



**Dalhousie University**  
**Faculty of Computer Science**

---

# CSCI 3132 – Object Orientation and Generic Programming

## Week 4 – C++ Programming Basics

---

C++ Language Reference:  
<https://en.cppreference.com>

---

# Simple Data Types in C++

# C++ Data Types

---

- C++ Fundamental Data Types
  - Character
    - char
    - char16\_t
    - char32\_t
    - wchar\_t
  - Integral (signed & unsigned)
    - short
    - int
    - long
    - long long
  - Floating-point
    - float
    - double
    - long double
  - Others
    - bool
    - void
    - nullptr

# C++ Data Types

---

- 1 byte = 8 bits (normally),
- Size of data types represented in bytes
  - Sometimes, size mentioned as “at least x”
    - Example: `int` -> at least 16-bits
- C++ reference guarantees that:  
`1 == sizeof(char) <= sizeof(short) <= sizeof(int) <= sizeof(long) <= sizeof(long long)`
- For 64-bit bytes, all types (including `char`) are 64-bits wide
  - `sizeof(...)` returns 1 for every type

# Example

```
#include <iostream>
int main()
{
    char ch;
    short s;
    int i;
    long l;
    float f;
    double d;
    std::cout << "char = " << sizeof(ch)
        << "\nshort = " << sizeof(s)
        << "\nint = " << sizeof(i)
        << "\nfloat = " << sizeof(f)
        << "\nlong = " << sizeof(l)
        << "\ndouble = " << sizeof(d) << "\n";
    system("pause");
}
```

Output from cpp.sh

```
char = 1
short = 2
int = 4
float = 4
long = 8
double = 8
```

Output from Visual C++

```
char = 1
short = 2
int = 4
float = 4
long = 4
double = 8
```

# Example

---

1. What should be the data type of fact?
2. What is the output of this code?

```
void main() {  
    _____ fact = 1;  
    for (int i = 1; i <= 20; i++)  
    {  
        fact *= i;  
    }  
    cout << "\nFactorial = " << fact << " and  
    size of variable = "<<sizeof(fact)<<"\n";  
}
```

# Solution

---

Following is the output for int, long and long long  
int

```
Factorial = -2102132736 and size of variable = 4
```

long

```
Factorial = -2102132736 and size of variable = 4
```

long long

```
Factorial = 2432902008176640000 and size of variable = 8
```



# Variable Declarations

---

- Following are all valid

```
int a, b, c;
```

```
int a;  
int b;  
int c=5;
```

```
int a = 0, b, c=5;
```

# Variable Initialization

---

- Variables can be initialized when they are declared
  - In C++, there are three ways to initialize a variable

```
int x = 0;
```

```
int x(0);
```

```
int x{0};
```

<code>int a = 5;</code>	<code>// initial value: 5</code>
<code>int b(3);</code>	<code>// initial value: 3</code>
<code>int c{ 2 };</code>	<code>// initial value: 2</code>
<code>int result;</code>	<code>// initial value undetermined</code>

# Type Deduction

---

- “auto” can be used as the type specifier for a variable

```
float foo = 0.0;  
auto bar = foo; //same as: float bar = foo;
```

- Uninitialized variables can also make use of type deduction using “decltype”

```
float foo = 0.0;  
decltype(foo) = bar; //same as: float bar;
```

- Used either when:
  - type cannot be obtained by other means, or
  - when using it improves code readability

# typedef Declarations

---

- You can create a new name for an existing type using `typedef`
  - Example:

```
typedef int inch;  
inch distance;
```

- Since C++ 11, “typedef” replaced with “**using**”

```
using inch = int;
```

# extern

---

**'extern'** keyword means that a symbol can be accessed, but not defined. It should be defined (as a global) in some other module.

```
// Variable declaration:
extern int a, b;
int main ()
{
    // Variable definition:
    int a, b;
    int c;
    // actual initialization
    a = 10;
    b = 20;
    c = a + b;
    cout << c << endl ;
}
```

# Function Declaration

---

- Function name can similarly be provided at the time of its declaration and its actual definition can be given elsewhere.

```
// function declaration
int my_func();

int main()
{
    // function call
    int i = my_func();
}

// function definition
int my_func()
{
    return 0;
}
```

# l-values and r-values

---

- There are 2 kinds of expressions in C++

- **l-value**

- Expressions that refer to a memory location
- An l-value may appear at either the left-hand or right-hand side of an assignment
- E.g. `int i = 20; x=y;`

- **r-value :**

- A data value that is stored at some address in memory
- An expression that cannot have a value assigned to it
- An r-value may appear on the right- but not left-hand side of an assignment.
- E.g. `20=x` would be incorrect, so would `20=20;`

# C++ Constants and Literals

---

- Fixed values that the program may not alter
- Can be of any of the basic data types
  - Integer, numeric, float, char, string, Boolean
  - Integer literals can be decimal, octal or hexadecimal
    - Prefix of 0x for hexadecimal and 0 for octal is used
    - E.g. `int x=077`      assigns the value 63 to x  
          `int x=0xA0`     assigns the value 160 to x  
          `int x=079`     invalid as octal numbers are 0-7
  - Floating point can be decimal or exponential
    - E.g. `3.14159`, `314159E-5L` are valid  
          `314159E`, `.e55` are invalid



# C++ Constants and Literals

---

- Boolean literals
  - true and false
  - Should not consider value of 1 equal to true
- Character literals
  - Can be
    - a plain character (e.g. 'x'),
    - an escape sequence (e.g. '\n'),

# C++ Constants and Literals

---

- Defining constants

- Use `#define` preprocessor

- E.g. `#define DICE_SIDES 6`  
`#define NEWLINE '\n'`  
`#define FALSE true //legal but terrible`
    - `#define` is a pre-processor directive

- Use `const` keyword

- E.g. `const int DICE_SIDES = 6;`  
`const char NEWLINE = '\n';`
    - `const` declares an actual variable

---

# Compound Data Types in C++

# Compound Data Types

---

- Arrays
- Character sequences
- Strings
- Pointers
- Dynamic memory
- Data structures
- Other data types

# Arrays

---

- A series of elements of the same type placed in contiguous locations in memory
  - Can be individually referenced by their index
  - Are blocks of static memory whose size must be determined at compile time
- Typically declared as:

```
type name [elements]
```
- Example – Array of 6 integers:

```
int nums [6]
```

  - Need a constant expression to represent the number of array elements

# Array Initialization

---

- Arrays can be explicitly initialized with no values or to specific values

```
int nums[6] = {}; //initialized to 0
int nums[6] = {12, 2, 30, 1, 4, 7};
int nums[] = {1, 2, 3}; //array size 3
int nums[] {10, 20, 30};
```

- Array elements can be accessed using their index
  - Arrays index starts from 0
  - Example:

```
nums[0] = 20; //set 1st element to zero
cout << nums[1] + nums[3];
//results in output of 2+1 = 3
```

# Array Example

---

- What does the following code segment do?

```
int foo [] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6};  
int n, result=1;  
  
int main ()  
{  
    for ( n=0 ; n<6 ; ++n )  
    {  
        result *= foo[n];  
    }  
    cout << result;  
    return 0;  
}
```

# Multidimensional Arrays

---

- Arrays of arrays

```
int foo [2][3];  
//creates a 2x3 array  
  
cout<<foo[1][0]  
//outputs 1st element of 2nd row
```

- Study the following multi-dimensional array

```
char test[100][365][24][60][60]
```

- What does it do?
- How much memory would it consume?



# Arrays as Parameters

---

- Arrays passed by address as function arguments
  - Much faster and more efficient than passing a block of memory
  - Parameter declared as array with empty brackets

```
void func (int arr[]);  
...  
int l_arr[10];  
...  
func(l_arr);
```

- For multidimensional arrays, necessary to specify depth of dimensions

```
void func (int arr[][2][3]);
```

# Arrays

---

- Since C++ 11, `std::array` is a container that encapsulates fixed size arrays.

```
#include <iostream>
#include <array>

int main()
{
    std::array<int,3> myarray {10,20,30};
    for (int i=0; i<myarray.size(); ++i)
        ++myarray[i];
    for (int elem : myarray)
        std::cout << elem << '\n';
}
```

<https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/container/array>

# Character Sequences

---

- Expressed as an array of characters

```
char foo [20];
```

- End of sequence represented by *null character* `'\0'`

```
char foo[] = {'H', 'e', 'l', 'l', 'o', '\0'};  
//can also be initialized as:  
char foo[] = "Hello";
```

- Size of array = 6 elements (including null character)

# Character Sequences

---

- Consider the following declaration:

```
char foo[] = "Hello";
```

- Which of the following assignments would be valid?

```
foo = "Hi!";
```

```
foo[] = "Hi!";
```

```
foo = { 'H', 'i', '!', '\0' };
```

```
foo[0] = 'H';  
foo[1] = 'i';  
foo[2] = '!';  
foo[3] = '\0';
```

# Exercise

- Write a program to copy the character sequence from `my_char_arr` to `your_char_arr`

```
char my_char_arr[] = "Object Orientation";
```

- Solution**

```
int main()
{
    char my_char_arr[] = "Object Orientation";
    char your_char_arr[19];
    for (int i = 0; i < 19; ++i) {
        your_char_arr[i] = my_char_arr[i];
    }
    cout << your_char_arr;
    return 0;
}
```

# Useful Functions – C-style Character String

---

Function	Purpose
<code>strcpy(s1, s2);</code>	Copies string s2 into string s1.
<code>strcat(s1, s2);</code>	Concatenates string s2 onto the end of string s1.
<code>strlen(s1);</code>	Returns the length of string s1.
<code>strcmp(s1, s2);</code>	Returns 0 if s1 and s2 are the same; less than 0 if s1<s2; greater than 0 if s1>s2.
<code>strchr(s1, ch);</code>	Returns a pointer to the first occurrence of character ch in string s1.
<code>strstr(s1, s2);</code>	Returns a pointer to the first occurrence of string s2 in string s1.

# C++ `string` Class

---

- Strings are objects that represent sequences of characters
  - Part of the `std` namespace

- Initializing

```
string my_str ("Hello World");
```

- I/O

```
cin >> my_str;           //reads a string
```

```
getline(cin, my_string, '\n');  
//reads a line terminated by \n
```

# C++ `string` Class

---

- String concatenation

```
string my_str1 = "Hello ";  
string my_str2 = "World";  
string my_str3 = my_str1 + my_str2;  
cout<<my_str3<<endl; //output "Hello World"
```

- String comparison

```
string my_str1 = "Hello ";  
string my_str2 = "World";  
if (my_str1 != my_str2)  
    cout<<my_str1 + my_str2<<endl;  
//output "Hello World"
```

- What would happen if `!=` is replaced by `<` or `>`



# Some useful `string` functions

---

<code>size</code>	Return length of string
<code>length</code>	Return length of string
<code>max_size</code>	Return maximum size of string
<code>empty</code>	Test if string is empty
<code>Operator []</code>	Get character of string
<code>at</code>	Get character in string
<code>back</code>	Access last character
<code>front</code>	Access first character
<code>copy</code>	Copy sequence of characters from string
<code>find</code>	Find content in string
<code>find_first_of</code>	Find character in string
<code>find_last_of</code>	Find character in string from the end
<code>substr</code>	Generate substring
<code>compare</code>	Compare strings

---

# Pointers

# Memory Locations

---

Q: What happens when you define a variable, e.g. `int x`?

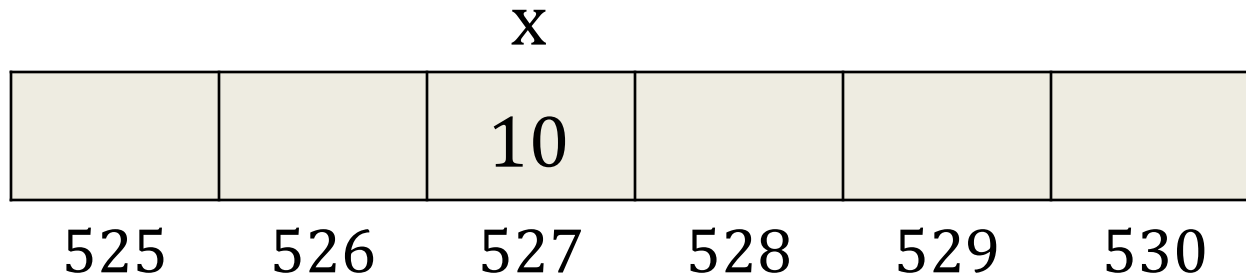
A: It is assigned a space in memory as shown below

Q: What value does it hold?

A: Any value present at that memory location (non-static)

Q: What happens when you initialize it (e.g. `x=10`)?

A: The value is written in the memory allocated to it



# Address of a Variable

---

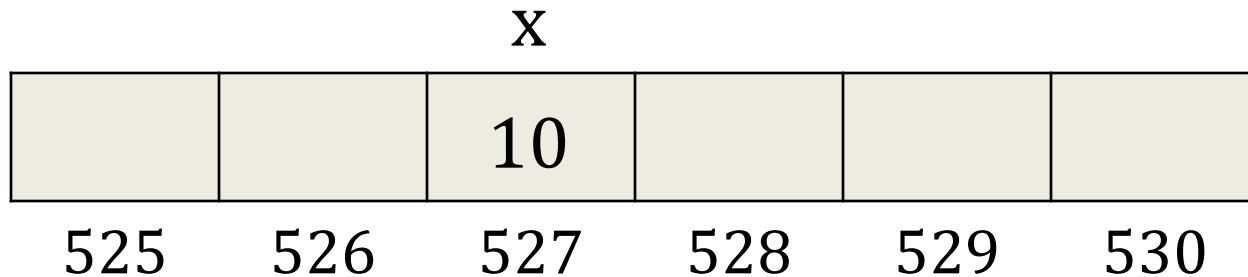
Q: How do you get the memory address of that variable?

A: Using the Address-of operator - **&**

Example: `&x` returns 527

Q: Where can we store this address of a variable?

A: In a **pointer**!



# Pointers

---

Q: What is a pointer?

A: variable that stores memory addresses, usually of other variables

Q: Why do we need pointers?

A: - dynamically allocate memory – you can write programs that can handle unlimited amounts of memory  
- allow a function to modify a variable passed to it  
- easier to pass around the location of a huge amount of data than passing the data itself

# Pointers

---

Q: How do you define a pointer?

A: *<variable type> \* ptr\_name;*

Example: `int * y;`

- Note that the pointer's type is not *int*, but rather the variable that the pointer points to is *int*
- pointer's definition needs to include the data type it is going to point to

- Example:  
`int x;`  
`int * y;`  
`y = &x;`

Here, *y* is the pointer variable and contains the memory address of the integer variable *x*

# Dereference Operator – \*

---

Q: How can we get the content of the memory address pointed to by the pointer?

A: By using the dereference operator ‘\*’

Note: Read the \* operator as “value pointed to by”

Example:

```
int x = 10;    //variable x = 10
```

```
int * y = &x;  //pointer variable y = Address of x
```

```
int z = *y;    //z = “value pointed to by y” = x, i.e. z = x;
```

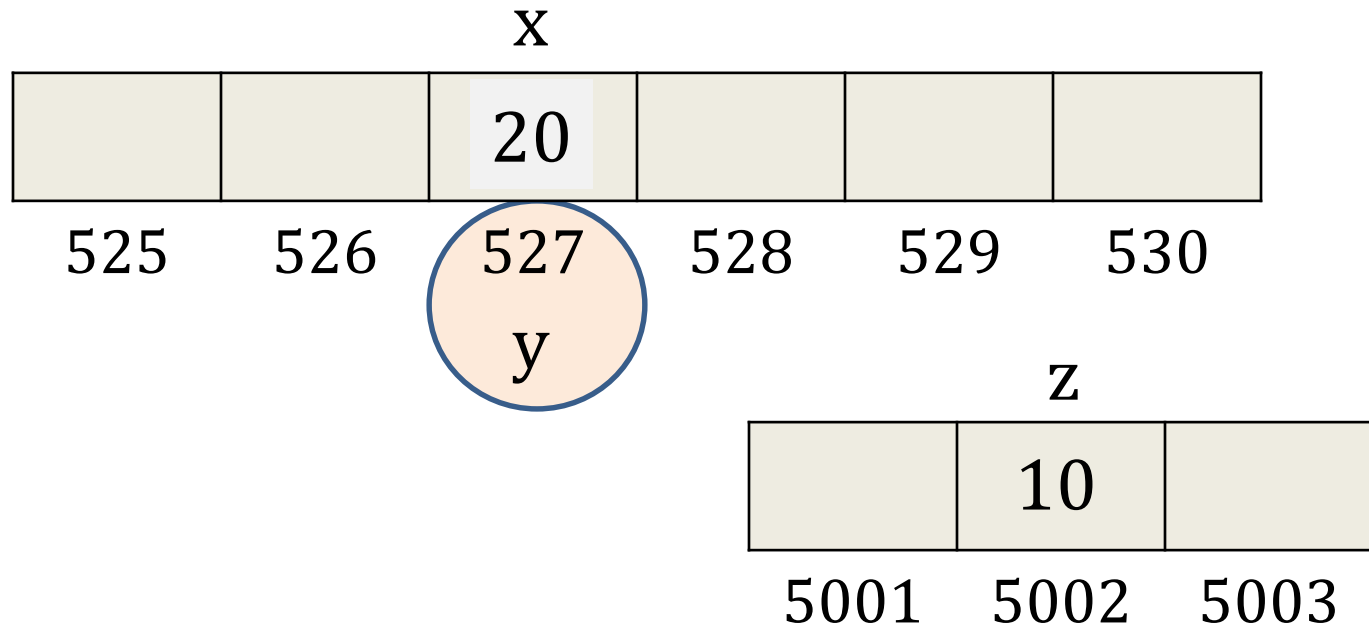
# Pointer versus Dereference Operator

`int x = 10;      //variable x = 10`

`int * y = &x;    //pointer variable y = Address of x`

`int z = *y;      //z = "value pointed to by y" = x, i.e. z = x;`

`*y = 20;        //"value pointed to by y" = 20;`





# Example

---

```
#include <iostream>
int main() {
    int x1, x2;
    int * p1;
    p1 = &x1;    //p1 = address of x1
    *p1 = 10;    //value pointed to by p1=> x1=10
    p1 = &x2;    //p1 = address of x2
    *p1 = 20;    //value pointed to by p1=> x2=20
    std::cout<<"\nValue of x1 = "<<x1;
    std::cout<<"\nValue of x2 = "<<x2;
    return 0;
}
```

Value of x1 = 10  
Value of x2 = 20

# Exercise

---

```
#include <iostream>
int main() {
    int x1=10, x2=20;
    int * p1, * p2;
    p1 = &x1;
    p2 = &x2;
    *p1 = 100;
    *p2 = *p1;
    p1 = p2;
    *p1 = 200;
    std::cout<<"\nValue of x1 = "<<x1;
    std::cout<<"\nValue of x2 = "<<x2;
    return 0;
}
```

# Exercise – Solution Explained

```
#include <iostream>
int main() {
    int x1=10, x2=20;
    int * p1, * p2;
    p1 = &x1;           //p1 = address of x1
    p2 = &x2;           //p2 = address of x2
    *p1 = 100;          //value pointed to by p1=100 => x1=100
    *p2 = *p1;          //value pointed to by p2=value pointed to by p1=> x2=100
    p1 = p2;            //p1 points to same addr as p2 i.e. x2
    *p1 = 200;          //value pointed to by p1=200 => x2=200
    std::cout<<"\nValue of x1 = "<<x1;
    std::cout<<"\nValue of x2 = "<<x2;
    return 0;
}
```

Value of x1 = 100  
Value of x2 = 200

# Pointers and Arrays

---

- Array can be implicitly converted to the pointer of the proper type
  - Example: 

```
int arr[20];  
int * ptr;  
ptr = arr;
```
  - Note however that `arr=ptr` would be invalid
- An array can be used just like a pointer to its first element
  - Pointers and arrays support the same set of operations
  - Pointers, however, can be assigned new addresses, while arrays cannot

# Example

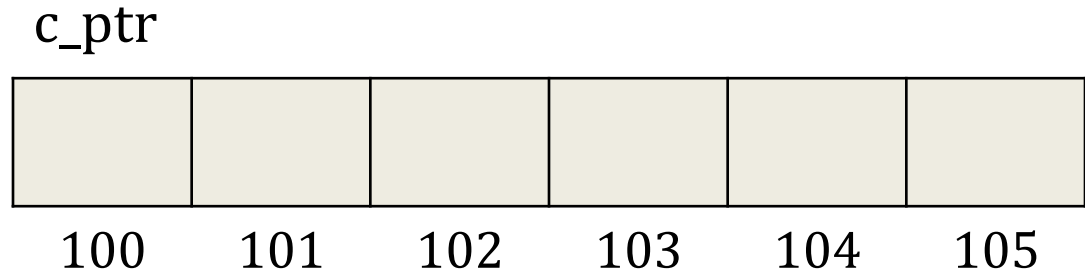
---

```
#include <iostream>
int main() {
    char arr[5];
    char * ptr;
    ptr = arr;  *ptr = 'H';
    ptr++;     *ptr = 'E';
    ptr = &arr[2]; *ptr = 'L';
    ptr = arr + 3; *ptr = 'L';
    ptr = arr;  *(ptr + 4) = 'O';
    for (int n = 0; n<5; n++)
        std::cout << arr[n];
}
```

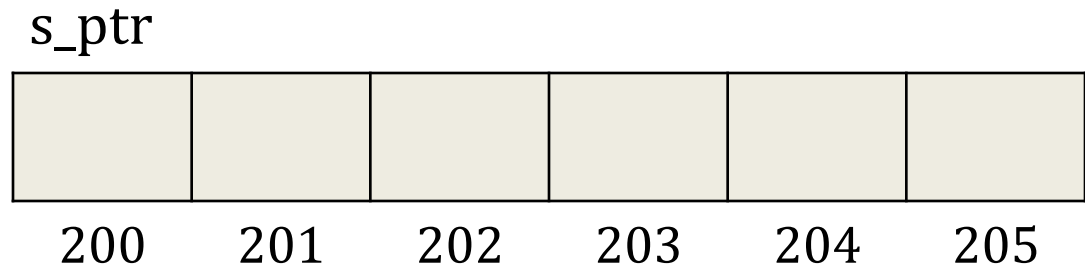
HELLO

# Pointer Arithmetic

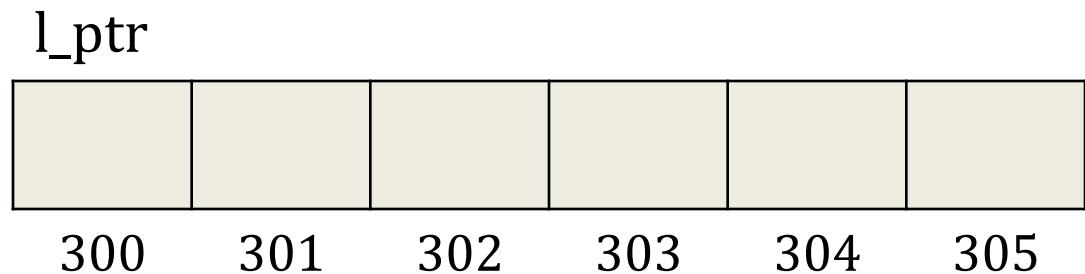
```
char * c_ptr;  
++c_ptr;
```



```
short * s_ptr;  
++s_ptr;
```



```
long * l_ptr;  
++l_ptr;
```



# Pointer Arithmetic

---

- Only addition and subtraction operations allowed on pointers

– What happens in the following cases?

`*p++`     $\rightarrow$  `*(p++)` //value pointed to by p, then increment pointer

`*++p`     $\rightarrow$  `*(++p)` //increment pointer, then value pointed to by p

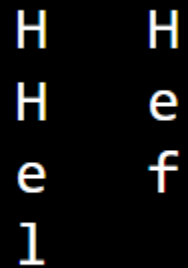
`++*p`     $\rightarrow$  `++(*p)` //increment value pointed to by p

`(*p)++`  $\rightarrow$  `(*p)++` //value pointed to by p, then increment value

`*p++ = *q++`     $\rightarrow$  `*p = *q; ++p; ++q`

# Pointer Arithmetic – Example

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
int main() {
    char ch[] = "Hello";
    char * p = ch;
    char * q = ch;
    cout <<*p<<"\t"<<*p++<<"\n"<<*q<<"\t"<<*++q<<"\n";
    (*q++);
    cout <<*p<<"\t"<<++*p<<"\n"<<*q<<"\n";
}
```



H	H
H	e
e	f
l	



# Pointer as Function Argument

```
#include <iostream>
void chg_ptr(int* ptr)
{
    *ptr = 200; //change value of ptr
}
int main()
{
    int n = 1;
    int *p = &n;
    std::cout << *p << "\n";    //outputs 1
    chg_ptr(p);    //change value pointed to by p
    std::cout << *p << "\n";    //outputs 200
    return 0;
}
```

1  
200

# const Pointers

---

- Pointers can themselves be declared const
  - Cannot change the address assignment

```
int n = 1, x=2;  
int * const p = &n;  
*p = 500; //valid  
p = &x;    //invalid  
p++;       //invalid
```

# const Pointers as Arguments

---

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
void chg_ptr(int* ptr)
{
    *ptr = 200; //change value of ptr
}
void const_ptr(const int* ptr)
{
    *ptr = 200; //error
}
int main()
{
    int n = 1;
    int *p = &n;
    cout << *p << endl; //outputs 1
    chg_ptr(p);           //change value pointed to by p
    cout << *p << endl; //outputs 200
    const_ptr(p);         //Error!
    return 0;
}
```

# Dynamic Memory

---

- Earlier we saw that regular arrays need to be fixed size so that memory could be allocated at compile time
  - Array size cannot be variable or dynamic
  - Array size cannot be based on user input
- C++ provides a way to dynamically allocate memory
  - Dynamic memory allocation done using **new** and **delete**
  - Memory is allocated on heap rather than the stack
  - Memory may not be allocated if not enough memory available
  - Example: `int * ptr = new int; //allocates memory address of size int`
    - This memory should be freed at the end of its usage

# Dynamic Memory

---

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
int main() {
    int i, n;
    cout << "Enter size of array: ";
    cin >> i;
    int * p = new (nothrow) int[i]; //may need header <new>
    if (p == nullptr)
        cout << "Error: memory could not be allocated";
    else
    {
        for (n = 0; n < i; n++)
        {
            p[n] = n;
            cout << p[n];
        }
    }
    delete[] p;
    return 0;
}
```

# Dynamic Memory Allocation for Objects

---

```
#include <iostream>
class Box
{
public:
    Box() {
        std::cout << "Constructor called!\n";
    }
    ~Box() {
        std::cout << "Destructor called!\n";
    }
};
int main( )
{
    Box* myBoxArray = new Box[4];
    delete [] myBoxArray; // Delete array
    return 0;
}
```

```
Constructor called!
Constructor called!
Constructor called!
Constructor called!
Destructor called!
Destructor called!
Destructor called!
Destructor called!
```

# Exercise

---

- Write a function that takes the array size and a dynamically allocated pointer to that array as argument, and prints the contents of the array

# Exercise – Sample Solution

---

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
void Func(int n, int* p){
    for (int i=0; i<n; i++,p++){
        cout<<*p<<" ";
    }
}
int main(){
    int i;
    cout << "Enter size of array: ";
    cin >> i;
    int * p = new (nothrow) int[i]; //may need header <new>
    for (int n = 0; n < i; n++) { p[n] = n; }
    Func(i,p);
    delete[] p;
    return 0;
}
```



# Fun with Pointers – 1

---

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
int main(){
    int i = 3;
    int *j;
    int **k;
    j=&i;
    k=&j;
    cout<<k<<" "<<*k<<" "<<**k<<endl;
    return 0;
}
```

# Fun with Pointers – 1

---

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
int main(){
    int i = 3;
    int *j;
    int **k;
    j=&i;
    k=&j;
    cout<<k<<" "<<*k<<" "<<**k<<endl;
    return 0;
}
```

0x7fffe24d1a58 0x7fffe24d1a54 3

# Fun with Pointers – 2

---

```
#include <iostream>

int main(){
    int i = 5;
    int *p;
    p = &i;
    std::cout<<*&p<<" "<<&*p<<"\n";
    return 0;
}
```

# Fun with Pointers – 2

---

```
#include <iostream>

int main(){
    int i = 5;
    int *p;
    p = &i;
    std::cout<<*&p<<" "<<&*p<<"\n";
    return 0;
}
```

0x7ffc53f55edc 0x7ffc53f55edc

# Fun with Pointers – 3

---

```
#include <iostream>

int main(){
    short a = 320;
    char *ptr;
    ptr = (char *)&a;
    std::cout<<*ptr<<"\n";
    return 0;
}
```

# Fun with Pointers – 3

---

```
#include <iostream>

int main(){
    short a = 320;
    char *ptr;
    ptr = (char *)&a;
    std::cout<<*ptr<<"\n";
    return 0;
}
```



# Identify What's Wrong

---

```
string *getName() {  
    string fullName[3];  
    cout << "Enter first name: ";  
    getline(cin, fullName[0]);  
    cout << "Enter middle initial: ";  
    getline(cin, fullName[1]);  
    cout << "Enter last name: ";  
    getline(cin, fullName[2]);  
    return fullName;  
}
```

*Function returns a pointer to an array that no longer exists*

# Returning Pointers from a Function

---

Return a pointer from a function only if it is a pointer to:

- An item that was passed in as a function argument
  - E.g. `string *getName(string fullName[])`
- A dynamically allocated chunk of memory
  - E.g. `string *fullName = new string[3];`



# Comparing Pointers

---

- Relational operators (<, >=, etc.) can be used to compare addresses in pointers
- Comparing addresses in pointers is not the same as comparing contents pointed at by pointers:

```
if (ptr1 == ptr2)    // compares
                     // addresses
if (*ptr1 == *ptr2)  // compares
                     // contents
```

# Using Smart Pointers to Avoid Memory Leaks

---

- In C++ 11, you can use *smart pointers* to dynamically allocate memory and not worry about deleting the memory when you are finished using it.

- Three types of smart pointer:

`unique_ptr`  
`shared_ptr`  
`weak_ptr`

- Must `#include` the memory header file:

```
#include <memory>
unique_ptr<int> ptr( new int );
```

- The notation `<int>` indicates that the pointer can point to an `int`.
  - The name of the pointer is `ptr`.
  - The expression `new int` allocates a chunk of memory to hold an `int`.
  - The address of the chunk of memory will be assigned to `ptr`.
-