



## UNIT 4

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# Overview of C Programming



# Unit 4: Overview of C Programming

1. A Simple C Program
2. Variables and Data Types
3. Program Structure
  - Preprocessor directives
  - Input
  - Compute
  - Output
4. Math Functions
5. Programming Style
6. Common Mistakes

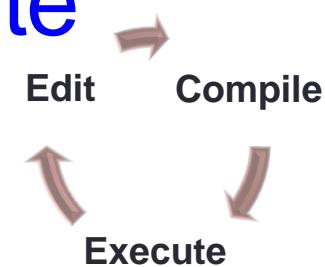
# Introduction

- **C**: A general-purpose computer programming language developed in 1972 by **Dennis Ritchie** (1941 – 2011) at Bell Telephone Lab for use with the UNIX operation System
- We will follow the **ANSI C** (C90) standard

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ANSI\\_C](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ANSI_C)



# Quick Review: Edit, Compile, Execute



Edit  
eg: `vim first.c`

*produces*  
→

Source code  
`first.c`

Compile  
eg: `gcc first.c`

*produces*  
→

Executable code  
`a.out`

Execute  
eg: `a.out`

*produces*  
→

Program output  
`The value of c is 3.`

Cannot  
compile?

Incorrect  
result?

# A Simple C Program (1/3)

## ■ General form of a simple C program

*preprocessor directives*

*main function header*

{

*declaration of variables*

*executable statements*

}

*“Executable statements”*

usually consists of 3 parts:

- Input data
- Computation
- Output results

# A Simple C Program (2/3)

```
// Converts distance in miles to kilometres.  
#include <stdio.h> /* printf, scanf definitions */  
#define KMS_PER_MILE 1.609 /* conversion constant */  
  
int main(void) {  
    float miles,      // input - distance in miles  
          kms;        // output - distance in kilometres  
  
    /* Get the distance in miles */  
    printf("Enter distance in miles: ");  
    scanf("%f", &miles);  
  
    // Convert the distance to kilometres  
    kms = KMS_PER_MILE * miles;  
  
    // Display the distance in kilometres  
    printf("That equals %9.2f km.\n", kms);  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

Unit4\_MileToKm.c

*Sample run*

```
$ gcc -Wall Unit4_MileToKm.c  
$ a.out  
Enter distance in miles: 10.5  
That equals      16.89 km.
```

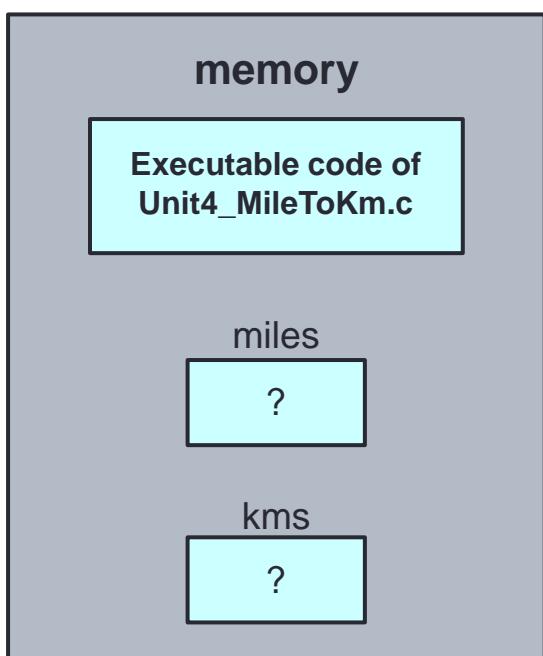
# A Simple C Program (3/3)

```
// Converts distance in miles to kilometres.  
#include <stdio.h> /* printf, scanf definitions */  
#define KMS_PER_MILE 1.609 /* conversion constant */  
  
int main(void) {  
    float miles, kms; // input - distance in miles  
                      // output - distance in kilometres  
  
    /* Get the distance in miles */  
    printf("Enter distance in miles: ");  
    scanf("%f", &miles);  
  
    // Convert the distance to kilometres  
    kms = KMS_PER_MILE * miles;  
  
    // Display the distance in kilometres  
    printf("That equals %9.2f km.\n", kms);  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

The diagram illustrates various C programming concepts annotated within the code:

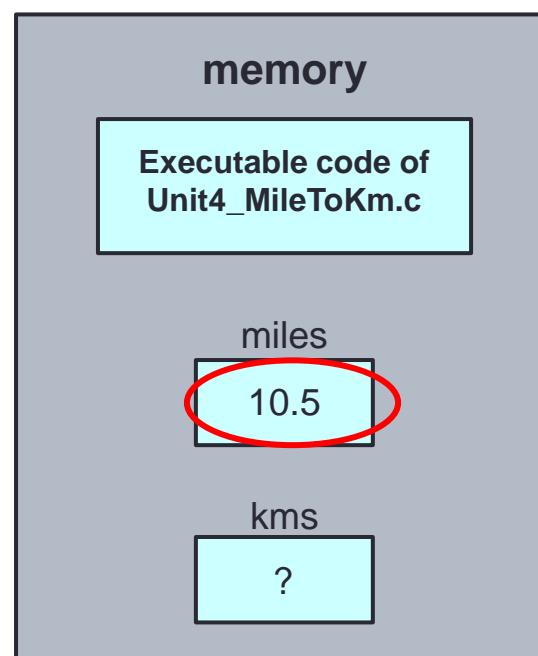
- preprocessor directives**: Points to the `#include <stdio.h>` and `#define KMS_PER_MILE 1.609` lines.
- reserved words**: Points to the `int`, `main`, `void`, `float`, `miles`, `kms`, `printf`, `scanf`, and `return` keywords.
- variables**: Points to the `miles` and `kms` identifiers.
- functions**: Points to the `printf` and `scanf` functions.
- special symbols**: Points to the `{`, `}`, `,`, `*`, `=`, and `;` punctuation marks.
- standard header file**: Points to the `<stdio.h>` header.
- constant**: Points to the `KMS_PER_MILE` macro definition.
- comments**: Points to the multi-line comments (`/* ... */`) and the single-line comment (`// ...`).
- punctuations**: Points to the `\n` character in the `printf` format string.

# What Happens in the Computer Memory



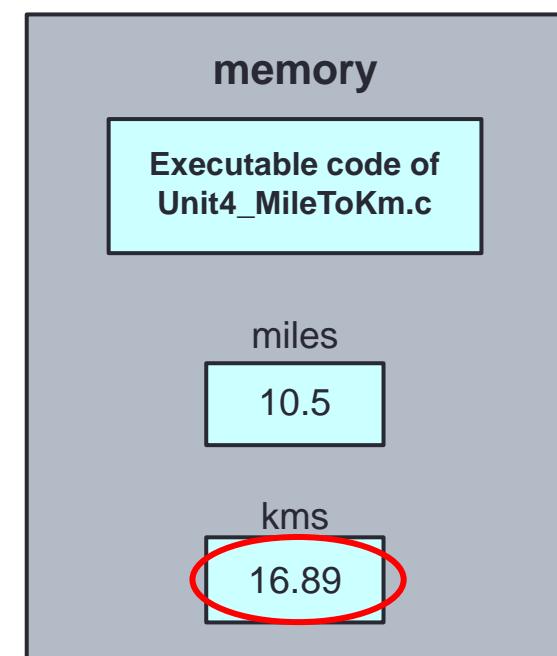
At the beginning

Do not assume that  
uninitialised variables  
contain zero! (**Very  
common mistake.**)



After user enters: 10.5 to

```
scanf("%f", &miles);
```



After this line is executed:

```
kms = KMS_PER_MILE * miles;
```

# Variables

- Data used in a program are stored in **variables**
- Every variable is identified by a **name** (identifier), has a **data type**, and contains a **value** which could be modified
- (Each variable actually has an address too, but for the moment we will skip this, until we discuss pointers.)
- A variable is declared with a data type
  - Eg: `int count; // variable 'count' of type 'int'`
- Variables may be initialized during declaration:
  - Eg: `int count = 3; // count is initialized to 3`
- Without initialization, the variable contains an **unknown value** (Cannot assume that it is zero!)

# Variables: Mistakes in Initialization

## ■ No initialization

```
int count;  
  
count = count + 12; ←
```

Does 'count' contain 12 after this statement?

## ■ Redundant initialization

```
int count = 0; ←  
  
count = 123;
```

Initialization here is redundant.

# Data Types

- To determine the type of data a variable may hold
- Basic data types in C (more will be discussed in class later):
  - **int**: For integers
    - 4 bytes (in sunfire); -2,147,483,648 ( $-2^{31}$ ) through +2,147,483,647 ( $2^{31} - 1$ )
  - **float** or **double**: For real numbers
    - 4 bytes for float and 8 bytes for double (in sunfire)
    - Eg: 12.34, 0.0056, 213.0
    - May use scientific notation; eg: 1.5e-2 and 15.0E-3 both refer to 0.015; 12e+4 and 1.2E+5 both refer to 120000.0
  - **char**: For individual characters
    - Enclosed in a pair of single quotes
    - Eg: 'A', 'z', '2', '\*', ' ', '\n'

# Exercise #1: Size of Data Types

- We will do an exercise in class to explore the aforementioned information about data types
  - **Unit4\_DataTypes.c**
  - Copy the above program into your current directory

```
cp ~cs1010/lect/prog/unit4/Unit4_DataTypes.c .
```

Pathname of source file

Destination directory;  
‘.’ means current directory

- Or download program from CS1010 Lectures page and transfer it into your UNIX account:  
[http://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/~cs1010/2\\_resources/lectures.html](http://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/~cs1010/2_resources/lectures.html)

# Notes (1/2)



- Basic steps of a simple program
  1. Read inputs (`scanf`)
  2. Compute
  3. Print outputs (`printf`)
- For now we will use interactive inputs
  - Standard input stream (`stdin`) – default is keyboard
  - Use the `scanf()` function
- Assume input data always follow specification
  - Hence no need to validate input data (for now)
- Outputs
  - Standard output stream (`stdout`) – default is monitor
  - Use the `printf()` function

# Notes (2/2)



- Include header file `<stdio.h>` to use `scanf()` and `printf()`
  - Include the header file (for portability sake) even though some systems do no require this to be done
- Important! (CodeCrunch issue)
  - Make sure you have a newline character ('`\n`') at the end of your last line of output, or CodeCrunch may mark your output as incorrect.

```
printf("That equals %9.2f km.\n", kms);
```

# Type of Errors

## Syntax errors (and warnings)

- Program violates syntax rules
- Warning happens, for example, incomparable use of types for output
- Advise to use **gcc –Wall** to compile your programs

Easiest to spot – the compiler helps you!

## Run-time errors

Moderately easy to spot

- Program terminates unexpectedly due to illegal operations, such as dividing a number by zero, or user enters a real number for an integer data type

## Logic errors

Hard to spot

- Program produces incorrect result

## Undetected errors

May never be spotted!

- Exist if we do not test the program thoroughly enough

The process of correcting errors in programs is called **debugging**.

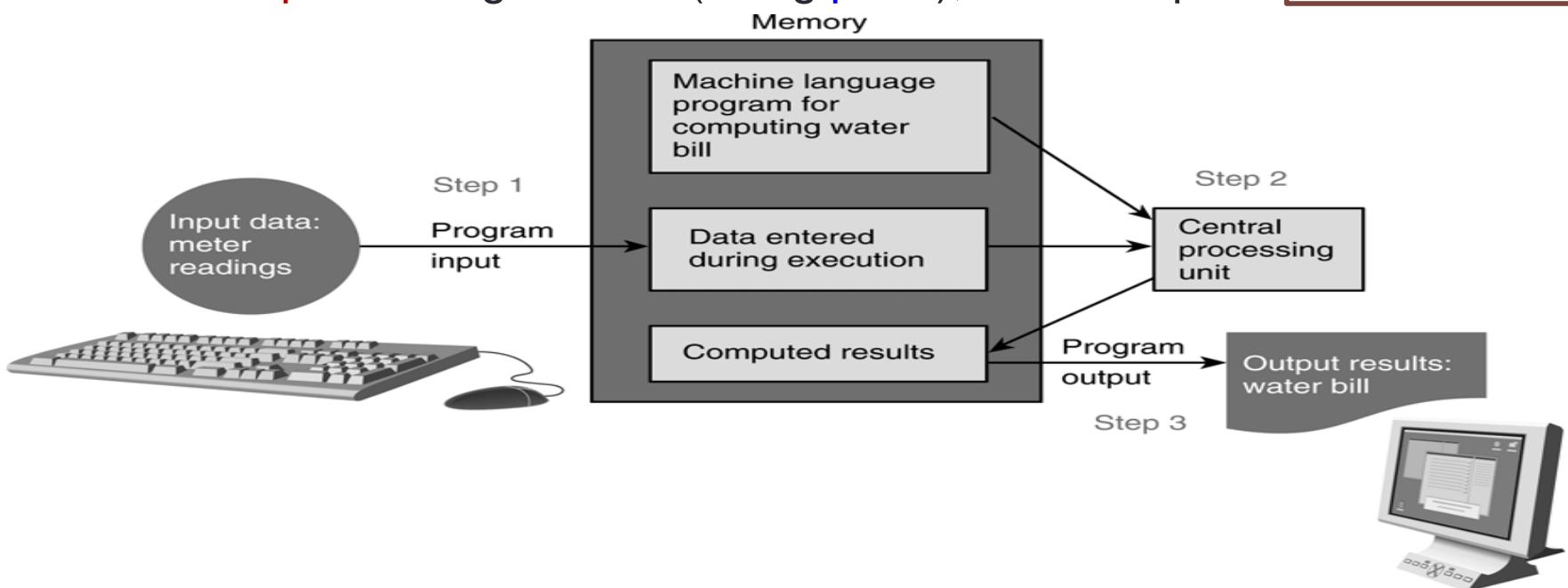
This process can be **very** time-consuming!

# Program Structure

- A basic C program has 4 main parts:

- Preprocessor directives:**
  - eg: #include <stdio.h>, #include <math.h>, #define PI 3.142
- Input:** through stdin (using `scanf`), or file input
- Compute:** through arithmetic operations
- Output:** through stdout (using `printf`), or file output

We will learn  
file input/output  
later.



# Program Structure: Preprocessor Directives (1/2)

- The C preprocessor provides the following
  - Inclusion of header files
  - Macro expansions
  - Conditional compilation
  - For now, we will focus on inclusion of header files and simple application of macro expansions
- Inclusion of header files
  - To use input/output functions such as scanf() and printf(), you need to include <stdio.h>: **#include <stdio.h>**
  - To use mathematical functions, you need to include <math.h>: **#include <math.h>**

Preprocessor  
Input  
Compute  
Output

# Program Structure: Preprocessor Directives (2/2)

## Macro expansions

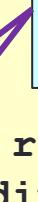
- One of the uses is to define a macro for a constant value
- Eg: **#define PI 3.142 // use all CAP for macro**

Preprocessor  
Input  
Compute  
Output

```
#define PI 3.142

int main(void) {
    ...
    areaCircle = PI * radius * radius;
    volCone = PI * radius * radius * height / 3.0;
}
```

Preprocessor replaces all instances of PI with 3.142 before passing the program to the compiler.



What the compiler sees:

```
int main(void) {
    ...
    areaCircle = 3.142 * radius * radius;
    volCone = 3.142 * radius * radius * height / 3.0;
}
```

# Program Structure: Input/Output (1/3)

## Input/output statements:

- printf ( format string, print list );
- printf ( format string );
- scanf( format string, input list );

age

20

Address of variable  
'age' varies each  
time a program is  
run.

One version:

```
int age;
double cap; // cumulative average
printf("What is your age? ");
scanf("%d", &age);
printf("What is your CAP? ");
scanf("%lf", &cap);
printf("You are %d years old, and your CAP is %f\n", age, cap);
```

"age" refers to value in the variable **age**.  
"&age" refers to (address of) the memory  
cell where the value of **age** is stored.

Unit4\_InputOutput.c

Another version:

```
int age;
double cap; // cumulative average point
printf("What are your age and CAP? ");
scanf("%d %lf", &age, &cap);
printf("You are %d years old, and your CAP is %f\n", age, cap);
```

Unit4\_InputOutputV2.c

# Program Structure: Input/Output (2/3)

- **%d** and **%lf** are examples of **format specifiers**; they are **placeholders** for values to be displayed or read

Placeholder	Variable Type	Function Use
%c	char	printf / scanf
%d	int	printf / scanf
%f	float or double	printf
%f	float	scanf
%lf	double	scanf
%e	float or double	printf (for scientific notation)

- Examples of format specifiers used in **printf()**:
  - **%5d**: to display an integer in a width of 5, right justified
  - **%8.3f**: to display a real number (float or double) in a width of 8, with 3 decimal places, right justified
- Note: For **scanf()**, just use the format specifier without indicating width, decimal places, etc.

Preprocessor  
Input  
Compute  
Output

# Program Structure: Input/Output (3/3)

- `\n` is an example of escape sequence
- Escape sequences are used in `printf()` function for certain special effects or to display certain characters properly
- See [Table 1.4 \(pages 32 – 33\)](#)
- These are the more commonly used escape sequences:

Escape sequence	Meaning	Result
<code>\n</code>	New line	Subsequent output will appear on the next line
<code>\t</code>	Horizontal tab	Move to the next tab position on the current line
<code>\"</code>	Double quote	Display a double quote "
<code>%%</code>	Percent	Display a percent character %

# Exercise #2: Testing scanf() and printf()

- We will do an exercise in class to explore `scanf()` and `printf()` functions
  - `Unit4_TestIO.c`
  - Copy the above program into your current directory  
`cp ~cs1010/lect/prog/unit4/Unit4_TestIO.c .`
  - Or download program from CS1010 Lectures page and transfer it into your UNIX account:  
[http://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/~cs1010/2\\_resources/lectures.html](http://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/~cs1010/2_resources/lectures.html)

# Exercise #3: Distance Conversion (1/2)

- Convert distance from miles to kilometres
  - [Unit4\\_MileToKm.c](#)
  - The program is given (which you can copy to your directory as earlier instructed), but for this exercise we want you to type in the program yourself as a practice in using **vim**
  - The program is shown in the next slide

# Exercise #3: Distance Conversion (2/2)

Unit4\_MileToKm.c

```
// Unit4_MileToKm.c
// Converts distance in miles to kilometers.
#include <stdio.h>
#define KMS_PER_MILE 1.609

int main(void) {
    float miles,    // input - distance in miles.
          kms;      // output - distance in kilometers

    /* Get the distance in miles */
    printf("Enter distance in miles: ");
    scanf("%f", &miles);

    // Convert the distance to kilometres
    kms = KMS_PER_MILE * miles;

    // Display the distance in kilometres
    printf("That equals %9.2f km.\n", kms);

    return 0;
}
```

# Program Structure: Compute (1/9)

- Computation is through **function**
  - So far, we have used one function: **int main(void)**  
**main()** function: where execution of program begins
- A **function body** has two parts
  - **Declarations statements**: tell compiler what type of memory cells needed
  - **Executable statements**: describe the processing on the memory cells

```
int main(void) {  
    /* declaration statements */  
    /* executable statements */  
    return 0;  
}
```

# Program Structure: Compute (2/9)

Preprocessor  
Input  
**Compute**  
Output

- **Declaration Statements:** To declare use of variables

- ### ■ User-defined Identifier

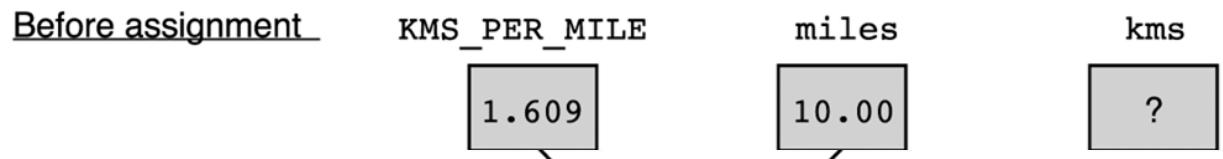
- Name of a variable or function
  - May consist of letters (a-z, A-Z), digits (0-9) and underscores (\_), but MUST NOT begin with a digit
  - Case sensitive, i.e. **count** and **Count** are two distinct identifiers
  - Guideline: Usually should begin with lowercase letter
  - Must not be reserved words (next slide)
  - Should avoid standard identifiers (next slide)
  - Eg: *Valid identifiers:* maxEntries, \_X123, this\_IS\_a\_long\_name  
*Invalid:* 1Letter, double, return, joe's, ice cream, T\*S

# Program Structure: Compute (3/9)

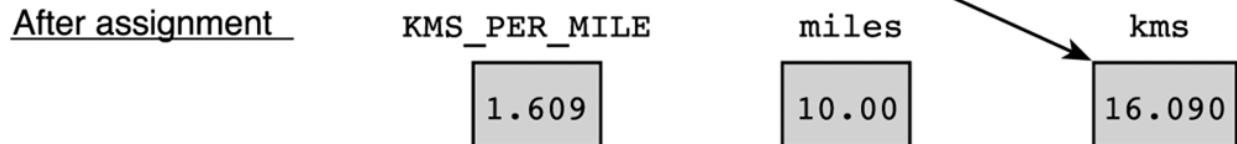
- Reserved words (or keywords)
  - Have special meaning in C
  - Eg: **int, void, double, return**
  - Complete list: <http://c.ihypress.ca/reserved.html>
  - Cannot be used for user-defined identifiers (names of variables or functions)
- Standard identifiers
  - Names of common functions, such as **printf, scanf**
  - Avoid naming your variables/functions with the same name of built-in functions you intend to use

# Program Structure: Compute (4/9)

- Executable statements
  - I/O statements (eg: printf, scanf)
  - Computational and assignment statements
- Assignment statements
  - Store a value or a computational result in a variable
  - (Note: '=' means '**assign value on its right to the variable on its left**'; it does NOT mean equality)
  - Left side of '=' is called **lvalue**



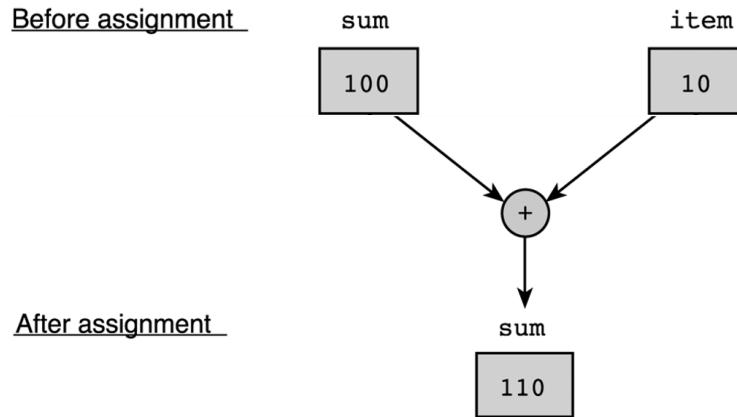
Eg: **kms = KMS\_PER\_MILE \* miles;**



# Program Structure: Compute (5/9)

Eg: `sum = sum + item;`

- Note: **Ivalue must be assignable**



- Examples of invalid assignment (result in compilation error “**Ivalue required as left operand of assignment**”):
  - `32 = a; // '32' is not a variable`
  - `a + b = c; // 'a + b' is an expression, not variable`

- Assignment can be cascaded, with associativity from **right to left**:
  - `a = b = c = 3 + 6; // 9 assigned to variables c, b and a`
  - The above is equivalent to: `a = (b = (c = 3 + 6));`  
which is also equivalent to:

```
c = 3 + 6;  
b = c;  
a = b;
```

# Program Structure: Compute (6/9)

## □ Side Effect:

- An assignment statement does not just assigns, it also has the side effect of returning the value of its right-hand side expression
- Hence `a = 12;` has the side effect of returning the value of 12, besides assigning 12 to `a`
- Usually we don't make use of its side effect, but sometimes we do, eg:

`z = a = 12; // or z = (a = 12);`

- The above makes use of the side effect of the assignment statement `a = 12;` (which returns 12) and assigns it to `z`
- Side effects have their use, but **avoid convoluted codes**:  

`a = 5 + (b = 10); // assign 10 to b, and 15 to a`
- Side effects also apply to expressions involving other operators (eg: logical operators). We will see more of this later.

# Program Structure: Compute (7/9)

## ■ Arithmetic operations

- **Binary Operators:**  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $*$ ,  $/$ ,  $\%$  (modulo or remainder)
  - **Left Associative** (from left to right)
    - $46 / 15 / 2 \rightarrow 3 / 2 \rightarrow 1$
    - $19 \% 7 \% 3 \rightarrow 5 \% 3 \rightarrow 2$
- **Unary operators:**  $+$ ,  $-$ 
  - **Right Associative**
    - $x = -23$
    - $p = +4 * 10$
- Execution from left to right, respecting parentheses rule, and then precedence rule, and then associative rule ([next page](#))
  - addition, subtraction are lower in precedence than multiplication, division, and remainder
- Truncated result if result can't be stored ([the page after next](#))
  - `int n; n = 9 * 0.5;` results in 4 being stored in `n`.

Try out **Unit4\_ArithOps.c**

# Program Structure: Compute (8/9)

Preprocessor  
Input  
**Compute**  
Output

- Arithmetic operators: Associativity & Precedence

Operator Type	Operator	Associativity
Primary expression operators	( ) expr $\text{++}$ expr $\text{--}$	Left to right
Unary operators	* & + - ++expr --expr (typecast)	Right to left
Binary operators	*	Left to right
	/ %	
Assignment operators	+ -	Right to left
	= += -= *= /= %=	

# Program Structure: Compute (9/9)

## Mixed-Type Arithmetic Operations

int m = 10/4;	means	m = 2;
float p = 10/4;	means	p = 2.0;
int n = 10/4.0;	means	n = 2;
float q = 10/4.0;	means	q = 2.5;
int r = -10/4.0;	means	r = -2;

Caution!

## Type Casting

- Use a cast operator to change the type of an expression

- syntax: (type) expression

int aa = 6; float ff = 15.8;	
float pp = (float) aa / 4;	means pp = 1.5;
int nn = (int) ff / aa;	means nn = 2;
float qq = (float) (aa / 4);	means qq = 1.0;

Try out **Unit4\_MixedTypes.c** and **Unit4\_TypeCast.c**

# Exercise #4: Temperature Conversion

- Instructions will be given out in class
- We will use this formula

$$celsius = \frac{5}{9} \times (fahrenheit - 32)$$

# Exercise #5: Freezer (1/2)

- Write a program **freezer.c** that estimates the temperature in a freezer (in  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) given the elapsed time (hours) since a power failure. Assume this temperature ( $T$ ) is given by

$$T = \frac{4t^2}{t + 2} - 20$$

where  $t$  is the time since the power failure.

- Your program should prompt the user to enter how long it has been since the start of the power failure in hours and minutes, both values in integers.
- Note that you need to convert the elapsed time into hours in real number (use type **float**)
  - For example, if the user entered **2 30** (2 hours 30 minutes), you need to convert this to **2.5 hours** before applying the above formula.

# Exercise #5: Freezer (2/2)

- Refer to the sample run below. Follow the output format.

```
Enter hours and minutes since power failure: 2 45
Temperature in freezer = -13.63
```

- How long does it take the freezer to get to zero degree?  
Which of the following is the closest answer?
  - a) 3 hours
  - b) 4 hours 10 minutes
  - c) 6 hours 30 minutes
  - d) 8 hours
- This exercise is mounted on CodeCrunch as a practice exercise.
- Please work on it on your own and discuss it on the IVLE forum if you have any queries.

# Math Functions (1/2)

- In C, there are many libraries offering functions for you to use.
- Eg: `scanf()` and `printf()` – requires to include `<stdio.h>`
- In Exercise #5, for  $t^2$  you may use `t*t`, or the `pow()` function in the math library: `pow(t, 2)`
  - `pow(x, y)` // computes x raised to the power of y
- To use math functions, you need to
  - Include `<math.h>` AND
  - Compile your program with `-lm` option (i.e. `gcc -lm ...`)
- See Table 3.1 (page 141) for some math functions

# Math Functions (2/2)

## ■ Some useful math functions

- Function `abs(x)` from `<stdlib.h>`; the rest from `<math.h>`

Function	Arguments	Result
<code>abs(x)</code>	int	int
<code>ceil(x)</code>	double	double
<code>cos(x)</code>	double (radians)	double
<code>exp(x)</code>	double	double
<code>fabs(x)</code>	double	double
<code>floor(x)</code>	double	double
<code>log(x)</code>	double	double
<code>log10(x)</code>	double	double
<code>ceil(x)</code>	double	double
<code>pow(x, y)</code>	double, double	double
<code>sin(x)</code>	double (radians)	double
<code>sqrt(x)</code>	double	double
<code>tan(x)</code>	double (radians)	double

*Function prototype:*

`double pow(double x, double y)`

function return type

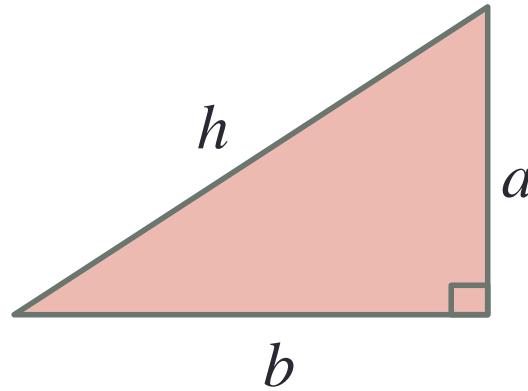
Q: Since the parameters `x` and `y` in `pow()` function are of double type, why can we call the function with `pow(t, 2)`?

A: Integer value can be assigned to a double variable/parameter.

# Math Functions: Example (1/2)

- Program **Unit4\_Hypotenuse.c** computes the hypotenuse of a right-angled triangle given the lengths of its two perpendicular sides

$$h = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$$



# Math Functions: Example (2/2)

```
// Unit4_Hypotenuse.c
// Compute the hypotenuse of a right-angled triangle.
#include <stdio.h>
#include <math.h> ← Remember to compile with -lm option!

int main(void) {
    float hypot, side1, side2;

    printf("Enter lengths of the 2 perpendicular sides: ");
    scanf("%f %f", &side1, &side2);

    hypot = sqrt(side1*side1 + side2*side2);
    // or hypot = sqrt(pow(side1, 2) + pow(side2, 2));

    printf("Hypotenuse = %6.2f\n", hypot);

    return 0;
}
```

Unit4\_Hypotenuse.c

Remember to compile with **-lm** option!

# Exercise #6: Freezer (version 2)

- This exercise is mounted on CodeCrunch as a practice exercise.
- Please work on it on your own and discuss it on the IVLE forum if you have any queries.

# Programming Style (1/2)

- Programming style is just as important as writing a correct program
- Refer to some C Style Guides on the CS1010 website
  - [http://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/~cs1010/2\\_resources/online.html](http://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/~cs1010/2_resources/online.html)
- In your lab assignments, marks will be awarded to style besides program correctness
  - Correctness: 60%
  - **Style: 20%**
  - Design: 20%

# Programming Style (2/2)

- Identifier naming for variables and functions
  - Use lower-case with underscore or capitalise first character of every subsequent word (Eg: `celsius`, `sum`, `second_max`, `secondMax`; NOT `Celsius`, `SUM`, `SecondMax`)
  - Must be descriptive (Eg: `numYears` instead of `ny`, `abc`, `xbrt`)
- User-defined constants
  - Use upper-case with underscore (Eg: `KMS_PER_MILE`, `DAYS_IN_YEAR`)
- Consistent indentation
- Appropriate comments
- Spacing and blank lines
- And many others



In vim, typing  
`gg=G`  
would auto-indent your  
program nicely!

# Very Common Mistakes (1/2)

- Not initialising variables **PAINFUL MISTAKE!**
  - Program may work on some machine but not on another!

```
int a, b;  
a = b + 3; // but what is the value of b?
```

Cannot assume that the initial value of b is zero!

- Unnecessary initialisation of variables

```
int x = 0;  
x = 531;
```

```
int x = 0;  
scanf("%d", &x);
```

- Forgetting & in a scanf() statement

```
int x;  
scanf("%d", x);
```



```
int x;  
scanf("%d", &x);
```



# Very Common Mistakes (2/2)

- Forgetting to compile with **-lm** option when the program uses math functions.
- Forgetting to recompile after modifying the source code.



Sometimes when your program crashes, a “core dump” may happen. Remove the file “core” (UNIX command: **rm core**) from your directory as it takes up a lot of space.

# FAQs

## Why is there a ‘return 0;’ at the end of every program?

Our program is a function (the ‘main’ function), and it is defined as ‘`int main(void)`’ – it has no parameters and it returns an integer value. Hence we add ‘`return 0;`’ at the end of the function to return 0. Return to where? Return to the operation system in which the program is run. In our case it is UNIX. UNIX takes the return value of 0 to mean a successful run.

## There are so many ways to format outputs in `printf()`, do I have to know them all?

You will use the basic ones like `%d` for integers, `%f` for float and double, and `%c` for characters for now, and simple formatting such as the number of decimal places to be displayed.

We will focus more on the **problem solving aspects** in this module than on complex output formatting.

# Learning Outcomes

Knowing the basic C constructs, interactive input, output, and arithmetic operations



Knowing some **data types** and the use of **variables** to hold data

Be aware of some basic **common mistakes**

Using some **math functions**

Understanding good **programming style**

