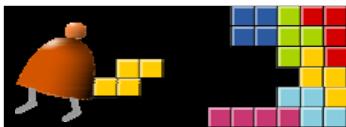


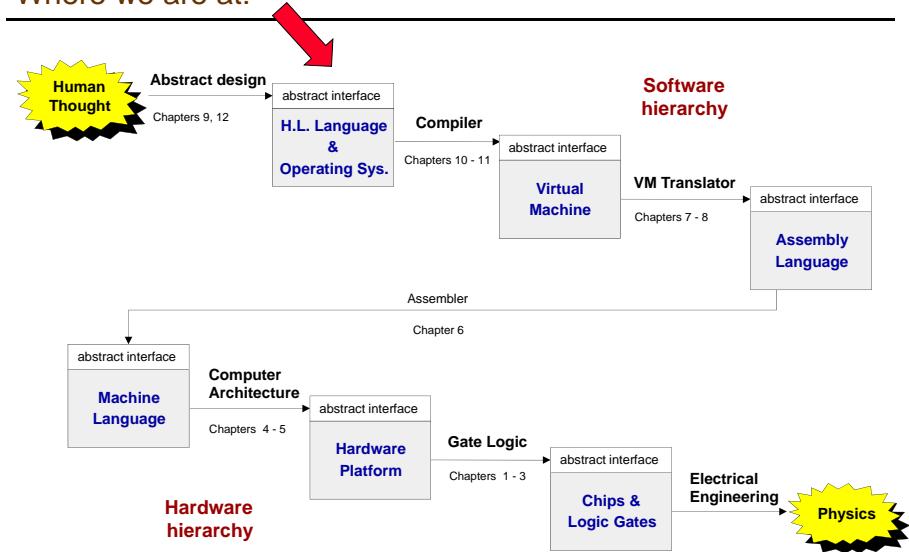
# High-Level Language



*Building a Modern Computer From First Principles*

[www.nand2tetris.org](http://www.nand2tetris.org)

## Where we are at:



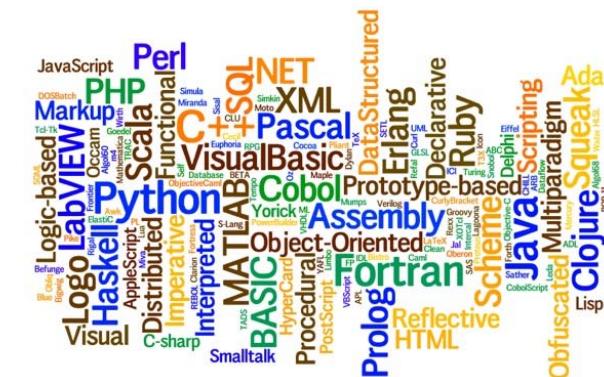
## Some milestones in the evolution of programming languages

- ❑ Machine language (binary code)
- ❑ Assembly language (low-level symbolic programming)
- ❑ Simple procedural languages, e.g. Fortran, Basic, Pascal, C
- ❑ Simple object-based languages (without inheritance),  
e.g. early versions of Visual Basic, JavaScript
- ❑ Fancy object-oriented languages (with inheritance):  
C++, Java, C#



## Programming languages

- Procedural programming (e.g. C, Fortran, Pascal)
- Object-oriented programming (e.g. C++, Java, Python)
- Functional programming (e.g. Lisp, ML, Haskell)
- Logic programming (e.g. Prolog)



## ML

- fun fac(x) = if x=0 then 1  
else x\*fac(x-1);
  
- fun length(L) =  
if (L=nil) then 0  
else 1+length(tl(L));

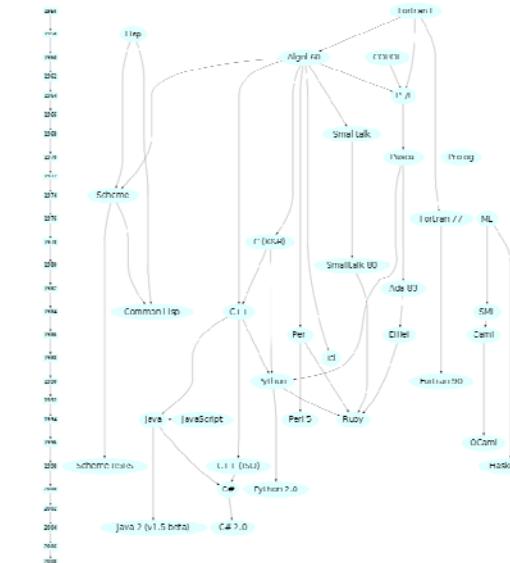
## Prolog

- Facts
  - human(kate).
  - human(bill).
  - likes(bill,kate).
  - likes(kate,john).
  - likes(john,kate).
  
- Rules
  - friend(X,Y) :- likes(X,Y),likes(Y,X).

## Prolog

- Absolute value
  - abs(X, X) :- X>=0, !.
  - abs(X, Y) :- Y is -X.
  
- ?- abs(-9,R).  
R=9
- ?- abs(-9,8).  
no
- Length of a list
  - my\_length([], 0).
  - my\_length([\_|T], R) :- my\_length(T, R1), R is R1+1.
  
- ?- my\_length([a, b, [c, d], e], R).  
R = 4

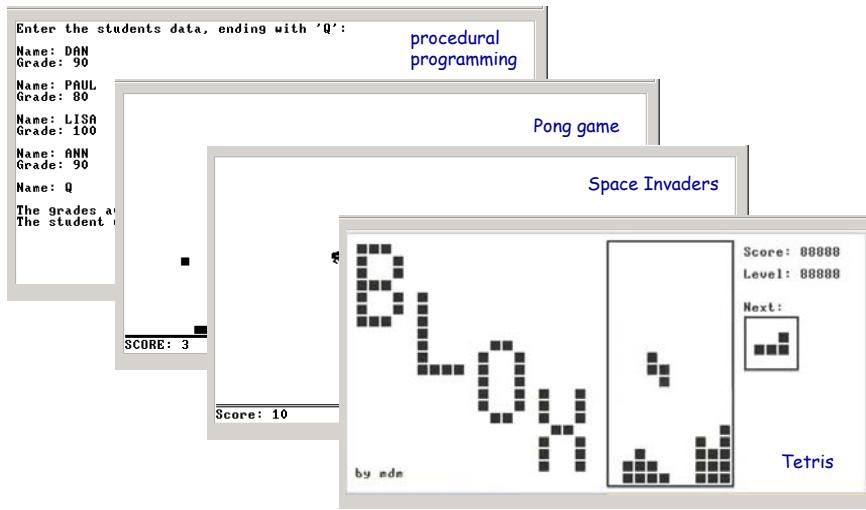
## Programming languages



## The Jack programming language

Jack: a simple, object-based, high-level language with a Java-like syntax

Some sample applications written in Jack:



Elements of Computing Systems, Nisan & Schocken, MIT Press, [www.nand2tetris.org](http://www.nand2tetris.org), Chapter 9: High-Level Language

slide 9

## Disclaimer

Although Jack is a real programming language, we don't view it as an *end*

Rather, we use Jack as a *means* for teaching:

- How to build a compiler
- How the compiler and the language interface with the operating system
- How the topmost piece in the software hierarchy fits into the big picture

Jack can be learned (and un-learned) in one hour.

Elements of Computing Systems, Nisan & Schocken, MIT Press, [www.nand2tetris.org](http://www.nand2tetris.org), Chapter 9: High-Level Language

slide 10

## Hello world

```
/** Hello World program. */
class Main {
    function void main () {
        // Prints some text using the standard library
        do Output.printString("Hello World");
        do Output.println();      // New line
        return;
    }
}
```

Some observations:

- ❑ Java-like syntax
- ❑ Typical comments format
- ❑ Standard library
- ❑ Language-specific peculiarities.

## Typical programming tasks in Jack

Jack can be used to develop any app that comes to my mind, for example:

- ❑ Procedural programming: a program that computes  $1 + 2 + \dots + n$
- ❑ Object-oriented programming: a class representing bank accounts
- ❑ Abstract data type representation: a class representing fractions (like  $2/5$ )
- ❑ Data structure representation: a class representing linked lists
- ❑ Etc.

We will now discuss the above app examples

As we do so, we'll begin to unravel how the magic of a high-level object-based language is delivered by the compiler and by the VM

These insights will serve us in the next lectures, when we build the Jack compiler.

## Procedural programming example

```
class Main {  
  
    /** Sums up 1 + 2 + 3 + ... + n */  
    function int sum (int n) {  
        var int sum, i;  
        let sum = 0;  
        let i = 1;  
        while (~(i > n)) {  
            let sum = sum + i;  
            let i = i + 1;  
        }  
        return sum;  
    }  
  
    function void main () {  
        var int n;  
        let n = Keyboard.readInt("Enter n: ");  
        do Output.printString("The result is: ");  
        do Output.printInt(sum(n));  
        return;  
    }  
}
```

Jack program = a collection of one or more classes

Jack class = a collection of one or more subroutines

Execution order: when we execute a Jack program, Main.main() starts running.

Jack subroutine:

- ❑ method
- ❑ constructor
- ❑ function (static method)  
(the example on the left has functions only, as it is "object-less")

Standard library: a set of OS services (methods and functions) organized in 8

supplied classes: Math, String, Array, Output, Keyboard, Screen, Memory, Sys (OS API in the book).

## Class design and compilation procedure

- Use Square as an example.
- Design a class: think of its
  - States: data members
  - Behaviors: function members
- Square
  - x, y, size
  - MoveUp, MoveDown, IncSize, ...

## Object-oriented programming example

### The BankAccount class (skeletal)

```
/** Represents a bank account.  
A bank account has an owner, an id, and a balance.  
The id values start at 0 and increment by 1 each  
time a new account is created. */  
  
class BankAccount {  
  
    /** Constructs a new bank account with a 0 balance. */  
    constructor BankAccount new(String owner)  
  
    /** Deposits the given amount in this account. */  
    method void deposit(int amount)  
  
    /** Withdraws the given amount from this account. */  
    method void withdraw(int amount)  
  
    /** Prints the data of this account. */  
    method void printInfo()  
  
    /** Disposes this account. */  
    method void dispose()  
}
```

## Object-oriented programming example (continues)

```
/** Represents a bank account. */  
  
class BankAccount {  
    // class-level variable  
    static int newAcctId;  
  
    // Private variables (aka fields / properties)  
    field int id;  
    field String owner;  
    field int balance;  
  
    /** Constructs a new bank account */  
    constructor BankAccount new (String owner) {  
        let id = newAcctId;  
        let newAcctId = newAcctId + 1;  
        let this.owner = owner;  
        let balance = 0;  
        return this; 2  
    }  
  
    // More BankAccount methods.  
}
```

// Code in any other class:  
var int x;  
var BankAccount b; 1  
let b = BankAccount.new("joe"); 3

### Explain return this

The constructor returns the RAM base address of the memory block that stores the data of the newly created BankAccount object

### Explain b = BankAccount.new("joe")

Calls the constructor (which creates a new BankAccount object), then stores in variable b a pointer to the object's base memory address

### Behind the scene (following compilation):

```
// b = BankAccount.new("joe")  
push "joe"  
call BankAccount.new  
pop b
```

Explanation: the calling code pushes an argument and calls the constructor; the constructor's code (not shown above) creates a new object, pushes its base address onto the stack, and returns;

The calling code then pops the base address into a variable that will now point to the new object.

## Object-oriented programming example (continues)

```
class BankAccount {
    static int nAccounts;

    field int id;
    field String owner;
    field int balance;

    // Constructor ... (omitted)

    /** Handles deposits */
    method void deposit (int amount) {
        let balance = balance + amount;
        return;
    }

    /** Handles withdrawals */
    method void withdraw (int amount){
        if (~(amount > balance)) {
            let balance = balance - amount;
        }
        return;
    }

    // More BankAccount methods.
}
```

```
...
var BankAccount b1, b2;
...
let b1 = BankAccount.new("joe");
let b2 = BankAccount.new("jane");
do b1.deposit(5000);
do b1.withdraw(1000);
...
```

### Explain do b1.deposit(5000)

- ❑ In Jack, void methods are invoked using the keyword **do** (a compilation artifact)
- ❑ The object-oriented method invocation style **b1.deposit(5000)** is a fancy way to express the procedural semantics **deposit(b1, 5000)**

### Behind the scene (following compilation):

```
// do b1.deposit(5000)
push b1
push 5000
call BankAccount.deposit
```

## Object-oriented programming example (continues)

```
class BankAccount {
    static int nAccounts;

    field int id;
    field String owner;
    field int balance;

    // Constructor ... (omitted)

    /** Prints information about this account. */
    method void printInfo () {
        do Output.printInt(id);
        do Output.printString(owner);
        do Output.printInt(balance);
        return;
    }

    /** Disposes this account. */
    method void dispose () {
        do Memory.deAlloc(this);
        return;
    }

    // More BankAccount methods.
}
```

```
// Code in any other class:
...
var int x;
var BankAccount b;

let b = BankAccount.new("joe");
// Manipulates b...
do b.printInfo();
do b.dispose();
...
```

### Explain do Memory.deAlloc(this)

This is a call to an OS function that knows how to recycle the memory block whose base-address is **this**. We will write this function when we develop the OS (project 12).

### Explain do b.dispose()

Jack has no garbage collection; The programmer is responsible for explicitly recycling memory resources of objects that are no longer needed. If you don't do so, you may run out of memory.

## Abstract data type example

### The Fraction class API (method signatures)

```
/** Represents a fraction data type.
A fraction consists of a numerator and a denominator, both int values */

class Fraction {

    /** Constructs a fraction from the given data */
    constructor Fraction new(int numerator, int denominator)

    /** Reduces this fraction, e.g. changes 20/100 to 1/5. */
    method void reduce()

    /** Accessors
    method int getNumerator()
    method int getDenominator()

    /** Returns the sum of this fraction and the other one */
    method Fraction plus(Fraction other)

    /** Returns the product of this fraction and the other one */
    method Fraction product(Fraction other)

    /** Prints this fraction */
    method void print()

    /** Disposes this fraction */
    method void dispose()
}
```

## Abstract data type example (continues)

```
/** Represents a fraction data type.
A fraction consists of a numerator and a denominator, both int values */
class Fraction {
    field int numerator, denominator;

    constructor Fraction new (int numerator, int denominator) {
        let this.numerator = numerator;
        let this.denominator = denominator;
        do reduce() // Reduces the new fraction
        return this
    }

    /** Reduces this fraction */
    method void reduce () {
        // Code omitted
    }

    // A static method that computes the greatest common denominator of a and b.
    function int gcd (int a, int b) {
        // Code omitted
    }

    method int getNumerator () {
        return numerator;
    }

    method int getDenominator () {
        return denominator;
    }

    // More Fraction methods follow.
}
```

```
// Code in any other class:
...
var Fraction a, b;
let a = Fraction.new(2,5);
let b = Fraction.new(70,210);
do b.print() // prints "1/3"
...
// (print method in next slide)
```

## Abstract data type example (continues)

```
/** Represents a fraction data type.
A fraction consists of a numerator and a denominator, both int values */
class Fraction {
    field int numerator, denominator;

    // Constructor and previously defined methods omitted

    /** Returns the sum of this fraction the other one */
    method Fraction plus (Fraction other) {
        var int sum;
        let sum = (numerator * other.getDenominator()) +
                  (other.getNumerator() * denominator());
        return Fraction.new(sum , denominator * other.getDenominator());
    }

    // Similar fraction arithmetic methods follow, code omitted.

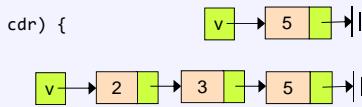
    /** Prints this fraction */
    method void print () {
        do Output.printInt(numerator);
        do Output.printString("/");
        do Output.printInt(denominator);
        return
    }
}
```

// Code in any other class:  
var Fraction a, b, c;  
let a = Fraction.new(2,3);  
let b = Fraction.new(1,5);  
// computes c = a + b  
let c = a.plus(b);  
do c.print(); // prints "13/15"

## Data structure example

```
/** Represents a sequence of int values, implemented as a linked list.
The list consists of an atom, which is an int value,
and a tail, which is either a list or a null value. */
class List {
    field int data;
    field List next;
```

```
/* Creates a new list */
constructor List new (int car, List cdr) {
    let data = car;
    let next = cdr;
    return this;
}
```



```
/* Disposes this list by recursively disposing its tail. */
method void dispose() {
    if (~(next = null)) {
        do next.dispose();
    }
    do Memory.deAlloc(this);
    return;
}
...
} // class List.
```

// Code in any other class:  
...  
// Creates a list holding the numbers 2,3, and 5:  
var List v;  
let v = List.new(5 , null);  
let v = List.new(2 , List.new(3,v));  
...

## Jack language specification

- ❑ Syntax
- ❑ Data types
- ❑ Variable kinds
- ❑ Expressions
- ❑ Statements
- ❑ Subroutine calling
- ❑ Program structure
- ❑ Standard library

(for complete language specification, see the book).

## Jack syntax

<b>White space and comments</b>	Space characters, newline characters, and comments are ignored. The following comment formats are supported: <pre>// Comment to end of line /* Comment until closing */ /** API documentation comment */</pre>
<b>Symbols</b>	<pre>( )</pre> Used for grouping arithmetic expressions and for enclosing parameter-lists and argument-lists <pre>[ ]</pre> Used for array indexing; <pre>{ }</pre> Used for grouping program units and statements; <pre>,</pre> Variable list separator; <pre>;</pre> Statement terminator; <pre>=</pre> Assignment and comparison operator; <pre>.</pre> Class membership; <pre>+ - * / &amp;   ~ &lt; &gt;</pre> Operators.
<b>Reserved words</b>	<pre>class, constructor, method, function</pre> Program components <pre>int, boolean, char, void</pre> Primitive types <pre>var, static, field</pre> Variable declarations <pre>let, do, if, else, while, return</pre> Statements <pre>true, false, null</pre> Constant values <pre>this</pre> Object reference

## Jack syntax (continues)

Constants	<i>Integer</i> constants must be positive and in standard decimal notation, e.g., 1984. Negative integers like -13 are not constants but rather expressions consisting of a unary minus operator applied to an integer constant.
	<i>String</i> constants are enclosed within two quote ("") characters and may contain any characters except <i>newline</i> or <i>double-quote</i> . (These characters are supplied by the functions <code>String.newLine()</code> and <code>String.doubleQuote()</code> from the standard library.)
	<i>Boolean</i> constants can be <code>true</code> or <code>false</code> .

Identifiers	The constant <code>null</code> signifies a null reference.
	Identifiers are composed from arbitrarily long sequences of letters (a-z, a-z), digits (0-9), and “_”. The first character must be a letter or “_”. The language is case sensitive. Thus <code>x</code> and <code>X</code> are treated as different identifiers.

## Jack data types

<u>Primitive types</u>	(Part of the language; Realized by the compiler):
□ <code>int</code>	16-bit 2's complement (from -32768 to 32767)
□ <code>boolean</code>	0 and -1, standing for true and false
□ <code>char</code>	unicode character ('a', 'x', '+', '%', ...)

<u>Abstract data types</u>	(Standard language extensions; Realized by the OS / standard library):
□ <code>String</code>	
□ <code>Array</code>	
... (extensible)	

<u>Application-specific types</u>	(User-defined; Realized by user applications):
□ <code>BankAccount</code>	
□ <code>Fraction</code>	
□ <code>List</code>	
□ <code>Bat / Ball</code>	
... (as needed)	

## Jack variable kinds and scope

Variable kind	Definition / Description	Declared in	Scope
Static variables	<b>static</b> type name1, name2, ... ; Only one copy of each static variable exists, and this copy is shared by all the object instances of the class (like <i>private static variables</i> in Java)	Class declaration.	The class in which they are declared.
Field variables	<b>field</b> type name1, name2, ... ; Every object instance of the class has a private copy of the field variables (like <i>private object variables</i> in Java)	Class declaration.	The class in which they are declared, except for functions.
Local variables	<b>var</b> type name1, name2, ... ; Local variables are allocated on the stack when the subroutine is called and freed when it returns (like <i>local variables</i> in Java)	Subroutine declaration.	The subroutine in which they are declared.
Parameter variables	type name1, name2, ... Used to specify inputs of subroutines, for example: <code>function void drive (Car c, int miles)</code>	Appear in parameter lists as part of subroutine declarations.	The subroutine in which they are declared.

## Jack expressions

A Jack expression is any one of the following:

- A constant
- A variable name in scope (the variable may be static, field, local, or a parameter)
- The keyword `this`, denoting the current object
- An array element using the syntax `arrayName[expression]`, where `arrayName` is a variable name of type `Array` in scope
- A subroutine call that returns a non-void type
- An expression prefixed by one of the unary operators - or ~:
  - expression (arithmetic negation)
  - ~expression (logical negation)
- An expression of the form `expression op expression` where `op` is one of the following:
  - + - \* / (integer arithmetic operators)
  - & | (boolean and and or operators, bit-wise)
  - < > = (comparison operators)
  - ( expression ) (an expression within parentheses)

## Jack Statements

```
let varName = expression;  
or  
let varName[expression] = expression;
```

```
if (expression) {  
    statements  
}  
else {  
    statements  
}
```

```
while (expression) {  
    statements  
}
```

```
do function-or-method-call;
```

```
return expression;  
or  
return;
```

## Jack subroutine calls

General syntax: subroutineName(arg0, arg1, ...)

where each argument is a valid Jack expression

Parameter passing is *by-value* (primitive types) or *by-reference* (object types)

Example 1:

Consider the function (static method): function int sqrt(int n)

This function can be invoked as follows:

```
sqrt(17)  
sqrt(x)  
sqrt((b * b) - (4 * a * c))  
sqrt(a * sqrt(c - 17) + 3)
```

Etc. In all these examples the argument value is computed and passed by-value

Example 2:

Consider the method: method Matrix plus (Matrix other);

If u and v were variables of type Matrix, this method can be invoked using: u.plus(v)

The v variable is passed by-reference, since it refers to an object.

## Noteworthy features of the Jack language

- ❑ The (cumbersome) let keyword, as in let x = 0;
- ❑ The (cumbersome) do keyword, as in do reduce();
- ❑ No operator priority:  
    1 + 2 \* 3 yields 9, since expressions are evaluated left-to-right;  
    To effect the commonly expected result, use 1 + (2 \* 3)
- ❑ Only three primitive data types: int, boolean, char;  
    In fact, each one of them is treated as a 16-bit value
- ❑ No casting: a value of any type can be assigned to a variable of any type
- ❑ Array declaration: Array x; followed by x = Array.new();
- ❑ Static methods are called function
- ❑ Constructor methods are called constructor;  
    Invoking a constructor is done using the syntax *ClassName*.new(*argsList*)

Q: Why did we introduce these features into the Jack language?

A: To make the writing of the Jack compiler easy!

Any one of these language features can be modified, with a reasonable amount of work,  
to make them conform to a more typical Java-like syntax.

## Jack program structure

```
class ClassName {  
    field variable declarations;  
    static variable declarations;  
    constructor type { parameterList } {  
        local variable declarations;  
        statements  
    }  
    method type { parameterList } {  
        local variable declarations;  
        statements  
    }  
    function type { parameterList } {  
        local variable declarations;  
        statements  
    }  
}
```

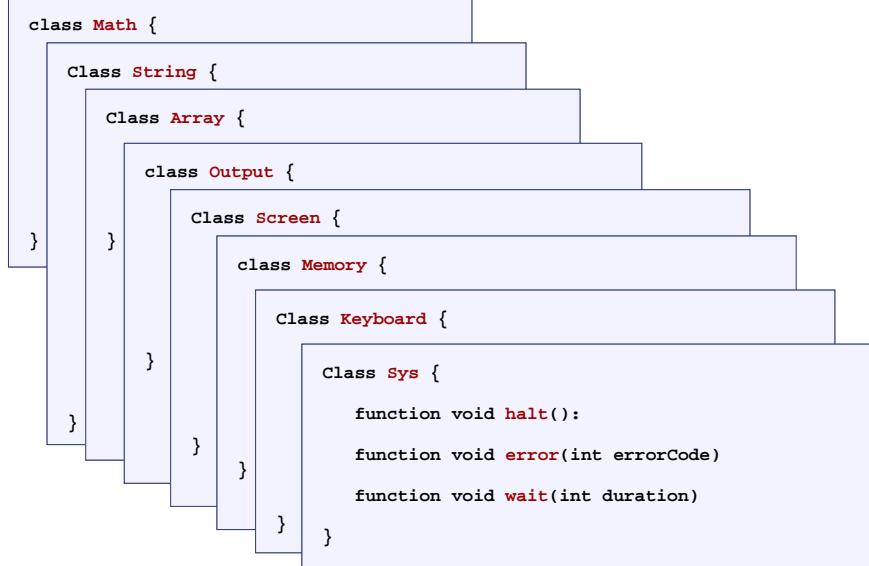
About this spec:

- ❑ Every part in this spec can appear 0 or more times
- ❑ The order of the field / static declarations is arbitrary
- ❑ The order of the subroutine declarations is arbitrary
- ❑ Each type is either int, boolean, char, or a class name.

A Jack program:

- ❑ Each class is written in a separate file (compilation unit)
- ❑ Jack program = collection of one or more classes, one of which must be named Main
- ❑ The Main class must contain at least one method, named main()

## Jack standard library aka language extensions aka Jack OS



## Perspective

- Jack is an object-based language: no inheritance
- Primitive type system (3 types)
- Standard library
- Our hidden agenda: gearing up to learn how to develop the ...
  - Compiler (projects 10 and 11)
  - OS (project 12).