

JUMPSTART TO SoC

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PREFACE

The Preparatory Course for Programming, conducted by Dr Heng Aik Koan and myself in June/July of 1999, 2000 and 2001, was intended to bring a more pleasant experience to new international students enrolling into the School of Computing, the motivation being that the first programming module is often a tough nut to crack for many freshmen, especially for those who have to cope with the new environment and culture in their first few months after arrival.

There are two components of this preparatory course, one aimed at the Computing students taking CS1101, and the other at the Computer Engineering students taking CS1101C (this joint Computer Engineering programme under School of Computing and Faculty of Engineering has since been discontinued. Our Computer Engineering students now take CS1101 as well). The first part of the course touched on some common issues faced by both groups, such as the series of challenges facing new students. This book addresses these issues.

This book, *Jumpstart to SoC*, collects the first five chapters of the preparatory course. In this book, I have chosen to exclude certain areas from discussion. Concerns and queries over curriculum matters are best answered through the various existing channels such as the School's website. The freshmen guide, prepared by your kind seniors, contains more complete and up-to-date information and tips on non-academic and leisure aspects such as dial-up numbers and the best food in NUS.

Introductory materials on programming, which are included in the original write-up, have been omitted in this book. These materials should be covered in the actual module.

I have tried to put together here what I thought are useful tips for freshmen. But this is largely my guess, as our freshmen come from diverse background and have vastly different needs. I therefore wish for generous feedback from you, to help make the information of real benefit for future batches of students. The margins of the book are all ready to be filled with your 'graffiti'. Just send in your note, be it serious advice or light-hearted comments. You may request for anonymity, if you so wish.

May I wish all of you an enriching and enjoyable stay in NUS!

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