

## Oh Say Can You C?

In this exercise you will learn how to compile and run the simplest program written in the C language, the famous “Hello, World” program.

Whenever you learn a new computer language or system the hardest part about getting started is completing the first cycle of entering, compiling, and running a program. After that, you can use that knowledge to learn more and more about the system you are learning.

First, use your favorite text editor to create a file called `hello.c` containing this very simple C program.

```
#include<stdio.h>
main() {
    printf("Hello, World!\n");
}
```

Now we would like to *compile* the program in the *source* file (`hello.c`). The command to run the C compiler is ‘`cc`’, so type:

```
% cc hello.c
```

There is a new file, called `a.out`, which contains the *executable* version of the program. (Type ‘`ls -F`’ and you’ll see a “\*” after “`a.out`”.)

To run any executable file in Unix you simply type the name of that file at the prompt. So to run this simple program type:

```
% a.out
hello, world!
```

That’s all there is to compiling and running a Fortran program. Now all you need to do is learn more C commands and syntax.