

C: an introduction

Variables - primitive Data Types



1

Program: basic building blocks

- Variables
 - Store data (input, intermediate values, results)
- Expressions
 - Manipulate variables
- Control structures
 - Make decisions (if) or repeat (for, while) statements
- Functions
 - Combine expressions and structures for parameterization and re-use



Variables: general info

- Variable = information storage place
 - · Store information
 - · Read from it
- Compiler reserves space for variables in the computer's memory
- Can contain number, character, string, etc.
- Their values can change during program execution
- All variables must be declared before they are used and must have a data type associated with them
- Tip: initialize variables
- · https://portal.tacc.utexas.edu/-/c-programming-basics



3

Variables

- each variable has:
 - · Name (identifier): to access its value
 - Type: describing the size and sort of values to be stored
 - Scope: the part of the program in which a variable is known under its name
 - (region of the program in which it is visible)
 - Lifetime (lifespan): the time during which a variable exists when the program is executed.
 - (period of time during which memory is allocated to the variable)



Variable Names

- Names are composed of alphanumeric characters (letters and numbers), and _ (underscore)
 - Names may not start with a number
 - Names are case sensitive; st and St are different variables
 - · can have at least 31 characters
 - do not use keywords (reserved words)
- Convention:
 - · variable names begin with a lower-case letter,
 - · symbolic constant: capital letters
 - Try to use meaningful names step, top, i, j, x, fahr, flag lookup table index, nameListHead

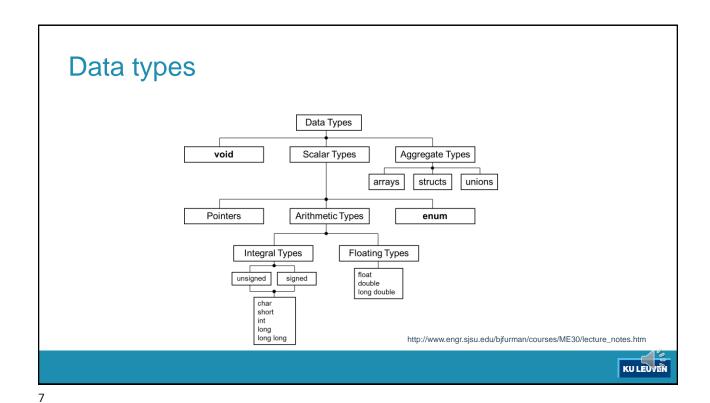


5

The C Type System

- C is a "typed" language.
 - explicitly define variables with a specific type.
- By specifying types, the compiler can perform a number of tasks:
 - Size: Compiler allocates fixed amount of memory for a given type.
 - Usage: A variable's type determines what value it can represent and what operations may be performed on it.
 - Compiler can detect type-mismatch errors.





C primitive data types

Туре		Size(bytes)	Size(bits)
char	a single byte, capable of holding one character	1	8
int	an integer	4	32
float	single-precision floating point number	4	32
double	double-precision floating point number	8	64

Qualifier	
short	
long	
signed	type may represent a negative number
unsigned	cannot represent a negative number

- C's primitive types are characters, numbers and addresses
- Operators work on these types



C primitive data types

- Basic data types
 - 1. Integer types: char, int
 - 2. Floating point types: float, double
- Different types have different properties:
 - Values they can represent
 These types have finite precision and range.
 - There is a limit to the size of a number (min, max)
 - Floating point values have a limit to the number of significant figures.
 - Operations that can be performed on them.



9

Variable declaration

```
    format
```

```
type varname1, varname2, ...;
• ex:
```

```
int count;
float aa;
double percent, total;
unsigned char x,y,z;
```

- each variable must be declared before use
 - ANSI C requires all variables be declared at the beginning of the "block" in which they are defined (before any executable line of code)
 - C99 allows variables to be declared anywhere in code
- Tip: put some comments at declaration time



Variable declaration

- initialise a variable before using it:
 - · skipping initialisation can lead to problems
 - C standard does not mention the value of non-initialised variables

```
int counter;
counter=0;
or
int counter=0;
```

- File: variables_1.c
- File: demo_init.c



```
• Variables_1.c

iminclude cstdio.hb
2/*
variables_1.c

taken from http://c.learncodethehardway.org/book/ex6.html

*/
fant main()

imidistance = 100;
float power = 2.345f;
double super_power = 5589.4532;
char initial = 'A';
char last_name[] = "Zed";
char initial = 'A';
printf("You have Xf levels of power.\n", power);
printf("You have Xf awesome super powers\n", super_power);
printf("T have a first name Xs.\n", first_name);
printf("T have a first_name, last_name);
printf("Ny whole name is Xs Xc. Xs.\n",
first_name, initial, last_name);
printf("Ny whole name is Xs Xc. Xs.\n",
first_name, initial, last_name);
printf("Ny whole name is Xs Xc. Xs.\n",
first_name, initial, last_name);
printf("Ny whole name is Xs Xc. Xs.\n",
first_name, initial, last_name);
printf("Ny whole name is Xs Xc. Xs.\n",
first_name, initial, last_name);
printf("Ny whole name is Xs Xc. Xs.\n",
first_name, initial, last_name);
printf("Ny whole name is Xs Xc. Xs.\n",
first_name, initial, last_name);
printf("Ny whole name is Xs Xc. Xs.\n",
first_name, initial, last_name);
printf("Ny whole name is Xs Xc. Xs.\n",
first_name, initial, last_name);
printf("Ny whole name is Xs Xc. Xs.\n",
first_name, initial, last_name);
printf("Ny whole name is Xs Xc. Xs.\n",
first_name, initial, last_name);
printf("Ny whole name, initial, last_name
```

```
1/* demo_init.c */
 3 #include <stdio.h>
 6 int main()
8 unsigned int value = -2500;
9 //unsigned int value = -/+2500;
10 double val;

    demo_init.c

                                                                    frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ gcc demo_init.c -o demo_init
frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ ./demo_init
value -2500
printf("value %d \n", value);
printf("val %g \n", val);
                                                                    value -2500
val 0
val 4.29496e+09
val 8.58993e+09
val 2500
15 val = value * 2;
17 printf("val %g \n", val);
                                                                     val 4.29497e+09
19 val = (double) value * 2;
                                                                      frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$
21 printf("val %g \n", val);
                                                                    frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ gcc demo_init.c -o demo_init
frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ ./demo_init
value 2500
23 val = value + 5000;
25 printf("val %g \n", val);
                                                                     val 0
val 5000
val 5000
val 7500
val 7500
27 val = value + 5000.0;
29 printf("val %g \n", val);
31 return 0;
                                                                      frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ 📕
                                                                                                                                                                          KU LEUVEN
```

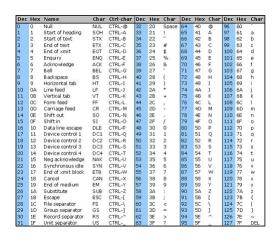
void

- void type means no value.
- Usually used to specify the type of functions which returns nothing.



character

- C only supports ASCII character set
- To represent characters, C uses a lookup table
 - Each character has a unique integer code
 - · ASCII table is most common code
- Eg., Letter R can be represented by
 - Its ASCII integer code: 82 or 0122 or 0x52
 - Or, use character constant: \R'





15

character: examples

charxy.c

frankvp@CRD-L-08004:/mnt/c/temp/Develop/CDev/Variables\$ gcc charxy.c -o charxy
frankvp@CRD-L-08004:/mnt/c/temp/Develop/CDev/Variables\$./charxy
x as a char: A and as an int: 65
y as a char: B and as an int: 66
frankvp@CRD-L-08004:/mnt/c/temp/Develop/CDev/Variables\$

rs **K**l



character: examples

```
char_int_xy.c
```

```
char_int_xy.c
    taken from http://www.tech.dmu.ac.uk/~drs/ctec1401/A3.html

*/
*/
s#include <stdio.h>

int main()

int x = 'A';
    int y;
    printf("x as a char: %c\tand as an int: %i\n", x, x);
    y = x + 1;
    printf("y as a char: %c\tand as an int: %i\n", y, y);
    return 0;
}
```

```
frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ gcc char_int_xy.c -o char_int_xy
frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ ./char_int_xy
x as a char: A and as an int: 65
y as a char: B and as an int: 66
frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ ■
```

TS KU LEUVEN

18

Integer Sizes in C

- Integers are a type that can only hold one of a finite range of whole number values
- The standard does not specify exact sizes. The amount of memory storage allocated for a particular type will be different on different systems.
- ISO C standard requires only that
 - short is at least 16 bits
 - · Often used to conserve memory
 - long is at least 32 bits
 - short <= int <= long</pre>
- Range of permissible values of integers is defined in limits.h



Integer Sizes in C

- Be careful concerning portability! These numbers can be different on different systems (check on your system!)
- Depending on the precision and range required, you can use one of the data types.

Туре	Min	Max	Bytes	Note
short	-32768	32767	2	
unsigned	0	65535 (2 ¹⁶ – 1)	2	
int	-214748348	214748347	4	
unsigned int	0	4294967295 (2 ³² - 1)	4	
long	-214748348	214748347	4	
unsigned long	0	4294967295	4	
long long	9223372036854775808	9223372036854775807	8	Since C99
unsigned long long	0	18446744073709551615	8	Since C99



20

Integer arithmetic

- Base Operators
 - The four usual operators are defined +, -, *, /
- Modulo Operator
 - The remainder operator % is unique to integer types

$$19\%5 = 4$$



```
**int_types.c

**/* different types are show, tagether with their limits 7

**/* different types are show, tagether with their limits 10

**/* referent types are show, tagether with their limits 10

**/* referent types are show, tagether with their limits 10

**/* referent types are show, tagether with their limits 10

**/* referent types are show, tagether with their limits 10

**/* referent types are show, tagether with their limits 10

**/* referent types are show, tagether with their limits 10

**/* referent types are show, tagether with their limits 10

**/* referent types are show, tagether with their limits 10

**/* referent types are show, tagether with their limits 10

**/* referent types are show, tagether with their limits 10

**/* referent types are show, tagether with their limits 10

**/* referent types are show, tagether with their limits 10

**/* referent types are show, tagether with their limits 10

**/* referent types are show, tagether with their limits 10

**/* referent types are show, tagether with their limits 10

**/* referent types are show, tagether with their limits 10

**/* referent types are show, tagether with their limits 10

**/* referent types are show, tagether types a
```

```
int operations.c
 use the lm option to link the math library
gcc int_operations.c -lm -o int_operations
(tell gcc to link your code against the math lib. Just be sure to put the flag after the objects you want to link)
int main ()
                                                                                                                                                                          int_operations.c
   int a, b, c, d, e, f, g, r;
  printf("value of a = %d \n", a);
printf("value of b = %d \n", b);
   c = a - b;
printf("value of c (a-b) = %d \n", c);
   d = a + b;
printf("value of d (a+b) = %d \n", d);
                                                                     frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ gcc int_operations.c -o int_operations
/usr/bin/ld: /tmp/cc19GuEN.o: in function `main':
int_operations.c:(.text+0xf1): undefined reference to `pow'
collect2: error: ld returned 1 exit status
frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ gcc int_operations.c -o int_operations -lm
frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ ./int_operations
    e = a * b;
printf("value of e (a*b) = %d \n", e);
    f = a / b;
printf("value of f (a/b) = %d \n", f);
   r = a % b;
printf("value of r (a %% b) = %d \n", r);
                                                                      value of a = 9
value of b = 4
   g = pow(a,b);
printf("value of g (a^b)= %d \n", g);
                                                                      value of b = 4
value of c (a-b) = 5
value of d (a+b) = 13
value of e (a*b) = 36
value of f (a/b) = 2
value of r (a % b) = 1
value of g (a^b)= 6561
frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ ■
    return 0;
```

```
s use the lm option to link the math library
egcc int_operations.c -lm -o int_operations
o (tell gcc to link your code against the math lib. Just be sure to put the flag after the objects you want to link)
int main ()
                                                                                                              · int_operations.c
   int a, b, c, d, e, f, g, r;
                                                                                                              • Change int into float
   c = a - b;
printf("value of c (a-b) = %d \n", c);
                                                                                          operations.c:30:31: warning: format '%d' expects argument of type 'int', but argument 2 has type 'double' [-Wform
   d = a + b;
printf("value of d (a+b) = %d \n", d);
                                                                                                printf("value of e (a*b) = %d \n", e);
   e = a * b;
printf("value of e (a*b) = %d \n", e);
                                                                                              rations.c:33:31: warning: format '%d' expects argument of type 'int', but argument 2 has type 'double' [-Wforma
   f = a / b;
printf("value of f (a/b) = %d \n", f);
   r = a % b;
printf("value of r (a %% b) = %d \n", r);
   g = pow(a,b);
printf("value of g (a^b)= %d \n", g);
                                                                                             rations.c:36:34: warning: format '%d' expects argument of type 'int', but argument 2 has type 'double' [-Wforma
                                                                                               ations.c:39:30: warning: format '%d' expects argument of type 'int', but argument 2 has type 'double' [-Wforma
```

```
frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ ./short_overflow
                                                                                Size of short max 32767
                                                                                Size of short max 32/6/

i = 0 --- counter = 0

i = 1 --- counter = 5000

i = 2 --- counter = 15000

i = 3 --- counter = 20000

i = 4 --- counter = 25000

i = 5 --- counter = 25000
short_overflow.c
1/* short_overflow.c
3 #include <stdio.h>
4 #include <limits.h>
                                                                                   = 6 --- counter =
                                                                                                                    30000
                                                                                       7 --- counter = -30536
                                                                                   = 8 --- counter = -25536
                                                                                 i = 9 --- counter = -20536
                                                                                 i = 10 --- counter = -15536
                                                                                i = 11 --- counter = -10536

i = 12 --- counter = -5536

i = 13 --- counter = -536

i = 14 --- counter = 4464

i = 15 --- counter = 9464
10 /* check both versions with signed and unsigned integer - recompile *
short counter;
//unsigned short counter;
int i;
printf("Size of short max %d\n", SHRT_MAX);
                                                                                                                      14464
    counter = 0:
                                                                                   = 17 --- counter = = 18 --- counter =
   for (i=0; i<=25; i +=1)
                                                                                                                      24464
       counter = i * 5000;
printf("i = %d --- counter = %d \n", i, counter);
                                                                                 i = 19 --- counter = 29464
i = 20 --- counter = -31072
21 print
22 }
23 return 0;
                                                                                i = 21 --- counter = -26072
i = 22 --- counter = -21072
i = 23 --- counter = -16072
i = 24 --- counter = -11072
                                                                                   = 25 --- counter = -6072
                                                                                 frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ 📗
```

Floating-Point Sizes in C

- ISO C does not specify the size of floating point types, or even that their sizes are different.
- · Simply says:

```
float <= double <= long double
```

- Coding
 - · integer code with a decimal point suffix.
 - 3.14159
 - 3.
 - -.001
 - · Scientific notation is achieved with e:

```
speed = 2.527e2;
```

• Range of permissible values of floating point numbers is defined in float.h



26

Floating-Point Sizes in C

· platform dependent

Туре	Min	Max	bytes
float	1.175e-38	3.40e34	4
double	2.224e-308	1.79e308	8
long double	3.36e-4932	1.19e4932	16



```
1/* float_types.c */
2/* different types are shown, together with their limits */
4 #include <stdio.h>
5 #include <float.h>
7 void main ()
10 /* demo_float_types */

    File: float_types.c

     float f = 30.05;
      float f2 = 30.05*100;
13
     printf("value of FLOAT f = %g\n", f);
printf("value of FLOAT f2 = %g\n", f2);
f = f * 100;
                                                                                                                                                    frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ ./float_types
value of FLOAT f = 30.05
     printf("value of FLOAT f (multiplied with 100) = %g\n", f);
                                                                                                                                                    Value of FLOAT f = 30.05

value of FLOAT f = 30.05

value of FLOAT f (multiplied with 100) = 3005

Value of FLOAT Max 3.402823e+38

Value of FLOAT Min 1.175494e-38

Value of DOUBLE min 2.225074e-308

Value of DOUBLE max 1.797693e+308
    printf("Value of FLOAT Max %e\n", FLT_MAX);
printf("Value of FLOAT Min %e\n", FLT_MIN);
printf("Value of DOUBLE min %e\n", DBL_MIN);
printf("Value of DOUBLE max %e\n", DBL_MAX);
printf("Value of LONG DOUBLE min %le\n", LDBL_MIN);
printf("Value of LONG DOUBLE max %Le\n", LDBL_MAX);
                                                                                                                                                    Value of LONG DOUBLE min 3.362103e-4932
Value of LONG DOUBLE max 1.189731e+4932
Size of FLOAT
     printf("Size of FLOAT %ld\n", sizeof(float));
printf("Size of DOUBLE %ld\n", sizeof(double));
     printf("Size of LONG DOUBLE %ld\n", sizeof(long double));
                                                                                                                                                    Size of FLOAT 4
Size of DOUBLE 8
Size of LONG DOUBLE 16
Value of FLOAT Max 1582080672
Value of FLOAT Min 1582080672
Value of DOUBLE min 1582080672
Value of DOUBLE max 1582080672
30 // watch out with the format (also compile warnings) !
     printf("Value of FLOAT Max %d\n", FLT_MAX);
printf("Value of FLOAT Min %d\n", FLT_MIN);
printf("Value of DOUBLE min %d\n", DBL_MIN);
printf("Value of DOUBLE max %d\n", DBL_MAX);
printf("Value of LONG DOUBLE min %d\n", LDBL_MAX);
printf("Value of LONG DOUBLE max %d\n", LDBL_MAX);
                                                                                                                                                     Value of LONG DOUBLE min 1582080672
                                                                                                                                                     Value of LONG DOUBLE max 1582080672
                                                                                                                                                     frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$
```

Float arithmetic

- Base Operations: +, -, *, /
- Math functions come with the Standard C Library, which contains some mathematical functions.
- Use it with:

```
#include <math.h>
```

Link with -lm option!

- Power operator (^or **)
 - Not available
 - Use pow function

```
r = pow(x, y)
```

- assumes x and y are of type double.
- File: pow_exp.c



```
based \ on \ https://follow tutorials.com/2019/03/c-program-to-illustrate-the-use-of-arithmetic-operators-in-floating-point-number.html
 6 #include <math.h>
7 int main()
                                                                        frankvp@CRD-L-08004:\dots./Variables \$ \ gcc \ float\_oper.c -o \ float\_oper -lmfrankvp@CRD-L-08004:\dots./Variables \$ ./float\_oper
                                                                        First number: 1.200000
    float r1, r2, mul, sum, div, rem, sub, rpow;
                                                                        Second number: 0.330000
                                                                        The sum of given two numbers is:1.530000
The multiplication of two numbers is:0.396000
11 // first number;
12 r1 = 1.2;
                                                                       The division of two numbers is:3.636364
The subtration of rwo numbers is:0.870000
The power of 1.2 to 0.33 is= 1.06201
frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$
13 // second number
14 r2 = 0.33;
16 printf("First number: %f \n", r1);
17 printf("Second number: %f \n", r2);
19 printf("The sum of given two numbers is:%f\n",sum);
20 mul=r1*r2;
21 printf("The multiplication of two numbers is:%f\n", mul);
22 \, \text{div} = r1/r2:
23 printf("The division of two numbers is:%f\n", div);
24 sub=r1-r2;
25 printf("The subtration of rwo numbers is:%f\n", sub);
                                                                                                                    float_oper.c
26 rpow=pow(r1,r2);
27 printf("The power of %g to %g is= %g \n", r1, r2, rpow);
30 }
                                                                                                                                                                                     KU LEUVEN
```

floating point: tips

- value kept in memory is usually not exact.
 2/3 will be saved as 0.6666667
- when comparing non-integer numbers, try to use a range instead of an exact equality

ex.

in between -0.1E-30 +0.1E-30 instead of =0

double will be used more often than float



sizeof

- sizeof operator, returning the size of the types in bytes
 - Should be used everywhere the size of a data type is required
 - · Maintain portability between systems
 - Useful when using complex data types i.e. dynamic memory allocation
- Format

```
sizeof identifier
sizeof type
```

- () not necessary, but useful
- sizeof(int) sizeof(double) sizeof(long double) sizeof(x)



```
• how_many_bytes.c

1/*
3 how_many_bytes.c
3 how_many_bytes.c
3 print(lude <stdio.h)
6 int main(vaid) {
9 printf('an int is Xid bytes\n", sizeof(char));
9 printf('an int is Xid bytes\n", sizeof(int));
10 printf('an int is Xid bytes\n", sizeof(int));
11 printf('a double is Xid bytes\n", sizeof(double));
12 printf('a double is Xid bytes\n", sizeof(double));
13 printf('a long int is Xid bytes\n", sizeof(long int));
14 printf('a long long is Xid bytes\n", sizeof(long long));
15 printf('a long double is Xid bytes\n", sizeof(long double));
16 return 0;
17 return 0;
18 frankyp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ gcc how_many_bytes c a char is 1 bytes
an int is 4 bytes
an float is 4 bytes
a double is 8 bytes
a long int is 8 bytes
a long int is 8 bytes
a long double is 8 bytes
a long double is 16 bytes
frankyp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$

10 printf('a long double is 8 bytes
a long long is 8 bytes
a long double is 16 bytes
frankyp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$
```

More Type Qualifiers

const

• indicates that a variable is intended to remain constant and should not be changed. Must be initialized when declared.

```
const int DoesNotChange = 5;
DoesNotChange = 6; /* will not compile */
```

- constant can be useful:
 - tells immediately that the value will not change (makes code more readable)
 - tells the compiler that the value will not change (can influence the speed)



Casting / Type conversion

- · Implicit or explicit casting
- Implicit
 - Conversion where there is no ambiguity (i.e. to a "bigger" data type)
 - can be done automatically:

```
double x = 5; /* from int to double */
```

- in expression: conversion to largest type
 - $12 + 3.2 \rightarrow 12.0 + 3.2$



37

Casting / Type conversion

- Explicit Casting
- A variable can be temporarily made to look like another variable
- Force a type conversion we place the destination type in brackets before the source variable:

```
newtype newData = (newtype) oldData;
```

- Be careful with explicit casting
- (int) 5.3 \rightarrow 5 (information loss: truncation!)



```
cast var 2.c
1 #include <stdio.h>
 4 taken from https://portal.tacc.utexas.edu/-/c-programming-basics
 6 Note
 7 - double to int causes removal of the fractional part
 8 - int to double conversion happened implicitly
9 */
                                                                            rankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ gcc cast_var_2.c -o cast_var_2
                                                                         frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ ./cast_var_frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$ ./cast_var_2 varA: 2.000000, varB: 9, varC: 9.340000 varA: 65.500000, varD: A frankvp@CRD-L-08004:.../Variables$
12 int main(){
13 double varA;
14 int varB = 2;
15 double varC = 9.34;
16 varA = varB;
17 varB = varC;
18 printf("varA: %lf, varB: %d, varC: %lf \n", varA, varB, varC);
20 char varD;
21 varA = 65.5;

22 varD = (char) varA;

23 printf("varA: %1f, varD: %c \n\",varA, varD);
25 return 0:
                                                                                                                                                                                    KU LEUVEN
27
```

C99

- C99 provides stdint.h header file that defines integer types with known size independent of the machine architecture.
- stdint.h is not universally available on all C compilers
- Fixed-width integers guarantee a specific size, but their use can have an impact on portability, since they are not supported by all platforms.
- Check: https://en.cppreference.com/w/c/types/integer

KU LEUVEN