Computer Science (2<sup>nd</sup> year B.Sc.)

Seminar #2

## 1. Pre-Check

This section is designed as a check to allow you to determine whether you understand the concepts covered in class. Answer the following questions and include an explanation:

- 1.1. True or False: Parameter passing (i.e. when calling functions) is done by value in C.
- 1.2. What is a pointer in C? What does it have in common with array structures?
- 1.3. 1.3. If you try to dereference a variable that is not a pointer (i.e. prefix an asterisk to it), what happens? What about when you release it (i.e. free(...))?

## 2. Data organisation in memory

Consider the data structure type defined below.

Suppose that an "employee" structure of type "data" is allocated at memory address "0x8040" with the following initializations:

```
data employee = {
    .name = "Tintin Lupin",
    .age = 23,
    .gender = 'M',
    .id = {1994,408,10,7212}
};
```

2.1. If we consider that "sizeof(char) == 1, sizeof(short) == 2, and sizeof(int) == 4", and if we also consider a memory organization in "little-endian" mode, give the hexadecimal representation of the bytes of the "employee" structure in memory.

Address	Data (bytes)						
0x8040							
0x8048							
0x8050							
0x8058							
0x8060							

2.2. The same question as before but using the "big-endian" mode this time.

Address	Data (bytes)						
0x8040							
0x8048							
0x8050							
0x8058							
0x8060							

## 3. Memory in C

The C language is syntactically very similar to Java, but there are some key differences:

- C is "function-oriented" not "object-oriented". So, there are no objects.
- There is no "garbage collector" or automatic memory management in the C language. Dynamic memory allocations and releases are explicitly managed by the programmer (i.e. using malloc(), ..., free()).
- Pointers are used explicitly in the C language. If "p" is a pointer, then "\*p" indicates (i.e. points to) the data to be used and not the value of "p" (i.e. the memory address). If "x" is a variable, then "&x" returns the address (i.e. a pointer) of "x" and not the value of "x".

Below, on the left, a computer memory is represented by a box-and-pointer diagram. The addresses were chosen arbitrarily.

0xFFFFFFF		0xFFFFFFF	
	:		:
0xF93209B0	0xAD0	0xF93209B0	0xAD0
0xF93209AC	0x7C	0xF93209AC	0x7C
	:		i
0xF9320904	р	0xF9320904	
0xF9320900	рр	0xF9320900	
	:		:
0x00000000		0x00000000	

Assume a pointer to an integer (i.e. int\* p) is allocated at address 0xF9320904. Let's also assume an integer variable (i.e. int x) being allocated at address 0xF93209B0. From the left diagram above, one can verify:

- \*p should return the value 0x7C.
- p is assigned the value 0xF93209AC (i.e. the address where the value 0x7C is stored).
- x contains the value 0xAD0.
- &x will return the value 0xF93209B0 (i.e. the address where "x" is stored).

Now assume a pointer to a pointer to an integer (i.e. int\*\* pp) is allocated at address 0xF9320900 (see left diagram above).

- 3.1. What will be the value returned by pp? What about \*pp? and \*\*pp?
- 3.2. Implement the swap() function to exchange the values of two integers in memory

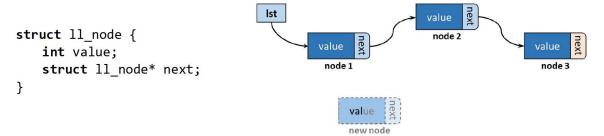
```
void swap(int* x, int* y) {
```

}

3.3. Implement mystrlen() function that returns the number of bytes in a C string (similar to the standard C library function strlen()).

```
int mystrlen(char* str) {
```

Let the linked list " $11\_$ node" defined as below. Assume as well that argument "1st" in exercises 2.3 - 2.4 points to the first element of the linked list (i.e. the head of the list) or contains NULL if the list is empty.



**Note:** The nodes are not necessarily contiguous in memory!

3.4. Write the code for inserting an item at the beginning of the linked list.

```
void insert (struct ll_node** lst, int val ) {
}
```

3.5. Implement the function release\_11 to empty the entire list

```
void release_ll(struct ll_node * lst) {
```

}

## 4. Beware of pointers

4.1. Something is wrong with the C code below! Can you spot the problem?

```
1 int* get_money(int cash) {
2   int* money = malloc(2017 * sizeof(int));
3   if(!cash)
4   money = malloc(1 * sizeof(int));
5   return money;
6 }
```

Review the following functions and fix *any* problems

4.2. Return the total of all elements in the array summands

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

4.3. Increment the characters of the string stored at the beginning of an array of bytes of length n >= strlen(string). MUST NOT modify memory areas outside the character string.

```
1 void increment(char* string, int n) {
2 for(int i = 0; i < n; i++)
3 *(string + i)++;
4
5 }</pre>
```

4.4. Copying the string src into dst.

```
1 void copy(char* src, char* dst) {
2   while(*dst++ = *src++);
3
4 }
```

4.5. Replace, if there is enough space in a character string given as a parameter, with the string "This course is fantastic!". The function should do nothing if the condition is not true. You may assume that parameter length gives the correct length of the src string.

```
void ado(char* src, unsigned int length) {
char *srcptr, replacteptr;
char remplacement[26] = "This course is fantastic!";
srcptr = src;
replaceptr = replacement;
if(length >= 26) {
for(int i=0; i<26; i++)
    *srcptr++ = *replaceptr++;
}
</pre>
```