main( ) and Mistakes

Many people mishandle the main( ) function. You can avoid such mishandling by setting your compiler to ANSI C standard so that it will point out the error.

5.1 What main( ) returns?

main( ) should return 0 or 1. If it returns 0 to the operation system, the operating system will understand that the program is successfully executed. If it returns 1, the operating system will understand that the program is terminated with error. So main( ) should not be declared as void.

main( ) should be declared as

```c
int main( void )
{
    :
    :
    return ( 0 );  /* or return( EXIT_SUCCESS ); */
}
```

5.2 Arguments of main( )

main( ) should be declared without any arguments or with two arguments:

a) int main( void )
or
b) int main( int argc, char *argv[] )

5.3 exit( )

The statement exit( ) also returns values to the operating system as the return( ) in main( ). The exit takes only two values 0 and 1. (Many people use exit(2), exit(3).... All these are wrong!)

So exit should be used as:

a) For normal termination exit( 0 ); or exit( EXIT_SUCCESS);
b) For abnormal termination exit( 1 ); or exit( EXIT_FAILURE);