

Esoteric Languages

A Journey through Programming

Dotfiles by Jarrod Taylor

If you want your terminal / tmux / vim to look and work as awesome as mine:

<https://github.com/JarrodCTaylor/dotfiles.git>

Make sure you disable vim-hardtime and create a github issue to have it removed from the source.

Esolangs: Why?

1. Humor / Jokes

1.1. Ook!

2. Artistic Expression

2.1. Piet

3. Exploration of Computer Science

3.1. BrainFuck (BF)

3.2. Malbolge

3.3. Befunge

What is a Programming Language?

- Turing Completeness
- Turing Machines
 - Infinite Tape divided into cells.
 - Numbers which are ‘computable’ by instructions
 - Instructions include:
 - Move Left, Right
 - Mark Cell with zero, mark cell with 1
 - Rules on when to do the above.

For more information: [Charles Petzold's Book](#)

BF

BF is the most widely known and ‘commonly’ used esolang. Only has 8 instructions. Hello world:

```
+++++[>++++[>++>+++>+++>+<<<<-]>+>+>->>+[<]<-]>>.>---.+++++++.+++.>>.<-.<.++  
+.-.----.----.>>+.>++.
```

BF - Instructions

Instruction (Function)

```
> (Move Data Pointer right one cell  
< (Move Data Pointer left one cell  
+ (Increment cell value by one )  
- (Decrement cell value by one)  
. (Output the byte value at the current cell)  
, (Accept one cell of value as input)  
[ (if the byte at the data pointer is zero, then instead of moving the instruction pointer  
forward to the next command, jump it forward to the command after the matching ] command.)  
] (if the byte at the data pointer is nonzero, then instead of moving the instruction pointer  
forward to the next command, jump it back to the command after the matching [ command.)
```

Source: [Wikipedia](#)

Ook!

Ook! is a mapping to BF - It has 8 instructions that perform the exact same functions as BF.

Hello world:

Ook! - Instructions

[Esolangs.org Ook! Instructions Table](#)

Piet

Piet is a programming language based on images.

Hello world:



Source: [Esolangs.org Piet Entry](#)

Piet - Examples

Prime Number Test:



Source: [Npiet Project](#)

Befunge

Befunge is a programming language written in two dimensions. Traditional programming languages are written in one dimension.

Sieve of Eratosthenes:

```
2>:3g" "-!v\ g30      <
|!" "O":+1_:::03p>03g+:"O" ` |
@          ^ p3\" ":<
2 23456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234567890123456789
```

Befunge - Example

Befunge-like execution pattern video

Source: Max Cahill (@1bardesign)

Whitespace

Whitespace is a language that consists of only whitespace. Has a stack and a heap plus an advanced instruction set, making it more sophisticated than BF. Good for hiding programs within other programs.

Examples in the terminal!

Malbolge

The best esolang. Designed to make writing programs as difficult as possible. Has applications as an obfuscated programming language, and is best approached as a cryptosystem.

Source: [Lou Scheffer's Cryptanalysis of Malbolge](#)

Malbolge - Keyspace search

It took two years from when the language was designed to when the first program was written. First program was “hello world”, and was found by a genetic algorithm doing a keyspace search for Malbolge programs.

Malbolge - Hello World

Original “Hello world”

```
(=<`$9]7<5YXz7wT.3,+O/o'K%$H"''~D|#z@b=`{^Lx8%$Xmrkpohm-kNi  
;gsedcba`_^\[ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDECBA@?>=<;:9876543s+O<  
oLm
```

Refactored “Hello world”

```
(=<`#9]~6ZY32Vx/4Rs+0No-&Jk) "Fh } | Bcy?`=*z]Kw%oG4UUS0/@-ejc  
(:'8dc
```

Sources: [Original By Andrew Cooke](#)

[Refactored By Matthias Ernst](#)

Malbolge For ICC14

```
bCBA@?>=<;:9876543210/.-,+*) ('&%$#"!~} | {zyxwvutsrqponmlkjihgfedba`^]\ [ZY  
XWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA@?>=<;:9y765432+0/.-,+*) i'&}C{"!~w={zyxwYutsrqponm  
lkjiha'Hdcba`^]\ [ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFED=a;@?>7[|:981U543210/.-,+*) ('&%$#  
"!~} | {zyxwvutsrqponmlkjihgfedba`^]\ [ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA@?>=<;:987  
6543210/.-,+*) ('&%$#"!~} | {zyxwvutsrqponmlkjihgfedcE`^]\ [ZYXWVUT6RKoONML.  
JIHAeEDCBA@?8\<;:9y70T43210/.-,+*) ('&%$#"!~} | {z\xq7utVrqj0nmlkjihJfedcba`  
^W{[ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA@?>=<;:9876543210/.-,+*) ('&%$#"!~} | {zyxwvuts  
rqponmlkjihgfedcE"C^]\ [ZYXQuUTSRQJONMLEiIHAFEDCB; ?>=<|:981U543210/.-,+*)  
('&%$#"!~} | {zyxwvutsrqponmlkjihgfedcE"C^]\ [ZYXQuUTSRQPOHMLKJIHG@ddCBA@?>=  
<;{3W1654-Q10/.-,+*) ('&%$#"!~} | {zyxwvutsrqponmlkjihgfedcba`_^]\ [ZYXWVUTSRQ  
POlly
```

Algorithm: Malbolge Keyspace Algorithm by Matthias Ernst

Malbolge - Real Language?

Malbolge relies on a predetermined stack size of 59049. Because of this, it isn't Turing Complete - some will argue it meets the “practical definition” of Turing Completeness, but this is bogus.

Malbolge - 99 Bottles of Beer

The most insane thing ever:

Hisashi Iizawa's 99 Bottles of Beer Program in
Malbolge

Proof basic arithmetic is possible in Malbolge,
which indicates more complicated programs
are possible.

Malbolge Interpreters:

Lou Scheffer's copy of the original Malbolge interpreter

My Node.js translation

My iOS Malbolge Interpreter

Questions?

For more information, check out:

<http://esolangs.org>

And follow me on twitter: @nstarke

<https://github.com/nstarke>