

CSE105 – Structured Programming



FUNCTION

Introduction

- A function is a series of statements that have been grouped together and given a name.
- Each function is essentially a small program, with its own declarations and statements.
- Advantages of functions:
 - A program can be divided into small pieces that are easier to understand and modify.
 - We can avoid duplicating code that's used more than once.
 - A function that was originally part of one program can be reused in other programs.

Defining and Calling Functions

- Before we go over the formal rules for defining a function, let's look at three simple programs that define functions.

Program: Computing Averages

- A function named `average` that computes the average of two `double` values:

```
double average(double a, double b)
{
    return (a + b) / 2;
}
```

- The word **double** at the beginning is the ***return type*** of `average`.
- The identifiers `a` and `b` (the function's ***parameters***) represent the numbers that will be supplied when `average` is called.

Program: Computing Averages

- Every function has an executable part, called the ***body***, which is enclosed in braces.
- The body of `average` consists of a single `return` statement.
- Executing this statement causes the function to “return” to the place from which it was called; the value of $(a + b) / 2$ will be the value returned by the function.

Program: Computing Averages

- A function call consists of a function name followed by a list of ***arguments***.
 - `average(x, y)` is a call of the `average` function.
- Arguments are used to supply information to a function.
 - The call `average(x, y)` causes the values of `x` and `y` to be copied into the parameters `a` and `b`.
- An argument doesn't have to be a variable; any expression of a compatible type will do.
 - `average(5.1, 8.9)` and `average(x/2, y/3)` are legal.

Program: Computing Averages

- We'll put the call of `average` in the place where we need to use the return value.

- A statement that prints the average of `x` and `y`:

```
printf("Average: %g\n", average(x, y));
```

The return value of `average` isn't saved; the program prints it and then discards it.

- If we had needed the return value later in the program, we could have captured it in a variable:

```
avg = average(x, y);
```

Program: Computing Averages

- The `average.c` program reads three numbers and uses the `average` function to compute their averages, one pair at a time:

Enter three numbers: 3.5 9.6 10.2

Average of 3.5 and 9.6: 6.55

Average of 9.6 and 10.2: 9.9

Average of 3.5 and 10.2: 6.85

average.c

```
/* Computes pairwise averages of three numbers */

#include <stdio.h>

double average(double a, double b)
{
    return (a + b) / 2;
}

int main(void)
{
    double x, y, z;

    printf("Enter three numbers: ");
    scanf("%lf%lf%lf", &x, &y, &z);
    printf("Average of %lf and %lf:%lf\n", x, y, average(x, y));
    printf("Average of %lf and %lf:%lf\n", y, z, average(y, z));
    printf("Average of %lf and %lf:%lf\n", x, z, average(x, z));

    return 0;
}
```

Program: Printing a Number

- To indicate that a function has no return value, we specify that its return type is `void`:

```
void print_value(int n)
{
    printf("The number is %d\n", n);
}
```

- `void` is a type with no values.
- A call of `print_value` must appear in a statement by itself:

```
print_value(i);
```

- The `myprog.c` program calls `print_value` 10 times inside a loop.

myprog.c

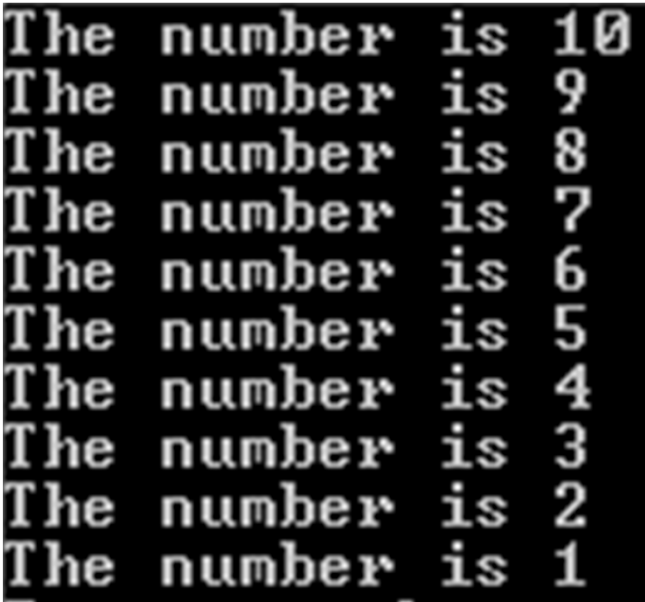
```
#include <stdio.h>

void print_value(int n)
{
    printf("The number is %d\n", n);
}

int main(void)
{
    int i;

    for (i = 10; i > 0; --i)
        print_value(i);

    return 0;
}
```



```
The number is 10
The number is 9
The number is 8
The number is 7
The number is 6
The number is 5
The number is 4
The number is 3
The number is 2
The number is 1
```

Program: Printing a text

- When a function has no parameters, the word `void` is placed in parentheses after the function's name:

```
void print_text(void)
{
    printf("Hello World\n");
}
```

- To call a function with no arguments, we write the function's name, followed by parentheses:

```
print_text();
```

The parentheses *must* be present.

- The `mytext.c` program tests the `print_text` function.

mytext.c

```
#include <stdio.h>

void print_text(void)
{
    printf("Hello World\n");
}

int main(void)
{
    print_text();
    return 0;
}
```

Function Definitions

- General form of a ***function definition***:

return-type function-name (parameters)
{
 declarations
 statements
}

Function Definitions

- The return type of a function is the type of value that the function returns.
- Rules governing the return type:
 - Functions may not return arrays.
 - Specifying that the return type is `void` indicates that the function doesn't return a value.
- If the return type is omitted, the function is presumed to return a value of type `int`.

Function Definitions

- After the function name comes a list of parameters.
- Each parameter is preceded by a specification of its type; parameters are separated by commas.
- If the function has no parameters, the word `void` should appear between the parentheses.

Function Definitions

- The body of a function may include both declarations and statements.
- An alternative version of the average function:

```
double average(double a, double b)
{
    double sum;          /* declaration */

    sum = a + b;          /* statement */
    return sum / 2;       /* statement */
}
```

Function Definitions

- Variables declared in the body of a function can't be examined or modified by other functions.

Function Definitions

- The body of a function whose return type is `void` (a “void function”) can be empty:

```
void print_text(void)
{
}
```

- Leaving the body empty may make sense as a temporary step during program development.

Function Calls

- A function call consists of a function name followed by a list of arguments, enclosed in parentheses:

```
average(x, y);  
print_value(i);  
print_text();
```

- If the parentheses are missing, the function won't be called:

```
print_text;    /*** WRONG ***/
```

Function Calls

- A call of a `void` function is always followed by a semicolon to turn it into a statement:

```
print_count(i);  
print_pun();
```

- A call of a non-`void` function produces a value that can be stored in a variable, tested, printed, or used in some other way:

```
avg = average(x, y);  
if (average(x, y) > 0)  
    printf("Average is positive\n");  
printf("The average is %g\n", average(x, y));
```

Function Calls

- The value returned by a non-void function can always be discarded if it's not needed:

```
average(x, y); /* discards return value */
```

This call is an example of an expression statement: a statement that evaluates an expression but then discards the result.

Program: Testing Whether a Number Is Prime

- The `prime.c` program tests whether a number is prime:

```
Enter a number: 34
```

```
Not prime
```

- The program uses a function named `is_prime` that returns 1 if its parameter is a prime number and 0 if it isn't.
- `is_prime` divides its parameter `n` by each of the numbers between 2 and the square root of `n`; if the remainder is ever 0, `n` isn't prime.

prime.c

```
#include <stdio.h>

int is_prime(int n)
{
    int divisor;

    if (n <= 1)
        return 0;
    for (divisor = 2; divisor * divisor <= n; divisor++)
        if (n % divisor == 0)
            return 0;
    return 1;
}
```



```
int main(void)
{
    int n;

    printf("Enter a number: ");
    scanf("%d", &n);
    if (is_prime(n)==1)
        printf("Prime\n");
    else
        printf("Not prime\n");
    return 0;
}
```

Function Declarations

- C doesn't require that the definition of a function precede its calls.
- Suppose that we rearrange the `average.c` program by putting the definition of `average` *after* the definition of `main`.

Function Declarations

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
    double x, y, z;

    printf("Enter three numbers: ");
    scanf("%lf%lf%lf", &x, &y, &z);
    printf("Average of %lf and %lf: %lf\n", x, y, average(x,
y));
    printf("Average of %lf and %lf: %lf\n", y, z, average(y,
z));
    printf("Average of %lf and %lf: %lf\n", x, z, average(x,
z));
    return 0;
}

double average(double a, double b)
{
    return (a + b) / 2;
}
```

Function Declarations

- When the compiler encounters the first call of `average` in `main`, it has no information about the function.
- Instead of producing an error message, the compiler assumes that `average` returns an `int` value.
- We say that the compiler has created an ***implicit declaration*** of the function.

Function Declarations

- The compiler is unable to check that we're passing `average` the right number of arguments and that the arguments have the proper type.
- Instead, it performs the default argument promotions and hopes for the best.
- When it encounters the definition of `average` later in the program, the compiler notices that the function's return type is actually `double`, not `int`, and so we get an error message.

Function Declarations

- One way to avoid the problem of call-before-definition is to arrange the program so that the definition of each function precedes all its calls.
- Unfortunately, such an arrangement doesn't always exist.
- Even when it does, it may make the program harder to understand by putting its function definitions in an unnatural order.

Function Declarations

- Fortunately, C offers a better solution: declare each function before calling it.
- A ***function declaration*** provides the compiler with a brief glimpse at a function whose full definition will appear later.
- General form of a function declaration:
return-type function-name (parameters) ;
- The declaration of a function must be consistent with the function's definition.
- Here's the `average.c` program with a declaration of `average` added.

Function Declarations

```
#include <stdio.h>

double average(double a, double b);    /* DECLARATION */

int main(void)
{
    double x, y, z;

    printf("Enter three numbers: ");
    scanf("%lf%lf%lf", &x, &y, &z);
    printf("Average of %lf and %lf: %lf\n", x, y, average(x,
y));
    printf("Average of %lf and %lf: %lf\n", y, z, average(y,
z));
    printf("Average of %lf and %lf: %lf\n", x, z, average(x,
z));

    return 0;
}

double average(double a, double b)    /* DEFINITION */
{
    return (a + b) / 2;
}
```


Function Declarations

- Function declarations of the kind we're discussing are known as ***function prototypes***.
- A function prototype doesn't have to specify the names of the function's parameters, as long as their types are present:
`double average(double, double);`
- It's usually best not to omit parameter names.

Arguments

- In C, arguments are ***passed by value***: when a function is called, each argument is evaluated and its value assigned to the corresponding parameter.
- Since the parameter contains a copy of the argument's value, any changes made to the parameter during the execution of the function don't affect the argument.

Arguments

- The fact that arguments are passed by value has both advantages and disadvantages.
- Since a parameter can be modified without affecting the corresponding argument, we can use parameters as variables within the function, reducing the number of genuine variables needed.

Arguments

- Consider the following function, which raises a number x to a power n :

```
int power(int x, int n)
{
    int i, result = 1;

    for (i = 1; i <= n; i++)
        result = result * x;

    return result;
}
```

Arguments

- Since `n` is a *copy* of the original exponent, the function can safely modify it, removing the need for `i`:

```
int power(int x, int n)
{
    int result = 1;

    while (n-- > 0)
        result = result * x;

    return result;
}
```

The `return` Statement

- A non-void function must use the `return` statement to specify what value it will return.
- The `return` statement has the form
`return expression ;`
- The expression is often just a constant or variable:
`return 0 ;`
`return status ;`

The **return** Statement

- `return` statements may appear in functions whose return type is `void`, provided that no expression is given:

```
return;    /* return in a void function */
```

- Example:

```
void print_int(int i)
{
    if (i < 0)
        return;
    printf("%d", i);
}
```

The `return` Statement

- A `return` statement may appear at the end of a `void` function:

```
void print_pun(void)
{
    printf("To C, or not to C: that is the question.\n");
    return;    /* OK, but not needed */
}
```

Using `return` here is unnecessary.

- If a non-`void` function fails to execute a `return` statement, the behavior of the program is undefined if it attempts to use the function's return value.

Program Termination

- Normally, the return type of `main` is `int`:

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

- Older C programs often omit `main`'s return type, taking advantage of the fact that it traditionally defaults to `int`:

```
main( )
{
    ...
}
```

Program Termination

- The value returned by `main` is a status code that can be tested when the program terminates.
- `main` should return 0 if the program terminates normally.
- To indicate abnormal termination, `main` should return a value other than 0.
- It's good practice to make sure that every C program returns a status code.