C Programming: Arrays (1D)

Prof. Jyotiprakash Mishra
mail@jyotiprakash.org

January 16, 2026

Topics Covered

What are Arrays?

- Collection of elements of same type
- Stored in contiguous memory locations
- Fixed size (determined at declaration)
- Elements accessed by index (0-based)
- Efficient for storing related data

Why Use Arrays?

- Store multiple values in one variable
- Process collections of data
- Use loops to access elements
- More efficient than separate variables

Index Range:

- Array of size n: indices 0 to n-1
- First element: index 0
- Last element: index n-1

Array Declaration and Syntax

Declaration:

```
data_type array_name[size];
```

Examples:

```
int numbers[5];          // array of 5 integers
float scores[10];        // array of 10 floats
char letters[26];        // array of 26 characters
```

Accessing Elements:

```
array_name[index]        // index from 0 to size-1
numbers[0]               // first element
numbers[4]               // fifth element (last in size 5)
```

Important: Size must be a constant or known at compile time

Program 1: Array Declaration and Initialization

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr1[5] = {10, 20, 30, 40, 50};
  int arr2[5] = {1, 2, 3};
  int arr3[] = {5, 10, 15, 20};
  int i;
  printf("arr1: ");
  for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr1[i]);
  }
  printf("\narr2: ");
  for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr2[i]);
  }
  printf("\narr3 size: %lu\n",
         sizeof(arr3)/sizeof(arr3[0]));
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
arr1: 10 20 30 40 50
arr2: 1 2 3 0 0
arr3 size: 4
```

Explanation:

- arr1: fully initialized
- arr2: partial init, rest are 0
- arr3: size inferred as 4
- Uninitialized elements are 0

Program 2: Zero Initialization

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr1[5] = {0};
  int arr2[5] = {};
  int arr3[5];
  int i;
  printf("arr1 (={0}): ");
  for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr1[i]);
  }
  printf("\narr2 (={}): ");
  for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr2[i]);
  }
  printf("\narr3 (no init): ");
  for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr3[i]);
  }
  printf("\n");
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
arr1 (={0}): 0 0 0 0 0
arr2 (={}): 0 0 0 0 0
arr3 (no init): 0 0 0 0 0
```

Note:

- $\{0\}$ sets all to zero
- $\{\}$ also sets all to zero
- Uninitialized: undefined (often 0 for global/static)
- Always initialize arrays!

Program 3: Individual Element Assignment

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr[5];
  int i;
  arr[0] = 100;
  arr[1] = 200;
  arr[2] = 300;
  arr[3] = 400;
  arr[4] = 500;
  printf("Array elements:\n");
  for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
    printf("arr[%d] = %d\n", i, arr[i]);
  }
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Array elements:
arr[0] = 100
arr[1] = 200
arr[2] = 300
arr[3] = 400
arr[4] = 500
```

Note:

- Elements assigned individually
- Index starts at 0
- Index ends at size-1

Program 4: Array Input from User

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr[5];
  int i;
  int inputs[] = {5, 10, 15, 20, 25};
  printf("Enter 5 numbers:\n");
  for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
    arr[i] = inputs[i];
    printf("%d ", inputs[i]);
  }
  printf("\n\nYou entered:\n");
  for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr[i]);
  }
  printf("\n");
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Enter 5 numbers:
5 10 15 20 25

You entered:
5 10 15 20 25
```

Pattern:

- Loop to read input
- Store in array using index
- Loop again to display

Program 5: Print Array Elements

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int numbers[] = {2, 4, 6, 8, 10};
  int size = 5;
  int i;
  printf("Method 1 - Horizontal:\n");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", numbers[i]);
  }
  printf("\n\nMethod 2 - Vertical:\n");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("numbers[%d] = %d\n",
           i, numbers[i]);
  }
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Method 1 - Horizontal:
2 4 6 8 10

Method 2 - Vertical:
numbers[0] = 2
numbers[1] = 4
numbers[2] = 6
numbers[3] = 8
numbers[4] = 10
```

Note:

- Two display methods
- Loop through all elements

Program 6: Sum of Array Elements

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr[] = {10, 20, 30, 40, 50};
  int size = 5;
  int sum = 0;
  int i;
  printf("Array: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr[i]);
    sum += arr[i];
  }
  printf("\n\nSum = %d\n", sum);
  printf("Average = %.2f\n",
         (float)sum / size);
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Array: 10 20 30 40 50

Sum = 150
Average = 30.00
```

Logic:

- Initialize sum to 0
- Loop through array
- Add each element to sum
- Calculate average

Program 7: Find Maximum Element

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr[] = {34, 12, 89, 5, 67, 23};
  int size = 6;
  int max = arr[0];
  int maxIndex = 0;
  int i;
  for (i = 1; i < size; i++) {
    if (arr[i] > max) {
      max = arr[i];
      maxIndex = i;
    }
  }
  printf("Array: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr[i]);
  }
  printf("\n\nMax: %d at index %d\n",
         max, maxIndex);
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Array: 34 12 89 5 67 23

Max: 89 at index 2
```

Logic:

- Assume first element is max
- Compare with each element
- Update max if larger found
- Track index too

Program 8: Find Minimum Element

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr[] = {34, 12, 89, 5, 67, 23};
  int size = 6;
  int min = arr[0];
  int minIndex = 0;
  int i;
  for (i = 1; i < size; i++) {
    if (arr[i] < min) {
      min = arr[i];
      minIndex = i;
    }
  }
  printf("Array: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr[i]);
  }
  printf("\n\nMin: %d at index %d\n",
         min, minIndex);
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Array: 34 12 89 5 67 23

Min: 5 at index 3
```

Logic:

- Assume first element is min
- Compare with each element
- Update min if smaller found
- Same pattern as max

Program 9: Linear Search

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr[] = {10, 25, 30, 15, 20};
  int size = 5;
  int target = 15;
  int found = 0;
  int i;
  printf("Array: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr[i]);
  }
  printf("\nSearching for: %d\n\n",
         target);
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    if (arr[i] == target) {
      printf("Found at index %d\n", i);
      found = 1;
      break;
    }
  }
  if (!found) {
    printf("Not found\n");
  }
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Array: 10 25 30 15 20
Searching for: 15

Found at index 3
```

Logic:

- Check each element
- If match, set found flag
- Break out of loop
- Report result

Program 10: Count Occurrences

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr[] = {5, 2, 5, 8, 5, 3, 5};
  int size = 7;
  int target = 5;
  int count = 0;
  int i;
  printf("Array: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr[i]);
  }
  printf("\nTarget: %d\n\n", target);
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    if (arr[i] == target) {
      count++;
    }
  }
  printf("Count: %d\n", count);
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Array: 5 2 5 8 5 3 5
Target: 5

Count: 4
```

Logic:

- Initialize count to 0
- Loop through array
- Increment count on match
- Don't break - count all

Program 11: Reverse an Array

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr[] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
  int size = 5;
  int temp, i;
  printf("Original: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr[i]);
  }
  for (i = 0; i < size/2; i++) {
    temp = arr[i];
    arr[i] = arr[size-1-i];
    arr[size-1-i] = temp;
  }
  printf("\nReversed: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr[i]);
  }
  printf("\n");
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Original: 1 2 3 4 5
Reversed: 5 4 3 2 1
```

Logic:

- Swap first with last
- Swap second with second-last
- Continue to middle
- Loop size/2 times

Program 12: Copy Array

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int src[] = {10, 20, 30, 40, 50};
  int dest[5];
  int size = 5;
  int i;
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    dest[i] = src[i];
  }
  printf("Source: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", src[i]);
  }
  printf("\nDestination: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", dest[i]);
  }
  printf("\n");
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Source: 10 20 30 40 50
Destination: 10 20 30 40 50
```

Note:

- Cannot do: dest = src
- Must copy element by element
- Loop through entire array
- Both arrays must exist

Program 13: Shift Elements Left

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr[] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
  int size = 5;
  int first, i;
  printf("Original: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr[i]);
  }
  first = arr[0];
  for (i = 0; i < size-1; i++) {
    arr[i] = arr[i+1];
  }
  arr[size-1] = first;
  printf("\nShifted left: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr[i]);
  }
  printf("\n");
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Original: 1 2 3 4 5
Shifted left: 2 3 4 5 1
```

Logic:

- Save first element
- Shift all left by one
- Put first at end
- Circular rotation

Program 14: Shift Elements Right

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr[] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
  int size = 5;
  int last, i;
  printf("Original: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr[i]);
  }
  last = arr[size-1];
  for (i = size-1; i > 0; i--) {
    arr[i] = arr[i-1];
  }
  arr[0] = last;
  printf("\nShifted right: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr[i]);
  }
  printf("\n");
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Original: 1 2 3 4 5
Shifted right: 5 1 2 3 4
```

Logic:

- Save last element
- Shift all right by one
- Put last at beginning
- Reverse of left shift

Program 15: Check if Sorted

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr1[] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
  int arr2[] = {1, 3, 2, 4, 5};
  int size = 5;
  int sorted = 1;
  int i;
  printf("Array 1: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr1[i]);
  }
  for (i = 0; i < size-1; i++) {
    if (arr1[i] > arr1[i+1]) {
      sorted = 0;
      break;
    }
  }
  printf("\nSorted: %s\n",
         sorted ? "Yes" : "No");
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Array 1: 1 2 3 4 5
Sorted: Yes
```

Logic:

- Assume sorted = true
- Check consecutive pairs
- If any pair out of order, not sorted
- Break early if found

Program 16: Count Even and Odd

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr[] = {12, 7, 18, 5, 9, 14};
  int size = 6;
  int even = 0, odd = 0;
  int i;
  printf("Array: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr[i]);
    if (arr[i] % 2 == 0) {
      even++;
    } else {
      odd++;
    }
  }
  printf("\n\nEven count: %d\n", even);
  printf("Odd count: %d\n", odd);
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Array: 12 7 18 5 9 14

Even count: 3
Odd count: 3
```

Logic:

- Initialize both counters to 0
- Check each element
- Increment appropriate counter
- Report both counts

Program 17: Second Largest Element

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr[] = {34, 12, 89, 5, 67};
  int size = 5;
  int first, second, i;
  first = second = arr[0];
  for (i = 1; i < size; i++) {
    if (arr[i] > first) {
      second = first;
      first = arr[i];
    } else if (arr[i] > second &&
               arr[i] != first) {
      second = arr[i];
    }
  }
  printf("Array: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr[i]);
  }
  printf("\n\nLargest: %d\n", first);
  printf("Second largest: %d\n",
         second);
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Array: 34 12 89 5 67

Largest: 89
Second largest: 67
```

Logic:

- Track first and second
- If larger than first, update both
- Else if larger than second, update second
- Handle duplicates

Program 18: Compare Two Arrays

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr1[] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
  int arr2[] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
  int arr3[] = {1, 2, 9, 4, 5};
  int size = 5;
  int equal = 1;
  int i;
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    if (arr1[i] != arr2[i]) {
      equal = 0;
      break;
    }
  }
  printf("arr1 vs arr2: %s\n",
         equal ? "Equal" : "Not equal");
  equal = 1;
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    if (arr1[i] != arr3[i]) {
      equal = 0;
      break;
    }
  }
  printf("arr1 vs arr3: %s\n",
         equal ? "Equal" : "Not equal");
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
arr1 vs arr2: Equal
arr1 vs arr3: Not equal
```

Logic:

- Assume equal = true
- Compare element by element
- If any mismatch, not equal
- Can break early

Program 19: Merge Two Arrays

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr1[] = {1, 2, 3};
  int arr2[] = {4, 5, 6};
  int merged[6];
  int i;
  for (i = 0; i < 3; i++) {
    merged[i] = arr1[i];
  }
  for (i = 0; i < 3; i++) {
    merged[3+i] = arr2[i];
  }
  printf("Array 1: ");
  for (i = 0; i < 3; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr1[i]);
  }
  printf("\nArray 2: ");
  for (i = 0; i < 3; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr2[i]);
  }
  printf("\nMerged: ");
  for (i = 0; i < 6; i++) {
    printf("%d ", merged[i]);
  }
  printf("\n");
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Array 1: 1 2 3
Array 2: 4 5 6
Merged: 1 2 3 4 5 6
```

Logic:

- Create new array of combined size
- Copy first array
- Copy second array after first
- Display all three

Program 20: Find Duplicates

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr[] = {1, 2, 3, 2, 4, 3, 5};
  int size = 7;
  int i, j;
  int printed[7] = {0};
  printf("Array: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr[i]);
  }
  printf("\n\nDuplicates: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    if (printed[i]) continue;
    for (j = i+1; j < size; j++) {
      if (arr[i] == arr[j] &&
          !printed[i]) {
        printf("%d ", arr[i]);
        printed[i] = 1;
        break;
      }
    }
  }
  printf("\n");
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Array: 1 2 3 2 4 3 5

Duplicates: 2 3
```

Logic:

- Nested loops
- Compare each with rest
- Track printed to avoid duplicates
- Print only once per value

Program 21: Frequency of Each Element

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr[] = {1, 2, 1, 3, 2, 1};
  int size = 6;
  int visited[6] = {0};
  int i, j, count;
  printf("Array: ");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr[i]);
  }
  printf("\n\nFrequency:\n");
  for (i = 0; i < size; i++) {
    if (visited[i]) continue;
    count = 1;
    for (j = i+1; j < size; j++) {
      if (arr[i] == arr[j]) {
        count++;
        visited[j] = 1;
      }
    }
    printf("%d occurs %d time(s)\n",
           arr[i], count);
  }
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Array: 1 2 1 3 2 1

Frequency:
1 occurs 3 time(s)
2 occurs 2 time(s)
3 occurs 1 time(s)
```

Logic:

- Track visited elements
- Count occurrences
- Mark duplicates as visited
- Print each unique element once

Program 22: Array Index Out of Bounds

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
  int arr[5] = {10, 20, 30, 40, 50};
  int i;
  printf("Valid access:\n");
  for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
    printf("arr[%d] = %d\n", i, arr[i]);
  }
  printf("\nWARNING: Invalid access\n");
  printf("arr[5] would be undefined\n");
  printf("arr[-1] would be undefined\n");
  printf("\nValid indices: 0 to 4\n");
  printf("Array size: 5\n");
  return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Valid access:
arr[0] = 10
arr[1] = 20
arr[2] = 30
arr[3] = 40
arr[4] = 50

WARNING: Invalid access
arr[5] would be undefined
arr[-1] would be undefined

Valid indices: 0 to 4
Array size: 5
```

Warning:

- C doesn't check bounds
- Out of bounds = undefined behavior

Arrays - Summary

Key Points:

- Collection of same-type elements
- Fixed size, declared at compile time
- Zero-based indexing (0 to size-1)
- Stored in contiguous memory
- Elements accessed by index: `arr[i]`
- Cannot be assigned directly (must copy element-by-element)
- Size calculated: `sizeof(arr)/sizeof(arr[0])`
- Partial initialization fills rest with 0
- Uninitialized arrays have undefined values

Common Operations:

- Traversal, search, sum, max/min, reverse, copy
- Requires loops to process all elements

Best Practices

1. **Always initialize** arrays before use
2. **Check bounds** - valid indices: 0 to size-1
3. **Use constants** for array size (easier to modify)
4. **Pass size** to functions along with array
5. **Use meaningful names** - not just arr, a, b
6. **Validate input** when reading into arrays
7. **Use loops** for array operations
8. **Document assumptions** about array contents
9. **Consider using** `sizeof(arr)/sizeof(arr[0])` for size
10. **Avoid magic numbers** - use named constants

Common Mistakes

1. **Off-by-one errors**: Using `i <= size` instead of `i < size`
2. **Out of bounds access**: Accessing `arr[size]` or negative indices
3. **Uninitialized arrays**: Reading before writing
4. **Wrong size**: Using wrong variable for array size
5. **Direct assignment**: Trying `arr1 = arr2`
6. **Forgetting index 0**: Starting loops at 1
7. **Size confusion**: Forgetting last index is size-1
8. **Not checking empty**: Assuming array has elements
9. **Modifying in loop**: Changing size while iterating
10. **Integer overflow**: Sum of large numbers

Practice Exercises

Try these programs:

1. Insert element at specific position
2. Delete element from specific position
3. Find all pairs that sum to a target
4. Remove duplicates from array
5. Rotate array by k positions
6. Find missing number in sequence 1 to n
7. Move all zeros to end
8. Check if array is palindrome
9. Find intersection of two arrays
10. Separate even and odd numbers