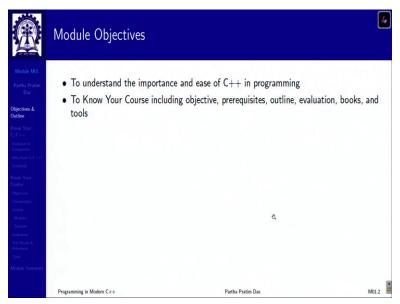
Programming in Modern C++ Professor. Partha Pratim Das Department of Computer Science and Engineering Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur Lecture No. 04 Course Overview

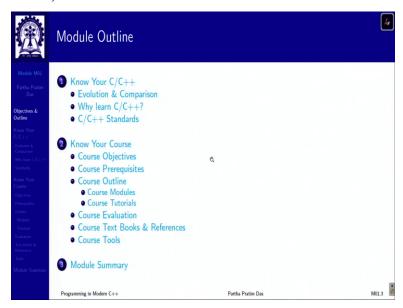
Welcome to Programming in Modern C++. This is the first week and we are going to talk on the module 01.

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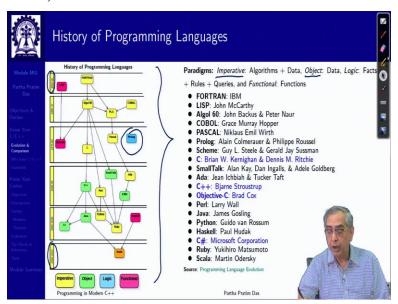
So, this particular module will primarily discuss the importance and ease of C++ in programming in brief, just to introduce you to what has been happening in C++ over the couple of last decades. But primarily, this module will make you familiar with your course including the objective, prerequisites, outline, evaluation, textbooks and tools.

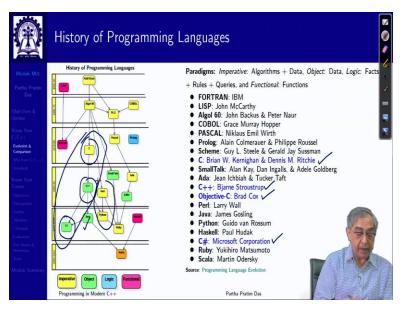
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So, this is the module outline, which will always be visible to you on the left column.

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So, to know your C, C++ I presume and that is a prerequisite, that you know your C language, you know, what the language features are, what is the standard library and what is the way to do programming in C. So, given that perspective, let me just quickly focus on this graph, which is kind of a timeline as you can see from your 1950s, when programming in terms of high-level language is primarily started till about the last decade.

I mean, there are more advances happening. And languages have evolved with different paradigms. Paradigms mean that whether most of the languages shown here in yellow are imperative, which means that they deal with algorithm and data. So, C is an imperative language. Then you have languages which are object based, where you primarily focus on the data and put algorithms on top of that. So, those are what is shown in green here. So, C++, Java are examples of that.

Then you have languages which are facts, rules and queries based called the logic languages. And prologue in as you see prologue here in blue is kind of the leading component of that, leading language of that. And you have functional languages also which are very, very interesting in the sense that, they treat everything as a function and as such do not have an explicit knowledge of a memory.

So, these are different nuances, it is not important that you look into all of these at the same time as we are focusing on the C++, modern C++ primarily. As you can see, that we have, I have highlighted couple of languages here, which have happened say at different times C, C++, C

sharp, C++. Then objective C is not shown in this chart, but it is a variant of C with, with certain classes and so on. So, this is kind of what we call is a C family of languages.

That is, they are basically, structurally similar to the C language, but has very different kinds of features. So, given this, we would like to primarily study on this part of the programming language hierarchy. As you can see, there are several other languages like Java, there is a Perl, Python branch and so on, which is, will not be particularly treated here, but they, we will keep on mentioning about some of those features from time to time.

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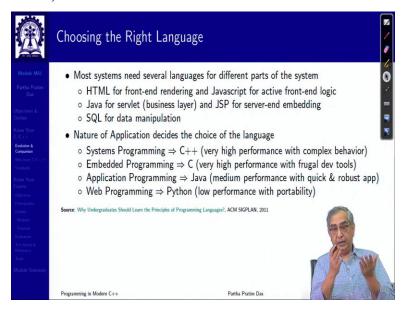


Now, many of you will have a question of why C++? I mean why do we learn C++? So, it is a, it is a good point to note that, if I, if we look into the kind of popularity of various languages over time, so, this is the data as of January 2021, then you can see that there are several languages which are ranked according to their popularity. And these are kind of the ratings. TIOBE is an organization which every month publishes this ranking information.

So, you can see that C is ranked the highest with 17.38 percent of usage in the popular open domain, followed by Java, Python and C++, C sharp. So, if you look at this, you can see that these couple of four five languages on the top, are the key languages in which a majority of common programming is being done. And C++ happened to be at the fourth position according to this, it keeps on slightly changing, but the top few languages like C Java, Python and C++, they do not really change much.

So, given that C++ in a way subsumes the entirety of C with little variations, you can say that this and this together is what is going to be your skill about 25 percent, that is the highest percentage of programming language skills you are going to have once you master C++. Further, we will see that there are a lot of specific advantages of C++, there are a lot of specific items that C++ introduced in terms of programming and so on. But I just wanted to give you a glimpse about where does C++ stand in the overall rankings scenario.

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So, going forward, you must always it, I often face a question as to if I know C++, can I do everything? If I know Java, can I do everything? Theoretically, yes, every programming language as it is, I mean or most of the programming languages I must say, not every are what is known as Turing complete, which means that any program can be written in them. But it is important to also note that why did people create so many programming languages?

So, many languages are created because some languages have certain advantages over other in terms of certain applications. So, it is always very important to choose the right language. And often you will find systems are not using only one language. For example, if you think about a very common, transactional application like net banking or even say, your Gmail system and so on, which will typically have multiple languages possibly, I mean certainly HTML in the front end with possibly having JavaScript for active front end logic.

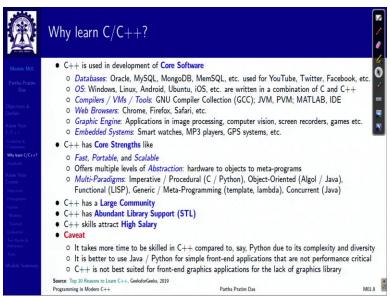
Then, in the business layer, you will possibly have Java and JavaScript for the server and embedding, you will have SQL for the backend database and so on. So, the overall system will involve several languages. So, when you learn a language like C++, you should also keep your mind open in terms of picking up, being aware about the related languages. The other point is as I was saying, that the nature of application decides the choice of language.

What do I want to do? If I want to do systems programming, which need high performance has a complex behavior, then C++ often is the best choice. If I want to do embedded programming, like in mobile phones and so on, then C probably would be a better choice, because it also has high performance. And the embedded systems or handled systems have very frugal development tools which may not be able to handle the whole of C++.

If you are doing primarily application programming, possibly you are going to work with Java with medium performance, but it is quick and robust. So, you are not looking at a very high performance there. Because in an application, you are interacting with a human being who herself is probably quite slow.

If you are primarily doing web programming, high portability, and so on, you are probably working with Python. So, it is low performance, but it has a very high portability, very easy to program in and so on, so forth.

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So, choosing the right language is very important, which is also something that in terms of C++, we will have to keep in mind. So, focusing on C, C++, why learn them? So, there are several reasons. The first is C++ use, is used in the development of core software. I mean a lot of core infrastructure software like databases, talk about Oracle, MySQL, MongoDB, and so on, so forth.

Major part of these core software are written in C++. Operating systems like Windows, Linux, Android, Ubuntu they are written in a combination of C and C++. Compilers are written typically in C++, virtual machines on which Java runs, on which Python runs, MATLAB written in C++, web browsers are written in C++, graphics engines, embedded systems. So, C and C++ cover a whole lot of core software infrastructure.

So, if you are focusing on C plus learning C++, you are primarily focusing on these varied kinds of infrastructure software. Then C++ have some core strengths, like it is fast, it is one of the fastest, very close to C. It is portable, more and more modern features are being added, C++ is becoming more portable. It is highly scalable, it can be used in a very small system, small application, as well as it can be used in a moderate to very large application.

Then it offers multiple levels of abstraction. And we will talk more about this as we go forward. Because when you program, you program at multiple levels, so you have hardware, very close to hardware programming to objects, to meta programs as to where you just think about the

algorithm and want something to happen in terms of the code and so on. Last, but not the least C++ is multi paradigm.

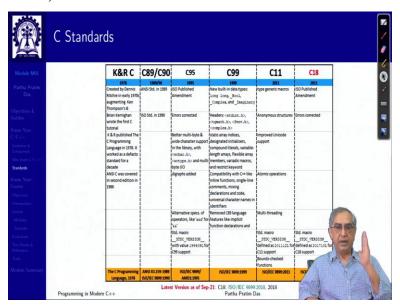
You saw in the graph chart of different evolutionary languages, that some languages are imperative like C. Some are object oriented, like Java, some are functional like Lisp, and so on. C++ has all of these together, it is it has got a very full support of imperative programming with a strong support of object oriented programming. And the modern C++ has introduced functional programming as well.

And it has metaprogramming at the same time, which means that it can write, you can write programs, which generate multiple programs by themselves. And then, again, modern C++ has introduced concurrency features. So, you can do concurrent programming as in Java. So, this multi paradigm support really helps you to go with one language and do a wide variety of jobs. In addition, C++ has a large community, it has abundant library support.

So, many things that you want to do, you can just use the library, and C++ scales attract high salary. I am sure you are learning all these to get a good, good placement, get a good job, and good pay package, for that C++ salaries are skilled salaries are usually higher than many others. At the same time, you must keep in mind that it takes more time to be skilled in C++ compared to say Python.

And it is better to use Java or Python if you are just doing front end applications. And also keep in mind that C++ is not best suited for graphics, front end graphics application. It is good for backend graphics engine where you do a lot of computation but it is not good for front end graphics, because C++ yet does not support a graphics library directly.

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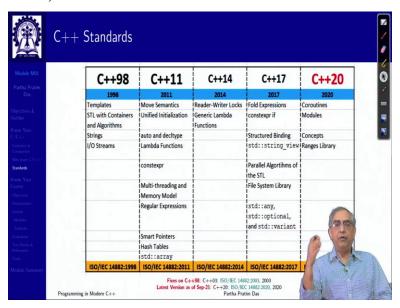


So, with these words, let me just present to you the evolution of standards in C and C++. So, this is how it started. So, as you know, Kernighan and Ritchie are known to be, it is primarily Ritchie who created, Dennis Ritchie who created C in early 70s. And for a long time, there has been no or no kind of standardization, but till they wrote the book, the C programming language, which all of you must have read.

And that kind of became known as K and RC, Kernighan and Ritchie C about from about 1978. And then, the ANSI standardization, the basic standardization process started, and in 89 90, the first ANSI standard in 89, the first answer standard was published on C and ISO standard International Standards Organization standard which standardizes every language came in 1990. So, that kind of is the base C language that we talk about.

But then there have been lot of further evolutions, we have C95, C99, and C11, the 2011 version. I have given here a few pointers of the kind of features that have got added to the language as we have moved. And C18 is the latest, though C18 does not significantly add anything on top of C11. It only kind of fixes some of the bugs in that earlier standard.

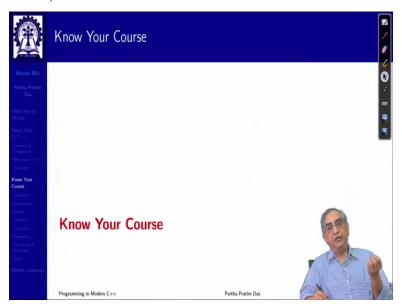
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In contrast, C++ start designed by Bjarne Stroustrup also evolved informally for quite some time till the first standard was created in 1998. And this is called C++ 98. You may have heard about C++ 03 also, which is a revision of this standard which was done in 2003. But that revision did not add any significant feature, it just fixed problems is in C++ 98. Then, the major change happened much later in 2011, when a whole lot of the modern features got started.

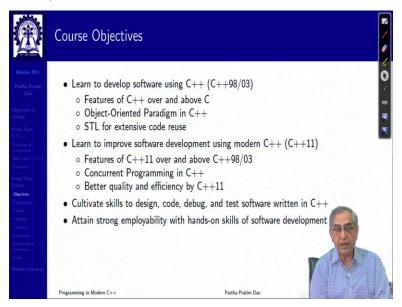
So, it is a good point to note here that in Swayam NPTEL earlier, we used to have a course on programming in C++, that course, that eight weeks course focused on C++98, C++03 up to that level. But in this present course, which is programming in C++, programming in modern C++, we are going to focus not only on 98, 03, but we are going to take you primarily through C++ 11 and further. Then we after C++11 we had some minor, additions in C++17, 14, C++17 and C++20, which is a current version.

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So, remember that we will, we will primarily here you deal with in terms of these different C and C++ versions and I will, when I talk about different features, I will tell you exactly which particular language standard will that feature be available or effective.

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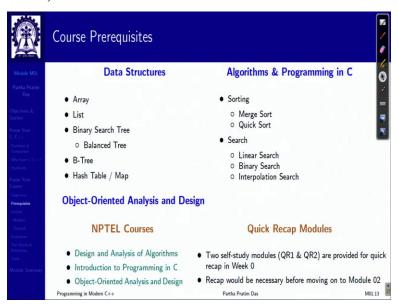
Now, going over to give you a glimpse of the course, this is our course objective. Our course objective is certainly to learn to develop a software using C++, by which I mean C++98/03. So, features of C++ over C, object oriented paradigm. STL, the Standard Template Library extensive

use is a core objective to learn. Further to go into the modern C++, we want to learn as to how software development is being improved with this modern C++, which is C++11.

So, what are the C++11 features over and above C++98? Primarily the concurrent programming in C++ functional programming and so on, better quality and efficiency and so on. And it is just not learning the language, the objective is to cultivate skills to design code, debug and test software it means C++, that is what has to be your focus.

Just because you know the language well, you will not be getting good offers from companies, you have to have the skills which you have to develop through practice problem solving and so on so that you can attain a strong employability and you need the hands-on skill and strong employability is a core objective of this course.

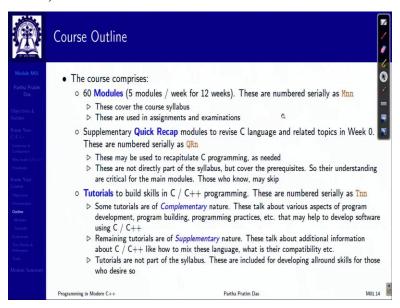
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The prerequisites as I have, you already know are certainly data structures or basic data structures a list is given here. Algorithms and programming in C, which you must know. And it will be good to have some idea about object oriented analysis and design, but it is not mandatory, we will introduce that in the process.

So, here I have mentioned some NPTEL courses, which you can go through to learn about to, recap these prerequisites if you are not familiar already. And we will also as a part of week 0 provide some specific modules for self-study, particularly on the various aspects of C.

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Now, this is our course outline, the detailed outline of weeks and modules are already given in week 0. So, we will have as a standard, we will have 60 modules, 5 modules per week for 12 weeks and they will be numbered by M followed by the serial number, which will cover the course syllabus, the assignments and examinations will be based on this. We have supplementary quick recap modules as I mentioned in week 0, to recap, C if you are already not on top of it. So, it is up to you to use those modules and enhance your C skills.

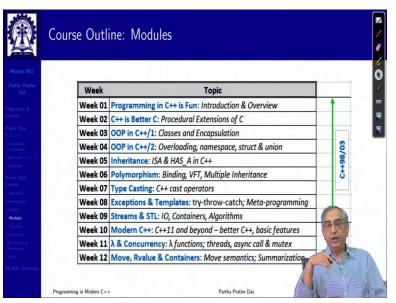
In addition, we will have a number of tutorials to build in C, C++ programming, they are numbered with T. And some tutorials are complimentary in nature, complimentary in the sense that they do not really talk about the language, but it talks about the program development aspects. When we run the earlier course, often students used to ask tell us how to build a program, tell us how to, how to organize the source of a program and so on so forth, the what are the good practices and so on.

So, these are the, of complementary in nature. These are not part of the syllabus, but they are primarily to help you gain your skills. The remaining tutorials are of supplementary in nature, which mean that they talk about the language, but not the core part, which is included in the syllabus. Things like how do you write mixed language programs in C and C++? How compatible they are?

If you write a program in C, we say that C++ has C, but that is at a very high philosophical level. It is not guaranteed, that if you have written this program in C, it will run exactly, it will compile in C++, first of all, it may not. And even if it compiles, it does, there is not a guarantee that it will execute and show you the same behavior.

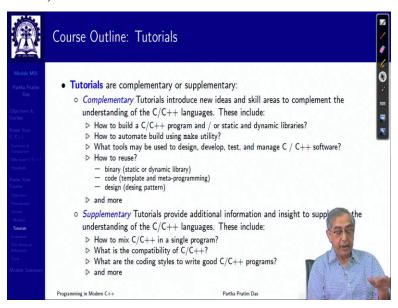
So, there are compatibility issues, which you will have to know and be aware of if you want to become a good C++ programmer. But all of the tutorials are just for your development for your help. They are not part of the course syllabus. So, we will not have assignments or questions, examination questions on them.

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This is the overall module outline. So, of different weeks, and you can see that the first 9 weeks are focused on C++98, 03, which is kind of what the earlier course used to do. And the remaining 3 weeks focus on the really modern part, which is C++11, the evolutions of some of the very important features and some of the efficiency aspects like move semantics, rvalue, move constructor, rvalue semantics, and so on, so forth. So, and in again, module 0 in week 0, gives you the details of the different modules in every week.

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In terms of tutorial, as I said, that are complementary ones and the supplementary ones, the complementary ones, as you can see, will include things like how to build C program, how to build static and dynamic libraries, how to make use of the make utility, which is a very great utility to build your programs easily. Then about different tools that you may be using how to reuse programs at different levels at a binary level, at a code level, at a design level, and so on.

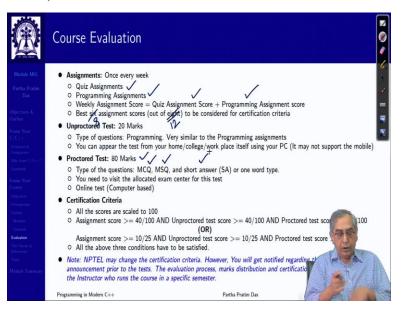
So, these are the complimentary tutorials we will supply you with at different points. And you may go through them, practice them, they are more practice oriented, you may go through and practice them so that you can get really skilled better in terms of program development. And the supplementary tutorials, as I mentioned, we will talk about different extensional features of these languages.

Primarily, how to make C and C++ in a single program, which is often an issue that comes up because you are not implementing a project from scratch most of the time. There is something already existing possibly that is in some version of C and you are writing in some version of C++. Now how do you make these programs and how to make them work together? Then what is the compatibility? If you take a C program and compile in C++, what would you expect?

What are the, what are the coding styles that are good for C, what are the coding styles that are good for C++ and so on the industry practices. So, we are, tutorials are primarily focused on practice that you must have, beyond doing these modules and doing the assignments. See, if you

have to get skilled, it is not enough to just go through the language and go through the quiz and examination that will give you the score, the certificate, but your real value of employability will come from practice and these tutorials are focused towards doing that.

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The evaluation is more or less similar to other NPTEL courses, except that this has some programming components. So, if you note, we have a quiz, every week one quiz will be there. And then we have in the quiz we have programming assignments also. So, weekly assignment score will be the sum of the quiz assignment. And as well as the programming assignment and the best 6 typically would be considered out of the 08 this is, this is a typo out of 12, probably it will not be best six, probably it will be best eight.

Best 0 out of 12 will be considered for the certification criteria. Now, there will also be an unproctored test, unproctored test is of the programming kind of the programming exercises that we will have. And this is something which you take from your home or workplace or college using a PC, you may not be able to use a mobile because it uses, it will not have all the components to do programming there.

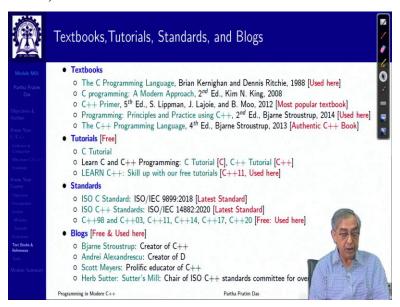
And there will be about 20 marks on that. Then there is a proctored test which is the main for the certification. Which will have multiple choice multiple select and short answer type of questions as you have already seen in the assignments. And this is proctored. So, you will have to go to an

allotted examination center and take this test. And the test will be online it is not on paper. But it has to be taken in that center itself.

So, with all these your overall scoring will get decided for your certification. There are certain, certain criteria are given, like the all scores are scaled to 100 and assignment score greater than 40 out of 100 or unproctored such and such and so on is the certification criteria. But keep in mind that this is, these are I mean, your overall structure of evaluation as well as certification criteria are not frozen forever.

Every time the course is done, the NPTEL will announce a certification criterion, you must follow that very carefully. And the instructor who is running the course that time will decide on what will be the structure of this evaluation. So, this is the overall evaluation information.

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Now, coming to textbooks and references, there are many. So, what I have done is in terms of textbooks and tutorials and standards and blogs, even blogs are very important. But you must know which blogs to look at, not all blogs are, give you the right information, some blogs may give you incomplete information, some may give you even wrong information.

So, in terms of textbooks, I have mentioned several textbooks and you can follow any of them. But I have also mentioned as to what is the particular book that we would be following here like for C programming, we will follow the Kernighan and Ritchie's book. Whereas Lipman's book

probably is the most popular and for C++, we will use Stroustrup's book, the latest standards, the blogs.

I heavily rely on these blogs, because these are the people who are leading the C++ development starting from Stroustrup to the creator of D language, which is also in the family now. And Scott Meyer, Herb Sutter these are people who, who actually drive the language and their blogs are very important to follow.

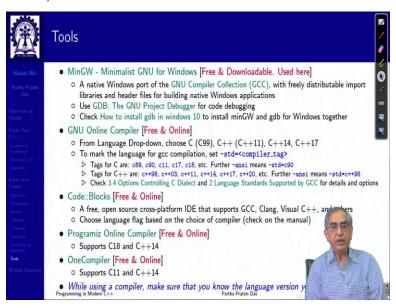
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Several reference books, I have mentioned here in C++98, 03 and with special marking of what is used in the modules here, and C++ also in C++11. So, obviously, you cannot you will not be able to study all of them, but these are just representative so that, if you have to otherwise, even most of what you will need will be covered in the module itself. I mean, you do not specifically need to go to the book.

But I mean you will know that these are coming from this book. So, if you want more details, you can go there and get further clarified. And these are references that you can use if you really want to make an advanced carrier in modern C++.

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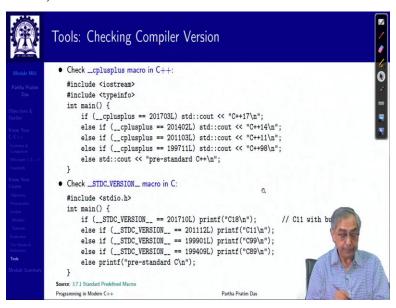
Finally, you need tools. So, we will be on GNU tools. So, we will use GCC for primarily, for our examples and the results that you will see the outputs that you will see or the behavior that we will see in different slides will be primarily from the GNU compiler. So, if you have Linux, you will have the GCC and that with the debugger GDB.

If you are on Windows, because I believe many of you would be on Windows, so, it will be minimalistic GNU for Windows, minGW as it is called, it is free downloadable. I have given the links here as to where to download it from and how to install video and so on. So, please use that and install it in your system. Whether you are, if you are using Linux, you will have that, if you are using Windows, install it so that you have the built debug tools available with you.

For quick checkup, of course, you can use multiple different the following ones are genuine line compiler, code blocks, programiz, one compiler these are all online free services, they are like software as a service model. So, you can just put your code there and check for different versions, different because, there are many of them support variety of different versions of the language there.

So, you can use for those checking, but it will be most critical to install Linux or minGW on Windows to be ready to run your code and get hands on.

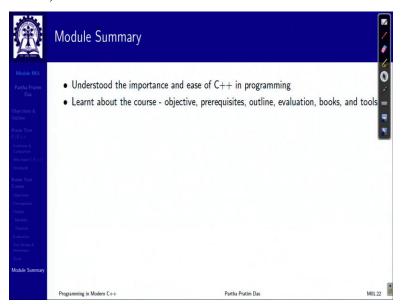
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Now when you are running programs, you will always need to know which particular version of C or C++ we are compiling for. So, here I have given the code snippets which you can use and know exactly which version is being used, if, if you have not explicitly specified and want to know well, I am using a compiler.

So, what version is it compiling for? So, you can use this code snippet and this will tell you the magic numbers there which every language standard embeds. And with that you will be able to know what particular version you are using.

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So, that is all for this module. So, we have tried to give you a basic idea about the importance and ease of programming in C++ with a, know your language as well as know your course outline. Look forward to lots of interactions with you and look forward to an exciting, exciting time with the remaining 59 modules where we really deal with modern C++. Thank you very much. See you in the next module.