C Functions

In c, we can divide a large program into the basic building blocks known as function. The function contains the set of programming statements enclosed by {}. A function can be called multiple times to provide reusability and modularity to the C program. In other words, we can say that the collection of functions creates a program. The function is also known as *procedure*or *subroutine*in other programming languages.

Advantage of functions in C

There are the following advantages of C functions.

* By using functions, we can avoid rewriting same logic/code again and again in a program.
* We can call C functions any number of times in a program and from any place in a program.
* We can track a large C program easily when it is divided into multiple functions.
* Reusability is the main achievement of C functions.
* However, Function calling is always a overhead in a C program.

Function Aspects

There are three aspects of a C function.

* **Function declaration** A function must be declared globally in a c program to tell the compiler about the function name, function parameters, and return type.
* **Function call** Function can be called from anywhere in the program. The parameter list must not differ in function calling and function declaration. We must pass the same number of functions as it is declared in the function declaration.
* **Function definition** It contains the actual statements which are to be executed. It is the most important aspect to which the control comes when the function is called. Here, we must notice that only one value can be returned from the function.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SN** | **C function aspects** | **Syntax** |
| 1 | Function declaration | return\_type function\_name (argument list); |
| 2 | Function call | function\_name (argument\_list) |
| 3 | Function definition | return\_type function\_name (argument list) {function body;} |

The syntax of creating function in c language is given below:

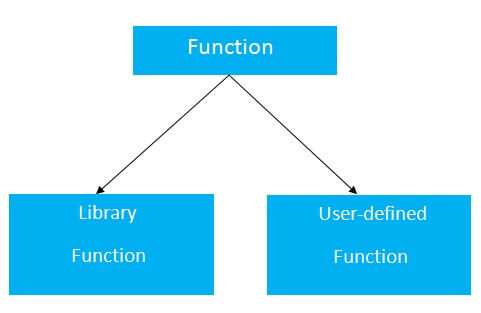
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1. return\_type function\_name(data\_type parameter...){
2. //code to be executed
3. }

Types of Functions

There are two types of functions in C programming:

1. **Library Functions**: are the functions which are declared in the C header files such as scanf(), printf(), gets(), puts(), ceil(), floor() etc.
2. **User-defined functions**: are the functions which are created by the C programmer, so that he/she can use it many times. It reduces the complexity of a big program and optimizes the code.



Return Value

A C function may or may not return a value from the function. If you don't have to return any value from the function, use void for the return type.

Let's see a simple example of C function that doesn't return any value from the function.

**Example without return value:**

1. **void** hello(){
2. printf("hello c");
3. }

If you want to return any value from the function, you need to use any data type such as int, long, char, etc. The return type depends on the value to be returned from the function.

Let's see a simple example of C function that returns int value from the function.

**Example with return value:**

1. **int** get(){
2. **return** 10;
3. }

In the above example, we have to return 10 as a value, so the return type is int. If you want to return floating-point value (e.g., 10.2, 3.1, 54.5, etc), you need to use float as the return type of the method.

1. **float** get(){
2. **return** 10.2;
3. }

Now, you need to call the function, to get the value of the function.

Different aspects of function calling

A function may or may not accept any argument. It may or may not return any value. Based on these facts, There are four different aspects of function calls.

* function without arguments and without return value
* function without arguments and with return value
* function with arguments and without return value
* function with arguments and with return value

Example for Function without argument and return value

**Example 1**

1. #include<stdio.h>
2. **void** printName();
3. **void** main ()
4. {
5. printf("Hello ");
6. printName();
7. }
8. **void** printName()
9. {
10. printf("Javatpoint");
11. }

**Output**

Hello Javatpoint

**Example 2**

1. #include<stdio.h>
2. **void** sum();
3. **void** main()
4. {
5. printf("\nGoing to calculate the sum of two numbers:");
6. sum();
7. }
8. **void** sum()
9. {
10. **int** a,b;
11. printf("\nEnter two numbers");
12. scanf("%d %d",&a,&b);
13. printf("The sum is %d",a+b);
14. }

**Output**

Going to calculate the sum of two numbers:

Enter two numbers 10

24

The sum is 34

Example for Function without argument and with return value

**Example 1**

1. #include<stdio.h>
2. **int** sum();
3. **void** main()
4. {
5. **int** result;
6. printf("\nGoing to calculate the sum of two numbers:");
7. result = sum();
8. printf("%d",result);
9. }
10. **int** sum()
11. {
12. **int** a,b;
13. printf("\nEnter two numbers");
14. scanf("%d %d",&a,&b);
15. **return** a+b;
16. }

**Output**

Going to calculate the sum of two numbers:

Enter two numbers 10

24

The sum is 34

**Example 2: program to calculate the area of the square**

1. #include<stdio.h>
2. **int** sum();
3. **void** main()
4. {
5. printf("Going to calculate the area of the square\n");
6. **float** area = square();
7. printf("The area of the square: %f\n",area);
8. }
9. **int** square()
10. {
11. **float** side;
12. printf("Enter the length of the side in meters: ");
13. scanf("%f",&side);
14. **return** side \* side;
15. }

**Output**

Going to calculate the area of the square

Enter the length of the side in meters: 10

The area of the square: 100.000000

Example for Function with argument and without return value

**Example 1**

1. #include<stdio.h>
2. **void** sum(**int**, **int**);
3. **void** main()
4. {
5. **int** a,b,result;
6. printf("\nGoing to calculate the sum of two numbers:");
7. printf("\nEnter two numbers:");
8. scanf("%d %d",&a,&b);
9. sum(a,b);
10. }
11. **void** sum(**int** a, **int** b)
12. {
13. printf("\nThe sum is %d",a+b);
14. }

**Output**

Going to calculate the sum of two numbers:

Enter two numbers 10

24

The sum is 34

**Example 2: program to calculate the average of five numbers.**

1. #include<stdio.h>
2. **void** average(**int**, **int**, **int**, **int**, **int**);
3. **void** main()
4. {
5. **int** a,b,c,d,e;
6. printf("\nGoing to calculate the average of five numbers:");
7. printf("\nEnter five numbers:");
8. scanf("%d %d %d %d %d",&a,&b,&c,&d,&e);
9. average(a,b,c,d,e);
10. }
11. **void** average(**int** a, **int** b, **int** c, **int** d, **int** e)
12. {
13. **float** avg;
14. avg = (a+b+c+d+e)/5;
15. printf("The average of given five numbers : %f",avg);
16. }

**Output**

Going to calculate the average of five numbers:

Enter five numbers:10

20

30

40

50

The average of given five numbers : 30.000000

Example for Function with argument and with return value

**Example 1**

1. #include<stdio.h>
2. **int** sum(**int**, **int**);
3. **void** main()
4. {
5. **int** a,b,result;
6. printf("\nGoing to calculate the sum of two numbers:");
7. printf("\nEnter two numbers:");
8. scanf("%d %d",&a,&b);
9. result = sum(a,b);
10. printf("\nThe sum is : %d",result);
11. }
12. **int** sum(**int** a, **int** b)
13. {
14. **return** a+b;
15. }

**Output**

Going to calculate the sum of two numbers:

Enter two numbers:10

20

The sum is : 30

**Example 2: Program to check whether a number is even or odd**

1. #include<stdio.h>
2. **int** even\_odd(**int**);
3. **void** main()
4. {
5. **int** n,flag=0;
6. printf("\nGoing to check whether a number is even or odd");
7. printf("\nEnter the number: ");
8. scanf("%d",&n);
9. flag = even\_odd(n);
10. **if**(flag == 0)
11. {
12. printf("\nThe number is odd");
13. }
14. **else**
15. {
16. printf("\nThe number is even");
17. }
18. }
19. **int** even\_odd(**int** n)
20. {
21. **if**(n%2 == 0)
22. {
23. **return** 1;
24. }
25. **else**
26. {
27. **return** 0;
28. }
29. }

**Output**

Going to check whether a number is even or odd

Enter the number: 100

The number is even

C Library Functions

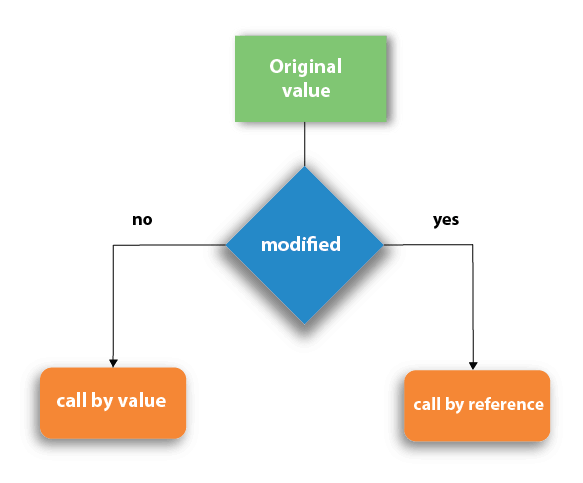
Library functions are the inbuilt function in C that are grouped and placed at a common place called the library. Such functions are used to perform some specific operations. For example, printf is a library function used to print on the console. The library functions are created by the designers of compilers. All C standard library functions are defined inside the different header files saved with the extension **.h**. We need to include these header files in our program to make use of the library functions defined in such header files. For example, To use the library functions such as printf/scanf we need to include stdio.h in our program which is a header file that contains all the library functions regarding standard input/output.

The list of mostly used header files is given in the following table.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SN** | **Header file** | **Description** |
| 1 | stdio.h | This is a standard input/output header file. It contains all the library functions regarding standard input/output. |
| 2 | conio.h | This is a console input/output header file. |
| 3 | string.h | It contains all string related library functions like gets(), puts(),etc. |
| 4 | stdlib.h | This header file contains all the general library functions like malloc(), calloc(), exit(), etc. |
| 5 | math.h | This header file contains all the math operations related functions like sqrt(), pow(), etc. |
| 6 | time.h | This header file contains all the time-related functions. |
| 7 | ctype.h | This header file contains all character handling functions. |
| 8 | stdarg.h | Variable argument functions are defined in this header file. |
| 9 | signal.h | All the signal handling functions are defined in this header file. |
| 10 | setjmp.h | This file contains all the jump functions. |
| 11 | locale.h | This file contains locale functions. |
| 12 | errno.h | This file contains error handling functions. |
| 13 | assert.h | This file contains diagnostics functions. |

# Call by value and Call by reference in C

There are two methods to pass the data into the function in C language, i.e., *call by value* and *call by reference*.



Let's understand call by value and call by reference in c language one by one.

## Call by value in C

* In call by value method, the value of the actual parameters is copied into the formal parameters. In other words, we can say that the value of the variable is used in the function call in the call by value method.
* In call by value method, we can not modify the value of the actual parameter by the formal parameter.
* In call by value, different memory is allocated for actual and formal parameters since the value of the actual parameter is copied into the formal parameter.
* The actual parameter is the argument which is used in the function call whereas formal parameter is the argument which is used in the function definition.

Let's try to understand the concept of call by value in c language by the example given below:

1. #include<stdio.h>
2. **void** change(**int** num) {
3. printf("Before adding value inside function num=%d \n",num);
4. num=num+100;
5. printf("After adding value inside function num=%d \n", num);
6. }
7. **int** main() {
8. **int** x=100;
9. printf("Before function call x=%d \n", x);
10. change(x);//passing value in function
11. printf("After function call x=%d \n", x);
12. **return** 0;
13. }

#### **Output**

Before function call x=100

Before adding value inside function num=100

After adding value inside function num=200

After function call x=100

#### **Call by Value Example: Swapping the values of the two variables**

1. #include <stdio.h>
2. **void** swap(**int** , **int**); //prototype of the function
3. **int** main()
4. {
5. **int** a = 10;
6. **int** b = 20;
7. printf("Before swapping the values in main a = %d, b = %d\n",a,b); // printing the value of a and b in main
8. swap(a,b);
9. printf("After swapping values in main a = %d, b = %d\n",a,b); // The value of actual parameters do not change by changing the formal parameters in call by value, a = 10, b = 20
10. }
11. **void** swap (**int** a, **int** b)
12. {
13. **int** temp;
14. temp = a;
15. a=b;
16. b=temp;
17. printf("After swapping values in function a = %d, b = %d\n",a,b); // Formal parameters, a = 20, b = 10
18. }

#### **Output**

Before swapping the values in main a = 10, b = 20

After swapping values in function a = 20, b = 10

After swapping values in main a = 10, b = 20

## Call by reference in C

* In call by reference, the address of the variable is passed into the function call as the actual parameter.
* The value of the actual parameters can be modified by changing the formal parameters since the address of the actual parameters is passed.
* In call by reference, the memory allocation is similar for both formal parameters and actual parameters. All the operations in the function are performed on the value stored at the address of the actual parameters, and the modified value gets stored at the same address.

Consider the following example for the call by reference.

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1. #include<stdio.h>
2. **void** change(**int** \*num) {
3. printf("Before adding value inside function num=%d \n",\*num);
4. (\*num) += 100;
5. printf("After adding value inside function num=%d \n", \*num);
6. }
7. **int** main() {
8. **int** x=100;
9. printf("Before function call x=%d \n", x);
10. change(&x);//passing reference in function
11. printf("After function call x=%d \n", x);
12. **return** 0;
13. }

#### **Output**

Before function call x=100

Before adding value inside function num=100

After adding value inside function num=200

After function call x=200

#### **Call by reference Example: Swapping the values of the two variables**

1. #include <stdio.h>
2. **void** swap(**int** \*, **int** \*); //prototype of the function
3. **int** main()
4. {
5. **int** a = 10;
6. **int** b = 20;
7. printf("Before swapping the values in main a = %d, b = %d\n",a,b); // printing the value of a and b in main
8. swap(&a,&b);
9. printf("After swapping values in main a = %d, b = %d\n",a,b); // The values of actual parameters do change in call by reference, a = 10, b = 20
10. }
11. **void** swap (**int** \*a, **int** \*b)
12. {
13. **int** temp;
14. temp = \*a;
15. \*a=\*b;
16. \*b=temp;
17. printf("After swapping values in function a = %d, b = %d\n",\*a,\*b); // Formal parameters, a = 20, b = 10
18. }

#### **Output**

Before swapping the values in main a = 10, b = 20

After swapping values in function a = 20, b = 10

After swapping values in main a = 20, b = 10

## Difference between call by value and call by reference in c

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Call by value** | **Call by reference** |
| 1 | A copy of the value is passed into the function | An address of value is passed into the function |
| 2 | Changes made inside the function is limited to the function only. The values of the actual parameters do not change by changing the formal parameters. | Changes made inside the function validate outside of the function also. The values of the actual parameters do change by changing the formal parameters. |
| 3 | Actual and formal arguments are created at the different memory location | Actual and formal arguments are created at the same memory location |

# Storage Classes in C

Storage classes in C are used to determine the lifetime, visibility, memory location, and initial value of a variable. There are four types of storage classes in C

* Automatic
* External
* Static
* Register

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Storage Classes** | **Storage Place** | **Default Value** | **Scope** | **Lifetime** |
| auto | RAM | Garbage Value | Local | Within function |
| extern | RAM | Zero | Global | Till the end of the main program Maybe declared anywhere in the program |
| static | RAM | Zero | Local | Till the end of the main program, Retains value between multiple functions call |
| register | Register | Garbage Value | Local | Within the function |

## Automatic

* Automatic variables are allocated memory automatically at runtime.
* The visibility of the automatic variables is limited to the block in which they are defined.

The scope of the automatic variables is limited to the block in which they are defined.

* The automatic variables are initialized to garbage by default.
* The memory assigned to automatic variables gets freed upon exiting from the block.
* The keyword used for defining automatic variables is auto.
* Every local variable is automatic in C by default.

#### **Example 1**

1. #include <stdio.h>
2. **int** main()
3. {
4. **int** a; //auto
5. **char** b;
6. **float** c;
7. printf("%d %c %f",a,b,c); // printing initial default value of automatic variables a, b, and c.
8. **return** 0;
9. }

**Output:**

garbage garbage garbage

#### **Example 2**

1. #include <stdio.h>
2. **int** main()
3. {
4. **int** a = 10,i;
5. printf("%d ",++a);
6. {
7. **int** a = 20;
8. **for** (i=0;i<3;i++)
9. {
10. printf("%d ",a); // 20 will be printed 3 times since it is the local value of a
11. }
12. }
13. printf("%d ",a); // 11 will be printed since the scope of a = 20 is ended.
14. }

**Output:**

11 20 20 20 11

## Static

* The variables defined as static specifier can hold their value between the multiple function calls.
* Static local variables are visible only to the function or the block in which they are defined.
* A same static variable can be declared many times but can be assigned at only one time.
* Default initial value of the static integral variable is 0 otherwise null.
* The visibility of the static global variable is limited to the file in which it has declared.
* The keyword used to define static variable is static.

#### **Example 1**

1. #include<stdio.h>
2. **static** **char** c;
3. **static** **int** i;
4. **static** **float** f;
5. **static** **char** s[100];
6. **void** main ()
7. {
8. printf("%d %d %f %s",c,i,f); // the initial default value of c, i, and f will be printed.
9. }

**Output:**

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0 0 0.000000 (null)

#### **Example 2**

1. #include<stdio.h>
2. **void** sum()
3. {
4. **static** **int** a = 10;
5. **static** **int** b = 24;
6. printf("%d %d \n",a,b);
7. a++;
8. b++;
9. }
10. **void** main()
11. {
12. **int** i;
13. **for**(i = 0; i< 3; i++)
14. {
15. sum(); // The static variables holds their value between multiple function calls.
16. }
17. }

**Output:**

10 24

11 25

12 26

## Register

* The variables defined as the register is allocated the memory into the CPU registers depending upon the size of the memory remaining in the CPU.
* We can not dereference the register variables, i.e., we can not use &operator for the register variable.
* The access time of the register variables is faster than the automatic variables.
* The initial default value of the register local variables is 0.
* The register keyword is used for the variable which should be stored in the CPU register. However, it is compiler?s choice whether or not; the variables can be stored in the register.
* We can store pointers into the register, i.e., a register can store the address of a variable.
* Static variables can not be stored into the register since we can not use more than one storage specifier for the same variable.

#### **Example 1**

1. #include <stdio.h>
2. **int** main()
3. {
4. **register** **int** a; // variable a is allocated memory in the CPU register. The initial default value of a is 0.
5. printf("%d",a);
6. }

**Output:**

0

#### **Example 2**

1. #include <stdio.h>
2. **int** main()
3. {
4. **register** **int** a = 0;
5. printf("%u",&a); // This will give a compile time error since we can not access the address of a register variable.
6. }

**Output:**

main.c:5:5: error: address of register variable ?a? requested

printf("%u",&a);

^~~~~~

## External

* The external storage class is used to tell the compiler that the variable defined as extern is declared with an external linkage elsewhere in the program.
* The variables declared as extern are not allocated any memory. It is only declaration and intended to specify that the variable is declared elsewhere in the program.
* The default initial value of external integral type is 0 otherwise null.
* We can only initialize the extern variable globally, i.e., we can not initialize the external variable within any block or method.
* An external variable can be declared many times but can be initialized at only once.
* If a variable is declared as external then the compiler searches for that variable to be initialized somewhere in the program which may be extern or static. If it is not, then the compiler will show an error.

#### **Example 1**

1. #include <stdio.h>
2. **int** main()
3. {
4. **extern** **int** a;
5. printf("%d",a);
6. }

**Output**

main.c:(.text+0x6): undefined reference to `a'

collect2: error: ld returned 1 exit status

#### **Example 2**

1. #include <stdio.h>
2. **int** a;
3. **int** main()
4. {
5. **extern** **int** a; // variable a is defined globally, the memory will not be allocated to a
6. printf("%d",a);
7. }

**Output**

0

#### **Example 3**

1. #include <stdio.h>
2. **int** a;
3. **int** main()
4. {
5. **extern** **int** a = 0; // this will show a compiler error since we can not use extern and initializer at same time
6. printf("%d",a);
7. }

**Output**

compile time error

main.c: In function ?main?:

main.c:5:16: error: ?a? has both ?extern? and initializer

extern int a = 0;

#### **Example 4**

1. #include <stdio.h>
2. **int** main()
3. {
4. **extern** **int** a; // Compiler will search here for a variable a defined and initialized somewhere in the pogram or not.
5. printf("%d",a);
6. }
7. **int** a = 20;

**Output**

20

#### **Example 5**

1. **extern** **int** a;
2. **int** a = 10;
3. #include <stdio.h>
4. **int** main()
5. {
6. printf("%d",a);
7. }
8. **int** a = 20; // compiler will show an error at this line

**Output**

compile time error