Programming Style and Program Style

The material for this lecture is drawn, in part, from The Practice of Programming (Kernighan & Pike) Chapter 1

Goals of this Lecture

- Help you learn about:
  - Good programming style
  - Good program style

- Why?
  - A well-styled program is easier to maintain and more likely to be correct than a poorly-styled program
  - A power programmer knows the qualities of a well-styled program, and how to develop one

Lecture Overview

- **Programming style**: how to write a good program
  - Top-down design
  - Successive refinement
  - Example: left and right justifying text
  - Properties of the process

- **Program style**: qualities of a good program
  - Well structured
  - Uses common idioms
  - Uses descriptive names
  - Contains proper comments
  - Modular
  - Properties of the resulting artifact

Part 1: Programming Style

How to write a good program
You don’t Paint Art Bottom-up

- Bottom-up design in painting
  - Paint upper left part of painting in complete detail
  - Paint next part of painting in complete detail
  - Repeat until finished
  - Unlikely to produce a good painting
- Top-down design
  - Sketch the entire painting with minimal detail
  - Successively refine the entire painting

Or Design a Program Bottom-up

- Bottom-up design in programming
  - Write first part of program in complete detail
  - Write next part of program in complete detail
  - Repeat until finished
  - Unlikely to produce a good program efficiently
- Top-down design and successive refinement
  - Define main() function in pseudocode with minimal detail
  - Refine each pseudocode statement
    - Small job => replace with real code
    - Large job => replace with function call
  - Recurse in (mostly) breadth-first order
  - Bonus: End product is naturally modular

Top-Down Design in Reality

- In reality, we make mistakes and have to backtrack
  - Define main() function in pseudocode
  - Refine each pseudocode statement
    - Oops! Details reveal design error, so...
      - Backtrack to refine existing (pseudo)code, and proceed
    - Recurse in (mostly) breadth-first order, until all functions are defined
- But this is a downer, so let’s ignore it for now ...

Example: Text Formatting

- Derived from King Section 15.3
  - Input: ASCII text, with arbitrary spaces and newlines
  - Output: the same text, left and right justified
    - Fit as many words as possible on each 50-character line
    - Add even spacing between words to right justify the text
      - No need to right justify the last line
  - That sounds hard. Let’s simplify it a little:
    - Word ends at white space or at end-of-file
    - No word is longer than 20 characters
Example Input and Output

Tune every heart and every voice. Bid every bank withdrawal. Let’s all with our accounts rejoice. In funding Old Nassau. In funding Old Nassau we spend more money every year. Our banks shall give, while we shall live. We’re funding Old Nassau.

Thinking About the Problem

- I need the concept of a “word”
  - Sequence of characters with no white space
- I need the concept of a “line”
  - Sequence of characters of fixed max size, separated by newlines
  - Words separated by spaces
  - All characters in a word must be printed on the same line
- I have to be able to read and print words
  - I have to deal with poorly-formatted input
    - I need to remove extra white space in input
    - Unfortunately, I can’t print the words as they are read
    - I don’t know if of spaces needed until I read the future words
    - Need to buffer the words until I can safely print an entire line
- But, how much space should I add between words?
  - Need at least one space between adjacent words on a line
  - Can add extra spaces evenly to fill up an entire line
  - No. of gaps = Line size divided by number of words in line

Writing the Program

- Write pseudocode for main()
- Successively refine

Caveats concerning the following presentation

- Function comments and some blank lines are omitted because of space constraints on slides
  - Do as I say, not as I do …
  - Design sequence is idealized
    - In reality, much backtracking would happen

The Top Level

- First, let’s sketch main()...

```c
int main(void) {
  <Clear line>
  for (;;) {
    <Read a word>
    if (<No more words>) {
      <Print line with no justification>
      return 0;
    }
    if (<Word doesn’t fit on this line>) {
      <Print line with justification>
      <Clear line>
      <Add word to line>
    }
    if (<Word fits on this line>) {
      <Add word to line>
    }
    return 0;
  }
```

Reading a Word

Now let’s successively refine. What does `Read a word` mean? The job seems complicated enough that it should be delegated to a distinct function…

```c
enum {MAX_WORD_LEN = 20};
int main(void) {
    char word[MAX_WORD_LEN + 1];
    char line[MAX_LINE_LEN + 1];
    int lineLen = 0;
    for (;;) {
        wordLen = ReadWord(word);
        if (no more words) {
            return 0;
        }
        if (word doesn’t fit on this line) {
            AddWord(word, line, &lineLen);
        } else {
            line += wordLen;
        }
    }
    return 0;
}
```

Reading a Word (cont.)

• `ReadWord()` seems easy enough to design. So let’s flesh it out…

```c
int ReadWord(char *word) {
    int ch, pos = 0;
    /* Skip over white space. */
    ch = getchar();
    while ((ch != EOF) && isspace(ch))
        ch = getchar();
    /* Store chars up to MAX_WORD_LEN in word. */
    while ((ch != EOF) && (! isspace(ch))) {
        if (pos < MAX_WORD_LEN) {
            word[pos] = (char)ch;
            pos++;
        }
        ch = getchar();
    }
    word[pos] = '\0';
    /* Return length of word. */
    return pos;
}
```

Adding Word to Line Buffer

• Now, back to `main()`. What does `Add word to line` mean? The job seems complicated enough to demand a distinct function…

```c
enum {MAX_LINE_LEN = 50};
/* Skip over white space. */
ch = getchar();
while ((ch != EOF) && isspace(ch))
    ch = getchar();
/* Store chars up to MAX_WORD_LEN in word. */
while ((ch != EOF) && (! isspace(ch))) {
    if (pos < MAX_WORD_LEN) {
        word[pos] = (char)ch;
        pos++;
    }
    ch = getchar();
}
word[pos] = '\0';
/* Return length of word. */
return pos;
}
```

Adding Word to Line Buffer (cont.)

• `AddWord()` is almost complete, so let’s get that out of the way…

```c
void AddWord(const char *word, char *line, int *lineLen) {
    /* If line already contains some words, append a space. */
    if (*lineLen > 0) {
        line[*lineLen] = ' ';
        *lineLen += 1;
    }
    strcat(line, word);
    *lineLen += strlen(word);
}
```
Printing the Last Line

```c
int main(void) {
    int wordLen;
    char line[MAX_LINE_LEN + 1];
    int lineLen = 0;
    <Clear line buffer>
    for (;;) {
        wordLen = ReadWord(word);
        /* If no more words, print line with no justification. */
        if (wordLen == 0 && lineLen > 0) {
            puts(line);
            return 0;
        }
        if (wordLen + 1 + lineLen > MAX_LINE_LEN) {
            <Print line with justification>
            <Clear line buffer>
        }
        AddWord(word, line, &lineLen);
    }
    return 0;
}
```

Deciding When to Print

```c
int main(void) {
    int wordLen;
    char line[MAX_LINE_LEN + 1];
    int lineLen = 0;
    <Clear line buffer>
    for (;;) {
        wordLen = ReadWord(word);
        /* If no more words, print line with no justification. */
        if (wordLen == 0 && lineLen > 0) {
            puts(line);
            return 0;
        }
        /* If word doesn't fit on this line, then… */
        if ((wordLen + 1 + lineLen) > MAX_LINE_LEN) {
            <Print line with justification>
            <Clear line buffer>
        }
        AddWord(word, line, &lineLen);
    }
    return 0;
}
```

Printing with Justification

```c
int main(void) {
    int numWords = 0;
    <Clear line>
    for (;;) {
        /* If word doesn’t fit on this line, then… */
        if ((wordLen + 1 + lineLen) > MAX_LINE_LEN) {
            WriteLine(line, lineLen, numWords);
            <Clear line>
        }
        AddWord(word, line, &lineLen);
        numWords++;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

Printing with Justification (cont.)

```c
void WriteLine(const char *line, int lineLen, int numWords) {
    <Compute number of excess spaces for line>
    for (i = 0; i < lineLen; i++) {
        if (line[i] is not a space) {
            <Print the character>
        } else {
            <Compute additional spaces to insert>
            <Print a space, plus some number of additional spaces>
        }
    }
    <Decrease extra spaces and word count>
}
```
Printing with Justification (cont.)

```c
void WriteLine(const char *line, int lineLen, int numWords) {
    int extraSpaces, spaceToInsert, i, j;
    /* Compute number of excess spaces for line. */
    extraSpaces = MAX_LINE_LEN - lineLen;
    for (i = 0; i < lineLen; i++) {
        if (line[i] != ' ')
            putchar(line[i]);
        else {
            /* Compute additional spaces to insert. */
            spaceToInsert = extraSpaces / (numWords - 1);
            /* Print a space, plus additional spaces. */
            for (j = 1; j <= spaceToInsert + 1; j++)
                putchar(' ');
            /* Decrease extra spaces and word count. */
            extraSpaces -= spaceToInsert;
            numWords--;
        }
    }
    putchar('
');
}
```

Clearing the Line

```c
int main(void) {
    int numWords = 0;
    ClearLine(line, &lineLen, &numWords);  
    for (;;) {
        int wordLen = 0;
        addWord(word, line, &lineLen);
        numWords++;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

Modularity: Summary of Example

- To the user of the program
  - Input: Text in messy format
  - Output: Same text left and right justified, looking mighty pretty

- Modularity within the program
  - `main()` function
  - Line-handling functions
  - Word-handling functions

- The many benefits of modularity
  - Reading the code: In small, separable pieces
  - Testing the code: Test each function separately
  - Speeding up the code: Focus only on the slow parts
  - Extending the code: Change only the relevant parts

Part 2: Program Style
Program Style

• Who reads your code?
  • The compiler
  • Other programmers

This is a working ray tracer (courtesy of Paul Heckbert)

Program Style

• Why does program style matter?
  • Bugs often caused by programmer’s misunderstanding
  • What does this variable do?
  • How is this function called?
  • Good code = human readable code

• How can code become easier for humans to read?
  • Convey program structure
  • Use common idioms
  • Choose descriptive names
  • Compose proper comments
  • Use modularity

Structure: Spacing

• Use readable/consistent spacing
  • Example: Assign each array element a[j] to the value j.
  • Bad code

    for (j=0; j<100; j++) a[j]=j;

  • Good code

    for (j = 0; j < 100; j++)
        a[j] = j;

  • Often can rely on auto-indenting feature in editor

Structure: Indentation (cont.)

• Use readable/consistent/correct indentation
  • Example: Checking for leap year (does Feb 29 exist?)

    legal = TRUE;
    if (month == FEB) {
        if (year % 4 == 0) {
            if (day > 29)
                legal = FALSE;
        } else {
            if (day > 28)
                legal = FALSE;
        }
    } else {
        if (day > 28)
            legal = FALSE;
    }

Does this code work?
• Use "else-if" for multi-way decision structures
  • Example: Comparison step in a binary search.
  • Bad code

  ```c
  if (x < v[mid])
      high = mid - 1;
  else if (x > v[mid])
      low = mid + 1;
  else
      return mid;
  ```

  ```c
  if (x < v[mid])
      high = mid - 1;
  else if (x > v[mid])
      low = mid + 1;
  else
      return mid;
  ```

• Good code

  ```c
  if (x < v[mid])
      high = mid - 1;
  else if (x > v[mid])
      low = mid + 1;
  else
      return mid;
  ```

• Use blank lines to divide the code into key parts

```c
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
/* Read a circle's radius from stdin, and compute and write its
diameter and circumference to stdout. Return 0 if successful. */
int main(void)
{
const double PI = 3.14159;
int radius, low = 0, high = 6, mid = 3;
printf("Enter the circle's radius:\n");
if (scanf("%d", &radius) != 1)
{
    fprintf(stderr, "Error: Not a number\n");
    exit(EXIT_FAILURE);  /* or:  return EXIT_FAILURE; */
}
...
```
Structure: Expressions (cont.)

- Parenthesize to resolve ambiguity
  - Example: Check if integer \( n \) satisfies \( j < n < k \)
    - Bad code
      \[
      \text{if} \ (j < n \ \&\& \ n < k)
      \]
      Does this code work?
    - Good code
      \[
      \text{if} \ ((j < n) \ \&\& \ (n < k))
      \]

Structure: Expressions (cont.)

- Parenthesize to resolve ambiguity (cont.)
  - Example: read and print character until end-of-file
    - Bad code
      \[
      \text{while} \ (c = \text{getchar()} \ !\ = \text{EOF})
      \text{putchar}(c);
      \]
    - Good code
      \[
      \text{while} \ ((c = \text{getchar()} \ !\ = \text{EOF})
      \text{putchar}(c);
      \]

Structure: Expressions (cont.)

- Break up complex expressions stylistically
  - Example: Identify chars corresponding to months of year
    - Bad code
      \[
      \text{if} \ (\{c == 'J'\} \ || \ \{c == 'F'\} \ || \ \{c == 'M'\} \ || \ \{c == 'A'\} \ || \ \{c == 'S'\} \ || \ \{c == 'O'\} \ || \ \{c == 'N'\} \ || \ \{c == 'D'\})
      \]
    - Good code
      \[
      \text{if} \ ((c == 'J') \ || \ (c == 'F') \ || \\
      (c == 'M') \ || \ (c == 'A') \ || \ (c == 'S') \ || \ (c == 'O') \ || \\
      (c == 'N') \ || \ (c == 'D'))
      \]
    - Lining up the parallel structures is helpful, too

C Idioms

- Use C idioms
  - Example: Set each array element to 1.0.
    - Bad code (or, perhaps just “so-so” code)
      \[
      i = 0;
      \text{while} \ (i <= n-1)
      \text{array}[i++] = 1.0;
      \]
    - Good code
      \[
      \text{for} \ (i=0; \ i<n; \ i++)
      \text{array}[i] = 1.0;
      \]
  - We’ll see many C idioms throughout the course
  - Don’t feel obliged to use C idioms that decrease clarity
Naming (read for yourselves)

- Use descriptive names for globals and functions
  - E.g., display, CONTROL, CAPACITY
- Use concise names for local variables
  - E.g., i (not arrayIndex) for loop variable
- Use case judiciously
  - E.g., Buffer_insert (Module_function) CAPACITY (constant)
    buf (local variable)
- Use a consistent style for compound names
  - E.g., frontsize, frontSize, front_size
- Use active names for functions
  - E.g., getchar(), putchar(), Check_octal(), etc.

Comments (reprise; read yourselves)

- Master the language and its idioms
  - Let the code speak for itself
  - And then…
- Compose comments that add new information
  - i++; /* add one to i */
- Comment sections (“paragraphs”) of code, not lines of code
  - E.g., "Sort array in ascending order"
- Comment global data
  - Global variables, structure type definitions, field definitions, etc.
- Compose comments that agree with the code
  - And change as the code itself changes

Comments (cont.)

- Comment sections (“paragraphs”), not lines of code
  - /* Compute the diameter and circumference. */
    diam = 2 * radius;
    circum = PI * (double)diam;
  - /* Print the results */
    printf("A circle with radius %d has diameter %d\n", radius, diam);
    printf("and circumference %f\n", circum);
    return 0;

Function Comments

• Describe **what a caller needs to know** to call the function properly
  • Describe **what the function does**, not how it works
  • Code itself should clearly reveal how it works…
  • If not, compose “paragraph” comments within definition

• Describe **input**
  • Parameters, files read, global variables used

• Describe **output**
  • Return value, parameters, files written, global variables affected

• Refer to parameters by name

Function Comments (cont.)

• Bad function comment

```c
/* decomment.c */
/* Read a character. Based upon the character and the current DFA state, call the appropriate state-handling function. Repeat until end-of-file. */
int main(void) {
  ...
```

• Describes **how the function works**

Function Comments (cont.)

• Good function comment

```c
/* decomment.c */
/* Read a C program from stdin. Write it to stdout with each comment replaced by a single space. Preserve line numbers. Return 0 if successful, EXIT_FAILURE if not. */
int main(void) {
  ...
```

• Describes **what the function does**

Modularity

• Big programs are harder to write than small ones
  • “A dog house can be built without any particular design, using whatever materials are at hand. A house for humans, on the other hand, is too complex to just throw together.” – K. N. King

• Abstraction is the key to managing complexity
  • Abstraction allows programmer to know what something does without knowing how

• Examples of function-level abstraction
  • Function to sort an array of integers
  • Character I/O functions such as getchar() and putchar()
  • Mathematical functions such as lcm() and gcd()

• Examples of file-level abstraction
  • (Described in a later lecture)
Summary

- Programming style
  - Think about the problem
  - Use top-down design and successive refinement
  - But know that backtracking inevitably will occur

Summary (cont.)

- Program style
  - Convey program structure
  - Spacing, indentation, parentheses
  - Use common C idioms
  - But not at the expense of clarity
  - Choose consistent and descriptive names
    - For variables, functions, etc.
    - Compose proper comments
      - Especially for functions
    - Divide code into modules
      - Functions and files

Appendix: The “justify” Program

```
/*-------------------------------------------------------*/
/* justify.c                                             */
/* Author:  COS 217 Instructors                          */
/*-------------------------------------------------------*/
#include <stdio.h>
#include <ctype.h>
#include <string.h>
/* The maximum number of characters in a word. */
#define MAX_WORD_LEN 20
/* The maximum number of characters in a line. */
#define MAX_LINE_LEN 50

/* Read a word from stdin. Assign it to word. Return the length */
/* of the word, or 0 if no word could be read. */
int ReadWord(char *word) {
    int ch, pos = 0;
    /* Skip over white space. */
    ch = getchar();
    while ((ch != EOF) && isspace(ch))
        ch = getchar();
    /* Store chars up to MAX_WORD_LEN in word. */
    while ((ch != EOF) && (! isspace(ch))) {
        if (pos < MAX_WORD_LEN) {
            word[pos] = (char)ch;
            pos++;
        }
        ch = getchar();
    }
    word[pos] = '\0';
    /* Return length of word. */
    return pos;
}
```

Continued on next slide
Appendix: The "justify" Program

---

**Clear the given line. That is, clear line, and set *lineLen and *numWords to 0.**

```c
void ClearLine(char *line, int *lineLen, int *numWords) {
    line[0] = '\0';
    *lineLen = 0;
    *numWords = 0;
}
```

**Append word to line, making sure that the words within line are separated with spaces. Update *lineLen to indicate the new line length.**

```c
void AddWord(const char *word, char *line, int *lineLen) {
    /* If line already contains some words, append a space. */
    if (*lineLen > 0) {
        line[*lineLen] = ' ';
        line[*lineLen + 1] = '\0';
        (*lineLen)++;
    }
    strcat(line, word);
    (*lineLen) += strlen(word);
}
```

---

**Write line to stdout, in right justified form. lineLen indicates the number of characters in line. numWords indicates the number of words in line.**

```c
void WriteLine(const char *line, int lineLen, int numWords) {
    int extraSpaces, spacesToInsert, i, j;
    /* Compute number of excess spaces for line. */
    extraSpaces = MAX_LINE_LEN - lineLen;
    for (i = 0; i < lineLen; i++) {
        if (line[i] != ' ')
            putchar(line[i]);
        else {
            /* Compute additional spaces to insert. */
            spacesToInsert = extraSpaces / (numWords - 1);
            /* Print a space, plus additional spaces. */
            for (j = 1; j <= spacesToInsert + 1; j++)
                putchar(' ');
            /* Decrease extra spaces and word count. */
            extraSpaces -= spacesToInsert;
            numWords--;
        }
    }
    putchar('
');
}
```

---

**Read words from stdin, and write the words in justified format to stdout. Simplifying assumptions:**
- Each word ends with a space, tab, newline, or end-of-file.
- No word is longer than MAX_WORD_LEN characters.
- No line is longer than MAX_LINE_LEN characters.

```c
int main(void) {
    char word[MAX_WORD_LEN + 1];
    int wordLen;
    char line[MAX_LINE_LEN + 1];
    int lineLen = 0;
    int numWords = 0;
    ClearLine(line, lineLen, numWords);
    ... {
        wordLen = ReadWord(word);
        /* If no more words, print line with no justification. */
        if ((wordLen == 0) && (lineLen > 0)) {
            puts(line);
            break;
        }
        /* If word doesn't fit on this line, then... */
        if ((wordLen + 1 + lineLen) > MAX_LINE_LEN) {
            WriteLine(line, lineLen, numWords);
            ClearLine(line, lineLen, numWords);
        }
        AddWord(word, line, lineLen, numWords);
    }
    return 0;
}
```

---