



# NWEN 241

## C Control Constructs and Functions

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*Te Whare Wānanga  
o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui*



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# Built-in Operators

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- arithmetic
- increment/decrement
- assignment
- relational
- logical
- bitwise
- others including type casting
- Pointers related operators (\*, &, ->)

# Arithmetic operators

+      -      \*      /      %

Note:

(i) ***a*** % ***b***      ***a*** modulus ***b***  
which means *remainder* after dividing ***a***  
by ***b***.

(ii) printf(“%d”, a);  
conversion specification / format

# Increment/Decrement operators

**++    --**

Can be applied to variables, but not constants and ordinary expressions;

```
int  a, b, c = 0;    /* declare and initialize all to 0 */
```

```
a = ++c; /* prefix operator; increment c, then assign to a */  
b = c++; /* postfix operator; assign to b, then increment c */  
printf("%d %d %d\n", a, b, ++c);
```

Output?

# Assignment Operators (1)

To change the value of a *variable*, e.g.  $a = 2$

*Assignment expression*

$$\underbrace{a = b + c;}$$

*Assignment statement*

Value of right side ' $b + c$ ' is assigned to left side ' $a$ ',  
and that value also becomes the value of the  
expression.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} b = 4; \\ c = 2; \\ a = b + c; \end{array} \right\} a = (b = 4) + (c = 2);$$

# Assignment Operators (2)

More assignment operator combinations, e.g.

$a = a + 3$

$a \mathrel{+=} 3$

$b = b * (c + 3)$

$b \mathrel{*=} (c + 3)$

How do you condense  $b = b * c + 3$  ?

$(b \mathrel{*=} c) + 3$

All assignment operators:

$=$        $\mathrel{+=}$        $\mathrel{-=}$        $\mathrel{*=}$        $\mathrel{/=}$        $\mathrel{\%=}$

$\mathrel{>>=}$      $\mathrel{<<=}$      $\mathrel{\&=}$        $\mathrel{\wedge=}$        $\mathrel{!=}$

# Data Input and Output

## Functions for data input and output

- **getchar() / putchar()**

```
char c;  
c = getchar();      /* input a char */  
putchar(c);         /* output a char */
```

- **gets() / puts()**

```
char line[80];  
gets(line);         /* input a line/string */  
puts(line);         /* output a line */
```

- **scanf() / printf()**

# Data Input and Output

## scanf() / printf()

```
int i;
float f;
char c;
char s[80];
scanf("%d", &i);          /* %d is format information
                           * d is conversion character
                           */

scanf("%f", &f);          /* &f is f's memory address
                           * input is sent to &f
                           */
```



# Data Input and Output

## scanf() / printf()

```
int i;
float f;
char c;
char s[80];
scanf("%d", &i);          /* %d is format information
                           * d is conversion character
                           */

scanf("%f", &f);          /* &f is f's memory address
                           * input is sent to &f
                           */

printf("\nYou typed in \"%f\"\n", f);
                           /* \n starts new line. \" treats "
                           * as an ordinary character
                           */
```

# Data Input and Output

## scanf() / printf()

```
int i;
float f;
char c;
char s[80];
scanf("%d", &i);          /* %d is format information
                           * d is conversion character
                           */

scanf("%f", &f);          /* &f is f's memory address
                           * input is sent to &f
                           */

printf("\nYou typed in \"%f\"\n", f);
                           /* \n starts new line. \" treats "
                           * as an ordinary character
                           */

scanf(" %c", &c);         /* blank space preceding %c to
                           * ignore \n typed in earlier
                           */

scanf("%s", s);           /* a seq. of nonwhite space char */
```

# Control Constructs

## Loops: for, while and do-while

```
#include <stdio.h>          /* each loop runs 4 times */

int main(void)
{ int i = 0, x =0;
  for (; i <4; i++)        /* starting and ending conditions */
  { x += i;
    printf("for loop: x = %d, i = %d\n", x, i);
  }

  while (i < 2*4)           /* only given ending condition */
  { x += i;
    printf("while loop: x = %d, i = %d\n", x, i);
    i++;
  }

  do                       /* do at least once */
  { x += i;
    printf("do-while loop: x = %d, i = %d\n", x, i);
    i++;
  } while (i < 3*4);      /* ending condition */
  return 0;
}
```

# Control Constructs

## Blocks

```
int main(void)
{ int i = 0, x =0;

    for (int i=-4; i < 4; i++) /* i is re-declared. */
    { x += i;
      }

    while (i < 2*4)
    { x += i;
      i++;
    }

    do
    { x += i;
      i++;
    } while (i < 3*4);

    return 0;
}
```

# Control Constructs

## Blocks

```
int main(void)
{ int i = 0, x =0;                                /* i will be used by the */
                                                    /* 'while' and 'do-while' loops, */
                                                    /* but not the 'for' loop */

    for (int i=-4; i < 4; i++) /* i is re-declared. */
    { x += i;                  /* only valid within this block. */
    }

    while (i < 2*4)            /* The 2nd i has no effects */
    { x += i;                  /* in this and next block */
      i++;
    }

    do
    { x += i;
      i++;
    } while (i < 3*4);

    return 0;
}
```

# Control Constructs

## Conditionals: if-else and switch

```
int main(void)                /* to test if it is an upper-case alphabetic letter */
{ char i, c;
  printf("\nPlease enter an alphabetic character:\n");
  c = getchar();
```

```
}
```

# Control Constructs

## Conditionals: if-else and switch

```
int main(void)                /* to test if it is an upper-case alphabetic letter */
{ char i, c;
  printf("\nPlease enter an alphabetic character:\n");
  c = getchar();

  if (isalpha(c))              /* true = nonzero, false = zero */
    ;                          /* empty is ok, but ";" must be there */
  else
    return(printf("You did not enter an alphabetic character\n"));
```

```
}
```

# Control Constructs

## Conditionals: if-else and switch

```
int main(void)                /* to test if it is an upper-case alphabetic letter */
{ char i, c;
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  if (isalpha(c))              /* true = nonzero, false = zero */
    ;                          /* empty is ok, but ";" must be there */
  else
    return(printf("You did not enter an alphabetic character\n"));

  if (isupper(c) ? 1 : 0)      /* true = 1, false = 0 */
    printf("if-else: it is an upper-case letter\n");
  else
    printf("if-else: it is a lower-case letter\n");

}
```



# Control Constructs

- Conditionals: if-else and switch

```
int main(void)                /* to test if it is an upper-case alphabetic letter */
{ char i, c;
  printf("\nPlease enter an alphabetic character:\n");
  c = getchar();

  if (isalpha(c))              /* true = nonzero, false = zero */
    ;                          /* empty is ok, but ";" must be there */
  else
    return(printf("You did not enter an alphabetic character\n"));

  if (isupper(c) ? 1 : 0)       /* true = 1, false = 0 */
    printf("if-else: it is an upper-case letter\n");
  else
    printf("if-else: it is a lower-case letter\n");

  i = (isupper(c) != 0 ? 'T' : 'F');      /* true = 'T', false = 'F' */
  switch(i) {
  case 'T':
    printf("switch: it is an upper-case letter\n");
    break;                          /* break must be there, otherwise it will go through */
  case 'F':
    printf("switch: it is a lower-case letter\n");
  }
  return 0;
}
```

# Control Constructs

---

- break, continue and goto
  - **break**: jumps out of the loop
  - **continue**: stops current iteration and starts next iteration
  - **goto** jumps to a labelled statement
  - Java support labelled **continue** and **break** statement
  - Java does not support **goto**

# Functions in C Programs

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- Every C program has at least one function: `main()`
- No C program **needs** to have more than one function in it
  - Everything can be put in `main()`:

# Functions in C Programs

- Every C program has at least one function: `main()`
- No C program **needs** to have more than one function in it
  - Everything can be put in `main()`: not a good idea
- Any C program with only a main function is almost certainly for training purposes
- What are functions good for?
  - structuring our thoughts (structured programming)
  - allowing us to re-use code, reducing work and reducing errors
- A C program can be modularised by functions
  - A big program can be broken down into a number of smaller ones

# Creating a Simple Function

- Suppose we frequently wanted to compare two integers and then use the larger. We might have code like this repeatedly written in our program:

```
int p, q, l;  
...           /* p, q initialised */  
if (p > q)  
    l = p;  
else l = q;  
...           /* l gets used */
```

# Creating a Simple Function

- How about making it a stand-alone function?

```
l = larger(p, q);
```

- What we need to do:
  - Pick a name for the function: `larger()`
  - Specify what type of variables that `larger()` is going to compare:

# Creating a Simple Function

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- What we need to do:
  - Pick a name for the function: `larger()`
  - Specify what type of variables that `larger()` is going to compare: `larger(int, int)`
  - Specify what type of value that `larger (int, int)` is going to return:

# Creating a Simple Function

- How about making it a stand-alone function?

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- What we need to do:

- Pick a name for the function: `larger()`
- Specify what type of variables that `larger()` is going to compare: `larger(int, int)`
- Specify what type of value that `larger (int, int)` is going to return: `int larger(int, int)`
- **`int larger(int, int)`**: this is called function prototype / declaration



# Creating a Simple Function

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- What we need to do:
  - Pick a name for the function: `larger()`
  - Specify what type of variables that `larger()` is going to compare: `larger(int, int)`
  - Specify what type of value that `larger (int, int)` is going to return: `int larger(int, int)`
  - **`int larger(int, int)`**: this is called **function prototype** / declaration
- Code it: function definition/implementation

# Creating a Simple Function

- Function definition

```
int larger(int x, int y)
{
    if (x > y)
        return x;
    else return y;
}
```

- $x$  and  $y$  are called “formal parameters”, whose scope is the body of the function.

# Creating a Simple Function

- Let us use larger()

...

```
int main(void)
```

```
{
```

```
    ...
```

```
    l = larger(p, q); /* p and q are called "actual */
```

```
    ...                /* parameters". Their values are */
```

```
}                /* going to be copied to x and y. */
```

```
int larger(int x, int y)
```

```
{
```

```
    if (x > y)
```

```
        return x;
```

```
    else return y;
```

```
}
```

# Creating a Simple Function

- Let us use larger()

```
...
int main(void)
{
    ...
    l = larger(p, q); /* p and q are called "actual */
    ...             /* parameters". Their values are */
}                  /* going to be copied to x and y. */

int larger(int x, int y)
{
    /* x and y (NOT p and q) are */
    if (x > y) /* going to be compared here. */
        return x; /* the larger value is going to be */
    else return y; /* returned to larger(p, q). */
}
```

# Creating a Simple Function

- Function prototype

```
int main(void)
{
    ...
    l = larger(p, q);      /* larger() not declared yet */
    ...
}

int larger(int x, int y)
{
    ...
}
```

- This is not good ...
- Use function prototype to declare the function before being used

```
int larger(int, int);
```

```
int main(void)
{...}
```

```
int larger(int x, int y)
{...}
```

# Creating a Simple Function

- Function call: `l = larger(p, q);`
- Pass by value
  - The values of “actual parameters” (p, q) are copied to “formal parameters” (x, y)
  - “actual parameters” and “formal parameters” are separate entities
  - What happens thereafter to “formal parameters” has nothing to do with “actual parameters”
    - Any changes on x, y will not be transferred back to p, q

# Another Simple Function

- Swap the values of two variables:

```
...          /* p, q, tmp declared */  
...          /* p, q initialised */  
tmp = p;  
p = q;  
q = tmp;
```

- Turn this into a function.
  - Define the data types

# Another Simple Function

- A function for swapping
  - The function does not return a value
  - What is the return type then: **void**

```
void swap(int, int); /*function prototype*/  
void swap(int x, int y)  
{  
    int tmp;  
    tmp = x;  
    x = y;  
    y = tmp;  
}
```



# Another Simple Function

- Does it work?

```
int main(void)
{ int p = 40;
  int q = 80;
  swap(p, q);      /* the values of p, q */
  return 0;        /* are copied to x, y */
}

void swap(int x, int y)
{ int tmp;
  tmp = x;
  x = y;
  y = tmp;
}
```

# Another Simple Function

- Does it work?

```
int main(void)
{ int p = 40;
  int q = 80;
  swap(p, q);      /* the values of p, q */
  return 0;        /* are copied to x, y */
}

void swap(int x, int y)
{ int tmp;
  tmp = x;
  x = y;
  y = tmp;         /* x, y get swapped */
}
```

# Another Simple Function

- Solution: pass in the *addresses* of p, q
  - &p is the address of the memory that stores p's value
  - The values of p, q are stored at &p, &q
  - We use *pointers* to store the addresses of p, q

```
int *ptrp, *ptrq;    /* declare pointers */
ptrp = &p; /* &p stored in ptrp */
ptrq = &q; /* &q stored in ptrq */
```
  - \*ptrp, \*ptrq give us access to the values stored at &p, &q

```
printf("p=%d; q=%d", *ptrp, *ptrq);
tmp = p;
*ptrp = q;    /* equivalent to p=q; */
*ptrq = tmp;  /* p, q get swapped */
```

# Another Simple Function

- The function

```
void swap(int *, int *);  
void swap(int *ptrx, int *ptry)  
{ int tmp;  
  tmp = *ptrx;  
  *ptrx = *ptry;  
  *ptry = tmp;  
}
```

# Another Simple Function

- Let us do the swap

```
int main(void)
{
    ...
    int *ptrp, *ptrq;
    ptrp = &p;
    ptrq = &q;
    swap(ptrp, ptrq); /*the addresses of p, q*/
    return 0;         /*are passed to swap() */
}

void swap(int *ptrx, int *ptry)
{
    int tmp;
    tmp = *ptrx;
    *ptrx = *ptry;      /*the values stored at */
    *ptry = tmp;        /*the addresses of p, q*/
                        /*are swapped */
}
```

# Another Simple Function

- Pass by address emulating pass by reference
  - The values of “actual parameters” (ptrp, ptrq) are copied to “formal parameters” (ptrx, ptry)
  - The values are memory addresses
  - “actual parameters” and “formal parameters” hold the addresses of the same memory blocks
  - \*ptrx, \*ptry give you the access to the memory
    - Any changes on \*ptrx, \*ptry change the values stored in the memory
- More about pointers later...

# Pass by value vs pass by address

---

- Are they the same?
- What are used in Java?
  - Pass by value?
  - Pass ... by value?

# Pass by value vs pass by address

- Are they the same?
  - Yes, addresses are values
- What are used in Java?
  - Pass by value: primitive types
  - Pass reference by value: objects
  - Pass reference by value **is** pass by value
- Pass by reference? (more later...)



# Summary

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- Operators
- Data input/output
- Control Constructs
- Why functions
- How to use functions
- A little bit about pointers