CSC150: Accelerated Introduction to Computer Science

Karen Reid
Email : reid150@cs.utoronto.ca
Office: BA 4240
Phone: 416-978-7797
Web Page: www.cs.utoronto.ca/~csc150h

Administrivia

- Office hours:
  - Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 3-4
  - Hours shared between my two courses.
- Please come see me if you have any questions about this course.
- No tutorial this week.
- Assignment 1 will be posted later today.
- Check the CSSU for special seminars.

What is Computer Science?

What are Computer Scientists?

- Computer scientists are more than just programmers.
- For example, you must be able to:
  - Recognize patterns in a new problem
    - Example: ``Predicting stock market trends is like curve fitting and extrapolation."
    - This requires abstraction, and familiarity with known patterns.
  - Identify options for solving a problem
    - Example: ``A sorted array might be a good data structure for storing a set of items."
    - This requires creativity, and familiarity with known solutions.

What is Computer Science?

- Weigh options
  - Example: ``Keeping the array sorted allows faster search, but not keeping it sorted allows faster insertion.''
  - This requires the ability to analyze potential solutions for correctness and efficiency.
- Make an appropriate choice for a given situation
  - Example: ``Because I expect to do more searching than insertion, a sorted array is better.''
- Notice that none of this is about programming.

CSC108, CSC148, CSC150?

- **CSC108** – need no programming background.
  - teaches objects, classes and methods (functions/procedures)
  - teaches conditionals, loops (week 7), arrays (~week 9)
  - teaches searching and sorting
  - teaches basic inheritance
- **CSC148** – should have passed CSC108.
  - should know object oriented programming in Java
  - loops, conditionals, procedures/functions, parameters, arrays,
  - searching and sorting.

CSC108, CSC148, CSC150?

- **CSC150** – need good programming skills in a language other than Java.
  - should know loops, conditionals, procedures/functions, parameters, arrays, searching and sorting in a language like Pascal, Turing, or C.
  - covers all of the CSC148 material.
  - covers object oriented programming
    - classes, objects, methods, inheritance
  - *No Java knowledge is necessary.*

Test yourself

- Write a program (in your favourite programming language) that reads an array of 20 integers from the keyboard, passes that array to a procedure or function that sorts its parameter, and then prints the sorted array.
- This should take you less than an hour and a half *with only occasional uses of a textbook for help.*

Schedule

- Weeks 1-3 – Introduction to Java and object oriented programming.
- Weeks 4-13 – CSC148 material
  - Abstract data types – queues, stacks, interfaces
  - Java memory model, more on OO model.
  - Linked Data structures
  - Design by Contract
  - Exceptions
  - Trees
  - Recursion
  - Proof methods
  - Time Analysis

Relationship to CSC148

- CSC150 – 5 assignments, 4 labs
- CSC148 – 4 assignments, 8 labs
- CSC150 and CSC148 will share assignment 3 and 4, and the final.

The Software Lifecycle

- You are probably most familiar with programming, but that is only a small part of the full life cycle of software, which includes:
  - Specification: stating precisely what the program must do.
  - Design: deciding how the program will do it --- data structures, algorithms, and software "architecture".
  - Implementation (programming): obvious.
  - Testing: checking that the program meets the specifications.
  - Release: distribution and installation of the software.
  - Maintenance: fixing errors, handling new requirements, accommodating resource changes, etc.
- (There are many models of how these stages relate and in what order they should happen.)

Software Lifecycle

- There is a tendency to think that programming is the central activity, and that most errors are introduced at that stage.
- In fact, errors happen at all stages. The sooner they are found, the cheaper they are to fix
- Stage when error is caught and c cost to fix it
  - design 1.0 units
  - just before testing 6.5
  - during testing 15
  - after release 60--100

Software Lifecycle

- Moral: Pay close attention to design and testing. “The sooner you start coding, the longer it will take to finish.”
- And most of the effort spent on a program is in its maintenance.
- Moral: Design, document, and test your code so that it will be easy to maintain.
- Pressman, Software Engineering: A Practitioner's Approach, 1992, p. 559.

What This Course is About

- This course is an introduction to the science of computing. We'll work on the skills you need to be a computer scientist, able to contribute to all parts of the software lifecycle. This will include:
- Specification:
  - Writing precise specifications.
- Design:
  - Looking at a problem abstractly.
  - Knowing standard abstractions that have proven useful in computer science, and how to use them.

What this course is about

  - Some new data structures that offer alternative ways to implement an abstract idea.
  - Analyzing the efficiency of an algorithm.
  - Using proofs to establish facts about data structures and algorithms.
- Implementation:
  - Knowing the properties of a good program.
  - Designing a program to have these properties.
  - Writing code that uses a new programming technique: recursion
- Testing:
  - Choosing a systematic and thorough set of test cases.
  - Documenting testing so that it will be convincing.

Computers

- Working in the PC labs
  - See course info sheet for information about your account
  - Change your password ASAP to preserve security of your account.
  - Never tell anyone your password
  - You may need to use the PC labs occasionally, so it is worth getting familiar with them early on.
- http://www.cdfpc.utoronto.ca

Working at home

- You may use your own computer to do most of the assignment work for this course.
- Java software:
  - Code Warrior
  - JDK – at least version 1.3
  - Dr. Java (needs JDK)
- Starter code we give you will assume Code Warrior or generic JDK.
- We can't help you with your software on your home machine, and you won't get an extension because of such problems.

Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is a kind of fraud, and is taken seriously. Letting someone else use your work is also an academic offense.
- The work you submit must be your own – both the words and the ideas.

Avoiding Plagiarism

- You may discuss the assignment with other students to understand what the questions are asking, BUT
  - You must not take away written notes from such discussions.
  - You must not look at anyone else's solution or show anyone your solution.
  - You must write your solution alone.

To protect yourself

- Be prepared to prove that the work is your own:
  - keep backups, notes, and printouts.
  - Don't leave printouts or notes lying around.
- If you are having trouble with an assignment, come see me or the TA! Don't cheat yourself.
- Sometimes it is okay to use material from lecture notes or a text book. Be sure to say where you got it from.

Helping each other

- On the other hand you should get to know other CSC150 (and CSC148) students and work together to:
  - understand course lecture and tutorial material
  - understand assignment handouts
  - work through example programs, proof, and analyses.
  - solve exercises from notes
  - solve old exam questions
  - work on the online homework.
  - study for exams