CS 536 Announcements for Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Last Time
- runtime environments
- runtime storage layout
- static vs stack allocation
- activation records
- what happens on function call, entry, return

Today
- parameter passing
- terminology
- different styles
  - what they mean
  - how they look on the stack
  - compare and contrast

Next Time
- runtime access to variables in different scopes

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Parameter passing: terminology

R-value – value of an expression

L-value – value with a location

pointer – a variable whose value is a memory address

aliasing – when two (or more) variables hold the same address

In definition of function/method/procedure

```c
void f(int x, int y, bool b) { . . . }
```

In call to function/method/procedure

```c
f(x + y, 7, true)
```
Types of parameter passing

**pass by value**
- when a procedure is called, the *values* of the actuals are copied into the formals

**pass by reference**
- when a procedure is called, the *address* of the actuals are copied into the formals

**pass by value-result**
- when a procedure is called, the values of actuals are passed
- when procedure is ready to return, final values of formals are copied back to the actuals

**pass by name**
- (conceptually) each time a procedure is called, the body of the procedure (the callee) is rewritten with the actual text of the actual parameters
- like macros in C/C++, but conceptually the rewriting occurs at runtime

**Example: pass by value**

```c
void f(int x, int y, int z) {
    x = 3;
    y = 4;
    z = y;
}

void main() {
    int a = 1, b = 2, c = 3;
    f(a, b, c);
    f(a+b, 7, 8);
}
```
Example: pass by reference

```c
void f(int x, int y, int z) {
    x = 3;
    y = 4;
    z = y;
}

void main() {
    int a = 1, b = 2, c = 3;
    f(a, b, c);
    f(a+b, 7, 8);
}
```

Example: pass by value-result

```c
void f(int x, int y, int z) {
    x = 3;
    y = 4;
    z = y;
}

void main() {
    int a = 1, b = 2, c = 3;
    f(a, b, c);
    f(a+b, 7, 8);
}
```
Parameter passing example

class Point {
    Position p;
    ...
}
class Position {
    int x, y;
    ...
}

void doIt(Point pt, Position pos) {
    pos = pt.p;
    pos.x++;
    pos.y++;
}

void main() {
    Position loc;
    Point dot;
    // code to initialize Point dot with position (1, 2)
    // code to initialize Position loc at (3, 4)
    doIt(dot, loc);
}

In Java, loc & dot are references to objects (in the heap)

In C++, loc & dot are objects (in the AR of main)
Parameter passing example (cont.)

Pass by value in Java

Pass by value in C++

Pass by reference in C++

What are the \((x,y)\) coordinates of \texttt{dot} and \texttt{loc} after the call to \texttt{doIt}?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pass by value (Java)</th>
<th>Pass by value (C++)</th>
<th>Pass by reference (C++)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>\texttt{dot}</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\texttt{loc}</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Aliasing and parameter passing

How aliasing can happen

- via pointers (in pass by value) – aliasing of actuals and formals
  
  ```java
  doit(dot, loc);  // in Java
  ```

- when a global variable is passed by reference
  ```java
  int t = 0;
  
  void h(int x) {
    x = 7;
    t = 4;
  }
  
  void main() {
    h(t);
  }
  ```

- when a parameter is passed by reference more than once
  ```java
  void f(int x, int y, int z) {
    x = 3;
    y = 4;
    z = y;
  }
  
  void main() {
    int a = 1, b = 2, c = 3;
    f(a, a, b);
  }
  ```
Code generation and parameter passing

Efficiency considerations (calls, accesses by callee, return)

Pass by value

Pass by reference

Pass by value-result

Handling objects

```java
class Point {
  Position p;
  ...
}

class Position {
  int x, y;
  ...
}

doIt(Point pt, Position pos) {
  pos = pt.p;
  pos.x++;
  pos.y++;
}

void main() {
  Position loc;
  Point dot;
  // ... initialize dot with position (1, 2)
  // ... initialize loc at (3, 4)
  doIt(dot, loc);
}
```

In Java, `loc` and `dot` hold the addresses of objects

In C++, `loc` and `dot` are objects in the stack
Compare and contrast

Pass by value

Pass by reference

Pass by value-result