Common Errors Dangling Pointers – Serious Business

```
int* values = new int[n];
// Process values

delete[] values;
values = NULL;

later...
if values = NULL ...
```

Very good, son. Being very responsible!

much better!

Great!

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Arrays and Vectors of Pointers (7.5)

When you have a sequence of pointers, you can place them into an array or vector.

An array and a vector of ten `int*` pointers are defined as

```
int* pointer_array[10];

vector<int*> pointer_vector(10);
```

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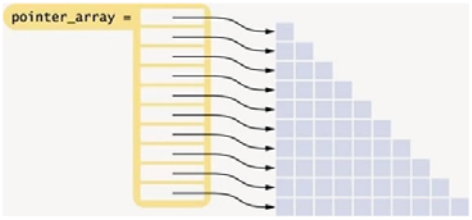
Arrays and Vectors of Pointers – A Triangular Array



In this array, each row is a different length.

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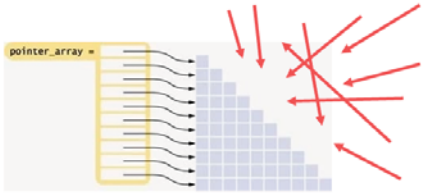
Arrays and Vectors of Pointers – A Triangular Array

In this situation, it would not be very efficient to use a two-dimensional array, because almost half of the elements would be wasted.



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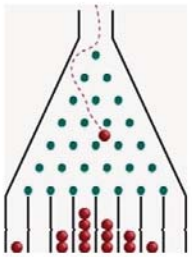
A Galton Board

Ex where an array of pointers is used



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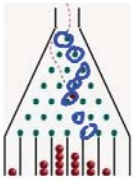
A Galton Board Simulation

We will develop a program that uses a triangular array to simulate a Galton board.



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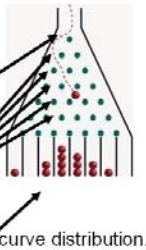
A Galton Board Simulation

A Galton board consists of a pyramidal arrangement of pegs and a row of bins at the bottom.

Balls are dropped onto the top peg and travel toward the bins.

At each peg, there is a 50 percent chance of moving left or right.

The balls in the bins approximate a bell-curve distribution.



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A Galton Board Simulation

The Galton board can only show the balls in the bins, but we can do better by keeping a counter for *each* peg, incrementing it as a ball travels past it.

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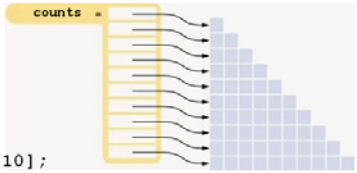
A Galton Board Simulation

We will simulate a board with ten rows of pegs.
Each row requires an array of counters.
The following statements initialize the triangular array:




```
int* counts[10];
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++)
{
   counts[i] = new int[i + 1];
}
```

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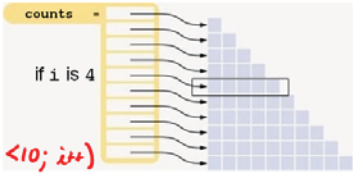
A Galton Board Simulation

We will need to print each row:




```
for (int i=0; i<10; i++)
{
   // print all elements in the ith row
   for (int j = 0; j <= i; j++)
   {
      cout << setw(4) << counts[i][j];
   }
   cout << endl;
}
```

two dimensional array notation

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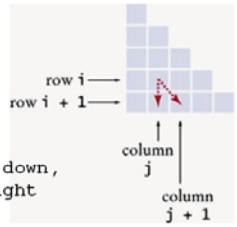
A Galton Board Simulation

We will simulate a ball bouncing through the pegs:




```
int r = rand() % 2;
// If r is even, move down,
// otherwise to the right
if (r == 1)
{
   j++;
}
counts[i][j]++;
```

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A Galton Board Simulation

ch07/galton.cpp

```
#include <iostream>
#include <iomanip>
#include <cstdlib>
#include <ctime>
using namespace std;
int main()
{
   srand(time(0));
   int* counts[10];

   // Allocate the rows
   for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++)
   {
      counts[i] = new int[i + 1];
      for (int j = 0; j <= i; j++)
      {
         counts[i][j] = 0; // initialize each count to 0
      }
   }
```

create the array

row 0 to 9 — column 0 to 9

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A Galton Board Simulation

ch07/galton.cpp

```
const int RUNS = 1000;
// Simulate 1,000 balls
for (int run = 0; run < RUNS; run++)
{
   // Add a ball to the top
   counts[0][0]++;
   // Have the ball run to the bottom
   int j = 0;
   for (int i = 1; i < 10; i++)
   {
      int r = rand() % 2;
      // If r is even, move down,
      // otherwise to the right
      if (r == 1)
      {
         j++;
      }
      counts[i][j]++;
   }
}
```

one ball hitting pegs til gets to bottom

repeats

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A Galton Board Simulation

ch07/galton.cpp

```
// Print all counts
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++)
{
   for (int j = 0; j <= i; j++)
   {
      cout << setw(4) << counts[i][j];
   }
   cout << endl;
}

// Deallocate the rows
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++)
{
   delete[] counts[i];
}

return 0;
}
```

deleting the 1D pointers we created

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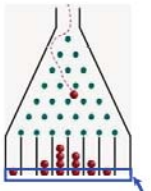
A Galton Board Simulation

This is the output from a run of the program:

```
1000
 480 520
 241 500 259
 124 345 411 120
  68 232 365 271  64
  32 164 283 329 161  31
  16  88 229 303 254  88  22
   9  47 147 277 273 190  44  13
   5  24 103 203 288 228 113  33   3
   1  18  64 149 239 265 186  61  15   2
```



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Section 7.6

Read it!

There is one Q on the Chp 7 quiz.

Chapter Summary

Define and use pointer variables.

- A pointer denotes the location of a variable in memory.
- The type `T*` denotes a pointer to a variable of type `T`.
- The `&` operator yields the location of a variable.
- The `*` operator accesses the variable to which a pointer points.
- It is an error to use an uninitialized pointer.
- The `NULL` pointer does not point to any object.

Understand the relationship between arrays and pointers in C++.

- The name of an array variable is a pointer to the starting element of the array.
- Pointer arithmetic means adding an integer offset to an array pointer, yielding a pointer that skips past the given number of elements.
- The array/pointer duality law states that `a[n]` is identical to `*(a + n)`, where `a` is a pointer into an array and `n` is an integer offset.
- When passing an array to a function, only the starting address is passed.

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Chapter Summary

Use C++ string objects with functions that process character arrays.

- A value of type `char` denotes an individual character. Character literals are enclosed in single quotes.
- A literal string (enclosed in double quotes) is an array of `char` values with a zero terminator.
- Many library functions use pointers of type `char*`.
- The `c_str` member function yields a `char*` pointer from a `string` object.
- You can initialize C++ `string` variables with C strings.
- You can access characters in a C++ `string` object with the `[]` operator.

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Chapter Summary

Allocate and deallocate memory in programs whose memory requirements aren't known until run time.

- Use dynamic memory allocation if you do not know in advance how many values you need.
- The `new` operator allocates memory from the heap.
- You must reclaim dynamically allocated objects with the `delete` or `delete[]` operator.
- Using a dangling pointer (a pointer that points to memory that has been deleted) is a serious programming error.
- Every call to `new` should have a matching call to `delete`.

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Chapter 7 Homework

Review Exercises

R7.2, R7.3, R7.7, R7.13, R7.16, R7.19

Programming Exercises

P7.2, P7.8, P7.10

due Fri. Oct. 26th

Chp 7 Quiz due 11pm on 10/26