

Advanced C Programming

Basic C Setup

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Basic Module Set Up

- ▶ typical functionality of a data structure
- ▶ typically includes one (or more) structures
- ▶ always contains an init and a free function (even if not needed)
- ▶ encapsulates all access to the structure via functions (object centration)
- ▶ for the struct there exist create functions generating an object, free functions freeing an object and delete functions recursively freeing objects

Modules: `<module>.[ch]`

What goes into `<module>.h`

- ▶ includes of other module interfaces
- ▶ type and struct definitions all followed by documentation blocks
- ▶ function prototypes
- ▶ macros **FORBIDDEN**

What goes into `<module>.c`

- ▶ include of `module.h`
- ▶ definition of functions
- ▶ definition of an `init` and a `free` function
- ▶ all functions not shown as prototypes in `<module>.h` are declared `static`

Layout of <module>.h

```
<header>
#ifndef _<module uppercase name>_
#define _<module uppercase name>_
/*****/
/* Includes */
/*****/
< all Includes >
/*****/
/* Structures */
/*****/
< all Structures and Type Definitions >
/*****/
/* Functions */
/*****/
< all Function prototypes >
#endif
```

<header>

```
/*  
*****  
*****  
**    <module uppercase name>    **  
**  
**    <short module description>  **  
**  
** <disclaimer, copyright statement> **  
**  
** Author: <author>              **  
**  
** Contact: <contact details>    **  
*****  
*****
```

Layout of <module>.c

```
<header>  
#include "<module>.h"  
/*****  
/* Functions */  
/*****  
<all Function definitions>
```

Names

- ▶ `<module name>` = typically 3-7 lowercase characters word without special characters, e.g., `list`
- ▶ `<struct pointer name>` = `<type name>` = typically 3-7 uppercase characters word without special characters, e.g., `LIST`
- ▶ `<struct name>` = `<struct pointer name>_NODE`, e.g., `LIST_NODE`
- ▶ `<struct tag>` = `<struct pointer name>_HELP`, e.g., `LIST_HELP`
- ▶ `<function name>` = `<module name>_<function description>`, e.g., `list_DeleteDuplicates`
- ▶ `<function description>` = typically 3-30 character long concatenation of words without special characters, e.g., `DeleteDuplicates`

Struct Documentation

- ▶ follows directly each struct definition
- ▶ explains each field

```
/*  
/*  
/**  <field 1 description>    */  
/**      <...>                */  
/**  <field n description>    */  
/*  
/*
```


Function Interface Documentation

<Function Definition>

```
<return type> <function name>(<argument declarations>)  
<function interface documentation block>  
{ <body> }
```

<function interface documentation block>

```
/*  
  INPUT: <argument descriptions>  
  RETURNS: <description of the output>  
  CAUTION: <anything special>  
  MEMORY: <dynamic storage allocation effects>  
  SUMMARY: <description of the function>  
*/
```

Inside Function Documentation

- ▶ explain the non-obvious
- ▶ explain invariants
- ▶ less is sometimes better
- ▶ no duplicate information
- ▶ use indentation

Coding Style

- ▶ No macros (later we may relax this a little)
- ▶ Names are always meaningful (see before)
- ▶ No expressions on assignments left hand side: $a[j++] = 5$
- ▶ No gotos
- ▶ Structure arguments are always pointers
- ▶ No \rightarrow operator usage outside the `<module>.c` file where the structure is defined in `<module>.h`

Libraries

Permitted Library Usage (will be extended later on)

- ▶ stdio: input /output to terminal and file system
- ▶ string: string and character operations
- ▶ stdlib: memory access
- ▶ limits: min and max bounds for standard C data types

Malloc and Free

Prototypes

```
void *malloc(size_t size);  
void free(void *ptr);
```

Usage

- ▶ for structs malloc usage only in create functions of a struct called `malloc(sizeof(<struct name>))`
- ▶ for structs free usage only in free/delete functions

Make

4 Basic Tasks

- ▶ `make`: compiles the application
- ▶ `make clean`: remove everything generated by `make`
- ▶ `make depend`: establish source file dependencies
- ▶ `make archive`: create a `.tgz` archive containing all necessary sources

No Warnings for all Options

- ▶ always use options "-ansi -pedantic -Wall -Wshadow -Wpointer-arith -Wwrite-strings"
- ▶ use option "-O2" for optimized code generation
- ▶ use option "-g" for debug code generation