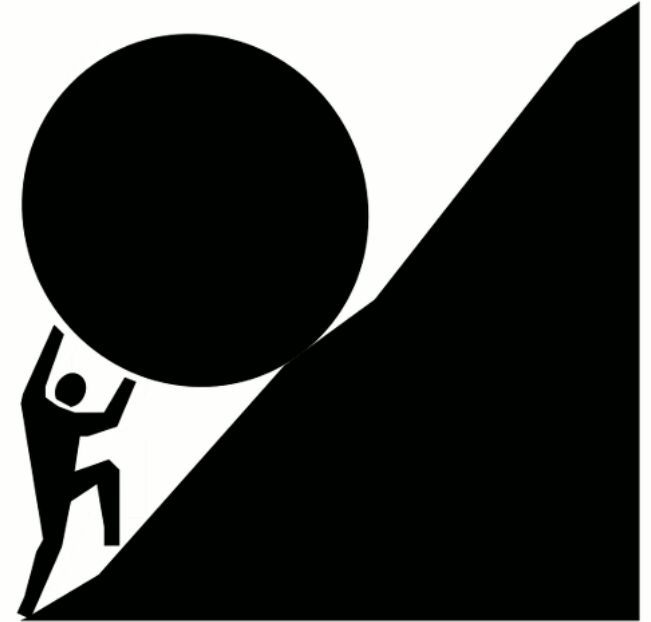


Admin

- Halfway point on our journey!
- Share/celebrate/commiserate



Today: Steps toward C mastery

C Language, advanced edition, loose ends

Hallmarks of good software

Tuning your development process:

Pro-tips and best practices



Typecasts

C type system

Each variable/expression has type

Warns/disallows operations that don't respect type

But... allows typecast to suppress/subvert

What does typecast actually do? Why is it allowed? Is it essential?

Is is sensible/necessary to:

- Cast to different bitwidth within same type family?
- Cast to add/remove qualifier (const, volatile)?
- Cast a pointer to different type of pointee?

Powerful but no safety!

Rule: work within type system, use only when you absolutely must

Pointers, arrays, structures

Will we ever know enough???

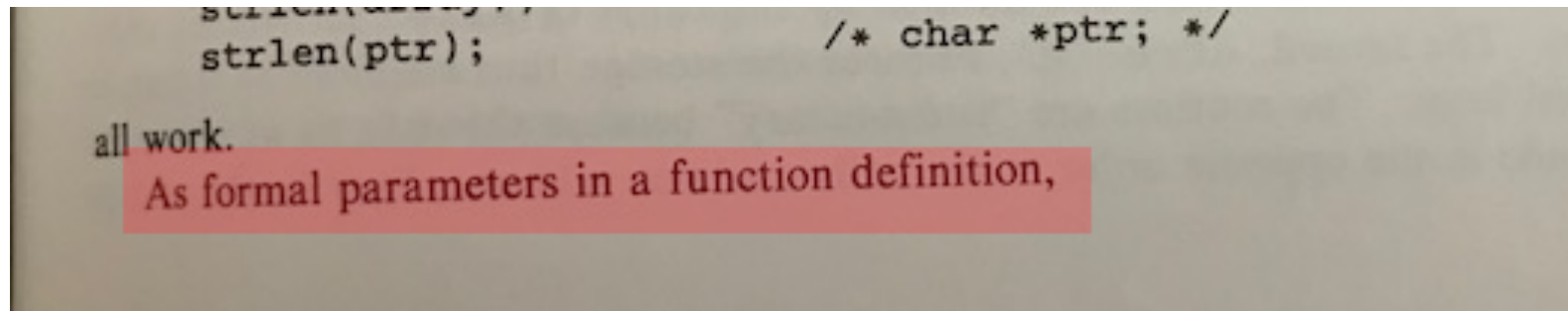
Pointers, address arithmetic exposed in C,
but not the only/best way to access memory

Array/structures provide abstraction
Improvement over raw address

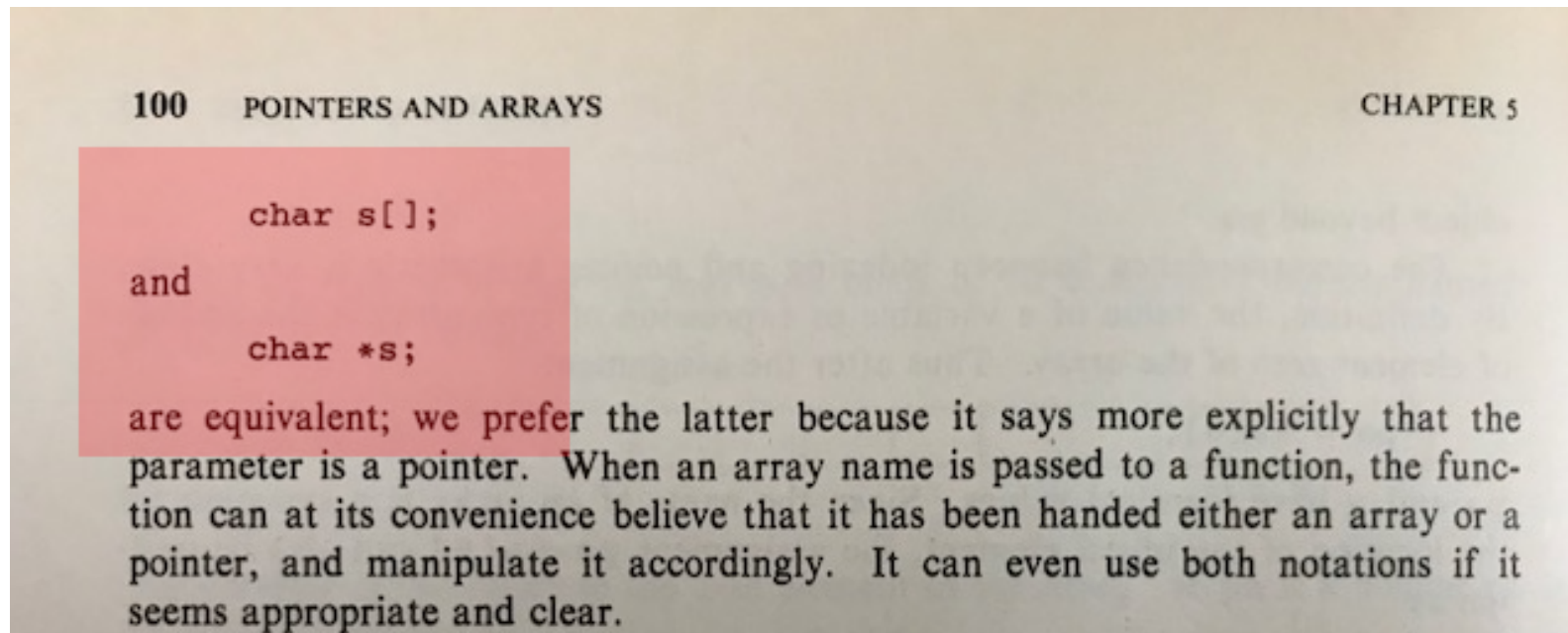
Access to related data by index/offset/name
(underlying mechanism is still base address + delta)

A most unfortunate page break

K&R bottom of page 99



K&R top of page 100



Pointers and arrays, the same thing?

Arrays and pointers, arrays of pointers, arrays of arrays,

```
void strings(void)
{
    char *a;    // where/what space is allocated for each? How initialized?
    char b[10];
    char *c = "happy";
    char d[] = "dopey";
    char e[] = {'g','r','u','m','p','y', '\0'};
    char *f = NULL;
    char *all[] = {a, b, c};
    char matrix[2][10];

    // write 'z', which of these memory locations are valid?
    a[0] = 'z';
    b[0] = 'z';
    c[0] = 'z';
    d[0] = 'z';
    e[0] = 'z';
    f[0] = 'z';
    all[1][1] = 'z';
    matrix[1][1] = 'z';
}
```

Structs

Convenient and readable way to allocate memory and name offsets from a pointer

```
struct item {  
    char name[10];  
    int sku;  
    int price;  
};
```

How big is this structure?

How is it laid out in memory (on an ARM)?

Data alignment

"Natural" or "self" alignment

- 4-byte store/load at address that is multiple of 4
- 8-byte at multiple of 8

System optimized for natural alignment

Unaligned access may be allowed (with performance penalty) or disallowed (exception). Worst option would allow, but behave wrong. Which case do we get on Pi?

Our stack and heap align to 8 (sizeof largest primitive) to avoid alignment woes

Function pointers

One of the more mind-bending features of C

Can treat functions as data, execute/refer to code by address

```
void censor(char *s, bool (*pred)(char))
{
    for (int i = 0; s[i]; i++) {
        if (pred(s[i]))
            s[i] = '-';
    }
}
```

Useful tool
<https://cdecl.org>

What you need to write good software

- Productive development process
- Effective testing
- Proficient debugging strategy
- Priority on good design/readability/maintainability

What is different about **systems software**?

Terse and unforgiving, details matter

All depend on it, bugs have consequences

Not enough to know what code does, but also how/why

Apparently faulty app in Iowa voting is a software developer's worst nightmare

Experts suspect testing of new technology was rushed before Monday's caucuses

By **Andy Rosen** Globe Staff,
Updated February 4, 2020, 2:38 p.m.

How was it built?

The app was reportedly **built in the last two months** on a budget of about \$60,000, according to Iowa FEC data. Experts say this is a relatively low budget and recklessly fast timeline for an app set to be used in a high-stakes scenario like an election.

- The project was started far too late. Shadow was contracted to develop the app about two months before the Iowa caucus date. Apparently the company misjudged the difficulty of developing the app, and thought it was possible to develop a complex, mission-critical app for two different mobile platforms in a few weeks.
- They failed to perform any meaningful testing. There's a misplaced belief among some Agile developers that testing isn't necessary. "That's not the idea of Agile," McFall said.

Opinion: It was incompetence, not politics, that led to the Iowa caucus app misfiring. Above all, it was poor programming. Open-source software techniques could have prevented this blunder.



```
void serial_init() {
    unsigned int ra;

    // Configure the UART
    PUT32(AUX_ENABLES, 1);
    PUT32(AUX_MU_IER_REG, 0); // Clear FIFO
    PUT32(AUX_MU_CNTL_REG, 0); // Default RTS/CTS
    PUT32(AUX_MU_LCR_REG, 3); // Put in 8 bit mode
    PUT32(AUX_MU_MCR_REG, 0); // Default RTS/CTS auto flow control
    PUT32(AUX_MU_IER_REG, 0); // Clear FIFO
    PUT32(AUX_MU_IIR_REG, 0xC6); // Baudrate
    PUT32(AUX_MU_BAUD_REG, 270); // Baudrate

    // Configure the GPIO lines
    ra = GET32(GPFSEL1);
    ra &= ~(7 << 12); //gpio14
    ra |= 2 << 12;     //alt5
    ra &= ~(7 << 15); //gpio15
    ra |= 2 << 15;     //alt5
    PUT32(GPFSEL1,ra);
    PUT32(GPPUD,0);
    for (ra = 0; ra < 150; ra++) dummy(ra);
    PUT32(GPPUDCLK0, (1 << 14) | (1 << 15));
    for (ra = 0; ra < 150; ra++) dummy(ra);
    PUT32(GPPUDCLK0, 0);

    PUT32(AUX_MU_CNTL_REG, 3);
}
```

Sad Pat



```
void uart_init(void)
{
    gpio_set_function(GPIO_TX, GPIO_FUNC_ALT5);
    gpio_set_function(GPIO_RX, GPIO_FUNC_ALT5);

    int *aux = (int*)AUX_ENABLES;
    *aux |= AUX_ENABLE;

    uart->ier = 0;
    uart->cntl = 0;
    uart->lcr = MINI_UART_LCR_8BIT;
    uart->mcr = 0;
    uart->iir = MINI_UART_IIR_RX_FIFO_CLEAR |
                MINI_UART_IIR_RX_FIFO_ENABLE |
                MINI_UART_IIR_TX_FIFO_CLEAR |
                MINI_UART_IIR_TX_FIFO_ENABLE;

    // baud rate ((250,000,000/115200)/8)-1 = 270
    uart->baud = 270;
    uart->cntl = MINI_UART_CNTL_TX_ENABLE |
                MINI_UART_CNTL_RX_ENABLE;
}
```

Happy Pat!



A tale of two bootloaders

[https://github.com/dwelch67/raspberrypi/blob/master/bootloader03/
bootloader03.c](https://github.com/dwelch67/raspberrypi/blob/master/bootloader03/bootloader03.c)

[https://github.com/cs107e/cs107e.github.io/blob/master/_labs/lab4/
code/bootloader/bootloader.c](https://github.com/cs107e/cs107e.github.io/blob/master/_labs/lab4/code/bootloader/bootloader.c)

Thank you, David Welch, we owe you!

If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the
shoulders of giants.

— Isaac Newton

If I have not seen as far as others, it is because there were
giants standing on my shoulders.

— Hal Abelson

The value of code reading

Consider:

Is it clear what the code intends to do?

Are you confident of the author's understanding?

Would you want to maintain this code?

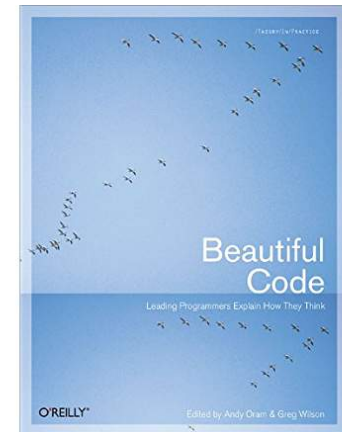
Open source era is fantastic!

<https://github.com/dwelch67/raspberrypi>

<https://musl.libc.org>

<https://git.busybox.net/busybox/>

<https://sourceware.org/git/?p=glibc.git>



Section lead CS106: will read a lot of code and learn much!

What makes for good style?

- Adopts the conventions of the existing code base
- Common, idiomatic choices where possible
- Logical decomposition, easy to follow control flow
- Re-factored for code unification/re-use
- Easy to understand and **maintain**

Consider: If someone else had to fix a bug in my code, what could I do to make their job easier?

“There are two ways of constructing a software design. One way is to make it so simple that there are obviously no deficiencies. And the other way is to make it so complicated that there are no obvious deficiencies.”-
C.A.R. Hoare

Development process

- Write the high-quality version first (and only!)
- Decompose problems, not programs
- Implement from bottom up, each step should be testable
- Unifying common code means less code to write, test, debug, and maintain!
- Don't depend on comments to make up for lack of readability in the code itself
- One-step build

Tests are your friend!

Think of the tests as a specification of what your code should do. Assertions will clarify your understanding how it should work.

Implement the simplest possible thing first, then test it. A simple thing is more much likely to work than a complex thing. Go forward in epsilon-steps.

Never delete a test. Keep re-running all of them at each step. You may break something that used to work and you want to hear about it.

Debugging for the win

Rule #1: be systematic

Focus on what is testable/observable.

Hunches can be good, but if fact and hunch collide, fact wins.

Everything is happening for a reason, even if it doesn't seem so at first.

Engineering best practices

Test, test, test, and test some more

Start from a known working state, take small steps

Make things visible (printf, logic analyzer, gdb)

Methodical, systematic. Form hypotheses and perform experiments to confirm.

Fast prototyping, embrace automation, one-click build, source control

Don't let bugs get you down, natural part of the work, relish the challenge -- you will learn something new!

Wellness important! ergonomics, healthy sleep/fuel, maintain perspective

Share your stories and pro-tips

Design, write, test, debug, ...

*Which parts of your approach/process
are working well for you?*

Which parts are not?

