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Special Topics: Programming Languages

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Lecture # 1

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Text Books

- Michael L. Scott, *Programming Language Pragmatics*, (2nd Edition), Morgan Kaufmann; ISBN-10: 0-126-339511.
- **Other Recommended Books**
  - Bjarne Stroustroup, `C++`*: Programming Language*, Addison Wesley Publishers.ISBN 0-201-12078-X.
  - James Gosling, *Java Language Specification*, Addison Wesley. ISBN 0-201-63451-1.
  - J. Barnes, *Programming in ADA 95* Addison Wesley. ISBN 0-201-87700-7.
  - Guy Steele, *Common Lisp Manual*, Digital Press. ISBN 0-932376-41-X.

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Administrivia

- **Office Hours**

  By appointment
  Room 1003: Seven-Fifteen Broadway

- **Tests and Assignments**

  1. Home Works (Some programming)
     About 3 or 4 Assignments
     40% of the total Grade
  2. Surprise Quizzes (1/2 - 1 hrs; Closed Book)
     40% of the total Grade
  3. Final (2 Hrs, Closed Book)
     20% of the total Grade

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Who is Interested in Programming Languages?

- **Users**—*Issues:*
  - **Ease of Programming**
  - **Productivity**

    i) Prototyping, ii) Optimization, iii) Correctness, iv) Flexibility v) Reusability
  - **Readability**

    i) Self-documenting, ii) Syntax, iii) Semantics
  - **Interface**

    i) Libraries, ii) Other languages

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Language Designers

- *Issues:*
  - **Lexical Structure**
  - **Syntactic Structure**
  - **Semantic Structure**

    i) Every feature has a well-defined meaning.

    ii) Interaction among the features
  - **Operations**

    i) Bit Operations, ii) Typed First-Class Objects:

    `int`, `Boolean`, `float`, `double`, ...,

    iii) Objects, iv) S-expressions, v) Logical expressions

    vi) Rules and Patterns, vii) Sets

    —Low level vs. High level—
  - **Interactive/Dynamic vs. Static**
  - **Imperative vs. Declarative**

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Compiler Writers

- *Issues:*
  - **Separation between Language & Machine-dependent Features** —Portability—
  - **Compile Time vs. Run Time**
  - **System Interface**

    i) Operating System, ii) File System, iii) Separate Compilation, iv) Programming Environment (Version Management, Editor, Debugger, Profiler)
  - **User Interface**

    i) Error reporting/Recovery, ii) Assertions & Checks, iii) Options Control, iv) Preprocessing
  - **Performance**

    i) Compiler (Size/Speed), ii) Generated Code (Size/Speed)
  - **Compiler-Compiler**

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Why Are We Interested in Programming Languages?

- Mostly as a **USER**
  Recognize and understand common features
  1. Makes it easy to learn
  2. Understand common idioms/phrases (Stylized and Readable Code)
  3. Improve Productivity

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A Brief History of Programming Languages

Early Languages

- *Algebraic Interpreter*: MIT for the Whirlwind computer (1950).
- *A-2*: Grace Murray Hopper. For UNIVAC. (1950)
- **FORTRAN**: FORmula TRANslator. John Backus & his team at IBM. (1953)

  ◦ Simple compiler capable of producing efficient code. First Fortran compiler construction: 1955–1957.

  ◦ Standardized by ANSI (American National Standards Institute) in 1966 and by ISO (International Standards Organization) in 1978. (Also known as ISO 1539-1980, and informally known as FORTRAN 77).

  ◦ Latest ANSI standard for Fortran 90: ANSI X3.198-1992.

◦ Fortran 95 & 2003: Latest ISO standards: ISO/IEC 1539-1:1997. Fortran, Part 1: Base language, or Fortran 95. ISO/IEC 1539-1:2004. informally aka Fortran 2003.

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History (Contd)

- **ALGOL**: ALGOrithmic Language. Committee consisting of GAMM (Gesellschaft für angewandte Matheamtik und Mecahnik) and ACM. 1958–1960. ALGOL 60.
  - Block structure
  - Recursive Procedures
  - Data Types
  - Scope Rules (Lexical)
  - ALGOL 68—Parallel computing, Semaphores, Coercion, Overloading, Flexible Arrays
  - Hard to implement.

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History (Contd)

- *LISP*: LISt Processing Language. John McCarthy & his colleagues in MIT. Late 1950s

  ◦ A list of symbols: E.g., word in a sentence, attributes, algebraic expressions

  ◦ List represents both data and expressions (Cambridge Polish Notation.)—S-expressions

  ◦ Functional Programming

  ◦ Dialects: MacLisp, FranzLisp, BBNLisp...

  ◦ Standardization: Common LISP and Scheme. 1975–1985.

- *SIMULA*: Royal Norwegian Council. Kristen Nygaard & Ole-Johan Dahl, Early 60s.

  ◦ Simulation of Physical entities

  ◦ Objects with independent existence–OOPS. SIMULA 67 ◦ Beta: successor of Simula in the 90's

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History (Contd)

- **COBOL**: CODASYL (Committee on Data Systems Language) executive committee, sponsored by US DoD. May 1959
  - ◦ Mainly for business Data processing applications (e.g., payroll)
- **APL**: A Programming Language. Ken Iverson. Early 60s.
  - ◦ Succinct representation obtained by compositional application of operations on high-level structures such as arrays and matrices.
- *SNOBOL*: David Farber, Ralph Griswold & Ivan Polonsky at Bell Labs. Mid 60s.
  - ◦ Processing of string data
  - ◦ Concepts of generators. Pattern matching by unification
  - ◦ Icon: successor of SNOBOL in the mid 80's

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History (Contd)

Recent Languages

- **PL/I**: Advanced Language Development Committee sponsored by IBM. Mid 60s.
  - ◦ Goal was to replace FORTRAN and COBOL by a more powerful language.
  - ◦ ANSI standard in 1976. "General Purpose Subset" in 1981.
  - ◦ As a language it failed, mostly due to its complexity.
- **BASIC**: Beginner's All-Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code. John Kemeny and Thomas Kurtz of Dartmouth College. Early 70s.
  - ◦ Easy to learn, code and debug.
  - ◦ ANSI Standard in 1978. True BASIC in 1985.

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History (Contd)

- `C`: Dennis Ritchie at Bell Labs. 1972. Influenced by `B` and `BCPL` (Ken Thompson).
  - ◦ Low level language. With greater access to hardware environment (necessary in applications such as graphics, networking, etc.)
  - ◦ Good interface with operating system (`UNIX` and the libraries)
  - ◦ ANSI standard in 1989.
- **BLISS**: Bill Wulf and Nico Habermann of Carnegie-Mellon. Mid 70s.
  - ◦ Low level abilities.
  - ◦ Optimizing compiler for BLISS 11 to run on PDP 11.

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History (Contd)

Structured Languages

- **Pascal**: Niklaus Wirth, 1971.
  - Influenced by ALGOL 68 (ALGOL W).
  - Simple, 1 Pass compiler. First compiler written in FORTRAN by a single graduate student.
  - Pedagogic language. Used for teaching structured program development via *stepwise refinement*.
  - User-defined types.
  - Standard Pascal lacks dynamic arrays. Makes it hard to use for many real applications.
- **Modula**: Niklaus Wirth. Early 80s.
  - Allows programs to be organized in *modules*
  - Some amount of *encapsulation*

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History (Contd)

Object Oriented Languages

- **Smalltalk**: Alan Kay, Xerox Parc (KiddiKomp project). Summer of 71.
  - ◦ Object Oriented Programming (OOP).
  - ◦ Concept of *classes*. Object is an instance of a class.
  - ◦ Classes are organized in a *class hierarchy*. Properties can be inherited from super/base classes.
- `C++`: Bajrne Stroustroup. 1982–1985.
  - ◦ Influenced by SIMULA. Evolved from an earlier version called "`C` with classes."
  - ◦ Class mechanisms, Inheritance, Friend-mechanisms. Template (polymorphisms).
  - ◦ Powerful, yet efficient.
- **Ada**: Jean Ichbiah of Honeywell of France, 1983.

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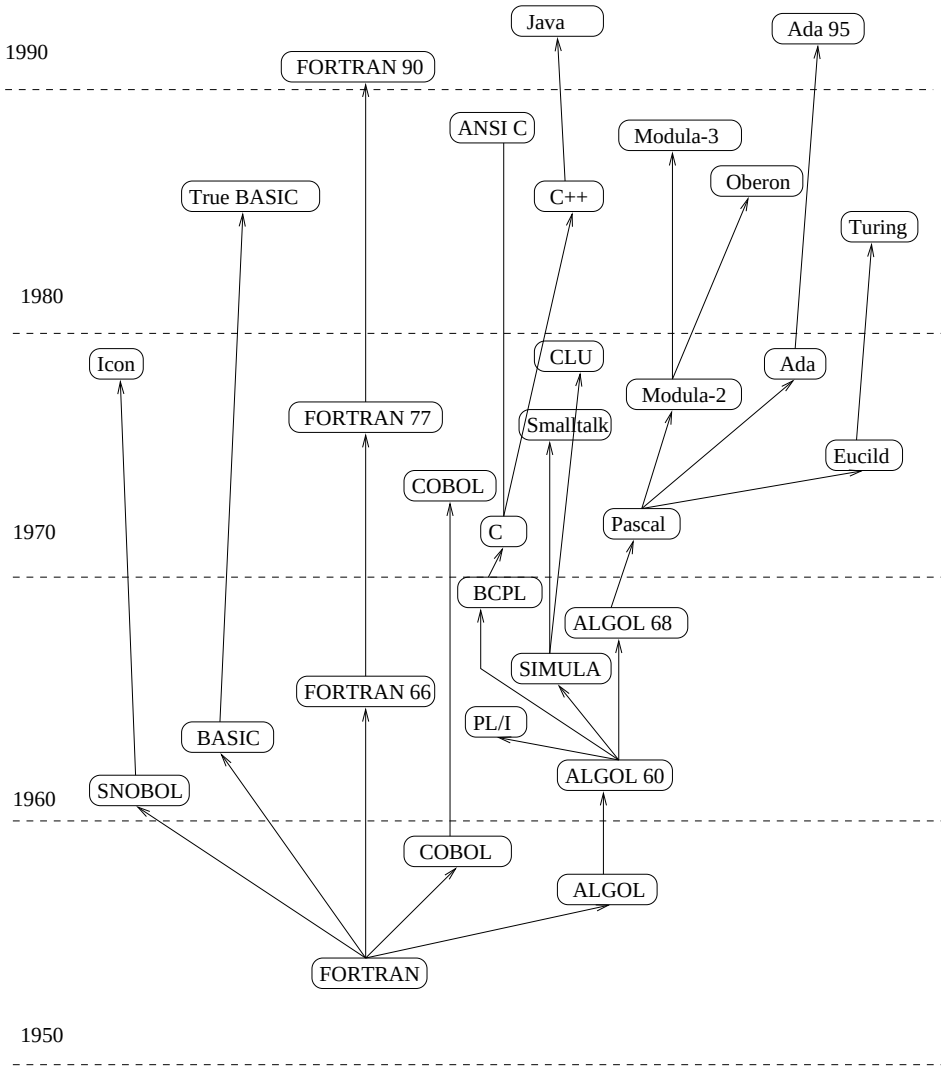
Imperative Languages



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Turing Awards

Or, Why you may want to design a Programming Language.

Name	Language	Year
John McCarthy	LISP	1971
John Backus	Fortran	1977
Ken Iverson	APL	1979
Dennis Ritchie	`C`	1983
Ken Thompson	`B` & `C`	1983
Niklaus Wirth	Pascal	1984
Robin Milner	ML	1992
Ole-Johan Dahl	Simula	2001
Kristen Nygaard	Simula	2001
Alan Kay	Smalltalk	2003

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Special Announcements

- There will be no class on **September 15 2008**.

[End of Lecture #1]