

## **Review: Binary Numbering**

- Binary is base 2
  - adjective: being in a state of one of two **mutually exclusive** conditions such as **on** or off, true or false, molten or frozen, presence or absence of a signal
  - From Late Latin bīnārius ("consisting of two")
- Two symbols:

0 1

- Numbers in C that start with 0b are binary
- Example: What is 0b110 in base 10?

• 
$$0b110 = 110_2 = (1 \times 2^2) + (1 \times 2^1) + (0 \times 2^0) = 6_{10}$$

A bit is a single binary digit

powers of two



• A byte is an 8-bit value

Unsigned binary Number =  $\sum_{i=0}^{i=n-1} b_i x 2^i = b_{n-1} 2^{N-1} + b_{n-2} 2^{N-2} + ... + b_1 2^1 + b_0 2^0$ 

#### **Review: Hexadecimal Numbering**

- hexadecimal is base 16
  - From "hexa" (Ancient Greek ἑξα-) ⇒ six
  - and from "decem" (Latin) ⇒ ten
- Sixteen symbols

0123456789abcdef



- Numbers in C that start with 0x are hexadecimal numbers
  - $16_{10} = 0 \times 10_{16}$
- Example: What is 0xa5 in base 10?
  - $0xa5 = a5_{16} = (10 \times 16^{1}) + (5 \times 16^{0}) = 165_{10}$
- Hexadecimal numbers are very commonly used in programming to express binary values
  - Imagine the difficulty in correctly expressing a 64-bit binary value in your code

Unsigned Hex Number =  $\sum_{i=0}^{i=n-1} b_i \times 16^i = b_{n-1} 16^{N-1} + b_{n-2} 16^{N-2} + ... + b_1 16^1 + b_0 16^0$ 

## **Binary <---> Hexadecimal Equivalences**

- Hex  $\rightarrow$  Binary:  $16^1 = 2^4$  1 digit hex = 4 digits binary
  - 1. Replace hex digits with binary digits
  - 2. Drop leading zeros
  - Example: 0x2d to binary
    - 0x2 is 0b0010, 0xd is 0b1101
    - Drop two leading zeros, answer is 0b101101
- Binary  $\rightarrow$  Hex:  $2^4 = 16^1$ 
  - 1. Pad with enough leading zeros until number of digits is a multiple of 4
  - 2. Replace each group of 4 with the HEX equivalent
  - Example: 0b101101
    - Pad on the left to: 0b 0010 1101
    - Replace to get: 0x2d

# Number Base Overview (as written in C)

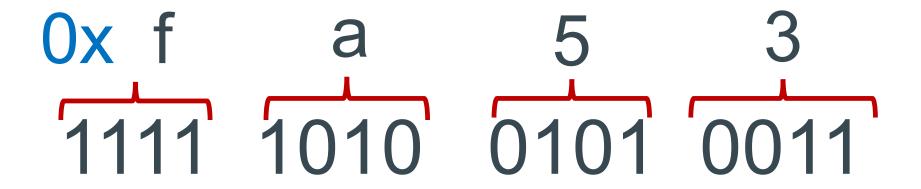
- Decimal is base 10 and Hexadecimal is base 16,
- Hex digits have 16 values 0 9 a f (written in C as 0x0 0xf)
- No standard prefix in C for binary (most use hex)
  - gcc (compiler) allows 0b prefix others might not

Hex digit	0x0	0x1	0x2	0x3	0x4	0x5	0x6	0x7
Decimal value	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Binary value	<b>0</b> b0000	0b0001	<mark>0</mark> b0010	0b0011	0b0100	0b0101	0b0110	0b0111

Hex digit	0x8	0x9	0xa	0xb	0хс	0xd	0xe	0xf
Decimal value	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Binary value	0b1000	0b1001	<mark>0</mark> b1010	0b1011	0b1100	0b1101	0b1110	0b1111

## Hex to Binary (group 4 bits per digit from the right)

• Each Hex digit is 4 bits in base 2  $16^1 = 2^4$ 

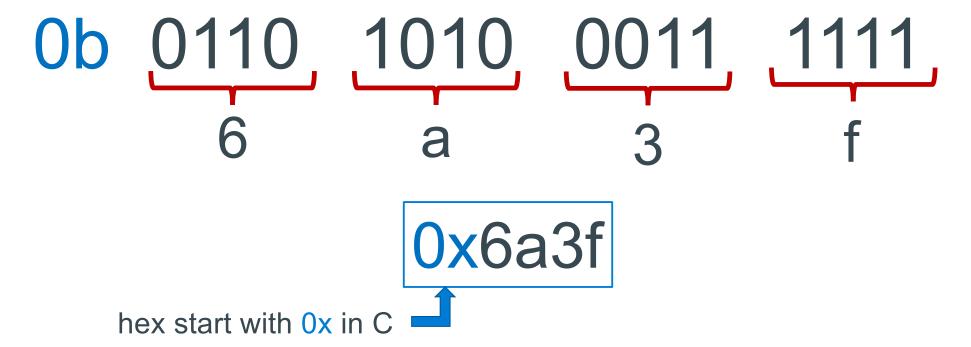


0b111110100101011

binary start with a 0b in C

#### Binary to Hex (group 4 bits per digit from the right)

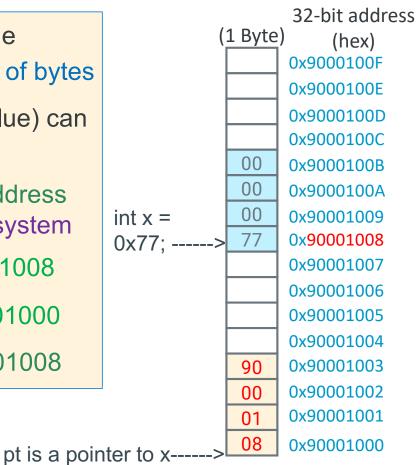
• 4 binary bits is one Hex digit  $2^4 = 16^1$ 



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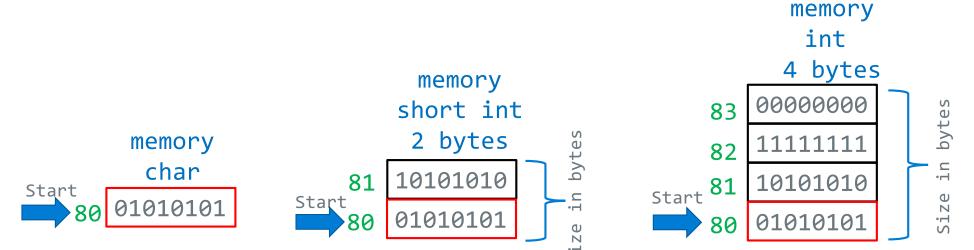
#### **Address and Pointers**

- An address refers to a location in memory, the lowest or first byte in a contiguous sequence of bytes
- A pointer is a variable whose contents (or value) can be properly used as an address
  - The value in a pointer *should* be a valid address allocated to the process by the operating system
- The variable x is at memory address 0x90001008
- The variable pt is at memory location 0x90001000
- The contents of pt is the address of x 0x90001008



## Variables in Memory: Size and Address

- The number of contiguous bytes a variable uses is based on the type of the variable
  - Different variable types require different numbers of contiguous bytes
- Variable names map to a <u>starting address in memory</u>
- Example Below: Variables all starting at address 0x80, each box is a byte



#### Variables: Size

- Integer types
  - char, int
- Floating Point
  - float, double
- Modifiers for each base type
  - short [int]
  - long [int, double]
  - signed [char, int]
  - unsigned [char, int]
  - const: variable read only
- char type
  - One byte in a byte addressable memory
  - Signed vs Unsigned Char implementations
  - Be careful char is unsigned on arm and signed on other HW like intel

AArch-32 contiguous Bytes	AArch-64 contiguous Bytes	printf specification
1	1	%с
2	2	%hd
2	2	%hu
4	4	%d / %i
4	4	%u
4	8	%ld
8	8	%11d
4	4	%f
8	8	%lf
8	16	%Lf
4	8	%р
	contiguous Bytes  1 2 2 4 4 4 4 8 8 4	contiguous Bytescontiguous Bytes11222244444888448888888888816

size of a pointer is the word size

#### sizeof(): Variable Size (number of bytes) *Operator*

```
#include <stddef.h>
/* size_t type may vary by system but is always unsigned */
```

#### sizeof() operator returns a value of type size\_t:

the number of bytes used to store a variable or variable type

• The argument to sizeof() is often an expression:

```
size = sizeof(int * 10);
```

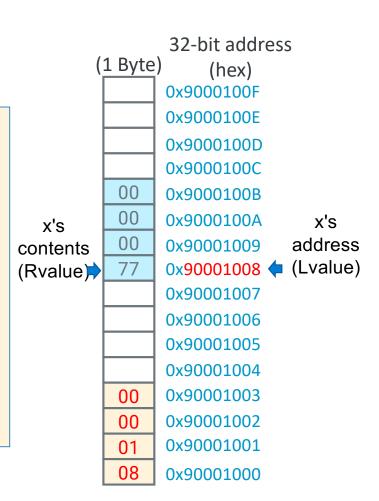
- reads as:
  - number of bytes required to store 10 integers (an array of [10])

#### **Memory Addresses & Memory Content**

#### Variable names in a C statement evaluation

```
x = x + 1; // Lvalue = Rvalue
```

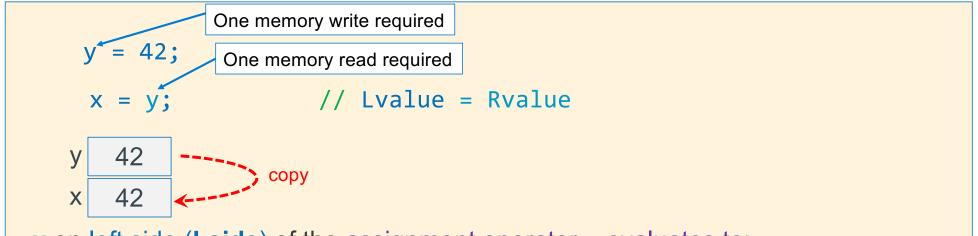
- Lvalue: when on the left side (Lside or Left value) of the = sign
  - address where it is stored in memory a constant
  - Address assigned to a variable cannot be changed at runtime
  - Does not require a memory read
  - Lside Must evaluate to an address
- Rvalue: when on the right side (Rside or Right value) of an = sign
  - contents or value stored in the variable (at its memory address)
  - requires a memory read to obtain contents



X

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#### **Memory Addresses & Memory Content**



- x on left side (**Lside**) of the assignment operator = evaluates to:
  - Address of the memory assigned to the x this is x's Lvalue
- y on right side (Rside) of the assignment operator = evaluates to:
  - Contents of the memory assigned to the variable y (type determines length number of bytes) this is y's Rvalue
- So, x = y; is:

Read memory at y (Rvalue); write it to memory at x's address (Lvalue)

## Introduction: Address Operator: &

• Unary address operator (&) produces the address of where an identifier is in

memory

- Print assigned address to g
- Example this might print:

```
value of g is: 42
address of g is: 0x71a0a0
(the address will vary)
```

```
int main(void)
{
  int g = 42;

  printf("value of g is: %d\n", g);
  printf("address of g is: %p\n", &g);
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Tip: printf() format specifier to display an address/pointer (in hex) is "%p"

## Introduction: Address Operator: &

- Requirement: identifier must have a Lvalue
  - Cannot be used with constants (e.g., 12) or expressions (e.g., x + y)
  - Example: **&12** does not have an *Lvalue*,
    - so, &12 is <u>not</u> a legal expression
- How can I get an address for use on the Rside?
  - &var (any variable identifier or name)
  - function\_name (name of a function, not func());
    - &funct name is equivalent
  - array\_name (name of the array like array\_name[5]);
    - &array\_name is equivalent

#### **Pointer Variables**

- In C, there is a *variable type* for **storing an address**: a *pointer* 
  - Contents of a pointer is an <u>unsigned</u> (positive numbers) <u>memory address</u>

```
type *name; // defines a pointer; name contains address of a variable of type
```

- A pointer is defined by placing a star (or asterisk) (\*) before the identifier (name)
- You also must specify the type of variable to which the pointer points
- Pointers are typed! Why?
  - The compiler needs to know the size (sizeof()) of the data **you are pointing at** (number of consecutive bytes to access) to use (dereference) the pointer
- When the Rside of a variable contains a memory address, (it evaluates to an address) the variable is called a pointer variable

#### **Pointer Variables - 2**

A pointer <u>cannot</u> point at itself, why?

```
int *p = &p; /* is not legal - type mismatch */
```

- p is defined as (int \*), a pointer to an int, but
- the type of &p is (int \*\*), a pointer to a pointer to an int
- Pointer variables all use the same amount of memory no matter what they point at (in all but very tiny, often old design, cpu's)

```
int *iptr;
char *cptr;

printf("iptr(%u) cptr(%u)\n", sizeof(iptr), sizeof(cptr));
```

• Above prints on a 32-raspberry pi

```
% ./example
iptr(4) cptr(4)
```

#### **Defining Pointer Variables**

Assigning a value to a pointer:

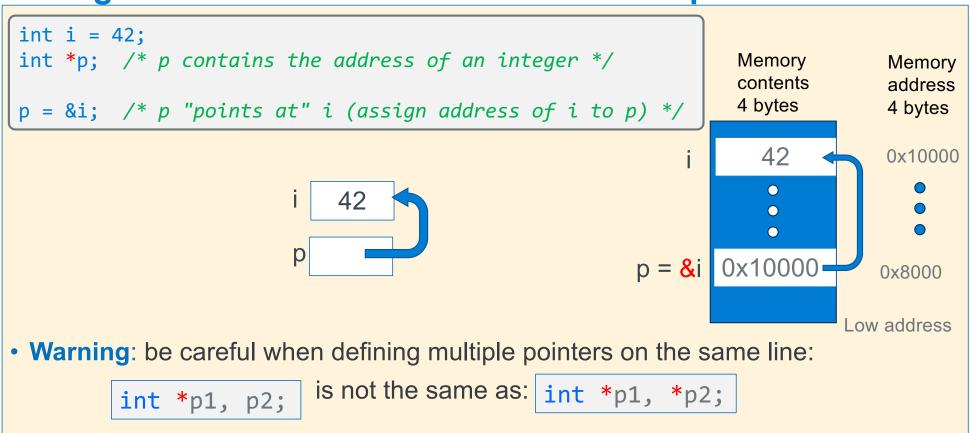
```
int *p = &i; /* p points at i (assign address i to p) */
```

Is the same as writing the following definition and assignment statements

```
int *p;  /* p is defined (not initialized) */
p = &i;  /* p points at i (assign address of i to p */
```

- The \* is part of the definition of p and is not part of the variable name
  - The name of the variable is simply p, not \*p
- C mostly ignores whitespace, so these three definitions are equivalent

#### Using Pointer Variables and the Address Operator & - 1

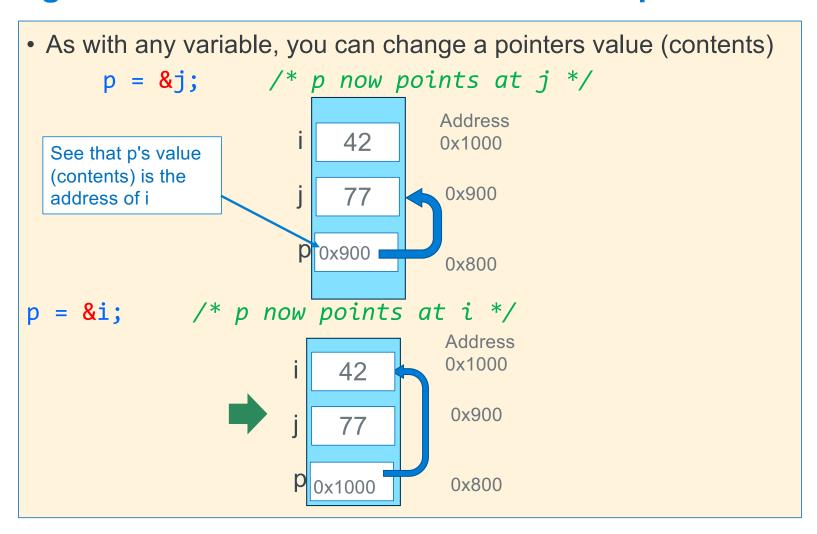


Some find this clearer instead:

```
int *p1;
int *p2;
```

a

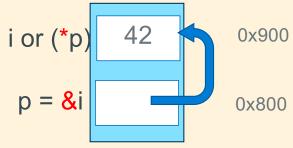
#### **Using Pointer Variables and the Address Operator & - 2**



#### Indirection (or dereference) Operator: \*

- The *indirection operator* (\*) or the *dereference operator to a variable* is the **inverse** of the *address operator* (&)
- address operator (&) can be thought of as:

"get the address of this box"



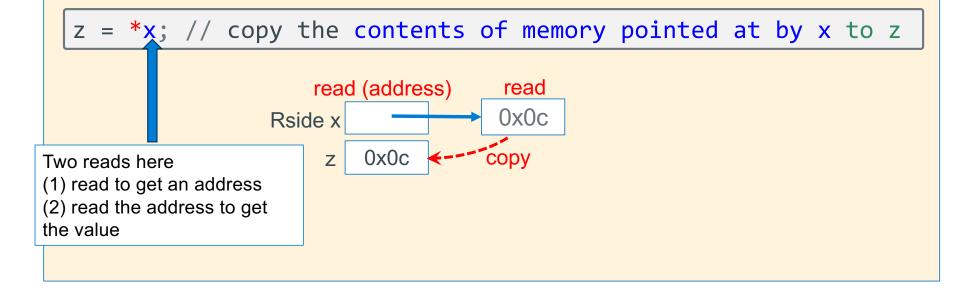
indirection operator (\*) can be thought of as:

"follow the arrow to the next box and get its contents""

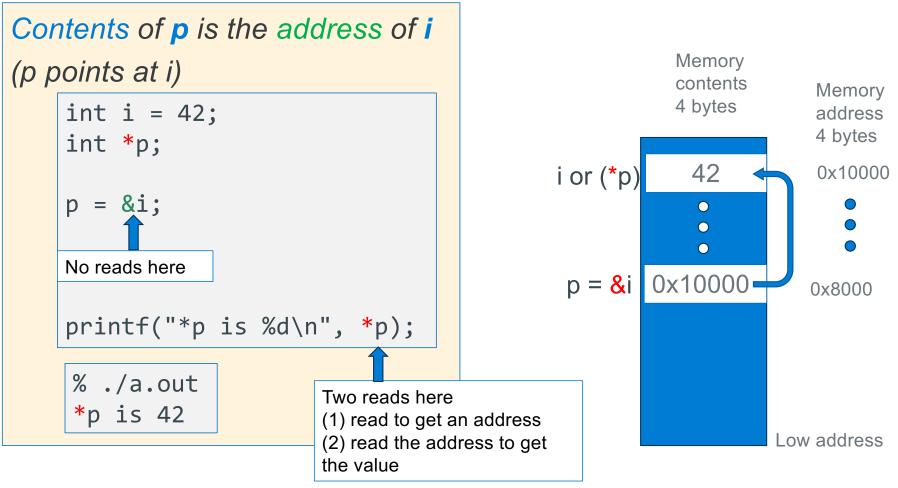
 Indirection operator causes an additional read to occur, when on either the Rside or Lside of a statement

#### Rside Indirection (or dereference) Operator: \*

- Performs the following steps when the \* is on the Rside:1. read the contents of the variable to get an address
- 2. read and return the contents at that address
  - (requires two reads of memory on the Rside)



## Rside Indirection (or dereference) Operator: \*



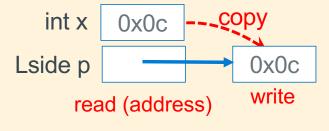
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## **Lside Indirection Operator**

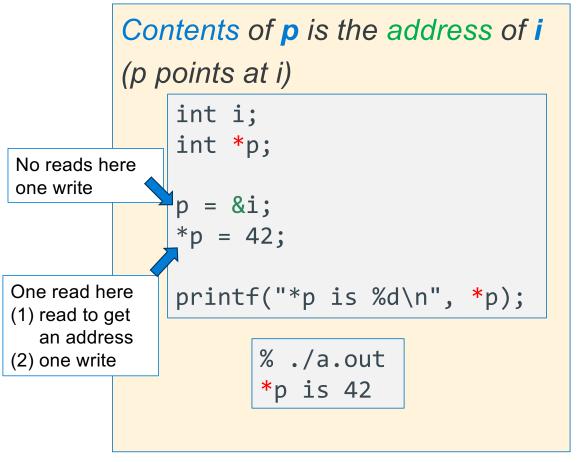
Performs the following steps when the \* is on the Lside:

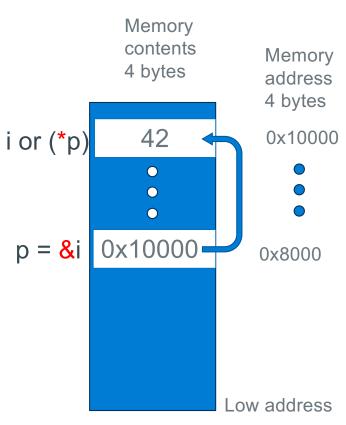
- 1. read the contents of the variable to get an address
- 2. write the evaluation of the Rside expression to that address
  - (requires one read of memory and one write of memory on the Lside)

```
*p = x; // copy the value of x to the memory pointed at by p
```



## Lside Indirection (or dereference) Operator: \*

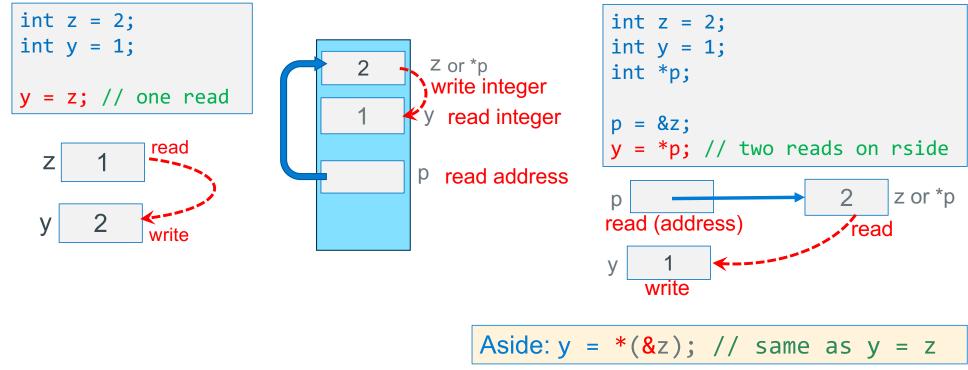




 $\mathsf{Z}$ 

#### Each use of a \* operator results in one additional read: Rside

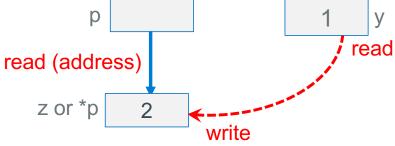
RULE: Each \* when used as a dereference operator in a statement (either Lside or Rside) it causes an <u>additional</u> read to be performed

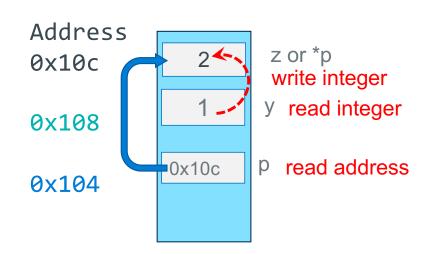


# Each use of a \* operator results in one additional read: Lside

```
int z = 2;
int y = 1;
int *p;

p = &z;
*p = y;  // one read on lside
```

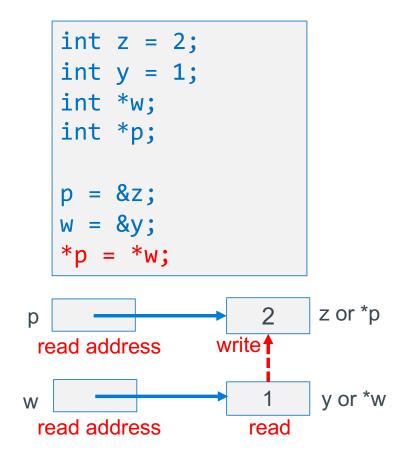


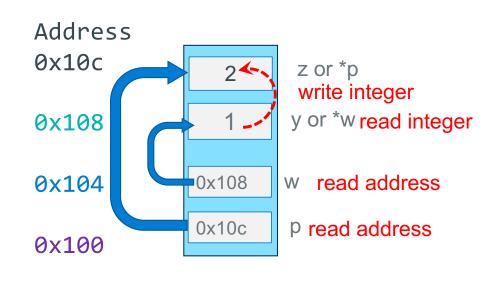


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#### Each use of a \* operator results in one additional read : both sides



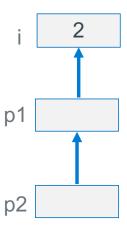


#### **Pointer to Pointers (Double Indirection)**

Define a pointer to a pointer (p2 below)

```
int i = 2;
int *p1;
int **p2; // pointer to a pointer to an int

p1 = &i;
p2 = &p1;
printf("%d\n", (**p2) * (**p2));
```



- C allows any number of pointer indirections
  - more than two levels is very uncommon in real applications as it reduces readability and generates at lot of memory reads
- RULE (important): number of \* in the variable definition tells you how many reads it takes to get to the base type

```
#reads to base type = number of * (in the definition) + 1
```

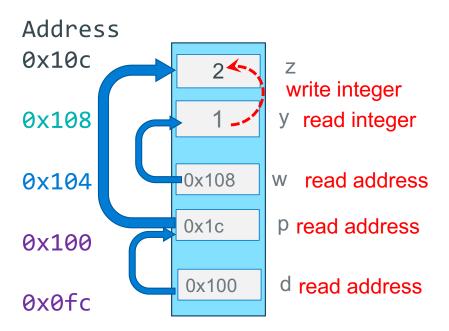
• Example:

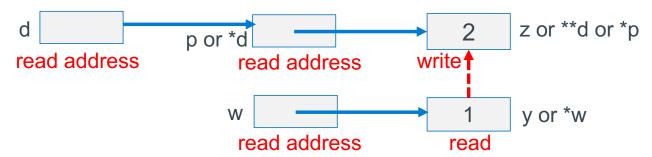
```
int **p2; // requires 3 reads to get to the int
```

#### **Double Indirection: Lside**

```
int z = 2;
int y = 1;
int *w;
int *p;
int **d;

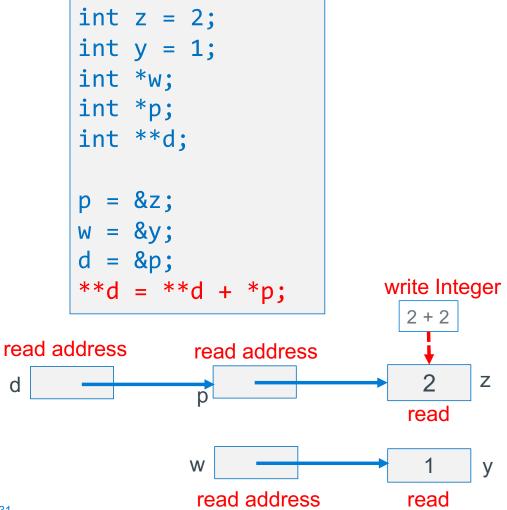
p = &z;
w = &y;
d = &p;
**d = *w;
```

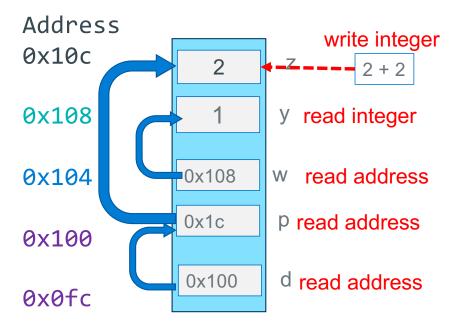




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#### **Double Indirection: Rside**





#### **Important Observation**

\*\*d on Lside is two reads
\*\*d on Rside is three reads

#### What is Aliasing?

- Two or more variables are aliases of each other when they all reference the same memory (so different names, same memory location)
- Example: When one pointer is copied to another pointer it creates an alias
- Side effect: Changing one variables value (content) changes the value for other variables
  - Multiple variables all read and write the <u>same</u> memory location
  - Aliases occur either by accident (coding errors) or deliberate (careful: readability)

```
int i = 5;
int *p;
int *q;

p = &i;
q = p;  // *p & *q now aliases
*q = 4;  // changes i and *p
```

```
*p and *q are aliases q
```

Result \*p, \*q and i all have the value of 4

#### **Defining Arrays**

Definition: type name[count]

- "Compound" data type where each value in an array is an element of type
- Allocates name with a fixed count array elements of type type
- Allocates (count \* sizeof(type)) bytes of contiguous memory
- Common usage is to specify a compile-time constant for count

```
#define BSZ 6 BSZ is a macro replaced by the C preprocessor
```

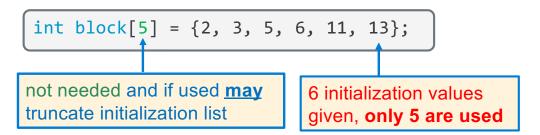
 Array names are constants and cannot be assigned (the name cannot appear on the Lside by itself)

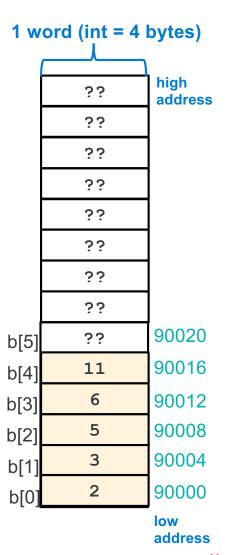
```
1 word
    (int = 4 bytes)
                  high
                  memory
         33
                  address
         33
         33
         22
         33
         うう
         33
         33
                 9020
b[5]
         23
                 9016
b[4]
         23
b[3]
         33
                 9012
                 9008
b[2]
         23
                 9004
         22
b[1]
                 9000
         33
b[0]
```

int b[6];

#### **Array Initialization**

- Initialization: type name[count] = {val0,...,valN};
  - { optional) initialization list can only be used at time of definition
  - If no count supplied, count is determined by compiler using the number of array initializers no initialization values given; then elements are initialized to 0
  - int block[20] = {\}; //only works with constant size arrays
    - · defines an array of 20 integers each element filled with zeros
    - Performance comment: do not zero automatic arrays unless really needed!
  - When a **count** is given:
    - extra initialization values are ignored
    - missing initialization values are set to zero





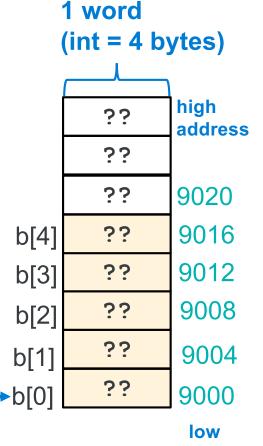
## **Accessing Arrays Using Indexing**

- name [index] selects the index element of the array
  - index should be unsigned
  - Elements range from: 0 to count 1 (int x[count];)
- name [index] can be used as an assignment target or as a value in an expression

int  $a[2] = \{1, 2\};$ a[0] = a[1];

 Array name (by itself with no []) on the Rside evaluates to the address of the first element of the array

9000



address

# How many elements are in an array?

- The number of elements of space allocated to an array (called element count) and indirectly the total size in bytes of an array is not stored anywhere!!!!!!
- An array name is just the address of the first element in a block of contiguous memory
  - So, an array does not know its own size!

	1 word (int = 4 byte	s) high
	??	memory address
	??	
	??	
	??	
	??	
	??	
	3.5	
	??	
b[5]	??	90020
b[4]	??	90016
b[3]	??	90012
b[2]	??	90008
b[1]	??	90004
b[0]	??	90000

int b[6];

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### **Determining Element Count: compile time calculation**

- Programmatically determining the element count in a compiler calculated array
   sizeof(array) / sizeof(of just one element in the array)
- sizeof(array) only works when used in the SAME scope where the array variable was defined

## **Pointers and Arrays - 1**

- A few slides back we stated: Array name (by itself) on the Rside evaluates to the address of the first element of the array
  - int buf[] = {2, 3, 5, 6, 11};
- Array indexing syntax ([]) an operator that performs pointer arithmetic
- buf and &buf[0] on the Rside are equivalent, both
   evaluate to the address of the first array element

#### One byte per row **Byte Memory Address** 0x12345687 p2 0x000x12345686 0x000x12345685 0x00l0x12345684 0x030x12345683 0x00**p1** 0x12345682 0x000x12345681 0x000x12345680 $0 \times 02$

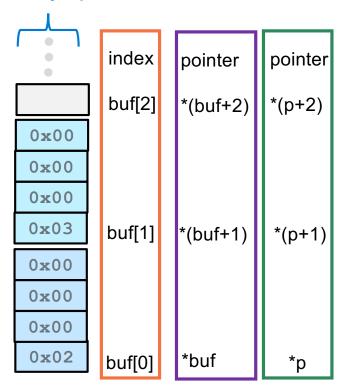
1 byte Memory Content

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## **Pointers and Arrays - 2**

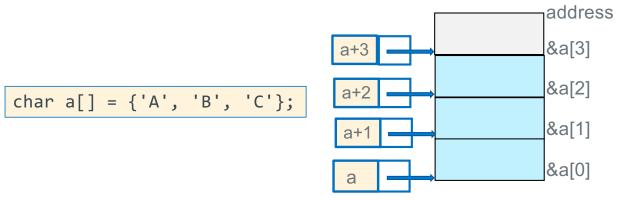
- When p is a pointer, the actual evaluation of the address:
  - (p+1) depends on the base type the pointer p points at
- (p+1) adds 1 x sizeof(what p points at) bytes to p
  - ++p is equivalent to p = p + 1
- Using pointer arithmetic to find array elements:
  - Address of the second element &buf[1] is (buf + 1)
  - It can be referenced as \* (buf + 1) or buf[1]

#### 1 byte Memory Content One byte per row



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### **Pointer Arithmetic In Use – C's Performance Focus**

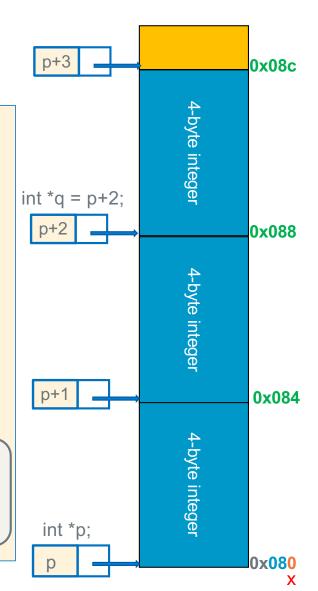


- Alert!: C performance focus <u>does not</u> perform any array "bounds checking"
- Performance by Design: bound checking slows down execution of a properly written program
- Example: array a of length i, C does not verify that a[j] or \*(a + j) is valid (does not check: 0 ≤ j < i)
  - C simply "translates" and accesses the memory specified from: a[j] to be \*(a + j) which may be outside the bounds of the array
  - OS only "faults" for an incorrect access to memory (read-only or not assigned to your process)
    - It does not fault for out of bound indexes or out of scope
- Lack of bound checking is a common source of errors and bugs and is a common criticism of C

### **Pointer Arithmetic**

- You cannot add two pointers (what is the reason?)
- A pointer q can be subtracted from another pointer p when the pointers are the same type – best done only within arrays!
- The value of (p-q) is the number of elements between the two pointers
  - Using memory address arithmetic (p and q Rside are both byte addresses):
  - Notice that it is sizeof(\*p) below: it is what p points at and not sizeof(p) which is the size of the pointer!

```
<u>distance in elements</u> = (p - q) / sizeof(*p)
(p + 3) - p = 3 = (0x08c - 0x080)/4 = 3
```



### **Pointer Comparisons**

Pointers (same type) can be compared with the comparison operators:

```
int numb[] = {9, 8, 1, 9, 5};
int *end;
int *a;
end = numb + (int) (sizeof(numb)/sizeof(*numb));
a = numb;
while (a < end) // compares two pointers (address)
    /* rest of code including doing an a++ */</pre>
```

- Invalid, Undefined, or risky pointer arithmetic (some examples)
  - Add, multiply, divide on two pointers
  - Subtract two pointers of different types or pointing at different arrays
  - Compare two pointers of different types
  - Subtract a pointer from an integer

### **Using Pointers to Traverse an array**

```
0x1234568c
                                                                            0x??
    int x[] = \{0xd4c3b2a1, 0xd4c3b200, 0x12345684\};
                                                                                    0x1234568b
                                                                            0x12
    int cnt = (int)(sizeof(x) / sizeof(*x));
                                                                                    0x1234568a
                                                                            0x34
                                                                    0xc
    for (int j = 0; j < cnt; j++)
                                                                            0x56
                                                                                    0x12345689
         printf("%\#x\n", x[j]);
                                                                    0x12345680
                                                                                    0x12345688
                                                                            0x84
                                                                           0xd4
                                                                                    0x12345687
cnt = 3;
                                                                            0xc3
                                                                                    0x12345686
actual space used by x is cnt * sizeof(*x); = 12 bytes
Calculating by addresses: 0x1234568c - 0x12345680 = 0xc
                                                                           0xb2
                                                                                    0x12345685
                                                                    0x1234568c
                                                                            0x00
                                                                                    0x12345684
    int x[] = \{0xd4c3b2a1, 0xd4c3b200, 0x12345684\};
                                                                            0xd4
                                                                                    0x12345683
    int cnt = (int)(sizeof(x) / sizeof(*x));
                                                                            0xc3
                                                                                    0x12345682
    int *ptr = x; // or &x[0]
                                                                            0xb2
                                                                                    0x12345681
    for (int j = 0; j < cnt; j++)
                                                                            0xa1
                                                                                    0x12345680
                                                            ptr
        printf("%#x\n", *(ptr + j));
                                                                            0x??
                                                                                    0x1234567f
    }
         Brute force translation to pointers
                                                                           1 byte
```

### Fast Ways to Traverse an Array: Use a Limit Pointer

```
0x??
                                                                xpt
                                                                             0x12
                                                                                      0x1234568b
 int x[] = \{0xd4c3b2a1, 0xd4c3b200, 0x12345684\};
                                                                                      0x1234568a
                                                                             0x34
 int cnt = (int)(sizeof(x) / sizeof(*x));
                                                                             0x56
                                                                                     0x12345689
int *ptr;
                                                                                      0x12345688
                                                                              0x84
int *xptr;
                                                                             0xd4
                                                                                      0x12345687
                               //or &x[0]
ptr = x;
                                                                             0xc3
                                                                                      0x12345686
xptr = ptr + cnt;
                                                                             0xb2
                                                                                      0x12345685
                                                                             0x00
xpt is a loop limit pointer
                                                                                     0x12345684
it points 1 element past
                                                                             0xd4
                                                                                      0x12345683
the end of the array
                                                                             0xc3
                                                                                     0x12345682
                                                                             0xb2
                                                                                      0x12345681
while (ptr < xptr) {</pre>
                                   % ./a.out
     printf("%#x\n", *ptr);
                                                                                     0x12345680
                                                                             0xa1
                                  0xd4c3b2a1
                                                                ptr
     ptr++;
                                                                             0x??
                                  0xd4c3b200
                                                                                     0x1234567f
                                   0x12345684
                                                                             1 byte
```

0x1234568c

### **C** Precedence and Pointers

- ++ -- pre and post increment combined with pointers can create code that is complex, hard to read and difficult to maintain
- Use () to help readability

common	With Parentheses	Meaning	
*p++	*(p++)	<pre>(1)The Rvalue is the object that p   points at (2)increment pointer p to next element ++ is higher than *</pre>	
(*p)++		<pre>(1)Rvalue is the object that p points    at (2)increment the object</pre>	
*++p	*(++p)	<ul><li>(1)Increment pointer p first to the next element</li><li>(2)Rvalue is the object that the incremented pointer points at</li></ul>	
++*p	++(*p)	Rvalue is the incremented value of the object that p points at	

Operator	Description	Associativity
() [] > ++	Parentheses or function call Brackets or array subscript Dot or Member selection operator Arrow operator Postfix increment/decrement	left to right
++ + - ! ~ (type) * & sizeof	Prefix increment/decrement Unary plus and minus not operator and bitwise complement type cast Indirection or dereference operator Address of operator Determine size in bytes	right to left
* / %	Multiplication, division and modulus	left to right
+ -	Addition and subtraction	left to right
<< >>	Bitwise left shift and right shift	left to right
< <= > >=	relational less than/less than equal to relational greater than/greater than or equal to	left to right
== !=	Relational equal to or not equal to	left to right
&&	Bitwise AND	left to right
^	Bitwise exclusive OR	left to right
I	Bitwise inclusive OR	left to right
8:8:	Logical AND	left to right
П	Logical OR	left to right
?:	Ternary operator	right to left
= += -= *= /= %= &= ^=  = <<= >>=	Assignment operator Addition/subtraction assignment Multiplication/division assignment Modulus and bitwise assignment Bitwise exclusive/inclusive OR assignment	right to left
,	comma operator	left to right

## Example of a hard-to-understand pointer statement

```
int array[] = {2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13};
int *ptr = array;
int x;
```

```
With
                                            Meaning
common
         Parentheses
                        (1) The Rvalue is the object that p points at
         *(p++)
*p++
                        (2) increment pointer p to next element
                        ++ is higher than *
                        (1) Rvalue is the object that p points at
(*p)++
                        (2) increment the object
                        (1) Increment pointer p first to the next
                            element
*++p
         *(++p)
                        (2) Rvalue is the object that the incremented
                            pointer points at
                        Rvalue is the incremented value of the
++*p
         ++(*p)
                        object that p points at
```

```
x = 1 + (*ptr++)++; // yuck!!
```

```
x = 1 + ++(*ptr++);
```

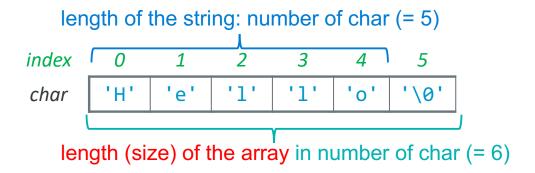
```
*ptr = *ptr + 1;  // (*ptr)++ is array[0]=2+1=3

x = 1 + *ptr;  // x = 1 + 3 = 4;

ptr = 1 + ptr;  // ptr = &array[1]; ptr ->5
```

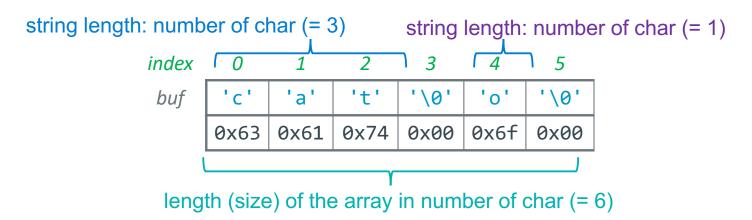
# C Strings - 1

- C <u>does not</u> have a <u>dedicated type</u> for strings
- Strings are an array of characters terminated by a sentinel termination character
- '\0' is the Null termination character; has the value of zero (do not confuse with '0')
- An array of chars contains a string only when it is terminated by a '\0'
- Length of a string is the number of characters in it, not including the '\0'
- Strings in C are <u>not</u> objects
  - No embedded information about them, you just have a name and a memory location
  - You cannot use + or += to concatenate strings in C
  - For example, you must calculate string length using code at runtime looking for the sentinel



### C Strings - 2

- First'\0' encountered from the start of the string always indicates the end of a string
- The '\0' does not have to be in the last element in the space allocated to the array
  - But String length is always less than the size of the array it is contained in
- In the example below, the array buf contains two strings (but only cat is seen as the string)
  - One string starts at &(buf[0]) is "cat" with a string length of 3
  - The other string starts at &(b[4]) is "o" with a string length of 1
  - "o" has two bytes: 'o' and '\0'



### **Defining Strings: Initialization**

- When you combine the automatic length definition for arrays with double quote(") initialization
  - Compiler automatically adds the null terminator '\0' for you

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### **Background: Different Ways to Pass Parameters**

- Call-by-reference (or pass by reference)
  - Parameter in the called function is an <u>alias</u> (references the same memory location) for the supplied argument
  - Modifying the parameter modifies the calling argument

### Call-by-value (or pass by value) (C)

- What Called Function Does
  - Passed Parameters are used like local variables
  - Modifying the passed parameter in the function is allowed just like a local variable
  - So, writing to the parameter, <u>only</u> changes the <u>copy</u>
- The return value from a function in C is by value

### Passing Parameters – Call by Value Example

- when inc(x) is called, a copy of x is made to another memory location
  - inc() cannot change the variable x since inc() does not have the address of x, it is local to main() so, 5 is printed
- The inc() function is free to change it's copy of the argument (just like any local variable) remember it does <a href="NOT">NOT</a> change the parameter in main()

### Output Parameters (Mimics Call by Reference)

- Passing a pointer parameter with the <u>intent</u> that the called function will use the address it to store values for use by the <u>calling function</u>, then pointer parameter is called an <u>output parameter</u>
- To pass the address of a variable x use the address
   operator (&x) or the contents of a pointer variable that
   points at x, or the name of an array (the arrays address)
- To be receive an address in the called function, define the corresponding parameter type to be a pointer (add \*)
  - It is common to describe this method as: "pass a pointer to x"
- C is still using "pass by value"
  - we pass the value of the address/pointer in a parameter copy
  - The called routine uses the address to change a variable in the caller's scope

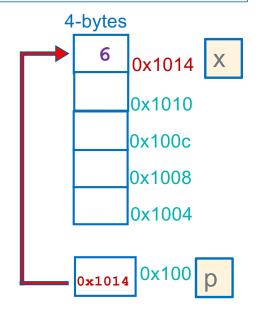
```
void inc(int *p);
int
main(void)
    int x = 5;
    inc(&x);
void
inc(int *
```

### **Example Using Output Parameters**

```
void inc(int *p);
                    int
                   main(void)
                        int x = 5;
Pass the
                      \Rightarrow inc(&x);
address of x (&x)
                        printf("%d\n", x);
                        return EXIT SUCCESS;
                   void
Receive an
                    inc(int *p)
address copy in
the variable p
                        if (p != NULL)
(int *p)
                             *p += 1; // or (*p)++
                      Write to the output variable (*p)
```

#### At the Call to inc() in main()

- 1. Allocate space for p
- 2. Copy x's address into p



#### With a pointer to X,

inc() can change x in main()this is called a side effectp just like any other local variable

## **Array Parameters: Call-By-Value or Call-By-Reference?**

• Type[] array parameter is automatically "promoted" to a pointer of type Type \*, and a copy of the pointer is passed by value\_

the name is the address, so this is passing a pointer to the start of the array

```
void passa(int []);
int main(void)
{
  int numbers[] = {9, 8, 1, 9, 5};

  passa(numbers);
  printf("numbers size:%lu\n", sizeof(numbers)); // 20
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

```
void passa(int a[])
{
    printf("a size:%lu\n", sizeof(a)); // 4
    return;
}
```

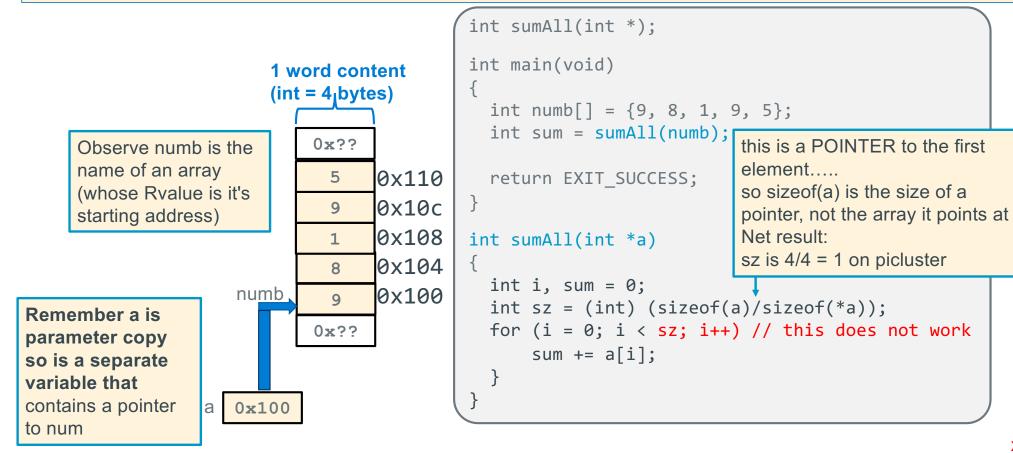
#### **IMPORTANT:**

See the size difference 20 in main() in passa() is 4 bytes (size of a pointer) on pi-cluster and 8 on ieng6

- Call-by-value pointer (callee can change the pointer parameter to point to something else!)
- Acts like call-by-reference (called function can change the contents caller's array)

## **Arrays As Parameters: What is the size of the array?**

- It's tricky to use arrays as parameters, as they are passed as pointers to the start of the array
  - In C, Arrays do not know their own size and at runtime there is no "bounds" checking on indexes



### **Arrays As Parameters, Approach 1: Pass the size**

#### Two ways to pass array size

- 1. pass the count as an additional argument
- 2. add a sentinel element as the last element

remember you can only use sizeof() to calculate element count where the array is <u>defined</u>

```
1 word content
              (int = 4_lbytes)
  end
 0 \times 114
                   0x??
                     5
                          0x110
                          0x10c
                     9
                          0x108
                          0x104
                     8
  a
                          0x100
0 \times 100
           numb
                          address
                   0x??
```

```
int sumAll(int *a, int size);
int main(void)
{
  int numb[] = {9, 8, 1, 9, 5};
  int cnt = (int)(sizeof(numb)/sizeof(numb[0]));

  printf("sum is: %d\n", sumAll(numb, cnt););
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

```
int sumAll(int *a, int size)
{
  int sum = 0;
  int *end;
  end = a + size;
  same as:
  sum = sum + *a;
  a++;
  return sum;
}
```

### Arrays As Parameters, Approach 2: Use a sentinel element

- A sentinel is an element that contains a value that is not part of the normal data range
  - Forms of 0 are often used (like with strings). Examples: '\0', NULL

```
int strlen(char *a); // returns number of chars in string, not counting \0
int main(void)
  char buf[] = {'a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', '\0'}; // or buf[] = "abcde";
  printf("Number of chars is: %d\n", strlen(buf));
  return EXIT SUCCESS;
                                                                      1 byte
/* Assumes parameter is a terminated string */
                                                                       0x??
                                                                             0x106
int strlen(char *s)
                                                                       1/01
                                                                             0x105
                                                       0x105
   char *p = s;
                                                                             0x104
                                                                        'e'
   if (p == NULL)
                                                                             0x103
                                                                        'd'
       return 0;
                                                                             0x102
   while (*p != '\0')
                                                                        I C I
                                                                             0x101
       p++;
                                                                        'b'
    return (p - s);
                                                                             0x100
                                                     0 \times 100
                                                                       'a'
                                                                              address
```

# Reference: Some String Routines in libc (#include <string.h>)

Function	Description
strlen( <i>str</i> )	returns the # of chars in a C string (before null-terminating character).
<pre>strcmp(str1, str2), strncmp(str1, str2, n)</pre>	compares two strings; returns 0 if identical, <0 if <b>str1</b> comes before <b>str2</b> in alphabet, >0 if <b>str1</b> comes after <b>str2</b> in alphabet. <b>strncmp</b> stops comparing after at most <b>n</b> characters.
strchr(str, ch) strrchr(str, ch)	character search: returns a pointer to the first occurrence of <i>ch</i> in <i>str</i> , or <i>NULL</i> if <i>ch</i> was not found in <i>str</i> . strrchr find the last occurrence.
strstr( <i>haystack</i> , <i>needle</i> )	string search: returns a pointer to the start of the first occurrence of <i>needle</i> in <i>haystack</i> , or <i>NULL</i> if <i>needle</i> was not found in <i>haystack</i> .
<pre>strcpy(dst, src), strncpy(dst, src, n)</pre>	copies characters in <b>src</b> to <b>dst</b> , including null-terminating character. Assumes enough space in <b>dst</b> . Strings must not overlap. <b>strncpy</b> stops after at most <b>n</b> chars, and <u>does not</u> add null-terminating char.
<pre>strcat(dst, src), strncat(dst, src, n)</pre>	concatenate <b>src</b> onto the end of <b>dst</b> . <b>strncat</b> stops concatenating after at most <b>n</b> characters. Always adds a null-terminating character.
<pre>strspn(str, accept), strcspn(str, reject)</pre>	<b>strspn</b> returns the length of the initial part of <i>str</i> which contains <u>only</u> characters in <i>accept</i> . <b>strcspn</b> returns the length of the initial part of <i>str</i> which does <u>not</u> contain any characters in <i>reject</i> .

### Do not overuse strlen()

- C string library function strlen() calculates string length at runtime
- Do not overuse strlen(), as it walks the array each time called

```
int count_e(char *s) // o(n²) !!!
{
  int count = 0;
  if (s == NULL)
     return 0;
  for (int j = 0; j < strlen(s); j++) {
     if (s[j] == 'e')
          count++
     }
  return count ;
}</pre>
```



```
int count_e(char *s) // o(n) !!!
{
   int count = 0;
   if (s == NULL)
       return 0;
   while (*s) {
       if (*s++ == 'e')
            count++
    }
   return count ;
}
```

### The NULL Constant and Pointers

- NULL is a constant that evaluates to zero (0)
- You assign a pointer variable to contain NULL to indicate that the pointer does not point at anything
- A pointer variable with a value of NULL is called a "NULL pointer" (invalid address!)
- Memory location 0 (address is 0) is not a valid memory address in any C program
- Dereferencing NULL at runtime will cause a program fault (segmentation fault)!

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### **Using the NULL Pointer**

Many functions return NULL to indicate an error has occurred

```
/* these are all equivalent */
int *p = NULL;
int *p = (int *)0;  // cast 0 to a pointer type
int *p = (void *)0;  // automatically gets converted to the correct type
```

- NULL is considered "false" when used in a Boolean context
  - Remember: false expressions in C are defined to be zero or NULL
- The following two are equivalent (the second one is preferred for readability):

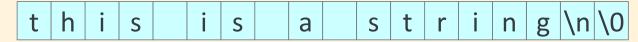
```
if (p) ...
if (p != NULL) ...
```

## **Simple String IO - Reading**

Task	Example Function Calls	
Read a string	<pre>#include <stdio.h></stdio.h></pre>	must pass the size of the array
	Char Tetrnt'	so fgets() knows how much space there is
	strptr = fgets(myStr, BFSZ, stdin);	

char \*fgets(char array[ ], int size, FILE \*stream)

- char \* is a pointer (address) to an array of char
- reads in at most one less than size characters from stream and stores them into array
- Reading stops after an EOF or a newline '\n'
  - If a newline ('\n') is read, it is stored into the buffer
  - A terminating null byte ('\0') is always stored after the last character in the buffer



- Returns a **NULL at end of file** (or a read failure), otherwise a pointer to array (pointers later...)
- See man 3 fgets

## Pointer returns from a function call (NULL Examples)

This function returns a pointer to the character that follows the first comma ','

```
char *next(char *ptr)
{
    if (ptr == NULL)
        return NULL;

    while ((*ptr != '\0') && (*ptr != ','))
        ptr++;

    if (*ptr == ',')
        return ++ptr;
    return NULL;
}
```

```
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#define BUFSZ 512
char *next(char *);
int main()
    char buf[BUFSZ];
    char *ptr;
    while (fgets(buf, BUFSZ, stdin) != NULL) {
        printf("buf: %s\n", buf);
        if ((ptr = next(buf)) != NULL)
            printf("after: %s\n", ptr);
        else
            printf("no comma found\n");
    return EXIT SUCCESS;
```

X

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### Returning a Pointer To a Local Variable (Dangling Pointer)

- There are many situations where a function will return a pointer, but a function must never return a pointer to a memory location that is no longer valid such as:
- 1. Address of a passed parameter copy as the caller may or will deallocate it after the call
- 2. Address of a local variable (automatic) that is invalid on function return
- These errors are called a dangling pointer

```
n is a parameter with
the scope of bad_idea
it is no longer valid after
the function returns

int *bad_idea(int n)
{
    return &n; // NEVER do this
}
```

```
a is an automatic (local) with a scope and lifetime within bad_idea2 a is no longer a valid location after the function returns
```

```
int *bad_idea2(int n)
{
    int a = n * n;
    return &a; // NEVER do this
}
```

```
/*
  * this is ok to do
  * it is NOT a dangling
  * pointer
  */
int *ok(int n)
{
    static int a = n * n;
    return &a; // ok
}
```

### String Literals (Read-Only) in Expressions

When strings in quotations (e.g., "string") are part of an expression (i.e., not part of an array initialization) they are called string literals

```
printf("literal\n");
printf("literal %s\n", "another literal");
```

- What is a string literal:
  - Is a null-terminated string in a const char array
  - Located in the read-only data segment of memory
  - Is not assigned a variable name by the compiler, so it is only accessible by the location in memory where it is stored
- String literals are a type of anonymous variable
  - Memory containing data without a name bound to them (only the address is known)
- The *string literal* in the printf()'s, are replaced with the starting address of the corresponding array (first or [0] element) when the code is compiled

### String Literals, Mutable and Immutable arrays - 1

```
    mess1 is a mutable array (type is char []) with enough space to hold the string + '\0'

          char mess1[] = "Hello World";
          *(mess1 + 5) = '\0'; // shortens string to "Hello"
                              mess1[] Hello World\0

    mess2 is a pointer to an immutable array with space to hold the string + '\0'

    char *mess2 = "Hello World"; // "Hello World" read only string literal
                                 // mess2 is a pointer NOT an array!
    *(mess2 + 1) = ' \ 0'; // Not OK (bus error)
                                                    read only string literal
                             → Hello World\0
                 mess2

    mess3 is a pointer to a mutable array

                                                                    using the cast (char [])
char *mess3 = (char []) {"Hello World"}; // mutable string
                                                                    makes it mutable
*(mess3 + 1) = '\0';
                                      // ok
                                  → Hello World\0 ◆
                                                        mutable string
                    mess3
```

## 2D Array of Char (where elements may contain strings)

- 2D array of chars (where rows may include strings)
- Each row has the same fixed number of memory allocated
- All the rows are the same length regardless of the actual string length
- The column size must be large enough for the longest string (fills rest with zeros '\0')

```
char aos[3][14] = {"my", "two dimension", "char array"};
high
memory
                                                   '\0'
              h
 aos[2]
          C
                   a
                       r
                                   r
                                       r
                              a
                                           a
                                                               '\0'
                           d
                                                    i
                              i
aos[1]
                   0
                                  m
                                           n
                                                            n
              W
                  '\0'
aos[0]
              V
```

low memory

```
#define ROWS 3
char aos[ROWS][14] = { "my", "two dimensional", "char array"};
char (*ptc)[14] = aos; // ptc points at a row of 14 chars

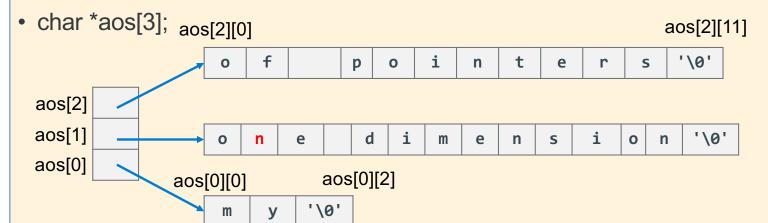
for (int i = 0; i < ROWS; i++)
    printf("%s\n", *(ptc + i));</pre>
```

high memory

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# **Array of Pointers to Strings (This is NOT a 2D array)**

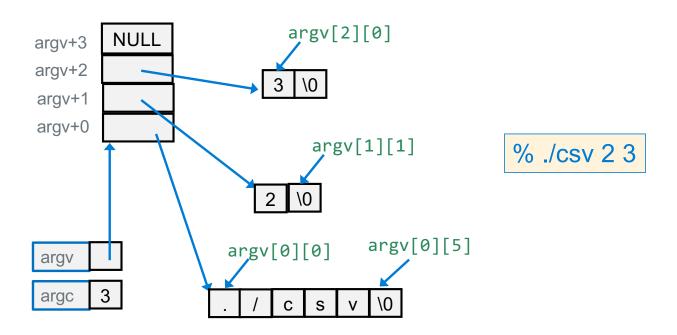
- 2D char arrays are an inefficient way to store strings (wastes memory) unless all the strings are similar lengths, so 2D char arrays are rarely used with string elements
- An array of pointers is common for strings as "rows" can very in length



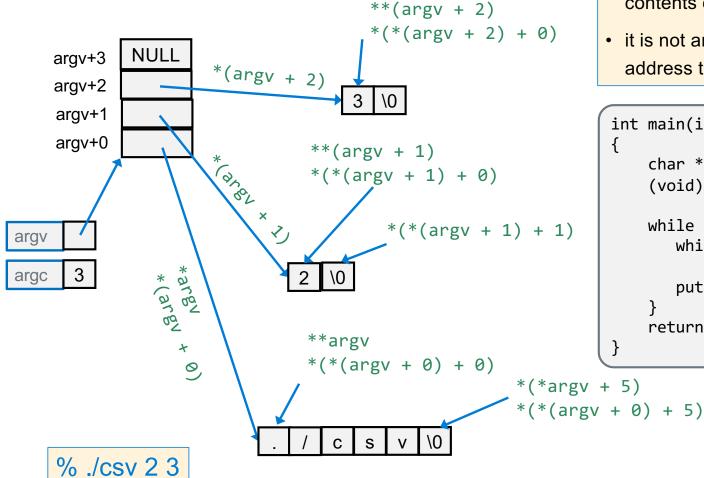
- aos is an array of pointers; each pointer points at a character array (also a string here)
- Not a 2D array, but any char can be accessed as if it was in a 2D array of chars
  - When I was learning, this was the most confusing syntax aspects of C

# main() Command line arguments: argc, argv

- Arguments are passed to main() as a pointer to an array of pointers to char arrays (strings)(\*\*argv)
  - Conceptually: % \*argv[0] \*argv[1] \*argv[2] ....
- argc is the number of VALID elements (they point at something)
- \*argv (argv[0]) is usually is the name of the executable file (% ./vim file.c)
- argv[argc] or \*(argv + argc) always contains a NULL (0) sentinel
- argv elements point at mutable (fixed size) strings!



### Accessing argy char at a time



- argv is a pointer variable, whose contents can be changed
- it is not an array name, which is just an address that cannot be changed

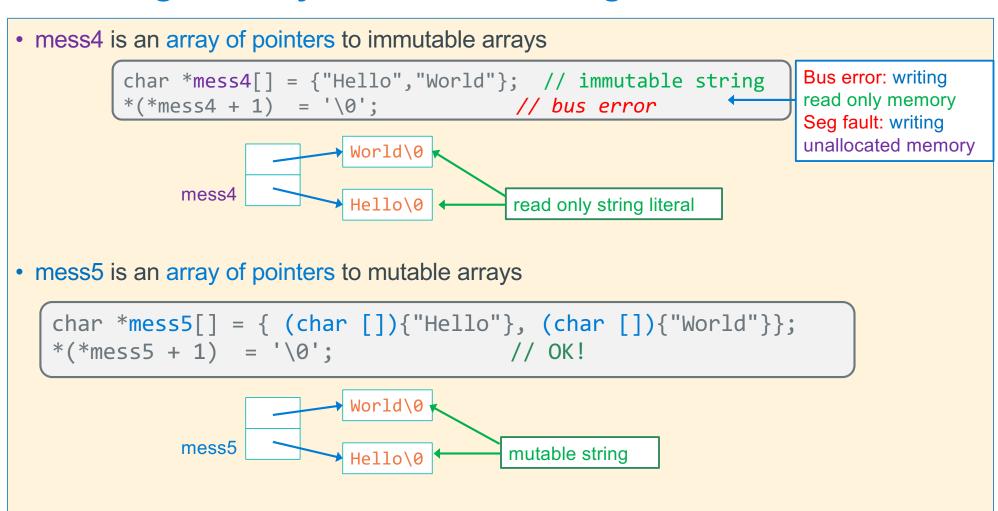
```
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    char *pt;
    (void)argc; // shut up the compiler

    while ((pt = *argv++) != NULL) {
        while (*pt != '\0')
            putchar(*pt++);
        putchar('\n');
    }
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

X

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### **Defining an Array of Pointer to Strings**



# **Defining an Array of Pointers to Mutable Strings**

- Make an array of pointers to mutable strings requires using a cast to an array (char [])
- Add a NULL sentinel at the end to indicate the end of the array

```
char *aos[] = {
  (char []) {"abcde"},
  (char []) {"fgh"},
  (char *) {NULL}
};
char **ptc = aos;
NULL
aos[1]

NULL
aos[0]

NULL
aos[0]
```

```
+3
printf("%c\n", *(*(aos + 1) + 1));
                                                            low
                                                                         +2
                                                            memory
                                                    ptc
                                                                         +1
while (*ptc != NULL) {
    printf("%s\n", *ptc); // prints string
                                                                         low memory
                                                          %./a.out
    for (int j = 0; *(*ptc + j); j++)
        putchar(*(*ptc + j)); // char in string
                                                          abcde
                                                          abcde
    putchar('\n');
                                                          fgh
    ptc++;
                                                          fgh
```

72

+3

### **Pointers to Functions (Function Pointers)**

- Similar in concept to an array name, a function name ends up being the address of the first instruction in a function
- A function pointer variable contains the address of a function
- Generic format: returnType (\*name)(type1, ..., typeN)
  - Looks like a function prototype with extra \* in front of name
  - Why are parentheses around (\*name) needed?

```
returnType *name(type1, ..., typeN) //wrong
```

- Above says name is a function returning a pointer to returnType
- Using the function:

```
(*name)(arg1, ..., argN) name(arg1, ..., argN)
```

Calls the pointed-to function with the given arguments and returns the return value

### **Pointers to Function Example**

```
int add1(int);
int sqr(int);
void array_update(int (*)(int), int *, int);
void print_array(int *, int);

int main(void)
{
    int array[] = {4, 8, 15, 16, 23, 42};
    int cnt = sizeof(array)/sizeof(array[0]);

    print_array(array, cnt);
    array_update(add1, array, cnt);
    print_array(array, cnt);
    array_update(sqr, array, cnt);
    print_array(array, cnt);
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

```
void array_update(int (*f)(int), int *a, int cnt)
{
    while (a < endpt) {
        *a = f(*a);
        a++;
    }
}</pre>
```

```
void print_array(int *a, int cnt)
{
   int *endpt = a + cnt;

   while (a < endpt)
        printf("%d ", *a++);
   printf("\n");
}</pre>
```

```
int add1(int i)
{
    return i + 1;
}
int sqr(int i)
{
    return i * i;
}
```

```
%./a.out

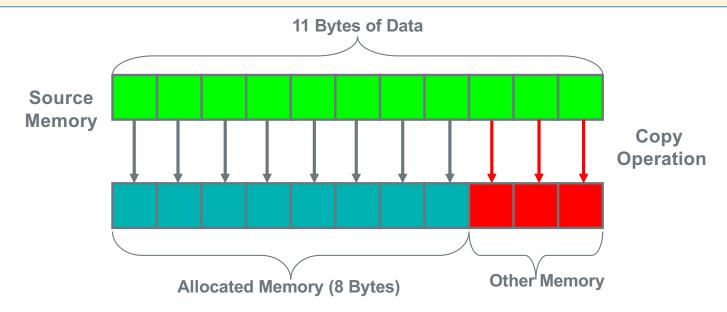
4  8  15  16  23  42

5  9  16  17  24  43

25  81  256  289  576  1849
```

# string buffer overflow: common security flaw

- A buffer overflow occurs when data is written outside the boundaries of the memory allocated to target variable (or target buffer)
- strcpy() is a very common source of buffer overrun security flaws:
  - always ensure that the destination array is large enough (and don't forget the null terminator)
- strcpy() can cause problems when the destination and source regions overlap



# strcpy() buffer overflow: over-write of an adjacent variable

```
int main(void)
{
    char s1[] = "before";
    char r2[] = "xyz";
    char s2[] = "after";

    printf("s2: %s\nr2: %s\nr2: %s\n", s2, r2, s1);

    strcpy(r2,"hello");

    printf("\ns2: %s\nr2: %s\nr2: %s\n",s2,r2,s1);
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

compile on pi-cluster with gcc test.c

```
./a.out
s2: after
r2: xyz
s1: before

s2: after
r2: hello
s1: o
```

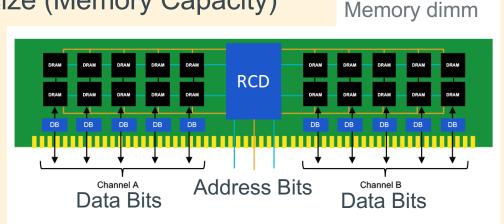
```
s2[2] s2[3] s2[4] s2[5] r2[0] r2[1] r2[2]
                                                                    s1[0] s1[1]
s2[0]
       s2[1]
                                                            r2[3]
                                                                                 s1[2]
                                                                                        s1[3]
                                                                                               s1[4]
                                                                                                     s1[5]
                                                                                                            s1[6]
        'f'
               1+1
                                                 ' V '
                                                                                   'f'
 'a'
                     'e'
                                   '\0'
                                          ' x '
                                                       77
                                                              '\0'
                                                                     'h'
                                                                            'e'
                                                                                         '0'
                                                                                                       ۱۵'
                                                                                                             '\0'
                            'r'
                                                                                                'n'
                                           before strcpy() overflow
low memory
                                                                                                        high memory
address
                                                                                                        address
s2[0] s2[1] s2[2] s2[3] s2[4] s2[5] r2[0] r2[1] r2[2] r2[3] s1[0] s1[1] s1[2] s1[3] s1[4] s1[5] s1[6]
        'f'
               '+'
                                          'h'
                                                 ۱۵۱
                                                        111
                                                              111
                                                                     '0'
                                                                           '\0'
                                                                                   'f'
 'a'
                      'e'
                                   '\0'
                                                                                          '0'
                                                                                                'r'
                                                                                                              '\0'
```

# **Extra Slides**

•

### **Memory Size**

- Since memory addresses are implemented in hardware using binary
  - The Size (number of byte sized cells) of Memory is specified in powers of 2
- Memory size/capacity in bytes is specified by the "Number of bits" in an address
  - 32 bits of address =  $2^{32}$  = 4,294,967,296
  - Address Range is 0 to 2<sup>32</sup> 1 (unsigned)
- Shorthand notation for address size (Memory Capacity)
  - KB =  $2^{10}$  (K=1024) kilobyte
  - $MB = 2^{20}$  megabyte
  - $GB = 2^{30}$  gigabyte
  - TB =  $2^{40}$  terabyte
  - PB =  $2^{50}$  petabyte



# Fixed size types in C (later addition to C)

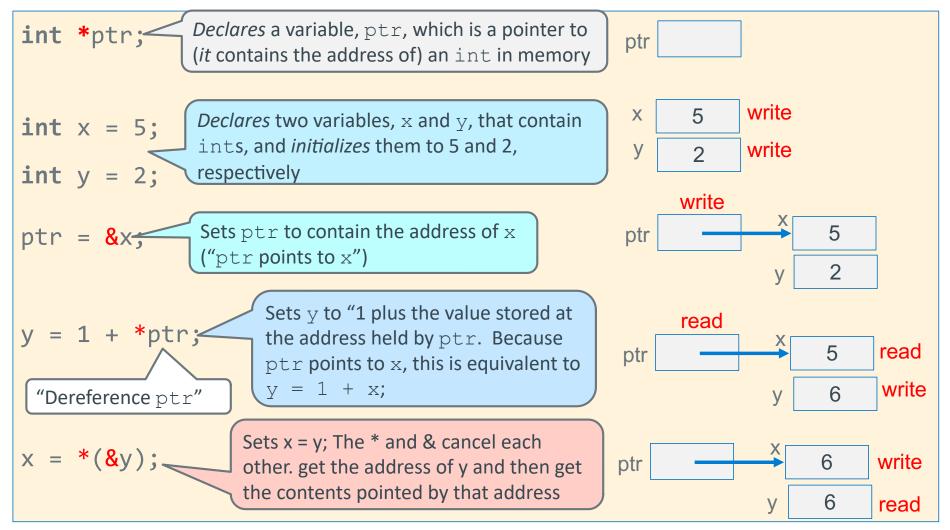
- Sometimes programs need to be written for a particular range of integers or for a particular size of storage, regardless of what machine the program runs on
- In the file <stdint.h> the following fixed size types are defined for use in these situations:

Signed Data types	Unsigned Data types	Exact Size
int8_t	uint8_t	8 bits (1 byte)
int16_t	uint16_t	16 bits (2 bytes)
int32_t	uint32_t	32 bits (4 bytes)
int64_t	uint64_t	64 bits (8 bytes)

### **Defining Strings: Initialization Equivalents**

- Following definitions create equivalent 4-character arrays
  - These are all strings as they all include a null ('\0') terminator

#### **Pointer Practice**



#### strtol() and strtoul() examples of passing a pointer to a pointer

```
long int strtol(const char *str, char **endptr, int base);
unsigned long int strtoul(const char *str, char **endptr, int base);
reruns the string converted to a long or unsigned long
       str pointer to the string to convert
       endptr pass the address of a variable that is a char pointer (output variable)
       base: number base used by the string
• Example: string is to contain just positive numbers >= 0 (in ascii) with no extra stuff

    If the string is not valid, then

   • *endptr != '\0' then string contains more than just numbers (bad input)
   • *endptr stores the address of the first invalid character found in the buffer pointed (str)

    How to use endptr when it does not contain NULL:
```

• When conversion is ok, errno is unaltered (always clear it before calling these routines)

• If there are other conversion errors (you can read the man page) then errno != 0

#### strtol() and strtoul() examples of passing a pointer to a pointer

```
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <errno.h>
char *endptr;
char buf[] = "33"; // test buffer string
int number;
errno = 0; // set errno to 0 (zero) before each call
number = (int)strtol(buf, &endptr, 10)
// check if the string was a proper number
// *entpr should be at the end of the string == '\0'
if ((*endptr != '\0') || (errno != 0)) {
   // handle the error
printf("%d\n", number);
```

# Copying Strings: Use the Sentinel; libc: strcpy()

- To copy an array, you must copy each character from source to destination array
- Watch overwrites: strcpy assumes the target array size is equal or larger than source array

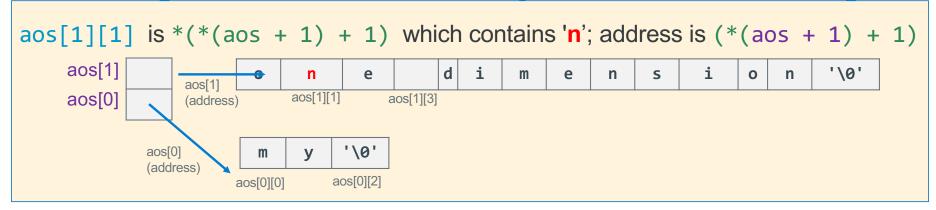
```
index 0 1 2 3 4 5
char 'H' 'e' '1' '1' 'o' '\0'
```

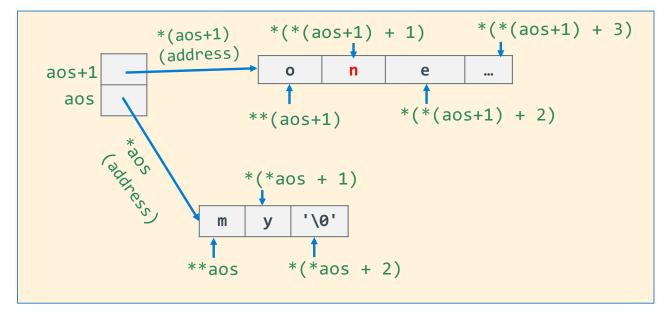
```
char str1[80];
strcpy(str1, "hello");
```

```
char *strcpy(char *s0, char *s1)
{
   char *str = s0;

   if ((s0 == NULL) || (s1 == NULL))
       return NULL;
   while (*s0++ = *s1++)
      ;
   return str; // address of dest string
}
```

### **Accessing Characters in an Array of Pointers to Strings**





```
char *ptr;

ptr = *aos;

if (*ptr == ',')
    or
    if (**aos) == ','
```

#### You cannot write to an immutable literal

- You can use & to get the address of an anonymous variable as shown
  - Though the Rvalue of "Hello" is the address
- You cannot write to an immutable literal