

# CONCEPTS OF Programming Languages



AUBURN

UNIVERSITY

SAMUEL GINN  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

## Chapter 6

### Data Types

# Chapter 6 Topics

- Introduction
- Primitive Data Types
- Character String Types
- User-Defined Ordinal Types
- Array Types
- Associative Arrays
- Record Types
- Tuple Types
- List Types
- Union Types
- Pointer and Reference Types
- Type Checking
- Strong Typing
- Type Equivalence
- Theory and Data Types

1-2



AUBURN  
UNIVERSITY

SAMUEL GINN  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

# Introduction

- A *data type* defines a collection of data objects and a set of predefined operations on those objects
- A *descriptor* is the collection of the attributes of a variable
- An *object* represents an instance of a user-defined (abstract data) type
- One design issue for all data types: What operations are defined and how are they specified?

# Primitive Data Types

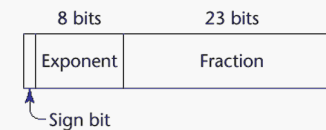
- Almost all programming languages provide a set of *primitive data types*
- Primitive data types: Those not defined in terms of other data types
- Some primitive data types are merely reflections of the hardware
- Others require only a little non-hardware support for their implementation

# Primitive Data Types: Integer

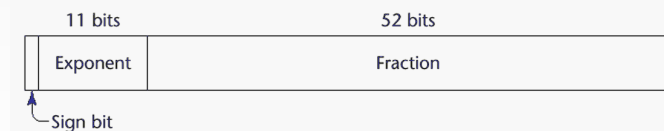
- Almost always an exact reflection of the hardware so the mapping is trivial
- There may be as many as eight different integer types in a language
- Java's signed integer sizes: **byte**, **short**, **int**, **long**

# Primitive Data Types: Floating Point

- Model real numbers, but only as approximations
- Languages for scientific use support at least two floating-point types (e.g., **float** and **double**; sometimes more)
- Usually exactly like the hardware, but not always
- IEEE Floating-Point Standard 754



(a)



(b)

# Primitive Data Types: Complex

- Some languages support a complex type, e.g., C99, Fortran, and Python
- Each value consists of two floats, the real part and the imaginary part
- Literal form (in Python):  
 $(7 + 3j)$ , where 7 is the real part and 3 is the imaginary part

# Primitive Data Types: Decimal

- For business applications (money)
  - Essential to COBOL
  - C# offers a decimal data type
- Store a fixed number of decimal digits, in coded form (BCD)
- *Advantage*: accuracy
- *Disadvantages*: limited range, wastes memory



# Primitive Data Types: Boolean

- Simplest of all
- Range of values: two elements, one for “true” and one for “false”
- Could be implemented as bits, but often as bytes
  - Advantage: readability

# Primitive Data Types: Character

- Stored as numeric codings
- Most commonly used coding: ASCII
- An alternative, 16-bit coding: Unicode (UCS-2)
  - Includes characters from most natural languages
  - Originally used in Java
  - C# and JavaScript also support Unicode
- 32-bit Unicode (UCS-4)
  - Supported by Fortran, starting with 2003

1-10

# Character String Types

- Values are sequences of characters
- Design issues:
  - Is it a primitive type or just a special kind of array?
  - Should the length of strings be static or dynamic?

# Character String Types Operations

- Typical operations:
  - Assignment and copying
  - Comparison (=, >, etc.)
  - Catenation
  - Substring reference
  - Pattern matching

# Character String Type in Certain Languages

- C and C++
  - Not primitive
  - Use `char` arrays and a library of functions that provide operations
- SNOBOL4 (a string manipulation language)
  - Primitive
  - Many operations, including elaborate pattern matching
- Fortran and Python
  - Primitive type with assignment and several operations
- Java
  - Primitive via the `String` class
- Perl, JavaScript, Ruby, and PHP
  - Provide built-in pattern matching, using regular expressions

# Character String Length Options

- Static: COBOL, Java's `String` class
- *Limited Dynamic Length*: C and C++
  - In these languages, a special character is used to indicate the end of a string's characters, rather than maintaining the length
- *Dynamic* (no maximum): SNOBOL4, Perl, JavaScript
- Ada supports all three string length options

# Character String Type Evaluation

- Aid to writability
- As a primitive type with static length, they are inexpensive to provide--why not have them?
- Dynamic length is nice, but is it worth the expense?

# Character String Implementation

- Static length: compile-time descriptor
- Limited dynamic length: may need a run-time descriptor for length (but not in C and C++)
- Dynamic length: need run-time descriptor; allocation/deallocation is the biggest implementation problem



# Compile- and Run-Time Descriptors

Static string
Length
Address

Compile-time  
descriptor for  
static strings

Limited dynamic string
Maximum length
Current length
Address

Run-time  
descriptor for  
limited dynamic  
strings

# User-Defined Ordinal Types

- An ordinal type is one in which the range of possible values can be easily associated with the set of positive integers
- Examples of primitive ordinal types in Java
  - `integer`
  - `char`
  - `boolean`

# Enumeration Types

- All possible values, which are named constants, are provided in the definition
- C# example

```
enum days {mon, tue, wed, thu, fri, sat, sun};
```

- Design issues
  - Is an enumeration constant allowed to appear in more than one type definition, and if so, how is the type of an occurrence of that constant checked?
  - Are enumeration values coerced to integer?
  - Any other type coerced to an enumeration type?

# Evaluation of Enumerated Type

- Aid to readability, e.g., no need to code a color as a number
- Aid to reliability, e.g., compiler can check:
  - operations (don't allow colors to be added)
  - No enumeration variable can be assigned a value outside its defined range
  - Ada, C#, and Java 5.0 provide better support for enumeration than C++ because enumeration type variables in these languages are not coerced into integer types



# Subrange Types

- An ordered contiguous subsequence of an ordinal type
  - Example: 12..18 is a subrange of integer type
- Ada's design

```
type Days is (mon, tue, wed, thu, fri, sat, sun);  
subtype Weekdays is Days range mon..fri;  
subtype Index is Integer range 1..100;
```

```
Day1: Days;
```

```
Day2: Weekday;
```

```
Day2 := Day1;
```

# Subrange Evaluation

- Aid to readability
  - Make it clear to the readers that variables of subrange can store only certain range of values
- Reliability
  - Assigning a value to a subrange variable that is outside the specified range is detected as an error

# Implementation of User-Defined Ordinal Types

- Enumeration types are implemented as integers
- Subrange types are implemented like the parent types with code inserted (by the compiler) to restrict assignments to subrange variables

# Array Types

- An array is a homogeneous aggregate of data elements in which an individual element is identified by its position in the aggregate, relative to the first element.



# Array Design Issues

- What types are legal for subscripts?
- Are subscripting expressions in element references range checked?
- When are subscript ranges bound?
- When does allocation take place?
- Are ragged or rectangular multidimensional arrays allowed, or both?
- What is the maximum number of subscripts?
- Can array objects be initialized?
- Are any kind of slices supported?

# Array Indexing

- *Indexing* (or subscripting) is a mapping from indices to elements

`array_name (index_value_list) → an element`

- Index Syntax

- Fortran and Ada use parentheses

- Ada explicitly uses parentheses to show uniformity between array references and function calls because both are *mappings*

- Most other languages use brackets

# Arrays Index (Subscript) Types

- FORTRAN, C: integer only
- Ada: integer or enumeration (includes Boolean and char)
- Java: integer types only
- Index range checking
  - C, C++, Perl, and Fortran do not specify range checking
  - Java, ML, C# specify range checking
  - In Ada, the default is to require range checking, but it can be turned off

# Subscript Binding and Array Categories

- *Static*: subscript ranges are statically bound and storage allocation is static (before run-time)
  - Advantage: efficiency (no dynamic allocation)
- *Fixed stack-dynamic*: subscript ranges are statically bound, but the allocation is done at declaration time
  - Advantage: space efficiency

# Subscript Binding and Array Categories (continued)

- *Stack-dynamic*: subscript ranges are dynamically bound and the storage allocation is dynamic (done at run-time)
  - Advantage: flexibility (the size of an array need not be known until the array is to be used)
- *Fixed heap-dynamic*: similar to fixed stack-dynamic: storage binding is dynamic but fixed after allocation (i.e., binding is done when requested and storage is allocated from heap, not stack)



# Subscript Binding and Array Categories (continued)

- Heap-dynamic: binding of subscript ranges and storage allocation is dynamic and can change any number of times
  - Advantage: flexibility (arrays can grow or shrink during program execution)

# Subscript Binding and Array Categories (continued)

- C and C++ arrays that include `static` modifier are static
- C and C++ arrays without `static` modifier are fixed stack-dynamic
- C and C++ provide fixed heap-dynamic arrays
- C# includes a second array class `ArrayList` that provides fixed heap-dynamic
- Perl, JavaScript, Python, and Ruby support heap-dynamic arrays

# Array Initialization

- Some language allow initialization at the time of storage allocation

- C, C++, Java, C# example

```
int list [] = {4, 5, 7, 83}
```

- Character strings in C and C++

```
char name [] = "freddie";
```

- Arrays of strings in C and C++

```
char *names [] = {"Bob", "Jake", "Joe"};
```

- Java initialization of String objects

```
String[] names = {"Bob", "Jake", "Joe"};
```





# Heterogeneous Arrays

- A *heterogeneous array* is one in which the elements need not be of the same type
- Supported by Perl, Python, JavaScript, and Ruby

# Array Initialization

- C-based languages

- `int list [] = {1, 3, 5, 7}`
- `char *names [] = {"Mike", "Fred", "Mary Lou"};`

- Ada

- `List : array (1..5) of Integer :=  
    (1 => 17, 3 => 34, others => 0);`

- Python

- List comprehensions

```
list = [x ** 2 for x in range(12) if x % 3 == 0]  
puts [0, 9, 36, 81] in list
```



# Arrays Operations

- APL provides the most powerful array processing operations for vectors and matrixes as well as unary operators (for example, to reverse column elements)
- Ada allows array assignment but also catenation
- Python's array assignments, but they are only reference changes. Python also supports array catenation and element membership operations
- Ruby also provides array catenation
- Fortran provides *elemental* operations because they are between pairs of array elements
  - For example, + operator between two arrays results in an array of the sums of the element pairs of the two arrays

# Rectangular and Jagged Arrays

- A rectangular array is a multi-dimensioned array in which all of the rows have the same number of elements and all columns have the same number of elements
- A jagged matrix has rows with varying number of elements
  - Possible when multi-dimensioned arrays actually appear as arrays of arrays
- C, C++, and Java support jagged arrays
- Fortran, Ada, and C# support rectangular arrays (C# also supports jagged arrays)



# Slices

- A slice is some substructure of an array; nothing more than a referencing mechanism
- Slices are only useful in languages that have array operations

# Slice Examples

- Python

```
vector = [2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16]
```

```
mat = [[1, 2, 3], [4, 5, 6], [7, 8, 9]]
```

`vector [3:6]` is a three-element array

`mat[0][0:2]` is the first and second element of the first row of `mat`

- Ruby supports slices with the `slice` method

`list.slice(2, 2)` returns the third and fourth elements of `list`

# Implementation of Arrays

- Access function maps subscript expressions to an address in the array
- Access function for single-dimensioned arrays:

$$\text{address}(\text{list}[k]) = \text{address}(\text{list}[\text{lower\_bound}]) + ((k - \text{lower\_bound}) * \text{element\_size})$$

	0	1	...	j-1	j	...	n-1
0							
1							
⋮							
i-1							
i					⊗		
⋮							
m-1							



AUBURN  
UNIVERSITY

SAMUEL GINN  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

# Accessing Multi-dimensioned Arrays

- Two common ways:
  - Row major order (by rows) – used in most languages
  - Column major order (by columns) – used in Fortran
  - A compile-time descriptor for a multidimensional array

Multidimensioned array
Element type
Index type
Number of dimensions
Index range 0
⋮
Index range $n - 1$
Address



# Locating an Element in a Multi-dimensioned Array

- General format

Location ( $a[l,j]$ ) = address of  $a$  [ $\text{row\_lb}, \text{col\_lb}$ ] +  $((l - \text{row\_lb}) * n + (j - \text{col\_lb})) * \text{element\_size}$

	1	2	...	$j-1$	$j$	...	$n$
1							
2							
$\vdots$							
$i-1$							
$i$					⊗		
$\vdots$							
$m$							

# Compile-Time Descriptors

Array
Element type
Index type
Index lower bound
Index upper bound
Address

Single-dimensioned array

Multidimensioned array
Element type
Index type
Number of dimensions
Index range 1
$\vdots$
Index range $n$
Address

Multidimensional array

# Associative Arrays

- An *associative array* is an unordered collection of data elements that are indexed by an equal number of values called *keys*
  - User-defined keys must be stored
- Design issues:
  - What is the form of references to elements?
  - Is the size static or dynamic?
- Built-in type in Perl, Python, Ruby, and Lua
  - In Lua, they are supported by tables



AUBURN  
UNIVERSITY

SAMUEL GINN  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

# Associative Arrays in Perl

- Names begin with % ; literals are delimited by parentheses

```
%hi_temps = ("Mon" => 77, "Tue" => 79, "Wed" => 65, ...);
```

- Subscripting is done using braces and keys

```
$hi_temps{"Wed"} = 83;
```

- Elements can be removed with `delete`

```
delete $hi_temps{"Tue"};
```



# Record Types

- A *record* is a possibly heterogeneous aggregate of data elements in which the individual elements are identified by names
- Design issues:
  - What is the syntactic form of references to the field?
  - Are elliptical references allowed

# Definition of Records in COBOL

- COBOL uses level numbers to show nested records; others use recursive definition

```
01 EMP-REC.  
    02 EMP-NAME.  
        05 FIRST PIC X(20) .  
        05 MID    PIC X(10) .  
        05 LAST   PIC X(20) .  
    02 HOURLY-RATE PIC 99V99.
```

# Definition of Records in Ada

- Record structures are indicated in an orthogonal way

```
type Emp_Rec_Type is record  
    First: String (1..20);  
    Mid: String (1..10);  
    Last: String (1..20);  
    Hourly_Rate: Float;  
end record;  
Emp_Rec: Emp_Rec_Type;
```

# References to Records

- Record field references
  1. COBOL  
field\_name OF record\_name\_1 OF ... OF record\_name\_n
  2. Others (dot notation)  
record\_name\_1.record\_name\_2. ... record\_name\_n.field\_name
- Fully qualified references must include all record names
- Elliptical references allow leaving out record names as long as the reference is unambiguous, for example in COBOL  
FIRST, FIRST OF EMP-NAME, and FIRST of EMP-REC are elliptical references to the employee's first name



# Operations on Records

- Assignment is very common if the types are identical
- Ada allows record comparison
- Ada records can be initialized with aggregate literals
- COBOL provides `MOVE CORRESPONDING`
  - Copies a field of the source record to the corresponding field in the target record

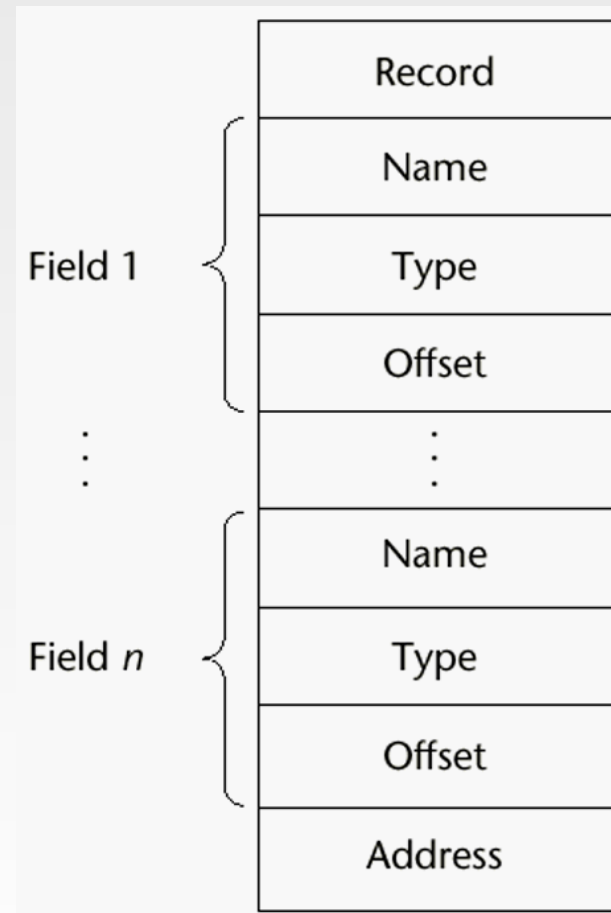
# Evaluation and Comparison to Arrays

- Records are used when collection of data values is heterogeneous
- Access to array elements is much slower than access to record fields, because subscripts are dynamic (field names are static)
- Dynamic subscripts could be used with record field access, but it would disallow type checking and it would be much slower



# Implementation of Record Type

Offset address relative to the beginning of the records is associated with each field



# Tuple Types

- A tuple is a data type that is similar to a record, except that the elements are not named
- Used in Python, ML, and F# to allow functions to return multiple values
  - Python
    - Closely related to its lists, but immutable
    - Create with a tuple literal

```
myTuple = (3, 5.8, 'apple')
```

Referenced with subscripts (begin at 1)

Catenation with + and deleted with del



AUBURN  
UNIVERSITY

SAMUEL GINN  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

# Tuple Types (continued)

- ML

```
val myTuple = (3, 5.8, 'apple');
```

- Access as follows:

#1(myTuple) is the first element

- A new tuple type can be defined

```
type intReal = int * real;
```

- F#

```
let tup = (3, 5, 7)
```

```
let a, b, c = tup
```

This assigns a tuple to a tuple pattern (a, b, c)

# List Types

- Lists in LISP and Scheme are delimited by parentheses and use no commas

(A B C D) and (A (B C) D)

- Data and code have the same form

As data, (A B C) is literally what it is

As code, (A B C) is the function A applied to the parameters B and C

- The interpreter needs to know which a list is, so if it is data, we quote it with an apostrophe

' (A B C) is data

# List Types (continued)

- List Operations in Scheme
  - CAR returns the first element of its list parameter  
`(CAR ' (A B C) )` returns A
  - CDR returns the remainder of its list parameter after the first element has been removed  
`(CDR ' (A B C) )` returns (B C)
  - CONS puts its first parameter into its second parameter, a list, to make a new list  
`(CONS 'A (B C) )` returns (A B C)
  - LIST returns a new list of its parameters  
`(LIST 'A 'B ' (C D) )` returns (A B (C D) )

# List Types (continued)

- List Operations in ML
  - Lists are written in brackets and the elements are separated by commas
  - List elements must be of the same type
  - The Scheme `CONS` function is a binary operator in ML, `::`  
`3 :: [5, 7, 9]` evaluates to `[3, 5, 7, 9]`
  - The Scheme `CAR` and `CDR` functions are named `hd` and `tl`, respectively



# List Types (continued)

- F# Lists
  - Like those of ML, except elements are separated by semicolons and `hd` and `tl` are methods of the `List` class
- Python Lists
  - The list data type also serves as Python's arrays
  - Unlike Scheme, Common LISP, ML, and F#, Python's lists are mutable
  - Elements can be of any type
  - Create a list with an assignment

```
myList = [3, 5.8, "grape"]
```

# List Types (continued)

- Python Lists (continued)

- List elements are referenced with subscripting, with indices beginning at zero

`x = myList[1]`      Sets `x` to 5.8

- List elements can be deleted with `del`

`del myList[1]`

- List Comprehensions – derived from set notation

`[x * x for x in range(6) if x % 3 == 0]`

`range(12)` creates `[0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]`  
1-58

Constructed list: `[0, 9, 36]`



AUBURN  
UNIVERSITY

SAMUEL GINN  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

# List Types (continued)

- Haskell's List Comprehensions
  - The original

```
[n * n | n <- [1..10]]
```

- F#'s List Comprehensions

```
let myArray = [|for i in 1 .. 5 -> [i * i) |]
```

- Both C# and Java supports lists through their generic heap-dynamic collection classes, `List` and `ArrayList`, respectively



# Unions Types

- A *union* is a type whose variables are allowed to store different type values at different times during execution
- Design issues
  - Should type checking be required?
  - Should unions be embedded in records?

# Discriminated vs. Free Unions

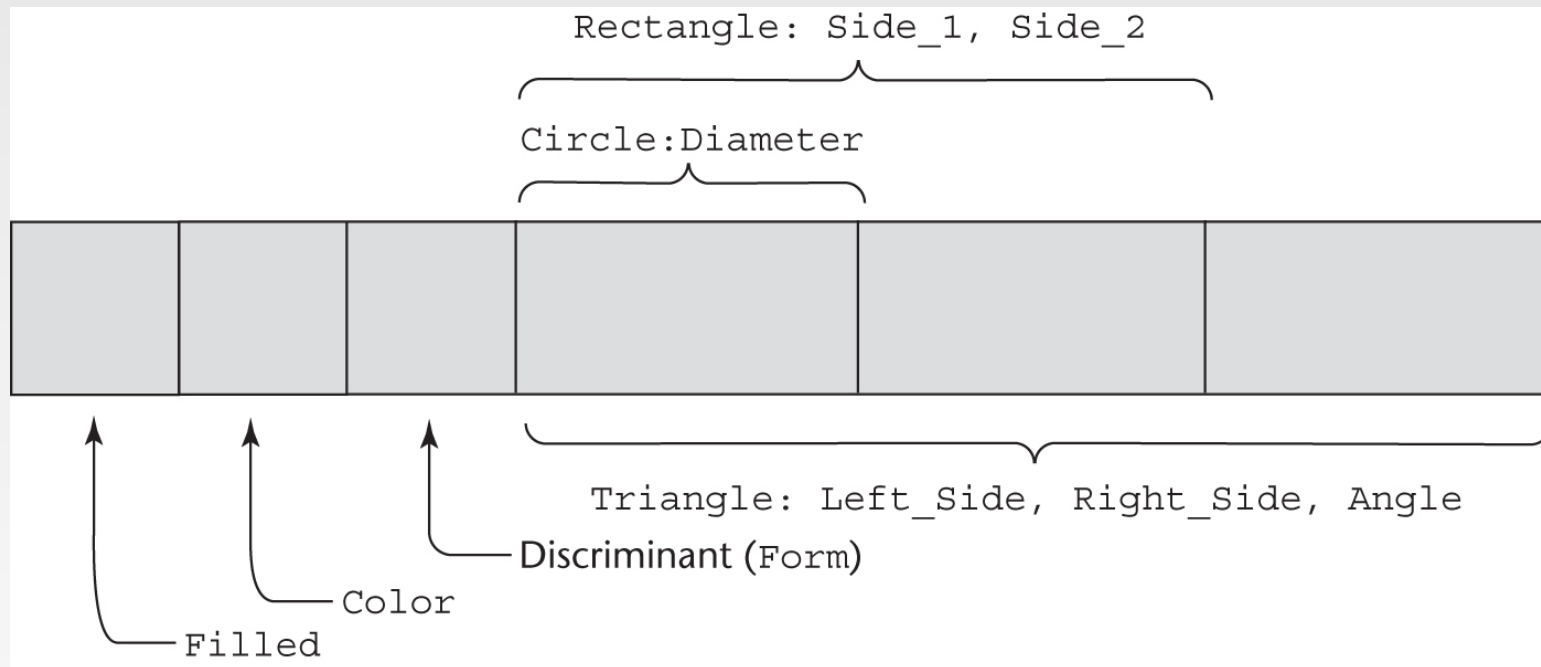
- Fortran, C, and C++ provide union constructs in which there is no language support for type checking; the union in these languages is called *free union*
- Type checking of unions require that each union include a type indicator called a *discriminant*
  - Supported by Ada

# Ada Union Types

```
type Shape is (Circle, Triangle, Rectangle);  
type Colors is (Red, Green, Blue);  
type Figure (Form: Shape) is record  
    Filled: Boolean;  
    Color: Colors;  
    case Form is  
        when Circle => Diameter: Float;  
        when Triangle =>  
            Leftside, Rightside: Integer;  
            Angle: Float;  
        when Rectangle => Side1, Side2: Integer;  
    end case;  
end record;
```



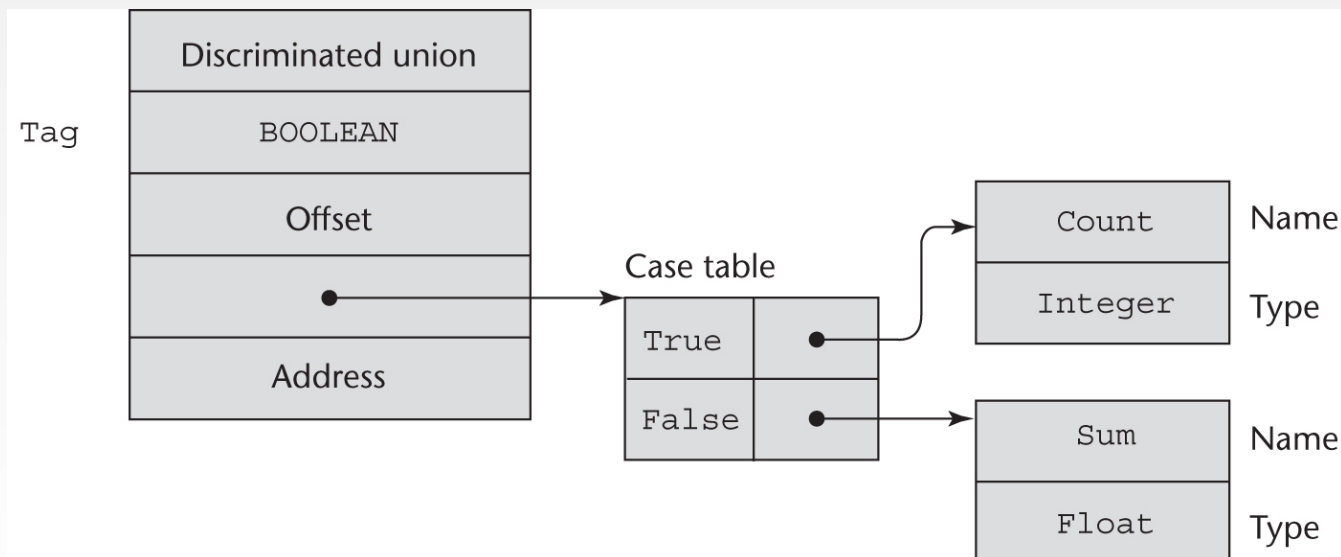
# Ada Union Type Illustrated



A discriminated union of three shape variables

# Implementation of Unions

```
type Node (Tag : Boolean) is  
  record  
    case Tag is  
      when True => Count : Integer;  
      when False => Sum : Float;  
    end case;  
  end record;
```





# Evaluation of Unions

- Free unions are unsafe
  - Do not allow type checking
- Java and C# do not support unions
  - Reflective of growing concerns for safety in programming language
- Ada's discriminated unions are safe

# Pointer and Reference Types

- A *pointer* type variable has a range of values that consists of memory addresses and a special value, *nil*
- Provide the power of indirect addressing
- Provide a way to manage dynamic memory
- A pointer can be used to access a location in the area where storage is dynamically created (usually called a *heap*)

# Design Issues of Pointers

- What are the scope of and lifetime of a pointer variable?
- What is the lifetime of a heap-dynamic variable?
- Are pointers restricted as to the type of value to which they can point?
- Are pointers used for dynamic storage management, indirect addressing, or both?
- Should the language support pointer types, reference types, or both?

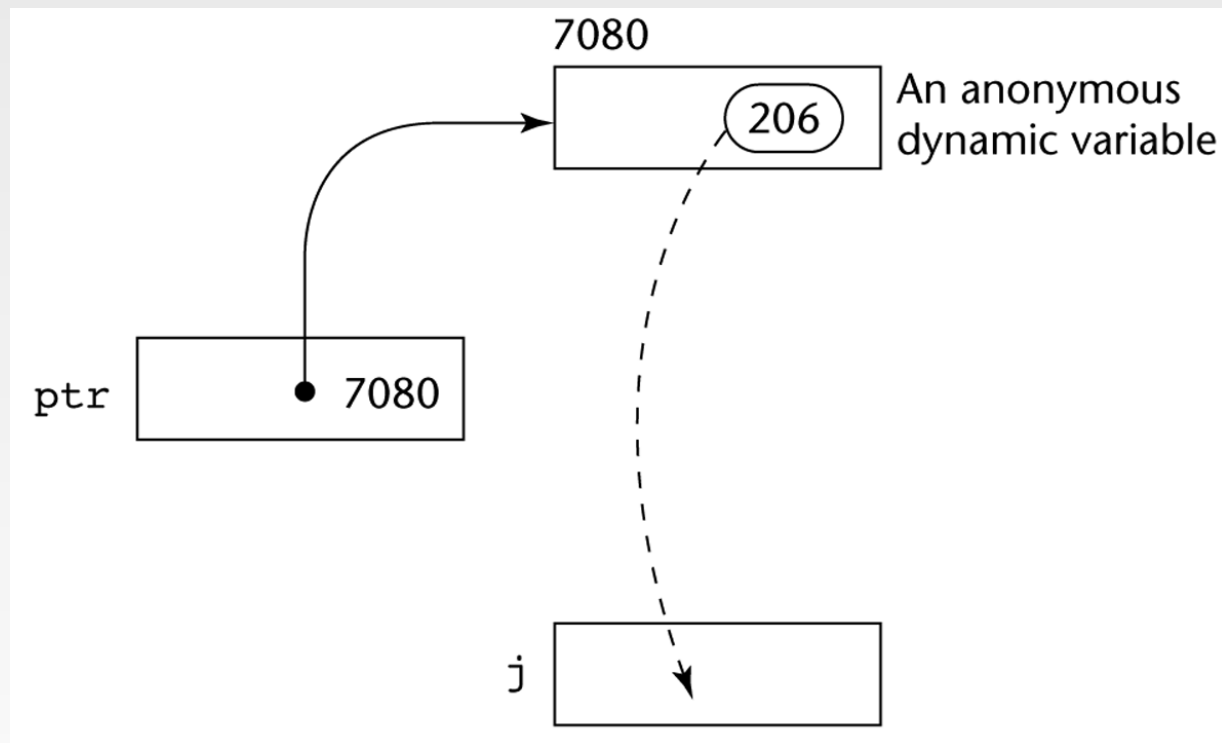
# Pointer Operations

- Two fundamental operations: assignment and dereferencing
- Assignment is used to set a pointer variable's value to some useful address
- Dereferencing yields the value stored at the location represented by the pointer's value
  - Dereferencing can be explicit or implicit
  - C++ uses an explicit operation via `*`

`j = *ptr`

sets `j` to the value located at `ptr`

# Pointer Assignment Illustrated



The assignment operation  $j = *ptr$

# Problems with Pointers

- Dangling pointers (dangerous)
  - A pointer points to a heap-dynamic variable that has been deallocated
- Lost heap-dynamic variable
  - An allocated heap-dynamic variable that is no longer accessible to the user program (often called *garbage*)
    - Pointer `p1` is set to point to a newly created heap-dynamic variable
    - Pointer `p1` is later set to point to another newly created heap-dynamic variable
    - The process of losing heap-dynamic variables is called *memory leakage*

# Pointers in Ada

- Some dangling pointers are disallowed because dynamic objects can be automatically deallocated at the end of pointer's type scope
- The lost heap-dynamic variable problem is not eliminated by Ada (possible with `UNCHECKED_DEALLOCATION`)

# Pointers in C and C++

- Extremely flexible but must be used with care
- Pointers can point at any variable regardless of when or where it was allocated
- Used for dynamic storage management and addressing
- Pointer arithmetic is possible
- Explicit dereferencing and address-of operators
- Domain type need not be fixed (`void *`)
  - `void *` can point to any type and can be type checked (cannot be de-referenced)



# Pointer Arithmetic in C and C++

```
float stuff[100];  
float *p;  
p = stuff;
```

`*(p+5)` is equivalent to `stuff[5]` and `p[5]`

`*(p+i)` is equivalent to `stuff[i]` and `p[i]`

# Reference Types

- C++ includes a special kind of pointer type called a *reference type* that is used primarily for formal parameters
  - Advantages of both pass-by-reference and pass-by-value
- Java extends C++'s reference variables and allows them to replace pointers entirely
  - References are references to objects, rather than being addresses
- C# includes both the references of Java and the pointers of C++

# Evaluation of Pointers

- Dangling pointers and dangling objects are problems as is heap management
- Pointers are like `goto`'s--they widen the range of cells that can be accessed by a variable
- Pointers or references are necessary for dynamic data structures--so we can't design a language without them

# Representations of Pointers

- Large computers use single values
- Intel microprocessors use segment and offset

# Dangling Pointer Problem

- *Tombstone*: extra heap cell that is a pointer to the heap-dynamic variable
  - The actual pointer variable points only at tombstones
  - When heap-dynamic variable de-allocated, tombstone remains but set to nil
  - Costly in time and space
- *Locks-and-keys*: Pointer values are represented as (key, address) pairs
  - Heap-dynamic variables are represented as variable plus cell for integer lock value
  - When heap-dynamic variable allocated, lock value is created and placed in lock cell and key cell of pointer



# Heap Management

- A very complex run-time process
- Single-size cells vs. variable-size cells
- Two approaches to reclaim garbage
  - Reference counters (*eager approach*): reclamation is gradual
  - Mark-sweep (*lazy approach*): reclamation occurs when the list of variable space becomes empty

# Reference Counter

- Reference counters: maintain a counter in every cell that store the number of pointers currently pointing at the cell
  - *Disadvantages*: space required, execution time required, complications for cells connected circularly
  - *Advantage*: it is intrinsically incremental, so significant delays in the application execution are avoided

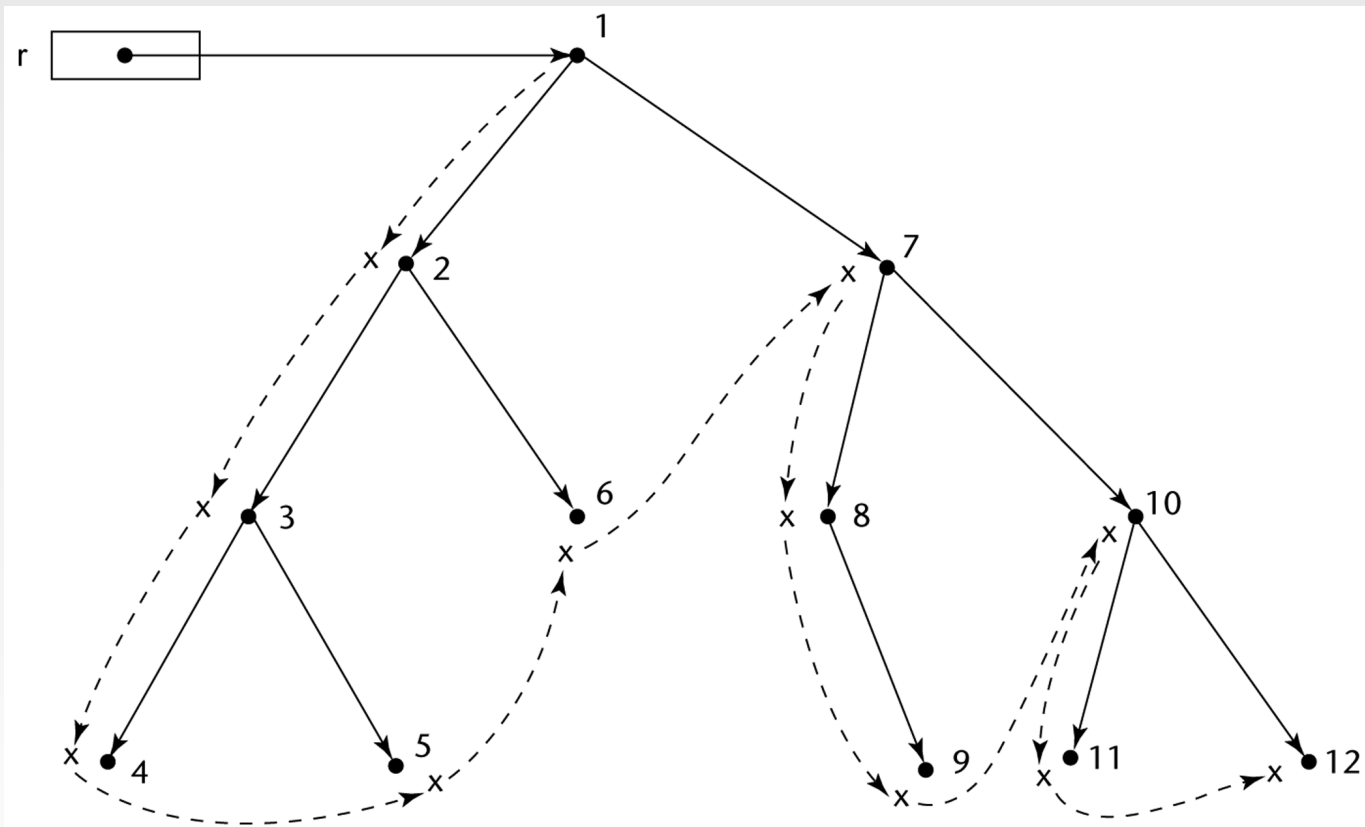
# Mark-Sweep

- The run-time system allocates storage cells as requested and disconnects pointers from cells as necessary; mark-sweep then begins
  - Every heap cell has an extra bit used by collection algorithm
  - All cells initially set to garbage
  - All pointers traced into heap, and reachable cells marked as not garbage
  - All garbage cells returned to list of available cells
  - Disadvantages: in its original form, it was done too infrequently. When done, it caused significant delays in application execution. Contemporary mark-sweep algorithms avoid this by doing it more often—called incremental mark-sweep





# Marking Algorithm



Dashed lines show the order of node\_marking



# Variable-Size Cells

- All the difficulties of single-size cells plus more
- Required by most programming languages
- If mark-sweep is used, additional problems occur
  - The initial setting of the indicators of all cells in the heap is difficult
  - The marking process is nontrivial
  - Maintaining the list of available space is another source of overhead



# Type Checking

- Generalize the concept of operands and operators to include subprograms and assignments
- *Type checking* is the activity of ensuring that the operands of an operator are of compatible types
- A *compatible type* is one that is either legal for the operator, or is allowed under language rules to be implicitly converted, by compiler-generated code, to a legal type
  - This automatic conversion is called a *coercion*.
- A *type error* is the application of an operator to an operand of an inappropriate type

# Type Checking (continued)

- If all type bindings are static, nearly all type checking can be static
- If type bindings are dynamic, type checking must be dynamic
- A programming language is *strongly typed* if type errors are always detected
- Advantage of strong typing: allows the detection of the misuses of variables that result in type errors

# Strong Typing

## Language examples:

- C and C++ are not: parameter type checking can be avoided; unions are not type checked
- Ada is, almost (`UNCHECKED CONVERSION` is loophole)  
(Java and C# are similar to Ada)

# Strong Typing (continued)

- Coercion rules strongly affect strong typing--they can weaken it considerably (C++ versus Ada)
- Although Java has just half the assignment coercions of C++, its strong typing is still far less effective than that of Ada

# Name Type Equivalence

- *Name type equivalence* means the two variables have equivalent types if they are in either the same declaration or in declarations that use the same type name
- Easy to implement but highly restrictive:
  - Subranges of integer types are not equivalent with integer types
  - Formal parameters must be the same type as their corresponding actual parameters

# Structure Type Equivalence

- *Structure type equivalence* means that two variables have equivalent types if their types have identical structures
- More flexible, but harder to implement



# Type Equivalence (continued)

- Consider the problem of two structured types:
  - Are two record types equivalent if they are structurally the same but use different field names?
  - Are two array types equivalent if they are the same except that the subscripts are different?  
(e.g. `[1..10]` and `[0..9]`)
  - Are two enumeration types equivalent if their components are spelled differently?
  - With structural type equivalence, you cannot differentiate between types of the same structure  
(e.g. different units of speed, both float)



# Theory and Data Types

- Type theory is a broad area of study in mathematics, logic, computer science, and philosophy
- Two branches of type theory in computer science:
  - Practical – data types in commercial languages
  - Abstract – typed lambda calculus
- A type system is a set of types and the rules that govern their use in programs

# Theory and Data Types (continued)

- Formal model of a type system is a set of types and a collection of functions that define the type rules
  - Either an attribute grammar or a type map could be used for the functions
  - Finite mappings – model arrays and functions
  - Cartesian products – model tuples and records
  - Set unions – model union types
  - Subsets – model subtypes



AUBURN  
UNIVERSITY

SAMUEL GINN  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

# Summary

- The data types of a language are a large part of what determines that language's style and usefulness
- The primitive data types of most imperative languages include numeric, character, and Boolean types
- The user-defined enumeration and subrange types are convenient and add to the readability and reliability of programs
- Arrays and records are included in most languages
- Pointers are used for addressing flexibility and to control dynamic storage management