

11) Define and declare pointer.

What is Pointer?

- A normal variable is used to store value.
- A pointer is a variable that **store address / reference** of another variable.
- Pointer is **derived data type** in C language.
- A pointer contains the memory address of that variable as their value.
- Pointers are also called **address variables** because they contain the addresses of other variables.

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Declaration & Initialization of Pointer

Syntax

```
1 datatype *ptr_variablename;
```

Output

```
10 10 5000
```

Example

```
1 void main()
2 {
3     int a=10, *p; // assign memory address of
4     a to pointer variable p
5     p = &a;
6     printf("%d %d %d", a, *p, p);
7 }
```

Variable	Value	Address
a	10	5000
p	5000	5048

- **p** is integer pointer variable
- **&** is address of or referencing operator which returns memory address of variable.
- ***** is indirection or dereferencing operator which returns value stored at that memory address.
- **&** operator is the inverse of ***** operator
- **x = a** is same as **x = *(&a)**

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13) Define pointer to pointer. Write a C program which illustrates the use of pointer to pointer

Pointer to Pointer – Double Pointer

- Pointer holds the address of another variable of same type.
- When a pointer holds the **address of another pointer** then such type of pointer is known as **pointer-to-pointer** or **double pointer**.
- The first pointer contains the address of the second pointer, which points to the location that contains the actual value.

Syntax

```
1 datatype **ptr_variablename;
```

Pointer

Pointer

Variable

address

address

value

Example

```
1 int **ptr;
```

Write a program to print variable, address of pointer variable and pointer to pointer variable.

Program

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 int main () {
3     int var;
4     int *ptr;
5     int **pptr;
6     var = 3000;
7     ptr = &var; // address of var
8     pptr = &ptr; // address of ptr using address of operator &
9     printf("Value of var = %d\n", var );
10    printf("Value available at *ptr = %d\n", *ptr );
11    printf("Value available at **pptr = %d\n", **pptr);
12    return 0;
13 }
```

Output

```
Value of var = 3000
Value available at *ptr = 3000
Value available at **pptr = 3000
```

16) Describe the concept of pointer to an array with an example.

Array of Pointer

- As we have an array of char, int, float etc, same way we can have an array of pointer.
- Individual elements of an array will store the address values.
- So, an array is a collection of values of similar type. It can also be a collection of references of similar type known by single name.

Syntax

```
1 datatype *name[size];
```

Example

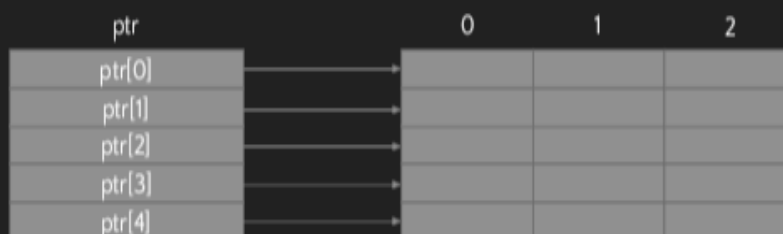
```
1 int *ptr[5]; //declares an array of integer pointer of size 5
```

Array of Pointer – Cont.

- An array of pointers ptr can be used to point to different rows of matrix as follow:

Example

```
1 for(i=0; i<5; i++)  
2 {  
3     ptr[i]=&mat[i][0];  
4 }
```



- By dynamic memory allocation, we do not require to declare two-dimensional array, it can be created dynamically using array of pointers.

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int main() {
4     int numbers[] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
5     int *ptr = numbers; // Pointer to the first element of the array
6
7     // Accessing array elements using the pointer
8     printf("First element: %d\n", *ptr); // Output: First element: 1
9     printf("Second element: %d\n", *(ptr + 1)); // Output: Second element: 2
10
11    // Using pointer arithmetic to traverse the array
12    printf("Array elements: ");
13    for (int i = 0; i < 5; ++i) {
14        printf("%d ", *(ptr + i));
15    }
16    // Output: Array elements: 1 2 3 4 5
17
18    return 0;
19 }
20
```