

Understand
structs in
memory

Know how to
save space in
memory



Structures

- ① Structures
- ② Data Alignment

Structures

r in %rdi
i in %rsi

```
struct rec {  
    int i;  
    int j;  
    int a[2];  
    int *p;  
};
```

```
movl    (%rdi),%eax  
movl    %eax,4(%rdi)
```

```
leaq    8(%rdi,%rsi,4),%rax
```

```
movl    4(%rdi),%eax  
addl    (%rdi),%eax  
cltq  
leaq    8(%rdi,%rax,4),%rax  
movq    %rax,16(%rdi)
```



Example

```
struct prob {  
    int *p;  
    struct {  
        int x;  
        int y;  
    } s;  
    struct prob *next;  
};
```

```
void sp_init(struct prob *sp) {  
    sp->s.x = sp->s.y;  
    sp->p = &(sp->s.x);  
    sp->next = sp;  
}
```

```
sp_init:  
    movl    12(%rdi),%eax  
    movl    %eax,8(%rdi)  
    leaq    8(%rdi),%rax  
    movq    %rax,(%rdi)  
    movq    %rdi,16(%rdi)  
    ret
```



Example

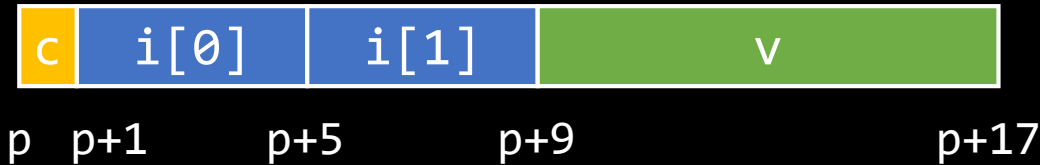
```
fun:
    movl    $0,%eax
    jmp     .L2
.L3:
    addq    (%rdi),%rax
    movq    8(%rdi),%rdi
.L2:
    testq   %rdi,%rdi
    jne     .L3
    rep; ret
```

```
long fun(struct ELE *ptr)
```

```
long ret=0;
while(ptr) {
    ret += ptr->v;
    ptr = ptr->p;
}
return ret;
```

```
struct ELE {
    long v;
    struct ELE *p;
};
```

Data Alignment

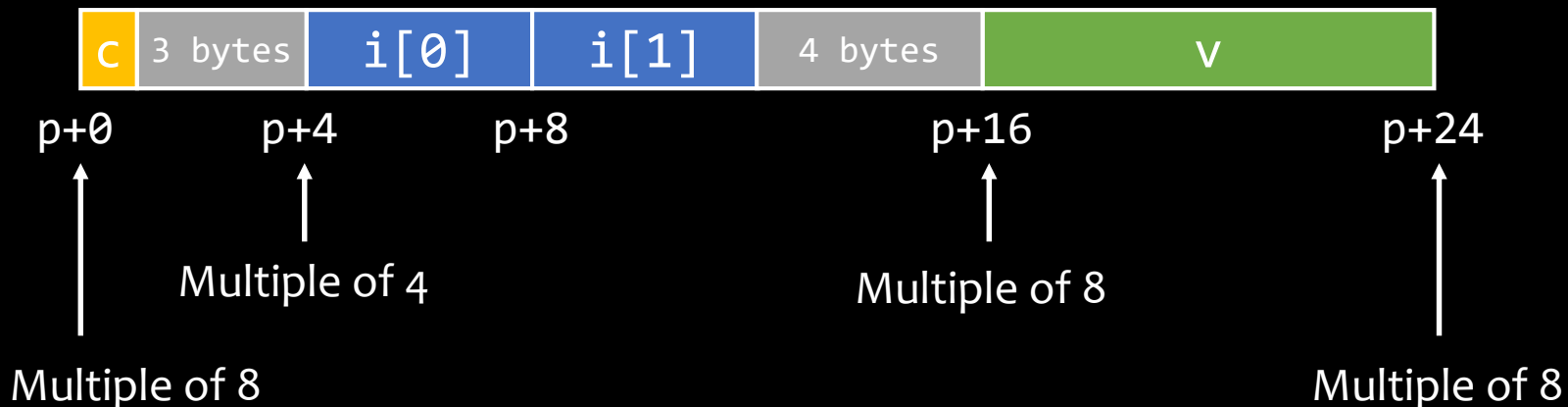


```
struct S1 {  
    char c;  
    int i[2];  
    double v;  
} *p;
```

① Primitive data type requires K bytes

② Address must be multiple of K

padding



Why?



1 byte: char

2 bytes: short

4 bytes: int, float

8 bytes: double, long, char *

16 bytes: long double

bad

good



Example

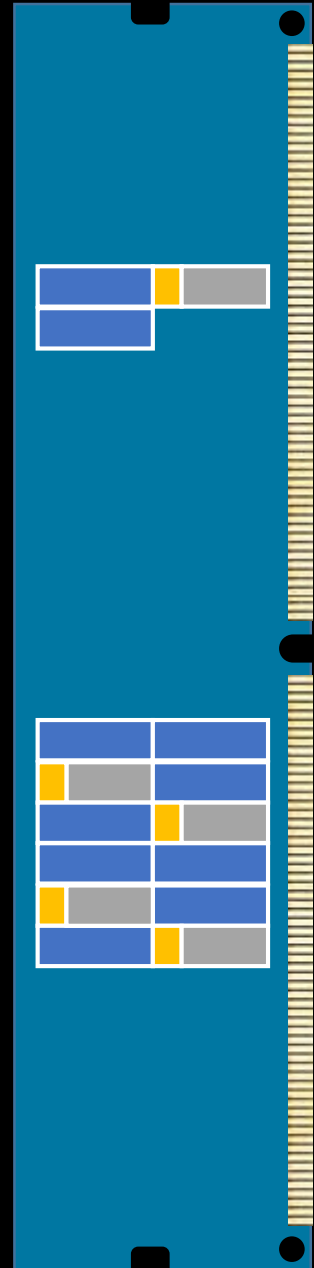
```
struct S1 {  
    int i;  
    char c;  
    int j;  
};
```

```
struct S2 {  
    int i;  
    int j;  
    char c;  
};
```

③ Overall structure must be multiple of K

④ Put large data types first

```
struct S2 d[4];
```



Saving space

```
struct S4 {  
    char c;  
    int i;  
    char d;  
} *p;
```

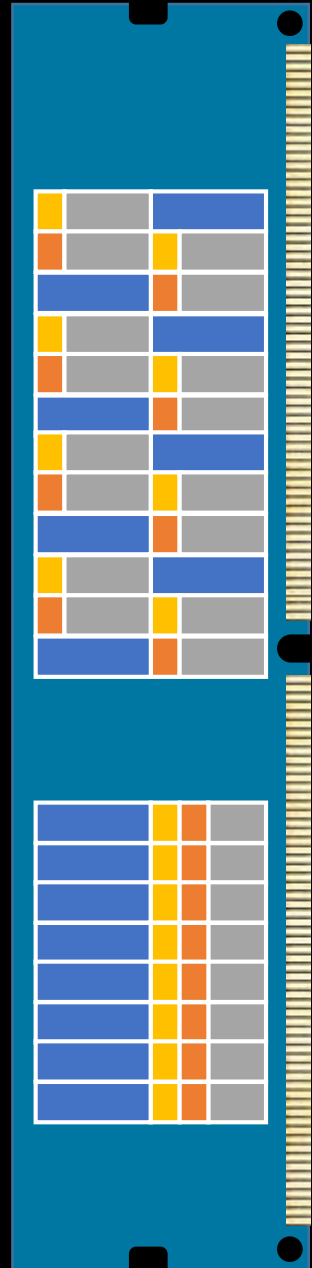
```
struct S4 d[8];
```

④ Put large data types first



```
struct S5 {  
    int i;  
    char c;  
    char d;  
} *p;
```

```
struct S5 d[8];
```



0

8

16

24

32

Example

```
struct P1{ int i; char c; int j; char d; };
```



```
struct P2{ int i; char c; char d; long j; };
```



```
struct P3{ short w[3]; char c[3]; };
```



```
struct P4{ short w[5]; char *c[3]; };
```



```
struct P5{ struct P3 a[2]; struct P2 t };
```



Summary

- Structures
- Data Alignment



Eric Steven Raymond

Author of “The Cathedral and the Bazaar”

“ Smart data structures and dumb code works a lot better than the other way around. ”