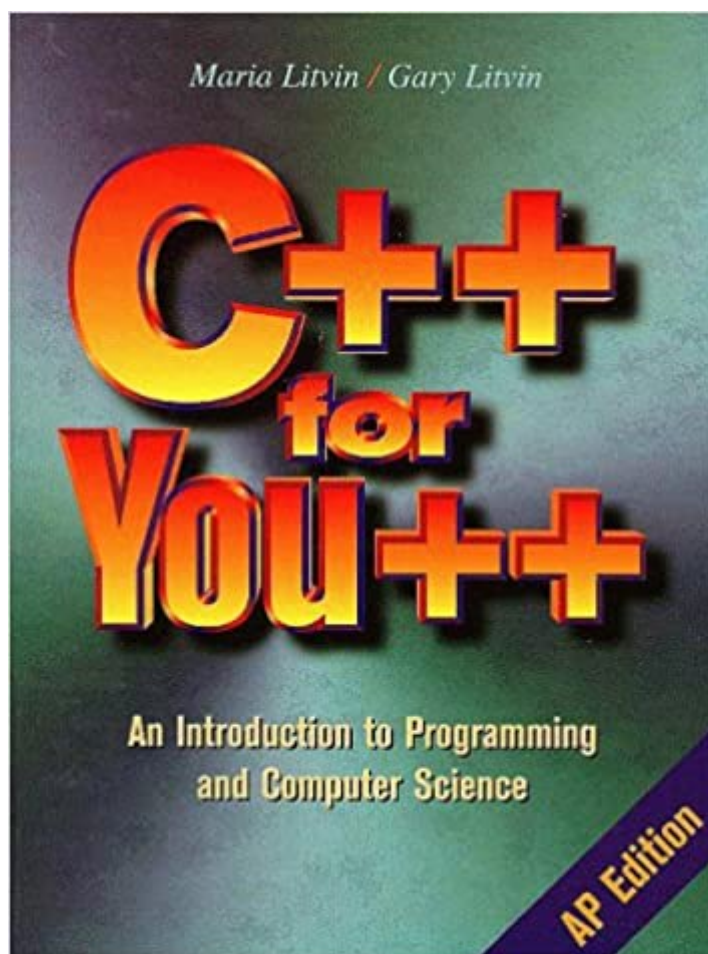


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C++ For You++: An Introduction To Programming And Computer Science



Synopsis

An introductory text for beginners unfamiliar with C++ or computer science.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An introductory text for beginners unfamiliar with C++ or computer science.

Even though this book is old its an excellent tool for self taught C++. Unlike most books today this starts off with the extreme basics and builds quickly on what you learn. Written like it was for high school or computers 101, This book is really timeless.

C++ for You++ is a wonderful book. I don't know what the people who gave it 1/5 stars were thinking. The difference between it and other introductory books becomes apparent from the very beginning of the book. The typical approach in intro programming books is to begin with a completely useless "Hello World" program. I don't know about others, but I generally feel like I'm being talked down to if the book assumes that I am too dumb to be able to understand anything more. People learn a language not to write "hello world", but useful, more complex code. C++ For You++ starts off with a "dictionary" program. At first glance, this looks overwhelming. But as one starts to read the explanations and description that the book gives of what all the pieces of code do, and how they interact, it reason and meaning of the code becomes apparent. This approach allows for a very rapid ascent to a level where very useful programs can be written. Other books I have

read waste much more time pre-chewing everything for the student, and take a lot longer to start giving useful information. When I picked up this book, my programming experience was confined to a very superficial study of Pascal (a couple of weeks worth of studying). Using this book, I was mastered enough C++ in three weeks to be able to outcompete the other AP C++ students in my class, who had had a *year* of high school level C/C++ class time, and were were using other books. The examples and problems given are also excellent. Someone complained they are too hard. That's not true. They take thought, that is true, but isn't that the whole point? And we all know how brilliant those programmers at big companies such as the one referred to by one of the reviewers always are, don't we? ;-) Oh yes. This book covers some things that are NOT on the AP test (namely inheritance), in addition to the stuff on it. I think this was a great decision on the part of the authors, as inheritance is a fundamental part of C++ and OOP. Most books out there are mere study aids for the AP test. This book actually teaches people to program in C++. And once you know C++, then it isn't much of a problem to demolish the AP test.

I used this text to prepare for the 1999 AP Computer Science examination. I found it to be excellent preparation for the exam. However, it must be noted that the text takes many topics beyond the depth required in the exam and if using the text solely for AP preparation, then the AP syllabus should be used as a guide as to how much to emphasize each topic. If the book is thoroughly gone through entirely though, it provides an excellent background for students studying technical fields at the collegiate level. I had not had any C++ experience prior to using this text, but I did have experience with other programming languages. The subtitle "An Introduction to Programming and Computer Science" may give the impression that the book is for beginning high school programmers. This is not the case though. This book is for students who have elementary programming experience in high school and would like to go beyond this to study computer programming at the collegiate level. The material covered in this text is consistent with introductory programming courses taught in college.

This book suffers from the fatal flaw of not being written in English. In addition, the poorly organized chapters lapse into unneeded technobabble, confusing the beginner with a technical discussion of the IEEE representation of a 4 byte number and such. There is no clear progression of ideas in this book. The first examples of programming include code far far too advanced for a beginner. This intimidates a beginner and leads to confusion and frustration. The very first example of c++ code in this book is a 400 line beast that uses classes, strings, booleans, and call by reference. As if that

wasn't bad enough, the written descriptions frequently collapse into messes of hopelessly convoluted grammar and vague pronouns. If you hold it to your ear, you can almost hear the anguished screams of real writers everywhere. In addition, the end chapter tests frequently contain questions that are misleading, vague, obscure, and just plain dumb. The workbook (sold separately) is slightly better but still lacking. My advice is to buy Savitch's problem solving with c++. It's a great book and helped me to master c++ quite quickly and to move onto Java with confidence.

This is a pretty good book to prepare for Ap Computer Science. It thoroughly covers all of the topics included on A and AB Computer Science exam. Most of the schools teach only up to A level, but if you want to save some money and time, purchase this book, study, and take the AB exam.

Although pointers seem to confuse most of the beginning programmers (and some decide become physiology teachers), it's really not that hard. A good book to accompany this one, is Visual C++ for Dummies. Also, I highly recommend to download a couple of AP exams and practice with them... The only regret of this book is, that as an independently learning student you do not receive complete answers to most of the project assignments used in this book.

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