

On-demand Service from Mr C

ESC101: Fundamentals of Computing

Purushottam Kar

Announcements

- October 2 (Tuesday) is a holiday – no lecture, no lab
- We will have replacement lab October 6 (Sat) 2-5PM at NCL for sections B4, B5, B6, B13,
- No replacement lecture since not a “DoAA Saturday”
- Extra doubt clearing session after extra lab on Sat i.e. Oct 06 (Sat) 5-6PM CC-02.
- Will release remaining grades this week – sorry for delay



Pointers - Recap



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Pointers are special variables that store addresses



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Can typecast pointers too – will see a cute example



Pointers and Arrays

4



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Pointers and Arrays

4

Array names are pointers to first element of the array



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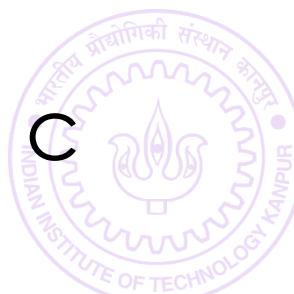
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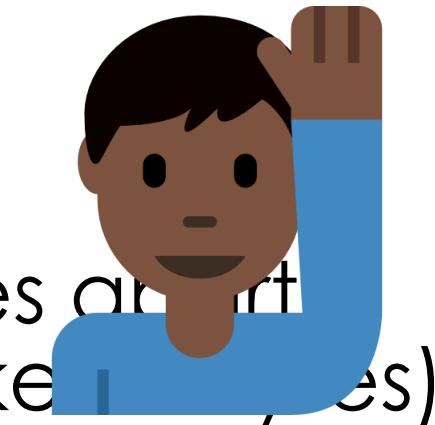
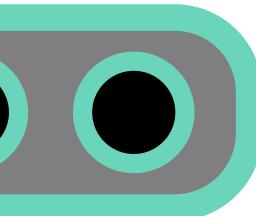
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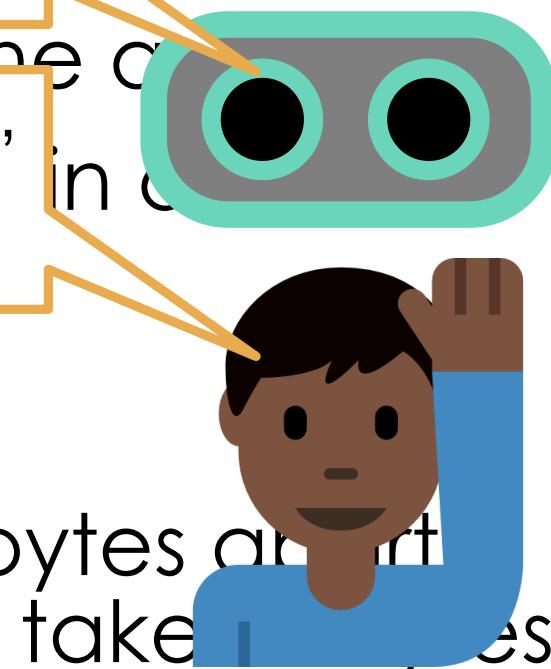
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To do fancy pointer arithmetic, we should create a fresh pointer variable e.g. ptr



Pointers and Arrays

5



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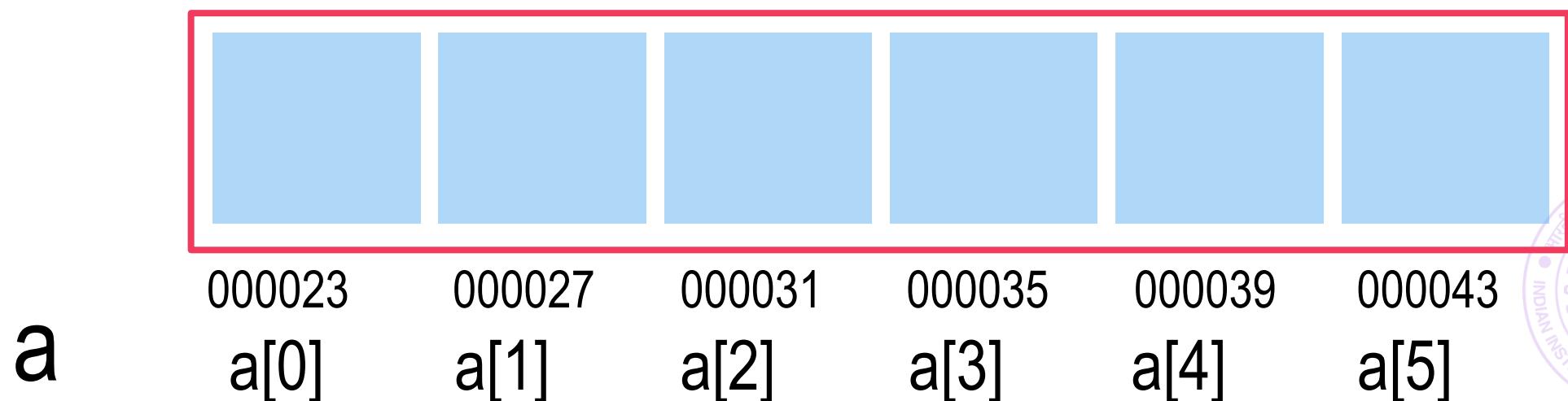
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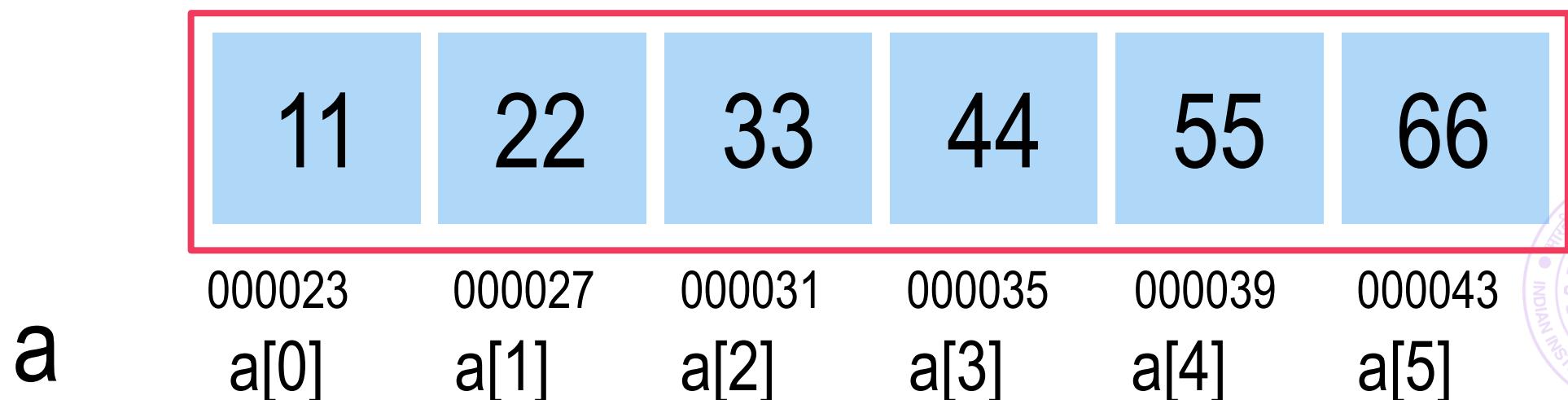
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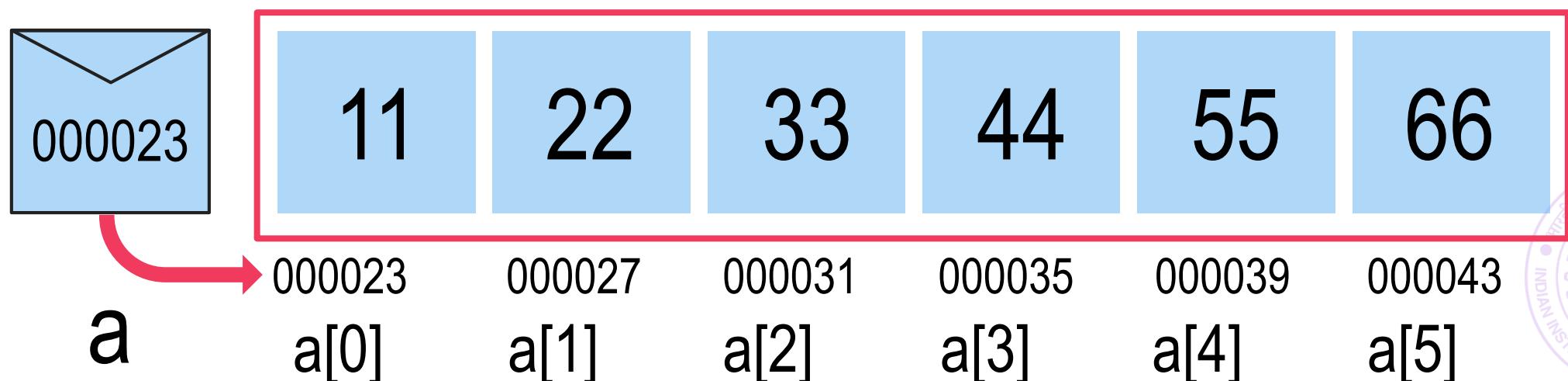
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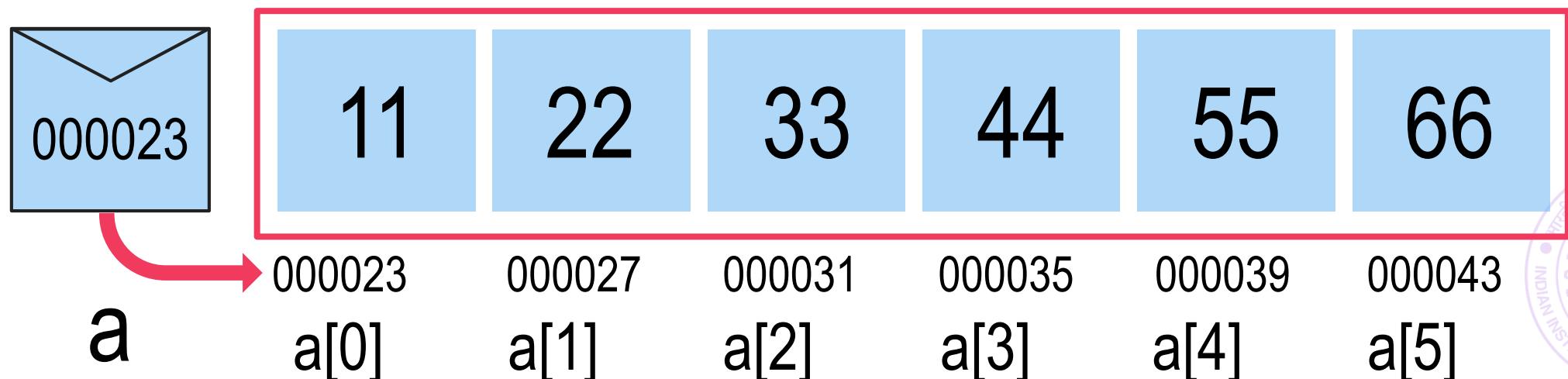
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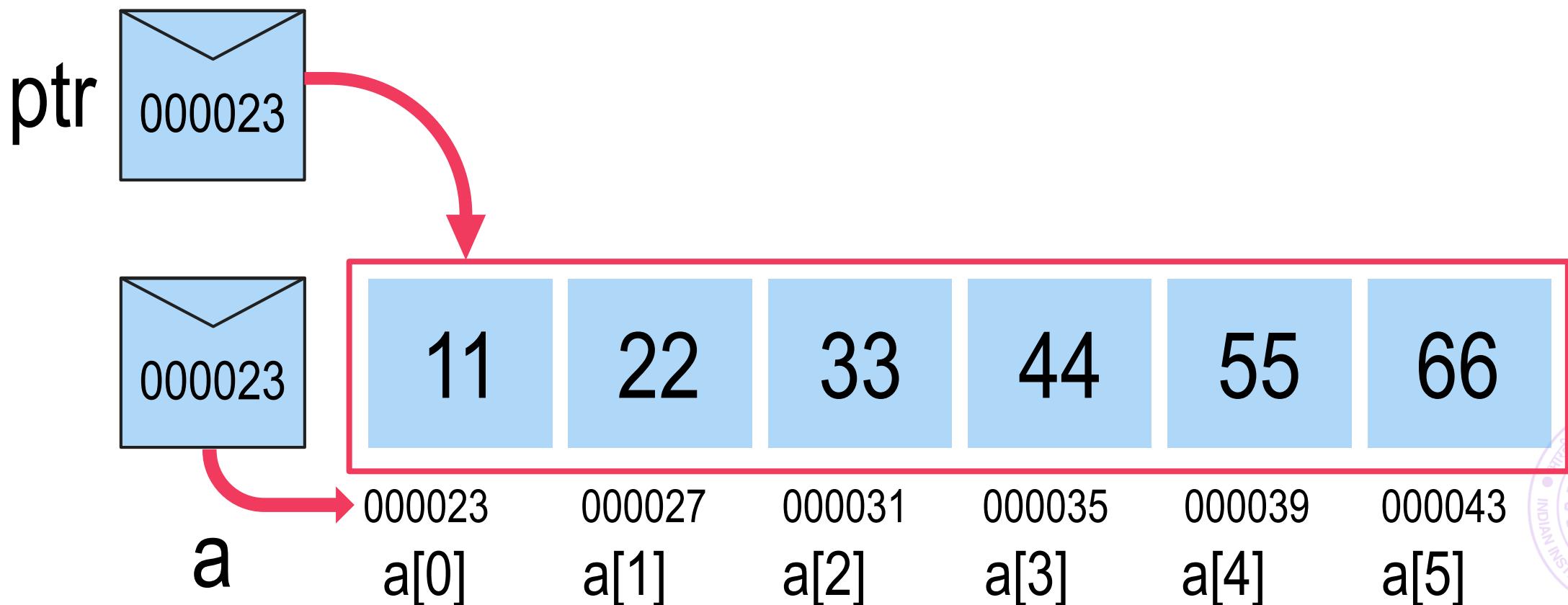
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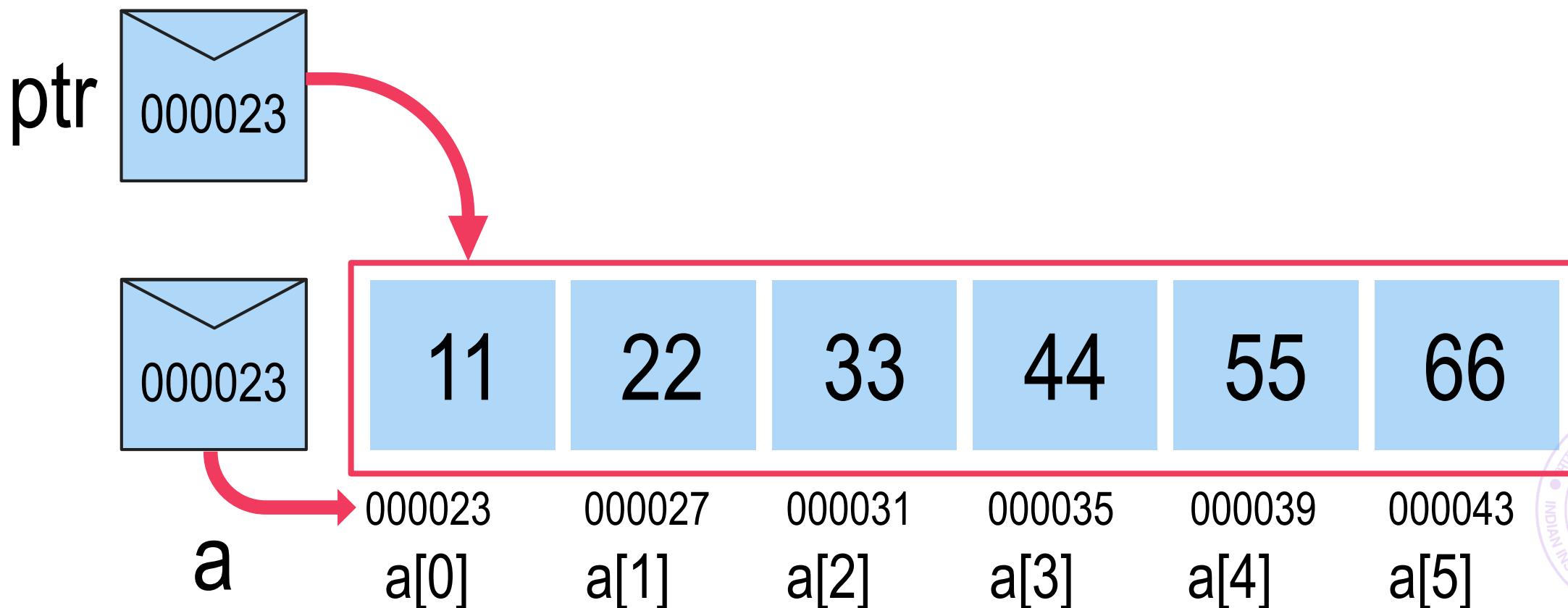
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Pointers and Arrays

```
int a[6] = {11,22,33,44,55,66};    ptr += 2;
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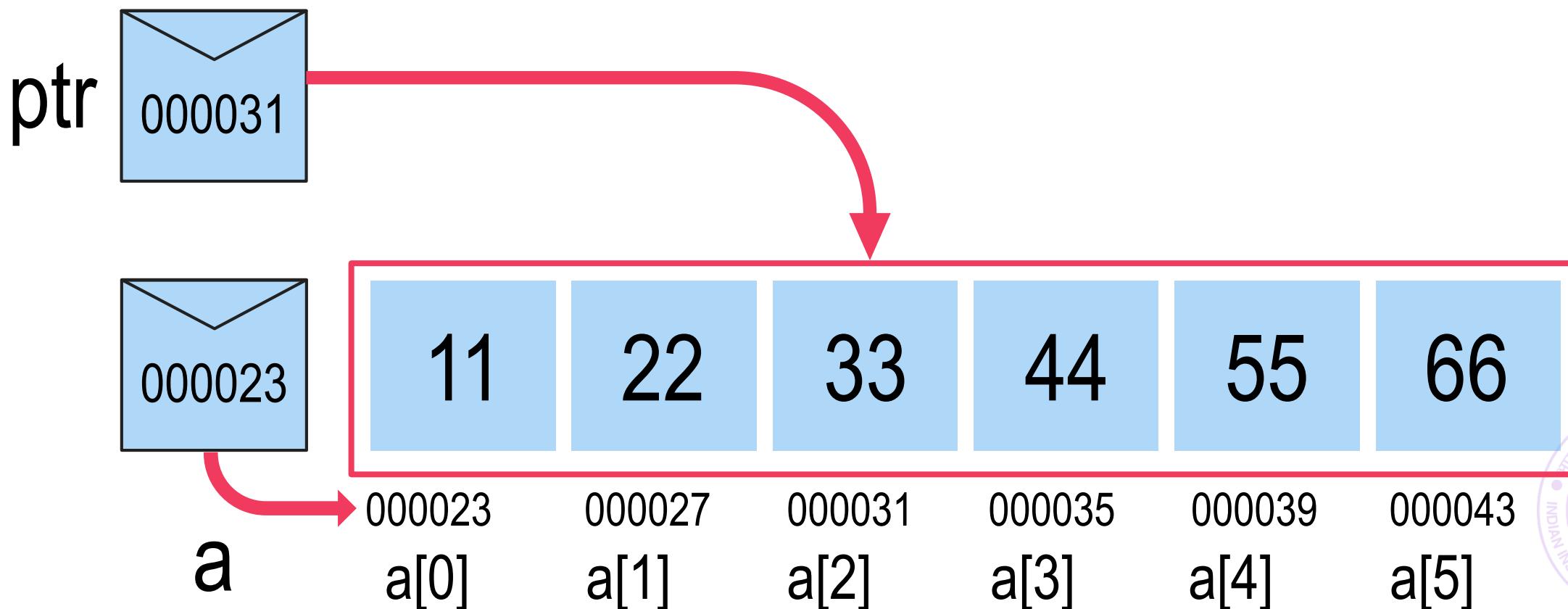
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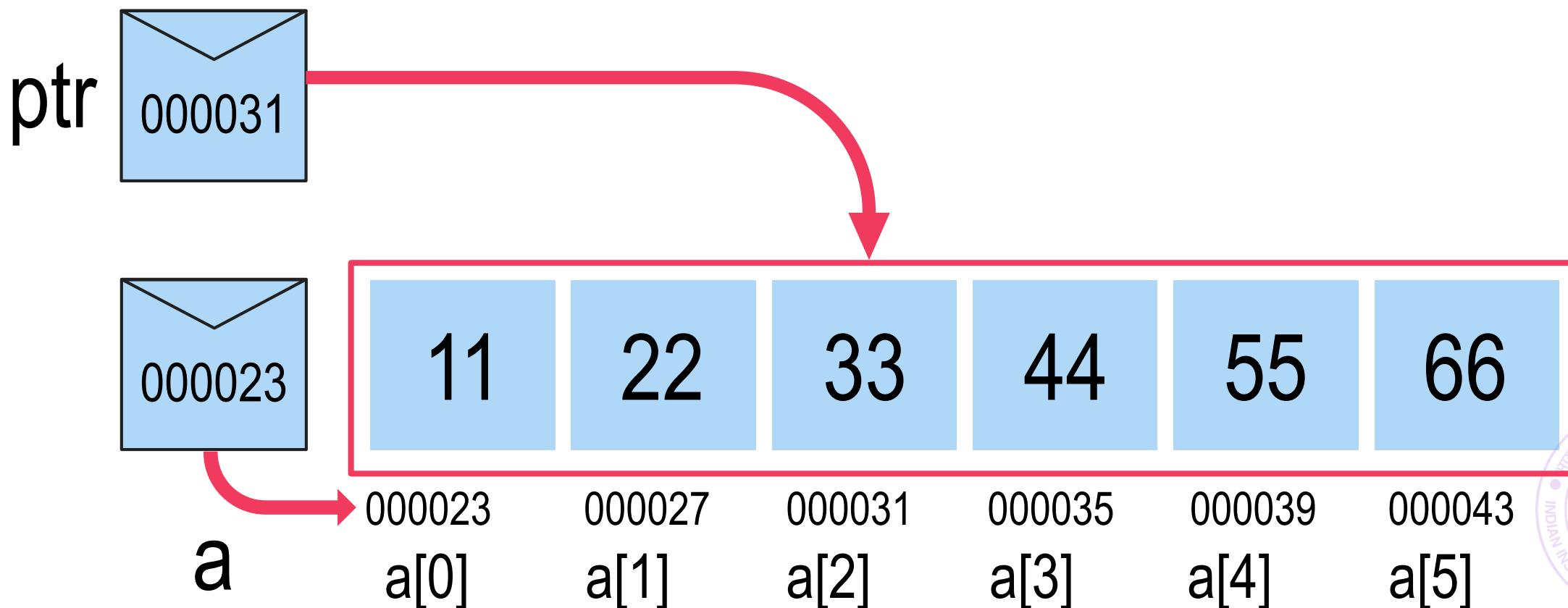
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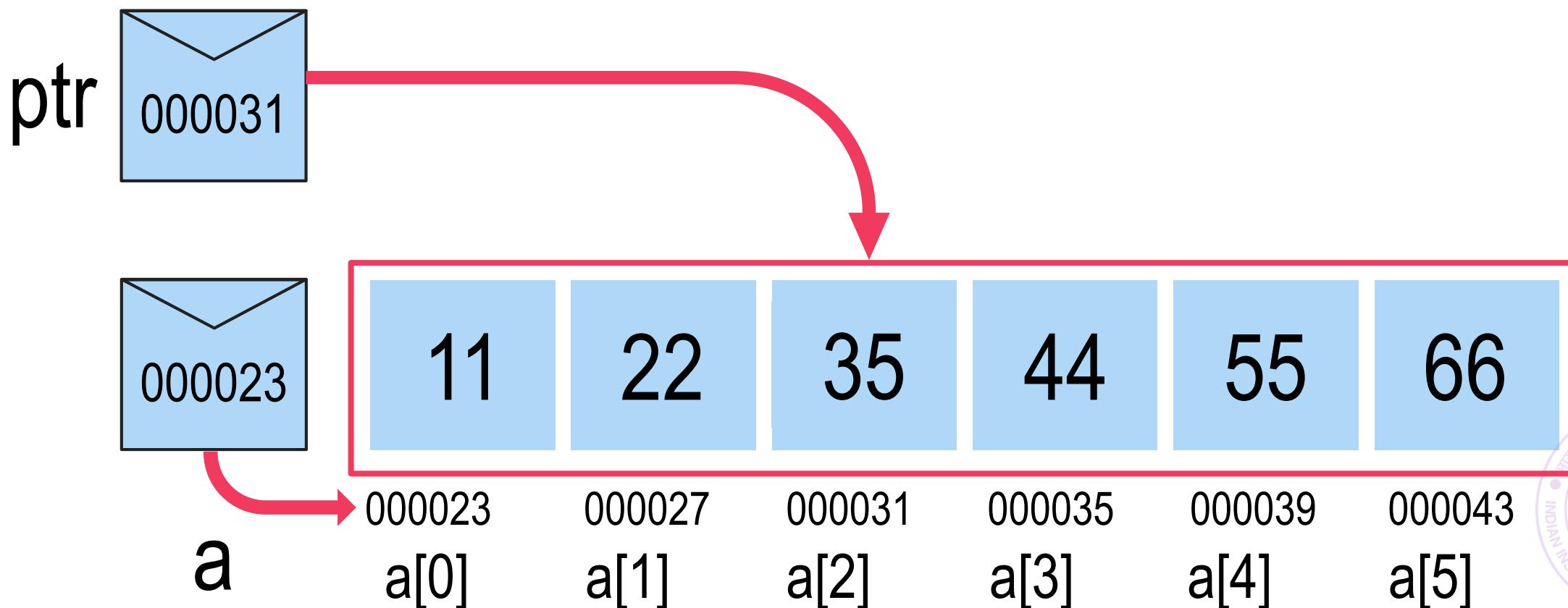
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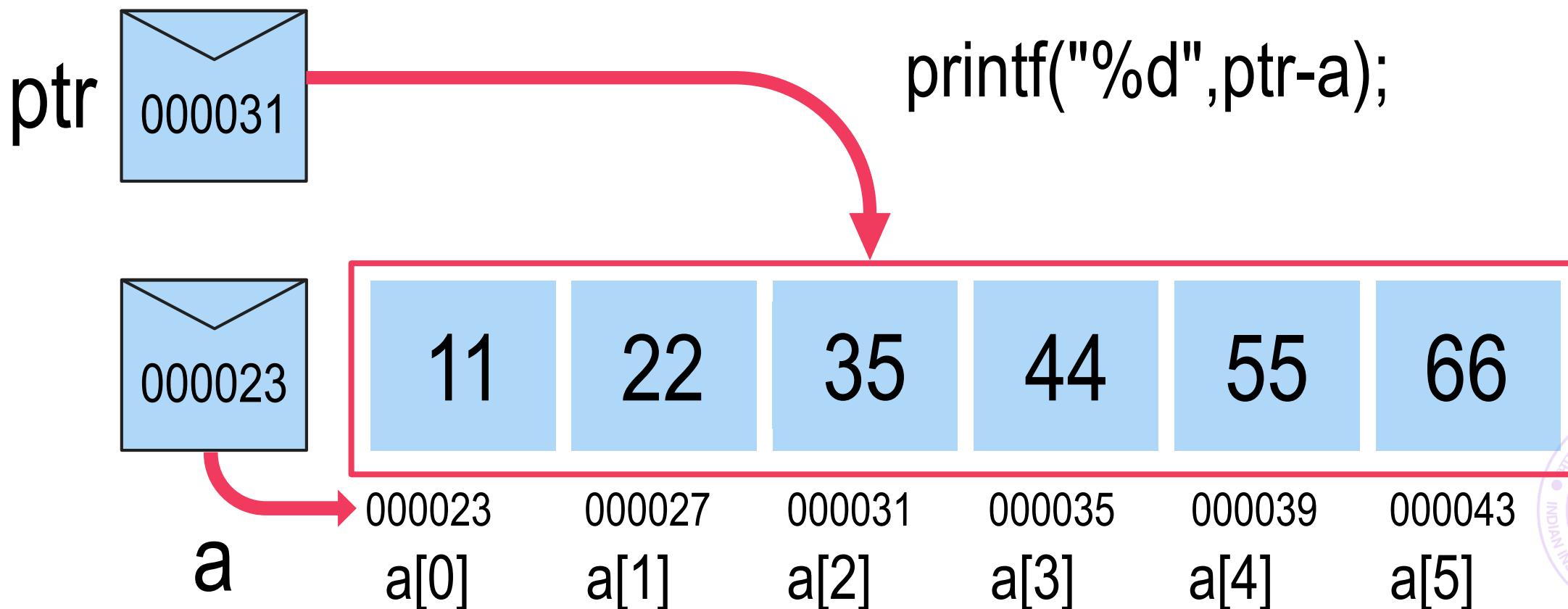
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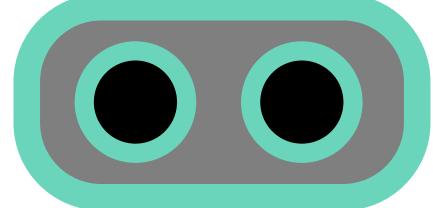
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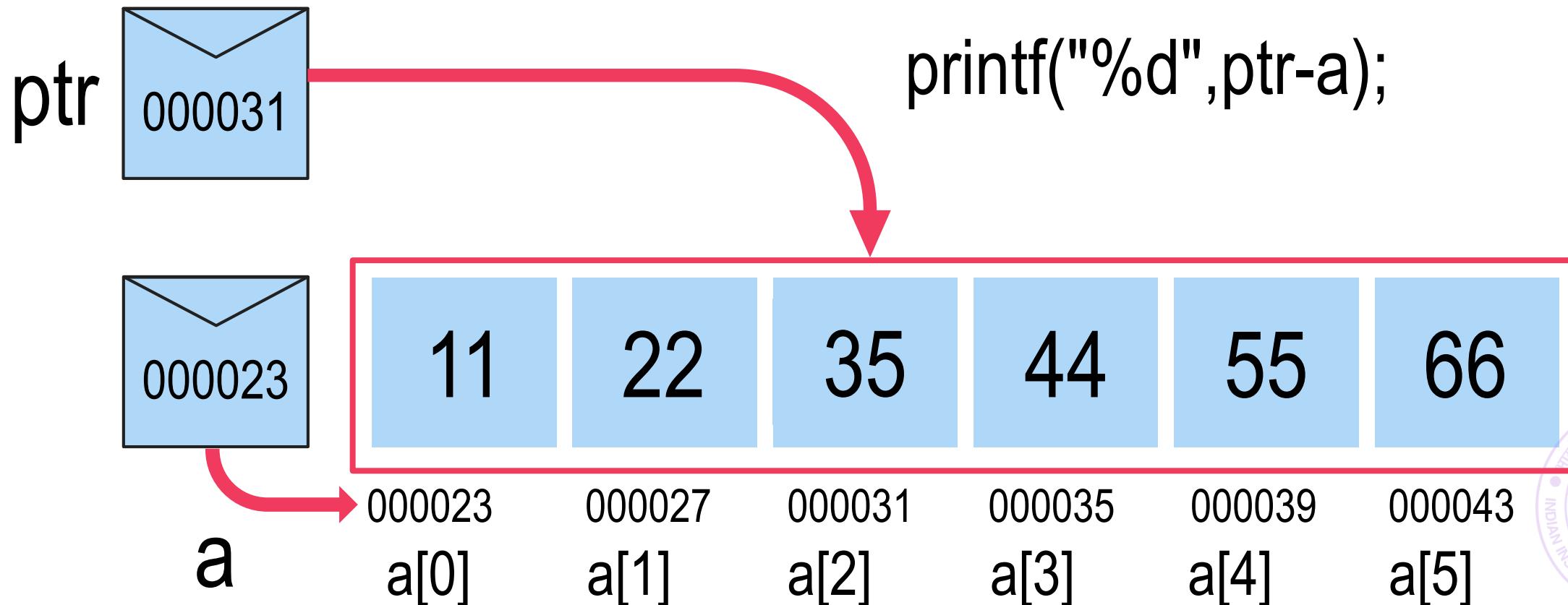
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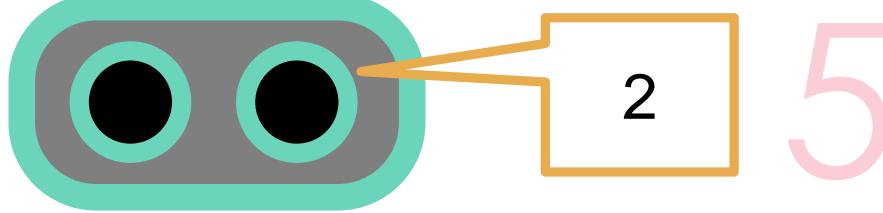
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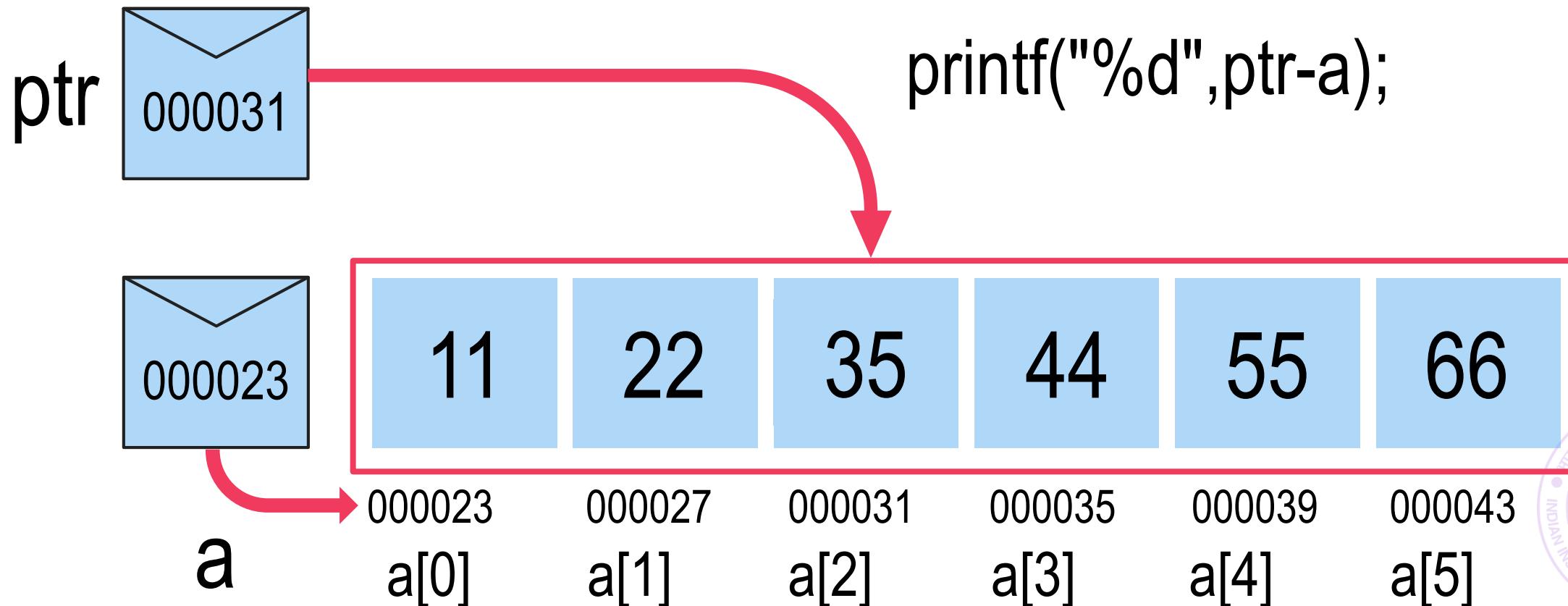


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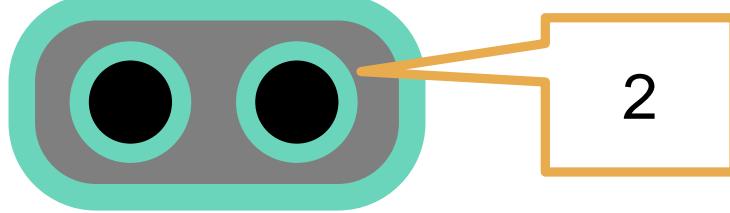


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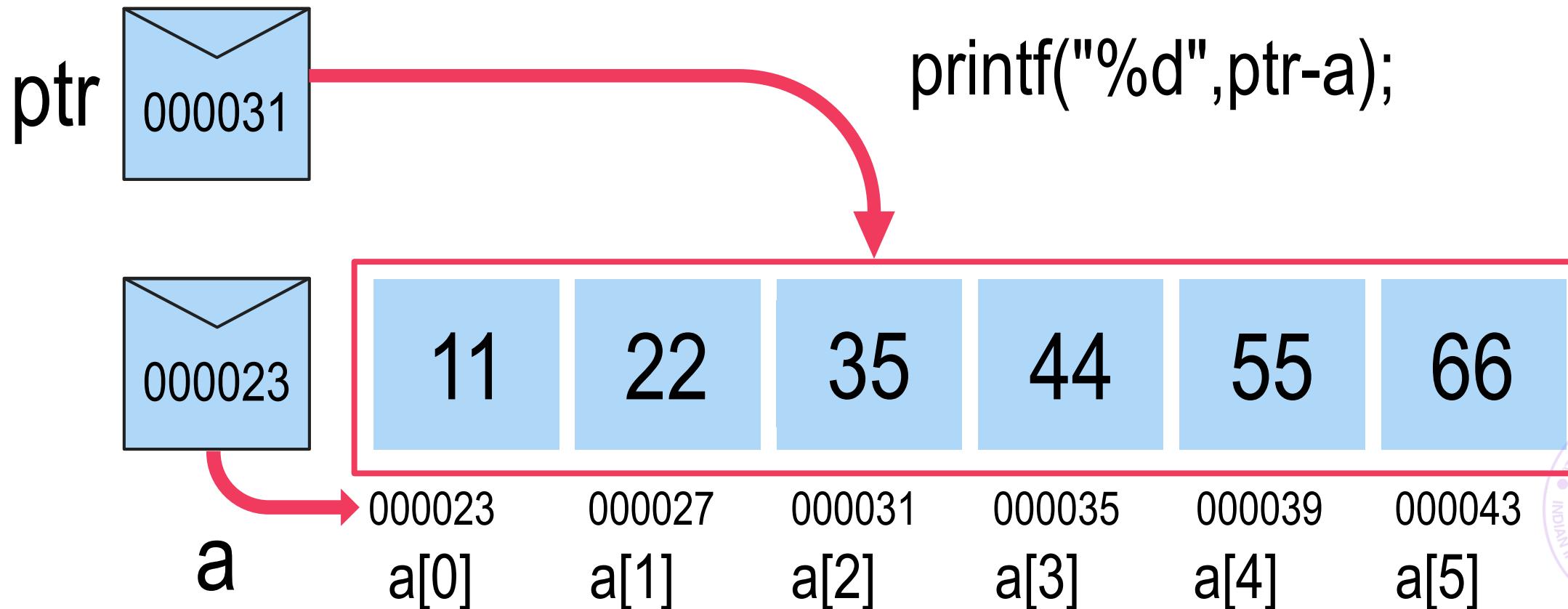
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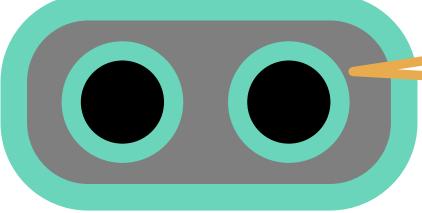
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Pointers



But the address difference is $31 - 23 = 8$



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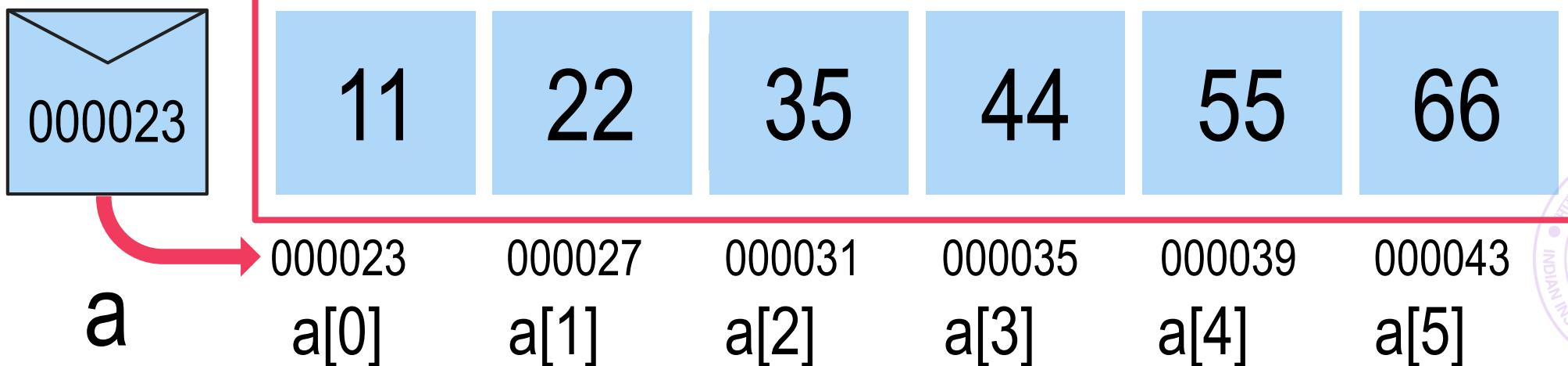
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ptr

0000031

printf("%d",ptr-a);

ptr

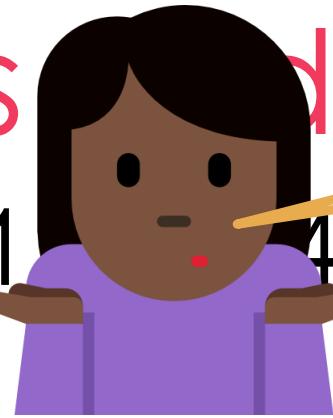
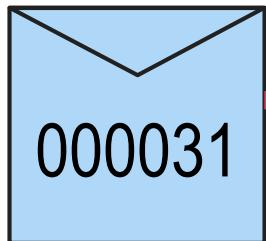


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int a[6] = {11, 22, 35, 44, 55, 66};
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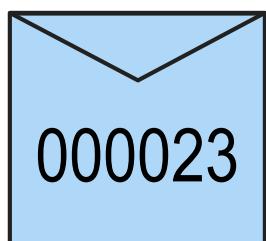
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Yes, but since this is int type, I treat 4 bytes as a unit



a

000023
a[0]

000027
a[1]

000031
a[2]

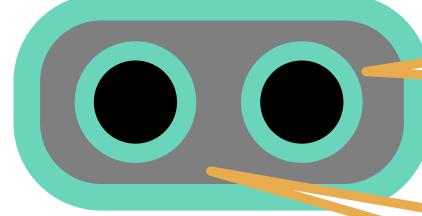
000035
a[3]

000039
a[4]

000043
a[5]

44, 55, 66}

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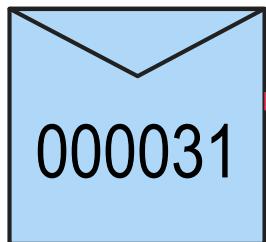
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a[1]

a[2]

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a[4]

a[5]

11

22

35

44

55

66

000023

000027

000031

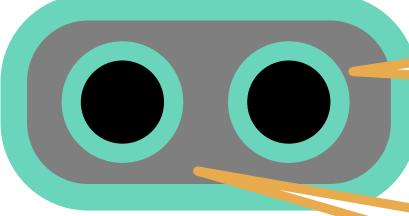
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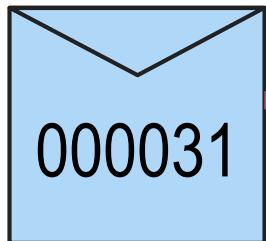


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Mr C also disallows subtraction of pointers of different types

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ptr-a = 2;
```

```
printf("%d",ptr-a);
```

44 55 66

ptr-a = 2;

= 2;

2

5

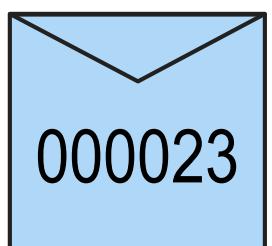
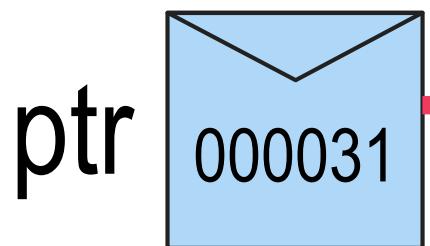
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Yes, I will give an error if you, for e.g. subtract `char*` from `int*`



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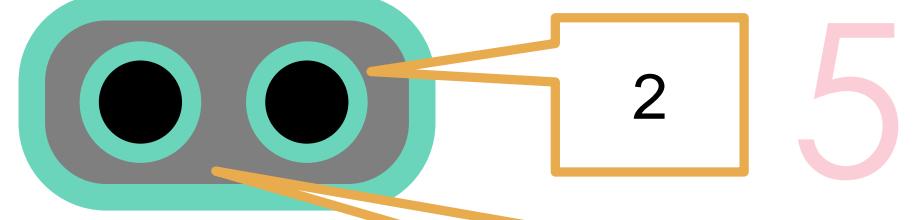
ptr



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If we really want to subtract a `char*` from `int*`, do a typecast!



2

= 2;

'%d',

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Pointers and Strings

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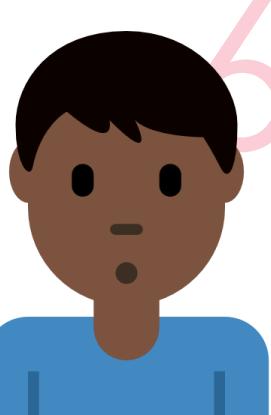
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char *ptr = str;
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printf("%s\n%s", str, ++ptr);
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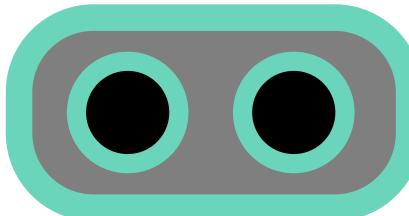
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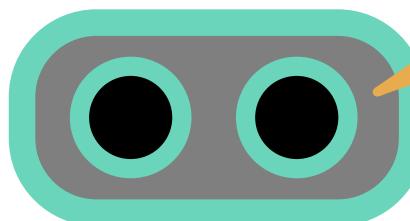
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Hello World  
ello World
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7



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Also need to remember how much of array actually used
Rest of the array may be filled with junk (not always zeros)



Variable-length arrays

So far we have always used arrays with constant length
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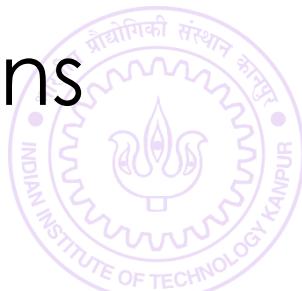
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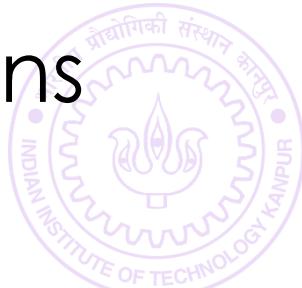
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malloc(), calloc(), realloc(), free()

malloc – memory allocation

8



malloc – memory allocation

8

We tell malloc how many bytes are required



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We tell malloc how many bytes are required
malloc allocates those many **consecutive** bytes



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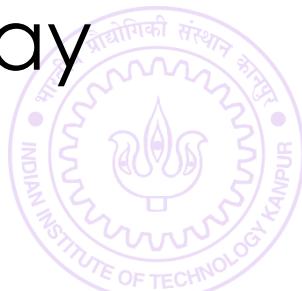
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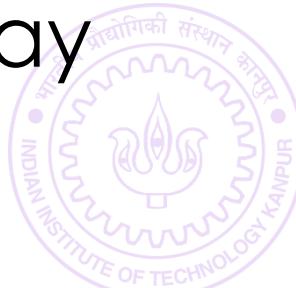
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See example in accompanying code



calloc – contiguous allocation

9



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See example in accompanying code



free

10



ESC101: Fundamentals
of Computing

free

10

Memory allocated using malloc/calloc should be "freed" once that memory is no longer needed



free

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```
int c[10], *ptr;  
ptr = (int*)malloc(1000 * sizeof(int));  
... // Do things with the array ptr  
free(ptr); // Free up the memory
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free

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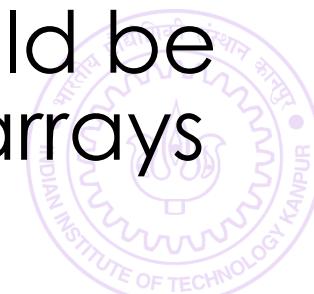
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```
free(c); // Will cause runtime error
```

free

11



ESC101: Fundamentals
of Computing

free

11

Extremely bad coding habit



free

Extremely bad coding habit

```
ptr = (int*)malloc(1000 * sizeof(int));
```

```
// hmm ... lab question now tells me to create array of 10000
```

```
ptr = (int*)malloc(10000 * sizeof(int));
```



free

Extremely bad coding habit

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Better habit – free up memory before allocating again



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```
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```
ptr = (int*)malloc(10000 * sizeof(int));
```

Use realloc (described next) if need more memory



realloc – revised allocation

12



realloc – revised allocation

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If you malloc-ed an array of 100 elements and suddenly find that you need an array of 200 elements ☹



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If you malloc-ed an array of 100 elements and suddenly find that you need an array of 200 elements ☹

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int *ptr = (int*)malloc(100 * sizeof(int));
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realloc – revised allocation

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If you malloc-ed an array of 100 elements and suddenly find that you need an array of 200 elements ☹

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int *ptr = (int*)malloc(100 * sizeof(int));
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Can use realloc to revise that allocation to 200 elements



realloc – revised allocation

12

If you malloc-ed an array of 100 elements and suddenly find that you need an array of 200 elements ☹

```
int *ptr = (int*)malloc(100 * sizeof(int));
```

Can use realloc to revise that allocation to 200 elements

```
int *tmp = (int*)realloc(ptr, 200 * sizeof(int));
```

```
if(tmp != NULL) ptr = tmp;
```



realloc – revised allocation

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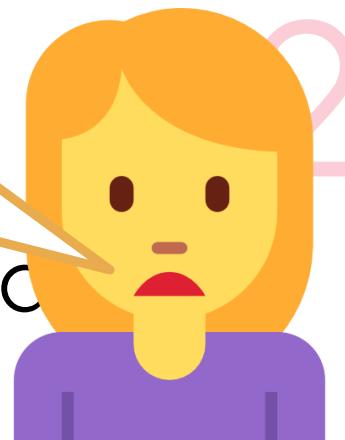
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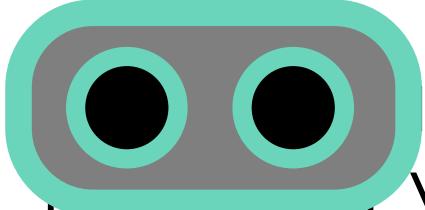
```
int *tmp = (int*)realloc(ptr, 200 * sizeof(int));
```

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```

But I had so much precious data stored in those 100 elements



realloc – revised alloc



Iloc-ed an array of 100 elements and suddenly you need an array of 200 elements ☹

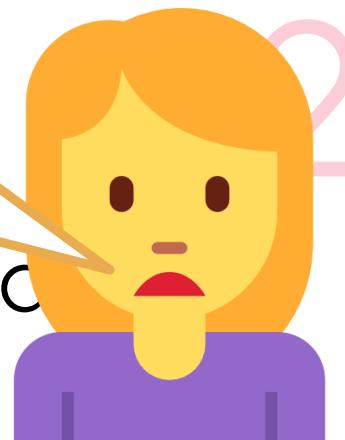
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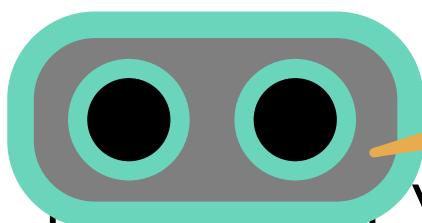
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realloc



I realize that. That is why I will copy those 100 elements to the new array of 200 elements 😊

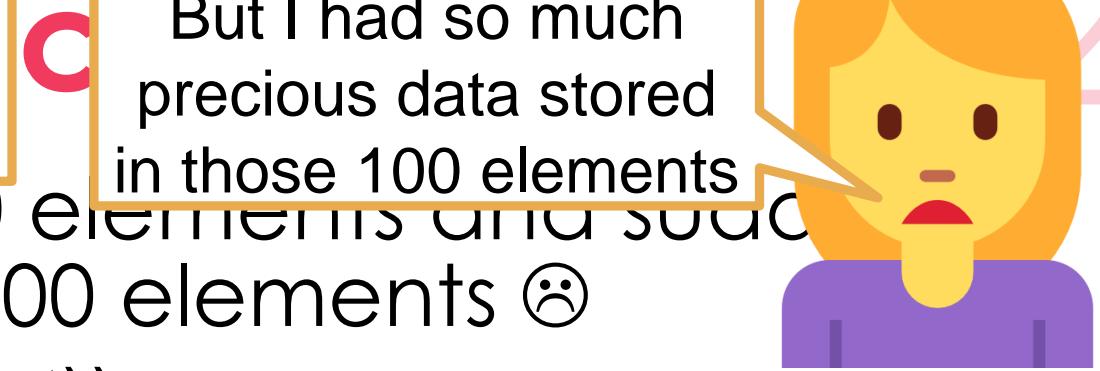
~~I allocated an array of 100 elements and suddenly you need an array of 200 elements 😞~~

```
int *ptr = (int*)malloc(100 * sizeof(int));
```

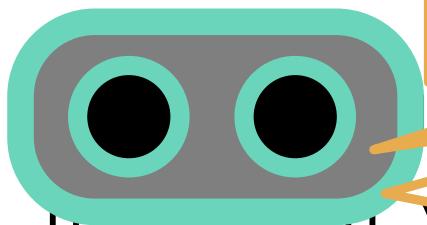
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realloc



I realize that. That is why I will copy those 100 elements to the new array of 200 elements 😊

But I had so much precious data stored in those 100 elements and suddenly I have an array of 200 elements 😞

I will also free the old 100 elements – you don't have to write free() for them

```
int *ptr = (int*)malloc(100 * sizeof(int));
```



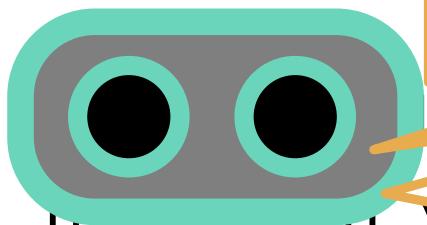
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```
int *ptr = (int*)malloc(100 * sizeof(int));
```

C

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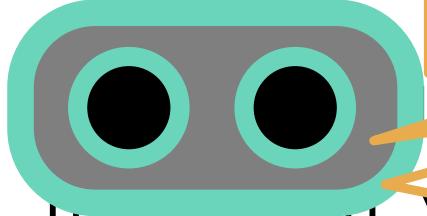
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realloc



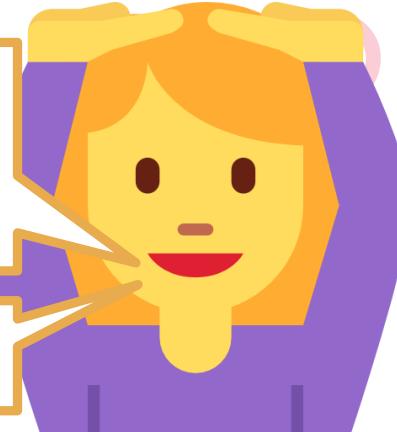
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I will also free the old 100 elements – you don't have to write free() for them

```
int *ptr = (int*)malloc(sizeof(int) * 100);
```

C
But I had so much precious data stored in those 100 elements

You are the best Mr C



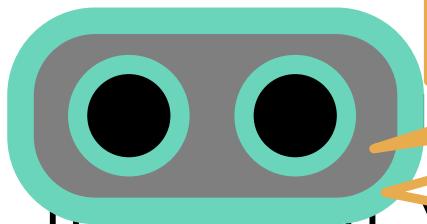
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realloc



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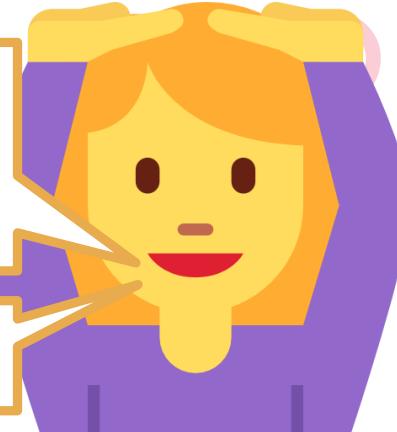
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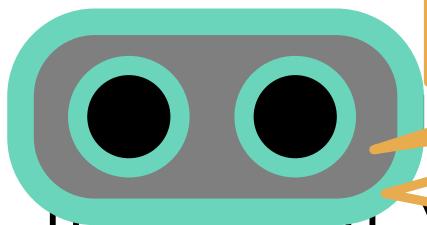
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```
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```

Don't use realloc to increase size of non-malloc arrays



realloc



I realize that. That is why I will copy those 100 elements to the new array of 200 elements 😊

It's a pain to do it, but you have to do it.

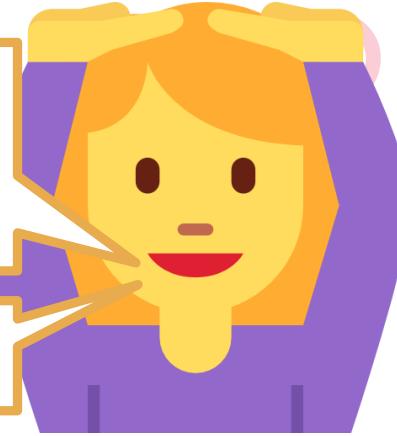
I will also free the old 100 elements – you don't have to write `free()` for them

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C
But I had so much precious data stored in those 100 elements

200 elements – you don't have to do it.

You are the best Mr C



Can use `realloc` to revise that allocation to 200 elements

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int *tmp = (int*)realloc(ptr, 200 * sizeof(int));
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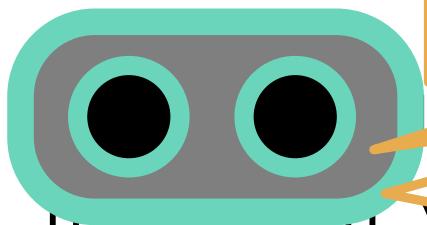
Don't use `realloc` to increase size of non-malloc arrays

```
int c[100];
```

```
int *ptr = (int*)realloc(c, 200 * sizeof(int)); // Runtime error
```



realloc



I realize that. That is why I will copy those 100 elements to the new array of 200 elements 😊

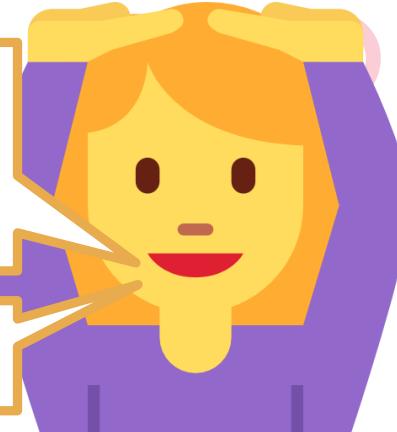
Then I can array of 100 elements to 200 elements.

I will also free the old 100 elements – you don't have to write free() for them

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int *ptr = (int*)malloc(100 * sizeof(int));
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C
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Don't use realloc to increase size of non-malloc arrays

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Use realloc only to increase size of calloc/malloc-ed arrays