CS 61C: Great Ideas in Computer Architecture

C Arrays, Strings, More Pointers

Instructor: Justin Hsia

Review of Last Lecture

- C Basics
  - Variables, Functions, Flow Control, Types, and Structs
  - Only 0 and NULL evaluate to FALSE
- Pointers hold addresses
  - Address vs. Value
  - Allow for efficient code, but prone to errors
- C functions "pass by value"
  - Passing pointers circumvents this

Struct Clarification

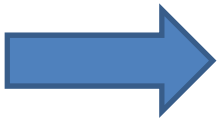
- Structure definition:
  - Does NOT declare a variable
  - Variable type is "struct name"

```
struct name {
    /* fields */
};
```

```
struct name name1, *pn, name_ar[3];
```

- Joint struct definition and typedef
  - Don't need to name struct in this case

```
struct nm {
    /* fields */
};
typedef struct nm name;
name n1;
```



```
typedef struct {
    /* fields */
} name;
name n1;
```

Question: What is the result from executing the following code?

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
   int *p;
   *p = 5;
   printf("%d\n",*p);
}
```

(A) Prints 5

(B) Prints garbage

(C) Always crashes

(D) Almost always crashes

Great Idea #1: Levels of Representation/Interpretation

Higher-Level Language Program (e.g. C)

```
temp = v[k];
v[k] = v[k+1];
v[k+1] = temp;
```

We are here

Compiler

Assembly Language Program (e.g. MIPS)

```
lw    $t0, 0($2)
lw    $t1, 4($2)
sw    $t1, 0($2)
sw    $t0, 4($2)
```

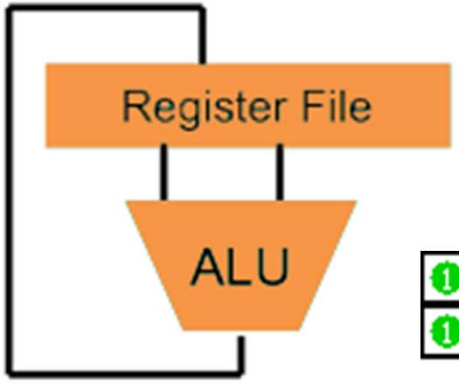
Assembler

Machine Language Program (MIPS)

```
0000 1001 1100 0110 1010 1111 0101 1000
1010 1111 0101 1000 0000 1001 1100 0110
1100 0110 1010 1111 0101 1000 0000 1001
0101 1000 0000 1001 1100 0110 1010 1111
```

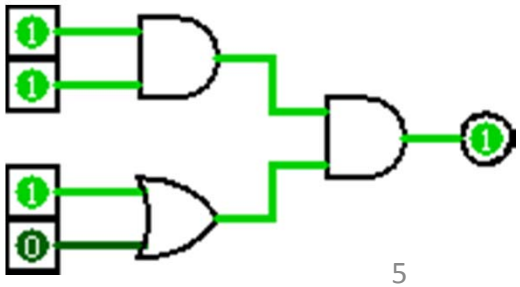
Machine Interpretation

Hardware Architecture Description (e.g. block diagrams)



Architecture Implementation

Logic Circuit Description (Circuit Schematic Diagrams)



Agenda

- Miscellaneous C Syntax
- Arrays
- Administrivia
- Strings
- More Pointers
  - Pointer Arithmetic
  - Pointer Misc

Assignment and Equality

- One of the most common errors for beginning C programmers

  `a = b` is *assignment*
  `a == b` is *equality test*

- When comparing with a constant, can avoid this by putting the variable on the right!
  - `if (3 == a) { ... }` ← Correct
  - `if (3 = a) { ... }` ← Won't compile
- Comparisons use assigned value
  - `if (a=b)` is true if `a≠0` after assignment (`b≠0`)

Operator Precedence

Operators	Associativity
`() [] -> .`	left to right
`! ~ ++ -- + - * (type) sizeof`	right to left
`* / %`	left to right
`+ -`	left to right
`<< >>`	left to right
`< <= > >=`	left to right
`== !=`	left to right
`&`	left to right
`^`	left to right
`|`	left to right
`&&`	left to right
`||`	left to right
`?:`	right to left
`= += -= *= /= %= &= ^= |= <<= >>=`	right to left
`,`	left to right

Operator Precedence

For precedence/order of execution, see Table 2-1 on p. 53 of K&R

- Use parentheses to manipulate
- Equality test (`==`) binds more tightly than logic (`&`, `|`, `&&`, `||`)
  - `x&1==0` means `x&(1==0)` instead of `(x&1)==0`
- Pre-increment (++p) takes effect *immediately*
- Post-increment (p++) takes effect *last*

Increment and Dereference

- Dereference operator (`*`) and in/decrement operators are same level of precedence and are applied from *right to left*

`*p++` returns `*p`, then increments `p`
  - `++` binds to `p` before `*`, but takes effect last

`*--p` decrements `p`, returns val at that addr
  - `--` binds to `p` before `*` and takes effect first

`++*p` increments `*p` and returns that val
  - `*` binds first (get val), then increment immediately

`(*p)--` returns `*p`, then decrements in mem
  - Post-decrement happens last

Question: What is the output of the following code?

```
char blocks[] = {'6','1','C'};
char *ptr = blocks, temp;
temp = *++ptr;
printf("1:  %c\n", temp);
temp = *ptr++;
printf("2:  %c\n", temp);
```

	1	2
(A)	7	8
(B)	7	1
(C)	1	1
(D)	1	C

Agenda

- Miscellaneous C Syntax
- Arrays
- Administrivia
- Strings
- More Pointers
  - Pointer Arithmetic
  - Pointer Misc

Array Basics

- **Declaration:**

  `int ar[2];` declares a 2-element integer array (just a block of memory)

  `int ar[] = {795, 635};` declares and initializes a 2-element integer array

- **Accessing elements:**

  `ar[num]` returns the numth element

  – Zero-indexed

Arrays Basics

- **Pitfall:** An array in C does not know its own length, and its bounds are not checked!
  - We can accidentally access off the end of an array
  - We must pass the array **and its size** to any procedure that is going to manipulate it
- Mistakes with array bounds cause *segmentation faults* and *bus errors*
  - Be careful! These are VERY difficult to find (You'll learn how to debug these in lab)

Accessing an Array

- Array size *n*: access entries *0* to *n-1*
- Use separate variable for declaration & bound

Bad Pattern

```
int i, ar[10];
for(i=0; i<10; i++) {...}
```

Better Pattern

```
int ARRAY_SIZE = 10;
int i, ar[ARRAY_SIZE];
for(i=0; i<ARRAY_SIZE; i++) {...}
```

← Single source of truth!

Arrays and Pointers

- Arrays are (almost) identical to pointers
  - `char *string` and `char string[]` are nearly identical declarations
  - Differ in subtle ways: initialization, sizeof(), etc.
- **Key Concept:** An array variable looks like a pointer to the first (0th) element
  - `ar[0]` same as `*ar`; `ar[2]` same as `*(ar+2)`
  - We can use pointer arithmetic to conveniently access arrays
- An array variable is read-only (no assignment) (i.e. cannot use "`ar = <anything>`")

Array and Pointer Example

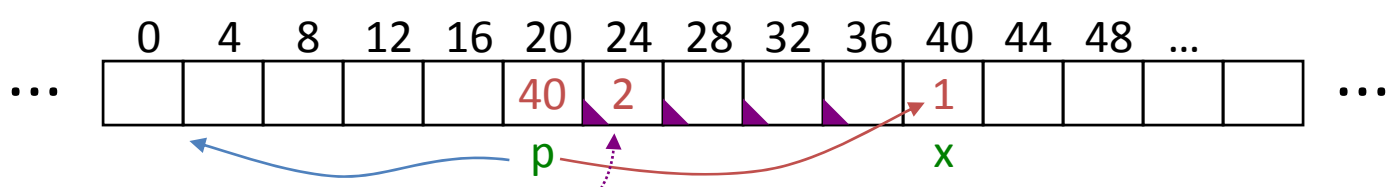
- `ar[i]` is treated as `*(ar+i)`
- To zero an array, the following three ways are equivalent:

```
1) for(i=0; i<SIZE; i++)  ar[i] = 0;

2) for(i=0; i<SIZE; i++)  *(ar+i) = 0;

3) for(p=ar; p<ar+SIZE; p++)  *p = 0;
```

- These use *pointer arithmetic*, which we will get to shortly

Arrays Stored Differently Than Pointers

```
void foo() {
  int *p, a[4], x;
  p = &x;

  *p = 1; // or p[0]
  printf("*p:%u, p:%u, &p:%u\n",*p,p,&p);
  *a = 2; // or a[0]
  printf("*a:%u, a:%u, &a:%u\n",*a,a,&a);
}
```




```
*p:1, p:40, &p:20
*a:2, a:24, &a:24
```

K&R: "An array name is not a variable"

Arrays and Functions

- Declared arrays only allocated while the scope is valid:

```
char *foo() {
  char string[32]; ...;
  return string;
}
```

BAD

- An array is passed to a function as a pointer:

Really `int *ar`

```
int foo(int ar[], unsigned int size) {
   ... ar[size-1] ...
}
```

Must explicitly pass the size!

Arrays and Functions

- Array size gets lost when passed to a function
- What prints in the following code:

```
int foo(int array[],
    unsigned int size) {
    ...
    printf("%d\n", sizeof(array));
}
int main(void) {
    int a[10], b[5];
    ... foo(a, 10) ...
    printf("%d\n", sizeof(a));
}
```

sizeof(int *)

10*sizeof(int)

Agenda

- Miscellaneous C Syntax
- Arrays
- Administrivia
- Strings
- More Pointers
  - Pointer Arithmetic
  - Pointer Misc

Administrivia

- Lab 2 tomorrow
- HW1 due Sunday night
- Lab 3 (big lab) next Tue (July 2)
- HW2 released Fri, due next Wed (July 3)
- Suggested plan of attack:
  - Finish HW1 by Sat night
  - Do 1st half of Lab 3 Sun, start HW2
  - Do 2nd half of Lab 3 Tue, finish HW2 by Wed

Agenda

- Miscellaneous C Syntax
- Arrays
- Administrivia
- Strings
- More Pointers
  - Pointer Arithmetic
  - Pointer Misc

C Strings

- String in C is just an array of characters

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

Array size here is **4**

- How do you tell how long a string is?
  - Last character is followed by a 0 byte (`'\0'`) (a.k.a. "null terminator")

This means you need an extra space in your array!!!

```
int strlen(char s[]) {
    int n = 0;
    while (s[n] != 0) n++;
    return n;
}
```

C String Standard Functions

- Accessible with `#include <string.h>`
- `int strlen(char *string);`
  - Returns the length of string (not including null term)
- `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 contents of string `src` to the memory at `dst`. Caller must ensure that `dst` has enough memory to hold the data to be copied
  - Note: `dst = src` only copies *pointer* (the address)

String Examples

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
int main () {
  char s1[10], s2[10], s3[]="hello", *s4="hola";
  strcpy(s1,"hi");  strcpy(s2,"hi");
}
```

Value of the following expressions?

`sizeof(s1)`	`strcmp(s1,s2)`	
`strlen(s1)`	`strcmp(s1,s3)`	(s1 > s3)
`s1==s2` Point to different locations!	`strcmp(s1,s4)`	(s1 < s4)

Question: What does this function do when called?

```
void foo(char *s, char *t) {
   while (*s)
      s++;
  while (*s++ = *t++)
      ;
}
```

(A) Always throws an error

(B) Changes characters in string `t` to the next character in the string `s`

(C) Copies a string at address `t` to the string at address `s`

(D) Appends the string at address `t` to the end of the string at address `s`

Agenda

- Miscellaneous C Syntax
- Arrays
- Administrivia
- Strings
- More Pointers
  - Pointer Arithmetic
  - Pointer Misc

Pointer Arithmetic

- *pointer ± number*
  - e.g. *pointer* + 1 adds 1 <u>something</u> to the address
- Compare what happens: (assume `a` at address 100)

```
char *p; char a;
```

```
int *p; int a;
```

```
p = &a;
printf("%u %u\n",p,p+1);
```

```
100 101
```

```
100 104
```

Adds `1*sizeof(char)`

Adds `1*sizeof(int)`

- *Pointer arithmetic should be used <u>cautiously</u>*

Pointer Arithmetic

- A pointer is just a memory address, so we can add to/subtract from it to move through an array
- `p+1` correctly increments `p` by `sizeof(*p)`
  - i.e. moves pointer to the next array element
- What about an array of large structs (objects)?
  - Struct declaration tells C the size to use, so handled like basic types

Pointer Arithmetic

- What is valid pointer arithmetic?
  - Add an integer to a pointer
  - Subtract 2 pointers (in the same array)
  - Compare pointers (<, <=, ==, !=, >, >=)
  - Compare pointer to NULL (indicates that the pointer points to nothing)
- Everything else is illegal since it makes no sense:
  - Adding two pointers
  - Multiplying pointers
  - Subtract pointer from integer

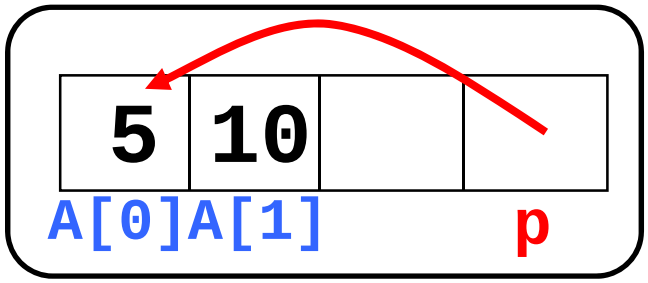
Pointer Arithmetic to Copy Memory

- We can use pointer arithmetic to "walk" through memory:

```
void copy(int *from, int *to, int n)
{
    int i;
    for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
        *to++ = *from++;
    }
}
```

- We have to pass the size (`n`) to `copy`

Question: The first `printf` outputs `100 5 5 10`. What will the next two `printf` output?




```
int main(void){
    int A[] = {5,10};
    int *p = A;

    printf("%u %d %d %d\n", p, *p, A[0], A[1]);
     p =  p + 1;
    printf("%u %d %d %d\n", p, *p, A[0], A[1]);
    *p = *p + 1;
    printf("%u %d %d %d\n", p, *p, A[0], A[1]);
}
```

(A) 101 10 5 10 then 101 11 5 11

(B) 104 10 5 10 then 104 11 5 11

(C) 100 6 6 10 then 101 6 6 10

(D) 100 6 6 10 then 104 6 6 10

Get To Know Your Staff

- Category: **Cal**

Agenda

- Miscellaneous C Syntax
- Arrays
- Administrivia
- Strings
- More Pointers
  - Pointer Arithmetic
  - Pointer Misc

Pointers and Allocation

- When you declare a pointer (e.g. `int *ptr;`), it doesn't actually point to anything yet
  - It points somewhere (garbage; don't know where)
  - Dereferencing will usually cause an error
- **Option 1:** Point to something that already exists
  - `int *ptr,var;  var = 5;  ptr = &var1;`
  - `var` has space implicitly allocated for it (declaration)
- **Option 2:** Allocate room in memory for new thing to point to (next lecture)

Pointers and Structures

Variable declarations:

```
struct Point {
    int x;
    int y;
    struct Point *p;
};

struct Point pt1;
struct Point pt2;
struct Point *ptaddr;
```

Cannot contain an instance of itself, but can point to one

Valid operations:

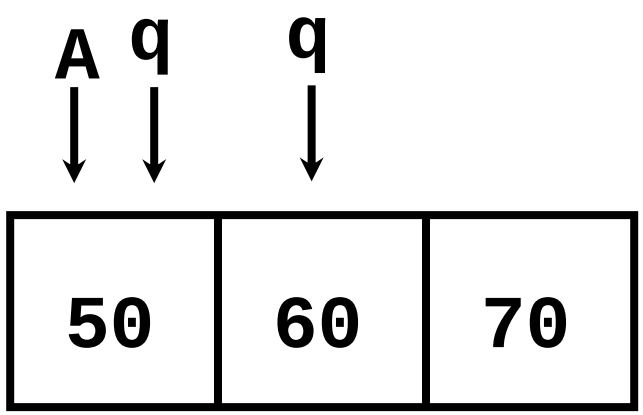
```
/* dot notation */
int h = pt1.x;
pt2.y = pt1.y;

/* arrow notation */
int h = ptaddr->x;
int h = (*ptaddr).x;

/* This works too */
pt1 = pt2;
```

Copies contents

Pointers to Pointers

- *Pointer to a pointer*, declared as `**h`
- Example:

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

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



***q = 60**

Question: *Struct and Pointer Practice*

Assuming everything is properly initialized, what do the following expressions evaluate to?

```
struct node {
  char *name;
  struct node *next;
};
struct node *ar[5];
struct node **p = ar;
... /* fill ar with initialized structs */
```

- ☐ address
- ☐ data
- ☐ invalid

1) &p
2) p->name
3) p[7]->next
4) *(*(p + 2))
5) *(p[0]->next)
6) (*p)->next->name

Answers: *Struct and Pointer Practice*

1) `&p` **address** (ptr to ptr to ptr)

"address of" operator returns an address

2) `p->name` **invalid**

Attempt to access field of a pointer

3) `p[7]->next` **invalid**

Increment p into unknown memory, then dereference

4) `*(*(p + 2))` **data** (struct node)

Move along array, access pointer, then access struct

5) `*(p[0]->next)` **data** (struct node)

This is tricky. p[0] = *(p + 0) is valid and accesses the array of pointers, where `->` operator correctly accesses field of struct, and dereference leaves us at another `struct`.

6) `(*p)->next->name` **address** (char array)

`next` field points to struct, access `name` field, which is, itself, a pointer (string)

Summary

- Pointers and array variables are very similar
  - Can use pointer or array syntax to index into arrays
- Strings are null-terminated arrays of characters
- Pointer arithmetic moves the pointer by the size of the thing it's pointing to
- Pointers are the source of many bugs in C, so handle with care