Computer Programming: Skills & Concepts (CP)
arithmetic, if and booleans (cont)

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Arithmetic

Quadratic equation problem: \( ax^2 + bx + c = 0 \)

Floating point data
Today’s lecture

- Solving quadratic with if-statements
- General form of the if-statement
- Boolean tests (using relational operators)
- What about degenerate quadratics?
- Refining quadratic.c
Choice of variables for quadratic.c

- We will need to compute the square-root of $b^2 - 4ac$.
- The \texttt{sqrt} function available in the \texttt{math} library for C is of the type \texttt{double sqrt (double x)};
- For this simple reason we use \texttt{double} variables for our real roots.
- Precision is not really important to \texttt{us}, at least not now.
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).
  
  **Need three int variables to store these values: \( a, b, c \) say;**

- **test whether \( b^2 - 4ac \) is non-negative.**

  What we do will depend on the result of the test
  
  - If negative, output a message about “No real roots”.
  - If exactly 0, a repeated root.
  - Otherwise, two differing roots as per formula.

- Get the square root of \( b^2 - 4ac \) (if non-negative).

- Output both roots (or one if repeated).

- return EXIT_SUCCESS;
int s = (b*b - 4*a*c);

if (s < 0) {
    printf("No real roots to this quadratic.\n");
} else if (s == 0) {
    printf("Eq. has the repeated root %f.\n", -(double)b/(2.0*a));
} else {
    x1 = (-(double)b - sqrt(s))/(2.0*a);
    x2 = (-(double)b + sqrt(s))/(2.0*a);

    printf("The sols to %dx^2 +%dx +%d = 0 are ", a, b, c);
    printf("%lf and %lf.\n", x1, x2 );
}

Note: sqrt() takes a double argument, so the int expression s is automatically promoted to a double in sqrt(s).

Question: is the cast (double)b necessary?
Running quadratic.c

quadratic.c (and the refinements of this program) uses the sqrt function from the math library.

**note:** Not *enough* to include `<math.h>` in the code.

- `<math.h>` is just a header file for the math library (it explains the “shape” of the sqrt function, and other math functions).
- To run our program, we need to *link* to executable code for the math functions.
- Link by adding `-lm` to gcc command when compiling:
  ```
  gcc -Wall quadratic.c -lm
  ```
- `-lm` is ‘minus ell m’, **NOT** ‘minus one m’.
Assumptions :-(

We made some assumptions for quadratic.c

- By solving a quadratic, we (implicitly) assumed $a$ is non-zero.
- Same for $b$.
- We might have had a linear or constant equation.

SOLUTION - use the (general) if statement.
if statement – general form

if ( condition_1 ) {
    statement-sequence_1
}
else if ( condition_2 ) {
    statement-sequence_2
}
...
else {
    statement-sequence_n
}

- condition_1, ..., condition_{n-1} are all boolean expressions: either true or false.
- statement-sequence_1, ..., statement-sequence_n are all sequences of C-programming statements.
- Note that it is possible to use if alone without any else branch.
Warning about if

If you look in the textbooks, you will see that when the *statement-sequence* has only one statement, you can miss out the curly brackets round it:

```java
if ( t > 0 )
    x = x + 1;
else
    x = x - 1;
```

We *recommend* that you *don’t* do this (at least until you’re experienced enough to understand when you can ignore our advice!).

You will see it in other people’s programs though.

Actually, we lied about the general form of the *if* statement. In truth, the general form is

```java
if ( condition ) statement_1 else statement_2
```

and a *statement* can have the form `{ *statement-sequence* }`

or can be an *if*-statement itself. However, the form on the previous slide is the way we typically use it, so best to ‘learn’ that.
Relational operators

What kind of conditions can we use in if statements?
Assume \( e_1 \) and \( e_2 \) are (usually arithmetic) expressions . . .
We can apply relational operators to form a boolean expression.

\[
\begin{align*}
& e_1 == e_2 & \text{\( e_1 \) equal to \( e_2 \)} \\
& e_1 != e_2 & \text{\( e_1 \) not equal to \( e_2 \)} \\
& e_1 < e_2 & \text{\( e_1 \) less than \( e_2 \)} \\
& e_1 <= e_2 & \text{\( e_1 \) less than or equal to \( e_2 \)} \\
& e_1 > e_2 & \text{\( e_1 \) greater than \( e_2 \)} \\
& e_1 >= e_2 & \text{\( e_1 \) greater than or equal to \( e_2 \).}
\end{align*}
\]

Never write \( e_1 < e_2 < e_3 \)
it is legal C, but it doesn’t mean anything like what you think it means – if you remember to \(-Wall\), the compiler will warn you if you do this!

Note: We can compare float and double expressions in this way - but only int comparisons are fully reliable. Why is this?
More complicated Boolean expressions

Assume $e_1$ and $e_2$ are boolean expressions . . .
Can build more complicated boolean expressions iteratively, using boolean operators.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expression</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>false (always)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>non-zero</td>
<td>true (always)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$! e_1$</td>
<td>true if $e_1$ is false</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e_1 &amp;&amp; e_2$</td>
<td>true if ($e_1$ is true and $e_2$ is true)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e_1 \mid\mid e_2$</td>
<td>true if ($e_1$ is true or $e_2$ is true)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For example, can write $(e_1 < e_2) \&\& (e_2 < e_3)$.
The expressions $e_1$, $e_2$ are (formally) integer expressions.
We define boolean variables as int.
Think of integers as (informally) acting as boolean ‘type’.
Boolean expressions in if-else statements

We have seen lots of **simple** and **complex** boolean expressions: whenever any of these are used as tests in a if-else statement, they must be enclosed in **parentheses**.

For example

- The simple Boolean expression $x < 5+z$, when being used as a test for an else if-branch of an if-else statement, would appear as

  ```java
  else if (x < 5+z) {
  ... }
  ```

- The complex Boolean expression $(a \neq 0) \land (b*b > 4*a*c)$, when being used as the test for the if branch of an if-else statement, would appear as

  ```java
  if ( (a != 0) \land (b*b > 4*a*c) ) {
  ...}
  ```
Nested if-statements

- The *statement-sequence* place-holder in the general if-statement allows other if-statements to be part of the program fragment.
- This is a ‘nested’ use of the if-statement.
- Example – refine the quadratic.c program further to include a solution for the $a = 0$ case (given a linear equation).
Improving quadratic.c

Issues for improving quadratic:

(i) make our quadratic solver cope with $a = 0$ (quadratic2.c) … and with $a = 0, b = 0$.

(ii) complex roots (homework).
quadratic equations – what if $a = 0$

If $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ is a quadratic, and $a$ is 0, then we have a linear equation:

$$bx + c = 0$$

This has . . .

- Exactly *one* root of value $-c/b$, if $b \neq 0$.
- No root at all, if $b = 0$ and $c \neq 0$.
- Everything is a root, if $b = c = 0$.

*Can incorporate this case into our code:*
Start off as before ...

```c
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <math.h>  // Need to include math.h to use sqrt.

int main(void) {
    int a, b, c, s;
    double x1, x2;

    printf("Input the x^2 co-efficient a: ");
    scanf("%d", &a);
    printf("Input the x co-efficient b: ");
    scanf("%d", &b);
    printf("Input the constant term c: ");
    scanf("%d", &c);
    s = b*b - 4*a*c;
```
quadritic2.c – a != 0 versus a == 0

if (a != 0) {
    if (s < 0) { /* THIS (a != 0) */
        ... /* BRANCH IS */
    } /* EXACTLY WHAT */
    else if (s == 0) { /* WE PUT FOR THE */
        ... /* BODY OF */
    } /* quadratic.c */
    else { /* WE PUT FOR THE */
        ... /* BODY OF */
    }
}
else { /* THIS WILL BE THE */
    ... /* SOLUTION FOR a==0 */
}
return EXIT_SUCCESS;

We need to complete the else (a being 0) branch.

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if (a != 0) {
    if (s < 0) {
        ...
        // code from quadratic.c
    }
}
else if (b != 0) {
    /* a==0 WITH b NON-ZERO */
    x1 = -((double)c)/((double)b);
    printf("1 sol to %dx^2 +%dx +%d = 0.\n", a, b, c);
    printf("It is %lf.\n", x1);
}
else if (c != 0) {
    /* a AND b BOTH ZERO, c NON-ZERO */
    printf("No sols to %dx^2 + %dx +%d = 0.\n", a, b, c);
}
else {
    /* a, b, c ALL ZERO */
    printf("Degenerate equation – everything is a solution!\n");
}
return EXIT_SUCCESS;
Reading and Working

Relevant sections of “A book on C” are Sections 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 (on Boolean expressions, Relational operators, etc) and Section 4.7 (on the if and the if-then-else statements).

You already have the week 3 Tutorial sheet.
Please attempt all Questions before your tutorial group.
Also please think of one question about the CP material so far, and bring that question to the tutorial.

How about coding up quadratic2.c?
Could make quadratic3.c by also doing complex roots.