

C Programming: Deck 2

Data Types & Variables

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Topics Covered

- 1 Introduction to Data Types
- 2 Fundamental Data Types
- 3 Size Modifiers
- 4 Signed vs Unsigned
- 5 The sizeof() Operator
- 6 Variables
- 7 Constants
- 8 Program Examples
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- 10 Key Concepts Summary
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Why Data Types?

- Data types define what kind of data a variable can hold
- Determine how much memory is allocated
- Specify what operations can be performed
- Help compiler detect errors
- C is a statically-typed language - type must be declared

Categories of Data Types in C

① Basic/Primitive Types

- int, char, float, double

② Derived Types

- Arrays, Pointers, Structures, Unions

③ Enumeration Type

- enum

④ Void Type

- void

This deck focuses on basic/primitive types

Integer Type: int

- Stores whole numbers (no decimal point)
- Can be positive, negative, or zero
- Typically 4 bytes (32 bits) on most systems
- Range: -2,147,483,648 to 2,147,483,647 (on 32-bit systems)
- Default size depends on system architecture

Examples: -42, 0, 100, 2024

Character Type: char

- Stores a single character
- Typically 1 byte (8 bits)
- Enclosed in single quotes
- Internally stored as integer (ASCII value)
- Range: -128 to 127 (signed) or 0 to 255 (unsigned)

Examples: 'A', 'z', '5', '\n', '\$'

Floating Point Type: float

- Stores decimal numbers (real numbers)
- Single precision floating-point
- Typically 4 bytes (32 bits)
- Precision: approximately 6-7 decimal digits
- Can represent very large or very small numbers

Examples: 3.14, -0.001, 2.5, 1.0

Double Precision Type: double

- Stores decimal numbers with higher precision
- Double precision floating-point
- Typically 8 bytes (64 bits)
- Precision: approximately 15-16 decimal digits
- More accurate than float
- Default type for decimal literals in C

Examples: 3.141592653589793, -0.00000001, 1e10

Basic Data Types Summary

Type	Size	Format	Use
int	4 bytes	%d	Whole numbers
char	1 byte	%c	Single character
float	4 bytes	%f	Decimals (low precision)
double	8 bytes	%lf	Decimals (high precision)

Note: Sizes may vary by system; these are typical values

What are Size Modifiers?

- Modify the size and range of basic data types
- Applied mainly to `int` type
- Can increase or decrease storage size
- Affect the range of values that can be stored

Modifiers:

- `short`
- `long`
- `long long`

short int

- Typically 2 bytes (16 bits)
- Range: -32,768 to 32,767
- Uses less memory than int
- Can write as `short int` or just `short`

Declaration:

- `short x;`
- `short int y;`

long int

- Typically 4 or 8 bytes (system dependent)
- On 32-bit: 4 bytes, same as `int`
- On 64-bit: 8 bytes, larger range
- Range: -2,147,483,648 to 2,147,483,647 (32-bit)
- Can write as `long int` or just `long`

Declaration:

- `long x;`
- `long int y;`

long long int

- At least 8 bytes (64 bits)
- Range: -9,223,372,036,854,775,808 to 9,223,372,036,854,775,807
- For very large numbers
- Introduced in C99 standard
- Can write as `long long int` or `long long`

Declaration:

- `long long x;`
- `long long int y;`

long double

- Extended precision floating-point
- Typically 10, 12, or 16 bytes (system dependent)
- Greater precision than double
- Precision: approximately 18-19+ decimal digits
- For high-precision scientific calculations

Declaration:

- `long double pi = 3.14159265358979323846L;`

Understanding Signed and Unsigned

Signed:

- Can store both positive and negative values
- Default for integer types
- One bit used for sign (+ or -)

Unsigned:

- Can store only non-negative values (0 and positive)
- All bits used for magnitude
- Doubles the positive range

Signed vs Unsigned: Range Comparison

Type	Range
signed char	-128 to 127
unsigned char	0 to 255
signed short	-32,768 to 32,767
unsigned short	0 to 65,535
signed int	-2,147,483,648 to 2,147,483,647
unsigned int	0 to 4,294,967,295
signed long long	-2^{63} to $2^{63} - 1$
unsigned long long	0 to $2^{64} - 1$

When to Use Unsigned?

Use unsigned when:

- Value will never be negative (e.g., count, size, age)
- Need larger positive range
- Working with bit operations

Declaration:

```
1 unsigned int age = 25;  
2 unsigned long population = 8000000000UL;  
3 unsigned char byte = 255;
```

sizeof() Operator

- Returns the size of a type or variable in bytes
- Compile-time operator (evaluated at compile time)
- Returns value of type `size_t` (unsigned integer)
- Syntax: `sizeof(type)` or `sizeof variable`

Examples:

```
1 sizeof(int)
2 sizeof(char)
3 sizeof(double)
4 sizeof(x)      // where x is a variable
```

What is a Variable?

- Named storage location in memory
- Holds data that can change during program execution
- Must be declared before use
- Has a type, name, and value

Variable Declaration Syntax:

```
datatype variable_name;
```

Variable Declaration

Simple Declaration:

```
1 int age;  
2 char grade;  
3 float price;  
4 double pi;
```

Multiple Variables of Same Type:

```
1 int x, y, z;  
2 float a, b, c;
```

Variable Initialization

Declaration with Initialization:

```
1 int age = 25;  
2 char grade = 'A';  
3 float price = 99.99;  
4 double pi = 3.14159;
```

Multiple Variables with Initialization:

```
1 int x = 10, y = 20, z = 30;  
2 float a = 1.5, b = 2.5;
```

Variable Naming Rules

Valid Names:

- Must start with letter (a-z, A-Z) or underscore (_)
- Can contain letters, digits (0-9), and underscores
- Case-sensitive (age \neq Age)
- Cannot use C keywords (int, if, while, etc.)

Good Examples: age, student_name, marks1, _temp

Bad Examples: 2age, student-name, int, my\$money

What are Constants?

- Fixed values that cannot be changed during program execution
- Improve code readability
- Make code easier to maintain
- Two ways to define constants in C:
 - 1 Using `const` keyword
 - 2 Using `#define` preprocessor directive

Constants using const Keyword

Syntax:

```
1  const datatype variable_name = value;
```

Examples:

```
1  const int MAX_SIZE = 100;  
2  const float PI = 3.14159;  
3  const char GRADE = 'A';
```

- Value cannot be modified later
- Attempting to modify causes compilation error
- Type-safe (compiler checks type)

Constants using #define

Syntax:

```
1 #define IDENTIFIER value
```

Examples:

```
1 #define MAX_SIZE 100  
2 #define PI 3.14159  
3 #define NEWLINE '\n'
```

- Preprocessor replaces all occurrences before compilation
- No semicolon at the end
- No type checking
- Convention: use UPPERCASE names

const vs #define

Feature	const	#define
Type checking	Yes	No
Memory allocation	Uses memory	Text replacement
Scope	Has scope	Global
Debugging	Can debug	Cannot debug
Usage	Modern C	Traditional C

Program 1: Basic Variable Usage

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int main() {
4     int age = 25;
5     char grade = 'A';
6     float height = 5.9;
7     double pi = 3.14159;
8
9     printf("Age: %d\n", age);
10    printf("Grade: %c\n", grade);
11    printf("Height: %f\n", height);
12    printf("Pi: %lf\n", pi);
13
14    return 0;
15 }
```

Program 1: Output

```
Age: 25  
Grade: A  
Height: 5.900000  
Pi: 3.141590
```

Observations:

- %d for integers
- %c for characters
- %f for float (shows 6 decimal places by default)
- %lf for double

Program 2: sizeof() Operator

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int main() {
4     printf("Size of char: %lu byte(s)\n",
5           sizeof(char));
6     printf("Size of int: %lu byte(s)\n",
7           sizeof(int));
8     printf("Size of float: %lu byte(s)\n",
9           sizeof(float));
0     printf("Size of double: %lu byte(s)\n",
1           sizeof(double));
2     printf("Size of long long: %lu byte(s)\n",
3           sizeof(long long));
4
5     return 0;
6 }
```

Program 2: Output

```
Size of char: 1 byte(s)
Size of int: 4 byte(s)
Size of float: 4 byte(s)
Size of double: 8 byte(s)
Size of long long: 8 byte(s)
```

Notes:

- %lu used for size_t (unsigned long)
- Output may vary on different systems
- Shows typical values on 64-bit systems

Program 3: All Integer Types Sizes

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int main() {
4     printf("short: %lu bytes\n", sizeof(short));
5     printf("int: %lu bytes\n", sizeof(int));
6     printf("long: %lu bytes\n", sizeof(long));
7     printf("long long: %lu bytes\n",
8           sizeof(long long));
9
10    printf("\nSigned vs Unsigned:\n");
11    printf("signed int: %lu bytes\n",
12          sizeof(signed int));
13    printf("unsigned int: %lu bytes\n",
14          sizeof(unsigned int));
15
16    return 0;
17 }
```

Program 3: Output

```
short: 2 bytes  
int: 4 bytes  
long: 8 bytes  
long long: 8 bytes  
  
Signed vs Unsigned:  
signed int: 4 bytes  
unsigned int: 4 bytes
```

Observation:

- Signed and unsigned have same size
- Only the range differs, not the memory

Program 4: Signed vs Unsigned Range

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int main() {
4     signed char sc = -128;
5     unsigned char uc = 255;
6
7     printf("Signed char: %d\n", sc);
8     printf("Unsigned char: %u\n", uc);
9
10    signed int si = -2147483648;
11    unsigned int ui = 4294967295U;
12
13    printf("Signed int: %d\n", si);
14    printf("Unsigned int: %u\n", ui);
15
16    return 0;
17 }
```

Program 4: Output

```
Signed char: -128
Unsigned char: 255
Signed int: -2147483648
Unsigned int: 4294967295
```

Notes:

- %u for unsigned integers
- U suffix for unsigned literals
- Demonstrates minimum and maximum values

Program 5: Integer Overflow

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int main() {
4     signed char x = 127;    // Max value
5     printf("Before overflow: %d\n", x);
6
7     x = x + 1;              // Overflow
8     printf("After overflow: %d\n", x);
9
10    unsigned char y = 255;   // Max value
11    printf("\nBefore overflow: %u\n", y);
12
13    y = y + 1;              // Wraps to 0
14    printf("After overflow: %u\n", y);
15
16    return 0;
17 }
```

Program 5: Output

```
Before overflow: 127
After overflow: -128

Before overflow: 255
After overflow: 0
```

Observations:

- Signed overflow wraps from max to min
- Unsigned overflow wraps from max to 0
- This is undefined behavior for signed types

Program 6: Integer Underflow

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int main() {
4     signed char x = -128;    // Min value
5     printf("Before underflow: %d\n", x);
6
7     x = x - 1;               // Underflow
8     printf("After underflow: %d\n", x);
9
10    unsigned char y = 0;     // Min value
11    printf("\nBefore underflow: %u\n", y);
12
13    y = y - 1;               // Wraps to 255
14    printf("After underflow: %u\n", y);
15
16    return 0;
17 }
```

Program 6: Output

```
Before underflow: -128  
After underflow: 127
```

```
Before underflow: 0  
After underflow: 255
```

Observations:

- Signed underflow wraps from min to max
- Unsigned underflow wraps from 0 to max
- Demonstrates circular nature of integer storage

Program 7: Float Precision

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int main() {
4     float f = 3.14159265358979323846;
5     double d = 3.14159265358979323846;
6     long double ld = 3.14159265358979323846L;
7
8     printf("float: %.20f\n", f);
9     printf("double: %.20lf\n", d);
10    printf("long double: %.20Lf\n", ld);
11
12    return 0;
13 }
```

Note: .20 specifies 20 decimal places

Program 7: Output

```
float: 3.14159274101257324219  
double: 3.14159265358979311600  
long double: 3.14159265358979323851
```

Observations:

- float loses precision after 6-7 digits
- double maintains precision up to 15-16 digits
- long double has highest precision
- Notice the rounding errors due to binary representation

Program 8: Character and ASCII

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int main() {
4     char ch1 = 'A';
5     char ch2 = 65;    // ASCII value of 'A'
6     char ch3 = 'a';
7
8     printf("Character: %c, ASCII: %d\n", ch1, ch1);
9     printf("Character: %c, ASCII: %d\n", ch2, ch2);
10    printf("Character: %c, ASCII: %d\n", ch3, ch3);
11
12    printf("\nDifference: %d\n", ch3 - ch1);
13
14    return 0;
15 }
```

Program 8: Output

```
Character: A, ASCII: 65  
Character: A, ASCII: 65  
Character: a, ASCII: 97  
Difference: 32
```

Observations:

- Characters are stored as integers (ASCII values)
- %c displays character, %d displays ASCII
- 'A' = 65, 'a' = 97
- Difference between lowercase and uppercase is 32

Program 9: Constants with const

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int main() {
4     const int MAX_STUDENTS = 50;
5     const float PI = 3.14159;
6
7     printf("Maximum students: %d\n", MAX_STUDENTS);
8     printf("Value of PI: %f\n", PI);
9
10    // MAX_STUDENTS = 100; // ERROR! Cannot modify
11
12    printf("These values cannot be changed!\n");
13
14    return 0;
15 }
```

Program 9: Output

```
Maximum students: 50  
Value of PI: 3.141590  
These values cannot be changed!
```

Notes:

- `const` prevents modification
- Compiler error if you try to change the value
- Good practice for values that shouldn't change

Program 10: Constants with #define

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 #define MAX_SIZE 100
4 #define PI 3.14159
5 #define GREETING "Hello, World!"
6
7 int main() {
8     printf("Max size: %d\n", MAX_SIZE);
9     printf("PI value: %f\n", PI);
10    printf("%s\n", GREETING);
11
12    int array_size = MAX_SIZE;
13    printf("Array size: %d\n", array_size);
14
15    return 0;
16 }
```

Program 10: Output

```
Max size: 100  
PI value: 3.141590  
Hello, World!  
Array size: 100
```

Notes:

- #define does text replacement
- No type checking
- Can define any constant (number, string, expression)
- Processed by preprocessor before compilation

Program 11: Variable Scope Example

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int global_var = 100;  // Global variable
4
5 int main() {
6     int local_var = 50;  // Local variable
7
8     printf("Global variable: %d\n", global_var);
9     printf("Local variable: %d\n", local_var);
10
11     {
12         int block_var = 25;  // Block scope
13         printf("Block variable: %d\n", block_var);
14         printf("Can access local: %d\n", local_var);
15     }
16     // block_var not accessible here
17
18     return 0;
19 }
```

Program 11: Output

```
Global variable: 100
Local variable: 50
Block variable: 25
Can access local: 50
```

Observations:

- Global variables declared outside all functions
- Local variables declared inside functions
- Block variables exist only within `{ }` braces
- Inner scopes can access outer variables

Program 12: Formatting Output

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int main() {
4     int x = 5;
5     float y = 3.14159;
6
7     printf("Default int: %d\n", x);
8     printf("Width 5: %5d\n", x);
9     printf("Zero-padded: %05d\n", x);
10
11     printf("\nDefault float: %f\n", y);
12     printf("2 decimals: %.2f\n", y);
13     printf("Width 10, 3 decimals: %10.3f\n", y);
14
15     return 0;
16 }
```

Program 12: Output

```
Default int: 5
Width 5:      5
Zero-padded: 00005

Default float: 3.141590
2 decimals: 3.14
Width 10, 3 decimals:      3.142
```

Format Specifiers:

- %5d - minimum width of 5
- %05d - zero padding
- %.2f - 2 decimal places
- %10.3f - width 10, 3 decimals

Common Format Specifiers

Specifier	Type
%d or %i	int (signed)
%u	unsigned int
%c	char
%f	float
%lf	double
%Lf	long double
%ld	long int
%lld	long long int
%lu	unsigned long
%llu	unsigned long long
%x	hexadecimal (lowercase)
%X	hexadecimal (uppercase)
%o	octal

Important Points to Remember

- 1 Every variable must be declared with a type
- 2 Type determines size, range, and operations
- 3 `sizeof()` returns size in bytes
- 4 Signed types can be negative, unsigned cannot
- 5 Constants prevent accidental value changes
- 6 Use appropriate type for your data needs
- 7 Be careful with overflow and underflow
- 8 `float` has less precision than `double`

Common Mistakes

- ❶ Using uninitialized variables
 - May contain garbage values
 - Always initialize before use
- ❷ Integer overflow/underflow
 - Check ranges before operations
- ❸ Using `%f` for double in `scanf()`
 - Use `%lf` for double in `scanf()`
 - `%f` works for `printf()` due to promotion
- ❹ Comparing floats with `==`
 - Use tolerance due to precision issues

Try These!

- 1 Declare variables of all basic types and print their sizes
- 2 Write a program to swap two integer variables
- 3 Calculate the area of a circle using `const` for PI
- 4 Demonstrate overflow with different integer types
- 5 Print ASCII values of characters 'A' through 'Z'
- 6 Create a program showing precision difference between float and double

Sample Solution: Swap Two Numbers

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int main() {
4     int a = 10, b = 20, temp;
5
6     printf("Before swap: a = %d, b = %d\n", a, b);
7
8     temp = a;
9     a = b;
10    b = temp;
11
12    printf("After swap: a = %d, b = %d\n", a, b);
13
14    return 0;
15 }
```

Sample Solution: Swap Output

```
Before swap: a = 10, b = 20
```

```
After swap: a = 20, b = 10
```


Sample Solution: Circle Area

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 #define PI 3.14159
4
5 int main() {
6     float radius = 5.0;
7     float area;
8
9     area = PI * radius * radius;
10
11     printf("Radius: %.2f\n", radius);
12     printf("Area: %.2f\n", area);
13
14     return 0;
15 }
```

Sample Solution: Circle Area Output

```
Radius: 5.00  
Area: 78.54
```

Questions?

Next: Deck 3 - Type Conversions