

Formal Methods for C

Seminar – Summer Semester 2014

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- Comments
- Declarations and Scopes
  - Variables
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- Functions
  - Scopes
- Pointers
- Dynamic Storage & Storage Duration
- Storage Class Specifiers
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- Tools & Modules
- Formal Methods for C
- Common Errors

Function Pointers

Functions in the System's Memory

```
1 void f() { return; }
```

the compiler chose to store the machine code of 'f' at memory cell with address 0x1001

0x1000	0x1001	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
0x1000	RET	0x1002	0x1003	0x1004	0x1005	0x1006	0x1007	0x1008	0x1009
0x100A	0x100B	0x100C	0x100D	0x100E	0x100F	0x1010	0x1011	0x1012	0x1013
0x1014	0x1015	0x1016	0x1017	0x1018	0x1019	0x101A	0x101B	0x101C	0x101D
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Calling Functions

```
1 void f() { return; }
2 f();
```

Calling Functions

```
1 void f() { return; }
2 f();
```

calling 'f' means machine op CALL with address of callee (here f, address 0x1001)

0x1000	0x1001	0x1002	0x1003	0x1004	0x1005	0x1006	0x1007	0x1008	0x1009
0x100A	0x100B	RET	0x100C	0x100D	0x100E	0x100F	0x1010	0x1011	0x1012
0x1013	0x1014	CALL	0x10	0x01	0x015	0x018	0x01B	0x01C	0x01D
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

### A Pointer to 'f' (16-bit Architecture)

- 1 void f() { return; }
- 2 f();
- 3 void (\*p) () = &f;

- 2014-04 - pointers - 39/128

### A Pointer to 'f' (16-bit Architecture)

- 1 void f() { return; }
- 2 f();
- 3 void (\*p) () = &f;

'p' is a variable which stores the address of a function (here: of 'f')

- 2014-04 - pointers - 39/128

### Dereference Function Pointers

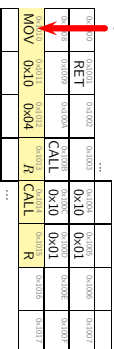
- 1 void f() { return; }
- 2 f();
- 3 void (\*p) () = &f;
- 4 (\*p)();

- 2014-04 - pointers - 40/128

### Dereference Function Pointers

- 1 void f() { return; }
- 2 f();
- 3 void (\*p) () = &f;
- 4 (\*p)();

calling via 'p' means read value of p (here: 0x1001) into register R...

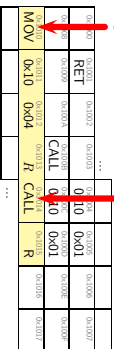


40/128

### Dereference Function Pointers

- 1 void f() { return; }
- 2 f();
- 3 void (\*p) () = &f;
- 4 (\*p)();

calling via 'p' means read value of p (here: 0x1001) into register R... and then machine op CALL with R, calls address stored in R



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### Pointers vs. Arrays

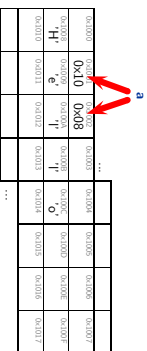
- 2014-04 - pointers - 41/128

### Arrays

reserve some space  
for 5 chars...

```
1 char a[5] = { 'H', 'e', 'l', 'l', 'o' };
```

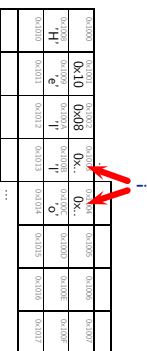
...and let a point  
to that space



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### Arrays

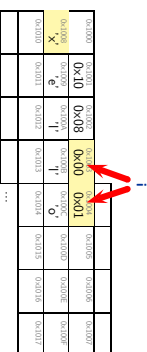
```
1 char a[5] = { 'H', 'e', 'l', 'l', 'o' };  
2 int i;  
3 for (i = 0; i < 5; ++i)  
4 a[i] = 'x';
```



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### Arrays

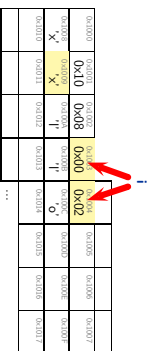
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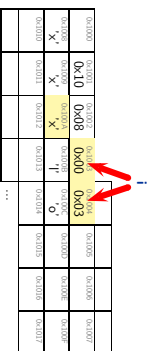
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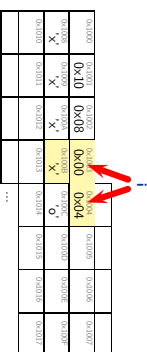
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43/25

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43/25



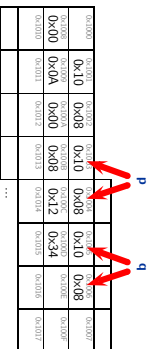




Pointers to 'void', Pointer Arithmetic

```

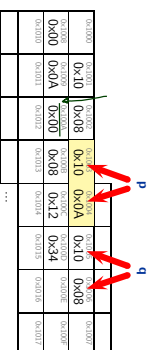
1 int[3] a = { 10, 010, 0x1234 };
2 int* p = a;
3 void* q = a;
4 for (int i = 0; i < 3; ++i) {
5     p++;
6     q++;
7 }
    
```



Pointer to 'void'

```

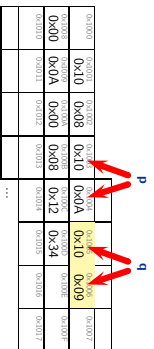
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Pointer to 'void'

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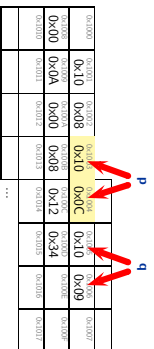
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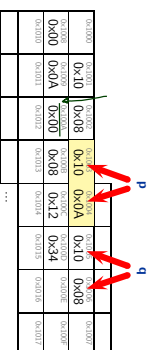
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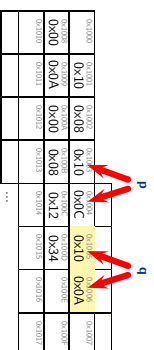
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Pointer to 'void'

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### Dynamic Storage Allocation

```

1 typedef struct Node {
2     char data; struct Node* next; } Node;
3 char data = 0, *hip;
4 Node *head = 0, *hip;
5 void insert(char d) {
6     Node* new_node = (Node*) malloc(sizeof(Node));
7     hip->data = d;
8     hip->next = head;
9     head = hip;
10 }
11
12
13 insert('C');
14 insert('B');
15 insert('A');

```

0x0000	0x00	0x00	0x10	0x13	0x0005	0x0006	0x0007
0x0000	0x00	0x00	0x10	0x13	0x0005	0x0006	0x0007
0x0000	0x00	0x00	0x10	0x13	0x0005	0x0006	0x0007
0x0000	0x0011	0x0010	0x0012	0x0014	0x0015	0x0016	0x0017
			0x...	0x...	0x...	0x...	0x...

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0x0000	0x00	0x00	0x10	0x13	0x0005	0x0006	0x0007
0x0000	0x00	0x00	0x10	0x13	0x0005	0x0006	0x0007
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			0x...	0x...	0x...	0x...	0x...

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0x0000	0x00	0x10	0x13	0x0005	0x0006	0x0007	
0x0000	0x00	0x00	0x00	0x00	0x00	0x00	
0x0000	0x0011	0x0010	0x0012	0x0014	0x0015	0x0016	0x0017
			0x0000	0x0000	0x0000	0x0000	0x0000

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0x0000	0x00	0x00	0x10	0x13	0x0005	0x0006	0x0007
0x0000	0x0011	0x0010	0x0012	0x0014	0x0015	0x0016	0x0017
			0x...	0x...	0x...	0x...	0x...

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0x0000	0x00	0x10	0x13	0x0005	0x0006	0x0007	...
0x0000	0x00	0x00	0x00	0x00	0x00	0x00	0x0000
0x0000	0x0011	0x0010	0x0012	0x0014	0x0015	0x0016	0x0017
			0x0000	0x0000	0x0000	0x0000	0x0000

data: 'C'  
next: 0x0000

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0x0000	0x00	0x00	0x10	0x13	0x0005	0x0006	0x0007
0x0000	0x00	0x00	0x10	0x13	0x0005	0x0006	0x0007
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			0x...	0x...	0x...	0x...	0x...

data: 'C'  
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```

data: 'C'  
next: 0x0000

0x0000	0x0000	...	0x0008	0x0008	0x0007
0x0000	0x0009	0x0013	0x010	0x008	0x0000
0x0000	Ok..	Ok..	Ok..	Ok..	Ok..
0x0000	0x0001	0x0002	0x000c	0x000c	0x000c
			C	0x000	0x000

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0x0000	0x0000	...	0x0008	0x0008	0x0007
0x0000	0x0009	0x0013	0x010	0x008	0x0000
0x0000	B'	0x010	0x013	0x000	0x000
0x0000	0x0001	0x0002	0x000c	0x000c	0x000c
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```

data: 'C'  
next: 0x0000

0x0000	0x0000	...	0x0008	0x0008	0x0007
0x0000	0x0009	0x0013	0x010	0x008	0x0000
0x0000	B'	0x010	0x013	0x000	0x000
0x0000	0x0001	0x0002	0x000c	0x000c	0x000c
			C	0x000	0x000

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```

data: 'B'  
next: 0x0013

data: 'C'  
next: 0x0000

0x0000	0x0000	...	0x0008	0x0008	0x0007
0x0000	0x0009	0x0013	0x010	0x008	0x0000
0x0000	B'	0x010	0x013	0x000	0x000
0x0000	0x0001	0x0002	0x000c	0x000c	0x000c
			C	0x000	0x000

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13 insert('C');
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```

data: 'B'  
next: 0x0013

data: 'C'  
next: 0x0000

0x0000	0x0000	...	0x0008	0x0008	0x0007
0x0000	0x0009	0x0013	0x010	0x008	0x0000
0x0000	B'	0x010	0x013	0x000	0x000
0x0000	0x0001	0x0002	0x000c	0x000c	0x000c
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data: 'B'  
next: 0x0013

data: 'C'  
next: 0x0000

0x0000	0x0000	...	0x0008	0x0008	0x0007
0x0000	0x0009	0x0013	0x010	0x008	0x0000
0x0000	B'	0x010	0x013	0x000	0x000
0x0000	0x0001	0x0002	0x000c	0x000c	0x000c
			C	0x000	0x000







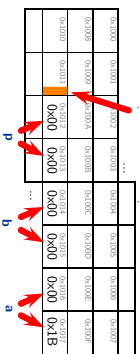
### Storage Duration "Automatic" (Simplified)

```

1 void h() { int y; y++; }
2 void g() { int x = 5; x++; }
3 int* f() { int c = 3; g(); h(); return &c; }
4
5 int a = 27, b, *p;
6 p = f();
7 b = *p;

```

stack pointer – stack ends at 0x1012 in this case; stack grows downwards (to smaller addr.)



65/128

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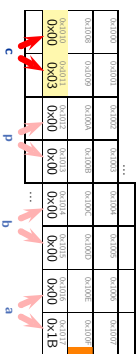
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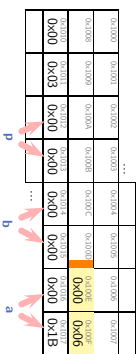
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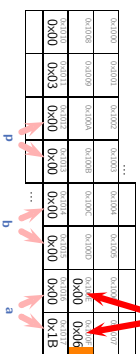
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```



x no longer alive!

65/128



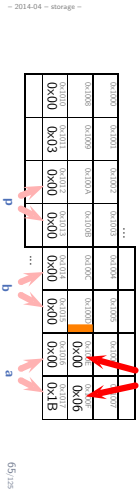
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```

(now) **y** – not explicitly initialised, thus initial value is indeterminate

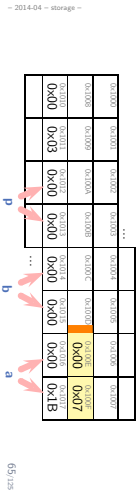


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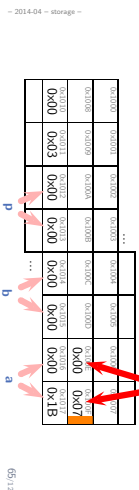
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```

**y** no longer alive!

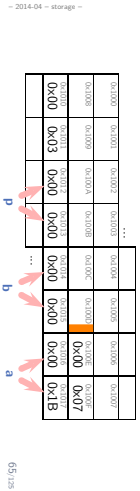


### Storage Duration "Automatic" (Simplified)

```

1 void h() { int y; y++; }
2 void g() { int x = 5; x++; }
3 int* f() { int c = 3; g(); h(); return &c; }
4
5 int a = 27, b, *p;
6 p = f();
7 b = *p;

```

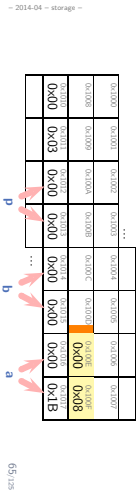


### Storage Duration "Automatic" (Simplified)

```

1 void h() { int y; y++; }
2 void g() { int x = 5; x++; }
3 int* f() { int c = 3; g(); h(); return &c; }
4
5 int a = 27, b, *p;
6 p = f();
7 b = *p;

```

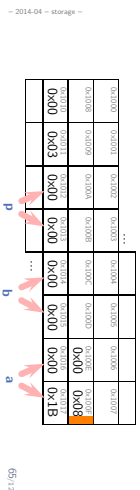


### Storage Duration "Automatic" (Simplified)

```

1 void h() { int y; y++; }
2 void g() { int x = 5; x++; }
3 int* f() { int c = 3; g(); h(); return &c; }
4
5 int a = 27, b, *p;
6 p = f();
7 b = *p;

```



### Storage Duration "Automatic" (Simplified)

```

1 void h() { int y; y++; }
2 void g() { int x = 5; x++; }
3 int* f() { int c = 3; g(); h(); return &c; }
4
5 int a = 27, b, *p;
6 p = f();
7 b = *p;
    
```



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## Storage Classes and Qualifiers

### Storage Duration "Automatic" (Simplified)

```

1 void h() { int y; y++; }
2 void g() { int x = 5; x++; }
3 int* f() { int c = 3; g(); h(); return &c; }
4
5 int a = 27, b, *p;
6 p = f();
7 b = *p;
    
```



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## Storage Class Specifiers (6.7.1)

### Storage Duration "Automatic" (Simplified)

```

1 void h() { int y; y++; }
2 void g() { int x = 5; x++; }
3 int* f() { int c = 3; g(); h(); return &c; }
4
5 int a = 27, b, *p;
6 p = f();
7 b = *p;
    
```



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p refers to a non-static object, the behavior is undefined (everything may happen, from crash to ignore).

### Storage Class Specifiers (6.7.1)

```

1 typedef char letter;
2
3 extern int x;
4 extern int f();
5
6 static int x; // two uses! (-> later)
7 static int f();
8
9 auto x; // "historic"
10
11 register y; // "historic"
12
    
```

### Storage Class Specifiers: *extern* (6.7.1)

```

1 // not _defined_ here, "imported" ...
2 //
3 extern int x;
4 extern void f();
5
6 // declared _and_ defined here, "exported" ...
7 //
8 int y;
9
10 int g() {
11     x = y = 27;
12     f();
13 }

```

- modules, linking (later)
- usually only *extern* in headers (later)

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### Storage Class Specifiers: *static* (6.7.1)

```

1 // declared _and_ defined here,
2 // _not_ "exported" ...
3 //
4 static int x;
5 static void g();
6
7
8 int f() {
9     static int a = 0;
10    a++;
11    printf("%s\n", a);
12 }
13
14 f(); f(); f(); // yields 1, 2, 3

```

2014-04 - modifiers -

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### Qualifiers (6.7.3)

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### Qualifiers (6.7.3)

```

1 int x;
2
3 const int y;
4
5 volatile int z;
6
7 int* restrict p; // aliasing
8
9
10 const volatile int a;

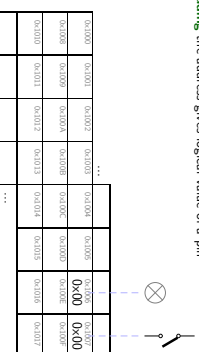
```

- “... lengthy (formal definition...)”
- “[...] If these requirements are not met, then the behavior is **undefined**.”
- use **extremely carefully** (i.e. if in doubt, not at all)

72/128

### Excursion: Memory Mapped IO

- Intuition:** some memory addresses are wired to hardware
- writing to the address causes a pin to change logical value
- reading the address gives logical value of a pin

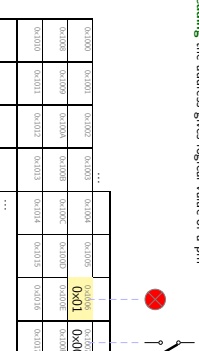


2014-04 - modifiers -

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### Excursion: Memory Mapped IO

- Intuition:** some memory addresses are wired to hardware
- writing to the address causes a pin to change logical value
- reading the address gives logical value of a pin



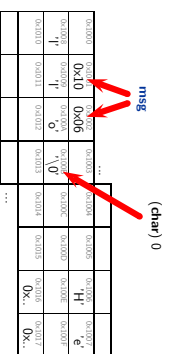
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## Strings are 0-Terminated char Arrays

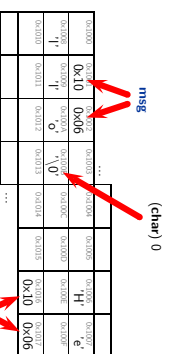
```
1 char* msg = "Hello";
2 char* str = msg;
```



7/128

## Strings are 0-Terminated char Arrays

```
1 char* msg = "Hello";
2 char* str = msg;
```



7/128

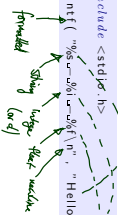
## String Manipulation (Annex B)

- # include <string.h>
- provides among others:
  - size\_t strlen( const char\* s )
  - [...] calculates length of string s, excluding the terminating null byte ('\0')
- int strcmp( const char\* s1, const char\* s2 )
- [...] compares the two strings s1 and s2. It returns an integer less than, equal to, or greater than zero if s1 is found, respectively, to be less than, to match, or be greater than s2.
- char\* strcpy( char\* s1, const char\* s2 )
- "The strcpy() function copies the string pointed to by s2, including the terminating null byte ('\0'), to the buffer pointed to by s1."
- char\* strncpy( char\* s1, const char\* s2, size\_t n )
- None of these functions allocates memory!
- Allocate and copy: (not C99, but POSIX)
  - char\* strdup( const char\* s )

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## Printing

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 printf( "%s\n", "Hello" );
3 printf( "%s\n", "Hello" );
```



## Input/Output

## Tools & Modules

## Hello, Again

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int g( int x ) { return x/2; }
4
5 int f() { return g(1); }
6
7 int main() {
8     printf( "Hello-World\n" );
9     return f();
10 }
```

```
• % gcc helloworld.c
• % ls
• a.out helloworld.c
• % ./a.out
• Hello World.
• %
```

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## Zoom In: Preprocessing, Compiling, Linking

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int g( int x ) { return x/2; }
4
5 int f() { return g(1); }
6
7 int main() {
8     printf( "Hello-World\n" );
9     return f();
10 }
```

```
• % gcc -E helloworld.c > helloworld.i
• % gcc -c -o helloworld.o helloworld.i
• % ld -o helloworld [...] helloworld.o [...]
• % ./helloworld
• Hello World.
• %
```

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## Modules

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 int g( int x ) {
3     return x/2;
4 }
5
6 int f() {
7     return g(1);
8 }
9
10 int main() {
11     printf( "Hello-World\n" );
12     return f();
13 }
14 )
```

```
- 2014-04 - tools -
- 100 - 40 - 100 -
• % gcc -c g.c f.c \
• helloworld.c
• % ls *.o
• f.o g.o helloworld.o
• % gcc g.o f.o helloworld.o
• % ./a.out
• Hello World.
• %
```

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## Modules

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int g( int x ) {
4     return x/2;
5 }
6
7 int f() {
8     return g(1);
9 }
10
11 int main() {
12     printf( "Hello-World\n" );
13     return f();
14 }
```

Split into:

- h (header): declarations
- c: definitions, use headers to "import" declarations

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## Modules

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int g( int x ) {
4     return x/2;
5 }
6
7 int f() {
8     return g(1);
9 }
10
11 int main() {
12     printf( "Hello-World\n" );
13     return f();
14 }
```

Split into:

- h (header): declarations
- c: definitions, use headers to "import" declarations

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## Modules At Work

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 int g( int x ) {
3     return x/2;
4 }
5
6 int f() {
7     return g(1);
8 }
9
10 int main() {
11     printf( "Hello-World\n" );
12     return f();
13 }
14 )
```

preprocess & compile:

```
• % gcc -c g.c f.c \
• helloworld.c
• % ls *.o
• f.o g.o helloworld.o
• % gcc g.o f.o helloworld.o
• % ./a.out
• Hello World.
• %
```

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## Modules At Work

```

g.h      f.h
1 #include <stdio.h>      1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #define GHI             2 #define FHI
3 #define GHI             3 #define FHI
4 extern int               4 extern int
5 #if int * >              5 #if int * >
6 #endif                   6 #endif
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17

```

```

g.c      f.c
1 #include "g.h"          1 #include "g.h"
2 #include "f.h"          2 #include "f.h"
3 int f(int x) {          3 int f(int x) {
4     return x/2;         4     return f(1);
5 }                       5 }
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17

```

```

helloWorld.c
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include "f.h"
3 int main() {
4     printf("Hi!\n");
5     return f();
6 }

```

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## Modules At Work

```

g.h      f.h
1 #include <stdio.h>      1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #define GHI             2 #define FHI
3 #define GHI             3 #define FHI
4 extern int               4 extern int
5 #if int * >              5 #if int * >
6 #endif                   6 #endif
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17

```

```

g.c      f.c
1 #include "g.h"          1 #include "g.h"
2 #include "f.h"          2 #include "f.h"
3 int f(int x) {          3 int f(int x) {
4     return x/2;         4     return f(1);
5 }                       5 }
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17

```

```

helloWorld.c
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include "f.h"
3 int main() {
4     printf("Hi!\n");
5     return f();
6 }

```

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## Preprocessing Directives (6.10)

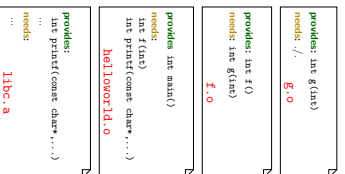
```

1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include "battery.h"
3
4 #define PI 3.1415
5
6 #define DEBUG
7 #ifdef DEBUG
8     printf("stderr: \"konk\n\"");
9 #endif
10
11 #if _GNUCC_ >= 3
12     #define __pure
13 #else
14     #define __pure /* no pure */
15 #endif
16
17 extern int f() __pure;

```

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## Linking



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## Preprocessing

```

helloWorld.c
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include "f.h"
3 int main() {
4     printf("HelloWorld\n");
5     return f();
6 }

```

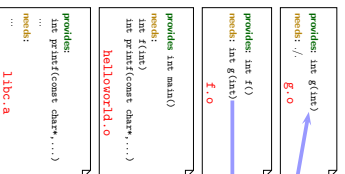
```

helloWorld.i
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include "f.h"
3 int main() {
4     printf("HelloWorld\n");
5     return f();
6 }

```

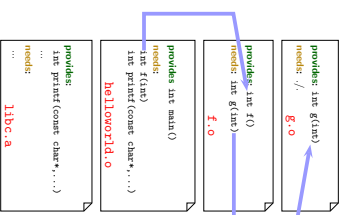
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## Linking



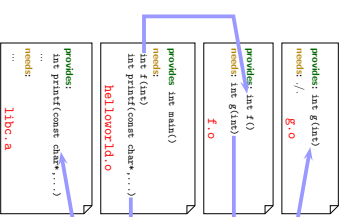
2014-04 - tools - 89/128

## Linking



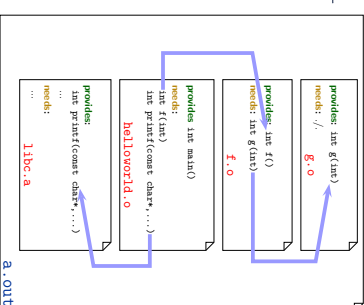
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## Linking



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## Linking



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## Compiler

**gcc** [OPTION]... infile...

- E** – preprocess only
  - c** – compile only, don't link
  - o outfile** – write output to outfile
  - g** – add debug information
  - W, -Wall, ...** – enable warnings
  - I dir** – add dir to library path for searching libraries
  - D macro[=defn]** – define macro (to defn)
  - l library** link against library (a,so), order matters
- Example: gcc a.o b.o main.o -lxy  
→ cf. man gcc

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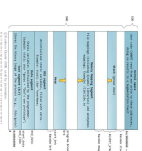
## gdb(l), ddd(l), mm(l), mcket(l)

- Command Line Debugger:**  
gdb a.out [core]
  - GUI Debugger:**  
ddd a.out [core]
- (works best with debugging information compiled in (gcc -g))
- Inspect Object Files:**  
mn a.o
  - Build Utility:**  
make
- See battery controller exercise for an example.

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## Core Dumps

- Recall:** Anatomy of a Linux Program in Memory
- Core dump:** (basically) this memory written to a file.

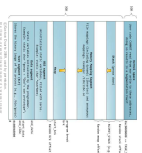


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## Core Dumps

- Recall: Anatomy of a Linux Program in Memory
- **Core dump**: (basically) this memory written to a file



```
1 int main() {
2     int *p;
3     *p = 27;
4     return 0;
5 }
```

```
1 % gcc -f core.c
2 coredumpctl ls
3 conditions: 0 bytes
4 % limit: coredumpsize 1g
5 % /a: out
6 % /a: out: fault (core dumped)
7 % /s: --
8 % /s: --: 1 user user 23K Feb 29 11:11 core
9 % /s: --: 1 user user 23K Feb 29 11:11 core
10 % /s: --: 1 user user 23K Feb 29 11:11 core
11 % /s: --: 1 user user 23K Feb 29 11:11 core
12 % /s: --: 1 user user 23K Feb 29 11:11 core
13 % /s: --: 1 user user 23K Feb 29 11:11 core
14 % /s: --: 1 user user 23K Feb 29 11:11 core
15 % /s: --: 1 user user 23K Feb 29 11:11 core
16 % /s: --: 1 user user 23K Feb 29 11:11 core
17 % /s: --: 1 user user 23K Feb 29 11:11 core
18 % /s: --: 1 user user 23K Feb 29 11:11 core
```

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## Formal Methods for C

### Correctness and Requirements

## Correctness

- Correctness is defined **with respect to a specification**.
- A program (function, ...) is **correct** (wrt. specification  $\varphi$ ) **if and only if** it satisfies  $\varphi$ .
- Definition of "satisfies": **in a minute**.

### Examples:

- $\varphi_1$ : the return value is 10 divided by parameter (if parameter not 0)
- $\varphi_2$ : the value of variable  $x$  is "always" strictly greater than 3
- $\varphi_3$ : the value of  $i$  increases in each loop iteration
- ...

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## Common Patterns

- **State Invariants**:  
"at this program point, the value of  $p$  must not be NULL."  
"at all program points, the value of  $p$  must not be NULL"  
(cf. **sequence points** (Amex C))
- **Data Invariants**:  
"the value of  $n$  must be the length of  $s$ ."
- **(Function) Pre/Post Conditions**:  
Pre-Condition: the parameter must not be 0  
Post-Condition: the return value is 10 divided by the parameter
- **Loop Invariants**:  
"the value of  $i$  is between 0 and array length minus 1"

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*Poor Man's Requirements Specification  
aka. How to Formalize Requirements in C?*

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## Diagnostics (7.2)

```
1 #include <assert.h>
2 void assert( /* scalar */ expression );
```

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```
1 #include <assert.h>
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```

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## Diagnostics (7.2)

```
1 #include <assert.h>
2 void assert( /* scalar */ expression );
```

2014-04 - assert -

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- "The assert macro puts diagnostic tests into programs: [...]"
- When it is executed, if *expression* (which shall have a scalar type) is false (that is, compares equal to 0), the assert macro
- writes information about the particular call that failed [...] on the standard error stream in an implementation-defined format.
  - It then calls the **abort** function."

- "The assert macro puts diagnostic tests into programs: [...]"
- When it is executed, if *expression* (which shall have a scalar type) is false (that is, compares equal to 0), the assert macro
- writes information about the particular call that failed [...] on the standard error stream in an implementation-defined format.
  - It then calls the **abort** function."

Pitfall:

- If macro `DEBUG` is defined when including `<assert.h>`, `expression` is not evaluated (thus should be side-effect free).

## abort (7.20.4.1)

```
1 #include <stdlib.h>
2
3 void abort();
```

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- "The abort function causes abnormal program termination to occur, unless [...]"
- [...] An implementation-defined form of the status unsuccessful termination is returned to the host environment by means of the function call `raise(SIGABRT)`."

(→ Core Dumps)

## Common Patterns with assert

- **State Invariants:**  
"at this program point, the value of *p* must not be NULL."  
"at all program points, the value of *p* must not be NULL."  
(cf. [sequence points](#) (Annex C))
- **Data Invariants:**  
"the value of *n* must be the length of *s*."
- **(Function) Pre/Post Conditions:**  
Pre-Condition: the parameter must not be 0  
Post-Condition: the return value is 10 divided by the parameter
- **Loop Invariants:**  
"the value of *i* is between 0 and array length minus 1"

2014-04 - assert -

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## State Invariants with <assert.h>

```
1 void f() {
2     int* p = (int*)malloc(sizeof(int));
3     if (!p)
4         return;
5     assert(p); // assume p is valid from here
6     // ...
7 }
8
9 void g() {
10    Node* p = find( 'a' );
11    assert(p); // we inserted 'a' before
12    // ...
13 }
14
15 }
```

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### Data Invariants with <asserth>

```
1 typedef struct {
2   char* s;
3   int n;
4 } str;
5
6 str* construct( char* s ) {
7   str* x = (str*)malloc( sizeof(str) );
8   // ...
9   assert( (x->s == NULL && x->n == -1)
10          || (x->n == strlen( x->s ) ) );
11 }
```

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### Pre/Post Conditions with <asserth>

```
1 int f( int x ) {
2   assert( x != 0 ); // pre-condition
3
4   int r = 10/x;
5
6   assert( r == 10/x ); // post-condition
7
8   return r;
9 }
```

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### Loop Invariants with <asserth>

```
1 void f( int a[], int n ) {
2   int i = 0;
3
4   // holds before the loop
5   assert( 0 <= i && i <= n );
6   assert( i < 1 || a[i-1] == 0 );
7
8   while ( i < n ) {
9     // holds before each iteration
10    assert( 0 <= i && i <= n );
11    assert( i < 1 || a[i-1] == 0 );
12
13    a[i++] = 0;
14  }
15  // holds after exiting the loop
16  assert( 0 <= i && i <= n );
17  assert( i < 1 || a[i-1] == 0 );
18
19  return;
20 }
```

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### Old Variables, Ghost Variables

```
1 void xorSwap( unsigned int* a, unsigned int* b ) {
2   #ifdef NDEBUG
3     unsigned int *old_a = a, *old_b = b;
4   #endif
5   assert( a && b ); assert( a != b ); // pre-condition
6
7   *a = *a + *b;
8   *b = *a - *b;
9   *a = *a - *b;
10
11   assert( *a == *old_b && *b == *old_a ); // post-con-
12   assert( a == old_a && b == old_b ); // ditto
13 }
```

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### Outlook

- Some verification tools simply verify for each assert statement: When executed, expression is not false.
- Some verification tools support sophisticated requirements specification languages like ACSL with explicit support for
  - pre/post conditions
  - ghost variables, old values
  - data invariants
  - loop invariants
  - ...

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### Dependable Verification (Jackson)

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## Dependability

- "The program has been verified." tells us

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## Dependability

- "The program has been verified." tells us **not very much**.

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## Dependability

- "The program has been verified." tells us **not very much**.
- One wants to know (and should state):

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## Dependability

- "The program has been verified." tells us **not very much**.
- One wants to know (and should state):
  - Which specifications have been considered?

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## Dependability

- "The program has been verified." tells us **not very much**.
- One wants to know (and should state):
  - Which specifications have been considered?
  - Under **which assumptions** was the verification conducted?
  - Platform assumptions: (finite words (size<sup>2</sup>), mathematical integers, ...)
  - Environment assumptions, input values, ...Assumptions are often implicit: "in the tool"!

– 2014-04 – assert –

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## Dependability

- "The program has been verified." tells us **not very much**.
- One wants to know (and should state):
  - Which specifications have been considered?
  - Under **which assumptions** was the verification conducted?
  - Platform assumptions: (finite words (size<sup>2</sup>), mathematical integers, ...)
  - Environment assumptions, input values, ...Assumptions are often implicit: "in the tool"!
  - And **what does verification mean** after all?
  - In some contexts: **testing**.
  - In some contexts: **review**.
  - In some contexts: **model-checking procedure**. ("We verified the program" – "What did the tool say?" – "Verification failed.")
  - In some contexts: **model-checking tool claims correctness**.

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## Distinguish

Most **generic errors** boil down to:

- specified but **unwanted behaviour**,  
e.g. under/overflows
- **initialisation issues**  
e.g. automatic block scope objects
- **unspecified behaviour** (J1)  
e.g. order of evaluation in some cases
- **undefined behaviour** (J2)
- **implementation defined behaviour** (J3)

## Conformance (4)

- "A program that is
  - correct in all other aspects,
  - operating on correct data,
  - containing **unspecified behaviour**shall be a correct program and act in accordance with 5.1.1.2.3. (Program Execution)
- A conforming program is one that is acceptable to a conforming implementation.
- Strictly conforming programs are intended to be maximally portable among conforming implementations.
- An implementation [of C, a compiler] shall be accompanied by a document that defines all implementation-defined and local-specific characteristics and all extensions.

## Common Errors

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## Over- and Underflows, Casting

- Not specific to C...

### Over- and Underflows

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```
1 void f( short a, int b ) {
2     a = b; // Spng 'ok', but...
3 }
4 short a; // provisioning, implicit cast
5 if (++a < 0) { /* no */ }
6 if (++i > MAXINT) {
7     /* no */ }
8
9
10
11
12 int e = 0;
13
14 void set-error() { e++; }
15 void clear-error() { e = 0; }
16
17 void g() { if (e) { /* ... */ } }
```

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### Initialisation (6.7.8)

## Initialisation (6.7.8)

- If an object that has automatic storage duration is not initialized explicitly, its value is indeterminate.

```
1 void f() {
2     int a;
3
4     printf( "%i\n", a ); // surprise...
5 }
```

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## Unspecified Behaviour (1.1)

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## Unspecified Behaviour (1.1)

Each implementation (of a compiler) documents how the choice is made.

### For example

- whether two string literals result in distinct arrays (6.4.5)
  - the order in which the function designator, arguments, and subexpressions within the arguments are evaluated in a function call (6.5.2.2)
  - the layout of storage for function parameters (6.9.1)
  - the result of rounding when the value is out of range (7.12.9.5, ...)
  - the order and contiguity of storage allocated by successive calls to malloc (7.20.3)
- etc. pp.

```
1 char a[] = "hello", b[] = "hello"; // a == b?
2
3 i = 0; f( ++i, ++i, ++i ); // f(1,2,3)?
4
5 int g() { int a, b; } // &a > &b ?
6
7 int* p = malloc( sizeof( int ) );
8 int* q = malloc( sizeof( int ) ); // q > p?
9
```

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## Undefined Behaviour (3.4.3)

"Behaviour, upon use of a non-portable or erroneous program construct or of erroneous data, for which this International Standard imposes no requirements."

### Possible undefined behaviour ranges from

- ignoring the situation completely with **unpredictable results**,
- to behaving during **translation or program execution** in a documented manner characteristic of the environment (with or without the issuance of a diagnostic message),
- to terminating a **translation or execution** (with the issuance of a diagnostic message)""

"An example of undefined behaviour is the behaviour on **integer overflow**."

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## Undefined Behaviour (1.2)

### More examples:

- an identifier [...] contains an invalid multibyte character (5.2.1.2)

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## Undefined Behaviour (1.2)

---

## Undefined Behaviour (1.2)

### More examples:

- an identifier [...] contains an invalid multibyte character (5.2.1.2)
- an object is referred to outside of its lifetime (6.2.4)
- the value of a pointer to an object whose lifetime has ended is used (6.2.4)

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## Undefined Behaviour (1.2)

### More examples:

- an identifier [...] contains an invalid multibyte character (5.2.1.2)
- an object is referred to outside of its lifetime (6.2.4)
- the value of a pointer to an object whose lifetime has ended is used (6.2.4)
- conversion to or from an integer type produces a value outside the range that can be represented (6.3.1.4)
- the program attempts to modify a string literal (6.4.5)

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- the value of the second operand of the / or % operator is zero (6.5.5)

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- the program removes the definition of a macro whose name begins with an underscore and either an uppercase letter or another underscore (7.1.3)

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- etc. pp.

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## Null-Pointer

```
1 int main() {
2     int *p;
3     *p = 27;
4     return 0;
5 }
```

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## Null-Pointer

```
1 int main() {
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```

- "An integer constant expression with the value 0, or such an expression cast to type `void*` is called a **null pointer constant**. [...]"
- "The macro **NULL** is defined in `<stddef.h>` (and other headers) as a null pointer constant; see 7.17."
- "Among the invalid values for dereferencing a pointer by the unary `*` operator are a null pointer. [...]" (0.5.3.2)

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## Segmentation Violation

```
1 int main() {
2     int *p = (int*)0x12345678;
3     *p = 27;
4     *(int*)((void*)p) + 1 = 13;
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6 }
7 }
```

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- Modern operating systems provide **memory protection**.
- Accessing memory which the process is not allowed to access is observed by the operating system.
- Typically an instance of "accessing an object outside its lifetime".
- **But:** other way round does not hold, accessing an object outside its lifetime does not imply a segmentation violation.

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- Typically an instance of "accessing an object outside its lifetime".
- **But:** other way round does not hold, accessing an object outside its lifetime does not imply a segmentation violation.
- Some platforms (e.g. SPARC) unaligned memory access, i.e. outside word boundaries, not supported by hardware ("bus error").
- Operating system notifies process, default handler: terminate, dump core.

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## Implementation-Defined Behaviour (1.3)

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## Implementation-Defined Behaviour (1.3)

"A conforming implementation is required to document its choice of behavior in each of the areas listed in this subclause. The following are implementation-defined:"

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### *Implementation-Defined Behaviour (J.3)*

"A conforming implementation is required to document its choice of behavior in each of the areas listed in this subclause. The following are implementation-defined:"

- J.3.2 Environment, e.g.
- The set of signals, their semantics, and their default handling (7.14)

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- J.3.3 Identifiers, e.g.
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- J.3.4 Characters, e.g.
- The number of bits in a byte (3.6)
- J.3.5 Integers, e.g.
- Any extended integer types that exist in the implementation (6.2.5)

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- J.3.6 Floating Point, e.g.
- The accuracy of the floating-point operations [...] (5.2.4.2.2)

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- The accuracy of the floating-point operations [...] (5.2.4.2.2)
- J.3.7 Arrays and Pointers, e.g.
- The result of converting a pointer to an integer or vice versa (6.3.2.3)

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- etc. pp.

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### *Locale and Common Extensions (J.4, J.5)*

- J.4 Locale-specific behaviour

- J.5 Common extensions

"The following extensions are widely used in many systems, but are not portable to all implementations."

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### *References*

[ISO, 1999] ISO (1999). Programming languages – C. Technical Report ISO/IEC 9899:1999, ISO. Second edition, 1999-12-01.

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