

CS312 Course Introduction

"Computers are good at following instructions, but not at reading your mind."

-Donald Knuth, *Tex* p. 9

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Who Am I

- ▶ Lecturer in CS department since 2000
- ▶ Undergrad Stanford, MSCS RPI
- ▶ US Navy for 8 years, submarines
- ▶ 2 years Round Rock High School



Rensselaer



What We Will Do Today

- ▶ Introductions and administrative details
 - ▶ Discuss what computer science is
 - ▶ Look at some examples of what computer scientists do
-
- ▶ I am participating in the College of Natural Science Faculty lunch program. Monday, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm I will be in [Jester City Limits](#) for lunch. Please join me.

Startup

- ▶ www.cs.utexas.edu/~scott/cs312/handouts/startup.htm
- ▶ Request CS department account
 - <https://apps.cs.utexas.edu/udb/newaccount/>
- ▶ Read the syllabus and look over the schedule.
- ▶ Explore the class web page
- ▶ Sign up for the class discussion group on Piazza
- ▶ Register iClicker (not on Blackboard)

Startup

- ▶ Software if working at home
- ▶ Practice It Account
- ▶ Get the textbook

Clicker Question1

Which of these best describes you?

- A. First year at UT and first year college student
- B. First year at UT, transferring from another college or university.
- C. In second year at UT.
- D. In third year at UT
- E. Other

Graded Course Components

- ▶ clicker participation
 - 43 lectures with clicker, 1 point each: 43 points total
- ▶ Discussion section quizzes
 - 11 quizzes, 10 points each: 110 points total
- ▶ Programming projects
 - 12 projects, 1st 10 points, rest 20 points: 230 points total
- ▶ Two Midterms: 150, 200
 - 7 - 9 pm, Wednesday 10/2 and Wednesday 11/13
 - conflict? email me ASAP
- ▶ Final: 300 points, Day and Time TBD
- ▶ $43 + 110 + 230 + 150 + 200 + 300 = 1033$
- ▶ clicker, Quizzes, Programming Assignments capped at 350 points.
- ▶ 33 points of “slack” among those 3 components
- ▶ No points added! Grades based on 1000 points, not 1033
- ▶ **Grades posted to Grade Center on Blackboard**

Grades and Performance

- ▶ Final grade determined by final point total and a 900 – 800 – 700 – 600 scale
 - plusses and minuses if within 25 points of cutoff:
875 – 899: B+, 900 – 924: A-
- ▶ historically my programming 1 classes
- ▶ **72% C- or higher:**
 - 33% A's, 26% B's, 13% C's
- ▶ **15% D or F**
- ▶ **13% Q or W (drop)**

Assignments

- ▶ Start out easy but get much, much harder
- ▶ Individual – do your own work
 - okay to share tests you write
- ▶ Programs checked automatically with plagiarism detection software
- ▶ Turn in the right thing - correct name, correct format or you will lose points / slip days
- ▶ Slip days
 - 6 for term, max 2 per assignment
 - don't use frivolously

Succeeding in the Course

- ▶ Randy Pausch, CS Professor at CMU said:
- ▶ *"When I got tenure a year early at Virginia, other Assistant Professors would come up to me and say, 'You got tenure early!?!?! What's your secret?!?!?' and I would tell them, 'Call me in my office at 10pm on Friday night and I'll tell you.' "*
- ▶ Meaning:
Some things don't have an easy solution.
Some things simply require a lot of hard work.



Succeeding in the Course

- ▶ Whole course is cumulative!
- ▶ Material builds on itself
 - failure to understand a concept leads to bigger problems down the road, so ...
- ▶ do the readings
- ▶ start on assignments early
- ▶ get help from the teaching staff when you get stuck on an assignment
- ▶ attend lecture and discussion sections
- ▶ participate on the class discussion group
- ▶ do extra problems (Practice It! <http://practiceit.cs.washington.edu/>)
- ▶ study for tests using the old tests
- ▶ study for tests in groups
- ▶ ask questions and get help when needed

Succeeding in the Course

- ▶ Cannot succeed via memorization.
- ▶ The things I expect you to do are **not** rote.
- ▶ Learn by doing.
- ▶ If you are brand new to programming or have limited experience I **strongly** recommend you do lots and lots of practice problems.
 - practice it web site

Common Mistakes

- ▶ Not registering clicker at iClicker website
- ▶ Assuming final date and time already set
- ▶ Section number / unique id from UTDirect, not Blackboard
- ▶ Not turning in the correct thing on programming assignments
- ▶ Going to the wrong section

Course Materials and Procedures

► Software

- can work in CS department microlab, 1st and 3rd floor of Gates, north wing (GDC)
- login via CS account name and password
- work on your own system if you wish
- Java.
 - Web page has details under Software. - JDK 7.0
- Optional IDE.
 - Recommended IDE is BlueJ or Eclipse, also free



Residential Halls Study Groups

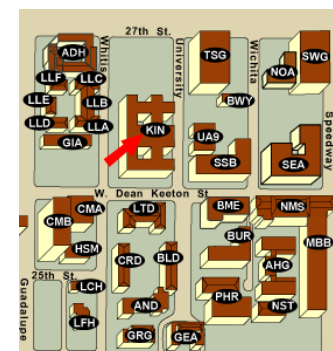
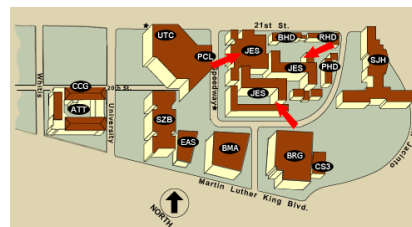
Tutoring & group study for CNS majors:

- Intro Chemistry
 - Including Organic
- Intro Math (Pre-Calculus and Calculus)
- Intro Biology
 - Including Genetics
- Intro Computer Science



Convenient Locations and Times:

- Kinsolving & Jester West dorms
- Sunday - Thursday nights: **7:30 - 10:30 PM**
 - Questions? rhsg@cns.utexas.edu
 - Website: <http://cns.utexas.edu/community/resident-hall-study-groups>



Programming is like Legos...







Legos and Programming

- ▶ With Legos and Programming you have a small number of primitives. (basic tools or pieces)
- ▶ But you build huge, elaborate structures out of those simple pieces.

A Brief Look at Computer Science

- ▶ This class, like most first classes in Computer Science, focuses solving problems and implementing those solutions as computer programs.
 - you learn how to program
- ▶ ... and yet, computer science and computer programming are not the same thing!
- ▶ So what is Computer Science?

What is Computer Science?

- ▶ Poorly named in the first place.
- ▶ It is not so much about the computer as it is about *Computation*.
- ▶ *“Computer Science is more the study of managing and processing information than it is the study of computers.”*
 - Owen Astrachan, Duke University
- ▶ learn to program
 - programming a key tool in later courses



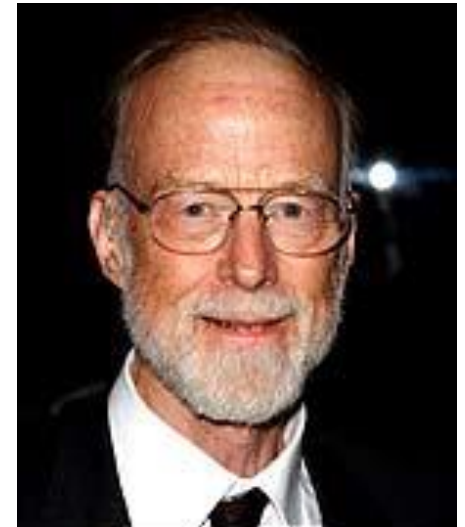
Computer Programming and Computer Science

- ▶ Generally the first thing that is studied in Chemistry is stoichiometry.
 - Why? It is a skill necessary in order to study more advanced topics in Chemistry
- ▶ The same is true of problems solving / programming and computer science.

- ▶ “What is the linking thread which gathers these disparate branches into a single discipline? ...it is the art of programming a computer. It is the art of designing efficient and elegant methods of getting a computer to solve problems, theoretical or practical, small or large, simple or complex.”

- C. A. R. Hoare

- ▶ Sir Tony Hoare. Turing Award Winner. Inventor of the quicksort algorithm



- ▶ “Programming is unquestionably the central topic of computing.

In addition to being important, programming is an enormously exciting intellectual activity. In its purest form, it is the systematic mastery of complexity. For some problems, the complexity is akin to that associated with designing a fine mechanical watch, i.e., discovering the best way to assemble a relatively small number of pieces into a harmonious and efficient mechanism. For other problems, the complexity is more akin to that associated with putting a man on the moon, i.e, managing a massive amount of detail.

In addition to being important and intellectually challenging, programming is a great deal of fun. Programmers get to build things and see them work.. What could be more satisfying? “

- John V. Guttag, Professor at MIT
research in AI, medical systems, wireless
networking



Computer Programming

- ▶ a skill and tool that are applied to all other areas of computer science
 - artificial intelligence, networks, cpu architecture, graphics, systems (programming languages, operating systems, compilers), security, and on and on ...
- ▶ We will be using solving problems and implementing solutions in a programming language called Java
- ▶ problem solving and computational thinking are key

What do Computer Scientists do?

- ▶ Computer Scientists solve problems
 - creation of algorithms
- ▶ Some examples
 - you
 - Kurt Dresner, Intersection Control
 - Austin Villa, Robot Soccer
 - Doug and Steve, the TRIPS processor

You!

- ▶ Encryption and Decryption
- ▶ Ever entered your credit card number to a website? game company?

HABUQXC 3

TLQ BJJ QABQ DCY. GXTTXQ, ALPXIXC, PZQA QAX BYYZYQBTHX LS AXC SZIX
OBKEAQXCY, HLKJO BYN LT QAX YKGVXHQ, PBX YKSSZHZXTQ QL OCBP SCLD AXC
AKYGBTO BTW YBQZYSBHQLCW OXYHCZUQZLT LS DC. GZTEJXW. QAXW BQQBHNXO AZD
ZT IBCZLKY PBWY--PZQA GBCXSBHXO FKXYQZLTY, ZTEXTZLKY YKUULYZQZLTY, BTO
OZYQBTQ YKCDZYXY; GKQ AX XJKOXO QAX YNZJJ LS QAXD BJJ, BTO QAXW PXCX BQ
JBYQ LGJZEXO QL BHHXUQ QAX YXHLTO-ABTO ZTQXJJZEXTX LS QAXZC TXZEAGLKC,
JBOW JKHBY. AXC CXULCQ PBX AZEAJW SBILKCBGJX. YZC PZJJZBD ABO GXXT
OXJZEAQXO PZQA AZD. AX PBX FKZQX WLKTE, PLTOXCSKJJW ABTOYLDX, XMQCXDXJW
BECXXBGJX, BTO, QL HCLPT QAX PALJX, AX DXBTQ QL GX BQ QAX TXMQ BYYXDGJW
PZQA B JBCX UBCQW. TLQAZTE HLKJO GX DLCX OXJZEAQSKJ! QL GX SLTO LS
OBTHZTE PBX B HXCQBZT YQXU QLPBCOY SBJJZTE ZT JLIH; BTO IXCW JZIXJW
ALUXY LS DC. GZTEJXW'Y AXBCQ PXCX XTQXCQBZTXO.

After a Little Computation:

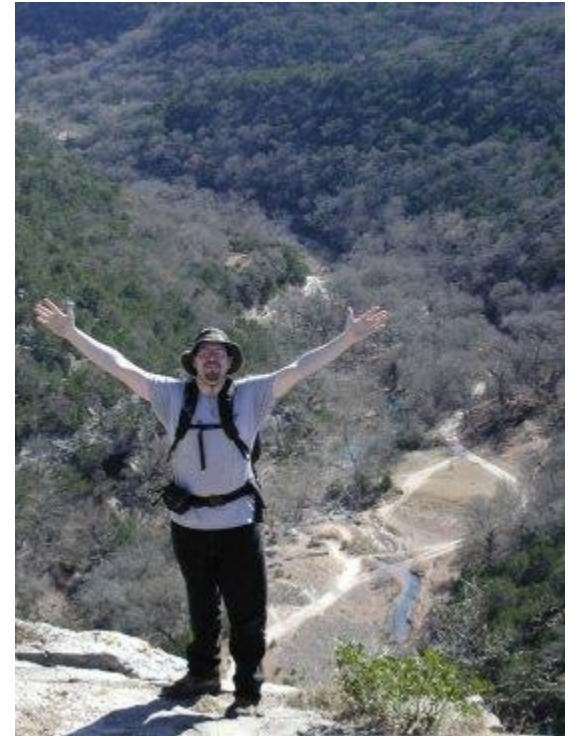
FSABTER 3

ONT ALL TSAT URH. PEOOET, SNMEVER, MITS TSE AHHIHTAOFE NY SER YIVE
DACGSTERH, FNCLD AHK NO TSE HCPQEFT, MAH HCYIFIEOT TN DRAM YRNU SER
SCHPAOD AOW HATIHYAFTNRW DEHFRIBTINO NY UR. PIOGLEW. TSEW ATTAFKED SIU
IO VARINCH MAWH--MITS PAREYAFED JCEHTINOH, IOGEOINCH HCBBNHITINOH, AOD
DIHTAOT HCRUIHEH; PCT SE ELCDDED TSE HKILL NY TSEU ALL, AOD TSEW MERE AT
LAHT NPLIGED TN AFFEBT TSE HEFNOD-SAOD IOTELLIGEOFE NY TSEIR OEIGSPNCR,
LADW LCFAH. SER REBNRT MAH SIGSLW YAVNCRAPLE. HIR MILLIAU SAD PEEO
DELIGSTED MITS SIU. SE MAH JCITE WNCOG, MNODERYCLLW SAODHNUE, EXTREUELW
AGREEAPLE, AOD, TN FRNMO TSE MSNLE, SE UEAOT TN PE AT TSE DEXT AHHEUPLW
MITS A LARGE BARTW. ONTSIOG FNCLD PE UNRE DELIGSTYCL! TN PE YNOD NY
DAOFIOG MAH A FERTAIO HTEB TNMARDH YALLIOG IO LNVE; AOD VERW LIVELW
SNBEH NY UR. PIOGLEW'H SEART MERE EOTERTAIOED.

- ▶ Apply some human smarts:

Kurt Dresner – Intersection Control

- ▶ Former PhD student in UTCS department
 - working at Google now
- ▶ area of interest artificial intelligence
- ▶ ***Multiagent Traffic Management: A Reservation-Based Intersection Control Mechanism***
 - how will intersections work if and when cars are autonomous?
 - Simulator



Austin Villa – Robot Soccer

- ▶ Multiple Autonomous Agents
- ▶ Get a bunch of Sony Aibo robots to play soccer
- ▶ Problems:
 - *vision* (is that the ball?)
 - *localization* (where am I?)
 - *locomotion* (I want to be there!)
 - *coordination* (I am open! pass me the ball!)
- ▶ <http://www.cs.utexas.edu/~AustinVilla/>
- ▶ [Video](#) [Video2](#)

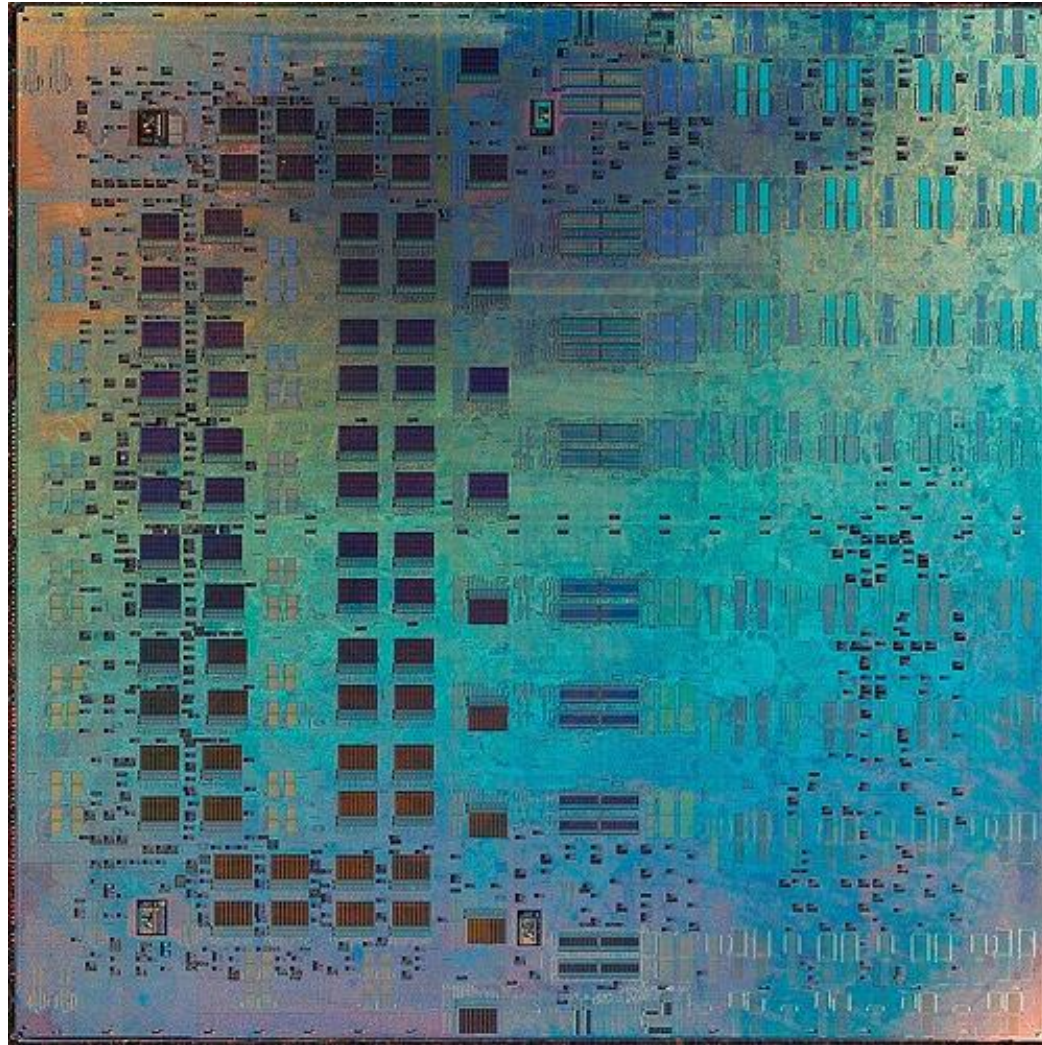


Doug and Steve

- ▶ Doug Burger and Steve Keckler
 - and many, many others
- ▶ TRIPS
 - what has happened to processor speeds the past 5 years?
 - what is a super computer?
 - <http://www.cs.utexas.edu/users/cart/trips/>



The Trips Chip Prototype



Google Trends

- ▶ <http://www.google.com/trends>
- ▶ Try these:
 - computer science
 - britney spears
 - computer science brittany spears
 - computer science, britney spears
 - binary search tree
 - recursion
 - linked lists, binary search tree
 - AP
 - super bowl

Goolge N Grams

► <http://books.google.com/ngrams>

Google books Ngram Viewer

Graph these [case-sensitive](#) comma-separated phrases: Albert Einstein, Sherlock Holmes, Frankenstein

between 1800 and 2000 from the corpus English with smoothing of 3

Search lots of books

Share 1.3k

Tweet 1,228

Albert Einstein Sherlock Holmes Frankenstein

