



# Lecture 13a: Programming in The C Language: Storage and Functions

**CSIS11: Computer Architecture  
and Organization**

# Readings

- *Chapters 14* [Patt and Patel: Introduction to Computing Systems...](#)
- *The C Language* - Kernighan and Ritchie - Second Edition, strongly recommended
- Beej's Guide to C Programming (Tutorial) - Instructor Repo
- Beej's Guide to C Programming (Library Reference) - Instructor Repo

# Remaining Schedule

Day	Content	Chapter(s)
4/21	C: Introduction, Variables and Operators	11/12
4/23	C: Control Structures	13
<b>4/28</b>	<b>C: Storage and Functions</b>	<b>14</b>
4/30	C: Testing and Debugging	15
5/5	C: Pointers, Arrays and Structs	16
5/7	C: I/O	18
5/12	Review and Work on Final Project	
5/14	Review and Work on Final Project	
5/21	<b>Final Exam – Wed, May 21, 2025 6-8:30 PM</b>	

# Implementing Storage in LC-3

## Main

- Variables
  - Local
  - Global

## Functions

- Parameter passing
- Return values

# Allocating Space for Variables

## Global data section

- All global variables stored here
- **R4** points to beginning

## Run-time stack

- Used for local variables
- **R6** points to top of stack
- New (stack) frame for each block (goes away when block exited)

Offset = distance from beginning of storage area

- Global: LDR R1, R4, #4
- Local: LDR R2, R6, #3

# Local Variable Storage

Local variables stored in stack frame

Symbol table "offset" gives the distance from the base of the frame

- A new frame is pushed on the run-time stack each time block is entered
- R6 is the stack pointer – holds address of current top of run-time stack

# Symbol Table Example

```
int main() {  
    int seconds;  
    int minutes;  
    int hours;  
    double amount;  
}
```

Name	Type	Offset	Scope
amount	double	0	main
hours	int	2	main
minutes	int	3	main
seconds	int	4	main

## Example: C Compiling to LC-3

```
#include <stdio.h>
int X;
main() {
    int a;
    int A;
    int B;
    /* initialize */
    a = 5;
    X = 3;
    /* perform calculations */
    A = a - X;
    B = (a + X) + A;
    /* print results */
    printf("The results are: A = %d, B = %d\n",
          A, B);
}
```



# Symbol Table

Name	Type	Offset	Scope
X	int	0	global
a	int	2	main
A	int	1	main
B	int	0	main

## Example: Code Generation

```
; R6 contains locals, R4 contains Globals
; main
; a = 5
    AND R0, R0, #0
    ADD R0, R0, #5    ; a = 5
    STR R0, R6, #2    ; (offset = 2)
; X = 3
    AND R0, R0, #0
    ADD R0, R0, #3    ; X = 3
    STR R0, R4, #0    ; (offset = 0)
```

## Example (continued)

```
; R6 contains locals, R4 contains Globals
; first statement:
; A = a - X;
    LDR R0, R6, #2    ; get a(offset = 2)
    LDR R1, R4, #0    ; get X
    NOT R1, R1        ; ~X
    ADD R1, R1, 1     : -X
    ADD R2, R0, R1    ; a - X
    STR R2, R6, #1    ; store in A, (offset = 1)
```

## Example (continued)

```
; R6 contains locals, R4 contains Globals
; B = (a + X) + A;
    LDR R0, R6, #2    ; a
    LDR R1, R4, #0    ; X
    ADD R0, R0, R1    ; R0 is sum
    LDR R1, R6, #1    ; A
    ADD R2, R0, R1    ; R2 is sum
    STR R2, R6, #0    ; B (offset = 0)
```

**Run example.asm in LC-3 Tools**

# Fundamental Ideas in Programming

- Abstraction - simplify a series of actions
- Encapsulation - keep the data specific to the task

# Starting a Gas-Powered Car: Step-by-Step Process

1. **Insert the key into the ignition switch** and turn it to the "ON" position

- This activates the car's electrical system, powering up the dashboard lights and accessories

2. **Turn the key to the "START" position**

- This **closes the ignition circuit** and sends electrical current from the battery to the starter solenoid

3. **The starter solenoid activates**

- It **pushes the starter drive gear forward** to engage with the flywheel/flexplate
- It **closes heavy contacts** that connect the battery to the starter motor

#### 4. The starter motor engages and spins

- The **pinion gear meshes with the flywheel ring gear** attached to the engine's crankshaft
- This provides the initial mechanical energy to **rotate the crankshaft**

#### 5. The crankshaft rotation begins the four-stroke cycle

- As the pistons move, they create the intake, compression, power, and exhaust strokes

#### 6. The engine computer (ECU) activates the fuel system

- The **fuel pump pressurizes fuel** from the tank to the engine
- **Fuel injectors spray precise amounts of fuel** into the intake manifold or directly into cylinders



## 7. The ignition system produces sparks

- The **spark plugs fire** in the correct sequence
- This **ignites the compressed air-fuel mixture** in each cylinder

## 8. Combustion begins and becomes self-sustaining

- Once enough cylinders fire, the engine generates its own momentum
- When the engine reaches sufficient RPM, you can **release the key** from the start position

## 9. The starter motor automatically disengages

- A **one-way clutch** in the starter drive prevents damage from the now-faster spinning flywheel
- The starter motor stops when you release the key

## Solving problems

- Each of the 9 steps could be a function in a program
- Each step is a specific task which might spawn sub-tasks
- With each step having its own set of data

# Function

- Smaller, simpler, subcomponent of program
- Provides abstraction
  - Hide low-level details
  - Give high-level structure to program, easier to understand overall program flow
  - Enables separable, independent development
- C functions
  - Zero or multiple arguments (or parameters) passed in
  - Single result returned (optional)
  - Return value is always a particular type
- In other languages, called procedures, subroutines, ...

## Example of High-Level Structure

```
void main()  
{  
    draw_game(); /* draw simple grid */  
    determine_side(); /* choose X for X & Z for 0 */  
  
    /* Play game */  
    while (no_outcome_yet())  
    {  
        X_turn();  
        Z_turn();  
    }  
}
```

Structure of Tic-Tac-Toe program is evident, even without knowing implementation.

# Functions in C

## Definition

```
int factorial(int n)
{
    int i;
    int result = 1;
    for (i = 1; i <= n; i++) {
        result = result * i;
    }
    return result;
}
```

## Function call -- used in expression

```
a = x + factorial(f + g);
```

# Functions in C

Definition      Type of return value      Type of all arguments

```
int factorial(int n)
{
    int i;
    int result = 1;
    for (i = 1; i <= n; i++) {
        result = result * i;
    }
    return result;
}
```

← Name of function

← exits function with specified return value

3. Use return value in expression      2. Execute function      1. Evaluate arguments

Function call -- used in expression

```
a = x + factorial(f + g);
```

# Function Requirements

1. Function must be **declared** before using
2. Function may be **defined** at a later time
3. Functions must have:
  - i. Type of return value or void
  - ii. Type of all arguments or void
  - iii. Unambiguous name and not *main*

# Function Development

In developing a C program, the typical process is to do the following:

1. Have a single file for *main*, the core program
2. Group all function *declarations* in a header file, *xxxx.h*
3. Group all *definitions* in a program file(s), *xxxx.c*

Sometimes, both the header files and definition files will be in a *local* library



## C Function Examples

1. Function with No Arguments and No Return Value
2. Function with Arguments but No Return Value
3. Function with Arguments and Return Value

**With best practices of declaration then definition**

```
// Function with No Arguments and No Return Value
#include <stdio.h>

// Function declaration
void error(void);

int main()
{
    // ...code...
    // Code prior to this function, has a un-resolvable error
    // Error Function call
    error();
    return 1;
}

// Function definition
void error(void) {
    printf("An error has occurred, there is nothing we can do.\n");
}
```

```
// Function with Arguments but No Return Value
#include <stdio.h>

// Function declaration
void printSum(int a, int b);

int main() {
    int x = 5, y = 7;
    // Function call with arguments
    printSum(x, y);
    return 0;
}

// Function definition
void printSum(int a, int b) {
    printf("The sum of %d and %d is %d\n", a, b, a + b);
}
```

```
//Function with Arguments and Return Value
#include <stdio.h>

// Function declaration
int calculateArea(int length, int width);

int main() {
    int l = 10, w = 5;
    // Function call with arguments that returns a value
    int area = calculateArea(l, w);
    printf("The area of the rectangle is: %d square units\n", area);
    return 0;
}

// Function definition
int calculateArea(int length, int width) {
    return length * width;
}
```

For Homework, see the Instructor repository for C/Week\_13