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Administrivia

- Reminder: Homework 5 due today. Accepted without penalty through Friday.
- Homework 6 on the Web. Due date two weeks from today. That will also be the “not accepted past” date for all homeworks.
- What to do about the lecture that wasn’t (before the holiday)? based on responses to my mass e-mail, a make-up class won’t work, and a video lecture isn’t really feasible. So, a quick pass through the notes today, and then more help available in office hours.
- Grades for Homeworks 1 and 2 mailed earlier (October). Additional grades coming by mail when I have them.
- I will post sample solutions for homeworks (except 6) soon.
- I plan to have office hours during reading days and finals, but not every day. I will send e-mail when I’ve settled details. We could schedule an “open lab” session also?

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Grades

- Most of grade based on homeworks, with a few points for attendance.
- If you’ve turned in all the homeworks, more or less on time, and your code compiles and passes your tests, and you’ve attended class, you will likely make an A.
- If you’ve turned in all or most of the homeworks, but some of them didn’t work, you’re welcome to submit revised versions of anything I haven’t graded yet. I’d rather grade working code!
- If you didn’t turn in a homework, it’s not too late to get *some* points (maximum of half credit, but better than zero!).

Course Topics — Recap

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- Basic C programming, for people who already know how to write programs in some other language. Especially useful (I think!) for those who start in a very abstract/high-level language.
- Review of the Linux/UNIX command-line environment and command-line development tools.
- Review of basics of computer arithmetic and data representation.

Why Learn C? (For Java/Python/Scala Programmers — Recap)

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- Scala and Python (and Java, less so) provide a programming environment that's nice in many ways — lots of safety checks, nice features, extensive standard library. But they hide a lot about how hardware actually works.
- C, in contrast, has been called “high-level assembly language” — so it seems primitive in some ways compared to many other languages. What you get (we think!) in return for the annoyances is more understanding of hardware — and if you do low-level work (e.g., operating systems, embedded systems), it may well be in C. (Performance *may* also be better, though “measure and be sure”.)

Quotes of the Day/Week/?

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- From a key figure in the early days of computing:
“As soon as we started programming, we found to our surprise that it wasn’t as easy to get programs right as we had thought. Debugging had to be discovered. I can remember the exact instant when I realized that a large part of my life from then on was going to be spent finding mistakes in my own programs.” (Maurice Wilkes: 1948)
- From someone in a discussion group for the Java programming language:
“Compilers aren’t friendly to anybody. They are heartless nitpickers that enjoy telling you about all your mistakes. The best one can do is to satisfy their pedantry to keep them quiet :)”

Minute Essay

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- None — sign in. (Also tell me whether/when you’re interested in a help session and if so when.)