



Welcome to CS / ENGRD 2110!

While we're waiting to
begin, get a head start
by signing into PollEv!

Use your Cornell email address
(but don't "Sign in with Google")





Lecture 1: Introduction

CS 2110

January 20, 2026

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- PhD (Applied Math) at Cornell
- BS (Computer Science, Math)

Teaching:

- CS 2110, CS 2800, ENGRI 1101

Research:

- Algorithm Design: optimization with unknown / random inputs
- Statistics on networks: how do interventions cascade through populations

Interests:

- Origami, crosswords, board games, Buffalo Bills

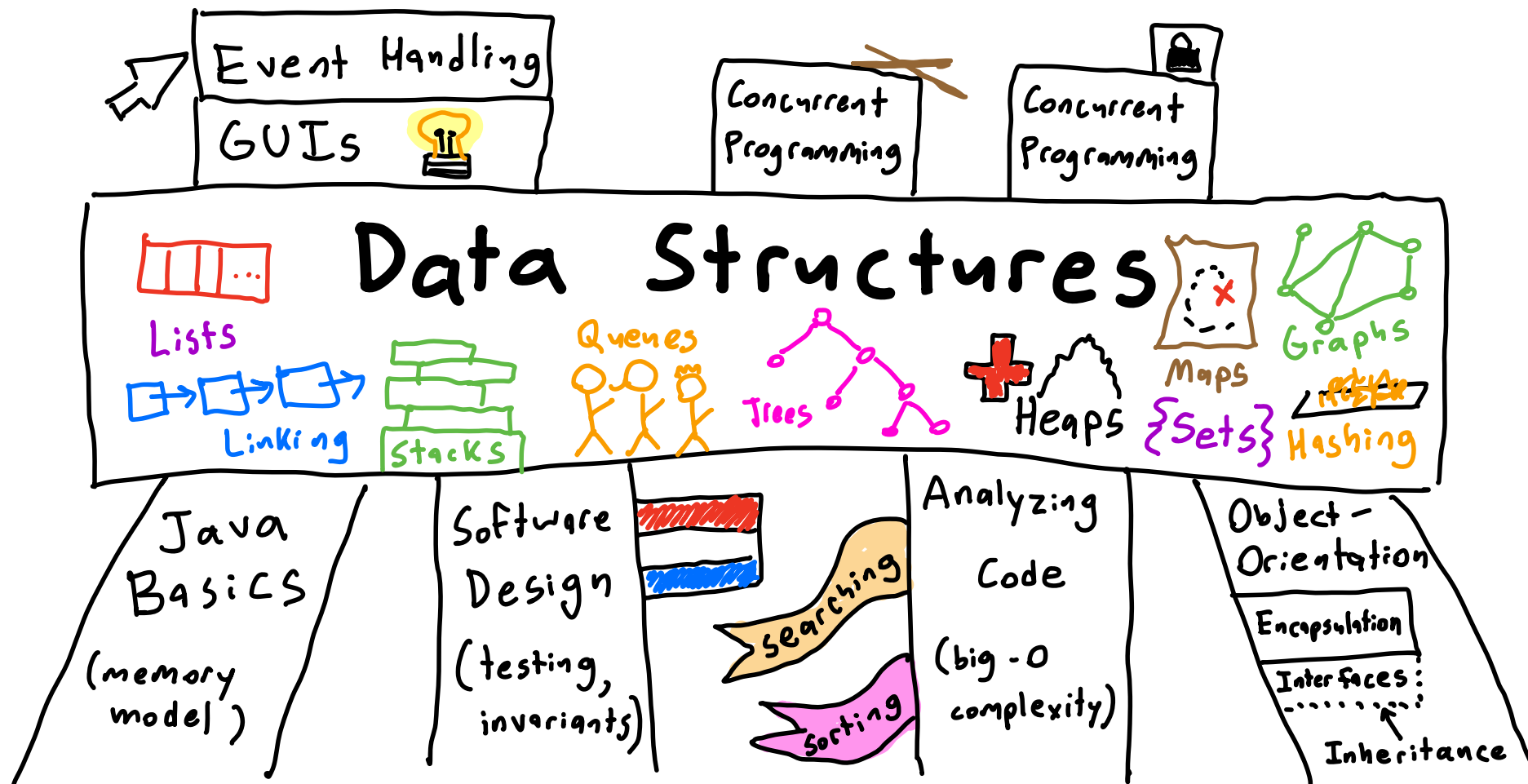


Goal of CS 2110: Write *Better* Code

What makes code *better* ?

- more efficient (speed, energy use, memory)
- easier to read, adapt, maintain, extend
- user-friendly with good features
- more reliable, fewer bugs
- robust to security vulnerabilities
- ⋮

Course Map



Course Logistics

Everything you need is linked from our course website

courses.cis.cornell.edu/courses/cs2110/2026sp/

(find a link on our Canvas page)

- Syllabus
- Lecture notes
- Slides and demo code (after lecture)
- Discussion materials
- Assignments
- Grades



Class Norms

Prioritizing Effort and Integrity:

Assignments are designed for their learning benefit, not their end product

Your submissions must reflect your own efforts/abilities (not generative AI)

Adhere to the course collaboration policy (syllabus)

Mutual Respect:

We all are here with the same goals

Communicate kindly/supportively to peers/course staff

Let us know if anyone behaves disrespectfully

Inclusivity:

We come with different backgrounds and needs

Everyone in the course is meant to be here

Let the course staff know how we can best support you

Let the learning begin!

Today's Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the difference between *statically* and *dynamically* typed programming languages.
2. Determine the static type of an expression involving one of more operators, method calls, and/or implicit/explicit type coercions.
3. Draw a memory diagram that visualize the state of execution of a program involving multiple method calls.

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What is your "go to" programming language?

Java

17% (A)

Python

74% (B)

C / C++

3% (C)

Matlab

1% (D)

Javascript / Typescript

1% (E)

R

2% (F)

Something Else

2% (G)

A Basic Python Program

Returns the number of minutes in `days` days

```
def days_to_minutes(days):
```

```
    hours = 24 * days
```

```
    minutes = 60 * hours
```

```
    return minutes
```

```
if __name__ == "__main__":
```

start here



```
    print("Enter a number of days: ", end="")
```

```
    days = input() # get user input from the console
```

```
    mins = days_to_minutes(days)
```

```
    print("There are " + mins + " minutes in " + days + " days.")
```

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What will be the output of this program?

There are 1440 minutes in 3 days.

(A)

There are 4320 minutes in 3 days.

(B)

(The program will crash because of an error)

(C)

Something else...

(D)

A Basic Python Program

Returns the number of minutes in `days` days

`def days_to_minutes(days):`

`hours = 24 * days` ← String concatenation

`minutes = 60 * hours` ←

`return minutes`

`if __name__ == "__main__":`

`print("Enter a number of days: ", end="")` ←

`days = input()` # get user input from the console

`mins = days_to_minutes(days)`

`print("There are " + mins + " minutes in " + days + " days.")`

days is
a String, not
a number

Dynamic vs. Static Typing

The type of a variable (or expression) determines its possible values and how it can be used.

Dynamically Typed languages infer types at runtime
(Python) - shorter code, but less "safe"

Statically Typed languages check types before
(Java) code is run

- often require explicit type declarations by programmer



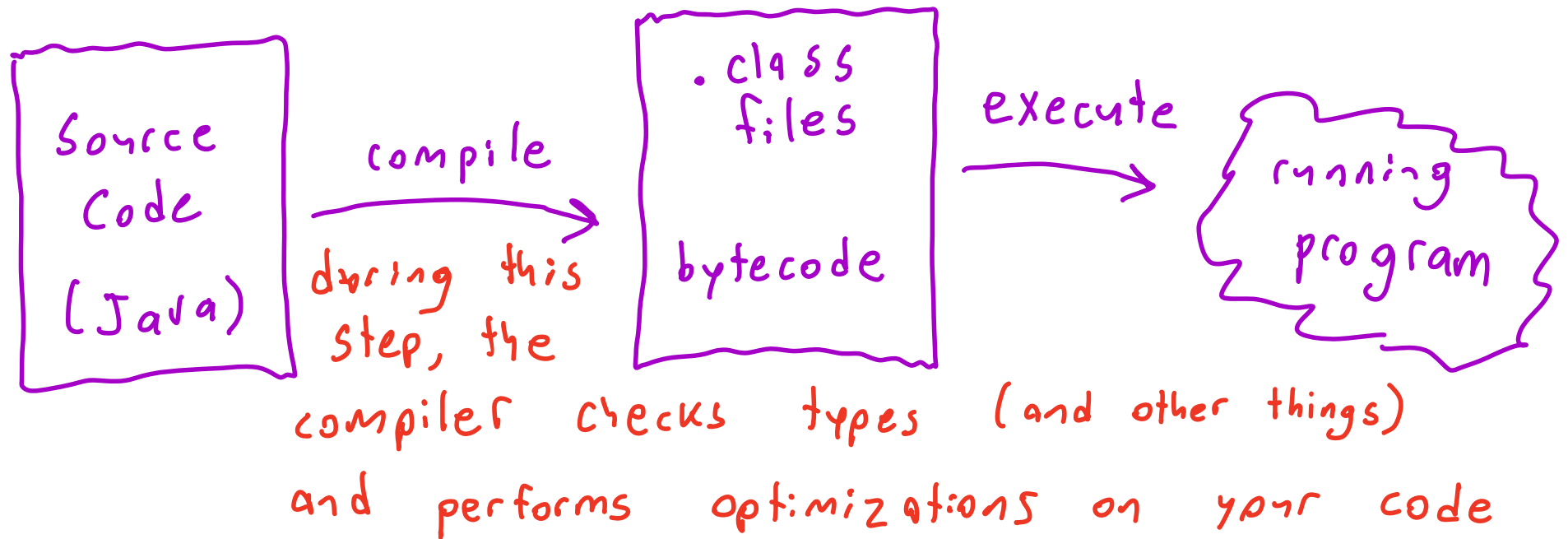
Coding Demo: Translation to Java



(We include slides like this one in case you want a place to take notes during/about the demo.)

Compilation

↳ intermediary "code translation" step that happens before code runs



Primitive Types

8 in Java, most important are:

int (4 byte)
(whole numbers)

double (8 byte)
(decimal numbers)

char (2 byte)
(characters)

boolean (1 bit)
(true/false)

- Fixed size, values stored directly in variables

int age = 27;
 27
 int literal

age: int { 27 }

Expressions

An expression is a unit of code with type/value.

- literals: 27
int 30.5
double true
boolean 'A'
char

- variables: int age=27; age
int, value = 27

- using operators: 27*12
int, value = 324

- method call:
static int daysToMins(int days)

daysToMins(1)
int, value = 1440

Compiler determines types of all expressions and checks for agreement.

Statements and Assignment

A statement is a unit of code that describes an action
(i.e., it produces a side effect)

Ex. Assignment statements

int x = 7; // store RHS value in LHS container

x: int [7]

x = x + 3 ;
stored in int int
 int, value = 10

↙ overwrite
x: int [10]

Primitive Type Coercion

Most operations preserve primitive types:

$$\underbrace{3}_{\text{int}} + \underbrace{4}_{\text{int}} \rightarrow \underbrace{7}_{\text{int}}$$

$$\underbrace{3.0}_{\text{double}} + \underbrace{4.0}_{\text{double}} \rightarrow \underbrace{7.0}_{\text{double}}$$

Coercion lets us alter expression types

Implicit (widening):

$$\underbrace{3}_{\text{int}} + \underbrace{4.0}_{\text{double}} \rightarrow \underbrace{3.0}_{\text{double}} + \underbrace{4.0}_{\text{double}} \rightarrow 7.0$$

Explicit (casting):

$$\underbrace{7}_{\text{int}} / \underbrace{2}_{\text{int}} \rightarrow \underbrace{3}_{\text{int}} \text{ (truncated division)}$$

$$\underbrace{7.0}_{\text{double}} / \underbrace{2.0}_{\text{double}} \rightarrow 3.5$$

* coercion affects expression evaluation but doesn't change underlying variables.

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What is the static type of the highlighted expression?

```
int x = 6;  
boolean y = true;  
double z = 4.3;
```

```
System.out.print(x > 2 * z && y)
```

Handwritten annotations for the expression `x > 2 * z && y`:

- `x` is annotated with `int`.
- `2` is annotated with `int`.
- `z` is annotated with `double`.
- `2 * z` is annotated with `double`.
- `x > 2 * z` is annotated with `boolean`.
- `y` is annotated with `boolean`.
- The entire expression `x > 2 * z && y` is annotated with `boolean`.

int (A)

boolean (B)

double (C)

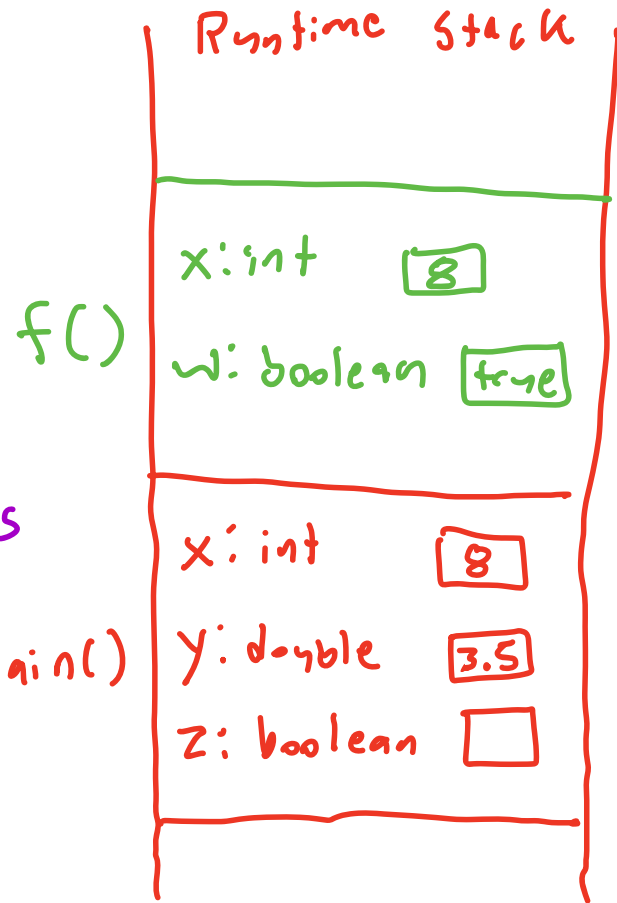
String (D)

Program Execution

Starts by invoking the `main()` method

- whenever we invoke a method, it creates a call frame on the runtime stack

- call frame has entries (variable boxes) for all parameters and local variables of the method
- assignment statements update these entries
- inner method calls "stack up" call frames
- call frames destroyed when methods return



Diagramming our Code

* We didn't get to this slide in lecture, but you can step through an animated code trace in the Lecture 1 notes on the website

```
public class Convert {  
    static int daysToMinutes(int days) {  
        int hours = 24 * days;  
        int minutes = 60 * hours;  
        return minutes;  
    }  
  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        Scanner sc = new Scanner(System.in);  
        int days = sc.nextInt();  
        int mins = daysToMinutes(days);  
        System.out.print(...);  
    }  
}
```