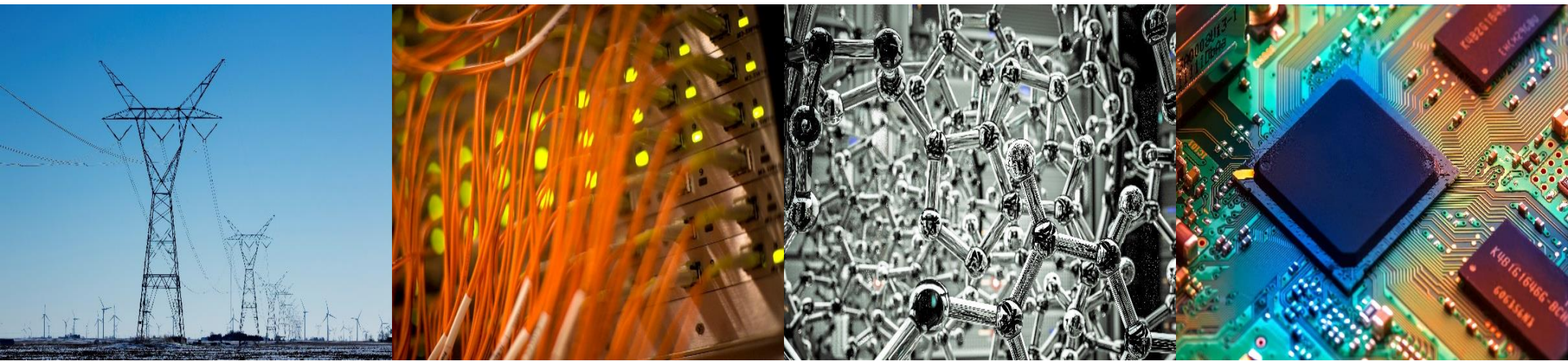


ECE 220 Computer Systems & Programming

Lecture 5 – Introduction to C

September 9, 2025



- Mock quiz (extra-credit) should be taken at CBTF this week
- Quiz1 (LC-3) is next Monday through Wednesday

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Electrical & Computer Engineering

GRAINGER COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

C – Higher Level Language

(top programming languages ranked by [IEEE Spectrum](#) and [Coursera](#))

Gives symbolic names to values

- don't need to know which register or memory location

Provides abstraction of underlying hardware

- operations do not depend on instruction set
- example: can write “`a = b * c;`”, even though LC-3 doesn't have a multiply instruction

Provides expressiveness

- use meaningful symbols that convey meaning
- simple expressions for common control patterns (if-then-else)

Enhances code readability

Safeguards against bugs

- can enforce rules or conditions at compile-time or run-time

Basic C Program

```
/*  
 * My first program in C. It will print the value of PI  
 * and then exit.  
 */  
#include <stdio.h>  
#define PI 3.1416f  
int main(){  
    float pi = PI;  
    printf("pi=%f\n", pi);  
    return 0;  
}
```

- a. Comment
- b. Preprocessor directives
- c. Main function
- d. Variable declaration (type, identifier, scope)
- e. I/O
- f. Return value
- g. Statement termination

Characteristics of C

C is a **procedural language**

- the program specifies an explicit sequence of steps to follow to produce a result; program is composed of functions (aka subroutines)

C programs are **compiled** rather than interpreted

- a compiler translates a C program into machine code that is directly executable on hardware
- interpreted programs (e.g. MATLAB) are executed by another program, called interpreter

C programs are **statically typed**

- the type of each expression is checked at compile time for type inconsistencies (e.g., `int x = 3.411;`)
 - What is the value of x in this case?

Compiling a C Program

Preprocessor

- macro substitution
- conditional compilation
- “source-level” transformations
 - output is still C

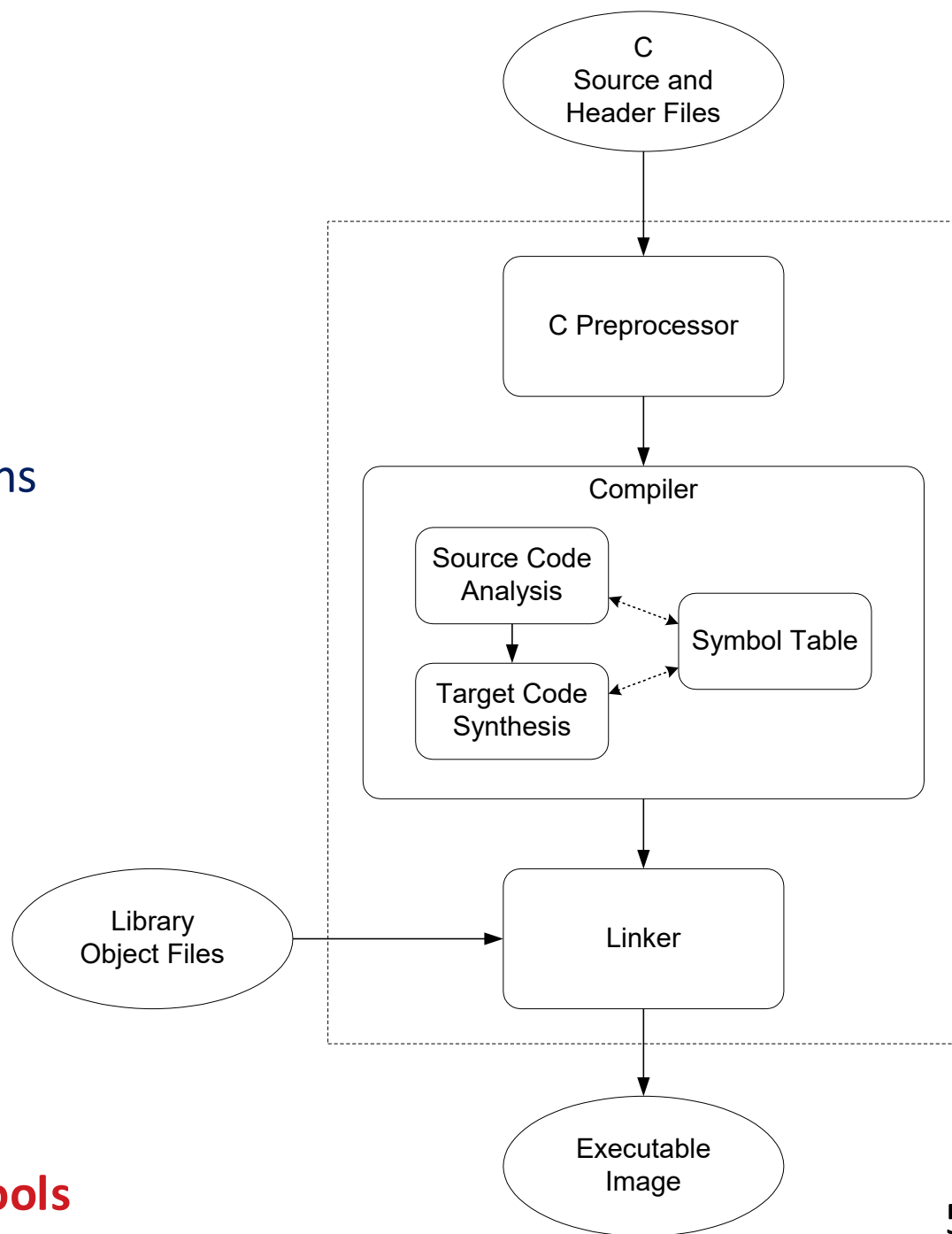
Compiler

- generates object file
 - machine instructions

Linker

- combine object files (including libraries) into executable image

✓ gcc compiler – invoke all these tools

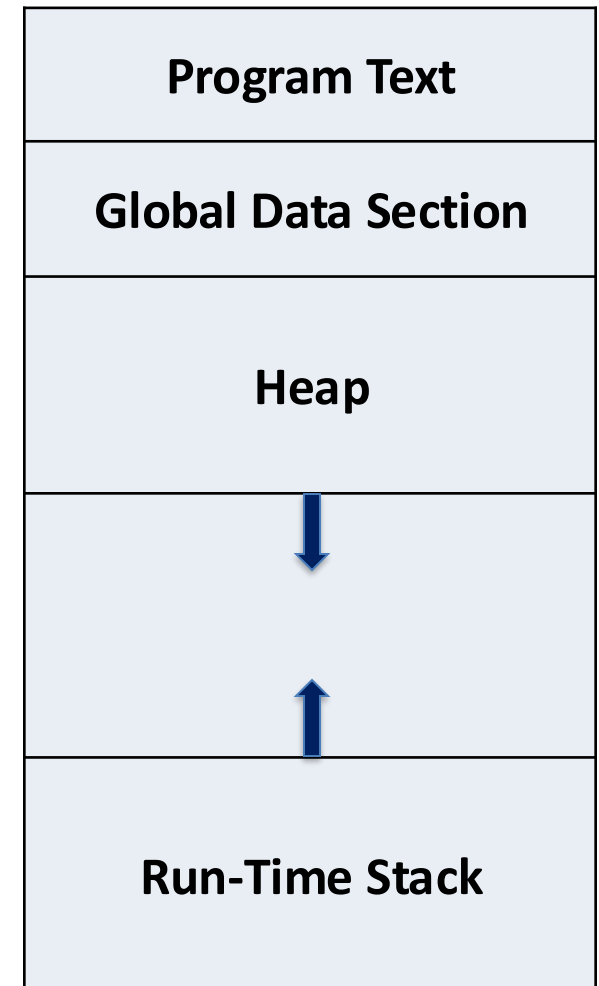


Variables in C

- **int** (long, long long, unsigned), can also use hex representation 0xD
- **float, double**
- **char**
- ❑ ***const*** (qualifier)
- ❑ ***static*** (qualifier)

Scope: local vs. global

Storage class: static vs. automatic



Operators in C

- Expression vs. Statement
- The Assignment Operator (=):
- '=' vs. '=='

- Arithmetic Operators:

- Order of evaluation:

precedence $x = 2 + 3 * 4 ;$

associativity $x = 2 + 3 - 4 + 5 ;$

parentheses $x = a * (b + c) * d / 2 ;$

- Logical Operators: _____
- Bitwise Operators: _____
- Relational Operators: _____

Operators in C (continued)

- Increment/Decrement Operators: ++, -- (pre vs. post)

example 1: `x = 4; y = ++x;`

example 2: `x = 4; y = x++;`

➤ What is the value of x and y after increment?

- Special operator (conditional):

`variable = condition ? value_if_true : value_if_false;`

example: `x = (y < z) ? 5 : 7;`

`/* if y < z, x = ____; otherwise, x = ____ */`

- Compound Assignment Operators:

`a += b;`  `a = a + b;`

- ❖ Expression with multiple operators → see Table 12.5 of textbook

Basic I/O

#include <stdio.h>

`/* header file for standard I/O */`

printf

`/*print to screen*/`

`printf("%d is a prime number", 43);`

`printf("43 + 59 in decimal is %d\n", 43+59);`

`printf("a+b=%f\n", a+b);`

`printf("%d+%d=%d\n", a, b, a+b);`

scanf

`/*get user input*/`

`scanf("%c", &nextchar);`

`scanf("%f", &radius);`

`scanf("%d %d", &length, &height);`

- Formatting option: %d, %x, %c, %s, %f, %lf, \n
- Use “**man**” to look up library functions

C Programming Exercise 1

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(){
/* declare integer variables x, y and z */

/* set x to 3, set y to x2 */

/* left shift y by x number of bits */

/* perform bitwise OR on x and y, store the result to z */

/* print z */

return 0;
}
```

C Programming Exercise 2

```
/*  
 * Write a C program to convert Fahrenheit to Celsius.  
 *  $C = (F-32) * 5/9$   
 */  
  
/* preprocessor directives */  
  
int main(){  
    /* declare variables (as float) for input and output */  
  
    /* prompt user to enter an input value for conversion */
```

```
/* get user input in Fahrenheit */  
  
/* calculate the output value in Celsius */  
  
/* print the result */  
  
/* return out */  
  
}
```