

CSC 211: Computer Programming

Multidimensional Arrays

Michael Conti

Department of Computer Science and Statistics
University of Rhode Island

Fall 2023



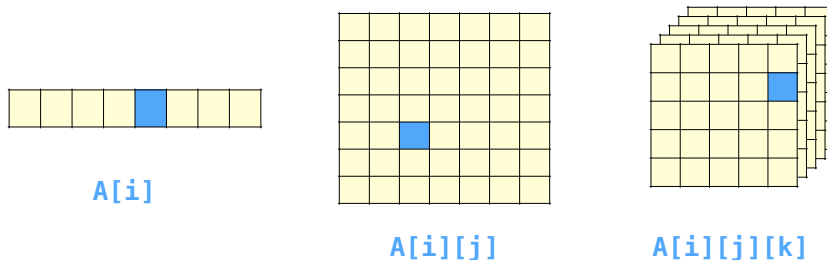
Original design and development by Dr. Marco Alvarez

Arrays, of any dimension, are **statically allocated** in memory with a size calculated at compile time. That is, their size is **fixed** and cannot be changed later.

2

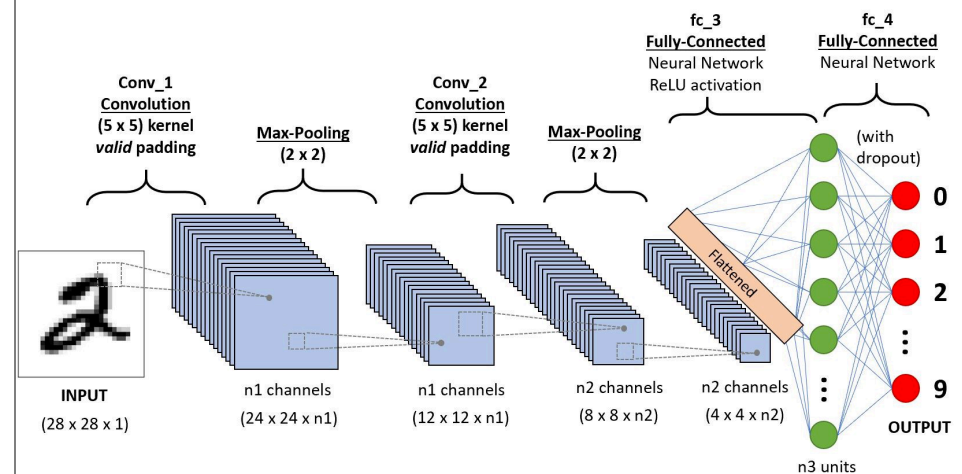
Multidimensional Arrays

- Generalization of **arrays** to multiple dimensions
 - e.g. matrices, tensors
- Each element can be accessed using its corresponding **indices**



3

Modern machine learning



<https://towardsdatascience.com/a-comprehensive-guide-to-convolutional-neural-networks-the-eli5-way-3bd2b1164a53>

4

Declaration of 2D arrays

```
// array declaration by specifying size
int matrix1[10][10];

// can also declare an array of
// user specified size
int n = 8;
int matrix2[n][n];

// can declare and initialize elements
double matrix3[2][2];
matrix3 = { {10.0, 20.0}, {30.0, 40.0} };
```

5

Indexing 2D arrays

	0	1	2	3
0	A[0][0]			
1			A[1][2]	
2		A[2][1]		
3				

6

Indexing 2D arrays

- Individual elements can be accessed by using the **subscription operator []**

```
int matrix2[3][3];

for (int i = 0 ; i < 3 ; i ++ ) {
    for (int j = 0 ; j < 3 ; j ++ ) {
        matrix[i][j] = (j + 1) + i * 3;
    }
}
```

7

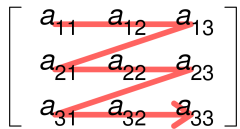
How are these arrays stored in memory?

- In computing, **row-major** order and **column-major** order are two methods for storing multidimensional arrays as contiguous blocks of memory
 - row-major order is used in C, C++, Objective-C (for C-style arrays), PL/I, Pascal, Speakeasy, SAS, ...
 - column-major order is used in Fortran, MATLAB, GNU Octave, S-Plus, R, Julia, ...
- Alternatively, neither row-major or column-major approaches are also used (non-contiguous blocks)
 - Java, C#, CLI, .Net, Scala, Swift, Python, Lua, ...

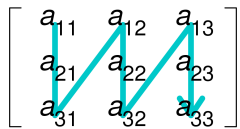
8

Row-major and column-major order

Row-major order



Column-major order



	0	1	2	3
0	1	2	3	4
1	8	6	4	2
2	10	20	30	40
3	5	7	9	11



9

Question

- How many bytes are these arrays using in memory?

```
int array[100000];
```

```
int matrix[1000][1000];
```

```
double tensor[1000][1000][1000];
```

10

Question

- Write a program that reads in the value of n , and prints the identity matrix of size $n \times n$?

11

Multidimensional arrays and functions

- The first array size need not be specified
- The second (and any subsequent) must be given
- Example:

```
int foo(int list[][100], int rows, int cols);
```

size is required so the compiler can calculate the memory addresses of individual elements

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/12813494/why-do-we-need-to-specify-the-column-size-when-passing-a-2d-array-as-a-parameter>

12

Multidimensional arrays and functions

- Variable sized 2D arrays are not very well supported by the built-in components of C and C++
- Need to know size of 2D array by compile time in function parameter list
- Can get around this by setting a max size of 2D in as parameter

13

Multidimensional arrays and functions

- Function printMatrix expects 5x5 matrix
- Relevant data is 3x4
- Only iterate over row (3) x col (4) to manipulate matrix data

```
void printMatrix(int m1[][5], int row, int col
```

1	2	3	4	0
5	6	7	8	0
9	10	11	12	0
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0

14

Multidimensional vectors and functions

- Can also use vectors

```
void printMatrix(vector< vector<int> > m1){  
    m1.size() // gets number of rows  
    m1[0].size() // gets number of columns  
}
```

15

Question

- Write a function that adds two (N x N) 2D matrices together where $1 < N \leq 10$.

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

M1

+

1	2	3
1	2	3
1	2	3

M2

=

2	4	6
5	7	9
8	10	12

M3

16