

Computer Programming

Input/output functions

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All inputs must be checked!

A program will not always receive the data it asks for

User may make *mistakes*, or may be **evil**

⇒ program *must check* that data was read correctly

MUST check *return code* of input function (NOT just value read)

Avoid **overflow** when reading *strings* and arrays

stop reading when array limit is reached

Buffer overflows *corrupt memory* (program data)

⇒ system is *vulnerable* to **intruder attacks**

Unvalidated input may cause *code injection* (attacker runs code)

⇒ some of the most **dangerous and costly** errors

A badly written program
An ignorant programmer are *worse* than no program(mer) at all!

Always checking for successful (correct) input!

Reading the desired data might not succeed for two reasons:

system: no more data (end-of-file), read error, etc.

user: data not in needed format (illegal char, not number, etc.)

A function can report both a *result* and an *error code* as follows:

1. *expand result datatype* to include error code
getchar() : unsigned char converted to int,
or EOF (-1) which is different from any unsigned char
2. return type may have a special *invalid/error value*
fgets returns address where the line was read (first argument)
or NULL (invalid pointer value) when nothing read
3. return *error code* and *store result* at given pointer
scanf *returns no. of items read* (can be 0, or EOF at end-of-input)
takes as arguments *addresses* where it should place read data

Process everything until no more (end of input/error)

Checking for end-of-input explicitly is rarely needed.

The point of processing is to *read data*

⇒ thus we must check that data was read successfully:

```
while (read successful) use data
```

On exit from loop, if `feof(stdin)`, input is finished

else input does not match format ⇒ read next char(s) and report

DO NOT write code of the form

```
while (!feof(stdin))  
    scanf("%d", &n);
```

After last good read (number), end-of-input is not yet reached unless no more separators (whitespace, incl. newline) after it

⇒ next read will not succeed, but is not checked

If read is checked (as it *MUST* be), testing EOF is not needed:

```
while (scanf("%d", &n) == 1)  
    // process n
```

Check bounds when filling an array

Often, we have to fill an array up to some stopping condition:
read from input upto a given character (period, \n, etc)
copy from another string or array

Arrays must not be written beyond their length!

*Loop should **first** test array is not full!*

```
for (int i = 0; i < len; ++i) { // limit to array size
    tab[i] = ...;           // assign with value read
    if (normal stopping condition) break/return;
}
// here we can test if maximal length reached
// and report if needed
```

Text lines can be long. Check if truncated!

```
#include <stdio.h>
int rdline(char line[], size_t size) {
    if (size-- == 0) return 0;          // keep space for '\0'
    for (size_t i = 0; i < size; ++i) { // only up to size
        int c;
        if ((c = getchar()) == EOF) { line[i] = '\0'; return i; }
        if ((line[i] = c) == '\n') { line[++i] = '\0'; return i; }
    }
    line[size] = '\0'; return -1;      // truncated line
} // why is reading directly into line[i] not good?
#define LEN 82
int main(void) {
    char s[LEN]; int cnt;
    if (cnt = rdline(s, LEN)) { // nonzero, something read
        printf("%s", s);          // print read line
        if (cnt == -1) fputs("\nline truncated\n", stderr);
        else if (s[cnt-1] != '\n') fputs("\nEOF, no \n", stderr);
    } else fputs("\nnothing read\n", stderr);
    return 0;
}
```

Read text line easily: fgets

```
char tab[80];  
if (fgets(tab, 80, stdin)) { /* line has been read */ }  
else { /* EOF, nothing read */ }
```

Declaration: char *fgets(char *s, int size, FILE *stream);
(all I/O functions *declared* in `stdio.h`)

Reads up to and including newline `\n`, max. `size-1` characters, stores line in array `s`, adds `'\0'` at the end.

Third parameter to `fgets` indicates the *file* from which to read: `stdin` (`stdio.h`) is *standard input* (keyboard unless redirected)

WARNING! NO reading without checking!

Check successful return code, anything else is too late!

`fgets` returns `NULL` if nothing read (end-of-file).

if successful returns address passed as argument (thus non-null)

⇒ Test *non-null* result to find out if read successful

Read line by line until end of input

```
char s[81];  
while (fgets(s, 81, stdin)) printf("%s", s);
```

A line with > 80 chars will be read and printed piecewise (OK!)

More complex: can test if read line was truncated:

```
int c; char s[81];  
if (fgets(s, 81, stdin) // line was read  
    if (strlen(s) == 80 && s[79] != '\n' // unfinished  
        && ((c = getchar()) != EOF) // EOF not reached  
            printf("incomplete line: %s\n", s);  
            ungetc(c, stdin); // put char c back  
    } else printf("complete line: %s\n", s);
```

C11 standard **removed** function ~~get/s~~: did not limit size read

⇒ it is **impossible** to use ~~get/s~~ safely

⇒ **buffer overflow, memory corruption, security vulnerabilities**

Printing a string

```
puts("text; newline will be added");
```

Declaration: `int puts(const char *s);`

prints string `s` followed by newline `\n`

```
fputs("text with no newline added", stdout);
```

```
fputs(s, stdout); is like printf("%s", s);
```

prints string `s` as is, without additional newline

`stdout` is *standard output* (screen unless redirected)

Declaration: `int fputs(const char *s, FILE *stream);`

`puts` and `fputs` return EOF on error, nonnegative on success

Formatted output: printf

```
int printf(const char* format, ...);
```

functions with variable number of parameters: discussed later

First parameter: the *format string*; may contain:

usual characters (are printed)

format specifiers: % and a letter:

%c char, %d, %i decimal, %e, %f, %g real, %o octal, %p pointer,
%s string, %u unsigned, %x heXadecimal

Remaining parameters: *expressions*, their *values* are printed

their number and type must correspond to format specifiers

Result: number of characters printed (usually not used/ignored)

Example:

```
printf("square root of %d is %f\n", 3, sqrt(3));
```

Formatted input: scanf

```
int scanf(const char* format, ...);
```

First arg: *string*, with format specifiers (some [differences to printf!](#))

Remaining parameters: *addresses* where to store read values

Need *addresses*, NOT necessarily `&` (one way to get addresses)

DON'T use `&` for strings: array name IS already its address

Returns number of objects read (assigned) (NOT their value!)

or EOF when error/end-of-file *before* anything read

WARNING! MUST CHECK scanf return value!

```
double x; float y; // CAUTION : %f float %lf double
if (scanf("%lf%f", &x, &y) != 2) { /* handle error */ }
else { /* can use x, y */ }
```

WARNING! MUST give max. string length in format!

```
char str[30];
if (scanf("%29s", str) != 1) { /* handle error */ }
else { /* word (up to first whitespace) has been read in s */ }
```

NEVER use ~~%s~~: `scanf("%s", ...)`. Leads to **buffer overflow**.

Process repeatedly: while read successful

Simplest: *exit program*

primitive, but *incomparably better than continuing with errors*

`void exit(int status)` from `stdlib.h` ends program

Can write an error function that prints a message and calls `exit()`

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
void fatal(char *msg)
{
    fputs(msg, stderr); // to screen unless redirected
    exit(EXIT_FAILURE); // or exit(1)
}
```

We can then use this function for *every* read:

```
if (scanf("%d", &n) != 1) fatal("error reading n\n");
// got here, use n
```

Good practice: Always print error messages to stderr

can separate errors from output (using redirection)

Handling input errors

Often, want to repeatedly read and process. A useful pattern:

```
while (read successful) process data
```

```
while (fgets(...)) { /*process line */}
```

```
while ((c = getchar()) != EOF) { /*process c */}
```

```
while (scanf(...) == how-many-to-read) { /*use them*/}
```

On loop exit, may test for EOF (normal read), or (format) error.

CAUTION! scanf *does not consume* non-matching input

⇒ *must consume bad input* before trying again

```
int m, n;
```

```
printf("Input two numbers: ");
```

```
while (scanf("%d%d", &m, &n) != 2) { // while not OK
```

```
    for (int c; (c = getchar()) != '\n';) // skip to end of line
```

```
        if (c == EOF) exit(1); // nothing more, done
```

```
    printf("try again: ");
```

```
}
```

```
// can use m and n now
```

Reading a word (string)

Format letter **s**: for reading a *word* (string WITHOUT whitespace)
CANNOT read a sentence "This is a test."

Arrays are ALWAYS limited!

⇒ **MUST** give max. length (a constant) *between* % and s
one less than array length, scanf will add \0

```
char word[33];  
if (scanf("%32s", word) == 1)  
    printf("Word read: %s\n", word);
```

scanf with s format *consumes and ignores* initial *whitespace*:
\t \n \v \f \r and space, as checked by isspace()

CAUTION! Array names *are addresses*, DON'T use &

CAUTION! Format **s** reads a *word* (up to whitespace), *not a line!*

Reading strings with certain characters

allowed characters: between [] (ranges: with -)

Reading stops at first disallowed character

```
char a[33]; if (scanf("%32[A-Za-z_]", a) == 1) ...  
    max. 32 letters and _
```

```
char num[81]; if (scanf("%80[0-9]", num) == 1) ...  
    string of digits
```

WARNING! MUST give max. length between % and []

Reading a string *except for disallowed (stopping) chars*:
like above, but use ^ after [to specify *disallowed* chars

```
char t[81]; if (scanf("%80[^\\n.]", t) == 1) ...  
    reads up to period or newline
```

WARNING! Format is [], NOT with s: %20[A-Z]s

Reading a fixed number of chars

One character:

```
int c = getchar(); if (c != EOF) { /*read OK */}  
int c; if ((c = getchar()) != EOF) { /*read OK */}
```

With scanf (use char, not int; useful for arrays)

```
char c; if (scanf("%c", &c) == 1) { /* read OK */}
```

Reading a *fixed number of chars*:

```
char tab[80]; scanf("%80c", tab);  
reads EXACTLY 80 chars, anything (including whitespace)  
DOES NOT add '\0' at end ⇒ can't know if all read
```

Check how many read by initializing with zeroes and testing length:

```
char tab[81] = "";  
scanf("%80c", tab);  
int len = strlen(tab); // will be between 0 and 80
```


scanf: matching the format

Besides format specifiers (%), format string may have *ordinary chars*

printf: printed as such

scanf: *must appear in input*

Example: reading calendar date in dd.mm.yyyy format

```
unsigned d, m, y;  
if (scanf("%u.%u.%u", &d, &m, &y) == 3)  
    printf("read 3 values: d=%u, m=%u, y=%u\n", d, m, y);  
else printf("error reading date\n");
```

input 5.11.2013 (with periods!) \Rightarrow d=5, m=11, y=2013

see later how to enforce *exactly* 2 or 4 digits

scanf reads until input *does not match* format

Non-matching chars are not read; those variables are not assigned

```
scanf("%d%d", &x, &y);  
input: 123A returns 1; x = 123, y: unchanged; input rest: A
```

```
scanf("%d%x", &x, &y);  
input: 123A returns 2; x = 123, y = 0xA (10)
```

Whitespace handling in scanf

Numeric formats and *s* consume and ignore initial whitespace

`"%d%d"` two ints separated and possibly preceded by whitespace

In formats `c` `[]` `[^]` whitespace are *normal chars* (not ignored)

A *white space* in the format consumes *any* ≥ 0 whitespace in input
`scanf(" ");` consumes whitespace until first non-space char

`"%c %c"` reads char, consumes ≥ 0 whitespace, reads other char

`"%d %f"` is like `"%d%f"` (whitespace allowed anyway)

CAUTION! `"%d "` : space after number consumes ALL whitespace
(*including* newlines!)

Consume whitespace, but not newline `\n`:

```
scanf("%*[\t\v\f\r ]");
```

Consume and ignore with scanf

To consume and ignore (skip) data with a given format:
Use * after %, without specifying address where to read
⇒ scanf reads according to pattern, but does not store data
and does not count in result (number of read objects)

Example: text with three grades and average, need just average:

```
int avg;  
if (scanf("%*d%*d%*d%d", &avg) == 1) { /* use */ }  
else { /* wrong format, handle error */ }
```

Example: consume rest of line

```
scanf("%*[^\\n]"); // consume up to \\n, without \\n  
if (getchar() == EOF) { /* end of input */ }  
// otherwise, getchar() has consumed \\n, continue
```

Specifying limits in scanf

Number between % and format character limits count of chars read
%4d int, at most 4 chars (initial spaces don't count, sign does!)

<code>scanf("%d%d", &m, &n);</code>	12 34	m=12 n=34
<code>scanf("%2d%2d", &m, &n);</code>	12345	m=12 n=34 rest: 5
<code>scanf("%d.%d", &m, &n);</code>	12.34	m=12 n=34
<code>scanf("%f", &x);</code>	12.34	x=12.34
<code>scanf("%d%x", &m, &n);</code>	123a	m=123 n=0xA

Format specifiers in scanf

%d: signed decimal int

%i: signed decimal, octal (0) or hexadecimal (0x, 0X) int

%o: octal (base 8) int, optionally preceded by 0

%u: unsigned decimal int

%x, %X: hexadecimal int, optionally with 0x, 0X

%c: *any* char, including whitespace

%MAXs: string of chars, until first whitespace. '\0' is added

MUST have a *constant* MAX unless assignment suppressed with *

%a, %A, %e, %E, %f, %F, %g, %G: real (possibly with exponent)

%p: pointer, as printed by printf

%n: writes into argument (int *) count of chars read so far
does not read; does not add to count of read objects (return value)

%[...]: string of indicated allowed characters

%[^...]: string except indicated disallowed chars

%%: percent character

Format specifiers in printf

`%d`, `%i`: signed decimal int

`%o`: signed octal int, without initial 0

`%u`: unsigned decimal int

`%x`, `%X`: hexadecimal int, without 0x/0X; lower/upper case

`%c`: character

`%s`: string of characters, up to `'\0'` or indicated precision

`%f`, `%F`: real w/o exponent; 6 decimal digits; no dot if 0 precision

`%e`, `%E`: real with exponent; 6 decimal digits; no dot if 0 precision

`%g`, `%G`: real, like `%e`, `%E` if $\text{exp.} < -4$ or \geq precision; else like `%f`.

Does not print zeroes or decimal point if useless

`%a`, `%A`: hexadecimal real with decimal 2's exponent `0xh.hhhhp±d`

`%p`: pointer, usually in hexadecimal

`%n`: writes into argument (`int *`) count of chars written so far

`%%`: percent character

Formatting: modifiers

Format specifiers may have other *optional* elements:

% flag size . precision modifier type

<i>Flags:</i> *	field is read but not assigned (is ignored)	(scanf)
-	aligns value left for given size	(printf)
+	+ before positive number of signed type	(printf)
<i>space:</i>	space before positive number of signed type	(printf)
0	left-filled with 0 up to indicated size	(printf)

Modifiers:

hh: argument is char (for `d i o u x X n` format) (1 byte)

`char c; scanf("%hhd", &c);` in: 123 → c = 123 (1 byte)

h: argument is short (for `d i o u x X n` format), e.g. `%hd`

l: arg. long (format `d i o u x X n`) or double (fmt. `a A e E f F g G`)

`long n; scanf("%ld", &n); double x; scanf("%lf", &x);`

ll: argument is long long (for `d i o u x X n` format)

L: argument is long double (for `a A e E f F g G` format)

Formatting: size and precision

Size: an integer

scanf: *maximal* character count read for this argument

printf: *minimal* character count for printing this argument

right aligned and filled with spaces, or according to modifiers

Precision: only in printf; dot . optionally followed by an integer
(if only dot, precision is zero)

minimal number of digits for `diouxX` (filled with 0)

number of decimal digits (for `Eef`) / significant digits (for `Gg`)

printf("`|%7.2f|`", 15.234); | 15.23| 2 decimals, 7 total

maximal number of chars to print from a string (for `s`)

`char m[3]="Jan"; printf("%.3s", m);` (for string w/o `'\0'`)

In printf, can have * instead of size and/or precision

Then, size/precision is given by next argument:

printf("`%. *s`", max, s); prints at most max chars

Sample formatted output

Floating point numbers in various formats:

```
printf("%f\n", 1.0/1100); // 0.000909 : 6 decimal digits
printf("%g\n", 1.0/1100); // 0.000909091 : 6 significant dig.
printf("%g\n", 1.0/11000); // 9.09091e-05 : 6 significant dig.
printf("%e\n", 1.0); // 1.000000e+00 : 6 decimal digits
printf("%f\n", 1.0); // 1.000000 : 6 decimal digits
printf("%g\n", 1.0); // 1 : no period and useless zeroes
printf("%.2f\n", 1.009); // 1.01: 2 decimal digits
printf("%.2g\n", 1.009); // 1: 2 significant digits
```

Writing integers in table form:

```
printf("|%6d|", -12); | -12| printf("|% d|", 12); | 12|
printf("|%-6d|", -12); |-12| printf("|%06d|", -12); |-00012|
printf("|+%6d|", 12); | +12|
```

Write 20 characters (printf returns count of written chars)

```
int m, n, len = printf("%d", m); printf("%*d", 20-len, n);
```

Examples of formatted input

Two characters separated by a single space (consumed by `%*1[]`)

```
char c1, c2; if (scanf("%c%*1[ ]%c", &c1, &c2) == 2) ...
```

Read an int with exactly 4 digits: `unsigned n1, n2, x;`

```
if (scanf("%n%4u%n", &n1, &x, &n2) == 1 && n2 - n1 == 4) ...
```

`%n` counts read chars; store counters in `n1, n2`, then subtract

Reads/checks for a word that must appear: `int nr=0;`

```
scanf("http://%n", &nr); if (nr == 7) { /*appears */}
```

```
else { /* does not reach %n, nr stays 0 */}
```

Ignores up to (and excluding) a given char (`\n`):

```
scanf("%*[^\\n]");
```

Test for the right number of read objects, not just nonzero!

```
if (scanf("%d", &n) == 1), not just if (scanf("%d", &n))
```

`scanf` may also return EOF, which is nonzero!

For integers, test overflow using `extern int errno;`

```
#include <errno.h> // declares errno and error codes
```

```
if (scanf("%d", &x) == 1) // test reset errno on overflow
```

```
    if (errno == ERANGE) { printf("number too big"); errno = 0; }
```

ERRORS with reading from input

NO! ~~while (scanf("%...", ...))~~ DON'T test for nonzero result.
It could be > 0 (items read), or -1 (EOF), nothing read!

YES: `while (scanf("%...", ...) == how-many-items-wanted)`

NO! ~~scanf("%20[a-z]s", buf).~~ The format is [], not []s

YES: `if (scanf("%20[a-z]". buf) == 1) ...`

NO! ~~scanf("%20s,%d", name, &grade).~~ The s format reads everything non-whitespace, so it won't stop at comma

YES: `if (scanf("%20[^,],%d", name, &grade) == 2)`

to read a string with no comma (all else allowed, including whitespace), the comma, and a number