Why C++ and OOP

Note that, ideally, a sorting method (i.e., a “way” of doing sorting) should work regardless of whatever is being sorted.

Words; Numbers; Cards; Dates; Times;

Think about your experiences on Amazon, eBay, Expedia about the sorting preferences (e.g., prices, auction/connection time)
The need for abstraction

Abstraction involves determining the “least-common denominator” held in common by sets of data/object or functionality/method within a program.

- can be re-used
- can be shared
- can be extended
Strengths of C/C++

**Portable**: usually does not require a significant change when the C/C++ programs are ported to different machines (ranging from super-computer to embedded systems)

- C compilers are small and easy to be included in any application development environment
Strengths of C/C++

- **Powerful**: has a large collections of data types/classes and operators/methods.
- **Flexible**: C imposes very few restrictions on the use of its features.
- **Standard Library**: almost universal
Strengths of C/C++

Integrated well with all existing platforms: including Microsoft C/C++, and popular UNIX variant (known as Linux and Android) and MacOS (and hence the iOS)
Programming is never easy

- Some mistakes may not be detected by the compilers
- “No errors, No warnings” from compilers is just half-way done to finish the programming
- Run-time errors are hard to debug
- Infinite loop and program crash are possible outcomes
Effective Use of C/C++

• Use software tools (debuggers, etc.) to make programs more reliable.
• Take advantages of existing code libraries.
• Adopt a sensible set of coding conventions.
• Avoid “tricks” and overly-complex codes.
• Stick to the standards (to maximize the portability).
The term *software engineering* refers to the study of software development on large scales.

Few programs these days are written by lone, individual programmers. Instead, programs are often written by large teams who must coordinate their efforts.
Software Engineering

The way you approach *program design* matters.

Programs are quite often large, complex structures.

Many modern video games have teams of over **100** people working on them for over a year.

If the program is being written from scratch, make that **five** years.
The Waterfall Model

- Marketing
- Analysis
- Design
- Implementation
- Testing
- Maintenance

Requirements
Specifications
Architecture
Untested
Software
Program
The way you approach *program design* matters.

For such large projects, it is important to plan your program’s structure largely in advance.

It is very common for one programmer to use code that another one wrote, sight unseen.

Any team member must know what will be available to each component, as well as what form any important data will be in.
Software Engineering

The way you approach *program design* matters.

It is important to constantly test your program components.

The longer you wait to find errors – and you *will* have errors – the harder it is to trace their source.

Time is money – the more time you waste on errors, the less time left for adding the features that will make your product shine.
The first flight of the ESA Ariane 5: $1 billion in damages.

At its core, the error was triggered by an arithmetic overflow exception… which was the result of improper code reuse.

The rocket self-destructed a mere 37 seconds after launch.
Other known software catastrophes:

1999 - Mars Climate Orbiter - wrong units
1999 - Mars Polar Lander – engine cutoff too early, SW bug
2004 - Mars Rover – too many files opened
2006 - Mars Global Surveyor – battery failure due to SW error
Necessary Skills

Prior programming experience
  Not necessarily in Java or C/C+++, but it helps greatly.
Willingness to work in groups
Ability to tolerate frustration
  Rule #1 of programming: You will make errors.
Ability to see both the big picture and local, detailed specifics.
What we hope

Eventually, you will have the ability to …

(1) see things abstractly and apply OOP
(2) balance both performance and functional requirements of the software systems
(3) continue the interest on computer science and join the software industry!!

- 77 of world's top 100 software companies are head-quartered in USA (IDC Data 2009) …