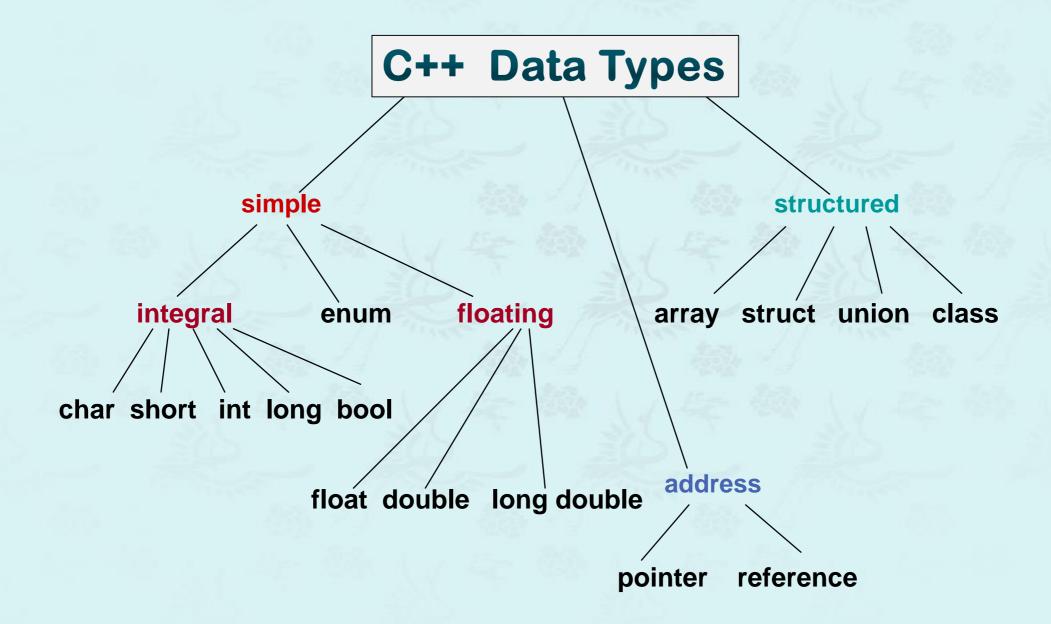
C++ For C Coders 4

Data Structures C++ for C Coders

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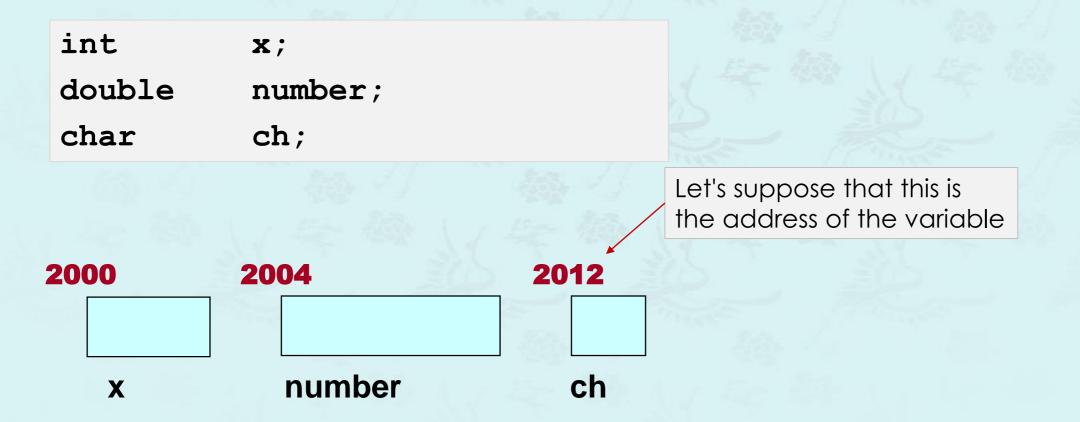
pointer address-of operator reference & dereference operators

C++ Data Types



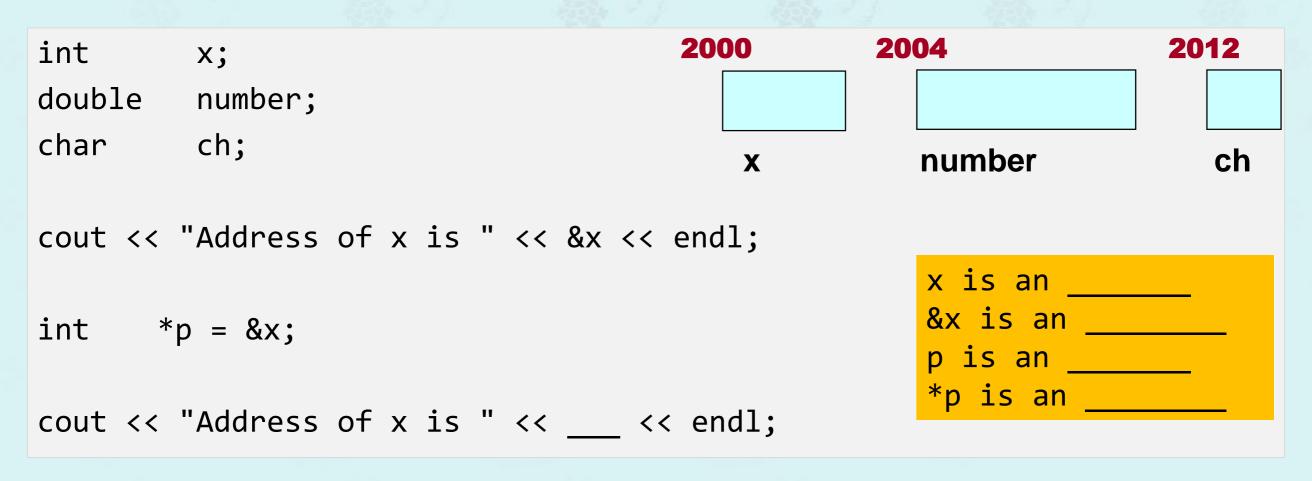
Addresses in Memory

 When a variable is declared, enough memory to hold a value of that type is allocated for it at an unused memory location.



Obtaining Memory Addresses

- The address of a non-array variable can be obtained by using the address-of operator &
- You can print the address or save it in a variable, which is called a pointer.

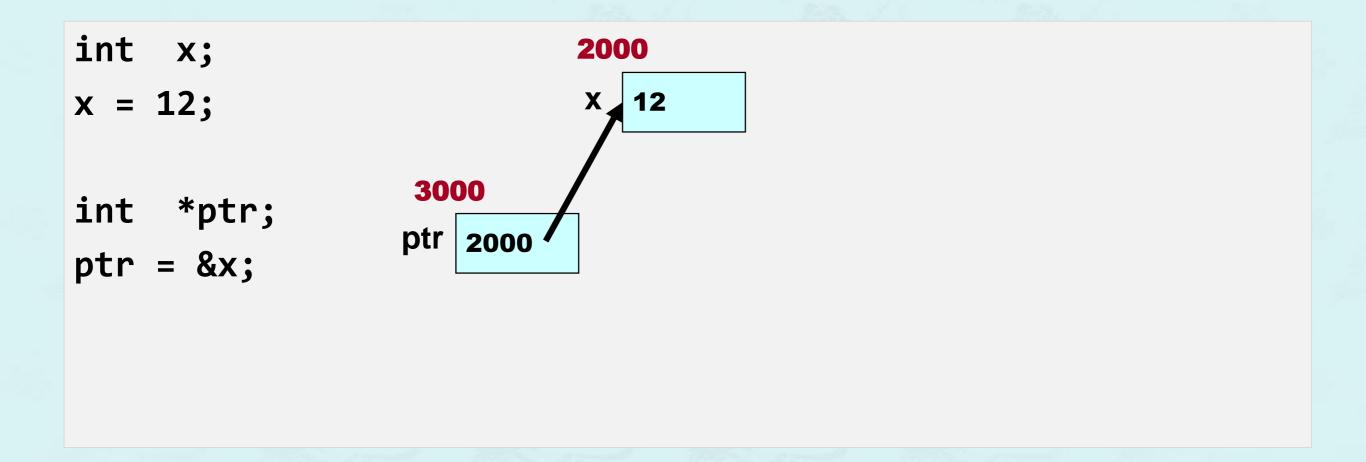


What is a pointer variable?

- A pointer variable is a variable whose value is the address of a location in memory.
- To declare a pointer variable, you must specify the type of value that the pointer will point to, for example,

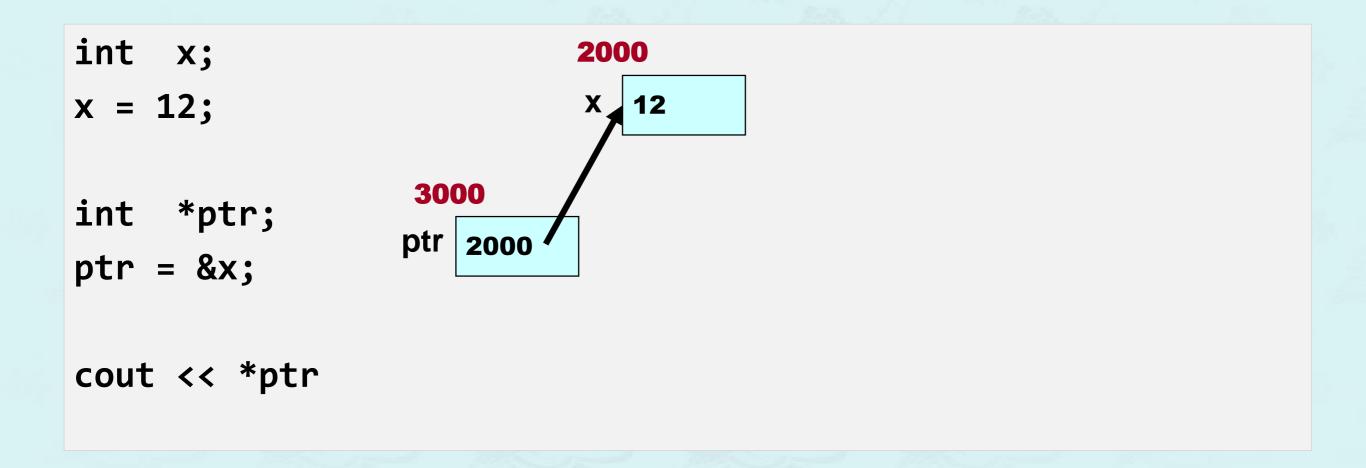
```
int *ptr; // ptr can hold the address of an int
char *q; // q can hold the address of a char
```

Using a Pointer Variable



NOTE: Because ptr holds the address of x, we say that ptr "points to" x

Using the Dereference Operator *



NOTE: The value pointed to by ptr is denoted by *ptr

Using the Dereference Operator *

```
int x;
                          2000
x = 12;
                  3000
int *ptr;
                    2000
ptr = &x;
*ptr = 5;
```

NOTE: changes the value at the address ptr points to 5

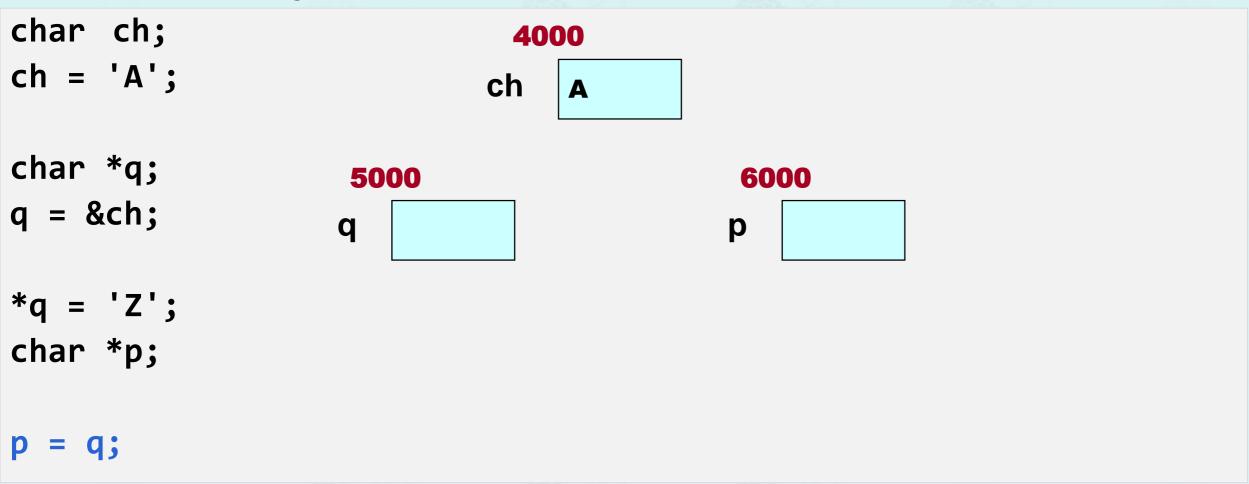
Using the Dereference Operator *

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int x;
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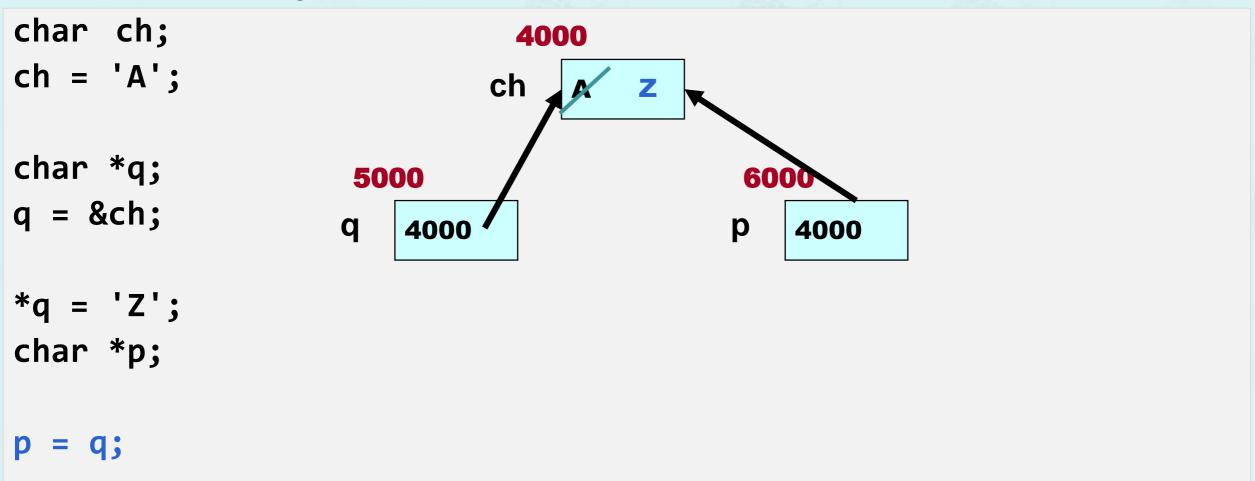
Self –Test on Pointers

Complete the diagram and fix it if necessary.



Self-Test on Pointers

Complete the diagram and fix it if necessary.

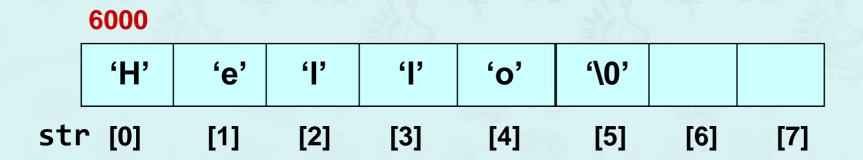


NOTE: now p and q both point to ch.

Recall that . . .

```
char str[8];
```

- str is the base address of the array.
- We say str is a pointer because its value is an address.
- It is a pointer constant because the value of str itself cannot be changed by assignment. It "points" to the memory location of a char.



⇒ char msg[] ="Hello"; char* ptr; ptr = msg; *ptr = 'M'; ptr++; *ptr = 'a';

```
⇒ char msg[] ="Hello";
  char* ptr;
  ptr = msg;
  *ptr = 'M';
                                  3000
  ptr++;
                                       'e'
                                                      '\0'
  *ptr = 'a';
```

```
char msg[] ="Hello";
⇒ char* ptr;
  ptr = msg;
  *ptr = 'M';
                                   3000
  ptr++;
                                       'e'
                                                       '\0'
  *ptr = 'a';
                               ptr
```

```
char msg[] ="Hello";
  char* ptr;
⇒ ptr = msg;
  *ptr = 'M';
                              msg
                                    3000
  ptr++;
                                    'H'
                                         'e'
                                                         '\0'
  *ptr = 'a';
                                     3000
                                ptr
```

```
char msg[] ="Hello";
  char* ptr;
  ptr = msg;
⇒ *ptr = 'M' ;
                              msg
                                    3000
  ptr++;
                                         'e'
                                                         '\0'
  *ptr = 'a';
                                     3000
                                ptr
```

```
char msg[] ="Hello";
  char* ptr;
  ptr = msg;
  *ptr = 'M';
                              msg
                                    3000

→ ptr++;

                                         'e'
                                                         '\0'
  *ptr = 'a';
                                      3001
                                ptr
```

```
char msg[] ="Hello";
char* ptr;
ptr = msg;
*ptr = 'M';
                           msg
                                 3000
ptr++;
                                      'e'
                                                      '\0'
*ptr = 'a';
                                  3001
                             ptr
```

```
char msg[] ="Hello";
char* ptr;
ptr = msg;
*ptr = 'M';
                           msg
                                3000
ptr++;
                                                     '\0'
*ptr = 'a';
                                  3001
                             ptr
```

Reference Variables in C++, but not in C

- Reference variable = alias for another variable
 - Contains the address of a variable (like a pointer)
 - No need to perform any dereferencing (unlike a pointer)
 - Must be initialized when it is declared

```
\Rightarrow
```

Why Reference Variables

- Are primarily used as function parameters
- Advantages of using references:
 - you don't have to pass the address of a variable
 - you don't have to dereference the variable inside the called function

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