

5th Task in Embedded Systems

1. Purpose of Double Pointers

Double pointers (`int **ptr`) are used to store the address of another pointer. They are especially useful for:

- Dynamic memory allocation for 2D arrays:** Allows creation of matrices where rows can be allocated separately
- Modifying pointer variables in functions:** When you need to change where a pointer points from within a function.
- Implementing complex data structures:** Used in trees, linked lists, and other advanced structures where multiple levels of indirection are needed.

2. Relation Between Pointers, Arrays, and Strings

Arrays and pointers: An array name acts like a pointer to its first element.

`int arr[] = {1, 2, 3};` is similar to `int *ptr = arr;`

Strings: A string is essentially a character array. `char *str = "Hello";` makes `str` a pointer to the first character.

Accessing elements: You can access array or string elements using `ptr[i]` or `*(ptr + i)`.

3. Purpose of Pointer to Function

A pointer to a function allows you to:

- Pass functions as arguments.
- Create callback mechanisms.

```
int add(int a, int b) { return a + b; }
```

```
int (*funcPtr)(int, int) = add;
```

```
printf("%d", funcPtr(2, 3));
```

4. Accessing Arrays Using Pointers

- 1D Array: Access with `*(arr + i)` or `arr[i]`.
- 2D Array:
 - If declared as `int arr[3][3]`, use `*(*(arr + i) + j)` to access element `[i][j]`.
 - With dynamic allocation (`int **arr`), allocate memory row by row.

5. Pointer Typecasting

Pointer typecasting allows converting one pointer type to another. This is useful when:

- Interfacing with hardware or binary data.
- Working with generic memory buffers (`void *` to `int *`). **Caution:** Incorrect casting can lead to undefined behavior.