



## User-Defined Functions Appendix: C-Programming

Advanced UDF  
Modeling Course

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Advanced FLUENT Training  
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### ***C and UDF***

- ◆ Many UDFs can be written and used with some limited knowledge of 'C'
- ◆ This presentation will introduce only essential syntax and aspects
- ◆ In general, Macros (hook-ups) are available for accessing various locations in the code during the iterations
- ◆ FLUENT has a large number of internal macro-s and variables that are not accessible from UDFs (Primarily due to copyright reasons)
- ◆ It is advisable to check with your support engineer about the general concept/task that you want to model using UDF
- ◆ More elaborate knowledge of 'C' helps reducing UDF development and debugging time but need not necessarily provide any extended capabilities

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## A Brief Introduction to 'C'

- C functions
- C data types
- Pointers and arrays
- Expressions and statements
- C arithmetic and logical operators
- Control flow
- C preprocessor directives

## The Basic Form of a C Function

```

/*A simple C function*/ /* Comments are delineated by the character sequence */
/* comments can be placed anywhere in a C listing */
/* use comments liberally to document your UDFs */
#include "udf.h" /* A preprocessor directive for including files */
#define PI 3.14159 /* A preprocessor directive for macro substitution */
real a = 1.2345; /* Global scope: variables defined outside the function body for use
by all functions which follow the definition */
int my-function(int x) /* Function declaration (integer type) */
{ /* C functions are enclosed by curly braces ({...}) */
/* All C statements must end with a semicolon (;) */
    int y,z; /* Local scope: Declare data type for variables y, z variables
defined within the function body are local to the function */
    y = 11; /* Set y = 11 */
    z = a*(x+y)*PI; /* Compute z */
    printf("z = %d",z); /* Print output to screen */
    return z; /* Return integer value */
} /* Right curly brace closes body of function */

```

- ◆ If a function is defined with a specific type, it should return a value of the same type (using the return statement)

## Compilers

- ◆ C compilers include a library of standard math, I/O, and utility functions which can be used in your C code
- ◆ Common I/O functions
  - > `scanf (...)`- formatted read (like FORTRAN READ)
  - > `printf(...)`- formatted print (like FORTRAN WRITE)
- ◆ Common math functions
  - > `sin (x)` - sine function
  - > `cos (x)` - cosine function
  - > `exp (x)` - exponential function
  - > `sqrt(x)` - square root function
- ◆ For the UDF compiler, all of the standard functions are defined in the file `udf.h`
  - > **NOTE:** *you do not need a copy of `udf.h` when you compile your UDF; the solver gets this from the `Fluent.Inc/fluent6.x/src/` directory*

## Comparison with FORTRAN

- ◆ C functions are similar to FORTRAN function subroutines

```
/*A simple C function*/
int myfunction(int x)
{
    int y,z;
    y = 11;
    z = x+y;
    printf("z = %d",z);
    return z;
}
```

```
C An equivalent FORTRAN function
INTEGER FUNCTION MYFUNCTION(X)

    INTEGER X,Y,Z
    Y = 11
    Z = X+Y
    WRITE (*,100) Z
    MYFUNCTION = Z
100 FORMAT("Z = ",I5)
END
```

## C Data Types (1)

- ◆ The UDF interpreter supports standard C data types
  - `int, long` - integer data types
  - `float, double, real` - floating point (real) data types
  - `char` - character data type
- ◆ Functions which do not return values are given the type `void`  
`void myfunction(int x) {...} /*No return needed*/`
- ◆ You can convert from one type to another by “casting”
  - a cast is denoted by `(type)` where the type is `int`, `float`, etc.  

```
int x = 1;
float y = 3.14159;
int z = x+((int) y); /*z = 4*/
```

## C Data Types (2)

- ◆ C also allows you to create “user-defined” types using `typedef`

```
typedef struct list {
    int a;
    float b;
    int c;};
typedef struct list mylist; /* mylist is of type structure list*/
mylist x,y,z; /* x,y,z are "struct list" type */
```

## Pointers

- ◆ A pointer is a variable which contains the address of another variable
- ◆ Pointers are defined using the \* notation
- ◆ We can make a pointer variable point to the address of predefined variable as follows

```
int *ip; /* a pointer to an integer variable */  
int a=1;  
int *ip;  
ip = &a; /* &a returns the address of variable a */  
printf("content of address pointed to by ip = %d\n", *ip);
```

content of address pointed to by ip = 1

- ◆ Pointers can also point to the beginning of an array (and thus pointers are strongly connected to arrays in C)

## Arrays

- ◆ Arrays of variables can be defined using the notation **name[size]** where **name** is the variable name and **size** is an integer which defines the number of elements in the array
- ◆ Some examples

```
int a[10];  
float radii[5];  
a[0] = 1;  
radii[4] = 3.14159265;
```

- ◆ Notes about C arrays
  - The index of C arrays start at 0

## Expressions and Statements

- ◆ Arithmetic expressions in C look much like FORTRAN

```
a = 1+(b-c)*d/4;  
pi = 3.141592654;  
area = pi*radius*radius;
```

- ◆ Functions which return values can be used in assignment statements

```
b = myfunc(a); /* Function myfunc() is defined elsewhere */  
c = pow(x,y); /* pow(x,y) returns x raised to power y */
```

- ◆ Functions can also be called without assignments

```
do-stuff(); /* Function do-stuff() takes no arguments */  
printf("x= %f\n",x); /* printf(..) is a standard C library function */
```

## Common C Operators

- ◆ Arithmetic operators

```
= assignment  
+ addition  
- subtraction  
* multiplication  
/ division  
% modulo  
++ increment  
-- decrement
```

- ◆ Logical operators

```
< less than  
<= less than or equal to  
> greater than  
>= greater than or equal  
to  
== equal to  
!= not equal to
```

## Control Flow - "If" and "If-else" Statements

### ◆ 'if' and 'if-else' statements

```
if (logical-expression)
    {statements}
```

```
if (logical-expression)
    {statements}
```

```
else
    {statements}
```

### ◆ Example

```
/* C code */
if (q != 1) {a = 0; b = 1;}
if (x < 0.)
    y = x/50.;
else
    y = x/25.;
```

---

```
C Equivalent FORTRAN code
      IF (X.LT.0.) THEN
        Y = X/50.
      ELSE
        Y = X/25.
      ENDIF
```

## Control Flow - "For" Loops

```
for (begin ; end ; increment)
    {statements}
```

where:

begin = expression, executed at beginning of loop

end = logical expression to test for loop termination

increment = expression which is executed at the end of each loop iteration (usually incrementing a counter)

Example:

---

```
/* C code:
   Print integers 1-10 and
   their squares */
int i, j, n = 10;
for (i = 1 ; i <= n ; i++)
    { j = i*i;
      printf("%d %d\n",i,j);
    }
```

---

C Equivalent FORTRAN code

```
INTEGER I,J
N = 10
DO I = 1,10
  J = I*I
  WRITE (*,*) I,J
ENDDO
```

## The C Preprocessor

- ◆ The UDF interpreter supports C preprocessor directives
- ◆ Macro substitutions using: `#define name replacement`  
`#define RAD 1.2345`  
`#define Area_Rectangle(x,y) x*y`
  - The preprocessor simply substitutes the characters of name with those of replacement
- ◆ File inclusion using the directive `#include`  
`#include "udf.h"`  
`#include "mystuff.h"`
  - The files named in quotes must reside in your current directory (except for udf.h which is read automatically by the solver as noted earlier)

## Exploring C Further

- ◆ Some topics not discussed here
  - while and do-while control statements
  - structures and unions
  - recursion
  - reading and writing files
  - many details!
- ◆ For more information on C programming, you may consult any general text (there are many available)  
A good choice is  
`The C Programming Language, 2nd Ed.`  
`by Brian Kernighan and Dennis Ritchie`  
`Prentice-Hall, 1988`