

ESc 101: FUNDAMENTALS OF COMPUTING

Lecture 16-17

Feb 8 and 10, 2010

OUTLINE

1 MORE ON FUNCTIONS

2 VARIABLE SCOPE

3 GOOD PROGRAMMING - BAD PROGRAMMING

FUNCTIONS IN MATHEMATICS

- Functions in \mathbb{C} represent an algorithm for carrying out a specific task.
- Functions in other areas also do the same!
- For example, the functions \sin , \cos , \dots , in mathematics.

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THE `sin` FUNCTION

The `sin` function represents the following algorithm:

```
real sin(real x)
```

1. Draw a right-angle triangle with the diagonal of length one (in your favorite unit) and the angle from base equal to x radians.
2. Measure the perpendicular length (in the same unit).
3. Return the measured value.

ADVANTAGES OF USING **sin** FUNCTION

SAVES TIME: We do not have to write the whole algorithm every time we refer to **sin(x)**.

SAVES SPACE: Writing algorithm every time consumes more space.

MORE UNDERSTANDABLE: Anyone can understand more easily on seeing to **sin(x)** than the the algorithm.

NO LOSS OF INFORMATION: Since everyone knows that **sin** corresponds to the above algorithm, its use is unambiguous.

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FUNCTIONS ON REAL LIFE

- We implicitly use functions in real life everywhere.
- Examples abound: Booting PC, Cooking rice, Reaching Rave Moti,
...
- Let us expand some of these.

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REACHING RAVE MOTI

The algorithm represented by this function is something similar to the following:

```
reach_Rave_Moti()
```

1. If it is close to IITK bus time go to bus stop and catch the bus.
2. Else, go to IITK gate and catch a tempo.
3. Get off at Rawatpur.
4. Walk until railways crossing.
5. Turn right, walk a bit more.
6. Find Rave Moti on the right.

ADVANTAGES OF USING THIS FUNCTION

- In our conversation, we almost never mention the algorithm.
- Instead, we just say **Go to Rave Moti**, essentially referring to the algorithm.
- The only time we mention the algorithm is when someone is new to Kanpur and does not know where Rave Moti is.
- To such a person, we describe it once, and then onwards refer to it by just the name.
- The description first time corresponds to defining the function in C (both are done once).
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FUNCTIONS WITH PARAMETERS IN REAL LIFE

- The **Cook Rice** function takes raw rice as parameter (the amount and type of the rice).
- Once it is over, the parameter changes to cooked rice (unless there is an error somewhere).
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FUNCTIONS IN C

- Parameters to functions in C **do not change value** except for **arrays** after their execution is over.
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CALL BY VALUE POLICY

Consider following segment of code:

```
main()
{
    int x;
    int y;

    x = 10;
    y = 20;
    swap(x, y);
    printf("x = %d, y = %d\n", x, y);
}
```

CALL BY VALUE POLICY

```
void swap(int a, int b)
{
    int c;

    c = a;
    a = b;
    b = c;
}
```

CALL BY VALUE POLICY

- The value of x and y before function f is called is **10** and **20**.
- These will remain so even after the function is called.
- The reason is that when f is called, two new memory locations are reserved and given names a and b .
- In these two locations, the values of x and y are copied.
- Once the execution of the function is over, these two memory locations are discarded.
- Their values are not copied back to the memory locations named x and y !

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WHY ARE ARRAYS TREATED DIFFERENT?

- They are **not** treated differently!
- But is it better for now to pretend that they are treated differently.
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SCOPE OF A VARIABLE

- In C, each variable has a **scope** associated with it.
- This scope is a block of statements.
- The variable is visible **only** within this block of statements.
- Any attempt to access its value outside this block results in an error.

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- The first statement in the scope is, of course, the statement declaring the variable.
- The last statement in the scope is the last statement of the **statement block** in which the variable is defined.
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VARIABLE DECLARATION AND SCOPE

```
int global = 0;  
void foo();
```

```
int main()  
{  
    printf("in main global = %d\n", global);  
    foo(0);  
    global = 42;  
    foo(1);  
  
    int global = 100;  
    printf("in main after dec global = %d\n",global);  
    foo(2);  
    global=10;  
    foo(3);  
    printf("in main after update global = %d\n",global);  
}
```

VARIABLE DECLARATION AND SCOPE

```
void foo(int t)
{
    int local = 120;
    printf("in foo(%d) global = %d, local = %d\n",
          t, global, local);
}
```

VARIABLE SCOPE

- A variable comes to life when it is declared.
- A variable lives as long as the smallest block that contains its declaration is active
- A variable outside every functions is global and lives forever.
- Local variables have precedence over global ones.

VARIABLES IN FOR LOOP

```
for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++)  
{  
    /* do something */  
}
```

The variable `i` is valid only within the for loop.

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for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++)  
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VARIABLES INSIDE FUNCTION

```
int foo(int x)
{
    /* some stuff */
    float local;

    foo(bar);
}
```

- The variable is local to the function.
- For a new call of `foo` there is a new variable named `local` valid for that call.

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EXAMPLE OF BAD PROGRAMMING

```
main()
{
int i,j,k;
int a[100];
for (i=0;i<100;i++) {
scanf("%d",&a[i]);
if (a[i]<0)
break;}
for (j=i-1;j>=0;j--)
printf("%d ",a[j]);
}
```

SO WHAT IS WRONG?

```
main()
{
int i,j,k;
int a[100];
for (i=0;i<100;i++) {
scanf("%d",&a[i]);
if (a[i]<0)
break;}
for (j=i-1;j>=0;j--)
printf("%d ",a[j]);
}
```

Bad declaration: variable `k` is never used. Also, variables should be declared in different lines.

SO WHAT IS WRONG?

```
main()
{
int i;
int j;
int a[100];
for (i=0;i<100;i++) {
scanf("%d",&a[i]);
if (a[i]<0)
break;}
for (j=i-1;j>=0;j--)
printf("%d ",a[j]);
}
```

No indentation!

SO WHAT IS WRONG?

```
main()
{
    int i;
    int j;
    int a[100];
    for (i=0;i<100;i++) {
        scanf("%d",&a[i]);
        if (a[i]<0)
            break;}
    for (j=i-1;j>=0;j--)
        printf("%d ",a[j]);
}
```

Braces should be aligned.

SO WHAT IS WRONG?

```
main()
{
    int i;
    int j;
    int a[100];
    for (i=0;i<100;i++) {
        scanf("%d",&a[i]);
        if (a[i]<0)
            break;
    }
    for (j=i-1;j>=0;j--)
        printf("%d ",a[j]);
}
```

Use blanks to separate parts of code.

SO WHAT IS WRONG?

```
main()
{
    int i;
    int j;
    int a[100];
    for (i = 0; i < 100; i++) {
        scanf("%d", &a[i]);
        if (a[i] < 0)
            break;
    }
    for (j = i-1; j >= 0; j--)
        printf("%d ", a[j]);
}
```

Insert a blank line between variable declarations and statements, and add comments!

SO WHAT IS WRONG?

```
/* Reads a sequence of positive numbers terminated by a
 * negative number, and outputs the sequence in reverse order.
 */
main()
{
    int i;
    int j;
    int a[100]; /* stores the sequence */

    for (i = 0; i < 100; i++) { /* read the sequence */
        scanf("%d", &a[i]);
        if (a[i] < 0) /* end of input */
            break;
    }
    for (j = i-1; j >= 0; j--) /* output in reverse order */
        printf("%d ", a[j]);
}
```