The Preprocessor

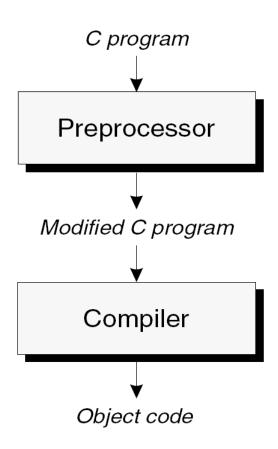
Introduction

• Directives such as

```
#define
#include
```

are handled by the *preprocessor* (前置處理器), a piece of software that edits C programs just prior to compilation.

How the Preprocessor Works



Introduction

- 前置處理器的 input 是 C 的程式碼, 其中可能包含待處理的 directives 命令
- 前置處理器會執行這些 directives、將它們從程式碼中移除、並且對程式碼做相對應的修改.
- 之後,修改過的程式碼就直接成為 C compiler 的 input.
- 前置處理器是一個很有用的工具, 但同時也可能是很難以發現的 bug 的來源

How the Preprocessor Works

- 在 C 發展早期,前置處理器是一隻獨立的程式 在編譯前用來對程式碼做前置處理
- 現今,前置處理器多半已成為編譯器的一部份 ,甚至,在編譯器最佳化的設計下,許多已經 與編譯器結合。
- 然而,使用時把它當成是一隻獨立的程式, 有助於理解前置處理器的行為與功用。

Preprocessing Directives

- 前置處理器的命令 (directives) 主要分成三類:
 - 定義Macro.
 The #define directive defines a macro;
 the #undef directive removes a macro definition.
 - 引入檔案 File inclusion.
 The **#include** directive causes the contents of a specified file to be included in a program.
 - 條件判斷 Conditional compilation.

 The #if, #ifdef, #ifndef, #elif, #else, and #endif directives allow blocks of text to be either included in or excluded from a program.

#include

• #include 告訴前置處理器去開啟特定的檔案 ,並且將它的內容包含至目前的程式碼裡。

• 舉例來說,

#include <stdio.h>

告訴前置處理器去開啟 stdio.h 這個檔案、並且 將它的內容替換至此 directive 命令的位置

#define

- #define 用來定義 *macro*
 - 一個用來代表自定值的名字(前置處理器的識別字)
- 前置處理器會將 #define 所定義的 macro 儲存 下來
- 當定義的 macro 被使用時, 前置處理器會把它 "展開",將它替換成所定義的值.

• Definition of a *simple macro* (or *object-like macro*):

#define identifier replacement-list

replacement-list 為任意的 preprocessing tokens.

• Replacement list 可以包含任何的 identifiers, keywords, 數值常數, 字元常數, 字串, 運算子, 或標點

• Definition of a *simple macro* (or *object-like macro*):

#define identifier replacement-list

replacement-list 為任意的 preprocessing tokens.

• 當 identifier 之後再出現於程式檔中, 前置處理器會將它置換為 replacement-list.

- Any extra symbols in a macro definition will become part of the replacement list.
- Putting the = symbol in a macro definition is a common error:

• Ending a macro definition with a semicolon is another popular mistake:

```
#define N 100;  /*** WRONG ***/
...
int a[N];  /* becomes int a[100;]; */
```

• Simple macros are primarily used for defining "manifest constants"—names that represent numeric, character, and string values:

```
#define STR_LEN 80
#define TRUE 1
#define FALSE 0
#define PI 3.14159
#define CR '\r'
#define EOS '\0'
#define MEM_ERR "Error: not enough memory"
```

- 定義 Simple Macros 的優點:
 - 讓程式碼更容易閱讀.

 The name of the macro can help the reader understand the meaning of the constant.
 - 讓程式碼容易維護、修改:
 We can change the value of a constant throughout a program by modifying a single macro definition.

If a numerical constant like 3.14159 appears many times in a program, chances are it will occasionally be written 3.1416 or 3.14195 by accident.

• Definition of a *parameterized macro* (function-like macro):

#define $identifier(x_1, x_2, ..., x_n)$ replacement-list $x_1, x_2, ..., x_n$ 為此 macro 的參數

• Macro 的識別字與左括號'('之間不可以有空格.

否則的話, $(x_1, x_2, ..., x_n)$ 會被視為 replacement list 的一部份.

- 當前置處理器碰到 Function Macro 的定義時, 會將它的定義儲存下來.
- 在程式碼裡,當 function macro 被使用時, (形式必須為 *identifier* (y₁, y₂, ..., y_n)) 前置處理器會將它替為成定義的內容, 並且將各個參數代入.
- 可以把 Function Macro 視為簡化版的函式.
 - 不同的地方在於, Function Macro 做的是"代入" 沒有實際的函式呼叫過程

• Examples of parameterized macros:

```
#define MAX(x,y) ((x)>(y)?(x):(y))
#define IS_EVEN(n) ((n)%2==0)
```

• Invocations of these macros:

```
i = MAX(j+k, m-n);
if (IS_EVEN(i)) i++;
```

• The same lines after macro replacement:

```
i = ((j+k)>(m-n)?(j+k):(m-n));
if (((i)%2==0)) i++;
```

- 使用 Function Macro 的優點:
 - 程式碼執行上, 會稍微快一點點.
 A function call usually requires some overhead during program execution, but a macro invocation does not.
 - Function Macro 的參數可以是任何型態.
 A macro can accept arguments of any type, provided that the resulting program is valid.

- Function Macro 的缺點:
- 編譯後的程式碼會較為肥大:

Each macro invocation increases the size of the source program (and hence the compiled code).

The problem is compounded when macro invocations are nested:

```
n = MAX(i, MAX(j, k));
```

The statement after preprocessing:

```
n = ((i)>(((j)>(k)?(j):(k)))?(i):(((j)>(k)?(j):(k)));
```

• 前置處理器只做"替換", 無法檢查 Macro 的參數型態.

When a function is called, the compiler checks each argument to see if it has the appropriate type.

Macro arguments aren't checked by the preprocessor, nor are they converted.

· 過度使用 Macro 的替換, 可能帶來邏輯上難以發現的 bug.

Unexpected behavior may occur if an argument has side effects:

```
n = MAX(i++, j);
```

The same line after preprocessing:

```
n = ((i++)>(j)?(i++):(j));
```

If i is larger than j, then i will be (incorrectly) incremented twice and n will be assigned an unexpected value.