CS 137 Week 5
Pointers, Arrays, Malloc, Variable Sized Arrays, Vectors

October 16th, 2017
Exam Wrapper

Silently answer the following questions on paper (for yourself)

• Do you think that the problems on the exam fairly reflected the topics covered in this course?
• What percentage of test preparation was done alone vs with others?
• How much time did you spend
  • Reviewing class notes
  • Reworking old homework problems
  • Working on additional problems
  • Reading a textbook/other sources?
• Estimate how many points you lost on your exam for...
  • Not understand a concept
  • Careless mistakes
  • Not being able to formulate an approach to a problem
  • Other reasons (Explain)
• Based on the above, how will you prepare differently for the final exam? Be specific. Also what can I do to help? (Please relay to class reps).
Pointers

- What if we want functions to change values inside memory that are outside the scope of a function?
- We saw this already when we changed values in an array.
- We can do this with other values as well by using pointers and references.
Example

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void) {
    int i = 6;
    int *p;
    p = &i;
    *p = 10;
    //p now points to 10
    printf("%d \n", i);
    int *q;
    q = p;
    *q = 17;
    printf("%d \n", i);
    return 0;
}
```
Example

Write a program that swaps two integers in memory
Concrete Example

```c
#include <stdio.h>
void swap(int *p, int *q) {
    int temp = *p;
    *p = *q;
    *q = temp;
}
void main () {
    int i = 0; j = 2;
    swap(&i, &j);  // references
    printf("%d %d\n", i, j);
}
```
Just For Fun

• Turns out in C, you can swap two integers in just one line!
  \((x \ ^\oplus y), (y \ ^\oplus x), (x \ ^\oplus y)\);

• Denote XOR using \(\oplus\).

• Trace this with \(x_0\) and \(y_0\) the starting values:
  • Step 1: \(x\) becomes \(x_0 \oplus y_0\)
  • Step 2: \(y\) becomes \(y_0 \oplus (x_0 \oplus y_0) = x_0\).
  • Step 3: \(x\) becomes \((x_0 \oplus y_0) \oplus x_0 = y_0\).
Example

Write a function that returns a pointer to the largest element in a given array.
Pointer Arithmetic

• In the previous code, we used \( a + m \) where \( a \) was a pointer and \( m \) was an integer.
• Here, we’ve once again overloaded the \(+\) operator.
• This is an example of **pointer arithmetic**
• Supported operations:
  • Add/subtract an integer to/from a pointer
  • Subtract one pointer from another (so long as they are the same type)
• We can also use comparison operators like \(<, >, <=, >=, ==, !=\)
• Let’s see some examples
Example

Reminder: Draw picture.

```c
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void) {
    int a[8] = {2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9};
    int *p, *q, i;

    p = &(a[2]); // p points to a[2]
    q = p + 3;  // q points to a[5]
    p += 4;     // p points to a[6]
    q = q - 2;  // q points to a[3]
    i = q - p;  // i = 3 - 6 = -3
    i = p - q;  // i = 6 - 3 = 3
    if (p <= q) printf("less\n");
    else printf("more\n"); // printed
    return 0;
}
```
Caveat

- Warning - Two dimensional arrays remember are just glorified one dimensional arrays.
- So when doing pointer arithmetic with two dimensional arrays, remember to just treat it as a row major array and you will be fine.
- Let’s revisit summing an array and finding the largest using pointer arithmetic.
Summing Array

```c
int sum (int a[], int n) {
    int total = 0;
    for (int *p = a; p < a + n; p++)
        total += *p;
    return total;
}
```
int sum (int a[], int n) {
    int total = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i ++)
        total += *(a + i);
    return total;
}
Largest

```c
Largest
```
int *largest(int a[], int n) {
    int *m = a;
    for(int *p = a+1; p<a+n; p++){
        if (*p > *m) m=p;
    }
    return m;
}
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void) {
    int a[8] = {9,4,5,999,2,4,3,0,5};
    int size = sizeof(a)/sizeof(a[0]);
    printf("%d\n", sum(a,size));
    printf("%d\n", *largest(a,size));
    return 0;
}
Determine what the following code prints. Assume \( x \) is at memory address 100 and that int has size 4.

```c
#include <stdio.h>
void main(void) {
    int x[5];
    printf("%p\n", x);
    printf("%p\n", x + 1);
    printf("%p\n", &x);
    printf("%p\n", &x + 1);
}
```
Challenge

Determine what the following code prints. Assume \( x \) is at memory address 100 and that int has size 4.

```c
#include <stdio.h>
void main(void) {
    int x[5];
    printf("%p\n", x);    // 100
    printf("%p\n", x + 1);  // 104
    printf("%p\n", &x);    // 100 (x == &x)
    printf("%p\n", &x + 1);
    // 120 (int (*x)[5]+1) mem addy of array
    // then added 1 to entire length.
}
```
The * operator and ++ operator can be combined:

- **p++ is the same as *(p++) (Use *p first then increment pointer).**
- (**p)**++ (Use *p first then increment *p).
- +++p or *(++p) (Increment p first then use *p after increment).
- +++p or ++(*p) (Increment *p first then use *p after increment).
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void) {
    int a[4] = {5,2,9,4};
    int sum=0;
    for(int *p = a; p < a+4; p++){
        sum += *p;
    }
    printf("%d", sum);
    return 0;
}

#include <stdio.h>
int main(void) {
    int a[4] = {5,2,9,4};
    int sum=0;
    int *p = &a[0];
    while(p < &a[4]){
        sum += *p++;
    }
    printf("%d", sum);
    return 0;
}
Advanced Pointer Topics

- Up to this point, all of our memory usage has been on the stack.
- There are times however where we might want to allocate large chunks of memory or where we might need some dynamically allocated memory.
- This is where the heap and memory allocation concepts will become important.
Slightly More Detailed Code Storage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>constants</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>stack</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Stack vs Heap

From openclipart.com

Stack

Heap
Stack vs Heap

Stack
- Scratch space for a thread of execution.
- Each thread gets a stack.
- Elements are ordered (new elements are on top of older elements).
- Faster since allocating/deallocating memory is very easy.

Heap
- Memory set aside for dynamic allocation.
- Typically only one heap for an entire application.
- Entries might be unordered and chaotic.
- Usually slower since need a lookup table for each element (i.e., more bookkeeping).
To use the following, we need `#include <stdlib.h>`.

```c
void *malloc(size_t size);
```

- Allocates block of memory of size number of bytes but doesn't initialize.
- Returns a pointer to it.
- Returns `NULL`, the null pointer, if insufficient memory or `size==0`.

```c
void free(void *)
```

- Frees a memory block that was allocated by user (say using `malloc`).
More on the NULL Pointer

- Since pointers are memory addresses, we need to be able to distinguish from a pointer to something and a pointer to nothing.
- The NULL pointer is how we do this. It can be called by
  - `int *p = NULL;`
  - `int *p = 0;`
  - `int *p = (int *) 0;`
  - `int *p = (void *) 0;`
- The (void *) typecast will automatically get converted to the correct type.
- The NULL pointer is in many libraries, including `<locale.h>`, `<stddef.h>`, `<stdio.h>`, `<stdlib.h>`, `<string.h>`, `<time.h>`, `<wchar.h>` and possibly others.
Sample

Create an array of numbers

```c
#include <assert.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int *numbers(int n);
int main(void) {
    int *q = numbers(100);
    printf("%d\n", q[50]);
    free(q); //Avoid memory leak
    q = NULL; //Guards against double deletes
    return 0;
}
```
int *numbers(int n){
    int *p = malloc(n * sizeof(int));
    assert(p); // Verify that malloc succeeded.
    for(int i=0; i<n; i++)
        p[i] = i;
    return p;
}
Other Allocators

Again, we need `<stdlib.h>` to use these.

`void* calloc (size_t nmemb, size_t size)`

- Clear allocate.
- Allocates `nmemb` elements of `size` bytes each initialized to 0.

`void* realloc (void *p, size_t size)`

- Resizes a previously allocated block.
- May need to create a new block and copy over old block contents.

Typically, `malloc` is used unless you have a good reason to do otherwise.
Pointers to structs

- Let’s revisit our time of day struct example
  
  ```c
  struct tod int hour, min;
  ```

- To create a pointer to the structure, we can use:
  
  ```c
  struct tod *t = malloc(sizeof(struct tod));
  ```

- Now `t` points to the beginning of a struct where the integers `hour` and `min` are located.

- We can modify these values by using `(*t).hour = 18;` or `t->hour = 18;`

- Note: Arrow operator can be overloaded whereas the dot cannot. Brackets are necessary above because dot has precedence.
Flexible Array Members

• In the time of day example, the sizes of all the elements were fixed.
• What happens if you say want a struct with an array whose size is to be determined later?
• Turns out there are ways to handle this but it must be done very carefully.
• This is valid only in C99 and beyond.
• This technique is called the “struct hack”. 
Struct Hack Setup

```c
#include <assert.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

struct flex_array{
    int length;
    int a[]; // Note: declared at end
};
```

- Inside the struct, `int a[]` has size 0.
- `sizeof(struct flex_array)` returns 4.
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void) {
    size_t array_size = 4;
    struct flex_array *fa = malloc(
        sizeof(struct flex_array)
        + array_size * sizeof(int));
    assert(fa);
    fa->length = array_size;
    for(int i=0; i<fa->length; i++)
        fa->a[i] = i;
    printf("%d\n", fa->a[3]);
    free(fa);
    fa=NULL;
    return 0;
}

Struct Hack Execution
Arrays have a fixed size. Is there a way to create an array that expands as more terms are needed?

There is a library in C++ that does this, the `vector` library but not in C.

We’ll actually create a simplified instance of this to demonstrate how it works.

Idea: Initialize contents to 0 and grow automatically by powers of 2.
#ifndef VECTOR_H
#define VECTOR_H

struct vector;
struct vector *vectorCreate();
struct vector *vectorDelete(struct vector *v);
void vectorSet(struct vector *v, int index, int value);
int vectorGet(struct vector *v, int index);
int vectorLength(struct vector *v);

#endif

Note: size is the total storage where as length is the actual used storage.
Descriptions (should include in the header file!)

- `struct vector *vectorCreate();` will create a new vector and initialize everything to 0.
- `struct vector *vectorDelete(struct vector *v));` deletes the vector *v*. Returns NULL on success. (return NULL to allow for v=vectorDelete(v);
- `void vectorSet(struct vector *v, int index, int value);` sets index index to be value. This code rescales the vector as necessary.
- `int vectorGet(struct vector *v, int index);` returns element at index index.
- `int vectorLength(struct vector *v);` returns the length of the vector *v.`
#include "vector.h"

struct vector{
    int *a;
    int size, length;
};
struct vector *vectorCreate() {
    vector *v = malloc(sizeof(vector));
    assert(v);
    v->size = 1;
    v->a = malloc(1*sizeof(int));
    assert(v->a);
    v->length = 0;
    return v;
}

struct vector *vectorDelete(struct vector *v) {
    if (v) {
        free(v->a);
        free(v);
    }
    return NULL;
}
void vectorSet(struct vector *v, int index, int value) {
    assert(v && index >= 0);
    // grow storage if necessary
    if (index >= v->size) {
        do {
            v->size *= 2;
        } while (index >= v->size);
        v->a = realloc(v->a, v->size * sizeof(int));
    }
    // Zero Fill
    while (index >= v->length) {
        v->a[v->length] = 0;
        v->length++;
    }
    v->a[index] = value;
}
int vectorGet(struct vector *v, int index) {
    assert(v && index >= 0 && index < v->length);
    return v->a[index];
}

int vectorLength(struct vector *v) {
    assert(v);
    return v->length;
}
```c
#include <stdio.h>
#include "vector.h"

void main() {
    vector *v = vectorCreate();
    vectorSet(v, 10, 2);
    printf("%d\n", vectorLength(v));
    printf("%d\n", vectorGet(v, 10));
    v = vectorDelete(v);
}
```
Notice how none of the implementation details were in our header file; only the declarations.

This is a design principle known as **information hiding**.

We do this to hide implementation details from the user, yet keep the user interaction/interface the same.

We can modify the internal code and not affect other people who are using our code externally.