

(2) Variable space requirements: Space needed by structured variables whose size depends on the particular instance,  $I$ , of the problem being solved. Also includes the additional space reqd. when a function uses recursion.

$Sp(I)$ : Variable space requirement of a program  $P$  working on an instance  $I$ .

Usually given as a function of some characteristics of the instance  $I$ .

Ex: no., size, values of the inputs and outputs associated with  $I$ .

We can express the total space requirement  $S(P)$  of any program as:

$S(P) = c + Sp(I)$  where  $c$  is a constant representing the fixed space requirements. We are usually concerned with variable space requirements.

Ex 1.6:

```
float abc(float a, float b, float c)
{
    return a + b + b * c + (a + b - c) / (a + b) + 4.00;
}
```

According to the classification given, this function has only fixed space requirements.  $\therefore S_{abc}(I) = 0$

Ex 1.7:

```
float sum(float list[], int n)
{
    float tempsum = 0;
    int i;
    for (i = 0; i < n; i++)
        tempsum += list[i];
    return tempsum;
}
```

The variable space requirement depends on how the array is passed into the function.

Programming languages like Pascal may pass arrays by value. This means that the entire array is copied into

temporary storage before the function is executed. In these languages,

$S_{sum}(I) = S_{sum}(n) = n$ , where  $n$  is the size of the array.

When an array is passed as an argument to a function, C interprets it as passing the address of the first element of the array. C does not copy the array.  $\therefore S_{sum}(n) = 0$ .