

Function Pointers

Prof. Jyotiprakash Mishra
mail@jyotiprakash.org

Basic Function Pointer

Program 1:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 int add(int a, int b) {
3     return a + b;
4 }
5 int main() {
6     int (*func_ptr)(int, int);
7     func_ptr = &add;
8     int result = func_ptr(5, 3);
9     printf("Result: %d\n", result);
10    result = (*func_ptr)(10, 20);
11    printf("Result: %d\n", result);
12    return 0;
13 }
```

Output:

```
Result: 8
Result: 30
```

Note:

Function pointer syntax:
return_type (*ptr_name)(params);
Can call with func_ptr() or
(*func_ptr)(). Both work. & optional
when assigning function address.

Function Pointer as Parameter

Program 2:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 int add(int a, int b) { return a + b; }
3 int sub(int a, int b) { return a - b; }
4 int multiply(int a, int b) {
5     return a * b;
6 }
7 void compute(int x, int y,
8     int (*op)(int, int)) {
9     printf("Result: %d\n", op(x, y));
10 }
11 int main() {
12     compute(10, 5, add);
13     compute(10, 5, sub);
14     compute(10, 5, multiply);
15     return 0;
16 }
```

Output:

```
Result: 15
Result: 5
Result: 50
```

Note:

Function pointers enable passing functions as arguments. Different operations with same function. Callback pattern foundation.

Array of Function Pointers

Program 3:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 int add(int a, int b) { return a + b; }
3 int sub(int a, int b) { return a - b; }
4 int mul(int a, int b) { return a * b; }
5 int divide(int a, int b) {
6     return b ? a / b : 0;
7 }
8 int main() {
9     int (*ops[4])(int, int) = {
10         add, sub, mul, divide
11     };
12     char* names[] = {"+", "-", "*", "/"};
13     int i;
14     for (i = 0; i < 4; i++) {
15         printf("10 %s 5 = %d\n",
16             names[i], ops[i](10, 5));
17     }
18     return 0;
19 }
```

Output:

```
10 + 5 = 15
10 - 5 = 5
10 * 5 = 50
10 / 5 = 2
```

Note:

Array of function pointers.
Syntax: `return_type (*arr[])(params)`
Index into array to select function.
Useful for dispatch tables.

Calculator with Function Pointers

Program 4:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 int add(int a, int b) { return a + b; }
3 int sub(int a, int b) { return a - b; }
4 int mul(int a, int b) { return a * b; }
5 int divide(int a, int b) {
6     return b ? a / b : 0;
7 }
8 int main() {
9     int (*ops[4])(int, int) = {
10         add, sub, mul, divide
11     };
12     int choice, a, b;
13     printf("0:+ 1:- 2:* 3:/\n");
14     printf("Enter choice: ");
15     scanf("%d", &choice);
16     printf("Enter two numbers: ");
17     scanf("%d %d", &a, &b);
18     if (choice >= 0 && choice < 4) {
19         printf("Result: %d\n",
20             ops[choice](a, b));
21     }
22     return 0;
23 }
```

Output:

```
0:+ 1:- 2:* 3:/
Enter choice: 2
Enter two numbers: 7 8
Result: 56
```

Note:

Menu-driven calculator using function pointer array. User choice selects which function to call.
Cleaner than switch statement.

Callback Functions

Program 5:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 void process_array(int arr[], int n,
3     void (*callback)(int)) {
4     int i;
5     for (i = 0; i < n; i++) {
6         callback(arr[i]);
7     }
8 }
9 void print_square(int x) {
10    printf("%d ", x * x);
11 }
12 void print_double(int x) {
13    printf("%d ", x * 2);
14 }
15 int main() {
16     int arr[] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
17     printf("Squares: ");
18     process_array(arr, 5, print_square);
19     printf("\nDoubles: ");
20     process_array(arr, 5, print_double);
21     printf("\n");
22     return 0;
23 }
```

Output:

```
Squares: 1 4 9 16 25
Doubles: 2 4 6 8 10
```

Note:

Callback pattern: function accepts another function to call back.
Same processing logic, different actions via callback.

Returning Function Pointers

Program 6:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 int add(int a, int b) { return a + b; }
3 int sub(int a, int b) { return a - b; }
4 int (*get_operation(char op))(int, int) {
5     if (op == '+') return add;
6     if (op == '-') return sub;
7     return NULL;
8 }
9 int main() {
10    int (*op)(int, int);
11    op = get_operation('+');
12    if (op) {
13        printf("10 + 5 = %d\n", op(10, 5));
14    }
15    op = get_operation('-');
16    if (op) {
17        printf("10 - 5 = %d\n", op(10, 5));
18    }
19    return 0;
20 }
```

Output:

```
10 + 5 = 15
10 - 5 = 5
```

Note:

Function can return function pointer.
Syntax: return_type (*func())(params)
Factory pattern: select and return appropriate function.

Typedef with Function Pointers

Program 7:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 typedef int (*Operation)(int, int);
3 int add(int a, int b) { return a + b; }
4 int multiply(int a, int b) {
5     return a * b;
6 }
7 void execute(int x, int y,
8     Operation op) {
9     printf("Result: %d\n", op(x, y));
10 }
11 int main() {
12     Operation op1 = add;
13     Operation op2 = multiply;
14     execute(5, 3, op1);
15     execute(5, 3, op2);
16     return 0;
17 }
```

Output:

```
Result: 8
Result: 15
```

Note:

typedef makes function pointer syntax cleaner. Operation is now a type name. Much more readable than raw function pointer syntax.

qsort with Function Pointers

Program 8:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdlib.h>
3 int compare_asc(const void *a,
4     const void *b) {
5     return (*(int*)a - *(int*)b);
6 }
7 int compare_desc(const void *a,
8     const void *b) {
9     return (*(int*)b - *(int*)a);
10}
11 int main() {
12     int arr[] = {5, 2, 8, 1, 9};
13     int i, n = 5;
14     qsort(arr, n, sizeof(int), compare_asc);
15     printf("Ascending: ");
16     for (i = 0; i < n; i++)
17         printf("%d ", arr[i]);
18     qsort(arr, n, sizeof(int),
19           compare_desc);
20     printf("\nDescending: ");
21     for (i = 0; i < n; i++)
22         printf("%d ", arr[i]);
23     printf("\n");
24 }
25 }
```

Output:

```
Ascending: 1 2 5 8 9
Descending: 9 8 5 2 1
```

Note:

qsort accepts comparison function pointer. void* for generic sorting. Compare function returns negative, zero, or positive for <, ==, >.

Sorting Structs with qsort

Program 9:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdlib.h>
3 #include <string.h>
4 typedef struct {
5     char name[20];
6     int age;
7 } Person;
8 int compare_age(const void *a,
9                 const void *b) {
10    return ((Person*)a)->age -
11        ((Person*)b)->age;
12 }
13 int main() {
14     Person p[] = {
15         {"Alice", 25}, {"Bob", 20},
16         {"Charlie", 30}
17     };
18     int i, n = 3;
19     qsort(p, n, sizeof(Person),
20           compare_age);
21     for (i = 0; i < n; i++) {
22         printf("%s: %d\n", p[i].name,
23                p[i].age);
24     }
25     return 0;
26 }
```

Output:

```
Bob: 20
Alice: 25
Charlie: 30
```

Note:

qsort works with any data type.
Cast void* to appropriate type in
compare function. Access struct
members for comparison.

Function Pointer in Struct

Program 10:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 typedef struct {
3     int (*add)(int, int);
4     int (*multiply)(int, int);
5 } Calculator;
6 int add(int a, int b) { return a + b; }
7 int multiply(int a, int b) {
8     return a * b;
9 }
10 int main() {
11     Calculator calc;
12     calc.add = add;
13     calc.multiply = multiply;
14     printf("Add: %d\n", calc.add(5, 3));
15     printf("Multiply: %d\n",
16            calc.multiply(5, 3));
17     return 0;
18 }
```

Output:

```
Add: 8
Multiply: 15
```

Note:

Function pointers as struct members.
Object-oriented style in C.
Struct bundles data and operations.
Foundation for virtual functions.

State Machine with Function Pointers

Program 11:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 typedef void (*State)();
3 void state_idle() {
4     printf("IDLE state\n");
5 }
6 void state_running() {
7     printf("RUNNING state\n");
8 }
9 void state_stopped() {
10    printf("STOPPED state\n");
11 }
12 int main() {
13     State states[] = {
14         state_idle, state_running,
15         state_stopped
16     };
17     int current = 0;
18     int i;
19     for (i = 0; i < 3; i++) {
20         states[current]();
21         current = (current + 1) % 3;
22     }
23     return 0;
24 }
```

Output:

```
IDLE state
RUNNING state
STOPPED state
```

Note:

State machine using function pointer array. Each state is a function.
Transition by changing index.
Common embedded systems pattern.

Filter with Predicate Function

Program 12:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 int is_even(int x) { return x % 2 == 0; }
3 int is_positive(int x) { return x > 0; }
4 void filter(int arr[], int n,
5     int (*predicate)(int)) {
6     int i;
7     for (i = 0; i < n; i++) {
8         if (predicate(arr[i])) {
9             printf("%d ", arr[i]);
10        }
11    }
12    printf("\n");
13 }
14 int main() {
15     int arr[] = {-2, 3, -5, 4, 6, -1};
16     printf("Even: ");
17     filter(arr, 6, is_even);
18     printf("Positive: ");
19     filter(arr, 6, is_positive);
20     return 0;
21 }
```

Output:

```
Even: -2 4 6
Positive: 3 4 6
```

Note:

Predicate function returns boolean.
Filter calls predicate to decide inclusion. Functional programming pattern in C.

Map Function

Program 13:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 int square(int x) { return x * x; }
3 int cube(int x) { return x * x * x; }
4 void map(int arr[], int n,
5     int (*transform)(int)) {
6     int i;
7     for (i = 0; i < n; i++) {
8         printf("%d ", transform(arr[i]));
9     }
10    printf("\n");
11 }
12 int main() {
13     int arr[] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
14     printf("Squares: ");
15     map(arr, 5, square);
16     printf("Cubes: ");
17     map(arr, 5, cube);
18     return 0;
19 }
```

Output:

```
Squares: 1 4 9 16 25
Cubes: 1 8 27 64 125
```

Note:

Map applies transformation function to each element. Higher-order function pattern. Transform logic separated from iteration.

Reduce Function

Program 14:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 int add(int a, int b) { return a + b; }
3 int multiply(int a, int b) {
4     return a * b;
5 }
6 int max(int a, int b) {
7     return a > b ? a : b;
8 }
9 int reduce(int arr[], int n, int init,
10    int (*op)(int, int)) {
11    int i, result = init;
12    for (i = 0; i < n; i++) {
13        result = op(result, arr[i]);
14    }
15    return result;
16 }
17 int main() {
18     int arr[] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
19     printf("Sum: %d\n",
20         reduce(arr, 5, 0, add));
21     printf("Product: %d\n",
22         reduce(arr, 5, 1, multiply));
23     printf("Max: %d\n",
24         reduce(arr, 5, arr[0], max));
25     return 0;
26 }
```

Output:

```
Sum: 15
Product: 120
Max: 5
```

Note:

Reduce combines all elements using binary operation. Accumulates result. Different operations: sum, product, max, etc. Fold pattern.

Event Handler Pattern

Program 15:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 typedef void (*EventHandler)(int);
3 void on_click(int x) {
4     printf("Click at %d\n", x);
5 }
6 void on_hover(int x) {
7     printf("Hover at %d\n", x);
8 }
9 void trigger_event(int pos,
10     EventHandler handler) {
11     if (handler) {
12         handler(pos);
13     }
14 }
15 int main() {
16     trigger_event(10, on_click);
17     trigger_event(20, on_hover);
18     trigger_event(30, NULL);
19     return 0;
20 }
```

Output:

```
Click at 10
Hover at 20
```

Note:

Event handler pattern using function pointers. Register handlers for events. Trigger calls handler.
GUI programming foundation.

Command Pattern

Program 16:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 typedef void (*Command)();
3 void save() { printf("Saving...\n"); }
4 void load() { printf("Loading...\n"); }
5 void quit() { printf("Quitting...\n"); }
6 typedef struct {
7     char name[10];
8     Command cmd;
9 } MenuItem;
10 int main() {
11     MenuItem menu[] = {
12         {"Save", save},
13         {"Load", load},
14         {"Quit", quit}
15     };
16     int i;
17     for (i = 0; i < 3; i++) {
18         printf("%d. %s\n", i+1, menu[i].name);
19     }
20     printf("Choice: 1\n");
21     menu[0].cmd();
22     return 0;
23 }
```

Output:

```
1. Save
2. Load
3. Quit
Choice: 1
Saving...
```

Note:

Command pattern: bind name to action. Menu system using struct with function pointer. Extensible without switch statements.

Strategy Pattern

Program 17:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 typedef int (*SortStrategy)(int, int);
3 int ascending(int a, int b) {
4     return a > b;
5 }
6 int descending(int a, int b) {
7     return a < b;
8 }
9 void sort(int arr[], int n,
10 SortStrategy cmp) {
11     int i, j;
12     for (i = 0; i < n-1; i++) {
13         for (j = 0; j < n-i-1; j++) {
14             if (cmp(arr[j], arr[j+1])) {
15                 int temp = arr[j];
16                 arr[j] = arr[j+1];
17                 arr[j+1] = temp;
18             }
19         }
20     }
21 }
22 int main() {
23     int arr[] = {5, 2, 8, 1, 9};
24     int i;
25     sort(arr, 5, ascending);
26     for (i = 0; i < 5; i++)
27         printf("%d ", arr[i]);
28     printf("\n");
29 }
```

Output:

```
1 2 5 8 9
```

Note:

Strategy pattern: algorithm selected at runtime via function pointer.
Same sort code, different comparison strategies. Bubble sort here.



Function Composition

Program 18:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 int add_five(int x) { return x + 5; }
3 int multiply_two(int x) { return x * 2; }
4 int square(int x) { return x * x; }
5 int compose(int x,
6     int (*f)(int), int (*g)(int)) {
7     return f(g(x));
8 }
9 int main() {
10     int x = 3;
11     int result;
12     result = compose(x, multiply_two,
13         add_five);
14     printf("(3+5)*2 = %d\n", result);
15     result = compose(x, square,
16         multiply_two);
17     printf("(3*2)^2 = %d\n", result);
18     return 0;
19 }
```

Output:

```
(3+5)*2 = 16
(3*2)^2 = 36
```

Note:

Function composition: combine functions. `compose(f, g, x)` returns `f(g(x))`. Build complex operations from simple ones.

Plugin System

Program 19:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 typedef void (*Plugin)(const char*);
3 void plugin_upper(const char *s) {
4     printf("UPPER: ");
5     while (*s) {
6         printf("%c", (*s >= 'a' && *s <= 'z') ?
7             *s - 32 : *s);
8         s++;
9     }
10    printf("\n");
11 }
12 void plugin_reverse(const char *s) {
13     int len = 0;
14     const char *p = s;
15     while (*p++) len++;
16     printf("REVERSE: ");
17     while (len--) printf("%c", s[len]);
18     printf("\n");
19 }
20 void execute_plugin(Plugin p,
21     const char *data) {
22     p(data);
23 }
24 int main() {
25     execute_plugin(plugin_upper, "hello");
26     execute_plugin(plugin_reverse, "world");
27     return 0;
28 }
```

Output:

```
UPPER: HELLO
REVERSE: dlrow
```

Note:

Plugin architecture: load and execute different plugins via function pointers. Extensible system without recompilation.

Observer Pattern

Program 20:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 typedef void (*Observer)(int);
3 Observer observers[5];
4 int observer_count = 0;
5 void register_observer(Observer obs) {
6     if (observer_count < 5) {
7         observers[observer_count++] = obs;
8     }
9 }
10 void notify_all(int value) {
11     int i;
12     for (i = 0; i < observer_count; i++) {
13         observers[i](value);
14     }
15 }
16 void logger(int v) {
17     printf("Log: value=%d\n", v);
18 }
19 void alert(int v) {
20     if (v > 100)
21         printf("Alert: high value!\n");
22 }
23 int main() {
24     register_observer(logger);
25     register_observer(alert);
26     notify_all(50);
27     notify_all(150);
28     return 0;
29 }
```

Output:

```
Log: value=50
Log: value=150
Alert: high value!
```

Note:

Observer pattern: register callbacks that get notified on events. All observers called when state changes.
Publish-subscribe pattern.

