inst.eecs.berkeley.edu/~cs61c

CS61C : Machine Structures

Lecture 3 – Introduction to the C Programming Language

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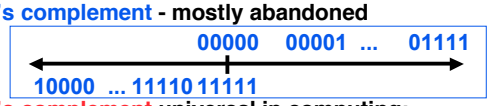
Ant jaw power ⇒ Cal researchers found the trap-jaw ant has the "fastest self-powered predatory strike in the animal kingdom". Must-see ant videos!!

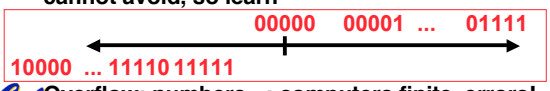
www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2006/08/21_ant.shtml

Review

- We represent "things" in computers as particular bit patterns: N bits ⇒ 2^N
- Decimal for human calculations, binary for computers, hex to write binary more easily
- 1's complement - mostly abandoned

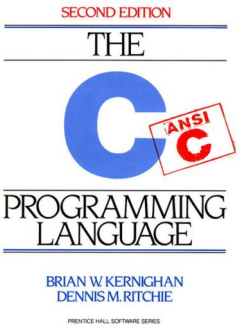


- 2's complement universal in computing: cannot avoid, so learn



- Overflow: numbers ∞; computers finite, errors!

Introduction to C



Has there been an update to ANSI C?

- Yes! It's called the "C99" or "C9x" std
  - Thanks to Jason Spence for the tip
- References
  - `http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_C_library`
  - `http://home.tiscalinet.ch/t_wolf/tw/c/c9x_changes.html`
- Highlights
  - `<inttypes.h>`: convert integer types (#38)
  - `<stdbool.h>` for boolean logic def's (#35)
  - `restrict` keyword for optimizations (#30)
  - Named initializers (#17) for aggregate objs

Disclaimer

- Important: You will not learn how to fully code in C in these lectures! You'll still need your C reference for this course.
  - K&R is a must-have reference
    - Check online for more sources
  - "JAVA in a Nutshell," O'Reilly.
    - Chapter 2, "How Java Differs from C"
  - Brian Harvey's course notes
    - On class website

Compilation : Overview

C *compilers* take C and convert it into an architecture specific machine code (string of 1s and 0s).

- Unlike Java which converts to architecture independent bytecode.
- Unlike most Scheme environments which interpret the code.
- These differ mainly in when your program is converted to machine instructions.
- For C, generally a 2 part process of compiling .c files to .o files, then linking the .o files into executables

Compilation : Advantages

- Great run-time performance: generally much faster than Scheme or Java for comparable code (because it optimizes for a given architecture)
- OK compilation time: enhancements in compilation procedure (`Makefiles`) allow only modified files to be recompiled

Compilation : Disadvantages

- All compiled files (including the executable) are architecture specific, depending on *both* the CPU type and the operating system.
- Executable must be rebuilt on each new system.
  - Called "porting your code" to a new architecture.
- The "change→compile→run [repeat]" iteration cycle is slow

C vs. Java™ Overview (1/2)

Java	C
• Object-oriented (OOP)	• No built-in object abstraction. Data separate from methods.
• "Methods"	• "Functions"
• Class libraries of data structures	• C libraries are lower-level
• Automatic memory management	• Manual memory management
	• Pointers

C vs. Java™ Overview (2/2)

Java	C
• High memory overhead from class libraries	• Low memory overhead
• Relatively Slow	• Relatively Fast
• Arrays initialize to zero	• Arrays initialize to garbage

• Syntax:
`/* comment */`
`// comment`
`System.out.print`
	• Syntax: *
	`/* comment */`
	`printf`

*Newer C compilers allow Java style comments as well!

C Syntax: Variable Declarations

- Very similar to Java, but with a few minor but important differences
- All variable declarations must go before they are used (at the beginning of the block).
- A variable may be initialized in its declaration.
- Examples of declarations:
  - correct:
```
{
    int a = 0, b = 10;
    ...
```
  - Incorrect:* `for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++)`

*C compilers now allow this in the case of "for" loops.

C Syntax: True or False?

- What evaluates to FALSE in C?
  - 0 (integer)
  - NULL (pointer: more on this later)
  - no such thing as a Boolean*
- What evaluates to TRUE in C?
  - everything else…
  - (same idea as in scheme: only `#f` is false, everything else is true!)

*Boolean types provided by C99's `stdbool.h`

C syntax : flow control

- Within a function, remarkably close to Java constructs in methods (shows its legacy) in terms of flow control
  - `if-else`
  - `switch`
  - `while` and `for`
  - `do-while`

C Syntax: `main`

- To get the main function to accept arguments, use this:

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

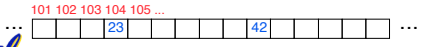
- What does this mean?
  - `argc` will contain the number of strings on the command line (the executable counts as one, plus one for each argument).
    - Example: `unix% sort myFile`
  - `argv` is a pointer to an array containing the arguments as strings (more on pointers later).

Administrivia

- Upcoming lectures
  - C pointers and arrays in detail
- HW
  - HW0 due in discussion next week
  - HW1 due next Wed @ 23:59 PST
  - HW2 due following Wed @ 23:59 PST
- Reading
  - K&R Chapters 1-5 (lots, get started now!)
  - First quiz due Sun
- CPS will start next wednesday
  - I've heard you can sell your CPS back to store
- Monday is a holiday, don't come here
- Email me Ki - Me - Gi - … mnemonics!

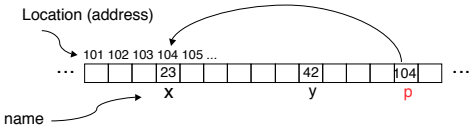
Address vs. Value

- Consider memory to be a single huge array:
  - Each cell of the array has an address associated with it.
  - Each cell also stores some value.
  - Do you think they use signed or unsigned numbers? Negative address?!
- Don't confuse the address referring to a memory location with the value stored in that location.



Pointers

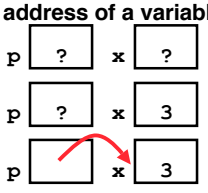
- An address refers to a particular memory location. In other words, it points to a memory location.
- Pointer: A variable that contains the address of a variable.



Pointers

- How to create a pointer:
  - `&` operator: get address of a variable

```
int *p, x;
  x = 3;
  p =&x;
```



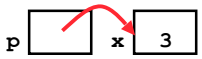
Note the "*" gets used 2 different ways in this example. In the declaration to indicate that `p` is going to be a pointer, and in the `printf` to get the value pointed to by `p`.

- How get a value pointed to?
  - `*` "dereference operator": get value pointed to

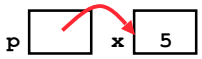
```
printf("p points to %d\n",*p);
```

Pointers

- How to change a variable pointed to?
  - Use dereference * operator on left of =




```
*p = 5;
```



Pointers and Parameter Passing

- Java and C pass parameters "by value"
  - procedure/function/method gets a copy of the parameter, so changing the copy cannot change the original

```
void addOne (int x) {
   x = x + 1;
}
int y = 3;
addOne(y);
```

y is still = 3

Pointers and Parameter Passing

- How to get a function to change a value?

```
void addOne (int *p) {
  *p = *p + 1;
}
int y = 3;

addOne(&y);
```

y is now = 4

Pointers

- Pointers are used to point to any data type (`int`, `char`, a `struct`, etc.).
- Normally a pointer can only point to one type (`int`, `char`, a `struct`, etc.).
  - `void *` is a type that can point to anything (generic pointer)
  - Use sparingly to help avoid program bugs… and security issues… and a lot of other bad things!

Peer Instruction Question

```
void main(); {
  int *p, x=5, y; // init
  y = *(p = &x) + 10;
  int z;
  flip-sign(p);
  printf("x=%d,y=%d,p=%d\n",x,y,p);
}
flip-sign(int *n){*n = -(*n)}
```

How many errors?

#Errors
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
(1) 0

And in conclusion…

- All declarations go at the beginning of each function.
- Only 0 and NULL evaluate to FALSE.
- All data is in memory. Each memory location has an address to use to refer to it and a value stored in it.
- A pointer is a C version of the address.
  - `*` "follows" a pointer to its value
  - `&` gets the address of a value