

Lab 1.3.1.12 Comments: are they always useful?

Objectives

Familiarize the student with:

- Using comments
- When not to use comments
- Ways to replace comments with code

Scenario

Comments are not always the best way to say something in a code. Sometimes it's much better to leave some information in the code. In the worst case scenario, comments can lie to the user/programmer (you should never do that on purpose). It's a good idea to use readable variable names. Sometimes it's better to divide your code into named pieces (later we'll call these pieces functions). In some situations, it's a good idea to write the steps of calculations in a clearer way. The code below contains some of these situations; try to improve it (and remove comments - sometimes removing comments will be an improvement in itself). If you don't understand all of the code here, don't worry. Try to focus on the comments.

```
#include <stdio.h> /* we included stdio.h */
#include <stdlib.h> /* we included stdlib.h */

int main()
{
    int v=10800; /* 3*60*60 */

    int zzz=3*60; /* This is a variable to hold the value of 3 minutes in seconds */

    int zzz=5*60; /* This is a variable to hold the value of 6 minutes in seconds */

    float sii=3.141526; /* This is the value of pi */

    /* printf(" value of some variable: %d \n", otherVariable);
       here we should print the v value, but a programmer didn't have time to write the code.
       However, he/she likes writing long, well formatted comments
    */
}
```