ECE/CS 250
Computer Architecture

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C Programming

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Slides are derived from work by
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Also contains material adapted from CSC230: C and Software Tools developed by
the NC State Computer Science Faculty

Outline

- Previously:
  - Computer is a machine that does what we tell it to do
- Next:
  - How do we tell computers what to do?
    - First a quick intro to C programming
    - Goal: to learn C, not teach you to be an expert in C
  - How do we represent data?
  - What is memory?

What is C?

- The language of UNIX
- Procedural language (no classes)
- Low-level access to memory
- Easy to map to machine language
- Not much run-time stuff needed
- Surprisingly cross-platform

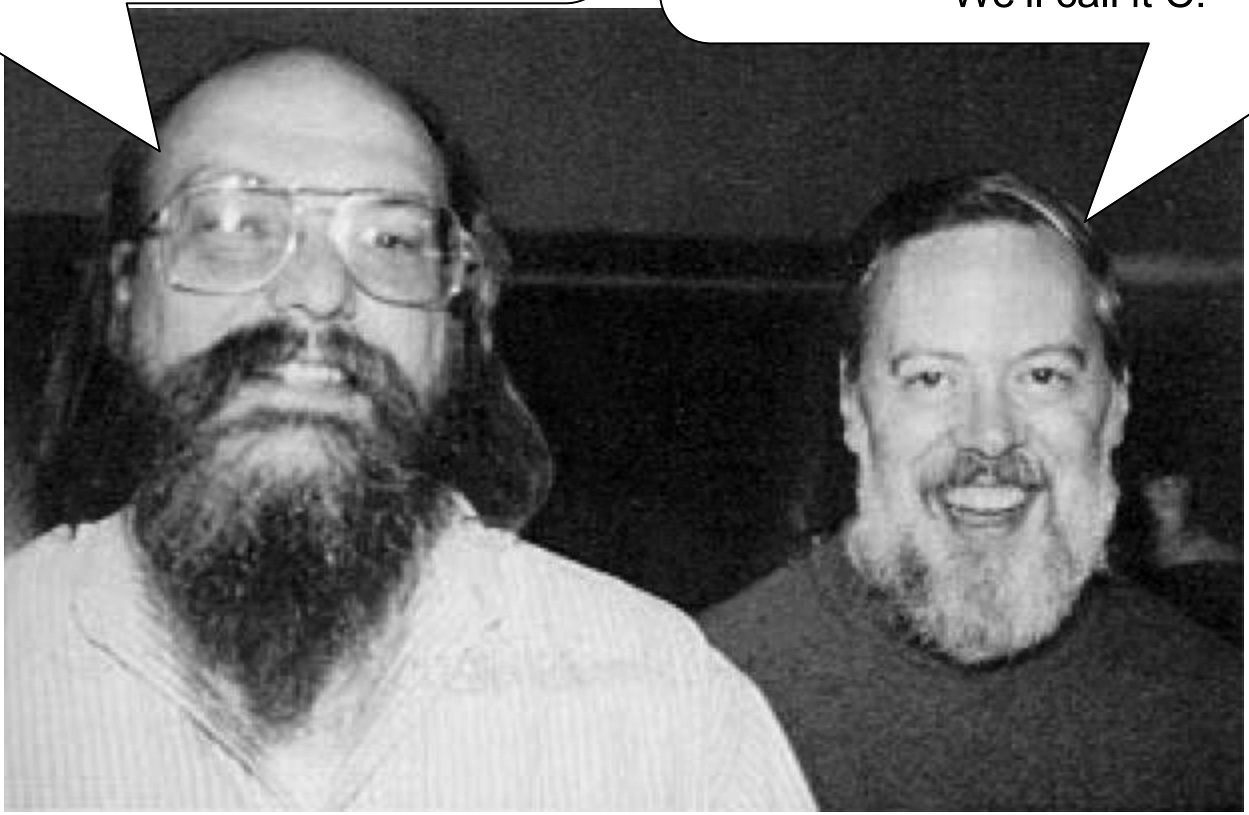
Why teach it now?
To expand from basic programming to
operating systems and embedded development.

Also, as a case study to understand computer architecture in general.

The Origin of C

Hey, do you want to build a system that will become the gold standard of OS design for this century?
We can call it UNIX.

Okay, but only if we also invent a language to write it in, and only if that language becomes the default for all systems programming basically forever.
We'll call it C!



Ken Thompson Dennis Ritchie

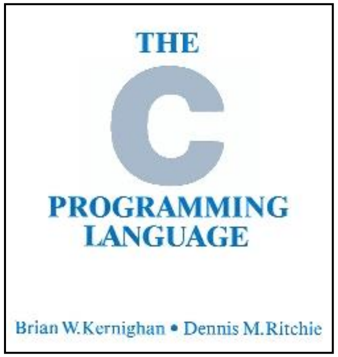
AT&T Bell Labs, 1969-1972


Cool, it worked!
Told ya.

What were they thinking?

- Main design considerations:
  - Compiler size: needed to run on PDP-11 with 24KB of memory (Algol60 was too big to fit)
  - Code size: needed to implement the whole OS and applications with little memory
  - Performance
  - Portability
- Little (if any consideration):
  - Security, robustness, maintainability
  - Legacy Code

C vs. other languages



Most modern languages	C
Develop applications	Develop system code (and applications) (the two used to be the same thing)
Computer is an abstract logic engine	Near-direct control of the hardware
Prevent unintended behavior, reduce impact of simple mistakes	Never doubts the programmer, subtle bugs can have crazy effects
Runs on magic! (e.g. garbage collection)	Nothing happens without developer intent
May run via VM or interpreter	Compiles to native machine code
Smart, integrated toolchain (press button, receive EXE) Debug	Discrete, UNIX-style toolchain make → g++ (compilation) → g++ (linking) (even more discrete steps behind this)

```
$ make
g++ -o thing.o thing.c
g++ -o thing thing.o
```

Why C?

- Why C for humanity?
  - It’s a “portable assembly language”
  - Useful in OS and embedded systems and for highly optimized code
- Why C for this class?
  - Need to understand how computers work
  - Need a high-level language that can be traced all the way down to machine code
  - Need a language with system-level concepts like pointers and memory management
  - Java hides too much to do this

Example C superpowers

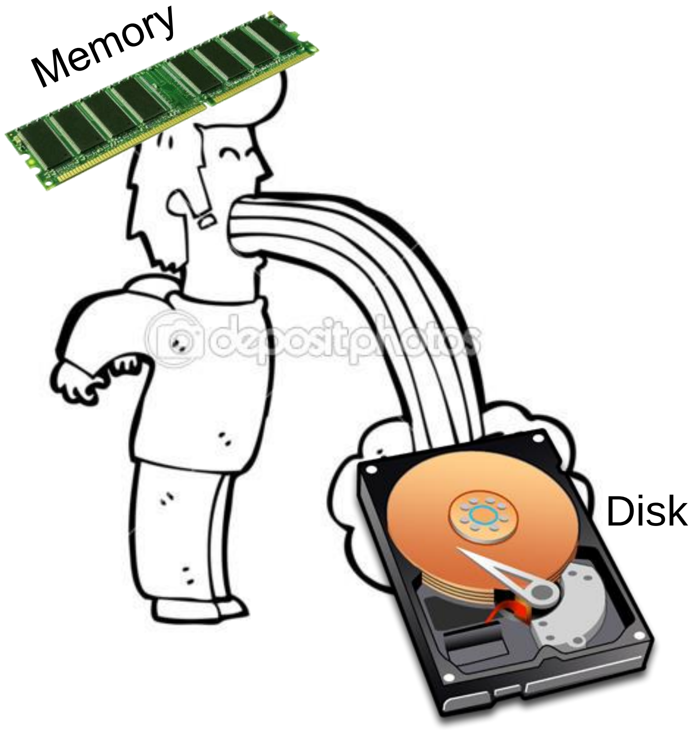
<u>Task: Export a list of coordinates in memory to disk</u>

<u>Most languages</u>

- Develop file format
- Build routine to serialize data out to disk
- Build routine to read & parse data in
- Benchmark if performance is a concern

<u>C</u>

- Read/write memory to disk directly



Example C superpowers

Task: Blink an LED

Atmel ATTINY4 microcontroller :
Entire computer (CPU, RAM, & storage)!
1024 bytes storage, 32 bytes RAM.

```
led = 0
while (true):
    led = NOT led
    set_led(led)
    delay for 1 sec
```

Language	Size of executable	Size of runtime (ignoring libraries)	Total size	RAM used
Java				
Python				
Desktop C				
Embedded C (Arduino)				

Max: 1024 B

Max: 32 B

What about C++?

- Originally called "C with Classes" (because that's all it is)
- All C programs are C++ programs, as C++ is an extension to C
- Adds stuff you might recognize from Java (only uglier):
  - Classes (incl. abstract classes & virtual functions)
  - Operator overloading
  - Inheritance (incl. multiple inheritance)
  - Exceptions

Bjarne Stroustrup developed C++ in 1979 at Bell Labs

OUT OF SCOPE

C and Java: A comparison

C

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

int main(int argc, const char* argv[]) {
    int i;

    printf("Hello, world.\n");

    for (i=0; i<3; i++) {
        printf("%d\n", i);
    }

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

```
$ g++ -o thing thing.c && ./thing
Hello, world.
0
1
2
```

Java

```java
class Thing {
    static public void main (String[] args) {
        int i;

        System.out.printf("Hello, world.\n");

        for (i=0; i<3; i++) {
            System.out.printf("%d\n", i);
        }

    }
}
```

```
$ javac Thing.java && java Thing
Hello, world.
0
1
2
```

Common Platform for This Course

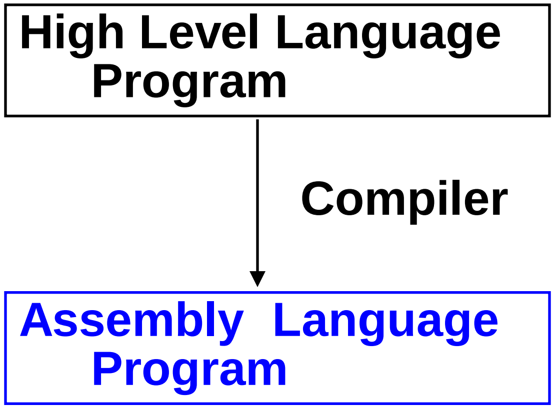
- Different platforms have different conventions for end of line, end of file, tabs, compiler output, …
- Solution (for this class): compile and run all programs consistently on one platform
- Our common platform:

Don’t you gimme no “it worked on my box” nonsense!

How to access Duke Linux machines?

See homework 0 or recitation #1 for the exciting answer!

HLL → Assembly Language




```
temp = v[k];
v[k] = v[k+1];
v[k+1] = temp;
```

```
lw    $15,  0($2)
lw    $16,  4($2)
sw    $16,  0($2)
sw    $15,  4($2)
```

- Every computer architecture has its own assembly language
- Assembly languages tend to be pretty low-level, yet some actual humans still write code in assembly
- But most code is written in HLLs and compiled
  - Compiler is a program that automatically converts HLL to assembly

Assembly Language → Machine Language

High Level Language Program

↓ Compiler

Assembly Language Program

↓ Assembler

Machine Language Program

```
temp = v[k];
v[k] = v[k+1];
v[k+1] = temp;
```

```
lw    $15,   0($2)
lw    $16,   4($2)
sw    $16,   0($2)
sw    $15,   4($2)
```

```
0000 1001 1100 0110 1010 1111 0101 1000
1010 1111 0101 1000 0000 1001 1100 0110
1100 0110 1010 1111 0101 1000 0000 1001
0101 1000 0000 1001 1100 0110 1010 1111
```

- Assembler program automatically converts assembly code into the binary machine language (zeros and ones) that the computer actually executes

Machine Language → Inputs to Digital System

High Level Language Program

```
temp = v[k];
v[k] = v[k+1];
v[k+1] = temp;
```

↓ Compiler

Assembly Language Program

```
lw    $15,   0($2)
lw    $16,   4($2)
sw    $16,   0($2)
sw    $15,   4($2)
```

↓ Assembler

Machine Language Program

```
0000 1001 1100 0110 1010 1111 0101 1000
1010 1111 0101 1000 0000 1001 1100 0110
1100 0110 1010 1111 0101 1000 0000 1001
0101 1000 0000 1001 1100 0110 1010 1111
```

↓ Machine Interpretation

Control Signals for Finite State Machine

Transistors (switches) turning on and off

How does a Java program execute?

- Compile Java Source to Java Byte codes
- Java Virtual Machine (JVM) interprets/translates Byte codes
- JVM is a program executing on the hardware

- Java has lots of features that make it easier to program without making mistakes → training wheels are nice

- JVM handles memory for you
  - What do you do when you remove an entry from a hash table, binary tree, etc.?

The C Programming Language

- No virtual machine
  - No dynamic type checking, array bounds, garbage collection, etc.
  - Compile source file directly to machine

- Closer to hardware
  - Easier to make mistakes
  - Can often result in faster code → training wheels slow you down

- Generally used for 'systems programming'
  - Operating systems, embedded systems, database implementation
  - C++ is object-oriented version of C (C is a strict subset of C++)

Learning How to Program in C

- You need to learn some C
- I'll present some slides next, but nobody has ever learned programming by looking at slides or a book
  - You learn programming by programming!
- Goals of these slides:
  - Give you big picture of how C differs from Java
    - Recall: you already know how to program
  - Give you some important pointers (forgive the pun!) to get you started

Skills You'll Need to Code in C

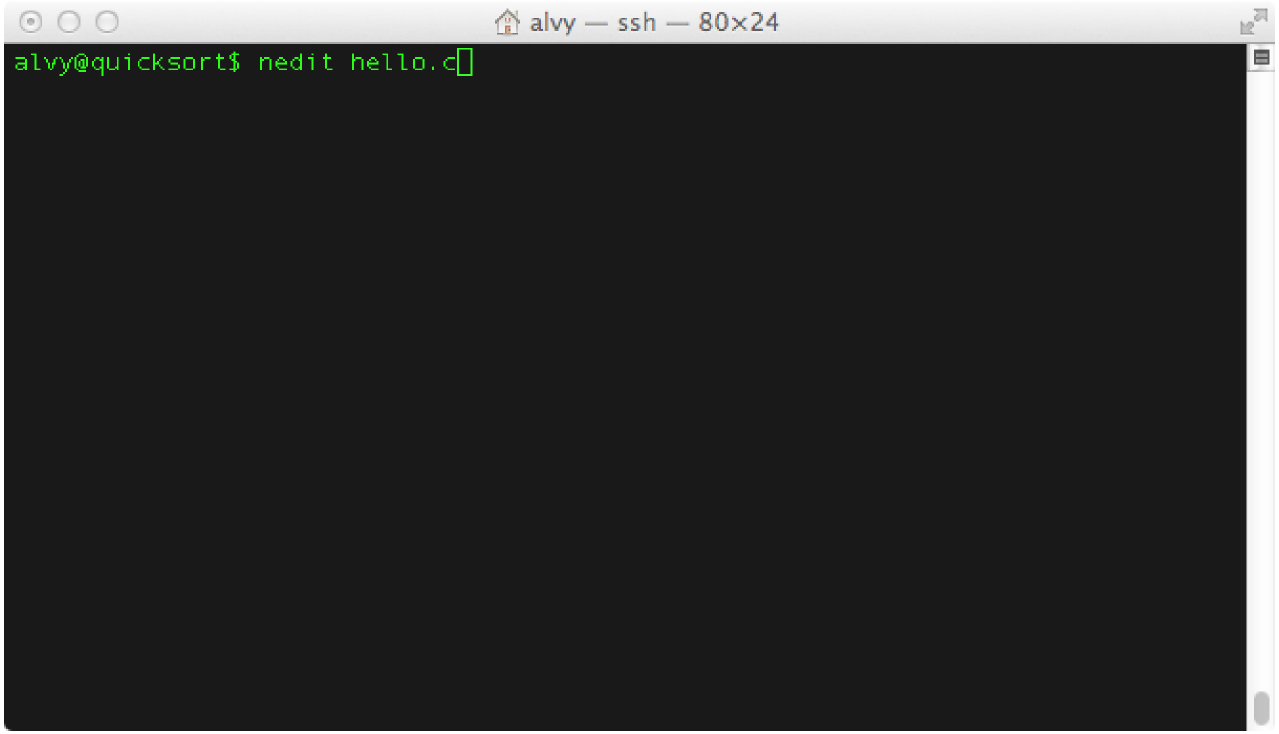
- You'll need to learn some skills
  - Using a Unix machine (you'll connect remotely to one)
  - Using a text editor to write C programs
  - Compiling and executing C programs

- You'll learn these skills in Recitation #1

- Some other useful resources
  - Kernighan & Richie book *The C Programming Language*
  - My C course slides from NCSU (linked on course site)
  - MIT open course *Practical Programming in C* (linked on course site)
  - Prof. Drew Hilton's video tutorials (linked on course site)

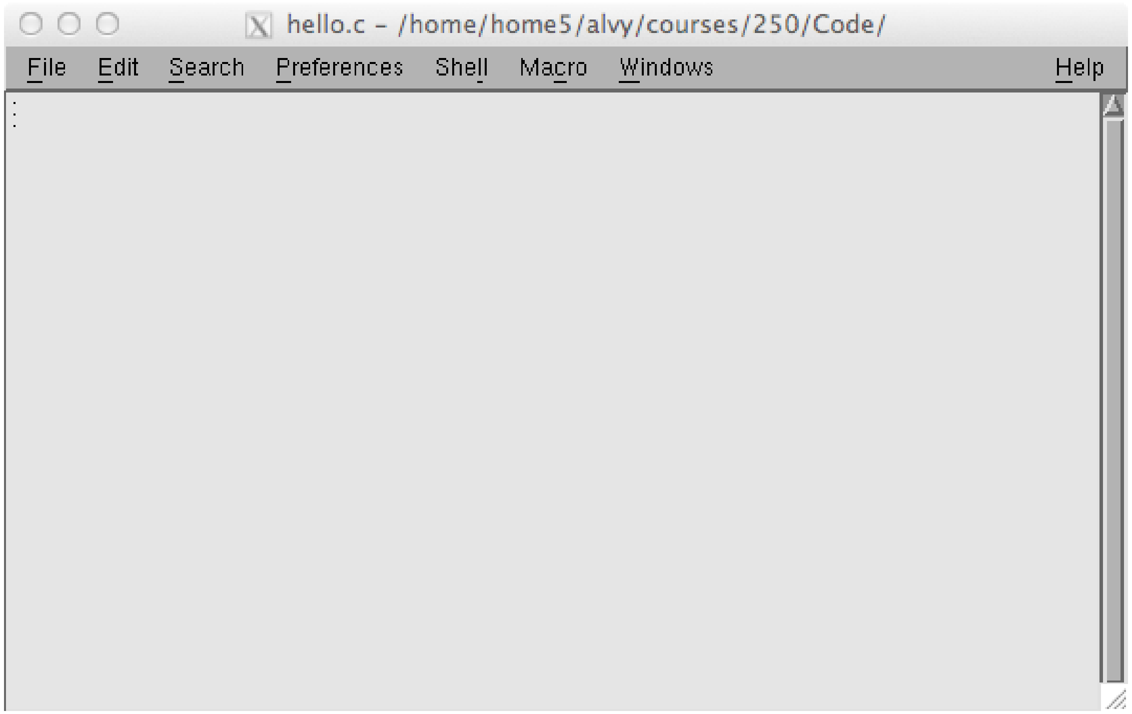
Creating a C source file

- We are not using a development environment (IDE)
- You will create programs starting with an empty file!
- Files should use .c file extension (e.g., hello.c)
- On a linux machine, edit files with nedit (or emacs or …)



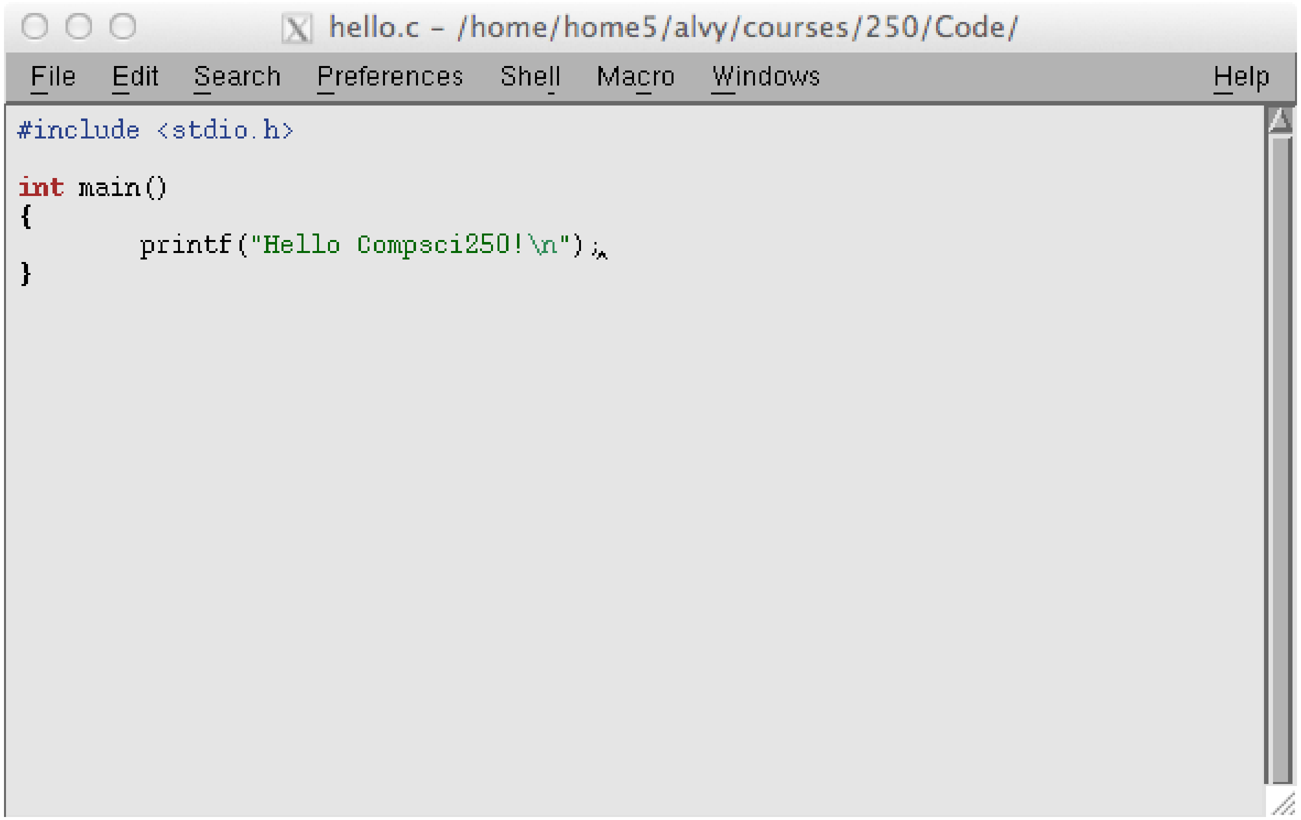
The nedit window

- nedit is a simple point & click editor
  - with ctrl-c, ctrl-x, ctrl-v, etc. short cuts
- Feel free to use any text editor (gvim, emacs, etc.)



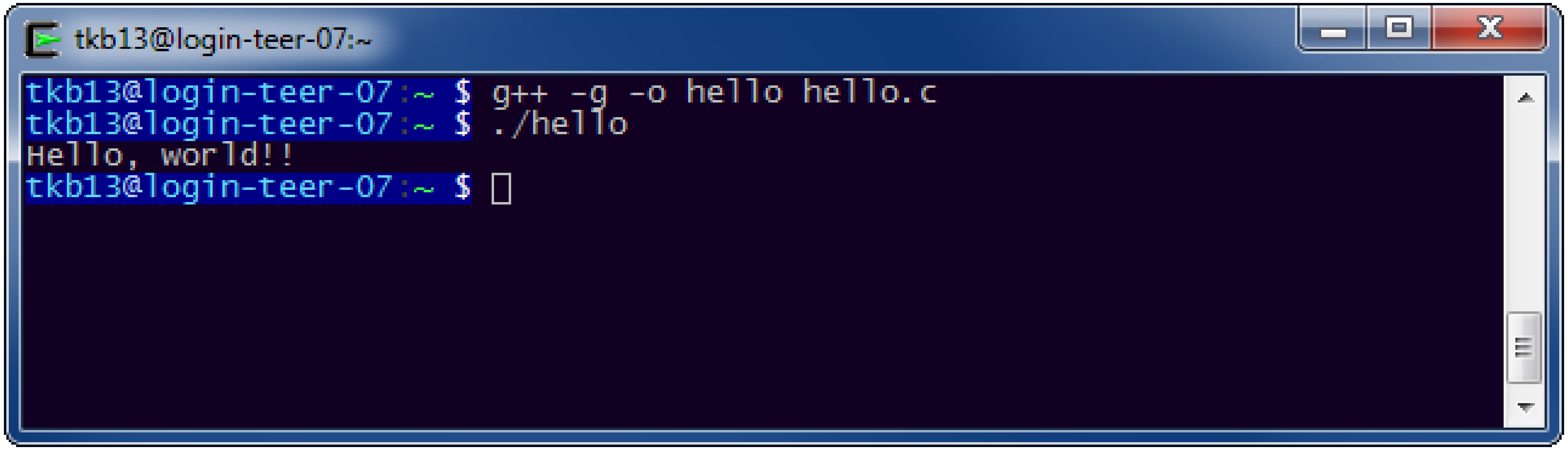
Hello World

- Canonical beginner program
  - Prints out "Hello …"
- nedit provides syntax highlighting



Compiling and Running the Program

- Use the g++ (or gcc) compiler to turn .c file into executable file
  - g++ –g –o <outputname> <source file name>
  - g++ –g –o hello hello.c (you must be in same directory as hello.c)
  - If no –o option, then default output name is a.out (e.g., g++ hello.c)
  - The –g option turns on debug info, so tools can tell you what's up when it breaks
- To run, type the program name on the command line
  - ./ before "hello" means look in current directory for hello program



Key Language Issues (for C)

- Variable types: int, float, char, etc.
- Operators: +, -, *, ==, >, etc.
- Expressions
- Control flow: if/else, while, for, etc.
- Functions
- Arrays
- Java: Strings → C: character arrays
- Java: Objects → C: structures
- Java: References → C: pointers
- Java: Automatic memory mgmt → C: DIY mem mgmt

Black: C same as Java
Blue: C very similar to Java
Red: C different from Java

Variables, operators, expressions – just like Java

SAME
as Java!

- Variables types
  - Data types: `int`, `float`, `double`, `char`, `void`
  - `signed` and `unsigned int`
  - `char`, `short`, `int`, `long`, `long long` can all be integer types
    - These specify how many bits to represent an integer
- Operators
  - Mathematical: `+ - * / %`
  - Logical: `! && || == != < > <= >=`
  - Bitwise: `& | ~ ^ << >>`
    (we'll get to what these do later)
- Expressions: `var1 = var2 + var3;`

C Allows Type Conversion with Casts

SAME as Java!

- Use type casting to convert between types
  - `variable1 = (new type) variable2;`
  - Be careful with order of operations – cast often takes precedence
  - Example

```
main() {
        float x;
        int i;
        x = 3.6;
        i = (int) x;  // i is the integer cast of x
        printf("x=%f, i=%d", x, i)
}
```

result: `x=3.600000, i=3`

Control Flow – just like Java

SAME
as Java!

- Conditionals

```
if (a < b) { … } else {…}
switch (a) {
    case 0: s0; break;
    case 1: s1; break;
    case 2: s2; break;
    default: break;
}
```

- Loops

```
for (i = 0; i < max; i++) { ... }
while (i < max) {…}
```

Variable Scope: Global Variables

Similar to Java!

- Global variables are accessible from any function
  - Declared outside `main()`

```
#include <stdio.h>
int X = 0;
float Y = 0.0;
void setX() { X = 78; }
int main()
{
        X = 23;
        Y =0.31234;
        setX();
        // what is the value of X here?
}
```

- What if we had "`int X = 23;`" in `main()`?

Functions – mostly like Java

Similar to Java!

- C has functions, just like Java
  - But these are not methods! (not attached to objects)
- Must be defined *or at least declared* before use

```
int div2(int x,int y); /* declaration here */
int main() {
    int a;
    a = div2(10,2);
}
int div2(int x, int y) {  /* implementation here */
    return (x/y);
}
```

- *Or you can just put functions at top of file (before use)*

Arrays – same as Java

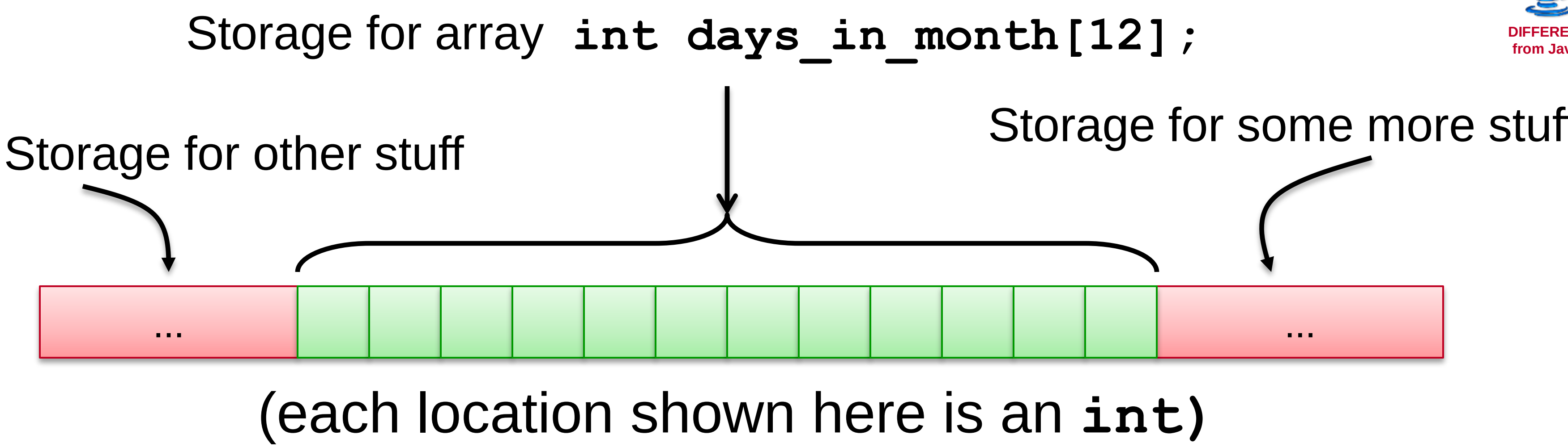
Same as Java (for now…)

Similar to Java!

```
char buf[256];
int grid[256][512];  /* two dimensional array */
float scores[4096];
double speed[100];

for (i = 0; i< 25; i++)
   buf[i] = ‘A’+i;      /* what does this do?  */
```

Memory Layout and Bounds Checking

DIFFERENT from Java!



- There is NO bounds checking in C
  - i.e., it's legal (but not advisable) to refer to `days_in_month[216]` or `days_in_month[-35]` !
  - who knows what is stored there?

Strings – not quite like Java

DIFFERENT from Java!

- Strings
  - `char str1[256] = “hi”;`
  - `str1[0] = ‘h’, str1[1] = ‘i’,str1[2] = 0;`
  - `0` is value of NULL character `‘\0’`, identifies end of string
- What is C code to compute string length?

```
int len=0;
while (str1[len] != 0){
                len++;
}
```

- Length does not include the NULL character
- C has built-in string operations
  - `#include <string.h>  // includes string operations`
  - `strlen(str1);`

Structures

DIFFERENT from Java!

- Structures are sort of like Java objects
  - They have member variables
  - But they do NOT have methods!

- Structure definition with `struct` keyword

```
struct student_record {
     int id;
     float grade;
} rec1, rec2;
```

- Declare a variable of the structure type with `struct` keyword

```
struct student_record onerec;
```

- Access the structure member fields with dot (‘.’), e.g. `structvar.member`

```
onerec.id = 12;
onerec.grade = 79.3;
```

Array of Structures

Similar to Java!

```c
#include <stdio.h>
struct student_record {
        int id;
        float grade;
};

struct student_record myroster[100];  /* declare array of structs */
int main()
{
        myroster[23].id = 99;
        myroster[23].grade = 88.5;
}
```

Console I/O in C

DIFFERENT from Java!

- I/O is provided by standard library functions
  - available on all platforms
- To use, your program must have

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

"Standard IO" — Not "studio"!!

- …and it doesn't hurt to also have

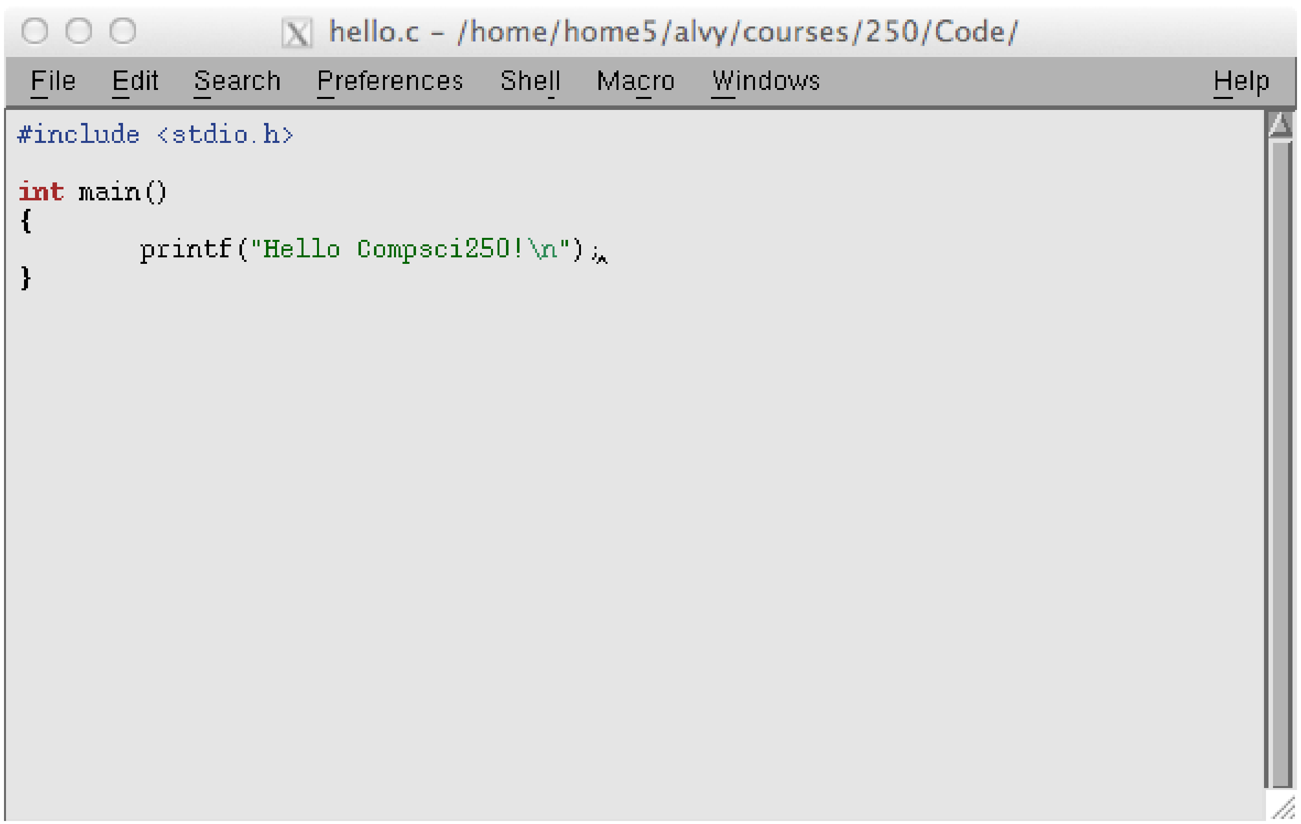
```
#include <stdlib.h>
```

"Standard library"

- *These are preprocessor statements; the .h files define function types, parameters, and constants from the standard library*

Back to our first program

- #include <stdio.h> defines input/output functions in C standard library (just like you have libraries in Java)
- printf(args) writes to terminal



Input/Output (I/O)

DIFFERENT
from Java!

- Read/Write to/from the terminal
  - Standard input, standard output (defaults are terminal)
- Character I/O
  - `putchar(), getchar()`
- Formatted I/O
  - `printf(), scanf()`

Character I/O

DIFFERENT from Java!

```
#include <stdio.h>  /* include the standard I/O function defs */
int main() {
    char c;
    /* read chars until end of file */
    while ((c = getchar()) != EOF ) {
        if (c == ‘e’)
            c = ‘-’;
        putchar(c);
    }
    return 0;
}
```

- EOF is End Of File (type Ctrl+D)

Formatted I/O

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
        int a = 23;
        float f =0.31234;
        char str1[] = "satisfied?";
        /* some code here… */
        printf("The variable values are %d, %f , %s\n", a, f, str1);
        scanf("%d %f", &a, &f);  /* we'll come back to the & later */
        scanf("%s", str1);
        printf("The variable values are now %d, %f , %s\n",a,f,str1);
}
```

printf() = print formatted
scanf() = scan (read) formatted

DIFFERENT from Java!

- `printf("format string", v1,v2,…);`
  - `\n` is newline character
- `scanf("format string",…);`
  - Returns number of matching items or EOF if at end-of-file

Example: Reading Input in a Loop

DIFFERENT from Java!

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main()
{
        int an_int = 0;
        while(scanf("%d",&an_int) != EOF) {
                printf("The value is %d\n",an_int);
        }
}
```

- This reads integers from the terminal until the user types ^d (ctrl-d)
  - Can use `a.out < file.in`
- WARNING THIS IS NOT CLEAN CODE!!!
  - If the user makes a typo and enters a non-integer it can loop indefinitely!!!
- How to stop a program that is in an infinite loop on Linux?
- Type ^c (ctrl-c). It kills the currently executing program.

Example: Reading Input in a Loop (better)

DIFFERENT from Java!

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main()
{
        int an_int = 0;
        while(scanf("%d",&an_int) == 1) {
                printf("The value is %d\n",an_int);
        }
}
```

- Now it reads integers from the terminal until there’s an EOF *or* a non-integer is given.
- Type “man scanf” on a linux machine and you can read a lot about scanf.
  - You can also find these “manual pages” on the web, such as at die.net.

sscanf vs. atoi

DIFFERENT from Java!

- The atoi function converts a string to an integer. (atof does float)

```
char mystring[] = "29";
int r = atoi(mystring);
```

atoi stands for a-to-i, as in array-to-integer, because strings are character arrays.

- More generally, you can parse in-memory strings with sscanf (string scanf):

```
char mystring[] = "29";
int r;
int n = sscanf(mystring,"%d",&r);
// returns number of successful conversions (0 or 1)
```

- Why choose sscanf? It can indicate if the string isn't valid!
- The atoi function just returns 0 for non-integers, so atoi("0")==atoi("hurfdurf") ☹

Header Files, Separate Compilation, Libraries

DIFFERENT from Java!

- C pre-processor provides useful features
  - `#include` filename just inserts that file (like `#include <stdio.h>`)
  - `#define MYFOO 8`, replaces MYFOO with 8 in entire program
    - Good for constants
    - `#define MAX_STUDENTS 100` (functionally equivalent to `const int`)
- Separate Compilation
  - Many source files (e.g., main.c, students.c, instructors.c, deans.c)
  - `g++ -o prog main.c students.c instructors.c deans.c`
  - Produces one executable program from multiple source files
- Libraries: Collection of common functions (some provided, you can build your own)
    - We've already seen stdio.h for I/O
    - **libc** has I/O, strings, etc.
    - **libm** has math functions (pow, exp, etc.)
    - `g++ -o prog file.c -lm` (says use math library)

Command Line Arguments

Similar to Java!

- Parameters to main (`int argc, char *argv[]`)
  - `argc` = number of arguments (0 to argc-1)
  - `argv` is array of strings
  - `argv[0]` = program name
- Example: `myProgram dan 250`
  - `argc=3`
  - `argv[0] = “myProgram”, argv[1]=“dan”, argv[2]=“250”`

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
  int i;
  printf("%d arguments\n", argc);
  for (i=0; i< argc; i++) {
    printf("argument %d: %s\n", i, argv[i]);
  }
}
```

The Big Differences Between C and Java

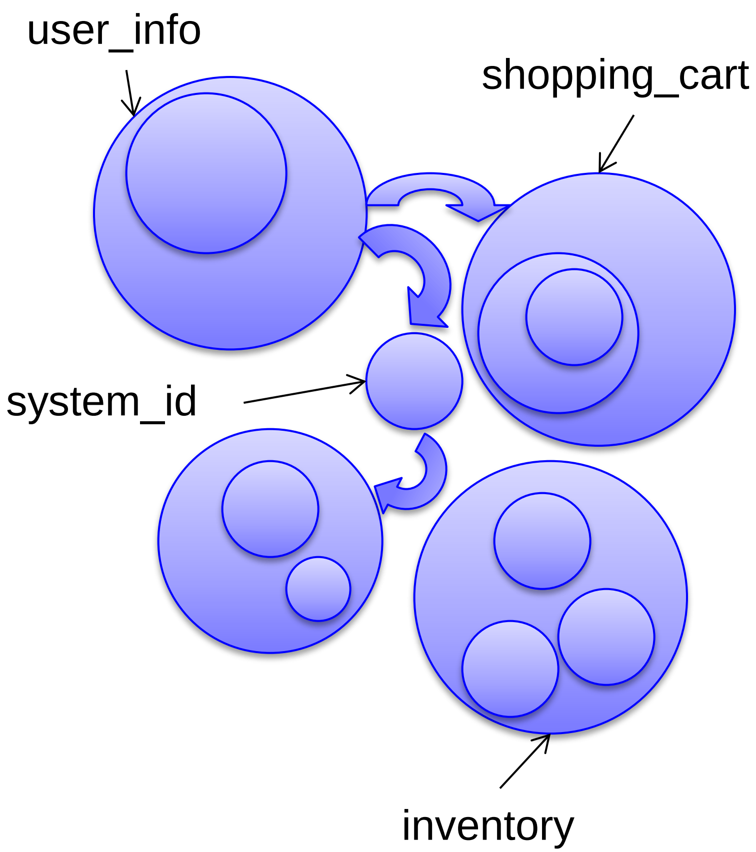
1) Java is object-oriented, while C is not

2) Memory management

- Java: the virtual machine worries about where the variables "live" and how to allocate memory for them
- C: the programmer does all of this

Memory is a real thing!

- Most languages – protected variables



- C – flat memory space

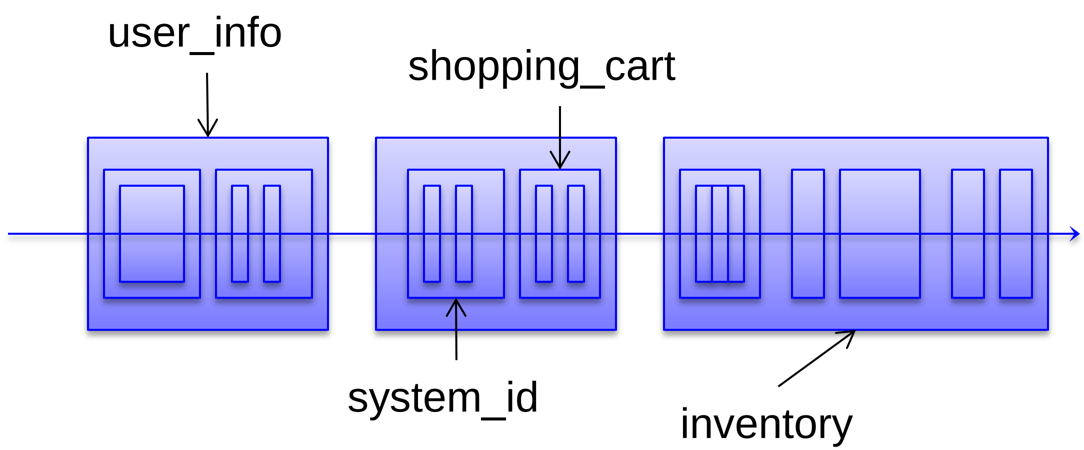


Figure from Rudra Dutta, NCSU, 2007

Let’s look at memory addresses!

- You can find the address of ANY variable with:

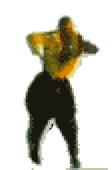
DIFFERENT from Java!

&

The address-of operator

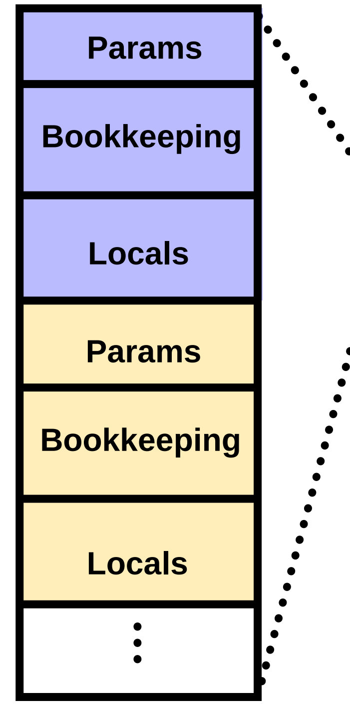
```
int v = 5;
printf(“%d\n”,v);
printf(“%p\n”,&v);
```

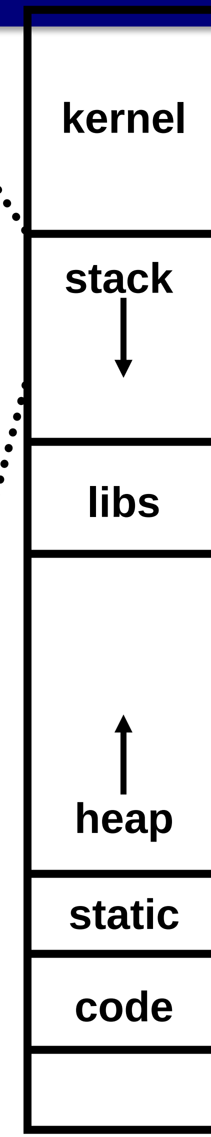
```
$ g++ x4.c && ./a.out
5
0x7fffd232228c
```



Testing our memory map

```c
int x=5;
char msg[] = "Hello";

int main(int argc, const char* argv[]) {
    int v;
    float pi = 3.14159;

    printf("&x:    %p\n",&x);
    printf("&msg:  %p\n",&msg);
    printf("&argc: %p\n",&argc);
    printf("&argv: %p\n",&argv);
    printf("&v:    %p\n",&v);
    printf("&pi:   %p\n",&pi);
}
```






```
$ g++ x.c && ./a.out
&x:    0x601020
&msg:  0x601024
&argc: 0x7fff85b78c2c
&argv: 0x7fff85b78c20
&v:    0x7fff85b78c38
&pi:   0x7fff85b78c3c
```

What's a pointer?

- It's a memory address you treat as a variable
- You declare pointers with:

DIFFERENT from Java!

*

The *dereference* operator

```
int v = 5;
int* p  = &v;
printf("%d\n",v);
printf("%p\n",p);
```

Append to any data type

```
$ g++ x4.c && ./a.out
5
0x7fffe0e60b7c
```

What's a pointer?

- You can <u>look up</u> what's stored *at* a pointer!
- You **dereference** pointers with:

DIFFERENT from Java!

*****

The *dereference* operator

```
int v = 5;
int* p = &v;
printf("%d\n",v);
printf("%p\n",p);
printf("%d\n",*p);
```

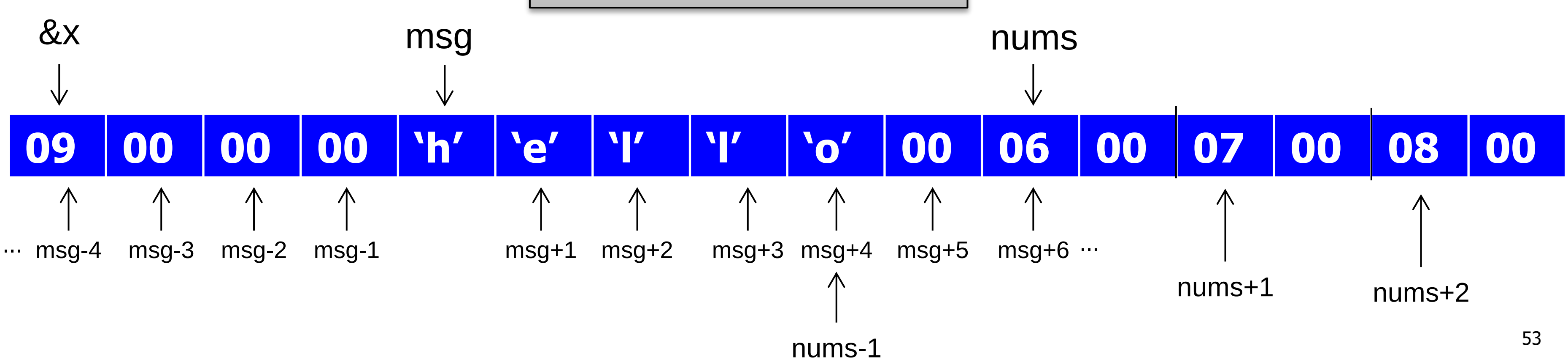
Prepend to any pointer variable or expression

```
$ g++ x4.c && ./a.out
5
0x7fffe0e60b7c
5
```

What is an array?

- The shocking truth:
  You've been using pointers all along!
- Every array ***IS*** a pointer to a block of memory
- **Pointer arithmetic:** If you add an integer N to a pointer P, you get the address of N ***things*** later from pointer P
  - "Thing" depends on the datatype of the P
- Can *dereference* such pointers to get what's there
  - Interpreted according to the datatype of P
  - E.g. *(nums-1) is a number related to how we represent the letter 'o'.

```
int x = 9;
char msg[] = "hello";
short nums[] = {6,7,8};
```



Array lookups ARE pointer references!

```
int x[] = {15,16,17,18,19,20};
```

Array lookup	Pointer reference	Type
x	x	int*
x[0]	*x	int
x[5]	*(x+5)	int
x[n]	*(x+n)	int
&x[0]	x	int*
&x[5]	x+5	int*
&x[n]	x+n	int*

(In case you don't believe me)

```
int n=2;
printf("%p %p\n", x    ,  x   );
printf("%d %d\n", x[0] , *x   );
printf("%d %d\n", x[5] ,*(x+5));
printf("%d %d\n", x[n] ,*(x+n));
printf("%p %p\n",&x[0],   x   );
printf("%p %p\n",&x[5],   x+5 );
printf("%p %p\n",&x[n],   x+n );
```

```
$ g++ x5.c && ./a.out
0x7fffa2d0b9d0 0x7fffa2d0b9d0
15 15
20 20
17 17
0x7fffa2d0b9d0 0x7fffa2d0b9d0
0x7fffa2d0b9e4 0x7fffa2d0b9e4
0x7fffa2d0b9d8 0x7fffa2d0b9d8
```

- This is why arrays don't know their own length: they're just blocks of memory with a pointer!

Definition of array brackets: **A[i] ⇔ *(A+i)**

↓

Creepy-side effect: A[5] ⇒ *(A+5) ⇒ *(5+A) ⇒ 5[A], so 5[A] is legal & equivalent! (Don't do this, it's gross.)

Using pointers

- Start with an address of something that exists
- Manipulate according to known rules
- Don't go out of bounds (don't screw up)

DIFFERENT from Java!

```
void underscorify(char* s) {
  char* p = s;
  while (*p != 0) {
    if (*p == ' ') {
      *p = '_';
    }
    p++;
  }
}
```

```
int main() {
  char msg[] = "Here are words";
  puts(msg);
  underscorify(msg);
  puts(msg);
}
```

```
$ g++ x3.c && ./a.out
Here are words
Here_are_words
```

Shortening that function

```
void underscorify(char* s) {
  char* p = s;
  while (*p != 0) {
    if (*p == ' ') {
      *p = '_';
    }
    p++;
  }
}
```

```
// how a developer might code it
void underscorify2(char* s) {
  char* p;
  for (p = s; *p ; p++) {
    if (*p == ' ') {
      *p = '_';
    }
  }
}
```

```
// how a kernel hacker might code it
void underscorify3(char* s) {
  for ( ; *s ; s++) {
    if (*s == ' ') *s = '_';
  }
}
```

Pointers: powerful, but deadly

- What happens if we run this?

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(int argc, const char* argv[]) {
        int* p;

        printf(" p:  %p\n",p);
        printf("*p:  %d\n",*p);
}
```

```
$ g++ x2.c && ./a.out
 p:  (nil)
Segmentation fault (core dumped)
```

Pointers: powerful, but deadly

- Okay, I can fix this! I'll initialize **p**!

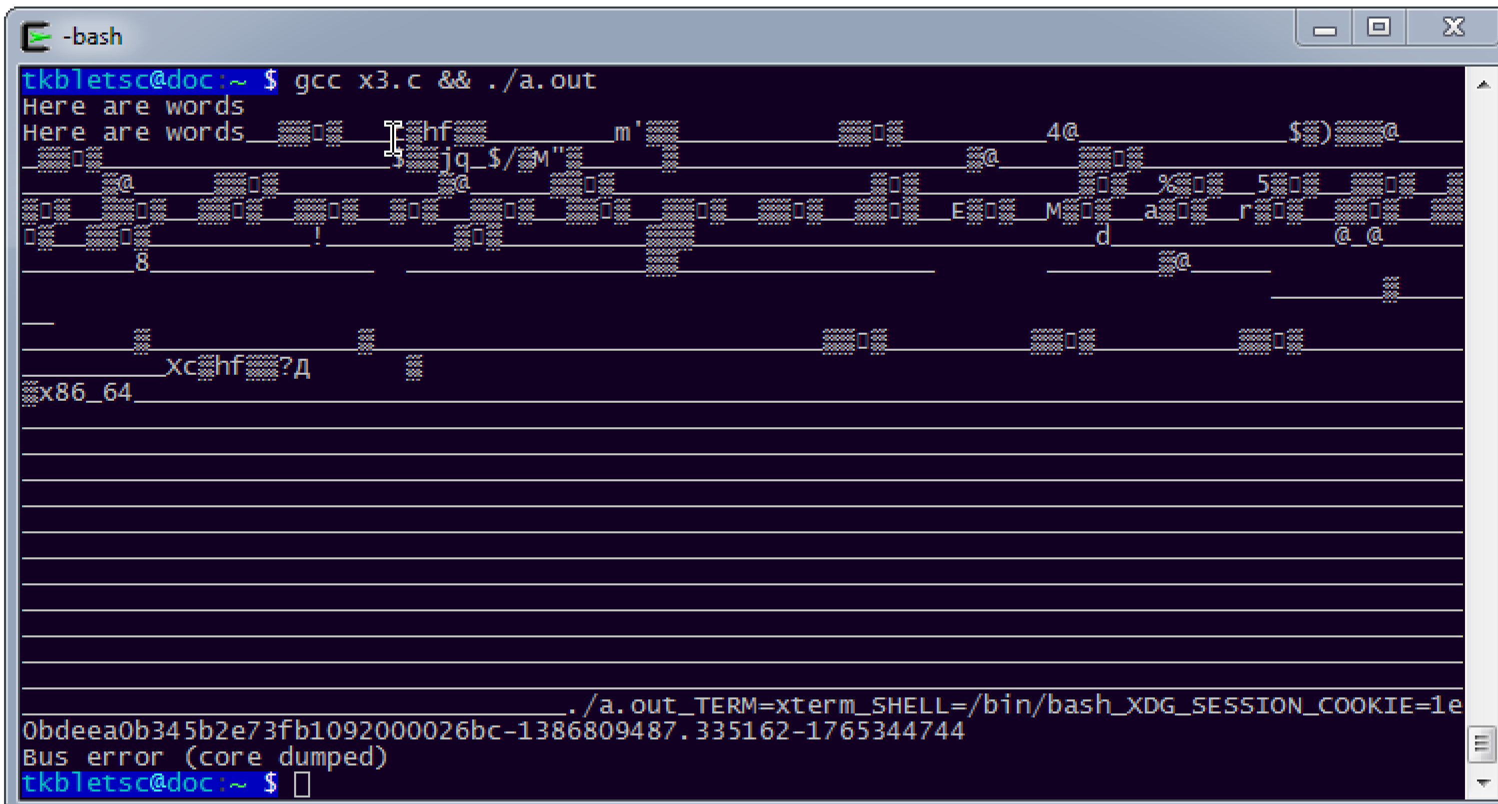
```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(int argc, const char* argv[]) {
        int* p = 100000;

        printf(" p:  %p\n",p);
        printf("*p:  %d\n",*p);
}
```

```
$ g++ x2.c
x2.c: In function 'main':
x2.c:4:9: warning: initialization makes pointer from
integer without a cast [enabled by default]
$ ./a.out
 p:  0x186a0
Segmentation fault (core dumped)
```

A more likely pointer bug…

```
void underscorify_bad(char* s) {
  char* p = s;
  while (*p != '0') {
    if (*p == 0) {
      *p = '_';
    }
    p++;
  }
}
```

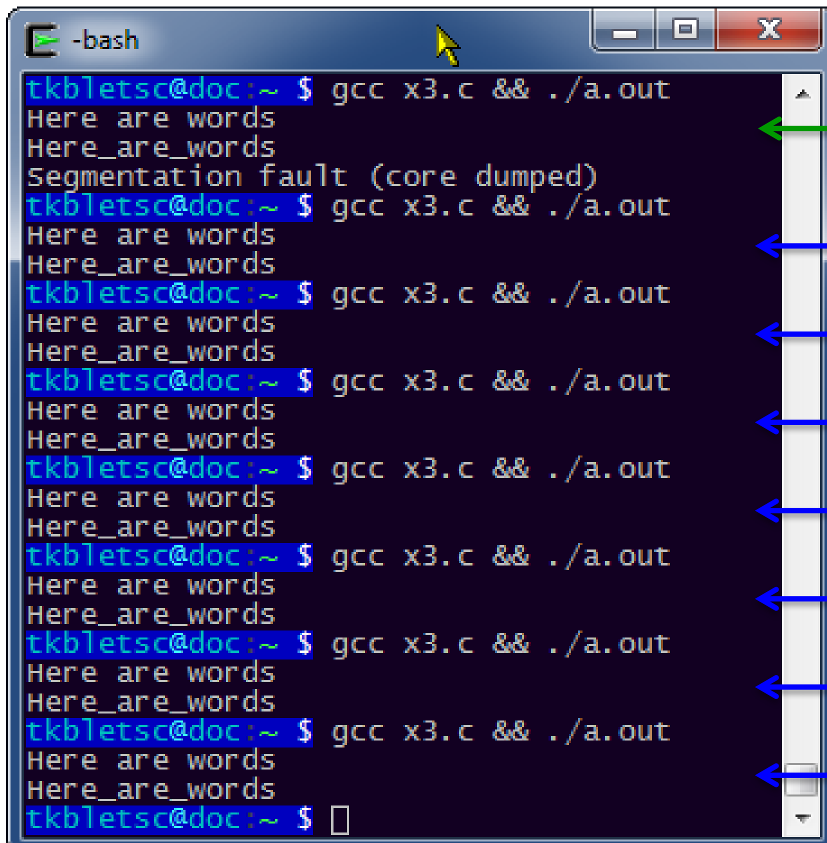
```
int main() {
  char msg[] = "Here are words";
  puts(msg);
  underscorify_bad(msg);
  puts(msg);
}
```



Almost fixed…

```c
void underscorify_bad2(char* s) {
  char* p = s;
  while (*p != '0') {
    if (*p == ' ') {
      *p = '_';
    }
    p++;
  }
}
```

```c
int main() {
  char msg[] = "Here are words";
  puts(msg);
  underscorify_bad2(msg);
  puts(msg);
}
```



Worked but crashed on exit

Worked totally!!

Worked totally!!

Worked totally!!

Worked totally!!

Worked totally!!

Worked totally!!

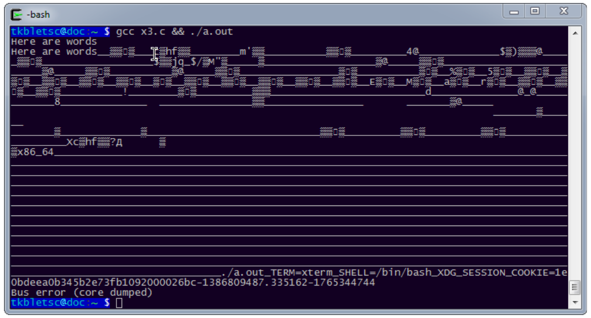
Worked totally!!

Effects of pointer mistakes

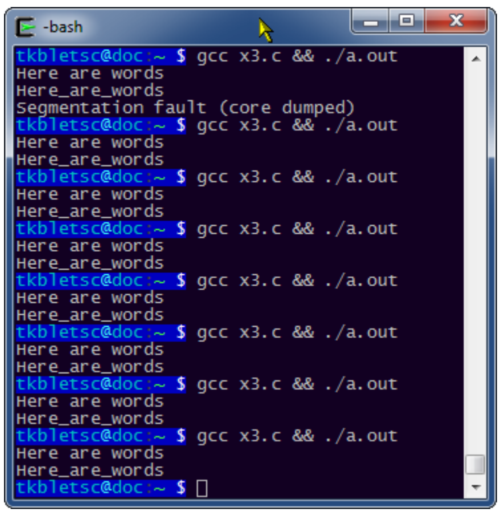
Access an array out of bounds
or some other invalid pointer location?

No visible effect

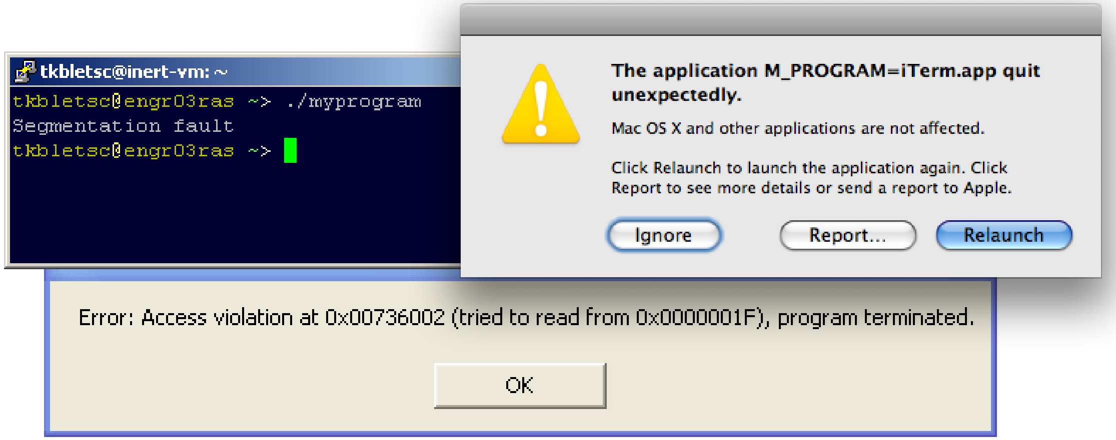
Totally weird behavior



Silent corruption & bad results



Program crash with OS error



Pointer summary

- **Memory is linear**, all the variables live at an address
  - Variable declarations reserve a range of memory space
- You can get the address of any variable with the **address-of operator &**

```
int x;   printf("%p\n",&x);
```

- You can **declare a pointer** with the **dereference operator * ** appended to a type:

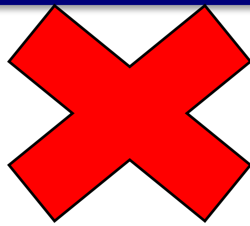
```
int* p = &x;
```

- You can find the data at a memory address with the **dereference operator *** prepended to a pointer expression:

```
printf("%d\n",*p);
```

- Arrays in C are just pointers to a chunk of memory
- Don't screw up

Pass by Value vs. Pass by Reference



```
void swap (int x, int y){
  int temp = x;
  x = y;
  y = temp;
}
int main() {
  int a = 3;
  int b = 4;
  swap(a, b);
  printf(“a = %d, b= %d\n”, a, b);
}
```

```
void swap (int *x, int *y){
  int temp = *x;
  *x = *y;
  *y = temp;
}
int main() {
  int a = 3;
  int b = 4;
  swap(&a, &b);
  printf(“a = %d, b= %d\n”, a, b);
}
```

C Memory Allocation

- How do you allocate an object in Java?
- What do you do when you are finished with object?

- JVM provides garbage collection
  - Counts references to objects, when refs== 0 can reuse

- C does not have garbage collection
  - Must explicitly manage memory

C Memory Allocation

DIFFERENT from Java!

- `void* malloc(nbytes)`
  - Obtain storage for your data (like `new` in Java)
  - Often use `sizeof(type)` built-in returns bytes needed for `type`
  - `int* my_ptr = (int*) malloc(64);   // 64 bytes = 16 ints`
  - `int* my_ptr = (int*) malloc(64*sizeof(int)); // 64 ints`

- `free(ptr)`
  - Return the storage when you are finished (no Java equivalent)
  - `ptr` must be a value previously returned from malloc

C Memory Allocation

DIFFERENT from Java!

- `void* calloc(num, sz)`
  - Like malloc, but reserves num*sz bytes, and initializes the memory to zeroes
- `void* realloc(ptr, sz)`
  - Grows or shrinks allocated memory
    - `ptr` must be dynamically allocated
    - Growing memory doesn't initialize new bytes
    - Memory shrinks in place
    - Memory may NOT grow in place
      - If not enough space, will move to new location and copy contents
      - Old memory is freed
      - Update all pointers!!!
  - Usage: `ptr = realloc(ptr, new_size);`

Memory management examples

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int main() {
    // kind of silly, but let's malloc a single int
    int* one_integer = (int*) malloc(sizeof(int));
    *one_integer = 5;

    // allocating 10 integers worth of space.
    int* many_integers = (int*) malloc(10 * sizeof(int));
    many_integers[2] = 99;

    // using calloc over malloc will pre-initialize all values to 0
    float* many_floats = (float*) calloc(10, sizeof(float));
    many_floats[4] = 1.21;

    // double the allocation of this array
    many_floats = (float*) realloc(many_floats, 20*sizeof(float));
    many_floats[15] = 6.626070040e-34;

    free(one_integer);
    free(many_integers);
    free(many_floats);
}
```

Pointers to Structs

```
struct student_rec {
       int id;
       float grade;
};
struct student_rec* my_ptr = malloc(sizeof(struct student_rec));
// ptr to a student_rec struct
```

To access members of this struct via the pointer:

```
       (*my_ptr).id = 3;   // not my_ptr.id
       my_ptr->id = 3;     // not my_ptr.id
       my_ptr->grade = 2.3;    // not my_ptr.grade
```

Example: Linked List

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
struct entry {
     int id;
     struct entry* next;
};
int main() {
  struct entry *head, *ptr;
  head=(struct entry*)malloc(sizeof(struct entry));
  head->id = 66;
  //head->next = NULL;

  ptr = (struct entry*)malloc(sizeof(struct entry));
  ptr->id = 23;
  ptr->next = NULL;

  head->next = ptr;

  printf("head id: %d, next id: %d\n", head->id, head->next->id);

  ptr = head;
  head = ptr->next;

  printf("head id: %d, next id: %d\n", head->id, ptr->id);

  free(head);
  free(ptr);
}
```

Source Level Debugging

- Symbolic debugging lets you single step through program, and modify/examine variables while program executes

- On the Linux platform: `gdb`

- Source-level debuggers built into most IDEs

Gdb

- To start:

  $ **gdb ./myprog**

- To run:

  (gdb) **run** ***arguments***

```
-bash
tkb13@reliant:~ $ gdb ./myprog
GNU gdb (Ubuntu 7.11.1-0ubuntu1~16.5) 7.11.1
Copyright (C) 2016 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
License GPLv3+: GNU GPL version 3 or later <http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>
This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.  Type "show copying"
and "show warranty" for details.
This GDB was configured as "x86_64-linux-gnu".
Type "show configuration" for configuration details.
For bug reporting instructions, please see:
<http://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/bugs/>.
Find the GDB manual and other documentation resources online at:
<http://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/documentation/>.
For help, type "help".
Type "apropos word" to search for commands related to "word"...
Reading symbols from ./myprog...done.
(gdb) run
Starting program: /home/tkb13/myprog
5
6
[Inferior 1 (process 74213) exited normally]
(gdb)
```

gdb commands

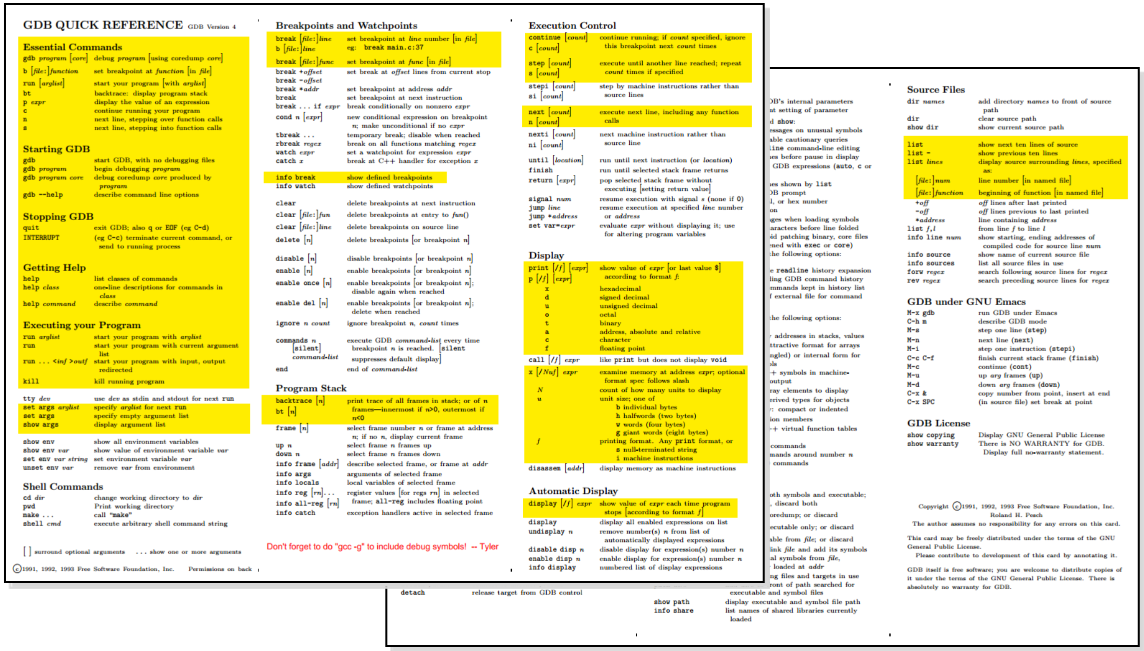
list <line> **list <function>** **list <line>,<line>**	list (show) 10 lines of code at specified location in program List from first line to last line
run	start running the program
continue **step** **next**	continue execution single step execution, including into functions that are called single step over function calls
print <var> **printf “fmt”, <var>** **display <var>** **undisplay <var>**	show variable value show variable each time execution stops

gdb commands

break <line> **break <function>** **break <line> if <cond>**	set breakpoints (including conditional breakpoints)
info breakpoints **delete breakpoint <n>**	list, and delete, breakpoints
set <var> <expr>	set variable to a value
backtrace full **bt**	show the call stack & args arguments and local variables

gdb quick reference card

- GDB Quick Reference.pdf – print it!
  - Also available annotated by me with most important commands for a beginner:
    GDB Quick Reference - annotated.pdf



Valgrind: detect memory errors

- Can run apps with a **process monitor** to *try to* detect illegal memory activity and memory leaks

```
tkb13@login-teer-15:~ $ cat memleak.c
#include <stdlib.h>
void f() {
        char* p = (char*) malloc(20);
}

int main() {
        char* c = (char*) malloc(10);
        f();
}

tkb13@login-teer-15:~ $ valgrind --leak-check=yes ./memleak
==17572== Memcheck, a memory error detector
==17572== Copyright (C) 2002-2012, and GNU GPL'd, by Julian Seward et al.
==17572== Using Valgrind-3.8.1 and LibVEX; rerun with -h for copyright info
==17572== Command: ./memleak
==17572==
==17572==
==17572== HEAP SUMMARY:
==17572==     in use at exit: 30 bytes in 2 blocks
==17572==   total heap usage: 2 allocs, 0 frees, 30 bytes allocated
==17572==
==17572== 10 bytes in 1 blocks are definitely lost in loss record 1 of 2
==17572==    at 0x4A06A2E: malloc (vg_replace_malloc.c:270)
==17572==    by 0x4005CD: main (memleak.c:7)
==17572==
==17572== 20 bytes in 1 blocks are definitely lost in loss record 2 of 2
==17572==    at 0x4A06A2E: malloc (vg_replace_malloc.c:270)
==17572==    by 0x4005B5: f() (memleak.c:3)
==17572==    by 0x4005D6: main (memleak.c:8)
==17572==
==17572== LEAK SUMMARY:
==17572==    definitely lost: 30 bytes in 2 blocks
==17572==    indirectly lost: 0 bytes in 0 blocks
==17572==      possibly lost: 0 bytes in 0 blocks
==17572==    still reachable: 0 bytes in 0 blocks
==17572==         suppressed: 0 bytes in 0 blocks
==17572==
==17572== For counts of detected and suppressed errors, rerun with: -v
==17572== ERROR SUMMARY: 2 errors from 2 contexts (suppressed: 6 from 6)
tkb13@login-teer-15:~ $
```

C Resources

- MIT Open Course
- Courseware from Dr. Bletsch's NCSU course on C (linked from course page)
- Video snippets by Prof. Drew Hilton (Duke ECE/CS)
  - Doesn't work with Firefox (use Safari or Chrome)

Outline

- Previously:
  - Computer is machine that does what we tell it to do
- Next:
  - How do we tell computers what to do?
    - First a quick intro to C programming
  - How do we represent data?
  - What is memory, and what are these so-called addresses?