Functions: Part 1 of 3

CMSC 104, Spring 2014 Christopher S. Marron

(thanks to John Park for slides)







Topics

- Using Predefined Functions
- Programmer-Defined Functions
- Using Input Parameters
- Function Header Comments

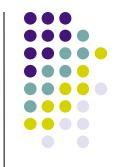
Reading

Review of Structured Programming



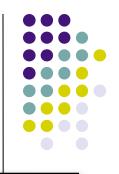
- Structured programming is a problem solving strategy and a programming methodology that includes the following guidelines:
 - The program uses only the sequence, selection, and repetition control structures.
 - The flow of control in the program should be as simple as possible.
 - The construction of a program embodies topdown design.





- Involves repeatedly decomposing a problem into smaller problems
- Eventually leads to a collection of small problems or tasks each of which can be easily coded
- The function construct in C is used to write code for these small, simple problems.





- A C program is made up of one or more functions, one of which is main().
- Execution always begins with main(), no matter where it is placed in the program. By convention, main() is located before all other functions.
- When program control encounters a function name, the function is called (invoked).
 - Program control passes to the function.
 - The function is executed.
 - Control is passed back to the calling function.





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

this is a string we are **passing** as an **argument** (**parameter**) to the printf function





- We have used several predefined functions:
 - printf
 - scanf
 - getchar
 - sqrt
 - sin
- Programmers can write their own functions.
- Typically, each module in a program's design hierarchy chart is implemented as a function.

Sample Programmer-Defined Function



```
#include <stdio.h>
void PrintMessage ( void ) ;
int main ()
   PrintMessage ();
   return 0;
void PrintMessage ( void )
   printf ("A message for you:\n\n");
   printf ("Have a nice day!\n");
```





```
#include <stdio.h>
void PrintMessage (void); function prototype
int main ()
  PrintMessage ();
                                     function call
  return 0;
void PrintMessage ( void )
                                     function header
  printf ("A message for you:\n\n");
                                                     function
   printf ("Have a nice day!\n");
                                                     body
```

function definition





Even though this comes first, we'll describe this last...





- Passes program control to the function
- Must match the prototype in name, number of arguments, and types of arguments

```
void PrintMessage (void);
int main () same name no arguments
{
     PrintMessage ();
     return 0;
}
```





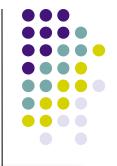
 Control is passed to the function by the function call. The statements within the function body will then be executed.

```
void PrintMessage ( void )
{
    printf ("A message for you:\n\n");
    printf ("Have a nice day!\n");
}
```

 After the statements in the function have completed, control is passed back to the calling function, in this case main().

Note that the calling function does not have to be main().





 (Now, we're ready for this) It informs the compiler that there will be a function defined later that:



 Needed because the function call is made before the definition -- the compiler uses it to see if the call is made properly

General Function Definition Syntax



```
type functionName ( parameter<sub>1</sub>, . . . , parameter<sub>n</sub> )
{
   variable declaration(s)
   statement(s)
}
```

- If there are no parameters, either functionName() OR functionName(void) is acceptable.
- There may be no variable declarations.
- If the function type (return type) is void, a return statement is not required, but the following are permitted:

```
return; OR return();
```





```
void PrintMessage (int counter);
int main ()
   int num;
   printf ("Enter an integer: ");
   scanf ("%d", &num);
   PrintMessage (num); <
                                one argument matches the one formal parameter
   return 0;
                                of type int
                                                 of type int
void PrintMessage (int counter)
   int i;
   for (i = 0; i < counter; i++)
      printf ("Have a nice day!\n");
```





```
#include <stdio.h>
void PrintMessage (int counter) ;
int main ()
  int num; /* number of times to print message */
   printf ("Enter an integer: ") ;
   scanf ("%d", &num);
   PrintMessage (num) ;
   return 0;
```



Final "Clean" C Code (con't)

```
** PrintMessage - prints a message a specified number of times
** Inputs: counter - the number of times the message will be
**
                  printed
  Outputs: None
             ***********************
void PrintMessage ( int counter )
  int i; /* loop counter */
  for ( i = 0; i < counter; i++)
     printf ("Have a nice day!\n");
```





- Notice the function header comment before the definition of function PrintMessage.
- This is a good practice and is required by the 104 C Coding Standards.
- Your header comments should be neatly formatted and contain the following information:
 - function name
 - function description (what it does)
 - a list of any input parameters and their meanings
 - a list of any output parameters and their meanings
 - a description of any special conditions