Running C++ on Linux

As of this quarter, it should be possible to use the Stanford libraries on computers that run
the Linux operating system. When we distribute assignments, we will include a Linux
version of the starter files along with the more traditional Mac and Windows versions.
Given that this facility is new this quarter—coupled with the fact that there are many
different flavors of Linux running on many hardware platforms—we have much less
documentation available for the Linux environment. As a result, those of you who want
to use Linux machines will be much more on your own in terms of working out how
everything works.

The compiler of choice for the Linux environment is the GNU (a recursive acronym
for GNU’s Not Unix) C/C++ compiler. If you are using a Linux system, the odds are
good that it already has this compiler installed. The best way to check is to type the
command

```
g++ -v
```

in a shell window. If the `g++` compiler (the C++ version of the GNU C compiler) on your
system, this command will display several lines about the compiler version, all of which
you can happily ignore. If you instead get a “command not found” error, you need to
install the compiler. To do so, you need to follow the instructions on the GNU website at

```
http://gcc.gnu.org/releases.html
```

You also need to make sure that you have a recent version of Java running on your
Linux machine. Instructions on how to install Java on Linux are available from the
following website:

```
http://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/webnotes/install/linux/linux-jdk.html
```