

# **Code Games**

Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love to Code

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# **Topics**

- Learning New Languages
- Esolangs
- Code Puzzles
- Code Golf
- Actual Computer Games

#### New Languages

- Learning a new programming language keeps your mind sharp
- Teaches new ways to do things
- New ways to think about coding
- Some people say you should learn one new language a year

# Programming Languages



# Programming Paradigms

Imperative	Interpreted	Extensible
Functional	Compiled	Threaded
Object Oriented	Dynamic	Array
Strutured	Scripting	List oriented
Procedural	Prototyped	High-Level
Reflective	Stack-based	Low Level
Concurrent	Concatenative	Esoteric

### New Language, New Methods

- Learning a new language can introduce you to new ways to solve problems.
- Things which are simple in your language may now be hard to do.
- Things hard in your language may be simple to do.
- Can learn to use arrays effectively.
- Encapsulation of data with objects.
- Using pointers effectively.
- May find new language to fit the job.

# Right Language, Right Job

- Some languages handle some jobs better (this is a fact)
- Exploring languages allows you to choose the right language!
- Also helps plan code better, how different languages handle different problems, like interfaces.
- Interoperability might allow you to use those languages together with your primary language.
- If not, maybe some parts could be off-loaded to other programs!

### Wrong Language, Wrong Job

- Sometimes there's something you'd like in a language that doesn't exist!
- Hashes in Fortran? 2-D array handling in C?
- Writing these things for yourself can help you understand what they mean, how they work and if they go wrong, why they go wrong!

#### Really Wrong Language, Really Wrong Job

- Can take this to the extreme!
- Many languages Turing complete!
- 99 Bottles of Beer song in LaTeX? Tetris in Sed? See : sedtris

```
\documentclass{article}
\newcounter{beer}
\newcommand{\verses}[1]{
 \setcounter{beer}{#1}\par\noindent
 \arabic{beer} bottles of beer on the wall.\\
 \arabic{beer} bottles of beer!\\
 Take one down, pass it around ---
  \addtocounter{beer}{-1}
  \arabic{beer} bottles of beer on the wall!\\
 \ifnum#1>0 \verses{\value{beer}} \fi
\begin { document }
\verses{99}
\end{document}
```

#### Stupid Language, Stupid Job

- Esolangs are programming languages which disobey common language rules
- Usually designed without simplicity in mind
- Some deliberately designed to be awkward.
- Sometimes more like puzzles than programming.



### Puzzled by Esolangs

- May limit commands permissible.
- May obscure commands as single characters.
- May allow non ordered code.
- May not contain usual things like arrays or even floats.
- Have to overcome these challenges.

#### More Puzzles

- Several websites offer coding challenges
- Project Euler, Rosetta Code
- Great way to learn new languages!
- Can contribute to develop problems.

#### Project Euler

- Ever growing compendium of mathematical challenges
- $\blacksquare$  Every problem should be possible to solve in  $\sim$ 1 min of runtime
- Can complete in any language and submit your answer and compare with others.

#### Rosetta Code

- Wiki containing problems to be solved.
- Language specific "best" answers to problem.
- Problems spanning all areas of programming.

### Fore(tran?) – Code Golf

- Competition to create code in as few bytes as possible
- All languages welcome, some specifically designed for golfing
- May force you to solve a problem in an odd way to reduce size
- Online communities with thousands of problems to tackle

```
v=0; t=3; r=1e2; n= r**2; @a=(1)x n; for(1..1e6) { s==rand n; sq=2*sa[s=]; sb=0; sb+=sa[s=+s_%n] for(sr,-sr,1,-1); sa[s=]*=sq*(sb+sv) >0& rand > exp - sq*sb/st?1:-1; s_%n|| print eval(join'+',@a), s/}
```

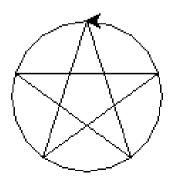
## Corporate Shill?

- Many programming games available:
- TIS-100
- Shenzhen I/O
- Opus Magnum
- Silicon Zeroes



# **Drawing Pictures**

- Many languages support graphics
- Almost all languages support output of numbers PNM graphics
- Some work like turtle draw
- Some work on bitmaps





#### Your challenge

- I have provided you with a Javascript module and example code which can draw things along with documentation
- Your challenge is to produce something pretty.
- Some ideas as to what that might be:
  - Easy Spirograph, Koch curve, Diffusion Limited Aggregation, Fourier Phase
  - Medium Lindenmeyer System, Conway's Game of Life
  - Hard Mandelbrot/Julia Set, Maze Generator

#### References

- Several examples of code taken from Rosetta Code
- gallery.nen.gov.uk
- cs.roanoke.edu