

**Chapter Five: Functions** 

Slides by Evan Gallagher

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#### **Chapter Goals**

- •To be able to implement functions
- •To become familiar with the concept of parameter passing
- •To appreciate the importance of function comments
- •To develop strategies for decomposing complex tasks into simpler ones
- •To be able to determine the scope of a variable
- •To recognize when to use value and reference parameters

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#### **Call a Function to Get Something Done**



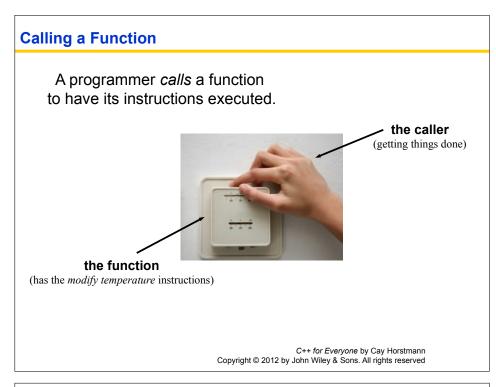
If it's chilly in here... do something about it!

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#### What Is a Function? Why Functions?

A function is a sequence of instructions with a name.

A function packages a computation into a form that can be easily understood and reused.



### **Calling a Function**

```
int main()
{
    double z = pow(2, 3);
    ...
}
```

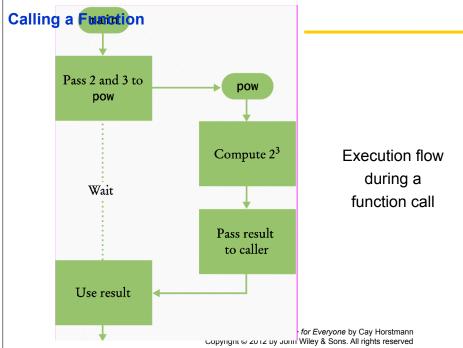
By using the expression: pow(2, 3) main calls the pow function, asking it to compute 2<sup>3</sup>.

The main function is temporarily suspended.

The instructions of the **pow** function execute and compute the result.

The pow function *returns* its result back to main, and the main function resumes execution.

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#### **Parameters**

```
int main()
{
    double z = pow(2, 3);
    ...
}
```

When another function calls the **pow** function, it provides "inputs", such as the values 2 and 3 in the call **pow(2, 3)**.

In order to avoid confusion with inputs that are provided by a human user, these values are called *parameter values*.

The "output" that the **pow** function computes is called the return value.

### An Output Statement Does Not Return a Value

## output ≠ return

If a function needs to display something for a user to see, it cannot use a return statement.

An output statement using printf communicates only with the user running the program.

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#### The Return Statement Does Not Display (Good!)

# output ≠ return

If a programmer needs the result of a calculation done by a function, the function *must* have a return statement.

An output statement using printf does *not* communicate with the calling programmer

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### The Return Statement Does Not Display (Good!)

```
int main()
{
   double z = pow(2, 3);

   // display result of calculation
   // stored in variable z
   printf("%f\n", z);

   // return from main - no output here!!!
   return 0;
}
```

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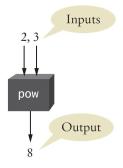
### **The Black Box Concept**



Do you care what's inside a thermostat?

## **The Black Box Concept**

•You can think of it as a "black box" where you can't see what's inside but you know what it does.



- •How did the pow function do its job?
- •You don't need to know.
- •You only need to know its specification.

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## **Implementing Functions**

Write the function that will do this:



Compute the volume of *a* cube with a given side length

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# **Implementing Functions**

When writing this function, you need to:

• Pick a good, descriptive name for the function

### **Implementing Functions**

When writing this function, you need to:

• Pick a good, descriptive name for the function

(What else would a function named cube\_volume do?)

cube\_volume

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When writing this function, you need to:

- Pick a good, descriptive name for the function
- Give a type and a name for each parameter.

cube volume

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#### **Implementing Functions**

When writing this function, you need to:

- Pick a good, descriptive name for the function
- Give a type and a name for each parameter.
   There will be one parameter for each piece of information the function needs to do its job.

(And don't forget the parentheses)

cube volume (double side length)

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#### **Implementing Functions**

When writing this function, you need to:

- Pick a good, descriptive name for the function
- Give a type and a name for each parameter.
   There will be one parameter for each piece of information the function needs to do its job.
- Specify the type of the return type

cube volume(double side length)

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#### **Implementing Functions**

When writing this function, you need to:

- Pick a good, descriptive name for the function
- Give a type and a name for each parameter.
   There will be one parameter for each piece of information the function needs to do its job.
- Specify the type of the return type

double cube\_volume(double side\_length)

When writing this function, you need to:

- Pick a good, descriptive name for the function
- Give a type and a name for each parameter.
   There will be one parameter for each piece of information the function needs to do its job.
- Specify the type of the return type

Now write the *body* of the function:

the code to do the cubing

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#### **Implementing Functions**

The code the function names must be in a block:

```
double cube_volume(double side_length)
{
  double volume = side_length * side_length * side_length;
  return volume;
}
```

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#### **Implementing Functions**

The parameter allows the caller to give the function information it needs to do it's calculating.

```
double cube_volume(double side_length)
{
  double volume = side_length * side_length * side_length;
  return volume;
}
```

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#### **Implementing Functions**

The code calculates the volume.

```
double cube_volume(double side_length)
{
   double volume = side_length * side_length * side_length;
   return volume;
}
```

The return statement gives the function's result to the caller.

```
double cube_volume(double side_length)
{
    double volume = side_length * side_length * side_length;
    return volume;
}
```

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#### **Test Your Function**

You should always test the function.

You'll write a main function to do this.

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#### **A Complete Function**

```
/**
 * Computes the volume of a cube.
 * @param side_length the side length of the cube
 * @return the volume
 */
double cube_volume(double side_length)
{
   double volume = side_length * side_length * side_length;
   return volume;
}
```

#### **A Complete Testing Program**

# Syntax 5.1 Function Definition Type of return value Type of parameter variable Name of function Name of parameter variable double cube\_volume(double side\_length) function body, executed when function is called. return volume; return statement exits function and returns result.

### **Commenting Functions**

- •Whenever you write a function, you should comment its behavior.
- •Comments are for human readers, not compilers
- •There is no universal standard for the layout of a function comment.
- -The layout used in the previous program is used in some tools to produce documentation from comments.

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#### **Commenting Functions**

Function comments do the following:

- -explain the purpose of the function
- -explain the meaning of the parameters
- -state what value is returned
- -state any special requirements

Comments state the things a programmer who wants to use your function needs to know.

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### **Calling Functions**

Consider the order of activities when a function is called.

#### **Parameter Passing**

```
In the function call,
   a value is supplied for each parameter,
   called the parameter value.
   (Other commonly used terms for this value
        are: actual parameter and argument.)

int hours = read_value_between(1, 12);
. . . .
```

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#### **Parameter Passing**

```
When a function is called,
a parameter variable is created for each value passed in.
(Another commonly used term is formal parameter.)
```

```
int hours = read_value_between(1, 12);
. . .
int read_value_between(int low, int high)
```

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#### **Parameter Passing**

Each parameter variable is *initialized* with the corresponding parameter value from the call.

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#### **Parameter Passing**

#### **Parameter Passing**

```
Here is a call to the cube_volume function:
double result1 = cube_volume(2);
```

Here is the function definition:

```
double cube_volume(double side_length)
{
  double volume = side_length * side_length * side_length;
  return volume;
}
```

We'll keep up with their variables and parameters:

```
result1
side_length
volume
```

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#### **Parameter Passing**

1.In the calling function, the local variable result1 already exists. When the cube volume function is called, the parameter variable side length is created.

```
double result1 = cube_volume(2);
```

1 Function call

result1 =

side\_length =

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#### **Parameter Passing**

2. The parameter variable is initialized with the value that was passed in the call. In our case, side\_length is set to 2.

```
double result1 = cube_volume(2);
```

2 Initializing function parameter

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#### **Parameter Passing**

3. The function computes the expression side length \* side\_length \* side\_length, which has the value 8. That value is stored in the local variable volume.

```
[inside the function]
double volume = side_length * side_length;
```

3 About to return to the caller result1 =

side\_length = 2

volume = 8

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#### **Parameter Passing**

4. The function returns. All of its variables are removed. The return value is transferred to the caller, that is, the function calling the cube volume function.

double result1 = cube\_volume(2);



After function call

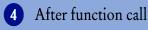
result1 =

The function executed: return volume; which gives the caller the value 8

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#### **Parameter Passing**

4. The function returns. All of its variables are removed. The return value is transferred to the caller, that is, the function calling the cube\_volume function.



result1 =

The function is over.

side\_length and volume are gone.

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#### **Parameter Passing**

The caller stores this value in their local variable result1.

double result1 = cube\_volume(2);



After function call

result1 = 8

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#### **Return Values**

The **return** statement yields the function result.

#### **Return Values**

Also,

The return statement
-terminates a function call

-immediately

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#### **Return Values**

This behavior can be used to handle unusual cases.

What should we do if the side length is negative? We choose to return a zero and not do any calculation:

```
double cube_volume(double side_length)
{
   if (side_length < 0) {
      return 0;
   }
   double volume = side_length * side_length * side_length;
   return volume;
}</pre>
```

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#### **Return Values**

The return statement can return the value of any expression.

Instead of saving the return value in a variable and returning the variable, it is often possible to eliminate the variable and return a more complex expression:

```
double cube_volume(double side_length)
{
   return side_length * side_length * side_length;
}
```

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#### **Common Error – Missing Return Value**

Your function always needs to return something.

Consider putting in a guard against negatives and also trying to eliminate the local variable:

```
double cube_volume(double side_length)
{
  if (side_length >= 0) {
    return side_length * side_length * side_length;
  }
}
```

#### **Common Error – Missing Return Value**

Consider what is returned if the caller *does* pass in a negative value.

```
double cube_volume(double side_length)
{
  if (side_length >= 0) {
    return side_length * side_length * side_length;
  }
}
```

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#### **Common Error - Missing Return Value**

Every possible execution path should return a meaningful value:

```
double cube_volume(double side_length)
{
  if (side_length >= 0) {
    return side_length * side_length * side_length;
  }
}

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```

#### **Common Error – Missing Return Value**

Depending on circumstances, the compiler might flag this as an error, or the function might return a random value.

This is always bad news, and you must protect against this problem by returning some safe value.

#### **Functions Without Return Values**

Consider the task of writing a string with the following format around it.

Any string could be used.

For example, the string "Hello" would produce:

Hello

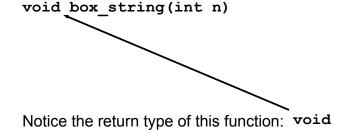
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#### Functions Without Return Values - The void Type

A function for this task can be defined as follows:



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#### Functions Without Return Values - The void Type

This kind of function is called a **void** function.

void box string(int n)

Use a return type of **void** to indicate that a function does not return a value.

void functions are used to
 simply do a sequence of instructions

- They do not return a value to the caller.

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#### Functions Without Return Values - The void Type

void functions are used **only** to do a sequence of instructions.

#### Functions Without Return Values - The void Type

Hello

- Print a line that contains the '-' character n + 2 times, where n is the length of the string.
- Print a line containing the string,
- Print another line containing the character n + 2 times.

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#### Functions Without Return Values - The void Type

```
void box_string(int n)
{
  for (int i = 0; i < n + 2; i++) {
    printf("-");
  }
  printf("\n");
}</pre>
```

Note that this function doesn't compute any value.

It performs some actions and then returns to the caller – without returning a value.

(The return occurs at the end of the block.)

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#### Functions Without Return Values - The void Type

Because there is no return value, you cannot use box\_string in an expression.

You can make this call kind of call:

```
box_string(5);
but not this kind:

result = box_string(5);
    // Error: box_string doesn't
    // return a result.
```

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#### Functions Without Return Values - The void Type

If you want to return from a **void** function before reaching the end, you use a **return** statement without a value. For example:

```
void box_string(int n)
{
  if (n == 0) {
    return;
  }  // Return immediately
  . . . // None of these statements
    // will be executed
```

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#### **Designing Functions – Turn Repeated Code into Functions**

When you write nearly identical code multiple times, you should probably introduce a function.

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Consider how similar the following statements are:

```
int hours;
do {
    printf("Enter a value between 0 and 23:");
    scanf("%d", &hours);
} while (hours < 0 /| hours > 23);

int minutes;
do {
    printf("Enter a value between 0 and 59: ");
    scanf("%d", &minutes);
} while (minutes < 0 /| minutes > 59);
```

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#### **Designing Functions – Turn Repeated Code into Functions**

The values for the high end of the range are different.

```
int hours;
do {
    printf("Enter a value between 0 and 23:");
    scanf("%d", &hours);
} while (hours < 0 /| hours > 23);

int minutes;
do {
    printf("Enter a value between 0 and 59: ");
    scanf("%d", &minutes);
} while (minutes < 0 /| minutes > 59);

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```

#### **Designing Functions – Turn Repeated Code into Functions**

The names of the variables are different.

```
int hours;
do {
    printf("Exter a value between 0 and 23:");
    scanf("%d", &hours);
} while (hours < 0 / | hours > 23);

int minutes;
do {
    printf("Exter a value between 0 and 59: ");
    scanf("%d", &minutes);
} while (minutes < 0 / | minutes > 59);
```

#### **Designing Functions – Turn Repeated Code into Functions**

But there is common behavior.

```
int hours;
do {
    printf("Enter a value between 0 and 23:");
    scanf("%d", &hours);
} while (hours < _ || hours > _);
```

```
int minutes;
do {
    printf("Enter a value between 0 and 59: ")
    scanf("%d", &minutes);
} while (minutes < _ || minutes > _);
```

Move the *common behavior* into *one* function.

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#### **Designing Functions – Turn Repeated Code into Functions**

Here we read one value, making sure it's within the range.

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#### **Designing Functions – Turn Repeated Code into Functions**

Then we can use this function as many times as we need:

```
int hours = read_int_up_to(23);
int minutes = read_int_up_to(59);
```

Note how the code has become much easier to understand.

And we are not rewriting code

code reuse

#### **Designing Functions – Turn Repeated Code into Functions**

Perhaps we can make this function even better:

```
int months = read_int_up_to(12);
```

Can we use this function to get a valid month? Months are numbered starting at 1, not 0.

We can modify the code to take two parameters: the end points of the valid range.

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Again, consider how similar the following statements are:

```
int month;
do {
    printf("Enter a value between 1 and 12:");
    scanf("%d", &month);
} while (month < 1 / | month > 12);

int minutes;
do {
    printf("Enter a value between 0 and 59: ");
    scanf("%d", &minutes);
} while (minutes < 0 / | minutes > 59);
```

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#### **Designing Functions – Turn Repeated Code into Functions**

As before, the values for the range are different.

```
int month;
do {
    printf("Enter a value between 1 and 12:");
    scanf("%d", &month);
} while (month < 1 / | month > 12);

int minutes;
do {
    printf("Enter a value between 0 and 59: ");
    scanf("%d", &minutes);
} while (minutes < 0 / | minutes > 59);
```

#### **Designing Functions – Turn Repeated Code into Functions**

Again, move the *common behavior* into *one* function.

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#### **Designing Functions – Turn Repeated Code into Functions**

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A different name would need to be used, of course because it does a different activity.

We can use this function as many times as we need, passing in the end points of the valid range:

```
int hours = read value between(1, 12);
int minutes = read value between(0, 59);
```

Note how the code has become even better.

And we are still not rewriting code

code reuse

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#### **Stepwise Refinement**

- •One of the most powerful strategies for problem solving is the process of *stepwise refinement*.
- •To solve a difficult task, break it down into simpler tasks.
- •Then keep breaking down the simpler tasks into even simpler ones, until you are left with tasks that you know how to solve.

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#### **Stepwise Refinement**

Use the process of stepwise refinement to decompose complex tasks into simpler ones.

### **Stepwise Refinement**

We will break this problem into steps (and for then those steps that can be further broken, we'll break them) (and for then those steps that can be further broken, we'll break them) (and for then those steps that can be further broken, we'll break them) (and for then those steps that can be further broken, we'll break them) ... and so on...

until the sub-problems are small enough to be just a few steps

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#### **Stepwise Refinement**

Get coffee

This is the whole problem: this is like main.

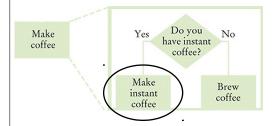
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#### **Stepwise Refinement**



The whole problem can be broken into: if we can ask someone to give us coffee, we are done but if not, we can make coffee (which we will have to break into its parts)

#### **Stepwise Refinement**



The make coffee sub-problem can be broken into: if we have instant coffee, we can make that but if not, we can brew coffee (maybe these will have parts)

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#### **Stepwise Refinement**

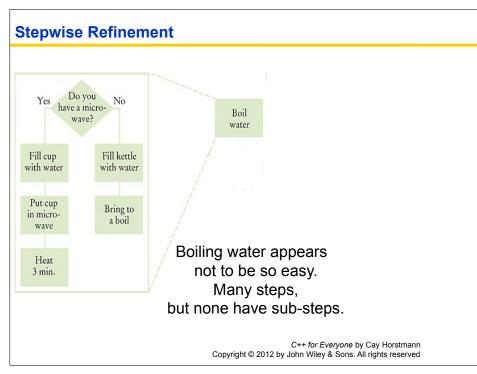


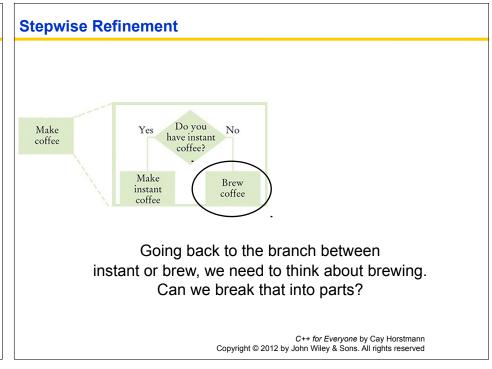
Making instant coffee breaks into:

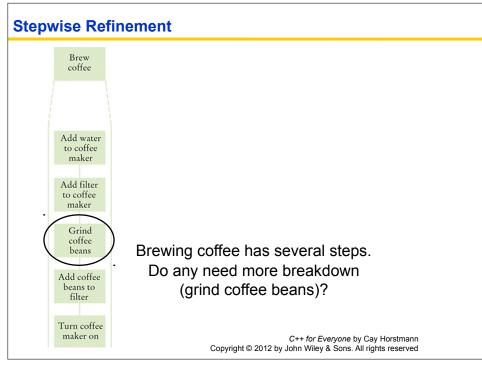
1. Boil Water

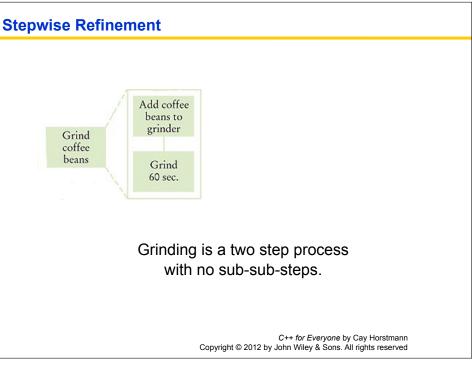
2. Mix (stir if you wish) (Do these have sub-problems?)

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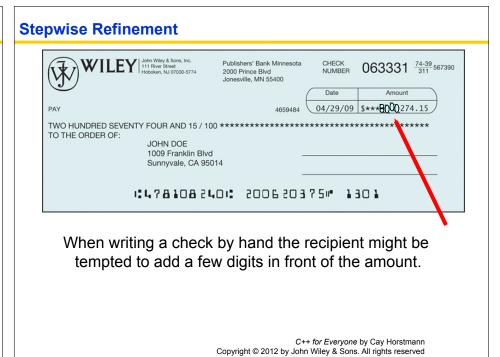








#### **Stepwise Refinement - The Complete Process Shown** Yes Can you No Get coffee Do you have instant Ask for To write the "get coffee" program, you would write functions for each sub-problem. Yes Do you No to coffee Fill cup Fill kettle Add filter with water with water to coffee Add coffee beans to Put cup grinder in micro-Grind 3 min. Copyright © 2012 by John Wiley & Sons. All rights reserved







To discourage this, when printing a check, it is customary to write the check amount both as a number ("\$274.15") and as a text string ("two hundred seventy four dollars and 15 cents")

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#### **Stepwise Refinement**



We will write a program to take an amount and produce the text.

And practice stepwise refinement.

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#### **Stepwise Refinement**

Sometimes we reduce the problem a bit when we start: we will only deal with amounts less than \$1,000.

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#### **Stepwise Refinement**

Of course we will write a function to solve this sub-problem.

```
/**
  * Prints the English text for a number.
  *
  * @param number a positive number < 1,000
  */
void print_num(int number)</pre>
```

Notice that we started by writing only the comment and the first line of the function.

Also notice that the constraint of < \$1,000 is announced in the comment.

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#### **Stepwise Refinement**

Before starting to write this function, we need to have a plan.

Are there special considerations?

Are there subparts?

#### **Stepwise Refinement**

If the number is between 1 and 9, we need to compute "one" ... "nine".

In fact, we need the same computation again for the hundreds ("two" hundred).

Any time you need to do something more than once, it is a good idea to turn that into a function:

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#### **Stepwise Refinement**

```
/**
 * Prints the English text for a digit.
 *
 * @param digit a number between 1 and 9
 * @return no return
 */
void print_digit(int digit)
```

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#### **Stepwise Refinement**

Numbers between 10 and 19 are special cases.

Let's have a separate function print\_teen that converts them into strings "eleven", "twelve", "thirteen", and so on:

```
/**
 * Prints the English text for a number
 * between 10 and 19.
 *
 * @param number an integer between 10 and 19
 */
void print_teen(int number)
```

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#### **Stepwise Refinement**

Next, suppose that the number is between 20 and 99. Then we show the tens as "twenty", "thirty", ..., "ninety". For simplicity and consistency, put that computation into a separate function:

```
/**
 * Prints the English text for the tens digit
 * of a number between 20 and 99.
 *
 * @param number an integer between 20 and 99
 */
void print_tens(int number)
```

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#### **Stepwise Refinement**

- •Now suppose the number is at least 20 and at most 99.
- -If the number is evenly divisible by 10, we use print\_tens, and we are done.
- -Otherwise, we print the tens with print\_tens and the ones with print\_digit.
- •If the number is between 100 and 999,
- -then we show a digit, the word "hundred", and the remainder as described previously.

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### **Stepwise Refinement - The Pseudocode**

remaining = number (part that still needs to be converted)

If remaining >= 100

Print hundreds digit + "hundred"

Remove hundreds from remaining

If remaining >= 20

Print tens digit

Remove tens from remaining

Else if part >= 10

Print teen number

remaining = 0

If remaining > 0
Print digit

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#### **Stepwise Refinement - The Pseudocode**

- •This pseudocode has a number of important improvements over the descriptions and comments.
- -It shows how to arrange the order of the tests, starting with the comparisons against the larger numbers
- -It shows how the smaller number is subsequently processed in further if statements.

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#### **Stepwise Refinement - The Pseudocode**

- •On the other hand, this pseudocode is vague about:
- -The actual conversion of the pieces, just referring to "hundreds digit" and the like.
- -Spaces—it would print output with no spaces: "twohundredseventyfour"

#### **Stepwise Refinement - The Pseudocode**

Compared to the complexity of the main problem, one would hope that spaces are a minor issue.

It is best not to muddy the pseudocode with minor details.

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#### Stepwise Refinement - Pseudocode to C

Now for the real code.

The last three cases are easy so let's start with them:

```
if (remaining >= 20) {
    print_tens(remaining);
    remaining = remaining % 10;
} else if (remaining >= 10) {
    print_teen(remaining);
    remaining = 0;
}

if (remaining > 0) {
    print_digit(remaining);
}
```

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#### Stepwise Refinement - Pseudocode to C

```
Finally, the case of numbers between 100 and 999.
Because remaining < 1000, remaining / 100 is a single
digit,
and we print it by calling print_digit.
Then we print "hundred":

if (remaining >= 100) {
   print_digit(remaining / 100);
   printf("hundred");
   remaining = remaining % 100;
}
```

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### Stepwise Refinement - Pseudocode to C

Now for the other functions.

# The Complete Program

```
void print_digit(int digit)
{
    if (digit == 1) {
        printf("one");
    } else if (digit == 2) {
        printf("two");
    } else if (digit == 3) {
        printf("three");
    } ... {
    } else if (digit == 9) {
        printf("nine");
    }
}
```

#### **The Complete Program**

```
void print_teen(int number)
{
    if (number == 10) {
        printf("ten");
    } else if (number == 11) {
        printf("eleven");
    } else if (number == 12) {
        printf("twelve");
    } ... {
     } else if (number == 19) {
        printf("nineteen");
    }
}
```

#### **The Complete Program**

```
void print_tens(int number)
{
    if (number >= 90) {
        printf("ninety");
    } else if (number >= 80) {
        printf("eighty");
    } else if (number >= 70) {
        printf("seventy");
    } ... {
    } else if (number >= 20) {
        printf("twenty");
    }
}
```

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#### **The Complete Program**

```
int main()
{
  int number;
  printf("Please enter a positive integer: ");
  scanf("%d", &number);
  print_num(number);
  printf("\n");
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

# **Good Design – Keep Functions Short**

- •There is a certain cost for writing a function:
- -You need to design, code, and test the function.
- -The function needs to be documented.
- -You need to spend some effort to make the function reusable rather than tied to a specific context.

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### **Good Design - Keep Functions Short**

- •And you should keep your functions short.
- •As a rule of thumb, a function that is so long that its will not fit on a single screen in your development environment should probably be broken up.
- Break the code into other functions

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#### **Tracing Functions**

When you design a complex set of functions, it is a good idea to carry out a manual walkthrough before entrusting your program to the computer.

This process is called *tracing* your code.

You should trace each of your functions separately.

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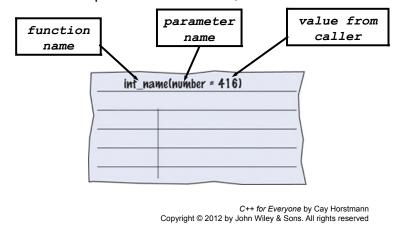
### **Tracing Functions**

To demonstrate, we will trace the int\_name function when 416 is passed in.

# **Tracing Functions**

Here is the call: ... int name (416) ...

Take an index card (or use the back of an envelope) and write the name of the function and the names and values of the parameter variables, like this:



## **Tracing Functions**

Then write the names and values of the function variables. void int\_name(int number)

Write them in a table, since you will update them as you walk through the code:

part	name
416	1111

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### **Tracing Functions**

```
The test (part >= 100) is true so the code is executed.
```

```
if (part >= 100) {
    digit_name(part / 100)
    printf(" hundred");
    part = part % 100;
}
```

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## **Tracing Functions**

```
part / 100 is 4

if (part >= 100) {
    digit_name(part / 100)
    printf(" hundred");
    part = part % 100;
}

so digit_name(4) is easily seen to be "four".
```

## **Tracing Functions**

```
if (part >= 100) {
    digit_name(part / 100)
    printf(" hundred");
    part = part % 100;
}

part % 100 is 16.
```

### **Tracing Functions**

Output has changed to digit\_name(part / 100) + "hundred" which is the string "four hundred",

part has changed to part % 100, or 16.

part	name
416	nn

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## **Tracing Functions**

Output has changed to digit\_name(part / 100) + " hundred" which is the string "four hundred",

part has changed to part % 100, or 16.

Cross out the old values and write the new ones.

part	name
416	<u> </u>
16	"four hundred"

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## **Tracing Functions**

Let's continue...

Here is the status of the parameters and variables now:

part	иаме
416	<u> </u>
16	"four hundred"

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#### **Tracing Functions**

The test (part >= 20) is false but the test (part >= 10) is true so that code is executed.

```
if (part >= 20)...
  else if (part >= 10) {
  printf (" ");
  teens_name (part);
  part = 0;
```

teens\_name (16) is "sixteen", part is set to 0, so do this:

int_name(number = 416)		
part	name	
416	<u> </u>	
16	"four hundred"	
0	"four hundred sixteen"	

### **Tracing Functions**

Why is part set to 0?

```
if (part >= 20)...
    else if (part >= 10) {
    printf (" ");
    teens_name (part);
    part = 0;
}
if (part > 0)
{
    printf (" ");
```

digit name (part);

After the if-else statement ends, name is complete.

The test in the following if statement needs to be "fixed" so that part of the code will not be executed

- nothing should be added to name.

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#### Stubs

- •When writing a larger program, it is not always feasible to implement and test all functions at once.
- •You often need to test a function that calls another, but the other function hasn't yet been implemented.

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#### **Stubs**

- •You can temporarily replace the body of function yet to be implemented with a *stub*.
- •A stub is a function that returns a simple value that is sufficient for testing another function.
- •It might also have something written on the screen to help you see the order of execution.
- •Or, do both of these things.

#### **Stubs**

Here are examples of stub functions.

```
void print_digit(int digit)
{
    printf("mumble");
}

void print_tens(int number)
{
    printf("mumblety");
}
```

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#### **Stubs**

If you combine these stubs with the completely written print\_num function and run the program testing with the value 274, this will the result:

Please enter a positive integer: 274 mumblehundredmumbletymumble

which indicates that the basic logic of the print\_num function is working correctly.

Now that you have tested print\_num, you would "unstubify" another stub function, then another...

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### Variable Scope









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#### **Variable Scope**



Which main ?





#### Variable Scope

You can only have one main function but you can have as many variables and parameters spread amongst as many functions as you need.

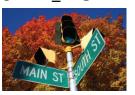
Can you have the same name in different functions?

### **Variable Scope**



The railway\_avenue and main\_street variables in the oklahoma city function

The south\_street and main\_street variables in the panama city function





The n\_putnam\_street and main\_street variables in the new\_york\_city function

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#### Variable Scope

A variable or parameter that is defined within a function is visible from the point at which it is defined until the end of the block named by the function.

This area is called the *scope* of the variable.

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### **Variable Scope**

The scope of a variable is the part of the program in which it is *visible*.

#### Variable Scope

The scope of a variable is the part of the program in which it is *visible*.

Because scopes do not overlap, a name in one scope cannot conflict with any name in another scope.

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### **Variable Scope**

The scope of a variable is the part of the program in which it is *visible*.

Because scopes do not overlap, a name in one scope cannot conflict with any name in another scope.

A name in one scope is "invisible" in another scope

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#### Variable Scope

```
double cube_volume(double side_len)
{
   double volume = side_len * side_len * side_len;
   return volume;
}
int main()
{
   double volume = cube_volume(2);
   printf("%f\n", volume);
   return 0;
}
```

Each **volume** variable is defined in a separate function, so there is not a problem with this code.

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#### **Variable Scope**

Because of scope, when you are writing a function you can focus on choosing variable and parameter names that make sense for your function.

You do not have to worry that your names will be used elsewhere.

#### Variable Scope

Names inside a block are called *local* to that block.

A function names a block.

Recall that variables and parameters do not exist after the function is over—because they are local to that block.

But there are other blocks.

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#### **Variable Scope**

It is <u>not legal</u> to define two variables or parameters with the same name in the same scope.

For example, the following is not legal:

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#### **Variable Scope - Nested Blocks**

However, you can define another variable with the same name in a *nested block*.

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#### **Variable Scope - Nested Blocks**

The scope of the parameter variable amount is the entire function, *except* the nested block.

Inside the nested block, amount refers to the local variable that was defined in that block.

You should avoid this *potentially confusing situation* in the functions that you write, simply by renaming one of the variables.

Why should there be a variable with the same name in the same function?

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#### **Global Variables**

•Generally, global variables are *not* a good idea.

But ...

here's what they are and how to use them

(if you must).

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#### **Global Variables**

Global variables are defined outside any block.

They are visible to every function defined after them.

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#### **Global Variables**

But in a banking program, how many functions should have direct access to a balance variable?

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#### **Global Variables**

```
int balance = 10000; // A global variable

void withdraw(double amount)
{
    if (balance >= amount)
    {
        balance = balance - amount;
    }
}

int main()
{
    withdraw(1000);
    printf("%d\n", balance);
    return 0;
}
```

#### **Global Variables**

In the previous program there is only one function that updates the balance variable.

But there could be many, many, many functions that might need to update balance each written by any one of a huge number of programmers in a large company.

Then we would have a problem.

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#### **Global Variables**

When multiple functions update global variables, the result can be *difficult* to predict.

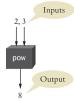
Particularly in larger programs that are developed by multiple programmers, it is very important that the effect of each function be clear and easy to understand.

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#### **Global Variables - Breaking Open the Black Box**

When functions modify global variables, it becomes more difficult to understand the effect of function calls.

Programs with global variables are difficult to maintain and extend because you can no longer view each function as a "black box" that simply receives parameter values and returns a result or does something.



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#### Global Variables - Breaking Open the Black Box

When functions modify global variables, it becomes more difficult to understand the effect of function calls.

Programs with global variables are difficult to maintain and extend because you can no longer view each function as a "black box" that simply receives parameter values and returns a result or does something.



And what good is a broken black box?

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#### Global Variables – Just Say "No"

You should **aVoid** global variables in your programs!

#### **Example: Game of Chance**

- •One of the most popular games of chance is a dice game known as "craps." The rules of the game are simple.
- -A player rolls two dice. Each die has six faces. These faces contain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 spots. After the dice have come to rest, the sum of the spots on the two upward faces is calculated. If the sum is 7 or 11 on the first throw, the player wins. If the sum is 2, 3, or 12 on the first throw (called "craps"), the player loses (i.e., the "house" wins). If the sum is 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, or 10 on the first throw, then that sum becomes the player's "point." To win, you must continue rolling the dice until you "make your point." The player loses by rolling a 7 before making the point.

#### Example

•We will write a function *rollDice* to throw the two dice and take their sum

(we did this for one die in the previous lecture)

#### **Complete Program**

#### **Complete Program**

```
switch(sum){
     case 7:
     case 11:
             gameStatus = WON;
             break;
     case 2:
     case 3:
     case 12:
             gameStatus = LOST;
             break;
     default:
             gameStatus = CONTINUE;
             myPoint = sum;
             printf("Point is %d\n", myPoint);
             break;
}
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```

#### **Complete Program**

```
while(CONTINUE == gameStatus)
     sum = rollDice();
     if (sum == myPoint)
             gameStatus = WON;
     else{
             if (7 == sum) {
                     gameStatus = LOST;
     }
if (WON == gameStatus) {
     printf("Player wins\n");
}
else{
    printf("Player loses\n");
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} //end of main
```

#### **Enumeration constants**

- •The player may win or lose on the first roll, or may win or lose on any subsequent roll.
- •Variable gameStatus, defined to be of a new type—enum Status—stores the current status.
- •Line 8 creates a programmer-defined type called an enumeration.
- •An enumeration, introduced by the keyword enum, is a set of integer constants represented by identifiers.
- •Enumeration constants are sometimes called symbolic constants.
- •Values in an enum start with 0 and are incremented by 1.

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#### **CHAPTER SUMMARY**

#### Understand the concepts of functions, arguments, and return values.



- A function is a named sequence of instructions.
- Arguments are supplied when a function is called. The return value is the result that the function computes.

#### Be able to implement functions.



- When defining a function, you provide a name for the function, a variable for each argument, and a type for the result.
- Function comments explain the purpose of the function, the meaning of the parameter variables and return value, as well as any special requirements.

#### Describe the process of parameter passing.

• Parameter variables hold the argument values supplied in the function call.



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#### **CHAPTER SUMMARY**

#### Describe the process of returning a value from a function.

 The return statement terminates a function call and yields the function result.



#### Design and implement functions without return values.



• Use a return type of void to indicate that a function does not return a value.

#### Develop functions that can be reused for multiple problems.

- Eliminate replicated code or pseudocode by defining a function.
- Design your functions to be reusable. Supply parameter variables for the values that can vary when the function is reused.

#### Apply the design principle of stepwise refinement.



- Use the process of stepwise refinement to decompose complex tasks into simpler ones.
- When you discover that you need a function, write a description of the parameter variables and return values.
- A function may require simpler functions to carry out its work.

#### **CHAPTER SUMMARY**

#### Determine the scope of variables in a program.

- The scope of a variable is the part of the program in which it is visible.
- A variable in a nested block shadows a variable with the same name in an outer block.
- A local variable is defined inside a function. A global variable is defined outside a function.
- Avoid global variables in your programs.



- Modifying a value parameter has no effect on the caller.
- A reference parameter refers to a variable that is supplied in a function call.
- Modifying a reference parameter updates the variable that was supplied in the call.

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**End Chapter Five** 

Slides by Evan Gallagher

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