Monday’s lecture

- Variables and change-of-state
- The “squaring” problem.
- Types of variables: int.
- Assigning and re-assigning values to a variable.
- The if-statement.
- Input using scanf.

Today’s lecture

- Arithmetic Operations for int
- Quadratic Equations.
- More types: double (and float).

Arithmetic Operators for int

+ Addition.
- Subtraction or negation.
* Multiplication (don’t use x).
/ Division – order is important here!
  ▶ What is 4/2 ?
  ▶ What is 5/2 ?
% Integer remainder (eg, 5 % 3 = 2).
  ▶ You’ve seen % used for something else . . .
  ▶ nothing whatsoever to do with this % !
++ Increment (x++ means x = x+1).
-- Decrement (x-- means x = x-1).

^ (sometimes used in ‘real life’ for powers – e.g., x’3) is NOT an arithmetic operation in the C programming language – for powers, use the * operator (repeatedly) or the pow function from math.h.
Solving quadratic equations

Consider any quadratic polynomial of the form $ax^2 + bx + c$, $a \neq 0$. We know this equation has exactly two complex roots (solutions to $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$) given by:

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}.$$ 

Suppose we want real roots ONLY.

Three cases:
- If $b^2 < 4ac$, there are no real solutions.
- If $b^2 = 4ac$, there is one (repeated) real solution: $-b/(2a)$.
- If $b^2 > 4ac$, there are two different real solutions.

C program to Solve Quadratic Equations

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}.$$ 

Steps of our program:
- Take in the inputs $a, b$ and $c$ from the user (scanf).
- check that $b^2 - 4ac$ is non-negative.
  - If negative, output a message about “No real roots”.
  - If positive, proceed.
- Get the square root of $b^2 - 4ac$.
- Output both roots (or one if repeated).
- return EXIT_SUCCESS;

We cannot continue working with int variables only. We do not expect the roots to be integers even when $a, b, c$ are.

Real numbers in C

For working with “real numbers” in C, there are two standard options: float and double. Neither type can truly represent all real numbers — both types have a limited number of significant digits. But they work well as an approximation for reals.

We will require the coefficients input for the quadratic equation to be int. However we will also need some float or double variables for the roots.

Types: float

- A signed floating-point number: numbers with decimal points.
- Form to write a float is a decimal number optionally followed by e (or E) and an integer exponent:
  - For example:
    - 1.5, -2.337, 6e23 (having values 1.5, -2.337 and $6 \times 10^{23}$)
    - 0.0, 0., .0 (all of these have value 0.0)
- Accurate to about 7 significant digits:
  - Max value is $3.402823 \times 10^{38}$ on DICE (system dependent);
  - Requires the same amount of storage as int.
- Contrast with real numbers in mathematics?
  - printf("%f", floatVar) and scanf("%f", &floatVar).
  - %f means "float"
  - Stored in 32-bit sign(1)/exponent(8)/mantissa(23) representation.
Types: double

- A float with double precision.
- Same form for writing double as float in programs.
- Accurate to about 15 significant digits:
  - Max value is $1.7976931348623157 \times 10^{308}$.
  - Requires twice the storage space of float.
  - Values may depend on your computer.
- printf("%lf", doubleVar) and scanf("%lf", &doubleVar)
  - The %lf means 'long float'.
  - Actually, the C standard says you should printf("%f",doubleVar); but most compilers also allow %lf, which is more consistent. Use either, but remember you must use "%lf" to scan a double.
- Stored in 64-bit sign(1)/exponent(11)/mantissa(52) representation.

float or double?

- floats are not precise enough for most scientific or engineering calculations, so
- the standard maths libraries all work with doubles, so
- I (JCB) recommend you always use doubles unless you have a good reason to use floats
- (for example, if you're doing lots of computation on lots of numbers – ask KH what he does!)
- and anyway, 9.36 is really a double – to get an actual float, you have to write 9.36f

Writing float/double in programs

```c
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void) {
    float x, x2;  
    double y, y2; 
    x = 1e8 + 5e-4;  
    x2 = -0.2223;  
    y = 1e8 + 5e-4;  
    y2 = -6e306;  
    printf("Two floats are %f\n and %f.\n", x, x2);  
    printf("Two doubles are %lf\n and %lf.\n", y, y2);  
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Output from float/double

zagreb: ./a.out
Two floats are 100000000.000000
and -0.222300.
Two doubles are 100000000.000500
and -60000000000000004157162361475827507299487506852076765339123136457002
4801871428421484153069331694043207332282766951287867963
40949057730519353547655429167101887147924700636668768497796
83791228980236015124480.000000.

Is there a mistake in the printing out of x and of y2?
No! The first few digits are correct (float (resp. double) guarantees
the first 7 (resp. 15)).
**double vs float – example**

```c
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

int main() {
    double x = 0.0;
    int i = 0;
    while (i < 1000000) {
        x = x + 0.9; i = i + 1;
    }
    printf("%f\n", x);
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Prints:

900000.000015

an error of almost 1%!

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**Mixing Types, and Casting**

- / does integer division on ints: 3/2 → 1
- It does real division on doubles: 3.0/2.0 → 1.5.
- What if we mix doubles and ints? 3.0/2 → ? 3/2.0 → ?
- The int gets promoted to double:
  3.0/2 → 3.0/2.0 → 1.5 and 3/2.0 → 3.0/2.0 → 1.5
- This happens with all arithmetic operators. **BUT** beware that it happens 'from the inside out':
  (5/2)*1.2 → 2*1.2 → 2.4
- If int x,y; how do we do real division of x by y?
- Can use promotion: (x*1.0)/y → xdbl/y → xdbl/ydbl
- Clearer and safer to cast: explicitly convert types:
  (double)x/(double)y → xdbl/ydbl
- Be careful: (double)(5/2) → (double)(2) → 2.0
- Alternatively:
  double xd, yd;
  xd = x; yd = y; xd/yd

---

**Reading material**

Sections 2.8, 2.9, 2.10, 2.11 of “A book on C” discuss Operators, Operator precedence, and assignments (ie, material from Monday’s lecture).

Section 3.6 (The Floating Types) of “A Book on C”.

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