

C-Strings and Valgrind

COMP201 Lab 3
Spring 2023



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Valgrind



Valgrind is a programming tool used for:

- memory debugging
- memory leak detection
- profiling



Some Valgrind Use Cases

```
#include <stdlib.h>

// main_1.c
int main(){
    char *x = malloc(100);
    return 0;
}
```

Memory Allocated but Never Used

Compile the code files:

```
gcc -std=gnu99 -g -o main_1 main_1.c
gcc -std=gnu99 -g -o main_2 main_2.c
```

```
#include <stdlib.h>

// main_2.c
int main(){
    char *x = malloc(10);
    x[10] = 'C';
    return 0;
}
```

Finding Invalid Pointer Use With Valgrind

-g is needed to see line number with Valgrind when an error happens.



Some Valgrind Use Cases

```
valgrind --tool=memcheck --leak-check=yes ./{exec_name}
```

100 Bytes Allocated but Never Used

...

100 bytes in 1 blocks are definitely lost in loss record 1 of 1

at 0x4C29F73: malloc (vg_replace_malloc.c:309)
by 0x40053E: main (**main_1.c:5**)

...

Finding Invalid Pointer Use With Valgrind

...

Invalid write of size 1 at 0x40054B: main
(main_2.c:6)
Address 0x520504a is 0 bytes after a block of size
10 alloc'd
at 0x4C29F73: malloc (vg_replace_malloc.c:309)
by 0x40053E: main (**main_2.c:5**)

...



Strings in C



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C-Strings

- 1D array of characters
- Terminated by **null** or '\0' character
- Initializing a string
 - `char str[6] = {'H', 'e', 'l', 'l', 'o', '\0'};`
 - `char str[6] = "Hello";`
 - `char str[] = "Hello";`
 - `char *str = "Hello";`

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

0	1	2	3	4	5
H	e	l	l	o	\0



C-String Functions

S.no	String functions	Description
1	strcat(str1, str2)	Concatenates str2 at the end of str1.
2	strcpy(str1, str2)	Copies str2 into str1
3	strlen(str1)	gives the length of str1.
4	strcmp(str1, str2)	Returns 0 if str1 is same as str2. Returns <0 if str1 < str2. Returns >0 if str1 > str2.
5	strchr(str1, char)	Returns pointer to first occurrence of char in str1.
6	strstr(str1, str2)	Returns pointer to first occurrence of str2 in str1.
7	strncmpi(str1, str2)	Same as strcmp() function. But, this function negotiates case. "A" and "a" are treated as same.
8	strdup()	duplicates the string
9	strlwr()	converts string to lowercase
10	strncat()	appends a portion of string to another
11	strncpy()	copies given number of characters of one string to another
12	strrchr()	last occurrence of given character in a string is found
13	strrev()	reverses the given string
14	strset()	sets all character in a string to given character
15	strnset()	It sets the portion of characters in a string to given character
16	strupr()	converts string to uppercase
17	strtok()	tokenizing given string using delimiter



Using String Functions - 1

- **Finding length of the str1**

```
char str1[] = "Hello COMP201";  
int len = strlen(str1);  
printf("strlen(str1) : %d\n", len);  
// prints strlen(str1) : 13
```

- **Concatenating two strings**

```
char str1[] = "COMP";  
char str2[] = "201";  
strcat(str1, str2);  
printf("strcat(str1, str2): %s\n", str1);  
// prints strcat(str1, str2): COMP201
```



Using String Functions - 2

- **Converting str1 to lowercase**

```
char str1[] = "Hello COMP201";  
char lwr[] = strlwr(str1);  
printf("strlwr(str1) : %s\n", lwr);  
// prints strlwr(str1) : hello comp201
```

- **Comparing two strings**

```
char str1[] = "COMP201";  
char str2[] = "COMP201";  
int eq = strcmp(str1, str2);  
printf("strcmp(str1, str2): %d\n", eq);  
// prints strcmp(str1, str2): 0
```



Using String Functions - 3

- **Find the location of the first char in str1 which is not in str2**

```
char str1[] = "world";  
char str2[] = "word";  
int loc = strspn(str1, str2);  
printf("loc : %d\n", loc);  
// prints loc : 3
```

- **Find str2 inside str1**

```
char str1[] = "Impossible";  
char str2[] = "possible";  
char* substr = strstr(str1, str2);  
printf("substr: %s\n", substr);  
// prints substr : possible
```



Strings in Memory

- A **string** is a **char array** in the memory. We can change each character because we can change contents of array.
- **Difference between char * and char []:**
 - When a string is created as a **char ***, its characters cannot be modified because its memory lives in the data segment (static memory). We can set a **char *** equal to another value, because it is a reassignable pointer.
 - We cannot set a **char[]** equal to another value, because it is not a pointer; it refers to the block of memory reserved for the original array. If we pass a **char[]** as a parameter, set something equal to it, or perform arithmetic with it, it's automatically converted to a **char ***.



Treating Like an Array

- Find length without using **strlen()**

```
// Function strlen_2 counts the chars in the string str
// Returns the last index i
int strlen_2(char str[]) {
    int i = 0;
    while ( str[i] != '\0' ){
        i++;
    }
    return i;
}
```



Arrays of Strings

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {  
    ...  
}
```

- "argv" in the main function arguments is an array of strings
- Each memory location pointed by argv contains a string.
- The below arguments are equivalent and they are **double pointers**
 - **Double pointer:** A pointer containing memory location of another pointer
 - `void foo(char **strArr) { ... }`
 - `void bar(char *strArr[]) { ... }`



Print chars of str in reverse order

```
void main(){
    char str[100]; // Declares a string of size 100
    int l, i;
    printf("Enter the string: ");
    fgets(str, sizeof(str), stdin);
    l = strlen(str);
    printf("The characters of the string in reverse are : \n");
    for(i = l-1; i >= 0; --i){ // do not forget null character
        printf("%c ", str[i]);
    }
    printf("\n");
}
```



String Exercises

- **lowerCase:** Convert a string to lowercase without using `strlwr()`
 - Ex: `lowercase("HeLl0 CoMp201")` -> `"hello comp201"`
- **concat:** Concatenate two strings manually
 - Ex: `concat("str one and", "str two")` -> `"str one and str two"`
- **removeDup:** Remove duplicate characters from a string
 - Ex: `removeDup("silence is a source of great")` -> `"silenc aourfgt"`

Note: To run exercises first run make then run the program with desired function:
`./strings {func_name}`

