Computer Programming Pointers 17th Lecture

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Outline

- Pointer Basic
- Pointer Arithmetic
- Function Pointers
- String Basic
- String Functions
- Q&A
sizeof operator

- Returns size of operand in bytes (at compile-time)
- For arrays, sizeof returns 
  \((\text{size of an element}) \times (\text{number of elements})\)

```cpp
int myArray[10];
cout << sizeof(myArray);
```
sizeof operator Cont’d

- Can be used with
  - Variable names
  - Type names
  - Constant values

- Parentheses are only required if the operand is a type name
Pointer Arithmetic

- Increment/decrement pointer (++ or --)
- Add/subtract an integer to/from a pointer (+ or +=, - or -=)
- Pointers may be subtracted from each other
- Pointer arithmetic is meaningless unless performed on a pointer to an array

Pointer Arithmetic Cont’d

- 5-element int array on a machine using 4-byte int
  
  ```
  vPtr = &v[0];
  ```
  
  - vPtr points to first element v[0], at location 3000
  
  ```
  vPtr += 2;
  ```
  
  - sets vPtr to 3008 (3000 + 2 * 4)
  - vPtr points to v[2]

- Subtracting pointers
  
  - Returns number of elements between two addresses
    
    ```
    vPtr2 = &v[2]; vPtr = &v[0]; vPtr2 - vPtr;
    ```

Pointer Arithmetic Cont’d

- Pointer can be assigned to another pointer if both are of same type
  - If not, use cast operator
  - Pointer to void (void *)
    - Generic pointer, represents any type
    - No casting needed to convert pointer to void *
    - Casting is needed to convert void * to any other type
    - void pointers cannot be dereferenced
Pointer Arithmetic Cont’d

- Pointer comparison
  - Use equality and relational operators
  - Compare addresses stored in pointers
    - Comparisons are meaningless unless pointers point to members of the same array
  - When checking whether pointer is 0 (null pointer)

- Arrays and pointers are closely related
  - Array name is like constant pointer
  - Pointers can do array subscripting operations

int b[] = { 10, 20, 30, 40 }; int *bPtr = b;

... for( int i = 0; i < 4; i++ )
cout << "b[" << i << "]=";
cout << b[ i ] << endl;

for( int f1 = 0; f1 < 4; f1++ )
cout << "*(b+" << f1;
cout << "]=";
cout << *(b+f1) << endl;

for( int j = 0; j < 4; j++ )
cout << "bPtr[" << j;
cout << "]=";
cout << bPtr[ j ] << endl;

for( int f2 = 0; f2 < 4; f2++ )
cout << "*(bPtr + " << f2;
cout << "] ) = ";
cout << *(bPtr+f2) << endl;
...
Arrays of Pointers

```c
const char *a[ 4 ] =
    { "Hearts", "Diamonds", "Clubs", "Spades" };
```

- Each element of `a` points to a `char *` (string)
- Array `a` has fixed size (4), but strings can be of any size
- Commonly used with command-line arguments to function `main`

Pointers to Functions

- Contain addresses of functions
  - Function name is starting address of code that defines function
- Passed to functions
- Returned from functions
- Stored in arrays
- Assigned to other function pointers
Calling Functions using Pointers

- **Function header**
  ```cpp
  bool ( *foo ) ( int, int )
  ```

- **Execute function from pointer with either**
  ```cpp
  ( *foo ) ( x, y )
  ```
  - Dereference pointer to function, or
  ```cpp
  foo( x, y )
  ```
  - Use the pointer directly

- Could be confusing
Function Pointers

void selectionSort( int [],
        const int,
        bool (*)( int, int ) );

void swap( int * const,
        int * const );

bool ascending( int, int );
bool descending( int, int );

int main()
{
    const int aSize = 10;
    int order;
    int counter;

    int a[ aSize ] =
    { 2, 6, 4, 8, 10,
        12, 89, 68, 45, 37 };

    cin >> order;
    if ( order == 1 ) {
        selectionSort( a, aSize,
                       ascending );
    }
    else {
        selectionSort( a, aSize,
                       descending );
    }

    ...
Function Pointers Cont’d

```c
void selectionSort( int w[], const int size, bool (*compare)( int, int ) )
{
    int smallestOrLargest;

    for ( int i=0; i<size - 1; i++ )
    {
        smallestOrLargest = i;

        for ( int idx = i + 1; idx < size; idx++ )
            if( !(*compare)( w[smallestOrLargest], work[idx] ) )
                smallestOrLargest = idx;

        swap(&work[smallestOrLargest], &work[i]);
    }
}
```

Function Pointers Cont’d

```cpp
void swap( int * const element1Ptr, int * const element2Ptr )
{
    int hold = *element1Ptr;

    *element1Ptr = *element2Ptr;

    *element2Ptr = hold;
}

bool ascending( int a, int b )
{
    return a < b;
}

bool descending( int a, int b )
{
    return a > b;
}
```

Arrays of Pointers to Functions

- **Menu-driven systems**
  - Pointers to each function stored in array of pointers to functions
    - All functions must have same return type and same parameter types
  - Menu choice determines subscript into array of function pointers
Character Constant and String

- Integer value represented as character in single quotes
  - 'z' is integer value of z
    - 122 in ASCII
  - '\n' is integer value of newline
    - 10 in ASCII

String

- Series of characters treated as single unit
- String literal (string constants)
  - “I like C++”
  - Static storage class
- Array of characters, ends with null character '\0'
- String is constant pointer to string’s first character
String Assignment

- Character array
  ```
  char color[] = "blue";
  char color[] = { 'b', 'l', 'u', 'e', '\0' };
  ```
  - Creates 5 element char array color
  - Last element is '\0'

- Variable of type `char *`
  ```
  char *colorPtr = "blue";
  ```
  - Creates pointer colorPtr to letter b in string "blue"
  - "blue" resides somewhere in memory
Reading Strings

- Assign input to character array
  \texttt{word[20]}
  
  \texttt{cin >> word;}
  - Reads characters until whitespace or EOF
  - Reads only up to 19 characters (space reserved for '\0')

- String could exceed array size
  \texttt{cin >> setw(20) >> word;}

cin.getline

- Read line of text
  
  ```c++
  cin.getline( array, size, delimiter );
  ```

  - Copies input into specified array until either
    - One less than size is reached
    - Delimiter character is input

  ```c++
  char sentence[ 80 ];
  cin.getline( sentence, 80, '\n' );
  ```
<cstring> Library

- Manipulate string data
- Compare strings
- Search strings for characters and other strings
- Tokenize strings (separate strings into logical pieces)
- Data type `size_t`
  - An unsigned integral type
    - Such as unsigned int or unsigned long
  - Defined in header file <cstring>

String Functions

- `char *strcpy( char *s1, const char *s2 )`
  - Copies second argument into first argument
  - First argument must be large enough to store string and terminating null character

- `char *strncpy( char *s1, const char *s2, size_t n )`
  - Specifies number of characters to be copied from second argument into first argument
  - Does not necessarily copy terminating null character

- `char *strcat( char *s1, const char *s2 )`
  - Appends second argument to first argument
  - First character of second argument replaces null character terminating first argument
  - You must ensure first argument large enough to store concatenated result and null character

- `char *strncat( char *s1, const char *s2, size_t n )`
  - Appends specified number of characters from second argument to first argument
  - Appends terminating null character to result

- `size_t strlen( const char *s )`
  - Returns number of characters in string
String Functions Cont’d

- **int strcmp( const char *s1, const char *s2 )**
  - Compares character by character
  - Returns
    - Zero if strings are equal
    - Negative value if first string is less than second string
    - Positive value if first string is greater than second string

- **int strncmp( const char *s1, const char *s2, size_t n )**
  - Compares up to specified number of characters
    - Stops if it reaches null character in one of arguments

- **Character codes / character sets**
  - Machine dependent
  - ASCII
    - “American Standard Code for Information Interchange”
  - EBCDIC
    - “Extended Binary Coded Decimal Interchange Code”
  - Unicode
Tokenizing

- Breaking strings into tokens
  - Tokens: logical units, such as words (separated by spaces)
  - Separated by delimiting characters
  - "This is my string"
    - 4 word tokens (separated by spaces)

- `char *strtok( char *s1, const char *s2 )`
  - Multiple calls required
    - First call contains two arguments, string to be tokenized and string containing delimiting characters
      - Finds next delimiting character and replaces with null character
    - Subsequent calls continue tokenizing
      - Call with first argument NULL
      - Stores pointer to remaining string in a static variable

- Returns pointer to current token

String Example

...  
#include <cstring>  // prototype for strtok
using std::strtok;

int main()
{
    char sentence[] = "This is a sentence with 7 tokens";
    char *tokenPtr;
    tokenPtr = strtok( sentence, " " );
    while ( tokenPtr != NULL )
    {
        cout << tokenPtr << 'n';
        tokenPtr = strtok( NULL, " " );
    }
    cout << "\nAfter strtok, sentence = " << sentence << endl;
    return 0;
}  