



BITS Pilani

Lecture 13 Union data type and variants of records



Union type variable and sizes of its field data

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main()
{
    typedef union {
            char name[12];
            char ID[7];
            int age:
            float cgpa;
        } student rec;
        student rec s;
        printf("%d %u\n", sizeof(s.name), &s.name);
        printf("%d %u\n", sizeof(s.ID), &s.ID);
        printf("%d %u\n", sizeof(s.age), &s.age);
        printf("%d %u\n", sizeof(s.cgpa), &s.cgpa);
        printf("%d %u\n", sizeof(s), &s);
        return 0:
```

Output

12 612403476

7 612403476

4 612403476

4 612403476

12 612403476



Issues with data access

```
int main()
    union node{
        int x;
        float y;
        char z;
    } var1;
    printf(" storing and printing values\n");
    var1.x = 2;
    printf("%d \n", var1.x);
    var1.y = 2.3;
    printf("%f \n", var1.y);
    var1.z = 'v';
    printf("%c \n", var1.z);
    printf(" Printing the stored values\n");
    printf("%d \n", var1.x);
    printf("%f \n", var1.y);
    printf("%c \n", var1.z);
    printf(" Printing the stored values again\n");
    printf("%d \n", var1.x);
    printf("%f \n", var1.y);
    printf("%c \n", var1.z);
    printf("locations of the field data items\n");
    printf("%u \n", &var1.x);
    printf("%u \n", &var1.y);
    printf("%u \n", &var1.z);
    return 0;
```

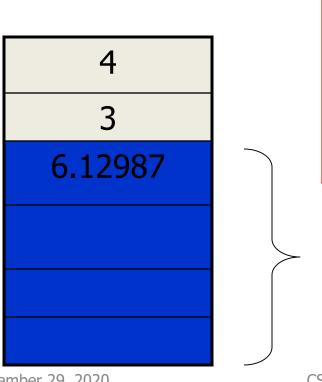
```
$main
   storing and printing values
2
2.300000
y
   Printing the stored values
1075000185
2.300017
y
   Printing the stored values
1075000185
2.300017
y
   locations of the field data items
1385683868
1385683868
1385683868
```



Variant Records

- A maximum of 12 bytes of the memory is allocated for variable s.(total space layout for each variant record remains of fixed size)
- The variant field may leave some space unused depending upon the choice of the field in union.
- Variant records compromise type safety (tag and choice of the field is programmers job)

Example: Variant Record



```
struct weather{
        int day;
        int tag; //1:sunny,2:cloud, 3:rain
        union data{
                int brightness;
                float humidity;
                double rainfall;
}
```



Variant records

- Variant Records have a part common to all records of that type, and a variant part, specific to some subset of the records.
- In C, union construct facilitates the variant records
- Example: registration status of a student



Memory layout of variant records

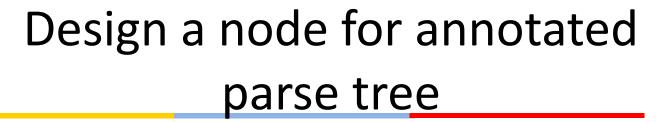
 The memory equal to the maximum of the sizes of the individual fields is allocated for a variable of union type.

```
Example struct var_Rec{
```

```
type1 var1; //fixed
type2 tag; //fixed
union{
    int x;
    float y;
    char name[12];
    } var1; // variant
} v;
```

 W1(fixed)	W2(fixed)	W3(variant)	

September 29, 2020 CS F301 [BITS PILANI] 7





 Annotated parse tree nodes not only store the information about the address of children, they store information about semantics such as type and code.

Sets

- A set of n numbers, each less than n, is implemented by a bit vector of n bits
- Example: set A={ 3, 6, 1, 8, 15, 0, 2}

15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1

- Represented- by a simple integer word.
- limitation only small element values can find their place as a bit (else two or more words are used)