Introduction to Computer Science
CSCI 109

Andrew Goodney
Fall 2017

Lecture 1: Introduction
Jan 9, 2017
Purpose of this Course

- Introduce computer science as a discipline, a body of knowledge, and a domain of science/engineering
  - The focus is on ideas and concepts
  - Significant amounts of reading but no programming (see CSCI 103L)
- What is computing, a computer, science (and engineering)?
- How do computers work?
  - Computers, architectures, data structures and algorithms, programming, operating systems, networks, abstract machines and theory, artificial intelligence, robotics, human computer interaction, ...
- What is comprised within the domain of computing?
  - Comprehending its content and structure
  - Appreciating its past, present and future
- Provide a basis upon which you can build throughout the remainder of your computing education
Purpose of this Course
## Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Quizzes/Midterm/Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21-Aug</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>28-Aug</td>
<td>Computer architecture</td>
<td></td>
<td>HW1</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-Sep</td>
<td>Labor day</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-Sep</td>
<td>Data structures</td>
<td></td>
<td>HW1</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-Sep</td>
<td>Last day to drop a Monday-only class without a mark of &quot;W&quot; and receive a refund or change to Pass/No Pass or Audit for Session 001</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-Sep</td>
<td>Data structures</td>
<td></td>
<td>HW2</td>
<td>Quiz 1 on material taught in class 8/21-8/28</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-Oct</td>
<td>Algorithms</td>
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<td>Quiz 2 on material taught in class 9/11-9/25</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-Oct</td>
<td>Last day to drop a course without a mark of “W” on the transcript</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-Oct</td>
<td>Algorithms and programming</td>
<td></td>
<td>HW2</td>
<td>Quiz 3 on material taught in class 10/2</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-Oct</td>
<td>Operating systems</td>
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<td>HW3</td>
<td>Quiz 4 on material taught in class 10/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-Oct</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Midterm on all material taught so far.</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-Oct</td>
<td>Computer networks</td>
<td></td>
<td>HW3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-Nov</td>
<td>Artificial intelligence</td>
<td></td>
<td>HW4</td>
<td>Quiz 5 on material taught in class 10/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-Nov</td>
<td>Last day to drop a class with a mark of &quot;W&quot; for Session 001</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-Nov</td>
<td>The limits of computation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz 6 on material taught in class 11/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-Nov</td>
<td>Robotics</td>
<td></td>
<td>HW4</td>
<td>Quiz 7 on material taught in class 11/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Nov</td>
<td>Summary, recap, review</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz 8 on material taught in class 11/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-Dec</td>
<td>Final exam 11 am - 1 pm in SAL 101</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Final on all material covered in the semester</td>
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</table>
1. How many college level computer classes have you completed?
   a. 0   b. 1   c. 2   d. 3   e. 4 or more

2. How many years of computer programming have you done?
   a. 0   b. 1   c. 2   d. 3   e. 4 or more

3. How many programming languages do you know?
   a. 0   b. 1   c. 2   d. 3   e. 4 or more

4. Are you taking CS 103 concurrently with this class?
   a. Yes   b. No

5. Your reason for taking CS 109 is
   a. Required for your current major or minor.
   b. Not required for your current major or minor but is required for a major or minor you want to add (or move to).
   c. Not required for your current major or minor nor for a major or minor you are considering but you are interested in learning about Computer Science.

Survey:
https://usc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b3pwARaMqE18rIN
Password: CS109Fall2017
Logistics
Instructor and TAs

- **Instructor:** Andrew Goodney
  - **Office:** PHE434
  - **Office Hour:** See syllabus

- **Contact Info:**
  - goodney@usc.edu

Teaching Assistants (TAs)

- **Michail Misyrlis**
  - **Office:** SAL Computer Lab
  - **Office Hour:** TBD
  - **Contact Info:**
    - misyrlis@usc.edu

- **Max Pflueger**
  - **Office:** SAL Computer Lab
  - **Office Hour:** M 15:30-17:30
  - **Contact Info:**
    - pflueger@usc.edu

- **Chung Ming Cheung (Jacky)**
  - **Office:** SAL Computer Lab
  - **Office Hour:** T 16:00-17:00
  - **Contact Info:**
    - chungmin@usc.edu
Important Info

- **Class**
  - **Location:** SAL 101  
  - **Days & Time:** M 12:00-13:50
- **There are no discussion or quiz sections**
  - Class is now 2 units (used to be 3)
- **Co-requisite : CSCI 103L**
  - There is no prerequisite
- **Required Textbook**
- Syllabus is on http://bytes.usc.edu/cs109/
- Slides will be posted on “bytes” after each lecture
- Other reading material will be made available there
Four homeworks (7.5% each)
Collaboration is welcome on the homework
  • But copying is not permitted
You are allowed a total of two late days on the homework
  • One homework may be 2 days late, or two may be 1 day late, with no penalty
  • Once late days are used, one day late reduces the score by 25%, two days late reduces the score by 50%, no credit is given for three or more days late
  • All homeworks must be submitted to earn a passing grade
All homework submissions must be typed
Quizzes (5%), Midterm (30%), Final (35%)

- ~8 in-class quizzes (1% each)
- No collaboration is permitted on the quizzes
- Best five scores will be retained so quizzes are worth 5% of your grade

- 1 midterm: worth 30% of your overall grade

- 1 final exam (cumulative): worth 35% of your overall grade
There are **absolutely no make up quizzes**. If you need to be away from class to see a doctor, or to play on a sports team, the missed quizzes need to come from your quota of the two ‘allowed misses.’ Please plan on this.

If you miss quizzes earlier in the semester because you don’t come to class for no good reason and then are faced with a situation later in the semester where you need to see the doctor, please do not request a medical exemption. **You should marshall the quota of ‘allowed misses’ carefully.**

The quizzes will be administered in class but **it is impossible to predict exactly when during the lecture they will occur**. If you come to class after the quiz for that day has been administered (or leave before it is administered), you are not entitled to a make up or to have the quiz re-administered for you.
How is the final grade assigned?

- Each homework, quiz and exam receives a raw numeric score
- Best five quiz scores are retained
- Weighted combination of raw numeric scores produces total raw score (out of 100)
- The total raw score is normalized – i.e. each total raw score is divided by the highest total raw score in the class
- Grade boundaries drawn to group similar normalized scores in same final grade
What is a Computer?
Computer or Not?
An electronic device designed to accept data, perform prescribed mathematical and logical operations at high speed, and display the results of these operations.

A programmable machine that performs high-speed processing of numbers, as well as of text, graphics, symbols, and sound.

- All computers contain a central processing unit that interprets and executes instructions; input devices, such as a keyboard and a mouse, through which data and commands enter the computer; memory that enables the computer to store programs and data; and output devices, such as printers and display screens, that show the results after the computer has processed data.

An electronic device that stores and manipulates information.

- Unlike a calculator, it is able to store a program and retrieve information from its memory.

A machine that can be programmed to manipulate symbols.

A person who computes; computist.

- 1640s: “one who calculates”

An information transformer
Types of Information

- Bits: 0/1, T/F, True/False, Yes/No
  - And strings of bits, such as 010110
- Numbers: 5, 101, -3, 3.14159, \(i\), \(\pi\)
  - And numeric expressions, such as \((3 + 2)\)
- Statements in logic: \(\forall x \text{At}(x, \text{USC}) \land \text{Person}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Smart}(x)\)
- Letters, words, sentences, paragraphs, articles, books
- Audio, image and video files
- URLs (such as http://www/google.com) and web pages
- Data bases
- ...
Modern computers use binary arithmetic

Examples:

- $24_{10} = 16 + 8 = 2^4 + 2^3$
  
  \[
  = 1 \times 2^4 + 1 \times 2^3 + 0 \times 2^2 + 0 \times 2^1 + 0 \times 2^0
  \]
  
  \[
  = 11000_2
  \]

- $90_{10} = 64 + 16 + 8 + 2$
  
  \[
  = 1 \times 2^6 + 0 \times 2^5 + 1 \times 2^4 + 1 \times 2^3 + 0 \times 2^2 + 1 \times 2^1 + 0 \times 2^0
  \]
  
  \[
  = 1011010_2
  \]

- $10111_2 = 1 \times 2^4 + 0 \times 2^3 + 1 \times 2^2 + 1 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0$
  
  \[
  = 16 + 4 + 2 + 1
  \]
  
  \[
  = 23_{10}
  \]
Information Transformation

- Convert one body of information to another
  - That is, compute

- Example: Boolean algebra
  - Information expressed in bits: 0/1 (or F/T)
  - Operations transform input bits to yield output bits
    - AND, OR, NOT, ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AND</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OR</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOT</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>XOR</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ \text{AND}(0, 1) \Rightarrow 0 \]
\[ \text{OR}(0, 1) \Rightarrow 1 \]
\[ \text{AND}(1, 1) \Rightarrow 1 \]
\[ \text{OR}(0, 0) \Rightarrow 0 \]
What is the truth table for \( f(x,y) = \text{AND}(\text{OR}(x, y), \text{NOT}(\text{AND}(x, y))) \)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>x</th>
<th>y</th>
<th>OR(x, y)</th>
<th>AND(x, y)</th>
<th>NOT(AND(x, y))</th>
<th>AND(OR(x, y), NOT(AND(x, y)))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

\( f \) table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>f</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
More on Information Transformation

- Other examples
  - Mathematical calculations – \((10+2)/2=6\) – and logical proofs
  - Solving puzzles
  - Sorting lists: 4, 2, 1, 3, 6, 5
  - Computational thinking
  - Transforming data into insights (*big data or analytics*)
  - Transforming knowledge into decisions about what actions to perform
  - Literary, musical and artistic composition

- **Hardware** enables implementing transformations
- **Software (programs)** control(s) transformations
- **Algorithms** are abstract descriptions of transformations
Computational Thinking

- “thought processes involved in formulating problems and their solutions so that the solutions are represented in a form that can be effectively carried out by an information-processing agent” (Cuny, Snyder, Wing)
  - way of solving problems, designing systems, and understanding human behavior that draws on concepts fundamental to computer science
    - To flourish in today's world, computational thinking has to be a fundamental part of the way people think and understand the world
  - creating and making use of different levels of abstraction, to understand and solve problems more effectively
  - thinking algorithmically and with the ability to apply mathematical concepts such as induction to develop more efficient, fair, and secure solutions
  - understanding the consequences of scale, not only for reasons of efficiency but also for economic and social reasons

Humans thinking (i.e., transforming information) to devise procedures for execution by information transformers (human and/or machine)
Computer or Not?
Implications

- Defining computers in terms of their functionality...
  - Strips away ancillary attributes previously thought essential
    - Machine, electronic, speed, explicit programmability, ...
  - Enables appreciating the full scope of computers and computing

- Facilitates recognition of “natural” computers
  - Brain: Thought is preeminently information transformation
  - Embryonic development: Based on instructions written in DNA
  - Evolution: Combines and modifies information in DNA
  - Immune system: Includes pattern recognizers, memory, ...

David Baltimore: “How biology became an information science”
Richard Dawkins: “The difference between life and non-life is a matter not of substance but of information”
Computer History

Looms, the discrete machine abstraction, and the first computer programs
A History of Human-Built Computers

- Although computers can (and have been) built using all kinds of hardware, modern computing really took off with the invention of electronic computers which were preceded by mechanical computers.

- A history of computing and the Jacquard Loom

- Mechanical Computers
  - The Difference and Analytical Engines
  - The Hollerith Machine

- Electronic Computers
  - From EDSAC to the Macbook

Reading:
St. Amant: Introduction, Ch. 1 and Ch. 2
Before Mechanical Computers

Electronic computers were preceded by mechanical computers and mechanical computers were preceded by...
A Simple Mechanical Loom

- Pressing treadles causes harnesses to lift threads
- The shuttle slides a cross thread under the lifted threads
- Then the threads are lowered
- Pressing treadles causes harnesses to lift threads
- The shuttle slides a cross thread under the lifted threads
- Then the threads are lowered
- Pressing treadles causes harnesses to lift threads
- The shuttle slides a cross thread under the lifted threads
- Then the threads are lowered
- ...
- What kind of patterns does this produce?
How does the loom behave as a function of time?
At any given time a set of threads is raised and the rest are lowered
Writing down the sequence of raised (and lowered) threads tells us the steps the machine went through to produce the cloth/tapestry/whatever
The pattern of raised (and lowered) threads is called the *state* of the machine
Choosing a state representation takes skill. The state should be

- Parsimonious: it should be a “small” descriptor of what the machine is doing at any given time
- Adequate: it should be “big enough” to capture everything “interesting” about the machine

These are sometimes contradictory. They are also qualitative and depend on what behavior of the machine we want to describe

Usually you need a vocabulary (encoding) to describe state. In the case of a loom, state can be expressed as a binary pattern (1 for raised, 0 for lowered)
The loom is a discrete machine

- State is binary pattern – i.e. discrete
- The notion of time is discrete – i.e. time is modeled as proceeding in steps or finite chunks

More precisely, the loom can be usefully modeled as a discrete machine

This is an example of an abstraction – a key concept in Computer Science
State: The condition of a system at a point in time

Encoding: Symbolic expression used to represent

Discrete: Proceeding in finite steps, individually separate and distinct

Binary: Numerical notation that uses base 2

Abstraction: Simplified ("higher-level") description
How to produce more complex patterns?

Early solution was human – the draw loom

- Master weaver calls out which threads to lift
- Drawboy lifts threads
- Master weaver threads the shuttle
- Master weaver calls out which threads to lift
- Drawboy lifts threads
- Master weaver threads the shuttle
- Master weaver calls out which threads to lift
- Drawboy lifts threads
- Master weaver threads the shuttle
- ...

...
The Jacquard Loom (1801): Mechanism

- Mechanism:
  - Threads attached to spring-loaded rods
  - Springs make all threads want to lift unless stopped somehow
  - A metal ‘card’ with holes is inserted into the path of the threads
  - A hole in the corresponding place allows a thread to lift. No hole arrests the thread motion and stops it from lifting

- The Jacquard Loom (from the Teaching Palette via YouTube)
Weaving becomes the process of
- Creating cards with holes in them (punched cards)
- Sequencing the cards in the right order

Each card is an *instruction* to the machine to do precisely one thing (i.e., put itself into one particular *state*)

A sequence of cards (i.e., a sequence of instructions) causes the machine to step through a sequence of states. The card sequence is a *program*

The weaver as a *programmer*
The Jacquard Loom: Programming

- A discrete, ‘automatic’ machine
- Since we have chosen a binary encoding the machine state is a binary number
- Each instruction is also a binary number since each instruction is (literally) the state the programmer wants the machine to be in when that instruction is executed
- The program for the machine is a sequence of instructions. Each program is (literally) a sequence of states the programmer wants the machine to step through
- The program is thus a sequence of binary numbers
This machine’s state is captured in a 9-bit word.

Each instruction in the program is also a 9-bit word.

The state and each instruction is thus 9 bits wide.

This program is 9 instructions long.
Loom Program Limitations

**Does not scale:**
- **Large instructions:** To program a ‘big’ machine you need ‘big’ words (large state implies large instruction widths)
- **No counting:** No repeats or loops to do things over a certain number of times (No “do..while” or “repeat..until”)
- **No modularity:** No logical chunks for sub-patterns that can be reused without replication (No “functions, methods, subroutines...”)

**No decision making on the fly:**
- **No branching** to decide to do one thing instead of another based on a condition (No “if-then-else”. No jumps or “goto”)
Typical Macbook Pro laptop has ~1 billion transistors

The state of the machine is a binary number with ~1 billion bits (a binary word of width ~1 billion)

- **Not possible** to program a Macbook Pro by writing a sequence of instructions each ~1 Billion bits wide

A Macbook Pro executes ~5 billion instructions per second

- **Possible** to have programs that are billions of instructions long and yet have them finish operating in a reasonable time
Computer History

Mechanical computers: The difference and analytical engines, the Hollerith machine
The Difference Engine (1822)

- **Charles Babbage**
- **Mechanical calculator** to compute mathematical tables
  - Loom: program transforms threads to patterns on cloth
  - Difference engine: program transforms numbers into other numbers
- Polynomial function computation using differences
- Output was via a ‘printer’ – a device that produced printer’s plates so they could be stamped onto paper
- No branching or looping, limited in what it could compute
The Analytical Engine (1837)

- **Charles Babbage**

- **World’s first general purpose mechanical calculator**
  - Memory
  - Arithmetic unit
  - Branching
  - Looping

- Programmed by punched cards like a loom

- Output was via a ‘printer’ – a device that produced printer’s plates so they could be stamped onto paper
The Hollerith Tabulator (1890)

- Hermann Hollerith
- First device to read data into a machine: an electromechanical system based on punched cards
- Built to tabulate the results of US census
- Hollerith went on to form the Tabulating Machine Company. Merged with others to form the Computing Tabulating Recording Company (CTR). Renamed in 1924 to International Business Machines (IBM)

Hermann Hollerith and one of his punched cards. Images courtesy of Wikipedia.
Fundamental Concepts

- State and discrete machines
- Abstraction and models
- Encoding data and instructions
- Programming

To be general, programs need to access a memory, and to be able to control the order of the instructions to execute based on the results of computation.
Computer History

The first electronic computers
The ENIAC (1943-46)

- Electronic Numerical Integrator And Computer
- *Eckert and Mauchly (University of Pennsylvania)*
- First electronic, general purpose computer. Turing-complete, digital, reprogrammable (cumbersome)
- Vacuum tube and diode-based
The EDVAC (1944-49)

- Electronic Discrete Variable Automatic Computer (Eckert and Mauchly)
- First stored program computer, binary (ENIAC was decimal). Operational 1951.
- Popularized by von Neumann (First Draft of a Report on the EDVAC) – first report on a modern computer architecture
Although computers can (and have been) built using all kinds of hardware, modern computing really took off with the invention of electronic computers which were preceded by mechanical computers.

A history of computing and the Jacquard Loom

Mechanical Computers
- The Difference and Analytical Engines
- The Hollerith Machine

Electronic Computers
- From EDSAC to the Macbook
Next time: Computer Architecture

How are computers built?