

Processing Text and Files (using Standard C Library functions)

1. Consider the following program the exemplifies the use of the `main` function in its most general form in C.

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main (int argc, char* argv[]) {
    printf("# arguments = %d\n", argc - 1);
    printf("the command arguments are: %s\n", argv[0]);
    for (int i = 1; i < argc ; i++)
        printf("argv[%d]=%s\n", i, argv[i]);
    return 0;
}
```

Compile the program and try it with the following commands:

```
$ gcc -Wall maintest.c -o maintest
$ ./maintest
$ ./maintest mercury
$ ./maintest mercury venus
$ ./maintest mercury venus earth
$ ./maintest mercury venus earth mars
```

The type of the `main` function is:

```
int main (int argc, char* argv[])
```

Here `argc` is the number of strings in the command line and `argv` is a vector that stores all those strings (e.g., in the second example, `argv[0] = "./maintest"` and `argv[1] = "mercury"`). This form of the `main` function is very useful as it allows the programmer to pass values to the application without using I/O functions such as `scanf`.

2. Consider the following program that takes two strings from the command line (`argv[1]` e `argv[2]`) and manipulates them with the *string* subset of the Standard C Library (`clib`) API. Compile it and try it.

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#define MAX_SIZE 64

int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    char* p1 = (char*)malloc(MAX_SIZE * sizeof(char));
    char* p2 = (char*)malloc(MAX_SIZE * sizeof(char));

    int result = strcmp(argv[1], argv[2]);
    if (result == 0)
        printf("the strings are the same\n");
    else if (result < 0)
        printf("%s < %s\n", argv[1], argv[2]);
    else
        printf("%s > %s\n", argv[1], argv[2]);

    strcpy(p1, argv[1]);
    strcpy(p2, argv[2]);
    printf("p1 holds:%s\n", p1);
    printf("p2 holds:%s\n", p2);
    strcat(p1,p2);
    printf("p1 holds:%s\n", p1);
    strcat(p2,p1);
    printf("p2 holds:%s\n", p2);

    exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
}
```

Note: what happens if the size of `argv[1]` exceeds `MAX_SIZE`? Where in the program would it first become a problem? How could you avoid this problem? Can you identify other places in the program where the size of the buffer (`p1` or `p2`) may be problematic?

Run the command `man 3 string` to see the full set of functions in this API. Based on this example, write a program that:

- gets a string from the command line and transforms it into an equivalent string but in lowercase;
- gets two strings from the command line and indicates whether the first occurs within the second;

- gets two strings from the command line and indicates how many times the first occurs in the second.

Suggestion: do `man tolower` and `man toupper` to see `clib` functions that may be relevant.

3. Consider the following program that opens a file whose name is given as an argument (`argv[1]` in the code), reads its content in blocks of `BUFFER_SIZE` bytes and that writes those bytes to the terminal (`stdout`).

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

#define BUFFER_SIZE 1024

int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    FILE* file = fopen(argv[1], "r");
    if ( file == NULL ) {
        printf("error: could not open %s\n", argv[1]);
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }
    char buffer[BUFFER_SIZE];
    int nchars = fread(buffer, sizeof(char), BUFFER_SIZE, file);
    while (nchars > 0) {
        fwrite(buffer, sizeof(char), nchars, stdout);
        nchars = fread(buffer, sizeof(char), BUFFER_SIZE, file);
    }
    fclose(file);
    exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
}
```

Compile the program and try it with the following commands:

```
$ gcc -Wall filetest.c -o filetest
$ cat > quote.txt
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.
Cras gravida nisl tortor, eget vulputate lacus viverra non.
Proin pharetra gravida condimentum.
Nam imperdiet dictum placerat.
^D
$ ./filetest quote.txt
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.
Cras gravida nisl tortor, eget vulputate lacus viverra non.
Proin pharetra gravida condimentum.
Nam imperdiet dictum placerat.
$
```

Check the system manual pages for the functions `fopen`, `fread`, `fwrite` and `fclose` and try to understand how the program works. What happens if you define `BUFFER_SIZE` with the value 1?

4. Based on the previous exercise, write a command called `mycat` that:

- receives the name of a file as an argument and prints its content (this is exactly what the shell command `cat` when given a file name);
- receives a sequence of file names as arguments and prints their contents in the terminal sequentially (again, this is similar to the way `cat` works).

```
$ gcc -Wall mycat.c -o mycat
$ cat > file1
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.
Cras gravida nisl tortor, eget vulputate lacus viverra non.
Proin pharetra gravida condimentum.
Nam imperdiet dictum placerat.
^D
$ cat > file2
Sed convallis hendrerit scelerisque.
Sed sodales sagittis nulla vitae auctor.
Quisque lobortis tortor vitae ligula ullamcorper fermentum.
Aliquam interdum, metus sed rhoncus gravida,
nibh nisl porttitor tortor, in finibus mauris erat et lacus.
^D
$ cat > file3
Aliquam sit amet arcu molestie, sodales sem vitae, semper nisi.
Curabitur lacinia vel metus in aliquam.
Fusce non tellus pulvinar, tincidunt quam ac, rhoncus turpis.
^D
$ ./mycat file1
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.
Cras gravida nisl tortor, eget vulputate lacus viverra non.
Proin pharetra gravida condimentum.
Nam imperdiet dictum placerat.
$ ./mycat file1 file2 file3
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.
Cras gravida nisl tortor, eget vulputate lacus viverra non.
Proin pharetra gravida condimentum.
Nam imperdiet dictum placerat.
Sed convallis hendrerit scelerisque.
Sed sodales sagittis nulla vitae auctor.
```

Quisque lobortis tortor vitae ligula ullamcorper fermentum.
Aliquam interdum, metus sed rhoncus gravida,
nibh nisl porttitor tortor, in finibus mauris erat et lacus.
Aliquam sit amet arcu molestie, sodales sem vitae, semper nisi.
Curabitur lacinia vel metus in aliquam.
Fusce non tellus pulvinar, tincidunt quam ac, rhoncus turpis.

5. Write a program that receives two file names as arguments (`argv[1]` and `argv[2]` in the code) and that copies the content of the first file to the second file. If the second file does not exist yet, then it must be created. If it already exists, its contents will be overwritten. This emulates the behavior of the Bash shell command `cp`.

```
$ gcc -Wall mycp.c -o mycp
$ cat > file1
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.
^D
$ ./mycp file1 file2
$ cat file2
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.
$ cat > file3
Cras gravida nisl tortor, eget vulputate lacus viverra non.
^D
$ ./mycp file3 file2
$ cat file2
Cras gravida nisl tortor, eget vulputate lacus viverra non.
```

6. Write a program `mywc` that, given a text file as a command line argument, prints:

- the number of characters in the file, if an option `-c` is used;
- the number of words in the file, if an option `-w` is used;
- the number of lines in the file, if an option `-l` is used.

```
$ gcc -Wall mywc.c -o mywc
$ cat > file.txt
This is a test
^D
$ ./mywc -c file.txt
15
$ ./mywc -w file.txt
4
$ ./mywc -l file.txt
1
```

Compare your program to the shell command `wc`.

7. Write a program `mygrep` that, given a string and a file from the command line, prints all occurrences of the string in the file, indicating the line and column where these begin. The output would look something like:

```
$ gcc -Wall mygrep.c -o mygrep
$ ./mygrep needle haystack.txt
[2:17]
[5:2]
[23:7]
```

8*. Write a program `findrepl.c` that takes a list of pairs of words from the command line (in the form of `findword-replword`) and text input from the `stdin` and replaces the `findword` with `replword`, writing the output to `stdout`. Note that, for a pair `sword-FlOwer` the words to be replaced must exactly match `sword` and that it must be replaced with `FlOwer` exactly. To compile and test the program you would do something like:

```
$ gcc -Wall findrepl.c -o findrepl
$ cat > sometext.txt
Flower, stone, Grass.
Riffle, Sword, spear.
Water, Stone, fire, Air.
No sword, no riffle, no spear.
^D
$ ./findrepl sword-FlOwer stone-Earth < sometext.txt
Flower, Earth, Grass.
Riffle, Sword, spear.
Water, Stone, fire, Air.
No FlOwer, no riffle, no spear.
```