

# Arrays and Pointers. Lecture Plan.

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- *Intro into arrays.*
  - definition and syntax
  - declaration & initialization
  - major advantages
  - multidimensional arrays
  - examples
- *Intro into pointers.*
  - address and indirection operators
  - definition of pointers
  - pointers and arrays – comparison
  - pointer arithmetic

# Arrays and Pointers

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*Array is a group of elements that share a common name, and that are different from one another by their positions within the array.*

C syntax: `x[1]=3.14;`  
`x[2]=5.2;`  
`x[3]=6347;`

Array index



Declaration: `int x[5];`

type      name      size



Sets aside memory  
for the array

# Arrays and Pointers

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## Initialization:

```
int grade[] = {100, 99, 85};
```

```
int grade[3] = {100, 99, 85};
```

```
int grade[100] = {1, 3, 5, 7};
```

– grade[4]-grade[99] will be zeros.

```
grade[36] = 87;
```

## Multidimensionality:

Scalar variable

$a$

Vector variable (1D)

$a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots$

Matrix variable (2D)

$a_{00}, a_{01}, a_{02}, \dots$

$a_{10}, a_{11}, a_{12}, \dots$

$a_{20}, a_{21}, a_{22}, \dots$

$\dots$

# Arrays and Pointers

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Declaration: `int L=100, M=100, N=100;`

`float a[L][M][N];`

Initialization: `alpha[2][2]={1,2,3,4};`

`alpha[2][2]={{1,2},{3,3}};`

`alpha[0][1]=3;`

`alpha[1][1]=2;`

NB: Array size is fixed at declaration.

```
#define L 100
```

```
#define M 100
```

```
#define N 100
```

```
...
```

```
int a[L][M][N]
```

# Arrays and Pointers

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NB: In C numbers of array elements start form zero: x[0], x[1], x[2], x[3], x[4]. There is no x[5].

NB: If x[5] is accessed, no error will result!

Utility: simplify programming of repetitive operations

improve clarity

improve modularity

improve flexibility

# Arrays and Pointers

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**Example:** a program to compute the class average of the midterm.

*Scalar form:*

```
int main(void){
    float average;
    int sum=0,grade1,
        grade2,...;
    scanf("%d",&grade1);
    scanf("%d",&grade2);
        ...
    sum += grade1;
    sum += grade2;
        ...
    average = sum/95.0;
}
```

*Vector (array) form:*

```
int main(void){
    float average;
    int i,n,sum=0,grade[100];
    scanf("%d",&n);
    for(i=0;i<n,&n;i++){
        scanf("%d",&grade[i]);
        sum += grade[i];
    }
        ...
    average = (float)sum/n;
}
```

# Arrays and Pointers

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**Example:** Integration using Composite Trapezoid Rule

$$I = \int_a^b f(x) dx$$

Continuous function  $f(x)$ ,  $x$  belongs to  $[a,b]$   
a set of discrete values  $f(x_i)$ ,  $x_i$  belong to  $[a,b]$ .

$$I = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{h}{2} [f(x_{i-1}) + f(x_i)] = h \left[ \frac{f(a) + f(b)}{2} + \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} f(x_i) \right]$$

# Arrays and Pointers

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Given a function  $y=f(x)$  to integrate  
form  $x=a$  to  $x=b$ :

```
int main(void) {  
    ...  
    h=(b-a)/n;  
    integral =0.5*(func(a)+func(b));  
    for(i=1;i<n;i++)  
        integral += func(a+i*h);  
    integral *=h;  
    ...  
    return(0);  
}
```



# Arrays and Pointers

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Given discrete data  $y_i = f(x_i)$  integrate from  $x=a$  to  $x=b$ :

```
int main(void) {  
    ...  
    for (i=0; i<=n; i++)  
        scanf("%f", &y[i]); /*reading f(xi)*/  
    integral = 0.5*(y[0]+y[n]);  
    for(i=1; i<n; i++){  
        scanf("%f", &y); /*summing f(x[i])*/  
        integral += y;  
    }  
    scanf("%f", &a)  
    scanf("%f", &b)  
    integral *= (b-a)/n;  
    ...  
    return(0);  
}
```

# Arrays and Pointers

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Calculating the average. Version 1. /\*No arrays.\*/

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void)
{
    float ave;
    int sum=0;
    int data1, data2, data3;
    scanf("%d", &data1);
    scanf("%d", &data2);
    scanf("%d", &data3);
    sum == data1;
    sum += data2;
    sum += data3;
    ave = sum/3.0;
    ...
}
```

- inefficient coding
- only works for a fixed number of data points

# Arrays and Pointers

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Calculating the average. Version 2.

```
/* no arrays, scalar "for" loop */

#include <stdio.h>
int main(void)
{
    float ave;
    int i, n, datai, sum=0;
    scanf("%d", &n);
    for (i=0;i<n;i++){
        scanf("%d", &datai);
        sum += datai;
    }
    ave = (float) sum/n;
    ...
}
```

# Arrays and Pointers

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```
Calculating the average. Version 3. /* with arrays */
#include <stdio.h>
#include <math.h>
#define NMAX 100
int main(void)
{
    float ave;
    int i, n, data[NMAX], sum=0;
    scanf("%d", &n);
    if(n>NMAX) printf("number of pts > NMAX);
    for (i=0; i<n; i++)
        scanf("%d", &data[i]);
        sum += data[i];
    }
    ave = float(sum)/n;
    ...
}
```

- array size is fixed at declaration
- use #define to have some flexibility

# Arrays, Summing up

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- The name identifies the location in memory, big enough to store the whole array.
- $a[k]$  refers to the  $k$ -th element of the array, the indexing starting from 0.
- The memory allocation happens when the array is declared: use  $\#$  to set the dimensions.
- Advantages: clear and compact coding, better modularity, take advantage of loops for repetitive operations.

# Arrays and Pointers

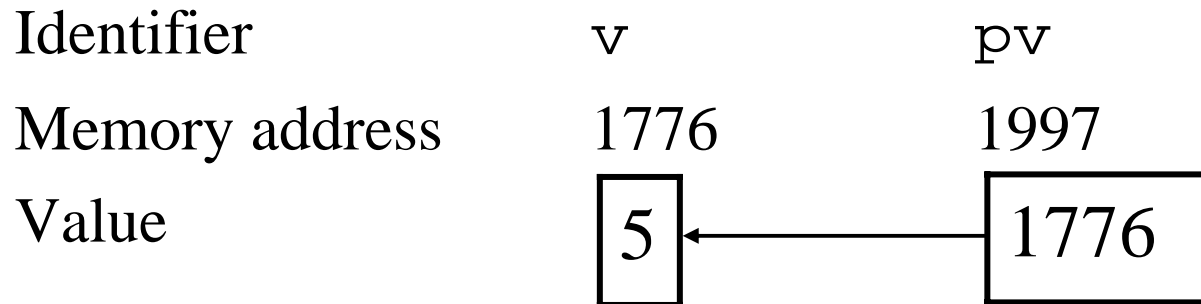
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## *Intro into pointers.*

& - address operator, unary, right to left precedence

v – variable      &v – location (address) of v in  
the memory

*The special type of variable to operate with the address is  
needed: POINTER*       $p_v = \&v$





# Arrays and Pointers

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Relationship between arrays and pointers:

- Array name is a pointer **constant**, it's value is the address of the first element of the array.
- Pointers can be subscribed

$a[i] = *(a + i)$        $a$  – address of  $a[0]$   
(base address or the array)

$a[i] = *(p + i)$  points to  $i$ -th element of  
the array

NB:  $a$  is a constant pointer,  $a=p$ ,  $++a$ ,  $\&a$   
are illegal.



## Arrays and Pointers

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Pointer arithmetic is equivalent to array indexing:

$p = a + 1$	$p = \&a[1]$
$p = a + m$	$p = \&a[m]$

Summing the array using pointers:

```
for (p = a; p < &a[N]; ++p)
    sum += *p;
```

or

```
for (i = 0; i < N; ++i)
    sum += *(a + i);
```

# Arrays and Pointers

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Pointer arithmetic:

`p + 1`   `++p`   `p + i`   `p += i`

However, pointers and numbers are not quite the same:

```
double      a[2], *p, *q;
```

```
p = a;
```

```
q = p + 1;
```

```
printf(“%d\n”, q - p);                    /* 1 is printed */
```

```
printf(“%d\n”,(int) q - (int) p);        /* 8 is printed */
```

The difference in terms of array elements is 1, but the difference in memory locations is 8!

# Arrays and Pointers

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Arrays and pointers as function arguments:

**“call by value”**

–

**“call by reference”**

- Variables themselves are passed as function arguments.

- The variables are copied to be used by the function.

- Dealing directly with variables, which are not changed in calling environment.

- Pointers are used in the argument list: addresses of variables are passed as arguments.

- Variables are directly accessed by the function.

- The variables may be changed inside the function and returned.

# Arrays and Pointers

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Passing arrays to functions:

As individual scalars: `x=sum(grade[k],grade[k+1]);`

```
prototype:  int sum(x,y)
            {
```

```
                int x, y;
```

```
                ...
```

Using pointers: `x = sum(grade,n)`

```
prototype:  int sum(int *grade, int n);
            {
```

```
                int res, *p;
```

```
                res =0;
```

```
                for (p=grade;p<&grade[N];++p)
```

```
                    res += *p;
```

```
                return(res);
```

```
            }
```

# Arrays and Pointers

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The function swaps two variables, using “call by reference”.

```
void swap(int *p, int *q)
{
    int tmp;
    tmp = *p;
    *p = *q;
    *q = tmp;
}
```

## Arrays and Pointers

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Checking how “swap” works:

```
#include <stdio.h>
void swap(int *, int *)
{
    int i = 3, j = 5;
    swap(&i, &j);
    printf(“%d %d\n”, i, j);
    return 0;
} /* 5 3 is printed */
```

# Arrays and Pointers

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Pointer arithmetic summed up:

1. Assignment: `ptr = &a;`
2. Value finding: `*ptr = a;`
3. Taking pointer address: `&ptr` – address of `ptr` in the memory (pointer to pointer).
4. Addition/subtration: `ptr2 = ptr1 + 1;`  
`ptr2 - ptr2;`
5. Increment: `ptr1++`      `ptr1 + 1`

NB Increment does not work for pointer constants.

6. Indexing – like arrays: `ptr[i] = a[i];`

NB Pointers and arrays are almost the same:

....[i]      \*(....+i)

# Arrays and Pointers

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*Automatic memory allocation* happens when the array is declared:

```
int data[100];
```

*Dynamic memory allocation:*

- function `calloc( )` takes 2 unsigned integers: number of elements in the array and number of bytes in each element, returns a pointer to the base element of the array and sets all the array elements to zero:

```
a = calloc(n, sizeof(int));
```

To clear (return) the allocated space the “free” command is used:

```
free(a);
```



# Arrays and Pointers

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The other option is function `malloc()` : it takes one unsigned integer - required number of bytes of memory desired. Both `calloc` and `malloc` return pointer to void and the result will be casted automatically.

```
int main(void) {
    float *a;
    int k;
    scanf("%d",&k);
    a = (float *)malloc(k*sizeof(float));
    ...
    a[0] = ...
    ...
    free(a);
}
```

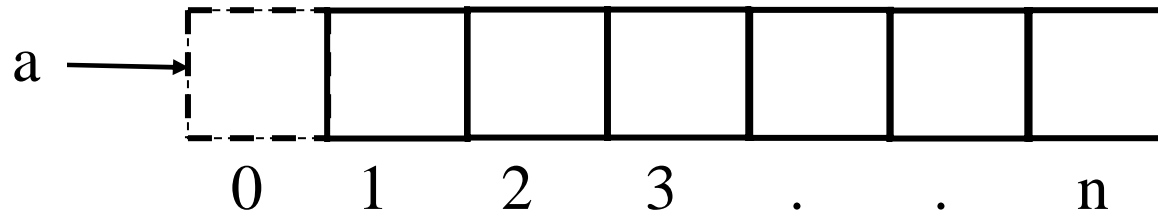
# Arrays and Pointers

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Offsetting the pointer for the array to start from the element 1 instead of 0.

```
int    n;  
double *a;  
a = calloc(n+1, sizeof(double));  
      or  
a = calloc(n, sizeof(double));  
--a;      /* offset the pointer */
```

a[1] is the first accessible storage element.



# Multidimensional Arrays and Pointers

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```
int a[3][5]; /* 3 rows, 5 columns */
```

Some differences from vector arrays:

`a` - pointer to the base **address** `&a[0][0]` (not to `a[0][0]`)

`a + i` - pointer to the **address** of the *i*th row `&a[i][0]`

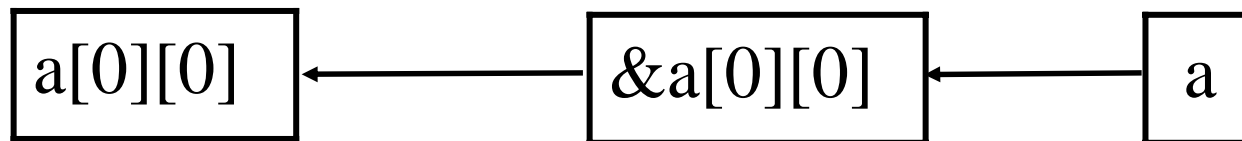
Both `a` and `a+i` are pointers to pointers.

`*a` - row address for `a` (1st row), `**a` - value of `a[0][0]`.

We need to dereference twice to get from `a` to the values.

`a[i]` - pointer to the *i*th row

`a[i][j]`            `*(&a[0][0] + 5*i + j)`



# Multidimensional Arrays and Pointers

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Prove that each of the following four expressions is equal to  $a[i][j]$ :

$*(a[i] + j)$

$(*(a + i))[j]$

$((*(a + i) + j) /* NOTE 2 dereferencing operations */$

$*(\&a[0][0] + 5*i + j)$

Some more pointer arithmetic:

$*(a + 1)$

address of the second row

$*(a + j) + k$

address of  $a[j][k]$

$*(*(a + j) + k)$

value of  $a[j][k]$

$*(*(a + j) + k)$

$a[j][k] + m$

Storage mapping - finding the array element using a pointer:

$a[i][j] = *(\&a[0][0] + 5*i + j)$

NB need the number of columns (5), not just pointer to  $a[0][0]$ !

# Multidimensional Arrays and Pointers

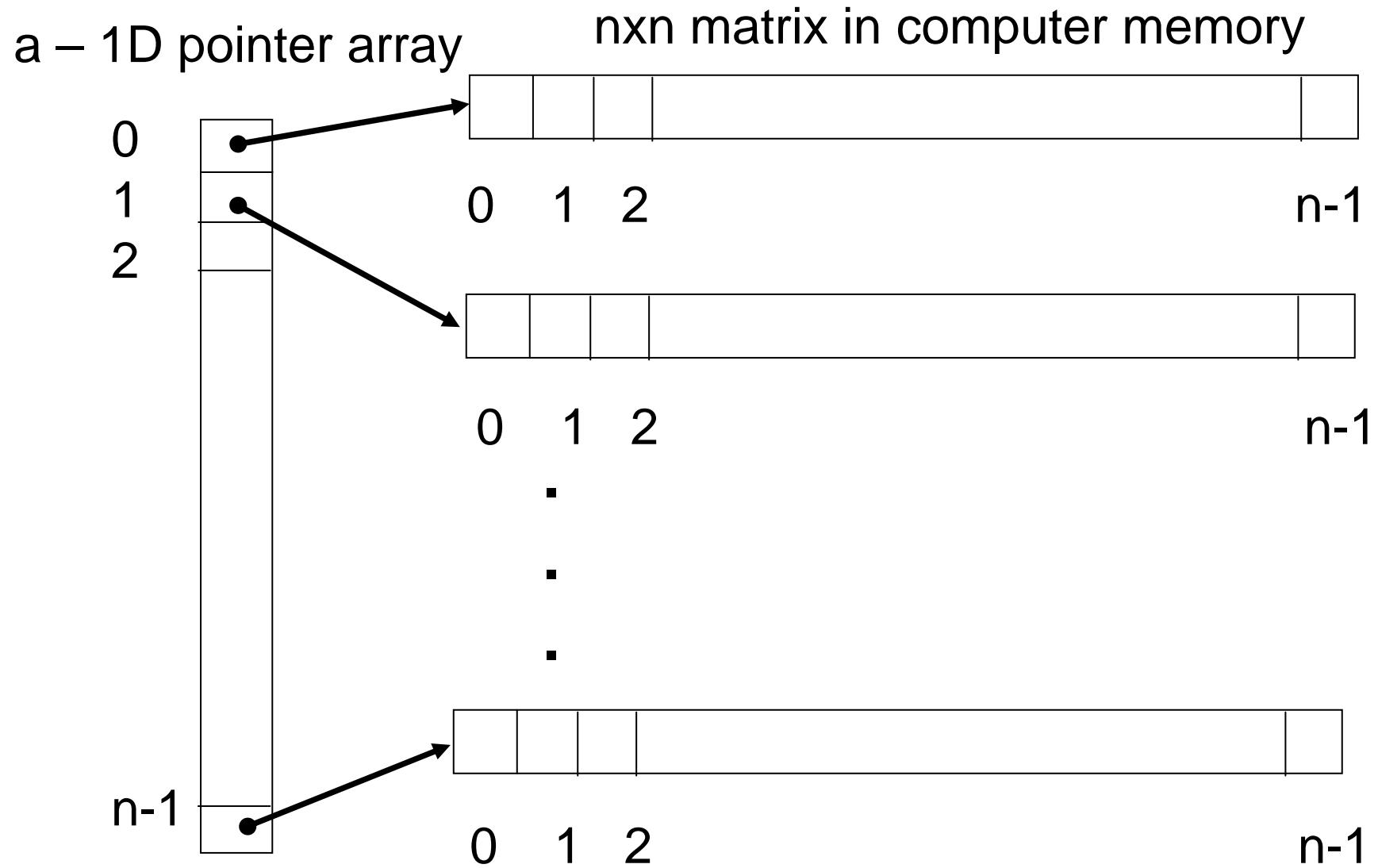
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To pass an nD array to the function we need to set (n-1) dimensions of the array outside the function. For n>1 programming becomes much less flexible: no dynamic memory allocation, etc.

It may be avoided by using arrays of pointers. Let's build a matrix of an arbitrary size starting from *pointer to pointer to double*:

```
int i, n;
double **a, det; /* NB **a declared, not an array */
..... /* getting n */
a = calloc(n, sizeof(double *)); /* a-array of pointers to double */
for (i = 0; i < n; ++i)
    a[i] = calloc(n, sizeof(double));
.....
```

# Multidimensional Arrays and Pointers



# Multidimensional Arrays and Pointers

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Now we can easily pass a to a function, say one summing diagonal elements of the matrix:

```
double trace(double **a, int n)
{
    int      i;
    double   sum = 0.0;
    for (i = 0; i < n; ++i);
        sum += a[i][i];
    return sum;
}
```

# Pointers to Functions

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What if we need to do the same calculation for several functions?

Example:  $\sum_{k=m}^n f^2(k)$

The summing routine:

```
double sum_square(double f(double), int m, int n) {
    int k;
    double sum = 0.0;
    for (k = m; k <= n; ++k)
        sum += f(k) * f(k);
    return sum;
}
```

The first argument is a pointer to function  $f$ , which takes double and returns double.



# Pointers to Functions

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f can either be treated as a function or as a pointer with dereferencing:

sum += (\*f)(k) \* (\*f)(k);            sum += f(k)\*f(k)

f            the pointer to function

\*f           the function itself

(\*f)(k)     the call to the function

**Pointer to array:** points to the first memory cell containing the element of the array in the **data segment** of computer memory.

**Pointer to function:** points to the first memory cell containing the function in the **code segment** of computer memory.