CS61C Spring 2026

C Memory Management

Discussion 2

1 Memory Management

1.1 For each part, choose one or more of the following memory segments where the data could be located: **text, data, heap, stack**

a) Local variables

b) Global variables

c) Constants (constant variables or values)

d) Functions (i.e. Machine Instructions)

e) Results of Dynamic Memory Allocation (`malloc` or `calloc`)

f) String Literals

1.2 Write the code necessary to allocate memory **on the heap** in the following scenarios:

(a) An array of `arr` of `k` integers

(b) A string `str` of length `p`. Note that a string's length is defined by `strlen`

(c) An `n` × `m` matrix `mat` of integers initialized to zero.

(d) Deallocate all but the first 5 values in an integer array arr. (Assume arr has more than 5 values).

```
int *arr = ... ;
```

1.3 Compare the following two implementations of a function which duplicates a string. Is either implementation correct?

```
char* strdup1(char* s) {
  int n = strlen(s);
  char* new_str = malloc((n + 1) * sizeof(char));
  for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) new_str[i] = s[i];
  return new_str;
}

char* strdup2(char* s) {
    int n = strlen(s);
    char* new_str = calloc(n + 1, sizeof(char));
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) new_str[i] = s[i];
    return new_str;
}
```

2 Pass-by-Who?

2.1 The following functions may contain logic or syntax errors. Find and correct them.

(a) Returns the sum of all the elements in **summands**.

```
int sum(int *summands) {
    int sum = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < sizeof(summands); i++)
        sum += *(summands + i);
    return sum;
}
```

(b) Increments all of the letters in the **string** where **string** points to the beginning of an array of arbitrary byte length **n**. Does not modify any other parts of the array's memory. Hint: **n** is not necessarily equivalent to **strlen(string)**.

```
void increment(char *string, int n) {
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
        *(string + i)++;
}
```

(c) Overwrites an input string **src** with "61C is awesome!" if there's room. Does nothing if there is not. Assume that **length** correctly represents the length of **src**.

```
void cs61c(char *src, size_t length) {
    char *srcptr, replaceptr;
    char replacement[16] = "61C is awesome!";
    srcptr = src;
    replaceptr = replacement;
    if (length >= 16) {
        for (int i = 0; i < 16; i++)
            *srcptr++ = *replaceptr++;
    }
}
```

2.2 Implement the following functions so that they work as described.

(a) Swap the value of two `int`s. *Remain swapped after returning from this function.* Hint: Our answer is around three lines long.

```
void swap(_________________, _________________) {




}
```

(b) Return the number of bytes in a string. *Do not use* ***`strlen`***. Hint: Our answer is around 5 lines long.

```
int mystrlen(_________________) {




}
```

3 Endianness

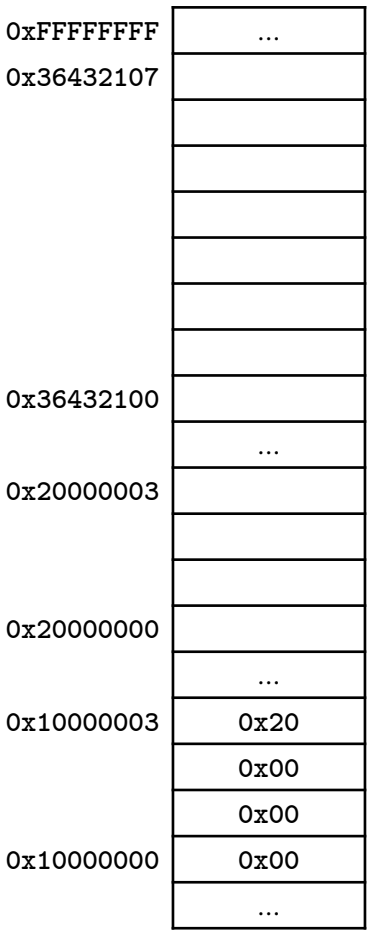
3.1 Suppose we run the following code on a 32b architecture:

```
uint32_t nums[2] = {10, 20};
uint32_t  *q = (uint32_t *) nums;
uint32_t **p = &q;
```

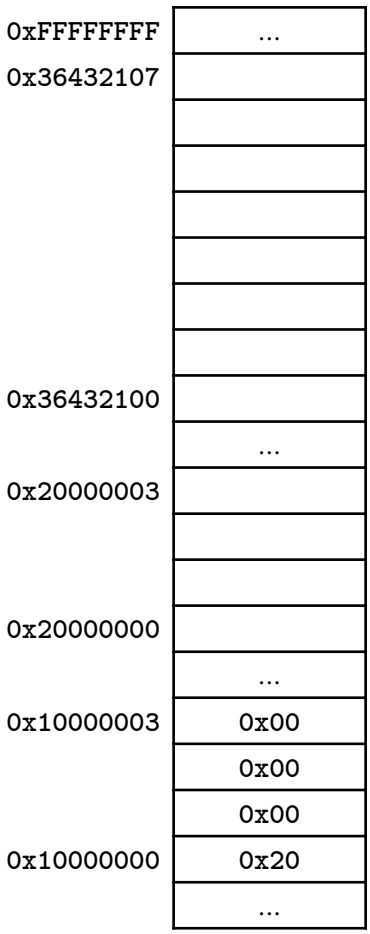
Find the values located in memory at the byte cells for both a Big Endian and a Little Endian system given that:

- the array `nums` starts at address `0x36432100`
- `p`'s address is `0x10000000`

Little Endian



Big Endian



3.2 Suppose we add an an additional instruction (line #4) to the end of the previous code block:

```
uint32_t nums[2] = {10, 20};
uint32_t  *q = (uint32_t *) nums;
uint32_t **p = &q;
uint64_t  *y = (uint64_t *) nums;
```

Provide answers for the following questions for both a Big Endian system and Little Endian system:

1) What does `*y` evaluate to?

2) What does `&q` evaluate to?

3) What does `&nums` evaluate to?

4) What does `*(q + 1)` evaluate to?