

lecture

Pointers

- * Pointer is a derived data type that is used to store memory address of another variable.
- * It can access and manipulate the variable's data stored at that location. → call by reference
- * It can be used to borrow the data efficiently between the functions, and create dynamic data structures like linked lists, trees and graphs.

We use 'dereferencing operator' - '*' followed by the variable name.

Syntax:

data type * variable_name; → name of pointer
variable.

Eg: int * ip → a pointer to an integer

double * dp → a pointer to a double



* Initialising the pointer with the address of another variable is known as referencing a pointer

Eg int *ptr= &x printf("%d", ptr) : 1000
 integer pointer → integer variable → displaying the address of x is 1000.

Referencing a pointer:- 'B' 'address of' operator is used to store the address of a variable to a pointer
dereferencing a pointer:- ' * ' 'dereferencing operator' is used to

Outputs

int x=10
int *ptr= &x;
int *ptr2= &ptr;

printf ("%d", x) = 10
printf ("%u", ptr) = 1000
printf ("%u", ptr2) = 2000
printf ("%u", *ptr2) = *(2000)
= *(1000)

$$= \underline{\underline{10}}$$

Dereferencing a pointer: obtaining the value stored at the address stored in the pointer

& operator - "Address of" operator or "Referencing operator" used to store the address of an existing variable into a pointer. → or "value at address" or "indirection operator"

*** operator**: "dereference operator". Dereferring a pointer is used to get the value from the memory address that is pointed out by a pointer.

* pointers are useful for returning multiple values from a function

Size of a pointer

The size of a pointer in C is same for every pointer and it doesn't depend upon what data type it is pointing to and the size of the pointer depends upon OS and CPU architecture.

→ It is 8 bytes for 64 bit system.

⇒ It is 4 bytes for a 32 bit system.

size of int pointer = size of char pointer = size of void pointer.

int *p = $\underline{81}$; → format specifier for pointers

printf("%x", p);

Eg: int *ptr = NULL;

printf("%x", ptr)

Output: 0 ^{value of address stored in pointer which is null.}

Youtube

Pointers are variables that stores the address of another variable.

```
int a;  
int *p;  
p = &a; // p points to a and stores the address of a  
a=5;  
print p // 204  
print &a // 204  
print &p // 64  
print*p // 5
```

a=5	204
p=204	64

* if we put * in front of a pointer then it gives us the value stored at the address stored in the pointer. This process is known as dereferencing.

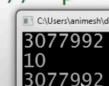
$\boxed{p \rightarrow \text{address}}$
 $\boxed{*p \rightarrow \text{value at address}}$

Types of pointers

int *p; → pointer to an integer
char *p; → pointer to a character
double *p; → pointer to a double

or int *p;
char *p;

```
#include<stdio.h>  
int main()  
{  
    int a;  
    int *p;  
    a = 10;  
    p = &a; // &a = address of  
    printf("%d\n", a);  
    printf("%d\n", *p); // *p -  
    printf("%d\n", &a);  
}
```



Program to update values using pointers.

int main()

{
 int a;
 int *p;
 a=10;
 p=&a;

printf("%d\n", a);
*p=12; // updates the value at a.
printf("a=%d\n", a);
}

Output: 10

12

Increment of a pointer.

```
#include<stdio.h>
int main()
{
    int a = 10;
    int *p;
    p = &a;
    // Pointer arithmetic
    printf("Address p is %d\n",p);
    printf("value at address p is %d\n",*p);
    printf("size of integer is %d bytes\n",sizeof(int));
    printf("Address p+1 is %d\n",p+1);
    printf("value at address p+1 is %d\n",*(p+1));
```

Address p is 2750832
value at address p is 10
size of integer is 4 bytes
Address p+1 is 2750836
value at address p+1 is -858993460

because size of int is 4 bytes



int a = 1025;

int *p;

p = &a

printf(p // 200

value of 1025 ← printf *p // compiler looks that it is integer, which is of 4 bytes and then looks at 4 bytes starting at 200.

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int main()
4 {
5     int a=10234;
6     int* p=&a;
7     char *p0=(char*)p;// because p is a pointer to an integer
8     printf("size of integer is %d\n",sizeof(int));
9     printf("address of a is %d and value at that address is %d \n ",p,*p);
0     printf("size of character is : %d \n",sizeof(char));
1     printf("address: %d value at address : %d \n",p0,*p0);
2     return 0;
3 }
```

size of integer is 4
address of a is 1828614904 and value at that address is 10234
size of character is : 1
address: 1828614904 value at address : -6
sarath@Sarthaks-Macbook-Air PointersInc %

int main()
{
int a=1024;
int* p=&a;
char *p0=(char*)p;// because p is a pointer to an integer
printf("size of integer is %lu\n",sizeof(int));
printf("address of a is %u and value at that address is %d \n ",p+1,*(p+1));
printf("size of character is : %lu \n",sizeof(char));
printf("address: %s value at address : %d \n",p0+1,*(p0+1));
return 0;
}

type casting in a pointer

size of integer is 4
address of a is 1875456764 and value at that address is 0
size of character is : 1
address: 1875456761 value at address : 4
sarath@Sarthaks-Macbook-Air PointersInc %

equivalent to
1025 in 32 bits

00000000 00000000 000000100 00000001
Byte3 Byte2 Byte1 Byte0

Void pointer

syntax of declaration:

void *p;

generic pointer. can point to any data type and can be typecasted to any type.

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main()
{
    int a=1024;
    int* p=&a;
    void *p0;
    p0=p;
    printf(" address : %u value : %d/n",p0,*p0);
    return 0;
}
```

give error: void pointer cannot be dereferenced and can only be used to store address.

Pointer to Pointer

int x=5;

int *p;

p = &x; p points to integer x.

int **q; → a pointer that points to a pointer

q = &p; q: → having address of a pointer.

int ***r;

r = &q;

print (*p) = 6

print (*q) = 225

print (**q) = 6

print (**r) = 6

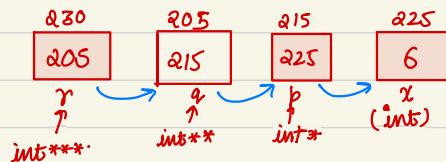
***r=10;

print (x)= 10;

**q = *p+2;

print (x) = 12

* we use integer pointers to store the address of integer variables so pointers are not only used to store address but they are also used for dereferencing.



```
VS Welcome C voidpointer.c x
C voidpointer.c > main()
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int main()
4 {
5     int a=69;
6     char ch='b';
7     void *ptr;
8     ptr=&a;
9     printf("%d \n",*(int*)ptr); //not *ptr
10    ptr=&ch;
11    printf("%c \n",*(char*)ptr); // not *ptr that gives error void pointer
12                                            // needs to be type casted before printing
13
14 }
```

void ptr can point to any data type

ptr → works
but *ptr doesn't work
because we cannot dereference a void pointer

Pointers as function arguments - Call by reference

```
#include<stdio.h>
void Increment(int *p)
{
    *p = (*p) + 1;
}
int main()
{
    int a;
    a = 10;
    Increment(&a);
    printf("a = %d", a);
}
```

Output: 11

Padding the reference.

call by reference.

- helps us save some memory as copy of variables that is, local variables are not made which occupy more memory than reference of a variable.

Pointers and arrays

```
int int A[5];
```

A[0]

A[1]

A[2]

A[3]

A[4]



(int occupies 4 bytes in modern compilers)

```
int *p;
print(*p+2) // 5
```

```
p = &A[0];
```

```
print p // 200
```

```
print *p // 2
```

```
print(p+1) // 204
```

```
print *(p+1) // 4
```

To access the element in the array at ith position

Address :- $\&A[i]$ or $A+i$

value :- $A[i]$ or $*(A+i)$

```
int A[5];
int *p;
p = A;
print A // 200
```

this points to the first element of the array

Pointer to base address.

```
#include<stdio.h>
int main()
{
    int A[] = {2,4,5,8,1};
    printf("%d\n", A);
    printf("%d\n", &A[0]);
    printf("%d\n", A[0]);
    printf("%d\n", *A);
```



```
#include<stdio.h>
int main()
{
    int A[] = {2,4,5,8,1};
    int i;
    for(int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
    {
        printf("Address = %d\n", &A[i]);
        printf("Address = %d\n", A+i);
        printf("value = %d\n", A[i]);
        printf("value = %d\n", *(A+i));
    }
}
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main()
{
    int A[] = {2,4,5,6,1};
    int i;
    int *p = A;
    p++; ← This is valid
    A++; ← This is invalid.
}
```

```
2
3 int main()
4 {
5     int arr[]={1,2,3,4,5};
6     int *p=arr;
7     printf("%d \n",p);
8     p++; → increases by an integer.
9     printf("%d\n",p);
0     return 0;
1 }
```

Outputs

```
1872081648
1872081652
sarth@Sarthaks-Macbook-Air PointersInC %
```

Arrays as function arguments

When a compiler does an array as function argument, it doesn't copy the whole array. It actually creates a pointer variable by same name (Same as data type of the array) and it points to the address of first element in the array. That's why the output is as such.

```
#include<stdio.h>
int SumOfElements(int A[])
{
    int i, sum = 0;
    int size = sizeof(A)/sizeof(A[0]);
    for(i = 0;i<size;i++)
    {
        sum+= A[i];
    }
    return sum;
}
int main()
{
    int A[]={ 1,2,3,4,5 };
    int total = SumOfElements(A);
    printf("Sum of elements = %d\n",total);
}
```

Output:

```
SOE - Size of A = 4, size of A[0] = 4
Sum of elements = 1
Main - Size of A = 20, size of A[0] = 4
```

↳ We need to pass the size of the array as size is unknown if not passed.

```
#include<stdio.h>
int SumOfElements(int* A, int size)// "int* A" or "int A[]" ..it's the same..
{
    int i, sum = 0;
    printf("SOE - Size of A = %d, size of A[0] = %d\n", sizeof(A), sizeof(A[0]));
    for(i = 0;i<size;i++)
    {
        sum+= A[i];
    }
    return sum;
}
int main()
{
    int A[]={ 1,2,3,4,5 };
    int size = sizeof(A)/sizeof(A[0]);
    int total = SumOfElements(&A,size);
    printf("Sum of elements = %d\n",total);
    printf("Main - Size of A = %d, size of A[0] = %d\n", sizeof(A), sizeof(A[0]));
}
```

↙ This gives the correct output.

```
|
4 warnings generated.
SIZE OF S =8 and size of A[0]= 4
SUM OF ELEMENTS= 15
SIZE OF S =20 and size of A[0]= 4
e
```

```

#include<stdio.h>
void Double(int* A, int size) // "int* A" or "int A[]" ...it's the same..
{
    int i, sum = 0;
    for(i = 0; i < size; i++)
    {
        A[i] = 2*A[i];
    }
}
int main()
{
    int A[] = {1,2,3,4,5};
    int size = sizeof(A)/sizeof(A[0]);
    int i;
    Double(A, size);
    for(i = 0; i < size; i++)
    {
        printf("%d ", A[i]);
    }
}

```



dince array is passed by reference we can actually modify it.

Character arrays and pointers (basically strings)

size of array \geq no of characters in string + 1. \rightarrow to tell that the string ends there.

Eg "John" size \geq 5

char C[8];
 C[0] = 'J' C[1] = 'O' C[2] = 'H' C[3] = 'N' C[4] = '\0'

null character

Rule:- a string in C has to be terminated by a null character.

#include<stdio.h>
 int main()
 {

even if it is C[5] - it will work.

```

    char C[20];
    C[0] = 'J';
    C[1] = 'O';
    C[2] = 'H';
    C[3] = 'N';
    C[4] = '\0';
    printf("%s", C);
}

```



if this is omitted then output is:



//character arrays and pointers

#include<stdio.h>

#include<string.h>

int main()

{

```

    char C[20];
    C[0] = 'J';
    C[1] = 'O';
    C[2] = 'H';
    C[3] = 'N';
    C[4] = '\0';
}

```

```

    int len = strlen(C);
    printf("Length = %d\n", len);
}

```



Note: This is an invalid statement
 we cannot do like this. \rightarrow we can avoid size
 char C[20];
 C = "JOHN"; \rightarrow it has to be done in a single line i.e.
 char C[20] = "JOHN";

this can be alleviated by using string literals
 (which are enclosed in double quotes)

Eg: char C[20] = "JOHN";
 \rightarrow here null termination is implicit.

this function also works as printf function
 that it finds the length till a null character is not obtained.

here null character will not be implicit hence we have to enter it manually.

We can also declare a string as `char C[5] = { 'J', 'O', 'H', 'N', '\0' };`

* Arrays and pointers are different types that are used in similar manner

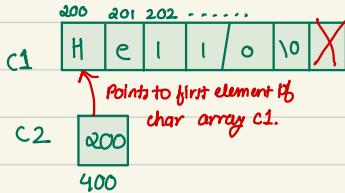
`char c1[6] = "Hello";`

`char *c2;`

`c2 = c1; // this is valid statement and
it will point to first element of the array c.`

Important

`print C2[1] // c
c2[0]= 'A' // Hello"
c2[i] is *(c2+i)
c1[i] or *(c1+i)`



We cannot increment an array but we can increment a pointer.

```

1 #include <stdio.h>
2 void print(char* str)
3 {
4     int i=0;
5     while(str[i]!='\0') /*(str+i)
6     {
7         printf("%c", str[i]);/*(str+i)
8         i++; /*(str+i);
9     }
10    printf("\n"); /*(str+i);
11 }
12 int main()
13 {
14     char str[20]="HELLO";
15     print(str);
16     return 0;
17 }
```

Output: HELLO

```

slnC > c printf.c > ⊕ main()
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <stdbool.h>

int main()
{
    int n=printf("123456\n");
    printf("%d\n",n);
    return 0;
}
```

It returns the no. of characters it prints.

6 characters

```

HELLO
6
sarthak@Sarthaks-Macbook-Air PointersInC %
e
```

```
//character arrays and pointers
#include<stdio.h>
#include<string.h>
void print(char *C)
{
    while(*C != '\0')
    {
        printf("%c",*C);
        C++;
    }
    printf("\n");
}
int main()
{
    //char C[20] = "Hello"; // string gets stored in the space for array
    char *C = "Hello"; // string gets stored as compile time constant
    C[0] = 'A'|can be substituted for C[20]
    printf("Hello World");
    print(C);
}
```

Bld error

compile error as const cannot be updated

```
//character arrays and pointers
#include<stdio.h>
#include<string.h>
void print(const char *C)
{
    while(*C != '\0')
    {
        printf("%c",*C);
        C++;
    }
    printf("\n");
}
int main()
{
    char C[20] = "Hello";
    print(C);
}
```

just to read a array, we cannot make changes to it
C[0] = 'A'; will give error.

```
fication.c > @ main()
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <stdbool.h>
void modify(char* str)
{
    while(*str != '\0')
    {
        *str = *str + 1;
        str++;
    }
    return;
}
int main()
{
    char str[20] = "ABCDEFGHI";
    modify(str);
    printf("%s",str);
    return 0;
}
```

- giving bus error
- cannot modify

```
modification.c > @ main()
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdlib.h>
3 #include <string.h>
4 #include <stdbool.h>
5 void modify(char* str) |copy of pointer is created
6 {
7     while(*str != '\0')
8     {
9         *str = *str + 1;
10        str++;
11    }
12    return;
13 }
14 int main()
15 {
16     char str[20] = "ABCDEFGHI";
17     modify(str);
18     printf("%s",str);
19     return 0;
20 }
```

- can modify

```
modification.c > @ modify(const char *)
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <stdbool.h>
void modify(const char* str) |here we are dereferencing and then using do no problem
{
    while(*str != '\0')
    {
        printf("%c",*str+1);
        str++;
    }
}
int main()
{
    char str[20] = "ABCDEFGHI";
    modify(str);
    return 0;
}
```

```
sarthak@Sarthaks-Macbook-Air: strings % cd BCDEFGHI
sarthak@Sarthaks-Macbook-Air: strings %
```

Pointers and multidimensional arrays

`int A[5];` → but we cannot say $A = p$;
`int *p = A;` only the name of the array returns
 the pointer to the first element of the
 array.
`print(p) // 200`

`print(*p) // 2` → this would
 be the
 same as
`print(*(p+0)) // 6`

200	204	208	212	216
A[0]	A[1]	A[2]	A[3]	A[4]

`int B[2][3] → creating array of array`
 $B[0] \rightarrow B[0][0], B[0][1], B[0][2]$
 $B[1] \rightarrow B[1][0], B[1][1], B[1][2]$

`print(A) // 200`
`print(*A) // 2`
`print(*(A+0)) // 6`
 $*(\text{A} + i)$ is same as $A[i]$
 $\text{A} + i$ is same as $\&A[i]$

400	404	408	412	416	420
B[0][0]	B[0][1]	B[0][2]	B[1][0]	B[1][1]	B[1][2]

`int *p = B` → will return a pointer to 1-D array of 3 integers
 wrong because it's not a pointer to an integer

This is basically the name of second array of 3 integers do by the name of array of three integers we get the pointer to the first element of that array hence we get $B[1][0]$

return the whole pointer array

correct syntax → pointer array.

`int (*p)[3] = B;` will return a pointer to 1-D array of 3 integers

1D array of 3 integers
 $\&B[0]$

`print(B) or print(B[0]) // 400`
`print(*B) or B[0] or B[B[0]] // 400`
`print(B+1) or B[1] or B[B[1]] // 400 + 1x3x4`
`print(*(B+1)) or B[1][0] // 412`

`print(*(B+1)+2) ≈ (B[1]) + 2 or B[B[1][2]] // 412`

Output:.. 420

→ pointer to array of 3 integers
 → name of array
 → gives $B[B[1][0]]$
 → pointer to first element of the array
 $B[1][0]$

$\uparrow B \rightarrow \text{int } *p[3];$

`print(*(*B+1)) = B = B[0] ≈ *(BB[0]) ≈ &B[0][0]`
 $B[B[0][0]] + 1 = B[B[0][1]]$

$*(\text{BB}[0][1]) = \underline{\underline{3}}$ → output.

```

int B[2][3]
B[0] } → 1-D arrays
      of 3 integers
B[1] ← 400 404 408 412 416 420
      B[0][0] B[0][1] B[0][2] B[1][0] B[1][1] B[1][2]
int (*p)[3] = B;
Print B or &B[0] // 400
Print *B or B[0] or &B[0][0] // 400
Print B+1 or &B[1] // 412
Print *(B+1) or B[1] or &B[1][0] // 412
Print *(B+1)+2 or B[2]+2 or &B[1][2] // 420
Print *(B+1) // 3
      ↓
      B[0][1]

```

C stores multi-d arrays in row major wise.

→ here B is C pointer to an array of 3 integers

* returned array.

$B \rightarrow \text{int}^* [3]$ // pointer to integer pointer array

$B[0] \rightarrow \text{int}^*$ // points to an integer pointer.

For 2-D array

pointer to 1 D array of 3 integers

$$B[i][j] = * (B[i] + j) = * (* (B + i) + j)$$

↓ address of $B[i]$

$b[2]$ is same as $*(b + 2)$

Function pointers

A variable that stores the address of a function.

- Function pointers are useful when we want to call the function dynamically.

Syntax: function return type (*pointer name)(function argument list)

Ex:

```
void hello()
{
    printf("Hello world");
}
```

fn return
r type arg list
void (*ptr)() = &hello;
 ↑
 pointer
 name

```
functionptr.c > @ main()
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdlib.h>
3 #include <string.h>
4 #include <stdbool.h>
5 void print(int n)
6 {
7     printf("HELLO WORLD!!!");
8 }
9 int main()
10 {
11     void (*ptr)(int)=print;
12     (*ptr)(5);
13     return 0;
14 }
```

(*ptr)(); → calling a function
using function pointer

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

pointer
name arg list
int (*ptr)(int, int) = &add;

return type

int a = (*ptr)(3,10); → calling

returning the
returned value in a.

also be written as:-

int *ptr(int, int);

ptr = add; → initialization

using the fn name returns the add of the function

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <stdbool.h>
void function1()
{
    printf("THIS IS FUNCTION 1\n");
}
void function2()
{
    printf("THIS IS FUNCTION 2\n");
}
int main()
{
void (*arr[2])()={function1,function2};
arr[0]();
arr[1]();
return 0;
}
```

```
functionptr.c > @ main()
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdlib.h>
3 #include <string.h>
4 #include <stdbool.h>
5 int function1()
6 {
    printf("THIS IS FUNCTION 1\n");
    return 0;
}
int function2()
{
    printf("THIS IS FUNCTION 2\n");
    return 0;
}
int main()
{
int (*arr[2])()=(function1,function2);
(arr[0]());
(arr[1]()); or (*arr[0]());
return 0;
}
```

```

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

void (*ptr)(int*,int*); → declaration of function pointer
 ptr = swap; → initialization of function pointer
 (*ptr)(&x,&y); → calling of function pointer

Array of function pointers : Dynamic function calling without using if-else or switch case

```

float add( int a,int b) { return a+b; }
float subtract( int a,int b) { return a-b; }
float multiply( int a,int b) { return a*b; }
float divide ( int a,int b) { return a/b; } 
```

```

int main()
{
    float (*arr[4])(int,int) = { add,subtract, multiply, divide };
    float ans= (*arr[1])(30,10); → calling ≈ (*subtract)(30,10);
    printf( "%f", ans );
} 
```

return type of the functions

```

#include <stdio.h>
#include <iostream>
#include <string.h>
#include <csdbol.h>
void swap(int a,int* b)
{
    int c=a;
    *a=b;
    *b=c;
}
int main()
{
    int a=9,b=6;
    printf("BEFORE SWAPPING: a = %d b = %d \n",a,b);
    void (*ptr)(int*,int*)=swap;
    (*ptr)(&a,&b);
    printf("AFTER SWAPPING: a = %d b = %d \n",a,b);
    return 0;
} 
```

equivalent to

float (*arr[4])(int,int) = { add,subtract, multiply, divide}; ↗

* (subtract)(30,10);

Null pointer

It's a pointer that doesn't point to any location.

Syntax: type ptr-name = NULL or 0;

Uses of null pointer

- * used to initialize pointers when it hasn't been assigned any valid memory address
- * To check whether a pointer is null or not before dereferencing it
- * It is used in DSA like trees, linked lists etc to indicate the end.
- * To pass a null pointer to a function argument when we don't want to pass any valid memory address.

```

int *ptr = NULL;
printf("%d", *ptr);      // 0
if (ptr == NULL);        // returns true because pointer is null.

```

```

void pIsNull (int *value)
{
    if (*value == NULL)
        printf("Null pointer passed!");
    return;
}

int main ()
{
    pIsNull(NULL);           Padding null to a function
}

```

Null Pointer	Void Pointer
It is a value.	It is a type
any pointer can be assigned null	It can only be of type void
A null pointer doesn't point to anything it's just a special reserved value for pointers.	It points to a memory location that contains typeless data
All null pointers are equal	void pointers can be different

Dangling Pointers

They are the pointers that refer to a memory location that has been freed.

Uninitialized pointers / Wild Pointers

Using a pointer without assigning a valid address.

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main()
{
    int *p; // Uninitialized pointer
    *p = 10; // Attempt to dereference and assign value
    printf("Value of *p: %d\n", *p); // Undefined behavior
    return 0;
}
```

Output:
Segmentation fault

→ correct way $\text{int } x = 10;$

$\text{int } *p;$

$p = \&x;$ → pointer pointing to x

$*p = 20;$ → modified x

Common mistakes while using pointers

- * using uninitialized pointers
- * Dangling pointers
- * incorrect pointer arithmetic.

ADVANTAGES OF POINTERS

1. Passing pointers to a function saves memory as duplicates are not made.
2. Pointers can be used to easily manipulate and access data
3. Pointers can be used to return multiple values from a function.
4. It can be used to access and manipulate data stored at the location stored in the pointer.

FUNCTION POINTERS

2. They are useful when we want to call a function dynamically.

ARRAY OF FUNCTION POINTERS

1. When we want to call functions dynamically.

NULL POINTERS

1. It is a value assigned to a pointer.
2. Used in data structures to indicate an end.
3. Used when we don't want to assign a pointer any valid memory address

DANGLING POINTERS

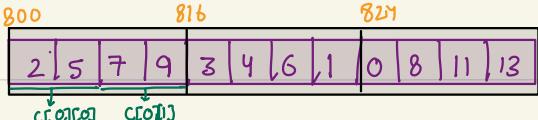
It is a pointer that refers to a memory location that has been freed.

WILD POINTERS

Using a pointer without referencing it.

Continued

Q) `int C[3][2][2] =`



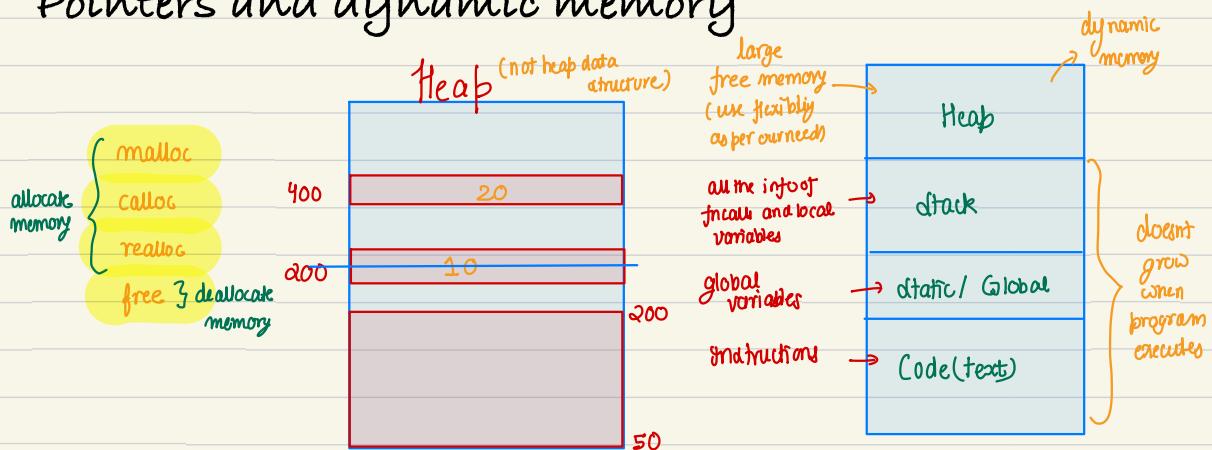
`Print * (C[0][1] + 1)`

`print *(C[1] + 1)`

Output 9

gives the name of the array {6,1} name → pointer to first element of the array
= 824

Pointers and dynamic memory



Malloc

Hey! Give me a block of 4 bytes on heap // returns 200

```
int *p = (int*) malloc (sizeof(int));
```

// returns 400

```
*p = 10; free(p);
```

p = (int*) malloc (sizeof(int));

*p = 20; it returns a void pointer so we need to type cast it

These allocated memory doesn't clean on its own therefore we also need to free this memory

To allocate memory for an array

`b = (int*) malloc (20*sizeof(int));` point to 50

Condit void* a → address cannot be modified

return the void pointer

malloc - `void* malloc (size_t size)` → ask for size in bytes

→ return the pointer to the first byte of the allocated memory

`void *p = malloc (3 * sizeof (int))`

↑ cannot be dereferenced ↑ no of elements ↑ size of one unit

`int *p = (int*) p or (int*) malloc(3* sizeof(int))`

if it doesn't initialize allocated memory
so there would be garbage value stored there

if memory is not allocated then null pointer is returned

calloc - `void* calloc (size_t num, size_t size)`

↓ contiguous memory allocation ↑ no of units ↑ size of datatype

or initialize all allocated memory to 0.

To change the size of pre allocated block of allocated memory.

realloc - `void* realloc (void* ptr, size_t size)`

↓ pointer to the starting address of existing block ↑ size of new block

extended block of previous block
(if contiguous memory available)

make new block and copy the first block.
(if contiguous memory not available)

```
Dynamic memory > C malloc.c > @ main()
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdlib.h>
3 int main()
4 {
5 int n;
6 printf("ENTER THE SIZE OF THE ARRAY \n");
7 scanf("%d",&n);
8 int *A=(int*)malloc(n*sizeof(int)); //Dynamically allocated array
9 for(int i=0;i<n;i++)
10 {
11 | A[i]=i+1;
12 }
13 for(int i=0;i<n;i++)
14 {
15 | printf("%d ",A[i]);
16 }
17 return 0;
18 }
```

```
Dynamic memory > C malloc.c > @ main()
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdlib.h>
3 int main()
4 {
5 int n;
6 printf("ENTER THE SIZE OF THE ARRAY \n");
7 scanf("%d",&n);
8 int *A=(int*)malloc(n*sizeof(int)); //Dynamically allocated array
9 for(int i=0;i<n;i++)
10 {
11 | A[i]=i+1;
12 }
13 free(A); → free the memory
14 for(int i=0;i<n;i++)
15 {
16 | printf("%d ",A[i]);
17 }
18 return 0;
19 }
```

Output: garbage value as memory has been freed

```
Dynamic memory > C malloc.c > @ main()
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdlib.h>
3 int main()
4 {
5 int n;
6 printf("ENTER THE SIZE OF THE ARRAY \n");
7 scanf("%d",&n);
8 int *A=(int*)calloc(n,sizeof(int)); //Dynamically allocated array
9 for(int i=0;i<n;i++)
10 {
11 | printf("%d ",A[i]);
12 }
13 return 0;
14 }
```

Output 0 0 0 0 0 0

if malloc used then garbage values

```

Dynamic memory > C malloc.c > @ main()
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdlib.h>
3 int main()
4 {
5     int n;
6     printf("ENTER THE SIZE OF THE ARRAY \n");
7     scanf("%d",&n);
8     int *A=(int*)calloc(n,sizeof(int)); //Dynamically allocated array
9     for(int i=0;i<n;i++)
10    {
11        A[i]=i+1;
12    }
13    int *B=(int*)realloc(A,(n/2)*sizeof(int)); here previous block of
14    printf("PREV BLOCK ADDRESS= %d NEW ADDRESS = %d \n",A,B); memory is halved
15    for(int i=0;i<n/2;i++)
16    {
17        printf("%d ",B[i]);
18    }
19    return 0;
20 }

```

if we increase the size of the $\star A$ then either previous block of memory is allocated or a new block is created and a copy is created

$\star A = (\text{int}^*)\text{realloc}(A, 0)$ will be equivalent to $\text{free}(A)$

$\star B = (\text{int}^*)\text{realloc}(\text{NULL}, n*\text{sizeof}(\text{int}))$; will be equivalent to

$\star A =$

$(\text{int}^*)\text{malloc}(n*\text{sizeof}(\text{int}))$.

while returning pointers from a fn we have to be very carefull and checked that memory isn't freed and reallocated as in the attack - here we can use heap in which we have full control over the memory allocation and deallocation.

```

Dynamic memory > C malloc.c > @ main()
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdlib.h>
3 int* Add(int *a,int *b)
4 {
5     int* c=(int*)malloc(sizeof(int));
6     *c=*a+*b;
7     return c;
8 }
9 void print()
10 {
11     printf("HELLO WORLD!!!!\n");
12 }
13 int main()
14 {
15     int x,y;
16     x=20;
17     y=60;
18     int *ans=(Add(&x,&y));
19     print();
20     printf("%d \n",*ans);
21     return 0;
22 }

```

Static memory allocation	Dynamic memory allocation
Memory is allocated at compile time.	Memory is allocated at run time.
Memory can't be increased while executing program.	Memory can be increased while executing program.
Used in array.	Used in linked list.

S.No.	malloc()	calloc()
1.	A function that creates one block of memory of a fixed size.	A function that assigns a specified number of blocks of memory to a single variable.
2.	It only takes one argument	Takes two arguments.
3.	It is faster than calloc.	slower than malloc()
4.	It is used to indicate memory allocation	Used to indicate contiguous memory allocation
5.	Syntax : void* malloc(size_t size);	Syntax : void* calloc(size_t num, size_t size);
6.	It does not initialize the memory to zero	Initializes the memory to zero
7.	Does not add any extra memory overhead	Adds some extra memory overhead

→ calloc
multiple blocks of memory

Pointers to functions

Functions is nothing but instructions stored in contiguous block of memory

address of the function would be the address of first instruction of the function (entry point of the function)

```
int Add(int a,int b)  
{ return a+b; }
```

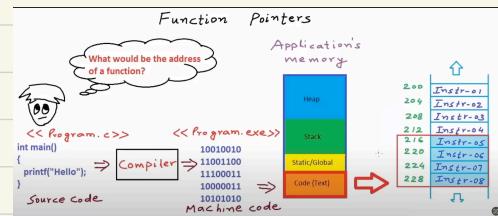
argument type

/

int (*p)(int,int) = &Add; or Add
↓ returning the fn

dereferencing and
executing the fn.

→ int c = (*p)(2,3);
print(c) // 5



If int *p(int,int) were declaring a
function which returns a pointer to
integer.

```
//Function Pointers and callbacks  
#include<stdio.h>  
void A() |  
{  
    printf("Hello");  
}  
void B(void (*ptr)()) // function pointer as argument  
{  
    ptr(); //call-back function that "ptr" points to  
}  
int main()  
{  
    B(A);  
}
```