Functions

Types of Functions

There are two types of functions in C programming:

1. **Library Functions**: are the functions which are declared in the C header files such as scanf(), printf(), gets(), puts(), ceil(), floor() etc.
2. **User-defined functions**: are the functions which are created by the C programmer, so that he/she can use it many times. It reduces the complexity of a big program and optimizes the code.

C Functions

In c, we can divide a large program into the basic building blocks known as function. The function contains the set of programming statements enclosed by {}. A function can be called multiple times to provide reusability and modularity to the C program. In other words, we can say that the collection of functions creates a program. The function is also known as *procedure* or *subroutine* in other programming languages.

Need/Advantage of functions in C

There are the following advantages of C functions.

- By using functions, we can avoid rewriting same logic/code again and again in a program.
- We can call C functions any number of times in a program and from any place in a program.
- We can track a large C program easily when it is divided into multiple functions.
- Reusability is the main achievement of C functions.
- However, Function calling is always a overhead in a C program.

Elements of user defined function:

There are three elements of a C function.

- **Function declaration** A function must be declared globally in a c program to tell the compiler about the function name, function parameters, and return type.
- **Function call** Function can be called from anywhere in the program. The parameter list must not differ in function calling and function declaration. We must pass the same number of functions as it is declared in the function declaration.

- **Function definition** It contains the actual statements which are to be executed. It is the most important aspect to which the control comes when the function is called. Here, we must notice that only one value can be returned from the function.

SN	C function element	Syntax
1	Function declaration	return_type function_name (argument list);
2	Function call	function_name (argument_list)
3	Function definition	return_type function_name (argument list) {function body;}

Defining a Function

Syntax:

The general form of a function definition in C programming language is as follows −

```
return_type function_name( parameter list ) {
   body of the function
}
```

A function definition in C programming consists of a *function header* and a *function body*. Here are all the parts of a function −

- Return Type − A function may return a value. The return_type is the data type of the value the function returns. Some functions perform the desired operations without returning a value. In this case, the return_type is the keyword void.
- Function Name − This is the actual name of the function.
- Parameters − A parameter is like a placeholder. When a function is invoked, you pass a value to the parameter. This value is referred to as actual parameter or argument. The parameter list refers to the type, order, and number of the parameters of a function. Parameters are optional; that is, a function may contain no parameters.
- Function Body − The function body contains a collection of statements that define what the function does.

Example

Given below is the source code for a function called **max()**. This function takes two parameters num1 and num2 and returns the maximum value between the two −

```
/* function returning the max between two numbers */
int max(int num1, int num2) {

  /* local variable declaration */
  int result;

  if (num1 > num2)
```

```
      result = num1;
   else
      result = num2;

   return result;
}
```

Function Declarations

A function declaration tells the compiler about a function name and how to call the function. The actual body of the function can be defined separately.

Syntax:

A function declaration has the following parts −

```
return_type function_name( parameter list );
```

For the above defined function max(), the function declaration is as follows −

```
int max(int num1, int num2);
```

Parameter names are not important in function declaration only their type is required, so the following is also a valid declaration −

```
int max(int, int);
```

Calling a Function

While creating a C function, you give a definition of what the function has to do. To use a function, you will have to call that function to perform the defined task.

When a program calls a function, the program control is transferred to the called function. A called function performs a defined task and when its return statement is executed or when its function-ending closing brace is reached, it returns the program control back to the main program.

- To call a function, you simply need to pass the required parameters along with the function name, and
- if the function returns a value, then you can store the returned value. For example −

```
#include <stdio.h>

/* function declaration */
int max(int num1, int num2);

int main () {

   /* local variable definition */
   int a = 100;
   int b = 200;
   int ret;

   /* calling a function to get max value */
   ret = max(a, b);

   printf( "Max value is : %d\n", ret );

   return 0;
}

/* function returning the max between two numbers */
int max(int num1, int num2) {

   /* local variable declaration */
   int result;

   if (num1 > num2)
      result = num1;
   else
      result = num2;

   return result;
}
```

Category of function call:

A function may or may not accept any argument. It may or may not return any value. Based on these facts, There are four different aspects of function calls.

- function without arguments and without return value
- function without arguments and with return value
- function with arguments and without return value
- function with arguments and with return value

Example for Function without argument and return value

Example 1

```
#include<stdio.h>
void printName();
void main ()
{
   printf("Hello ");
   printName();
}
void printName()
{
   printf("Sarita");
}
```

Output

```
Hello Sarita
```

Example 2

```c
#include<stdio.h>
void sum();
void main()
{
    printf("\nGoing to calculate the sum of two numbers:");
    sum();
}
void sum()
{
    int a,b;
    printf("\nEnter two numbers");
    scanf("%d %d",&a,&b);
    printf("The sum is %d",a+b);
}
```

Output

```
Going to calculate the sum of two numbers:

Enter two numbers 10
24

The sum is 34
```

Example for Function without argument and with return value

Example 1

```c
#include<stdio.h>
int sum();
void main()
{
    int result;
    printf("\nGoing to calculate the sum of two numbers:");
    result = sum();
    printf("%d",result);
}
int sum()
{
    int a,b;
    printf("\nEnter two numbers");
    scanf("%d %d",&a,&b);
    return a+b;
}
```

Output

```
Going to calculate the sum of two numbers:

Enter two numbers 10
24

The sum is 34
```

Example 2: program to calculate the area of the square

```
#include<stdio.h>
int sum();
void main()
{
    printf("Going to calculate the area of the square\n");
    float area = square();
    printf("The area of the square: %f\n",area);
}
int square()
{
    float side;
    printf("Enter the length of the side in meters: ");
    scanf("%f",&side);
    return side * side;
}
```

Output

```
Going to calculate the area of the square
Enter the length of the side in meters: 10
The area of the square: 100.000000
```

Example for Function with argument and without return value

Example 1

```
#include<stdio.h>
void sum(int, int);
void main()
{
    int a,b,result;
    printf("\nGoing to calculate the sum of two numbers:");
    printf("\nEnter two numbers:");
    scanf("%d %d",&a,&b);
    sum(a,b);
```

```c
}
void sum(int a, int b)
{
   printf("\nThe sum is %d",a+b);
}
```

Output

```
Going to calculate the sum of two numbers:

Enter two numbers 10
24

The sum is 34
```

Example 2: program to calculate the average of five numbers.

```c
#include<stdio.h>
void average(int, int, int, int, int);
void main()
{
   int a,b,c,d,e;
   printf("\nGoing to calculate the average of five numbers:");
   printf("\nEnter five numbers:");
   scanf("%d %d %d %d %d",&a,&b,&c,&d,&e);
   average(a,b,c,d,e);
}
void average(int a, int b, int c, int d, int e)
{
   float avg;
   avg = (a+b+c+d+e)/5;
   printf("The average of given five numbers : %f",avg);
}
```

Output

```
Going to calculate the average of five numbers:
Enter five numbers:10
20
30
40
50
The average of given five numbers : 30.000000
```

Example for Function with argument and with return value

Example 1

```c
#include<stdio.h>
int sum(int, int);
void main()
```

```
{
   int a,b,result;
   printf("\nGoing to calculate the sum of two numbers:");
   printf("\nEnter two numbers:");
   scanf("%d %d",&a,&b);
   result = sum(a,b);
   printf("\nThe sum is : %d",result);
}
int sum(int a, int b)
{
   return a+b;
}
```

Output

```
Going to calculate the sum of two numbers:
Enter two numbers:10
20
The sum is : 30
```

Example 2: Program to check whether a number is even or odd

```
#include<stdio.h>
int even_odd(int);
void main()
{
 int n,flag=0;
 printf("\nGoing to check whether a number is even or odd");
 printf("\nEnter the number: ");
 scanf("%d",&n);
 flag = even_odd(n);
 if(flag == 0)
 {
   printf("\nThe number is odd");
 }
 else
 {
   printf("\nThe number is even");
 }
}
int even_odd(int n)
{
   if(n%2 == 0)
   {
      return 1;
   }
   else
```

```
                {
                    return 0;
                }
            }
```

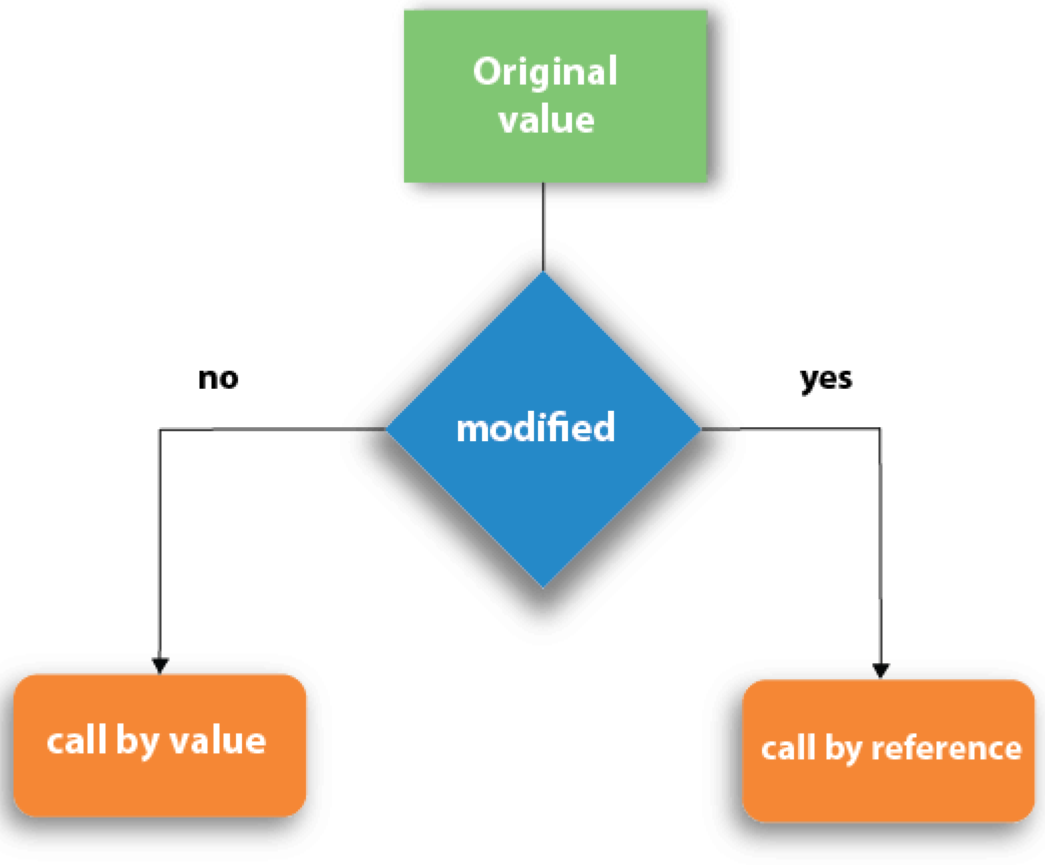
Output

```
Going to check whether a number is even or odd
Enter the number: 100
The number is even
```

Parameter passing mechanism:

Call by value and Call by reference in C

There are two methods to pass the data into the function in C language, i.e., *call by value* and *call by reference*.



Let's understand call by value and call by reference in c language one by one.

Call by value in C

- In call by value method, the value of the actual parameters is copied into the formal parameters. In other words, we can say that the value of the variable is used in the function call in the call by value method.
- In call by value method, we can not modify the value of the actual parameter by the formal parameter.
- In call by value, different memory is allocated for actual and formal parameters since the value of the actual parameter is copied into the formal parameter.
- The actual parameter is the argument which is used in the function call whereas formal parameter is the argument which is used in the function definition.

Let's try to understand the concept of call by value in c language by the example given below:

```
#include<stdio.h>
void change(int num) {
   printf("Before adding value inside function num=%d \n",num);
   num=num+100;
   printf("After adding value inside function num=%d \n", num);
}
int main() {
   int x=100;
   printf("Before function call x=%d \n", x);
   change(x);//passing value in function
   printf("After function call x=%d \n", x);
return 0;
}
```

Output

```
Before function call x=100
Before adding value inside function num=100
After adding value inside function num=200
After function call x=100
```

Call by Value Example: Swapping the values of the two variables

```
#include <stdio.h>
void swap(int , int); //prototype of the function
int main()
{
   int a = 10;
   int b = 20;
   printf("Before swapping the values in main a = %d, b = %d\n",a,b); //
printing the value of a and b in main
```

```
    swap(a,b);
    printf("After swapping values in main a = %d, b = %d\n",a,b); // The v
alue of actual parameters do not change by changing the formal paramete
rs in call by value, a = 10, b = 20
}
void swap (int a, int b)
{
    int temp;
    temp = a;
    a=b;
    b=temp;
    printf("After swapping values in function a = %d, b = %d\n",a,b); // Fo
rmal parameters, a = 20, b = 10
}
```

Output

```
Before swapping the values in main a = 10, b = 20
After swapping values in function a = 20, b = 10
After swapping values in main a = 10, b = 20
```

Call by reference in C

- In call by reference, the address of the variable is passed into the function call as the actual parameter.
- The value of the actual parameters can be modified by changing the formal parameters since the address of the actual parameters is passed.
- In call by reference, the memory allocation is similar for both formal parameters and actual parameters. All the operations in the function are performed on the value stored at the address of the actual parameters, and the modified value gets stored at the same address.

Consider the following example for the call by reference.

```
#include<stdio.h>
void change(int *num) {
printf("Before adding value inside function num=%d \n",*num);
(*num) += 100;
printf("After adding value inside function num=%d \n", *num);
}
int main() {
int x=100;
printf("Before function call x=%d \n", x);
change(&x);//passing reference in function
printf("After function call x=%d \n", x);
return 0;
}
```

Output

```
Before function call x=100
Before adding value inside function num=100
After adding value inside function num=200
After function call x=200
```

Call by reference Example: Swapping the values of the two variables

```
#include <stdio.h>
void swap(int *, int *); //prototype of the function
int main()
{
    int a = 10;
    int b = 20;
    printf("Before swapping the values in main a = %d, b = %d\n",a,b); // printin
g the value of a and b in main
    swap(&a,&b);
    printf("After swapping values in main a = %d, b = %d\n",a,b); // The values o
f actual parameters do change in call by reference, a = 10, b = 20
}
void swap (int *a, int *b)
{
    int temp;
    temp = *a;
    *a=*b;
    *b=temp;
    printf("After swapping values in function a = %d, b = %d\n",*a,*b); // Formal
 parameters, a = 20, b = 10
}
```

Output

```
Before swapping the values in main a = 10, b = 20
After swapping values in function a = 20, b = 10
After swapping values in main a = 20, b = 10
```

Difference between call by value and call by reference in c

No.	Call by value	Call by reference
1	A copy of the value is passed into the function	An address of value is passed into the function

2	Changes made inside the function is limited to the function only. The values of the actual parameters do not change by changing the formal parameters.	Changes made inside the function validate outside of the function also. The values of the actual parameters do change by changing the formal parameters.
3	Actual and formal arguments are created at the different memory location	Actual and formal arguments are created at the same memory location

Variable scope:

There are three places where variables can be declared in C programming language −

Inside a function or a block which is called local variables.

Outside of all functions which is called global variables.

In the definition of function parameters which are called formal parameters.

Local Variables

Variables that are declared inside a function or block are called local variables. They can be used only by statements that are inside that function or block of code. Local variables are not known to functions outside their own. The following example shows how local variables are used. Here all the variables a, b, and c are local to main() function.

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main () {

  /* local variable declaration */
  int a, b;
  int c;

  /* actual initialization */
  a = 10;
  b = 20;
  c = a + b;

  printf ("value of a = %d, b = %d and c = %d\n", a, b, c);

  return 0;
}
```

Global Variables

Global variables are defined outside a function, usually on top of the program. Global variables hold their values throughout the lifetime of your program and they can be accessed inside any of the functions defined for the program.

A global variable can be accessed by any function. That is, a global variable is available for use throughout your entire program after its declaration. The following program show how global variables are used in a program.

```
#include <stdio.h>

/* global variable declaration */
int g;

int main () {

  /* local variable declaration */
  int a, b;

  /* actual initialization */
  a = 10;
  b = 20;
  g = a + b;

  printf ("value of a = %d, b = %d and g = %d\n", a, b, g);

  return 0;
}
```

A program can have same name for local and global variables but the value of local variable inside a function will take preference. Here is an example −

```
#include <stdio.h>

/* global variable declaration */
int g = 20;

int main () {

  /* local variable declaration */
  int g = 10;

  printf ("value of g = %d\n",  g);

  return 0;
}
```

When the above code is compiled and executed, it produces the following result −

```
value of g = 10
```

Formal Parameters

Formal parameters, are treated as local variables with-in a function and they take precedence over global variables. Following is an example –

```
#include <stdio.h>

/* global variable declaration */
int a = 20;

int main () {

  /* local variable declaration in main function */
  int a = 10;
  int b = 20;
  int c = 0;

  printf ("value of a in main() = %d\n",  a);
  c = sum( a, b);
  printf ("value of c in main() = %d\n",  c);

  return 0;
}

/* function to add two integers */
int sum(int a, int b) {

   printf ("value of a in sum() = %d\n",  a);
   printf ("value of b in sum() = %d\n",  b);

   return a + b;
}
```

When the above code is compiled and executed, it produces the following result –

```
value of a in main() = 10
value of a in sum() = 10
value of b in sum() = 20
value of c in main() = 30
```

Nesting of functions:

C permits nesting of functions freely. Main can call function1, which can call function 2, and so on. There is no limit as to how deeply functions can be nested.

Take examples given in notebook.

Recursion in C

1. Recursion is the process which comes into existence when a function calls a copy of itself to work on a smaller problem.

2. Any function which calls itself is called recursive function, and such function calls are called recursive calls.
3. Recursion involves several numbers of recursive calls. However, it is important to impose a termination condition of recursion.
4. Recursion cannot be applied to all the problem, but it is more useful for the tasks that can be defined in terms of similar subtasks. For Example, recursion may be applied to sorting, searching.
5. Any problem that can be solved recursively, can also be solved iteratively. However, some problems are best suited to be solved by the recursion, for example, tower of Hanoi, Fibonacci series, factorial finding, etc.

Example 1:

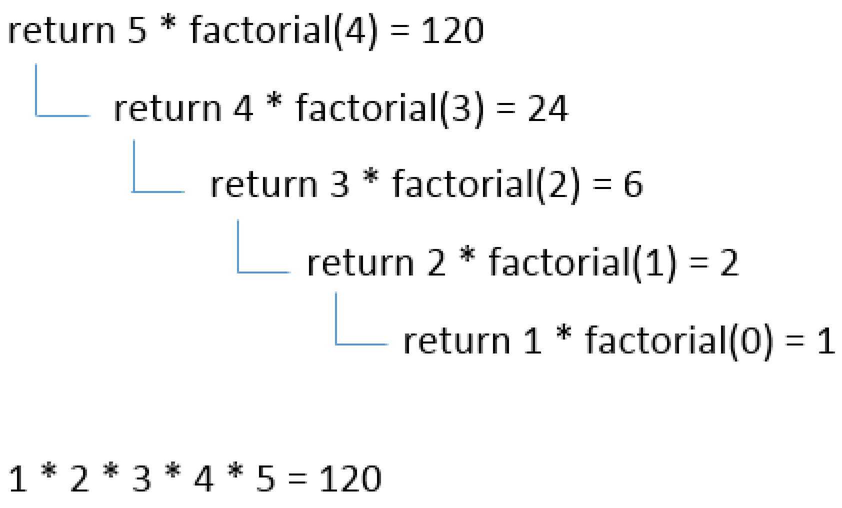
In the following example, recursion is used to calculate the factorial of a number.

```
#include <stdio.h>
int fact (int);
int main()
{
    int n,f;
    printf("Enter the number whose factorial you want to calculate?");
    scanf("%d",&n);
    f = fact(n);
    printf("factorial = %d",f);
}
int fact(int n)
{
    if (n==0)
    {
        return 0;
    }
    else if ( n == 1)
    {
        return 1;
    }
    else
    {
        return n*fact(n-1);
    }
}
```

Output

```
Enter the number whose factorial you want to calculate?5
factorial = 120
```

We can understand the above program of the recursive method call by the figure given below:



```
return 5 * factorial(4) = 120
  └── return 4 * factorial(3) = 24
        └── return 3 * factorial(2) = 6
              └── return 2 * factorial(1) = 2
                    └── return 1 * factorial(0) = 1

1 * 2 * 3 * 4 * 5 = 120
```

Fig: Recursion

Expected Questions:

Q1. What is a user defined Function on C ? Give need of using them.

Q2 Explain elements of user defined function with syntax and example.

Q3. Give Category of function call with example.

Q4. Explain parameter passing mechanism.

Q5. Explain scope of following with example:

1. Local Variable
2. Global Variable
3. Formal Parameters

Q6. Explain nesting of functions with example.

Q7. Explain recursion with example.