CSC161 2011S *Imperative Problem Solving*

Class 38: Multi-dimensional arrays

Held: Tuesday, 12 April 2011

Summary: We consider multi-dimensional arrays. That is, we consider arrays of arrays. We examine how one declares them, why one might use them, and some complexities in their use.

Related Pages:

- EBoard.
- Lab: Multi-Dimensional Arrays.
- Reading: K&R 5.6-5.9.

Notes:

- Some answer to questions on multi-dimensional arrays posted.
- Missing questions from DG, MH, KI, JTL.
- Really late: AH, JJ.
- No reading for Wednesday!
- I will reserve time at the start of class for questions on on assignment 7.
- More on preregistration: Compilers, Discrete Math, etc.
- EC for either of Tuesday's Town-Hall Meetings on the Forum [academic]
- EC for Thursday's Convocation [academic]
- EC for Thursday's CS Extra [academic]
- EC for Friday's CS Table - Wolfram TED Talk, `http://www.ted.com/talks/stephen_wolfram_computing_a_theory_of_everything.html` [academic]
- EC for baseball (2 games Saturday, 2 games Sunday) [peer]
- EC for Bob's Benefit Bash Friday [peer]

Overview:

- Multi-dimensional arrays.
- Why?
- Arrays of pointers vs. Arrays of arrays.
- Lab.

Multi-Dimensional Arrays

- You can make arrays of anything.
- Even arrays of pointers and arrays of other arrays.
- What's the syntax for declaring?
- An array of pointers

```
TYPE *NAME[SIZE];
```

- An array of arrays

```
TYPE NAME[ROWS][COLS];
```

- You can initialize them when declaring.

```
char *strings[3] = { "alpha", "beta", "gamma" };
int stuff[2][3] = { { 1, 2, 3},
                    { 4, 5, 6} };
```

Why Do We Need Multi-Dimensional Arrays?

- When we have arrays of strings.
- When we want to represent matrices for computation (e.g., for those physics types)
- When we want to represent compound data, one way to represent compound data is an array. (E.g., we might represent a student in this class by a five element array of strings: Last name, First name, Student ID, Major, and Grade.)
  - A collection of compound data can then be represented as an array of arrays. (Or, more precisely, an array of arrays of arrays.)
- As you've no doubt determined, tables of numbers are often useful. Two dimensional arrays simultate tables.

Arrays vs Pointers, Revisited

- We've seen that arrays and pointers are similar in some ways, but different in others.
- What's the difference between an array of pointers and an array of arrays?

Lab

- Start The lab.
