

## Input/Output and Standard C Library

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Lecture 06

BE5B99CPL – C Programming Language

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File Operations Character Oriented I/O Text Files Block Oriented I/O Non-Blocking I/O Terminal I/O

### Text vs Binary Files

- There is not significant difference between text and binary files from the machine processing perspective
- Text files are oriented to be a human readable
  - In text files, bytes represent characters
  - The content is usually organized into lines
    - Different markers for the *end-of-line* are used (1 or 2 bytes)
  - There can be a special marker for the *end-of-file* (Ctrl-Z)
    - It is from CP/M and later used in DOS. It is not widely used in Unix like systems.*
  - For parsing text files, we can use
    - Character oriented functions – `putchar()`, `getchar()`, `putc()`, `getc()`
    - Functions for formatted i/o – `printf()` and `scanf()` as shortcuts for the `fprintf()` and `fscanf()` with the `stdin` and `stdout` streams
    - Line oriented functions – `puts()`, `gets()` and variants `fputs()`, `fgets()`
- Text files can be considered as a sequence of bytes
  - Numeric values as text need to be parsed and formatted in writing
- Numbers in binary files may deal with byte ordering
  - E.g., ARM vs x86*

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### File Positioning

- Every stream has the cursor, i.e., an associated file position
- The position can be set using `offset` relatively to `whence`
- `int fseek(FILE *stream, long offset, int whence);`  
where `whence`
  - `SEEK_SET` – set the position from the beginning of file
  - `SEEK_CUR` – relatively to the current file position
  - `SEEK_END` – relatively to the end of file
- If the position is successfully set, `fseek()` returns 0
- `void rewind(FILE *stream);` sets the position to the beginning of file
- The position can be stored and set by the functions
 

```
int fgetpos(FILE * restrict stream, fpos_t * restrict pos);
int fsetpos(FILE *stream, const fpos_t *pos);
```

See `man fseek`, `man rewind`, etc

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## Overview of the Lecture

- Part 1 – Input and Output
  - File Operations
  - Character Oriented I/O
  - Text Files
  - Block Oriented I/O
  - Non-Blocking I/O
  - Terminal I/O
- Part 2 – Selected Standard Libraries
  - Standard library – Selected Functions
  - Error Handling

*K. N. King: chapters 22*

*K. N. King: chapters 21, 23, 24, 26, and 27*

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### File open

- Functions for input/output are defined in the standard library `<stdio.h>`
  - The file access is through using a pointer to a file (stream) `FILE*`
  - File can be opened using `fopen()`

```
FILE* fopen(const char * restrict path, const char * restrict mode);
```
  - Operations with the files are
    - Stream oriented – sequential reading/writing
      - The **current position in the file is like a cursor**
      - At the opening the file, the cursor is set to the beginning of the file
    - The mode of the file operations is specified in the `mode` parameter
      - "r" – reading from the file
        - The program (user) needs to have sufficient rights for reading from the file.*
      - "w" – writing to the file
        - A new file is created if it does not exist; otherwise the content of the file is cleared.*
      - "a" – append to the file – the cursor is set to the end of the file
      - The modes can be combined, e.g., "r+" open the file for reading and writing
- See `man fopen`

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### File Stream Modes

- Modes in the `fopen()` can be combined
 

```
FILE* fopen(const char * restrict path, const char * restrict mode);
```

  - "r" open for reading
  - "w" Open for writing (file is created if it does not exist)
  - "a" open for appending (set cursor to the end of file or create a new file if it does not exist)
  - "r+" open for reading and writing (starts at beginning)
  - "w+" open for reading and writing (truncate if file exists)
  - "a+" open for reading and writing (append if file exists)
- There are restrictions for the combined modes with "+"
  - We cannot switch from reading to writing without calling a file-positioning function or reaching the end of file
  - We cannot switch from writing to reading without calling `fflush()` or calling a file-positioning function.

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## Part I Input and Output

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### `fopen()`, `fclose()`, and `feof()`

- Test the file has been opened
 

```
1 char *fname = "file.txt";
2
3 if ((f = fopen(fname, "r")) == NULL) {
4     fprintf(stderr, "Error: open file '%s'\n", fname);
5 }
```
- Close file – `int fclose(FILE *stream);`

```
1 if (fclose(f) == EOF) {
2     fprintf(stderr, "Error: close file '%s'\n", fname);
3 }
```
- Test of reaching the end-of-file (EOF) – `int feof(FILE *stream);`

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### Temporary Files

- `FILE* tmpfile(void);` – creates a temporary file that exists until it is closed or the program exists
- `char* tmpnam(char *s);` – generates a name for a temporary file
  - If `s` is `NULL`, it creates a name and store it in a static variable and return a pointer to it
  - Otherwise it copies the string into the provided character array (`s`) and returns the pointer to the first character of the array

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## File Buffering

- int fflush(FILE \*stream); – flushes buffer for the given stream
  - fflush(NULL); – flushes all buffers (all output streams)
- Change the buffering mode, size, and location of the buffer
 

```
int setvbuf(FILE * restrict stream, char * restrict buf,
int mode, size_t size);
```

 The mode can be one of the following macros
  - \_IOFBF – full buffering. Data are read from the stream when buffer is empty and written to the stream when it is full
  - \_IOLBF – line buffering. Data are read or written from/to the stream one line at a time
  - \_IONBF – no buffer. Direct reading and writing without buffer

```
#define BUFFER_SIZE 512
char buffer[BUFFER_SIZE];

setvbuf(stream, buffer, _IOFBF, BUFFER_SIZE);
```
- void setbuf(FILE \* restrict stream, char \* restrict buf); – similar to setvbuf() but with default mode

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## Example – Copy using getc() and putc() 1/2

- Simple copy program based on reading bytes from stdin and writing them to stdout

```
1 int c;
2 int bytes = 0;
3 while ((c = getc(stdin)) != EOF) {
4     if (putc(c, stdout) == EOF) {
5         fprintf(stderr, "Error in putc");
6         break;
7     }
8     bytes += 1;
9 }
```

lec06/copy-getc\_putc.c

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## Formatted I/O – fscanf()

- int fscanf(FILE \*file, const char \*format, ...);
- It return number of read items, e.g., for the input
 

```
record 1 13.4
```
- The statement int r = fscanf(f, "%s %d %lf\n", str, &i, &d);
- sets (in the case of success) the variable r to the value 3
 

```
r == 3
```
- For reading strings, it is necessary to respect the size of the allocated memory, e.g., by using the limited length of the read string
 

```
char str[10];
int r = fscanf(f, "%9s %d %lf\n", str, &i, &d);
```

lec06/file\_scanf.c

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## Detecting End-of-File and Error Conditions

- Three possible errors can occur during reading data (e.g., fscanf)
  - End-of-file – we reach the end of file
    - Or, the stream is closed, e.g., stdin
  - Read error – the read function is unable to read data from the stream
  - Matching failure – the read data does not match the requested format
- Each stream (FILE\*) has two indicators:
  - error indicator – indicates that a read or write error occurs
  - end-of-file indicator – is set when the end of file is reached
- The indicators can be read (tested if the indicator is set or not) and clear the error and eof indicators
  - int ferror(FILE \*stream);
  - void clearerr(FILE \*stream);
  - int feof(FILE \*stream);

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## Example – Copy using getc() and putc() 2/2

- We can count the number of bytes and need time to copy the bytes
 

```
1 #include <sys/time.h>
2 ...
3
4 struct timeval t1, t2;
5 gettimeofday(&t1, NULL);
6
7 ... // copy the stdin -> stdout
8
9 gettimeofday(&t2, NULL);
10 double dt = t2.tv_sec - t1.tv_sec + ((t2.tv_usec - t1.tv_usec) / 1000000.0);
11 double mb = bytes / (1024 * 1024);
12 fprintf(stderr, "%.2lf MB/sec\n", mb / dt);
```
- Example of creating random file and using the program
 

```
clang -O2 copy-getc_putc.c
dd bs=512m count=1 if=/dev/random of=/tmp/rand1.dat
1+0 records in
1+0 records out
536870912 bytes transferred in 7.897227 secs (67982205 bytes/sec)
./a.out < /tmp/rand1.dat >/tmp/rand2.dat
326.10 MB/sec
```

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## Formatted I/O – fprintf()

- int fprintf(FILE \*file, const \*format, ...);
 

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    char *fname = argc > 1 ? argv[1] : "out.txt";
    FILE *f;
    if ((f = fopen(fname, "w")) == NULL) {
        fprintf(stderr, "Error: Open file '%s'\n", fname);
        return -1;
    }
    fprintf(f, "Program arguments argc: %d\n", argc);
    for (int i = 0; i < argc; ++i) {
        fprintf(f, "argv[%d]='%s'\n", i, argv[i]);
    }
    if (fclose(f) == EOF) {
        fprintf(stderr, "Error: Close file '%s'\n", fname);
        return -1;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

lec06/file\_printf.c

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## Reading and Writing Single Byte

- Basic function for reading from stdin and stdout are
  - getchar() and putchar()
  - Both function return int value, to indicate an error (EOF)
  - The written and read values are converted to unsigned char
- The variants of the function for the specific stream are
  - int getc(FILE \*stream); and int putc(int c, FILE \*stream);
  - getchar() is equivalent to getc(stdin)
  - putchar() is equivalent to putc() with the stdout stream
- Reading byte-by-byte (unsigned char) can be also used to read binary data, e.g., to construct 4 bytes length int from the four byte (char) values

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## Line Oriented I/O

- A whole (text) line get to be read by

```
char* gets(char *str);
char* fgets(char * restrict str, int size, FILE * restrict stream);
```

- gets() cannot be used securely due to lack of bounds checking
- A line can be written by fputs() and puts()
- puts() write the given string and a newline character to the stdout stream
- puts() and fputs() return a non-negative integer on success and EOF on error

See man fgets, man fputs

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## Block Read/Write

- We can use fread() and fwrite() to read/write a block of data

```
size_t fread(void * restrict ptr,
size_t size, size_t nmemb,
FILE * restrict stream);
```

```
size_t fwrite(const void * restrict ptr,
size_t size, size_t nmemb,
FILE * restrict stream);
```

Use const to indicate (ptr) is used only for reading

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## Standard Library

- The C programming language itself does not provide operations for input/output, more complex mathematical operations, nor:
    - string operations
    - dynamic allocation
    - run-time error handling
  - These and further functions are included in the standard library that is a part of the C compiler
    - Library – the compiled code is linked to the program, e.g., `libc.so`  
*Viz e.g., `ldd a.out`*
    - Header files contain function prototypes, types, macros, etc.
- [<assert.h>](#)   [<inttypes.h>](#)   [<signal.h>](#)   [<stdlib.h>](#)  
[<complex.h>](#)   [<iso646.h>](#)   [<stdarg.h>](#)   [<string.h>](#)  
[<ctype.h>](#)   [<limits.h>](#)   [<stdbool.h>](#)   [<tgmath.h>](#)  
[<errno.h>](#)   [<locale.h>](#)   [<stddef.h>](#)   [<time.h>](#)  
[<fenv.h>](#)   [<math.h>](#)   [<stdint.h>](#)   [<wchar.h>](#)  
[<float.h>](#)   [<setjmp.h>](#)   [<stdio.h>](#)   [<wctype.h>](#)

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Standard library – Selected Functions

Error Handling

## Mathematical Functions

- [<math.h>](#) – basic function for computing with “real” numbers
  - Root and power of floating point number `x`  
`double sqrt(double x); float sqrtf(float x);`
  - `double pow(double x, double y);` – power
  - `double atan2(double y, double x);` –  $\arctan y/x$  with quadrand determination
  - Symbolic constants – `M_PI`, `M_PI_2`, `M_PI_4`, etc.
    - `#define M_PI 3.14159265358979323846`
    - `#define M_PI_2 1.57079632679489661923`
    - `#define M_PI_4 0.78539816339744830962`
  - `isfinite()`, `isnan()`, `isless()`, ... – comparison of “real” numbers
  - `round()`, `ceil()`, `floor()` – rounding and assignment to integer
- [<complex.h>](#) – function for complex numbers *ISO C99*
- [<fenv.h>](#) – function for control rounding and representation according to IEEE 754.  
[man math](#)

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Standard library – Selected Functions

Error Handling

## Error handling

- Basic error codes are defined in [<errno.h>](#)
- These codes are used in standard library as indicators that are set in the global variable `errno` in a case of an error during the function call, e.g.,
  - If file open `fopen()` fails, it returns `NULL`, which does not provide the cause of the failure
- The cause of failure can be stored in the `errno` variable
- Text description of the numeric error codes are defined in [<string.h>](#)
  - String can be obtain by the function  
`char* strerror(int errnum);`

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## Standard library – Overview

- [<stdio.h>](#) – Input and output (including formatted)
  - [<stdlib.h>](#) – Math function, dynamic memory allocation, conversion of strings to number.
    - Sorting – `qsort()`
    - Searching – `bsearch()`
    - Random numbers – `rand()`
  - [<limits.h>](#) – Ranges of numeric types
  - [<math.h>](#) – Math functions
  - [<errno.h>](#) – Definition of the error values
  - [<assert.h>](#) – Handling runtime errors
- [<ctype.h>](#) – character classification, e.g., see [lec06/demo-getchar.c](#)  
[<string.h>](#) – Strings and memory transfers, i.e., `memcpy()`  
[<locale.h>](#) – Internationalization  
[<time.h>](#) – Date and time

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Standard library – Selected Functions

Error Handling

## Variable Arguments &lt;stdarg.h&gt;

- It allows writing a function with a variable number of arguments  
*Similarly as in the functions `printf()` and `scanf()`*
- The header file [<stdarg.h>](#) defines
  - Type `va_list` and macros
  - `void va_start(va_list ap, parmN);` – initiate `va_list`
  - `type va_arg(va_list ap, type);` – fetch next variable
  - `void va_end(va_list ap);` – cleanup before function return
  - `void va_copy(va_list dest, va_list src);`  
*`va_copy()` has been introduced in C99*
- We have to pass the number of arguments to the functions with variable number of arguments

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Standard library – Selected Functions

Error Handling

## Example – errno

- File open
 

```

1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <errno.h>
3 #include <string.h>
4
5 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
6     FILE *f = fopen("soubor.txt", "r");
7     if (f == NULL) {
8         int r = errno;
9         printf("Open file failed errno value %d\n", errno);
10        printf("String error '%s'\n", strerror(r));
11    }
12    return 0;
13 }

```

[lec06/errno.c](#)
- Program output if the file does not exist  
Open file failed errno value 2  
String error 'No such file or directory'
- Program output for an attempt to open a file without having sufficient access rights  
Open file failed errno value 13  
String error 'Permission denied'

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## Standard Library (POSIX)

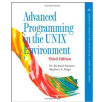
Relation to the operating system (OS)

*POSIX – Portable Operating System Interface*

- [<stdlib.h>](#) – Function calls and OS resources
- [<signal.h>](#) – Asynchronous events
- [<unistd.h>](#) – Processes, read/write files, ...
- [<pthread.h>](#) – Threads (POSIX Threads)
- [<threads.h>](#) – Standard thread library in C11



Advanced Programming in the UNIX Environment, 3rd edition, W. Richard Stevens, Stephen A. Rago Addison-Wesley, 2013, ISBN 978-0-321-63773-4



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Standard library – Selected Functions

Error Handling

## Example – Variable Arguments &lt;stdarg.h&gt;

```

1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdarg.h>
3
4 int even_numbers(int n, ...);
5 int main(void)
6 {
7     printf("Number of even numbers: %i\n", even_numbers(2, 1, 2));
8     printf("Number of even numbers: %i\n", even_numbers(4, 1, 3, 4, 5));
9     printf("Number of even numbers: %i\n", even_numbers(3, 2, 4, 6));
10    }
11
12 int even_numbers(int n, ...)
13 {
14     int c = 0;
15     va_list ap;
16     va_start(ap, n);
17     for (int i = 0; i < n; ++i) {
18         int v = va_arg(ap, int);
19         (v % 2 == 0) ? c += 1 : 0;
20     }
21     va_end(ap);
22     return c;
23 }

```

[lec06/demo-va\\_args.c](#)

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Standard library – Selected Functions

Error Handling

## Testing macro assert()

- We can add tests for particular value of the variables, for debugging
- Such test can be made by the macro `assert(expr)` from [<assert.h>](#)
- If `expr` is not logical 1 (`true`) the program is terminated and the particular line and the name of the source file is printed
- Macro includes particular code to the program  
*It provides a relatively straightforward way to evaluate and indicate possible errors, e.g., due to a wrong function argument.*
- We can disable the macro by definition of the macro `NDEBUG`  
[man assert](#)
- Example
 

```

#include <stdio.h>
#include <assert.h>

int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    assert(argc > 1);
    printf("program argc: %d\n", argc);
    return 0;
}

```

[lec06/assert.c](#)

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## Example of assert() Usage

- Compile the program the `assert()` macro and executing the program with/without program argument

```
clang assert.c -o assert
./assert
Assertion failed: (argc > 1), function main, file assert.c
, line 5.
zsh: abort      ./assert
./assert 2
start argc: 2
```

- Compile the program without the macro and executing it with/without program argument

```
clang -DNDEBUG assert.c -o assert
./assert
program start argc: 1
./assert 2
program start argc: 2
```

lec06/assert.c

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Standard library – Selected Functions

Error Handling

## Example – atexit(), abort(), and exit()

<pre>1 #include &lt;stdio.h&gt; 2 #include &lt;stdlib.h&gt; 3 #include &lt;string.h&gt; 4 5 void cleanup(void); 6 void last_word(void); 7 8 int main(void) 9 { 10     atexit(cleanup); // register function 11     atexit(last_word); // register function 12     const char *howToExit = getenv("HOW_TO_EXIT"); 13     if (howToExit &amp;&amp; strcmp(howToExit, "EXIT") == 0) { 14         printf("Force exit!\n"); 15         exit(EXIT_FAILURE); 16     } else if (howToExit &amp;&amp; strcmp(howToExit, "ABORT") == 0) { 17         printf("Force abort!\n"); 18         abort(); 19     } 20     printf("Normal exit!\n"); 21     return EXIT_SUCCESS; 22 } 23 24 void cleanup(void) 25 { 26     printf("Perform cleanup at the program exit!\n"); 27 } 28 29 void last_word(void) 30 { 31     printf("Bye, bye!\n"); 32 }</pre>	<p>■ Example of usage</p> <pre>clang demo-atexit.c -o atexit % ./atexit; echo \$? Normal exit Bye, bye! Perform cleanup at the program exit! 0 % HOW_TO_EXIT=EXIT ./atexit; echo \$? Force exit Bye, bye! Perform cleanup at the program exit! 1 % HOW_TO_EXIT=ABORT ./atexit; echo \$? Force abort zsh: abort HOW_TO_EXIT=ABORT ./atexit 134</pre>
--	---

lec06/demo-atexit.c

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## Long Jumps

- The `goto` statement can be used only within a function
- `<setjmp.h>` defines function `setjmp()` and `longjmp()` for jumps across functions
- `setjmp()` stores the actual state of the registers and if the function return non-zero value, the function `longjmp()` has been called
- During `longjmp()` call, the values of the registers are restored and the program continues the execution from the location of the `setjmp()` call

*We can use `setjmp()` and `longjmp()` to implement handling exceptional states similarly as `try-catch`*

```
1 #include <setjmp.h>          12 int compute(int x, int y) {
2 jmp_buf jb;                13     if (y == 0) {
3 int compute(int x, int y);  14         longjmp(jb, 1);
4 void error_handler(void);   15     } else {
5 if (setjmp(jb) == 0) {      16         x = (x + y * 2);
6     r = compute(x, y);      17         return (x / y);
7     return 0;               18     }
8 } else {                    19 }
9     error_handler();        20 void error_handler(void) {
10    return -1;               21     printf("Error\n");
11 }                            22 }
```

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Topics Discussed

## Summary of the Lecture

## Communication with the Environment – `<stdlib.h>`

- The header file `<stdlib.h>` defines standard program return values `EXIT_FAILURE` and `EXIT_SUCCESS`
- A value of the environment variable get be retrieved by the `getenv()`

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdlib.h>
3
4 int main(void)
5 {
6     printf("USER: %s\n", getenv("USER"));
7     printf("HOME: %s\n", getenv("HOME"));
8     return EXIT_SUCCESS;
9 }
```

lec06/demo-getenv.c

- `void exit(int status)`; – the program is terminated as it will be by calling `return(status)` in the `main()` function.
- We can register a function that will be called at the program exit by the `int atexit(void (*func)(void))`;
- The program can be aborted by calling `void abort(void)`, in this case, registered functions by the `atexit()` are not called

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Topics Discussed

## Topics Discussed

- I/O operations
  - File operations
  - Character oriented input/output
  - Text files
  - Block oriented input/output
  - Non-blocking input/output
  - Terminal input/output
- Selected functions of standard library
  - Overview of functions in standard C and POSIX libraries
  - Variable number of arguments
  - Error handling

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