CMSC 106
Introduction to C Programming

Instructor: Jan Plane
Fall, 2010
Sections 0101 and 0102

The Course Logistics

- Course Syllabus
  - check webpage
    http://www.cs.umd.edu/class/fall2010/cmsc106
- Tips for Success
  - Attend all classes and lab sections
  - Start assignments early
  - Get help early if you are having trouble
  - Study every day
    - it doesn't work to cram for these exams
    - ask questions as soon as you realize you are confused
    - Study Groups - but not on most projects
  - Check announcements on course web-page every day
Important things to learn:

- The C programming language:
  - Types of data and ways of storing data.
  - C language constructs used to perform calculations and manipulate data.
- Problem-solving
- Program debugging

Computer Organization

- Hardware: physical parts of computer
  - Monitor, mouse, keyboard
  - Chips, boards
  - Cables, cards
  - etc.
- Software: non-physical (“logical”) parts of computer
  - Programs = instructions for computer to perform
Hardware Overview

- **CPU** = central processing unit
  - Executes the "instructions" in programs
- **Main memory** = random-access memory = "RAM"
  - Stores data that CPU accesses, including instructions
  - FAST, but temporary; wiped out when computer is shut off!
- **Secondary memory**: Hard disks, CDs, DVDs, flash memory, etc.
  - Stores data that can be loaded into main memory
  - SLOWER, but permanent
- **I/O devices**
  - How you communicate with your machine
  - Keyboard, monitor, mouse, speakers, etc.
- **Networking equipment**
  - How others communicate with your machine
  - Networking "cards", cables, etc.

Main Memory

- Computer data consists of off and on pieces (often written as 0’s and 1’s)
- **bit**: A single cell in main memory that can hold either a 0 or 1
- **byte**: A sequence of 8 bits
- **word**: Smallest unit of addressable memory (often a sequence of 4 bytes)
- **Main memory**: table of bytes indexed by "addresses"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Byte value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10011101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>00111001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>11111101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>11000100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How Many Different Values in a...

- Bit?
  - 2
- Two bits?
  - $4 = 2 \times 2$
- Byte?
  - $256 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 2^8$
- Word?
  - $4,294,967,296 = 2^{32}$

How Are Characters, Etc., Represented?

Via *encoding schemes*

Example: ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange)

- Standard for encoding character values as bytes
- In ASCII:
  - ‘A’ 01000001
  - ‘a’ 01100001
  - ‘,’ 00101100
  - etc.

There are other character encoding schemes also: Shift-JIS, Unicode, etc.
Other Standard Terminology

- 1 KB = 1 “kilobyte” = $2^{10}$ bytes = 1,024 bytes
- 1 MB = 1 “megabyte” = $2^{10}$ KB = 1,024 KB
- 1 GB = 1 “gigabyte” = $2^{10}$ MB = 1,024 MB

Software Overview

1. **Operating system**: manages computer’s resources; typically runs as soon as computer is turned on. Typical responsibilities:
   - *Process management*
     Determines when, how programs will run on CPU time
   - *Memory management*
     Controls access to main
   - *I/O, window system, network control*
     Performs low-level drawing, communication operations
   - *Security*
     Manages user IDs, passwords, file protections, etc.

2. **Applications**: programs users interact directly with; usually are explicitly run. Examples:
   - Word processors
   - Games
   - Spreadsheets
   - Music software,
   - Etc
How Programs Are Executed

| Program “foo” initially stored in secondary storage | Program copied into main memory | CPU executes program instruction-by-instruction |

Two Levels of Software

- **System Software**
  - controls hardware
  - user can give commands
  - UNIX, Windows, OS-X

- **Applications Software**
  - does something specific to accomplish a task
Programming Languages

- Used to write programs that run on computers

Generations of programming languages
- 1\textsuperscript{st} (1GL): machine code
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} (2GL): assembly code
- 3\textsuperscript{rd} (3GL): procedural languages

1\textsuperscript{st} Generation: Machine Code

- Recall: computer data is 0’s and 1’s.
- In machine code, so are programs!
  - Program: sequence of instructions
  - Machine code: instructions consist of 0’s and 1’s
- Next slide: example machine code instruction from MIPS (= “Microprocessor without interlocked pipeline stages”) architecture
  - Popular in mid-, late 90s
  - Instructions are 4 bytes long
Example MIPS Instruction

“Add data in addresses 1, 2, store result in address 6”:
00000000001000100011000000100000???

Programming in 1GLs

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2nd Generation: Assembly

- Problem with 1GLs: Who can remember those opcodes, addresses, etc. as 0’s, 1’s?
- Solution (1950s): assembly language
  - Use *mnemonics* = descriptive character strings for opcodes
  - Let programmers give descriptive names to addresses
- MIPS example revisited:
  \[
  \text{add } \$1, \$2, \$6
  \]
  instead of \[00000000001000100011000000100000\]
  for “add contents of addresses 1, 2, store result in 6”

Assemblers

- Computers still only work on machine code (1GL)
- Assembly language is not machine code
- *Assemblers* are programs that convert assembly language to machine code (= “object code”)
3rd Generation: Procedural Languages

- Problems with 2GLs
  - Platform dependency
    - Different kinds (architectures) of computers use different instruction formats
      - E.g. x86, Pentium, 68K, MIPS, SPARC, etc.
    - 1GL / 2GL programs written for one kind of machine will not work on another
  - Low level: programs difficult to understand
- Solution (60s -- now): procedural languages
  - Higher-level, “universal” constructs
  - Examples: Fortran, Cobol, Pascal, C, C++, Java, C#

Compilers

- Computers can only execute machine code
- Compilers are programs for translating 3GL programs (“source code”) into machine code
Algorithms

- An algorithm is a set of ordered steps solving a problem
  - steps – tell what needs to be done
  - order – tells which step gets done when
- A program implements an algorithm in a particular programming language.
- Pseudo code = used to describe an algorithm independent of a programming language
  - enough detail to tell exactly what needs to be done
  - no detail about the specific programming language that would be used for the implementation

Software Development Process

- Understand the problem and design a solution
- type in some code
- compile it
- run it
- compare it to expected results
Programming Errors

- Types of Errors
  - Syntax Errors
    - violates languages grammar
    - compiler warns about these
    - Eclipse puts red squiggles under the offending code
  - Semantic/Logic Errors
    - program doesn't work properly
    - run-time errors = crash or hang
    - can be more subtle (harder to find)

- Debugging
  - process of finding and fixing problems
  - to minimize debugging frustration – use “unit” testing
    - write a small part, thoroughly test it, cycle back