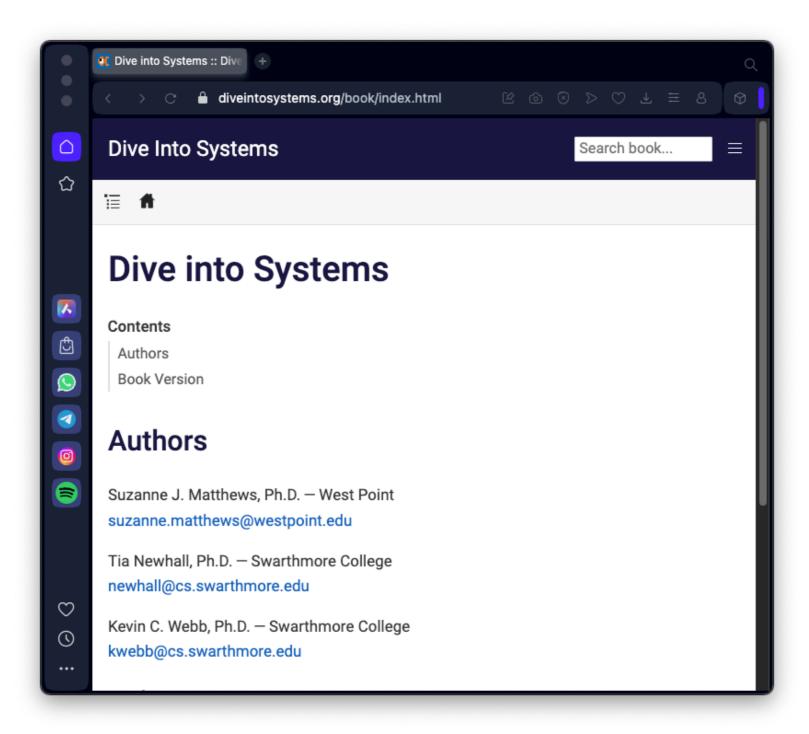
2. A Deeper Dive into C

For COMSC 142

Free online textbook



https://diveintosystems.org/book/index.html

Topics

- 2.1. Parts of Program Memory and Scope
- 2.2. C Pointer Variables
- 2.3. Pointers and Functions
- 2.4. Dynamic Memory Allocation
- 2.5. Arrays in C
- 2.6. Strings and the String Library
- 2.7. Structs
- 2.8. Input / Output in C
- 2.9. Advanced C Features

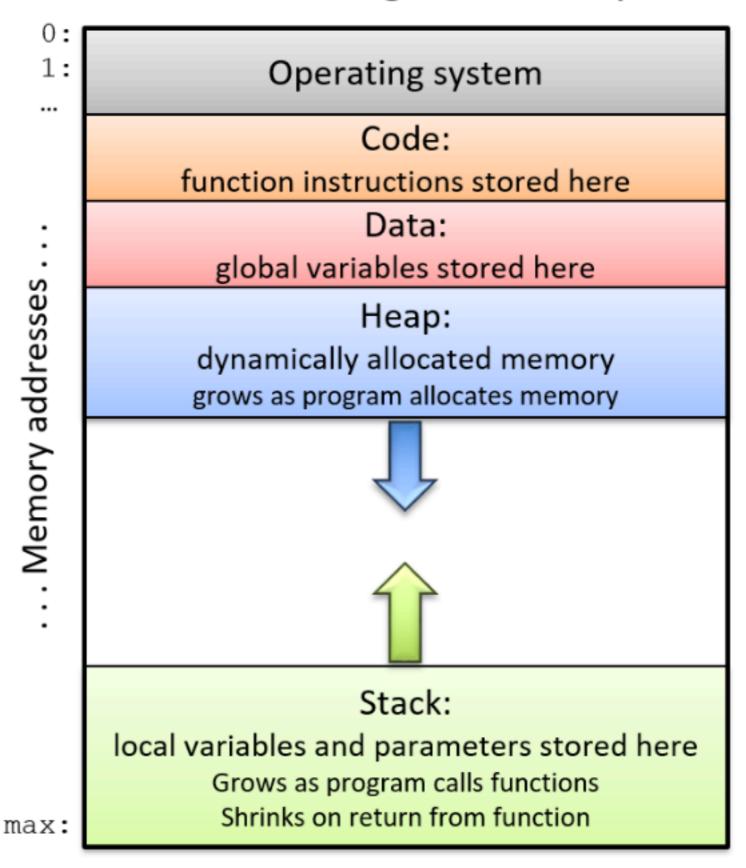


```
/* An example C program with local and global variables */
#include <stdio.h>
int max(int n1, int n2); /* function prototypes */
int change(int amt);
int g_x; /* global variable: declared outside function bodies */
int main(void) {
    int x, result; /* local variables: declared inside function bodies */
   printf("Enter a value: ");
   scanf("%d", &x);
   g_x = 10;  /* global variables can be accessed in any function */
    result = max(g_x, x);
    printf("%d is the largest of %d and %d\n", result, g_x, x);
    result = change(10);
   printf("g_x's value was %d and now is %d\n", result, g_x);
    return 0;
```

```
int max(int n1, int n2) { /* function with two parameters */
   int val; /* local variable */
   val = n1;
   if ( n2 > n1 ) {
      val = n2;
                                          Notice the same local
                                        variable name val used in
   return val;
                                             both functions
int change(int amt) {
   int val;
   val = g_x; /* global variables can be accessed in any function */
   g_x += amt;
   return val;
```

Parts of Program Memory

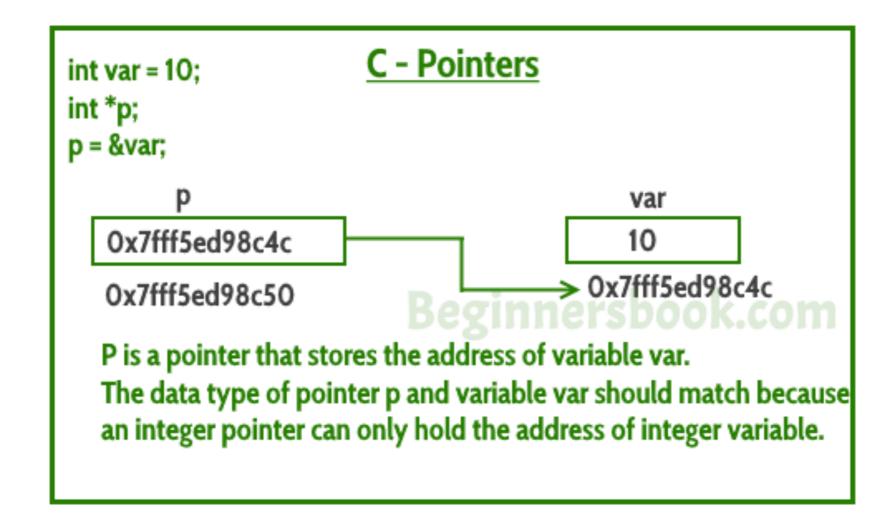
 Local variables and parameters reside on the stack



2.2. C Pointer Variables

Pointers

- Pointer variable contains an address
- Data is stored at that address
- This is called indirection



Declaring and Initializing a Pointer Variable

Declaring

```
1. First, declare a pointer variable using type_name *var_name:

int *ptr; // stores the memory address of an int (ptr "points to" an int)
char *cptr; // stores the memory address of a char (cptr "points to" a char)
```

Initializing

Using NULL

- NULL represents an invalid address
- Null pointers should never be dereferenced

Dereferencing a Pointer Variable

```
int *ptr1, *ptr2, x, y;
x = 8;
ptr2 = &x; // ptr2 is assigned the address of x
ptr1 = NULL;
                         ptr2: addr of x
                                  NULL
```

```
*ptr2 = 10; // the memory location ptr2 points to is assigned 10
y = *ptr2 + 3; // y is assigned what ptr2 points to plus 3
                          ptr2: addr of x
ptr1 = ptr2; // ptr1 gets the address value stored in ptr2 (both point to x)
                         ptr2: addr of x
                         ptr1: addr of x
```

```
*ptr1 = 100;
                         ptr2: addr of x
                         ptr1: addr of x
ptr1 = &y;  // change ptr1's value (change what it points to)
*ptr1 = 80;
                         ptr2: addr of x
                                 addr of y
```

Errors

```
ptr = 20;  // ERROR?: this assigns ptr to point to address 20
ptr = &x;
*ptr = 20;  // CORRECT: this assigns 20 to the memory pointed to by ptr
```

If your program dereferences a pointer variable that does not contain a valid address, the program crashes:

Testing for NULL Pointers

```
if (ptr != NULL) {
    *ptr = 6;
}
```



Ch 2a

2.3. Pointers and Functions

Function to Double a Number

```
    sambowne — debian@debian: ~/COMSC-142 — ssh debian@172.16.123.130 — 61×22
debian@debian:~/COMSC-142$ cat double_number2.c
#include <stdio.h>
int double_number(int * val); /* function prototype */
int main(void) {
  int number = 5;
  printf("Before double_number, number is %d\n", number);
  double_number(&number);
  printf("After double_number, number is %d\n", number);
int double_number(int * val) {
  *val = 2 * *val;
  return 0;
debian@debian:~/COMSC-142$ ./double_number2
Before double_number, number is 5
After double_number, number is 10
debian@debian:~/COMSC-142$
```

Arguments Pass by Value

- C functions get a copy of an argument's value to work with
 - Modifying parameters in a function does not change its argument's value

Function to Double a Number

```
sambowne — debian@debian: ~/COMSC-142 — ssh debian@172.16.123.130 — 61×22
debian@debian:~/COMSC-142$ cat double_number.c
#include <stdio.h>
int double_number(int val); /* function prototype */
int main(void) {
  int number = 5;
  printf("Before double_number, number is %d\n", number);
  double_number(number);
  printf("After double_number, number is %d\n", number);
int double_number(int val) {
  val = 2 * val;
  return 0;
debian@debian:~/COMSC-142$ ./double_number
Before double_number, number is 5
After double_number, number is 5
debian@debian:~/COMSC-142$
```

Pointer Parameters

- Passing a pointer variable to a function
 - Allows the function to modify an argument value

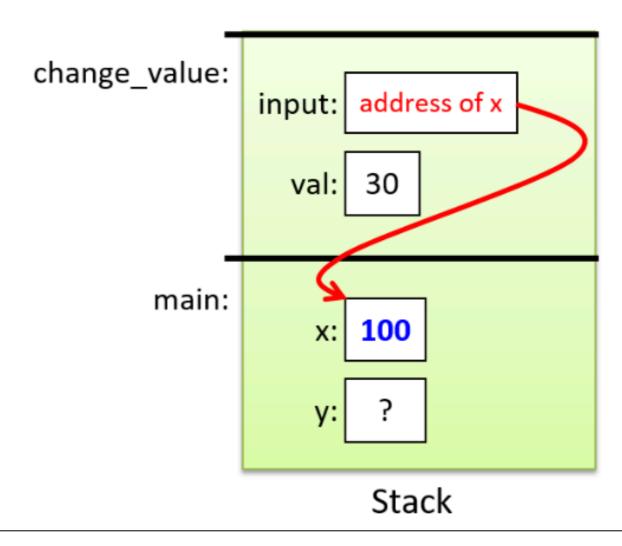
Passing a pointer allows the function to change a value in the calling function

```
#include <stdio.h>
int change_value(int *input);
int main(void) {
   int x;
   int y;
   x = 30:
   y = change_value(&x);
   printf("x: %d y: %d\n", x, y); // prints x: 100 y: 30
   return 0;
 * changes the value of the argument
      input: a pointer to the value to change
      returns: the original value of the argument
int change_value(int *input) {
   int val;
   val = *input; /* val gets the value input points to */
   if (val < 100) {
        *input = 100; /* the value input points to gets 100 */
    } else {
        *input = val * 2;
```

When run, the output is:

x: 100 y: 30

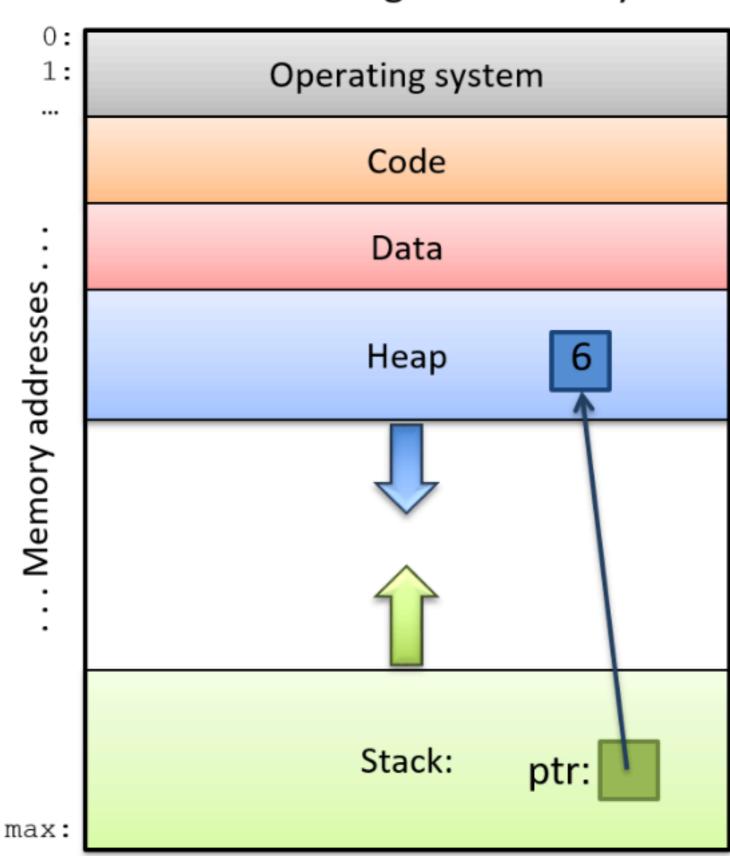
Figure 1 shows what the call stack looks like before executing the return in change_value.



2.4. Dynamic Memory Allocation

Parts of Program Memory

A pointer on the stack points to a block of memory allocated on the heap



malloc and free

- malloc returns a void * type
 - Can point to any type of data

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int main(void) {
    int *p;
   p = malloc(sizeof(int)); // allocate heap memory for storing an int
    if (p != NULL) {
        *p = 6; // the heap memory p points to gets the value 6
```

When malloc Fails

- If there's not enough free heap memory
 - malloc returns a NULL pointer

```
int *p;

p = malloc(sizeof(int));
if (p == NULL) {
    printf("Bad malloc error\n");
    exit(1);  // exit the program and indicate error
}
*p = 6;
```

Freeing Memory

 When a program no longer needs the allocated memory, it should:

free(p);

p = NULL;

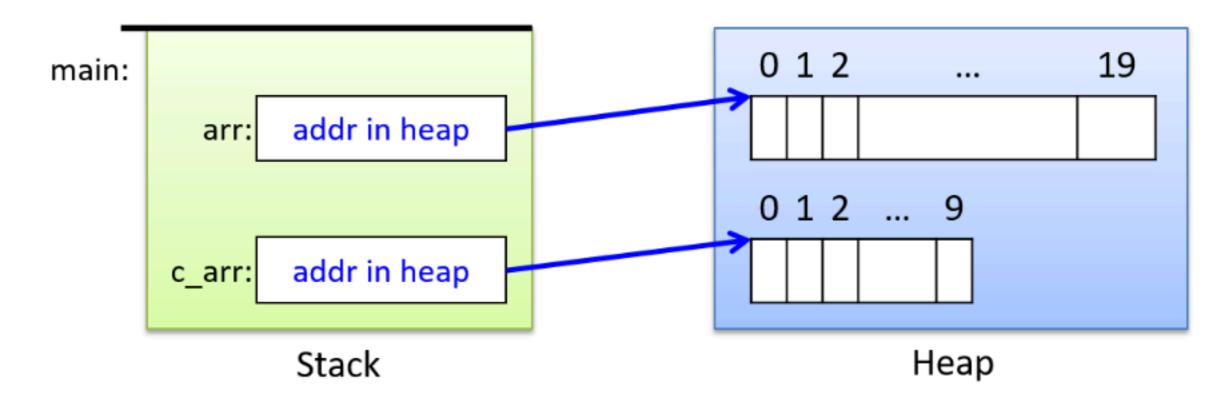
- call free()
- Set the pointer to NULL
- Failing to do this leads to many security problems, including
 - Dangling pointer (aka use-after-free)
 - Double-free

Dynamically Allocated Arrays and Strings

```
int *arr;
char *c_arr;

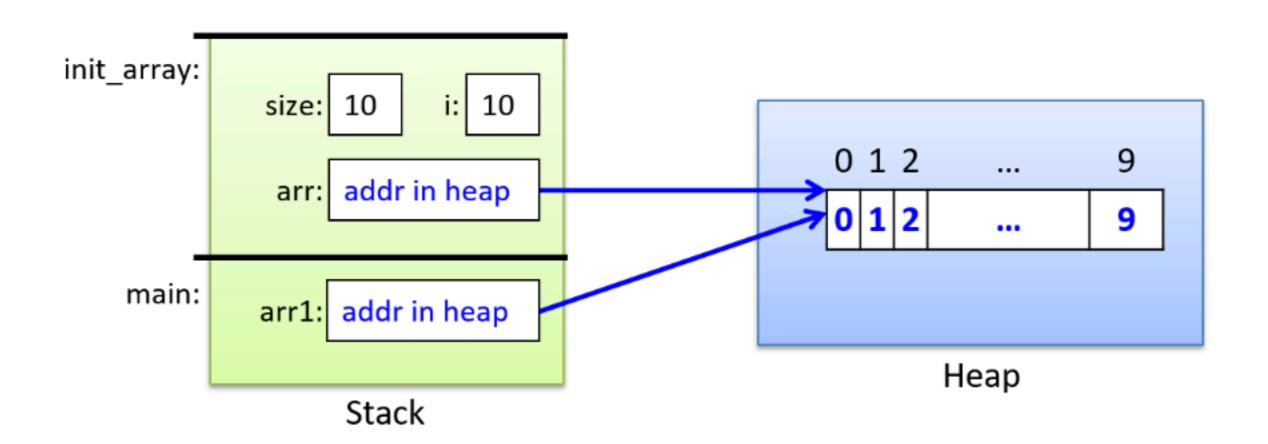
// allocate an array of 20 ints on the heap:
arr = malloc(sizeof(int) * 20);

// allocate an array of 10 chars on the heap:
c_arr = malloc(sizeof(char) * 10);
```



Pointers to Heap Memory and Functions

 If a pointer is passed to a function, it can write to the data on the heap





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2.5. Arrays in C

Statically Allocated Arrays

```
// declare arrays specifying their type and total capacity
float averages[30]; // array of float, 30 elements
char name[20]; // array of char, 20 elements
int i;
// access array elements
for (i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
   averages[i] = 0.0 + i;
   name[i] = 'a' + i;
name[10] = '\0'; // name is being used for storing a C-style string
// prints: 3 d abcdefghij
printf("%g %c %s\n", averages[3], name[3], name);
strcpy(name, "Hello");
printf("%s\n", name); // prints: Hello
```

Dynamically Allocated Arrays

```
// declare a pointer variable to point to allocated heap space
int
       *p_array;
double *d_array;
// call malloc to allocate the appropriate number of bytes for the array
p_array = malloc(sizeof(int) * 50);  // allocate 50 ints
d_array = malloc(sizeof(double) * 100); // allocate 100 doubles
// always CHECK RETURN VALUE of functions and HANDLE ERROR return values
if ( (p_array == NULL) || (d_array == NULL) ) {
    printf("ERROR: malloc failed!\n");
    exit(1);
// use [] notation to access array elements
for (i = 0; i < 50; i++) {
    p_array[i] = 0;
    d_{array}[i] = 0.0;
// free heap space when done using it
free(p_array);
p_array = NULL;
free(d_array);
d_{array} = NULL;
```

Array Memory Layout

```
int iarray[6]; // an array of six ints, each of which is four bytes
char carray[4]; // an array of four chars, each of which is one byte
```

```
array [0]: base address array [1]: next address array [2]: next address ... array [99]: last address
```

```
addr element
1230: iarray[0]
1234: iarray[1]
1238: iarray[2]
1242: iarray[3]
1246: iarray[4]
1250: iarray[5]
1280: carray[0]
1281: carray[1]
1282: carray[2]
1283: carray[3]
```

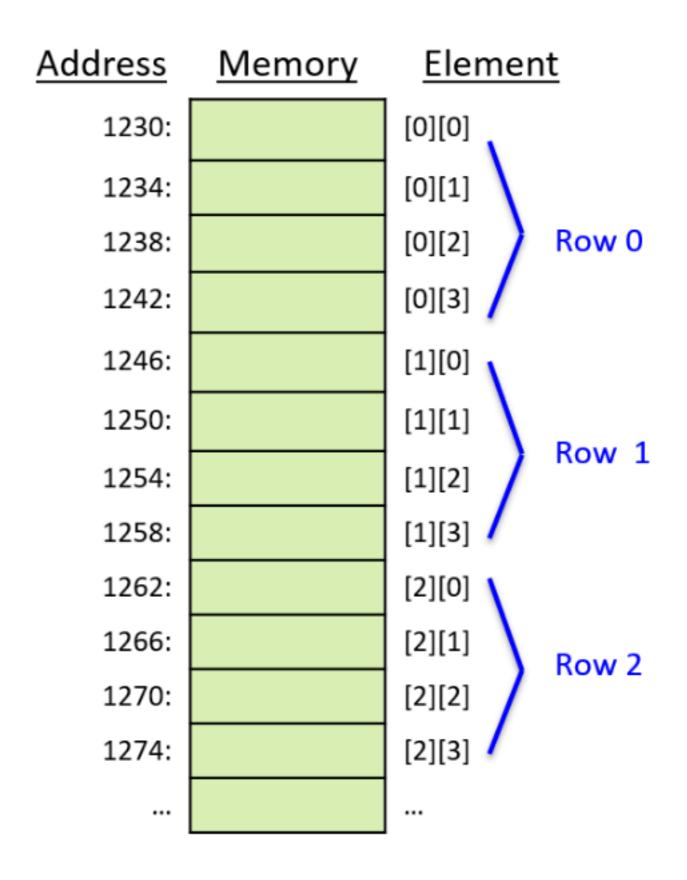
Constants

 Easier to read and update than literal values buried deep in the code

```
#define N 20
int main(void) {
  int array[N]; // an array of 20 ints
  int *d_arr, i;
  // dynamically alloc array of 20 ints
  d_arr = malloc(sizeof(int)*N);
  if(d_arr == NULL) {
    exit(1);
  for(i=0; i < N; i++) {
    array[i] = i;
    d_{arr[i]} = i*2;
```

Two-Dimensional Arrays

int arr[3][4];



2.6. Strings and the String Library

Statically Allocated Strings (Arrays of char)

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h> // include the C string library
int main(void) {
    char str1[10];
    char str2[10];
    str1[0] = 'h';
    str1[1] = 'i';
    str1[2] = '\0'; // explicitly add null terminating character to end
    // strcpy copies the bytes from the source parameter (str1) to the
    // destination parameter (str2) and null terminates the copy.
    strcpy(str2, str1);
    str2[1] = 'o';
    printf("%s %s\n", str1, str2); // prints: hi ho
    return 0;
```

C String Functions and Destination Memory

- strcpy, strcat, and many other string functions
 - Simply start writing at a string pointer
 - and write as many bytes as needed,
 - followed by a NULL byte
- They don't check to make sure enough room was reserved for the string
- That is the programmer's responsibility
- This leads to buffer overflows

strlen, strcpy, strncpy

strncpy is safer than strcpy

```
// returns the number of characters in the string (not including the null character)
int strlen(char *s);
// copies string src to string dst up until the first '\0' character in src
// (the caller needs to make sure src is initialized correctly and
// dst has enough space to store a copy of the src string)
// returns the address of the dst string
char *strcpy(char *dst, char *src);
// like strcpy but copies up to the first '\0' or size characters
// (this provides some safety to not copy beyond the bounds of the dst
// array if the src string is not well formed or is longer than the
// space available in the dst array); size_t is an unsigned integer type
char *strncpy(char *dst, char *src, size_t size);
```

```
int len, i, ret;
char str[32];
char *d_str, *ptr;
strcpy(str, "Hello There");
len = strlen(str); // len is 11
d_str = malloc(sizeof(char) * (len+1));
if (d_str == NULL) {
   printf("Error: malloc failed\n");
   exit(1);
}
strncpy(d_str, str, 5);
d_str[5] = '\0'; // explicitly add null terminating character to end
printf("%d:%s\n", strlen(str), str);  // prints 11:Hello There
printf("%d:%s\n", strlen(d_str), d_str); // prints 5:Hello
free(d_str);
```

strlcpy

 Only available in newer versions of Linux's GNU C library

```
// like strncpy but copies up to the first '\0' or size-1 characters
// and null terminates the dest string (if size > 0).
char *strlcpy(char *dest, char *src, size_t size);
```

strcmp, strncmp

- Comparing string variables using the == operator does not compare the characters in the strings
 - it compares only the base addresses of the two strings

```
int strcmp(char *s1, char *s2);
// returns 0 if s1 and s2 are the same strings
// a value < 0 if s1 is less than s2
// a value > 0 if s1 is greater than s2

int strncmp(char *s1, char *s2, size_t n);
// compare s1 and s2 up to at most n characters
```

Strcmp Example

```
strcpy(str, "alligator");
strcpy(d_str, "Zebra");

ret = strcmp(str,d_str);
if (ret == 0) {
    printf("%s is equal to %s\n", str, d_str);
} else if (ret < 0) {
    printf("%s is less than %s\n", str, d_str);
} else {
    printf("%s is greater than %s\n", str, d_str); // true for these strings
}

ret = strncmp(str, "all", 3); // returns 0: they are equal up to first 3 chars</pre>
```

strcat and strncat

```
// append chars from src to end of dst
// returns ptr to dst and adds '\0' to end
char *strcat(char *dst, char *src)

// append the first chars from src to end of dst, up to a maximum of size
// returns ptr to dst and adds '\0' to end
char *strncat(char *dst, char *src, size_t size);
```

strstr and strchr

```
// locate a substring inside a string
// (const means that the function doesn't modify string)
// returns a pointer to the beginning of substr in string
// returns NULL if substr not in string
char *strstr(const char *string, char *substr);

// locate a character (c) in the passed string (s)
// (const means that the function doesn't modify s)
// returns a pointer to the first occurrence of the char c in string
// or NULL if c is not in the string
char *strchr(const char *s, int c);
```

sprintf

Prints to a string

```
char str[64];
float ave = 76.8;
int num = 2;

// initialize str to format string, filling in each placeholder with
// a char representation of its arguments' values
sprintf(str, "%s is %d years old and in grade %d", "Henry", 12, 7);
printf("%s\n", str); // prints: Henry is 12 years old and in grade 7

sprintf(str, "The average grade on exam %d is %g", num, ave);
printf("%s\n", str); // prints: The average grade on exam 2 is 76.8
```

Functions for Individual Character Values

```
#include <stdlib.h> // include stdlib and ctypes to use these
#include <ctype.h>
int islower(ch);
int isupper(ch);  // these functions return a non-zero value if the
int isalpha(ch);
                     // test is TRUE, otherwise they return 0 (FALSE)
int isdigit(ch);
int isalnum(ch);
int ispunct(ch);
int isspace(ch);
char tolower(ch);
                 // returns ASCII value of lower-case of argument
char toupper(ch);
```

Functions to Convert Strings to Other Types

```
#include <stdlib.h>
int atoi(const char *nptr);  // convert a string to an integer
double atof(const char *nptr);  // convert a string to a float
```

```
printf("%d %g\n", atoi("1234"), atof("4.56"));
```



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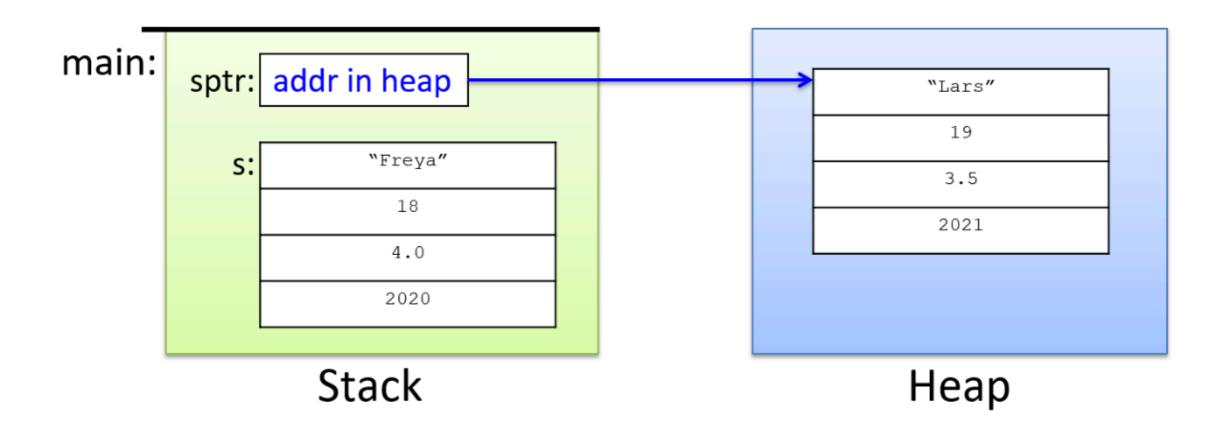
2.7. Structs

The C struct Type

```
/* define a new struct type (outside function bodies) */
struct studentT {
   char name[64];
   int age;
   float gpa;
   int grad_yr;
};
```

```
// access field values using .
strcpy(student1.name, "Ruth");
student1.age = 17;
student1.gpa = 3.5;
student1.grad_yr = 2021;
```

structs on the Stack and the Heap



2.8. Input / Output in C

Standard Input/Output

stdin

- Standard input
- scanf() reads from stdin
 - The user on the keyboard

stdout

- Standard output
- printf() writes to stdout
 - The monitor

stderr

Standard error

Input and Output Redirection

From a shell (not C code)

```
# redirect a.out's stdin to read from file infile.txt:
$ ./a.out < infile.txt</pre>
# redirect a.out's stdout to print to file outfile.txt:
$ ./a.out > outfile.txt
# redirect a.out's stdout and stderr to a file out.txt
$ ./a.out &> outfile.txt
# redirect all three to different files:
# (< redirects stdin, 1> stdout, and 2> stderr):
$ ./a.out < infile.txt 1> outfile.txt 2> errorfile.txt
```

Another Way

1. Redirect stdout to one file and stderr to another file:

```
command > out 2>error
```

2. Redirect stdout to a file (>out), and then redirect stderr to stdout (2>&1):

```
command >out 2>&1
```

3. Redirect both to a file (this isn't supported by all shells, bash and zsh support it, for example, but sh and ksh do not):

```
command &> out
```

printf

```
int x = 5, y = 10;
float pi = 3.14;

printf("x is %d and y is %d\n", x, y);

printf("%g \t %s \t %d\n", pi, "hello", y);
```

When run, these printf statements output:

```
x is 5 and y is 10
3.14 hello 10
```

Formatting Placeholders

```
%f, %g: placeholders for a float or double value
       placeholder for a decimal value (char, short, int)
%d:
       placeholder for an unsigned decimal
%u:
%c:
       placeholder for a single character
%s: placeholder for a string value
       placeholder to print an address value
%p:
%ld:
       placeholder for a long value
%lu:
       placeholder for an unsigned long value
%11d:
      placeholder for a long long value
%llu:
       placeholder for an unsigned long long value
```

Number Representations

```
%x: print value in hexadecimal (base 16)
%o: print value in octal (base 8)
%d: print value in signed decimal (base 10)
%u: print value in unsigned decimal (unsigned base 10)
%e: print float or double in scientific notation
(there is no formatting option to display a value in binary)
```

scanf

- Reads data from stdin
- Input values must be separated by whitespace

```
int x;
float pi;

// read in an int value followed by a float value ("%d%g")

// store the int value at the memory location of x (&x)

// store the float value at the memory location of pi (&pi)
scanf("%d%g", &x, &pi);
```

getchar and putchar

Read or write a single character

```
ch = getchar(); // read in the next char value from stdin
putchar(ch); // write the value of ch to stdout
```

```
1. Declare a FILE * variable:
    FILE *infile;
    FILE *outfile;
```

2. Open the file: associate the variable with an actual file stream by calling fopen. When opening a file, the mode parameter determines whether the program opens it for reading ("r"), writing ("w"), or appending ("a"):

```
infile = fopen("input.txt", "r"); // relative path name of file, read mode
if (infile == NULL) {
    printf("Error: unable to open file %s\n", "input.txt");
    exit(1);
}

// fopen with absolute path name of file, write mode
outfile = fopen("/home/me/output.txt", "w");
if (outfile == NULL) {
    printf("Error: unable to open outfile\n");
    exit(1);
}
```

3. Use I/O operations to read, write, or move the current position in the file:

```
4. Close the file:
    fclose(infile);
    fclose(outfile);
```

```
// Character Based
// returns the next character in the file stream (EOF is an int value)
int fgetc(FILE *f);
// writes the char value c to the file stream f
// returns the char value written
int fputc(int c, FILE *f);
// pushes the character c back onto the file stream
// at most one char (and not EOF) can be pushed back
int ungetc(int c, FILE *f);
// like fgetc and fputc but for stdin and stdout
int getchar();
int putchar(int c);
```

```
// ------
// String Based
// ------
// reads at most n-1 characters into the array s stopping if a newline is
// encountered, newline is included in the array which is '\0' terminated
char *fgets(char *s, int n, FILE *f);

// writes the string s (make sure '\0' terminated) to the file stream f
int fputs(char *s, FILE *f);
```

```
// Formatted
// writes the contents of the format string to file stream f
     (with placeholders filled in with subsequent argument values)
// returns the number of characters printed
int fprintf(FILE *f, char *format, ...);
// like fprintf but to stdout
int printf(char *format, ...);
// use fprintf to print stderr:
fprintf(stderr, "Error return value: %d\n", ret);
```

File Input/Output

```
// read values specified in the format string from file stream f
// store the read-in values to program storage locations of types
// matching the format string
// returns number of input items converted and assigned
// or EOF on error or if EOF was reached
int fscanf(FILE *f, char *format, ...);
// like fscanf but reads from stdin
int scanf(char *format, ...);
```

Format String for fscanf

```
%d integer
%f float
%lf double
%c character
%s string, up to first white space

%[...] string, up to first character not in brackets
%[0123456789] would read in digits
%[^...] string, up to first character in brackets
%[^\n] would read everything up to a newline
```

2.9. Advanced C Features

2.9.2. Command Line Arguments

Use argc and argv to refer to command-line arguments

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) { ...
```

- argc counts all items on the command line
- If a user enters:

```
./a.out 10 11 200
```

• argc will be 4

2.9.2. Command Line Arguments

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) { ...
```

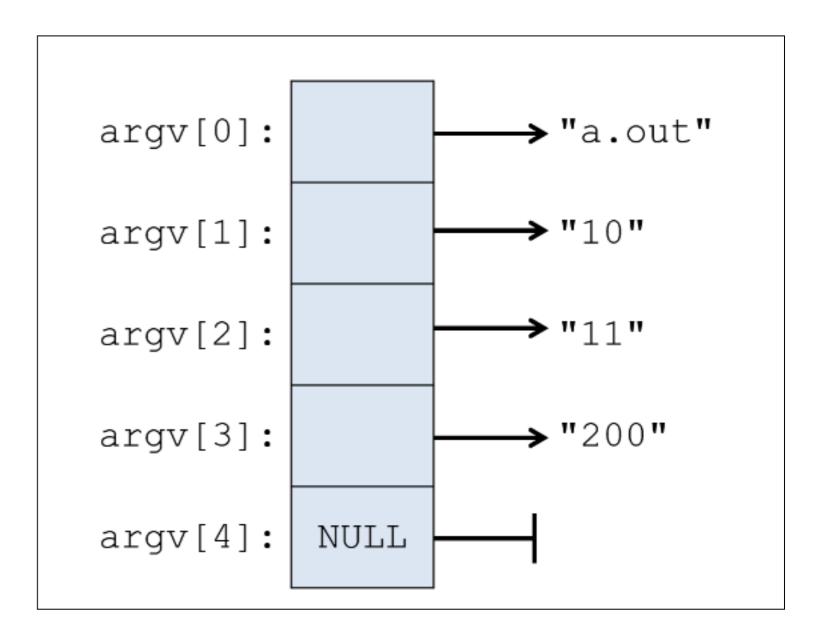
- argv is the argument vector
 - Contains the value of every argument
 - Followed by a NULL
 - A total of argc + 1 elements

2.9.2. Command Line Arguments

If a user enters:

./a.out 10 11 200

- argv will have these elements
- They are string type



Converting Data Types

```
#include <stdlib.h>
int atoi(const char *nptr); // convert a string to an integer
double atof(const char *nptr); // convert a string to a float
```

```
int x;
x = atoi(argv[1]); // x gets the int value 10
```

2.9.4. Pointer Arithmetic

```
#define N 10
#define M 20

int main(void) {
    // array declarations:
    char letters[N];
    int numbers[N], i, j;
    int matrix[N][M];

    // declare pointer variables that will access int or char array elements
    // using pointer arithmetic (the pointer type must match array element type)
    char *cptr = NULL;
    int *iptr = NULL;
    ...
```

```
// make the pointer point to the first element in the array
cptr = &(letters[0]); // &(letters[0]) is the address of element 0
iptr = numbers; // the address of element 0 (numbers is &(numbers[0]))
```

Pointer Arithmetic

```
// initialized letters and numbers arrays through pointer variables
for (i = 0; i < N; i++) {
    // dereference each pointer and update the element it currently points to
    *cptr = 'a' + i;
    *iptr = i * 3;

// use pointer arithmetic to set each pointer to point to the next element
    cptr++; // cptr points to the next char address (next element of letters)
    iptr++; // iptr points to the next int address (next element of numbers)
}</pre>
```

Pointer Arithmetic

```
printf("\n array values using indexing to access: \n");
// see what the code above did:
for (i = 0; i < N; i++) {
    printf("letters[%d] = %c, numbers[%d] = %d\n",
           i, letters[i], i, numbers[i]);
// we could also use pointer arith to print these out:
printf("\n array values using pointer arith to access: \n");
// first: initialize pointers to base address of arrays:
cptr = letters; // letters == &letters[0]
iptr = numbers;
for (i = 0; i < N; i++) {
    // dereference pointers to access array element values
    printf("letters[%d] = %c, numbers[%d] = %d\n",
            i, *cptr, i, *iptr);
    // increment pointers to point to the next element
    cptr++;
    iptr++;
```

Pointer Arithmetic

```
array values using indexing to access:
letters[0] = a, numbers[0] = 0
letters[1] = b, numbers[1] = 3
letters[2] = c, numbers[2] = 6
letters[3] = d, numbers[3] = 9
letters[4] = e, numbers[4] = 12
letters[5] = f, numbers[5] = 15
letters[6] = q, numbers[6] = 18
letters[7] = h, numbers[7] = 21
letters[8] = i, numbers[8] = 24
letters[9] = j, numbers[9] = 27
 array values using pointer arith to access:
letters[0] = a, numbers[0] = 0
letters[1] = b, numbers[1] = 3
letters[2] = c, numbers[2] = 6
letters[3] = d, numbers[3] = 9
letters[4] = e, numbers[4] = 12
letters[5] = f, numbers[5] = 15
letters[6] = g, numbers[6] = 18
letters[7] = h, numbers[7] = 21
letters[8] = i, numbers[8] = 24
letters[9] = j, numbers[9] = 27
```



Ch 2d