I/O Format Editors in C

The language PASCAL and its followers in the 1970’s declared war on Fortran formats because they weren’t pretty. C didn’t make the same mistake, their formats are actually quite similar to that of Fortran.

Some of the available format editors are

%d for int type of variables. %6d means 6 spaces are used for the number and it is right justified. %−6d will print the number left justified.

%c for int type of variables used for storing ASCII codes of characters. An ASCII code of 65 will be printed as an A while an ASCII code of 97 will be printed as an a.

%f for float or double type of variables. %10.5f means 10 spaces are used for the right justified floating point number and 5 digits are used after the decimal point. %−10.5f will print the number left justified.

%e for float or double type of variables. %15.5e means 15 spaces are used for the right justified floating point number and 5 digits are used after the decimal point. Also, 4 of the 15 spaces are used for E±xx, the exponent of the number. %−15.5e will print the number left justified.

%g for float or double type of variables. It will use %e if the exponent is less than −4 or greater than or equal to the precision; otherwise, use %f. Trailing zeroes and a trailing decimal point are not printed.

%% for print the % character.

%s for string variables.

\n creates a newline.

\t creates a horizontal tab.

\f creates a form feed.

\" creates a double quote.

\' creates a single quote.

\? creates a question mark.

\r creates a carriage return.

\b creates a backspace.

\\ creates a backslash \.

\a creates an alert character, a “beep.”