

CCNY

Engineering 101

Sam Fenster

www-cs.ccny.cuny.edu/~fenster/
fenster@ccny.cuny.edu

Sam Fenster

www-cs.ccny.cuny.edu/~fenster/
fenster@ccny.cuny.edu

Associate director,
Computer Engineering program.

I organize these Friday talks.

Today:

- What Engr 101 is about;
- my fields:
 - Computer Science,
 - Computer Engineering.

Engineering 101 will teach what people in the engineering fields do:

- in general, and
- in each specific field.

- My definition of “engineering”:

 Using scientific and technical knowledge to solve practical problems.

Engineering majors offered at CCNY:

- Biomedical Engineering (5 in this class)
- Chemical Engineering (0)
- Civil Engineering (0)
- Computer Engineering (19)
- Computer Science (0)
- Earth Systems Science & Environmental Engr. (7)
- Electrical Engineering (50)
- Mechanical Engineering (67)

Not- or not-yet engineers in this class: 5.

By year / level:

- Freshmen: 99
- Sophomores: 28
- Juniors: 18
- Seniors: 8

Engineering 101 meets twice a week:

- Ongoing team lab project(s);
- Friday guest talks
by faculty from each department;
by working engineers.

Engineering 101 will show you some subset of

what people in these fields do, that is,
what you can do with each of these degrees.

(Do you even want engineering? Which area?)

Engineering 101 will show you some subset of

what people in these fields do, that is,
what you can do with each of these degrees.

(Do you even want engineering? Which area?)

- **Lab:** Design & problem-solving, using one or two areas of engineering...
 - ...not necessarily in your major.

Engineering 101 will show you some subset of

what people in these fields do, that is,
what you can do with each of these degrees.

(Do you even want engineering? Which area?)

- **Friday talks:** Professionals will explain:
- What the everyday work is like in different jobs & organizations;
- The large tasks & problems that each field addresses;
- The areas of study & methods used:
science, math, management & organization,
and how they fit together.

For example:

- Today: **Computing.**
 - What is computer engineering? Computer science?
- Sep. 4th: **Biomedical Engineering.**
 - What problems does it solve?
 - How it uses ME, ChE, EE, CS, ...
- Sep. 18th: **Alison Conway, transportation engineer.**
 - What problems does civil engineering solve?
 - How it uses mechanical, computing, environment, ...
- *later*: **The Career Center.**
 - How do you find summer work?

Other classes only cover a single group of methods,
not broad practice,

...and almost nothing about what to do with this
knowledge after graduation.

Senior Design 1 & 2 will put some of it together.

Seek out such non-classroom knowledge,
in school and outside,
during the next 3–4 years.

- **Engineering 101 class details:**

Lab projects and Friday talks are run entirely separately.

- Friday talks:

- List, video, material:

- www-cs.ccny.cuny.edu/~fenster/engr101

- Zoom, logged in as your CCNY account.
You have the link. Not using Brightspace.
 - Your **attendance** will be your final grade,
combined with your lab grade(s).
 - Questions are encouraged at the end of each talk.



—

Computer Science and Computer Engineering:

what people in these fields do, that is,
what you can do with each of these degrees.

- What the everyday work is like in different jobs & organizations;
- The large tasks & problems that each field addresses;
- The areas of study & methods used:
science, math, management & organization,
and how they fit together.

Computer Science and Computer Engineering [Cp.E.]:

what people in these fields do, that is,
what you can do with each of these degrees.

- What the everyday work is like in different jobs & organizations;
- The large tasks & problems that each field addresses;
- ☞ The areas of study & methods used:
science, math, management & organization; how they fit together.

- Software Engineering

- Theory & Algorithms

- Scientific programming

- **Software Engineering**
- Theory & Algorithms
- Scientific programming

- **Software Engineering**
- Theory & Algorithms
- Scientific programming

Designing, writing, testing and maintaining software:

- a Web browser, MS Word, an operating system (Unix/Linux, MS Windows, Mac OS) [Cp.E.]
a library, a C++ compiler [Cp.E.]
- embedded software [Cp.E.]: iPhone, car, network devices, TV, cameras & video.

What does an operating system even do?

omg this "operating system" sure is helpful!

♥
your cool programs
♥

interface to the OS

hi keyboard, I see you're typing, I'll get those song lyrics to the right place

want to send 1 GB of data over a sketchy network connection without any mistakes? I know TCP!

OPERATING SYSTEM

27 programs all want to use the CPU & I only have 4 cores. You'll have to take turns!

you plugged in a rubber duck shaped USB drive? I know how that works!

want to read a file? Boy can I help you! I know so many filesystems!!

I have 1.2 GB of RAM left on this machine if anyone wants it



JULIA
@b0rk
jvns.ca

- **Software Engineering**
- Theory & Algorithms
- Scientific programming

Designing, writing, testing and maintaining software:
(continued)

- Making programs correct & bug-free:
 - proofs of code logic correctness,
 - testing code,
 - programming languages & semantics,
 - reusable software libraries,
 - project management.

- Software Engineering
- **Theory & Algorithms**
- Scientific programming

- Software Engineering

- Theory & Algorithms

- Scientific programming

- *Cryptography* — keeping a secret.
Encryption that can't be cracked. Cracking it.
Authenticating (proving it's you):
trusting information, gaining access.
- *Storing & retrieving massive data* — databases,
text search, maps, graphic objects.

- Software Engineering
- Theory & Algorithms
- Scientific programming



Example: Binary search

How would you look up a name in the Manhattan phone directory?

- The dumb way: check every name
 $1,500,000 \text{ operations} \times 100 \mu\text{sec} = 2.5 \text{ minutes}$
- The smart way: start in the middle; repeat
 $\log_2 1,500,000 \text{ operations} \times 100 \mu\text{sec}$
 $= 21 \text{ operations} \times 100 \mu\text{sec} = .002 \text{ seconds!}$

- Software Engineering
- **Theory & Algorithms**
- Scientific programming

Distributed & parallel processing:

- Multiprocess **operating systems** [Cp.E.];
- Simultaneous access to your bank, Amazon, CCNY registration;
- Parallel processing [Cp.E.]: several CPUs access the same memory chips & keep the data correct;
- Multiple local machines read/write disk data: web farms, business, games.

scenes from distributed systems

<https://jvns.ca/blog/2016/11/10/a-few-drawings-about-linux/>

a "linearizable" system

(like etcd)

☺ I can has answer?

NO. can't you see we're having a leader election?

☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

an eventually consistent system

(like DNS)

☺ What's the IP for julia.com

right

1.1.1.1 ☺

2.2.2.2 ☺

... 2 hours later ...

Um, 1.1.1.1

(you can always get an answer though!)

replication is hard

☺ just copying data from my primary

secondary

hate to tell you but uh the primary changed 5 minutes ago

OMG

the network is fine BUT

☺ hi

actually I'm gonna garbage collect for 2 minutes no reply for you. ☹

clocks lie

☺ it's 5pm ☹ it's 5pm

... 2 minutes later ...

5:02 5:17

just got paged =>

☹ why.

with 1000s of machines... it gets weird

normal

{ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺
☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺
☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

☹ you would not BELIEVE what I'm doing right now

- Software Engineering
- Theory & Algorithms
- **Scientific programming**

- Software Engineering
- Theory & Algorithms
- **Scientific programming**

Math:

- Solve equations.
- Solve integrals.
- Approximate functions.
- Know accuracy.
- For graphics & on-screen motion,
driving physical objects & devices,
finding patterns, design & manufacturing.

- Software Engineering
- Theory & Algorithms
- **Scientific programming**

Image & signal processing [Cp.E.]:

- It's all just a sequence/array of numbers.
- Transmit, store, compress & get information from (noisy) images, video & sound.
- Render images & sound from conceptual representation. Graphics, voice synthesis.
- Process signals: zoom, blur, sharpen, EQ, echo.

- Software Engineering
- Theory & Algorithms
- **Scientific programming**

Image & signal processing:

- Optical Character Recognition,
- Face recognition,
- Voice recognition,
- Medical (volume, aim),
- Tracking (driving).

- Software Engineering
- Theory & Algorithms
- **Scientific programming**

~~Image & signal~~ **Data** processing:

- Machine learning
- Big data

- Computer Engineering:

- Hardware design (E.E.) —
from gates & flip-flops to CPUs, FPU's,
graphics drivers & cards, data buses, networks.
- Program code to run hardware (C.Sc.) —
networks, machine code & microcode & registers,
image & sound processing (in & out).
- Compilers — programming language converted to
machine code, CPU & registers (“architecture”).

```
#include <iostream>  
using namespace std;
```

```
int main ()  
{  
    cout << "Hello, world!\n";  
    return 0;  
}
```

```

.LC0:
0000 48656C6C      .string  "Hello, world!\n"
      6F2C2077
      6F726C64
      210A00

      .text
      .globl  main
main:
.LFB971:
      .cfi_startproc
0000 55            pushq   %rbp
      .cfi_def_cfa_offset 16
      .cfi_offset 6, -16
0001 4889E5        movq    %rsp, %rbp
      .cfi_def_cfa_register 6
0004 BE000000      movl    $.LC0, %esi
      00
0009 BF000000      movl    $_ZSt4cout, %edi
      00
000e E8000000      call   _ZStlsISt11char_traitsIcEERSt13basic_ostreamIcT_ES5_PKc
      00
0013 B8000000      movl    $0, %eax
      00
0018 5D            popq    %rbp
      .cfi_def_cfa 7, 8
0019 C3            ret
      .cfi_endproc

```

What does an operating system even do?

omg this "operating system" sure is helpful!

♥
your cool programs
♥

interface to the OS

Want to send 1 GB of data over a sketchy network connection without any mistakes? I know TCP!

you plugged in a rubber duck shaped USB drive? I know how that works!

hi keyboard, I see you're typing, I'll get those song lyrics to the right place

OPERATING SYSTEM

want to read a file? Boy can I help you! I know so many filesystems!!

27 programs all want to use the CPU & I only have 4 cores. You'll have to take turns!

I have 1.2 GB of RAM left on this machine if anyone wants it



JULIA
@b0rk
jvns.ca

Institutions / organizations / workplaces:

- Software companies sell code to others;
Device companies sell hardware (& code).
- Code & hardware used internally:
 - web departments & companies,
 - banks & finance,
 - manufacturing,
 - government (MTA, air traffic, IRS, purchasing),
 - medical & hospital,
 - telecommunications,
 - education & research.

I am:

Sam Fenster

www-cs.ccny.cuny.edu/~fenster/
fenster@ccny.cuny.edu



Friday lecture information (including these slides) is at:

www-cs.ccny.cuny.edu/~fenster/engr101



Check every week for changes or cancellations!