

## Pointers in C

key idea from yesterday: there are 2 ways to modify a variable in C

- 1) direct assignment
- 2) indirect using a pointer

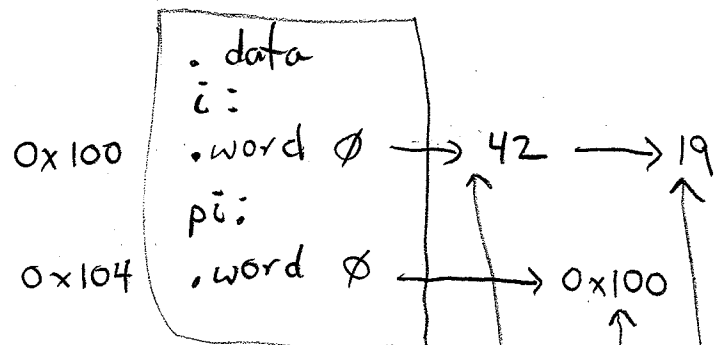
```
int i;
int *pi;
```

- 1) direct assignment

```
i = 42;
```

- 2) indirect by pointer

```
pi = &i;
*pi = 19;
```



aside: `*pi = 19;` involves 2 memory accesses

(i) getting value of `pi` using `ldw` to retrieve `0x100` from address `0x104`

(ii) doing assignment `*_ =` using `stw` to address retrieved in step (i)

`i = 42;` involves 1 memory access

(i) doing assignment `_ =` directly to `p` using `stw`.

When used with subroutines, we can change the value of a variable in a caller routine (eg, main()) in 2 ways:

- 1) return new value to caller, let it directly change the variable
- 2) caller sends pointer to variable as parameter, subroutine indirectly changes the variable

example:

```
1) int getValue()
   {
     return 42;
   }
```

in main():

```
i = getValue();
```

```
2) void getValueMod(int *pi)
   {
     *pi = 19;
   }
```

in main():

```
getValueMod(&i)
```

both change  
value of i

note: if you try this  
instead, it doesn't  
work:

```
getvalue(i);
```

you use this  
technique already  
with scanf()

pointers.c

```
/* Pointer example */  
  
int  globalVariable;  
int *pGlobalVariable;  
  
int getValue()  
{  
    return 42;  
}  
  
void getValueByModifyingParam( unsigned int *pParam )  
{  
    *pParam = 19;  
}  
  
int main( int argc, char *argv[] )  
{  
    unsigned int i;  
    i = getValue();                // sets i=42  
  
    pGlobalVariable = &globalVariable; // computes address of globalVariable  
    globalVariable = 19;           // sets globalVariable = 19  
    i = *pGlobalVariable;         // sets i=19  
    *pGlobalVariable = 42;       // sets globalVariable = 42  
    i = globalVariable;          // sets i=42  
  
    getValueByModifyingParam( &i ); // sets i=19  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
/* Simple I/O example */

/*
 * This demo program is NOT intended for use with 259macros.h or 259library.c
 * Those files already defines some of these constants and functions.
 */

volatile unsigned int *pLEDR   = (unsigned int *)0x10000000;
volatile unsigned int *pLEDG   = (unsigned int *)0x10000010;
volatile unsigned int *pSWITCH = (unsigned int *)0x10000040;
volatile unsigned int *pHEX7SEG = (unsigned int *)0x10000020;

#define DIGIT0  0x3F
#define DIGIT2  0x5B
#define DIGIT5  0x6D
#define DIGIT9  0x67

unsigned int getSwitch()
{
    return *pSWITCH;
}

void getSwitchParam( unsigned int *pParam )
{
    *pParam = *pSWITCH;
}

int main( int argc, char *argv[] )
{
    unsigned int msg, i=0, c;

    // display a message on 7-segment display
    msg = (DIGIT0<<24) | (DIGIT2<<16) | (DIGIT5<<8) | (DIGIT9<<0) ;
    *pHEX7SEG = msg;

    while( 1 ) {

        c = getSwitch();           // use either this style,
        // getSwitchParam( &c );   // or use this style

        *pLEDR = c;               // put switch pattern on LEDR

        i++;                      // increase counter i
        *pLEDG = (i >> 16);       // put bits 23..16 of counter i on LEDG
    }

    return 0;
}
```

```
/* Printing to terminal example */

/*
 * This demo program is NOT intended for use with 259macros.h or 259library.c
 * Those files already defines some of these constants and functions.
 */

#define ADDR_LEDG      0x10000010      /* output only, GREEN (DE1 8b, DE2 9b) */
#define ADDR_JTAG     0x10001000      /* send/recv chars to Terminal window */

volatile unsigned int *pLEDG          = (volatile unsigned int *)ADDR_LEDG;
volatile unsigned int *pTERMINAL      = (volatile unsigned int *) (ADDR_JTAG + 0);
volatile unsigned int *pTERMINALCTL   = (volatile unsigned int *) (ADDR_JTAG + 4);

void putcharJTAG( int c )
{
    int num_bytes_available;

    // wait until terminal is ready to accept another character
    do {
        num_bytes_available = (*pTERMINALCTL) >> 16;
    } while( num_bytes_available == 0 );

    *pTERMINAL = c;          // output the character
}

void printstringJTAG( char *psz )
{
    while( *psz ) {
        putcharJTAG( *psz++ );
    }
}

int getcharJTAG()
{
    unsigned int jtagword;
    int data_ready;

    // wait until terminal sends a character
    do {
        jtagword = *pTERMINAL;
        data_ready = (jtagword>>15) & 1;
    } while( data_ready == 0 );

    return jtagword & 0xff; // return the character
}

int main( int argc, char *argv[] )
{
    int c;
    char *pszMessage = "hello world.\n";

    printstringJTAG( pszMessage );

    while( 1 ) {
        c = getcharJTAG();
        putcharJTAG( c );          // put character on terminal
        *pLEDG = c;                // also display ASCII code on LEDG
    }

    return 0;
}
```