

Summary

1. Purpose of Double Pointers (Pointers to Pointers):

- Double pointers (`int **ptr`) are used when:
 - * You want to modify a pointer inside a function (e.g., dynamic memory allocation with `malloc` inside a function).
 - * You're working with 2D arrays dynamically.
 - * You're dealing with arrays of strings (e.g., `char **argv` in `main()`).
 - * Useful in data structures like linked lists, trees, etc., when manipulating pointers to nodes.

Example:

```
void allocate(int **ptr) {  
  
    *ptr = malloc(sizeof(int));  
  
}
```

2. Relation Between Pointers, Arrays, and Strings:

- An array name is essentially a pointer to its first element.
- You can access array elements using pointer arithmetic: `a[i] == *(a + i)`
- A string in C is a character array terminated with a null character `'\0'`.
- So, `char *str = "Hello";` points to the first character 'H' of the string.

Key Idea:

Pointers allow flexible traversal and manipulation of arrays and strings without using array indices.

3. Purpose of Pointer to Function:

- A function pointer stores the address of a function and allows dynamic function calls at runtime.
- Enables callbacks (e.g., in sorting functions like `qsort`).
- Useful in function tables, plugin systems, or event-driven programming.

Example:

```
int add(int a, int b) { return a + b; }
```

```
int (*func_ptr)(int, int) = add;
```

```
printf("%d", func_ptr(2, 3)); // Calls add(2, 3)
```