**Unit – 1**

**Introduction to C**

**Introduction and Overview**

**'C' History and Background**

• C was developed at Bell Laboratories as a general-purpose systems

programming language.

• It has been used in the development of the UNIX™ operating system and has

grown in importance with the growth of UNIX™.

• It is a third generation, 'high level' programming language, that is particularly

good at producing fast, efficient code.

• It is sometimes termed a "low-level high-level language" or "high level

assembly language".

This is because it has:

(1) The control constructs (eg. if, while) and structured data types (eg.

arrays, records) found in high level languages,

(2) Facilities normally only found in low level languages (eg. bit

manipulation and use of register variables) .

• Like other high-level languages, it is more portable and maintainable than

assembly language

It is better than most other high level languages in this respect.

• Unfortunately, its rather cryptic syntax does not make the code as 'readable' as

most other high level languages.