

KAIST

EE 209: Programming Structures for EE

Assignment 2: String Manipulation

(Acknowledgment: This assignment is borrowed and modified from Princeton's COS 217)

Purpose

The purpose of this assignment is to help you learn/review (1) arrays and pointers in the C programming language, (2) how to create and use stateless modules in C, (3) the "design by contract" style of programming, and (4) how to use the GNU/UNIX programming tools, especially bash, emacs, gcc, and gdb.

Rules

Implement the string functions listed by the Table in [Part 1](#). and [Part 2](#) is the "on your own" part of this assignment, which is worth 50% of this assignment.

You will get an **extra** 10% of the full score if you implement the [Part 1](#) only with pointer notation when you access the character. See the [Extra credit](#) section below (Extra Credit for Part 1).

Background

As you know, the C programming environment provides a standard library. The facilities provided in the standard library are declared in header files. One of those header files is [string.h](#); it contains the declarations of "string functions," that is, functions that perform operations on character strings. [Appendix D of the King textbook](#), [Appendix B3 of the Kernighan and Ritchie textbook](#), and the [UNIX "man" pages](#) describe the string functions. The string functions are used heavily in programming systems; certainly any editor, compiler, assembler, or operating system created with the C programming language would use them.

Overview of Your Task

Your task in this assignment is to use C to create the "Str" module that provides string manipulation functions. Specifically, design your Str module so that each function behaves the same as described below. Your task in this assignment is threefold.

[\[Part 1\]](#) Read the description of the [basic string library functions](#) carefully, and implement each function. The basic functions are most commonly used standard string functions. Each function should behave the same as its corresponding standard C function.

[\[Part 2\]](#) Implement a simplified version of grep using Str functions. Read the provided file that contains skeleton code carefully, edit the file to make it process the required functionalities: find, replace, diff.

Part 1: The Basic Str Function Implementation

Your task for the first part is to use C to implement five basic string manipulation functions: [StrGetLength\(\)](#), [StrCopy\(\)](#), [StrCompare\(\)](#), [StrSearch\(\)](#), [StrConcat\(\)](#). Those five functions should follow the format of the corresponding standard C library functions. You can easily find the function's description and operation in the UNIX "man" page.

The following table shows the required basic string functions in Part 1 and their corresponding function names in the standard C library.

Str Function	Standard C Function	Man page link
StrGetLength	strlen	strlen man page
StrCopy	strcpy	strcpy man page
StrCompare	strcmp	strcmp man page

StrSearch	strstr	strstr man page
StrConcat	strcat	strcat man page

Use the `Str` module's *interface* in a file named `str.h`, and place your `Str` function definitions in `str.c`.

Note that your `Str` functions **should not** call any of the standard string functions. In the context of this assignment, pretend that the standard string functions do not exist. However, your functions may call each other, and you may define additional (non-interface) functions.

Design each function definition so it calls the `assert` macro to validate the function's parameters. In that way, your `Str` functions should differ from the standard C string functions. Specifically, design each function definition to assert that each parameter is not `NULL`. See the [note](#) below for more information of the `assert()` macro function.

Beware of type mismatches. In particular, beware of the difference between `type size_t` and `type int`: a variable of `type size_t` can store larger integers than a variable of `type int` can. Your functions should (in principle) be able to handle strings whose lengths exceed the capacity of `type int`. Also beware of type mismatches related to the use of the `const` keyword.

Extra Credit for Part 1: Implement functions with pointer notation

There are various ways to implement the functions in Part 1. Especially, you can access the character by pointer dereferencing like `*pcSrc` or by using an array notation such as `pcSrc[uiLength]`.

Here are two examples of `StrGetLength()` implementation. The first code implements the `StrGetLength()` function with the array notation; it traverses each given string or accesses the character using an index relative to the beginning of the string. However, with the pointer notation, the second version traverses each given string using an incremented pointer.

```
size_t StrGetLength(const char pcSrc[]) /* Use array notation */
{
    size_t uiLength = 0U;
    assert(pcSrc != NULL);
    while (pcSrc[uiLength] != '\0')
        uiLength++;
    return uiLength;
}

size_t StrGetLength(const char *pcSrc) /* Use pointer notation */
{
    const char *pcEnd;
    assert(pcSrc != NULL);
    pcEnd = pcSrc;
    while (*pcEnd != '\0') /* note that *(pcSrc + uiLength) is valid but is "NOT" acceptable as pointer notation */
        pcEnd++;
    return (size_t)(pcEnd - pcSrc);
}
```

You can freely implement Part 1. However, if you implement part 1 only with pointer notation, you can get extra 10% of the full score. Please write your choice of implementation in the readme file. That is, specify if you used only the pointer notation for Part 1 in the readme file.

Test your Str Functions

We provide a test client ([client.c](#)) that compares the results of the `Str` and C standard library functions with various input. Please use this code for testing and debugging. You can compile the test client with `gcc209` as follows.

```
gcc209 -o client client.c str.c
```

Then, test each of your `Str` functions separately by providing a function name as an argument. For example,

```
./client StrCopy
```

will test `StrCopy`. Actually, the client accepts any one of the `Str` function names as a command-line argument:

```
./client [StrGetLength|StrCopy|StrCompare|StrSearch|StrConcat]
```

Note that passing all tests provided by the client does **not** mean that your function always behaves correctly. Please devise your own testing (e.g., by changing the client code) for more confidence. Note that we may use a different test client for grading.

Part 2: Simple Grep

grep is a popular UNIX tool that manipulates input strings. In this part, you implement a simplified version of grep called sgrep. sgrep provides these three functionalities.

- **Find (-f search-string):** reads each line from standard input (stdin) and prints out **only the lines** that contain search-string to standard output (stdout).
- **Replace (-r string1 string2):** reads each line from standard input (stdin), **replaces all occurrences** of string1 with string2, and prints it out to standard output (stdout). If string1 is not found in the line, the original line is copied to stdout.
- **Diff (-d file1 file2):** compares the two files (file1 and file2) line by line, and prints out **only the different lines** with their line numbers to standard output (stdout). The output format of the different line should be as follows:

```
file1@line-num:file1's line
file2@line-num:file2's line
```

Here are some usage examples of sgrep (you can also see the test files ([google_wiki.txt](#) and [microsoft.txt](#)) which are used in the following example):

```
$ ./sgrep -f Google < google_wiki.txt
Google Inc. is an American multinational technology company specializing
Google was founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin while they were Ph.D.
supervoting stock. They incorporated Google as a privately held company on
be evil.[9][10] In 2004, Google moved to its new headquarters in Mountain
View, California, nicknamed the Googleplex.[11] In August 2015, Google
Alphabet Inc. When this restructuring took place on October 2, 2015, Google
became Alphabet's leading subsidiary, as well as the parent for Google's

$ ./sgrep -r Google Microsoft < google_wiki.txt > microsoft.txt
$ cat microsoft.txt (output is abbreviated with ...)
Microsoft Inc. is an American multinational technology company specializing
...
Microsoft was founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin while they were Ph.D.
...
supervoting stock. They incorporated Microsoft as a privately held company on
...
be evil.[9][10] In 2004, Microsoft moved to its new headquarters in Mountain
...
View, California, nicknamed the Microsoftplex.[11] In August 2015, Microsoft
...
Alphabet Inc. When this restructuring took place on October 2, 2015, Microsoft
...
became Alphabet's leading subsidiary, as well as the parent for Microsoft's

$ ./sgrep -d google_wiki.txt microsoft.txt
google_wiki.txt@1:Google Inc. is an American multinational technology company specializing
microsoft.txt@1:Microsoft Inc. is an American multinational technology company specializing
google_wiki.txt@6:Google was founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin while they were Ph.D.
microsoft.txt@6:Microsoft was founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin while they were Ph.D.
google_wiki.txt@9: supervoting stock. They incorporated Google as a privately held company on
microsoft.txt@9: supervoting stock. They incorporated Microsoft as a privately held company on
google_wiki.txt@15: be evil.[9][10] In 2004, Google moved to its new headquarters in Mountain
microsoft.txt@15:be evil.[9][10] In 2004, Microsoft moved to its new headquarters in Mountain
google_wiki.txt@16:View, California, nicknamed the Googleplex.[11] In August 2015, Google
microsoft.txt@16:View, California, nicknamed the Microsoftplex.[11] In August 2015, Microsoft
google_wiki.txt@18:Alphabet Inc. When this restructuring took place on October 2, 2015, Google
microsoft.txt@18:Alphabet Inc. When this restructuring took place on October 2, 2015, Microsoft
google_wiki.txt@19:became Alphabet's leading subsidiary, as well as the parent for Google's
microsoft.txt@19:became Alphabet's leading subsidiary, as well as the parent for Microsoft's
```

Rules:

- **General rules**
 - Use your Str functions to implement the functionality. That is, you need to finish Part 1 first to get any credit for this task. You should not use any string function in string.h

- Assume each line (including a new line character ("\n") is no more than 1023 bytes. You should stop your program with a proper error message if you encounter a line larger than 1023 bytes.
- A string argument (search-string, string1, string2) refers to a sequence of any non-space characters. It can be enclosed with double quote(") characters and can be either empty ("") or can include a space (e.g., "hello world"). No need to handle an escape character for this assignment.
- Assume a string or a file argument is no more than 1023 bytes. You should stop your program with a proper error message if you encounter a command-line argument that's too long.
- Any error message should be printed out to standard error (stderr). Use fprintf(stderr, ...); for that.
- Unlike Part 1, you don't have to add assert function while implementing sgrep. In other words, after printing out the error messages in error case, sgrep should be finished with EXIT_FAILURE as the return value. Details are written in skeleton code, so please read the comments in skeleton code ([sgrep.c](#)).
- **Rules for Find and Replace**
 - string1 cannot be an empty string. In such a case, your program should stop with a proper error message (e.g., "Error: Can't replace an empty substring").
 - Other string arguments (string2, search-string) **can** be an empty string. That is, an empty search string matches any line, and if string2 is an empty string, it removes any occurrences of string1 in the matching line.

Tips:

- We provide a skeleton code file ([sgrep.c](#)). You can start with the file.
- fgets should be useful for reading a line from a file. 'man fgets' should give you more information.

Logistics

Develop on lab machines using emacs to create source code and gdb to debug.

For part 1, you implement the code str.c and std.h, which should contain the definitions of required functions.

For part 2, a skeleton C file is available here: [sgrep.c](#). It implements the basic I/O and argument parsing, so all you need is fill out the rest of the functionalities with str functions. Feel free to use this file as your starting point (of course, you don't have to use it), and change any part in the code if you'd like.

Create a readme text file that contains:

- Your name and your student ID
- A description of whatever help (if any) you received from others while doing the assignment, and the names of any individuals with whom you collaborated, as prescribed by the course "Policy" web page.
- *Is it possible for strCopy to call assert to verify that the destination memory area specified by the caller is large enough? Explain.*
- (Optionally) Please write the your implementation method in readme text file whether you use pointer notation for the extra credit.
- (Optionally) An indication of how much time you spent doing the assignment.
- (Optionally) Your assessment of the assignment.
- (Optionally) Any information that will help us to grade your work in the most favorable light. In particular you should describe all known bugs.

Submission

Use [KAIST KLMS](#) to submit your assignments. Your submission should be one gzipped tar file whose name is

YourStudentID_assign2.tar.gz

For example, if your student ID is 20161234, please name the file as

20161234_assign2.tar.gz

the single tar file which includes following files:

- (Task 1) str.c and str.h files
- (Task 2) updated sgrep.c file
- readme text file

Grading

We will grade your work on quality from the user's point of view and from the programmer's point of view. To encourage good coding practices, we will deduct points if gcc209 generates warning messages.

From the user's point of view, your module has quality if it behaves as it should.

In part, style is defined by the rules given in *The Practice of Programming* (Kernighan and Pike), as summarized by the [Rules of Programming Style](#) document. These additional rules apply:

Names: You should use a clear and consistent style for variable and function names. One example of such a style is to prefix each variable name with characters that indicate its type. For example, the prefix `c` might indicate that the variable is of type `char`, `i` might indicate `int`, `pc` might mean `char*`, `ui` might mean `unsigned int`, etc. But it is fine to use another style -- a style which does not include the type of a variable in its name -- as long as the result is a readable program.

Line lengths: Limit line lengths in your source code to 72 characters. Doing so allows us to print your work in two columns, thus saving paper.

Comments: Each source code file should begin with a comment that includes your name, the number of the assignment, and the name of the file.

Comments: Each function should begin with a comment that describes what the function does from the caller's point of view. The function comment should:

- Explicitly refer to the function's parameters (by name) and the function's return value.
- State what, if anything, the function reads from standard input or any other stream, and what, if anything, the function writes to standard output, standard error, or any other stream.
- State which global variables the function uses or affects.
- Appear in both the interface (.h) file for the sake of the *clients* of the function and the implementation (.c) file for the sake of the *maintainers* of the function.

Parameter Validation: Validate function parameters via asserts whenever possible.

Note: assert and NDEBUG

`assert` is a macro implementations of assertion, used for verifying the conditions. If the condition is true, it does nothing. However, if the conditions is FALSE, it displays an error messages and aborts the running program.

In this assignment, you should validate the function's parameters with `assert`. When you try to check whether your `Str` functions validate the given parameters correctly or not, the aborted program may annoy you. In that case, you can add `NDEBUG` macro in your source file to ignore the `assert` functions. Otherwise, you can also add `-D NDEBUG` argument to the `gcc`. The `-D NDEBUG` argument commands `gcc209` to define the `NDEBUG` macro, just as if the preprocessor directive `#define NDEBUG` appeared in the specified .c file(s). Following OBcommands are example of disabling `assert` using `-D` option

```
gcc209 -D NDEBUG sgrep.c str.c -o sgrep
```

If `NDEBUG` is defined as a macro name in the source file, the `assert` macro is defined as `((void)0)`, which means that the `assert` macro will be ignore.

Note: Using Idioms

C programmers sometimes use idioms that rely on the fact that the null character (`'\0'`), the `NULL` address, the integer 0, and the logical concept `FALSE` have the same representation. You may use those idioms. For example, you may define `StrGetLength` like this:

```
size_t StrGetLength(const char pcSrc[])
{
    size_t uiLength = 0U;
    assert(pcSrc); /* NULL address, 0, and FALSE are identical. */
    while (pcSrc[uiLength]) /* null character and FALSE are identical. */
        uiLength++;
    return uiLength;
}
```

or like this:

```
size_t StrGetLength(const char *pcSrc)
{
    const char *pcEnd;
    assert(pcSrc); /* NULL address, 0, and FALSE are identical. */
    pcEnd = pcSrc;
    while (*pcEnd) /* null character and FALSE are identical. */
        pcEnd++;
    return (size_t)(pcEnd - pcSrc);
}
```

But you are not required to use those idioms. In fact, we recommend that you avoid the use of idioms that adversely affect understandability.

Note: The const Keyword and StrSearch

The use of the const keyword within StrSearch is tricky, as this question-and-answer sequence indicates.

Question

According to the man pages, the parameters of strstr are of type const char*. That implies that the parameters of StrSearch also should be of type const char*. Why are they not of type char*?

Answer

Suppose you were to define StrSearch like this:

```
char *StrSearch(char *pcHaystack, char *pcNeedle)
{
    ...
}
```

Further suppose the client then calls StrSearch like this:

```
const char *pcBig = "hello";
const char *pcSmall = "lo";
...
... StrSearch(pcBig, pcSmall) ...
...
```

(Note that's a perfectly reasonable way to call the function.) In that case the compiler, noting that pcBig is of type const char* and that pcHaystack is of type char*, would generate a warning on the function call. Thus pcHaystack (and pcNeedle) should be of type const char*.

Question

According to the man pages, the return type of strstr is char*. That implies that the return type of StrSearch also should be of type char*. Why is the return type not const char*?

Answer

Suppose you were to define StrSearch like this:

```
const char *StrSearch(const char *pcHaystack, const char *pcNeedle)
{
    ...
}
```

Further suppose the client then calls StrSearch like this:

```
char *pcBig = "hello";
char *pcSmall = "lo";
char *pc;
...
```

```
pc = StrSearch(pcBig, pcSmall);  
...
```

(Note that's a perfectly reasonable way to call the function.) In that case the compiler, noting that `pc` is of type `char*` and that the value returned by `StrSearch` is of type `const char*`, would generate a warning on the assignment statement. Thus the return type of `StrSearch` should be `char*` and should not be `const char*`.

Question

Within the definition of `StrSearch`, I decided to define a local variable named `pc` that "points into" the first of the two given strings, as indicated by this code:

```
char *StrSearch(const char *pcHaystack, const char *pcNeedle)  
{  
    ...  
    pc = pcHaystack;  
    ...  
    /* Increment pc so it points to the appropriate character. */  
    ...  
    return pc;  
}
```

If I define `pc` to be of type `char*`, then the assignment statement generates a warning. If I define `pc` to be of type `const char*`, then the return statement generates a warning. How can I resolve that problem?

Answer

Unfortunately, C provides no elegant solution. We recommend that you define `pc` to be of type `const char*` so the assignment statement is warningless. Then use a cast operator in the return statement:

```
return (char*)pc;
```

to explicitly inform the compiler to not generate a warning. C programmers refer to that solution as "casting away the constness" of the variable. Sadly, often that inelegant technique is unavoidable.