

Pointers (1A)

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Pointers

Variables

```
int a ;
```

a can hold an integer value

address

data

&a

a

```
a = 100 ;
```

a holds the integer 100

address

data

&a

a ← 100

Pointer Variables

```
int * p ;
```

p can hold an address of an integer data

type *variable*

```
int * p ;
```

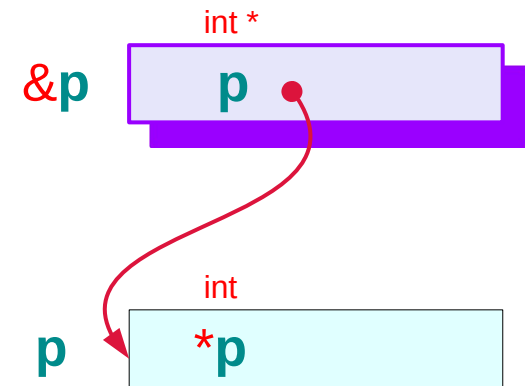
pointer to int

p holds the address

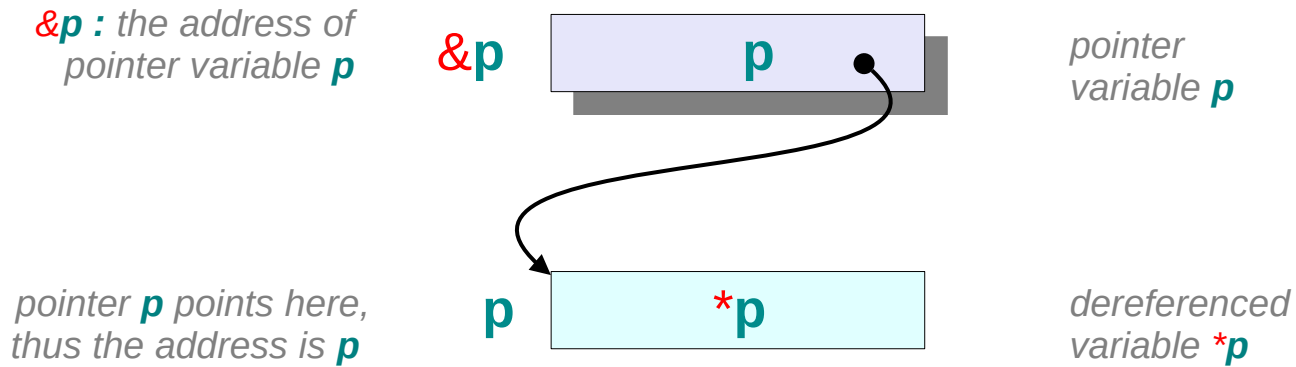
```
int * * p ;
```

int

***p** holds an integer value



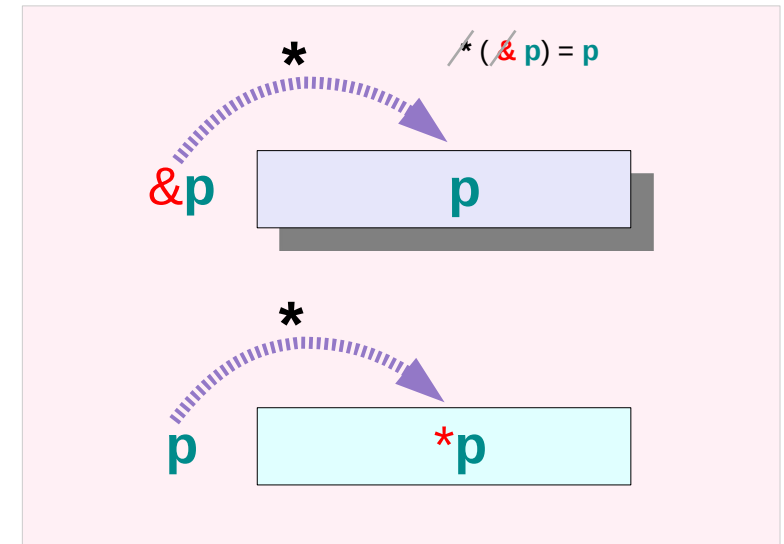
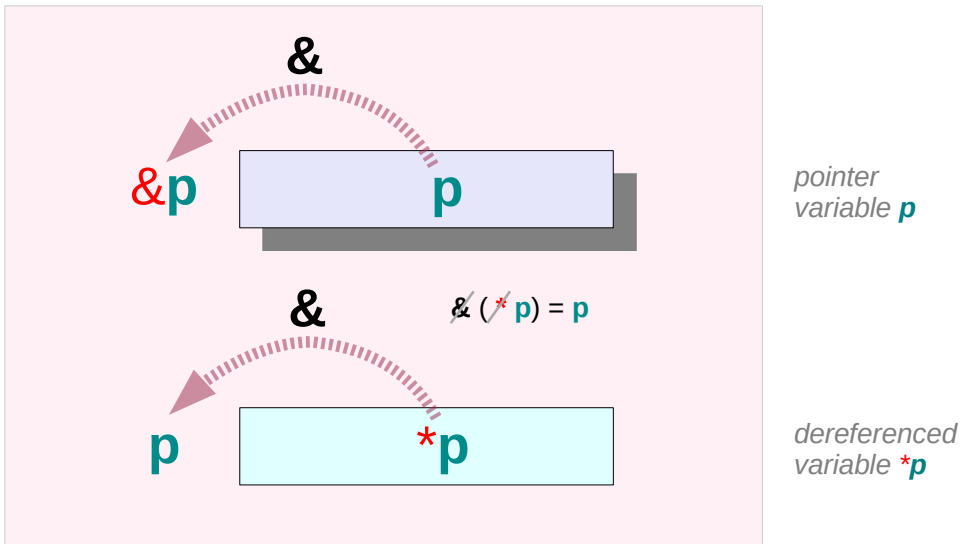
Pointer variable **p** and dereferenced variable ***p**



Address-of operator and dereferencing operator (1)

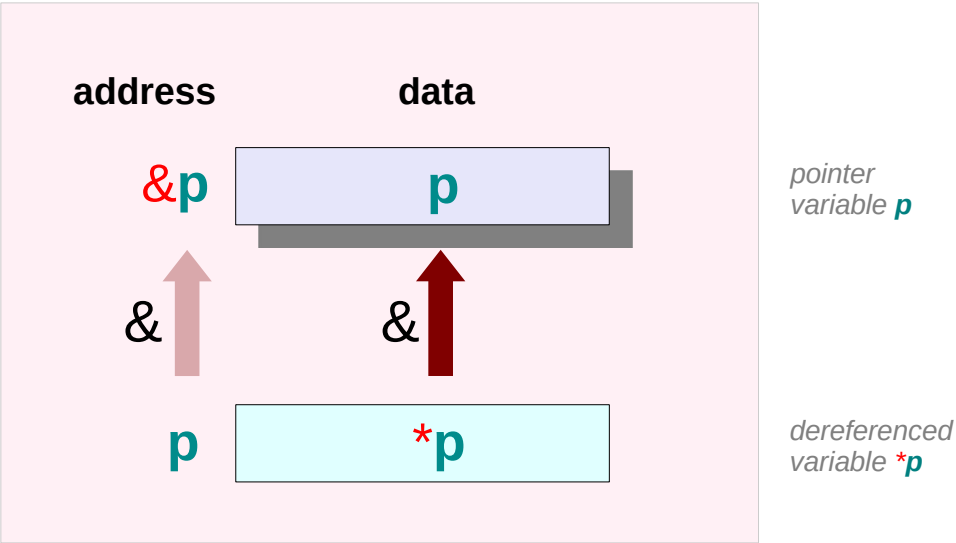
the address of a variable :
address-of operator $\&$

the content of an address :
dereferencing operator $*$

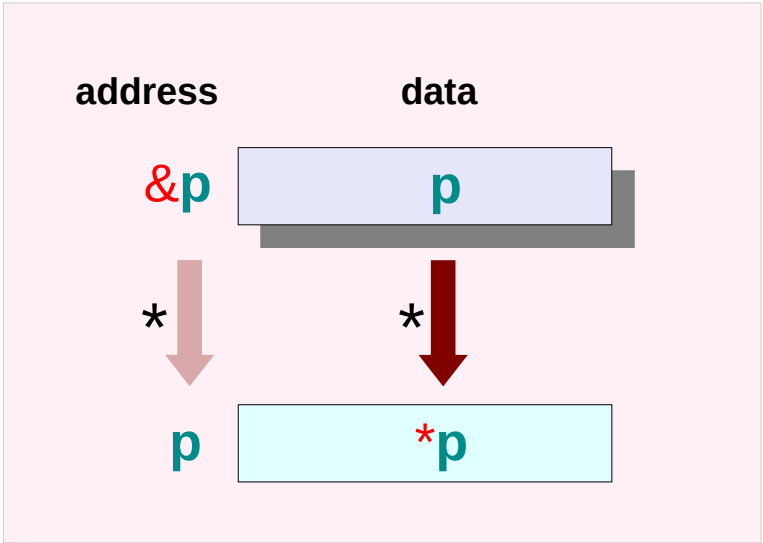


Address-of operator and dereferencing operator (2)

the address of a variable :
address-of operator &



the content of an address :
*dereferencing operator **



Address-of operator and dereferencing operator (1)

*the address of a variable :
address-of operator &*

& variable :
returns the address of a variable

variable *must be an lvalue*

variable *has memory locations
whose value can be changed
by an assignment*

*the content of an address :
dereferencing operator **

*** address :**
returns the value at the address

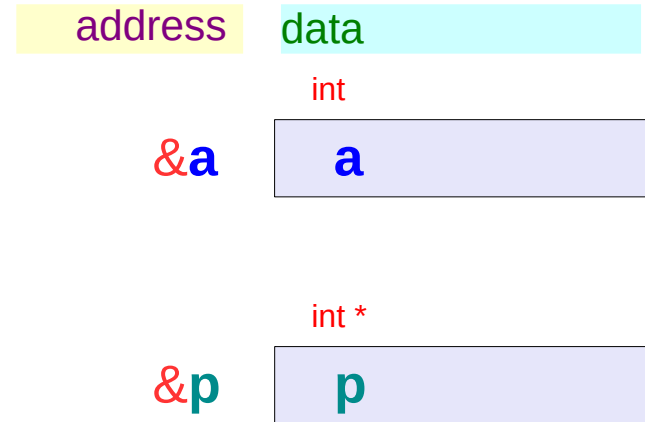
*** address** *is an lvalue*

*** address** *has memory locations
whose value can be changed
by an assignment*

Variables and their addresses

```
int a ;
```

```
int * p ;
```

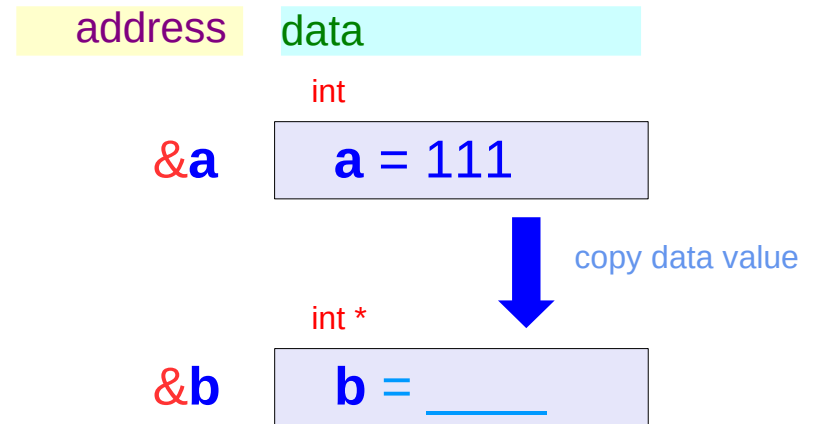


Assignment of a value

```
int a ;
```

```
int b ;
```

```
b = a ;
```

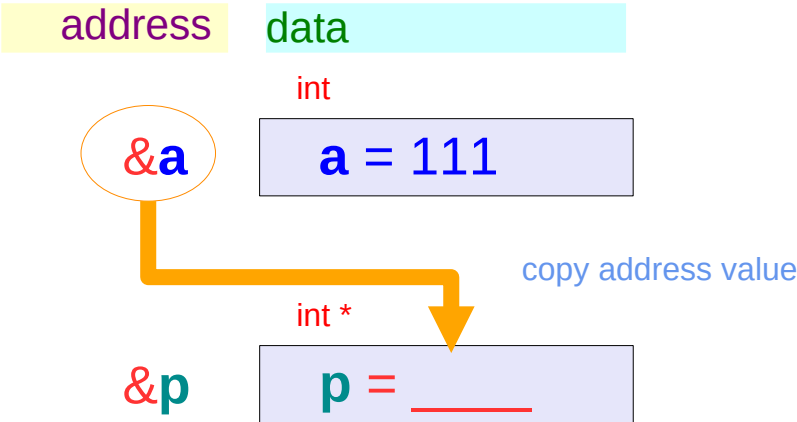


Assignment of an address

```
int a ;
```

```
int * p ;
```

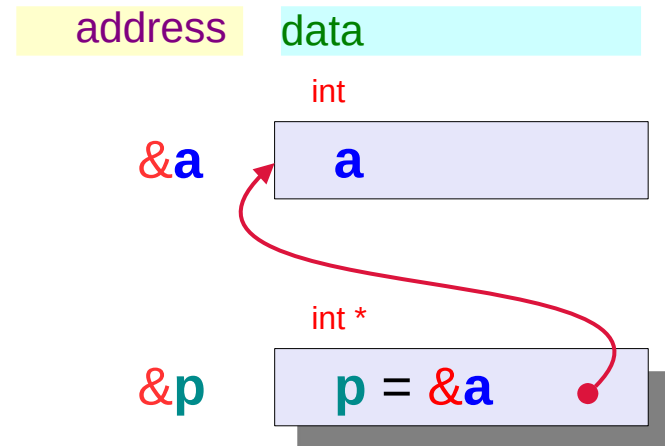
```
p = &a;
```



Variables with initializations

```
int a;
```

```
int * p = &a;    p = &a;
```



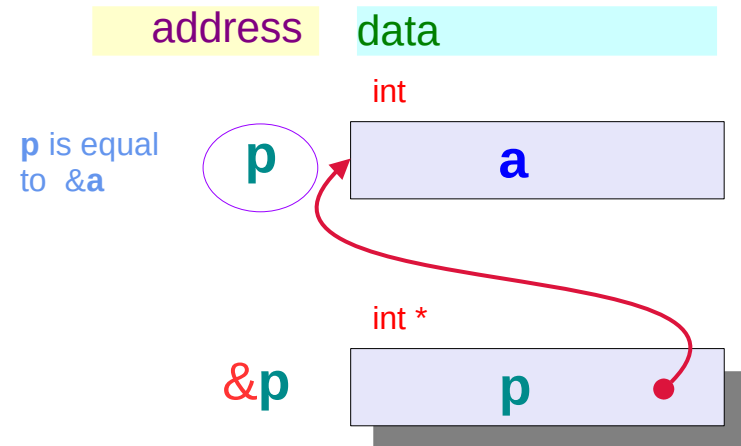
now `p` has the address of `a`

`p` points to where `a` is

Reference address : p

```
int a;
```

```
int * p = &a;    p = &a;
```

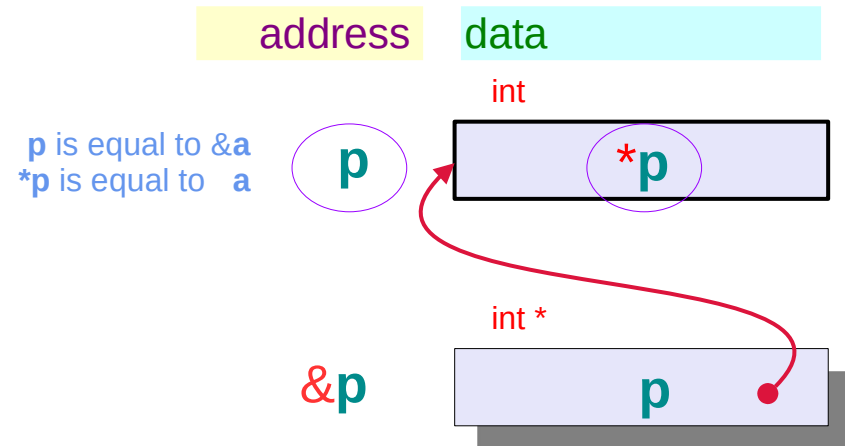


p ≡ &a

Dereferenced variable : *p

```
int a;
```

```
int * p = &a;    p = &a;
```



equivalence

$p \equiv \&a$

$*p \equiv *\&a$

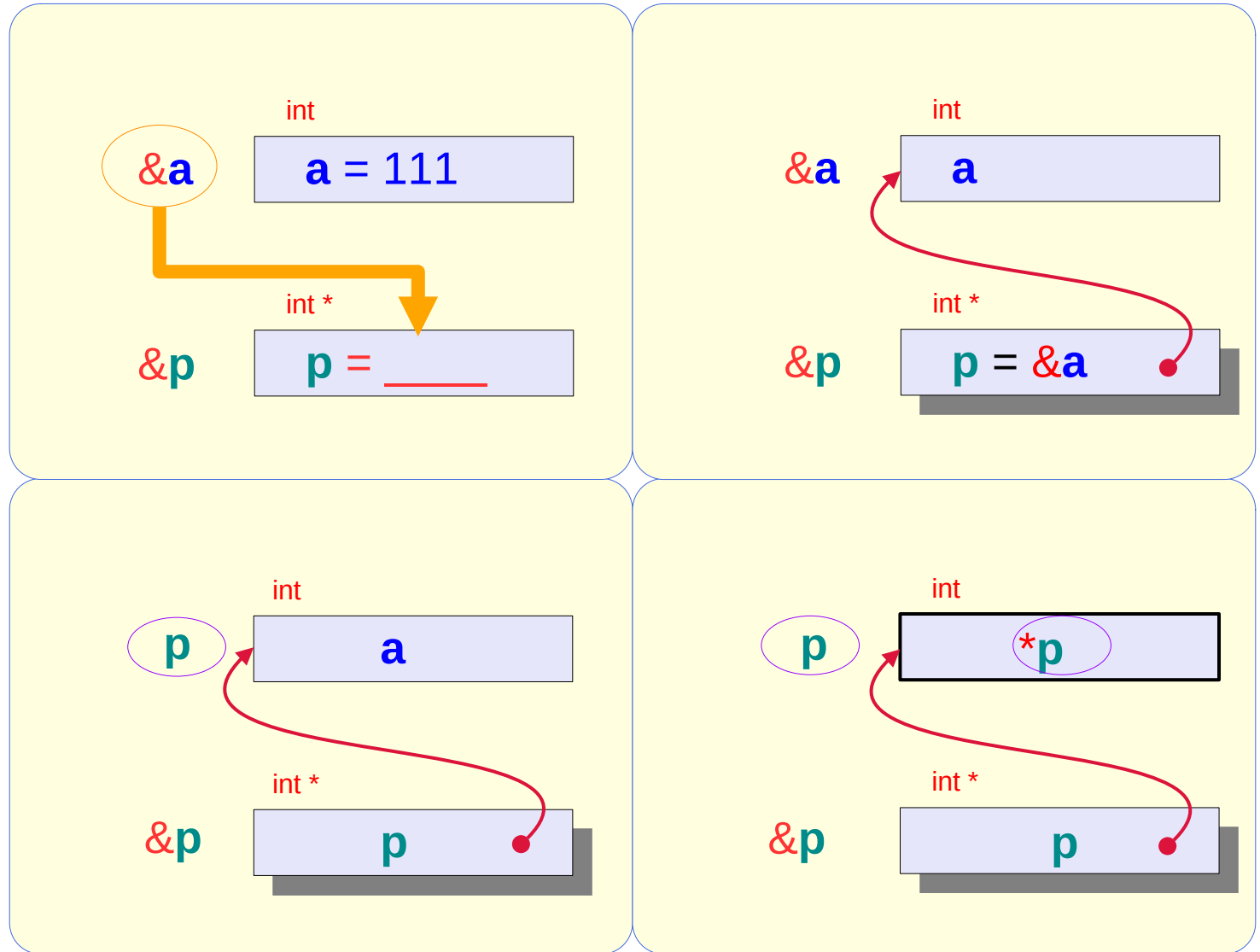
$*p \equiv a$

Variable `p`, `*p`

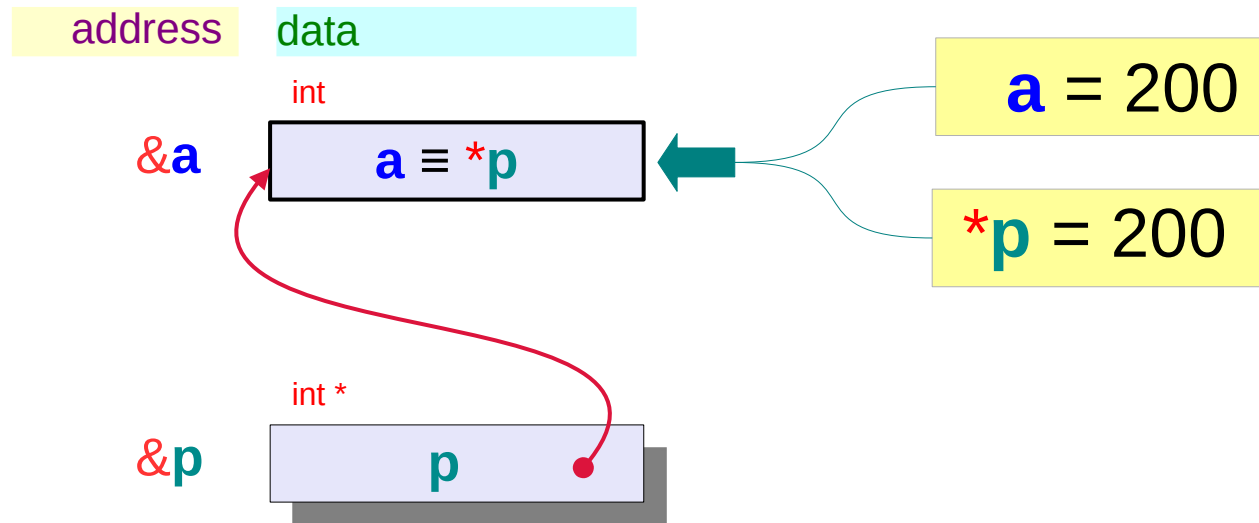
```
int a;
```

```
int * p;
```

```
p = &a;
```



Two way to access: **a** and ***p**



- 1) Read / Write **a**
- 2) Read / Write ***p**

Double Pointers

Double Pointer Variable Definition

```
int ** q;
```

q holds an address

```
int **
```

```
q;
```

a pointer to
an integer pointer

q holds an address of
an integer pointer type data

```
int *
```

```
*q;
```

a pointer to
an integer

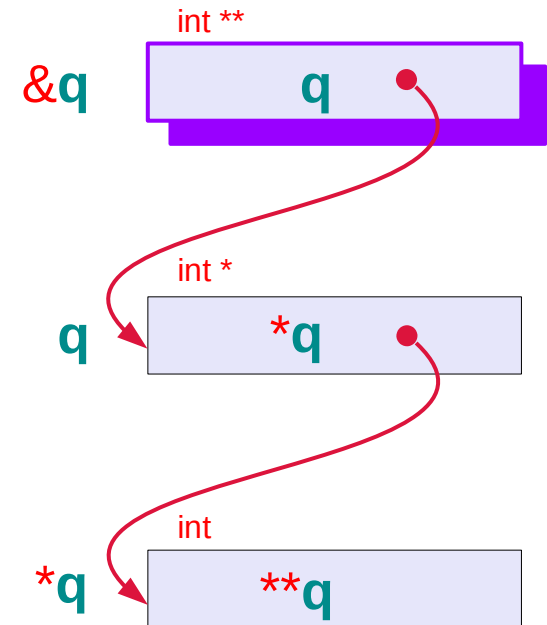
***q** holds an address of
an integer type data

```
int
```

```
**q;
```

an integer

****q** holds an integer type data



Variables and their addresses

```
int a ;
```

```
int * p ;
```

```
int ** q ;
```

address

data

&a

int

a

&p

int *

p

&q

int **

q

Initialization of Variables

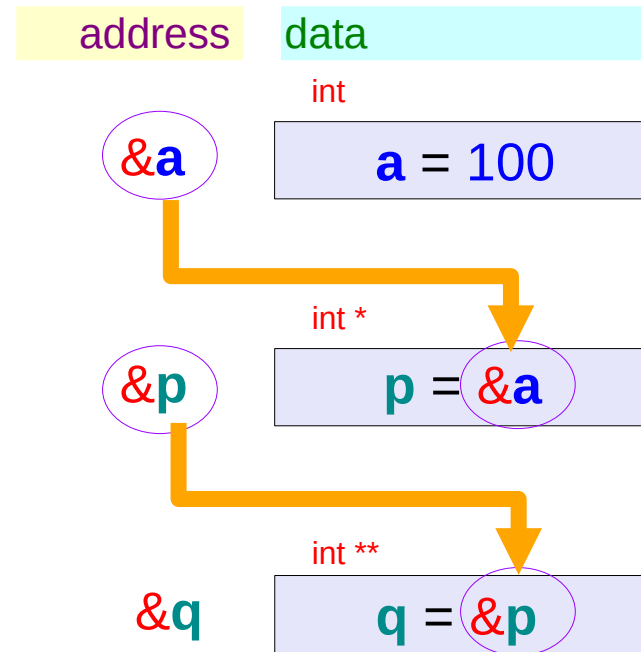
```
int a = 100 ;
```

```
int * p = &a ;
```

```
int ** q = &p ;
```

```
p = &a;
```

```
q = &p;
```



Pointed addresses : p, q

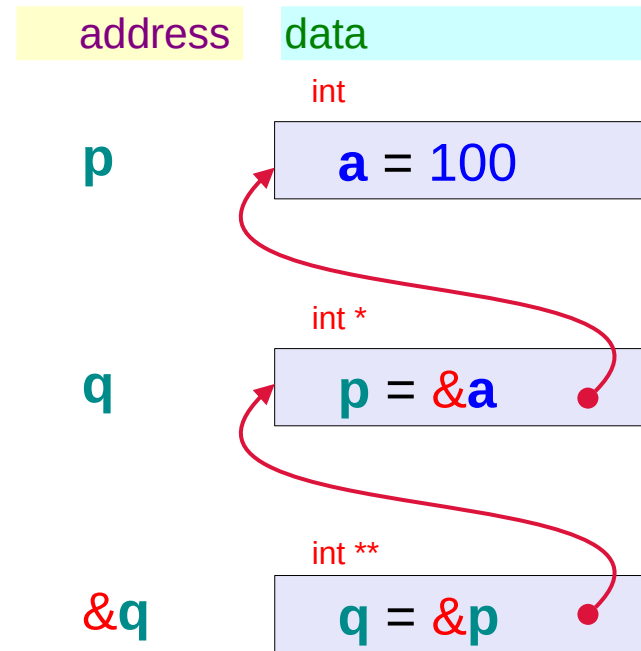
```
int a = 100 ;
```

```
int * p = &a ;
```

```
int ** q = &p ;
```

```
p = &a;
```

```
q = &p;
```



Dereferenced variables : *q, **q

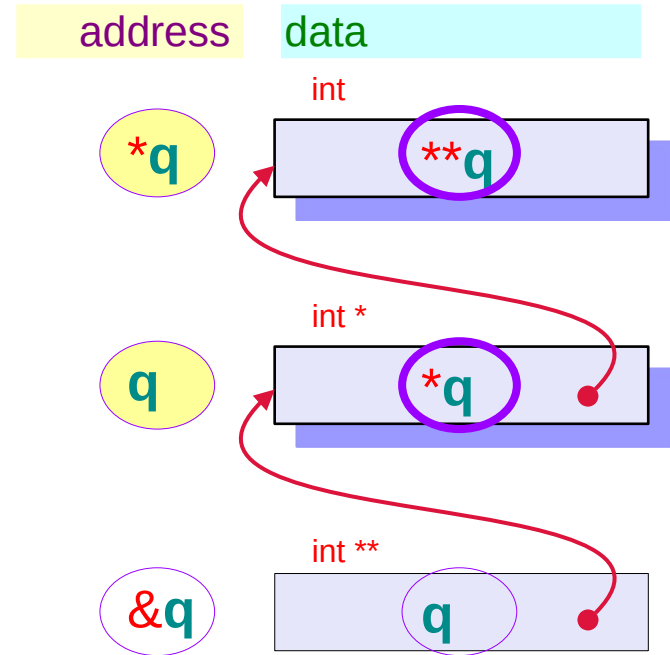
```
int a = 100 ;
```

****q ≡ a**

```
int * p = &a ;
```

***q ≡ p**

```
int ** q = &p ;
```

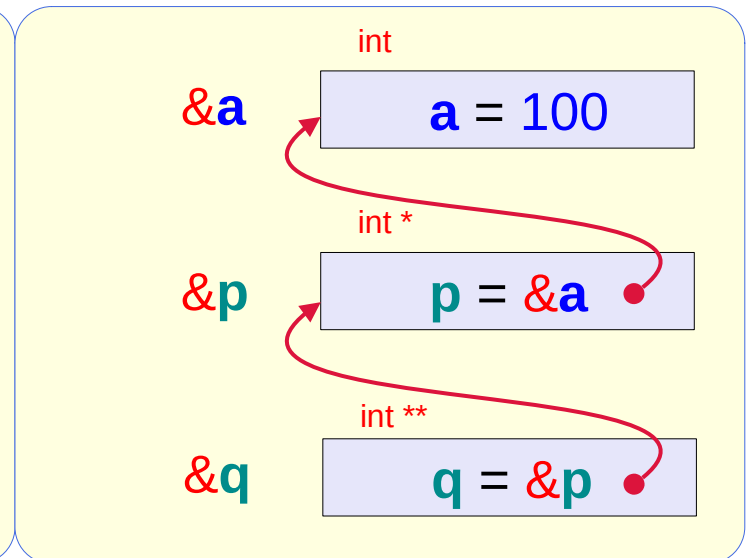
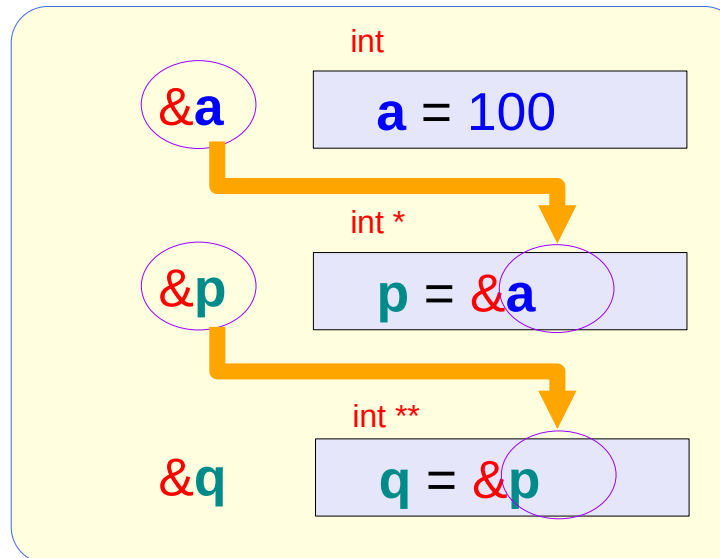


Variable **p**, ***p**, and **q**, ***q**, ****q**

```
int a ;
```

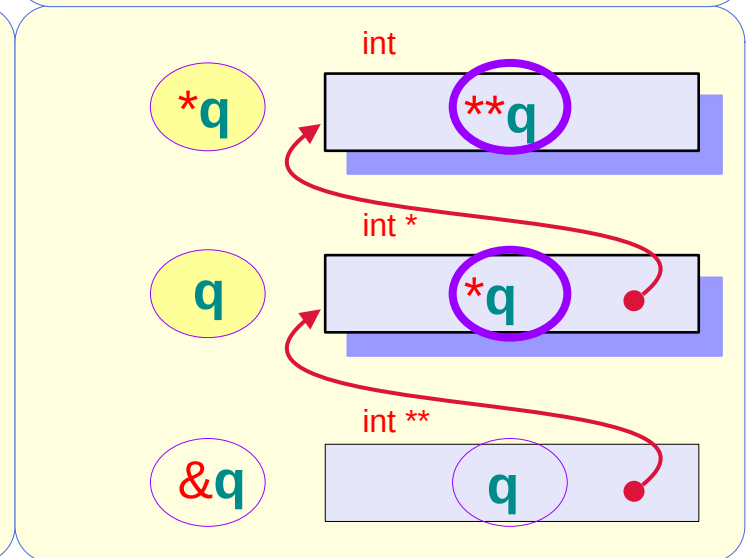
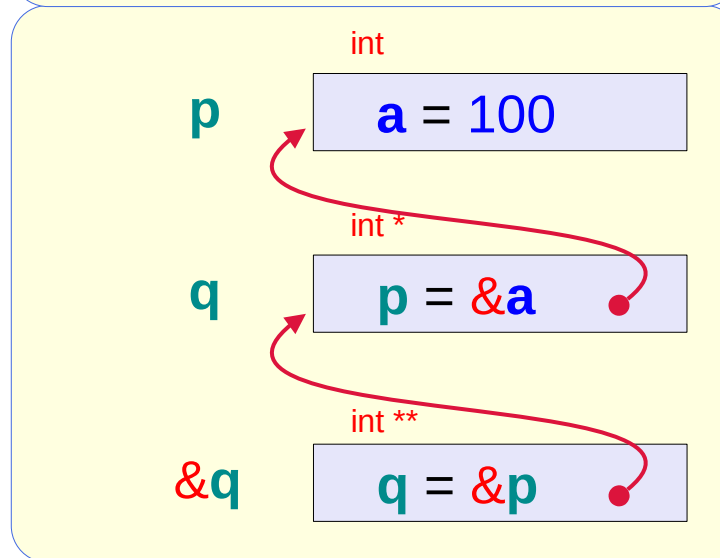
```
int * p ;
```

```
int ** q ;
```



```
p = &a;
```

```
q = &p;
```



Aliased variables : *q, **q

int a = 100 ;

Address
assignment

p = &a ;



Variable
aliasing

*p ≡ a

int *p = &a ;

p ≡ &a
*(p) ≡ *(&a)
*p ≡ a

int **q = &p ;

q = &p ;



*q ≡ p



**q ≡ a

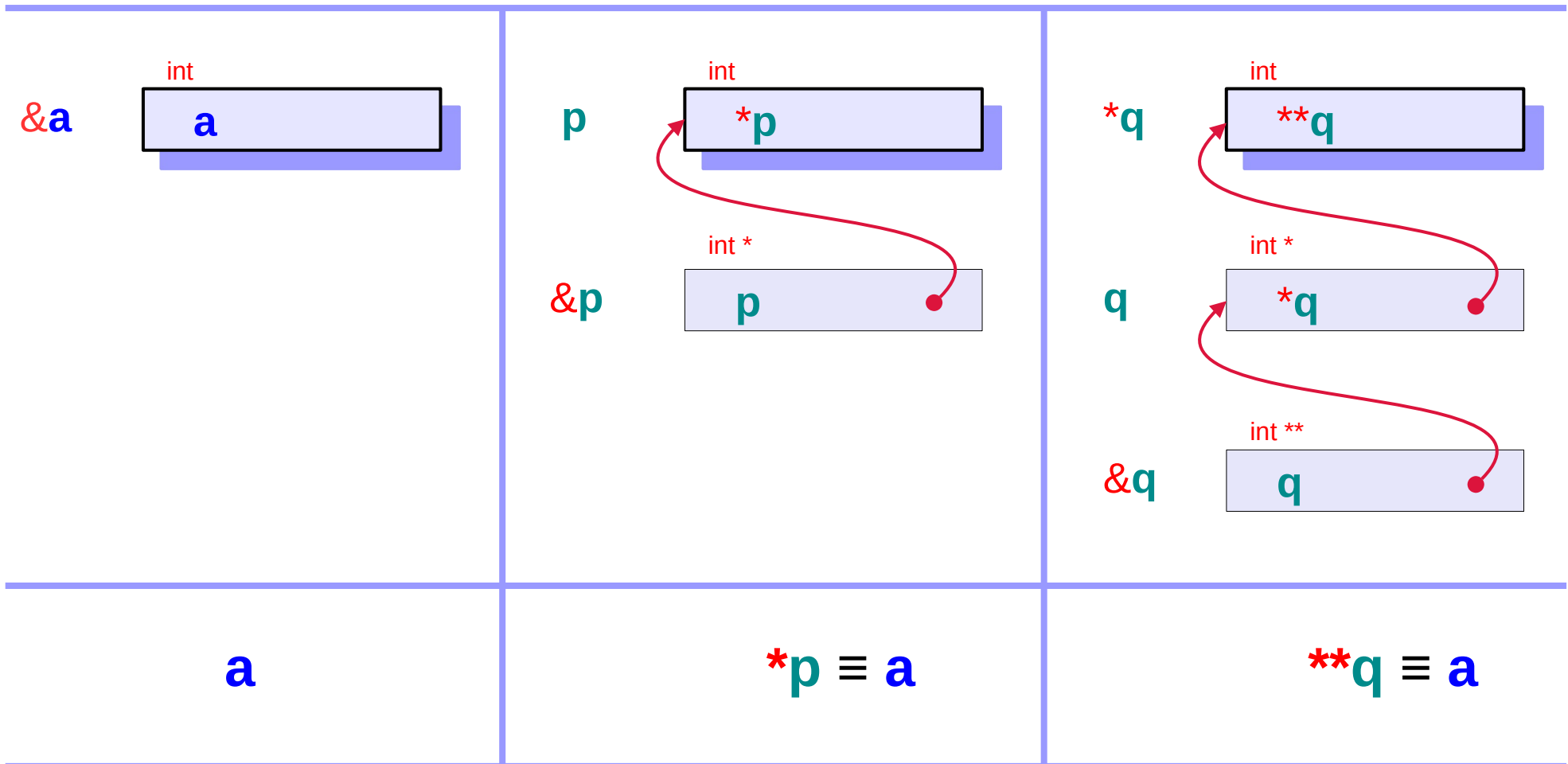
p = &a ;

q = &p ;

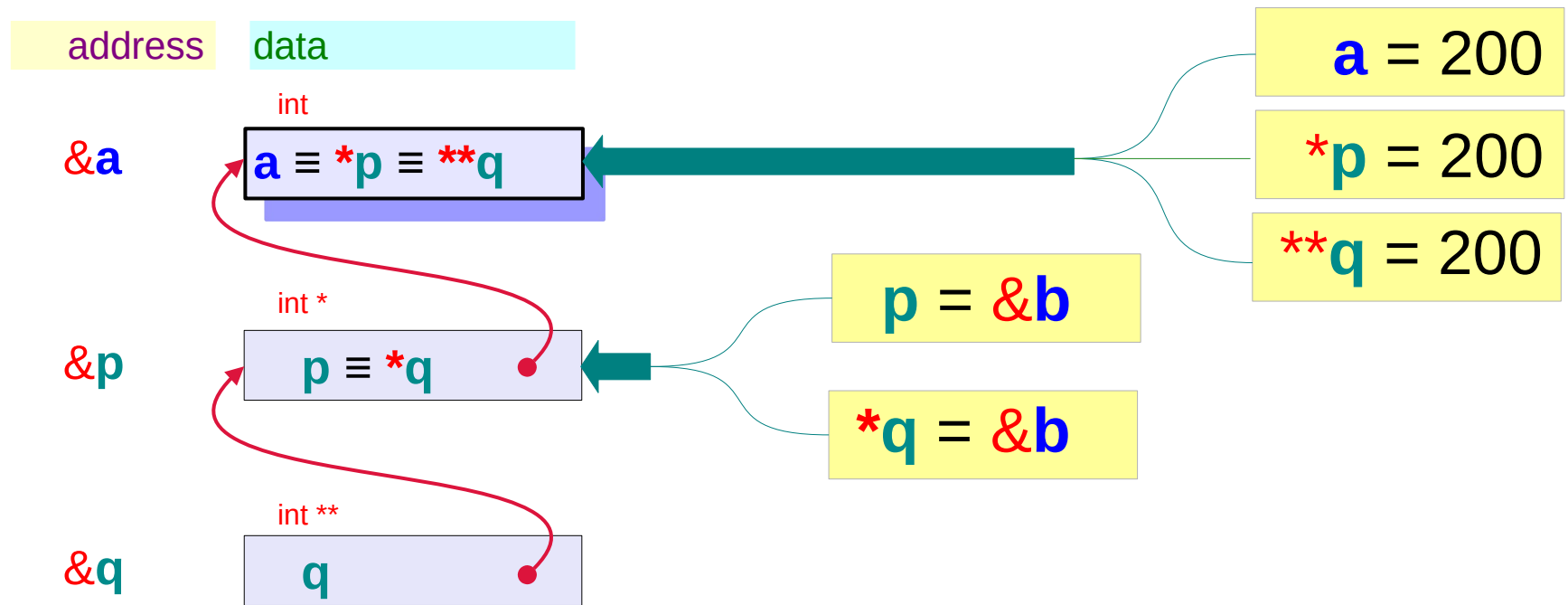
q ≡ &p
*(q) ≡ *(&p)
*q ≡ p
**q ≡ *p
**q ≡ a

equivalent relations after
address assignment

Two aliased variables of $a : *p, **q$



Two more ways to access a : *p, **q



- 1) Read / Write `p`
- 2) Read / Write `*q`

- 1) Read / Write `a`
- 2) Read / Write `*p`
- 3) Read / Write `**q`

Single and Double Pointers

Pointed Addresses and Data

`int a ;` `&a` ^{int} `a = 100`

The variable `a` holds an **integer data**

`int * p ;` `&p` ^{int *} `p` → ^{int} `*p = 200`

The **pointer** variable `p` holds an **address**,
at this address, an **integer data** is stored

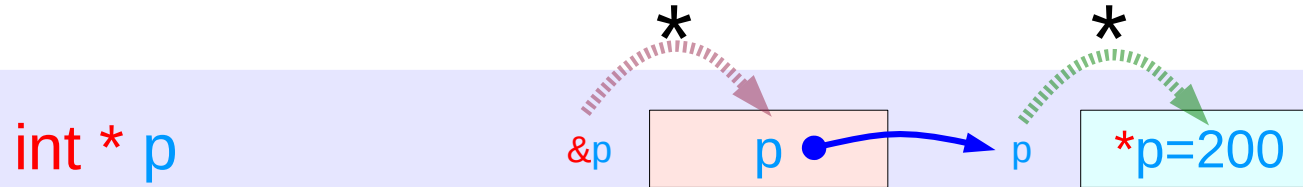
`int ** q ;` `&q` ^{int **} `q` → ^{int *} `*q` → ^{int} `**q = 30`

The **pointer** variable `q` holds an **address**,
at the address `q`, another **address** `*q` is stored,
at the address `*q`, an **integer data** `**q` is stored

Dereferencing Operator *

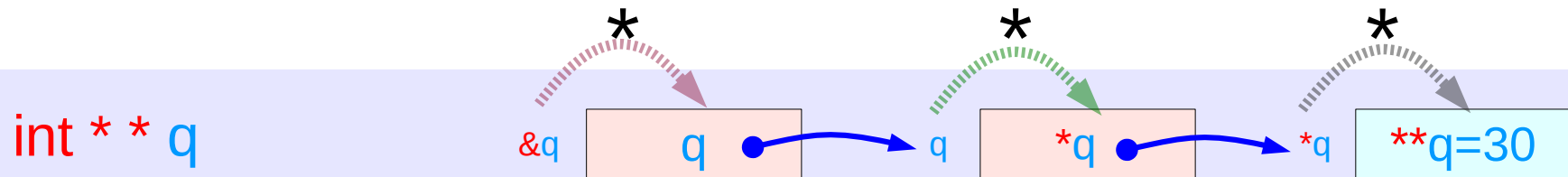


$$*(\&a) = a$$



$$*(\&p) = p$$

$$*(p) = *p$$

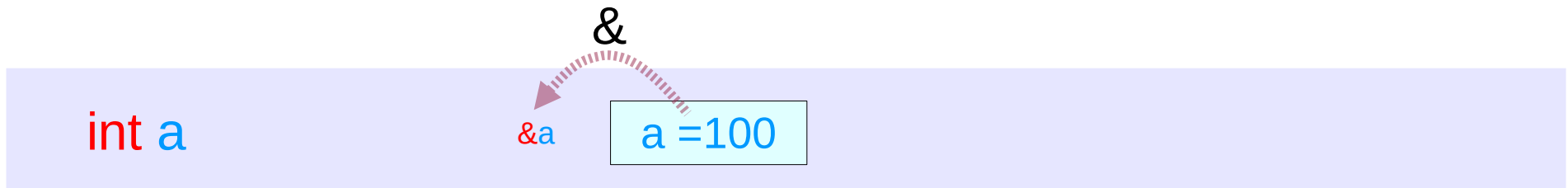


$$*(\&q) = q$$

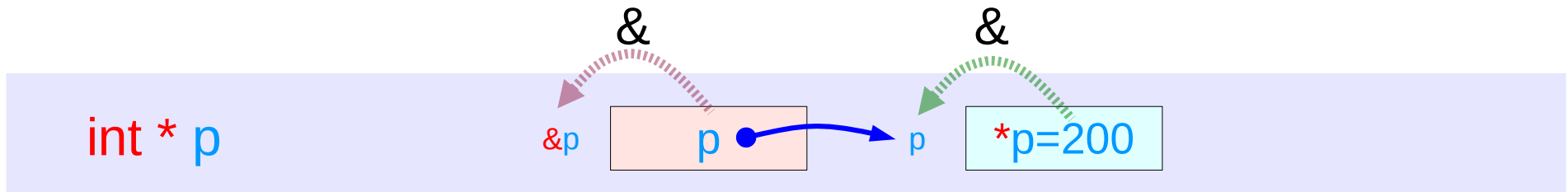
$$*(q) = *q$$

$$**(*q) = **q$$

Address-of Operator &

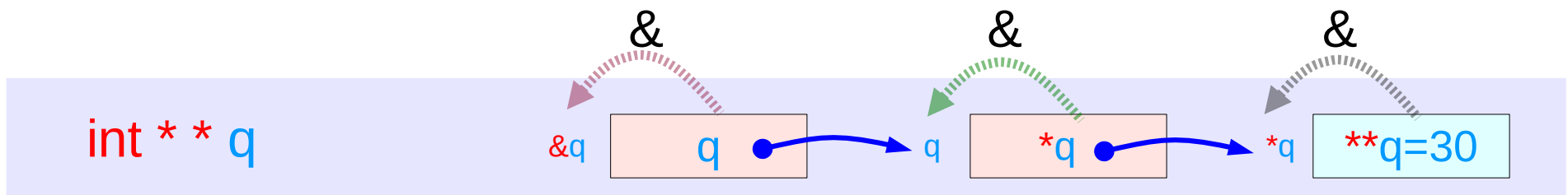


&a



&p

&(*p) = p



&q

&(*q) = q

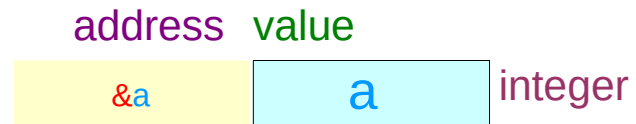
&(**q) = *q

Direct access to an integer **a**

```
int a ;
```

&a ^{int} **a = 100**

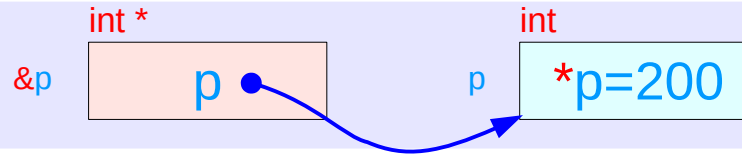
Direct Access



1 memory access

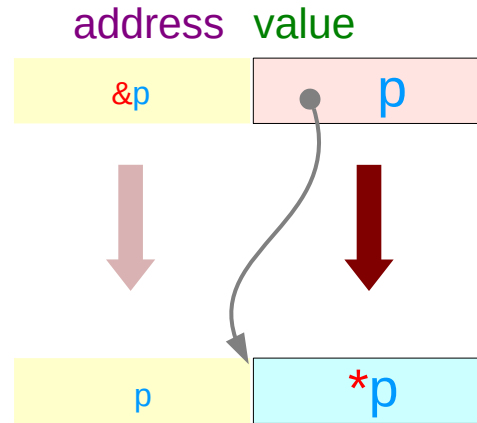
Indirect access ***p** to an integer **a**

```
int * p ;
```



Indirect Access

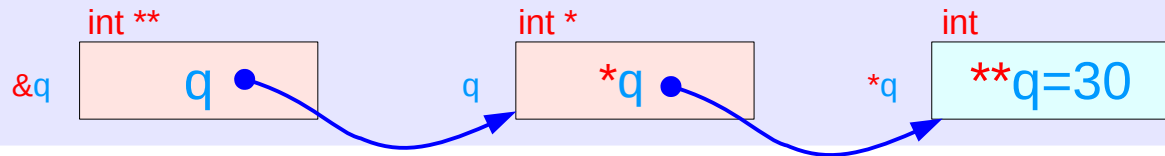
2 memory accesses



Dereference Operator *****
the content of the pointed location

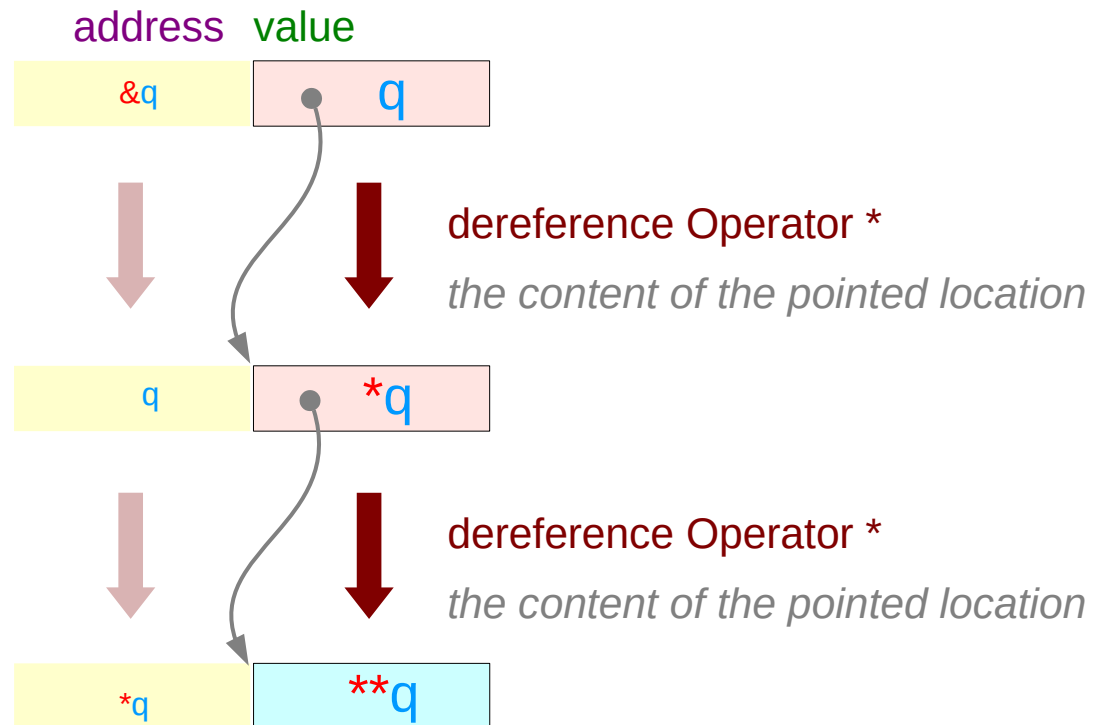
Double indirect access ****q** to an integer **a**

```
int ** q ;
```

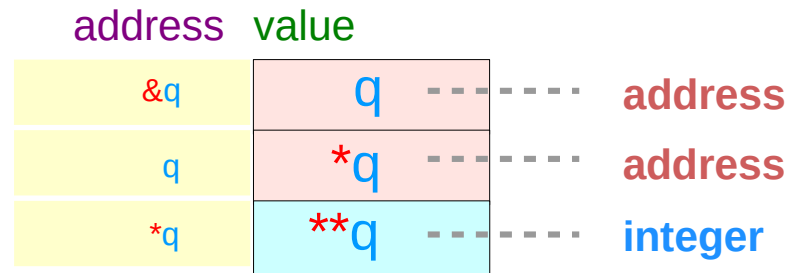
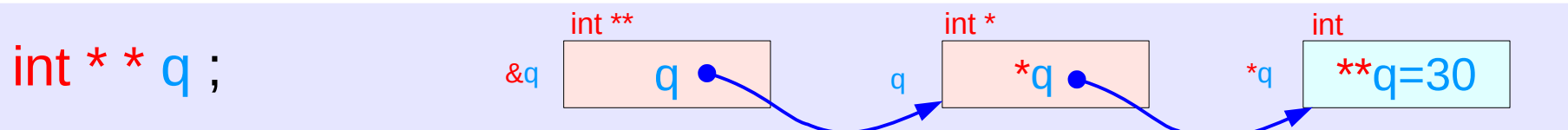
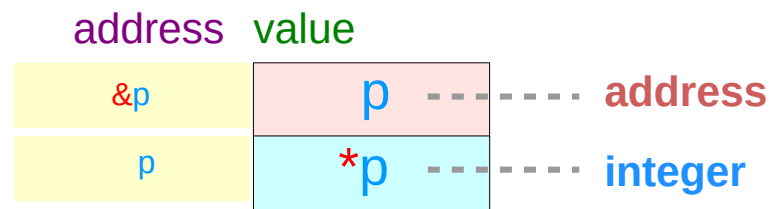
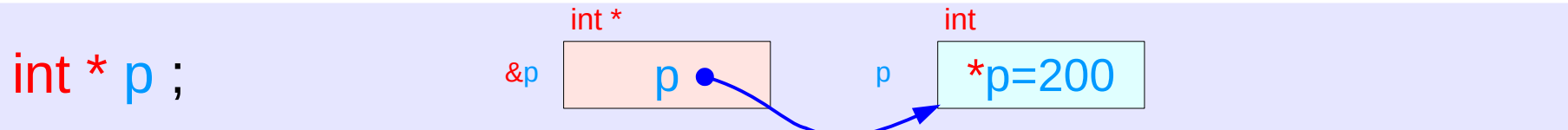
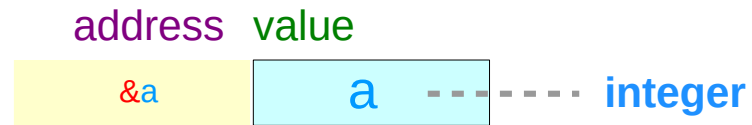


Double Indirect Access

3 memory accesses

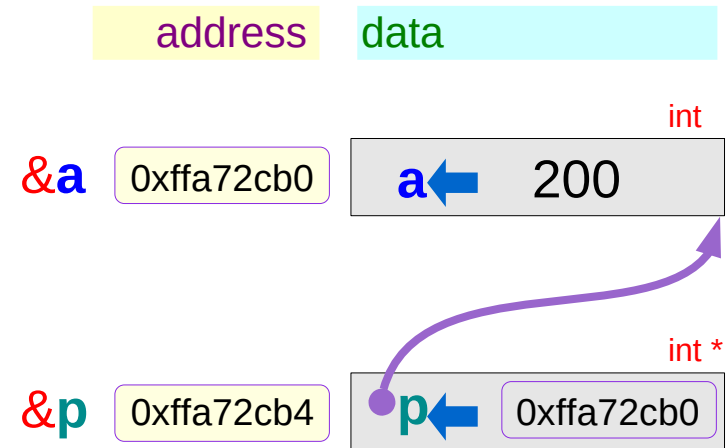
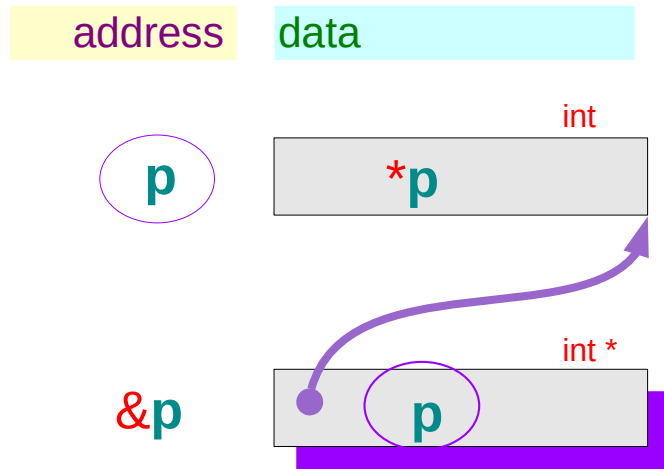


Values of variables



Pointer Variable Example

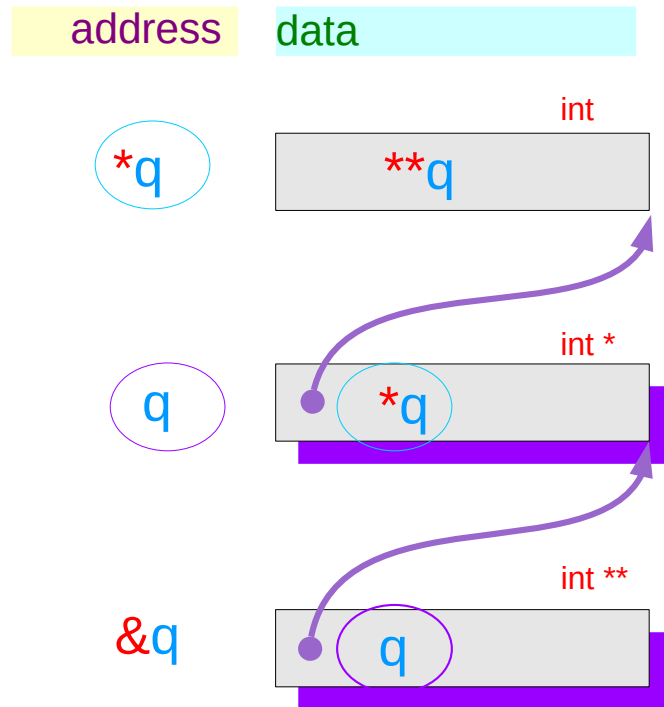
Pointer variable **p** of the type **int ***



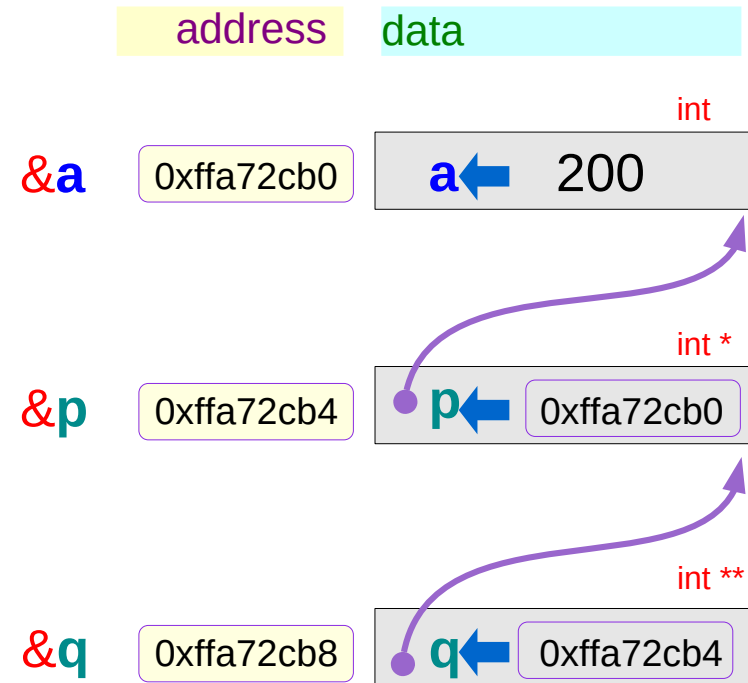
```
int    a = 200;  
int *  p = &a;
```

```
&p → 0xffa72cb4  
p  → 0xffa72cb0  
*p → 200
```

Pointer variable **q** of the type **int ****



```
int a = 200;  
int * p = &a;  
int ** q = &p;
```




Pointer variable example codes

```
// t.c
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void) {
    int    a = 200;
    int    *p = &a;
    int    **q = &p;

    printf("&a=%p a=%d \n", &a, a);
    printf("&p=%p p=%p \n", &p, p);
    printf("&q=%p q=%p \n", &q, q);

    
}
```

```
gcc -Wall -m32 t.c
./a.out
```

```
&a= 0xffa72cb0 a=      200
&p= 0xffa72cb4 p= 0xffa72cb0
&q= 0xffa72cb8 q= 0xffa72cb4
```

```
printf("  &p=%12p \n", &p);
printf("  p=%12p \n",  p);
printf("  *p=%12d \n",  *p);
printf("\n");

printf("  &q=%12p \n", &q);
printf("  q=%12p \n",  q);
printf("  *q=%12p \n",  *q);
printf("  **q=%12d \n", **q);
```

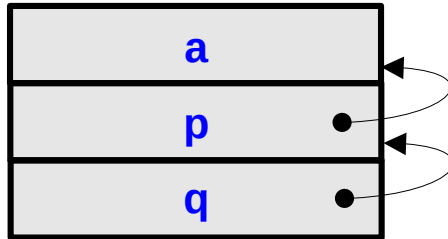
```
&p= 0xffa72cb4
p= 0xffa72cb0
*p=      200

&q= 0xffa72cb8
q= 0xffa72cb4
*q= 0xffa72cb0
**q=      200
```

Byte addresses of variables

abstract
address

&a



&p

&q

sizeof(**a**) = sizeof(int) =
sizeof(**p**) = sizeof(int *) =
sizeof(**q**) = sizeof(int **) =
4 bytes

```
int a = 200 ;  
int *p = &a ;  
int **q = &p ;
```

```
&a= 0xffa72cb0 ➡ value (&a)  
&p= 0xffa72cb4 ➡ value (&p)  
&q= 0xffa72cb8 ➡ value (&q)
```

here, the values of **&a**, **&p**, **&q**
are displayed

byte
address

MSByte

LSByte

0xffa72cb0

00	00	00	c8
----	----	----	----

0xffa72cb4

ff	a7	2c	b0
----	----	----	----

0xffa72cb8

ff	a7	2c	b4
----	----	----	----

address value

byte address of
the least significant byte
in a little endian system

byte
address

0xffa72cb0

c8

0xffa72cb1

00

0xffa72cb2

00

0xffa72cb3

00

0xffa72cb4

b0

0xffa72cb5

2c

0xffa72cb6

a7

0xffa72cb7

ff

0xffa72cb8

b4

0xffa72cb9

2c

0xffa72cba

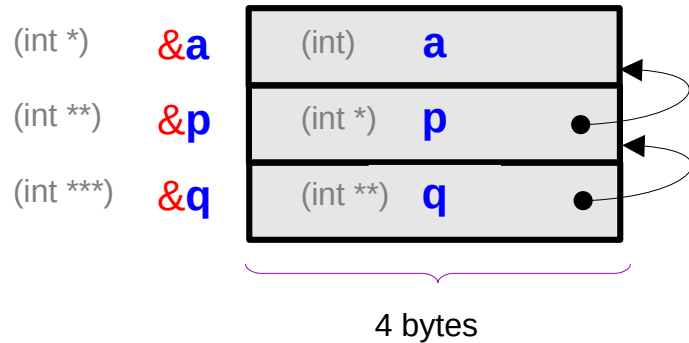
a7

0xffa72cbb

ff

Abstract vs. byte addresses

*abstract
address*



*byte
address*

	MSByte		LSByte
0xffa72cb0	00	00	c8
0xffa72cb4	ff	a7	b0
0xffa72cb8	ff	a7	b4

<i>Abstract Address</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Value</i>
&a	int *	4 bytes	0xffa72cb0
&p	int **	4 bytes	0xffa72cb4
&q	int ***	4 bytes	0xffa72cb8

*contains information of
type, size, value*

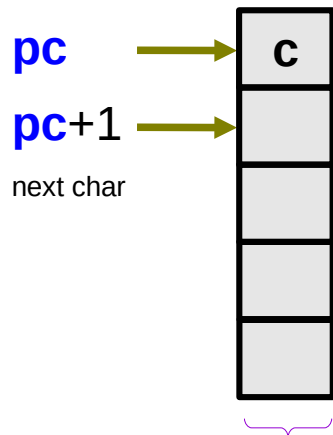
<i>Byte Address</i>	<i>Value</i>
value(&a)	0xffa72cb0
value(&p)	0xffa72cb4
value(&q)	0xffa72cb8

*contains only
value information*

Endianness and memory alignment

Pointers and abstract addresses

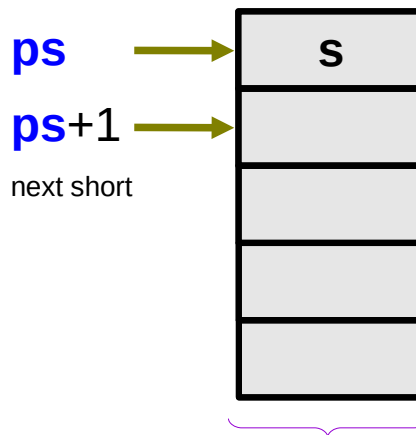
```
char c ;  
char *pc = &c ;
```



next char

$\text{sizeof}(*pc) =$
 $\text{sizeof}(c) =$
 $\text{sizeof}(int) = 1 \text{ byte}$

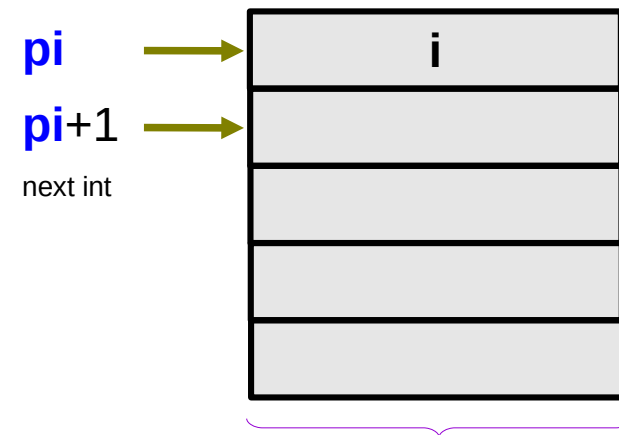
```
short s ;  
short *ps = &s ;
```



next short

$\text{sizeof}(*ps) =$
 $\text{sizeof}(s) =$
 $\text{sizeof}(short) = 2 \text{ bytes}$

```
int i ;  
int *pi = &i ;
```



next int

$\text{sizeof}(*pi) =$
 $\text{sizeof}(i) =$
 $\text{sizeof}(int) = 4 \text{ bytes}$

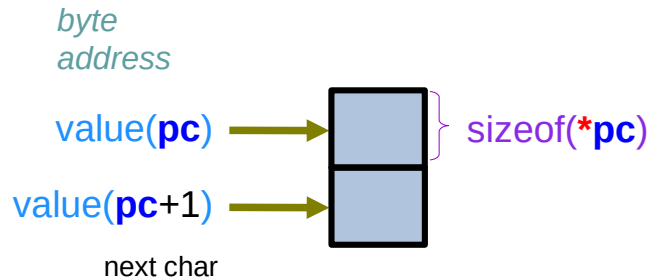
```
sizeof(pc) = 4 or 8 bytes  
type(pc) = char *  
value(pc) = byte address
```

```
sizeof(ps) = 4 or 8 bytes  
type(ps) = short *  
value(ps) = byte address
```

```
sizeof(pi) = 4 or 8 bytes  
type(pi) = int *  
value(pi) = byte address
```

Pointer values and byte addresses

char *pc ;

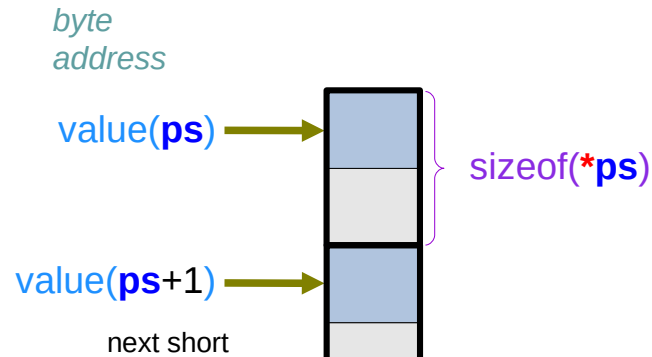


The **value** of a *pointer* (address value) is the **byte address** of the least significant byte in a little endian system

pc points to the least significant byte, i.e., the **1** byte of **char**

value(**pc**+1)
= value(**pc**) + sizeof(***pc**)

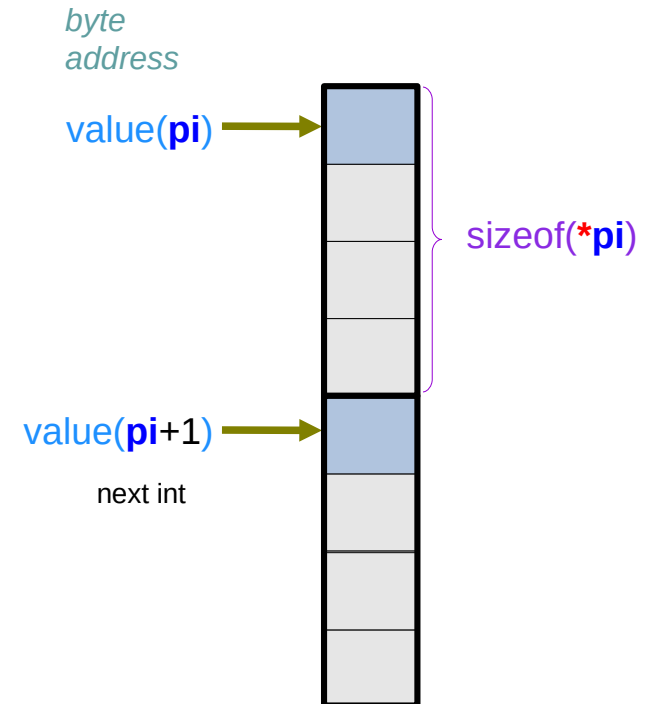
short *ps ;



ps points to the least significant byte among the **2** bytes of **short**

value(**ps**+1)
= value(**ps**) + sizeof(***ps**)

int *pi ;

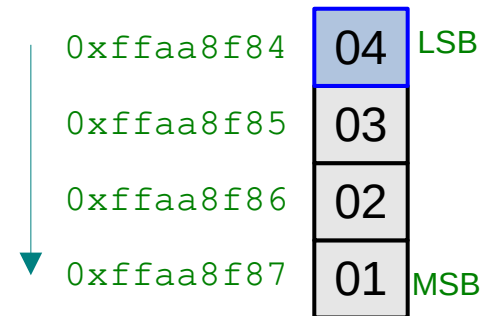
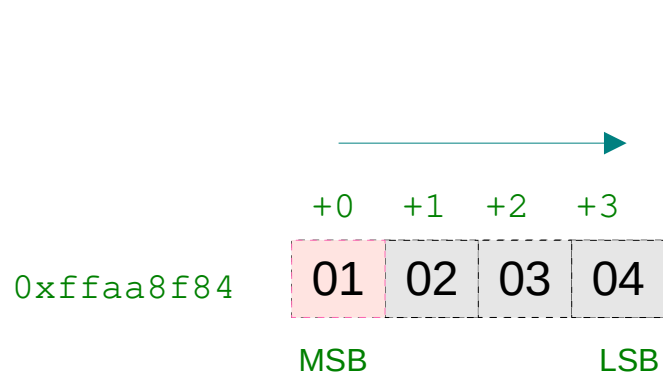


pi points to the least significant byte among the **4** bytes of an **int**

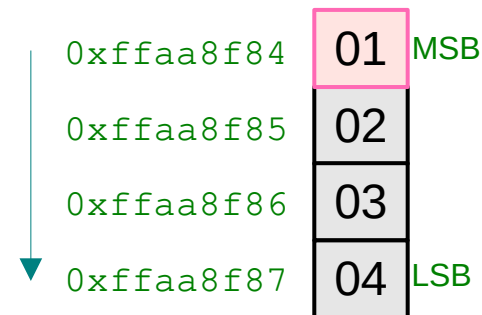
value(**pi**+1)
= value(**pi**) + sizeof(***pi**)

Little Endian and Big Endian

```
int i = 0x01020304;
```



Little Endian
stores LSByte first

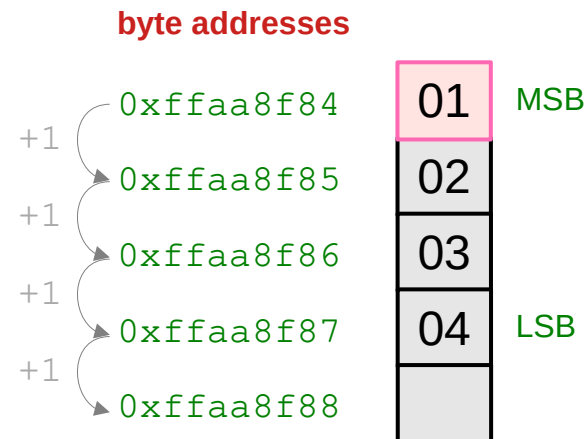
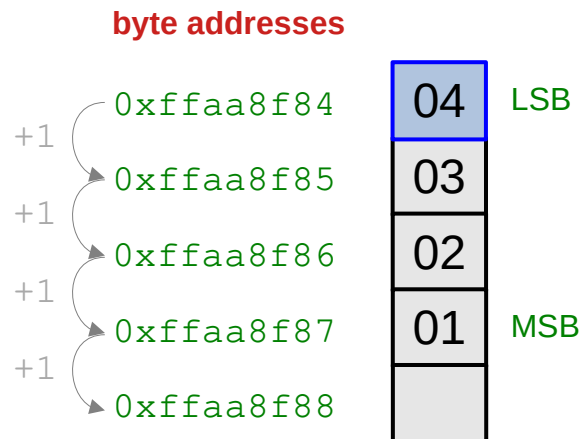
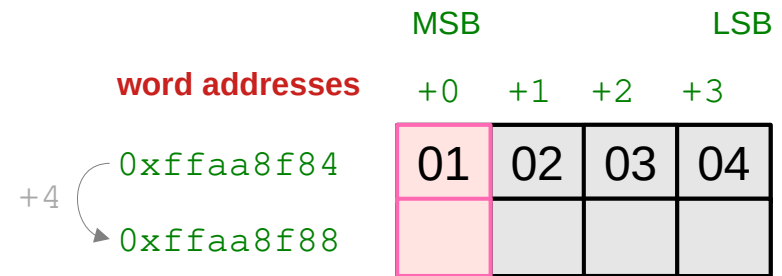
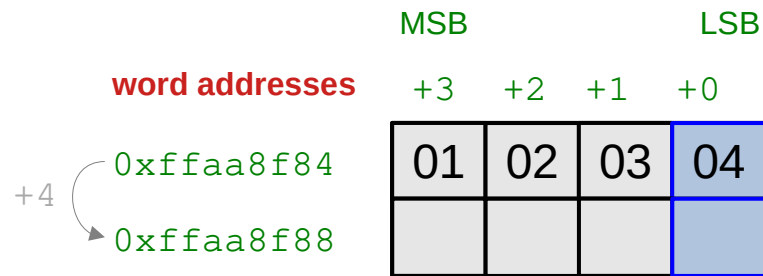


Big Endian
stores MSByte first

Word addresses and byte addresses

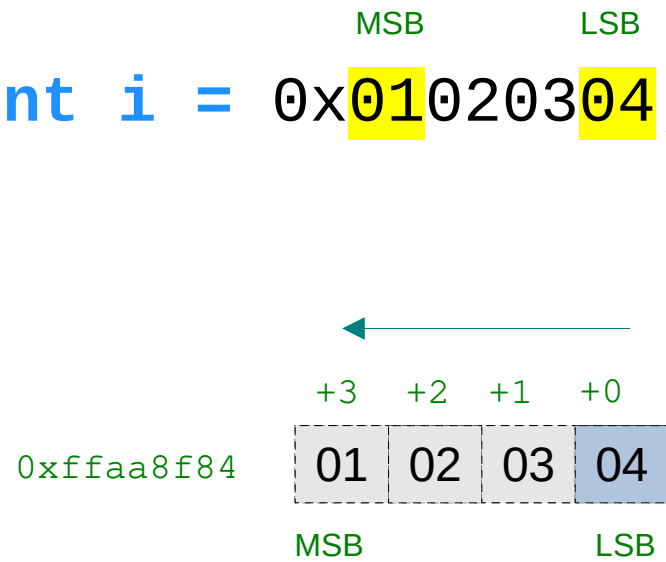
Little Endian store LSByte first

Big Endian store MSByte first



Little Endian Examples

```
int i = 0x01020304;
```



Little Endian

store LSB first

Least Significant Byte (LSB)

```
int i = 0x01020304;
char *p = (char *)&i;

printf("%p \n", &i);

printf("%p : %x \n", p+0, p[0]);
printf("%p : %x \n", p+1, p[1]);
printf("%p : %x \n", p+2, p[2]);
printf("%p : %x \n", p+3, p[3]);
```

	0xffaa8f84	
LSB address	0xffaa8f84 : 4	LSB data
	0xffaa8f85 : 3	
	0xffaa8f86 : 2	
MSB address	0xffaa8f87 : 1	MSB data

assume 32-bit CPU
32-bit address
32-bit data (1 word, 4 bytes)

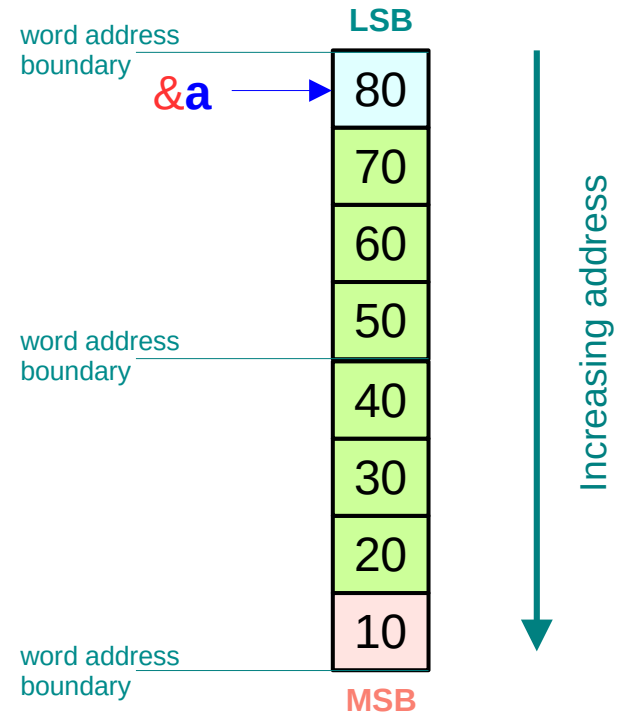
Storing values in a little endian system

long **a** = 0x^{MSB}10203040506070^{LSB}80 ;

MSB (Most Significant Byte)
LSB (Least Significant Byte)

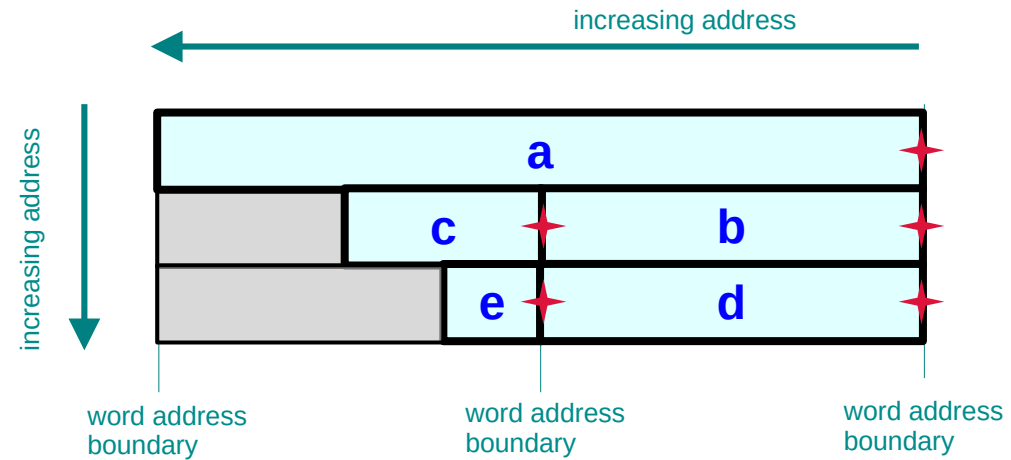
Little Endian System

store the LSB first

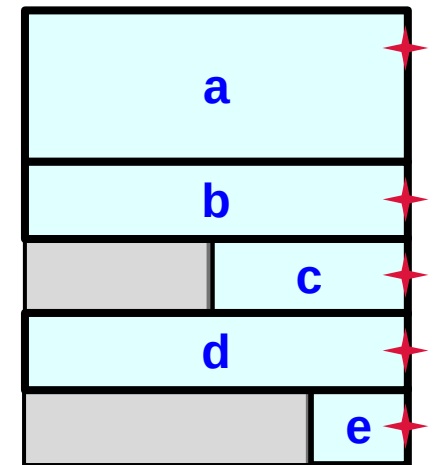


Memory alignment in a little endian system

10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
	12	34	11	22	33	44	
		99	01	02	03	04	

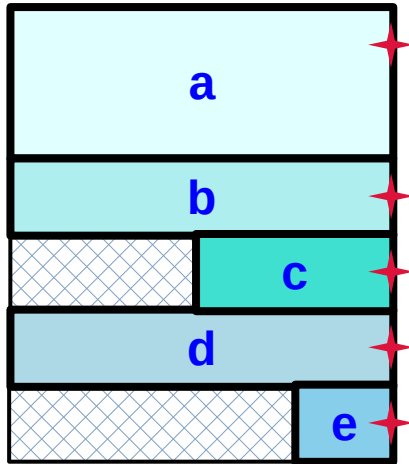


long **a** = 0x^{MSB}10203040506070^{LSB}80 ;
int **b** = 0x112233^{LSB}44 ;
short **c** = 0x12^{MSB}34^{LSB} ;
int **d** = 0x010203^{MSB}04^{LSB} ;
char **e** = 0x^{LSB}99 ;

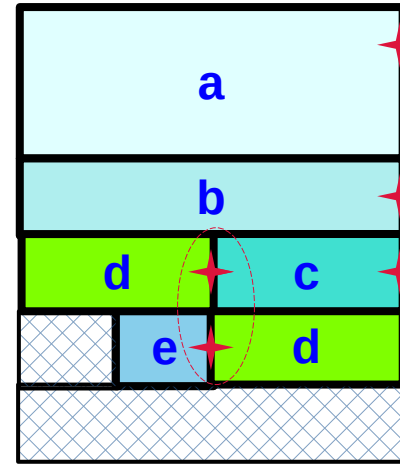


Memory alignment – performance

Memory alignment



No memory alignment



saves memory

loses performance :

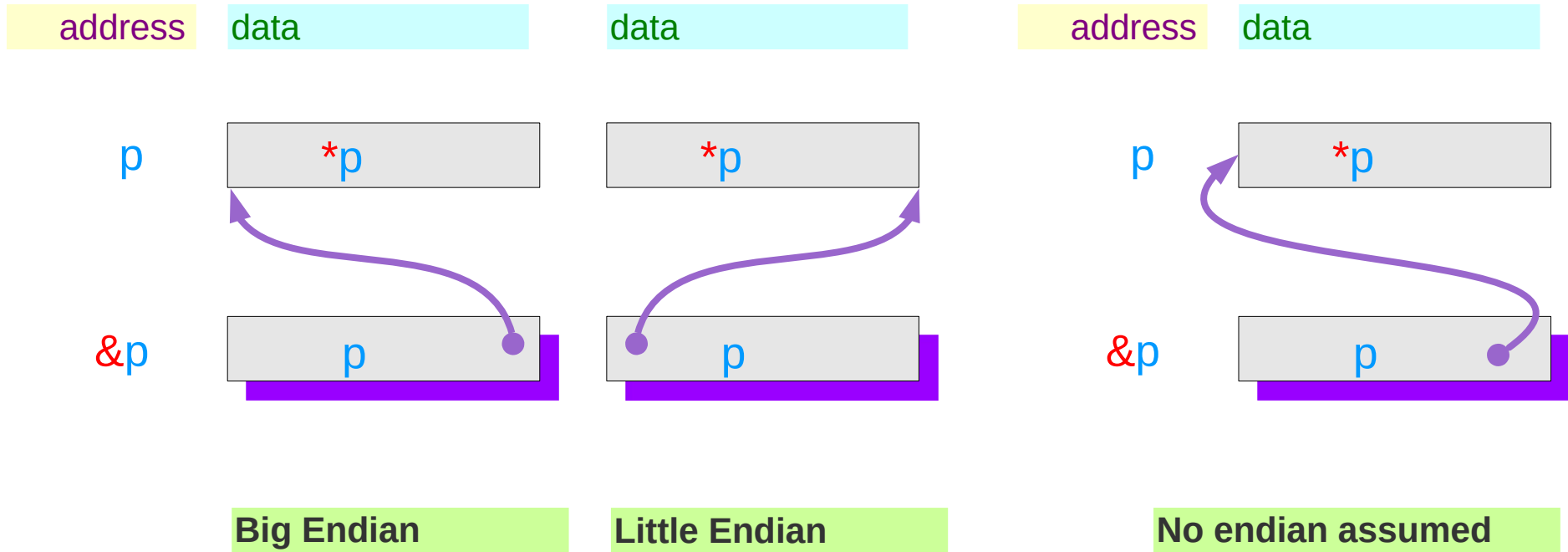
accessing **d** may require two memory cycles instead of one

memory hardware constraints

```
long   a = 0x1020304050607080 ;
int    b =          0x11223344 ;
short  c =          0x1234 ;
int    d =          0x01020304 ;
char   e =          0x99 ;
```

My Arrow Notations

My arrow notations (1)



Big Endian

Little Endian

No endian assumed

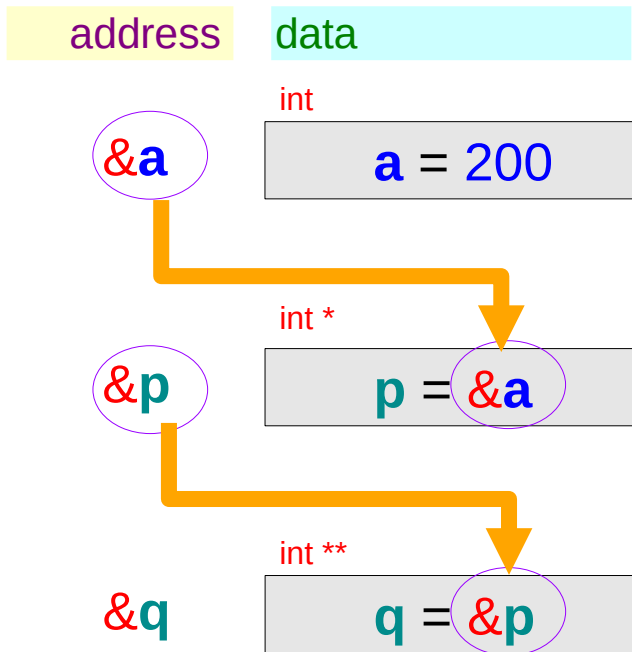
Word address =
MSByte address

Word address =
LSByte address

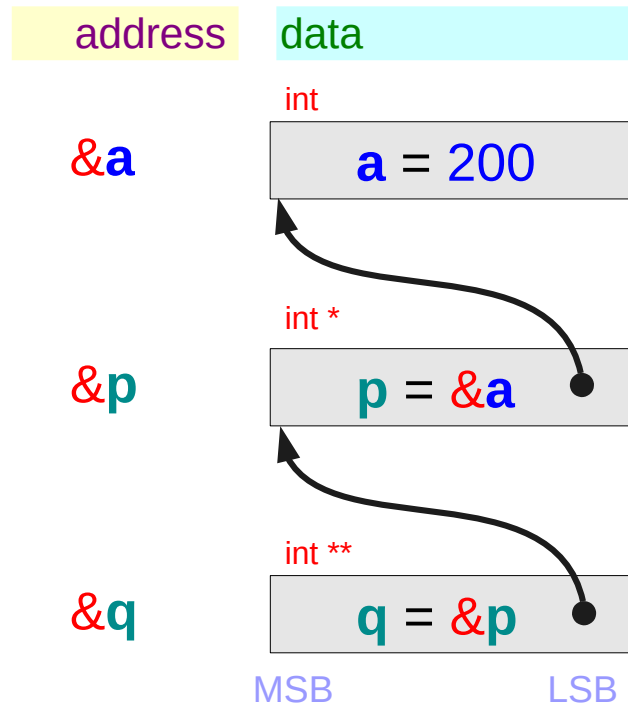
Most Significant Byte

Least Significant Byte

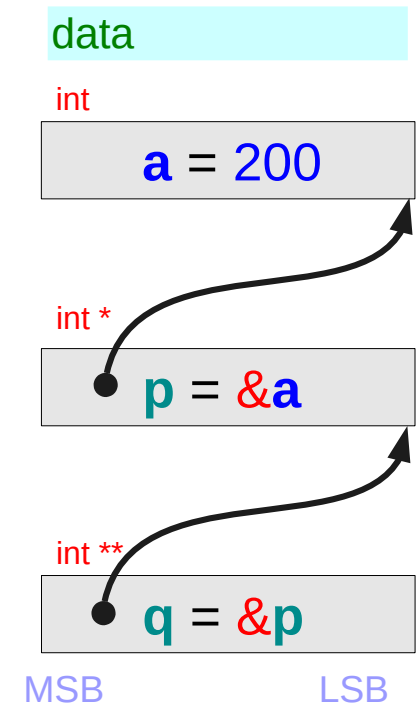
My arrow notations (2)



```
int a = 200;  
int * p = &a;  
int ** q = &p;
```



Big Endian



Little Endian

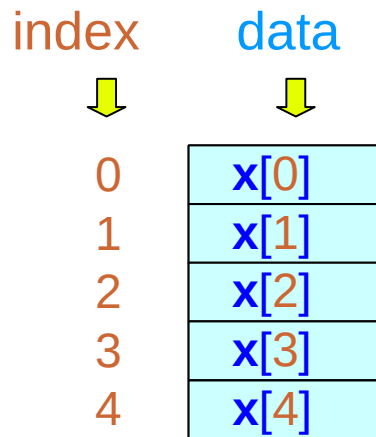
Arrays

Accessing array elements – using abstract addresses

```
int      x[5] ;
```

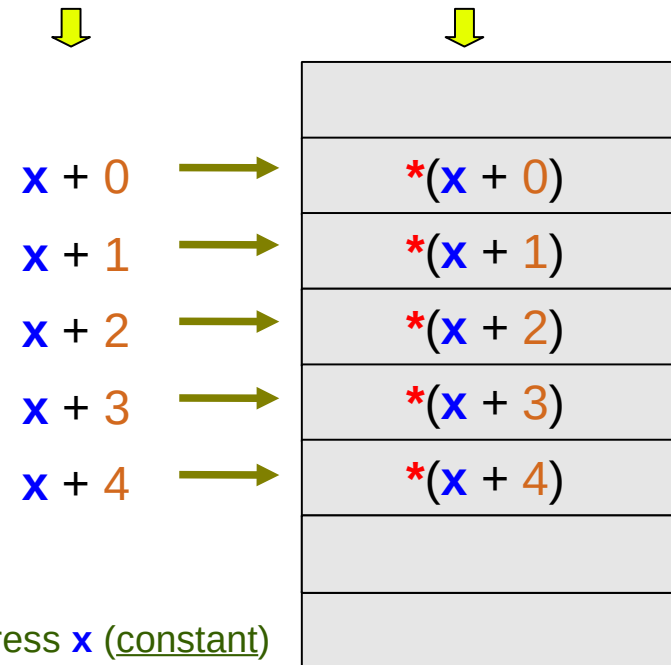
x holds the *starting address*
of 5 consecutive *int* variables

5 int variables



abstract
address

data



cannot change address x (constant)

Accessing array elements – using byte addresses

```
int    x[5];
```

x holds the *starting address* of 5 consecutive *int* variables

5 int variables

$\text{value}(x + 0) = \text{value}(x) + 0 * \text{sizeof}(*x)$

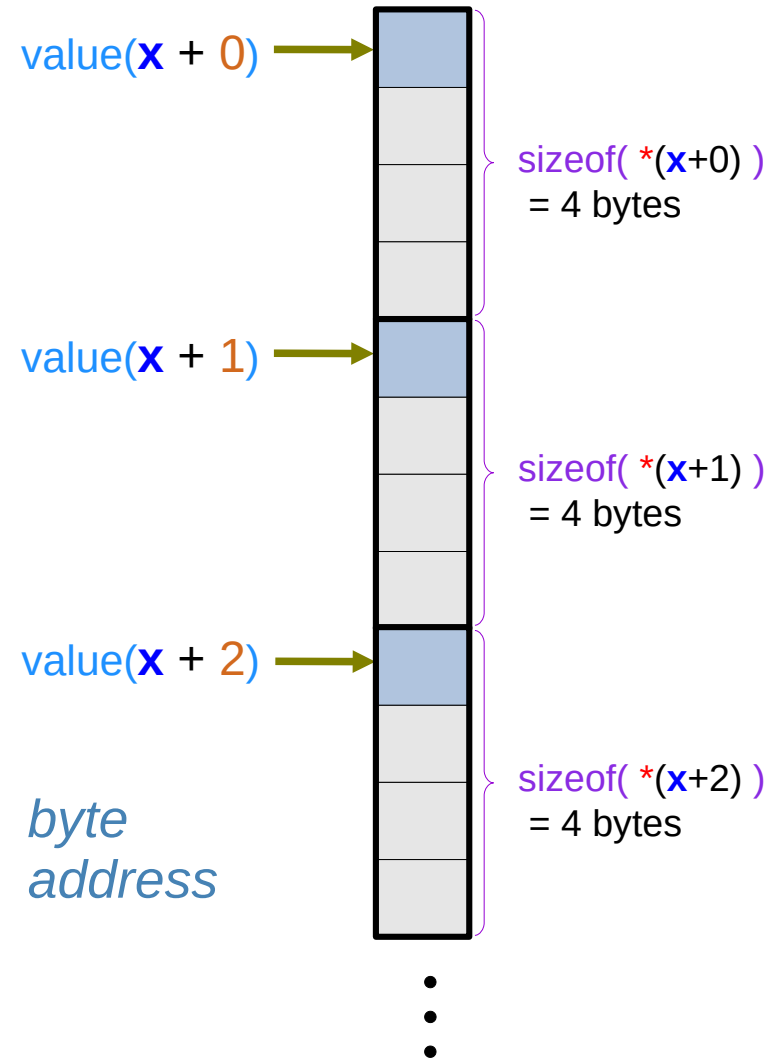
$\text{value}(x + 1) = \text{value}(x) + 1 * \text{sizeof}(*x)$

$\text{value}(x + 2) = \text{value}(x) + 2 * \text{sizeof}(*x)$

• • •
• • •
• • •



byte address byte address $\text{sizeof}(\text{int}) = 4 \text{ bytes}$



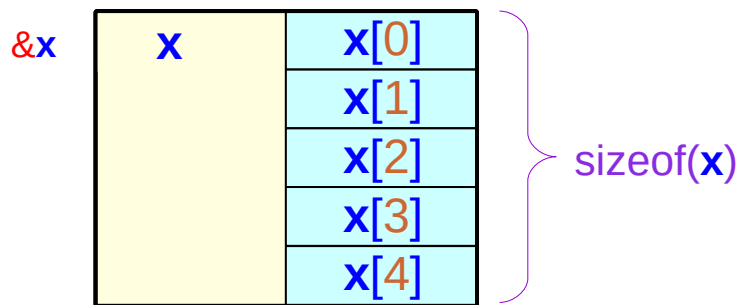
Value and size of an array variable

```
int x [5] ;
```

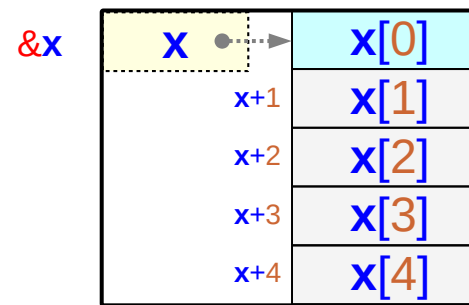
`sizeof(x)` : the *total size* of
5 consecutive **int** variables

`x` : an array variable name (constant)

`value(x)` : the *starting address* of
5 consecutive **int** variables



$\text{sizeof}(x) = 5 * \text{sizeof}(\text{int})$



$\text{value}(x) = \text{value}(\&x[0])$

`x` : can be viewed as a pointer

`x` holds the address of
the 1st array element `x[0]`
 $x = \&x[0], *x \equiv x[0]$

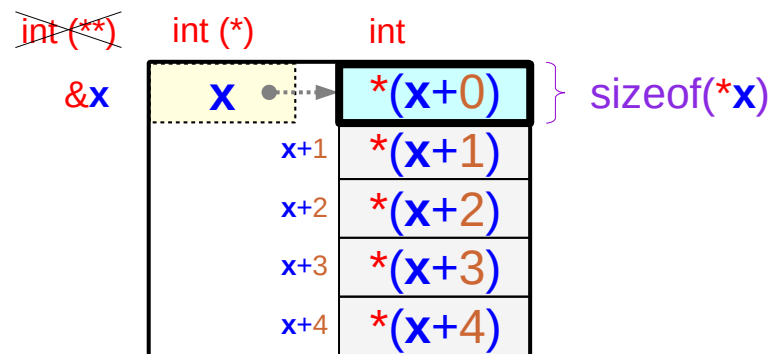
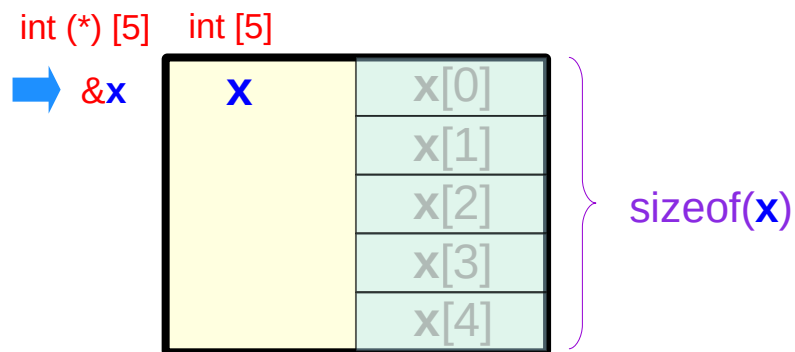
Types, sizes, and addresses of x and $*x$

```
int x [5] ;
```

x : an array variable name (constant)

outside of an array x

inside of an array x



Abstract Data x

Address $\text{value}(\&x) = \text{value}(x)$

Size $\text{sizeof}(x) = 5 * \text{sizeof}(\text{int})$

Type $\text{int}[5]$

Primitive Data $*x = x[0]$

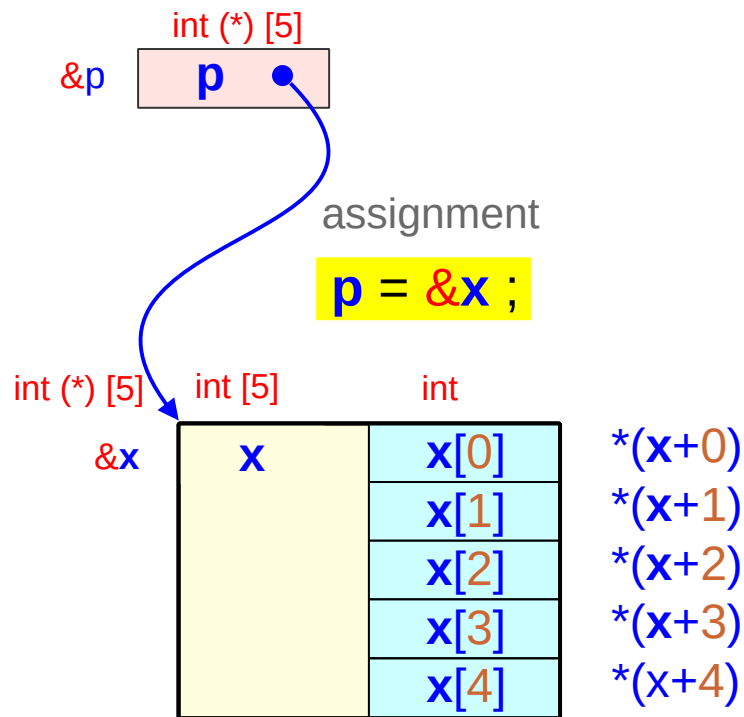
Address $\text{value}(\&x[0]) = \text{value}(x)$

Size $\text{sizeof}(x[0]) = \text{sizeof}(\text{int})$

Type int

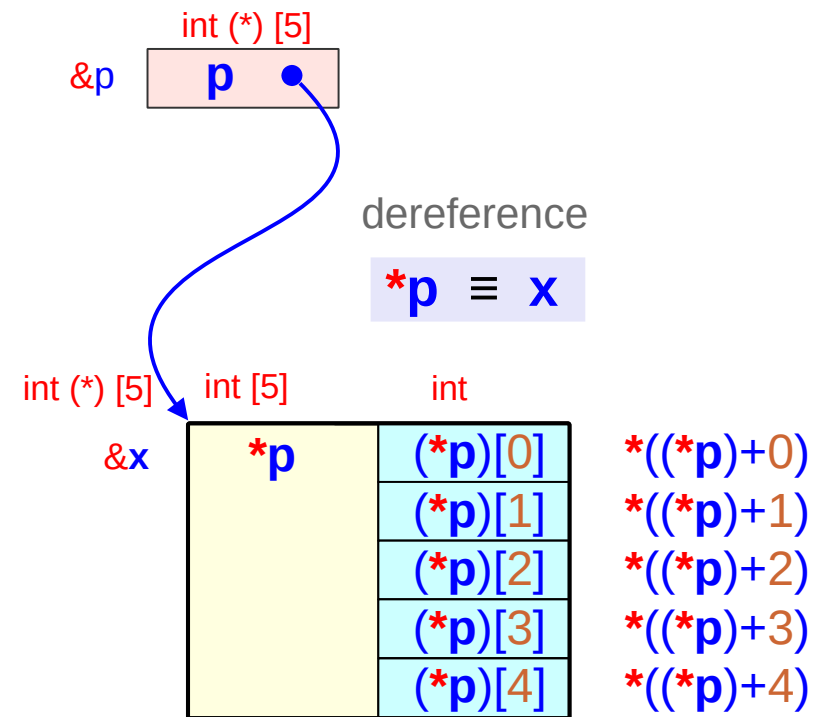
Using a 1-d array pointer **p**

```
int x [5] ;
```



***x ≡ x[0]**
***(x+i) ≡ x[i]**

```
int (*p) [5] ;
```

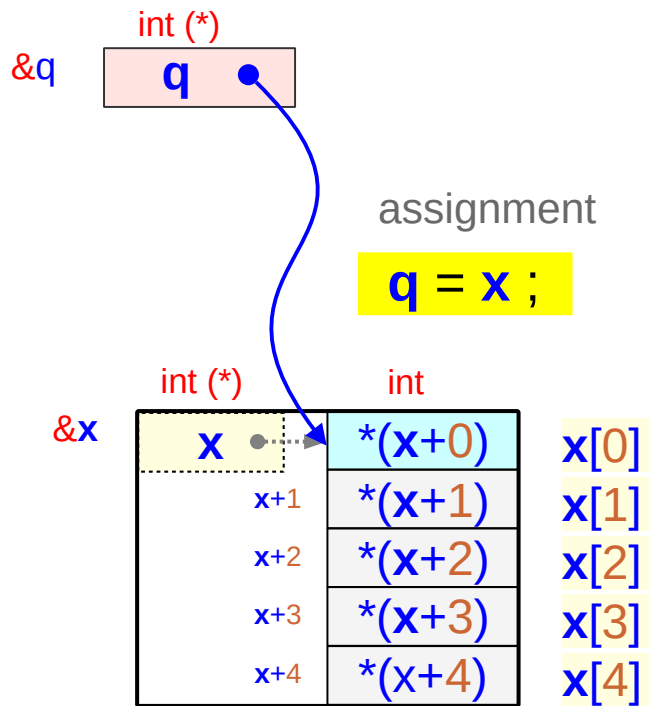


***(*p) ≡ (*p)[0]**
***((*p)+i) ≡ (*p)[i]**

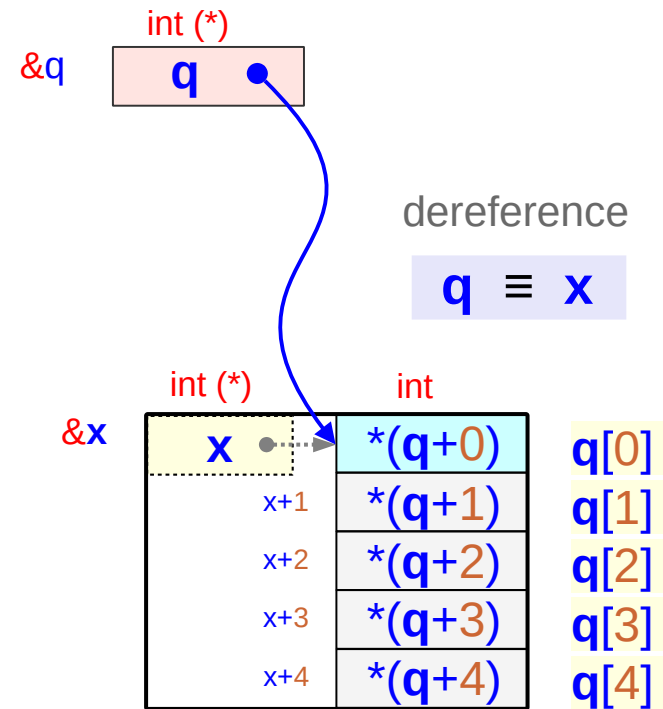
Using a 0-d array pointer q

```
int x [5] ;
```

```
int * q = x ;
```



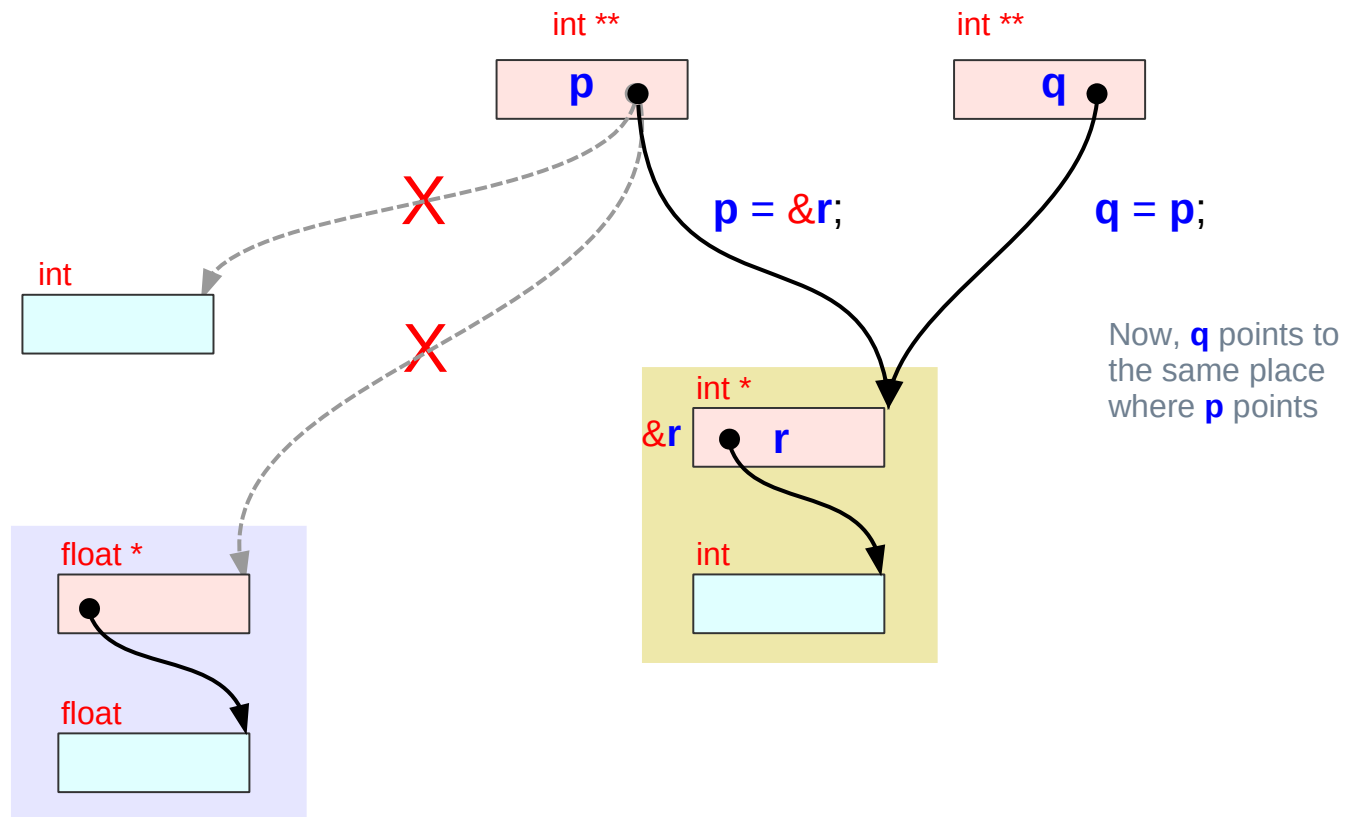
$*x \equiv x[0]$
 $*(x+i) \equiv x[i]$



$*q \equiv q[0]$
 $*(q+i) \equiv q[i]$

Double pointer variable assignments

```
int ** p, **q, *r ;
```

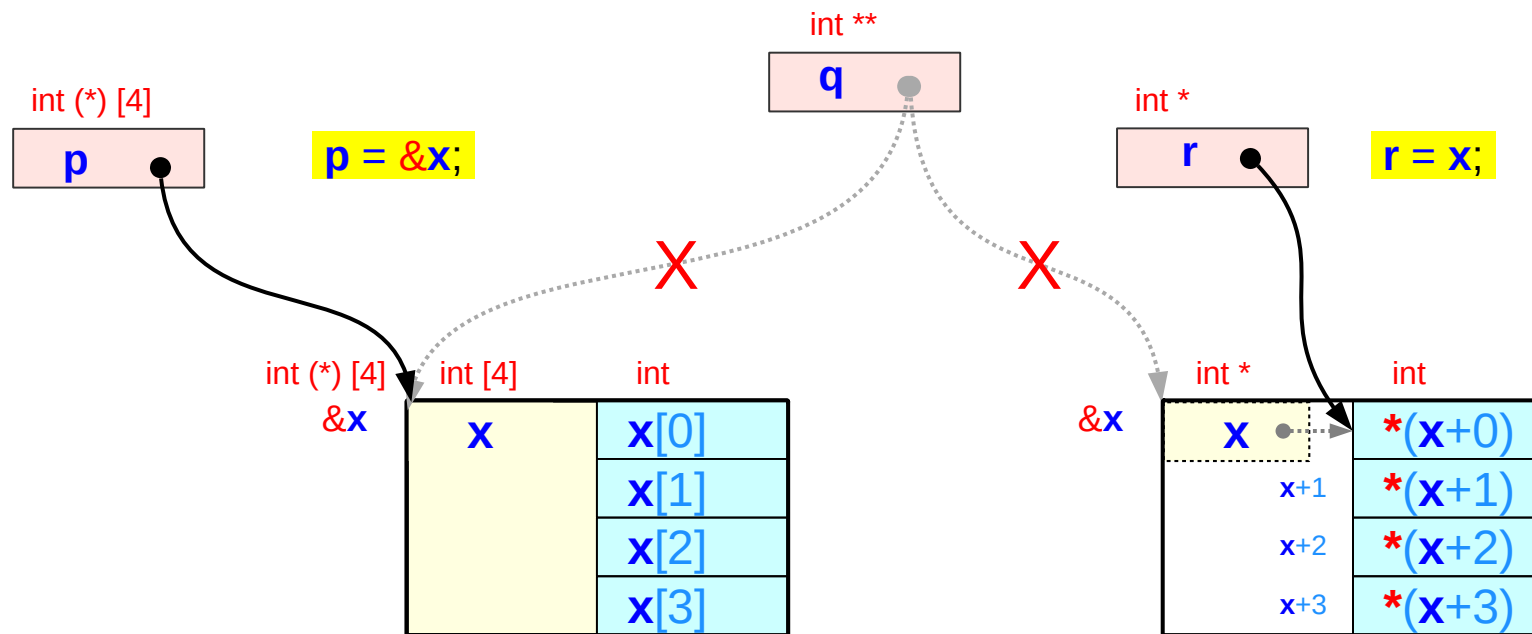


Double pointer variable assignments

```
int (*p) [4];
```

```
int ** q;
```

```
int *r;
```

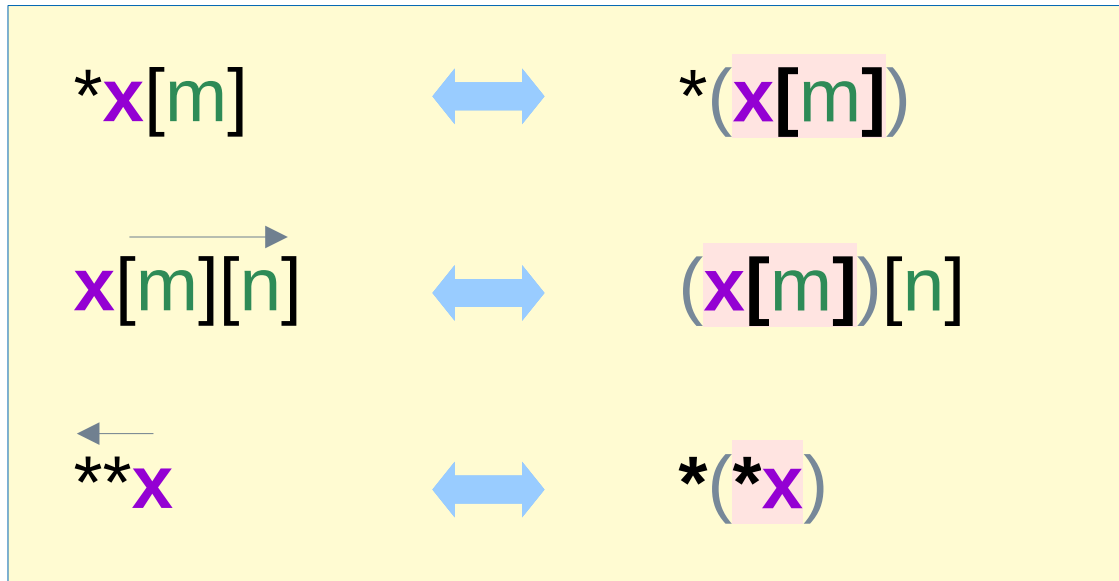


Pointer to an array `x`
of `int [4]` type
: outside of an array

The type an array `x`
can be relaxed to `int (*)`
: inside of an array

Pointers, arrays, and operator precedence

Operator Precedence of * and []



[] has a **higher** priority than *

Left-to-right associativity

Right-to-left associativity

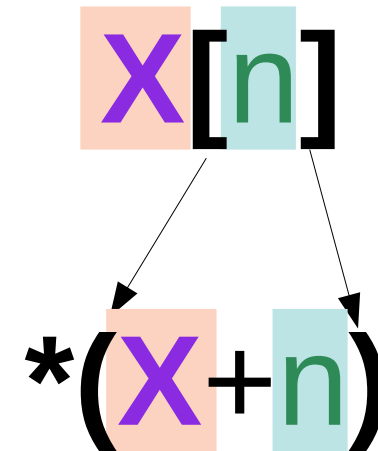
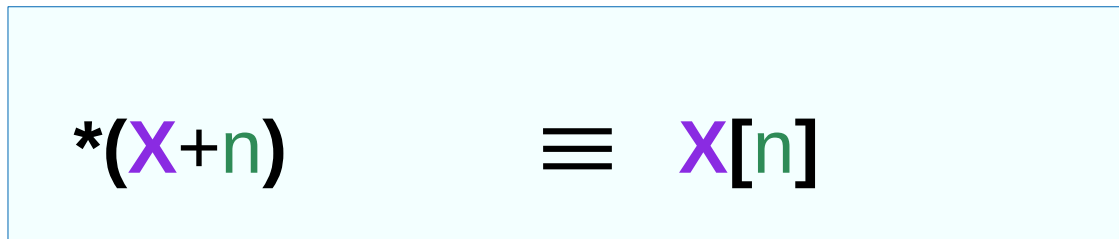
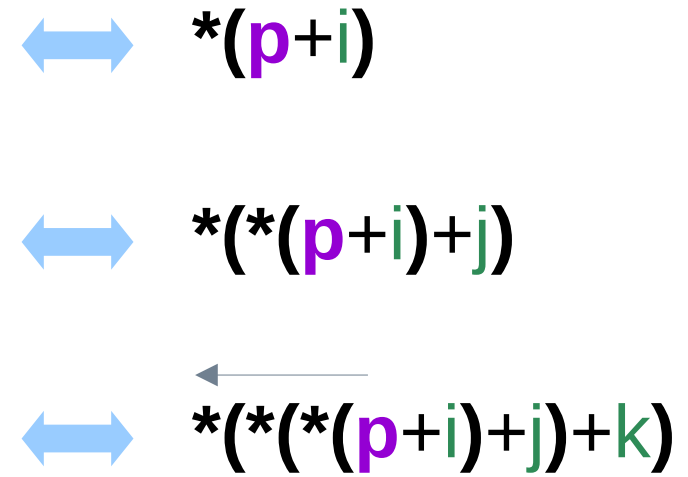
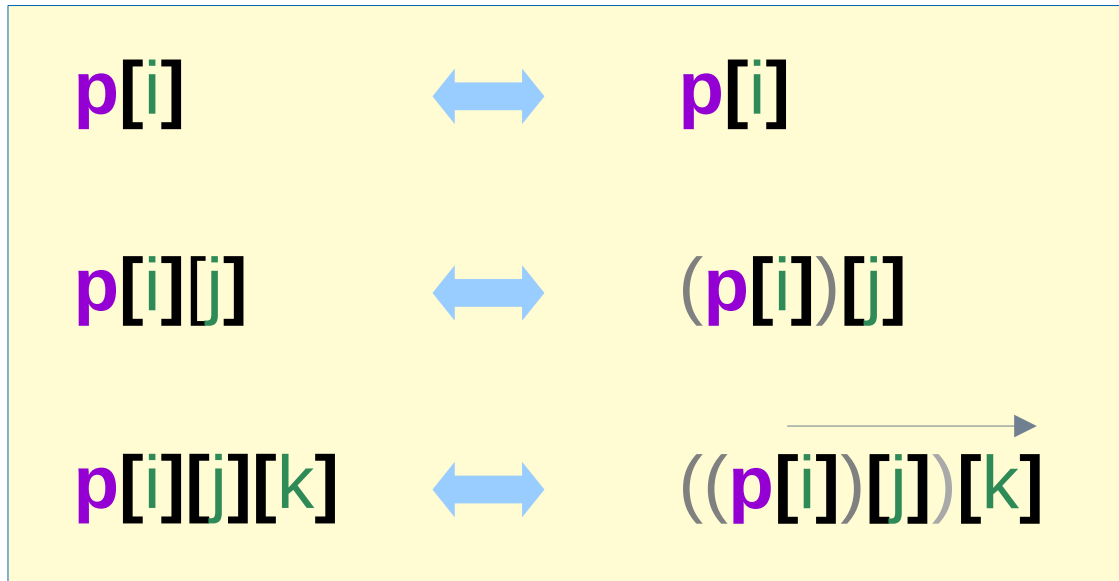
$(*x)[m][n]$ \leftrightarrow $((x)[m])[n]$

() **must be used**

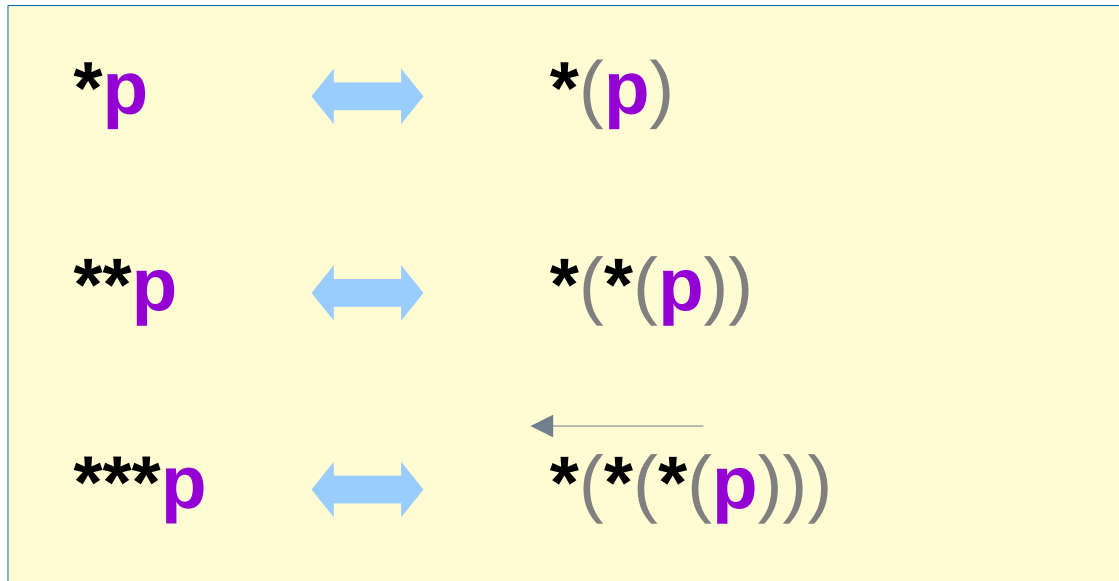
() can be removed

$(*x[m])[n]$ \leftrightarrow $(*(x[m]))[n]$

Left-to-right associative []



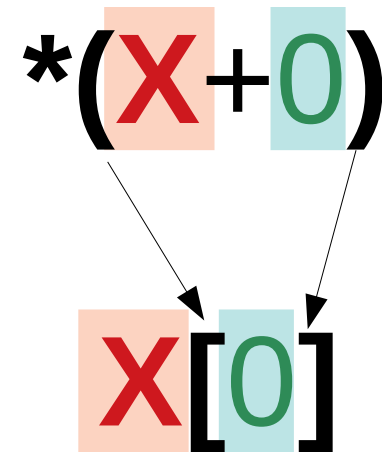
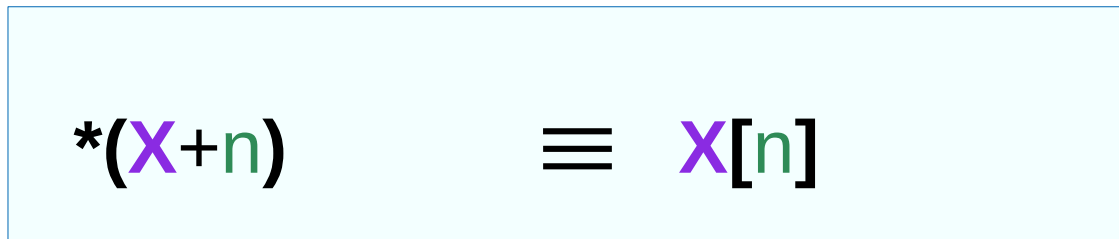
Right-to-left associative *, with i = 0



$\leftrightarrow p[0]$

$\leftrightarrow (p[0])[0]$

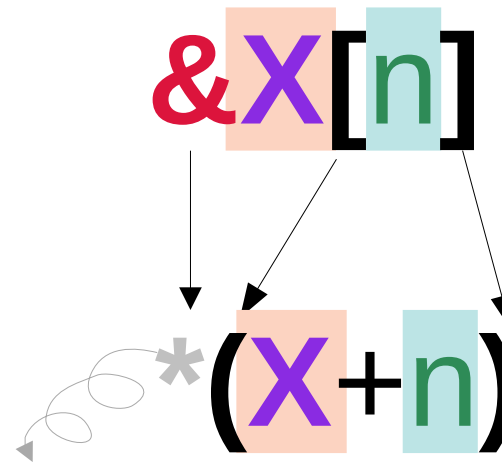
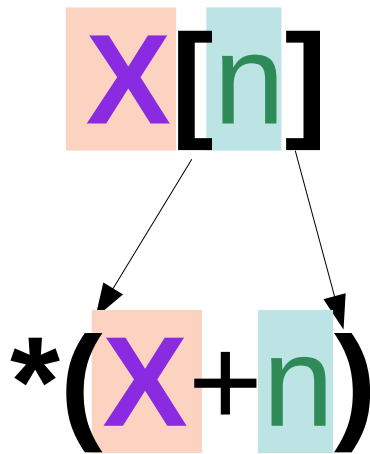
$\leftrightarrow ((p[0])[0])[0]$



Equivalences

$p[i]$ \leftrightarrow $*(p+i)$
 $p[i][j]$ \leftrightarrow $((*p+i)+j)$
 $p[i][j][k]$ \leftrightarrow $((*(*p+i)+j)+k)$

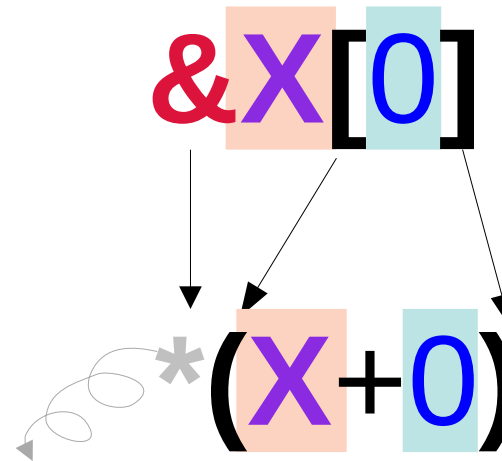
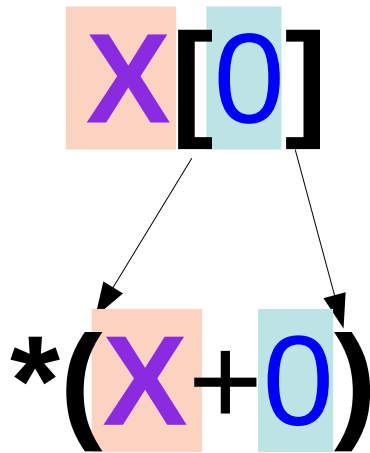
$\&p[i]$ \leftrightarrow $(p+i)$
 $\&p[i][j]$ \leftrightarrow $(*(p+i)+j)$
 $\&p[i][j][k]$ \leftrightarrow $(**(*p+i)+j)+k)$



Equivalences with $i = 0$

$p[0]$ \leftrightarrow $*p$
 $p[i][0]$ \leftrightarrow $*p[i]$
 $p[i][j][0]$ \leftrightarrow $*p[i][j]$

$\&p[0]$ \leftrightarrow p
 $\&p[i][0]$ \leftrightarrow $p[i]$
 $\&p[i][j][0]$ \leftrightarrow $p[i][j]$



Operator Precedence

Precedence	Operator	Description	Associativity
1	++ -- () [] . -> (type){list}	Suffix/postfix increment and decrement Function call Array subscripting Structure and union member access member access through pointer Compound literal(C99)	Left-to-right (((x[m])[n])[p]) →
2	++ -- + - ! ~ (type) * & sizeof _Alignof	Prefix increment and decrement Unary plus and minus Logical NOT and bitwise NOT Type cast Indirection (dereference) Address-of Size-of Alignment requirement(C11)	Right-to-left *((*(X))*) ←

https://en.cppreference.com/w/c/language/operator_precedence

Pass by Reference

Variable Scopes

```
int func1 (int a, int b)
{
    int i, int j;
    ...
    ...
}
```

i and j's
variable scope



cannot access
each other

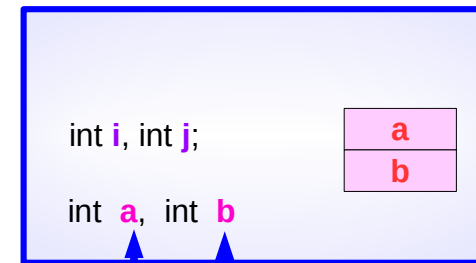
x and y's
variable scope

```
int main ()
{
    int x, int y;
    ...
    ...
    func1 ( 10, 20 );
    ...
    ...
}
```

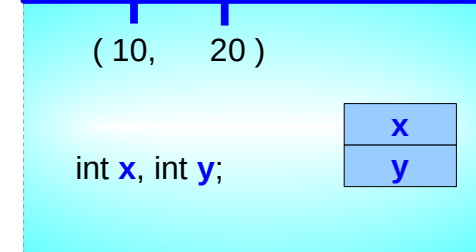
Only **top** stack frame is active
and its variable can be accessed

Communications are performed
only through the **parameter** variables

func1's
Stack
Frame



main's
Stack
Frame



Pass by Reference

```
int func1 (int* a, int* b)
{
  int i, int j;
  ...
  ...
  ...
  ...
}
```

x and **y** are made known to **func1**
func1 can read / write **x** and **y**
through their addresses



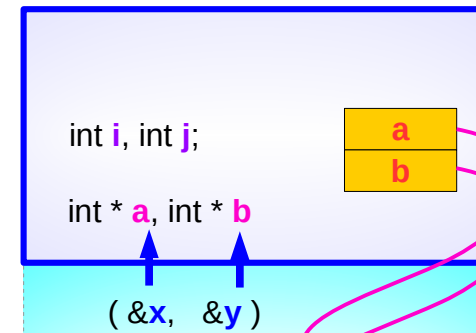
a = &**x**
b = &**y**

```
int main ()
{
  int x, int y;
  ...
  ...
  func1 ( &x, &y );
  ...
  ...
}
```

x and **y**'s
variable scope

***a**
***b**

func1's
Stack
Frame



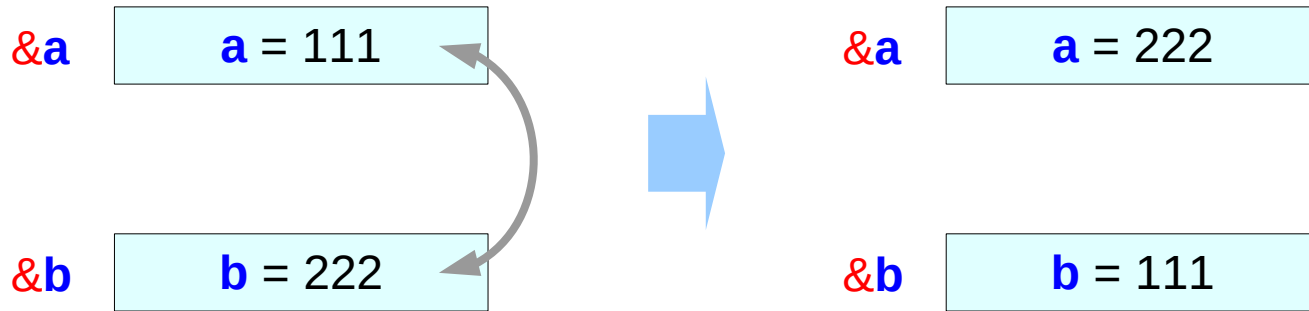
main's
Stack
Frame



***a**
***b**

Example :
swapping integers
swapping pointers

Swapping integers



```
int a, b;
```

```
swap( &a, &b );
```

function call

```
swap( int *, int * );
```

function prototype

Pass by integer reference

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

```
int a = 111, b = 222;
```

...

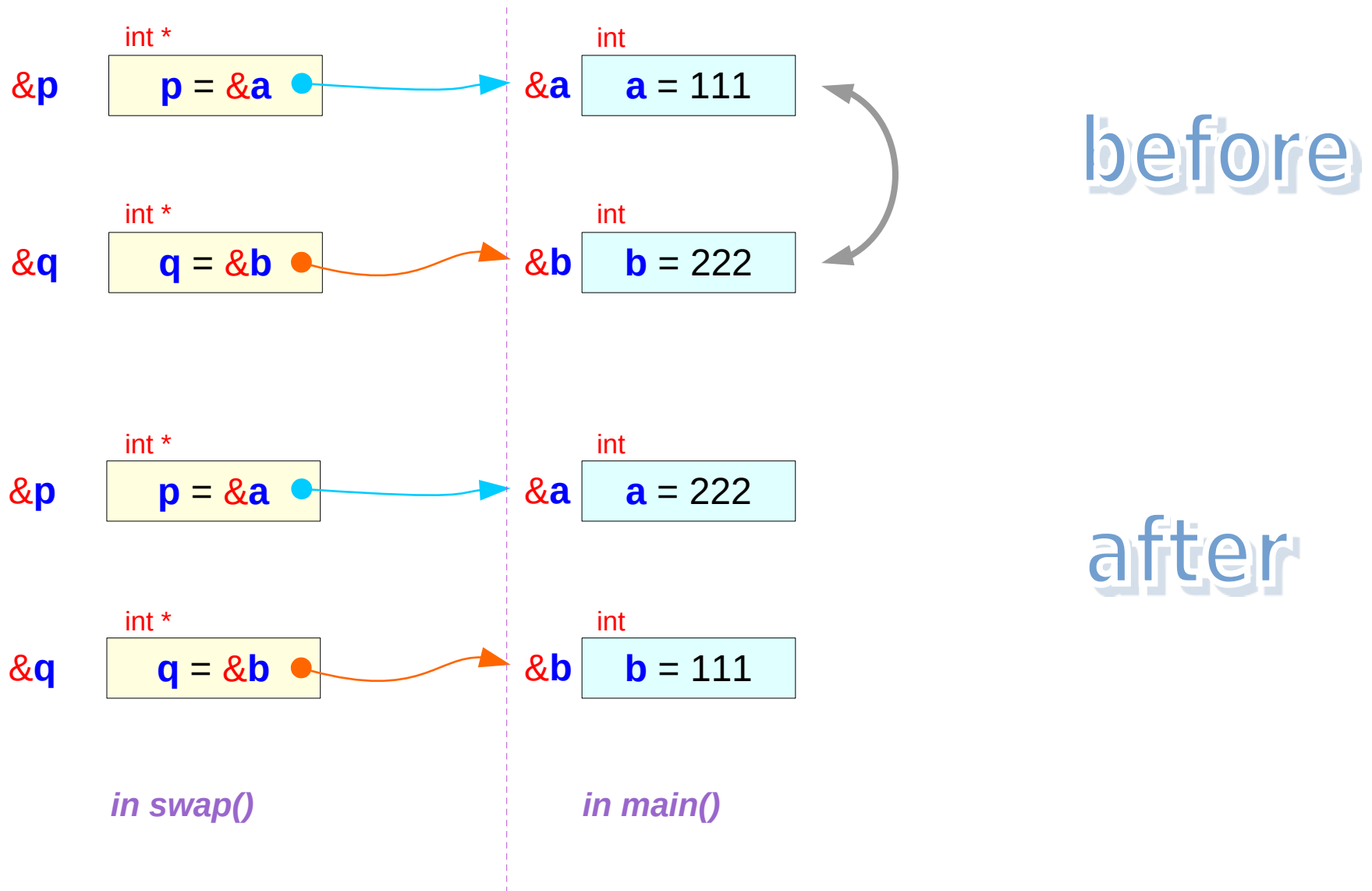
```
swap( &a, &b );
```

int *	p
int	*p

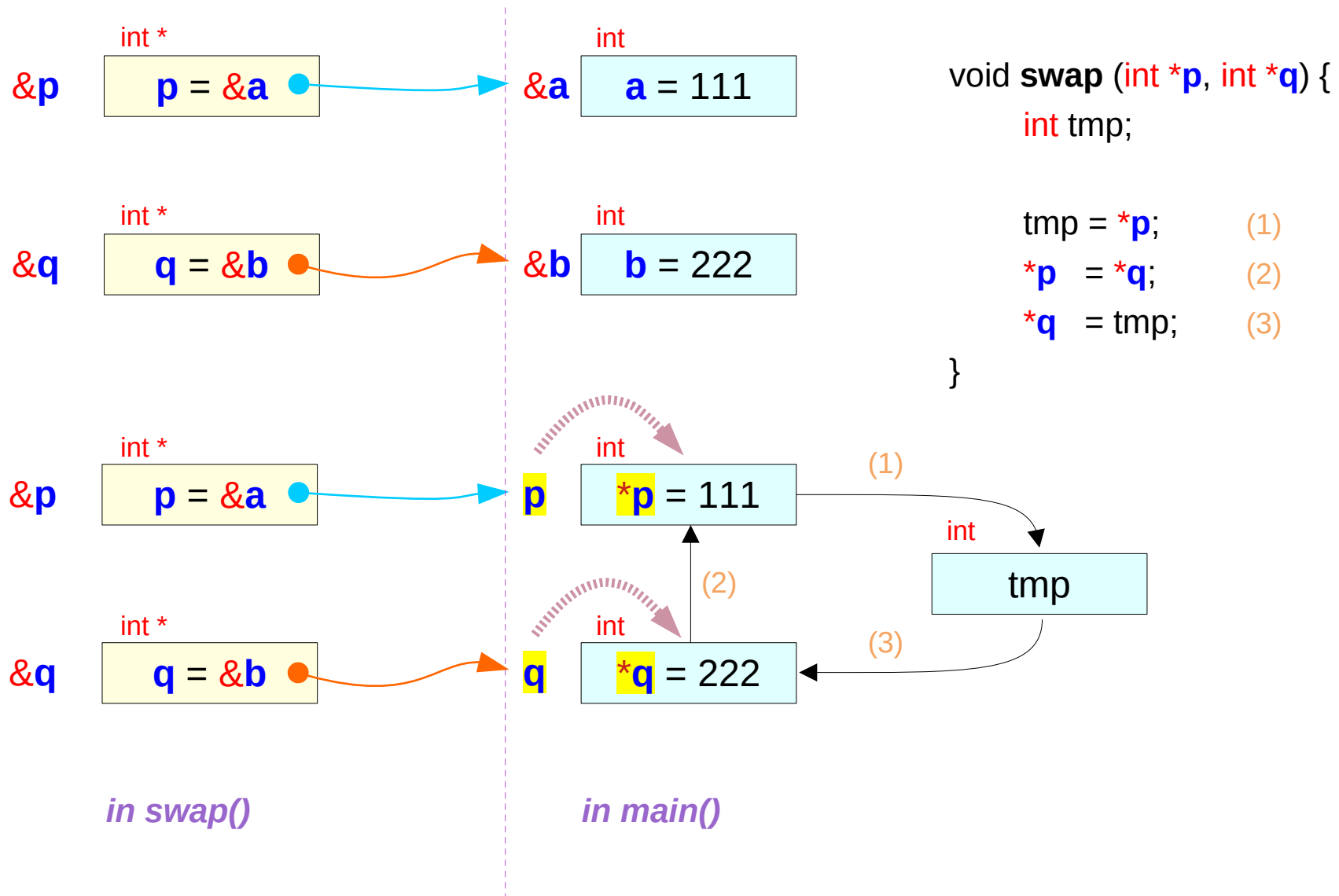
int *	q
int	*q

int	tmp
-----	-----

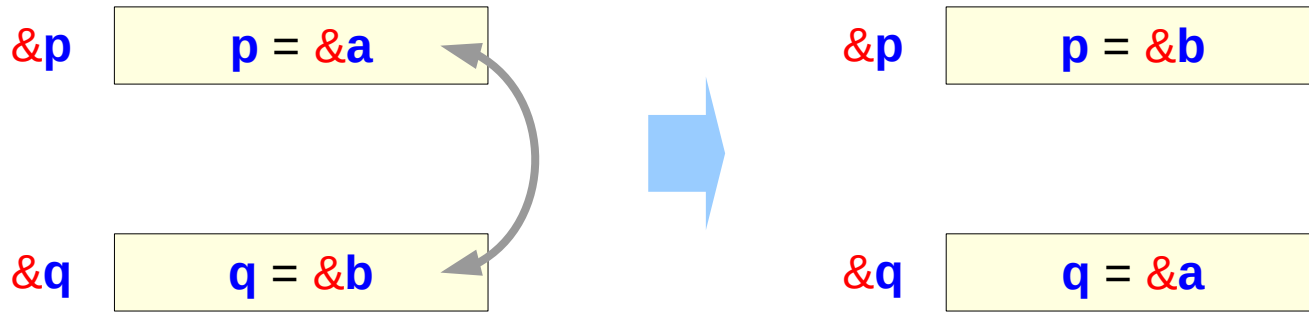
Swapping integers



Swapping integers via integer pointers



Swapping integer pointers



```
int *p, *q ;  
pswap ( &p, &q );  
void pswap( int **, int ** );
```

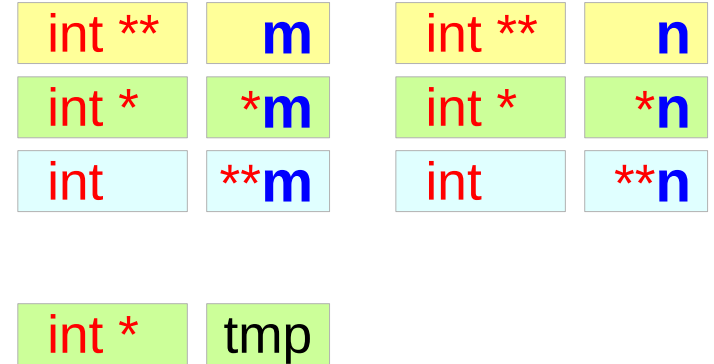
function call

function prototype

Pass by integer pointer reference

```
void pswap (int **m, int **n)
{
    int * tmp;

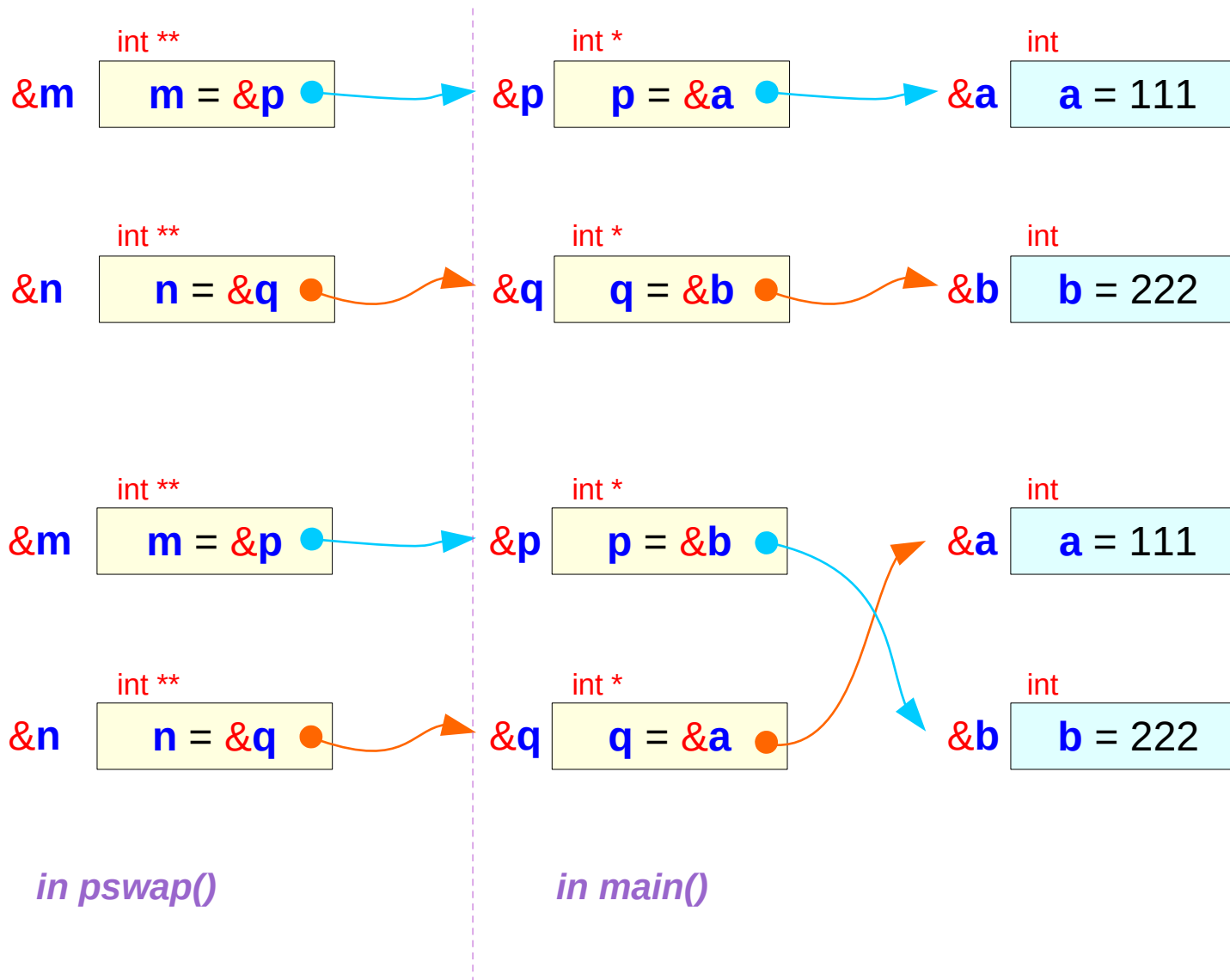
    tmp = *m;
    *m = *n;
    *n = tmp;
}
```



```
int  a = 111, b = 222;
int *p = &a, *q = &b;
...
pswap ( &p, &q );
```

```
int **  m
int *   *m
int     **m
```

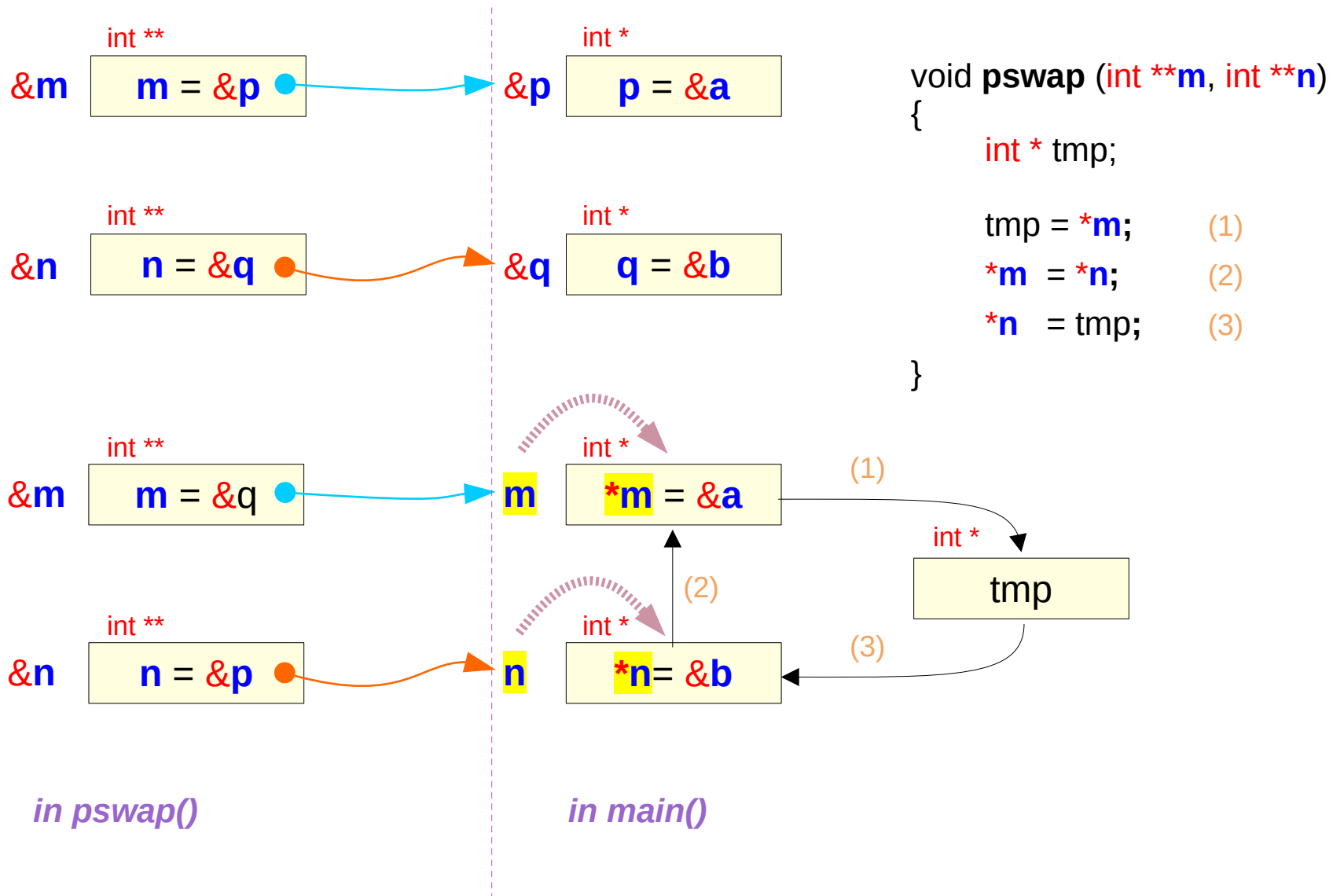
Swapping integer pointers



before

after

Swapping integer pointers via double pointers



Pointer Type Cast

Assigning pointer variables

`long a;` `&a` address of a long value

`int * p;` address of an int value `p`  address of a long value `&a`

`short * q;` address of a short value `q`  address of a long value `&a`

`char * r;` address of a char value `r`  address of a long value `&a`

Type cast pointers

`long a;`

address of a long value `&a`

`int * p ;`

address of an int value

`p`

int address conversion

`(int *) &a`

A blue arrow points from the expression `(int *) &a` to the variable `p`. The expression `(int *)` is enclosed in a light red box.

`short * q ;`

address of a short value

`q`

short address conversion

`(short *) &a`

A blue arrow points from the expression `(short *) &a` to the variable `q`. The expression `(short *)` is enclosed in a light red box.

`char * r ;`

address of a char value

`r`

char address conversion

`(char *) &a`

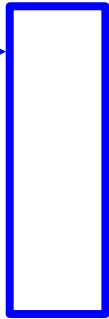
A blue arrow points from the expression `(char *) &a` to the variable `r`. The expression `(char *)` is enclosed in a light red box.

View windows – type cast pointer

integer
view window

int *

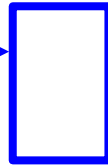
p



short
view window

short *

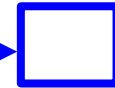
q



character
view window

char *

r



Little Endian
Memory System

&a

LSB

80

70

60

50

40

30

20

10

MSB

Increasing address

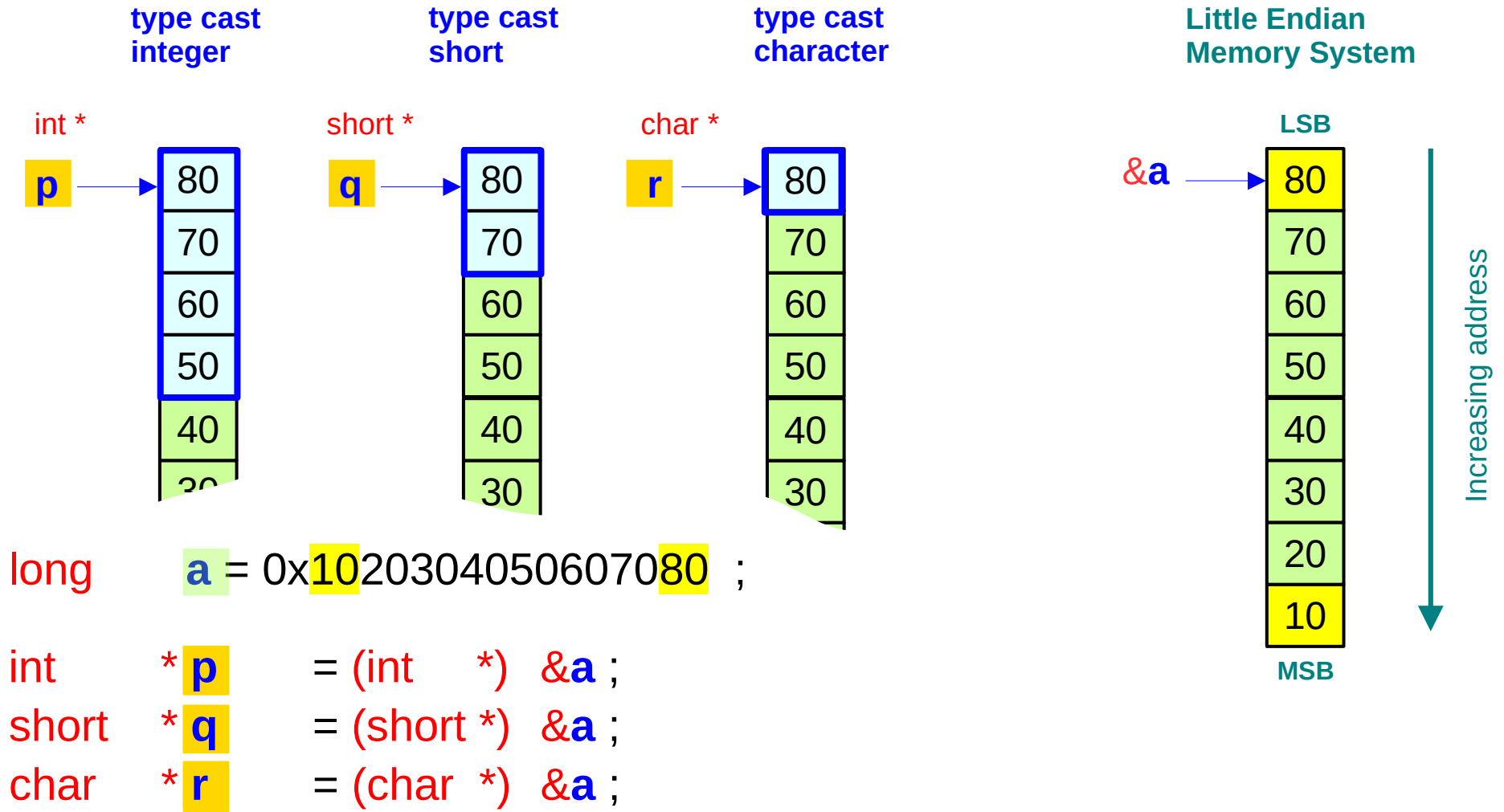
long a = 0x^{MSB}10203040506070^{LSB}80 ;

int * p ;

short * q ;

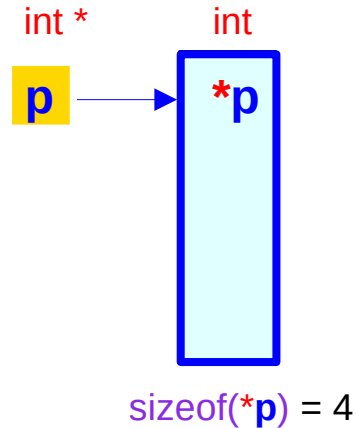
char * r ;

Applying type cast pointers to a memory location

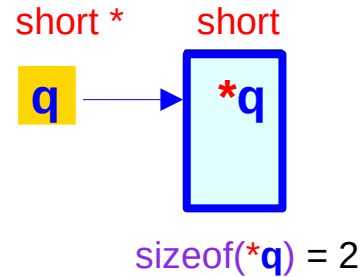


De-referencing type cast pointers

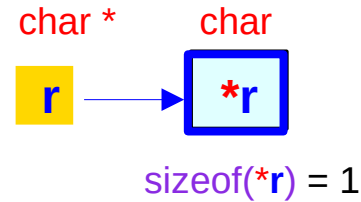
type cast
integer pointer



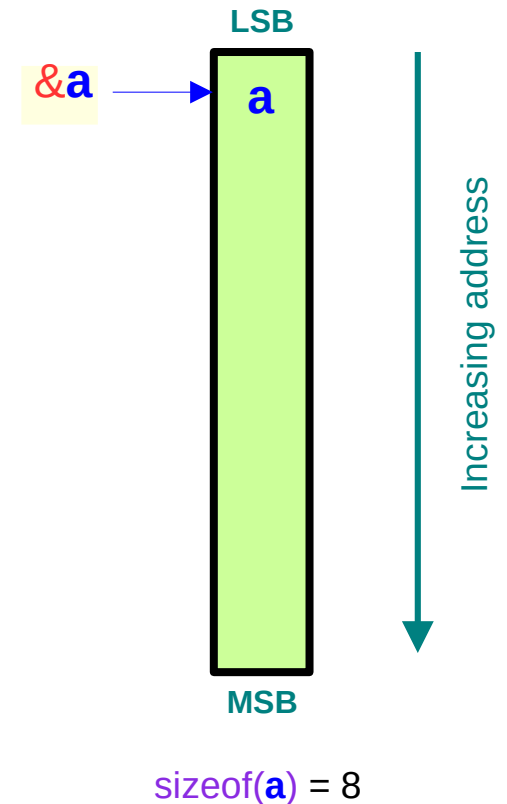
type cast
short pointer



type cast
character pointer



Little Endian
Memory System

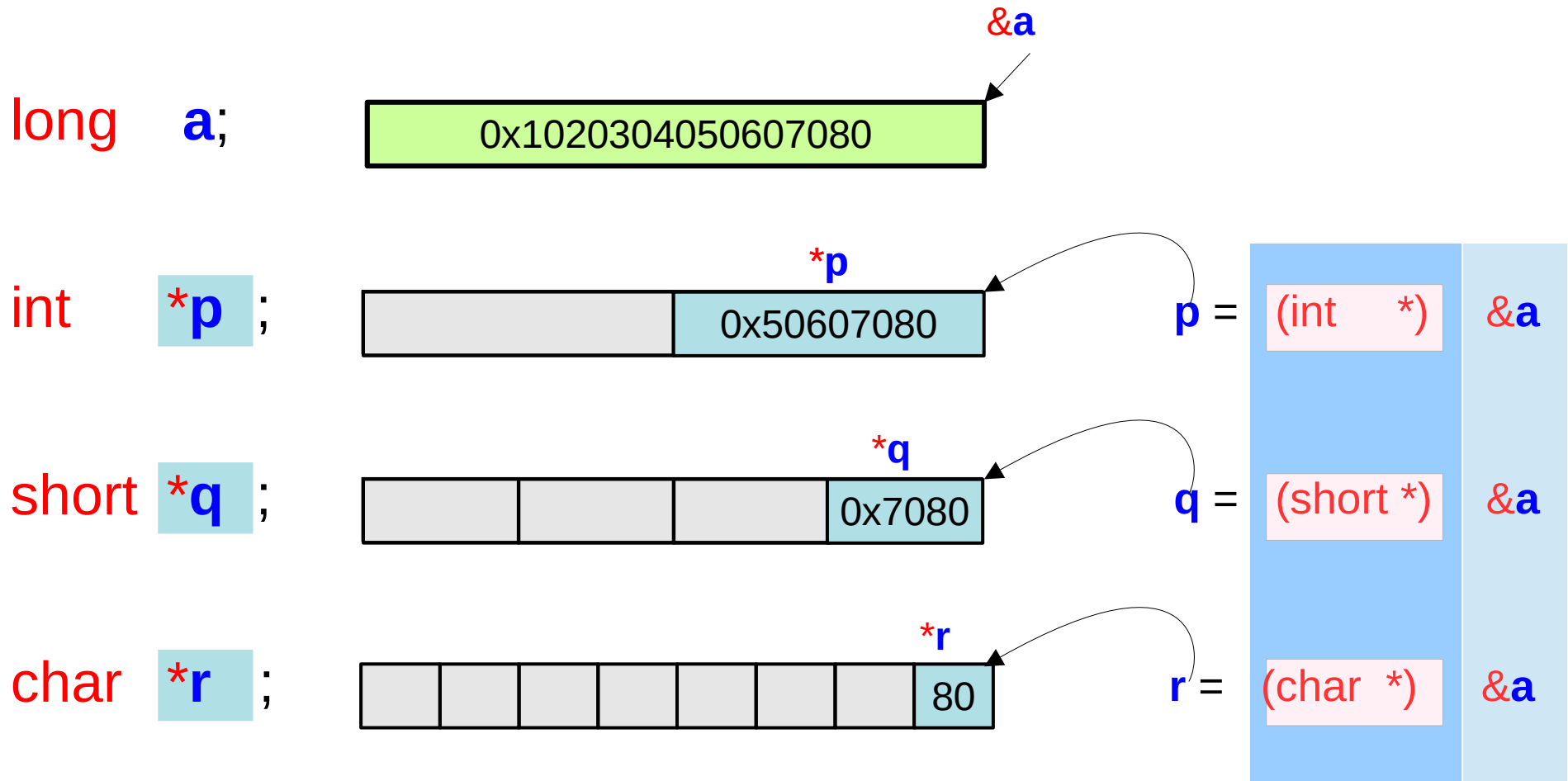


```
long a = 0x1020304050607080 ;
```

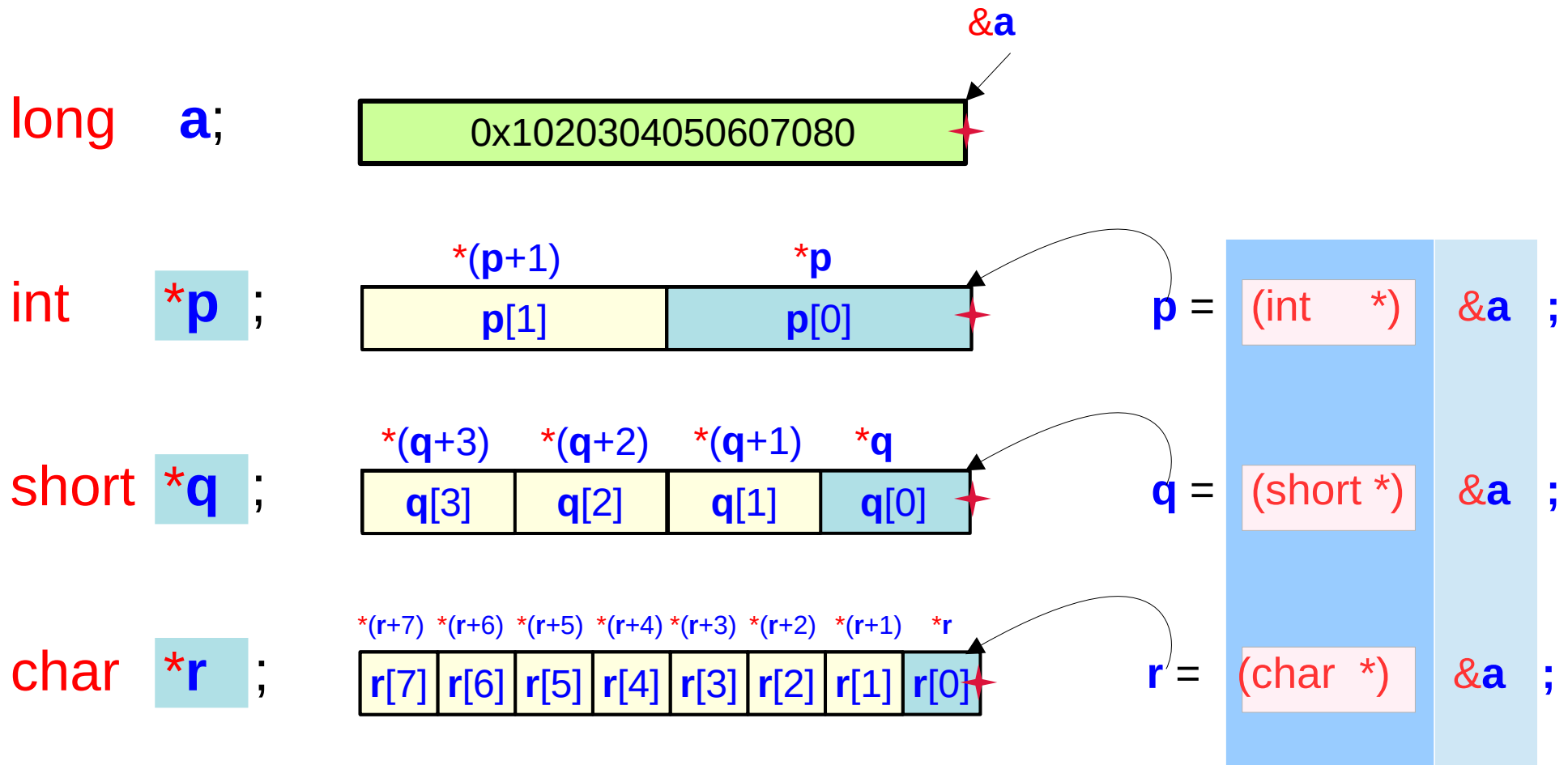
```
int *p = (int *) &a ;  
short *q = (short *) &a ;  
char *r = (char *) &a ;
```

```
*p ≡ 0x50607080  
*q ≡ 0x7080  
*r ≡ 0x80
```

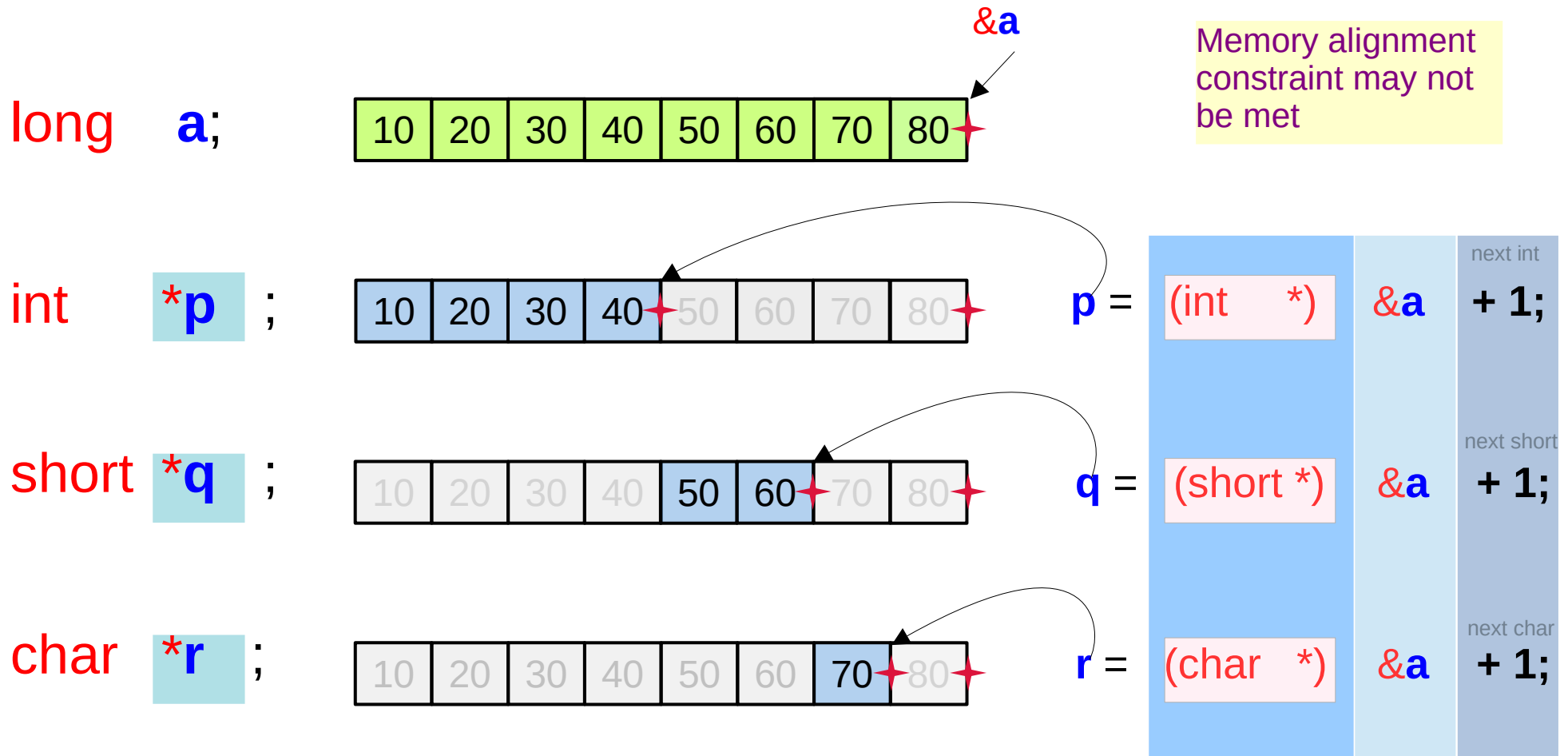
Re-interpretation of memory data – case I



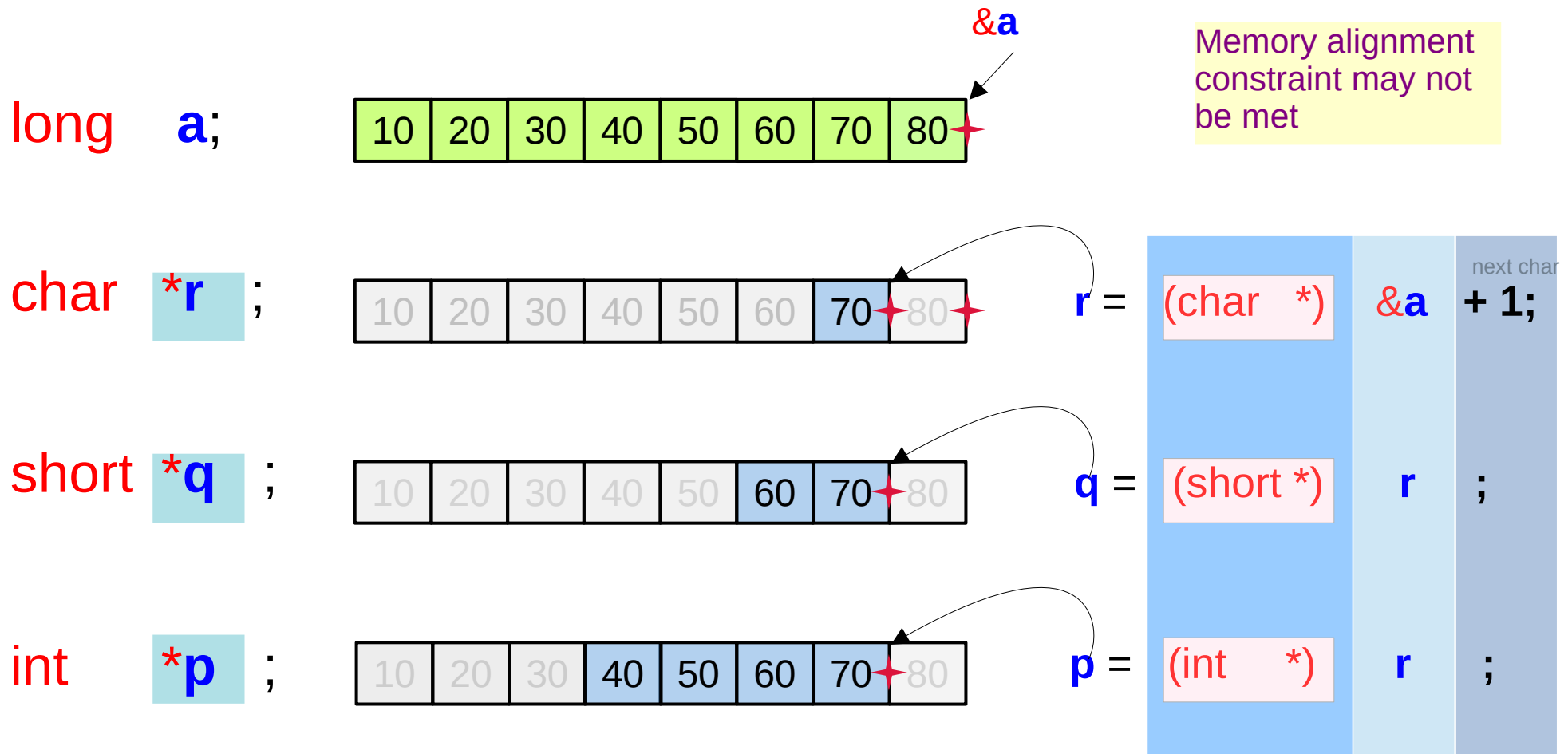
Re-interpretation of memory data – case I



Re-interpretation of memory data – case II



Re-interpretation of memory data – case III



const pointers

const type, const pointer type (1)

```
const int * p;
```

```
int * const q ;
```

```
const int * const r ;
```



```
int * p;
```

```
int * q ;
```

```
int * r ;
```



constant *must not be changed*
must not be updated
must not be written
must not be assigned

const type, const pointer type (2)

const int * p ;

constant integer

int * **const q** ;

constant pointer

const int * **const r** ;

constant integer

const int * **const r** ;

constant pointer

const []

group with the following

*p : constant integer value

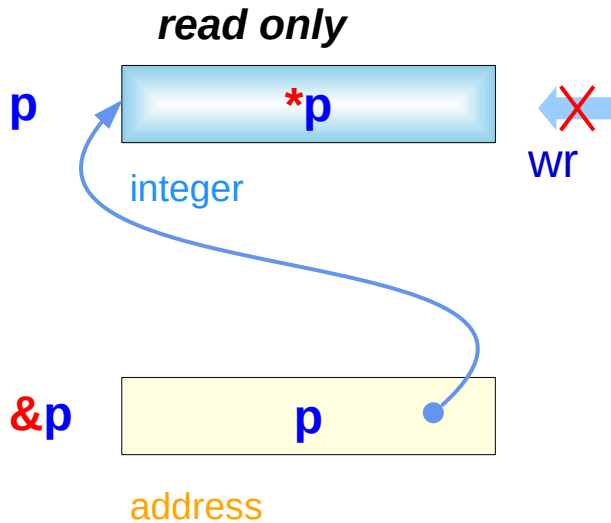
q : constant (int *) pointer

*r : constant integer value

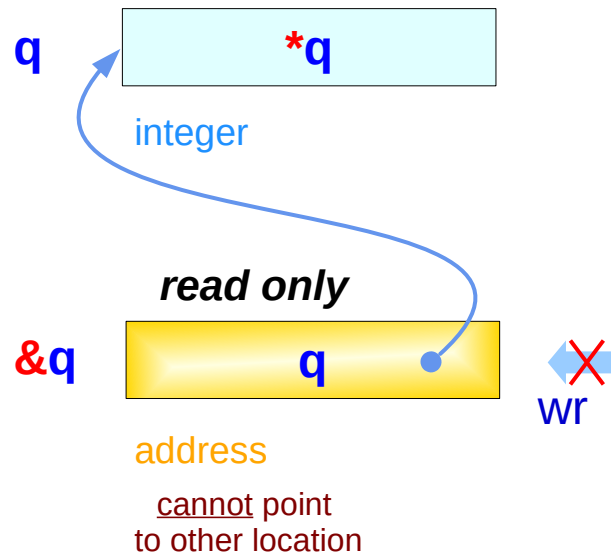
r : constant (int *) pointer

const type, const pointer type (3)

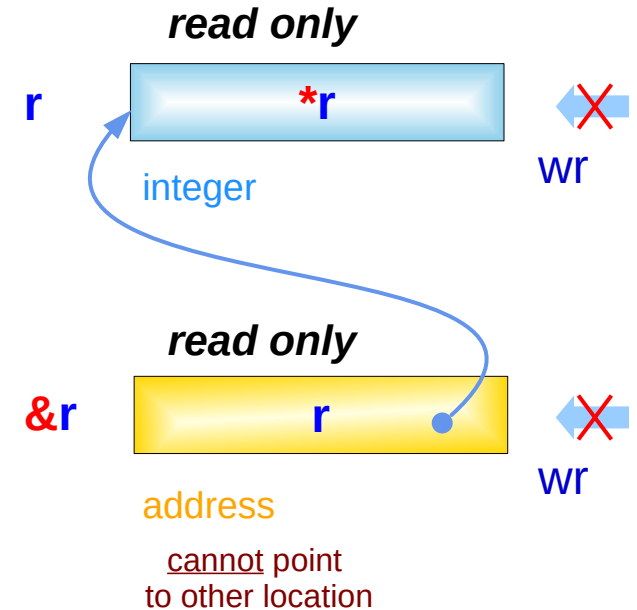
`const int *p;`



`int *const q;`



`const int *const r;`



const examples (1)

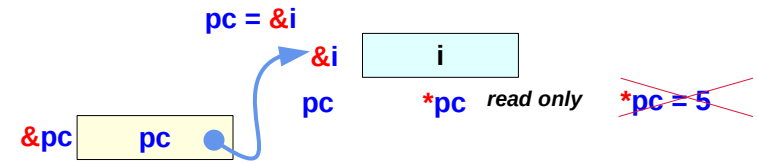
```
const int * pc;  
int * p, i;  
const int ic;
```

```
pc = &i; // (const int *) ← (int *)  
*pc = 5; // (const int) error
```

Writing to the writable memory location (i)
is forbidden via **pc** ... (no harm, OK)

```
p = &ic; // (int *) ← (const int *) warning  
*p = 5; // (int)
```

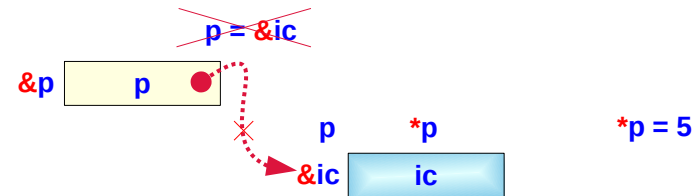
Writing to the read only memory location (ic)
is not forbidden via **p** ... (hazardous, not OK)



pc can point to **i**
***pc** must be **const**

the same memory location
that can be written via **i**
cannot be written via ***pc**

***pc** should not write
the writable memory location



Assume **p** points to **const ic**

the same memory location
that cannot be written via **ic**,
can be written via ***p**

thus ***p** can write
the **const** memory location

therefore, **p** should not point to **const ic**

C A Reference Manual, Harbison & Steele Jr.

const examples (2)

```
const int * pc;  
    int * p, i = 5;  
const int ic = 7;
```

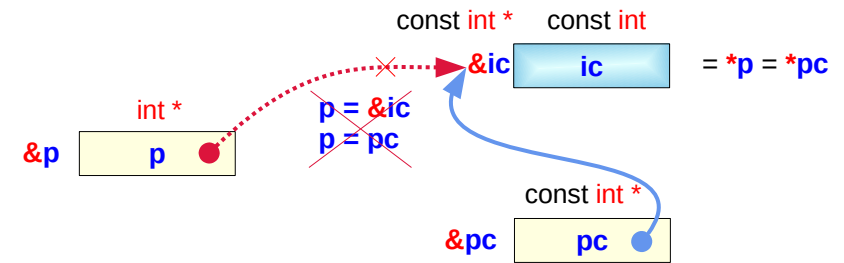
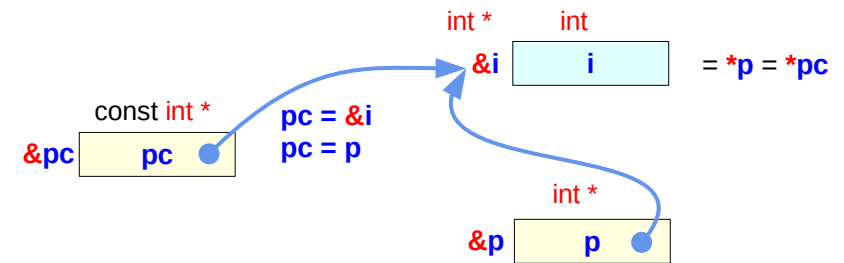
```
p = &i;  
pc = &ic
```

// more constrained type ← general type (O)

```
pc = &i; // (const int * ← int *)  
pc = p; // (const int * ← int *)
```

// general type ← more constrained type (X)

```
p = &ic; // (int * ← const int *) warning  
p = pc; // (int * ← const int *) warning
```



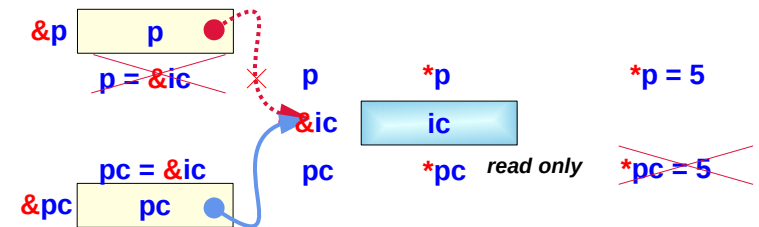
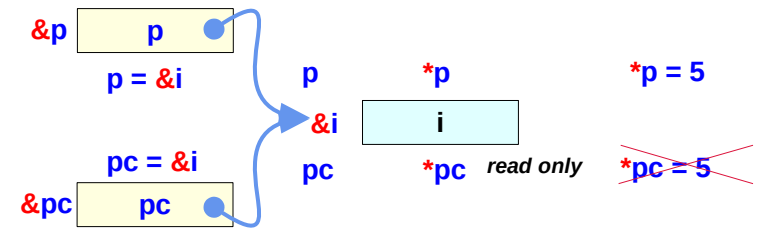
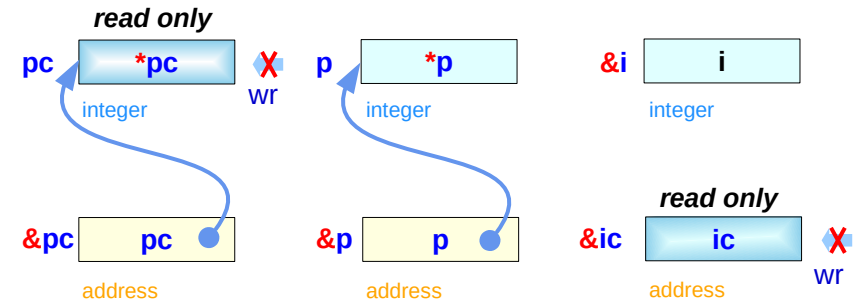
C A Reference Manual, Harbison & Steele Jr.

const examples (3)

```
const int * pc;
      int * p, i;
const int ic;
```

```
p = &i; // (int *) ← (int *)
*p = 5; // (int)
pc = &i; // (const int *) ← (int *)
*pc = 5; // (const int) error
```

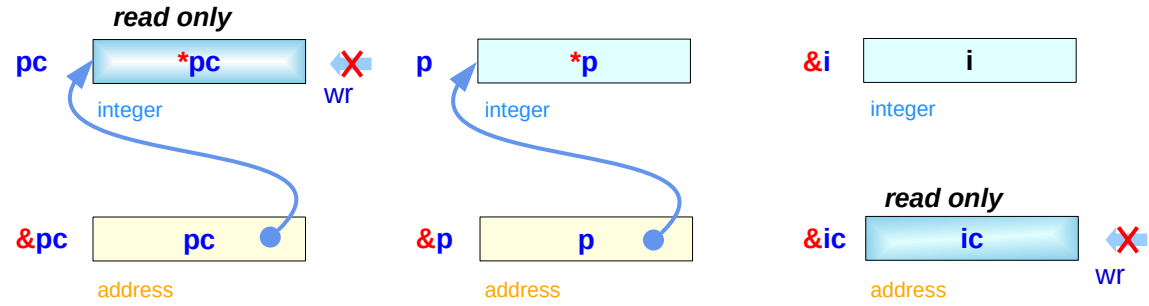
```
p = &ic; // (int *) ← (const int *) warning
*p = 5; // (int)
pc = &ic; // (const int *) ← (const int *)
*pc = 5; // (const int) error
```



C A Reference Manual, Harbison & Steele Jr.

const examples (4)

```
const int * pc;  
int * p, i;  
const int ic;
```



```
pc = p = &i;  
pc = &ic  
*p = 5;  
*pc = 5; // invalid *pc :: cons int
```

```
pc = &i; // (const int * ← int *)  
pc = p; // (const int * ← int *)  
p = &ic; // invalid (int * ← const int *)  
p = pc; // invalid (int * ← const int *)  
p = (int *) &ic; // type cast  
p = (int *) pc; // type cast
```

C A Reference Manual, Harbison & Steele Jr.

References

- [1] Essential C, Nick Parlante
- [2] Efficient C Programming, Mark A. Weiss
- [3] C A Reference Manual, Samuel P. Harbison & Guy L. Steele Jr.
- [4] C Language Express, I. K. Chun