

C for Java Programmers

Advanced Programming

Credits

- *Software Construction* (J. Shepherd)
- *Operating Systems* at Cornell (Indranil Gupta)

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Overview

- Why learn C after Java?
- A brief background on C
- C preprocessor
- Modular C programs

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Why learn C (after Java)?

- Both high-level and low-level language
 - OS: user interface to kernel to device driver
- Better control of low-level mechanisms
 - memory allocation, specific memory locations
- Performance *sometimes* better than Java (Unix, NT!)
 - usually more predictable (also: C vs. C++)
- Java hides many details needed for writing OS code
 - But,....
 - Memory management responsibility
 - Explicit initialization and error detection
 - generally, more lines for same functionality
 - More room for mistakes

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Why learn C, cont'd.

- Most older code is written in C (or C++)
 - Linux, *BSD
 - Windows
 - Most Java implementations
 - Most embedded systems
- Philosophical considerations:
 - Being multi-lingual is good!
 - Should be able to trace program from UI to assembly (EEs: to electrons)

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C pre-history

- 1960s: slew of new languages
 - COBOL for commercial programming (databases)
 - FORTRAN for numerical and scientific programs
 - PL/I as second-generation unified language
 - LISP, Simula for CS research, early AI
 - Assembler for operating systems and timing-critical code
- Operating systems:
 - OS/360
 - MIT/GE/Bell Labs Multics (PL/I)

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C pre-history

- Bell Labs (research arm of Bell System -> AT&T -> Lucent) needed own OS
- BCPL as Multics language
- Ken Thompson: B
- Unix = Multics – bits
- Dennis Ritchie: new language = B + types
- Development on DEC PDP-7 with 8K 16-bit words

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C history

- C
 - Dennis Ritchie in late 1960s and early 1970s
 - *systems* programming language
 - make OS portable across hardware platforms
 - not necessarily for real applications – could be written in Fortran or PL/I
- C++
 - Bjarne Stroustrup (Bell Labs), 1980s
 - object-oriented features
- Java
 - James Gosling in 1990s, originally for embedded systems
 - object-oriented, like C++
 - ideas and some syntax from C

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C for Java programmers

- Java is mid-90s high-level OO language
- C is early-70s *procedural* language
- C advantages:
 - Direct access to OS primitives (system calls)
 - Fewer library issues – just execute
- (More) C disadvantages:
 - language is portable, APIs are not
 - memory and “handle” leaks
 - preprocessor can lead to obscure errors

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C vs. C++

- We’ll cover both, but C++ should be largely familiar
- Very common in Windows
- Possible to do OO-style programming in C
- C++ can be rather opaque: encourages “clever” programming

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Aside: “generations” and abstraction levels

- Binary, assembly
- Fortran, Cobol
- PL/I, APL, Lisp, ...
- C, Pascal, Ada
- C++, Java, Modula3
- Scripting: Perl, Tcl, Python, Ruby, ...
- XML-based languages: CPL, VoiceXML

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C vs. Java

Java	C
object-oriented	function-oriented
strongly-typed	can be overridden
polymorphism (+, ==)	very limited (integer/float)
classes for name space	(mostly) single name space, file-oriented
macros are external, rarely used	macros common (preprocessor)
layered I/O model	byte-stream I/O

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C vs. Java

Java	C
automatic memory management	function calls (C++ has some support)
no pointers	pointers (memory addresses) common
by-reference, by-value	by-value parameters
exceptions, exception handling	if (f() < 0) {error} OS signals
concurrency (threads)	library functions

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C vs. Java

Java	C
length of array	on your own
string as type	just bytes (char []), with 0 end
dozens of common libraries	OS-defined

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C vs. Java

- Java program
 - collection of classes
 - class containing main method is starting class
 - running `java StartClass` invokes `StartClass.main` method
 - JVM loads other classes as required

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C program

- collection of functions
- one function – `main()` – is starting function
- running executable (default name `a.out`) starts main function
- typically, single program with all user code linked in – but can be dynamic libraries (`.dll`, `.so`)

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C vs. Java

```
public class hello           #include <stdio.h>
{
    public static void main  int main(int argc, char
    (String args []) {      *argv[]
        System.out.println  {
            ("Hello world"); puts("Hello, World");
        }                  return 0;
    }
}
```

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What does this C program do ?

```
#include <stdio.h>
struct list{int data; struct list *next};
struct list *start, *end;
void add(struct list *head, struct list *list, int data);
int delete(struct list *head, struct list *tail);

void main(void){
    start=end=NULL;
    add(start, end, 2);  add(start, end, 3);
    printf("First element: %d", delete(start, end));
}

void add(struct list *head, struct list *tail, int data){
    if(tail==NULL){
        head=tail=malloc(sizeof(struct list));
        head->data=data; head->next=NULL;
    }
    else{
        tail->next= malloc(sizeof(struct list));
        tail->next->tail->data=data; tail->next=NULL;
    }
}
```

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What does this C program, do - cont'd?

```
void delete (struct list *head, struct list *tail){
    struct list *temp;
    if(head==tail){
        free(head); head=tail=NULL;
    }
    else{
        temp=head->next; free(head); head=temp;
    }
}
```

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Simple example

```
#include <stdio.h>

void main(void)
{
    printf("Hello World. \n \t and you ! \n ");
    /* print out a message */
    return;
}

$Hello World.
  and you !
```

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Dissecting the example

- `#include <stdio.h>`
 - include header file `stdio.h`
 - `#` lines processed by *pre-processor*
 - No semicolon at end
 - Lower-case letters only – C is case-sensitive
- `void main(void){ ... }` is the only code executed
- `printf(" /* message you want printed */ ");`
- `\n` = newline, `\t` = tab
- `\` in front of other special characters within `printf`.
 - `printf("Have you heard of \"The Rock\" ? \n");`

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Executing the C program

```
int main(int argc, char argv[])

▪ argc is the argument count
▪ argv is the argument vector
  ▪ array of strings with command-line arguments
▪ the int value is the return value
  ▪ convention: 0 means success, > 0 some error
  ▪ can also declare as void (no return value)
```

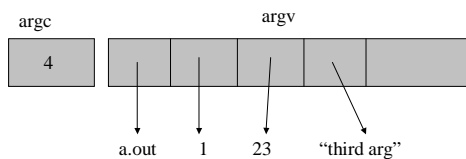
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Executing a C program

- Name of executable + space-separated arguments
- `$ a.out 1 23 'third arg'`



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Executing a C program

- If no arguments, simplify:

```
int main() {
    puts("Hello World");
    exit(0);
}
```
- Uses `exit()` instead of `return` – same thing.

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Executing C programs

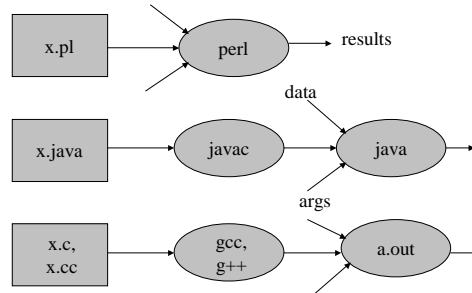
- Scripting languages are usually interpreted
 - perl (python, Tcl) reads script, and executes it
 - sometimes, just-in-time compilation – invisible to user
- Java programs semi-interpreted:
 - javac converts `foo.java` into `foo.class`
 - not machine-specific
 - byte codes* are then interpreted by JVM
- C programs are normally compiled and linked:
 - gcc converts `foo.c` into `a.out`
 - `a.out` is executed by OS and hardware

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Executing C programs



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The C compiler gcc

- gcc invokes C compiler
 - gcc translates C program into executable for some target
 - default file name `a.out`
 - also "cross-compilation"
- ```
$ gcc hello.c
$ a.out
Hello, World!
```

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## gcc

- Behavior controlled by command-line switches:

|                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <code>-o file</code> | output file for object or executable |
| <code>-Wall</code>   | all warnings – use always!           |
| <code>-c</code>      | compile single module (non-main)     |
| <code>-g</code>      | insert debugging code (gdb)          |
| <code>-p</code>      | insert profiling code                |
| <code>-l</code>      | library                              |
| <code>-E</code>      | preprocessor output only             |

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## Using gcc

- Two-stage compilation
  - pre-process & compile: `gcc -c hello.c`
  - link: `gcc -o hello hello.o`
- Linking several modules:
 

```
gcc -c a.c → a.o
gcc -c b.c → b.o
gcc -o hello a.o b.o
```
- Using math library
  - `gcc -o calc calc.c -lm`

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## Error reporting in gcc

- Multiple sources
  - preprocessor: missing include files
  - parser: syntax errors
  - assembler: rare
  - linker: missing libraries

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## Error reporting in gcc

- If gcc gets confused, hundreds of messages
  - fix first, and then retry – ignore the rest
- gcc will produce an executable with warnings
  - don't ignore warnings – compiler choice is often not what you had in mind
- Does not flag common mindos
  - if (x = 0) VS. if (x == 0)

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## gcc errors

- Produces object code for each module
- Assumes references to external names will be resolved later
- Undefined names will be reported when linking:

```
undefined symbol first referenced in file
 _print program.o
ld fatal: Symbol referencing errors
No output written to file.
```

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## C preprocessor

- The C preprocessor (cpp) is a macro-processor which
  - manages a collection of macro definitions
  - reads a C program and transforms it
  - Example:

```
#define MAXVALUE 100
#define check(x) ((x) < MAXVALUE)
if (check(i) { ...}
becomes
if ((i) < 100) {...
```

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## C preprocessor

- Preprocessor directives start with # at beginning of line:
  - define new macros
  - input files with C code (typically, definitions)
  - conditionally compile parts of file
- gcc -E shows output of preprocessor
- Can be used independently of compiler

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## C preprocessor

- ```
#define name const-expression
#define name (param1,param2,...) expression
#undef symbol
```
- replaces name with constant or expression
 - textual substitution
 - symbolic names for global constants
 - *in-line* functions (avoid function call overhead)
 - mostly unnecessary for modern compilers
 - type-independent code

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C preprocessor

- Example: #define MAXLEN 255
 - Lots of system .h files define macros
 - invisible in debugger
 - getchar(), putchar() in stdio library
 - ⊗ Caution: don't treat macros like function calls
- ```
#define valid(x) ((x) > 0 && (x) < 20)
if (valid(x++)) {...}
valid(x++) -> ((x++) > 0 && (x++) < 20)
```

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## C preprocessor -file inclusion

```
#include "filename.h"
#include <filename.h>
```

- inserts contents of filename into file to be compiled
- "filename" relative to current directory
- <filename> relative to /usr/include
- gcc -I flag to re-define default
- import function prototypes (cf. Java import)

### Examples:

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include "mydefs.h"
#include "/home/alice/program/defs.h"
```

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## C preprocessor - conditional compilation

```
#if expression
code segment 1
#else
code segment 2
#endif
```

- preprocessor checks value of expression
- if true, outputs code segment 1, otherwise code segment 2
- machine or OS-dependent code
- can be used to comment out chunks of code – bad!

```
#define OS linux
...
#if OS == linux
puts("Linux!");
#else
puts("Something else");
#endif
```

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## C preprocessor - ifdef

- For boolean flags, easier:

```
#ifdef name
code segment 1
#else
code segment 2
#endif
```

- preprocessor checks if name has been defined
  - #define USEDB
- if so, use code segment 1, otherwise 2

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## Advice on preprocessor

- Limit use as much as possible
  - subtle errors
  - not visible in debugging
  - code hard to read
- much of it is historical baggage
- there are better alternatives for almost everything:
  - #define INT16 -> type definitions
  - #define MAXLEN -> const
  - #define max(a,b) -> regular functions
  - comment out code -> CVS, functions
- limit to .h files, to isolate OS & machine-specific code

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## Comments

- */\* any text until \*/*
- *// C++-style comments – careful!*
- no */\*\* \*/*, but doc++ has similar conventions
- Convention for longer comments:

```
/*
 * AverageGrade()
 * Given an array of grades, compute the average.
 */
```
- Avoid **\*\*\*\*** boxes – hard to edit, usually look ragged.

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## Numeric data types

| type      | bytes (typ.) | range                           |
|-----------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| char      | 1            | -128 ... 127                    |
| short     | 2            | -65536..65535                   |
| int, long | 4            | -2,147,483,648 to 2,147,483,647 |
| long long | 8            | 2 <sup>64</sup>                 |
| float     | 4            | 3.4E+/-38 (7 digits)            |
| double    | 8            | 1.7E+/-308 (15 digits)          |

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## Remarks on data types

- Range differs – `int` is “native” size, e.g., 64 bits on 64-bit machines, but sometimes `int` = 32 bits, `long` = 64 bits
- Also, unsigned versions of integer types
  - same bits, different interpretation
- `char` = 1 “character”, but only true for ASCII and other Western char sets

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## Example

```
#include <stdio.h>

void main(void)
{
 int nstudents = 0; /* Initialization, required */

 printf("How many students does Columbia have
?:");
 scanf ("%d", &nstudents); /* Read input */
 printf("Columbia has %d students.\n", nstudents);

 return ;
}
```

\$ How many students does Columbia have?: 20000 (enter)  
Columbia has 20000 students.

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## Type conversion

```
#include <stdio.h>
void main(void)
{
 int i, j = 12; /* i not initialized, only j */
 float f1, f2 = 1.2;

 i = (int) f2; /* explicit: i <- 1, 0.2 lost */
 f1 = i; /* implicit: f1 <- 1.0 */

 f1 = f2 + (int) j; /* explicit: f1 <- 1.2 + 12.0 */
 f1 = f2 + j; /* implicit: f1 <- 1.2 + 12.0 */
}
```

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## Explicit and implicit conversions

- Implicit: e.g., `s = a (int) + b (char)`
- Promotion: `char` -> `short` -> `int` -> ...
- If one operand is `double`, the other is made `double`
- If either is `float`, the other is made `float`, etc.
- Explicit: type casting – (*type*)
- Almost any conversion does something – but not necessarily what you intended

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## Type conversion

```
int x = 100000;
short s;

s = x;
printf("%d %d\n", x, s);

100000 -31072
```

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## C – no booleans

- C doesn't have booleans
- Emulate as `int` or `char`, with values 0 (false) and 1 or non-zero (true)
- Allowed by flow control statements:

```
if (n = 0) {
 printf("something wrong");
}
```
- Assignment returns zero -> false

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## User-defined types

- typedef gives names to types:

```
typedef short int smallNumber;
typedef unsigned char byte;
typedef char String[100];

smallNumber x;
byte b;
String name;
```

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## Defining your own boolean

```
typedef char boolean;
#define FALSE 0
#define TRUE 1
```

- Generally works, but beware:

```
check = x > 0;
if (check == TRUE) {...}
```
- If `x` is positive, check will be non-zero, but may not be 1.

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## Enumerated types

- Define new integer-like types as enumerated types:

```
typedef enum {
 Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Violet
} Color;
enum weather {rain, snow=2, sun=4};
```
- look like C identifiers (names)
- are listed (enumerated) in definition
- treated like integers
  - can add, subtract – even `color + weather`
  - can't print as symbol (unlike Pascal)
  - but debugger generally will

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## Enumerated types

- Just syntactic sugar for ordered collection of integer constants:

```
typedef enum {
 Red, Orange, Yellow
} Color;
```
- is like

```
#define Red 0
#define Orange 1
#define Yellow 2
```
- `typedef enum {False, True} boolean;`

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## Objects (or lack thereof)

- C does not have objects (C++ does)
- Variables for C's primitive types are defined very similarly:

```
short int x;
char ch;
float pi = 3.1415;
float f, g;
```
- Variables defined in `{}` block are active only in block
- Variables defined outside a block are global (persist during program execution), but may not be globally visible (static)

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## Data objects

- Variable = container that can hold a value
  - in C, pretty much a CPU word or similar
- default value is (mostly) undefined – treat as random
  - compiler may warn you about uninitialized variables
- `ch = 'a'; x = x + 4;`
- Always pass by value, but can pass address to function:

```
scanf("%d%f", &x, &f);
```

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## Data objects

- Every data object in C has
  - a name and data type (specified in definition)
  - an address (its relative location in memory)
  - a size (number of bytes of memory it occupies)
  - visibility (which parts of program can refer to it)
  - lifetime (period during which it exists)

Warning:

```
int *foo(char x) {
 return &x;
}
pt = foo(x);
*pt = 17;
```

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## Data objects

- Unlike scripting languages and Java, all C data objects have a fixed size over their lifetime
  - except dynamically created objects
- size of object is determined when object is created:
  - global data objects at compile time (data)
  - local data objects at run-time (stack)
  - dynamic data objects by programmer (heap)

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## Data object creation

```
int x;
int arr[20];
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
 int i = 20;
 {into x; x = i + 7;}
}
int f(int n)
{
 int a, *p;
 a = 1;
 p = (int *)malloc(sizeof int);
}
```

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## Data object creation

- malloc() allocates a block of memory
- Lifetime until memory is freed, with free().
- Memory *leakage* – memory allocated is never freed:

```
char *combine(char *s, char *t) {
 u = (char *)malloc(strlen(s) + strlen(t) + 1);
 if (s != t) {
 strcpy(u, s); strcat(u, t);
 return u;
 } else {
 return 0;
 }
}
```

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## Memory allocation

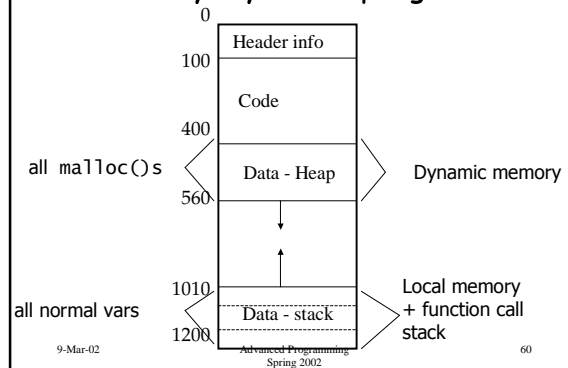
- Note: malloc() does not initialize data
- void \*calloc(size\_t n, size\_t elsize) does initialize (to zero)
- Can also change size of allocated memory blocks:
  - void \*realloc(void \*ptr, size\_t size)
  - ptr points to existing block, size is new size
- New pointer may be different from old, but content is copied.

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## Memory layout of programs



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## Data objects and pointers

- The memory **address** of a data object, e.g., `int x`
  - can be obtained via `&x`
  - has a data type `int *` (in general, `type *`)
  - has a value which is a large (4/8 byte) unsigned integer
  - can have pointers to pointers: `int **`
- The **size** of a data object, e.g., `int x`
  - can be obtained via `sizeof x` or `sizeof(x)`
  - has data type `size_t`, but is often assigned to `int` (bad!)
  - has a value which is a small(ish) integer
  - is measured in bytes

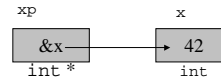
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## Data objects and pointers

- Every data type `T` in C/C++ has an associated pointer type `T *`
- A value of type `*` is the address of an object of type `T`
- If an object `int *xp` has value `&x`, the expression `*xp` dereferences the pointer and refers to `x`, thus has type `int`



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## Data objects and pointers

- If `p` contains the address of a data object, then `*p` allows you to use that object
- `*p` is treated just like normal data object

```
int a, b, *c, *d;
d = 17; / BAD idea */
a = 2; b = 3; c = &a; d = &b;
if (*c == *d) puts("Same value");
*c = 3;
if (*c == *d) puts("Now same value");
c = d;
if (c == d) puts ("Now same address");
```

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## void pointers

- Generic pointer
- Unlike other pointers, can be assigned to any other pointer type:

```
void *v;
char *s = v;
```
- Acts like `char *` otherwise:

```
v++, sizeof(*v) = 1;
```

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## Control structures

- Same as Java
- sequencing: `;`
- grouping: `{ ... }`
- selection: `if`, `switch`
- iteration: `for`, `while`

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## Sequencing and grouping

- `statement1 ; statement2; statement n;`
  - executes each of the statements in turn
  - a semicolon after every statement
  - not required after a `{...}` block
- `{ statements} {declarations statements}`
  - treat the sequence of statements as a single operation (block)
  - data objects may be defined at beginning of block

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## The if statement

- Same as Java

```
if (condition1) {statements1}
```

```
else if (condition2) {statements2}
```

```
else if (conditionn-1) {statementsn-1}
```

```
else {statementsn}
```
- evaluates statements until find one with non-zero result
- executes corresponding statements

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## The if statement

- Can omit {}, but careful

```
if (x > 0)
 printf("x > 0!");
if (y > 0)
 printf("x and y > 0!");
```

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## The switch statement

- Allows choice based on a single value

```
switch(expression) {
 case const1: statements1; break;
 case const2: statements2; break;
 default: statementsn;
}
```
- Effect: evaluates integer expression
- looks for case with matching value
- executes corresponding statements (or defaults)

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## The switch statement

```
Weather w;
switch(w) {
 case rain:
 printf("bring umbrella");
 case snow:
 printf("wear jacket");
 break;
 case sun:
 printf("wear sunscreen");
 break;
 default:
 printf("strange weather");
}
```

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## Repetition

- C has several control structures for repetition

| Statement                 | repeats an action...                                     |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| while(c) {}               | zero or more times,<br>while condition is $\neq 0$       |
| do {...} while(c)         | one or more times,<br>while condition is $\neq 0$        |
| for (start; cond;<br>upd) | zero or more times,<br>with initialization and<br>update |

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## The break statement

- break allows early exit from one loop level

```
for (init; condition; next) {
 statements1;
 if (condition2) break;
 statements2;
}
```

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## The continue statement

- continue skips to next iteration, ignoring rest of loop body
- does execute next statement

```
for (init; condition1; next) {
 statement2;
 if (condition2) continue;
 statement2;
}
```
- often better written as if with block

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## Structured data objects

- Structured data objects are available as

| object   | property                    |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| array [] | enumerated, numbered from 0 |
| struct   | names and types of fields   |
| union    | occupy same space (one of)  |

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## Arrays

- Arrays are defined by specifying an element type and number of elements
  - `int vec[100];`
  - `char str[30];`
  - `float m[10][10];`
- For array containing  $N$  elements, indexes are  $0..N-1$
- Stored as linear arrangement of elements
- Often similar to pointers

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## Arrays

- C does not remember how large arrays are (i.e., no length attribute)
- `int x[10]; x[10] = 5;` may work (for a while)
- In the block where array A is defined:
  - `sizeof A` gives the number of bytes in array
  - can compute length via `sizeof A / sizeof A[0]`
- When an array is passed as a parameter to a function
  - the size information is not available inside the function
  - array size is typically passed as an additional parameter
    - `PrintArray(A, VECSIZE);`
  - or as part of a struct (best, object-like)
  - or globally
    - `#define VECSIZE 10`

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## Arrays

- Array elements are accessed using the same syntax as in Java: `array[index]`
- Example (iteration over array):

```
int i, sum = 0;
...
for (i = 0; i < VECSIZE; i++)
 sum += vec[i];
```
- C does not check whether array index values are sensible (i.e., no bounds checking)
  - `vec[-1]` or `vec[10000]` will not generate a compiler warning!
  - if you're lucky, the program crashes with Segmentation fault (core dumped)

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## Arrays

- C references arrays by the address of their first element
- `array` is equivalent to `&array[0]`
- can iterate through arrays using pointers as well as indexes:

```
int *v, *last;
int sum = 0;
last = &vec[VECSIZE-1];
for (v = vec; v <= last; v++)
 sum += *v;
```

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## 2-D arrays

- 2-dimensional array  
`int weekends[52][2];`



- `weekends[2][1]` is same as `*(weekends+2*2+1)`
  - NOT `*weekends+2*2+1` :this is an int !

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## Arrays - example

```
#include <stdio.h>
void main(void) {
 int number[12]; /* 12 cells, one cell per student */
 int index, sum = 0;
 for (index = 0; index < 12; index++) {
 number[index] = index;
 }
 /* now, number[index]=index; will cause error:why ? */
 for (index = 0; index < 12; index = index + 1) {
 sum += number[index]; /* sum array elements */
 }
 return;
}
```

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## Aside: void, void \*

- Function that doesn't return anything declared as void
- No argument declared as void
- Special pointer `*void` can point to anything

```
#include <stdio.h>
extern void *f(void);
void *f(void) {
 printf("the big void\n");
 return NULL;
}
int main(void) {
 f();
}
```

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## Overriding functions - function pointers

- overriding: changing the implementation, leave prototype
- in C, can use function pointers  
`returnType (*ptrName)(arg1, arg2, ...);`
- for example, `int (*fp)(double x);` is a pointer to a function that return an integer
- `double * (*gp)(int)` is a pointer to a function that returns a pointer to a double

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## structs

- Similar to fields in Java object/class definitions
- components can be any type (but not recursive)
- accessed using the same syntax `struct.field`
- Example:

```
struct {int x; char y; float z;} rec;
...
r.x = 3; r.y = 'a'; r.z = 3.1415;
```

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## structs

- Record types can be defined
  - using a tag associated with the struct definition
  - wrapping the struct definition inside a typedef
- Examples:

```
struct complex {double real; double imag;};
struct point {double x; double y;}; corner;
typedef struct {double real; double imag;} Complex;
struct complex a, b;
Complex c,d;
```
- a and b have the same size, structure and type
- a and c have the same size and structure, but different types

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## structs

- Overall size is sum of elements, plus padding for alignment:

```
struct {
 char x;
 int y;
 char z;
} s1; sizeof(s1) = ?
struct {
 char x, z;
 int y;
} s2; sizeof(s2) = ?
```

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## structs - example

```
struct person {
 char name[41];
 int age;
 float height;
 struct { /* embedded structure */
 int month;
 int day;
 int year;
 } birth;
};
struct person me;
me.birth.year=1977;
struct person class[60];
/* array of info about everyone in class */
class[0].name="Gun"; class[0].birth.year=1971;.....
```

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## structs

- Often used to model real memory layout, e.g.,

```
typedef struct {
 unsigned int version:2;
 unsigned int p:1;
 unsigned int cc:4;
 unsigned int m:1;
 unsigned int pt:7;
 u_int16 seq;
 u_int32 ts;
} rtp_hdr_t;
```

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## Dereferencing pointers to struct elements

- Pointers commonly to struct's  
`(*sp).element = 42;`  
`y = (*sp).element;`
- Note: `*sp.element` doesn't work
- Abbreviated alternative:  
`sp->element = 42;`  
`y = sp->element;`

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## Bit fields

- On previous slides, labeled integers with size in bits (e.g., `pt:7`)
- Allows aligning struct with real memory data, e.g., in protocols or device drivers
- Order can differ between little/big-endian systems
- Alignment restrictions on modern processors  
– *natural* alignment
- Sometimes clearer than `(x & 0x8000) >> 31`

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## Unions

- Like structs:  

```
union u_tag {
 int ival;
 float fval;
 char *sval;
} u;
```
- but occupy same memory space
- can hold different types at different times
- overall size is largest of elements

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## More pointers

```
int month[12]; /* month is a pointer to base address 430*/
month[3] = 7; /* month address + 3 * int elements
=> int at address (430+3*4) is now 7 */

ptr = month + 2; /* ptr points to month[2],
=> ptr is now (430+2 * int elements)= 438 */
ptr[5] = 12; /* ptr address + 5 int elements
=> int at address (434+5*4) is now 12.
Thus, month[7] is now 12 */

ptr++; /* ptr <- 438 + 1 * size of int = 442 */
(ptr + 4)[2] = 12; /* accessing ptr[6] i.e., array[9] */
```

- Now, month[6], \*(month+6), (month+4)[2], ptr[3], \*(ptr+3) are all the same integer variable.

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## Functions - why and how ?

- If a program is too long
- Modularization – easier to
  - code
  - debug
- Code reuse
- Passing arguments to functions
  - By value
  - By reference
- Returning values from functions
  - By value
  - By reference

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## Functions

- Prototypes and functions (cf. Java interfaces)
  - extern int putchar(int c);
  - putchar('A');
  - int putchar(int c) {  
do something interesting here  
}
- If defined before use in same file, no need for prototype
- Typically, prototype defined in .h file
- Good idea to include <.h> in actual definition

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## Functions

- static functions and variables hide them to those outside the same file:

```
static int x;
static int times2(int c) {
 return c*2;
}
```
- compare protected class members in Java.

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## Functions - const arguments

- Indicates that argument won't be changed.
- Only meaningful for pointer arguments and declarations:

```
int c(const char *s, const int x) {
 const int VALUE = 10;
 printf("x = %d\n", VALUE);
 return *s;
}
```
- Attempts to change \*s will yield compiler warning.

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## Functions - extern

```
#include <stdio.h>

extern char user2line [20]; /* global variable defined
in another file */
char user1line[30]; /* global for this file */
void dummy(void);

void main(void) {
 char user1line[20]; /* different from earlier
user1line[30] */
 . . . /* restricted to this func */
}

void dummy(){
 extern char user1line[]; /* the global user1line[30] */
 . . .
}
```

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## Overloading functions - var. arg. list

- Java:
 

```
void product(double x, double y);
void product(vector x, vector y);
```
- C doesn't support this, but allows variable number of arguments:
 

```
debug("%d %f", x, f);
debug("%c", c);
```
- declared as `void debug(char *fmt, ...)`;
- at least one known argument

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## Overloading functions

- must include `<stdarg.h>`:
 

```
#include <stdarg.h>
double product(int number, ...) {
 va_list list;
 double p;
 int i;
 va_start(list, number);
 for (i = 0, p = 1.0; i < number; i++) {
 p *= va_arg(list, double);
 }
 va_end(list);
}
```
- danger: `product(2, 3, 4)` won't work, needs `product(2, 3.0, 4.0)`;

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## Overloading functions

- Limitations:
  - cannot access arguments in middle
    - needs to copy to variables or local array
  - client and function need to know and adhere to type

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## Program with multiple files

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include "mypgm.h"

void main(void)
{
 myproc();
}
```

hw.c

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include "mypgm.h"

void myproc(void)
{
 mydata=2;
 . . . /* some code */
}
```

mypgm.c

- Library headers
  - Standard
  - User-defined

```
void myproc(void);
int mydata;
```

mypgm.h

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## Data hiding in C

- C doesn't have classes or private members, but this can be approximated
- Implementation defines real data structure:
 

```
#define QUEUE_C
#include "queue.h"
typedef struct queue_t {
 struct queue_t *next;
 int data;
} *queue_t, queuestruct_t;
queue_t NewQueue(void) {
 return q;
}
```
- Header file defines public data:
 

```
#ifndef QUEUE_C
typedef struct queue_t *queue_t;
#endif
queue_t NewQueue(void);
```

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## Pointer to function

```
int func(); /*function returning integer*/
int *func(); /*function returning pointer to integer*/
int (*func)(); /*pointer to function returning integer*/
int **func(); /*pointer to func returning ptr to int*/
```

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## Function pointers

```
int (*fp)(void);
double* (*gp)(int);
int f(void)
double *g(int);

fp=f;
gp=g;

int i = fp();
double *g = (*gp)(17); /* alternative */
```

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## Pointer to function - example

```
#include <stdio.h>

void myproc (int d);
void mycaller(void (* f)(int), int param);

void main(void) {
 myproc(10); /* call myproc with parameter 10*/
 mycaller(myproc, 10); /* and do the same again ! */
}

void mycaller(void (* f)(int), int param){
 (*f)(param); /* call function *f with param */
}

void myproc (int d){
 . . . /* do something with d */
}
```

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## Libraries

- C provides a set of standard libraries for

|                          |            |     |
|--------------------------|------------|-----|
| numerical math functions | <math.h>   | -lm |
| character strings        | <string.h> |     |
| character types          | <ctype.h>  |     |
| I/O                      | <stdio.h>  |     |

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## The math library

- `#include <math.h>`
  - careful: `sqrt(5)` without header file may give wrong result!
- `gcc -o compute main.o f.o -lm`
- Uses normal mathematical notation:

|                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <code>Math.sqrt(2)</code>    | <code>sqrt(2)</code>    |
| <code>Math.pow(x,5)</code>   | <code>pow(x,5)</code>   |
| <code>4*math.pow(x,3)</code> | <code>4*pow(x,3)</code> |

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## Characters

- The char type is an 8-bit byte containing ASCII code values (e.g., 'A' = 65, 'B' = 66, ...)
- Often, char is treated like (and converted to) int
- `<ctype.h>` contains character classification functions:

|                           |              |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <code>isalnum(ch)</code>  | alphanumeric | [a-zA-Z0-9]  |
| <code>isalpha (ch)</code> | alphabetic   | [a-zA-Z]     |
| <code>isdigit(ch)</code>  | digit        | [0-9]        |
| <code>ispunct(ch)</code>  | punctuation  | [~!@#%^&...] |
| <code>isspace(ch)</code>  | white space  | [ \t\n]      |
| <code>isupper(ch)</code>  | upper-case   | [A-Z]        |
| <code>islower(ch)</code>  | lower-case   | [a-z]        |

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## Strings

- In Java, strings are regular objects
- In C, strings are just char arrays with a NUL ('`\0`') terminator
- "a cat" = 

|   |   |   |   |    |
|---|---|---|---|----|
| a | c | a | t | \0 |
|---|---|---|---|----|
- A literal string ("a cat")
  - is automatically allocated memory space to contain it and the terminating `\0`
  - has a value which is the address of the first character
  - can't be changed by the program (common bug!)
- All other strings must have space allocated to them by the program

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## Strings

```
char *makeBig(char *s) {
 s[0] = toupper(s[0]);
 return s;
}
makeBig("a cat");
```

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## Strings

- We normally refer to a string via a pointer to its first character:

```
char *str = "my string";
char *s;
s = &str[0]; s = str;
```

- C functions only know string ending by \0:

```
char *str = "my string";
...
int i;
for (i = 0; str[i] != '\0'; i++)
 putchar(str[i]);
char *s;
for (s = str; *s; s++) putchar(*s);
```

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## Strings

- Can treat like arrays:

```
char c;
char line[100];
for (i = 0; i < 100 && line[c]; i++) {
 if (isalpha(line[c]) ...
}
```

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## Copying strings

- Copying content vs. copying pointer to content
- `s = t` copies pointer – `s` and `t` now refer to the same memory location
- `strcpy(s, t)`; copies content of `t` to `s`  

```
char mybuffer[100];
...
mybuffer = "a cat";
```
- is incorrect (but appears to work!)
- Use `strcpy(mybuffer, "a cat")` instead

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## Example string manipulation

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
int main(void) {
 char line[100];
 char *family, *given, *gap;
 printf("Enter your name:"); fgets(line,100,stdin);
 given = line;
 for (gap = line; *gap; gap++)
 if (isspace(*gap)) break;
 *gap = '\0';
 family = gap+1;
 printf("Your name: %s, %s\n", family, given);
 return 0;
}
```

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## string.h library

- Assumptions:
  - `#include <string.h>`
  - strings are NUL-terminated
  - all target arrays are large enough
- Operations:
  - `char *strcpy(char *dest, char *source)`
    - copies chars from source array into dest array up to NUL
  - `char *strncpy(char *dest, char *source, int num)`
    - copies chars; stops after num chars if no NUL before that; appends NUL

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## string.h library

- `int strlen(const char *source)`
  - returns number of chars, excluding NUL
- `char *strchr(const char *source, const char ch)`
  - returns pointer to first occurrence of `ch` in source; NUL if none
- `char *strstr(const char *source, const char *search)`
  - return pointer to first occurrence of `search` in source

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## Formatted strings

- String parsing and formatting (binary from/to text)
- `int sscanf(char *string, char *format, ...)`
  - parse the contents of string according to format
  - placed the parsed items into 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, ... argument
  - return the number of successful conversions
- `int sprintf(char *buffer, char *format, ...)`
  - produce a string formatted according to format
  - place this string into the buffer
  - the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, ... arguments are formatted
  - return number of successful conversions

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## Formatted strings

- The format strings for `sscanf` and `sprintf` contain
  - plain text (matched on input or inserted into the output)
  - formatting codes (which must match the arguments)
- The `sprintf` format string gives template for result string
- The `sscanf` format string describes what input should look like

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## Formatted strings

- Formatting codes for `sscanf`

| Code                 | meaning                                       | variable |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------|
| <code>%c</code>      | matches a single character                    | char     |
| <code>%d</code>      | matches an integer in decimal                 | int      |
| <code>%f</code>      | matches a real number (ddd.dd)                | float    |
| <code>%s</code>      | matches a string up to white space            | char *   |
| <code>%[ ^c ]</code> | matches string up to next <code>c</code> char | char *   |

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## Formatted strings

- Formatting codes for `sprintf`
- Values normally right-justified; use negative field width to get left-justified

| Code               | meaning                                                                         | variable      |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <code>%nc</code>   | char in field of <code>n</code> spaces                                          | char          |
| <code>%nd</code>   | integer in field of <code>n</code> spaces                                       | int, long     |
| <code>%n.mE</code> | real number in width <code>n</code> , <code>m</code> decimals                   | float, double |
| <code>%n.mG</code> | real number in width <code>n</code> , <code>m</code> digits of <i>precision</i> | float, double |
| <code>%n.mS</code> | first <code>m</code> chars from string in width <code>n</code>                  | char *        |

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## Formatted strings - examples

```
char *msg = "Hello there";
char *nums = "1 3 5 7 9";
char s[10], t[10];
int a, b, c, n;
```

```
n = sscanf(msg, "%s %s", s, t);
n = printf("%10s %-10s", t, s);
n = sscanf(nums, "%d %d %d", &a, &b, &c);
```

```
printf("%d flower%s", n, n > 1 ? "s" : " ");
printf("a = %d, answer = %d\n", a, b+c);
```

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## The stdio library

- Access stdio functions by
  - using `#include <stdio.h>` for prototypes
  - compiler links it automatically
- defines `FILE *` type and functions of that type
- data objects of type `FILE *`
  - can be connected to file system files for reading and writing
  - represent a buffered stream of chars (bytes) to be written or read
- always defines `stdin`, `stdout`, `stderr`

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## The stdio library: `fopen()`, `fclose()`

- Opening and closing `FILE *` streams:  
`FILE *fopen(const char *path, const char *mode)`
  - open the file called `path` in the appropriate mode
  - modes: "r" (read), "w" (write), "a" (append), "r+" (read & write)
  - returns a new `FILE *` if successful, `NULL` otherwise
- `int fclose(FILE *stream)`
  - close the stream `FILE *`
  - return 0 if successful, EOF if not

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## stdio - character I/O

- ```
int getchar()
```
- read the next character from `stdin`; returns EOF if none
- ```
int fgetc(FILE *in)
```
- read the next character from `FILE in`; returns EOF if none
- ```
int putchar(int c)
```
- write the character `c` onto `stdout`; returns `c` or EOF
- ```
int fputc(int c, FILE *out)
```
- write the character `c` onto `out`; returns `c` or EOF

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## stdio - line I/O

- ```
char *fgets(char *buf, int size, FILE *in)
```
- read the next line from `in` into buffer `buf`
 - halts at '\n' or after `size-1` characters have been read
 - the '\n' is read, but not included in `buf`
 - returns pointer to `strbuf` if ok, `NULL` otherwise
 - do **not** use `gets(char *)` – buffer overflow
- ```
int fputs(const char *str, FILE *out)
```
- writes the string `str` to `out`, stopping at '\0'
  - returns number of characters written or EOF

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## stdio - formatted I/O

- ```
int fscanf(FILE *in, const char *format, ...)
```
- read text from stream according to format
- ```
int fprintf(FILE *out, const char *format, ...)
```
- write the string to output file, according to format
- ```
int printf(const char *format, ...)
```
- equivalent to `fprintf(stdout, format, ...)`
- Warning: do not use `fscanf(...)`; use `fgets(str, ...)`; `sscanf(str, ...)`;

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Before you go...

- Always initialize anything before using it (especially pointers)
- Don't use pointers after freeing them
- Don't return a function's local variables by reference
- No exceptions – so check for errors everywhere
 - memory allocation
 - system calls
 - Murphy's law, C version: anything that **can't** fail, will fail
- An array is also a pointer, but its value is immutable.

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