

terminal  
code

vars  
output

**pointer** - variable containing address of a variable  
closely related w/ arrays

## Pointers and Addresses

memory usually stored in consecutively numbered/addressed cells

if  $p$  is a pointer pointing at  $c$ :



unary operator  $\&$  gives address of object

only works w/ objects in memory

$p = \&c$   $\rightarrow$  assigns address of  $c$  to  $p$

unary operator  $*$  is indirection / dereferencing operator, accesses the object

```
int x=1, y=2, z[10];
```

```
int *ip;
```

$ip$  is pointer to int

```
ip = &x
```

$ip$  points to  $x$

```
y = *ip
```

$y$  is now 1

```
*ip = 0
```

$x$  is now 0

```
ip = &z[0]
```

$ip$  points to  $z[0]$

```
double *dp, atof(char*)
```

expressions  $*dp$  &  $atof(s)$  have values of type double  
arg in  $atof$  is a char pointer

```
y = *ip + 1
```

takes whatever  $*ip$  points to, add one, assign to  $y$

$\%c$  pointers are vars, can use w/o dereferencing

```
iq = 'p'
```

$\rightarrow$   $iq$  points to what  $iq$  points to

## Pointers and Function Arguments

$\%c$  C fn call by value, no direct way to alter variable in calling fn

```
swap(a,b)
```

wrong, doesn't affect args  $a$  &  $b$ , only swaps copies of  $a$  &  $b$

```
void swap(int x, int y)
```

```
int temp = x
```

```
x = y
```

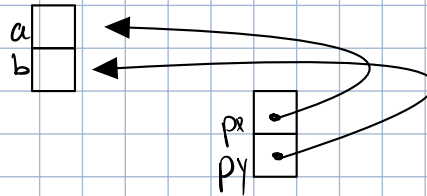
```
y = temp
```

swap(&a, &b)  
 b/c & is an address,  
 pass thru pointers &a & b

void swap(int \*px, int \*py)  
 int temp = \*px  
 \*px = \*py  
 \*py = temp

params are pointers

pointer args allow fn to access  
 & change objects in fn

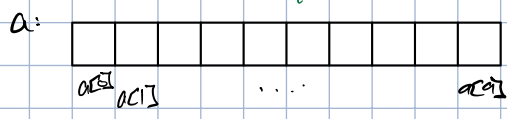


## Pointers and Arrays

any operation achieved w/ array subscripting can be done w/ pointers

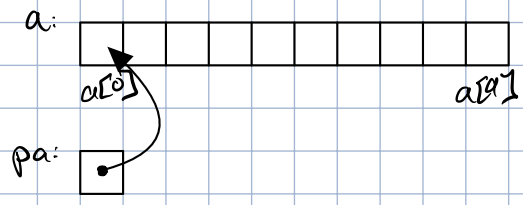
int a[10]

defines array of size 10



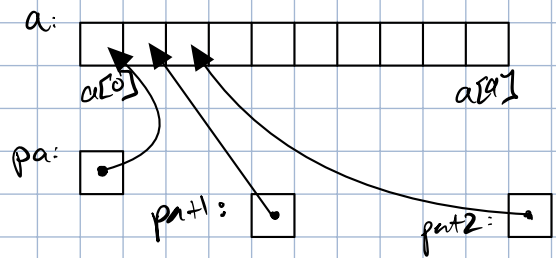
int \*pa  
 pa = &a[0]

declared pointer  
 set pa to point a[0]



x = \*pa  
 \*(pa+1)

copy contents of \*pa to x. x = a[0]'s content  
 points one ahead of pa



"adding 1 to a pointer" is that pa+1 points to next object

value of var type array is address of element zero of array  
 %c array name is synonym for location of initial element

$pa = \&a[0]$   
 $pa = a$       Same

initial zeroth element  
 address  
 add one

b/c of this, reference to  $a[i]$  is equivalent to writing  $*(a+i)$

$\&a[i]$        $\&a+i$  are identical  
 address of  $i$ th element beyond  $a$

array & index equivalent to pointer & offset

a pointer is a variable:

$pa = a$  ✓

$pa++$  ✓

an array name is not a variable:

$a = pa$  ✗

$a++$  ✓

when array passed thru fn, what is passed is location of initial element

with fn. arg is a local variable → array name param is pointer (var & address)

```
int strlen(char *s)
    int n
    for (n=0; *s != '\0'; s++)
    return n
```

→ pointer  
 → end file

%c s is a pointer, perfectly legal to increment it

s++ no effect on char string in fn, increments private copy of pointer

```
strlen("hello world")
strlen(array)
strlen(ptr)
```

```
string constant
char array[100]
char *ptr
```

} all legal

as formal parameters, in fn defn,

$char s[]$        $char *s$       equivalent

can pass part of an array to a fn by passing pointer to beginning of subarray  
 $f(a[2])$        $f(a+2)$

within fn, param declaration:  $f(int a[]) \{ \dots \}$        $f(int *a) \{ \dots \}$

can index backwards if elements exist  $p[-1]$

## Address Arithmetic

`p++` increments pointer to next element

`p+=i` increment to  $i$  elements beyond current position

can create a stack structure last in, first out

can set pointer to 0, standing for NULL, no other integer can be used

if pointers  $p$  &  $q$  point to same array, relations work

"", cause subtraction  
 $q - p + 1$  is # of elements, inclusive  
 $\rightarrow =, !=, >, < =$

```
int strlen(char *s)
char *p = s
```

```
while (*p != '\0')
    p++
```

$\rightarrow$  next character

```
return p - s
```

# of characters advanced

pointer manipulations take into account size of object pointed to (char, int, ...)

valid: ① assignment of pointers of same type

② adding or subtracting a pointer & an integer

③ subtracting or comparing 2 pointers to members of same array

④ assigning or comparing to zero

`p++`

`p - s`

`p == 0`

## Character Pointers and Functions

string constant is array of chars

"Howdy!"

array is terminated by: `\0`

accessed by pointer to first element

```
char *pmessage
```

```
*pmessage = "Howdy!"
```

$\rightarrow$  assigns pointer to char array

(not a copy)

in C, we can't process as one unit

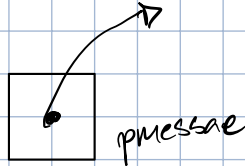
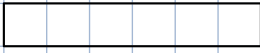
char amessage[] = "Howdy!"

array holds sequence of chars & \0  
indiv. chars can be changed.  
amessage refers to same storage

char \*pmessage = "Howdy!"

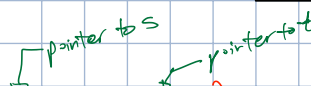
pointer initialized to point to string constant  
pmessage can be made to point elsewhere

amessage



copy t to s

```
void strcpy(char *s, char *t)
while ( *s == *t != '\0' )
    s++
    t++
```



assigns pointer \*s to value of \*t

can also just do

```
while (*s++ = *t++)
```

increment. if \0, it'll be false

compare strings

if s < t → < 0  
s == t → 0  
s > t → > 0

```
int strcmp(char *s, char *t)
```

```
for ( ; *s == *t; s++, t++)
    if (*s == '\0')
        return 0
```

```
return *s - *t
```

standard

```
*ptr = val
val = *--p
```

push pop

### Pointer Arrays; Pointers to Pointers

∵ pointers are vars, they can be stored in arrays like other variables

for strings, each can be accessed by pointer to first character

these pointers can be stored in arrays

## MultiDimensional Arrays

```
static char daytab[2][13] = {  
    {  
    },  
    {  
    }  
};
```

13 elements

to index, need 2  $[ ]$ , not  $[ , ]$   
[row] [column]

to have 2-D array as parameter, need to specify column amt

```
f(int daytab[3][3])  
f(int (*daytime)[3])  
f(int daytab[2][3])
```

parameter is pointer to array w/ 3 integers

## Initialization of Pointer Arrays

```
char *month_name(int n)
```

return pointer to string

```
static char *name = {  
    "January", ...  
};
```

array of character pointers

```
return name[n]
```

characters of  $i$ th string placed somewhere  
pointer to string stored in  $n[i]$

## Pointers vs Multidimensional Arrays

```
int a[10][20]  
int *b[10]
```

$a[3][4] \neq b[3][4]$  syntactically same referring to some int  
but  $a$  is a 2-d array  $\surd$  200 elements

$b$  only allocates 10 pointers. each of these can point to any # array, not necessarily 2D

## Command Line Arguments

when main is called, it's called w/ 2 arguments

① argc the # of command-line args program was invoked with

② argv pointer to an array of strings that contain the arguments. one per string

simplest: echo hello world

conventionally,  $argv[0]$  is name of program  $\rightarrow$  argc at least 1

if argc is 1  $\rightarrow$  no more command-line programs after program name

here, argc is 3 →

argv[0] → echo  
argv[1] → hello  
argv[2] → world

require argv[argc]  
to be null pointer

b/c argv is pointer to beginning of array of arg strings, incrementing by 1  
points it to original array argv[1] instead of name argv[0]

↑  
+1 argv

\*argv is then the pointer to the argument

optional flags or parameters begins w/a minus sign