

# Pointers (1A)

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# Pointers

# Variables

```
int a ;
```

**a** can hold an integer data

type : int  
size : 4 bytes  
value : integer

```
a = 100 ;
```

**a** holds the integer 100

address

data

**&a**

**a** ← 100

# Pointer Variables

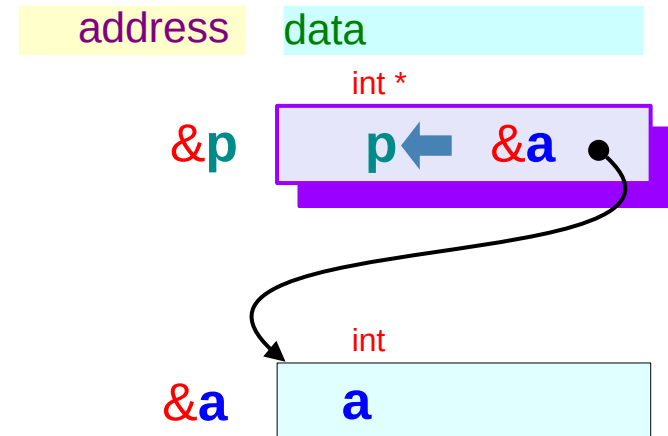
```
int * p ;
```

**p** can hold an address of an integer data

type : int \*  
size : 4 bytes (32-bit system)  
      : 8 bytes (64-bit system)  
value : address

```
p = &a ;
```

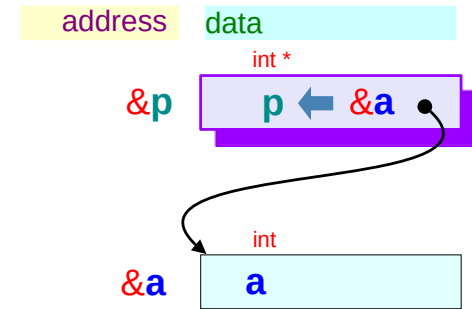
**p** can hold an address (**&a**) of an integer data (**a**)



# Dereferenced Pointer variables

```
int * p ;
```

**p** can hold an address of an integer data



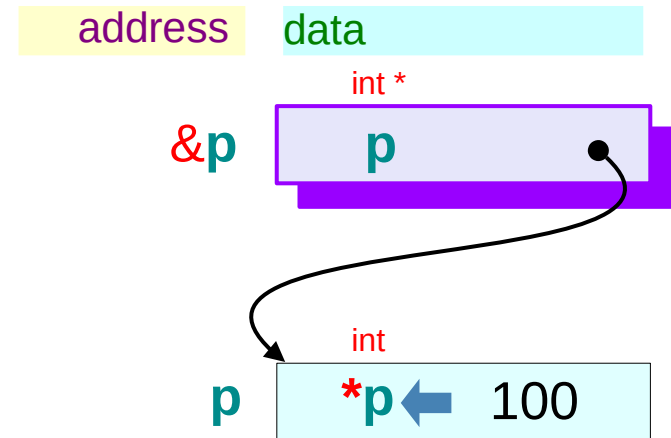
*type*            *variable*

```
int * p ;    p holds the address
```

*pointer to int*

```
int * p ;    *p holds an integer data
```

*int*



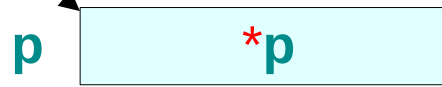
# Pointer variable **p** and dereferenced variable **\*p**

*&p : the address of  
pointer variable **p***



*pointer  
variable **p***

*pointer **p** points here,  
thus the address is **p***

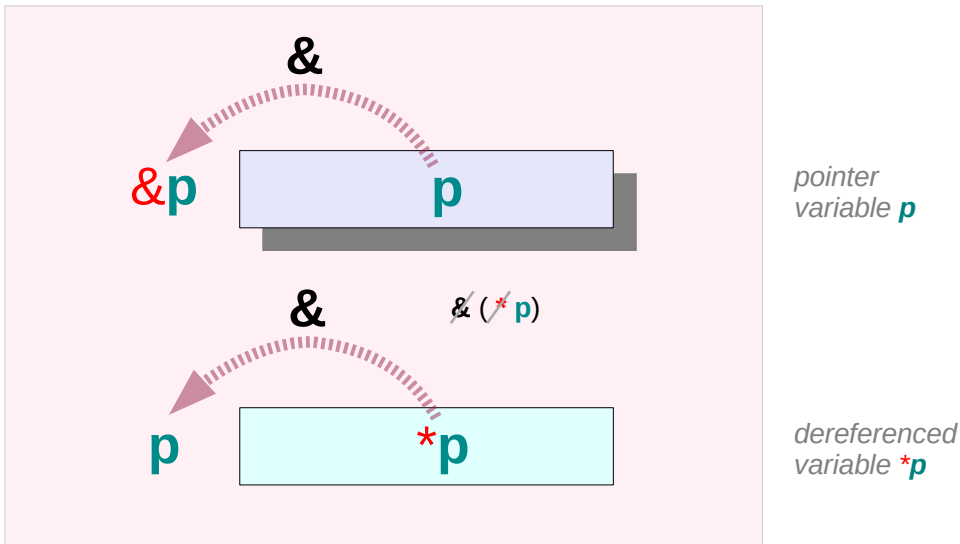


*dereferenced  
variable **\*p***

***\*p** and **p** are variables  
**&p** is an address value*

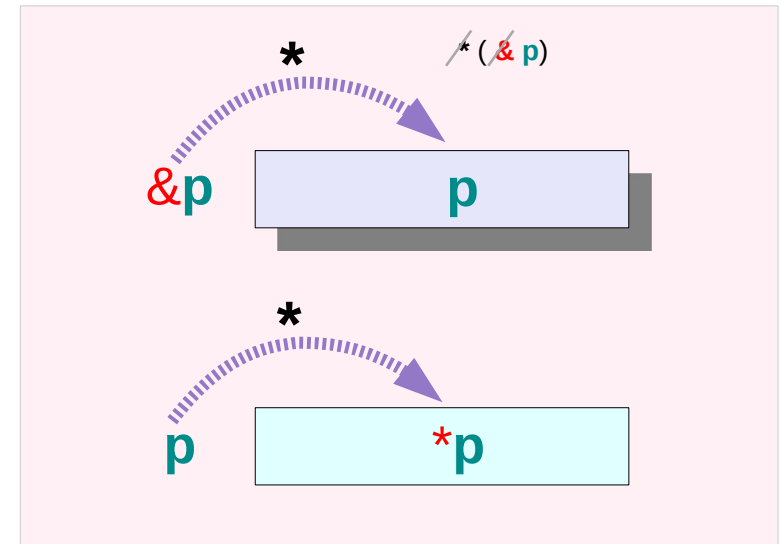
# Address-of operator and dereferencing operator (1)

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



$\& ( p ) \equiv \text{value}(\&p)$  ... value  
 $\& (*p) \equiv \text{value}(p)$  ... value

the content at an address :  
dereferencing operator  $*$

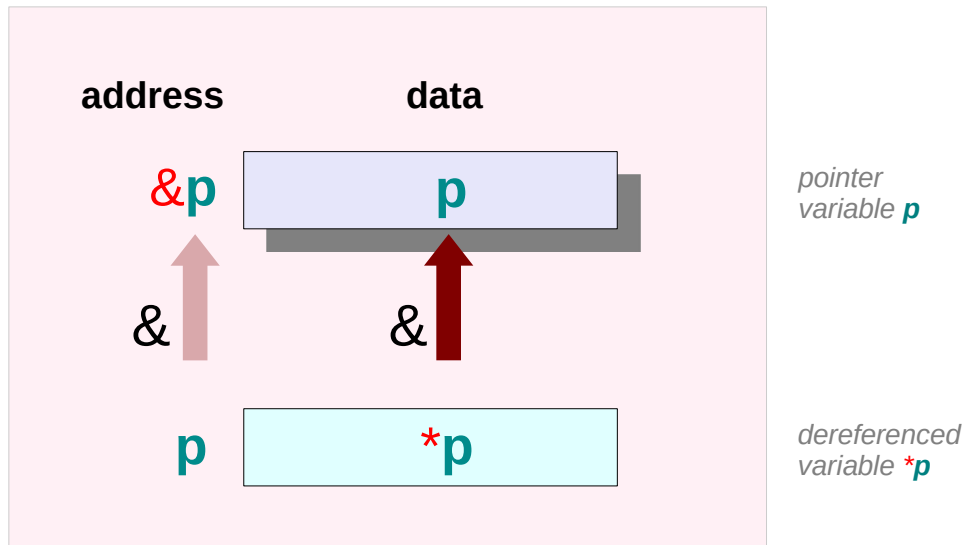


$* (\&p) \equiv p$  ... variable  
 $* ( p ) \equiv *p$  ... variable



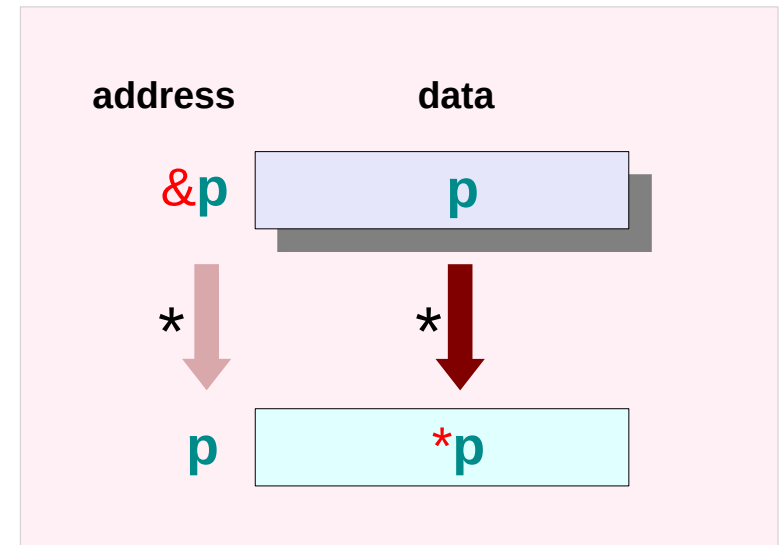
# Address-of operator and dereferencing operator (2)

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



$\& ( p ) \equiv \text{value}(\&p)$  ... value  
 $\& ( *p ) \equiv \text{value}(p)$  ... value

the content at an address :  
dereferencing operator **\***

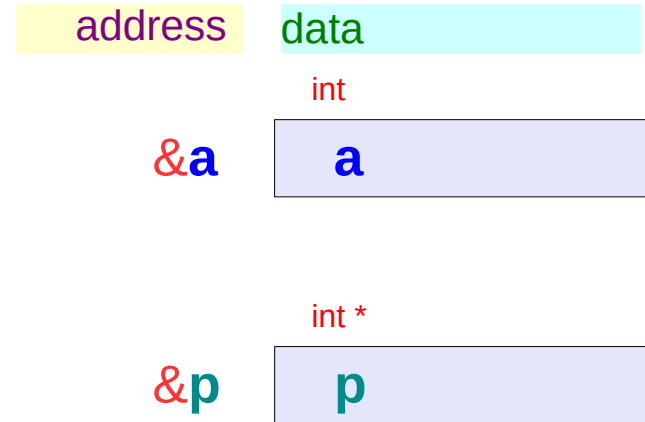


$* ( \&p ) \equiv p$  ... variable  
 $* ( p ) \equiv *p$  ... variable

# Variables and their addresses

```
int a ;
```

```
int * p ;
```

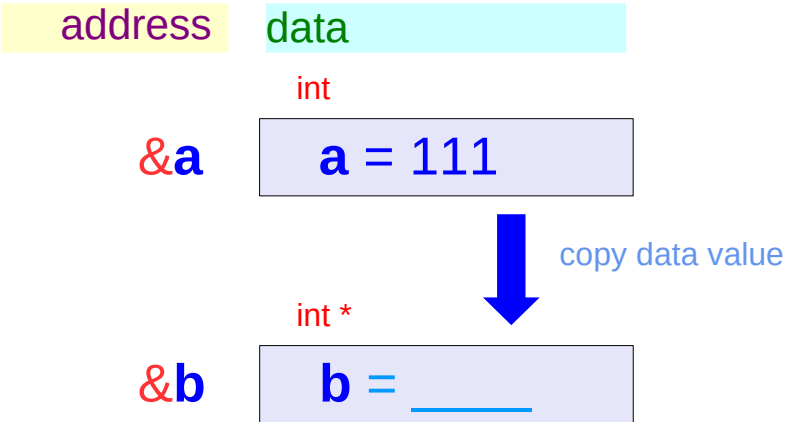


# Assignment of a value

```
int a ;
```

```
int b ;
```

```
b = a ;
```

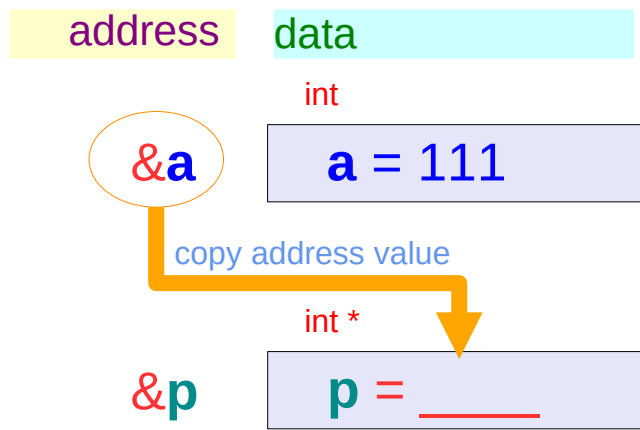


# Assignment of an address value

```
int a ;
```

```
int * p ;
```

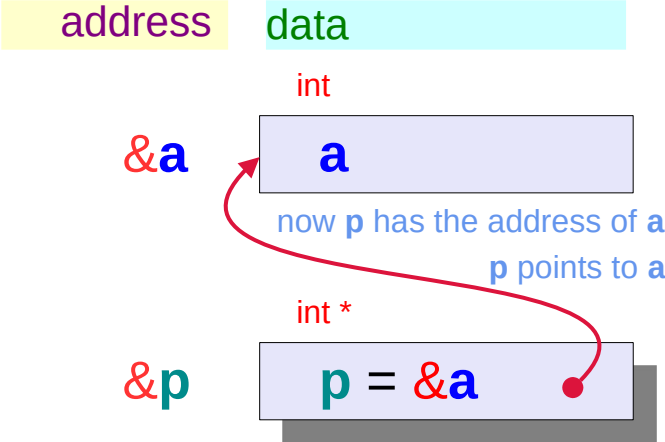
```
p = &a;
```



# Arrow notations

```
int a;
```

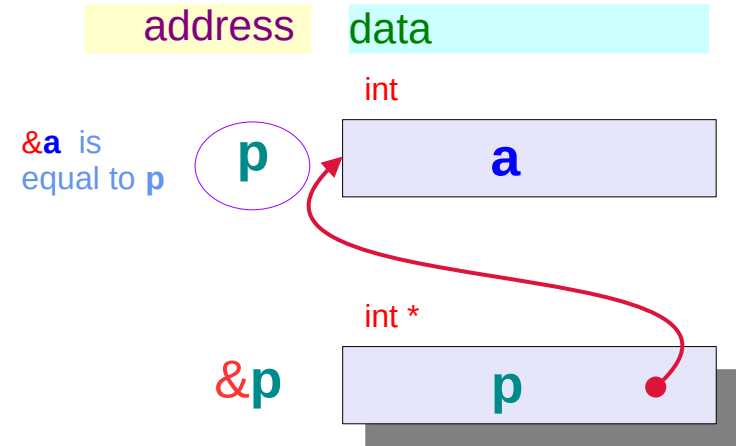
```
int * p = &a;      p = &a;
```



# Pointed address : p

```
int a;
```

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

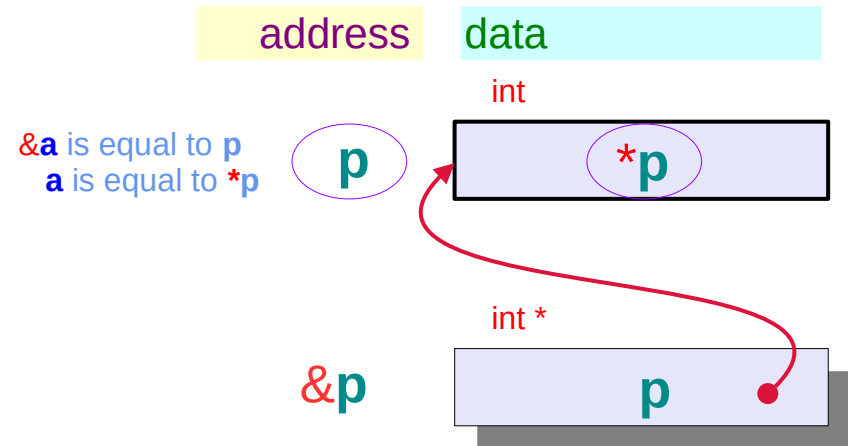


**p** ≡ **&a**

# Dereferenced variable : \*p

```
int a;
```

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



equivalence

$p \equiv \&a$

$*(p) \equiv *(\&a)$

$*p \equiv a$

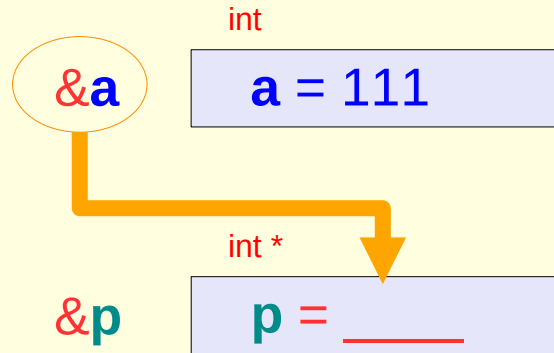
# Variable `p`, `*p`

```
int a;
```

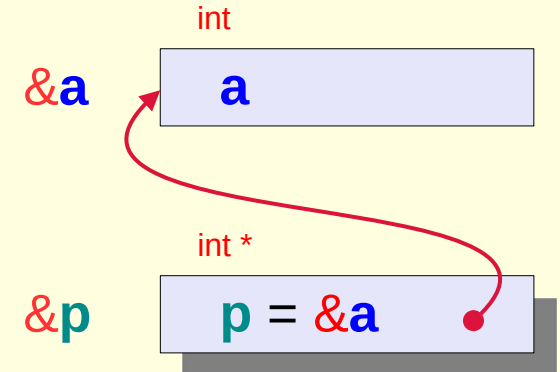
```
int *p;
```

```
p = &a;
```

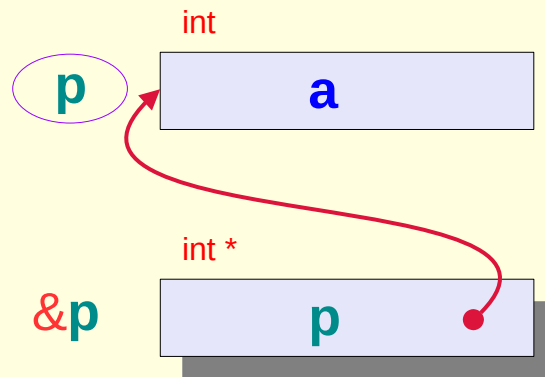
(1) copy address value



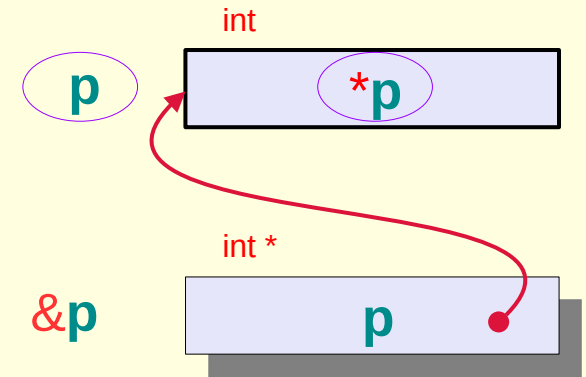
(2) `p` points to `a`



(3) `&a` is equal to `p`

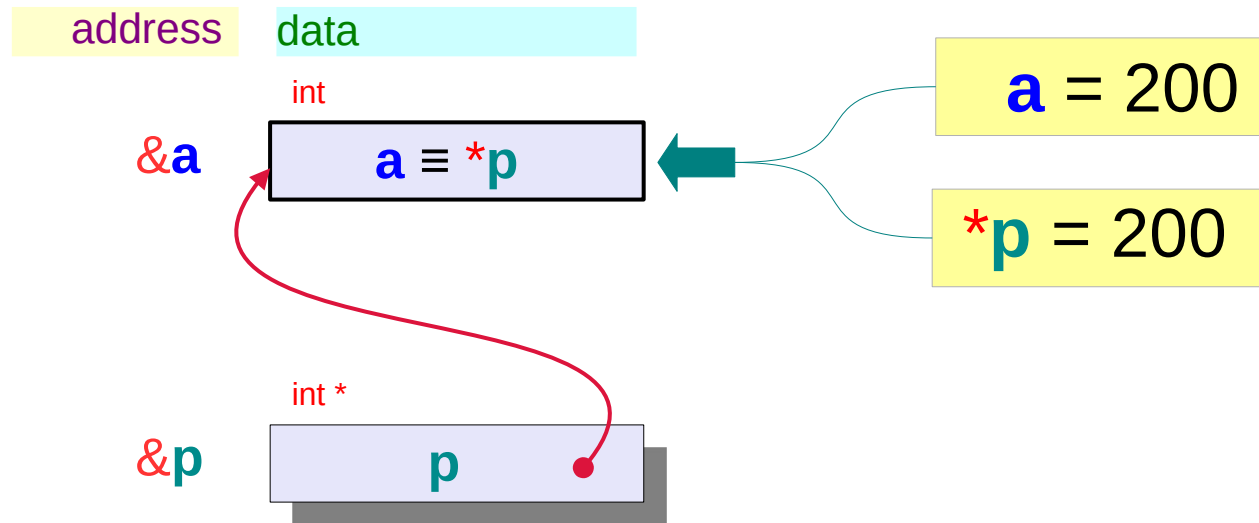


(4) `a` is equal to `*p`





# 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 data

```
int *
```

```
*q ;
```

a pointer to  
an integer

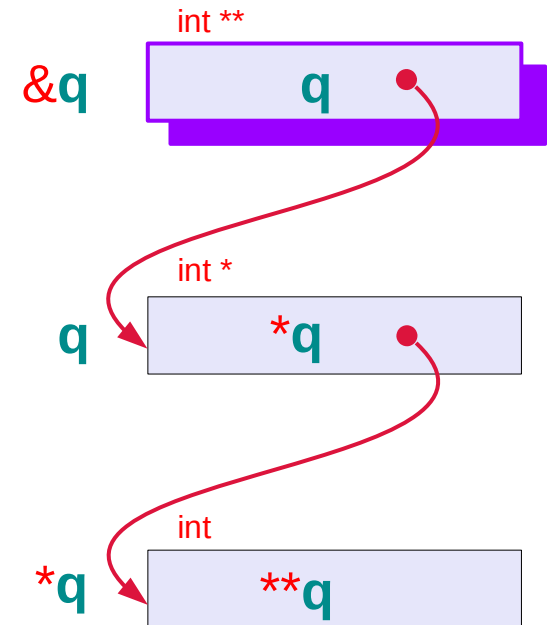
**\*q** holds an address of  
an integer data

```
int
```

```
**q ;
```

an integer

**\*\*q** holds an integer data



# Variables and their addresses

```
int a ;
```

```
int * p ;
```

```
int ** q ;
```

address

data

&a

int

a

&p

int \*

p

&q

int \*\*

q

# Assignments of address values

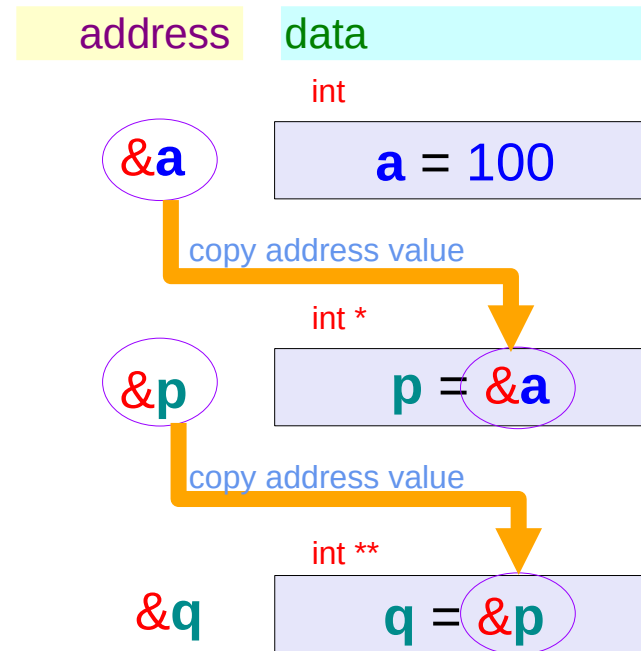
```
int a = 100 ;
```

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

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

```
p = &a;
```

```
q = &p;
```



# Arrow notations

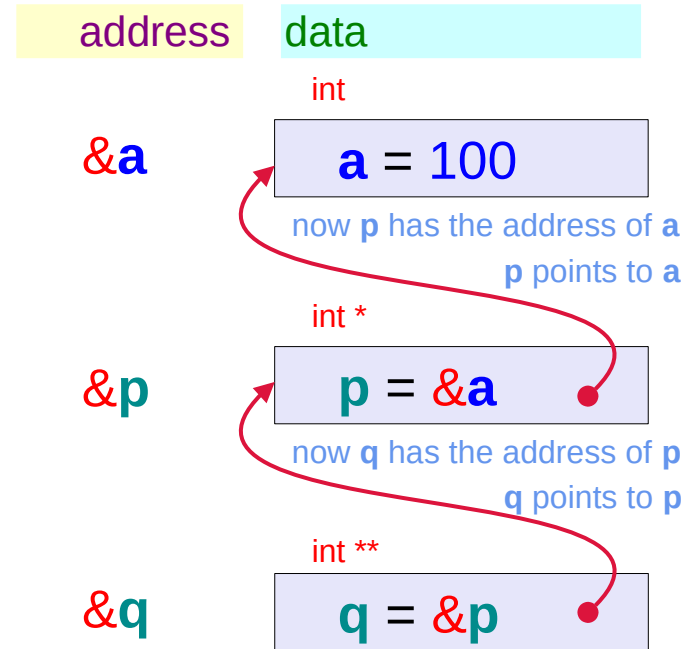
```
int a = 100 ;
```

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

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

```
p = &a;
```

```
q = &p;
```



# Pointed addresses : p, q

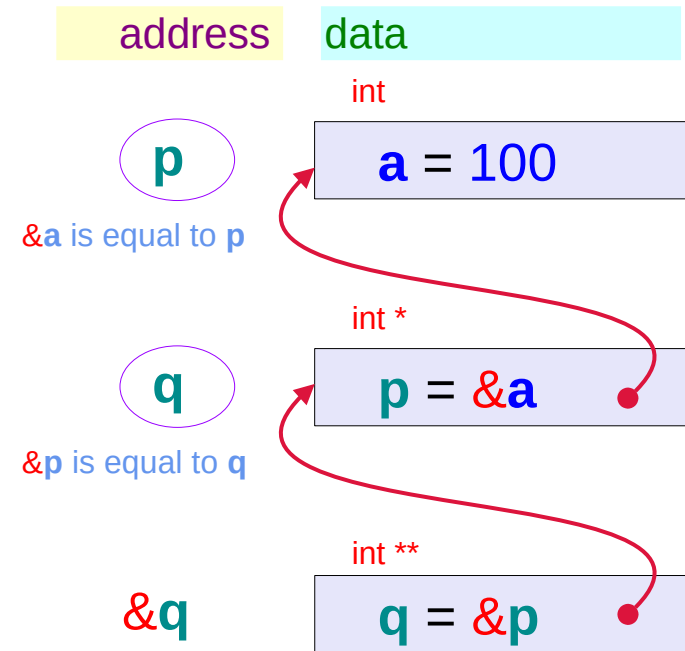
```
int a = 100 ;
```

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

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

```
p = &a;
```

```
q = &p;
```



# Dereferenced variables : \*q, \*\*q

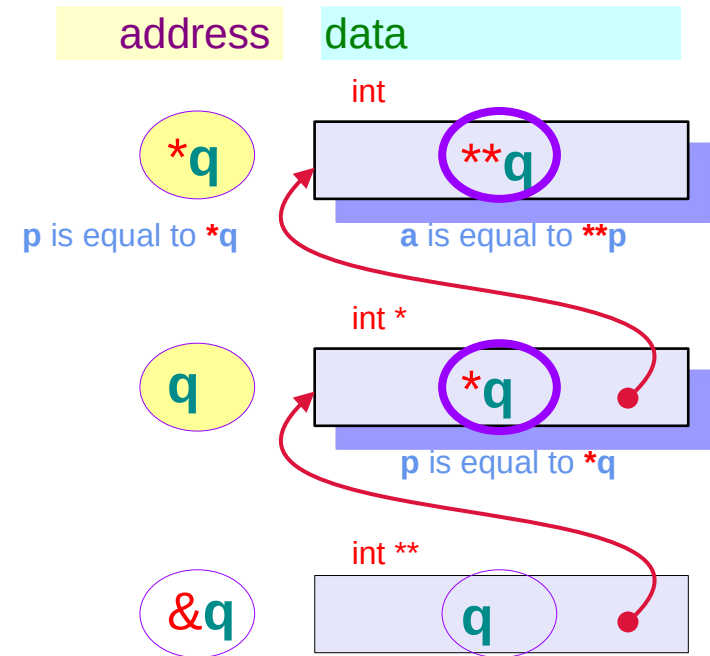
```
int a = 100 ;
```

**\*\*q ≡ a**

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

**\*q ≡ p**

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



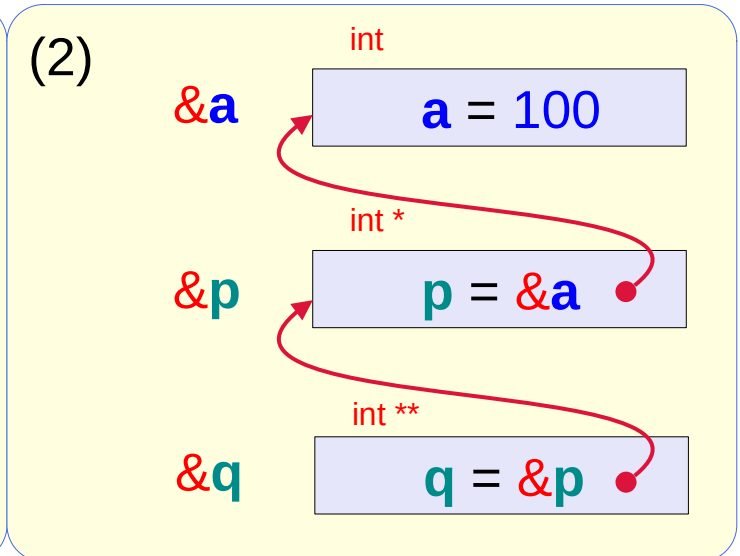
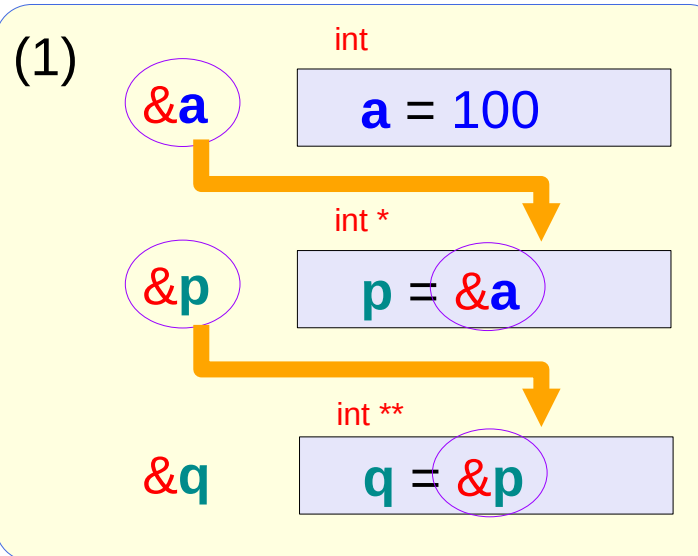


# Variable **p**, **\*p**, and **q**, **\*q**, **\*\*q**

```
int a ;
```

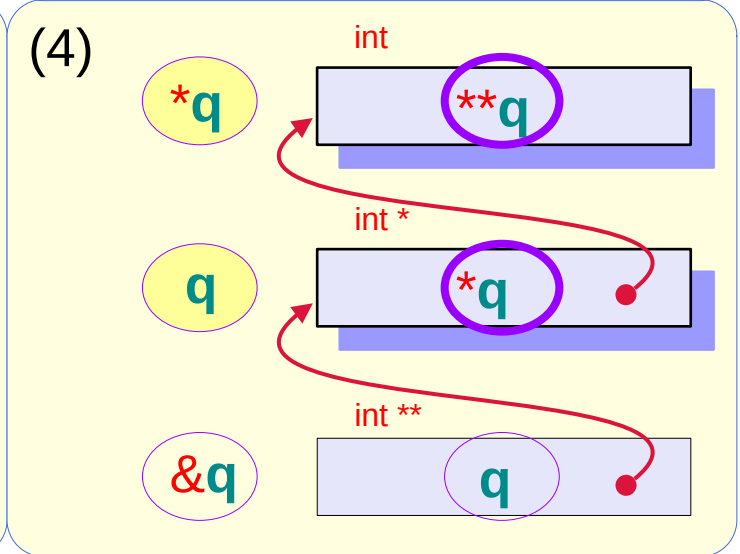
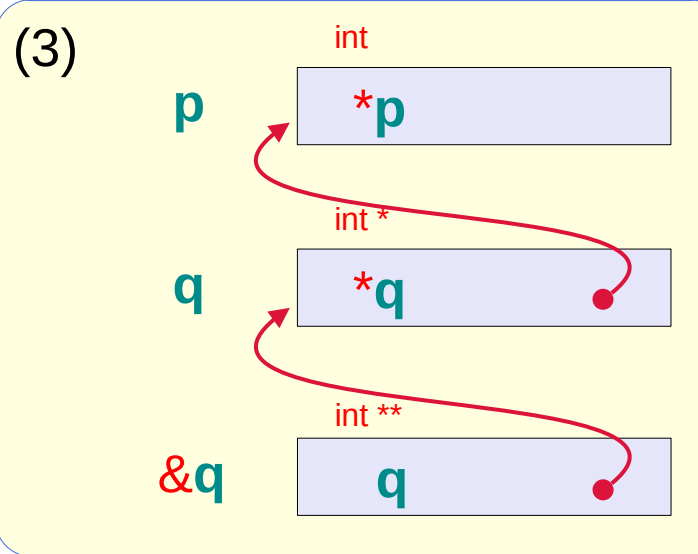
```
int * p ;
```

```
int ** q ;
```



```
p = &a;
```

```
q = &p;
```



# Aliased variables : \*p,\*q, \*\*q

```
int    a = 100 ;  
int    *p = &a ;  
int    **q = &p ;
```

Address  
assignment

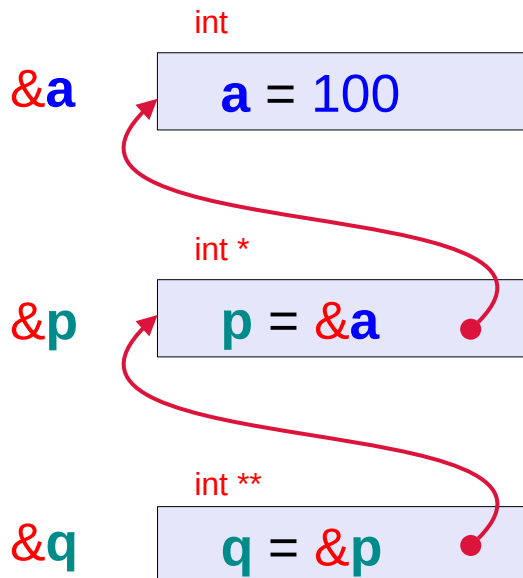
**p = &a ;**



Variable  
aliasing

**\*p ≡ a**

```
p ≡ &a  
*(p) ≡ *(&a)  
*p ≡ a
```



**q = &p ;**



**\*q ≡ p**

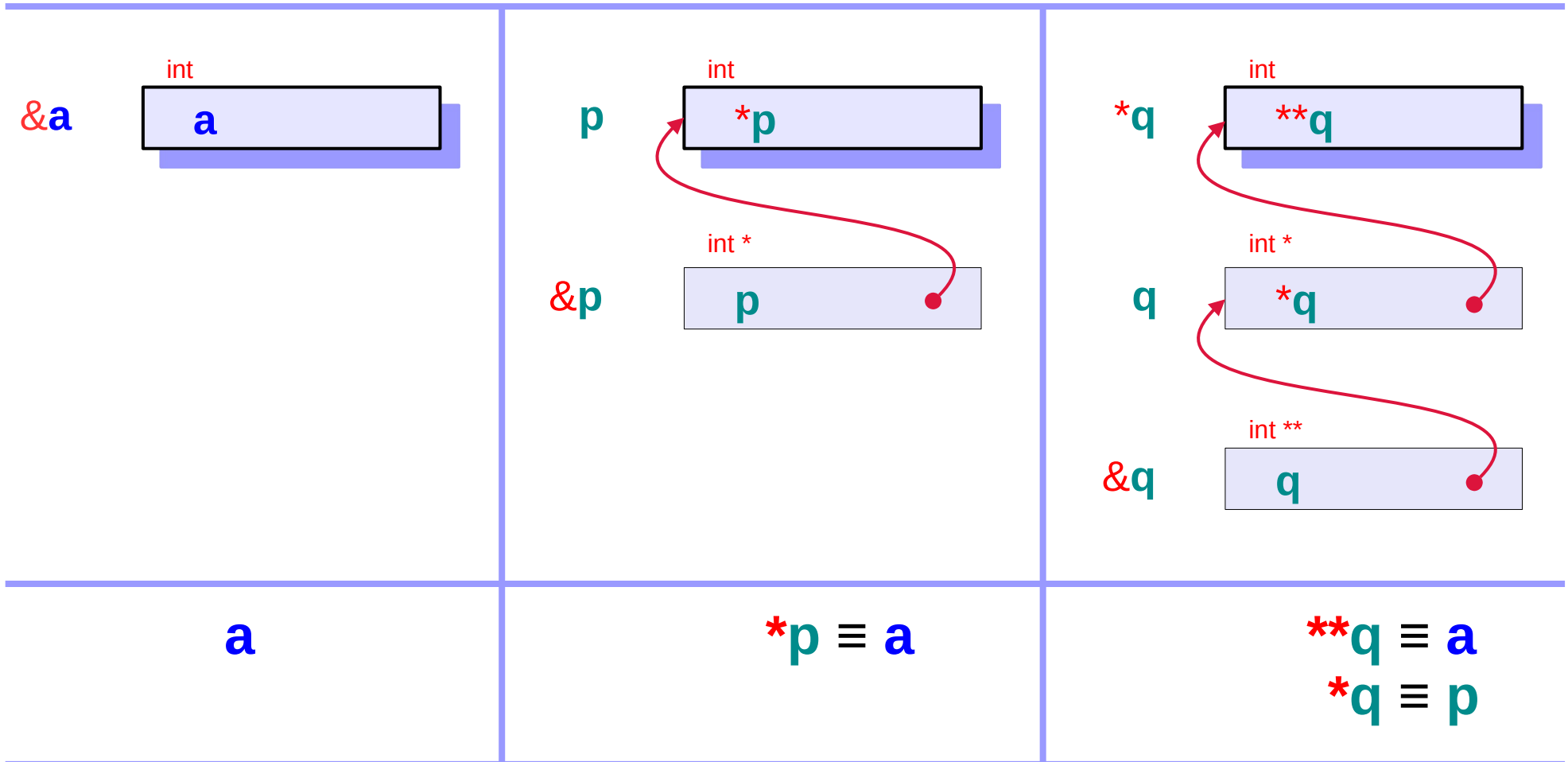


**\*\*q ≡ a**

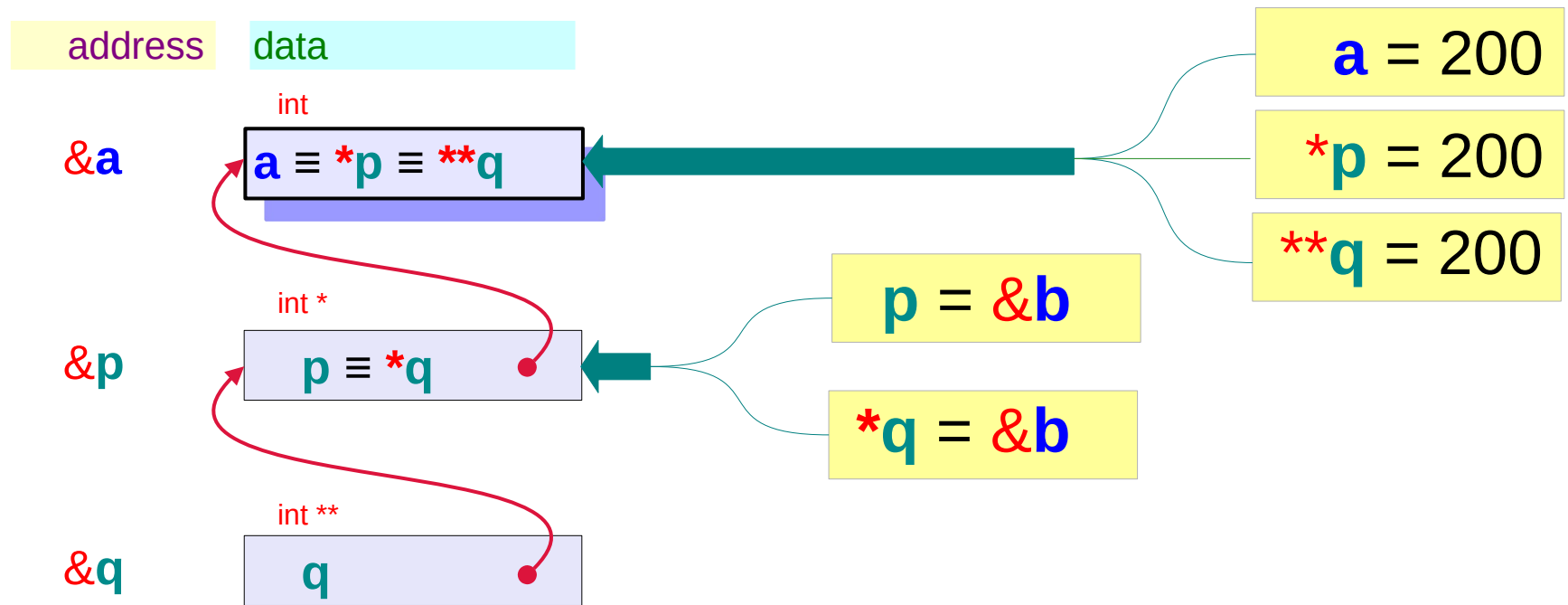
```
q ≡ &p  
*(q) ≡ *(&p)  
*q ≡ p  
**q ≡ *p  
**q ≡ a
```

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` <sup>int</sup> `a = 100`

The integer variable `a` holds an integer data

`int * p ;`      `&p` <sup>int \*</sup> `p` → `p` <sup>int</sup> `*p = 200`

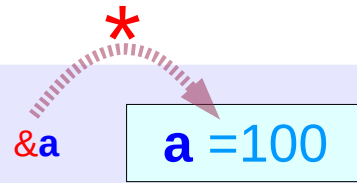
The **pointer** variable `p` holds an address, at this address, an integer data is stored

`int ** q ;`      `&q` <sup>int \*\*</sup> `q` → `q` <sup>int \*</sup> `*q` → `*q` <sup>int</sup> `**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 \*

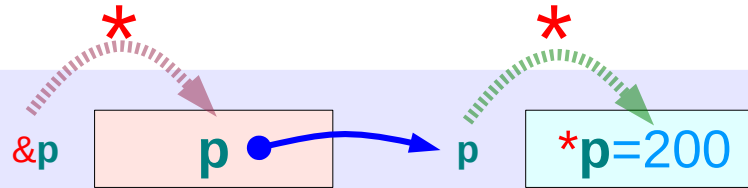
`int a ;`



the expression `a` is a *variable* that can be assigned

$$*(\&a) \equiv a$$

`int * p ;`

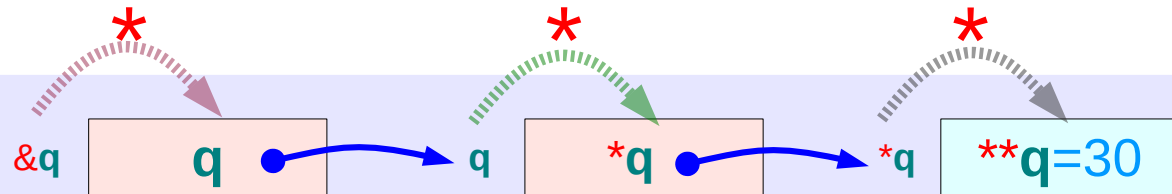


the expression `*p` is a *variable* that can be assigned

$$*(\&p) \equiv p$$

$$*(p) \equiv *p$$

`int ** q ;`



the expression `*q`, `**q` are *variables* that can be assigned

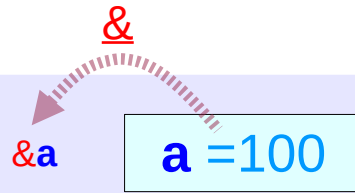
$$*(\&q) \equiv q$$

$$*(q) \equiv *q$$

$$*(*q) \equiv **q$$

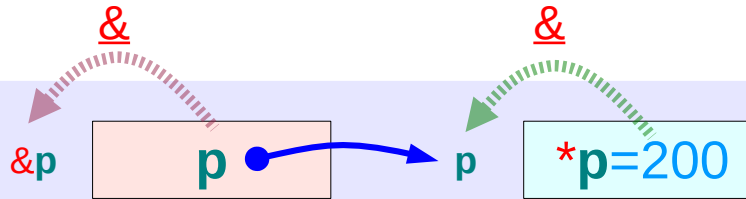
# Math operator & : the inverse operator of \*

`int a ;`



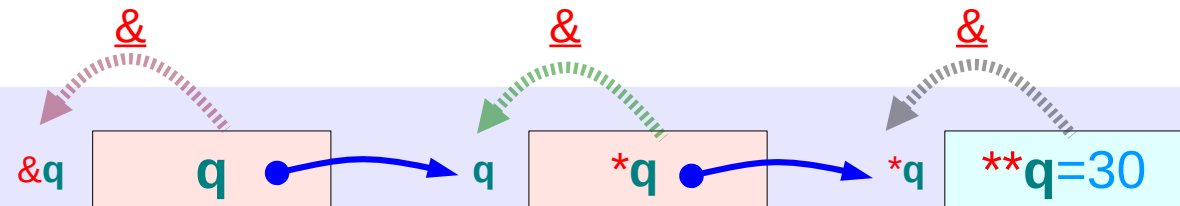
`*&x` returns `x`  
`&*y` returns `y`  
`&` is the inverse operator of `*`

`int * p ;`



`*&x` returns `x`  
`&*y` returns `y`  
`&` is the inverse operator of `*`

`int ** q ;`

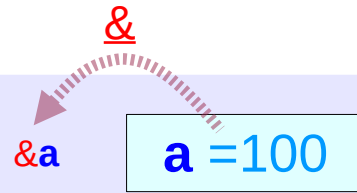


`*&x` returns `x`  
`&*y` returns `y`  
`&` is the inverse operator of `*`



# C operator & : address-of operator

`int a ;`

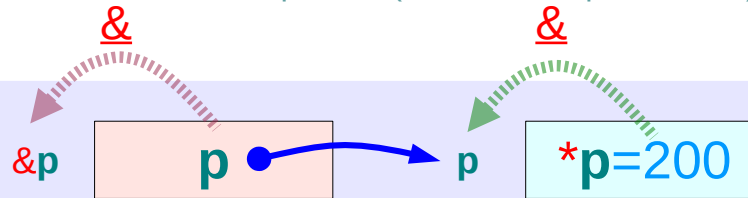


the C expression `&a` returns an *address value* that cannot be assigned

$\&a \equiv \text{value}(\&a)$

`&` is a mathematical operator (the inverse operator of `*`)

`int * p ;`



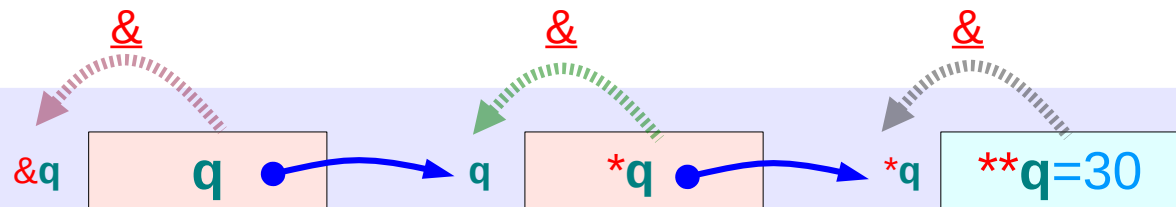
the C expression `&p` returns an *address value* that cannot be assigned

$\&p \equiv \text{value}(\&p)$

$\&(*p) \equiv \text{value}(p)$

`&` is a mathematical operator (the inverse operator of `*`)

`int ** q ;`



the C expression `&q` returns an *address value* that cannot be assigned

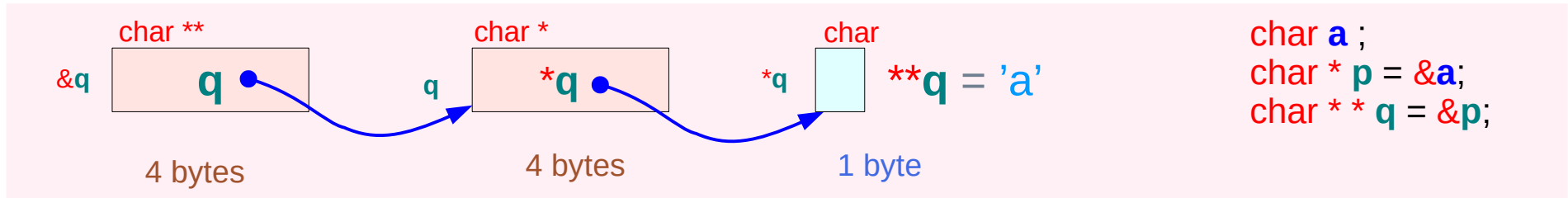
$\&q \equiv \text{value}(\&q)$

$\&(*q) \equiv \text{value}(q)$

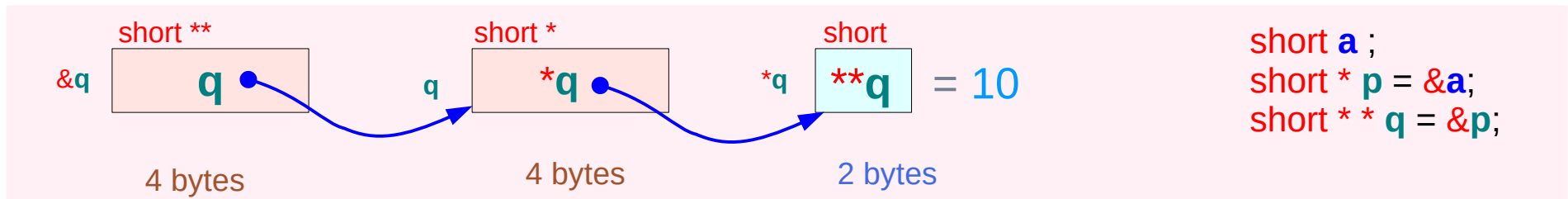
$\&(**q) \equiv \text{value}(*q)$

`&` is a mathematical operator (the inverse operator of `*`)

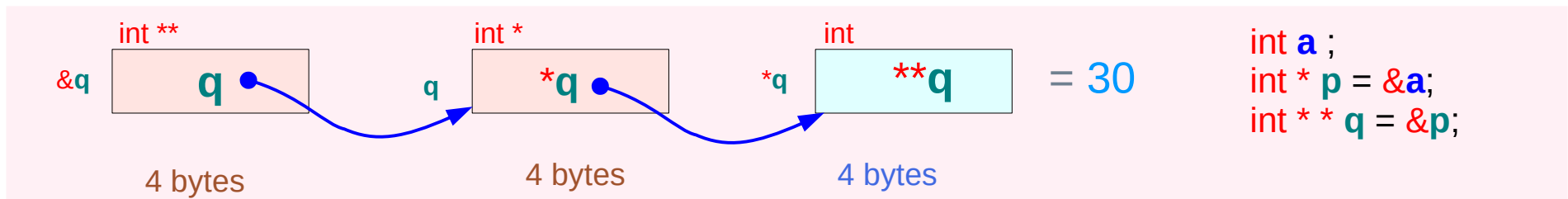
# Pointers to various types on 32-bit system (1)



on a 32-bit system

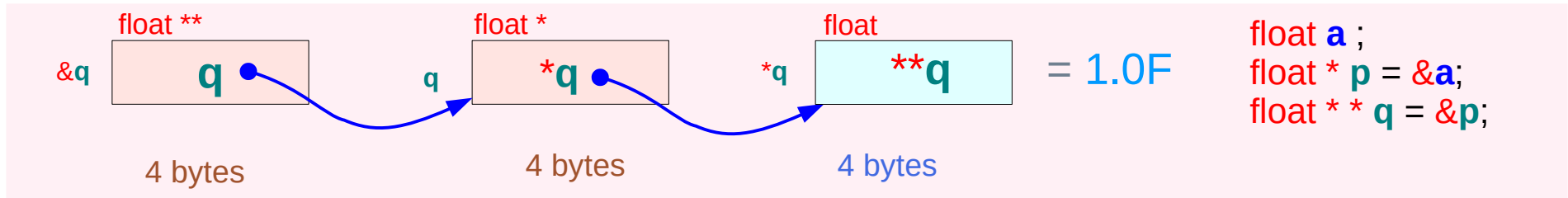


on a 32-bit system

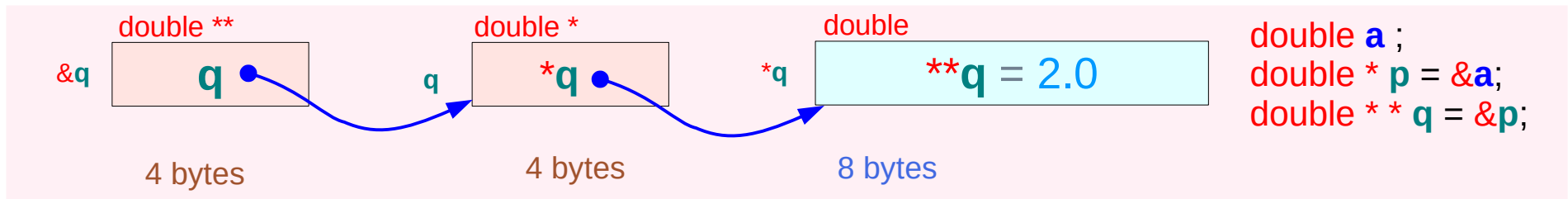


on a 32-bit system

# Pointers to various types on 32-bit system (2)



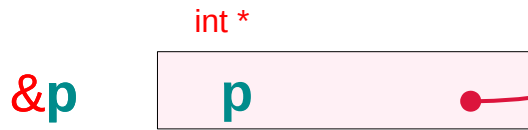
on a 32-bit system



on a 32-bit system

# Neighborhood of \*p

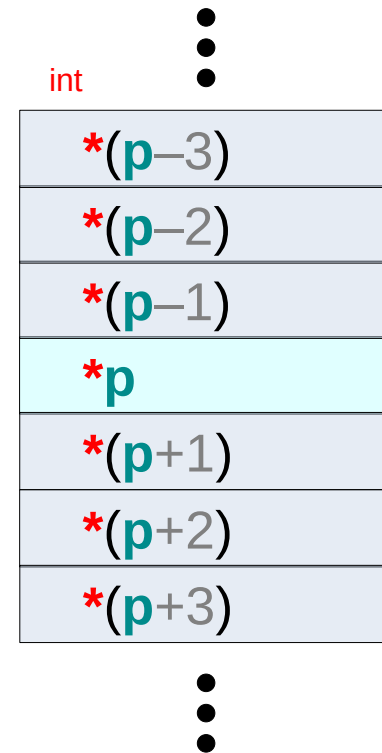
```
int a = 100 ;  
int * p = &a ;
```



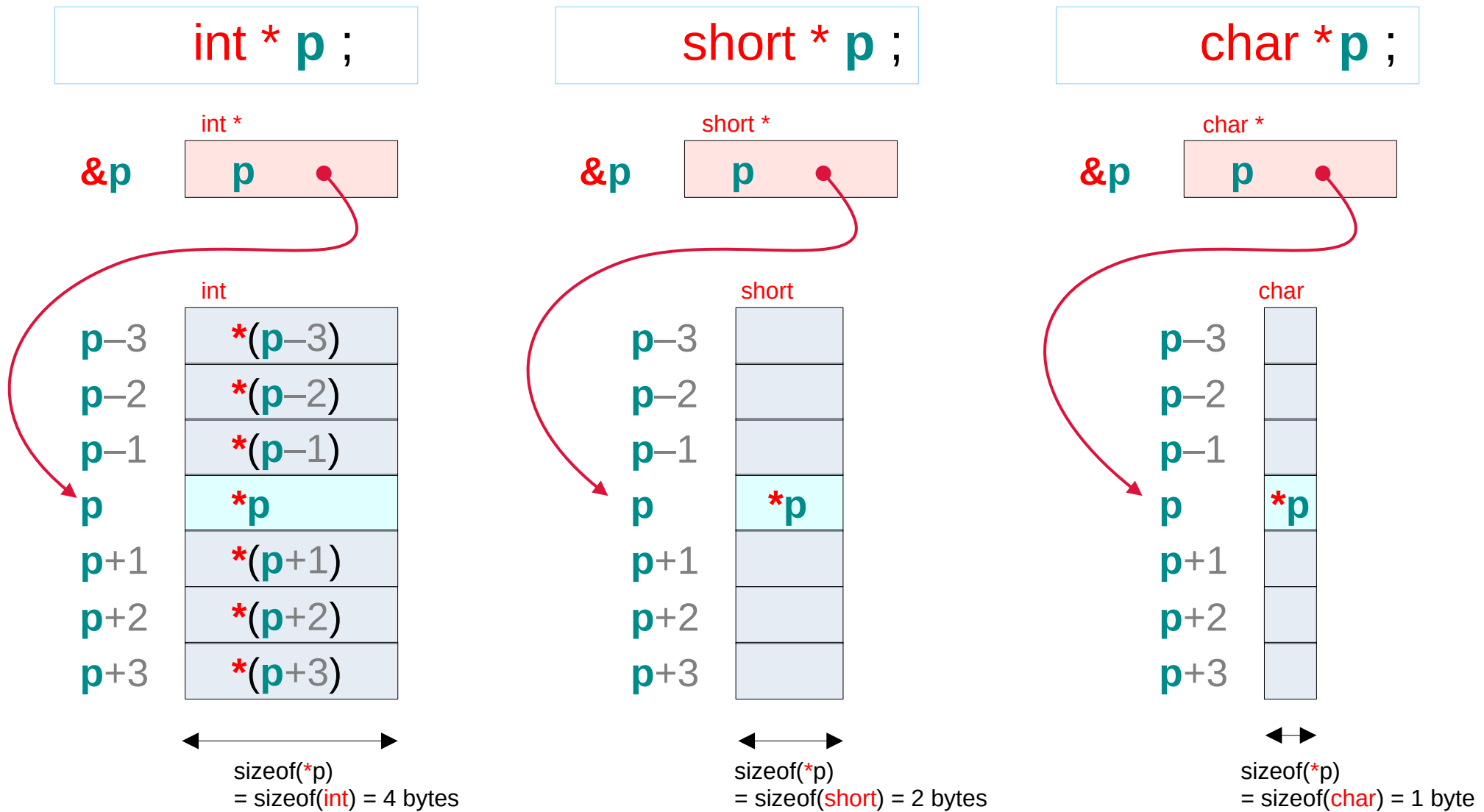
abstract  
address

`int *`  
`p-3`  
`p-2`  
`p-1`  
`p`  
`p+1`  
`p+2`  
`p+3`

referenced  
data



# Neighborhood of \*p – various sizes of referenced data

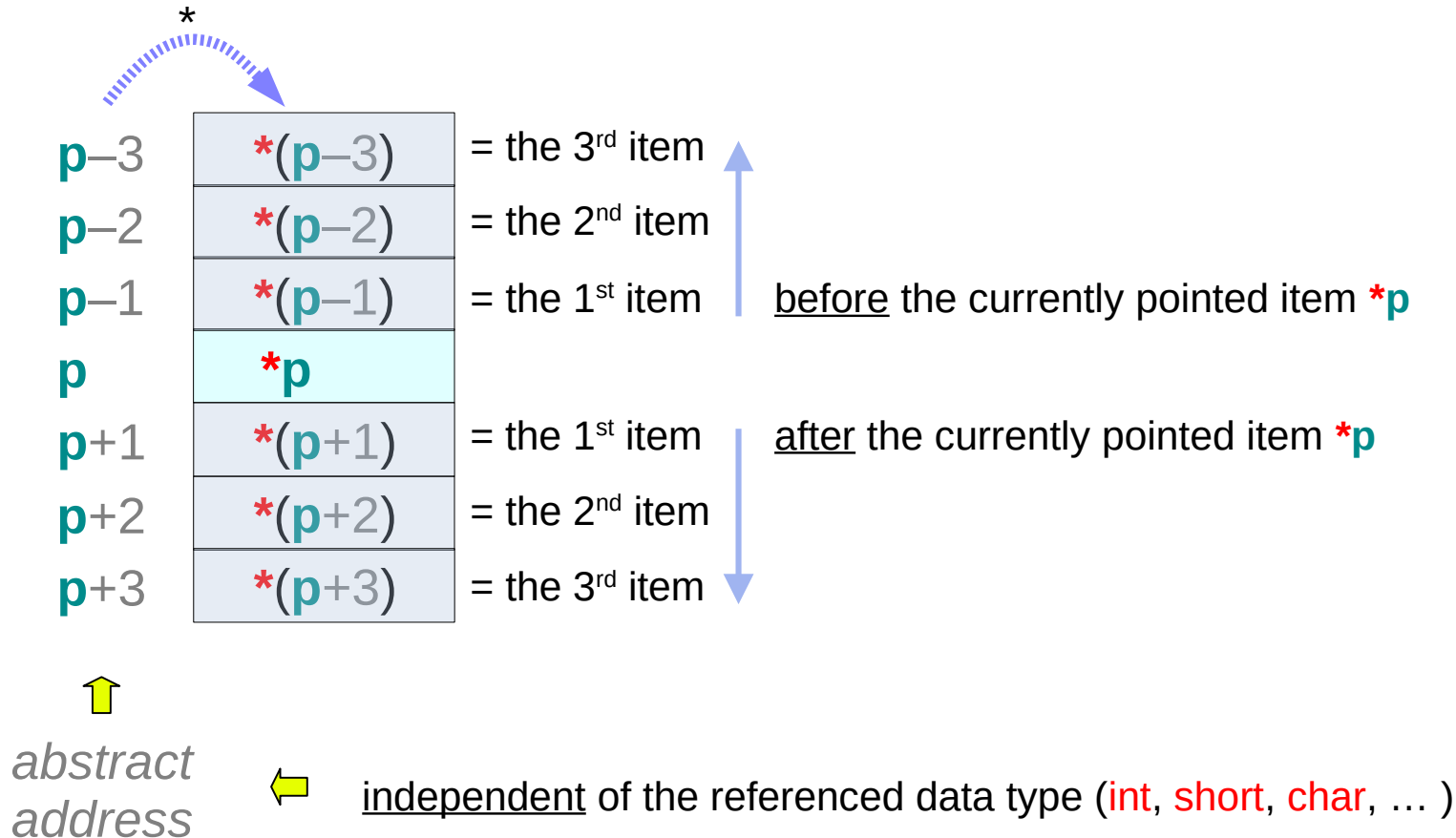


# Neighborhood of $*p$ – the same abstract address

`int * p ;`

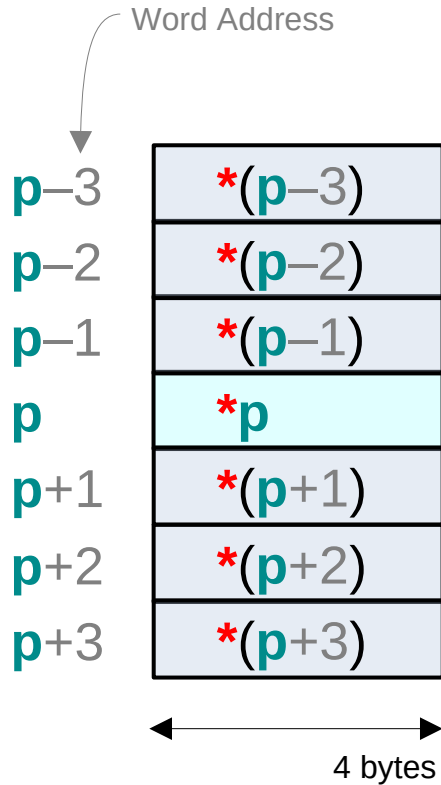
`short * p ;`

`char * p ;`

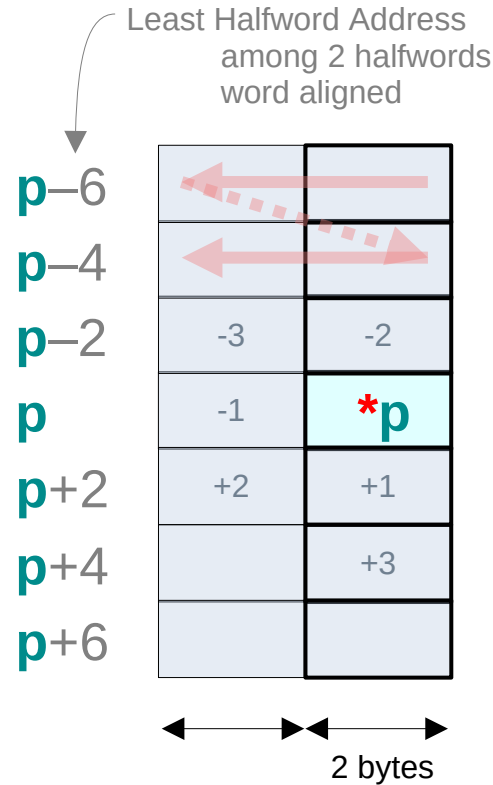


# Neighborhood of `*p` – word aligned view

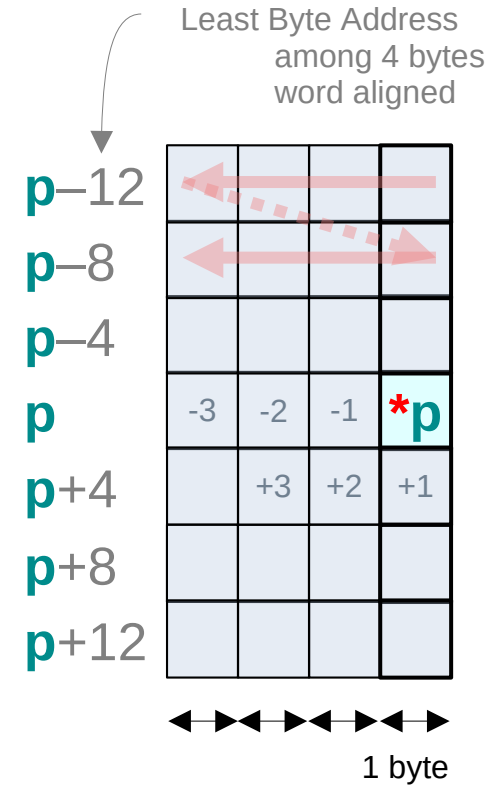
`int * p ;`



`short * p ;`



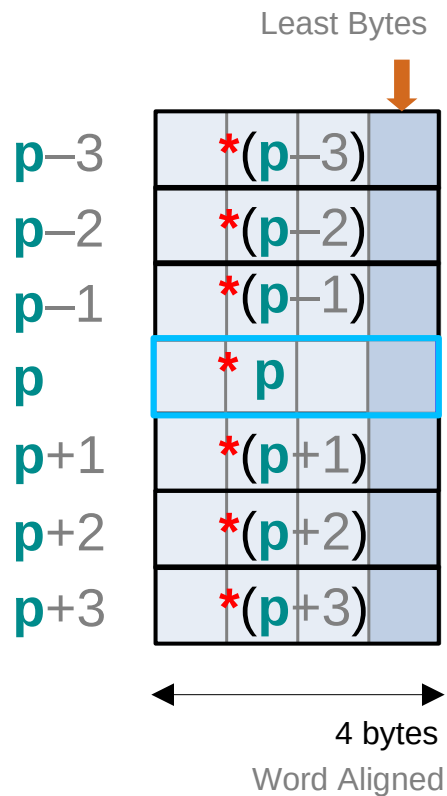
`char * p ;`



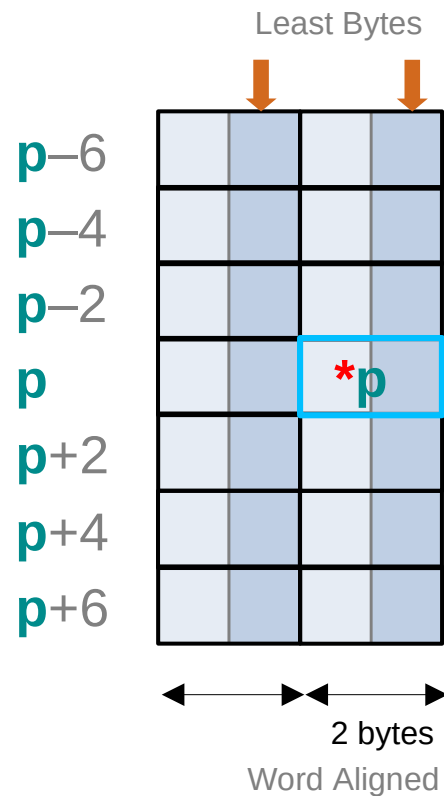
*word view*

# Neighborhood of `*p` – least bytes

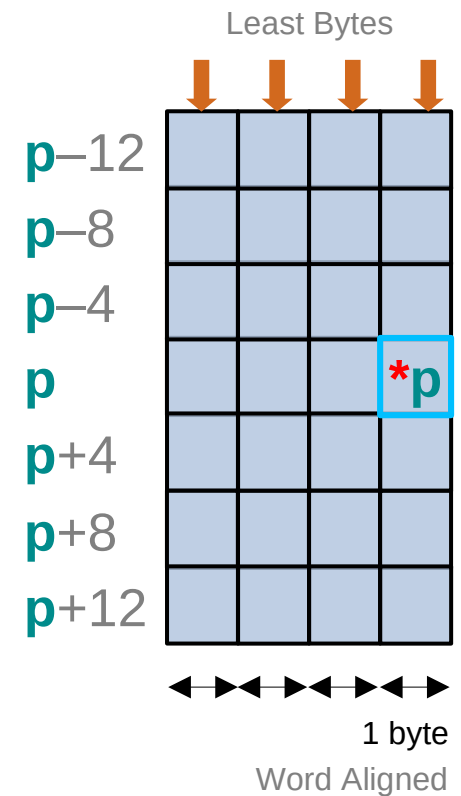
```
int * p ;
```



```
short * p ;
```



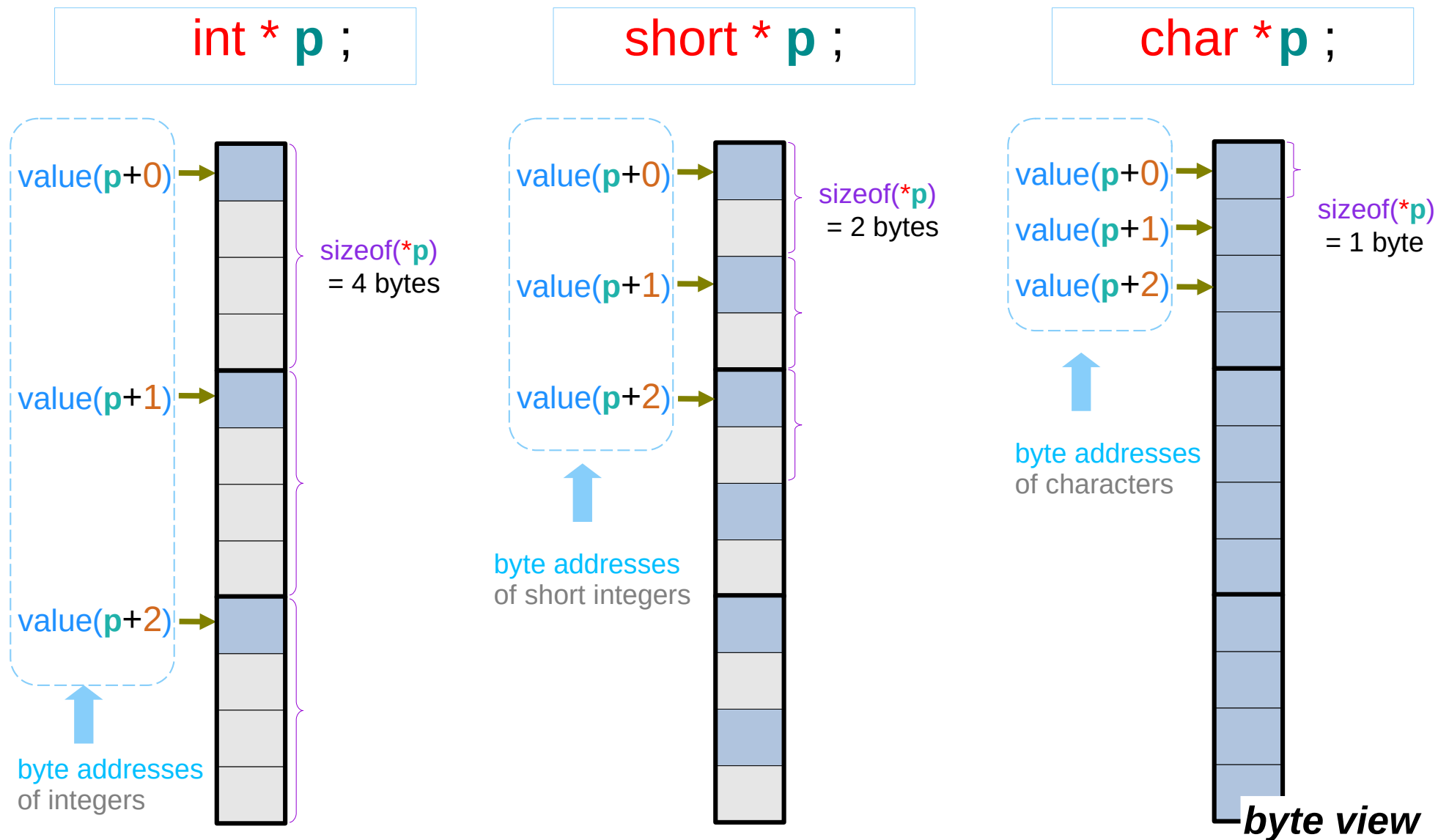
```
char * p ;
```



*word view*



# Neighborhood of `*p` – least byte addresses



# Neighborhood of $*p$ – incremented pointer values

```
int * p ;
```

abstract address

expression  $p+1$

least byte address  
of `int` type  $*(p+1)$

$$\text{value}(p+1) = \text{value}(p) + \text{sizeof}(*p)$$
$$\text{value}(p+i) = \text{value}(p) + i*4$$

```
short * p ;
```

abstract address

expression  $p+1$

least byte address  
of `short` type  $*(p+1)$

$$\text{value}(p+1) = \text{value}(p) + \text{sizeof}(*p)$$
$$\text{value}(p+i) = \text{value}(p) + i*2$$

```
char * p ;
```

abstract address

expression  $p+1$

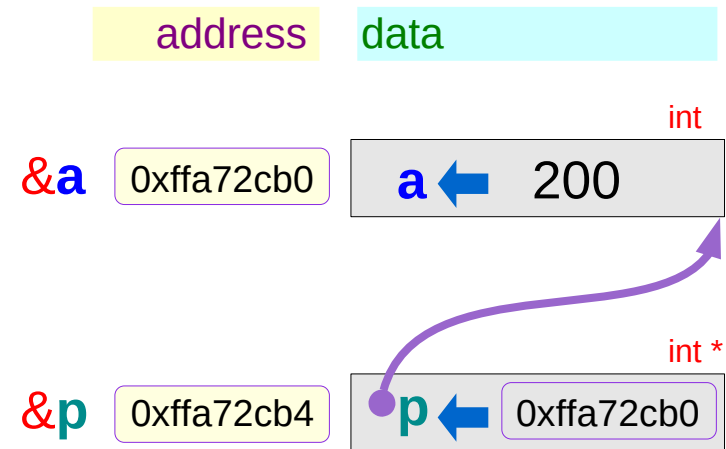
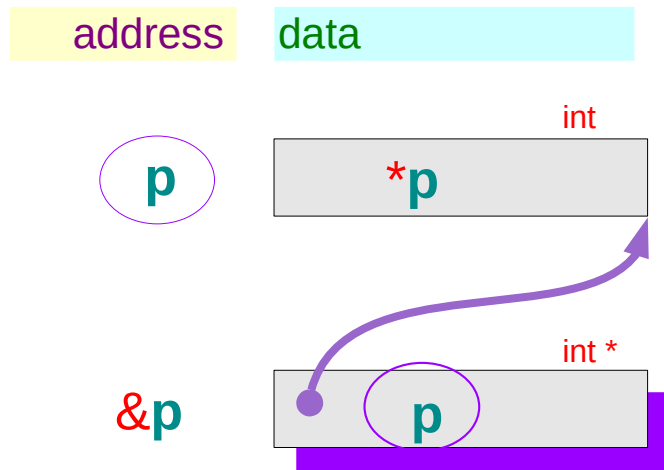
least byte address  
of `char` type  $*(p+1)$

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

---

# Pointer Variable Example

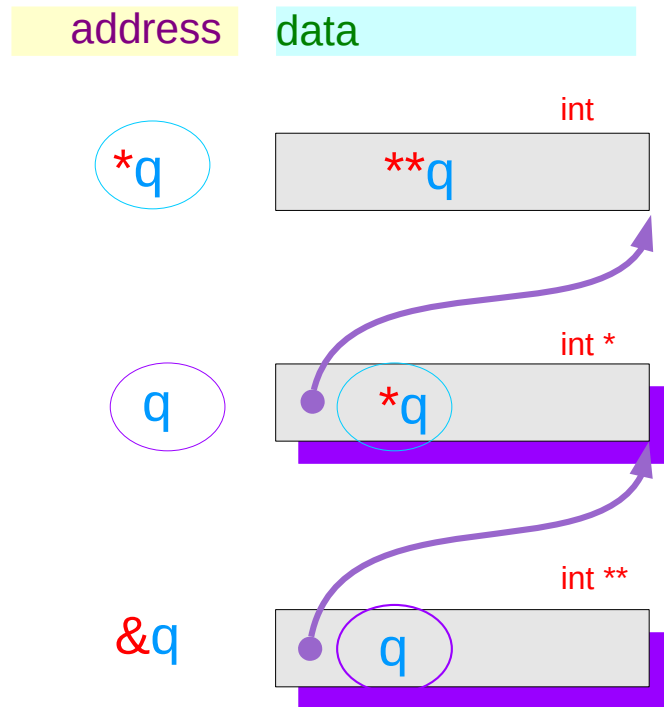
# Pointer variable **p** of the type **int \***



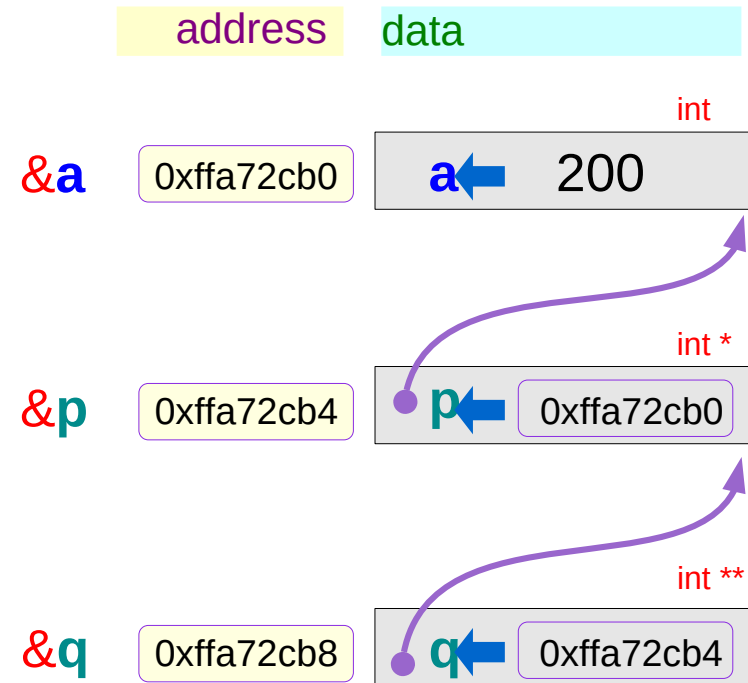
```
int    a = 200;  
int *  p = &a;
```

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

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



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




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

# 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);
```

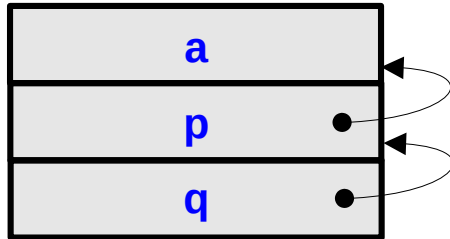
```
&p= 0xffa72cb4
p= 0xffa72cb0
*p=      200

&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

**0xffa72cb0**  
**0xffa72cb4**  
**0xffa72cb8**

MSByte

LSByte

00	00	00	c8
ff	a7	2c	b0
ff	a7	2c	b4

address value

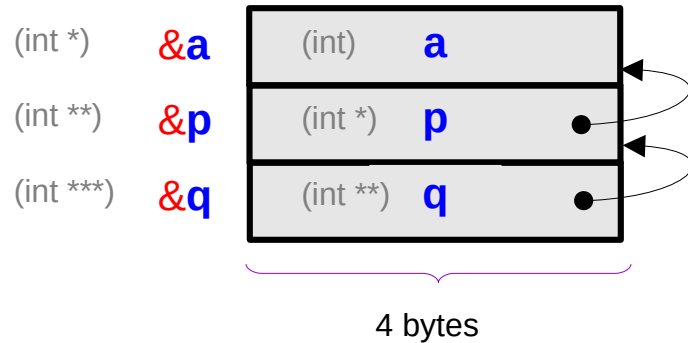
byte address of  
the least significant byte  
in a little endian system

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

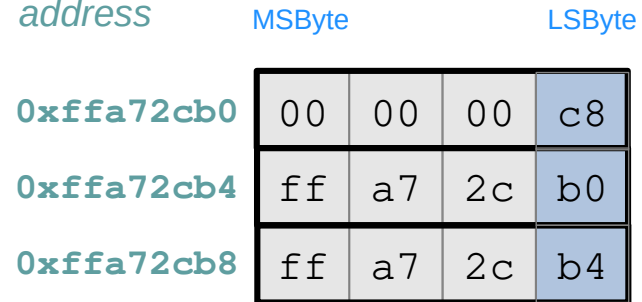
# Abstract vs. byte addresses

*abstract  
address*



*abstract address contains  
information of **type**, **size**, **value***

*byte  
address*



*byte address contains  
**value** information only*

Abstract Address	Type	Size	Value (address value)
<b>&amp;a</b>	<b>int *</b>	4 bytes	0xffa72cb0
<b>&amp;p</b>	<b>int **</b>	4 bytes	0xffa72cb4
<b>&amp;q</b>	<b>int ***</b>	4 bytes	0xffa72cb8

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

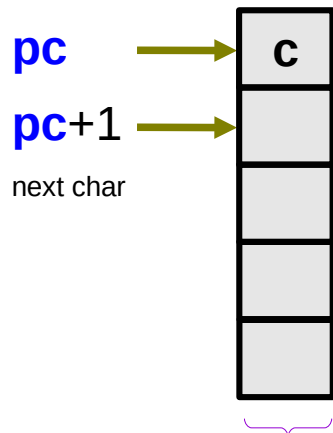


---

# Endianness and memory alignment

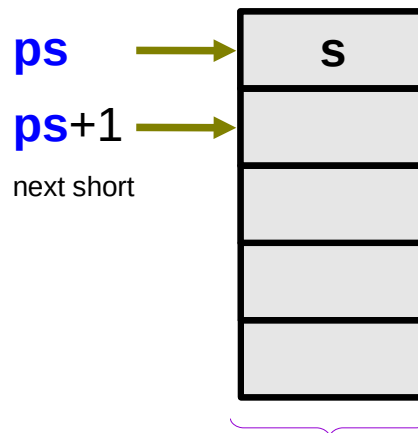
# Pointers and abstract addresses

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



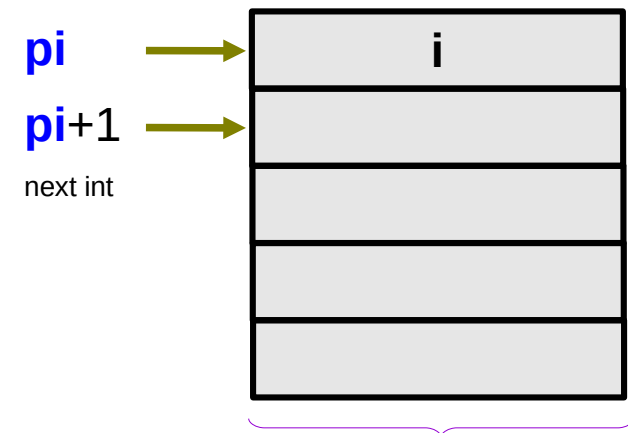
$\text{sizeof}(*pc) =$   
 $\text{sizeof}(c) =$   
 $\text{sizeof}(int) = 1 \text{ byte}$

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



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

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



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

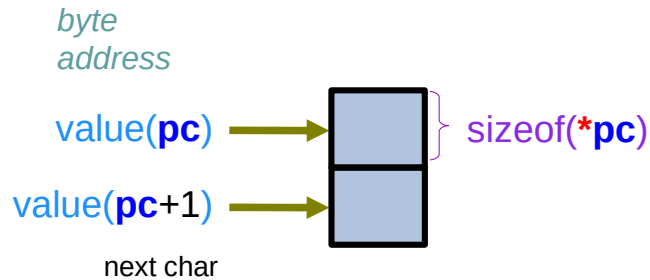
```
sizeof(pc) = 4 or 8 bytes  
type(pc) = char *  
value(pc) = byte address
```

```
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 ;**

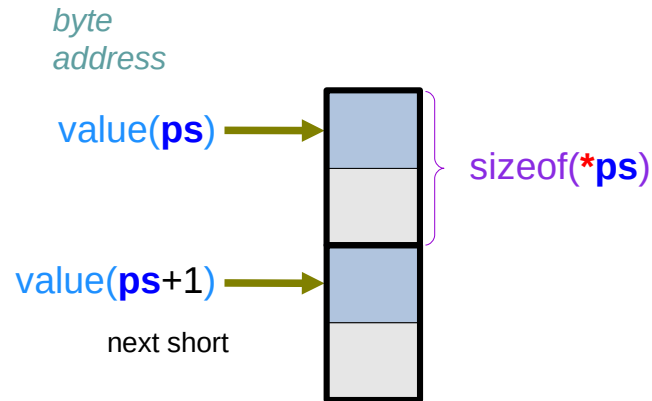


The **value** of a *pointer* (address value) is the **byte address** of the least significant byte in a little endian system

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

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

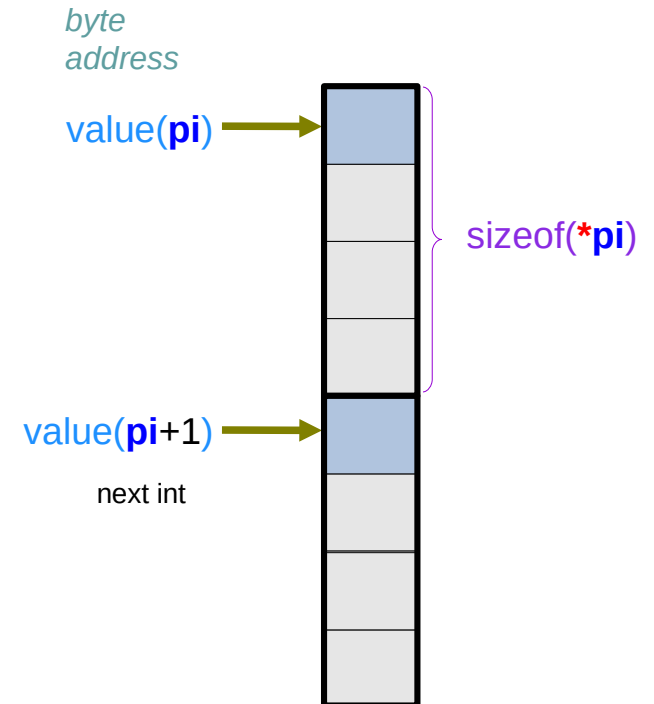
**short \*ps ;**



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

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

**int \*pi ;**

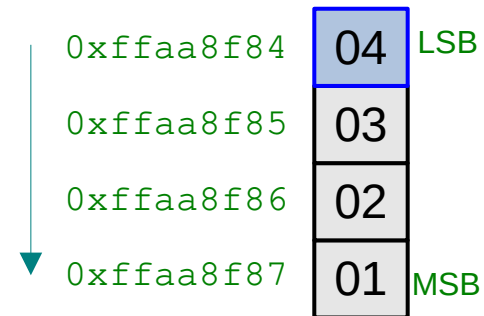
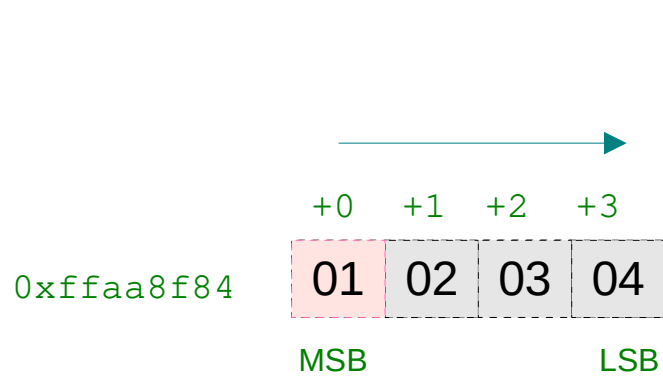
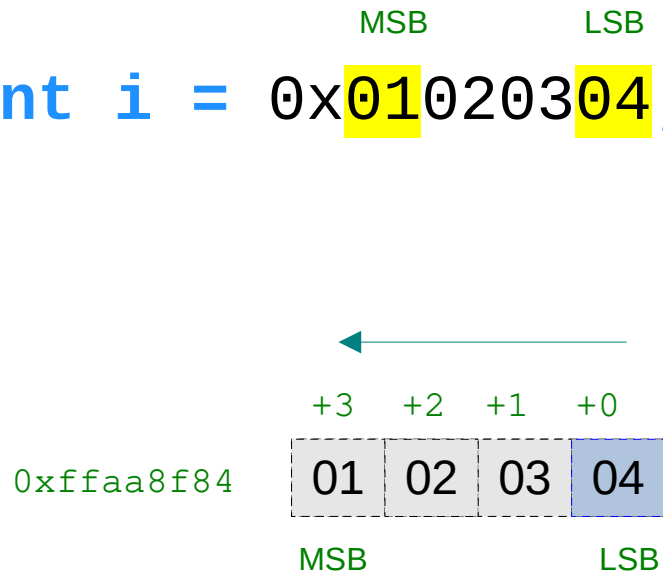


**pi** points to the least significant byte among the **4** bytes of an **int**

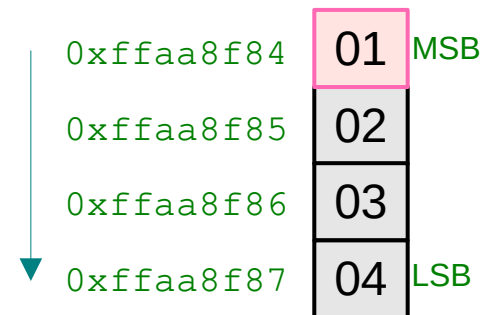
$\text{value}(\mathbf{pi}+1) = \text{value}(\mathbf{pi}) + \text{sizeof}(\mathbf{*pi})$

# Little Endian and Big Endian

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



**Little Endian**  
stores LSByte first

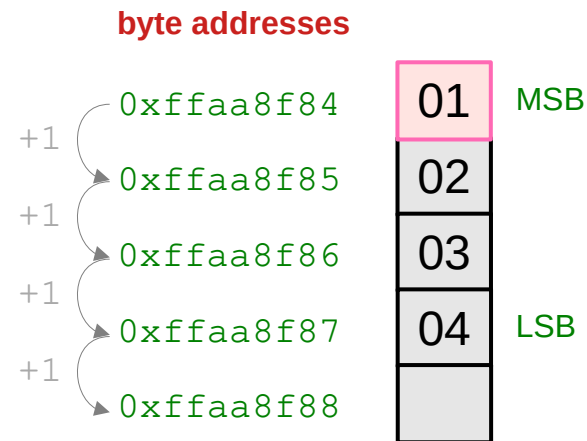
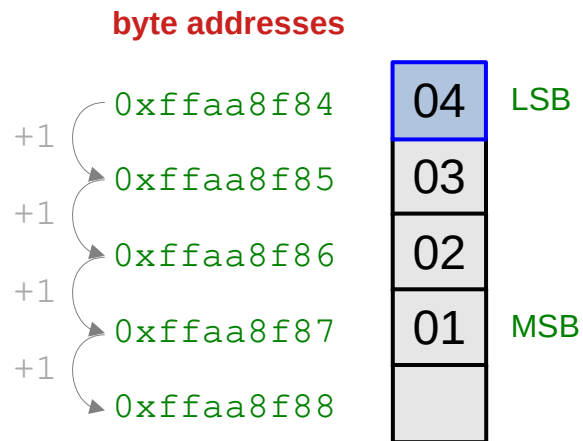
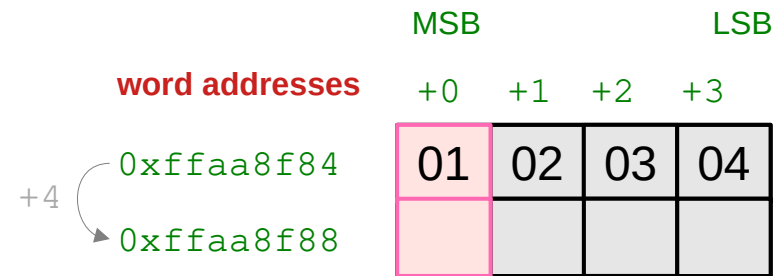
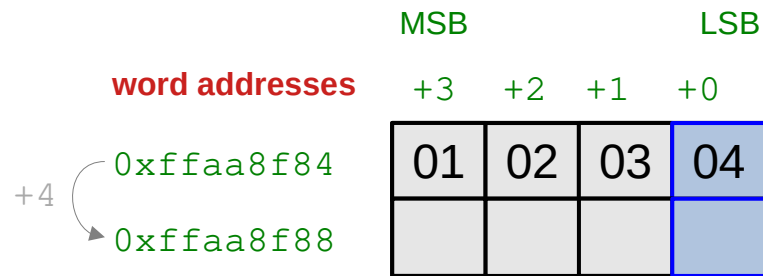


**Big Endian**  
stores MSByte first

# Word addresses and byte addresses

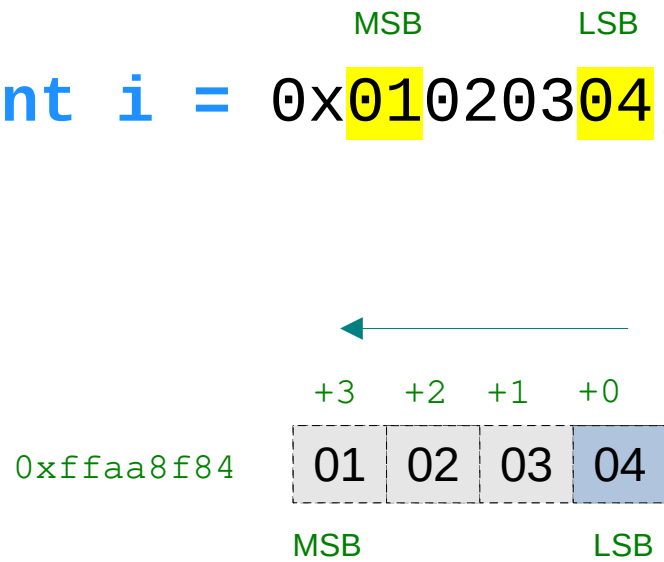
**Little Endian** store LSByte first

**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)

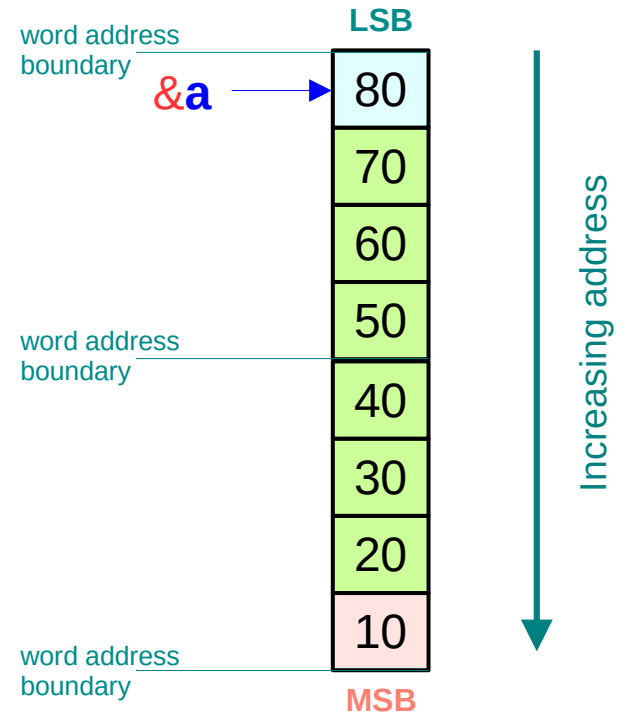
# Storing values in a little endian system

**long** `a` = 0x<sup>MSB</sup>10203040506070<sup>LSB</sup>80 ;

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

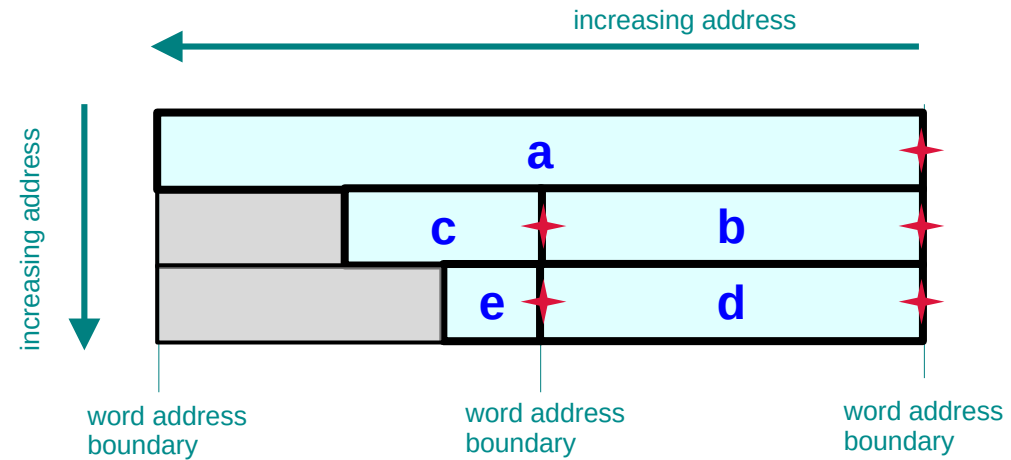
**Little Endian System**

store the LSB first

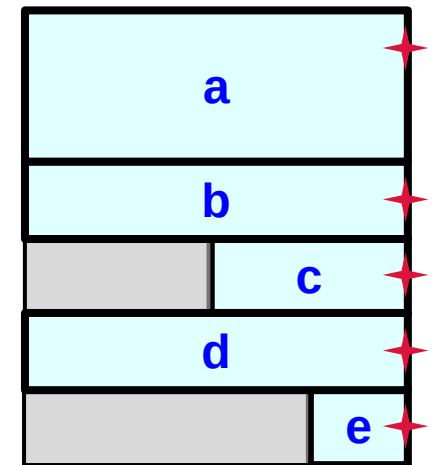


# Memory alignment in a little endian system

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



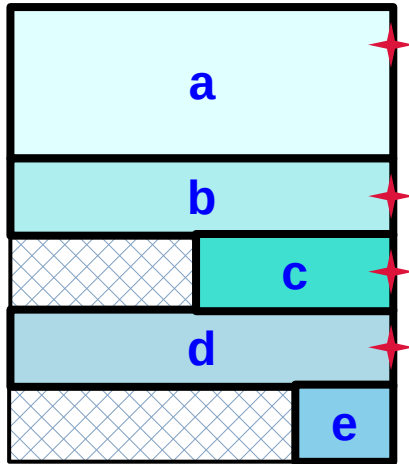
long     **a** = 0x<sup>MSB</sup>10203040506070<sup>LSB</sup>80 ;  
int        **b** = 0x112233<sup>MSB</sup>44<sup>LSB</sup> ;  
short     **c** = 0x12<sup>MSB</sup>34<sup>LSB</sup> ;  
int        **d** = 0x010203<sup>MSB</sup>04<sup>LSB</sup> ;  
char      **e** = 0x99<sup>LSB</sup> ;



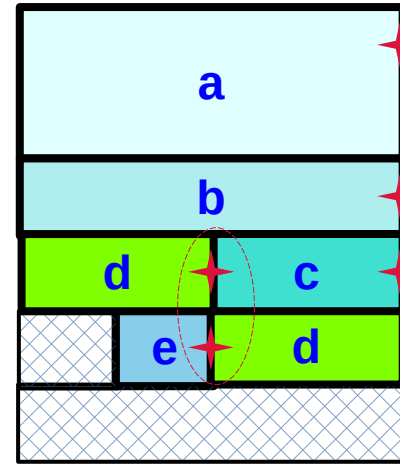


# Memory alignment – performance

## 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 ;
```

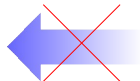
MSB (pink) and LSB (blue) labels are placed above and below the hex values. Red stars are placed above and below the entire code block.

---

# 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`



`short * q ;`

address of a short value

`q`

short address conversion

`(short *) &a`



`char * r ;`

address of a char value

`r`

char address conversion

`(char *) &a`

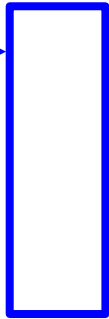


# View windows – type cast pointer

integer  
view window

int \*

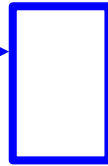
**p**



short  
view window

short \*

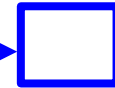
**q**



character  
view window

char \*

**r**



Little Endian  
Memory System

&a

LSB

80

70

60

50

40

30

20

10

MSB

Increasing address

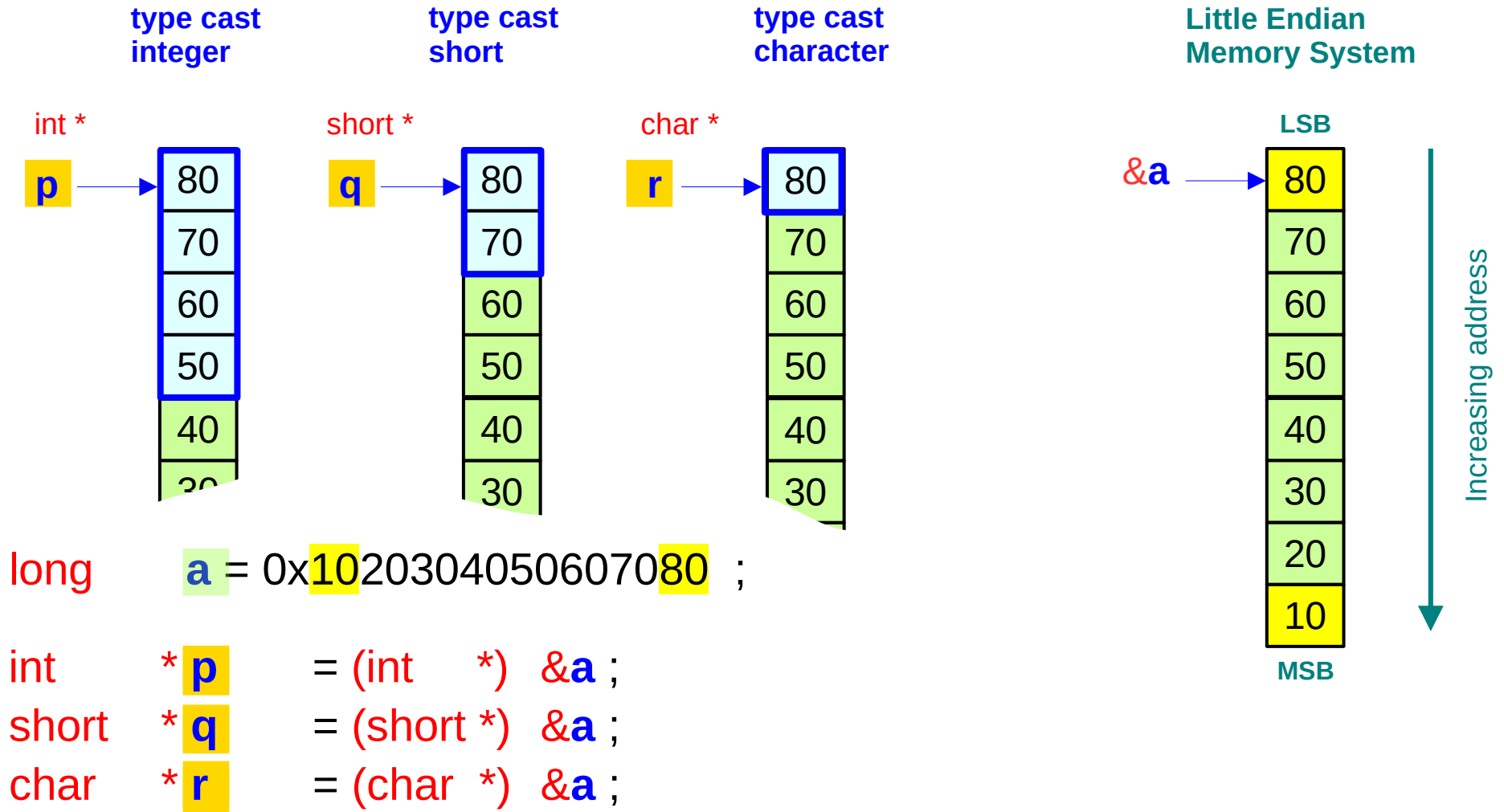
```
long a = 0x1020304050607080 ;
```

```
int * p ;
```

```
short * q ;
```

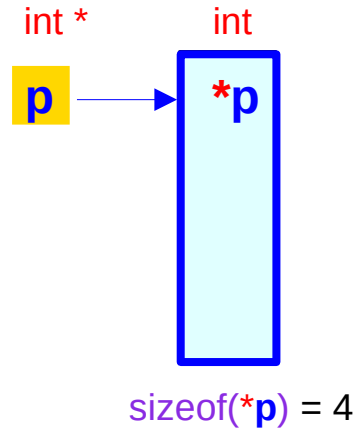
```
char * r ;
```

# Applying type cast pointers to a memory location

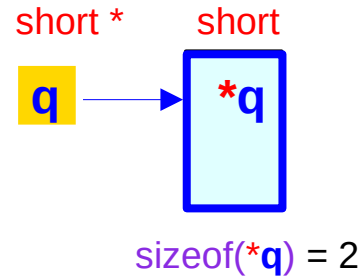


# De-referencing type cast pointers

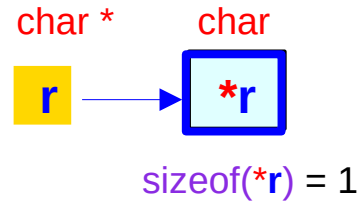
type cast  
integer pointer



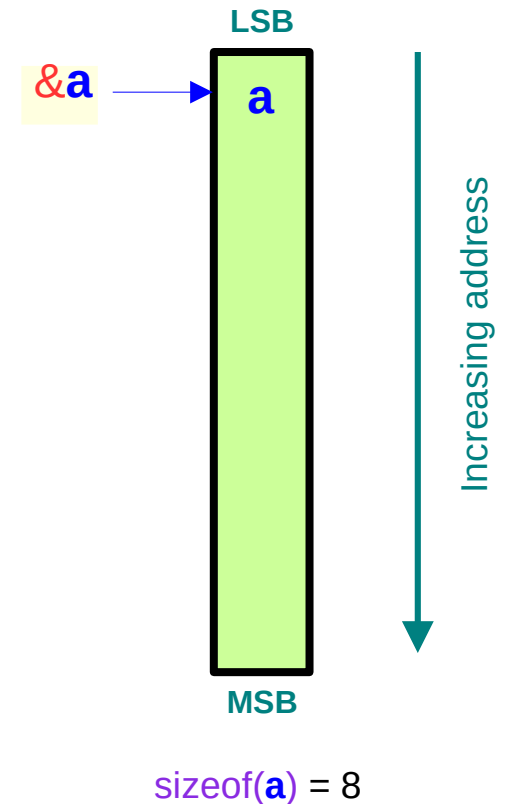
type cast  
short pointer



type cast  
character pointer



Little Endian  
Memory System

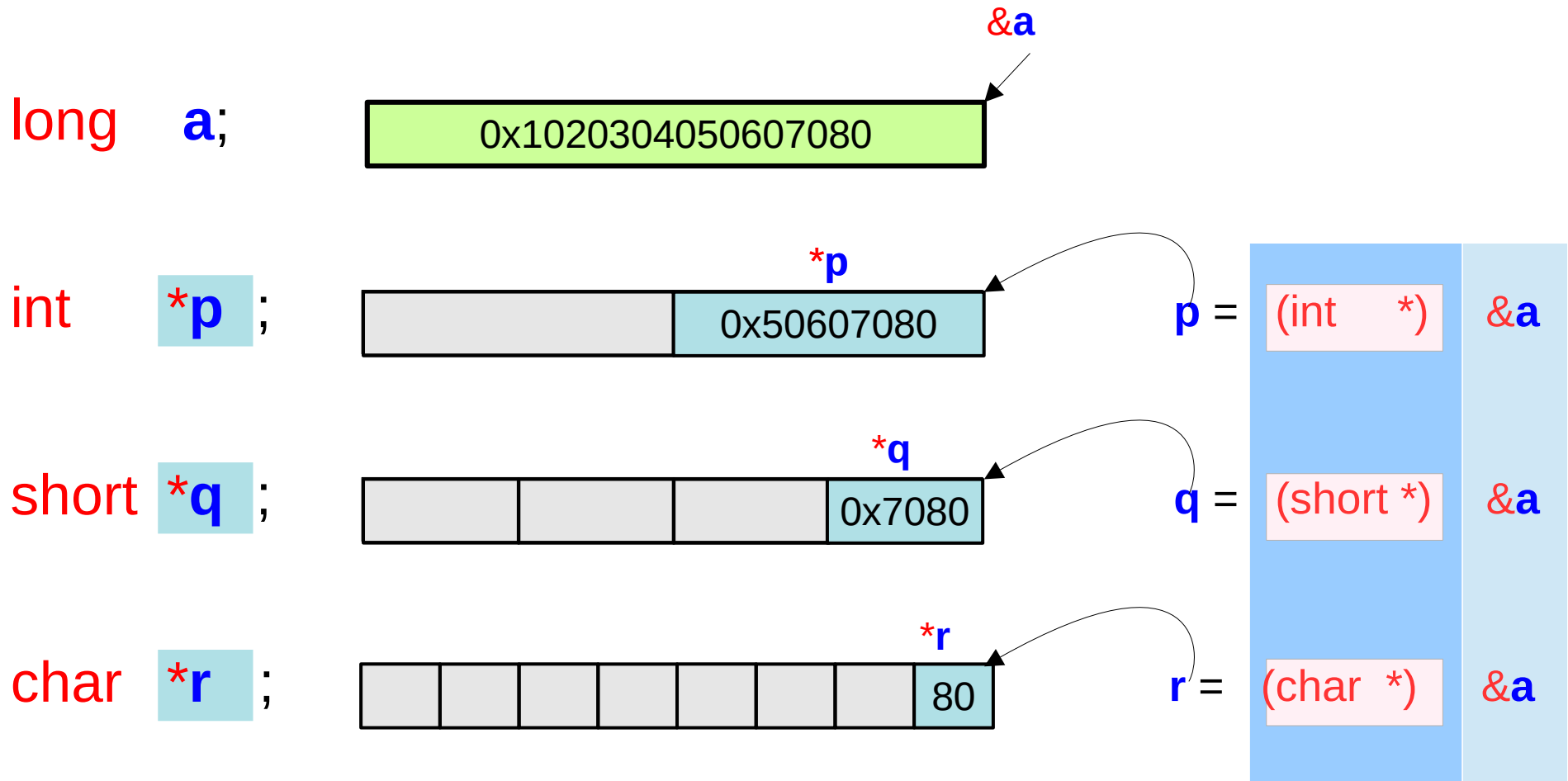


```
long a = 0x1020304050607080 ;
```

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

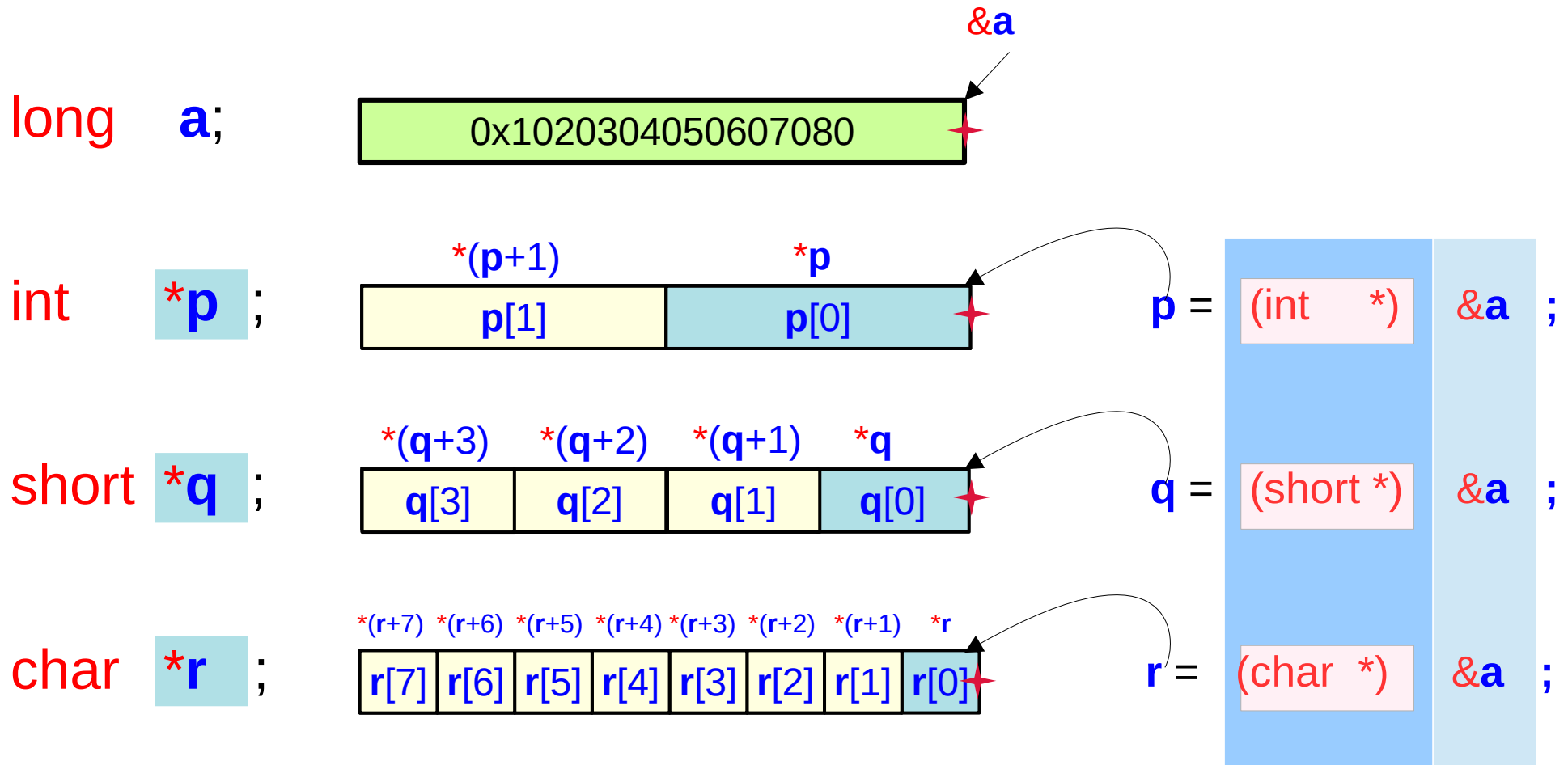
```
*p ≡ 0x50607080  
*q ≡ 0x7080  
*r ≡ 0x80
```

# Re-interpretation of memory data – case I

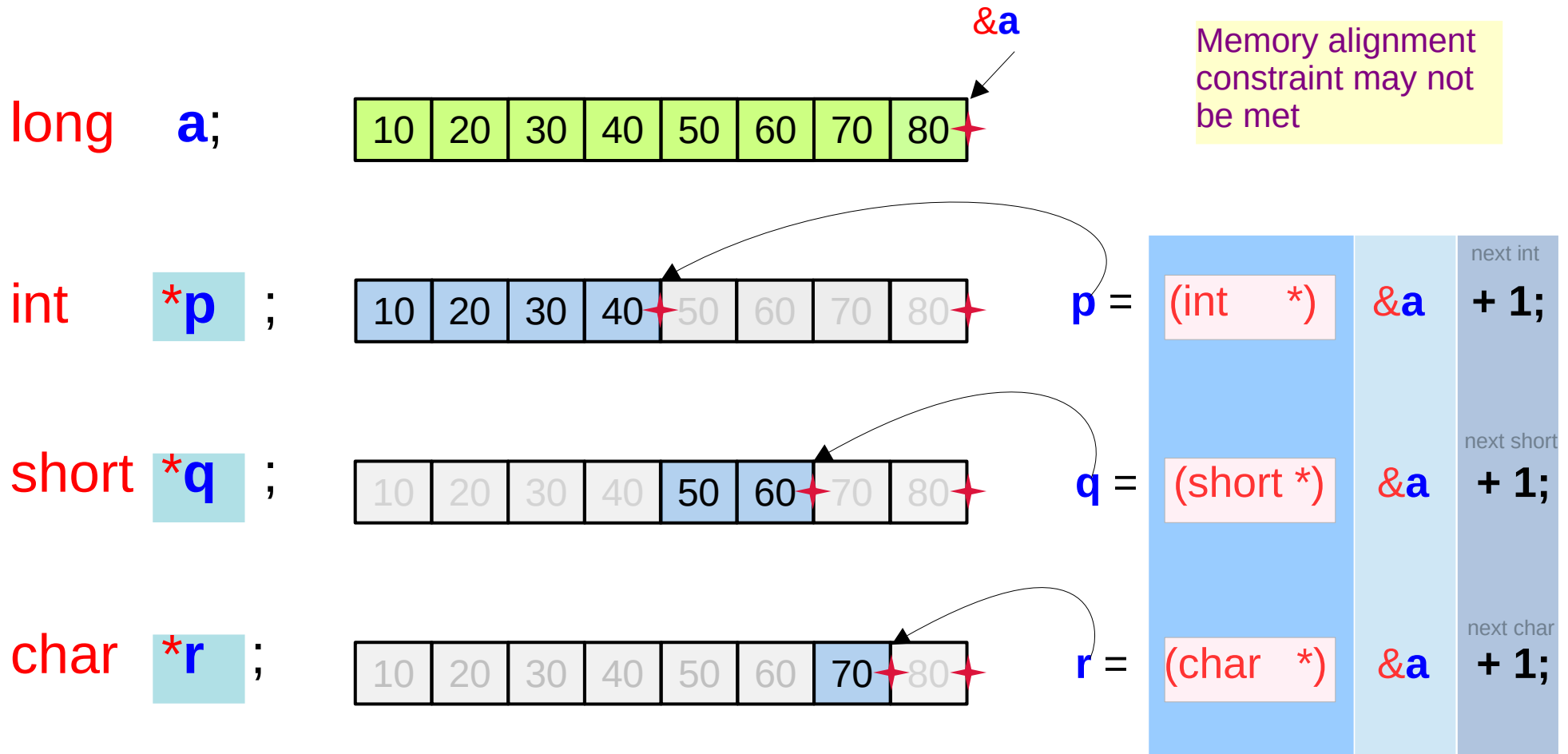




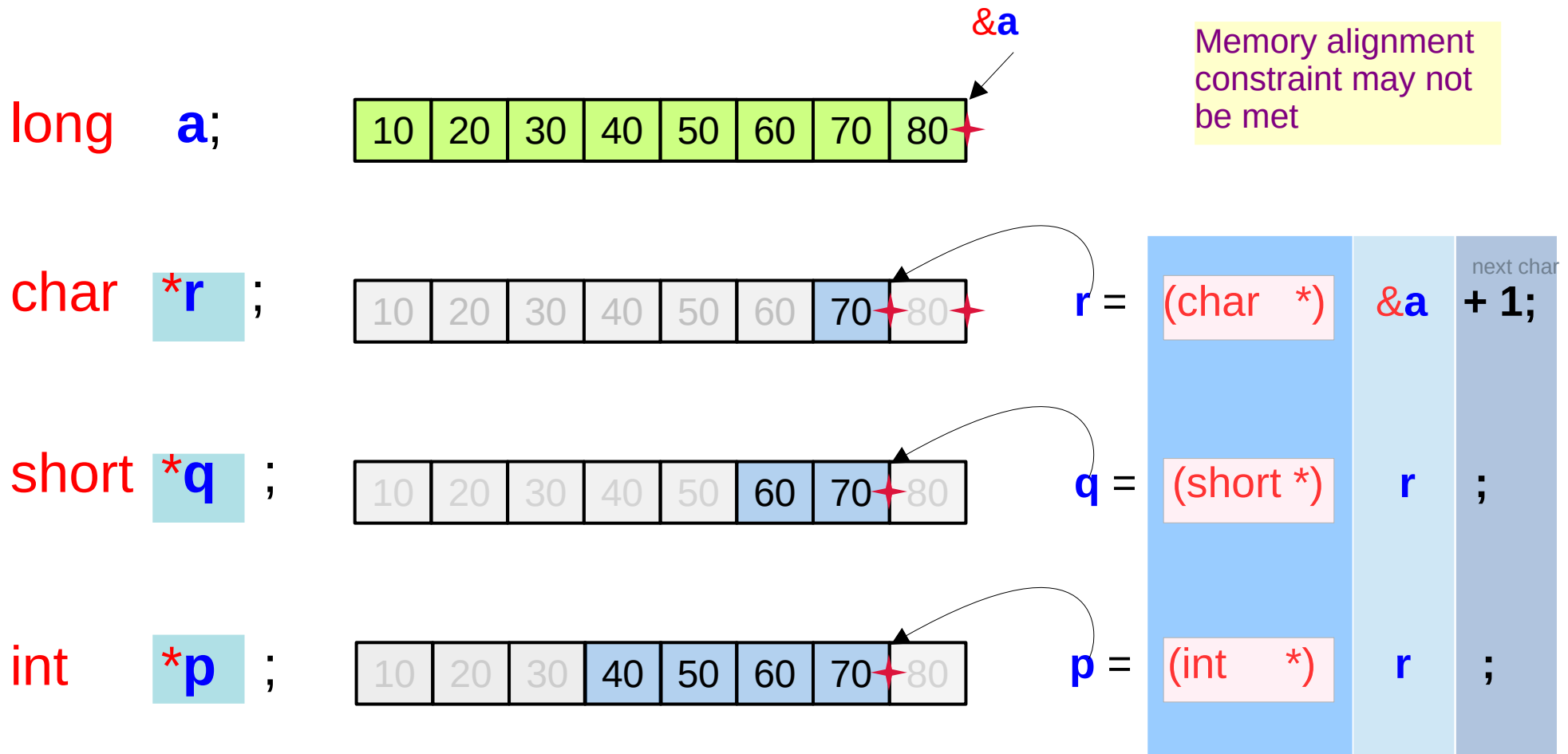
# Re-interpretation of memory data – case I



# Re-interpretation of memory data – case II



# Re-interpretation of memory data – case III



---

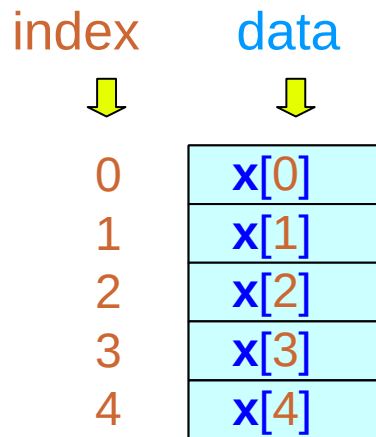
# Arrays

# Accessing array elements – using abstract addresses

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

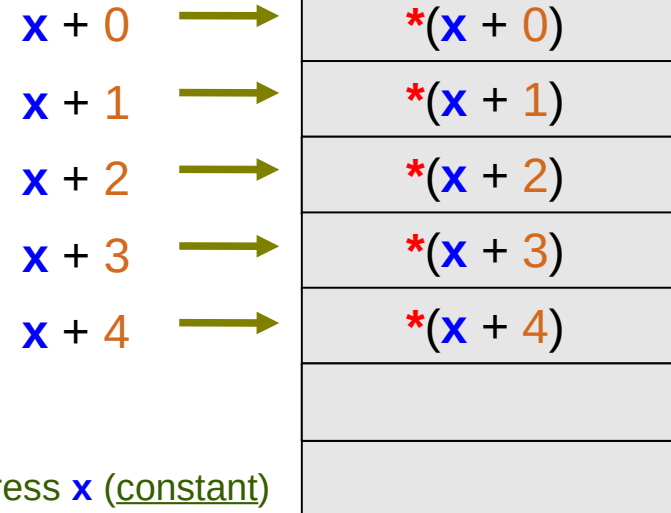
$x$  holds the *starting address*  
of 5 consecutive *int* variables

5 int variables



abstract  
address

data



cannot change address  $x$  (constant)

# Accessing array elements – using byte addresses

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

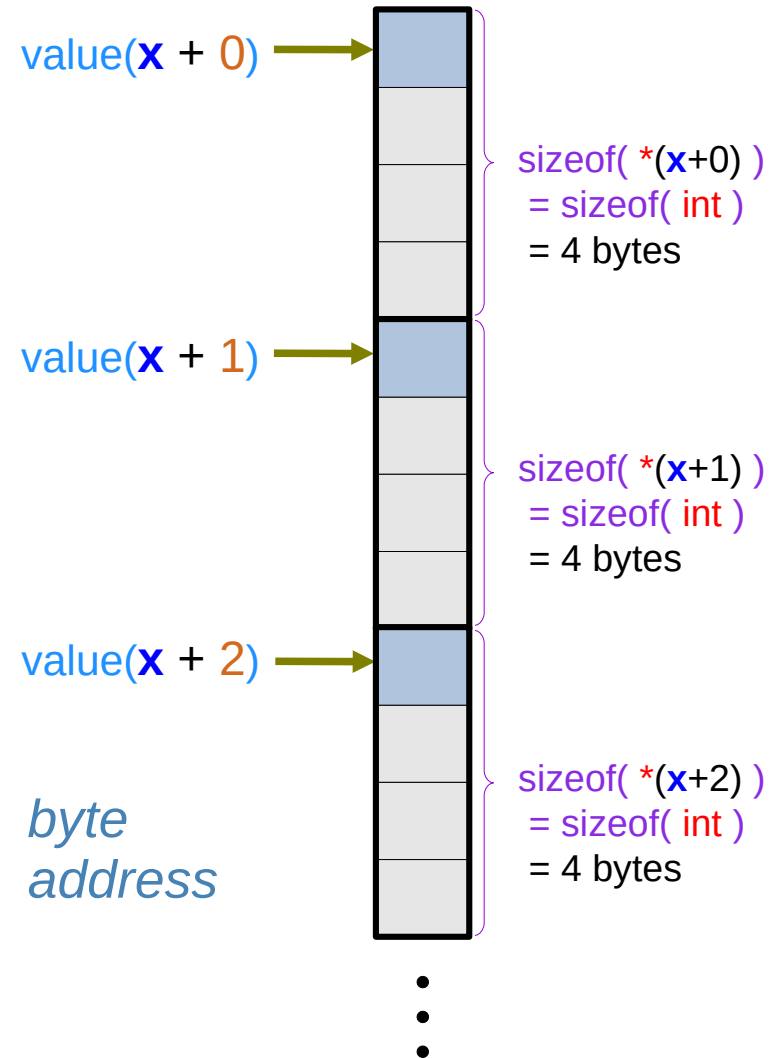
**x** holds the *starting address* of 5 consecutive *int* variables

5 int variables

$value(x + 0)$	=	$value(x)$	+	$0 * sizeof(*x)$
$value(x + 1)$	=	$value(x)$	+	$1 * sizeof(*x)$
$value(x + 2)$	=	$value(x)$	+	$2 * sizeof(*x)$
⋮		⋮		⋮

↓                      ↓                      ↓

byte address    byte address     $sizeof(int) = 4$  bytes



# Two aspects of **x**

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

**x** is an array of 5 integer elements

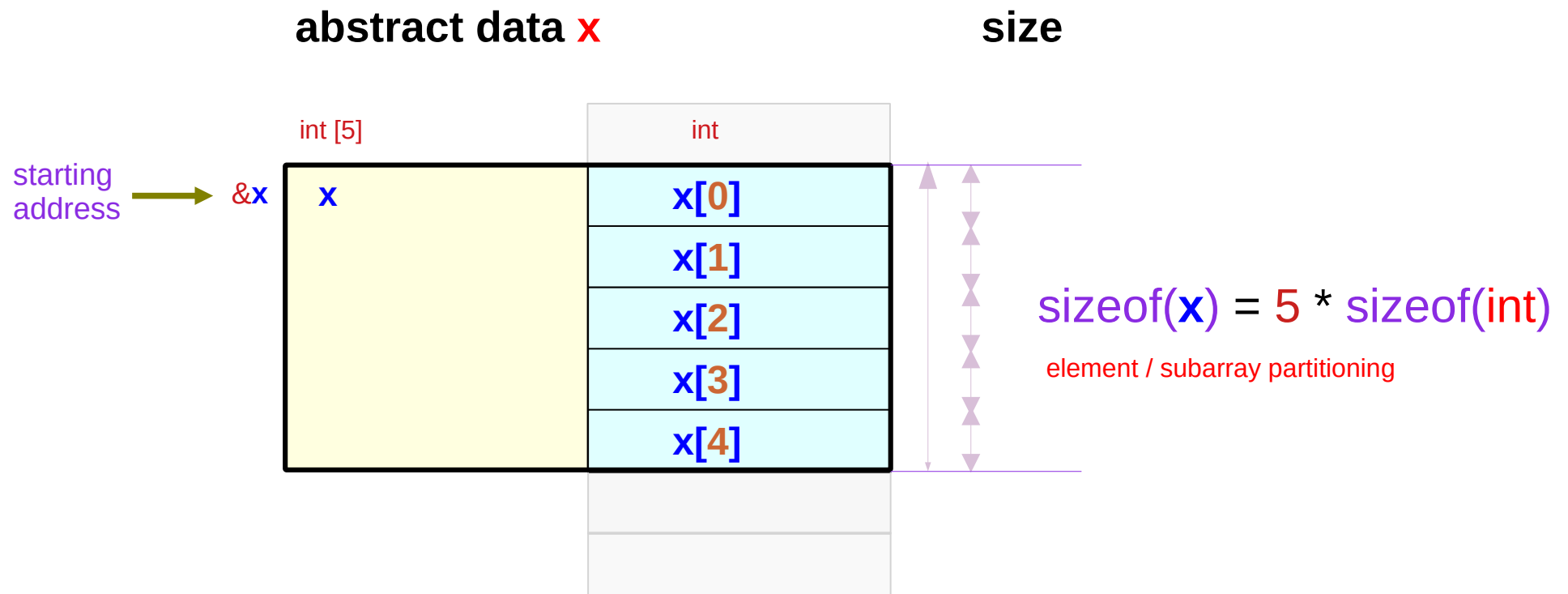
**abstract data **x** ..... size**

**pointer **x** ..... starting address**

# Abstract data **x**

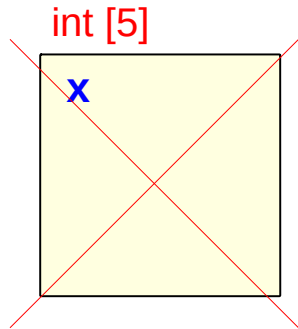
```
int    x[5];
```

the size of **x** is the total size  
of 5 consecutive `int` variables





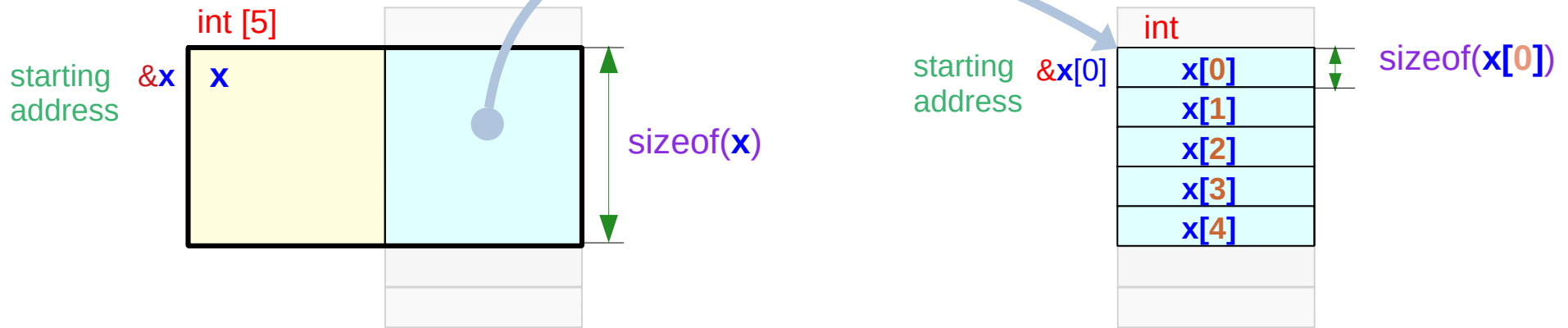
# Recursive structure



int [5] type data must include 5 int elements (primitive data)

nested (recursive) structure

in a multi-dimensional array, nested sub-arrays instead of primitive data



abstract data **x**

primitive data **x[i]**

# Pointer x

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

x holds the starting address of 5 consecutive int variables

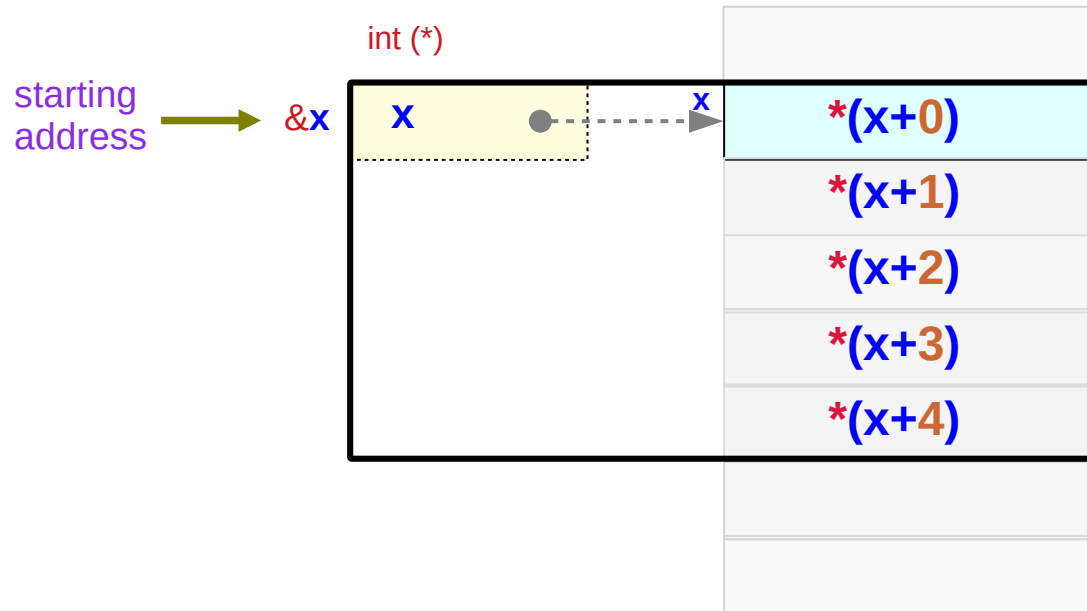
$$x[i] \equiv *(x+i)$$

only for  $i = 0, \dots, 4$

$$x[0] \equiv *x$$
$$\&x[0] \equiv x$$

equivalence relations

pointer x



starting address

the starting address of 5 consecutive int variables

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

the starting address ( $\&x$ ) of the array x

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

address replication

# Aggregate Data Type – 1-d Array

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

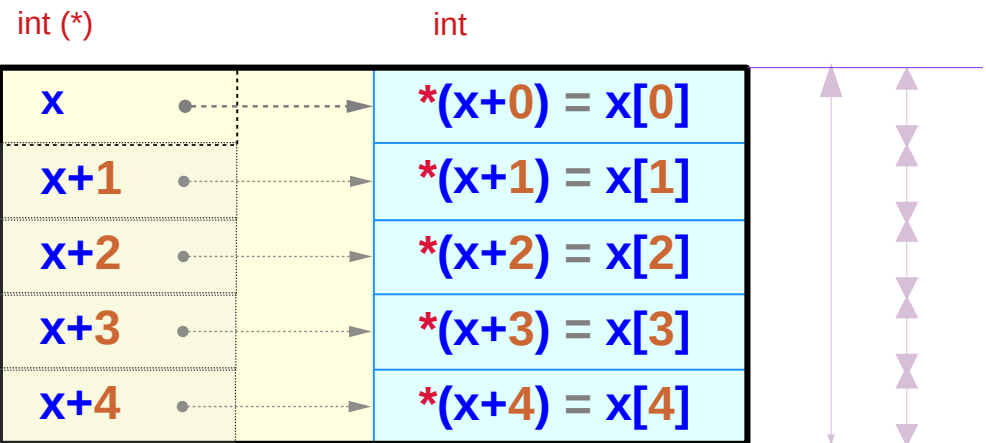
**x** holds the starting address of **5** consecutive **int** variables

## Aggregate data with 5 elements

*the start address of each element :*

$\text{value}(\mathbf{x+0})$	=	$\text{value}(\mathbf{x})$	+	$0$	*	$\text{sizeof}(*\mathbf{x})$
$\text{value}(\mathbf{x+1})$	=	$\text{value}(\mathbf{x})$	+	$1$	*	$\text{sizeof}(*\mathbf{x})$
$\text{value}(\mathbf{x+2})$	=	$\text{value}(\mathbf{x})$	+	$2$	*	$\text{sizeof}(*\mathbf{x})$
$\text{value}(\mathbf{x+3})$	=	$\text{value}(\mathbf{x})$	+	$3$	*	$\text{sizeof}(*\mathbf{x})$
$\text{value}(\mathbf{x+4})$	=	$\text{value}(\mathbf{x})$	+	$4$	*	$\text{sizeof}(*\mathbf{x})$

$\text{value}(\mathbf{x})$  = *the start address of the array*

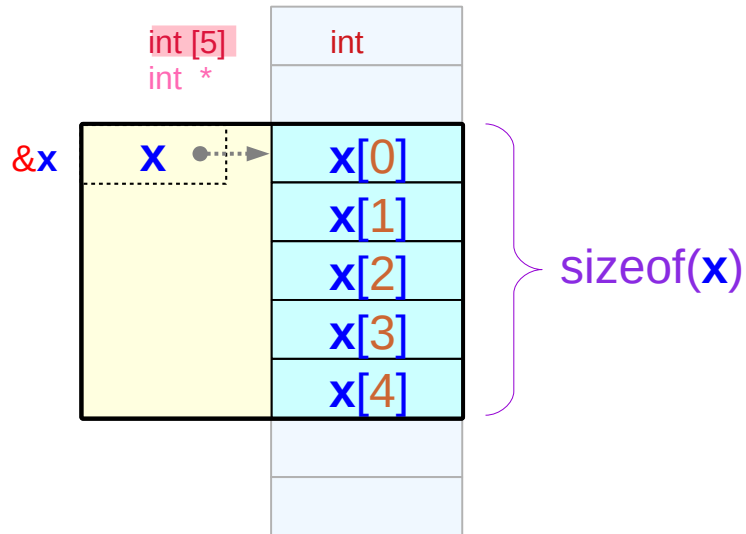


$\text{sizeof}(\mathbf{x}) = \text{sizeof}(*\mathbf{x}) * 5$

- 
- **An array  $x$  and a pointer  $p$**

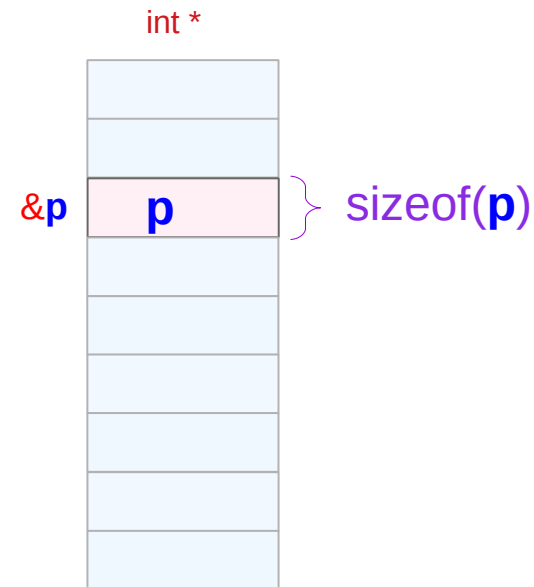
# Sizes of an array **x** and a pointer **p**

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



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

```
int * p ;
```



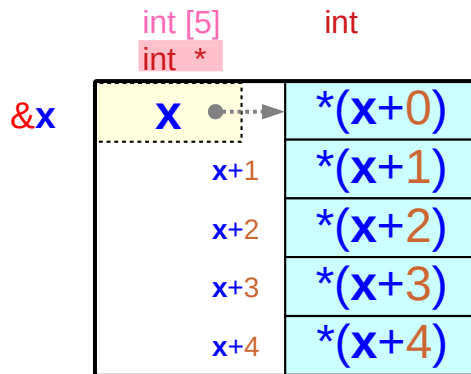
$$\begin{aligned} \text{sizeof}(p) &= \text{size of a pointer} \\ &= 4 \text{ bytes (32-bit system)} \\ &= 8 \text{ bytes (64-bit system)} \end{aligned}$$

# Address values of an array **x** and a pointer **p**

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

**x** : an array variable name (constant)

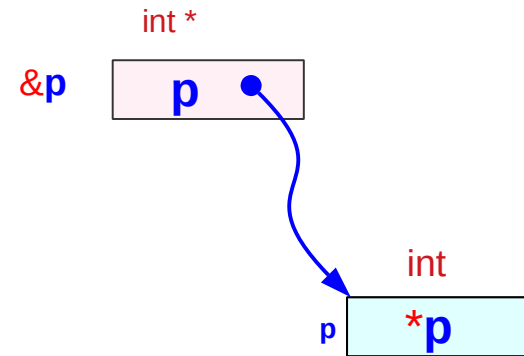
**value(x)** : the starting address of  
5 consecutive **int** variables



```
int * p ;
```

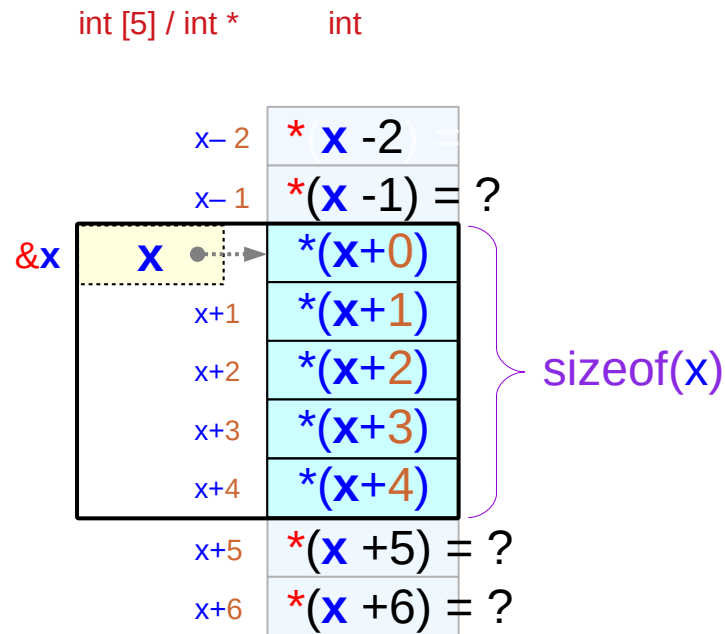
**p** : an variable name

**value(p)** : the address  
of an **int** variable

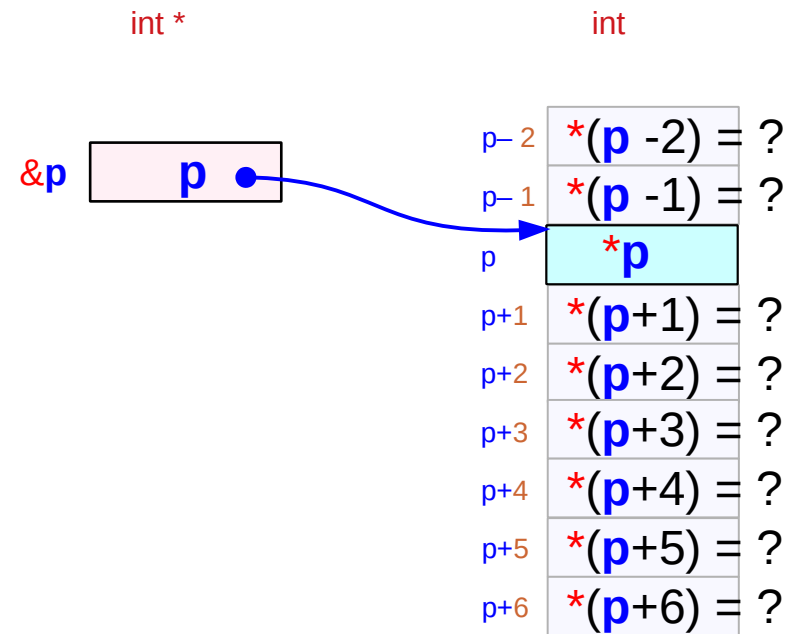


# Out of range index

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



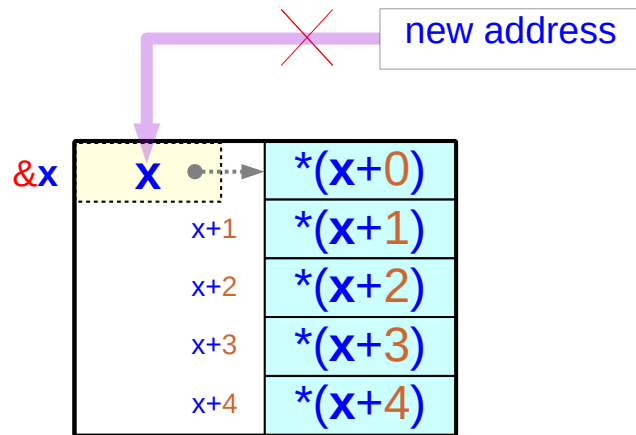
```
int * p ;
```



A programmer's responsibility

# Assignment of a new address

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

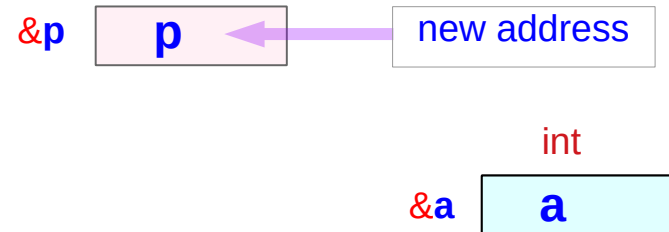


x is a constant variable  
(not an *lvalue*)

x and &x give the same  
value of &x[0] (**address replication**)

this address value(x) is assigned by  
the compiler and cannot be changed

```
int * p ;
```



p is a pointer variable  
(a *lvalue*)

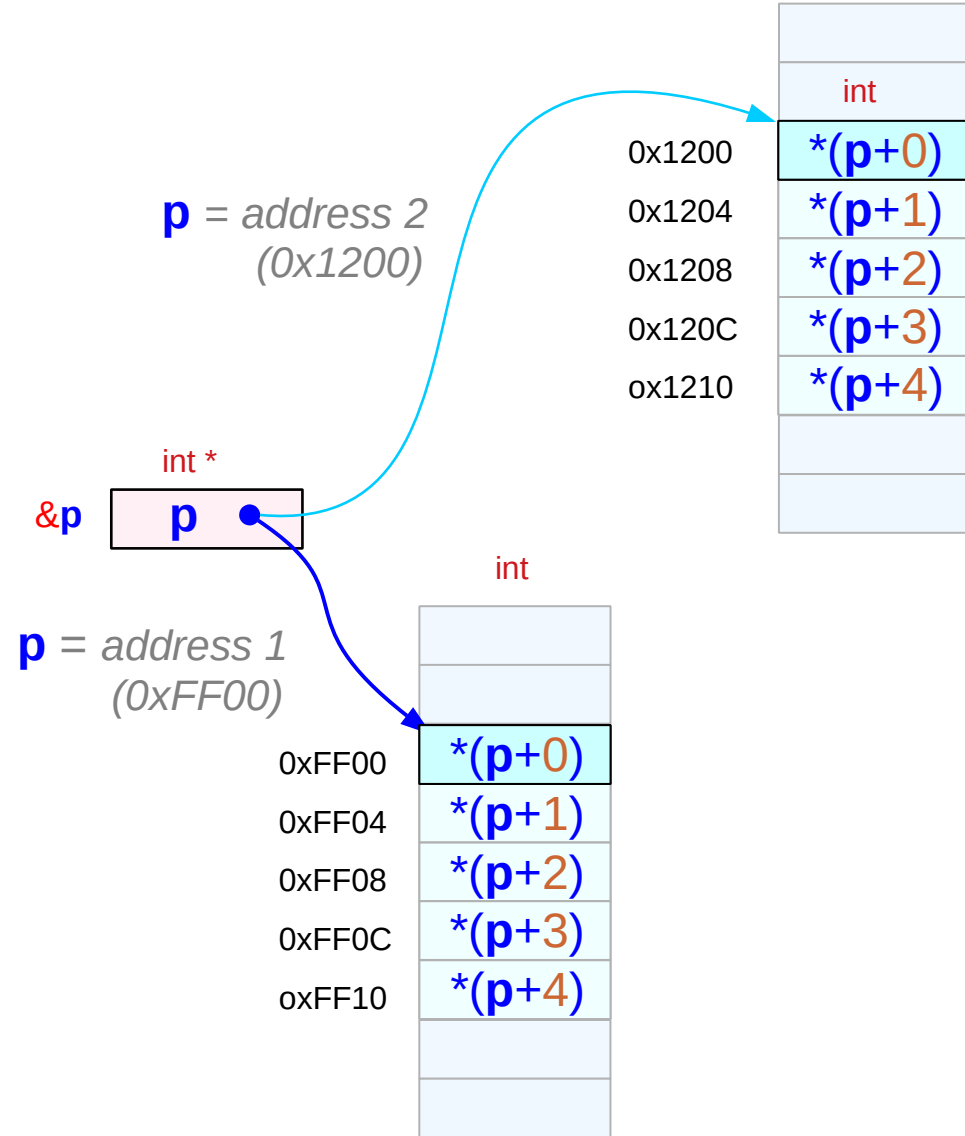
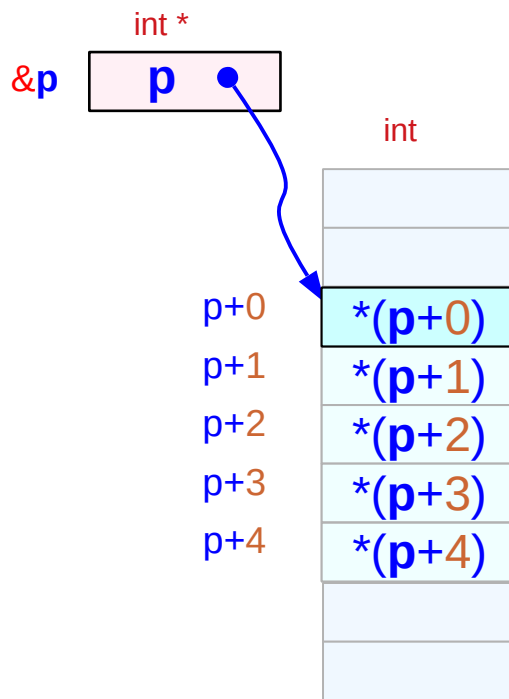
a memory location is allocated  
for a variable p

value(p) can be changed by an  
assignment statement, i.e.,  
**p = &a**



# Pointer variable can point different locations

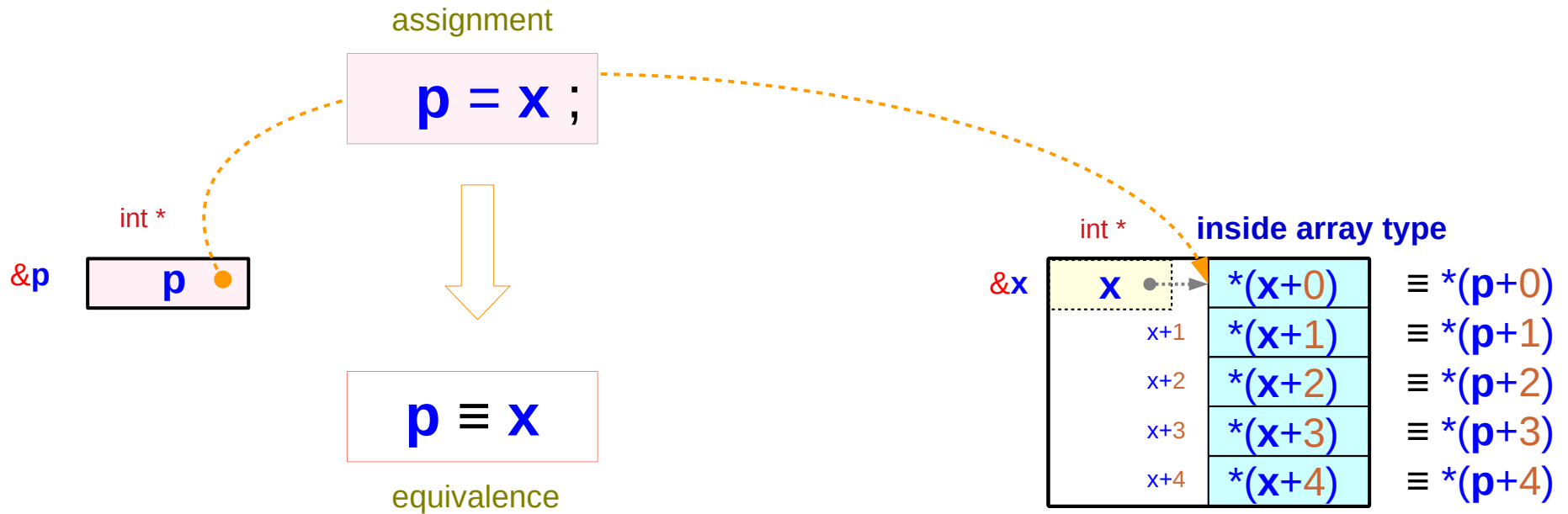
```
int * p ;
```



# Pointer to an array element

```
int (*p) ;
```

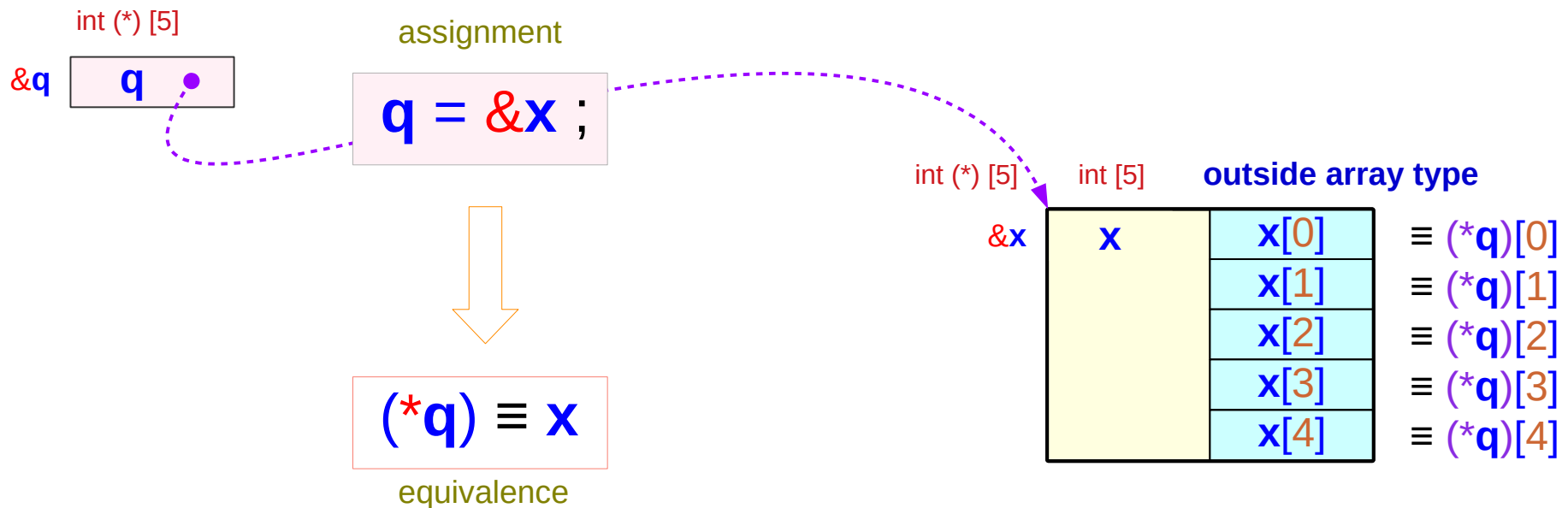
```
int x [5] ;
```



# Pointer to an array

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

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



`q` is a pointer variable that points to an array with 5 integer variables

---

# 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

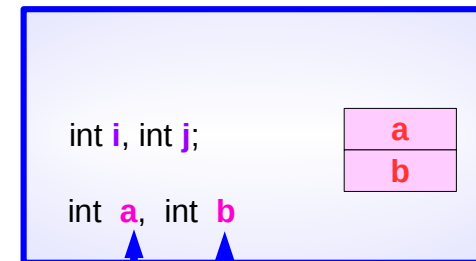
```
int main ()
{
    int x, int y;
    ...
    ...
    func1 ( 10, 20 );
    ...
    ...
}
```

x and y's  
variable scope

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

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

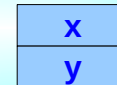
func1's  
Stack  
Frame



( 10, 20 )

main's  
Stack  
Frame

int x, int y;



# 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



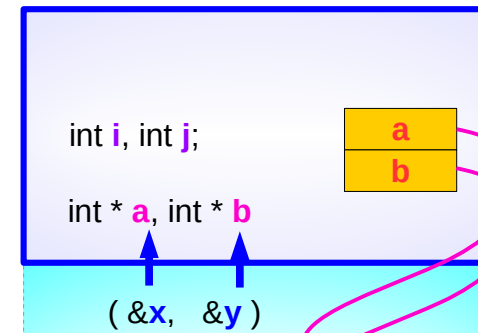
**a** = &**x**  
**b** = &**y**

```
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

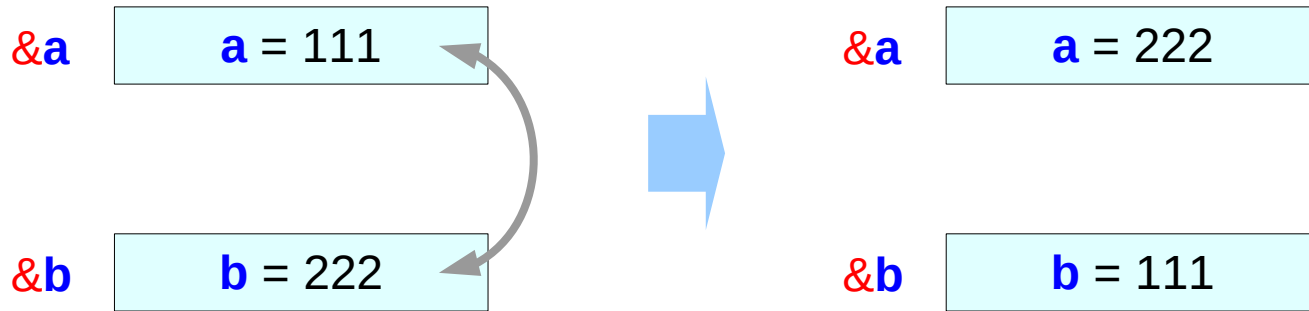


\***a**  
\***b**

---

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;
```

...

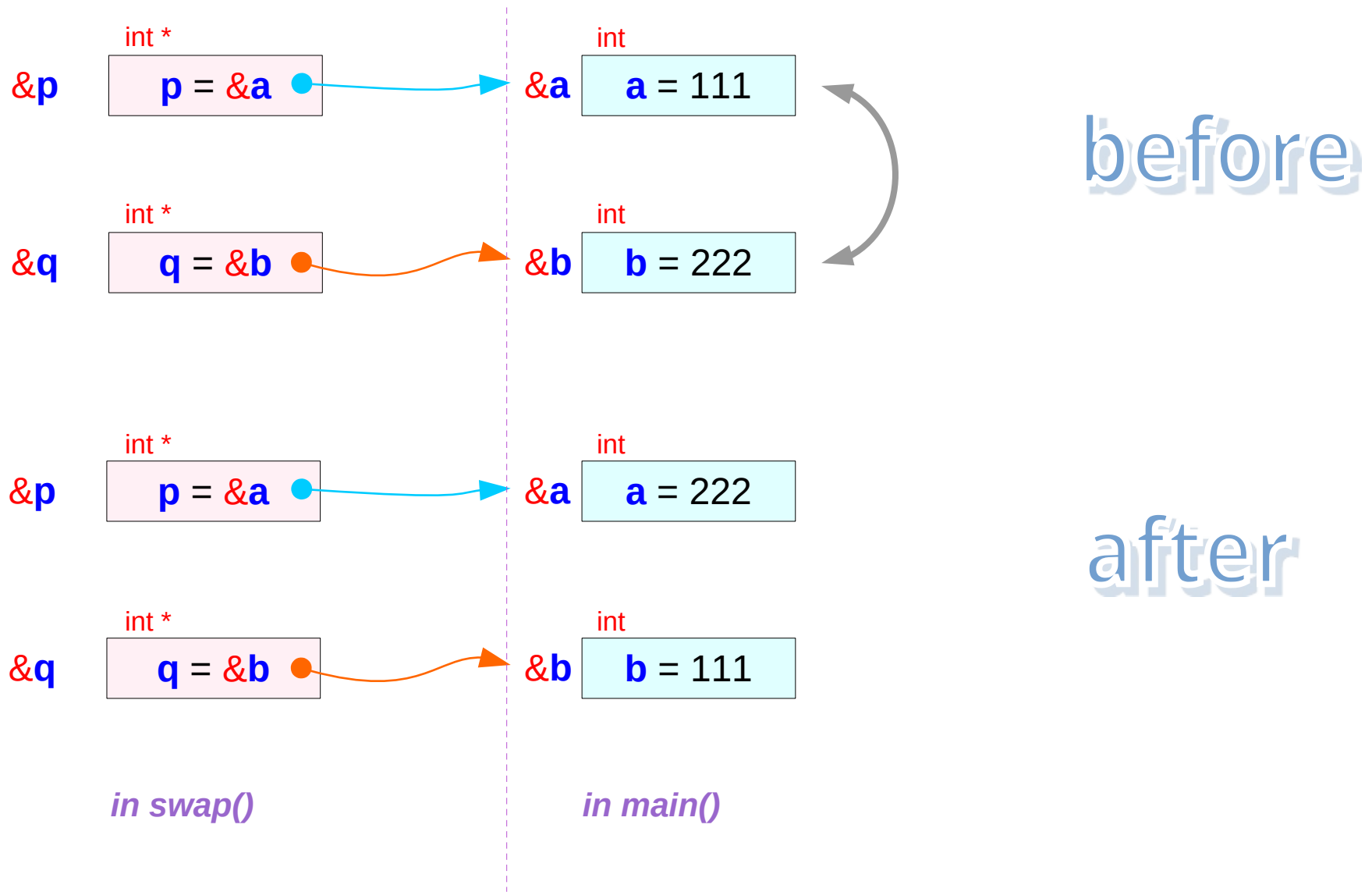
```
swap( &a, &b );
```

int *	p
int	*p

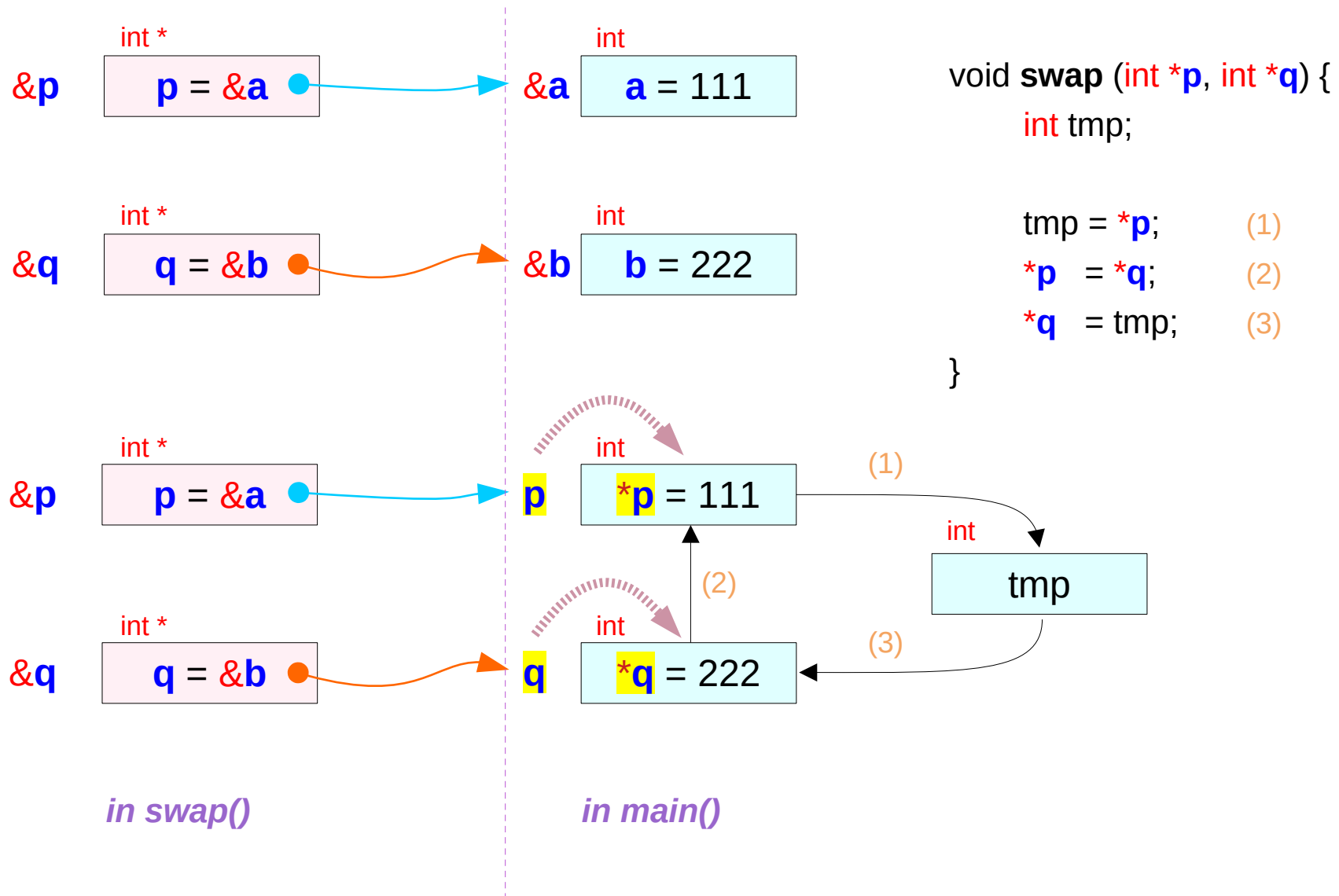
int *	q
int	*q

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

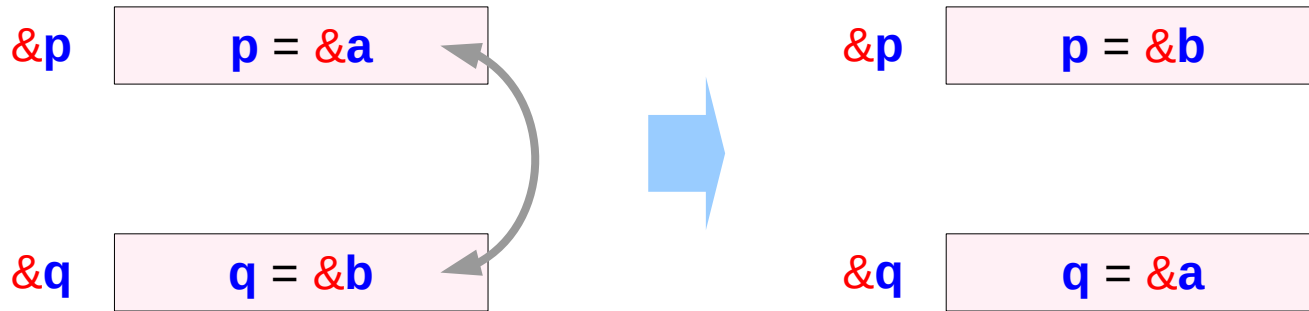
# Swapping integers



# Swapping integers via integer pointers



# Swapping integer pointers



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

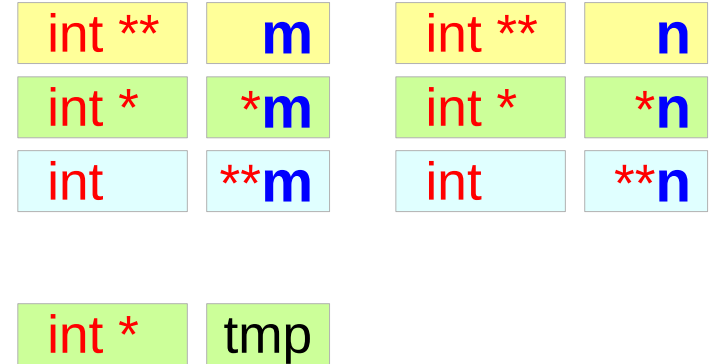
function call

function prototype

# Pass by integer pointer reference

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

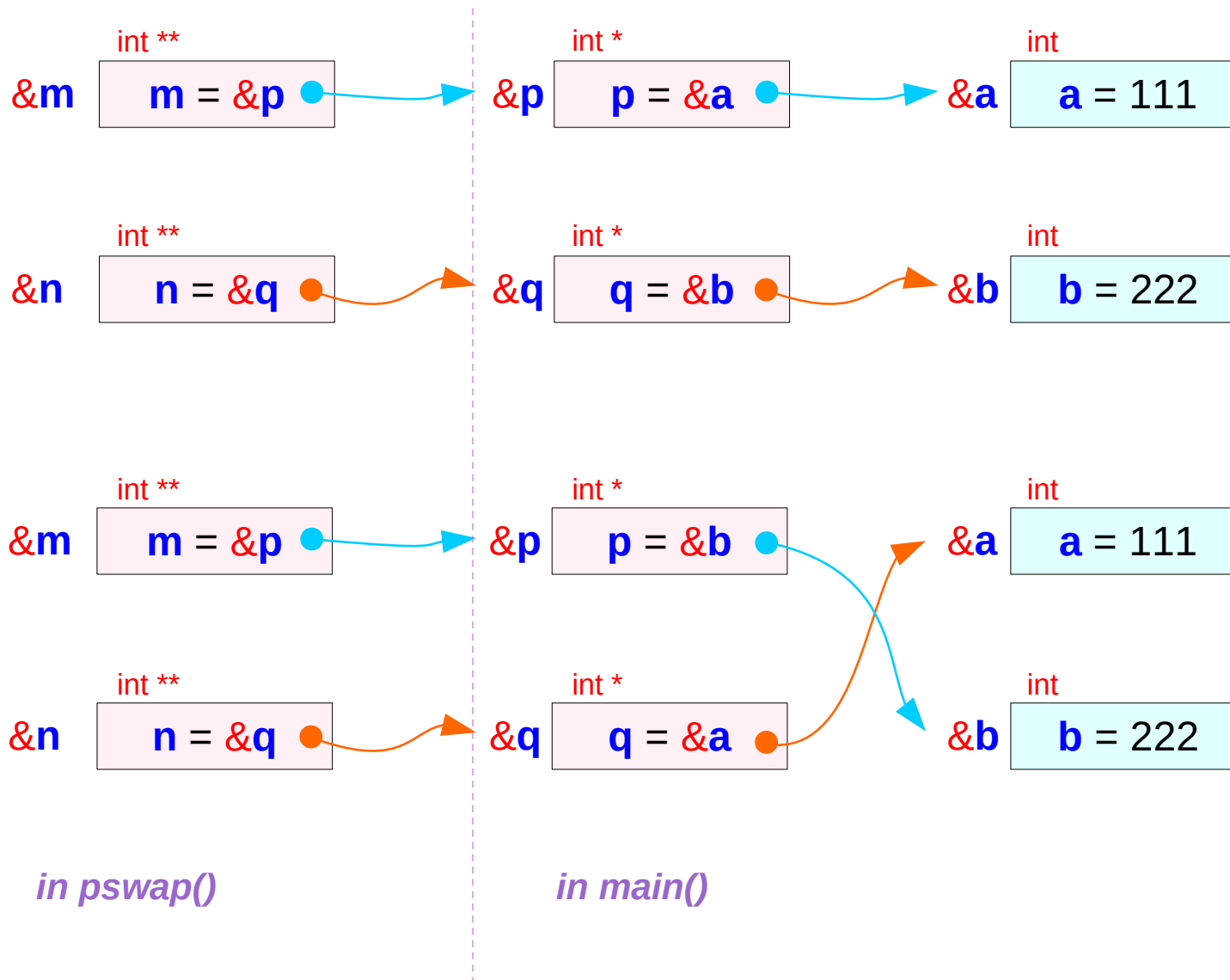
    tmp = *m;
    *m = *n;
    *n = tmp;
}
```



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

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

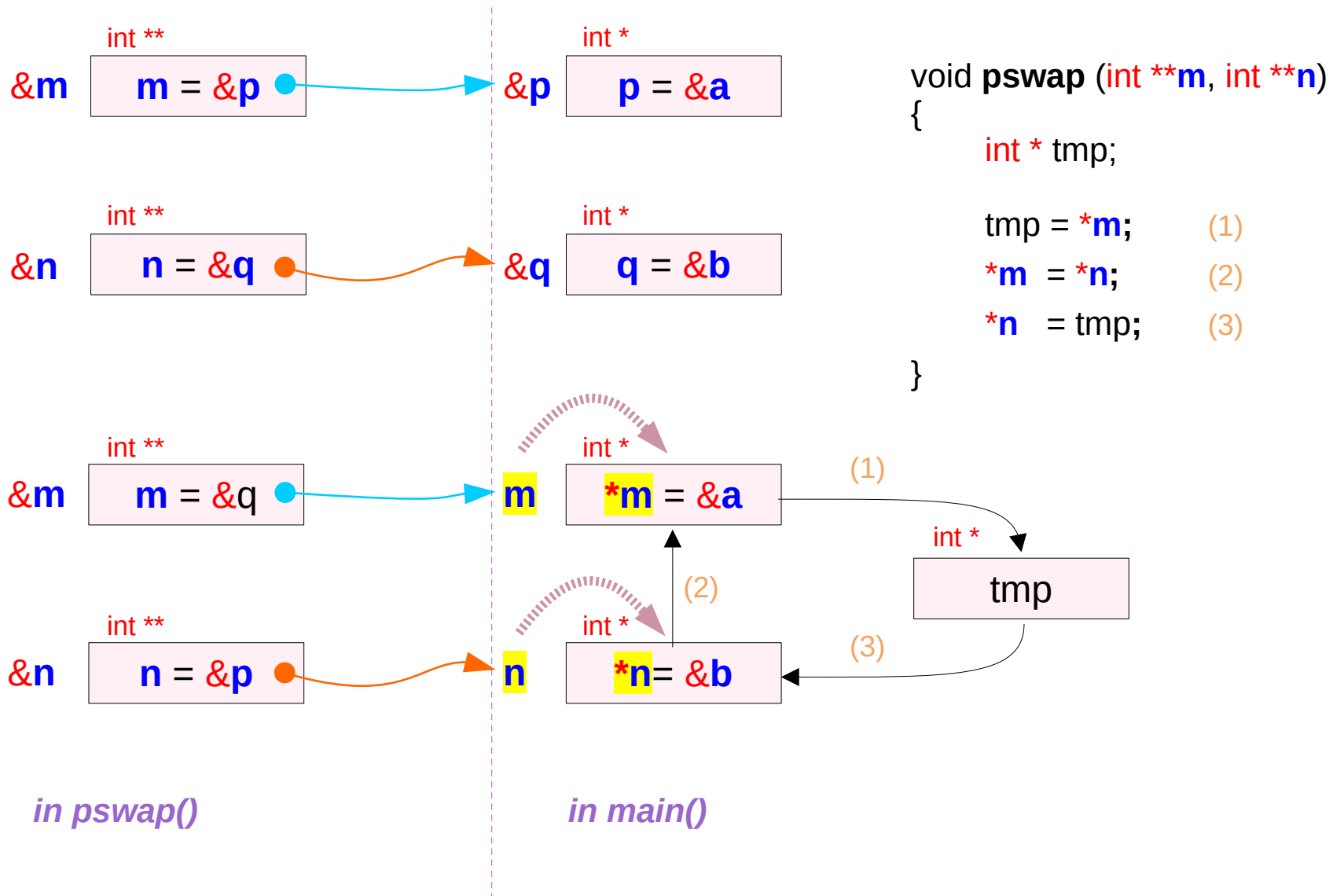
# Swapping integer pointers



before

after

# Swapping integer pointers via double pointers



## 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