FORTRAN

FORTRAN Concepts/Contributions

- Binding time
- Separate compilation
- Modules
- Retention (data)
- Initialization of data objects
- Strong/weak typing (FORTRAN definitely weak!)
- Auto declaration
- Operator overloading
- Aliasing (in common blocks)
- Coercion

FORTRAN Design Considerations

- Underlying hardware
- Efficiency (time)
 - direct translation to machine ops
 - optimization
 - DO loops
 - array subscripting
- Efficiency (space)
 - equivalence
 - common
 - flat structure (no recursion)

04 February 1999; CS655

FORTRAN & Design Principles

- Abstraction (control)
- Defense in depth (assigned, computed GOTO; DO loop)
- Structure (goto's)
- Syntactic consistency (two goto types)
- Preservation of information (DO loop)
- Zero-one-infinity (array dims, identifier length)
- Regularity (strings are second class)

FORTRAN: Interesting Problems

- Array subscripting
 - limit of three dimensions
 - limit on subscript expressions
- Parameter passing
 - reference as implemented is dangerous (expr actuals)
- Computed/Assigned GOTO's
- Syntax
 - space compression combined with no key words DO 10 I = 1.10
 - DO 10 I = 1,10



ALGOL was indeed an achievement. It was a significant advance on most of its successors.

--Alan Perlis

04 February 1999; CS655

ALGOL60

- Design by committee -- US/Europe -- 1957
- Goals:
 - Machine independence
 - Improve RE: FORTRAN's established flaws
 - One standard to end "proliferation" of languages
- Model of Computation:
 - Static block structure (gave additional control over name space)
 - Recursion [multiple instances of same routine(s)] --birth of stack model





ALGOL60 Types

- Primitive types:
 - real, integer, boolean, strings (2nd class)
 - no dub precision (for machine independence)
 - no complex
- Constructors:
 - arrays only
 - arbitrary bounds
 - arbitrary dimensions



- arbitrary subscripts
 - includes functions and other array refs
- dynamic sizing on block entry



ALGOL60 Imperatives

- Imperatives:
 - Computational, control flow, no I/O
- Computational-
 - assignment much more general than FORTRAN's fac:= IF x <= 1 THEN 1 ELSE x*fac(x-1)
- Control flow-
 - Conditional had awkward inconsistency:
 - IF ~ THEN s1 ELSE ~ -- s1 can't be cond'l

--violates regularity











