

C Pointer Arithmetic and Corresponding Assembly Code

Assembly Code for Arrays and Pointers

- To analyze assembly code generated for arrays and pointers, we use the following notation:
- Assume the following declarations:
 - `int i;` // i: integer variable i
 - `int ia[3][4][5];` // ia: int array [3][4][5]
 - `int (*ip)[4][5] = ia;` // ip : pointer-to-int variable ip
- 1. Address in bss/data
 - `_ip` : address of ip (variable in bss/data)
 - `_i` : address of i (variable in bss/data)
 - `_ia` : starting address of array ia (constant in bss/data)
- 2. Address in a stack frame
 - 1. `_ip$` : offset of `_ip` (relative to fp)
 - `_ip$[fp]` is the address of ip
 - 2. `_i$` : offset of `_i`
 - 3. `_ia$` : offset of `_ia`



Assembly Code for Arrays and Pointers

3. Contents

- @<_ip> : contents of address _ip in bss/data
- @<_i\$[fp]> : contents of address _i\$[fp] (when i is in a stack frame)
- @<_ia\$[fp]> : ia[0][0][0] // contents of [0][0][0] (the 1st element) of array ia in a stack frame



Example

- Again, consider the following external variable declarations:

```
int ia[3][4][5];
```

```
int (*ip)[4][5] = ia;
```

- Then, expression `ip[2][3][4]` is analyzed as follows:

1. `ip`

— T: ptr to [4][5] of int

— V: `@<_ip>`

2. `ip + 2`

— T: ptr to [4][5] of int

— V: `@<_ip> + 2 * sizeof ([4][5] of int) = @<_ip> + 2 * 4 * 5 * 4 = @<_ip> + 160`

3. `*(ip + 2)`

— T: [4][5] of int = ptr to [5] of int

— V: `@<_ip> + 160`



Example (cont)

4. $*(ip + 2) + 3$
 - T: ptr to [5] of int
 - V: $@<_ip> + 160 + 3 * \text{sizeof}([5] \text{ of int}) = @<_ip> + 160 + 60 = @<_ip> + 220$
5. $*(*(ip + 2) + 3)$
 - T: [5] of int = ptr to int
 - V: $@<_ip> + 220$
6. $*(*(ip + 2) + 3) + 4$
 - T: ptr to int
 - V: $@<_ip> + 220 + 4 * \text{sizeof}(\text{int}) = @<_ip> + 236$
7. $*(***(ip + 2) + 3) + 4$
 - T: int
 - V: $@<@<_ip> + 236>$



Example (cont)

; 10 : x = ip[2][3][4];

0000e	b8 50 00 00 00	mov	eax, 80	; 00000050H
00013	d1 e0	shl	eax, 1	
00015	03 05 00 00 00			
	00	add	eax, DWORD PTR _ip	
0001b	b9 14 00 00 00	mov	ecx, 20	; 00000014H
00020	6b d1 03	imul	edx, ecx, 3	
00023	03 c2	add	eax, edx	
00025	b9 04 00 00 00	mov	ecx, 4	
0002a	c1 e1 02	shl	ecx, 2	
0002d	8b 14 08	mov	edx, DWORD PTR [eax+ecx]	
00030	89 55 fc	mov	DWORD PTR _x\$[ebp], edx	

- The above code does:

$$@< @<_ip> + 80 * 2 + 20 * 3 + 4 * 4 > = @< @<_ip> + 236 >$$
$$= @< @<_ip> + \text{sizeof}([4][5] \text{ of int}) * 2 + \text{sizeof}([5] \text{ of int}) * 3 + \text{sizeof}(\text{int}) * 4 >$$

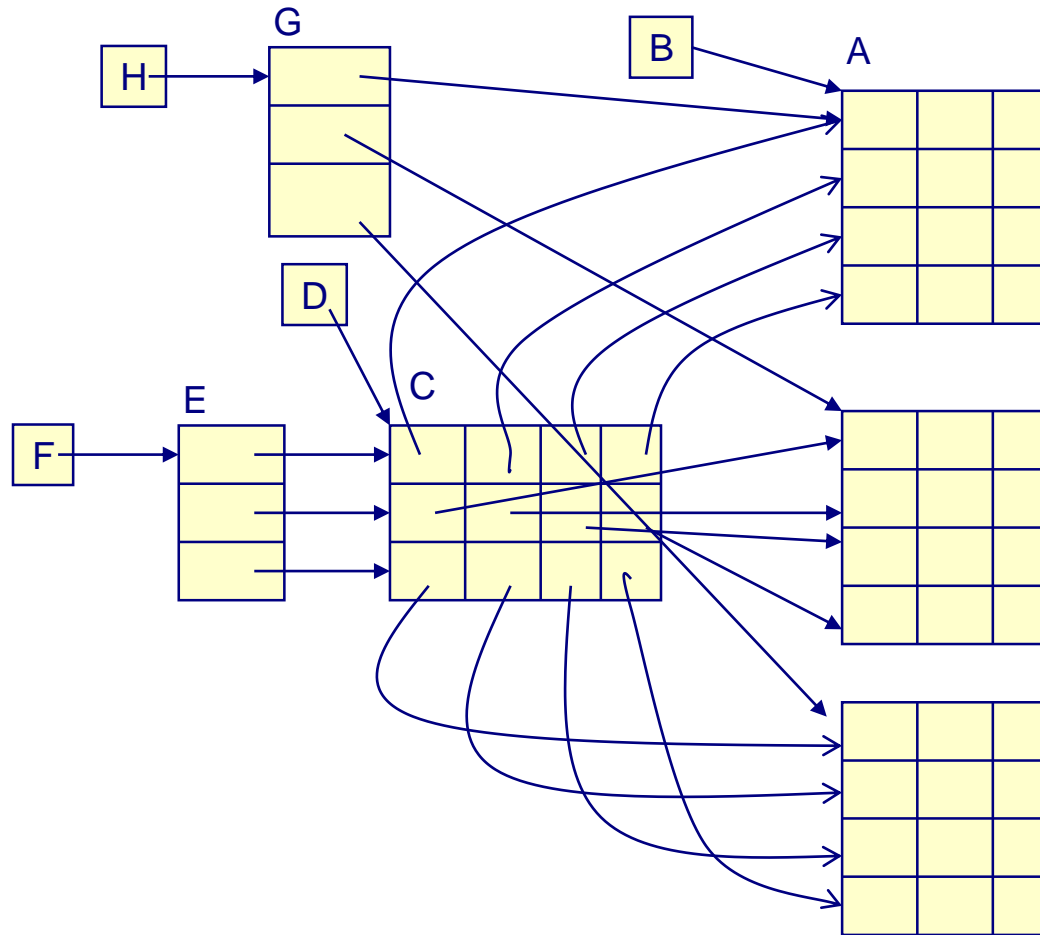
- With optimization (/O2), the code generated is:

```
00000 a1 ec 00 00 00  mov     eax, DWORD PTR _ia+236
```



More Examples

- Consider Pointer Exercise 1



More Examples (cont)

- $c[i][j][k]$ is analyzed as follows:

- c : $[3][4]$ of ptr to int, and c is in “data area” (the address is $_c$)
- $c[i][j][k] = *((*(c + i) + j) + k)$, where i , j , and k are local variables

1. c :
 - T: $[3][4]$ of ptr to int = ptr to $[4]$ of ptr to int
 - V: $_c$
2. $c + i$
 - T: ptr to $[4]$ of ptr to int
 - V: $_c + i * \text{sizeof}([4] \text{ of ptr to int}) = _c + 16 * @<_i\$\text{[fp]}>$
3. $*(c + i)$
 - T: $[4]$ of ptr to int = ptr to ptr to int
 - V: $_c + 16 * @<_i\$\text{[fp]}>$
4. $*(c+i)+j$
 - T: ptr to ptr to int
 - V: $_c + 16 * @<_i\$\text{[fp]}> + j * \text{sizeof}(\text{ptr to int}) = _c + 16 * @<_i\$\text{[fp]}> + 4 * @<_j\$\text{[fp]}>$



More Examples (cont)

5. $*(c + i) + j$

— T: ptr to int

— V: $@<_c + 16* @<_i\text{\$}[fp]> + 4* @<_j\text{\$}[fp]>>$

6. $*(c + i) + j + k$

— T: ptr to int

— V: $@<_c + 16* @<_i\text{\$}[fp]> + 4* @<_j\text{\$}[fp]>> + k * \text{sizeof}(\text{int}) =$
 $@<_c + 16* @<_i\text{\$}[fp]> + 4* @<_j\text{\$}[fp]>> + 4* @<_k\text{\$}[fp]>$

7. $*(c + i) + j + k$

— T: int

— V: $@< @<_c + 16* @<_i\text{\$}[fp]> + 4* @<_j\text{\$}[fp]>> + 4* @<_k\text{\$}[fp]>>$



More Examples (cont)

- $@< @< _c + 16 * @< _i\$[fp]> + 4 * @< _j\$[fp]> > + 4 * @< _k\$[fp]> >$

- The code generated for this expression is:

; 40 : x = c[i][j][k];

```
00076    8b 45 e4    mov     eax, DWORD PTR _i$[ebp]
           ; eax = @<_i$[fp]>
00079    c1 e0 04    shl     eax, 4
           ; eax = 16* @<_i$[fp]>
0007c    8b 4d ec    mov     ecx, DWORD PTR _j$[ebp]
           ; ecx = @<_j$[fp]>
0007f    8b 94 88 00 00
           00 00    mov     edx, DWORD PTR _c[eax+ecx*4]
           ; edx = @< _c+16*<@<_i$[fp]> + 4* @<_j$[fp]> >
00086    8b 45 e8    mov     eax, DWORD PTR _k$[ebp]
           ; eax = @<_k$[fp]>
00089    8b 0c 82    mov     ecx, DWORD PTR [edx+eax*4]
           ; ecx = @< @< _c+16*<@<_i$[fp]> + 4* @<_j$[fp]> > + 4* @<_k$[fp]> >
0008c    89 4d e0    mov     DWORD PTR _x$[ebp], ecx
```



More Examples (cont)

- Next, consider $e[i][j][k]$:
 - e : [3] of ptr to ptr to int
 - e , i , j , and k are all local variables
- 1. e
 - T : [3] of ptr to ptr to int = ptr to ptr to ptr to int
 - V : $_e\$[fp]$
- 2. $e + i$
 - T : ptr to ptr to ptr to int
 - V : $_e\$[fp] + i * \text{sizeof}(\text{ptr to ptr to int}) = _e\$[fp] + 4 * @\<_i\$[fp]>$
- 3. $*(e + i)$
 - T : ptr to ptr to int
 - V : $@\<_e\$[fp] + 4 * @\<_i\$[fp]>>$
- 4. $*(e + i) + j$
 - T : ptr to ptr to int
 - V : $@\<_e\$[fp] + 4 * @\<_i\$[fp]>> + j * \text{sizeof}(\text{ptr to int}) = @\<_e\$[fp] + 4 * @\<_i\$[fp]>> + 4 * @\<_j\$[fp]>$



More Examples (cont)

5. $*(e + i) + j$

— T: ptr to int

— V: $@< @<_e\$[fp] + 4* @<_i\$[fp]>> + 4* @<_j\$[fp]>>$

6. $*(e + i) + j + k$

— T: ptr to int

— V: $@< @<_e\$[fp] + 4* @<_i\$[fp]>> + 4* @<_j\$[fp]>> + k * \text{sizeof(int)}$
 $= @< @<_e\$[fp] + 4* @<_i\$[fp]>> + 4* @<_j\$[fp]>> + 4* @<_k\$[fp]>$

7. $*(e + i) + j + k$

— T: int

— V: $@< @< @<_e\$[fp] + 4* @<_i\$[fp]>> + 4* @<_j\$[fp]>> + 4* @<_k\$[fp]>>$



More Examples (cont)

- $@< @< @< _e\$[fp] + 4* @< _i\$[fp] > > + 4* @< _j\$[fp] > > + 4* @< _k\$[fp] > >$

; 42 : x = e[i][j][k];

```
000a7  8b 4d e4  mov     ecx, DWORD PTR _i$[ebp]
           ; ecx = @<_i$[fp]>
000aa  8b 54 8d f0 mov     edx, DWORD PTR _e$[ebp+ecx*4]
           ; edx = @<_e$[fp] + 4* @<_i$[fp]>>
000ae  8b 45 ec  mov     eax, DWORD PTR _j$[ebp]
           ; eax = @<_j$[fp]>
000b1  8b 0c 82  mov     ecx, DWORD PTR [edx+eax*4]
           ; ecx = @< @<_e$[fp]+4* @<i$[fp]>>+4* @<_j$[fp]>>
000b4  8b 55 e8  mov     edx, DWORD PTR _k$[ebp]
           ; edx = @<_k$[fp]>
000b7  8b 04 91  mov     eax, DWORD PTR [ecx+edx*4]
           ; eax = @< @< @<_e$[fp]+4* @<i$[fp]>>+4* @<_j$[fp]>> + 4* @<_k$[fp]>>
000ba  89 45 e0  mov     DWORD PTR _x$[ebp], eax
           ;
```



More Examples (cont)

- Consider $g[i][j][k]$:
 - g : [3] of ptr to [3] of int
 - g is a global and i, j, k are local variables
- 1. g :
 - T : [3] of ptr to [3] of int = ptr to ptr to [3] of int
 - V : $_g$
- 2. $g + i$
 - T : ptr to ptr to [3] of int
 - V : $_g + i * \text{sizeof}(\text{ptr to [3] of int}) = _g + 4 * @<_i\$\text{[fp]}>$
- 3. $*(g + i)$
 - T : ptr to [3] of int
 - V : $@<_g + 4 * @<_i\$\text{[fp]}>>$
- 4. $*(g + i) + j$
 - T : ptr to [3] of int
 - V : $@<_g + 4 * @<_i\$\text{[fp]}>> + j * \text{sizeof}([3] \text{ of int}) = @<_g + 4 * @<_i\$\text{[fp]}>> + 12 * @<_j\$\text{[fp]}>$



More Examples (cont)

5. $*(*(g + i) + j)$

- T: [3] of int = ptr to int
- V: $@<_g + 4* @<_i\$[fp]>> + 12* @<_j\$[fp]>$

6. $*(*(g + i) + j) + k$

- T: ptr to int
- V: $@<_g + 4* @<_i\$[fp]>> + 12* @<_j\$[fp]> + k* \text{sizeof}(\text{int}) =$
 $@<_g + 4* @<_i\$[fp]>> + 12* @<_j\$[fp]> + 4* @<_k\$[fp]>$

7. $*(***(g + i) + j) + k$

- T: int
- V: $@< @<_g + 4* @<_i\$[fp]>> + 12* @<_j\$[fp]> + 4* @<_k\$[fp]>>$



More Examples (cont)

- $@<@<_g + 4* @<_i\$,fp>> + 12* @<_j\$,fp> + 4* @<_k\$,fp>>$

; 44 : x = g[i][j][k];

```
000d5    6b 55 ec 0c          imul edx, DWORD PTR _j$[ebp], 12
                                ; edx = 12* @<_j$[fp]>
000d9    8b 45 e4          mov     eax, DWORD PTR _i$[ebp]
                                ; eax = @<_i$[fp]>
000dc    03 14 85 00 00      add     edx, DWORD PTR _g[eax*4]
                                ; edx = 12* @<j$[ebp]> + @<_g + 4* @<_i$[fp]>>
000e3    8b 4d e8          mov     ecx, DWORD PTR _k$[ebp]
                                ; ecx = @<_k$[fp]>
000e6    8b 14 8a          mov     edx, DWORD PTR [edx+ecx*4]
                                ; edx = edx = @<@<_g + 4* @<_i$[fp]>> + 12* @<_j$[hp]> + 4* @<_k$[fp]> >
000e9    89 55 e0          mov     DWORD PTR _x$[ebp], edx
```

