

# Information Processing 2 10

“two-star” programming: pointers to pointers,  
arrays of pointers, command-line arguments,  
multi-dimensional arrays, pointers to functions

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# last week: memory, addresses, arrays and pointers

memory, addresses, variables, pointers, indirection

`swap(a, b)` that actually works

`getint()`

equivalence of arrays, elements, and pointers

`strlen()` using pointers

passing sub-arrays as arguments

negative indices; address arithmetic

`alloc()` and `afree()`

char array vs. char pointers vs. strings

versions of `strcpy()`, `strcmp()`

Chapter 5. Pointers and Arrays

5.1 Pointers and Addresses

5.2 Pointers and Function Arguments

5.3 Pointers and Arrays

5.4 Address Arithmetic

5.5 Character Pointers and Functions

# this week: more arrays and pointers

arrays of strings

sorting lines of text from the input

modified `qsort()` that sorts strings

`day_of_year()` and `month_day()`

`month_name()` and initialising array of strings

`echo` program

find command line string in text lines

`sort` using function pointers

    to parameterise behaviour

many complex declarations

`dcl` converts declarations to English

`undcl` converts English to declaration

5.6 Pointer Arrays; Pointers to Pointers

5.7 Multi-dimensional Arrays

5.8 Initialisation of Pointer Arrays

5.9 Pointers vs. Multi-dimensional Arrays

5.10 Command-line Arguments

5.11 Pointers to Functions

5.12 Complicated Declarations

## review: arrays and pointers

an array is a sequence of elements in memory

- all elements have the same type
- individual elements are identified by their *index* using ‘array []’
- an index is an offset from the start of the sequence

when you pass an array as a function argument, you pass its *address* in memory

- this is why you can modify the contents and the caller ‘sees’ your modifications

```
void swapElements(int array[], int i, int j)
{
    int tmp = array[i];
    array[i] = array[j];
    array[j] = tmp;
}
```

## review: arrays and pointers

a *pointer* is the address of a sequence of elements in memory

- there are zero or more elements at the pointer's address
- the element at an address is accessed by indirection using '*\*address*'
- pointers to adjacent elements are obtained by adding an offset to a pointer
- the offset is scaled by the element size, exactly like an array index

```
void swapIntegers(int *address, int i, int j)
{
    int tmp = *(address + i);           // tmp = addr[i];
    *(address + i) = *(address + j);   // addr[i] = addr[j];
    *(address + j) = tmp;              // addr[j] = tmp;
}
```

the correspondence between arrays and pointers is so strong that

$$\begin{aligned}\text{array[index]} &\equiv \ast(\text{array} + \text{index}) \\ &\equiv \ast(\text{index} + \text{array}) \equiv \text{index[array]}\end{aligned}$$

## pointer arrays; pointers to pointers

pointers can be stored in variables (just like integers, floats)

pointers can therefore also be the elements of an array

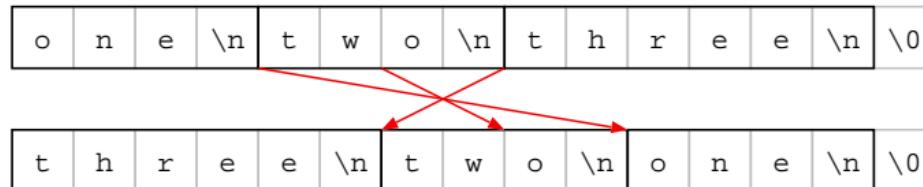
this enables efficient processing of variable-length data such as strings

reversing an array of integers is easy

- we already wrote the function

reversing lines of text in a long string is difficult

- you have to move all the characters around

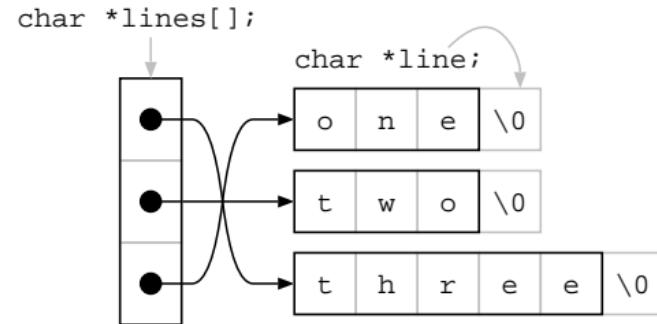
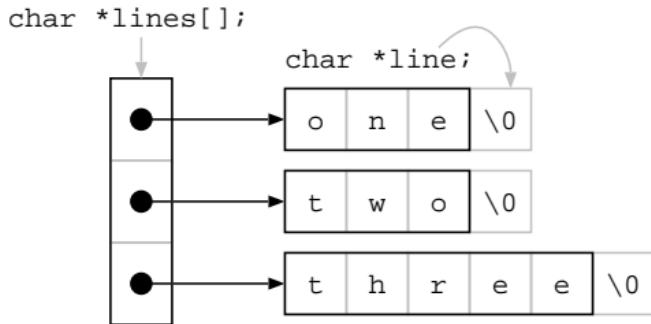


## pointer arrays; pointers to pointers

the problem: given a sequence of *lines* of text, reverse the order of the *lines*

an array of *lines* of text would be a much better model

- ⇒ place each line into its own string (array of `char`)
- ⇒ make an array of pointers to those strings (array of `char *`)
- ⇒ reverse the order of the *pointers* to the *lines* in the array  
(do *not* move any of the individual characters in the strings themselves)



## pointer arrays; pointers to pointers

reverse integers

```
void revints(int array[], int n)
{
    int l = 0, r = n - 1;
    while (l < r) {
        int tmp = array[l];
        array[l] = array[r];
        array[r] = tmp;
        ++l, --r;
    }
}
```

reverse strings

```
void revstrs(char *array[], int n)
{
    int l = 0, r = n - 1;
    while (l < r) {
        char *tmp = array[l];
        array[l] = array[r];
        array[r] = tmp;
        ++l, --r;
    }
}
```

## pointer arrays; pointers to pointers

test program

```
int main()
{
    char *a = "one";
    char *b = "two";
    char *c = "three";
    char *lines[] = { a, b, c };
    printf("%s\n%s\n%s\n", lines[0], lines[1], lines[2]);
    revstrs(lines, 3);
    printf("%s\n%s\n%s\n", lines[0], lines[1], lines[2]);
    return 0;
}
```

## pointer arrays; pointers to pointers

pointers (to elements *in the same array*) can be compared

instead of array indexes, we can use pointers to the elements being swapped

```
void revints(int *array, int size)
{
    int *left  = array;          // leftmost int in array
    int *right = array + size - 1; // rightmost int in array

    while (left < right) {      // more elements to swap
        int tmp = *left;         // remember left element
        *left++ = *right;        // replace it with right element
        *right-- = tmp;          // replace right element with original left
    }
}
```

## pointer arrays; pointers to pointers

the same thing, using an array of 'char \*' instead of 'int'

```
void revstrs(char **array, int n)
{
    char **l = array;           // leftmost line in array to swap
    char **r = array + n - 1;   // rightmost line in array

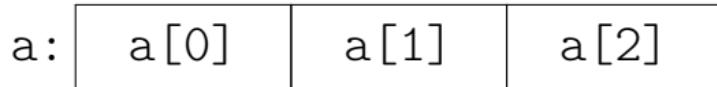
    while (l < r) {           // pointers have not yet 'met' in the middle
        char *tmp = *l;         // swap *l with *r, at the same time...
        *l++ = *r;              // move l one line to the right
        *r-- = tmp;             // move r one line to the left
    }
}
```

if this is at all confusing, remember that:  $\text{char } \text{**array} \equiv \text{char } *(\text{*array})$   
 $\equiv \text{char } *(\text{array}[])$   
 $\equiv \text{char } \text{*array}[]$

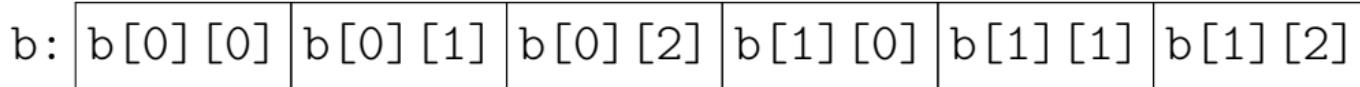
## multi-dimensional arrays

to make a two-dimensional array, declare an array of arrays

```
int a[3];      // a is an array of 3 ints
```



```
int b[2][3]; // b is an array of 2 arrays of 3 ints
```



a two-dimensional array is really a one-dimensional array

- in which each element is another array

## multi-dimensional arrays

a two-dimensional array is initialised by a list of elements in braces

- since each element is an array, it should also be a list of elements in braces

```
int powers[4][10] = {  
    { 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1 },  
    { 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 },  
    { 0, 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49, 64, 81 },  
    { 0, 1, 8, 27, 64, 125, 216, 343, 512, 729 },  
};
```

```
printf("7 cubed is %d\n", powers[3][7]);
```

note that `powers` contains storage for  $4 \times 10 = 40$  `ints` whereas

```
int *other[4];
```

only contains storage for 4 pointers

## multi-dimensional arrays

beware: `powers [3] [7]` is not the same as `powers [3, 7]`

to pass a two-dimensional array to a function, the parameter should be declared as

```
void f(int powers[4][10]) { ... }
```

or omitting the outermost dimension (as we did previously with strings)

```
void f(int powers[] [10]) { ... }
```

or by declaring it a pointer to the element type (as we did previously with strings)

```
void f(int (*powers)[10]) { ... }
```

note that

- only the first (outermost) dimension can be omitted
  - the compiler needs to know the size of the elements of the array
- the parentheses in `int (*powers)[10]` are necessary
  - `int *powers[10]` is an array of 10 pointers to `int`
- arrays of pointers are more common than multi-dimensional arrays

## initialisation of pointer arrays

pointer arrays are initialised with a list of elements in braces

each element must have the pointer type expected

```
int a, b, c, *d[3] = { &a, &b, &c };  
char p[3], q[4], r[5], *s[3] = { p, q, r };
```

note that each element of `s` is a pointer to an array of a different size

(this cannot be expressed as a two-dimensional array)

string constants have type `char *` and can be elements in an array of `char` pointers

```
char *t[3] = { "one", "two", "three" };
```

## initialisation of pointer arrays

arrays often hold ‘look-up’ tables of constant data used internally by a function

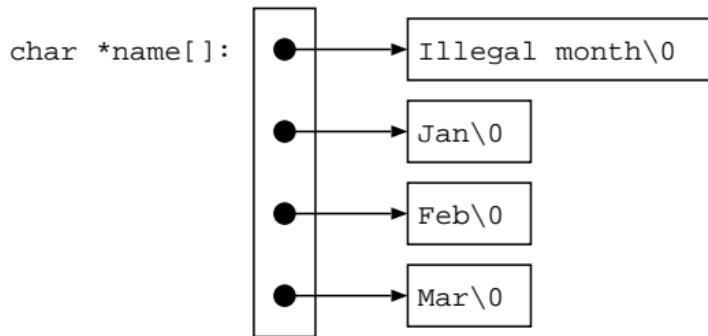
- use a `static` array to initialise the contents at compile time
- the array is a global variable but the name is local to the function

```
char *monthName(int n)
{
    static char *name[] = {
        "Illegal month",
        "January",    "February",   "March",      "April",
        "May",         "June",        "July",       "August",
        "September",  "October",    "November",  "December",
    };
    return 1 <= n && n <= 12 ? name[n] : name[0];
}
```

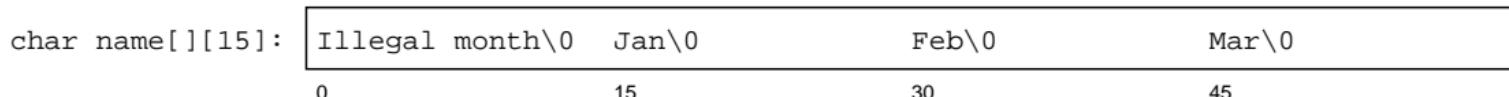
## pointers vs. multi-dimensional arrays

we can declare `monthName` two ways

```
char *name [] = { "Illegal month", "Jan", "Feb", "Mar" };
```



```
char name [] [15] = { "Illegal month", "Jan", "Feb", "Mar" };
```



the former takes less space; the latter allows you to modify the names at run time

## command-line arguments

when you run a program you can supply arguments to it on the command line

consider: cc prog.c -o prog

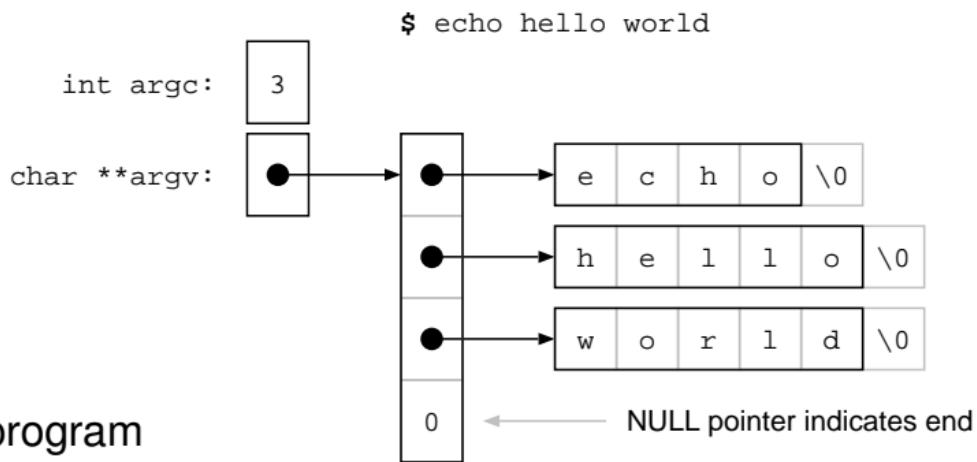
- ‘cc’ is the name of the program
- ‘prog.c’, ‘-o’, and ‘prog’ are additional arguments
- cc uses the arguments to receive essential information and modify its behaviour
  - the name of the source file to be compiled
  - don’t use the default output name
  - the name of the output file name that should be used

the `main` function receives these arguments as an array of strings

two arguments describe this array; the corresponding parameters are:

`int argc`      **argument count**: number of elements in `argv`  
`char *argv[]`    **argument vector**: array of strings containing the arguments

# command-line arguments



`argv[0]` contains the name of the program

- `argc` is therefore always at least 1
- if `argc == 1` then there are no command line arguments

the command-line arguments are in `argv[1]` to `argv[argc-1]`

`argv[argc]` is usually a NULL (zero) pointer

## command-line arguments

this program prints

- the name used to run it, and
- the number of command-line arguments

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    printf("%s + %d\n", argv[0], argc);
    return 0;
}
```

## pointers to functions

like arrays, functions are not variables (you cannot assign to a function name)

like arrays, the value of the name of a function is a pointer to the function

you can declare a pointer to a function, which *is* a variable

a pointer to a function can be called like any other function

```
int add(int x, int y) { return x + y; }
int sub(int x, int y) { return x - y; }
int (*operator)(int, int); // pointer to function
```

```
operator = adding ? add : sub;
int result = operator(3, 4);
```

## complicated declarations

declarations look exactly like the use of the variable they declare

three operators can appear in declarations (and their subsequent uses):

- the pointer indirection operator: `*x`
- function call: `x()`
- array indexing: `x[]`

`*` associates right-to-left and has lower precedence than the other two

`()` and `[]` associate left-to-right and have the same precedence

any part of a declaration can be parenthesised to change the order of precedence

to read a declaration, start at the name and work outwards to the base type on the left

```
int *f();      // function returning pointer to int
int (*pf)(); // pointer to function returning int
```

## complicated declaration examples

char **argv;	argv is pointer to pointer to char
int (*table)[13];	table is pointer to array[13] of int
int *table[13];	table is array[13] of pointer to int
void *comp();	comp is function returning pointer to void
void (*comp)();	comp is pointer to function returning void
char (*(*x())[])()();	x is function returning pointer to array[] of pointer to function returning char
char (*(*x[3])())[5];	x is array[3] of pointer to function returning pointer to array[5] of char

each function parameter is a declaration, as described above, e.g:

int (\*f)(int (\*)(int)) f is a pointer to a function returning int with one parameter (a pointer to function with int parameter returning int)

# next week: structures, recursive structures, bit fields

`point` structure

`rect` structure

`makepoint()`, `addpoint()`, `ptinrect()`, `canonrect()`

pointers to structures and `(*x) .y` vs. `x->y`

`binsearch()` for strings; counting keywords in text

`sizeof()` and counting number of array elements

pointer version of `binsearch()`

binary tree implementation

hash table implementation

using `typedef` for tree nodes

unions and bit fields

Chapter 6. Structures

6.1 Basics of Structures

6.2 Structures and Functions

6.3 Arrays of Structures

6.4 Pointers to Structures

6.5 Self-referential Structures

6.6 Table Lookup

6.7 Typedef

6.8 Unions

6.9 Bit-fields

# assignment

please download assignment from  
MS Team “Information Processing 2”, “General” channel

## exercise preparation: dynamic storage allocation

so far all our arrays have been allocated statically

- their sizes are known at compile time, and fixed
- the compiler reserves space for them

when processing input (especially text) sizes are now known at compile time

- storage for arrays or strings must be obtained at run time

`p = malloc(size)` dynamically allocates `size` bytes of storage

- return value is the address of (a pointer to) the storage

`free(p)` de-allocates the storage pointed to by `p`

- the storage must have been allocated by `malloc()`
- you must not try to use the storage after it has been `freed`

## exercise preparation: dynamic storage allocation

```
#include <stdlib.h>    // malloc(), free()

int strlength(char *s) {
    char *p = s;
    while (*p) ++p;
    return p - s;
}

char *strduplicate(char *s)
{
    int len = strlength(s);
    char *copy = malloc(len + 1);
    strcpy(copy, s);
    return copy;
}

char *strcpy(char *s, char *t) {
    char *r = s;
    while ((*s++ = *t++) != '\0');
    return r;
}
```

## exercise preparation: dynamic storage allocation

the standard C library has its own versions of these functions

- practice using them now

they are declared in `string.h` so include it at the start of your program:

```
#include <string.h>
```

three functions are particularly useful:

`strlen(char *s)` returns the length of `s` (excluding nul terminator)

`strcpy(char *s, char *t)` copies string `t` to string `s`

`strdup(char *s)` copies `s` into newly allocated storage

- approximately: `strcpy(malloc(strlen(s) + 1), s)`

## exercise preparation: dynamic storage allocation

```
#define LINEMAX 1024
#define LINESMAX 1024

int main()
{
    char line [LINEMAX], *lines[LINESMAX];
    int nlines = 0;

    while (nlines < LINESMAX && getchars(line, sizeof(line)) >= 0) {
        lines[nlines++] = strdup(line);
    }

    while (nlines-- > 0) {
        printf("%s\n", lines[nlines]);
        free(lines[nlines]);
    }

    return 0;
}
```

## exercise preparation: ‘tail’ program

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

int getchars(char *s, int limit)
{
    int i = 0, c;
    while (i < limit - 1 && EOF != (c = getchar()) && c != '\n')
        s[i++] = c;
    if (EOF == c && i == 0) return -1;
    s[i] = '\0';
    return i;
}
```

## exercise preparation: ‘tail’ program

need to store most recent  $N$  lines of text

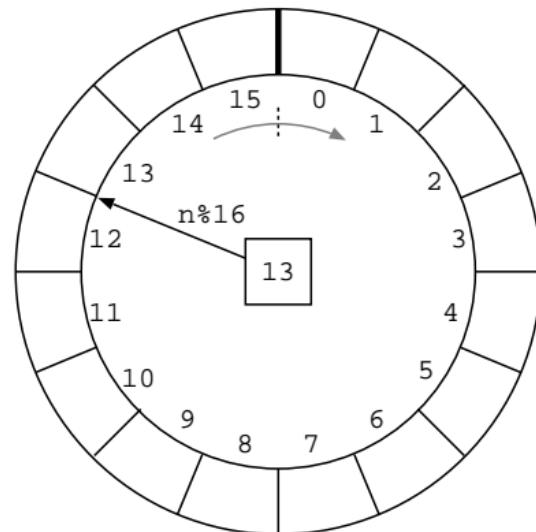
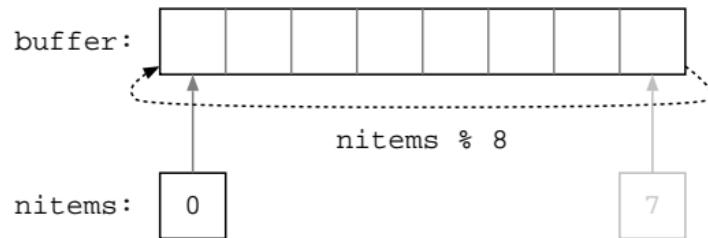
use an array

- write to index  $0, 1, 2, \dots, N - 1$
- after  $N - 1$  start again at 0

can use line number modulo  $N$

visualisation: ‘circular’ array

- after index  $N - 1$  comes index 0



## exercise preparation: ‘tail’ program

```
#define LINEMAX 1024

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    char  line[LINEMAX];
    char *lines[10];      // N=10 ⇒ use lines[INDEX % 10]
    int   nlines = 0;

    while (getchars(line, sizeof(line)) >= 0) { // line available
        if (nlines > 9) free(lines[nlines % 10]); // line saved earlier
        lines[nlines++ % 10] = strdup(line);       // save current line
    }

    for (int i = nlines > 9 ? nlines - 10 : 0; i != nlines; ++i) {
        printf("%s\n", lines[i % 10]);
        free(lines[i % 10]); // i % 10 ensures index is in range 0...9
    }

    return 0;
}
```

## exercise preparation: scanning command-line arguments

---

```
for (int i = 1; i < argc; ++i) {
    if ('-' == *argv[i]) {
        printf("- arg is %s\n", argv[i] + 1);
        continue;
    }
    if ('+' == *argv[i]) {
        printf("+ arg is %s\n", argv[i] + 1);
        continue;
    }
    printf("illegal argument\n");
    exit(1);
}
```

## exercises

character arrays vs. arrays of strings

the echo program

echo with pointers

command line argument to integer value

default argument values

command line options starting with ‘-’

using dynamically allocated storage

command line arguments in tail

skipping lines at the start of the input

multiple command-line arguments

evaluating expressions read from the command line

12:40 5 last week  
12:45 5 reverse lines in string  
12:50 5 reverse lines in pointer array  
12:55 5 test program  
13:00 5 pointer version  
13:05 5 multi-dimensional arrays  
13:10 5 initialisation of pointer arrays  
13:15 5 pointers vs. multi-dimensional arrays  
13:20 5 command-line arguments  
13:25 5 pointers to functions  
13:30 5 complicated declarations  
13:35 5 declaration examples  
13:40 5 next week  
13:45 10 prep: dynamic storage allocation  
13:55 10 prep: tail program  
14:05 5 prep: scanning command-line arguments  
14:10 10 *break*  
14:20 90 exercises  
15:50 00 end