

Strings – Dynamic memory management

Basics of Programming 1



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2 Strings

- Strings

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- String example

Chapter 1

Type conversion

What is that?

In some cases the C-program needs to convert the type of our expressions.

```
1 long func(float f) {  
2     return f;  
3 }  
4  
5 int main(void) {  
6     int i = 2;  
7     short s = func(i);  
8     return 0;  
9 }
```

In this example: `int` \rightarrow `float` \rightarrow `long` \rightarrow `short`

- `int` \rightarrow `float` rounding, if the number is large
- `float` \rightarrow `long` may cause overflow, rounding to integer
- `long` \rightarrow `short` may cause overflow

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- Basic principle

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- Conversion with two operands (eg. 2/3.4)

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- Conversion with one operand (we have seen that)
 - at assignment of value
 - at calling a function (when actualising the formal parameters)
- Conversion with two operands (eg. $2/3.4$)
 - evaluating an operation

Conversion with two operands

The conversion of the two operands to the same, common type happens according to these rules

operand one	the other operand	common, new type
long double	anything	long double
double	anything	double
float	anything	float
unsigned long	anything	unsigned long
long	anything (int, unsigned)	long
unsigned	anything (int)	unsigned
int	anything (int)	int

Type conversions

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```
1 int a = 3;  
2 double b = 2.4;  
3 a = a*b;
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3 $7.2 \rightarrow 7$

Chapter 2

Strings

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- The termination sign is the character with 0 ASCII-code `'\0'`, the null-character.

'S'	'o'	'm'	'e'	' '	't'	'e'	'x'	't'	'\0'
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Defining strings as character arrays

■ Definition of character array with initialization

```
1 char s[] = {'H', 'e', 'l', 'l', 'o', '\\0'};
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■ The same in a more simple way

```
1 char s[] = "Hello"; /* s array (const.addr 0x1000) */
```

'H'	0x1000
'e'	0x1001
'l'	0x1002
'l'	0x1003
'o'	0x1004
'\0'	0x1005

Defining strings as character arrays

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■ The same in a more simple way

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1 char s[] = "Hello"; /* s array (const.addr 0x1000) */
```

'D'	0x1000
'e'	0x1001
'l'	0x1002
'l'	0x1003
'a'	0x1004
'\0'	0x1005

■ Elements of s can be accessed with indexing or with pointer-arithmetics

```
1 *s = 'D'; /* s is taken as pointer */  
2 s[4] = 'a'; /* s is taken as array */
```


Defining strings as character arrays

- We can allocate memory for a longer string than needed now, thus we have an overhead.

```
1 char s[10] = "Hello"; /* s array, (const.addr. 0x1000) */
```

'H'	0x1000
'e'	0x1001
'l'	0x1002
'l'	0x1003
'o'	0x1004
'\0'	0x1005
?	0x1006
?	0x1007
?	0x1008
?	0x1009

Defining strings as character arrays

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'!'	0x1005
'!'	0x1006
'\0'	0x1007
?	0x1008
?	0x1009

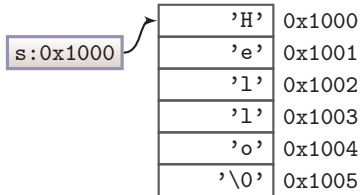
- Modification:

```
1 s[5] = s[6] = '!';  
2 s[7] = '\0';          /* must be terminated */
```

Defining strings as character arrays

- Defining a constant character array and a pointer pointing to it, with initialization.

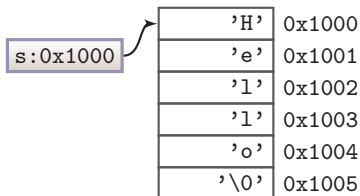
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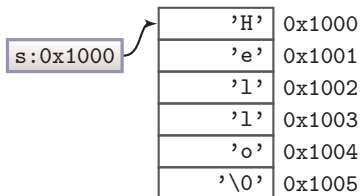


- Here the so-called static part of memory is used to store the string. The content of the string cannot be changed.

Defining strings as character arrays

- Defining a constant character array and a pointer pointing to it, with initialization.

```
1 char *s = "Hello"; /* s pointer */
```



- Here the so-called static part of memory is used to store the string. The content of the string cannot be changed.
- We can modify value of `s`, however it is not recommended, because this stores the address of our string.

Remarks

■ Character or text?

```
1 char s[] = "A"; /* two bytes: {'A', '\0'} */  
2 char c = 'A'; /* one byte: 'A' */
```

Remarks

■ Character or text?

```
1 char s[] = "A"; /* two bytes: {'A', '\0'} */  
2 char c = 'A'; /* one byte: 'A' */
```

■ A text can be empty, but there is no empty character

```
1 char s[] = ""; /* one byte: {'\0'} */  
2 char c = ''; /* ERROR, this is not possible */
```

Reading and displaying strings

- Strings are read and displayed with format code `%s`

```
1 char s[100] = "Hello";  
2 printf("%s\n", s);  
3 printf("Enter a word not longer than 99 characters: ");  
4 scanf("%s", s);  
5 printf("%s\n", s);
```

Hello

Enter a word not longer than 99 characters: ghostbusters
ghostbusters

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2 printf("%s\n", s);  
3 printf("Enter a word not longer than 99 characters: ");  
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5 printf("%s\n", s);
```

Hello

Enter a word not longer than 99 characters: ghostbusters
ghostbusters

- Why don't we have to pass the size for `printf`?
- Why don't we need the `&` in the `scanf` function?

Reading and displaying strings

- `scanf` reads only until the first whitespace character. To read text consisting of several words, use the `gets` function:

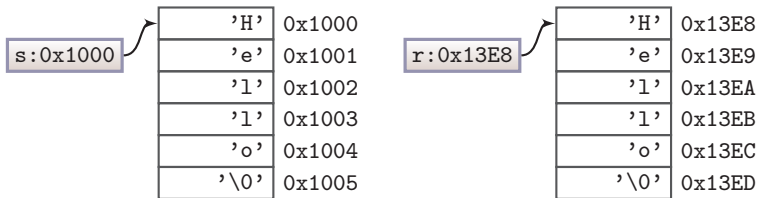
```
1 char s[100];  
2 printf("Enter a text - max. 99 characters long: ");  
3 gets(s);  
4 printf("%s\n", s);
```

```
Enter a text - max. 99 characters long: this is text  
this is text
```

Strings – typical mistakes

■ Typical mistake: comparison of strings

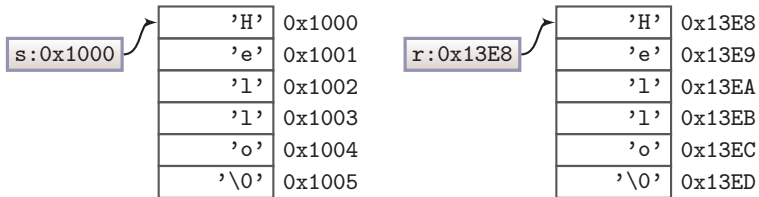
```
1 char *s = "Hello";  
2 char *r = "Hello";  
3 if (s == r) /* what do we compare? */  
4 ...
```



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■ The same mistake happens if defined as arrays

String functions

- Comparing strings
- the result
 - positive, if s1 stands after s2 alphabetically
 - 0, if they are identical
 - negative, if s1 stands before s2 alphabetically

```
1 int strcmp(char *s1, char *s2) /* pointer-notation */
2 {
3     while (*s1 != '\0' && *s1 == *s2)
4     {
5         s1++;
6         s2++;
7     }
8     return *s1 - *s2;
9 }
```

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- Is it a problem, that s1 and s2 was changed during the check?

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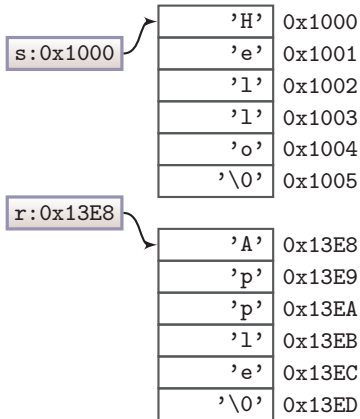
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- Is it a problem, that s1 and s2 was changed during the check?
- Remark: In the solution we made use of the information that `\0` is the 0 ASCII-code character!

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■ Typical mistake: string copy attempt

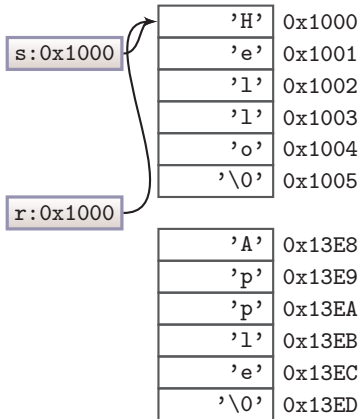
```
1 char *s = "Hello";  
2 char *r = "Apple";  
3 r = s; /* what do we copy */
```



Strings – typical mistakes

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1 char *s = "Hello";  
2 char *r = "Apple";  
3 r = s; /* what do we copy */
```



Other string functions

- `#include <string.h>`
 - `strlen` length of string (without `\0`)
 - `strcmp` comparing strings
 - `strcpy` copying string
 - `strcat` concatenating strings
 - `strchr` search for character in string
 - `strstr` search for string in string
- `strcpy` and `strcat` functions copy 'without thinking', the user must provide the allocated memory for the resulting string!

Chapter 3

Dynamic memory management

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- 1 We read the count (n)
 - 2 We ask memory from the operating system for storing n integer numbers
 - 3 We read and store the numbers, and print them in reversed order
 - 4 We give back (hand over) the reserved memory place to the operating system

Example

```
1  int n, i;
2  int *p;
3
4  printf("How many numbers? ");
5  scanf("%d", &n);
6  p = (int*)malloc(n*sizeof(int));
7  if (p == NULL) return;
8
9  printf("Enter %d numbers:\n", n);
10 for (i = 0; i < n; ++i)
11     scanf("%d", &p[i]);
12
13 printf("Reversed:\n");
14 for (i = 0; i < n; ++i)
15     printf("%d ", p[n-i-1]);
16
17 free(p);
18 p = NULL;
```

p:0x????



Example

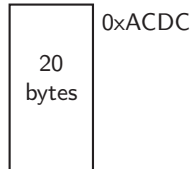
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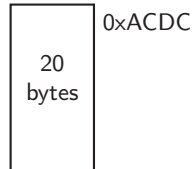


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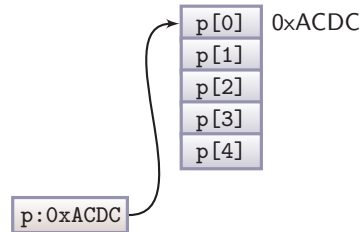


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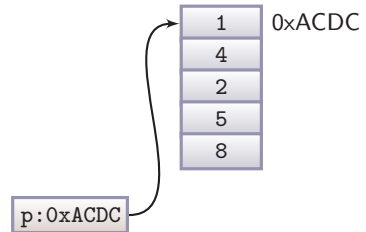
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1 4 2 5 8
Reversed:
8 5 2 4 1
```


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[link](#)

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The malloc and free functions – <stdlib.h>

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1 int *p; /* starting address of int array */
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3 p = (int *)malloc(5*sizeof(int));
```

- If there is not enough memory available, the return value is `NULL`. This must be checked always.

```
1 if (p != NULL)
2 {
3     /* using memory, and releasing it */
4 }
```


The malloc and free functions – <stdlib.h>

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void free(void *p);
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```

- As a nullpointer points to nowhere, a good practice is to set a pointer to NULL after usage, so we can see it is not in use.

malloc – free

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- for each malloc there is a free

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1 char *WiFi = (char *)malloc(20*sizeof(char));  
2 int *Tibet = (int *)malloc(23*sizeof(int));  
3 ...  
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 - Release in the same function where allocated
 - Don't modify the pointer that was returned by malloc, if possible, use the same pointer for releasing
- If we cannot keep these rules, make a note in the code about this (comment)

The calloc function – <stdlib.h>

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- Usage is almost the same as of `malloc`, except this performs the calculation `num*size`, and removes the garbage.
- The allocated block must be released in the same way: with `free`.

```
1 int *p = (int *)calloc(5, sizeof(int));  
2 if (p != NULL)  
3 {  
4     /* using it */  
5 }  
6 free(p);
```

Example

- Let's create a function that concatenates the strings received as parameters. The function should allocate memory for the resulting string, and should return with its address.

```
1  /* concatenate -- concatenating two strings
2     Dynamic allocation, returning with address.
3  */
4  char *concatenate(char *s1, char *s2){
5      size_t l1 = strlen(s1);
6      size_t l2 = strlen(s2);
7      char *s = (char *)malloc((l1+l2+1)*sizeof(char));
8      if (s != NULL) {
9          strcpy(s, s1);
10         strcpy(s+l1, s2); /* or strcat(s, s2) */
11     }
12     return s;
13 }
```

[link](#)

Example

Usage of the function

```
1 char word1[] = "partner", word2[] = "ship";
2
3 char *res1 = concatenate(word1, word2);
4 char *res2 = concatenate(word2, word1);
5 res2[0] = 'w';
6
7 printf("%s\n%s", res1, res2);
8
9 /* The function did allocate memory, release it! */
10 free(res1);
11 free(res2);
```

[link](#)

```
partnership
whippartner
```


Thank you for your attention.