## **Functions**

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## Introduction

#### Function

 A self-contained program segment that carries out some specific, well-defined task.

## Some properties:

- Every C program consists of one or more functions.
  - One of these functions must be called "main".
  - Execution of the program always begins by carrying out the instructions in "main".
- A function will carry out its intended action whenever it is called or invoked.

- In general, a function will process information that is passed to it from the calling portion of the program, and return a single value.
  - Information is passed to the function via special identifiers called arguments or parameters.
  - The value is returned by the "return" statement.
- Some function may not return anything.
  - · Return data type specified as "void".

```
#include <stdio.h>
int factorial (int m)
{
  int i, temp=1;
  for (i=1; i<=m; i++)
     temp = temp * i;
  return (temp);
}</pre>
```

#### Output: 1! = 1 2! = 2 3! = 6 4! = 24 5! = 120 6! = 720 7! = 5040 8! = 40320 9! = 362880 10! = 3628800

```
#include <stdio.h>
int factorial (int m)
{
  int i, temp=1;
  for (i=1; i<=m; i++)
     temp = temp * i;
  return (temp);
}</pre>
```

#### Output:

11! = 39916800 12! = 479001600 13! = 1932053504 14! = 1278945280 15! = 2004310016 16! = 2004189184 17! = -288522240 18! = -898433024 19! = 109641728 20! = -2102132736

```
#include <stdio.h>
long int factorial (int m)
{
  int i; long int temp=1;
  for (i=1; i<=m; i++)
     temp = temp * i;
  return (temp);
}</pre>
```

#### Output:

```
11! = 39916800

12! = 479001600

13! = 6227020800

14! = 87178291200

15! = 1307674368000

16! = 20922789888000

17! = 355687428096000

18! = 6402373705728000

19! = 121645100408832000

20! = 2432902008176640000
```

# Why Functions?

#### Functions

- Allows one to develop a program in a modular fashion.
  - Divide-and-conquer approach.
- All variables declared inside functions are local variables.
  - Known only in function defined.
  - There are exceptions (to be discussed later).
- Parameters
  - Communicate information between functions.
  - They also become local variables.

#### Benefits

- Divide and conquer
  - · Manageable program development.
  - Construct a program from small pieces or components.
- Software reusability
  - Use existing functions as building blocks for new programs.
  - Abstraction: hide internal details (library functions).

# **Defining a Function**

- A function definition has two parts:
  - The first line.
  - The body of the function.

```
return-value-type function-name (parameter-
list)
{
   declarations and statements
}
```

- The first line contains the return-value-type, the function name, and optionally a set of comma-separated arguments enclosed in parentheses.
  - Each argument has an associated type declaration.
  - The arguments are called formal arguments or formal parameters.
- Example:

```
int gcd (int A, int B)
```

The argument data types can also be declared on the next line:

```
int gcd (A, B)
int A, B;
```

 The body of the function is actually a compound statement that defines the action to be taken by the function.

```
int gcd (int A, int B)
{
   int temp;
   while ((B % A) != 0) {
       temp = B % A;
       B = A;
       A = temp;
   }
   return (A);
}
BODY
```

- When a function is called from some other function, the corresponding arguments in the function call are called actual arguments or actual parameters.
  - The formal and actual arguments must match in their data types.

#### Point to note:

- The identifiers used as formal arguments are "local".
  - Not recognized outside the function.
  - Names of formal and actual arguments may differ.

```
#include <stdio.h>
/* Compute the GCD of four numbers */
main()
  int n1, n2, n3, n4, result;
  scanf ("%d %d %d %d", &n1, &n2, &n3, &n4);
  result = gcd (gcd (n1, n2), gcd (n3, n4));
  printf ("The GCD of %d, %d, %d and %d is %d \n",
                 n1, n2, n3, n4, result);
```

# Function Not Returning Any Value

• Example: A function which prints if a number if divisible by 7 or not.

## Returning control

- If nothing returned
  - return;
  - · or, until reaches right brace
- If something returned
  - return expression;

## Some Points

- · A function cannot be defined within another function.
  - All function definitions must be disjoint.
- Nested function calls are allowed.
  - A calls B, B calls C, C calls D, etc.
  - The function called last will be the first to return.
- A function can also call itself, either directly or in a cycle.
  - A calls A
  - A calls B, B calls C, C calls back A.
  - Called recursive call or recursion.

## Example: main calls nor, nor calls fact

```
#include <stdio.h>
int ncr (int n, int r);
int fact (int n);
main()
  int i, m, n, sum=0;
  scanf ("%d %d", &m, &n);
  for (i=1; i \le m; i+=2)
    sum = sum + ncr(n,i);
  printf ("Result: %d \n",
                  sum);
```

```
int ncr (int n, int r)
  return (fact(n) /
    fact(r) / fact(n-r));
int fact (int n)
  int i, temp=1;
  for (i=1; i<=n; i++)
      temp *= i;
  return (temp);
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
int A;
void main()
    -A = 1;
      myProc();
     printf ("A = %d\n", A);
      void myProc()
           int A = 2;
      while (A == 2)
               int A = 3;
               printf ("A = %d\n", A);
               break;
      printf ("A = %d\n", A);
```

# Variable Scope

```
Output:
A = 3
A = 2
A = 1
```

# Math Library Functions

- Math library functions
  - perform common mathematical calculations
    #include <math.h>
- Format for calling functions

```
FunctionName (argument);
```

- If multiple arguments, use comma-separated list printf ("%f", sqrt(900.0));
- Calls function sqrt, which returns the square root of its argument.
- All math functions return data type double.
- Arguments may be constants, variables, or expressions.

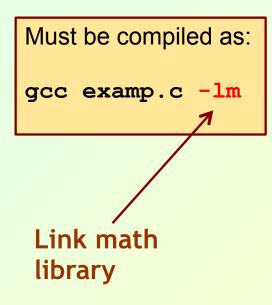
# Math Library Functions

```
double acos(double x)
double asin(double x)
double atan(double x)
double atan2(double y, double x)
double ceil(double x)
double floor(double x)
double cos(double x)
double cosh(double x)
double sin(double x)
double sinh(double x)
double tan(double x)
double tanh(double x)
double exp(double x)
double fabs (double x )
double log(double x)
double log10 (double x)
double pow (double x, double y)
double sqrt(double x)
```

- Compute arc cosine of x.
- Compute arc sine of x.
- Compute arc tangent of x.
- Compute arc tangent of y/x.
- Get smallest integer that exceeds x.
- Get largest integral value less than x.
- Compute cosine of angle in radians.
- Compute the hyperbolic cosine of x.
- Compute sine of angle in radians.
- Compute the hyperbolic sine of x.
- Compute tangent of angle in radians.
- Compute the hyperbolic tangent of x.
- Compute exponential of x.
- Compute absolute value of x.
- Compute log to the base e of x.
- Compute log to the base 10 of x.
- Compute x raised to the power y.
- Compute the square root of x.

# An example

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <math.h>
int main()
   double value, result;
   float a, b;
  value = 2345.6; a = 23.5;
   result = sqrt(value);
  b = pow(23.5,4);
  printf ("\nresult = %f, b = %f", result, b);
```



# **Function Prototypes**

- Usually, a function is defined before it is called.
  - main() is the last function in the program.
  - Easy for the compiler to identify function definitions in a single scan through the file.
- However, many programmers prefer a top-down approach, where the functions follow main().
  - Must be some way to tell the compiler.
  - Function prototypes are used for this purpose.
    - Only needed if function definition comes after use.

 Function prototypes are usually written at the beginning of a program, ahead of any functions (including main()).

#### - Examples:

```
int gcd (int A, int B);
void div7 (int number);
```

- Note the semicolon at the end of the line.
- The argument names can be different; but it is a good practice to use the same names as in the function definition.

## **Example:: function prototypes**

```
#include <stdio.h>
int ncr (int n, int r);
int fact (int n);
main()
  int i, m, n, sum=0;
  scanf ("%d %d", &m, &n);
  for (i=1; i<=m; i+=2)
    sum = sum + ncr(n,i);
  printf ("Result: %d \n",
                  sum);
```

```
int ncr (int n, int r)
  return (fact(n) /
   fact(r) / fact(n-r));
int fact (int n)
  int i, temp=1;
  for (i=1; i<=n; i++)
      temp *= i;
  return (temp);
```

## Header Files

#### Header files

- Contain function prototypes for library functions.
- <stdlib.h>, <math.h>, etc.
- Load with: #include <filename>
- Example:

```
#include <math.h>
```

#### Custom header files

- Create file(s) with function definitions.
- Save as filename.h (say).
- Load in other files with #include "filename.h"
- Reuse functions.

# Calling Functions: Call by Value and Call by Reference

- Used when invoking functions.
- Call by value
  - Copy of argument passed to function.
  - Changes in function do not affect original.
  - Use when function does not need to modify argument.
    - Avoids accidental changes.
- · Call by reference.
  - Passes the reference to the original argument.
  - Execution of the function may affect the original.
  - Not directly supported in C can be effected using pointers.

### C supports only "call by value"

# **Example: Random Number Generation**

#### rand function

- Prototype defined in <stdlib.h>
- Returns "random" number between 0 and RAND\_MAX

```
i = rand();
```

- Pseudorandom
  - Preset sequence of "random" numbers
  - Same sequence for every function call

#### Scaling

To get a random number between 1 and n

```
1 + (rand() % n)
```

- To simulate the roll of a dice:

## Random Number Generation: Contd.

- srand function
  - Prototype defined in <stdlib.h>
  - Takes an integer seed, and randomizes the random number generator.

```
srand (seed);
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int main()
  int i;
 unsigned seed;
 printf ("Enter seed: ");
  scanf ("%u", &seed);
  srand (seed);
  for (i = 1; i \le 10; i++)
     printf ("%10d ", 1 + (rand() % 6));
     if (i % 5 == 0)
       printf ("\n");
 return 0;
```

A programming example. Randomizing die rolling program.

# Program Output

Enter seed:	67				
6	1	4	6	2	
1	6	1	6	4	
Enter seed:	867				
2	4	6	1	6	
1	1	3	6	2	
Enter seed:	67				
6	1	4	6	2	
1	6	1	6	4	

## #define: Macro definition

Preprocessor directive in the following form:

```
#define string1 string2
```

- Replaces string1 by string2 wherever it occurs before compilation.
- For example,

```
#define PI 3.1415926
#define discr b*b-4*a*c
```

## #define: Macro definition

```
#include <stdio.h>
#define PI 3.1415926
main()
{
  float r=4.0, area;
  area = PI*r*r;
}
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
main()
{
   float r=4.0, area;
   area = 3.1415926*r*r;
}
```

## #define with arguments

- #define statement may be used with arguments.
  - Example: #define sqr(x) x\*x
  - How macro substitution will be carried out?

```
r = sqr(a) + sqr(30); \rightarrow r = a*a + 30*30;

r = sqr(a+b); \rightarrow r = a+b*a+b;

WRONG?
```

- The macro definition should have been written as:

```
#define sqr(x) (x)*(x)

r = (a+b)*(a+b);
```

# Recursion: Function calling itself

## Recursion

- A process by which a function calls itself repeatedly.
  - Either directly.
    - · X calls X.
  - Or cyclically in a chain.
    - · X calls Y, and Y calls X.
- Used for repetitive computations in which each action is stated in terms of a previous result.

```
fact(n) = n * fact(n-1)
```

## Contd.

- For a problem to be written in recursive form,
   two conditions are to be satisfied:
  - It should be possible to express the problem in recursive form.
  - The problem statement must include a stopping condition.

```
fact(n) = 1, if n = 0
= n * fact(n-1), if n > 0
```

### • Examples:

- Factorial:

```
fact(0) = 1

fact(n) = n * fact(n-1), if n > 0
```

- GCD:

```
gcd (0, n) = n
gcd (m, 0) = m
gcd (m, n) = m, if m = n
gcd (m, n) = gcd (m%n, n), if m > n
gcd (m, n) = gcd (m, n%m), if m < n</pre>
```

- Fibonacci series (0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, ....)

```
fib (0) = 0
fib (1) = 1
fib (n) = fib (n-1) + fib (n-2), if n > 1
```

# Example 1 :: Factorial

```
long int fact (n)
int n;
{
    if (n == 0)
        return (1);
    else
        return (n * fact(n-1));
}
```

## Example 2 :: GCD

```
int gcd (m, n)
int m, n;
    if (m == 0) return n;
    if (n == 0) return m;
    if (m == n) return (m);
    if (m > n)
       return gcd (m%n, n);
    else
       return gcd (m, n%m);
```

### Mechanism of execution

- When a recursive program is executed, the recursive function calls are not executed immediately.
  - They are kept aside (on a stack) until the stopping condition is encountered.
  - The function calls are then executed in reverse order.

# Example:: Calculating fact(4)

- First, the function calls will be processed:

```
fact(4) = 4 * fact(3)
fact(3) = 3 * fact(2)
fact(2) = 2 * fact(1)
fact(1) = 1 * fact(0)
```

- The actual values return in the reverse order:

```
fact(0) = 1
fact(1) = 1 * 1 = 1
fact(2) = 2 * 1 = 2
fact(3) = 3 * 2 = 6
fact(4) = 4 * 6 = 24
```

## Example 3 :: Fibonacci number

Fibonacci number f(n) can be defined as:

```
f(0) = 0

f(1) = 1
f(n) = f(n-1) + f(n-2), if n > 1

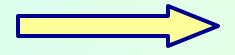
The successive Fibonacci numbers are:
0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, ....
```

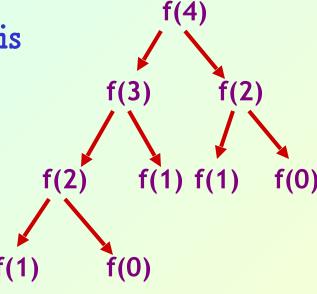
Function definition:

```
int f (int n)
{
    if (n < 2) return (n);
    else return (f(n-1) + f(n-2));
}</pre>
```

# Tracing Execution

 How many times the function is called when evaluating f(4)?





- Inefficiency:
  - Same thing is computed several times.

called 9 times

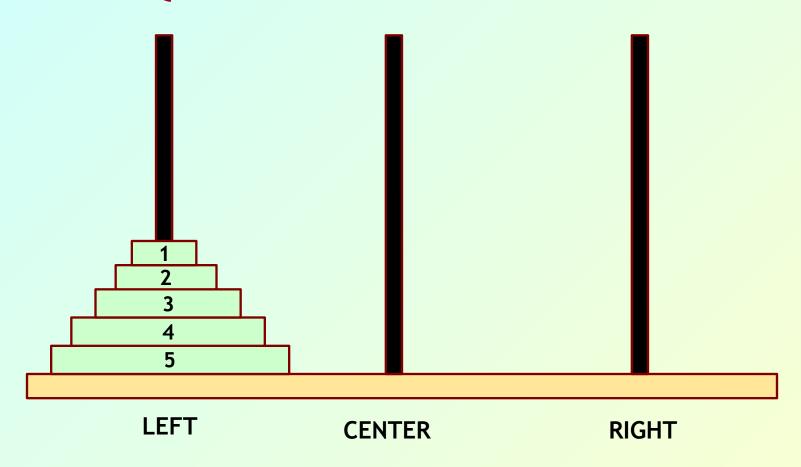
# Performance Tip

- Avoid Fibonacci-style recursive programs
   which result in an exponential "explosion" of
   calls.
- Avoid using recursion in performance situations.
- Recursive calls take time and consume additional memory.

### Fibonacci number: iterative version

```
#include <stdio.h>
int f (int x);
int main()
  printf ("\n %d %d %d %d", f(2), f(3), f(4), f(5));
int f (int n)
   int a = 0, b = 1, temp, i;
                                                Output:
   for (i=2; i<=n; i++)
      temp = a + b;
      a = b;
      b = temp;
   return (b);
```

# Example 4: Towers of Hanoi Problem



### The problem statement:

- Initially all the disks are stacked on the LEFT pole.
- Required to transfer all the disks to the RIGHT pole.
  - Only one disk can be moved at a time.
  - · A larger disk cannot be placed on a smaller disk.
- CENTER pole is used for temporary storage of disks.

 Recursive statement of the general problem of n disks.

- Step 1:
  - Move the top (n-1) disks from LEFT to CENTER.
- Step 2:
  - Move the largest disk from LEFT to RIGHT.
- Step 3:
  - Move the (n-1) disks from CENTER to RIGHT.

```
#include <stdio.h>
void transfer (int n, char from, char to, char temp);
main()
{
                        /* Number of disks */
   int n;
   scanf ("%d", &n);
   transfer (n, 'L', 'R', 'C');
}
void transfer (int n, char from, char to, char temp)
{
   if (n > 0)
       transfer (n-1, from, temp, to);
       printf ("Move disk %d from %c to %c \n", n, from, to);
       transfer (n-1, temp, to, from);
   return;
```

```
Move disk 1 from L to R
Move disk 2 from L to C
Move disk 1 from R to C
Move disk 3 from L to R
Move disk 1 from C to L
Move disk 2 from C to R
Move disk 1 from L to R
```

```
4
Move disk 1 from L to C
Move disk 2 from L to R
Move disk 1 from C to R
Move disk 3 from L to C
Move disk 1 from R to L
Move disk 2 from R to C
Move disk 1 from L to C
Move disk 4 from L to R
Move disk 1 from C to R
Move disk 2 from C to L
Move disk 1 from R to L
Move disk 3 from C to R
Move disk 1 from L to C
Move disk 2 from L to R
Move disk 1 from C to R
```

5 Move disk 1 from L to R Move disk 2 from L to C Move disk 1 from R to C Move disk 3 from L to Move disk 1 from C to L Move disk 2 from C to R Move disk 1 from L to R Move disk 4 from L to C Move disk 1 from R to C Move disk 2 from R to L Move disk 1 from C to L Move disk 3 from R to C Move disk 1 from L to R Move disk 2 from L to C Move disk 1 from R to C

Move disk 5 from L to R Move disk 1 from C to L Move disk 2 from C to R Move disk 1 from L to R Move disk 3 from C to L Move disk 1 from R to C Move disk 2 from R to L Move disk 1 from C to L Move disk 4 from C to R Move disk 1 from L to R Move disk 2 from L to C Move disk 1 from R to C Move disk 3 from L to R Move disk 1 from C to L Move disk 2 from C to R Move disk 1 from L to R

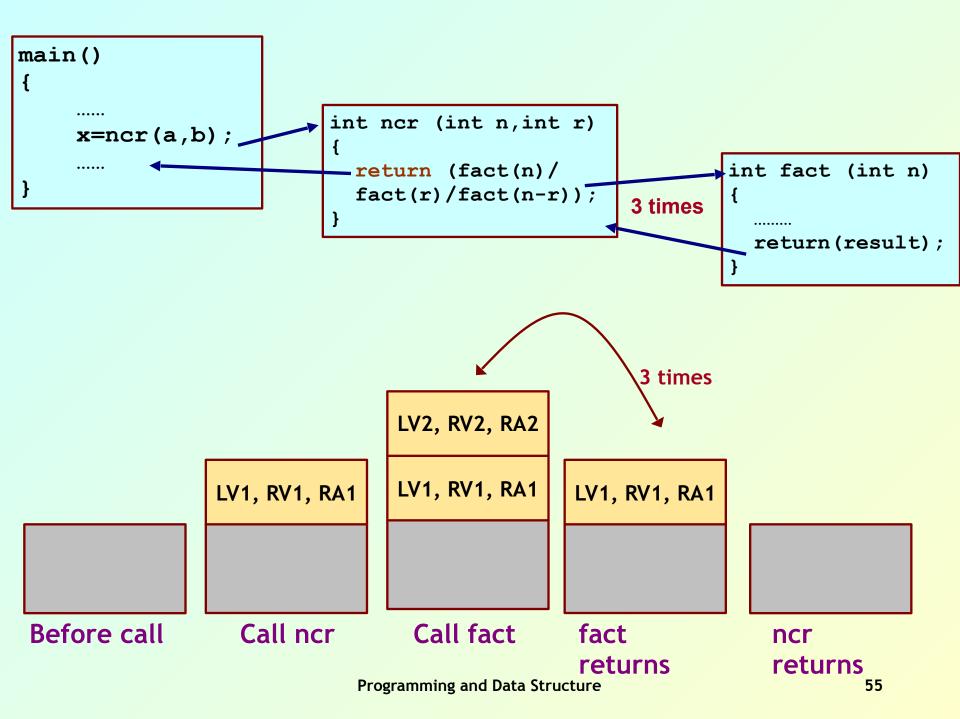
### Recursion vs. Iteration

- Repetition
  - Iteration: explicit loop
  - Recursion: repeated function calls
- Termination
  - Iteration: loop condition fails
  - Recursion: base case recognized
- Both can have infinite loops
- Balance
  - Choice between performance (iteration) and good software engineering (recursion).

# How are function calls implemented?

- The following applies in general, with minor variations that are implementation dependent.
  - The system maintains a stack in memory.
    - Stack is a last-in first-out structure.
    - Two operations on stack, push and pop.
  - Whenever there is a function call, the activation record gets pushed into the stack.
    - Activation record consists of:
      - the return address in the calling program,
      - the return value from the function, and
      - the *local variables* inside the function.

```
main()
                                        int gcd (int x, int y)
    x = gcd (a, b);
                                             return (result);
                              Local
            Activation
                            Variables
            record
                          Return Value
                           Return Addr
                                               After return
        Before call
                            After call
```



# What happens for recursive calls?

- What we have seen ….
  - Activation record gets pushed into the stack when a function call is made.
  - Activation record is popped off the stack when the function returns.
- In recursion, a function calls itself.
  - Several function calls going on, with none of the function calls returning back.
    - Activation records are pushed onto the stack continuously.
    - Large stack space required.
    - Activation records keep popping off, when the termination condition of recursion is reached.

- We shall illustrate the process by an example of computing factorial.
  - Activation record looks like:

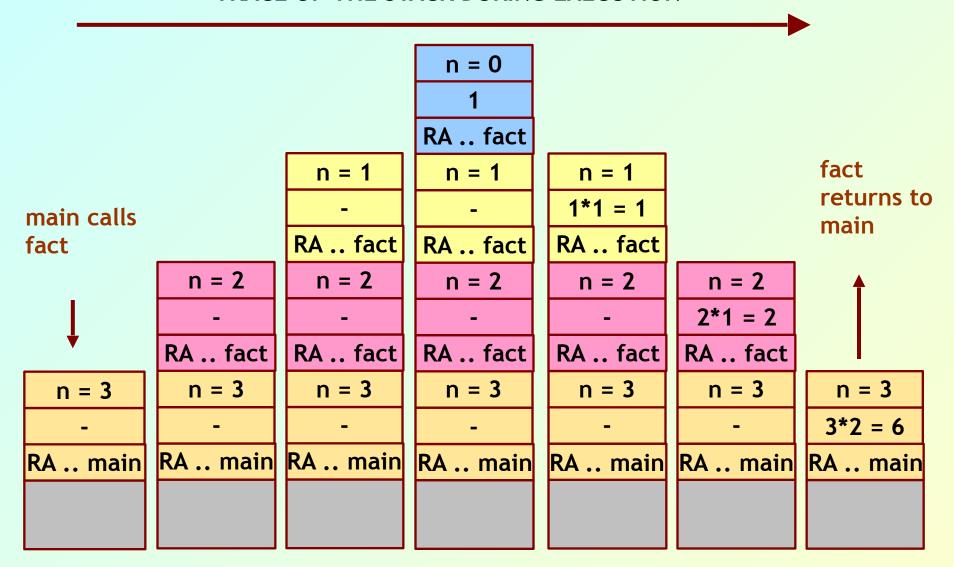
Local Variables Return Value Return Addr

# Example: main() calls fact(3)

```
main()
{
    int n;
    n = 3;
    printf ("%d \n", fact(n));
}
```

```
int fact (n)
int n;
{
    if (n == 0)
        return (1);
    else
        return (n * fact(n-1));
}
```

#### TRACE OF THE STACK DURING EXECUTION



### Do Yourself

Trace the activation records for the following version of

```
#include <stdio.h>
      f (int n)
int
                                                 Local
     int a, b;
                                                Variables
     if (n < 2) return (n);
                                                (n, a, b)
     else
               a = f(n-1);
                                              Return Value
               b = f(n-2);
                                              Return Addr
               return (a+b);
                                              (either main,
                                               or X, or Y)
main()
    printf("Fib(4) is: %d \n", f(4));
```

# Storage Class of Variables

# What is Storage Class?

- It refers to the permanence of a variable, and its scope within a program.
- Four storage class specifications in C:

- Automatic: auto

- External: extern

- Static: static

- Register: register

### **Automatic Variables**

- These are always declared within a function and are local to the function in which they are declared.
  - Scope is confined to that function.
- This is the default storage class specification.
  - All variables are considered as auto unless explicitly specified otherwise.
  - The keyword auto is optional.
  - An automatic variable does not retain its value once control is transferred out of its defining function.

```
#include <stdio.h>
int factorial(int m)
  auto int i;
  auto int temp=1;
  for (i=1; i<=m; i++)
      temp = temp * i;
  return (temp);
```

### Static Variables

- Static variables are defined within individual functions and have the same scope as automatic variables.
- Unlike automatic variables, static variables retain their values throughout the life of the program.
  - If a function is exited and re-entered at a later time, the static variables defined within that function will retain their previous values.
  - Initial values can be included in the static variable declaration.
    - Will be initialized only once.
- An example of using static variable:
  - Count number of times a function is called.

#### **EXAMPLE 1**

```
#include <stdio.h>
int factorial (int n)
  static int count=0;
  count++;
  printf ("n=%d, count=%d \n", n, count);
  if (n == 0) return 1;
  else return (n * factorial(n-1));
```

```
main()
{
   int i=6;
   printf ("Value is: %d \n", factorial(i));
}
```

### Program output:

```
n=6, count=1
n=5, count=2
n=4, count=3
n=3, count=4
n=2, count=5
n=1, count=6
n=0, count=7
Value is: 720
```

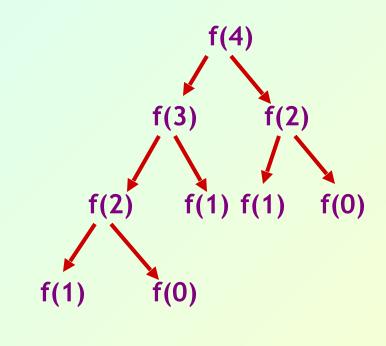
### **EXAMPLE 2**

```
#include <stdio.h>
int fib (int n)
  static int count=0;
  count++;
  printf ("n=%d, count=%d \n", n, count);
  if (n < 2) return n;
  else return (fib(n-1) + fib(n-2));
```

```
main()
{
    int i=4;
    printf ("Value is: %d \n", fib(i));
}
```

### Program output:

```
n=4, count=1
n=3, count=2
n=2, count=3
n=1, count=4
n=0, count=5
n=1, count=6
n=2, count=7
n=1, count=8
n=0, count=9
Value is: 3
```



# Register Variables

- These variables are stored in high-speed registers within the CPU.
  - Commonly used variables may be declared as register variables.
  - Results in increase in execution speed.
  - The allocation is done by the compiler.

### **External Variables**

- They are not confined to single functions.
- Their scope extends from the point of definition through the remainder of the program.
  - They may span more than one functions.
  - Also called global variables.
- Alternate way of declaring global variables.
  - Declare them outside the function, at the beginning.

```
#include <stdio.h>
int count=0; /** GLOBAL VARIABLE **/
int factorial (int n)
 count++;
 printf ("n=%d, count=%d \n", n, count);
  if (n == 0) return 1;
  else return (n * factorial(n-1));
```

```
main() {
  int i=6;
  printf ("Value is: %d \n", factorial(i));
  printf ("Count is: %d \n", count);
}
```

# Some Examples on Recursion

# GCD Computation ... Correct Version

```
#include <stdio.h>
int gcd (m, n)
int m, n;
                                        GCD of 12 and 12 is 12
                                        GCD of 15 and 0 is 15
   if (m == 0) return n;
                                        GCD of 0 and 25 is 25
   if (n == 0) return m;
                                        GCD of 156 and 66 is 6
    if (m == n) return (m);
   if (m > n)
                                        GCD of 75 and 925 is 25
      return gcd (m%n, n);
   else
      return qcd (m, n%m);
int main()
 int num1, num2;
 scanf ("%d %d", &num1, &num2);
 printf ("\nGCD of %d and %d is %d", num1, num2, gcd(num1, num2));
```

# Compute power ab

```
// Compute a to the power b
#include <stdio.h>
                                      3 to the 4 is 81
long int power (int a, int b)
                                      2 to the power 16 is 65536
                                      2 to the power 8 is 256
  if (b == 0) return (1);
                                      17 to the power 4 is 83521
 else return (a * power(a,b-1));
                                      436 to the power 0 is 1
int main()
  int x, y;
  long int result;
  scanf ("%d %d", &x, &y);
 result = power (x, y);
 printf ("\n%d to the power %d is %ld", x, y, result);
```

# Sum of digits of a number

```
// Find sum of the digits of a number
#include <stdio.h>
                                  Sum of digits of 25 is 7
int digitsum (int num)
                                  Sum of digits of 23863 is 22
                                  Sum of digits of 11111 is 5
  int digit;
                                  Sum of digits of 0 is 0
  if (num == 0) return (0);
 else {
                                  Sum of digits of 9999 is 36
        digit = num % 10;
        return (digit + digitsum(num/10));
int main()
  int a:
 scanf ("%d", &a);
 printf ("\nSum of digits of %d is %d", a, digitsum(a));
```

## **Decimal to Binary**

```
// Print a decimal number in binary
#include <stdio.h>
                             Binary of 25 is 1 1 0 0 1
void dec2bin (int n)
                             Binary of 12 is 1 1 0 0
                             Binary of 128 is 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
 if (n == 0) return;
                             Binary of 254 is 1 1 1 1 1 1 0
 else {
        dec2bin (n/2);
        printf ("%2d", n%2);
int main()
 int dec:
 scanf ("%d", &dec);
 printf ("\nBinary of %d is", dec);
 dec2bin (dec);
```