

Homework 3, Revisited Second problem asked you to write a program to solve a quadratic equation

$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0$$

using the rule that if

$$\sqrt{b^2 - 4ac} \ge 0$$

there are two roots given by

$$\frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

• What happens if a = 0? (Oops. See updated solution on Web.)

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Functions — Review, Continued

• *Calling* a function — give its name, values for parameters. This is an expression (in the same sense as, say, x+1) and — unless the function returns void — has a value, which can be assigned to a variable, used as part of a boolean expression for conditional execution, etc.

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• Since a function call is an expression — when we come to one, we evaluate it: Pause what's currently happening. Copy values of input variables to function's parameters. Execute code in function until we get to a return, or the ending curly brace. Whatever expression follows return is the function's (return) value. Continue execution in "caller" using return value. Notice that executing code in the function may produce "side effects" (e.g.,

printing something).



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Another Loop Example
• We could write the following to print values 0 through 9:
    int i = 0;
    while (i != 10) {
        printf("%d\n", i);
        i += 1;
}
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So if we wanted to print values 0.0 through 0.9, we might write
    float f = 0;
    while (f != 1.0) {
        printf("%f\n", f);
        f += 0.1;
    }
    Let's try it ...
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Homework 3, Revisited
Now that we've been reminded that we can't represent all decimal fractions in floating-point:

In the first problem (computing income tax), using floating-point numbers of any kind to represent money is a bad idea! commonly done, but — at best sloppy, and sometimes you get answers you don't expect!

What to do instead? Here, makes sense to compute pennies and then round to whole dollars.

(Updated solution on Web.)
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