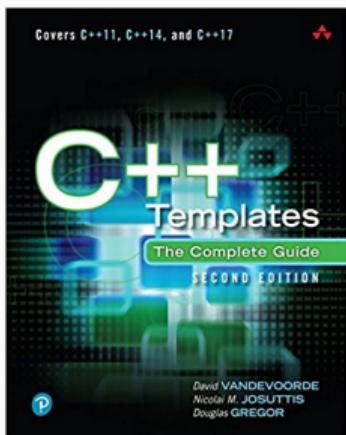


Professional C++ (5th)
S. J. Kleper, N. A. Solter, 2021



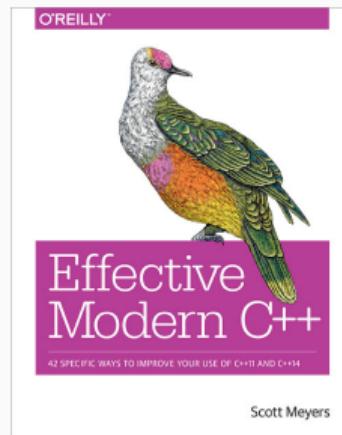
C++ Primer Plus (6th)
S. Prata, 2011

Advanced Books + CMake

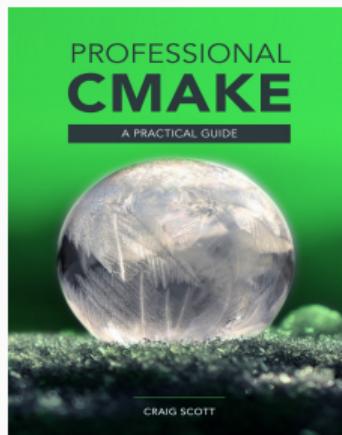


C++ Templates: The Complete Guide (2nd)

*D. Vandevorode, N. M. Josuttis,
D. Gregor, 2017*

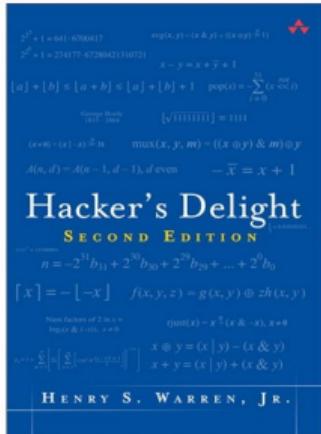


Effective Modern C++
S. Meyer, 2014

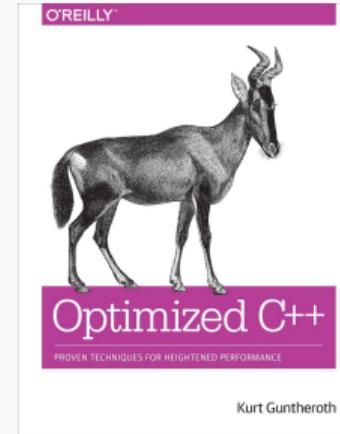


Professional CMake: A Practical Guide (8th)
C. Scott, 2020

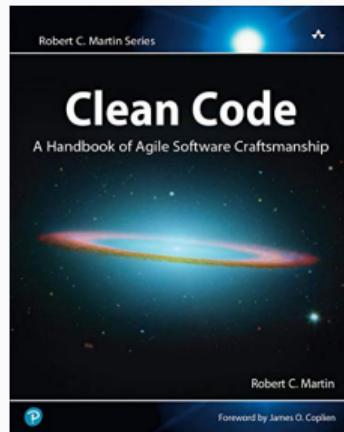
Optimization Books



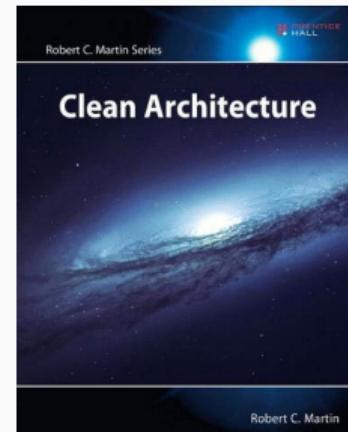
Hacker's Delight (2nd)
H. S. Warren, 2016



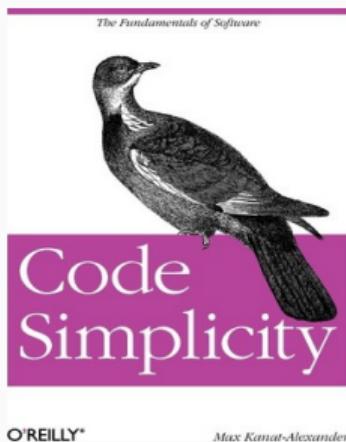
Optimized C++
K. Guntheroth, 2014



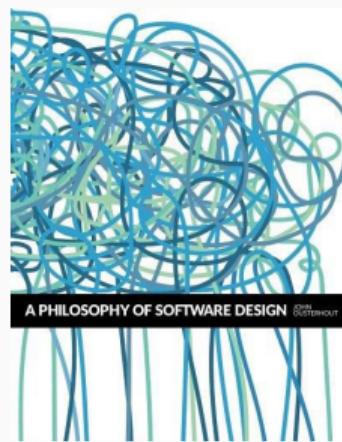
Clean Code: A Handbook of Agile Software Craftsmanship
Robert C. Martin, 2008



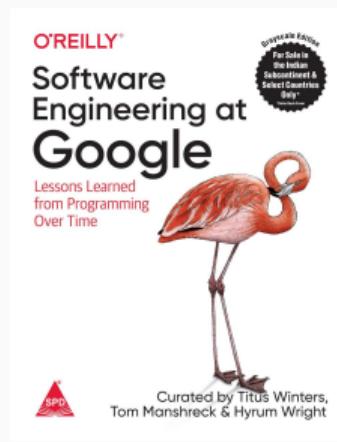
Clean Architecture
Robert C. Martin, 2017



Code Simplicity
M. Kanat-Alexander, 2012



A Philosophy of Software Design
J. Ousterhout, 2018



Software Engineering at Google: Lessons Learned from Programming over Time
T. Winters, 2020

(Un)official C++ reference:

- en.cppreference.com

Tutorials:

- www.learnCPP.com
- www.tutorialspoint.com/cplusplus
- [en.wikibooks.org/wiki/C++](http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/C%2B%2B)
- yet another insignificant...programming notes

Other resources:

- [stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/c++](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/c%2B%2B)

News:

- isocpp.org (Standard C++ Foundation)
- cpp.libhunt.com/newsletter/archive
- www.meetingcpp.com/blog/blogroll/

Main conferences:

- www.meetingcpp.com (slides)
- cppcon.org (slides)
- isocpp.com conference list

Coding exercises and other resources:

- www.hackerrank.com/domains/cpp
- leetcode.com/problemset/algorithms
- open.kattis.com
- cpppatterns.com

The Course

The Course

Don't forget: The right name of the course should be
“Introduction to Modern C++ Programming”

For many topics in the course, there are more than one book devoted to present the concepts in detail

The Course

The primary goal of the course is to drive the student, who has previous experience with C and object-oriented features, to a proficiency level of C++ programming

Organization:

- 17 lectures
- More than 1,000 slides
- C++03 / C++11 / C++14 / C++17 / (C++20)

Roadmap:

- Review C concepts in C++ (built-in types, memory management, preprocessing, etc.)
- Introduce object-oriented and template concepts
- Present how to organize the code and the main conventions
- C++ tools usage (debugger, static analysis, etc.)

What is/What is not

What the course **is not**:

- A theoretical course on programming
- A high-level concept description

What the course **is**:

- A practical course
- Prefer examples instead long descriptions
- Present many language features
- A “quite” advanced C++ programming language course

Prerequisites:

- Knowledge of C programming language
- Knowledge of object-oriented programming

Who I Am

Federico Busato, Ph.D.



- Research/Work interests:
 - Parallel/High-Performance Computing
 - Graph Algorithms
 - Linear Algebra
 - Code Optimization
- Senior Software Engineer at Nvidia
(California, USA) | CUDA Mathematical Libraries

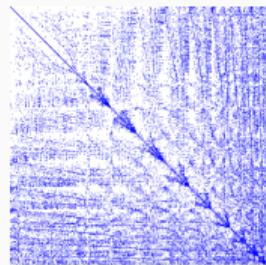


Follow @fedebusato

Lead software engineer of the cuSPARSE and cuSPARSELT library
(we are hiring)

docs.nvidia.com/cuda/cusparse/index.html

docs.nvidia.com/cuda/cusparselt/



The cuSPARSE library contains a set of basic linear algebra subroutines used for handling sparse matrices (matrix-matrix multiplication, triangular solver, etc.) on GPU devices

cuSPARSE is part of the CUDA Toolkit (150M downloads every years)

cuSPARSE users:

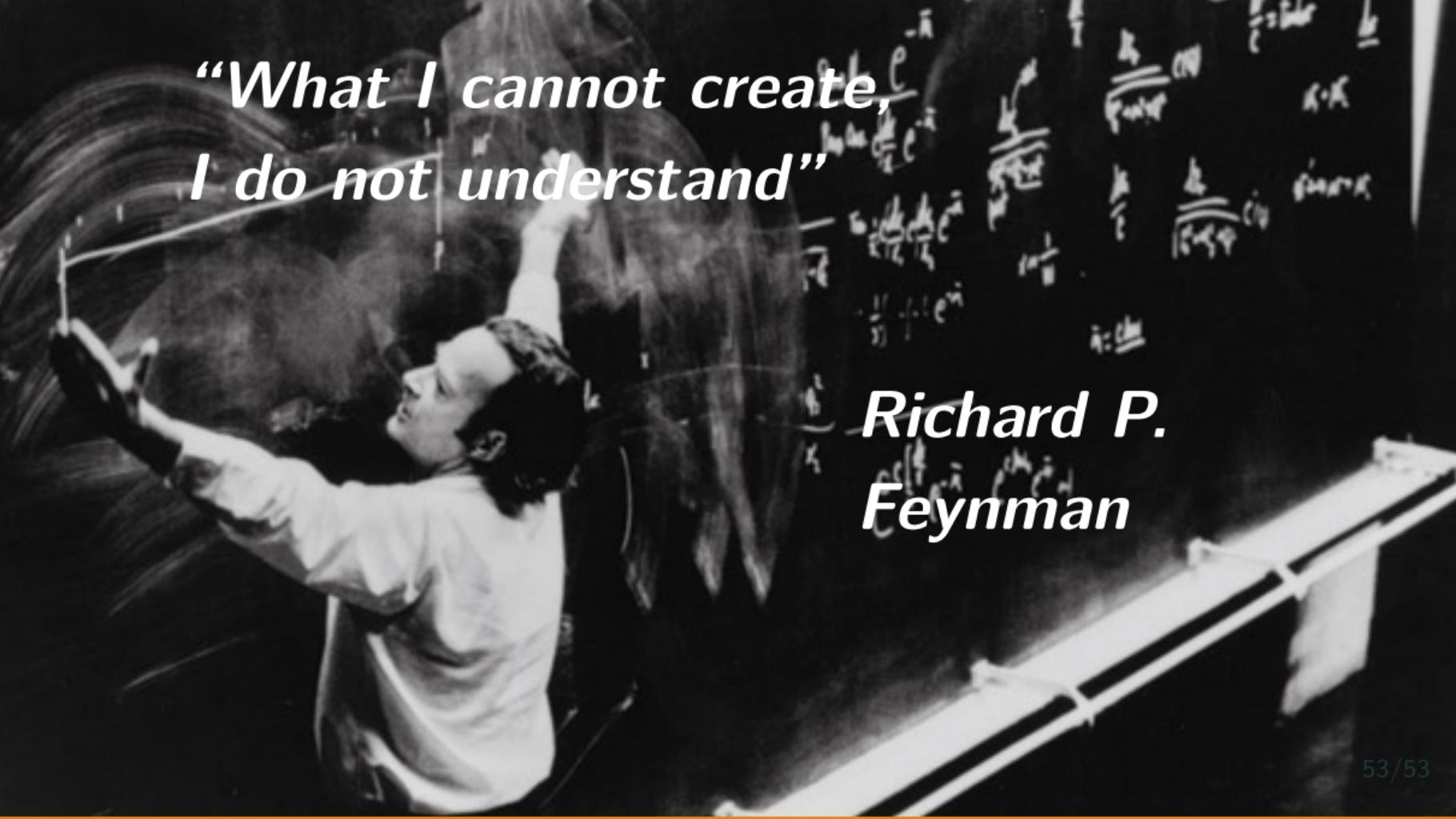
- Industrial (Google, Facebook, DoE, LLNL, etc.)
- Academic (student/researchers/national laboratories)

cuSPARSE applications:

- High-performance numerical solver
- Physics, Simulation, EDA, CAD, Computer Graphics
- (recently) AI/Deep learning

The library:

- More than 300,000 lines of code
- Must provide high performance
- Works on main 32/64-bit OS (Windows, Android, Linux, Mac, etc.)
- Works on main CPU architectures (Intel, AMD, ARM, IBM, etc.), and compilers
- Works on all GPU architectures
- Comprises host (C/C++), device code (CUDA, C++ extension) + assembly, perl, fortran, makefile, etc.
- Supports half-precision floating point, complex numbers, etc.



*“What I cannot create,
I do not understand”*

*Richard P.
Feynman*

“The only way to learn a new programming language is by writing programs in it”

Dennis Ritchie

Creator of the C programming language