

Programming Languages and Paradigms: C++

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Abstract—This is a semester paper for the Programming Languages and Paradigms seminar at the University of Zurich under the direction of Professor Carol Alexandru. This paper aims to provide an concise overview about the history of the C++ programming language, some of the features that make it unique and offer general overview and reflection on the experience programming in C++ during the semester.

Index Terms—cpp, c++, programming languages

I. INTRODUCTION

The C++ programming language is an extremely successful and widely used multi paradigm general purpose programming language. It has many reputations, some admire it for its versatility, some adore its portability and low level features and others criticize it for its lack of direction and complexity but it has managed to stand the test of time for almost four decades and shows no signs of slowing down. It is still one of the most widely used programming languages and finds its self at the core of many popular pieces of software e.g. Mozilla Firefox, MySQL, certain Adobe software, Microsoft Office, KDE, etc. A non exhaustive list of C++ applications can be found on the creator of the language Bjarne Stroustrup's website here [1] .

```
1 #include <iostream>
2
3 int main()
4 {
5     std::cout << "Hello World" << '\n';
6     return 0;
7 }
```

Code 1: Hello World Example

II. HISTORY

The history of the C++ programming language, or rather the pre-history as it was then known as *C with Classes*, begins in 1979 when Bjarne Stroustrup was an employee at AT&T Bell Labs. As the name suggests the motivation behind the creation of the language was to try to synthesize the complementary characteristics of the C programming language, also a Bell

Labs creation, and Object Oriented languages. Bjarne found Simula67's Object Orientation style to be helpful for large scale software development during his experience with the language in his PHD Thesis, but was unimpressed by its performance characteristics. The goal of C with Classes was build upon C, which was known for its high performance and to expand it with Simula like Object Orientation.

A. Relevant Literature

Relevant material can be found at [2]–[7]

III. CPP

IV. DISCUSSION

V. CONCLUSION

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