What is a Program? (part 1)

- A recipe for doing something
- A precise set of instructions
- Like the rules for a game, or how to build something, or directions to your house

Thanks to Scott Brandt
For use of his slides

Tic-Tac-Toe

- Draw a big #
- First player draws an X in a square
- Second player puts an O in a square.
- Continue alternating until a player has three letters in a row or diagonal, or all the squares are filled

Directions to my house

- Get on 17 north towards San Jose
- Take the East Los Gatos off-ramp onto rt 9
- Turn left at 2nd light
- Turn Right at Blossom Hill
- Turn Left at school
- ...
- look for two Hondas in driveway

Algorithm

- A sequence of instructions for a “problem”
- The instructions are precise
  - Unambiguous and uniquely interpreted
- The instructions are effective
  - Doable, and in a finite amount of time
- Usually there are inputs and inputs
- Good algorithms are correct and terminate

Example: Making change in dime/penny land

- Change-making algorithm
  - Assume only dimes and pennies
  - Assume cost < $1
- Algorithm
  - Input: price of item
  - Output: number of dimes and pennies to return from $1 payment
Change-making continued

- Instructions
  - Subtract *price* from $1 and store the result in *change*
  - Divide *change* by 10, and store the integer result in *dimes*
  - Divide *change* by 10 and store the remainder in *pennies*
  - Print out the values in *dimes* and *pennies*
  - Halt

What can computers understand?

- A computer probably couldn’t follow the instructions we just gave for playing tic-tac-toe or getting to someone’s house
- Different computers have different basic operations they can perform, like addition, subtraction, draw a line, etc.
  - Generally lower level than the abstractions we usually use
- A Compiler converts our programs into language a computer can understand

How a Computer Works

- Wires either + (1, on) or - (0, off)
- Transistors are semiconductors and act as switches
- Transistors combine to do complicated things

Wires “Bundle”

- 1 wire (bit) can take two values; 0 or 1
- 8 wires (ascii byte) have $2^8=256$ values
- 16 wires for a unicode character
- 32 wires (word) is a convenient size for numbers on most computers

Computer Organization
A Program is:

- The detailed expression of an algorithm
- In a human friendly language
- That is also machine understandable
- By automatic translation into machine instructions.
- Programs used by computers and people.

**Problem Analysis and Specification**

- What it does:
  - Clearly defines problem - what is/is not being solved
  - Refines imprecise problem to one that is solvable given existing constraints
  - Constitutes an agreement on what is to be done
  - May discover problems
    - Inconsistency, vagueness, impossibility
  - Leads the way to the solution
  - May contain desirable and optional items

- What it doesn't do:
  - Specify how to solve the problem

- Important parts of a problem specification
  - What the inputs are
  - What the outputs are
  - Constraints, including correct input/output relationship

**Software Life Cycle**

- **Problem Analysis and Specification**
  - What needs to be done
  - How it should be done
  - Creation of a solution (algorithm)
  - Implement the algorithm as a program

- **Verification**
  - Does the program do what it is supposed to do
  - Does the program not do what it is not supposed to do

- **Maintainance**
  - Change what the program does
  - Includes both bug fixes and modifications
Problem Analysis and Specification (cont.)

- Examples:
  - Good: Should calculate change in dime/penny land
  - Bad: Should be fast
  - Good: Should run in less than 10 seconds
  - Bad: Should use quicksort
- For the programming assignments, I will provide a problem specification
  - This specification may be incomplete
  - It is your job to analyze and understand the specification and refine it as necessary

Design

- What it does:
  - Clearly specifies how the problem will be solved
  - Allows developers to determine what resources will be needed to solve the problem
  - Hopefully solves all problems that could arise in the development of the software component
  - Is used as a recipe for doing the actual coding
- What it doesn’t do:
  - A design is not code and does not contain any code.
    - May contain pseudocode
  - A design is not specific to any language, although it usually is specific to a type of language

Design (cont.)

A software design typically has 3 parts:
1. Identification of the data objects that are required to solve the problem
2. Identification of the operations that must be applied to the data objects in order to solve the problem
3. Construction of a detailed sequence of steps (an algorithm) that specifies how the operations can be applied to the data objects to solve the problem

Implementation (cont.)

- Once the design is complete, coding can begin
  - Given a good design, this should be very straightforward
  - All hard problems should have been worked out in the design stage
  - New hard problems should send the project (temporarily) back to the design stage

Implementation

- Good programs should be:
  - Well structured
    - Break programs into meaningful parts
    - Strive for simplicity and clarity
  - Well documented (commented)
    - Good comments before each program and/or function
    - Good comments before each important part of a program/function
    - Use meaningful identifiers (function and variable names)
  - Aesthetic issues
    - Space things out and use blank lines between logical blocks
    - Use alignment and indentation to emphasize relationships.

Implementation (cont.)

- Good code should be
  - Correct
  - Readable and Understandable
  - Modifiable
  - Ideally: Reusable
Verification
• Each program and subprogram should be tested against its specification requirements
  – To see that it does what it is supposed to do
  – To make sure that it does not do what it is not supposed to do
• Tests should include correct and incorrect inputs
  – Even nonsense inputs
• Regression tests
  – Make sure that new changes don’t break old functionality

Maintenance
• Bugs are found that need to be fixed
• Requirements change/reinterpreted
• Components are reused
• Enhancements are made
• Generally accomplished by repeating the first four steps
• Most software development effort is maintenance

Example: Problem Specification/Analysis
Problem: Write a program that, given diameter of a circle, computes the area and circumference
Description: Compute and output the area and circumference of a circle given the diameter.
Input: Diameter of the circle
Outputs: Area and Circumference of the circle
Useful Facts: pi, formulas

Example: Design
• Data objects:
  – Variables:
    • Real: diameter, circumference, area, radius
  – Constants:
    • Real: pi
  – Operations:
    • radius = diameter / 2
    • circumference = 2 * pi * radius
    • area = pi * radius ^ 2

Algorithm:
1. Get diameter from user
2. Calculate radius
3. Calculate circumference
4. Calculate area
5. Print out values of circumference and area

Example: Implementation
// Calculate area and circumference
import tio.*; // use the package tio
class CalcAC {
  public static void main (String[] args) {
    int diameter;
    double radius, circumference, area, pi;
    pi = 3.14159625;
    System.out.println("Diameter: ");
    diameter = Console.in.readInt();
Example: Implementation (cont.)

```java
radius = diameter / 2;
circumference = 2 * pi * radius;
area = pi * radius * radius;

System.out.println("Circumference = ");
System.out.println(circumference);
System.out.println("Radius = ");
System.out.println(radius);
}
}
```

Example: Verification

- Run the above program with:
  - No input (shouldn't be allowed)
  - Negative input (shouldn't be allowed)
  - Positive input (should work)
  - Fractional input (should work)
  - Very large input (should work)
  - What else?

What’s So Special About Java?

- Java is (relatively) new
  - Based heavily on preexisting languages: C, C++, Pascal, Ada, …
  - Integrates good ideas from all of these, plus some new ones
  - Integrated with new technologies (especially the web)
- Java is well structured
  - Everything is contained in classes
  - One class defines one object
  - One class definition per file
  - File names match class names

What’s So Special About Java?

- Java is Object Oriented
  - Everything is an object
- Java is (relatively) easy to use
  - Uniform, simple, well structured
- Java is web aware
  - Integrated with the web
  - Good communication primitives
  - Integrated into web browsers

What’s So Special About Java?

- Applets!
  - Can be executed automatically by the browser within a web page
    - My code is automatically downloaded and executed on your machine
- Java has integrated GUI functionality
  - Good graphical interface functionality fully integrated into the language.
- Java is platform independent
  - Runs on Windows, Unix, Mac, and just about everything else

Reminder

- Read Chapter 1 and start Chapter 2
- Read the summary and review questions
  - If anything is confusing, reread that part of the chapter
- Work some or all of the exercises
- Note: Labs start Thursday
- Initial attendance sheet!
- Register with CATS