

When using `fgets()` to read a user input, newline is always added at the end of the string

- `HELLO\n` is recorded from user input
  - The user typed H, E, L, L, O
  - C added `\n` at the end of the string
  - Zero terminator/null character
    - `\0`
    - How C marks the end of a string
  - To hold a string of `n` characters, you need `n+1` slots in the array to account for the zero terminator
    - So `"HELLO\n\0"`'s size is 7

Truncating (Shortening) a String:

- Put a zero terminator anywhere you want
- `input[10] = "HELLO\n\0";`
- `input[4] = '\0';`
  - input becomes `"HELL\0"`
- Can use this to get rid of new line character
  - Place the `\0` at `(length of string) - 1`
    - `input[6] = '\0';`
    - Now the input string is `"HELLO\0"`

Get the length of a string:

- Java uses `.length()`
- In C, you have to count the characters until the zero terminator
  - `#include <string.h>` will let you use `strlen()`
    - Try not to use `strlen()` in a loop since it has linear runtime
  - But otherwise, do this:
    - `char input[100];`
    - `fgets(input, 100, stdin);`
    - `int len = strlen(input);`
    - `input[len - 1] = '\0';`
    - Would you do this every time you needed to read a line from the console?
      - NO, put this in a function and call the function whenever you need to read a line from the console

Functions:

- A named piece of code with inputs (parameters) and outputs (return values)
  - Names show intent
- Useful problem solving tool
- Helps us to understand what the code is doing when looking at it

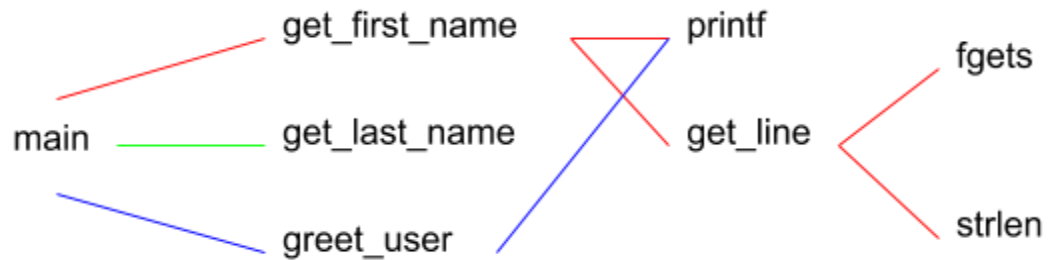
Abstraction

- Hiding details
- What to do vs. how to do it
- Focusing more on the WHAT and the WHY and less on the HOW

Call graphs:

- One way to structure a program is top-down

- Start with the most abstract function, and then split it up over and over to the more concrete



abstract —————→ concrete

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- It's okay to call functions you haven't written yet
  - Think of a function like a scene in a movie
    - Every line of code is like a new actor coming out and saying a line
    - Too many actors make it too crazy

#### Naming:

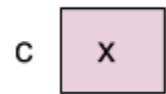
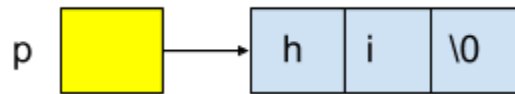
- Code is there for your benefit
- Make it easy to read
- Name your functions according to what they do and to what
- Avoid hard-coding important numbers, use constants
- Use camelCase or snake\_case

#### Functions in C:

- Make a better fgets
  - Some issues:
    - How do you know how long to make the array?
    - Can you return an array in C? (No)
    - If you can't return an array, how do you take one as an argument?
    - We want to do something like `get_line(input, 100);`
- C doesn't treat arrays as objects like in Java
  - Instead, C uses pointers
    - Pointer: variable which holds a memory address; a reference to a thing
      - We can access data through the pointer
    - Arrays become pointers when they are passed to functions
    - And pointers are written like this
      - `void get_line(char* input, int size)`
        - The asterix
        - `char* input` is a pointer to the string input

`char* p = "hi";`

`char c = x`



`p` is a pointer  
that points to  
the char array

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- Improving fgets:
  - ```
void get_line(char* input, int size) {  
    fgets(input, size, stdin);  
    int len = strlen(input);  
    input[len - 1] = '\0';  
}
```

    - `input` is a pointer to a char array
- Function prototypes:
  - C doesn't know about functions if you try to access them before you declare them
    - It will still compile and run, however
    - If you try to access before you declare it, it assumes they have the signature `int name()`
  - If you want to access a function before declaring it:
    - ```
void get_line(char* input, int size);
```

      - Put a semicolon at the end, then write functions which use `get_line`
    - But, it's usually a better idea to reorder your functions

Returning Arrays?:

- Can't do it like in Java
- Can't do with a local array
  - Will make more sense when discussing stacks later on
  - Local variable disappears, now have a pointer to something that doesn't exist
    - Accessing a null pointer has undefined behavior
- Returning an array is so bad in C that gcc will force your function to return null if you try to do it directly
- Don't return arrays