
CS 261 – Data Structures

Introduction to
C Programming

Why C?

- C is a lower level, imperative language
- C makes it easier to focus on important concepts for this class, including
 - **memory allocation**
 - **execution time complexity**
- Lays groundwork for many other languages

Files: Interface and Implementation

- Interface files (***.h**)
- Implementation files (***.c**)

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include "my_file.h"
int main (int argc, char *argv[]) {
    /*your code*/ }
void my_function(double a) {
    /*your code*/ }
```

- Every code must have **main ()**
- **main ()** does not need to contain the return statement

Interface File

- Interface files (***.h**) have
 - Declarations of variables
 - Declarations of types,
 - Preprocessor commands,
 - Function prototypes -- header but no body:
 - Example: **int max(int a, int b);**
terminated with a semicolon!

Declarations of Variables

- When you declare a variable, a memory space is reserved for that variable

```
int i;    /* 8 bytes for 64-bit machine */
```

```
double d;
```

```
long test[100]; /* reserved 100 locations of size long */
```

- Note that the index for the above array goes from 0 to 99

```
test[100] = 4; /* ERROR !!!*/
```

Declarations of Types and Constants

- Examples:

```
/* constant TYPE is declared as type double */
```

```
# define TYPE double
```

```
# define TYPE char
```

```
/* Replaces MAX in code with 423 */
```

```
# define MAX 423
```

Function Definitions


```
returnType  functionName (arguments)  {  
    declarations of variables; /*Must come first*/  
    commands;  
}
```

Function Definitions -- Example

Return a sum of n integers:

```
long arrSum(int arr[], unsigned int n)
{
    /*unsigned int i;*/ Loop variable. */
    long sum = 0; /* Sum initialized to zero. */

    for (int i = 0; i < n; i=i+1) {
        sum = sum + arr[i];
    }
    return sum;
}
```



Need to pass size of array
(not included in **arr**).

Variable and its Memory Location

```
double mass; /* variable */
```

```
long memory; /* variable */
```

```
mass = 0.01;
```

```
memory = & mass;
```

```
printf ("%e, %p \n", mass, memory) ;
```

Output: 1e-2, ffbff958

Pointers

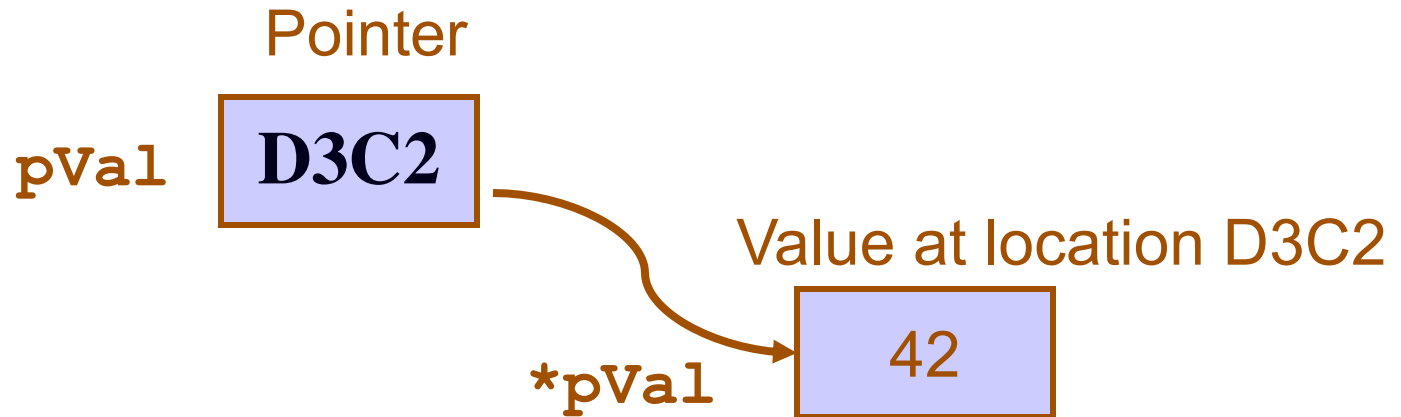
- A pointer is a variable that refers to a memory location

Pointer Value vs. Thing Pointed At

the value of the pointer

vs.

the value of the thing the pointer points to:



Pointer Syntax

- Use ***** to
 - declare a pointer,
 - get value of pointer

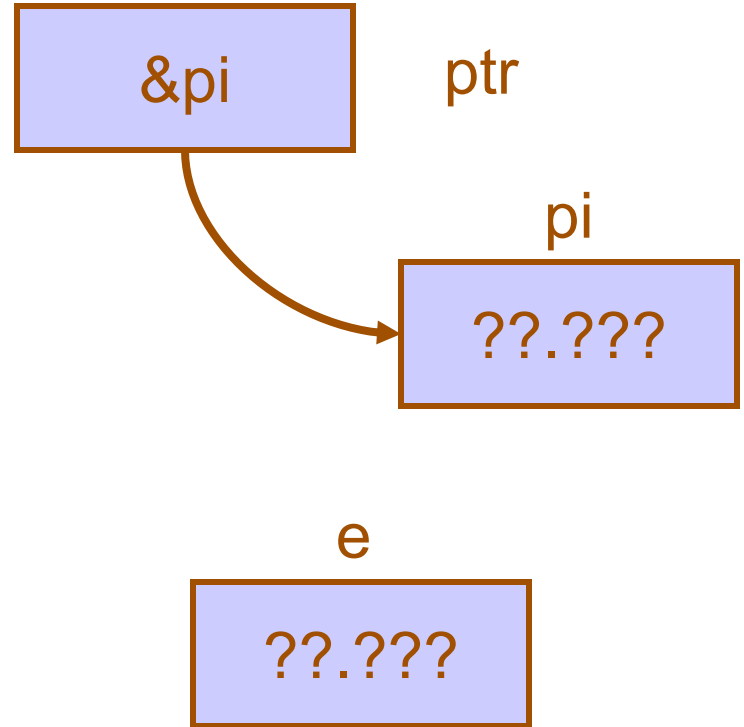
- Use **&** to get address of a variable

```
double *ptr;
```

```
double pi, e;
```

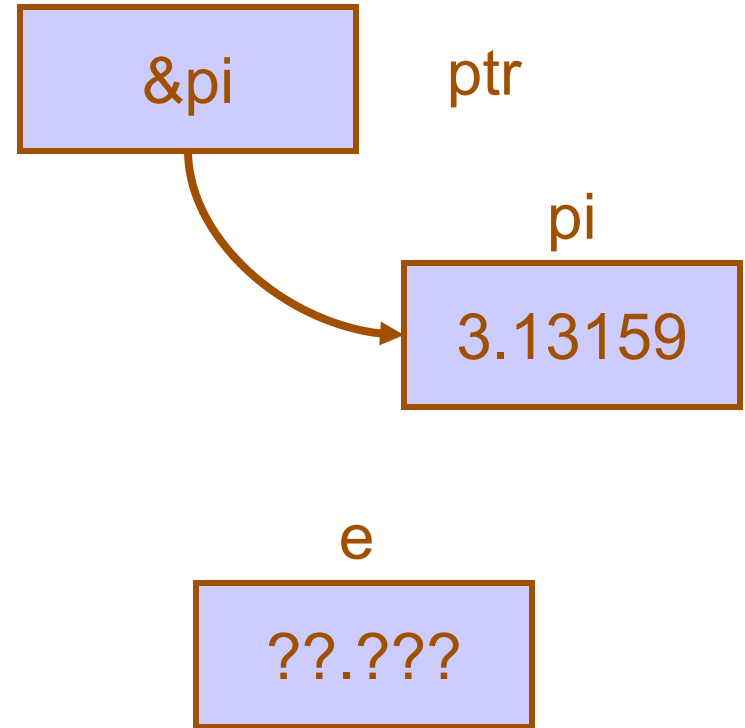
Pointer Syntax -- Example

```
double *ptr;  
double pi, e;  
ptr = &pi;
```



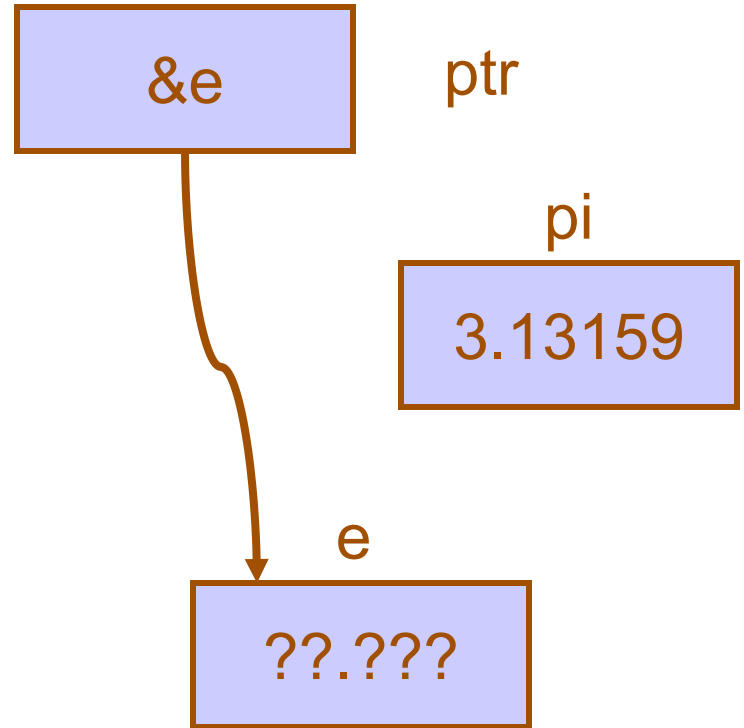
Pointer Syntax -- Example

```
double *ptr;  
double pi, e;  
  
ptr = &pi;  
  
*ptr = 3.14159;
```



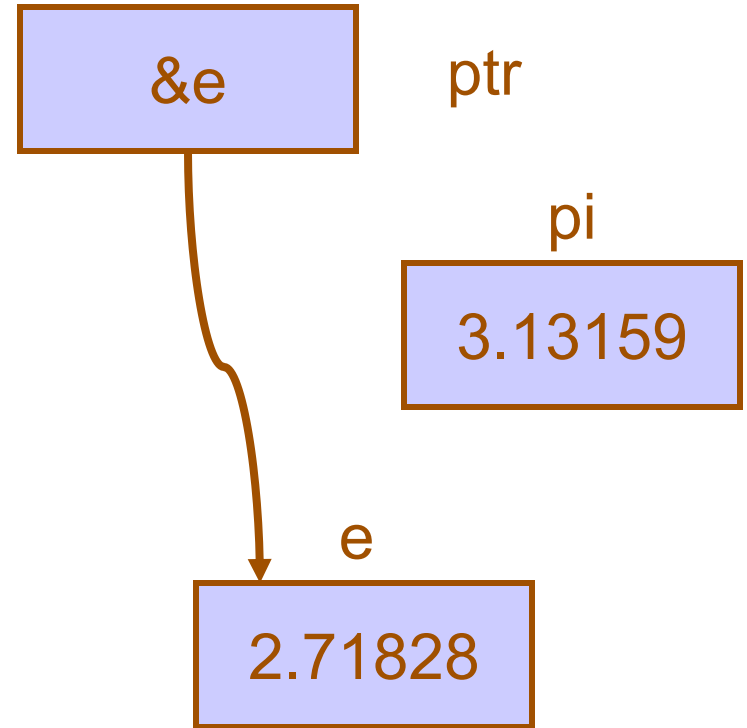
Pointer Syntax -- Example

```
double *ptr;  
double pi, e;  
  
ptr = &pi;  
*ptr = 3.14159;  
ptr = &e;
```



Pointer Syntax -- Example

```
double *ptr;  
double pi, e;  
  
ptr = &pi;  
*ptr = 3.14159;  
ptr = &e;  
*ptr = 2.71828;
```



Pointer Syntax -- Example

```
double *ptr;  
double pi, e;
```

```
ptr = &pi;
```

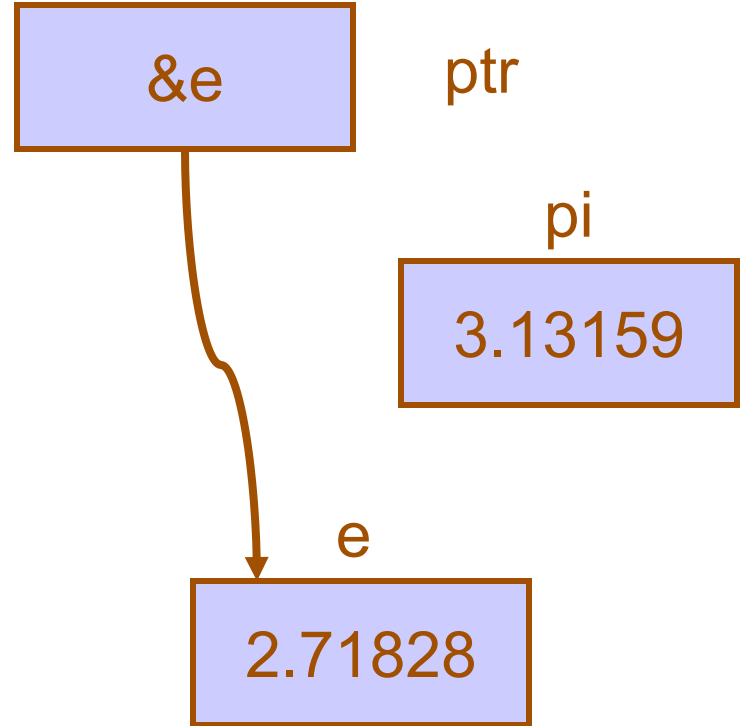
```
*ptr = 3.14159;
```

```
ptr = &e;
```

```
*ptr = 2.71828;
```

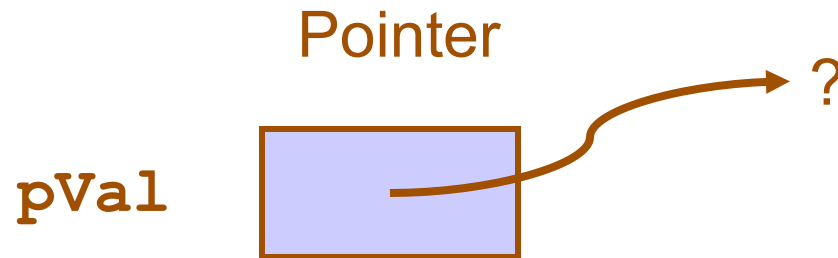
```
printf("%p %g %g %g\n",  
       ptr, *ptr, pi, e);
```

```
Output: ffbff958 2.71828 3.14159 2.71828
```



Pointers – Memory Allocation

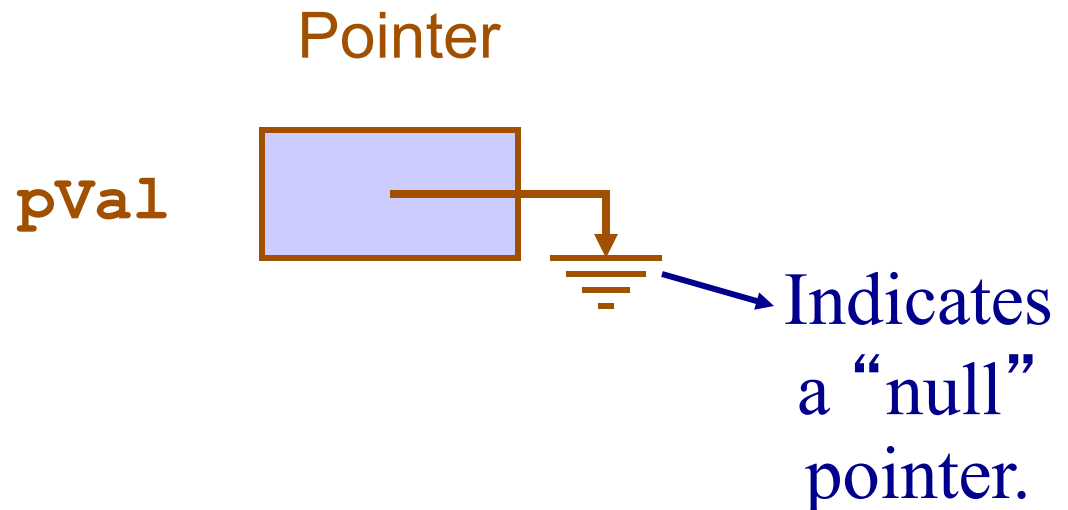
```
int *pVal; /* Pointer uninitialized to  
           unallocated integer value. */
```



Pointers – Memory Allocation

```
int *pVal; /* Pointer uninitialized to  
unallocated integer value. */
```

```
pVal = NULL; /* Initialize pointer to indicate that  
it is not allocated. */
```

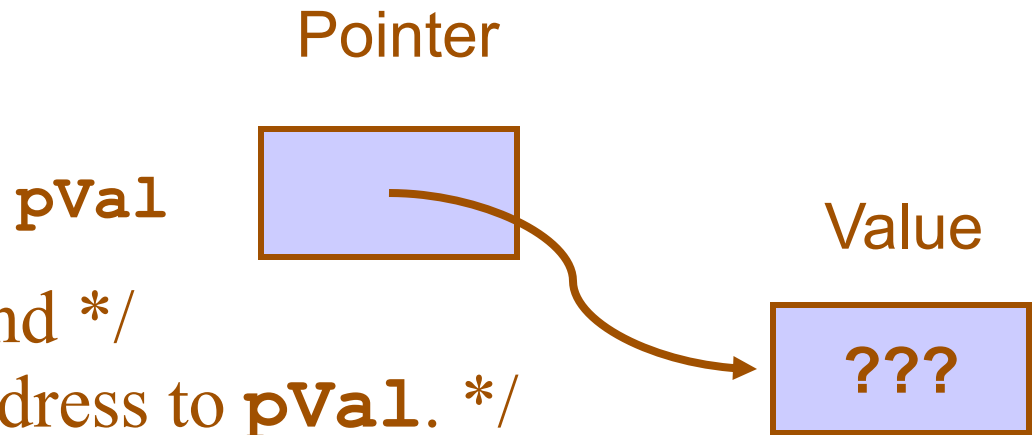


Pointers – Memory Allocation

```
int *pVal; /* Pointer uninitialized to  
           unallocated integer value. */
```

```
pVal = 0; /* Initialize pointer to indicate that  
          it is not allocated. */
```

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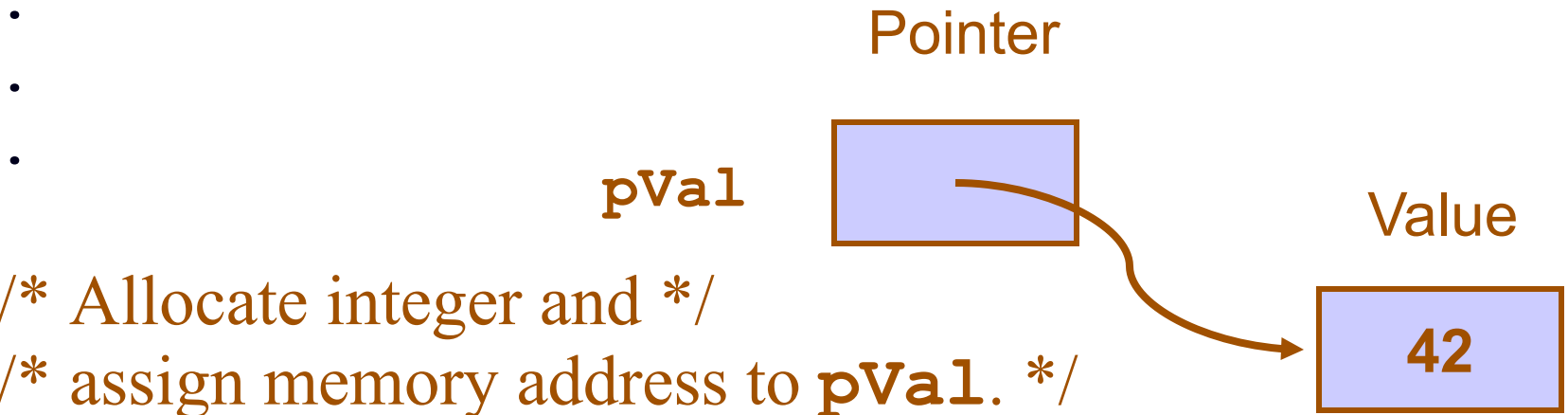
```
/* Allocate integer and */  
/* assign memory address to pVal. */
```

```
pVal = (int *) malloc(sizeof(int));
```

Pointers – Memory Allocation

```
int *pVal; /* Pointer uninitialized to  
           unallocated integer value. */
```

```
pVal = 0; /* Initialize pointer to indicate that  
          it is not allocated. */
```



```
/* Allocate integer and */
```

```
/* assign memory address to pVal. */
```

```
pVal = (int *) malloc(sizeof(int));
```

```
*pVal = 42;
```

Structures

```
struct Gate {  
    int type;          /* Type of gate. */  
    struct Gate *left; /* Left input. */  
    struct Gate *right; /* Right input. */  
};
```

Accessing Data Fields in the Structure

```
struct Gate gate;
```

```
gate.type = 3;
```

but often combined with pointers ...

Pointers and Structures

Pointers often point to structures.

```
struct Gate *p; /* no memory allocated */
```

```
struct Gate g; /* allocates memory */
```

```
p = &g;
```

```
p->type = 3; /* Set g.type that p points to */
```


Pointers and Structures

Pointers often point to structures.

```
struct Gate *p;
```

```
struct Gate g;
```

```
p = &g;
```

```
p->type = 3; /* Set g.type that p points to */
```

```
/* Same as (*p) . type = 3 */
```

```
/* Same as g . type = 3 */
```

Dynamic Memory Allocation

- Use `malloc (num-of-bytes)`
- Use `sizeof` to figure out how many bytes

```
struct Gate *p =  
    (struct Gate *) malloc  
        (sizeof(struct Gate));  
  
assert(p != NULL) ; /* Always check */
```

Function Arguments

- Pass-By-Value
- Pass-By-Reference

Function Arguments: Pass-By-Value

- Only values of variables are passed as arguments to a function
- A copy variable is formed in the function
- The value of the argument is lost after returning from the function

Pass-By-Value -- Example

```
void printing(void) {
    int test, n=5;
    test = assignment(n);
    printf("n=%d, test=%d", n, test);
}

int assignment(int n) { /* pass n by value */
    n++;
    return n;
}
```


Output: ?

Function Arguments: Pass-By-Reference

- Pointers to variables are passed as arguments to a function
- The value of the argument is NOT lost after returning from the function, since its memory location is known and stored in the pointer

Pass-by-Reference -- Example

```
void set_pi(double *p) {  
    *p = 3.14159;  
}  
.  
.  
double d = 2.718281;  
set_pi(&d); /* Pass d by reference */  
printf("d = %g\n", d);
```



Output: ?

Structures and Pass-by-Reference Parameters

Very common idiom:

```
struct Vector vec; /* Note: not pointer */
```

```
/* Pass by reference */
```

```
vectorAdd (&vec, 3.14159);
```


Arrays Always Passed by Reference

```
void foo(double d[]) { /* Same as foo(double *d) */
    d[0] = 3.14159;
}
.
.
double data[4];
data[0] = 42.0;
foo(data);          /* Note: No ampersand. */
printf("%g", data[0]);
```

Next Lecture

- Read Chapter 5 on ADTs
- Big-OH and Algorithms
- See posted reading and worksheets