Tutorial 8

The goal of this tutorial is to reinforce the following material:

- Arrays
- Pointer Arithmetic

Arrays

Arrays can be thought of as pointers to a block of memory. They can be used to store a fixed number of elements of the same type. Example of array syntax:

```c
int my_array[3] = { 1, 2, 3 };  // my_array is a pointer to the first element of the array
int x = my_array[0];  // x = 1
```

In the above code, `my_array` is a pointer to the first element of the array. The `[i]` syntax dereferences the `(i + 1)\text{th}` element of the array.

The syntax `a[i]` is shorthand for the equivalent expression `*(a+i)`.

Array Initialization

There are several ways to define an array:

```c
int a[3];  // array is not fully defined
int b[3] = { 1, 2, 3 };  // array length is explicit
int c[] = { 1, 2, 3 };  // array length is inferred  
// c has length 3, and we cannot change it later
int d[3] = {0};  // array of length 3, filled with zeros
int e[8] = { 7, 4, 1 };  
// {7, 4, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0}
```
Arrays: Example

Implement the following function:

```
// arr_mode(arr, len): returns the mode the
// all elements of the array arr.
// Requires:
//   arr != NULL
//   len > 0
//   arr is an array of length len

int arr_mode(int *arr, int len);
```

# Pointer Arithmetic

Certain arithmetic operations can be performed on pointers. An integer can be **added** or **subtracted** to a pointer, and pointers of the same type can be **subtracted** from one another.

```
int a[10];
in...
```

**Addition of pointers is not allowed.**

# Array Notation vs Pointer Notation

If you ask the right people, you can start heated debates on whether to use `int a[]` or `int *a` in a parameter declaration.

*They are equivalent.*

Some people will argue for the first style because it is clear that the function takes an array.

Other people will argue for the second style because they believe the first is misleading, as the array isn’t actually passed by value.

**You should be familiar with both of them.**
**Pointer Arithmetic: Example**

Implement the following function using only pointer notation.

```c
// ptr_product(arr, len) returns the product of len integers in array arr (using pointer arithmetic).
// requires: arr != NULL, len > 0,
// arr is an array of length len
int ptr_product(const int * arr, int len);
```

Now implement the function again using array notation instead.

```c
int arr_product(const int arr[], int len);
```

**Arrays: Recap**

You should now be comfortable with the following array-related concepts:

- Defining and initializing arrays
- Pointer arithmetic, and converting array notation to its pointer arithmetic equivalent
- Using loops to manipulate arrays