```
Minclude <string.h>
Fdefine MAXPAROLA 30
#define MAXRIGA 80
   int freq[MAXPAROLA]; /* vettore di contato
delle frequenze delle lunghazze delle parol
   char riga[MAXRIGA] ;
lint i, inizio, lunghezza
```

### **Abdtract Data Types**

### **Abstract Data Types**

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\* A variable has a name, a type, a size, and a value

```
char c;
int i;
float f;
list_t e;
Name c, type char, size 1
byte, value undefined
```

- In general, each identifier, i.e., a variable or a function name, has 4 other attributes
  - > Storage class, storage duration, scope, linkage

### Storage class

The part of the memory program where the storage for the object (variables or functions) is allocated

Object file (\*.c source file after compilation)

Low address

Command line arguments Environmental variables

High address

Stack





Uninitialized data

Initialized data

Source code

### Storage duration

➤ The time period during which the identifier exists in memory, i.e., how long the storage allocation continues to exist

```
int global

int main () {
  int local;
  ...
}

float function () {
  int local;
  ...
}
```

### Scope

- An identifiers scope is where the identifier can be referenced in a program
  - Some can be referenced throughout the entire program

Others from only portions of a program

```
int global

int main () {
  int local;
  ...
}

float function () {
  int local;
  ...
}
```

### Linkage

An identifiers linkage determines for a multiplesource-file program whether the identifier is known only in the current source file or in any source file with proper declarations

```
int global file1.c

int main () {
   int local;
   ...

float function1 () {
   int local;
   ...
}
```

- C provides four storage class specifiers
  - Automatic (or auto)
    - Only for variables, not for function
    - Default in many cases
    - Rarely used explicitly
  - Register
    - Only for variables
    - Old-fashion, rarely used today

Hug? What do they mean?

- > Extern
  - Default for functions
  - Used explicitly especially for variables
- > Static
  - Used for both variables and functions

- The automatic (or auto) storage class is the most common one being the default for all local variables
  - Local variables have automatic storage duration by default
  - ➤ The keyword **auto** is used to declare variables of automatic storage explicitly but it is **rarely** used
  - Variables with automatic storage duration
    - Are created when the block in which they are defined is entered
    - They exist while the block is active
    - They are destroyed when the block is exited (and their value is lost)

- Automatic variables are defined and considered local to the block in which they are defined
- ➤ They have to be **explicitly initialized**, as they do not have a predefined default values after the definition
- ➤ If the block is re-entered, the system once again allocates the memory for the variable, but the previous values remain unknown
- Notice that only variables (not functions) can have automatic storage duration

# Automatic objects The main program int main (...) { auto int i; float f; ... } auto int i; auto int i; float f;

```
<type> function (...) {
  int i;
  float f;
  {
    int j, k;
    char c = 'x';
    A block of
  instructions
    A function

    Char i;
    A block of instructions

A function

A
```

- The storage class register means that variables should be stored in high-speed memory register if this physically and semantically possible
- Its use is an attempt to improve execution speed
  - When speed is a concern the programmer may choose a few variables that are frequently used and define them as belonging to the storage class register
  - As compiler have become exceedingly efficient to optimize the programmer's code, the keyword register is **archaic** and should rarely be used

Register objects

### **Examples**

```
int main (...) {
  register int i;
  ...
}
```

May be use as variable to iterate, ergo, please "compiler" maintain it into a register

```
<type> function (...) {
  register int i;
  ...
}
```

Ditto ... but maybe there are no more regisgters available ... ergo it may be ignored

- The meaning of extern differs from variables and functions
- For variables
  - Extern is the default storage class for **global** variables
  - Global variables
    - Are created by placing variable definitions outside any function definition
    - Are the most common method to transmit information across blocks and functions
    - Retain their values throughout the entire execution of the program

- > For global variables the key extern
  - Can be omitted
    - When the program spans a unique \*.c file, and variables are defined at the beginning of the file
  - Must be inserted
    - With one single source file, when the variable is used before the original definition within that file
    - With several source files, when the variable definition in included in another file
- For extern variables the initialization is automatically done at compilation time, i.e., when memory is allocated for the variables

- ➤ In general, it is a good programming practice to avoid using external variables
  - Any function in the program can access and alter an extern variable
  - Extern variables weaken the concept of data abstraction, independent module and black box
    - The black box concept is essential to the development of a modular program with modules
  - They make debugging more difficult
- This is not to say that external variables should never be used
  - There are occasions in which external variable significantly simplifies an implementation

# Extern variables

```
int i, j;
int main (...) { ... }
void f1 (...) { ... }
void f2 (...) { ... }
```

```
int main (...) { ... }
int i, j;
void f1 (...) { ... }
void f2 (...) { ... }
```

## **Examples**

Variables i and j can be used by the main and f1 as well.

Variables i and j can be used only by f1 and f2

Variables defined in file1 can be usaed in files2 as well

```
file1.c
int i, j;
void f1 (...) { ... }
```

```
file2.c
extern int i, j;
void f2 (...) { ... }
```

### For functions

- ➤ The use of extern for functions has a slightly different meaning
- > All function are of storage class extern by default
  - The use of the keyword extern can be implicitly or explicitly
  - Functions
    - Must be defined only once
    - Can be declared (without or with extern) in any file in which we want to use them

# Extern functions

## **Examples**

```
extern float f1 (int);
float f2 (int);

float f1 (...) { ... }
float f2 (...) { ... }
```

Both f1 and f2 are "global" by default and can be used everywhere after the prototype

```
file1.c
float f1 (int);
extern float f2 (int);
float f1 (...) { ... }
```

```
file2.c
extern float f1 (int);
float f2 (int);

float f2 (...) { ... }
```

Each function is defined just once but can be used in both files

- Static objects have two important uses
  - Static local variables retain their previous value when a block is re-entered
    - This is in contrast to ordinary automatic variables, which lose their value upon block exit and must be re-initialized
  - Static extern variables are private, i.e., restricted in scope
    - They are unavailable to functions defined earlier in the same file or to functions defined in other files, even if those functions attempt to use the keyword extern
    - Static extern objects are locally global

# Static objects

```
void f (...) {
   static int i = 0;
   ...
}
```

### **Examples**

Variable i is local to f but it maintains its value
It is initialized during the first call to 0 and its value is retained in all subsequent calls

```
file.c
static float f;
static void f () {
...
}
```

Function f has a scope (visibility)
restricted to file.c.
Somehow, f is a local to file.c but
but in file.c is also global (global to
the family of functions defined in
file.c after that line).
Same considerations hold for f.