



Lecture 07 Pointers, \*, \*\* and \*\*\*

#### In this lecture

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- Pointer arithmetic •
- Passing a pointer to a function •
- \*\* the address of a \*
- \*\*\* the address of a \*\*
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# Revisiting pointers

A pointer is an address in the memory. Once the address of a memory location is provided to a function, a function can X+4 make changes to the actual content of the location. For example, X=FF

++X=1

int $x=10;$ foo( $\frac{kx}{k}$ );	
where foo is defin	ed as
void foo(int* ptr)	{

N local

(\*ptr)++;

}

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expr 3	eni eptr++).	* phy ++ = 19 StzL
Ò	() T	* ptr = 19 ptr ++;

Will actually increase the value of x by 1. Note that ptr is dereferenced first, that is (\*ptr) before being incremented.

Question: What happens if \*ptr++ is written instead of (\*ptr)++ ?

Statement  $*ptr+r = 1; \iff *ptr=1$ \*+ptr = 1;

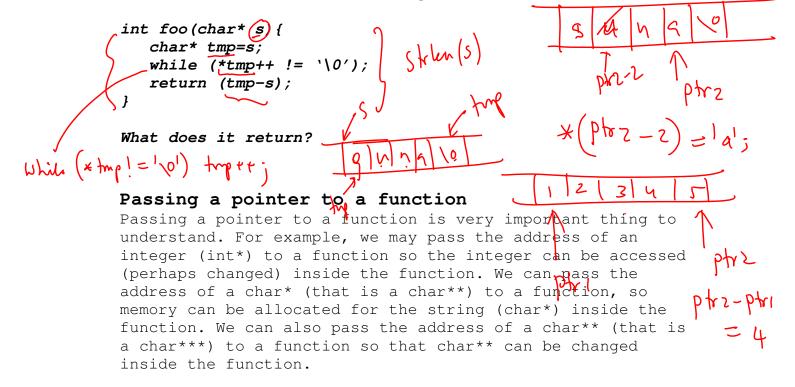
# Pointer Arithmetic

A pointers can be added and subtracted. For example, if ptr1 and ptr2 are pointers (of the same type) then we can define the following.

- Ptrl + n defines the address of a location that is n locations from the ptrl. For example, if ptrl is an int\*, then ptrl+n defines the address of ptrl[n]
- ptr2 n defines the address of a location that is n locations before ptr2. For example, if ptr2 is a char\*, then ptr2-n defines the address of the nth character from ptr2.
- 3. If ptr1 and ptr2 are both int\*'s then ptr2-ptr1 defines the number of integers between ptr1 and ptr2

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Exercise: Consider the following function.



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- hreatin garla int doubleArray(char\*\*\* ptr, int n) { if ((\*ptr=malloc(2\*n\*sizeof(char\*))) != NULL) return 0; return 1; ł Question: This doubles the array that was passed But ther are problems. What are they? 35× bar

More examples from previous notes

#### Example 1

Write a function that takes the name of a file (char\*) that contains ints, an array of ints and the address of a variable count and reads the file into the array. Assume that the array has enough space to hold the file. count should be updated to the number of entries in the file.

## Answer:

```
int foo(char* filename, int A[], int* countptr){
   FILE* fp=NULL;
   int num=0;
   if ((fp=fopen(filename,"r")) != NULL){
     while (fscanf(fp,"%d",&num)>0)
        { A[*countptr]= num;
        *countptr += 1;
        }
     return 0;
   }
   else return 1;
```

Insert Discussion from lecture

## Example 2

Consider the following declaration.

## int\*\* matrix;

Write a function matrixAllocate that takes two integers, m and n and allocate an m by n block of memory.

```
int matrixAllocate(int*** Mptr, int n, int m){
        *Mptr = (int**)malloc(m*sizeof(int*));
        int i=0;
        for (i=0;i<m;i++)
            (*Mptr)[i] = malloc(n*sizeof(int));
}</pre>
```

insert Discussion from lecture

#### Example 3

Write a C function swap that takes the name of a 2D array, num rows, num columns, and two values i and j and swap the two rows i and j. All error checking must be done.

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## Further Readings

See K & R sections 5.7-5.9

# Exercises

[1] Write a function freeAll(char\* A[], int n) that takes an array of char\*'s and delete all memory associated with A

[2] Learn more about valgrind, a tool to check memory leaks. Type: man valgrind