Programming in C^1

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Preface

The C language has boomed in popularity and availability since its creation in the 70's. It has largely become the language of choice for systems programming as well as general purpose programming in both the numeric and symbolic realms. As a result, all programmers today should have some working knowledge of C, particularly in engineering.

This book is intended to be a first text in programming in general with emphasis on the C language. It is meant for students with little or no previous programming experience and as such, a primary focus is on the top down design of programs, beginning with the development of an algorithm, proceeding to the translation of the algorithm into a programming language (C), and the subsequent testing and debugging of the resulting code. Throughout the text, emphasis is placed on organization and readability of code as well as debugging aids in program development. In addition, understandable and functional user interfaces are described.

As an introductory text on programming, our approach is to motivate the introduction of features of the language through example problems. We start with meaningful but simple tasks, develop an algorithm to solve the task and then introduce the necessary language constructs to implement the algorithm. We then refine the task, adding complexity or desirable features to motivate introduction of new language constructs. As such, the text is not meant to be a C reference manual, but a text on program design utilizing the available language features to implement the design. However, for student's reference, the key constructs introduced are summarized at the end of each chapter. The intent is for the student to be able to design and code programs from the very beginning.

The book is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1 is an introduction to computers and some of the terminology used throughout the text.
- Chapter 2 begins the development of a simple C program and the introduction to the organization and basic statements of the language.
- Chapter 3 stresses the top down approach to design and introduces functions at an early stage to emphasize their relation to algorithms.
- Chapter 4 introduces the character data type and algorithms for processing characters.

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• Chapter 5 presents numeric data types and their limitations and discusses the details of C expression evaluation.

- Chapter 6 addresses the important concept of pointers and their use in C in functions.
- Chapter 7 introduces compound data types with arrays and discusses their relation with pointers.
- Chapter 8 describes some of the standard library functions provided in C for character and math processing as well as giving a detailed description of the standard I/O functions printf() and scanf() and their variations for file I/O.
- Chapter 9 presents some standard sorting and searching techniques.
- Chapter 10 describes the powerful string processing utilities in C and the concept of libraries of functions.
- Chapter 11 returns to arrays presenting two dimensional arrays.
- Chapter 12 discusses the remaining compound data type; structures and unions.
- Chapter 13 presents advanced file Input/Output features of the language.
- Chapter 14 describes the memory organization of C programs and discusses the details of storage classes and scope.
- Finally, Chapter 15 provides several examples of algorithms useful in Engineering computation. It makes use of the concepts presented in earlier Chapters and these examples may be discussed with the appropriate Chapter.

In addition, three Appendices are provided as follows:

- Appendix A provides a summary of the C language constructs discussed in the text.
- Appendix B contrasts the language features of ANSI C as presented in this text to "old" C which is still available on many Unix systems.
- Appendix C summarizes the standard library functions available in C.