

C Characters and Strings

C How to Program, 6/e

OBJECTIVES

In this chapter, you'll learn:

- To use the functions of the character-handling library (`<ctype.h>`).
- To use the string-conversion functions of the general utilities library (`<stdlib.h>`).
- To use the string and character input/output functions of the standard input/output library (`<stdio.h>`).
- To use the string-processing functions of the string handling library (`<string.h>`).
- The power of function libraries for achieving software reusability.

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- 8.1** Introduction
 - 8.2** Fundamentals of Strings and Characters
 - 8.3** Character-Handling Library
 - 8.4** String-Conversion Functions
 - 8.5** Standard Input/Output Library Functions
 - 8.6** String-Manipulation Functions of the String-Handling Library
 - 8.7** Comparison Functions of the String-Handling Library
 - 8.8** Search Functions of the String-Handling Library
 - 8.9** Memory Functions of the String-Handling Library
 - 8.10** Other Functions of the String-Handling Library
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8.1 Introduction

- In this chapter, we introduce the C Standard Library functions that facilitate string and character processing.
- The functions enable programs to process characters, strings, lines of text and blocks of memory.
- The chapter discusses the techniques used to develop editors, word processors, page layout software, computerized typesetting systems and other kinds of text-processing software.
- The text manipulations performed by formatted input/output functions like printf and scanf can be implemented using the functions discussed in this chapter.

8.2 Fundamentals of Strings and Characters

- Characters are the fundamental building blocks of source programs.
- Every program is composed of a sequence of characters that—when grouped together meaningfully—is interpreted by the computer as a series of instructions used to accomplish a task.
- A program may contain **character constants**.
- A character constant is an int value represented as a character in single quotes.
- The value of a character constant is the integer value of the character in the machine's **character set**.

8.2 Fundamentals of Strings and Characters (Cont.)

- For example, 'z' represents the integer value of z, and '\n' the integer value of newline (122 and 10 in ASCII, respectively).
- A string is a series of characters treated as a single unit.
- A string may include letters, digits and various special characters such as +, -, *, / and \$.
- String literals, or string constants, in C are written in double quotation marks.

8.2 Fundamentals of Strings and Characters (Cont.)

- A string in C is an array of characters ending in the null character ('\0').
- A string is accessed via a pointer to the first character in the string.
- The value of a string is the address of its first character.
- Thus, in C, it is appropriate to say that a string is a pointer—in fact, a pointer to the string's first character.
- In this sense, strings are like arrays, because an array is also a pointer to its first element.
- A character array or a variable of type `char *` can be initialized with a string in a definition.

8.2 Fundamentals of Strings and Characters (Cont.)

- The definitions
- `char color[] = "blue";`
`const char *colorPtr = "blue";`
each initialize a variable to the string "blue".
- The first definition creates a 5-element array color containing the characters 'b', 'l', 'u', 'e' and '\0'.
- The second definition creates pointer variable colorPtr that points to the string "blue" somewhere in memory.



Portability Tip 8.1

*When a variable of type `char *` is initialized with a string literal, some compilers may place the string in a location in memory where the string cannot be modified. If you might need to modify a string literal, it should be stored in a character array to ensure modifiability on all systems.*

8.2 Fundamentals of Strings and Characters (Cont.)

- The preceding array definition could also have been written
- `char color[] = { 'b', 'I', 'u', 'e', '\0' };`
- When defining a character array to contain a string, the array must be large enough to store the string and its terminating null character.
- The preceding definition automatically determines the size of the array based on the number of initializers in the initializer list.



Common Programming Error 8.1

Not allocating sufficient space in a character array to store the null character that terminates a string is an error.



Common Programming Error 8.2

Printing a “string” that does not contain a terminating null character is an error.



Error-Prevention Tip 8.1

When storing a string of characters in a character array, be sure that the array is large enough to hold the largest string that will be stored. C allows strings of any length to be stored. If a string is longer than the character array in which it is to be stored, characters beyond the end of the array will overwrite data in memory following the array.

8.2 Fundamentals of Strings and Characters (Cont.)

- A string can be stored in an array using scanf.
- For example, the following statement stores a string in character array word[20]:
 - `scanf("%s", word);`
- The string entered by the user is stored in word.
- Variable word is an array, which is, of course, a pointer, so the & is not needed with argument word.
- scanf will read characters until a space, tab, newline or end-of-file indicator is encountered.
- So, it is possible that the user input could exceed 19 characters and that your program might crash!

8.2 Fundamentals of Strings and Characters (Cont.)

- For this reason, use the conversion specifier %19s so that scanf reads up to 19 characters and saves the last character for the terminating null character.
- This prevents scanf from writing characters into memory beyond the end of s.
- (For reading input lines of arbitrary length, there is a nonstandard—yet widely supported—function readline, usually included in stdio.h.)
- For a character array to be printed as a string, the array must contain a terminating null character.



Common Programming Error 8.3

Processing a single character as a string. A string is a pointer—probably a respectably large integer. However, a character is a small integer (ASCII values range 0–255). On many systems this causes an error, because low memory addresses are reserved for special purposes such as operating-system interrupt handlers—so “access violations” occur.



Common Programming Error 8.4

Passing a character as an argument to a function when a string is expected (and vice versa) is a compilation error.

8.3 Character-Handling Library

- The character-handling library (<ctype.h>) includes several functions that perform useful tests and manipulations of character data.
- Each function receives a character—represented as an int—or EOF as an argument.
- EOF normally has the value –1, and some hardware architectures do not allow negative values to be stored in char variables, so the character-handling functions manipulate characters as integers.
- Figure 8.1 summarizes the functions of the character-handling library.

| Prototype | Function description |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <code>int isdigit(int c);</code> | Returns a true value if c is a digit and 0 (false) otherwise. |
| <code>int isalpha(int c);</code> | Returns a true value if c is a letter and 0 otherwise. |
| <code>int isalnum(int c);</code> | Returns a true value if c is a digit or a letter and 0 otherwise. |
| <code>int isxdigit(int c);</code> | Returns a true value if c is a hexadecimal digit character and 0 otherwise. (See Appendix C, Number Systems, for a detailed explanation of binary numbers, octal numbers, decimal numbers and hexadecimal numbers.) |
| <code>int islower(int c);</code> | Returns a true value if c is a lowercase letter and 0 otherwise. |
| <code>int isupper(int c);</code> | Returns a true value if c is an uppercase letter and 0 otherwise. |
| <code>int tolower(int c);</code> | If c is an uppercase letter, <code>tolower</code> returns c as a lowercase letter. Otherwise, <code>tolower</code> returns the argument unchanged. |
| <code>int toupper(int c);</code> | If c is a lowercase letter, <code>toupper</code> returns c as an uppercase letter. Otherwise, <code>toupper</code> returns the argument unchanged. |
| <code>int isspace(int c);</code> | Returns a true value if c is a white-space character—newline ('\n'), space (' '), form feed ('\f'), carriage return ('\r'), horizontal tab ('\t') or vertical tab ('\v')—and 0 otherwise. |

Fig. 8.1 | Character-handling library (<ctype.h>) functions. (Part I of 2.)

| Prototype | Function description |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <code>int iscntrl(int c);</code> | Returns a true value if c is a control character and 0 otherwise. |
| <code>int ispunct(int c);</code> | Returns a true value if c is a printing character other than a space, a digit, or a letter and returns 0 otherwise. |
| <code>int isprint(int c);</code> | Returns a true value if c is a printing character including a space (' ') and returns 0 otherwise. |
| <code>int isgraph(int c);</code> | Returns a true value if c is a printing character other than a space (' ') and returns 0 otherwise. |

Fig. 8.1 | Character-handling library (<ctype.h>) functions. (Part 2 of 2.)

8.3 Character-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Figure 8.2 demonstrates functions `isdigit`, `isalpha`, `isalnum` and `isxdigit`.
- Function `isdigit` determines whether its argument is a digit (0–9).
- Function `isalpha` determines whether its argument is an uppercase (A–Z) or lowercase letter (a–z).
- Function `isalnum` determines whether its argument is an uppercase letter, a lowercase letter or a digit.
- Function `isxdigit` determines whether its argument is a hexadecimal digit (A–F, a–f, 0–9).

```
1  /* Fig. 8.2: fig08_02.c
2   Using functions isdigit, isalpha, isalnum, and isxdigit */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <ctype.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      printf( "%s\n%s%s\n%s%s\n\n", "According to isdigit: ",
9          isdigit( '8' ) ? "8 is a " : "8 is not a ", "digit",
10         isdigit( '#' ) ? "# is a " : "# is not a ", "digit" );
11
12     printf( "%s\n%s%s\n%s%s\n%s%s\n\n", "According to isalpha:",
13         isalpha( 'A' ) ? "A is a " : "A is not a ", "letter",
14         isalpha( 'b' ) ? "b is a " : "b is not a ", "letter",
15         isalpha( '&'amp; ) ? "& is a " : "& is not a ", "letter",
16         isalpha( '4' ) ? "4 is a " : "4 is not a ", "letter" );
17
18 }
```

Fig. 8.2 | Using `isdigit`, `isalpha`, `isalnum` and `isxdigit`. (Part I of 3.)

```
19     printf( "%s\n%s%s\n%s%s\n%s%s\n\n",
20             "According to isalnum:",
21             isalnum( 'A' ) ? "A is a " : "A is not a ",
22             "digit or a letter",
23             isalnum( '8' ) ? "8 is a " : "8 is not a ",
24             "digit or a letter",
25             isalnum( '#' ) ? "#" is a " : "#" is not a ",
26             "digit or a letter" );
27
28     printf( "%s\n%s%s\n%s%s\n%s%s\n%s%s\n\n",
29             "According to isxdigit:",
30             isxdigit( 'F' ) ? "F is a " : "F is not a ",
31             "hexadecimal digit",
32             isxdigit( 'J' ) ? "J is a " : "J is not a ",
33             "hexadecimal digit",
34             isxdigit( '7' ) ? "7 is a " : "7 is not a ",
35             "hexadecimal digit",
36             isxdigit( '$' ) ? "$ is a " : "$ is not a ",
37             "hexadecimal digit",
38             isxdigit( 'f' ) ? "f is a " : "f is not a ",
39             "hexadecimal digit" );
40     return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
41 } /* end main */
```

Fig. 8.2 | Using isdigit, isalpha, isalnum and isxdigit. (Part 2 of 3.)

According to isdigit:

8 is a digit
is not a digit

According to isalpha:

A is a letter
b is a letter
& is not a letter
4 is not a letter

According to isalnum:

A is a digit or a letter
8 is a digit or a letter
is not a digit or a letter

According to isxdigit:

F is a hexadecimal digit
J is not a hexadecimal digit
7 is a hexadecimal digit
\$ is not a hexadecimal digit
f is a hexadecimal digit

Fig. 8.2 | Using isdigit, isalpha, isalnum and isxdigit. (Part 3 of 3.)

8.3 Character-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Figure 8.2 uses the conditional operator (?:) to determine whether the string " is a " or the string " is not a " should be printed in the output for each character tested.
- For example, the expression
- `isdigit('8') ? "8 is a " : "8 is not a "`

indicates that if '8' is a digit, the string "8 is a " is printed, and if '8' is not a digit (i.e., `isdigit` returns 0), the string "8 is not a " is printed.

8.3 Character-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Figure 8.3 demonstrates functions `islower`, `isupper`, `tolower` and `toupper`.
- Function `islower` determines whether its argument is a lowercase letter (a–z).
- Function `isupper` determines whether its argument is an uppercase letter (A–Z).
- Function `tolower` converts an uppercase letter to a lowercase letter and returns the lowercase letter.

8.3 Character-Handling Library (Cont.)

- If the argument is not an uppercase letter, `tolower` returns the argument unchanged.
- Function `toupper` converts a lowercase letter to an uppercase letter and returns the uppercase letter.
- If the argument is not a lowercase letter, `toupper` returns the argument unchanged.

```
1  /* Fig. 8.3: fig08_03.c
2   Using functions islower, isupper, tolower, toupper */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <ctype.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      printf( "%s\n%s%s\n%s%s\n%s%s\n%s%s\n\n",
9          "According to islower:",
10         islower( 'p' ) ? "p is a " : "p is not a ",
11         "lowercase letter",
12         islower( 'P' ) ? "P is a " : "P is not a ",
13         "lowercase letter",
14         islower( '5' ) ? "5 is a " : "5 is not a ",
15         "lowercase letter",
16         islower( '!' ) ? "! is a " : "! is not a ",
17         "lowercase letter" );
18 }
```

Fig. 8.3 | Using functions islower, isupper, tolower and toupper. (Part I of 3.)

```
19     printf( "%s\n%s%s\n%s%s\n%s%s\n%s%s\n\n",
20             "According to isupper:",
21             isupper( 'D' ) ? "D is an " : "D is not an ",
22             "uppercase letter",
23             isupper( 'd' ) ? "d is an " : "d is not an ",
24             "uppercase letter",
25             isupper( '8' ) ? "8 is an " : "8 is not an ",
26             "uppercase letter",
27             isupper( '$' ) ? "$ is an " : "$ is not an ",
28             "uppercase letter" );
29
30     printf( "%s%c\n%s%c\n%s%c\n%s%c\n",
31             "u converted to uppercase is ", toupper( 'u' ),
32             "7 converted to uppercase is ", toupper( '7' ),
33             "$ converted to uppercase is ", toupper( '$' ),
34             "L converted to lowercase is ", tolower( 'L' ) );
35     return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
36 } /* end main */
```

Fig. 8.3 | Using functions islower, isupper, tolower and toupper. (Part 2 of 3.)

According to `islower`:

p is a lowercase letter

P is not a lowercase letter

5 is not a lowercase letter

! is not a lowercase letter

According to `isupper`:

D is an uppercase letter

d is not an uppercase letter

8 is not an uppercase letter

\$ is not an uppercase letter

u converted to uppercase is U

7 converted to uppercase is 7

\$ converted to uppercase is \$

L converted to lowercase is l

Fig. 8.3 | Using functions `islower`, `isupper`, `tolower` and `toupper`. (Part 3 of 3.)

8.3 Character-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Figure 8.4 demonstrates functions `isspace`, `iscntrl`, `ispunct`, `isprint` and `isgraph`.
- Function `isspace` determines if a character is one of the following white-space characters: space (' '), form feed ('\f'), newline ('\n'), carriage return ('\r'), horizontal tab ('\t') or vertical tab ('\v').

8.3 Character-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Function iscntrl determines if a character is one of the following **control characters**: horizontal tab ('\t'), vertical tab ('\v'), form feed ('\f'), alert ('\a'), backspace ('\b'), carriage return ('\r') or newline ('\n').
- Function ispunct determines if a character is a **printing character** other than a space, a digit or a letter, such as \$, #, (,), [,], {, }, ;, : or %.
- Function isprint determines if a character can be displayed on the screen (including the space character).
- Function isgraph is the same as isprint, except that the space character is not included.

```
1  /* Fig. 8.4: fig08_04.c
2   Using functions isspace, iscntrl, ispunct, isprint, isgraph */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <ctype.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      printf( "%s\n%s%s%s\n%s%s%s\n%s%s\n\n",
9          "According to isspace:",
10         "Newline", isspace( '\n' ) ? " is a " : " is not a ",
11         "whitespace character", "Horizontal tab",
12         isspace( '\t' ) ? " is a " : " is not a ",
13         "whitespace character",
14         isspace( '%' ) ? "% is a " : "% is not a ",
15         "whitespace character" );
16
17     printf( "%s\n%s%s%s\n%s%s%s\n\n", "According to iscntrl:",
18         "Newline", iscntrl( '\n' ) ? " is a " : " is not a ",
19         "control character", iscntrl( '$' ) ? "$ is a " :
20         "$ is not a ", "control character" );
21 }
```

Fig. 8.4 | Using isspace, iscntrl, ispunct, isprint and isgraph. (Part I of 3.)

```
22     printf( "%s\n%s%s\n%s%s\n%s%s\n\n",
23             "According to ispunct:",  

24             ispunct( ';' ) ? "; is a " : "; is not a ",  

25             "punctuation character",
26             ispunct( 'Y' ) ? "Y is a " : "Y is not a ",
27             "punctuation character",
28             ispunct( '#' ) ? "# is a " : "# is not a ",
29             "punctuation character" );
30
31     printf( "%s\n%s%s\n%s%s%s\n\n", "According to isprint:",  

32             isprint( '$' ) ? "$ is a " : "$ is not a ",  

33             "printing character",
34             "Alert", isprint( '\a' ) ? "\a is a " : "\a is not a ",
35             "printing character" );
36
37     printf( "%s\n%s%s\n%s%s%s\n\n", "According to isgraph:",  

38             isgraph( 'Q' ) ? "Q is a " : "Q is not a ",  

39             "printing character other than a space",
40             "Space", isgraph( ' ' ) ? " " is a " : " " is not a ",
41             "printing character other than a space" );
42     return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
43 } /* end main */
```

Fig. 8.4 | Using isspace, iscntrl, ispunct, isprint and isgraph. (Part 2 of 3.)

According to isspace:

Newline is a whitespace character

Horizontal tab is a whitespace character

% is not a whitespace character

According to iscntrl:

Newline is a control character

\$ is not a control character

According to ispunct:

; is a punctuation character

Y is not a punctuation character

is a punctuation character

According to isprint:

\$ is a printing character

Alert is not a printing character

According to isgraph:

Q is a printing character other than a space

Space is not a printing character other than a space

Fig. 8.4 | Using isspace, iscntrl, ispunct, isprint and isgraph. (Part 3 of 3.)

8.4 String-Conversion Functions

- This section presents the string-conversion functions from the general utilities library (`<stdlib.h>`).
- These functions convert strings of digits to integer and floating-point values.
- Figure 8.5 summarizes the string-conversion functions.
- Note the use of `const` to declare variable `nPtr` in the function headers (read from right to left as “`nPtr` is a pointer to a character constant”); `const` specifies that the argument value will not be modified.

| Function prototype | Function description |
|--|--|
| <code>double atof(const char *nPtr);</code> | Converts the string nPtr to double. |
| <code>int atoi(const char *nPtr);</code> | Converts the string nPtr to int. |
| <code>long atol(const char *nPtr);</code> | Converts the string nPtr to long int. |
| <code>double strtod(const char *nPtr, char **endPtr);</code> | Converts the string nPtr to double. |
| <code>long strtol(const char *nPtr, char **endPtr, int base);</code> | Converts the string nPtr to long. |
| <code>unsigned long strtoul(const char *nPtr, char **endPtr, int base);</code> | Converts the string nPtr to unsigned long. |

Fig. 8.5 | String-conversion functions of the general utilities library.

8.4 String-Conversion Functions (Cont.)

- Function atof (Fig. 8.6) converts its argument—a string that represents a floating-point number—to a double value.
- The function returns the double value.
- If the converted value cannot be represented—for example, if the first character of the string is a letter—the behavior of function atof is undefined.

```
1  /* Fig. 8.6: fig08_06.c
2   Using atof */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <stdlib.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      double d; /* variable to hold converted string */
9
10     d = atof( "99.0" );
11
12     printf( "%s%.3f\n%s%.3f\n",
13             "The string \"99.0\" converted to double is ", d,
14             "The converted value divided by 2 is ", d / 2.0 );
15
16     return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
17 } /* end main */
```

```
The string "99.0" converted to double is 99.000
The converted value divided by 2 is 49.500
```

Fig. 8.6 | Using atof.

8.4 String-Conversion Functions (Cont.)

- Function atoi (Fig. 8.7) converts its argument—a string of digits that represents an integer—to an int value.
- The function returns the int value.
- If the converted value cannot be represented, the behavior of function atoi is undefined.

```
1  /* Fig. 8.7: fig08_07.c
2   Using atoi */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <stdlib.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      int i; /* variable to hold converted string */
9
10     i = atoi( "2593" );
11
12     printf( "%s%d\n%s%d\n",
13             "The string \"2593\" converted to int is ", i,
14             "The converted value minus 593 is ", i - 593 );
15
16     return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
17 } /* end main */
```

```
The string "2593" converted to int is 2593
The converted value minus 593 is 2000
```

Fig. 8.7 | Using atoi.

8.4 String-Conversion Functions (Cont.)

- Function atol (Fig. 8.8) converts its argument—a string of digits representing a long integer—to a long value.
- The function returns the long value.
- If the converted value cannot be represented, the behavior of function atol is undefined.
- If int and long are both stored in 4 bytes, function atoi and function atol work identically.

```
1  /* Fig. 8.8: fig08_08.c
2   Using atol */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <stdlib.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      long l; /* variable to hold converted string */
9
10     l = atol( "1000000" );
11
12     printf( "%s%ld\n%s%ld\n",
13             "The string \"1000000\" converted to long int is ", l,
14             "The converted value divided by 2 is ", l / 2 );
15
16     return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
17 } /* end main */
```

```
The string "1000000" converted to long int is 1000000
The converted value divided by 2 is 500000
```

Fig. 8.8 | Using atol.

8.4 String-Conversion Functions (Cont.)

- Function strtod (Fig. 8.9) converts a sequence of characters representing a floating-point value to double.
- The function receives two arguments—a string (char *) and a pointer to a string (char **).
- The string contains the character sequence to be converted.
- The pointer is assigned the location of the first character after the converted portion of the string. Line 14
 - `d = strtod(string, &stringPtr);`
 - indicates that d is assigned the double value converted from string, and stringPtr is assigned the location of the first character after the converted value (51.2) in string.

```
1  /* Fig. 8.9: fig08_09.c
2   Using strtod */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <stdlib.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      /* initialize string pointer */
9      const char *string = "51.2% are admitted"; /* initialize string */
10
11     double d; /* variable to hold converted sequence */
12     char *stringPtr; /* create char pointer */
13
14     d = strtod( string, &stringPtr );
15
16     printf( "The string \"%s\" is converted to the\n", string );
17     printf( "double value %.2f and the string \"%s\"\n", d, stringPtr );
18
19 } /* end main */
```

The string "51.2% are admitted" is converted to the
double value 51.20 and the string "% are admitted"

Fig. 8.9 | Using strtod.

8.4 String-Conversion Functions (Cont.)

- Function strtol (Fig. 8.10) converts to long a sequence of characters representing an integer.
- The function receives three arguments—a string (`char *`), a pointer to a string and an integer.
- The string contains the character sequence to be converted.
- The pointer is assigned the location of the first character after the converted portion of the string.
- The integer specifies the base of the value being converted.

8.4 String-Conversion Functions (Cont.)

- Line 13
- `x = strtol(string, &remainderPtr, 0);`
indicates that x is assigned the long value converted from string.
- The second argument, remainderPtr, is assigned the remainder of string after the conversion.
- Using NULL for the second argument causes the remainder of the string to be ignored.
- The third argument, 0, indicates that the value to be converted can be in octal (base 8), decimal (base 10) or hexadecimal (base 16) format.

8.4 String-Conversion Functions (Cont.)

- The base can be specified as 0 or any value between 2 and 36.
- See Appendix C, Number Systems, for a detailed explanation of the octal, decimal and hexadecimal number systems.
- Numeric representations of integers from base 11 to base 36 use the characters A–Z to represent the values 10 to 35.
- For example, hexadecimal values can consist of the digits 0–9 and the characters A–F.
- A base-36 integer can consist of the digits 0–9 and the characters A–Z.

```
1  /* Fig. 8.10: fig08_10.c
2   Using strtol */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <stdlib.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      const char *string = "-1234567abc"; /* initialize string pointer */
9
10     char *remainderPtr; /* create char pointer */
11     long x; /* variable to hold converted sequence */
12
13     x = strtol( string, &remainderPtr, 0 );
14
15     printf( "%s\"%s\"\n%s%ld\n%s\"%s\"\n%s%ld\n",
16             "The original string is ", string,
17             "The converted value is ", x,
18             "The remainder of the original string is ",
19             remainderPtr,
20             "The converted value plus 567 is ", x + 567 );
21     return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
22 } /* end main */
```

Fig. 8.10 | Using `strtol`. (Part I of 2.)

```
The original string is "-1234567abc"
The converted value is -1234567
The remainder of the original string is "abc"
The converted value plus 567 is -1234000
```

Fig. 8.10 | Using `strtol`. (Part 2 of 2.)

8.4 String-Conversion Functions (Cont.)

- Function strtoul (Fig. 8.11) converts to unsigned long characters representing an unsigned long integer.
- The function works identically to function strtol.
- The statement
 - `x = strtoul(string, &remainderPtr, 0);` in Fig. 8.11 indicates that x is assigned the unsigned long value converted from string.
- The second argument, `&remainderPtr`, is assigned the remainder of string after the conversion.
- The third argument, 0, indicates that the value to be converted can be in octal, decimal or hexadecimal format.

```
1  /* Fig. 8.11: fig08_11.c
2   Using strtoul */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <stdlib.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      const char *string = "1234567abc"; /* initialize string pointer */
9      unsigned long x; /* variable to hold converted sequence */
10     char *remainderPtr; /* create char pointer */
11
12     x = strtoul( string, &remainderPtr, 0 );
13
14     printf( "%s\"%s\"\n%s%lu\n%s\"%s\"\n%s%lu\n",
15             "The original string is ", string,
16             "The converted value is ", x,
17             "The remainder of the original string is ",
18             remainderPtr,
19             "The converted value minus 567 is ", x - 567 );
20
21     return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
22 } /* end main */
```

Fig. 8.11 | Using strtoul. (Part I of 2.)

```
The original string is "1234567abc"  
The converted value is 1234567  
The remainder of the original string is "abc"  
The converted value minus 567 is 1234000
```

Fig. 8.11 | Using strtoul. (Part 2 of 2.)

8.5 Standard Input/Output Library Functions

- This section presents several functions from the standard input/output library (`<stdio.h>`) specifically for manipulating character and string data.
- Figure 8.12 summarizes the character and string input/output functions of the standard input/output library.

| Function prototype | Function description |
|---|---|
| <code>int getchar(void);</code> | Inputs the next character from the standard input and returns it as an integer. |
| <code>char *fgets(char *s, int n, FILE *stream);</code> | Inputs characters from the specified stream into the array <code>s</code> until a newline or end-of-file character is encountered, or until <code>n - 1</code> bytes are read. In this chapter, we specify the stream as <code>stdin</code> —the standard input stream, which is typically used to read characters from the keyboard. A terminating null character is appended to the array. Returns the string that was read into <code>s</code> . |
| <code>int putchar(int c);</code> | Prints the character stored in <code>c</code> and returns it as an integer. |
| <code>int puts(const char *s);</code> | Prints the string <code>s</code> followed by a newline character. Returns a non-zero integer if successful, or <code>EOF</code> if an error occurs. |
| <code>int sprintf(char *s, const char *format, ...);</code> | Equivalent to <code>printf</code> , except the output is stored in the array <code>s</code> instead of printed on the screen. Returns the number of characters written to <code>s</code> , or <code>EOF</code> if an error occurs. |

Fig. 8.12 | Standard input/output library character and string functions. (Part I of 2.)

| Function prototype | Function description |
|--|---|
| <code>int sscanf(char *s, const char *format, ...);</code> | Equivalent to <code>scanf</code> , except the input is read from the array <code>s</code> rather than from the keyboard. Returns the number of items successfully read by the function, or <code>EOF</code> if an error occurs. |

Fig. 8.12 | Standard input/output library character and string functions. (Part 2 of 2.)

8.5 Standard Input/Output Library Functions (Cont.)

- Figure 8.13 uses functions fgets and putchar to read a line of text from the standard input (keyboard) and recursively output the characters of the line in reverse order.
- Function fgets reads characters from the standard input into its first argument—an array of chars—until a newline or the end-of-file indicator is encountered, or until the maximum number of characters is read.
- The maximum number of characters is one fewer than the value specified in fgets's second argument.

8.5 Standard Input/Output Library Functions (Cont.)

- The third argument specifies the stream from which to read characters—in this case, we use the standard input stream (stdin).
- A null character ('\0') is appended to the array when reading terminates.
- Function putchar prints its character argument.
- The program calls recursive function reverse to print the line of text backward.
- If the first character of the array received by reverse is the null character '\0', reverse returns.

8.5 Standard Input/Output Library Functions (Cont.)

- Otherwise, reverse is called again with the address of the subarray beginning at element s[1], and character s[0] is output with putchar when the recursive call is completed.
- The order of the two statements in the else portion of the if statement causes reverse to walk to the terminating null character of the string before a character is printed.
- As the recursive calls are completed, the characters are output in reverse order.

```
1  /* Fig. 8.13: fig08_13.c
2   Using gets and putchar */
3 #include <stdio.h>
4
5 void reverse( const char * const sPtr ); /* prototype */
6
7 int main( void )
8 {
9     char sentence[ 80 ]; /* create char array */
10
11    printf( "Enter a line of text:\n" );
12
13    /* use fgets to read line of text */
14    fgets( sentence, 80, stdin );
15
16    printf( "\nThe line printed backward is:\n" );
17    reverse( sentence );
18    return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
19 } /* end main */
20
```

Fig. 8.13 | Using fgets and putchar. (Part I of 3.)

```
21 /* recursively outputs characters in string in reverse order */
22 void reverse( const char * const sPtr )
23 {
24     /* if end of the string */
25     if ( sPtr[ 0 ] == '\0' ) { /* base case */
26         return;
27     } /* end if */
28     else { /* if not end of the string */
29         reverse( &sPtr[ 1 ] ); /* recursion step */
30         putchar( sPtr[ 0 ] ); /* use putchar to display character */
31     } /* end else */
32 } /* end function reverse */
```

Enter a line of text:
Characters and Strings

The line printed backward is:
sgnirtS dna sretcarahC

Fig. 8.13 | Using fgets and putchar. (Part 2 of 3.)

Enter a line of text:
able was I ere I saw elba

The line printed backward is:
able was I ere I saw elba

Fig. 8.13 | Using fgets and putchar. (Part 3 of 3.)

8.5 Standard Input/Output Library Functions (Cont.)

- Figure 8.14 uses functions getchar and puts to read characters from the standard input into character array sentence and print the array of characters as a string.
- Function getchar reads a character from the standard input and returns the character as an integer.
- Function puts takes a string (char *) as an argument and prints the string followed by a newline character.
- The program stops inputting characters when getchar reads the newline character entered by the user to end the line.
- A null character is appended to array sentence (line 19) so that the array may be treated as a string.
- Then, function puts prints the string contained in sentence.

```
1  /* Fig. 8.14: fig08_14.c
2   Using getchar and puts */
3 #include <stdio.h>
4
5 int main( void )
6 {
7     char c; /* variable to hold character input by user */
8     char sentence[ 80 ]; /* create char array */
9     int i = 0; /* initialize counter i */
10
11    /* prompt user to enter line of text */
12    puts( "Enter a line of text:" );
13
14    /* use getchar to read each character */
15    while ( ( c = getchar() ) != '\n' ) {
16        sentence[ i++ ] = c;
17    } /* end while */
18
19    sentence[ i ] = '\0'; /* terminate string */
20
21    /* use puts to display sentence */
22    puts( "\nThe line entered was:" );
23    puts( sentence );
24    return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
25 } /* end main */
```

Fig. 8.14 | Using `getchar` and `puts`. (Part I of 2.)

Enter a line of text:
This is a test.

The line entered was:
This is a test.

Fig. 8.14 | Using getchar and puts. (Part 2 of 2.)

8.5 Standard Input/Output Library Functions (Cont.)

- Figure 8.15 uses function sprintf to print formatted data into array s—an array of characters.
- The function uses the same conversion specifiers as printf (see Chapter 9 for a detailed discussion of formatting).
- The program inputs an int value and a double value to be formatted and printed to array s.
- Array s is the first argument of sprintf.

```
1  /* Fig. 8.15: fig08_15.c
2   Using sprintf */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4
5  int main( void )
6  {
7      char s[ 80 ]; /* create char array */
8      int x; /* x value to be input */
9      double y; /* y value to be input */
10
11     printf( "Enter an integer and a double:\n" );
12     scanf( "%d%lf", &x, &y );
13
14     sprintf( s, "integer:%6d\ndouble:%8.2f", x, y );
15
16     printf( "%s\n%s\n",
17             "The formatted output stored in array s is:", s );
18
19 } /* end main */
```

Fig. 8.15 | Using sprintf. (Part 1 of 2.)

```
Enter an integer and a double:
```

```
298 87.375
```

```
The formatted output stored in array s is:
```

```
integer: 298
```

```
double: 87.38
```

Fig. 8.15 | Using sprintf. (Part 2 of 2.)

8.5 Standard Input/Output Library Functions (Cont.)

- Figure 8.16 uses function sscanf to read formatted data from character array s.
- The function uses the same conversion specifiers as scanf.
- The program reads an int and a double from array s and stores the values in x and y, respectively.
- The values of x and y are printed.
- Array s is the first argument of sscanf.

```
1  /* Fig. 8.16: fig08_16.c
2   Using sscanf */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4
5  int main( void )
6  {
7      char s[] = "31298 87.375"; /* initialize array s */
8      int x; /* x value to be input */
9      double y; /* y value to be input */
10
11     sscanf( s, "%d%lf", &x, &y );
12     printf( "%s\n%s%6d\n%s%8.3f\n",
13             "The values stored in character array s are:",
14             "integer:", x, "double:", y );
15     return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
16 } /* end main */
```

The values stored in character array s are:

integer: 31298
double: 87.375

Fig. 8.16 | Using sscanf.

8.6 String-Manipulation Functions of the String-Handling Library

- The string-handling library (<string.h>) provides many useful functions for manipulating string data (copying strings and concatenating strings), comparing strings, searching strings for characters and other strings, tokenizing strings (separating strings into logical pieces) and determining the length of strings.
- This section presents the string-manipulation functions of the string-handling library.
- The functions are summarized in Fig. 8.17.
- Every function—except for strncpy—appends the null character to its result.

Function prototype

Function description

`char *strcpy(char *s1, const char *s2)`

Copies string s2 into array s1. The value of s1 is returned.

`char *strncpy(char *s1, const char *s2, size_t n)`

Copies at most n characters of string s2 into array s1. The value of s1 is returned.

`char *strcat(char *s1, const char *s2)`

Appends string s2 to array s1. The first character of s2 overwrites the terminating null character of s1. The value of s1 is returned.

`char *strncat(char *s1, const char *s2, size_t n)`

Appends at most n characters of string s2 to array s1. The first character of s2 overwrites the terminating null character of s1. The value of s1 is returned.

Fig. 8.17 | String-manipulation functions of the string-handling library.

8.6 String-Manipulation Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Functions `strncpy` and `strncat` specify a parameter of type `size_t`, which is a type defined by the C standard as the integral type of the value returned by operator `sizeof`.



Portability Tip 8.2

Type `size_t` is a system-dependent synonym for either type `unsigned long` or type `unsigned int`.



Error-Prevention Tip 8.2

*When using functions from the string-handling library,
include the <string.h> header.*

8.6 String-Manipulation Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Function strcpy copies its second argument (a string) into its first argument (a character array that must be large enough to store the string and its terminating null character, which is also copied).
- Function strncpy is equivalent to strcpy, except that strncpy specifies the number of characters to be copied from the string into the array.
- Function strncpy does not necessarily copy the terminating null character of its second argument.

8.6 String-Manipulation Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- A terminating null character is written only if the number of characters to be copied is at least one more than the length of the string.
- For example, if "test" is the second argument, a terminating null character is written only if the third argument to `strncpy` is at least 5 (four characters in "test" plus a terminating null character).
- If the third argument is larger than 5, null characters are appended to the array until the total number of characters specified by the third argument are written.



Common Programming Error 8.5

Not appending a terminating null character to the first argument of a `strncpy` when the third argument is less than or equal to the length of the string in the second argument.

8.6 String-Manipulation Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Figure 8.18 uses strcpy to copy the entire string in array x into array y and uses strncpy to copy the first 14 characters of array x into array z.
- A null character ('\0') is appended to array z, because the call to strncpy in the program does not write a terminating null character (the third argument is less than the string length of the second argument).

```
1  /* Fig. 8.18: fig08_18.c
2   Using strcpy and strncpy */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <string.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      char x[] = "Happy Birthday to You"; /* initialize char array x */
9      char y[ 25 ]; /* create char array y */
10     char z[ 15 ]; /* create char array z */
11
12     /* copy contents of x into y */
13     printf( "%s%s\n%s%s\n",
14             "The string in array x is: ", x,
15             "The string in array y is: ", strcpy( y, x ) );
16
17     /* copy first 14 characters of x into z. Does not copy null
18      character */
19     strncpy( z, x, 14 );
20
21     z[ 14 ] = '\0'; /* terminate string in z */
22     printf( "The string in array z is: %s\n", z );
23     return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
24 } /* end main */
```

Fig. 8.18 | Using strcpy and strncpy. (Part I of 2.)

The string in array x is: Happy Birthday to You
The string in array y is: Happy Birthday to You
The string in array z is: Happy Birthday

Fig. 8.18 | Using strcpy and strncpy. (Part 2 of 2.)

8.6 String-Manipulation Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Function `strcat` appends its second argument (a string) to its first argument (a character array containing a string).
- The first character of the second argument replaces the null ('\0') that terminates the string in the first argument.
- You must ensure that the array used to store the first string is large enough to store the first string, the second string and the terminating null character copied from the second string.
- Function `strncat` appends a specified number of characters from the second string to the first string.
- A terminating null character is appended to the result.
- Figure 8.19 demonstrates functions `strcat` and `strncat`.

```
1  /* Fig. 8.19: fig08_19.c
2   Using strcat and strncat */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <string.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      char s1[ 20 ] = "Happy "; /* initialize char array s1 */
9      char s2[] = "New Year "; /* initialize char array s2 */
10     char s3[ 40 ] = ""; /* initialize char array s3 to empty */
11
12    printf( "s1 = %s\ns2 = %s\n", s1, s2 );
13
14    /* concatenate s2 to s1 */
15    printf( "strcat( s1, s2 ) = %s\n", strcat( s1, s2 ) );
16
17    /* concatenate first 6 characters of s1 to s3. Place '\0'
18       after last character */
19    printf( "strncat( s3, s1, 6 ) = %s\n", strncat( s3, s1, 6 ) );
20
21    /* concatenate s1 to s3 */
22    printf( "strcat( s3, s1 ) = %s\n", strcat( s3, s1 ) );
23    return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
24 } /* end main */
```

Fig. 8.19 | Using strcat and strncat. (Part I of 2.)

```
s1 = Happy
s2 = New Year
strcat( s1, s2 ) = Happy New Year
strncat( s3, s1, 6 ) = Happy
strcat( s3, s1 ) = Happy Happy New Year
```

Fig. 8.19 | Using strcat and strncat. (Part 2 of 2.)

8.7 Comparison Functions of the String-Handling Library

- This section presents the string-handling library's **string-comparison functions**, **strcmp** and **strncmp**.
- Fig. 8.20 contains their prototypes and a brief description of each function.

Function prototype

```
int strcmp( const char *s1, const char *s2 );
```

Compares the string *s1* with the string *s2*. The function returns 0, less than 0 or greater than 0 if *s1* is equal to, less than or greater than *s2*, respectively.

Function description

```
int strncmp( const char *s1, const char *s2, size_t n );
```

Compares up to *n* characters of the string *s1* with the string *s2*. The function returns 0, less than 0 or greater than 0 if *s1* is equal to, less than or greater than *s2*, respectively.

Fig. 8.20 | String-comparison functions of the string-handling library.

8.7 Comparison Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Figure 8.21 compares three strings using strcmp and strncmp.
- Function strcmp compares its first string argument with its second string argument, character by character.
- The function returns 0 if the strings are equal, a negative value if the first string is less than the second string and a positive value if the first string is greater than the second string.
- Function strncmp is equivalent to strcmp, except that strncmp compares up to a specified number of characters.
- Function strncmp does not compare characters following a null character in a string.
- The program prints the integer value returned by each function call.

```
1  /* Fig. 8.21: fig08_21.c
2   Using strcmp and strncmp */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <string.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      const char *s1 = "Happy New Year"; /* initialize char pointer */
9      const char *s2 = "Happy New Year"; /* initialize char pointer */
10     const char *s3 = "Happy Holidays"; /* initialize char pointer */
11
12     printf("%s%s\n%s%s\n%s%s\n\n%s%2d\n%s%2d\n%s%2d\n\n",
13         "s1 = ", s1, "s2 = ", s2, "s3 = ", s3,
14         "strcmp(s1, s2) = ", strcmp( s1, s2 ),
15         "strcmp(s1, s3) = ", strcmp( s1, s3 ),
16         "strcmp(s3, s1) = ", strcmp( s3, s1 ) );
17
18     printf("%s%2d\n%s%2d\n%s%2d\n",
19         "strncmp(s1, s3, 6) = ", strncmp( s1, s3, 6 ),
20         "strncmp(s1, s3, 7) = ", strncmp( s1, s3, 7 ),
21         "strncmp(s3, s1, 7) = ", strncmp( s3, s1, 7 ) );
22     return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
23 } /* end main */
```

Fig. 8.21 | Using strcmp and strncmp. (Part I of 2.)

```
s1 = Happy New Year  
s2 = Happy New Year  
s3 = Happy Holidays
```

```
strcmp(s1, s2) = 0  
strcmp(s1, s3) = 1  
strcmp(s3, s1) = -1
```

```
strncmp(s1, s3, 6) = 0  
strncmp(s1, s3, 7) = 6  
strncmp(s3, s1, 7) = -6
```

Fig. 8.21 | Using strcmp and strncmp. (Part 2 of 2.)



Common Programming Error 8.6

Assuming that `strcmp` and `strncmp` return 1 when their arguments are equal is a logic error. Both functions return 0 (strangely, the equivalent of C's false value) for equality. Therefore, when testing two strings for equality, the result of function `strcmp` or `strncmp` should be compared with 0 to determine if the strings are equal.

8.7 Comparison Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- To understand just what it means for one string to be “greater than” or “less than” another string, consider the process of alphabetizing a series of last names.
- The reader would, no doubt, place “Jones” before “Smith,” because the first letter of “Jones” comes before the first letter of “Smith” in the alphabet.

8.7 Comparison Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- But the alphabet is more than just a list of 26 letters—it is an ordered list of characters.
- Each letter occurs in a specific position within the list.
- “Z” is more than merely a letter of the alphabet; “Z” is specifically the 26th letter of the alphabet.
- How does the computer know that one particular letter comes before another?
- All characters are represented inside the computer as **numeric codes**; when the computer compares two strings, it actually compares the numeric codes of the characters in the strings.



Portability Tip 8.3

The internal numeric codes used to represent characters may be different on different computers.

8.7 Comparison Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- In an effort to standardize character representations, most computer manufacturers have designed their machines to utilize one of two popular coding schemes—**ASCII** or **EBCDIC**.
- ASCII stands for “American Standard Code for Information Interchange,” and EBCDIC stands for “Extended Binary Coded Decimal Interchange Code.”
- There are other coding schemes, but these two are the most popular.
- The Unicode® Standard outlines a specification to produce consistent encoding of the vast majority of the world’s characters and symbols.

8.7 Comparison Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- To learn more about Unicode, visit www.unicode.org.
- ASCII, EBCDIC and Unicode are called **character sets**.
- String and character manipulations actually involve the manipulation of the appropriate numeric codes and not the characters themselves.
- This explains the interchangeability of characters and small integers in C.
- Since it is meaningful to say that one numeric code is greater than, less than or equal to another numeric code, it becomes possible to relate various characters or strings to one another by referring to the character codes.
- Appendix B lists the ASCII character codes.

8.8 Search Functions of the String-Handling Library

- This section presents the functions of the string-handling library used to search strings for characters and other strings.
- The functions are summarized in Fig. 8.22.
- The functions `strcspn` and `strspn` return `size_t`.

Function prototype and description

`char *strchr(const char *s, int c);`

Locates the first occurrence of character *c* in string *s*. If *c* is found, a pointer to *c* in *s* is returned. Otherwise, a NULL pointer is returned.

`size_t strcspn(const char *s1, const char *s2);`

Determines and returns the length of the initial segment of string *s1* consisting of characters *not* contained in string *s2*.

`size_t strspn(const char *s1, const char *s2);`

Determines and returns the length of the initial segment of string *s1* consisting only of characters contained in string *s2*.

`char *strpbrk(const char *s1, const char *s2);`

Locates the first occurrence in string *s1* of any character in string *s2*. If a character from string *s2* is found, a pointer to the character in string *s1* is returned. Otherwise, a NULL pointer is returned.

`char *strrchr(const char *s, int c);`

Locates the last occurrence of *c* in string *s*. If *c* is found, a pointer to *c* in string *s* is returned. Otherwise, a NULL pointer is returned.

Fig. 8.22 | String-manipulation functions of the string-handling library. (Part 1 of 2.)

Function prototype and description

`char *strstr(const char *s1, const char *s2);`

Locates the first occurrence in string *s1* of string *s2*. If the string is found, a pointer to the string in *s1* is returned. Otherwise, a `NULL` pointer is returned.

`char *strtok(char *s1, const char *s2);`

A sequence of calls to `strtok` breaks string *s1* into “tokens”—logical pieces such as words in a line of text—separated by characters contained in string *s2*. The first call contains *s1* as the first argument, and subsequent calls to continue tokenizing the same string contain `NULL` as the first argument. A pointer to the current token is returned by each call. If there are no more tokens when the function is called, `NULL` is returned.

Fig. 8.22 | String-manipulation functions of the string-handling library. (Part 2 of 2.)

8.8 Search Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Function `strchr` searches for the first occurrence of a character in a string.
- If the character is found, `strchr` returns a pointer to the character in the string; otherwise, `strchr` returns `NULL`.
- Figure 8.23 uses `strchr` to search for the first occurrences of 'a' and 'z' in the string "This is a test".

```
1  /* Fig. 8.23: fig08_23.c
2   Using strchr */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <string.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      const char *string = "This is a test"; /* initialize char pointer */
9      char character1 = 'a'; /* initialize character1 */
10     char character2 = 'z'; /* initialize character2 */
11
12     /* if character1 was found in string */
13     if ( strchr( string, character1 ) != NULL ) {
14         printf( "'%c' was found in \"%s\".\n",
15             character1, string );
16     } /* end if */
17     else { /* if character1 was not found */
18         printf( "'%c' was not found in \"%s\".\n",
19             character1, string );
20     } /* end else */
21 }
```

Fig. 8.23 | Using strchr. (Part I of 2.)

```
22  /* if character2 was found in string */
23  if ( strchr( string, character2 ) != NULL ) {
24      printf( "'%c' was found in \"%s\".\n",
25          character2, string );
26  } /* end if */
27  else { /* if character2 was not found */
28      printf( "'%c' was not found in \"%s\".\n",
29          character2, string );
30  } /* end else */
31
32  return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
33 } /* end main */
```

```
'a' was found in "This is a test".
'z' was not found in "This is a test".
```

Fig. 8.23 | Using strchr. (Part 2 of 2.)

8.8 Search Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Function strcspn (Fig. 8.24) determines the length of the initial part of the string in its first argument that does not contain any characters from the string in its second argument.
- The function returns the length of the segment.

```
1  /* Fig. 8.24: fig08_24.c
2   Using strcspn */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <string.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      /* initialize two char pointers */ ↓
9      const char *string1 = "The value is 3.14159";
10     const char *string2 = "1234567890";
11
12    printf( "%s%s\n%s%s\n\n%s\n%s%u\n",
13            "string1 = ", string1, "string2 = ", string2,
14            "The length of the initial segment of string1",
15            "containing no characters from string2 = ",
16            strcspn( string1, string2 ) );
17    return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
18 } /* end main */
```

Fig. 8.24 | Using strcspn. (Part I of 2.)

```
string1 = The value is 3.14159  
string2 = 1234567890
```

The length of the initial segment of string1
containing no characters from string2 = 13

Fig. 8.24 | Using strcspn. (Part 2 of 2.)

8.8 Search Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Function strpbrk searches its first string argument for the first occurrence of any character in its second string argument.
- If a character from the second argument is found, strpbrk returns a pointer to the character in the first argument; otherwise, strpbrk returns NULL.
- Figure 8.25 shows a program that locates the first occurrence in string1 of any character from string2.

```
1  /* Fig. 8.25: fig08_25.c
2   Using strpbrk */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <string.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      const char *string1 = "This is a test"; /* initialize char pointer */
9      const char *string2 = "beware"; /* initialize char pointer */
10
11     printf( "%s\"%s\"\n%c'%s\n\"%s\"\n",
12             "Of the characters in ", string2,
13             *strpbrk( string1, string2 ),
14             " appears earliest in ", string1 );
15
16     return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
17 } /* end main */
```

```
Of the characters in "beware"
'a' appears earliest in
"This is a test"
```

Fig. 8.25 | Using strpbrk.

8.8 Search Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Function strrchr searches for the last occurrence of the specified character in a string.
- If the character is found, strrchr returns a pointer to the character in the string; otherwise, strrchr returns NULL.
- Figure 8.26 shows a program that searches for the last occurrence of the character 'z' in the string "A zoo has many animals including zebras."

```
1  /* Fig. 8.26: fig08_26.c
2   Using strrchr */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <string.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      /* initialize char pointer */
9      const char *string1 = "A zoo has many animals including zebras";
10
11     int c = 'z'; /* character to search for */
12
13     printf( "%s\n%s%c%s\"%s\"\n",
14         "The remainder of string1 beginning with the",
15         "last occurrence of character ", c,
16         " is: ", strrchr( string1, c ) );
17
18 } /* end main */
```

The remainder of string1 beginning with the
last occurrence of character 'z' is: "zebras"

Fig. 8.26 | Using strrchr.

8.8 Search Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Function `strspn` (Fig. 8.27) determines the length of the initial part of the string in its first argument that contains only characters from the string in its second argument.
- The function returns the length of the segment.

```
1  /* Fig. 8.27: fig08_27.c
2   Using strspn */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <string.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      /* initialize two char pointers */
9      const char *string1 = "The value is 3.14159";
10     const char *string2 = "aehi lsTuv";
11
12    printf( "%s%s\n%s%s\n%n%s\n%s%u\n",
13            "string1 = ", string1, "string2 = ", string2,
14            "The length of the initial segment of string1",
15            "containing only characters from string2 = ",
16            strspn( string1, string2 ) );
17    return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
18 } /* end main */
```

Fig. 8.27 | Using strspn. (Part I of 2.)

```
string1 = The value is 3.14159  
string2 = aehi lsTuv
```

The length of the initial segment of string1
containing only characters from string2 = 13

Fig. 8.27 | Using strspn. (Part 2 of 2.)

8.8 Search Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Function strstr searches for the first occurrence of its second string argument in its first string argument.
- If the second string is found in the first string, a pointer to the location of the string in the first argument is returned.
- Figure 8.28 uses strstr to find the string "def" in the string "abcdefabcdef".

```
1  /* Fig. 8.28: fig08_28.c
2   Using strstr */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <string.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      const char *string1 = "abcdefabcdef"; /* string to search */
9      const char *string2 = "def"; /* string to search for */
10
11     printf( "%s%s\n%s%s\n\n%s\n%s%s\n",
12             "string1 = ", string1, "string2 = ", string2,
13             "The remainder of string1 beginning with the",
14             "first occurrence of string2 is: ",
15             strstr( string1, string2 ) );
16
17 } /* end main */
```

```
string1 = abcdefabcdef
string2 = def
```

```
The remainder of string1 beginning with the
first occurrence of string2 is: defabcdef
```

Fig. 8.28 | Using strstr.

8.8 Search Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Function strtok (Fig. 8.29) is used to break a string into a series of tokens.
- A token is a sequence of characters separated by delimiters (usually spaces or punctuation marks, but a delimiter can be any character).
- For example, in a line of text, each word can be considered a token, and the spaces and punctuation separating the words can be considered delimiters.

```
1  /* Fig. 8.29: fig08_29.c
2   Using strtok */
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <string.h>
5
6  int main( void )
7  {
8      /* initialize array string */
9      char string[] = "This is a sentence with 7 tokens";
10     char *tokenPtr; /* create char pointer */
11
12     printf( "%s\n%s\n\n%s\n",
13         "The string to be tokenized is:", string,
14         "The tokens are:" );
15
16     tokenPtr = strtok( string, " " ); /* begin tokenizing sentence */
17
18     /* continue tokenizing sentence until tokenPtr becomes NULL */
19     while ( tokenPtr != NULL ) {
20         printf( "%s\n", tokenPtr );
21         tokenPtr = strtok( NULL, " " ); /* get next token */
22     } /* end while */
23
24     return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
25 } /* end main */
```

Fig. 8.29 | Using strtok. (Part I of 2.)

The string to be tokenized is:
This is a sentence with 7 tokens

The tokens are:

This
is
a
sentence
with
7
tokens

Fig. 8.29 | Using strtok. (Part 2 of 2.)

8.8 Search Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Multiple calls to strtok are required to tokenize a string —i.e., break it into tokens (assuming that the string contains more than one token).
- The first call to strtok contains two arguments: a string to be tokenized, and a string containing characters that separate the tokens.
- In Fig. 8.29, the statement
- ```
/* begin tokenizing sentence */
tokenPtr = strtok(string, " ");
```

 assigns tokenPtr a pointer to the first token in string.

## 8.8 Search Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- The second argument, " ", indicates that tokens are separated by spaces.
- Function strtok searches for the first character in string that is not a delimiting character (space).
- This begins the first token.
- The function then finds the next delimiting character in the string and replaces it with a null ('\0') character to terminate the current token.
- Function strtok saves a pointer to the next character following the token in string and returns a pointer to the current token.

## 8.8 Search Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Subsequent strtok calls in line 21 continue tokenizing string.
- These calls contain NULL as their first argument.
- The NULL argument indicates that the call to strtok should continue tokenizing from the location in string saved by the last call to strtok.
- If no tokens remain when strtok is called, strtok returns NULL.

## 8.8 Search Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- You can change the delimiter string in each new call to strtok.
- Figure 8.29 uses strtok to tokenize the string "This is a sentence with 7 tokens".
- Each token is printed separately.
- Function strtok modifies the input string by placing \0 at the end of each token; therefore, a copy of the string should be made if the string will be used again in the program after the calls to strtok.

## 8.9 Memory Functions of the String-Handling Library

- The string-handling library functions presented in this section manipulate, compare and search blocks of memory.
- The functions treat blocks of memory as character arrays and can manipulate any block of data.
- Figure 8.30 summarizes the memory functions of the string-handling library.
- In the function discussions, “object” refers to a block of data.

### Function prototype

### Function description

**void \*memcpy( void \*s1, const void \*s2, size\_t n );**

Copies n characters from the object pointed to by s2 into the object pointed to by s1. A pointer to the resulting object is returned.

**void \*memmove( void \*s1, const void \*s2, size\_t n );**

Copies n characters from the object pointed to by s2 into the object pointed to by s1. The copy is performed as if the characters were first copied from the object pointed to by s2 into a temporary array and then from the temporary array into the object pointed to by s1. A pointer to the resulting object is returned.

**int memcmp( const void \*s1, const void \*s2, size\_t n );**

Compares the first n characters of the objects pointed to by s1 and s2. The function returns 0, less than 0 or greater than 0 if s1 is equal to, less than or greater than s2.

**Fig. 8.30** | Memory functions of the string-handling library. (Part 1 of 2.)

| Function prototype                                           | Function description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>void *memchr( const void *s, int c, size_t n );</code> | Locates the first occurrence of <code>c</code> (converted to <code>unsigned char</code> ) in the first <code>n</code> characters of the object pointed to by <code>s</code> . If <code>c</code> is found, a pointer to <code>c</code> in the object is returned. Otherwise, <code>NULL</code> is returned. |
| <code>void *memset( void *s, int c, size_t n );</code>       | Copies <code>c</code> (converted to <code>unsigned char</code> ) into the first <code>n</code> characters of the object pointed to by <code>s</code> . A pointer to the result is returned.                                                                                                                |

**Fig. 8.30** | Memory functions of the string-handling library. (Part 2 of 2.)

## 8.9 Memory Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- The pointer parameters to these functions are declared void \* so they can manipulate memory for any data type.
- In Chapter 7, we saw that a pointer to any data type can be assigned directly to a pointer of type void \*, and a pointer of type void \* can be assigned directly to a pointer to any data type.
- So, these functions can receive pointers to any data type.
- Because a void \* pointer cannot be dereferenced, each function receives a size argument that specifies the number of characters (bytes) the function will process.
- For simplicity, the examples in this section manipulate character arrays (blocks of characters).

## 8.9 Memory Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Function `memcpy` copies a specified number of characters from the object pointed to by its second argument into the object pointed to by its first argument.
- The function can receive a pointer to any type of object.
- The result of this function is undefined if the two objects overlap in memory (i.e., if they are parts of the same object)—in such cases, use `memmove`.
- Figure 8.31 uses `memcpy` to copy the string in array `s2` to array `s1`.

```
1 /* Fig. 8.31: fig08_31.c
2 Using memcpy */
3 #include <stdio.h>
4 #include <string.h>
5
6 int main(void)
7 {
8 char s1[17]; /* create char array s1 */
9 char s2[] = "Copy this string"; /* initialize char array s2 */
10
11 memcpy(s1, s2, 17);
12 printf("%s\n%s\"%s\"\n",
13 "After s2 is copied into s1 with memcpy," ,
14 "s1 contains ", s1);
15 return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
16 } /* end main */
```

After s2 is copied into s1 with memcpy,  
s1 contains "Copy this string"

**Fig. 8.31** | Using memcpy.

## 8.9 Memory Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Function `memmove`, like `memcpy`, copies a specified number of bytes from the object pointed to by its second argument into the object pointed to by its first argument.
- Copying is performed as if the bytes were copied from the second argument into a temporary character array, then copied from the temporary array into the first argument.
- This allows characters from one part of a string to be copied into another part of the same string.
- Figure 8.32 uses `memmove` to copy the last 10 bytes of array `x` into the first 10 bytes of array `x`.



## Common Programming Error 8.7

*String-manipulation functions other than memmove that copy characters have undefined results when copying takes place between parts of the same string.*

```
1 /* Fig. 8.32: fig08_32.c
2 Using memmove */
3 #include <stdio.h>
4 #include <string.h>
5
6 int main(void)
7 {
8 char x[] = "Home Sweet Home"; /* initialize char array x */
9
10 printf("%s%s\n", "The string in array x before memmove is: ", x);
11 printf("%s%s\n", "The string in array x after memmove is: ",
12 memmove(x, &x[5], 10));
13 return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
14 } /* end main */
```

```
The string in array x before memmove is: Home Sweet Home
The string in array x after memmove is: Sweet Home Home
```

**Fig. 8.32** | Using `memmove`.

## 8.9 Memory Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Function `memcmp` (Fig. 8.33) compares the specified number of characters of its first argument with the corresponding characters of its second argument.
- The function returns a value greater than 0 if the first argument is greater than the second, returns 0 if the arguments are equal and returns a value less than 0 if the first argument is less than the second.

---

```
1 /* Fig. 8.33: fig08_33.c
2 Using memcmp */
3 #include <stdio.h>
4 #include <string.h>
5
6 int main(void)
7 {
8 char s1[] = "ABCDEFG"; /* initialize char array s1 */
9 char s2[] = "ABCDXYZ"; /* initialize char array s2 */
10
11 printf("%s%s\n%s%s\n\n%s%2d\n%s%2d\n%s%2d\n",
12 "s1 = ", s1, "s2 = ", s2,
13 "memcmp(s1, s2, 4) = ", memcmp(s1, s2, 4),
14 "memcmp(s1, s2, 7) = ", memcmp(s1, s2, 7),
15 "memcmp(s2, s1, 7) = ", memcmp(s2, s1, 7));
16
17 return 0; /* indicate successful termination */
18 } /* end main */
```

---

**Fig. 8.33** | Using `memcmp`. (Part I of 2.)

```
s1 = ABCDEFG
s2 = ABCDXYZ
```

```
memcmp(s1, s2, 4) = 0
memcmp(s1, s2, 7) = -1
memcmp(s2, s1, 7) = 1
```

**Fig. 8.33** | Using `memcmp`. (Part 2 of 2.)

## 8.9 Memory Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Function `memchr` searches for the first occurrence of a byte, represented as `unsigned char`, in the specified number of bytes of an object.
- If the byte is found, a pointer to the byte in the object is returned; otherwise, a `NULL` pointer is returned.
- Figure 8.34 searches for the character (byte) '`r`' in the string "This is a string".

```
1 /* Fig. 8.34: fig08_34.c
2 Using memchr */
3 #include <stdio.h>
4 #include <string.h>
5
6 int main(void)
7 {
8 const char *s = "This is a string"; /* initialize char pointer */
9
10 printf("%s\'%c\'%s\"%s\"\n",
11 "The remainder of s after character ", 'r',
12 " is found is ", memchr(s, 'r', 16));
13
14 } /* end main */
```

The remainder of s after character 'r' is found is "ring"

**Fig. 8.34** | Using memchr.

## 8.9 Memory Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Function `memset` copies the value of the byte in its second argument into the first  $n$  bytes of the object pointed to by its first argument, where  $n$  is specified by the third argument.
- Figure 8.35 uses `memset` to copy 'b' into the first 7 bytes of `string1`.

```
1 /* Fig. 8.35: fig08_35.c
2 Using memset */
3 #include <stdio.h>
4 #include <string.h>
5
6 int main(void)
7 {
8 char string1[15] = "BBBBBBBBBBBBBB"; /* initialize string1 */
9
10 printf("string1 = %s\n", string1);
11 printf("string1 after memset = %s\n", memset(string1, 'b', 7));
12 return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
13 } /* end main */
```

```
string1 = BBBB BBBB BBBB BB
string1 after memset = bbbbbbbBBBBBBB
```

**Fig. 8.35** | Using memset.

## 8.10 Other Functions of the String-Handling Library

- The two remaining functions of the string-handling library are strerror and strlen.
- Figure 8.36 summarizes the strerror and strlen functions.

Function prototype

```
char *strerror(int errornum);
```

Maps `errornum` into a full text string in a compiler- and locale-specific manner (e.g. the message may appear in different languages based on its location). A pointer to the string is returned.

size\_t strlen( const char \*s );

Determines the length of string `s`. The number of characters preceding the terminating null character is returned.

**Fig. 8.36** | Other functions of the string-handling library.

## 8.10 Other Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Function `strerror` takes an error number and creates an error message string.
- A pointer to the string is returned.
- Figure 8.37 demonstrates `strerror`.

---

```
1 /* Fig. 8.37: fig08_37.c
2 Using strerror */
3 #include <stdio.h>
4 #include <string.h>
5
6 int main(void)
7 {
8 printf("%s\n", strerror(2));
9 return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
10 } /* end main */
```

```
No such file or directory
```

**Fig. 8.37** | Using strerror.

## 8.10 Other Functions of the String-Handling Library (Cont.)

- Function `strlen` takes a string as an argument and returns the number of characters in the string—the terminating null character is not included in the length.
- Figure 8.38 demonstrates function `strlen`.

---

```
1 /* Fig. 8.38: fig08_38.c
2 Using strlen */
3 #include <stdio.h>
4 #include <string.h>
5
6 int main(void)
7 {
8 /* initialize 3 char pointers */
9 const char *string1 = "abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz";
10 const char *string2 = "four";
11 const char *string3 = "Boston";
12
13 printf("%s\"%s\"%s%lu\n%s\"%s%lu\n%s\"%s%lu\n",
14 "The length of ", string1, " is ",
15 (unsigned long) strlen(string1),
16 "The length of ", string2, " is ",
17 (unsigned long) strlen(string2),
18 "The length of ", string3, " is ",
19 (unsigned long) strlen(string3));
20 return 0; /* indicates successful termination */
21 } /* end main */
```

---

**Fig. 8.38** | Using `strlen`. (Part 1 of 2.)

```
The length of "abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz" is 26
The length of "four" is 4
The length of "Boston" is 6
```

**Fig. 8.38** | Using `strlen`. (Part 2 of 2.)