

CS107, Lecture 17

Wrap-Up / What's Next?



Plan For Today

- **Recap:** Where We've Been
- Larger Applications
- What's Next?
- Q&A

Plan For Today

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**We've covered a *lot* in just
10 weeks! Let's take a look
back.**

Our CS107 Journey

Bits and
Bytes

Arrays
and
Pointers

Generics

Heap
Allocators

C Strings

Stack and
Heap

Assembly

Course Overview

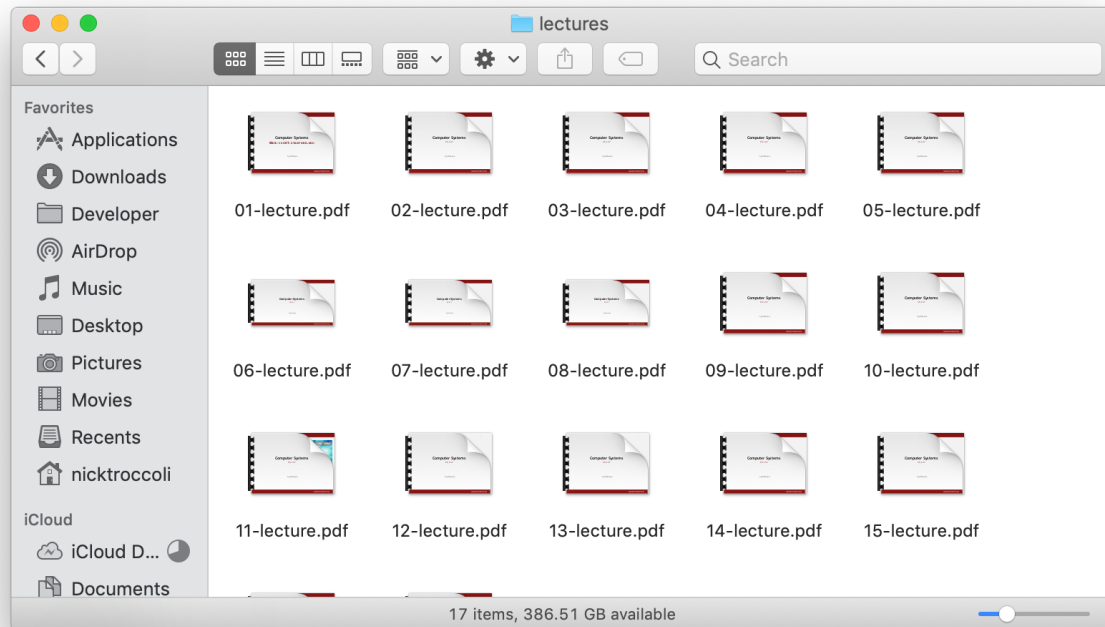
1. **Bits and Bytes** - *How can a computer represent integer numbers?*
2. **Chars and C-Strings** - *How can a computer represent and manipulate more complex data like text?*
3. **Pointers, Stack and Heap** – *How can we effectively manage all types of memory in our programs?*
4. **Generics** - *How can we use our knowledge of memory and data representation to write code that works with any data type?*
5. **Assembly** - *How does a computer interpret and execute C programs?*
6. **Heap Allocators** - *How do core memory-allocation operations like malloc and free work?*

First Day

```
/*  
 * hello.c  
 * This program prints a welcome message  
 * to the user.  
 */  
#include <stdio.h> // for printf  
  
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {  
    printf("Hello, world!\n");  
    return 0;  
}
```

First Day

- The **command-line** is a text-based interface to navigate a computer, instead of a Graphical User Interface (GUI).



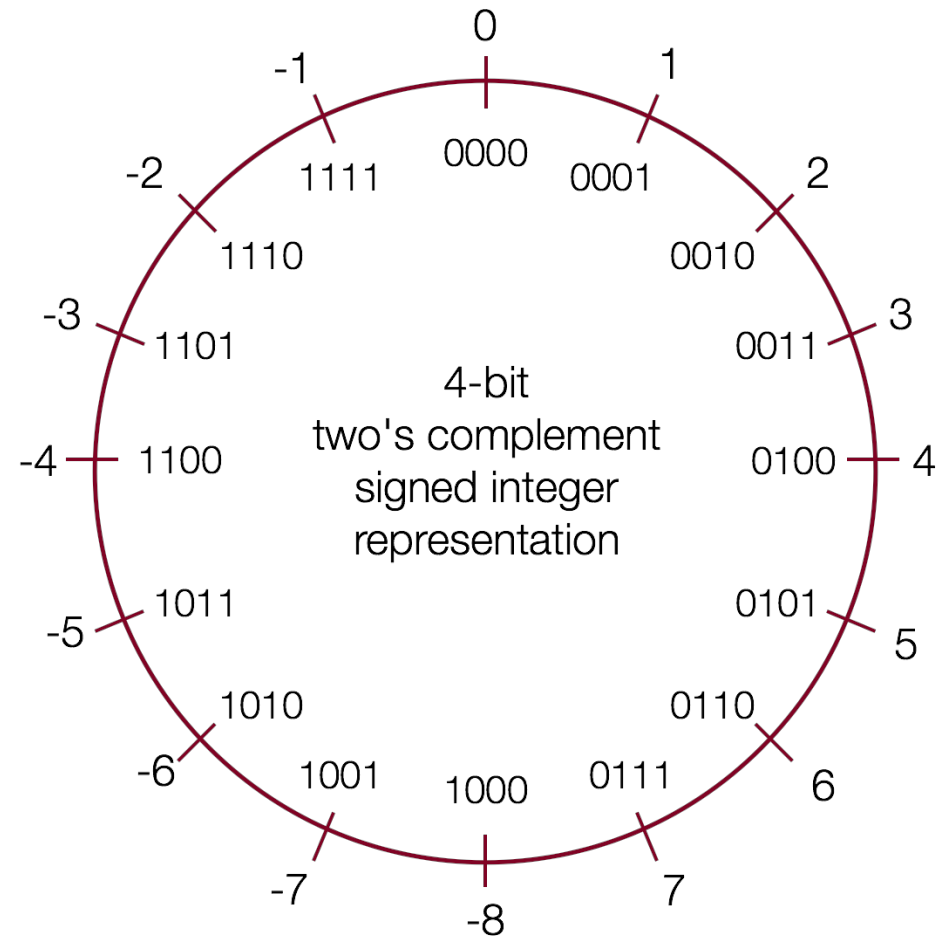
Graphical User Interface

```
lectures — -bash — 80x24
Nick-Troccoli-MacBook-Pro-2:~ nicktroccoli$ cd Developer/CS107\ Winter\ 18-19/
Nick-Troccoli-MacBook-Pro-2:CS107 Winter 18-19 nicktroccoli$ cd WWW/lectures/
Nick-Troccoli-MacBook-Pro-2:lectures nicktroccoli$ ls
01-lecture.pdf 05-lecture.pdf 09-lecture.pdf 13-lecture.pdf 17-lecture.pdf
02-lecture.pdf 06-lecture.pdf 10-lecture.pdf 14-lecture.pdf
03-lecture.pdf 07-lecture.pdf 11-lecture.pdf 15-lecture.pdf
04-lecture.pdf 08-lecture.pdf 12-lecture.pdf 16-lecture.pdf
Nick-Troccoli-MacBook-Pro-2:lectures nicktroccoli$
```

Text-based interface

Bits And Bytes

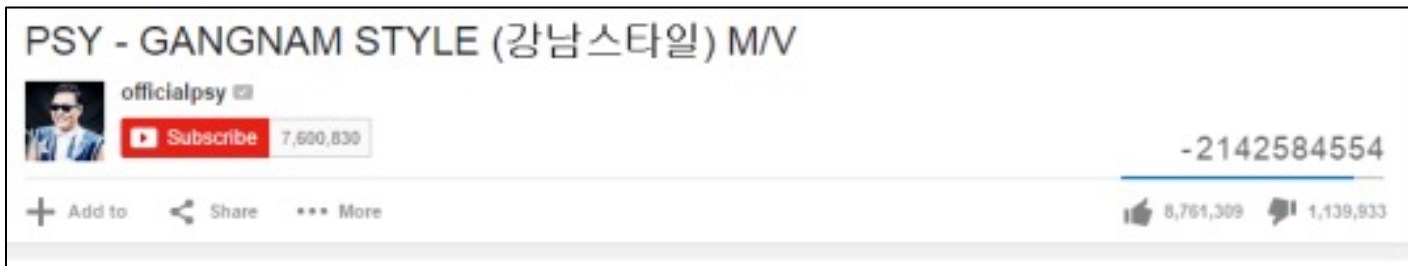
Key Question: *How can a computer represent integer numbers?*



Bits And Bytes

Why does this matter?

- Limitations of representation and arithmetic impact programs!
- We can also efficiently manipulate data using bits.



<https://kotaku.com/why-gandhi-is-such-an-asshole-in-civilization-1653818245>

C Strings

Key Question: *How can a computer represent and manipulate more complex data like text?*

- Strings in C are arrays of characters ending with a null terminator!
- We can manipulate them using pointers and C library functions (many of which you could probably implement).

<i>index</i>	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>value</i>	'H'	'e'	'l'	'l'	'o'	','	' '	'w'	'o'	'r'	'l'	'd'	'!'	'\0'

C Strings

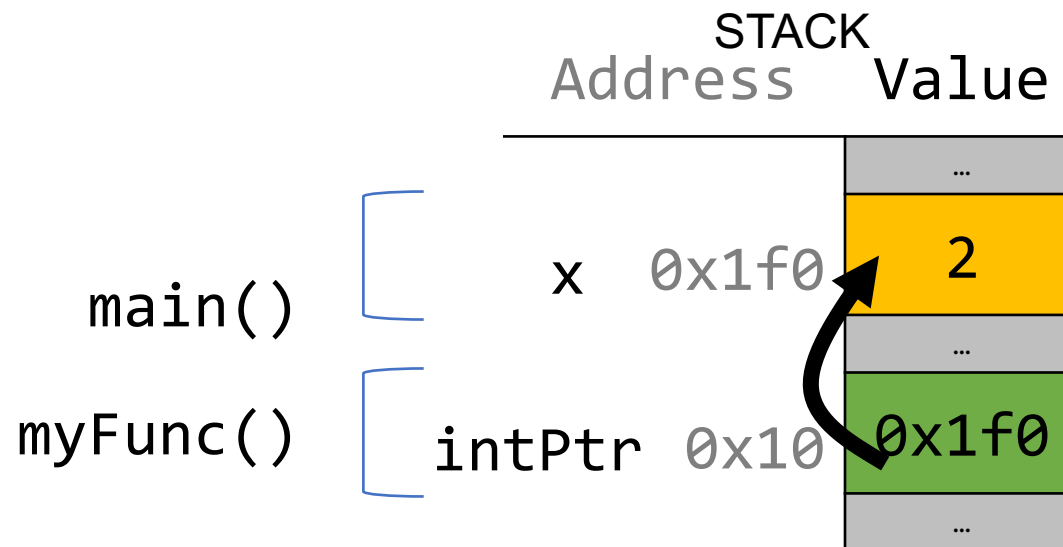
Why does this matter?

- Understanding this representation is key to efficient string manipulation.
- This is how strings are represented in both low- and high-level languages!
 - C++: <https://www.quora.com/How-does-C++-implement-a-string>
 - Python: <https://www.laurentluce.com/posts/python-string-objects-implementation/>

Pointers, Stack and Heap

Key Question: *How can we effectively manage all types of memory in our programs?*

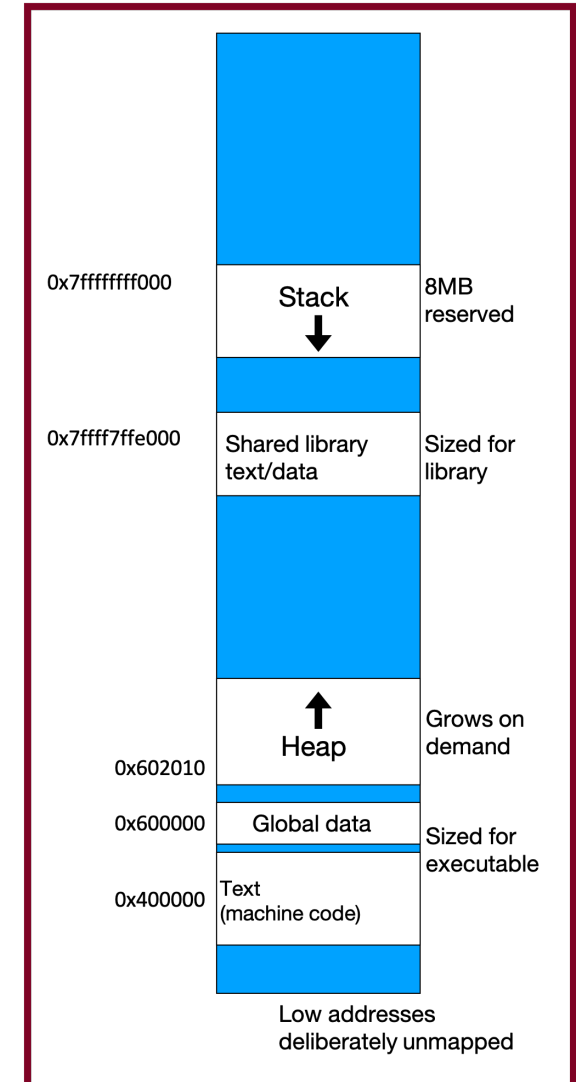
- Arrays let us store ordered lists of information.
- Pointers let us pass addresses of data instead of the data itself.
- We can use the stack, which cleans up memory for us, or the heap, which we must manually manage.



Stack And Heap

Why does this matter?

- The stack and heap allow for two ways to store data in our programs, each with their own tradeoffs, and it's crucial to understand the nuances of managing memory in any program you write!
- Pointers let us pass around references to data efficiently



Generics

Key Question: *How can we use our knowledge of memory and data representation to write code that works with any data type?*

- We can use **void *** to circumvent the type system, **memcpy**, etc. to copy generic data, and function pointers to pass logic around.

Why does this matter?

- Working with any data type lets us write more generic, reusable code.
- Using generics helps us better understand the type system in C and other languages, and where it can help and hinder our program.

Assembly Language

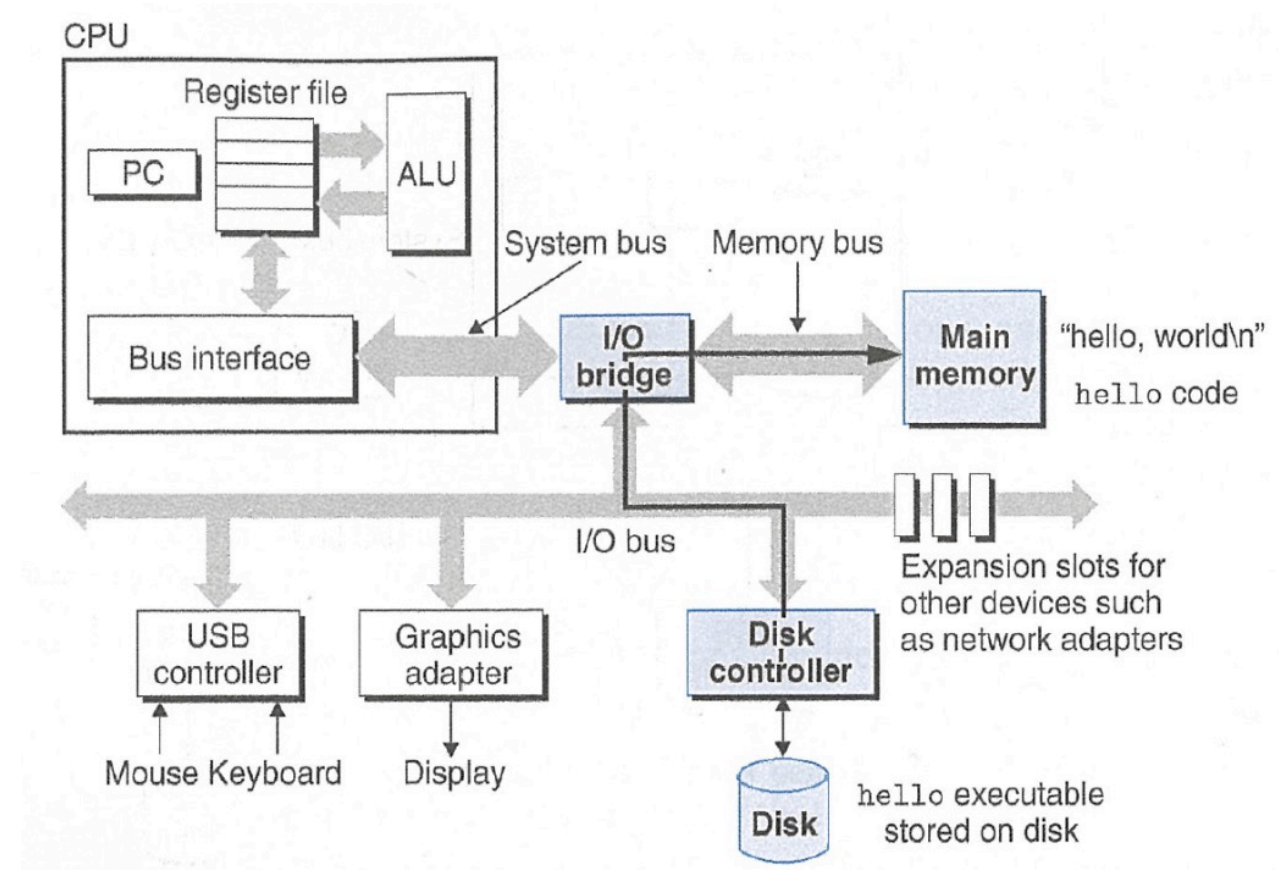
Key Question: *How does a computer interpret and execute C programs?*

- GCC compiles our code into *machine code instructions* executable by our processor.
- Our processor uses registers and instructions like **mov** to manipulate data.

Assembly Language

Why does this matter?

- We write C code because it is higher level and transferrable across machines. But it is not the representation executed by the computer!
- Understanding how programs are compiled and executed, as well as computer architecture, is key to writing performant programs (e.g. fewer lines of code is not necessarily better).
- We can reverse engineer and exploit programs at the assembly level!



Heap Allocators

Key Question: *How do core memory-allocation operations like malloc and free work?*

- A *heap allocator* manages a block of memory for the heap and completes requests to use or give up memory space.
- We can manage the data in a heap allocator using headers, pointers to free blocks, or other designs

Why does this matter?

- Designing a heap allocator requires making many design decisions to optimize it as much as possible. There is no perfect design!
- All languages have a “heap” but manipulate it in different ways.

Ethics, Privacy, Partiality and Trust

Key Question: *How do we act responsibly in maintaining security, protecting privacy, and ensuring warranted trust in the systems we build and maintain?*

Why does this matter?

- Responsible programming involves documentation -- including informative error messages! -- that allows others to evaluate the reliability of your code.
- Responsible system and program design also requires choosing a trust model and considering data privacy. This might also require deciding to whom to be partial.

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CS107 Learning Goals

The goals for CS107 are for students to gain **mastery** of

- writing C programs with complex use of memory and pointers
- an accurate model of the address space and compile/runtime behavior of C programs

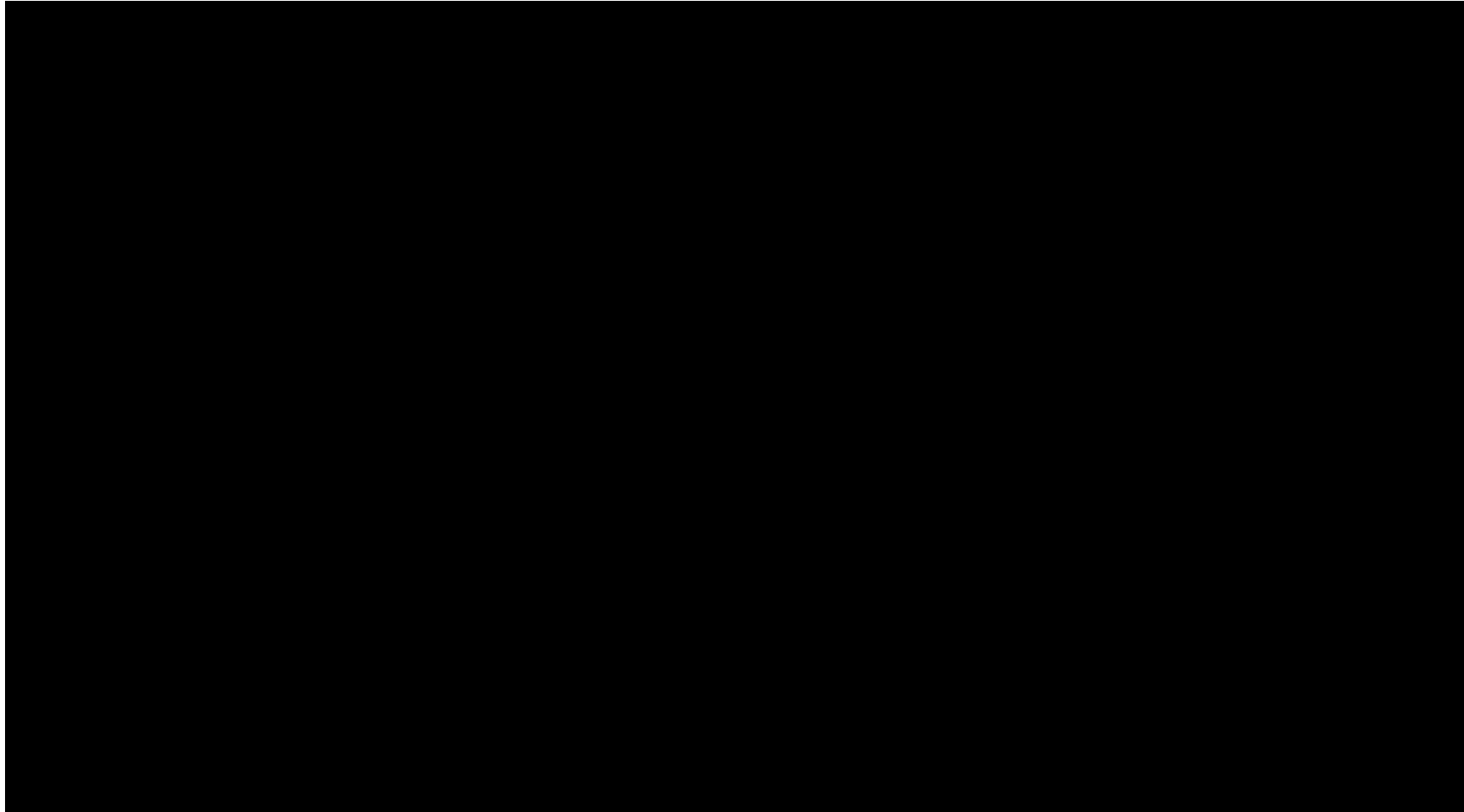
to achieve **competence** in

- translating C to/from assembly
- writing programs that respect the limitations of computer arithmetic
- identifying bottlenecks and improving runtime performance
- working effectively in a Unix development environment

and have **exposure** to

- a working understanding of the basics of computer architecture

The C Coding Experience



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7LJC9vJluU>

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Tools and Techniques

- Unix and the command line
- Coding Style
- Debugging (GDB)
- Testing (Sanity Check)
- Memory Checking (Valgrind)
- Profiling (Callgrind)

Unix And The Command Line

Unix and command line tools are extremely popular tools outside of CS107 for:

- Running programs (web servers, python programs, remote programs...)
- Accessing remote servers (Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure, Heroku...)
- Programming embedded devices (Raspberry Pi, etc.)

Our goal for CS107 was to help you become proficient in navigating Unix

Coding Style

- Writing clean, readable code is crucial for any computer science project
- Unfortunately, a fair amount of existing code is poorly-designed/documentated

Our goal for CS107 was to help you write with good coding style, and read/understand/comment provided code.

Debugging (GDB)

- Debugging is a crucial skill for any computer scientist
- Our goal for CS107 was to help you become a better debugger
 - narrow in on bugs
 - diagnose the issue
 - implement a fix
- Practically every project you work on will have debugging facilities
 - Python: “PDB”
 - IDEs: built-in debuggers (e.g. QT Creator, Eclipse)
 - Web development: in-browser debugger

Testing (Sanity Check)

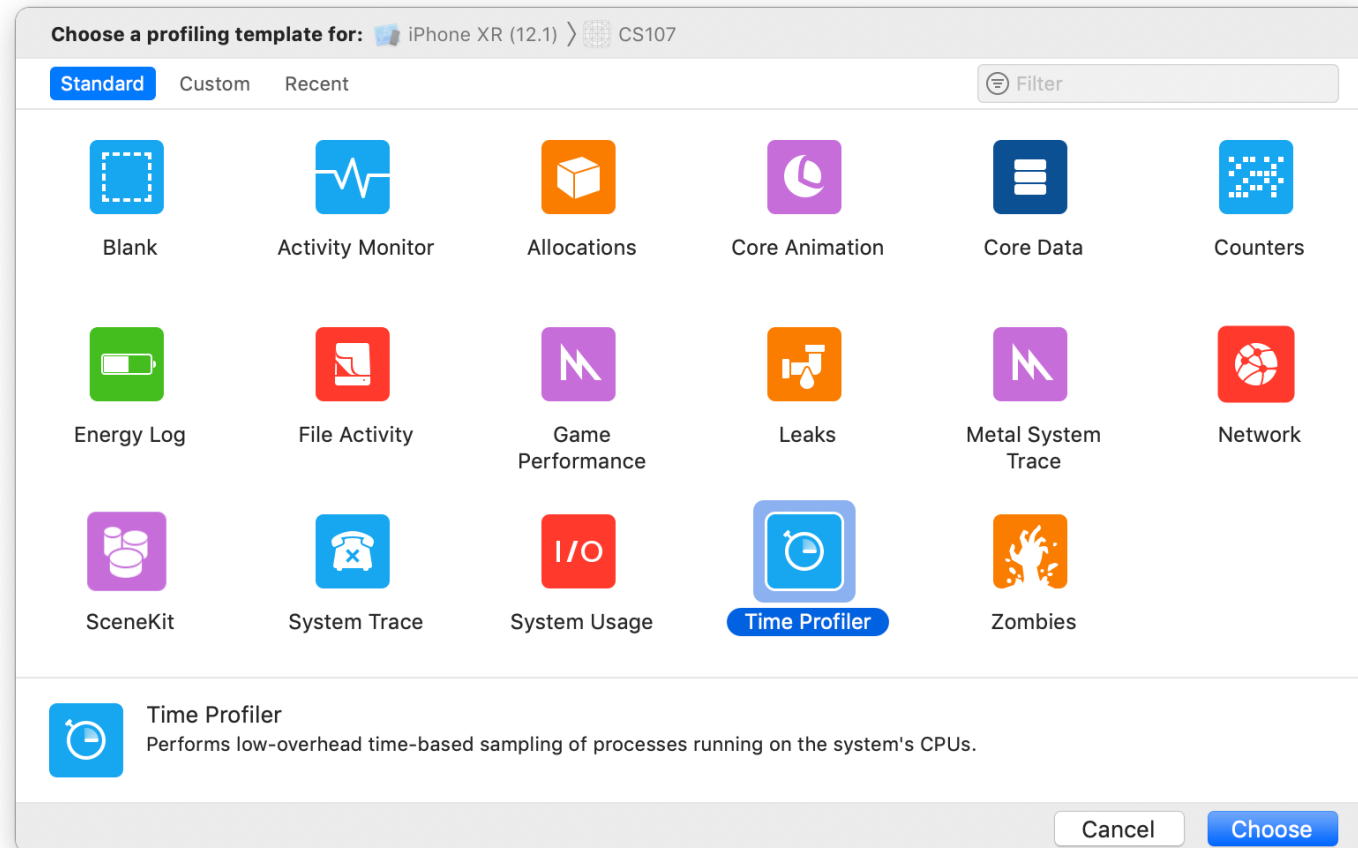
- Testing is a crucial skill for any computer scientist
- Our goal for CS107 was to help you become a better tester
 - Writing targeted tests to validate correctness
 - Use tests to prevent regressions
 - Use tests to develop incrementally

Memory Checking and Profiling

- Memory checking and profiling are crucial for any computer scientist to analyze program performance and increase efficiency.
- Many projects you work on will have profiling and memory analysis facilities:
 - Mobile development: integrated tools (XCode Instruments, Android Profiler, etc.)
 - Web development: in-browser tools

Tools

You'll see manifestations of these tools throughout projects you work on. We hope you can use your CS107 knowledge to take advantage of them!



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Concepts

- C Language
- Bit-Level Representations
- Arrays and Pointers
- Memory Management
- Generics
- Assembly

Systems

How is an operating system implemented? (take CS140!)

- Threads
- User Programs
- Virtual Memory
- Filesystem

How is a compiler implemented? (take CS143!)

- Lexical analysis
- Parsing
- Semantic Analysis
- Code Generation

How can applications communicate over a network? (take CS110/CS144!)

- How can we weigh different tradeoffs of network architecture design?
- How can we effectively transmit bits across a network?

Systems

How can we write programs that execute multiple tasks simultaneously? (take CS110/CS111!)

- Threads of execution
- "Locks" to prevent simultaneous access

Machine Learning

Can we speed up machine learning training with reduced precision computation?

- <https://www.top500.org/news/ibm-takes-aim-at-reduced-precision-for-new-generation-of-ai-chips/>
- <https://devblogs.nvidia.com/mixed-precision-training-deep-neural-networks/>

How can we implement performant machine learning libraries?

- Popular tools such as TensorFlow and PyTorch are implemented using C!
- <https://pytorch.org/blog/a-tour-of-pytorch-internals-1/>
- <https://www.tensorflow.org/guide/extend/architecture>

Web Development

How can we efficiently translate Javascript code to machine code?

- The Chrome V8 JavaScript engine converts Javascript into machine code for computers to execute: <https://medium.freecodecamp.org/understanding-the-core-of-nodejs-the-powerful-chrome-v8-engine-79e7eb8af964>
- The popular Node.js web server tool is built on Chrome V8

How can we compile programs into an efficient binary instruction format that runs in a web browser?

- WebAssembly is an emerging standard instruction format that runs in browsers: <https://webassembly.org>
- You can compile C/C++/other languages into WebAssembly for web execution

Programming Languages / Runtimes

How can programming languages and runtimes efficiently manage memory?

- Manual memory management (C/C++)
- Reference Counting (Swift)
- Garbage Collection (Java)

How can we design programming languages to reduce the potential for programmer error? (take CS242!)

- Haskell/Swift "Optionals"

How can we design portable programming languages?

- Java Bytecode: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_bytecode

Theory

**How can compilers output efficient machine code instructions for programs?
(take CS143!)**

- Languages can be represented as regular expressions and context-free grammars
- We can model programs as control-flow graphs for additional optimization

Security

How can we find / fix vulnerabilities at various levels in our programs? (take CS155!)

- Understand machine-level representation and data manipulation
- Understand how a computer executes programs
- macOS High Sierra Root Login Bug: https://objective-see.com/blog/blog_0x24.html

How can we ensure that our systems and networks are secure? (take CS155!)

How can we design internet services that are worthy of trust? (take CS152!)

Ethics, Privacy, Partiality and Trust

Why is privacy important? What technical and policy standards should we strive for in protecting privacy? (take CS 182!)

How can we recognize ethically important decisions as they arise? What policies ought we to adopt to address these issues? (take CS 181!)

Extra Topic For Fun: Floats

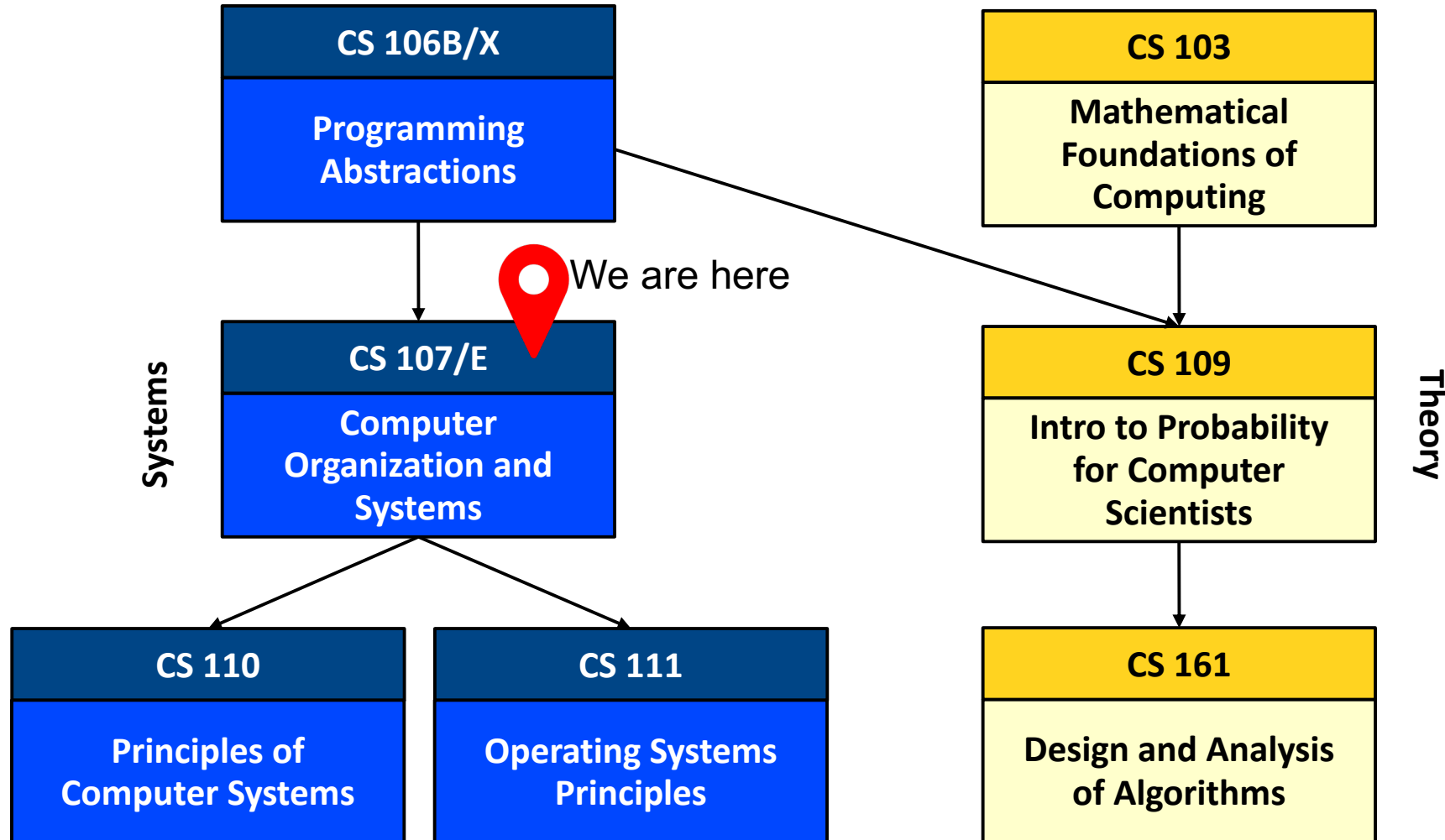
- An example of tradeoffs in design decisions.
- Importance of thinking through priorities and pros/cons when designing systems.

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After CS107, you are prepared to take a variety of classes in various areas. What are some options?

Where Are We?



CS 110

- How can we implement multithreading in our programs?
- How can multiple programs communicate with each other?
- How can we implement distributed software systems to do things like process petabytes of data?
- How can we maximally take advantage of the hardware and operating system software available to us?



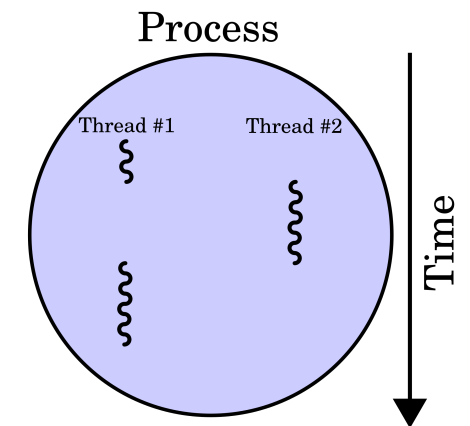
Jerry Cain



Chris Gregg



Nick Troccoli



CS110 vs. CS111

- CS111 replaces CS110 starting in spring 2021-2022
- CS110 offered for the final time in winter 2021-2022
- CS111 offered in fall/spring 2021-2022
- CS111 is more operating systems focused than CS110, but both satisfy the same requirements
- CS111 merges in some topics from CS140 (operating systems) in place of some existing CS110 topics, such as networking
- **How do I choose which to take?**
 - Both classes satisfy the same requirements and will prepare you for future classes.
 - Perhaps scheduling (taking in winter vs. later) will factor in.
 - Perhaps you are particularly interested in operating systems but not planning on classes beyond 110/111
 - <https://web.stanford.edu/~ouster/cs111-spring21/110/> has more information

Other Courses

- **CS140:** Operating Systems
- **CS143:** Compilers
- **CS144:** Networking
- **CS145:** Databases
- **CS152:** Trust and Safety Engineering
- **CS155:** Computer and Network Security
- **CS166:** Data Structures
- **CS181:** Computers, Ethics, and Public Policy
- **CS182:** Ethics, Public Policy, and Technological Change
- **CS221:** Artificial Intelligence
- **CS246:** Mining Massive Datasets
- **EE108:** Digital Systems Design
- **EE180:** Digital Systems Architecture

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Thank you!

Course Evaluations

We hope you can take the time to fill out the end-quarter CS 107 course evaluation. We sincerely appreciate any feedback you have about the course and read every piece of feedback we receive. We are always looking for ways to improve!

Thank you!