

Pointers, Pointers, Pointers

CSE 333 Spring 2020

Instructor: Hal Perkins

Teaching Assistants:

Ramya Challa

Mengqui Chen

John Depaszthory

Greg Guo

Zachary Keyes

CJ Lin

Travis McGaha

Arjun Singh

Guramrit Singh

Cosmo Wang

Yifan Xu

Robin Yang

Haoran Yu

Velocity Yu

Administrivia: Chat Window

- ❖ We’re going to keep this enabled, but we need to think about how to use it. Let’s try this:
 - Please use it mostly for a very short message like “hand” or “question” to “raise your hand”. Maybe also a short question, but nothing long.
 - Your instructor will try to wait until appropriate pauses in the class and recognize people to ask questions then
 - No extraneous “chat” or “chatter”
 - Remember there are 150+ people in this meeting. Typing a message other “hand” or “question”, or a very short question, is equivalent to shouting out in the middle of an in-person class
 - Chat is not the place for extraneous remarks – it’s not a private channel to show off or talk to friends; it’s for things that would be appropriate in a normal class
 - Be courteous and aware of others. Don’t put people down; be aware that many people here have family and friends affected by the current pandemic, etc.
 - Thank you.

Administrivia

- ❖ Exercise 2 out today; due Monday morning 10am pdt, **no late submissions** starting now with ex2, and ex2 and future exercises count towards the course grade.
- ❖ Exercise grading
 - We will do our best to keep up (but we're delayed this qtr)
 - Things to watch for:
 - Input sanity check
 - No functional abstraction (single blob of code)
 - Code formatting funnies (*e.g.* tabs instead of spaces) or bad code
 - Exercise grading:
 - 3 = superior; 2 = fine, but things to improve; 1 = some problems; 0 = hmm... (*i.e.*, A; B; C; D/F)
 - We expect 0 and 1 to be rare; more 2's now, more 3's as quarter progresses

Administrivia

- ❖ Homework 0 due Monday
 - Logistics and infrastructure for projects
 - `clint` and `valgrind` are useful for exercises, too
 - Should have set up an ssh key and cloned GitLab repo by now
 - Do this ASAP so we have time to fix things if necessary
- ❖ Homework 1 out probably tomorrow, due in 2 weeks
 - Linked list and hash table implementations in C
 - Get starter code using `git pull` in your course repo
 - Might have “merge conflict” if your local repo has unpushed changes
 - If git drops you into `vi(m)`, `:q` to quit or `:wq` if you want to save changes

Administrivia

- ❖ Documentation:
 - man pages, books
 - Reference websites: cplusplus.org, man7.org, gcc.gnu.org, etc.
- ❖ Folklore:
 - Google-ing, stackoverflow, that rando in lab or on zoom
- ❖ Tradeoffs? Relative strengths & weaknesses?
 - Discuss

Lecture Outline

- ❖ **Pointers & Pointer Arithmetic**
- ❖ Pointers as Parameters
- ❖ Pointers and Arrays
- ❖ Function Pointers

Box-and-Arrow Diagrams

boxarrow.c

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int x = 1;
    int arr[3] = {2, 3, 4};
    int* p = &arr[1];

    printf("&x: %p;  x: %d\n", &x, x);
    printf("&arr[0]: %p;  arr[0]: %d\n", &arr[0], arr[0]);
    printf("&arr[2]: %p;  arr[2]: %d\n", &arr[2], arr[2]);
    printf("&p: %p;  p: %p;  *p: %d\n", &p, p, *p);

    return 0;
}
```

address	name	value
---------	------	-------

Box-and-Arrow Diagrams

boxarrow.c

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int x = 1;
    int arr[3] = {2, 3, 4};
    int* p = &arr[1];

    printf("&x: %p;  x: %d\n", &x, x);
    printf("&arr[0]: %p;  arr[0]: %d\n", &arr[0], arr[0]);
    printf("&arr[2]: %p;  arr[2]: %d\n", &arr[2], arr[2]);
    printf("&p: %p;  p: %p;  *p: %d\n", &p, p, *p);

    return 0;
}
```

address

name	value
------	-------

&x

&arr[2]

&arr[1]

&arr[0]

&p

&x

arr[2]	value
arr[1]	value
arr[0]	value
p	value
x	value

stack frame for main() 8

Box-and-Arrow Diagrams

boxarrow.c

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int x = 1;
    int arr[3] = {2, 3, 4};
    int* p = &arr[1];

    printf("&x: %p;  x: %d\n", &x, x);
    printf("&arr[0]: %p;  arr[0]: %d\n", &arr[0], arr[0]);
    printf("&arr[2]: %p;  arr[2]: %d\n", &arr[2], arr[2]);
    printf("&p: %p;  p: %p;  *p: %d\n", &p, p, *p);

    return 0;
}
```

address

name	value
------	-------

&arr[2]

arr[2]	4
--------	---

&arr[1]

arr[1]	3
--------	---

&arr[0]

arr[0]	2
--------	---

&p

p	&arr[1]
---	---------

&x

x	1
---	---

Box-and-Arrow Diagrams

boxarrow.c

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int x = 1;
    int arr[3] = {2, 3, 4};
    int* p = &arr[1];

    printf("&x: %p; x: %d\n", &x, x);
    printf("&arr[0]: %p; arr[0]: %d\n", &arr[0], arr[0]);
    printf("&arr[2]: %p; arr[2]: %d\n", &arr[2], arr[2]);
    printf("&p: %p; p: %p; *p: %d\n", &p, p, *p);

    return 0;
}
```

address	name	value
---------	------	-------

0x7fff...78	arr[2]	4
0x7fff...74	arr[1]	3
0x7fff...70	arr[0]	2
0x7fff...68	p	0x7fff...74
0x7fff...64	x	1

Pointer Arithmetic

- ❖ Pointers are *typed*
 - Tells the compiler the size of the data you are pointing to
 - Exception: `void*` is a generic pointer (*i.e.* a placeholder)
- ❖ Pointer arithmetic is scaled by `sizeof (*p)`
 - Works nicely for arrays
 - Does not work on `void*`, since `void` doesn't have a size!
- ❖ Valid pointer arithmetic:
 - Add/subtract an integer to a pointer
 - Subtract two pointers (within stack frame or malloc block)
 - Compare pointers (<, <=, ==, !=, >, >=), including NULL

Practice Question

boxarrow2.c

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int arr[3] = {2, 3, 4};  
    int* p = &arr[1];  
    int** dp = &p; // pointer to a pointer  
  
    *(*dp) += 1;  
    p += 1;  
    *(*dp) += 1; // At this point in the code, what values are  
    // stored in arr[]?  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

address

name	value
------	-------

0x7fff...78	arr[2]	4
0x7fff...74	arr[1]	3
0x7fff...70	arr[0]	2

0x7fff...68	p	0x7fff...74
-------------	---	-------------

0x7fff...60	dp	0x7fff...68
-------------	----	-------------

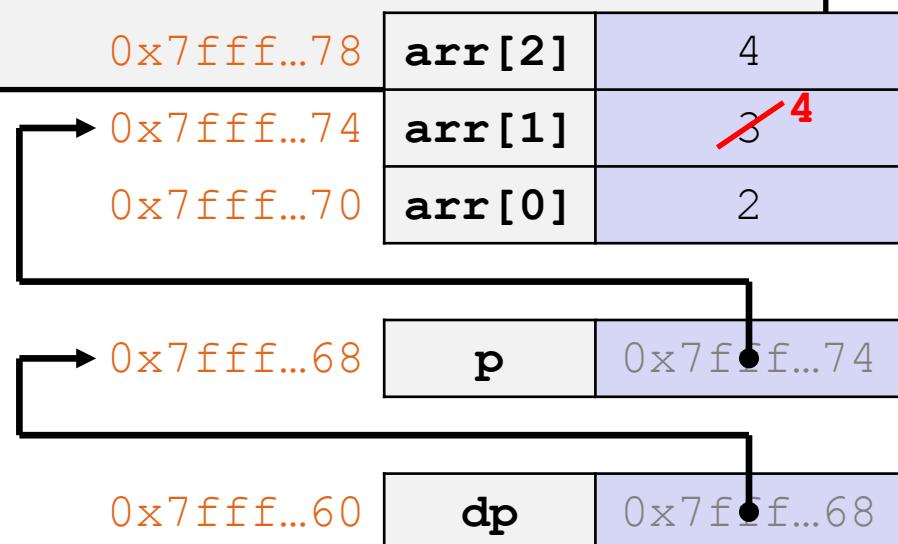
Practice Solution

Note: arrow points to *next instruction to be executed.*
boxarrow2.c

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int arr[3] = {2, 3, 4};  
    int* p = &arr[1];  
    int** dp = &p; // pointer to a pointer  
  
    *(*dp) += 1;  
    p += 1;  
    *(*dp) += 1;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

address

name	value



Practice Solution

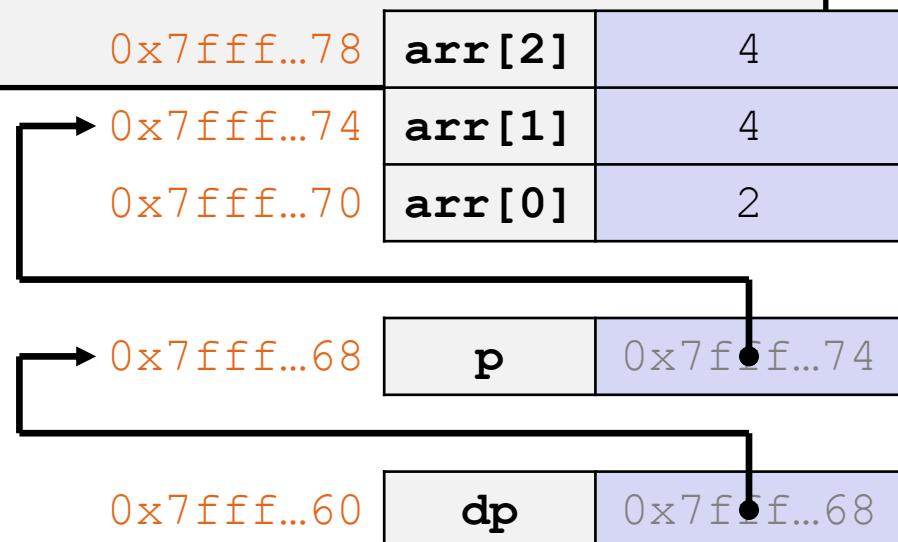
Note: arrow points to *next instruction to be executed.*
boxarrow2.c

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int arr[3] = {2, 3, 4};  
    int* p = &arr[1];  
    int** dp = &p; // pointer to a pointer  
  
    *(*dp) += 1;  
    p += 1;  
    *(*dp) += 1;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```



address

name	value



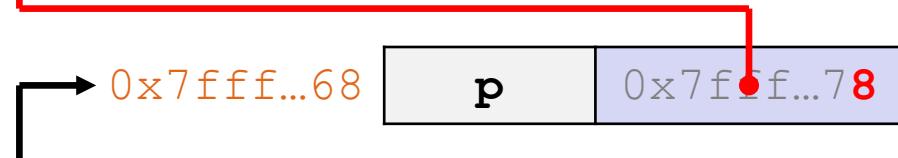
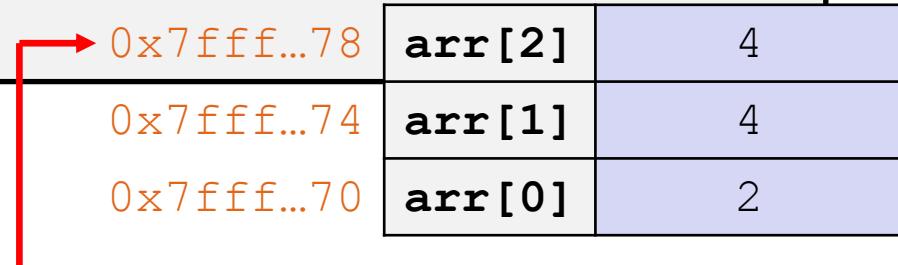
Practice Solution

Note: arrow points to *next instruction to be executed.*
boxarrow2.c

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int arr[3] = {2, 3, 4};  
    int* p = &arr[1];  
    int** dp = &p; // pointer to a pointer  
  
    *(*dp) += 1;  
    p += 1;  
    *(*dp) += 1;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

address

name	value
------	-------



Practice Solution

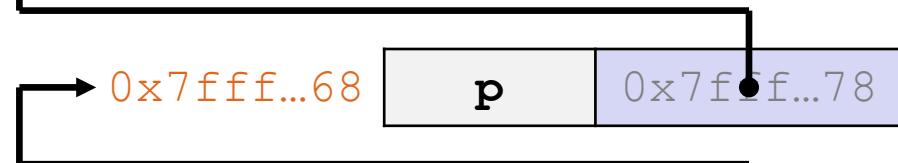
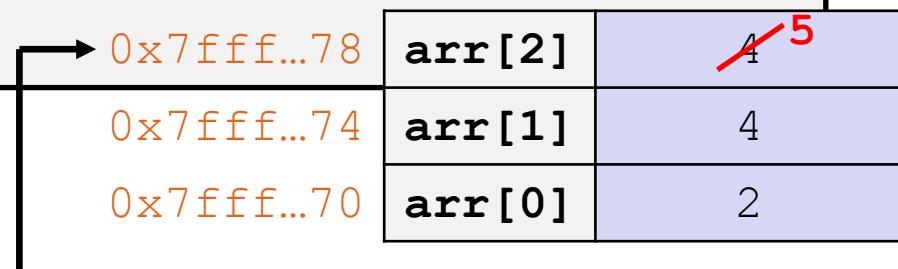
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boxarrow2.c

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int arr[3] = {2, 3, 4};  
    int* p = &arr[1];  
    int** dp = &p; // pointer to a pointer  
  
    *(*dp) += 1;  
    p += 1;  
    *(*dp) += 1;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```



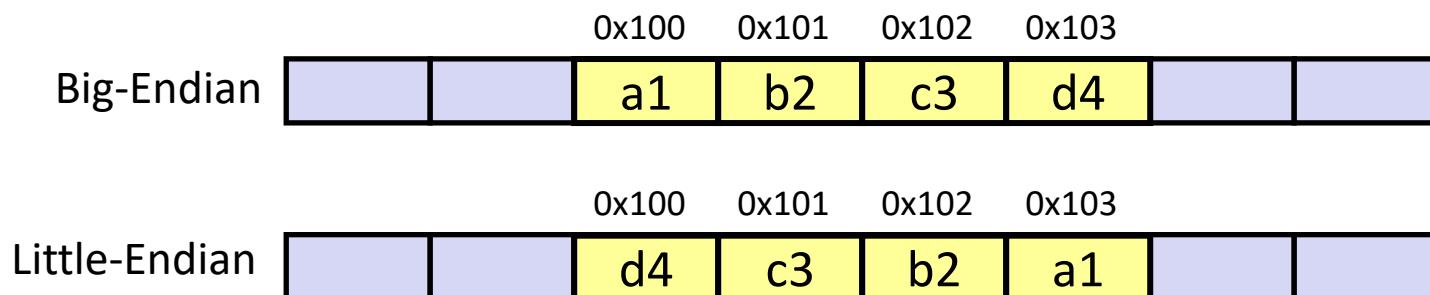
address

name	value



Endianness

- ❖ Memory is byte-addressed, so endianness determines what ordering that multi-byte data gets read and stored *in memory*
 - **Big-endian**: Least significant byte has *highest* address
 - **Little-endian**: Least significant byte has *lowest* address
- ❖ **Example:** 4-byte data 0xa1b2c3d4 at address 0x100

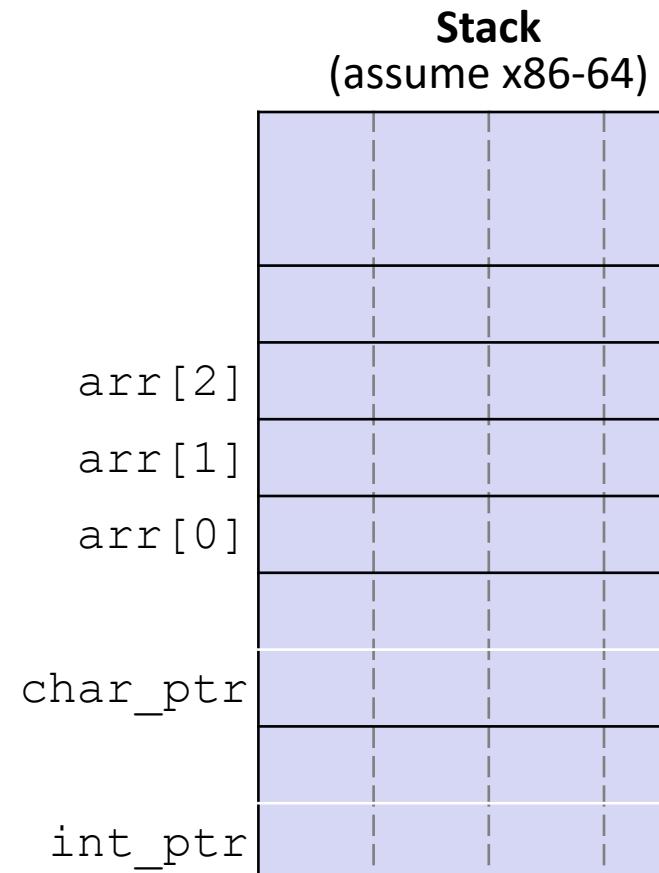


Pointer Arithmetic Example

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int arr[3] = {1, 2, 3};  
    int* int_ptr = &arr[0];  
    char* char_ptr = (char*) int_ptr;  
  
    int_ptr += 1;  
    int_ptr += 2; // uh oh  
  
    char_ptr += 1;  
    char_ptr += 2;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

pointerarithmetic.c



Pointer Arithmetic Example

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int arr[3] = {1, 2, 3};  
    int* int_ptr = &arr[0];  
    char* char_ptr = (char*) int_ptr;  
  
    int_ptr += 1;  
    int_ptr += 2; // uh oh  
  
    char_ptr += 1;  
    char_ptr += 2;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

pointerarithmetic.c

Stack
(assume x86-64)

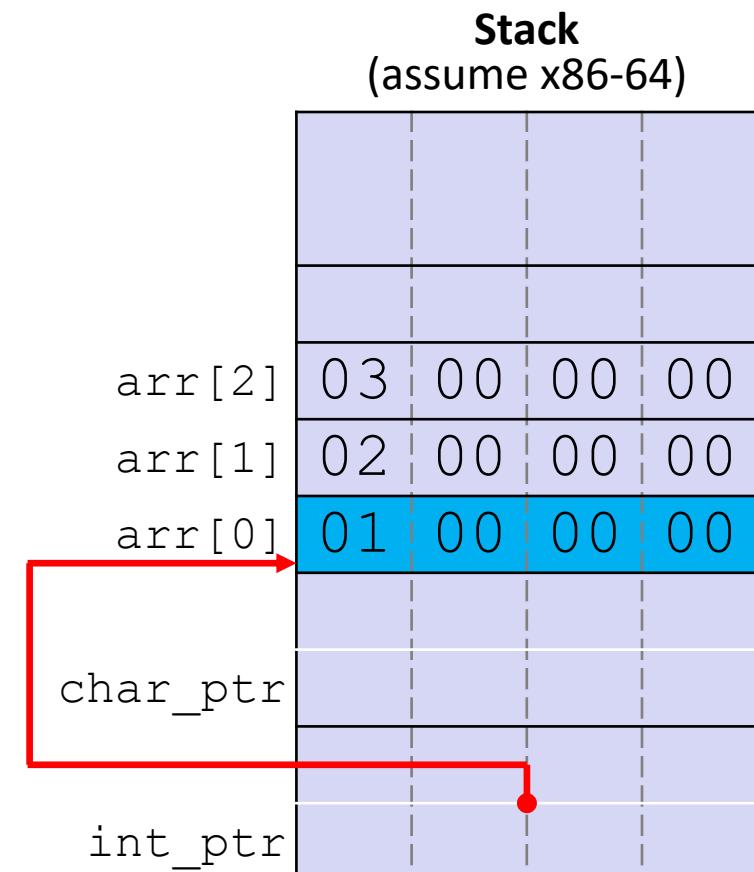
arr[2]	03	00	00	00
arr[1]	02	00	00	00
arr[0]	01	00	00	00
char_ptr				
int_ptr				

Pointer Arithmetic Example

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int arr[3] = {1, 2, 3};  
    int* int_ptr = &arr[0];  
    char* char_ptr = (char*) int_ptr;  
  
    int_ptr += 1;  
    int_ptr += 2; // uh oh  
  
    char_ptr += 1;  
    char_ptr += 2;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

pointerarithmetic.c

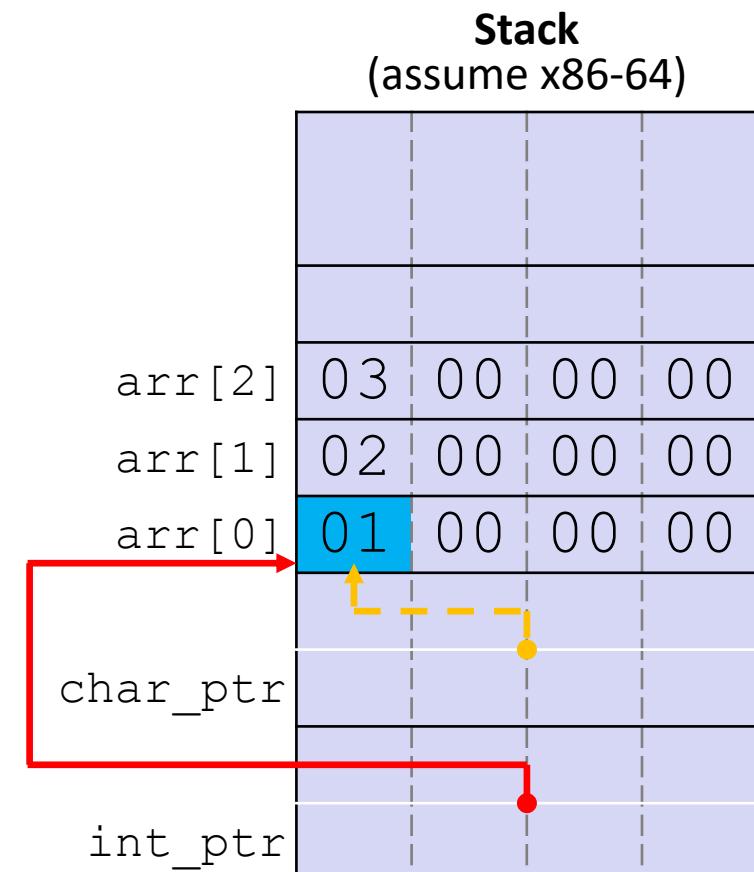


Pointer Arithmetic Example

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int arr[3] = {1, 2, 3};  
    int* int_ptr = &arr[0];  
    char* char_ptr = (char*) int_ptr;  
  
    int_ptr += 1;  
    int_ptr += 2; // uh oh  
  
    char_ptr += 1;  
    char_ptr += 2;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

pointerarithmetic.c



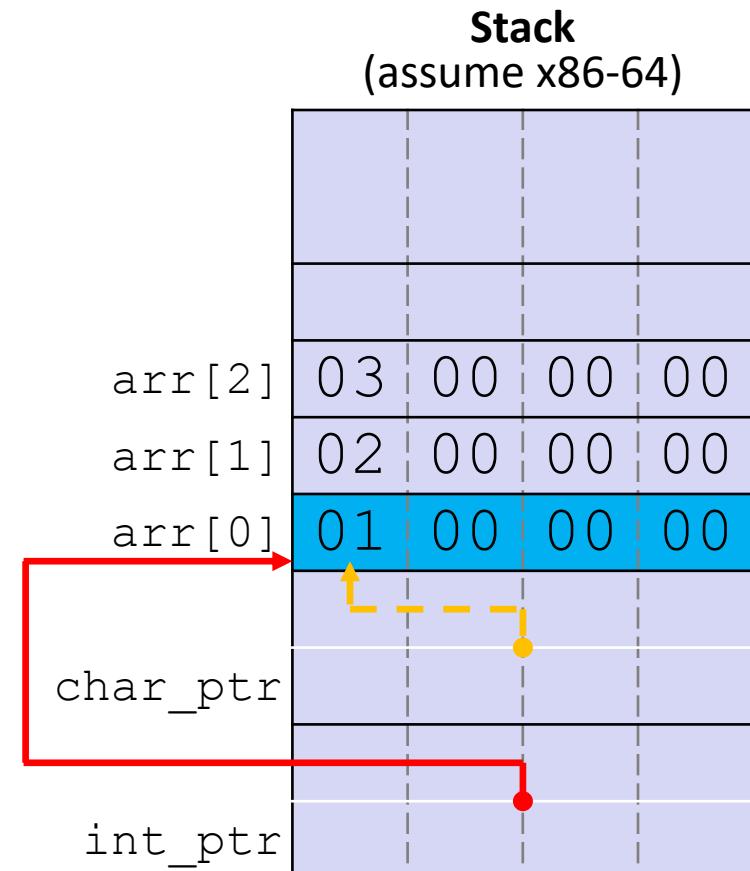
Pointer Arithmetic Example

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int arr[3] = {1, 2, 3};  
    int* int_ptr = &arr[0];  
    char* char_ptr = (char*) int_ptr;  
  
    int_ptr += 1;  
    int_ptr += 2; // uh oh  
  
    char_ptr += 1;  
    char_ptr += 2;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

pointerarithmetic.c

```
int_ptr: 0x0x7fffffffde010  
*int_ptr: 1
```



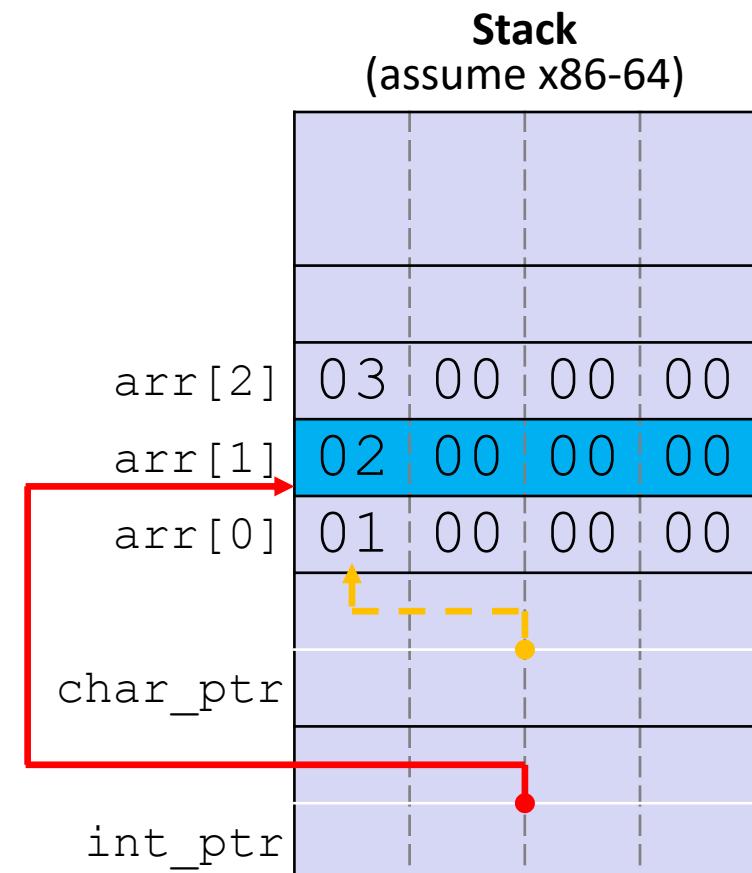
Pointer Arithmetic Example

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int arr[3] = {1, 2, 3};  
    int* int_ptr = &arr[0];  
    char* char_ptr = (char*) int_ptr;  
  
    int_ptr += 1;  
    int_ptr += 2; // uh oh  
  
    char_ptr += 1;  
    char_ptr += 2;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

pointerarithmetic.c

```
int_ptr: 0x0x7fffffffde014  
*int_ptr: 2
```



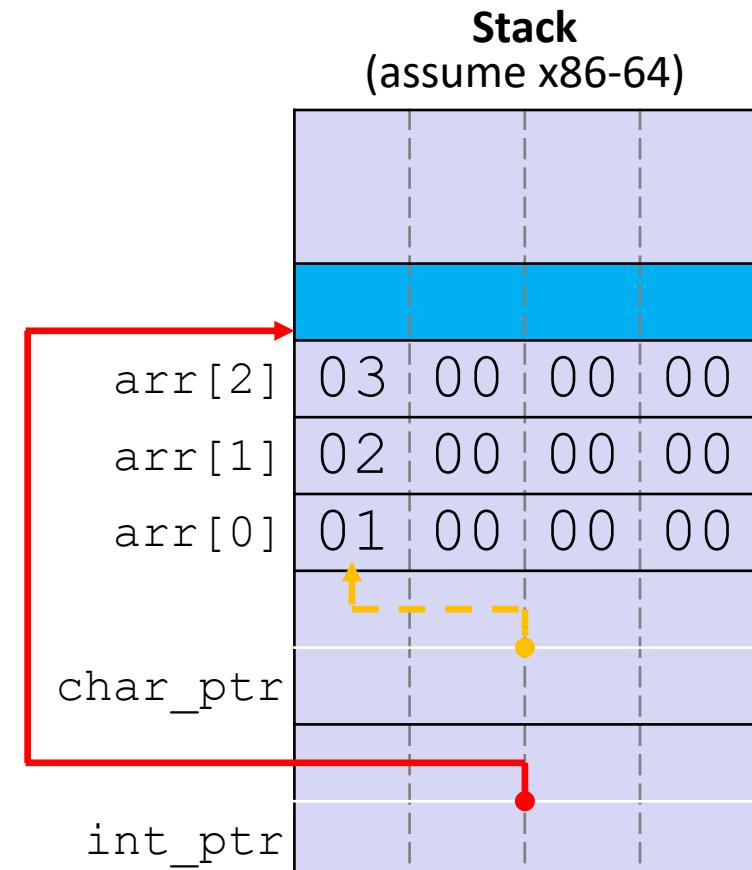
Pointer Arithmetic Example

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int arr[3] = {1, 2, 3};  
    int* int_ptr = &arr[0];  
    char* char_ptr = (char*) int_ptr;  
  
    int_ptr += 1;  
    int_ptr += 2; // uh oh  
  
    char_ptr += 1;  
    char_ptr += 2;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

pointerarithmetic.c

```
int_ptr: 0x0x7fffffffde01C  
*int_ptr: ???
```



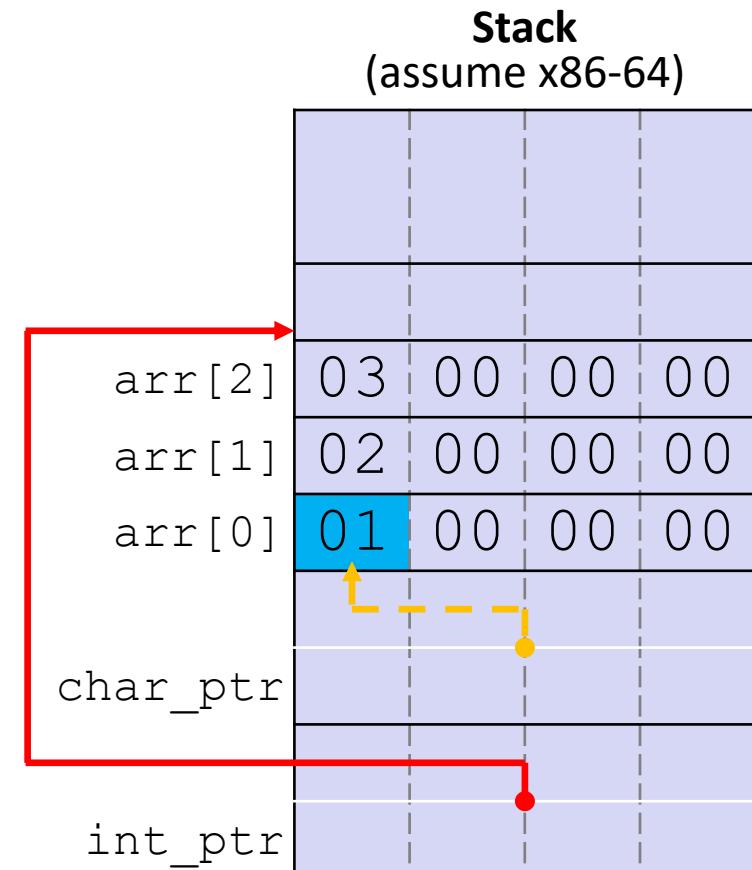
Pointer Arithmetic Example

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int arr[3] = {1, 2, 3};  
    int* int_ptr = &arr[0];  
    char* char_ptr = (char*) int_ptr;  
  
    int_ptr += 1;  
    int_ptr += 2; // uh oh  
  
    char_ptr += 1;  
    char_ptr += 2;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

pointerarithmetic.c

```
char_ptr: 0x0x7fffffffde010  
*char_ptr: 1
```



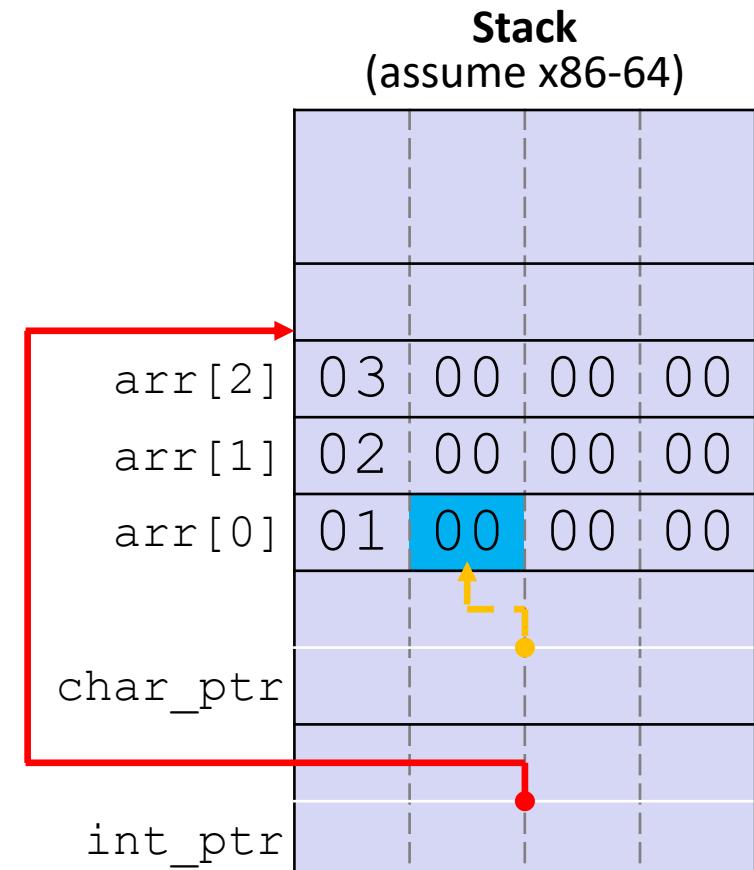
Pointer Arithmetic Example

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int arr[3] = {1, 2, 3};  
    int* int_ptr = &arr[0];  
    char* char_ptr = (char*) int_ptr;  
  
    int_ptr += 1;  
    int_ptr += 2; // uh oh  
  
    char_ptr += 1;  
    char_ptr += 2;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

pointerarithmetic.c

```
char_ptr: 0x0x7fffffffde011  
*char_ptr: 0
```



Pointer Arithmetic Example

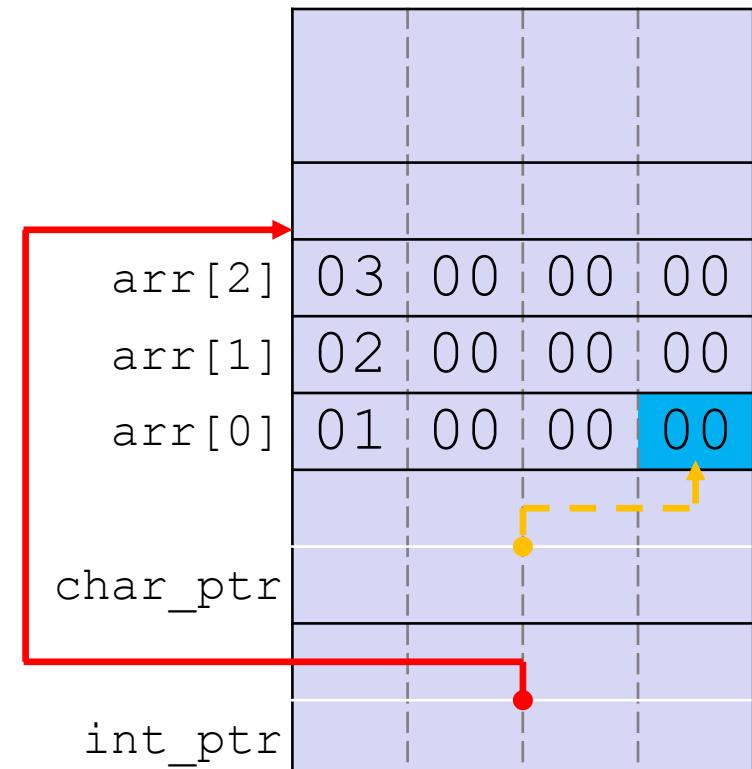
```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int arr[3] = {1, 2, 3};  
    int* int_ptr = &arr[0];  
    char* char_ptr = (char*) int_ptr;  
  
    int_ptr += 1;  
    int_ptr += 2; // uh oh  
  
    char_ptr += 1;  
    char_ptr += 2;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

pointerarithmetic.c

```
char_ptr:    0x0x7fffffffde013
*char_ptr:   0
```

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

Stack



Lecture Outline

- ❖ Pointers & Pointer Arithmetic
- ❖ **Pointers as Parameters**
- ❖ Pointers and Arrays
- ❖ Function Pointers

C is Call-By-Value

- ❖ C (and Java) pass arguments by *value*
 - Callee receives a **local copy** of the argument
 - Register or Stack
 - If the callee modifies a parameter, the caller's copy *isn't* modified

```
void swap(int a, int b) {  
    int tmp = a;  
    a = b;  
    b = tmp;  
}  
  
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int a = 42, b = -7;  
    swap(a, b);  
    ...  
}
```

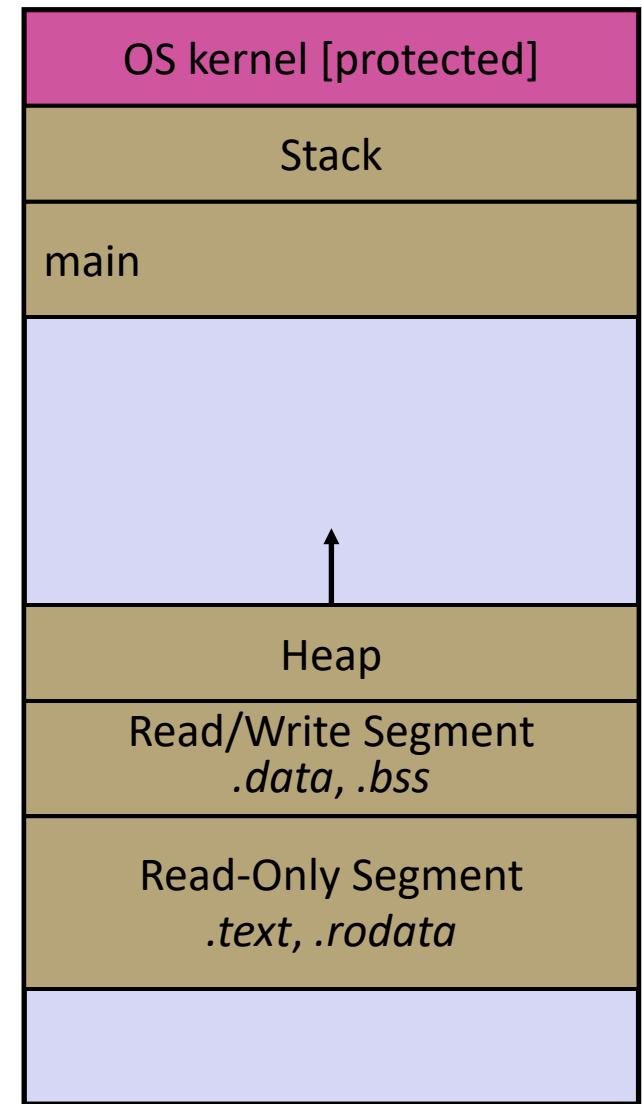
Broken Swap

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

brokenswap.c

```
void swap(int a, int b) {
    int tmp = a;
    a = b;
    b = tmp;
}

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int a = 42, b = -7;
    swap(a, b);
    ...
}
```

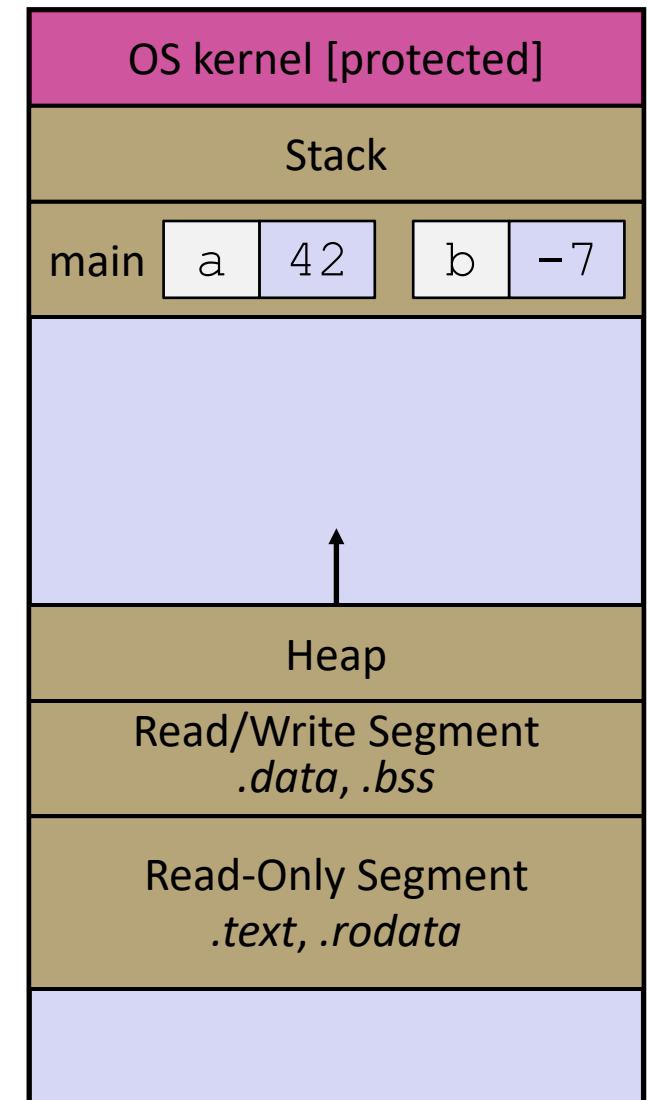


Broken Swap

brokenswap.c

```
void swap(int a, int b) {
    int tmp = a;
    a = b;
    b = tmp;
}

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int a = 42, b = -7;
    swap(a, b);
    ...
}
```

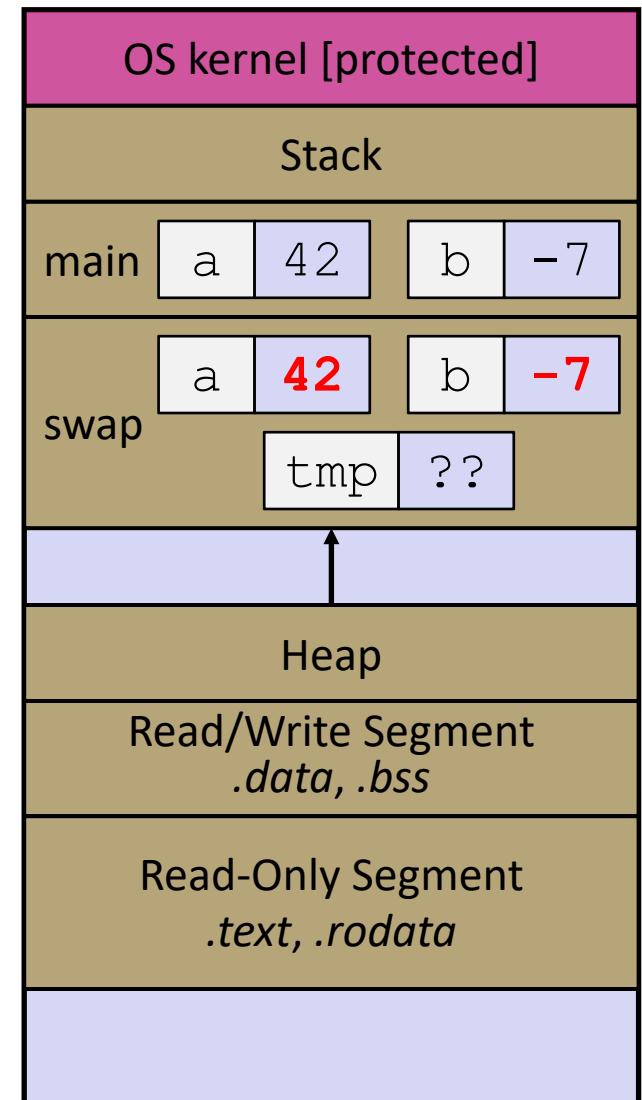


Broken Swap

brokenswap.c

```
void swap(int a, int b) {
    int tmp = a;
    a = b;
    b = tmp;
}

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int a = 42, b = -7;
    swap(a, b);
    ...
}
```

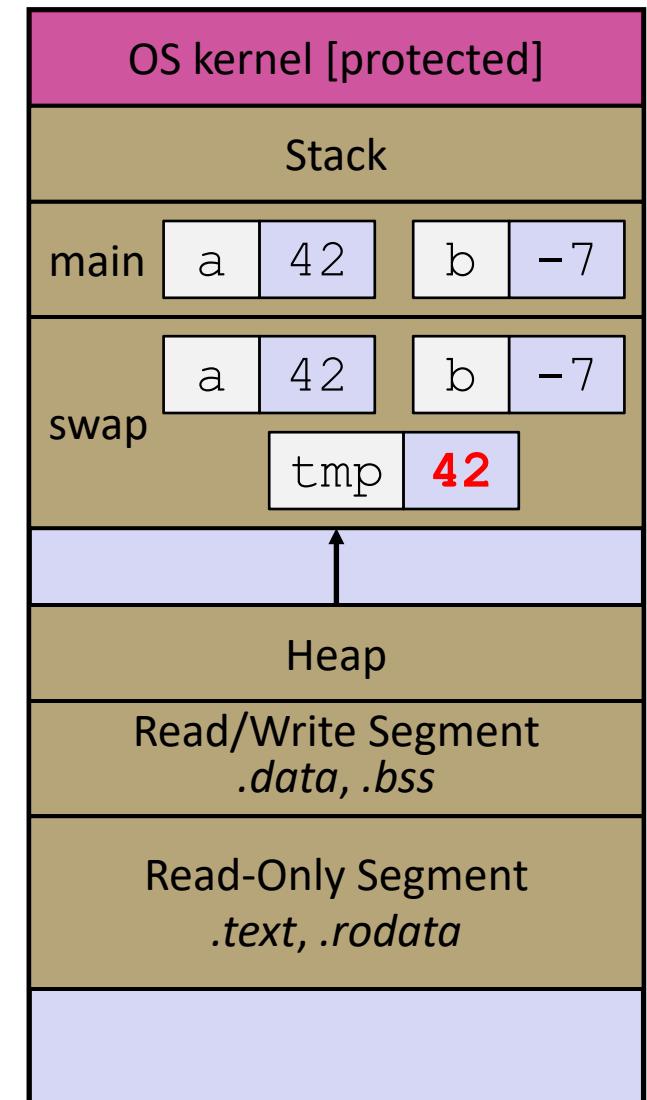


Broken Swap

brokenswap.c

```
void swap(int a, int b) {
    int tmp = a;
    a = b;
    b = tmp;
}

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int a = 42, b = -7;
    swap(a, b);
    ...
}
```

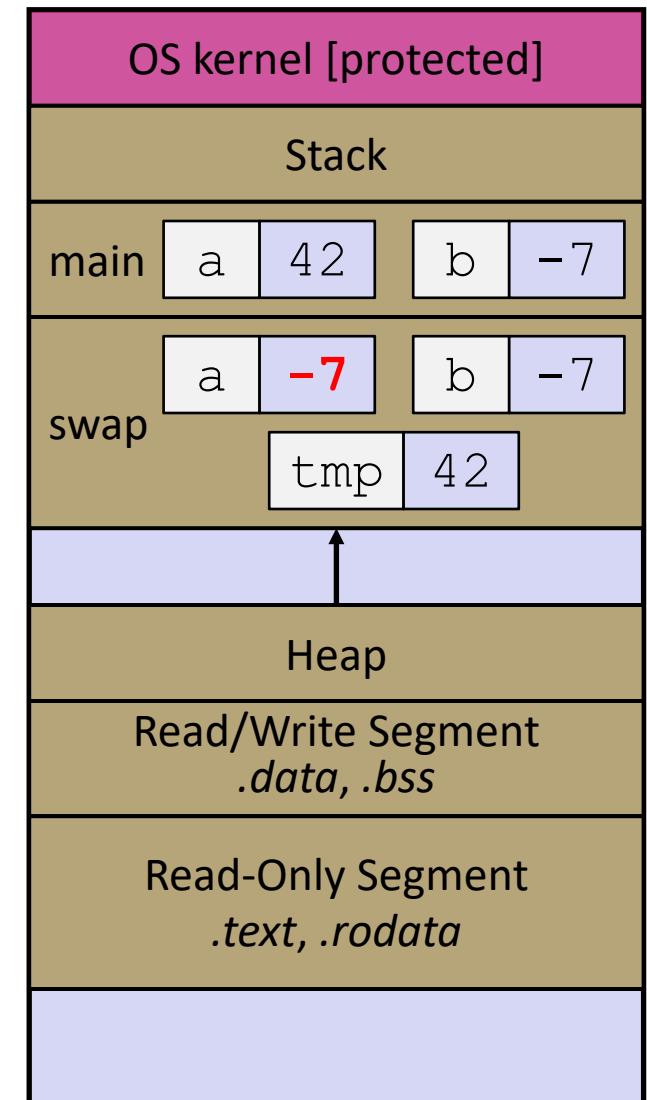


Broken Swap

brokenswap.c

```
void swap(int a, int b) {
    int tmp = a;
    a = b;
    b = tmp;
}

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int a = 42, b = -7;
    swap(a, b);
    ...
}
```

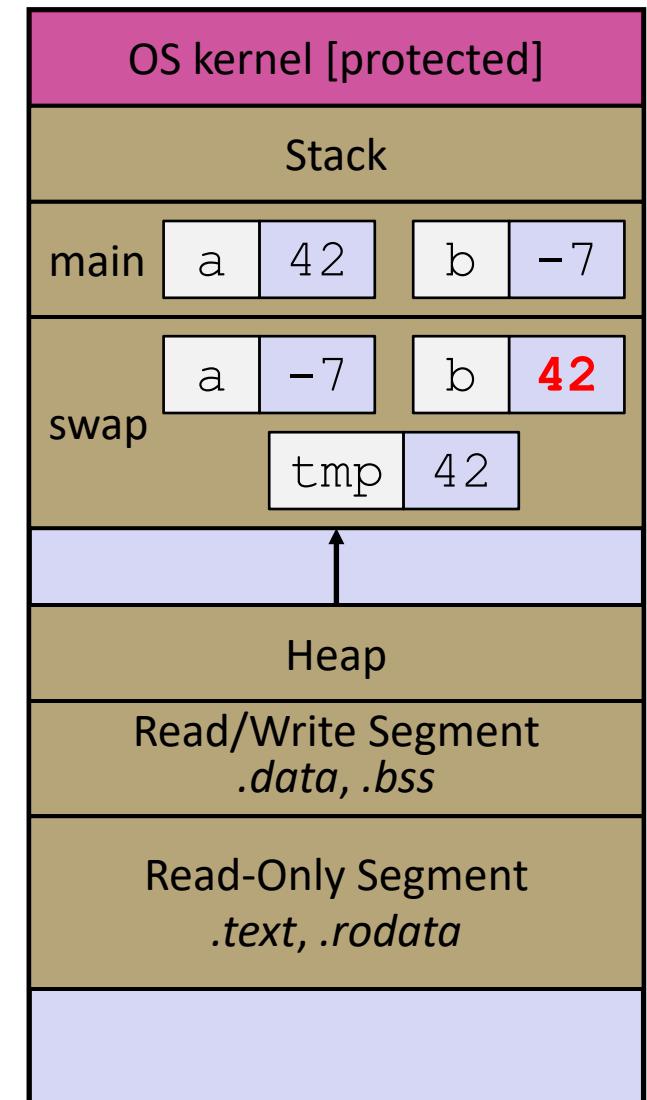


Broken Swap

brokenswap.c

```
void swap(int a, int b) {
    int tmp = a;
    a = b;
    b = tmp;
}

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int a = 42, b = -7;
    swap(a, b);
    ...
}
```

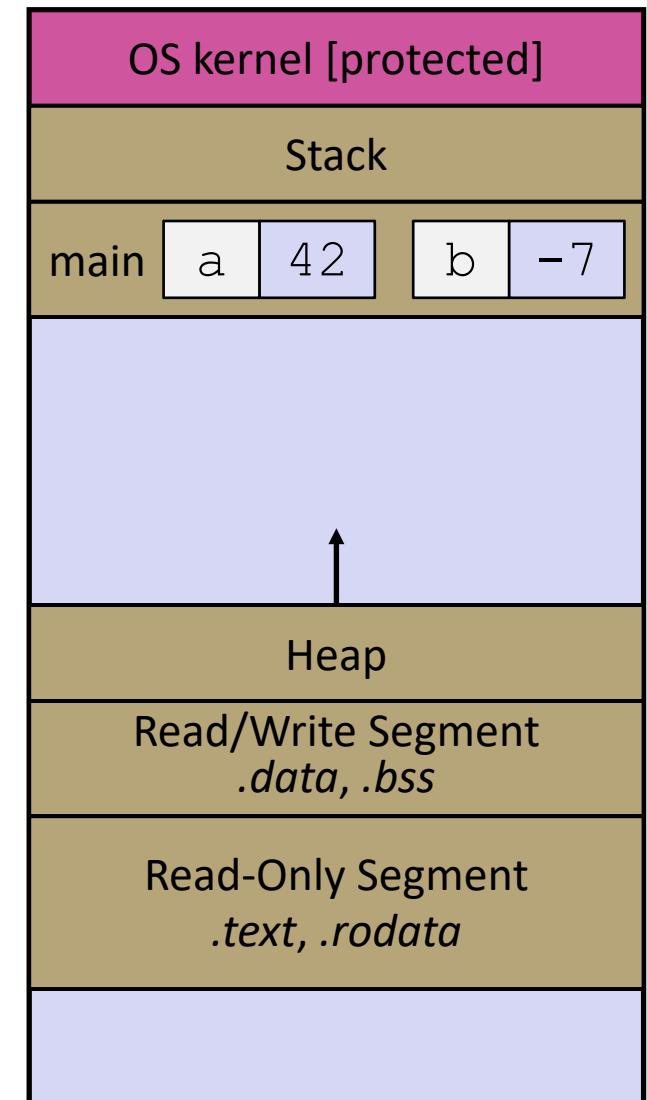


Broken Swap

brokenswap.c

```
void swap(int a, int b) {
    int tmp = a;
    a = b;
    b = tmp;
}

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int a = 42, b = -7;
    swap(a, b);
    ...
}
```



Faking Call-By-Reference in C

- ❖ Can use pointers to *approximate* call-by-reference
 - Callee still receives a **copy** of the pointer (*i.e.* call-by-value), but it can modify something in the caller's scope by dereferencing the pointer parameter

```
void swap(int* a, int* b) {  
    int tmp = *a;  
    *a = *b;  
    *b = tmp;  
}  
  
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int a = 42, b = -7;  
    swap(&a, &b);  
    ...  
}
```

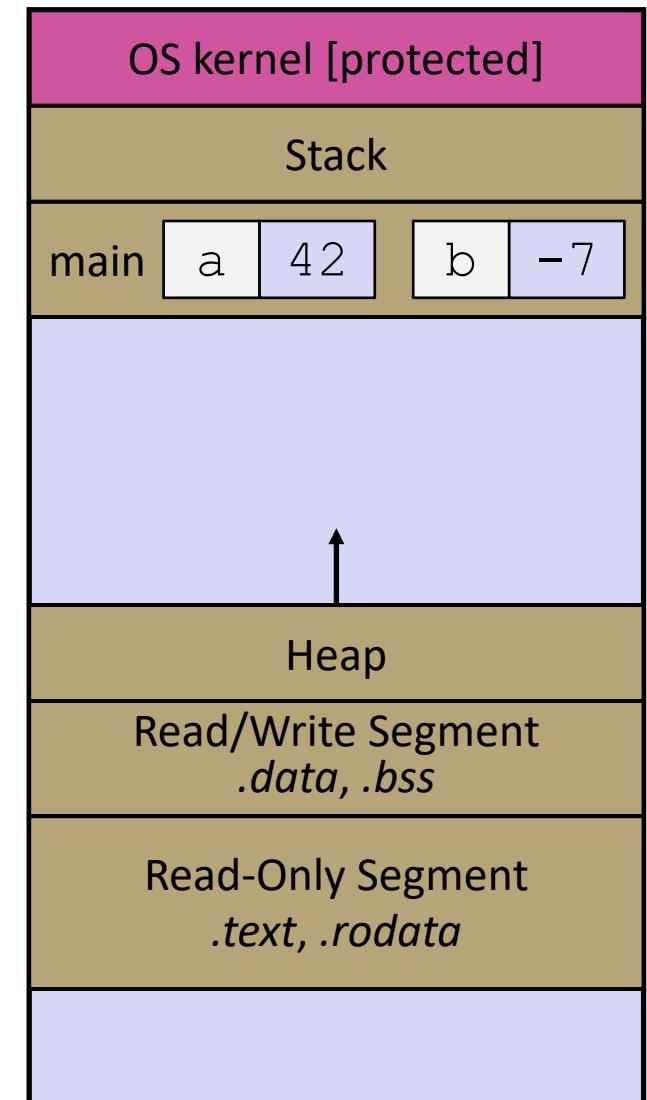
Fixed Swap

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

swap.c

```
void swap(int* a, int* b) {
    int tmp = *a;
    *a = *b;
    *b = tmp;
}

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int a = 42, b = -7;
    swap(&a, &b);
    ...
}
```

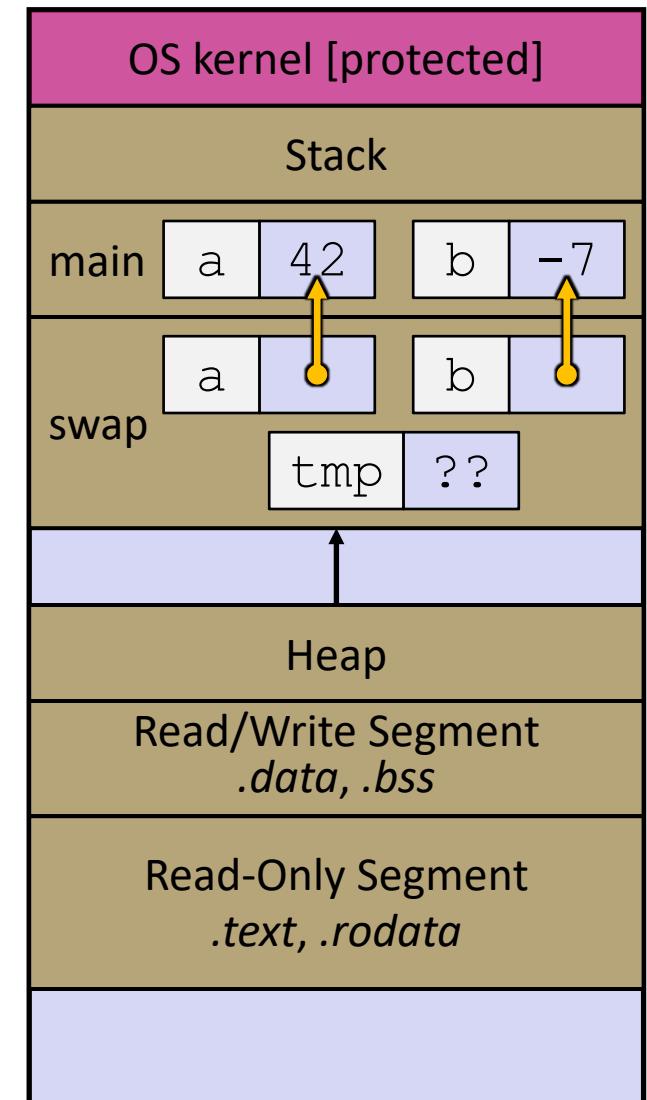


Fixed Swap

swap.c

```
void swap(int* a, int* b) {
    int tmp = *a;
    *a = *b;
    *b = tmp;
}

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
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```

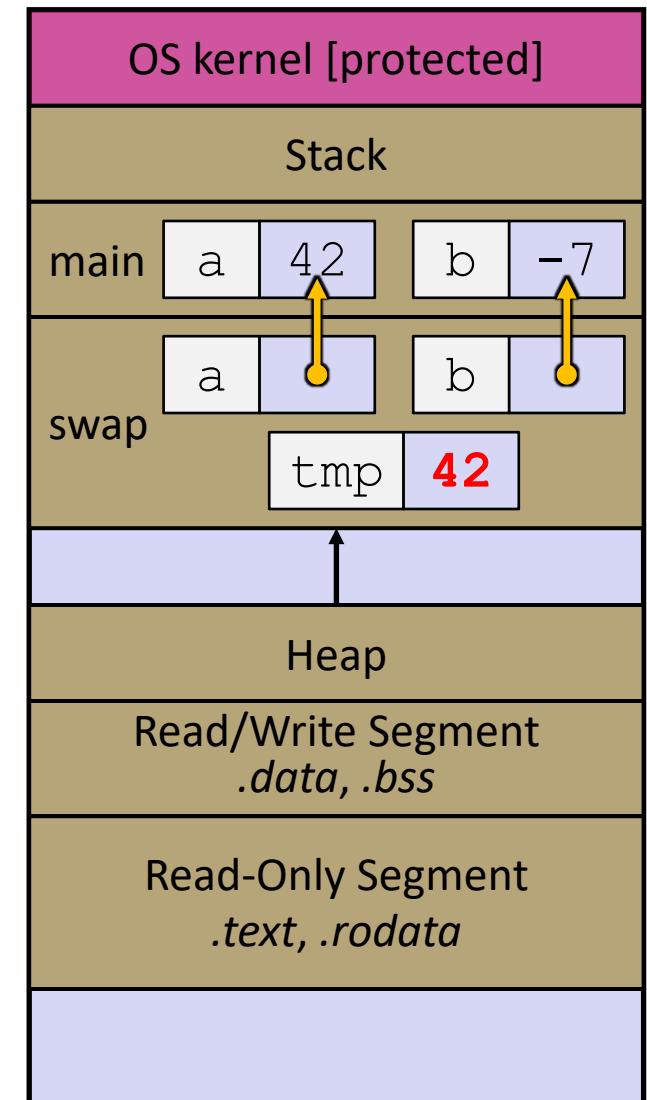


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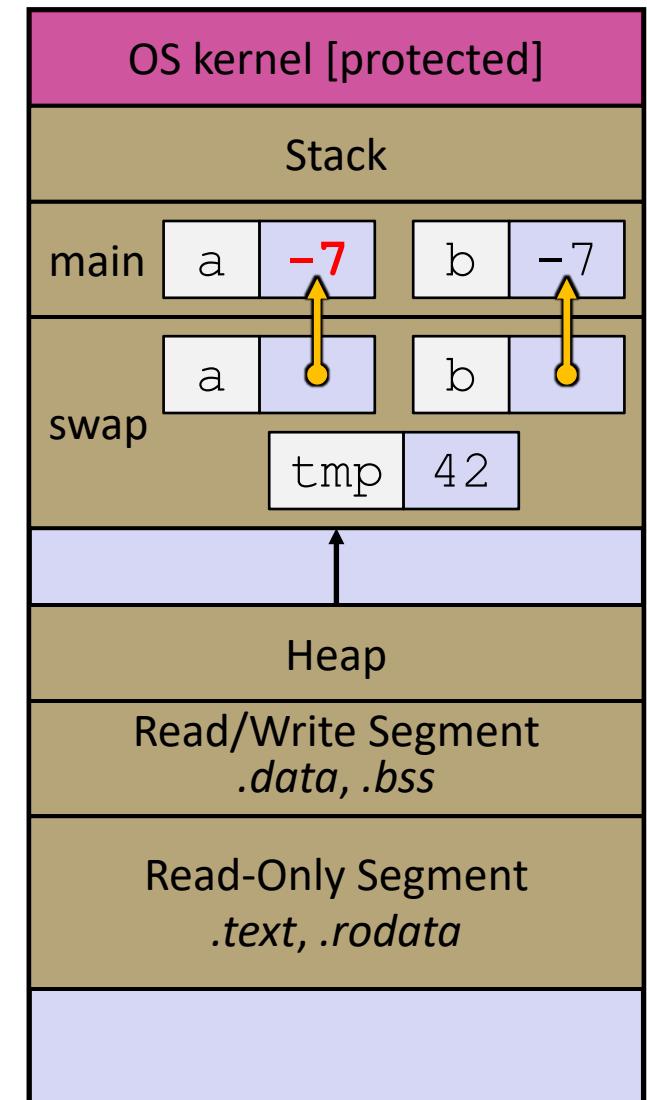


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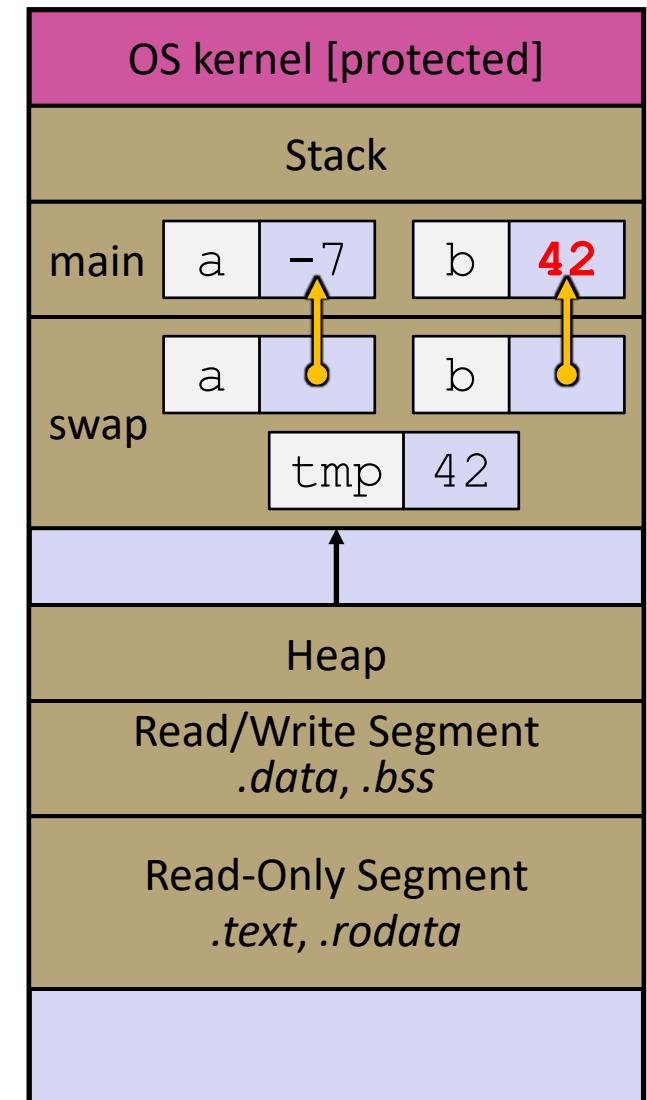


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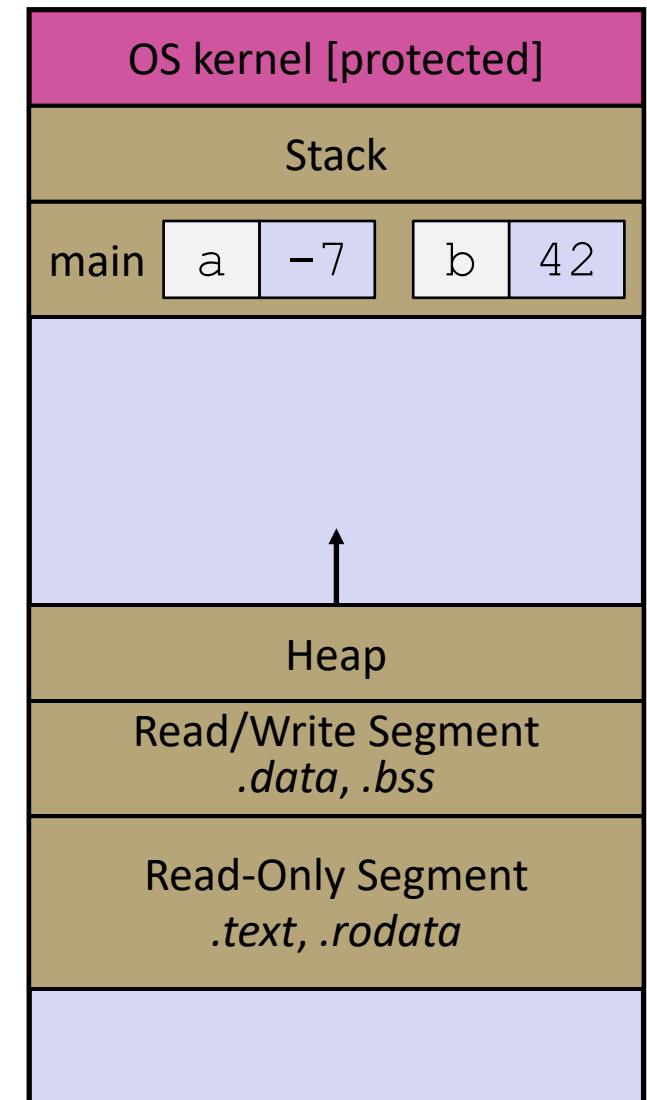


Fixed Swap

swap.c

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void swap(int* a, int* b) {
    int tmp = *a;
    *a = *b;
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int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int a = 42, b = -7;
    swap(&a, &b);
    ...
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```



Lecture Outline

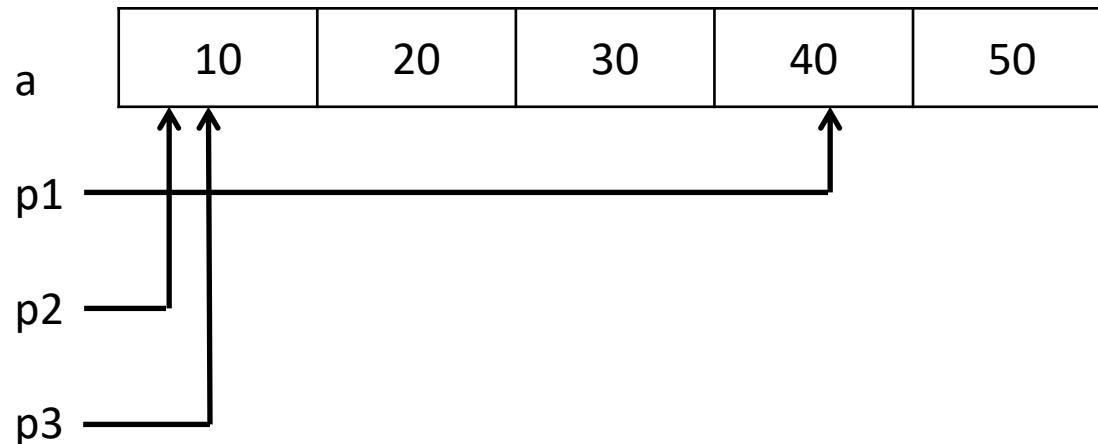
- ❖ Pointers & Pointer Arithmetic
- ❖ Pointers as Parameters
- ❖ **Pointers and Arrays**
- ❖ Function Pointers

Pointers and Arrays

- ❖ A pointer can point to an array element
 - You can use array indexing notation on pointers
 - `ptr[i]` is `* (ptr+i)` with pointer arithmetic – reference the data `i` elements forward from `ptr`
 - An array name's value is the beginning address of the array
 - *Like* a pointer to the first element of array, but can't change

```
int a[] = {10, 20, 30, 40, 50};  
int* p1 = &a[3]; // refers to a's 4th element  
int* p2 = &a[0]; // refers to a's 1st element  
int* p3 = a; // refers to a's 1st element  
  
*p1 = 100;  
*p2 = 200;  
p1[1] = 300;  
p2[1] = 400;  
p3[2] = 500; // final: 200, 400, 500, 100, 300
```

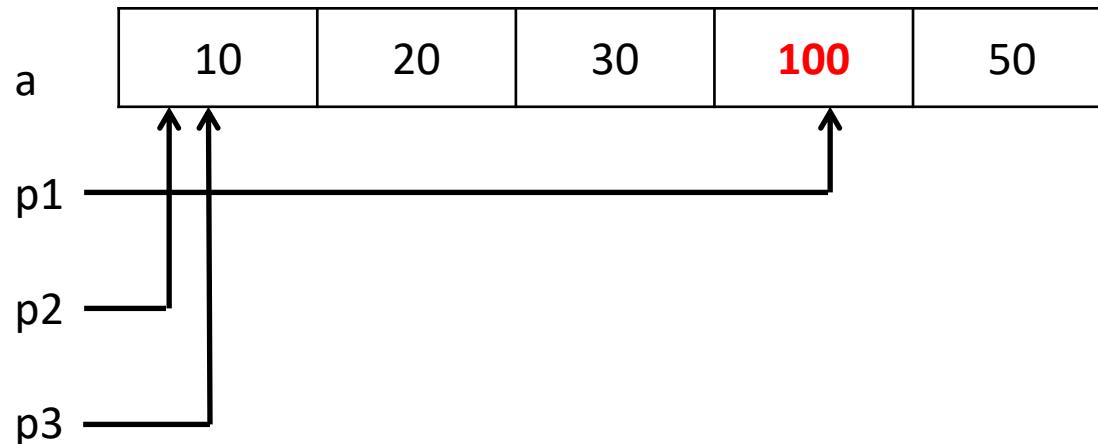
Pointers and Arrays - Trace



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int a[] = {10, 20, 30, 40, 50};
int* p1 = &a[3]; // refers to a's 4th element
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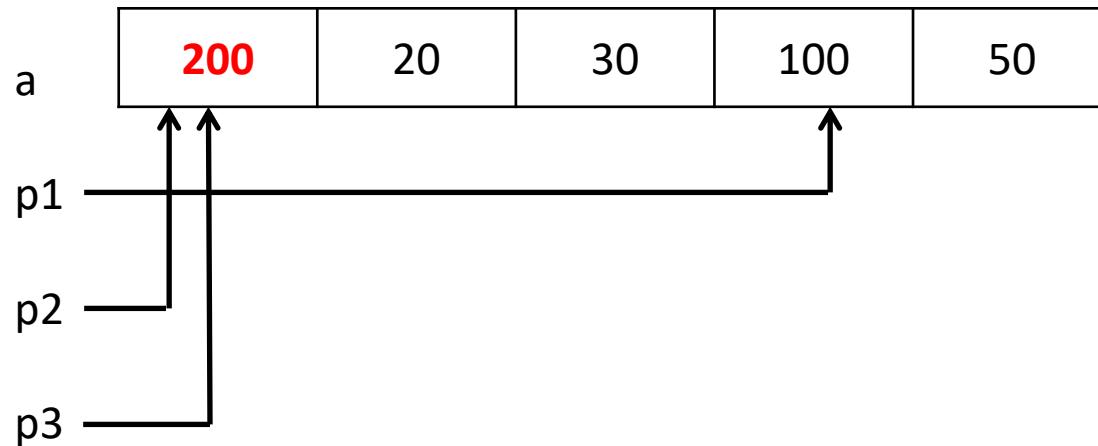
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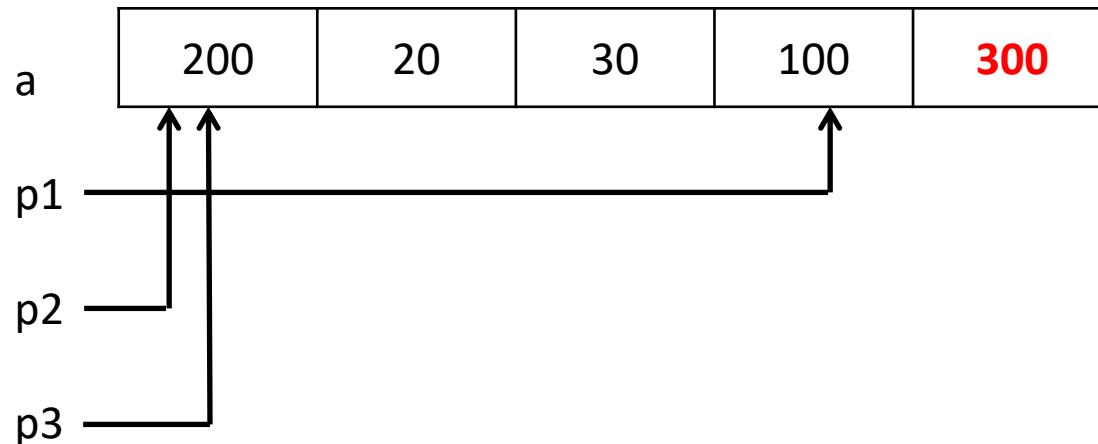
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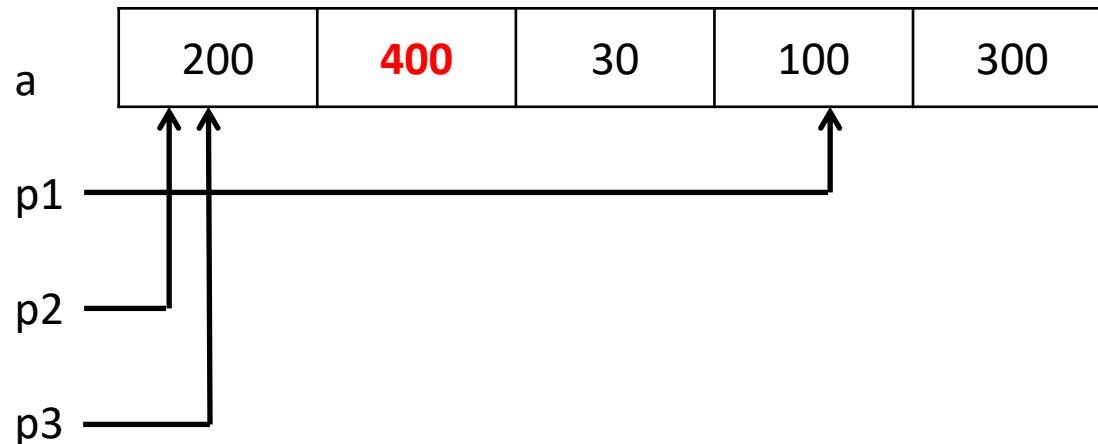
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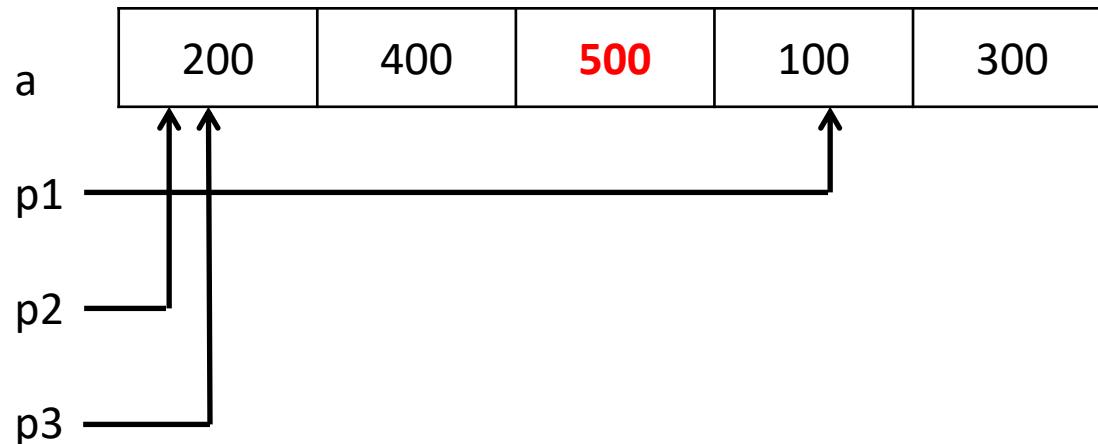
Pointers and Arrays - Trace



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*p1 = 100;
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p1[1] = 300;
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Pointers and Arrays - Trace



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int a[] = {10, 20, 30, 40, 50};
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int* p3 = a;      // refers to a's 1st element

*p1 = 100;
*p2 = 200;
p1[1] = 300;
p2[1] = 400;
p3[2] = 500;      // final: 200, 400, 500, 100, 300
```

Array Parameters

- ❖ Array parameters are *actually* passed (by value) as pointers to the first array element
 - The [] syntax for parameter types is just for convenience
 - OK to use whichever best helps the reader

This code:

```
void f(int a[]);  
  
int main( ... ) {  
    int a[5];  
    ...  
    f(a);  
    return 0;  
}  
  
void f(int a[]){
```

Equivalent to:

```
void f(int* a);  
  
int main( ... ) {  
    int a[5];  
    ...  
    f(&a[0]);  
    return 0;  
}  
  
void f(int* a) {
```

Lecture Outline

- ❖ Pointers & Pointer Arithmetic
- ❖ Pointers as Parameters
- ❖ Pointers and Arrays
- ❖ **Function Pointers**

Function Pointers

- ❖ Based on what you know about assembly, what is a function name, really?
 - Can use pointers that store addresses of functions!
- ❖ Generic format:

`returnType (* name) (type1, ..., typeN)`

 - Looks like a function prototype with extra * in front of name
 - Why are parentheses around `(* name)` needed?
- ❖ Using the function:

`(*name) (arg1, ..., argN)`

 - Calls the pointed-to function with the given arguments and return the return value (but * is optional since all you can do is call it!)

Function Pointer Example

- ❖ `map()` performs operation on each element of an array

```
#define LEN 4

int negate(int num) {return -num; }
int square(int num) {return num*num; }

// perform operation pointed to on each array element
void map(int a[], int len, int (* op)(int n)) {
    for (int i = 0; i < len; i++) {
        a[i] = (*op)(a[i]); // dereference function pointer
    }
}

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int arr[LEN] = {-1, 0, 1, 2};           funcptr definition
    int (* op)(int n);                    // function pointer called 'op'
    op = square;                         // function name returns addr (like array)
    map(arr, LEN, op);                  funcptr assignment
    ...
}
```

Function Pointer Example

- ❖ C allows you to omit & on a function parameter and omit * when calling pointed-to function; both assumed implicitly.

```
#define LEN 4

int negate(int num) {return -num;}
int square(int num) {return num*num;}

// perform operation pointed to on each array element
void map(int a[], int len, int (* op)(int n)) {
    for (int i = 0; i < len; i++) {
        a[i] = op(a[i]); // dereference function pointer
    }
}

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int arr[LEN] = {-1, 0, 1, 2};
    map(arr, LEN, square);
    ...
}
```

implicit funcptr dereference (no * needed)

no & needed for func ptr argument

Extra Exercise #1

- ❖ Use a box-and-arrow diagram for the following program and explain what it prints out:

```
#include <stdio.h>

int foo(int* bar, int** baz) {
    *bar = 5;
    *(bar+1) = 6;
    *baz = bar + 2;
    return *(*baz)+1;
}

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int arr[4] = {1, 2, 3, 4};
    int* ptr;

    arr[0] = foo(&arr[0], &ptr);
    printf("%d %d %d %d\n",
           arr[0], arr[1], arr[2], arr[3], *ptr);
    return 0;
}
```

Extra Exercise #2

- ❖ Write a program that determines and prints out whether the computer it is running on is little-endian or big-endian.
 - Hint: `pointerarithmetic.c` from today's lecture or `show_bytes.c` from 351

Extra Exercise #3

- ❖ Write a function that:
 - Arguments: [1] an array of ints and [2] an array length
 - Malloc's an `int*` array of the same element length
 - Initializes each element of the newly-allocated array to point to the corresponding element of the passed-in array
 - Returns a pointer to the newly-allocated array

Extra Exercise #4

- ❖ Write a function that:
 - Accepts a function pointer and an integer as arguments
 - Invokes the pointed-to function with the integer as its argument