



Chapter 9

Pointers and Dynamic Arrays

Prof. Chien-Nan (Jimmy) Liu
Dept. of Electrical Engineering
National Chiao-Tung Univ.

Tel: (03)5712121 ext:31211
E-mail: jimmyliu@nctu.edu.tw
<http://mseda.ee.nctu.edu.tw/jimmyliu>



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

Overview

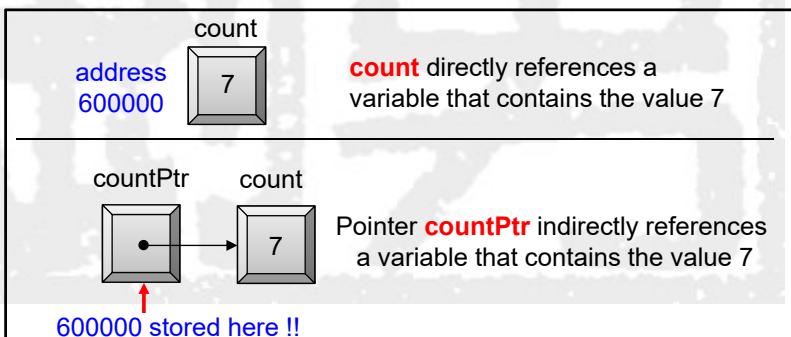
- *9.1 Pointers*
- 9.2 Dynamic Arrays
- 9.3 Dynamic Memory Allocation in C



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

Pointers

- A pointer is the **memory address** of a variable
 - Pointers "point" to a variable by telling where the variable is located
- Memory addresses can be used to **access variables indirectly**
 - When a variable is used as a call-by-reference argument, its address is passed



9-3

Declaring Pointers

- Pointer variables must be declared to have a type
 - Define how to explain the data retrieved from memory
 - Ex: declare a pointer variable p that "point" to a double:
`double *p;`
 - The **asterisk(*)** identifies p as a pointer variable
- To declare multiple pointers in a statement, use the asterisk before each pointer variable
 - Pointer and non-pointer variables can be put together
 - Ex: `int *p1, *p2, v1, v2;`

p1 and p2 **point to** variables of type *int*
v1 and v2 are **variables** of type *int*

9-4



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

Operators on Pointer Variables

- The & operator can be used to obtain the address of a variable
 - Ex: `p1 = &v1;`
 - p1 is now a pointer to v1
 - v1 can be called v1 or "the variable pointed to by p1"
- "The variable pointed to by p" is denoted as *p in C++
 - C++ uses the * operator in several different ways
 - With pointers, the * is dereferencing operator here
 - p is said to be dereferenced
 - p is the address, *p is the data



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-5

Example of Pointer Operations

- `v1 = 0;`
- `p1 = &v1;`
- `*p1 = 42;`
- `cout << "v1 = " << v1 << endl;`
- `cout << "*p1 = " << *p1 << endl;`

v1 and *p1 now refer to the same variable

output:

`v1 = 42`
`*p1 = 42`



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-6

Pointer Assignment

- The assignment operator = is used to assign the value of one pointer to another
 - Ex: If p1 still points to v1 (previous slide), then

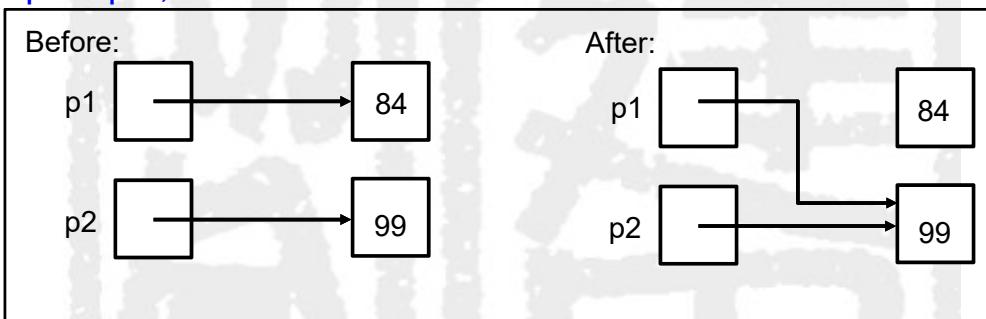
$p2 = p1;$

causes *p2, *p1, and v1
be the same variable
- Some care is required making assignments to pointer variables
 - $p1 = p3;$ // changes the **location** that p1 "points" to
 - $*p1 = *p3;$ // changes the **value** at the location that
// p1 "points" to

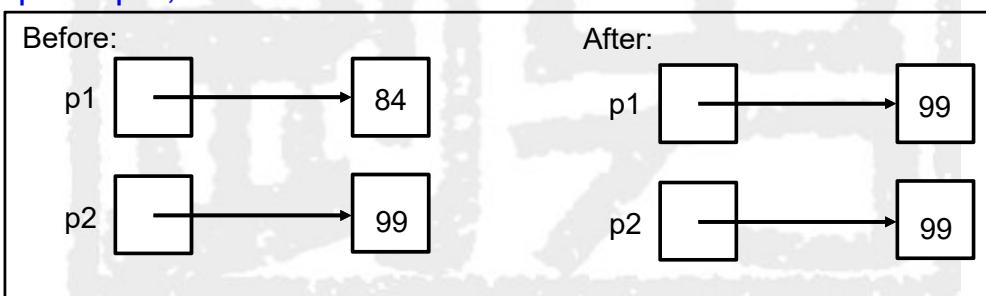


Uses of the Assignment Operator

$p1 = p2;$



$*p1 = *p2;$



Pass-by-Reference with Pointers

- In C++, we use **reference parameters** to pass arguments to a function by reference
- In old C, we implement pass-by-reference with **pointer arguments**
 - When calling a function with an argument that should be modified, the **address** of that argument is passed
 - Passing pointers to **large data objects** avoids the overhead of being passed by value
- Given the address of a variable, the **dereferencing operator (*)** form a synonym for it in the function
 - Used to modify the variable's value at that location in the caller's memory



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-9

Ex: Pass-by-Reference with Pointers

- In this example, the first function ***cubeByValue*** demonstrates typical pass-by-value mechanism
 - The local change has no affect on the original variable
- Another function ***cubeByReference*** passes the number by using pass-by-reference with a pointer
 - The address of that number is passed to the function
- The function **dereferences the pointer** and cubes the value to which nPtr points
 - This directly changes the value of *number* in main
- Graphical analysis for the execution of the programs is provided respectively



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-10

Comparison of Pass-by-Pointer

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int cubeByValue( int );

int main( )
{
    int number = 5;
    cout << "The original value of number is "
        << number;
    // pass number by value
    number = cubeByValue(number);
    cout << "\nThe new value of number is "
        << number << endl;
} // end main

int cubeByValue ( int n )
{
    return n * n * n;
}
```



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

void cubeByReference( int * );

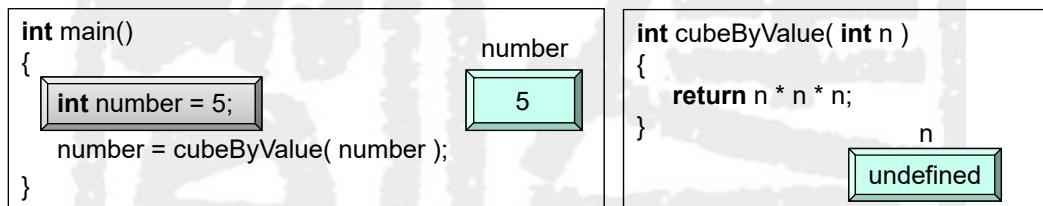
int main( )
{
    int number = 5;
    cout << "The original value of number is "
        << number;
    // pass the address of number
    cubeByReference(&number);
    cout << "\nThe new value of number is "
        << number << endl;
} // end main

void cubeByReference ( int *nPtr )
{
    *nPtr = *nPtr * *nPtr * *nPtr;
}
```

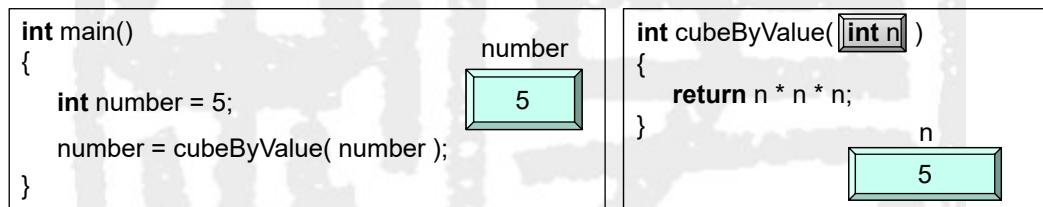
9-11

Pass-by-Value Analysis (1/2)

Step 1: Before main calls cubeByValue:



Step 2: After cubeByValue receives the call:

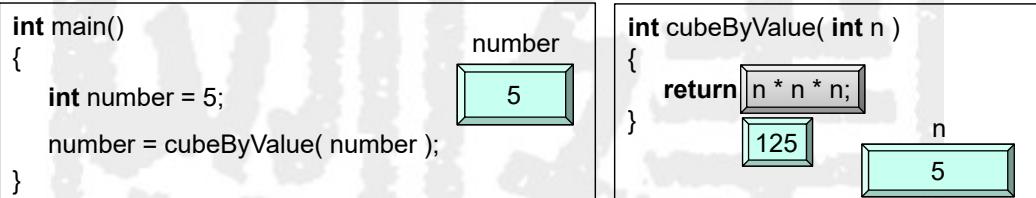


Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

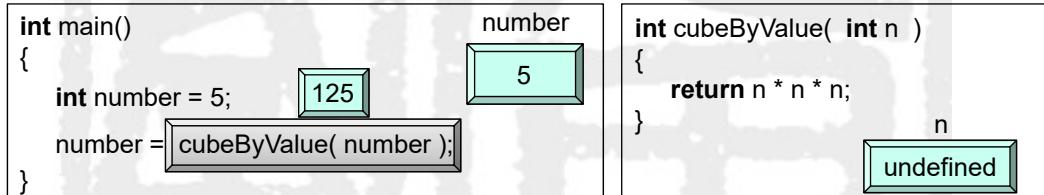
9-12

Pass-by-Value Analysis (2/2)

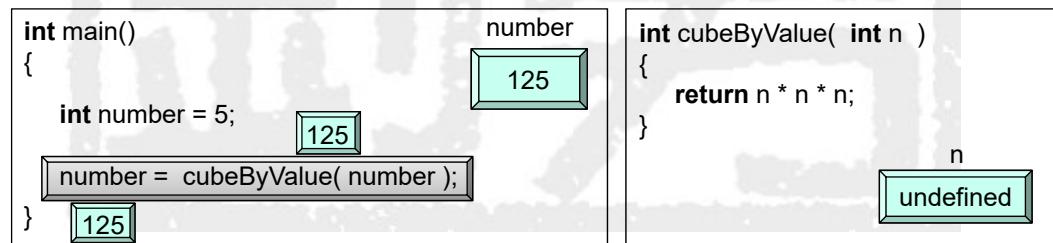
Step 3: After `cubeByValue` cubes parameter `n` and before `cubeByValue` returns to `main`:



Step 4: After `cubeByValue` returns to `main` and before assigning the result to `number`:



Step 5: After `main` completes the assignment to `number`:



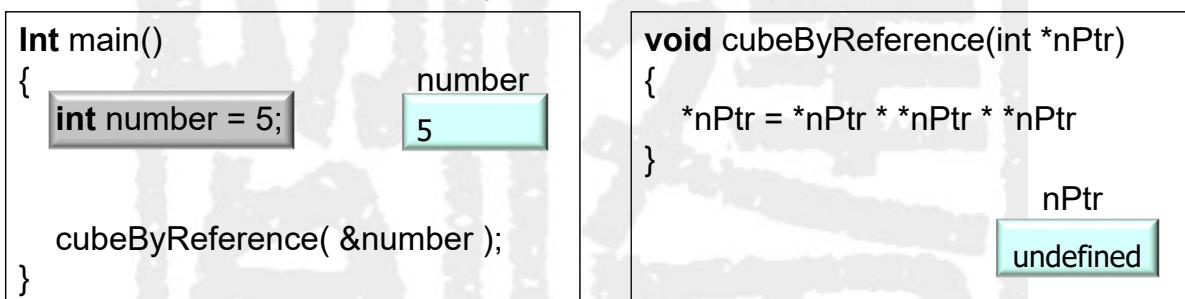
9-13



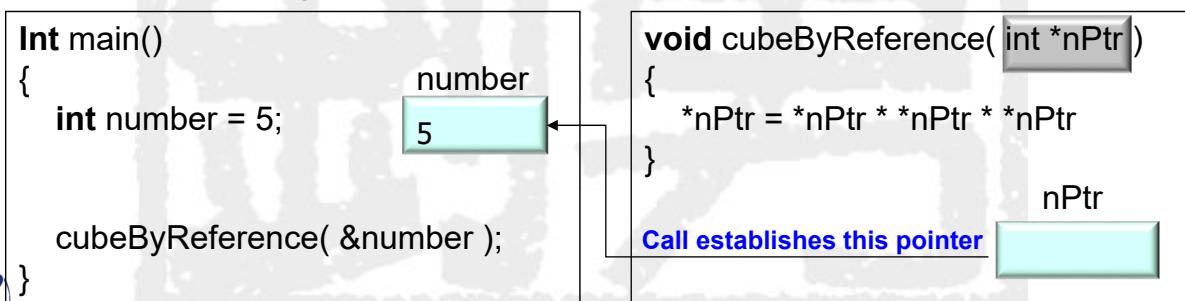
Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

Pass-by-Reference Analysis

Step I: Before `main` calls `cubeByReference`:



Step II: After `cubeByReference` receives the call and before `*nPtr` is cubed:



9-14



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

Using const with Pointers

- There are 4 ways to pass a pointer to a function
- A **nonconstant pointer to nonconstant data**
ex: `int *myPtr = &x;`
 - Both the address and the data can be changed
- A **nonconstant pointer to constant data**
ex: `const int *myPtr = &x;`
 - Modifiable pointer to a **const int** (data are not modifiable)
- A **constant pointer to nonconstant data**
ex: `int *const myPtr = &x;`
 - Constant pointer to an **int** (data can be changed, but the address cannot)
- A **constant pointer to constant data**
ex: `const int *const Ptr = &x;`
 - Both the address and the data are not modifiable



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-15

Nonconstant Pointer to Constant Data

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
void f( const int * );
int main( )
{
    int y;
    // f attempts illegal modification
    f( &y );
} // end main
```

`// xPtr cannot modify the value of constant variable
// to which it points`

```
void f( const int *xPtr )
{
    *xPtr = 100;
} // end function f
```

Microsoft Visual C++ compiler error message:

```
c:\cpphtp7_examples\ch07\Fig07_10\fig07_10.cpp(17) :
error C3892: 'xPtr' : you cannot assign to a variable that is const
```

GNU C++ compiler error message:

```
fig07_10.cpp: In function `void f(const int*)':
fig07_10.cpp:17: error: assignment of read-only location
```



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-16

Constant Pointer to Nonconstant Data

```
int main( )
{
    int x, y;

    // The integer can be modified through ptr
    // But ptr always points to the same location
    int * const ptr = &x;

    *ptr = 7; // allowed: *ptr is not a constant
    ptr = &y; // error: ptr is a constant, cannot assign it a new address
} // end main
```

Microsoft Visual C++ compiler error message:

```
c:\cpphttp7_examples\ch07\Fig07_11\fig07_11.cpp(14) : error C3892: 'ptr' :
you cannot assign to a variable that is const
```

GNU C++ compiler error message:

```
fig07_11.cpp: In function `int main()':
fig07_11.cpp:14: error: assignment of read-only variable `ptr'
```



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-17

Dynamic Variables -- new Operator

- Sometimes you need a **flexible** array or data structure to support dynamic requests
 - Traditional array requires a **fixed size** at compile time
 - Variables created using the ***new*** operator are called **dynamic variables**
 - Created and destroyed while the program is running
- Using **pointers**, variables can be manipulated even if there is no identifier for them
 - Ex: create a pointer to a "nameless" *int* variable
 - `int *p1 = new int;`
 - The new variable is referred to as ***p1**
 - ***p1** can be used anywhere **an integer variable** can
 - Ex: `cin >> *p1; *p1 = *p1 + 7;`



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-18

Example: Pointer Manipulations (1/2)

```
//DISPLAY 9.2 Basic Pointer Manipulations  
//Demonstrate pointers and dynamic variables.  
#include <iostream>  
using namespace std;  
  
int main( )  
{  
    int *p1, *p2;  
  
    p1 = new int;  
    *p1 = 42;  
    p2 = p1;  
    cout << "*p1 == " << *p1 << endl;  
    cout << "*p2 == " << *p2 << endl;  
}
```

```
*p2 = 53;  
cout << "*p1 == " << *p1 << endl;  
cout << "*p2 == " << *p2 << endl;  
  
p1 = new int;  
*p1 = 88;  
cout << "*p1 == " << *p1 << endl;  
cout << "*p2 == " << *p2 << endl;  
cout << "Hope you got the point of this example!\n";  
  
return 0;
```

Sample Dialogue

```
*p1 == 42  
*p2 == 42  
*p1 == 53  
*p2 == 53  
*p1 == 88  
*p2 == 53  
  
Hope you got the point of this example!
```

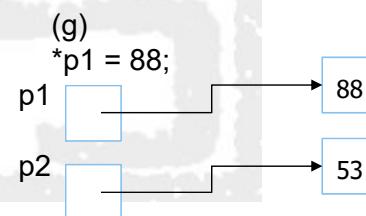
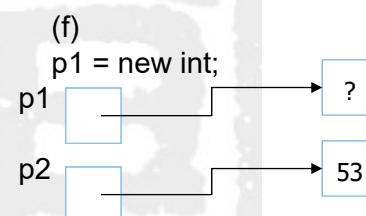
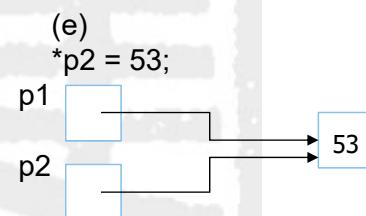
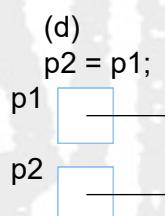
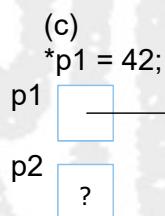
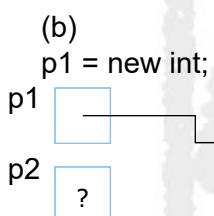
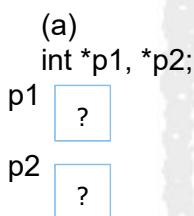


Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-19

Example: Pointer Manipulations (2/2)

Explanation of Display 9.2



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-20

Memory Management -- delete Operator

- An area of memory called the **freestore** or the **heap** is reserved for dynamic variables
 - New dynamic variables use memory in the freestore
 - If all of the freestore is used, calls to *new* will **fail**
- Unneeded memory can be recycled
 - When dynamic variables are no longer needed, they can be deleted to return the memory they occupied
 - **Only dynamic memory** obtained through *new* operator can be recycled !!
- The ***delete*** operator returns the used memory
 - Ex: ***delete p;***
 - The value of *p* is now **undefined** and the memory that *p* pointed to is **back in the freestore** (may be used later)



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-21

Dangling Pointers

- Using ***delete*** on a pointer variable destroys the dynamic variable pointed to
 - That memory location doesn't belong to you anymore
- If another pointer variable was pointing to the dynamic variable, that variable is also undefined
- Undefined pointer variables are called **dangling pointers**
 - Dereferencing a dangling pointer (**p*) is usually a **disaster**
 - That address may be used by other variable → **illegal change**
 - Such runtime error is difficult to be caught



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-22

Automatic Variable v.s. Dynamic Variable

- Variables declared in a function are destroyed when the function ends
 - The creation and destruction of these **automatic variables** is **controlled automatically**
- Variable declared outside any function definition are **global variables**
 - Global variables are available **all the time**
- The programmer should **manually control** the creation and destruction of **dynamic variables**
 - Unless you delete the variable, that memory space is occupied even though you leave the function already



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-23

Type Definitions

- A name can be assigned to a type definition, then used to declare variables
 - Keyword **typedef** is used to define new type names
 - Syntax:
 - `typedef Known_Type_Definition New_Type_Name;`
 - Known_Type_Definition can be any type
- To avoid confusing between pointer variable and typical variable, define a pointer type name
 - Example: **typedef int* IntPtr;**
 - Defines a new type, **IntPtr**, for pointer variables containing pointers to *int* variables
 - **IntPtr p;** is equivalent to **int *p;**



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-24

Confusing Pointer Declaration

- Type definition helps to prevent declaration error
 - `int *P1, P2; // Only P1 is a pointer variable`
 - `IntPtr P1, P2; // P1 and P2 are pointer variables`
- A second advantage in using `typedef` to define a pointer type is seen in parameter lists
 - Example: `void sampleFunction(IntPtr& pointerVar);` is less confusing than
`void sampleFunction(int*& pointerVar);`



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-25

Overview

- 9.1 Pointers
- 9.2 *Dynamic Arrays*
- 9.3 Dynamic Memory Allocation in C



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-26

Array and Pointer Variables

- As mentioned in Ch.7, only the **first element** of an array is remembered
 - Actually, array variables are **pointer variables** that point to the first indexed variable (ex: `a[0]`)
 - Example:

```
int a[10];
typedef int* IntPtr;
IntPtr p;
```

 - Variables `a` and `p` are the same kind of variable
 - `a` is a pointer variable that points to `a[0]`
- `p = a;` causes `p` to point to the same location as `a` → **point to `a[0]`**
 - Using `a` and `p` has the same effects



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-27

Pointer Variables as Array Variables

- In previous example, pointer variable `p` can be used as if it were an array variable
 - Example: `p[0], p[1], ...p[9]`
are all legal ways to use `p`
- Variable `a` can also be used as a **constant** pointer variable
 - But the pointer value in `a` cannot be changed
 - This is not legal:

```
IntPtr p2;
...           // p2 is assigned a value
a = p2;      // attempt to change a
```



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-28

Example: Arrays and Pointers (1/2)

```
//Program to demonstrate that an array variable is a kind of pointer variable.
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

typedef int* IntPtr;

int main( )
{
    IntPtr p;
    int a[10];
    int index;

    for (index = 0; index < 10; index++)
        a[index] = index;

    p = a;

    for (index = 0; index < 10; index++)
        cout << p[index] << " ";
    cout << endl;
}

for (index = 0; index < 10; index++)
    p[index] = p[index] + 1;

for (index = 0; index < 10; index++)
    cout << a[index] << " ";
    cout << endl;

return 0;
}
```

Output

```
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
```



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-29

Example: Arrays and Pointers (2/2)

(a)
IntPtr p;
int a[10];

a [] → ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
p [] ?

(b)
for (index = 0; index < 10; index++)
 a[index] = index;

a [] → 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
p [] ?

(c)
p = a;

a [] → 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
p [] ?

for (index = 0; index < 10; index++)
 cout << p[index] << " ";

Output 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

(d)
for (index = 0; index < 10; index++)
 p[index] = p[index] + 1;

a [] → 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
p [] ?

for (index = 0; index < 10; index++)
 cout << a[index] << " ";

Output 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Iterating through a is the same as iterating through p

Iterating through p is the same as iterating through a



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-30

Why Dynamic Arrays ?

- Normal arrays require **a fixed size** for the array when the program is written
 - What if the programmer estimates **too large**?
 - **Memory is wasted**
 - What if the programmer estimates **too small**?
 - The program **may not work** in some situations
- **Dynamic array**: an array whose size is determined when the program is running
- Dynamic arrays can be created with just the right size according to the current results
 - Through the help of ***new*** and ***delete***



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-31

Creating Dynamic Arrays

- Dynamic arrays are created using the ***new*** operator
 - Ex: create an array of 10 elements of type double

```
typedef double* DoublePtr;
DoublePtr d;
d = new double[10];
```



This could be an
integer variable!
- **d** can now be used as if it were an ordinary array!



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-32

Deleting Dynamic Arrays

- Pointer variable d is a pointer to a dynamic array
- When finished with the array, it should be deleted to return memory to the freestore
 - Syntax: `delete [] d;`
 - The brackets tell C++ a dynamic array is being deleted
→ need to know how many elements to remove
- Forgetting the brackets while deleting a dynamic array is not legal
 - It tells the computer to remove only one variable (first array element)



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-33

Example of a Dynamic Array

```
//Sorts a list of numbers entered at the keyboard.
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>
#include <cstddef>

typedef int* IntArrayPtr;
void fill_array(int a[], int size);
void sort(int a[], int size); // ascending order

int main()
{
    using namespace std;
    cout << "This program sorts numbers
           from lowest to highest.\n";

    int array_size;
    cout << "How many numbers will be sorted? ";
    cin >> array_size;

    IntArrayPtr a;
    a = new int[array_size];

    fill_array(a, array_size);
    sort(a, array_size);

    cout << "In sorted order the numbers are:\n";
    for (int index = 0; index < array_size; index++)
        cout << a[index] << " ";
    cout << endl;

    delete [] a;

    return 0;
}

void fill_array(int a[], int size)
{
    using namespace std;
    cout << "Enter " << size << " integers.\n";
    for (int index = 0; index < size; index++)
        cin >> a[index];
}

void sort(int a[], int size)
//Any implementation of sort may be used.
```

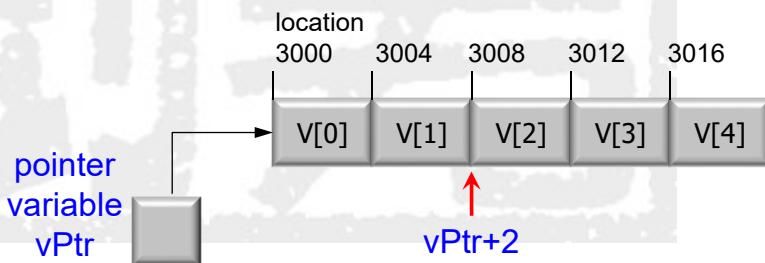


Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-34

Pointer Arithmetic

- Arithmetic can be performed on the addresses contained in pointers
 - Given a dynamic array of integers, `v`, as shown below
 - If `int *vptr = v`, `vptr` points to `v[0]`
 - The expression `vptr+2` evaluates to the address of `v[2]`
 - Adding one adds enough bytes for one element in the array
 - This is NOT the arithmetic on the memory address !!
 - If `vPtr = 3000`, `vptr+2 = 3008`, not `3002` ...



9-35

Pointer Arithmetic Operations

- You can add and subtract with pointers
 - The `++` and `--` operators can be used
 - Two pointers of the same type can be subtracted to obtain the number of indexed variables between
 - The pointers should be in the same array!
 - Ex: If `vPtr` contains the address 3000 and `v2Ptr` contains the address 3008, $v2Ptr - vPtr = 2$ in previous example
- Pointers can be compared using equality and relational operators
 - Relational operators apply on the pointers in the same array
 - Using equality operators, the pointers can be compared with the addresses stored in pointers
 - Ex: compare with NULL pointer → it points to nothing !!



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-36

Relationship Between Pointers and Arrays

- The array name (without a subscript) is a **constant** pointer to the first element of the array.
 - This pointer cannot be modified as a normal variable
- Pointers can do operations involving array indexing
- Assume the following declarations:
 - `int b[5]; // create 5-element int array b`
 - `int *bPtr; // create int pointer bPtr`
- We can set bPtr to the address of the first element in array b with the statement
 - `bPtr = b; // assign address of array b to bPtr`
- This is equivalent to
 - `bPtr = &b[0]; // also assigns address of array b to bPtr`

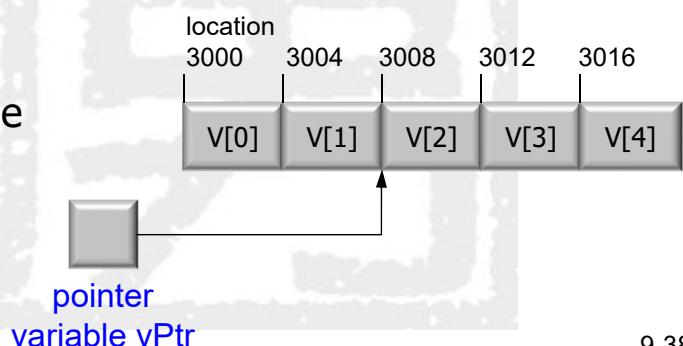


Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-37

Relationship Between Pointers and Arrays

- Array element `b[2]` can alternatively be referenced with the pointer expression
 - `*(bPtr + 2)`
- The 2 in the preceding expression is the **offset** to the pointer
- This notation is referred to as **pointer/offset notation**.
 - The parentheses are necessary, because the precedence of `*` is higher than that of `+`



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-38

Relationship Between Pointers and Arrays

- The address `&b[3]` can be written with the pointer expression `bPtr + 3`
 - Array elements can also be referenced with pointers
- The array name (which is implicitly `const`) can be treated as a pointer and used in pointer arithmetic
- For example, the expression `*(b + 3)` also refers to the array element `b[3]`
- In general, all subscripted array expressions can be written with **a pointer and an offset**
 - For clarity, use array notation instead of pointer operation when manipulating arrays



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-39

Relationship Between Pointers and Arrays

- Pointers can be subscripted exactly as arrays can
- For example, the expression `bPtr[1]` refers to the array element `b[1]`; this expression uses **pointer/subscript notation**
- In summary, **four notations** are discussed for referring to array elements:
 - Array subscript notation,
 - Pointer/offset notation with the array name as a pointer,
 - Pointer subscript notation, and
 - Pointer/offset notation with a pointer



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-40

Code: Using Array Names and Pointers

```
//Using subscripting and pointer notations with arrays.  
#include <iostream>  
using namespace std;  
  
int main()  
{  
    int b[] = { 10, 20, 30, 40 }; //create 4-element array b  
    int *bPtr = b; // set bPtr to point to array bPtr  
  
    // output array b using array subscript notation  
    cout << "Array b printed with:\n\nArray subscript notation\n";  
  
    for( int i = 0; i < 4; i++ )  
        cout << "b[" << i << "]" << b[i] << "\n";  
  
    //output array b using the array name and pointer/offset notation  
    cout << "\nPointer/offset notation where "  
        << "the pointer is the array name\n";  
  
    for( int offset1 = 0; offset1 < 4; offset1++ )  
        cout << *(b+ offset1) = " << *( b + offset1) << "\n";
```



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-41

Code: Using Array Names and Pointers

```
//output array b using bPtr and array subscript notation  
cout << "\nPointer subscript notation\n";  
  
for ( int j = 0; j < 4; j++ )  
    cout << "bPtr[" << j << "]" << bPtr[j] << "\n";  
  
cout << "\nPointer/offset notation\n";  
  
//output array b using bPtr and pointer/offset notation  
for ( int offset2 = 0; offset2 < 4; offset2++ )  
    cout << *(bPtr+ offset2) = "  
        << *( bPtr + offset2) << "\n";  
}  
} // end main
```

Array b printed with:

Array subscript notation

b[0] = 10
b[1] = 20
b[2] = 30
b[3] = 40



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-42

Program Results

```
Pointer/offset notation where the pointer is the array name
```

```
*(b + 0) = 10  
*(b + 1) = 20  
*(b + 2) = 30  
*(b + 3) = 40
```

```
Pointer subscript notation
```

```
bPtr[0] = 10  
bPtr[1] = 20  
bPtr[2] = 30  
bPtr[3] = 40
```

```
Pointer/offset notation
```

```
*(bPtr + 0) = 10  
*(bPtr + 1) = 20  
*(bPtr + 2) = 30  
*(bPtr + 3) = 40
```



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-43

Multidimensional Dynamic Arrays

- Multidimensional arrays are **arrays of arrays**
 - In other words, they are actually **arrays of pointers**
- To create a 3x4 multidimensional dynamic array
 - First create a one-dimensional dynamic array
 - Start with a new definition:
`typedef int* IntArrayPtr;`
 - Now create a dynamic array of pointers named m:
`IntArrayPtr *m = new IntArrayPtr[3];`
 - For each pointer in m, create a dynamic array of int's
 - `for (int i = 0; i<3; i++)
 m[i] = new int[4];`

return a pointer to
the dynamic array

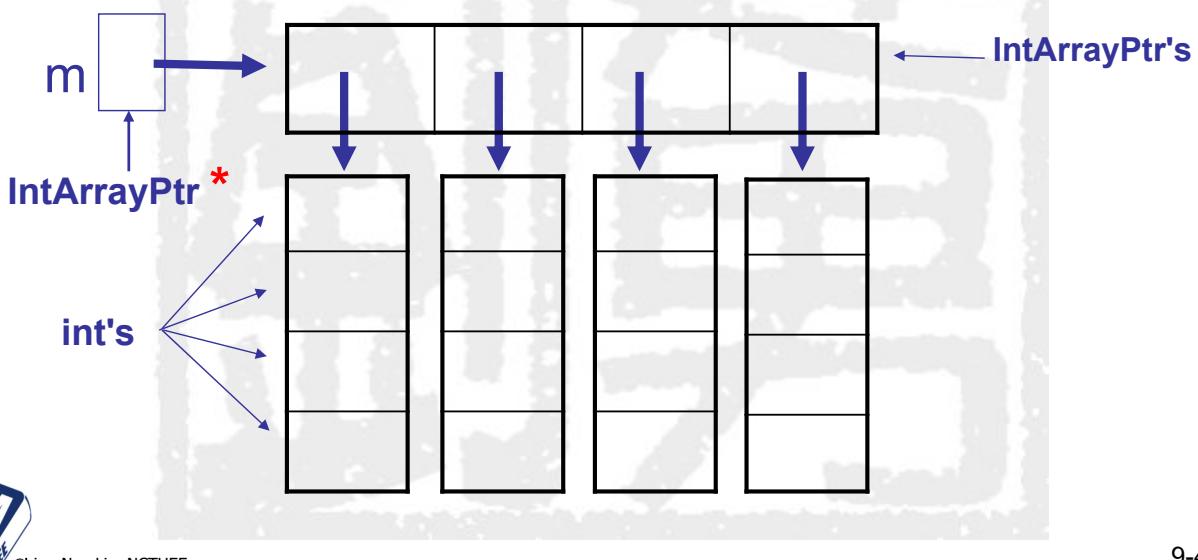


Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-44

A Multidimensional Dynamic Array

- The dynamic array created on the previous slide could be visualized like this:



9-45

Deleting Multidimensional Arrays

- To delete a multidimensional dynamic array
 - Each call to `new` that created an array must have a corresponding call to `delete[]`
 - Example: To delete the dynamic array created on a previous slide:

```
for ( i = 0; i < 3; i++)
    delete [ ] m[i]; //delete the arrays of 4 int's
delete [ ] m; // delete the array of IntArrayPtr's
```



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-46

Example of 2-D Dynamic Array

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
typedef int* IntArrayPtr;

int main()
{
    int d1, d2;
    cout << "Enter the row and column
           dimensions of the array:\n";
    cin >> d1 >> d2;

    IntArrayPtr *m = new IntArrayPtr[d1];
    int i, j;
    for (i = 0; i < d1; i++)
        m[i] = new int[d2];
    //m is now a d1 by d2 array.

    cout << "Enter " << d1 << " rows of "
        << d2 << " integers each:\n";
    for (i = 0; i < d1; i++)
        for (j = 0; j < d2; j++)
            cin >> m[i][j];
```



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

```
cout << "Echoing the two-dimensional array:\n";
for (i = 0; i < d1; i++)
{
    for (j = 0; j < d2; j++)
        cout << m[i][j] << " ";
    cout << endl;
}
for (i = 0; i < d1; i++)
    delete[] m[i];
delete[] m;

return 0;
}
```

Sample Dialogue

```
Enter the row and column dimensions of the array:
3 4
Enter 3 rows of 4 integers each:
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 0 1 2
Echoing the two-dimensional array:
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 0 1 2
```

9-47

Arrays of Strings

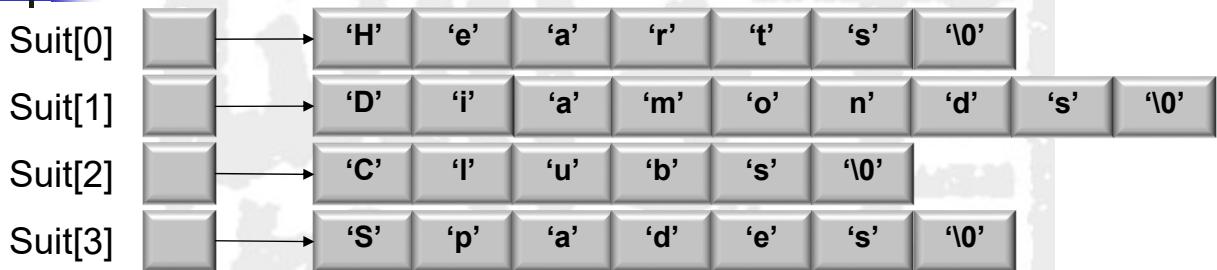
- Another application is an array of pointer-based strings, referred to simply as a **string array**
- Each entry in the array is a string → each entry is simply a pointer to the first character of a string
- **const char * const suit[4] =**
{ "Hearts", "Diamonds", "Clubs", "Spades" };
 - An array of four elements
 - Each element is of type “pointer to char constant data”



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-48

Example: Arrays of Strings



- cout << suit[0]; → print out "Hearts"
- cout << suit[2]; → print out "Clubs"
- What will be printed by the following program?

```
for (int i=0; i<10; i++) {  
    idx = rand()%4;  
    cout << suit[idx];  
}
```

Hearts → Spades → Diamonds
→ Clubs, ... (random strings)

9-49

Overview

- 9.1 Pointers
- 9.2 Dynamic Arrays
- 9.3 *Dynamic Memory Allocation in C*



Ref: H. M. Deitel and P. J. Deitel, "C How to Program", 5th Ed., Prentice Hall Inc., 2007.

Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-50

Dynamic Memory Allocation in C

- The functions to obtain and release memory during execution are put in library <stdlib.h>
- **malloc**
 - Takes number of bytes to allocate
 - Use *sizeof* to determine the size of an object
 - Returns pointer of type **void ***
 - A **void *** pointer may be assigned to any pointer
 - If no memory available, returns **NULL**
 - Example:
`newPtr = malloc(n*sizeof(int)); //n-element array`
- When using *malloc*, test the return value for the **NULL** pointer
 - Give an error message if the memory allocation is failed



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-51

The sizeof Operator

- The unary operator *sizeof* determines the total size of a variable in bytes at compilation time
 - Can also be applied on an array, a constant, or a data type name
 - When applied to the name of an array, the *sizeof* operator returns the memory size of **total elements**
- When applied to a **pointer** parameter, the *sizeof* operator returns the size of the pointer in bytes
 - If it cannot recognize the array, only a single pointer variable is counted
- The number of elements in an array also can be determined using two sizeof operations
 - *sizeof realArray / sizeof(realArray[0])*



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-52

Code: Size of Different Data Types (1/2)

```
//Demonstrating the sizeof operator.  
#include <iostream>  
using namespace std;  
  
int main()  
{  
    char c; // variable of type char  
    short s; // variable of type short  
    int i; // variable of type int  
    long l; // variable of type long  
    float f; // variable of type float  
    double d; // variable of type double  
    long double ld; // variable of type long double  
    int array[ 20 ]; // array of int  
    int *ptr = array; // variable of type int *  
  
    cout << "sizeof c = " << sizeof c  
        << "\nsizeof(char) = " << sizeof( char )  
        << "\nsizeof s = " << sizeof s  
        << "\nsizeof(short) = " << sizeof( short )  
        << "\nsizeof i = " << sizeof i  
        << "\nsizeof(int) = " << sizeof( int )
```

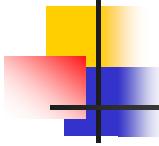
9-53

Code: Size of Different Data Types (2/2)

```
<< "\nsizeof l = " << sizeof l  
    << "\nsizeof(long) = " << sizeof( long )  
    << "\nsizeof f = " << sizeof f  
    << "\nsizeof(float) = " << sizeof( float )  
    << "\nsizeof d = " << sizeof d  
    << "\nsizeof(double) = " << sizeof( double )  
    << "\nsizeof ld = " << sizeof ld  
    << "\nsizeof(long double) = " << sizeof( long double )  
    << "\nsizeof array = " << sizeof array  
    << "\nsizeof ptr = " << sizeof ptr << endl;  
} //end main
```

```
sizeof c = 1      sizeof(char) = 1  
sizeof s = 2      sizeof(short) = 2  
sizeof i = 4      sizeof(int) = 4  
sizeof l = 4      sizeof(long) = 4  
sizeof f = 4      sizeof(float) = 4  
sizeof d = 8      sizeof(double) = 8  
sizeof ld = 8     sizeof(long double) = 8  
sizeof array = 80  
sizeof ptr = 4
```

9-54



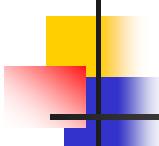
Return Dynamic Memory in C

- **free**
 - Deallocates memory allocated by `malloc`
 - Takes a pointer as an argument
 - `free (newPtr);`
- Freeing memory not allocated dynamically with `malloc` is an error
 - In C, manage memory by `malloc ↔ free`
 - In C++, manage memory by `new ↔ delete`
 - You cannot mix the two systems (ex: `malloc + delete`)
- Referring to memory that has been freed is a runtime error
 - You don't know whether the memory content is modified



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-55



Common Programming Error

- Not returning dynamically allocated memory when it is no longer needed can cause the system to run out of memory
 - This is sometimes called a “**memory leak**”

→ When memory that was dynamically allocated is no longer needed, use **free** to return the memory to the system **immediately**



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-56

Error-Prevention Tip

- After deleting dynamically allocated memory, set the pointer that referred to that memory to 0
 - This disconnects the pointer from the previously allocated space on the free store
- By setting the pointer to 0, the program loses any access to that free-store space
 - This space in memory could still contain information, despite having been deleted
- In fact, that space could have already been reallocated for a different purpose
 - If you didn't set the pointer to 0, your code could inadvertently access this new information
 - Cause extremely subtle, nonrepeatable logic errors



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-57

Demo Dynamic Array of Strings in C

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
typedef char* StringPtr;

int main( void )
{
    int i, d1, d2, idx;
    char temp[80];
    printf("Enter the number of strings: ");
    scanf("%d", &d1);

    StringPtr *m = malloc(d1 * sizeof(StringPtr));
    for (i = 0; i < d1; i++)
    {
        printf("Enter string %d: ", i+1);
        scanf("%s", temp);
        d2 = strlen(temp);
        m[i] = malloc( (d2+1) * sizeof(char));
        strcpy(m[i], temp);
    }
    //m is now an array with d1 strings.
```

```
printf("\nRandomly show 10 strings:\n");
for (i = 0; i < 10; i++)
{
    idx = rand()%d1;
    printf("%s\n", m[idx]);
}

for (i = 0; i < d1; i++)
    free( m[i] );
free(m);

return 0;
```

```
Enter the number of strings: 3
Enter string 1: test1
Enter string 2: test2
Enter string 3: test3
Randomly show 10 strings:
test2
test3
.....
```



Chien-Nan Liu, NCTUEE

9-58