

CHARACTER STRINGS

Practice questions:

1. insertChar
2. locateFirstChar
3. processString
4. longWordLength
5. countWords
6. cipherText
7. longestStrInAr
8. findMinMaxStr
9. maxCharToFront
10. strIntersect
11. findSubstring
12. countSubstring

Questions

1. (**insertChar**) Write the C function that takes in a string `str1` as an argument, copies the contents of character string `str1` into character string `str2`. In addition, the function also has a character parameter `ch`. For every three characters copied from `str1` to `str2`, the character `ch` is inserted into `str2`. The function returns the resultant string to the calling function via call by reference. For example, if the string `str1` is "abcdefg", and the inserted character `ch` is '#', then the resultant string `str2` = "abc#def#g" will be returned to the calling function. The function prototype is given as follows:

```
void insertChar(char *str1, char *str2, char ch);
```

A sample program template is given below to test the function:

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
void insertChar(char *str1, char *str2, char ch);
int main()
{
    char a[80],b[80];
    char ch, *p;

    printf("Enter a string: \n");
    fgets(a, 80, stdin);
    if (p=strchr(a,'\n')) *p = '\0';
    printf("Enter a character to be inserted: \n");
    ch = getchar();
    insertChar(a,b,ch);
    printf("insertChar(): ");
    puts(b);
    return 0;
}
void insertChar(char *str1, char *str2, char ch)
{
    /* Write your code here */
}
```

Some sample input and output sessions are given below:

- (1) Test Case 1:
Enter a string:

```

abc de
Enter a character to be inserted:
#
insertChar(): abc# de#

```

(2) Test Case 2:
Enter a string:
abc
Enter a character to be inserted:

insertChar(): abc#

(3) Test Case 3:
Enter a string:
I am a boy.
Enter a character to be inserted:
\$
insertChar(): I a\$m a\$ bo\$y.

(4) Test Case 4:
Enter a string:
hi
Enter a character to be inserted:
\$
insertChar(): hi

2. (**locateFirstChar**) Write a C function that locates the first occurrence of `ch` in the string `str`. The function returns the index, or -1 if `ch` does not occur in the string. The function prototype is given as follows:

```
int locateFirstChar(char *str, char ch);
```

A sample program template is given below to test the function:

```

#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
int locateFirstChar(char *str, char ch);
int main()
{
    char str[40], ch, *p;

    printf("Enter a string: \n");
    fgets(str, 80, stdin);
    if (p=strchr(str, '\n')) *p = '\0';
    printf("Enter the target character: \n");
    scanf("%c", &ch);
    printf("locateFirstChar(): %d\n", locateFirstChar(str, ch));
    return 0;
}
int locateFirstChar(char *str, char ch)
{
    /* Write your code here */
}

```

Some sample input and output sessions are given below:

(1) Test Case 1
Enter a string:
I am a boy
Enter the target character: a
locateFirstChar(): 2

(2) Test Case 2

Enter a string:

I am a boy

Enter the target character: z

locateFirstChar(): -1

3. (**processString**) Write a C function that accepts a string `str` and returns the total number of vowels `totVowels` and digits `totDigits` in that string to the caller via call by reference. The function prototype is given as follows:

```
void processString(char *str, int *totVowels, int *totDigits);
```

A sample program template is given below to test the function:

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
void processString(char *str, int *totVowels, int *totDigits);
int main()
{
    char str[50], *p;
    int totVowels, totDigits;

    printf("Enter the string: \n");
    fgets(str, 80, stdin);
    if (p=strchr(str, '\n')) *p = '\0';
    processString(str, &totVowels, &totDigits);
    printf("Total vowels = %d\n", totVowels);
    printf("Total digits = %d\n", totDigits);
    return 0;
}
void processString(char *str, int *totVowels, int *totDigits)
{
    /* Write your program code here */
}
```

Some test input and output sessions are given below:

(1) Test Case 1:

Enter the string:

I am one of the 400 students in this class.

Total vowels = 11

Total digits = 3

(2) Test Case 2:

Enter the string:

I am a boy.

Total vowels = 4

Total digits = 0

(3) Test Case 3:

Enter the string:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Total vowels = 0

Total digits = 9

(4) Test Case 4:

Enter the string:

ABCDE

```
Total vowels = 2
Total digits = 0
```

4. (**longWordLength**) Write a C function that accepts an English sentence as parameter, and returns the length of the longest word in the sentence. For example, if the sentence is "I am happy.", then the length of the longest word "happy" in the sentence 5 will be returned. Assume that each word is a sequence of English letters. The function prototype is given as follows:

```
int longWordLength(char *s);
```

A sample program template is given below to test the function:

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
int longWordLength(char *s);
int main()
{
    char str[80], *p;

    printf("Enter a string: \n");
    fgets(str, 80, stdin);
    if (p=strchr(str, '\n')) *p = '\0';
    printf("longWordLength(): %d\n", longWordLength(str));
    return 0;
}
int longWordLength(char *s)
{
    /* Write your code here */
}
```

Some test input and output sessions are given below:

- (1) Test Case 1:
Enter a string:
I am happy.
longWordLength(): 5
- (2) Test Case 2:
Enter a string:
There are forty students in the class.
longWordLength(): 8
- (3) Test Case 3:
Enter a string:
Good day!
longWordLength(): 4
- (4) Test Case 4:
Enter a string:
Hello
longWordLength(): 5

5. (**countWords**) Write a function that accepts a string *s* as its parameter. The string contains a sequence of words separated by spaces. The function then displays the number of words in the string. The function prototype is given as follows:

```
int countWords(char *s);
```

A sample program template is given below to test the function:

```

#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
int countWords(char *s);
int main()
{
    char str[50], *p;

    printf("Enter the string: \n");
    fgets(str, 80, stdin);
    if (p=strchr(str, '\n')) *p = '\0';
    printf("countWords(): %d", countWords(str));
    return 0;
}
int countWords(char *s)
{
    /* Write your code here */
}

```

A sample input and output session is given below:

- (1) Test Case 1:
Enter the string:
How are you?
countWords(): 3
- (2) Test Case 2:
Enter the string:
There are 12 dollars.
countWords(): 4
- (3) Test Case 3:
Enter the string:
Oneword
countWords(): 1

6. **(cipherText)** Cipher text is a popular encryption technique. What we do in cipher text is that we can encrypt each apha ('a' .. 'z', 'A' .. 'Z') character with +1. For example, "Hello" can be encrypted with +1 cipher to "Ifmmp". If a character is 'z' or 'Z', the corresponding encrypted character will be 'a' or 'A' respectively. For other characters, no encryption is performed. We use call by reference in the implementation. Write the C functions cipher() and decipher() with the following function prototypes:

```

void cipher(char *s);
void decipher(char *s);

```

A sample program template is given below to test the functions:

```

#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <ctype.h>
void cipher(char *s);
void decipher(char *s);
int main()
{
    char str[80], dummychar, *p;
    int choice;

    printf("Select one of the following options: \n");
    printf("1: cipher() \n");

```

```

printf("2: decipher() \n");
printf("3: exit() \n");
do {
    printf("Enter your choice: \n");
    scanf("%d", &choice);
    switch (choice) {
        case 1:
            scanf("%c",&dummychar);
            printf("Enter the string: \n");
            fgets(str, 80, stdin);
            if (p=strchr(str,'\n')) *p = '\0';
            printf("To cipher: %s -> ", str);
            cipher(str);
            printf("%s\n", str);
            break;
        case 2:
            scanf("%c",&dummychar);
            printf("Enter the string: \n");
            fgets(str, 80, stdin);
            if (p=strchr(str,'\n')) *p = '\0';
            printf("To decipher: %s -> ", str);
            decipher(str);
            printf("%s\n", str);
            break;
        default:
            break;
    }
} while (choice < 3);
return 0;
}
void cipher(char *s)
{
    /* Write your program code here */
}
void decipher(char *s)
{
    /* Write your program code here */
}

```

Some sample input and output sessions are given below:

(1) Test Case 1:

Select one of the following options:

1: cipher()

2: decipher()

3: exit()

Enter your choice:

1

Enter the string:

123a

To cipher: 123a -> 123b

Enter your choice:

3

(2) Test Case 2:

Select one of the following options:

1: cipher()

2: decipher()

```

3: exit()
Enter your choice:
2
Enter the string:
123b
To decipher: 123b -> 123a
Enter your choice:
3

```

(3) Test Case 3:

Select one of the following options:

1: cipher()

2: decipher()

3: exit()

Enter your choice:

1

Enter the string:

abcxyz

To cipher: abcxyz -> bcdyza

Enter your choice:

2

Enter the string:

bcdyza

To decipher: bcdyza -> abcxyz

Enter your choice:

3

(4) Test Case 4:

Select one of the following options:

1: cipher()

2: decipher()

3: exit()

Enter your choice:

1

Enter the string:

HELLO Hello

To cipher: HELLO Hello -> IFMMP Ifmmp

Enter your choice:

2

Enter the string:

IFMMP Ifmmp

To decipher: IFMMP Ifmmp -> HELLO Hello

Enter your choice:

3

7. (**longestStrInAr**) Write a C function that takes in an array of strings `str` and `size (>0)` as paramters, and returns the longest string and also the length of the longest string via the pointer parameter `length`. If two or more strings have the same longest string length, then the first appeared string will be retruned to the calling function. For example, if `size` is 5 and the array of strings is {"peter", "john", "mary", "jane", "kenny"}, then the longest string is "peter" and the string length is 5 will be returned to the calling function. The function prototype is:

```
char *longestStrInAr(char str[N][40], int size, int *length);
```

A sample program template is given below to test the function:

```

#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
#define N 20
char *longestStrInAr(char str[N][40], int size, int *length);
int main()
{
    int i, size, length;
    char str[N][40], first[40], last[40], *p, *result;
    char dummychar;

    printf("Enter array size: \n");
    scanf("%d", &size);
    scanf("%c", &dummychar);
    for (i=0; i<size; i++) {
        printf("Enter string %d: \n", i+1);
        fgets(str[i], 40, stdin);
        if (p=strchr(str[i], '\n')) *p = '\0';
    }
    result = longestStrInAr(str, size, &length);
    printf("longest: %s \nlength: %d\n", result, length);
    return 0;
}
char *longestStrInAr(char str[N][40], int size, int *length)
{
    /* Write your code here */
}

```

Some sample input and output sessions are given below:

(1) Test Case 1:

Enter array size:

4

Enter string 1:

Kenny

Enter string 2:

Mary

Enter string 3:

Peter

Enter string 4:

Sun

longest: Kenny

length: 5

(2) Test Case 2:

Enter array size:

2

Enter string 1:

Sun

Enter string 2:

Mary

longest: Mary

length: 4

8. (**findMinMaxStr**) Write a C function that reads in words separated by space, finds the first and last words according to ascending alphabetical order (based on ASCII values), and returns them to the calling function through the string parameters first and last. The calling function will then print the first and last strings on the screen. The function prototype is given as follows:

```

void findMinMaxStr(char word[][40], char *first, char *last,
                  int size);

```


A sample program template is given below to test the function:

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
#define SIZE 10
void findMinMaxStr(char word[][40], char *first, char *last, int
size);
int main()
{
    char word[SIZE][40];
    char first[40], last[40];
    int i, size;

    printf("Enter size: \n");
    scanf("%d", &size);
    printf("Enter %d words: \n", size);
    for (i=0; i<size; i++)
        scanf("%s", word[i]);
    findMinMaxStr(word, first, last, size);
    printf("First word = %s, Last word = %s\n", first, last);
    return 0;
}
void findMinMaxStr(char word[][40], char *first, char *last, int
size)
{
    /* Write your program code here */
}
```

Some sample input and output sessions are given below:

- (1) Test Case 1:
Enter size:
4
Enter 4 words:
Peter Paul John Mary
First word = John, Last word = Peter
- (2) Test Case 2:
Enter size:
1
Enter 1 words:
Peter
First word = Peter, Last word = Peter
- (3) Test Case 3:
Enter size:
2
Enter 2 words:
Peter Mary
First word = Mary, Last word = Peter

9. (**maxCharToFront**) Write a C function that accepts a character string `str` as parameter, finds the largest character from the string (based on ASCII value), and moves it to the beginning of the string. E.g., if the string is "adecb", then the string will be "eadcb" after executing the function. The string will be passed to the caller via call by reference. If more than one largest character is in the string, then the **first appearance** of the largest character will be moved to the beginning of the string. For example, if the string is "adecbe", then the resultant string will be "eadcbe". The function prototype is given as follows:

```
void maxCharToFront(char *str);
```

A sample program template is given below to test the function:

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
void maxCharToFront(char *str);
int main()
{
    char str[80], *p;

    printf("Enter a string: \n");
    fgets(str, 80, stdin);
    if (p=strchr(str, '\n')) *p = '\0';
    printf("maxCharToFront(): ");
    maxCharToFront(str);
    puts(str);
    return 0;
}
void maxCharToFront(char *str)
{
    /* Write your code here */
}
```

Some test input and output sessions are given below:

- (1) Test Case 1:
Enter a string:
adebc
maxCharToFront(): eadbc
- (2) Test Case 2:
Enter a string:
agfcdeg
maxCharToFront(): gafcdeg
- (3) Test Case 3:
Enter a string:
cba
maxCharToFront(): cba
- (4) Test Case 4:
Enter a string:
ab
maxCharToFront(): ba

10. (**strIntersect**) Write the C function that takes in three strings `str1`, `str2` and `str3` as parameters, stores the same characters that appeared in both `str1` and `str2` into the string, and returns `str3` to the calling function via call by reference. For example, if `str1` is "abcdefghijk" and `str2` is "123i4bc78h9", then `str3` is "bchi" will be returned to the calling function after executing the function. If there is no common characters in the two strings, `str3` will be a null string. You may assume that each string contains unique characters, i.e. the characters contained in the same string will not be repeated. The function prototype is given as follows:

```
void strIntersect(char *str1, char *str2, char *str3);
```

A sample program template is given below to test the function:

```
#include <stdio.h>
void strIntersect(char *str1, char *str2, char *str3);
int main()
{
```

```

char str1[50],str2[50],str3[50];

printf("Enter str1: \n");
scanf("%s",str1);
printf("Enter str2: \n");
scanf("%s",str2);
strIntersect(str1, str2, str3);
if (*str3 == '\0')
    printf("strIntersect(): null string\n");
else
    printf("strIntersect(): %s\n", str3);
return 0;
}
void strIntersect(char *str1, char *str2, char *str3)
{
    /* Write your code here */
}

```

Some sample input and output sessions are given below:

- (1) Test Case 1:
Enter str1:
abcde
Enter str2:
dec
strIntersect(): cde
- (2) Test Case 2:
Enter str1:
abcdefghijkl
Enter str2:
akdhf
strIntersect(): adfhk
- (3) Test Case 3:
Enter str1:
abc
Enter str2:
def
strIntersect(): null string

11. (**findSubstring**) Write a C function that takes two character string arguments, `str` and `substr` as input and returns 1 if `substr` is a substring of `str` (i.e. if `substr` is contained in `str`) and 0 if not. For example, the function will return 1 if `substr` is "123" and `str` is "abc123xyz", but it will return 0 if otherwise. Note that for this question you are not allowed to use any string functions from the standard C library. The prototype of the function is given below:

```
int findSubstring(char *str, char *substr);
```

A sample program template is given below to test the function:

```

#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
#define INIT_VALUE 999
int findSubstring(char *str, char *substr);
int main()
{
    char str[40], substr[40], *p;
    int result = INIT_VALUE;

    printf("Enter the string: \n");

```

```

fgets(str, 80, stdin);
if (p=strchr(str, '\n')) *p = '\0';
printf("Enter the substring: \n");
fgets(substr, 80, stdin);
if (p=strchr(substr, '\n')) *p = '\0';
result = findSubstring(str, substr);
if (result == 1)
    printf("findSubstring(): Is a substring\n");
else if (result == 0)
    printf("findSubstring(): Not a substring\n");
else
    printf("findSubstring(): An error\n");
return 0;
}
int findSubstring(char *str, char *substr)
{
    /* Write your code here */
}

```

Some test input and output sessions are given below:

- (1) Test Case 1:
Enter the string:
abcde fgh
Enter the substring:
abc
findSubstring(): Is a substring
- (2) Test Case 2:
Enter the string:
abcdefgh
Enter the substring:
bc
findSubstring(): Is a substring
- (3) Test Case 3:
Enter the string:
abcde f
Enter the substring:
cdef
findSubstring(): Not a substring
- (4) Test Case 4:
Enter the string:
abcdef
Enter the substring:
xy
findSubstring(): Not a substring

12. (**countSubstring**) Write a C function that takes in two parameters `str` and `substr`, and counts the number of substring `substr` occurred in the character string `str`. If the `substr` is not contained in `str`, then it will return 0. Please note that you do not need to consider test cases such as `str = "aooob"` and `substr = "oo"`. The function prototype is given as follows:

```
int countSubstring(char str[], char substr[]);
```

A sample program template is given below to test the function:

```

#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
#define INIT_VALUE -1

```

```

int countSubstring(char str[], char substr[]);
int main()
{
    char str[80], substr[80], *p;
    int result=INIT_VALUE;

    printf("Enter the string: \n");
    fgets(str, 80, stdin);
    if (p=strchr(str, '\n')) *p = '\0';
    printf("Enter the substring: \n");
    fgets(substr, 80, stdin);
    if (p=strchr(substr, '\n')) *p = '\0';
    result = countSubstring(str, substr);
    printf("countSubstring(): %d\n", result);
    return 0;
}
int countSubstring(char str[], char substr[])
{
    /* Write your program code here */
}

```

Some test input and output sessions are given below:

- (1) Test Case 1:
Enter the string:
abcdef
Enter the substring:
dd
countSubstring(): 0
- (2) Test Case 2:
Enter the string:
abcabcabc cbaf
Enter the substring:
abc
countSubstring(): 3
- (3) Test Case 3:
Enter the string:
babababaabf
Enter the substring:
ab
countSubstring(): 4