

last update: 18th February 2024

Session: 2023-24

COMP281 Lecture 8

Principles of C and Memory Management

Phil Jimmieson

Last Lecture

- Pointer Basics

Previous Lectures

- Arrays, Arithmetic, Functions

Last Lecture

- Pointer Basics

Previous Lectures

- Arrays, Arithmetic, Functions

Recap

- Pointer Basics

- Variable
- Address &
- Pointer *
- Double Pointer **

```
int    x = 9;
```

```
int    *y = &x;
```

```
int    **z = &y;
```

Name

Address

Content

x

0x7ffeebee48c8

9

y

0x7ffeebee48c0

0x7ffeebee48c8

z

0x7ffeebee48b8

0x7ffeebee48c0

- Arrays
 - Declaring
 - Initialising
 - Accessing
 - 2D arrays

```
int n[10], i, j;
for(i=0; i<10; i++) {
    n[i] = i + 100;
}
for(j=0; j<10; j++) {
    printf("n[%d]=%d\n", j, n[j]);
}
```

```
for (i=0; i<4; i++) {
    for (j=0; j<3; j++) {
        arr[i][j]...;
    }
} /* 2D array */
```

- Functions
 - Declaring
 - Initialising
 - Accessing
 - Call-by-value vs call-by-reference

```
void incr(int x) {  
    x++;  
}  
  
int x = 10;  
incr(x);
```

```
void incr(int *x) {  
    (*x)++;  
}  
  
int x = 10;  
incr(&x);
```

Last Lecture

- Pointer Basics

Previous Lectures

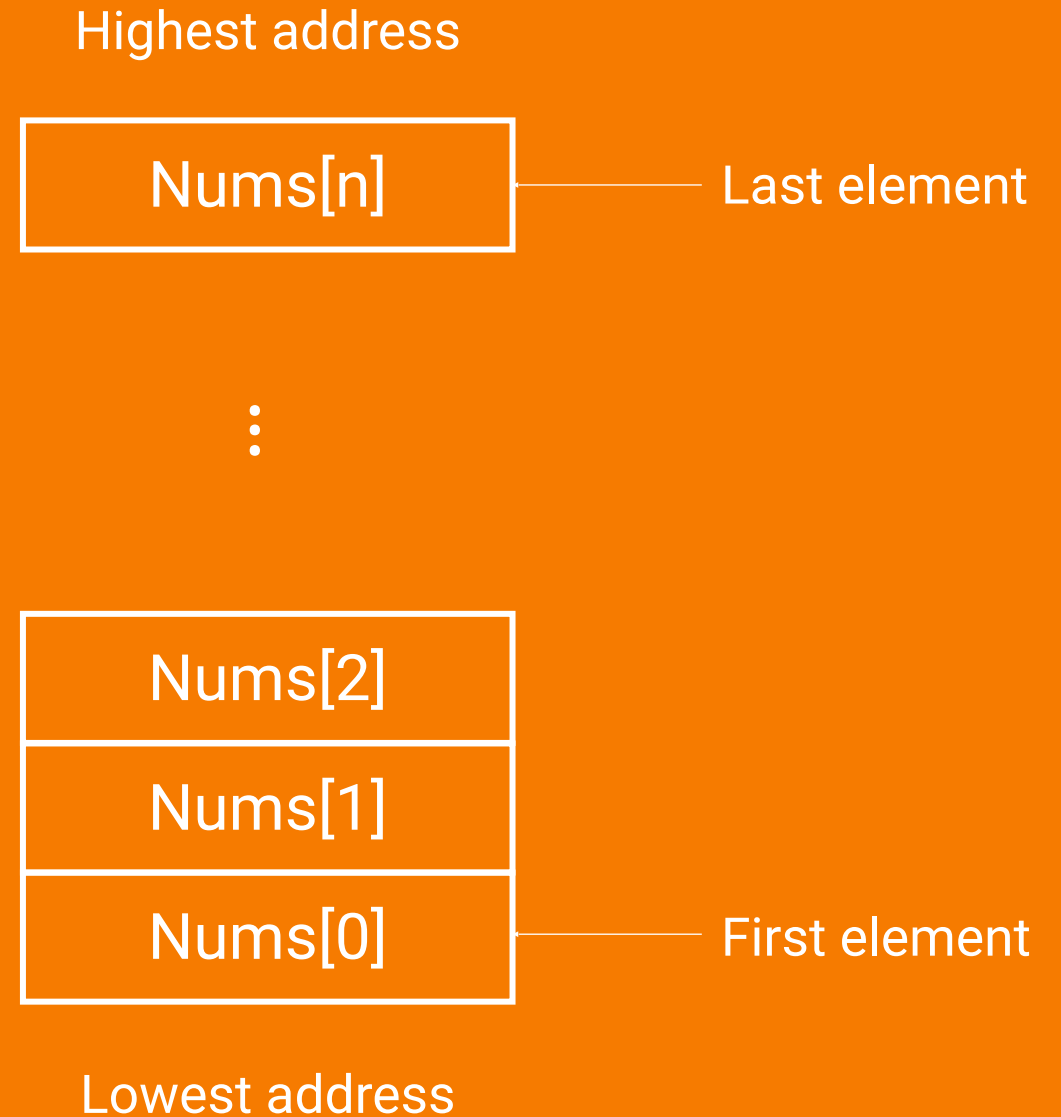
- Arrays, Arithmetic, Functions

Today

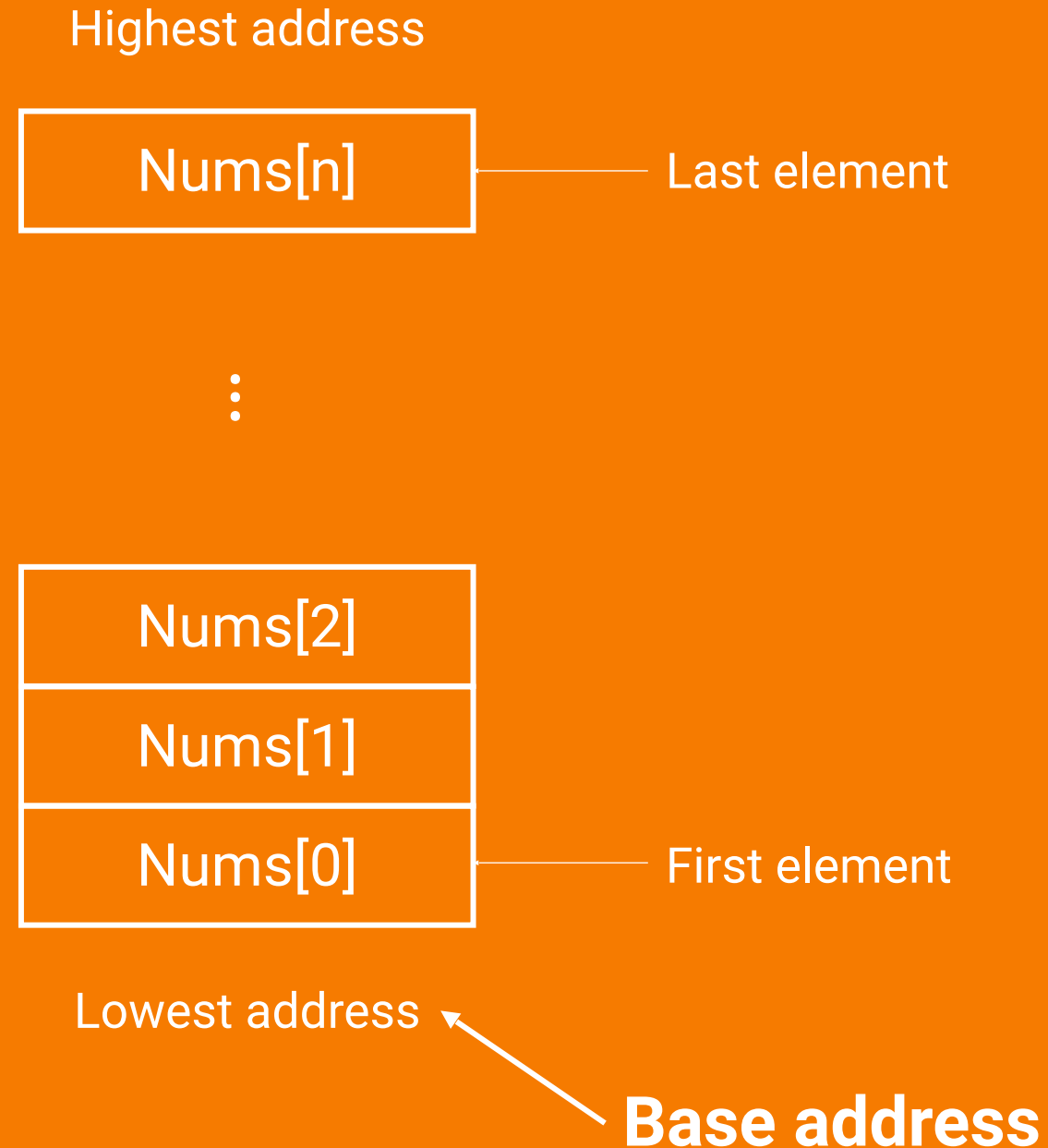
- Pointer to Array
- Pointer Arithmetic
- Pointer with Functions

Pointer to Array

- An array consist of contiguous memory locations.
- The highest address corresponds to the last element.
- The lowest address corresponds to the first element.



- When an array is declared, the Compiler allocates a sufficient amount of memory to contain all the elements of the array.
- The *base address* i.e. address of the first element of the array is also allocated by the Compiler



Address vs pointer

Let `int arr[5] = {1,2,3,4,5};`

Assuming the base address of `arr` is 1000, and each integer requires 4 bytes, the 5 elements will be stored as:

	1	2	3	4	5
element	<code>arr[0]</code>	<code>arr[1]</code>	<code>arr[2]</code>	<code>arr[3]</code>	<code>arr[4]</code>
address	1000	1004	1008	1012	1016

Address vs pointer

Let `int arr[5] = {1,2,3,4,5};`

Assuming the base address of `arr` is 1000, and each integer requires 4 bytes, the 5 elements will be stored as:

	1	2	3	4	5
element	<code>arr[0]</code>	<code>arr[1]</code>	<code>arr[2]</code>	<code>arr[3]</code>	<code>arr[4]</code>
address	1000	1004	1008	1012	1016

The variable `arr` gives the **Base Address**, a **Constant Pointer**, pointing to the 1st element of the array – `arr[0]`, so `arr` contains the address of `arr[0]` i.e. 1000.

`arr` has 2 purposes



- It is the name of the array
- It acts as a pointer pointing towards the 1st element in the array

`arr` is equal to `&arr[0]` by default

- We can declare a pointer of type `int` to point to the array `arr`

Example 1

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void) {
    int arr[5] = {1,2,3,4,5};

    int *myArrPtr = arr;
    printf("%i\n", *myArrPtr);

    myArrPtr++;
    printf("%i\n", *myArrPtr);

    return 0;
}
```

Example 1

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void) {
    int arr[5] = {1,2,3,4,5};

    int *myArrPtr = arr;
    printf("%i\n", *myArrPtr);

    myArrPtr++;
    printf("%i\n", *myArrPtr);

    return 0;
}
```

Output

```
1
2
```




Use a pointer to point to an array, then we can use the pointer to **access** the elements of the array.

Example 2

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void) {
    int i;
    int arr[5] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
    int *myArrPtr = arr;
    for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
        printf("%d\n", *myArrPtr);
        myArrPtr++;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

Example 2

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void) {
    int i;
    int arr[5] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
    int *myArrPtr = arr;
    for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
        printf("%d\n", *myArrPtr);
        myArrPtr++;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

Output



```
1
2
3
4
5
```

The pointer `*myArrPtr` prints all the values stored in the array one by one.

Example 2

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void) {
    int i;
    int arr[5] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
    int *myArrPtr = arr;
    for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
        printf("%d\n", *myArrPtr);
        myArrPtr++;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

What if we replace

`printf("%d\n", *myArrPtr);`

with

`printf("%d\n", arr[i]);`

`printf("%d\n", i[arr]);`

`printf("%d\n", arr+i);`

`printf("%d\n", *(arr+i));`

`printf("%d\n", *arr);`

Example 2

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void) {
    int i;
    int arr[5] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
    int *myArrPtr = arr;
    for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
        printf("%d\n", *myArrPtr);
        myArrPtr++;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

What if we replace

`printf("%d\n", *myArrPtr);`

with

`printf("%d\n", arr[i]);`

Prints all array elements

`printf("%d\n", i[arr]);`

Also prints all elements of array

`printf("%d\n", arr+i);`

Prints address of array elements

`printf("%d\n", *(arr+i));`

Prints value of array elements

`printf("%d\n", *arr);`

Prints value of a[0] only

Example 2

What if we replace

```
printf("%d\n", *myArrPtr);
```

with

```
printf("%d\n", arr[i]);
```

Prints all array elements

```
printf("%d\n", i[arr]);
```

Also prints all elements of array

```
printf("%d\n", arr+i);
```

Prints address of array elements

```
printf("%d\n", *(arr+i));
```

Prints value of array elements

```
printf("%d\n", *arr);
```

Prints value of a[0] only

–Wall flag gives a warning:

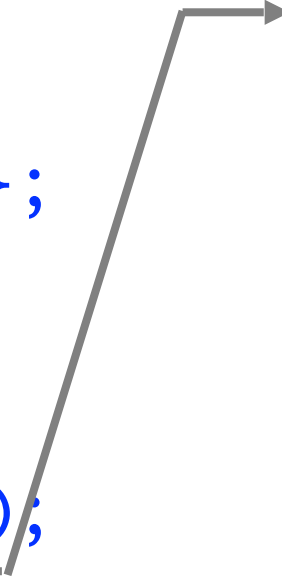
warning: format specifies type 'int' but the argument has type 'int *'

Example 2

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void) {
    int i;
    int arr[5] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
    int *myArrPtr = arr;
    for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
        printf("%d\n", *myArrPtr);
        myArrPtr++;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

What about

arr++;
?



Example 2

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void) {
    int i;
    int arr[5] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
    int *myArrPtr = arr;
    for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
        printf("%d\n", *myArrPtr);
        myArrPtr++;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

What about

`arr++;`

?

Compile-time error -> cannot
change **Base Address** of an array

(Constant Pointer)

Arrays are pointers in disguise.

Arrays: “syntactic sugar” for pointers.



```
int i = 0, arr[5] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};  
printf("arr[i] = %d\n", arr[i]);  
printf("arr[i] = %d\n", *(arr + i));
```

`arr[i]` and `*(arr + i)` are identical

`arr` is identical to `&arr[0]`

Pointer Arithmetic

Pointer arithmetic

Add/subtract integers to/from pointers

```
int arr[] = { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 };
```

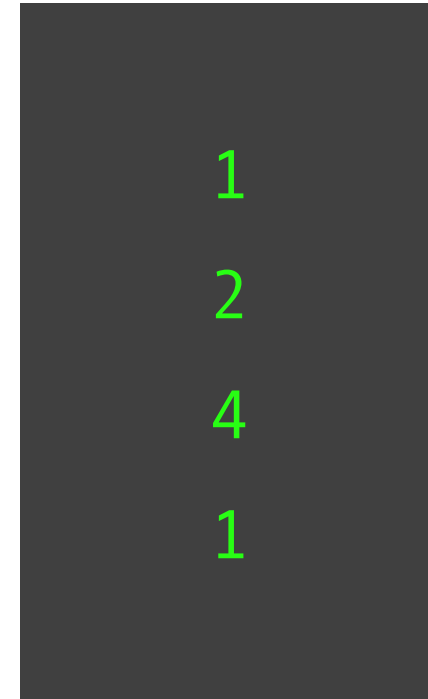
```
int *p = arr;      /* (*p) == ? */
```

```
p++;              /* (*p) == ? */
```

```
p += 2;           /* (*p) == ? */
```

```
p -= 3;           /* (*p) == ? */
```

(assume 4 byte integers)



Pointer arithmetic

Add/subtract integers to/from pointers

(assume 4 byte integers)

0x7ffeca8c0



Pointer arithmetic

Add/subtract integers to/from pointers

(assume 4 byte integers)

```
int arr[] = { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 };
```

0x7ffeecaea8c0



arr

0x7ffeecaea8c0

Pointer arithmetic

Add/subtract integers to/from pointers

(assume 4 byte integers)

```
int *p = arr; /* (*p)==? */
```

0x7ffeca8c0



arr

0x7ffeca8c0

p

0x7ffeca8c0

Pointer arithmetic

Add/subtract integers to/from pointers

(assume 4 byte integers)

`p++;` `/* (*p)==? */`

0x7ffeca8c0



`arr`

0x7ffeca8c0

`p`

0x7ffeca8c4

Pointer arithmetic

Add/subtract integers to/from pointers

(assume 4 byte integers)

`p += 2;` `/* (*p)==? */`

0x7ffeca8c0



`arr`

0x7ffeca8c0

`p`

0x7ffeca8cc

Pointer arithmetic

Add/subtract integers to/from pointers

(assume 4 byte integers)

```
p -= 3;      /* (*p)==? */
```

0x7ffeca8c0



arr

0x7ffeca8c0

p

0x7ffeca8c0

Note:



Pointer arithmetic does NOT add/subtract the address directly, but in multiples of the size of the type in bytes.

```
int arr[] = { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 };
```

```
int *p = arr;
```

```
p++; /* means: p = p + sizeof(int); */
```

4

(assume 4 byte integers)

Pointer arithmetic

Add/subtract integers to/from pointers

(assume 4 byte integers)

```
int *p = arr;  
p++;
```

0x7ffeca8c0



arr

0x7ffeca8c0

p

0x7ffeca8c4 = 0x7ffeca8c0 + sizeof(int)

4

Note:



`sizeof()` is NOT a function

- takes a type name as an argument

Size of pointer

- On a 64 bit machine, the size of all types of **pointer**, be it `int*`, `float*`, `char*`, `double*` is always **8 bytes**.
- When performing arithmetic functions, e.g. increment on a pointer, changes occur as per the size of their primitive data type.

Size of pointer

```
long unsigned decimal integer
printf("sizeof(int) is %lu\n", sizeof(int));
printf("sizeof(char) is %lu\n", sizeof(char));
printf("sizeof(float) is %lu\n", sizeof(float));
printf("sizeof(double) is %lu\n", sizeof(double));
Printf("=====");
printf("sizeof(int*) is %lu\n", sizeof(int*));
printf("sizeof(char*) is %lu\n", sizeof(char*));
printf("sizeof(float*) is %lu\n", sizeof(float*));
printf("sizeof(double*) is %lu\n", sizeof(double*));
```

Output

```
sizeof(int) is 4
sizeof(char) is 1
sizeof(float) is 4
sizeof(double) is 8
=====
sizeof(int*) is 8
sizeof(char*) is 8
sizeof(float*) is 8
sizeof(double*) is 8
```

Size of pointer

```
int* p1;  
printf("%p\n", p1);  
p1++;  
printf("%p\n", p1);
```

```
0x7ffee46608f0  
0x7ffee46608f4
```

4 bytes

```
char* p2;  
printf("%p\n", p2);  
p2++;  
printf("%p\n", p2);
```

```
0x7ffee240c8f0  
0x7ffee240c8f1
```

1 byte

```
double* p3;  
printf("%p\n", p3);  
p3++;  
printf("%p\n", p3);
```

```
0x7ffeebfe08f0  
0x7ffeebfe08f8
```

8 bytes

Pointer with Functions

Pointers as function arguments

- Pointer **as** a function parameter is used to hold addresses of arguments passed during a function call, known as **call-by-reference**.
- When a function parameter is called by reference any change made to the reference variable will affect the original variable.

Example 3

```
#include <stdio.h>
void swap(int *a, int *b);
int main(void) {
    int m = 66, n = 99;
    printf("m = %d\n", m);
    printf("n = %d\n\n", n);
    swap(&m, &n);
    printf("After swapping:\n\n");
    printf("m = %d\n", m);
    printf("n = %d\n", n);
    return 0;
}
```

```
void swap(int *a, int *b) {
    int temp;
    temp = *a;
    *a = *b;
    *b = temp;
}
```

Example 3

```
#include <stdio.h>
void swap(int *a, int *b);
int main(void) {
    int m = 66, n = 99;
    printf("m = %d\n", m);
    printf("n = %d\n\n", n);
    swap(&m, &n);
    printf("After swapping:\n\n");
    printf("m = %d\n", m);
    printf("n = %d\n", n);
    return 0;
}
```

```
void swap(int *a, int *b) {
    int temp;
    temp = *a;
    *a = *b;
    *b = temp;
}
```

Output

```
m = 66
n = 99

After Swapping:

m = 99
n = 66
```

Functions returning pointer variables

- A function can **return** a pointer to the calling function.
- **Be careful!**
 - Local variables of a function don't have a "life" outside of the function
 - If you return a pointer, pointing to a local variable declared within that function, the pointer will be pointing to ??? when the function ends.

Example 4

```
#include <stdio.h>
int* larger(int *a, int *b);
int main(void) {
    int m = 66, n = 99;
    int *p;

    p = larger(&m, &n);

    printf("%d is larger.\n", *p);

    return 0;
}
```

```
int* larger(int *a, int *b) {
    if(*a > *b)
        return a;
    else
        return b;
}
```


Example 4

```
#include <stdio.h>
int* larger(int *a, int *b);
int main(void) {
    int m = 66, n = 99;
    int *p;

    p = larger(&m, &n);

    printf("%d is larger.\n", *p);

    return 0;
}
```

```
int* larger(int *a, int *b) {
    if(*a > *b)
        return a;
    else
        return b;
}
```

Output

```
99 is larger.
```

Pointer to functions

- A pointer pointing to a function can be used as an argument in another function.
 - to declare a pointer to a function:
`type (*pointer-name)(parameter);`
 - an example
`int (*sum)(); //sum is a pointer to func with no params`
`//but which returns an int`

Pointer to functions

- A function pointer can point to a specific function when it is assigned the name of that function

```
int sum(int, int); //declared a func with 2 int params
```

```
int (*s)(int, int);
```

```
s = sum;
```

- **s** is a pointer to the function sum. Now sum can be called using **function pointer s** with required argument values.

```
s(10, 20); /* equivalent to the call sum(10,20) */
```

Example 5

```
#include <stdio.h>

int sum(int x, int y) {
    return x + y;
}

int main(void) {
    int (*fp)(int, int);
    fp = &sum;
    printf("Sum is %d.\n", (*fp)(6, 9));
    return 0;
}
```


Output

```
Sum is 15.
```

Example 5

```
#include <stdio.h>

int sum(int x, int y) {
    return x + y;
}

int main(void) {
    int (*fp)(int, int);
    fp = &sum;  fp = sum;
    printf("Sum is %d.\n", (*fp)(6, 9));
    return 0;
}
```



Output

```
Sum is 15.
```

Example 5

```
#include <stdio.h>

int sum(int x, int y) {
    return x + y;
}

int main(void) {
    int (*fp)(int, int);
    fp = &sum;  fp = sum;
    printf("Sum is %d.\n", (*fp)(6, 9));  fp(6, 9);
    return 0;
}
```

Output

```
Sum is 15.
```

Example 6 Passing the pointer to another function

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
int sum(int x, int y) {  
    return x + y;
```

```
}
```

```
int sum6_9(int (*fp2)(int,int)){
```

```
    return (*fp2)(6, 9);  return fp2(6, 9);
```

```
}
```

```
int main(void){
```

```
    int (*fp)(int, int);
```

```
    fp = sum;
```

```
    printf("Sum is %d.\n", sum6_9(fp));
```

```
    return 0;
```

```
}
```

Example 6 Passing the pointer to another function

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
int sum(int x, int y) {  
    return x + y;  
}
```

```
int sum6_9(int (*fp2)(int,int)){  
    return fp2(6, 9);  
}
```

```
int main(){  
    int (*fp)(int, int);  
    fp = sum;  
    printf("Sum is %d.\n", sum6_9(fp));  
    return 0;  
}
```


Example 6 Passing the pointer to another function

```
#include <stdio.h>

int sum(int x, int y) {
    return x + y;
}

int sum6_9(int (*fp2)(int,int)){
    return fp2(6, 9);
}

int main(){
    int (*fp)(int, int);
    fp = sum;
    printf("Sum is %d.\n", sum6_9(fp));
    return 0;
}
```

Example 6 Passing the pointer to another function

```
#include <stdio.h>

int sum(int x, int y) {
    return x + y;
}

int sum6_9(int (*fp2)(int,int)){
    return fp2(6, 9);
}

int main(){
    int (*fp)(int, int);
    fp = sum;
    printf("Sum is %d.\n", sum6_9(fp));
    return 0;
}
```

Example 6 Passing the pointer to another function

```
#include <stdio.h>

int sum(int x, int y) {
    return x + y;
}

int sum6_9(int (*fp2)(int,int)){
    return fp2(6, 9);
}

int main(){
    int (*fp)(int, int);
    fp = sum;
    printf("Sum is %d.\n", sum6_9(fp));
    return 0;
}
```

Example 6 Passing the pointer to another function

```
#include <stdio.h>

int sum(int x, int y) {
    return x + y;
}

int sum6_9(int (*fp2)(int,int)){
    return fp2(6, 9);
}

int main(){
    int (*fp)(int, int);
    fp = sum;
    printf("Sum is %d.\n", sum6_9(fp));
    return 0;
}
```

Example 7 Using function pointers in return values

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
int sum(int x, int y) {
```

```
    return x + y;
```

```
}
```

```
int (*functionFactory(int z))(int, int) {
```

```
    printf("Got parameter %d.\n", z);
```

```
    int (*fp)(int,int) = sum;
```

```
    return fp;
```

```
}
```

```
int main() {
```

```
    printf("Sum is %d.\n", functionFactory(3)(6,9));
```

```
    return 0;
```

```
}
```

Example 7 Using function pointers in return values

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
int sum(int x, int y) {  
    return x + y;  
}
```

```
int (*functionFactory(int z))(int, int) {  
    printf("Got parameter %d.\n", z);  
    int (*fp)(int,int) = sum;  
    return fp;  
}
```

```
int main() {  
    printf("Sum is %d.\n", functionFactory(3)(6,9));  
    return 0;  
}
```

Example 7 Using function pointers in return values

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
int sum(int x, int y) {  
    return x + y;
```

```
}
```

```
int (*functionFactory(int z))(int, int) {  
    printf("Got parameter %d.\n", z);  
    int (*fp)(int,int) = sum;  
    return fp;  
}
```

```
int main() {  
    printf("Sum is %d.\n", functionFactory(3)(6,9));  
    return 0;  
}
```

Example 7 Using function pointers in return values

```
#include <stdio.h>

int sum(int x, int y) {
    return x + y;
}

int (*functionFactory(int z))(int, int) {
    printf("Got parameter %d.\n", z);
    int (*fp)(int,int) = sum;
    return fp;
}

int main() {
    printf("Sum is %d.\n", functionFactory(3)(6,9));
    return 0;
}
```


Example 7 Using function pointers in return values

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
int sum(int x, int y) {  
    return x + y;  
}
```

```
int (*functionFactory(int z))(int, int) {  
    printf("Got parameter %d.\n", z);  
    int (*fp)(int,int) = sum;  
    return fp;  
}
```

```
int main() {  
    printf("Sum is %d.\n", functionFactory(3)(6,9));  
    return 0;  
}
```

Example 7 Using function pointers in return values

```
#include <stdio.h>

int sum(int x, int y) {
    return x + y;
}

int (*functionFactory(int z))(int, int) {
    printf("Got parameter %d.\n", z);
    int (*fp)(int,int) = sum;
    return fp;
}

int main() {
    printf("Sum is %d.\n", functionFactory(3)(6,9));
    return 0;
}
```

Output

```
Got parameter 3.
Sum is 15.
```

Summary

Today

- Pointer to Array
- Pointer Arithmetic
- Pointer with Functions

Next

- Structures
- Union
- Typedef
- String