



## Programming Style and Program Style

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

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## 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

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## Lecture Overview

- **Programming style:** how to write a good program
  - Top-down design
  - Successive refinement
  - Example: left and right justifying textProperties of the process
- **Program style:** qualities of a good program
  - Well structured
  - Uses common idioms
  - Uses descriptive names
  - Contains proper comments
  - ModularProperties of the resulting artifact

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## Part 1: Programming Style

### How to write a good program

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## 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



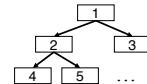
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## Or Design a Program Bottom-up



- **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

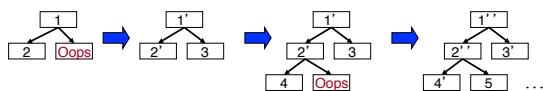


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## Top-Down Design in Reality



- 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 ...

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## 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

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## Example Input and Output



I Tune every heart and every voice.  
 N Bid every bank withdrawal.  
 Let's all with our accounts rejoice.  
 P In funding Old Nassau.  
 In funding Old Nassau we spend more money every year.  
 Our banks shall give, while we shall live.  
 T We're funding Old Nassau.

O  
 U Tune every heart and every voice. Bid every bank withdrawal. Let's all with our accounts rejoice.  
 T In funding Old Nassau. In funding Old Nassau we spend more money every year. Our banks shall give,  
 U while we shall live. We're funding Old Nassau.  
 T

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## 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 # 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

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## 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

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## The Top Level



- First, let's sketch `main()` ...

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

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>
    }
    return 0;
}
```

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## Reading a Word



```
...
enum {MAX_WORD_LEN = 20};
int main(void) {
    char word[MAX_WORD_LEN + 1];
    int wordLen;
    <Clear line>
    for (;;) {
        wordLen = ReadWord(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>
    }
    return 0;
}
```

**int ReadWord(char \*word) {  
 <skip over whitespace>  
 <Store chars up to MAX\_WORD\_LEN in word>  
 <Return length of 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...

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## Reading a Word (cont.)



- `ReadWord()` seems easy enough to design. So let's flesh it out...

```
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;
}
```

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## Adding Word to Line Buffer



```
...
enum {MAX_WORD_LEN = 20};
enum {MAX_LINE_LEN = 50};
int main(void) {
    char word[MAX_WORD_LEN + 1];
    int wordLen;
    char line[MAX_LINE_LEN + 1];
    int lineLen = 0;
    <Clear line>
    for (;;) {
        wordLen = ReadWord(word);
        if (<No more words>) {
            <Print line>
            return 0;
        }
        if (<Word doesn't fit on this line>) {
            <Print line with justification>
            <Clear line>
        }
        void AddWord(const char *word, char *line, int *lineLen) {
            <if line already contains some words, append a space>
            strcat(line, word);
            (*lineLen) += strlen(word);
        }
        AddWord(word, line, &lineLen);
    }
    return 0;
}
```

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

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## Adding Word to Line Buffer (cont.)



- `AddWord()` is almost complete, so let's get that out of the way...

```
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);
}
```

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## Printing the Last Line



```
int main(void) {
    char word[MAX_WORD_LEN + 1];
    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>) {
            <Print line with justification>
            <Clear line buffer>
        }
        AddWord(word, line, &lineLen);
    }
    return 0;
}
```

- Again, back to `main()`. What do <No more words> and <Print line with no justification> mean? Those jobs seem easy enough that we need not define additional functions...

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## Deciding When to Print



```
int main(void) {
    char word[MAX_WORD_LEN + 1];
    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;
}
```

- What does <Word doesn't fit on this line> mean? Also involves little code...

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## Printing with Justification



- Now, to the heart of the program. What does <Print line with justification> mean? Certainly that demands a distinct function. That function must know how many words are in the given line (why?)

```
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;
}
```

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## Printing with Justification (cont.)



- Pseudocode for `WriteLine()` ...

```
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>
        }
    }
}
```

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## Printing with Justification (cont.)

```

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('\n');
}

```

• Let's go ahead and complete WriteLine ()...

The number of gaps

Example:  
If extraSpaces is 10 and numWords is 5, then gaps will contain 2, 2, 3, and 3 extra spaces respectively

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## Clearing the Line

- Easy, but done in two places. So we probably should delegate the work to a distinct function, and call the function in the two places...

```

int main(void) {
    ...
    int numWords = 0;
    ClearLine(line, &lineLen, &numWords);
    for (;;) {
        ...
        /* 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);
        numWords++;
    }
    return 0;
}

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

```

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## 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

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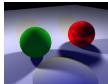
## Part 2: Program Style



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## Program Style

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



This is a working ray tracer (courtesy of Paul Heckbert) 25

## 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

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## Structure: Spacing

- Use readable/consistent spacing
    - Example: Assign each array element  $a[ij]$  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

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## 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
}
```

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

Does this code work?

Does this code work?

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## Structure: Indentation (cont.)



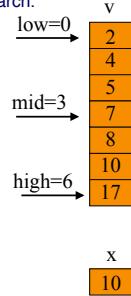
- Use “else-if” for multi-way decision structures

- Example: Comparison step in a binary search.
- Bad code

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

- Good code

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



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## Structure: “Paragraphs”



- Use blank lines to divide the code into key parts

```
#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;
    int diam;
    double circum;

    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; */
    }
    ...
}
```

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## Structure: “Paragraphs”



- Use blank lines to divide the code into key parts

```
diam = 2 * radius;
circum = PI * (double)diam;

printf("A circle with radius %d has diameter %d\n",
       radius, diam);
printf("and circumference %f.\n", circum);

return 0;
}
```

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## Structure: Expressions



- Use natural form of expressions

- Example: Check if integer n satisfies  $j < n < k$
- Bad code

```
if (! (n >= k) && !(n <= j))
```

- Good code

```
if ((j < n) && (n < k))
```

- Conditions should read as you’d say them aloud
  - Not “Conditions shouldn’t read as you’d never say them aloud”

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## Structure: Expressions (cont.)



- Parenthesize to resolve ambiguity
  - Example: Check if integer n satisfies  $j < n < k$
  - Bad code

```
if (j < n && n < k)
```

Does this code work?
  - Good code

```
if ((j < n) && (n < k))
```

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## Structure: Expressions (cont.)



- Parenthesize to resolve ambiguity (cont.)
  - Example: read and print character until end-of-file
  - Bad code

```
while (c = getchar() != EOF)
    putchar(c);
```

Does this code work?
  - Good code

```
while ((c = getchar()) != EOF)
    putchar(c);
```

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## Structure: Expressions (cont.)



- Break up complex expressions stylistically
  - Example: Identify chars corresponding to months of year
  - Bad code

```
if ((c == 'J') || (c == 'F') || (c ==
'M') || (c == 'A') || (c == 'S') || (c ==
'O') || (c == 'N') || (c == 'D'))
```
  - Good code

```
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

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## C Idioms



- Use C idioms
  - Example: Set each array element to 1.0.
  - Bad code (or, perhaps just "so-so" code)

```
i = 0;
while (i <= n-1)
    array[i++] = 1.0;
```
  - Good code

```
for (i=0; i<n; i++)
    array[i] = 1.0;
```
- We'll see many C idioms throughout the course
- Don't feel obliged to use C idioms that decrease clarity

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## 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.

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## 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

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## Comments (cont.)



- Comment sections (“paragraphs”), not lines of code

```
#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;
    int diam;
    double circum;

    /* Read the circle's radius. */
    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; */
    }
}
```

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## Comments (cont.)



```
/* 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;
}
```

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## 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

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## Function Comments (cont.)



- Bad function comment

```
/* 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

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## Function Comments (cont.)



- Good function comment

```
/* 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

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## 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)

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## Summary



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

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## 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

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## 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. */
enum {MAX_WORD_LEN = 20};

/* The maximum number of characters in a line. */
enum {MAX_LINE_LEN = 50};
```

Continued on next slide

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## Appendix: The “justify” Program

```
/* 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

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## Appendix: The “justify” Program



```

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

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. */

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);
}

```

[Continued on next slide](#)

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## Appendix: The “justify” Program

```

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

void WriteLine(const char *line, int lineLen, int numWords) {
    int extraSpaces, spacesToInsert, i;

    /* 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('\n');
}

```

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## Appendix: The “justify” Program



```

/* 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. */

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);

    ...
}

```

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## Appendix: The “justify” Program

```

...
for (;;) {
    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) {
        PrintLine(line, &lineLen, numWords);
        ClearLine(line, &lineLen, &numWords);
    }

    AddWord(word, line, &lineLen);
    numWords++;
}
return 0;
}

```

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