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Lecture #26

16.070

Basics of Optimizing Software



The usual philosophy

- There are two rules for when to optimize:
 1. Don't do it!
 2. (for experts only) Don't do it yet!

Michael A. Jackson, c.1975

Don't think about optimization until you have a working system

- Make sure before you begin that your solution will fit on the target application
 - Estimate code size, run time, constraints
 - Engineer the solution before you start coding
- Once you start coding, get a working solution before trimming time/space
- Optimization takes a lot of time and brainwork. Make sure it's absolutely necessary
- It also sacrifices readability, maintainability, and portability.