

Study notes on C Programming Language

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1 Two-dimensional array

A *two-dimensional array* (e.g. $A[M][N]$) actually uses a contiguous storage structure underneath such that A is the address of the first element and $A[0]$ is the start address of the first row. We can view it as a one-dimensional array with each row appears in sequence. So $A = A[0] = \&A[0][0]$ and $A[1] - A[0] = N$. The type of A is actually $\text{int } (*)[N]$ which means A is a pointer to an array of size N , that's how *sizeof* figures out the size of A correctly. The type for $A[0]$ is $\text{int } *$, because it is a pointer to a one-dimensional array. Note that a two-dimensional array is not *an array of pointers to one-dimensional array*, that is, $\text{int } **$, it is not efficient to access array elements as we will have to jump back and forth to different locations.