

# C++ For C Coders 6

Data Structures  
C++ for C Coders

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function pointer  
array of function pointers  
function pointer as an argument

# 1. Function Pointer - Pointer to function

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- Function pointer:
  - Function code is stored in memory
  - Function pointer is the start address of a function **code**, not data.
- It is the same kind since
  - it can be passed as an argument to other functions or can also be returned from a function.
  - we can have an array of function pointers just like **data** pointers.
- It is a different kind since
  - you do not allocate or deallocate memory with it.
  - It can be used as a **callback function**.

## 2. Declaring a function pointer

- Let's look at a simple example:

```
void (*foo)(int);
```

- **foo** is a pointer to a function taking one argument, an integer, and that returns **void**.
- It's as if you're declaring a function called "**\*foo**", which takes an **int** and returns **void**;
- Since **\*foo** is a function, then **foo** must be a pointer to a function.
  - Similarly, a declaration like **int \*x** can be read as **\*x** is an **int**, so **x** must be a pointer to an **int**.

- For example,

```
int gcd(int x, int y) {  
    if (y == 0) return x;  
    return gcd(y, x % y);  
}  
  
int main() {  
    cout << gcd(259, 111) << endl;  
  
    int (*fp)(int, int) = gcd;  
  
    cout << fp(259, 111) << endl;  
}
```

### 3. Using function pointer

fps.cpp

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int fun(int x, int y) {
    return x * 2 + y;
}

int foo(int x, int y) {
    return x + y * 2;
}

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

```
int main() {
    cout << "fun(2,3): " << fun(2, 3) << endl;

    // the ampersand is actually optional
    int (*fp) (int, int) = &fun;
    cout << "fun(): " << fp(2, 3) << endl;

    fp = foo;
    cout << "foo(): " << fp(2, 3) << endl;

    fp = add;
    cout << "add(): " << fp(2, 3) << endl;
    cout << "add(): " << (*fp)(2, 3) << endl;
}
```

## 4. Using an Array of Function Pointers

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- C/C++ treats pointers to functions just like pointers to data therefore we can have **arrays of pointers to functions**
- This offers the possibility to select a function using an index.

## 4. Using an Array of Function Pointers

fps.cpp

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int fun(int x, int y) {
    return x * 2 + y;
}

int foo(int x, int y) {
    return x + y * 2;
}

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

```
int main() {
    // fps[] is an array of fp

    int  = {fun, foo, add};
    int N = 
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
        cout << "fp(): " << fps[i](2,3) << endl;
}
```

## 4. Using an Array of Function Pointers

fps.cpp

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int fun(int x, int y) {
    return x * 2 + y;
}

int foo(int x, int y) {
    return x + y * 2;
}

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

```
int main() {
    // fps[] is an array of fp

    int (*fps[])(int, int) = {fun, foo, add};
    int N = sizeof(fps) / sizeof(fps[0]);
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
        cout << "fp(): " << fps[i](2,3) << endl;
}
```

## 5. Function pointer as an argument

`fps.cpp`

- Implement `op_print()` that accepts one of three function pointers (`fun`, `foo`, `add`) and two `int` arguments. Then, it prints the result of the operation.

```
void op_print(_____) {  
    cout << "op(): " << op(a, b) << endl;  
}  
  
int main() {  
    int (*fps[])(int, int) = {fun, foo, add};  
    int N = sizeof(fps) / sizeof(fps[0]);  
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)  
        op_print(_____);  
}
```

Complete the  
code for yourself



## 6. qsort example

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```
void qsort (void* base, size_t num, size_t size,  
           int (*compare) (const void*, const void*)) ;
```

- The `qsort()` function in C/C++ sorts a given array using Quicksort algorithm.
- The function is defined in `<cstdlib>` header file in C++.
- The `qsort()` function sorts the given array pointed by `base` in ascending order. The array contains `num` elements, each of `size` bytes.
- The function pointed by `compare` is used to compare two elements of the array. This function modifies the content of the array itself sorted.

## 6. qsort example - version 1

qsort.cpp

```
#include <iostream>
int comp_int (const void *a, const void *b) {
    return ( *(int*)a - *(int*)b );
}

int main () {
    int values[] = { 2, 8, 1, 9, 5 };
    int n = 5;
    qsort (values, n, sizeof(int), comp_int);

    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
        std::cout << values[i] << " ";
    return 0;
}
```

## 6. qsort example - version 2: NMN

qsort.cpp

```
#include <iostream>
int comp_int (const void *a, const void *b) {
    return ( *(int*)a - *(int*)b );
}

int main () {
    int values[] = { 2, 8, 1, 9, 5 };
    int n = 
    qsort (values, n, sizeof() , comp_int);

    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
        std::cout << values[i] << " ";
    return 0;
}
```


## 6. qsort example - version 3: char array

qsort.cpp

```
#include <iostream>
int comp_int (const void *a, const void *b) {
    return ( *(int*)a - *(int*)b );
}

int main () {
    char values[] = { 'n', 'i', 'b', 'c' };
    int n = sizeof(values) / sizeof(values[0]);
    qsort (values, n, sizeof(values[0]), comp_int);

    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
        std::cout << values[i] << " ";
    return 0;
}
```



Try the code  
for yourself

## 6. qsort example - version 4: descending

qsort.cpp

```
#include <iostream>
int comp_int (const void *a, const void *b) {
    return ( *(int*)b - *(int*)a );
}

int main () {
    int values[] = { 2, 8, 1, 9, 5 };
    int n = sizeof(values) / sizeof(values[0]);
    qsort (values, n, sizeof(values[0]), comp_int);

    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
        std::cout << values[i] << " ";
    return 0;
}
```



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