

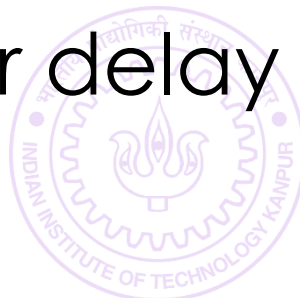
# On-demand Service from Mr C

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

3



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Pointers are special variables that store addresses



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Some functions like scanf, string functions accept pointers



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Can declare pointer and regular variables on same line



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```
int a, b, *x, *y;
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x = &a, y = &b;
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Pointers to int advance by 4 upon ++, decrease by 4 upon --



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- Pointers to double advance by 8 upon ++, decrease by 8 upon --



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- Pointers to double advance by 8 upon ++, decrease by 8 upon --

Can typecast pointers too – will see a cute example



# Pointers and Arrays

4



# Pointers and Arrays

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Array names are pointers to first element of the array



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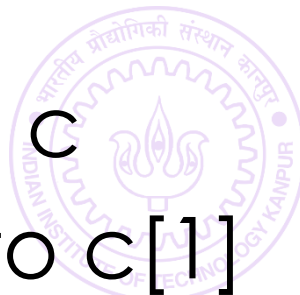
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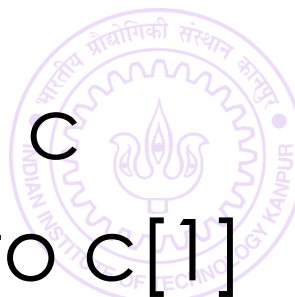
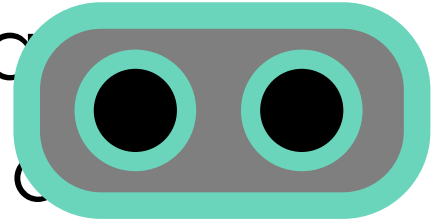
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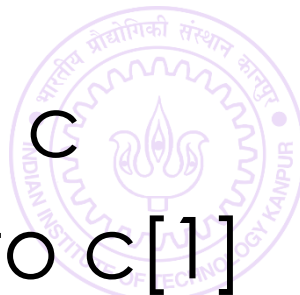
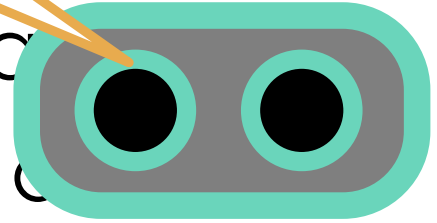
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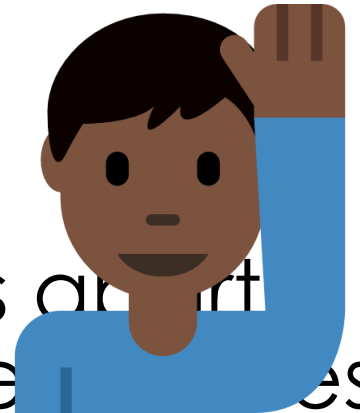
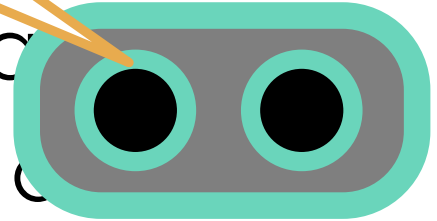
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Warning: consecutive array elements are not pointers

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int c[10]
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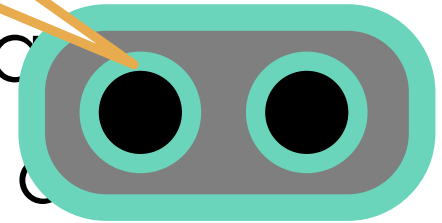
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**Warning:** c++ will give error, ptr++ will move pointer to c[1]

The array name will always point to the first element of the array. Cannot change that!

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





# Pointers and Arrays

5



# Pointers and Arrays

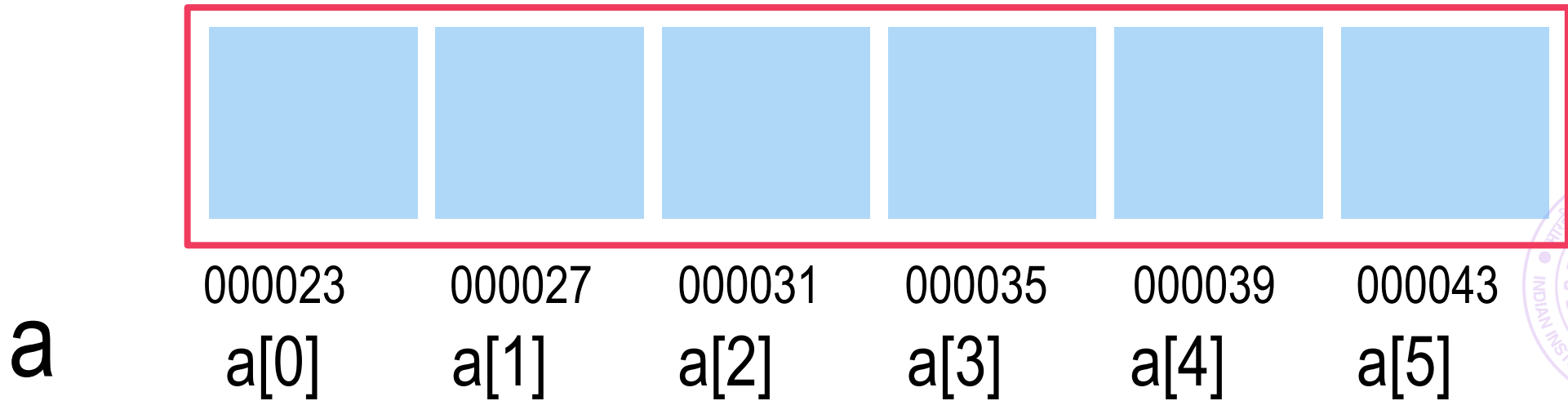
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int a[6] = {11,22,33,44,55,66};
```

5



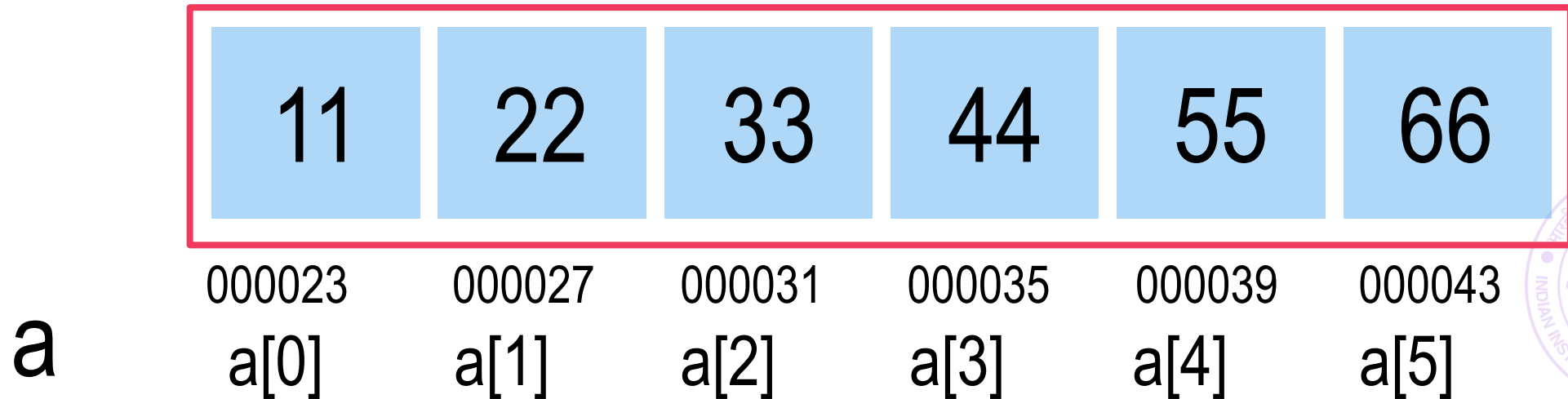
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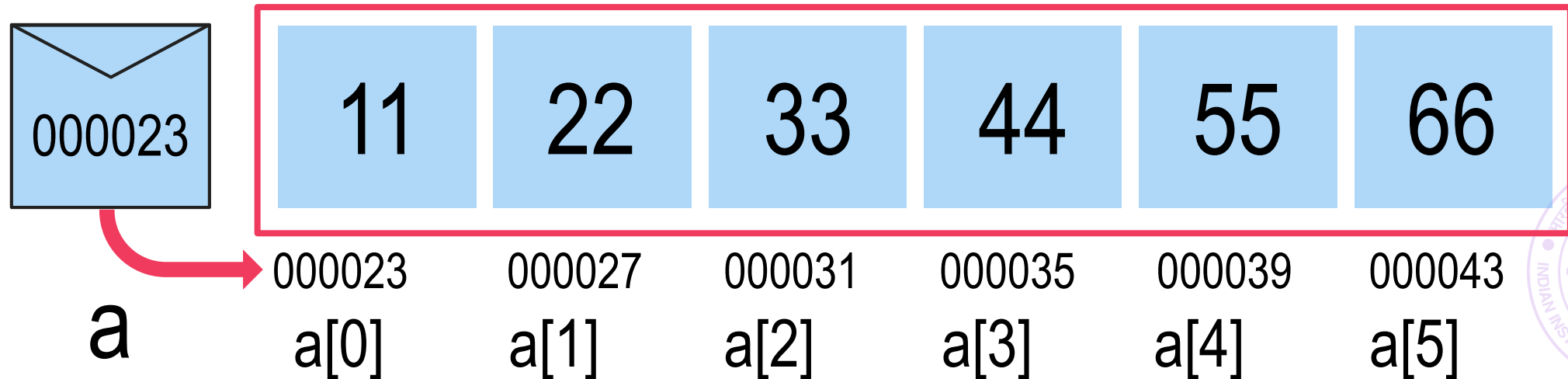
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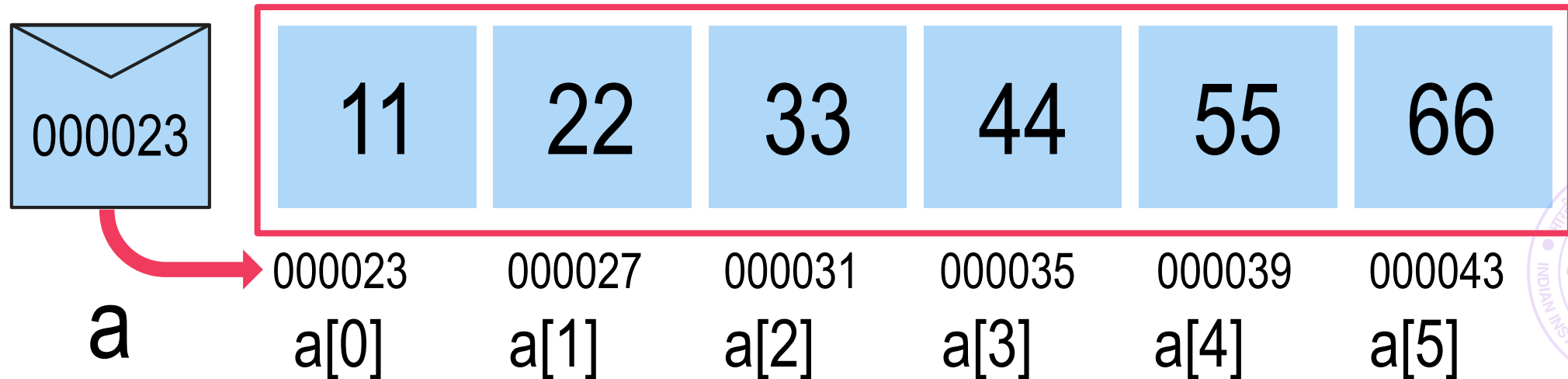


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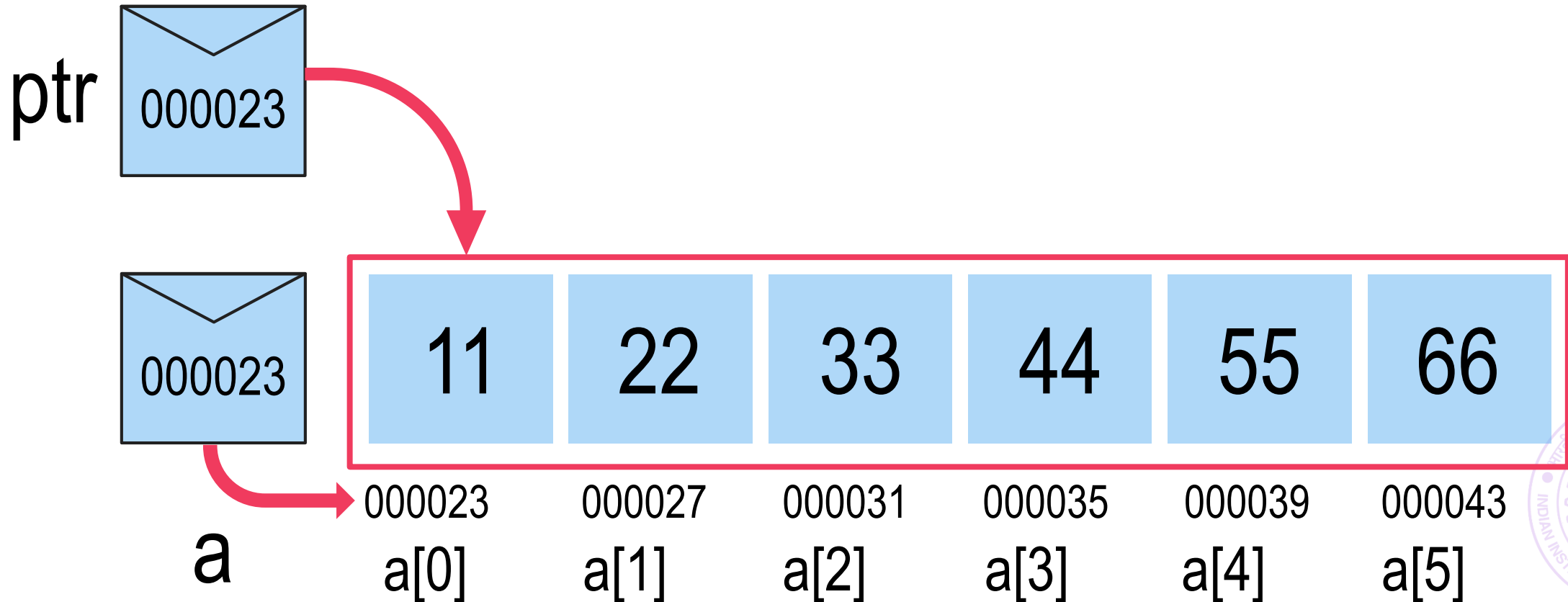


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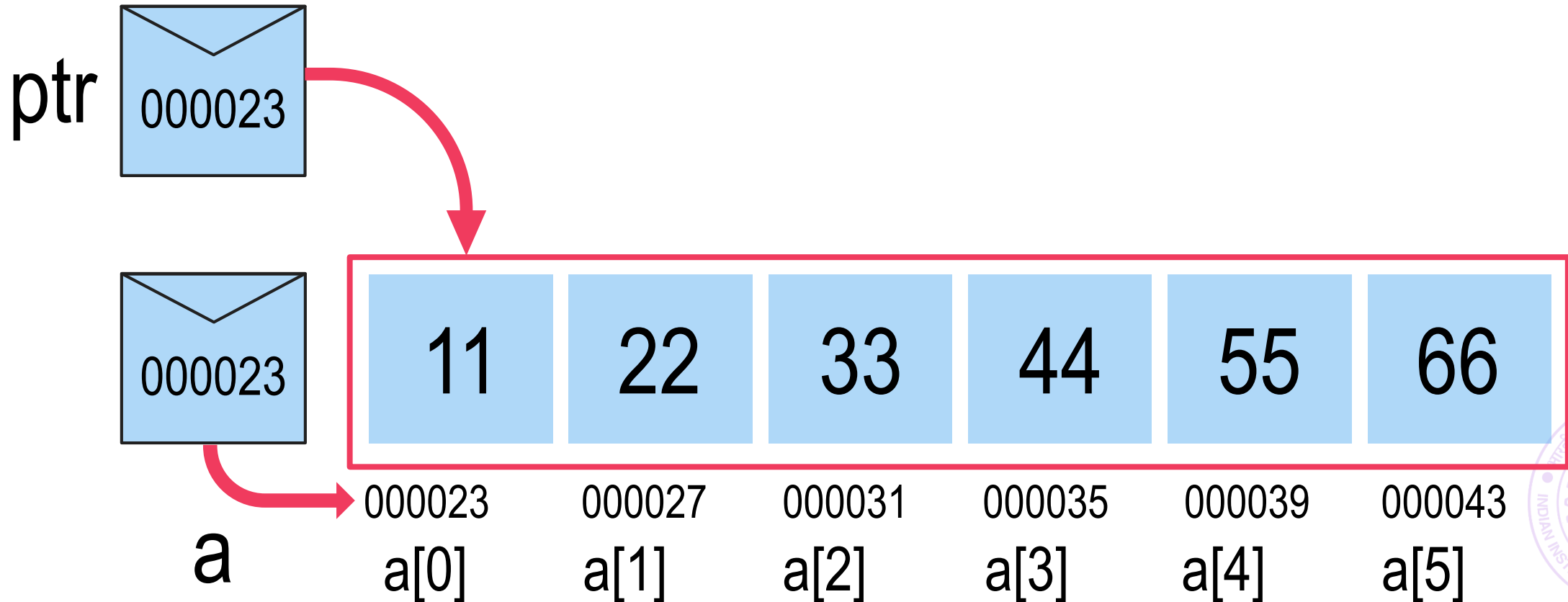


# Pointers and Arrays

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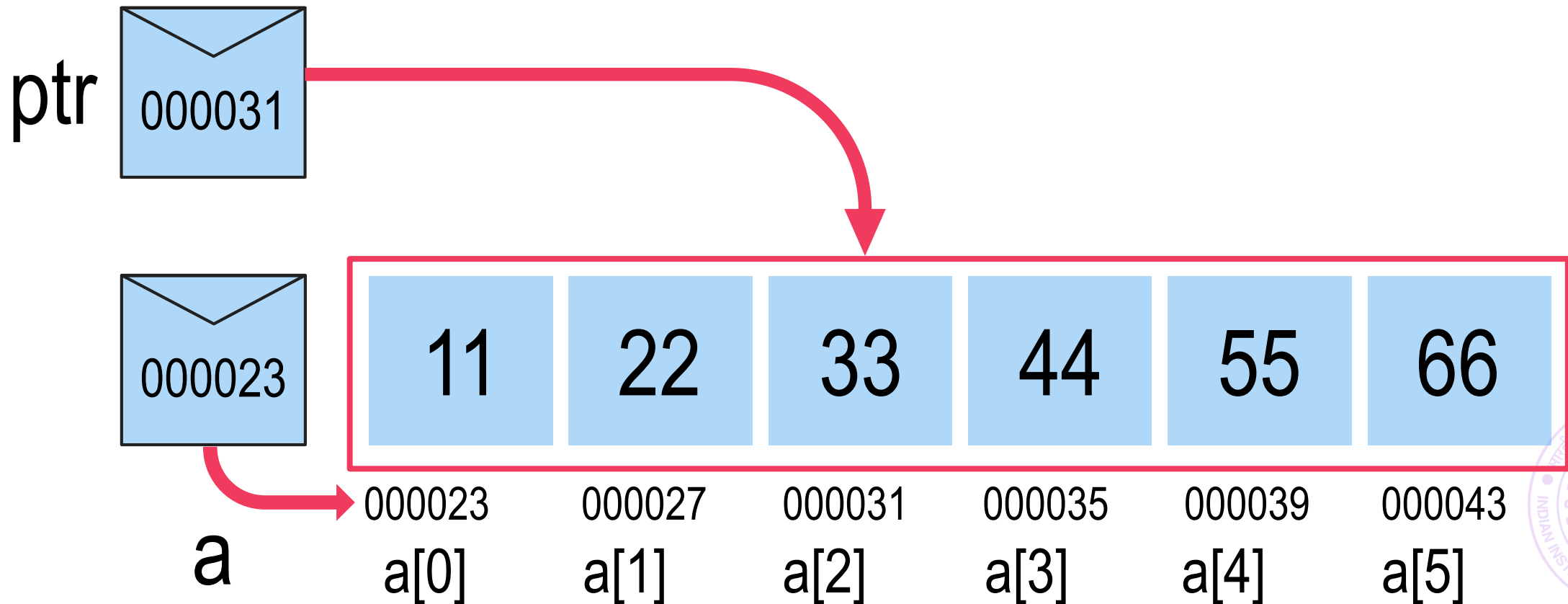


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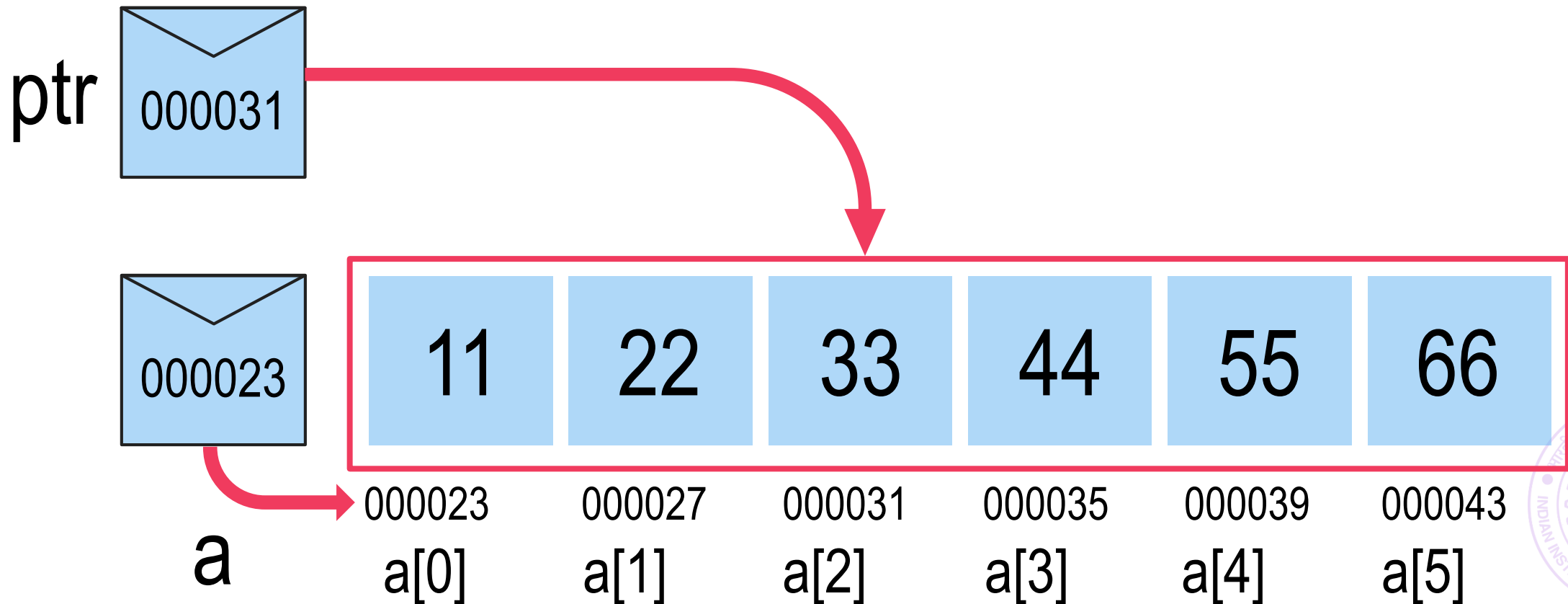
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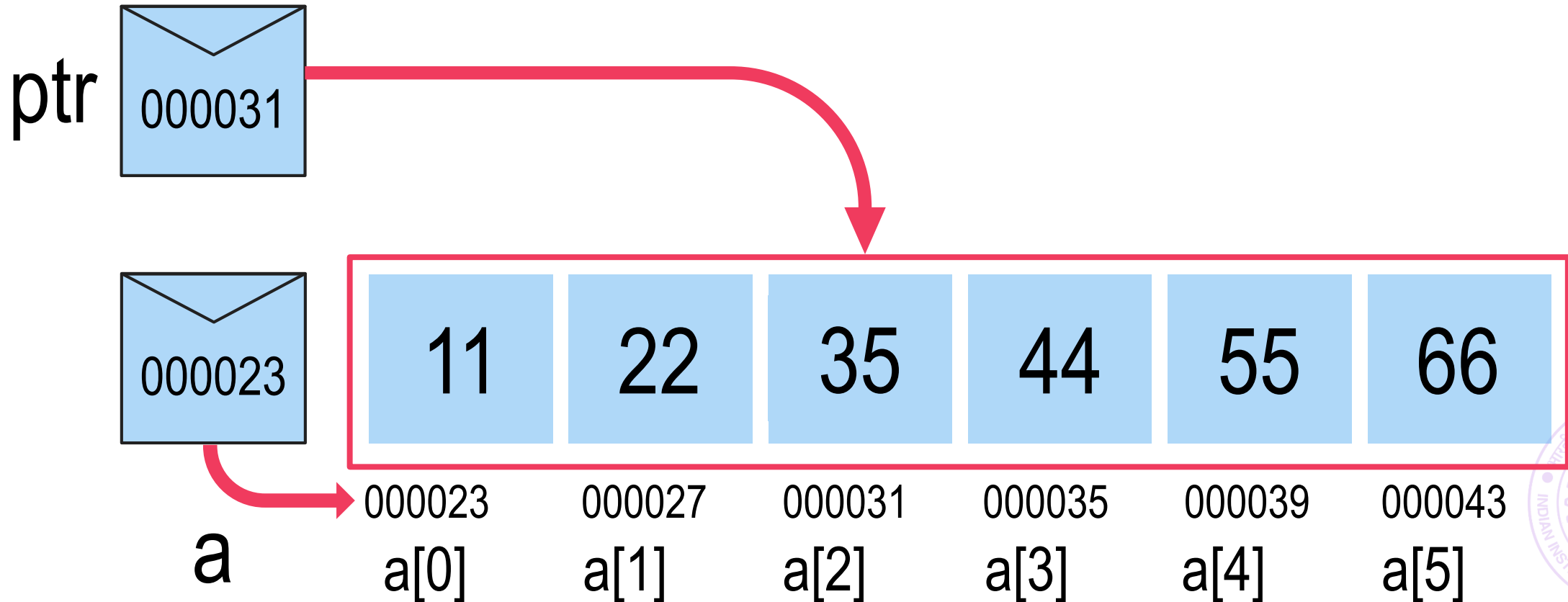
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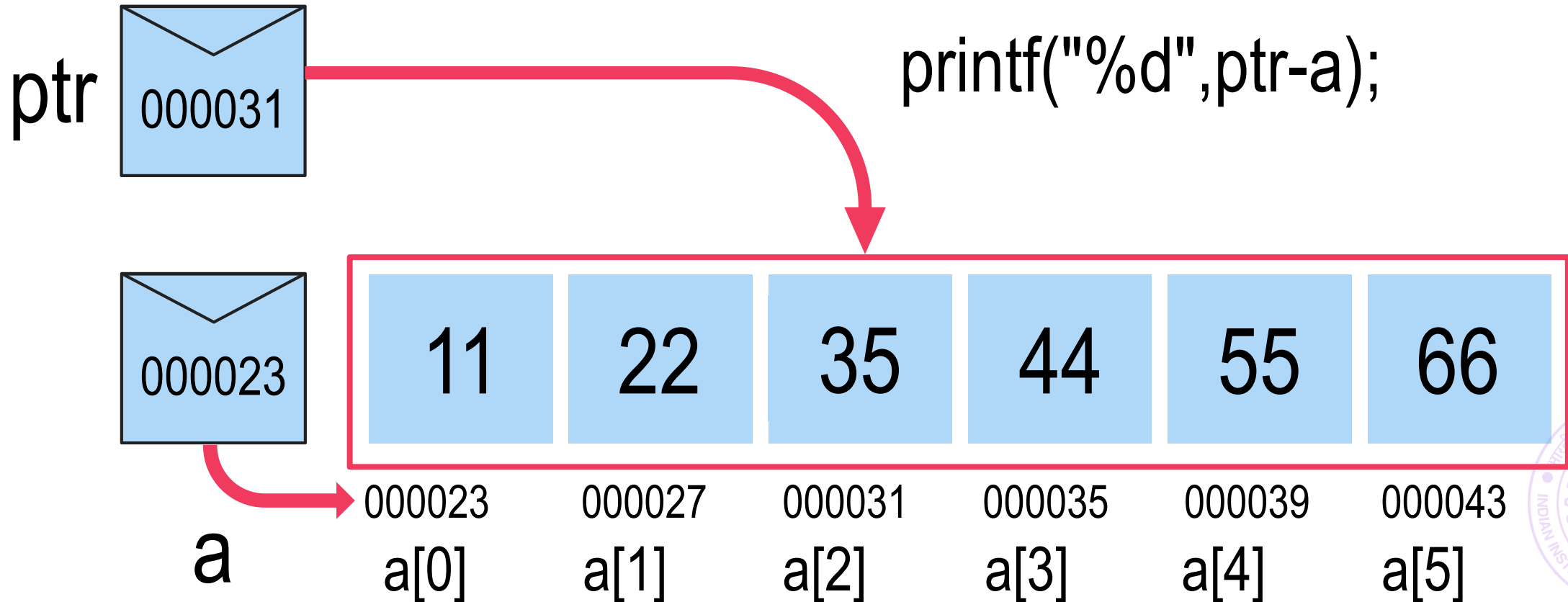
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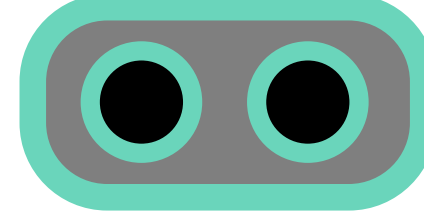
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# Pointers and Arrays



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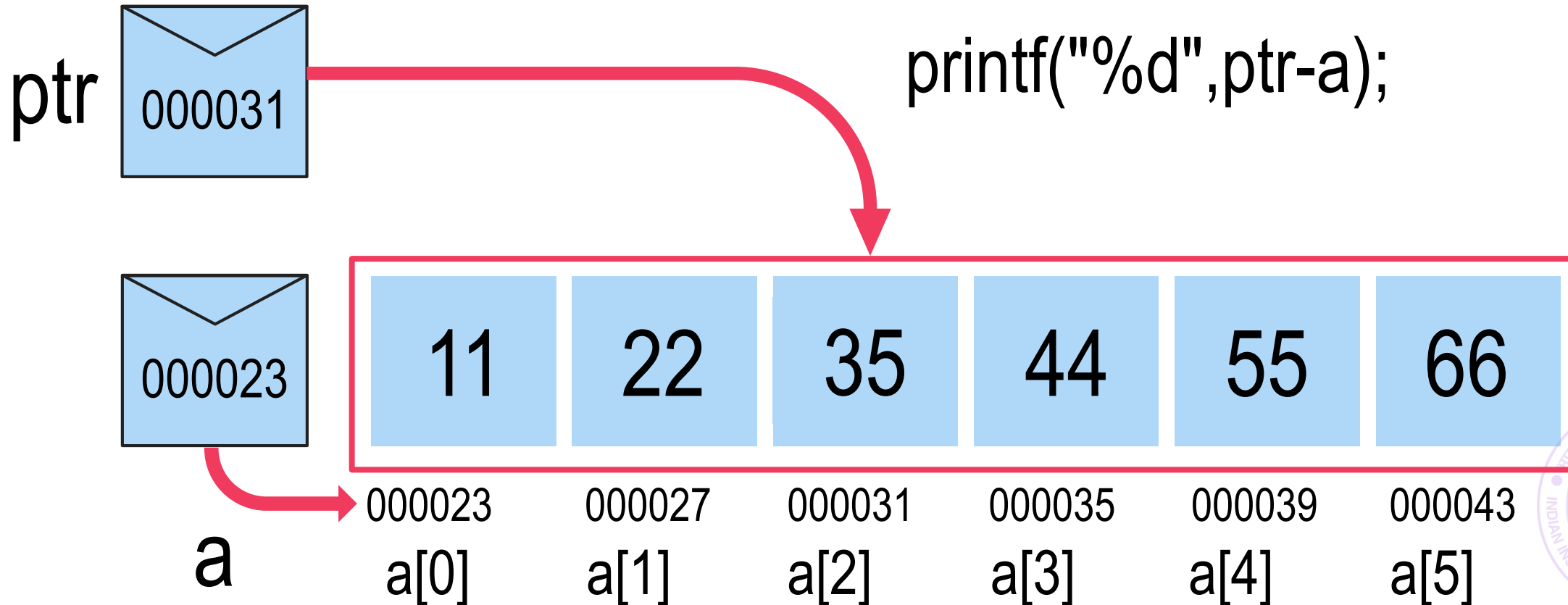
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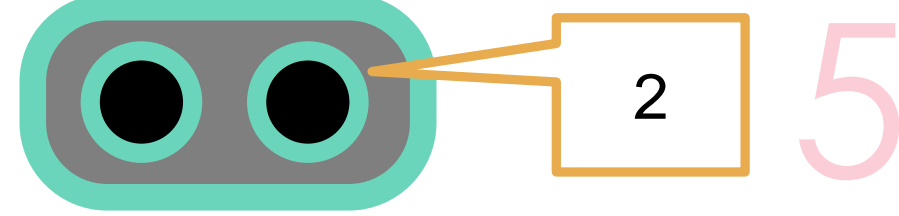
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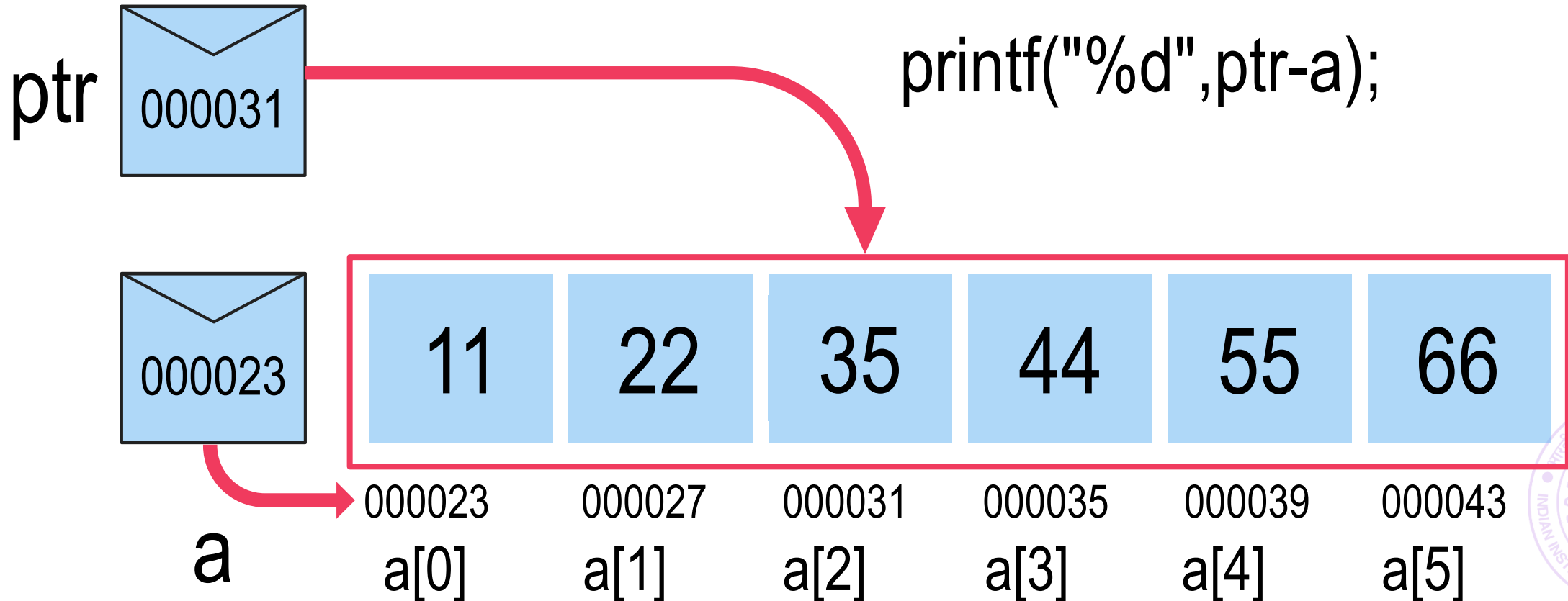
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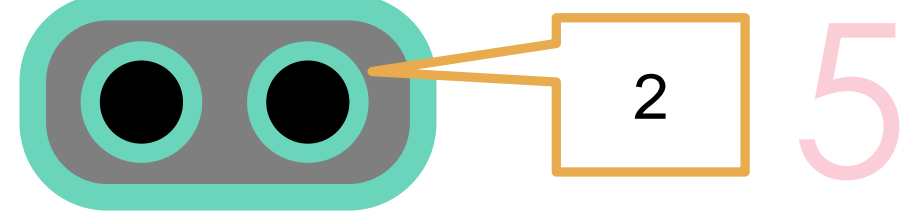
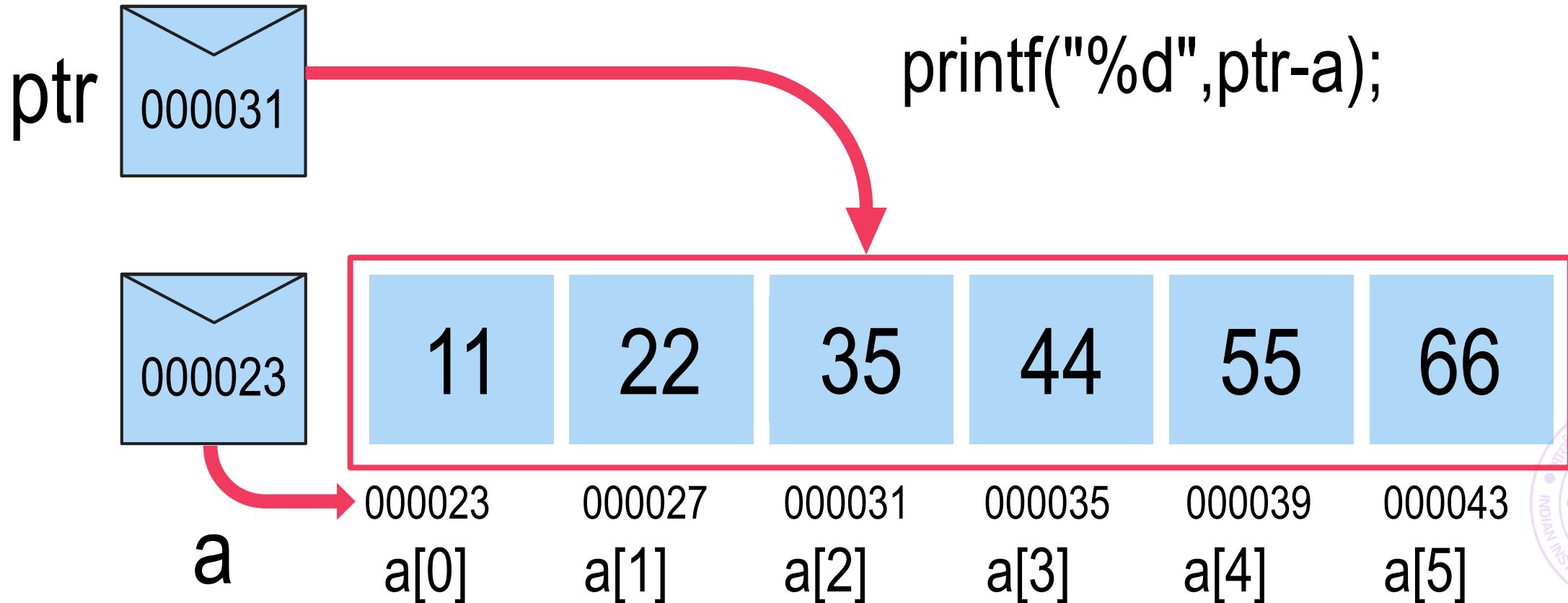
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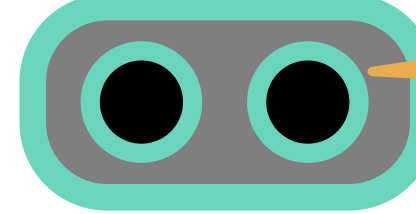
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# Pointers

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



2

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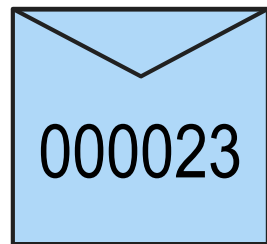
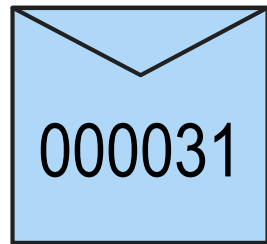
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```

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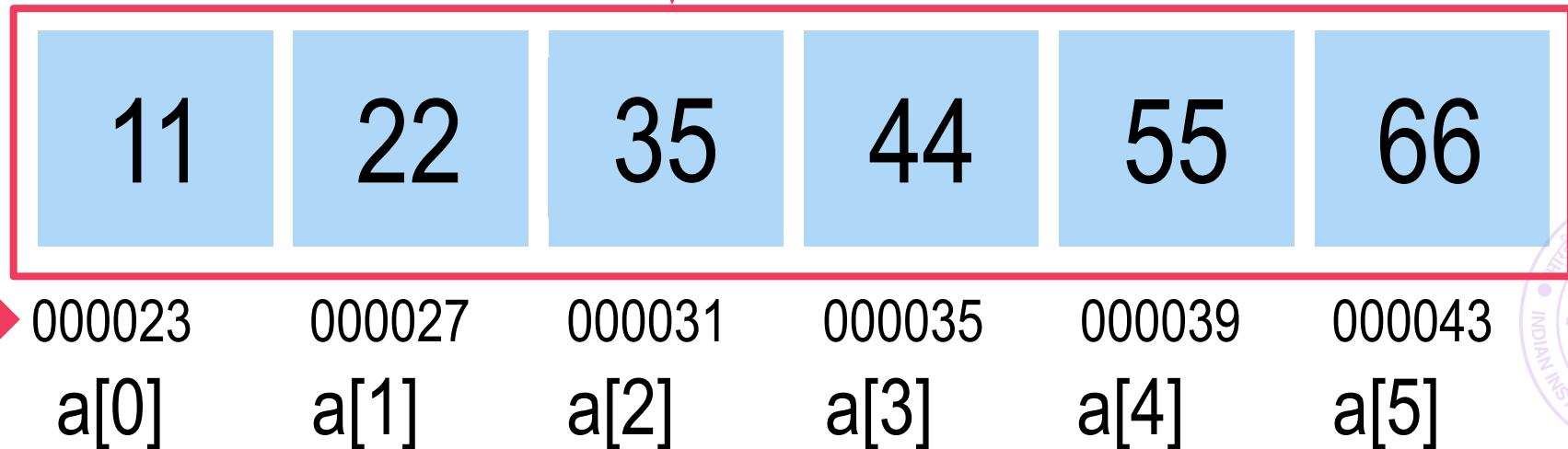
```
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```

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

ptr



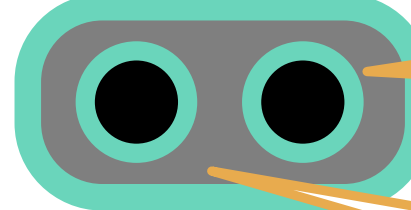
a





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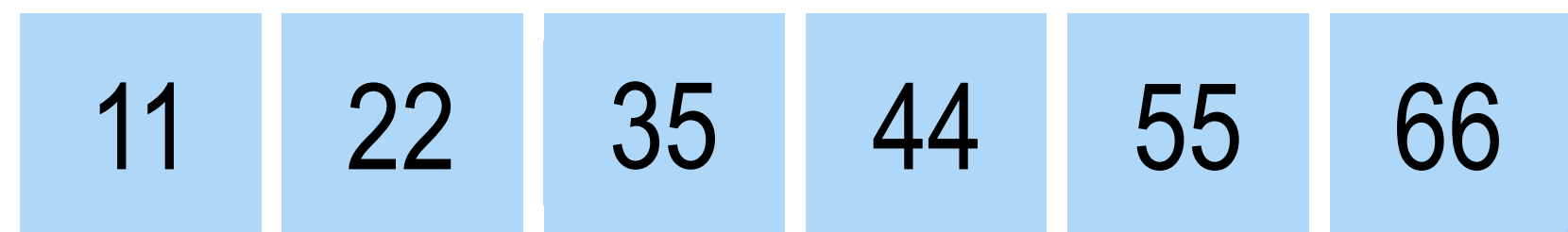
Yes, but since this is int type, I treat 4 bytes as a unit

```
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```

ptr



a



000023

a[0]

000027

a[1]

000031

a[2]

000035

a[3]

000039

a[4]

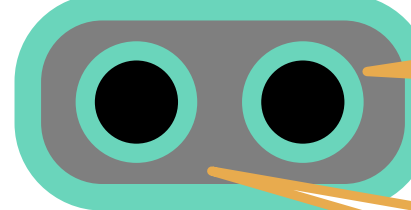
000043

a[5]



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2

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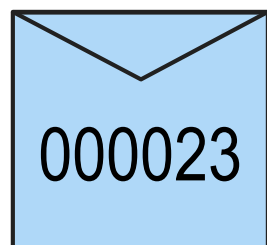
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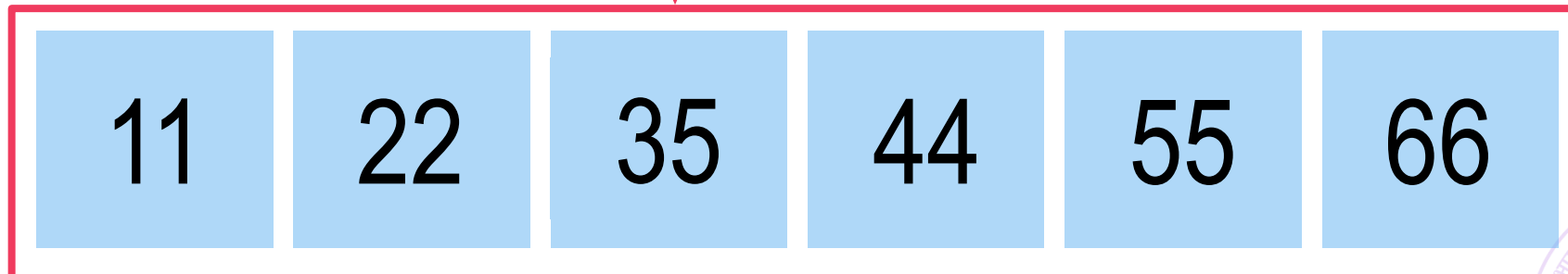
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a



000023

000027

000031

000035

000039

000043

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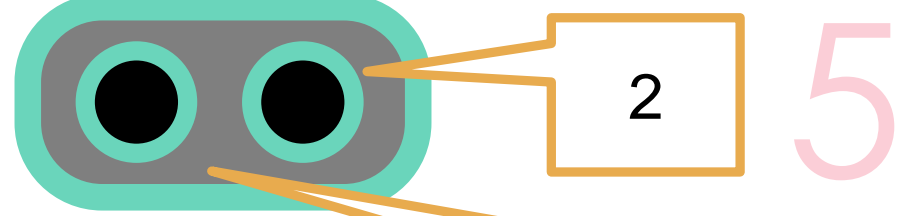


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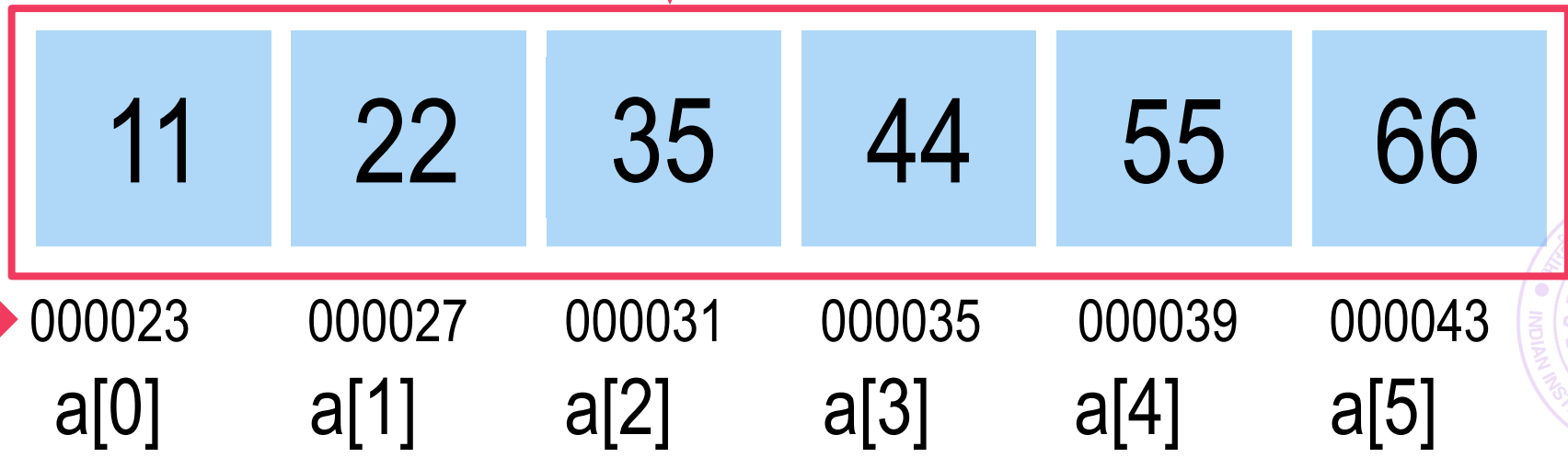
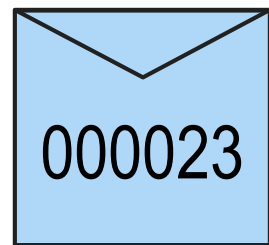
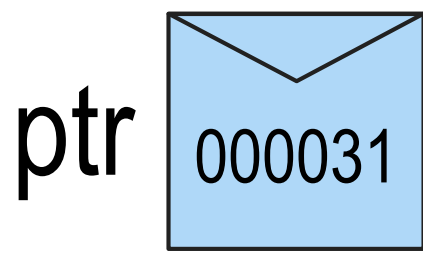
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Mr C also disallows subtraction of pointers of different types



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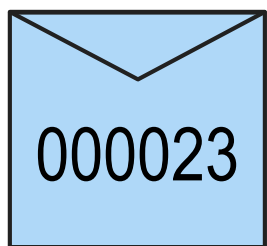
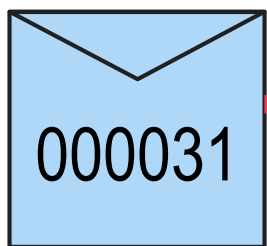
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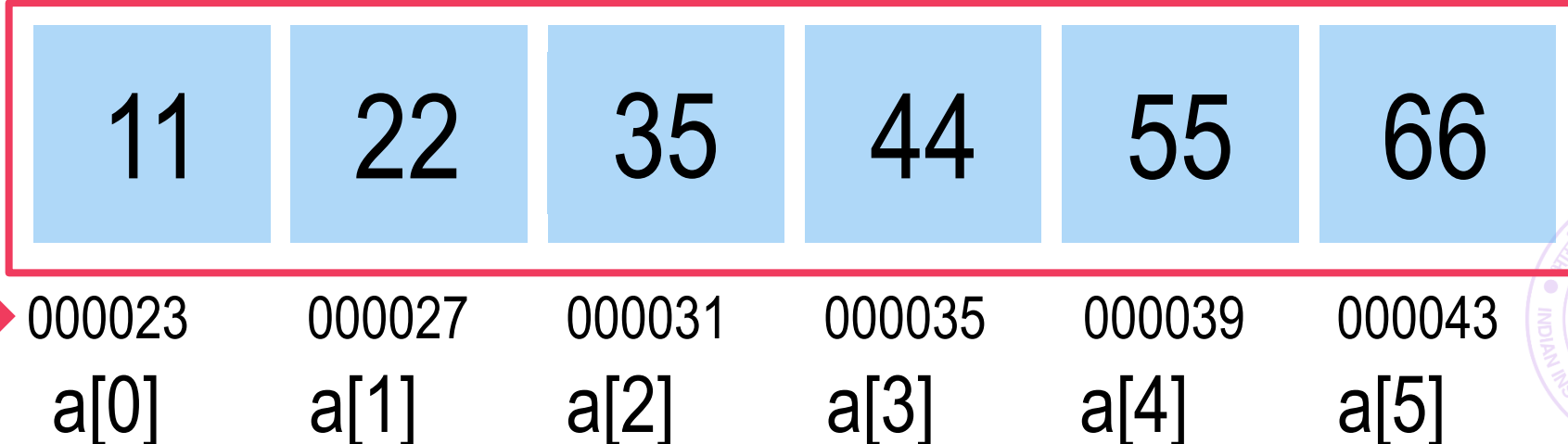
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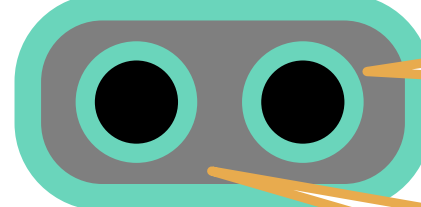
ptr



a



printf("%d",



2

5



# Pointers

```
int a[6] = {11, 22, 35, 44, 55, 66};  
int *ptr = a;
```

ptr

000031

000023

a

000023  
a[0]

000027  
a[1]

000031  
a[2]

000035  
a[3]

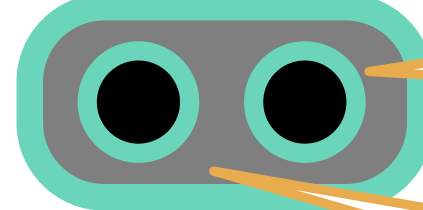
000039  
a[4]

000043  
a[5]

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



2

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# Pointers and Strings

6



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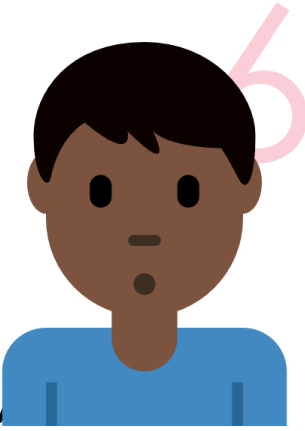
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Start processing from the location given pointer “points” 😊



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Really do not care whether the pointer is to beginning of the string or in the middle of the string

Start processing from the location given pointer “points” 😊



# Pointers and Strings

```
char mind[] = "blown";
```



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Most library functions we use for strings (printf, scanf, strcat, strstr, strchr) operate with pointers

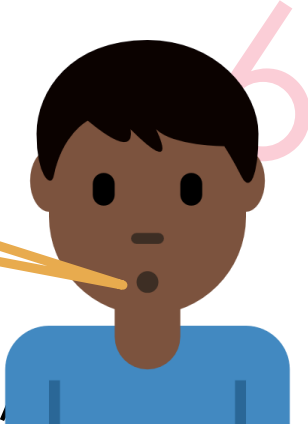
Really do not care whether the pointer is to beginning of the string or in the middle of the string

Start processing from the location given pointer “points” 😊



# Pointers and Strings

```
char mind[] = "blown";
```



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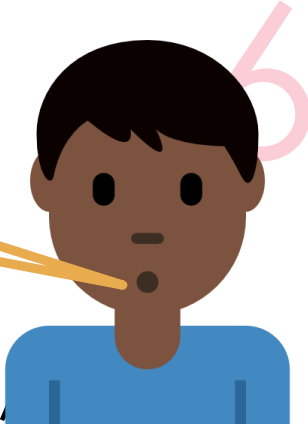
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char *ptr = str;
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printf("%s\n%s", str, ++ptr);
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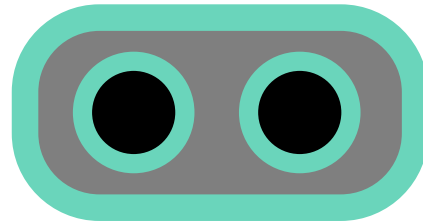
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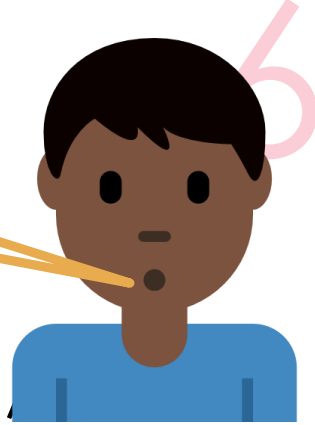
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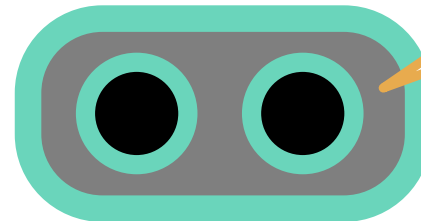
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ello World



# Variable-length arrays

7





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So far we have always used arrays with constant length



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- `malloc()`, `calloc()`, `realloc()`, `free()`



# malloc – **m**emory **a**llocation

8



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We tell malloc how many bytes are required



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See example in accompanying code



# calloc – contiguous **allocation**

9



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A helpful version of malloc that initializes memory to 0 😊



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See example in accompanying code



free

10



# free

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





# free

10

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

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



# free

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



free

11



free

11

Extremely bad coding habit



# free

11

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

11

Extremely bad coding habit

```
ptr = (int*)malloc(1000 * sizeof(int));
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// hmm ... lab question now tells me to create array of 10000

```
ptr = (int*)malloc(10000 * sizeof(int));
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Better habit – free up memory before allocating again





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Use realloc (described next) if need more memory



# realloc – **re**vised **al**location

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 ☹



# 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

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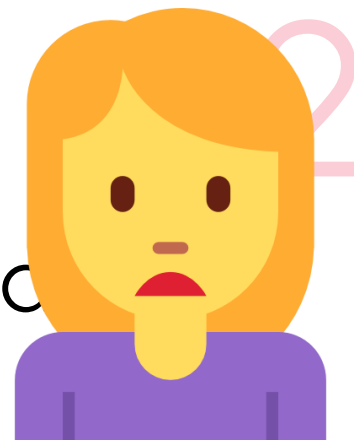
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```
int *tmp = (int*)realloc(ptr, 200 * sizeof(int));
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# realloc – revised alloc

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



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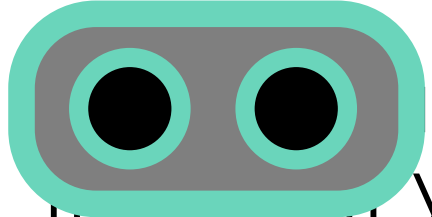
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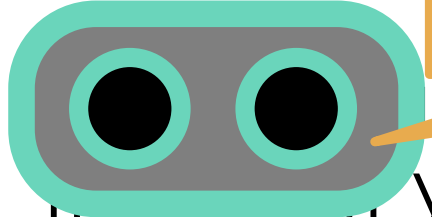
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realloc



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

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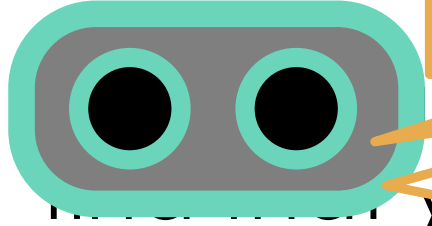
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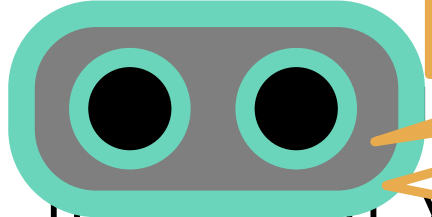
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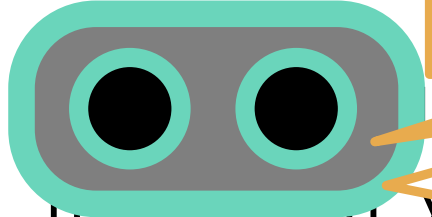
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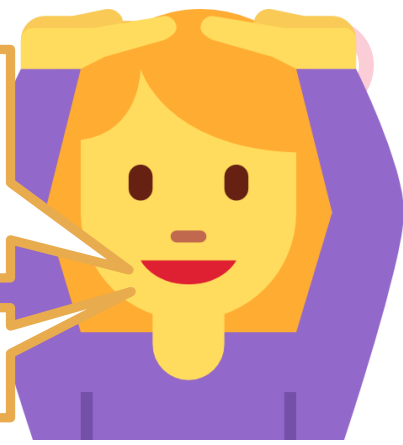


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You are the best Mr C



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```

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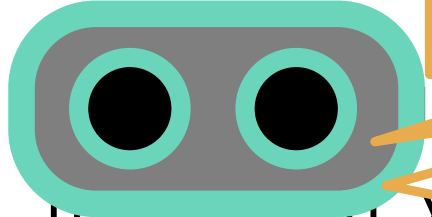
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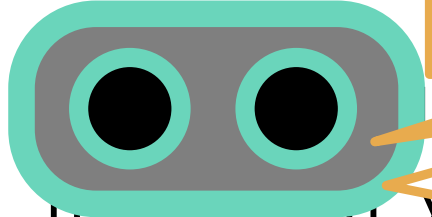
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Don't use realloc to increase size of non-malloc arrays



realloc

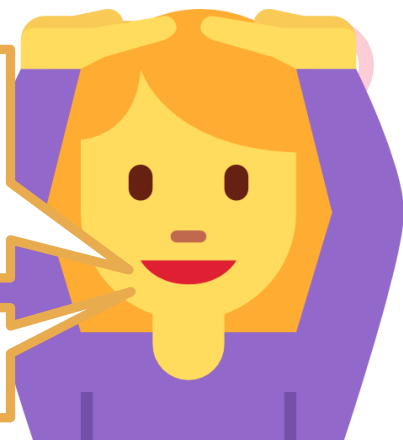


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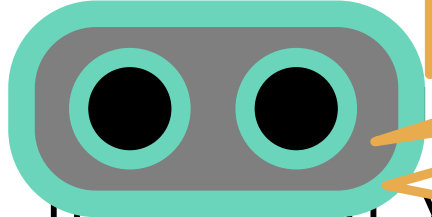
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int c[100];
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```
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realloc

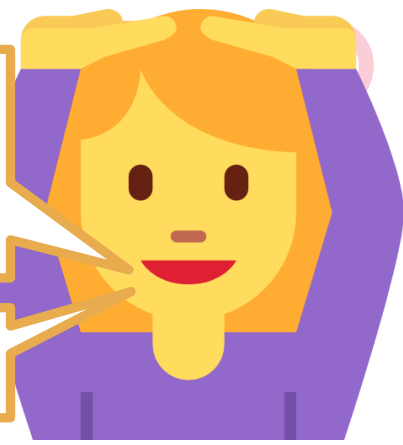


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Use realloc only to increase size of calloc/malloc-ed arrays

