



# Basic Types

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## Chapter 7



# Objectives

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You will be able to:

- Use integer and floating point types appropriately for variables and literals.
- Write correct statements for input and output of the different numeric types.
- Avoid common problems resulting from automatic type conversions.



# About Chapter 7

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- A lot of complexity
  - Read the chapter, but don't try to memorize
  - Should be *aware* of types available in C
  - Usually don't need to use most of them.
- This presentation will cover what you really need to know for most real world programming.



# Kinds of Numbers

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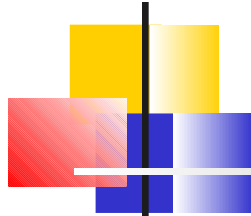
- Computers provide mathematical operations for two kinds of numbers:
  - Integer
  - Floating Point
- You can't tell one kind of number from the other by looking at it in memory.
- If you were writing machine language code, you would have to remember which kind of number you stored in a given memory location and use the right kind of operation.



# Kinds of Numbers

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- In the C Language you *declare* variables as one form or the other.  
`int i;`  
`double radius;`
- The compiler generates machine code for the right kind of operation based on your declarations.



# Which Kind of Number to Use?

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- Determined by the use.
- Counting
  - Use integer
- Measurement
  - Use floating point
- Scientific Calculations
  - Use floating point
- What about accounting?
  - Dollars and cents



# Numbers in C

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- Integer
  - Exact representation
  - Signed or unsigned
  - Various sizes (implementation dependent)
    - Typically 32, 16, 8 bits
    - 64 bits on very large systems



# Numbers in C

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- Floating-point
  - Represent mathematical “real” numbers
    - or “rational” numbers
  - Always signed
  - Two sizes, or maybe three
    - 32 bits, 64 bits, maybe more
  - Approximation in most cases
- ANSI/IEEE Standard 754-1985
- For a concise summary see:  
<http://www.psc.edu/general/software/packages/ieee/ieee.html>





# Names for Integer Types in C

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Common Name	Full Name	Other Acceptable Names	
<code>int</code>	<code>signed int</code>	<code>signed</code>	
<code>long</code>	<code>signed long int</code>	<code>long int</code>	<code>signed long</code>
<code>short</code>	<code>signed short int</code>	<code>short int</code>	<code>signed short</code>
<code>unsigned</code>	<code>unsigned int</code>		
<code>unsigned long</code>	<code>unsigned long int</code>		
<code>unsigned short</code>	<code>unsigned short int</code>		

C99 adds even more.

Remember `int`.

Look up the others if you need them.

Rarely need any integer type other than `int`.



# Unsigned Integer Types

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- There are a few appropriate uses
  - Don't use unsigned integers unless you have a good reason to do so.
  - Will discuss as we reach them.
- *Never use unsigned integers in calculations.*



# Size and Range of Integer Types

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- Size of the various types is implementation dependent.
  - Compiler writers make the choice, considering hardware characteristics of the target system.
- Symbolic constants defined in `limits.h`
  - `INT_MIN`    `INT_MAX`
    - Values are specific to the system on which the file resides.



# Size and Range of Integer Types

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- `sizeof()` tells you the size of variables and types, in bytes.
  - `sizeof()` returns an unsigned integer value.
- Book says to typecast as unsigned long and print using `%lu`
  - On systems that I use printing with `%d` works OK.

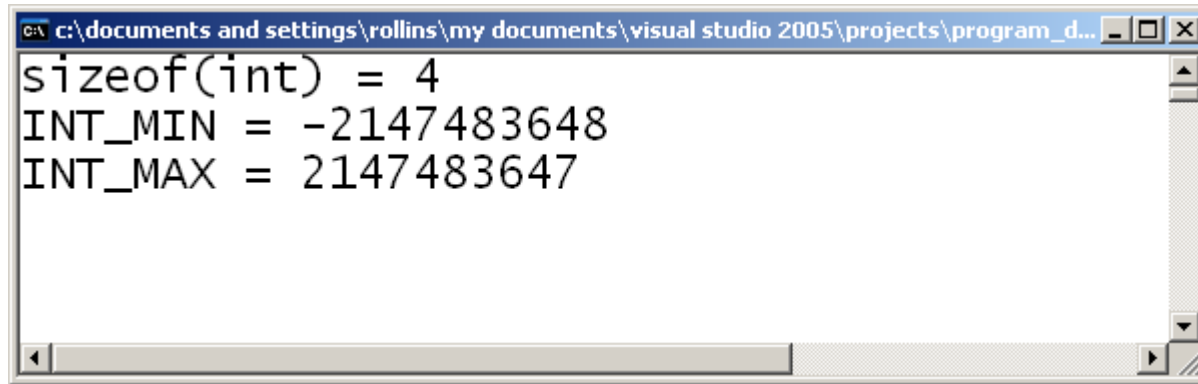
```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <limits.h>

int main()
{
    printf ("sizeof(int) = %lu\n", sizeof(int));
    printf ("INT_MIN = %d\n", INT_MIN);
    printf ("INT_MAX = %d\n\n", INT_MAX);
    getchar();
    return 0;
}
```



# Size of integers on Windows XP

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```
c:\documents and settings\rollins\my documents\visual studio 2005\projects\program_d...  
sizeof(int) = 4  
INT_MIN = -2147483648  
INT_MAX = 2147483647
```

An Intel Pentium 4 desktop computer.



# Size of Integers on Circe

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```
turnerr@login4:~/test2
[turnerr@login4 test2]$ gcc -Wall size.c
[turnerr@login4 test2]$ ./a.out
sizeof(int) = 4
INT_MIN = -2147483648
INT_MAX = 2147483647

[turnerr@login4 test2]$
```

Same results as for Windows  
PC



# Range for int

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$$\text{INT\_MAX} = 2,147,483,647 = 2^{31} - 1$$

or, in binary

0111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111

31 1 bits

$$\text{INT\_MIN} = -2,147,483,648 = -2^{31}$$

or, in binary

1000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000

31 0 bits

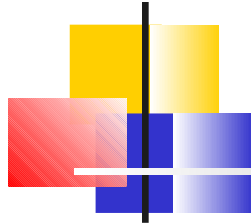




## Range for int

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- You don't need to memorize these numbers.
- Should be able to compute them if necessary.
- Should know the bit patterns.
- Should know order of magnitude.
  - INT\_MAX is about 2 billion



# How big is INT\_MAX?

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- About 2 billion
  - 2 giga-things
- Big enough to hold
  - Population of US (~300 million)
  - Number bytes of RAM on my PC (~1 billion)
  - Loop counter for “while” or “for” loop



# How big is INT\_MAX?

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- About 2 billion
  - 2 giga-things
- Not big enough to hold
  - Population of world (~6.4 billion)
  - Number bytes of disk on my PC (80 billion)
  - US Budget in dollars (2.3 trillion)
  - Avogadro's number ( $6.02214199 \times 10^{23}$ )



# How big is INT\_MAX?

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- Big enough for most things that you will ever need to keep track of individually

But not necessarily everything.

- You have to think about how large numbers can get in your programs.



# What if 32 bits are not enough?

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- Floating point
  - double supports integer values up to 15 digits
- Scaled arithmetic
  - Keep track of scaling factor separately
- Extended precision software packages are available.
- Some languages have extended types implemented in software.
  - “Decimal” in .NET Framework (VB, C#)



# Integer Literals

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- A number without sign or decimal point written out “literally” in a program.
  - Sign is consider a unary operator
    - Not part of the number
  - Decimal point makes it a floating point literal
    - A double by default.
  - Commas are not permitted

## A Literal Too Big

```
turnerr@login4:~/test2
[turnerr@login4 test2]$
[turnerr@login4 test2]$ cat too_big.c
#include <stdio.h>
int main()
{
    int i;
    i = 3000000000;    Integer literal bigger than INT_MAX

    printf ("%d\n", i);
    return 0;
}

[turnerr@login4 test2]$
[turnerr@login4 test2]$ gcc -Wall too_big.c
[turnerr@login4 test2]$ ./a.out
-1294967296
What is this?
[turnerr@login4 test2]$
[turnerr@login4 test2]$
```

## An Invalid Literal

```
turnerr@login4:~/test2
[turnerr@login4 test2]$ cat too_big2.c
#include <stdio.h>
int main()
{
    int i;
    i = 60000000000;

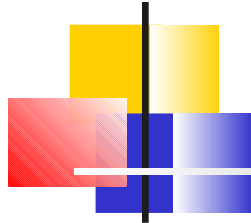
    printf ("%d\n", i);
    return 0;
}

[turnerr@login4 test2]$
[turnerr@login4 test2]$ gcc -Wall too_big2.c
too_big2.c: In function 'main':
too_big2.c:5: warning: overflow in implicit constant conversion
[turnerr@login4 test2]$
[turnerr@login4 test2]$ ./a.out
1705032704
[turnerr@login4 test2]$
```

More than 32 bits

Garbage output!





# Integer Literals

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- Be aware of size.
  - 32 bits is OK for up to 2 billion.
- Don't ignore compiler warnings.
- Proceed if you completely understand the warning and it fits what you intended



# Floating-Point Types in C

## What to remember:

These are the minimum value ranges for the IEEE floating-point types. The names given in this table are the ones defined by the C standard.

Type Name	Digits of Precision	Name of C Constant	Minimum Value Range Required by IEEE Standard
float	6	$\pm\text{FLT\_MIN} \dots \pm\text{FLT\_MAX}$	$\pm 1.175\text{E}-38 \dots \pm 3.402\text{E}+38$
double	15	$\pm\text{DBL\_MIN} \dots \pm\text{DBL\_MAX}$	$\pm 2.225\text{E}-308 \dots \pm 1.797\text{E}+308$

**Figure 7.4.** IEEE floating-point types.

Fischer, page 232

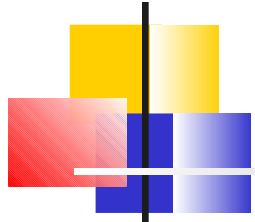
For most practical purposes, double is both necessary and sufficient.



# Floating-Point Types in C

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- No physical measurements are precise to more than 15 digits.
- No numbers used in normal mathematical or scientific calculations are larger than  $10^{308}$ 
  - or smaller than  $10^{-308}$



# Floating-Point Types in C

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- Number of atoms in the visible universe:
  - $4 * 10^{79}$
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Observable\\_universe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Observable_universe)
- Age of the universe
  - $13 * 10^9$  years =  $4 * 10^{23}$  microseconds
  - <http://www.astro.ucla.edu/~wright/age.html>
- Mass of an electron in kilograms
  - $9.10939 * 10^{-31}$
  - <http://hypertextbook.com/facts/2000/DannyDonohue.shtml>



# Floating-Point Types in C

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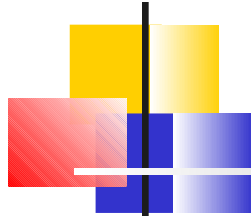
- Numbers representing physical quantities in the real world do not tax the capacity of a double.
- Intermediate results in some calculations might.
  - Separate subject: numerical analysis



# Floating Point Literals

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- Two ways to write a floating point literal
  - 3.14159
    - Decimal point tells compiler to use floating point
    - Default type is double
  - 1.05792e+05
    - Like scientific notation
    - Means  $1.05792 * 10^5$
    - Can use “e” or “E”
    - “+” may be omitted
    - Leading “0” may be omitted



# Reading and Writing Numbers

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## Format specifiers for scanf and printf

- For int

Memorize  
this

- Use `%d` for scanf and printf

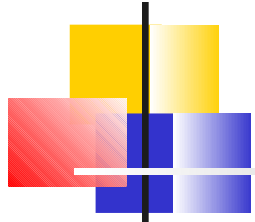
- For long int

Look these up if you  
ever need them.

- Use `%ld`

- For short int

- Use `%hd`



# Format Specifiers for int

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- %d and %i are interchangeable for printf
- Subtle differences for scanf
  - %i accepts hexadecimal input as well as decimal.
    - Example: 0x789a
  - %i interprets any integer with a leading zero as octal!
  - %d accepts only decimal input
- Forget %i





# Floating Point Input

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- You have to tell scanf the size of input variable:

For double `"%lf"`

Memorize  
this

For float `"%g"` or `"%f"` or `"%e"`

For long double `"%Lf"`

Look these up if you ever need them.



# Floating Point Output

---

- Same format specifier works for both float and double printf
  - Unlike scanf!
  - All float values are converted to double when they are passed to printf.
- `%f` Use normal decimal notation 123.456
- `%e` Use exponential format 1.23456e+02
- `%g` System chooses format



# Floating Point Output

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- Floating point formats can specify both field width and number of decimal places.

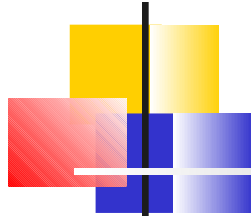
- “%12.4f”

“Precision” (number decimal places)

Total field width, including decimal point and sign

More space will be used if necessary to show integer part

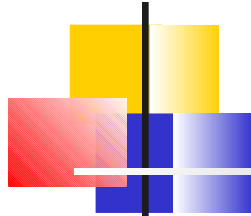
Floating point numbers are rounded to last position printed.



# Mixing Types in Computations

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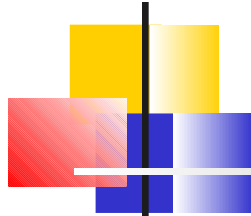
- C allows you to mix types in a computation.
  - Sometimes safe
  - Generally asking for trouble.
  - Try to avoid!
- Basic Type Conversions
  - Length
    - Convert between integers of different length
    - Convert between floating point types of different length
  - Representation
    - Convert between integer and floating point



# Length Conversions

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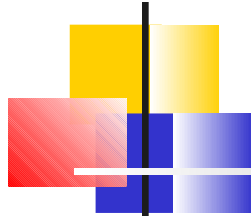
- Converting to a longer version is safe.
  - Cannot lose information
- short or char to int
  - Always OK
- float to double
  - Can be misleading
  - Number *appears* to have more precision than it actually has.



# Unsafe Conversions

---

- Value converted to a *shorter* type
  - May lose significant bits.
  - Result can be garbage.
- Integer
  - Only the *least significant* bits are transferred
  - Lose high order bits from large values
  - Lose sign bit from negative values
  - No warning at compile time or run time.



# Ensure Floating Point Conversions

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- double to float
  - Lose low order bits from mantissa
    - Results in loss of precision
  - May lose bits from exponent
    - Results in complete garbage
- Don't do these conversions
- Won't happen if you only use int and double.

- Integer Value Stored as Floating Point
  - Generally Safe
  - Always safe to store int as double
- Floating Point Value Stored as Integer
  - Fractional part is *dropped*, not rounded
  - 1.99999999 becomes 1 as integer
  - May lose significant bits of the integer part





# Type Casts

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- You can tell the compiler to do a type conversion.

```
double x, y;
```

```
int k, m;
```

```
...
```

```
k = (int) y;
```

Typecasts

```
x = (double) k;
```

Typecast has no effect here, because the conversion would be done automatically.



# Automatic Type Coercion

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- The C compiler does type conversion automatically when necessary.

```
double x = 0.0;
```

```
...
```

```
x = x + 1;
```

- Can't add an int to a double.
- Compiler treats this as

```
x = x + (double) 1;
```



# Necessary Typecasts

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- Typecasts are necessary in order to tell the compiler to do a type conversion for a variable in an expression.



# Necessary Typecasts

---

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

```
int main()
```

```
{
```

```
    int i = 1;
```

```
    int j = 3;
```

```
    double x = 0.0;
```

```
    double y = 0.0;
```

```
    x = i/j;    // Result is converted to double automatically
```

```
    printf ("x is %f\n", x);
```

```
    y = (double)i / j;
```

```
    printf ("y is %f\n", y);
```

```
    return 0;
```

```
}
```



# Program Running

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```
turnerr@login4:~/test2
[turnerr@login4 test2]$
[turnerr@login4 test2]$
[turnerr@login4 test2]$
[turnerr@login4 test2]$ gcc -Wall test.c
[turnerr@login4 test2]$
[turnerr@login4 test2]$ ./a.out
x is 0.000000
y is 0.333333
[turnerr@login4 test2]$
[turnerr@login4 test2]$
```

End of Section



# Summary

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- There are multiple ways to represent numbers in a C program
  - Different amounts of memory
  - Different representation
    - Integer vs. Floating Point
- C converts between representations when necessary
  - May not be what you meant!
- You can specify conversion explicitly with typecasts.



# Summary

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- Type conversions are a snake pit!
- Stick to int and double.
- Convert between integer and floating point only when necessary.
  - Use explicit typecasts for intermediate results.
  - Be very careful.

End of Presentation