

Mr C is Pointing to Something Useful

ESC101: Fundamentals of Computing

Purushottam Kar

Announcements

- Advanced Track meetings on Friday – check your mail
- Emergency joint tutorial for sections B1 and B13
 - Friday, 28 September 2018, 12noon (same time as usual)
 - L19 (not the same room)
 - Only for B1, B13 – rest of sections go as usual to TB room
 - Special arrangement only for this week – next week as usual in TB for all



The sizeof various variable types

3



The sizeof various variable types

3

8 bits make a byte



The sizeof various variable types

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char takes 1 byte = 8 bits



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Max value in a char is 127 = $2^{(8 - 1)} - 1$



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int/float takes 4 bytes = 32 bits



The sizeof various variable types

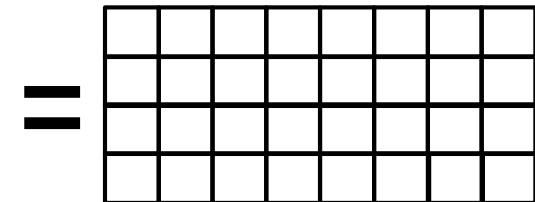
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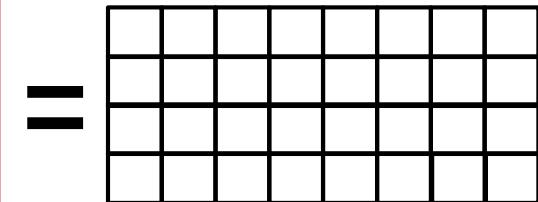
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Max value in int is 2,147,483,647
equal to $2^{(32-1)}-1$ – verify



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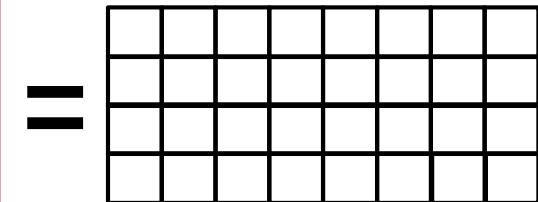


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Max value of float discussed later



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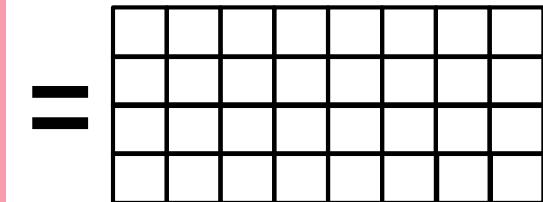
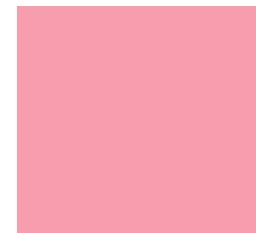
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long/double takes 8 bytes = 64 bits



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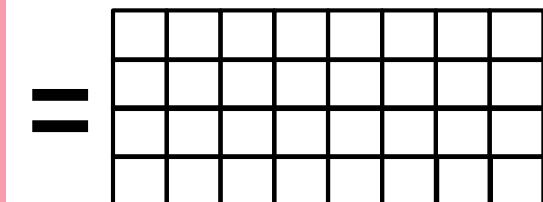


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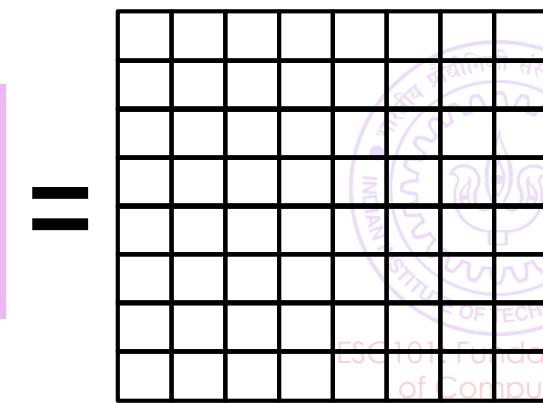
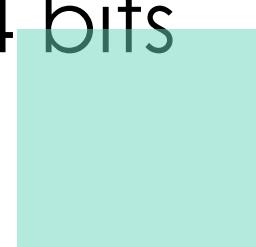
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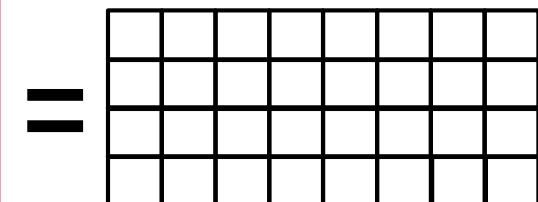
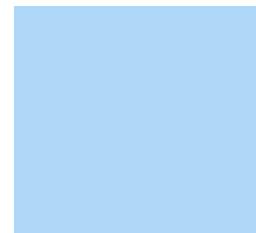
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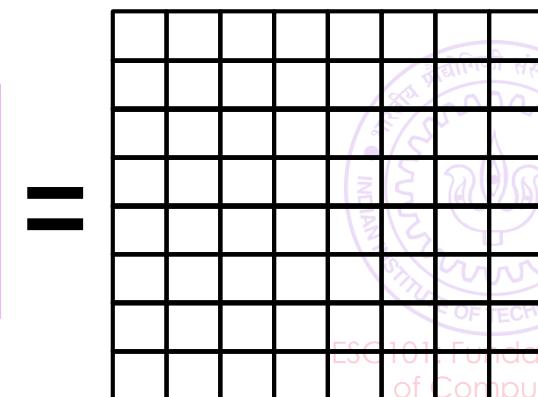
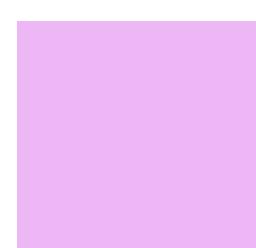


Max value of float discussed later

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Max value in long is 9,223,372,036,854,775,807

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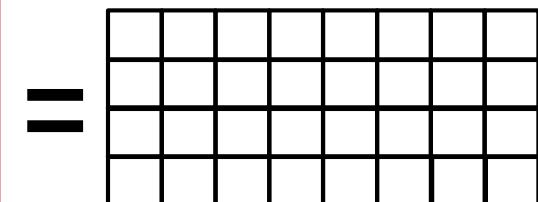


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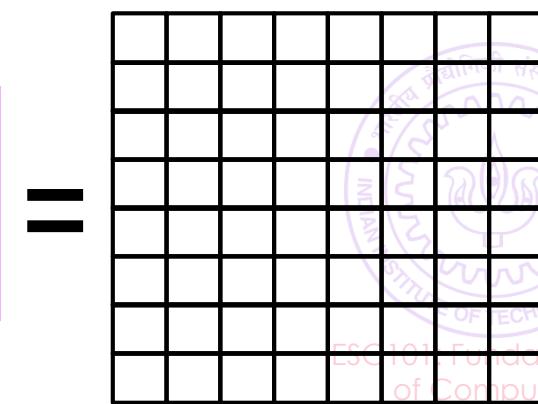
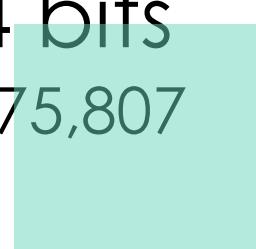


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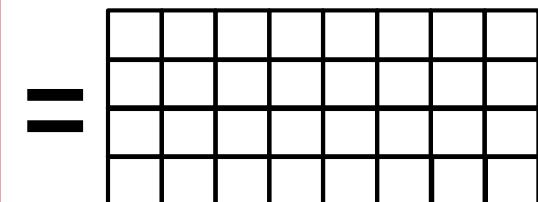
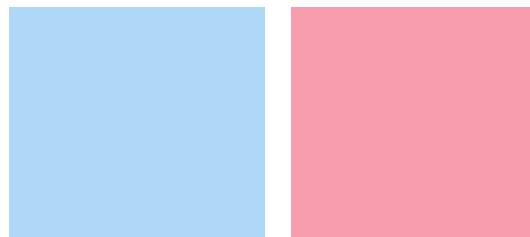


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Max value of float discussed later

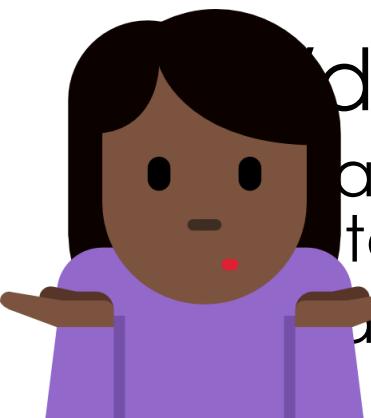
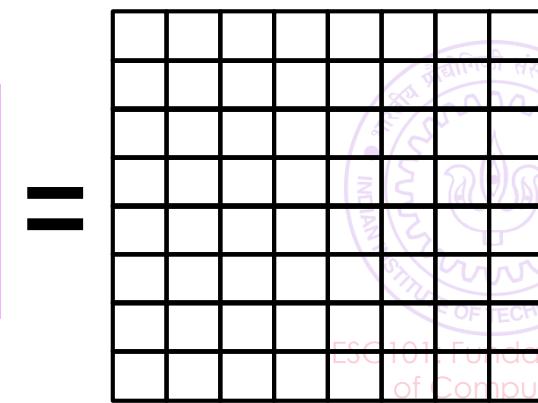


double takes 8 bytes = 64 bits

Max value in long is 9,223,372,036,854,775,807

equal to $2^{(64-1)}-1$ – verify

Max value of double discussed later



The sizeof various variable types

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char takes 1 byte = 8 bits

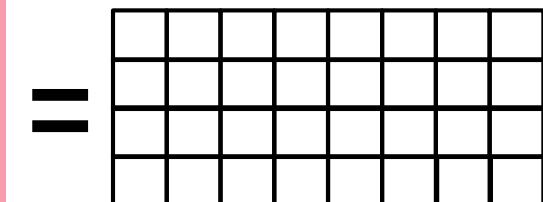
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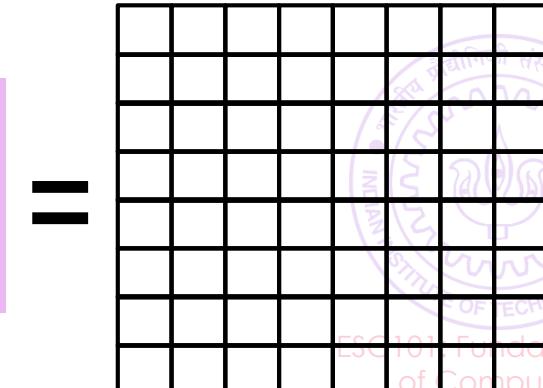
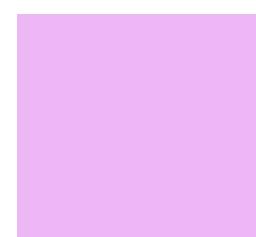
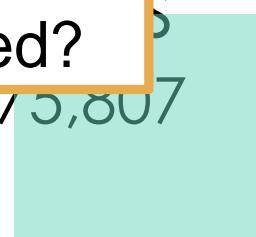
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Max value of float discussed later

Why is max value for all these variables always $2^{(k-1)}-1$ and not 2^k-1 when there are k bits getting used?



equal to $2^{(64-1)}-1$ – verify

Max value of double discussed later

The size of various variable types

8 bits make

char takes 1 b

This has to do with the way I store negative numbers. Effectively, one bit gets used up in storing the sign of the number so only $k-1$ bits left to store the magnitude of the number

Max value in a char is $127 = 2^{(8-1)} - 1$

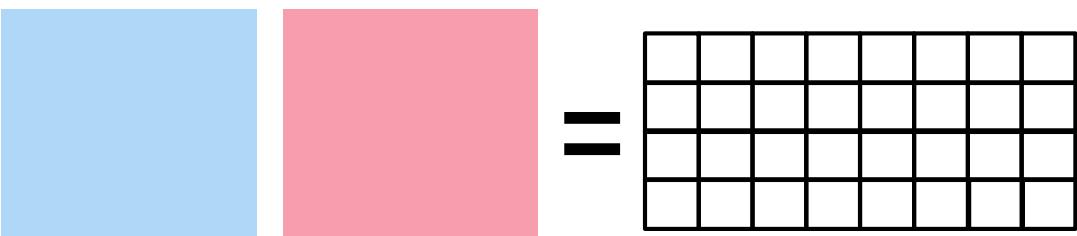


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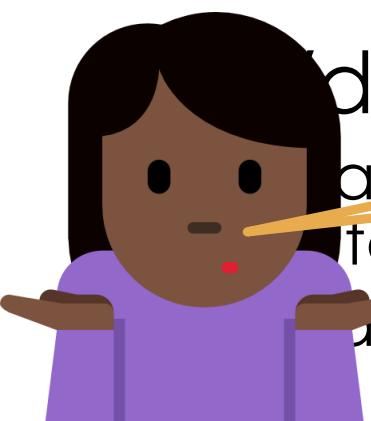
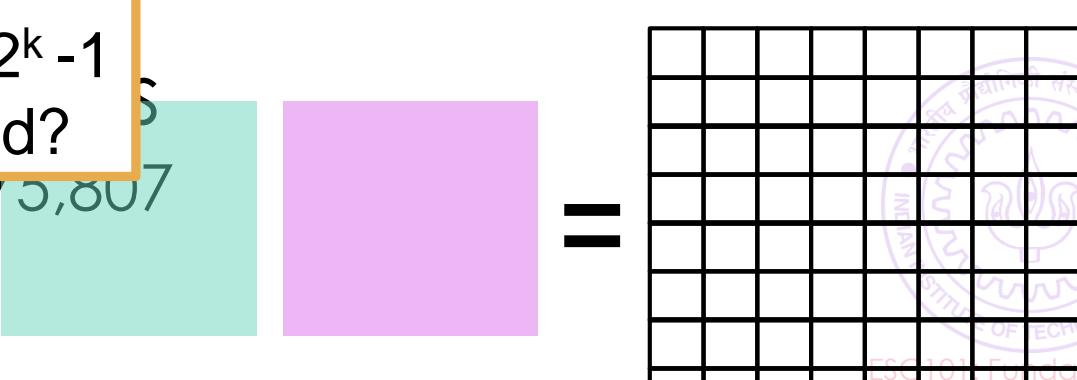
Max value of float discussed later



Why is max value for all these variables always $2^{(k-1)} - 1$ and not $2^k - 1$ when there are k bits getting used?

Value of int is 7,223,572,036,854,775,807
equal to $2^{(64-1)} - 1$ – verify

Value of double discussed later



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int/float takes 4 bytes = 32 bits

Max value in int is 2,147,483,647

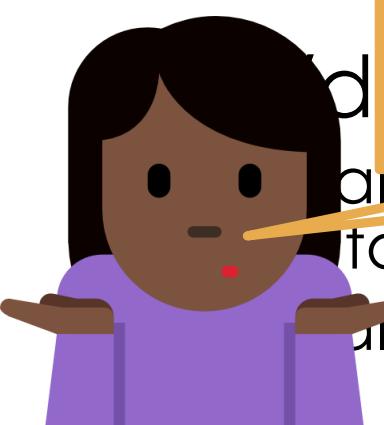
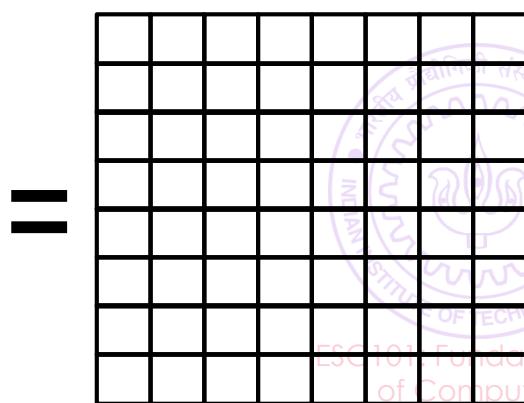
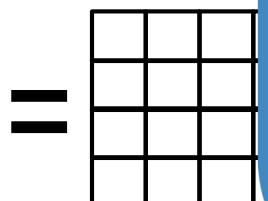
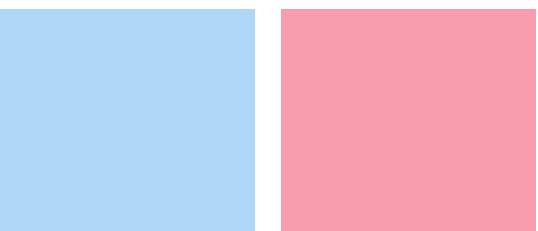
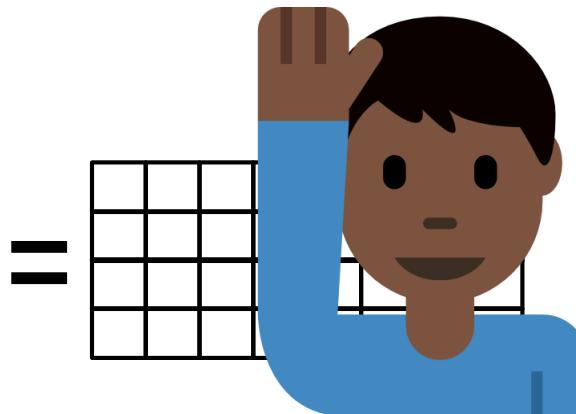
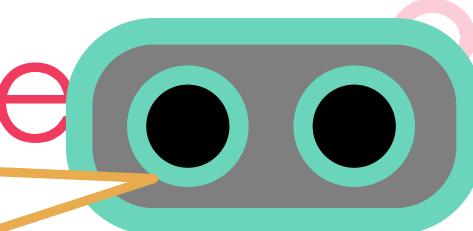
equal to $2^{(32-1)}-1$ – verify

Max value of float discussed later

Why is max value for all these variables always $2^{(k-1)}-1$ and not 2^k-1 when there are k bits getting used?

due to overflow is 7,223,572,036,854,775,807
to $2^{(64-1)}-1$ – verify

value of double discussed later



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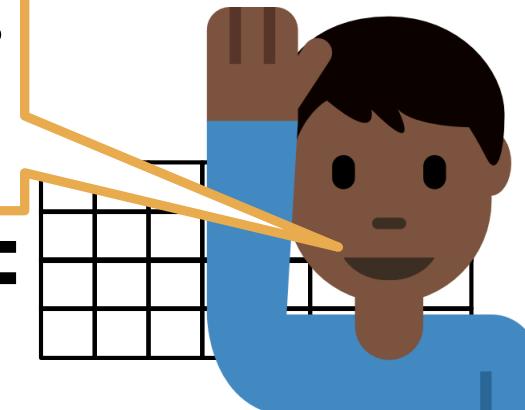
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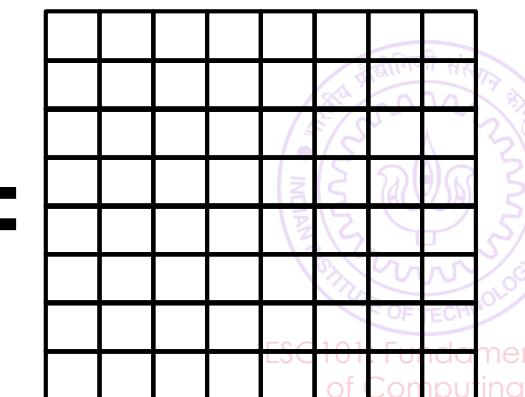
We will wait a few weeks to learn how negative numbers are stored



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value of double discussed later



How Mr C stores variables

4



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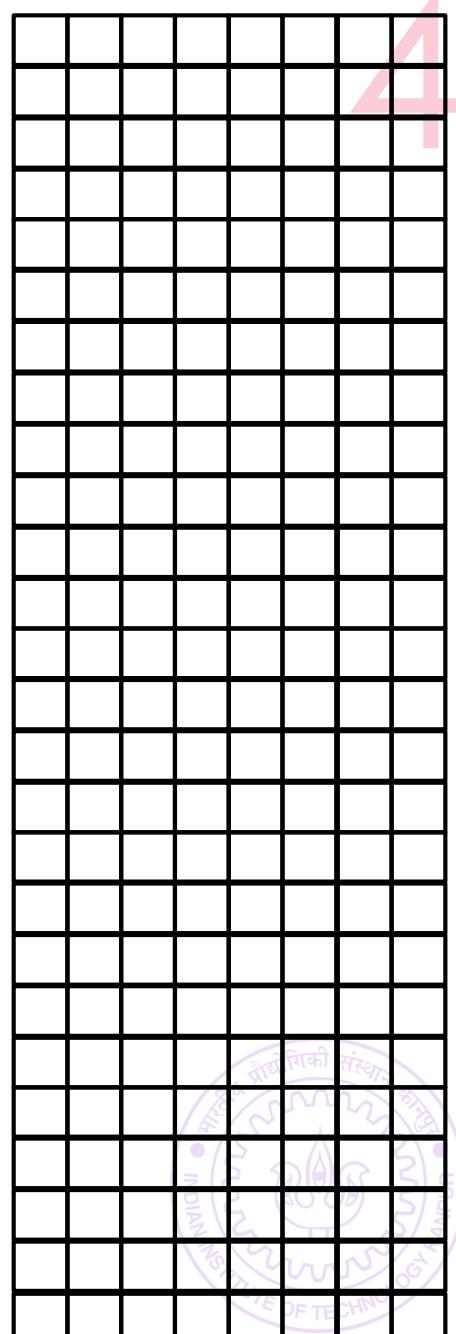
4

He has a very long chain of bytes



How Mr C stores variables

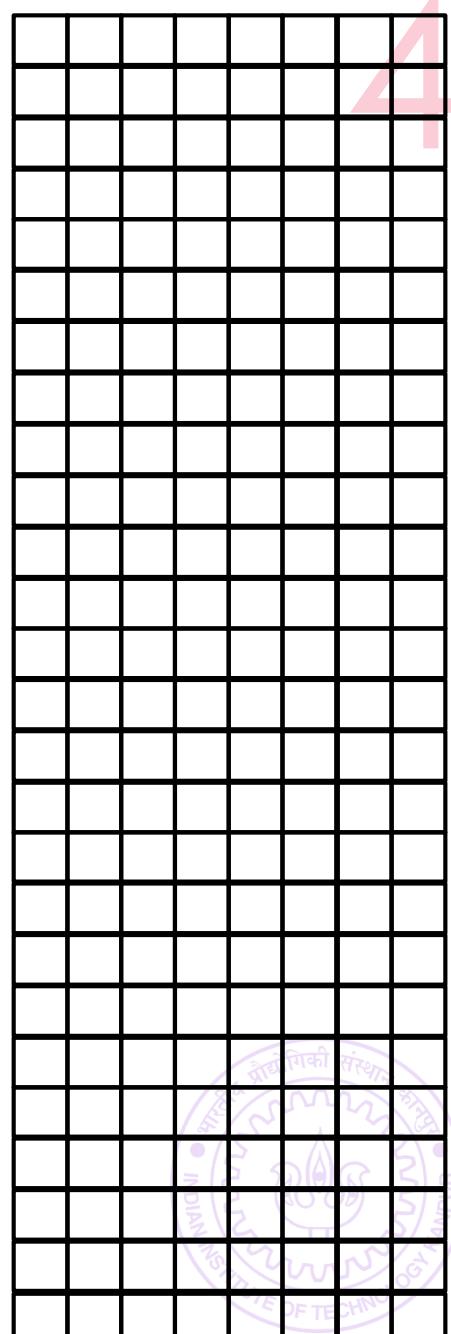
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How Mr C stores variables

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Each byte has an "address"



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All addresses can be stored within 8 bytes

000000							
000001							
000002							
000003							
000004							
000005							
000006							
000007							
000008							
000009							
000010							
000011							
000012							
000013							
000014							
000015							
000016							
000017							
000018							
000019							
000020							
...							

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double d;

000000							
000001							
000002							
000003							
000004	■	■	■	■	■	■	
000005	■	■	■	■	■	■	
000006	■	■	■	■	■	■	
000007	■	■	■	■	■	■	
000008	■	■	■	■	■	■	
000009							
000010							
000011							
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000008	■■■■■■■■
000009	■■■■■■■■
000010	■■■■■■■■
000011	■■■■■■■■
000012	■■■■■■■■
000013	■■■■■■■■
000014	■■■■■■■■
000015	■■■■■■■■
000016	■■■■■■■■
000017	■■■■■■■■
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000019	■■■■■■■■
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...	■■■■■■■■

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char c;

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int a;
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double d;

So c is stored at address 000004, a at 000005
and d at address 000009

Pointers

5



Pointers

Don't let anyone scare you – pointers are just a way to store these addresses



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Each pointer is a collection of 8 bytes (same size as long) that is storing one of these internal addresses



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In some sense Mr C manages a ridiculously huge array!



Pointers

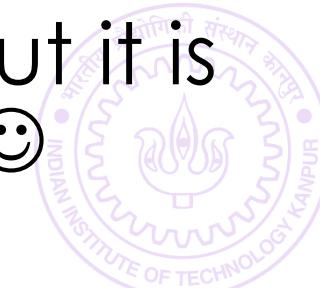
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Pointers can allow us to write very beautiful code but it is a very powerful tool – misuse it and you may suffer ☺



Pointers

6



ESC101: Fundamentals
of Computing

Pointers

6

Can have pointers to a char variable, int variable, long variable, float variable, double variable



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NULL character **is actually used** to indicate that string is over



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Doing so will cause a segfault and crash your program/even your computer

My first pointer

7



My first pointer

7

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER



My first pointer

7

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER



My first pointer

7

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

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



My first pointer

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

```
#include <stdio.h>  
int main(){
```



My first pointer

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

```
#include <stdio.h>  
  
int main(){  
    int a = 42;
```



My first pointer

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(){
    int a = 42;
    int *ptr;
```



My first pointer

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(){
    int a = 42;
    int *ptr;
    ptr = &a;
```



My first pointer

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

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My first pointer

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My first pointer

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My first pointer

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HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN



My first pointer

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

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HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN



My first pointer

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

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    int *ptr;
    ptr = &a;
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    return 0;
}
```

HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

a is an int variable, value 42



My first pointer

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

```
#include <stdio.h>  
  
int main(){  
    int a = 42;  
  
    int *ptr;  
  
    ptr = &a;  
  
    printf("%d", *ptr);  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

a is an int variable, value 42
ptr is a pointer that will store
address to an int variable



My first pointer

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

```
#include <stdio.h>  
  
int main(){  
    int a = 42;  
    int *ptr;  
    ptr = &a;  
    printf("%d", *ptr);  
    return 0;  
}
```

HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

a is an int variable, value 42
ptr is a pointer that will store
address to an int variable
Please store address of a in ptr



My first pointer

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

```
#include <stdio.h>  
  
int main(){  
    int a = 42;  
    int *ptr;  
    ptr = &a;  
    printf("%d", *ptr);  
    return 0;  
}
```

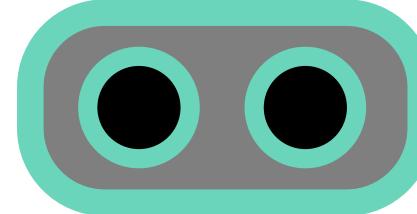
HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

a is an int variable, value 42
ptr is a pointer that will store address to an int variable
Please store address of a in ptr
Please print the value of the int stored at the address in ptr



My first pointer

7



HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

```
#include <stdio.h>  
  
int main(){  
    int a = 42;  
    int *ptr;  
    ptr = &a;  
    printf("%d", *ptr);  
    return 0;  
}
```

HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

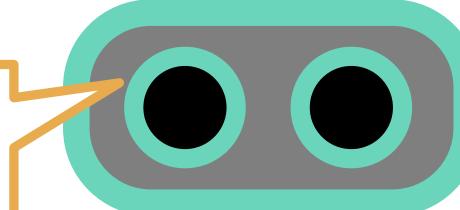
a is an int variable, value 42
ptr is a pointer that will store address to an int variable
Please store address of a in ptr
Please print the value of the int stored at the address in ptr



My first pointer

7

Whew!
Lets begin.



HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

```
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int main(){  
    int a = 42;  
    int *ptr;  
    ptr = &a;  
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    return 0;  
}
```

HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

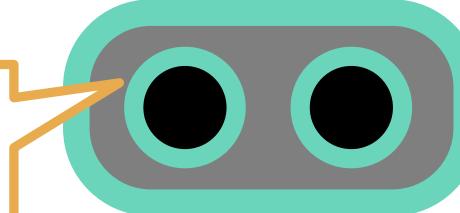
a is an int variable, value 42
ptr is a pointer that will store
address to an int variable
Please store address of a in ptr
Please print the value of the int
stored at the address in ptr



My first pointer

7

Whew!
Lets begin.



HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(){
    int a = 42;
    int *ptr;
    ptr = &a;
    printf("%d", *ptr);
    return 0;
}
```

000023

a

HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

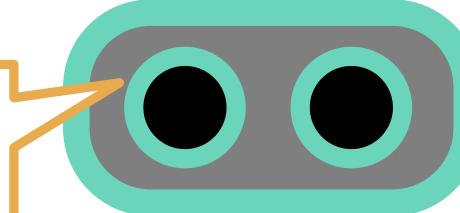
a is an int variable, value 42
ptr is a pointer that will store address to an int variable
Please store address of a in ptr
Please print the value of the int stored at the address in ptr



My first pointer

7

Whew!
Lets begin.



HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(){
    int a = 42;
    int *ptr;
    ptr = &a;
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    return 0;
}
```

42
000023
a

HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

a is an int variable, value 42
ptr is a pointer that will store
address to an int variable
Please store address of a in ptr
Please print the value of the int
stored at the address in ptr



My first pointer

7

Whew!
Lets begin.

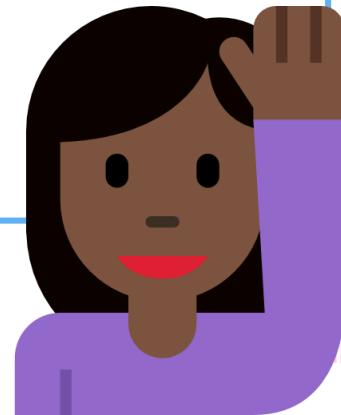
HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(){
    int a = 42;
    int *ptr;
    ptr = &a;
    printf("%d", *ptr);
    return 0;
}
```

42
000023
a

HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

a is an int variable, value 42
ptr is a pointer that will store
address to an int variable
Please store address of a in ptr
Please print the value of the int
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My first pointer

7

Whew!
Lets begin.

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

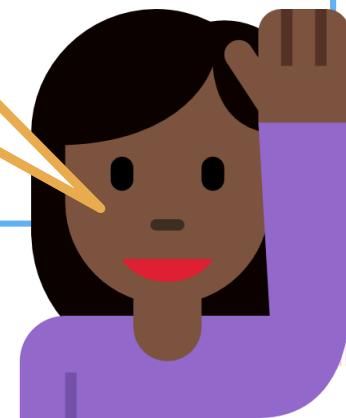
```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(){
    int a = 42;
    int *ptr;
    ptr = &a;
    printf("%d", *ptr);
    return 0;
}
```

42
000023
a

HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

a is an int variable, value 42
ptr is a pointer that will store address to an int variable
Please store address of a in ptr
Please print the value of the int stored at the address in ptr

a is stored at internal location 000023



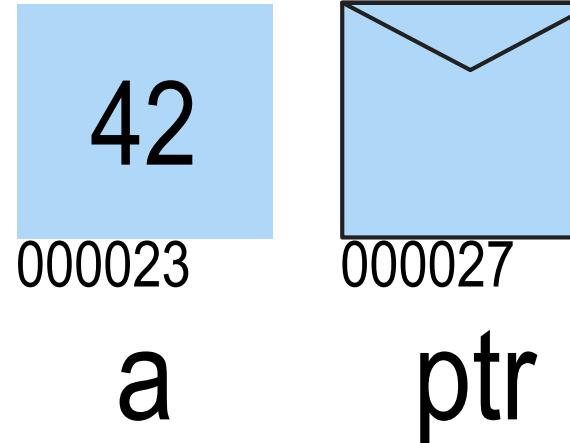
My first pointer

7

Whew!
Lets begin.

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

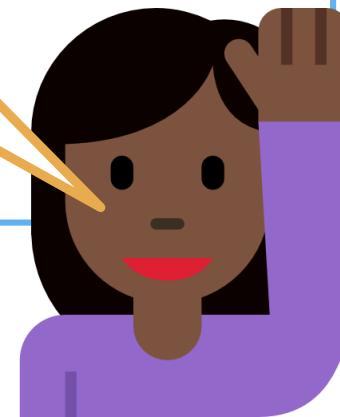
```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(){
    int a = 42;
    int *ptr;
    ptr = &a;
    printf("%d", *ptr);
    return 0;
}
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HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

a is an int variable, value 42
ptr is a pointer that will store
address to an int variable
Please store address of a in ptr
Please print the value of the int
stored at the address in ptr

a is stored at internal
location 000023



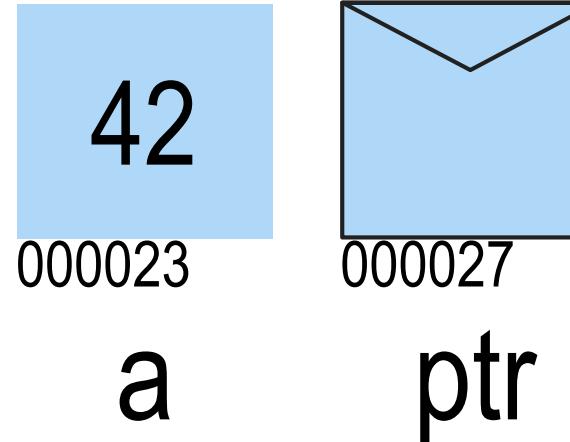
My first pointer

7

Whew!
Lets begin.

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(){
    int a = 42;
    int *ptr;
    ptr = &a;
    printf("%d", *ptr);
    return 0;
}
```



HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

a is an int variable, value 42
ptr is a pointer that will store address to an int variable
Please store address of a in ptr
Please print the value of the int stored at the address in ptr

a is stored at internal location 000023

int takes 4 bytes to store



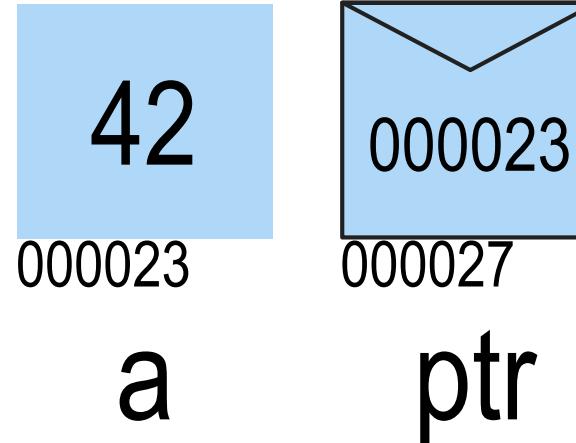
My first pointer

7

Whew!
Lets begin.

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(){
    int a = 42;
    int *ptr;
    ptr = &a;
    printf("%d", *ptr);
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}
```



HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

a is an int variable, value 42
ptr is a pointer that will store address to an int variable
Please store address of a in ptr
Please print the value of the int stored at the address in ptr

a is stored at internal location 000023

int takes 4 bytes to store



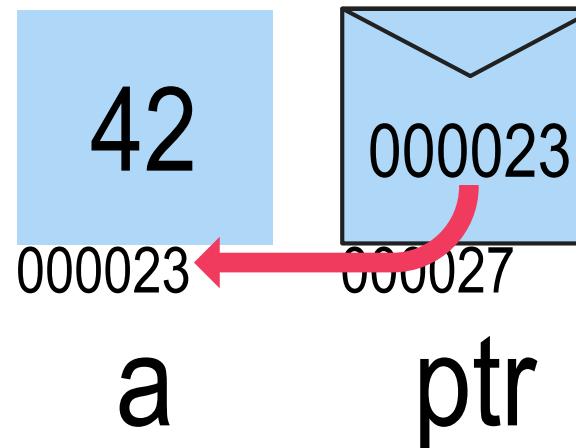
My first pointer

7

Whew!
Lets begin.

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

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HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

a is an int variable, value 42
ptr is a pointer that will store
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Please store address of a in ptr
Please print the value of the int
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a is stored at internal
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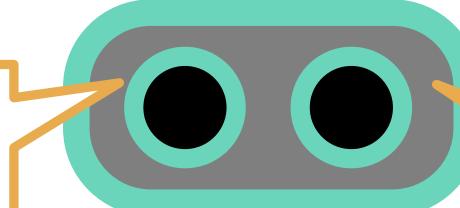
int takes 4 bytes
to store



My first pointer

7

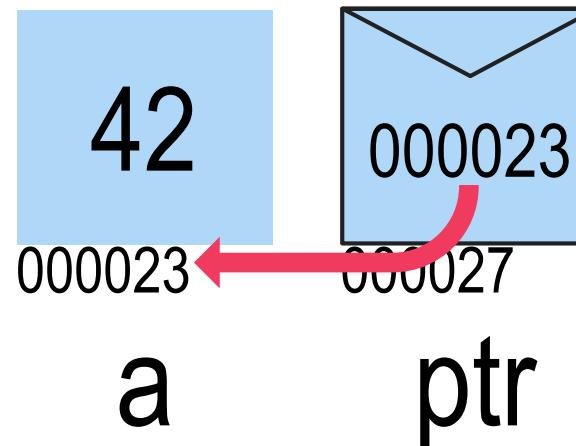
Whew!
Lets begin.



42

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(){
    int a = 42;
    int *ptr;
    ptr = &a;
    printf("%d", *ptr);
    return 0;
}
```



HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

a is an int variable, value 42
ptr is a pointer that will store address to an int variable
Please store address of a in ptr
Please print the value of the int stored at the address in ptr

a is stored at internal location 000023

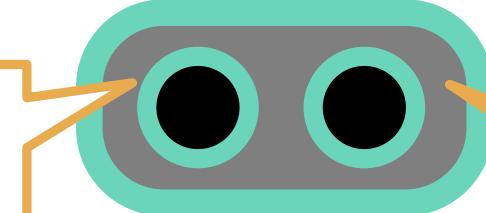
int takes 4 bytes to store



My first pointer

7

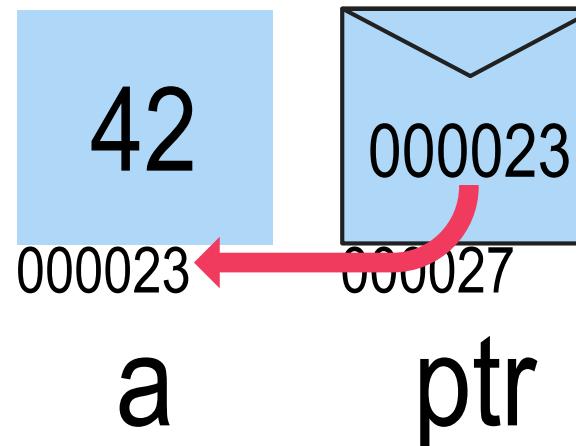
Whew!
Lets begin.



42

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

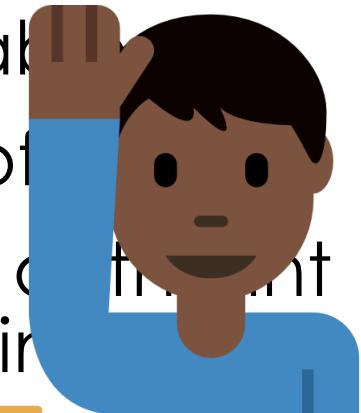
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HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

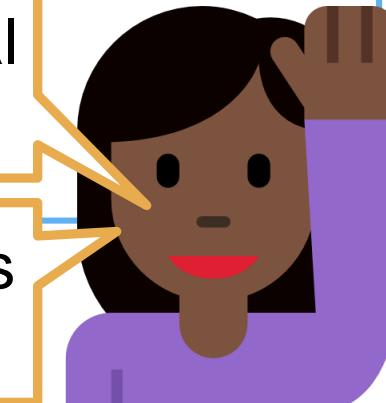
a is an int variable, value 42
ptr is a pointer that will store
address to an int variable
Please store address of

Please print the value of the int
stored at the address in



a is stored at internal
location 000023

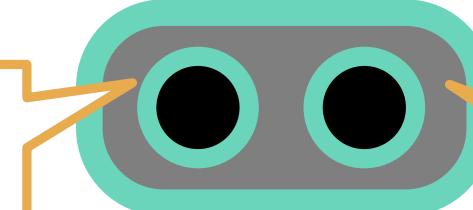
int takes 4 bytes
to store



My first pointer

7

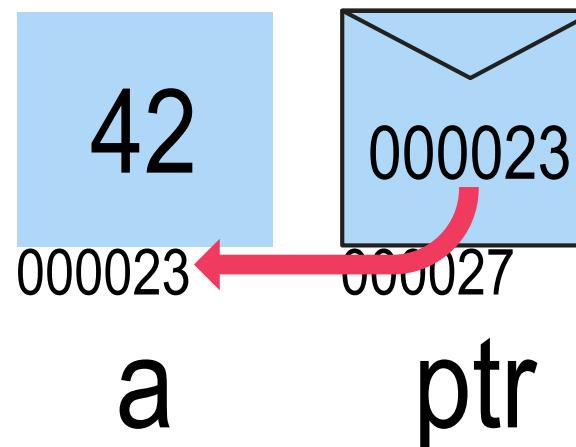
Whew!
Lets begin.



42

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    return 0;
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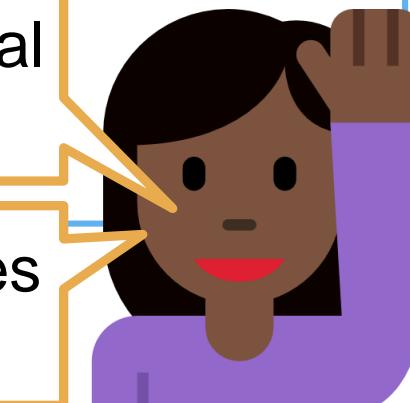
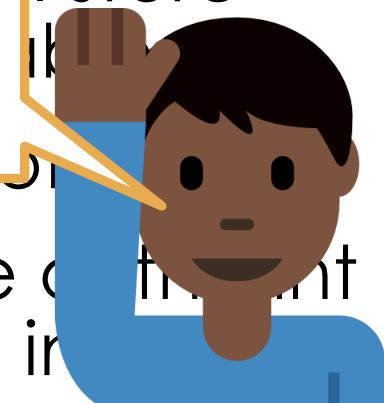
HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

a is an int variable, value 42
ptr is a pointer that will store
Can also have pointers to
char, long, float, double

Please print the value of the int
stored at the address in ptr

a is stored at internal
location 000023

int takes 4 bytes
to store



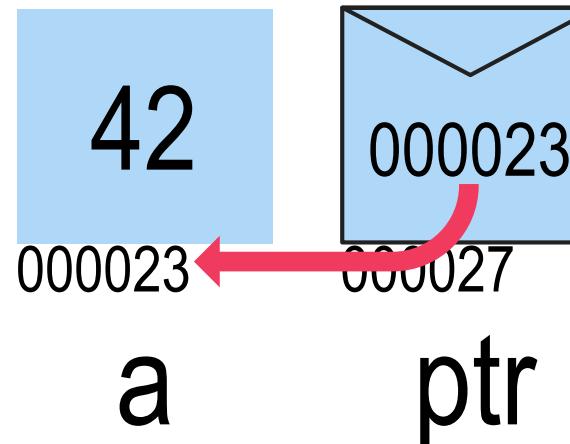
My first pointer

7

Whew!
Lets begin.

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

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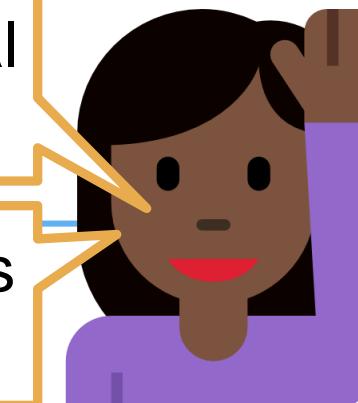
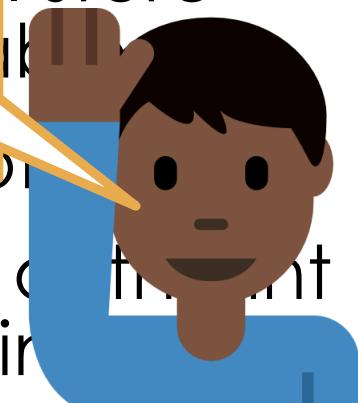
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Please print the value of the int
stored at the address in ptr

a is stored at internal
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int takes 4 bytes
to store



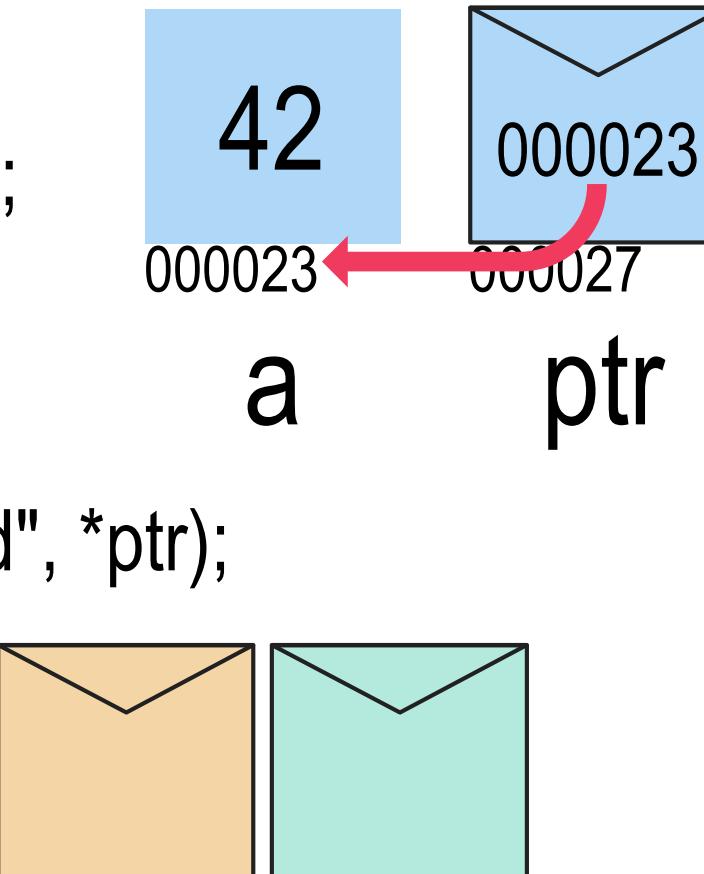
My first pointer

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Whew!
Lets begin.

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

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    return 0;
}
```



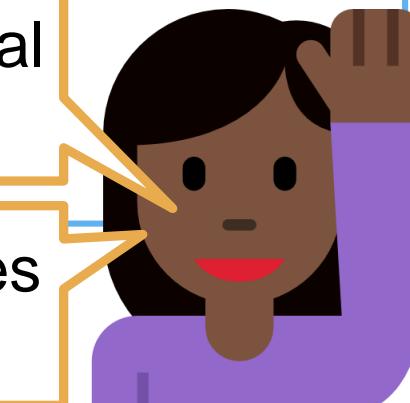
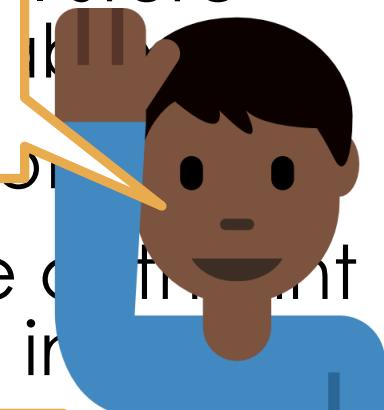
HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

a is an int variable, value 42
ptr is a pointer that will store
Can also have pointers to int,
char, long, float, double

Please print the value of the int stored at the address in ptr

a is stored at internal location 000023

int takes 4 bytes to store



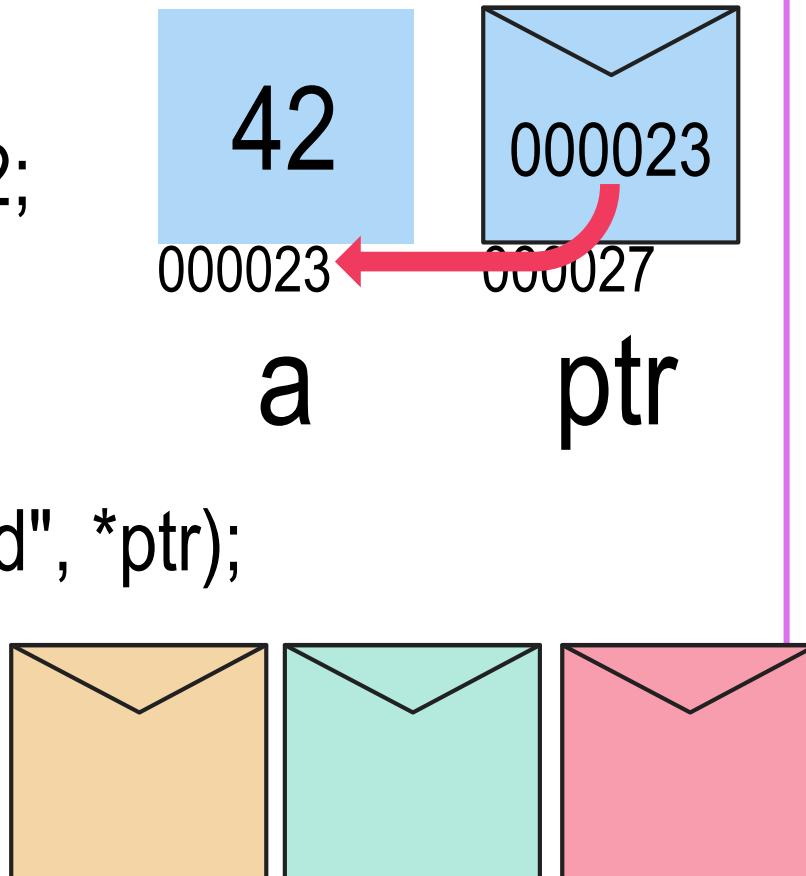
My first pointer

7

Whew!
Lets begin.

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

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#include <stdio.h>
int main(){
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    ptr = &a;
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```



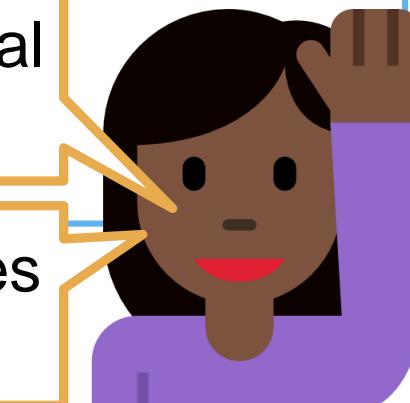
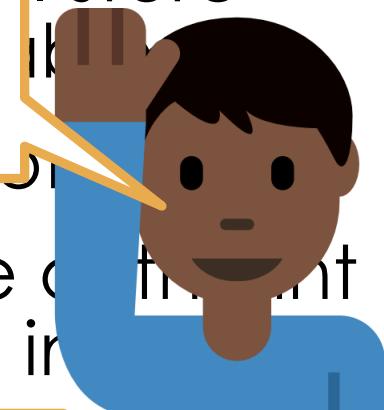
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Can also have pointers to int,
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Please print the value of the int stored at the address in ptr

a is stored at internal location 000023

int takes 4 bytes to store



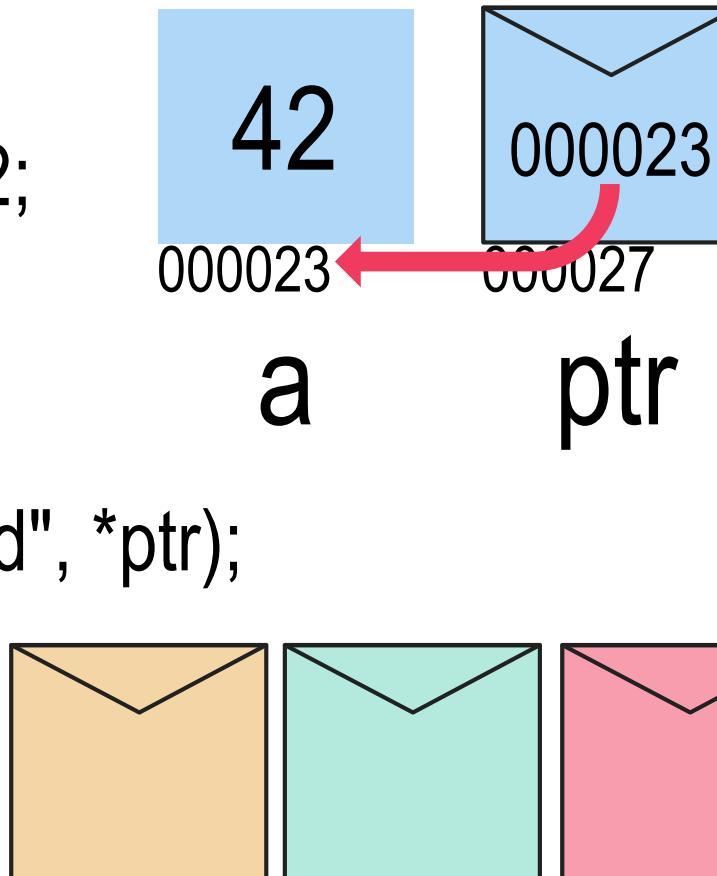
My first pointer

7

Whew!
Lets begin.

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

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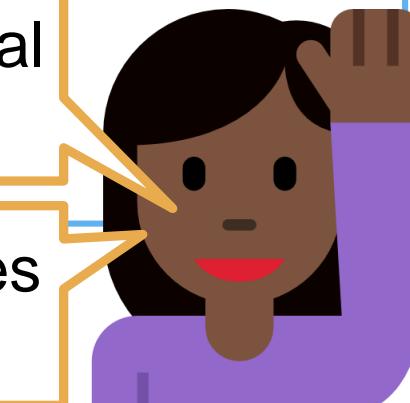
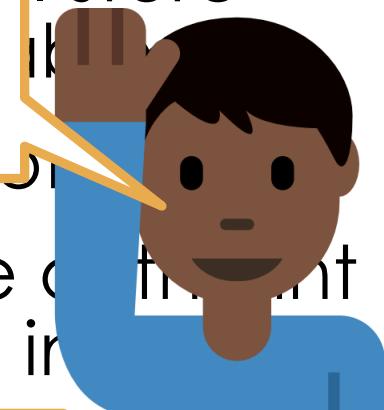
HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

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ptr is a pointer that will store
Can also have pointers to int,
char, long, float, double

Please print the value of the int
stored at the address in ptr

a is stored at internal
location 000023

int takes 4 bytes
to store



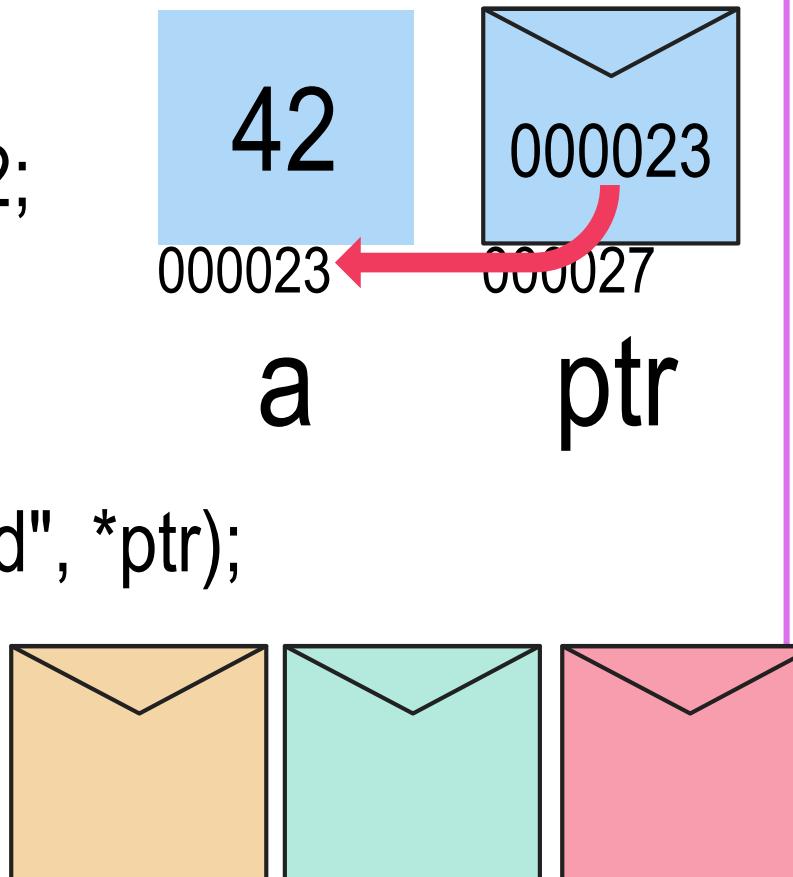
My first pointer

7

Whew!
Lets begin.

HOW WE MUST SPEAK TO MR. COMPILER

```
#include <stdio.h>  
  
int main(){  
    int a = 42;  
    int *ptr;  
    ptr = &a;  
  
    printf("%d", *ptr);  
  
    return 0;  
}
```



HOW WE USUALLY SPEAK TO A HUMAN

a is an int variable, value 42

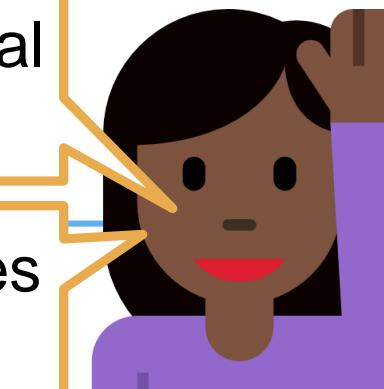
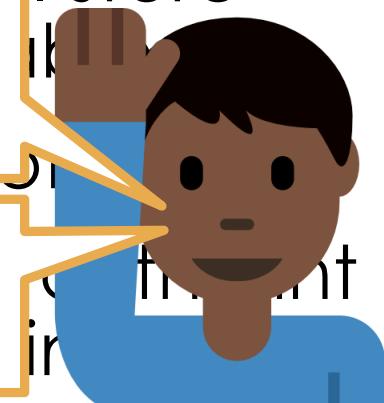
ptr is a pointer that will store

Can also have pointers to int,
char, long, float, double

All these envelope-like
boxes take 8 bytes

a is stored at internal
location 000023

int takes 4 bytes
to store



Pointers with printf and scanf

8



Pointers with printf and scanf

8

Pointers contain addresses, so to print the address itself, use the %ld format since addresses are 8 byte long



Pointers with printf and scanf

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Pointers contain addresses, so to print the address itself, use the %ld format since addresses are 8 byte long

To print value at an address given by a pointer, first dereference the pointer using * operator



Pointers with printf and scanf

8

Pointers contain addresses, so to print the address itself, use the %ld format since addresses are 8 byte long

To print value at an address given by a pointer, first dereference the pointer using * operator

```
printf("%d", *ptr);
```



Pointers with printf and scanf

8

Pointers contain addresses, so to print the address itself, use the %ld format since addresses are 8 byte long

To print value at an address given by a pointer, first dereference the pointer using * operator

```
printf("%d", *ptr);
```

Scanf requires the address of the variable where input is to be stored. Can pass it the referenced address



Pointers with printf and scanf

8

Pointers contain addresses, so to print the address itself, use the %ld format since addresses are 8 byte long

To print value at an address given by a pointer, first dereference the pointer using * operator

```
printf("%d", *ptr);
```

Scanf requires the address of the variable where input is to be stored. Can pass it the referenced address

```
scanf("%d", &a);
```



Pointers with printf and scanf

8

Pointers contain addresses, so to print the address itself, use the %ld format since addresses are 8 byte long

To print value at an address given by a pointer, first dereference the pointer using * operator

```
printf("%d", *ptr);
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Scanf requires the address of the variable where input is to be stored. Can pass it the referenced address

```
scanf("%d", &a);
```

or else pass it a pointer



Pointers with printf and scanf

Pointers contain addresses, so to print the address itself, use the %ld format since addresses are 8 byte long

To print value at an address given by a pointer, first dereference the pointer using * operator

```
printf("%d", *ptr);
```

Scanf requires the address of the variable where input is to be stored. Can pass it the referenced address

```
scanf("%d", &a);
```

or else pass it a pointer

```
scanf("%d", ptr);
```



How Mr C stores arrays

How Mr C stores arrays

If we declare an array, a sequence of addresses get allocated

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```
char c[5];
```

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How Mr C stores arrays

If we declare an array, a sequence of addresses get allocated

```
char c[5];
```

000000	000001	000002	000003	000004	000005	000006	000007	000008	000009	000010	000011	000012	000013	000014	000015	000016	000017	000018	000019	000020	000021	000022	000023	...
				0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1																				

How Mr C stores arrays

If we declare an array, a sequence of addresses get allocated

```
char c[5];  
int a[3];
```

000000	000001	000002	000003	000004	000005	000006	000007	000008	000009	000010	000011	000012	000013	000014	000015	000016	000017	000018	000019	000020	000021	000022	000023	...	
c	c[0]	c[1]	c[2]	c[3]	c[4]	000005	000006	000007	000008	000009	000010	000011	000012	000013	000014	000015	000016	000017	000018	000019	000020	000021	000022	000023	...

How Mr C stores arrays

If we declare an array, a sequence of addresses get allocated

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char c[5];  
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	000000	000001	000002	000003	000004	000005	000006	000007	000008	000009	000010	000011	000012	000013	000014	000015	000016	000017	000018	000019	000020	000021	000022	000023	...
c	000000	000001	000002	000003	000004	000005	000006	000007	000008	000009	000010	000011	000012	000013	000014	000015	000016	000017	000018	000019	000020	000021	000022	000023	...
c[0]	000000	000001	000002	000003	000004	000005	000006	000007	000008	000009	000010	000011	000012	000013	000014	000015	000016	000017	000018	000019	000020	000021	000022	000023	...
c[1]	000000	000001	000002	000003	000004	000005	000006	000007	000008	000009	000010	000011	000012	000013	000014	000015	000016	000017	000018	000019	000020	000021	000022	000023	...
c[2]	000000	000001	000002	000003	000004	000005	000006	000007	000008	000009	000010	000011	000012	000013	000014	000015	000016	000017	000018	000019	000020	000021	000022	000023	...
c[3]	000000	000001	000002	000003	000004	000005	000006	000007	000008	000009	000010	000011	000012	000013	000014	000015	000016	000017	000018	000019	000020	000021	000022	000023	...
c[4]	000000	000001	000002	000003	000004	000005	000006	000007	000008	000009	000010	000011	000012	000013	000014	000015	000016	000017	000018	000019	000020	000021	000022	000023	...

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c	000000	000001	000002	000003	000004	000005	000006	000007	000008	000009	000010	000011	000012	000013	000014	000015	000016	000017	000018	000019	000020	000021	000022	000023	...
c[0]	000000	000001	000002	000003	000004	000005	000006	000007	000008	000009	000010	000011	000012	000013	000014	000015	000016	000017	000018	000019	000020	000021	000022	000023	...
c[1]	000000	000001	000002	000003	000004	000005	000006	000007	000008	000009	000010	000011	000012	000013	000014	000015	000016	000017	000018	000019	000020	000021	000022	000023	...
c[2]	000000	000001	000002	000003	000004	000005	000006	000007	000008	000009	000010	000011	000012	000013	000014	000015	000016	000017	000018	000019	000020	000021	000022	000023	...
c[3]	000000	000001	000002	000003	000004	000005	000006	000007	000008	000009	000010	000011	000012	000013	000014	000015	000016	000017	000018	000019	000020	000021	000022	000023	...
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	000000	██████████
	000001	██████████
	000002	██████████
	000003	██████████
c	000004	0000010101
c[0]	000005	██████████
c[1]	000006	██████████
c[2]	000007	██████████
c[3]	000008	██████████
c[4]	000009	██████████
a	000010	0000101011
a[0]	000011	██████████
	000012	██████████
	000013	██████████
	000014	██████████
a[1]	000015	██████████
	000016	██████████
	000017	██████████
	000018	██████████
a[2]	000019	██████████
	000020	██████████
	000021	██████████
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	000023	██████████
...		██████████

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	000000	██████████
	000001	██████████
	000002	██████████
	000003	██████████
c	000004	00000101
c[0]	000005	██████████
c[1]	000006	██████████
c[2]	000007	██████████
c[3]	000008	██████████
c[4]	000009	██████████
a	000010	00001011
a[0]	000011	██████████
	000012	██████████
	000013	██████████
	000014	██████████
a[1]	000015	██████████
	000016	██████████
	000017	██████████
	000018	██████████
a[2]	000019	██████████
	000020	██████████
	000021	██████████
	000022	██████████
	000023	██████████
...		██████████

How Mr C stores arrays

If we declare an array, a sequence of addresses get allocated

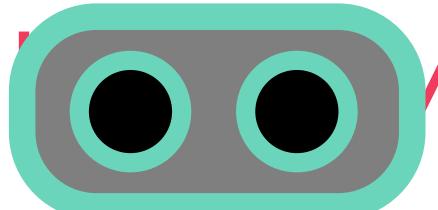
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char c[5];  
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a[0] is stored at address 000011, a[1] at address 000015 (int takes 4 bytes), a[2] at address 000019, and so on

c	000004	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
c[0]	000005								
c[1]	000006								
c[2]	000007								
c[3]	000008								
c[4]	000009								
a	000010	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
a[0]	000011								
	000012								
	000013								
	000014								
a[1]	000015								
	000016								
	000017								
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a[2]	000019								
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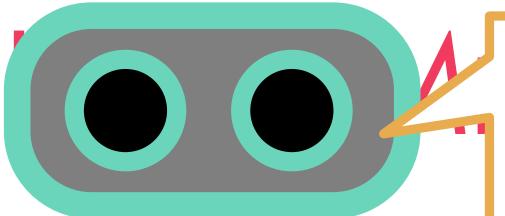
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c	000004	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
c[0]	000005								
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c[3]	000008								
c[4]	000009								
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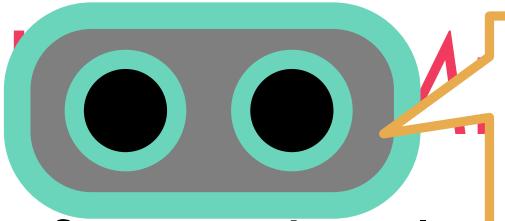
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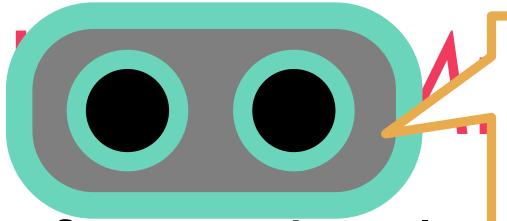
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If we declare an array, we can use it to store the addresses of

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