CS61C : Machine Structures

Lecture #5: Strings & Structs

2006-07-03
Andy Carle
Review: Arrays

• Arrays are (almost) identical to pointers
  • char *string and char string[] are nearly identical declarations
    - They differ in subtle ways: incrementing, declaration of filled arrays
    - Key Difference: an array variable is a CONSTANT pointer to the first element.

• ar[i] ↔ *(ar+i)
Review: Arrays and Pointers

• Array size $n$; want to access from 0 to $n-1$:

Array Indexing Versions:

```c
#define ARSIZE 10
int ar[ARSIZE];
int i=0, sum = 0;

...  
while (i < ARSIZE)  
   sum += ar[i++];

or

while (i < ARSIZE)  
   sum += *(ar + i++);
```

Pointer Indexing Version:

```c
#define ARSIZE 10
int ar[ARSIZE];
int *p = ar, *q = &ar[10]*;
int sum = 0;

...  
while (p < q)  
   sum += *p++;
```

* C allows 1 past end of array!
Review: Common C Errors

• There is a difference between assignment and equality
  • \texttt{a = b} is assignment
  • \texttt{a == b} is an equality test

• This is one of the most common errors for beginning C programmers!

• Precedence Rules
  • \texttt{int **a = {{1, 2}, {3, 4}}}
  • \texttt{*a[1]++; \quad ([ ] > *)}
Topic Outline

• Strings
• Handles
• Structs
• Heap Allocation Intro
• Linked List Example
C Strings (1/3)

• A **string** in C is just an array of characters.

```
char string[] = "abc";
```

• How do you tell how long a string is?

  • Last character is followed by a 0 byte (null terminator)
  ```
  int strlen(char s[])
  {
    int n = 0;
    while (s[n] != 0) n++; /* \0 */
    return n;
  }
  ```
C Strings Headaches (2/3)

• One common mistake is to forget to allocate an extra byte for the null terminator.

• More generally, C requires the programmer to manage memory manually (unlike Java or C++).
  • When creating a long string by concatenating several smaller strings, the programmer must insure there is enough space to store the full string!
  • What if you don’t know ahead of time how big your string will be?

• String constants are immutable:
  • char *f = “abc”; f[0]++; /* illegal */
    - Because section of mem where “abc” lives is immutable.
  • char f[ ] = “abc”; f[0]++; /* Works! */
    - Because, in declaration, c copies abc into space allocated for f.
C String Standard Functions (3/3)

- `int strlen(char *string);`
  - compute the length of string

- `int strcmp(char *str1, char *str2);`
  - return 0 if `str1` and `str2` are identical (how is this different from `str1 == str2`?)

`char *strcpy(char *dst, char *src);`
- copy the contents of string `src` to the memory at `dst` and return `dst`. The caller must ensure that `dst` has enough memory to hold the data to be copied.
Pointers to pointers (1/4) ...review...

• Sometimes you want to have a procedure increment a variable?

• What gets printed?

```c
void AddOne(int x) {
    x = x + 1;
}

int y = 5;
AddOne(y);
printf("y = %d\n", y);
```
Pointers to pointers (2/4)  …review…

• Solved by passing in a pointed to our subroutine.

• Now what gets printed?

```c
void AddOne(int *p) {
    *p = *p + 1;
}

int y = 5;
AddOne(&y);
printf("y = %d\n", y);
```
Pointers to pointers (3/4)

• But what if what you want changed is a pointer?

• What gets printed?

```c
void IncrementPtr(int *p)
{
    p = p + 1;
}

int A[3] = {50, 60, 70};
int *q = A;
IncrementPtr( q);
printf("*q = %d\n", *q);
```
Pointers to pointers (4/4)

- Solution! Pass a pointer to a pointer, called a handle, declared as **h

- Now what gets printed?

```c
void IncrementPtr(int **h)
{
    *h = *h + 1;
}

int A[3] = {50, 60, 70};
int *q = A;
IncrementPtr(&q);
printf("*q = %d\n", *q);
```

```
A q  q
50 60 70
```
A `struct` is a data structure composed of simpler data types.

- Somewhat like a class in Java/C++ but without methods or inheritance. Don’t get hung up on this comparison.

```c
struct point {
    int x;
    int y;
};
void PrintPoint(struct point p) {
    printf("(%d,%d)\n", p.x, p.y);
}
```
The C arrow operator (\texttt{->}) dereferences and extracts a structure field with a single operator.

The following are equivalent:

```c
struct point *p;

printf(“x is %d\n”, (*p).x);
printf(“x is %d\n”, p->x);
```
How big are structs? (3/3)

- C operator `sizeof()` which gives size in bytes (of type or variable)

- How big is `sizeof(p)`?

```c
struct p {
    char x;
    int y;
};
```

5 bytes? 8 bytes?
Compiler may word align integer y
Dynamic Memory Allocation (1/4)

• C has operator `sizeof()` which gives size in bytes (of type or variable)

• Assuming the size of objects can be misleading & is bad style, so use `sizeof(type)`
  • Many years ago an `int` was 16 bits, and programs assumed it was 2 bytes
Dynamic Memory Allocation (2/4)

• To allocate room for something new to point to, use `malloc()` (with the help of a typecast and `sizeof`):

```c
ptr = (int *) malloc (sizeof(int));
```

  • Now, `ptr` points to a space somewhere in memory of size `sizeof(int)` in bytes.
  • `(int *)` simply tells the compiler what will go into that space (called a typecast).

• `malloc` is almost never used for 1 var

```c
ptr = (int *) malloc (n*sizeof(int));
```

  • This allocates an array of `n` integers.
Dynamic Memory Allocation (3/4)

• Once `malloc()` is called, the memory location **might contain anything**, so don’t use it until you’ve set its value.

• After dynamically allocating space, we must dynamically free it:

  ```c
  free(ptr);
  ```

• Use this command to clean up.
  • OS keeps track of size to free.
Dynamic Memory Allocation (4/4)

• Malloc does not always succeed.
  • System could be out of memory
  • An error occurred during the memory request
  • Operating system just doesn’t like you today...

• Always check the pointer you get back to make sure it is not NULL.
  • int *p;
    if ((p = (int*) malloc(10 * sizeof(int))) == NULL) {
      /*do something to recover */
    }
  }
Administrivia

• Holiday Tomorrow!
  • No Lecture
  • No Lab
  • Yes Fireworks
  • Yes Potato Salad

• HW1 Due Yesterday

• HW2 Due Wednesday

• HW3 Out Today, Due Sunday

• Project 1 Out Soon
Binky Pointer Video (thanks to NP @ SU)
Linked List Example

• Let’s look at an example of using structures, pointers, `malloc()`, and `free()` to implement a linked list of strings.

```c
struct Node {
    char *value;
    struct Node *next;
};
typedef Node *List;

/* Create a new (empty) list */
List ListNew(void) {
    return NULL;
}
```
/* add a string to an existing list */
List list_add(List list, char *string)
{
    struct Node *node =
        (struct Node*) malloc(sizeof(struct Node));
    node->value =
        (char*) malloc(strlen(string) + 1);
    strcpy(node->value, string);
    node->next = list;
    return node;
}
/* add a string to an existing list */
List list_add(List list, char *string)
{
    struct Node *node =
        (struct Node*) malloc(sizeof(struct Node));
    node->value =
        (char*) malloc(strlen(string) + 1);
    strcpy(node->value, string);
    node->next = list;
    return node;
}
/* add a string to an existing list */
List list_add(List list, char *string) {
    struct Node *node =
        (struct Node*) malloc(sizeof(struct Node));
    node->value =
        (char*) malloc(strlen(string) + 1);
    strcpy(node->value, string);
    node->next = list;
    return node;
}
/* add a string to an existing list */
List list_add(List list, char *string)
{
    struct Node *node =
        (struct Node*) malloc(sizeof(struct Node));
    node->value =
        (char*) malloc(strlen(string) + 1);
    strcpy(node->value, string);
    node->next = list;
    return node;
}

node:                list:
          ?          ...          ...
   "abc"  →          NULL

string:              string:
    "abc"  →
/* add a string to an existing list */
List list_add(List list, char *string)
{
    struct Node *node =
        (struct Node*) malloc(sizeof(struct Node));
    node->value =
        (char*) malloc(strlen(string) + 1);
    strcpy(node->value, string);
    node->next = list;
    return node;
}
/* add a string to an existing list */
List list_add(List list, char *string)
{
    struct Node *node =
        (struct Node*) malloc(sizeof(struct Node));
    node->value =
        (char*) malloc(strlen(string) + 1);
    strcpy(node->value, string);
    node->next = list;
    return node;
}

node:

```
... abc ...
    ...
    NULL
```

“abc”
“And in Conclusion…”

- Use handles to change pointers
- Create abstractions with structures
- Dynamically allocated heap memory must be manually deallocated in C.
  - Use `malloc()` and `free()` to allocate and deallocate memory from heap.
  - What is the heap? Wednesday’s subject!