Running C++ On Linux

Based on a handout by Eric Roberts.

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 as of this year, 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