16.216: ECE Application Programming

Spring 2015

Lecture 24: Key Questions
April 3, 2015

1. Describe how character arrays can be used to represent strings in C, as well as the string library functions frequently used to work with strings.

2. **Example:** What does the following program print?

```
int main() {
   char s1[15];
   int n1;
   char s2[10] = ".216";
   int n;

   strncpy(s1, "16", 15);
   n1 = strlen(s1);
   printf("s1 = %s\n", s1);
   printf("Length of s1 = %d\n\n", n1);

   printf("%c\n\n", s1[1]);

   strncat(s1,s2,10);
   n1 = strlen(s1);
   printf("s1 = %s\n", s1);
   printf("Length of s1 = %d\n\n", n1);

   // Assume user inputs: ABC ABD
   printf("Enter two strings:");
   scanf("%s%s", s1, s2);
   n = strncmp(s1, s2, 15);
   if (n > 0)
      printf("%s > %s\n", s1, s2);
   else if (n < 0)
      printf("%s < %s\n", s1, s2);
   else
      printf("%s == %s\n", s1, s2);
   return 0;
}
```

Example: Write a function for each of the following:

a. `int readStrings(char *s);`

Repeatedly read strings from standard input until the input string matches `s`. Return the number of strings read.

b. `void copyNull(char *s1, char *s2, int n);`

Copy the first *n* characters of `s2` into `s1`, and make sure that the new version of `s1` terminates with a null character.

c. `int fillString(char *s);`
Repeatedly read strings from standard input and concatenate them to `s` until there is no room in the string. Return the final length of the string.

For example, if `s` is a 6-character array already holding "abcd":

- User enters "e"—string is full; return 5
- User enters "ef"—there's not enough room; return 4