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# INTRODUCTION TO C



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# LINKED LISTS

# LINKED LISTS

- The building blocks for linked lists are:
  1. Pointers: These are used to establish connections between nodes, enabling traversal and linking.
  2. Structs: These define the structure of each node, containing data and a pointer to the next node.
  3. Memory Management: Dynamic memory allocation is necessary for the flexibility of linked lists.
- We will cover these topics individually and then bring them together to construct a linked list.



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# STRUCTS



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# OBJECTIVE

- Understand the concept of structures in C programming.
- Learn how to define and declare structures.
- Explore the relationship between structures and functions.





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# INTRODUCTION TO STRUCTURES



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# NEED FOR STRUCTURES IN C PROGRAMMING

- C programming often requires grouping related data together.
- Structures provide a way to create user-defined data types.
- Structures help organize and manage complex data efficiently.



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# CONCEPT OF A STRUCTURE

- A structure is a collection of different data types grouped together.
- It allows creating a custom data type with its own set of members.
- Members can be of any data type, including other structures.





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# PURPOSE OF STRUCTURES

- Structures provide a way to represent real-world entities.
- They enable creating complex data structures for efficient data management.
- Structures facilitate passing multiple related pieces of data as a single unit.



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# REAL-WORLD EXAMPLES OF STRUCTURES

- Storing information about a person (name, age, address, etc.).
- Representing a point in 2D or 3D space (x, y, z coordinates).
- Managing student records (roll number, name, grades, etc.).

# ADVANTAGES OF USING STRUCTURES

- Structures enhance code readability and maintainability.
- They allow efficient data organization and access.
- Structures make it easier to work with complex data and relationships.



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# DEFINING AND DECLARING STRUCTURES



# INTRODUCTION - STRUCTURES IN C

- Structures are user-defined data types in C that allow us to combine data items of different kinds.
- Structures are used to represent a record, which allows you to store different types of data.
- Example: If you want to store information about a student (like name, age, and GPA), you can use a structure.



# INTRODUCTION - IMPORTANCE OF STRUCTURES

- Structures provide a method for packing together data of different types.
- A structure is a convenient tool for handling a group of logically related data items.
- Structures help in organizing complex data in a more meaningful way.
- Abstract Data Type = Student, point, truck, Audio
- Primitive Data Type = int, float, char, double



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## STRUCTURE DEFINITION - SYNTAX FOR DEFINING A STRUCTURE:

- 'struct' keyword is used to define a structure.
- 'structureName' is the name of the structure.
- 'datatype' is the type of the member (like int, float, char, etc.).
- 'member1', 'member2', etc. are names of the structure's members.

```
struct structureName {  
    //dataType member1;  
    //dataType member2;  
    //...  
};
```

# STRUCTURE MEMBERS

- A structure member is a variable that is defined inside a structure.
- Each member has its own data type.
- Members can be of any valid C data type, including basic types (like int, char, etc.), arrays, pointers, and even other structures.

# STRUCTURE MEMBERS

## DEFINING STRUCTURE MEMBERS

- Structure members are defined within the structure definition.
- Each member definition is a normal variable definition, like `int a;` or `char name[50];`.
- Members are separated by semicolons.

```
struct Student {  
    char name[50]; // Member 1: name  
    int age;       // Member 2: age  
    float gpa;     // Member 3: gpa  
};
```





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# DECLARING STRUCTURE VARIABLES

## SYNTAX FOR DECLARING A STRUCTURE VARIABLE:

- Structure variables are instances of the structure.
- `structureName` is the name of the structure and `variableName` is the name of the variable you want to declare.
- Structure variables consume the amount of memory equal to the sum of sizes of all members.

```
struct structureName variableName;
```

```
struct Student student1;  
struct Student student2;
```





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# INITIALIZING STRUCTURES

- Initialization of structures is similar to initialization of arrays.
- Members of a structure can be initialized at the time of declaration.

```
struct structureName variableName = { "value1", "value2"};  
variableName.member1;
```

```
struct Student student1 = { "John", 20, 3.5 };  
struct Student student2 = { "Alice", 22, 3.8 };
```



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# ACCESSING STRUCTURE MEMBERS

- Structure members can be accessed and modified using a structure variable.
- The dot operator (.) is used for accessing structure members.
- Syntax for accessing structure members:

```
struct structureName variableName;  
variableName.member1;
```

```
struct Student student1 = { "John", 20, 3.5 };  
struct Student student2 = { "Alice", 22, 3.8 };
```

```
printf("%s", student1.name); // Accessing structure member  
student2.age = 23; // Modifying structure member
```



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# STRUCTURES AND FUNCTIONS

# STRUCTURES AND FUNCTIONS

Relationship between Structures and Functions:

- Structures can be passed to functions as arguments just like basic data types.
- Functions can return structures.
- Structure members can be accessed within functions.
- Structure pointers can be used as function parameters.





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# PASSING STRUCTURES AS FUNCTION ARGUMENTS

How to pass structures as function arguments:

- Structures can be passed to functions either by value or by reference.
- Passing by value: A copy of the entire structure is passed to the function.
- Passing by reference: Only the memory address of the structure is passed, allowing the function to modify the original structure.





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# PASSING STRUCTURES AS FUNCTION ARGUMENTS

Example:

```
struct Student student1 = { "John", 20, 3.5 };  
struct Student student2 = { "Alice", 22, 3.8 };  
printStudent(student1);  
printStudent(student2);
```

```
void printStudent(struct Student s) {  
    printf("Name: %s\n", s.name);  
    printf("Age: %d\n", s.age);  
    printf("GPA: %.2f\n", s.gpa);  
}
```



# STRUCTURE POINTERS IN FUNCTION PARAMETERS

Use of structure pointers in function parameters:

- Using pointers is more efficient when dealing with large structures, because it avoids copying the entire structure.
- Structure pointers can be dereferenced using the -> operator.

```
struct Student student1 = { "John", 20, 3.5 };  
struct Student student2 = { "Alice", 22, 3.8 };  
printStudent(student1);  
printStudent(student2);  
updateGPA(&student1, 3.8); // Passing by reference  
printStudent(student1);
```

```
void updateGPA(struct Student* s, float newGPA) {  
    s->gpa = newGPA;  
}
```



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# RETURNING STRUCTURES FROM FUNCTIONS

Returning structures from functions:

- Functions can also return structures.
- This allows functions to produce structured outputs.

```
struct Student createStudent(const char* name, int age, float gpa) {  
    struct Student s;  
    strcpy_s(s.name, name);  
    s.age = age;  
    s.gpa = gpa;  
    return s;  
}
```

```
struct Student student1 = createStudent("Alice", 22, 3.8);  
printStudent(student1);
```



# STRUCTURE SCOPE AND LIFETIME

Concept of structure scope and lifetime:

- The scope of a structure type is the region of code where it can be used.
- The lifetime of a structure variable is the duration for which it exists in memory.
- Structures defined inside a function have a local scope and are automatically destroyed when the function ends.
- Structures defined outside of all functions have a global scope and exist for the lifetime of the program.
- Understanding scope and lifetime can help avoid bugs related to using a variable out of its scope or after its lifetime.





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# RECAP AND PRACTICE EXERCISES

# RECAP

## Key Points:

- A structure is a user-defined data type in C that groups related variables of different data types.
- Structures can be passed to functions, returned from functions.
- Structure members can be accessed using the dot operator.
- Structure scope and lifetime depends on where the structure is defined.

# DISCUSSION

Research:

What are some real-world examples of structures?

How can structures improve the organization and readability of code?

How do structures compare with other data types in C, like arrays?



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# PRACTICE EXERCISES

Exercise 1: 3D Space Distance Calculator

Exercise 2: Student Age Calculator





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# DATA TYPES

## POINTERS



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# POINTERS

- In this session, we will review the important concepts of variables and memory, and explore their relationship to pointers.



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# POINTERS

## RECAP VARIABLES AND MEMORY



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# REVIEW OF VARIABLES AND MEMORY

- Variables serve as containers for storing data in a program.
- Each variable is assigned a memory location, which can be thought of as a unique address.
- The memory is organized into bytes, and each byte has a specific address.



# VARIABLES, MEMORY ADDRESSES, AND DATA

- Variables are associated with memory addresses, which allow us to locate and manipulate the stored data.
- The memory address of a variable can be accessed using the address-of operator (&).
- By obtaining the memory address, we gain the ability to directly interact with the data stored in the variable.

## EXAMPLE

- Let's consider an example:

```
int num = 10;
```

- In this case, the variable num stores the value 10.
- Behind the scenes, num is assigned a memory location, which we can represent as an address, let's say 0x1000.



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# VISUAL REPRESENTATION

- Here's a visual representation of the variable num in memory:

```
Variable: num  
Memory Address: 0x1000  
Value: 10
```

Address		Data
-----		
0x0000		00101101
0x0001		11001010
0x0002		01010101
...		...
...		...
0xFFFF		11110000

## RECAP

- To recap:
- Variables store data and have corresponding memory addresses.
- Memory addresses allow us to locate and manipulate the data stored in variables.
- Now that we have reviewed these concepts, we are ready to dive into the fascinating world of pointers!





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# POINTERS

## INTRODUCTION TO POINTERS



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# WHAT ARE POINTERS?

- Pointers are variables that store memory addresses as their values.
- They play a crucial role in C programming, offering direct access to memory locations.



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# MEMORY ADDRESSES

- Memory addresses are unique identifiers for each byte of memory in a computer.
- They provide a way to locate and access data stored in memory.



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# HOW POINTERS WORK

- Pointers store memory addresses, allowing us to refer to the data stored at that address.
- They create a connection between variables and the memory they occupy.





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# USING POINTERS

- Pointers enable efficient and flexible memory management in C.
- They allow for dynamic memory allocation, deallocation, and manipulation.



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# STORING AND ACCESSING DATA

- Pointers are used to store addresses of variables and data structures.
- By dereferencing pointers, we can access the data they point to.



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# IMPORTANCE OF POINTERS

- Pointers are essential for tasks such as passing data by reference, working with arrays, and dynamic memory allocation.
- They provide a level of control and efficiency not possible with other variable types.

## SUMMARY

- Pointers are variables that store memory addresses.
- They provide direct access to memory and allow for flexible memory management.
- Pointers are crucial for tasks like passing data by reference, working with arrays, and dynamic memory allocation.





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# POINTERS

## DECLARING AND INITIALIZING POINTERS



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# POINTERS OVERVIEW

- Pointers are variables that store memory addresses as their values.
- They allow us to access and manipulate data directly by pointing to its memory location.



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# DECLARING POINTERS

- Pointers are declared using the asterisk (\*) notation in C.
- For example, to declare a pointer of type int, we write `int* ptr;`



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## EXAMPLE: DECLARING AND INITIALIZING

- Let's see an example:

```
int num = 10;  
int* ptr;      // Declaring a pointer of type int  
int num = 10;  // Declaring an integer variable  
ptr = &num;    // Initializing the pointer with the address of num
```





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# DEREFERENCING POINTERS

- Once a pointer is initialized, we can access the value it points to by dereferencing it.
- We use the dereference operator (\*) to access the value.
- For example, to access the value stored in num using the pointer ptr, we write \*ptr.



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```
printf("Pointers with Primitive data types Integer:\n");  
int myInt = 10;  
int* myIntPtr = &myInt;  
printf("Pointer Data (address of myInt): %p\n", myIntPtr);  
printf("Pointer Address (address of myIntPtr): %p\n", &myIntPtr);  
printf("myInt Pointer: %p\n", myIntPtr);  
printf("Data in myInt: %d\n", myInt);  
printf("Data in myIntPtr: %d\n\n\n", *myIntPtr);
```

```
-----Pointers Primitive Data Types Integer-----  
Pointer Data (address of myInt): 000000779EBEF804  
Pointer Address (address of myIntPtr): 000000779EBEF828  
myInt Pointer: 000000779EBEF804  
Data in myInt: 10  
Dereferenced myIntPtr: 10
```

```
printf("Pointers with Primitive data types Double:\n");  
double myDouble = 42.424242;  
double* myDoublePointer = &myDouble;  
printf("Pointer Data (address of myArray): %p\n", myDoublePointer);  
printf("Pointer Address (address of pointer): %p\n", &myDoublePointer);  
printf("myDouble Pointer: %p\n", myDoublePointer);  
printf("Data in myDouble: %lf\n", myDouble);  
printf("Dereferenced myDoublePointer: %lf\n\n\n", *myDoublePointer);
```

```
-----Pointers Primitive Data Types Double-----  
Pointer Data (address of myArray): 000000779EBEF848  
Pointer Address (address of pointer): 000000779EBEF868  
myDouble Pointer: 000000779EBEF848  
Data in myDouble: 42.424242  
Dereferenced myDoublePointer: 42.424242
```



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-----Pointers with Arrays-----

Pointer (address of myArray): 000000779EBEF7B8

Pointer Address (address of pointer): 000000779EBEF7E8

myArray Pointer: 000000779EBEF7B8

Data in Array index '4': 5

```
int myArray[5] = {1,2,3,4,5};  
int* pointer = myArray;  
printf("-----Pointers with Arrays-----\n");  
printf("Pointer (address of myArray): %p\n", pointer);  
printf("Pointer Address (address of pointer): %p\n", &pointer);  
printf("myArray Pointer: %p\n", myArray);  
printf("Data in Array index '4': % d\n\n\n", myArray[4]);
```



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## SUMMARY

- Pointers are declared using the asterisk (\*) notation in C.
- They can be initialized with the address of a variable using the address-of operator (&).
- Dereferencing pointers allows us to access the value stored at the memory address they point to.



# EXERCISE

## Instructions:

- Your goal is to write a function called `AddByReference` based on its behavior in the given code snippet.
- The `PointerFunction` takes an `int` parameter by reference, which means any changes made to the parameter inside the function will affect the original variable.
- Reverse engineer the behavior of `PointerFunction` to understand its purpose and functionality.
- Write the code for `PointerFunction` and test it using the provided test case in main.
- Ensure that the modified value of `myIntToChange` is correctly printed in the second `printf` statement in main.

## Test Case:

- Input: `myIntToChange = 1`
- Expected Output:
- Before `PointerFunction`: 1
- After `PointerFunction`: 2
- Remember to focus on understanding the purpose of the code and implementing the required logic in the `PointerFunction`. Good luck with your coding exercise!



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# POINTERS

## POINTER ARITHMETIC



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# POINTER ARITHMETIC

- Pointer arithmetic involves performing calculations on pointers.
- It's particularly useful for manipulating arrays efficiently.
- Pointer arithmetic allows traversal of contiguous memory locations.



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# ACCESSING VALUES USING POINTERS

- Code Example: Accessing Value through a Pointer

```
int arr[] = { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 };  
int* ptr = arr; // Pointer points to the first element of the array  
  
for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++) {  
    printf("%d ", *ptr); // Accessing the element through the pointer  
    ptr++; // Moving the pointer to the next memory location  
}
```





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# POINTER ARITHMETIC OPERATIONS

- Common pointer arithmetic operations include:
- Incrementing pointers: `ptr++` moves the pointer to the next memory location.
- Decrementing pointers: `ptr--` moves the pointer to the previous memory location.
- Addition and subtraction: `ptr + n` or `ptr - n` moves the pointer by `n` memory locations.

## SUMMARY

- Pointers allow us to access values through memory addresses.
- The dereference operator (\*) retrieves the value pointed to by a pointer.
- Pointer arithmetic enables efficient array manipulation.
- It simplifies array traversal and element modification.

## CLOSING

- In this section, we explored accessing values using pointers and introduced pointer arithmetic.
- We learned how to dereference pointers and discussed the relationship between pointers and variables.
- Additionally, we explored the importance of pointer arithmetic in array manipulation.



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# EXPLORING POINTERS: ARRAYS AND FUNCTIONS IN C



# THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN POINTERS AND ARRAYS

- Arrays in C are closely related to pointers. An array's name acts as a pointer to its first element. For example, if we declare an array `int arr[10];`, `arr` is a pointer to `arr[0]`.
- We can access array elements using pointers. For example, `*(arr + i)` is equivalent to `arr[i]`. Pointer arithmetic allows us to traverse an array using a pointer. For instance, incrementing a pointer `arr++` moves the pointer to the next array element.



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# THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN POINTERS AND ARRAYS

- Dynamic memory allocation allows us to create arrays at runtime. We use `malloc()` or `calloc()` to allocate memory, which returns a pointer to the first byte of the allocated space. It's crucial to free this memory using `free()` when we're done to prevent memory leaks.



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# LEVERAGING POINTERS TO ACCESS ARRAY ELEMENTS

```
int numbers[] = { 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 };  
int* ptr = numbers; // Array decays into a pointer pointing to its initial element  
  
for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++) {  
    printf("Element %d: Value %d\n", i, *(ptr + i));  
}
```

# THE ROLE OF POINTERS IN FUNCTIONS

- Pointers pave the way for achieving pass-by-reference functionality in C functions.
- By passing arguments via reference using pointers, it becomes possible to alter variables that exist outside the function's domain.
- This is especially beneficial when we want a function to modify the original variable, not just a temporary copy.





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# UTILIZING POINTERS IN FUNCTIONS FOR VARIABLE MODIFICATION

```
#include <iostream>

void increment(int* numPtr) {
    (*numPtr)++; // Dereferencing the pointer to modify the actual variable
}

int main() {
    int num = 10;
    printf("Before increment: %d\n", num);

    increment(&num); // Transmit the address of 'num' to the function

    printf("After increment: %d\n", num);
}
```



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# UNDERSTANDING POINTERS AND FUNCTIONS

- Pointers offer the ability to pass arguments by reference in C.
- Functions can alter variables outside their jurisdiction by employing pointers as parameters.

## CONCLUSION

- In this unit, we delved into the intricate relationship between pointers and arrays. We discovered how arrays can decay into pointers, which simplifies element access. Moreover, we examined the use of pointers in functions to implement pass-by-reference behavior.
- Reflect on the ideas discussed in this session. The comprehension of pointers and their interaction with arrays and functions is a cornerstone of proficient C programming.



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# STRUCT POINTERS





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# INTRODUCTION TO STRUCT POINTERS IN C

- A struct in C is a user-defined data type that can hold related data of various types.
- Struct pointers enable us to interact with these data structures in a dynamic way.



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# ACCESSING STRUCT MEMBERS VIA POINTERS

- Struct members can be accessed directly using the arrow operator (->).
- Syntax: ptr->member;



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## DYNAMIC MEMORY ALLOCATION FOR STRUCT POINTERS

- Memory for struct pointers can be dynamically allocated using functions like malloc or calloc.
- Syntax: `ptr = (struct MyStruct*)malloc(sizeof(struct MyStruct));`



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# PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF STRUCT POINTERS

- Struct pointers are powerful tools for manipulating struct objects.
- Example:

```
struct Person {  
    char name[50];  
    int age;  
};  
  
int main()  
{  
  
    struct Person* personPtr;  
    personPtr = (struct Person*)malloc(sizeof(struct Person));  
    if (personPtr != NULL)  
    {  
        strcpy_s(personPtr->name, "John");  
        personPtr->age = 25;  
    }  
    else  
    {  
        printf("Memory allocation failed!\n");  
    }  
}
```





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# MEMORY MANAGEMENT IN C



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# OBJECTIVE

- The aim of this lesson is to provide students with a strong understanding of memory management in C, including memory allocation, deallocation, and common issues such as memory leaks and dangling pointers.



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# UNDERSTANDING THE ESSENTIALS



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# INTRODUCTION TO MEMORY MANAGEMENT

- Definition of Memory Management: "In C, memory management involves manually handling the allocation and deallocation of memory during program execution."
- Importance of Memory Management in C: "Efficient memory management can prevent program crashes, enhance performance, and ensure secure execution."



# WHAT IS MEMORY MANAGEMENT?

- Memory Management explained: "Memory management is the programmer's responsibility in C. It involves requesting memory when needed (allocation) and freeing it for other uses when no longer required (deallocation)."
- The programmer's role: "Programmers manage memory using functions such as malloc(), calloc(), realloc(), and free(). Proper use of these functions can prevent memory leaks, crashes, and improve overall performance."



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# IMPORTANCE OF MEMORY MANAGEMENT

- Importance of efficient memory usage: "Efficient memory management ensures that programs run quickly and smoothly, avoiding the waste of system resources."
- Consequences of poor Memory Management: "Memory leaks can slow down or crash programs. Dangling pointers can cause undefined behavior. Uninitialized memory can lead to unpredictable results."

# IMPACT OF IMPROPER MEMORY MANAGEMENT

- Memory Leaks: "When dynamically allocated memory isn't deallocated, it leads to memory leaks, which can slow down the program and eventually cause it to crash."
- Dangling Pointers: "A pointer pointing to deallocated memory is called a dangling pointer and can lead to undefined behavior if accessed."
- Uninitialized Memory: "Accessing uninitialized memory can also lead to unpredictable program behavior."



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# DYNAMIC MEMORY ALLOCATION



# IMPACT OF IMPROPER MEMORY MANAGEMENT

- Definition: "Dynamic Memory Allocation refers to the process of manually requesting memory during program execution."
- Importance: "Dynamic memory allocation is necessary when we do not know how much memory we need at compile time. Instead, we request and free memory at runtime as required."

# FUNCTIONS FOR DYNAMIC MEMORY ALLOCATION

- `malloc()`: "The `malloc()` function allocates a specified number of bytes of memory and returns a pointer to the allocated memory."
- `calloc()`: "The `calloc()` function allocates memory for an array of a specified number of elements, initializes them to zero, and returns a pointer to the memory."
- `realloc()`: "The `realloc()` function changes the size of previously allocated memory and returns a pointer to the new memory."



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# USING MEMORY ALLOCATION FUNCTIONS

- Explanation and code examples showing how to use malloc(), calloc(), and realloc().
- Explanation: "These functions return a void pointer, which can be cast into a pointer of any form."



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# HANDS-ON: PRACTICING MEMORY ALLOCATION

## 1. Define a Book struct with the following fields:

- title: a string (you can use a character array) to hold the book's title.
- author: a string to hold the author's name.
- pages: an integer to hold the number of pages.
- price: a float to hold the price of the book.





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## 1. Define a Book struct with the following fields:

- title: a string (you can use a character array) to hold the book's title.
- author: a string to hold the author's name.
- pages: an integer to hold the number of pages.
- price: a float to hold the price of the book.

```
struct Book {  
    char title[100];  
    char author[50];  
    int pages;  
    float price;  
};
```



# HANDS-ON: PRACTICING MEMORY ALLOCATION

2. Write a function `createBook` that dynamically allocates memory for a `Book` struct and returns a pointer to it. This function should take the title, author, pages, and price as parameters and assign them to the appropriate fields in the struct.

```
struct Book* createBook(char* title, char* author, int pages, float price) {  
    struct Book* bookPtr = (struct Book*)malloc(sizeof(struct Book));  
    if (bookPtr == NULL) {  
        printf("Memory allocation failed!\n");  
        exit(1);  
    }  
    strcpy(bookPtr->title, title);  
    strcpy(bookPtr->author, author);  
    bookPtr->pages = pages;  
    bookPtr->price = price;  
    return bookPtr;  
}
```



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# HANDS-ON: PRACTICING MEMORY ALLOCATION

3. Write a function `displayBook` that takes a `Book` struct pointer as a parameter and prints out its fields.

```
void displayBook(struct Book* bookPtr) {  
    printf("Title: %s\n", bookPtr->title);  
    printf("Author: %s\n", bookPtr->author);  
    printf("Pages: %d\n", bookPtr->pages);  
    printf("Price: %.2f\n", bookPtr->price);  
}
```



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# HANDS-ON: PRACTICING MEMORY ALLOCATION

3. In your main function, use the createBook function to create a Book struct. Then use the displayBook function to print out its fields. Then Use the Free method to release it from memory.





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# MEMORY DEALLOCATION



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# IMPORTANCE OF MEMORY DEALLOCATION

- Explanation: "Memory deallocation is the process of returning previously allocated memory back to the system."
- Importance: "It's important to deallocate memory to avoid memory leaks. Memory leaks occur when memory is no longer needed but hasn't been deallocated, leading to waste of memory resources."



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# HANDS-ON: PRACTICING MEMORY ALLOCATION

- `free()`: "The `free()` function deallocates the memory previously allocated by `malloc()`, `calloc()`, or `realloc()`."

```
int* ptr = (int*)malloc(10 * sizeof(int));  
// use ptr  
free(ptr);
```



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## DEMONSTRATION: PROPERLY DEALLOCATING MEMORY

- Explanation and code examples showing how to use free() to deallocate memory.
- Emphasis on ensuring that every allocation (malloc/calloc/realloc) has a corresponding deallocation (free).



## COMMON ERRORS WITH MEMORY DEALLOCATION

- Forgetting to deallocate: "This leads to memory leaks, where allocated memory is never freed, leading to excessive memory usage."
- Deallocating too soon: "If you free memory that is still in use, subsequent use of that memory can lead to undefined behavior."
- Double freeing: "Freeing memory that has already been freed can lead to undefined behavior."

## HANDS-ON EXERCISES

- Description of exercises that involve deallocating memory, modifying previous exercises to include memory deallocation. For example:
- "Modify the program from the previous exercise to free the array after it's no longer needed."
- "Create a program that creates a dynamic array, resizes it, and then frees it."
- Remind students to check for memory leaks by ensuring every allocation has a corresponding deallocation.



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# MEMORY LEAKS



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# MEMORY LEAKS

- Definition: "Memory leaks occur when dynamically allocated memory is not freed after it is no longer needed."
- Consequences: "Memory leaks can lead to excessive memory usage, degraded performance, and even application crashes."



## DANGLING POINTERS

- Definition: "A dangling pointer is a pointer that doesn't point to a valid memory location. This usually happens when memory is freed while there are still pointers referencing it."
- Consequences: "Dereferencing a dangling pointer can lead to undefined behavior."



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# AVOIDING MEMORY LEAKS AND DANGLING POINTERS

- Best Practices: "Always free memory after use, and set pointers to NULL after freeing memory to avoid dangling pointers."
- Tools: "Use tools like Valgrind or built-in debugger features to detect memory leaks."

# PRACTICAL MEMORY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- Best Practices: "Consistent use of memory management techniques, such as deallocating memory after use, avoiding excessive memory allocation, and using tools to detect memory leaks."
- Code Reviews and Testing: "Regular code reviews and rigorous testing can help identify and prevent memory issues early."



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# DATA TYPES

## CHAR POINTER





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# STRINGS

- In C, `const char*` is a pointer to a constant character or a string literal. It is often used to represent read-only strings or string constants.

# STRINGS

- Declaration and Initialization: When you declare a `const char*` variable, you are creating a pointer that can hold the memory address of a character or a string literal. For example:

```
const char* message; // Declaration of a pointer to a constant character
```



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# DATA TYPES

## DATA WITHOUT DEFINED DATA



# NULL

- NULL is a special value (often defined as zero) used to represent a null pointer in C programming. It indicates that the pointer does not currently point to any valid memory address.



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# DATA TYPES

# STRINGS



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# STRINGS

- Declaration and Initialization: To declare a string variable, you need to define an array of characters with a specific size to hold the characters of the string. For example:

```
char greeting[6]; // Declaring a string with a size of 6 characters
```



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# STRINGS

- You can also initialize a string during declaration by assigning a sequence of characters within double quotation marks:

```
char greeting[] = "Hello"; // Declaring and initializing a string
```



# STRINGS

- Null Terminator: In C, strings are terminated with a null character '\0' (ASCII value 0). It marks the end of the string and allows functions to determine the length of the string. When initializing a string, the null terminator is automatically added by the compiler.



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# STRINGS

- Accessing String Characters: Individual characters in a string can be accessed using array indexing. The index starts from 0 for the first character. For example:

```
char greeting[] = "Hello";  
char firstChar = greeting[0]; // Accessing the first character 'H'
```

# STRINGS

- String Functions: C provides several built-in string functions to perform operations on strings. Some commonly used functions are:
- `strlen()`: Returns the length of a string.
- `strcpy()`: Copies one string to another.
- `strcat()`: Concatenates two strings.
- `strcmp()`: Compares two strings.
- `sprintf()`: Writes formatted data to a string.
- `strtok()`: Breaks a string into tokens based on a delimiter.
- These functions are available in the `<string.h>` header file.



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# STRINGS

- **Mutable and Immutable:** In C, strings are immutable, which means you cannot change the contents of a string once it is defined. However, you can modify individual characters within the string.



# STRINGS

- String Input: To read a string from the user, you can use the `scanf_s()` function with the `%s` format specifier. However, you need to ensure that the input does not exceed the size of the string array to avoid buffer overflow.



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# STRINGS

- It's important to note that C does not have a built-in string data type. Instead, it uses character arrays to represent strings. Handling strings in C requires careful memory management and adherence to proper string manipulation techniques to avoid errors and vulnerabilities.



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# RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR



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# RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR

Random number generators are in almost all programming languages. Random number generators are not truly random but pseudo random. This means that even though a number appears random it has a mathematical formula that can be broken down to accurately predict the number being generated.





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# RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <time.h>

int main() {
    // Initialize random number generator with current time
    srand(time(0));

    // Generate a random number between 0 and 99
    int randomNumber = rand() % 100;

    printf("Random Number: %d\n", randomNumber);

    return 0;
}
```

# RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR

In the code above:

- We first include the necessary header files. `stdlib.h` is for the `rand()` and `srand()` functions, `time.h` is for the `time()` function, and `stdio.h` is for the `printf()` function.
- The `srand(time(0))` line seeds the random number generator. It's important to seed the random number generator with a different value each time your program runs, otherwise `rand()` will generate the same sequence of numbers each time. `time(0)` returns the current time, which is a handy way to get a different seed each time.
- `rand() % 100` generates a random number and uses the modulus operator to limit its range to 0-99.
- Finally, we print the random number to the console.