

## Pointers in General

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- pointer references a location in memory
- get memory address with reference operator `&`
- access memory location with dereference operator `*`
- Pointer arithmetic depends on the pointer data type
- Precedence of the pointer operations depend on the location: `*p++ != *++p`
- data type `void` indicates the absence of type
- pointer of type `void*` has undetermined length and undetermined dereference properties

## The Copy Assignment Operator

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Copy assignment operator is called in object assignments (not in object initializations!)

```
Rectangle& operator=(const Rectangle& rect){  
    _x = rect._x;  
    _y = rect._y;  
    return *this;  
}
```

By dereferencing the `this` pointer, we actually return the object

Why do we have to specify the return value as `Rectangle&` ?

## **Call by Value/Reference**

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### Call by Value

- The values of the variables are copied
- Changes are made to the copies

### Call by Reference

- The references to the variables are passed
- Changes are made to the variables

## Pointers and Arrays

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Identifier of an array is equivalent to the address of its first element

```
void read(int numbers[]){  
    // read data from the console  
}  
  
int numbers[2] = {0,0};  
read(numbers);
```

Why is it possible write into the argument `number [ ]` , aren't we using a copy?