

ECE 220
Lecture x000E - 10/14

Slides based on material originally by: Yuting Chen & Thomas Moon

Recap

- Last week we discussed:
 - Recursion
 - Recursion & runtime stack
 - C to LC3
 - Recursion with backtracking
- Some problems we discussed:
 - Recursive binary search
 - Towers of Hanoi
 - Exiting a maze
 - N-queens problem

Today

- Deeper discussion on I/O in C
 - I/O with peripherals (keyboard & console)
 - I/O with files
- Exercises

Lesson objective

- Be able to understand and articulate the concept of (a) streams and (b) buffers and differentiate them from arrays.
- Identify and use standard input and output streams on *nix machines.
- Understand and use FILE pointers in C for reading/writing to disk.

Some concepts

- Concept of a *stream*
 - A sequence of bytes made available *over time*
 - An *abstraction* made to deal with objects/data whose size cannot be known beforehand & contents may not be *all* available
 - Different from arrays:
 - Arrays are finite in size, elements can be accessed in any order
 - Streams are potentially infinite; we only have access to the data seen till current time.

Ever thought where
does the word
streaming come
from?

Streams for I/O

- A *text stream* is for example:
 - the sequence of ASCII characters printed to the monitor by a single program
 - the sequence of ASCII characters entered by the user during a single program
 - the sequence of ASCII characters in a single file
- We can only access the the characters in the order they are provided

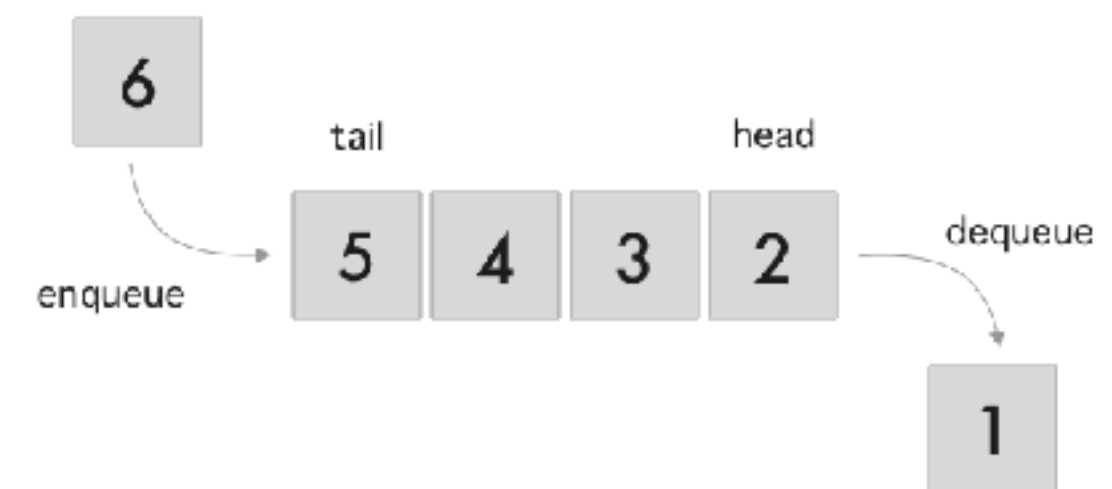
Streams for I/O: standard streams

- C has three standard streams available: `stdin`, `stdout`, `stderr`.
 - `stdin` maps from the keyboard to the program via the input *buffer*.
 - `stdout` and `stderr` maps from the program to the console via the output *buffer*.
- **Buffer:** an implementation of the **queue** abstract datatype to decouple the *producer* from the *consumer* - FIFO data structure.

Buffers

Yes *buffering* too!

- Why queue/buffer?
 - Correcting input
 - Collecting output
 - Streaming videos
- *Flushing or releasing* a buffer causes its contents to be released into its respective stream.
- Input buffer is released when the user presses the enter or return key (↵).
- Output buffer is released when the program submits a newline character “\n”.



Example

- What is the input for?
 - ABCD↵
- `getchar( )` reads one ASCII character from the keyboard.
- Equivalent to the `IN TRAP` routine in LC3.

```
char in1, in2, in3;  
in1 = getchar();  
in2 = getchar();  
in3 = getchar();  
printf("result:\n");  
printf("In1 is %c\n", in1);  
printf("In2 is %c\n", in2);  
printf("In3 is %c\n", in3);
```



What if you type in: A↵, B↵, C↵?

Example

- What is the expected output for the following snippet of code?

```
int main(){
    putchar( 'a' );
    sleep(5);
    putchar( 'b' );
    putchar( '\n' );
}
```

- `putchar( )` displays one ASCII character the console.
- Equivalent to the OUT TRAP routine in LC3.

- What about?

```
int main(){
    putchar( 'a' );
    sleep(5);
    putchar( 'b' );
    putchar( '\n' );
}
```

stdout vs. stderr ?

- Normal program output is conventionally directed to **stdout** while warnings and errors are directed to **stderr**
- On *nix systems we can separate the output of the program using redirection.

Program text

```
fprintf(stdout, "Normal output1\n");  
fprintf(stdout, "Normal output2\n");  
fprintf(stderr, "Error1\n");  
fprintf(stdout, "Normal output3\n");  
fprintf(stderr, "Warning1\n");
```

Invocation

```
./a.out >a.log 2>err.log
```

Typical I/O functions

- **getchar**: Reads an ASCII character from the **keyboard**
- **putchar**: Writes an ASCII character to the **monitor**
- **fgetc**: Reads an ASCII character from ***stream***
- **fputc**: Writes an ASCII character to ***stream***
- **fgets**: Reads a string (line) from ***stream***
- **fputs**: Writes a string (line) to ***stream***
- **fscanf**: Read formatted string (line) from ***stream***
- **fprintf**: Write formatted string (line) to ***stream***

File based I/O

- To read or write to files in C we open and close *file streams* using the functions `fopen` and `fclose`.
- A file is a sequence of ASCII characters (or binary) stored in some storage device.
- To read or write a file, we declare a `FILE` pointer
 - `FILE` is a standard type defined in the `stdio.h`

```
FILE *infile;  
infile = fopen("myfile.txt", "w")
```

Opening files

```
FILE* fopen(char* filename, char* mode)
```

`mode` is one of “r” (read), “w” (write) or “a” (append).

`fopen` returns a NULL pointer (failed to open file) or a pointer to the file stream.

`filename` is a string that is a valid filename on the operating system.

Reading & writing files

- To read/write to files one must:

- Open the file in the correct mode - `fopen`

- Do writing/reading (e.g: `fputs`, `fgets`, etc.)

- Close the file - `fclose`

```
int fclose(FILE *stream);
```

Returns 0 (success) or EOF (failure)

EOF is a macro standing for End-Of-File... commonly represented as -1.

```
int feof(FILE *stream)
```

Will return nonzero value if reached end of a file stream.

Exercise

- Here is the syntax for `fputc` and `fgetc`. Using these write a program that takes a file `lower.txt` and converts its contents to uppercase in `upper.txt`.

```
int fgetc(FILE* stream)
```

```
int fputc(int character, FILE* stream)
```

Note: Both indicate *success* (character read/written) or *failure* (EOF) in their return values.

I/O one line at a time

```
char* fgets(char* string, int num, FILE* stream)
```

- Parameters
 - `string`: Pointer to a destination array
 - `num`: Maximum number of chars to be copied into `string`
 - `stream`: Input stream
- Return value: NULL (failure) or pointer to `string` (success).

I/O one line at a time

```
int fputs(const char* string, FILE* stream)
```

- Parameters
 - `string`: Pointer to a source array
 - `stream`: Output stream
- Return value: Success (non-negative value) or failure (EOF).

Exercise

- Write a function that will prompt the user for a name and a description N number of times.
 - The name will be a maximum of 20 chars long
 - The description will be a maximum of 100 chars long
- Write out each name and description to a file (one after the other).

Formatted I/O

```
int fprintf(FILE* stream, const char* format, ...)
```

- Parameters:
 - *stream*: Output stream
 - *format*: String that specifies the formatting details
 - *Additional arguments*: variables to replace a format specifiers
- Return value: Success (number of characters written), Failure (negative number)

Formatted I/O

```
int fscanf(FILE* stream, const char* format, ...)
```

- Parameters:
 - *stream*: Input stream
 - *format*: String that specifies the formatting details
 - *Additional arguments*: pointers to store data that is read in
- Return value: Success (number of items read), Failure (EOF).

How do you read data back?

- **Exercise:** Write a C program that will take the file generated in the previous exercise, read it, store data as local variables and then print it back out.
- **Hint:** Use format string `"%[^,], %s\n"`

Variable argument lists

- Note that `fprintf` and `fscanf` accepted a ***variable*** number of arguments (depending on format specifier).
- How does this work on the run time stack?
- Recall arguments are pushed *right-to-left*.
 - Last argument pushed will always be format specifier
 - Sufficient to examine format specifier to know number of parameters.

If you wondered
why ... well now
you know!

Dynamic memory allocation

- In the exercise prompting the user for a name and description we had to set the size of the array at compile time.
- Can we make the decision on the size of the data (i.e. memory it is going to occupy) *dynamically* at **run-time**?
- This lead to two important functions: **malloc** and **free**

Exercise

- Write a function that will prompt the user for a name and a description N number of times.
 - The name will be a maximum of 20 chars long
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- Write out each name and description to a file (one after the other).

Yes - will be topic for later weeks.

Next time

- Structures (combining data types a.k.a structs)
- Time permitting: more on dynamically allocating memory
 - `malloc()`
 - `free()`