ESc 101: Fundamentals of Computing

Lecture 19

Feb 15, 2010

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OUTLINE





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scanf

• scanf is a function that reads values from keyboard.

- The number and type of values to be read is specified by the first argument of scanf which is a constant string like in printf.
- Since parameters are passed in C by value, how are the values read and stored in parameter variables by scanf?
- For this, we need to understand pointers.

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Memory Address

- A variable is a name for a memory location.
- Recall that this is done for ease of use, as representing a memory location by its address is tricky.
- However, every memory location does have an address:
 - It is a number uniquely identifying the memory location.

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In a function call, only the value stored in an argument is passed to the corresponding parameter of the function. Example:

```
void foo( int y )
{
    y = 20; /* function sets y to 20 */
}
main()
ſ
    int x;
    x = 10; /* x = 10 here */
    foo(x);
    printf("%d", x); /* x = 10 here too */
}
```



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void foo(int y) y = 20;main() int x; x = 10;foo(x);printf("%d", x);

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- Suppose that instead of value of x, we pass the address of x to the function foo.
- Then the address of variable x of main will be available inside foo as the value of variable y.
- Suppose also that we can say the following inside foo:
 - store 20 in the memory location whose address is stored in variable y
- Then the value of x will change!

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GETTING AROUND CALL-BY-VALUE

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GETTING AROUND CALL-BY-VALUE



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C allows this!

<address of x>: &x <address in y>: *y TYPE <address>: Simply the type of *y!

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void foo(int *y )
  *v = 20;
main()
  int x;
  x = 10;
  foo(\&x);
  printf("%d", x);
```

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• Variable y stores a number.

- However, a special meaning is attached to this number: this number is the address of a memory location that stores an int.
- The type of y is denoted by (int *).
- Variable y is also called a pointer:
 - It points to the location of variable x of main.
 - *y represents the variable x of main!
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- Declaration int z[3] reserves 3 memory locations (each of 4 bytes).
- These are named z[0] to z[2].
- In addition to this, another memory location is reserved!
- The name of this location is z.
- It stores the pointer to z[0].
- This is why passing name of array as parameter allows us to change its content inside a function.

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MEMORY

void foo(int y[]) { for (int i=0;i<3;i++)</pre> y[i] = y[i] + i;main() { int z[3];for (int i=0;i<3;i++) z[i] = 0;foo(z);/* do something */

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