Overview

- Reading
  - Nance textbook Pages 1 to 27
- Computer Science vs Computer Literacy
- Computer Architecture
- Computer Languages
Computer Science vs Computer Literacy

- Computer Science
  - Mathematics & Logic
  - Science
  - Engineering
  - Communication
  - Interdisciplinary application

- Computer Literacy
  - Utilization of various types of applications
    - Word processors
    - Databases
    - Internet browsers
    - Personal Finance
  - Knowledge of computer related technology terminology
Mathematics and Logic of CS

- Algorithm development to define a solution to a problem
  - An algorithm specifically defines a process/protocol/recipe that describes how to accomplish a task
  - An algorithm is composed of the following attributes
    - Finite ordered sequence of steps/activities
    - Input data that is consumed
    - Output data that is produced
    - Instructions or statements that manipulate the state of computation
  - An Algorithm is a formal mechanism utilized to begin the codification of a solution to a problem
Mathematics and Logic of CS

- Demonstrates that Computer Scientists are knowledge engineers (KE's)

- Where KE's must correctly and accurately comprehend the problem:
  - Domain or operating environment
  - Implicit internal & external requirements/constraints

- After the algorithm has been determined and developed it is then translated and expressed in a form that the computer can understand

- This is achieved by implementing the algorithm in some specific programming language like Pascal
Mathematics and Logic of CS

• Solution must be formulated, expressed and implemented in the appropriate programming language
  
  – Where a programing language is simply a formal language that implements an algorithm in terms of specific instructions that the computers system can both understand and process
  
  – E.g. Pascal, C, perl etc.

• These activities are synonymous with the development of a mathematical proof or formal argument in the field of mathematics of logic
Science of CS

• As the computer scientist formulates a solution he/she must
  – Formulate a hypothesis that maps to a solution
  – Carefully test the hypothesis to empirically prove correctness
  – Utilize mathematics within the solution and to test the solution
  – Understand the limitations of the solution
  – Acquire a deep understanding of the problem
Engineering of CS

• The Computer Scientist must:
  – Comprehend the scientific principles of computer science
  – Posses experiential knowledge of implementation techniques

• These primary skills are required to:
  – Develop innovative model's to solve a problem
  – Apply the engineering design process
  – Define and manipulate information structures
Communication within CS

• Why is communication critical
  – The computer scientist must be able to:
    • Define a problem clearly
    • Document a solution effectively for a variety of users
    • Communicate solutions to:
      – Colleagues
      – Professionals in other fields
      – General public
    – Maintain the solution throughout its lifecycle in a manner that reduces costs
CS as an Interdisciplinary solution provider

- Computer Science is used to provide solutions in a variety of interdisciplinary fields such as:
  - Mathematics
  - Finance
  - Economics
  - Linguistics
  - Biology

- Therefore the computer scientist is required to be an ever changing quasi-expert of a variety of interdisciplinary fields
Computer Architecture

- Computer Architecture defines the components and interconnection topology that define a computation engine/machine

- The common components of a computer architecture are:
  - Processing Unit
    - ALU, Floating Point Unit
  - Memory, which include:
    - Onboard memory and internal registers
  - Input Output devices which include:
    - Disks, tapes, monitors, keyboards, microphones, speakers etc.
The most common interconnection topology deployed within a computer architecture is that of a bus

Where the bus typically utilizes one of two types of communication and access protocols:

- Parallel
- Serial
Computer Architecture (Cont.)

CPU

Mem

I/O

Bus
Computer Architecture (Cont.)

- Types/categories of computer architectures
  - Mainframe
  - Supercomputer
  - Minicomputer
  - Microcomputer/PC
  - Workstation

- A computer system/solution is composed of:
  - Hardware (CPU, Memory, Storage)
  - Software (Applications e.g. Netscape, StarOffice, MySQL)
Computer Languages

- The computer language is the formal mechanism utilized to translate an algorithm into a program.
- A program is simply a set of related instructions that implement some algorithm.
- The program defines what should be executed in order to implement a solution.
Types of Computer Languages

- **Machine Language**
  - Streams of bits composed of 0's and 1's

- **Assembly Language**
  - Symbolic mapping of names to specific sized bit patterns

- **High level Language**
  - E.g. Pascal, C, C++ and Perl
Syntax vs Semantics

• All computer languages contain the following two primary abstract attributes:
  - Syntax
    • Rules for defining correct words and sentences of the language
  - Semantics
    • Defines the meaning of those words and sentence within it's immediate context
Processing of Computer Languages

- Computer languages are processed by translating one form into another until the original description is transformed into the language the computer system understands.
- There are typically 3 forms of computer languages which correspond to the common types/categories of language:
  - Source code (typically the high level language like Pascal)
  - Assembly code
  - Object code (Computer Architecture machine language)
Processing of Computer Languages

- Each level of translation is accomplished by a specific program or system software application
- There are two specific system software programs
  - The compiler
  - The assembler
- Translation details of the two system software programs
  - Compiler: Source code to Assembly code
  - Compiler: Source code to Object code
  - Assembler: Assembly code to Object code
Why learn Pascal?

• Pascal's strengths
  – It's program structure is a reasonable approximation of English
  – It supports the use of descriptive words for variable and data types
  – It facilitates good problem-solving habits
    • Comprehension and application of structured programming
  – Remember the purpose of this course is to teach the skill of developing solutions to problems by defining and implementing algorithms that can be translated into a computer program or software application