Generic functions, generic data structures

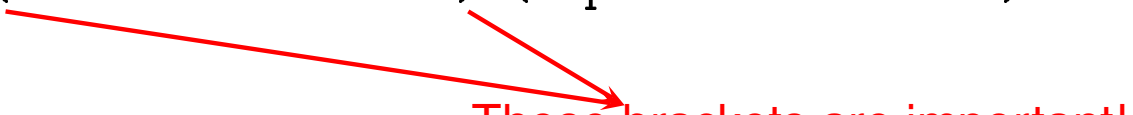
Data and File Structures Laboratory

http://www.isical.ac.in/~dfslab/2018/index.html

Function pointers

- Declaring function pointers

```
<return type> (* <function name>) ( <parameter list> )
```



Example:

```
int *aFunction(int), *(*aFunctionPointer)(int);
```

- Using function pointers

```
(*f)(...)
```

- Setting function pointer variables / passing function pointers as arguments: simply use the name of the function

Example:

```
aFunctionPointer = aFunction;
```

Generic sort/search routines

```
#include <stdlib.h>
```

Sorting

```
void qsort(void *base, size_t nmemb, size_t size,
           int (*compar)(const void *, const void *));
```

Searching

```
void *bsearch(const void *key, const void *base,
              size_t nmemb, size_t size,
              int (*compar)(const void *, const void *));
```

Comparator routine: examples

```c
int compare_int (void *elem1, void *elem2)
{
    int *ip1 = elem1;
    int *ip2 = elem2;
    return *ip1 - *ip2;
    /* Or more explicitly:
       int i1 = *((int *) elem1);
       int i2 = *((int *) elem2);
       return i1 - i2;
     */
}

int compare_strings (void *elem1, void *elem2)
{
    char **s1 = elem1; // Alt.: char *s1 = *((char **) elem1);
    char **s2 = elem2; // Alt.: char *s2 = *((char **) elem2);
    return strcmp (*s1, *s2);   // Alt.: return strcmp(s1, s2);
}
```

Generics: useful functions

```
#include <string.h>

int memcmp(const void *s1, const void *s2, size_t n);
void *memcpy(void *dest, const void *src, size_t n);
void *memmove(void *dest, const void *src, size_t n);
```

- `memcmp()`: compares the first `n` bytes (each interpreted as unsigned char) of the memory areas `s1` and `s2`
- `memcpy()`: copies `n` bytes from `src` to `dest` (memory areas must not overlap)
- `memmove()`: copies `n` bytes from `src` to `dest` (memory areas may overlap)

Generic stacks

```
1  #ifndef _GSTACK_
2  #define _GSTACK_
3
4  typedef struct {
5      void *elements;
6      size_t element_size, num_elements, max_elements;
7  } STACK;
8
9  STACK newStack(int element_size);
10 // OR
11 void initStack (STACK *s, int element_size);
12 void freeStack(STACK *s);
13 bool isEmpty(const STACK *s);
14 void push(STACK *s, const void *eptr);
15 void pop(STACK *s, void *eptr);
16
17 #endif // _GSTACK_
```

Implementation notes

- Choose a default stack size initially (`max_elements`); `realloc()` to double the current size as needed
- Use `memcpy()` for `push()` and `pop()`

  Example:

```
stackElementAddress = (char *) s->elements + s->num_elements *
    s->element_size;
memcpy(stackElementAddress, argument, s->element_size); // for
    push()
memcpy(argument, stackElementAddress, s->element_size); // for
    pop()
```

Things to be careful about

- What if the stack element contains pointers?

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- Use indices instead of pointers to array elements if the array may be reallocated

Review question

Compile and run `function-pointers.c`. Explain the output.

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My apologies for creating a lot of confusion regarding the answer to this question. I was thinking in a completely wrong direction. Thanks particularly to Harish and Shahenshah for setting me on the right track.

Answer to review question

Sub-question I: Are the following assignments permissible?

```
array1[0] = "Hello";
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Where are the strings `"Hello"`, etc. stored?

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Sub-question II:
Where is `array1` stored?
Where are the strings `"Hello"`, etc. stored?

Answer to sub-question II:
`array1` $\longrightarrow$ stack
`"Hello"` $\longrightarrow$ ***read-only data***

If you are adventurous, run
`gcc -g -O0 -c -fverbose-asm -Wa,-adhln function-pointers.c`
and study the output carefully (also see what the flags mean).

Answer to review question

```
array1: 0x7fff11769a20 (140733486373408)
key1: 0x7fff11769a18 (140733486373400)
status: 0x7fff11769a10 (140733486373392)

0x4008db
0x4008de
0x4008e1
0x4008e3
0x4008e6

0x4008de
```

Programming question

Complete the implementation of the functions in the header file. Test it using different types (e.g., `int`, `float` and strings).