Statistics 243: class notes

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Topics

- 1. Some Basics of C Programming
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 - 1.3 C Compilers at the SCF

1 Some Basics of C Programming

1.1 Getting Started

Some good places to look for information about the C programming language are:

- The C Programming Language 2nd Edition (ANSI standard), Kernigan and Ritchie
- Phil Spector's C programming tutorial on his web page.
- FAQ in comp.lang.c at http://wwwcis.ohio-state.edu/hypertext/faq/usenet

Programs in C consist of one or more functions. Exactly one of the functions must have the name **main**. The simplest C program: main() . A more useful program is:

1.2 Declarations

char is a character variable (1 byte integer)
int is an integer (defaults to the natural size of the machine) ¹
short is an integer which specifies that it will be a small integer
long is an integer which specifies that it will be as large as possible
long and short are the same on the Sun. Use long for portability.
float is a single precision floating point number
double is a double precision floating point number
void is a special declaration for functions that don't return anything

You can modify any of these data types by putting **unsigned** in front of them for nonnegative numbers. It frees the sign bit, so your capacity is essentially doubled.

1.3 C Compilers at the SCF

Most of the computing at the SCF is now done on Sun UltraSparc work stations. These work stations run the Sun Solaris operating system. On this system, there are generally two flavors of C compiler: cc and gcc. cc was developed by Sun so it is the most efficient when run on a Sun workstation.

¹On the Sun, the integer is very big so portability problems