# Lecture 01 Introduction & C

# CS211 – Fundamentals of Computer Programming II Branden Ghena – Spring 2023

Slides adapted from: Jesse Tov, Sruti Bhagavatula, Joe Hummel

Northwestern

# Welcome to CS211

- Course Goal: become a **better** and **broader** programmer
- First half
  - C programming
  - Unix shell
- Second half
  - C++ programming
- Introduces students to industry-standard languages and tools
- Builds foundational software design skills at a medium scale

# Branden Ghena (he/him)

- Assistant Faculty of Instruction
- Education
  - Undergrad: Michigan Tech
  - Master's: University of Michigan
  - PhD: University of California, Berkeley
- Research
  - Resource-constrained sensing systems
  - Low-energy wireless networks
  - Embedded operating systems
- Teaching
  - Computer Systems
    - CS211: Fundamentals of Programming II
    - CS213: Intro to Computer Systems
    - CS343: Operating Systems
    - CE346: Microprocessor System Design
    - CS397: Wireless Protocols for the IoT

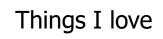














# Questions in class

- Please ask questions!!!
  - It's not just you who doesn't understand something.
- You can always ask questions verbally during class
  - Raise hand whenever
  - I'll stop for questions too
- Other options
  - Ask me after class
  - Ask on Piazza

# Today's Goals

• Discuss **why** we teach (and require) this class

Describe how this class is going to function

• Introduction to C programming

# Outline

# • Why?

Course Overview

#### • Intro to C

- Hello World
- Variables
- Computing Fibonacci

#### What does CS211 teach?

C and C++ Programming

• Unix Shell

- C the most important programming language
- Old (1972), but nowhere near the first programming language
  FORTRAN, LISP, ALGOL, COBOL, Basic, B, and many others came first
- Right time, right place, right capability
  - Enables both low-level control and (relatively) high level thinking
  - Fast, efficient, and highly portable
- Inspired everything that has come since
  - C syntax is copied partially or completely in MANY other languages
  - Lessons learned from using C inspired improvements to make programming easier

# C++ - an evolutionary addition to C

- Additional features on top of C
  - Most important: classes to support Object Oriented Programming
  - Also includes a significant amount of libraries that C does not
- Enables more complicated software design
  - Manages which part of code can access which things at which times
  - Manages how things are named and referred to
  - Manages errors to help software respond to them

# Things written in C/C++

- All major modern operating systems are partially or entirely C
  - Windows, Linux, MacOS, Android, iOS
- Scientific computing (mix of C and C++)
  - Mathematica, MATLAB, various scientific libraries
- Video game engines (often C++)
  - Unreal Engine, Unity, CryEngine
- Embedded control systems (usually C, occasionally C++)
  - Cars, Airplanes, Satellites and Rovers, Thermostats, Webcams, ...

# Upsides to C and C++

- You are in charge of everything
  - You can do anything you want without constraints
- Capable of directly interacting with hardware ("systems language")
  - Grab exactly as much memory as you need and manage it yourself
  - Makes it incredibly fast (~100x faster than Python)
  - Makes it incredibly efficient (no memory is wasted)
- These lead to the languages being very widely used
  - Top five programming languages for decades include C and C++

# Downsides to C and C++

- You are in charge of everything
  - And nothing is taken care of for you
- Things you "can't" do are often **UNDEFINED BEHAVIOR** 
  - To enable portability, the languages just straight-up don't say what happens if you violate the rules
  - The computer could do *anything*
- Backwards compatibility means features are only ever added
  - You'll see this especially in C++, C just has less features total
  - C++ feels like a bunch of things stapled together
    - And there's an amazing programming language hiding in there

# Analogies for programming languages

Racket

- Generic beginner's car that gets you places
- Python
  - Great car you can drive without a license
  - Unless you want to go really fast or on bad terrain, might be good enough

#### • C

• A racing car that goes incredibly fast but breaks down every fifty miles

#### • C++

- A souped-up version of the C racing car with dozens of extra features that only breaks down every 250 miles
- But when it breaks down, nobody can figure out what went wrong

# So why teach C and C++?

- You'll learn a lot more about programming
  - Syntax and ideas from C inspired a lot of other languages
  - Feels very different from Racket or Python
- You'll become a better programmer
  - You're going to run into a lot of errors and problems in this class
  - Hopefully they teach you to better design and plan your code
- Prepare you to dig deeper into computer systems
  - A "systems language" is needed to interact directly with hardware
  - Major options: Pascal, C, C++, Ada, Rust

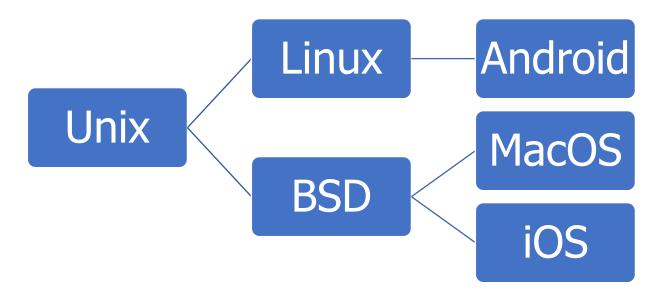
What does CS211 teach?

• C and C++ Programming

• Unix Shell

## Unix

- A wildly popular operating system in the 1970s and 80s
- Today refers to the *family* of operating systems inspired or grown from Unix
  - Particular design style for "everything is a file"
  - Various tools the OS is expected to provide
  - Command line interface, also known as a "shell"



# C and Unix were born together

- Operating systems used to be written in assembly
  - Basic instructions specific to a certain processor family (see CS213)
  - So supporting a new computer type meant rewriting all of your software
- Unix development (1969) by Ken Thompson and Dennis Ritchie
  - Developed at Bell Labs, which was a computing research powerhouse
- C language (1972) by Dennis Ritchie to write Unix programs
  - And they quickly rewrote the whole OS in C as well
  - This made the OS simpler to modify and easier to **port** to new systems
  - Unix became *enormously* popular due in part to its portability

# Unix shell

- Text-based interface to a computer
  - Compare to graphical interfaces that need a mouse
- Necessary for remote interactions with many computers
  - Cloud servers
  - Specialized "headless" hardware
- Can be incredibly efficient and powerful
  - Find all JPEG files in this folder and convert into PNGs mogrify -format png \*.jpg
  - Replace all instances of CS150 with CS211 across all Markdown files sed -i `s/CS150/CS211/g' \*.md

# So why teach Unix shell?

- Many future classes are going to require you to work on a specialized computer that is shared by the class
  - More resources, specific capabilities, etc.
- Add another basic computing tool to your skillset
  - You might not use shell every day
  - But maybe you might
- You get to feel like a "hacker"
  - Using shell isn't the only way to be a programmer, but is a stereotypical way



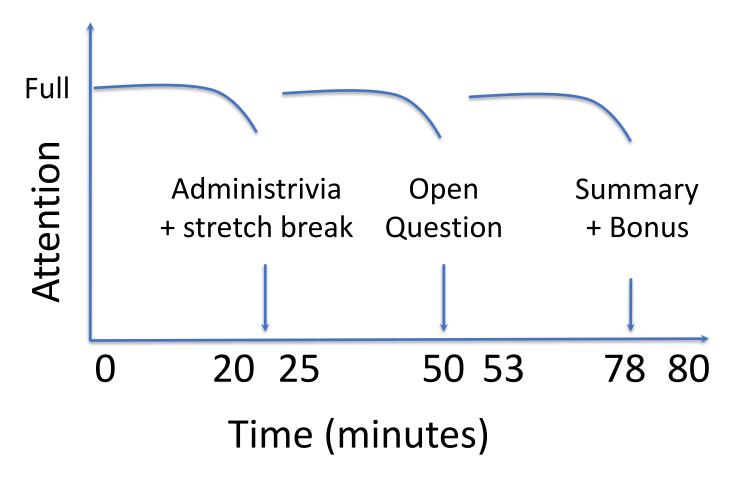
# So, why CS211?

• It's going to make you a **much** better programmer

• It's going to teach you a bunch of new skills

• It's going to enable you to succeed in future classes

#### Architecture of a lecture



## Break + Question

• Why might some software use C instead of Python?

# Break + Question

- Why might some software use C instead of Python?
  - Performance!!
    - C is MUCH faster than Python
  - Tricky low-level "systems" behavior
    - Directly manipulating memory and hardware devices
    - E.g., an Operating System or a Game Engine
  - Legacy code
    - C is older than Python is, and is supported on more systems
    - An old Palm Pilot from the 90s: Python won't work on it but C will

# Outline

• Why?

#### Course Overview

#### • Intro to C

- Hello World
- Variables
- Computing Fibonacci

# Course Staff

- TA (1)
  - Sherwin Shen PhD student in Computer Science
- PMs (14)
  - Sofia Melendez
  - Natalie Hill
  - Chisara Ojiako
  - Mercy Omwoyo
  - Eli Barlow
  - Antonio Rocha
  - Inessa Verbitsky

- Ethan McAlpin
- John Sanchez
- Matt Saperstein
- Jackie Lin
- Ben Geduld
  - Liz Yumbla
  - Emily Wei
- Their role: support student questions via office hours and Piazza

## How to learn stuff

- Lectures: here in class on Tuesdays and Thursdays
  - Please attend and ask questions!
  - Panopto tab on Canvas will have recordings (a few hours later)
- Textbook
  - Zybooks "Programming in C" and "Programming in C++"
  - Interactive materials covering the basics of C and C++
- Office hours (starting next week)
  - Planning a mix of in-person and online
  - More info will be posted to Piazza when the schedule is ready

# Asking questions

- Class and office hours are always an option!
  - I've got time to hang out after lectures and answer questions
- Piazza: (similar to Campuswire)
  - Post questions
  - Answer each other's questions
  - Find posts from the course staff
  - Post private info just to course staff
- Please do not email me! Post to Piazza instead!
  - I'm terrible at email and won't respond when I get busy
  - Exception: email me if you can't access Piazza. I'll be updating roster again a few times

#### Exercises

- Practice labs in the zyBooks textbook
  - Small snippets of code you'll need to write to match some expected output
  - Usually, 1-20 lines of code
- Immediate feedback, infinite retries, graded on completion
  - Can work with others on them if that's helpful
- Provides practice programming in C/C++
  - If you're already comfortable, should be easy
  - If you're uncomfortable, these should help!

# Bad news: first assignment is already out

• The first set of exercises ("EX1") is due next week Tuesday

 Posted on Canvas homepage

 Lecture slides are also posted to Canvas right before class

Resources	<u>Syllabı</u>	<u>ıs</u> ↓	<u>Piazza</u> 🕞   <u>zyBooks</u> 🕞	Gradesco	pe   <u>Record</u>	lings
Upcoming	Deadlir	nes:				
• Tu	∘ Tuesday, March 30th at 11:59 PM: EX1 🕞					
Office Ho	irs:					
Will be an	nounced	l soc	ın.			
Class Sch	dule: (te	entat	tive)			
Week D	te	Lee	cture	Quizzes	Released	Due
M 28	Tue		No Class (Northwestern Monday)			
1 M	Thr	1	Intro to CS211 and C		<u>EX1</u> ⊟, Lab1	

#### Labs

- Small, guided practice sessions to set up a new environment
  - 1. Setup for SSH access to lab machines (C programming)
  - 2. CLion IDE setup with game engine (C++)
- These are super important, because without them you won't be able to work on your homework!
  - First lab will be out tonight or tomorrow
- These are not formal assignments or quizzes
  - You may work with others on them
  - Goal is to make sure your setup works *before* the homework starts

#### Homeworks

- Medium-sized individual programming assignments
  - Around 200-1000 lines of code (50-200 is your solution)
  - About a week to complete them
- First three are C, last two are C++

- These are serious work, but also where the most learning will happen
  - Individual, may NOT work with other students on them

# **Final Project**

- A bigger homework, where you get to choose what you want to do
  - Done with a partner of your choosing
- Make an "interactive program" (usually a game)
  - Examples: Pacman, Tetris, Two-dots, MS Paint, Checkers, Desert Bus

- This is your chance to do something interesting and fun!
- Can be a significant amount of work though

# Quizzes

- Multiple quizzes instead of a big exam
  - Should be four total
  - Each is roughly 15-20 minutes
- Quizzes cover mainly material from the last two weeks
  - But build upon knowledge from the entire course
- Only 10% of your grade total (2.5% each)
  - Focus is really on making sure you're caught up on class material
  - Hopefully shouldn't be too stressful
- First quiz isn't until Tuesday of Week 3

## Grade composition

Category	Count	<b>Total Value</b>
Exercises	6	5%
Labs	2	5%
Homework	5	55%
Final project	1	25%
Quizzes	4	10%

- Standard letter grade scale
  - 93%+ A
  - 90%+ A-
  - 87%+ B+
  - etc.

# Relative homework difficulties

Homework	Difficulty
HW1	5
HW2	7
HW3	11
HW4	6
HW5	9
Final Project	10ish*

HW3 is the last in C

It's a two-part assignment spread over two weeks

\* But really it's up to you

# Late Policy

- You can submit *homeworks* late
  - Quizzes, exercises, and labs cannot be submitted late

- 10% penalty to maximum grade per day late
  - Example: three days late means maximum grade is 70%

- Final project has a sliding scale
  - 90% for up to 24-hours late
  - 60% and 30% for the two days after that

We will support you if possible and equitable

- We can be flexible with deadlines for problems outside of your control
  - Sick, family emergency, broken computer
  - Contact me (via Piazza) and I'll provide additional extensions

- Also, we support expected accessibility needs
  - Make sure to submit ANU requests if you have any
  - Let me know about anything else you need and we can discuss it

## Slip Days

- Slip days let you turn in a homework late and receive no penalty
- Each student gets 4 slip days
  - Apply to **homeworks only** (not final project, exercises, or labs)
  - You don't need to tell us you're using them, we'll just automatically apply them at the end of the year
- Examples:
  - Turn in HW1 three days late
  - Turn in HW4 two days late and HW5 one day late
  - Turn in HW2 four days late with only a one-day penalty

## Getting Help – Office Hours

- Office hours are mostly hosted by the PMs and TA
  - I will have some too! Especially for higher-level questions
- Schedule
  - We're going to host a TON of office hours
  - With some in-person and some online
  - Details to follow, schedule on Canvas homepage
- Reminder: office hours are meant to augment the class
  - Attend them when you need to!

## Getting Help – Request a Meeting

• Lecture is my side gig

• My main job is helping students succeed

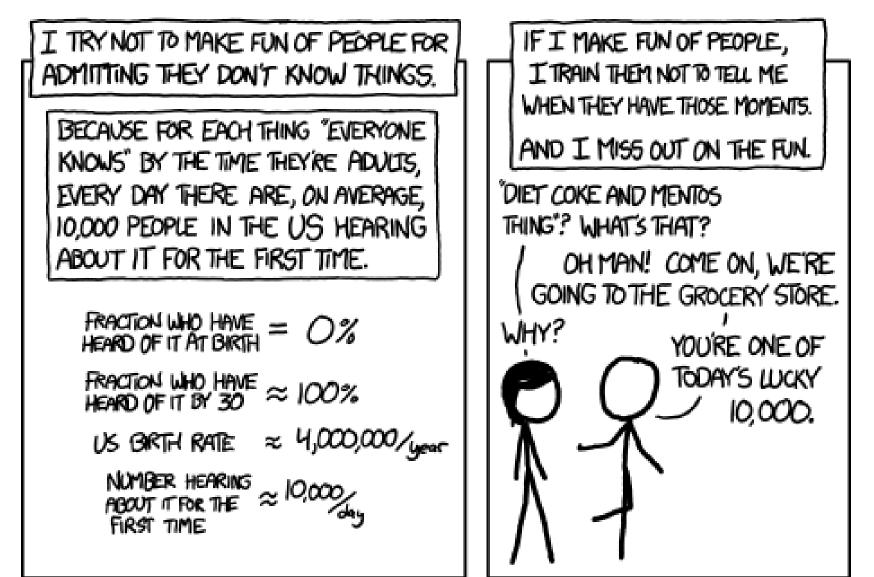
- If you are struggling, reach out and I will meet with you
  - Course material
  - Homework
  - Other stuff going on in your life

#### Advice

• Submit assignments early and often!

- If you find this course difficult, that's because it **is** difficult.
- However, nobody fails unless they give up.
- You belong here and can succeed here.
- Be kind to each other.

#### Break + relevant xkcd



## Collaboration in CS211, three levels:

#### **1. Partner Collaboration**

- Your code and the other student's code are identical because you share it and work on it together
- ONLY for registered partners on final project

#### 2. Close Collaboration

- You communicate about code however you see fit
- ONLY acceptable for labs and exercises

#### 3. Arms-Length Collaboration

- You discuss problems and solutions at a high level
- MAY NOT read, write, look at, record, or transcribe code
- MAY NOT have the code up on screen during collaboration
- MUST cite your sources, both arms-length collaborators and other resources

Refer to syllabus for the official version of this policy

#### Academic Honesty

- In CS211, we take cheating very seriously
- Cheating is when you:
  - Engage in an inappropriate level of collaboration
    - Such as look at another student's code
  - Enable another student, *present or future*, to cheat
    - Such as letting a CS211 student read your code next year
  - Fail to cite your sources (friend, Stack Overflow, etc.)
    - Such as you get a big hint and don't acknowledge where it came from in a code comment

#### Academic Honesty

#### Please do not cheat in CS211

- 1. If you don't write code, you won't learn!
- 2. Cheating on code is super easy to catch!!
  - No, like really really easy
  - All suspected cheating is reported to the relevant dean for investigation
  - Last time I taught CS211, eight different students were reported
- If you are unsure about a situation, ask the staff on Piazza

## Outline

• Why?

Course Overview

#### • Intro to C

- Hello World
- Variables
- Computing Fibonacci

#include <stdio.h>

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

return 0;

}

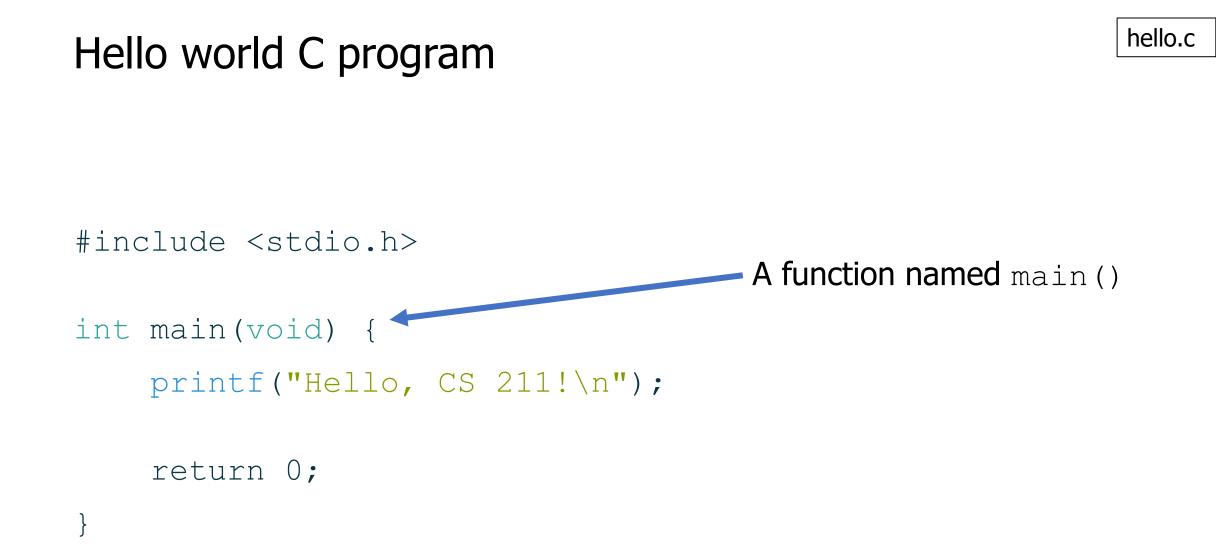
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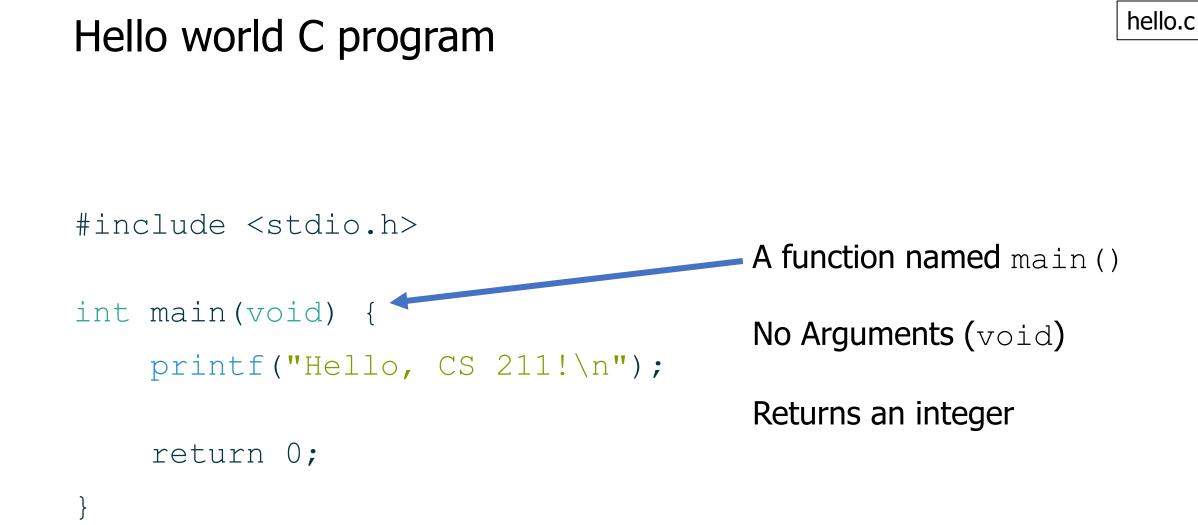
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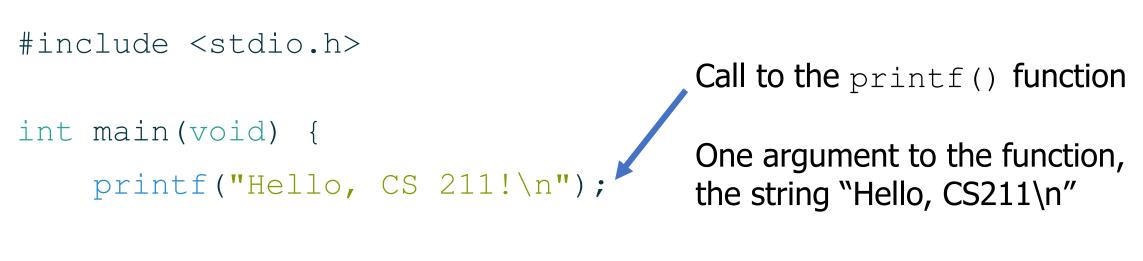
hello.c This is the code file where you can find this code!

Usually, I'll provide students source code for any in-class examples









#### return 0;

51

The printf() function is a part of the standard input/output library, included here

#include <stdio.h>

Call to the printf() function

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

One argument to the function, the string "Hello, CS211\n"

return 0;

#include <stdio.h>

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

return 0;

}

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

Two special things going on here:

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

#include <stdio.h>

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

```
return 0;
```

#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

hello.c

## Outline

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Program state is preserved in variables

- C is an **Imperative** programming language
  - List of step-by-step statements that modify the program's **state**
- State is information from prior steps that influences future steps
  Example: TV volume Up/Down apply to prior setting

• In programs, we explicitly keep state in variables

int z = 5;

## Values, objects, and variables

- Values are the actual information we want to work with
  - Numbers, Strings, Images, etc.
  - Example: 5 is an int value while `a' is a char value
- An **object** is a chunk of memory that can hold a value of a particular type.
  - Example: function f takes an argument int x
    - Each time 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
  - 1. The type determines qualities of the *object* 
    - Example: how much memory it takes up
  - 2. The type specifies what kind of *value* the variable holds
    - Example: integers, decimal numbers, strings, etc.

## Some 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

## Signed vs unsigned variables

- All "integer" types in C can be signed or unsigned
  - char, short, int, long, etc.
  - Unsigned: only zero or positive
  - Signed: negative, zero, or positive
- Signed is the default! If it doesn't say, it's usually signed
  - An exception is size\_t which is unsigned
- Comparing signed and unsigned numbers generates a warning
  - Should make sure they're the same before comparing

Temporarily changing types while comparing

- You can cast a variable to another type during an expression
  - To cast, put a type in parentheses before the variable name

#### • Example

```
int i = 0; //int is signed by default
size_t length = 5; //size_t is unsigned
```

if (i > length) { // warning here!
 printf("Too big!\n");
}

Temporarily changing types while comparing

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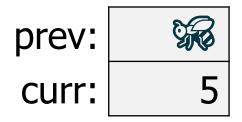
if (i > (int)length) { // no warning anymore!
 printf("Too big!\n");

```
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;
```

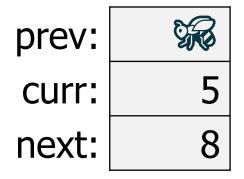
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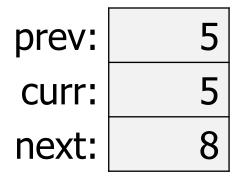
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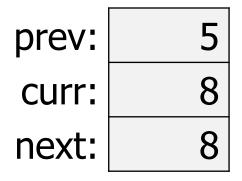
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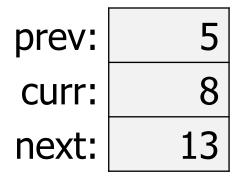
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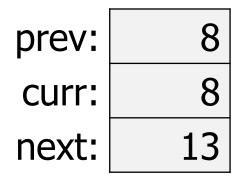
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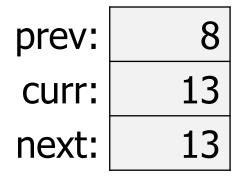
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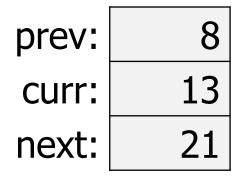
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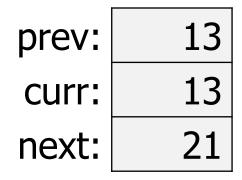
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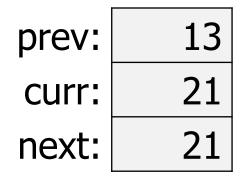
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 next = prev + curr;
```



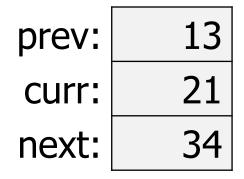
```
int prev;
 int curr = 5;
 int next = 8;
 prev = curr;
 curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
 prev = curr;
 curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
>prev = curr;
 curr = next;
 next = prev + curr;
```



```
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;
```



# Outline

• Why?

Course Overview

#### • Intro to C

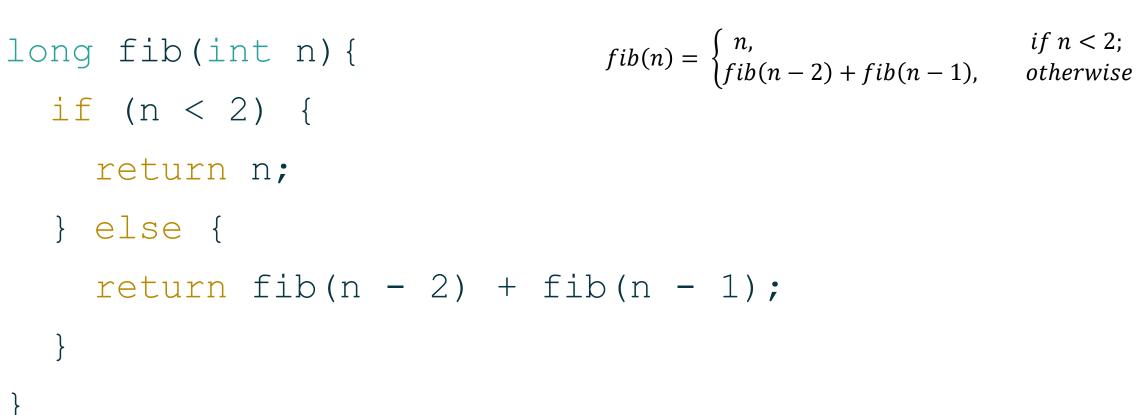
- Hello World
- Variables
- Computing Fibonacci

# 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



### Recursion works in C!

fib.c

# Implementing Fibonacci in C

```
long fib(int n) {
                                               fib(n) = \begin{cases} n, & \text{if } n < 2; \\ fib(n-2) + fib(n-1), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
   if (n < 2) {
     return n;
   } else {
     return fib(n - 2) + fib(n - 1);
      if ((test-expr)) { // evaluate (test-expr); then...
```

 fib.c

# Any 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)
}
```

```
C ignores most whitespace
```

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

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

C ignores most whitespace

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

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

C doesn't care about whitespace

```
C ignores most whitespace fib(n) =
```

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

# 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

```
C ignores most whitespace fib
```

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

# 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
  - This is a (small) portion of your grade on each homework!
  - <u>https://nu-cs211.github.io/cs211-files/cstyle.html</u>

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