argv and argc are how command line arguments are passed to main() in C and C++.

argc will be the number of strings pointed to by argv. This will (in practice) be 1 plus the number of arguments, as virtually all implementations will prepend the name of the program to the array.

The variables are named argc (*argument count*) and argv (*argument vector*) by convention, but they can be given any valid identifier: int main(int num\_args, char\*\* arg\_strings) is equally valid.