



ENCE 260 Computer Systems C Programming Section

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Teaching embedded systems in Term 4





0. Administrivia

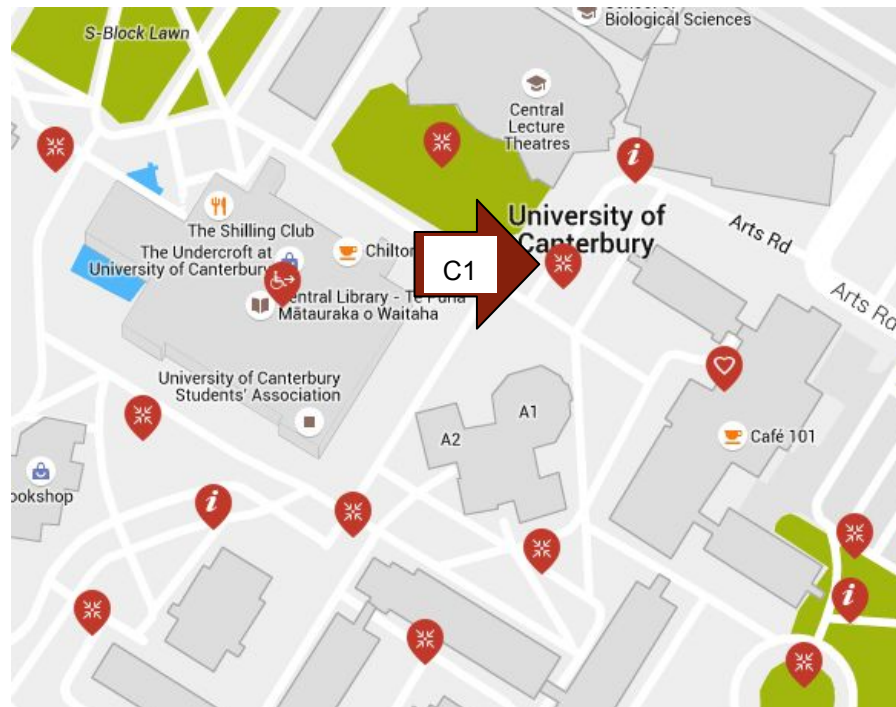
- Emergency procedures
- About the course
- Assessment
- Textbooks
- Timetable
- Intro to the C section



Emergency

www.canterbury.ac.nz/emergency/

- **University Security Emergency**
 - Ext. 6111 (from campus phone) or 0800 823 637 (from cell phone)





Earthquake

If inside:

- Stay inside
- Stop, drop, hold
- Under desks or down beside an internal wall

If outside:

- Stay outside
- Take shelter in the nearest open space/car park



*Lectures and Tutorials**

Lectures (attend all 3)

- Mondays 12:00 - 13:00 in C1
- Wednesdays 17:00 - 18:00 in C1
- Fridays 16:00 - 17:00 in C1

All lectures are recorded on Echo360.

Tutorials (attend 1)

- Thursday 14:00 - 15:00 in K1
- Thursday 11:00 - 12:00 in C3

Tutorial type problems, in a smaller lecture theatre.

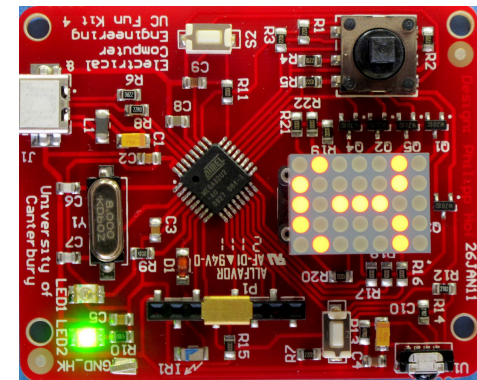
* Subject to change. The most up-to-date schedule is always on CIS: [ENCE260 2018](#)



Course Structure

Three sections:

1. C Programming, Dr Richard Lobb
 - Term 3:
 - Lectures Monday and Friday
 - Tutorials week 1 only
 - One lab per week (book yourself in)
2. Computer Architecture, Dr Allan McInnes
 - Terms 3 & 4:
 - Lectures Wednesday
 - Tutorials: Every second week in Terms 3 & 4
3. Embedded Systems, Dr Richard Clare
 - Term 4:
 - Lectures Monday and Friday
 - One lab per week (book yourself in)
 - Tutorials: Every second week in Term 4
 - UCFK microprocessor boards available from mid-semester break





Assessment

- 10% on C programming “assignment”
 - Actually it’s a 2-part “super quiz”; details later
- 10% on embedded systems assignment (Term 4)
- 10% on Learn/quiz.cosc quizzes (weekly)
 - C, Comp. Arch, Embedded Systems
 - Roughly 13 quizzes in total, equally weighted (ie 0.8% each)
- 20% on test (Monday 12 Sept, evening, time TBA)
- 50% on final exam (does not include C programming)

Warning re collaboration on labs/assignments

Warning re minimum 40% on invigilated components



Who is this Richard Lobb guy?

- Room 211, Erskine Building
- Email `richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz`
- Adjunct Senior Fellow
- “Retired” from full-time academia
 - Was in CS dept at Auckland from 1978 to 2003
 - o Here ever since
 - Computer graphics was my area
- Passionate about programming
- Teach lots of different languages (Python, C, C++, C#, Java, JavaScript, PHP, Matlab, ...)





Textbooks

- Prescribed text:
 - None, each lecturer provides detailed handout material
- Recommended text:
 - K. N. King, C programming: a modern approach (2nd Edition)



Videos

[Learn page](#)

❖ Lecture Notes and Videos

As explained in the first lecture, some of the lecture content this year will be supplemented via videos, which will be made as time and need dictate.

The following table shows the currently available lecture notes and videos for the C section of the course. This table will be updated as the weeks progress. Stay tuned!

Part 1

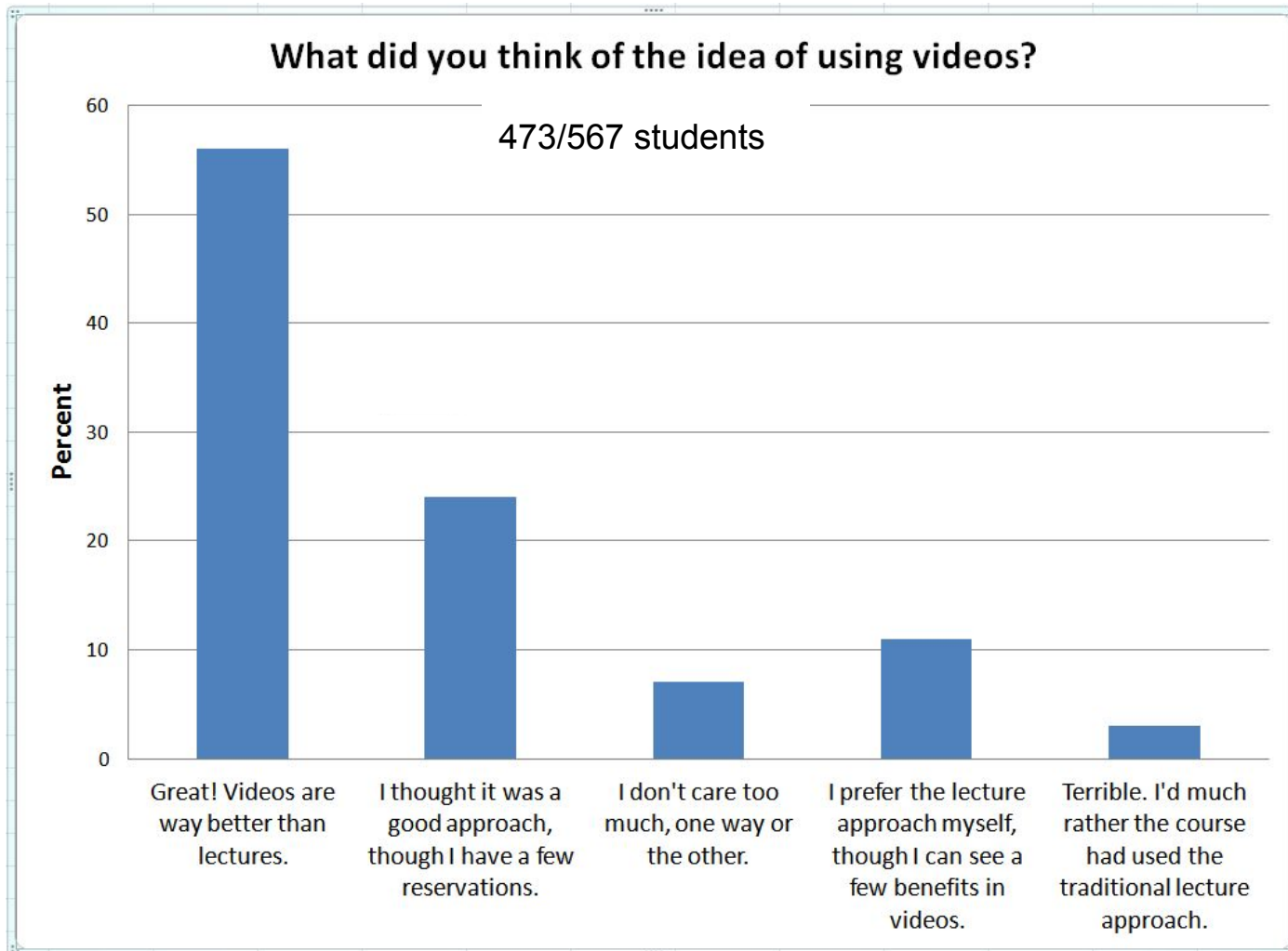
Slides: [Part 1 Introduction and C Basics](#)

[Part 1 playlist \(YouTube\)](#)

Part 1:1 Don't bash bash	YouTube	Dropbox
Part 1:2 More Linux stuff	YouTube	Dropbox
Part 1:3 prog1.c	YouTube	Dropbox
Part 1:4 celsius.c	YouTube	Dropbox
Part 1:5 Memory, Data and Assignment	YouTube	Dropbox



COSC121S1 video feedback





Getting help

- Class forum (*Learn*)
- Talk to tutors or me in the labs
- Help on C:
 - C Textbook (King)
 - [cppreference](#) website
 - Google
- On line help for Linux
 - The *man* program displays manual pages
 - *man ls* displays the manual for the *ls* command
 - *man -k blah* displays all manual pages containing the keyword *blah*
 - Debian on-line tutorial/reference manual
 - <https://www.debian.org/doc/manuals/debian-reference/ch01.en.html>





Doing labs at home

- You are strongly advised to attend scheduled labs
 - Keeps you in touch with the course, tutors and me
- But you can do extra lab work at home:
 - Run *linux* (e.g. Ubuntu) under Windows via *vmware* or Oracle *VirtualBox*. Google for instructions (lots of hits).
 - Usually the easiest solution
 - Install *linux* on home machine instead of Windows
 - Good soln but a bit drastic for most
 - Install *linux* as well as Windows (dual-boot)
 - Good soln but need to partition disk or need 2 disks
 - Get a Raspberry Pi 3! [\$57 + SD card + other accessories]
 - The fun option, and probably the most instructive, too
 - But be aware that data type sizes are different from lab machines

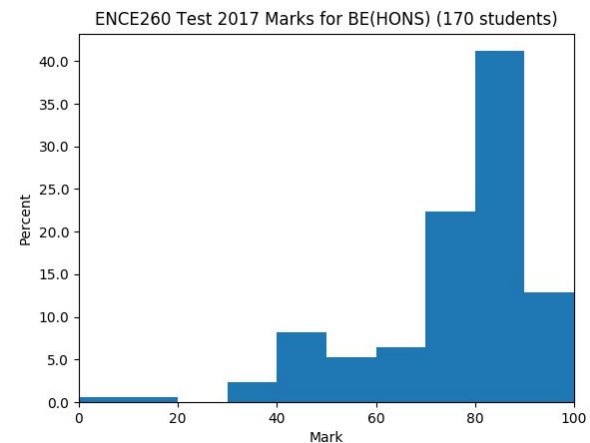
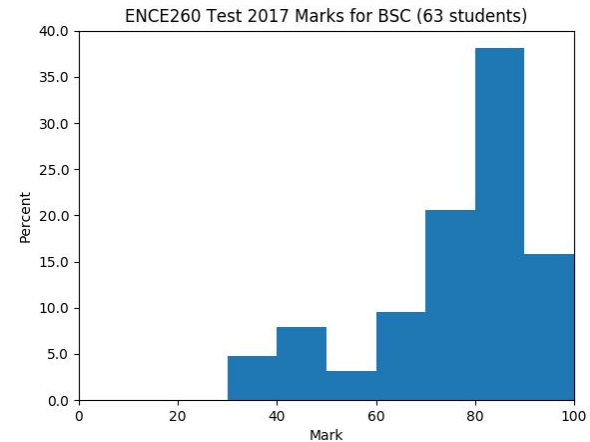
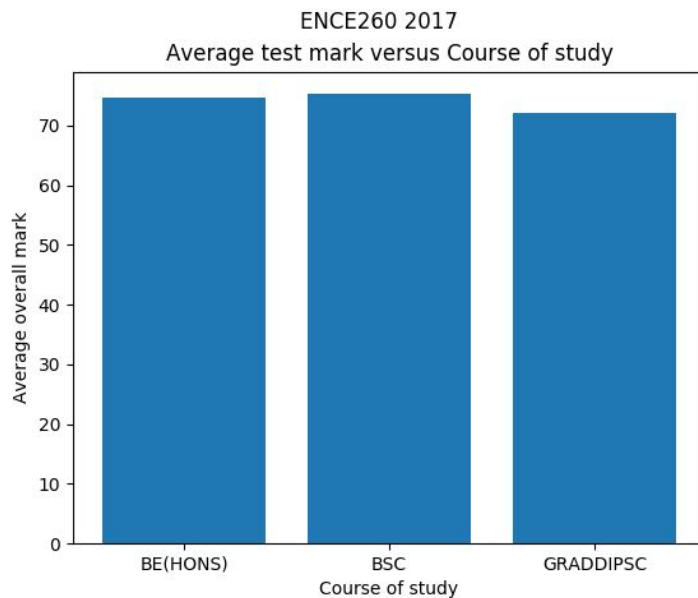


How to succeed in this section

- Do all the labs, **starting early**
 - labs will take well over 2 hours
- **Get started early** on the assignment questions
 - It's a 2-part “superquiz”
- Don't copy code; write your own 
- Try to solve problems by yourself 
 - Read the book
 - Experiment with code
 - Google
- **Don't just hack at code until it works**
 - **Work out what's wrong before continuing**
 - **Every failure is a learning opportunity**
- Don't give up when the going gets tough



*“I’m not doing COSC
So this course is hard for me”*





Class Reps

- Volunteers?
- Elected volunteers: please register at
 - <http://ucsa.org.nz/classreps/signup/>



Goals of C section of 260

- To teach you C
 - Still widely used for
 - systems programming
 - **microcontroller development**
- To improve your programming skills
 - More practice
 - Learning different languages
 - Use of various tools
- To expose you to Linux



Goals of C section of 260 (cont'd)

- To give you a lower-level understanding of computers and programming
 - No interpreter or virtual machine in the way
 - You get to see:
 - Compilation to raw machine code
 - Layout of code in memory
 - Linking and loading
 - Dynamic memory management
 - Calls to the operating system



Tentative timetable (C)

Week #	Begins	Lecture1	Lecture2	Lab
1	16/Jul	Administrivia; course introduction	Introduction to Linux & C (also tutorial wk 1)	Linux and C fundamentals
2	23/Jul	Selection and iteration	Arrays and functions	Selection and iteration
3	30/Jul	Pointers	Strings	Arrays and functions
4	6/Aug	Structuring data: structs, linked lists	Structuring code: separate compilation, makefiles	Pointers and strings
5	13/Aug	Style	Dynamic memory #1: malloc and friends.	Structures
6	20/Aug	Dynamic memory #2; I/O	Review	Dynamic memory



1. C Basics

First lab and tutorial includes an introduction to Linux, too.

- Why Linux?
- Why C?
- History of C
- C versus Python
- C versus Java
- A simple C program
 - The C preprocessor
 - Declaring data
 - Formatted I/O



Why Linux?

- It's free
- It underpins Android
- It underpins a large percentage of other smart devices
- It runs ~70% of the world's websites
 - <https://news.netcraft.com/archives/2017/09/11/september-2017-web-server-survey.html>



Why use a command-line interface?

- Why would I learn a clunky old command line interface?
Everything nowadays uses GUIs.
- But ... really?
 - Is [this](#) how everyone programs nowadays?
- Sometimes text interfaces are just better
 - Faster and more-powerful
 - Certainly they're easier to write!
- But they *do* take longer for the user to learn



Why C?

- Brings you much closer to the hardware
- Used in other courses (e.g. graphics)
- Close relationship to Unix/Linux
 - All the “classic” Unix system software is written in C (including kernel)
 - Extensive set of tools for support of C programming
- Widely used in industry
 - Embedded systems
 - Legacy applications development

Note: above motivations are not based on C's qualities as a programming language!



History of C

- First there was assembly language (“assembler”). Then ...
- BCPL → B (Ken Thompson, 1970) → C (Dennis Ritchie, 1973)
- Developed specifically for implementing Unix
 - Easier and more portable than assembler
- Book by Kernighan and Ritchie (1978) defined “Classic C” (K&R C)
 - But “loose” spec
- ANSI standardisation 1989 (C89), 1999 (C99) ← We do this
 - Newer standard 2011 (C11)
- C++ 1980’s onwards (Bjarne Stroustrup)
 - Classes, overloaded operators, templates, exceptions, library classes, ...



Strengths and weaknesses of C

See King, section 1.2

- Strengths

- Efficiency
- Portability
- Power (?)
- Flexibility
- Standard library (?)
- Integration with Unix

- Weaknesses

- Error-prone
- Hard to understand
- Hard to maintain

Obfuscated C contest winner: input n and it prints all solutions to n -queens problem (see King):

```
int v,i,j,k,l,s,a[99];main(void){for(scanf("%d",&s);*a-s;v=a[j*=v]-a[i],k=i<
s,j+=(v=j<s&&(!k&&!printf(2+"\n\n%c"-(!l<<!j)," #Q"[l^v?(l^j)&1:2]))&&+
l||a[i]<s&&v&&v-i+j&&v+i-j))&&!(l%=s),v||(i==j?a[i+=k]=0:++a[i])>=s*k&&
++a[--i]);printf("\n\n");}
```



C versus Python

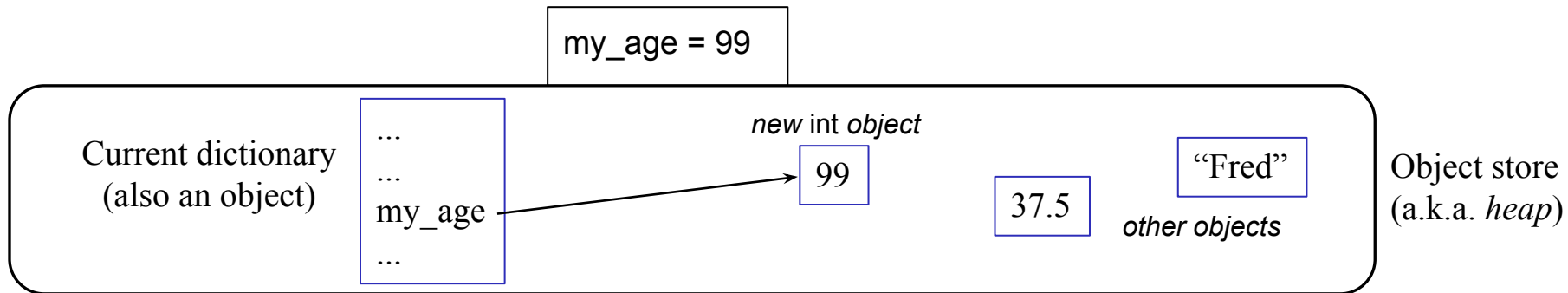
- Chalk and cheese
 - Python is a modern programming language; C is structured assembly language
- C compiles to run on CPU, not interpreted
- Statically typed – all variables must have their type declared before they can be used
- Insensitive to layout
 - Statements terminated by semicolon
 - Blocks enclosed in braces, e.g. { this-is-a-block }
- The only data types for structured data are *array* and *struct*
 - No (real) lists, strings (just *char* arrays), dictionaries, sets, OO, modules
- Minimal set of standard library functions

But CodeRunner questions
enforce a standard layout



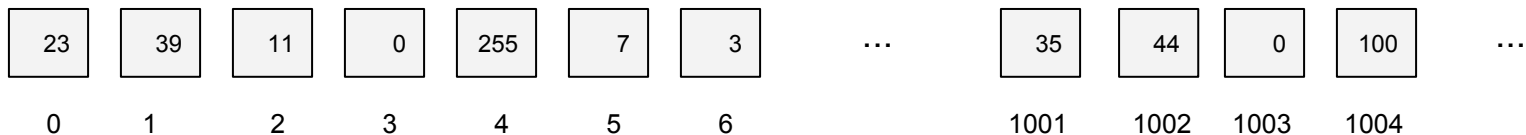
“Memory” in C

In Python, we saw memory as an “object store”



In C we deal with the *actual* computer memory.

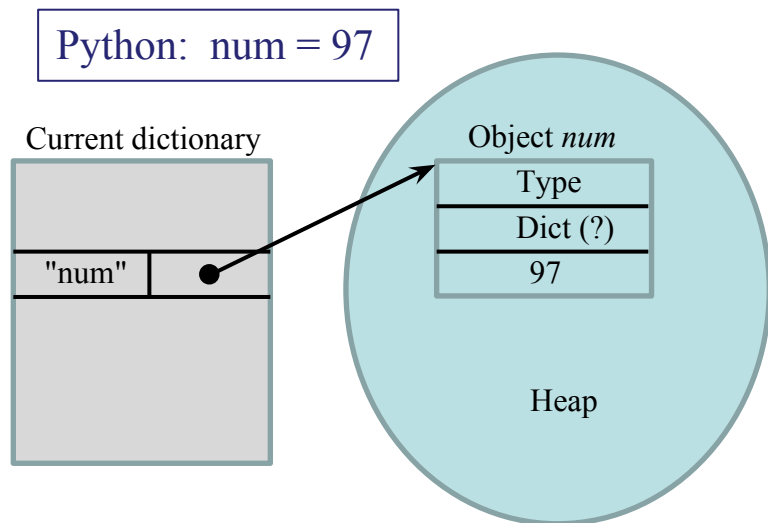
A linear array of several billion 1-byte numbered storage locations.





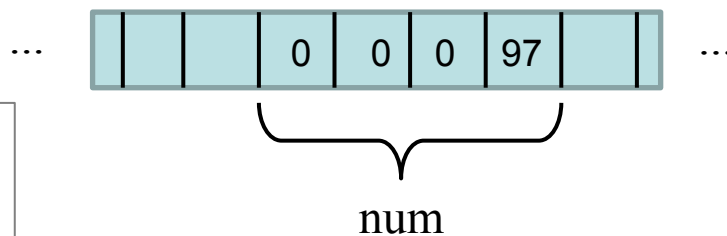
C versus Python cont'd

- **Variables are locations in memory, not references to objects**



C: `int num;`
...
`num = 97;`

Compiler reserves 4-bytes of memory for `num`. Assignment then puts the number 97 at the target location.



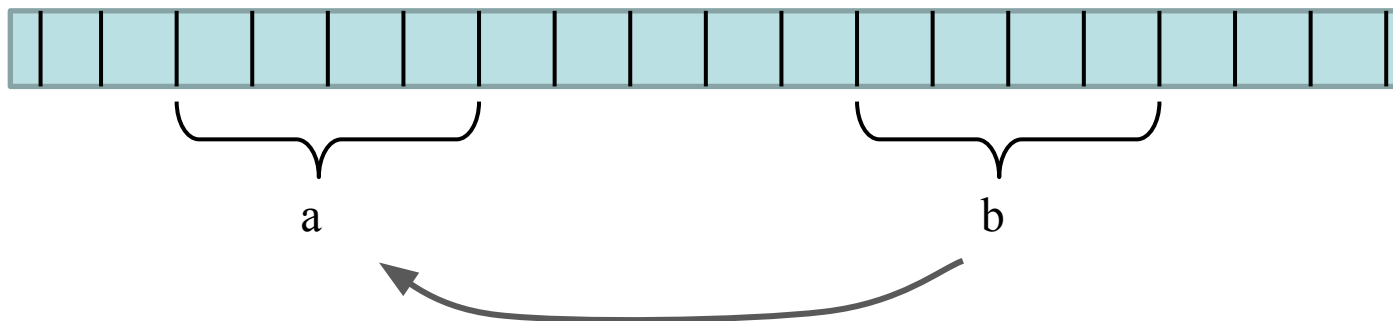
Few safety nets in C.

- Variables aren't initialized
- Array bounds not checked
- Pointer references not checked
- Easy to crash



C's “assign by value”

- In C, the statement `a = b` means *copy the contents of the memory block at the location b to the location a.*



- This is *not* the same as Python, where the LHS is the name of a new object reference - “assign by reference”
- It *is* the same as Java’s assignment of primitive types
 - But not object types, which again are references



C versus Java

- C is a procedural language (like Pascal, FORTRAN etc)
 - All statements occur within procedures/functions
 - No classes/objects/methods
 - Data is either global (accessible from everywhere) or inside one file or inside one function
- C compiles to run on CPU, not on a virtual machine.

For SENG201 students

- Vaguely like writing a single nameless Java class with all methods being static
 - The class fields (also static) are all the *global* variables
 - But C pointers are something else!



C versus Java or Python

- C doesn't have reference variables
 - Instead have to use explicit pointer variables
 - Parameters are always passed by value
- Do-it-yourself dynamic memory allocation/deallocation
 - No “garbage collector”
 - Errors lead to “memory leaks” or heap corruption and crash



Interlude - odds and ends

- Lab 1 implied videos were optional but
 - Some stuff appears only in videos
 - e.g. Some very useful keyboard shortcuts in “More Linux Stuff”
 - A good way to consolidate learning
- On home machines don’t forget to set *geany* to use spaces for indentation everywhere
- Open brace for *functions* is on the next line
- Knowing signed binary numbers is really useful
 - More in Alan McInnes’ next lecture
 - Or see

<https://www.swarthmore.edu/NatSci/echeevel/Ref/BinaryMath/NumSys.html>



Linux install fest

Tuesday 24th, Lab 2 (probably), preferred time ... ?

Who are the helpees?

Who are the helpers?



prog1.c (slightly modified from lab version)

```
/* Your first mindless C program */
#include <stdio.h>
#define SECOND_NUMBER 20
int main(void)
{
    // First the declarations
    int number1;
    int number2;
    int total;

    // Now some code
    number1 = 10;
    number2 = SECOND_NUMBER;
    total = number1 + number2;
    printf("The sum of %d and %d is %d\n", number1, number2, total);
    return 0;
}
```

Note two different comment types



Compiling, building and running

Compile, link and run with Linux *bash* shell:

```
$ gcc -g -std=c99 -Wall -Werror -o prog1 prog1.c
$ prog1
The sum of 10 and 20 is 30
```

- `gcc` is GNU C compiler
- `-g` option outputs extra runtime debugging info
- `-std=c99` forces ISO C99 compliance
- `-Wall` outputs all warnings
- `-Werror` treats warnings as errors
- `-o filename` specifies name of output file
 - In this case it's an *executable* file



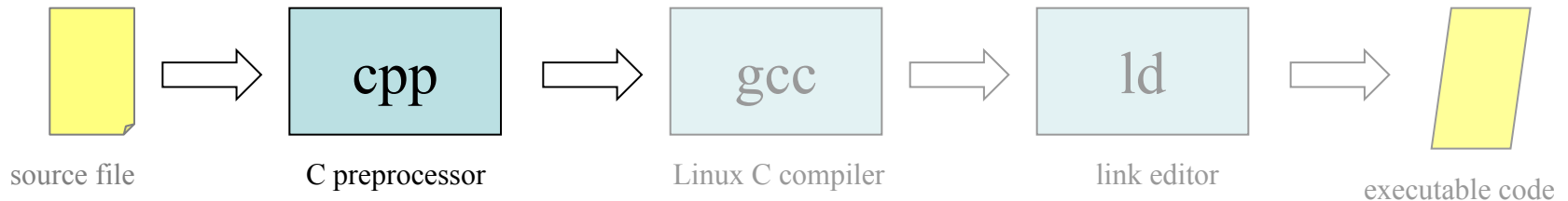
Standard layout of a C Program

1. `#include` header files
2. `#define` constants
3. Declare global variables
 - None in this example
4. Declare and define all the functions, each being:
 - Signature declaration
 - Return type, function name and parameters (each with type)
 - Body:
 - Local variables
 - Function code



The C preprocessor (cpp)

- *cpp* is a “macro preprocessor” (called by *gcc*)
- Before compilation begins, *cpp* transforms your **source program**



- Lines beginning with ‘#’ are *cpp* commands
 - `#include <blah.h>` inserts the file `/usr/include/blah.h`
 - `#include "blah.h"` inserts the file `./blah.h`
 - `#define BLAH thing` replaces all BLAHs with string *thing*
- *cpp* just does simple text transformations
 - no syntax or semantics checks



Static typing

cf Python's dynamic typing

- In C, a variable name is a label for a pre-allocated chunk of memory
 - Variables must be *declared* before they're used
 - Recommend: declare all variables *first*, at the start of a block, before the statements [this is *required* by C89]
 - Declaration specifies *type* of data
 - And hence amount of memory to allocate
 - *Only* that type of data can ever be placed there
 - Declaration can include an *initialiser* to set initial value
 - **In ENCE260 you *must* initialise your variables**
 - Uninitialised variables result in random runtime behaviour!
- Functions must also be declared before they're called
 - Declaration specifies return type and type of all parameters



Interlude: how's your binary?

Assuming 8-bit binary integers:

1. What are the values (in binary) for 0, 3, 15, 127?
2. If the 8-bit number is *unsigned* what are the maximum and minimum values it can represent?
3. If the 8-bit number is *signed*
 - a. What are the maximum and minimum values it can represent?
 - b. What are the values (in binary) for -1, -2, -3, -127?

[Note: binary numbers will be covered in the architecture section of the course, but if you want to get a headstart, see

<https://www.swarthmore.edu/NatSci/echeeve1/Ref/BinaryMath/NumSys.html>]



Basic data types

- Integers: `[unsigned | signed] [long | short] int`
 - Platform dependent!!
 - In our labs (64-bit Linux Mint) *int* is 32 bits
- Characters: *char*
 - Always 8 bit ASCII
 - Treated as 8-bit *ints* (tho' may be signed or unsigned dep. on compiler!)
 - *char* constants like Java, e.g. 'x', '=' **NB: enclosed in *single* quotes**
 - Backslash codes for special ASCII chars e.g. '\n' is newline character
- Floating point types (*float* and *double*)
- Complex floating point numbers (not covered in ENCE260)
- [Weak] boolean type *_Bool* (or just *bool* if `#include <stdbool.h>`)

Type qualifiers – next slide



More on integer data types

- Integer data in C is binary: 1-, 2-, 4-, or 8-byte values

Type	Size (bytes/bits)
<code>char</code>	1-byte/8-bit
<code>short [int]</code>	2-byte/16-bit
<code>int</code>	4-byte/32-bit (on 32-bit and 64-bit machines)
<code>[long] long [int]</code>	8-byte/64-bit

- Additionally, can prefix type with `signed` or `unsigned` e.g.
 - `unsigned int` (a.k.a. `size_t`): *ints* in the range 0 to 4,294,967,295
 - Used by functions/operators that deal with sizes/lengths: `sizeof`, `strlen`
- `<stdint.h>` defines aliases: `int8_t`, `uint8_t`, `int16_t`, `uint16_t`, `int32_t`, `uint32_t`, `int64_t`, `uint64_t`



printf

- Call function *printf* to do formatted output
 - `printf(string, expr1, expr2, ...)`
- Format string contains ordinary characters plus *conversion specifications*
 - `%[number][l]letter` e.g. `%4d` , `%5.2f`, `%.3lf`
 - *d, u, f, c, s* for *int, unsigned int, float, char, string* (= *char* array)
 - *l* is for *long* e.g. *long int* or *double*
 - number is of form *minimumFieldWidth.numDigitsPrecision*
 - e.g. `%5.1f` would print at least 5 characters (adding leading spaces as required) with exactly 1 digit after the decimal point.
- A conversion spec causes the next expression parameter to be appropriately formatted in its place

Demo: prog1.c



celsius.c

```
/* celsius.c (King Chapter 2, page 24)
 * Converts a Fahrenheit temperature to Celsius
 * Slightly modified by RJL to use the EXIT_SUCCESS return code
 */
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

#define FREEZING_PT 32.0
#define SCALE_FACTOR (5.0 / 9.0)

int main(void)
{
    float fahrenheit = 0;
    float celsius = 0;
    printf("Enter Fahrenheit temperature: ");
    scanf("%f", &fahrenheit);
    celsius = (fahrenheit - FREEZING_PT) * SCALE_FACTOR;
    printf("Celsius equivalent: %.1f\n", celsius);
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```



scanf

- *scanf* is “printf running backwards”
- Reads values from the input stream into nominated variables
 - `scanf("%d %f\n", &intVar, &floatVar);`
 - Note the '&' preceding the variables
 - Looking ahead ... this passes the *address* of the variable to *scanf* rather than its value
- *scanf* “pattern matches” first parameter with input from *stdin*
 - White space matches white space (any seq. of ' ', '\n', '\t' etc)
 - % denotes start of a format specifier
 - Defines an argument value
 - Other characters *must* exactly match or *scanf* aborts
- ~~Function return value is count of converted values~~

Type *man scanf* for details