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Pointer expressions

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# Pointer Assignments

- A pointer on the right-hand side of an assignment statement can be assigned value to another pointer.

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```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void)
{
    int x = 99;
    int *p1, *p2;
    p1 = &x;
    p2 = p1;
    /* print the value of x twice */
    printf('Values at p1 and p2: %d %d\n', *p1, *p2);
    /* print the address of x twice */
    printf("Addresses pointed to by p1 and p2: %p %p",
        p1, p2);
    return 0;
}
```

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- After the assignment sequence
- `p1 = &x;`
- `p2 = p1;`
- **p1** and **p2** both point to **x**. Thus, both **p1** and **p2** refer to the same object. Sample output from the program, which confirms this, is shown here.
- Values at p1 and p2: 99 99
- Addresses pointed to by p1 and p2: 0063FDF0 0063FDF0
- Addresses are displayed by using the **%p printf()** format specifier, which causes
- **printf()** to display an address in the format used by the host computer.
- It is also possible to assign a pointer of one type to a pointer of another type

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# Pointer Conversions

- One type of pointer can be converted into another type of pointer. There are two general categories of conversion: those that involve **void\*** pointers, and those that don't.
- Each is examined one by one

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## Void\* pointer

- A **void** \* pointer is called a *generic pointer*.
- The **void** \* pointer is used to specify a pointer whose base type is unknown.
- The **void** \* type allows a function to specify a parameter that is capable of receiving any type of pointer argument without reporting a type mismatch.
- It is also used to refer to raw memory (such as that returned by the **malloc()** function ) when the semantics of that memory are not known.
- No explicit cast is required to convert to or from a **void** \* pointer.

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```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
    double x = 100.1, y;
    int *p;
    /* The next statement causes p (which is an
    integer pointer) to point to a double. */
    p = (int *) &x;
    /* The next statement does not operate as expected. */
    y = *p; /* attempt to assign y the value x through p */
    /* The following statement won't output 100.1. */
    printf('The (incorrect) value of x is: %f', y);
    return 0;
}
```

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# Pointer Arithmetic

- There are only two arithmetic operations that you can use on pointers: **addition and subtraction**.
- Let **p1** be an integer pointer with a current value of 2000. Also, assume **ints** are 2 bytes long. After the expression
- `p1++;`
- **p1** contains 2002, not 2001.
- The reason for this is that each time **p1** is incremented, it will point to the next integer.
- The same is true of decrements. For example, assuming that **p1** has the value 2000, the expression
- `p1--;`
- causes **p1** to have the value 1998.

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Rules for pointer arithmetic.

Each time a pointer is incremented, it points to the memory location of the next element of its base type.

Each time it is decremented, it points to the location of the previous element.

you may add or subtract integers to or from pointers.

- The expression
- $p1 = p1 + 12;$
- makes **p1** point to the 12th element of **p1**'s type beyond the one it currently points to.

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- Besides addition and subtraction of a pointer and an integer, only one other arithmetic operation is allowed:
- You can subtract one pointer from another in order to find the number of objects of their base type that separate the two.

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# Arithmetic operations that are prohibited on pointers

- Pointer multiplication and division is prohibited
- you cannot add two pointers;
- you cannot apply the bitwise operators to them;
- and you cannot add or subtract type **float** or **double** to or from pointers.

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```
char *ch = (char *) 3000;
int *i = (int *) 3000;
```

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- You can compare two pointers in a relational expression. For instance, given two pointers **p** and **q**
- `if(p < q) printf("p points to lower memory than q\n");`
- Generally, pointer comparisons are useful only when two pointers point to a common object, such as an array.

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- As an example, a set of stack functions are developed that store and retrieve integer values.
- A stack is a list that uses first-in, last-out accessing. It is often compared to a stack of plates on a table—the first one set down is the last one to be used.
- Stacks are used frequently in compilers, interpreters, spreadsheets, and other system-related software

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- To create a stack, you need two functions: **push()** and **pop()**.
- The **push()** function places values on the stack, and **pop()** takes them off.

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```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#define SIZE 50
void push(int i);
int pop(void);
int *tos, *pl, stack[SIZE];
int main(void)
{
    int value;
    tos = stack; /* tos points to the top of stack */
    pl = stack; /* initialize pl */
    do {
        printf('Enter value: ');
        scanf("%d", &value);
        if(value != 0) push(value);
        else printf("value on top is %d\n", pop());
    }
```

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```
    } while(value != -1);
    return 0;
}
void push(int i)
{
    pl++;
    if(pl == (tos+SIZE)) {
        printf("Stack Overflow.\n");
        exit(1);
    } *pl = i;
}
int pop(void)
{
    if(pl == tos) {
        printf("Stack Underflow. \n");
        exit(1);
    }
    pl--;
    return *(pl+1);
}
```

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