



香港城市大學  
City University of Hong Kong

# Introduction to C Language Programming

## CS3103 Operating Systems

# Content

## ► C Basics

- Read/write data from the standard input/output
- Command line arguments
- Pthread library
- Allocate/release memory

## ► Environment & Evaluation

- IDE
- Compile the C program
- Evaluate by the Linux redirection

# C Basics

- ▶ Read/write data from the standard input/output
- ▶ Command line arguments
- ▶ Pthread library
- ▶ Allocate/release memory

# Read/write data from the standard input/output

- ▶ In C programming, the following function reads/writes formatted data from standard input/output.

**int scanf(const char \*format, ...);**

**int printf(const char \*format, ...);**

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
    // Read two integers from stdin
    int n, m;
    scanf("%d%d", &n, &m);
    // Write two integers separated by the tab character to stdout
    printf("%d\t%d\n", n, m);
    return 0;
}
```

# Read/write data from the standard input/output (cond.)

- ▶ Common parameters for the **format**.

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
    // Read/write a character
    char c;
    scanf("%c", &c);
    printf("%c\n", c);
    // Read a floating number, and write it with 2 decimals
    float f;
    scanf("%f", &f);
    printf("%.2f\n", f);
    // Read/write a string of characters
    char str[10];
    scanf("%s", str);
    printf("%s\n", str);
    return 0;
}
```

# Command line arguments

- ▶ The command line arguments are handled using `main()` function arguments where **`argc`** refers to the number of arguments passed, and **`argv[]`** is a pointer array which points to each argument passed to the program.

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main( int argc, char *argv[] ) {
    if( argc == 2 ) {
        printf("The argument supplied is %s\n", argv[1]);
    }
    else if( argc > 2 ) {
        printf("Too many arguments supplied.\n");
    }
    else {
        printf("One argument expected.\n");
    }
}
```

## Command line arguments

- It should be noted that **argv[0]** holds the **name of the program** itself and **argv[1]** is a pointer to the first command line argument supplied, and \*argv[n] is the last argument.

```
$/a.out testing  
The argument supplied is testing
```

```
$/a.out testing1 testing2  
Too many arguments supplied.
```

```
$/a.out  
One argument expected
```

argv[0]

argv[1]

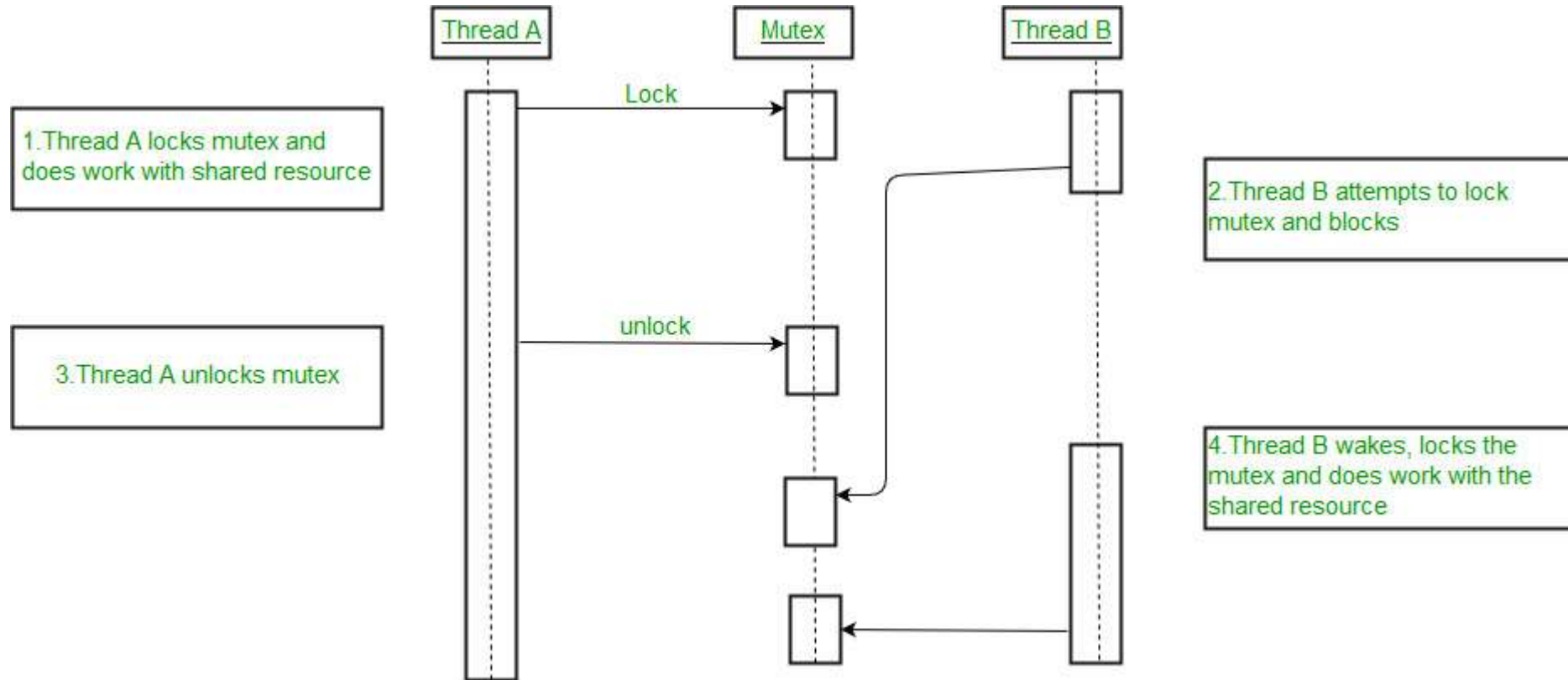
argv[2]

# Pthread library

- ▶ Thread creation
- ▶ Mutex operation



# Use case: using mutex to avoid race condition



# Example code: creation and passing arguments into threads

```
#include <pthread.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <unistd.h>
// needed header files

pthread_t tid[2];
int counter;
// defines the global variables.

struct thread_args
{
    int thread_id;
    int count_times;
};
// defines the thread arguments
```

```
void *trythis(void *arg)
{
    // cast the argument into specified format
    struct thread_args *parsed_args =
        (struct thread_args *)arg;

    printf("\n Job %d has started\n",
        parsed_args->thread_id);

    for (int i = 0; i < parsed_args->count_times; i++)
    {
        counter += 1;
    }
    return NULL;
}
```

## Example code: parsing the command line arguments

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    int error;
    int thread_id = 0;

    if (argc != 3)
    {
        printf("wrong arg counts");
        return -1;
    }
    int op_count[2] = {atoi(argv[1]), atoi(argv[2])};
    for (int i = 0; i < 2; i++)
    {
        printf("add %d times in thread %d\n", op_count[i], i);
    }
}
```

## Example code, create the threads and wait till it ends.

```
struct thread_args arg_list[2];

while (thread_id < 2)
{
    arg_list[thread_id].thread_id = thread_id;
    arg_list[thread_id].count_times = op_count[thread_id];
    error = pthread_create(&(tid[thread_id]), NULL, &trythis, arg_list[thread_id]);
    if (error != 0)
        printf("\nThread can't be created :[%s]", strerror(error));
    thread_id++;
}

pthread_join(tid[0], NULL);
pthread_join(tid[1], NULL);
printf("Global value counter's value is : %d\n", counter);
return 0;
}
```

## Allocate/release memory

- In C programming, the following functions are used to allocate bytes of uninitialized storage.

**void\* malloc(size\_t size);**

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
    // Define a double pointer pointing to the address of a matrix
    int** mat;
    // Create an array of pointers
    mat = (int **)malloc(10 * sizeof(int *));
    // Create an array of integers for each pointer;
    for (int i = 0; i < 10; ++ i) {
        mat[i] = (int *)malloc(10 * sizeof(int));
    }
    // Please note that the value of mat[i][j] is uninitialized
    // Directly accessing mat[i][j] may encounter unexpected errors
    return 0;
}
```

## Allocate/release memory

- In C programming, the following functions are used to allocate memory for an array of objects and initialize all bytes in the allocated storage to zero.

**void\* calloc(size\_t num, size\_t size);**

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
    // Define a double pointer pointing to the address of a matrix
    int** mat;
    // Create an array of pointers
    mat = (int **)calloc(10, sizeof(int *));
    // Create an array of integers for each pointer;
    for (int i = 0; i < 10; ++ i) {
        mat[i] = (int *)calloc(10, sizeof(int));
    }
    // Please note that now all mat[i][j] is zero
    return 0;
}
```

## Allocate/release memory

- In C programming, the following functions are used to deallocate the space previously allocated by **malloc()**, **calloc()**.

**void\* free(void\* ptr);**

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
    // Define a double pointer pointing to the address of a matrix
    int** mat;
    // Allocate memory using malloc() or calloc()
    ...
    // First release memory allocated for each pointer
    for (int i = 0; i < 10; ++ i) {
        free(mat[i]);
    }
    // Then release memory allocated for the pointer array
    free(mat);
    return 0;
}
```

# Environment & Evaluation

- ▶ IDE
- ▶ Compile the C program
- ▶ Evaluate by the Linux pipe



# IDE & Terminal

- ▶ Install Visual Studio Code
- ▶ Build your remote server

# Install Visual Studio Code

- ▶ Visual Studio Code is an open-source IDE that runs on all platforms, for classmates which are not that familiar with the vim, we recommend you VSC as the IDE
- ▶ You can download the VSC in the following link  
<https://code.visualstudio.com/download>
- ▶ As recommendation, please install on your own computer instead of the CSLAB computers.

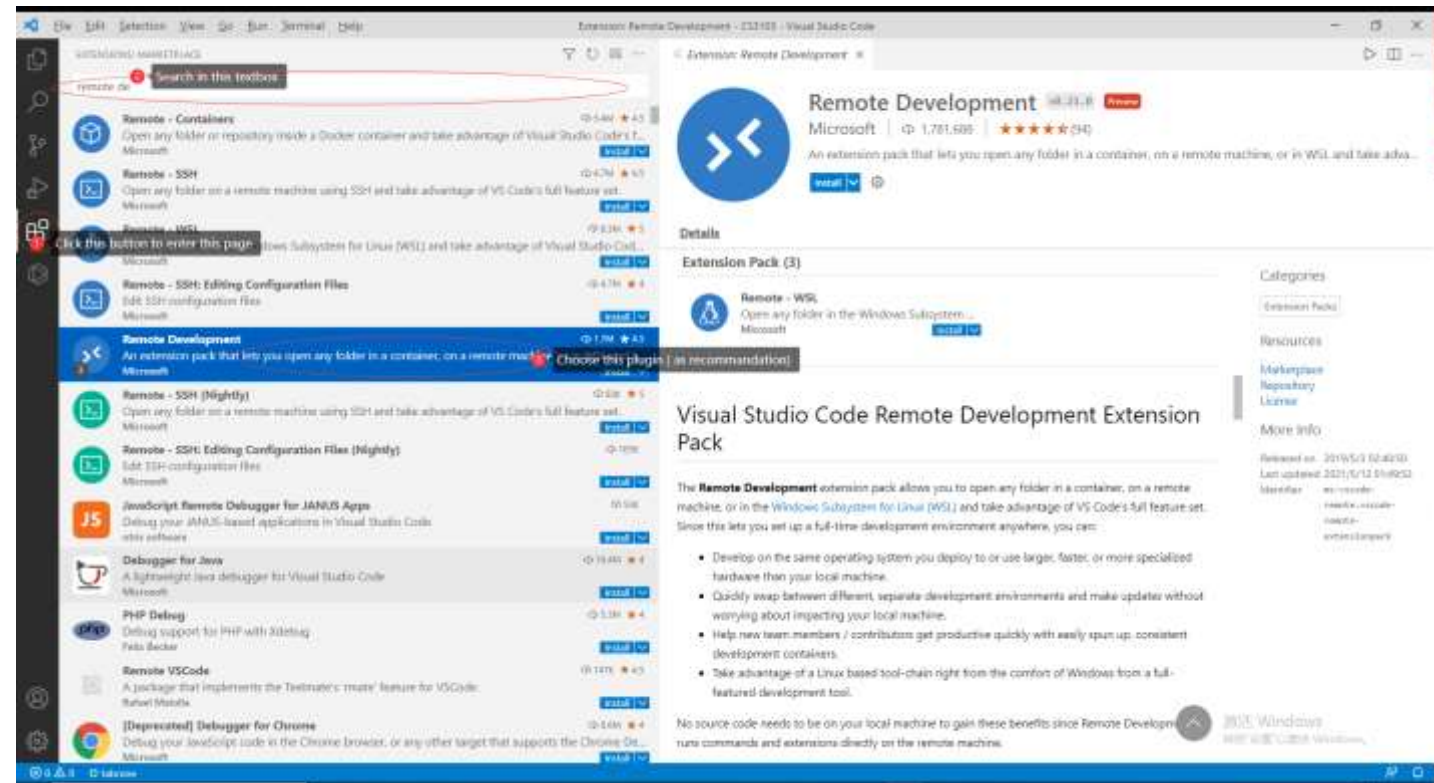


# Build your remote environment: install plugins

- ▶ Please read the following document if you have any problem.

<https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/remote/remote-overview>

- ▶ We can use VSC to build the system in remote
- ▶ Install the extension in VSC
  - We use the official remote plugin



# Install Open SSH Client

- ▶ For those people who have his/her first trying on Windows, you may need to install the SSH, find the help in the following link

[https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/remote/ssh#\\_getting-started](https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/remote/ssh#_getting-started)

- ▶ You can use the PowerShell to install OpenSSH tool suits

- By running the PowerShell in admin model
- And type:  
Add-WindowsCapability -Online -Name OpenSSH.Client~~~~0.0.1.
- And reboot VSC

## Install OpenSSH using PowerShell

To install OpenSSH using PowerShell, run PowerShell as an Administrator. To make sure that OpenSSH is available, run the following cmdlet:

```
PowerShell  
Get-WindowsCapability -Online | Where-Object Name -like 'OpenSSH*'
```

This should return the following output if neither are already installed:

```
Name : OpenSSH.Client~~~~0.0.1.0  
State : NotPresent  
  
Name : OpenSSH.Server~~~~0.0.1.0  
State : NotPresent
```

Then, install the server or client components as needed:

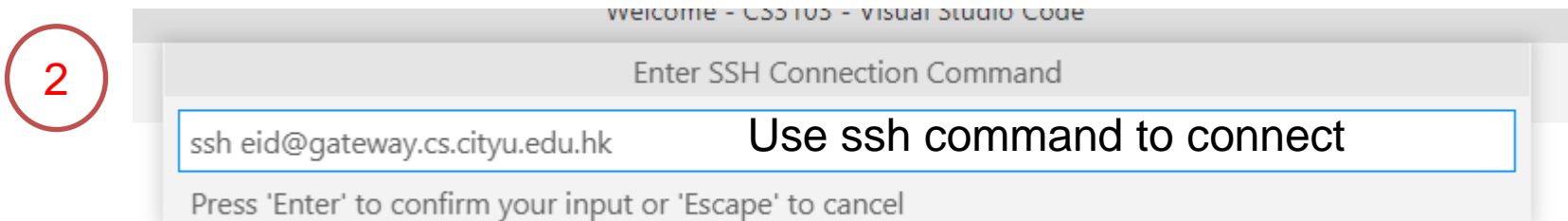
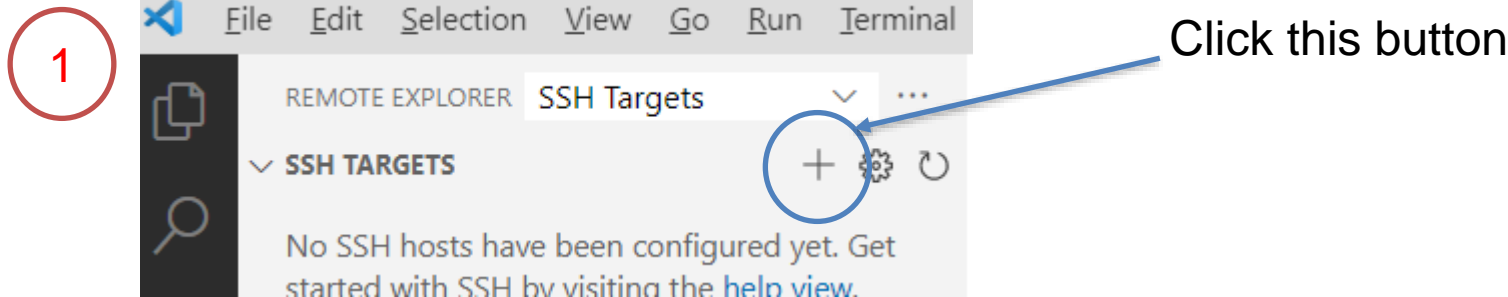
```
PowerShell  
  
# Install the OpenSSH Client  
Add-WindowsCapability -Online -Name OpenSSH.Client~~~~0.0.1.0  
  
# Install the OpenSSH Server  
Add-WindowsCapability -Online -Name OpenSSH.Server~~~~0.0.1.0
```

Both of these should return the following output:



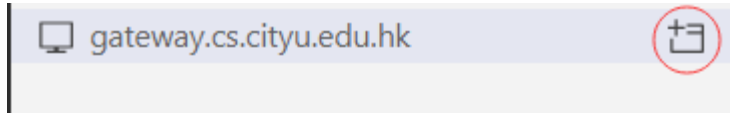
## Add the target server

- ▶ If you have successfully installed the OpenSSH suit and reboot the VSC, you can add the remote server now.

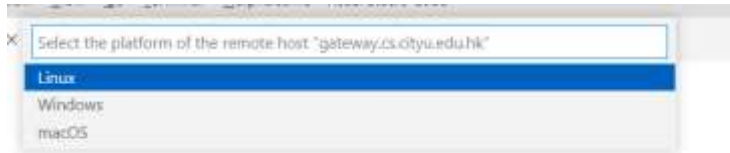


# Connect to the remote server

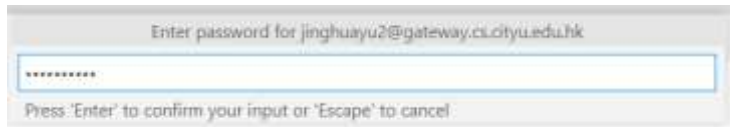
- ▶ Then, you can use the gateway server in remote now



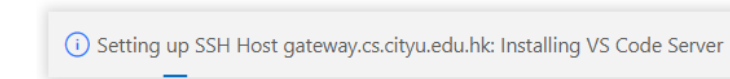
Click the button to create directory in remote server



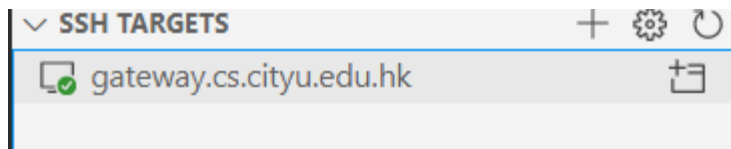
Choose Linux



Type in your password



Wait for a second

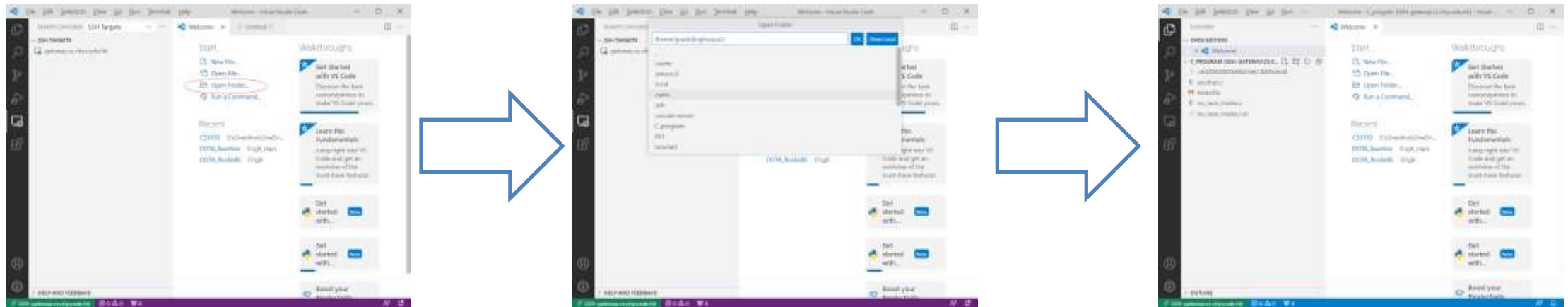


And you logged in



# What's Next?

- ▶ After you logged in, you can just use VSC as a normal IDE, just like the Clion, Eclipse, CFree or any other IDE you used before.
- ▶ First step, use open folder button to enter the work directory.
- ▶ Next step, log in again if needed, and then enjoy coding



# Install all tools you need

- ▶ When you open a .c file at the first time, VSC will ask you to install the extension tool, just click okay and choose the tool you like
  - Highlight, auto completion, syntax check
  - Trigger a remote terminal to get rid of Xterm, you can run command here to compile and run.
- ▶ Enjoy your coding, with the help of IDE, coding in C won't that hard to get started.

The screenshot shows the Visual Studio Code interface. The 'Terminal' command palette is open, displaying various terminal-related commands. A search bar at the top of the palette contains the text '>terminal'. A red circle with the number '2' is next to the search bar, and a red circle with the number '1' is next to the 'Terminal' command. A red circle with the number '3' is next to the 'View: Toggle Terminal' command. A blue arrow points from the text 'you can run command here to compile and run.' in the list to the terminal window. The terminal window shows the following output:

```
12 struct thread args
PROBLEMS OUTPUT TERMINAL ...
jinghuayu2@ubt18a:~/C_program$ ls
another.c Makefile no_race_mutex.c no_race_mutex.run
jinghuayu2@ubt18a:~/C_program$ make
gcc -o no_race_mutex.run no_race_mutex.c another.c -Wall -pthread
jinghuayu2@ubt18a:~/C_program$ ./no_race_mutex.run
wrong arg counts
jinghuayu2@ubt18a:~/C_program$ ./no_race_mutex.run 1000 100
add 1000 times in thread 0
add 100 times in thread 1
Job 0 has started
Job 1 has started
Global value counter's value is : 1100
jinghuayu2@ubt18a:~/C_program$
```



# Compile the C program

- ▶ Use gcc for a simple project
- ▶ makefile

If your file contains only one file, we recommend using the gcc

- For example, you have the file, named *no\_race\_mutex.c*, and you want to compile it as a runnable file named *no\_race\_mutex.run*, you can use the following command.

**gcc -o no\_race\_mutex.run no\_race\_mutex.c -Wall -pthread**

```
gcc -o no_race_mutex.run no_race_mutex.c -Wall -pthread
```

Specify the output name

Input file name

Compile tool

Print out all warnings

Compile with library *pthread*.

Add if you're build a multi files project, we recommend you make

- ▶ In our project, we will provide a basic make file for you, if you don't adding any file into the project, all you need to do is use the *make* command.

```
jinghuayu2@ubt18a:~/C_program$ make  
gcc -o no_race_mutex.run no_race_mutex.c -Wall -pthread  
jinghuayu2@ubt18a:~/C_program$
```

The make file will generate the compile commands for you.

- ▶ Also, you can separate your project into modules, and specify the module you want to build.

```
jinghuayu2@ubt18a:~/C_program$ make no_race_mutex  
gcc -o no_race_mutex.run no_race_mutex.c -Wall -pthread  
jinghuayu2@ubt18a:~/C_program$
```

# Makefile structure

use *make clean* to clean up all files

Shared arguments for GCC

default target of make command

```
FLAGS = -Wall -pthread
all: no_race_mutex
clean:
    rm -f *.run
no_race_mutex: no_race_mutex.c
    gcc -o no_race_mutex.run no_race_mutex.c $(FLAGS)
```

Your module name, and the compile command for it.

# Evaluate by the Linux Redirection

- ▶ Use the Linux redirection to read/write data

## Use the Linux redirection to read/write data

- ▶ Input/Output (I/O) redirection in Linux refers to the ability of the Linux operating system that allows us to change the standard input (stdin) and standard output (stdout) when executing a command on the terminal.
  - Overwrite the standard input using the ‘<’ symbol.
  - Overwrite the standard output using the ‘>’ symbol.

```
cs3103-pro/cs3103-pmo-2023$ ./pmo < tests/stdin/1/input.txt > 1.out
```

Input redirection

Output redirection