Lecture 03
Memory, Data and Addressing – part 2

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Slides adapted from Randy Bryant and Dave O'Hallaron: Introduction to Computer Systems, CMU

Memory, Data, and Addressing

- Hardware - High Level Overview
- Representing information as bits and bytes
  - Memory is a byte-addressable array
  - Machine “word” size = address size = register size
  - Endianness – ordering bytes in memory
- **Manipulating data in memory using C**
  - **Assignment**
  - **Pointers, pointer arithmetic, and arrays**
- Boolean algebra and bit-level manipulations

Addresses and Pointers in C

- `&` = "address of" operator
- `*` = "value at address" or "dereference" operator

`*` is also used with variable declarations

```
int* ptr;
```

Declares a variable, `ptr`, that is a pointer to (*i.e.* holds the address of) an `int` in memory

```
int x = 5;
int y = 2;
```

Declares two variables, `x` and `y`, that hold `int`s, and *initializes* them to 5 and 2, respectively

```
ptr = &x;
```

Sets `ptr` to the address of `x` ("`ptr` points to `x`")

```
y = 1 + *ptr;
```

Sets `y` to "1 plus the value stored at the address held by `ptr`." Because `ptr` points to `x`, this is equivalent to `y=1+x;`

"Dereference `ptr`"

What is `*(&y)` ?

Assignment in C

- A variable is represented by a location
- Declaration ≠ initialization (initially holds random data)
- `int x, y;`
  - `x` is at address 0x04, `y` is at 0x18

	0x00	0x01	0x02	0x03	
0x00	A7	00	32	00	
0x04	00	01	29	F3	x
0x08	EE	EE	EE	EE	
0x0C	FA	CE	CA	FE	
0x10	26	00	00	00	
0x14	00	00	10	00	
0x18	01	00	00	00	y
0x1C	FF	00	F4	96	
0x20	DE	AD	BE	EF	
0x24	00	00	00	00	

Assignment in C

32-bit example
(pointers are 32-bits wide)

little-endian

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- `int x, y;`
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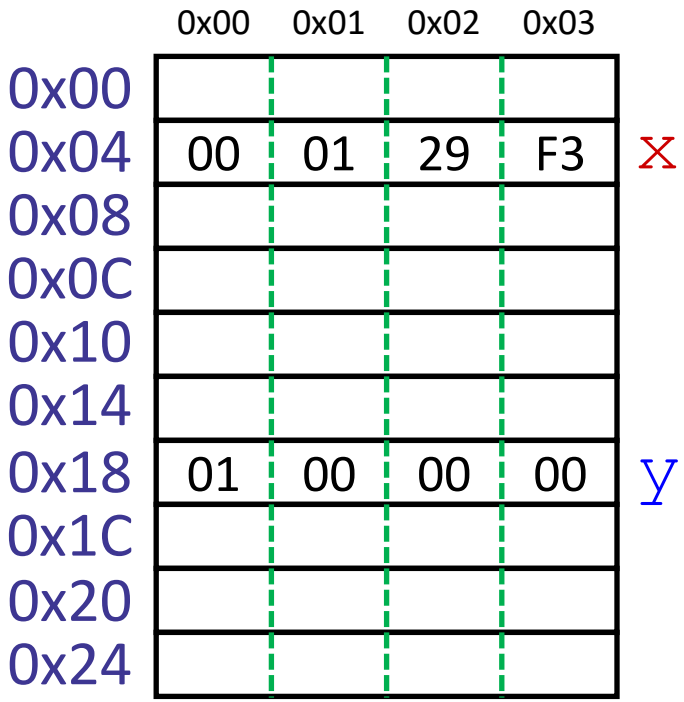
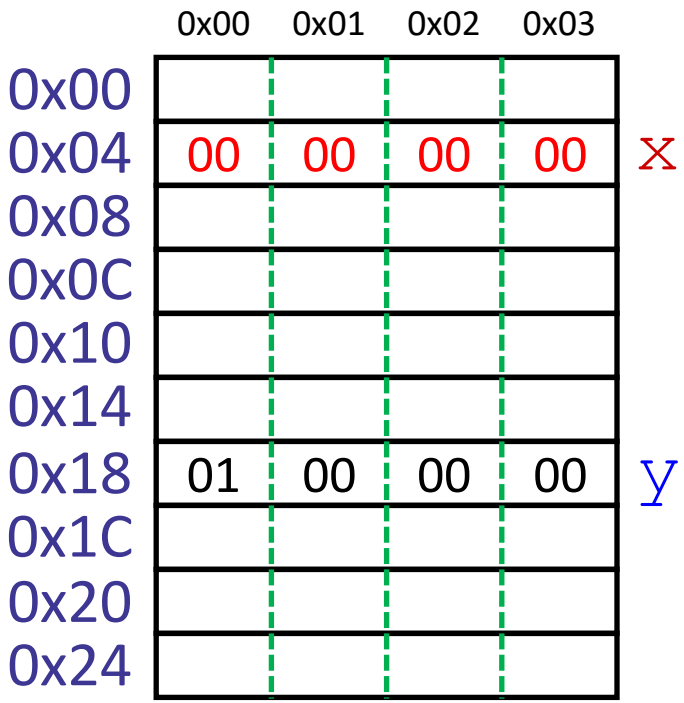


Assignment in C

32-bit example
(pointers are 32-bits wide)

`&` = "address of"
`*` = "dereference"

- left-hand side = right-hand side;
  - LHS must evaluate to a *location*
  - RHS must evaluate to a *value* (could be an address)
  - Store RHS value at LHS location
- `int x, y;`
- `x = 0;`



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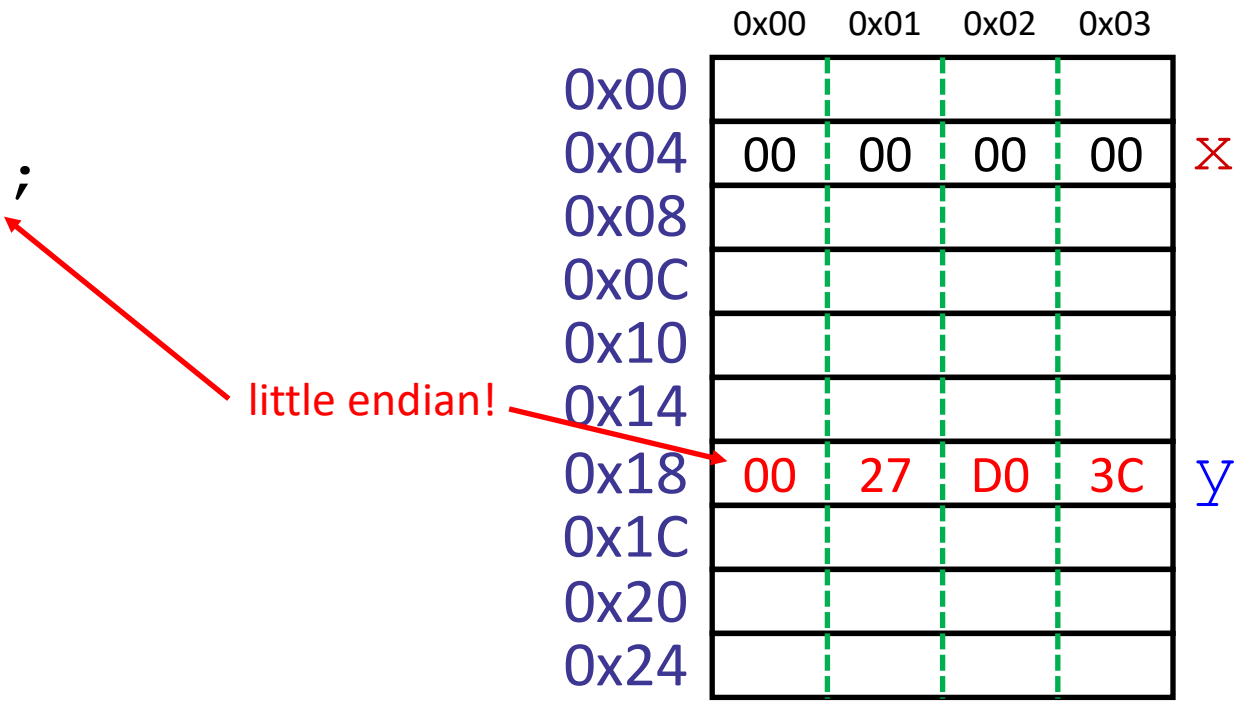
- `int x, y;`
- `x = 0;`
- `y = 0x3CD02700;`



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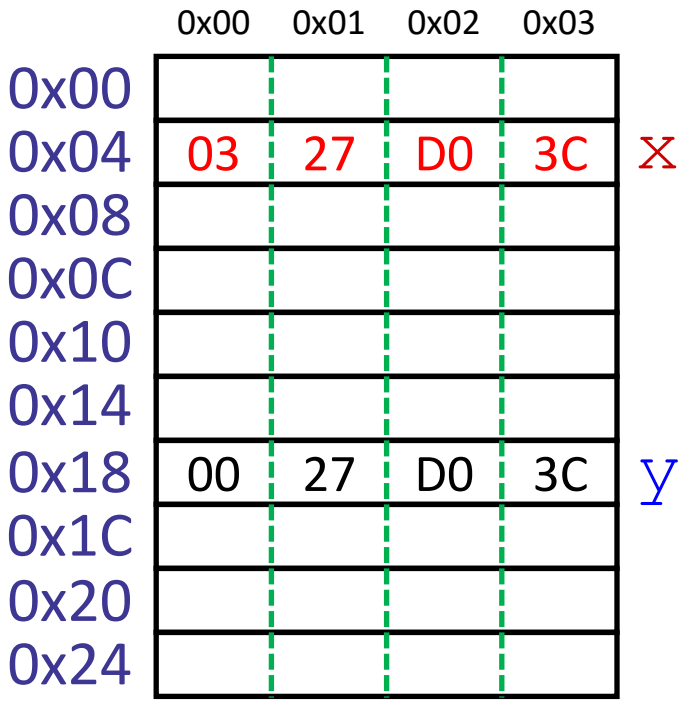
- `int x, y;`
- `x = 0;`
- `y = 0x3CD02700;`
- `x = y + 3;`
  - Get value at `y`, add 3, store in `x`



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- `x = y + 3;`
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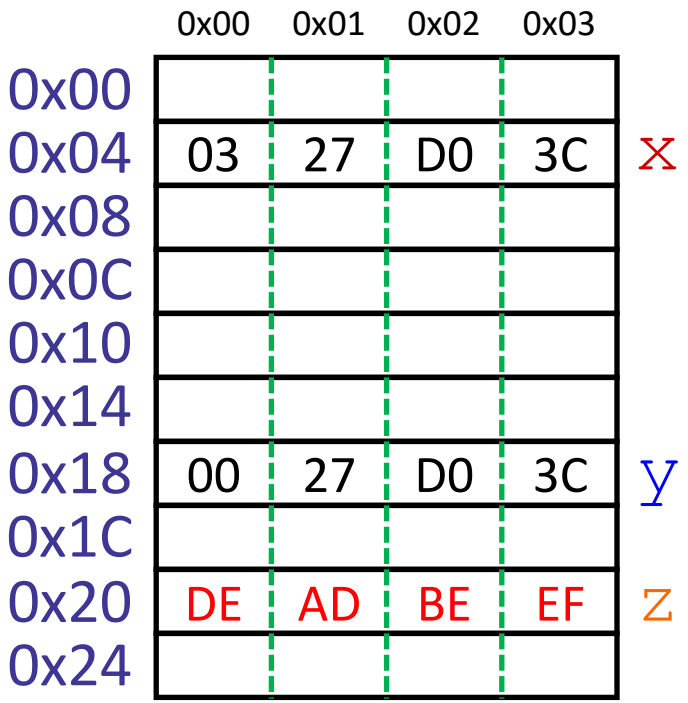
- `int* z;`
  - `z` is at address 0x20



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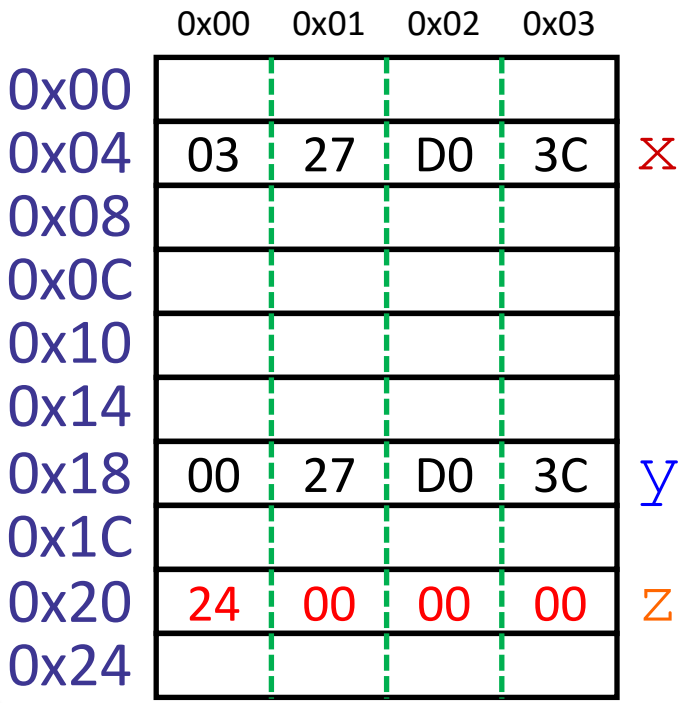
- `x = y + 3;`
  - Get value at `y`, add 3, store in `x`
- `int* z = &y + 3;`
  - Get address of `y`, "add 3", store in `z`

Pointer arithmetic



Pointer Arithmetic

- Pointer arithmetic is scaled by the size of target type
  - In this example, `sizeof(int)` = 4
- `int* z = &y + 3;`
  - Get address of `y`, add `3*sizeof(int)`, store in `z`
  - `&y = 0x18 = 1*16^1 + 8*16^0 = 24`
  - `24 + 3*(4) = 36 = 2*16^1 + 4*16^0 = 0x24`

- Pointer arithmetic can be dangerous!
  - Can easily lead to bad memory accesses
  - Be careful with data types and *casting*

Assignment in C

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- `x = 0;`
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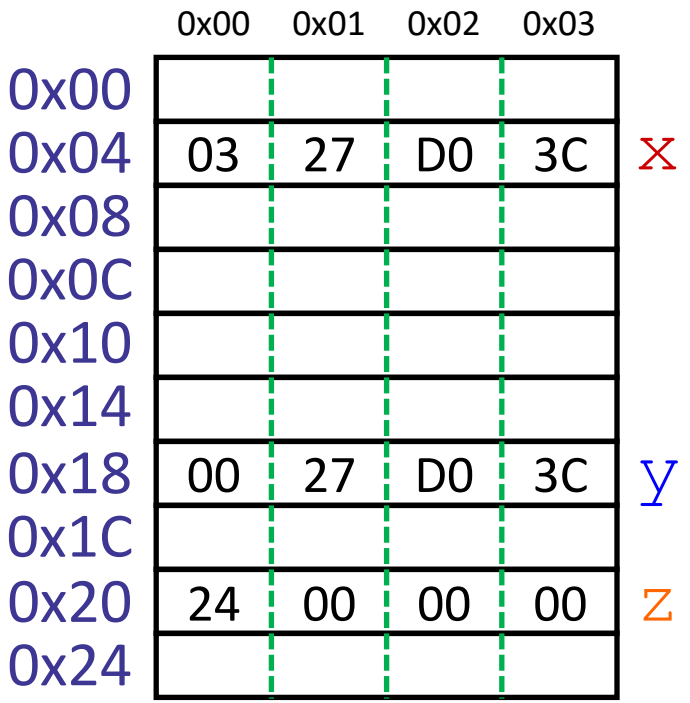
- `x = y + 3;`
  - Get value at `y`, add 3, store in `x`
- `int* z = &y + 3;`
  - Get address of `y`, add **12**, store in `z`
- `*z = y;`
  - What does this do?



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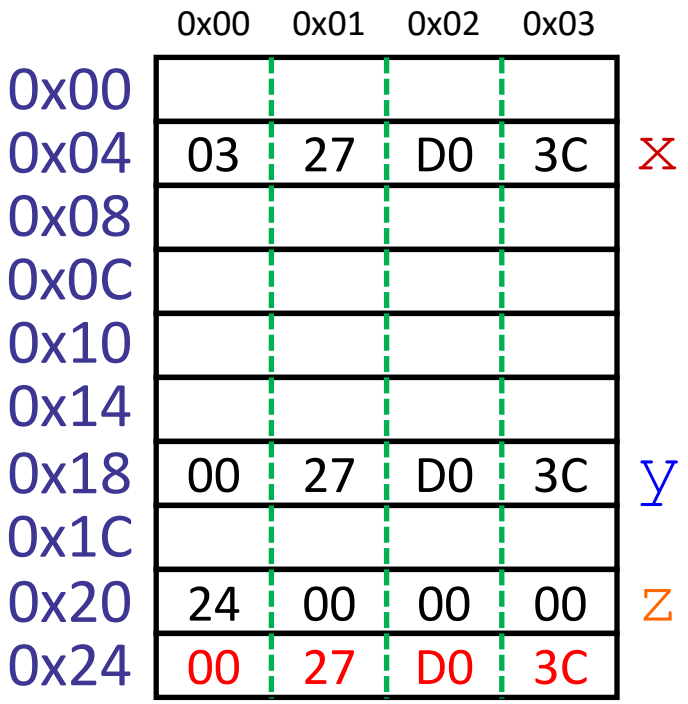
- `int* z = &y + 3;`
  - Get address of `y`, add **12**, store in `z`

The target of a pointer is also a location

- `*z = y;`
  - Get value of `y`, put in address stored in `z`



Arrays in C

Arrays are adjacent locations in memory storing the same type of data object

`a` (array name) returns the array's address

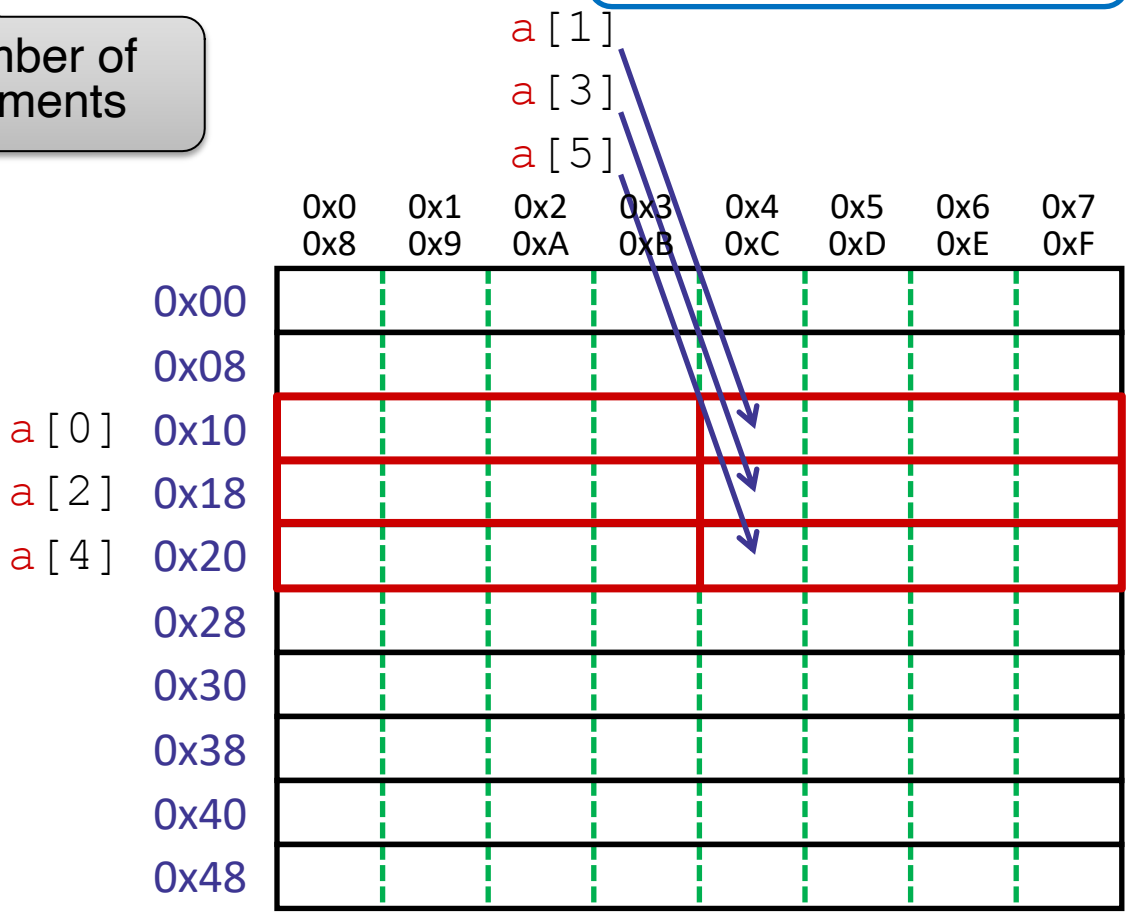
Declaration: `int a[6];`

element type

name

number of elements

64-bit example
(pointers are 64-bits wide)



Arrays in C

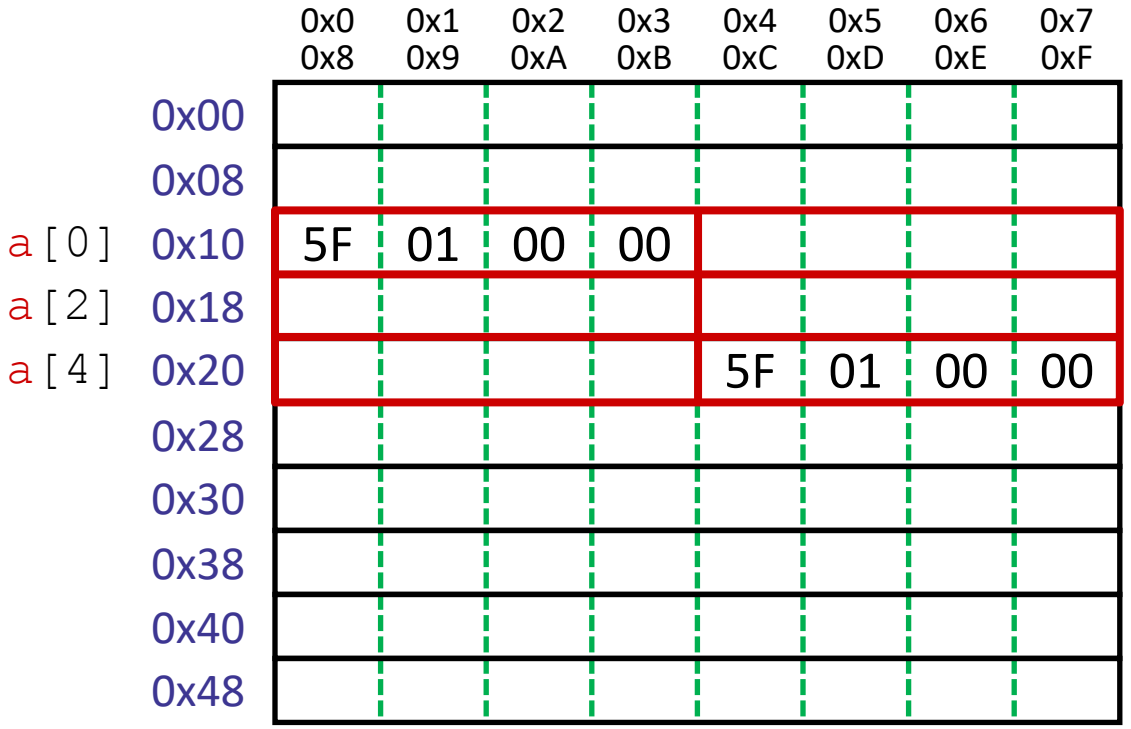
Arrays are adjacent locations in memory storing the same type of data object

`a` (array name) returns the array's address

`&a[i]` is the address of `a[0]` plus `i` times the element size in bytes

Declaration: `int a[6];`

Indexing:
```
a[0] = 0x015f;
a[5] = a[0];
```



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No bounds checking:
```
a[6] = 0xBAD;
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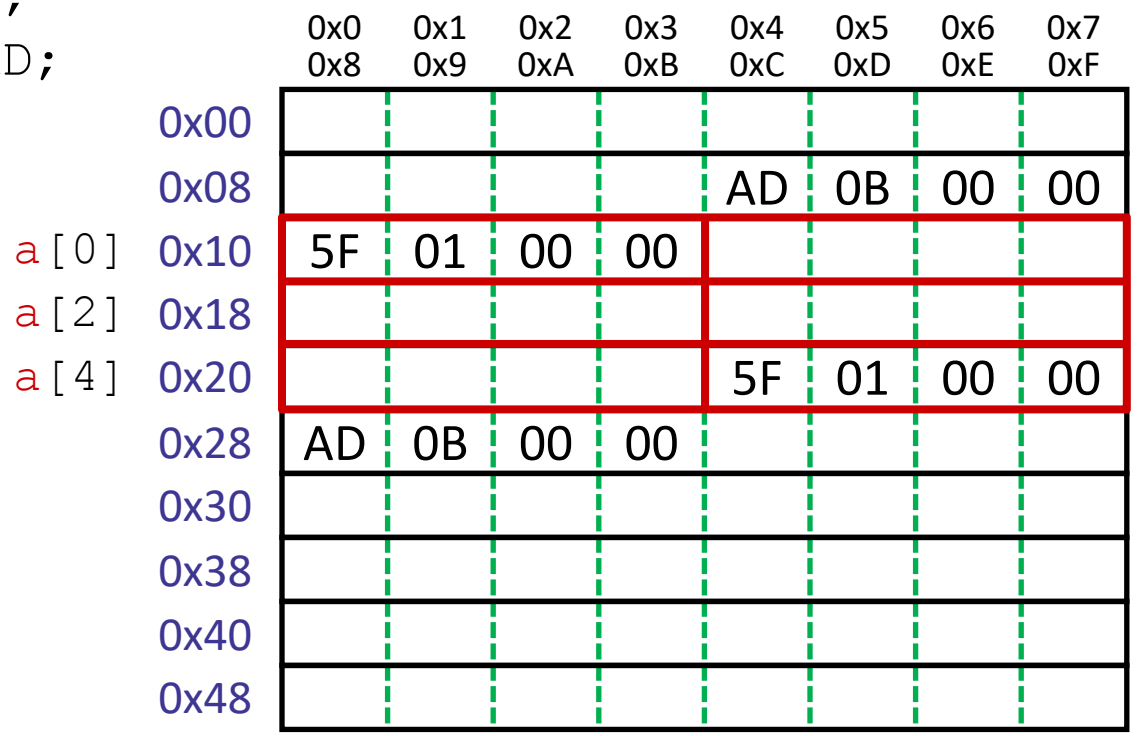
```



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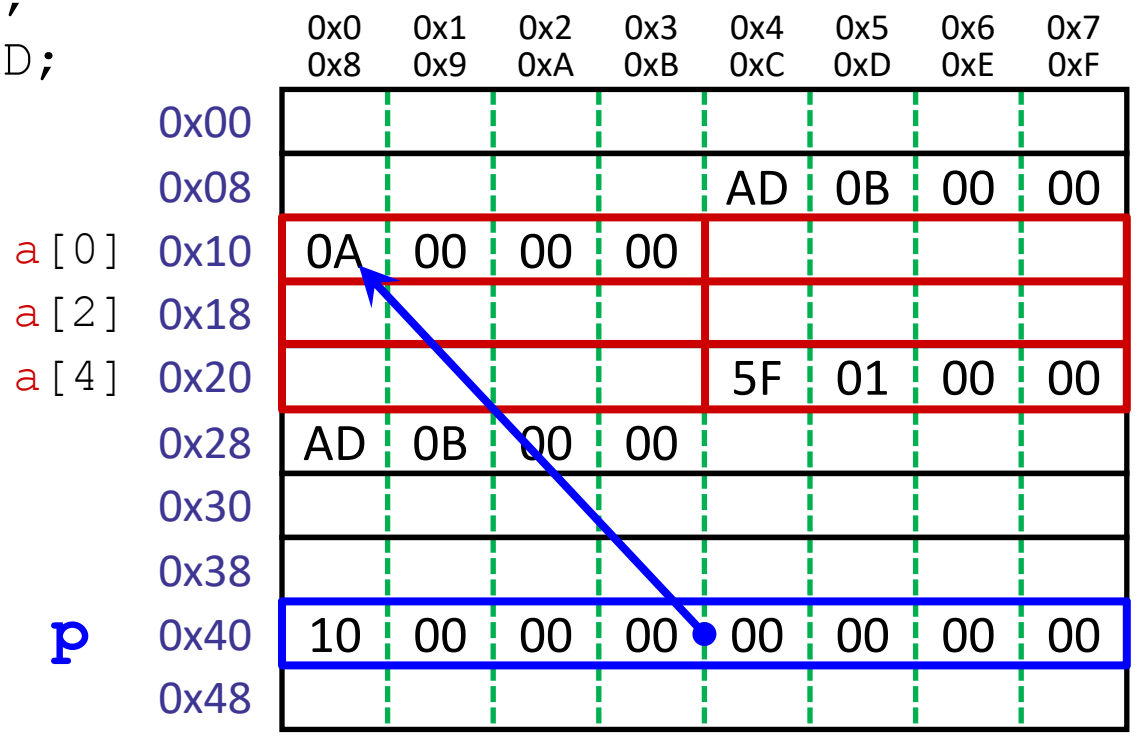
Pointers:
```
int* p;
```

equivalent:
```
p = a;
p = &a[0];
```
```
*p = 0xA;
```



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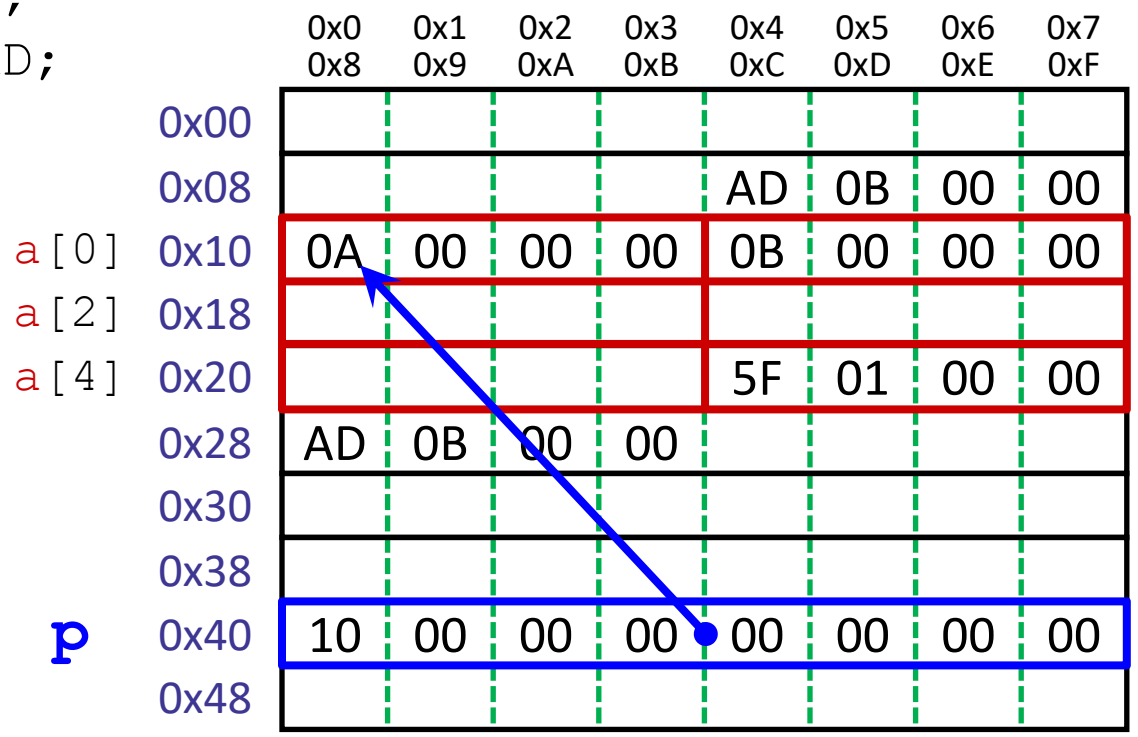
equivalent:
```
p = a;
p = &a[0];
*p = 0xA;
```

array indexing = address arithmetic
(both scaled by the size of the type)

equivalent:
```
p[1] = 0xB;
*(p+1) = 0xB;
p = p + 2;
```



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```
*p = 0xA;
```

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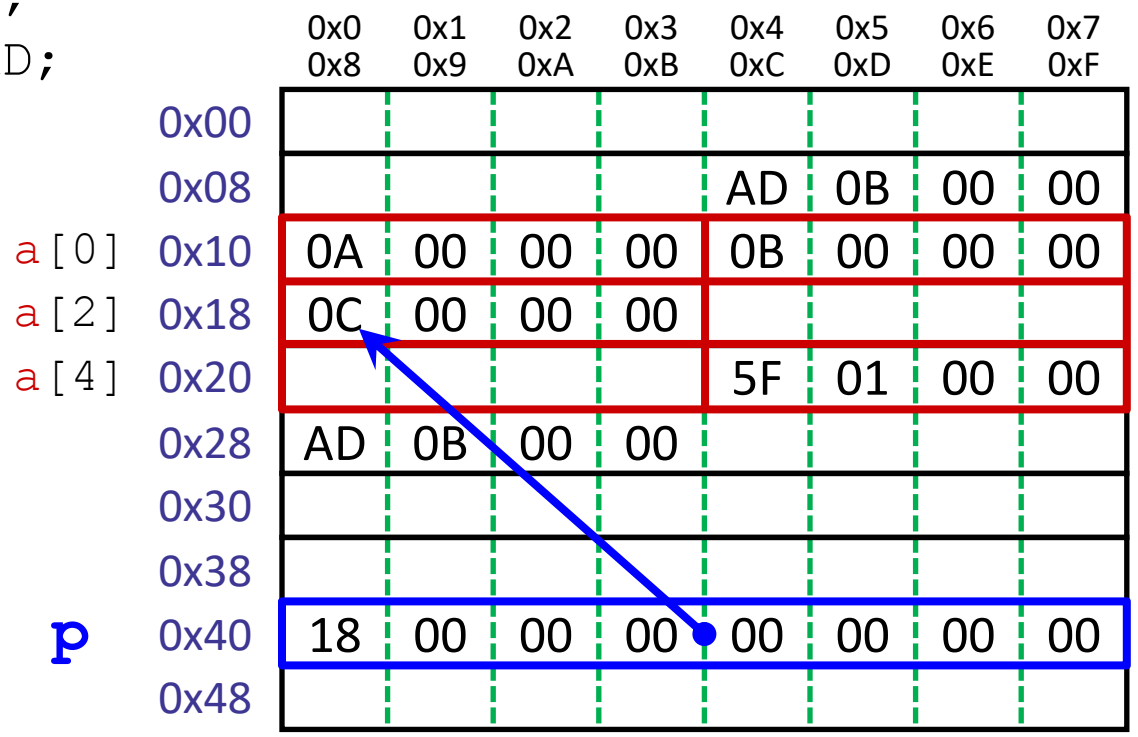
equivalent:
```
p[1] = 0xB;
*(p+1) = 0xB;
```
```
p = p + 2;
```
```
*p = a[1] + 1;
```



Representing strings

- C-style string stored as an array of bytes (**`char*`**)
  - No “String” keyword, unlike Java
  - Elements are one-byte ASCII codes for each character

32	space	48	0	64	@	80	P	96	`	112	p
33	!	49	1	65	A	81	Q	97	a	113	q
34	”	50	2	66	B	82	R	98	b	114	r
35	#	51	3	67	C	83	S	99	c	115	s
36	$	52	4	68	D	84	T	100	d	116	t
37	%	53	5	69	E	85	U	101	e	117	u
38	&	54	6	70	F	86	V	102	f	118	v
39	’	55	7	71	G	87	W	103	g	119	w
40	(	56	8	72	H	88	X	104	h	120	x
41	)	57	9	73	I	89	Y	105	I	121	y
42	*	58	:	74	J	90	Z	106	j	122	z
43	+	59	;	75	K	91	[	107	k	123	{
44	,	60	<	76	L	92	\	108	l	124	|
45	-	61	=	77	M	93	]	109	m	125	}
46	.	62	>	78	N	94	^	110	n	126	~
47	/	63	?	79	O	95	_	111	o	127	del

ASCII: American Standard Code for Information Interchange

Null-Terminated Strings

- **Example:** "Heung-min Son" stored as a 14-byte array

Decimal:	72	101	117	110	103	45	109	105	110	32	83	111	110	0
Hex:	0x48	0x65	0x75	0x6E	0x67	0x2D	0x6D	0x69	0x6E	0x20	0x53	0x6F	0x6E	0x00
Text:	H	e	u	n	g	-	m	i	n		S	o	n	\0

- Last character followed by a 0 byte (`'\0'`)
  (a.k.a. "null terminator")
  - Must take into account when allocating space in memory
  - Note that `'0'` ≠ `'\0'` (*i.e.* character 0 has non-zero value)
- How do we compute the length of a string?
  - Traverse array until null terminator encountered

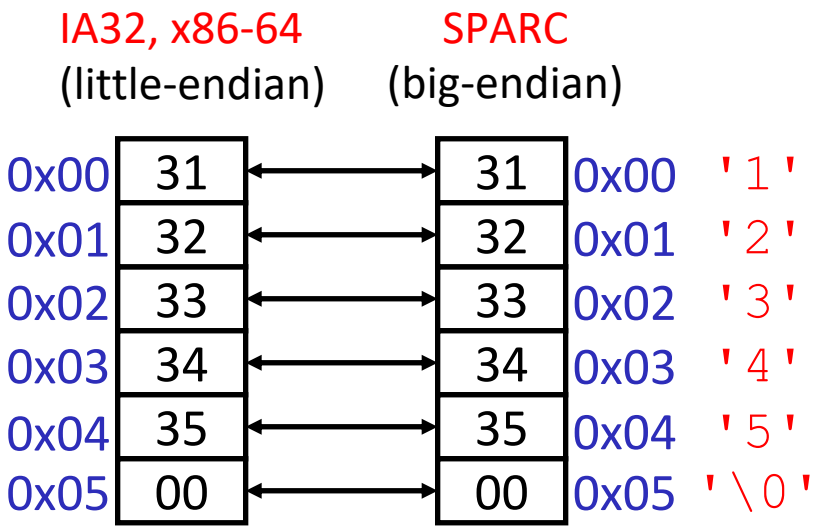
Endianness and Strings

C (char = 1 byte)

```
char s[6] = "12345";
```

String literal

0x31 = 49 decimal = ASCII '1'



- Byte ordering (endianness) is not an issue for 1-byte values
  - The whole array does not constitute a single value
  - Individual elements are values; chars are single bytes

Examining Data Representations

- Code to print byte representation of data
  - Any data type can be treated as a *byte array* by **casting** it to `char`
  - C has unchecked casts !! DANGER !!

```
void show_bytes(char* start, int len) {
    int i;
    for (i = 0; i < len; i++)
        printf("%p\t0x%.2hhX\n", start+i, *(start+i));
    printf("\n");
}
```

`printf` **directives:**

`%p`	Print pointer
`\t`	Tab
`%.2hhx`	Print value as char (hh) in hex (X), padding to 2 digits (.2)
`\n`	New line

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    printf("\n");
}
```

```
void show_int(int x) {
    show_bytes( (char *) &x, sizeof(int));
}
```

show_bytes Execution Example

```
int x = 12345; // 0x00 00 30 39
printf("int x = %d;\n", x);
show_int(x);   // show_bytes((char *) &x, sizeof(int));
```

- Result (Linux x86-64):
  - **Note:** The addresses will change on each run (try it!), but fall in same general range

```
int x = 12345;
0x7fffb7f71dbc      0x39
0x7fffb7f71dbd      0x30
0x7fffb7f71dbe      0x00
0x7fffb7f71dbf      0x00
```

Summary

- Assignment in C results in value being put in memory location
- Pointer is a C representation of a data address
  - `&` = "address of" operator
  - `*` = "value at address" or "dereference" operator
- Pointer arithmetic scales by size of target type
  - Convenient when accessing array-like structures in memory
  - Be careful when using – particularly when *casting* variables
- Arrays are adjacent locations in memory storing the same type of data object
  - Strings are null-terminated arrays of characters (ASCII)