The C Programming Language Chapter 1

(material from Dr. Michael Lewis, William & Mary Computer Science)

Overview

- Motivation
- Hello, world!
- Basic Data Types
- Variables
- Arithmetic Operators
- Relational Operators
- Assignments
- Boolean Operators

1

About C

texts

- texts
- The C Programming Language, 2nd ed. (1988) by Brian Kernighan and Dennis Ritchie (known as K&R; classic text)
- C in a Nutshell, 2nd ed. (2016) by Peter Prinz and Tony Crawford (more current text; describes every function in the C standard library)

origins

- developed by Dennis Ritchie in early 1970s
- BCPL > B > C
- standardized in 1989
- revisions: C11, C17, C2x
- influential language
- the language used to create the internet
- heart of Unix, Linux, Windows operating systems (and Python interpreter!)

About C

language

- typed all variables must be declared
- compiled must be transformed to machine language
- fast
- near proper subset of C++

low-level

- closer to the hardware must know about bits and bytes
- must know about memory
- bugs can be difficult to fix
- much more capability than other languages
- C trusts that you know what you're doing no guardrails or safety
 - C was not designed to stop you from doing stupid things, because that would also stop you from doing clever things.

3

	Python	c	C++	Java
printing	print()	printf()	std::cout <<	System.out.println() System.out.printf()
Abring liberals	"bool" or "bool"	"bool"	same as C	same as C
line comments		11	//	//
block comments		y* */	same as C	same as C
addition, subtraction, multiplication	*,-,*	same	same	same
regular division	7	same*	same as in C	same as in C
Integer division	- 11	/ 2	same as in C	same as in C
remainder	x	same	same	same
software integers:	ist			
hardware integers:		Char	same as C	
		unsigned char	same as C	
		signed char	same as C	byte
		short or short int	same as C	short
		unsigned short or unsigned short int	same as C	
		int	same as C	int
		sessigned int	same as C	
		long or long int	same as C	long
		unsigned long or unsigned long int	same as C	
binary32 floating point:		float	same as C	
binary64 floating point:	float	double:	same as C	
booleans:	True, False	true, false or 1, 8 ormon-zero zero	same as C	
single characters:		char, unsigned char	same as C	

Transitioning to C from Python

- lower level more for you to program
- sometimes unsafe
- standard library is smaller
- different syntax
- structured vs. script
- paradigm shift: not object-oriented
- like going from automatic transmission to stick shift

5

Programming in C

- C is procedural, not object-oriented
- C is fully compiled (to machine code)
- C allows direct manipulation of memory via pointers
- C does not have garbage collection
- C has many important, yet subtle, details

ource: xkcd.com/571 ,

Hello, world!

C code in file named hello.c

#include <stdio.h>

int main(int argc, char **argv)

4 {

print("Hello, world!\n");

r to list in linux, we can use

cat -n ch01/hello.c # cat is a command to concatenate and print files;

the -n option gives us line numbers.

Python equivalent

/

Hello world!

- #include <stdio.h>
- tells the compiler to include this header file for compilationstdio.h for I/O functions (e.g., printf)
- main()
- main function, where execution begins
- every C, C++, and Java program must have a main function
- returns int
- takes argc and argv command line parameters (Python: sys.argv)
- **{ }**
 - curly braces are equivalent to stating "block begin" and "block end"
 - the code in between is called a "block"
 - Python uses indentation

Hello world!

printf()

8

- the actual print statement
- Python: print
- no newline default use "\n"
- strings in C/C++/Java delimited by double quotes: "Hello, world!"
- return 0

10

- similar to Python
- here, returns a value to execution environment

9

Header Files

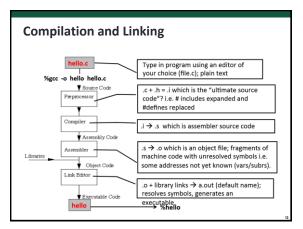
- functions, types and macros of the standard library are declared in standard headers
- header file accessed by
 - #include <header>
- note: no semicolon
- headers can be included in any order and any number of times
 - must be included outside of any function
- before any use of anything it declares
- NEVER include C source files
- should use header guards
 #ifndef FILENAME_H
 #define FILENAME H

#endif

Coding Style

- always explicitly declare the return type of the function
 - defaults to a type integer
- replace return 0 with return EXIT_SUCCESS (in <stdlib.h>)
- comments
 - /* comment */
 - comments cannot be nested
- // is a single line comment from // to the end of the line
- blanks, tabs, and newlines (or "white space"), as well as comments, are ignored except to separate tokens
 - free-form spacing

11 12



Compilation and Linking

use gcc (GNU C compiler) to compile and link

flags begin with a – (dash or minus) or -
here we use options -Wall (all warnings) and -pedantic (cautions)

ohello to create the executable (if not included, creates a.out)

gcc -Wall -pedantic -ohello ch01/hello.c

confirm file creation

date

print date and time.

is -ls hello print date and time.

is -ls hello print date and time.

Thu Feb 15 13:06:52 EST 2024

72 -rwxr-xr-x 1 rml staff 33432 Feb 15 13:06 hello
hello: Mach-0 64-bit executable arm64

13 14

Statements and Comments

single line comments: //
similar to Python #
multiline comments: /* */
popular style

/*
* I prefer formatting multiline comments this
* way so that the body of the comment is clear.
*/

16

15

```
Variable Names

• rules for naming variables in C/C++/Java same as Python

• letters, numbers, and underscores (case sensitive)

• start with letter or underscore only

• spaces not allowed – use underscores instead

float your_boat;
long john_silver;
short bread_cookie;

• variable names should be mnemonic, but not ridiculously long

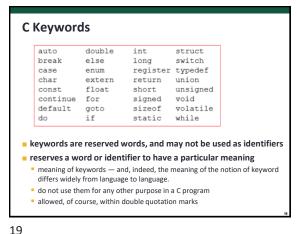
• first 31 characters significant for function names and global variables

• first 63 characters for other variables

• avoid _ as beginning character, as could collide with standard C library names

• avoid CamelCase, as it is an abomination
```

17 18



Type Declarations ■ in C/C++/Java, you must declare the type of a variable before unlike Python, which infers the type C is not happy if we try to change the type of a variable, or declare its type twice (even if the type is the same)

```
Type Declarations
    cat -n ch01/buggy_types.c
         1 #include <stdio.h>
           int main(int argc, char **argv)
              n = 42; /* n is used without declaration. */
           gcc ch01/buggy_types.c
   ch01/buggy_types.c:5:3: error: use of undeclared identifier 'n' n = 42; /* n is used without declaration. */
   ch01/buggy_types.c:7:7: error: redefinition of 'm'
int m; /* Redefinition of m. */
   ch01/buggy_types.c:6:7: note: previous definition is here
int m;
    2 errors generated.
```

Type Declarations corrected version cat -n ch01/types.c 1 #include <stdio.h> gcc -Wall ch01/types.c # The -Wall option tells gcc to show us all warnings. ch01/types.c:5:7: warning: unused variable 'n' [-Wunused-variable] ch01/types.c:6:7: warning: unused variable 'm' [-Wunused-variable] 2 warnings generated.

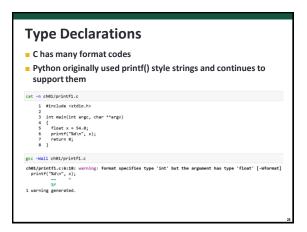
21 22

```
Type Declarations
warnings are not errors, but may indicate a bug
executable will be generated and program will run
        Th-th-that's all, folks!
```

```
Type Declarations
printf is similar to Python print, but insists on formal strings
e.g., %f interprets the bits of the variable as a float
         cat -n ch01/printf.c
             1 #include <stdio.h>
               int main(int argc, char **argv)
         gcc -Wall ch01/printf.c
         ./a.out
         54.000000
```

23 24

4



Type Declarations note in previous example, only a warning was generated C trusts you know what you're doing and that you have a good reason to interpret the bits of a float as an int ./a.out

25 26

```
Primitive Data Types
integer
  - char - smallest addressable unit; each byte has its own address
  short - short int; not used as much
  int - default type for an integer constant value
  long – do you really need it?
floating point

    float – single precision (about 6 decimal digits of precision)

  double - double precision (about 15 decimal digits of precision)
     · default for literal unless suffixed with 'f'
no Boolean or string types
no high-level types, such as lists, dictionaries, etc., but can be
```

Type Declarations sizeof() determines byte size of variable or type int main(int argo, char **argv) /* sizeof() applied to types. */
princf('Sizes (in bytes) of different flavors of integers \n');
princf('Sizes (in bytes) of different flavors of integers \n');
princf('An end of the 'is a large flavors of the 'is a large flavors');
princf('An ensigned char is Xiu byte long \n'n', sizeof(unsigned char));
princf('An ensigned char is Xiu byte long \n'n', sizeof(unsigned char)); printf("A short int is %lu bytes long.\n", sizeof(short int)); printf("An unsigned short int is %lu bytes long.\n\n", sizeof(unsigned short int)); printf("An int is Niu bytes long.\n", sizeof(int)); printf("An unsigned int is Niu bytes long.\n\n", sizeof(unsigned int)); printf("A long int is %lu bytes long.\n", sizeof(long int));
printf("An unsigned long int is %lu bytes long.\n\n", sizeof(unsigned long int)); printf("A long long int is: %lu bytes long.\n", sizeof(long long int));
printf("An unsigned long long int is %lu bytes long.\n\n", sizeof(unsigned long long int)); printf("Sizes (in bytes) of different flavors of floating-point numbers:\n");
printf("A float is Niu bytes long.\n", sizeof(float));
printf("A double is Niu bytes long.\n", sizeof(double));
printf("A long double is Niu bytes long.\n\n", sizeof(double)); 30 printf("A pointer is %lw bytes long.\n", sizeof(int"));
31 return 0;
32 }

27

```
Type Declarations
sizeof() is not like len(), but sys.getsizeof()
            gcc ch01/int_widths.c
             Sizes (in bytes) of different flavors of integers:
A char is 1 buts long
            A char is 1 byte long
A signed char is 1 byte long.
An unsigned char is 1 byte long
            A short int is 2 bytes long.
An unsigned short int is 2 bytes long.
            An int is 4 bytes long.
An unsigned int is 4 bytes long.
            A long int is 8 bytes long.
An unsigned long int is 8 bytes long.
            A long long int is 8 bytes long.
An unsigned long long int is 8 bytes long.
            Sizes (in bytes) of different flavors of floating-point numbers:
A float is 4 bytes long.
A double is 8 bytes long.
A long double is 8 bytes long.
            A pointer is 8 bytes long.
```

Basic Data Types char 1 bytes -128 to 127 unsigned char 1 bytes 0 to 255 short 2 bytes -32768 to 32767 Type bytes bits 8 short 2 bytes - 32768 to 32767
unsigned short 2 bytes 0 to 65535
int 4 bytes - 2147483648 to 2147483647
unsigned int 4 bytes 0 to 4294967295
long 4 bytes - 2147483648 to 2147483647
unsigned long 4 bytes 0 to 4294967295
float 4 bytes 1.755496-38 to 3.4028236+38
double 8 bytes 2.2250746-308 to 1.7976936+308 16 int 32 long long long 8 64 char guaranteed to be one byte no maximum size for a type, but the following relationships must hold: sizeof (short) <= sizeof (int) <= sizeof (long)</p> sizeof (float) <= sizeof (double) <= sizeof (long double)

29 30

5

Type Declarations C/C++ have a variety of integers which differ in number of bits integers in Python implemented in software and are unbounded C/C++ integers depend on hardware and may behave differently across machines, but hardware becoming more standardized integers can be signed or unsigned signed: negative or non-negative; 1 bit is sign bit unsigned: always non-negative (>=0); no sign bit, extra bit doubles range integers used in different ways color channels in pixels: 8-bits to fill one unsigned char; three channels, so total number of colors 2^24

Type Declarations - Integers

- signed integer: int
- unsigned integer: unsigned int
- literal for unsigned int: u or U
- signed and unsigned int same size, but bit pattern is determined differently
 - signed int: %d
 - unsigned int: %u
- short int (2 bytes)
- long and long long types (I/L and II/LL) (8 bytes and 8 bytes)

31 32

```
Type Declarations - Integers
example
     cat -n ch01/int_format.c
          1 #include <stdio.h>
            int main(int argc, char **argv)
              int n = -1;
              /* %d is the format code for signed int */ printf("The bits in n interpreted as a signed int: %d\n", n);
         13 return 0;
14 }
     gcc -Wall ch01/int_format.c
```

Integer Ranges C Language Variable Types Value Range Туре char -128 to 127 unsigned char U to 200 -32,768 to 32,767 -2,147,483,648 to 2,147,483,647 32-bit unsigned int 0 to 65,535 16-bit 0 to 4 294 967 295 32-bit -32,768 to 32,767 short int unsigned short int 0 to 65,535 -2,147,483,648 to 2,147,483,647 long int 0 to 4,294,967,295 unsigned long int 1.17x10⁻³⁸ to 3.40x10³⁸ float 6-digit precision 2.22x10⁻³⁰⁸ to 1.79x10³⁰⁸ double 15-digit precision

33 34

Type Declarations - Integers integers can overflow int main(int argc, char **argv) n = n + 1; printf("n + 1 = %+d\n\n", n); /* A noisier integer overflow. */
n = 4294967295; /* 2**32 - 1 */
printf("As a signed int, 4294967295 = %d l\n", n); **Type Declarations - Integers** integers can overflow n = +2147483647 n + 1 = -2147483648 As a signed int, 4294967295 = -1 ! overflow errors can be amusing: https://www.cbc.ca/news/entertainment/psy-s-gangnam-style- breaks-the-limit-of-youtube-s-video-counter-1.2860186 disruptive:https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/microsoft/microsoft -exchange-year-2022-bug-in-fip-fs-breaks-email-delivery/ dangerous: https://www.cs.wm.edu/~rml/teaching/c/docs/787_overflow.pdf

35 36

Type Declarations - Floats no industry standard for floating point numbers before 1985 each hardware vendor had its own system 1985 - IEEE 754 floating point standard C/C++ have three types of floats float: 32 bits double: 64 bits long: 80 bits two special float values inf infinity, larger than all other numbers (except itself) (division by 0) nan not a number (divide 0.0 by itself) not equal to any number, even itself!

37 38

```
Type Declarations - Characters

unlike Python, C distinguishes between characters and strings
delimited by single quotes
char's are really int's
index in the ASCII table
similar to ord and chr in Python
we can use char's in mathematical expressions:
c - '0' = 50 - 48 = 2 if c == '2'
```

40

39

```
Type Declarations - Arrays

an array is like Python's array or list

contiguous chunk of memory to hold a number of variables of the same type

use an index to specify a single element in an array

sample declarations

int n[42]; /* An array that can hold 42 ints. */
float x[54]; /* An array that can hold 54 floats. */

sample code with arrays

cat no deliverable, size. c

int n = 42;
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[n]; /* The same as int a[42], an array of 42 int. */
int a[
```

```
Type Declarations - Arrays

often need to keep length of array in a variable

nolen() function, as in Python

differences between C arrays and Python lists

arrays span contiguous regions of memory, while lists can be scattered across memory

contiguity allows C to work creatively with data

all items in arrays are the same type, unlike Python lists

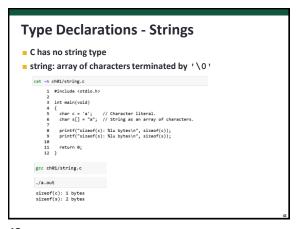
must know width of each element to find it in the array

no checking for out of bounds indices for speed
```

41 42

7

4.



43 44

```
Type Conversions

types can converted explicitly or implicitly

cast to convert the type

implicit conversion when using variables of different types in expressions

int n;
double x;
x = (double) n;
```

More on Assignment

in C, assignments are expressions, not statements

allows multiple assignment a = b = c = 1;

assignment operators

same precedence: right to left

= assignment

= comparison

perform the indicated operation between the left and right operands, then assign the result to the left operand

+= add to

- subtract from

*= multiply by

/= divide by

*= modulo by

45 46

C Coperators

C Language Operators
In programming with C, you occasionally want to use common mathematical operators for common interest of the common mathematical operators for common interest of the common perators for common the common perators for common

Boolean Operators

■ C does not have a distinct boolean type

■ int is used instead

■ treats integer 0 as FALSE and all non-zero values as TRUE

i = 0;
while (i - 10) { ... }

■ will execute until the variable i takes on the value 10 at which time the expression (i - 10) will become false (i.e., 0)

■ a sampling of Logical/Boolean Operators:

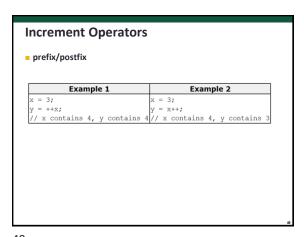
■ &&, | |, and ! → AND, OR, and NOT in Python

■ && is used as logical and

■ x != 0 && y != 0

■ short-circuit evaluation: above example, if x != 0 evaluates to false, the whole statement is false regardless of the outcome of y != 0 (same for or if first condition is true)

47 48



Printing Decimal and Floating Point

integers: %nd

n = width of the whole number portion for decimal integers

float: %m.nf

m = total character width, including decimal point

n = precision width after decimal

// print as decimal integer
// for print as floating point, at least 6 characters wide
// print as floating point, 2 characters after decimal
// point
// form as floating point, 2 characters after decimal
// point
// form as floating point, 2 characters after decimal
// point
// form as floating point, 2 characters after decimal
// point
// form as floating point, at least 6 wide and 2 after
// decimal point

49 50

cape Sequences				
Escape code	Description			
\n	newline			
\r	carriage return			
\t	tab			
\v	vertical tab			
\b	backspace			
\f	form feed (page feed)			
\a	alert (beep)			
\'	single quote (')			
\"	double quote (")			
\?	question mark (?)			
\\	backslash (\)			
		•		
am				

Formatted I/O

printf and scanf
both formatted I/O
both use standard I/O location

printf
converts values to character form according to format string
outputs to stdout

scanf
converts characters according to the format string, followed by pointer arguments indicating where the resulting values are stored
inputs from stdin

51

```
scanf

requires two parameters
format string argument with specifiers
set of variable pointers to store corresponding values
format string
skips over all leading white space (spaces, tabs, newlines)
% and type indicator
in between: maximum field-width, type indicator modifier, or * (input suppression)
input stops at end of format string, type mismatch in reading
next call to scanf resume searching for input of correct type where previous scanf left off
return value
# # of values converted
```

53 54

9