Lecture 02 Introducing C

CS211 – Fundamentals of Computer Programming II Branden Ghena – Fall 2021

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Northwestern

Administrivia

- Lab01 is due on Friday
 - About half of you have finished it already
- Lab02 is released today
 - Due on Sunday
- Hw01 will be released tonight
 - Due next week Thursday

Today's Goals

- Introduce the basics of C programming
 - Compilation
 - Variables
 - Conditionals (if)
 - Iteration (while and for)
 - Input and Output (printf and scanf)
- Continue practicing working in the shell

Outline

- Unix Shell Wrap-up
- Hello World in C
- Compilation
- Computing Fibonacci Numbers
- Variables
- Iteration
- Other C Syntax
- Input and Output
- Separate Compilation

Commands for moving between directories

• Directory structure and moving through it

• ls

- Lists files in the current directory
- cd
 - Change directory
- pwd
 - Prints the path of the current directory
- Mis-typing something
 - "Command not found" means you tried to run something invalid
 - fish: somecommandyoumistyped: command not found...

Command flags

- man
 - Opens the manual pages for a program
 - Example: man ls

- Flags are configurations for a command that change what it does
 - ls -1 lists files in the current directory in a vertical list with details
 - ls -t sorts the ls output by most recently modified
 - ls -l -t does both
- You can type multiple flags after a single dash
 - ls -lt is equivalent to ls -l -t

Working with files

- cat path
 - Prints out the contents of the file
- mv path1 path2
 - Moves a file from path1 to path2
- cp path1 path2
 - Copies a file from path1 to path2
- rm path
 - Deletes (removes) a file

Editing files

- There are many different terminal text editors
 - And there are holy wars about why one is *best*
 - There is no best. Just use whatever you like
- Example editors
 - Vim, Emacs, Nano
- In CS211, I'll be teaching you using the Micro text editor
 - Occasionally I'll open vim by accident. Someone yell at me when I do
 - https://micro-editor.github.io/

Editing with Micro

- micro filename
 - Opens micro, editing filename
- Works just like any text editor you've used
 - Mouse moves the cursor around, as do the arrow keys
 - Typing makes text appear
 - (This isn't true in some shell editors, looking at you vim)
 - Ctrl-s save the file
 - Ctrl-o open a file
 - Ctrl-q quit

Helpful guides

- Great lecture notes on using the shell
 - <u>https://swcarpentry.github.io/shell-novice/</u>
- Tool to explain various shell command syntax
 - <u>https://explainshell.com/</u>
- Tool to explain how to use various shell commands
 - Just type the command into the box at the top
 - <u>https://tldr.ostera.io/</u>

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Getting the examples from lecture

- First, make your own cs211 directory to store class stuff in
 - cd ~/
 - mkdir cs211
- The files for this class are in a zipped tarball (just like a zip file)
 - We can extract them right into your cs211/ directory
 - cd ~/cs211/
 - tar -xvkf ~cs211/lec/02_intro_c.tgz
 - cd 02_intro_c
 - What does that command do?: <u>https://explainshell.com/explain?cmd=tar+-</u> xvkf+%7Ecs211%2Flec%2F02 intro c.tgz

```
Hello world C program
```

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

```
int main(void) {
    printf("Hello, CS 211!\n");
```

```
return 0;
```

}



Hello world C program



```
Hello world C program
```





return 0;

```
Hello world C program
```

#include <stdio.h>

int main(void) {
 printf("Hello, CS 211!\n");

return 0;

}

Returns a value, 0 (which is of type int)

Hello world C program

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

```
int main(void) {
    printf("Hello, CS 211!\n");
```

return 0;

Two special things going on here:

1. main() is a special function name that is called when the program runs

Hello world C program

#include <stdio.h>

int main(void) {
 printf("Hello, CS 211!\n");

return 0;

Two special things going on here:

- 1. main() is a special function name that is called when the program runs
- 2. main() returns a number that specifies whether the program succeeded or failed and how
 - 0 means success
 - non-zero means failure
 - specific numbers mean different things to different programs

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How do you "run" C code?

- First, the C code needs to be translated
 - From human-readable source code
 - To machine code capable of being executed on a particular machine (definitely not human readable)
- This translation process is called "compiling"
 - The tool that does it is a "compiler"



What does machine code look like?

- Just a bunch of numbers
 - Your text editor would interpret those numbers as random characters

- The computer processor reads the numbers to figure out which instruction to run
 - This is a version of assembly code
 - See CS213 for *way* more details

Compiling a C program

- The compiler we'll use is referred to as $_{\rm CC}$
 - Short for C Compiler
 - It takes in C source code and outputs *executable* machine code
- cc hello.c
- •ls a.out hello.c
- ./a.out Hello, CS 211!

Compiling a C program

- a.out is the default name, but we probably want to use something more memorable
- The $-\circ$ flag specifies the output filename for the compiler

- cc -o hello hello.c
- •ls hello hello.c
- ./hello Hello, CS 211!

Remember to compile!

• You need to re-compile code every time the source code changes

- You WILL forget to do this at some point
 - And you'll run the program but it'll do the old behavior rather than the new things you've written

Break + relevant xkcd



https://xkcd.com/303/

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Computing Fibonacci Numbers

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Definition of Fibonacci Function

•
$$fib(n) = \begin{cases} n, & if \ n < 2; \\ fib(n-2) + fib(n-1), & otherwise \end{cases}$$

n	fib(n)
0	0
1	1
2	1
3	2
4	3
5	5
6	8
7	13
8	21

Implementing Fibonacci in C $fib(n) = \begin{cases} n, & \text{if } n < 2; \\ fib(n-2) + fib(n-1), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

```
long fib(int n){
    if (n < 2) {
        return n;
    } else {
        return fib(n - 2) + fib(n - 1);
    }
</pre>
```

```
Implementing Fibonacci in C fib(n) = \begin{cases} n, & \text{if } n < 2; \\ fib(n-2) + fib(n-1), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
```

```
long fib(int n){
```

```
if (n < 2) {
```

```
return n;
```

```
} else {
```

```
return fib(n - 2) + fib(n - 1);
```

```
if ((test-expr)) { // evaluate (test-expr); then...
    (then-stms) // do these if (test-expr) was true
} else {
    (else-stms) // do these if (test-expr) was false
```

Statements can be nested in C

```
if ((first-test-expr)) {
  if ((second-test-expr)) {
    (A-stms)
  } else {
    (B-stms)
} else {
  if ((third-test-expr)) {
    (C-stms)
  } else {
    (D-stms)
}
```

Implementing Fibonacci in C $fib(n) = \begin{cases} n, & \text{if } n < 2; \\ fib(n-2) + fib(n-1), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

```
long fib(int n){
    if (n < 2) {
        return n;
    } else {
        return fib(n - 2) + fib(n - 1);
    }
</pre>
```

Implementing Fibonacci in C $fib(n) = \begin{cases} n, & \text{if } n < 2; \\ fib(n-2) + fib(n-1), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

```
long fib(int n) {
  if (n < 2) {
    return n;
  } else {
    return fib(n - 2) +
           fib(n - 1);
```

}

C doesn't care about whitespace

Implementing Fibonacci in C $fib(n) = \begin{cases} n, & \text{if } n < 2; \\ fib(n-2) + fib(n-1), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

long fib(int n){if(n<2){return n;}else{return fib(n-2)+fib(n-1);}}</pre>

C really doesn't care about whitespace

Implementing Fibonacci in C $fib(n) = \begin{cases} n, & \text{if } n < 2; \\ fib(n-2) + fib(n-1), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

long fib(int n){if(n<2){return n;}else{return fib(n-2)+fib(n-1);}}</pre>

C really doesn't care about whitespace

But humans do!

So don't write your code this way!!!!!!!!!
A note on style

- A lot of things are *possible* in C, but bad ideas
 - They can make things hard to read
 - They can be a source of bugs in code

• We try to provide you with what we think of as "good" C code

- We have a guide to how you should write your C code
 - <u>https://nu-cs211.github.io/cs211-files/cstyle.html</u>

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Values, objects, and variables

- Values are the actual information we want to work with
 - Numbers, Strings, Images, etc.
 - Example: 3 is an int value
- An **object** is a chunk of memory that can hold a value of a particular type.
 - Example: function f has a parameter int x
 - Each type f is called, a "fresh" object that can hold an int is "created"
- A **variable** is the name of an object
- Assigning to a variable changes the value stored in the object named by the variable

• What happens?

int z = 5; z = 7; z = z + 4;

- What happens?
 - 1. The first statement is a definition. It creates an int object, names it z, and initializes it to the value 5

Ζ:

5

• What happens?

2. The second statement is an assignment. It replaces the value 5 stored in the object named by z with the value 7.

z: 7

- What happens?
 - 3. The third statement is also an assignment. It retrieves the current value of z (which is 7), then adds 4 to it,

and then stores the result back in the object named by z .

z: 11

C: Typed imperative programming

- Imperative programming
 - Each line is a **statement** that changes the program's **state**
 - Usually, the values within a variable
- Type System
 - Variables have a type associated with them
 - The type determines qualities of the *object*
 - Example: how much memory it takes up
 - The type specifies what kind of *value* the variable holds
 - Example: integers, decimal numbers, strings, etc.

Types in C

- Hold an integer number (like 5 or 0 or -3)
 - char, short, int, long, size_t, int8_t, int16_t, int32_t, etc.
 - These can also specify signedness
 - unsigned: only 0 and greater
 - signed: negative, 0, or positive
- Hold a decimal number (like 6.238 or 0.00001 or -32566.5)
 - float, double
 - These are always negative, 0, or positive
- Difference between types: how big of a value they can hold
 - Short: 0 to 65536 OR signed short -32768 to 32767
 - Int: 0 to 4294967296 OR signed int -2147483648 to 2147483647
 - We'll have a whole future lecture on *why* the types are like this

```
int prev;
int curr = 5;
int next = 8;
prev = curr;
curr = next;
next = prev + curr;
prev = curr;
curr = next;
next = prev + curr;
prev = curr;
curr = next;
next = prev + curr;
```

```
int prev;
   int curr = 5;
   int next = 8;
   prev = curr;
   curr = next;
   next = prev + curr;
   prev = curr;
   curr = next;
   next = prev + curr;
   prev = curr;
   curr = next;
   next = prev + curr;
```



```
int prev;
\rightarrow int curr = 5;
   int next = 8;
   prev = curr;
   curr = next;
   next = prev + curr;
   prev = curr;
   curr = next;
   next = prev + curr;
   prev = curr;
   curr = next;
   next = prev + curr;
```



```
int prev;
  int curr = 5;
int next = 8;
  prev = curr;
  curr = next;
  next = prev + curr;
  prev = curr;
  curr = next;
  next = prev + curr;
  prev = curr;
  curr = next;
  next = prev + curr;
```



```
int prev;
 int curr = 5;
 int next = 8;
prev = curr;
 curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
 prev = curr;
 curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
 prev = curr;
 curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
```



```
int prev;
 int curr = 5;
 int next = 8;
 prev = curr;
curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
 prev = curr;
 curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
 prev = curr;
 curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
```



```
int prev;
  int curr = 5;
  int next = 8;
  prev = curr;
  curr = next;
next = prev + curr;
  prev = curr;
  curr = next;
  next = prev + curr;
  prev = curr;
  curr = next;
  next = prev + curr;
```



```
int prev;
 int curr = 5;
 int next = 8;
 prev = curr;
 curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
prev = curr;
 curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
 prev = curr;
 curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
```



```
int prev;
 int curr = 5;
 int next = 8;
 prev = curr;
 curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
 prev = curr;
curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
 prev = curr;
 curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
```



```
int prev;
 int curr = 5;
 int next = 8;
 prev = curr;
 curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
 prev = curr;
 curr = next;
>next = prev + curr;
 prev = curr;
 curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
```



```
int prev;
 int curr = 5;
 int next = 8;
 prev = curr;
 curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
 prev = curr;
 curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
>prev = curr;
 curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
```



```
int prev;
  int curr = 5;
  int next = 8;
  prev = curr;
  curr = next;
  next = prev + curr;
  prev = curr;
  curr = next;
  next = prev + curr;
  prev = curr;
-curr = next;
  next = prev + curr;
```



```
int prev;
  int curr = 5;
  int next = 8;
  prev = curr;
  curr = next;
  next = prev + curr;
  prev = curr;
  curr = next;
  next = prev + curr;
  prev = curr;
  curr = next;
next = prev + curr;
```



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Statements and Conditions aren't enough

- Those lines of code were actually implementing Fibonacci!
 - And they were doing it without requiring any recursion
- Problem: it's really repetitive to have to write out the same lines of code again and again
- Solution: Iteration

Iteration with the While Statement

• Syntax

```
while ((test-expression)) {
   (body-statements)
}
```

- Semantics
 - 1. Evaluate (test-expression) to a bool
 - 2. If the bool is false then skip to the statement after the while loop
 - 3. Execute (body-statements) (if the bool was true)
 - 4. Go back to step 1

$$fib(n) = \begin{cases} n, & \text{if } n < 2; \\ fib(n-2) + fib(n-1), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

```
long fib iterative(int n) {
    long curr = 0;
    long next = 1;
    while (n > 0) {
        long prev = curr;
        curr = next;
        next = prev + curr;
        n = n - 1;
    }
```

For loops

- For loops allow you to combine iteration and incrementing
 - When you write a for statement like this:

```
for ((start-decl); (test-expr); (step-expr)) {
   (body-stms)
}
```

• It's as if you'd written this while statement:

```
{
    (start-decl);
    while ((test-expr)) {
        (body-stms)
        (step-expr);
    }
```

$$fib(n) = \begin{cases} n, & \text{if } n < 2; \\ fib(n-2) + fib(n-1), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

```
long fib iterative(int n) {
    long curr = 0;
    long next = 1;
    while (n > 0) {
        long prev = curr;
        curr = next;
        next = prev + curr;
        n = n - 1;
    }
```

$$fib(n) = \begin{cases} n, & \text{if } n < 2; \\ fib(n-2) + fib(n-1), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

```
long fib iterative(int n) {
    long curr = 0;
    long next = 1;
    int i = 0;
    while (i < n) {
        long prev = curr;
        curr = next;
        next = prev + curr;
        i = i + 1;
```

$$fib(n) = \begin{cases} n, & \text{if } n < 2; \\ fib(n-2) + fib(n-1), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

```
long fib iterative(int n) {
    long curr = 0;
    long next = 1;
    int i = 0;
    for ( ; i < n; ) {</pre>
        long prev = curr;
        curr = next;
        next = prev + curr;
        i = i + 1;
```

$$fib(n) = \begin{cases} n, & \text{if } n < 2; \\ fib(n-2) + fib(n-1), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

```
long fib_iterative(int n) {
    long curr = 0;
    long next = 1;
    // int i = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < n; ) {
        long prev = curr;
        curr = next;
        next = prev + curr;
        i = i + 1;
    }
</pre>
```

Implementing Fibonacci in C $fib(n) = \begin{cases} n, & \text{if } n < 2; \\ fib(n-2) + fib(n-1), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

```
long fib iterative(int n) {
    long curr = 0;
    long next = 1;
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i = i + 1) {
         long prev = curr;
         curr = next;
        next = prev + curr;
//i = i + 1;
```

```
return curr;
```

Implementing Fibonacci in C $fib(n) = \begin{cases} n, & \text{if } n < 2; \\ fib(n-2) + fib(n-1), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

```
long fib iterative(int n) {
    long curr = 0;
    long next = 1;
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i = i + 1) {
        long prev = curr;
        curr = next;
        next = prev + curr;
```

Break + Question

- What value will this code return when called as:
 - loop_function(3)
 - loop_function(5)
 - loop_function(6)

```
int loop_function(int test) {
    int retval = 0;
    while (test < 5) {
        retval = retval + 1;
        test = test + 1;
    }
    return retval;</pre>
```

Break + Question

- What value will this code return when called as:
 - loop_function(3)
 - loop_function(5)
 - loop_function(6)

```
returns 0
returns 0
```

returns 2

```
int loop_function(int test) {
    int retval = 0;
    while (test < 5) {
        retval = retval + 1;
        test = test + 1;
    }
    return retval;</pre>
```

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Logical operators

- || &&
 - Logical OR, and Logical AND
 - a < 5 && b > 12
- !
- Logical NOT
- !(a < 5) -> (a >= 5)

• ==

- Equality
- 5 == 5 -> TRUE
- 16 == -3 -> FALSE
- Don't mix it up with assignment (single equals sign)

Other operators you'll see around

• Perform the action of VAR = VAR operator ARG

• a *= b -> a = a * b

• %

- Modulus operator
- Returns the remainder of division
- 12 % 10 -> 2
- ~ | & ^
 - Bitwise NOT, OR, AND, and XOR (you'll learn these in CS213)
 - Importantly, ^ is not exponentiation!!!

Adding and Subtracting one

- + + --
 - Shorthand for plus 1 or minus 1
 - ++a -> a += 1 -> a = a + 1
- The auto-increment/decrement operators can go before or after the variable
 - (--x) subtracts one and returns the new value of x from the expression
 - (x--) subtracts one but returns the *old* value of x from the expression
 - Usually, this doesn't matter, unless you write complicated statements that combine assignment and conditions
 - if (--x > 0) ... (just don't do this)

Implementing Fibonacci in C $fib(n) = \begin{cases} n, & \text{if } n < 2; \\ fib(n-2) + fib(n-1), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

```
long fib iterative(int n) {
    long curr = 0;
    long next = 1;
    for (int i = 0; i < n; ++i) { // i++ also works</pre>
        long prev = curr;
        curr = next;
        next = prev + curr;
```

return curr;

Ternary Operator

• ?:

- Shorthand version of an if statement, determining result of expression
- Example:
 - return (a < 5) ? a : b;

```
• if (a < 5) {
    return a;
  } else {
    return b;
  }</pre>
```

• You won't need to use this. Usually, it just makes code harder to read.

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printf() function

- \bullet The usual way to print in C is the <code>printf()</code> function
 - Takes a *format string* followed by arguments to *interpolate* in place of the string's directives

```
printf("(%d, %d)\n", x, y);
```

%d directive means the argument is an int

Prints "(" + the value of x +", " + the value of y + ") \n"

• printf() is in the stdio.h library, which needs to be #include-ed

Example: formatted output

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void) {
    int x = 5;
    double f = 5.1;
    printf("sizeof x: %zu bytes\n", sizeof(x));
    printf("sizeof f: %zu bytes\n", sizeof(f));
    printf("x: %d\nf: %.60e\n", x, f);
}
```

- A directive gives the argument's type and maybe some options
 - %zu type: size_t (the return result of sizeof)
 - %d type: int
 - %.60e type: double, include 60 digits of precision

How do you learn format specifiers?

- You look them up in a guide!
 - Even I don't have them memorized...

- man 3 printf
 - Runs in the terminal
 - Shows details about printf
- google "printf directives"
 - cplusplus.com is a good resource
 - https://www.cplusplus.com/reference/cstdio/printf/

Reading user input

- To input numbers in C, use the scanf() function
- scanf reads keyboard input, converts it to the require type, and stores it in an existing variable:

int x = 0; scanf("%d", &x);

- Like printf(), scanf() uses a format string to determine what type to convert the input into
- &x means to pass x's location, not its value (more on this next week)
- Careful: scanf() directives aren't exactly the same as printf()

```
Example: reading input
```

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

```
double sqr_dbl(double n) {
   return n * n;
}
```

```
int main(void){
   double d = 0.0;
   scanf("%lf", &d);
   printf("%lf squared is %lf\n", d, sqr_dbl(d));
}
```

```
Example: reading multiple items
```

}

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void) {
  int x;
 int y;
  printf("Enter two integers: ");
  scanf("%d%d", &x, &y);
 printf("%d * %d = %d\n", x, y, x * y);
```

What if scanf() has an error?

- scanf () returns the number of successful conversions

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void) {
  int x
  int y;
  printf("Enter two integers: ");
  if (scanf("%d%d", &x, &y) != 2) {
   printf("Input error\n");
    return 1;
 printf("%d * %d == %d\n", x, y, x * y);
```

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- Input and Output
- Separate Compilation

Problems with compilation

- Two issues
 - Big programs take a very long time to compile
 - How can we reuse our functions in multiple programs?
- Let's focus on that second issue. It would be nice to:
 - 1. Write some functions in one file
 - 2. Call those functions from multiple programs (other files)



Solution: multiple C files

- You can write code in any number of different C files
 - And combine them together while compiling
- But we need some way to tell C code in one file about the existence of C code in another file
 - Solution: header files (.h)
 - Header files list all the publicly available functions and variables from a C file
 - Usually there is a .c and .h file for various libraries
 - Header files are #include-ed at the top of your C file

Compiling multiple C files

- Usually we compile each C file separately
- Then combine multiple together into a single program

- Compilers have a middle step: object files (.o)
 - Still not human readable
 - Meant to be joined together into a single executable

Example of multiple compilation



Simplifying multiple compilation with Make

- Make is a tool for building programs out of multiple source files
 - Allows you to specify goals and requirements as "rules"
 - And then runs the compiler to fulfill those
- To build a file named (goal) using make, you run: make (goal)
- Make looks around the current directory for a file named Makefile which specifies the various rules
 - We'll provide the Makefile for you in this class
 - But you'll have to use make to compile your programs

You now know the basics of C programming

- We're missing a few simple things
 - You'll practice those in Lab02 and Hw01
 - Structs!
- We're missing some advanced features
 - We'll cover those next week

Outline

- Unix Shell Wrap-up
- Hello World in C
- Compilation
- Computing Fibonacci Numbers
- Variables
- Iteration
- Other C Syntax
- Input and Output
- Separate Compilation