Pointers & Dynamic Memory

Fundamentals of Computer and Programming Fall 2020

Bahador Bakhshi

CE & IT Department, Amirkabir University of Technology





What We Will Learn

- > Introduction
- Pointers and Functions
- Pointers and Arrays
- Pointers and Strings
- ➤ Pointer to Pointer & Pointer to Function
- Dynamic memory allocation





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Pointer: Reference to Memory

- Pointer is a variable that
 - Contains the address of another variable
- Pointer refers to an address
- > Examples

```
int i;
int *pi;
i = 20;
pi = &i;
```





Pointer: Declaration and Initialization

- ><type> * <identifier>;
- > Examples

```
int i, *pi;
pi = &i;
float f;
float *pf = &f;
char c, *pc = &c;
```





Value of referred memory by a pointer

```
int *pi, *pj, i, j;
```

- pi variable contains the memory address
 - If you assign a value to it: pi = &i;
 - The address is saved in pi
 - If you read it: pj = pi;
 - The address is copied from pi from pj
- *pi is the value of referred memory
 - > If you read it: j = *pi;
 - The value in the referred address is read from pi
 - If you assign a value to it: *pj = i;
 - The value is saved in the referred address





Using Pointers: Example

```
int i = 10, j;
/* address of i is 100, value of i is 10 */
/* address of j is 200, value of j is ?? */
int *pi;
/* address of pi is 300, value of pi is ?? */
pi = &i;
/* address of pi is 300, value of pi is 100 */
j = *pi;
/* address of j is 200, value of j is 10 */
*pi = 20;
/* address of pi is 300, value of pi is 100 */
/* address of i is 100, value of i is 20 */
```





Using Pointers: Example

```
double d1, d2, *pda, *pdb;
d1 = 10;
d2 = 20;
pda = \&d1;
pdb = &d1;
*pda = 15;
d2 = d2 + *pdb;
printf("d2 = %f\n", d2);
                             d2 = 35.0
```





Pointer: Reference to Memory

- Pointer variable contains an address
- There is a special address
 - > NULL
- ➤ We can NOT
 - Read any value from NULL
 - Write any value to NULL
- ➤ If you try to read/write → Run time error
- NULL is usually used
 - For pointer initialization
 - Check some conditions





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Call by value

```
void func(int y) {
    y = 0;
}
void main(void) {
    int x = 100;
    func(x);
    printf("%d", x); // 100 not 0
}
```

- Call by value
 - > The value of the x is copied to y
 - By changing y, x is not changed





Call by reference

- Call by reference
 - > The value of variable is not copied to function
 - ➤ If function changes the input parameter → the variable passed to the input is changed

```
> Is implemented by pointers in C
```

```
void func(int *y) {
    *y = 0;
}
void main(void) {
    int x = 100;
    func(&x);
    printf("%d", x); // 0 ©
}
```





Pointers in Functions

```
void add(double a, double b, double *res) {
 *res = a + b;
 return;
int main(void) {
 double d1 = 10.1, d2 = 20.2;
 double result = 0;
 add(d1, d2, &result);
 printf("%f\n", result); // 30.3
 return 0;
```





What happen?

double result = 0;

- The address of result is 100, value of result is 0 add (d1, d2, &result);
- Value of d1, Value of d2 and the address of result is copied to add

```
add(double a, double b, double *res)
```

Value of a is the value of d1, value of b is the value of d2 and value of res is 100 and the value of *res is 0

```
*res = a + b;
```

- Value of a is added to b and output is saved in the referred address by res (100)
- But the 100is the address of result. Therefore the value is saved in memory location result





Swap function (wrong version)

```
void swap(double a, double b) {
  double temp;
  temp = a;
  a = b;
  b = temp;
  return;
int main(void) {
  double d1 = 10.1, d2 = 20.2;
  printf("d1 = %f, d2 = %f\n",d1,d2 );
                                       d1 = 10.1, d2 = 20.2
  swap(d1, d2);
  printf("d1 = %f, d2 = %f\n",d1, d2);
  return 0;
                                       d1 = 10.1, d2 = 20.2
```



swap function (the correct version)

```
void swap(double *a, double *b) {
  double temp;
  temp = *a;
  *a = *b;
  *b = temp;
  return;
void main(void) {
  double d1 = 10.1, d2 = 20.2;
  printf("d1 = %f, d2 = %f\n", d1, d2); d1 = 10.1, d2 = 20.1
  swap(&d1, &d2);
  printf("d1 = %f, d2 = %f\n", d1, d2); d1 = 20.2, d2 = 10.1
```





Pointer as the function output

- > Functions can return a pointer as output
- ➤ But, the address pointed by the pointer must be valid after the function finishes
 - > The pointed variable must be exist
 - ➤ It must not be automatic local variable of the function
 - ➤ It can be static local variable, global variable, or the input parameter





Pointer as the function output

```
int gi;
int * func a(void) {
     return &gi;
float * func b(void) {
     static float x;
     return &x;
```





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Operations on Pointers

Arithmetic

```
<pointer> - or + <integer> (or <pointer> -= or += <integer>)
<pointer> - <pointer> (they must be the same type)
<pointer>++ or <pointer>--
```

Comparison between pointers





Operations on Pointers Examples

```
int *pi, *pj, *pk, i, j, k;
char *pa, *pb, *pc, a, b, c;
pi = &i;
pj = pi + 2;
pk = pj + 2;
pa = &a;
pb = pa + 2;
i = pj - pi; i = 2
j = pb - pa; j = 2
k = pk - pi; k = 4
pi = pj + pk; // compile error: No + for 2 pointers
<u>i = pa - pi; // compile error: Different ptr types</u>
```





Array & Pointers

Pointer can refer to each element in an array

```
int a[20];
int *pa;
pa = &a[10]; //pa refers to element 10
a[11] = *pa; //value of pa is saved in element 11
```

> The name of array is the pointer to the first element

```
pa = a;  //pa refers to element 0
pa = &a[0]; //pa refers to element 0
```





Arrays & Pointers

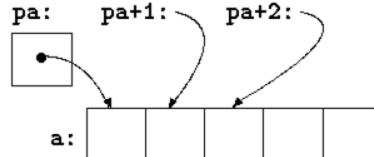
➤ Example

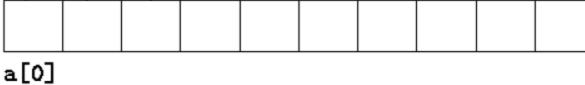
- ▶ If address a = 100▶ pa = 100
- pa+1 points to a[1]

$$>$$
pa + 1 = 104

pa + 2 points to a[2]

$$\triangleright$$
pa + 2 = 108









Arrays & Pointers: Similarity

```
int arr[20], *pi, j;
pi = &arr[0]; //pi refers to array
pi = pi + 2; //pi refers to element 2
pi--; //pi refers to element 1
j = *(pi+2); //value of element 3
pi = arr + 2; //pi refers to element 2
/* arr is used as a pointer */
j = pi[8]; //value of element 10
/* pi is used as array */
```





Arrays & Pointers: Difference

- > We can change pointers
 - > Assign new value, arithmetic and ...
- We cannot change the array variable

```
int arr[20], arr2[20], *pi;
pi = arr;
pi++;
arr2 = pi;     //Compile error
arr2 = arr;     //Compile error
arr++;     //Compile error
```





Arrays in Functions (version 2)

```
int func1(int num[90]){
int func2(int num[], int size){
int func3(int *num, int size) {
```

func1 knows size from [90], func2 and func3 know size from int size





```
void array copy wrong1(int a[], int b[]){
   a = b; //Compile error
}
void array copy wrong2(int *a, int *b){
   a = b; //logical error
}
void array copy1(int dst[], int src[], int size){
   for(int i = 0; i < size; i++)
       dst[i] = src[i];
}
void array copy2(int *dst, int *src, int size) {
   for(int i = 0; i < size; i++)
       dst[i] = src[i];
void array copy3(int *dst, int *src, int size) {
   for (int i = 0; i < size; i++)
       *(dst + i) = *(src + i);
}
void array copy4(int *dst, int *src, int size){
       for(int i = 0; i < size; i++, src++, dst++)
           *dst = *src;
```

تابعی که یک آرایه را در آرایه دیگر کپی کند.

```
int t1[10]={0}, t2[10]={0}, t3[10]={0},
t4[10]={0}, x[]={1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10};
```

```
array copy1(t1, x, 10);
\rightarrow t1={1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10}
array copy2(t2, x + 2, 8);
\rightarrow t2={3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 0 0}
array copy3(&(t3[5]), x, 5);
\rightarrow t3={0 0 0 0 0 1 2 3 4 5}
array copy4(t4 + 6, &x[8], 2);
\rightarrow t4={0 0 0 0 0 0 9 10 0 0}
```





```
#include <stdio.h>
int search(int *arr, int size, int num) {
  int i;
  for(i = 0; i < size; i++)
                                                برنامهای که تفاضل دو
مجموعه را حساب کند
      if(arr[i] == num)
          return 1:
  return 0;
int sub set(int *arr1, int size arr1, int *arr2, int size arr2,
  int *res) {
  int i;
  int result index = 0;
  for (i = 0; i < size arr1; i++)
      if(search(arr2, size arr2, arr1[i]) == 0){
          res[result index] = arr1[i];
          result index++;
  return result index;
```

```
void print arr(int *arr, int size) {
  for(int i = 0; i < size; i++)
     printf("%d ", arr[i]);
  printf("\n");
int main(void) {
  int a1[] = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\};
  int a2[] = \{4, 8, 6, 11\};
  int res[100];
  int result size;
  result size = sub set(a1, sizeof(a1) / sizeof(int), a2,
  sizeof(a2) / sizeof(int), res);
  if(result size > 0)
     print arr(res, result size);
  else
     printf("a1 - a2 = {} n");
  return 0;
```

Array of pointers

- Pointer is a type in C
 - We can define pointer variable
 - We can define array of pointer

```
int i = 10, j = 20, k = 30;
int *arr_of_pointers[10];

arr_of_pointers[0] = &i;
arr_of_pointers[1] = &j;
arr_of_pointers[2] = &k;
*arr_of_pointers[1] = *arr_of_pointers[2];

i = 10, j = 30, k = 30
```





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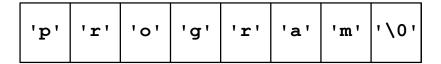
Strings & Pointers

Since strings are array

```
char str1[8] = "program";
char str2[] = "program";
char str3[] = {'p', 'r', 'o', 'g', 'r', 'a', 'm', '\0'};
```

Because arrays are similar to pointers

```
char *str4 = "program";
```







Strings in C (cont'd)

- str1,str2 and str3 are array
- >str4 is a pointer
- We can not assign a new value to str1, str2, str3
 - Array is a fix location in memory
 - We can change the elements of array
- We can assign a new value for str4
 - Pointer is not fix location, pointer contains address of memory
 - Content of str4 is constant, you can not change elements





char Array vs. char *: Example

```
char str1[8] = "program";
    //this is array initialization
char *str4 = "program";
    //this is a constant string
str1[6] = 'z';
str4 = "new string";
str1 = "new array"; //Compile Error
                      //Runtime Error
str4[1] = 'z';
*(str4 + 3) = 'a'; //Runtime Error
```



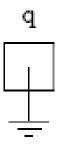


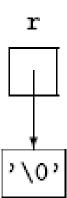
Empty vs. Null

- ➤ Empty string ""
 - ➤ Is not null pointer
 - ➤ Is not uninitialized pointer

```
char *p;
char *q = NULL;
char *r = "";
```











More String Functions

- char * strchr(const char *s, char c)
 - > Return the pointer to the first occurrence of c in s or NULL

```
char *s="ABZDEZFZ";
char *pc = strchr(s, 'Z');
printf("First index of Z = %d", (pc - s));
First index of Z = 2
```

- char * strstr(const char *s1, cost char *s2)
 - > Return pointer to the first occurrence of s2 in s1 or NULL

```
char *s="ABCDxyEFxyGH";
char *pc = strstr(s, "xy");
printf("First index of xy = %d", (pc - s));
First index of xy = 4
```





```
#include <stdio.h>
                                           n تا ا,double برنامهای که دو عدد
#include <string.h>
                                            رقم بعد از اعشار باهم مقایسه کند.
int check equal (double d1, double d2, int n) {
  int dot index1, dot index2;
  int search size;
  char s1[50], s2[50];
  sprintf(s1, "%0.*lf", n, d1);
  sprintf(s2, "%0.*lf", n, d2);
  dot index1 = strchr(s1, '.') - s1;
  dot index2 = strchr(s2, '.') - s2;
  if(dot index1 != dot index2)
      return 0;
  search size = dot index1 + n + 1;
  if(strncmp(s1, s2, search size) == 0)
      return 1;
  else
      return 0;
```

```
int main(void) {
  int n;
  double d1, d2;
  printf("Enter numbers d1 and d2: ");
  scanf("%lf %lf", &d1, &d2);
  printf("Enter n: ");
  scanf("%d", &n);
  if(check equal(d1, d2, n))
     printf("Are equal\n");
  else
     printf("Are Not equal\n");
  return 0;
```

String Tokenizer

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
int tokenizer(char *s, char *token, char result[][100]){
  int res index = 0;
  char *index;
  while((index = strstr(s, token)) != NULL){
      int len = index - s;
      if(len > 0){
          strncpy(result[res index], s, len);
          result[res index][len] = '\0';
          res index++;
      s = index + strlen(token);
   }
  if(strlen(s) > 0){
      strcpy(result[res index], s); res index++;
   }
  return res index;
```





```
int main(void) {
  char *s =
  "a123bb123ccc123dddd123eeeee123fffffffffff123";
  char *token = "123";
  char res[10][100];
  int num = tokenizer(s, token, res);
  int i;
  for (i = 0; i < num; i++)
     printf("Token %d = %s\n", i, res[i]);
  return 0;
```





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Pointer to Pointer

- Pointer is a variable
 - Has a value: address of other value
 - Has an address
- Pointer to pointer

Saving the address of a pointer in another pointer

```
int i, j, *pi, *pj;
int **ppi;
pi = &i;
ppi = π
j = **ppi; pj = *ppi;
```





Pointer to Pointer: Example

```
int i = 10, j = 20, k = 30;
int *pi, *pj, **ppi;
                               We will see the
pi = &i;
                               applications later
pj = &j;
ppi = π
printf("%d\n", *pi);
                             10
printf("%d\n", **ppi);
                             10
ppi = &pj;
**ppi = 100;
printf("%d\n", j);
                             100
*ppi = &k;
printf("%d\n", *pj);
                             30
```





Pointer to functions

- Functions are stored in memory
 - > Each function has its own address
- > We can have pointer to function
 - > A pointer that store the address of a function

```
type (*<identifier>)(<type1>, <type2>, ...)
```

int (*pf)(char, float)

pf is a pointer to a function that the function return int and its inputs are char and float





Example

```
int f1(int x, char c){
  printf("This is f1: x = %d, c = %c\n", x, c); return 0;
}
int f2(int n, char m) {
  printf("This is f2: n = %d, m = %c\n", n, m); return 0;
}
int main(void) {
  int (*f)(int, char);
  f = f1; // or f = &f1;
   (*f)(10, 'a');
                                        This is f1: x = 10, c = a
  f = f2; // or f = &f2
                                        This is f2: n = 100, m = z
   (*f)(100, 'z');
  return 0;
```





Pointer to function: Example 1

- ➤ Why?
 - > To develop general functions
 - To change function operation in run-time
- > Example: atexit

```
#include <stdlib.h>
int atexit(void (*function)(void));
```

- > To do a function, when the program is terminated
 - Normal termination





```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
void good bye (void) { printf("Goooodddd Byeee :-) \n");}
int main(void) {
    int i;
    atexit(good bye);
    printf("Enter an int: ");
    scanf("%d", &i);
    if(i < 0){
        printf("No negative\n");
        return 0;
    if(i > 7){
        printf("No more than 7\n");
        return 0;
    if(i % 2 == 0)
        printf("Go to glass \n");
    else
        printf("Do the homework \n");
    return 0;
```

Pointer to function: Example 2

- ➤ Why?
 - > To develop general functions
 - To change function operation in run-time
- > Example: qsort function in <stdlib.h>

```
void qsort(void *arr, int num, int element_size,
  int (*compare)(void *, void *))
```

➤ To sort array arr with num elements of size element_size. The order between elements is specified by the "compare" function





```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int int cmp asc(void *i1, void *i2){
  int a = *((int *)i1);
  int b = *((int *)i2);
  return (a > b) ? 1 : (a == b) ? 0 : -1;
int int cmp dsc(void *i1, void *i2){
  int a = *((int *)i1);
  int b = *((int *)i2);
  return (a > b) ? -1 : (a == b) ? 0 : 1;
```

```
int main(void) {
  int i;
  int arr[] = \{1, 7, 3, 11, 9\};
  qsort(arr, 5, sizeof(int), int_cmp_asc);
  for(i = 0; i < 5; i++)
     printf("%d \n", arr[i]);
  qsort(arr, 5, sizeof(int), int cmp dsc);
  for(i = 0; i < 5; i++)
     printf("%d \n", arr[i]);
  return 0;
```

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Dynamic Memory Allocation

- Until now
 - We define variables: int i; int a[200]; int x[n]
 - Memory is allocated for the variables when the scope starts
 - Allocated memory is released when the scope finishes
- We cannot change the size of the allocated memories
 - We cannot change the size of array
- These variables are in stack
- We want to see how to allocate memory in heap





Heap

- Memory is compose of a few logical sections
 - Stack is one of the logical sections that is used for function calls
 - All automatic variables are allocated in stack
 - Stack is managed by the operating system
 - Created by function call and destroyed when function ends
- Another logical section is "Heap"
 - Heap is used for dynamic memory allocation
 - Heap is managed by programmer (at least in C)
 - Memory allocation functions & the Free function





Dynamic Memory Allocation (cont'd)

Memory allocation by calloc

```
#include <stdlib.h>
void * calloc(int num, int size);
```

- void * is generic pointer, it can be converted to every pointer type
- > Initializes allocated memory to zero
- > If memory is not available calloc returns NULL





Dynamic Memory Allocation (cont'd)

➤ Memory allocation by malloc

```
#include <stdlib.h>
void * malloc(int size);
```

- void * is generic pointer, it can be converted to every pointer type
- If memory is not available malloc returns NULL





Dynamic Memory Allocation: Example

```
int *pi;
/*allocate memory, convert it to int * */
pi = (int *) malloc(sizeof(int));
if(pi == NULL) {
 printf("cannot allocate\n");
  return -1;
double *pd;
pd = (double *) calloc(1,sizeof(double));
```





Free

In static memory allocation, memory is freed when block/scope is finished

In dynamic memory allocation, we must free the allocated memory

```
int *pi;
pi = (int *) malloc(sizeof(int));
if(pi != NULL)
  free(pi);
```





```
#include <stdio.h>
                                                 برنامهای که n را می گیرد،
آرایه با اندازه n را تولید و
#include <stdlib.h>
int main(void) {
                                                  بعد حافظه را آزاد می کند
  int i, n;
  int *arr;
  printf("Enter n: ");
  scanf("%d", &n);
  arr = (int *)calloc(n, sizeof(int));
  if(arr == NULL) {
      printf("cannot allocate memory\n");
      exit(-1);
  for(i = 0; i < n; i++) /* do you work here */
          arr[i] = i;
  for(i = 0; i < n; i++)
         printf("%d\n", arr[i]);
  free (arr);
  return 0;
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
                                          برنامهای که n و m را می گیرد،
#include <stdlib.h>
                                            ماتریس nxm را تولید و بعد
int main(void) {
                                                  حافظه را آزاد می کند
  int i, j, n, m;
  int **arr;
  printf("Enter n, m: ");
  scanf("%d%d", &n, &m);
  arr = (int **)malloc(n * sizeof(int *));
  for(i = 0; i < n; i++)
      arr[i] = (int *)malloc(m * sizeof(int));
  for(i = 0; i < n; i++)
      for(j = 0; j < m; j++)
         arr[i][j] = i * j;
  for (i = 0; i < n; i++)
      free(arr[i]);
  free (arr);
  return 0;
```

Reallocation

- ➤ If we need to change the size of allocated memory
 - Expand or Shrink it

```
void * realloc(void *p, int
newsize);
```

- Allocate newsize bytes for pointer p
- Previous data of p does not change





```
int *p;
p = (int *)calloc(2, sizeof(int));
printf("%d\n", *p);
*p = 500;
printf("%d\n", *(p+1));
*(p + 1) = 100;
p = (int *)realloc(p, sizeof(int) * 4);
printf("%d\n", *p);
                                       500
p++;
                                       100
printf("%d\n", *p);
p++;
                                       ???
printf("%d\n", *p);
p++;
                                       ???
printf("%d\n", *p);
```

برنامهای بنویسید که منوی زیر را به کاربر نشان دهد .

1: New Data

2: Show Data

3: Exit

اگر کاربر 1 وارد کند، برنامه عدد n را می گیرد، آرایهای به طول n ایجاد می کند. بعد n عدد را از کاربر می گیرد و آنها را در آرایه نگه می دارد

اگر کاربر 2 وارد کند اطلاعات وارد شده نشان داده میشود

اگر کار بر 3 وارد کند از برنامه خارج میشویم

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
void show(){
  printf("1: New Data\n");
  printf("2: Show Data\n");
  printf("3: Exit\n");
int main(void) {
  int n;
  int *arr = NULL;
  while(1){
      int code;
      show();
      scanf("%d", &code);
```

```
if(code == 1){
      printf("Enter size: ");
      scanf("%d", &n);
      printf("Enter data: \n");
      if(arr == NULL)
             arr = (int *)malloc(n * sizeof(int));
      else
             arr = (int *)realloc(arr, n * sizeof(int));
      int i;
      for(i = 0; i < n; i++)
             scanf("%d", &(arr[i]));
```

```
else if(code == 2){
       printf("Your data: ");
       int i;
       for (i = 0; i < n; i++)
              printf("%d ", arr[i]);
       printf("\n");
else if(code == 3){
       if(arr != NULL)
              free(arr);
       exit(0);
else{
       printf("Unknown input ...\n");
```

What We Will Learn

- > Introduction
- ➤ Pointers and Functions
- ➤ Pointers and Arrays
- ➤ Pointer and Strings
- > Pointer to Pointer & Pointer to Function
- > Dynamic memory allocation





Common Bugs

- Be very very careful about pointers
 - Invalid type of value assigned to pointer

```
int i, *pi = &i;
*pi = 29.090; // No warning!!!
> Invalid usage of pointers
int *pi, i;
```

```
pi = i;
i = pi;
```

We cannot change constant string

```
> char *s = "abc";
> *(s + 1) = 'z'; //Run Time Error
```





Reference

Reading Assignment: Chapter 7 of "C How to Program"



