

CS5541 - Computer Systems

Struct Alignment

Problem 1:

Consider the following datatype definition on an IA32 (x86) machine.

```
typedef struct {
    char c;
    double *p;
    int i;
    double d;
    short s;
} struct1;
```

A. Using the template below (allowing a maximum of 32 bytes), indicate the allocation of data for a structure of type `struct1`. Mark off and label the areas for each individual element (there are 5 of them). Use an “x” to indicate the parts that are allocated, but not used (to satisfy alignment).

Assume the alignment rules discussed in lecture: data types of size x must be aligned on x -byte boundaries. **Clearly indicate the right hand boundary of the data structure with a vertical line.**

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
	c	x	x	x	p	p	p	p	i	i	i	i	x	x	x	x	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	s	s	x	x	x	x	x	x

B. How many bytes are allocated for an object of type `struct1`? answer: 32

C. What alignment is required for an object of type `struct1`? (If an object must be aligned on an x -byte boundary, then your answer should be x .)

answer: 8

D. If we define the fields of `struct1` in a different order, we can reduce the number of bytes wasted by each variable of type `struct1`. What is the number of **unused, allocated** bytes in the best case?

answer: 5