

Introduction to C

To Be a Master Programmer

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Course Recap

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 - ▶ Header file
 - ▶ Makefile

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 - ▶ Makefile
- ▶ Pointers and arrays
 - ▶ `int *p = &x;`
 - ▶ `int a[10];`
 - ▶ `int *p = (int *) malloc(n * sizeof(int));`
 - ▶ Array names are constant while pointers are usually variables.

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 - ▶ `pthread`
- ▶ All these can be done with?
 - ▶ The compiler: `gcc`

Start with Hello World

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main()
{
    printf("Hello World\n");
    return 0;
}
```

Master Programmer vs. Beginner

Can you answer the following question?

- ▶ Why do programs need to be compiled before execution?

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- ▶ What does “`#include <stdio.h>`” mean? Why we need to include it? What is a C library and how is it implemented?
- ▶ Do codes compiled by different compilers (gcc, Microsoft VC) on different machines (x86, ARM) look the same? Why?

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- ▶ How does our “Hello World” run? How does the operating system load it? Where does it start execution? Where does it end execution? What happens before main function? What happens after main function?

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- ▶ How is “printf” implemented? Why it can have variable-length argument list? Why it can output characters to the terminal?
- ▶ What does “Hello World” look like in the memory?

What Happens?

```
$gcc hello.c -o hello  
$./hello
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```

GCC does this 4 steps automatically for you:

- ▶ Preprocessing
- ▶ Compilation
- ▶ Assembly
- ▶ Linking

Preprocessing

- ▶ Remove all `#define` and expand all macros
- ▶ Process all `#if`, `#ifdef`, `#ifndef`, `#elif`, `#else`, `#endif`
- ▶ Process `#include` **recursively**
- ▶ Remove all comments (`/**`, `/* ... */`)
- ▶ Add line number and file name identification, for example, `#2 "hello.c"` 2, to help compiler output debugging information
- ▶ Retain all `#program` because the compiler needs them.

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- ▶ Retain all `#program` because the compiler needs them.

```
$gcc -E hello.c -o hello.i
```

Compilation

- ▶ Scanner: Lexical analysis
- ▶ Parser: Syntactical analysis
- ▶ Semantic analysis
- ▶ Optimization

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```
$gcc -S hello.i -o hello.s
```

- ▶ Convert assembly code to machine code

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```
$as hello.s -o hello.o
```

```
or
```

```
$gcc -c hello.s -o hello.o
```

Linking

- ▶ Why do we need linking?
- ▶ Why doesn't the assembler output an executable file rather than an object file?
- ▶ What happens when linking?

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- ▶ Why doesn't the assembler output an executable file rather than a object file?
- ▶ What happens when linking?

```
$ld -static /usr/lib/crt1.o /usr/lib/crti.o  
/usr/lib/gcc/i486-linux-gnu/4.1.3/crtbeginT.o  
-L/usr/lib/gcc/i486-linux-gnu/4.1.3 -L/usr/lib -L/lib hello.o --start-group  
-lgcc -lgcc_eh -lc --end-group /usr/lib/gcc/i486-linux-gnu/4.1.3/crtend.o  
/usr/lib/crtn.o
```

Static Linking

- ▶ Routines, external functions and variables which are resolved in a caller at **compile-time**
- ▶ Advantages

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- ▶ Routines, external functions and variables which are resolved in a caller at **compile-time**
- ▶ Advantages
 - ▶ Application can be certain that all its libraries are present and that they are the correct version.
 - ▶ No dependency problem.
 - ▶ In some cases, static linking can have performance gain.
 - ▶ Allows the application to be contained in a single executable file, simplifying distribution and installation.

Example

a.c

```
extern int shared;

int main()
{
    int a = 100;
    swap(&a, &shared);
}
```

b.c

```
int shared = 1;

void swap(int *a, int *b)
{
    *a ^= *b ^= *a ^= *b;
}
```

Example

a.c

```
extern int shared;

int main()
{
    int a = 100;
    swap(&a, &shared);
}
```

b.c

```
int shared = 1;

void swap(int *a, int *b)
{
    *a ^= *b ^= *a ^= *b;
}
```

```
$gcc -c a.c b.c
```

Using ld

```
$ld a.o b.o -e main -o ab
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$ld a.o b.o -e main -o ab
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- ▶ -e main: Use “main” as the main point of execution
- ▶ -o ab: output a file named “ab”

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- ▶ -e main: Use “main” as the main point of execution
- ▶ -o ab: output a file named “ab”

```
$objdump -h a.o
```

```
$objdump -h b.o
```

```
$objdump -h ab
```

Dynamic Linking

- ▶ Loading the subroutines of a library at **load time** or **runtime**
- ▶ Advantage

Dynamic Linking

- ▶ Loading the subroutines of a library at **load time** or **runtime**
- ▶ Advantage
 - ▶ Shared code. Only one copy of the code
 - ▶ Can change library (for example, upgrade the latest library) without recompiling the code
- ▶ But you need to set `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` manually.

Example

program1.c

```
#include "myprinting.h"

int main()
{
    foobar(1);
    return 0;
}
```

program2.c

```
#include "myprinting.h"

int main()
{
    foobar(2);
    return 0;
}
```

Example

myprinting.c

```
#include <stdio.h>

void foobar(int i)
{
    printf("Printing from lib.so %d\n", i);
}
```

myprinting.h

```
#ifndef __MYPRINTING_H
#define __MYPRINTING_H

void foobar(int i);

#endif
```

Example

myprinting.c

```
#include <stdio.h>

void foobar(int i)
{
    printf("Printing from lib.so %d\n", i);
}
```

myprinting.h

```
#ifndef __MYPRINTING_H
#define __MYPRINTING_H

void foobar(int i);

#endif
```

```
$gcc -fPIC -shared -o libmyprinting.so myprinting.c
```

What Happens?

- ▶ -shared: output a shared object
- ▶ -fPIC: output a platform-independent code

What Happens?

- ▶ `-shared`: output a shared object
- ▶ `-fPIC`: output a platform-independent code

```
$gcc -o program1 program1.c ./libmyprinting.so
```

```
$gcc -o program2 program2.c ./libmyprinting.so
```

More GCC Options

Makefile

```
CC:=gcc
OPTIONS:=-shared -fPIC -O3 -funroll-loops
INCLUDE_PATH:=-I./lib/imagelib -I./lib/matrix
LIB_PATH:=-L./lib

PROJECT_LIBS:=-limage.x64 -ljpeg -lgfortran

SRC_DIR:=src
DST_DIR:=bin

default:
    $(CC) $(OPTIONS) $(INCLUDE_PATH) $(LIB_PATH) \
    $(SRC_DIR)/*.c -o $(DST_DIR)/libmyproject.so $(PROJECT_LIBS)
```