

Machine-Level Programming IV: Structured Data

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Giving credit where credit is due

- Most of slides for this lecture are based on slides created by Drs. Bryant and O'Hallaron, Carnegie Mellon University.
- I have modified them and added new slides.

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Topics

- Arrays
- Structs
- Unions

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Basic Data Types

Integral

- Stored & operated on in general registers
- Signed vs. unsigned depends on instructions used

Intel	GAS	Bytes	C
byte	b	1	[unsigned] char
word	w	2	[unsigned] short
double word	l	4	[unsigned] int

Floating Point

- Stored & operated on in floating point registers

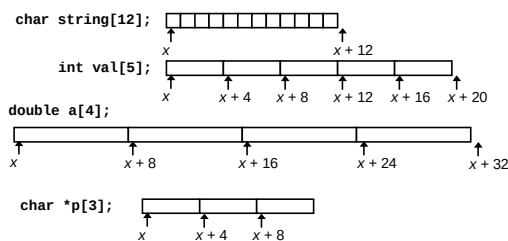
Intel	GAS	Bytes	C
Single	s	4	float
Double	l	8	double
Extended	t	10/12	long double

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Array Allocation

Basic Principle

- T $A[L]$;
- Array of data type T and length L
 - Contiguously allocated region of $L * \text{sizeof}(T)$ bytes

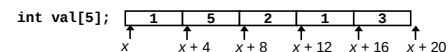


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Array Access

Basic Principle

- T $A[L]$;
- Array of data type T and length L
 - Identifier A can be used as a pointer to array element 0



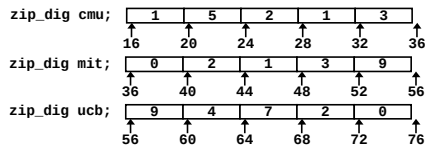
Reference	Type	Value
val[4]	int	3
val	int *	x
val+1	int *	$x+4$
&val[2]	int *	$x+8$
val[5]	int	??
*(val+1)	int	5
val + i	int *	$x+4i$

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Array Example

```
typedef int zip_dig[5];

zip_dig cmu = { 1, 5, 2, 1, 3 };
zip_dig mit = { 0, 2, 1, 3, 9 };
zip_dig ucb = { 9, 4, 7, 2, 0 };
```



Notes

- Declaration "zip_dig cmu" equivalent to "int cmu[5]"
- Example arrays were allocated in successive 20 byte blocks
 - Not guaranteed to happen in general

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Array Accessing Example

Computation

- Register %edx contains starting address of array
- Register %eax contains array index
- Desired digit at $4 * \text{eax} + \text{edx}$
- Use memory reference ($\text{edx}, \text{eax}, 4$)

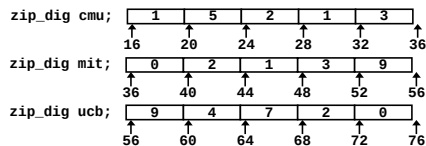
```
int get_digit
(zip_dig z, int dig)
{
    return z[dig];
}
```

Memory Reference Code

```
# %edx = z
# %eax = dig
movl (%edx,%eax,4),%eax # z[dig]
```

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Referencing Examples



Code Does Not Do Any Bounds Checking!

Reference	Address	Value	Guaranteed?
mit[3]	$36 + 4 * 3 = 48$	3	Yes
mit[5]	$36 + 4 * 5 = 56$	9	No
mit[-1]	$36 + 4 * -1 = 32$	3	No
cmu[15]	$16 + 4 * 15 = 76$	??	No

- Out of range behavior implementation-dependent
 - No guaranteed relative allocation of different arrays

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Array Loop Example

Original Source

```
int zd2int(zip_dig z)
{
    int i;
    int zi = 0;
    for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
        zi = 10 * zi + z[i];
    }
    return zi;
}
```

Transformed Version

- As generated by GCC
- Eliminate loop variable i
- Convert array code to pointer code
- Express in do-while form
 - No need to test at entrance

```
int zd2int(zip_dig z)
{
    int zi = 0;
    int *zend = z + 4;
    do {
        zi = 10 * zi + *z;
        z++;
    } while(z <= zend);
    return zi;
}
```

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Array Loop Implementation

Registers

%ecx z
%eax zi
%ebx zend

Computations

- $10 * zi + *z$ implemented as $*z + 2 * (zi + 4 * zi)$
- z++ increments by 4

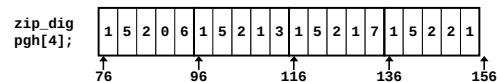
```
# %ecx = z
xorl %eax,%eax # zi = 0
leal 16(%ecx),%ebx # zend = z+4
.L59:
leal (%eax,%eax,4),%edx # 5*zi
movl (%ecx),%eax # *z
addl $4,%ecx # z++
leal (%eax,%edx,2),%eax # zi = *z + 2*(5*zi)
cmpl %ebx,%ecx # z : zend
jle .L59 # if <= goto loop
```

```
int zd2int(zip_dig z)
{
    int zi = 0;
    int *zend = z + 4;
    do {
        zi = 10 * zi + *z;
        z++;
    } while(z <= zend);
    return zi;
}
```

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Nested Array Example

```
#define PCOUNT 4
zip_dig pgh[PCOUNT] =
{{1, 5, 2, 0, 6},
 {1, 5, 2, 1, 3 },
 {1, 5, 2, 1, 7 },
 {1, 5, 2, 2, 1 }};
```



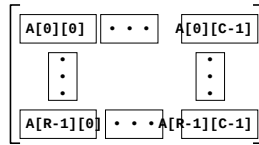
- Declaration "zip_dig pgh[4]" equivalent to "int pgh[4][5]"
 - Variable pgh denotes array of 4 elements
 - » Allocated contiguously
 - Each element is an array of 5 int's
 - » Allocated contiguously
- "Row-Major" ordering of all elements guaranteed

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Nested Array Allocation

Declaration

- T $A[R][C]$;
- Array of data type T
- R rows, C columns
- Type T element requires K bytes



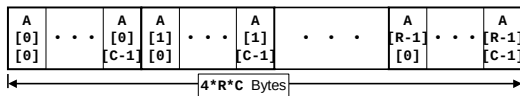
Array Size

- $R * C * K$ bytes

Arrangement

- Row-Major Ordering

`int A[R][C];`



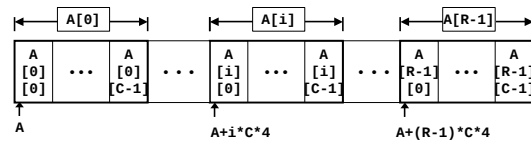
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Nested Array Row Access

Row Vectors

- $A[i]$ is array of C elements
- Each element of type T
- Starting address $A + i * C * K$

`int A[R][C];`



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Nested Array Row Access Code

```
int *get_pgh_zip(int index)
{
    return pgh[index];
}
```

Row Vector

- $pgh[index]$ is array of 5 int's
- Starting address $pgh + 20 * index$

Code

- Computes and returns address
- Compute as $pgh + 4 * (index + 4 * index)$

```
# %eax = index
leal (%eax,%eax,4),%eax # 5 * index
leal pgh(,%eax,4),%eax # pgh + (20 * index)
```

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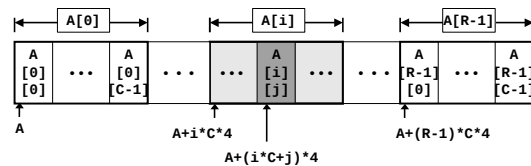
Nested Array Element Access

Array Elements

- $A[i][j]$ is element of type T
- Address $A + (i * C + j) * K$



`int A[R][C];`



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Nested Array Element Access Code

Array Elements

- $pgh[index][dig]$ is int
- Address: $pgh + 20 * index + 4 * dig$

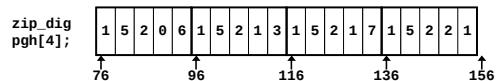
Code

- Computes address
- $pgh + 4 * dig + 4 * (index + 4 * index)$
- `movl` performs memory reference

```
# %ecx = dig
# %eax = index
leal 0(,%ecx,4),%edx # 4*dig
leal (%eax,%eax,4),%eax # 5*index
movl pgh(%edx,%eax,4),%eax # *(pgh + 4*dig + 20*index)
```

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Strange Referencing Examples



Reference	Address	Value	Guaranteed?
$pgh[3][3]$	$76 + 20 * 3 + 4 * 3 = 148$	2	Yes
$pgh[2][5]$	$76 + 20 * 2 + 4 * 5 = 136$	1	Yes
$pgh[2][-1]$	$76 + 20 * 2 + 4 * -1 = 112$	3	Yes
$pgh[4][-1]$	$76 + 20 * 4 + 4 * -1 = 152$	1	Yes
$pgh[0][19]$	$76 + 20 * 0 + 4 * 19 = 152$	1	Yes
$pgh[0][-1]$	$76 + 20 * 0 + 4 * -1 = 72$	??	No

■ Code does not do any bounds checking

■ Ordering of elements within array guaranteed

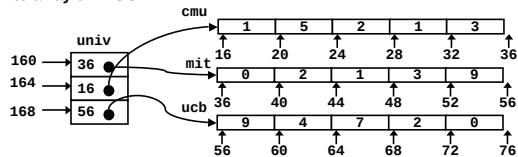
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Multi-Level Array Example

- Variable `univ` denotes array of 3 elements
- Each element is a pointer
 - 4 bytes
- Each pointer points to array of int's

```
zip_dig cmu = { 1, 5, 2, 1, 3 };
zip_dig mit = { 0, 2, 1, 3, 9 };
zip_dig ucb = { 9, 4, 7, 2, 0 };

#define UCOUNT 3
int *univ[UCOUNT] = {mit, cmu, ucb};
```



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Element Access in Multi-Level Array

```
int get_univ_digit
(int index, int dig)
{
    return univ[index][dig];
}
```

Computation

- Element access
 - $\text{Mem}[\text{Mem}[\text{univ} + 4 * \text{index}] + 4 * \text{dig}]$
- Must do two memory reads
 - First get pointer to row array
 - Then access element within array

```
# %ecx = index
# %eax = dig
leal 0(,%ecx,4),%edx # 4*index
movl univ(%ecx),%edx # Mem[univ+4*index]
movl (%edx,%eax,4),%eax # Mem[...+4*dig]
```

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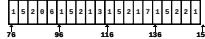
Array Element Accesses

- Similar C references
- Different address computation

Nested Array

```
int get_pgh_digit
(int index, int dig)
{
    return pgh[index][dig];
}
```

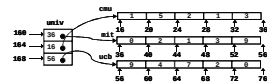
- Element at
 - $\text{Mem}[\text{pgh} + 20 * \text{index} + 4 * \text{dig}]$



Multi-Level Array

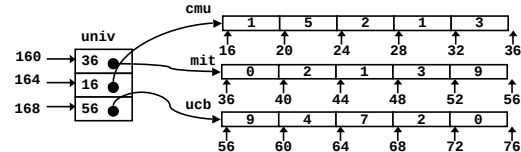
```
int get_univ_digit
(int index, int dig)
{
    return univ[index][dig];
}
```

- Element at
 - $\text{Mem}[\text{Mem}[\text{univ} + 4 * \text{index}] + 4 * \text{dig}]$



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Strange Referencing Examples



Reference	Address	Value	Guaranteed?
<code>univ[2][3]</code>	$56 + 4 * 3 = 68$	2	Yes
<code>univ[1][5]</code>	$16 + 4 * 5 = 36$	0	No
<code>univ[2][-1]</code>	$56 + 4 * -1 = 52$	9	No
<code>univ[3][-1] ??</code>	??	??	No
<code>univ[1][12]</code>	$16 + 4 * 12 = 64$	7	No

- Code does not do any bounds checking
- Ordering of elements in different arrays not guaranteed

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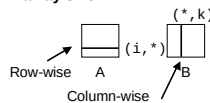
Using Nested Arrays

Strengths

- C compiler handles doubly subscripted arrays
- Generates very efficient code
 - Avoids multiply in index computation

Limitation

- Only works if have fixed array size



```
#define N 16
typedef int fix_matrix[N][N];

/* Compute element i,k of
fixed matrix product */
int fix_prod_ele
(fix_matrix a, fix_matrix b,
int i, int k)
{
    int j;
    int result = 0;
    for (j = 0; j < N; j++)
        result += a[i][j] * b[j][k];
    return result;
}
```

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Dynamic Nested Arrays

Strength

- Can create matrix of arbitrary size

Programming

- Must do index computation explicitly

Performance

- Accessing single element costly
- Must do multiplication

```
movl 12(%ebp),%eax # i
movl 8(%ebp),%edx # a
imull 20(%ebp),%eax # n*i
addl 16(%ebp),%eax # n*i+j
movl (%edx,%eax,4),%eax # Mem[a+4*(i*n+j)]
```

```
int * new_var_matrix(int n)
{
    return (int *)
        calloc(sizeof(int), n*n);
}
```

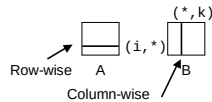
```
int var_ele
(int *a, int i,
int j, int n)
{
    return a[i*n+j];
}
```

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Dynamic Array Multiplication

Without Optimizations

- Multiplies
 - 2 for subscripts
 - 1 for data
- Adds
 - 4 for array indexing
 - 1 for loop index
 - 1 for data



```
/* Compute element i,k of
variable matrix product */
int var_prod_ele
(int *a, int *b,
 int i, int k, int n)
{
    int j;
    int result = 0;
    for (j = 0; j < n; j++)
        result +=
            a[i*n+j] * b[j*n+k];
    return result;
}
```

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Optimizing Dynamic Array Mult.

Optimizations

- Performed when set optimization level to -O2

Code Motion

- Expression $i*n$ can be computed outside loop

Strength Reduction

- Incrementing j has effect of incrementing $j*n+k$ by n

Performance

- Compiler can optimize regular access patterns

```
{
    int j;
    int result = 0;
    for (j = 0; j < n; j++)
        result +=
            a[i*n+j] * b[j*n+k];
    return result;
}

{
    int j;
    int result = 0;
    int iTn = i*n;
    int jTnPk = k;
    for (j = 0; j < n; j++) {
        result +=
            a[iTn+j] * b[jTnPk];
        jTnPk += n;
    }
    return result;
}
```

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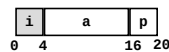
Structures

Concept

- Contiguously-allocated region of memory
- Refer to members within structure by names
- Members may be of different types

```
struct rec {
    int i;
    int a[3];
    int *p;
};
```

Memory Layout



Accessing Structure Member

```
void
set_i(struct rec *r,
      int val)
{
    r->i = val;
}
```

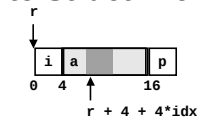
Assembly

```
# %eax = val
# %edx = r
movl %eax, (%edx) # Mem[r] = val
```

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Generating Pointer to Struct. Member

```
struct rec {
    int i;
    int a[3];
    int *p;
};
```



Generating Pointer to Array Element

- Offset of each structure member determined at compile time

```
int *
find_a
(struct rec *r, int idx)
{
    return &r->a[idx];
}
```

```
# %ecx = idx
# %edx = r
leal 0(, %ecx, 4), %eax # 4*idx
leal 4(%edx, %edx), %eax # r+4*idx+4
```

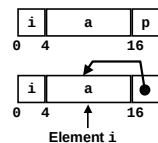
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Structure Referencing (Cont.)

C Code

```
struct rec {
    int i;
    int a[3];
    int *p;
};
```

```
void
set_p(struct rec *r)
{
    r->p =
        &r->a[r->i];
}
```



```
# %edx = r
movl (%edx), %ecx # r->i
leal 0(, %ecx, 4), %eax # 4*(r->i)
leal 4(%edx, %eax), %eax # r+4*(r->i)
movl %eax, 16(%edx) # Update r->p
```

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Alignment

Aligned Data

- Primitive data type requires K bytes
- Address must be multiple of K
- Required on some machines; advised on IA32
 - treated differently by Linux and Windows!

Motivation for Aligning Data

- Memory accessed by (aligned) double or quad-words
 - Inefficient to load or store datum that spans quad word boundaries
 - Virtual memory very tricky when datum spans 2 pages

Compiler

- Inserts gaps in structure to ensure correct alignment of fields

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Specific Cases of Alignment

Size of Primitive Data Type:

- **1 byte** (e.g., char)
 - no restrictions on address
- **2 bytes** (e.g., short)
 - lowest 1 bit of address must be 0₂
- **4 bytes** (e.g., int, float, char *, etc.)
 - lowest 2 bits of address must be 00₂
- **8 bytes** (e.g., double)
 - Windows (and most other OS's & instruction sets):
 - » lowest 3 bits of address must be 000₂
 - Linux:
 - » lowest 2 bits of address must be 00₂
 - » i.e., treated the same as a 4-byte primitive data type
- **12 bytes** (long double)
 - Linux:
 - » lowest 2 bits of address must be 00₂
 - » i.e., treated the same as a 4-byte primitive data type

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Satisfying Alignment with Structures

Offsets Within Structure

- Must satisfy element's alignment requirement

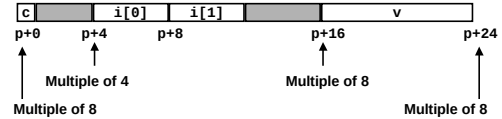
Overall Structure Placement

- Each structure has alignment requirement K
 - Largest alignment of any element
- Initial address & structure length must be multiples of K

```
struct S1 {
    char c;
    int i[2];
    double v;
} *p;
```

Example (under Windows):

- K = 8, due to double element



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Linux vs. Windows

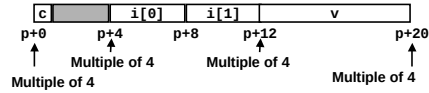
Windows (including Cygwin):

- K = 8, due to double element



Linux:

- K = 4; double treated like a 4-byte data type

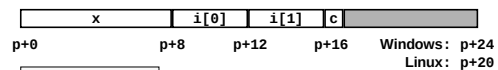


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Overall Alignment Requirement

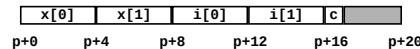
```
struct S2 {
    double x;
    int i[2];
    char c;
} *p;
```

p must be multiple of:
8 for Windows
4 for Linux



```
struct S3 {
    float x[2];
    int i[2];
    char c;
} *p;
```

p must be multiple of 4 (in either OS)

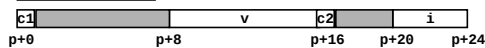


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Ordering Elements Within Structure

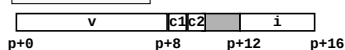
```
struct S4 {
    char c1;
    double v;
    char c2;
    int i;
} *p;
```

10 bytes wasted space in Windows



```
struct S5 {
    double v;
    char c1;
    char c2;
    int i;
} *p;
```

2 bytes wasted space



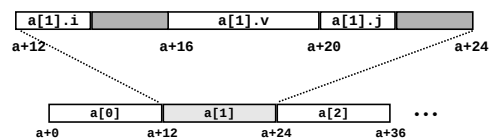
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Arrays of Structures

Principle

- Allocated by repeating allocation for array type
- In general, may nest arrays & structures to arbitrary depth

```
struct S6 {
    short i;
    float v;
    short j;
} a[10];
```



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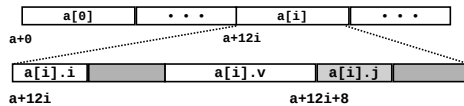
Accessing Element within Array

- Compute offset to start of structure
 - Compute $12*i$ as $4*(i*2)$
- Access element according to its offset within structure
 - Offset by 8
 - Assembler gives displacement as $a + 8$
 - » Linker must set actual value

```
struct S6 {
    short i;
    float v;
    short j;
} a[10];
```

```
short get_j(int idx)
{
    return a[idx].j;
}
```

```
# %eax = idx
leal (%eax,%eax,2),%eax # 3*idx
movswl a+8(%eax,4),%eax
```



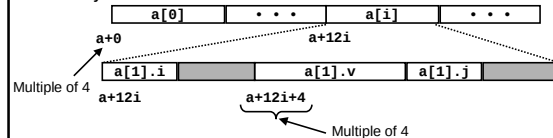
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Satisfying Alignment within Structure

Achieving Alignment

- Starting address of structure array must be multiple of worst-case alignment for any element
 - a must be multiple of 4
- Offset of element within structure must be multiple of element's alignment requirement
 - v 's offset of 4 is a multiple of 4
- Overall size of structure must be multiple of worst-case alignment for any element
 - Structure padded with unused space to be 12 bytes

```
struct S6 {
    short i;
    float v;
    short j;
} a[10];
```

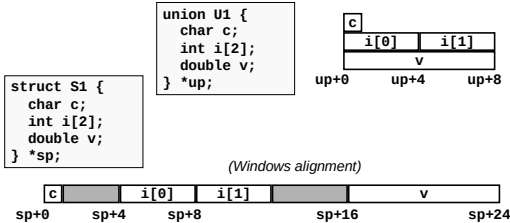


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Union Allocation

Principles

- Overlay union elements
- Allocate according to largest element
- Can only use one field at a time



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Using Union to Access Bit Patterns

```
typedef union {
    float f;
    unsigned u;
} bit_float_t;
```



```
float bit2float(unsigned u)
{
    bit_float_t arg;
    arg.u = u;
    return arg.f;
}
```

```
unsigned float2bit(float f)
{
    bit_float_t arg;
    arg.f = f;
    return arg.u;
}
```

- Get direct access to bit representation of float
- bit2float generates float with given bit pattern
 - NOT the same as (float) u
- float2bit generates bit pattern from float
 - NOT the same as (unsigned) f

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Byte Ordering Revisited

Idea

- Short/long/quad words stored in memory as 2/4/8 consecutive bytes
- Which is most (least) significant?
- Can cause problems when exchanging binary data between machines

Big Endian

- Most significant byte has lowest address
- PowerPC, Sparc

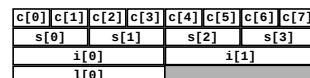
Little Endian

- Least significant byte has lowest address
- Intel x86, Alpha

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Byte Ordering Example

```
union {
    unsigned char c[8];
    unsigned short s[4];
    unsigned int i[2];
    unsigned long l[1];
} dw;
```



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Byte Ordering Example (Cont).

```
int j;
for (j = 0; j < 8; j++)
    dw.c[j] = 0xf0 + j;

printf("Characters 0-7 ==
[0x%x, 0x%x, 0x%x, 0x%x, 0x%x, 0x%x, 0x%x, 0x%x]\n",
    dw.c[0], dw.c[1], dw.c[2], dw.c[3],
    dw.c[4], dw.c[5], dw.c[6], dw.c[7]);

printf("Shorts 0-3 ==
[0x%x, 0x%x, 0x%x, 0x%x]\n",
    dw.s[0], dw.s[1], dw.s[2], dw.s[3]);

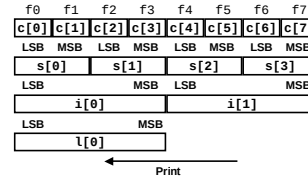
printf("Ints 0-1 == [0x%x, 0x%x]\n",
    dw.i[0], dw.i[1]);

printf("Long 0 == [0x%lx]\n",
    dw.l[0]);
```

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Byte Ordering on x86

Little Endian



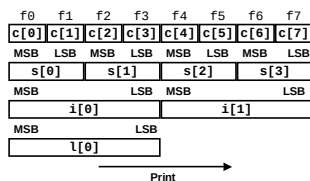
Output on Pentium:

```
Characters 0-7 == [0xf0, 0xf1, 0xf2, 0xf3, 0xf4, 0xf5, 0xf6, 0xf7]
Shorts 0-3 == [0xf1f0, 0xf3f2, 0xf5f4, 0xf7f6]
Ints 0-1 == [0xf3f2f1f0, 0xf7f6f5f4]
Long 0 == [f3f2f1f0]
```

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Byte Ordering on Sun

Big Endian



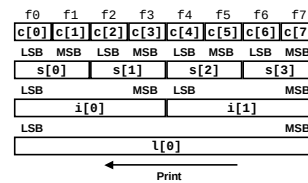
Output on Sun:

```
Characters 0-7 == [0xf0, 0xf1, 0xf2, 0xf3, 0xf4, 0xf5, 0xf6, 0xf7]
Shorts 0-3 == [0xf0f1, 0xf2f3, 0xf4f5, 0xf6f7]
Ints 0-1 == [0xf0f1f2f3, 0xf4f5f6f7]
Long 0 == [0xf0f1f2f3]
```

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Byte Ordering on Alpha

Little Endian



Output on Alpha:

```
Characters 0-7 == [0xf0, 0xf1, 0xf2, 0xf3, 0xf4, 0xf5, 0xf6, 0xf7]
Shorts 0-3 == [0xf1f0, 0xf3f2, 0xf5f4, 0xf7f6]
Ints 0-1 == [0xf3f2f1f0, 0xf7f6f5f4]
Long 0 == [0xf7f6f5f4f3f2f1f0]
```

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Summary

Arrays in C

- Contiguous allocation of memory
- Pointer to first element
- No bounds checking

Compiler Optimizations

- Compiler often turns array code into pointer code (zd2int)
- Uses addressing modes to scale array indices
- Lots of tricks to improve array indexing in loops

Structures

- Allocate bytes in order declared
- Pad in middle and at end to satisfy alignment

Unions

- Overlay declarations
- Way to circumvent type system

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