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# C programming

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# Preprocessor Directives :

- Preprocessor is part of C programming toolchain/SDK.
  - Removes comments from the source code.
  - Expand source code by processing all statements starting with #.
  - Executed before compiler
- All statements starting with # are called as preprocessor directives.
  - Header file include
    - #include
  - Symbolic constants & Macros
    - #define
  - Conditional compilation
    - #if, #else, #elif, #endif
    - #ifdef #ifndef
  - Miscellaneous
    - #pragma, #error



# Preprocessor Directives :

- Preprocessor is small application helps to generate intermediate code.
- It process all c statements starting with # which is called as preprocessor directives.
- Preprocessor directives are the commands given preprocessor about processing source code before compilation.
- can be used for defining symbolic constant or macro
- #define <symbol> <replacable text>



# #include :

- #include includes header files (.h) in the source code (.c).
- #include <file.h>
  - Find file in standard include directory.
  - If not found, raise error.
- #include "file.h"
  - File file in current source directory.
  - If not found, find file in standard include directory.
  - If not found, raise error.



# #define symbolic constants :

- Used to define symbolic constants.
  - #define PI 3.142
  - #define SIZE 10
- Predefined constants
  - \_\_LINE\_\_
  - \_\_FILE\_\_
  - \_\_DATE\_\_
  - \_\_TIME\_\_
- Symbolic constants and macros are available from their declaration till the end of file. Their scope is not limited to the function.





# #define macros :

- Used to define macros (with or without arguments)
  - #define ADD(a, b) (a + b)
  - #define SQUARE(x) ((x) \* (x))
  - #define SWAP(a,b,type) { type t = a; a = b; b = t; }
- Macros are replaced with macro expansion by preprocessor directly.
  - May raise logical/compiler errors if not used parenthesis properly.
- Stringizing operator (#)
  - Converts given argument into string.
  - #define PRINT(var) printf("#var " = "%d", var)
- Token pasting operator (##)
  - Combines argument(s) of macro with some symbol.
  - #define VAR(a,b) a##b



# Difference between functions and macros :

## • Functions

- Function have declaration, definition and call.
- Functions are called at runtime by creating FAR on stack.
- Functions are type-safe.
- Functions may be recursive.
- Functions called multiple times doesn't increase code size.
- Functions execute slower.
- For bigger reusable code snippets, functions are preferred.

## • Macros

- Macro definition contain macro arguments and expansion.
- Macros are replaced blindly by the processor before compilation
- Macros are not type-safe.
- Macros cannot be recursive.
- Macros (multi-line) called multiple times increase code size.
- Macros execute faster.
- For smaller code snippets/formulas, macros are preferred.



# Conditional Compilation :

- As preprocessing is done before compilation, it can be used to control the source code to be made available for compilation process.
  - The condition should be evaluated at preprocessing time (constant values).
  - Conditional compilation directives
    - #if, #elif, #else, #endif
    - #ifdef, #ifndef
- #if
  - #else
  - #elif
  - #endif
  - #ifdef
  - #ifndef
  - Example:
    - #define PI 3.14 ,
    - #if defined (PI)
    - printf("DEFINED");
    - #else
    - printf("NOT DEFINED");
    - #endif





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# Thank You !!

