

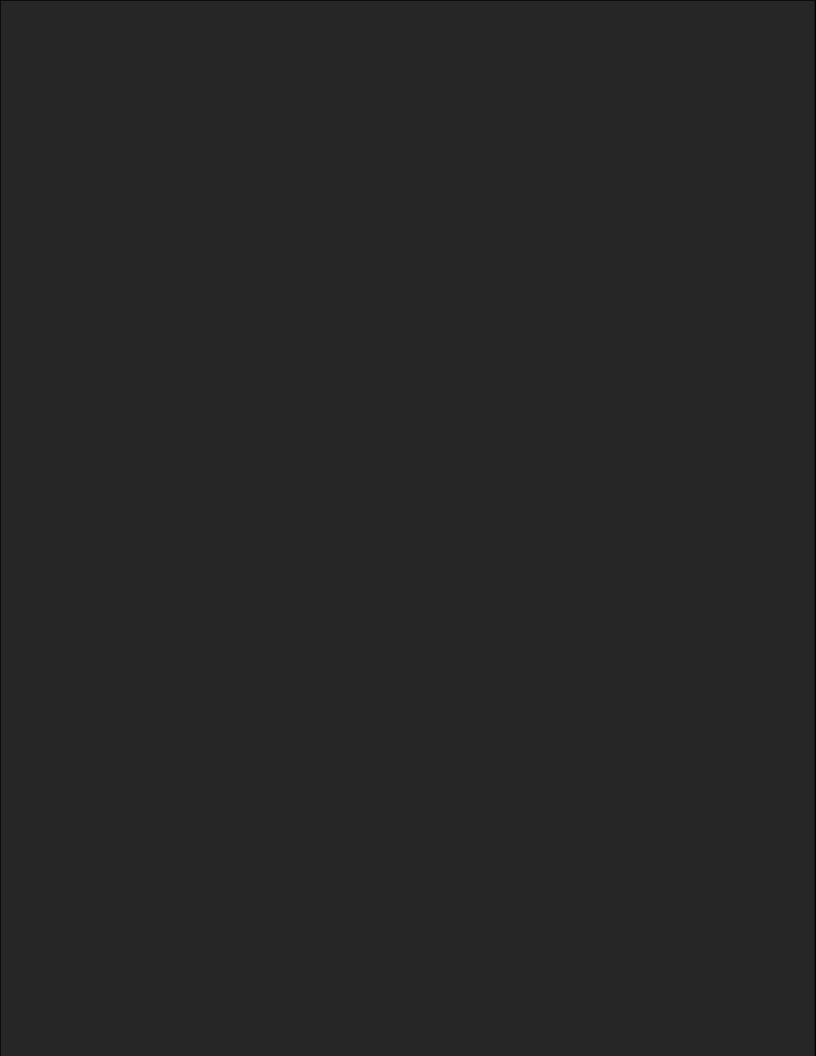
The hitchhiker's guide to staying alive at Wethinkcode South Africa

"The answer to all things in Bootcamp is -42"

-e5r8p4

This is a notebook on the C Programming language I wrote whilst attending the wethinkcode bootcamp in Johannesburg South Africa in preparation for daily exercises to help fellow bootcampers who want to avoid the dreaded "0/100" Fail screen. All improvements/suggestions welcome at:

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Lesson 1

- C does not support object oriented programming
- C does not support information hiding (no support for polymorphism, encapsulation, and inheritance)
- C does not allow functions to be defined inside structures.
- C uses functions for input/output. For example scanf and printf .
- C provides malloc and calloc functions for dynamic memory allocation, and calloc for memory de-allocation.
- C does not provide String or Boolean data types. It supports primitive & built-in data types.
- C supports only Pointers (no references)

HOW TO COMPILE IN UNIX (using gcc)

Moulinette uses -Wall -Wextra Werror when compiling, and uses gcc. All warnings in the compiler basically turn to errors
So anything that even looks like it will crash will cause you to get a fail grade ☺

Example 1: Compile command

```
$> gcc -Wall -Wextra -Werror test.c
$> ./a.out
```

You can also compile multiple C files for the same program.

```
gcc -00 -Wall -Wextra -Werror -ansi -o my_executable my_code.c
```

PRO TIP: Make an alias

To avoid having to type this long command at each compilation, make yourself an alias!

Open the \sim / SHELLrc file (replacing SHELL with sh, csh, tcsh, bash, 42sh, ...) Add a line of type:

```
alias mycc 'gcc -00 -Wall -Wextra -Werror -ansi'
Then type
source ~ / SHELLrc
And finally, to compile, do
mycc -o my executable my code.c
```

Lesson 2 – Variables & Character handling

Variables are little boxes that help us store stuff in programming.

To know the ASCII values of each letter, we use the ASCII table that can be accessed through man ASCII.

```
48 - 57 | '0' - '9'
65 - 90 | 'A' - 'Z'
97 - 122 | 'a' - 'z'
```

Example: The letter 'F' is set to ASCII 70 while the letter 'f' is ASCII 102. Other non-visible characters that may be useful:

```
'\ 0' | NULL, 0
                                    //Usually at the end of strings, so our
99 |
                                    compiler knows when to stop reading a
                                    string
     '\ a'
             bell, beep
     '\ b'
08
             backspace
     '\ t'
09
             tabulation
10
             Return to the line
                                      //Skips to next line
     '\ v'
           | Vertical tabulation
11
           | Come back to the beginning of the line
```

To display a letter, we will use this small function:

```
#include <unistd.h>

void ft_putchar(char c)
{
  write (1, &c, 1);
}
```

You can send a string to a function by using double quotes (" ") my string of characters \ n ".

Single quotes (') are used for single characters.

PRO TIP: Understanding NULL or '\0'

NB: NULL in c languages is for NOTHING. It is not the same as zero. If you return 0 in a function it has a meaning but if you return NULL it can crash your program. NULL is typically more useful in things like arrays and memory allocation. (i.e. set all values of an array to NULL before use so that if one result is stored as '0' you can be aware of the fact that a value went in that index, the value just happened to be zero)

Lesson 3 - Useful (And Useless) Functions

Write

- call to system
- uses the #include <unistd.h> directive
 Remember, numbers still fall on the asci table. So don't try convert,
 treat them the SAME as you would a normal char.

in the form
write(fd, buf, nbytes);

fd	It is the file descriptor which has been obtained from the call to open. It is an integer value. The values 0, 1, 2 can also be given, for standard input, standard output & standard error, respectively.	
buf	It points to a character array, which can be used to store content obtained from the file pointed to by fd	
nbytes	It specifies the number of bytes (essentially characters) to be written from the file into the character array.	

```
To display words to screen
#include <unistd.h>
int main(void)
{
    if (write(1, "Hello World!\n", 13) != 14)
      {
        write(2, "There was an error writing to standard out\n", 44);
        return -1;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

PRO TIP: Some useless information

What is a descriptor? (Used for Manipulation of files)

In simple words, when you open a file, the operating system creates an entry to represent that file and store the information about that opened file. So if there are 100 files opened in your OS then there will be 100 entries in OS (somewhere in kernel). These entries are represented by integers like (...100, 101, 102....). This entry number is the file descriptor. So it is just an integer number that uniquely represents an opened file in operating system. If your process opens 10 files then your Process table will have 10 entries for file descriptors.

Printf

(FORBIDDEN by 42 Norm but... It's super useful for testing)

- Provides FORMATTED output
- Used with a number of specifiers, use them when you know what type of variable you are outputting
- uses the #include <stdio.h> directive
- In the const char part, use \n if you need to output stuff after printing

```
in the form
#include <stdio.h>
int main()
{
   printf ("Characters: %c %c \n", 'a', 65);
  printf ("Decimals: %d %ld\n", 1977, 650000L);
   printf ("Width trick: \frac{\pi}{4} \n", 5, 10);
  printf ("%s \n", "A string");
A list of some specifiers
d or i
            Signed decimal integer
                                                                 392
      Unsigned decimal integer
                                                                 7235
f
      Decimal floating point, lowercase
                                                                 392.65
e
      Scientific notation (mantissa/exponent), lowercase
                                                                 3.9265e+2
      Character
C
s
      String of characters
                                                                 sample
      Pointer address
                                                                 b8000000
р
      Nothing printed.
n
```

Scanf

(FORRIDDEN by 42 Norm)

- The scanf function allows you to accept input from standard in, which for us is generally the keyboard.
- uses the #include <stdio.h> directive
- The scanf function uses the same placeholders as printf:

```
int uses %d
float uses %f
char uses %c
character strings (discussed later) use %s
```

Void type

- is a type, goes for BOTH function parameters & function returns
- So, a void pointer in c is one without a type, but this actually doesn't matter (in the example, a VP function with a VP variable is created to act as a place holder to convert a char to an int)
- Therefore, void pointers are POLYMORPHIC
- In c++, when void is used as a parameter, it's basically casting a variable (i.e void void_one) but in c it's much simpler, just use void (i.e void) as a parameter

Ternary operators (Use only ONE per function as per 42 Norm)

- Different from Boolean operators because they have three sides instead of two.
- shortens and replaces need for if else
- if condition is true to left of question mark, returns first operand, if condition is false, returns second operand

```
In the form of:
 (condition ? return_true : return_false)
Example 1 - Shortening and if else statement using ternary operators:
int opening time = (day == SUNDAY) ? 12 : 9;
Instead of:
int opening_time;
if (day == SUNDAY)
   opening_time = 12;
else
    opening time = 9;
  Ternary operators can also be parameters for other functions (since ternary
  operators have specified output)
#include <stdio.h>
main()
  int a , b;
  a = 10;
  printf( "Value of b is %d\n", (a == 10) ? 20  30 );
}
Typedef (Useful for when we create classes in C)
  alias for a type name
  signified with t (i.e. cards t)
  Not much to it, just saves you time cause pointer definitions or even
  variables can take a while to type
```

Lesson 4 – Arrays

Arrays

- Little bookshelves that help you store information. More like badass variables
- Same as in C++, same logic and use
- Difference here is that the functions new and delete for allocating and de-allocating memory are now malloc and delete

```
Process for allocation
   1. Declare pointer variable to point to allocated heap space
  2. Call to allocate the correct number of space in memory
  3. Initialize array (If you can)
Example 1 - How to dynamically allocate in C
//declare a pointer variable to point to allocated heap space
int
      *p array;
double *d array;
//call malloc to allocate that appropriate number of bytes for the array
d_array = (int *)malloc(sizeof(double)*100); // allocate 100 doubles
// always CHECK RETURN VALUE of functions and HANDLE ERROR return values
if(p array == NULL)
 printf("malloc of size %d failed!\n", 50 exit(1);
Passing array as a parameter
When passing an array as a parameter, this:
     void arraytest(int a[])
means exactly the same as:
     void arraytest(int *a)
Dynamically changing the size of an array
  /* Initial memory allocation, use (char *c) to cast as char array */
  str = (char *) malloc(15);
   /* Reallocating memory */
   str = (char *) realloc(str, 25);
   free(str);
```

Lesson 5 – Pointers

- when you declare a pointer, it's not "a pointer of the type int" but rather
 "a pointer of the type point to int"
 So a pointer is Geff pointing to the box he will put your body in.
 A Variable is Geff storing your body in the box.
- So it's technically not a variable. Instead of making space in memory (stack), it just waits and points to it until you decide to use it

key to understanding pointers?

- The address of "&" operator changes what the pointer is pointing to int *ip;
- 2. the pointer ip only points to something (point to the same thing that
 variable x is pointing to)
 ip = &x;

OR

- 2. you assign the pointers value to something it should point at
 *ip = *x;
- For arrays, *ip=2; assigns 2 to the first element, because the pointer points to the first element of the array
- If you increment the pointer using ++ip; , it will point to the second element
- after incrementing, you can use ip=3; to assign to the second element

PRO TIP: Increment AND use a pointer at the same time

you can increment AND use a pointer at the same time using *(++ip) = 4; This is useful for when you want to quickly store something in a pointer array

C strings

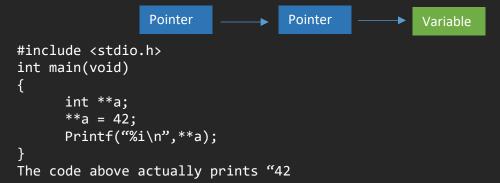
- in the c language, strings are a special case of an array (unlike in c++ where they are objects)
- they are an array of characters terminated by a zero value
- char s[] = {'s','t','r','i','n','g',0}
 is the same as
 char s[] = "string".
 Use the second, it's more common

You can use a pointer as the i iterator in a loop when outputting an array. The pointer actually even replaces the need for s[i] entirely (example: use a character pointer as an iterator/i)

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(int argc, char ** argv)
{
   Char s[] = "string";
   Printf("String is: %s\n",s);
   For (char * cp = s; *cp; ++cp)
   {
        Printf("Char is: %c\n", *cp);
   }
   Return (0);
}
```

Pointer to a pointer (Pass by reference)

A pointer to a pointer is a form of multiple indirection, or a chain of pointers



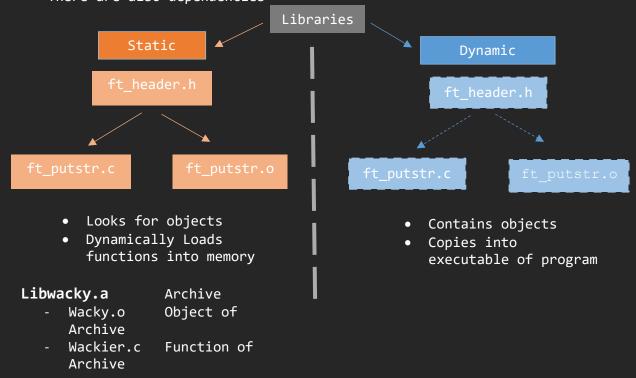
PRO TIP: So why use pointer to a pointer?

In C, double pointers are more common, since C does not have a reference type. Therefore, you also use a pointer to <u>"pass by reference."</u>. Where " & " is used in a parameter type in the C++, " * " would be used in C (and dereferenced when manipulating the parameter). A function is not able to change the actual parameter's value.One example:

Lesson 6: Libraries, Objects & Header files

- Libraries essentially bundle code/functions/objects together in order to reuse and access everything easily
- Archives describe how everything is housed
- These are further separated into Static & Dynamic/Shared Libraries
- Dependencies are created between the Program and the archive.

 There are also dependencies



How to create Objects

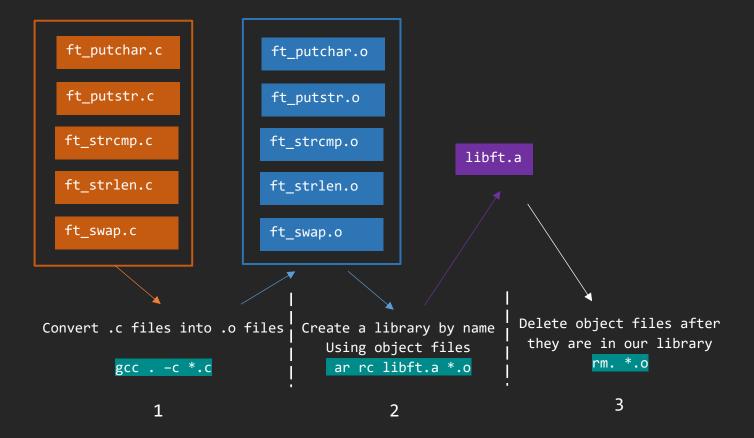
- These are usually created from the .c extension, .c files which are put through the compiler are used to create object files.
- The command line or shell scripts are used to execute the different calls we will need to create object files, creating a library, creating an index in the library and even removing all the object files once they have been created

Example - Some shell script to help build up a library (with .c files located in current directory)

lib creator.sh

 The ar tool can also help us list the files inside a library ar rc libft.a *.o

I - Compilation steps (Using a shell file & shell commands)



Makefile

- These compilation steps can be put into a file that lets us control which specific step numbers we want to use (Just like commands in the terminal)
- This is called using a makefile. Using the commands is called make commands
- In order to shorten our compile commands, we can put things like the names or directory paths of files in variables and create rules that basically use the shortened versions of those commands

```
Example:
    gcc . -c ft_putchar.c ft_putstr.c ft_strcmp.c ft_strlen.c ft_swap.c

could be shortened to...
    gcc -c $(SRC)

where the variable $(SRC) contains all the names of your function .c files

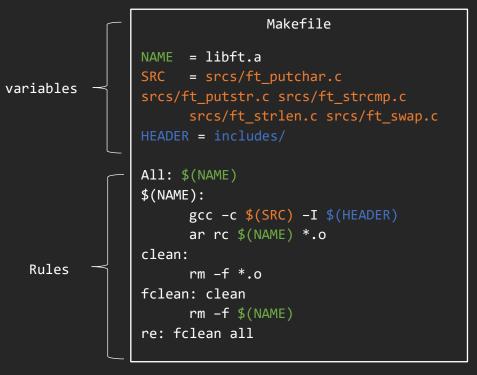
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• To run each rule individually you need to use make + rule_name

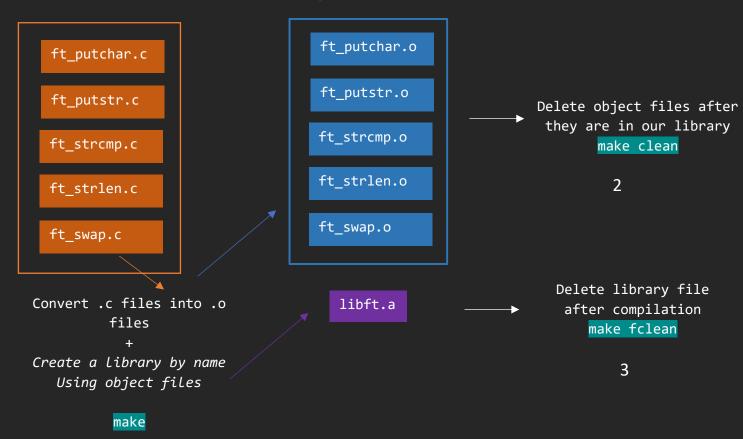
Example:
```

```
rm. *.o
would be run using...
make clean
```

Example:



II - Compilation steps (Using a makefile & makefile commands)



Header files

- These files contain prototypes for the functions we might want to use but not have to type again and again (i.e. ft_putchar)
- We would define the prototypes for the functions here but usually the logic with the algorithms is contained with a dependant .c file
- So if I create a ft_header.h file with my prototypes, I must create a corresponding ft_functions.c file with my algorithms
- In my ft_functions.c file, I should have an #include "ft_header.h" line to let my compiler know to access prototypes in the ft_header.h header file

```
ft_header.h

#ifndef FT_HEADER_H

# define FT_HEADER_H

Void ft_putchar(cahr c);
Void ft_putstr(char *c);
Int ft_strcmp(char *s1, char *s2);
Int ft_strlen(char *str);
Void ft_swap(cahr c);

#endif
```

```
ft_functions.c

#include <unistd.h>
Void ft_putchar(cahr c)
{
    Write(1, &c, 1);
}

Void ft_putstr(char *c)
{
    //Blah blah blah
}
...
```

Using #ifndef ... #endif helps us avoid prototype conflicts.

FT_HEADER is defined
 So if your compiler can find another instance of one your prototypes, it will just skip over the one in ft_header.h and use the newly defined one elsewhere.

Lesson 7: Arguments

**argv

- This is a super convenient feature to use at compilation for easy testing and to make your programs easier for users to use
- Instead if creating a printf main testing function, you could rather bake in arguments so that you can test at the ./a.out compilation step

- Argument VECTOR. This is a 2D array that holds arguments entered as

- Argument COUNT. This counts the number of entered arguments (i.e. the number of strings entered by user)
 - Is always +1 higher than the actual number, this is because the program name (./a.out) takes up the first index

strings. Is A NULL POINTER

- 0 ./a.out

1 Hello

There!

Example: A program to reverse a string inputted by the user

```
arguments
void ft putchar(char c);
void ft_putstr(char *c);
char *ft_strrev(char *c);
int
     main(void)
{
      char *str;
      ft_putstr("Please enter your
      string:");
      scanf("%s",str);
      ft_putstr(ft_strrev(str));
      return (0);
}
Terminal:
$> gcc Reverse_Prog.c
$> ./a.out
$> Please enter your string:
$> ReverseMe
$> eMesreveR
```

```
WITH arguments
void ft putchar(char c);
void ft_putstr(char *c);
char ft_strrev(char *c);
int
      main(int argc, **argv)
{
      char *str;
      int k;
      k = 1;
      while (argc > 1)
            ft_putstr(ft_strrev(argv[k]));
            --argc;
            k++;
      ft_putchar('\n');
      return (0);
}
Terminal:
$> gcc Reverse_Prog.c
$> ./a.out Reverse Me
$> eMesreveR
```

HOW TO PRINT ARGUMENTS

• Remember to ALWAYS use both argc & argv in your main function to avoid a compiling error (caused by unused parameters/variables).

```
WHOLE ARGUMENTS (as strings)
int k;

k = 1;
if (argc > 1)
while (k < argc)
{
    ft_putstr(argv[k]);
    ft_putchar('\n');
    k++;
}</pre>
```

(I prefer this method to avoid spaghetti code)

```
WHOLE ARGUMENTS (as char array)
int k;
int m;

k = 1;
m = 0;
if (argc > 1)
while (k < argc)
{
    while (argv[k][m] != '\0')
    {
       ft_putchar(argv[k][m]);
       m++;
    }
    k++;
    ft_putchar('\n');
}</pre>
```

PRO TIP: Use argc & argv as parameters in functions other than int main In C, argv works like a char array where the final element is guaranteed to be a null pointer. Pass them as normal if you want to use them outside main.

```
int main(int argc, **argv)
{
}
Is the same as...
char some_or_other_function(int argc, **argv);

Is the same as...
int some_or_other_function(int size, char **argspooppoop);

Is the same as...
void some_or_other_function(int size_t, char **argsplahlah[]);
```

Lesson 8: Pointers to functions

- This is a great way of managing and debugging complex code
- Instead of having to fix a written function that appears 100 times, you can basically alter your function once in a single location and fix all your problems in the original function definition.

- In this example we can see that in the future we might create more cows and use the create_cows function.
- If we were coding a farm simulator, we would probably call the function thousands of times, but to neaten our code we could call it using f(m,n,p);, where m, n and p are different values
- Instead of wasting space in memory and storing & executing the function thousands of times, we could just point to it and execute to create a cow when needed.
- Even when we fix our original function, we only need to change 3 to 4 and all the other pointers to our function will adjust themselves accordingly.

```
HOW TO USE POINTER TO FUNCTION IN AN ARGUMENT (for testing)
void ft_putnbr(int nb);
void for_each(into *tab, int length, void(*f)(int));
int main(void)
{
   int a[] = {0,1,2,3,4,5,6};
   ft_foreach(a, 7, &ft_putnbr);
}
```



Stuff for nerds I: Space & Time Complexity of an algorithm

Time complexity of an algorithm quantifies the amount of time taken by an algorithm to run as a function of the length of the input. Similarly, **Space** complexity of an algorithm quantifies the amount of space or memory taken by an algorithm to run as a function of the length of the input. This usually shows the number of times an algorithm will have to execute in the <u>worst case scenario</u>.

There are some common running times when analyzing an algorithm:

Big O Notation

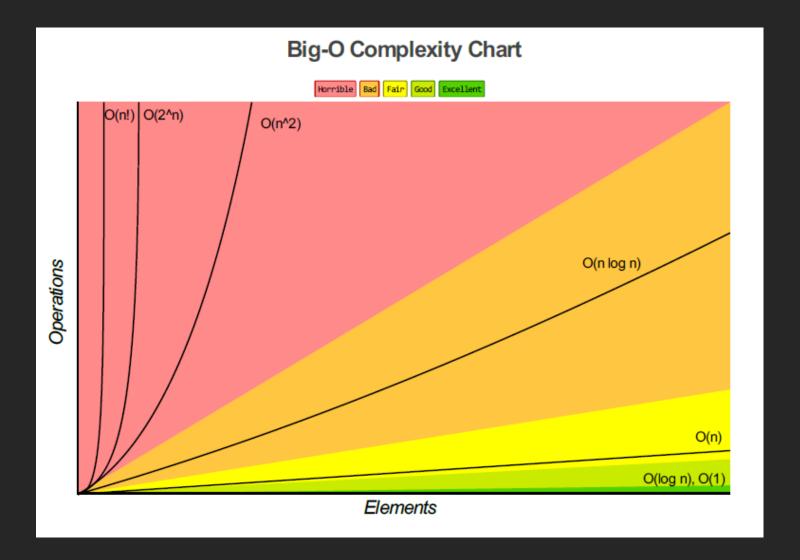
(In order of speed)

0(1) "Order of 1"	Constant	Running time is constant, it's not affected by the input size. Example: Adding item to array.
O(logN)	Logarithmic	Algorithm that has running time O(log n) is slightly faster than O(n). Commonly, algorithm divides the problem into sub problems with the same size. Example: Binary search algorithm, binary conversion algorithm.
O(N)	Linear	When an algorithm accepts n input size, it would perform n operations as well. Example: Linear search
$O(n \log_n)$	Linearithmic	This running time is often found in "divide & conquer algorithms" which divide the problem into sub problems recursively and then merge them in n time. Example: Merge Sort algorithm.
$O(N^2)$	Quadratic	Look Bubble Sort algorithm! Example: Bubble Sort algorithm (nested loops, swap elements)
$O(N^3)$	Cubic	Same as above
$O(2^n)$	Exponential	Time It is very slow as input get larger, if n = 1000.000, T(n) would be 21000.000. Brute Force algorithm has this running time.
O (N!)	Factorial	THE SLOWEST !!! Example : Travel Salesman Problem (TSP)

So if you did ft_fibonacci.c from day04 and tested it, you might have noted that it was REALLY slow, especially at higher values. This is because it has a $O(2^n)$ Time complexity (SUPER inefficient).

So typically, the more data we have, the "N-times" or "N-squared times" etc the algorithm will have to execute in the worst case scenario.

Remember, we always look at the part of the algorithm with the BIGGEST effect on the performance of the algorithm.



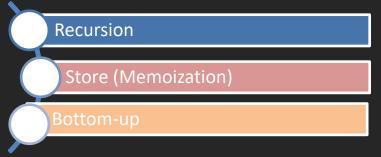
PRO TIP: TSP for nerds

- A salesman must travel between N cities (in any order) and finishes where he started
- This is an NP-hard problem
- For n cities, you have N-1 Factorial solutions (for only 10 cities you have over 180 000 combinations)
- Therefore this has the complexity of $m{O}(n!)$

Stuff for nerds II: Dynamic Programming

(Stuff to know for when we do searches)

- Dynamic programming can make an algorithm more efficient by storing some of the intermediate results (where there are repetitive computations)
- Seems like this is used where we have super slow/inefficient algorithms (like ones that compute in exponential $O(2^n)$ or even factorial O(n!) time)
- Normally 3 approaches to a Dynamic Programming problem:



Recursion

- In programming languages, if a program allows you to call a function inside the same function, then it is called a recursive call of the function.
- But while using recursion, programmers need to be careful to define an exit condition from the function; otherwise it will go into an infinite loop.

The base case = exit condition for function

Steps for writing recursive functions:

- 1. Define what the recursive function does in English (i.e. the prototype)
- 2. Think about solving the next smaller sized problem

 Recursion solves a big problem (of size n, say) by solving one or more smaller

 problems, and using the solutions of the smaller problems, to solve the bigger

 problem
- 3. Finally, you should deal with the base case, which is the smallest problem

Recursion will help solve complex scenarios elegantly and most importantly, will result in readable/understandable code.

Memoization

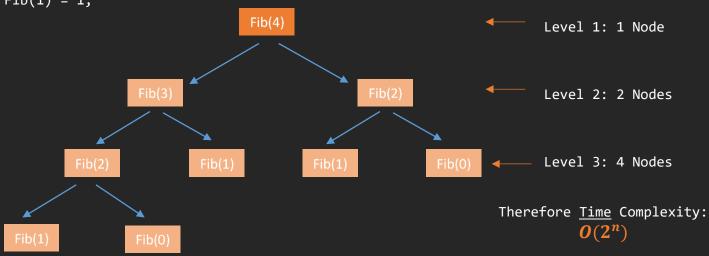
- Simply storing the results obtained from a recursive solution
- Best example would be the Fibonacci sequence program

Example:

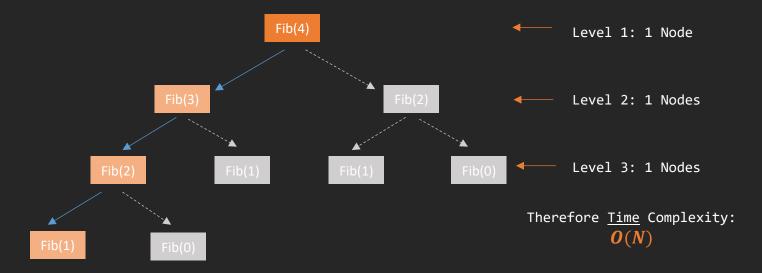
$$Fib(n) = Fib(n-1) + Fib(n-2)$$

With the starting conditions of:

Fib(0) = 0;Fib(1) = 1;



A treemap of the fib(4) function (WITHOUT Memoization)



A treemap of the fib(4) function (WITH Memoization)

Bottom-up

 Better logical approach, instead of recursively trying to find a solution, figure out a relationship on the sequence and store indexes in array

Algorithms for fibonacci using all 3 methods:

Recursion

```
int fib (int n)
                                                     Therefore <u>Time</u> Complexity:
     int result = NULL;
     if (n == 1) | | (n == 2)
                                                              O(2^n)
           result 1;
     else
           result = fib(n-1) + fib(n-2);
     return result;
Memoization
int fib (int n, int *memo)
     int result = NULL;
                                                     Therefore <u>Time</u> Complexity:
     if (memo[n] != NULL)
                                                        T \leq (2n+1).0(1)
     return memo[n]
     if (n == 1) | | (n == 2)
           result 1;
                                                              = O(N)
           result = fib(n-1) + fib(n-2);
     memo[n] = result;
     return result;
Bottom-up
                                                     Therefore <u>Time</u> Complexity:
int fib (int n) {
int result = NULL;
                                                              = O(N)
     if (n == 1) | | (n == 2)
           result 1;
bottom[1] = 1;
bottom[2] = 1;
for (int i=3; i <= n; i++)
           bottom[i] = bottom[i-1] + bottom[i-2];
     return bottom[n];
```

Stuff for nerds III: Other algorithms

Binary search

result = '\0'

}

- This is an interesting search method that relies on the property that a set is sorted
- This algorithm divides a set in two, compares the search item to the middle of the set, and decides whether it should recursively search the top or bottom of the set.
- Each search level has half the number of results therefore has a logarithmic time complexity $O(log_n)$
- This search can be iterative or recursive (prefer iterative as you can use a single parameter for a function)

Steps:

```
1. While left <= right...
   2. mid = (left + right)/2... OR mid = (left + right)/2 to prevent integer
      overflow
   3. Check if x < mid (then adjust right boundary, right = mid-1)
   4. Else adjust left boundary (left = mid+1)
int binsearch(int nb)
      int * arr[nb] , left = 0, right = nb-1, x, mid;
      char * result;
      while (left <= right){</pre>
            mid = (left+right)/2;
            if (arr[mid] == x)
                  result = mid ;
            else if (x < arr[mid])</pre>
                                                 //Check left, adjust right
                  right = mid-1;
            else if (x > arr[mid])
                                                 //Check right, adjust left
                  left = mid+1;
```