Intro to C Programming

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The C Programming Language

General purpose procedural language

Everything from <1kB micros to huge desktop applications

Allows relatively low-level machine interaction

Second only to assembly

No built-in dynamic memory management

So Why C?

- Universal
 - Tools exist for nearly every platform
- Control
 - Code size vs. performance
 - Variable and function locations in memory
- Performance
 - Can be very high

Why You Should MASTER C

It is *the* language of embedded programming (currently)

 Most of you will be asked to write C professionally at some point

Small microcontrollers are ridiculously cheap and are replacing basic digital logic everywhere

 These require people programming them and doing so safely and efficiently

Several more powerful languages are based heavily on it: see C++, C#, Objective-C, Go

Embedded C

Not really a different language

There is a standard for it, but nobody cares

Unofficial extensions of C

- Extensions for better memory control
- Support for function calls that don't require preservation
- More specific datatypes
 - Fractional

Hello World

```
// Include components from other files
#include "stdio.h"

// Declare "global" variables
int a_number;

// This will be the entry point of your program
int main(void){
        // Assign a value
        a_number = 15;
        // Print with a pointless substitution
        printf("Hello World - %d\n", a_number);
        // Return
        return 0;
}
```

Flow Control in C

```
uint fast8 t i;
for(i = 0; i < 25; i++){
    // Do something 25 times, incrementing the variable 'i' each time
if(i == 25){
    // Do something if i == 25
    // This would occur only if the for loop executed completely
} else if(i == 24) {
    // Do something else
} else {
    // Something CRAZY
while(i){
    // Now just run i back down to 0
    // Conditioning on an integer check for equality with 0
    i -= 1; // or i--
}
do {
    // Do this at least once, but guarantee that i <= 25 afterwards
} while(++i < 25)</pre>
```

Types -- Integer

```
// Platform dependent length, usually signed
int i;
// An 8-bit also usually-signed value
char c:
//////
// Generally for embedded applications, DON'T USE THOSE AS NUMBERS
// -- char is still fine for text
//////
// Include a set of better-defined integers
#include "stdint.h"
// Unsigned 32-bit integer
uint32 t u;
// Signed 32-bit integer
int32 t s;
// Fastest unsigned integer of at least 32 bits
uint fast32 t f;
// Literal options for these are numeric types in decimal or hex and also ASCII
// characters in single quotes 'a', 'b', or escaped values like newline '\n'
```

Types -- Floating point

```
// 32-bit IEEE754 single-precision float
float f = 0.0;

// 64-bit IEEE754 double-precision float
double d = 0.0;
```

Don't usually try comparing for equality

- Rounding errors will likely get you
- Compare for a range instead

```
// Don't:
if(f == 2.4)
...
// Do:
if((f < 2.41) && (f > 2.39))
```

Types -- Enumerated

- Enumerated types hold a fixed number of values
 - Natural application is state machines
 - Internally, they are integers and can be used as such

Types -- Aggregate

```
typedef struct {
    uint8 t age;
    char name[32];
} person t;
// Old-style initialization
person t ben = {65, "Ben"};
// C99-style initialization
person t ben = {.name = "Ben", .age = 65};
// Bitfields!
typedef struct {
    uint32 t packet length : 5; // Original type must be larger than field
    uint32 t packet id : 16;
    enum {
         TYPE DATA = 0,
         TYPE SYNC = 1
    } packet type
                  : 3;
    uint32 t little data : 8;
} header t;
// The total size of the above is only 32 bits
```

Pointers

```
typedef struct {
    uint8 t age;
    char name[32];
} person t;
person t ben;
person t * ben ptr = &ben; // Pointer to ben
ben.age = 65; // Assignment to structure value
ben ptr->age = 65; // Assignment to structure value through a pointer
void print person(person t * person){
    printf("%s is %d years old\n", person->name, person->age);
    // Could also modify person as needed here and caller would see that
// Call a function with a pointer argument
print person(&ben);
// Or equivalently
print_person(ben_ptr);
```

Null Pointers

A pointer to the address 0 is called a *null* pointer

- This usually is to indicate that there is nothing there
- Reading from or writing to there will result in an error
 - Segfault on PC, HardFault on ARM

Linked lists use null pointers to mark end

Arrays

```
char name[32]; // 32 char values in memory, presumably 0-terminated
               // AKA a string...
// The symbol name is now of type (char []) pointing at the first element
// This is the same as (char * const) but with the bonus of having a known length
// Function that takes an array argument
void cut string(char * str, char cut at){
    char * iter = str:
    while(*iter != 0){
         if(*iter == cut at){
              *iter = 0;
              break;
         iter += 1; // Or iter++
// To assign multiple values, must be done at initialization
char last name[] = "Nahill"; // Length doesn't need to be provided in this case
// Otherwise assign one element at a time
last name[0] = 'M';
```

Pointer Arithmetic

Casting -- Numeric types

```
int32_t some_int;
float some_float;

// Lets say we want to convert a float between -1 and 1 to the full range of a

// 32-bit integer

// INT32_MAX provided from stdint.h
some_int = (int32_t)(some_float * INT32_MAX);

// And reversing the result...
some_float = ((float)some_int) * (1 / INT32_MAX);

// Always avoid division where possible...
```

In this case, a conversion is performed in the casting. For other casting cases, this doesn't happen.

Casting -- Pointer types

```
// Type safety hazard! Continue at your own risk!
// Otherwise extraordinarily useful for effective generic programming
typedef struct {
    void (*callback)(void *);
    void * pointer arg;
} action t;
void a callback(void * device){
    // Pretend that void pointer is a different kind of pointer (but of same
size)
     ((SPI TypeDef *)device)->DR = 0;
}
action_t spi_action = {
     .callback = a callback,
     .pointer arg = SPI1
};
void run callback(action t * action){
    action->callback(action->pointer arg);
}
```

Unions

```
// An alternative to casting among a small set of types
// Define a set of types sharing the same space in memory
union {
    uint32 t a big int;
    uint8 t smaller numbers[4];
} more flexible int;
more flexible int.a big int = 5000;
// If we need to send this byte-by-byte
int i;
for(i = 0; i < 4; i++){
    transmit(more flexible int.smaller numbers[i]);
// Anonymous unions -- If no name is given, allow the internal name to be
identifier
union { uint32 t big, uint8 t smaller[4] };
big = 25;
smaller[0] = 1;
```

Type Definitions

```
// Introduce "struct person" as a type
struct person {
    uint8_t age;
};
// Give it a nicer alias, "person t"
typedef struct person person_t;
// Create a person
struct person person1;
// Create another one
person t person2;
// For linked list:
typedef struct person_l1 {
    uint8 t age;
    struct person_ll * next;
} person ll t;
// person t isn't available at the time that it is needed so use intermediate
// struct type
```

Arithmetic Operators

```
uint32 t a, b, c;
a = b + c; a = b - c; a = b * c; a = b / c;
// Operations round down. If you want real rounding, cast to float and add 0.5
a++; // Evaluate a, then increment it (post-increment)
++a; // Increment a, then evaluate it (pre-increment)
a += 1;
a *= 10;
a /= 25;
a >>= 2; // Shifts will sign-extend if necessary
a <<= 1;
// Comparison:
a > b;
a >= b;
```

Bitwise Operators

```
uint32_t a, b, c;

// AND OR XOR NOT
a = b & c; a = b | c; a = b ^ c; a = ~b;

// Clear all but 2 LSbs
a &= 0x03;

// Set MSb
b |= 0x80000000;

// Clear MSb
b &= ~0x80000000;
```

Logical Operators

```
// AND
if(a && b) // Both a and b must evaluate to true (non-zero usually)
if(a || b) // Either a or b evaluates to true
if(!a || b) // Either (not a) or b
```

C Preprocessor

Preprocessor does a simple find/replace before compilation happens

C Compilation Process

```
src/ (Your original source files
main.c
accelerometer.c
startup.s
build/ ("object files", Keil might suffix these ".obj")
main.o
accelerometer.o
startup.o
final_exectuable.axf (or .elf, .hex, .coff)
```

Each object built independent of all other objects

All shared information must be in header files, including types, function prototypes, constants, and global variables.

C Compilation Process - Step 1: The Preprocessor

This occurs on a per-C-file basis

- All of the find/replace operations occur
- Additional 'defines' may be provided by command line
- Basic syntax errors that prevent parsing will cause immediate failure

C Compilation Process - Step 2: Object Compilation

Compile each C file to assembly (still on a per-C-file basis) then assemble it

- Optimization will be performed here if requested
- Global symbols (functions/variables) will be given a space in the file's global symbol table
- Local symbols will be in a separate table

C Compilation Process - Step 2b: Static Libraries

If creating a static library (.a or .lib), the process stops here

- That .a or .lib file is just an archive of object files
- A header file indicates the public interface to symbols defined therein

Static libraries can be good for isolating functional units, possibly with different compilation options (see CMSIS-DSP)

C Compilation Process - Step 3: Linking

Assign symbols to locations in memories, replace symbols with correct locations in code

- Only at this stage will your files have any real interaction
- Symbols that aren't actually defined will now throw errors
- You may also get errors about certain variables or functions not having a place

C Compilation Process - Symbols?

In a symbol table, each symbol is listed by name along with requirements:

- Size
- Specific place in memory if required
- More generic place otherwise
 - Executable? Constant?
- Does it require runtime initialization?

Global symbols must be unique Local symbol names never leave the file

Variable Allocation -- Stack

Memory through levels of function calls uses a stack:

```
void one_function(){
    uint32_t one_var;
    ...
}

void another_function(){
    uint32_t another_var;
    one_function();
}

void yet_another_function(){
    uint32_t yet_another_var;
    another_function();
}
```

```
STACK:
<-Stack pointer before first call
[yet_another_var]
[other info preserved from yet_another...]
[another_var]
[other info preserved from another_function]
[one_var (could also just be in a reg)]
<-Current stack pointer
```

A consequence of this is that a function can be called many times inside itself new *uninitialized* variables will be allocated as needed.

Variable Allocation -- Static

If you need persistent information for a function across calls, declare the variable *static*.

```
uint32_t count(){
    static uint32_t counter = 0;
    return counter++;
}
```

The initialization will be done at startup and never again, but that variable won't be visible outside the function.

Variable Allocation -- Dynamic

Use a heap to allocate memory at run time

```
// Try to allocate the space for a person
person_t * person = (person_t *)malloc(sizeof(person));

// If unsuccessful, the result will be null
if(person){
    // Then you have to free it
    free(person);
}

// C doesn't have garbage collection so you have to free stuff
```

Don't do this unless you have to! There is no reason for anyone to have to do this in this class!

The Other 'Static'

The *static* keyword at the top-level means simply that the variable or function is local to the file

```
static void some_internal_function(void){
}
```

This is useful for small helper functions to enforce that they are only used locally.

In more complex applications, it keeps from cluttering the final symbol table.

Other Important Keywords -- extern

Extern indicates that the compiler should assume that this variable exists and will be found later by the linker.

```
// In accelerometer.c
acc_t some_accelerometer = {
    ....
};

// In accelerometer.h
extern acc_t some_accelerometer;
```

Now anyone including accelerometer.h knows about some_accelerometer and can use it.

Other Important Keywords -- const

const indicates that an item is constant

- This allows for optimization
- This enforces safety and documentation
- This confuses people

const refers to the type to its left unless there is nothing to its left, else right

```
const int i; // A constant integer
int const * i; // A pointer to a constant integer
int * const i; // A constant pointer to an integer
int const * const i; // A constant pointer to a constant integer
```

Wherever possible, use this instead of macros!

More on const

If your function doesn't intend to modify its pointer arguments, make them const:

```
// Example from standard library
char *strcpy(char *dest, const char *src);
// The contents of the string src aren't being modified so let the compiler know
// that.
```

Other Important Keywords -- volatile

Opposite of const

 Assume this might change outside the normal program flow and always re-read it

Example: A memory-mapped GPIO port

```
typedef struct {
    uint32_t ODR;
    uint32_t IDR;
    ....
} GPIO_TypeDef;

GPIO_TypeDef volatile * const GPIOA = (GPIO_TypeDef volatile *)0x4000010;
// (or whatever the address is)

// This is a constant pointer now to a structure that is assumed to be able to
// change outside of the normal program flow

// Unfortunately stupid ST uses #define instead to declare these things
```

Other Important Keywords -- inline

This is a hint to the compiler that it should inline a function where possible

- Like a macro function but with some type safety
 - Type safety is a good thing for making sure you don't do anything stupid so use it
 - Exception: when polymorphism is required

OO Design

Can create "classes" and "methods"

```
// In person.h
typedef struct {
     uint8 t age;
     char name[32];
} person_t;
// In person.c
#define MAX AGE 115
void person init(person_t *person, uint8_t age, char *name){
     person->age = age;
     strcpy(person->name, name);
// Some "private" method, called only from "person.c"
static void person set age(person t *person, uint8 t age){
     person->age = age;
}
// Static method
uint8_t person_get_max_age(){
     return MAX AGE;
```

It's just not quite as pretty as in true OO languages.

Style Guide

- Style and consistency are important
 - Code must be readable (to others too)
 - Variables and functions should have obvious names
 - Modular design will make your life easier
- Many details and areas of personal preference
 - Module breakdown
 - Function and variable name schemes
 - Indentation and brackets
 - Documentation style

Modularity

Generally:

- One C file per 'module'
- Module is a self contained unit with its own functions, datatypes, and/or variables with a welldefined API.
- Examples: spi.c, uart.c, lis302dl.c, framebuffer.c

Each module has private functionality and public functions

 ONLY THE PUBLIC ONES GO IN THE HEADER FILE

Modularity (example)

```
// lis302dl.h
// Multiple-include guard
#ifndef LIS302DL H
#define LIS302DL H
// Comments
typedef struct {
     SPI TypeDef * const spi;
     reading t current reading;
     GPIO TypeDef * const nss gpio;
                   const nss mask;
     uint32 t
} lis302dl t;
// Declare that we are going to have an instance of this accelerometer
extern lis302dl t acc1;
/*!
 @brief Initialize an LIS302DL accelerometer
 @param, @return ..
 */
uint fast8 t lis302dl init(lis302dl t * acc);
// More comments
uint fast8 t lis302dl read(lis302dl t * acc, reading t * reading);
#endif // LIS302DL H
```

Modularity (example cont'd)

```
// lis302dl.c
#include "lis302dl.h"
// Declare private functions
/*!
@brief Read from the LIS302DL using SPI bus
@param ....
@return
 */
static uint fast8 t lis302dl spi read(lis302dl t * acc, uint8 t addr,
                                      uint8 t * buff, uint8 t num bytes);
lis302dl t acc1 = \{...\};
uint fast8 t lis302dl init(lis302dl t * acc){...}
uint fast8 t lis302dl read(lis302dl_t * acc, reading_t * reading){...}
static uint fast8 t lis302dl spi read(lis302dl t * acc, uint8 t addr,
                                      uint8 t * buff, uint8 t num bytes){...}
```

Modularity (main.c)

- Main.c is generally the entry point for your program
 - It has no public interface (eg. no main.h)
 - Logically, including main.h doesn't make sense
- Sometimes you may need global parameters
 - Don't belong logically in any one module
 - Global flags and constants
 - I suggest "common.h", or "yourapp.h"

Modularity (Naming Conventions)

- C has only one namespace:
 - Within a module, should prefix all symbols with a module identifier
 - Enum labels are visible everywhere that includes them so they MUST have unique names
 - enum {LIS302_ST_ON, LIS302_ST_OFF}
 - Or keep them contained in the C file only
- Common naming scheme makes it easy to guess a function name in absence of a nice autocomplete IDE

Indentation

- MANY ways to deal with this
 - Big argument -- tabs vs spaces
 - Tabs aren't same size on all machines
 - Spaces are a pain to deal with
- If working on a project already well established:
 - Follow their convention. Don't mess it up.
- If starting a new projects:
 - Tabs for indentation, spaces for alignment

```
while(1){
TAB|if(some_condition | some_other_condition |
TAB| another_condition | more_conditions){ // Align the beginning of this
TAB|TAB|//Some stuff that may happen conditionally
TAB|TAB|
TAB|}
```

Documentation Style

- Whatever your style, you must document
 - We read your code and want to know what happened
 - If we have to go through each line to figure out what's going on, you will be penalized
- I recommend Doxygen
 - Structured, human readable
 - Also machine readable for automatically generated documentation
 - Bosses really like this part => valuable skill
 - Don't worry about generating documents for us

Doxygen

```
/*!
@file spi.h
@brief This is the public interface for a SPI driver
// This part is for the automatic documentation generator
//! @addtogroup SPI
//! @{
/*!
@brief Initialize a SPI driver
@param spi The SPI driver
@return 0 if successful
@pre GPIO clocks must be enabled
@post SPI will be setup
 This is some longer documentation string about what this function does
 */
uint fast8 t spi init(spi t * spi);
//! This is a driver for SPI1
extern spi_t spi1;
//! @} // SPI
```

Documentation

- Documentation goes with the prototype
 - All public interface documentation in header
 - That documentation is for the person looking to call it
 - Doesn't want to look at the inner workings
 - Static (private) function documentation goes with the prototype at the top of the C file
- Break declarations up into sections
 - Makes it easy to find what you want in your file
 - Example ->

Documentation (Example)

```
/*!
@file lis302dl.c
Some header documentation
*/
// Includes
// Private defines
// Private type definitions
// Public variables
// Private variables
// Private function prototypes
// Function bodies
```

Libraries for STM32F4

ST and ARM both offer libraries to ease your development process

- ARM CMSIS
 - Collection of support for Cortex-M series processors
 - Includes CMSIS DSP library
- ST STM32F4 Peripheral Library
 - Simple abstraction for peripherals on STM32F4
 - Not great as abstraction since you still need to know the peripherals well
 - Real value is in examples

CMSIS Core

- Helper functions to use architecture-specific and SIMD instructions
 - __disable_irq(), __enable_irq()
- Well documented using Doxygen
- SysTick
 - A very simple periodic timer intended as a scheduler tick
- Cross-toolchain support
 - Inline assembly isn't exactly a standard...

CMSIS DSP

- A powerful DSP library supporting many different types for many operations
- Highly optimized for each processor
- Link

STM32F4-Discovery

An integrated STM32F4 development platform

- Integrated SWD debugger
 - Lightweight alternative to JTAG
 - Just for ARM stuff
- Pushbutton, accelerometer, audio DAC, USB OTG, 4 LEDs



Documentation

- STM32F4-Discovery User Guide
 - Schematics and port maps for board
- STM32F4 Family Reference Manual
 - Peripheral documentation
- STM32F40x Datasheet
 - Interrupt vector mapping
 - Pin mapping (some overlap with Discovery doc)
- STM32F4-Discovery Library
 - Example applications for your exact hardware
 - Accelerometer, audio DAC drivers
- STM32F4 Peripheral Library
 - Lots of examples

Lab 2

- Introduction to real hardware!
 - & debugging...
- Basic hardware configuration
- Use of the ADC to sample a voltage
- Use of timer to provide regular sampling interval
 - Basic interrupt handling
- Use of GPIO pins

STM32 Peripherals / RCC

- Uses clock gating for low power
 - Must first enable power to a peripheral before use

```
void RCC_AHB1PeriphClockCmd(uint32_t RCC_AHB1Periph, FunctionalState NewState);
void RCC_AHB2PeriphClockCmd(uint32_t RCC_AHB2Periph, FunctionalState NewState);
void RCC_AHB3PeriphClockCmd(uint32_t RCC_AHB3Periph, FunctionalState NewState);
void RCC_APB1PeriphClockCmd(uint32_t RCC_APB1Periph, FunctionalState NewState);
void RCC_APB2PeriphClockCmd(uint32_t RCC_APB2Periph, FunctionalState NewState);
// ex: Enable the clock for the GPIOA port
// This will allow use of the GPIO pins in bank A (PAO, PA1, ....)
RCC_AHB1PeriphClockCmd(RCC_AHB1Periph_GPIOA, ENABLE);
```

Check stm32f4xx_rcc.h for more peripheral names

GPIO w/ ST Peripheral Library

```
typedef struct{
 uint32 t GPIO Pin;
                              // Pin mask -- these are the pins to configure
 GPIOMode TypeDef GPIO Mode; // The GPIO mode (in, out, alternate, analog)
 GPIOSpeed TypeDef GPIO Speed; // The maximum slew rate of the pin
 GPIOOType TypeDef GPIO OType; // Push-pull, open-drain
 GPIOPuPd TypeDef GPIO PuPd; // Normal, weak pull-up/down
}GPIO InitTypeDef;
// Ex:
GPIO InitTypeDef gpio init s;
GPIO StructInit(&gpio init s);
gpio init s.GPIO Pin = 1 << 4;</pre>
                                        // Select pin 4
gpio init s.GPIO Speed = GPIO Speed 100MHz; // Don't limit slew rate
gpio init s.GPIO OType = GPIO OType PP;  // Push-pull
gpio init s.GPIO PuPd = GPIO PuPd NOPULL // Not input, don't pull
// Actually configure that pin
GPIO Init (GPIOA, &gpio init s);
// Write a 1
GPIOA->ODR \mid = 1 << 4;
GPIOA->BSRRL = 1 << 4;
// Write a 0
GPIOA->ODR &= \sim (1 << 4);
GPIOA->BSRRH = 1 << 4;
// Read at GPIOA->IDR & (1 << 4)
```

SysTick Timer

- Basic interval timer for providing consistent timebase
- Sets an interrupt when the timer expires
 - Vector table associates interrupt vectors with a software function handler
 - Vector table is declared in startup file
 - With ST base project, function is SysTick_Handler()
- Interrupts execute with high priority and their run time <u>must</u> be minimized
 - Otherwise system becomes less responsive for other tasks and events

SysTick Usage Example -- Asynchronous Handler

```
static volatile uint fast16 t ticks;
void main(){
     ticks = 0:
     // Configure for 10ms period
     // NOTE: argument here must be less than 0xFFFFFF;
              At 168MHz, this just a bit slower than 10Hz
     SysTick Config(10 * SystemCoreClock / 1000);
     while(1){
          // Wait for an interrupt
          while (!ticks);
          // Decrement ticks
          ticks -= 1;
          // Do something!
/*!
 Interrupt handler for system tick
This should happen every 10ms
 * /
void SysTick Handler() {
     ticks += 1;
```

ADC Configuration

- STM32 has 12-bit SAR ADC
 - 16 external channels
 - 3 internal to VBat, temperature, and Vrefint
- ADC quantizes voltage referenced between GND and VDD
 - 0 is GND, 0xFFF is VDD
 - Actual voltage is dependent on VDD

ADC Example

```
ADC InitTypeDef adc init s;
ADC CommonInitTypeDef adc common init s;
RCC APB2PeriphClockCmd(RCC APB2Periph ADC1, ENABLE);
adc common init s.ADC Mode = ADC Mode Independent;
adc common init s.ADC Prescaler = ADC Prescaler Div2;
adc common init s.ADC DMAAccessMode = ADC DMAAccessMode Disabled;
adc common init s.ADC TwoSamplingDelay = ADC TwoSamplingDelay 5Cycles;
ADC CommonInit(&adc common init s);
adc init s.ADC Resolution = ADC Resolution 12b;
adc init s.ADC ScanConvMode = DISABLE;
adc init s.ADC ContinuousConvMode = DISABLE;
adc init s.ADC ExternalTrigConvEdge = ADC ExternalTrigConvEdge None;
adc init s.ADC DataAlign = ADC DataAlign Right;
adc init s.ADC NbrOfConversion = 1;
ADC Init(ADC1, &adc init s);
ADC Cmd (ADC1, ENABLE);
ADC RegularChannelConfig(ADC1, ADC Channel 12, 1, ADC SampleTime 480Cycles);
ADC SoftwareStartConv(ADC1);
while(ADC GetFlagStatus(ADC1, ADC FLAG EOC) == RESET);
ADC ClearFlagStatus (ADC1, ADC FLAG EOC);
// Result available in ADC1->DR
```