Command-Line Arguments

• arguments to main are passed by the command interpreter

    int main( int argc, char * argv[] )

• argc is the count of command line arguments
• argv is an array of pointers to character strings
• each argument is formatted as a separate character string by placing a '\0' after each token
• argv[0] is the command name (the name under which the program was run)
• by convention, a leading "-" indicates a program option (usually with one letter following)
• on Unix systems, the environment variables follow the command line arguments
Command-Line Arguments

consider

/* print out command line arguments */
int main( int argc, char * argv[] )
{
    int i;
    for( i = 0; i < argc; i++ )
    {
        printf( "arg %d is "%s"
", i, argv[i] );
    }
    return 0;
}

for "./a.out -n temp", argc will be 3 and the program will print

arg 0 is "./a.out"
arg 1 is "-n"
arg 2 is "temp"