The "const" Keyword with Pointers

**Pointer to Constant**

1: const int i1 = 100;
2: const int i2 = 200;
3: const int *pi = &i1; /* pi is a "pointer to a constant." */
4: i1 = 300; /* Error. Cannot change i1. */
5: i2 = 400; /* Error. Cannot change i2. */
6: pi = &i2; /* OK */
7: *pi = 500; /* Error. Cannot change *pi. */

**Constant Pointer**

1: int i1 = 100;
2: int i2 = 200;
3: int *const pi = &i1; /* pi is a "constant pointer." */
4: i1 = 300; /* OK */
5: i2 = 400; /* OK */
6: pi = &i2; /* Error. Cannot change pi. */
7: *pi = 500; /* OK */

**Constant Pointer to Constant**

1: const int i1 = 100;
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3: const int *const pi = &i1; /* pi is a "constant pointer to a constant." */
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6: pi = &i2; /* Error. Cannot change pi. */
7: *pi = 500; /* Error. Cannot change *pi. */
Disallowed Mismatch

1:  const int i1 = 100;
2:  const int i2 = 200;
3:  int *pi = &i1;        /* Error. Subversive.
Subsequently changing *pi would change i1. */

Disallowed Mismatch in Function Calls

1:  void f(int *pi)
2:  {
3:     ...
4:  }

...  

5:  const int i1 = 5;
6:  const int *pi2 = &i1;
7:  f(pi2);               /* Error. Subversive.
If f() changes *pi, then *pi2 also would change. */

Allowed Mismatch

1:  int i1 = 100;
2:  int i2 = 200;
3:  const int *pi = &i1;  /* OK, even though subsequently changing i1 would change *pi.
 */
4:  i1 = 300;             /* OK. Also changes *pi. */
5:  i2 = 400;             /* OK. */
6:  pi = &i2;             /* OK, even though subsequently changing i2 would change *pi.
 */
7:  *pi = 500;            /* Error. Cannot change *pi. */

Allowed Mismatch in Function Calls

1:  void f(const int *pi)
2:  {
3:     ...
4:  }

...  

5:  int i1 = 5;
6:  int *pi2 = &i1;
7:  f(pi2);               /* OK. *pi2 is protected against accidental change by f(). */