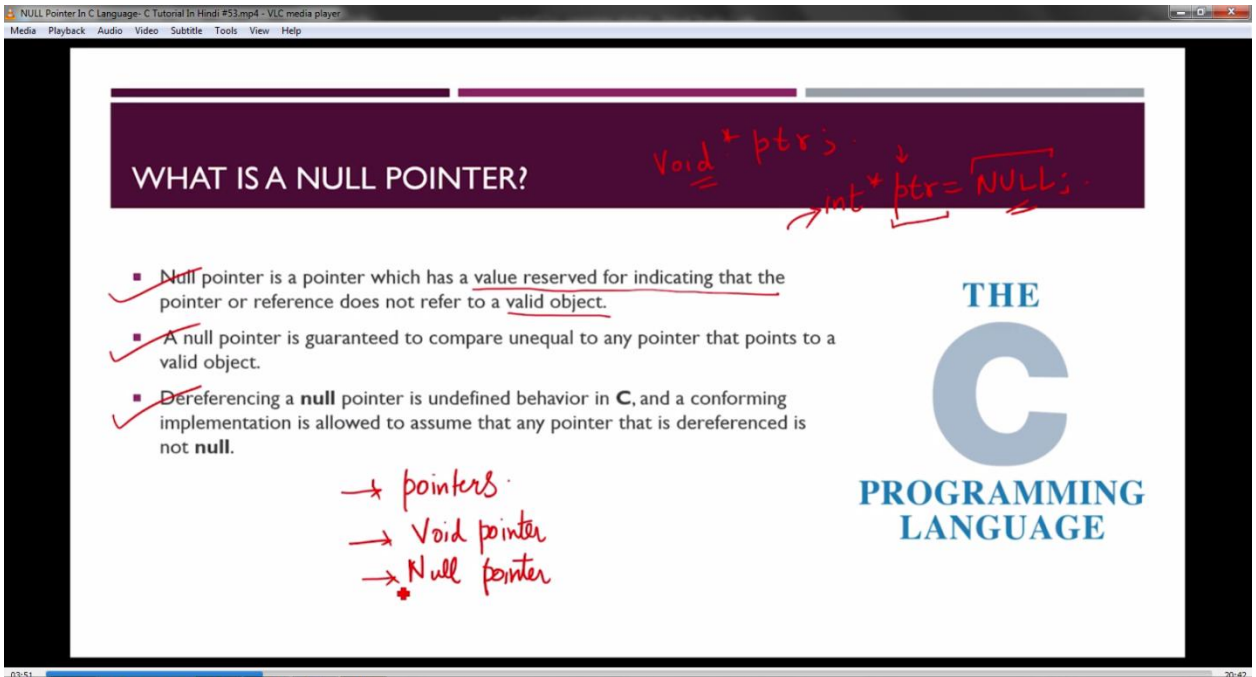
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WHAT IS A NULL POINTER?
void * ptr;
int * ptr = NULL;
Null pointer is a pointer which has a value reserved for indicating that the pointer or reference does not refer to a valid object.
A null pointer is guaranteed to compare unequal to any pointer that points to a valid object.
Dereferencing a null pointer is undefined behavior in C, and a conforming implementation is allowed to assume that any pointer that is dereferenced is not null.
→ pointers
→ Void pointer
→ Null pointer
THE
C
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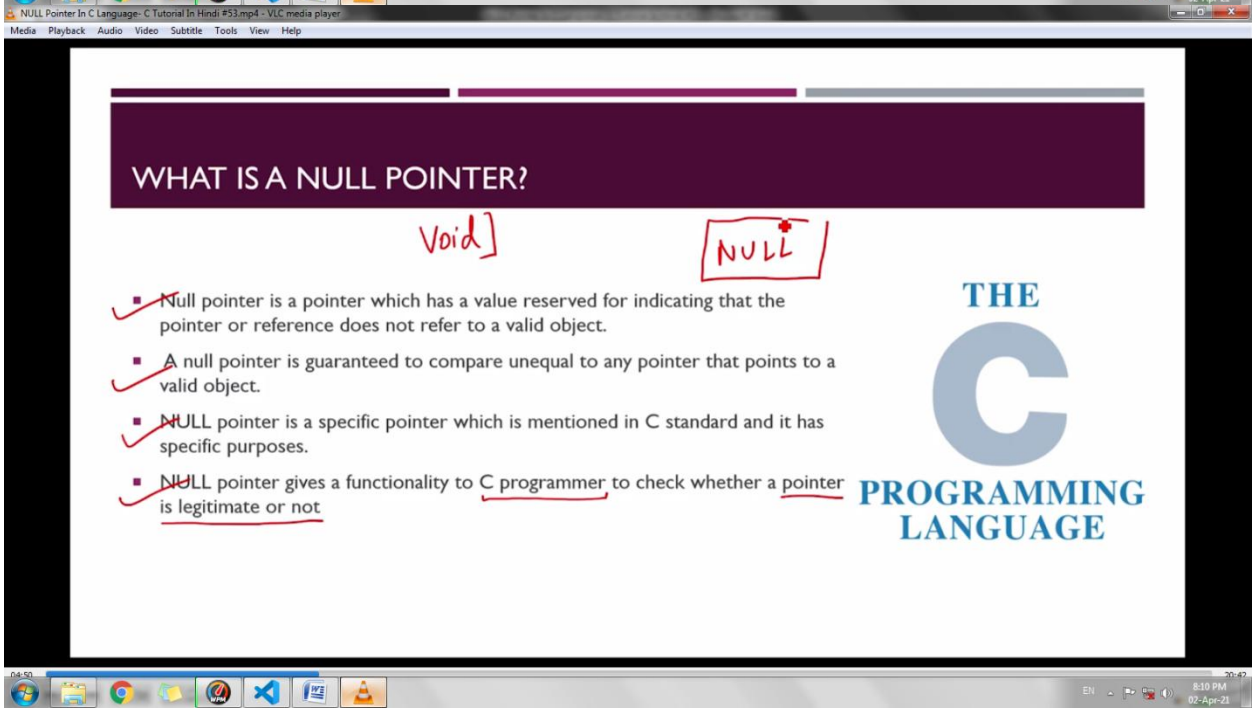
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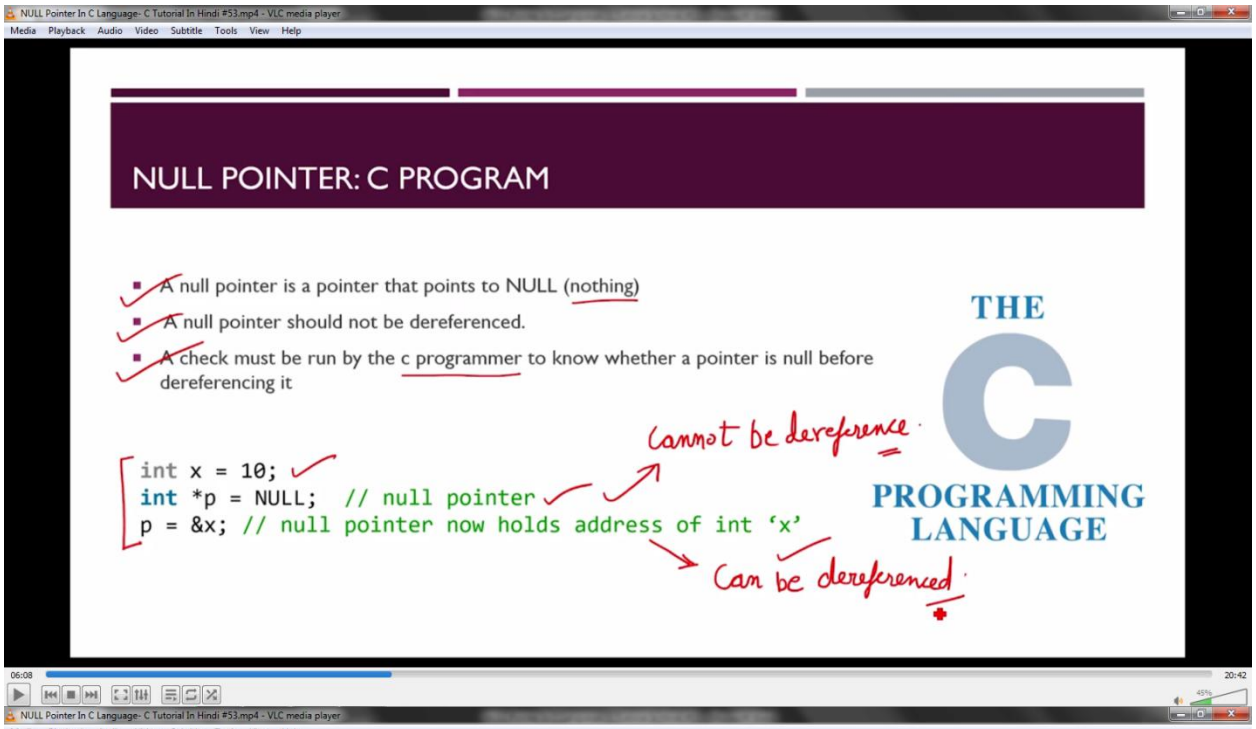
WHAT IS A NULL POINTER?
Void
NULL
Null pointer is a pointer which has a value reserved for indicating that the pointer or reference does not refer to a valid object.
A null pointer is guaranteed to compare unequal to any pointer that points to a valid object.
NULL pointer is a specific pointer which is mentioned in C standard and it has specific purposes.
NULL pointer gives a functionality to C programmer to check whether a pointer is legitimate or not
THE
C
PROGRAMMING
LANGUAGE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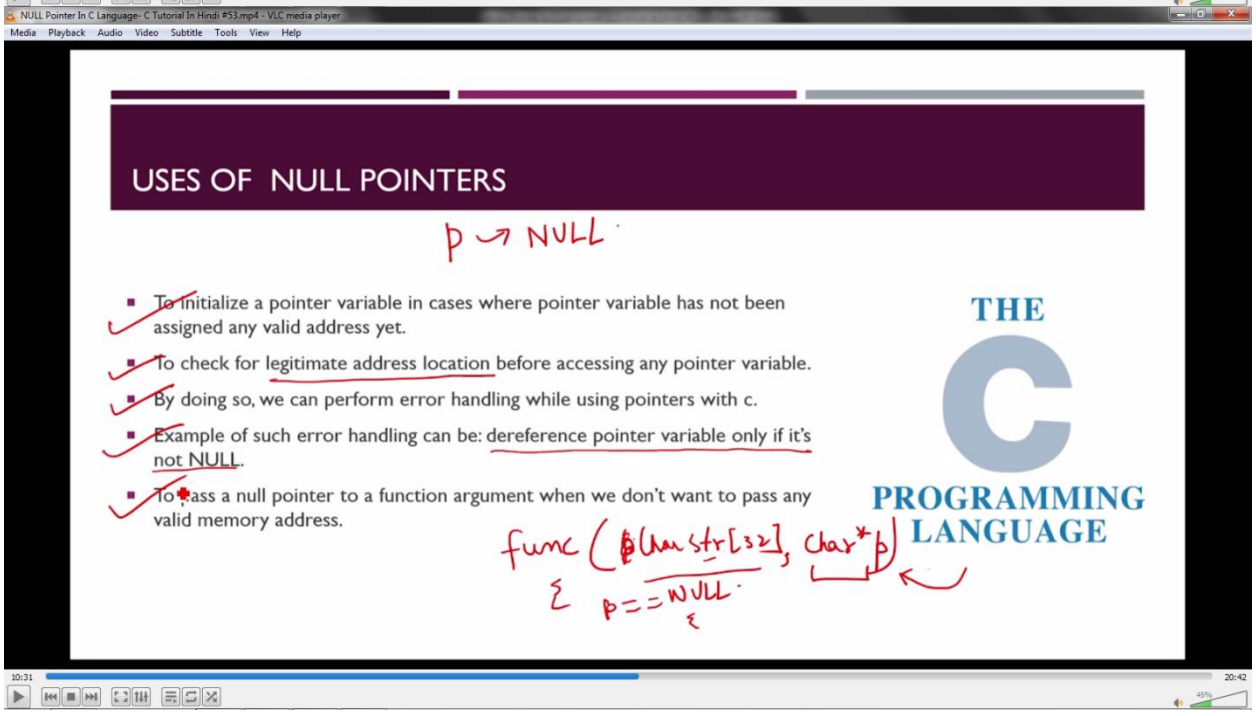
NULL POINTER: C PROGRAM
A null pointer is a pointer that points to NULL (nothing)
A null pointer should not be dereferenced.
A check must be run by the c programmer to know whether a pointer is null before dereferencing it
int x = 10;
int *p = NULL; // null pointer
p = &x; // null pointer now holds address of int 'x'
Cannot be dereference.
Can be dereferenced.
THE C PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE
06:08
20:42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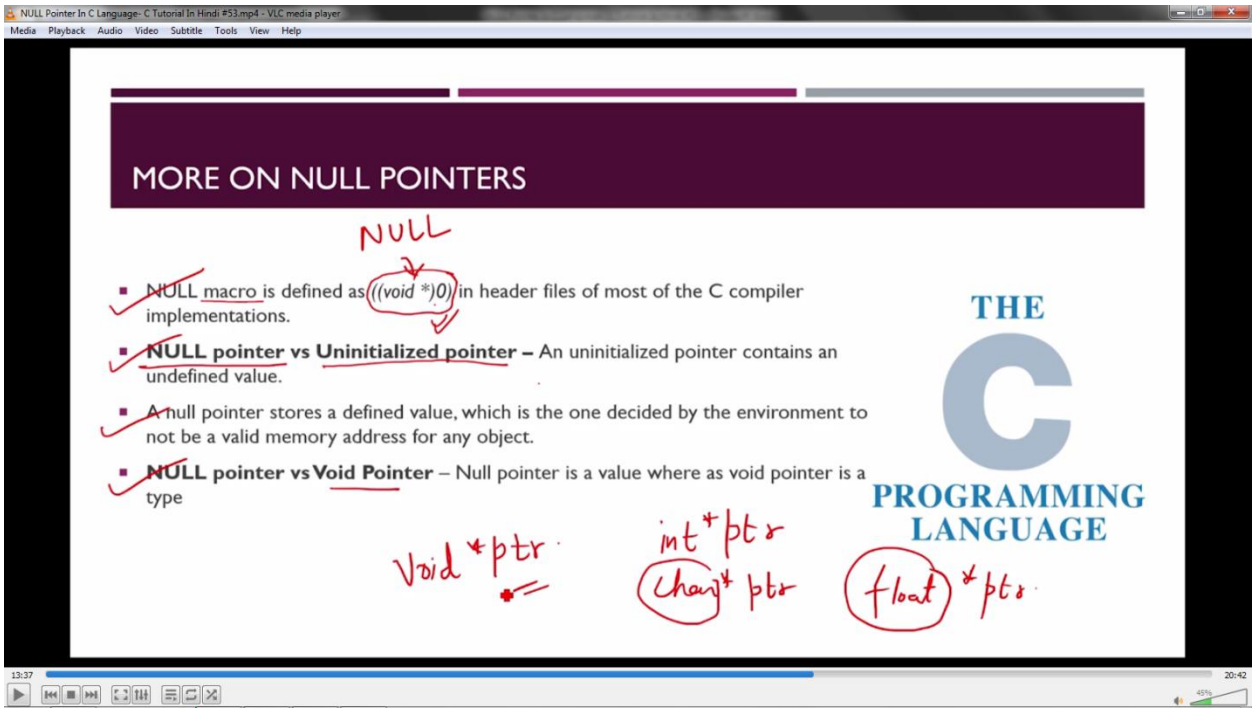
USES OF NULL POINTERS
p → NULL.
To initialize a pointer variable in cases where pointer variable has not been assigned any valid address yet.
To check for legitimate address location before accessing any pointer variable.
By doing so, we can perform error handling while using pointers with c.
Example of such error handling can be: dereference pointer variable only if it's not NULL.
To pass a null pointer to a function argument when we don't want to pass any valid memory address.
func (char str[32], char* p)
{ p == NULL. }
THE C PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE
10:31
20:42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MORE ON NULL POINTERS
NULL
NULL macro is defined as ((void *)0) in header files of most of the C compiler implementations.
NULL pointer vs Uninitialized pointer – An uninitialized pointer contains an undefined value.
A null pointer stores a defined value, which is the one decided by the environment to not be a valid memory address for any object.
NULL pointer vs Void Pointer – Null pointer is a value where as void pointer is a type
THE C PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE
Void *ptr
int *ptr
char *ptr
float *ptr
13:37
20:42