Lecture 5: C programming

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In 1972 Dennis Ritchie at Bell Labs writes C and in 1978 the publication of *The C Programming Language* by Kernighan & Ritchie caused a revolution in the computing world.
Why C?

- Mainly because it produces code that runs nearly as fast as code written in assembly language. Some examples of the use of C might be:
  - Operating Systems
  - Language Compilers
  - Assemblers
  - Text Editors
  - Print Spoolers
  - Network Drivers
  - Language Interpreters
  - Utilities
Your first goal: Learn C!

- **Resources**
  - These lectures
  - Additional online resources

- **Learning a Programming Language**
  - The best way to learn is to write programs
C: A High-Level Language

• **Gives symbolic names to values**
  – don’t need to know which register or memory location

• **Provides abstraction of underlying hardware**
  – operations do not depend on instruction set
  – example: can write “a = b * c”, even though the hardware may not have a multiply instruction

• **Provides expressiveness**
  – use meaningful symbols that convey meaning
  – simple expressions for common control patterns (if-then-else)

• **Enhances code readability**

• **Safeguards against bugs**
  – can enforce rules or conditions at compile-time or run-time
Compilation vs. Interpretation

• Different ways of translating high-level language

• **Interpretation**
  – interpreter = program that executes program statements
  – generally one line/command at a time
  – limited processing
  – easy to debug, make changes, view intermediate results
  – languages: LISP, Perl, Matlab, shell

• **Compilation**
  – translates statements into machine language
    • does not execute, but creates executable program
  – performs optimization over multiple statements
  – change requires recompilation
    • can be harder to debug, since executed code may be different
  – languages: C, C++, Fortran, Haskell, Erlang, ...
Compilation vs. Interpretation

• Consider the following algorithm:
  - Get \( W \) from the keyboard.
  - \( X = W + W \)
  - \( Y = X + X \)
  - \( Z = Y + Y \)
  - Print \( Z \) to screen.

• If interpreting, how many arithmetic operations occur?

• If compiling, we can analyze the entire program and possibly reduce the number of operations. Can we simplify the above algorithm to use a single arithmetic operation?
Compiling a C Program

• Entire mechanism is usually called the “compiler”

• Preprocessor
  – macro substitution
  – conditional compilation
  – “source-level” transformations
    • output is still C

• Compiler + Assembler
  – generates object file
    • machine instructions

• Linker
  – combine object files (including libraries) into executable image
Compiler

• **Source Code Analysis**
  – “front end”
  – parses programs to identify its pieces
    • variables, expressions, statements, functions, etc.
  – depends on language (not on target machine)

• **Code Generation**
  – “back end”
  – generates machine code from analyzed source
  – may optimize machine code to make it run more efficiently
  – very dependent on target machine

• **Symbol Table**
  – map between symbolic names and items
A Simple C Program

#include <stdio.h>
#define STOP 0

/* Function: main                                    */
/* Description: counts down from user input to STOP */
main()
{
    /* variable declarations */
    int counter;  /* an integer to hold count values */
    int startPoint; /* starting point for countdown */

    /* prompt user for input */
    printf("Enter a positive number: ");
    scanf("%d", &startPoint);  /* read into startPoint */

    /* count down and print count */
    for (counter=startPoint; counter >= STOP; counter--)
        printf("%d\n", counter);
}
Preprocessor Directives

- `#include <stdio.h>`
  - Before compiling, copy contents of header file (stdio.h) into source code.
  - Header files typically contain descriptions of functions and variables needed by the program.
    - no restrictions -- could be any C source code

- `#define STOP 0`
  - Before compiling, replace all instances of the string "STOP" with the string "0"
  - Called a macro
  - Used for values that won't change during execution, but might change if the program is reused. (Must recompile.)
Comments

• Begins with /* and ends with */

• Can span multiple lines
• Cannot have a comment within a comment
• Comments are not recognized within a string
  – example: "my/*don't print this*/string"
    would be printed as: my/*don't print this*/string

• Use comments to help reader, not to confuse or to restate the obvious
main Function

• Every C program must have a function called `main()`.

• This is the code that is executed when the program runs.

• The code for the function lives within brackets:

```c
main()
{
    /* code goes here */
}
```
Variable Declarations

- Variables are used as names for data items.
- Each variable has a **type**, which tells the compiler how the data is to be interpreted (and how much space it needs, etc.).

- `int counter;`
- `int startPoint;`

- `int` is a predefined integer type in C.
Input and Output

• Variety of I/O functions in *C Standard Library*.  
  • Must include `<stdio.h>` to use them.

• `printf("%d\n", counter);`  
  – String contains characters to print and formatting directions for variables.  
  – This call says to print the variable `counter` as a decimal integer, followed by a linefeed (`\n`).

• `scanf("%d", &startPoint);`  
  – String contains formatting directions for looking at input.  
  – This call says to read a decimal integer and assign it to the variable `startPoint`. (Don't worry about the `&` yet.)
More About Output

- Can print arbitrary expressions, not just variables
  
  ```c
  printf("%d\n", startPoint - counter);
  ```

- Print multiple expressions with a single statement
  
  ```c
  printf("%d %d\n", counter, startPoint - counter);
  ```

- Different formatting options:
  - `%d` decimal integer
  - `%x` hexadecimal integer
  - `%c` ASCII character
  - `%f` floating-point number
Examples

• This code:
  
  ```
  printf("%d is a prime number.\n", 43);
  printf("43 + 59 in decimal is %d.\n", 43+59);
  printf("43 + 59 in hex is %x.\n", 43+59);
  printf("43 + 59 as a character is %c.\n", 43+59);
  ```

• produces this output:
  
  ```
  43 is a prime number.
  43 + 59 in decimal is 102.
  43 + 59 in hex is 66.
  43 + 59 as a character is f.
  ```
Examples of Input

• Many of the same formatting characters are available for user input.

• `scanf("%c", &nextChar);`
  – reads a single character and stores it in `nextChar`

• `scanf("%f", &radius);`
  – reads a floating point number and stores it in `radius`

• `scanf("%d %d", &length, &width);`
  – reads two decimal integers (separated by whitespace), stores the first one in `length` and the second in `width`

• Must use ampersand (`&`) for variables being modified.
Compiling and Linking

Call the compiler, assembler, and the linker.

You want the executable generated to be named “myprog”. If you do not specify a name, “a.out” will be generated.

```
gcc -o myprog myprog.c
```
Basic C Elements

• Variables
  – named, typed data items

• Operators
  – predefined actions performed on data items
  – combined with variables to form expressions, statements

\[ \text{If}(x > y) \ldots \]
\[ x = y \times 3; \]
Data Types

- Examples of data types in C
  - `int` - integer
  - `float` - floating point
  - `char` - character

- Exact size can vary, depending on processor, but for x86:
  - `int` → 4 bytes
  - `float` → 4 bytes
  - `char` → 1 byte
Variable Names

• Any combination of letters, numbers, and underscore (_)

• Case matters
  – "sum" is different than "Sum"

• Cannot begin with a number

• Only first 31 characters are used
Examples

• **Legal**
  
  ```
  i
  wordsPerSecond
  words_per_second
  _green
  aReally_longName_moreThan31chars
  aReally_longName_moreThan31characters
  ```

• **Illegal**
  
  ```
  10sdigit
  ten'sdigit
done?
double
  ```
Scope: Global and Local

- **Where** is the variable accessible?
- **Global**: accessed anywhere in program
- **Local**: only accessible in a particular region

- Compiler infers scope from where variable is declared
  - programmer doesn't have to explicitly state

- Variable is local to the block in which it is declared
  - block defined by open and closed braces { }

- Global variable is declared outside all blocks
#include <stdio.h>

int itsGlobal = 0;

main()
{
    int itsLocal = 1; /* local to main */
    printf("Global %d Local %d\n", itsGlobal, itsLocal);
    {
        int itsLocal = 2; /* local to this block */
        itsGlobal = 4;    /* change global variable */
        printf("Global %d Local %d\n", itsGlobal, itsLocal);
    }
    printf("Global %d Local %d\n", itsGlobal, itsLocal);
}

Output:

Global 0 Local 1
Global 4 Local 2
Global 4 Local 1
Operators

• Programmers manipulate variables using the operators provided by the high-level language.

• Variables and operators combine to form expressions and statements which denote the work to be done by the program.

• Each operator may correspond to many machine instructions.
Expression

- Any combination of variables, constants, operators, and function calls
  - every expression has a type, derived from the types of its components (according to C typing rules)

Examples:
- `counter >= STOP`
- `x + sqrt(y)`
- `x & z + 3 || 9 - w-- % 6`
Statement

• Expresses a complete unit of work
  – executed in sequential order

• Simple statement ends with semicolon
  
  \[
  z = x \times y; \quad /* \text{assign product to } z */
  \]
  
  \[
  y = y + 1; \quad /* \text{after multiplication} */
  \]
  
  ; \quad /* \text{null statement} */

• Compound statement groups simple statements using braces.
  – syntactically equivalent to a simple statement
  
  \[
  \{ \quad z = x \times y; \quad y = y + 1; \quad \}
  \]
Operators

• Three things to know about each operator
  • (1) Function
    – what does it do?
  • (2) Precedence
    – in which order are operators combined?
    – Example:
      "a * b + c * d" is the same as "(a * b) + (c * d)"
      because multiply (*) has a higher precedence than addition (+)
  • (3) Associativity
    – in which order are operators of the same precedence combined?
    – Example:
      "a - b - c" is the same as "(a - b) - c"
      because add/sub associate left-to-right
Assignment Operator

• Changes the value of a variable.

\[ x = x + 4; \]

1. Evaluate right-hand side.

2. Set value of left-hand side variable to result.
Assignment Operator

• All expressions evaluate to a value, even ones with the assignment operator.

• For assignment, the result is the value assigned.
  – usually (but not always) the value of the right-hand side
    • type conversion might make assigned value different than computed value

• Assignment associates right to left.
  \[ y = x = 3; \]
  \( y \) gets the value 3, because \((x = 3)\) evaluates to the value 3.
Arithmetic Expressions

If mixed types, smaller type is "promoted" to larger.
\[
x + 4.3
\]
if x is int, converted to double and result is double

Integer division -- fraction is dropped.
\[
x / 3
\]
if x is int and x=5, result is 1 (not 1.6666666...)

Modulo -- result is remainder.
\[
x \% 3
\]
if x is int and x=5, result is 2.
# Bitwise Operators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Usage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>~</td>
<td>bitwise NOT</td>
<td>~x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;&lt;=</td>
<td>left shift</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;&gt;=</td>
<td>right shift</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp;</td>
<td>bitwise AND</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>^</td>
<td>bitwise XOR</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>bitwise OR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Logical Operators

- **Symbol** | **Operation** | **Usage**
- ! | logical NOT | !x
- && | logical AND | x && y
- || | logical OR | x || y

- Treats entire variable (or value) as TRUE (non-zero) or FALSE (zero).
## Relational Operators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Usage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td>greater than</td>
<td>x &gt; y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;=</td>
<td>greater than or equal</td>
<td>x &gt;= y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;</td>
<td>less than</td>
<td>x &lt; y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;=</td>
<td>less than or equal</td>
<td>x &lt;= y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>==</td>
<td>equal</td>
<td>x == y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!=</td>
<td>not equal</td>
<td>x != y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Result is 1 (TRUE) or 0 (FALSE).

Note: Don't confuse equality (==) with assignment (=).
Special Operators: ++ and --

- Changes value of variable before (or after) its value is used in an expression.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Usage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>++</td>
<td>postincrement</td>
<td>x++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--</td>
<td>postdecrement</td>
<td>x--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>++</td>
<td>preincrement</td>
<td>++x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--</td>
<td>predecrement</td>
<td>--x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pre: Increment/decrement variable **before** using its value.
Post: Increment/decrement variable **after** using its value.
Using ++ and --

- $x = 4$;
- $y = x++$;
- Results: $x = 5$, $y = 4$
  (because $x$ is incremented after assignment)

- $x = 4$;
- $y = ++x$;
- Results: $x = 5$, $y = 5$
  (because $x$ is incremented before assignment)
Practice with Precedence

• Assume $a=1$, $b=2$, $c=3$, $d=4$.

\[
x = a \times b + c \times d / 2;
\]

same as:

\[
x = (a \times b) + ((c \times d) / 2);
\]

• For long or confusing expressions, use parentheses, because reader might not have memorized precedence table.
### Special Operators: `+=`, `*=`, etc.

- Arithmetic and bitwise operators can be combined with assignment operator.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Equivalent assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>x += y;</code></td>
<td><code>x = x + y;</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>x -= y;</code></td>
<td><code>x = x - y;</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>x *= y;</code></td>
<td><code>x = x * y;</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>x /= y;</code></td>
<td><code>x = x / y;</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>x %= y;</code></td>
<td><code>x = x % y;</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>x &amp;= y;</code></td>
<td><code>x = x &amp; y;</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>`x</td>
<td>= y;`</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>x ^= y;</code></td>
<td><code>x = x ^ y;</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>x &lt;&lt;= y;</code></td>
<td><code>x = x &lt;&lt; y;</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>x &gt;&gt;= y;</code></td>
<td><code>x = x &gt;&gt; y;</code></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Special Operator: Conditional

- **Symbol**: ?:
- **Operation**: conditional
- **Usage**: \( x?y:z \)

- If \( x \) is TRUE (non-zero), result is \( y \); else, result is \( z \).

- Like a MUX, with \( x \) as the select signal.

### Diagram

```
     y
    ↓  
  1 →  0 
    ↓  
     z
    ←  x
```
Control Structures

• **Conditional**
  making a decision about which code to execute, based on evaluated expression
  – if
  – if-else
  – switch

• **Iteration**
  executing code multiple times, ending based on evaluated expression
  – while
  – for
  – do-while
If

• if (condition)
  action;

*Condition* is a C expression, which evaluates to TRUE (non-zero) or FALSE (zero).
*Action* is a C statement, which may be simple or compound (a block).
Example If Statements

• if (x <= 10)
  y = x * x + 5;

• if (x <= 10) {
  y = x * x + 5;
  z = (2 * y) / 3;
}

• if (x <= 10)
  y = x * x + 5;
  z = (2 * y) / 3;

  compound statement; both executed if x <= 10
  only first statement is conditional; second statement is always executed
More If Examples

• if (0 <= age && age <= 11)
  
  kids += 1;

• if (month == 4 || month == 6 || month == 9 || month == 11)
  
  printf(“The month has 30 days.\n”);

• if (x = 2)
  
  y = 5;

  always true, so action is always executed!

• This is a common programming error (= instead of ==), not caught by compiler because it’s syntactically correct.
If's Can Be Nested

```java
if (x == 3)
    if (y != 6) {
        z = z + 1;
        w = w + 2;
    }

is the same as...

```java
if ((x == 3) && (y != 6)) {
    z = z + 1;
    w = w + 2;
}
```
Matching Else with If

Else is always associated with closest unassociated if.

```java
if (x != 10)
    if (y > 3)
        z = z / 2;
    else
        z = z * 2;
else
    z = z * 2;
```

is the same as...

```java
if (x != 10) {
    if (y > 3)
        z = z / 2;
}
```

is NOT the same as...

```java
if (x != 10) {
    if (y > 3)
        z = z / 2;
}
else
    z = z * 2;
```
Chaining If’s and Else’s

```c
if (month == 4 || month == 6 || month == 9 || month == 11)
    printf("Month has 30 days.\n");
else if (month == 1 || month == 3 ||
    month == 5 || month == 7 ||
    month == 8 || month == 10 ||
    month == 12)
    printf("Month has 31 days.\n");
else if (month == 2)
    printf("Month has 28 or 29 days.\n");
else
    printf("Don’t know that month.\n");
```
Infinite Loops

• The following loop will never terminate:

```c
x = 0;
while (x < 10)
    printf("%d ", x);
```

• Loop body does not change condition, so test never fails.

• This is a common programming error that can be difficult to find.
for (init; end-test; update) statement

Executes loop body as long as test evaluates to TRUE (non-zero).
Initialization and update code included in loop statement.

Note: Test is evaluated before executing loop body.
Example For Loops

/* -- what does this loop do? -- */
numberOfOnes = 0;
for (bitNum = 0; bitNum < 16; bitNum++) {
    if (inputValue & (1 << bitNum))
        numberOfOnes++;
}
Nested Loops

Loop body can (of course) be another loop.

/* print a multiplication table */
for (mp1 = 0; mp1 < 10; mp1++) {
    for (mp2 = 0; mp2 < 10; mp2++) {
        printf("%d\t", mp1*mp2);
    }
    printf("\n");
}

Braces aren’t necessary, but they make the code easier to read.
Problem 1: Calculating Pi

- **Calculate** \( \pi \) **using its series expansion.** User inputs number of terms.

\[
\pi = 4 - \frac{4}{3} + \frac{4}{5} - \frac{4}{7} + \Lambda + (-1)^{n-1} \frac{4}{2n+1} + \Lambda
\]

---

**Flowchart:**

1. **Start**
2. **Initialize**
3. **Get Input**
4. **Evaluate Series**
5. **Output Results**
6. **Stop**
Pi: 1st refinement

Start
Initialize
Get Input
Evaluate Series
Output Results
Stop

Initialize iteration count

count < terms

Evaluate next term

count = count + 1
Pi: 2nd refinement

1. Initialize iteration count
2. Evaluate next term
3. If count is odd, subtract term; if not, add term
4. If count < terms, go back to step 2; otherwise, increment count by 1
Pi: Code for Evaluate Terms

for (count=0; count < numOfTerms; count++)
{
    if (count % 2) {
        /* odd term -- subtract */
        pi -= 4.0 / (2 * count + 1);
    }
    else {
        /* even term -- add */
        pi += 4.0 / (2 * count + 1);
    }
}
#include <stdio.h>

main() {
    double pi = 0.0;
    int numOfTerms, count;

    printf("Number of terms (must be 1 or larger) : ");
    scanf("%d", &numOfTerms);

    for (count=0; count < numOfTerms; count++) {
        if (count % 2) {
            pi -= 4.0 / (2 * count + 1); /* odd term -- subtract */
        } else {
            pi += 4.0 / (2 * count + 1); /* even term -- add */
        }
    }
    printf("The approximate value of pi is %f\n", pi);
}
Problem 2: Finding Prime Numbers

• Print all prime numbers less than 100.
• A number is prime if its only divisors are 1 and itself.
• All non-prime numbers less than 100 will have a divisor between 2 and 10.
Primes: 1st refinement

Start

Initialize

Print primes

Stop

Initialize

num = 2

num < 100

T

Print num if prime

F

num = num + 1
Primes: 2nd refinement

Initialize
num = 2

num < 100

F

num = num + 1

T

Print num if prime

Divide num by 2 through 10

no divisors?

F

Print num

T
Primes: 3rd refinement

Divide num by 2 through 10

- no divisors?
  - F
    - divisor <= 10
      - T
        - Clear flag if num%divisor > 0
          - T
            - divisor = divisor + 1
          - F
            - Print num
  - T
    - Print num

Initialize divisor = 2
Primes: Using a Flag Variable

• To keep track of whether number was divisible, we use a "flag" variable.
  – Set prime = TRUE, assuming that this number is prime.
  – If any divisor divides number evenly, set prime = FALSE.
    • Once it is set to FALSE, it stays FALSE.
  – After all divisors are checked, number is prime if the flag variable is still TRUE.

• Use macros to help readability.
  • #define TRUE 1
  #define FALSE 0
Primes: Complete Code

```c
#include <stdio.h>
#define TRUE 1
#define FALSE 0

main () {
    int num, divisor, prime;

    /* start with 2 and go up to 100 */
    for (num = 2; num < 100; num ++ ) {

        prime = TRUE;  /* assume num is prime */

        /* test whether divisible by 2 through 10 */
        for (divisor = 2; divisor <= 10; divisor++)
            if (((num % divisor) == 0) && (num != divisor))
                prime = FALSE;  /* not prime */

        if (prime)  /* if prime, print it */
            printf("The number %d is prime\n", num);
    }
}
```
```java
switch (expression) {
    case const1:
        action1; break;
    case const2:
        action2; break;
    default:
        action3;
}
```

Alternative to long if-else chain. If break is not used, then case "falls through" to the next.
More About Switch

• **Case expressions must be constant.**
  ```c
  case i: /* illegal if i is a variable */
  ```

• **If no break, then next case is also executed.**
  ```c
  switch (a) {
    case 1:
      printf("A");
    case 2:
      printf("B");
    default:
      printf("C");
  }
  ```

If a is 1, prints “ABC”.
If a is 2, prints “BC”.
Otherwise, prints “C”.
Break and Continue

- **break;**
  - used *only* in switch statement or iteration statement
  - passes control out of the “smallest” (loop or switch) statement containing it to the statement immediately following
  - usually used to exit a loop before terminating condition occurs (or to exit switch statement when case is done)

- **continue;**
  - used only in iteration statement
  - terminates the execution of the loop body for this iteration
  - loop expression is evaluated to see whether another iteration should be performed
  - if *for* loop, also executes the re-initializer
Example

• What does the following loop do?

```c
for (i = 0; i <= 20; i++) {
    if (i%2 == 0) continue;
    printf("%d ", i);
}
```

• What happens if `break` instead of `continue`?
Conclusions

• C programming is a very strong programming language and is the closest to assembly than all the high-level language programs.

• We have studied the basics of C programming in the lecture.