Chapter 9

Functions

Introduction

- A function is a series of statements that have been grouped together and given a name.
- Each function is essentially a small program, with its own declarations and statements.
- Advantages of functions:
  - A program can be divided into small pieces that are easier to understand and modify.
  - We can avoid duplicating code that's used more than once.
  - A function that was originally part of one program can be reused in other programs.

Program: Computing Averages

- A function named `average` that computes the average of two `double` values:

```
double average(double a, double b)
{
  return (a + b) / 2;
}
```

- The word `double` at the beginning is the ***return type*** of `average`.
- The identifiers `a` and `b` (the function's ***parameters***) represent the numbers that will be supplied when `average` is called.

Program: Computing Averages

- Every function has an executable part, called the ***body,*** which is enclosed in braces.
- The body of `average` consists of a single `return` statement.
- Executing this statement causes the function to "return" to the place from which it was called; the value of `(a + b) / 2` will be the value returned by the function.

Program: Computing Averages

- A function call consists of a function name followed by a list of ***arguments.***
  - `average(x, y)` is a call of the `average` function.
- Arguments are used to supply information to a function.
  - The call `average(x, y)` causes the values of `x` and `y` to be copied into the parameters `a` and `b`.
- An argument doesn't have to be a variable; any expression of a compatible type will do.
  - `average(5.1, 8.9)` and `average(x/2, y/3)` are legal.

Program: Computing Averages

- We'll put the call of `average` in the place where we need to use the return value.
- A statement that prints the average of `x` and `y`:

```
printf("Average: %g\n", average(x, y));
```

  The return value of `average` isn't saved; the program prints it and then discards it.
- If we had needed the return value later in the program, we could have captured it in a variable:

```
avg = average(x, y);
```

Program: Computing Averages

- The `average.c` program reads three numbers and uses the `average` function to compute their averages, one pair at a time:

```
Enter three numbers: 3.5 9.6 10.2
Average of 3.5 and 9.6: 6.55
Average of 9.6 and 10.2: 9.9
Average of 3.5 and 10.2: 6.85
```

average.c

```
/* Computes pairwise averages of three numbers */

#include <stdio.h>

double average(double a, double b)
{
  return (a + b) / 2;
}

int main(void)
{
  double x, y, z;

  printf("Enter three numbers: ");
  scanf("%lf%lf%lf", &x, &y, &z);
  printf("Average of %g and %g: %g\n", x, y, average(x, y));
  printf("Average of %g and %g: %g\n", y, z, average(y, z));
  printf("Average of %g and %g: %g\n", x, z, average(x, z));

  return 0;
}
```

Program: Printing a Countdown

- To indicate that a function has no return value, we specify that its return type is `void`:

```
void print_count(int n)
{
  printf("T minus %d and counting\n", n);
}
```

- `void` is a type with no values.
- A call of `print_count` must appear in a statement by itself:

```
print_count(i);
```

Function Definitions

- General form of a ***function definition:***

  return-type function-name (*parameters*)
  {
      declarations
      statements
  }

Function Definitions

- The body of a function may include both declarations and statements.
- An alternative version of the `average` function:

```
double average(double a, double b)
{
  double sum;          /* declaration */

  sum = a + b;         /* statement */
  return sum / 2;      /* statement */
}
```

Program: Testing Whether a Number Is Prime

- The `prime.c` program tests whether a number is prime:

```
Enter a number: 34
Not prime
```

- The program uses a function named `is_prime` that returns `true` if its parameter is a prime number and `false` if it isn't.
- `is_prime` divides its parameter `n` by each of the numbers between 2 and the square root of `n`; if the remainder is ever 0, `n` isn't prime.

prime.c

```
/* Tests whether a number is prime */

#include <stdbool.h>   /* C99 only */
#include <stdio.h>

bool is_prime(int n)
{
  int divisor;

  if (n <= 1)
    return false;
  for (divisor = 2; divisor * divisor <= n; divisor++)
    if (n % divisor == 0)
      return false;
  return true;
}
```

```
int main(void)
{
  int n;

  printf("Enter a number: ");
  scanf("%d", &n);
  if (is_prime(n))
    printf("Prime\n");
  else
    printf("Not prime\n");
  return 0;
}
```

Function Declarations

- A ***function declaration*** provides the compiler with a brief glimpse at a function whose full definition will appear later.
- General form of a function declaration:

  return-type function-name (*parameters*) ;
- The declaration of a function must be consistent with the function's definition.
- Here's the `average.c` program with a declaration of `average` added.

Function Declarations

```
#include <stdio.h>

double average(double a, double b);   /* DECLARATION */

int main(void)
{
  double x, y, z;

  printf("Enter three numbers: ");
  scanf("%lf%lf%lf", &x, &y, &z);
  printf("Average of %g and %g: %g\n", x, y, average(x, y));
  printf("Average of %g and %g: %g\n", y, z, average(y, z));
  printf("Average of %g and %g: %g\n", x, z, average(x, z));

  return 0;
}

double average(double a, double b)    /* DEFINITION */
{
  return (a + b) / 2;
}
```

Arguments

- In C, arguments are ***passed by value:*** when a function is called, each argument is evaluated and its value assigned to the corresponding parameter.
- Since the parameter contains a copy of the argument's value, any changes made to the parameter during the execution of the function does not affect the argument.

Array Arguments

- Example:

```
int sum_array(int a[], int n)
{
  int i, sum = 0;

  for (i = 0; i < n; i++)
    sum += a[i];

  return sum;
}
```

- Since `sum_array` needs to know the length of `a`, we must supply it as a second argument.

Array Arguments

- When `sum_array` is called, the first argument will be the name of an array, and the second will be its length:

```
#define LEN 100

int main(void)
{
  int b[LEN], total;
  …
  total = sum_array(b, LEN);
  …
}
```

- Notice that we don't put brackets after an array name when passing it to a function:

```
total = sum_array(b[], LEN);    /*** WRONG ***/
```

Array Arguments

- A function is allowed to change the elements of an array parameter, and the change is reflected in the corresponding argument.
- A function that modifies an array by storing zero into each of its elements:

```
void store_zeros(int a[], int n)
{
  int i;

  for (i = 0; i < n; i++)
    a[i] = 0;
}
```

Array Arguments

- If a parameter is a multidimensional array, only the length of the first dimension may be omitted.
- If we revise `sum_array` so that `a` is a two-dimensional array, we must specify the number of columns in `a`:

```
#define LEN 10

int sum_two_dimensional_array(int a[][LEN], int n)
{
  int i, j, sum = 0;

  for (i = 0; i < n; i++)
    for (j = 0; j < LEN; j++)
      sum += a[i][j];

  return sum;
}
```

The `return` Statement

- A non-`void` function must use the `return` statement to specify what value it will return.
- The `return` statement has the form

  `return` *expression* `;`
- The expression is often just a constant or variable:

```
return 0;
return status;
```

- More complex expressions are possible:

```
return n >= 0 ? n : 0;
```

The `return` Statement

- `return` statements may appear in functions whose return type is `void`, provided that no expression is given:

```
return;  /* return in a void function */
```

- Example:

```
void print_int(int i)
{
  if (i < 0)
    return;
  printf("%d", i);
}
```

Program Termination

- Normally, the return type of `main` is `int`:

```
int main(void)
{
  …
}
```

- Older C programs often omit `main`'s return type, taking advantage of the fact that it traditionally defaults to `int`:

```
main()
{
  …
}
```

Recursion

- A function is ***recursive*** if it calls itself.
- The following function computes $n!$ recursively, using the formula $n! = n \times (n - 1)!$:

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

Recursion

- To see how recursion works, let's trace the execution of the statement

```
i = fact(3);
```

`fact(3)` finds that 3 is not less than or equal to 1, so it calls `fact(2)`, which finds that 2 is not less than or equal to 1, so it calls `fact(1)`, which finds that 1 is less than or equal to 1, so it returns 1, causing `fact(2)` to return 2 × 1 = 2, causing `fact(3)` to return 3 × 2 = 6.

Recursion

- The following recursive function computes x^n, using the formula $x^n = x \times x^{n-1}$.

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

Recursion

- We can condense the `power` function by putting a conditional expression in the `return` statement:

```
int power(int x, int n)
{
  return n == 0 ? 1 : x * power(x, n - 1);
}
```

- Both `fact` and `power` are careful to test a "termination condition" as soon as they're called.
- All recursive functions need some kind of termination condition in order to prevent infinite recursion.

The Quicksort Algorithm

- A classic example of divide-and-conquer can be found in the popular ***Quicksort*** algorithm.
- Assume that the array to be sorted is indexed from 1 to *n*.

Quicksort algorithm

1. Choose an array element *e* (the "partitioning element"), then rearrange the array so that elements 1, …, *i* – 1 are less than or equal to *e*, element *i* contains e, and elements *i* + 1, …, *n* are greater than or equal to *e*.
2. Sort elements 1, …, *i* – 1 by using Quicksort recursively.
3. Sort elements *i* + 1, …, *n* by using Quicksort recursively.

The Quicksort Algorithm

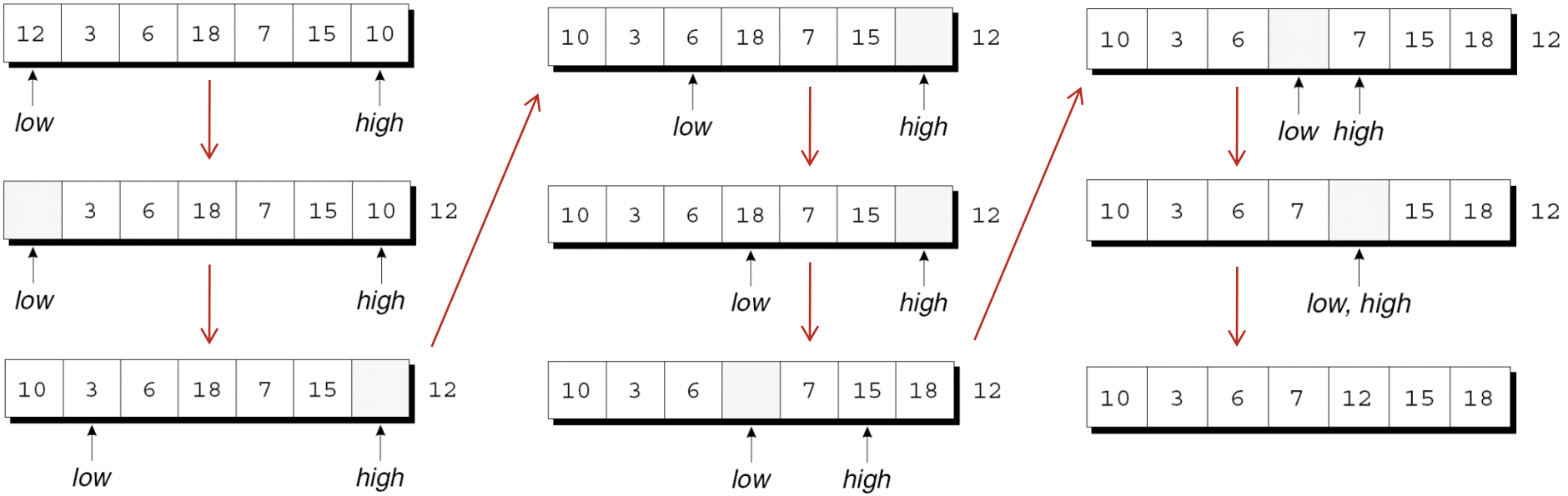
- Step 1 of the Quicksort algorithm is obviously critical.
- There are various methods to partition an array.
- We'll use a technique that's easy to understand but not particularly efficient.
- The algorithm relies on two "markers" named *low* and *high*, which keep track of positions within the array.

The Quicksort Algorithm

- Initially, *low* points to the first element; *high* points to the last.
- We copy the first element (the partitioning element) into a temporary location, leaving a "hole" in the array.
- Next, we move *high* across the array from right to left until it points to an element that's smaller than the partitioning element.
- We then copy the element into the hole that *low* points to, which creates a new hole (pointed to by *high*).
- We now move *low* from left to right, looking for an element that's larger than the partitioning element. When we find one, we copy it into the hole that *high* points to.
- The process repeats until *low* and *high* meet at a hole.
- Finally, we copy the partitioning element into the hole.

The Quicksort Algorithm

- Example of partitioning an array:



The Quicksort Algorithm

- By the final figure, all elements to the left of the partitioning element are less than or equal to 12, and all elements to the right are greater than or equal to 12.
- Now that the array has been partitioned, we can use Quicksort recursively to sort the first four elements of the array (10, 3, 6, and 7) and the last two (15 and 18).

Program: Quicksort

- Let's develop a recursive function named `quicksort` that uses the Quicksort algorithm to sort an array of integers.
- The `qsort.c` program reads 10 numbers into an array, calls `quicksort` to sort the array, then prints the elements in the array:

```
Enter 10 numbers to be sorted: 9 16 47 82 4 66 12 3 25 51
In sorted order: 3 4 9 12 16 25 47 51 66 82
```

- The code for partitioning the array is in a separate function named `split`.

qsort.c

```
/* Sorts an array of integers using Quicksort algorithm */

#include <stdio.h>

#define N 10

void quicksort(int a[], int low, int high);
int split(int a[], int low, int high);

int main(void)
{
  int a[N], i;

  printf("Enter %d numbers to be sorted: ", N);
  for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
    scanf("%d", &a[i]);
  quicksort(a, 0, N - 1);

  printf("In sorted order: ");
  for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
    printf("%d ", a[i]);
  printf("\n");

  return 0;
}
```

```
void quicksort(int a[], int low, int high)
{
  int middle;

  if (low >= high) return;
  middle = split(a, low, high);
  quicksort(a, low, middle - 1);
  quicksort(a, middle + 1, high);
}
```

```
int split(int a[], int low, int high)
{
  int part_element = a[low];

  for (;;) {
    while (low < high && part_element <= a[high])
      high--;
    if (low >= high) break;
    a[low++] = a[high];

    while (low < high && a[low] <= part_element)
      low++;
    if (low >= high) break;
    a[high--] = a[low];
  }

  a[high] = part_element;
  return high;
}
```

Program: Quicksort

- Ways to improve the program's performance:
  - Improve the partitioning algorithm.
  - Use a different method to sort small arrays.
  - Make Quicksort nonrecursive.