

# Variables

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- Variables are used to store a value.
- The value a variable holds may change over its lifetime.
- At any point in time a variable stores one value (except quantum computers!)
- C variables have a type

We'll only use 2 types of variable for the next few weeks:

- **int** for integer values, e.g.: 42, -1
- **double** for decimal numbers 3.14159, 2.71828

# Variables

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- **Declare** The first time a variable is mentioned, we need to specify its type.
- **Initialise** Before using a variable we need to assign it a value.

```
// Declare  
int answer;  
// Initialise  
answer = 42;  
// Use  
printf("%d", answer);
```

## Variable Names (and other Identifiers)

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- Variable names can be made up of letters, digits and underscores
- Use a lower case letter to start your variable names
- Beware variable names are case sensitive, e.g. **hello** and **hEllo** are different names)
- Beware certain words can't be used as variable names: e.g.: **if**, **while**, **return**, **int**, **double**
- These **keywords** have special meanings in C programs.
- You'll learn what many of them are as we go on.

## Output using printf()

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- No variables:

```
printf("Hello World\n");
```

- A single variable:

```
int num = 5;  
printf("num is %d\n", num);
```

- More than one variable:

```
int j = 5;  
int k = 17;  
printf("j is %d and k is %d\n", j, k);
```

## Using values in printf()

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- Use **%d** to print an **int** (integer) value

```
int answer;  
answer = 42;  
printf("The answer is %d\n", answer);
```

- Use **%lf** or **%g** to print a **double** (floating point) value

```
double pi;  
pi = 3.14159265359;  
printf("pi is %lf\n", pi);
```

## Input using scanf()

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scanf uses a format string like printf.

- Use **%d** to read an **int** (integer) value

```
int answer;  
printf("Enter the answer: ");  
scanf("%d", &answer);
```

- Use **%lf** to read a **double** (floating point) value

```
double e;  
printf("Enter e: ");  
scanf("%lf", &e);
```

- use only **"%d"** and **"%lf"** format strings with scanf
- read only 1 value at a time with scanf
- scanf can be used in other ways - don't do it
- we'll show you better ways to do other input

# Integer Representation

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- typically 4 bytes used to store an **int** variable
- 4 bytes  $\rightarrow$  32 bits  $\rightarrow 2^{32}$  possible values (bit patterns)
- only  $2^{32}$  integers can be represented - which ones?
- $-2^{31}$  to  $2^{31} - 1$   
i.e. -2,147,483,648 to +2,147,483,647
- Why are limits asymmetric?
- zero needs a pattern (all zeros)

## Integer Overflow/Underflow

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- storing a value in an `int` outside the range that can be represented is illegal
- unexpected behaviour from most C implementations  
e.g the sum of 2 large positive integers is negative
- may cause programs to halt, or not to terminate
- can create security holes
- bits used for **int** can be different on other platforms
- C on tiny embedded CPU in washing machine may use 16 bits  
 $-2^{15}$  to  $2^{15} - 1$  i.e. -32,768 to +32,767
- we'll show later how to handle this, for now assume 32 bit **ints**
- also arbitrary precision libraries available for C  
manipulate integers of any size (memory permitting)



# Real Representation

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- commonly 8 bytes used to store a **double** variable
- 8 bytes  $\rightarrow$  64 bits  $\rightarrow 2^{64}$  possible values (bit patterns)
- 64-bits gives huge number of patterns but infinite number of reals
- use of bit patterns more complex, if you want to know now  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Double-precision\\_floating-point\\_format](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Double-precision_floating-point_format)
- reals in (absolute) range  $10^{-308}$  to  $10^{308}$  can be approximated
- approximation errors can accumulate
- More later and in COMP1521

# Numbers and Types

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- Numbers in programs have types.
- Numbers with a decimal point are type **double**, e.g.  
3.14159 -34.56 42.0
- C also lets write numbers in scientific notation:  
 $2.4e5 \implies 2.4 \times 10^5 \implies 240000.0$   
Numbers in scientific notation are also type **double**
- Numbers without decimal point or exponent are type **int**, e.g.  
42 0 -24
- Numbers in programs are often called constants  
(unlike variables they don't change)

## Giving Constants Names

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- It can be useful to give constants (numbers) a name.
- It often makes your program more readable.
- It can make your program easier to update particularly if the constant appears in many places
- One method is **#define** statement e.g.  
`#define SPEED_OF_LIGHT 299792458.0`
- **#define** statements go at the top of your program after **#include** statements
- **#define** names should be all capital letters + underscore

# Arithmetic Operators

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- C supports the usual maths operations:  $+$   $-$   $*$   $/$
- Precedence is as you would expect from high school, e.g.:  
$$a + b * c + d / e \implies a + (b * c) + (d / e)$$
- Associativity (grouping) is as you would expect from high school, e.g.:  
$$a - b - c - d \implies ((a - b) - c) - d$$
- Use brackets if in doubt about order arithmetic will be evaluated.
- Beware division may not do what you expect.

## Division in C

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- C division does what you expect if either operand is a **double**  
If either operand is a **double** the result is a **double** .  
 $2.6/2 \implies 1.3$  (not 2!)
- C division may not do what you expect if both arguments are integers.
- The result of dividing 2 integers in C is an integer.
- The fractional part is discarded (not rounded!).  
 $5/3 \implies 1$  (not 2!)
- C also has the **%** operator (integers only).  
computes the modulo (remainder after division)  
 $14 \% 3 \implies 2$

# Mathematical functions

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- Mathematical functions not part of standard library  
Essentially because tiny CPUs may not support them
- A library of mathematical functions is available including:  
`sqrt()`, `sin()`, `cos()`, `log()`, `exp()`  
Above functions take a **double** as argument and return a **double**
- Functions covered fully later in course
- Extra include line needed at top of program:  
`#include <math.h>`  
(explained later in course)
- `gcc` includes maths library by default  
most compilers need extra option:  
`gcc` needs **-lm** e.g.:

```
gcc -o heron heron.c -lm
```

## Other functions - printf & scanf

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- printf & scanf are functions
- scanf returns a value returns number of items read
- Use this value to determine if scanf successfully read number.
- scanf could fail e.g. if the user enters letters
- OK for now to assume scanf succeeds
- Good programmers always check

## Linux Command: cp

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- Linux Command **cp**: copies files and directories.
- `cp sourceFile destination`
- If the destination is an existing file, the file is overwritten
- if the destination is an existing directory  
the file is copied into the directory
- To copy a directory use `cp -r sourceDir destination`



## Linux Command: mv

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- Linux Command **mv** moves or renames a file.
- `mv source destination`
- If the destination is an existing file, the file is overwritten
- if the destination is an existing directory  
the file is moved into the directory.

## Linux Command: rm

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- Linux Command **rm** removes a file.
- Usually no undo or recycle bin - be careful & have backups
- `rm filename`
- `rm -r directoryName`
  - ▶ This will delete a whole directory.
  - ▶ Be extra careful with this command