

Strings

Chapter 8

Problem Solving & Program Design in C

Eighth Edition

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Chapter Objectives

- To understand how a string constant is stored in an array of characters
- To learn about the placeholder `%s` and how it is used in `printf` and `scanf` operations
- To learn some of the operations that can be performed on strings such as copying strings extracting substrings, and joining strings using functions from the library `string`

String Basics

- null character
 - character `'\0'` that marks the end of a string in C
- A string in C is implemented as an array.
 - `char string_var[30];`
 - `char str[20] = "Initial value";`
- An array of strings is a 2-dimensional array of characters in which each row is a string.
- String library `string.h`

Input/Output

- printf and scanf can handle string arguments
- use %s as the placeholder in the format string

```
char president[20];
```

```
scanf("%s\n", president);
```

```
printf("%s\n", president);
```

Initializing Strings

- `sizeof()` gives size in bytes
- `strlen()` gives length of string

```
char string[16] = "hello world";
```

```
char *str = "hello world";
```

```
char s[] = "hello world";
```

Initializing Strings

- sizeof() gives size in bytes
- strlen() gives length of string

```
char string[16] = "hello world";
```



```
char *str = "hello world";
```



```
char s[] = "hello world";
```



Initializing Strings

- sizeof() gives size in bytes
- strlen() gives length of string

```
char string[16] = "hello world";
```

sizeof() is 16
strlen() is 11



```
char *str = "hello world";
```

sizeof() is 8
strlen() is 11



```
char s[] = "hello world";
```

sizeof() is 12
strlen() is 11



String Terminology

- string length
 - in a character array, the number of characters before the first null character



- empty string
 - a string of length zero
 - the first character of the string is the null character

Scanning a Full Line

- For interactive input of one complete line of data, use the `fgets` function from `stdio`.
- Arguments: destination string, max characters to read, input
- Output: destination string or NULL if nothing read
- The `\n` character is stored if space.

`fgets(<dest_string>, <num_chars>, <input>)`

Strings Review 10/11

- In C, strings are...

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Strings Review 10/11

- In C, strings are...
- To store an array of strings, we need a...
- All strings must end with the...
- We can read in a full line (including spaces) as a string using the function...

String Assignment

- `strcpy`
 - copies string in second argument into its first argument
 - `strcpy(s1, "hello");`
 - subject to buffer overflow
- `strncpy`
 - takes an argument specifying the number of chars to copy
 - if the string to be copied is shorter, the remaining characters stored are null
 - `strncpy(s2, "inevitable", 5);`

= does not work!

String Comparison

a

b	l	u	e	\0
---	---	---	---	----

b

b	l	a	c	k	\0
---	---	---	---	---	----

c

b	l	u	e	\0	?	?	?	?	?
---	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	---	---

d

b	l	u	e	\0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
---	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

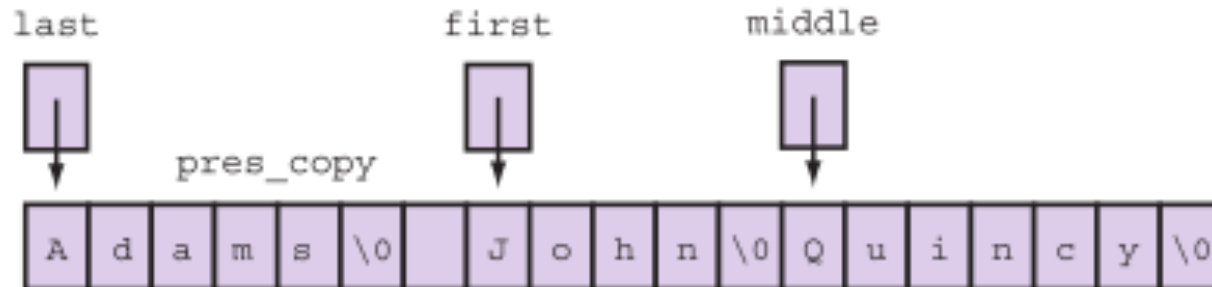
String Comparison

TABLE 8.2 Possible Results of `strcmp(str1, str2)`

Relationship	Value Returned	Example
<code>str1</code> is less than <code>str2</code>	negative integer	<code>str1</code> is "marigold" <code>str2</code> is "tulip"
<code>str1</code> equals <code>str2</code>	zero	<code>str1</code> and <code>str2</code> are both "end"
<code>str1</code> is greater than <code>str2</code>	positive integer	<code>str1</code> is "shrimp" <code>str2</code> is "crab"

String tokenization

```
char *last, *first, *middle;  
char pres[20] = "Adams, John Quincy";  
char pres_copy[20];  
strcpy(pres_copy, pres);
```

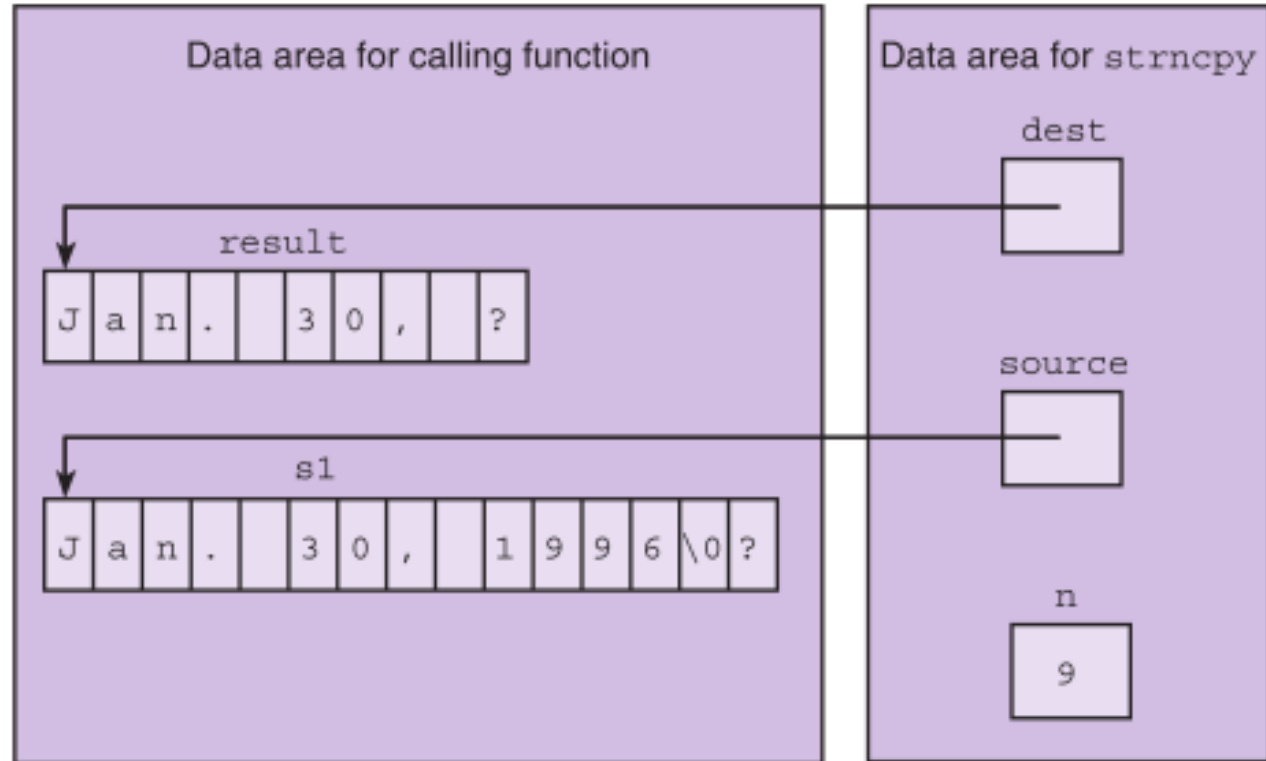


```
last = strtok(pres_copy, ", ");  
first = strtok(NULL, ", ");  
middle = strtok(NULL, ", ");
```

Substrings

FIGURE 8.5

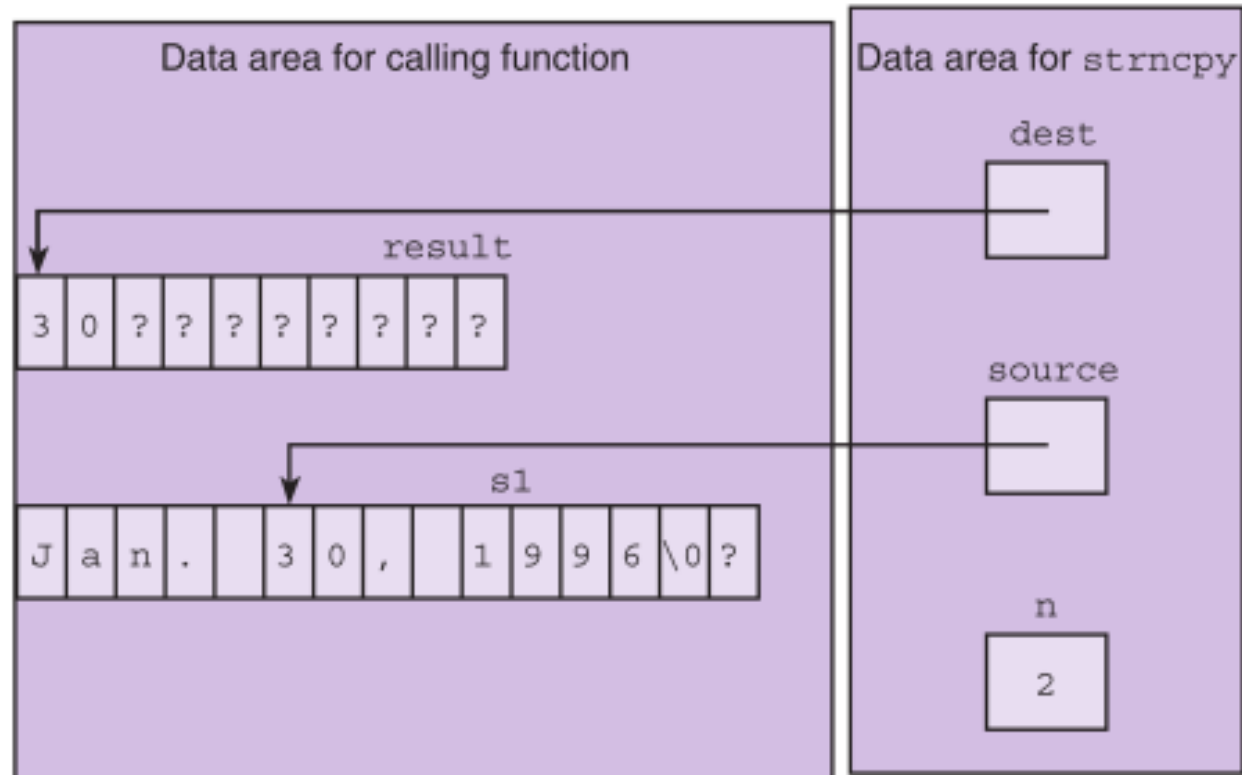
Execution of
`strncpy(result,
s1, 9);`



Substrings

FIGURE 8.6

Execution of
`strncpy(result,
&s1[5], 2);`



Substrings

```
char last [20], first [20], middle [20];  
char pres [20] = " Adams, John Quincy ";
```

```
strncpy (last, pres, 5);  
last[5] = '\0';
```

```
strcpy (middle, &pres[12]);
```

```
strncpy (first, &pres[7], 4);  
first[4] = '\0';
```

Substrings

```
char last [20], first [20], middle [20];  
char pres [20] = " Adams, John Quincy ";
```

```
strncpy (last, pres, 5);  
last[5] = '\0';
```

```
strcpy (middle, &pres[12]);
```

```
strncpy (first, &pres[7], 4);  
first[4] = '\0';
```

J	o	h	n	\0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
---	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Buffer Overflow

- more data is stored in an array than its declared size allows
- a very dangerous condition
- unlikely to be flagged as an error by either the compiler or the run-time system

```
char string[8] = "hello world";
```



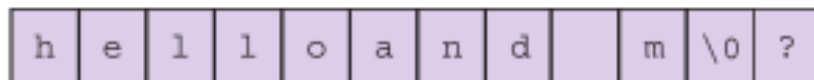
Concatenation

- `strcat`
 - appends source to the end of dest
 - assumes that sufficient space is allocated for the first argument to allow addition of the extra characters
 - `s1 = "hello";`
 - `strcat(s1, "and more");`

h	e	l	l	o	a	n	d		m	o	r	e	\0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---	---	----

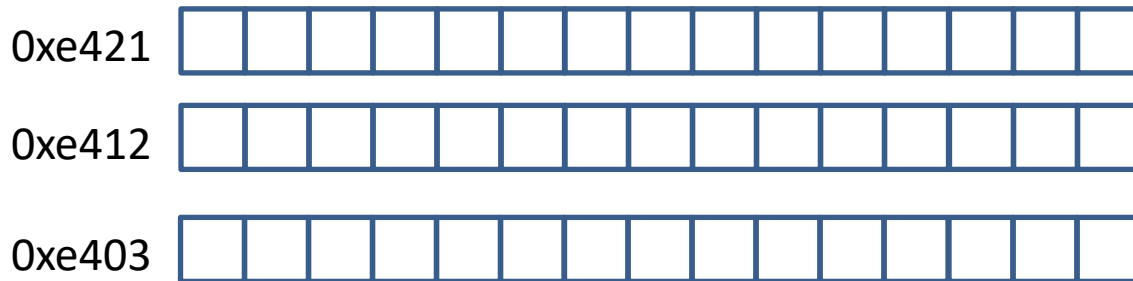
Concatenation

- `strncat`
 - appends up to `n` characters of source to the end of `dest`, adding the null character if necessary
 - assumes that sufficient space is allocated for the first argument to allow addition of the extra characters
 - `s1 = "hello";`
 - `strncat(s1, "and more", 5);`



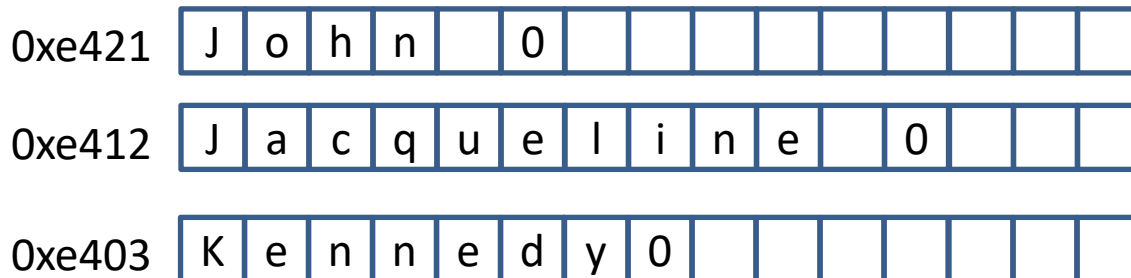
Concatenation

```
char k1[15] = "John ",  
      k2[15] = "Jacqueline ",  
      last[15] = "Kennedy";  
strcat(k1,last);  
strcat(k2,last);
```



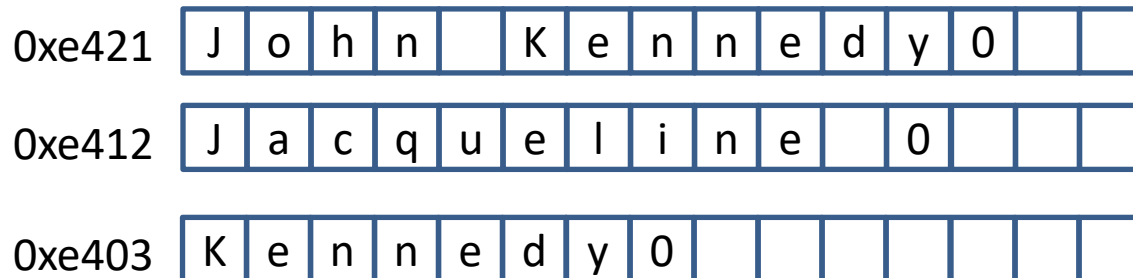
Concatenation

```
char k1[15] = "John ",  
      k2[15] = "Jacqueline ",  
      last[15] = "Kennedy";  
strcat(k1,last);  
strcat(k2,last);
```



Concatenation

```
char k1[15] = "John ",  
      k2[15] = "Jacqueline ",  
      last[15] = "Kennedy";  
strcat(k1,last);  
strcat(k2,last);
```



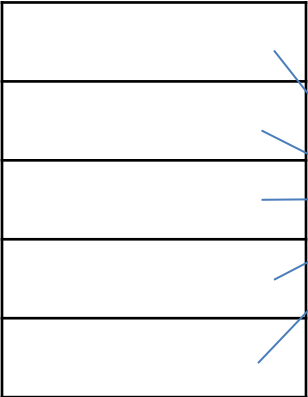
Arrays of Pointers

- When sorting a list of strings, there is a lot of copying of characters from one memory cell to another.
 - 3 operations for every exchange
- C represents every array by its starting address.
- Consider an array of pointers, each element the address of a character string.

flowers

t	u	l	i	p	\0	?	?	?	?
m	a	r	i	g	o	l	d	\0	?
p	e	t	u	n	i	a	\0	?	?
r	o	s	e	\0	?	?	?	?	?
d	a	i	s	y	\0	?	?	?	?

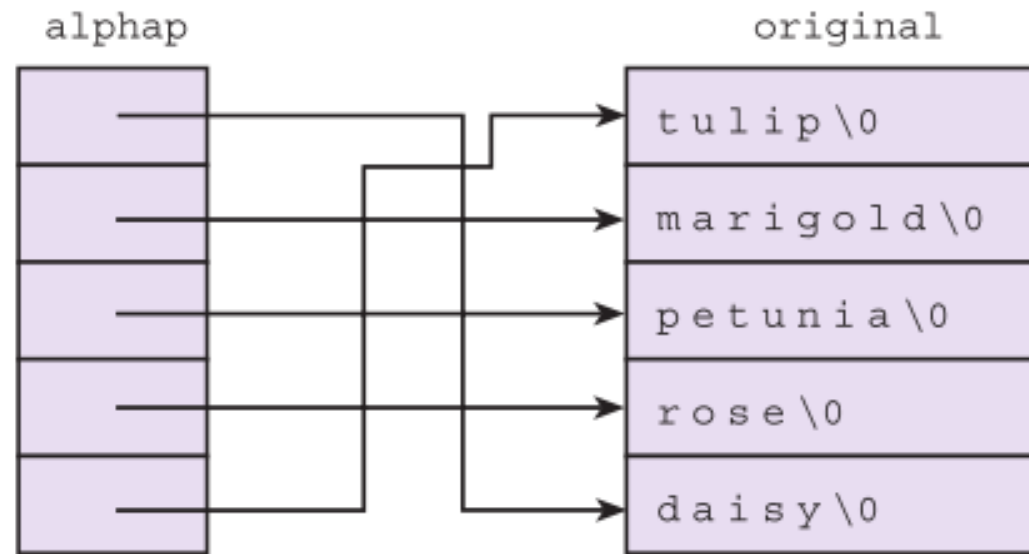
flowers



t	u	l	i	p	\0	?	?	?	?
m	a	r	i	g	o	l	d	\0	?
p	e	t	u	n	i	a	\0	?	?
r	o	s	e	\0	?	?	?	?	?
d	a	i	s	y	\0	?	?	?	?

FIGURE 8.13

An Array of Pointers



String-to-Number and Number-to-String Conversions

TABLE 8.4 Review of Use of `scanf`

Declaration	Statement	Data (█ means blank)	Value Stored
<code>char t</code>	<code>scanf("%c", &t);</code>	█g █\n █A	\n A
<code>int n</code>	<code>scanf("%d", &n);</code>	█32█ █-8.6█ █+19█	32 -8 19
<code>double x</code>	<code>scanf("%lf", &x);</code>	█4.32█ █-8█ █1.76e-3█	4.32 -8.0 .00176
<code>char str[10]</code>	<code>scanf("%s", str);</code>	█hello\n █overlengthy█	hello\n overlengthy\n (overruns length of <code>str</code>)

String-to-Number and Number-to-String Conversions

TABLE 8.5 Placeholders Used with printf

Value	Placeholder	Output (means blank)
'a'	%c	a
	%3c	a
	%-3c	a
-10	%d	-10
	%2d	-10
	%4d	-10
	%-5d	-10
49.76	%.3f	49.760
	%.1f	49.8
	%10.2f	49.76
	%10.3e	4.976e+01
"fantastic"	%s	fantastic
	%6s	fantastic
	%12s	fantastic
	%-12s	fantastic
	%3.3s	fan

String-to-Number and Number-to-String Conversions

- number to string: sprintf

```
char s[20];  
int mon = 8, day = 23, year = 1914;  
sprintf(s, "%d/%d/%d", mon, day, year);
```

- string to number: sscanf

```
int num;  
double val;  
char word[10];  
sscanf("85 96.2 hello", "%d%lf%s", &num, &val, word);
```

Things to remember

- Strings are just arrays of characters
- The `string.h` library provides functions for working with strings
- String variables are character pointers