Informatica e Sistemi in Tempo Reale

Introduction to C programming

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Outline

- First steps
- Declarations and definitions
- Variables
 - Simple Input/output
 - First exercises
 - Advanced operators
- Statements and control flow
 - If then else
 - While loop
 - For loop
 - Exercises

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My first C program

Let's start with a classic:

hello.c

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main()
{
    printf("Hello world!\n");
    return 0;
}
```

include includes definitions for library functions (in this case, the printf() function is defined in header file stdio.h)

main function this function must always be present in a C program. It is the first function to be invoked (the *entry point*)

return end of the function, returns a value to the shell

How to compile and run the program

- The C language is a compiled language
 - It means that the above program must be translated into a binary code before being executed
- The compiler does the job
 - reads the source file, translates it into binary code, and produces an executable file
 - In Linux, the following command line produces executable file hello from source file hello.c

```
gcc hello.c -o hello
```

- In Windows (with DevC++), you must build the program
- When you run the program (from a Linux shell, type ./hello, from Windows, click on Run), you obtain:
 - (in Windows you may not be able to see the output because the shell is automatically closed!)

```
Hello world!
```

Compiling the code

- The translation from high-level language to binary is done by the compiler (and the linker)
 - the compiler translates the code you wrote in the source file (hello.c)
 - the linker links external code from libraries of existing functions (in our case, the printf() function for output on screen)

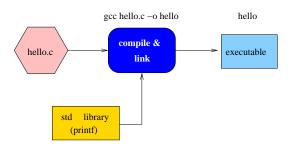


Figure: Compiling a file

Multiple source files

- A program can consist of multiple source files
- Every source file is called module and usually consists of a set of well-defined functions that work together
- every source file is compiled separately (it is a compilation unit) to produce an object file (extension: .o or .obj)
- all objects files and libraries are then linked together to produce an executable
- We will see later how it works

Running a program

- To execute a program, you must tell the Operating System to
 - load the program in main memory (RAM)
 - start executing the program instructions sequentially
- The OS is itself a program!
 - It is a high-order program that controls the execution of user programs
- The OS can:
 - Execute several user programs concurrently or in parallel
 - suspend or kill a user program
 - coordinate and synchronize user programs
 - let them communicate and exchange data
 - and many other things!

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Declarations, functions, expressions

- A C program is a sequence of global declarations and definitions
 - declarations of global variables and functions
 - definitions of variables and functions
 - often, declarations are implicit (the definition is an implicit declaration)
 - Examples:

```
int a;
       // declaration + definition
int b = 10;
               // declaration + definition + init
int f(int);
          // declaration only
int f(int p) // definition
               // declaration + definition
int q()
```

Functions

- The code goes inside functions
- There must be always at least one definition of a function called main
 - In the *hello* example:

```
hello.c
```

```
{
    printf("Hello world!\n");
    return 0;
}
```

Anatomy of the main function

There can be another form of main function:

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

- main is the function name, and must be unique in a program
 - there cannot be two functions with the same name
- int is the return type (will see later)
- between () parenthesis we have the list of parameters with their type, separated by commas:
 - in the example above, two parameters, argc and argv
- between {} parenthesis, we have the function body:
 - the code that is executed when the function is called
- The OS implicitly calls the main function when the program is launched
 - the main function is also called the program entry point

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Variables and types

- A variable is a location in memory with a symbolic name
- A variable is used as temporary or permanent storage of data to perform complex computation
- In C, every variable must have a type
- Predefined types in C:

```
int an integer number (usually 32 bits)
char a ASCII character (8 bits)
float floating point number, single precision (32 bits)
double floating point number, double precision (64 bits)
```

 A type dictates the variable range (or domain) (from the number of bits) and the operations you can perform on a variable

Variable definition

- Usually, declaration and definition coincide for variables
- The definition consists of the type keyword followed by the name of the variable, followed by the ";" symbol
- Examples

```
int a;
                 /* an integer variable of name a
                                                       */
double b;
                 /* a double-precision floating point
char c;
                 /* a character
                                                       */
a = 10;
               /* assignment: a now contains 10
                                                       */
b = b + 1.5; /* after assignment, b is equal to
                    the previous value of b plus 1.5
c = 'a';
                 /* c is equal to the ASCII value of
                    character 'a'
                                                       * /
```

Constants

- Constants are numeric or alphabetic values that can be used in operations on variables or in functions
- Example:

Variable names

- Variable names cannot start with a number
- cannot contain spaces
- cannot contain special symbols like '+', '-', '*', '/', '%', etc.
- cannot be arbitrarily long (255 char max)
- cannot be equal to reserved keywords (like int, double, for, etc.)

Variable initialization

- It is possible to assign an initial value to a variable during definition
- If you do not specify a value, the initial value of the variable is undefined
- It is good programming practice to always initialize a variable
 - Many programming errors are due to programmers that forget to initialize a variable before using it

Operations on variables

- The basic arithmetic operators are:
 - + addition
 - subtraction
 - * multiplication
 - / division
 - % modulus (remainder of the integer division)

Notes:

- when division is applied to integers, the result is an integer (it truncates the decimal part)
- modulus can only be applied to integers
- multiplication, division and modulus have precedence over addition and subtraction
- to change precedence, you can use parenthesis

Expressions

- A C program is a sequence of expressions, and expression is a combination of operators on variables, constants and functions
- Examples of expressions:

```
/* definitions of variables */
int a, b;
int division;
int remainder;
double area circle;
double radius;
. . .
/* expressions */
a = 15;
b = 6;
division = a / b;
remainder = a % b;
radius = 2.4i
area circle = 3.14 * radius * radius;
```

Assigning a value to a variable is itself an expression

```
area_circle = 3.14 * radius * radius;
```

- The above expression is composed by three elements:
 - the operator is =
 - the left operand must always be a variable name (cannot be another expression!)
 - the right operand can be any expression, (in our case two multiplications)
 - the right operand is evaluated first, and then the result is assigned to the left operand (the variable)

```
area_circle / 3.14 = radius * radius
```

• the code above is illegal! Why?

```
int a, b;
b = a = 5;
```

```
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- You must read it from right to left:
 - a=5 is first evaluated by assigning value 5 to variable a; the result of this expression is 5

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- You must read it from right to left:
 - a=5 is first evaluated by assigning value 5 to variable a; the result of this expression is 5
 - then, the result is assigned to variable b (whose value after assignment is hence 5)
- What are the values of a and b after the following two expressions?

```
int a, b;
b = (a = 5) + 1;
b = a = 5 + 1;
```

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Formatted output

To output on screen, you can use the printf library function

exprintf.c

```
/* fprintf example */
#include <stdio.h>
int main()
  printf ("Characters: %c %c \n", 'a', 65);
   printf ("Decimals: %d %ld\n", 1977, 650000);
  printf ("Preceding with blanks: %10d \n", 1977);
  printf ("Preceding with zeros: %010d \n", 1977);
  printf ("Some different radixes: %d %x %o %#x %#o \n",
           100, 100, 100, 100, 100);
   printf ("floats: %4.2f %+.0e %E \n", 3.1416, 3.1416, 3.1416);
  printf ("Width trick: %*d \n", 5, 10);
  printf ("%s \n", "A string");
   return 0;
```

Formatted Input

 To input variables from the keyboard, you can use the scanf library function

exscanf.c

```
/* scanf example */
#include <stdio.h>
int main ()
 char str [80];
  int i:
 printf ("Enter your family name: ");
  scanf ("%s",str);
 printf ("Enter your age: ");
  scanf ("%d",&i);
 printf ("Mr. %s , %d years old.\n",str,i);
 printf ("Enter a hexadecimal number: ");
  scanf ("%x",&i);
 printf ("You have entered % #x (%d).\n",i,i);
 return 0;
```

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Exercises

- Write a program that asks the user to enter the radius of a circle, computes the area and the circumference
 - define variables and initialize them
 - use scanf to input radius variable
 - compute the values
 - formatted input on screen
- Write a program that asks for two integer numbers a and b, computes the quotient and the remainder, and prints them on screen

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y *= x + a;  // equivalent to y = y * (x+a);
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```

In general

```
var <op>= <expr>; // equivalent to var = var <op> (<expr>);
```

Increment / decrement

 If you just need to increment/decrement, you can use the following shortcuts

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Of course, it can only be used on variables;

• What is the difference between x++ and ++x?

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- They are both expressions that can be used inside other expressions (like assignment), as follows;

```
int a, x;
x = 5;
a = ++x; // what is the value of a after the assignment?
```

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int a, x;
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```
x = 5;
a = x++; // value of a is 5, b is 6
```

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x = 5;
a = x++;  // value of a is 5, b is 6
```

```
x = 5;
a = ++x;  // value of a is 6, b is 6
```

Boolean operators

- In there is no boolean type
- Every expression with a value equal to 0 is interpreted as false
- Every expression with a value different from 0 is interpreted as true
- It is possible to use the following boolean operators:
 - && logical and operator
 - | logical or operator
 - ! logical not operator
- It is possible to interpret integer values as booleans and vice versa

Comparison operators

- These operators compare numbers, giving 0 or 1 (hence a boolean value) as result
 - < less than
 - <= less than or equal to
 - > greater than
 - >= greater than or equal to
 - == equal
 - != not equal

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```
int a = 7; int b = 10; int c = 7;
int res;

res = a < b;    // res is 1
res = a <= c;    // res is 1
res = a < c;    // res is 0

res = b == c;    // res is 0</pre>
```

(will come back to these later)

Binary operators

- It is possible to do binary operations on integer variables using the following operators:
 - & binary (bit-to-bit) and
 - binary (bit-to-bit) or
 - → binary (bit-to-bit) not (complement)

```
unsigned char a = 1;  // in binary: 0000 0001
unsigned char b = 2;  // in binary: 0000 0010
unsigned char c = 5;  // in binary: 0000 0101
unsigned char d;

d = a & b;  // d is now 0000 0000
d = a & c;  // d is now 0000 0001
d = a | b;  // d is now 0000 0011
d = ~a;  // d is now 1111 1110
```

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- Also, sometimes we need to repeat instructions a number of times, or until a certain condition is verified
- we need to control the execution flow

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If statement

- To select alternative paths, we can use the if then else statement
- The general form is the following:

```
if (<expression>)
    statement;
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If statement

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- The general form is the following:

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```

- <expression> must be a boolean expression;
- The statement can be a single code instruction, or a block of code:

```
if (<expression>) {
    statement1;
    statement2;
    statement3;
}
```

A block is a set of statements encloses by curly braces {}

Examples

• here are two example of usage of if

```
int x;
...
if (x % 2)
    printf("number %d is odd\n", x);
```

```
double a;

if (a < 0) {
    printf("a is negative!\n");
    a = -a;
    printf("a is now positive\n");
}</pre>
```

Complete form

In its most complete form:

```
if (<expression>)
    statement1;
else
    statement2;
```

 Of course, both statement1 and statement2 can be blocks of statements;

```
if (x > 0) {
    if (y > 0)
        printf("Northeast.\n");
    else
        printf("Southeast.\n");
}
else {
    if (y > 0)
        printf("Northwest.\n");
    else
        printf("Southwest.\n");
}
```

- A statement can be:
 - an expression;
 - a if then else construct;
 - a block of statements (recursive definition!)
- Expressions and statements are not the same thing!
 - You can use expressions wherever you can use a statement
 - You cannot use a statement where you see "expression"!
- For example, you cannot use a statement inside a if condition!
- But you can use another if as a statement

You can write the following:

```
if (x > 0) if (y > 0) printf("north east\n");
    else printf("south east\n");
else if (y > 0) printf("north west\n");
        else printf("south west\n");
```

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```

- in facts, an if condition can only be an expression!
- Remember:
 - An expression has always a (numerical) value which is the result of an operation
 - 0 is interpreted as false, any other number is interpreted as true
 - A statement may be an expression (in which case it has a numerical value), or something else

More on if conditions

• To check if variable i is between 1 and 10:

```
if (i <= 10 && i>= 1) ...
```

or alternatively:

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if (1 <= i && i <= 10) ...
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Don't use the following:

```
if (1 <= i <= 10) ...
```

- (what happens? check out
 - ./examples/01.intro_c-examples/condition1.c)

Common mistakes

One common mistake is the following:

```
int a = 5;
if (a = 0) printf("a is 0\n");
else printf("a is different from 0\n");
```

• What does the code above print on screen? (see

```
./examples/01.intro c-examples/condition2.c)
```

Common mistakes

One common mistake is the following:

```
int a = 5;
if (a = 0) printf("a is 0\n");
else printf("a is different from 0\n");
```

- What does the code above print on screen? (see
 ./examples/01.intro_c-examples/condition2.c)
 The value of expression and a (which is an assignment not a)
- The value of expression a = 0 (which is an assignment, not a comparison!) is 0, i.e. the value of a after the assignment
- Probably, the programmer wanted to say something else:

```
if (a == 0) printf("a is 0\n");
else printf("a is different from 0\n");
```

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- Example:
 - Given an integer number stored in variable a, print "number is prime" if the number is prime (divisible only by 1 and by itself)

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 - Given an integer number stored in variable a, print "number is prime" if the number is prime (divisible only by 1 and by itself)
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- Example:
 - Given an integer number stored in variable a, print "number is prime" if the number is prime (divisible only by 1 and by itself)
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 - However, we do not know the value of a before program execution; how many division should we do?
- Solution: use the while construct

While loop

• The general form:

```
while (<expression>) statement;
```

As usual, statement can also be a block of statements

While loop

• The general form:

```
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```

- As usual, statement can also be a block of statements
- Similar to an if, but the statement is performed iteratively while the condition is "true" (i.e. different from 0)
- Example: sum the first 10 numbers:

```
int sum = 0;
int i = 0;
while (i < 10) {
    sum = sum + i;
    i = i + 1;
}
printf("The sum of the first 10 numbers: %d\n", sum);</pre>
```

Break and continue statements

 Sometimes we need to go out of the loop immediately, without completing the rest of the statements. To do this we can use the break statement

```
int i = 0;
while (i < 10) {
    i++;
    if ((i % 5) == 0) break;
    printf("%d is not divisible by 5\n", i);
}
printf("Out of the loop");</pre>
```

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    if ((i % 5) == 0) break;
    printf("%d is not divisible by 5\n", i);
}
printf("Out of the loop");</pre>
```

 Another possibility is to continue with the next iteration without complete the rest of the statements:

```
int i = 0;
while (i < 10) {
    i++;
    if (i % 5 != 0) continue;
    printf("%d is divisible by 5\n", i);
}
printf("Out of the loop\n");</pre>
```

Prime numbers

isprime.c

```
int main()
    int k, i, flag;
    printf("This program tests if a number is prime\n");
    printf("Insert a number: ");
    scanf("%d", &k);
    flaq = 1;
    i = 2;
   while (i < k) {
        if (k % i == 0) {
            printf("%d is a divisor: %d = %d x %d\n", i, k, i, k/i);
            flaq = 0;
            break;
        i++;
    printf("%d is ", k);
    if (!flag) printf("not ");
    printf("prime\n");
```

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- if then else and while constructs are all we need to program
 - It can be proved in theoretical computer science that with one loop construct and one selection construct, the language is equivalent to a Turing Machine, the simplest and more general kind of calculator

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- if then else and while constructs are all we need to program
 - It can be proved in theoretical computer science that with one loop construct and one selection construct, the language is equivalent to a Turing Machine, the simplest and more general kind of calculator
- However, sometimes using only while loops can be annoying
- The C language provides two more loop constructs: for loops and do-while loops

For loop

• The most general form is the following:

```
for(<expr1>; <expr2>; <expr3>) statement;
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- expr1 is also called *initialization*; it is executed before entering the first loop iteration
- expr2 is also called condition; it is checked before every iteration;
 - if it is false, the loop is terminated;
 - if it is true, the iteration is performed
- expr3 is also called instruction; it is performed at the end of every iteration
- The most common usage is the following:

```
for (i=0; i<10; i++)
    printf("The value of i is now %d\n", i);</pre>
```

Sum the first 10 numbers

```
int n = 10;
int i;
int sum = 0;

for (i=0; i<n; i++) sum += i;

printf("The sum of the first %d numbers is %d\n", n, sum);</pre>
```

Prime numbers

isprime2.c

```
int main()
    int k, i, flag;
    printf("This program tests if a number is prime\n");
    printf("Insert a number: ");
    scanf("%d", &k);
    flaq = 1;
    for (i=2; i<k/2; i++)</pre>
        if (k % i == 0) {
            printf("%d is a divisor: %d = %d x %d\n", i, k, i, k/i);
            flaq = 0;
            break;
    printf("%d is ", k);
    if (!flag) printf("not ");
   printf("prime\n");
```

Equivalence between for and while

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    expr3;
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for (expr1; expr2; expr3) statement;
```

can be rewritten as:

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expr1;
while (expr2) {
    statement;
    expr3;
}
```

On the other hand, the following while loop;

```
while (expr) statement;
```

can be rewritten as:

```
for( ; expr ; ) statement;
```

Outline

- First steps
- Declarations and definitions
- Variables
 - Simple Input/output
 - First exercises
 - Advanced operators
- Statements and control flow
 - If then else
 - While loop
 - For loop
 - Exercises

```
int k, i=0; j=8;
for (k=0; k<j; k++) {
    i = k+j;
    j--;
    printf("i is now %d\n", i);
}</pre>
```

Given the following for loop, rewrite it as a while loop;

```
int k, i=0; j=8;
for (k=0; k<j; k++) {
    i = k+j;
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    printf("i is now %d\n", i);
}</pre>
```

Write a program that, given an integer number in input, prints on screen all prime factors of the number,

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int k, i=0; j=8;
for (k=0; k<j; k++) {
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- Write a program that, given an integer number in input, prints on screen all prime factors of the number,
 - For example, given 6, prints 2, 3

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int k, i=0; j=8;
for (k=0; k<j; k++) {
    i = k+j;
    j--;
    printf("i is now %d\n", i);
}</pre>
```

- Write a program that, given an integer number in input, prints on screen all prime factors of the number,
 - For example, given 6, prints 2, 3
 - given 24, prints 2, 2, 2, 3

```
int k, i=0; j=8;
for (k=0; k<j; k++) {
    i = k+j;
    j--;
    printf("i is now %d\n", i);
}</pre>
```

- Write a program that, given an integer number in input, prints on screen all prime factors of the number,
 - For example, given 6, prints 2, 3
 - given 24, prints 2, 2, 2, 3
 - given 150, prints 2, 3, 5, 5

```
int k, i=0; j=8;
for (k=0; k<j; k++) {
    i = k+j;
    j--;
    printf("i is now %d\n", i);
}</pre>
```

- Write a program that, given an integer number in input, prints on screen all prime factors of the number,
 - For example, given 6, prints 2, 3
 - given 24, prints 2, 2, 2, 3
 - given 150, prints 2, 3, 5, 5
 - etc.

```
int k, i=0; j=8;
for (k=0; k<j; k++) {
    i = k+j;
    j--;
    printf("i is now %d\n", i);
}</pre>
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- Write a program that, given an integer number in input, prints on screen all prime factors of the number,
 - For example, given 6, prints 2, 3
 - given 24, prints 2, 2, 2, 3
 - given 150, prints 2, 3, 5, 5
 - etc.
 - Suggestion: use a while loop initially

Exercises: strange for loops

Since an expression can be pretty much everything, you can write lot of strange things with for loops

Incrementing 2 variables with the comma operator:

```
int i, j;
for (i=0, j=0; i < 5; i++, j+=2)
    printf(" i = %d, j = %d\n", i, j);</pre>
```

- What does the code above print on screen?
- What the code below prints on screen?

```
int i;
int g=0;
for (i=0; i<10; g += i++);
printf("%d", g);</pre>
```