

Computer Fundamentals: Pradeep K. Sinha & Priti Sinha

Learning Objectives

In this chapter you will learn about:

- § Computer languages or programming languages
- § Three broad categories of programming languages – machine, assembly, and high-level languages
- § Commonly used programming language tools such as assembler, compiler, linker, and interpreter
- § Concepts of object-oriented programming languages
- § Some popular programming languages such as FORTRAN, COBOL, BASIC, Pascal, C, C++, C#, Java, RPG, LISP and SNOBOL
- § Related concepts such as Subprogram, Characteristics of a good programming language, and factors to consider while selecting a language for coding an application

Ref Page: 208 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 2/59

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Broad Classification of Computer Languages

- § Machine language
- § Assembly language
- § High-level language

Ref Page: 209 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 3/59

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Machine Language

- § Only language of a computer understood by it without using a translation program
- § Normally written as strings of binary 1s and 0s
- § Written using decimal digits if the circuitry of the computer being used permits this

Ref Page: 209 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 4/59

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A Typical Machine Language Instruction Format

OPCODE (operation code)	OPERAND (Address/Location)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § OPCODE tells the computer which operation to perform from the instruction set of the computer § OPERAND tells the address of the data on which the operation is to be performed 	

Ref Page: 210 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 5/59

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A Sample Machine Language Program

00100000000001100111001	10001471
001100000000010000100001	14002041
011000000000011100101110	30003456
10100011111011100101110	50773456
000000000000000000000000	00000000

In Binary (Difficult to read and understand)	In Decimal (Easier to read and understand)
---	---

Ref Page: 210 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 6/59

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Advantages & Limitations of Machine Language

Advantage

- § Can be executed very fast

Limitations

- § Machine Dependent
- § Difficult to program
- § Error prone
- § Difficult to modify

Ref Page: 210 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 7/59

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Assembly/Symbolic Language

Programming language that overcomes the limitations of machine language programming by:

- § Using alphanumeric mnemonic codes instead of numeric codes for the instructions in the instruction set
e.g. using ADD instead of 1110 (binary) or 14 (decimal) for instruction to add
- § Allowing storage locations to be represented in form of alphanumeric addresses instead of numeric addresses
e.g. representing memory locations 1000, 1001, and 1002 as FRST, SCND, and ANSR respectively
- § Providing pseudo-instructions that are used for instructing the system how we want the program to be assembled inside the computer's memory
e.g. START PROGRAM AT 0000; SET ASIDE AN ADDRESS FOR FRST

Ref Page: 211 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 8/59

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Assembler

- § Software that translates an assembly language program into an equivalent machine language program of a computer

```

graph LR
    A[Assembly language program] -- Input --> B[Assembler]
    B -- Output --> C[Machine language program]
    
```

(Source Program) One-to-one correspondence (Object Program)

Ref Page: 212 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 9/59

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An Example of Assembly Language Program

Mnemonic	Opcode	Meaning
HLT	00	Halt, used at the end of program to stop
CLA	10	Clear and add into A register
ADD	14	Add to the contents of A register
SUB	15	Subtract from the contents of A register
STA	30	Store A register

A subset of the set of instructions supported by a computer

Ref Page: 213 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 10/59

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An Example of Assembly Language Program

```

START PROGRAM AT 0000
START DATA AT 1000
SET ASIDE AN ADDRESS FOR FRST
SET ASIDE AN ADDRESS FOR SCND
SET ASIDE AN ADDRESS FOR ANSR
CLA FRST
ADD SCND
STA ANSR
HLT
  
```

Sample assembly language program for adding two numbers and storing the result

Ref Page: 213 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 11/59

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An Example of Assembly Language Program

Symbolic name	Memory location
FRST	1000
SCND	1001
ANSR	1002

Mapping table set up by the assembler for the data items of the assembly language program

Ref Page: 213 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 12/59

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An Example of Assembly Language Program

Memory location	Contents		Comments
	Opcode	Address	
0000	10	1000	Clear and add the number stored at FRST to A register Add the number stored at SCND to the contents of A register Store the contents of A register into ANSR Halt
0001	14	1001	
0002	30	1002	
0003	00		
-			
-			
-			
1000			Reserved for FRST
1001			Reserved for SCND
1002			Reserved for ANSR

Equivalent machine language program for the assembly language program

Ref Page: 214 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 13/59

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Advantages of Assembly Language Over Machine Language

- § Easier to understand and use
- § Easier to locate and correct errors
- § Easier to modify
- § No worry about addresses
- § Easily relocatable
- § Efficiency of machine language

Ref Page: 214 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 14/59

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Limitations of Assembly Language

- § Machine dependent
- § Knowledge of hardware required
- § Machine level coding

Ref Page: 215 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 15/59

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Typical Uses of Assembly Language

- § Mainly used today to fine-tune important parts of programs written in a high-level language to improve the program's execution efficiency

Ref Page: 215 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 14/59

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Assembly Languages with Macro Instructions

- § Any assembly language instruction that gets translated into several machine language instructions is called a macro instruction
- § Several assembly languages support such macro instructions to speed up the coding process
- § Assemblers of such assembly languages are designed to produce multiple machine language instructions for each macro instruction of the assembly language

Ref Page: 215 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 17/59

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High-Level Languages

- § Machine independent
- § Do not require programmers to know anything about the internal structure of computer on which high-level language programs will be executed
- § Deal with high-level coding, enabling the programmers to write instructions using English words and familiar mathematical symbols and expressions

Ref Page: 216 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 18/59

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Compiler

§ Translator program (software) that translates a high-level language program into its equivalent machine language program

§ Compiles a set of machine language instructions for every program instruction in a high-level language

Ref Page: 217

Chapter 12: Computer Languages

Slide: 19/59

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Compiler

```

graph LR
    A[High-level language program  
(Source Program)] -- Input --> B[Compiler]
    B -- Output --> C[Machine language program  
(Object Program)]
    A -- "One-to-many correspondence" --> C
            
```

Ref Page: 217

Chapter 12: Computer Languages

Slide: 20/59

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Compiler

```

graph LR
    subgraph Computer [A computer supporting languages L1 and L2]
        C1[Compiler for language L1]
        C2[Compiler for language L2]
    end
    P1[Program P1 in high-level language L1] --> C1
    C1 --> M1[Machine code for P1]
    P2[Program P2 in high-level language L2] --> C2
    C2 --> M2[Machine code for P2]
            
```

A computer supporting languages L1 and L2

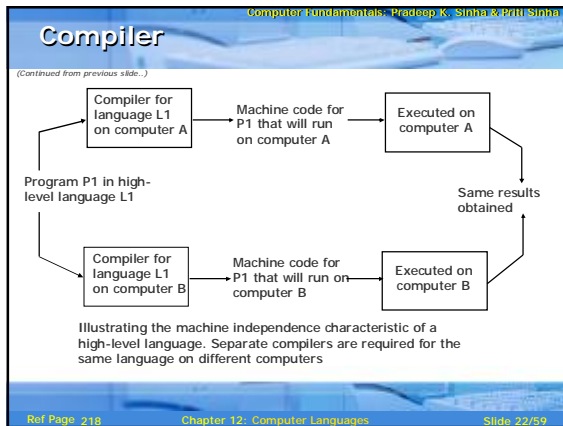
Illustrating the requirement of a separate compiler for each high-level language supported by a computer

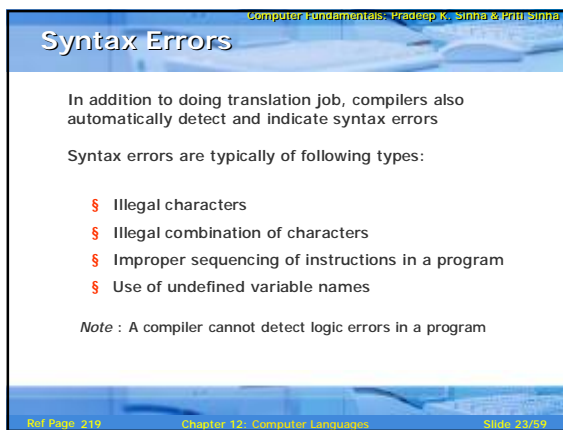
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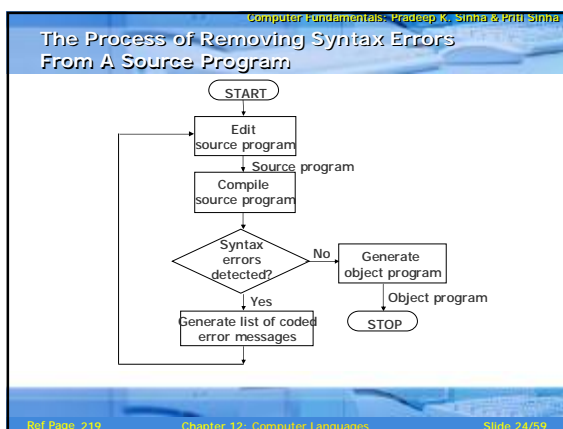
Ref Page: 218

Chapter 12: Computer Languages

Slide: 21/59







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Linker

§ For a large software, storing all the lines of program code in a single source file will be:

- Difficult to work with
- Difficult to deploy multiple programmers to concurrently work towards its development
- Any change in the source program would require the entire source program to be recompiled

§ Hence, a modular approach is generally adapted to develop large software where the software consists of multiple source program files

§ No need to write programs for some modules as it might be available in library offering the same functionality

(Continued on next slide)

Ref Page: 219Chapter 12: Computer LanguagesSlide 25/59

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Linker

(Continued from previous slide...)

§ Each source program file can be independently modified and compiled to create a corresponding object program file

§ Linker program (software) is used to properly combine all the object program files (modules)

§ Creates the final executable program (load module)

Ref Page: 220Chapter 12: Computer LanguagesSlide 26/59

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Interpreter

§ Interpreter is a high-level language translator

§ Takes one statement of a high-level language program, translates it into machine language instructions

§ Immediately executes the resulting machine language instructions

§ Compiler simply translates the entire source program into an object program and is not involved in its execution

Ref Page: 220Chapter 12: Computer LanguagesSlide 27/59

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Role of an Interpreter

```

graph LR
    A[High-level language program  
(Source Program)] -- Input --> B[Interpreter  
(translates and executes  
statement-by-statement)]
    B -- Output --> C[Result of  
program execution]
  
```

Ref Page: 220 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 28/59

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Intermediate Language Compiler & Interpreter

- § New type of compiler and interpreter combines the speed, ease, and control of both compiler and interpreter
- § Compiler first compiles the source program to an *intermediate* object program
- § Intermediate object program is not a machine language code but written in an intermediate language that is virtually machine independent
- § Interpreter takes intermediate object program, converts it into machine language program and executes it

Ref Page: 221 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 29/59

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Benefits of Intermediate Language Compiler & Interpreter

- § Intermediate object program is in compiled form and thus is not original source code, so safer and easier to share
- § Intermediate object program is based on a standard Intermediate Definition Language (IDL)
- § Interpreter can be written for any computer architecture and operating system providing virtual machine environment to the executing program
- § Newer Interpreter compiles intermediate program, in memory, into final host machine language program and executes it
- § This technique is called *Just-In-Time (JIT) Compilation*

Ref Page: 221 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 30/59

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Advantages of High-Level Languages

- § Machine independent
- § Easier to learn and use
- § Fewer errors during program development
- § Lower program preparation cost
- § Better documentation
- § Easier to maintain

Ref Page: 222 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 31/59

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Limitations of High-Level Languages

- § Lower execution efficiency
- § Less flexibility to control the computer's CPU, memory and registers

Ref Page: 222 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 32/59

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Object-Oriented Programming Languages

- § Programming languages are used for simulating real-world problems on computers
- § Much of the real world is made up of objects
- § Essence of OOP is to solve a problem by:
 - § Identifying the real-world objects of the problem
 - § Identifying processing required of them
 - § Creating simulations of objects, processes, and their communications

Ref Page: 223 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 33/59

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FORTRAN

- § Stands for FORMula TRANslation
- § Originally developed by John Backus and his team at IBM followed by several revisions
- § Standardized by ANSI as FORTRAN-77 and FORTRAN-90
- § Designed for solving scientific & engineering problems
- § Oriented towards solving problems of a mathematical nature
- § Popular language amongst scientists and engineers

Ref Page: 223

Chapter 12: Computer Languages

Slide: 34/59

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A Sample FORTRAN Program

```

C  FORTRAN PROGRAM TO COMPUTE
C  THE SUM OF 10 NUMBERS
SUM = 0
DO 50 I = 1, 10
  READ (5, 10) N
  SUM = SUM + N
50 CONTINUE
  WRITE (6, 20) SUM
10 FORMAT (F6.2)
20 FORMAT (1X, 'THE SUM OF GIVEN NUMBERS = ',
  F10.2)
STOP
END

```

Ref Page: 224

Chapter 12: Computer Languages

Slide: 35/59

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COBOL

- § Stands for COMmon Business Oriented Language
- § Originally developed started under Grace Hopper followed by Conference on Data SYstems Languages (CODASYL)
- § Standardized by ANSI as COBOL-74, COBOL-85, and COBOL-2002
- § Designed for programming business data processing applications
- § Designed to have the appearance and structure of a business report written in English, hence often referred to as a self-documenting language

Ref Page: 224

Chapter 12: Computer Languages

Slide: 36/59

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A Sample COBOL Program

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION.
PROGRAM_ID. SUMUP.
AUTHOR. P K SINHA.
* THIS PROGRAM COMPUTES AND PRINTS
* THE SUM OF GIVEN NUMBERS.

ENVIROMENT DIVISION.
CONFIGURATION SECTION.
SOURCE_COMPUTER. BURROUGHS_6700.
OBJECT_COMPUTER. BURROUGHS_6700.
INPUT_OUTPUT SECTION.
FILE_CONTROL.
SELECT DATA_FILE ASSIGN TO DISK.
SELECT OUTPUT_FILE ASSIGN TO PRINTER.

DATA DIVISION.
FILE SECTION.

(Continued on next slide)

Ref Page 226

Chapter 12: Computer Languages

Slide 37/59

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A Sample COBOL Program

(Continued from previous slide...)

FD DATA_FILE
RECORD CONTAINS 80 CHARACTERS
LABEL RECORD IS OMITTED
DATA RECORD IS INPUT_DATA_
RECORD.

01 INPUT_DATA_RECORD.
05 NPICTURE 9(6)V99.
05 FILLER PICTURE X(72).

FD OUTPUT_FILE
RECORD CONTAINS 132 CHARACTERS
LABEL RECORD IS OMITTED
DATA RECORD IS OUTPUT_RECORD.

(Continued on next slide)

Ref Page 226

Chapter 12: Computer Languages

Slide 38/59

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A Sample COBOL Program

(Continued from previous slide...)

01 OUTPUT_RECORD.
05 FILLER PICTURE X.
05 TITLE PICTURE X(25).
05 SUM PICTURE 9(10)V99.
05 FILLER PICTURE X(94).
WORKING_STORAGE SECTION.
77 MESSAGE PICTURE X(25)
VALUE IS "THE SUM OF GIVEN NUMBERS=".

PROCEDURE DIVISION.
OPEN_FILES.
OPEN INPUT DATA_FILE.
OPEN OUTPUT OUTPUT_FILE.

INITIALIZATION.
MOVE SPACES TO OUTPUT_RECORD.
MOVE ZERO TO SUM.

(Continued on next slide)

Ref Page 226

Chapter 12: Computer Languages

Slide 39/59

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A Sample COBOL Program

(Continued from previous slide...)

```

PROCESS_LOOP.
    READ DATA_FILE AT END GO TO
    PRINT_PARA.
    ADD N TO SUM.
    GO TO PROCESS_LOOP.

PRINT_PARA.
    MOVE MESSAGE TO TITLE.
    WRITE OUTPUT_RECORD.

END_OF_JOB.
    CLOSE DATA_FILE.
    CLOSE OUTPUT_FILE.
    STOP RUN.
    
```

Ref Page: 226 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 40/59

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BASIC

- § Stands for Beginners All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code
- § Developed by Professor John Kemeny and Thomas Kurtz at Dartmouth College in the United States
- § Standardized by ANSI as BASIC-78
- § Designed to be an interactive language and to use an interpreter instead of a compiler
- § Simple to implement, learn and use language. Hence, it is a widely used language on personal computers
- § Flexible and reasonably powerful language and can be used for both business and scientific applications

Ref Page: 227 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 41/59

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A Sample BASIC Program

```

5 REM PROGRAM TO COMPUTE
6 REM THE SUM OF 10 NUMBERS
10 LET S = 0
20 FOR I = 1 TO 10
30 READ N
40 LET S = S + N
50 NEXT I
60 PRINT "THE SUM OF GIVEN NUMBERS = "; S
70 DATA 4, 20, 15, 32, 48
80 DATA 12, 3, 9, 14, 44
90 END;
    
```

Ref Page: 227 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 42/59

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Pascal

- § Named after the famous seventeenth-century French mathematician Blaise Pascal
- § Developed by Professor Nicklaus Wirth of Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich
- § Encourages programmers to write well-structured, modular programs, instills good program practices
- § Recognized as an educational language and is used to teach programming to beginners
- § Suitable for both scientific & business applications
- § Has features to manipulate numbers, vectors, matrices, strings, sets, records, files, and lists

Ref Page: 228
Chapter 12: Computer Languages
Slide 43/59

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A Sample Pascal Program

```

PROGRAM SUMNUMS (INPUT, OUTPUT);
(* PROGRAM TO COMPUTE THE SUM OF 10 NUMBERS *)

(* DECLARATION OF VARIABLES *)
VAR SUM, N : REAL;
VAR I : INTEGER;

(* MAIN PROGRAM LOGIC STARTS HERE *)
BEGIN
    SUM := 0;
    FOR I := 1 TO 10 DO
        BEGIN
            READ (N);
            SUM := SUM + N;
        END;
    WRITELN ('THE SUM OF GIVEN NUMBERS=', SUM);
END;
```

Ref Page: 228
Chapter 12: Computer Languages
Slide 44/59

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C

- § Developed in 1972 at AT&T's Bell laboratories, USA by Dennis Ritchie and Brian Kernighan
- § Standardized by ANSI and ISO as C89, C90, C99
- § High-level programming languages (mainly machine independence) with the efficiency of an assembly language
- § Language of choice of programmers for portable systems software and commercial software packages like OS, compiler, spreadsheet, word processor, and database management systems

Ref Page: 229
Chapter 12: Computer Languages
Slide 45/59

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A Sample C Program

```

/* PROGRAM TO COMPUTE THE SUM OF 10 NUMBERS */
/* Directives to include standard library and header */
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>
/* Main function starts here */
void main ()
{
    /* Declaration of variables */
    float Sum = 0.0, N = 0.0;
    int Count = 0;
    for (Count = 0; Count < 10; Count++)
    {
        printf("\nGive a number:");
        scanf("%f", N);
        Sum += N;
    }
    printf("THE SUM OF GIVEN NUMBERS = %f", &Sum);
}

```

Ref Page: 230 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 44/59

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C++

- § Named C++ as ++ is increment operator and C language is incremented to its next level with C++
- § Developed by Bjarne Stroustrup at Bell Labs in the early 1980s
- § Contains all elements of the basic C language
- § Expanded to include numerous object-oriented programming features
- § Provides a collection of predefined classes, along with the capability of user-defined classes

Ref Page: 229 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 47/59

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Java

- § Development started at Sun Microsystems in 1991 by a team led by James Gosling
- § Developed to be similar to C++ with fewer features to keep it simple and easy to use
- § Compiled code is machine-independent and developed programs are simple to implement and use
- § Uses *just-in-time* compilation
- § Used in embedded systems such as hand-held devices, telephones and VCRs
- § Comes in two variants – Java Runtime Engine (JRE) and Java Software Development Kit (SDK)

Ref Page: 231 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 48/59

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C# (C Sharp)

- § Object-oriented programming language developed by Anders Hejlsberg and released by Microsoft as part of Microsoft's .NET technology initiative
- § Standardized by ECMA and ISO
- § Syntactically and semantically very close to C++ and adopts various object-oriented features from both C++ and Java
- § Compilers target the Common Language Infrastructure (CLI) implemented by Common Language Runtime (CLR) of .NET Framework
- § CLR provides important services such as, memory management, exception handling, and security

Ref Page: 232 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 49/59

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RPG

- § Stands for Report Program Generator
- § Developed by IBM to meet customer requests for an easy and economic mechanism for producing reports
- § Designed to generate the output reports resulting from the processing of common business applications
- § Easier to learn and use as compared to COBOL
- § Programmers use very detailed coding sheets to write specifications about input, calculations, and output

Ref Page: 232 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 50/59

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LISP

- § Stands for LISt Processing
- § Developed in 1959 by John McCarthy of MIT
- § Designed to have features for manipulating non-numeric data, such as symbols and strings of text
- § Due to its powerful list processing capability, it is extensively used in the areas of pattern recognition, artificial intelligence, and for simulation of games
- § Functional programming language in which all computation is accomplished by applying functions to arguments

Ref Page: 232 Chapter 12: Computer Languages Slide 51/59

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SNOBOL

- § Stands for StriNg Oriented symBolic Language
- § Used for non-numeric applications
- § Powerful string manipulation features
- § Widely used for applications in the area of text processing

Ref Page: 233

Chapter 12: Computer Languages

Slide 52/59

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Characteristics of a Good Programming Language

- § Simplicity
- § Naturalness
- § Abstraction
- § Efficiency
- § Structured Programming Support
- § Compactness
- § Locality
- § Extensibility
- § Suitability to its environment

Ref Page: 233

Chapter 12: Computer Languages

Slide 53/59

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Factors for Selecting a Language for Coding an Application

- § Nature of the application
- § Familiarity with the language
- § Ease of learning the language
- § Availability of program development tools
- § Execution efficiency
- § Features of a good programming language

Ref Page: 234

Chapter 12: Computer Languages

Slide 54/59

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Subprogram

- § Program written in a manner that it can be brought into use in other programs and used whenever needed without rewriting
- § Also referred to as *subroutine*, *sub-procedure*, or *function*
- § Subprogram call statement contains the name of the subprogram followed by a list of parameters enclosed within a pair of parentheses
- § *Intrinsic subprograms* (also called *built-in-functions*) are those provided with the programming language
- § *Programmer-written subprograms* are written and used as and when they are needed

Ref Page: 235

Chapter 12: Computer Languages

Slide 55/59

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Structure of a Subprogram

Ref Page: 235

Chapter 12: Computer Languages

Slide 56/59

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Flow of Control in Case of Subprogram Calls

Ref Page: 236

Chapter 12: Computer Languages

Slide 57/59

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Key Words/Phrases

- § Assembler
- § Assembly language
- § BASIC
- § Built-in function
- § C
- § C++
- § C#
- § COBOL
- § Coding
- § Compiler
- § Computer language
- § FORTRAN
- § Function
- § High-level language
- § HotJava Interpreter
- § Intrinsic subprogram
- § Intermediate compiler and Interpreter
- § Java

- § Just-in-time compilation
- § Language processor
- § Linker
- § LISP
- § Load module
- § Logic error
- § Low-level language
- § Machine language
- § Macro instructions
- § Object program
- § Object-oriented programming
- § Opcode
- § Operand
- § Pascal
- § Programmer
- § Programming
- § Programming language
- § Pseudo instruction
- § RPG
- § Self-documenting language

(Continued on next slide)

Ref Page: 236

Chapter 12: Computer Languages

Slide: 58/59

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Key Words/Phrases

(Continued from previous slide...)

- § SNOBOL
- § Source program
- § Sub-procedure
- § Subprogram
- § Subroutine
- § Symbolic language
- § Syntax error
- § Syntax rules
- § Written subprograms

Ref Page: 236

Chapter 12: Computer Languages

Slide: 59/59
