# OPERATOR PRECEDENCE AND ASSOCIATIVITY

- Operator precedence determines which operator is performed first in an expression with more than one operators with different precedence.
- For example
  - 10 + 20 \* 30 is calculated as 10 + (20 \* 30) and not as (10 + 20) \* 30.

#### CONT...

- Associativity is used when two operators of same precedence appear in an expression. Associativity can be either Left to Right or Right to Left.
- For example '\*' and '/' have same precedence and their associativity is Left to Right, so the expression "100 / 10 \* 10" is treated as "(100 / 10) \* 10".

 All operators with same precedence have same associativity

- chaining of comparison operators is not allowed in C
  - In Python, expression like "c > b > a" is treated as "a > b and b > c", but this type of chaining doesn't happen in C

## OPERATORS (1)

Operator Precedence and Associativity		
Operator	Associativity	
() ++(postfix)(postfix)	left to right	
+(unary) -(unary) ++(prefix)(prefix)	right to left	
* / %	left to right	
+ -	left to right	

#### OPERATORS EXAMPLE

### **Declarations and Initializations**

int a = 1, b = 2, c = 3, d = 4;

Expression	Value
a * b / c	0
a * b % c + 1	3
++ a * b - c	1
7 b * ++ d	17

- $\circ$  a\*b/c=(a\*b)/c =0
- a\*b%c+1=((a\*b)%c)+1=3
- $\circ$  ++a\*b-c-=((++a)\*b)-(c--)=??
- $\circ$  7 - b \* ++ d=7-((-b)\*(++d))=7-(-10)=17

#### ASSIGNMENT OPERATORS

- C treats = as an operator
- o variable = Right\_Hand\_Side
- Other assignment operators
  - variable op (expression)
  - +=, -=, \*=, /=, %=, >>=, <<=, &=, ^= and |=

## OPERATORS (2)

Operator Precedence and Associativity		
Operator	Associativity	
() ++(postfix)(postfix)	left to right	
+(unary) -(unary) ++(prefix)(prefix)	right to left	
* / %	left to right	
+ -	left to right	
= += -= *= /= etc	right to left	

## EXAMPLE

- int x,y,z=5;
- $\circ$  x=y=z
- int x,y,z=5;
- x=z=y

# RELATIONAL OPERATORS AND EXPRESSIONS

- Relational operators are binary.
- Takes two expressions as operands and yields either the int value 1 (TRUE) or 0 (FALSE)
- The relational operators are
  - < (less than), > (greater than)
  - <= (less than or equal to), >= (greater than or equal to)
  - Same precedence, left to right associativity

## OPERATORS (3)

## Operator Precedence and Associativity

Operator	Associativity
() ++(postfix)(postfix)	left to right
+(unary) -(unary) ++(prefix)(prefix)	right to left
* / %	left to right
+ -	left to right
< > <= >=	left to right
= += -= *= /= etc	right to left

### RELATIONAL EXPRESSIONS EXAMPLE

 $\circ$  a < 3, a < b, a < c

 $\circ$  a – b < 0

Values of relational expressions				
a - b	a < b	a > b	a <= b	a >= b
Positive	0	1	0	1
Zero	0	0	1	1
Negative	1	0	1	0

## EQUALITY OPERATORS AND EXPRESSIONS

- o == and !=
- Lower precedence than relational operators and left to right associativity
- Binary operators
- Yield either 1 (TRUE) or 0 (FALSE).
- What is the output of this equality expression?
  - i + j + k == -2 \* -k where i = 1, j = 2, k = 3;

## OPERATORS (4)

## Operator Precedence and Associativity

Operator	Associativity
() ++(postfix)(postfix)	left to right
+(unary) -(unary) ++(prefix)(prefix)	right to left
* / %	left to right
+ -	left to right
< > <= >=	left to right
== !=	left to right
= += -= *= /= etc	right to left

#### LOGICAL OPERATORS AND EXPRESSIONS

- •! (not) is unary, && (and) and || (or) are binary
- && has higher precedence than ||.
- •! has same precedence as other unary operators.
- Semantics of the! operator

expr	!expr
Zero	1
Non-zero	0

## SEMANTICS OF && AND | | OPERATOR

expr1	expr2	$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{expr1} \\ \mathbf{\&\&} \\ \mathbf{expr2} \end{array}$	expr1    expr2
Zero	Zero	0	0
Zero	Non-zero	0	1
Non-zero	Zero	0	1
Non-zero	Non-zero	1	1

## OPERATORS (5)

#### **Operator Precedence and Associativity**

Operator	Associativity
() ++(postfix)(postfix)	left to right
+(unary) -(unary) ++(prefix)(prefix)!	right to left
* / %	left to right
+ -	left to right
< > <= >=	left to right
== !=	left to right
&&	left to right
	left to right
= += -= *= /= etc	right to left

#### EXAMPLES OF LOGICAL OPERATORS

- $\circ$  char c = 'B'; int i = 3, j = 3, k = 3;
- double x = 0.0, y = 2.3;

Expression	Value
i && j && k	1
x     i && j - 3	0
$i < j \mid \mid x < y$	1
$c - 1 == 'A' \mid c + 1 ==$ 'Z'	1

#### COMMA OPERATOR

- Lowest Precedence, Binary operator
- Syntax: expr1, expr2
  j=10;
  for(i = 1; i <= N; i++)
   j--;
  can be re-written as
  for(i = 1, j = 10; i <= N; i++, j--)</pre>

#### EXAMPLES

- o int a=1, b=2, c=3, i=0; // comma acts as separator in this line, not as an operator ... a=1, b=2, c=3, i=0
- i = (a, b); // stores b into i ... a=1, b=2, c=3, i=2
- i = a, b; // stores a into i. Equivalent to (i = a), b; ... a=1, b=2, c=3, i=1
- i = (a += 2, a + b); //  $increases \ a \ by \ 2$ ,  $then \ stores \ a+b = 3+2 \ into \ i$  ...  $a=3, \ b=2, \ c=3, \ i=5$
- $\circ$  i = a += 2, a + b; // increases a by 2, then stores a into i.
  - Equivalent to (i = (a += 2)), a + b; ... a=5, b=2, c=3, i=5
- $i = a, b, c; // stores \ a \ into \ i ... \ a=5, b=2, c=3, i=5$
- i = (a, b, c); // stores c into i ...  $\alpha = 5$ , b = 2, c = 3, i = 3

## OPERATORS (6)

#### **Operator Precedence and Associativity**

Operator	Associativity
() ++(postfix)(postfix)	left to right
+(unary) -(unary) ++(prefix)(prefix)!	right to left
* / %	left to right
+ -	left to right
< > <= >=	left to right
== !=	left to right
&&	left to right
	left to right
= += -= *= /= etc	right to left
, (comma operator)	left to right

#### **PUNCTUATORS**

- A symbol that has a semantic significance but does not specify an operation to be performed.
- o "{", ";", "(" and ")" are punctuators.
- Both operators and punctuators are collected by the compiler as tokens.