

Information Processing 2 10

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

Ian Piumarta

Faculty of Engineering, KUAS

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

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

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

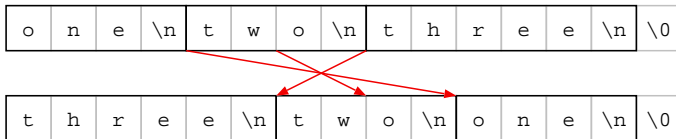
this enables efficient processing of variable-length data such as strings

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

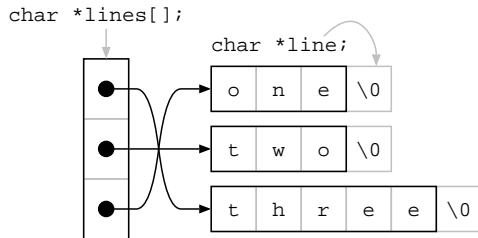
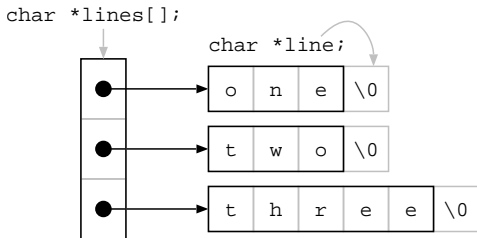


pointer arrays; pointers to pointers

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:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{char **array} &\equiv \text{char } *(\text{*array}) \\ &\equiv \text{char } *(\text{array}[]) \\ &\equiv \text{char } *\text{array}[\end{aligned}$$

multi-dimensional arrays

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

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

a:

a[0]	a[1]	a[2]
------	------	------

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

b:

b[0][0]	b[0][1]	b[0][2]	b[1][0]	b[1][1]	b[1][2]
---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------

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

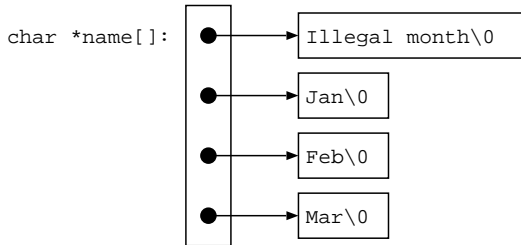
- use a `static` array to initialise the contents at compile time
- the array is a global variable but the name is local to the function

```
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`

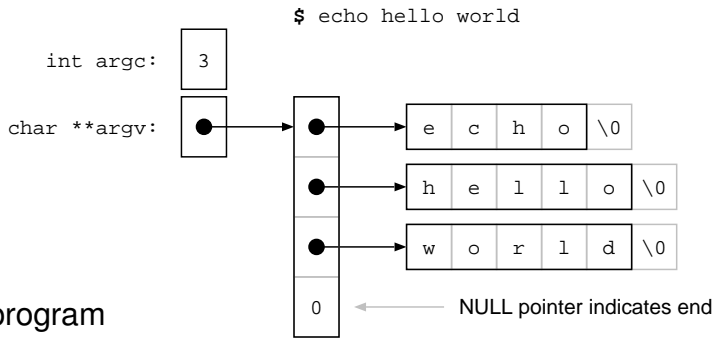
- 'cc' is the name of the program
- 'prog.c', '-o', and 'prog' are additional arguments
- cc uses the arguments to receive essential information and modify its behaviour
 - the name of the source file to be compiled
 - don't use the default output name
 - the name of the output file name that should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

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

two arguments describe this array; the corresponding parameters are:

<code>int</code>	<code>argc</code>	argument count: number of elements in <code>argv</code>
<code>char *</code>	<code>argv[]</code>	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

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

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

<code>int (*f)(int (*)(int))</code>	<code>f</code> is a pointer to a function returning <code>int</code> with one parameter (a pointer to function with <code>int</code> parameter returning <code>int</code>)
-------------------------------------	---

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 strlenth(char *s) {  
    char *p = s;  
    while (*p) ++p;  
    return p - s;  
}
```

```
char *strcpy(char *s, char *t) {  
    char *r = s;  
    while ((*s++ = *t++)) ;  
    return r;  
}
```

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

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

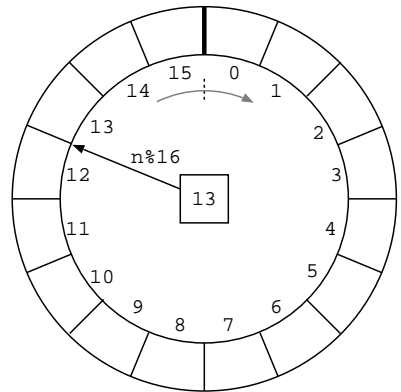
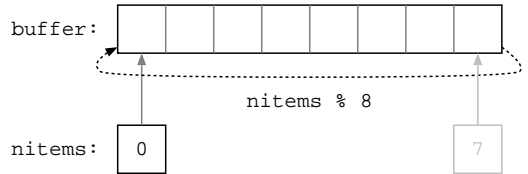
use an array

- write to index 0, 1, 2, ..., $N - 1$
- 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