Computer Programming
Pointers 8th 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 (size of an element) * (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
5-element int array on a machine using 4-byte int

\[ \text{vPtr} = \&v[0]; \]

- vPtr points to first element v[0], at location 3000

\[ \text{vPtr += 2;} \]

- sets vPtr to 3008 (3000 + 2 * 4)
- vPtr points to v[2]

Subtracting pointers

- Returns number of elements between two addresses

\[ \text{vPtr2} = \&v[2]; \text{vPtr} = \&v[0]; \text{vPtr2} - \text{vPtr} \]
**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

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
  ```
  bool ( *foo ) ( int, int )
  ```

- Execute function from pointer with either
  ```
  ( *foo ) ( x, y )
  ```
  - Dereference pointer to function, or
  ```
  foo( x, y )
  ```
  - Use the pointer directly
    - Could be confusing
Function Pointers

```cpp
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

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
  `word[ 20 ]`
  ```
cin >> word;
  ```
  - Reads characters until whitespace or EOF
  - Reads only up to 19 characters (space reserved for '\0')

- String could exceed array size
  ```
cin >> setw( 20 ) >> word;
  ```
cin.getline

- Read line of text

```cpp
cin.getline( array, size, delimiter );
```
- Copies input into specified array until either
  - One less than size is reached
  - Delimiter character is input

```cpp
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;
}