Decimal Representation

- Can interpret decimal number 4705 as:
  \[ 4 \times 10^3 + 7 \times 10^2 + 0 \times 10^1 + 5 \times 10^0 \]
- The base or radix is 10
- Digits 0 – 9
- Place values:
  \[ \cdots 1000 \quad 100 \quad 10 \quad 1 \]
  \[ \cdots 10^3 \quad 10^2 \quad 10^1 \quad 10^0 \]
- Write number as 4705_{10}
  - Note use of subscript to denote base

Binary Representation

- In a similar way, can interpret binary number 1011 as:
  \[ 1 \times 2^3 + 0 \times 2^2 + 1 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0 \]
- The base or radix is 2
- Digits 0 and 1
- Place values:
  \[ \cdots 8 \quad 4 \quad 2 \quad 1 \]
  \[ \cdots 2^3 \quad 2^2 \quad 2^1 \quad 2^0 \]
- Write number as 1011_2
  \[ (= 11_{10}) \]

Hexadecimal Representation

- Can interpret hexadecimal number 3AF1 as:
  \[ 3 \times 16^3 + 10 \times 16^2 + 15 \times 16^1 + 1 \times 16^0 \]
- The base or radix is 16
- Digits 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,A,B,C,D,E,F
- Place values:
  \[ \cdots 4096 \quad 256 \quad 16 \quad 1 \]
  \[ \cdots 16^3 \quad 16^2 \quad 16^1 \quad 16^0 \]
- Write number as 3AF1_{16}
  \[ (= 15089_{10}) \]

Binary to Hexadecimal

- Idea: Collect bits into groups of four starting from right to left
- “pad” out left-hand side with 0’s if necessary
- Convert each group of four bits into its equivalent hexadecimal representation (given in table above)
Binary to Hexadecimal

- Example: Convert 101111000101001₂ to Hex:
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1011</th>
<th>1110</th>
<th>0010</th>
<th>100₁₂</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9₁₆</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Example: Convert 10111101011100₂ to Hex:
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0010</th>
<th>1111</th>
<th>0101</th>
<th>1100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>C₁₆</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hexadecimal to Binary

- Reverse the previous process
- Convert each hex digit into equivalent 4-bit binary representation
- Example: Convert AD₅₁₆ to Binary:
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1010</td>
<td>1101</td>
<td>010₁₂</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Memory Organisation

- During execution programs variables are stored in memory.
- Memory is effectively a gigantic array of bytes. COMP1521 will explain more
- Memory addresses are effectively an index to this array of bytes.
- These indexes can be very large up to $2^{32} - 1$ on a 32-bit platform up to $2^{64} - 1$ on a 64-bit platform
- Memory addresses usually printed in hexadecimal (base-16).
Memory

- Computer memory is a large array of consecutive data cells or bytes
- A variable will be stored in 1 or more bytes
- On CSE machines a char occupies 1 byte, an int 4 bytes, a double 8 bytes
- The & (address-of) operator returns a reference to a variable.
- Almost C implementations & operator returns
- It is convenient to print memory addresses in Hexadecimal notation

Variables in Memory

```c
int k;
int m;

printf( "address of k is %p\n", &k );
printf( "address of m is %p\n", &m );
```

This means that k occupies the four bytes from 0xbffffb80 to 0xbffffb83, and m occupies the four bytes from 0xbffffb84 to 0xbffffb87.

Arrays in Memory

Elements of the array will be stored in consecutive memory locations:

```c
int array[5];

i=0;
while (i < 5) {
    printf("address of array[%d] is %p\n", i, &array[i]);
}
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>array[0]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>array[1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>array[2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>array[3]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>array[4]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Size of a Pointer

Just like any other variable of a certain type, a variable that is a pointer also occupies space in memory. The number of memory cells needed depends on the computer's architecture. For example:

- 32-bit platform pointers likely to be 4 bytes  
  e.g. CSE lab machines
- 64-bit platform pointers likely to be 8 bytes  
  e.g. many student machines
- Tiny embedded CPU pointers could be 2 bytes  
  e.g. your microwave
Pointers

A pointer is a data type whose value is a reference to another variable.

```c
int *ip;  // pointer to int
c char *cp; // pointer to char
double *fp; // pointer to double
```

In most C implementations, pointers store the memory address of the variable they refer to.

- The & (address-of) operator returns a reference to a variable.
- The * (dereference) operator accesses the variable referred to by the pointer.
- For example:
  ```c
  int i = 7;
  int *ip = &i;
  printf("%d\n", *ip); // prints 7
  *ip = *ip + 6;
  printf("%d\n", *ip); // prints 42
  i = 24;
  printf("%d\n", *ip); // prints 24
  ```

Pointers

- Like other variables, pointers need to be initialised before they are used.
- Like other variables, its best if novice programmers initialise pointers as soon as they are declared.
- The value NULL can be assigned to a pointer to indicate it does not refer to anything.
- NULL is a #define in stdio.h
- NULL and 0 interchangable (in modern C).
- Most programmers prefer NULL for readability.

Pointer Arguments

We've seen that when primitive types are passed as arguments to functions, they are passed by value and any changes made to them are not reflected in the caller.

```c
void increment(int n) {
    n = n + 1;
}
```

This attempt fails. But how does a function like scanf manage to update variables found in the caller? scanf takes pointers to those variables as arguments!

```c
void increment(int *n) {
    *n = *n + 1;
}
```
Passing by reference
We use pointers to pass variables by reference! By passing the address rather than the value of a variable we can then change the value and have the change reflected in the caller.

```c
int i = 1;
increment(&i);
printf("%d\n", i);
```

In a sense, pointer arguments allow a function to ‘return’ more than one value. This greatly increases the versatility of functions. Take `scanf` for example, it is able to read multiple values and it uses its return value as error status.

Classic Example
Write a function that swaps the values of its two integer arguments.

Before we knew about pointer arguments this would have been impossible, but now it is straightforward.

```c
void swap(int *n, int *m) {
    int tmp;
    tmp = *n;
    *n = *m;
    *m = tmp;
}
```

Nested calling is now possible: `increment(increment(&i));`

Pointer Return Value
You should not find it surprising that functions can return pointers. However, you have to be extremely careful when returning pointers. Returning a pointer to a local variable is illegal - that variable is destroyed when the function returns. But you can return a pointer that was given as an argument:

```c
int increment(int *n) {
    *n = *n + 1;
    return n;
}
```

Nested calling is now possible: `increment(increment(&i));`

Array Representation
A C array has a very simple underlying representation, it is stored in a contiguous (unbroken) memory block and a pointer is kept to the beginning of the block.

```c
char s[] = "Hi!";

printf("%s\n", s, *s);
printf("%s\n", &s[0], s[0]);
printf("%s\n", &s[1], s[1]);
printf("%s\n", &s[2], s[2]);
printf("%s\n", &s[3], s[3]);
```

Array variables act as pointers to the beginning of the arrays!
Array Representation

Since array variables are pointers, it now should become clear why we pass arrays to `scanf` without the need for address-of (`&`) and why arrays are passed to functions by reference!

We can even use another pointer to act as the array name!

```c
int nums[] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
int *iptr = nums;
printf("%d\n", nums[2]);
printf("%d\n", iptr[2]);
```

Since `nums` acts as a pointer we can directly assign its value to the pointer `iptr`!

We can even make a pointer point to the middle of an array:

```c
int nums[] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
int *iptr = &nums[2];
printf("%d %d\n", *iptr, iptr[0]);
```

So is there a difference between an array variable and a pointer?

```c
int i = 5;
iptr = &i; // this is OK
nums = &i; // this is an error
```

Unlike a regular pointer, an array variable is defined to point to the beginning of the array, it is constant and may not be modified.

Pointer Comparison

Pointers can be tested for equality or relative order.

```c
double ff[] = {1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6};
double *fp1 = ff;
double *fp2 = &ff[0];
double *fp3 = &ff[4];
printf("%d %d\n", (fp1 > fp3), (fp1 == fp2));
```

Note that we are comparing the values of the pointers, i.e., memory addresses, not the values the pointers are pointing to!

Pointer Summary

Pointers:
- are a compound type
- usually implemented with memory addresses
- are manipulated using address-of (`&`) and dereference (`*`)
- should be initialised when declared
- can be initialised to `NULL`
- should not be dereferenced if invalid
- are used to pass arguments by reference
- are used to represent arrays
- should not be returned from functions if they point to local variables