

# Welcome!

COMP2521 19T0  
Data Structures + Algorithms

# COMP2521 19T0

## Week 1, Tuesday: Hello, world!

Jashank Jeremy

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course introduction

more C syntax

linked lists, redux

tools of the trade

thinking like a *computer scientist*  
not just a programmer

know and understand  
*fundamental* techniques,  
data structures, algorithms

reason about  
*applicability + effectiveness*

Over the next few weeks...

- ADTs: stacks, queues, lists, trees, hash tables
- algorithm analysis: complexity, performance, usability
- sorting and searching techniques
- graphs, graph algorithms

Dr John Shepherd (jas@)  
is the lecturer-in-charge

Jashank Jeremy (jashankj@)  
is the lecturer

Sim Mautner	Olga Popovic
Hayden Smith	Elizabeth Willer
Clifford Sesel	Gal Aharon
Deepanjan Chakrabarty	Kristian Nolev

are your tutors and lab assistants

recent students from...

COMP1511 (andrewt, andrewb, jas, ashesh)

COMP1917 (richardb, blair, salilk?, angf, simm)

COMP1921 (mit, ashesh, anymeyer?)

some C experience,  
familiarity with pointers, ADTs,  
style, and testing

(also a sense of humour)

At the start of this course, you should be able to

- produce a correct C program from a specification
- understand the state-based model of computation (variables, assignment, addresses, parameters, scope)
- use fundamental C data types and structures (char, int, float, arrays, pointers, struct)
- use fundamental control structures (sequence, selection (`if`), iteration (`while`))
- use and build abstraction with function declarations
- use linked lists

By the end of this course, you should be able to

- analyse performance characteristics of algorithms
- measure performance behaviour of programs
- choose + develop effective data structures (DS)
- choose + develop algorithms (A) on these DS
- reason about the effectiveness of DS+A
- package a set of DS+A as an ADT
- develop + maintain C systems <10 kLoC.



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Outline

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by **lecturing** at you!  
in interactive **tutorials**!  
in hands-on **laboratories**!  
in **assignments** and **exams**!

- present a brief overview of theory
- demonstrate problem-solving methods
- give practical demonstrations
- lectures are based on text-book.
- slides available as PDF  
(*usually* up before the lecture... :-)
- feel free to ask questions...  
but No Idle Chatting, please.

Tue 14–17, Thu 10–13  
Ainsworth G03

- clarify any problems with lecture material
- work through problems related to lecture topics
- give practice with design skills
  - ... think before coding
- exercises available (usually) the week before
  - please read and attempt *before* your class

Webster252 ...[MTW]10, [MW]14, T16

GoldsteinG01 ...F10

GoldsteinG02 ...[HF]14

- build skills that will help you to
  - ...complete the assignment work
  - ...pass the final exam
- give you experience applying tools + techniques
- small implementation/analysis tasks
- some tasks will be done in pairs
- don't fall behind! start them before your class if needed
- usually up in advance, due by Sunday midnight

J17-306 sitar  
[MTWF]11-13; [MWHF]15-17; T17-19

- give you experience applying tools/techniques to larger problems than the lab exercises
- assignment 1 is an individual assignment
- assignment 2 is a group assignment
- will *always* take longer than you expect
- organise your time
  - ...don't leave it to the last minute!
  - ...steep late penalties apply!

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- practical exams in weeks 5, 8; each worth 5%
- 3h theory + practical extravaganza; worth 55%

- Supplementary exams are only available to students who  
...do not attend the exam **AND**  
...have a serious documented reason for not attending
- If you attend an exam  
...you are making a statement that you are 'fit and healthy enough'  
...it is your only chance to pass (i.e., no second chances)

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5% + 5% prac exams

10% lab marks

10% assignment 1

15% assignment 2

55% final exam



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5% + 5% prac exams

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5% + 5% prac exams

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15% assignment 2

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assessed with **myExperience**

also, we'd love to hear from you...  
provide feedback throughout the session!

Always give credit if you use someone else's work!  
COMP2521 material drawn from...

- slides by Angela Finlayson (COMP2521 18x1)
- slides by John Shepherd (COMP1927 16s2)
- slides by Gabriele Keller (COMP1927 12s2)
- lectures by Richard Buckland (COMP1927 09s2)
- slides by Manuel Chakravarty (COMP1927 08s1)
- notes by Aleks Ignjatovic (COMP2011 '05)
- slides and books by Robert Sedgewick

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You'll be fired into space  
or, at least, out of this course  
if you're found to be using others' work as your own.

The lawyers would like me to remind you that  
UNSW and CSE consider plagiarism as  
an **act of academic misconduct** with **severe penalties**  
up to and including **exclusion from further study**.

...don't be a dick.

The lawyers would like me to remind you that  
UNSW and CSE consider bullying, harassment, ..  
both on- and off-campus (including online!)  
an **act of student misconduct** with **severe penalties**  
up to and including **exclusion from further study**.



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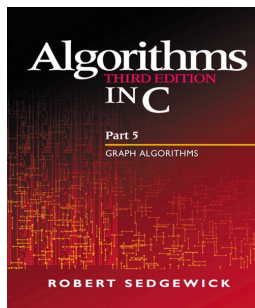
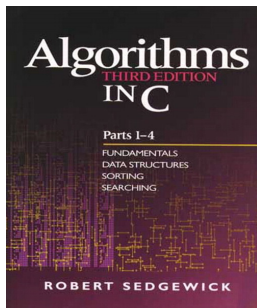
Syntax

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Tools

`webcms3.cse.unsw.edu.au/COMP2521/19T0`

`cse.unsw.edu.au/~cs2521/19T0`



*Algorithms in C*, parts 1–4 and 5, by Robert Sedgewick

**BEWARE!**

there are *many* editions/versions of this book,  
with various different programming languages  
including C, C++, Java, and Pascal

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- weekly consultations...  
for extra help with labs and lecture material  
more time slots scheduled near assignments/exams  
email cs2521@ for additional consultations, if needed
- help sessions...to be advised
- WebCMS3 course forums

- Do lab exercises and assignments yourself  
(or with your pair partner when appropriate)
- Programming is a skill that improves with practice  
The more you practice, the easier labs/assignments/exams will be.
- Don't restrict practice to lab times  
...or two days before assignments are due.
- Make use of tutorials by  
...attempting questions before the class  
...participating!
- Go to consults if you need help or fall behind
- We want you to do the best you can!

# More C Syntax

## LOOKING FOR dcc?

dcc held your hand in *many* ways.  
the training wheels are now off! no *dcc* for you!  
if you're desperate, try 3c

- compiling for normal use  
**\$ 2521 3c -o prog prog.c**
- compiling multiple files  
**\$ 2521 3c -o prog prog.c f2.c f3.c**
- compiling with leak checking  
**\$ 2521 3c +leak -o prog prog.c f2.c f3.c**

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New C

for

switch

break, continue

ternaries

a = b = c

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Tools

COMP1511, COMP1917, COMP1921  
used a restricted subset of C

mandated layout, mandated brackets,  
only `if` + `while`,  
no side-effects, no conditional expressions,  
functions with only one return...

... but this style is used in  
no texts + no real code.

## the good

more freedom, more power!  
more choice in how you express programs  
can write more concise code

## the bad

easy to produce code that's  
cryptic, incomprehensible, unmaintainable

## the style guide

available on the course website



layout: consistent indentation  
brackets: omit braces around single statements

control: all C control structures  
(except goto ... that's how you get ants)

assignment statements in expressions  
(but prefer to avoid side-effects ... that's how you get ants!)

conditional expressions ('ternaries') permitted  
(use with caution! that's how you get ants!!)

functions may have multiple returns  
(concise ↗ clear! ants!!!)

with while

```
init;  
while (cond) {  
    /* ... do something */;  
    incr;  
}
```

with for

```
for (init; cond; incr)  
    /* ... do something */;
```

with while

```
init;  
while (cond) {  
    /* ... do something */;  
    incr;  
}
```

with for

```
for (init; cond; incr)  
    /* ... do something */;
```

with while

```
init;
while (cond) {
    /* ... do something */;
    incr;
}
```

with for

```
for (init; cond; incr)
    /* ... do something */;
```

with while

```
int sum = 0;
int i = 0;
while (i < 10) {
    sum = sum + i;
    i++;
}
```

with for

```
int sum = 0;
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++)
    sum += i;
```

with while

```
int sum = 0;
int i = 0;
while (i < 10) {
    sum = sum + i;
    i++;
}
```

with for

```
int sum = 0;
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++)
    sum += i;
```

with while

```
int sum = 0;
int i = 0;
while (i < 10) {
    sum = sum + i;
    i++;
}
```

with for

```
int sum = 0;
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++)
    sum += i;
```

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**for**

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break, continue

ternaries

a = b = c

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Tools

all interesting parts of the loop in one spot!  
... but easy to write disgusting code

prefer *for* when *counting* or with *sequences*  
... otherwise, use a *while* loop



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## LLs

## Tools

```
if (colour == 'r') {  
    puts ("red");  
} else if (colour == 'b') {  
    puts ("blue");  
} else if (colour == 'g') {  
    puts ("green");  
} else {  
    puts ("invalid?");  
}
```

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Tools

```
if (colour == 'r') {  
    puts ("red");  
} else if (colour == 'b') {  
    puts ("blue");  
} else if (colour == 'g') {  
    puts ("green");  
} else {  
    puts ("invalid?");  
}
```

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## LLs

## Tools

```
if (colour == 'r') {  
    puts ("red");  
} else if (colour == 'b') {  
    puts ("blue");  
} else if (colour == 'g') {  
    puts ("green");  
} else {  
    puts ("invalid?");  
}
```

```
switch (colour) {  
case 'r':  
    puts ("red"); break;  
case 'g':  
    puts ("green"); break;  
case 'b':  
    puts ("blue"); break;  
default:  
    puts ("invalid?");  
}
```

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## LLs

## Tools

```
if (colour == 'r') {  
    puts ("red");  
} else if (colour == 'b') {  
    puts ("blue");  
} else if (colour == 'g') {  
    puts ("green");  
} else {  
    puts ("invalid?");  
}
```

```
switch (colour) {  
case 'r':  
    puts ("red"); break;  
case 'g':  
    puts ("green"); break;  
case 'b':  
    puts ("blue"); break;  
default:  
    puts ("invalid?");  
}
```

the **break** is critical...  
if it isn't present, execution will fall through

```
char *month_name (int);
```

## Exercise: Switched On

Write a function `month_name`  
that accepts a month (1 = Jan ...12 = Dec)  
and returns a string containing the month name  
... assume the string will be read only  
... use a switch to decide on the month

```
char *month_name (int);
```

## Exercise: Switched On

Write a function `month_name`  
that accepts a month (1 = Jan ...12 = Dec)  
and returns a string containing the month name  
... assume the string will be read only  
... use a switch to decide on the month

## Exercise: Hip, Hip, Array

Suggest an alternative approach using an array.

# jumping around: 'return', 'break', 'continue'

avoid deeply nested statements!

**return** in a function  
gives back a result to the caller  
terminates the function, possibly 'early'

**break** in while, for, switch  
allows *early termination* of a block  
jumps to the first statement after the block

**continue** in while, for  
terminates one iteration... but continues the loop  
jumps to *after* the last block statement

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a = b = c

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**ternaries**

a = b = c

&Function

LLs

Tools

if statements can't return a value.

```
if (y > 0) {  
    x = z + 1;  
} else {  
    x = z - 1;  
}
```



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a = b = c

&amp;Function

LLs

Tools

if statements can't return a value.

```
if (y > 0) {  
    x = z + 1;  
} else {  
    x = z - 1;  
}
```

... but what if they *could*?

```
x = (y > 0) ? z + 1 : z - 1;
```

Outline

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a = b = c

&amp;Function

LLs

Tools

Rewrite these using ternaries, or explain why we can't do that.

### Exercise: Rewriting (I)

```
if (x > 0)
    y = x - 1;
else
    y = x + 1;
```

Rewrite these using ternaries, or explain why we can't do that.

### Exercise: Rewriting (I)

```
if (x > 0)
    y = x - 1;
else
    y = x + 1;
```

### Exercise: Rewriting (II)

```
if (x > 0)
    y = x - 1;
else
    z = x + 1;
```

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**a = b = c**

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Tools

- assignment is really an expression
  - ... returns a result: the value being assigned
  - ... returned value is generally ignored
- assignment often used in loop conditions
  - ... combines test with collecting the next value
  - ... makes expressing such loops more concise

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**a = b = c**

&Function

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Tools

```
int nchars = 0;
int ch = getchar ();
while (ch != EOF) {
    nchars++;
    ch = getchar ();
}
```

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ternaries

**a = b = c**

&Function

## LLs

## Tools

```
int nchars = 0;
int ch = getchar ();
while (ch != EOF) {
    nchars++;
    ch = getchar ();
}
```

...or ...

```
int ch, nchars = 0;
while ((ch = getchar ()) != EOF)
    nchars++;
```

## Exercise: Mystery Biscuits

```
void what_does_it_do (void)
{
    int ch;
    while ((ch = getchar ()) != EOF) {
        if (ch == '\n') break;
        if (ch == 'q') return;
        if (! isalpha (ch)) continue;
        putchar (ch);
    }
    puts ("Thanks!");
}
```

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a = b = c

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## LLs

## Tools

- In C, you may point to anything in memory.
- The compiled program is in memory.
- The compiled program is made up of functions.
- Therefore...you can point at functions.
- Function pointers
  - ... are references to memory addresses of functions
  - ... are pointer values and can be assigned/passed
  - ... are effectively opaque
  - ... (unless you're interested in machine code)
  - ... ((if you are, you'll enjoy COMP1521))



*return\_t (\*var)(arg\_t, ...)*

`int → int:`

`(int, int) → void:`

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Tools

*return\_t* (\*var)(arg\_t, ...)

int → int: int (\*fp)(int);  
(int, int) → void:

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**&Function**

LLs

Tools

*return\_t* (\*var)(arg\_t, ...)

int → int: int (\*fp)(int);  
(int,int) → void: void (\*fp2)(int, int);

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```
int square (int x)    { return x * x; }  
int times_two (int x) { return x * 2; }
```

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```
int square (int x)    { return x * x; }
```

```
int times_two (int x) { return x * 2; }
```

```
int (*fp)(int);
```

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```
int square (int x)    { return x * x; }  
int times_two (int x) { return x * 2; }
```

```
int (*fp)(int);
```

*// Take a pointer to the square function, and use it.*

```
fp = &square;
```

```
int n = (*fp) (10);
```

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Tools

```
int square (int x)    { return x * x; }  
int times_two (int x) { return x * 2; }
```

```
int (*fp)(int);
```

```
// Take a pointer to the square function, and use it.
```

```
fp = &square;
```

```
int n = (*fp) (10);
```

```
// Taking a pointer works without the '&'.
```

```
fp = times_two;
```

```
n = (*fp) (2);
```

```
int square (int x)    { return x * x; }  
int times_two (int x) { return x * 2; }
```

```
int (*fp)(int);
```

```
// Take a pointer to the square function, and use it.
```

```
fp = &square;
```

```
int n = (*fp) (10);
```

```
// Taking a pointer works without the '&'.
```

```
fp = times_two;
```

```
n = (*fp) (2);
```

```
// Normal function notation also works.
```

```
n = fp (2);
```

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&amp;Function

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Tools



functions that **take** or **return** functions

e.g., traverse an array, applying a function to all values.

```
void print_array (size_t len, char *array[])  
{  
    puts ("[" );  
    for (size_t i = 0; i < len; i++)  
        printf ("%s\\n", array[i]);  
    puts ("]");  
}
```

functions that **take** or **return** functions

e.g., traverse an array, applying a function to all values.

```
void traverse (size_t len, char *xs[], void (*f)(char *))  
{  
    for (size_t i = 0; i < len; i++)  
        (*f) (xs[i]);  
}
```

```
void print_array (size_t len, char *array[])  
{  
    puts ("[" );  
    traverse (len, array, &puts);  
    puts ("]");  
}
```

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```
void traverse (link l, void (*f) (link));
```

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```
void traverse (link l, void (*f) (link));
```

```
traverse (my_list, print_node);
```

```
void print_node (link l)
{
    if (l == NULL)
        puts ("NULL");
    else
        printf ("%d -> ", l->data);
}
```

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Tools

```
void traverse (link l, void (*f) (link));
```

```
traverse (my_list, print_node);  
traverse (my_list, print_grade);
```

```
void print_node (link l)  
{  
    if (l == NULL)  
        puts ("NULL");  
    else  
        printf ("%d -> ", l->data);  
}
```

```
void print_grade (link l)  
{  
    if (l == NULL)  
        puts "(nil)";  
    else if (l->data >= 85)  
        printf ("HD ");  
    else  
        printf ("FL ");  
}
```

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Outline

Syntax

**LLs**

Recap  
Deletion

Tools

# Linked Lists

- a *sequential* collection of 'nodes' holding value + pointer(s)  
...no 'random access' to individual nodes
- easy to add, rearrange, remove nodes
- list node references other list nodes  
...singly-linked list: next only  
...doubly-linked list: prev and next
- last node's next may point to  
...NULL — no 'next' node  
...a 'sentinel' node without a value  
...the first node (a *circular* linked list)

```
typedef int Item;
```



```
typedef int Item;
```

```
typedef struct node *link;
```

```
typedef struct node {
```

```
    Item item;
```

```
    link next;
```

```
} node;
```

```
typedef int Item;
```

```
typedef struct node *link;
```

```
typedef struct node {
```

```
    Item item;
```

```
    link next;
```

```
} node;
```

```
// allocating memory:
```

```
link x = malloc (sizeof *x);
```

```
link y = malloc (sizeof (node));
```

```
typedef int Item;
```

```
typedef struct node *link;
```

```
typedef struct node {
```

```
    Item item;
```

```
    link next;
```

```
} node;
```

```
// allocating memory:
```

```
link x = malloc (sizeof *x);
```

```
link y = malloc (sizeof (node));
```

```
// what's wrong with this?
```

```
link z = malloc (sizeof (link));
```

```
// traversing a linked list:  
link curr = ...;  
while (curr != NULL) {  
    /* do something */;  
    curr = curr->next;  
}
```

```
// traversing a linked list, for loop edition  
for (link curr = ...; curr != NULL; curr = curr->next)  
    /* do something */;
```

## Exercise: 'insert\_front'

```
link insert_front (link list, link new);
```

Write a function to insert a node at the beginning of the list.

## Exercise: 'insert\_front'

```
link insert_front (link list, link new);
```

Write a function to insert a node at the beginning of the list.

Would this prototype work?

```
void insert_front (link list, link new);
```

## Exercise: 'insert\_front'

```
link insert_front (link list, link new);
```

Write a function to insert a node at the beginning of the list.

Would this prototype work?

```
void insert_front (link list, link new);
```

## Exercise: 'insert\_end'

```
link insert_end (link list, link new);
```

Write a function to insert a node at the end of the list.

## Exercise: 'reverse'

Write a function which reverses the order of the items in a linked list.

```
link reverse (link list) {
```

```
}
```



## Exercise: 'reverse'

Write a function which reverses the order of the items in a linked list.

```
link reverse (link list) {  
    link curr = list;  
    link rev = NULL;  
    while (curr != NULL) {  
        tmp = curr->next;  
        curr->next = rev;  
        rev = curr;  
        curr = tmp;  
    }  
    return rev;  
}
```

## Demonstration: 'delete\_item'

```
// Remove a given node from the list  
// and return the start of the list  
link delete_item (link ls, link n);
```

- deletion is awkward:  
...we must keep track of the previous node
- can we delete a node if we only have the pointer to the node itself?
- we may need to traverse the whole list to find the predecessor  
...and that's if we even have a reference to the head

**IDEA** every node stores a link to both the previous *and* next nodes

- Move forward and backward in such a list
- Delete node in a constant number of steps

```
typedef struct dnode *dlink;  
typedef struct dnode {  
    Item item;  
    dlink prev, next;  
} dnode;
```

- Deleting nodes:  
easier, more efficient
- Other operations:
  - ...pointer to previous node is necessary in many operations
  - ...doesn't have to be maintained separately for doubly linked lists
  - ...2× pointer manipulations necessary for most list operations
  - ...memory overheads in storing an additional pointer

# The Tools of the Trade

learn how to access documentation ‘online’:  
*man(1)*, *info(1)* – available in exam environment!

you should even learn to *write* documentation:  
mdoc, texinfo, doxygen, sphinx  
all make it easy to document code and projects  
(though are beyond the scope of the course)

the traditional 'Unix manual':  
terse documentation in several sections  
*terrible* tutorial, but great reference

commands (1),  
syscalls (2),  
library functions (3),  
file formats (5),  
the system (7),  
administrative tools (8),  
and more...

man ls gets *ls*(1)  
man printf gets *printf*(1)  
man 3 printf gets *printf*(3)

### SOME USEFUL MAN-PAGES

*intro* in all sections,  
*stdio.h*(0p), *stdlib.h*(0p), *math.h*(0p)  
*printf*(3), *ascii*(7)



GNU decided *man(1)* wasn't good enough  
(a bundle of loose documents  $\neq$  a good manual...)  
so built the Texinfo system

### SOME USEFUL INFO MANUALS

*libc, gdb, gcc,  
binutils, coreutils,  
emacs, ...*

the *info(1)* command  
will fall back to *man(1)*-pages

other renderings of info pages:  
dead trees, PDFs, web sites ...

Outline

Syntax

LLs

Tools

Documentation

man

info

Debugging

gdb

Sanitizers

valgrind

Projects

make

what's happening in your program as it runs?  
why did that segfault happen?  
what values are changing in my program?

“I’ll just add some *printf(3)s...*”  
clunky, not reliable, only gives what you ask for

a family of tools can help you find out:

**debuggers**

source debuggers: **gdb**/ddd/gud, lldb, mdb  
specialist tools: **valgrind**, sanitizers

```
set args args
    set command arguments
run args
    run the program under test
break expr
    set a breakpoint
watch expr
    set a watch expression
continue
    run the program under test
```

```
print expr
    print out an expression
info locals
    print out all local variables
next
    run to the next line of code
step
    step into a line of code
quit
    exit gdb
```

**NOTE**

you'll need to compile with `-g`  
or GDB is very unfriendly indeed

{Address, Leak, Memory, Thread, DataFlow, UndefinedBehaviour}Sanitizer

a family of compiler plugins, developed by Google  
which instrument executing code with sanity checks  
use-after-free, array overruns, value overflows, uninitialised values, and more

you've been using ASan+UBSan already: *gcc* uses them!  
usable on your own \*nix systems (Linuxes, BSDs, 'macOS') too!  
unfortunately... a bit of work to get going on CSE (hence *gcc* and *3c*)

```
clang -fsanitize=address,undefined -fno-omit-frame-pointer  
-g -m32 -target i386-pc-linux-gnu --rtlib=compiler-rt -lgcc -lgcc_s  
-o prog main.c f2.c
```

```
2521 3c -o prog main.c f2.c
```

- finding memory leaks
  - ... not free'ing memory that you malloc'd
- finding memory errors
  - ... illegally trying access memory

```
$ valgrind ./prog
```

```
...  
==29601== HEAP SUMMARY:  
==29601==      in use at exit: 64 bytes in 1 blocks  
==29601==    total heap usage: 1 allocs, 0 frees, 64 bytes allocated  
==29601==  
==29601== LEAK SUMMARY:  
==29601==      definitely lost: 64 bytes in 1 blocks
```

Valgrind doesn't play well with ASan. Compile without '3c' if you really need it.

long, intricate compilation lines?  
forgot to recompile parts of your code?

**make** lets you specify  
*rules, dependencies, variables*  
to define what a program needs to be compiled  
doing only the necessary amount of work

implicit rules for compiling C (and more)  
(.c  $\rightarrow$  .o, .o  $\rightarrow$  exec)

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make

```
# `prog' depends on `prog.o'  
prog: prog.o  
# `prog.o' depends on `prog.c'  
prog.o: prog.c
```

```
# `prog' depends on `prog.o', `ADT.o'
prog: prog.o ADT.o
# `prog.o' depends on `prog.c', `ADT.h'
prog.o: prog.c ADT.h
# `ADT.o' depends on `ADT.c', `ADT.h'
ADT.o: ADT.c ADT.h
```



```
CC      = gcc
CFLAGS  = -Wall -Werror -std=c99 -g
```

```
# `prog' depends on `prog.o', `ADT.o'
```

```
prog: prog.o ADT.o
```

```
# `prog.o' depends on `prog.c', `ADT.h'
```

```
prog.o: prog.c ADT.h
```

```
# `ADT.o' depends on `ADT.c', `ADT.h'
```

```
ADT.o: ADT.c ADT.h
```

```
    ${CC} ${CFLAGS} -std=gnu11 -c $< -o $@
```

```
CC          = gcc
CFLAGS      = -Wall -Werror -std=c99 -g
LDFLAGS     = -g -lm
```

```
# `prog' depends on `prog.o', `ADT.o'
```

```
prog: prog.o ADT.o
```

```
# `prog.o' depends on `prog.c', `ADT.h'
```

```
prog.o: prog.c ADT.h
```

```
# `ADT.o' depends on `ADT.c', `ADT.h'
```

```
ADT.o: ADT.c ADT.h
```

```
    ${CC} ${CFLAGS} -std=gnu11 -c $< -o $@
```