

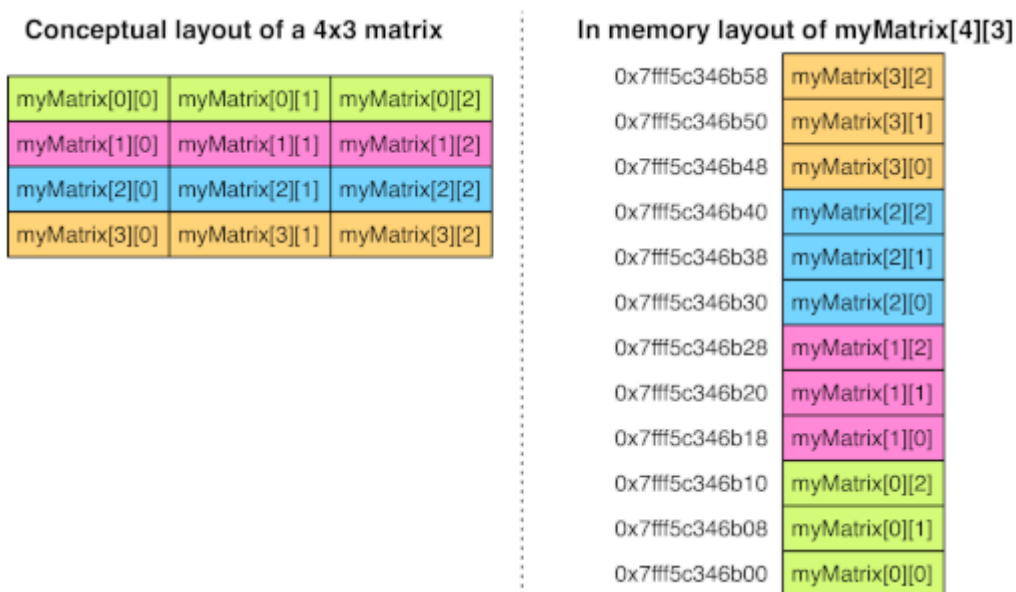
# Indexing | Coursera

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## Indexing

### Indexing

If we were to write *myMatrix[i]* (where *i* is some integer type), then we would expect that expression to evaluate to the *i*th element of *myMatrix* according to the rules that we learned perviously. For example, if we wrote *myMatrix[2]*, we would expect that to evaluate to the 2nd element of *myMatrix*, which is the three blue boxes in the figure below. This element is an array of three doubles, so we would expect the type to be **double \***, and as the first element of that array is at *0x7fff5c346b30* (in this particular example), we would expect that to be the value of the expression (as we represent arrays by a pointer to their first element). If you expect all of these things (based on what you have already learned), you would be correct.



We may wish to index the two-dimensional array twice, such as *myArray[2][1]*. When the program evaluates this expression, it will first evaluate *myArray[2]*, obtaining a pointer to the 3-element array which is the 2nd element of *myArray*. Then, it will index that array (which is an array of **doubles**), and evaluate to a **double**. Of course, *myArray[2][1]* is an lvalue, as it names a particular box, so we can use it on the left side of an assignment, *e.g.*, *myArray[2][1] = 3.14;*. However, we should note that *myArray[2]* is not an lvalue, just like *myArray* is not an lvalue. The pointer that *myArray[2]* evaluates to is not actually stored anywhere, it is just calculated by pointer arithmetic from *myArray*.