

Recap

- Generics So Far
- Motivating Example: Bubble Sort
- Function Pointers

Recap: Generics Overview

- We use void * pointers and memory operations like memcpy and memmove to make data operations generic.
- We use **function pointers** to make logic/functionality operations generic.

Recap: Integer Bubble Sort

```
void bubble_sort_int(int *arr, int n) {
    while (true) {
        bool swapped = false;
        for (int i = 1; i < n; i++) {</pre>
            if (arr[i - 1] > arr[i]) {
                 swapped = true;
                 swap int(&arr[i - 1], &arr[i]);
        if (!swapped) {
            return;
```

How can we make this function generic, to sort an array of *any type*?

```
void bubble_sort(void *arr, int n, int elem_size_bytes) {
   while (true) {
        bool swapped = false;
        for (int i = 1; i < n; i++) {</pre>
            void *p_prev_elem = (char *)arr + (i - 1) * elem_size_bytes;
            void *p_curr_elem = (char *)arr + i * elem_size_bytes;
            if (*p_prev_elem > *p_curr_elem) {
                swapped = true;
                swap(p_prev_elem, p_curr_elem, elem_size_bytes);
                               Wait a minute...this doesn't work! We can't
        if (!swapped) {
                               dereference void *s OR compare any element
            return;
                               with >, since they may not be numbers!
```

```
void bubble_sort(void *arr, int n, int elem_size_bytes) {
    while (true) {
        bool swapped = false;
        for (int i = 1; i < n; i++) {</pre>
            void *p_prev_elem = (char *)arr + (i - 1) * elem_size_bytes;
            void *p curr elem = (char *)arr + i * elem size bytes;
            if (*p_prev_elem > *p_curr_elem) {
                swapped = true;
                swap(p_prev_elem, p_curr_elem, elem_size_bytes);
                         bubble_sort (inner voice): hey,
        if (!swapped) {
                          you, person who called us. Do
            return;
                         you know how to compare the
                          items at these two addresses?
```

```
void bubble_sort(void *arr, int n, int elem_size_bytes) {
    while (true) {
        bool swapped = false;
        for (int i = 1; i < n; i++) {</pre>
            void *p_prev_elem = (char *)arr + (i - 1) * elem_size_bytes;
            void *p_curr_elem = (char *)arr + i * elem_size_bytes;
            if (*p_prev_elem > *p_curr_elem) {
                swapped = true;
                swap(p_prev_elem, p_curr_elem, elem_size_bytes);
                                   Caller: yeah, I know how to compare them.
        if (!swapped) {
                                   You don't know what data type they are, but I
            return;
                                   do. I have a function that can do the
```

comparison for you and tell you the result.

Generic Bubble Sort

```
void bubble_sort(void *arr, int n, int elem_size_bytes,
                                      function compare_fn) {
   while (true) {
        bool swapped = false;
        for (int i = 1; i < n; i++) {</pre>
            void *p_prev_elem = (char *)arr + (i - 1) * elem_size_bytes;
            void *p_curr_elem = (char *)arr + i * elem_size_bytes;
            if (compare_fn(p_prev_elem, p_curr_elem)) {
                swapped = true;
                swap(p_prev_elem, p_curr_elem, elem_size_bytes);
                               How can we compare these elements?
        if (!swapped) {
                               They can pass us this function as a
            return;
```

parameter. The function's job is to tell us

how two elements compare.

```
void bubble sort(void *arr, int n, int elem size bytes,
                 int (*compare fn)(void *a, void *b)) {
   while (true) {
        bool swapped = false;
        for (int i = 1; i < n; i++) {
            void *p prev elem = (char *)arr + (i - 1) * elem size bytes;
            void *p_curr_elem = (char *)arr + i * elem_size_bytes;
            if (compare_fn(p_prev_elem, p_curr_elem) > 0) {
                swapped = true;
                swap(p_prev_elem, p_curr_elem, elem_size_bytes);
        if (!swapped) {
            return;
```

Recap: Function Pointers

```
bool integer_compare(void *ptr1, void *ptr2) {
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    int nums[] = \{4, 2, -5, 1, 12, 56\};
    int nums count = sizeof(nums) / sizeof(nums[0]);
    bubble sort(nums, nums count, sizeof(nums[0]), integer compare);
                            bubble sort is generic and works for any
```

type. But the **caller** knows the specific type of

data being sorted and provides a comparison

function specifically for that data type.

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Recap: Function Pointers

bubble_sort is generic and works for any type. But the **caller** knows the specific type of data being sorted and provides a comparison function specifically for that data type.

Recap: Comparison Functions

- Function pointers are used often in cases like this to compare two values of the same type. These are called comparison functions.
- The standard comparison function in many C functions provides even more information. It should return:
 - < 0 if first value should come before second value
 - > 0 if first value should come after second value
 - 0 if first value and second value are equivalent
- This is the same return value format as **strcmp**!

int (*compare_fn)(void *a, void *b)

Recap: integer_compare

```
int integer_compare(void *ptr1, void *ptr2) {
    return *(int *)ptr1 - *(int *)ptr2;
}

int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    int nums[] = {4, 2, -5, 1, 12, 56};
    int nums_count = sizeof(nums) / sizeof(nums[0]);
    bubble_sort(nums, nums_count, sizeof(nums[0]), integer_compare);
    ...
}
bubble sort is generic and works for any
```

type. But the **caller** knows the specific type of

data being sorted and provides a comparison

function specifically for that data type.

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Recap: string_compare

```
int string_compare(void *ptr1, void *ptr2) {
    return strcmp(*(char **)ptr1, *(char **)ptr2);
}
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    char *classes[] = {"COMP100", "COMP132", "COMP201", "COMP202"};
    int arr_count = sizeof(classes) / sizeof(classes[0]);
    bubble_sort(classes, arr_count, sizeof(classes[0]), string_compare);
    ...
```

bubble_sort is generic and works for any type. But the **caller** knows the specific type of data being sorted and provides a comparison function specifically for that data type.

Plan for Today

- const
- struct
- Generic stack

Disclaimer: Slides for this lecture were borrowed from

—Nick Troccoli's Stanford CS107 class

Lecture Plan

- const
- struct
- Generic stack

Use const to declare global constants in your program. This indicates
the variable cannot change after being created.

```
const double PI = 3.1415;
const int DAYS IN WEEK = 7;
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    if (x == DAYS IN WEEK) {
```

 Use const with pointers to indicate that the data that is pointed to cannot change.

```
char str[6];
strcpy(str, "Hello");
const char *s = str;

// Cannot use s to change characters it points to
s[0] = 'h';
```

Sometimes we use **const** with pointer parameters to indicate that the function will not / should not change what it points to. The actual pointer can be changed, however.

```
// This function promises to not change str's characters
int countUppercase(const char *str) {
    int count = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < strlen(str); i++) {
         if (isupper(str[i])) {
              count++;
    return count;
```

memcpy Revisited

memcpy is a function that copies a specified amount of bytes at one address to another address.

```
void *memcpy(void *dest, const void *src, size_t n);
```

It copies the next n bytes that src <u>points to</u> to the location contained in dest. (It also returns **dest**). It does <u>not</u> support regions of memory that overlap.

```
int x = 5;
int y = 4;
memcpy(&x, &y, sizeof(x)); // like x = y
```

By definition, C gets upset when you set a **non-const** pointer equal to a **const** pointer. You need to be consistent with **const** to reflect what you cannot modify.

```
// This function promises to not change str's characters
int countUppercase(const char *str) {
    // compiler warning and error
    char *strToModify = str;
    strToModify[0] = ...
}
```

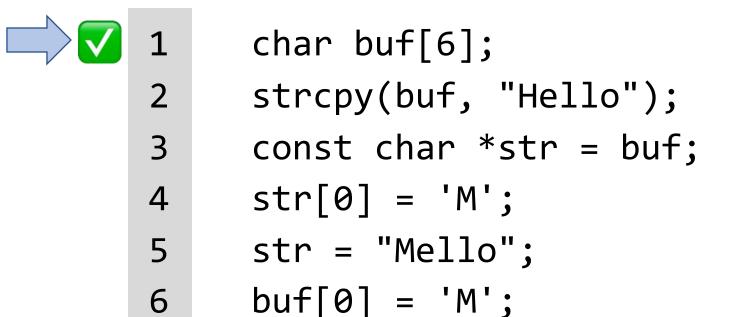
By definition, C gets upset when you set a **non-const** pointer equal to a **const** pointer. You need to be consistent with **const** to reflect what you cannot modify. **Think of const as part of the variable type**.

```
// This function promises to not change str's characters
int countUppercase(const char *str) {
    const char *strToModify = str;
    strToModify[0] = ...
}
```

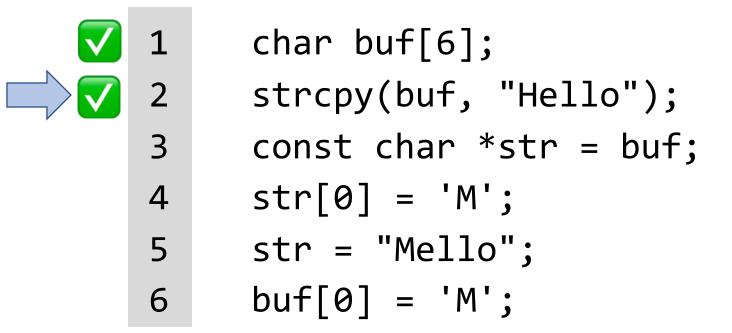
const can be confusing to interpret in some variable types.

```
// cannot modify this char
const char c = 'h';
// cannot modify chars pointed to by str
const char *str = ...
// cannot modify chars pointed to by *strPtr
const char **strPtr = ...
```

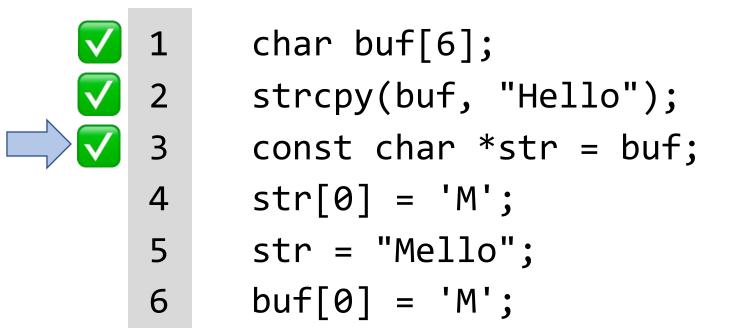
```
char buf[6];
char buf[6];
strcpy(buf, "Hello");
const char *str = buf;
str[0] = 'M';
str = "Mello";
buf[0] = 'M';
```



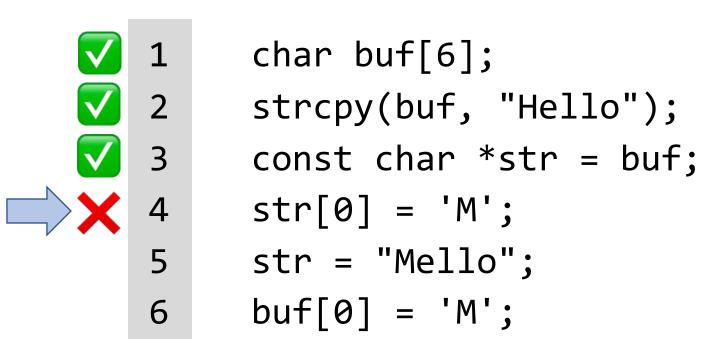
Line 1 makes a typical modifiable character array of 6 characters.



Line 2 copies characters into this modifiable character array.



Line 3 makes a const pointer that points to the first element of buf. We cannot use str to change the characters it points to because it is const.

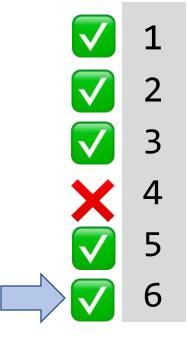


Line 4 is not allowed – it attempts to use a const pointer to characters to modify those characters.



```
char buf[6];
strcpy(buf, "Hello");
const char *str = buf;
str[0] = 'M';
str = "Mello";
buf[0] = 'M';
```

Line 5 is ok – str's type means that while you cannot change the characters at which it points, you can change str itself to point somewhere else. str is not const – its characters are.



```
char buf[6];
strcpy(buf, "Hello");
const char *str = buf;
str[0] = 'M';
str = "Mello";
buf[0] = 'M';
```

Line 6 is ok – buf is a modifiable char array, and we can use it to change its characters. Declaring str as const doesn't mean that place in memory is not modifiable at all – it just means that you cannot modify it using str.

Lecture Plan

- const
- struct
- Generic stack

A **struct** is a way to define a new variable type that is a group of other variables.

```
// declaring a struct type
struct date {
    int month;
    int day;
                      // members of each date structure
                                     // construct structure instances
struct date today;
today.month = 1;
today.day = 28;
struct date new years eve = {12, 31}; // shorter initializer syntax
```

Wrap the struct definition in a **typedef** to avoid having to include the word **struct** every time you make a new variable of that type.

```
typedef struct date {
    int month;
    int day;
} date;
date today;
today.month = 1;
today.day = 28;
date new years eve = {12, 31};
```

If you pass a struct as a parameter, like for other parameters, C passes a **copy** of the entire struct.

```
void advance_day(date d) {
     d.day++;
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
     date my_date = \{1, 28\};
     advance day(my_date);
     printf("%d", my date.day); // 28
     return 0;
```

If you pass a struct as a parameter, like for other parameters, C passes a copy of the entire struct. Use a pointer to modify a specific instance.

```
void advance day(date *d) {
     (*d).day++;
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
     date my date = \{1, 28\};
     advance day(&my date);
     printf("%d", my date.day); // 29
     return 0;
```

The **arrow** operator lets you access the field of a struct pointed to by a pointer.

```
void advance day(date *d) {
     d->day++;  // equivalent to (*d).day++;
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
     date my date = \{1, 28\};
     advance day(&my date);
     printf("%d", my date.day); // 29
     return 0;
```

Structs

C allows you to return structs from functions as well. It returns whatever is contained within the struct.

```
date create_new_years_date() {
     date d = \{1, 1\};
     return d; // or return (date){1, 1};
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
     date my date = create new years date();
     printf("%d", my date.day); // 1
     return 0;
```

Structs

sizeof gives you the entire size of a struct, which is the sum of the sizes of all its contents.

```
typedef struct date {
     int month;
     int day;
 } date;
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
     int size = sizeof(date); // 8
     return 0;
```

Arrays of Structs

You can create arrays of structs just like any other variable type.

```
typedef struct my struct {
     int x;
     char c;
 my_struct;
•••
my_struct array_of_structs[5];
```

Arrays of Structs

To initialize an entry of the array, you must use this special syntax to confirm the type to C.

```
typedef struct my_struct {
    int x;
    char c;
} my_struct;
...
```

my_struct array_of_structs[5];

array of structs[0] = (my struct){0, 'A'};

Arrays of Structs

You can also set each field individually.

```
typedef struct my struct {
    int x;
    char c;
} my struct;
my_struct array_of_structs[5];
array of structs [0].x = 2;
array of structs[0].c = 'A';
```

Lecture Plan

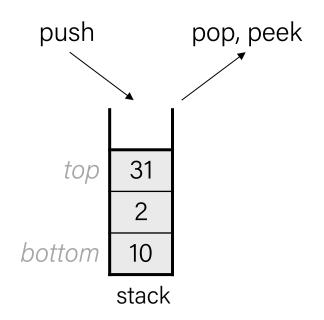
- const
- struct
- Generic stack

Stacks

- C generics are particularly powerful in helping us create generic data structures.
- Let's see how we might go about making a Stack in C.

Stacks

- A Stack is a data structure representing a stack of things.
- Objects can be *pushed* on top of or *popped* from the top of the stack.
- Only the top of the stack can be accessed;
 no other objects in the stack are visible.
- Main operations:
 - push(value): add an element to the top of the stack
 - **pop()**: remove and return the top element in the stack
 - peek(): return (but do not remove) the top element in the stack



Stacks

A stack is often implemented using a linked list internally.

- "bottom" = tail of linked list
- "top" = head of linked list (why not the other way around?)

```
Stack<int> s;
s.push(42);
s.push(-3);
front
s.push(17);
front
```

Problem: C is not object-oriented! We can't call methods on variables.

Demo: Int Stack



int_stack.c

Int Stack Structs

```
typedef struct int_node {
    struct int_node *next;
    int data;
} int_node;
typedef struct int stack {
    int nelems;
    int node *top;
} int_stack;
```

Int Stack Functions

- int_stack_create(): creates a new stack on the heap and returns a pointer to it
- int_stack_push(int_stack *s, int data): pushes data onto the stack
- int_stack_pop(int_stack *s): pops and returns topmost stack element

int_stack_create

```
int_stack *int_stack_create() {
    int_stack *s = malloc(sizeof(int_stack));
    s->nelems = 0;
    s->top = NULL;
    return s;
}
```

```
From previous slide:
typedef struct int_stack {
   int nelems;
   int_node *top;
} int_stack;
```

int_stack_push

```
void int_stack_push(int_stack *s, int data) {
    int_node *new_node = malloc(sizeof(int_node));
    new_node->data = data;

    new_node->next = s->top;
    s->top = new_node;
    s->nelems++;
}
```

int_stack_pop

```
int int_stack_pop(int_stack *s) {
    if (s->nelems == 0) {
         error(1, 0, "Cannot pop from empty stack");
    int node *n = s->top;
    int value = n->data;
    s->top = n->next;
    free(n);
                           From previous slide:
                           typedef struct int_stack {
    s->nelems--;
                              int nelems;
                              node *top;
    return value;
                            int_stack;
```

Pushing Elements to Int Stack

```
int_stack *intstack = int_stack_create();
for (int i = 0; i < TEST_STACK_SIZE; i++) {
    int_stack_push(intstack, i);
}</pre>
```

Popping Elements from Int Stack

```
// Pop off all elements
while (intstack->nelems > 0) {
    printf("%d\n", int_stack_pop(intstack));
}
```

What modifications are necessary to make a generic stack?

Stack Structs

```
typedef struct int node {
    struct int node *next;
    int data;
 int node;
typedef struct int stack {
    int nelems;
    int node *top;
 int stack;
```

How might we modify the Stack data representation itself to be generic?

Stack Structs

```
typedef struct int node {
    struct int node *next;
    int data;
 int_node;
typedef struct int stack {
    int nelems;
    int node *top;
 int stack;
```

Problem: each node can no longer store the data itself, because it could be any size!

Generic Stack Structs

```
typedef struct int node {
    struct int node *next;
    void *data;
  int_node;
typedef struct stack {
    int nelems;
    int elem size bytes;
    node *top;
} stack;
            Solution: each node stores a pointer, which is
            always 8 bytes, to the data somewhere else. We
            must also store the data size in the Stack struct.
```

Stack Functions

- int_stack_create(): creates a new stack on the heap and returns a pointer to it
- int_stack_push(int_stack *s, int data): pushes data onto the stack
- int_stack_pop(int_stack *s): pops and returns topmost stack element

int_stack_create

```
int_stack *int_stack_create() {
    int_stack *s = malloc(sizeof(int_stack));
    s->nelems = 0;
    s->top = NULL;
    return s;
}
How might we modify this function to be generic?
```

```
From previous slide:
typedef struct stack {
   int nelems;
   int elem_size_bytes;
   node *top;
} stack;
```

Generic stack_create

```
stack *stack_create(int elem_size_bytes) {
    stack *s = malloc(sizeof(stack));
    s->nelems = 0;
    s->top = NULL;
    s->elem_size_bytes = elem_size_bytes;
    return s;
}
```

int_stack_push

```
void int stack push(int stack *s, int data) {
    int node *new node = malloc(sizeof(int node));
    new node->data = data;
                                  How might we modify this function to
    new node->next = s->top;
                                  be generic?
    s->top = new node;
    s->nelems++;
```

```
From previous slide:
typedef struct stack {
   int nelems;
   int elem_size_bytes;
   node *top;
} stack;
typedef struct node {
   struct node *next;
   void *data;
} node;
```

```
void int_stack_push(int_stack *s, int data) {
    int_node *new_node = malloc(sizeof(int_node));
    new_node->data = data;

    new_node->next = s->top;
    s->top = new_node;
    s->nelems++;
}
```

Problem 1: we can no longer pass the data itself as a parameter, because it could be any size!

```
void int_stack_push(int_stack *s, const void *data) {
    int_node *new_node = malloc(sizeof(int_node));
    new_node->data = data;

    new_node->next = s->top;
    s->top = new_node;
    s->nelems++;
}
```

Solution 1: pass a pointer to the data as a parameter instead.

```
void int_stack_push(int_stack *s, const void *data) {
   int_node *new_node = malloc(sizeof(int_node));
   new_node->data = data;

   new_node->next = s->top;
   s->top = new_node;
   s->nelems++;
}
```

Problem 2: we cannot copy the existing data pointer into new_node. The data structure must manage its own copy that exists for its entire lifetime. The provided copy may go away!

```
int main() {
    stack *int stack = stack create(sizeof(int));
    add one(int stack);
    // now stack stores pointer to invalid memory for 7!
void add one(stack *s) {
    int num = 7;
    stack push(s, &num);
```

```
void stack push(stack *s, const void *data) {
    node *new node = malloc(sizeof(node));
    new node->data = malloc(s->elem_size_bytes);
    memcpy(new node->data, data, s->elem size bytes);
    new node->next = s->top;
    s->top = new node;
    s->nelems++;
              Solution 2: make a heap-allocated copy
              of the data that the node points to.
```

int_stack_pop

```
int int_stack_pop(int_stack *s) {
     if (s->nelems == 0) {
         error(1, 0, "Cannot pop from empty stack");
     int node *n = s->top;
                                       How might we modify this function to
     int value = n->data;
                                       be generic?
     s->top = n->next;
     free(n);
                              From previous slide:
     s->nelems--;
                              typedef struct stack {
                                                    typedef struct node {
                                 int nelems;
                                                       struct node *next;
                                 int elem size bytes;
                                                       void *data;
     return value;
                                 node *top;
                                                    } node;
                               stack;
```

Generic stack pop

```
int int_stack_pop(int_stack *s) {
    if (s->nelems == 0) {
        error(1, 0, "Cannot pop from empty stack");
    int node *n = s->top;
    int value = n->data;
    s->top = n->next;
    free(n);
    s->nelems--;
    return value;
```

Problem: we can no longer return the data itself, because it could be any size!

Generic stack pop

```
void *int_stack_pop(int_stack *s) {
    if (s->nelems == 0) {
        error(1, 0, "Cannot pop from empty stack");
    int node *n = s->top;
    void *value = n->data;
    s->top = n->next;
    free(n);
    s->nelems--;
    return value;
```

While it's possible to return the heap address of the element, this means the client would be responsible for freeing it. Ideally, the data structure should manage its own memory here.

Generic stack pop

```
void stack pop(stack *s, void *addr) {
    if (s\rightarrow nelems == 0) {
         error(1, 0, "Cannot pop from empty stack");
    node *n = s->top;
    memcpy(addr, n->data, s->elem_size_bytes);
    s \rightarrow top = n \rightarrow next;
    free(n->data);
    free(n);
    s->nelems--;
```

Solution: have the caller pass a memory location as a parameter and copy the data to that location.

```
int_stack *intstack = int_stack_create();
for (int i = 0; i < TEST_STACK_SIZE; i++) {
   int_stack_push(intstack, i);
}</pre>
```

```
stack *intstack = stack_create(sizeof(int));
for (int i = 0; i < TEST_STACK_SIZE; i++) {
    stack_push(intstack, &i);
}</pre>
```

```
int_stack *intstack = int_stack_create();
int_stack_push(intstack, 7);
```

```
stack *intstack = stack_create(sizeof(int));
int num = 7;
stack_push(intstack, &num);
```

```
// Pop off all elements
while (intstack->nelems > 0) {
    printf("%d\n", int_stack_pop(intstack));
}
```

We must now pass the *address* of where we would like to store the popped element, rather than getting it directly as a return value.

```
// Pop off all elements
int popped_int;
while (intstack->nelems > 0) {
    int_stack_pop(intstack, &popped_int);
    printf("%d\n", popped_int);
}
```

We must now pass the *address* of where we would like to store the popped element, rather than getting it directly as a return value.

Demo: Generic Stack



generic_stack.c

Recap

- const
- struct
- Generic stack

Next Time: Compiling C programs