Advanced Data types

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Objectives - 1

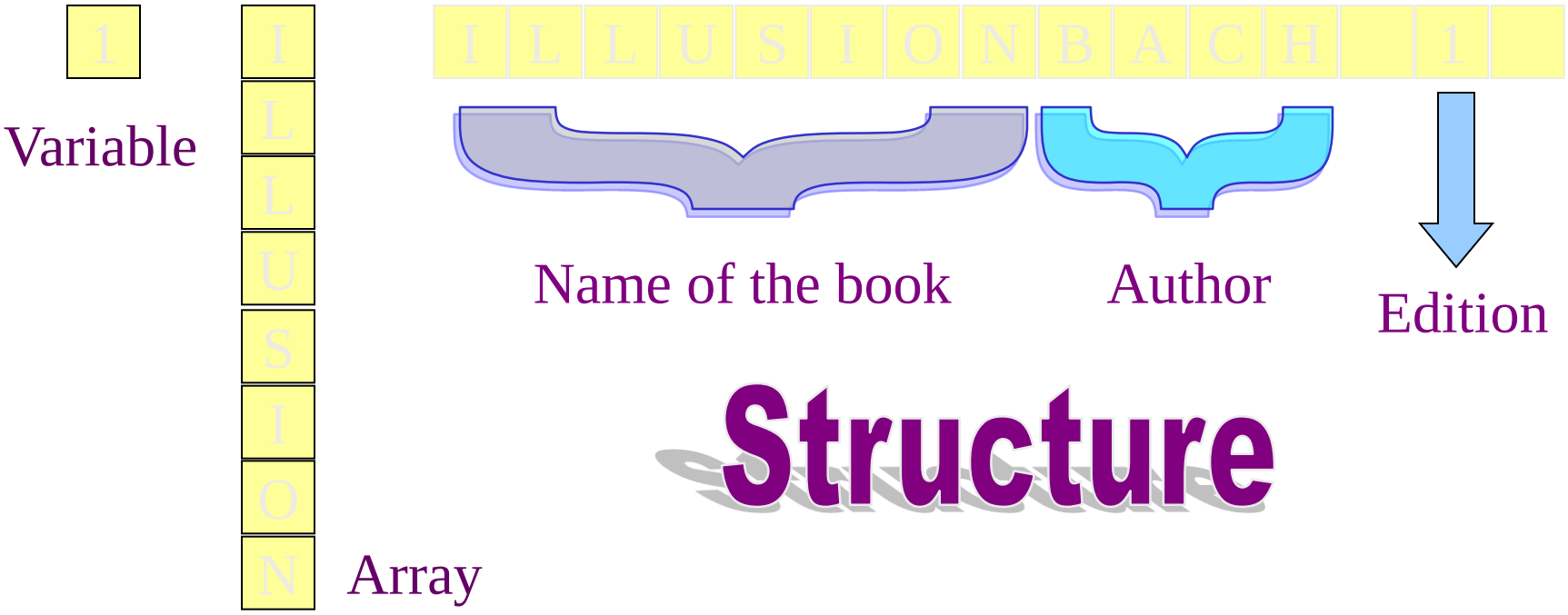
- Explain structures and their use
- Define structures
- Declare structure variables
- Explain how structure elements are accessed
- Explain how structures are initialized
- Explain how assignment statements are used with structures

Objectives - 2

- Explain how structures can be passed as arguments to functions
- Use arrays of structures
- Explain the initialization of structure arrays
- Explain pointers to structures
  Explain how structure pointers can be passed as arguments to functions

Structures

- A structure consists of a number of data items, which need not be of the same data type, grouped together
- The structure could hold as many of these items as desired



Defining a Structure

- A structure definition forms a template for creating structure variables
- The variables in the structure are called structure elements or structure members
- Example:

```
struct cat
   {     char bk_name [25];
         char author [20];
         int edn;
         float price;
    };
```

Declaring Structure Variables

- Once the structure has been defined, one or more variables of that type can be declared
- Example: **struct cat books1;**
- The statement sets aside enough memory to hold all items in the structure

Other ways

```
struct cat {    char bk_name[25];
                char author[20];
                int edn;
                float price;
        } books1, books2;
```

```
struct cat books1, books2;
```

or

```
struct cat books1;
struct cat books2;
```

Accessing Structure Elements

- Structure elements are referenced through the use of the **dot operator** (.), also known as the **membership operator**
- Syntax:

```
structure_name.element_name
```

- Example:

```
scanf("%s", books1.bk_name);
```

Initializing Structures

- Like variables and arrays, structure variables can be initialized at the point of declaration

```
struct employee
   { int no;
     char name [20];
   };
```

- Variables **emp1** and **emp2** of the type **employee** can be declared and initialized as:

```
struct employee emp1 = {346, “Abraham”};
struct employee emp2 = {347, “John”};
```

Assignment Statements Used with Structures-1

- It is possible to assign the values of one structure variable to another variable of the same type using a simple assignment statement

- For example, if **books 1** and **books2** are structure variables of the same type, the following statement is valid

```
books2 = books1;
```

Assignment Statements Used with Structures - 2

- In cases where direct assignment is not possible, the in-built function **memcpy()** can be used
- Syntax:

  memcpy (char * destn, char &source, int nbytes);

- Example:

  memcpy (&books2, &books1, sizeof(struct cat));

Structures within Structures

- **It is possible to have one structure within another structure. A structure cannot be nested within itself**

```
struct issue
{
   char borrower [20];
   char dt_of_issue[8];
   struct cat books;
}issl;
```

- **To access the elements of the structure the format will be similar to the one used with normal structures,**

```
issl.borrower
```

- **To access elements of the structure cat, which is a part of another structure issue,**

```
issl.books.author
```

Passing Structures as Arguments

- A structure variable can be passed as an argument to a function
- This facility is used to pass groups of logically related data items together instead of passing them one by one
- The type of the argument should match the type of the parameter

Array of Structures

- A common use of structures is in arrays of structures
- A structure is first defined, and then an array variable of that type is declared
- Example:

```
struct cat books[50];
```

- To the access the variable author of the fourth element of the array **books**:

```
books[4].author
```

Initialization of Structure Arrays

- Structure arrays are initialized by enclosing the list of values of its elements within a pair of braces
- Example:

```
struct unit
{       char ch;
        int i;
        };

struct unit series [3] =
{       {'a', 100}
        {'b', 200}
        {'c', 300}
      };
```

Pointers to Structures

- Structure pointers are declared by placing an asterisk(*) in front of the structure variable's name
- The **->** operator is used to access the elements of a structure using a pointer
- Example:

```
struct cat *ptr_bk;
ptr_bk = &books;
printf("%s", ptr_bk->author);
```

- Structure pointers passed as arguments to functions enable the function to modify the structure elements directly

The typedef keyword

- A new data type name can be defined by using the keyword typedef
- It does not create a new data type, but defines a new name for an existing type
- Syntax:

```
typedef type name;
```

- Example:

```
typedef float deci;
```

- typedef cannot be used with storage classes

Q & A