C LANGUAGE INTRODUCTION

CSSE 120—Rose Hulman Institute of Technology

The C Programming Language

- Invented in 1972 by Dennis Ritchie at AT&T Bell Labs.
- Has been the main development language for UNIX operating systems and utilities for a couple of decades.
- Our Python interpreter was written in C!
- Used for serious coding on just about every development platform.
- Especially used for embedded software systems.
- Is usually compiled to native machine code.
  - Faster and less portable than Python or Java.

Why C in CSSE 120?

- Practical
  - Several upper-level courses in CSSE, ECE, and Math expect students to program in C.
  - None of these courses is a prerequisite for the others.
  - So each instructor has a difficult choice:
    - Teach students the basics of C, which may be redundant for many of them who already know it, or
    - Expect students to learn it on their own, which is difficult for the other students.
  - A brief C introduction here will make it easier for you (and your instructor!) when you take those courses.

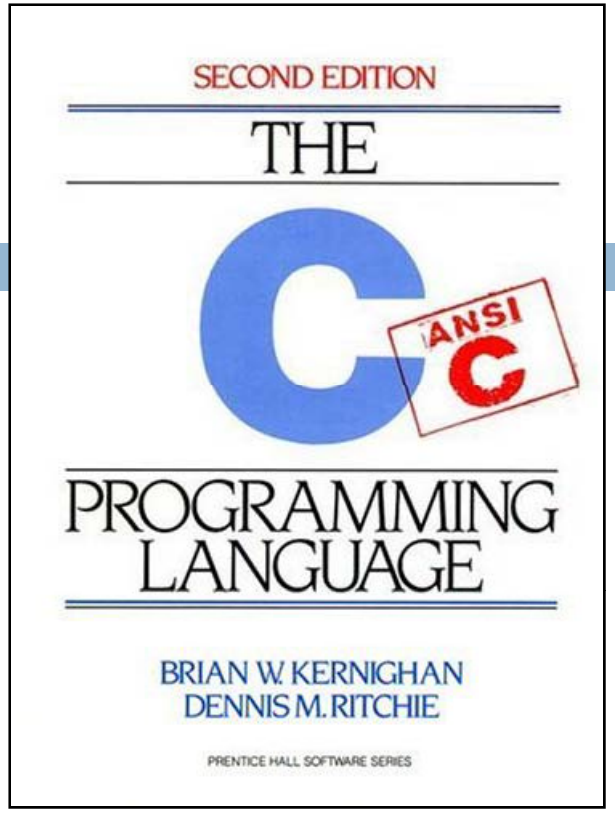
Why C in CSSE 120?

- Pedagogical
  - Comparing and contrasting two languages is a good way to reinforce your programming knowledge.
  - Seeing programming at C's "lower-level" view than Python's can help increase your understanding of what really goes on in computing.
  - Many other programming languages (notably Java, C++, and C#) share much of their syntax and semantics with C.
    - Learning those languages will be easier after you have studied C.

Our Textbook

- Schildt's "C: The Complete Reference"
- It is a **reference** book, intended to be useful to you in later courses
  - Pro: easy to pick up and start reading at any point
  - Con: is written with experienced programmers in mind

Classic C text/reference



Product Details

Paperback: 274 pages

Publisher: Prentice Hall PTR; 2 edition (March 22, 1988)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0131103628

ISBN-13: 978-0131103627

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 6.9 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: ★★★★½ based on 241 reviews. (Write a review.)

Amazon.com Sales Rank: #3,121 in Books (See Bestsellers in Books)

Pretty amazing for a 20-year-old programming book!

For comparison, Harry Potter #3's rank is 25,578.

Some C Language trade-offs

- Programmer has more control, but fewer high-level language features to use.
- Strong typing makes it easier to catch programmer errors, but there is the extra work of declaring types of things
- Lists and classes are not built-in, but arrays and structs can be very efficient
  - and a bit more of a pain for the programmer.

New feature: quiz #s on slides→ Q1

Parallel examples in Python and C.

```python
from math import *

def printRootTable(n):
    for i in range(1,n):
        print " %2d  %7.3f" % (i, sqrt(i))

def main():
    printRootTable(10)

main()
```

```c
#include <stdio.h>
#include <math.h>

void printRootTable(int n) {
    int i;
    for (i=1; i<=n; i++) {
        printf(" %2d  %7.3f\n", i, sqrt(i));
    }
}

int main() {
  printRootTable(10);
  return 0;
}
```

Recap: Comments in C

- Python comments begin with # and continue until the end of the line.
- C comments begin with /* and end with */.
- They can span any number of lines.
- Some C compilers (including the one we are using) also allow single-line comments that begin with //.

String constants in C

- In Python, character strings can be surrounded by single quotes (apostrophes), or double quotes (quotation marks).
- In C, only double quotes can surround strings (whose type in C is char*).
  - ```
    char *s = "This is a string";
    printf(s); /* more about printf() soon */
    ```
- Single quotes indicate a single character, which is not the same as a string whose length is 1. Details later.
  - ```
    char c = 'x';
    printf("%c\n", c);
    ```

printf statement

```
C:      printf(" %2d  %7.3f\n", i, sqrt(i));
```

```
Python equivalent: print " %2d  %7.3f" % (i, sqrt(i))
```

- printf's first parameter is used as a format string.
- The values of **printf**'s other parameters are converted to strings and substituted for the conversion codes in the format string.
- **printf** does not automatically print a newline at the end.

printf – frequently used conversion codes

code	data type	Example

d	decimal (int, long)	`int x=4, y=5;`
		`printf("nums %3d, %d%d\n", x, y, x+y");`
		`/*prints nums   4, 59*/`

f	real (float)	`float p = 1.3/9, q = 2.875;`
		`printf ("%7.4f %0.3f %1.0f %f\n", p, p, q, q);`
		`/* prints  0.1444 0.144 3 2.875000 */`

lf	real (double)	`double p = 1.3/9, q = 2.875;`
		`printf ("%7.4f %0.3f %1.0f %f\n", p, p, q, q);`
		`/* prints  0.1444 0.144 3 2.875000 */`

c	character (char)	`char letter = (char)('a' + 4);`
		`printf ("%c %d\n", letter, letter);`
		`/* prints e 101 */`

s	string (char *)	`char *isString = "is";`
		`printf("This %s my string\n", isString);`
		`/* prints This is is my string! */`

e	real (scientific notation)	`double c = 62345892478;`
		`printf("%0.2f %0.3e  %14.1e", c, c, c);`
		`62345892478.00 6.235e+010  6.2e+010`

Getting Values from Functions

- Just like in Python (almost)
- Consider the function:

```
double convertCtoF(double celsius) {
  return 32.0 + 9.0 * celsius / 5.0;
}
```

- How would we get result from a function in Python?
  - fahr = convertCtoF(20.0)
- What's different in C?
  - Need to declare the type of fahr
  - Need a semi-colon

Use If Statements or Else

- Python:

```
if m % 2 == 0:
    print "even"
else:
    print "odd"
```

  - Colons and indenting

- C:

```
if (m % 2 == 0) {
    printf("even");
} else {
    printf("odd");
}
```

  - Parentheses, braces

Or Else What?

```
if gpa > 2.0:
    print "safe"
elif gpa >= 1.0:
    print "trouble"
else:
    print "sqrt club"
```

- Python:
  - Colons and indenting
  - elif

```
if (gpa > 2.0) {
    printf("safe");
} else if (gpa >= 1.0) {
    printf("trouble");
} else {
    printf("sqrt club");
}
```

- C:
  - Parentheses, braces
  - else if

Optional Braces

- Braces group statements
- Can omit for single statement bodies
-
```
if (gpa > 2.0)
        printf("safe");
else if (gpa >= 1.0)
        printf("trouble");
else
        printf("sqrt club");
```

Danger, Will Robinson!

- What is printed in each case?

Case	n	a
1	1	1
2	-1	1
3	1	-1
4	-1	-1

- **else** goes with closest **if**
- Indenting does not matter to the compiler but use for code readability!

-
```
if (n > 0)
    if (a > 0)
        printf("X");
else
    printf("Y");
```

Use braces to avoid confusion!

Ahh. That's better!

- What is printed in each case?

Case	n	a
1	1	1
2	-1	1
3	1	-1
4	-1	-1

-
```
if (n > 0) {
        if (a > 0)
                printf("X");
} else {
        printf("Y");
}
```

Use braces to avoid confusion!

Does C have a boolean type? 0

- Enter the following C code in Eclipse:

```
void testBoolean(int n, int m) {
    int p = n < m;
    printf("Is %d less than %d? %d\n", n,
                m, p);
}
```

- Add a couple of test calls to your **main()** function:

```
testBoolean(2,3);  testBoolean(3,2);
```

- **0** in C is like **False** in Python
- All other numbers are like **True**

Boolean operators in C

- Python uses the words **and, or, not** for these Boolean operators. C uses symbols:
  - && means "and“
  - || means "or“
  - ! means "not“
- Example uses:
  - if (a >= 3 && a <= 5) { … }
  - if (!same (v1, v2)) { …}

I Could While Away the Hours

- How do you suppose the following Python code would be written in C?

```
while n != 0:
        n = n – 1
        print n
```

- How do you break out of a loop in Python?
- How do you suppose you break out of a loop in C?

A Little Input, Please

- To read input from user in C, use **scanf()**
- Syntax: **scanf(<formatString>, <pointer>, …)**
- Example:

```
int age;
scanf("%d", &age);
```

Another Example

- To read input from user in C, use **scanf()**
- Syntax: **scanf(<formatString>, <pointer>, …)**
- Example:

```
double f, g;
printf("Enter two real numbers separated by a comma:");
fflush(stdout);
scanf("%lf,%lf", &f, &g);
printf("Average: %5.2f\n", (f + g)/2.0);
```

Pushes prompt string to user before asking for input.

ell-eff = "long float"
Why not d for double?

Comma is matched against user input

Rectangular output in C

```
#include <stdio.h>
void rectangleSameNumEachRow(int numRows, int numCols) {
        int i, j;
        for (i=1; i<= numRows; i++) {
                for (j=1; j<=numCols; j++) {
                    printf ("%d", i);
                }
                printf ("\n");
        }
}
int main() {
        rectangleSameNumEachRow(3, 8);
}
```

Output:

```
11111111
22222222
33333333
```

It's easier than Python because `printf()` does not automatically add spaces like Python's `print`.

HW: try to finish nested loops (due next class), start thatsPerfect (due in 2 classes)