CS262 Lecture 03 Chapter 4 Functions

Zoran Duric

Department of Computer Science



array

- very similar to java but there are some important differences
- int tmp[3];
- int tmp[3]= $\{0,0,0\}$;
- const int tmp[]={0,0,0};
- tmp is a pointer to the first element of the array
- cannot use variable to define the size of the array
 - ex: you cannot say: int x=10; double tmp[x];
 - this won't compile, but you can say:
 - #define x 10, then double tmp[x];

char array (string)

- c has no string (class)
- a string is simply a "char array" with the last element being null ('\0')
- ex:
 - char msg[]="hello\n";



- char msg[7]="hello\n"; //size 7 or larger

function

- call-by-value
 - the arguments are local variables whose values are copied from the callers
 - each function call allocates all these local variables which are placed on the top of the call stack
 - ex: long ans=fib(n); //in ex4.c
 - variable n in main function and variable n in fib function are different variables even though they have the same value.
 - ex: void swap(int a, int b); //won;t work
 - void swap(int * a, int * b); //need to use pointers

function

- Since array variables are pointers so:
 - char A[]="GMU", B[]="UMD";
 - swap(A,B); //call by value
 - void swap(int X[], int Y[]){...}
 - X will have address A
 - Y will have address B
- java is also "call-by-value" and "references" (i.e. pointers) are passed when arguments are objects
 - so, java does have pointers (references), but you cannot manipulate them

- scopes
 - life span (global, local)
 - visibility (static, extern)
- Life span
 - variables outside all functions are global variables (has life span of the program)
 - variables inside a function is local to a function call (does not span different calls) unless "static" is used
 - int foo(){ static int x=0; printf("x=%d",x++); }
 - call foo multiple times will output different values

- see
 - static.c

- Visibility (for global variables)
 - similar to private, protected, public in java/c++
 - static means "only visible to the file contains that variable"
 - extern means "visible to the entire program"
 - this is default for all global variables

- see
 - longest-line-2.c
 - longest-line-3 (dir)

typedef and call-back functions

• see call-back.c

typedef and call-back functions

• see call-back.c

variadic functions

- a function that take arbitrary number of arguments
- ex:in c, it can have this prototype:
 - int foo(char * format, int size, ...);
 - there must be one fixed parameter
 - there is "..." to indicate the rest of variables
- macros in stdarg.h are used to retrieve the rest of arguments
- there is also variadic marco for the same purpose

variadic functions

• see varags-full.c