

# C programming for embedded microcontroller systems.

*Assumes experience with  
assembly language programming.*

V. P. Nelson

# Outline

- Program organization and microcontroller memory
- Data types, constants, variables
- Microcontroller register/port addresses
- Operators: arithmetic, logical, shift
- Control structures: if, while, for
- Functions
- Interrupt routines

# Basic C program structure

```
#include "STM32L1xx.h"          /* I/O port/register names/addresses for the STM32L1xx microcontrollers */

/* Global variables – accessible by all functions */
int count, bob;                //global (static) variables – placed in RAM

/* Function definitions*/
int function1(char x) {         //parameter x passed to the function, function returns an integer value
    int i,j;                   //local (automatic) variables – allocated to stack or registers
    -- instructions to implement the function
}

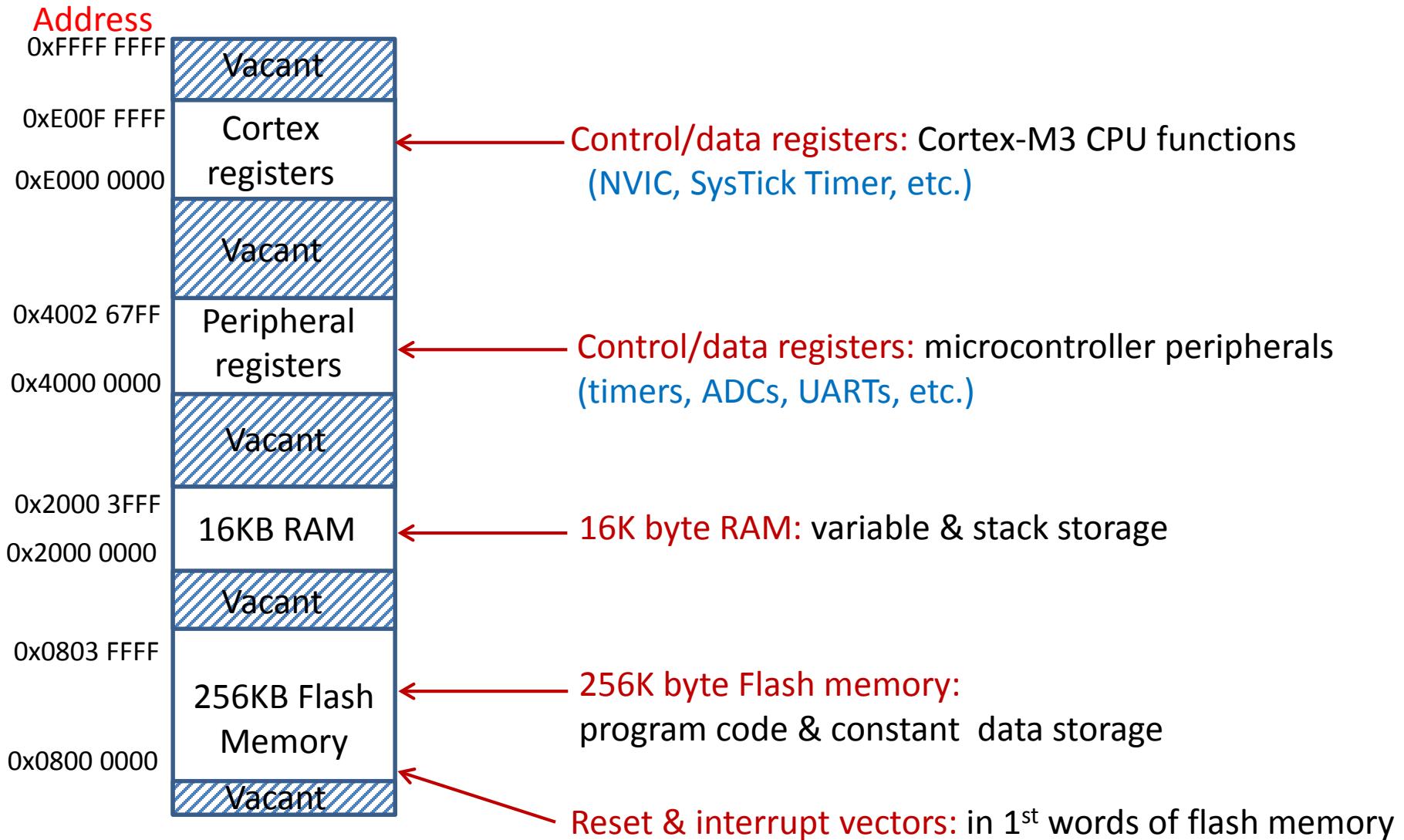
/* Main program */
void main(void) {
    unsigned char sw1;          //local (automatic) variable (stack or registers)
    int k;                      //local (automatic) variable (stack or registers)
    /* Initialization section */
    -- instructions to initialize variables, I/O ports, devices, function registers
    /* Endless loop */
    while (1) {                 //Can also use: for(); {
        -- instructions to be repeated
    } /* repeat forever */
}
```

Declare local variables

Initialize variables/devices

Body of the program

# STM32L100RC µC memory map



# Microcontroller “header file”

- Keil MDK-ARM provides a *derivative-specific* “header file” for each microcontroller, which defines memory addresses and symbolic labels for CPU and peripheral function register addresses.

```
#include "STM32L1xx.h"      /* target uC information */

// GPIOA configuration/data register addresses are defined in STM32L1xx.h
void main(void) {
    uint16_t PAval;           //16-bit unsigned variable
    GPIOA->MODER  &= ~(0x00000003); // Set GPIOA pin PA0 as input
    PAval = GPIOA->IDR;       // Set PAval to 16-bits from GPIOA
    for(;;) {                /* execute forever */
}
```

# C compiler data types

- Always match data type to data characteristics!
- Variable type indicates how data is represented
  - #bits determines range of numeric values
  - signed/unsigned determines which arithmetic/relational operators are to be used by the compiler
  - non-numeric data should be “unsigned”
- Header file “stdint.h” defines alternate type names for standard C data types
  - Eliminates ambiguity regarding #bits
  - Eliminates ambiguity regarding signed/unsigned

(Types defined on next page)

# C compiler data types

Data type declaration *	Number of bits	Range of values
<code>char k;</code> <code>unsigned char k;</code> <code>uint8_t k;</code>	8	0..255
<code>signed char k;</code> <code>int8_t k;</code>	8	-128..+127
<code>short k;</code> <code>signed short k;</code> <code>int16_t k;</code>	16	-32768..+32767
<code>unsigned short k;</code> <code>uint16_t k;</code>	16	0..65535
<code>int k;</code> <code>signed int k;</code> <code>int32_t k;</code>	32	-2147483648.. +2147483647
<code>unsigned int k;</code> <code>uint32_t k;</code>	32	0..4294967295

\* `intx_t` and `uintx_t` defined in `stdint.h`

# Data type examples

- Read bits from GPIOA (16 bits, non-numeric)
  - `uint16_t n; n = GPIOA->IDR;` //or: `unsigned short n;`
- Write TIM2 prescale value (16-bit unsigned)
  - `uint16_t t; TIM2->PSC = t;` //or: `unsigned short t;`
- Read 32-bit value from ADC (unsigned)
  - `uint32_t a; a = ADC;` //or: `unsigned int a;`
- System control value range [-1000...+1000]
  - `int32_t ctrl; ctrl = (x + y)*z;` //or: `int ctrl;`
- Loop counter for 100 program loops (unsigned)
  - `uint8_t cnt;` //or: `unsigned char cnt;`
  - `for (cnt = 0; cnt < 20; cnt++) {`

# Constant/literal values

- **Decimal** is the default number format

```
int m,n;           //16-bit signed numbers  
m = 453; n = -25;
```

- **Hexadecimal**: preface value with 0x or 0X

```
m = 0xF312; n = -0x12E4;
```

- **Octal**: preface value with zero (0)

```
m = 0453; n = -023;
```

Don't use leading zeros on "decimal" values. They will be interpreted as octal.

- **Character**: character in single quotes, or ASCII value following "slash"

```
m = 'a';    //ASCII value 0x61
```

```
n = '\13'; //ASCII value 13 is the "return" character
```

- **String (array)** of characters:

```
unsigned char k[7];
```

```
strcpy(m,"hello\n"); //k[0]='h', k[1]='e', k[2]='l', k[3]='l', k[4]='o',  
      //k[5]=13 or '\n' (ASCII new line character),  
      //k[6]=0 or '\0' (null character – end of string)
```

# Program variables

- A *variable* is an addressable storage location to information to be used by the program

- Each variable must be *declared* to indicate size and type of information to be stored, plus name to be used to reference the information

*int x,y,z; //declares 3 variables of type “int”*

*char a,b; //declares 2 variables of type “char”*

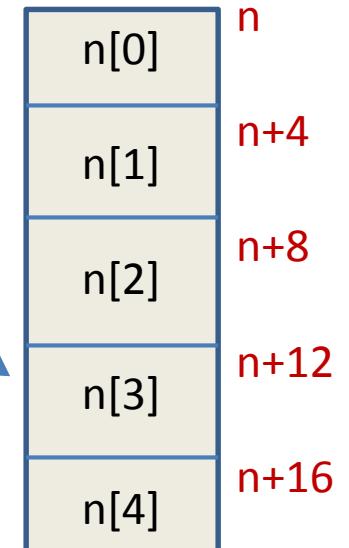
- Space for variables may be allocated in registers, RAM, or ROM/Flash (for constants)
  - Variables can be *automatic* or *static*

# Variable arrays

- An *array* is a set of data, stored in consecutive memory locations, beginning at a named address
  - Declare array name and number of data elements, N
  - Elements are “indexed”, with indices [0 .. N-1]

```
int n[5];      //declare array of 5 “int” values  
n[3] = 5;     //set value of 4th array element
```

Address:



Note: Index of first element is always 0.

# Automatic variables

- Declare within a function/procedure
- Variable is visible (has *scope*) only within that function
  - Space for the variable is allocated on the system stack when the procedure is entered
    - Deallocated, to be re-used, when the procedure is exited
  - If only 1 or 2 variables, the compiler may allocate them to registers within that procedure, instead of allocating memory.
  - Values are not retained between procedure calls

# Automatic variable example

```
void delay () {  
    int i,j; //automatic variables – visible only within delay()  
    for (i=0; i<100; i++) { //outer loop  
        for (j=0; j<20000; j++) { //inner loop  
            } //do nothing  
    }  
}
```

Variables must be initialized each time the procedure is entered since values are not retained when the procedure is exited.

MDK-ARM (in my example): allocated registers r0,r2 for variables i,j

# Static variables

- Retained for use throughout the program in RAM locations that are *not reallocated* during program execution.
- Declare either within or outside of a function
  - If declared outside a function, the variable is *global* in scope, i.e. known to all functions of the program
    - Use “normal” declarations. Example: `int count;`
  - If declared within a function, insert key word *static* before the variable definition. The variable is *local* in scope, i.e. known only within this function.

`static unsigned char bob;`  
`static int pressure[10];`

# Static variable example

```
unsigned char count; //global variable is static – allocated a fixed RAM location  
//count can be referenced by any function
```

```
void math_op () {  
    int i; //automatic variable – allocated space on stack when function entered  
    static int j; //static variable – allocated a fixed RAM location to maintain the value  
    if (count == 0) //test value of global variable count  
        j = 0; //initialize static variable j first time math_op() entered  
    i = count; //initialize automatic variable i each time math_op() entered  
    j = j + i; //change static variable j – value kept for next function call  
}  
//return & deallocate space used by automatic variable i
```

```
void main(void) {  
    count = 0; //initialize global variable count  
    while (1) {  
        math_op();  
        count++; //increment global variable count  
    }  
}
```

# C statement types

- Simple variable assignments
  - Includes input/output data transfers
- Arithmetic operations
- Logicalshift operations
- Control structures
  - IF, WHEN, FOR, SELECT
- Function calls
  - User-defined and/or library functions

# Arithmetic operations

- C examples – with standard arithmetic operators

```
int i, j, k;          // 32-bit signed integers
uint8_t m,n,p;        // 8-bit unsigned numbers
i = j + k;            // add 32-bit integers
m = n - 5;            // subtract 8-bit numbers
j = i * k;            // multiply 32-bit integers
m = n / p;            // quotient of 8-bit divide
m = n % p;            // remainder of 8-bit divide
i = (j + k) * (i - 2); //arithmetic expression
```

\* , /, % are higher in precedence than +, - (higher precedence applied 1<sup>st</sup>)

Example:  $j * k + m / n = (j * k) + (m / n)$

Floating-point formats are not directly supported by Cortex-M3 CPUs.

# Bit-parallel logical operators

Bit-parallel (bitwise) logical operators produce n-bit results of the corresponding logical operation:

& (AND)      | (OR)      ^ (XOR)      ~ (Complement)

C = A & B;  
(AND)

A	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
B	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
C	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0

C = A | B;  
(OR)

A	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
B	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
C	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0

C = A ^ B;  
(XOR)

A	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
B	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
C	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1

B = ~A;  
(COMPLEMENT)

A	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
B	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1

# Bit set/reset/complement/test

- Use a “mask” to select bit(s) to be altered

<code>C = A &amp; 0xFE;</code>	A	a b c d e f g h	
	0xFE	<u>1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0</u>	Clear selected bit of A
	C	a b c d e f g 0	
<code>C = A &amp; 0x01;</code>	A	a b c d e f g h	
	0xFE	<u>0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1</u>	Clear all but the selected bit of A
	C	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 h	
<code>C = A   0x01;</code>	A	a b c d e f g h	
	0x01	<u>0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1</u>	Set selected bit of A
	C	a b c d e f g 1	
<code>C = A ^ 0x01;</code>	A	a b c d e f g h	
	0x01	<u>0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1</u>	Complement selected bit of A
	C	a b c d e f g h'	

# Bit examples for input/output

- Create a “pulse” on bit 0 of PORTA (assume bit is initially 0)

```
PORTA = PORTA | 0x01; //Force bit 0 to 1
```

*PORTA = PORTA & 0xFE; //Force bit 0 to 0*

- Examples:

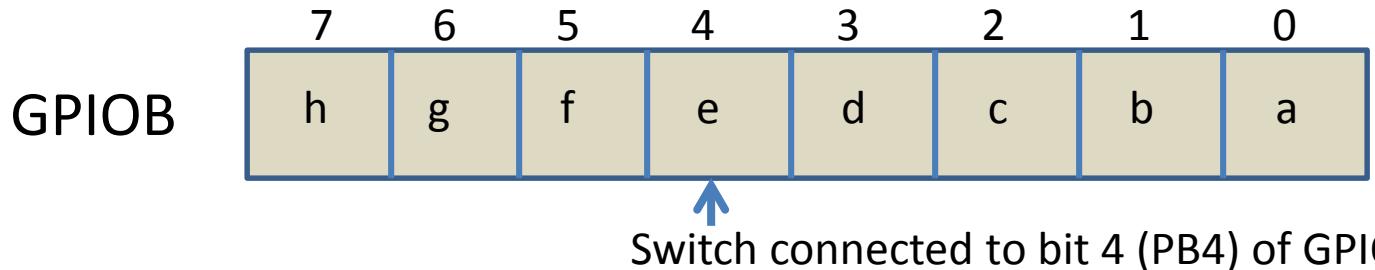
```
if ( (PORTA & 0x80) != 0 ) //Or: ((PORTA & 0x80) == 0x80)
    bob();                  // call bob() if bit 7 of PORTA is 1
c = PORTB & 0x04;          // mask all but bit 2 of PORTB value
if ((PORTA & 0x01) == 0) // test bit 0 of PORTA
    PORTA = c | 0x01;     // write c to PORTA with bit 0 set to 1
```

# Example of µC register address definitions in *STM32Lxx.h*

(read this header file to view other peripheral functions)

```
#define PERIPH_BASE ((uint32_t)0x40000000) //Peripheral base address in memory
#define AHBPERIPH_BASE (PERIPH_BASE + 0x20000) //AHB peripherals
/* Base addresses of blocks of GPIO control/data registers */
#define GPIOA_BASE (AHBPERIPH_BASE + 0x0000) //Registers for GPIOA
#define GPIOB_BASE (AHBPERIPH_BASE + 0x0400) //Registers for GPIOB
#define GPIOA ((GPIO_TypeDef *) GPIOA_BASE) //Pointer to GPIOA register block
#define GPIOB ((GPIO_TypeDef *) GPIOB_BASE) //Pointer to GPIOB register block
/* Address offsets from GPIO base address – block of registers defined as a “structure” */
typedef struct
{
    __IO uint32_t MODER; /*!< GPIO port mode register, Address offset: 0x00 */
    __IO uint16_t OTYPER; /*!< GPIO port output type register, Address offset: 0x04 */
    uint16_t RESERVED0; /*!< Reserved, 0x06 */
    __IO uint32_t OSPEEDR; /*!< GPIO port output speed register, Address offset: 0x08 */
    __IO uint32_t PUPDR; /*!< GPIO port pull-up/pull-down register, Address offset: 0x0C */
    __IO uint16_t IDR; /*!< GPIO port input data register, Address offset: 0x10 */
    uint16_t RESERVED1; /*!< Reserved, 0x12 */
    __IO uint16_t ODR; /*!< GPIO port output data register, Address offset: 0x14 */
    uint16_t RESERVED2; /*!< Reserved, 0x16 */
    __IO uint16_t BSRR; /*!< GPIO port bit set/reset low registerBSRR, Address offset: 0x18 */
    __IO uint16_t BSRH; /*!< GPIO port bit set/reset high registerBSRR, Address offset: 0x1A */
    __IO uint32_t LCKR; /*!< GPIO port configuration lock register, Address offset: 0x1C */
    __IO uint32_t AFR[2]; /*!< GPIO alternate function low register, Address offset: 0x20-0x24 */
} GPIO_TypeDef;
```

# Example: I/O port bits (using bottom half of GPIOB)



```
uint16_t sw; //16-bit unsigned type since GPIOB IDR and ODR = 16 bits
sw = GPIOB->IDR; // sw = xxxxxxxxhgfedcba (upper 8 bits from PB15-PB8)
sw = GPIOB->IDR & 0x0010; // sw = 000e0000 (mask all but bit 4)
// Result is sw = 00000000 or 00010000
if (sw == 0x01) // NEVER TRUE for above sw, which is 000e0000
if (sw == 0x10) // TRUE if e=1 (bit 4 in result of PORTB & 0x10)
if (sw == 0) // TRUE if e=0 in PORTB & 0x10 (sw=00000000)
if (sw != 0) // TRUE if e=1 in PORTB & 0x10 (sw=00010000)
GPIOB->ODR = 0x005a; // Write to 16 bits of GPIOB; result is 01011010
GPIOB->ODR |= 0x10; // Sets only bit e to 1 in GPIOB (GPIOB now hgf1dcba)
GPIOB->ODR &= ~0x10; // Resets only bit e to 0 in GPIOB (GPIOB now hg0dcba)
if ((GPIOB->IDR & 0x10) == 1) // TRUE if e=1 (bit 4 of GPIOB)
```

# Shift operators

Shift operators:

$x >> y$  (right shift operand x by y bit positions)

$x << y$  (left shift operand x by y bit positions)

Vacated bits are filled with 0's.

Shift right/left fast way to multiply/divide by power of 2

`B = A << 3;  
(Left shift 3 bits)`

**A**    1 0 1 0 1 1 0 1  
**B**    0 1 1 0 1 0 0 0

`B = A >> 2;  
(Right shift 2 bits)`

**A**    1 0 1 1 0 1 0 1  
**B**    0 0 1 0 1 1 0 1

`B = '1';  
C = '5';  
D = (B << 4) | (C & 0x0F);  
     (B << 4)  
     (C & 0x0F)`

**B** = 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 (ASCII 0x31)  
**C** = 0 0 1 1 0 1 0 1 (ASCII 0x35)  
**D** = 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 (Packed BCD 0x15)  
  
= 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0  
= 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1  
= 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 1

# C control structures

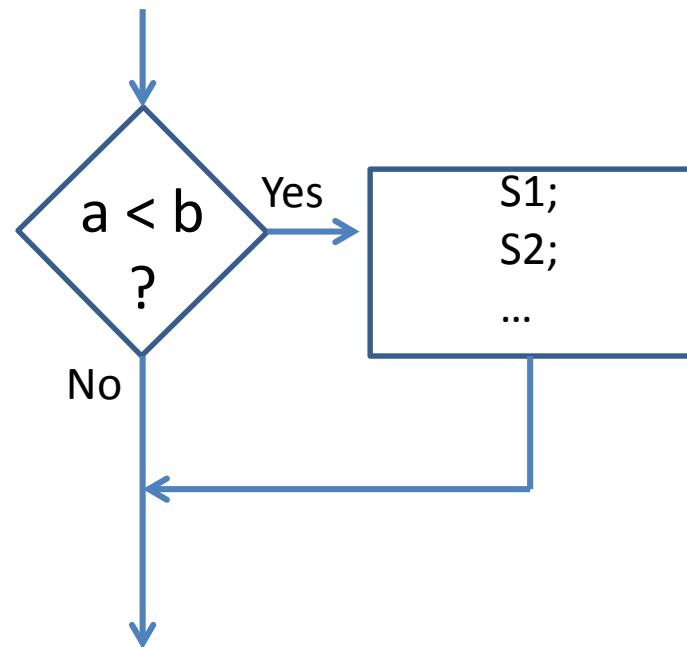
- Control order in which instructions are executed (program flow)
- Conditional execution
  - Execute a set of statements if some condition is met
  - Select one set of statements to be executed from several options, depending on one or more conditions
- Iterative execution
  - Repeated execution of a set of statements
    - A specified number of times, or
    - Until some condition is met, or
    - While some condition is true

# IF-THEN structure

- Execute a set of statements if and only if some condition is met

TRUE/FALSE condition

```
if (a < b)
{
    statement s1;
    statement s2;
    ....
}
```



# Relational Operators

- Test relationship between two variables/expressions

Test	TRUE condition	Notes
(m == b)	m equal to b	Double =
(m != b)	m not equal to b	
(m < b)	m less than b	1
(m <= b)	m less than or equal to b	1
(m > b)	m greater than b	1
(m >= b)	m greater than or equal to b	1
(m)	m non-zero	
(1)	always TRUE	
(0)	always FALSE	

1. Compiler uses signed or unsigned comparison, in accordance with data types

## Example:

```
unsigned char a,b;  
int j,k;  
if (a < b) – unsigned  
if (j > k) - signed
```

# Boolean operators

- Boolean operators **&&** (AND) and **||** (OR) produce TRUE/FALSE results when testing multiple TRUE/FALSE conditions

*if ((n > 1) && (n < 5)) //test for n between 1 and 5*

*if ((c = 'q') || (c = 'Q')) //test c = lower or upper case Q*

- Note the difference between **Boolean** operators **&&**, **||** and **bitwise logical** operators **&**, **|**

*if ( k && m) //test if k and m both TRUE (non-zero values)*

*if ( k & m) //compute bitwise AND between m and n,*

*//then test whether the result is non-zero (TRUE)*

# Common error

- Note that `==` is a relational operator, whereas `=` is an assignment operator.

`if ( m == n )` *//tests equality of values of variables m and n*

`if (m = n)` *//assigns value of n to variable m, and then*

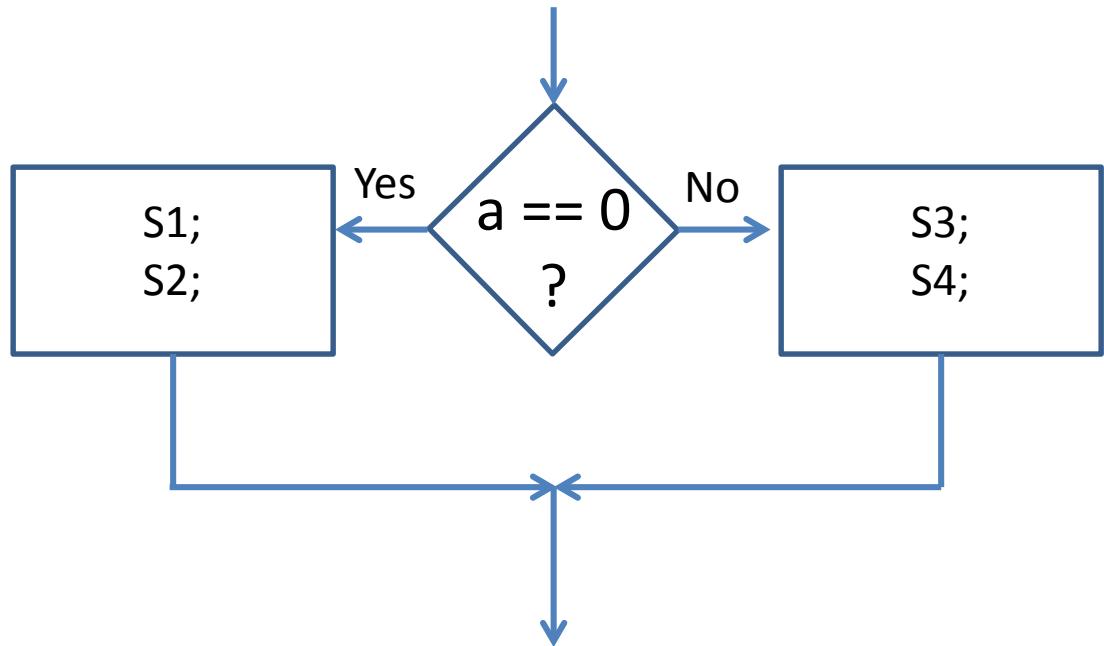
*//tests whether that value is TRUE (non-zero)*

The second form is a common error (omitting the second equal sign), and usually produces unexpected results, namely a TRUE condition if n is 0 and FALSE if n is non-zero.

# IF-THEN-ELSE structure

- Execute one set of statements if a condition is met and an alternate set if the condition is not met.

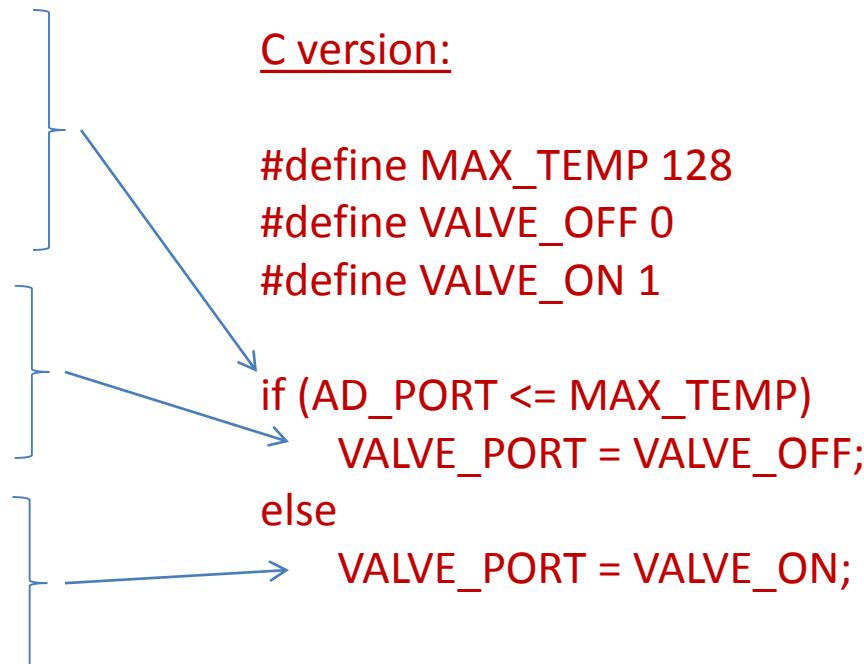
```
if (a == 0)
{
    statement s1;
    statement s2;
}
else
{
    statement s3;
    statement s4;
}
```



# IF-THEN-ELSE HCS12 assembly language vs C example

```
AD_PORT:      EQU $91 ; A/D Data Port
MAX_TEMP:     EQU 128 ; Maximum temperature
VALVE_OFF:    EQU 0   ; Bits for valve off
VALVE_ON:     EQU 1   ; Bits for valve on
VALVE_PORT:   EQU $258 ; Port P for the valve
```

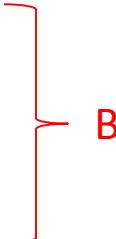
```
...
; Get the temperature
    ldaa AD_PORT
; IF Temperature > Allowed Maximum
    cmpa #MAX_TEMP
    bls ELSE_PART
; THEN Turn the water valve off
    ldaa VALVE_OFF
    staa VALVE_PORT
    bra END_IF
; ELSE Turn the water valve on
ELSE_PART:
    ldaa VALVE_ON
    staa VALVE_PORT
END_IF:
; END IF temperature > Allowed Maximum
```



# Ambiguous ELSE association

```
if (n > 0)
    if (a > b)
        z = a;
else          //else goes with nearest previous "if" (a > b)
    z = b;
```

```
if (n > 0) {
    if (a > b)
        z = a;
} else {      //else goes with first "if" (n > 0)
    z = b;
}
```



Braces force proper association

# Multiple ELSE-IF structure

- Multi-way decision, with expressions evaluated in a specified order

```
if (n == 1)
    statement1; //do if n == 1
else if (n == 2)
    statement2; //do if n == 2
else if (n == 3)
    statement3; //do if n == 3
else
    statement4; //do if any other value of n (none of the above)
```

Any “statement” above can be replaced with a set of statements: {s1; s2; s3; ...}

# SWITCH statement

- Compact alternative to ELSE-IF structure, for multi-way decision that tests one variable or expression for a number of constant values

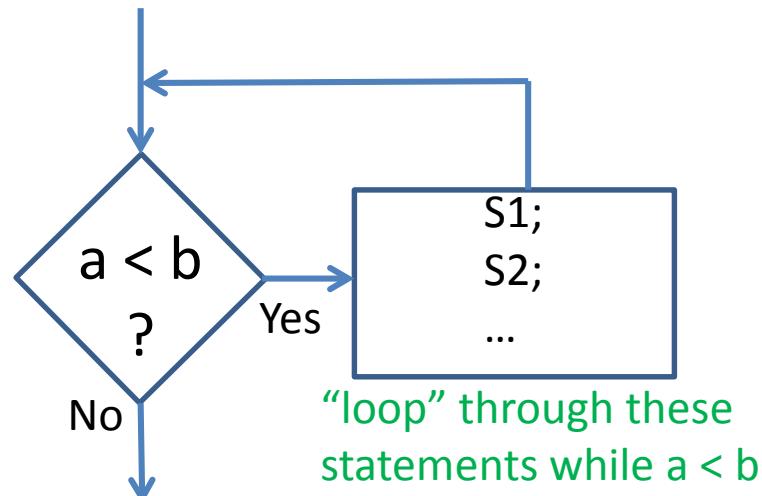
```
/* example equivalent to that on preceding slide */
switch ( n ) {      //n is the variable to be tested
    case 0: statement1; //do if n == 0
    case 1: statement2; // do if n == 1
    case 2: statement3; // do if n == 2
    default: statement4; //if for any other n value
}
```

Any “statement” above can be replaced with a set of statements: {s1; s2; s3; ...}

# WHILE loop structure

- Repeat a set of statements (a “loop”) as long as some condition is met

```
while (a < b)
{
    statement s1;
    statement s2;
    ....
}
```



Something must eventually cause  $a \geq b$ , to exit the loop

# WHILE loop example: C vs. HCS12 Assembly Language

C version:

```
#define MAX_ALLOWED 128
#define LIGHT_ON 1
#define LIGHT_OFF 0

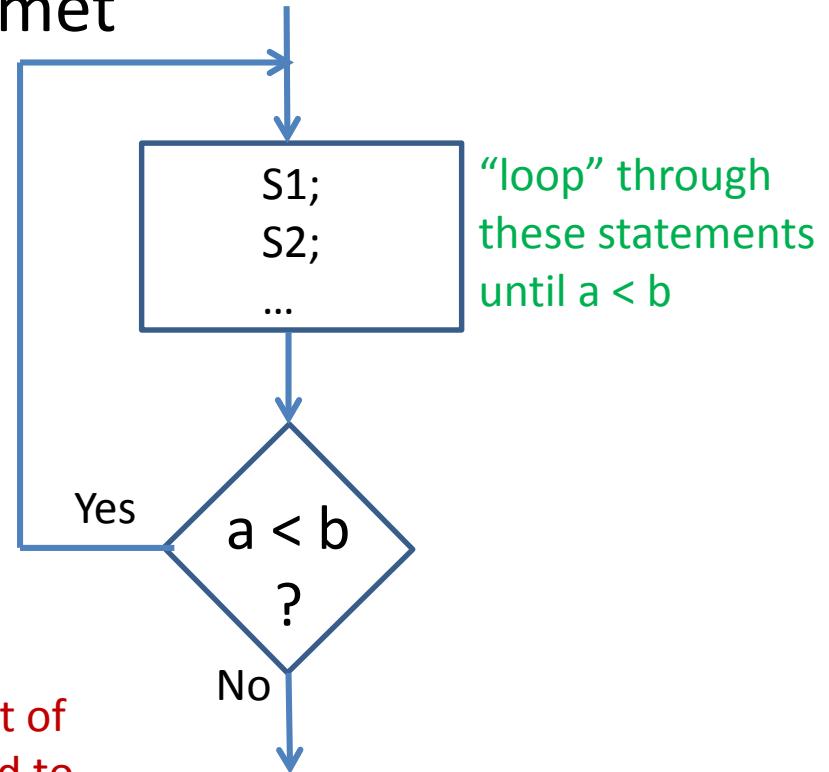
while (AD_PORT <= MAX_ALLOWED)
{
    LIGHT_PORT = LIGHT_ON;
    delay();
    LIGHT_PORT = LIGHT_OFF;
    delay();
}
```

```
AD_PORT: EQU $91 ; A/D Data port
MAX_ALLOWED:EQU 128 ; Maximum Temp
LIGHT_ON: EQU 1
LIGHT_OFF: EQU 0
LIGHT_PORT: EQU $258 ; Port P
; ---
; Get the temperature from the A/D
ldaa AD_PORT
; WHILE the temperature > maximum allowed
WHILE_START:
    cmpa MAX_ALLOWED
    bls END_WHILE
; DO - Flash light 0.5 sec on, 0.5 sec off
    ldaa LIGHT_ON
    staa LIGHT_PORT ; Turn the light on
    jsr delay ; 0.5 sec delay
    ldaa LIGHT_OFF
    staa LIGHT_PORT ; Turn the light off
    jsr delay
; End flashing the light, Get temperature from the A/D
    ldaa AD_PORT
; END_DO
    bra WHILE_START
END_WHILE:
```

# DO-WHILE loop structure

- Repeat a set of statements (one “loop”) ***until*** some condition is met

```
do
{
    statement s1;
    statement s2;
    ...
}
while (a < b);
```



The condition is tested after executing the set of statements, so the statements are guaranteed to execute at least once.

# DO-WHILE example

C version:

```
#define MAX_ALLOWED 128
#define LIGHT_ON 1
#define LIGHT_OFF 0

do {
    LIGHT_PORT = LIGHT_ON;
    delay();
    LIGHT_PORT = LIGHT_OFF;
    delay();
} while (AD_PORT <= MAX_ALLOWED);
```

```
;HCS12 Assembly Language Version
; DO
; Flash light 0.5 sec on, 0.5 sec off
    ldaa    LIGHT_ON
    staa    LIGHT_PORT ; Turn light on
    jsr     delay        ; 0.5 sec delay
    ldaa    LIGHT_OFF
    staa    LIGHT_PORT ; Turn light off
    jsr     delay
; End flashing the light
; Get the temperature from the A/D
    ldaa    AD_PORT
; END_DO
    bra    WHILE_START
; END WHILE:
; END WHILE temperature > maximum allowed
; Dummy subroutine
delay:   rts
```

# WHILE examples

```
/* Add two 200-element arrays. */
```

```
int M[200],N[200],P[200];  
int k;
```

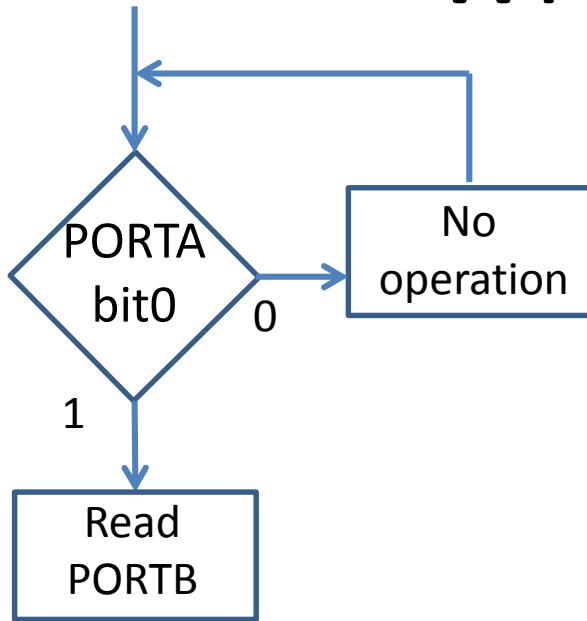
```
/* Method 1 – using DO-WHILE */
```

```
k = 0;                                //initialize counter/index  
do {  
    M[k] = N[k] + P[k];                //add k-th array elements  
    k = k + 1;                          //increment counter/index  
} while (k < 200);                    //repeat if k less than 200
```

```
/* Method 2 – using WHILE loop
```

```
k = 0;                                //initialize counter/index  
while (k < 200) {  
    M[k] = N[k] + P[k];                //add k-th array elements  
    k = k + 1;                          //increment counter/index  
}
```

# WHILE example



Wait for a 1 to be applied  
to bit 0 of GPIOA  
and then read GPIOB

```
while ( (GPIOA->IDR & 0x0001) == 0) // test bit 0 of GPIOA
{
}
c = GPIOB->IDR; // do nothing & repeat if bit is 0
// read GPIOB after above bit = 1
```

# FOR loop structure

- Repeat a set of statements (one “loop”) while some condition is met
  - often a given # of iterations

The diagram illustrates the structure of a FOR loop. It features three main components: 'Initialization(s)' with a downward arrow pointing to the start of the loop body; 'Condition for execution' with a downward arrow pointing to the condition part of the loop header; and 'Operation(s) at end of each loop' with an arrow pointing to the increment part of the loop header. Below these labels is a sample C-style FOR loop:

```
for (m = 0; m < 200; m++)  
{  
    statement s1;  
    statement s2;  
}
```

# FOR loop structure

- FOR loop is a more compact form of the WHILE loop structure

```
/* execute loop 200 times */ /* equivalent WHILE loop */
for (m = 0; m < 200; m++)      m = 0; //initial action(s)
{                                while (m < 200) //condition test
    statement s1;                {
    statement s2;                statement s1;
}                                statement s2;
                                m = m + 1; //end of loop action
                                }
```

# FOR structure example

```
/* Read 100 16-bit values from GPIOB into array C */
/* Bit 0 of GPIOA (PA0) is 1 if data is ready, and 0 otherwise */
uint16_t c[100];
uint16_t k;

for (k = 0; k < 200; k++) {
    while ((GPIOA->IDR & 0x01) == 0) //repeat until PA0 = 1
        {}                                //do nothing if PA0 = 0
    c[k] = GPIOB->IDR;                  //read data from PB[15:0]
}
```

# FOR structure example

*/\* Nested FOR loops to create a time delay \*/*

```
for (i = 0; i < 100; i++) {      //do outer loop 100 times
    for (j = 0; j < 1000; j++) { //do inner loop 1000 times
        }
    }
```

# C functions

- Functions partition large programs into a set of smaller tasks
  - Helps manage program complexity
  - Smaller tasks are easier to design and debug
  - Functions can often be reused instead of starting over
  - Can use of “libraries” of functions developed by 3<sup>rd</sup> parties, instead of designing your own

# C functions

- A function is “called” by another program to perform a task
  - The *function may* return a result to the caller
  - One or more arguments may be passed to the function/procedure

# Function definition

Type of value to be  
returned to the caller\*

```
int math_func (int k; int n)
{
    int j;                      //local variable
    j = n + k - 5;              //function body
    return(j);                  //return the result
}
```

Parameters passed  
by the caller

\* If no return value, specify “void”

# Function arguments

- Calling program can pass information to a function in two ways
  - By **value**: pass a constant or a variable value
    - function can use, but not modify the value
  - By **reference**: pass the address of the variable
    - function can both read and update the variable
  - Values/addresses are typically passed to the function by pushing them onto the system **stack**
    - Function retrieves the information from the stack

# Example – pass by value

```
/* Function to calculate x2 */  
int square ( int x ) { //passed value is type int, return an int value  
    int y; //local variable – scope limited to square  
    y = x * x; //use the passed value  
    return(x); //return the result  
}  
  
void main {  
    int k,n; //local variables – scope limited to main  
    n = 5;  
    k = square(n); //pass value of n, assign n-squared to k  
    n = square(5); // pass value 5, assign 5-squared to n  
}
```



# Example – pass by reference

```
/* Function to calculate x2 */  
void square ( int x, int *y ) { //value of x, address of y  
    *y = x * x;           //write result to location whose address is y  
}  
  
void main {  
    int k,n;              //local variables – scope limited to main  
    n = 5;  
    square(n, &k);       //calculate n-squared and put result in k  
    square(5, &n);       // calculate 5-squared and put result in n  
}
```

In the above, *main* tells *square* the location of its local variable, so that *square* can write the result to that variable.

# Example – receive serial data bytes

```
/* Put string of received SCI bytes into an array */  
Int rcv_data[10];          //global variable array for received data  
Int rcv_count;            //global variable for #received bytes  
  
void SCI_receive () {  
    while ( (SCISR1 & 0x20) == 0) {} //wait for new data (RDRF = 1)  
    rcv_data[rcv_count] = SCIDRL;   //byte to array from SCI data reg.  
    rcv_count++;                 //update index for next byte  
}
```

Other functions can access the received data from the global variable array `rcv_data[]`.

# Some on-line C tutorials

- <http://www.cprogramming.com/tutorial/c-tutorial.html>
- [http://www.physics.drexel.edu/courses/Comp\\_Phys/General/C\\_basics/](http://www.physics.drexel.edu/courses/Comp_Phys/General/C_basics/)
- <http://www.iu.hio.no/~mark/CTutorial/CTutorial.html>
- <http://www2.its.strath.ac.uk/courses/c/>

# Tutorial to be continued .....