CS 161 Intro to CS I

Pointers vs. References Exercise and Intro to Recursion



Odds and Ends...

- Assignment #4 (Little Acorns)
- Design due Sunday night on Canvas.
 - Make sure you include postconditions and preconditions for functions.

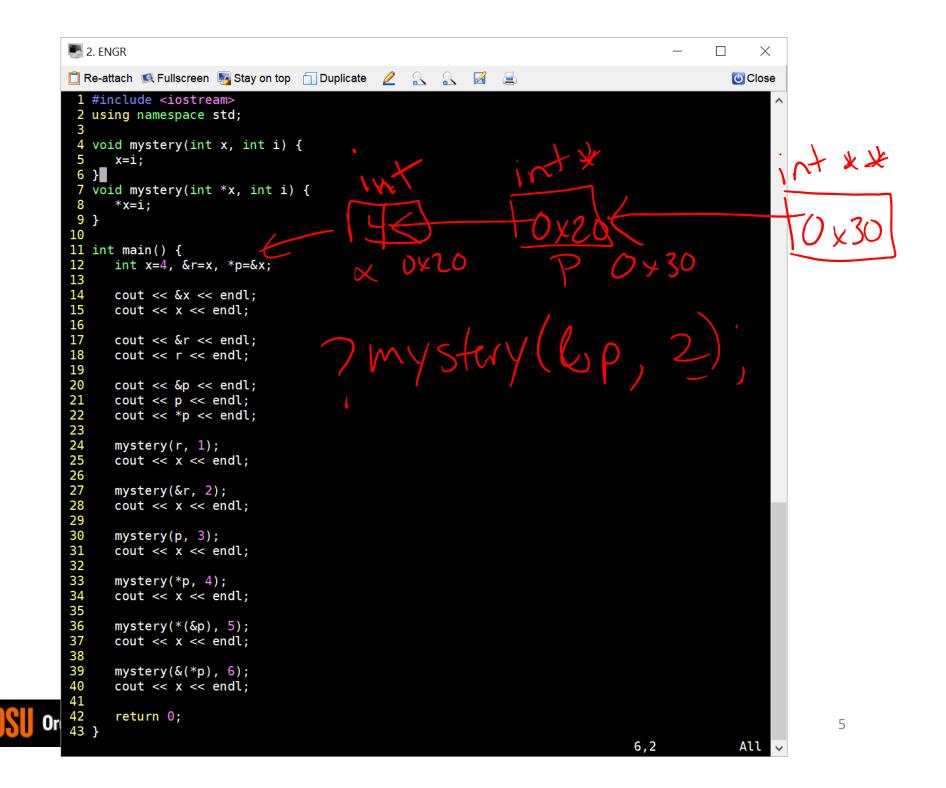
More About Functions

- Do not use global variables!
- Function Headers
 - Description, Parameters, and Return Value
 - Preconditions
 - What is this?
 - Postconditions (look at Recitation Worksheet!)
 - What is this?



Pointer and References Cheat Sheet

- *
 - If used in a declaration (which includes function parameters), it creates the pointer.
 - Ex. int *p; //p will hold an address to where an int is stored
 - If used **outside a declaration**, it **dereferences** the pointer
 - Ex. *p = 3; //goes to the address stored in p and stores a value
 - Ex. cout << *p; //goes to the address stored in p and fetches the value
- &
 - If used in a declaration (which includes function parameters), it creates and initializes the reference.
 - Ex. void fun(int &p); //p will refer to an argument that is an int by implicitly using *p (dereference) for p
 - Ex. int &p=a; //p will refer to an int, a, by implicitly using *p for p
 - If used outside a declaration, it means "address of"
 - Ex. p=&a; //fetches the address of a (only used as rvalue!!!) and store the address in p.

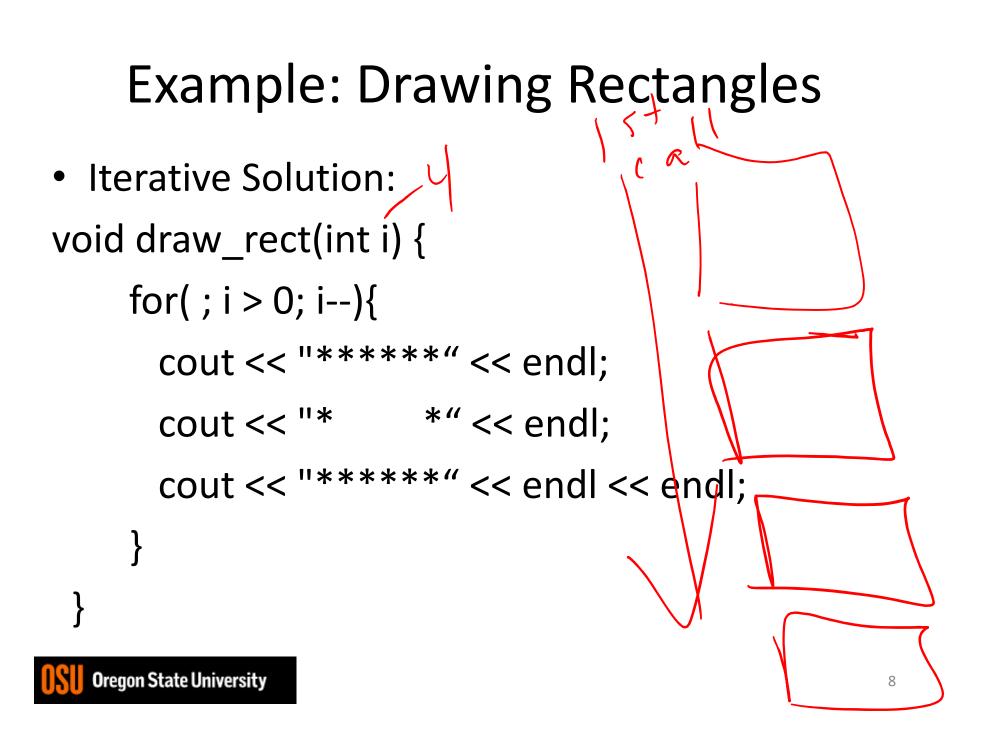


In-class Exercise Pointers vs. References

- What if you made a pointer (p2) that points to a pointer (p) to an int (x)?
 - What would the picture look like?
 - Write the code for this picture.
- Can you make this same picture for references?
 - What if you had two references, r and r2?

Recursion

- What is it?
 - Function that calls itself 1 or more times (directly or indirectly)
 - Has 1 or more base case for stopping
 - Inductive reasoning: general case must eventually be reduced to a base case



Example: Drawing Rectangles

void draw_rect(int i) { if(i>0){ //Base case draw_rect(--i); //Recursive call cout << "*****" << endl; cout << "* *" << endl; cout << "*****" << endl << endl;

What is different when we call after?

 Recursive Solution void draw_rect(int i) { if(i>0){ //Base case cout << "*****" << endl; cout << "* *" << endl; cout << "*****" << endl << endl; draw_rect(--i); //Recursive call