

Deep C (and C++)

by Olve Maudal



<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2005/images/rov-hercules-titanic.jpg>

Programming is hard. Programming correct C, and certainly C++, is particularly hard. Indeed, it is uncommon to see a screenful containing only well defined and conforming code. Why do professional programmers write code like this? Because most programmers do not have a deep understanding of the language they are using. While they sometimes know that certain things are undefined or unspecified, they often do not know why it is so. In this presentation we will study small code snippets in C and C++, and use them to discuss the fundamental building blocks, limitations and underlying design philosophies of these wonderful but dangerous programming languages.

A 3 hour course for students at NTNU
Monday, October 14, 2012





Exercise

Type in this code. Compile and execute the program. What do you get?

foo.c

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
    int v[] = {2,4,6,8,10,12};
    int i = 1;
    int n = ++i + v[++i];
    printf("%d\n", n);
}
```

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$ cc -o foo foo.c
```

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foo.c

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}
```

```
$ cc -o foo foo.c
$ ./foo
```

Exercise

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int main(void)
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```

```
$ cc -o foo foo.c
$ ./foo
11
```

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```

```
$ cc -o foo foo.c
$ ./foo
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$ cc -Wall -Wextra -pedantic -o foo foo.c
```

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```
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$ ./foo
11
$ cc -Wall -Wextra -pedantic -o foo foo.c
$ ./foo
11
```

<http://www.slideshare.net/olvemaudal/deep-c>



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The screenshot shows a Slideshare presentation page. At the top, there are social sharing icons with counts: 1.7k likes, 891 Facebook likes, 136 tweets, 1 share, 1+ Google+, and 1 Pin it. Below these are buttons for Email, Favorite, Save file, Collect Leads, and Embed. The main title is "Deep C (and C++)" by Olve Maudal and Jon Jagger. A thumbnail image shows a yellow underwater vehicle (ROV) in an ocean environment. The main text reads:

Programming is hard. Programming correct C and C++ is particularly hard. Indeed, both in C and certainly in C++, it is uncommon to see a screenful containing only well defined and conforming code. Why do professional programmers write code like this? Because most programmers do not have a deep understanding of the language they are using. While they sometimes know that certain things are undefined or unspecified, they often do not know why it is so. In these slides we will study small code snippets in C and C++, and use them to discuss the fundamental building blocks, limitations and underlying design philosophies of these wonderful but dangerous programming languages.

October 2011

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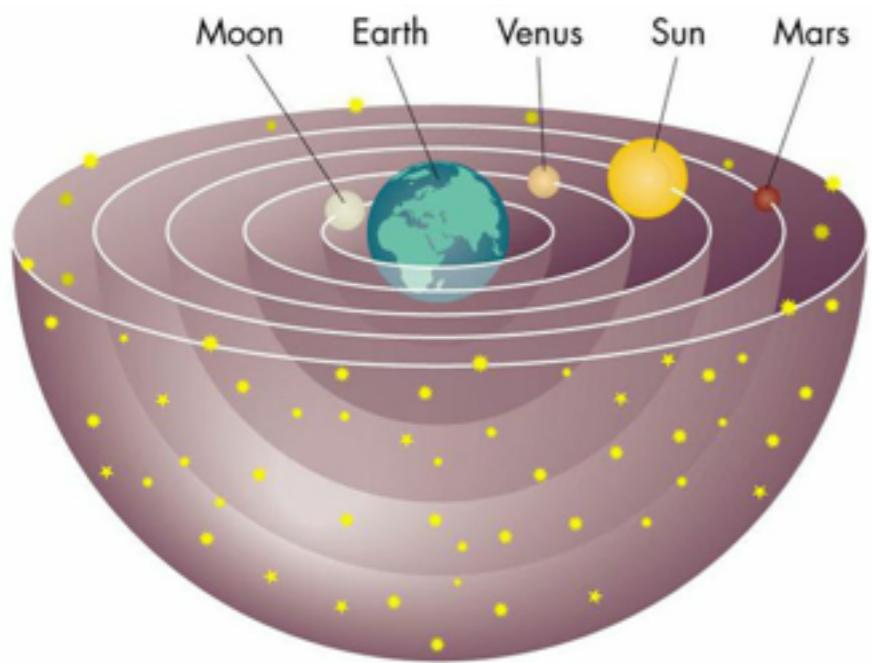
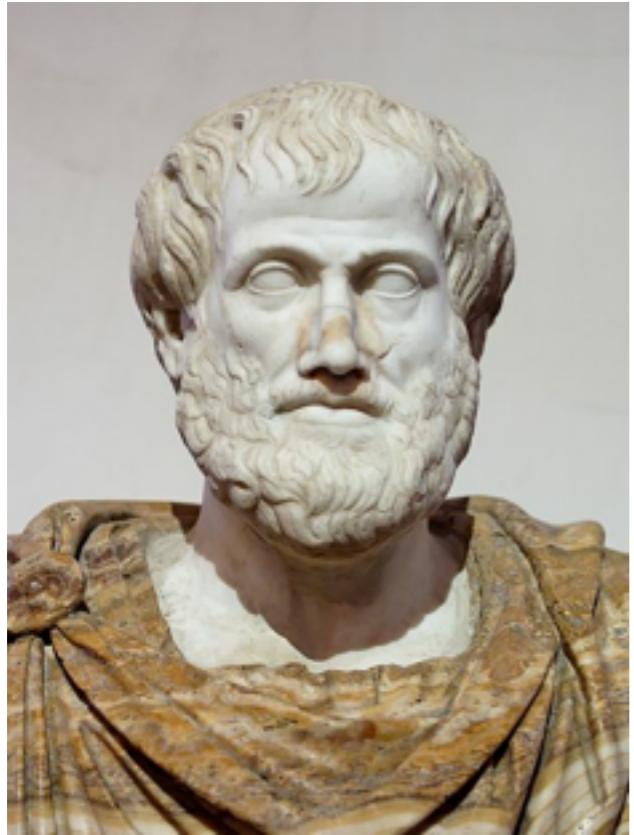
357K views

Below this, another slide is partially visible with the title "Deep C" and a photo of a man, with the text "by Olve Maudal on Oct 10, 2011 Edit".



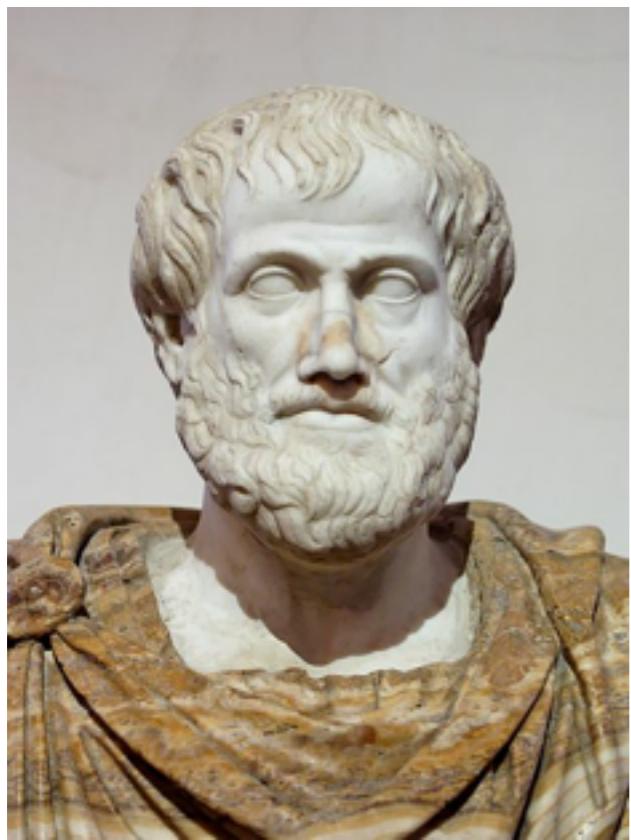
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Aristotle (384 BC – 322 BC)

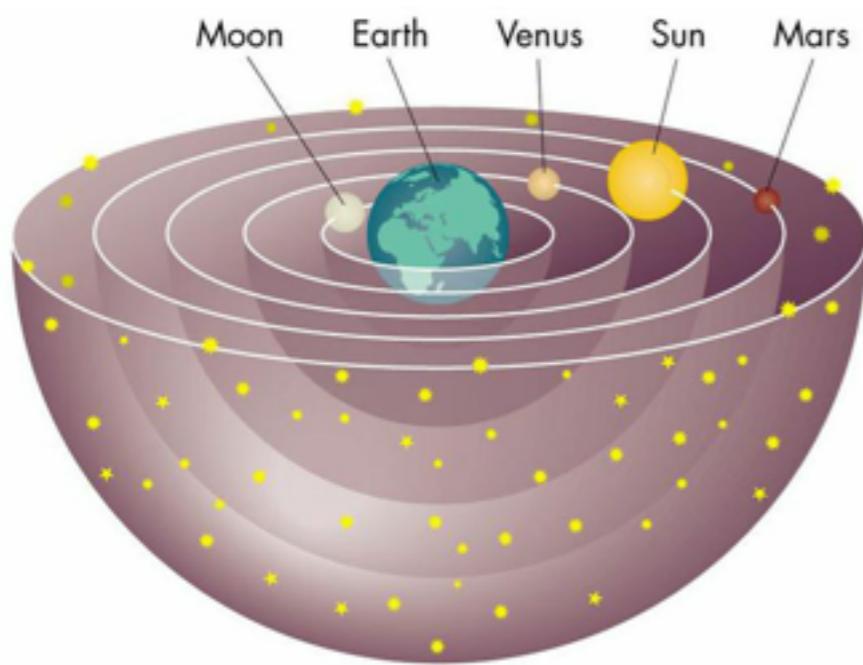


Aristotles Universe

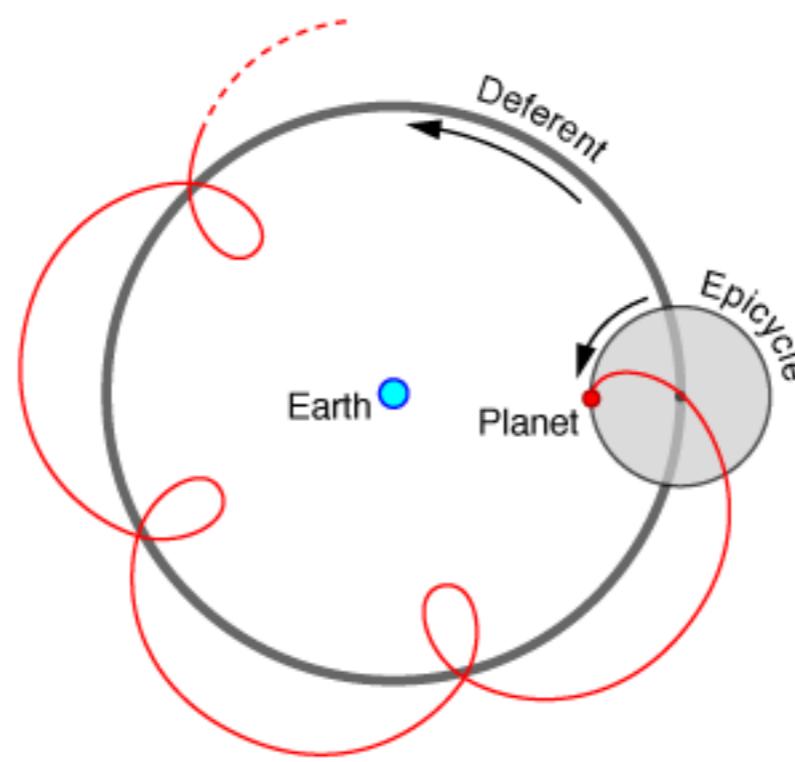
Aristotle (384 BC – 322 BC)



Ptolemy (90 AD – 168 AD)

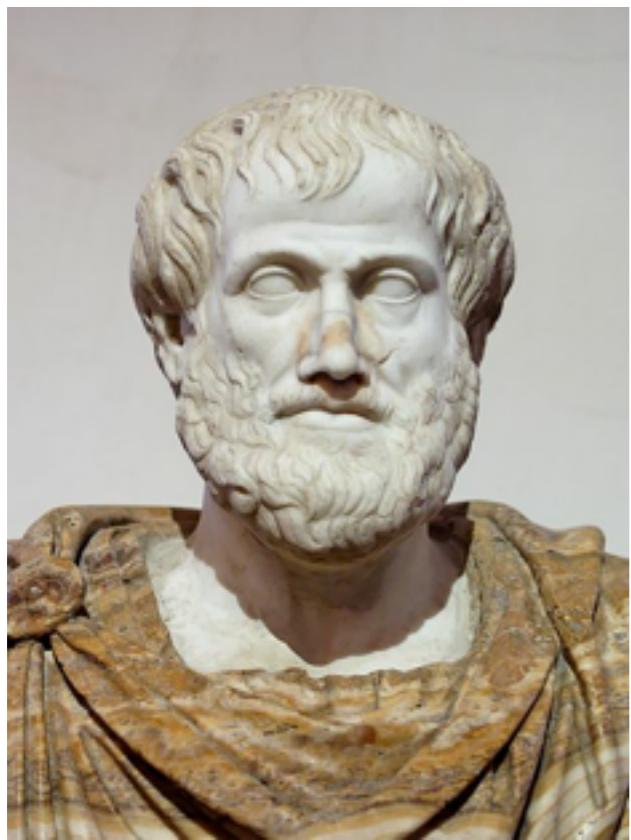


Aristotle's Universe



Ptolemy's Universe

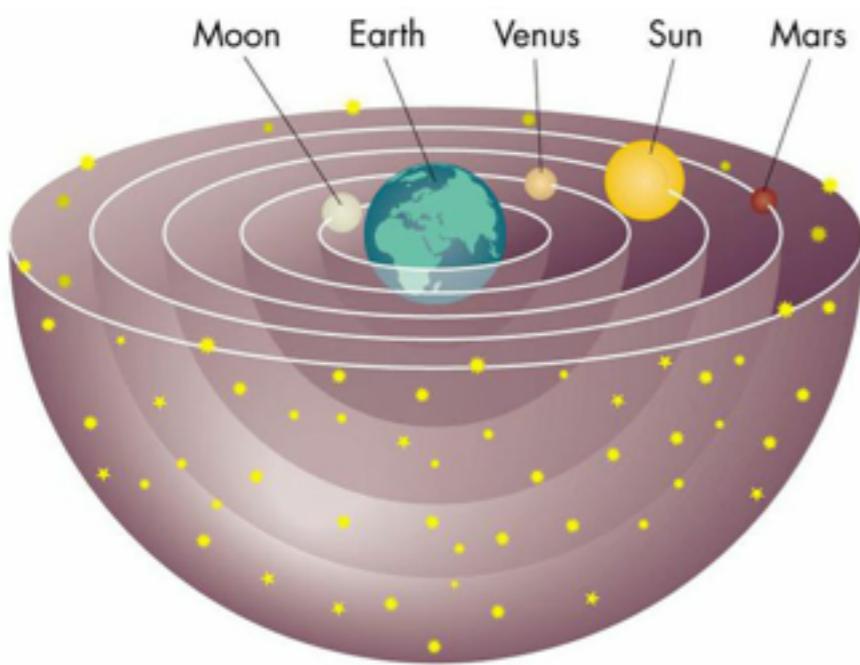
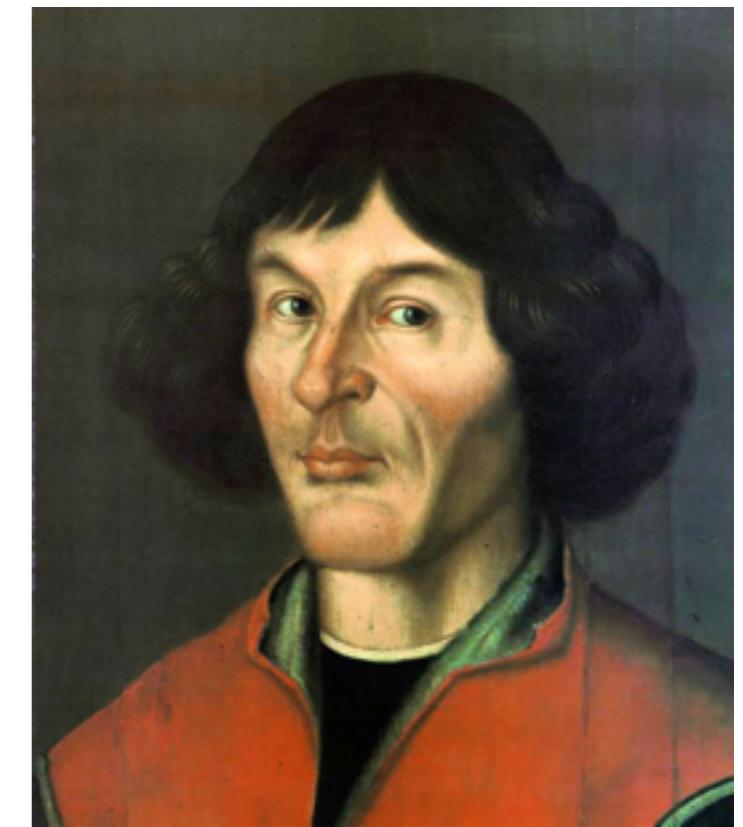
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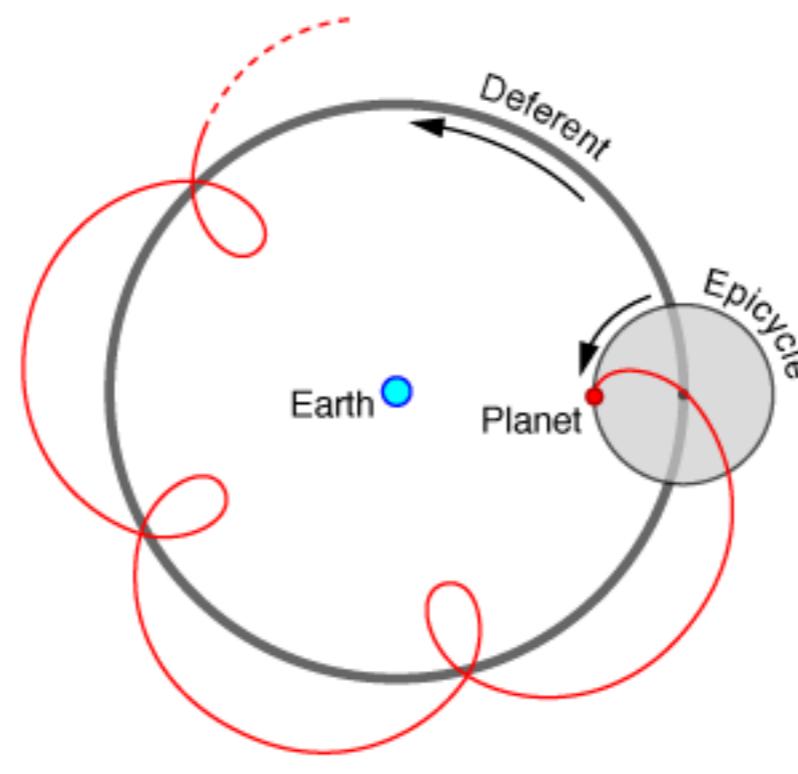
Ptolemy (90 AD – 168 AD)



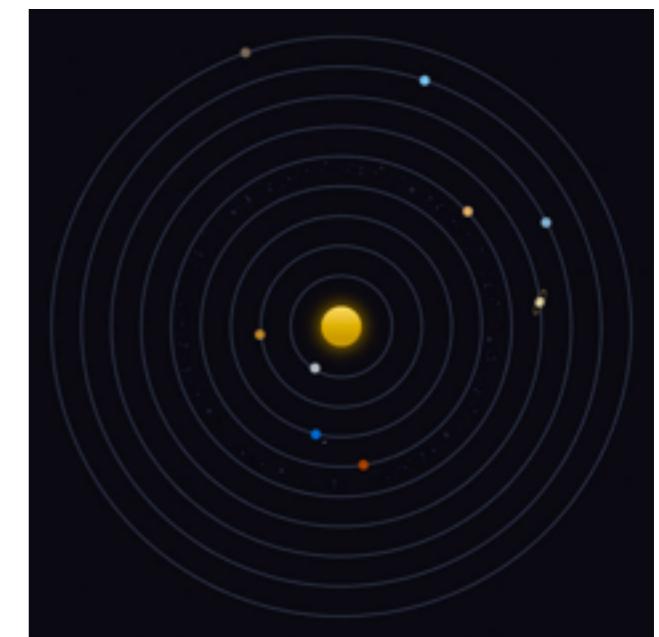
Copernicus (1473 – 1543)



Aristotle's Universe

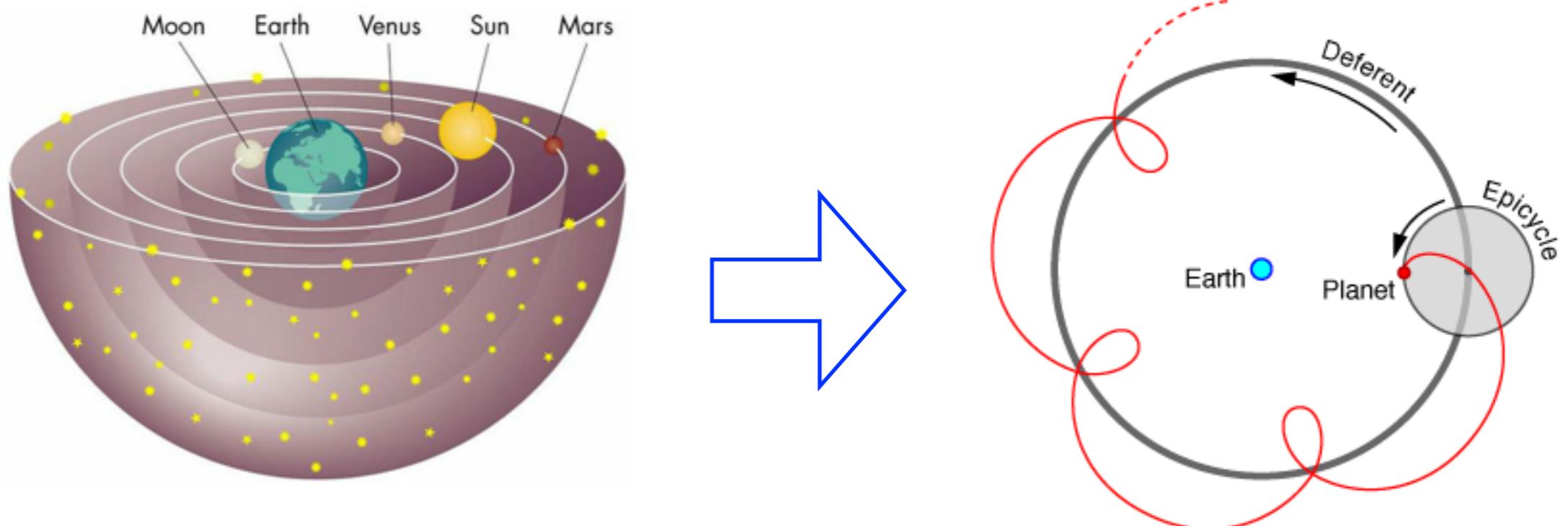


Ptolemy's Universe



The Solar System

Strange explanations are often symptoms of having an invalid conceptual model!



```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a = 3;
    ++a;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
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```

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```
$ c++ foo.cpp
```

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int main()
{
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}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
```

```
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void foo()
{
    int a = 3;
    ++a;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
    foo();
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
4
```

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    int a = 3;
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}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
    foo();
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp
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4
4
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4
4
4
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4
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$ ./a.out
4
```

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    foo();
    foo();
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
4
5
```

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{
    static int a = 3;
    ++a;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
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    foo();
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
4
5
6
```

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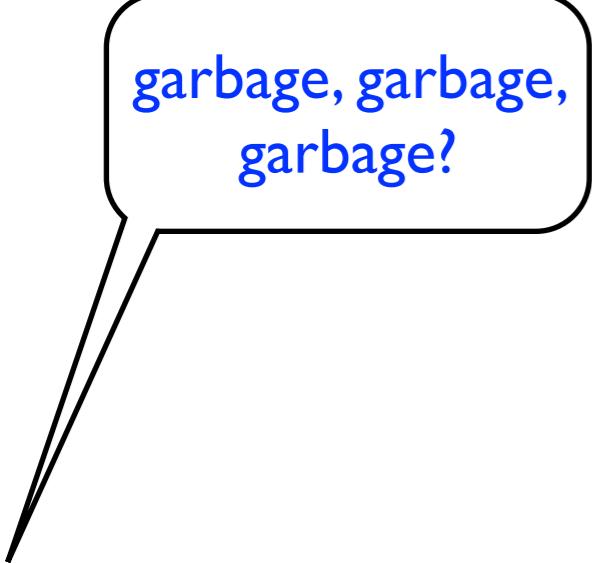
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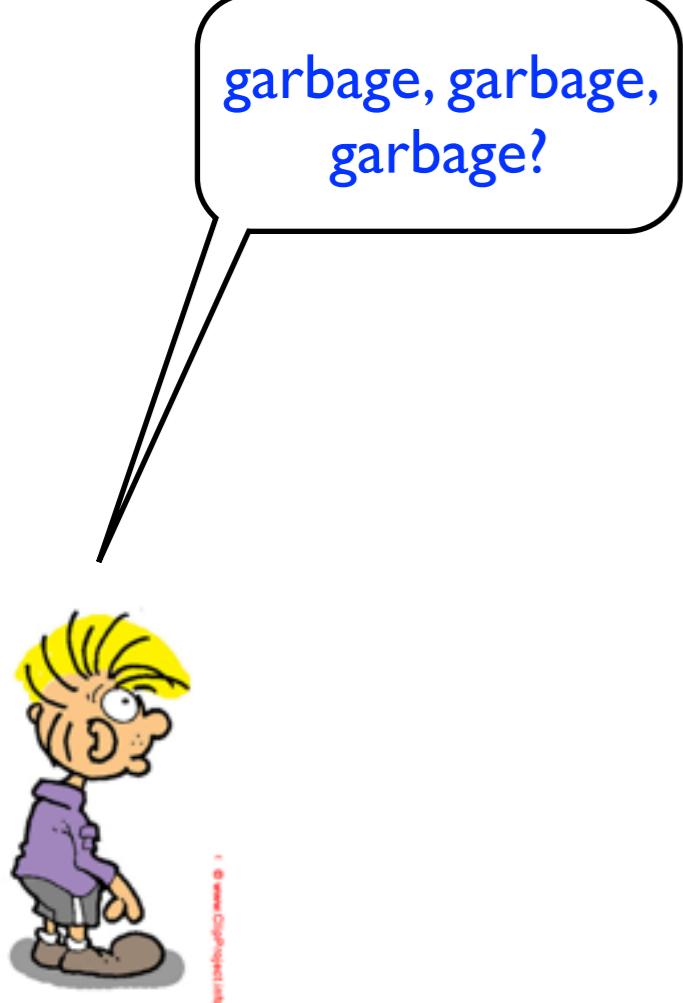
garbage, garbage,
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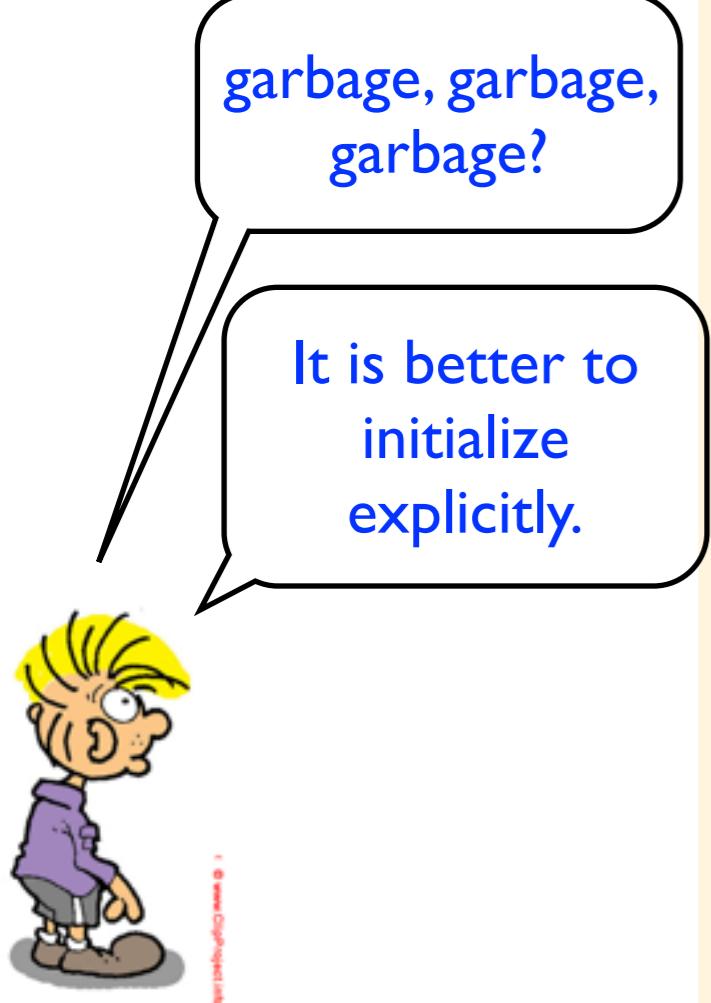
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No. In C++, variables with static storage duration are initialized to their default value, in this case 0



garbage, garbage,
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It is better to
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explicitly.

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I agree, in this case.
But you still need to
know that it is so. And
it is very useful to
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```
$ c++ foo.cpp
```



garbage, garbage,
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```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
```



garbage, garbage,
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```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
1
```



garbage, garbage,
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```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
1
2
```



garbage, garbage,
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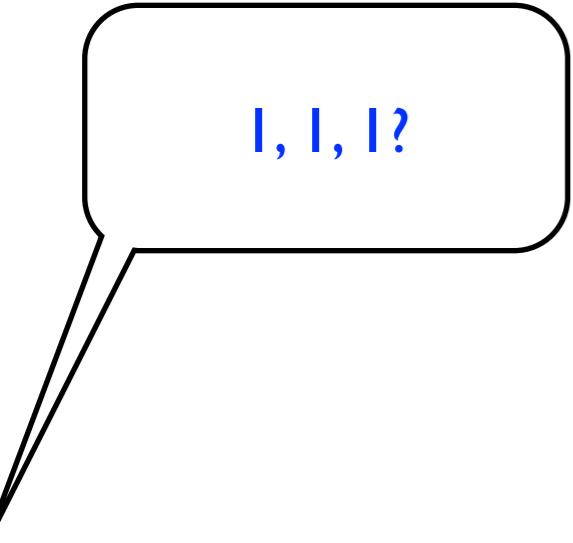
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```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
1
2
3
```

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}
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I, I, I?

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No, variables with automatic storage duration is not initialized implicitly



I, I, I?

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Yes, in theory that is
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```
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```



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```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
1
```



I, I, I?

Garbage,
garbage,
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```
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    ++a;
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```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
1
2
```



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my machine

```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
1
2
3
```



I, I, I?

Garbage,
garbage,
garbage

Ehh...

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
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    int a;
    ++a;
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    foo();
    foo();
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```

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```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
1
2
3
```



I, I, I?

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{
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    foo();
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```

No, variables with automatic storage duration is not initialized implicitly

Yes, in theory that is correct. Let's try it on my machine

any plausible explanation for this behaviour?

```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
1
2
3
```



I don't need
to know,
because I let
the compiler
find bugs like
this

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
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OK, let's add some
flags



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```
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this

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a;
    ++a;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
    foo();
}
```

OK, let's add some
flags

```
$ c++ -Wall -Wextra foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
1
2
```



I don't need
to know,
because I let
the compiler
find bugs like
this

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#include <iostream>

void foo()
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    int a;
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```

OK, let's add some
flags

```
$ c++ -Wall -Wextra foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
1
2
3
```



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I don't need
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Lousy compiler!

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a;
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}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
    foo();
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OK, let's add some
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$ c++ -Wall -Wextra foo.cpp
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void foo()
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Pro tip:
Compile with
optimization!

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a;
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    std::cout << a << std::endl;
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    foo();
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Pro tip:
Compile with
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void foo()
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    int a;
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    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
    foo();
}
```

```
$ c++ -O -Wall -Wextra foo.cpp
```



Pro tip:
Compile with
optimization!

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a;
    ++a;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
    foo();
}
```

```
$ c++ -O -Wall -Wextra foo.cpp
foo.cpp: In function 'void foo()':
```



Pro tip:
Compile with
optimization!

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a;
    ++a;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
    foo();
}
```

```
$ c++ -O -Wall -Wextra foo.cpp
foo.cpp: In function 'void foo()':
foo.cpp:6: warning: 'a' is used
uninitialized in this function
```


I am now going to show you something cool!

I am now going to show you something cool!

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

void bar()
{
    int a = 42;
}

int main()
{
    bar();
    foo();
}
```

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```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a;
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}

void bar()
{
    int a = 42;
}

int main()
{
    bar();
    foo();
}
```

```
$ g++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
```

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    int a;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

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{
    int a = 42;
}

int main()
{
    bar();
    foo();
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
42
```

I am now going to show you something cool!

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

void bar()
{
    int a = 42;
}

int main()
{
    bar();
    foo();
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
42
```

Can you explain this behaviour?

I am now going to show you something cool!

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Can you explain this behaviour?



Illustration by Daniel Kordan © www.danielkordan.net

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{
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}

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$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
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Can you explain this behaviour?

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    std::cout << a << std::endl;
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{
    int a = 42;
}

int main()
{
    bar();
    foo();
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
42
```

Can you explain this behaviour?



eh?

Perhaps this compiler has a pool of named variables that it reuses. Eg variable a was used and released in bar(), then when foo() needs an integer names a it will get the same variable will get the same memory location. If you rename the variable in bar() to, say b, then I don't think you will get 42.

I am now going to show you something cool!

```
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void foo()
{
    int a;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
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}

int main()
{
    bar();
    foo();
}
```

```
$ g++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
42
```

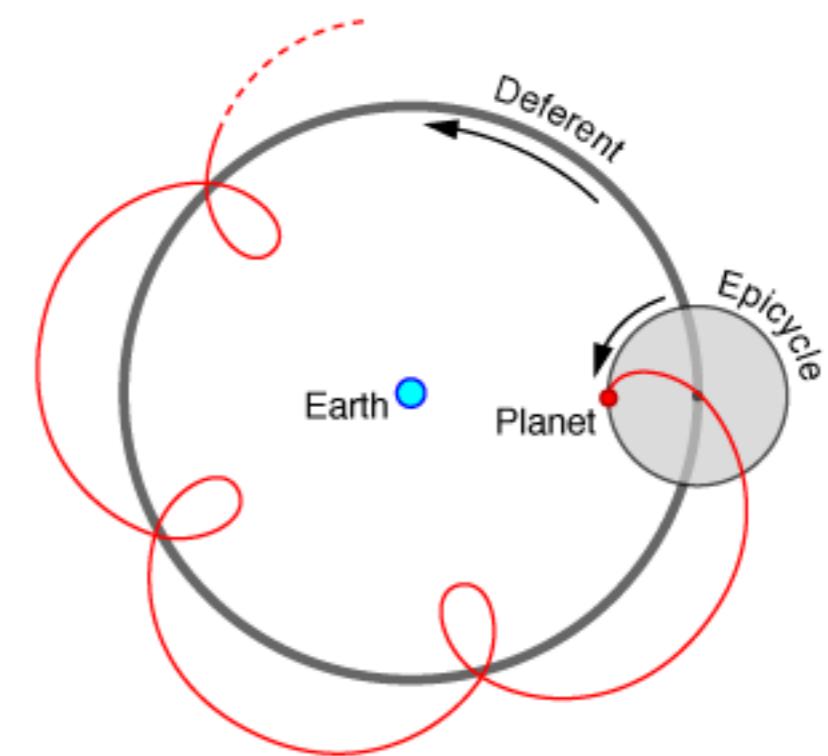
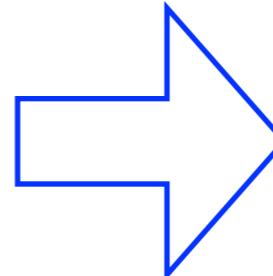
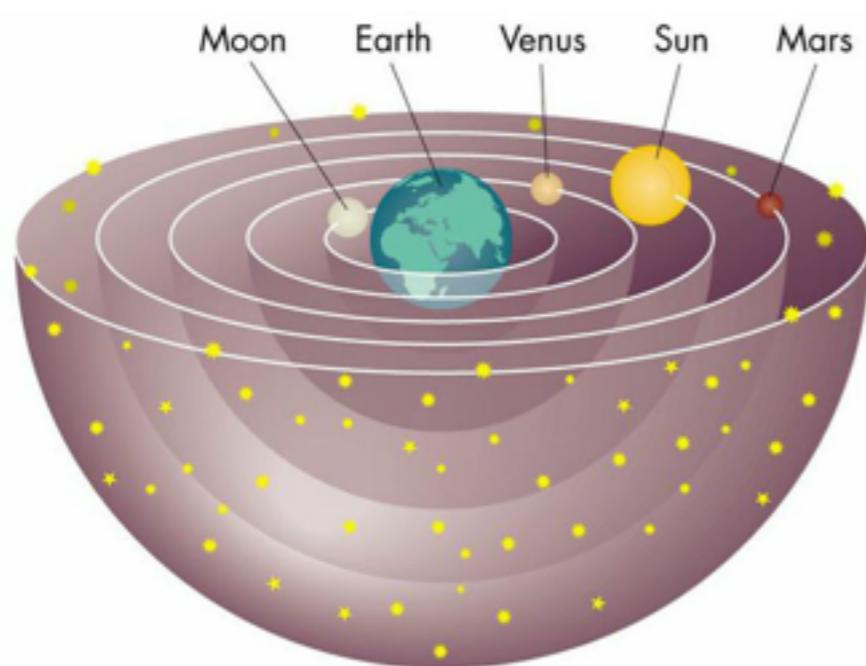
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Yeah, sure...



In C++. Why do you think static variables gets a default value (usually 0), while auto variables does not get a default value?

In C++. Why do you think static variables gets a default value (usually 0), while auto variables does not get a default value?

Because C++ is a
braindead programming
language?



In C++. Why do you think static variables gets a default value (usually 0), while auto variables does not get a default value?



Because C++ is a
braindead programming
language?



Because C++ (and C) is all about
execution speed. Setting static
variables to default values is a one
time cost, while defaulting auto
variables is a significant runtime cost.

```
#include <iostream>

int foo(int a) {
    std::cout << a;
    return a;
}

int bar(int a, int b) {
    return a + b;
}

int main() {
    int i = foo(3) + foo(4);
    std::cout << i << std::endl;

    int j = bar(foo(3), foo(4));
    std::cout << j << std::endl;
}
```

```
#include <iostream>

int foo(int a) {
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```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
347
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```
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347
437
```

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```
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but you might also get

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#include <iostream>

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    int i = foo(3) + foo(4);
    std::cout << i << std::endl;

    int j = bar(foo(3), foo(4));
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347

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$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
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437
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but you might also get

437
347

or

437
437

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347
347

C and C++ are among the few programming languages where evaluation order is *mostly* unspecified. This is an example of **unspecified behaviour**.



In C++. Why is the evaluation order mostly unspecified?

In C++. Why is the evaluation order mostly unspecified?



In C++. Why is the evaluation order mostly unspecified?



Because C++ is a
braindead programming
language?

In C++. Why is the evaluation order mostly unspecified?



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Because C++ is a
braindead programming
language?

Because there is a design goal to
allow optimal execution speed on a
wide range of architectures. In C++
the compiler can choose to evaluate
expressions in the order that is most
optimal for a particular platform. This
allows for great optimization.



```
#include <iostream>

int main() {
    int v[6] = {4,6,2,9};
    int i = 2;
    int j = i * 3 + v[i++];
    std::cout << j << std::endl;
}
```

```
#include <iostream>

int main() {
    int v[6] = {4,6,2,9};
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    int i = 2;
    int j = i * 3 + v[i++];
    std::cout << j << std::endl;
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
42
```

```
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int main() {
    int v[6] = {4,6,2,9};
    int i = 2;
    int j = i * 3 + v[i++];
    std::cout << j << std::endl;
}
```

What? Inconceivable!

```
$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
42
```



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int main() {
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    int i = 2;
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    std::cout << j << std::endl;
}
```

What? Inconceivable!

```
$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
42
```



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This is a classic example of **undefined behaviour**. Anything can happen! Nasal demons can start flying out of your nose!



```
#include <iostream>

int main() {
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I agree this is crap code, but why is it wrong?

This is a classic example of **undefined behaviour**. Anything can happen! Nasal demons can start flying out of your nose!



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int main() {
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What? Inconceivable!

```
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```



I agree this is crap code, but why is it wrong?

This is a classic example of **undefined behaviour**. Anything can happen! Nasal demons can start flying out of your nose!



In this case? Line 6. What is $i*3$? Is it $2*3$ or $3*3$ or something else?
In C++ you can not assume anything about a variable with side-effects (here $i++$) before there is a **sequence point**.

```
#include <iostream>

int main() {
    int v[6] = {4,6,2,9};
    int i = 2;
    int j = i * 3 + v[i++];
    std::cout << j << std::endl;
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
42
```



I don't care, I never
write code like that.

```
#include <iostream>

int main() {
    int v[6] = {4,6,2,9};
    int i = 2;
    int j = i * 3 + v[i++];
    std::cout << j << std::endl;
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
42
```



I don't care, I never
write code like that.

Good for you. But bugs like this can easily
happen if you don't understand the rules of
sequencing. And very often, the compiler is
not able to help you...



```
#include <iostream>

int main() {
    int v[6] = {4,6,2,9};
    int i = 2;
    int j = i * 3 + v[i++];
    std::cout << j << std::endl;
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
42
```



I don't care, I never
write code like that.

But why do we
not get warning
on this by default?

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But why do we
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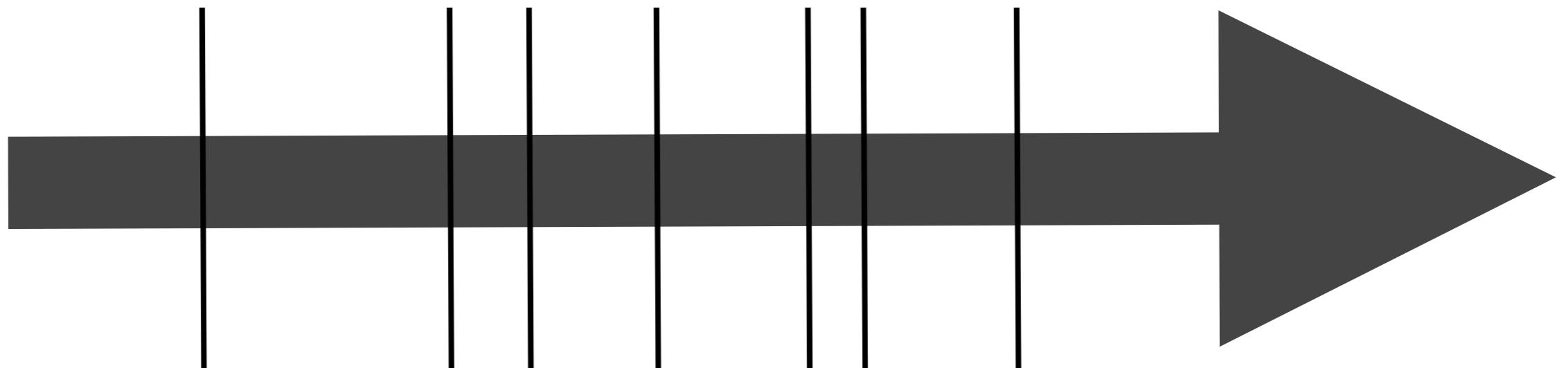
Good for you. But bugs like this can easily
happen if you don't understand the rules of
sequencing. And very often, the compiler is
not able to help you...

At least two reasons. First of all it is sometimes
very difficult to detect such sequencing violations.
Secondly, there is so much existing code out there
that breaks these rules, so issuing warnings here
might cause other problems.



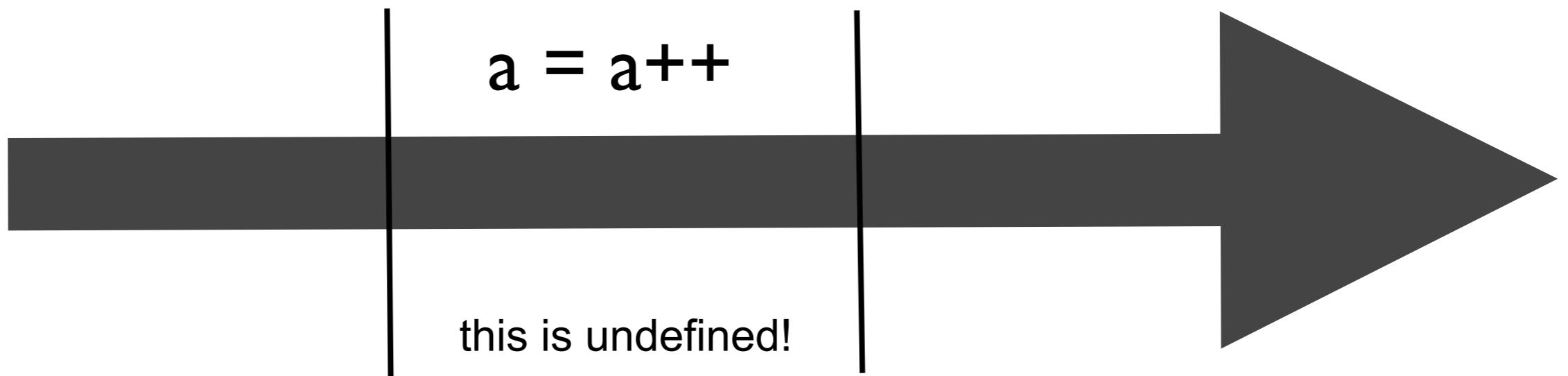
Sequence Points

A sequence point is a point in the program's execution sequence where all previous side-effects *shall* have taken place and where all subsequent side-effects *shall not* have taken place



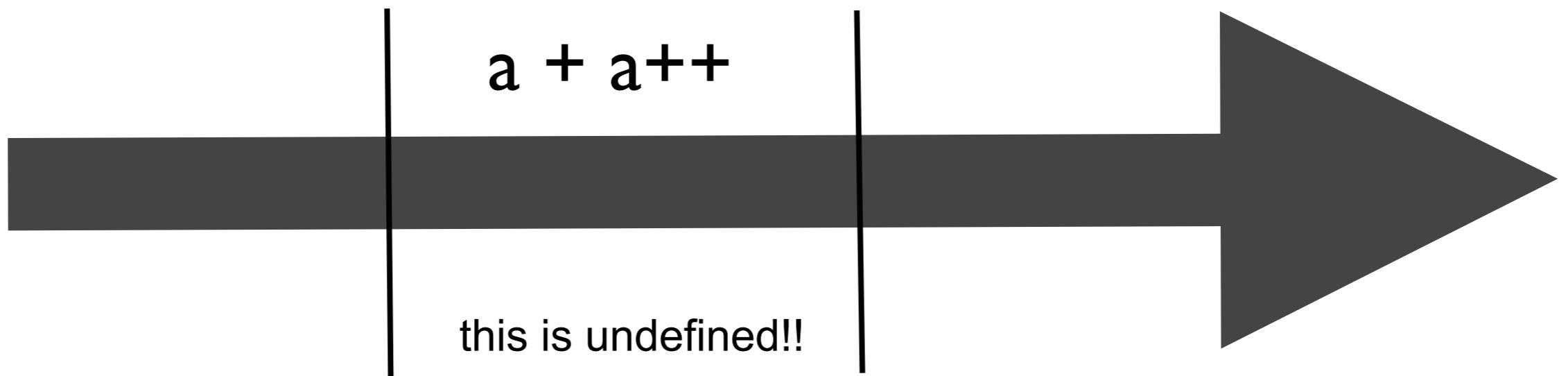
Sequence Points - Rule I

Between the previous and next sequence point an object shall have its stored value modified at most once by the evaluation of an expression.



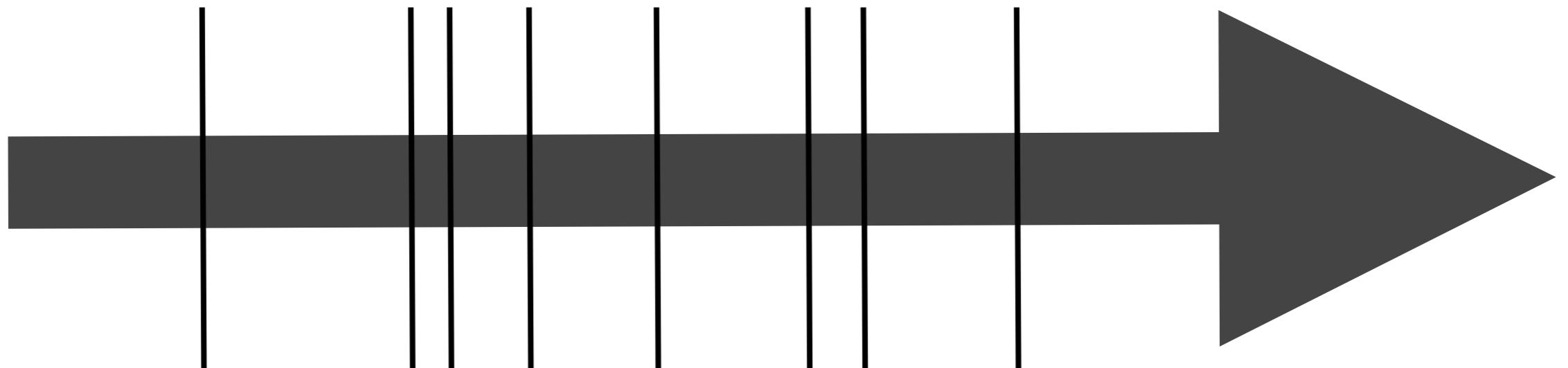
Sequence Points - Rule 2

Furthermore, the prior value shall be read only to determine the value to be stored.



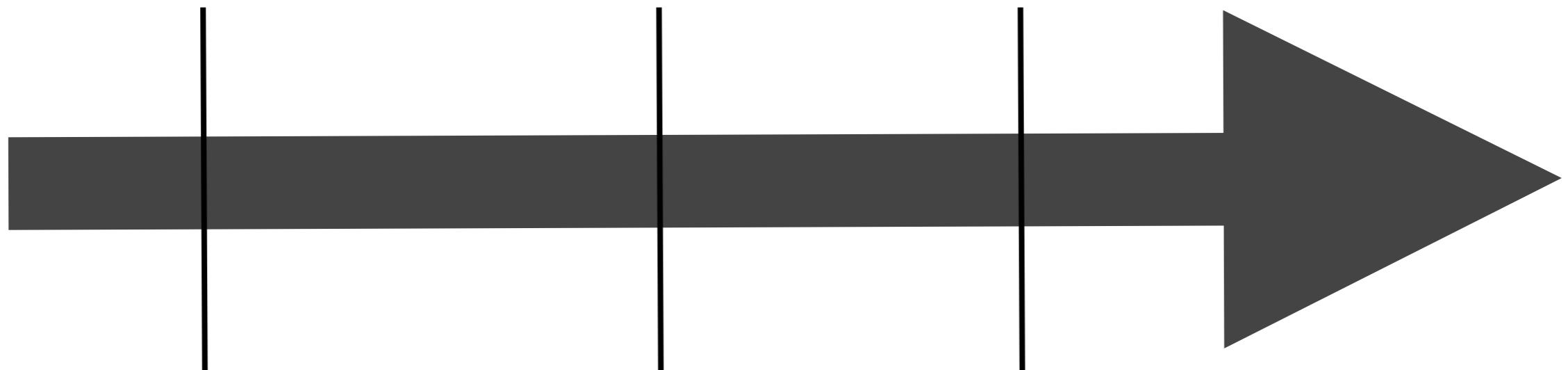
Sequence Points

A lot of developers think C++ has *many* sequence points



Sequence Points

The reality is that C++ has very few sequence points.



This helps to maximize optimization opportunities for the compiler.

What do these code snippets print?

What do these code snippets print?

1

```
int a=41; a++; printf("%d\n", a);
```

What do these code snippets print?

1

```
int a=41; a++; printf("%d\n", a);
```

2

```
int a=41; a++ & printf("%d\n", a);
```

What do these code snippets print?

1

```
int a=41; a++; printf("%d\n", a);
```

2

```
int a=41; a++ & printf("%d\n", a);
```

3

```
int a=41; a++ && printf("%d\n", a);
```

What do these code snippets print?

1

```
int a=41; a++; printf("%d\n", a);
```

2

```
int a=41; a++ & printf("%d\n", a);
```

3

```
int a=41; a++ && printf("%d\n", a);
```

4

```
int a=41; if (a++ < 42) printf("%d\n", a);
```

What do these code snippets print?

1

```
int a=41; a++; printf("%d\n", a);
```

2

```
int a=41; a++ & printf("%d\n", a);
```

3

```
int a=41; a++ && printf("%d\n", a);
```

4

```
int a=41; if (a++ < 42) printf("%d\n", a);
```

5

```
int a=41; a = a++; printf("%d\n", a);
```

What do these code snippets print?

1

```
int a=41; a++; printf("%d\n", a);
```

2

```
int a=41; a++ & printf("%d\n", a);
```

3

```
int a=41; a++ && printf("%d\n", a);
```

4

```
int a=41; if (a++ < 42) printf("%d\n", a);
```

5

```
int a=41; a = a++; printf("%d\n", a);
```

6

```
int a=41; a = foo(a++); printf("%d\n", a);
```

What do these code snippets print?

1

```
int a=41; a++; printf("%d\n", a);
```

42

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```

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```
int a=41; a++ && printf("%d\n", a);
```

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```
int a=41; if (a++ < 42) printf("%d\n", a);
```

5

```
int a=41; a = a++; printf("%d\n", a);
```

6

```
int a=41; a = foo(a++); printf("%d\n", a);
```

What do these code snippets print?

1

```
int a=41; a++; printf("%d\n", a);
```

42

2

```
int a=41; a++ & printf("%d\n", a);
```

undefined

3

```
int a=41; a++ && printf("%d\n", a);
```

4

```
int a=41; if (a++ < 42) printf("%d\n", a);
```

5

```
int a=41; a = a++; printf("%d\n", a);
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int a=41; a = foo(a++); printf("%d\n", a);
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What do these code snippets print?

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42

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```

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undefined

3

```
int a=41; a++ && printf("%d\n", a);
```

42

4

```
int a=41; if (a++ < 42) printf("%d\n", a);
```

42

5

```
int a=41; a = a++; printf("%d\n", a);
```

undefined

6

```
int a=41; a = foo(a++); printf("%d\n", a);
```

What do these code snippets print?

1

```
int a=41; a++; printf("%d\n", a);
```

42

2

```
int a=41; a++ & printf("%d\n", a);
```

undefined

3

```
int a=41; a++ && printf("%d\n", a);
```

42

4

```
int a=41; if (a++ < 42) printf("%d\n", a);
```

42

5

```
int a=41; a = a++; printf("%d\n", a);
```

undefined

6

```
int a=41; a = foo(a++); printf("%d\n", a);
```

?

What do these code snippets print?

1

```
int a=41; a++; printf("%d\n", a);
```

42

2

```
int a=41; a++ & printf("%d\n", a);
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undefined

3

```
int a=41; a++ && printf("%d\n", a);
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42

4

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```

42

5

```
int a=41; a = a++; printf("%d\n", a);
```

undefined

6

```
int a=41; a = foo(a++); printf("%d\n", a);
```

?

When exactly do side-effects take place in C and C++?

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a = 3;
    ++a;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
    foo();
}
```

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a = 3;
    → ++a;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
    foo();
}
```

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a = 3;
    a++;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

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    foo();
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}
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```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a = 3;
    a++;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
    foo();
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp
```

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a = 3;
    a++;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
    foo();
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
```

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a = 3;
    a++;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
    foo();
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
4
```

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a = 3;
    a++;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
    foo();
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
4
4
```

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a = 3;
    a++;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
    foo();
}
```

```
$ g++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
4
4
4
```

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a = 3;
    a++;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
    foo();
}
```

Believe it or not, I have met several programmers who thought this snippet would print 3,3,3.

```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
4
4
4
```



They are all
morons!

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a = 3;
    a++;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
    foo();
}
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```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
4
4
4
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```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a = 3;
    a++;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
    foo();
}
```

Believe it or not, I have met several programmers who thought this snippet would print 3,3,3.

Did you know about sequence points? Do you have a deep understanding of when side-effects really take place in C++?

```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
4
4
4
```



They are all
morons!

ehh...

```
#include <iostream>

void foo()
{
    int a = 3;
    a++;
    std::cout << a << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo();
    foo();
    foo();
}
```

Believe it or not, I have met several programmers who thought this snippet would print 3,3,3.

Did you know about sequence points? Do you have a deep understanding of when side-effects really take place in C++?

```
$ c++ foo.cpp
$ ./a.out
4
4
4
```

Behavior

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

int main()
{
    // implementation-defined
    int i = ~0;
    i >>= 1;
    printf("%d\n", i);

    // unspecified output
    printf("4") + printf("2");
    printf("\n");

    // undefined
    int k = INT_MAX;
    k += 1;
    printf("%d\n", k);
}
```

implementation-defined behavior:
the construct is not incorrect; the code must compile; the compiler must document the behavior

unspecified behavior: the same as implementation-defined except the behavior need not be documented

undefined behavior: the standard imposes no requirements ; anything at all can happen, all bets are off, nasal demons might fly out of your nose.

Note that many compilers will not give you any warnings when compiling this code, and due to the undefined behavior caused by signed integer overflow above, the whole program is in theory undefined.

Behavior

... and, locale-specific behavior

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

int main()
{
    // implementation-defined
    int i = ~0;
    i >>= 1;
    printf("%d\n", i);

    // unspecified output
    printf("4") + printf("2");
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    int k = INT_MAX;
    k += 1;
    printf("%d\n", k);
}
```

implementation-defined behavior:
the construct is not incorrect; the code must compile; the compiler must document the behavior

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Note that many compilers will not give you any warnings when compiling this code, and due to the undefined behavior caused by signed integer overflow above, the whole program is in theory undefined.

the C++ standard defines the expected behaviour, but says very little about **how** it should be implemented.

the C++ standard defines the expected behaviour, but says very little about **how** it should be implemented.

this is a key feature of C++, and one of the reason why C++ is such a successful programming language on a wide range of hardware!

```
#include <iostream>
#include <climits>

int main() {
    int i = INT_MAX;
    int j = i + 1 - 1;
    if (j == INT_MAX)
        std::cout << "The answer is 42" << std::endl;
    else
        std::cout << "The answer is 43" << std::endl;
}
```

```
#include <iostream>
#include <climits>

int main() {
    int i = INT_MAX;
    int j = i + 1 - 1;
    if (j == INT_MAX)
        std::cout << "The answer is 42" << std::endl;
    else
        std::cout << "The answer is 43" << std::endl;
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
```

```
#include <iostream>
#include <climits>

int main() {
    int i = INT_MAX;
    int j = i + 1 - 1;
    if (j == INT_MAX)
        std::cout << "The answer is 42" << std::endl;
    else
        std::cout << "The answer is 43" << std::endl;
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
The answer is 44
```

```
#include <iostream>
#include <climits>

int main() {
    int i = INT_MAX;
    int j = i + 1 - 1;
    if (j == INT_MAX)
        std::cout << "The answer is 42" << std::endl;
    else
        std::cout << "The answer is 43" << std::endl;
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
The answer is 44
```



Inconceivable!

```
#include <iostream>
#include <climits>

int main() {
    int i = INT_MAX;
    int j = i + 1 - 1;
    if (j == INT_MAX)
        std::cout << "The answer is 42" << std::endl;
    else
        std::cout << "The answer is 43" << std::endl;
}
```



Inconceivable!

```
$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
The answer is 44
```

You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means.

```
#include <iostream>
#include <climits>

int main() {
    int i = INT_MAX;
    int j = i + 1 - 1;
    if (j == INT_MAX)
        std::cout << "The answer is 42" << std::endl;
    else
        std::cout << "The answer is 43" << std::endl;
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
The answer is 44
```



Inconceivable!

You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means.

Remember.. when you have undefined behavior, anything can happen!



A real story of “anything can happen”

```
bool b;  
if (b)  
    printf("b is true\n");  
if (!b)  
    printf("b is false\n");
```

A real story of “anything can happen”

```
bool b;  
if (b)  
    printf("b is true\n");  
if (!b)  
    printf("b is false\n");
```



```
; the following code assumes that $b is either 0 or 1  
  
load_a    $b          ; load value of b into register A  
compare_a  0          ; compare register A to 0  
jump_equal label1     ; skip next statement if A == 0  
call print_b_is_true ; print "b is true"  
label1:  
    load_a    $b          ; load value of b into register A  
    xor_a     1          ; xor register A with 1  
    compare_a 0          ; compare register A to 0  
    jump_equal label2     ; skip next statement if A == 0  
    call print_b_is_false ; print "b is false"  
label2:
```

A real story of “anything can happen”

```
bool b;  
if (b)  
    printf("b is true\n");  
if (!b)  
    printf("b is false\n");
```



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label1:  
    load_a    $b          ; load value of b into register A  
    xor_a     1           ; xor register A with 1  
    compare_a  0           ; compare register A to 0  
    jump_equal label2      ; skip next statement if A == 0  
    call print_b_is_false ; print "b is false"  
label2:
```

this is approximately the code generated by gcc for an intel platform, try to imagine what will happen if b is 42

A real story of “anything can happen”

```
bool b;  
if (b)  
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```
; the following code assumes that $b is either 0 or 1  
  
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call print_b_is_true ; print "b is true"  
label1:  
    load_a    $b          ; load value of b into register A  
    xor_a     1          ; xor register A with 1  
    compare_a  0          ; compare register A to 0  
    jump_equal label2     ; skip next statement if A == 0  
    call print_b_is_false ; print "b is false"  
label2:
```

this is approximately the code generated by gcc for an intel platform, try to imagine what will happen if b is 42

b is true
b is false

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;
};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;
};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```

I guess integers are 4 bytes and char is 1 byte.



```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;
};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```

I guess integers are 4 bytes and char is 1 byte.

Yes, on my machine it is



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};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```

I guess integers are 4 bytes and char is 1 byte.

Yes, on my machine it is

So you get 9?



```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;
};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```

I guess integers are 4 bytes and char is 1 byte.

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So you get 9?

Could be, but this is
what I get on my
machine



```
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{
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    char b;
    int c;
};

int main()
{
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}
```

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So you get 9?



```
$ g++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
```

Could be, but this is
what I get on my
machine

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;
};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```

I guess integers are 4 bytes and char is 1 byte.

Yes, on my machine it is

So you get 9?

Could be, but this is
what I get on my
machine



```
$ g++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
12
```

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;
};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```

I guess integers are 4 bytes and char is 1 byte.

Yes, on my machine it is

So you get 9?



```
$ g++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
12
```

Could be, but this is
what I get on my
machine

Yeah of course, I forgot about that,
because in C++ the structs are padded
so size becomes multiple 4

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;
};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```

I guess integers are 4 bytes and char is 1 byte.

Yes, on my machine it is

So you get 9?



```
$ g++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
12
```

Yeah of course, I forgot about that,
because in C++ the structs are padded
so size becomes multiple 4

Could be, but this is
what I get on my
machine

Kind of...

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;
};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



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So what if I add a member function?

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;
};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



So what if I add a member function?

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

} ;

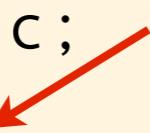
int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;
}

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;
    void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



Now this code will print 16. Because there will be a pointer to the function.

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



Now this code will print 16. Because there will be a pointer to the function.

ok?

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



Now this code will print 16. Because there will be a pointer to the function.

ok?

Lets add two more functions...

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    void set_value(int v) { a = v; }

};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    void set_value(int v) { a = v; }

};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
    int get_value() { return a; }
    void increase_value() { a++; }

};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
    int get_value() { return a; }
    void increase_value() { a++; }

};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



Then it will print 24.Two more pointers.

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
    int get_value() { return a; }
    void increase_value() { a++; }

};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



Then it will print 24.Two more pointers.

This is what I get on my machine

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
    int get_value() { return a; }
    void increase_value() { a++; }

};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



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Then it will print 24.Two more pointers.

This is what I get on my machine

```
$ g++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
```

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
    int get_value() { return a; }
    void increase_value() { a++; }

};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



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Then it will print 24.Two more pointers.

This is what I get on my machine

```
$ g++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
12
```

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
    int get_value() { return a; }
    void increase_value() { a++; }

};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```

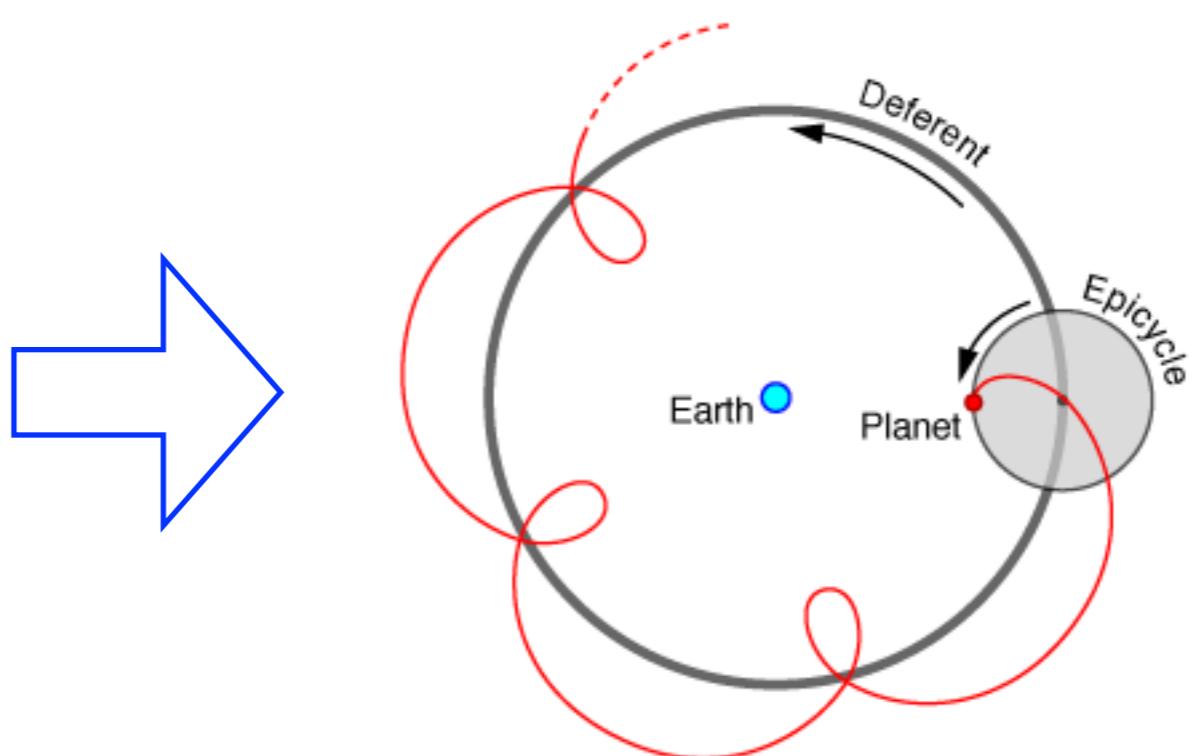
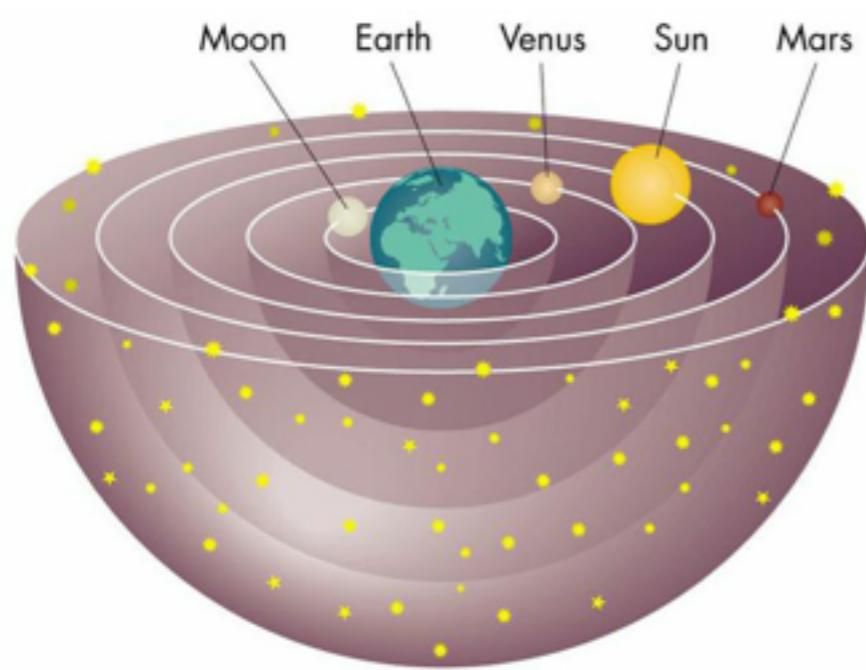


Then it will print 24. Two more pointers.

Huh? Probably some weird optimization going on, perhaps because the functions are never called.

This is what I get on my machine

```
$ g++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
12
```



```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
    int get_value() { return a; }
    void increase_value() { a++; }

};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
    int get_value() { return a; }
    void increase_value() { a++; }

};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```

Because adding member functions like this does not change the size of the struct. In C++, the object does not know about its functions, it is the functions that know about the object.

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
    int get_value() { return a; }
    void increase_value() { a++; }

};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```

Because adding member functions like this does not change the size of the struct. In C++, the object does not know about it's functions, it is the functions that know about the object.

If you rewrite this into C it becomes obvious.

C++

```
struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
    int get_value() { return a; }
    void increase_value() { a++; }
};
```

C

```
struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;
};

void set_value(struct X * this, int v) { this->a = v; }
int get_value(struct X * this) { return this->a; }
void increase_value(struct X * this) { this->a++; }
```

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
    int get_value() { return a; }
    void increase_value() { a++; }

};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    virtual void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
    int get_value() { return a; }
    void increase_value() { a++; }

};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    virtual void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
    int get_value() { return a; }
    void increase_value() { a++; }

};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
```

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

    virtual void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
    int get_value() { return a; }
    void increase_value() { a++; }

};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```

```
$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
24
```

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
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    int c;

    virtual void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
    int get_value() { return a; }
    void increase_value() { a++; }

};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



Ehh...

```
$ g++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
24
```

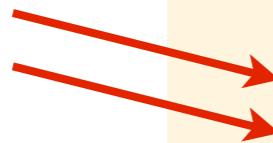
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}
```



48?



```
#include <iostream>

struct X
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    virtual void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
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};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



48?

```
$ g++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
```

```
#include <iostream>

struct X
{
    int a;
    char b;
    int c;

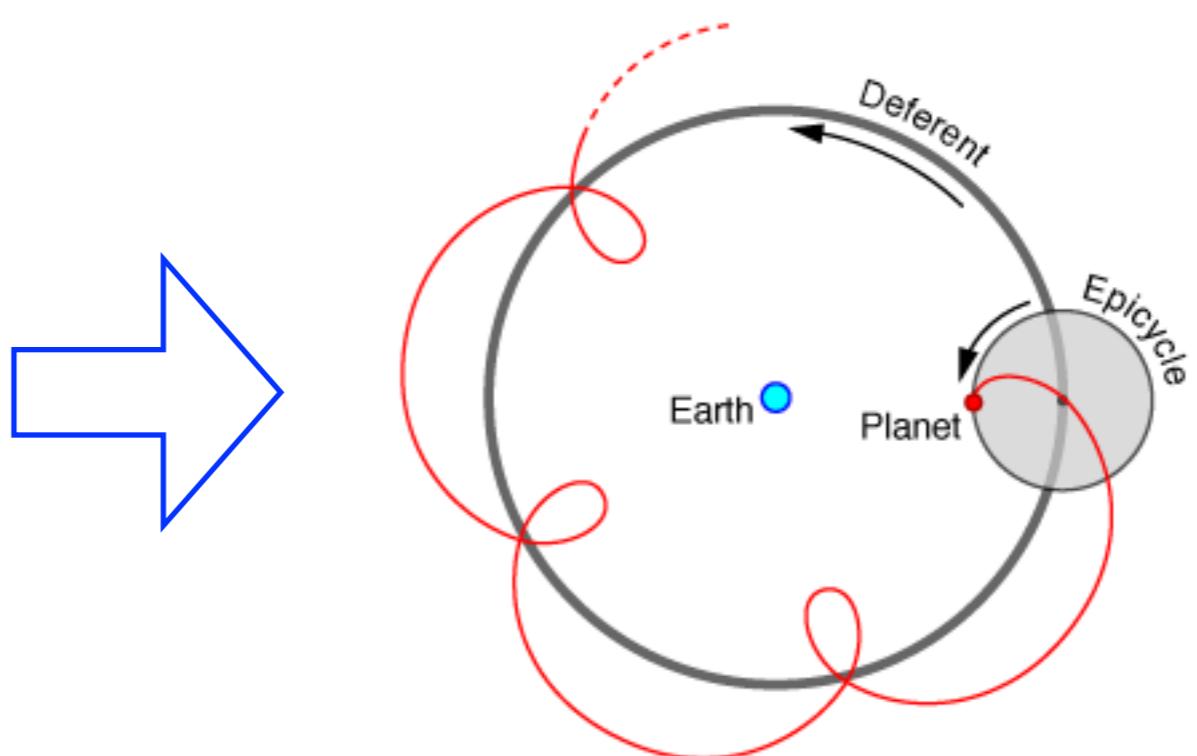
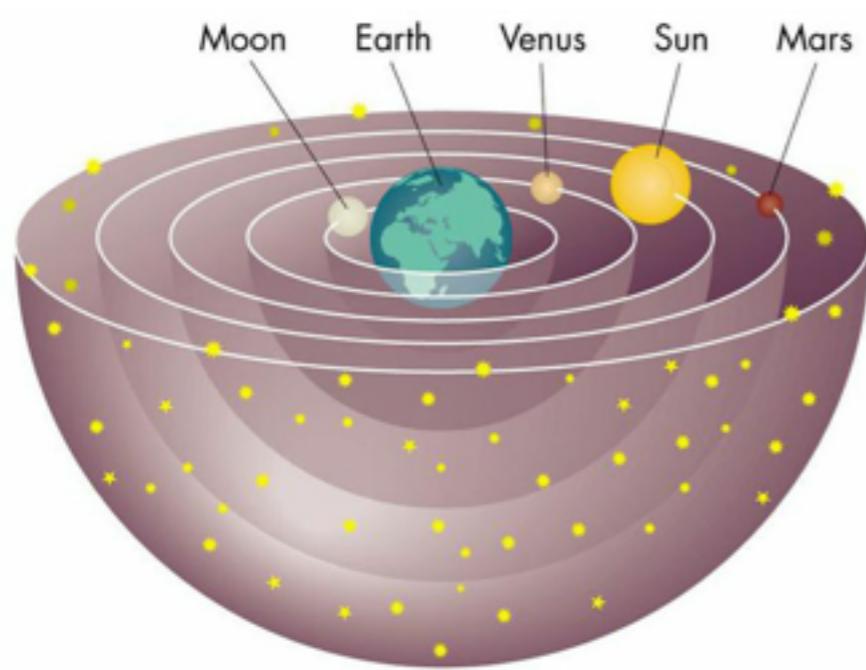
    virtual void set_value(int v) { a = v; }
    virtual int get_value() { return a; }
    virtual void increase_value() { a++; }
};

int main()
{
    std::cout << sizeof(X) << std::endl;
}
```



48?

```
$ c++ foo.cpp && ./a.out
24
```



```
#include <iostream>

struct X
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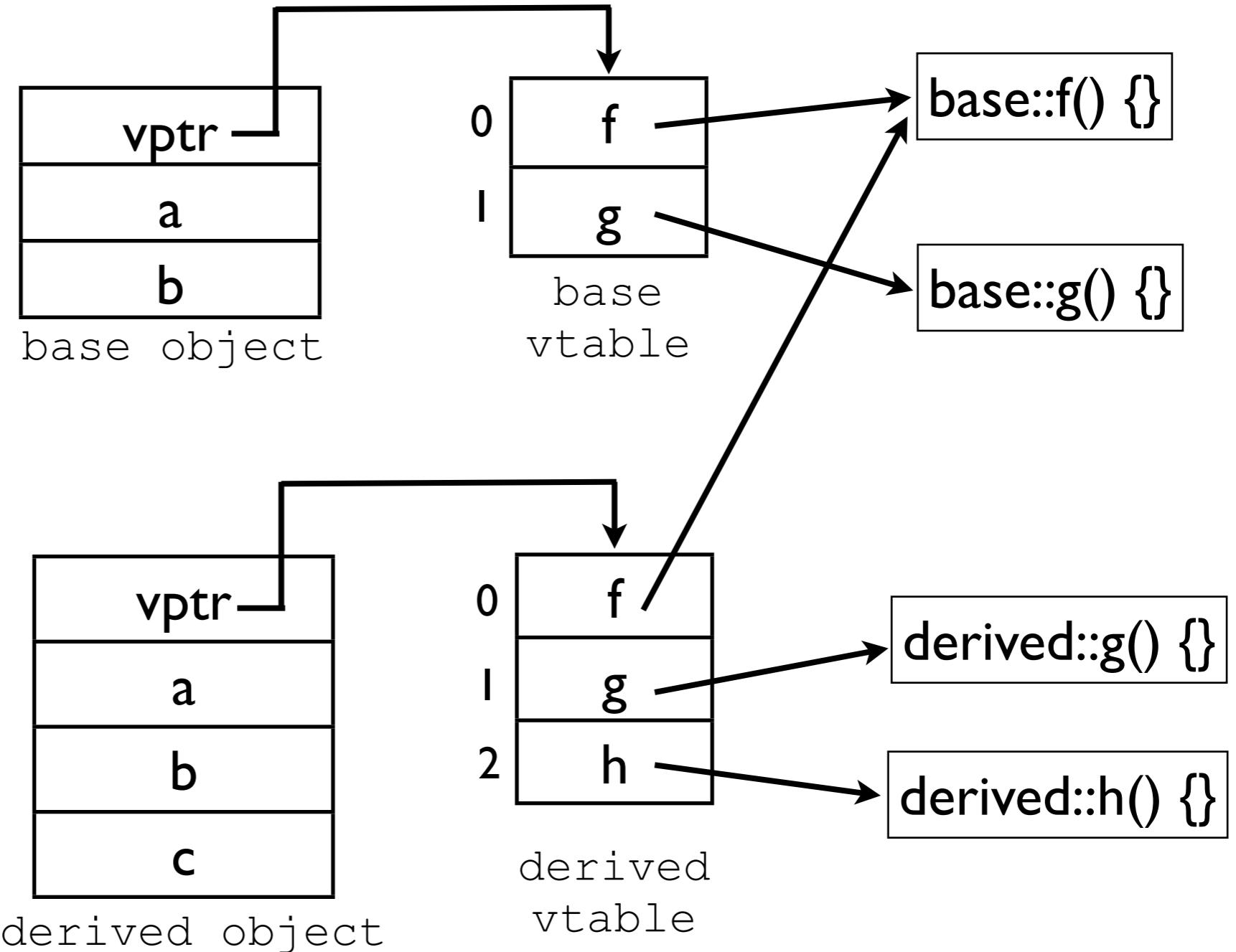
The vtable

```
struct base
{
    virtual void f();
    virtual void g();
    int a,b;
};

struct derived : base
{
    virtual void g();
    virtual void h();
    int c;
};

void poly(base * ptr)
{
    ptr->f();
    ptr->g();
}

int main()
{
    poly(&base());
    poly(&derived());
}
```



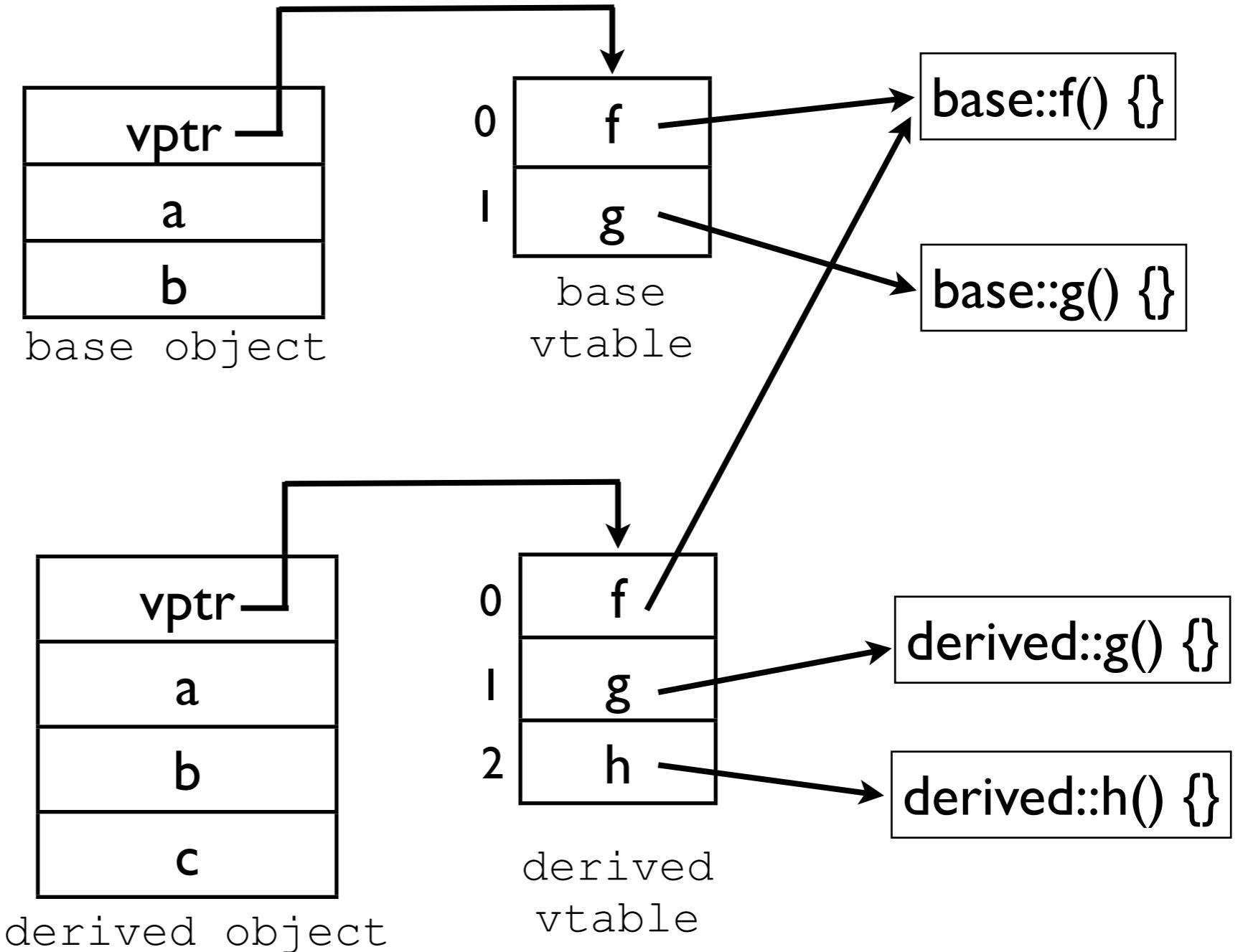
The vtable

```
struct base
{
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    int a,b;
};

struct derived : base
{
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    virtual void h();
    int c;
};

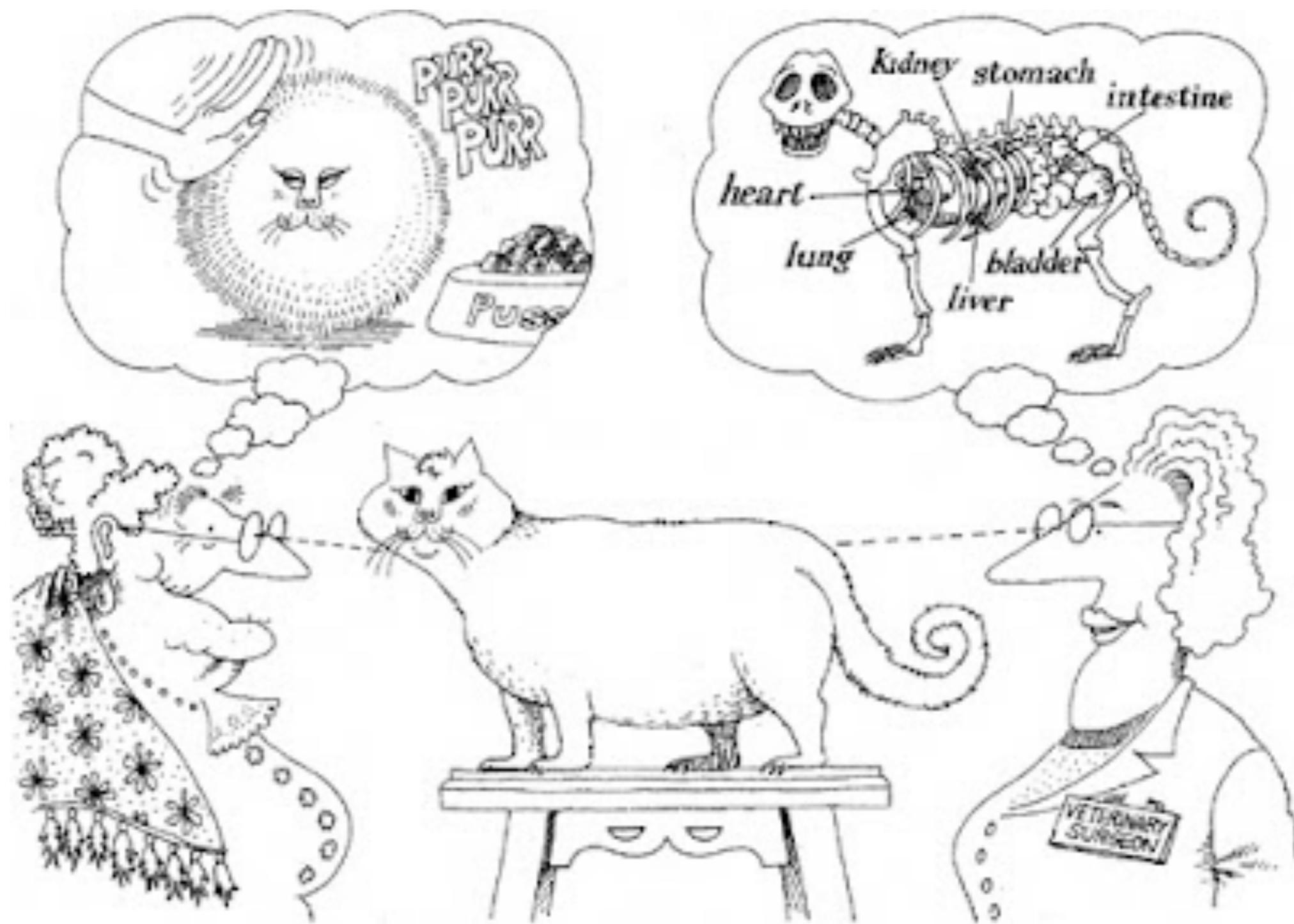
void poly(base * ptr)
{
    ptr->f();
    ptr->g();
}

int main()
{
    poly(&base());
    poly(&derived());
}
```



This is a common way of implementing virtual functions in C++

Let's move up one abstraction level



```
#include "B.hpp"

class A {
public:
    A(int sz) { sz_ = sz; v = new B[sz_]; }
    ~A() { delete v; }
    // ...
private:
    // ...
    B * v;
    int sz_;
};
```

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#include "B.hpp"

class A {
public:
    A(int sz) { sz_ = sz; v = new B[sz_]; }
    ~A() { delete v; }
    // ...
private:
    // ...
    B * v;
    int sz_;
};
```

Take a look at this piece of code. Pretend like I am a junior C++ programmer joining your team. Here is a piece of code that I might present to you. Please be pedantic and try to gently introduce me to pitfalls of C++ and perhaps teach me something about the C++ way of doing things.

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class A {
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This is a piece of shitty C++ code. Is this your code? First of all....



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public:
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never use 2 spaces for indentation.



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never use 2 spaces for indentation.

The curly brace after class A should definitely start on a new line



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#include "B.hpp"

class A {
public:
    A(int sz) { sz_ = sz; v = new B[sz_]; }
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never use 2 spaces for indentation.

The curly brace after class A should definitely start on a new line



sz_? I have never seen that naming convention, you should always use the GoF standard _sz or the Microsoft standard m_sz.

```
#include "B.hpp"

class A {
public:
    A(int sz) { sz_ = sz; v = new B[sz_]; }
    ~A() { delete v; }
    // ...
private:
    // ...
    B * v;
    int sz_;
};
```



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    // ...
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    // ...
    B * v;
    int sz_;
};
```

Do you see anything else?



```
#include "B.hpp"

class A {
public:
    A(int sz) { sz_ = sz; v = new B[sz_]; }
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    // ...
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eh?



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    int sz_;
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```

Do you see anything else?

eh?

Oh yes, I guess you know that in C++ all destructors should always be declared as virtual. I read it in some book and it is very important to avoid slicing when deleting objects of subtypes.



```
#include "B.hpp"

class A {
public:
    A(int sz) { sz_ = sz; v = new B[sz_]; }
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    // ...
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    B * v;
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};
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Do you see anything else?

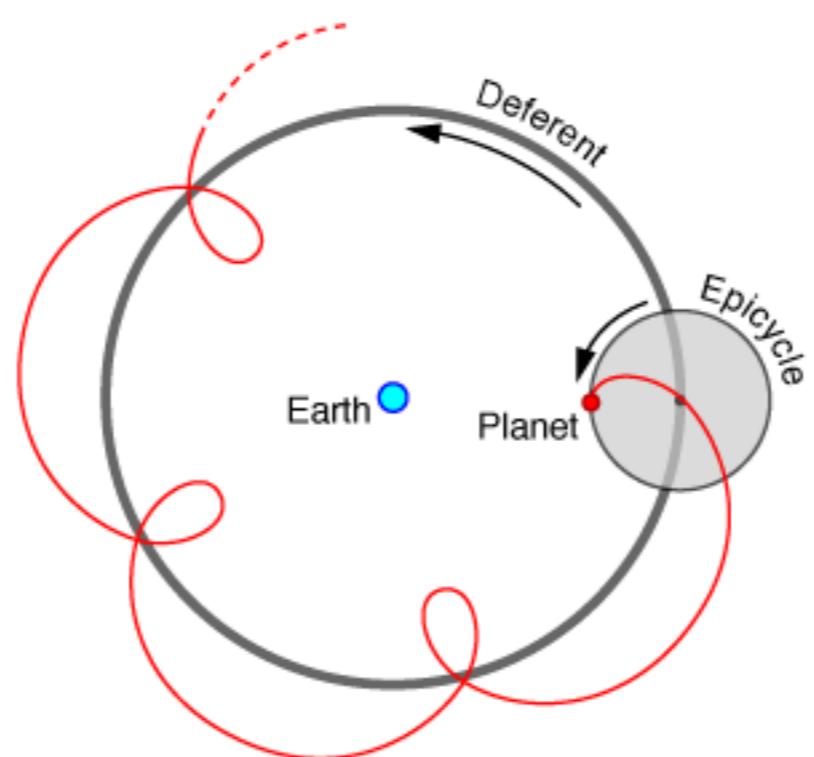
eh?

Oh yes, I guess you know that in C++ all destructors should always be declared as virtual. I read it in some book and it is very important to avoid slicing when deleting objects of subtypes.



© www.DigitalObject.info

or something like that...



```
#include "B.hpp"

class A {
public:
    A(int sz) { sz_ = sz; v = new B[sz_]; }
    ~A() { delete v; }
    // ...
private:
    // ...
    B * v;
    int sz_;
};
```

```
#include "B.hpp"

class A {
public:
    A(int sz) { sz_ = sz; v = new B[sz_]; }
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    B * v;
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```



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    B * v;
    int sz_;
};
```

When you allocate an array, you must delete an array. Otherwise the destructors will not be called correctly.

```
#include "B.hpp"

class A {
public:
    A(int sz) { sz_ = sz; v = new B[sz_]; }
    ~A() { delete[] v; }
    // ...
private:
    // ...
    B * v;
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    B * v;
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};
```

In this case, since you have a destructor like this, you **must** either implement or hide the copy constructor and assignment operator. This is called the rule of three, if you implement one of them, you must deal with them all.

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class A {
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#include "B.hpp"

class A {
public:
    A(int sz) { sz_ = sz; v = new B[sz_]; }
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    // ...
private:
    A(const A &);

    A & operator=(const A &);

    // ...
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```

Not using the initializer list is usually a strong sign that the programmer does not really understand how to use C++. It does not make sense to first give member variables their default value, and *then* assign them a value.

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oops! we just introduced a
terrible bug!

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    B * v; ← ?  

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    // ...
    B * v; ← ?  

    int sz_;
};
```

Bald pointers are also often a sign of not using C++ correctly. When you see them, there are usually better ways of writing the code. In this case, perhaps a `std::vector` is what you want?

Summary

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- memory model

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- evaluation order

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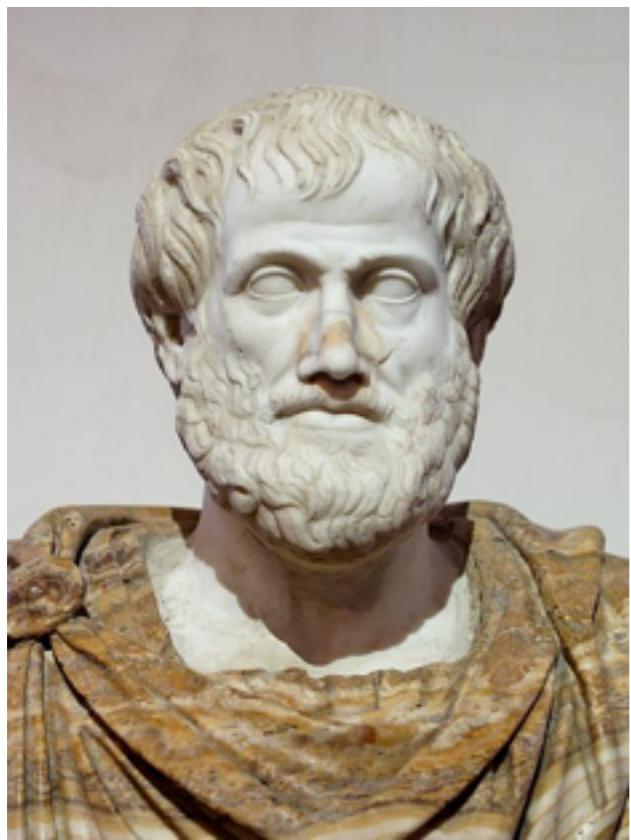
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Summary

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- optimization
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- object lifetimes
- rule of 3
- initialization of objects

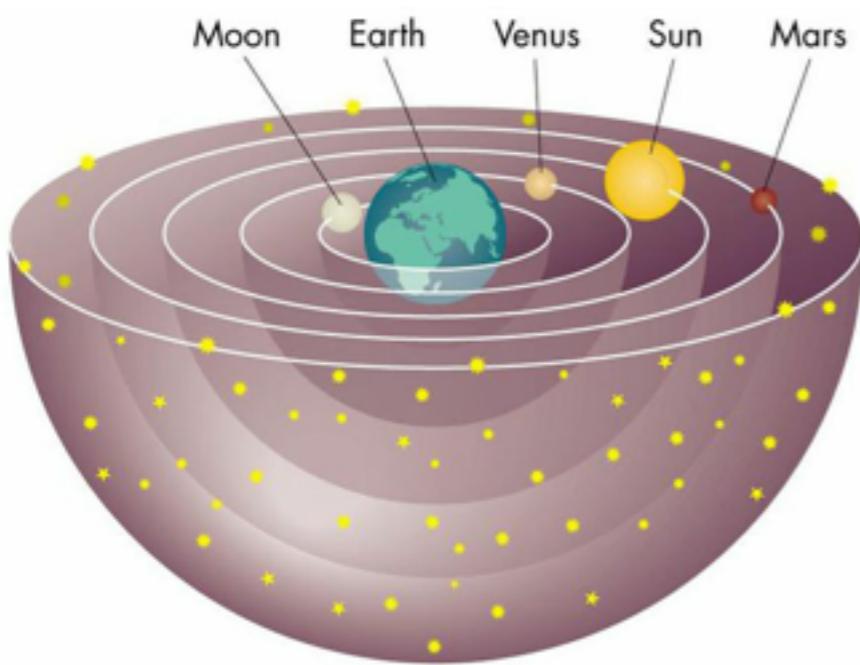
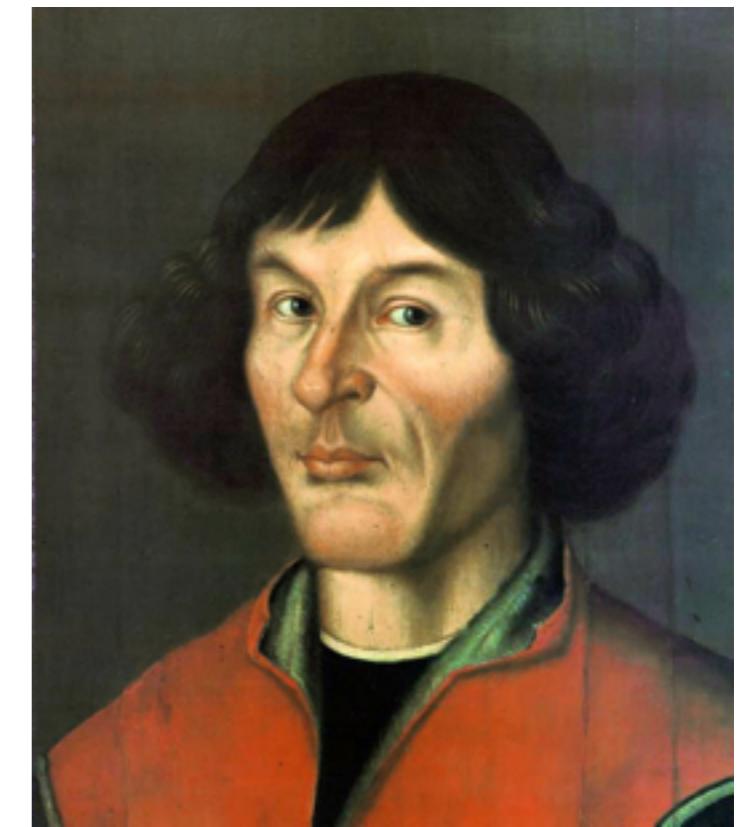
Aristotle (384 BC – 322 BC)



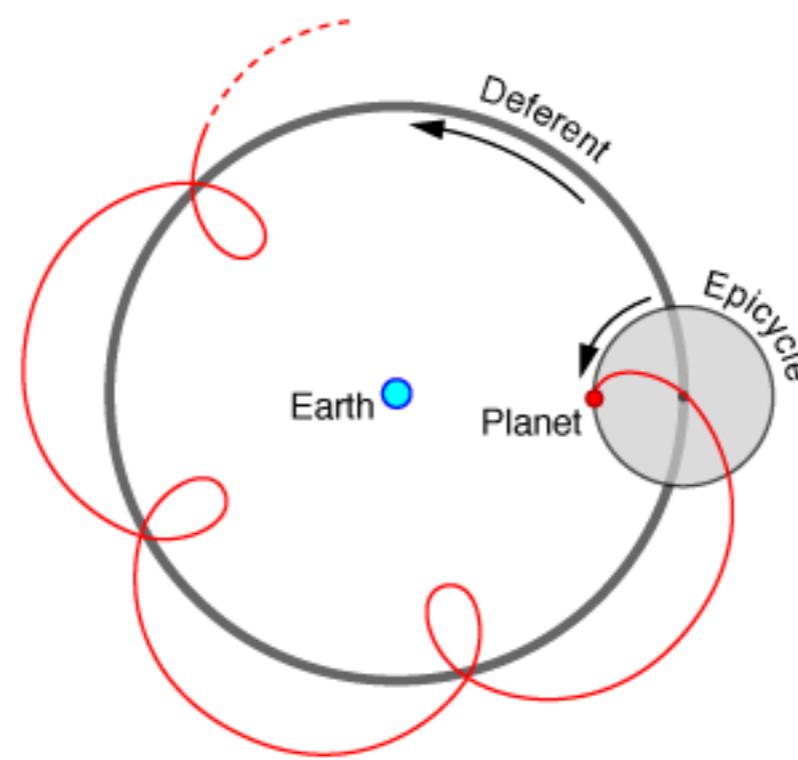
Ptolemy (90 AD – 168 AD)



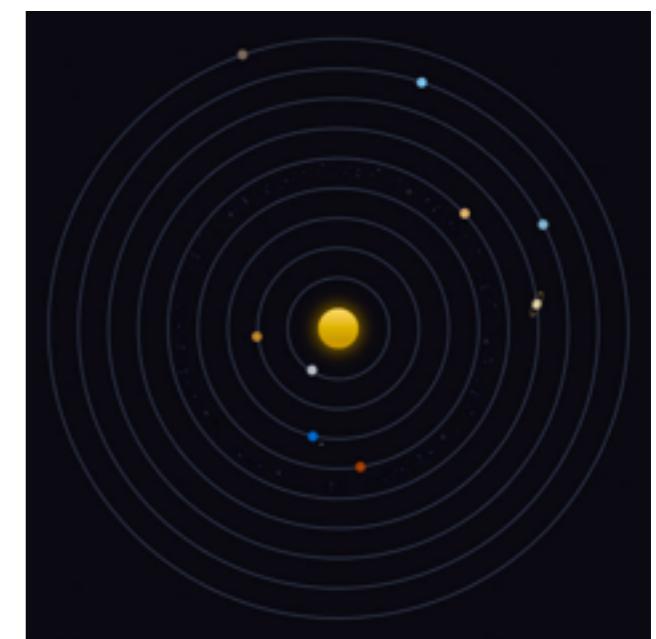
Copernicus (1473 – 1543)



Aristotle's Universe



Ptolemy Universe



The Solar System

C and C++ are not really high level languages, they are more like portable assemblers. When programming in C and C++ you *must* have a understanding of what happens under the hood! And if you don't have a decent understanding of it, then you are doomed to create lots of bugs...



C and C++ are not really high level languages, they are more like portable assemblers. When programming in C and C++ you *must* have a understanding of what happens under the hood! And if you don't have a decent understanding of it, then you are doomed to create lots of bugs...



But if you *do* have a useful mental model of what happens under the hood, then...



<http://www.sharpshirter.com/assets/images/sharkpunchashgrey1.jpg>

!

.

Quick!

```
#include <iostream>

int main() {
    int i = 4;
    i += 3;
    std::cout << i << std::endl;
}
```

Quick!

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```
$ c++ foo.cpp
```

Quick!

```
#include <iostream>

int main() {
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```
$ g++ foo.cpp
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3
```

The spirit of C

trust the programmer

- let them do what needs to be done
- the programmer is in charge not the compiler

keep the language small and simple

- small amount of code → small amount of assembler
- provide only one way to do an operation
- new inventions are not entertained

make it fast, even if its not portable

- target efficient code generation
- int preference, int promotion rules
- sequence points, maximum leeway to compiler

rich expression support

- lots of operators
- expressions combine into larger expressions

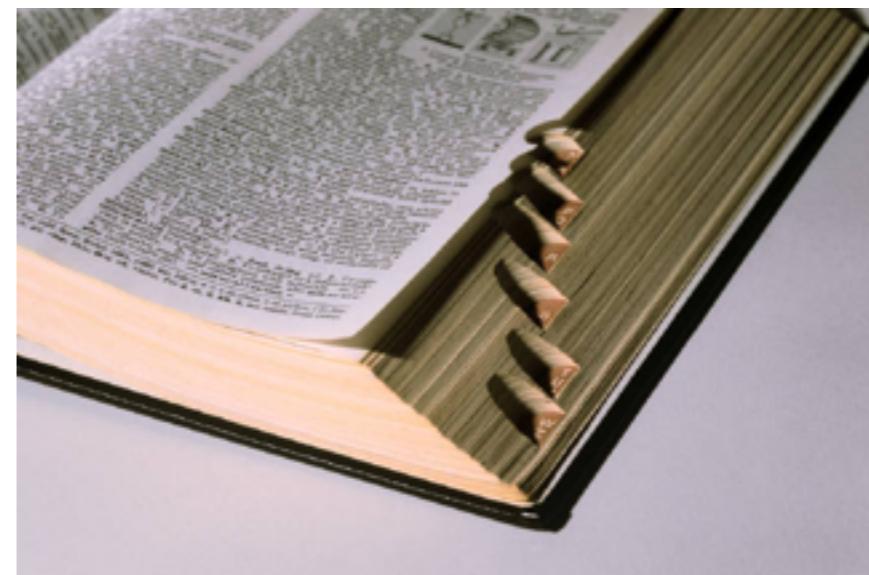
Design principles for C++

- C++ is designed to be a statically typed, general-purpose language that is as efficient and portable as C
- C++ is designed to directly and comprehensively support multiple programming styles (procedural programming, data abstraction, object-oriented programming, and generic programming)
- C++ is designed to give the programmer choice, even if this makes it possible for the programmer to choose incorrectly
- C++ is designed to be as compatible with C as possible, therefore providing a smooth transition from C
- C++ avoids features that are platform specific or not general purpose
- C++ does not incur overhead for features that are not used (the "zero-overhead principle")
- C++ is designed to function without a sophisticated programming environment

Bonus material

A Brief Tour

tools and vocabulary

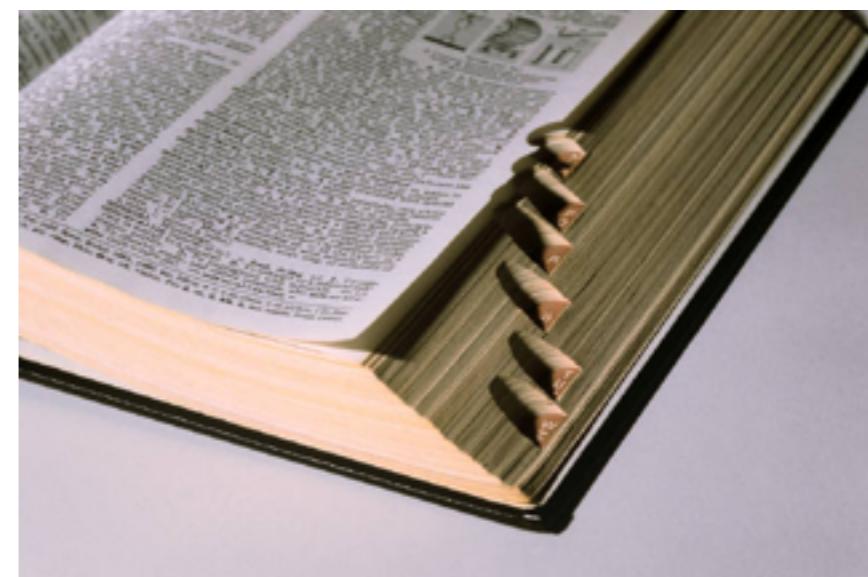


(a chapter from Deep C - a 3 day course by Jon Jagger & Olve Maudal)

not so

A Brief Tour

tools and vocabulary



(a chapter from Deep C - a 3 day course by Jon Jagger & Olve Maudal)

Exercise: Hello World!

Type in this code. Compile and execute the program. What do you get?

hello.c

```
#include <stdio.h>

static int calc(int a, int b, int c)
{
    return a * b / c;
}

int universe = 7;
static int life(void) { return 6; }
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int main(void)
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$ ./hello
The answer is 42
```

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$ echo $?
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The answer is 42
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0
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```
$ cc -o hello hello.c
$ ./hello
The answer is 42
$ echo $?
0
$
```

Was this the result you expected?

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But let's do a dry run and step through the code

(we will look at the compilation step later.)

The following is an example of what ***might*** happen when executing this code:

```
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{
    return a * b / c;
}

int universe = 7;
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    int a = calc(universe, life(), everything());
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}
```

After some basic initialization the run-time environment will call the main function.

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}

int universe = 7;
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→ int main(void)
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```

then preparation for the call to calc()
starts by evaluating all the arguments to be
passed to the function.

```
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int universe = 7;
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int main(void)
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```

guess which argument is evaluated first?

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    int a = calc(universe, life(), everything());
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```

unlike other popular programming languages, the order of evaluation is mostly unspecified in C. In this case the compiler or runtime environment might choose to evaluate `life()` first

```
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```



universe is replaced with 7.

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1

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now we are ready to call the calc() function. This can be done by pushing arguments on an execution stack, reserve space for the return value and perhaps some housekeeping values.

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guess which argument is pushed first?

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the way arguments are passed to a function is defined by the calling convention (ABI) used by the compiler and runtime environment. Here is just an example...

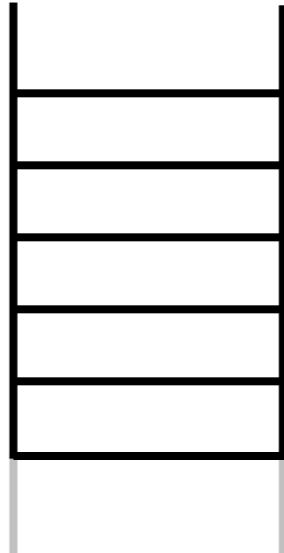
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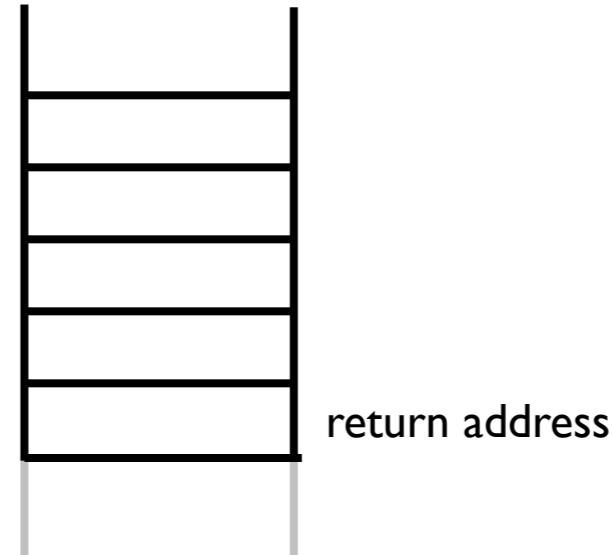
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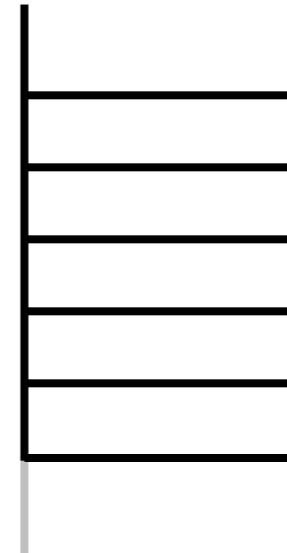
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space for return value
return address

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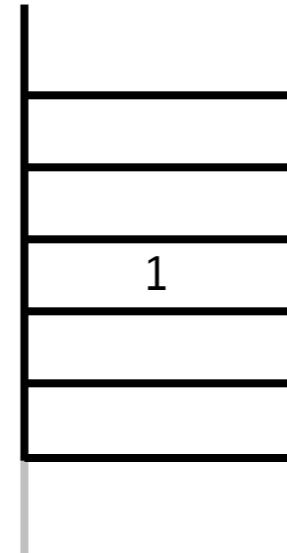
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```

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first argument - a
space for return value
return address

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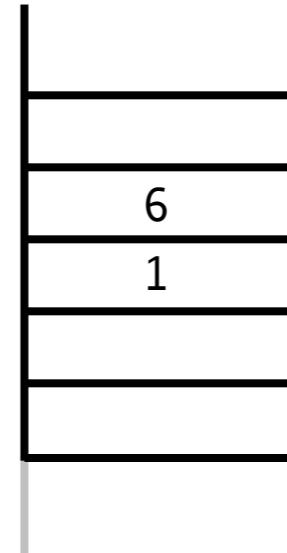
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```

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second argument - b
first argument - a
space for return value
return address

```

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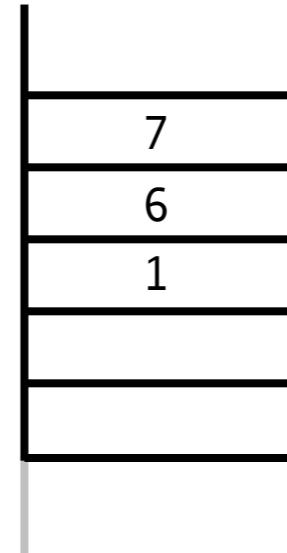
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third argument - c
 second argument - b
 first argument - a
 space for return value
 return address

```

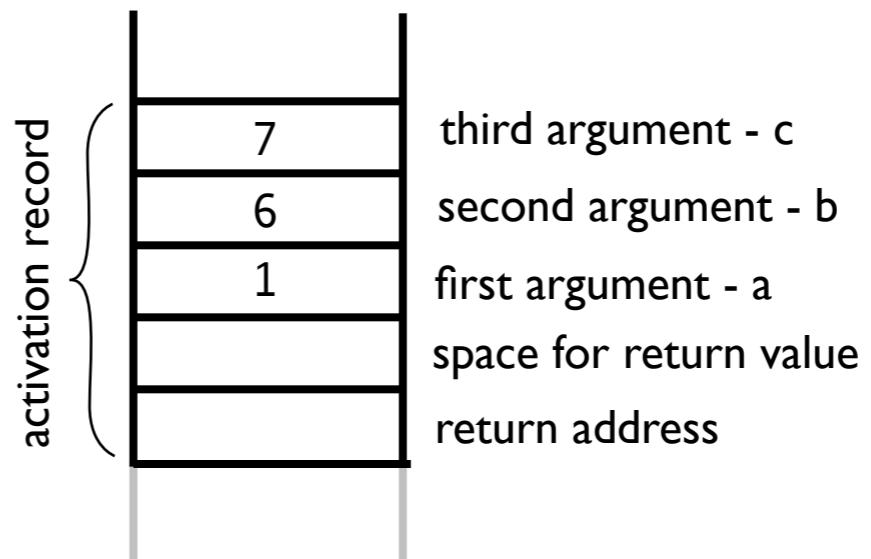
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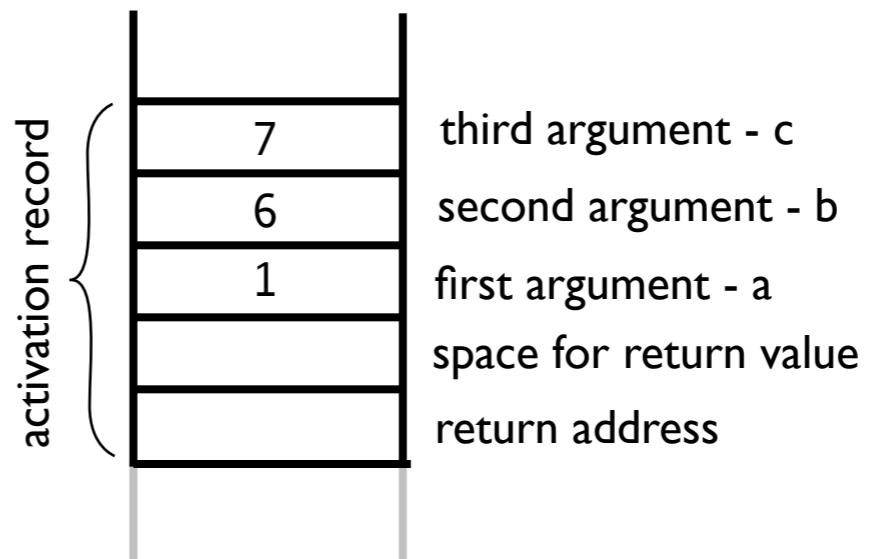
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and when the “activation record” is populated, the program can jump into the function.



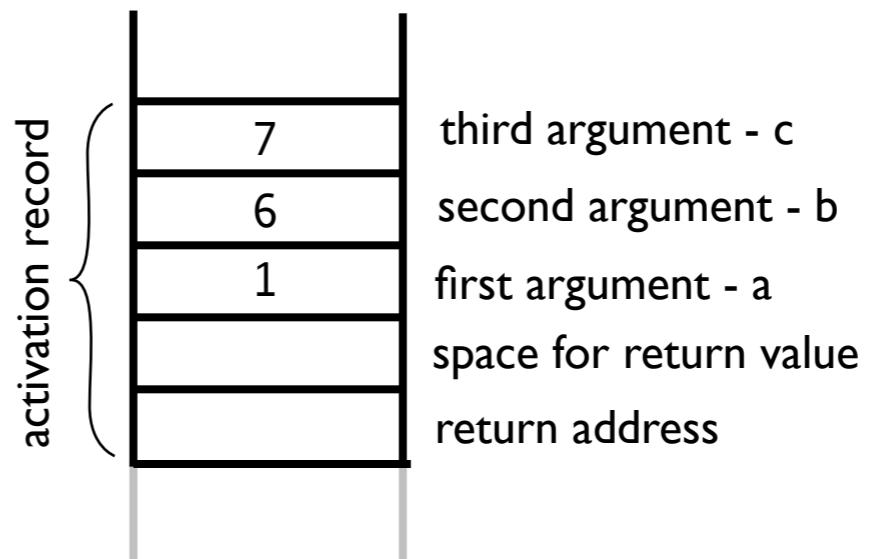
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```

and then evaluate the expression.

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```

```
#include <stdio.h>

static int calc(int a, int b, int c)
{
    return 42 / 1;
}

int universe = 7;
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int everything(void) { return 1; }

int main(void)
{
    int a = calc(    7    ,    6    ,    1    );
    printf("The answer is %d\n", a);
}
```

```
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int main(void)
{
    int a = calc(    7    ,    6    ,    1    );
    printf("The answer is %d\n", a);
}
```

```

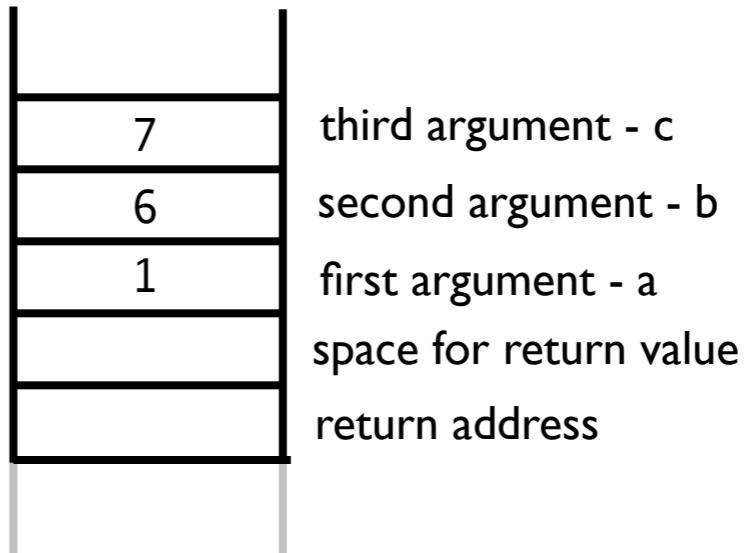
#include <stdio.h>

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```



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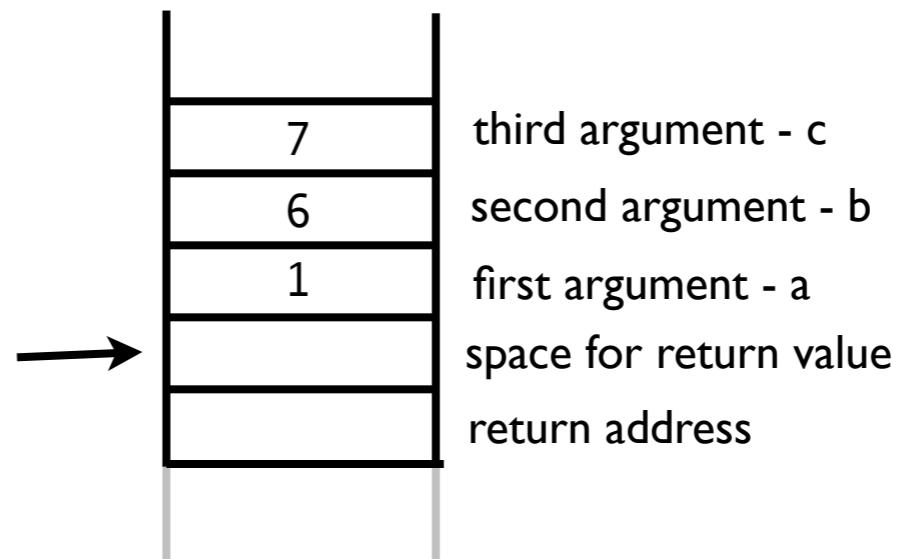
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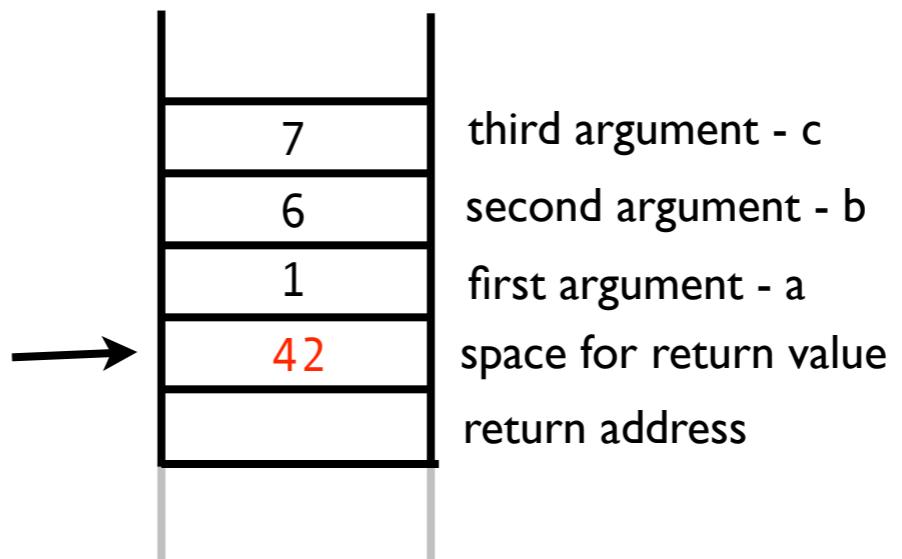
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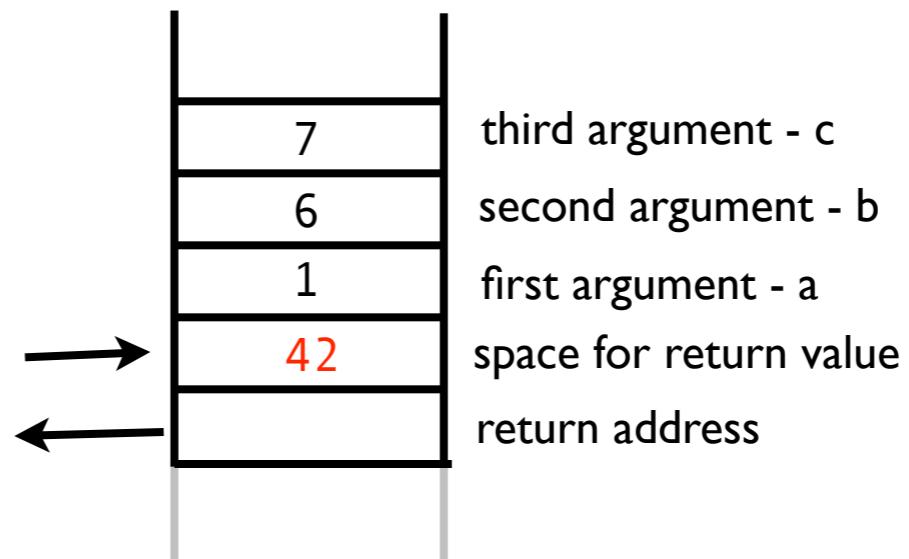
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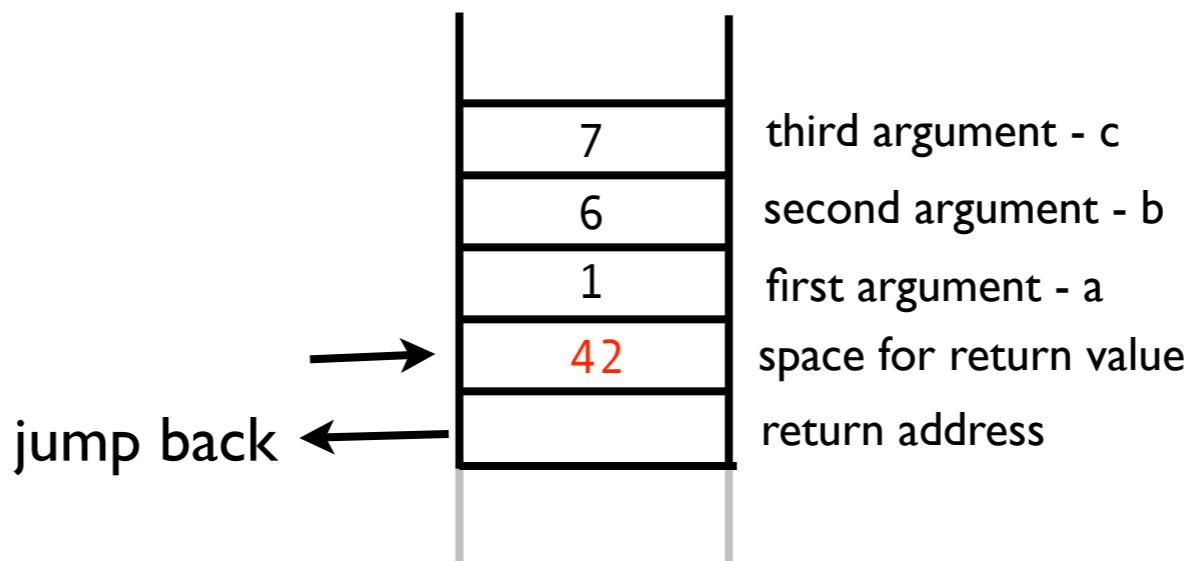
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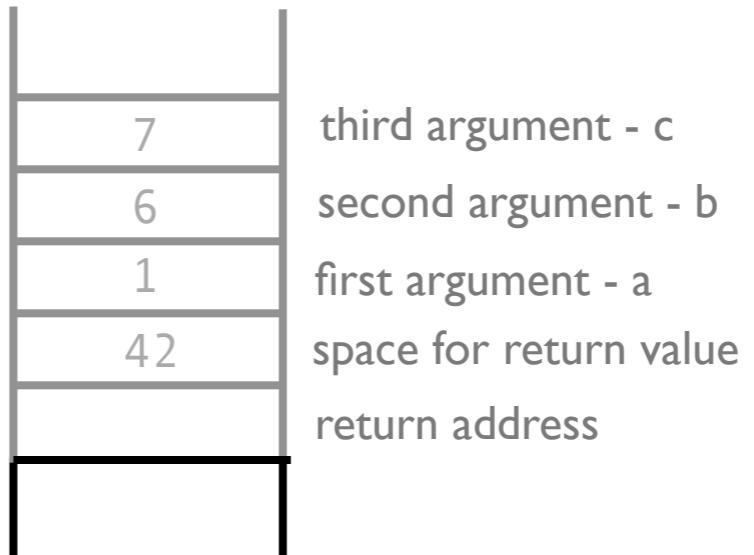


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int universe = 7;
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int everything(void) { return 1; }

int main(void)
{
    int a = 42;
    printf("The answer is %d\n", 42);
}
```

and then 42 and the pointer to the character string is pushed on the execution stack before the library function printf() is called

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The `printf()` function writes out
to the standard output stream

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The answer is 42

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int main(void)
{
    int a = 42;
    printf("The answer is %d\n", 42);
}
```

```
The answer is 42
$ echo $?
0
```

and a default value to indicate success, in this case 0, is returned back to the run-time environment

Was this exactly what you expected?

Was this exactly what you expected?

Good!

Was this exactly what you expected?

Good!

This was just an example of what ***might*** happen.

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Good!

This was just an example of what ***might*** happen.

Because...

```
#include <stdio.h>

static int calc(int a, int b, int c)
{
    return a * b / c;
}

int universe = 7;
static int life(void) { return 6; }
int everything(void) { return 1; }

int main(void)
{
    int a = calc(universe, life(), everything());
    printf("The answer is %d\n", a);
}
```

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maybe the compiler is clever and see that `life()` and `everything()` always returns 6 and 1

and then by inlining `calc()` perhaps the compiler choose to optimize the code into...

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#include <stdio.h>

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```

and since nobody else uses the functions perhaps the compiler decides to not create code for life() and calc()

and since variable a is used only here, then it might skip creating object a and just evaluate the expression as part of the printf() expression.

```
#include <stdio.h>

static int calc(int a, int b, int c)
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    return a * b / c;
}

int universe = 7;
static int life(void) { return 6; }
int everything(void) { return 1; }

int main(void)
{
    int a = universe * 6 / 1;           ←
    printf("The answer is %d\n", universe * 6 / 1);   ←
}                                     ←
```

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But it will still print...

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int main(void)
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    int a = universe * life() / everything();
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}
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But it will still print...

```
The answer is 42
$ echo $?
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But it will still print...

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The key take away from this session is that things like execution stack and calling conventions are not dictated by the standard. The evaluation order of expressions and arguments is mostly unspecified. And the optimizer might rearrange the execution of the code significantly. In C, nearly everything can happen, and will happen, internally as long as the external behavior is satisfied.

the C standard defines the expected behaviour, but says very little about **how** it should be implemented.

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**this is a key feature of C, and one of the
reason why C is such a successful
programming language on such a wide
range of hardware!**

Behavior

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

int main(void)
{
    // implementation-defined
    int i = ~0;
    i >>= 1;
    printf("%d\n", i);

    // unspecified output
    printf("4") + printf("2");
    printf("\n");

    // undefined
    int k = INT_MAX;
    k += 1;
    printf("%d\n", k);
}
```

implementation-defined behavior:
the construct is not incorrect; the code must compile; the compiler must document the behavior

unspecified behavior: the same as implementation-defined except the behavior need not be documented

undefined behavior: the standard imposes no requirements ; anything at all can happen, all bets are off, nasal demons might fly out of your nose.

Note that many compilers will not give you any warnings when compiling this code, and due to the undefined behavior caused by signed integer overflow above, the whole program is in theory undefined.

just to illustrate the point. What do you think will happen when we run this program?

```
#include <stdio.h>

int a(void) { printf("a"); return 3; }
int b(void) { printf("b"); return 4; }

int main(void)
{
    int c = a() + b();
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According to the C standard, this program will print:

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According to the C standard, this program will print:

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Unlike most modern programming languages, the evaluation order of most expressions are **not** specified in C

And while we are on a roll...What do you think
might happen when we run this program?

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```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
    int v[] = {9,7,5,3,1};
    int i = 2;
    int n = v[i++] - v[i++];
    printf("%d\n", n);
    printf("%d\n", i);
    return 0;
}
```

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you might get:

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0

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If you break the rules of the language, the behaviour of the whole program is undefined. Anything can happen! And the compiler will often not be able to give you a warning.

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Try it!

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The violation here is that we are violating the rules of sequencing, which, among other things says that a variable can not be updated twice between two sequence points.

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    printf("%d\n", i);
    return 0;
}
```

Here is what I get on my machine:

```
$ gcc -O -Wall -Wextra -pedantic foo.c
$ ./a.out
0
4
$
```

The violation here is that we are violating the rules of sequencing, which, among other things says that a variable can not be updated twice between two sequence points.

We just had a glimpse of what ***might*** happen when code is executed.

Scary stuff? Not really, but with only a shallow understanding of the language it is easy to make big mistakes.

The goal of this course is to give you a deep understanding of C, by starting from scratch and relearn the language in a systematic way.

First, let's start to establish a vocabulary. To do that, we need an even more contrived example program...

```
int printf(const char * restrict, ...);
void exit(int);
#define EXIT_FAILURE 1

static void say_hello(const char * who)
{
    printf("Hello %s\n", who);
}

// compute the answer
int the_answer()
{
    register int a;
    int b = 6; /* mystic base value */
    a = 0;
    for (int i=0; i<7; i++)
        a += b;
    return a;
}

const int life_universe_everything = 42;

int main(void)
{
    say_hello("everyone");
    int a = the_answer();
    if (a != life_universe_everything)
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
}
```

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int printf(const char * restrict, ...);
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int main(void)
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    if (a != life_universe_everything)
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
}
```

```
$ cc foo.c
$ ./a.out
Hello everyone
$ echo $?
0
```

Why do we
need this?

```
int printf(const char * restrict, ...);  
void exit(int);  
#define EXIT_FAILURE 1  
  
static void say_hello(const char * who)  
{  
    printf("Hello %s\n", who);  
}  
  
// compute the answer  
int the_answer()  
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    int b = 6; /* mystic base value */  
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        a += b;  
    return a;  
}  
  
const int life_universe_everything = 42;  
  
int main(void)  
{  
    say_hello("everyone");  
    int a = the_answer();  
    if (a != life_universe_everything)  
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);  
}
```

```
$ cc foo.c  
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Hello everyone  
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int printf(const char * restrict, ...);  
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int main(void)  
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    int a = the_answer();  
    if (a != life_universe_everything)  
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);  
}
```

and what does
this mean?

```
$ cc foo.c  
$ ./a.out  
Hello everyone  
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0
```

Why do we
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int printf(const char * restrict, ...);  
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{  
    say_hello("everyone");  
    int a = the_answer();  
    if (a != life_universe_everything)  
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);  
}
```

how is a for loop
really working?

and what does
this mean?

```
$ cc foo.c  
$ ./a.out  
Hello everyone  
$ echo $?  
0
```

Why do we
need this?

```
int printf(const char * restrict, ...);  
void exit(int);  
#define EXIT_FAILURE 1  
  
static void say_hello(const char * who)  
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int the_answer()  
{  
    register int a;  
    int b = 6; /* mystic base value */  
    a = 0;  
    for (int i=0; i<7; i++)  
        a += b;  
    return a;  
}  
  
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how is a for loop
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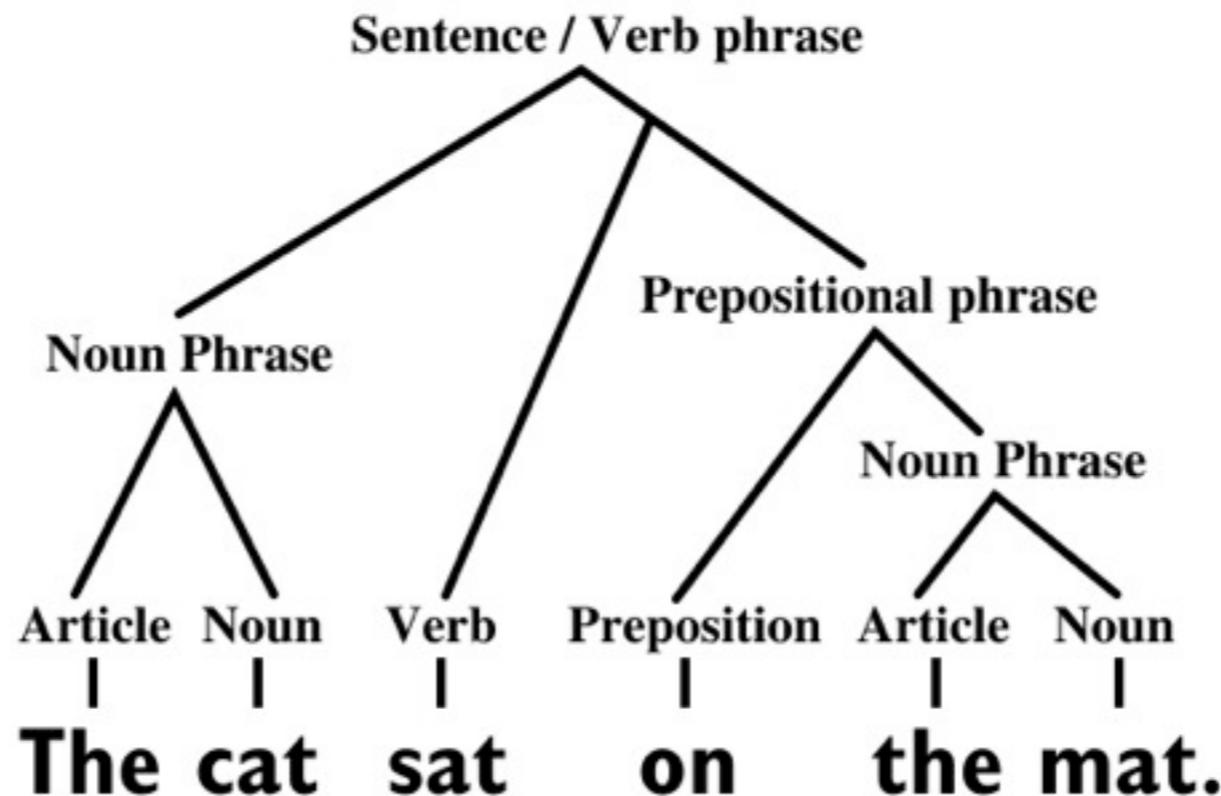
and what does
this mean?

how many
arguments does
this function
accept?

```
$ cc foo.c  
$ ./a.out  
Hello everyone  
$ echo $?  
0
```

To get a deep understanding of any language you need to be able to ‘break’ it down and analyse it, at least you need to recognize the words used when experts are discussing among themselves

Basic constituent structure analysis of a sentence:



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int printf(const char * restrict, ...);
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#define EXIT_FAILURE 1

static void say_hello(const char * who)
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function prototype

(declaration)

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identifier with
internal linkage

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linkage specification

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declaration without
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declaration with
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expression

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declaration with initialization

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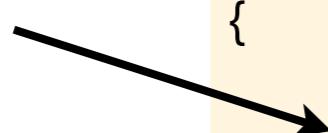
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type specifier



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type qualifier

type specifier

storage class specifier

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comment

pre-processor directive

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int printf(const char * restrict, ...);  
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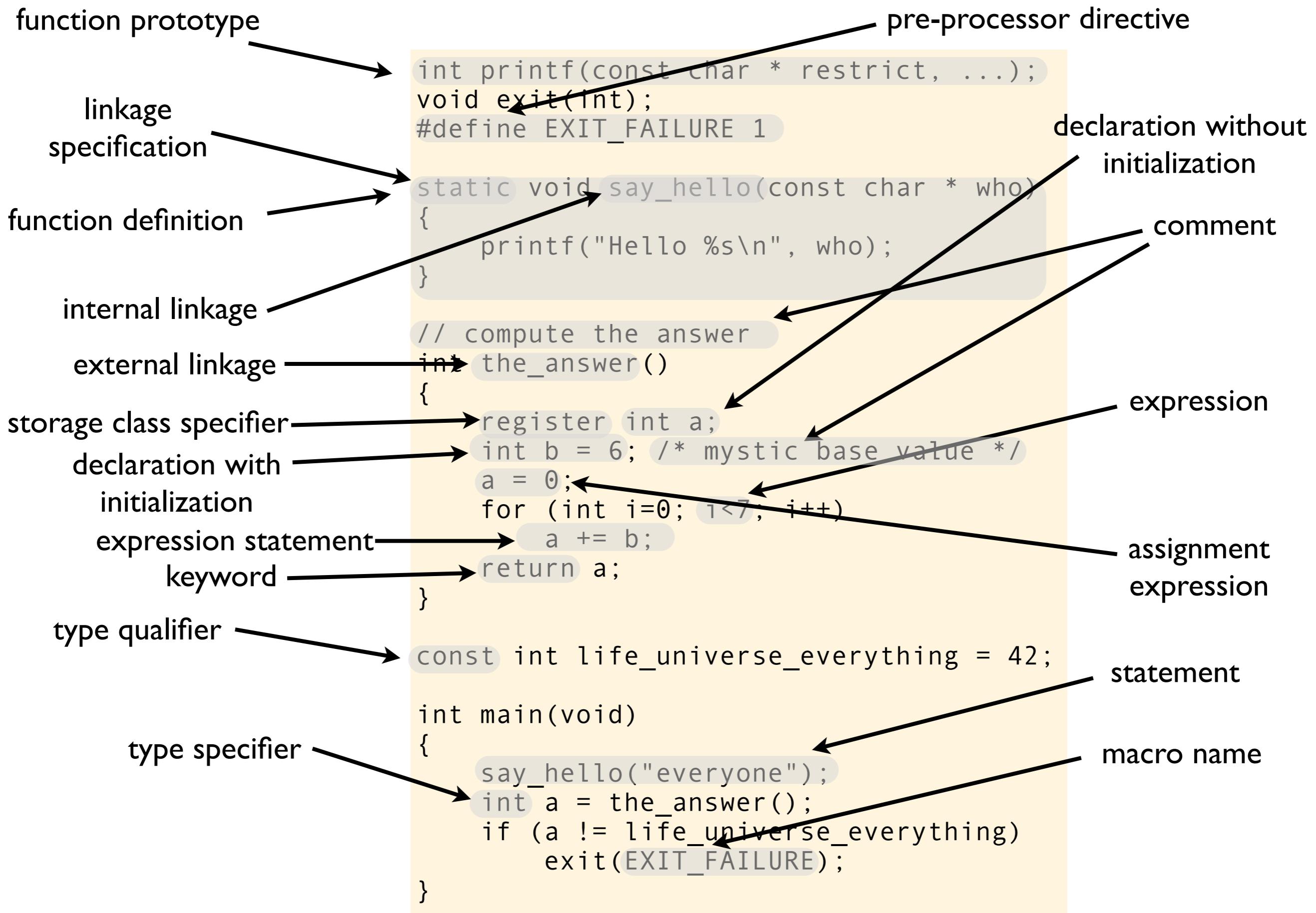
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macro name

```
int main(void)  
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    say_hello("everyone");  
    int a = the_answer();  
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        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);  
}
```



A glimpse into tools often
used when developing C

Exercise: Deep thought, Part I

```
#include "dt.h"

int dt_base_value;
#define MULTIPLIER 7
static int dt_answer;

static void run_computer(void)
{
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * MULTIPLIER;
}

int dt_get_answer(void)
{
    run_computer();
    return dt_answer;
}
```

dt.c

```
extern int dt_base_value;
int dt_get_answer(void);
```

dt.h

theanswer.c

```
#include "dt.h"
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
    int answer = dt_get_answer();
    printf("The answer is %d\n",
           answer);
}
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part I

dt.c

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static int dt_answer;

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int dt_get_answer(void)
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}
```

dt.h

```
extern int dt_base_value;
int dt_get_answer(void);
```

theanswer.c

```
#include "dt.h"
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
    int answer = dt_get_answer();
    printf("The answer is %d\n",
           answer);
}
```

```
$ cc -c dt.c
```

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```

dt.c

```
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int dt_get_answer(void);
```

dt.h

theanswer.c

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#include "dt.h"
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int main(void)
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    dt_base_value = 6;
    int answer = dt_get_answer();
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           answer);
}
```

```
$ cc -c dt.c
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```

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dt.c

```
extern int dt_base_value;
int dt_get_answer(void);
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dt.h

theanswer.c

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#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
    int answer = dt_get_answer();
    printf("The answer is %d\n",
           answer);
}
```

```
$ cc -c dt.c
$ cc -c theanswer.c
$ cc -o theanswer theanswer.o dt.o
```

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}

int dt_get_answer(void)
{
    run_computer();
    return dt_answer;
}
```

dt.c

```
extern int dt_base_value;
int dt_get_answer(void);
```

dt.h

theanswer.c

```
#include "dt.h"
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
    int answer = dt_get_answer();
    printf("The answer is %d\n",
           answer);
}
```

```
$ cc -c dt.c
$ cc -c theanswer.c
$ cc -o theanswer theanswer.o dt.o
$ ./theanswer
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part I

```
#include "dt.h"

int dt_base_value;
#define MULTIPLIER 7
static int dt_answer;

static void run_computer(void)
{
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * MULTIPLIER;
}

int dt_get_answer(void)
{
    run_computer();
    return dt_answer;
}
```

dt.c

```
extern int dt_base_value;
int dt_get_answer(void);
```

dt.h

theanswer.c

```
#include "dt.h"
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
    int answer = dt_get_answer();
    printf("The answer is %d\n",
           answer);
}
```

```
$ cc -c dt.c
$ cc -c theanswer.c
$ cc -o theanswer theanswer.o dt.o
$ ./theanswer
The answer is 42
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part I

```
#include "dt.h"

int dt_base_value;
#define MULTIPLIER 7
static int dt_answer;

static void run_computer(void)
{
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * MULTIPLIER;
}

int dt_get_answer(void)
{
    run_computer();
    return dt_answer;
}
```

dt.c

```
extern int dt_base_value;
int dt_get_answer(void);
```

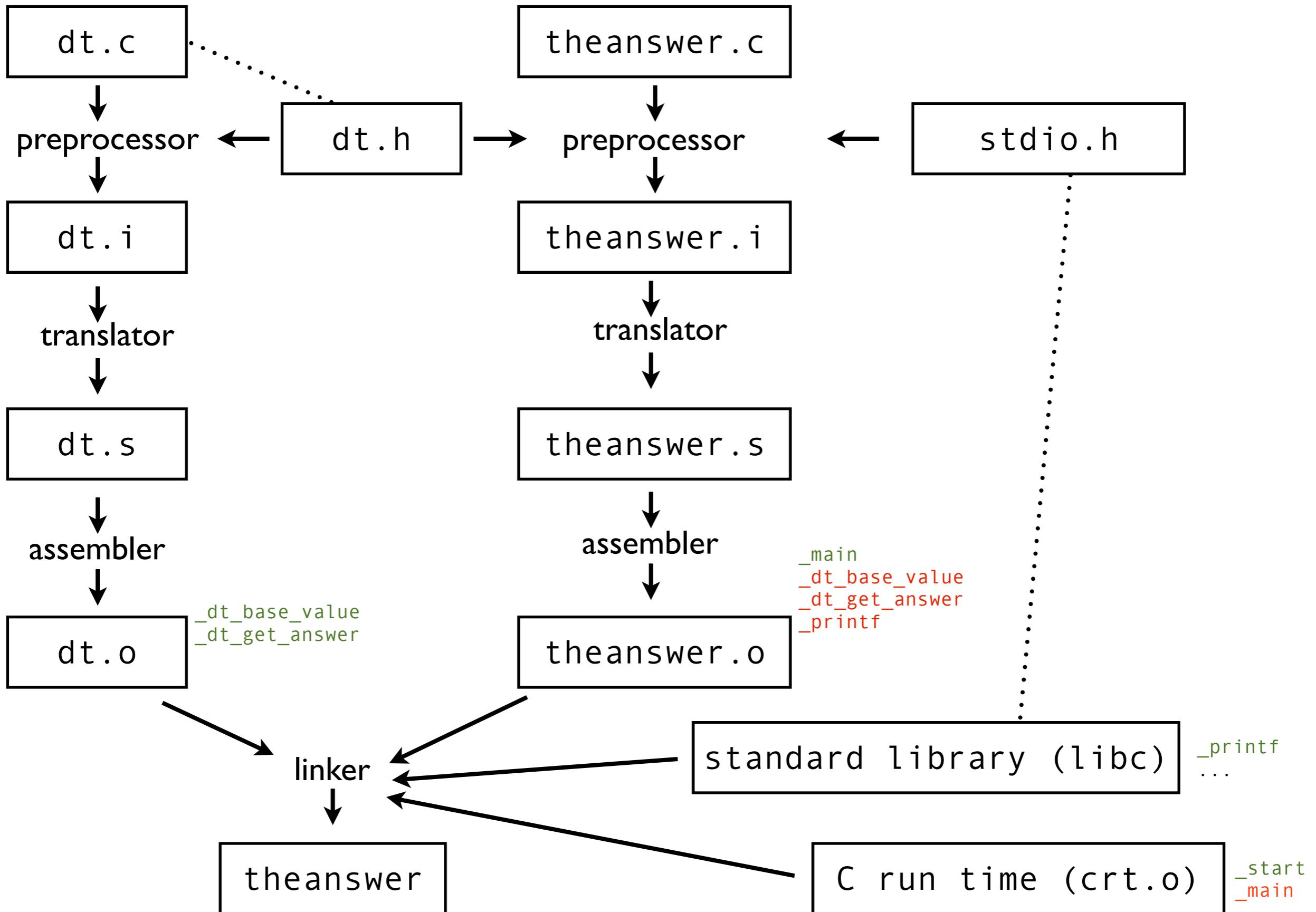
dt.h

theanswer.c

```
#include "dt.h"
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
    int answer = dt_get_answer();
    printf("The answer is %d\n",
           answer);
}
```

```
$ cc -c dt.c
$ cc -c theanswer.c
$ cc -o theanswer theanswer.o dt.o
$ ./theanswer
The answer is 42
$
```



Exercise: Deep thought, Part 2

```
dt.c                                     dt.h                                     theanswer.c
```

#include "dt.h"
int dt_base_value;
static int dt_answer;

static void run_computer(int multiplier)
{
 dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;
}

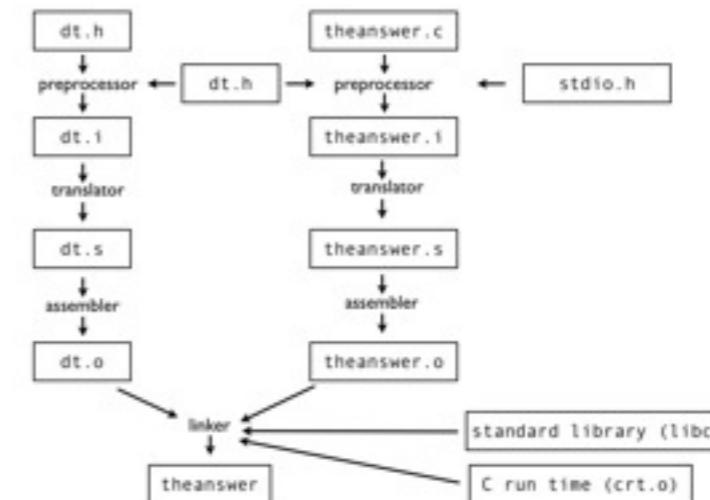
void dt_init(void)
{
 dt_base_value = 6;
}

int dt_compute_answer(void)
{
 run_computer(7);
 return dt_answer;
}

void dt_init(void);
int dt_compute_answer(void);

#include <stdio.h>
#include "dt.h"

int main(void)
{
 dt_init();
 int answer = dt_compute_answer();
 printf("The answer is %d\n",
 answer);
}



Exercise: Deep thought, Part 2

```
dt.c                                     dt.h
#include "dt.h"
int dt_base_value;
static int dt_answer;

static void run_computer(int multiplier)
{
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;
}

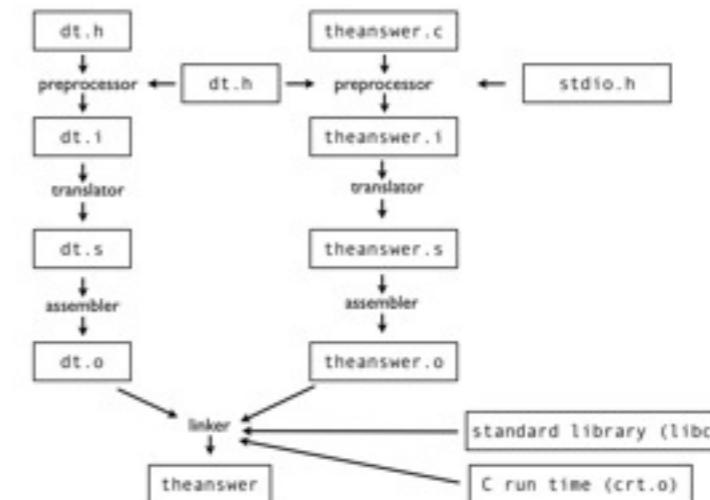
void dt_init(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
}

int dt_compute_answer(void)
{
    run_computer(7);
    return dt_answer;
}

dt.h
void dt_init(void);
int dt_compute_answer(void);

theanswer.c
#include <stdio.h>
#include "dt.h"

int main(void)
{
    dt_init();
    int answer = dt_compute_answer();
    printf("The answer is %d\n",
           answer);
}
```



```
$ cc -E dt.c >dt.i
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 2

```
dt.c                                     dt.h
#include "dt.h"
int dt_base_value;
static int dt_answer;

static void run_computer(int multiplier)
{
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;
}

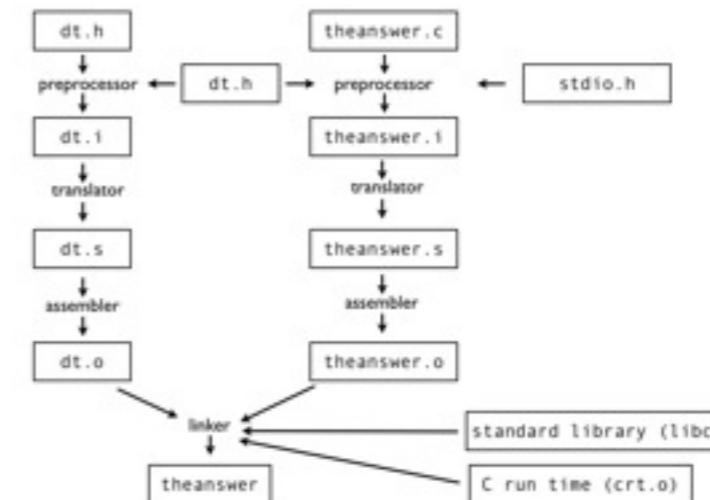
void dt_init(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
}

int dt_compute_answer(void)
{
    run_computer(7);
    return dt_answer;
}

void dt_init(void);
int dt_compute_answer(void);
```

```
theanswer.c
#include <stdio.h>
#include "dt.h"

int main(void)
{
    dt_init();
    int answer = dt_compute_answer();
    printf("The answer is %d\n",
           answer);
}
```



```
$ cc -E dt.c >dt.i
$ cat dt.i
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 2

```
dt.c                                     dt.h
#include "dt.h"
int dt_base_value;
static int dt_answer;

static void run_computer(int multiplier)
{
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;
}

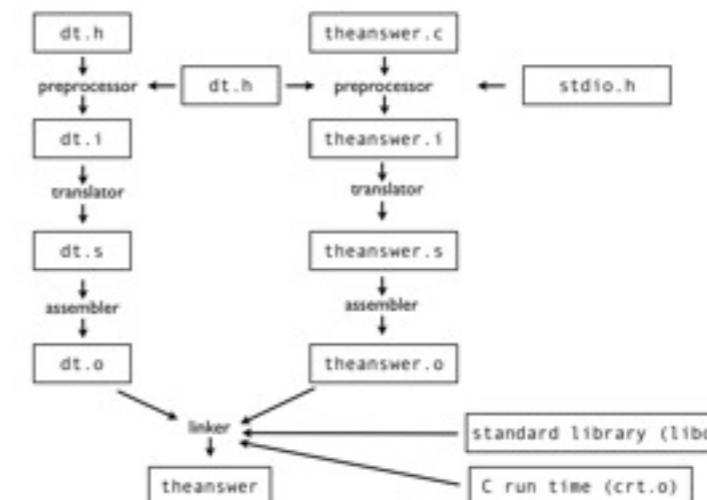
void dt_init(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
}

int dt_compute_answer(void)
{
    run_computer(7);
    return dt_answer;
}

void dt_init(void);
int dt_compute_answer(void);
```

```
theanswer.c
#include <stdio.h>
#include "dt.h"

int main(void)
{
    dt_init();
    int answer = dt_compute_answer();
    printf("The answer is %d\n",
           answer);
}
```



```
$ cc -E dt.c >dt.i
$ cat dt.i
$ cc -S dt.i
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 2

```
dt.c                                     dt.h
#include "dt.h"
int dt_base_value;
static int dt_answer;

static void run_computer(int multiplier)
{
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;
}

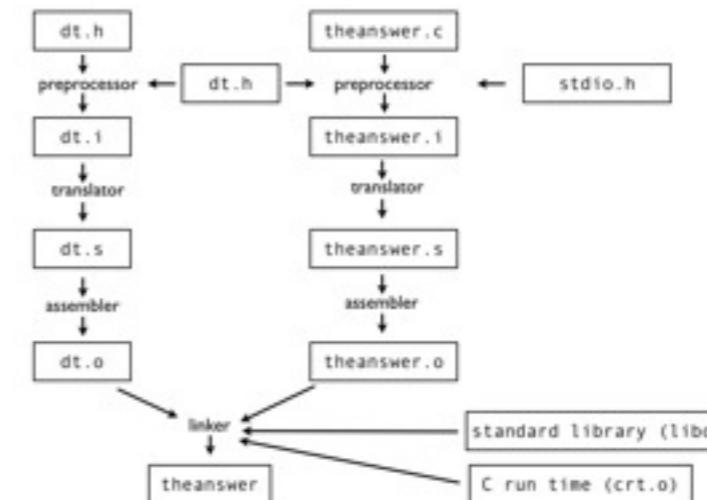
void dt_init(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
}

int dt_compute_answer(void)
{
    run_computer(7);
    return dt_answer;
}

void dt_init(void);
int dt_compute_answer(void);
```

```
theanswer.c
#include <stdio.h>
#include "dt.h"

int main(void)
{
    dt_init();
    int answer = dt_compute_answer();
    printf("The answer is %d\n",
           answer);
}
```



```
$ cc -E dt.c >dt.i
$ cat dt.i
$ cc -S dt.i
$ cat dt.s
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 2

```
dt.c                                     dt.h                                     theanswer.c
```

#include "dt.h"
int dt_base_value;
static int dt_answer;

static void run_computer(int multiplier)
{
 dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;
}

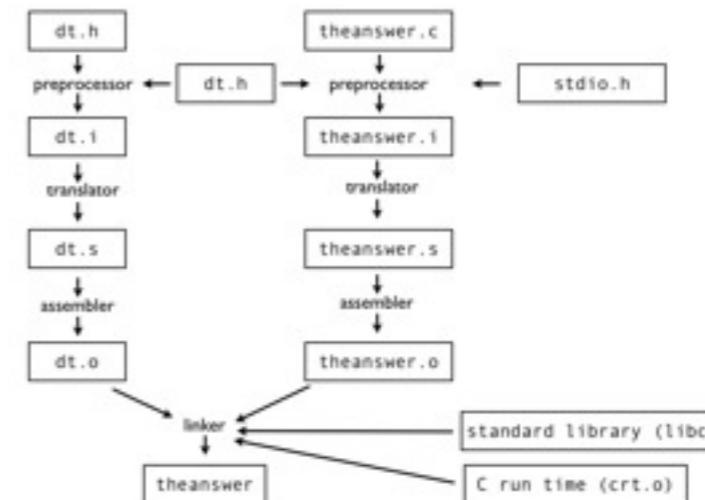
void dt_init(void)
{
 dt_base_value = 6;
}

int dt_compute_answer(void)
{
 run_computer(7);
 return dt_answer;
}

void dt_init(void);
int dt_compute_answer(void);

#include <stdio.h>
#include "dt.h"

int main(void)
{
 dt_init();
 int answer = dt_compute_answer();
 printf("The answer is %d\n",
 answer);
}



```
$ cc -E dt.c >dt.i  
$ cat dt.i  
$ cc -S dt.i  
$ cat dt.s  
$ cc -c dt.s
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 2

```
dt.c                                     dt.h                                     theanswer.c
```

#include "dt.h"
int dt_base_value;
static int dt_answer;

static void run_computer(int multiplier)
{
 dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;
}

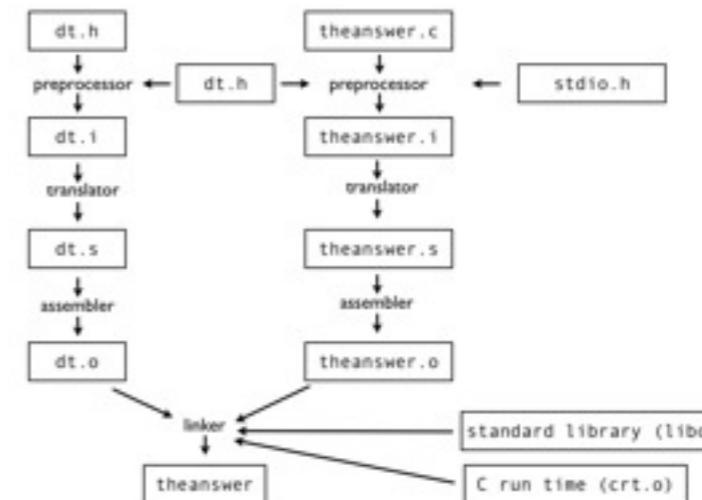
void dt_init(void)
{
 dt_base_value = 6;
}

int dt_compute_answer(void)
{
 run_computer(7);
 return dt_answer;
}

void dt_init(void);
int dt_compute_answer(void);

#include <stdio.h>
#include "dt.h"

int main(void)
{
 dt_init();
 int answer = dt_compute_answer();
 printf("The answer is %d\n",
 answer);
}

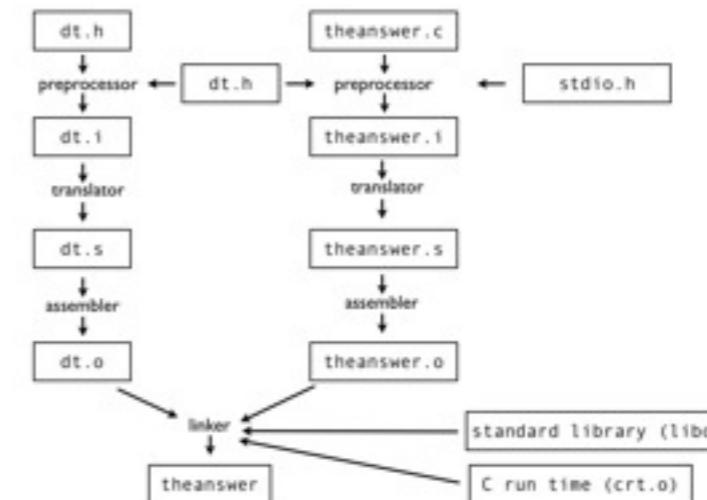


```
$ cc -E dt.c >dt.i  
$ cat dt.i  
$ cc -S dt.i  
$ cat dt.s  
$ cc -c dt.s  
$ nm dt.o
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 2

```
dt.c                                     dt.h                                     theanswer.c
#include "dt.h"
int dt_base_value;
static int dt_answer;
static void run_computer(int multiplier)
{
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;
}
void dt_init(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
}
int dt_compute_answer(void)
{
    run_computer(7);
    return dt_answer;
}

void dt_init(void);
int dt_compute_answer(void);
```

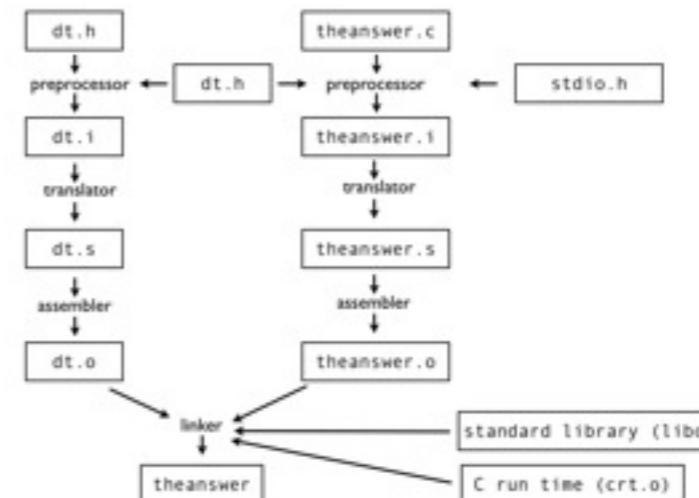


```
$ cc -E dt.c >dt.i
$ cat dt.i
$ cc -S dt.i
$ cat dt.s
$ cc -c dt.s
$ nm dt.o

$ cc -c -save-temp theanswer.c
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 2

```
dt.c                                     dt.h  
-----  
#include "dt.h"  
  
int dt_base_value;  
static int dt_answer;  
  
static void run_computer(int multiplier)  
{  
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;  
}  
  
void dt_init(void)  
{  
    dt_base_value = 6;  
}  
  
int dt_compute_answer(void)  
{  
    run_computer(7);  
    return dt_answer;  
}  
  
-----  
void dt_init(void);  
int dt_compute_answer(void);  
  
-----  
theanswer.c  
-----  
#include <stdio.h>  
#include "dt.h"  
  
int main(void)  
{  
    dt_init();  
    int answer = dt_compute_answer();  
    printf("The answer is %d\n",  
          answer);  
}
```



```
$ cc -E dt.c >dt.i  
$ cat dt.i  
$ cc -S dt.i  
$ cat dt.s  
$ cc -c dt.s  
$ nm dt.o  
  
$ cc -c -save-temp theanswer.c  
$ ls theanswer.*
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 2

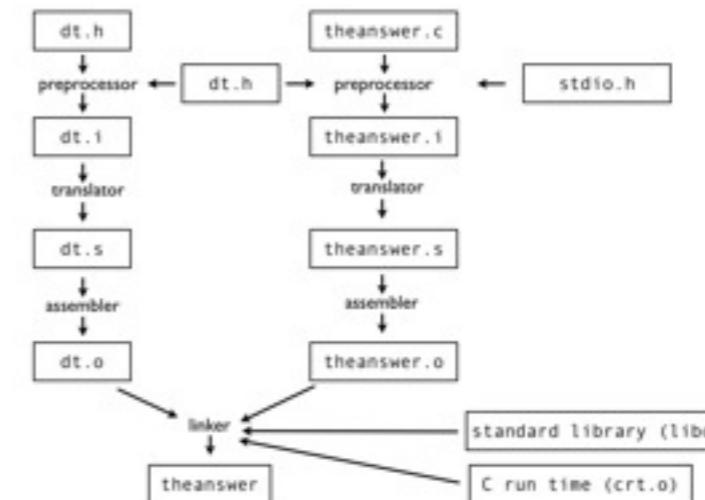
```
dt.c                                     dt.h                                     theanswer.c
#include "dt.h"
int dt_base_value;
static int dt_answer;

static void run_computer(int multiplier)
{
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;
}

void dt_init(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
}

int dt_compute_answer(void)
{
    run_computer(7);
    return dt_answer;
}

void dt_init(void);
int dt_compute_answer(void);
```



```
$ cc -E dt.c >dt.i
$ cat dt.i
$ cc -S dt.i
$ cat dt.s
$ cc -c dt.s
$ nm dt.o

$ cc -c -save-temp theanswer.c
$ ls theanswer.*
$ nm theanswer.o
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 2

```
dt.c                                     dt.h
#include "dt.h"
int dt_base_value;
static int dt_answer;

static void run_computer(int multiplier)
{
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;
}

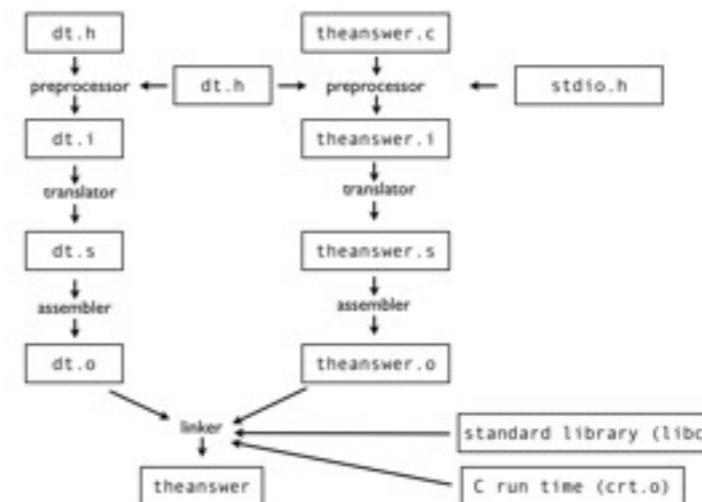
void dt_init(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
}

int dt_compute_answer(void)
{
    run_computer(7);
    return dt_answer;
}

void dt_init(void);
int dt_compute_answer(void);
```

```
theanswer.c
#include <stdio.h>
#include "dt.h"

int main(void)
{
    dt_init();
    int answer = dt_compute_answer();
    printf("The answer is %d\n",
           answer);
}
```



```
$ cc -E dt.c >dt.i
$ cat dt.i
$ cc -S dt.i
$ cat dt.s
$ cc -c dt.s
$ nm dt.o

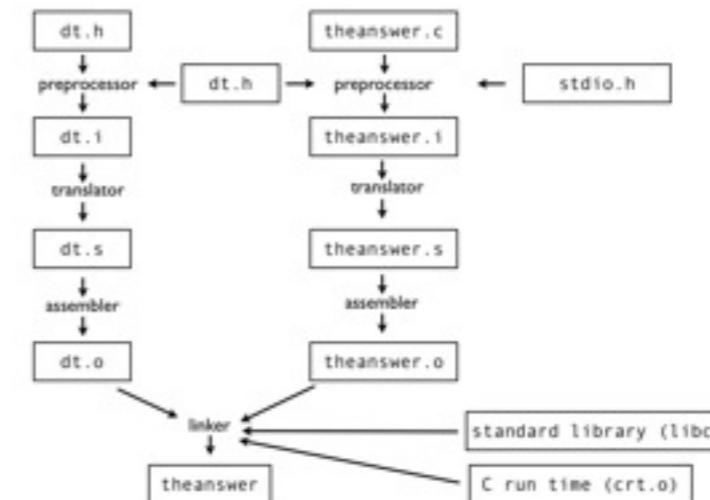
$ cc -c -save-temp theanswer.c
$ ls theanswer.*
$ nm theanswer.o

$ ld -lc -o theanswer dt.o theanswer.o /usr/lib/crt1.o
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 2

```
dt.c                                     dt.h                                     theanswer.c
#include "dt.h"
int dt_base_value;
static int dt_answer;
static void run_computer(int multiplier)
{
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;
}
void dt_init(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
}
int dt_compute_answer(void)
{
    run_computer(7);
    return dt_answer;
}

void dt_init(void);
int dt_compute_answer(void);
```



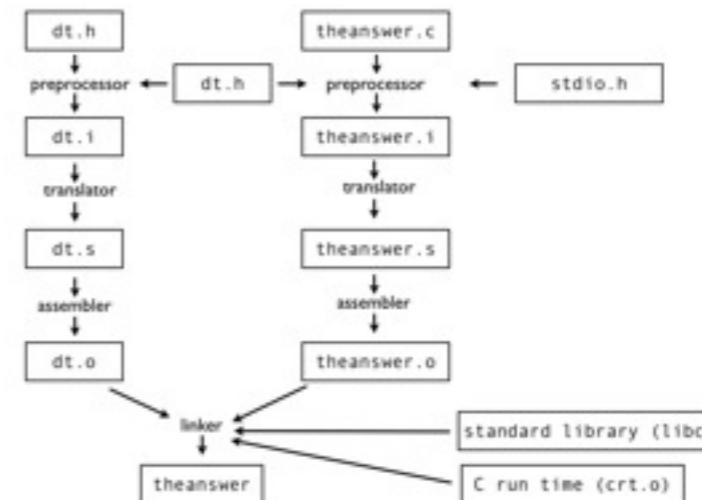
```
$ cc -E dt.c >dt.i
$ cat dt.i
$ cc -S dt.i
$ cat dt.s
$ cc -c dt.s
$ nm dt.o

$ cc -c -save-temp theanswer.c
$ ls theanswer.*
$ nm theanswer.o

$ ld -lc -o theanswer dt.o theanswer.o /usr/lib/crt1.o
$ ./theanswer
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 2

```
dt.c                                     dt.h  
-----  
#include "dt.h"  
  
int dt_base_value;  
static int dt_answer;  
  
static void run_computer(int multiplier)  
{  
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;  
}  
  
void dt_init(void)  
{  
    dt_base_value = 6;  
}  
  
int dt_compute_answer(void)  
{  
    run_computer(7);  
    return dt_answer;  
}  
  
-----  
void dt_init(void);  
int dt_compute_answer(void);  
  
-----  
theanswer.c  
-----  
#include <stdio.h>  
#include "dt.h"  
  
int main(void)  
{  
    dt_init();  
    int answer = dt_compute_answer();  
    printf("The answer is %d\n",  
          answer);  
}
```



```
$ cc -E dt.c >dt.i  
$ cat dt.i  
$ cc -S dt.i  
$ cat dt.s  
$ cc -c dt.s  
$ nm dt.o  
  
$ cc -c -save-temp theanswer.c  
$ ls theanswer.*  
$ nm theanswer.o  
  
$ ld -lc -o theanswer dt.o theanswer.o /usr/lib/crt1.o  
$ ./theanswer  
The answer is 42
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 3

dt.c	dt.h
<pre>#include "dt.h" int dt_base_value; static int dt_answer; static void run_computer(int multiplier) { dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier; } void dt_init(void) { dt_base_value = 6; } int dt_compute_answer(void) { run_computer(7); return dt_answer; }</pre>	<pre>void dt_init(void); int dt_compute_answer(void); #include <stdio.h> #include "dt.h" int main(void) { dt_init(); int answer = dt_compute_answer(); printf("The answer is %d\n", answer); }</pre>

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 3

dt.c	dt.h
<pre>#include "dt.h" int dt_base_value; static int dt_answer; static void run_computer(int multiplier) { dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier; } void dt_init(void) { dt_base_value = 6; } int dt_compute_answer(void) { run_computer(7); return dt_answer; }</pre>	<pre>void dt_init(void); int dt_compute_answer(void);</pre>
	theanswer.c
	<pre>#include <stdio.h> #include "dt.h" int main(void) { dt_init(); int answer = dt_compute_answer(); printf("The answer is %d\n", answer); }</pre>

```
$ cc -g -o theanswer dt.c theanswer.c
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 3

dt.c	dt.h
<pre>#include "dt.h" int dt_base_value; static int dt_answer; static void run_computer(int multiplier) { dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier; } void dt_init(void) { dt_base_value = 6; } int dt_compute_answer(void) { run_computer(7); return dt_answer; }</pre>	<pre>void dt_init(void); int dt_compute_answer(void);</pre>
	theanswer.c
	<pre>#include <stdio.h> #include "dt.h" int main(void) { dt_init(); int answer = dt_compute_answer(); printf("The answer is %d\n", answer); }</pre>

```
$ cc -g -o theanswer dt.c theanswer.c
$ gdb theanswer
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 3

dt.c	dt.h
<pre>#include "dt.h" int dt_base_value; static int dt_answer; static void run_computer(int multiplier) { dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier; } void dt_init(void) { dt_base_value = 6; } int dt_compute_answer(void) { run_computer(7); return dt_answer; }</pre>	<pre>void dt_init(void); int dt_compute_answer(void);</pre>
	theanswer.c
	<pre>#include <stdio.h> #include "dt.h" int main(void) { dt_init(); int answer = dt_compute_answer(); printf("The answer is %d\n", answer); }</pre>

```
$ cc -g -o theanswer dt.c theanswer.c
$ gdb theanswer
(gdb) run
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 3

dt.c	dt.h
<pre>#include "dt.h" int dt_base_value; static int dt_answer; static void run_computer(int multiplier) { dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier; } void dt_init(void) { dt_base_value = 6; } int dt_compute_answer(void) { run_computer(7); return dt_answer; }</pre>	<pre>void dt_init(void); int dt_compute_answer(void);</pre>
	theanswer.c
	<pre>#include <stdio.h> #include "dt.h" int main(void) { dt_init(); int answer = dt_compute_answer(); printf("The answer is %d\n", answer); }</pre>

```
$ cc -g -o theanswer dt.c theanswer.c
$ gdb theanswer
(gdb) run
(gdb) break run_computer
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 3

```
dt.c                               dt.h
#include "dt.h"
int dt_base_value;
static int dt_answer;

static void run_computer(int multiplier)
{
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;
}

void dt_init(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
}

int dt_compute_answer(void)
{
    run_computer(7);
    return dt_answer;
}
```

```
void dt_init(void);
int dt_compute_answer(void);
```

```
theanswer.c
#include <stdio.h>
#include "dt.h"

int main(void)
{
    dt_init();
    int answer = dt_compute_answer();
    printf("The answer is %d\n",
           answer);
}
```

```
$ cc -g -o theanswer dt.c theanswer.c
$ gdb theanswer
(gdb) run
(gdb) break run_computer
(gdb) set dt_base_value = 8
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 3

dt.c	dt.h
<pre>#include "dt.h" int dt_base_value; static int dt_answer; static void run_computer(int multiplier) { dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier; } void dt_init(void) { dt_base_value = 6; } int dt_compute_answer(void) { run_computer(7); return dt_answer; }</pre>	<pre>void dt_init(void); int dt_compute_answer(void);</pre>
	theanswer.c
	<pre>#include <stdio.h> #include "dt.h" int main(void) { dt_init(); int answer = dt_compute_answer(); printf("The answer is %d\n", answer); }</pre>

```
$ cc -g -o theanswer dt.c theanswer.c
$ gdb theanswer
(gdb) run
(gdb) break run_computer
(gdb) set dt_base_value = 8
(gdb) cont
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 3

```
dt.c                               dt.h
#include "dt.h"
int dt_base_value;
static int dt_answer;

static void run_computer(int multiplier)
{
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;
}

void dt_init(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
}

int dt_compute_answer(void)
{
    run_computer(7);
    return dt_answer;
}

theanswer.c
#include <stdio.h>
#include "dt.h"

int main(void)
{
    dt_init();
    int answer = dt_compute_answer();
    printf("The answer is %d\n",
           answer);
}
```

```
$ cc -g -o theanswer dt.c theanswer.c
$ gdb theanswer
(gdb) run
(gdb) break run_computer
(gdb) set dt_base_value = 8
(gdb) cont
(gdb) disassemble run_computer
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 3

```
dt.c                               dt.h
#include "dt.h"
int dt_base_value;
static int dt_answer;

static void run_computer(int multiplier)
{
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;
}

void dt_init(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
}

int dt_compute_answer(void)
{
    run_computer(7);
    return dt_answer;
}

theanswer.c
#include <stdio.h>
#include "dt.h"

int main(void)
{
    dt_init();
    int answer = dt_compute_answer();
    printf("The answer is %d\n",
           answer);
}
```

```
$ cc -g -o theanswer dt.c theanswer.c
$ gdb theanswer
(gdb) run
(gdb) break run_computer
(gdb) set dt_base_value = 8
(gdb) cont
(gdb) disassemble run_computer
(gdb) set disassembly-flavor intel
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 3

```
dt.c                               dt.h
#include "dt.h"
int dt_base_value;
static int dt_answer;

static void run_computer(int multiplier)
{
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;
}

void dt_init(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
}

int dt_compute_answer(void)
{
    run_computer(7);
    return dt_answer;
}
```

```
void dt_init(void);
int dt_compute_answer(void);
```

```
theanswer.c
#include <stdio.h>
#include "dt.h"

int main(void)
{
    dt_init();
    int answer = dt_compute_answer();
    printf("The answer is %d\n",
           answer);
}
```

```
$ cc -g -o theanswer dt.c theanswer.c
$ gdb theanswer
(gdb) run
(gdb) break run_computer
(gdb) set dt_base_value = 8
(gdb) cont
(gdb) disassemble run_computer
(gdb) set disassembly-flavor intel
(gdb) disassemble run_computer
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 3

```
dt.c                               dt.h
#include "dt.h"
int dt_base_value;
static int dt_answer;

static void run_computer(int multiplier)
{
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;
}

void dt_init(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
}

int dt_compute_answer(void)
{
    run_computer(7);
    return dt_answer;
}

void dt_init(void);
int dt_compute_answer(void);
```

```
theanswer.c
#include <stdio.h>
#include "dt.h"

int main(void)
{
    dt_init();
    int answer = dt_compute_answer();
    printf("The answer is %d\n",
           answer);
}
```

```
$ cc -g -o theanswer dt.c theanswer.c
$ gdb theanswer
(gdb) run
(gdb) break run_computer
(gdb) set dt_base_value = 8
(gdb) cont
(gdb) disassemble run_computer
(gdb) set disassembly-flavor intel
(gdb) disassemble run_computer
(gdb) help
```

Exercise: Deep thought, Part 3

```
dt.c                               dt.h
#include "dt.h"
int dt_base_value;
static int dt_answer;

static void run_computer(int multiplier)
{
    dt_answer = dt_base_value * multiplier;
}

void dt_init(void)
{
    dt_base_value = 6;
}

int dt_compute_answer(void)
{
    run_computer(7);
    return dt_answer;
}

void dt_init(void);
int dt_compute_answer(void);
```

```
theanswer.c
#include <stdio.h>
#include "dt.h"

int main(void)
{
    dt_init();
    int answer = dt_compute_answer();
    printf("The answer is %d\n",
           answer);
}
```

```
$ cc -g -o theanswer dt.c theanswer.c
$ gdb theanswer
(gdb) run
(gdb) break run_computer
(gdb) set dt_base_value = 8
(gdb) cont
(gdb) disassemble run_computer
(gdb) set disassembly-flavor intel
(gdb) disassemble run_computer
(gdb) help
(gdb) quit
```

**A few words about
memory, activation frames and storage durations**

Memory Layout and Activation Record

(This is a simplified view of how a possible memory layout might look like. Some architectures and run-time environment uses a very different layout and the C standard does not dictate how it should look like. However, without actually knowing the memory layout on your target machine, the description here is good enough as a conceptual model)

Under the hood



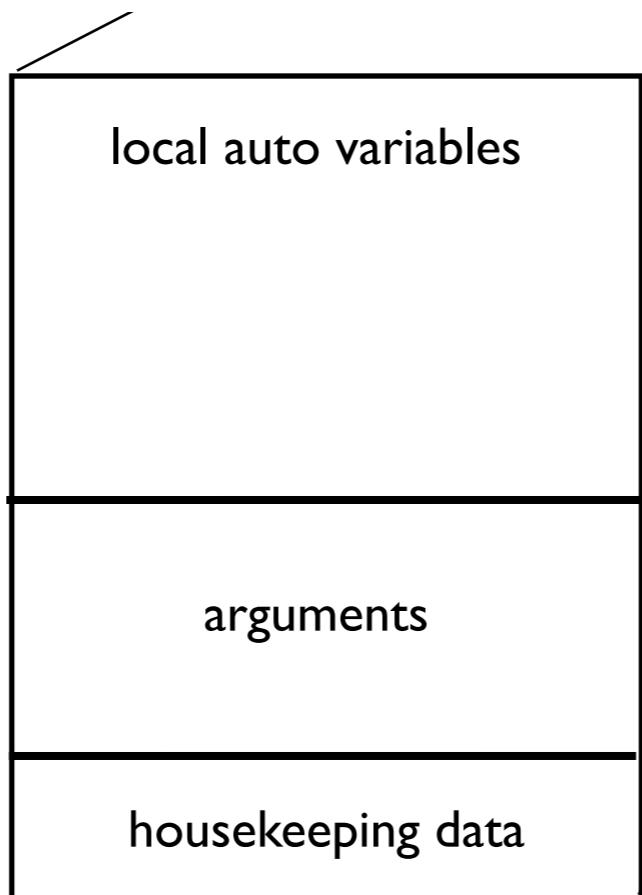
Memory Layout *

It is sometimes useful to assume that a C program uses a memory model where the instructions are stored in a **text segment**, and static variables are stored in a **data segment**. Automatic variables are allocated when needed together with housekeeping variables on an **execution stack** that is growing towards low address. The remaining memory, the **heap** is used for allocated storage.

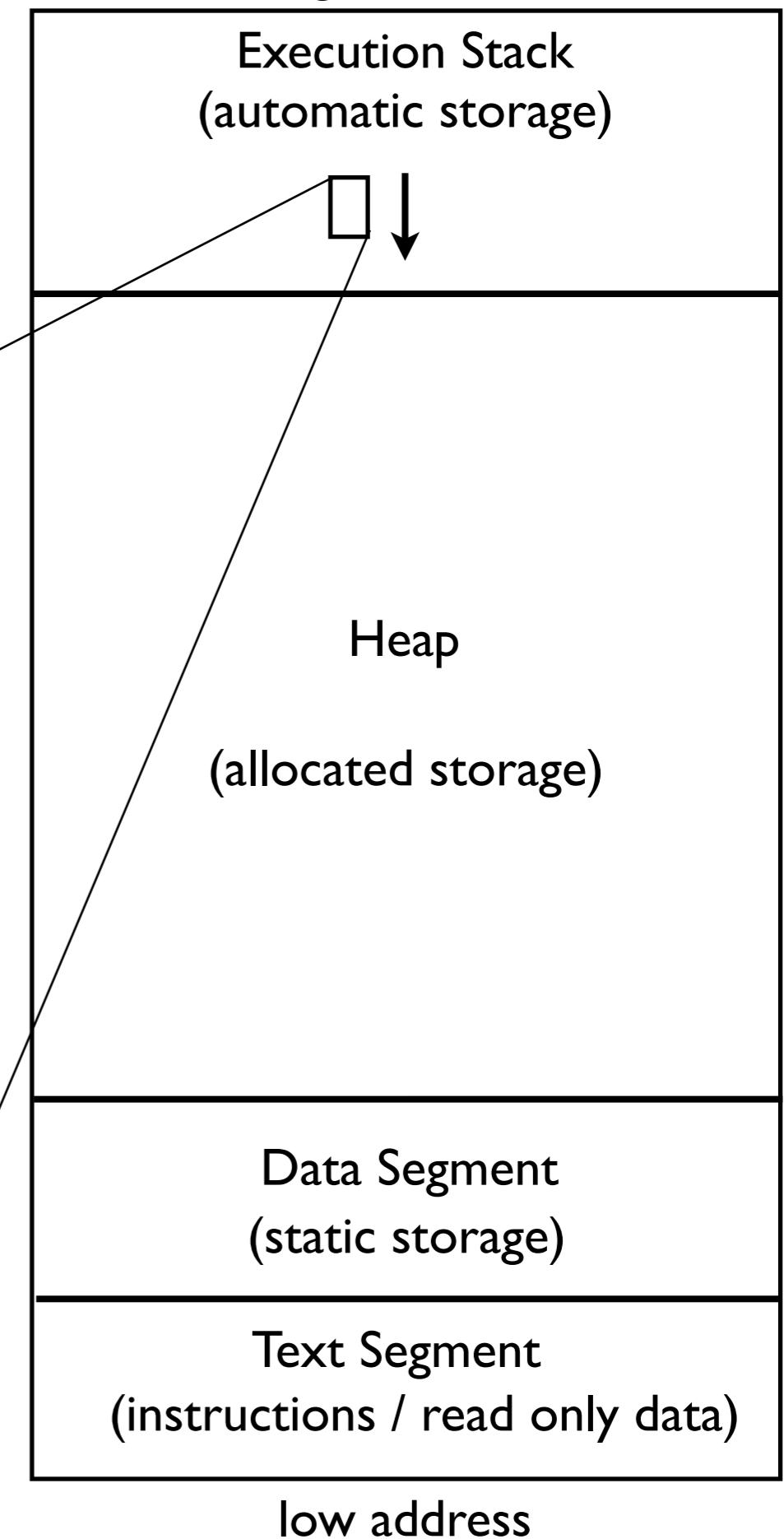
The stack and the heap is typically not cleaned up in any way at startup, or during execution, so before objects are explicitly initialized they typically get garbage values based on whatever is left in memory from discarded objects and previous executions. In other words, the programmer must do all the housekeeping on variables with automatic storage and allocated storage.

Activation Record

And sometimes it is useful to assume that an **activation record** is created and pushed onto the execution stack every time a function is called. The activation record contains local auto variables, arguments to the functions, and housekeeping data such as pointer to the previous frame and the return address.

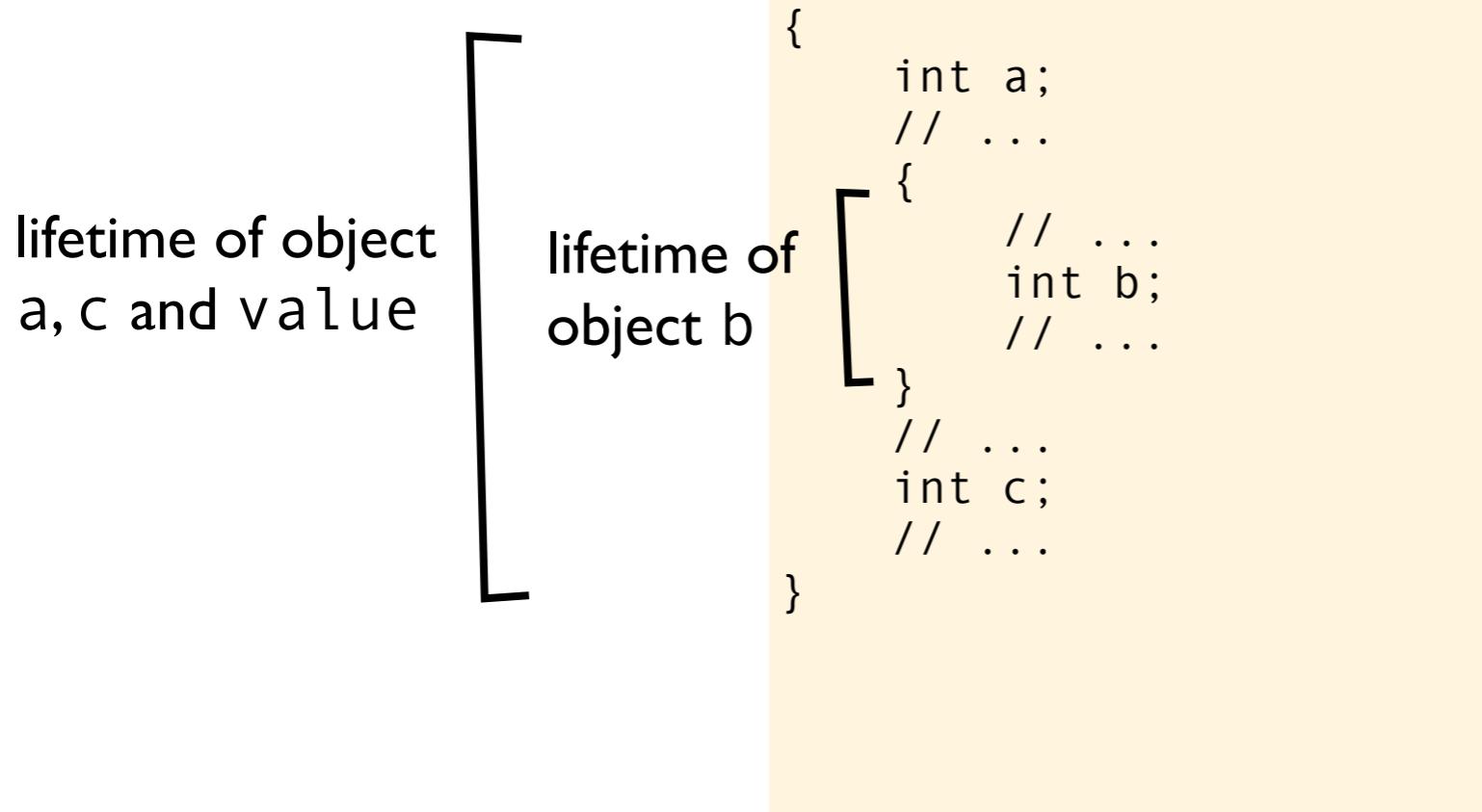


(*) The C standard does not dictate any particular memory layout, so what is presented here is just a useful conceptual example model that is similar to what some architecture and run-time environments look like



Automatic storage duration

Variables declared inside a “block”, eg the function body, come into existence when entering the block and disappears when exiting the block.* These objects have automatic storage class and they get an indeterminate initial value. Reading an indeterminate value causes **undefined behavior**. Referring to an object outside it’s lifetime also causes **undefined behavior**.



(*) unless declared with the `static` keyword, see other slide

Static storage duration

A variable declared outside a function scope, or with the `static` keyword inside a function, comes into existence and is initialized at program startup and its lifetime does not end until the program exits.

lifetime of static variables, from program startup to program exit

```
int global_var;

int next_value(void)
{
    static int local_var = 39;
    local_var += 1;
    return local_var;
}

int main(void)
{
    next_value();
    next_value();
    printf("The answer is %d\n",
           next_value());
    exit(0);
}
```

initialized to 0 at program startup

initialized to 39 at program startup

increase the value of `local_var` every time this line expression is evaluated.

The answer is 42

Allocated storage duration

lifetime of the
object that b is
pointing to

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

static int * b;

int main(void)
{
    printf("The answer is");
    b = malloc(sizeof *b);
    *b = 42;
    printf(" %d\n", *b);
    free(b);
    b = 0;
}
```

The answer is 42



Summary

- hello world!
- behaviour
- vocabulary of the language
- compiler, translator, assembler, linker
- standard library and C run-time
- memory layout and execution stack