c-viz — Specification for $v0.1.2^*$

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c-viz is a project that aims to develop a web-based explicit-control evaluator¹ for a suitably chosen sublanguage of C. The goal is to create an environment for running C programs suitable for first-year computer science students. The mental model encouraged by the visualizer avoids knowledge of a C compiler or intimate details of the underlying hardware, which tend to be obstacles for many learners. At the same time, students will still be exposed to important concepts such as undefined behaviours and C's memory model.

This document specifies the subset of C supported.

Contents

In	trodu	ıction		4
1	Con	cepts		5
	1.1	Numer	rical limits	5
	1.2	Scopes	s of identifiers	5
	1.3	Name	spaces of identifiers	6
	1.4	Storag	ge duration of objects	6
	1.5	Types		6
		1.5.1	Size and alignment	8
		1.5.2	Representation	8
		1.5.3	Compatible types	8
	1.6	Conve	rsions	9
		1.6.1	Conversions as if by assignment	9
		1.6.2	Usual arithmetic conversions	9
		1.6.3	Value categories	10
		1.6.4	Value transformations	11
		1.6.5	Implicit conversions	12

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¹As described in SICP - JS Edition Section 5.4

CONTENTS 2

2	Lexi	cal Grammar 14
	2.1	Keywords
	2.2	Identifiers
	2.3	Universal character names
	2.4	Constants
		2.4.1 Integer constants
		2.4.2 Character constants
	2.5	String literals
	2.6	Punctuators
	2.7	Comments
3	Evni	ressions 18
3	3.1	Primary expressions
	3.2	Postfix operators
	3.4	3.2.1 Array subscripting
		,
		3.2.3 Structure members
	0.0	3.2.4 Postfix increment and decrement operators
	3.3	Unary operators
		3.3.1 Prefix increment and decrement operators
		3.3.2 Address and indirection operators
		3.3.3 Unary arithmetic operators
		3.3.4 The sizeof operator
	3.4	Cast operators
	3.5	Multiplicative operators
	3.6	Additive operators
	3.7	Bitwise shift operators
	3.8	Relational operators
	3.9	Equality operators
	3.10	Bitwise AND operator
	3.11	Bitwise exclusive OR operator
	3.12	Bitwise inclusive OR operator
		Logical AND operator
		Logical OR operator
		Conditional operator
		Assignment operators
		3.16.1 Simple assignment
		3.16.2 Compound assignment
	3 17	Comma operator
4	Decl	arations 21
	4.1	Storage-class specifiers
	4.2	Type specifiers
		4.2.1 Structure specifiers
		4.2.2 Tags
	4.3	Declarators
		4.3.1 Pointer declarators
		4.3.2 Array declarators
		4.3.3 Function declarators
	4.4	Type names
	4.5	Type definitions
	4.6	Initialization
	-	

CONTENTS 3

5	State	ements and blocks 2	3
	5.1	Compound statement	3
	5.2	Expression and null statements	3
	5.3	Selection statements	3
		5.3.1 The if statement	3
	5.4	Iteration statements	3
		5.4.1 The while statement	3
		5.4.2 The do statement	3
		5.4.3 The for statement	3
	5.5	Jump statements	3
		5.5.1 The continue statement	4
		5.5.2 The break statement	4
		5.5.3 The return statement	4
6	Et-	ernal Definitions 2	_
O			5
	6.1		
	6.2	External object definitions	6
7	Men	nory Model 2	7
	7.1	Memory segmentation	7
	7.2	Stack allocations	7
	7.3	Heap allocations	7
		7.3.1 The malloc function	8
		7.3.2 The free function	8
	7.4	Text and data	8
	7.5	Additional runtime data structures	8
		7.5.1 EffectiveTypeTable 2	8
		7.5.2 InitializedTable	8
8	Ona	rational Semantics 2	a
o	8.1		9
	0.1	8.1.1 Control	_
			9
			9
		,	9
	8.2	•	9
	8.3		9
	0.5		_
A	Lang	guage Syntax Summary 3	0
	A.1	Lexical Grammar	0
	A.2	Expressions	1
	A.3	Declarations	2
	A.4		3
	A.5	External Definitions	4

INTRODUCTION 4

Introduction

This document follows the structure of (and frequently refers to²) the ISO/IEC 9899:1999 - n1256 version of the C99 standard³. Where applicable, we express grammars using Extended Backus–Naur form⁴, adopting the ISO/IEC 14977 standard proposed by R. S. Scowen.

Deviations from the C standard will be on their own paragraph and highlighted as such.

Section 1 – *Concepts* describes various language concepts, such as scopes of identifiers and types. Section 2 – *Lexical Grammar* to section 6 – *External Definitions* detail the syntax, type checking constraints and semantics of various language constructs. In section 7 – *Memory Model* we look at the the various memory segments and memory related runtime data structures implemented in the interpreter. Lastly, an informal description of the big step operational semantics of the language is provided in section 8 – *Operational Semantics*.

²certain definitions and wordings may be lifted *verbatim* from the standard

 $^{^3} https://www.open-std.org/jtc1/sc22/wg14/www/docs/n1256.pdf \\$

⁴we use := for definition, , for concatenation, | for alternation, [x] for optional x, { x } for zero or more repetitions of x, (. . .) for grouping, '. . .' for terminals, – for negation and ? . . .? for special sequences.

1 CONCEPTS 5

1 Concepts

1.1 Numerical limits

The following are the constant values defined for the numerical limits of integer types. A future version of c-viz may allow for configuration of these values.

```
number of bits for smallest object (byte)
  CHAR_BIT
 SCHAR_MIN -(2^7-1)
                          minimum value for an object of type signed char
 SCHAR_MAX 2^7 - 1
                          maximum value for an object of type signed char
 UCHAR_MAX 2^8 - 1
                          maximum value for an object of type unsigned char
  CHAR_MIN -(2^7 - 1)
                          minimum value for an object of type char
  CHAR_MAX 2^7 - 1
                          maximum value for an object of type char
                          maximum number of bytes in a multibyte character
MB_LEN_MAX 1
  SHRT_MIN -(2^{15}-1)
                          minimum value for an object of type short int
  SHRT MAX 2^{15} - 1
                          maximum value for an object of type short int
 \textbf{USHRT\_MAX} \quad 2^{16}-1
                          maximum value for an object of type unsigned short int
   INT_MIN -(2^{31}-1)
                          minimum value for an object of type int
   INT_MAX 2^{31} - 1
                          maximum value for an object of type int
  UINT_MAX 2^{32} - 1
                          maximum value for an object of type unsigned int
  LONG_MIN -(2^{31}-1)
                          minimum value for an object of type long int
  LONG_MAX 2^{31} - 1
                          maximum value for an object of type long int
 ULONG_MAX 2^{32} - 1
                          maximum value for an object of type unsigned long int
 LLONG_MIN -(2^{63}-1)
                          minimum value for an object of type long long int
 LLONG_MAX 2^{63} - 1
                          maximum value for an object of type long long int
ULLONG_MAX 2^{64} - 1
                          maximum value for an object of type unsigned long long int
```

1.2 Scopes of identifiers

An identifier can denote an object; a function; a tag or a member of a structure; or a typedef name. The same identifier can denote different entities at different points in the program.

The *scope* of an identifier is a region of program code in which the identifier may be used to refer to a particular entity. An identifier can designate different entities only if they are in different scopes or in different name spaces.

There are two kinds of scopes: file and block. Function prototype scope and function scope⁵ are not supported.

The scope of an identifier is determined by where its declaration appears. If the declaration appears outside of any block, the identifier has *file scope*, which terminates at the end of the translation unit. If it appears inside a block, the identifier has *block scope*, which terminates at the end of the block.

If two different entities existing in the same name space have the same identifier, then the scope of one of them (the *inner scope*) must be a strict subset of the other (the *outer scope*). Within the inner scope, the identifier will designate the entity declared within and the entity declared in the outer scope is *hidden*. Two identifiers is said to have the *same scope* if their scopes terminate at the same point.

Structure tags have scopes beginning just after the appearance of the tag in the type specifier portion of its declaration. All other identifiers have scope beginning just after the completion of its declarator.

⁵used only by label names for goto constructs

1.3 Name spaces of identifiers

If more than one declaration of an identifier is visible at any point, the context in which the identifier is used disambiguates what entity it refers to. Thus, there are separate *name spaces* for identifiers:

- the tags of structures (appears right after the keyword struct)
- the *members* of structures; each structure has a separate name space for its members (disambiguated by the type of the expression used to access the member)
- all other identifiers

1.4 Storage duration of objects

An object has a *storage duration* that determines its lifetime. There are three storage durations: static, automatic, and allocated.

The *lifetime* of an object is the portion of program execution during which memory is allocated to it. Hence, an object has a constant address and retains its last-stored value throughout its lifetime.

If an object is referred to outside of its lifetime, the interpreter throws the error "no object allocated at ...". Future versions of c-viz should allow for such runtime checks to be disabled.

Pointers retain their values when objects they point to reaches the end of their lifetime.

An object designated by an identifier with file scope has *static storage duration*, with its lifetime spanning the entire execution of the program⁶.

An object designated by an identifier with block scope has *automatic storage duration*. Its lifetime extends from entry into the block until execution of that block ends⁷. The initial value of the object is indeterminate.

Allocated storage duration is described in subsection 7.3 – *Heap allocations*.

1.5 Types

Types give meaning to values stored in objects. They are partitioned into:

- object types which fully describe objects
- function types that describe functions
- incomplete types that describe objects (or void) but lack information to determine their sizes

The types supported by c-viz are: _Bool, char, signed char, unsigned char, short int, unsigned short int, int, unsigned int, long int, unsigned long int, long long int, unsigned long long int, void, arrays, structures, functions and pointers. Other than functions (function type) and void (incomplete type), the other types are object types.

The signed integer types consists of signed char, short int, int, long int and long long int.

For each of the signed integer types, there is a corresponding unsigned integer type designated with the keyword unsigned. They use the same amount of storage and have the same alignment requirements. These types, combined with the type _Bool, make up the *unsigned integer types*.

⁶program execution begins on entry to the main function and ends when the main function returns

⁷the corresponding EXIT_BLOCK instruction is popped from the control stack

1.5. TYPES 7

If a signed integer type can represent a range of nonnegative values S and its corresponding unsigned integer type can represent a range of values U, then $S \subseteq U$. Furthermore, the representation of any $x \in S$ is the same for both types.

Computations involving unsigned operands can never overflow. A result x that cannot be represented by the resulting unsigned integer type with maximum value M will be reduced to $x \mod (M+1)$.

The interpreter throws an error on signed integer overflows.

Real and complex floating types are currently not supported.

The type char along with the signed and unsigned integer types make up the *integer types* and *arithmetic types*. The three types char, signed char and unsigned char make up the *character types*.

The type char is defined to have the same range, representation and behaviour as signed char.

The void type denotes an empty set of values and is an incomplete type that cannot be completed.

Any number of *derived types* may be constructed from the object, function and incomplete types:

- An array type describes a contiguously allocated nonempty set of objects with a particular element type. Arrays are characterized by their element type and the number of elements.
- A structure type describes a sequentially allocated nonempty⁸ set of member objects, each
 of which has an optionally specified name.
- A *function* type describes a function with some return type. It is characterized by its return type and the number and types of its parameters.
- A pointer type may be derived from any type, called the referenced type. It describes an
 object whose value is the memory address of an entity of the referenced type.

These derived types may be constructed recursively.

Union types are currently not supported.

The *scalar types* consists of arithmetic and pointer types. The *aggregate types* consist of array and structure types.

Array types of unknown sizes⁹ or variable length are not supported.

A structure type of unknown content is an incomplete type. It can be completed by declaring the same structure tag with its defining content later in the same scope¹⁰.

A type has known constant size if the type is not incomplete.

Only unqualified types are supported.

Pointers to any type have the same representation and alignment requirements.

⁸empty structures are supported by some C compilers and is also a valid C++ construct

⁹arrays of unknown sizes T[] in function parameter lists can be replaced by corresponding pointer types instead; their only other use in C is within extern declarations, which are not supported

¹⁰see example in section 6 – External Definitions

1.5. TYPES 8

1.5.1 Size and alignment

Every complete object type has two properties, *alignment requirement* and *size*. The size of an object is the number of bytes in memory that it occupies. The alignment requirement of an object is a non-negative integral power of two representing the number of bytes between successive addresses at which objects of this type can be allocated.

The weakest (smallest) alignment is the alignment of the types char, signed char and unsigned char, which equals 1.

An object of type int has large enough size to contain any value in the range **INT_MIN** to **INT_MAX** as defined in subsection 1.1 – *Numerical limits*.

The values for the alignment requirements and sizes of the scalar types used by c-viz are typical for 32-bit x86 architectures. Future versions of c-viz may allow configuration of these values.

CHAR_SIZE	1	CHAR_ALIGN	2^0
SCHAR_SIZE	CHAR_SIZE	SCHAR_ALIGN	2^0
UCHAR_SIZE	CHAR_SIZE	UCHAR_ALIGN	CHAR_ALIGN
SHRT_SIZE	2	SHRT_ALIGN	2^1
USHRT_SIZE	SHRT_SIZE	USHRT_ALIGN	SHRT_ALIGN
INT_SIZE	4	INT_ALIGN	2^2
UINT_SIZE	INT_SIZE	UINT_ALIGN	$INT_{-}ALIGN$
LONG_SIZE	4	LONG_ALIGN	2^2
ULONG_SIZE	LONG_SIZE	ULONG_ALIGN	LONG_ALIGN
LLONG_SIZE	8	LLONG_ALIGN	2^3
ULLONG_SIZE	$LLONG_SIZE$	ULLONG_ALIGN	LLONG_ALIGN
PTR_SIZE	INT_SIZE	PTR_ALIGN	INT_ALIGN
		MAX_ALIGN	LLONG_ALIGN

1.5.2 Representation

Values stored in objects consist of $n \times \text{CHAR_BIT}$ bits, where n is the size of the object in bytes. The value may be copied into an object of type unsigned char <code>[n]</code> and the resulting set of bytes is called the *object representation* of the value. Two values with the same object representation compare equal, but the converse does not necessarily hold.

Padding bytes in structure types take on unspecified values.

Signed integer types use two's complement representation for negative values¹¹.

1.5.3 Compatible types

Two types have *compatible type* if any of the following hold:

- the types are the same
- both are structure types such that
 - both either have no tag or the same tag
 - there is a one-to-one correspondence between their members such that each pair of members are declared with compatible types and the same name

 $^{^{11}}$ this is a consequence of the underlying implementation using JavaScript's BigInt type, which "act as two's complement binary strings" for binary operations

- the corresponding members shall be declared in the same order
- both are array types such that their element types are compatible and their lengths are equal
- both are pointer types such that their referenced types are compatible
- both are function types such that
 - both specify compatible return types
 - both have the same arity
 - corresponding parameters shall have compatible types

1.6 Conversions

Where an expression is used in a context where a value of different type is expected, *conversion* may occur.

```
int n = 1L; // expression 1L has type long, but int is expected
char *p = malloc(10); // expression malloc(10) has type void*, but char* is expected
```

1.6.1 Conversions as if by assignment

Provided that the simple assignment constraints hold, the following conversions happen:

- In the assignment operator, the value of the right hand operand is converted to the type of the left hand operand.
- When initializing an object of scalar type, the value of the initializer expression is converted to the type of the object being initialized.
- In a function call expression, the value of each argument expression is converted to the type of the corresponding parameter.
- In a return statement, the value of the return expression is converted to an object having the return type of the function.

1.6.2 Usual arithmetic conversions

The operands of the following operators undergo implicit conversions to obtain a common type, in which the calculation is performed:

```
multiplicative operators: *, /, %
additive operators: +, -
relational operators: <, >, <=, >=
equality operators: ==, !=
bitwise AND operator: &
bitwise exclusive OR operator: ^
bitwise inclusive OR operator: |
conditional operator: ?:
```

The conversion proceeds as follows:

- Both operands undergo integer promotions.
- If the types are the same, we are done.

- Else the types are different:
 - If the types have the same signedness, the operand whose type has the smaller *conversion rank*¹² is implicitly converted¹³ to the other type.
 - Else the operands have different signedness:
 - * If the unsigned type has *conversion rank* greater than or equal to the rank of the signed type, then the operand with the signed type is implicitly converted to the unsigned type.
 - * Else the unsigned type has *conversion rank* less than the signed type:
 - · If the signed type can represent all values of the unsigned type, then the operand with the unsigned type is implicitly converted to the signed type.
 - · Else both operands undergo implicit conversion to the unsigned type counterpart of the signed operand's type.

1.6.3 Value categories

Every expression in C is characterized by two independent properties: a type and a value category.

Every expression belongs to one of two value categories: lvalue and rvalue.

Lvalue expressions

A lvalue expression is any expression with object type which designates an object.

Lvalue expressions can be used in the following contexts:

- as the operand of the address-of operator
- as the operand of the pre/post increment and decrement operators
- as the left-hand operand of the member access (dot) operator
- as the left-hand operand of the assignment operators

If a lvalue expression is used in any context other than sizeof or the operators listed above, non-array lvalues undergo lvalue conversion, which loads the value of the object from memory.

The following expressions are lvalues:

- identifiers that do not designate a function
- string literals
- parenthesized expressions (x) if the unparanthesized expression x is a lvalue
- the result of a member access (dot) operator if the left-hand operand is a lvalue
- the result of a member access through pointer -> operator
- the result of the indirection * operator applied to a pointer to object
- the result of the subscript [] operator

Modifiable lvalue expressions

A modifiable lvalue is any lvalue expression of non-array type.

Only modifiable lvalue expressions may be used as the left-hand operand of assignment operators and as operands of increment/decrement operators.

¹²see Integer promotions

¹³see Integer conversions

Rvalue expressions

A *rvalue* expression is defined by exclusion: an expression is a *rvalue* if it is not a lvalue. The address of a rvalue expression cannot be taken.

The following expressions are rvalues:

- integer and character constants
- all operators not specified to return lvalues, such as
 - function call expressions
 - cast expressions
 - member access (dot) operator applied to a non-lvalue structure
 - results of all arithmetic, relational, logical and bitwise operators
 - results of increment/decrement operators
 - results of assignment operators¹⁴
 - conditional operator
 - comma operator
 - address-of operator

1.6.4 Value transformations

Lvalue conversion

Any lvalue expression of non-array type when used in any context other than

- as the operand of the address-of operator
- as the operand of the pre/post increment and decrement operators
- as the left-hand operand of the member access (dot) operator
- as the left-hand operand of the assignment operators
- as the operand of sizeof

undergoes *lvalue conversion*: the type and value remains the same but it loses its lvalue properties. Specifically, the address may no longer be taken.

This conversion models the memory load of the object.

```
int x = n; // lvalue conversion on n, loads object from memory
int *p = &n; // no lvalue conversion, does not read from memory
```

Array to pointer conversion

Any lvalue expression of array type when used in any context other than

- as the operand of the address-of operator
- as the operand of the sizeof

undergoes a conversion to the non-lvalue pointer to its first element.

```
int a[3], b[3][4];
int *p = a; // conversion to &a[0]
int (*q)[4] = b; // conversion to &b[0]
```

¹⁴lvalue in C++

Function to pointer conversion

Any function designator expression when used in any context other than

- as the operand of the address-of operator
- as the operand of the sizeof

undergoes a conversion to the non-lvalue pointer to the function designated by the expression.

```
void f() { return; }
void (*p)() = f; // conversion to &f
(***p)(); // repeated conversion to &f and dereference to f
```

1.6.5 Implicit conversions

Implicit conversion, whether as if by assignment or a usual arithmetic conversion, consists of:

- 1. value transformation, if applicable
- 2. one of the conversions listed below, if it produces the target type

Compatible types

Conversion of a value of any type to any compatible type is a no-op.

Integer promotions

Integer promotion is the implicit conversion of a value of any integer type with *rank* less than or equal to *rank* of int to the value of type int or unsigned int.

If int can represent the entire range of values of the original type, the value is converted to type int. Else, the value is converted to unsigned int.

Integer promotions preserve the value, including the sign.

Rank is a property defined for all integer types:

- The ranks of all signed integer types are different and increases with their precision.
- The ranks of all signed integer types equal the ranks of their unsigned counterparts.
- The rank of char is equal to the rank of signed char and unsigned char.
- The rank of _Bool is less than the rank of any other standard integer type.
- Ranking is transitive.

The specific values for ranks used by c-viz are given in the following table:

Integer Type	Rank	Integer Type	Rank
_Bool	0	Int	3
Char	1	UnsignedInt	3
SignedChar	1	LongInt	4
UnsignedChar	1	${\tt UnsignedLongInt}$	4
ShortInt	2	LongLongInt	5
UnsignedShortInt	2	UnsignedLongLongInt	5

Integer promotions are applied in the following contexts:

- as part of usual arithmetic conversions
- to the operand of the unary arithmetic operators + and -
- to the operand of the unary bitwise operator \sim
- to both operands of the shift operators << and >>

Boolean conversions

A value of any scalar type can be implicitly converted to _Bool. Values that compare equal to zero are converted to 0 and all other values are converted to 1.

Integer conversions

A value of any integer type can be implicitly converted to any other integer type. Except where covered by promotions and boolean conversions above, the following rules apply:

- if the target type can represent the value, the value is unchanged
- if the target type is unsigned, modulo arithmetic is applied such that the result fits in the target type
- if the target type is signed, the interpreter throws an error

Pointer conversions

A pointer to void can be implicitly converted to and from any pointer to object type. If a pointer to object is converted to a pointer to void and back, its value compares equal to the original pointer.

```
int *p = malloc(10 * sizeof(int)); // malloc returns void*
```

The integer constant expression 0 can be implicitly converted to any pointer type. The result is a null pointer value of its type, guaranteed to compare unequal to any non-null pointer value of that type.

```
int *p = 0;
```

2 LEXICAL GRAMMAR 14

2 Lexical Grammar

Syntax

```
Token ::= Keyword | Identifier | Constant token | StringLiteral | Punctuator

_ ::= { WhiteSpace | LongComment | LineComment } token separator WhiteSpace ::= '_' | '\n' | '\r' | '\u000b' | '\f'
```

Semantics

A token is the minimal lexical element of the language.

Each token can be separated by *white-space characters* (space, horizontal tab, new-line, vertical tab, and form-feed), comments (subsection 2.7 – *Comments*), or both.

2.1 Keywords

Syntax

Semantics

The above tokens (case sensitive) are reserved for use as keywords, and shall not be used otherwise (such as for identifiers).

2.2 Identifiers

Syntax

```
      Identifier
      ::=
      IdentifierNondigit , { IdentifierNondigit | Digit }
      identifier

      IdentifierNondigit
      ::=
      Nondigit | UniversalCharacterName

      Nondigit
      ::=
      ? lowercase or uppercase alphabet ? | '_'

      Digit
      ::=
      ? digit from 0 to 9 ?
```

Semantics

An identifier is a sequence of nondigit characters (which includes the underscore _, the lower and upper case Latin letters, and other characters) and digits, which designates one or more entities as described in subsection 1.2 – *Scopes of identifiers*.

2.3 Universal character names

Syntax

Semantics

Universal character names are used in identifiers, character constants and string literals to designate characters that are not in the basic character set.

2.4 Constants

Syntax

```
Constant ::= IntegerConstant | CharacterConstant constant
```

Semantics

Each constant has a type, determined by its form and value as described later.

2.4.1 Integer constants

Syntax

```
::= ( DecimalConstant | HexadecimalConstant |
    IntegerConstant
                                                                                 integer constant
                           OctalConstant ) , [ IntegerSuffix ]
    DecimalConstant
                          NonzeroDigit , { Digit }
                     ::=
                          '0', { OctalDigit }
      OctalConstant
                     ::=
HexadecimalConstant
                     ::= HexadecimalPrefix , HexadecimalDigit ,
                           { HexadecimalDigit }
                          '0x' | '0X'
  HexadecimalPrefix
                     ::=
       NonzeroDigit
                     := ? digit from 1 to 9?
          OctalDigit
                      := ? digit from 0 to 7?
   HexadecimalDigit
                      := ? digit from 0 to 9?
                          ? lowercase or uppercase alphabet from a to f?
                       UnsignedSuffix , [ LongLongSuffix | LongSuffix ]
        IntegerSuffix
                      ::=
                          ( LongLongSuffix | LongSuffix ) , [ UnsignedSuffix ]
                       'u' | 'U'
      UnsignedSuffix
                     ::=
          LongSuffix
                     ∷= '1' | 'L'
     LongLongSuffix
                     ::=
                          '11' | 'LL'
```

Semantics

An integer constant may have a prefix specifying its base and a suffix specifying its type.

The type of an integer constant is the first of the corresponding list in which its value can be represented:

2.5. STRING LITERALS

Suffix	Decimal Constant	Octal or Hexadecimal Constant
none	int long int long long int	<pre>int unsigned int long int unsigned long int long long int unsigned long long int</pre>
u or U	unsigned int unsigned long int unsigned long long int	unsigned int unsigned long int unsigned long long int
l or L	long int long long int	long int unsigned long int long long int unsigned long long int
Both u or U and l or L	unsigned long int unsigned long long int	unsigned long int unsigned long long int
ll or LL	long long int	long long int unsigned long long int
Both u or U and ll or LL	unsigned long long int	unsigned long long int

2.4.2 Character constants

Syntax

```
CharacterConstant ::= ''', CChar, '''
                                                                                      character constant
                   CChar
                           ∷= EscapeSequence
                                ? UTF-16 char ? - ( ''' | '\n' | '\' )
                            SimpleEscapeSequence | OctalEscapeSequence |
           EscapeSequence
                            ::=
                                Hexa decimal Escape Sequence \ | \ Universal Character Name
                                 '\' , ( ''' | '"' | '?' | '\' | 'a' | 'b' | 'f' |
     SimpleEscapeSequence
                                 'n' | 'r' | 't' | 'v' )
                                 '\' , OctalDigit , [ OctalDigit ] , [ OctalDigit ]
      OctalEscapeSequence
                            ::=
                                 '\x', HexadecimalDigit, { HexadecimalDigit }
HexadecimalEscapeSequence
```

2.5 String literals

```
StringLiteral ::= '"', [SCharSequence], '"'

SCharSequence ::= SChar, {SChar}

SChar ::= EscapeSequence
| ? UTF-16 char? - ('"' | '\n' | '\')
```

2.6. PUNCTUATORS 17

2.6 Punctuators

Syntax

```
Punctuator ::= '[' | ']' | '(' | ')' | '{' | '}' | '.' | '->' | punctuator

'++' | '--' | '&' | '*' | '+' | '-' | '?' | '!' |

'/' | '%' | '<<' | '>>' | '<' | '>' | '<=' | '>=' |

'==' | '!=' | '^' | '|' | '&&' | '||' | '?' | ':' |

';' | '...' | '=' | '*=' | '/=' | '%=' | '+=' | '-=' |

| '<<=' | '>>=' | '&=' | '^=' | '|=' | ',' | '#' |

'##' | '<:' | ':>' | '<%' | '%>' | '%:' | '%:':'
```

2.7 Comments

```
LongComment := '/*', { ? UTF-16 char ? - '*/' }, '*/' comment LineComment := '//', { ? UTF-16 char ? - '\n' } comment
```

3 EXPRESSIONS 18

3 Expressions

3.1 Primary expressions

Syntax

3.2 Postfix operators

Syntax

```
PostfixExpression ::= PrimaryExpression , { PostfixOp } postfix operators

PostfixOp ::= '[' , Expression , ']' array subscripting

| '(' , [ ArgumentExpressionList ] , ')' function call

| '.' , Identifier structure member

| '->' , Identifier structure member

| '++' | '--' postfix incr/decr

ArgumentExpressionList ::= AssignmentExpression ,

{ ',' , AssignmentExpression }
```

3.2.1 Array subscripting

Constraints

One of the expressions shall have type "pointer to object *type*", the other shall have integer type, and the result has type "*type*".

Semantics

The definition of the subscript operator [] is that E1[E2] is identical to (*(E1)+(E2))). As a consequence of the conversion rules that apply to the + operator, if E1 is an array object (equivalently, a pointer to the first element of an array) and E2 is an integer, E1[E2] designates the E2-th element of E1 (0-indexed).

3.2.2 Function calls

3.2.3 Structure members

3.2.4 Postfix increment and decrement operators

3.3 Unary operators

```
UnaryExpression
                 ::= PostfixExpression
                      '++', UnaryExpression
                                                                             prefix incr
                      '--' , UnaryExpression
                                                                             prefix decr
                     UnaryOperator , CastExpression
                                                                             unary operators
                      'sizeof' , '(' , TypeName , ')'
                                                                             sizeof operator
                      'sizeof', UnaryExpression
                                                                             sizeof operator
 UnaryOperator ∷=
                                                                             address operator
                                                                             indirection operator
                     ·+' | '-' | '~' | '!'
                                                                             unary arithmetic operators
```

3.4. CAST OPERATORS

```
3.3.1 Prefix increment and decrement operators
```

- 3.3.2 Address and indirection operators
- 3.3.3 Unary arithmetic operators
- 3.3.4 The size of operator

3.4 Cast operators

Syntax

```
CastExpression ::= UnaryExpression | '(', TypeName, ')', CastExpression | cast operator
```

3.5 Multiplicative operators

Syntax

3.6 Additive operators

Syntax

```
AdditiveExpression := MultiplicativeExpression , additive operators \{ ('+' | '-') , MultiplicativeExpression \}
```

3.7 Bitwise shift operators

Syntax

```
ShiftExpression := AdditiveExpression , bitwise shift operators \{ ('<<' | '>>' ) , AdditiveExpression \}
```

3.8 Relational operators

Syntax

3.9 Equality operators

Syntax

```
EqualityExpression := RelationalExpression, equality operators \{ ('==' | '!='), RelationalExpression \}
```

3.10 Bitwise AND operator

Syntax

```
ANDExpression ::= EqualityExpression , { '&' , EqualityExpression } bitwise AND operator
```

3.11 Bitwise exclusive OR operator

3.12 Bitwise inclusive OR operator

Syntax

3.13 Logical AND operator

Syntax

3.14 Logical OR operator

Syntax

 $\label{logicalORExpression} \begin{tabular}{ll} Logical OR Expression & & logical OR operator \\ & & & \{ \ ' \ | \ | \ ' \ , \ Logical AND Expression \ \} \end{tabular}$

3.15 Conditional operator

Syntax

ConditionalExpression := LogicalORExpression , conditional operator

['?' , Expression , ':' , ConditionalExpression]

3.16 Assignment operators

Syntax

AssignmentExpression ::= UnaryExpression , AssignmentOperator , assignment operators

AssignmentExpression

ConditionalExpression

AssignmentOperator ::= '=' simple assignment

'*=' | '/=' | '*=' | '-=' | '-=' | '>>=' | compound assignment

'*=' | '^=' | '|='

3.16.1 Simple assignment

3.16.2 Compound assignment

3.17 Comma operator

DRAFT 1

4 DECLARATIONS 21

4 Declarations

```
Syntax
```

4.1 Storage-class specifiers

Syntax

StorageClassSpecifier ::= 'typedef'

storage class specifier

4.2 Type specifiers

Syntax

```
TypeSpecifier ::= 'void' | 'char' | 'short' | 'int' | 'long' | 'signed' type specifiers | 'unsigned' | '_Bool' | StructOrUnionSpecifier
```

4.2.1 Structure specifiers

Syntax

```
'struct' , [ Identifier ] ,
StructOrUnionSpecifier
                                                                                            structure specifier
                              '{' , StructDeclarationList , '}'
                              'struct', Identifier
                                                                                            tags
 StructDeclarationList
                              StructDeclaration , { StructDeclaration }
                              SpecifierQualifierList , [ StructDeclaratorList ] , ';'
     StructDeclaration
                         ::=
                              ( TypeSpecifier | TypedefName ) ,
  SpecifierQualifierList
                         ::=
                              { TypeSpecifier | TypedefName }
                              StructDeclarator , { ',' , StructDeclarator }
   StructDeclaratorList
      StructDeclarator
                              Declarator
                         ::=
```

4.2.2 Tags

4.3 Declarators

Syntax

ParameterDeclaration

::=

```
Declarator
                          [ Pointer ] , DirectDeclarator
                                                                                   declarator
                          ( Identifier | ( '(', Declarator, ')')),
    DirectDeclarator
                     ::=
                           { DirectDeclaratorPart }
DirectDeclaratorPart
                           '[' , [ IntegerConstant ] , ']'
                                                                                   array declarator
                          '(' , [ ParameterList ] , ')'
                                                                                   function declarator
                       '*' , { '*' }
            Pointer
                     ::=
                                                                                   pointer declarator
      ParameterList
                     ::=
                          ParameterDeclaration,
                          { ',' , ParameterDeclaration }
```

DeclarationSpecifiers,

[Declarator | AbstractDeclarator]

4.4. TYPE NAMES

4.3.1 Pointer declarators

- 4.3.2 Array declarators
- 4.3.3 Function declarators

4.4 Type names

Syntax

4.5 Type definitions

Syntax

TypedefName ::= Identifier

type definition

4.6 Initialization

5 Statements and blocks

Syntax

```
Statement ::= CompoundStatement compound stmt
| ExpressionStatement expression stmt
| SelectionStatement selection stmt
| IterationStatement iteration stmt
| JumpStatement jump stmt
```

5.1 Compound statement

Syntax

```
CompoundStatement ::= '{' , [ BlockItemList ] , '}' compound stmt

BlockItemList ::= BlockItem , { BlockItem }

BlockItem ::= Statement
| Declaration
```

5.2 Expression and null statements

Syntax

```
ExpressionStatement ::= [ Expression ] , ';' expression stmt
```

5.3 Selection statements

Syntax

```
SelectionStatement ∷= 'if' , '(' , Expression , ')' , Statement , if stmt
[ 'else' , Statement ]
```

5.3.1 The if statement

5.4 Iteration statements

Syntax

- 5.4.1 The while statement
- 5.4.2 The do statement
- 5.4.3 The for statement

5.5 Jump statements

- 5.5.1 The continue statement
- 5.5.2 The break statement
- 5.5.3 The return statement

25

6 External Definitions

Syntax

```
TranslationUnit ::= ExternalDeclaration , { ExternalDeclaration } external definitions

ExternalDeclaration ::= FunctionDefinition

| Declaration
```

Constraints

Every identifier declared in a translation unit can have at most one external definition. Moreover, if such an identifier is used in an expression, then there shall be exactly one external definition for the identifier in the translation unit.

A translation unit must define a main function. The main function shall be defined with no parameters¹⁵ and a return type of int.

Forward declaration of functions are not supported. Functions must be defined prior to any code that references them. On the other hand, forward declaration of structs, such as to construct self-referential types, are supported in file scope.

```
void f(int); // ERROR: forward declaration of a function
void f(int a) {}

struct node {
  int value;
  struct node *next; // OK: forward declaration of struct node
};
```

Semantics

A translation unit is a sequence of external declarations. They are described as "external" as they appear outside any function. An external definition is an external declaration that is also a definition ¹⁶ of a function or an object.

6.1 Function definitions

Syntax

Constraints

The identifier declared in a function definition shall have function type.

The return type of a function shall be void or an object type other than array type.

The declaration specifiers shall not contain any storage-class specifiers.

The declaration of each parameter shall include an identifier, other than the special case where there is only a single parameter of type void to denote a function that has no parameters.

¹⁵argc and argv are not supported

¹⁶a declaration that causes memory to be reserved for an object or function

Semantics

The identifier for each parameter is an Ivalue and is effectively declared at the start of the compound statement constituting the function body. Therefore, these identifiers may not be redeclared in the function body except for in an enclosing block.

The layout of the storage for parameters is specified as such: the leftmost argument has address equal to the starting address of the stack frame, and memory allocation proceeds left to right with minimum padding added to ensure alignment.

On entry to the function, the value of each argument expression is converted to the type of the corresponding parameter as if by assignment.

After all parameters have been assigned, the function body is executed.

If the } that terminates a function is reached, the interpreter throws an error¹⁷. The only exception is in the case of the main function, in which case a value of 0 is returned.

6.2 External object definitions

Semantics

An external definition for an identifier is a declaration with initializer for an object with file scope.

Each identifier may only be declared once. *Tentative definitions* are not supported.

A declaration without an initializer for an object with file scope behaves as if an initializer exists and is equal to 0.

¹⁷functions returning void need to include a return statement as well

7 MEMORY MODEL 27

7 Memory Model

The memory available to a c-viz program is a contiguous sequence of bytes¹⁸, each of which has a unique 32-bit address. The lowest address is 0, and the highest address is INT_MAX.

7.1 Memory segmentation

The memory is divided into four non-overlapping segments: stack, heap, data, and text.

Attempting to access an address that falls outside of any of the segments causes a *segmentation fault* to be thrown.

Misaligned memory access throws an error.

7.2 Stack allocations

Unlike typical x86 architectures, stack memory grows upwards (addresses are allocated in increasing order).

The size of a stack frame is calculated by recursively scanning out all declarations made in the function body (and any blocks within).

No control-flow analysis is done to reduce the size of stack frames needed. As an example, consider the following code

```
if (...) {
   // block A
} else (...) {
   // block B
}
```

Let S_A and S_B denote the size of blocks A and B respectively. Then the resulting stack frame will be of size $S_F = p_0 + S_A + p_1 + S_B$ where p_i are sizes of padding bytes. A smarter allocation algorithm will only require $S_F = \max\{p_0 + S_A, p_1 + S_B\}$ bytes.

7.3 Heap allocations

The order and contiguity of storage allocated by successive calls to the malloc function is specified by a first-fit allocation algorithm.

The pointer returned by a successful allocation is suitably aligned so that it may be assigned to a pointer to any type of object. Specifically, the pointer contains an address with alignment MAX ALIGN¹⁹.

The lifetime of an allocated object extends from the allocation until the deallocation.

Pointers returned are guaranteed to point to disjoint objects and contain the starting address of the allocated memory. If allocation fails, a null pointer is returned.

If the size of memory requested is a non-positive integer, a null pointer is returned.

¹⁸backed by JavaScript's ArrayBuffer

¹⁹see Size and alignment

7.4. TEXT AND DATA 28

7.3.1 The malloc function

```
void *malloc(int size);
```

The malloc function allocates size bytes of memory of indeterminate value.

The malloc function returns a pointer to the allocated memory if allocation was successful, and a null pointer otherwise.

7.3.2 The free function

```
void free(void *ptr);
```

The free function deallocates the memory pointed to by ptr.

If the ptr argument²⁰ does not match a pointer earlier returned by the malloc function, the interpreter throws a "free on address not returned by malloc" error.

7.4 Text and data

The text segment is read-only and is the only segment that can be executed.

7.5 Additional runtime data structures

7.5.1 EffectiveTypeTable

7.5.2 InitializedTable

 $^{^{20} \}mathrm{including}$ the case where ptr is a null pointer

8 OPERATIONAL SEMANTICS

8 Operational Semantics

- 8.1 Runtime
- 8.1.1 Control
- 8.1.2 Stash
- 8.1.3 Memory
- 8.1.4 Symbol table
- 8.2 Instructions
- 8.3 Semantics

A Language Syntax Summary

Refer to section - *Introduction* for an explanation of the notation used.

A.1 Lexical Grammar

```
Token
                         ::=
                              Keyword | Identifier | Constant
                                                                                      token
                              StringLiteral | Punctuator
                              { WhiteSpace | LongComment | LineComment }
                                                                                      token separator
                              '_' | '\n' | '\r' | '\t' | '\u000b' | '\f'
            WhiteSpace
         LongComment
                              '/*' , { ? UTF-16 char ? - '*/' } , '*/'
                         ::=
                                                                                      comment
                              '//' , { ? UTF-16 char ? - '\n' }
          LineComment
                         ::=
                                                                                      comment
               Keyword
                              'auto' | 'break' | 'case' | 'char' | 'const' |
                                                                                      keyword
                              'continue' | 'default' | 'do' | 'double' | 'else'
                              | 'enum' | 'extern' | 'float' | 'for' | 'goto' |
                              'if' | 'inline' | 'int' | 'long' | 'register' |
                              'restrict' | 'return' | 'short' | 'signed' |
                              'sizeof' | 'static' | 'struct' | 'switch' |
                              'typedef' | 'union' | 'unsigned' | 'void' |
                              'volatile' | 'while' | '_Alignas' | '_Alignof' |
                              '_Atomic' | '_Bool' | '_Complex' | '_Generic' |
                              '_Imaginary' | '_Noreturn' | '_Static_assert' |
                              '_Thread_local'
              Identifier
                              IdentifierNondigit , { IdentifierNondigit | Digit }
                                                                                      identifier
                              Nondigit | UniversalCharacterName
      IdentifierNondigit
                         ::=
               Nondigit
                              ? lowercase or uppercase alphabet ? | '_'
                              ? digit from 0 to 9?
                  Digit
                         ::=
UniversalCharacterName
                              '\u', HexQuad
                                                                                      universal character name
                         ::=
                              '\U', HexQuad, HexQuad
                           HexadecimalDigit, HexadecimalDigit,
              HexQuad
                         ::=
                              HexadecimalDigit, HexadecimalDigit
                              IntegerConstant | CharacterConstant
              Constant
                                                                                      constant
                         ::=
        IntegerConstant
                              ( DecimalConstant | HexadecimalConstant |
                         ::=
                                                                                      integer constant
                              OctalConstant ) , [ IntegerSuffix ]
       DecimalConstant
                              NonzeroDigit , { Digit }
                         ::=
         OctalConstant
                              '0', { OctalDigit }
                         ::=
                              HexadecimalPrefix , HexadecimalDigit ,
   HexadecimalConstant
                              { HexadecimalDigit }
                              '0x' | '0X'
      HexadecimalPrefix
          NonzeroDigit
                             ? digit from 1 to 9?
             OctalDigit
                         := ? digit from 0 to 7?
      HexadecimalDigit
                         ::=
                              ? digit from 0 to 9?
                              ? lowercase or uppercase alphabet from a to f?
                              UnsignedSuffix , [ LongLongSuffix | LongSuffix ]
           IntegerSuffix
                         ::=
                              ( LongLongSuffix | LongSuffix ) , [ UnsignedSuffix ]
                           'u' | 'U'
         UnsignedSuffix
                         ::=
             LongSuffix
                              '1' | 'L'
                         ::=
        LongLongSuffix
                              '11' | 'LL'
                         ::=
```

A.2. EXPRESSIONS 31

```
∷= ''' , CChar , '''
        CharacterConstant
                                                                                      character constant
                   CChar
                            ::=
                                EscapeSequence
                                ? UTF-16 char? - ( ''' | '\n' | '\' )
                            SimpleEscapeSequence | OctalEscapeSequence |
           EscapeSequence
                            ::=
                                 HexadecimalEscapeSequence | UniversalCharacterName
                                 '\' , ( ''' | '"' | '?' | '\' | 'a' | 'b' | 'f' |
     SimpleEscapeSequence
                                 'n' | 'r' | 't' | 'v' )
      OctalEscapeSequence
                                 '\' , OctalDigit , [ OctalDigit ] , [ OctalDigit ]
                                 '\x', HexadecimalDigit, { HexadecimalDigit }
HexadecimalEscapeSequence
                                 '"' , [ SCharSequence ] , '"'
              StringLiteral
                            ::=
                                                                                      string literal
            SCharSequence
                                SChar, { SChar }
                           ::=
                    SChar
                                EscapeSequence
                           ::=
                                ? UTF-16 char ? - ( '"' | '\n' | '\' )
                                '[' | ']' | '(' | ')' | '{' | '}' | '.' | '->' |
                Punctuator
                                                                                      punctuator
                           ::=
                                 '++' | '--' | '&' | '*' | '+' | '-' | '~' | '!' |
                                 '/' | '%' | '<<' | '>>' | '<' | '>' | '<=' | '>=' |
                                 '==' | '!=' | '^' | '|' | '&&' | '||' | '?' | ':' |
                                 ';'|'...'|'='|'*='|'/='|'%='|'+='|'-='
                                | '<<=' | '>>=' | '&=' | '^=' | '|=' | ',' | '#' |
                                 '##' | '<:' | ':>' | '<%' | '%>' | '%:' | '%:%:'
```

A.2 Expressions

```
PrimaryExpression
                              Identifier
                                                                                       primary expr
                              Constant
                              StringLiteral
                              '(' , Expression , ')'
                                                                                       parenthesized expr
                              PrimaryExpression , { PostfixOp }
      PostfixExpression
                                                                                       postfix operators
                              '[' , Expression , ']'
             PostfixOp
                                                                                       array subscripting
                              '(' , [ ArgumentExpressionList ] , ')'
                                                                                       function call
                              '.', Identifier
                                                                                       structure member
                              '->' , Identifier
                                                                                       structure member
                              '++' | '--'
                                                                                       postfix incr/decr
ArgumentExpressionList
                              AssignmentExpression,
                         ::=
                              { ',' , AssignmentExpression }
       UnaryExpression
                         ::=
                              PostfixExpression
                              '++', UnaryExpression
                                                                                       prefix incr
                              '--', UnaryExpression
                                                                                       prefix decr
                              UnaryOperator , CastExpression
                                                                                       unary operators
                              'sizeof' , '(' , TypeName , ')'
                                                                                       sizeof operator
                              'sizeof', UnaryExpression
                                                                                       sizeof operator
                                                                                       address operator
        UnaryOperator
                              ' * <sup>'</sup>
                                                                                       indirection operator
                              '+' | '-' | '~' | '!'
                                                                                       unary arithmetic operators
                             UnaryExpression
        CastExpression
                         ::=
                              '(' , TypeName , ')' , CastExpression
                          cast operator
MultiplicativeExpression
                              CastExpression,
                         ::=
                                                                                       multiplicative operators
                              { ( '*' | '/' | '%' ) , CastExpression }
```

A.3. DECLARATIONS 32

```
AdditiveExpression
                            MultiplicativeExpression,
                                                                                     additive operators
                            { ( '+' | '-' ) , MultiplicativeExpression }
                            AdditiveExpression ,
      ShiftExpression
                                                                                     bitwise shift operators
                       ::=
                            { ( '<<' | '>>' ) , AdditiveExpression }
  RelationalExpression
                            ShiftExpression,
                                                                                     relational operators
                       ::=
                            { ( '<' | '>' | '<=' | '>=' ) , ShiftExpression }
   EqualityExpression
                       ::=
                            RelationalExpression,
                                                                                     equality operators
                            { ( '==' | '!=' ) , RelationalExpression }
                            EqualityExpression , { '&' , EqualityExpression }
      ANDExpression
                       ::=
                                                                                     bitwise AND operator
                            ANDExpression , { '^' , ANDExpression }
ExclusiveORExpression
                                                                                     bitwise XOR operator
                       ::=
InclusiveORExpression
                            ExclusiveORExpression ,
                                                                                     bitwise OR operator
                       ::=
                            { '|' , ExclusiveORExpression }
LogicalANDExpression
                            InclusiveORExpression ,
                                                                                     logical AND operator
                       ::=
                            { '&&' , InclusiveORExpression }
                            LogicalANDExpression,
 LogicalORExpression
                                                                                     logical OR operator
                       ::=
                            { '||' , LogicalANDExpression }
ConditionalExpression
                            LogicalORExpression,
                       ::=
                                                                                     conditional operator
                            [ '?' , Expression , ':' , ConditionalExpression ]
                            UnaryExpression , AssignmentOperator ,
AssignmentExpression
                                                                                     assignment operators
                            AssignmentExpression
                         ConditionalExpression
 AssignmentOperator
                                                                                     simple assignment
                        ::=
                            '*=' | '/=' | '%=' | '+=' | '-=' | '<<=' | '>>=' |
                                                                                     compound assignment
                            '&=' | '^=' | '|='
           Expression
                            AssignmentExpression,
                                                                                     comma operator
                            { ',' , AssignmentExpression }
```

A.3 Declarations

```
DeclarationSpecifiers , [ InitDeclaratorList ] , ';'
                                                                                            declaration
           Declaration
                         ::=
                              ( StorageClassSpecifier | TypeSpecifier | TypedefName ) ,
  DeclarationSpecifiers
                         ::=
                              { StorageClassSpecifier | TypeSpecifier | TypedefName }
     InitDeclaratorList
                         ::=
                              InitDeclarator , { ',' , InitDeclarator }
                              Declarator , [ '=' , Initializer ]
         InitDeclarator
                         ::=
 StorageClassSpecifier
                              'typedef'
                         ::=
                                                                                            storage class specifier
                              'void' | 'char' | 'short' | 'int' | 'long' | 'signed'
         TypeSpecifier
                         ::=
                                                                                            type specifiers
                              'unsigned' | '_Bool' | StructOrUnionSpecifier
StructOrUnionSpecifier
                              'struct' , [ Identifier ] ,
                                                                                            structure specifier
                         ::=
                              '{' , StructDeclarationList , '}'
                              'struct', Identifier
                                                                                            tags
                              StructDeclaration , { StructDeclaration }
 StructDeclarationList
                         ::=
     StructDeclaration
                              SpecifierQualifierList , [ StructDeclaratorList ] , ';'
                         ::=
  SpecifierQualifierList
                         ::=
                              ( TypeSpecifier | TypedefName ) ,
                              { TypeSpecifier | TypedefName }
                              StructDeclarator , { ',' , StructDeclarator }
   StructDeclaratorList
                         ::=
      StructDeclarator
                         ::=
                              Declarator
```

A.4. STATEMENTS 33

```
[ Pointer ] , DirectDeclarator
             Declarator
                        ::=
                                                                                    declarator
       DirectDeclarator
                              ( Identifier | ( '(' , Declarator , ')' ) ) ,
                        ::=
                              { DirectDeclaratorPart }
                              '[' , [ IntegerConstant ] , ']'
   DirectDeclaratorPart
                                                                                    array declarator
                        ::=
                              '(' , [ ParameterList ] , ')'
                                                                                    function declarator
                              '*' , { '*' }
                                                                                    pointer declarator
                Pointer
          ParameterList

    □ ParameterDeclaration ,

                              { ',' , ParameterDeclaration }
                             DeclarationSpecifiers,
  ParameterDeclaration
                              [ Declarator | AbstractDeclarator ]
            TypeName
                             SpecifierQualifierList , [ AbstractDeclarator ]
                         ::=
                                                                                    type name
                             [ Pointer ] , DirectAbstractDeclarator
     AbstractDeclarator
                          Pointer
DirectAbstractDeclarator
                              '(', AbstractDeclarator, ')'
                             ['(', AbstractDeclarator, ')'],
                              ( '[' , [ IntegerConstant ] , ']' |
                              '(' , [ ParameterList ] , ')' ) ,
                              { '[' , [ IntegerConstant ] , ']' |
                              '(' , [ ParameterList ] , ')' }
                             Identifier
          TypedefName
                                                                                    type definition
              Initializer
                         ∷= AssignmentExpression
                                                                                    initialization
                             '{' , InitializerList , [ ',' ] , '}'
                          ∷= [ Designation ] , Initializer ,
          InitializerList
                              { ',' , [ Designation ] , Initializer }
           Designation
                         ::=
                             DesignatorList , '='
         DesignatorList
                         ::=
                             Designator , { Designator }
                              '[' , IntegerConstant , ']'
            Designator
                         ::=
                              '.', Identifier
      A.4
            Statements
             Statement
                        ::=
                             CompoundStatement
                                                                                    compound stmt
                             ExpressionStatement
                                                                                    expression stmt
                             SelectionStatement
                                                                                    selection stmt
                             IterationStatement
                                                                                    iteration stmt
                             JumpStatement
                                                                                    jump stmt
                                                                                    compound stmt
  CompoundStatement
                             '{' , [ BlockItemList ] , '}'
                             BlockItem , { BlockItem }
          BlockItemList
                        ::=
             BlockItem
                             Statement
                        ::=
                             Declaration
                          [ Expression ] , ';'
   ExpressionStatement
                                                                                    expression stmt
                        ::=
     SelectionStatement
                             'if', '(', Expression, ')', Statement,
                                                                                    if stmt
                        ::=
                             ['else', Statement]
                              'while', '(', Expression, ')', Statement
     IterationStatement
                                                                                    while stmt
                              'do', Statement,
                                                                                    do stmt
                              'while' , '(' , Expression , ')' , ';'
                              'for' , '(' , [ Expression ] , ';' ,
                                                                                    for stmt
                                             [ Expression ] , ';'
                                             [ Expression ] , ')' , Statement
```

34

```
JumpStatement ::= 'continue' , ';' continue stmt
| 'break' , ';' break stmt
| 'return' , [ Expression ] , ';' return stmt
```

A.5 External Definitions