

# Applications of Array Pointers (1A)

---

Copyright (c) 2010 - 2018 Young W. Lim.

Permission is granted to copy, distribute and/or modify this document under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later version published by the Free Software Foundation; with no Invariant Sections, no Front-Cover Texts, and no Back-Cover Texts. A copy of the license is included in the section entitled "GNU Free Documentation License".

Please send corrections (or suggestions) to [youngwlim@hotmail.com](mailto:youngwlim@hotmail.com).  
This document was produced by using LibreOffice.

---

# Pointer to Multi-dimensional Arrays

# Integer pointer types

`(int **)`

a pointer to a **integer pointer**  
size = 8 bytes

`(int *)`

a pointer to an **int**  
size = 8 bytes

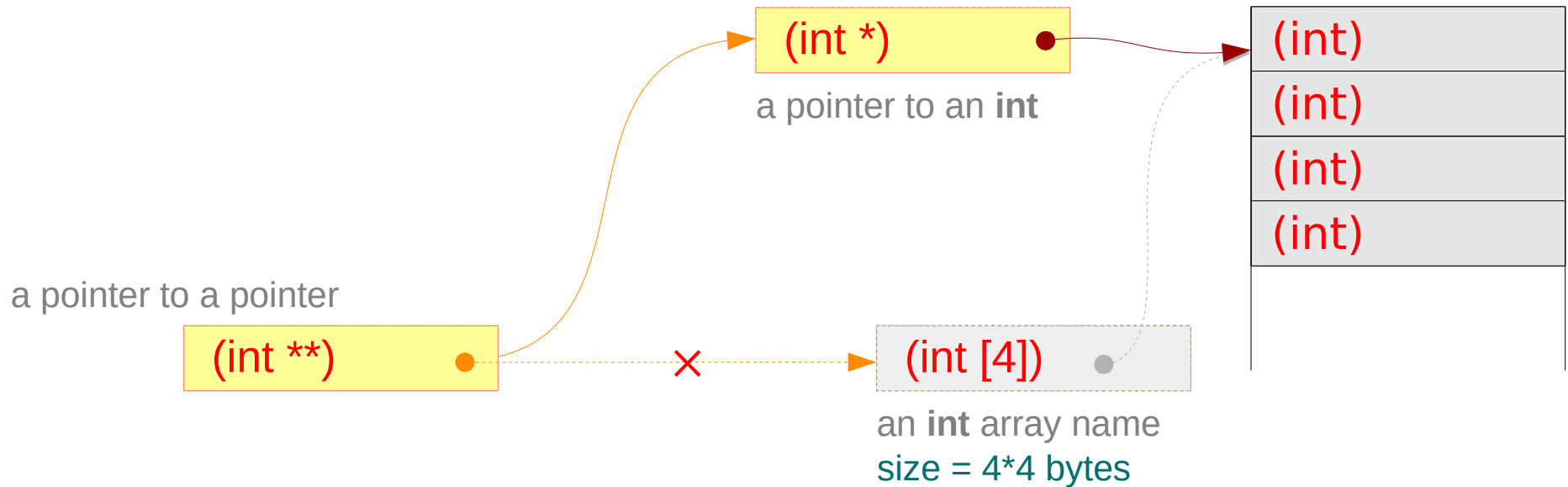
`(int (*)[4])`

a pointer to a **1-d array**  
size = 8 bytes

`(int [4])`

an **int array name**  
size = 4\*4 bytes

# Integer pointer type : (int \*\*)

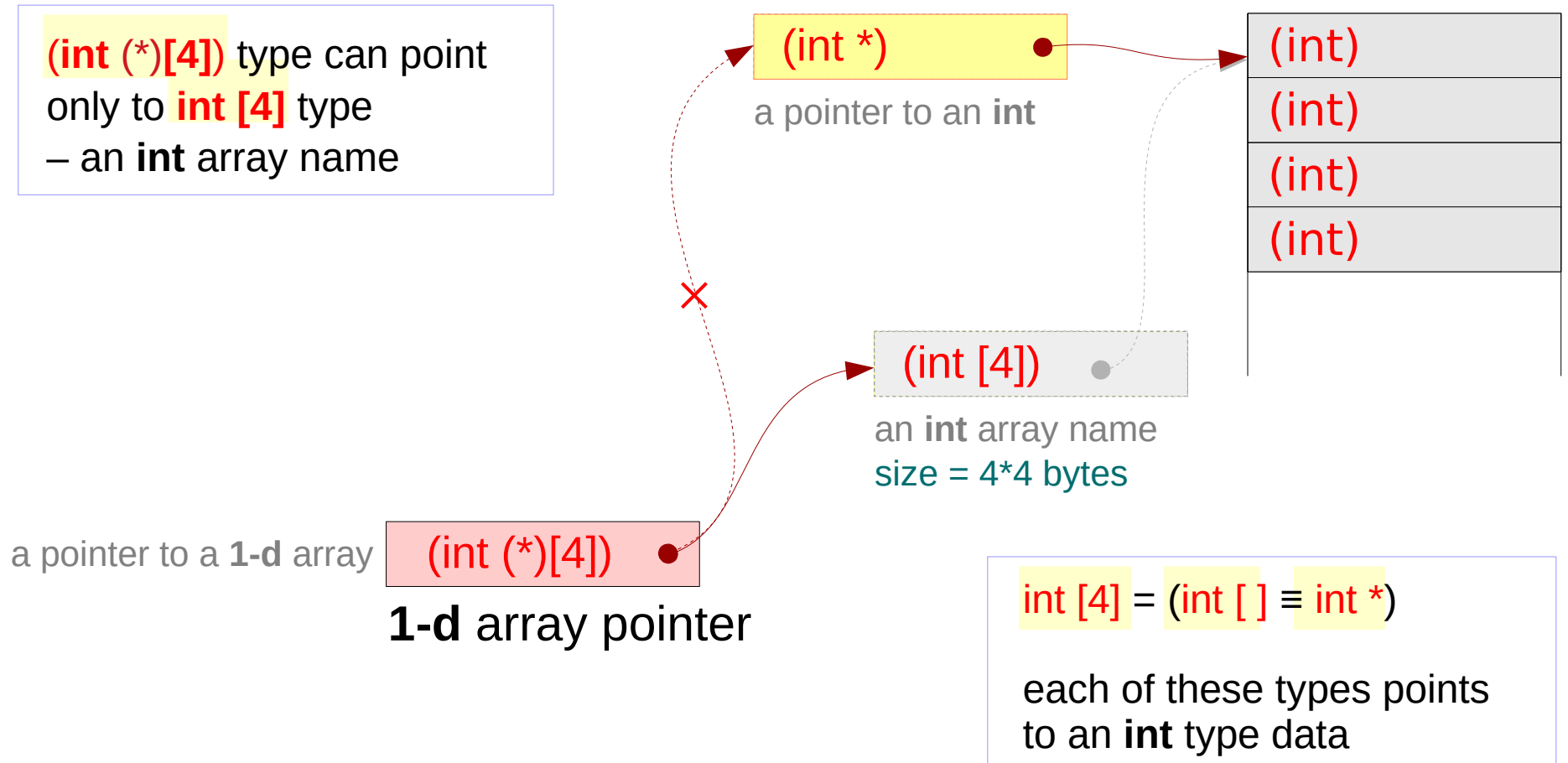


(int \*\*) type can point only to (int \*) type  
– an int array name

int [4] = (int []) ≡ int \*

each of these types points to an int type data

# Integer pointer type : (int (\*)(4))



# Integer pointer types

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

```
void func(int d[])
```

```
{
```

```
}
```

```
int main(void) {
```

```
    int a[4];
```

```
    int *b;
```

```
    int **c;
```

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

```
    func(a);
```

```
}
```

```
    sizeof(a)=16      // array size
```

```
    sizeof(*a)=4     // int size
```

```
    sizeof(b)=8      // pointer size
```

```
    sizeof(*b)=4     // int size
```

```
    sizeof(c)=8      // pointer size
```

```
    sizeof(*c)=8     // pointer size
```

```
    sizeof(d)=8      // pointer size
```

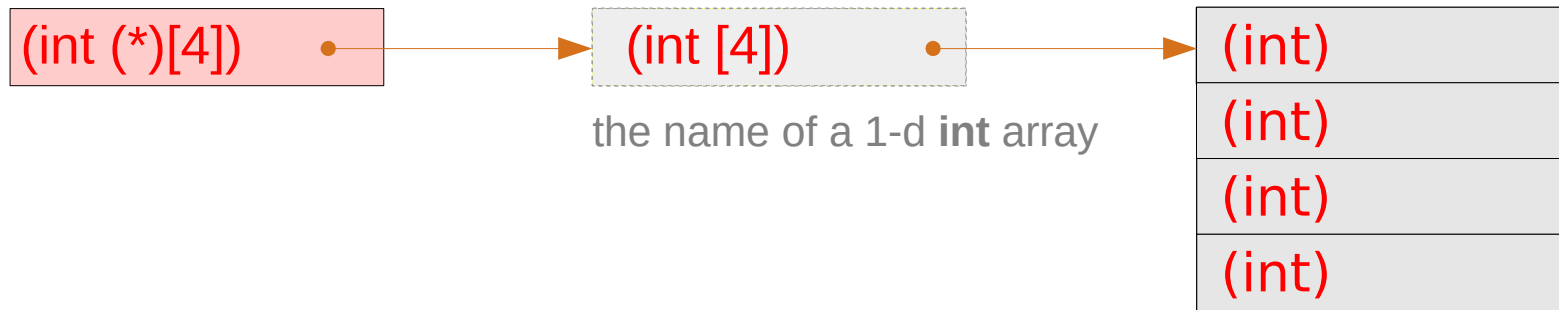
```
    sizeof(*d)=4     // int size
```

```
    sizeof(p)=8      // pointer size
```

```
    sizeof(*p)=16    // array size
```

# a **1-d** array pointer – a type view

a pointer to a 1-d array

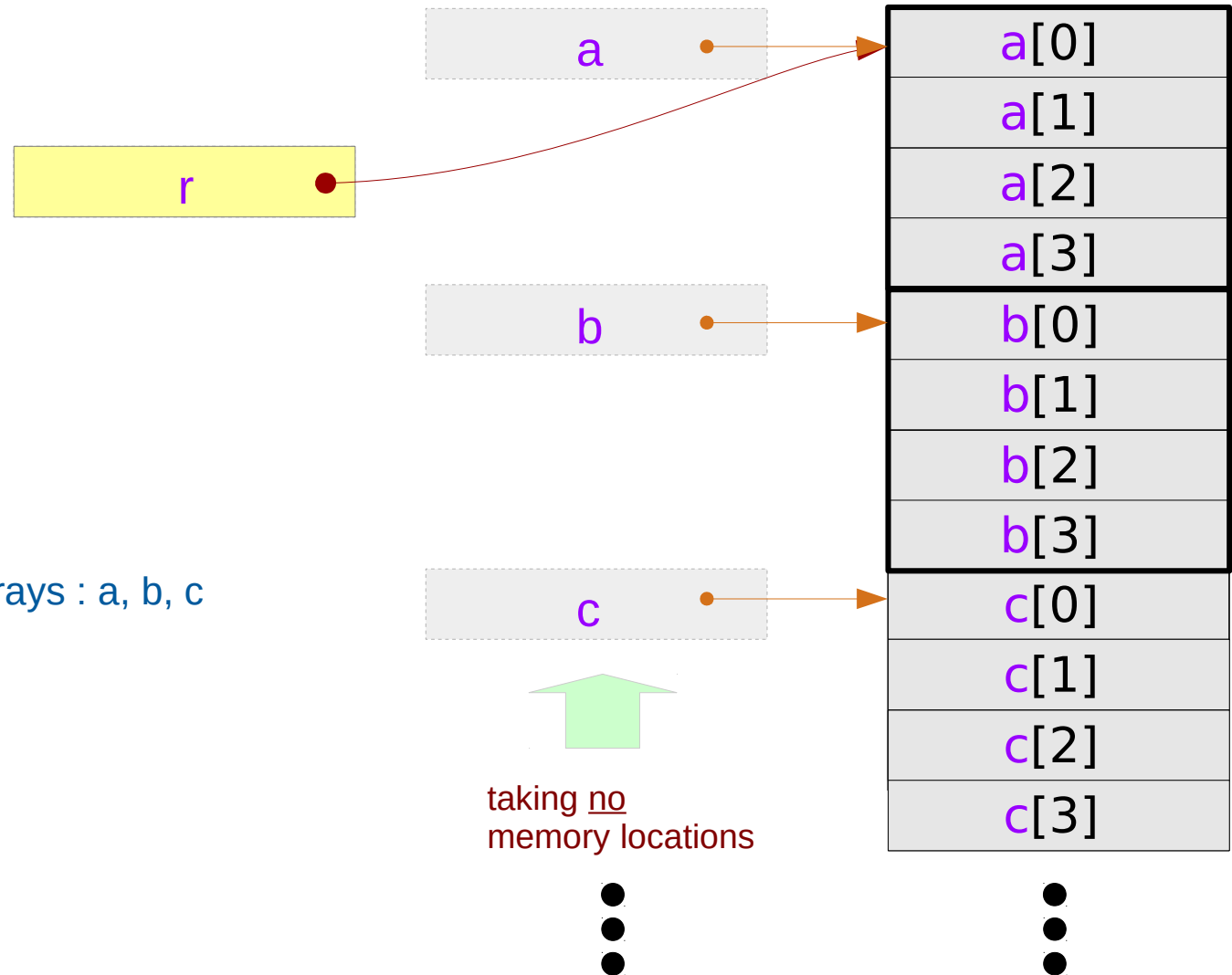




# Contiguous 1-d arrays a, b, c

```
int a[4]; int (*r);  
int b[4];  
int c[4];
```

assume contiguous 1-d arrays : a, b, c



# Assigning series of array pointers

```
int a[4];  
int b[4];  
int c[4];
```

```
int (*p1)[4];  
int (*p2)[4];  
int (*p3)[4];
```

```
int (*r);
```

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

assignment

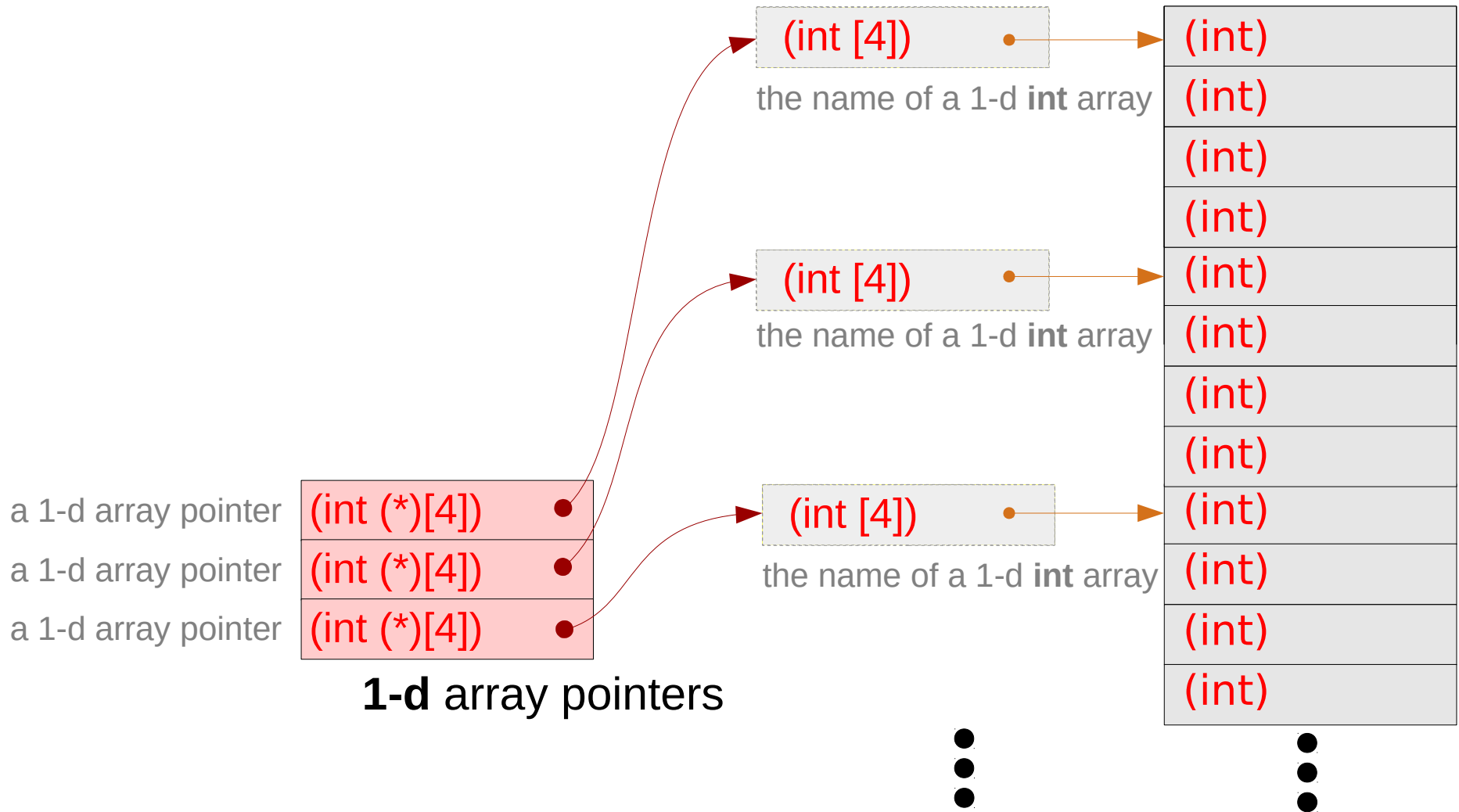
```
p1 = &a  
p2 = &b  
p3 = &c
```



equivalence

```
(*p1) ≡ p1[0] ≡ a  
(*p2) ≡ p2[0] ≡ b  
(*p3) ≡ p3[0] ≡ c
```

# Series of array pointers – a type view



# Series of array pointers – array pointers p1, p2, p3

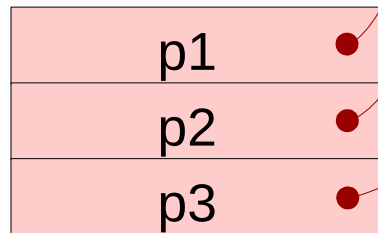
```
int (*p1)[4];  
int (*p2)[4];  
int (*p3)[4];
```

assignment

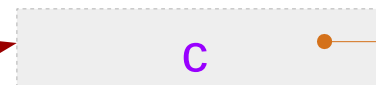
```
p1 = &a  
p2 = &b  
p3 = &c
```

## 1-d array pointers

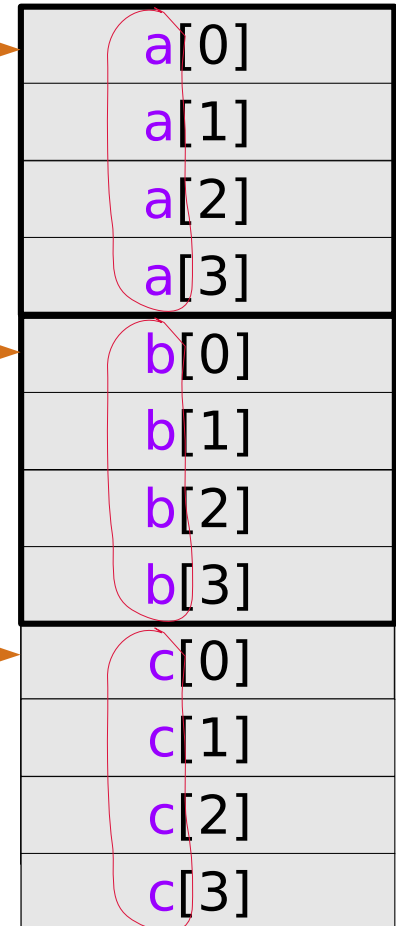
a 1-d array pointer  
a 1-d array pointer  
a 1-d array pointer



assume that array  
p1, p2, and p3 are  
contiguous



taking no  
memory locations



assume that array  
a, b, and c are  
contiguous

# Series of array pointers – 1-d arrays via p1, p2, p3

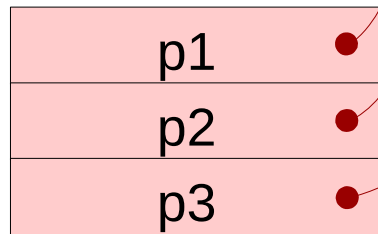
assignment

p1 = &a  
p2 = &b  
p3 = &c

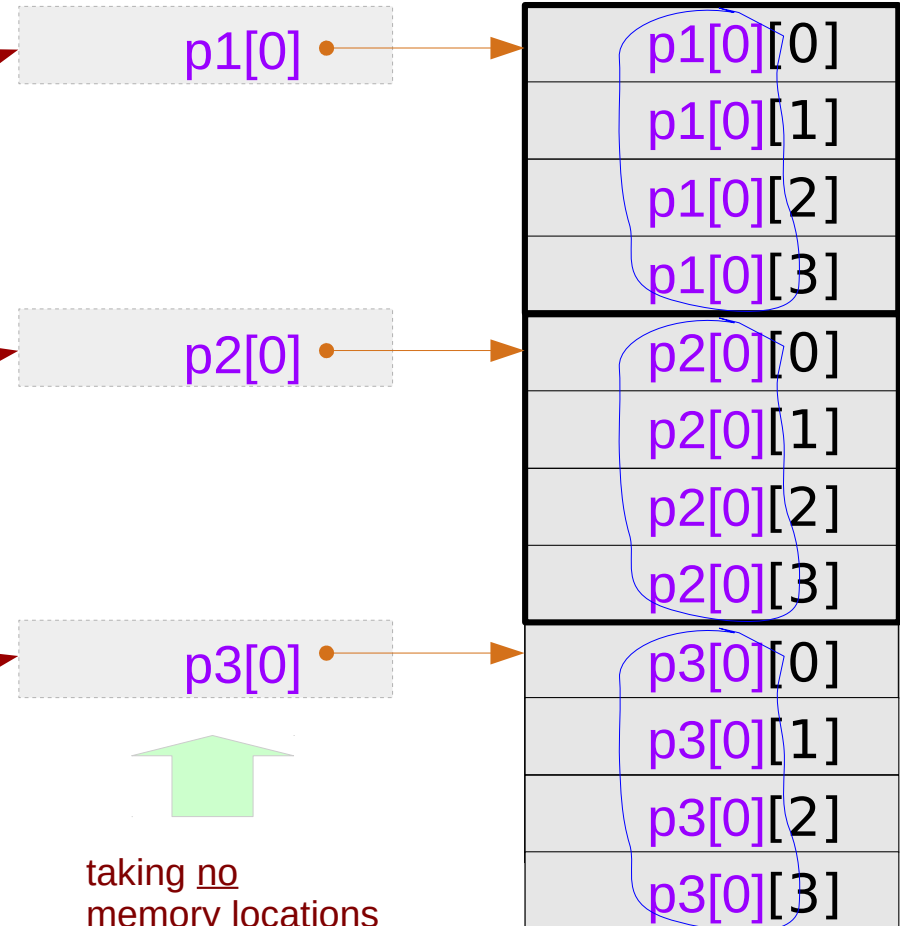
equivalence

(\*p1) ≡ p1[0] ≡ a  
(\*p2) ≡ p2[0] ≡ b  
(\*p3) ≡ p3[0] ≡ c

a 1-d array pointer  
a 1-d array pointer  
a 1-d array pointer



**1-d array pointers**



assume that array  
a, b, and c are  
contiguous

# Series of array pointers – use **p** instead of **p1**, **p2**, **p3**

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

assignment

```
p = &a
```

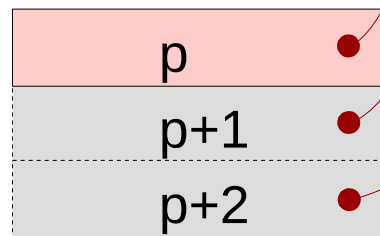
equivalence

```
(*p) ≡ p[0] ≡ a
```

a 1-d array pointer

a 1-d array pointer

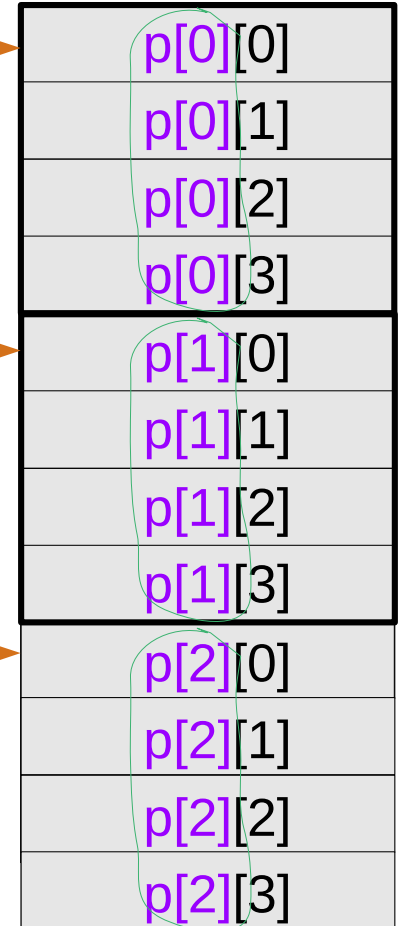
a 1-d array pointer



**1-d** array pointers



taking no  
memory locations

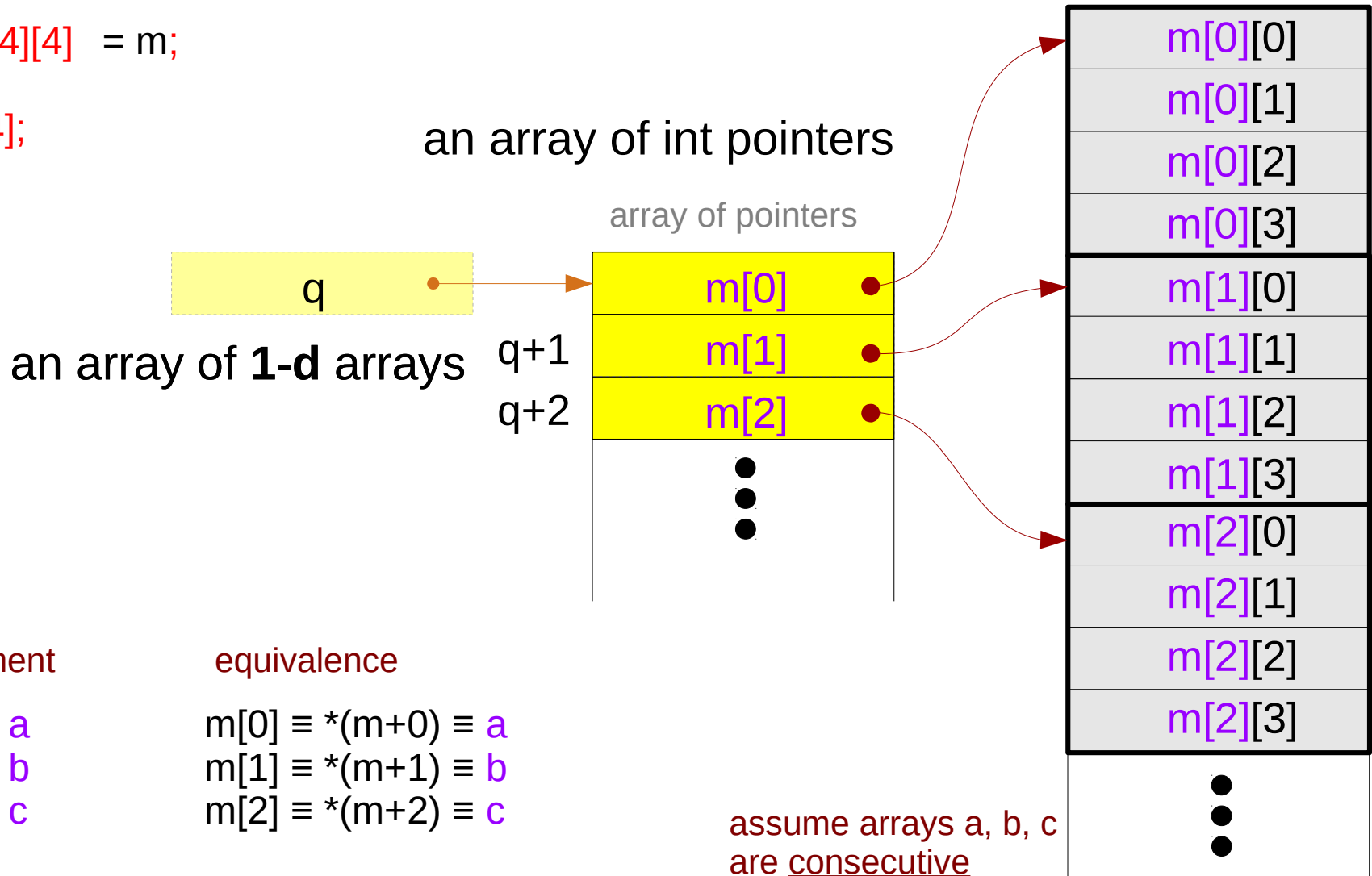


assume that array  
a, b, and c are  
contiguous

# Series of array pointers – use **m** and **q**

```
int (*q)[4][4] = m;
```

```
int *m[4];
```



# 1-d array pointer to consecutive 1-d arrays

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

a pointer to a pointer array



**1-d** array pointer

assignment

```
p = &a
```

equivalence

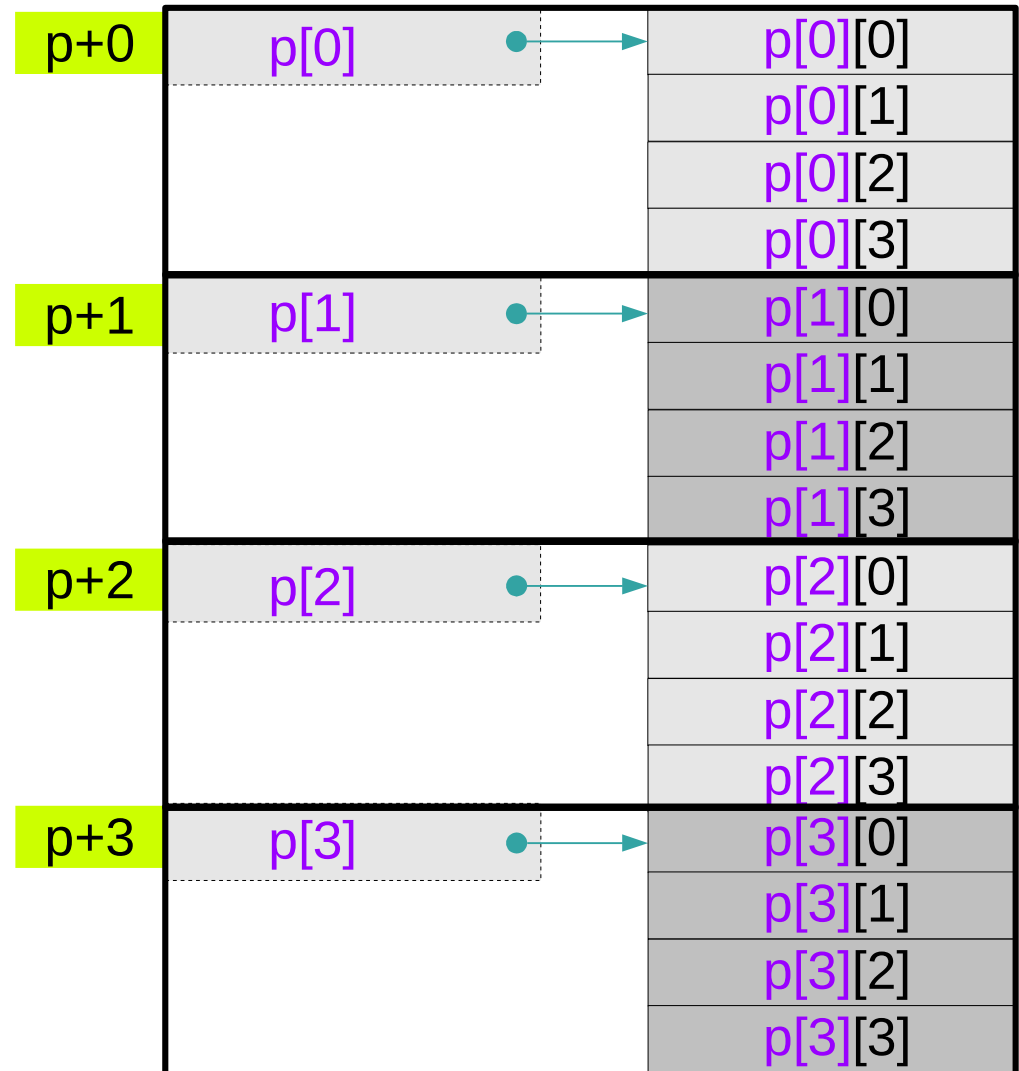
```
*(p+0) ≡ p[0] ≡ a
```

```
*(p+1) ≡ p[1] ≡ b
```

```
*(p+2) ≡ p[2] ≡ c
```

```
*(p+2) ≡ p[2] ≡ d
```

if arrays a, b, c, d  
are consecutive





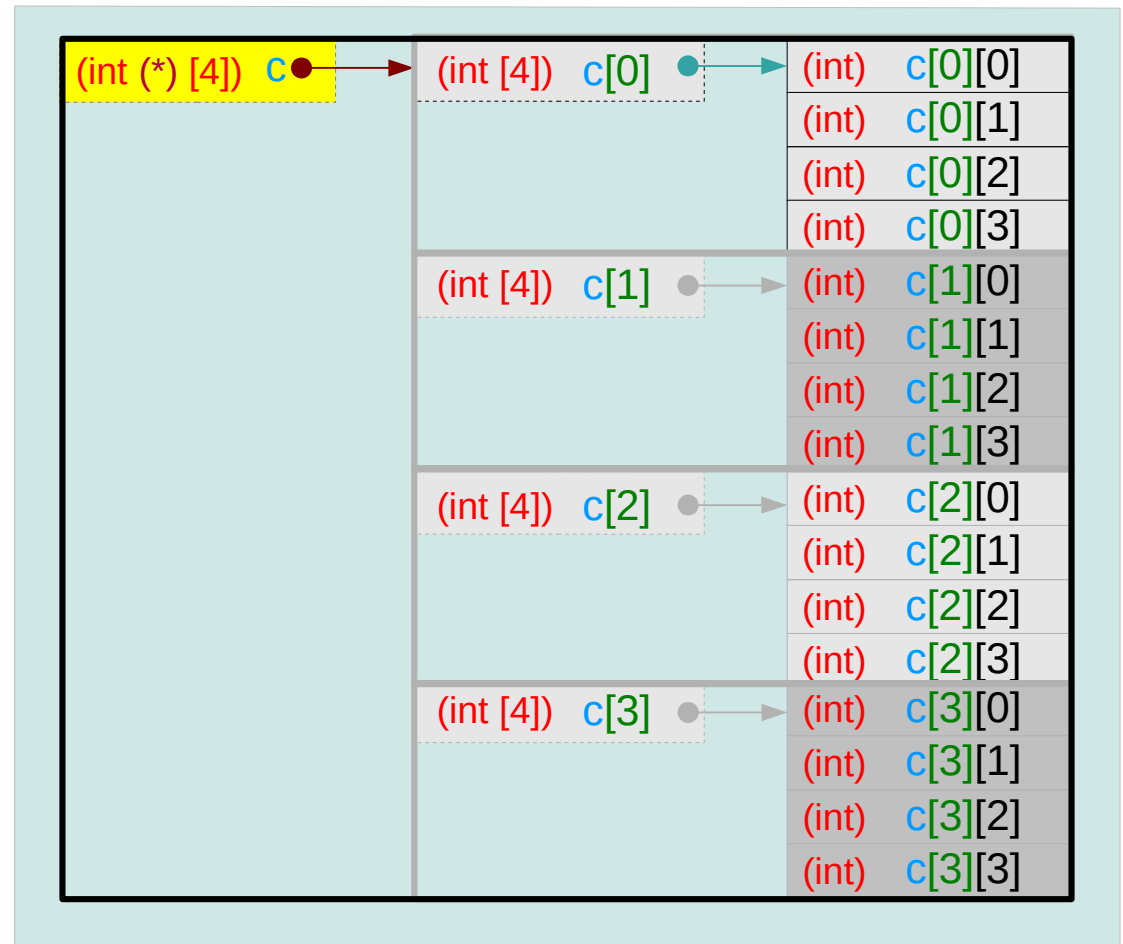
# A 2-d array and its sub-arrays – array name

```
int c[4][4];
```

**c** :

- the **2-d** array name
- the **2-d** array starting address
- the **1-d** array pointer  
points to its **1<sup>st</sup>** **1-d** sub-array

compilers do not allocate  
**c**'s memory location



# A 2-d array and its sub-arrays – subarray names

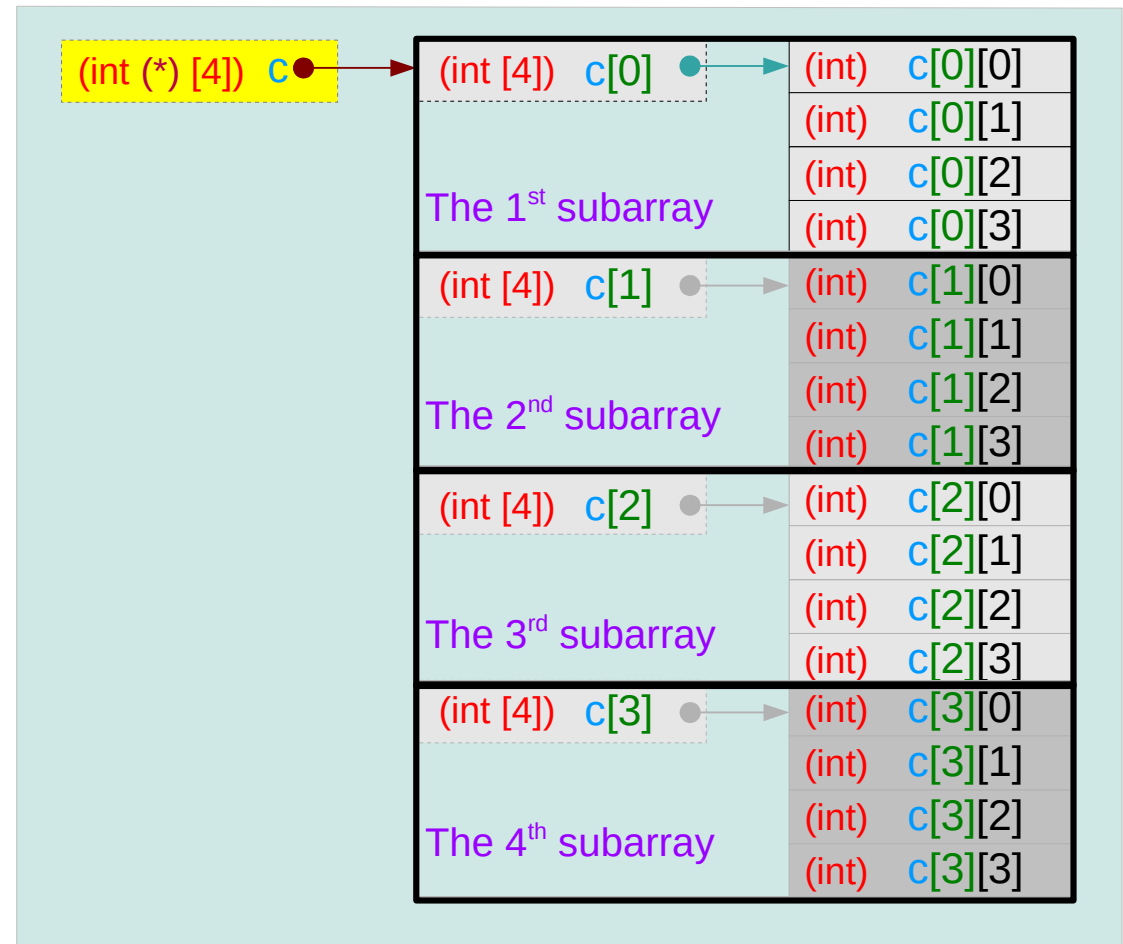
```
int c[4][4];
```

**c[i]**

- the **1-d array name**
- the **1-d array starting address**
- the **0-d array pointer**  
points to its scalar integer

**c[0]** the 1<sup>st</sup> **1-d** subarray name  
**c[1]** the 2<sup>nd</sup> **1-d** subarray name  
**c[2]** the 3<sup>rd</sup> **1-d** subarray name  
**c[3]** the 4<sup>th</sup> **1-d** subarray name

compilers do not allocate  
**c[i]**'s memory location



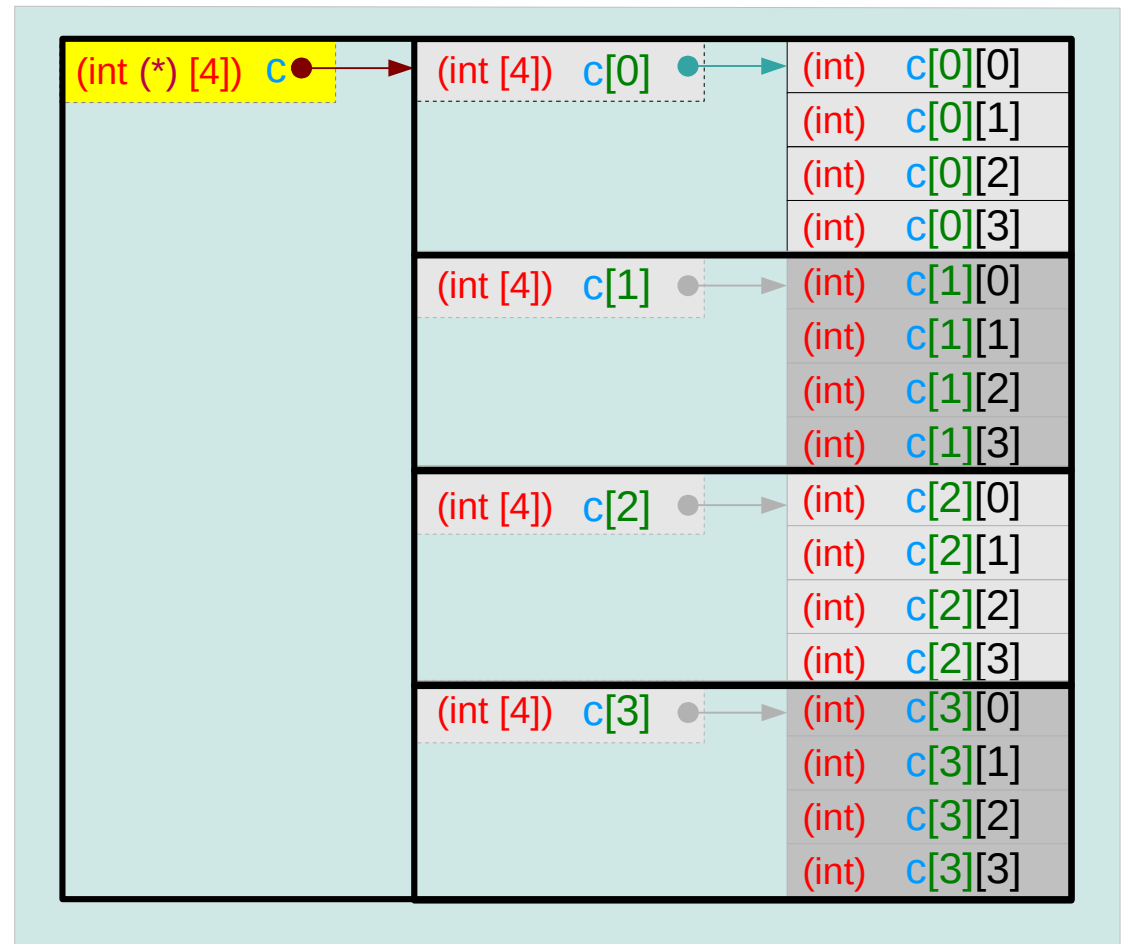
# A 2-d array and its sub-arrays – type sizes

**sizeof(c)** = 4\*4\*4 bytes

**sizeof(c[i])** = 4\*4 bytes

**sizeof(c[i][j])** = 4 bytes

**c** : the **2-d** array name  
**c[i]** : the **1-d** array name  
**c[i][j]** : the **0-d** array name  
(a scalar integer)



# A 2-d array and its 1-d sub-arrays – a type view

2-d array name `c`      `int (*) [4]`

1-d array pointer `c`    `int (*) [4]`

1-d subarray name `c[0]`    `int [4]`

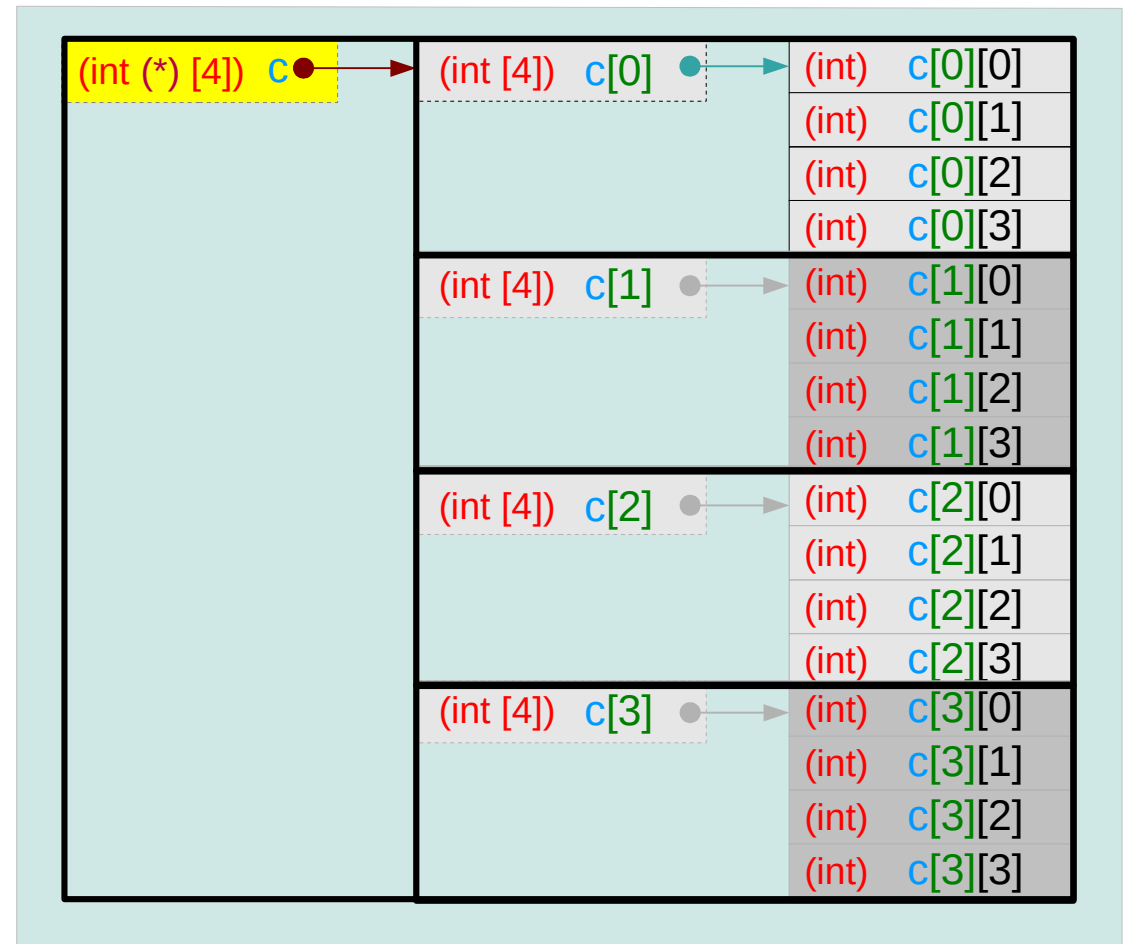
1-d subarray name `c[1]`    `int [4]`

1-d subarray name `c[2]`    `int [4]`

1-d subarray name `c[3]`    `int [4]`

`c` and `c[0]`

- different types
- the same address of the starting element



# 1-d subarray aggregated data type

The 1<sup>st</sup> subarray **c[0]** (=subarray name)

sizeof(**c[0]**) = 4\*4 bytes

(**c+0**) : start address

The 2<sup>nd</sup> subarray **c[1]** (=subarray name)

sizeof(**c[1]**) = 4\*4 bytes

(**c+1**) : start address

The 3<sup>rd</sup> subarray **c[2]** (=subarray name)

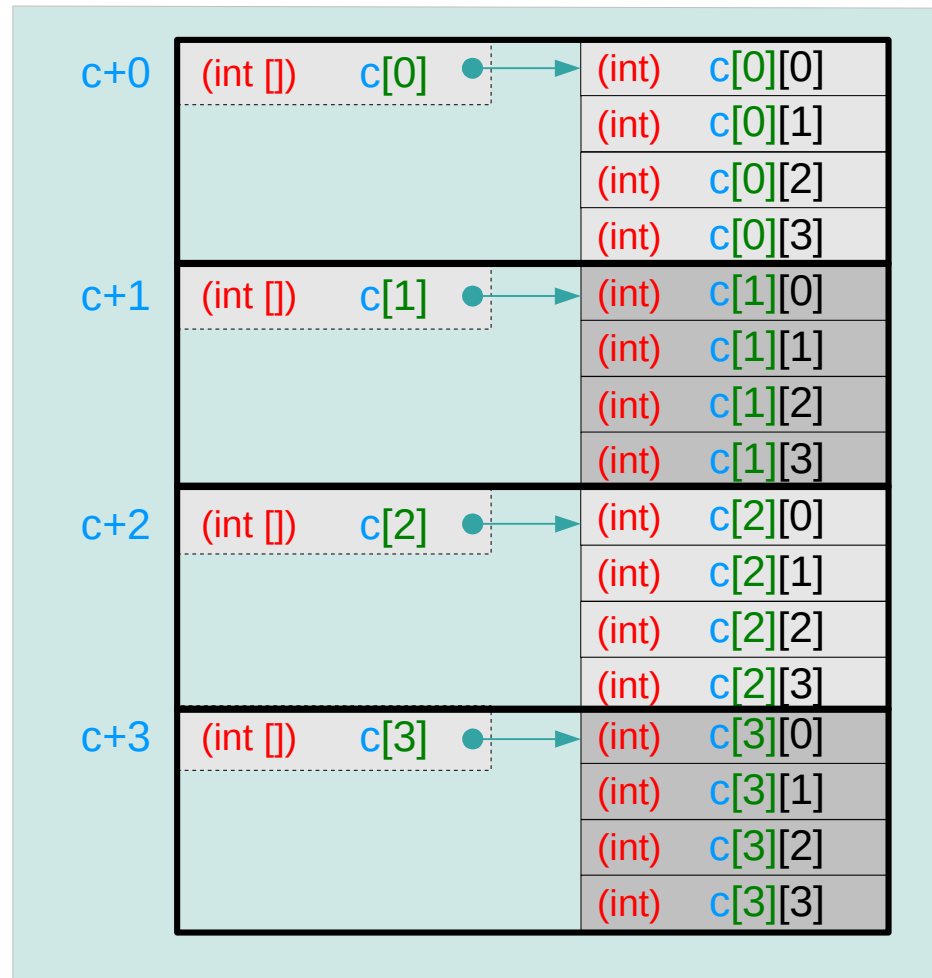
sizeof(**c[2]**) = 4\*4 bytes

(**c+2**) : start address

The 4<sup>th</sup> subarray **c[3]** (=subarray name)

sizeof(**c[3]**) = 4\*4 bytes

(**c+3**) : start address



# 2-d array name as a pointer to a 1-d subarray

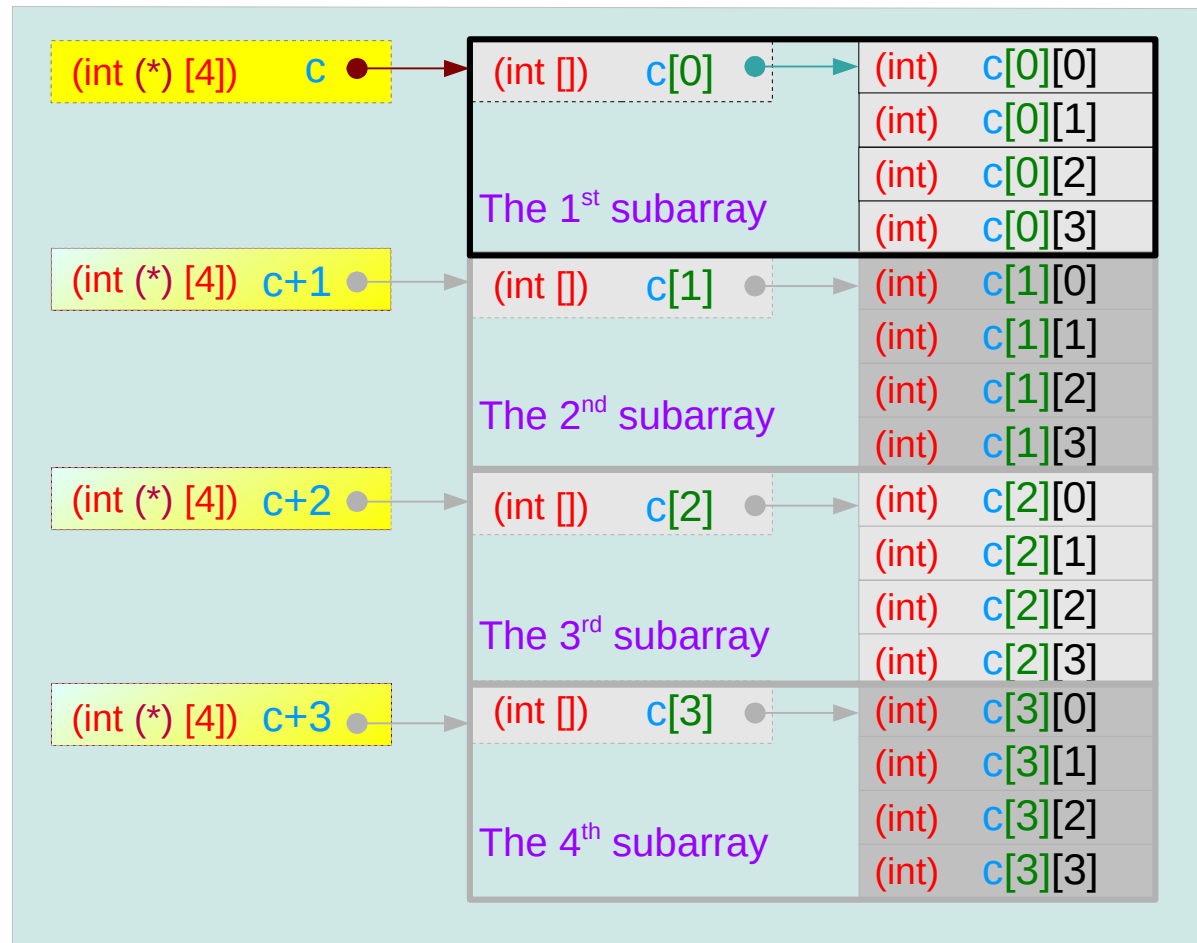
2-d array name **c**

1-d array pointer **c**

1-d array pointer **c+1**

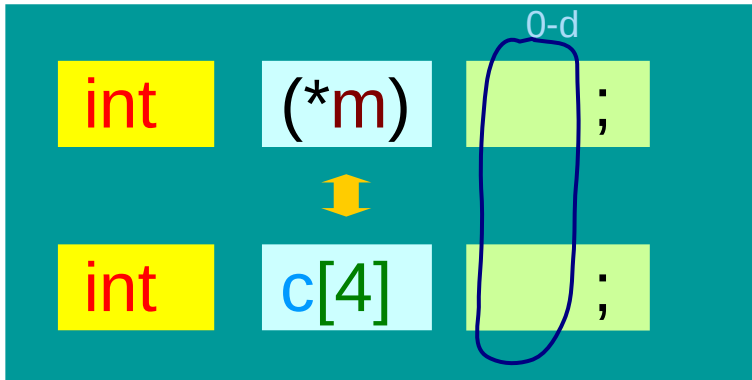
1-d array pointer **c+2**

1-d array pointer **c+3**



# 1-d array and 0-d and 1-d array pointers

0-d array pointer : int pointer



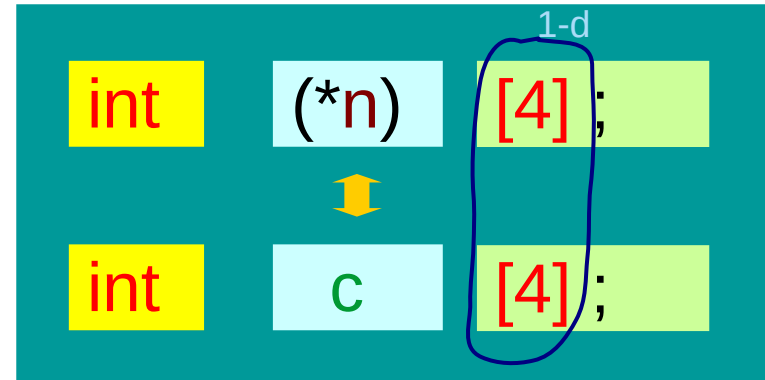
(int (\*))

```
m = c;
```

```
m = &c[0];
```

$m[i] \equiv c[i]$

1-d array pointer



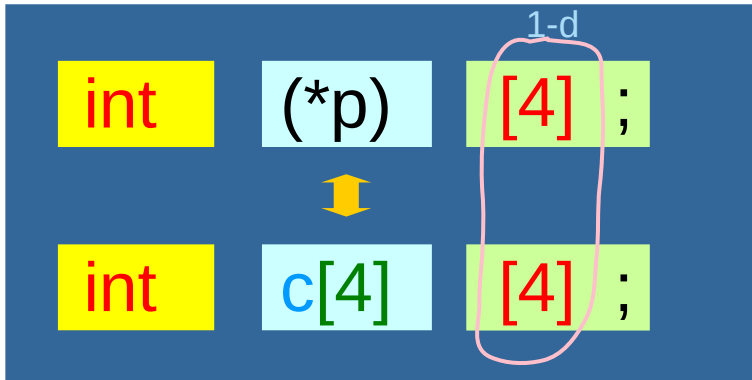
(int(\*)[4])

```
n = &c;
```

$(*n)[i] \equiv n[0][i] \equiv c[i]$

# 2-d array and 1-d and 2-d array pointers

## 1-d array pointer



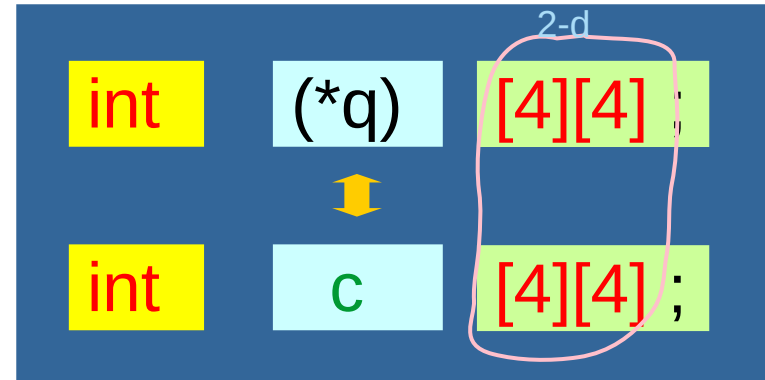
(int (\*) [4])

```
p = c;
```

```
p = &c[0];
```

$p[i] \equiv c[i]$

## 2-d array pointer



(int(\*)[4][4])

```
q = &c;
```

$(*q)[i][j] \equiv q[0][i][j] \equiv c[i][j]$



# 1-d array pointer to the 1-d subarray of a 2-d array

## 1-d array pointer

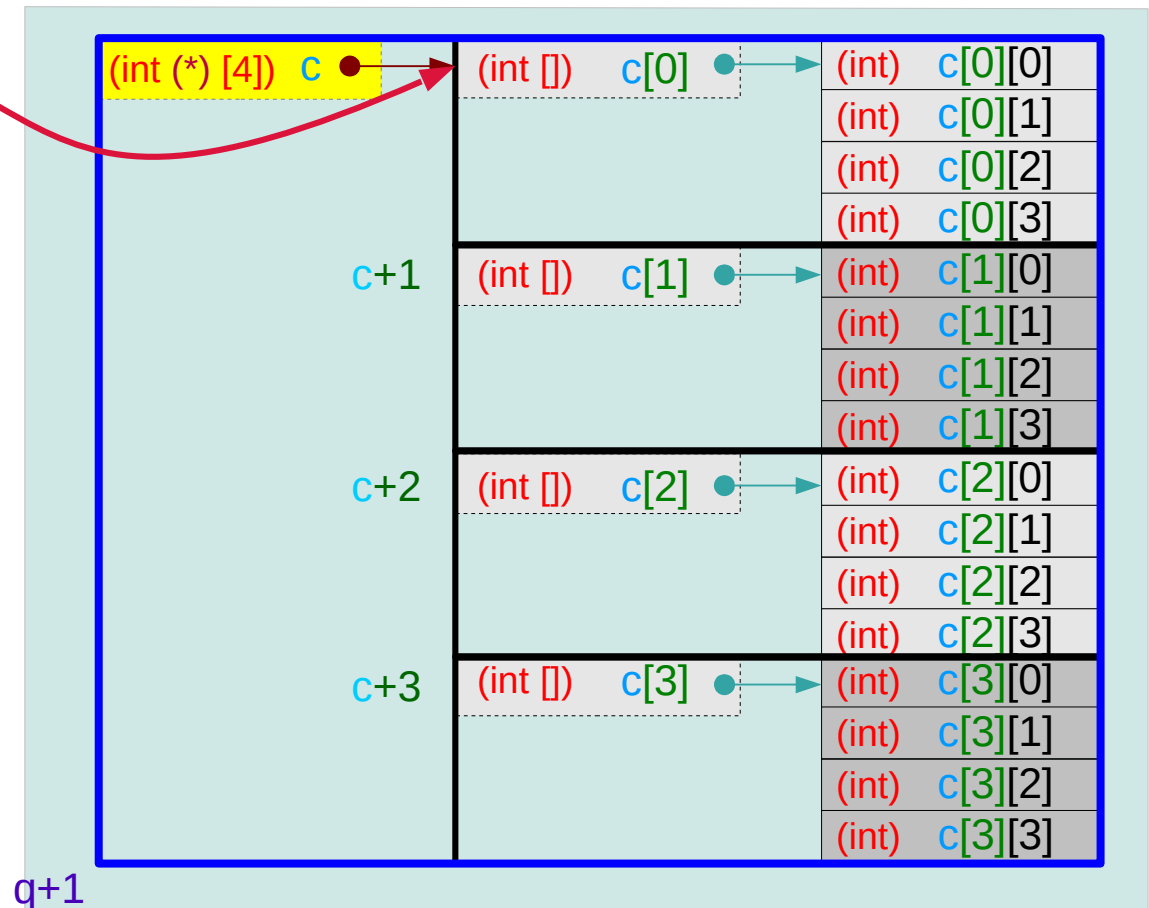
&p (int (\*) [4]) p ●

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

```
p = c;
```

An array pointer:  
sizeof(p) = 8 bytes

1-d sub-arrays :  
sizeof(\*p) = 4\*4 bytes



# 2-d array pointer to a 2-d array

## 2-d array pointer

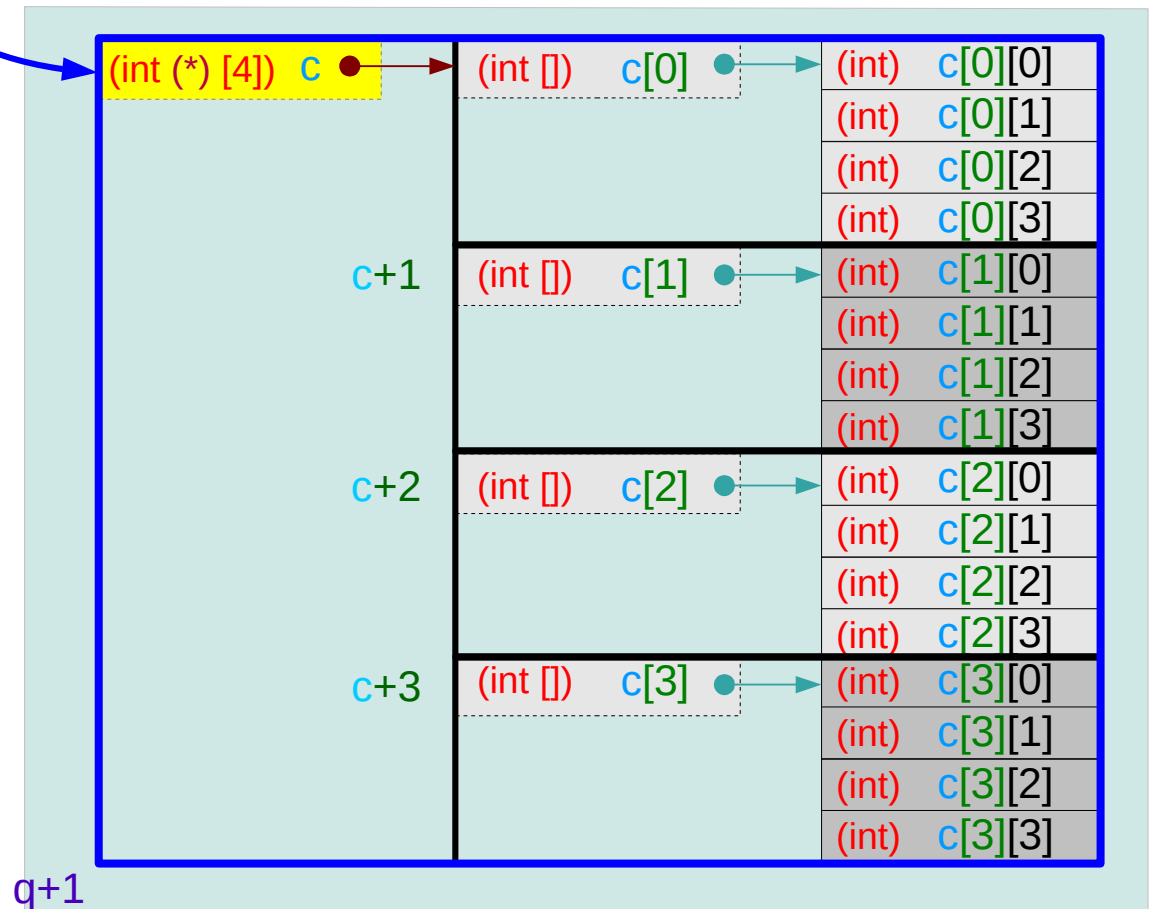
`&q` `(int(*)[4][4]` `q`

```
int (*q)[4][4] = &c;
```

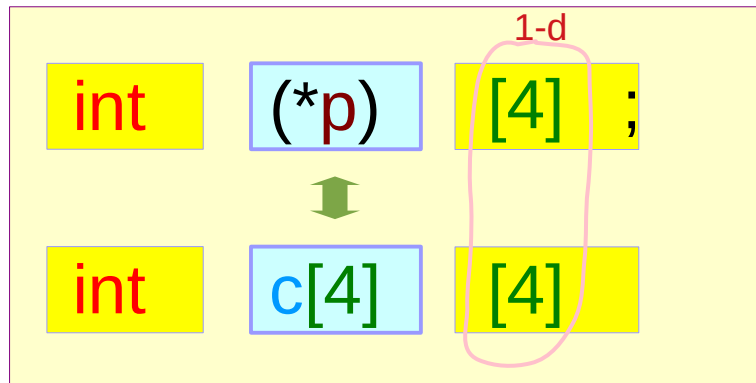
```
q = &c;
```

An array pointer:  
`sizeof(q)` = 8 bytes

1-d sub-arrays :  
`sizeof(*q)` = 4\*4\*4 bytes



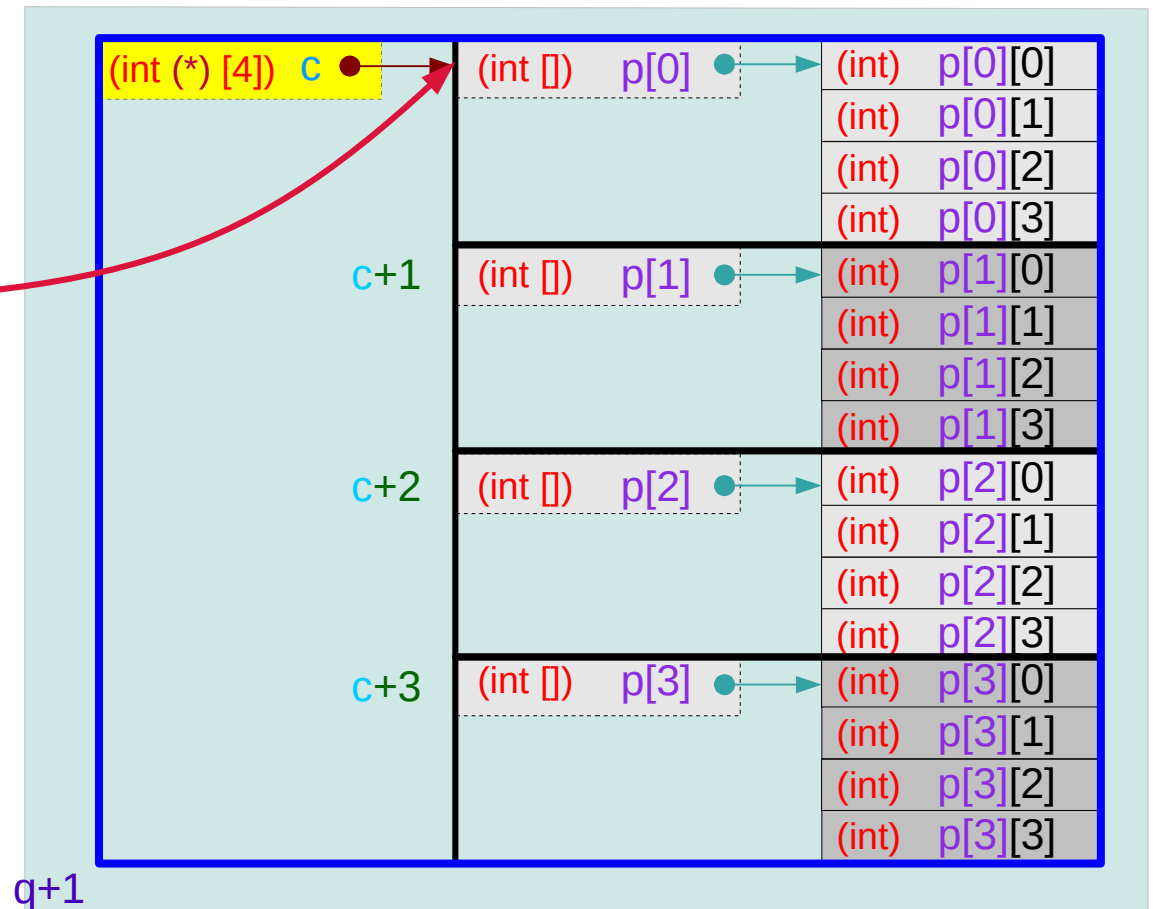
# Using a 1-d array pointer to a 2-d array



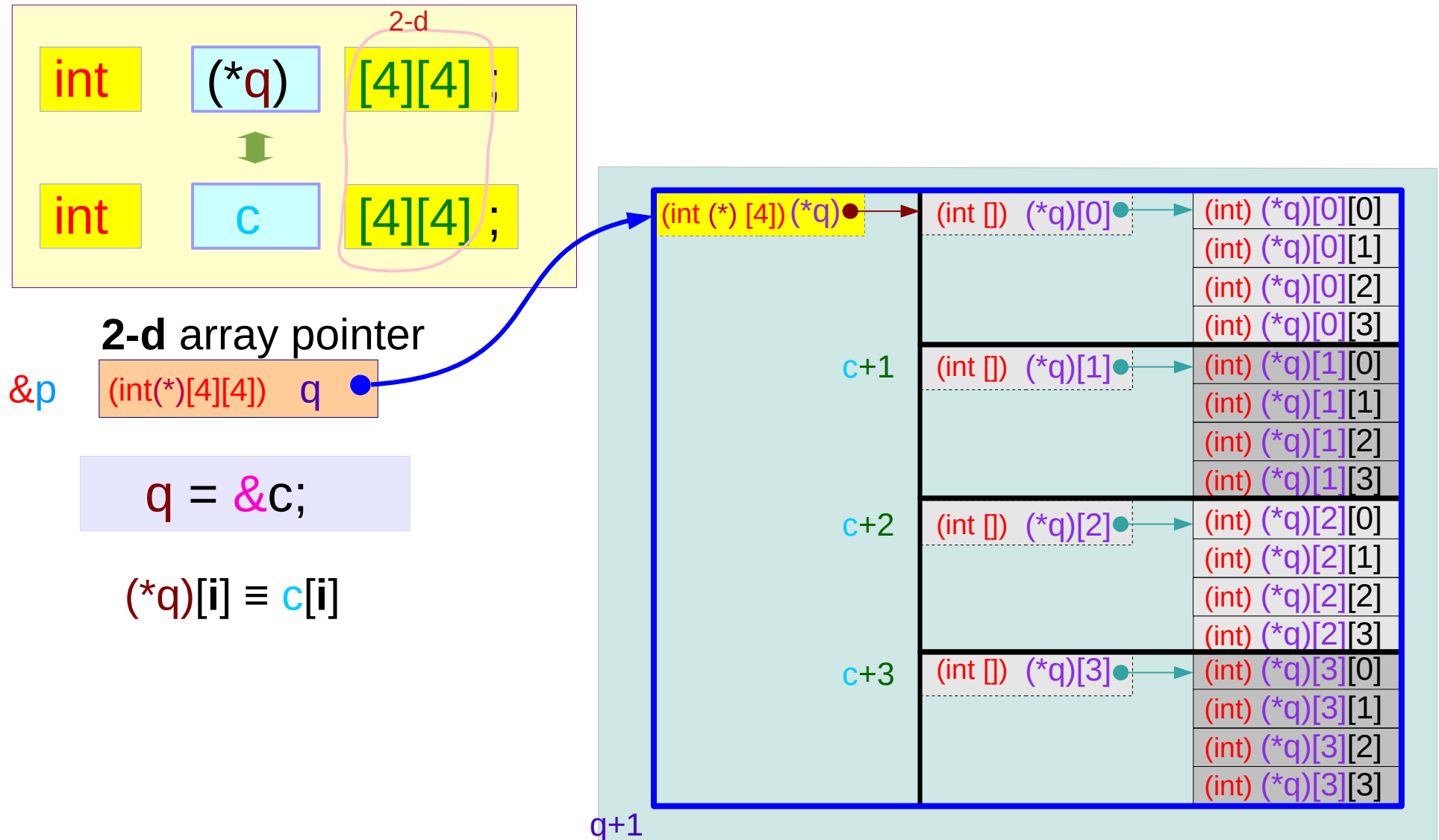
**1-d array pointer**  
&p (int (\*) [4]) p ●

p = c;

p[i] ≡ c[i]



# Using a 2-d array pointer to a 2-d array



## $(n-1)$ -d array pointer to a $n$ -d array

<code>int a[4];</code>	<b>1-d</b> array	
<code>int (*p);</code>	<b>0-d</b> array pointer	(p = a)

<code>int b[4][2];</code>	<b>2-d</b> array	
<code>int (*q)[2];</code>	<b>1-d</b> array pointer	(q = b)

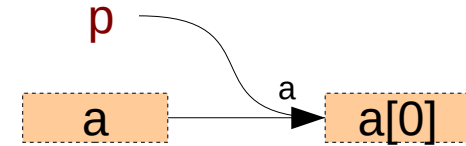
<code>int c[4][2][3];</code>	<b>3-d</b> array	
<code>int (*r)[2][3];</code>	<b>2-d</b> array pointer	(r = c)

<code>int d[4][2][3][4];</code>	<b>4-d</b> array	
<code>int (*s)[2][3][4];</code>	<b>3-d</b> array pointer	(s = d)

# $n$ -d array name and $(n-1)$ -d array pointer

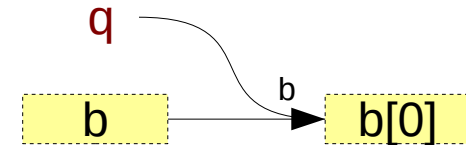
```
int a[4];  
int (*p);
```

```
p = &a[0];  
p = a;
```



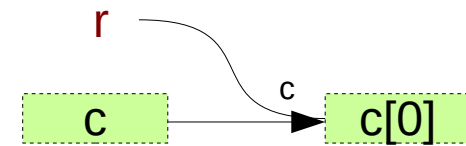
```
int b[4][2];  
int (*q)[2];
```

```
q = &b[0];  
q = b;
```



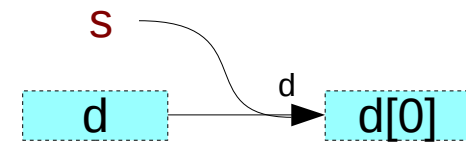
```
int c[4][2][3];  
int (*r)[2][3];
```

```
r = &c[0];  
r = c;
```



```
int d[4][2][3][4];  
int (*s)[2][3][4];
```

```
s = &d[0];  
s = d;
```



# *n*-d array pointer to a *n*-d array

`int a [4] ;`                    **1-d** array  
`int (*p) [4];`                **1-d** array pointer        (`p = &a`)

`int b [4][2];`                **2-d** array  
`int (*q) [4][2];`            **2-d** array pointer        (`q = &b`)

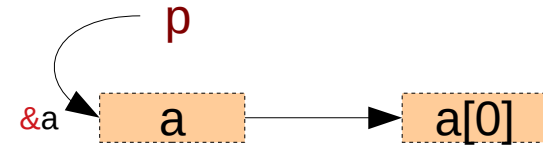
`int c [4][2][3];`            **3-d** array  
`int (*r) [4][2][3];`        **3-d** array pointer        (`r = &c`)

`int d [4][2][3][4];`        **4-d** array  
`int (*s) [4][2][3][4];`    **4-d** array pointer        (`s = &d`)

# *n*-d array name and *n*-d array pointer

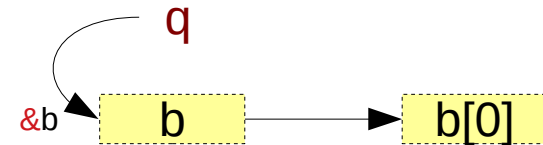
```
int a [4];  
int (*p) [4];
```

```
p = &a;
```



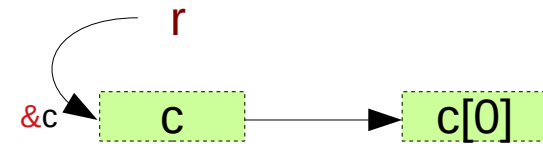
```
int b [4][2];  
int (*q) [4][2];
```

```
q = &b;
```



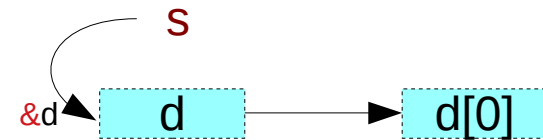
```
int c [4][2][3];  
int (*r) [4][2][3];
```

```
r = &c;
```



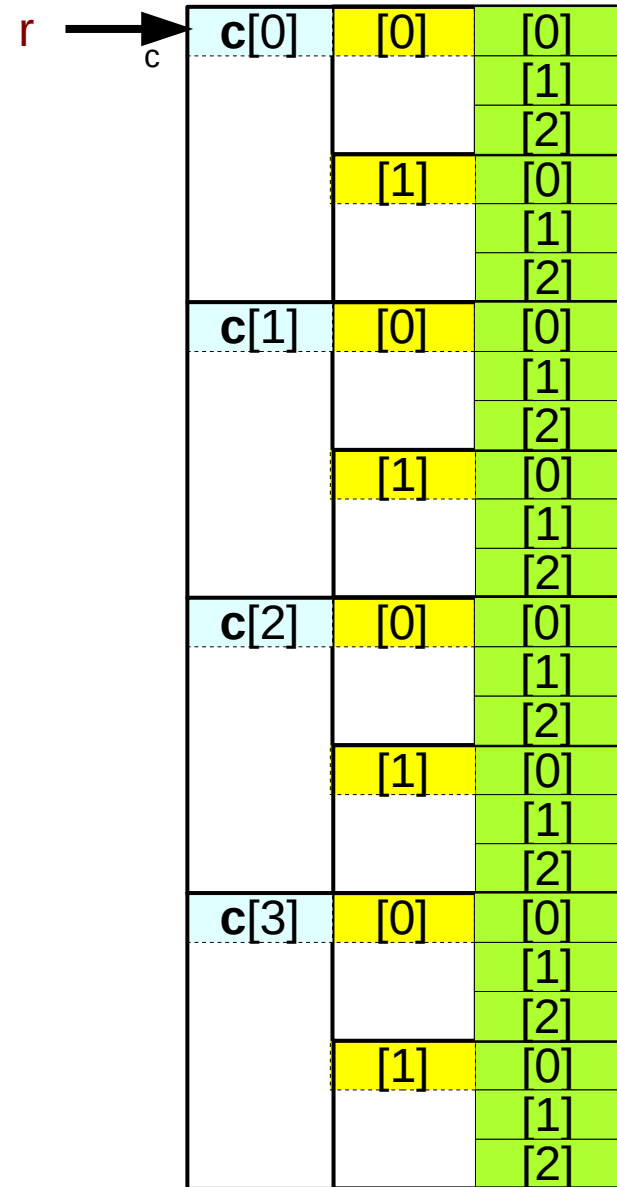
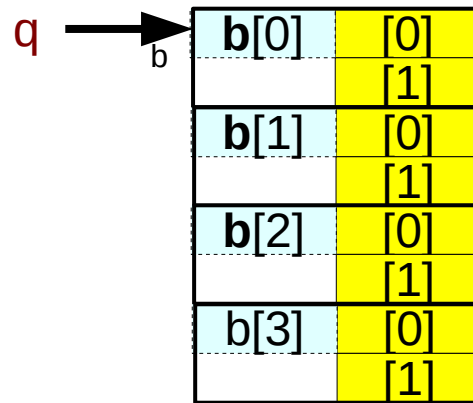
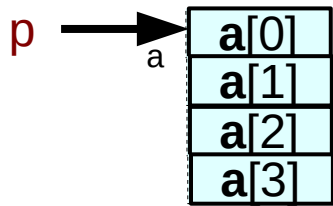
```
int d [4][2][3][4];  
int (*s) [4][2][3][4];
```

```
s = &d;
```



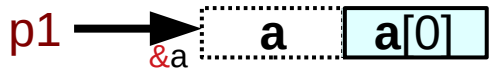


# multi-dimensional array pointers

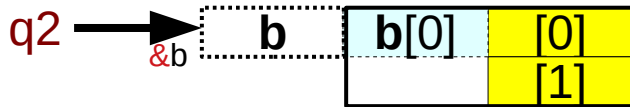


<code>int a[4];</code>	<b>1-d array</b>
<code>int (*p);</code>	<b>0-d array pointer</b>
<code>int b[4][2];</code>	<b>2-d array</b>
<code>int (*q)[2];</code>	<b>1-d array pointer</b>
<code>int c[4][2][3];</code>	<b>3-d array</b>
<code>int (*r)[2][3];</code>	<b>2-d array pointer</b>
<code>int d[4][2][3][4];</code>	<b>4-d array</b>
<code>int (*s)[2][3][4];</code>	<b>3-d array pointer</b>

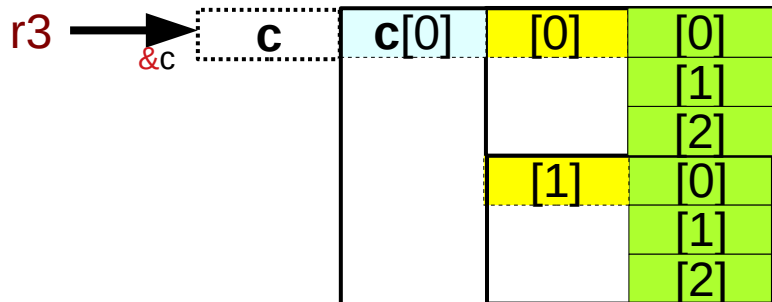
# Initializing *n-d* array pointers



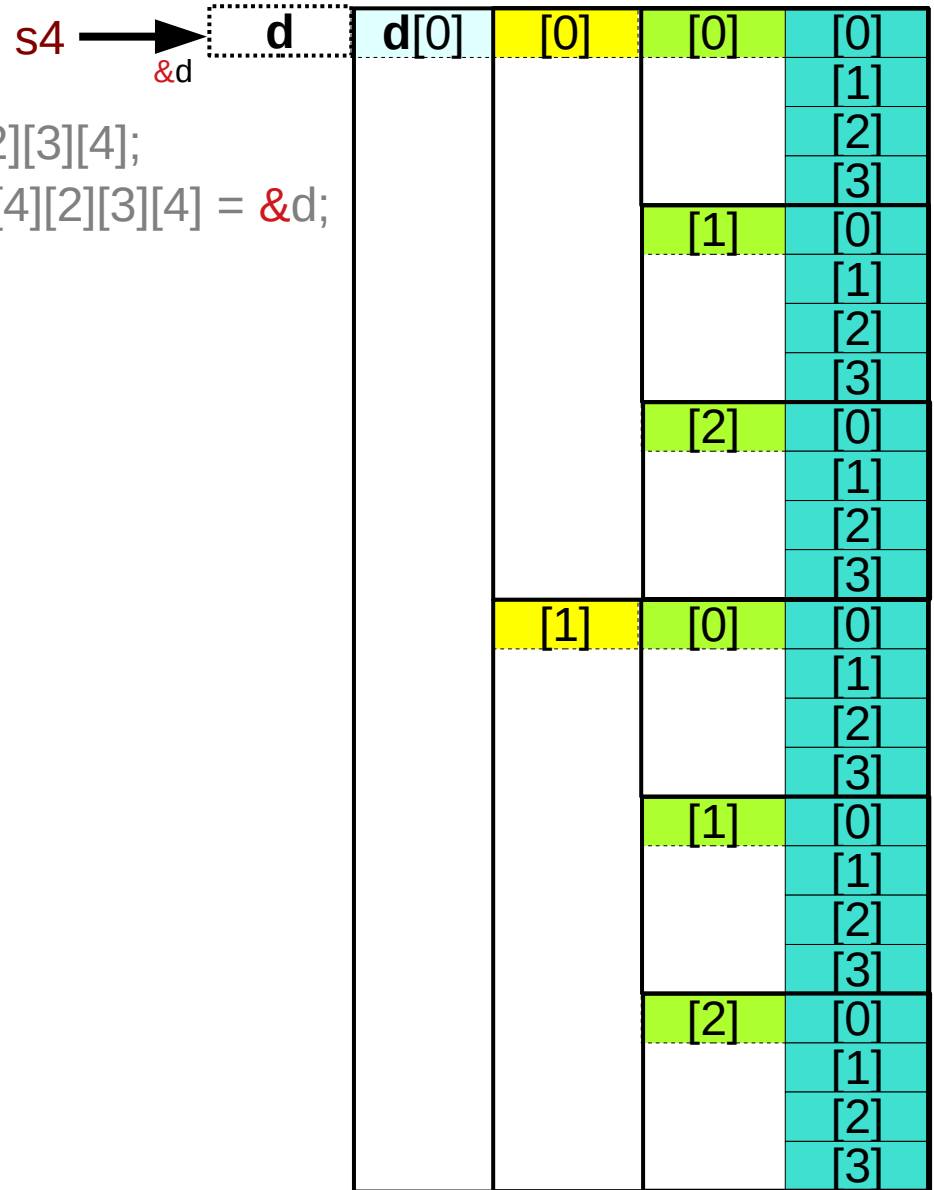
```
int a[4];
int (*p1)[4] = &a;
```



```
int b[4][2];
int (*q2)[4][2] = &b;
```

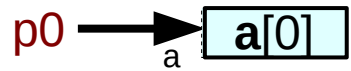


```
int c[4][2][3];
int (*r3)[4][2][3] = &c;
```

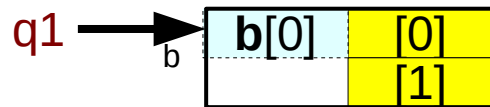


```
int d[4][2][3][4];
int (*s4)[4][2][3][4] = &d;
```

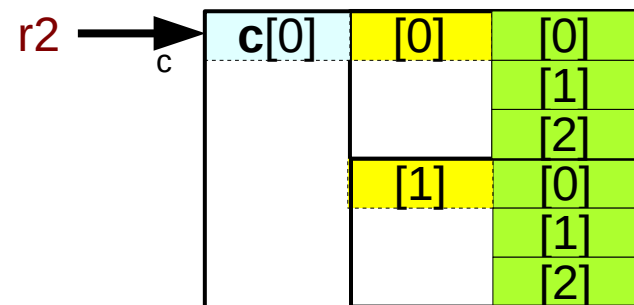
# Initializing $(n-1)$ -d array pointers



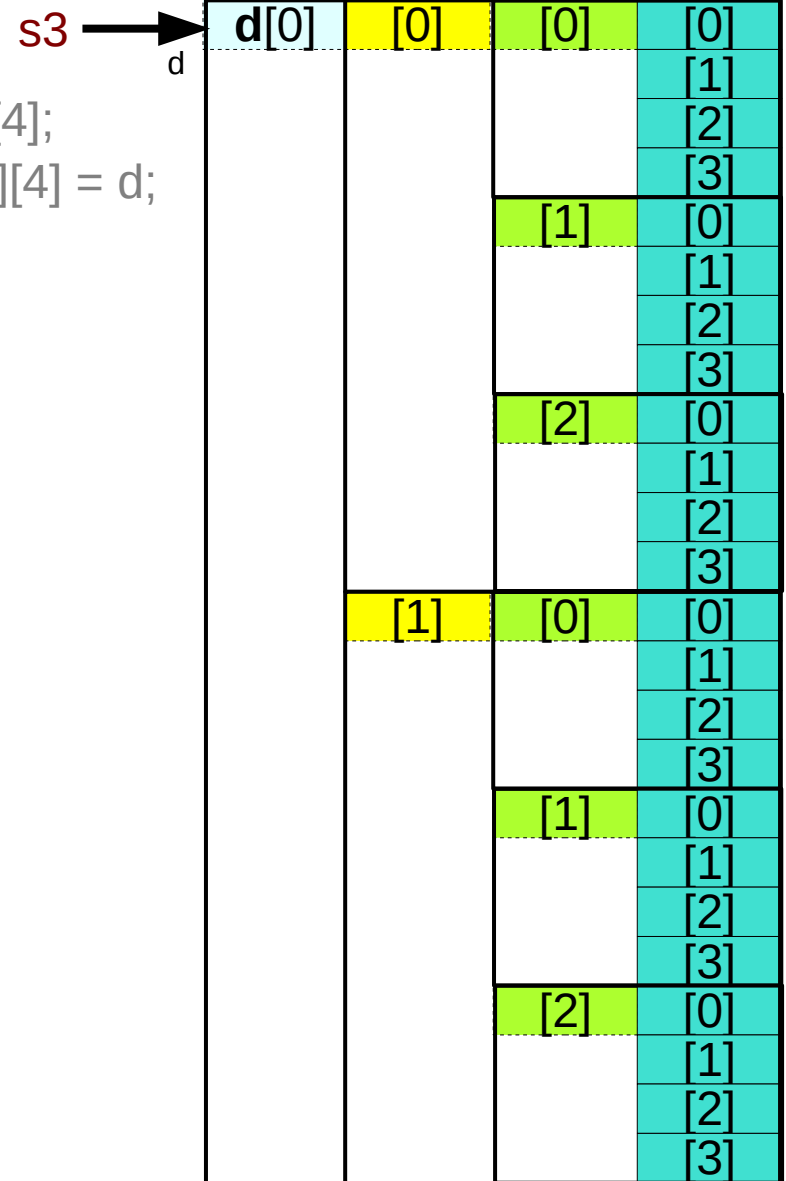
```
int a[4];
int (*p0) = a;
```



```
int b[4][2];
int (*q1)[2] = b;
```



```
int c[4][2][3];
int (*r2)[2][3] = c;
```



```
int d[4][2][3][4];
int (*s3)[2][3][4] = d;
```

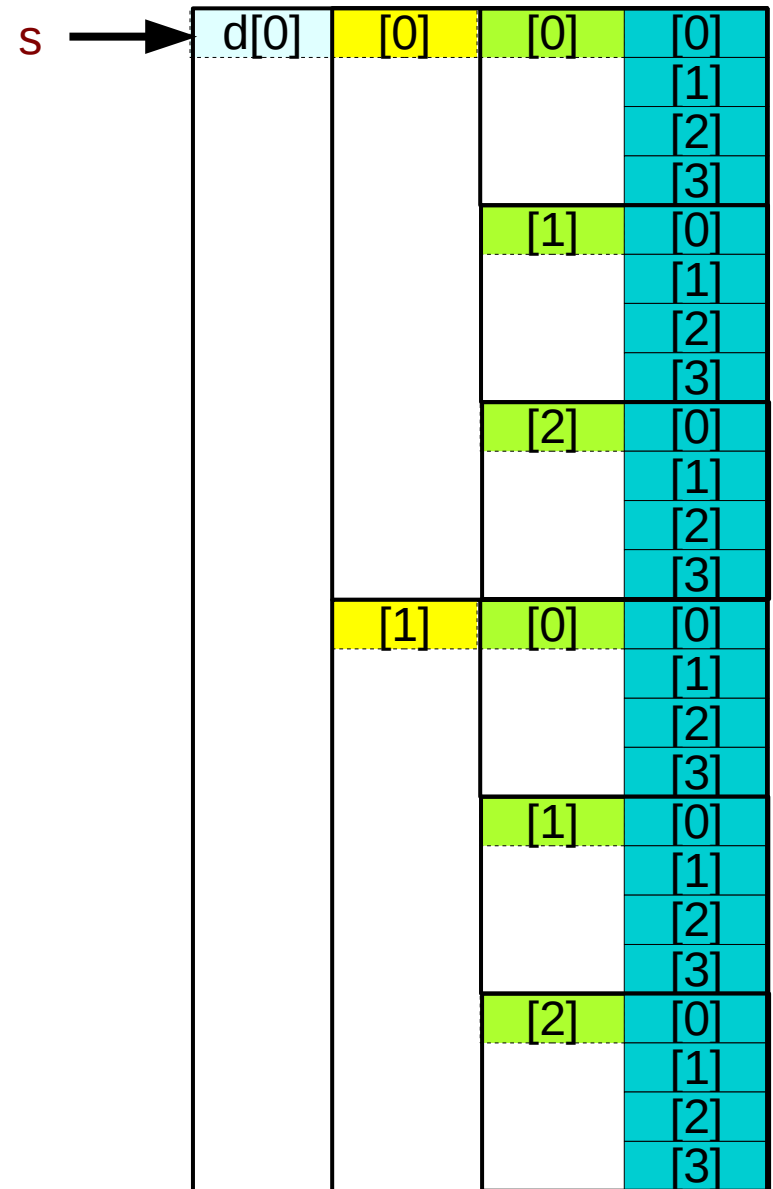
# array pointers to multi-dimensional subarrays

```
int d[4][2][3][4];
int (*s)[2][3][4];
```

d	4-d array name	d[4][2][3][4]
	3-d array pointer	(*p)[2][3][4]
d[i]	3-d array name	d[i][2][3][4]
	2-d array pointer	(*q)[3][4]
d[i][j]	2-d array name	d[i][j][3][4]
	1-d array pointer	(*r)[4]
d[i][j][k]	1-d array name	d[i][j][k][4]
	0-d array pointer	(*s)

i,j,k are specific index values

i = [0..3], j = [0..1], k = [0..2]



# Initializing array pointers to multi-dimensional subarrays

```
int d[4][2][3][4];  
int (*s)[2][3][4];
```

<code>d</code>	4-d array name 3-d array pointer	<code>d[4][2][3][4]</code> <code>(*p)[2][3][4]</code>	<code>p[i][j][k][l]</code> <code>int (*p)[2][3][4] = d;</code>
<code>d[i]</code>	3-d array name 2-d array pointer	<code>d[i][2][3][4]</code> <code>(*q)[3][4]</code>	<code>q[j][k][l]</code> <code>int (*q)[3][4] = d[i];</code>
<code>d[i][j]</code>	2-d array name 1-d array pointer	<code>d[i][j][3][4]</code> <code>(*r)[4]</code>	<code>r[k][l]</code> <code>int (*r)[4] = d[i][j];</code>
<code>d[i][j][k]</code>	1-d array name 0-d array pointer	<code>d[i][j][k][4]</code> <code>(*s)</code>	<code>s[l]</code> <code>int (*s) = d[i][j][k];</code>

`i = [0..3], j = [0..1], k = [0..2]`

# Passing multidimensional array names

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

call  
**fun**a(a, ...);

prototype  
void **fun**a(int (\*p), ...);

```
int b[4][2];  
int (*q)[2];
```

call  
**fun**b(b, ...);

prototype  
void **fun**b(int (\*q)[2], ...);

```
int c[4][2][3];  
int (*r)[2][3];
```

call  
**func**(c, ...);

prototype  
void **func**(int (\*r)[2][3], ...);

```
int d[4][2][3][4];  
int (*s)[2][3][4];
```

call  
**fund**(d, ...);

prototype  
void **fund**(int (\*s)[2][3][4], ...);

## 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