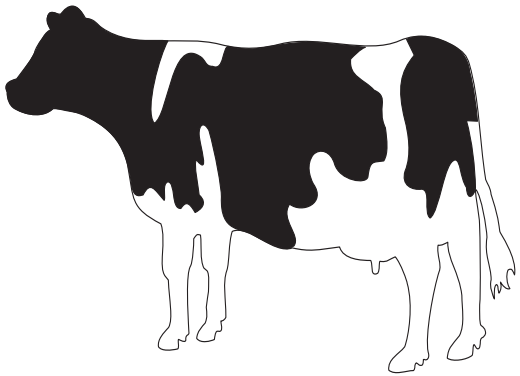
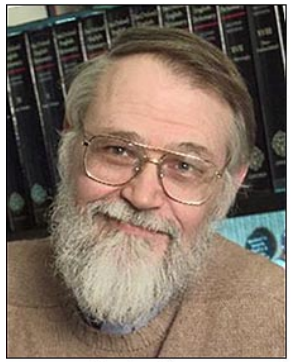
Week 2: Introduction to Programming in C
CS211: Programming and Operating Systems

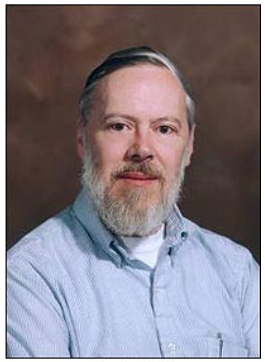
Niall Madden

Wednesday and Thursday, 17+18 Feb, 2021



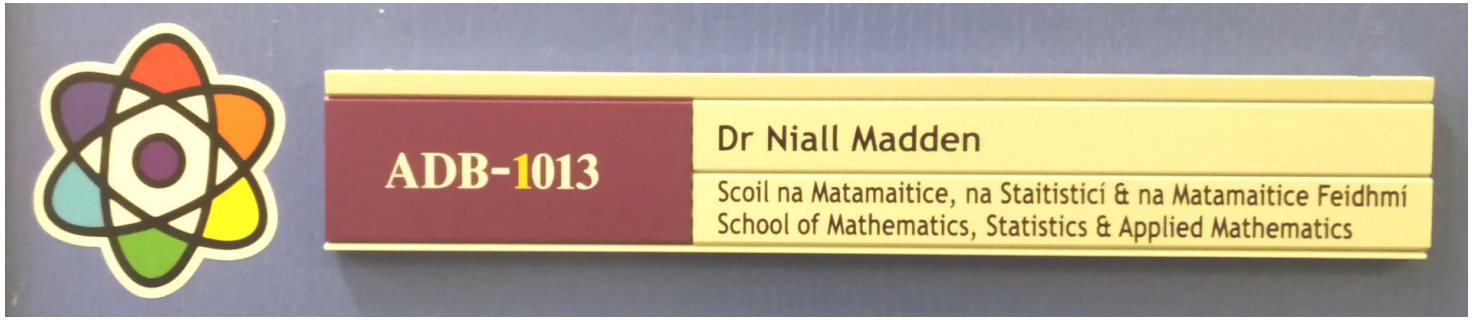


Brian Kernighan



Dennis Ritchie

Reminders CS211



Lecturer: Dr Niall Madden, School Mathematics, Statistics and Applied Mathematics (he/him).

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Always include "CS211" in the subject line of your message

This module will run “remotely” in its entirety. As this is the first (and, hopefully, last) time that will happen, we will adapt...
For now, the plan is

- We won’t distinguish between “lectures” and “labs”; and will call them all “classes”.
- There will be two classes per week, (probably) increasing to three from Week 3.
- For the first two weeks, classes will be similar to traditional lectures, but from Week 3, there will be more interactive lab-type sessions.
- ***All non-interactive parts will be recorded, and recordings will be made available the day after classes***.
- Recordings will be broken into chunks of 10-15 minutes, each corresponding to a “Part”, and published in “Videos” section.
- Slides will be made available separately.

Exercise (1.3 from last week)

Here is a meme I made for last week. Make one based on last weeks or this week's notes, and send it to me.

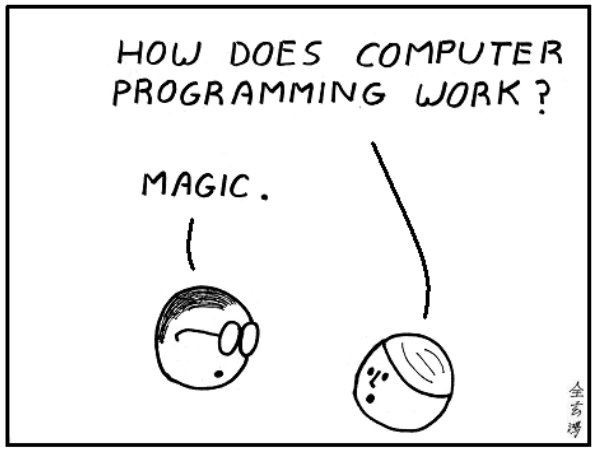
BTW, this is the best one so far (thanks, SB!).

Can you do as good?

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
9 – 10					
10 – 11					
11 – 12					
12 – 1					
1 – 2				✓	
2 – 3					
3 – 4			✓		
4 – 5					

This week's classes

1. Part 1: Introduction
   - A little history
   - Books and Compilers
   - Course Content (C part)
2. Part 2: Basic Structure
   - A simple example
   - A comment about comments
3. Part 3: Variables
   - Variable names
   - Printing the value of a variable
4. Part 4: Keywords and Operators
   - Keywords
   - Operators
   - Logic Operators
5. Exercise



Abstruse Goose: under the hood

[***Start of Week 02, Part 1***]

The first version of the UNIX operating system (from which many/most other modern systems evolved, including MacOS and GNU/Linux) was developed at Bell Labs in 1969 for a DEC PDP-7. It was written in ***assembly language***.

Assembly language is a low-level language that closely resembles a computers native *machine code instructions*.

Although not quite as obscure as machine code, each processor family had its own assembly language

It became apparent to the team at Bell Labs that, to develop the operating system further, it would have to be rewritten in a high level language.

Problem: there wasn't one available.

Solution: They wrote one: in 1972/73 the first C compiler was written.

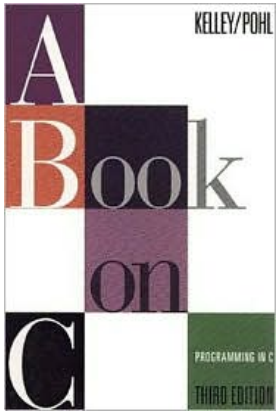
It's main goals were

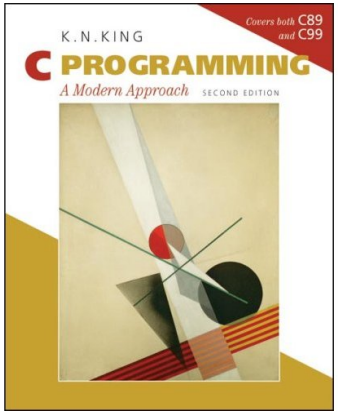
- to be suitable for developing operating systems,
- be portable: compilers should be available for different computers.

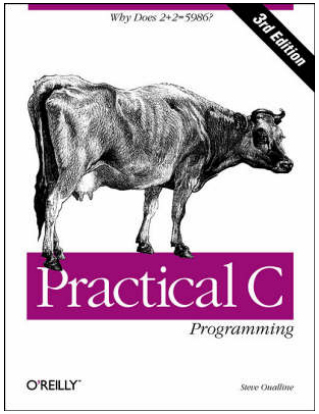
The C language has continued to be developed and refined, with the most recent (stable) standard released in 2017: called **C17**, it replaced C11 (actually just some fixes to C11, with no new features).

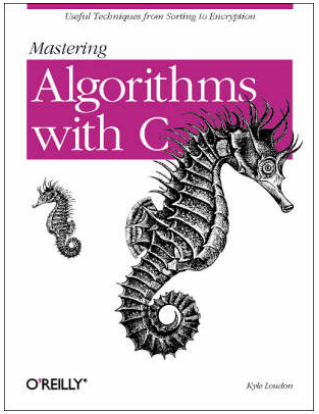
Many other languages are derived from C, or borrow heavily from its syntax, notably C++, Java, C#, PHP, Objective-C, Perl, Javascript.

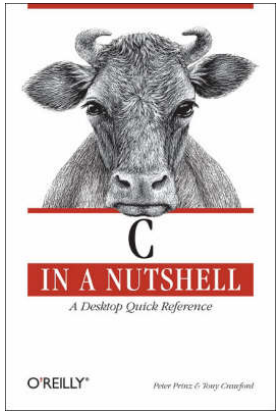
Get a good book on C. It doesn't really matter which book! I like











These are all in the library, but only "Practical C" is available online. (Some day soon I'll get the best chapters from the others scanned and added to the reading list...).

If you find some useful resource for learning C, please let me know, so that I can share with the rest of the class.

You'll also need some software to support your programming, usually:

- an IDE in which you write code;
- a **compiler** to make your code executable.

You can install these on your own computer. If doing so, I suggest `Code::Block`: `http://www.codeblocks.org/`, which is free and comprehensive (though some of the lab work we will do is OS-dependent).

Mainly, however, we will use some excellent online editors and compilers. I suggest

- `https://www.onlinegdb.com/online_c_compiler`
- `http://cpp.sh/`
- `https://www.codechef.com/ide`
- `www.tutorialspoint.com/compile_c_online.php`

In order to explore how operating systems work, you'll need to a good basic grasp of C. The basic components that we'll study are

1. Fundamentals of C, including
   - program structure
   - data types and variable declarations,
   - input/output,
   - arithmetic,
   - loops,
   - Flow of control (`if` statements), conditionals,
2. Functions.
3. File management and data streams.
4. Arrays, **pointers** and strings.
5. Dynamic memory management.
6. Abstract data types: Structures and Unions.

For the next two weeks we'll cover the fundamentals:

(i) Basic programming structure
(ii) Variables
(iii) Arithmetic
(iv) Basic output
(v) `for` loops
(vi) Basic input
(vii) `if` blocks
(viii) functions.

[***End of Week 02, Part 1***]

Part 2: Basic Structure

[***Start of Week 02, Part 2***]

Some important points about C:

- It is a ***compiled*** language, not an interpretive one. This means that we need a program, called the **compiler** to covert our human-readable source code into something our computer can interpret.
- It is a very **small** language; and relies heavily on external libraries that contain **function**s to achieve many important tasks, including input and output.
- But the compiler has to be told in advance how these functions should be used. So before the compilation process, the **preprocessor** is run to `include` the function descriptions that the programmer thinks are necessary.

Part 2: Basic Structure

- The code is then compiled into machine instructions (***object code***).
- The object code is ***linked*** with library functions to produce executable code.

01Hello.c ← link!

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
  int main(void )
3 {
      printf("Hello, World!\n");
5     return(0);
  }
```

Line 1: The first line begins with a # symbol. This is a "preprocessor directive".

It directs the compiler to include a header file (a.k.a., "dot h file") called `stdio.h`.

`stdio.h` is the **st**andar**d** **I**nput/**O**utput **h**eader file. It contains important information about the function `printf()`.

The angle brackets $<$ and $>$ means that the preprocessor should look in the "usual place" (varies between installations).

01Hello.c ← link!

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void )
{
    printf("Hello, World!\n");
    return(0);
}
```

Line 2: In C, almost everything is either

1. a preprocessor directive.
2. a variable, or variable declaration.
3. **a function**

The example is no different. Essentially, it is just a definition of the fundamental function `main()`. Here (and often), the function `main()` does not take any arguments, but returns an integer.

C is **case sensitive**, so `main` is different from `Main` is different from `MAIN`, etc.

01Hello.c ← link!

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void )
{
    printf("Hello, World!\n");
    return(0);
}
```

Lines 3 and 6: The definition of the `main()` function is encapsulated by "curly brackets": { and }

In C these are used to delimit various types of programme blocks.

01Hello.c ← link!

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void )
{
    printf("Hello, World!\n");
    return(0);
}
```

Line 4: The function `printf()` is used to send output to `stdout`. Everything between quotes is displayed. The `\n` is a "new line". These are not printed by default, so Line 4 above is equivalent to

```
    printf("World!");  printf("\n");
```

More about *printf* later....

Note that each (logical) line within a function is terminated by a semicolon.

01Hello.c ← link!

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
  int main(void )
3 {
      printf("Hello, World!\n");
5     return(0);
  }
```

Line 5: The `return` keyword specifies what value should be returned to the function that called it.

Here `main` is called by the Operating System, so in this instance it specifies what the program returns to the OS on exit.

The value `0` (zero) means “everything is OK”.

Any good program should have some documentation to explain to others

- why, when and by who it was written,
- how it works.

In C, there are two types of comments:

1. **block comments**; Starts with `/*` and ends with `*/`. Everything in between, including new lines, are ignored.
2. **single line comments**; Everything after `//` is ignored.

It is important to add comments to you code: your future self with thank you. But, where possible, make the code self-commenting, by using sensible names for identifiers.

[***End of Week 02, Part 2***]

Part 3: Variables

[***Start of Week 02, Part 3***]

Variables are used to temporarily store values (numerical, text, etc, ...) and refer to them by name, rather than value.

All variables must be defined before they can be used. That means, we need to tell the compiler before we use them.

Every variable should have a **type**; this tells use what sort of value will be stored in it.

The variables/data types we can define include

- Integers (positive or negative whole numbers), e.g.,

```
int i; i=-1;
int j=122;
int k = j+i;
```

  Note that one can initialize (i.e., assign a value to the variable for the first time) at the time of definition.

Part 3: Variables

- Floats – these are not whole numbers. They usually have a decimal places. E.g,

  ```
  float pi=3.1415;
  ```

- Characters – single alphabetic or numeric symbols, are defined using the `char` keyword:

  `char c;` or `char s='7';`

  Note that again we can choose to initialize the character at time of definition. Also, the character should be enclosed by single quotes.

- We can declare ***arrays*** or ***vectors*** as follows:

  ```
  int Fib[10];
  ```

  This declares a integer array called `Fib`. To access the first element, we refer to `Fib[0]`, to access the second: `Fib[1]`, and to refer to the last entry: `Fib[9]`.

- Note that in `C`, all vectors are indexed from `0`.

In C, a variable (or function) name can be made up of up to 52 characters long and include

- *Alphabetic characters*: `A`, `B`, ..., `Z`, `a`, `b`, ..., `z`
- *Numeric characters*: `0`, `1`, ..., `9`
- The underscore symbol: `_`

However,

- it must start with a letter or underscore.
- it cannot be a keyword (e.g., `for`, `if`, `return`).

To display the value stored in a variable, we use *printf*

02Variables.c

```
    int k=-101;
12  float f=1.23456;
    char c='a';
14  printf("Values of f, k, c are: %f, %d, %c\n",
            f, k ,c );
```

Explanation:

In this example, we use an **array**

Example (Using `printf`)

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void )
{
  int Fib[3];
  Fib[0]=1; Fib[1]=1;

  Fib[2]=Fib[0]+Fib[1];
  printf("Fib[2] = %d\n", Fib[2]);
  return(0);
}
```

Explanation:

- To print a line of text: `printf("Hello world");`
- To print some text followed by a new line:
  `printf("Hello world\n");`
  Here `\n` is an example of an "escape character". Others include `\t` for a horizontal tab and `\a` for an "alert", i.e., a beep.
- `%d` is a ***conversion character***. It means "treat the next variable as an integer". Other important ones include: `%c` (a character), `%f` (a float), `%s` (a sting – i.e., and array of characters).

[***End of Week 02, Part 3***]

[***End of Week 02, Part 4***]

In has a set of reserved **keywords**; they cannot be used as variable or function names:

`auto`	`double`	`int`	`struct`
`break`	`else`	`long`	`switch`
`case`	`enum`	`register`	`typedef`
`char`	`extern`	`return`	`union`
`const`	`float`	`short`	`unsigned`
`continue`	`for`	`signed`	`void`
`default`	`goto`	`sizeof`	`volatile`
`do`	`if`	`static`	`while`

Some “new” ones, which may be supported by old compilers, include

`restrict` `_Bool` `_Complex` `_Imaginary`

Operators come in **four** flavours: ***Arithmetic***, ***assignment*** ***relational*** and ***logical***.

Arithmetic Operators available in C include:

C Symbol	Definition	Example
+	addition	`c = a + b;`
-	subtraction	`c = a - b;`
*	multiplication	`c = a * b;`
/	division	`c = a / b;`
%	remainder	`c = a % b;`

Unlike Python, there isn't a built-in function for powers or truncating division.

The Assignment and Arithmetic-Assignment Operators are:

Symbol	Definition	Example
=	assignment	`a=b;`
++	increment	`a++;`
--	decrement	`a--;`
+=	increment and assignment	`a+=2;`
-=	increment and assignment	`a-=2;`
*=	increment and assignment	`a*=2;`
/=	increment and assignment	`a/=2;`
%=	increment and assignment	`a%=2;`

The following is legal, but not encouraged: `i=j=k=0` and is the same as `i = (j = (k = 0))`.

The operator ++ can be used in both ***prefix*** and post-fix form: in prefix form, the increment takes place before the value is used.

03Operators.c

```
int main(void)
{
  int i=1;
  printf("i++ = %d; ", i++);
  printf("++i = %d\n", ++i);
  i=1;
  printf("++i = %d; ", ++i);
  printf("i++ = %d\n", i++);
  return(0);
}
```

A **Relational Operator** tests if some relation holds between two quantities or variables, and evaluates as **true** or **false**.

C Symbol	Maths Symb	Definition
$<$ $<=$ $>$ $>=$		
$==$ $!=$		

These all evaluate as `0` for ***false*** or `1` for true.

04Logic.c

```c
// 04Logic.c; For CS211, Feb 2021. NM
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
  int i=1, j=2;
  printf("i=%d and j=%d\n", i, j);
  printf("i>j \t\t evaluates as %d\n", i>j);
  printf("++i >= j \t evaluates as %d\n", ++i>=j);

  return(0);
}
```

Relational operators can be combined into more complex operators, as follows.

C Symbol	Maths Symb	Definition
!		
&&		
||		

See also Exercise on Slide 36

[***End of Week 02***]

Exercise

Exercise (2.1)

*Suppose $x = 2$, $y = 3$ and $z = -5$. Write a C programme that check if the following statements are **true** or **false**.*

1. $(x > y) \vee (x < y)$.
2. $\big(x = (y - 1)\big) \wedge \big((y \leqslant x) \vee (y \leqslant z)\big)$.
3. $\neg(y \geqslant x - z) \vee (y \geqslant x + 1)$.