

# C Preprocessor (CPP)

---

- Processes files before the compiler
- Lines that begin with #
- Preprocessor doesn't "know" C
- To see CPP output: `gcc -E my_file.c`
- Useful for
  - File inclusion
  - Constants
  - Macros
  - Conditional compilation

# File Inclusion

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- CPP replaces `#include` with the entire contents of the included file
- System headers
  - `#include <stdio.h>`
  - On UNIX, looks in `/usr/include`
  - You should not use `<>` to include user-defined header files
- User-defined headers
  - `#include "my_pow.h"`
  - Searches current (source) directory first
- Include files can be nested
- `-I` switch used to specify additional include directories

# Constants

---

- Simple textual replacement

```
#define name replacement text
```

Examples:

```
#define PI 3.14
#define MAX 1000
#define TRUE 1
#define SECS_PER_DAY (60 * 60 * 24)
#define READ_ACCESS 0x01
#define WRITE_ACCESS 0x02
#define RW_ACCESS (READ_ACCESS | WRITE_ACCESS)
#undef PI /* un-defines a constant/macro */
```

# Macros

---

```
#define max(A, B)      ((A) > (B) ? (A) : (B))
```

```
x = max(p+q, r+s);
```

becomes

```
x = ((p+q) > (r+s) ? (p+q) : (r+s));
```

Notice, expressions are evaluated twice!

- `stdio.h` defines the following macros:

```
#define getchar()     getc(stdin)
```

```
#define putchar(c)    putc((c), stdout)
```

Don't put a space between macro name and '('

Don't end with semicolon

# Stringification

---

- `#parameter_name` quotes `parameter_name`

```
#define PRINT_STR_VAR(S) printf(#S " = %s\n", S)
```

```
char szDrink[] = "Okocim";
```

```
PRINT_STR_VAR(szDrink);
```

- becomes

```
printf("szDrink" " = %s\n", szDrink);
```

which, after string concatenation, becomes

```
printf("szDrink = %s\n", szDrink);
```

finally, the output is

```
szDrink = Okocim
```

# Stringify Constants

---

```
typedef enum { red, green, blue, white, black } EColor;

#define COLOR_CASE(x) case x: return "The color is " #x

const char* Color2Name(EColor clr) {
    switch (clr) {
        COLOR_CASE(red);
        COLOR_CASE(green);
        COLOR_CASE(blue);
        COLOR_CASE(white);
        COLOR_CASE(black);
        default: return "INVALID COLOR!";
    }
}
```

# Stringification

---

- If you want to stringify the result of expansion of a macro argument, you have to use two levels of macros.

```
#define XSTR(S) STR(S)
```

```
#define STR(S) #S
```

```
#define FOO 4
```

```
STR (FOO)
```

```
==> "FOO"
```

```
XSTR (FOO)
```

```
==> XSTR (4)
```

```
==> STR (4)
```

```
==> "4"
```

```
#define FIELDSIZE 4
```

```
char* str="long string";
```

```
printf("%" XSTR(FIELDSIZE) "s",str);
```

# Concatenation

---

- To concatenate two macro arguments, use the `##` operator:

```
#define DOUBLE(A,B) A##B
printf("%f\n",DOUBLE(3,e6));
==> printf("%f\n",3e6);
```

```
#define DOUBLE(A,B) AB
printf("%f\n",DOUBLE(3,e6));
==> printf("%f\n",AB); /* invalid */
```

```
#define DOUBLE(A,B) A B
printf("%f\n",DOUBLE(3,e6));
==> printf("%f\n",3 e6); /* invalid */
```



# Pre-defined Names

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- `__LINE__` Current source line number
- `__FILE__` Name of file being compiled
- Useful for error handling, debugging and logging

```
#define DEBUG_STR(S) \  
    printf(#S " = %s [File: %s, Line: %d]\n", \  
    S, __FILE__, __LINE__);
```

```
DEBUG_STR(szDrink)
```

- the output is

```
szDrink = Okocim [File: debug_str.c, Line: 16]
```

# Conditional Compilation

---

- `#if`, `#ifdef`, `#ifndef`, `#else`, `#endif`
- Useful for separating debug-only code from release code
- `assert()`, `debug_alloc`, etc.

```
#ifdef MY_DEBUG
#define DEBUG_STR(S) \
    printf(#S " = %s [File: %s, Line: %d]\n", \
        S, __FILE__, __LINE__);
#else
#define DEBUG_STR(S)
    /* do nothing in release builds */
#endif /* MY_DEBUG */
```

- Use the `-Dmacro=value` compiler switch:
- `$ gcc -DMY_DEBUG=1 debug_str.c -o debug_str && ./debug_str`
- `szDrink = Okocim [File: debug_str.c, Line: 16]`

# Macros for Portability

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- Portability: Compiler-, Processor-, OS- or API- specific code

```
#ifdef _WIN32
OutputDebugString(szOutMessage);
#else /* _WIN32 */
_CrtOutputDebugString(szOutMessage);
#endif /* _WIN32 */
```

# Almost a Function

---

- To define a macro which can be used as a function in all contexts use the following form

```
#define fun(x) do { printf("#x " "=%d\n", x); x++; } while (0)
```

- It will work in the following example requiring the semicolon after the function/macro call

```
if (condition)
    fun(t);
else
    fun(z);
```

- A simpler construct below will not work

```
#define fun(x) { printf("#x " "=%d\n", x); x++; }
```

# Problems in Large Programs

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- Small programs → single file
- “Not so small” programs:
  - Many lines of code
  - Multiple components
  - More than one programmer
- Problems:
  - Long files are harder to manage (for both programmers and machines)
  - Every change requires long compilation
  - Many programmers cannot modify the same file simultaneously
  - Division to components is desired

# Multiple Modules

---

- Divide project to multiple files
  - Good division to components
  - Minimum compilation when something is changed
  - Easy maintenance of project structure, dependencies and creation
- Programming language constructs used to refer to external files (**extern**)
- Compilation can link several files together to create single application from several files
- Can compile several source files, link to pre-compiled object files or combination of these options

# Multiple Modules

```
/* greetings.h */  
void greetings(void);
```

```
/* main.c */  
#include <stdio.h>  
#include "greetings.h"  
  
int main()  
{  
    greetings();  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
/* greetings.c */  
#include <stdio.h>  
#include "greetings.h"  
  
void greetings(void)  
{  
    printf ("Hello user !\n");  
}
```

```
gcc -g -Wall -pedantic -c main.c -o main.o  
gcc -g -Wall -pedantic -c greetings.c -o greetings.o  
gcc -g main.o greetings.o -o hello
```

compilation

linking

# Multiple Modules - Change in greetings.c

---

```
/* greetings.h */  
void greetings(void);
```

```
/* main.c */  
#include <stdio.h>  
#include "greetings.h"  
  
int main()  
{  
    greetings();  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
/* greetings.c */  
#include <stdio.h>  
#include <stdlib.h>  
#include "greetings.h"  
  
void greetings(void)  
{  
    printf ("Hello %s!\n",  
           getenv ("LOGNAME"));  
}
```

```
gcc -g -Wall -pedantic -c greetings.c -o greetings.o  
gcc -g main.o greetings.o -o hello
```



# Multiple Modules - More Changes

```
/* greetings.h */  
int greetings(void);
```

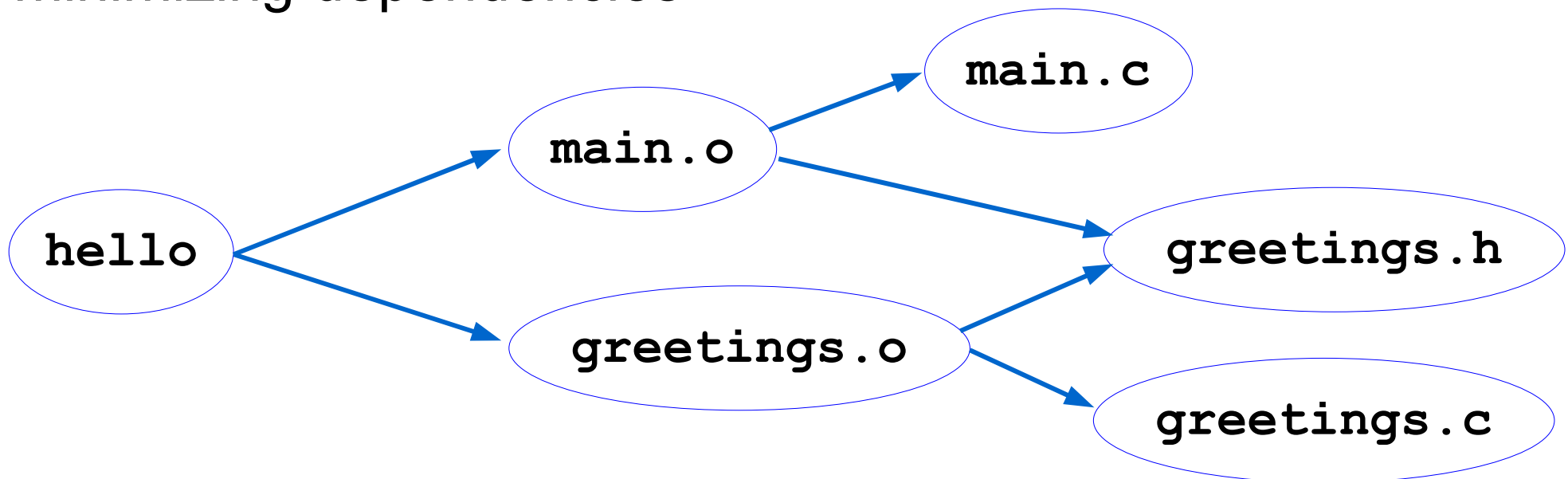
```
/* main.c */  
#include <stdio.h>  
#include "greetings.h"  
  
int main()  
{  
    greetings();  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
/* greetings.c */  
#include <stdio.h>  
#include <stdlib.h>  
#include "greetings.h"  
  
int greetings(void)  
{  
    return printf("Hello %s!\n",  
                getenv("LOGNAME"));  
}
```

```
gcc -g -Wall -pedantic -c main.c -o main.o  
gcc -g -Wall -pedantic -c greetings.c -o greetings.o  
gcc -g main.o greetings.o -o hello
```

# Module Dependencies

- Module A has a compile-time dependency on Module B if `A.c` requires `B.h` to compile
- Program A has a link-time dependency on Module B if A requires `B.o` to link
- Avoid cyclic dependencies ( $A \rightarrow B$  and  $B \rightarrow A$ )
- Managing software complexity in a large part requires minimizing dependencies



# Makefiles and make

---

- Its easy to change a header file but forget to re-compile all the source files that depend on it
- Makefiles help you manage dependencies
- **make** is a utility typically used for building software packages that are comprised of many source files
  - determines automatically which pieces need to be rebuilt
  - uses an input file (usually called **makefile** or **Makefile**) which specifies rules and dependencies for building each piece
- you can use any name for the makefile and specify it on the command line:  

```
bash# make
```

```
bash# make -f myfile.mk
```
- first way (above) uses default (**makefile** or **Makefile**) as input file
- second way uses **myfile.mk** as input file

# Simple makefile

```
hello: main.o greetings.o ← dependency line
    gcc -g main.o greetings.o -o hello ← action line
main.o: main.c greetings.h
    gcc -g -Wall -pedantic -c main.c -o main.o } Dependency line
                                                + action line = rule
← Dependency line must start in column 1
greetings.o: greetings.c greetings.h
    gcc -g -Wall -pedantic -c greetings.c -o greetings.o
Action line must begin with a tab character
```

```
$ make
```

```
gcc -g -Wall -pedantic -c main.c -o main.o
```

```
gcc -g -Wall -pedantic -c greetings.c -o greetings.o
```

```
gcc -g main.o greetings.o -o hello
```

```
$ make
```

```
make: `hello' is up to date.
```

# #include Guards

---

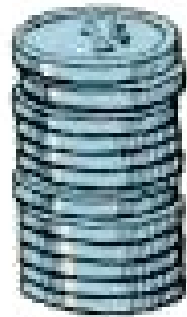
- When included header files include other files, some header files may be included multiple times
  - Sometimes harmless
    - e.g. multiple `extern` variable declaration
  - Sometimes harmful
    - e.g. you must not `typedef` the same type twice
    - always increases processing time
- To prevent such situations [#include guards](#) are used

```
/* header.h */  
  
#ifndef _HEADER_H_  
  
#define _HEADER_H_  
  
/* header body */  
  
typedef some_type some_name;  
  
#endif /* _HEADER_H_ */
```

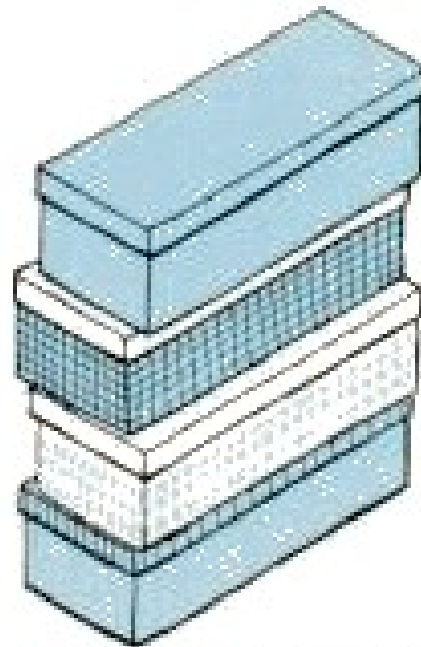
# Stacks in Our Life

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A stack of cafeteria trays



A stack of pennies

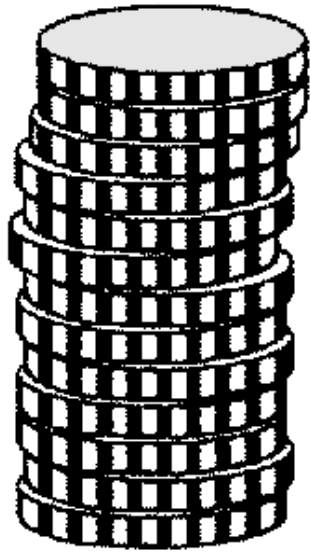


A stack of shoe boxes

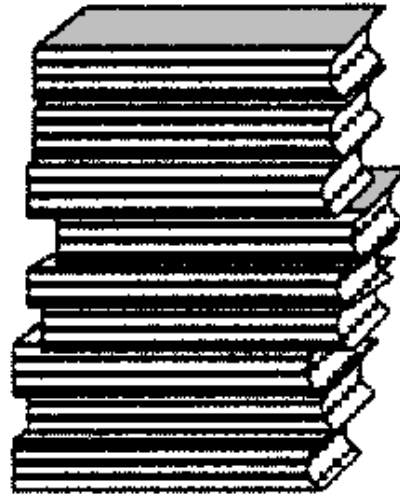
A stack of neatly folded shirts



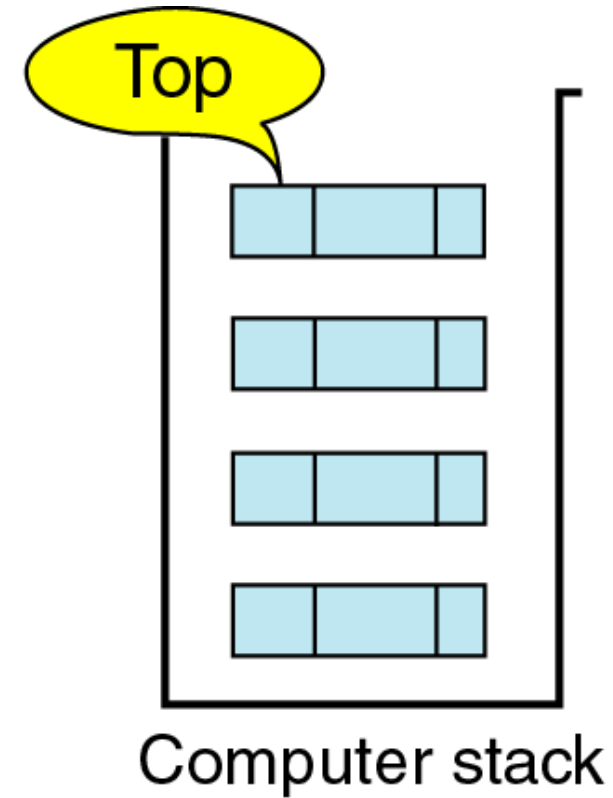
# More Stacks



Stack of coins



Stack of books

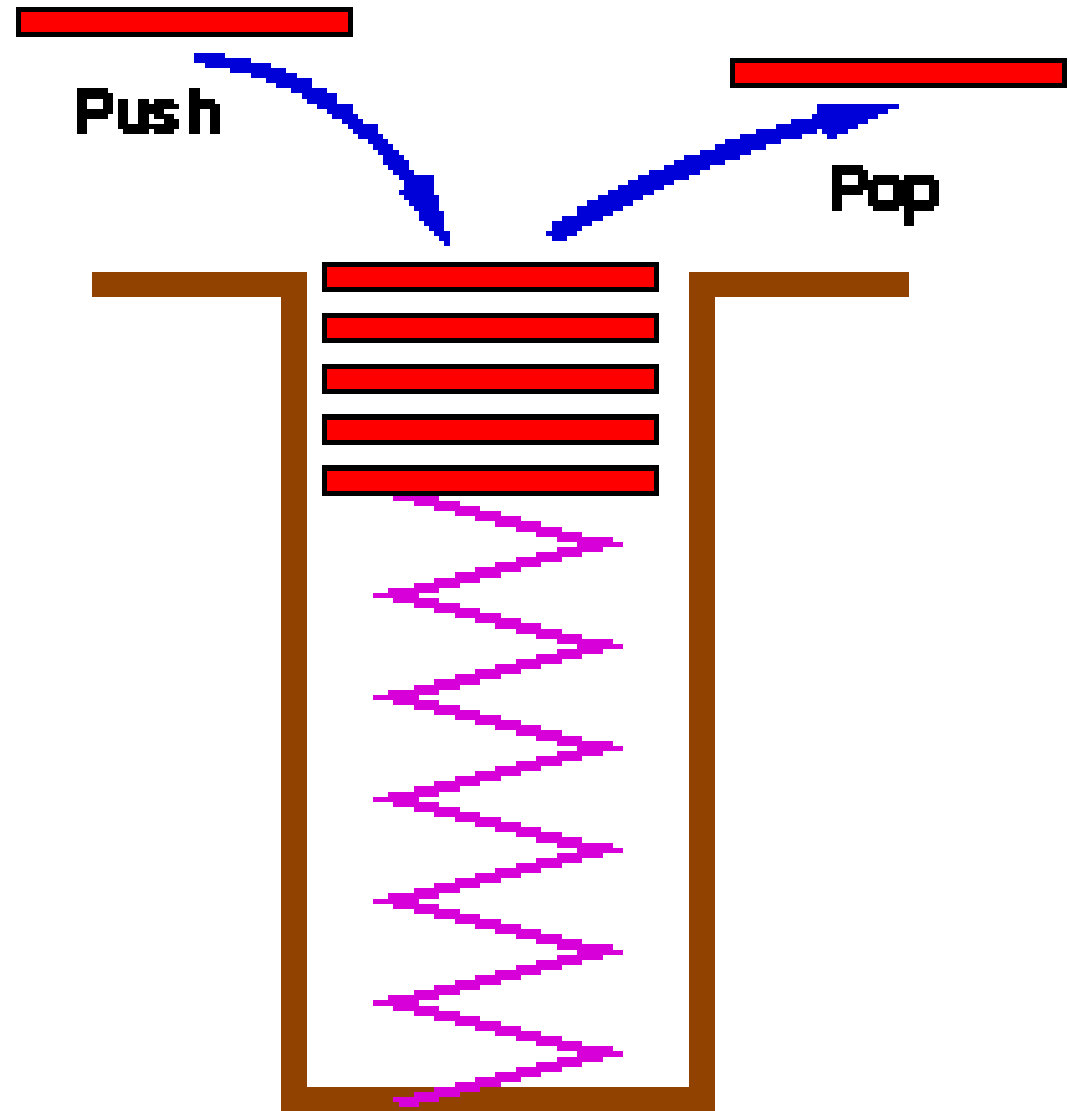


Computer stack

- A stack is a LIFO structure: Last In First Out

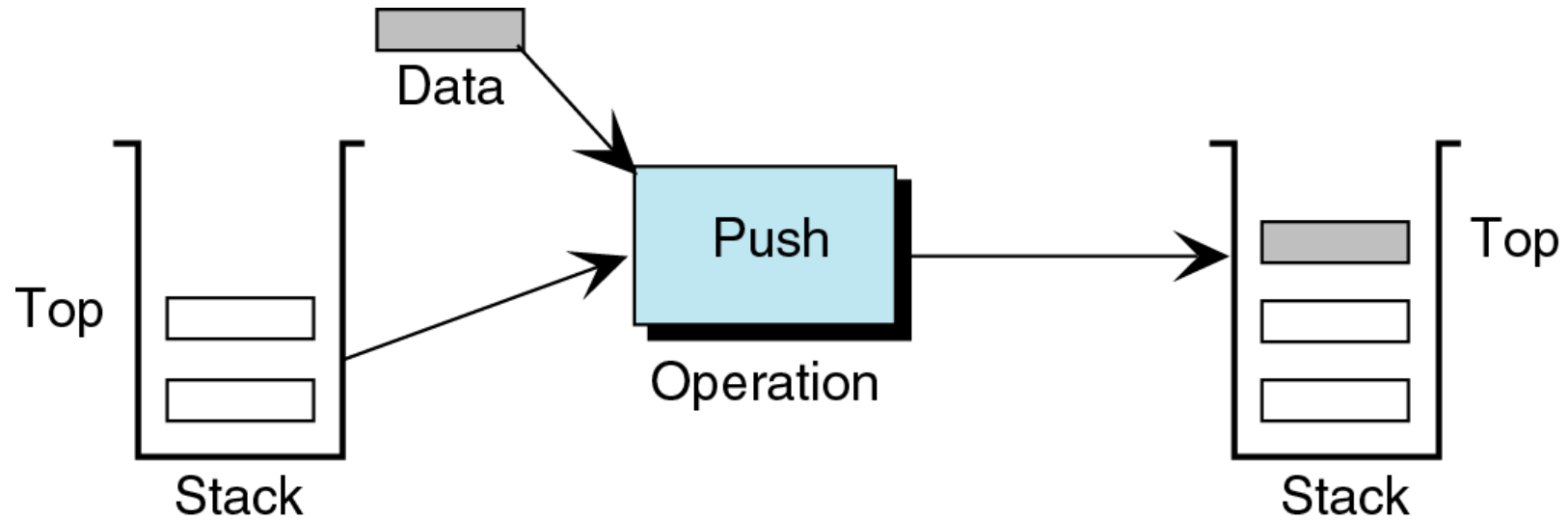
# Basic Operations with Stack

- Push
  - Add an item
    - Overflow
- Pop
  - Remove an item
    - Underflow
- Stack Top
  - What's on the Top
    - Could be empty





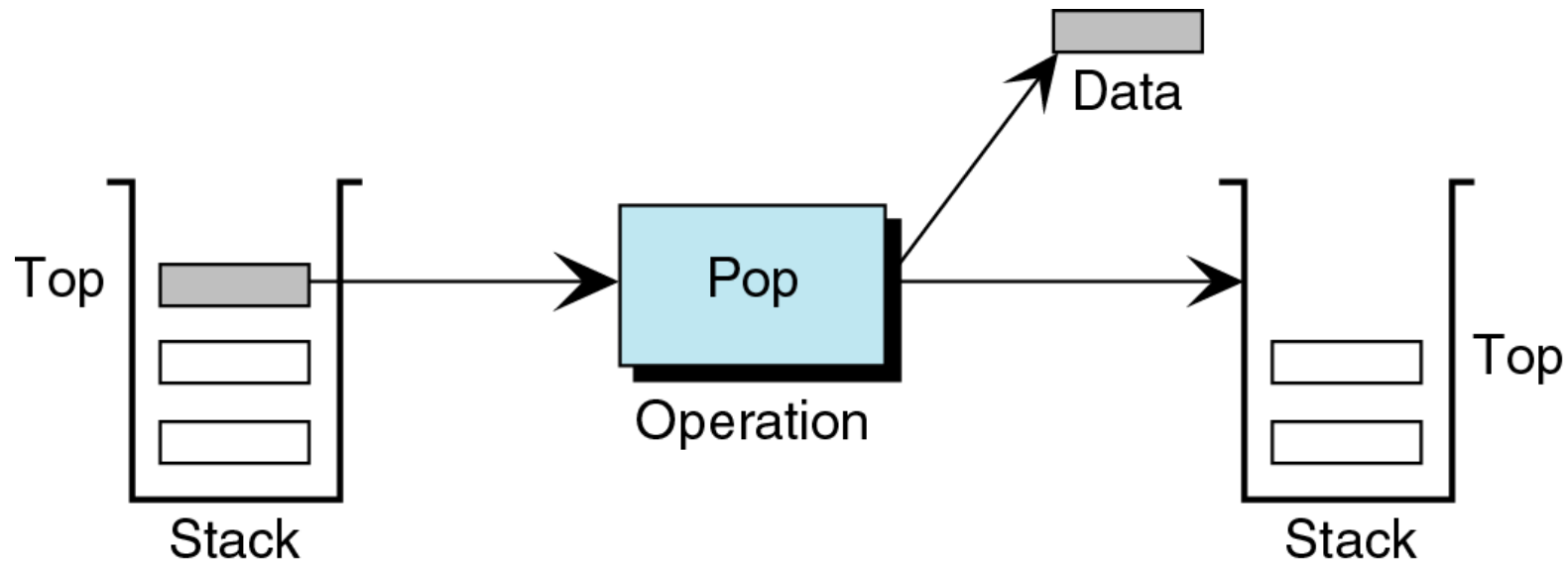
# Push



- Adds new data element to the top of the stack

# Pop

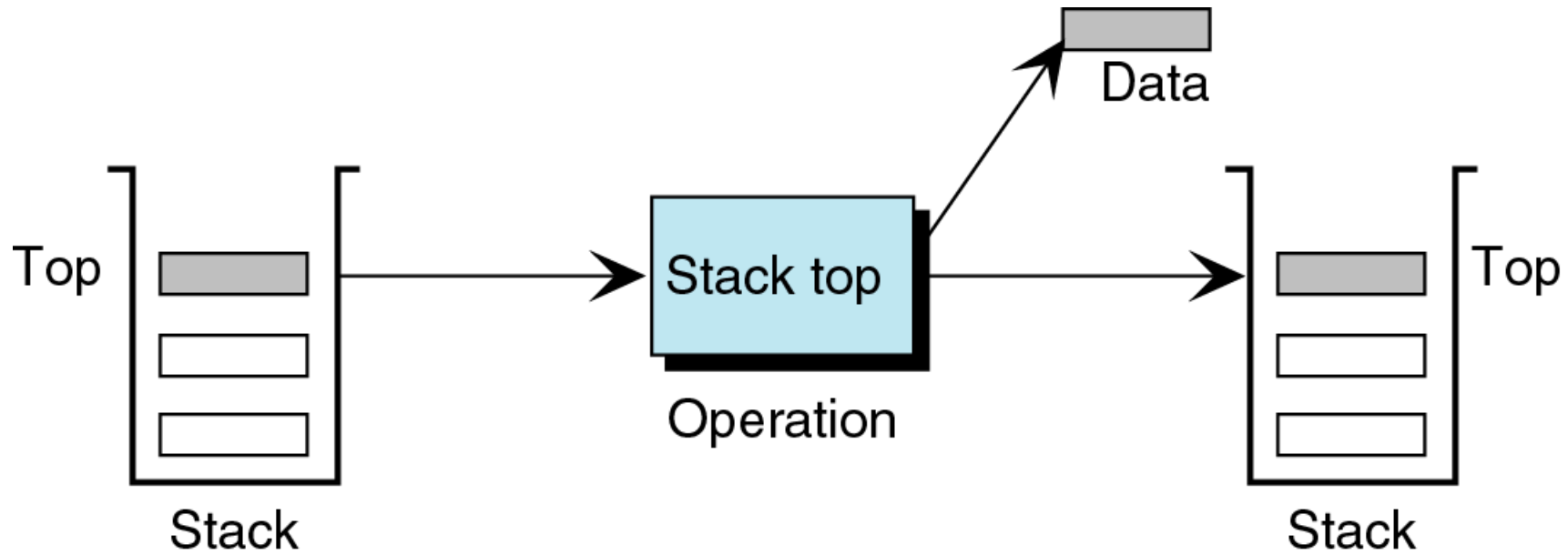
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- Removes a data element from the top of the stack

# Stack Top

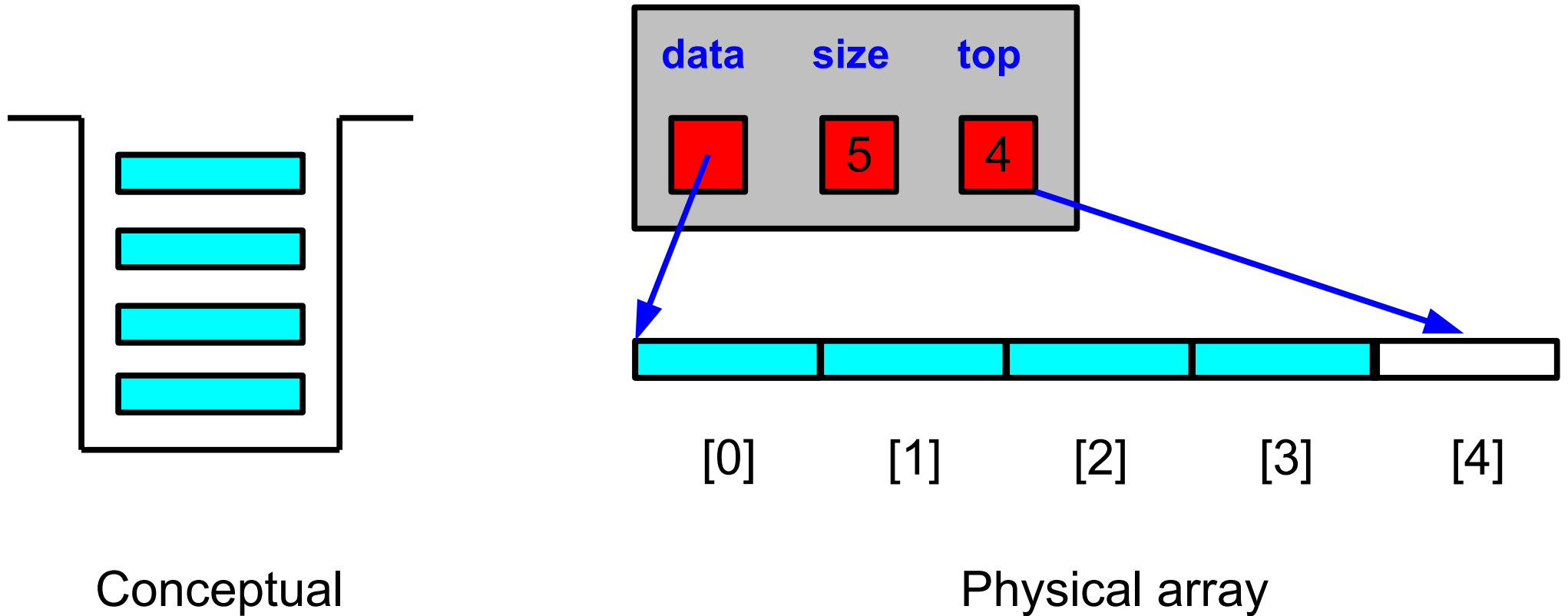
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- Checks the top element. Stack is not changed

# Implementing Stack with Array

- Stack is stored as an array
  - This implementation has fixed capacity



# Stack Implementation

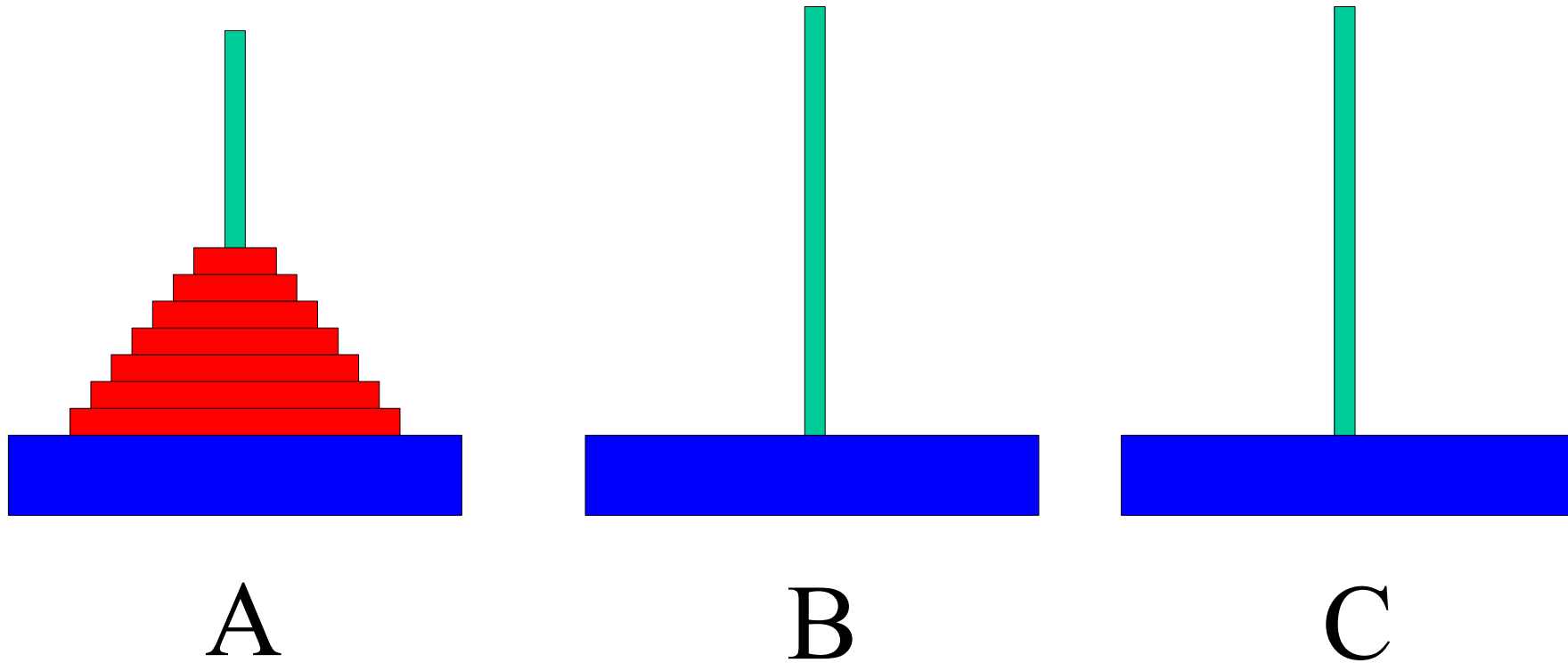
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```
/* stack.h */  
void push(int a);  
int pop(void);  
int peek(void);
```

```
/* stack.c */  
#include <assert.h>  
#include "stack.h"  
  
#define STACKSIZE 20  
static int top; /* first empty slot on the stack */  
static int size=STACKSIZE;  
static int data[STACKSIZE];  
  
void push(int a)  
{  
    assert(top<size);  
    data[top++]=a;  
}  
  
int pop(void)  
{  
    assert(top>0);  
    return data[--top];  
}  
  
int peek(void)  
{  
    assert(top>0);  
    return data[top-1];  
}
```

# Example: Towers of Hanoi

---



- Object of game is to move a set of disks, stacked in successively decreasing diameters, from tower A to tower C using tower B as an intermediate; we are not allowed to stack any disk on top of a smaller disk
- Stacks can be implemented as a two-dimensional array `towers[3][7]`

# Debugging

---

- Frequently programs do not operate as intended
- You need some way to step through your logic other than just looking at your code
- Knowing the control flow and changes in variables as the program runs helps to find the errors
  - You can insert `printfs` in your code to print the values of variables in strategic places
  - Using a debugger is typically more convenient
- A debugger is a program that runs other programs, allowing the user to exercise control over these programs, and to examine variables when problems arise
- The most popular debugger for UNIX systems is GDB, the GNU debugger

# Basic Features of a Debugger

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- The debugger will let you find out
  - What statement or expression did the program crash on
  - If an error occurs while executing a function, what line of the program contains the call to that function, and what are the parameters
  - What are the values of program variables at a particular point during execution of the program
  - What is the result of a particular expression in a program



# Using GDB

---

- Compile your program using `-g` option
  - `gcc -Wall -pedantic -g -c hello.c`
  - `gcc -g hello.o -o hello`
- Run the program under the control of a debugger
  - `gdb hello`
- Set the breakpoint at the `main` function
  - `break main`
- Run the program
  - `run`

# GDB Commands

---

- **run *command-line-arguments***

- Starts your program as if you had typed  
`hello command-line-arguments`

- You can type

```
run <file1 >file2
```

to redirect files to the standard input and output of your program

- **break *place***

- Creates a breakpoint; the program will halt when it gets there. The most common breakpoints are at the beginnings of functions, as in

- `break main`

- You can also set breakpoints at a particular line in a source file

- `break 20`

- `break hello.c:10`

# GDB Commands

---

- **delete *N***
  - Removes breakpoint number *N*. Leave off *N* to remove all breakpoints.
  - **info break** gives info about each breakpoint
- **help *command***
  - Provides a brief description of a GDB command or topic
  - Plain **help** lists the possible topics
- **step**
  - Executes the current line of the program and stops on the next statement to be executed
- **next**
  - Like **step**, however, if the current line of the program contains a function call, it executes the function and stops at the next line

# GDB Commands

---

- **finish**
  - Continues execution until reaching the end of the current function
- **continue**
  - Continues regular execution of the program until a breakpoint is hit or the program stops
- **where**
  - Produces a backtrace - the chain of function calls that brought the program to its current place
  - The command **backtrace** is equivalent

# GDB Commands

---

- **print *E***
  - prints the value of *E* in the current frame in the program, where *E* is a C expression (usually just a variable)
  - **display** is similar, except every time you execute a next or step, it will print out the expression based on the new variable values
- **quit**
  - Leave GDB

# Post-Mortem Debugging

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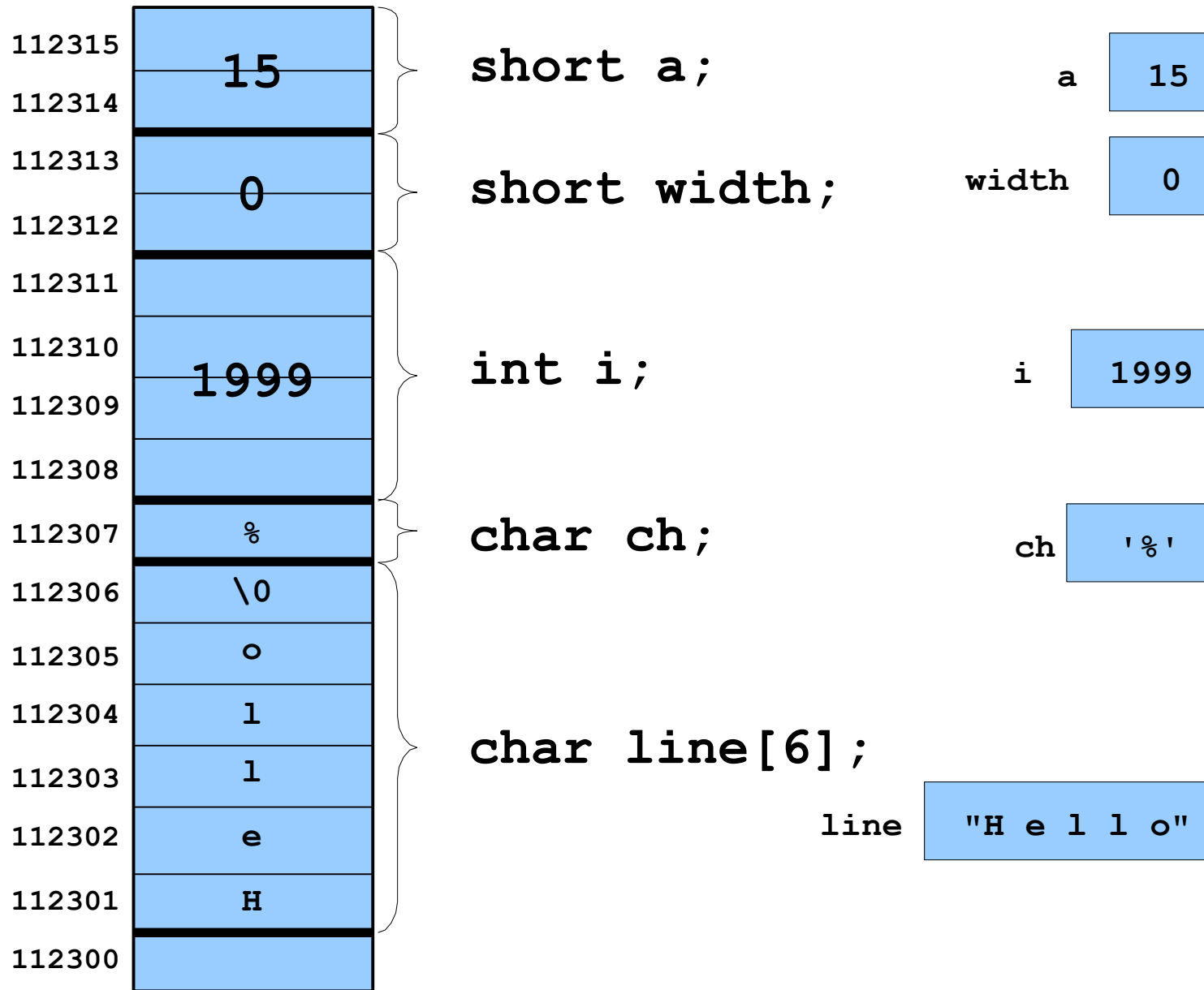
- You can make the program *dump core* when the **abort** function is invoked
- It will create a **core** file in the program directory, which contains the image of the program memory when it crashed
- You can use it to find the cause of the crash
- To enable dumping core in bash shell, type at your shell prompt  
`ulimit -c unlimited`
- To make GDB debug the program using the specific core file use the syntax  
`gdb progname corefilename`

# Computer Memory

---

- Computer memory is a huge array of consecutively numbered memory cells
- On most modern computers a cell can store one byte of data
- An address of a memory cell is its number in an array
- Data of different type occupies one or more contiguous cells (bytes)

# Computer Memory



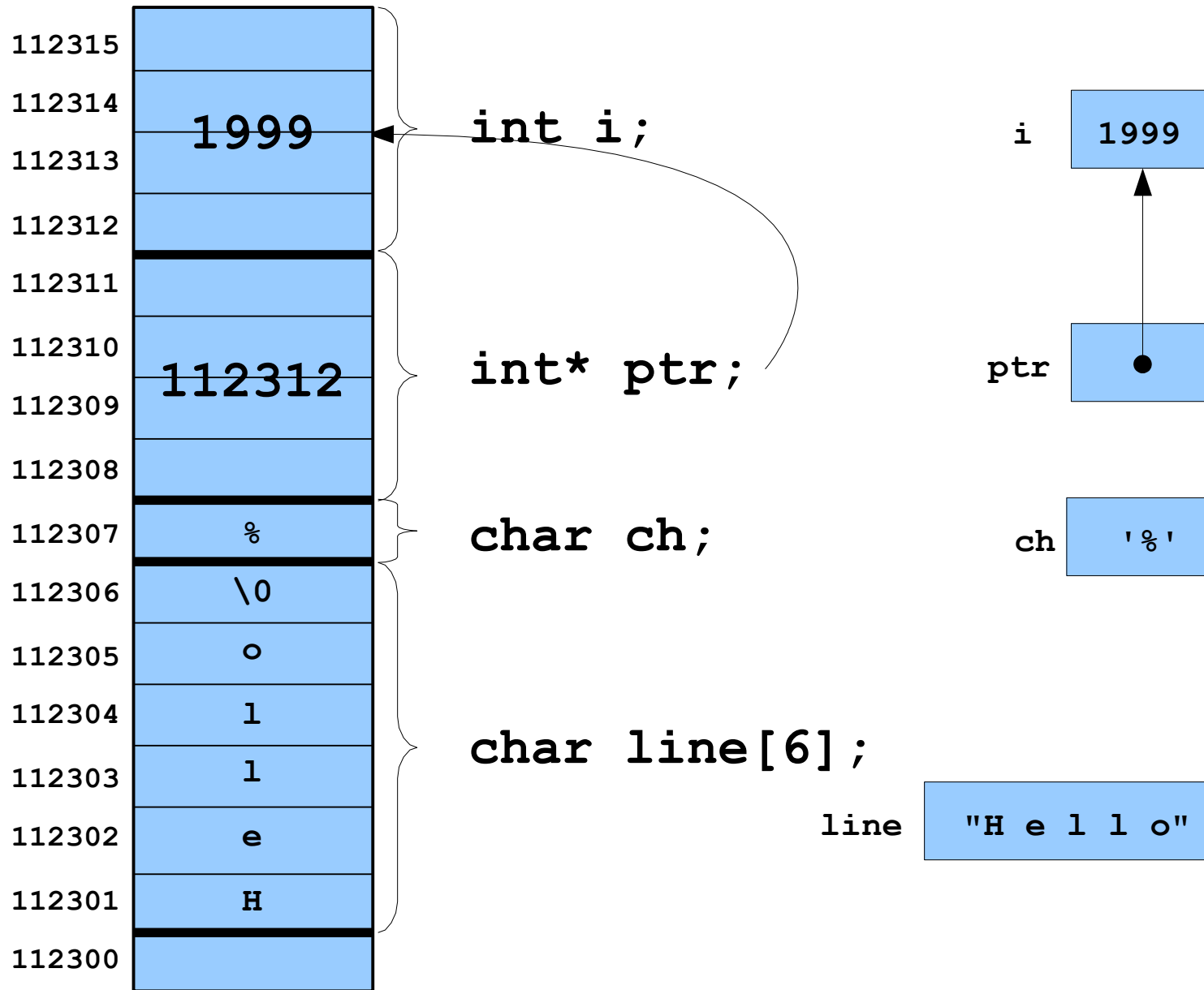


# Pointers

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- A pointer is a variable that can store an address of a variable (i.e., 112300)
- We say that a pointer points to a variable that is stored at that address
- A pointer itself usually occupies 4 bytes of memory (then it can address cells from 0 to  $2^{32}-1$ )

# Computer Memory



# Declaring Pointers

---

- In C you can specify the type of variable a pointer can point to:

```
int *ad; /* pointer to int */
```

```
char *s; /* pointer to char */
```

```
float *fp; /* pointer to float */
```

```
char **s; /* pointer to variable that is a  
pointer to char */
```

# Operations with Pointers

---

- We can assign an address to a pointer

```
int *p1, *p2; int a, b;
```

```
p1 = &a;
```

- We can assign pointers to each other

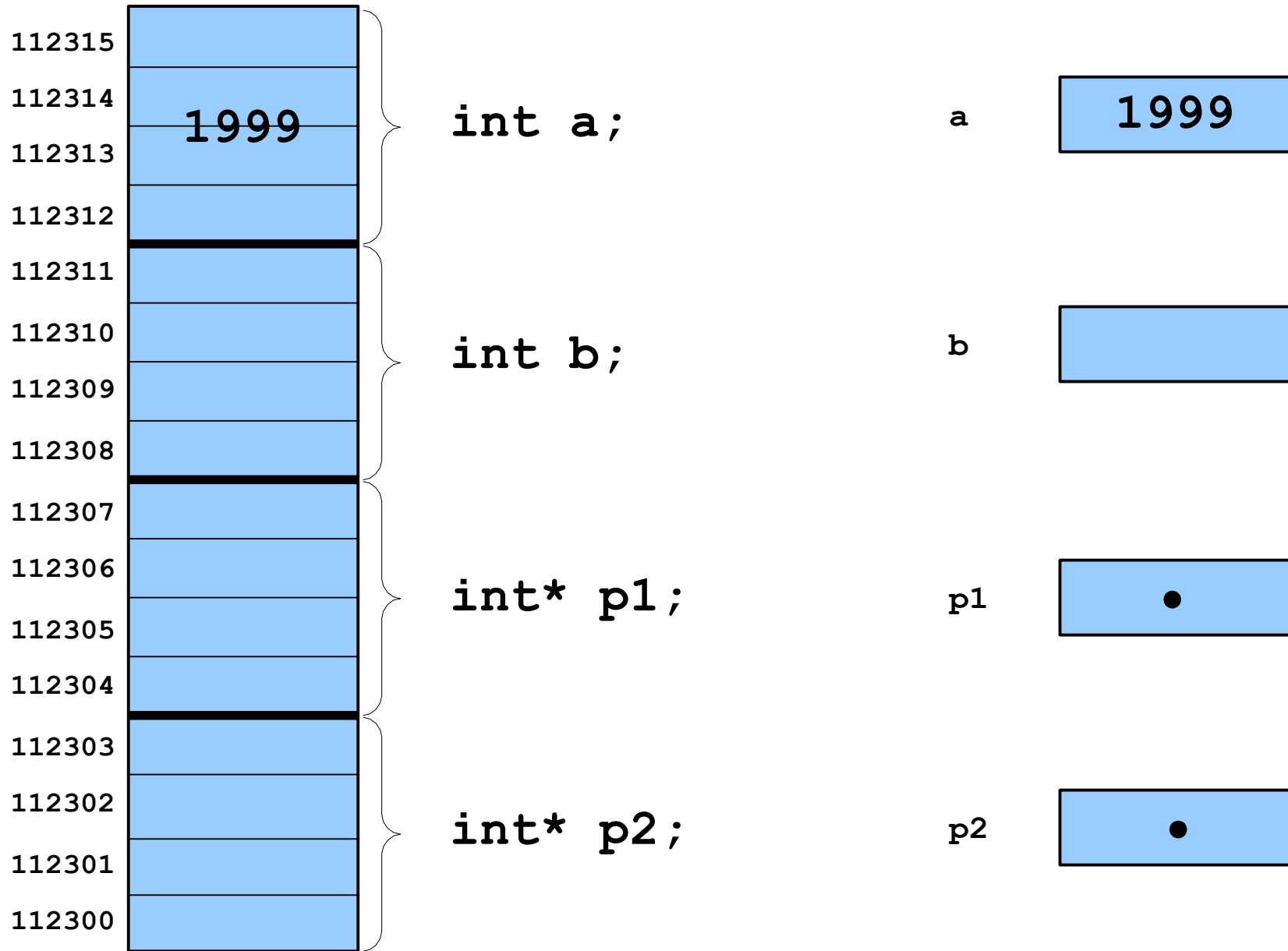
```
p2 = p1;
```

- We can dereference pointers

```
*p1 = 3; /* same as a = 3; */
```

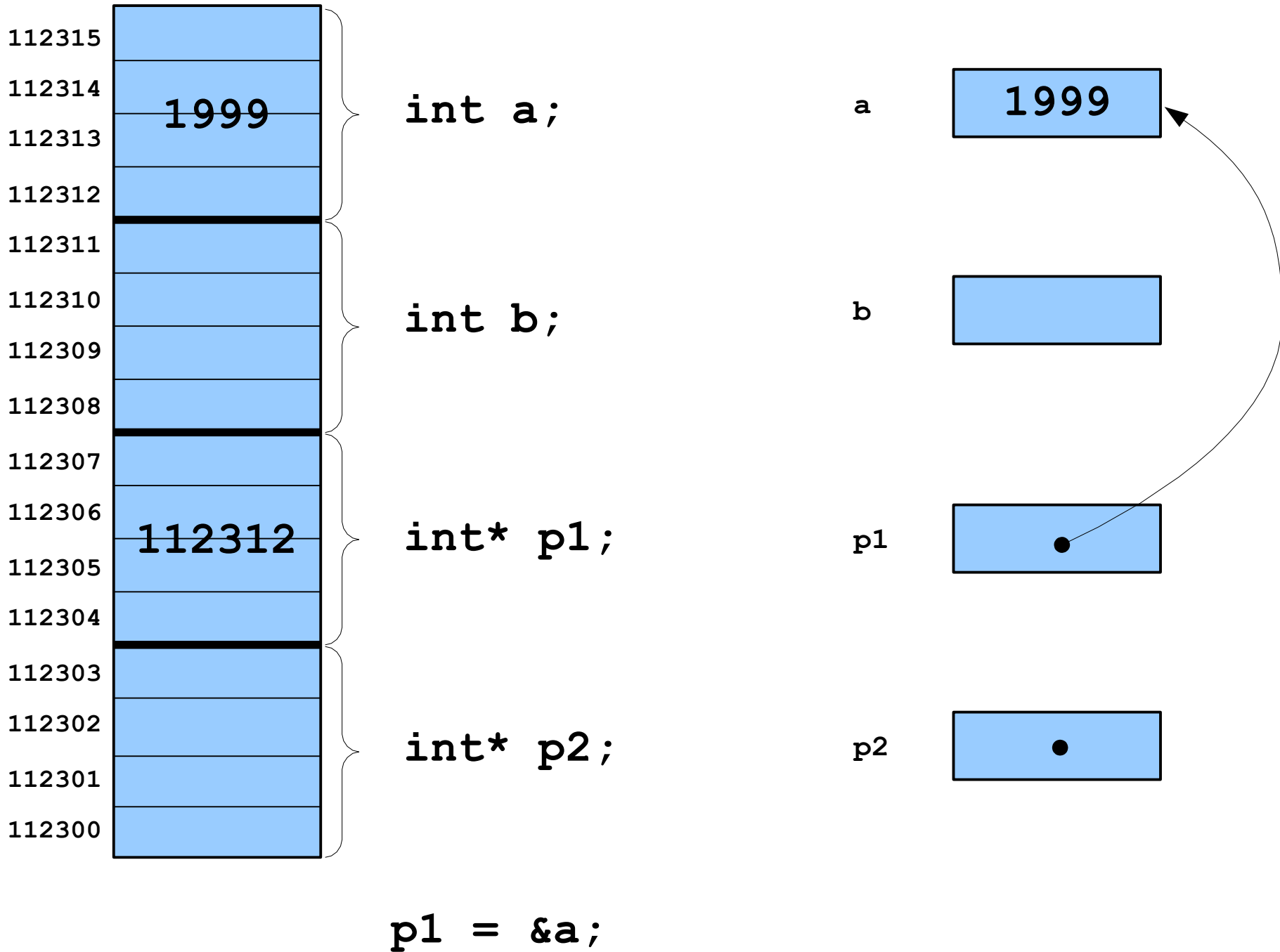
```
b = *p1; /* same as b = a; */
```

# Operations & and \*

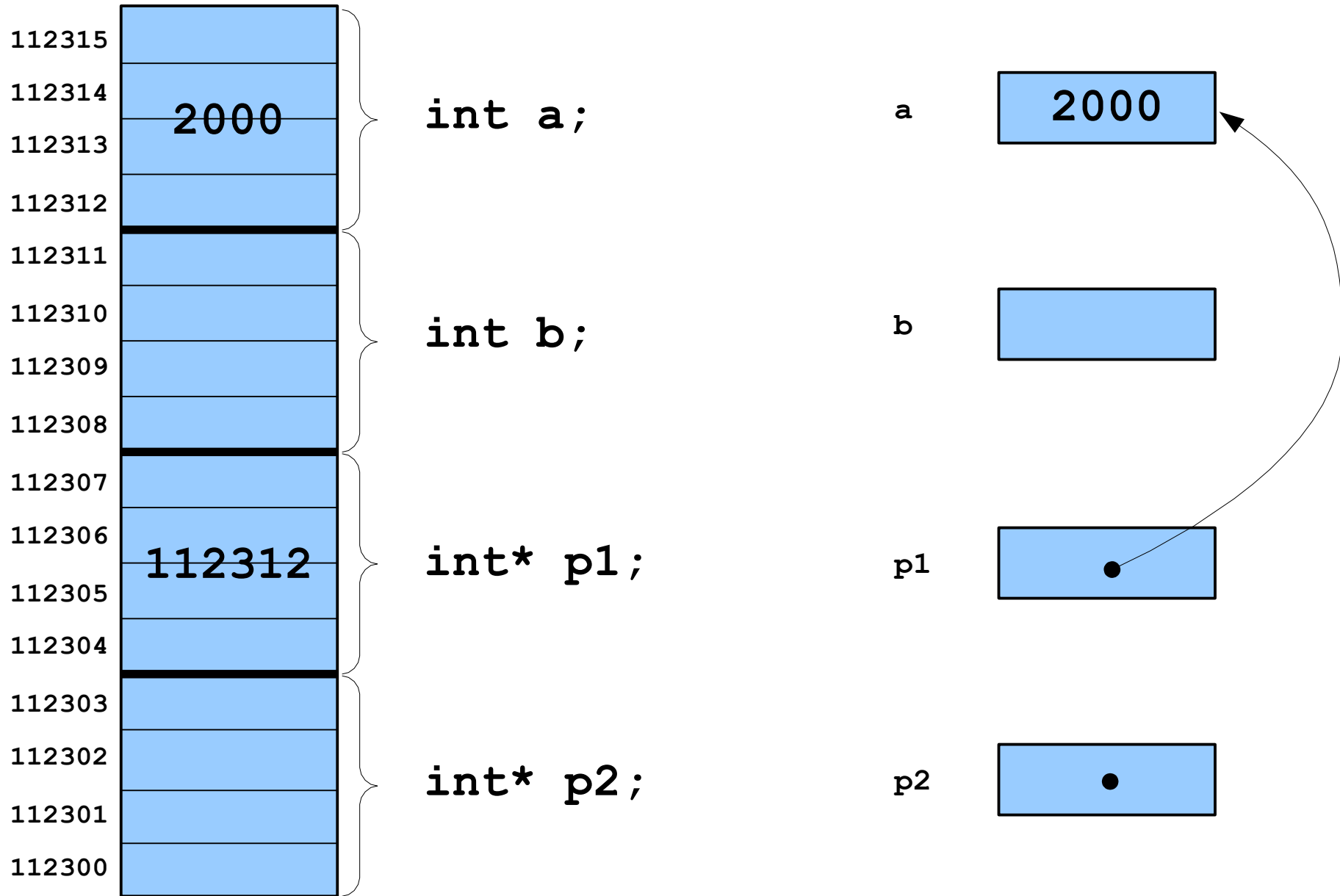


`a = 1999;`

# Operations & and \*

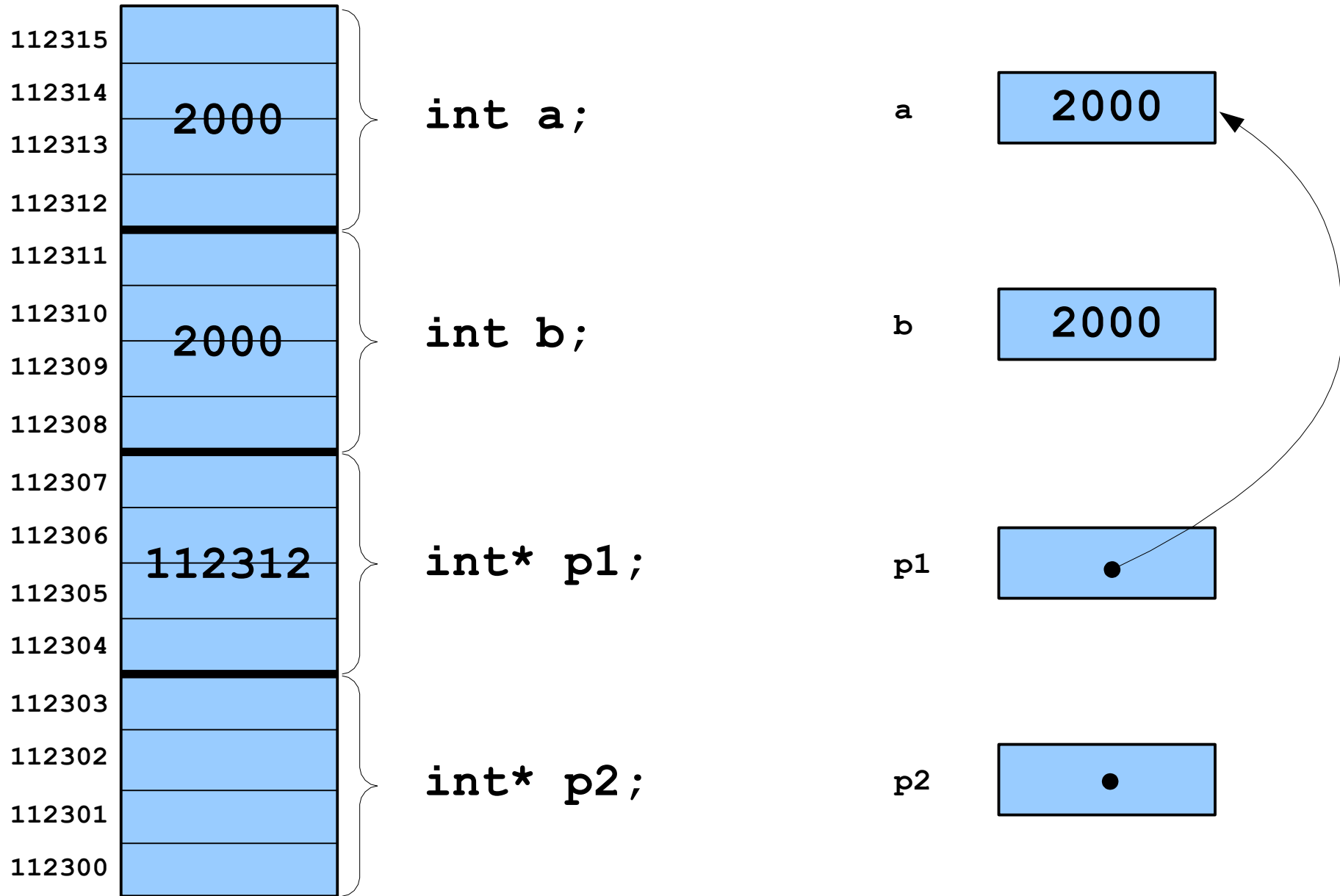


# Operations & and \*



`*p1 = 2000;`

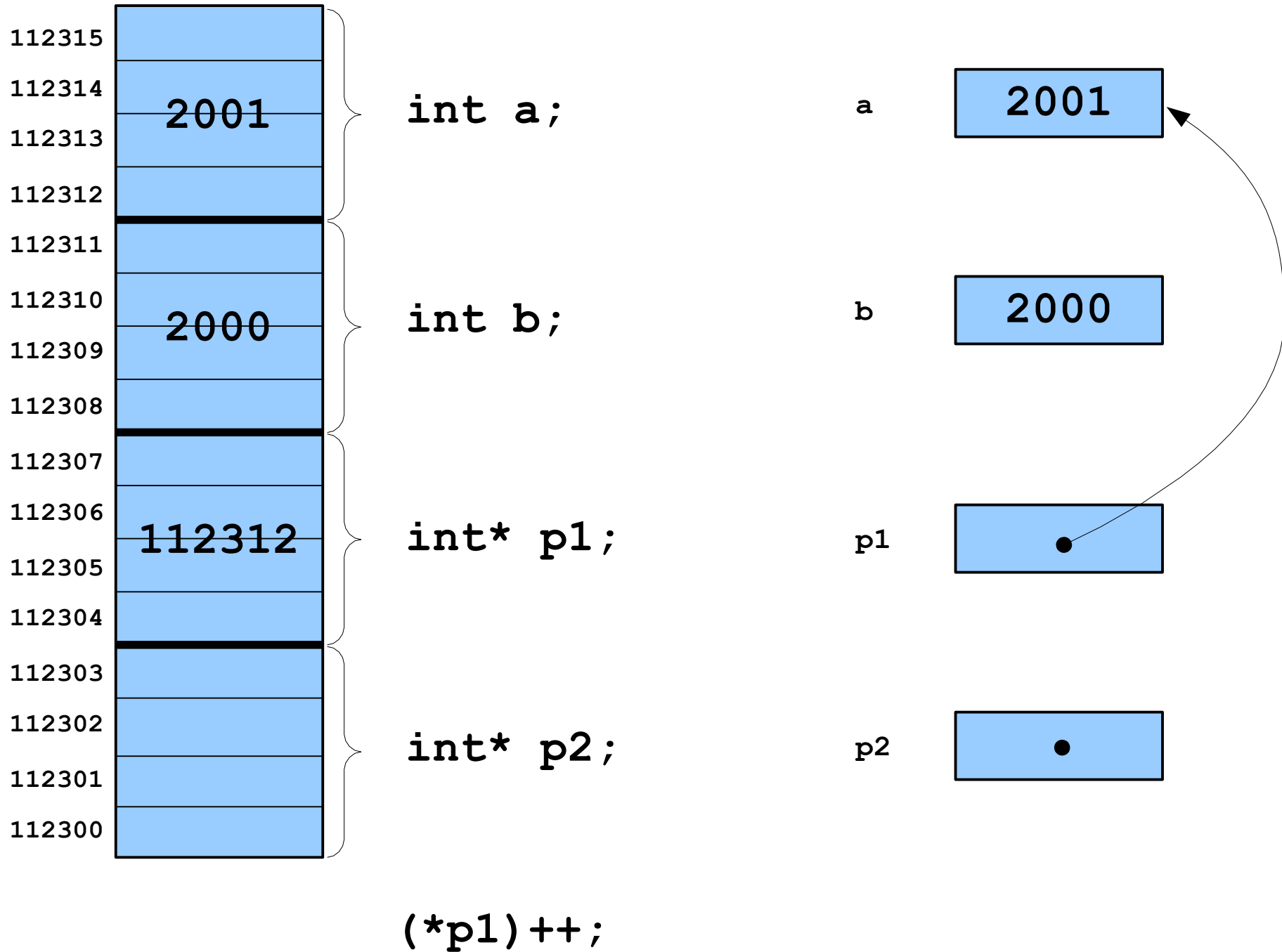
# Operations & and \*



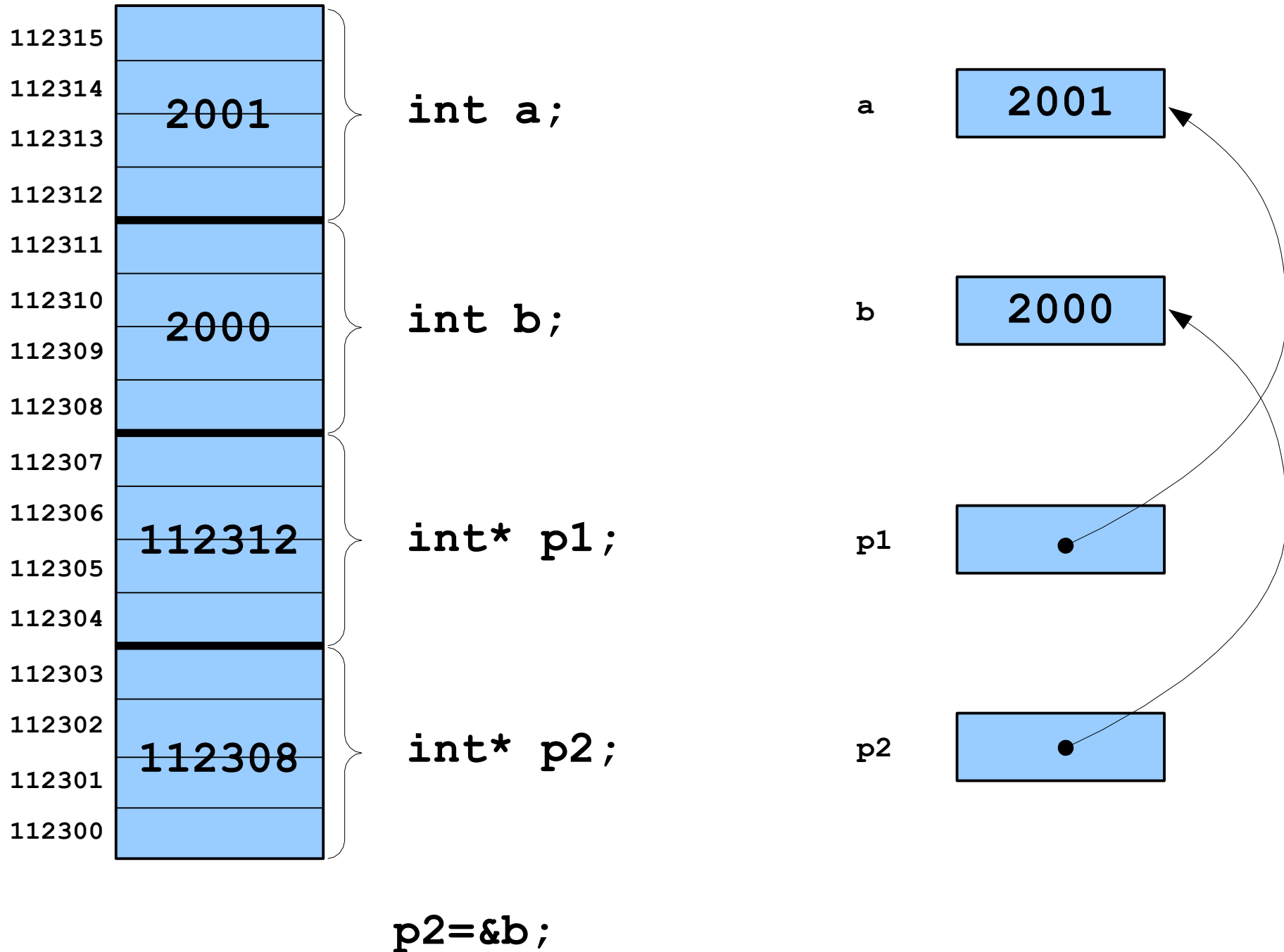
`b=*p1;`



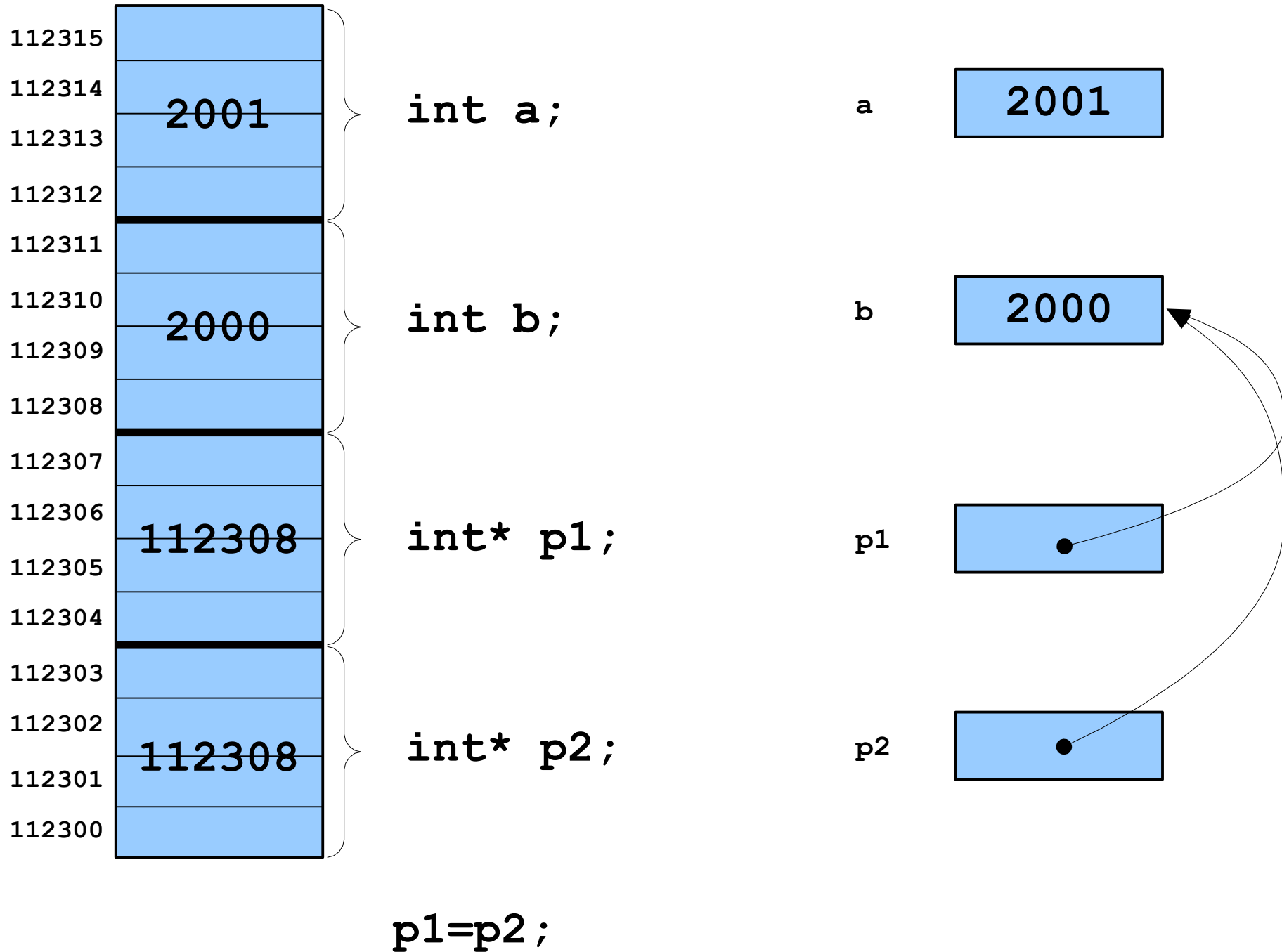
# Operations & and \*



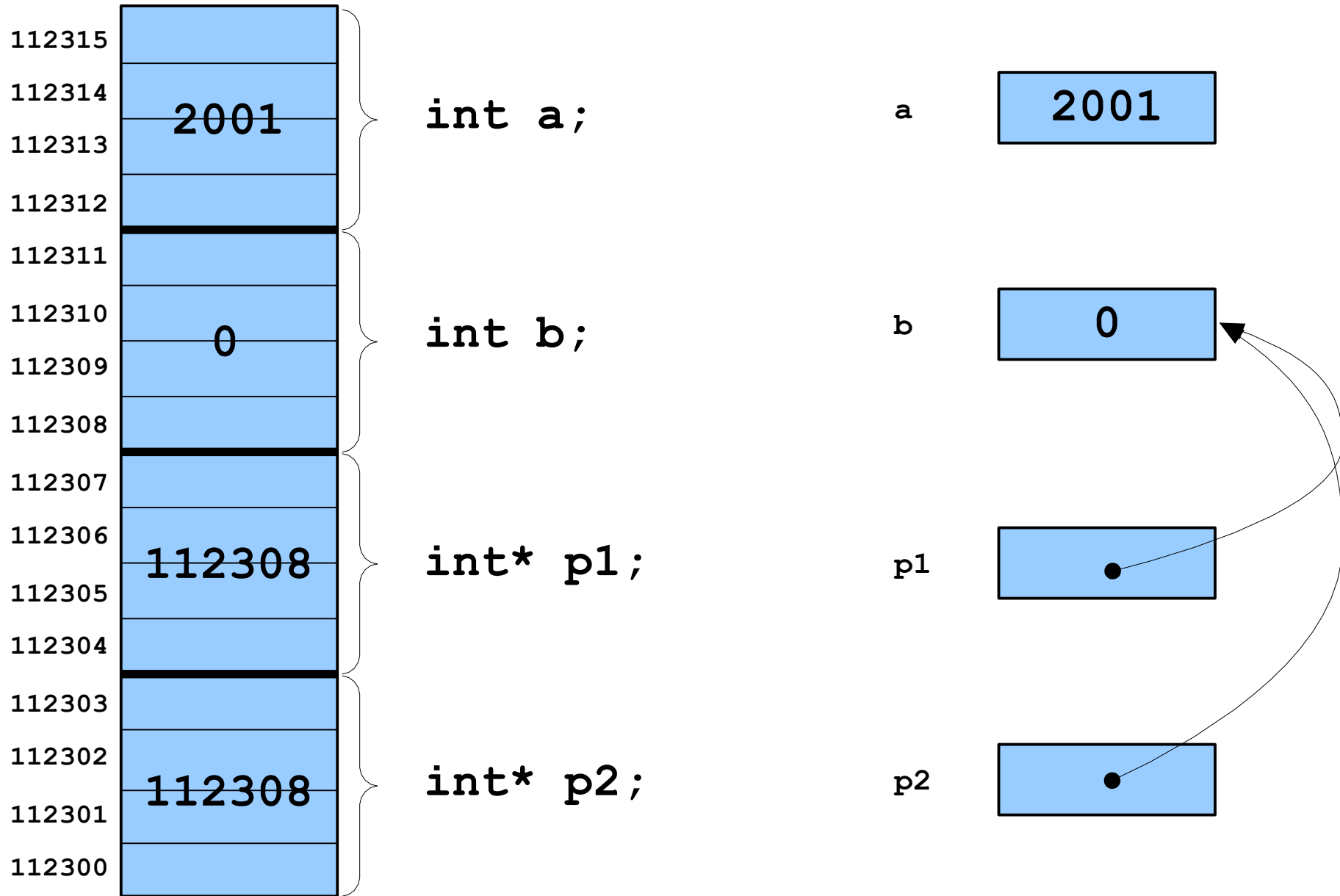
# Operations & and \*



# Operations & and \*

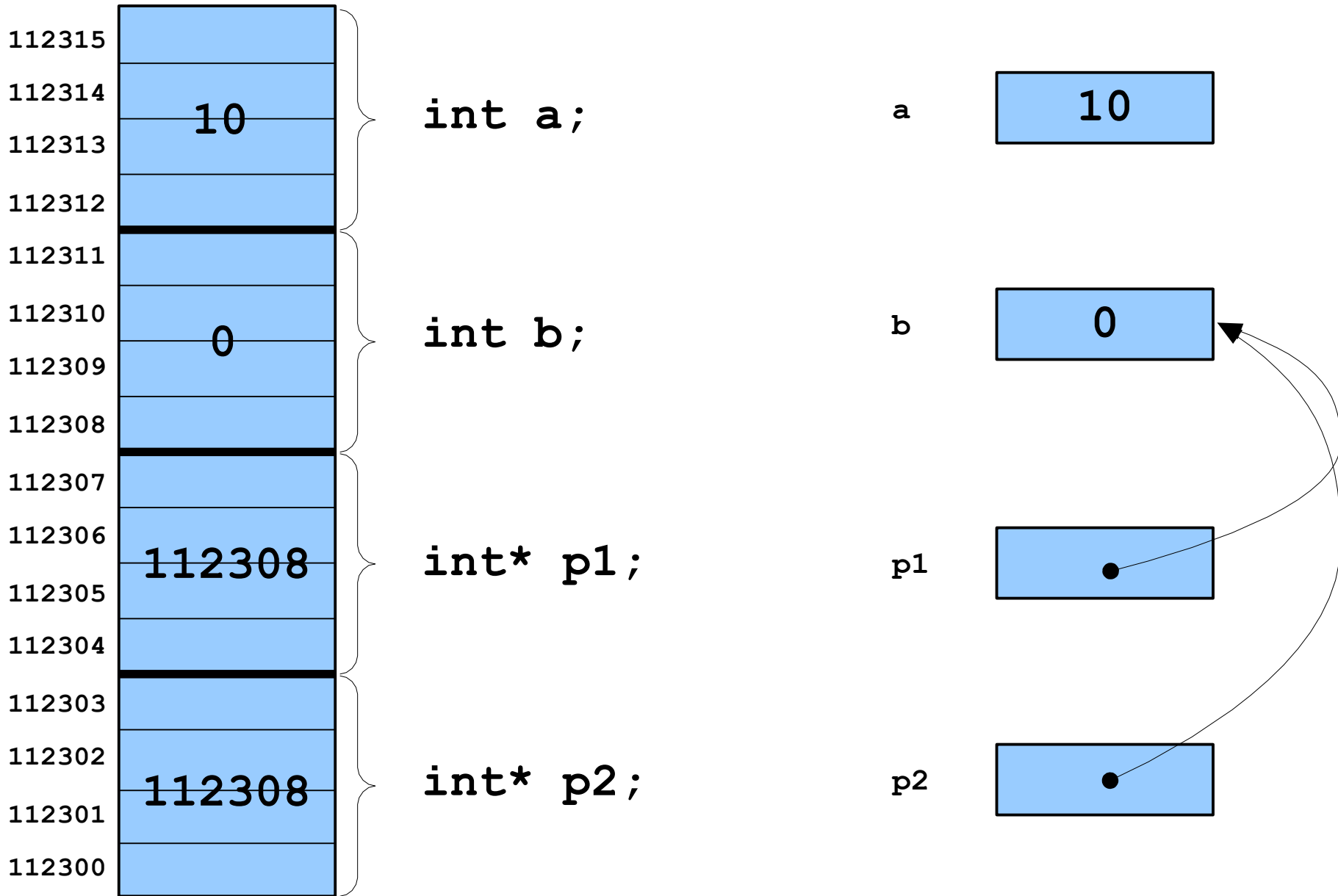


# Operations & and \*



`*p1=0;`

# Operations & and \*



`a=*p2+10;`

# Pointer Function Arguments

---

- Function arguments in C are strictly pass-by-value
- However, we can simulate pass-by-reference by passing a pointer
- This is very useful when you need to
  - Support in/out (bi-directional) parameters (e.g. swap, find-replace)
  - Return multiple outputs (one return value isn't enough)
  - Pass around large objects (arrays and structures)

# Pointers and Function Arguments

```
/* bad example of swapping
a function can't change parameters */
void bad_swap(int x, int y)
{
    int temp;

    temp = x;
    x = y;
    y = temp;
}

/* good example of swapping - a function can't change parameters,
but if a parameter is a pointer it can change the value it points to */
void good_swap(int *px, int *py)
{
    int temp;

    temp = *px;
    *px = *py;
    *py = temp;
}
```

# Pointers and Function Arguments

---

```
#include <stdio.h>

void bad_swap(int x, int y);
void good_swap(int *p1, int *p2);

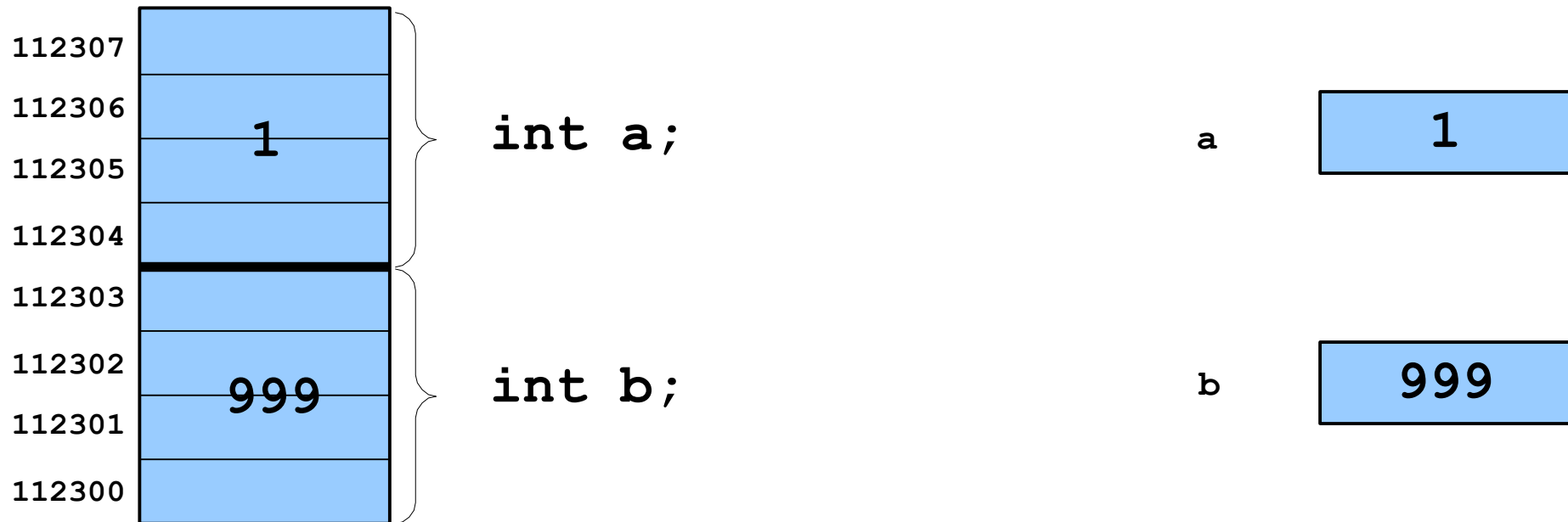
main() {
    int a = 1, b = 999;

    printf("a = %d, b = %d\n", a, b);
    bad_swap(a, b);
    printf("a = %d, b = %d\n", a, b);
    good_swap(&a, &b);
    printf("a = %d, b = %d\n", a, b);
}
```

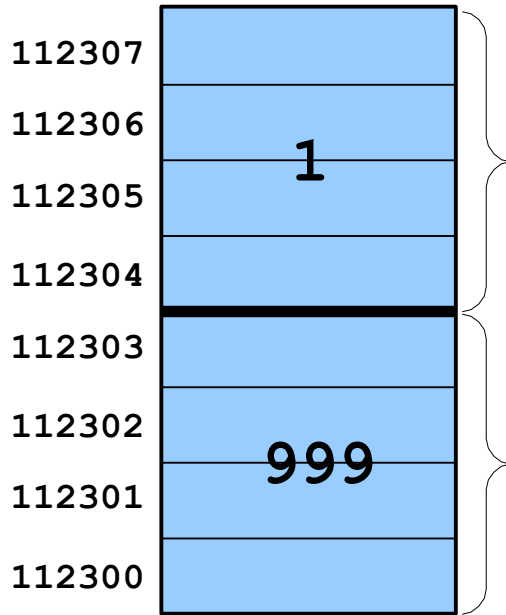


# Inside Story

main

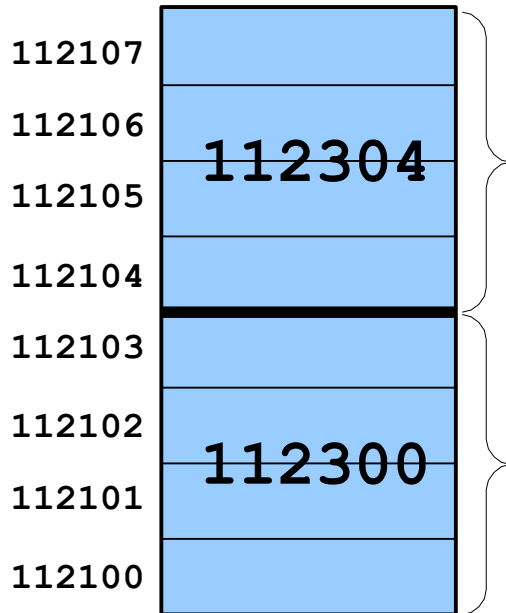
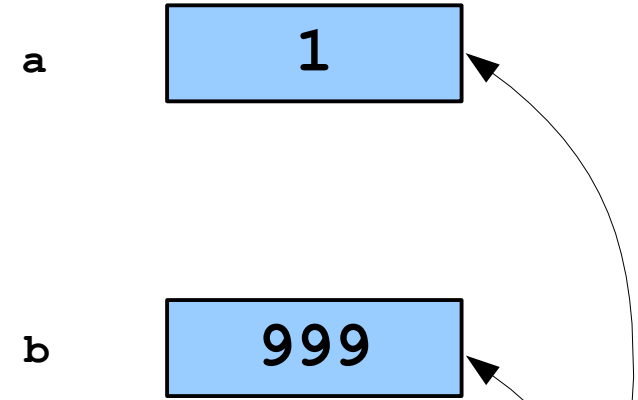


# Inside Story

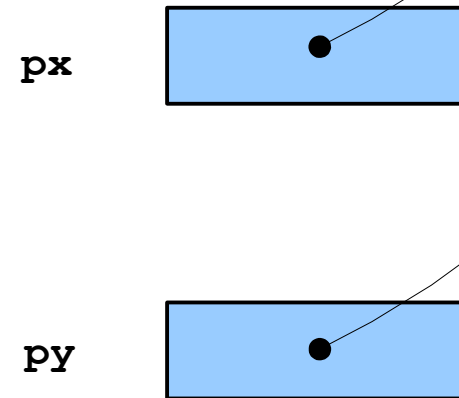


```
main
int a;
void swap(int *px,
          int *py)
{
    int temp;

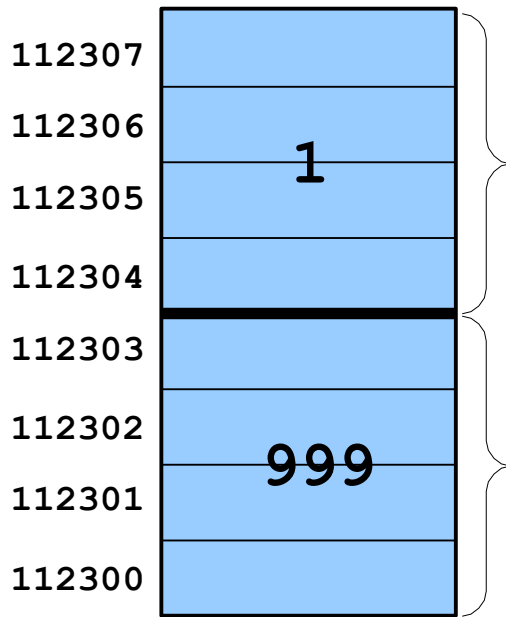
    temp = *px;
    *px = *py;
    *py = temp;
}
int b;
```



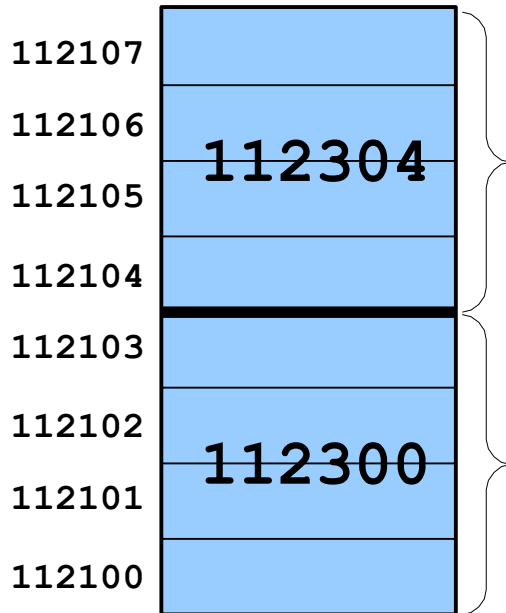
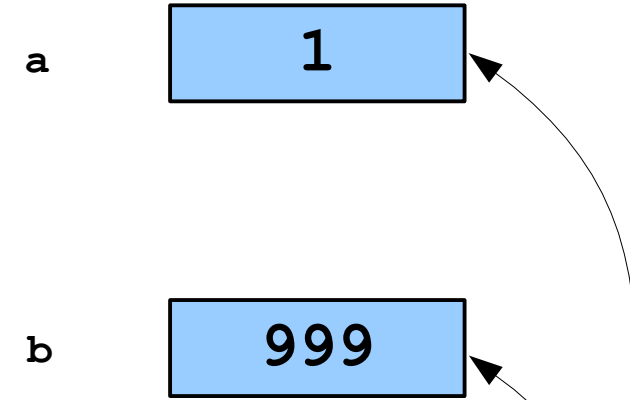
```
swap
int* px;
int* py;
swap(&a, &b);
```



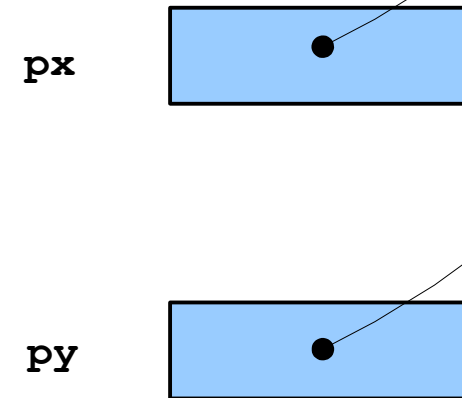
# Inside Story



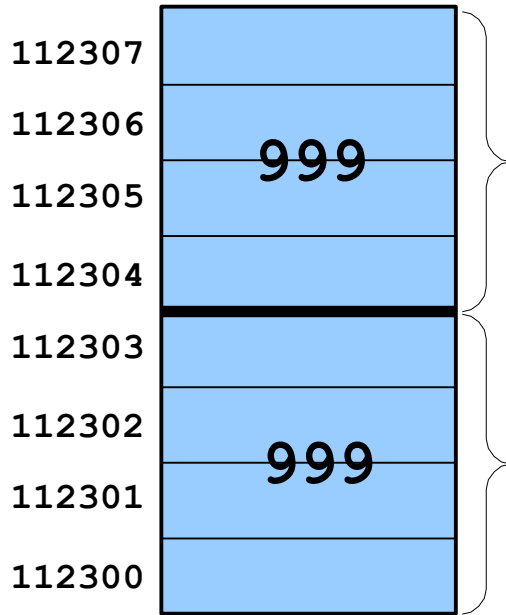
```
main
int a;
void swap(int *px,
          int *py)
{
    int temp;
    temp = *px;
    *px = *py;
    *py = temp;
}
int b;
```



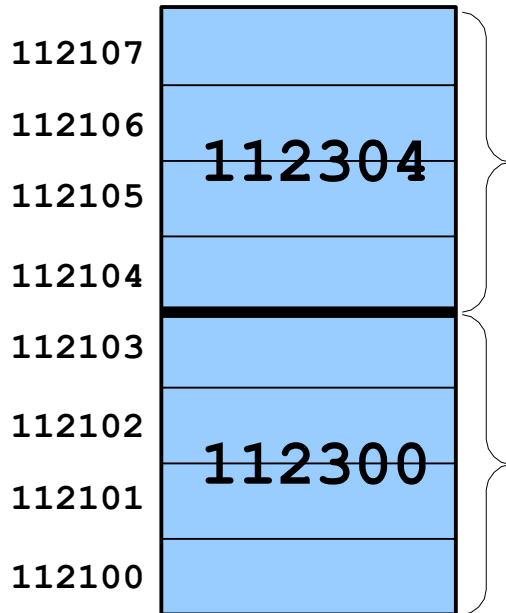
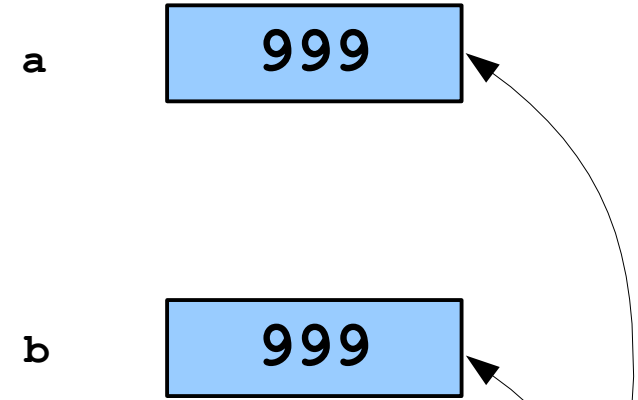
```
swap
int* px;
temp 1
int* py;
temp=*px;
```



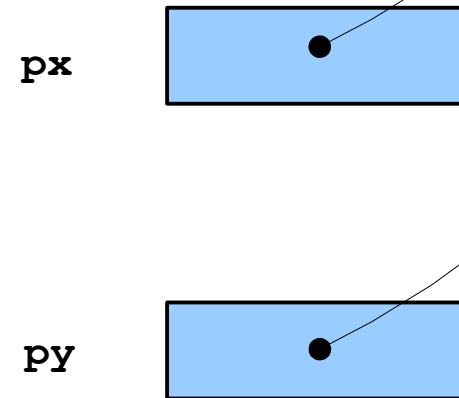
# Inside Story



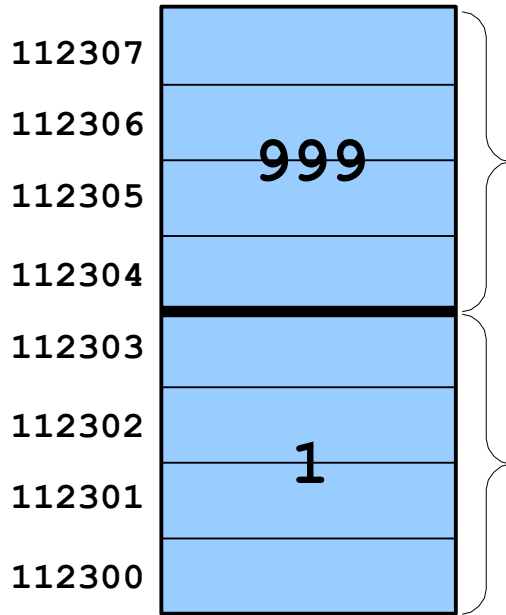
```
main
int a;
void swap(int *px,
           int *py)
{
    int temp;
    temp = *px;
    *px = *py;
    *py = temp;
}
int b;
```



```
swap
int* px;
temp 1
int* py;
*px=*py;
```

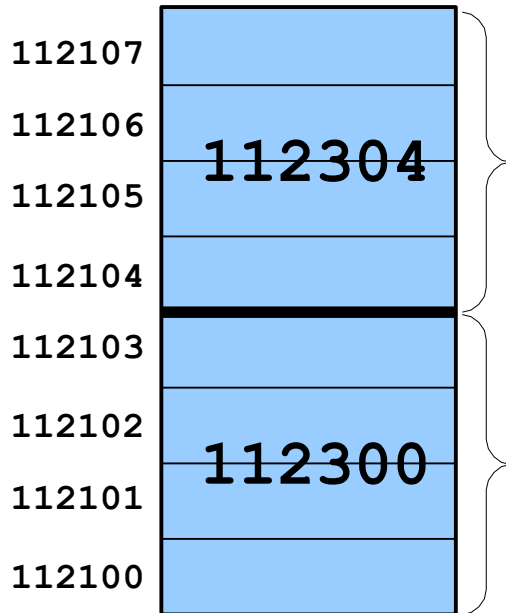
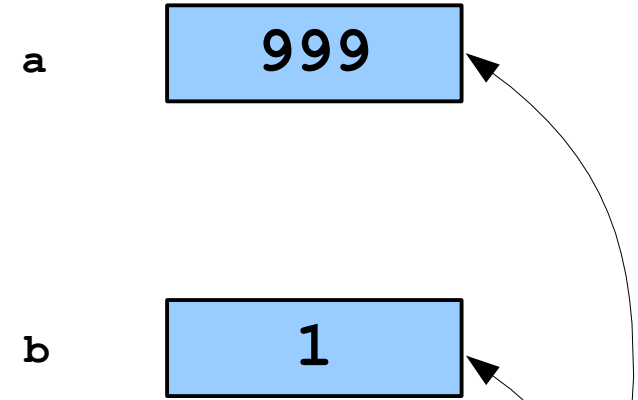


# Inside Story

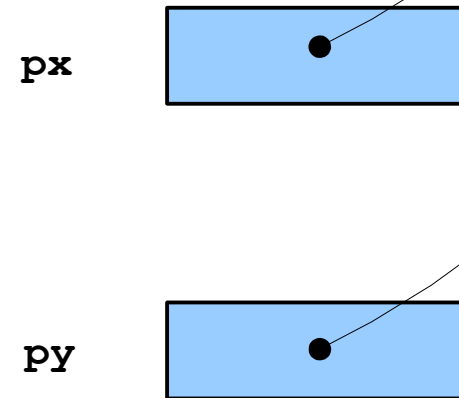


```
main
int a;
void swap(int *px,
          int *py)
{
    int temp;

    temp = *px;
    *px = *py;
    *py = temp;
}
int b;
```



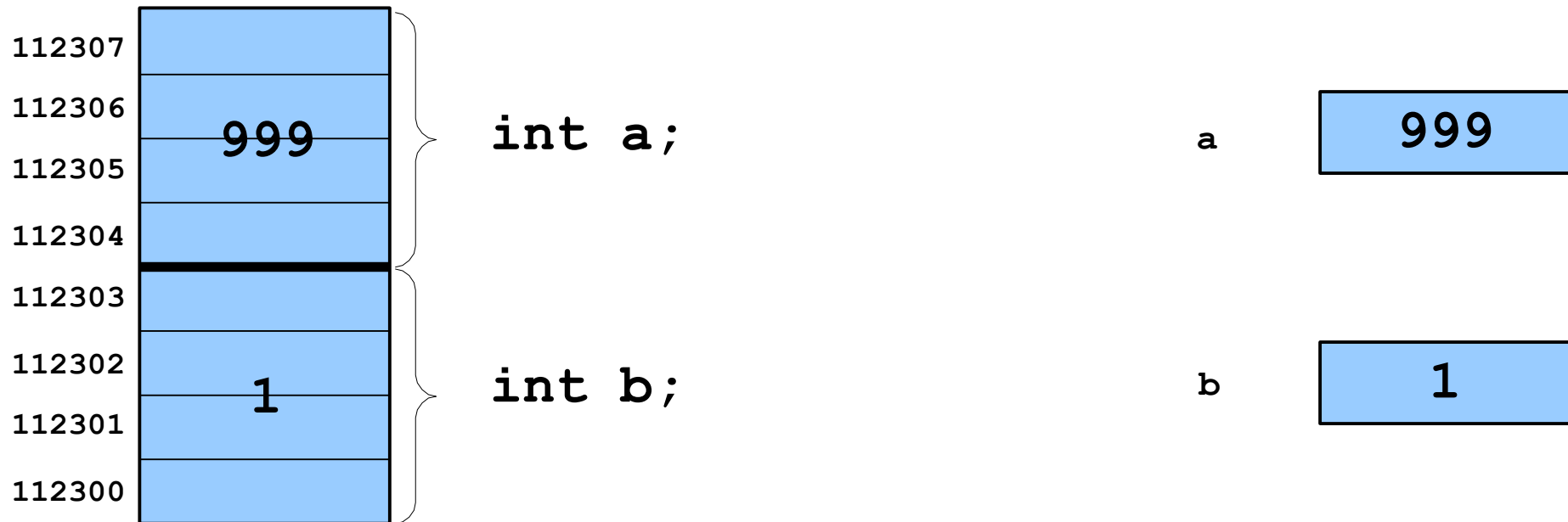
```
swap
int* px;
temp 1
int* py;
*py=temp;
```



# Inside Story

---

`main`



# Pointer Function Arguments

---

```
#include <stdio.h>    /* printf() */
#include <math.h>     /* pow() */

static void CalcAreaVol(double dRad, double* pdArea,
                       double* pdVol)
{
    *pdArea = 4.0 * M_PI * pow(dRad, 2.0);
    *pdVol  = 4.0/3.0 * M_PI * pow(dRad, 3.0);
}

int main()
{
    double area = 0.0, vol = 0.0;
    CalcAreaVol(3.5, &area, &vol);
    printf("Radius=%g Area=%g Vol=%g\n", 3.5,
           area, vol);
    return 0;
}
```

# Reading Input - `scanf`

---

- If we need to read a value from the standard input into a variable we can use `scanf`
- `scanf` is able to put the input into a variable since we pass its address

```
int capital = 0;  
scanf("%d", &capital);
```

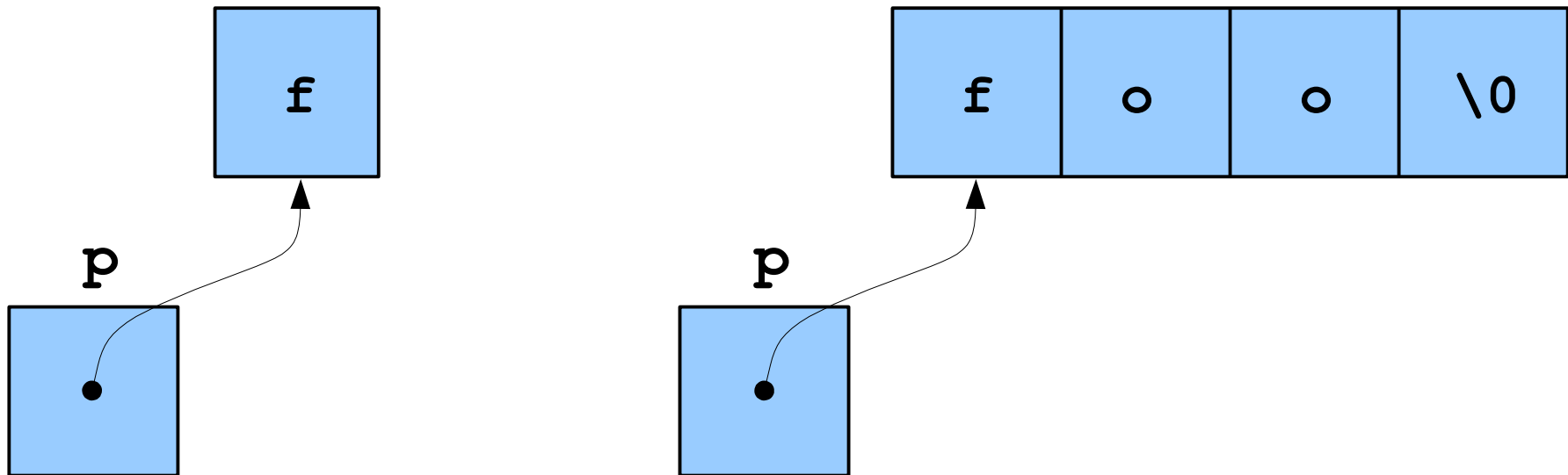
- What happens without `&`?  

```
scanf("%d", capital);
```
- `scanf` thinks that the value of `capital` is an address where it has to place data!



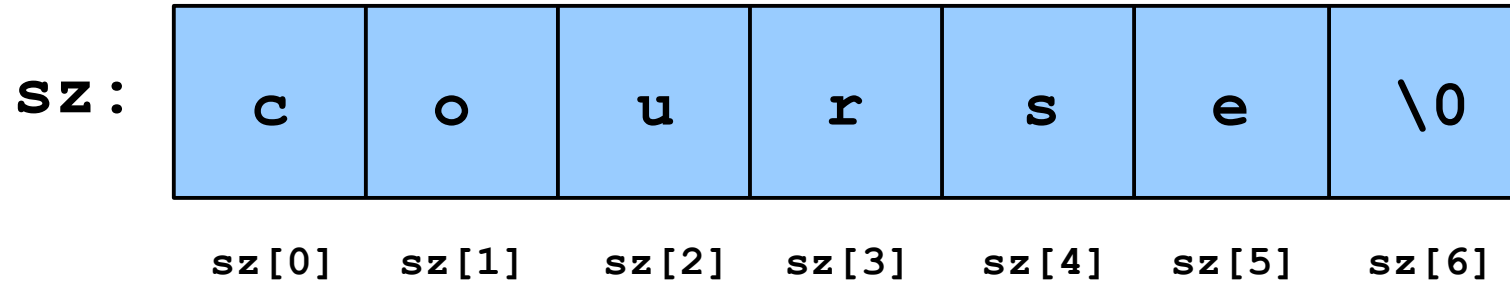
# Pointers to Arrays

- A pointer can point to
  - a single value (`int`, `char`, `float`, `double`, `struct`, etc.)
  - an array of values
- Can be confusing
- Consider: `char* p`
- Need to know if its pointing to a single char or to the first element in an array of chars?

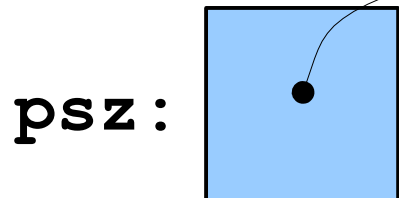
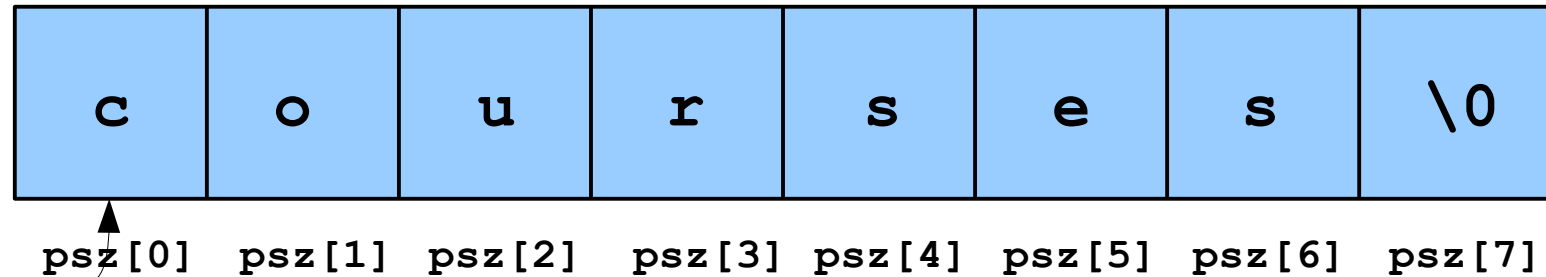


# Strings Revisited

```
char sz[] = "course";
```



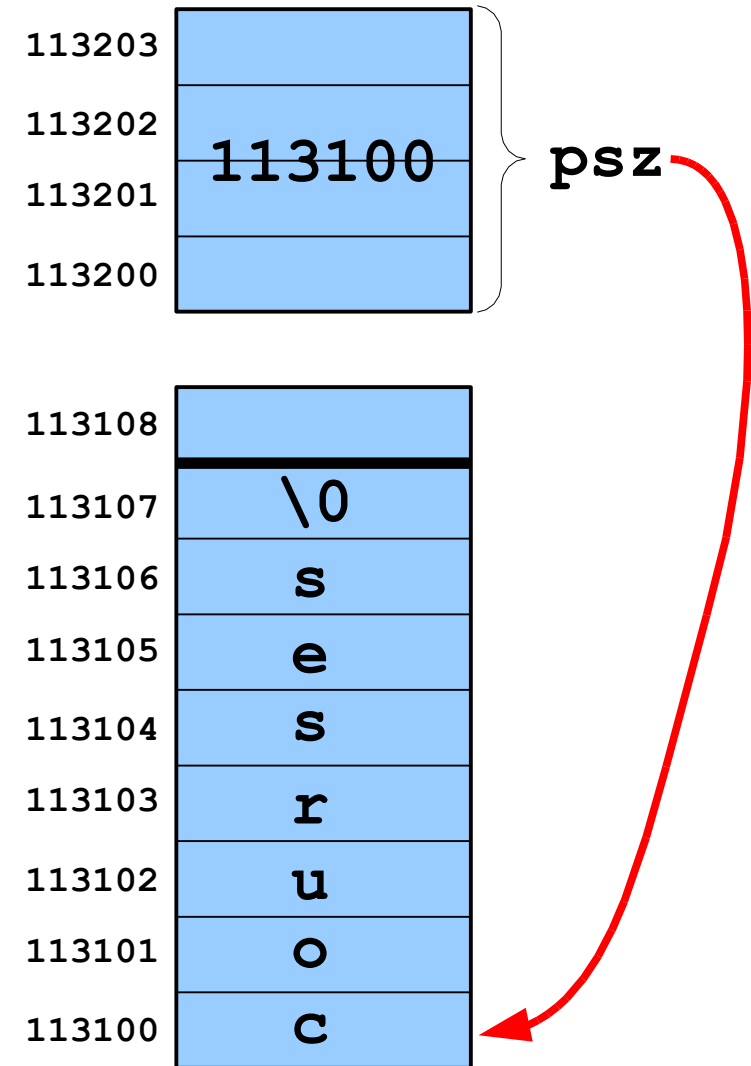
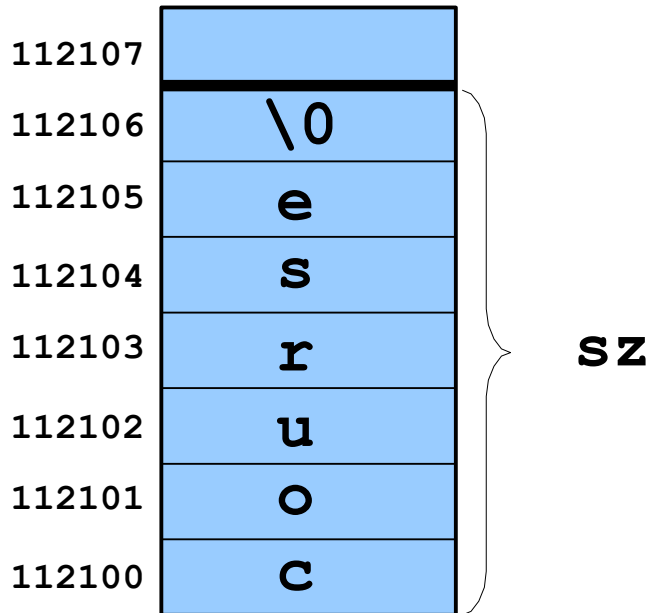
```
char* psz = "courses";
```



# Strings Revisited

```
char sz[] = "course";  
char* psz = "courses";
```

- **sz** is an array of characters
- **psz** is a pointer to an array of characters

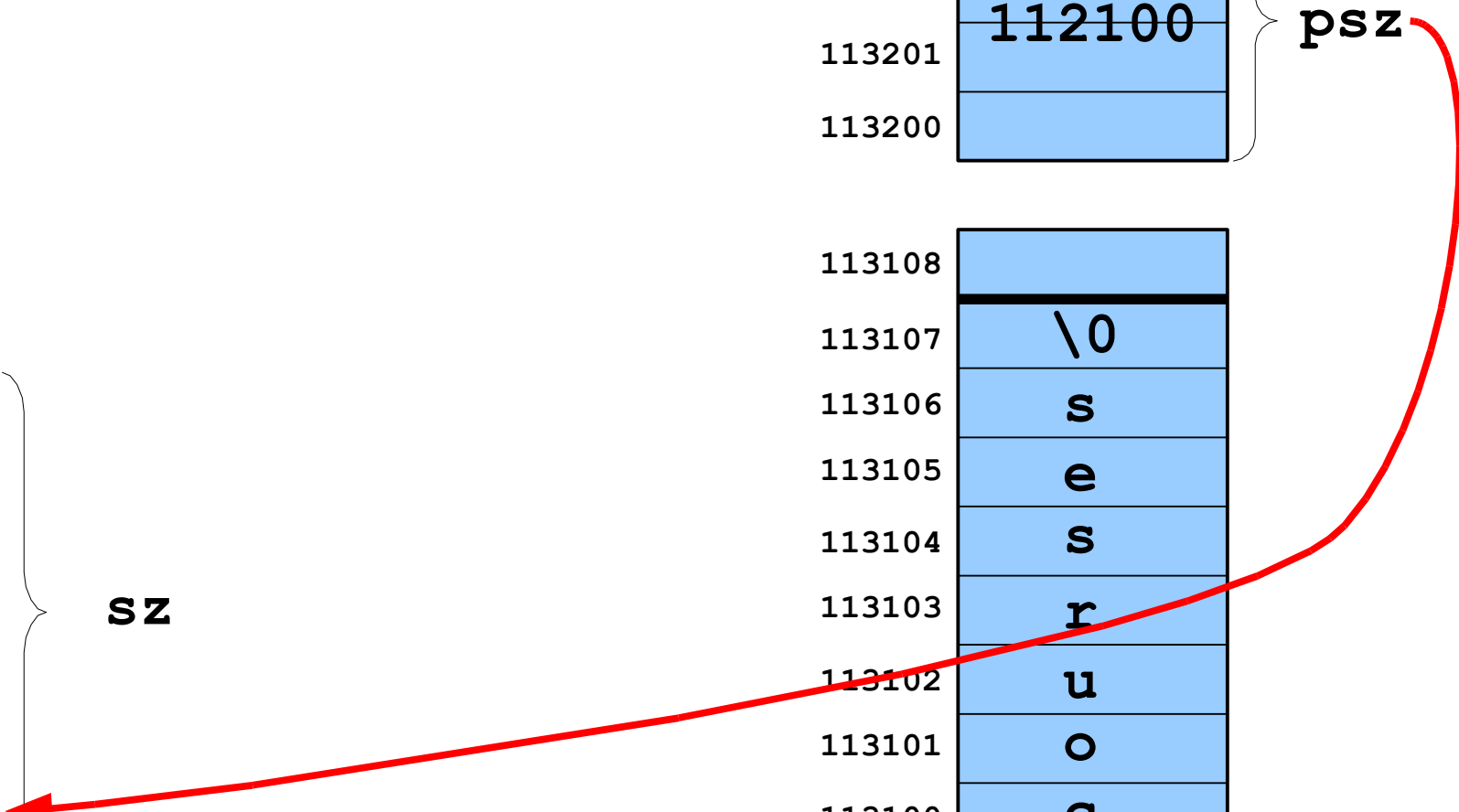
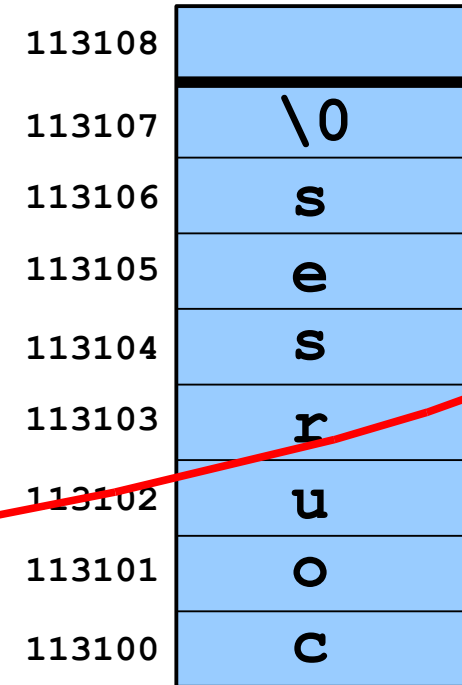
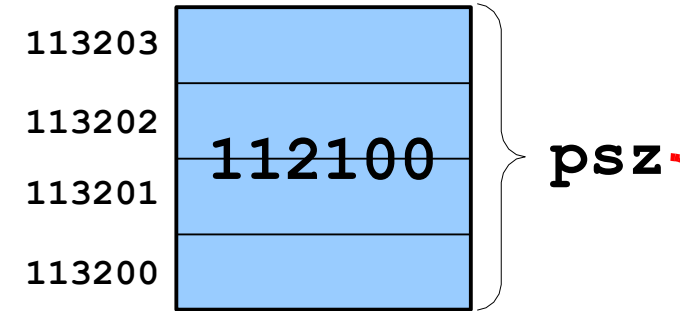
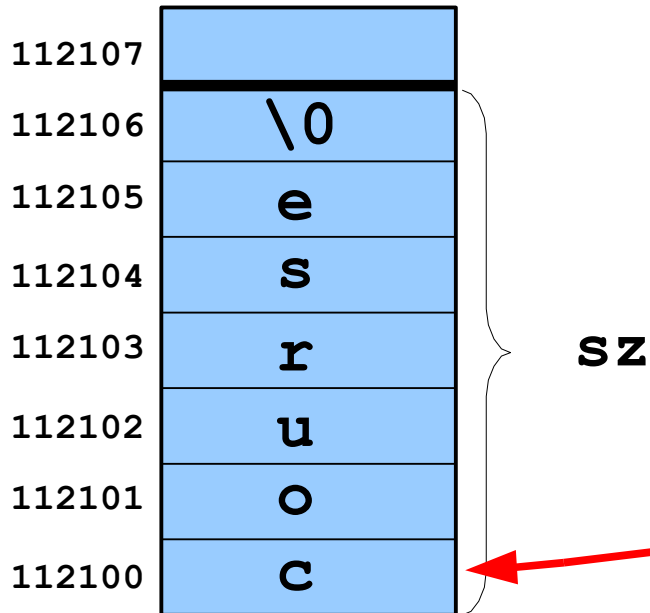


- **sizeof (sz) ? sizeof (psz) ?**

# Strings Revisited

- You can change the pointer to point to something else

```
psz = sz;
```



# Strings Revisited

- You can modify characters in `sz`  
`sz[0] = 'C'; /* Okay */`
- You cannot modify characters in `psz`  
`psz[0] = 'C'; /* Danger, Will Robinson! */`
- `psz` is immutable (read-only). Why?
  - It points to a string literal ("courses") that usually resides in read-only memory
  - `psz[0] = 'C'` is undefined (implementation dependent)
  - On Linux, this causes a segmentation violation
  - `const` qualifier is used to prevent accidental modification  
`const char* psz = "courses";`
  - Also a good idea to use `const` for `sz`  
`const char sz[] = "course";`



# [ ] and \* Similarities

- From `stdio.h`:  
`size_t strlen(const char*);`
- Can pass an array wherever a pointer is expected  
`strlen(sz);`  
`strlen(psz);`  
`strlen("Greetings!");`
- Equivalent declaration:  
`size_t strlen(const char[]);`
- Array names are implicitly converted to a pointer to their first element
  - `strlen(sz);`      $\Rightarrow$  `strlen(&sz[0]);`
  - `psz = sz;`      $\Rightarrow$  `psz = &sz[0];`



# [ ] and \* Similarities

---

- Only two things can be done to an array
  - Determine its size using `sizeof()`
  - Obtain a pointer to the first element
- All other array operations are actually done with pointers
- Subscripts are automatically converted to pointer operations

# Pointer Arithmetic

---

- Can use subscript notation to access elements: `p[i]`

```
char sz[] = "course";
```

```
char* psz = sz;
```

```
sz[0] = 'C';           ⇒ "Course"
```

```
psz[5] = 'E';         ⇒ "CourseE"
```

- Can also use pointer arithmetic: `*(p + i)`

```
*(sz + 0) = 'C';
```

```
*(psz + 5) = 'E';
```



# Pointer Arithmetic

- This works also with larger types

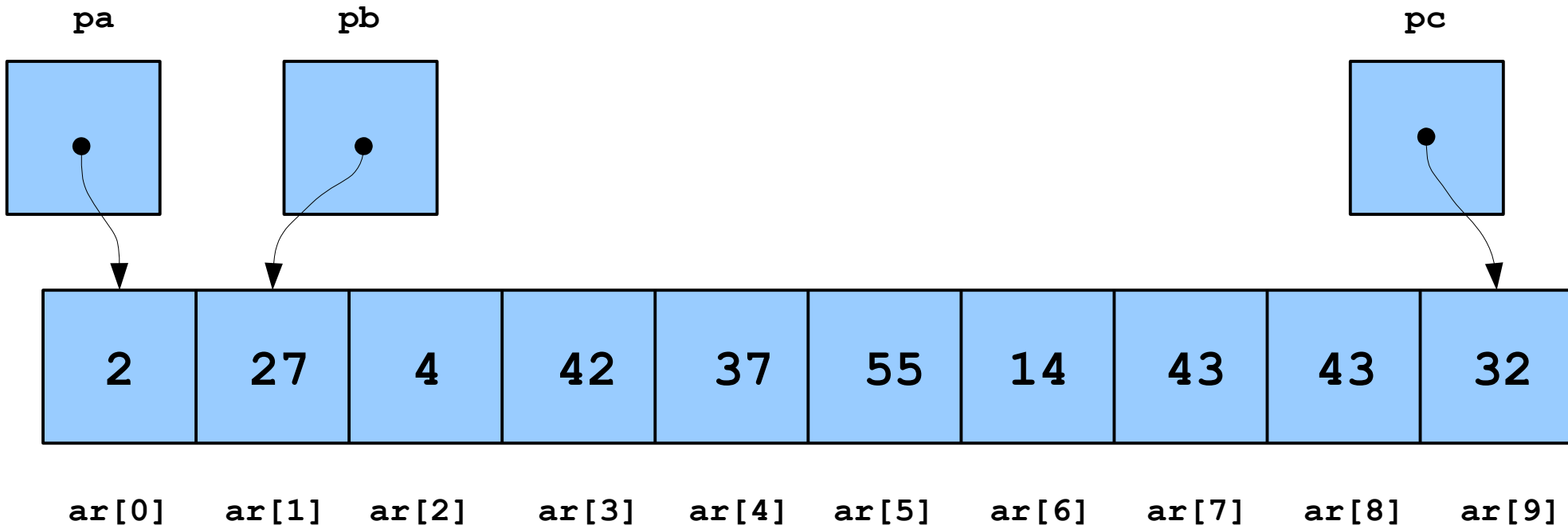
```
int ar[10];
```

```
int *pa, *pb, *pc;
```

```
pa = &ar[0] /* same as pa = ar */
```

```
pb = pa + 1; pc = pa + 9;
```

```
ar[3]=42; *(ar+4)=37; *pa=2; *pb=27; *pc=32;
```



# Pointer Arithmetic

---

- We can add and subtract integers to/from pointers - the result is a pointer to another element of this type

```
int *pa; char *s;
```

**s-1** ⇒ points to **char** before **s** (1 subtracted)

**pa+1** ⇒ points to next **int** (4 added!)

**s+9** ⇒ points to 9th **char** after **s** (9 added)

**++pa** ⇒ increments **pa** to point to next **int**

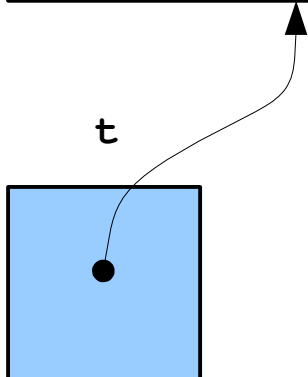
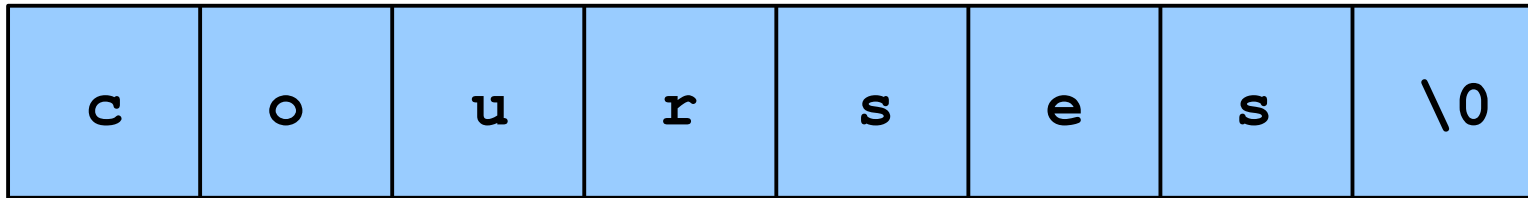
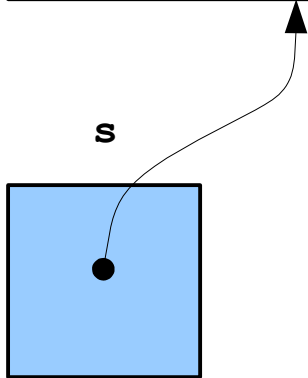
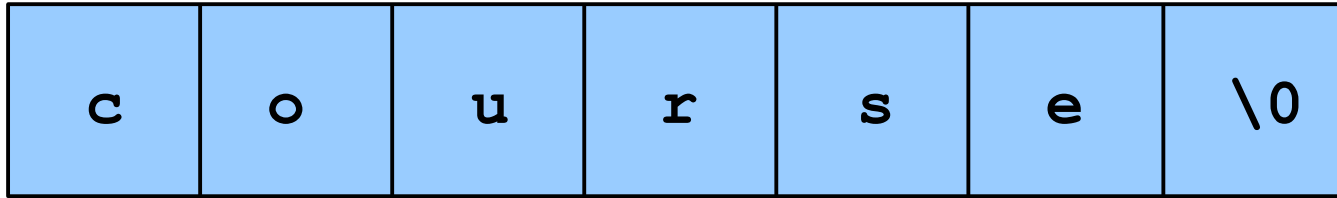
# Example - String Comparison

```
#define MAXLEN 100
int strcmp(char *p1, char *p2);
/*exactly the same as int strcmp(char p1[], char p2[]);*/
int getline(char *line, int max);
/*exactly the same as int getline(char line [], int max);*/

int main() {
    char a[MAXLEN], b[MAXLEN];
    int comp;
    getline(a, MAXLEN);
    getline(b, MAXLEN);
    comp = strcmp(a, b);
    if(comp > 0)
        printf("First line is greater than second\n");
    else if (comp < 0)
        printf("First line is less than second\n");
    else printf("These lines are equal!\n");
    return 0
}
```

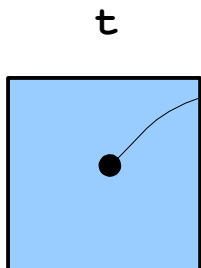
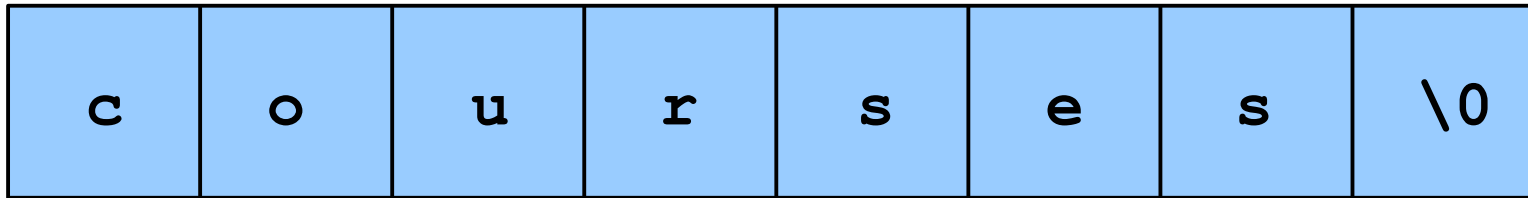
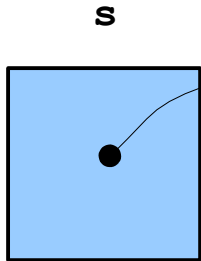
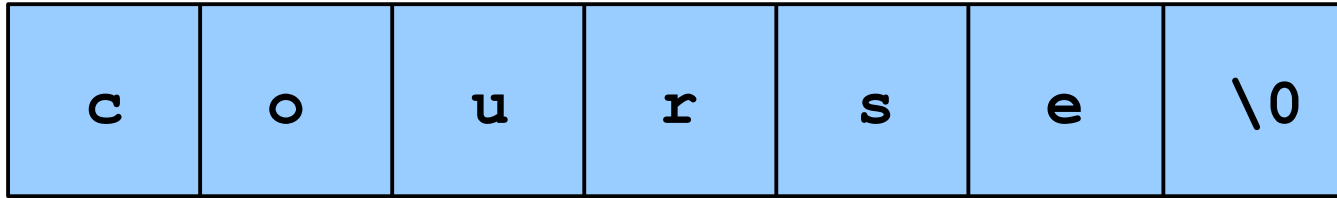
# Example - String Comparison

---



# Example - String Comparison

---



# Compare String Comparisons

```
/* pointer version */
/* strcmp: return <0 if s<t,
   0 if s==t, >0 if s>t */
int strcmp(char *s, char *t)
{
    for( ; *s == *t; s++, t++)
        if(*s == '\0')
            return 0;
    return *s - *t;
}
```

```
/* array version */
/* strcmp: return <0 if s<t,
   0 if s==t, >0 if s>t */
int strcmp(char *s, char *t)
{
    int i;

    for(i = 0 ; s[i] == t[i]; i++)
        if(s[i] == '\0')
            return 0;
    return s[i] - t[i];
}
```

# Pointer Subtraction

---

- Pointer subtraction is also valid

```
size_t strlen(const char* s)
{
    const char* p = s;
    while(*p != '\0')
        ++p;
    return p - s;
}
```

# NULL Pointer

---

- 0 is a special value we can assign to a pointer which does not point to anything
  - most frequently, a symbolic constant **NULL** is used
- It is guaranteed, that no valid address is equal to 0
- The bit pattern of the NULL pointer does not have to contain all zeros
  - usually it does
  - depends on the processor architecture
- On many machines, dereferencing a NULL pointer causes a segmentation violation



# Pointer Traps and Pitfalls

---

- NULL ptr is not the same as an EMPTY string

```
const char* psz1 = 0;  
const char* psz2 = "";  
assert(psz1 != psz2);
```

- Always check for NULL before dereferencing a pointer

```
if (psz1)  
    /* use psz1 */
```

- `sizeof(psz1)` doesn't give you the number of elements in `psz1`. Need additional size variable.

# Dangling Reference Bug

---

- Be careful not to return a pointer to a local variable
- Local variables are automatic, and are no longer valid after the function returns

```
#include <ctype.h> /* toupper */

const char* upcase(const char* s)
{
    char szBuf[100];
    char* p = szBuf;

    while(*p++ = toupper(*s++))
        /* empty */ ;

    return szBuf;
}
```

# Dangling Reference Bug - Poor Solution

---

- Static variable will be valid after the function returns
- Still problems with this solution

```
#include <ctype.h> /* toupper */
#include <stdio.h> /* printf */

const char* upcase(const char* s)
{
    static char szBuf[100];
    char* p = szBuf;

    while(*p++ = toupper(*s++))
        /* empty */ ;
    return szBuf;
}

int main()
{
    printf("%s %s\n", upcase("ala"), upcase("ola"));
    return 0;
}
```

# Function Pointers

---

- A function itself is not a variable
- However, you can take the address of a function
  - Store it in a variable
  - Store it in an array (e.g. C++ vtable emulation)
  - Pass it as a parameter to another function (e.g. `bsearch`, `qsort`). Aka, "callbacks"
  - Return it from a function (e.g. `GetProcAddress ()` for Windows)
- Makes code independent of the actual function name and implementation

# Function Pointer Variables

---

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <math.h>

int main()
{
    float radians = 0, result = 0;
    char op = '\0';

    double (*pfn)(double) = 0; /* pfn is a function ptr variable */

    printf("Enter radians, a space, then s, c, or t: ");
    scanf("%g %c", &radians, &op);

    if (op == 's')        pfn = &sin;
    else if (op == 'c')  pfn = &cos;
    else if (op == 't')  pfn = &tan;

    result = (*pfn)(radians); /* Call function that pfn points to*/
    printf("Result=%g\n", result);
    return 0;
}
```

# Function Pointer typedefs

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <math.h>

typedef double (*PFN_OPER) (double);

int main()
{
    float radians = 0, result = 0;
    char op = '\0';

    PFN_OPER pfn = 0; /* pfn is a function ptr variable */

    printf("Enter radians, a space, then s, c, or t: ");
    scanf("%g %c", &radians, &op);

    if (op == 's')        pfn = &sin;
    else if (op == 'c')  pfn = &cos;
    else if (op == 't')  pfn = &tan;

    result = (*pfn)(radians); /* Call function that pfn points to*/
    printf("Result=%g\n", result);
    return 0;
}
```

# Complicated Pointer Declarations

---

- `char** argv`
  - pointer to pointer to char
- `int *x[15]`
  - array of 15 pointers to integers
- `int (*x)[15]`
  - pointer to an array of 15 integers

# Complicated Declarations

---

- `int *f()`
  - function returning pointer to an `int`
- `int (*f)()`
  - pointer to function returning an `int`
- `void *f()`
  - function returning a pointer to `void` (pointer to unknown type)
- `void (*f)()`
  - pointer to a function returning `void`
- `cdecl` program can help here



# Command Line Arguments

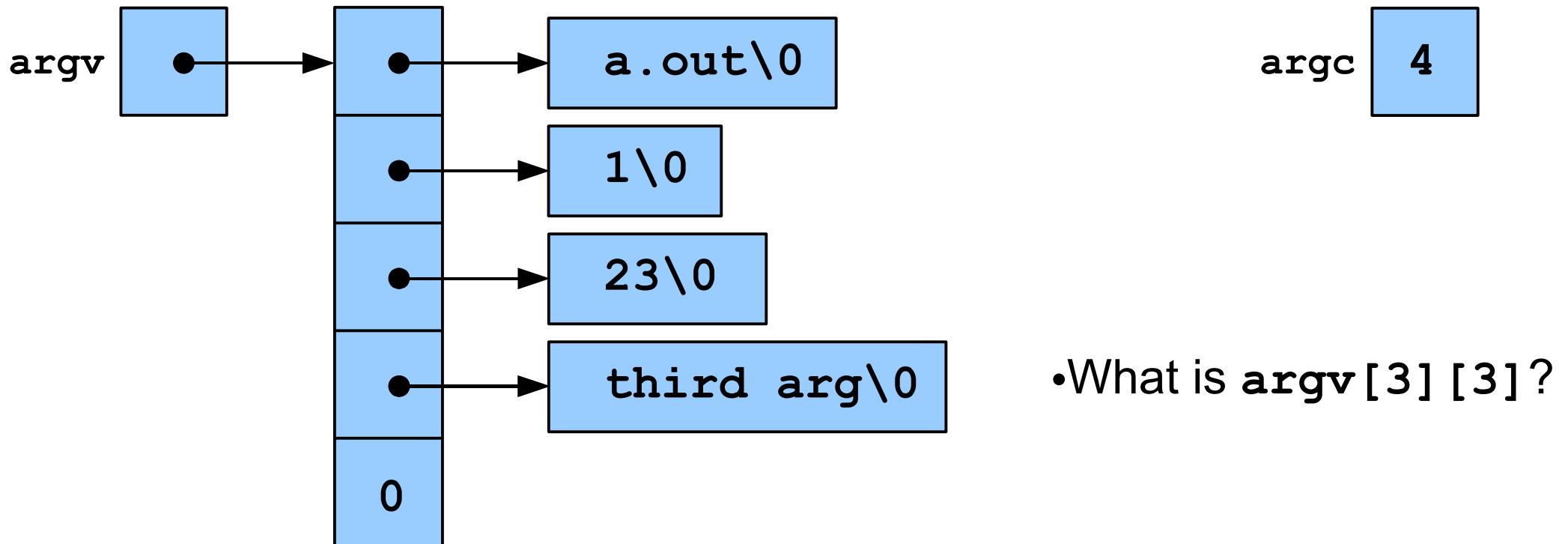
- Full declaration of `main` is as follows

```
int main(int argc, char* argv[]);
```

- `argv` holds the command-line arguments, `argc` their number

```
$ a.out 1 23 "third arg"
```

- `argv` is a pointer to an array of strings



# Command Line Arguments

---

- Print out the command-line arguments

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(int argc, char* argv[])
{
    int i;
    for(i = 1; i < argc; ++i)
        printf("%d: %s\n", i, argv[i]);
    return 0;
}
```