Essentials of programming

This week: Control flow

- Conditionals
- Loops
- Recursion

Example: absolute values

Absolute value of *x* is

- x if x greater or equal than zero
- \bullet -x if x less than zero

Using syntax of mathematics:

$$|x| = \begin{cases} x & , \text{if } x \ge 0 \\ -x & , \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$$

Example: absolute values

Absolute value of *x* is

- x if x greater or equal than zero
- \bullet -x if x less than zero

Using syntax of mathematics:

$$|x| = \begin{cases} x & , \text{if } x \ge 0 \\ -x & , \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$$

The ifis known as Conditional execution

Conditional Execution is an important programming concept:

 Allows you to write a program that reacts (instead of the same thing every time)

Conditional execution

Previous programs followed one and the same path of execution

- Conditional: alternative path of execution
 - If x greater or equal to zero then ...
 - Else, if x less than equal to zero then ...
- The bit 'x greater or equal to zero' is known as a Boolean expression.
- The values of a Boolean expression is Either
 - True, (for example, 3 > 0), or
 - False, (for example, -3 > 0, not true, therefore false...)
- True and False are the values of the type Boolean

Absolute value in C

```
double absolute( double x ) {
  if( x >= 0 ) {
    return x ;
  } else {
    return -x ;
  }
}
The x >= 0 is the condition
```

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Absolute value in C

```
double absolute( double x ) {
   if( x >= 0 ) {
      return x ;
   } else {
      return -x ;
   }
}
The x >= 0 is the condition
The if, else and { } denote the conditional execution
   • If the conditional is true: return x
```

If the conditional is not true (false): return -x

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```
double absolute( double x ) {
  if(x >= 0)
   return x ;
  } else {
   return -x ;
int main( void ) {
  printf( "absolute(4) = %f\n", absolute(4) );
  printf( "absolute(-8) = f\n", absolute(-8) );
  printf( "absolute(0) = %f\n", absolute(0) );
  return 0 ;
```

```
double absolute( double x ) {
  if(x >= 0)
   return x ;
  } else {
   return -x ;
int main( void ) {
 printf( "absolute(4) = %f\n", absolute(4) );
 printf( "absolute(-8) = %f\n", absolute(-8) );
 printf( "absolute(0) = %f\n", absolute(0) );
  return 0 ;
```

```
\Rightarrow double absolute( double x ) {
     if(x >= 0) { 4}
      return x ;
     } else {
      return -x ;
   int main( void ) {
    printf( "absolute(4) = %f\n", absolute(4) );
    printf( "absolute(-8) = %f\n", absolute(-8) );
    printf( "absolute(0) = %f\n", absolute(0) );
    return 0 ;
```

```
double absolute( double x ) {
  if(x >= 0) \left\{ 4 \right.
    return x ;
  } else {
    return -x ;
int main( void ) {
  printf( "absolute(4) = %f\n", absolute(4) );
  printf( "absolute(-8) = %f\n", absolute(-8) );
  printf( "absolute(0) = %f\n", absolute(0) );
  return 0;
```

```
double absolute( double x ) {
  if(x >= 0) { 4}
 return x ;
  } else {
   return -x ;
int main( void ) {
  printf( "absolute(4) = %f\n", absolute(4) );
 printf( "absolute(-8) = %f\n", absolute(-8) );
 printf( "absolute(0) = %f\n", absolute(0) );
  return 0;
```

```
double absolute( double x ) {
  if(x >= 0)
   return x ;
  } else {
   return -x ;
int main( void ) {
 printf( "absolute(4) = %f\n", absolute(4) );
printf( "absolute(-8) = %f\n", absolute(-8) );
 printf( "absolute(0) = %f\n", absolute(0) );
  return 0 ;
       absolute(4) = 4.000000
```

```
\Rightarrow double absolute( double x ) {
     if(x >= 0) \{ -8 \}
       return x ;
     } else {
      return -x ;
   int main( void ) {
     printf( "absolute(4) = %f\n", absolute(4) );
    printf( "absolute(-8) = %f\n", absolute(-8) );
    printf( "absolute(0) = %f\n", absolute(0) );
     return 0 ;
          absolute(4) = 4.000000
```

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```
double absolute( double x ) {
  if(x >= 0) \{ -8 \}
    return x ;
  } else {
    return -x ;
int main( void ) {
  printf( "absolute(4) = %f\n", absolute(4) );
  printf( "absolute(-8) = %f\n", absolute(-8) );
  printf( "absolute(0) = %f\n", absolute(0) );
  return 0 ;
       absolute(4) = 4.000000
```

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```
double absolute( double x ) {
  if(x >= 0) \{ -8 \}
   return x ;
  } else {
   return -x ;
int main( void ) {
  printf( "absolute(4) = %f\n", absolute(4) );
  printf( "absolute(-8) = %f\n", absolute(-8) );
  printf( "absolute(0) = %f\n", absolute(0) );
  return 0 ;
       absolute(4) = 4.000000
```

```
double absolute( double x ) {
  if(x >= 0)
   return x ;
  } else {
   return -x ;
int main( void ) {
  printf( "absolute(4) = %f\n", absolute(4) );
 printf( "absolute(-8) = %f\n", absolute(-8) );
printf( "absolute(0) = %f\n", absolute(0) );
 return 0 ;
       absolute(4) = 4.000000
       absolute(-8) = 8.000000
```

```
\Rightarrow double absolute( double x ) {
     if( x >= 0 ) { 0}
      return x ;
     } else {
      return -x ;
   int main( void ) {
     printf( "absolute(4) = %f\n", absolute(4) );
    printf( "absolute(-8) = %f\n", absolute(-8) );
    printf( "absolute(0) = %f\n", absolute(0) );
     return 0 ;
          absolute(4) = 4.000000
          absolute(-8) = 8.000000
```

```
double absolute( double x ) {
 if( x >= 0 ) { 0
   return x ;
  } else {
   return -x ;
int main( void ) {
  printf( "absolute(4) = %f\n", absolute(4) );
  printf( "absolute(-8) = %f\n", absolute(-8) );
  printf( "absolute(0) = %f\n", absolute(0) );
  return 0 ;
       absolute(4) = 4.000000
       absolute(-8) = 8.000000
```

```
double absolute( double x ) {
  if(x >= 0) { 0}
 return x ;
  } else {
   return -x ;
int main( void ) {
  printf( "absolute(4) = %f\n", absolute(4) );
 printf( "absolute(-8) = %f\n", absolute(-8) );
 printf( "absolute(0) = %f\n", absolute(0) );
  return 0 ;
       absolute(4) = 4.000000
       absolute(-8) = 8.000000
```

```
double absolute( double x ) {
  if( x >= 0 ) {
   return x ;
  } else {
   return -x ;
int main( void ) {
  printf( "absolute(4) = %f\n", absolute(4) );
  printf( "absolute(-8) = f\n", absolute(-8) );
 printf( "absolute(0) = %f\n", absolute(0) );
return 0 ;
       absolute(4) = 4.000000
       absolute(-8) = 8.000000
       absolute(0) = 0.000000
```

Boolean arithmetic

Relational operators result in a Boolean value

- <, >, <= (\leq), >= (\geq), == (equality), != (\neq)
- They compare numbers

You can use logical operators to combine booleans:

- && (∧, AND),
- | ((, OR)
- ! (¬, NOT)

(also know as *logical* operators)

Boolean operators

x AND y is true if both x is true and y is true

```
true AND true = true
false AND ____ = false
___ AND false = false
```

• x OR y is true if x is true or y is true

```
false OR false = false
true OR ____ = true
___ OR true = true
```

NOT x is true if x is false

```
NOT true = false
NOT false = true
```

Booleans in C

- C does not have a Boolean type, the two boolean values are represented by numbers
 - 'false' is represented by the number 0
 - 'true' is represented by the number 1
 - conversely, any non-null number is interpreted to mean 'true'
- 0 && 0, 0 && 1, 1 && 0, 0 || 0, !1 are all 0
- 1 | 1, 1 | 0, 0 | 1, 1 && 1, !0 are all 1
- !15 is 0, 15 && 13 is 1...

The operators have 'short-cut' semantics:

```
if (x == 0 | 10 / x > 3) ...
```

 Works, even if x equals zero. (Some other languages would bail out)

Using Conditionals

• Example, the power function:

$$-3^5 = 3*(3*(3*(3*(3*1))))$$

In general power is defined as:

$$x^{n} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } n = 0 \\ xx^{n-1}, & \text{if } n > 0 \end{cases}$$

Using Conditionals

Example, the power function:

$$-3^5 = 3*(3*(3*(3*(3*1))))$$

In general power is defined as:

$$x^{n} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } n = 0 \\ xx^{n-1}, & \text{if } n > 0 \end{cases}$$

 Using the function in the definition itself is known as a recursive definition.

Power in C

```
double power( double x, double n ) {
  if(n == 0)
     return 1;
   } else {
     return x * power(x, n-1);
int main( void ) {
  printf( "%f\n", power( 3, 2 ) );
  return 0 ;
 • Similar to the maths x^n = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } n = 0 \\ xx^{n-1}, & \text{if } n > 0 \end{cases}
```

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Power in C

```
double power( double x, double n ) {
  if( n == 0 ) {
    return 1 ;
  } else {
    return x * power( x, n-1 );
int main( void ) {
  printf( "%f\n", power( 3, 2 ) );
  return 0;
 \bullet n == 0 is the termination condition

    power(x, n-1) is the recursive call
```

Power in C, execution

Execution of functions uses a *Stack* to remember the values of parameters

- Arguments of a function are pushed on the stack
- Upon return of a function, arguments are popped off the stack again.
- For every iteration of power, we need a few spaces on the stack

Lets show this in detail

```
double power( double x, double n ) {
   if( n == 0 ) {
     return 1;
   } else {
     return x * power(x,n-1);
int main( void ) {
\Rightarrow printf( "%f\n", power( 3, 2 ) );
  return 0;
```

```
double power( double x, double n ) {
\Rightarrow if( n == 0 ) {
     return 1;
   } else {
     return x * power(x,n-1);
int main( void ) {
  printf( "%f\n", power( 3, 2 ) );
  return 0;
                                     n:
```

```
double power( double x, double n ) {
   if( n == 0 ) {
     return 1;
   } else {
\Rightarrow return x * power(x,n-1);
int main( void ) {
  printf( "%f\n", power( 3, 2 ) );
  return 0;
                                     n:
```

```
double power( double x, double n ) {
\Rightarrow if( n == 0 ) {
     return 1;
   } else {
     return x * power(x,n-1);
                                      X:
int main( void ) {
  printf( "%f\n", power( 3, 2 ) ); n:
  return 0;
                                      n:
```

```
double power( double x, double n ) {
   if( n == 0 ) {
     return 1;
   } else {
\Rightarrow return x * power(x,n-1);
                                     X:
int main( void ) {
  printf( "%f\n", power( 3, 2 ) ); n:
  return 0;
                                     n:
```

```
double power( double x, double n ) {
\Rightarrow if( n == 0 ) {
     return 1;
   } else {
     return x * power(x,n-1);
                                      n:
                                      X:
int main( void ) {
   printf( "%f\n", power( 3, 2 ) ); n:
   return 0;
                                      X:
                                      n:
```

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```
double power( double x, double n ) {
  if( n == 0 ) {
    return 1;
  } else {
    return x * power(x,n-1);
                                   n:
                                   X:
int main( void ) {
  printf( "%f\n", power( 3, 2 ) ); n:
  return 0;
                                    X:
                                   n:
```

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```
double power( double x, double n ) {
  if( n == 0 ) {
    return 1;
  } else {
    return x * power(x,n-1);
                                   X:
int main( void ) {
 printf( "%f\n", power( 3, 2 ) ); n:
 return 0;
                                   n:
```

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Executing Power

```
double power( double x, double n ) {
  if( n == 0 ) {
    return 1;
  } else {
    return x * power(x,n-1);
int main( void ) {
  printf( "%f\n", power( 3, 2 ) );
 return 0;
                                  n:
```

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Executing Power

```
double power( double x, double n ) {
  if( n == 0 ) {
    return 1;
  } else {
    return x * power(x,n-1);
int main( void ) {
  printf( "%f\n", power( 3, 2 ) );
 return 0;
```

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Concluding Conditionals

- The type Boolean has two values: true and false (1 and 0 in C)
- Relational expressions a<b, a>=b, ... result in a Boolean

Conditional execution:

Choose an execution path depending on a boolean

```
•if() { ... } else { ... } in C
```

Recursion:

Just express a function using itself.

Next lecture: Loops

Iteration

What if some operation has to be repeated? For example:

- Power: $y^n = y \times y \times y \times y \times \dots \times y$
- Factorial $y! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times ... \times y 1 \times y$

We have seen recursion as a solution.

- Some programming languages provide other constructs.
- Imperative languages provide *Loops*:
 - for-loop,
 - while-loop, until-loop
 - repeat-loop, do-loop,
 - forever-loop

Before diving into loops we will discuss variables.

Reusing Cells, Variables

Until now, only Values were used

- Values are calculated once,
- Once calculated, values do not change

C has Variables

- A Variable can contain a value.
- A Variable can be overwritten to contain another value
- A Variable is a memory cell with a name
 - Cell can be in many places (stack, heap, global, ...)

Is this a nice mechanism?

- Very powerful.
- Sometimes nasty, examples are shown later on

Changing a Variable

Variables are changed using an "assignment", for example

```
int i, j;
i = 4;    /* This assigns 4 to i */
i = i + 1; /* And this assigns 5 to i */
j = i + 1; /* And this assigns 6 to j */
Note that the order of statements is important.
```

Suppose that we change the order:

Function to calculate x^8

```
int powereight( int x ) {
   int result ;
   result = x * x ; /* x^2 */
   result = result * result ; /* x^4 */
   result = result * result ; /* x^8 */
   return result ;
}
Calculation of powereight(3) ?
```

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```
int powereight( int x ) {

int result ;

result = x * x ; /* x^2 */

result = result * result ; /* x^4 */

result = result * result ; /* x^8 */

return result ;

}
Calculation of powereight(3)?

x: 3
```

```
int powereight( int x ) {
     int result;
\Rightarrow result = x * x; /* x^2 */
     result = result * result ; /* x^4 */
     result = result * result ; /* x^8 */
     return result ;
Calculation of powereight(3)?
      \mathbf{x}:
result:
```

```
int powereight( int x ) {
    int result;
    result = x * x ; /* x^2 */
  result = result * result ; /* x^4 */
    result = result * result ; /* x^8 */
    return result ;
Calculation of powereight(3)?
     \mathbf{x}:
result:
```

```
int powereight( int x ) {
    int result;
    result = x \times x; /* x^2 \times /
    result = result * result ; /* x^4 */
    result = result * result ; /* x^8 */
    return result ;
Calculation of powereight(3)?
                3
     \mathbf{x}:
               81
result:
```

```
int powereight( int x ) {
     int result;
     result = x \times x; /* x^2 \times /
     result = result * result ; /* x^4 */
     result = result * result ; /* x^8 */
\Rightarrow return result ;
Calculation of powereight(3)?
                 3
      \mathbf{x}:
             6561
result:
```

```
int powereight( int x ) {
  int result ;
  result = x * x ; /* x^2 */
  result = result * result ; /* x^4 */
  result = result * result ; /* x^8 */
  return result ;
}
Calculation of powereight(3)?
Answer: 6561.
```

Loops

- An assignment is especially useful in conjunction with a Loop
- First discuss the simplest loop, a *while*, which is used to execute some code until a condition fails (the *continuation condition*)
- A while loop has a condition and a body

```
while( condition ) {
  body ;
}
```

The body is executed while the condition is true

Use of the while loop

```
int factorial( int n ) {
  int prod = 1;
  while( n > 1 ) {
    prod = n * prod ;
    n = n - 1 ;
  }
  return prod ;
}
The syntax is while( ) {
```

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Use of the while loop

```
int factorial( int n ) {
  int prod = 1;
  while (n > 1)
    prod = n * prod ;
    n = n - 1 ;
  return prod ;
The syntax is while ( ) {
The continuation condition is n > 1
```

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Use of the while loop

```
int factorial( int n ) {
  int prod = 1;
  while( n > 1 ) {
    prod = n * prod ;
    n = n - 1 ;
  return prod ;
The syntax is while ( ) {
The continuation condition is n > 1
The body is prod = n * prod; n = n - 1;
```

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```
int factorial( int n ) {
  int prod = 1;
  while (n > 1)
    prod = n * prod ;
    n = n - 1 ;
  return prod ;
Calculate factorial (3)?
```

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Calculate factorial (3)?

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Calculate factorial (3)?

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Calculate factorial (3)?

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Calculate factorial (3)?

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Calculate factorial (3)?

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```
int factorial( int n ) {
  int prod = 1;
  while (n > 1)
    prod = n * prod ;
    n = n - 1 ;
  return prod ;
Calculate factorial (3)?
```

Answer: 6.

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Finishing the while loop

The condition of a while loop is a "continuation" condition, not a termination condition as in recursion (continuation = !termination)

- The loop executes while the condition evaluates to true.
- The loop terminates when the condition is false.
- A while loop is used to execute a bit of code until a condition fails
- The while body is not executed if the condition is initially false

C has two other loops:

- A do-loop is similar to a while loop, but evaluates the condition after the body of the loop
- A for loop is used to execute a loop a number of times, e.g. 10. In
 C the for is similar to the while, other languages have real for-loops

The do-loop

```
Factorial with a do-loop
int factorial( int n ) {
  int prod = 1;
  do {
    prod = n * prod ;
    n = n - 1 ;
  } while( n > 1 ) ;
  return prod ;
}
```

Question: What would factorial (0) be?

Answer: Because the body is executed before the condition is evaluated, the answer is wrong.

The do-loop

- The condition of a do-loop is evaluated after the body of the loop:
- Useful if the body must be executed at least once
 - Useful if the condition is undefined before the body of the loop.
 - Not used too often. 98% of the loops is a while or a for
- Note:
 - The condition is a "continuation" condition not a termination condition (unlike Modula, Pascal)
 - The term do-loop has a different meaning in Fortran (where a do-loop is actually a real for-loop... sic.)

```
int factorial( int n ) {
  int i, prod = 1;
  for( i=2 ; i<=n ; i=i+1 ) {
    prod = i * prod ;
  }
  return prod ;
}</pre>
```

The for-loop executes a loop while maintaining a counter

• i in this case

```
int factorial( int n ) {
  int i, prod = 1;
  for( i=2 ; i<=n ; i=i+1 ) {
    prod = i * prod ;
  return prod ;
The for-loop executes a loop while maintaining a counter
 • i in this case
Syntax:
 •for( initialisation ; condition ; increment) { }
Execution pattern:
```

initialise; test; body; inc; test; body; inc

Evaluate factorial(3)

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Evaluate factorial(3)

Evaluate factorial(3)

Evaluate factorial(3)

Evaluate factorial(3)

Evaluate factorial(3)

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Evaluate factorial(3)

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Evaluate factorial(3)

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Evaluate factorial(3)

Evaluate factorial(3)

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Evaluate factorial(3)

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Evaluate factorial(3)

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Evaluate factorial(3)

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Evaluate **factorial(3)**Answer: 6.

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For loop versus while loop

```
Actually:
  for( A ; C ; I ) {
    B ;
Is equal to:
  A ;
  while( C ) {
    B ;
    I ;
```

The elements of the for-loop

The initialisation, termination and iteration part can be anything:

```
for( x=0; City > United; y=Q*7/i)
```

Is as legal as any other for-loop...

• Common use:

```
for( count = 0 ; count < n ; count = count + 1 ) {
    ...
}
or
for( count=n-1 ; count >= 0; count = count - 1 ) {
    ...
}
```

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The elements of the for-loop

The initialisation, termination and iteration part can be anything:

```
for( x=0 ; City > United ; y=Q*7/i )
```

Is as legal as any other for-loop...

• Common use:

```
for( count = 0 ; count < n ; count = count + 1 ) {
    ...
}
or
for( count=n-1 ; count >= 0; count = count - 1 ) {
    ...
}
```

The elements of the for-loop

The initialisation, termination and iteration part can be anything:

```
for( x=0 ; City > United ; y=Q*7/i )
```

Is as legal as any other for-loop...

• Common use:

```
for( count = 0 ; count < n ; count++ ) {
    ...
}
or
for( count=n-1 ; count >= 0; count-- ) {
    ...
}
```

Breaking out of loops

Sometimes loops need to be cut short.

- You can break out of any loop with the break; statement.
- A break will cause the loop to be aborted immediately.
- The next statement executed is the statement following the loop

Compare this with return

- A return will cause a function to be aborted immediately
- Control returns to the calling function.

Conditionals, Recursion, Loops

Iteration:

- Recursion func(...) { ... func(...) ... }
- While condition holds: while $(\dots) \{ x = \dots ; \dots \}$
- Do-While: same but executed at least once.
- Loop with counter:

```
for( i=0 ; i<n ; i++ ) { x = ...; ...}
```

Break out of any loop with break ;

These are almost all flow control mechanisms