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Chapter Two: Fundamental Data Types

Chapter Goals

- To define and initialize variables and constants
- To understand the properties and limitations of integer and floating-point numbers
- To write arithmetic expressions and assignment statements in C++
- To appreciate the importance of comments and good code layout
- To create programs that read and process input, and display the results
- To process strings, using the standard C++ string type

Topic 1

- 1. Variables
- 2. Arithmetic
- 3. Input and output
- 4. Problem solving: first do it by hand
- 5. Strings
- 6. Chapter summary

Variables

- A variable
 - is used to store information:
 - the contents of the variable:
 - can contain one piece of information at a time.
 - has an identifier:
 - the name of the variable
 - The programmer picks a good name
 - A good name describes the contents of the variable or what the variable will be used for

Variables: Like a Parking Garage



Parking garages store cars.

Each parking space is identified

– like a variable's identifier

Each parking space "contains" a car

– like a variable's current contents

Each space can contain only One car and not trucks or buses, just a car

Variable Definitions

- When creating variables, the programmer specifies the type of information to be stored.
 - (more on types later)
- Unlike a parking space, a variable is often given an initial value.
 - *Initialization* is putting a value into a variable when the variable is created.
 - Initialization is not required.

Variable Definitions: Example

The following statement defines a variable:

int cans_per_pack = 6;

cans_per_pack is the variable's name.

int

indicates that the variable **cans_per_pack** will hold integers. Other variable types covered later will hold strings and floating-point numbers.

= 6
indicates that the variable cans_per_pack
will initially contain the value 6.

Like all statements, it must end with a semicolon.

Table 1: Variable Definitions in C++				
	Comment			
int cans = $6;$	Defines an integer variable and initializes it with 6.			
<pre>int total = cans + bottles;</pre>	The initial value need not be a constant. (Of course, cans and bottles must have been previously defined.)			
int bottles = "10";	Error: You cannot initialize an int variable with a string.			
int bottles;	Defines an integer variable without initializing it. This can be a cause for errors—see Common Error 2.2.			
int cans, bottles;	Defines two integer variables in a single statement. In this book, we will define each variable in a separate statement.			
bottles = 1;	Caution: The type is missing. This statement is not a definition but an assignment of a new value to an existing variable—see Section 2.1.4.			

A number written by a programmer is called a *number literal*.

There are rules for writing literal values:

Number Literals: Table 2

Number	Туре	Comment
6	int	An integer has no fractional part.
-6	int	Integers can be negative.
0	int	Zero is an integer.
0.5	double	A number with a fractional part has type double.
1.0	double	An integer with a fractional part .0 has type double.
1E6	double	A number in exponential notation: 1 × 106 or 1000000. Numbers in exponential notation always have type double.
2.96E-2	double	Negative exponent: 2.96 × 10–2 = 2.96 / 100 = 0.0296
100,000		Error: Do not use a comma as a decimal separator.
3 1/2		Error: Do not use fractions; use decimal notation: 3.5.

Number Type Examples

• What is the C++ type of each of the following numbers? Write "error" if the number is not valid.

3 -3 3.14 3.0 3E-6 300,000 3 14/100

- When you define a variable, you should pick a name that explains its purpose.
- For example, it is better to use a descriptive name, such as can_volume, than a terse name, such as cv.

Variable Naming Rules

- Variable names must start with a letter or the underscore

 (_) character, and the remaining characters must be letters
 numbers, or underscores.
- 2. Do not use other symbols such as \$ or %. Spaces are not permitted inside names; you can use an underscore instead, as in can_volume.
- Variable names are case-sensitive, that is, can_volume and can_Volume are different names.
 For that reason, it is a good idea to use only lowercase letters in variable names.
- 4. You cannot use *reserved words* such as **double** or **return** as names; these words are reserved exclusively for their special C++ meanings. See Appendix B.

Variable Name Examples: Table 3

Variable Name	Comment
can_volume1	Variable names consist of letters, numbers, and the underscore character.
Х	In mathematics, you use short variable names such as x or y. This is legal in C++, but not very common, because it can make programs harder to understand (see Programming Tip 2.1)
Can_volume	Caution: Variable names are case sensitive. This variable name is different from can_volume.
6pack	<i>Error:</i> Variable names cannot start with a number.
can volume	Error: Variable names cannot contain spaces.
double	<i>Error:</i> You cannot use a reserved word as a variable name.
ltr/fl.oz	Error: You cannot use symbols such as . or /

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The Assignment Statement

- The contents in variables can "vary" over time (hence the name!).
- Variables can be changed by
 - assigning to them
 - The assignment statement
 - using the increment or decrement operator
 - inputting into them
 - The input statement

Assignment Statement Example

• An assignment statement

stores a new value in a variable, replacing the previously stored value.

```
cans_per_pack = 8;
```

This assignment statement changes the value stored in **cans_per_pack** to be 8.

The previous value is replaced.

Assignment Statement: Defining vs. Assigning

• There is an important difference between a variable definition and an assignment statement:

int cans_per_pack = 6; // Variable definition
...
cans_per_pack = 8; // Assignment statement

- The first statement is the *definition* of **cans_per_pack**.
 - A variable's definition must occur <u>only once</u> in a program
- The second statement is an *assignment statement*. An *existing* variable's contents are replaced.
 - The same variable may be in several assignment statements in a program.

The Meaning of the Assignment = Symbol

- The = in an assignment does *not* mean the left hand side is equal to the right hand side as it does in math.
- = is an instruction to do something:

copy the value of the expression on the right *into* the variable on the left.

Consider what it would mean, mathematically, to state:
 counter = counter + 2;

counter EQUALS counter + 2

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2

counter = 11; // set counter to 11
counter = counter + 2; // increment

- 1. First statement assigns 11 to counter
- 2. Second statement looks up what is currently in counter (11)
- *3. Then it adds 2 and copies* the result of the addition *into* the variable on the left, changing counter to 13

Constants

- Sometimes the programmer knows certain values just from analyzing the problem
 - For this kind of information, use the reserved word **const**.
- The reserved word **const** is used to define a constant.
- A const is a "variable" whose contents cannot be changed and must be set when created. (Most programmers just call them constants, not variables.)
- Constants are commonly written using capital letters to distinguish them visually from regular variables:

const double BOTTLE_VOLUME = 2;

Constants Prevent Unclear Numbers in Code

Another good reason for using constants:

double volume = bottles * 2;

What does that 2 mean?

If we use a constant there is no question:

double volume = bottles * BOTTLE VOLUME;

Any questions?

Constants Prevent Unclear Numbers in Code (2)

And still another good reason for using constants:

```
double bottle_volume = bottles * 2;
double can_volume = cans * 2;
```

What does *that* 2 mean? — WHICH 2?

It is not good programming practice to use magic numbers. Use constants. And it can get even worse ...

Suppose that the number 2 appears hundreds of times throughout a five-hundred-line program?

Now we need to change the BOTTLE_VOLUME to 2.23 (because we are now using a bottle with a different shape)

How to change *only* some of those 2's?

Constants to the rescue!

```
const double BOTTLE_VOLUME = 2.23;
const double CAN_VOLUME = 2;
```

double bottle_volume = bottles * BOTTLE_VOLUME; double can_volume = cans * CAN_VOLUME;

Comments

- Comments are explanations for human readers of your code (other programmers or your instructor).
- The compiler ignores comments completely.
- A leading double slash // tells the compiler the remainder of this line is a comment, to be ignored
- For example,

double can_volume = 0.355; // Liters in a 12-ounce can

Comments: // or /* multi-line */

Comments can be written in two styles:

• Single line:

double can_volume = 0.355; // Liters in a 12-ounce can

The compiler ignores everything after // to the end of line

 Multiline for longer comments, where the compiler ignores everything between /* and */

```
/*
   This program computes the volume (in liters)
   of a six-pack of soda cans.
*/
```

Complete Program: volume1.cpp

```
/* This program computes the volume (in liters) of a six-pack of
soda cans and the total volume of a 6-pack and a 2-liter bottle.*/
int main() {
   int cans per pack = 6;
   const double CAN VOLUME = 0.355; // Liters in a 12-ounce can
  double total volume = cans_per_pack * CAN_VOLUME;
  cout << "A six-pack of 12-ounce cans contains "
      << total volume << " liters." << endl;
  const double BOTTLE_VOLUME = 2; // Two-liter bottle
   total volume = total volume + BOTTLE VOLUME;
  cout << "A six-pack and a two-liter bottle contain "
      << total volume << " liters." << endl;
  return 0;
}
```

Common Error – Using Undefined Variables

You must define a variable before you use it for the first time. For example, the following sequence of statements would not be legal:

```
double can_volume = 12 * liter_per_ounce;
double liter_per_ounce = 0.0296;
```

Statements are compiled in top to bottom order.

When the compiler reaches the first statement, it does not know that liter_per_ounce will be defined in the next line, and it reports an error.

Initializing a variable is not required, but there is always a value in every variable, even uninitialized ones. Some value will be there, the flotsam left over from some previous calculation or simply the random value there when the transistors in RAM were first turned on.

int bottles; // Forgot to initialize
int bottle_volume = bottles * 2;// Result is unpredictable

What value would be output from the following statement?

cout << bottle_volume << endl; // Unpredictable</pre>

In addition to the int and double types, C++ has several other numeric types.

C++ has two other floating-point types.

The **float** type uses half the storage of the double type that we use in this book, but **float** can only store 6–7 digits.

The float and long double types

- Many years ago, when computers had far less memory than they have today, float was the standard type for floating-point computations, and programmers would indulge in the luxury of "double precision" only when they really needed the additional digits.
- Today, the **float** type is rarely used.
- The third type is called **long double** and is for quadruple precision.
- Most contemporary compilers use this type when a programmer asks for a **double** so just choose **double**.

Floating Point

By the way, these numbers are called "floating-point" because of their internal representation in the computer.

Consider the numbers 29600, 2.96, and 0.0296. They can be represented in a very similar way:

- a sequence of the significant digits: 296
- an indication of the position of the decimal point.
- When the values are multiplied or divided by 10, only the position of the decimal point changes; it "floats".

Computers use base 2, not base 10, but the principle is the same.

Numeric Types in C++: Table 4

Туре	Typical Range	Typical Size (Bytes)
int	-2,147,483,648 2,147,483,647 (about 2 billion)	4
unsigned	0 4294967295	4
short	-32,768 32,767	2
unsigned short	0 65,535	2
long long	-9,223,372,036,854,775,808 9,223,372,036,854,775,807	8
double	±10 ³⁰⁸ with about 15 significant decimal digits	8
float	±10 ³⁸ with about 7 significant decimal digits	4

The C++ Standard does not completely specify the number of bytes or ranges.

Values above are typical.

In addition to the int type, C++ has these additional integer types: short, long.

- For each integer type, there is an unsigned equivalent: unsigned short, unsigned long
- **short** typically has a range from -32,768 to 32,767
- unsigned short has range 0 to 65,535. (2¹⁶-1)

A short value uses 16 bits, which can encode $2^{16} = 65,536$ values.

Integer Overflow

The int type has a *limited range:*

On most platforms, it can represent numbers up to a little more than two billion.

For many applications, this is not a problem, but you cannot use an **int** to represent the world population.

If a computation yields a value that is outside the int range, the result *overflows*.

No error is displayed.

Instead, the result is *truncated* to fit into an *int*, yielding a value that is most likely WRONG.

For example:

```
int one_billion = 1000000000;
cout << 3 * one_billion << endl;</pre>
```

displays –1294967296 because the result is larger than an int can hold.

In situations such as this, you could instead use the **double** type.

However, you will need to think about a related issue: *roundoff errors*.

Common Error – Roundoff Errors

```
This program produces the wrong output, even though it uses the very precise double variable type:
```

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
int main() {
   double price = 4.35;
   int cents = 100 * price;
        // Should be 100 * 4.35 = 435
   cout << cents << endl;
        // Prints 434!
   return 0;
}
Why?
```

Common Error – Roundoff Errors, continued

- In computers, numbers are binary, not decimal.
- In the binary system, there is no exact representation for decimal 4.35, just as there is no exact representation for ¹/₃ in the decimal system (nor in binary).
- The binary representation is just a little less than 4.35, so 100 times that value is just a little less than 435.
 - And when a double value is assigned to an int variable, as in

int cents = 100 * price;

The fractional part is simply discarded (truncated).

 The remedy is to add 0.5 in order to <u>round</u> to the nearest integer:

int cents = 100 * price + 0.5;