

Programming for Engineers

Lecture 10: C Structures/Unions/Enumerates

Course ID: EE057IU

Outline

- ❑ Structure
- ❑ Union
- ❑ Enumeration

PROBLEM STATEMENT

- I need to keep track of the maintenance information about the motorbikes in my collection



Name	Honda Future
Engine_cc	124.9
Odo(km)	20000
Fuel type	RON95
Cooler	Air
Spark plug	2000



Name	Suzuki Viva
Engine_cc	109.7
Odo(km)	60000
Fuel type	RON95
Cooler	Air
Spark plug	12000



Name	Honda PCX
Engine_cc	156.9
Odo(km)	1000
Fuel type	E10
Filter	Liquid
Spark plug	1000

PROBLEM STATEMENT

- CAN YOU TELL THE PROBLEM?**

Storing All Information In Different Variable Consumes Time And Memory

```
float Engine = 124.9;
unsigned int odometer = 20000;
char *Fuel = "RON95";
char *Cooler = "Air";
unsigned int Spark = 2000;
```

Name	Honda Future
Engine_cc	124.9
Odo(km)	20000
Fuel type	RON95
Cooler	Air
Spark plug	2000

```
float Engine2 = 109.7;
unsigned int odometer2 = 60000;
char *Fuel2 = "RON95";
char *Cooler2 = "Air";
unsigned int Spark2 = 12000;
```

Name	Suzuki Viva
Engine_cc	109.7
Odo(km)	60000
Fuel type	RON95
Cooler	Air
Spark plug	12000

```
float Engine3 = 156.9;
unsigned int odometer3 = 1000;
char *Fuel3 = "E10";
char *Cooler3 = "Liquid";
unsigned int Spark3 = 1000;
```

Name	Honda PCX
Engine_cc	156.9
Odo(km)	1000
Fuel type	E10
Filter	Liquid
Spark plug	1000

PROBLEM STATEMENT

- CAN WE USE ARRAYS?

NO! Arrays can store multiple elements but they all must be of same type

- Our requirement is to store data of different types

Structure Definitions

➤ Structures are **derived (user-defined) data types**

- Constructed using objects of other types
- Allow the combination of different types (i.e., ints, floats, arrays)
- Keyword for defining structure: *struct*

```
struct card {  
    const char *face;  
    const char *suit;  
};
```

```
struct employee {  
    char firstname[20];  
    char lastname[20];  
    int age;  
    double hourlySalary;  
};
```

Structure Declarations

- *struct* employee {
 char firstname[20];
 char lastname[20];
 int age;
 double hourlySalary;
};
- *struct* employee employee1, employee2;
- *struct* employee employees[100];
- *struct* employee {
 char firstname[20];
 char lastname[20];
 int age;
 char gender;
 double hourlySalary;
} employee1, employee2, *employeePtr;

Defining Variable of *Structure* Types

- Structure does not reserve space in memory, it creates new data type

```
struct card {  
    const char *face;  
    const char *suit;  
};
```

- Defining variable using structure reserve memory

```
struct card myCard;  
struct card deck[52];  
struct card *cardPtr;
```

- Variable of *structure* can be defined in different way

```
struct card {  
    const char *face;  
    const char *suit;  
} myCard, deck[52], *cardPtr;
```

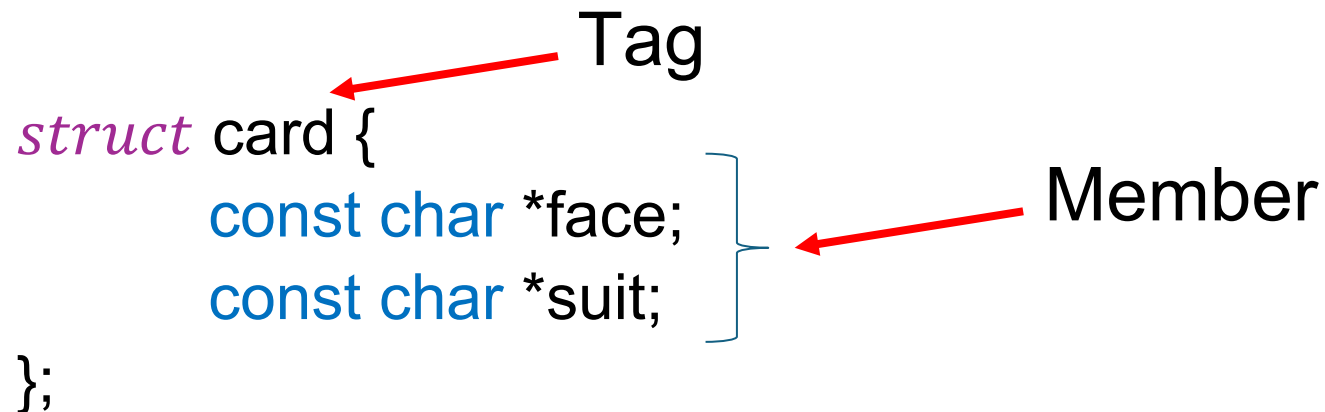

Structure Tag Name

- The structure tag name is optional.
- If a structure definition does not contain a structure tag name, we must define any variable of the type
- Always provide a structure tag name so you can declare new variables of that type later.

```
struct card {  
    const char *face;  
    const char *suit;  
};
```

Tag

Member



▶ Self-Referential *Structure*

- A structure cannot contain an instance of itself.

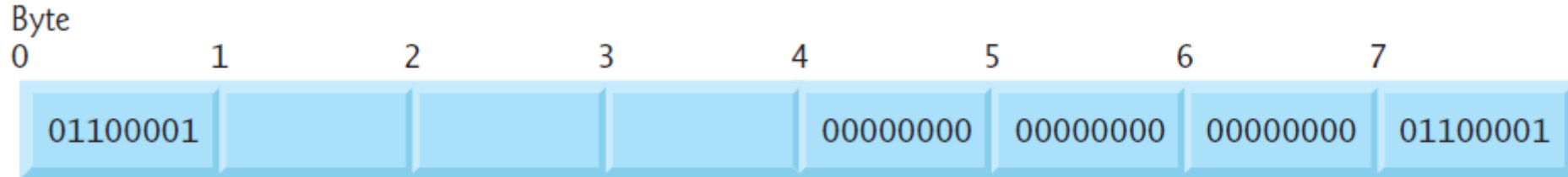
```
struct employee {  
    char firstname[20];  
    char lastname[20];  
    int age;  
    double hourlySalary;  
    struct employee *managerPtr;  
};
```

► Storage in Memory

- Structures **may not be compared** using operator `==` and `!=`
 - because structure members may not be stored in consecutive bytes of memory.
- Computers may store specific data types only on certain memory boundaries such as half-word, word or doubleword boundaries.
- A word is a standard memory unit used to store data in a computer—usually 2 bytes or 4 bytes.

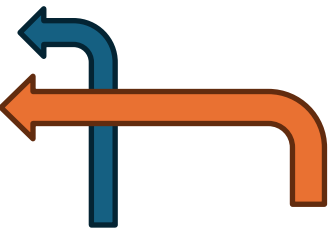
► Storage in Memory

```
struct example {  
    char c;  
    int i;  
} sample1, sample2;
```



- at a word boundary, each struct example variable has a three-byte hole in bytes 1–3
- The hole's value is unspecified
- Holes are not likely to contain identical values in sample1's and sample2's member

Initialization *Structure*

- *struct* card {
 const char *face;
 const char *suit;
};

- *struct* card aCard = {"Three", "Heart"};
- If there are fewer initializers in the list than members in the structure,
 - the remaining members are automatically initialized to 0
 - or NULL if the member is a pointer.
- Assignment statement of same *struct* type
 - *struct* card aCard1 = aCard2;

Accessing *Structure* Members with . and ->

Structure member operation a.k.a “Dot operation”

- *struct* card {
 const char *face;
 const char *suit;
};
- *struct* card myCard = {"Three", "Heart"};

➤ The structure member operation . or dot operator

```
printf("%s", myCard.suit);      //display Hearts
```

Accessing *Structure* Members with . and ->

Structure Pointer operation a.k.a “Arrow operation”

- `struct card {
 const char *face;
 const char *suit;
};`
- `struct card myCard = {"Three", "Heart"};`

➤ The structure member operation -> or dot operator

- `cardPtr = &myCard`
- `printf("%s", cardPtr->suit);` `//display Hearts`

Following statements equivalent

- `cardPtr->suit`
- `(*cardPtr).suit`

In-class example

```
1 // fig10_01.c
2 // Structure member operator and
3 // structure pointer operator
4 #include <stdio.h>
5
6 // card structure definition
7 struct card {
8     const char *face; // define pointer face
9     const char *suit; // define pointer suit
10 };
11
12 int main(void) {
13     struct card myCard; // define one struct card variable
14
15     // place strings into myCard
16     myCard.face = "Ace";
17     myCard.suit = "Spades";
18
19     struct card *cardPtr = &myCard; // assign myCard
20
21     printf("%s of %s\n", myCard.face, myCard.suit);
22     printf("%s of %s\n", cardPtr->face, cardPtr->suit);
23     printf("%s of %s\n", (*cardPtr).face, (*cardPtr).suit);
24 }
```

Ace of Spades
Ace of Spades
Ace of Spades

Fig. 10.1 | Structure member operator and structure pointer operator.

Using *Structures* with Function

- *Structures* can pass to functions:
 - individual structure members
 - entire structure objects
 - pointer to structure object
- Individual structure members and entire structure objects are passed by value
 - Can not modify them in caller
- To pass a structure by reference, use the structure object's address

typedef

Syntax: typedef existing_data_type new_data_type

- The keyword **typedef** is a way to create synonyms. Let user to create their own types.
- Using **typedef** for shorter type names.
- Example:

```
typedef struct card Card;
```

- Example:
 - *typedef* *struct* card {
 const char *face;
 const char *suit;
} Card;
○ Card myCard, *myCardPtr, deck[52];

Existing data type

new data type

In-class example: Card Shuffling and Dealing (1)

```
1 // fig10_02.c
2 // Card shuffling and dealing program using structures
3 #include <stdio.h>
4 #include <stdlib.h>
5 #include <time.h>
6
7 #define CARDS 52
8 #define FACES 13
9
10 // card structure definition
11 struct card {
12     const char *face; // define pointer face
13     const char *suit; // define pointer suit
14 };
15
16 typedef struct card Card; // new type name for struct card
17
18 // prototypes
19 void fillDeck(Card * const deck, const char *faces[], const char *suits[]);
20 void shuffle(Card * const deck);
21 void deal(const Card * const deck);
22
```

In-class example: Card Shuffling and Dealing (2)

```
23 int main(void) {
24     Card deck[CARDS]; // define array of Cards
25
26     // initialize faces array of pointers
27     const char *faces[] = { "Ace", "Deuce", "Three", "Four", "Five",
28                             "Six", "Seven", "Eight", "Nine", "Ten", "Jack", "Queen", "King"};
29
30     // initialize suits array of pointers
31     const char *suits[] = { "Hearts", "Diamonds", "Clubs", "Spades"};
32
33     srand(time(NULL)); // randomize
34
35     fillDeck(deck, faces, suits); // load the deck with Cards
36     shuffle(deck); // put Cards in random order
37     deal(deck); // deal all 52 Cards
38 }
39
```

In-class example: Card Shuffling and Dealing (3)

```
35     fillDeck(deck, faces, suits); // load the deck with Cards
36     shuffle(deck); // put Cards in random order
37     deal(deck); // deal all 52 Cards
38 }
39
40 // place strings into Card structures
41 void fillDeck(Card * const deck, const char * faces[],
42             const char * suits[]) {
43     // loop through deck
44     for (size_t i = 0; i < CARDS; ++i) {
45         deck[i].face = faces[i % FACES];
46         deck[i].suit = suits[i / FACES];
47     }
48 }
49
```

In-class example: Card Shuffling and Dealing (4)

```
50 // shuffle cards
51 void shuffle(Card * const deck) {
52     // loop through deck randomly swapping Cards
53     for (size_t i = 0; i < CARDS; ++i) {
54         size_t j = rand() % CARDS;
55         Card temp = deck[i];
56         deck[i] = deck[j];
57         deck[j] = temp;
58     }
59 }
60
61 // deal cards
62 void deal(const Card * const deck) {
63     // loop through deck
64     for (size_t i = 0; i < CARDS; ++i) {
65         printf("%5s of %-8s%s", deck[i].face, deck[i].suit,
66             (i + 1) % 4 ? " " : "\n");
67     }
68 }
```

In-class example: Card Shuffling and Dealing (5)

Three of Hearts	Jack of Clubs	Three of Spades	Six of Diamonds
Five of Hearts	Eight of Spades	Three of Clubs	Deuce of Spades
Jack of Spades	Four of Hearts	Deuce of Hearts	Six of Clubs
Queen of Clubs	Three of Diamonds	Eight of Diamonds	King of Clubs
King of Hearts	Eight of Hearts	Queen of Hearts	Seven of Clubs
Seven of Diamonds	Nine of Spades	Five of Clubs	Eight of Clubs
Six of Hearts	Deuce of Diamonds	Five of Spades	Four of Clubs
Deuce of Clubs	Nine of Hearts	Seven of Hearts	Four of Spades
Ten of Spades	King of Diamonds	Ten of Hearts	Jack of Diamonds
Four of Diamonds	Six of Spades	Five of Diamonds	Ace of Diamonds
Ace of Clubs	Jack of Hearts	Ten of Clubs	Queen of Diamonds
Ace of Hearts	Ten of Diamonds	Nine of Clubs	King of Spades
Ace of Spades	Nine of Diamonds	Seven of Spades	Queen of Spades

In-class practice

- Write a program to generate data for N students. Use structure to create numeric ID and points (max 100) as 2 separate members. Randomly generate data for N students. Display both the ID and the points of the student who has received highest point.

Union

- A **union** is a derived data type - like a structure - with members that *share the same storage space*.

Example:

```
struct abc {  
    int a;  
    char b;  
};
```

a's address = 6295624
b's address = 6295628

```
union abc {  
    int a;  
    char b;  
};
```

a's address = 6295616
b's address = 6295616

Union

- For different situations in a program, some variables may not be relevant, but other variables are — so a union shares the space **instead of wasting storage on variables that are not being used**.
- The members of a union can be of *any data type*.
- The number of bytes used to store a union must be at least *enough to hold the largest member*.

Union Declarations

```
union number {  
    int x;  
    double y;  
};
```

- In a declaration, a union may be initialized with a **value of the same type as the first union member.**
- *union* number value = {10};
- *union* number value = {1.43}; **// ERROR**

Allowed unions Operations

- The operations that can be performed on a union are:
 - assigning a union to another union of the same type,
 - taking a union variable's address (&),
 - accessing union members via the structure member operator (.) and the structure pointer operator (->), and
 - zero-initializing the union.
- Two unions may not be compared using operators == and != for the same reasons that two structures cannot be compared.

Example: Union vs Struct

How good is that if we have an **array** containing mixed type data?

Can we?

Yes, we can by using struct

```
typedef struct {  
    int a;  
    char b;  
    double c;  
} data;  
  
int main()  
{  
    data arr[10];  
    arr[0].a = 10;  
    arr[1].b = 'a';  
    arr[2].c = 10.178;  
    //and so on  
    return 0;  
}
```

Example: Union vs Struct

However, consider the size of this struct

```
sizeof(int) = 4 bytes  
sizeof(char) = 1 byte  
sizeof(double) = 8 bytes
```

```
typedef struct {  
    int a;  
    char b;  
    double c; } data;  
  
int main()  
{  
    data arr[10];  
    arr[0].a = 10;  
    arr[1].b = 'a';  
    arr[2].c = 10.178;  
    //and so on  
    return 0;  
}
```

Example: Union vs Struct

Memory allocation to an **union** has the size of the largest union's member memory size

```
typedef union {  
    int a;  
    char b;  
    double c;  
} data; Size = 8 bytes  
  
int main()  
{  
    data arr[10];  
    arr[0].a = 10;  
    arr[1].b = 'a';  
    arr[2].c = 10.178;  
    //and so on  
    return 0;  
}
```

Example: Union vs Struct

```
typedef union {  
    int a;  
    char b;  
    double c;  
} data;  
Size = 8 bytes
```

```
int main()  
{  
    data arr[10];    Size = 80 bytes  
    arr[0].a = 10;  
    arr[1].b = 'a';  
    arr[2].c = 10.178;  
    //and so on  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
typedef struct {  
    int a;  
    char b;  
    double c;  
} data;  
Size = 13 bytes
```

```
int main()  
{  
    data arr[10];    Size = 130 bytes  
    arr[0].a = 10;  
    arr[1].b = 'a';  
    arr[2].c = 10.178;  
    //and so on  
    return 0;  
}
```


In-class example: Union (1)

```
1 // fig10_03.c
2 // Displaying the value of a union in both member data types
3 #include <stdio.h>
4
5 // number union definition
6 union number {
7     int x;
8     double y;
9 };
10
11 int main(void) {
12     union number value; // define a union variable
13
14     value.x = 100; // put an int into the union
15     puts("Put 100 in the int member and print both members:");
16     printf("int: %d\ndouble: %.2f\n\n", value.x, value.y);
17
18     value.y = 100.0; // put a double into the same union
19     puts("Put 100.0 in the double member and print both members:");
20     printf("int: %d\ndouble: %.2f\n\n", value.x, value.y);
21 }
```

In-class example: Union (2)

Microsoft Visual Studio

```
Put 100 in the int member and print both members:  
int: 100  
double: -92559592117433135502616407313071917486139351398276445610442752.00  
  
Put 100.0 in the double member and print both members:  
int: 0  
double: 100.00
```

GNU GCC and Apple Xcode

```
Put 100 in the int member and print both members:  
int: 100  
double: 0.00  
  
Put 100.0 in the double member and print both members:  
int: 0  
double: 100.00
```

Fig. 10.3 | Displaying the value of a union in both member data types.

Enumeration constants

- Keyword *enum*, is a set of integer enumeration constants represented by identifiers.
- Values in an enum start with 0, unless specified otherwise, and are incremented by 1.
- For example, the enumeration
 - *enum* months {JAN, FEB, MAR, APR, MAY, JUN, JUL, AUG, SEP, OCT, NOV, DEC};
creates a new type, enum months, identifiers are set to the integers 0 to 11, respectively.
- Example:
 - *enum* months {JAN = 1, FEB, MAR, APR, MAY, JUN, JUL, AUG, SEP, OCT, NOV, DEC};
 - identifiers are set to integers 1 to 12, respectively.

In-class example: *Enum* (1)

```
1 // fig10_08.c
2 // Using an enumeration
3 #include <stdio.h>
4
5 // enumeration constants represent months of the year
6 enum months {
7     JAN = 1, FEB, MAR, APR, MAY, JUN, JUL, AUG, SEP, OCT, NOV, DEC
8 };
9
10 int main(void) {
11     // initialize array of pointers
12     const char *monthName[] = { "", "January", "February", "March",
13     "April", "May", "June", "July", "August", "September", "October",
14     "November", "December" };
15
16     // loop through months
17     for (enum months month = JAN; month <= DEC; ++month) {
18         printf("%2d%11s\n", month, monthName[month]);
19     }
20 }
```

In-class example: *Enum* (2)

```
1  January
2  February
3   March
4   April
5    May
6    June
7    July
8   August
9  September
10 October
11 November
12 December
```

Extra examples of Structure:

Structures (1)

- **Structures** are C's way of **grouping collections of data** into **a single manageable unit**.
 - This is also the fundamental element of C upon which most of C++ is built (i.e., classes).
 - Similar to Java's classes.
- Example
 - Defining a structure type:

```
struct coord {  
    int x;  
    int y;  
};
```
 - This defines a new type **struct coord**. No variable is actually declared or generated.

Structures (2)

- Define **struct** variables:

```
struct coord {  
    int  x, y;  
} first, second;
```

- Another approach:

```
struct coord {  
    int  x, y;  
};  
  
.....  
struct coord first, second; /* declare variables  
    */  
struct coord third;
```


Structures (3)

- You can even use a **typedef** if your don't like having to use the word “**struct**”

```
typedef struct coord coordinate;
```

```
coordinate first, second;
```

- In some compilers, and all C++ compilers, you can usually simply say just:

```
coord first, second;
```

Structures (4)

- Access structure variables by the dot (.) operator
- Generic form:
`structure_var.member_name`
- For example:
`first.x = 50;`
`second.y = 100;`
- These member names are like the public data members of a class in Java (or C++).
No equivalent to function members/methods.
- `struct_var.member_name` can be used anywhere a variable can be used:
`printf ("%d, %d", second.x , second.y);`
`scanf ("%d, %d", &first.x, &first.y);`

Structures (5)

- You can assign structures as a unit with `=`

`first = second;`

instead of writing:

`first.x = second.x;`

`first.y = second.y;`

- Although the saving here is not great
 - It will reduce the likelihood of errors and is more convenient with large structures
- This is different from Java where variables are simply references to objects.

`first = second;`

makes `first` and `second` refer to the same object.



Structures Containing Structures

- Any “**type**” of thing can be **a member of a structure**.
- We can use the coord struct to define a rectangle

```
struct rectangle {  
    struct coord topleft;  
    struct coord bottomrt;  
};
```

- This describes a rectangle by using the two points necessary:

```
struct rectangle mybox;
```

- Initializing the points:

```
mybox.topleft.x = 0;  
mybox.topleft.y = 200;  
mybox.bottomrt.x = 100;  
mybox.bottomrt.y = 10;
```

An Example

```
#include <stdio.h>

struct coord {
    int x;
    int y;
};

struct rectangle {
    struct coord topleft;
    struct coord bottomrt;
};
```

```
int main () {
    int length, width;
    long area;
    struct rectangle mybox;
    mybox.topleft.x = 10;
    mybox.topleft.y = 100;
    mybox.bottomrt.x = 150;
    mybox.bottomrt.y = 10;
    width = mybox.bottomrt.x - mybox.topleft.x;
    length = mybox.topleft.y - mybox.bottomrt.y;
    area = width * length;
    printf ("The area is %ld units. \n", area);
}
```

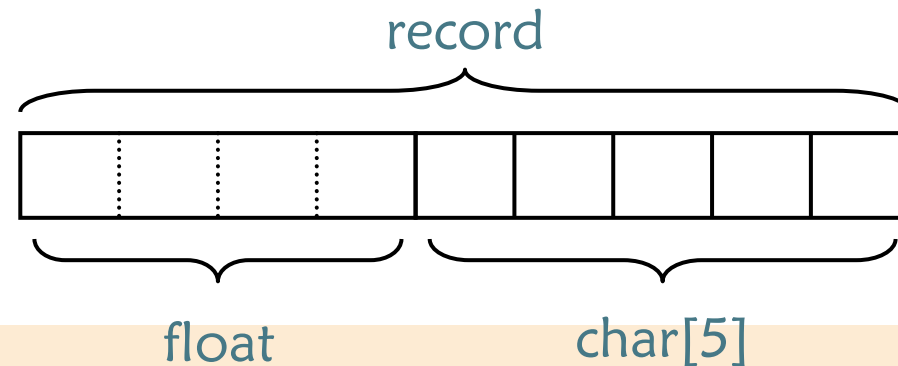
Structures Containing Arrays

- **Arrays** within structures are the same as **any other member element**.

- For example:

```
struct record {  
    float x;  
    char y [5] ;  
};
```

- Logical organization:



An Example

```
#include <stdio.h>

struct data {
    float amount;
    char fname[30];
    char lname[30];
} rec;

int main () {
    struct data rec; //use one of two approach to define
    printf ("Enter the donor's first and last names, \n");
    printf ("separated by a space: ");
    scanf ("%s %s", rec.fname, rec.lname);
    printf ("\n Enter the donation amount: ");
    scanf ("%f", &rec.amount);
    printf ("\n Donor %s %s gave $%.2f.\n", rec.fname,
    rec.lname, rec.amount);
}
```



Arrays of Structures

- The converse of a structure with arrays.
- Example:

```
struct entry {  
    char fname [10];  
    char lname [12];  
    char phone [8];  
};  
struct entry list [1000];
```

- This creates **a list of 1000 identical entry(s)**.
- Assignments:

```
list [1] = list [6];  
strcpy (list[1].phone, list[6].phone);  
list[6].phone[1] = list[3].phone[4];
```


An Example

```
#include <stdio.h>

struct entry {
    char fname [20];
    char lname [20];
    char phone [10];
};
```

```
int main() {
    struct entry list[4];
    int i;
    for (i=0; i<4; i++) {
        printf("\n Enter first name: ");
        scanf("%s", list[i].fname);
        printf("Enter last name: ");
        scanf("%s", list[i].lname);
        printf("Enter phone in 123-4567 format: ");
        scanf("%s", list[i].phone);
    }
    printf("\n \n");
    for (i=0; i<4; i++) {
        printf ("Name: %s %s", list[i].fname, list[i].lname);
        printf ("\t \t Phone: %s \n", list[i].phone);
    }
}
```

Initializing Structures

- Simple example:

```
struct sale {  
    char customer [20];  
    char item [20];  
    int amount;  
};
```

```
struct sale mysale = { "Acme Industries",  
                      "Zorgle blaster",  
                      1000 };
```

Initializing Structures

- Structures within structures:

```
struct customer {  
    char firm [20];  
    char contact [25];  
};  
  
struct sale {  
    struct customer buyer;  
    char item [20];  
    int amount;  
} mysale =  
{ { "Acme Industries", "George Adams" },  
  "Zorgle Blaster", 1000 };
```

Initializing Structures

- Arrays of structures

```
struct customer {  
    char firm [20];  
    char contact [25];  
};  
  
struct sale {  
    struct customer buyer;  
    char item [20];  
    int amount;  
};
```

```
struct sale y1990 [100] = {  
    { { "Acme Industries", "George Adams"},  
      "Left-handed Idiots", 1000 },  
  
    { { "Wilson & Co.", "Ed Wilson"},  
      "Thingamabob", 290 }  
};
```

Pointers to Structures

```
struct part {  
    float price;  
    char name [10];  
};
```

```
struct part *p, thing;
```

```
p = &thing;
```

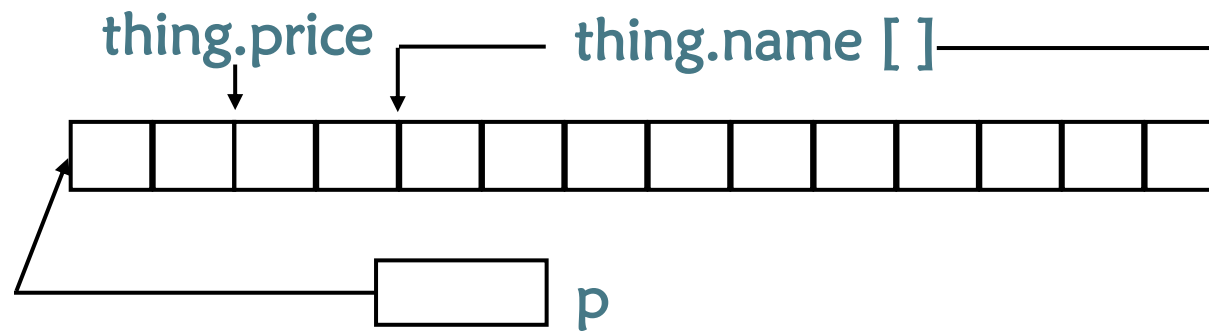
/ The following three statements are equivalent */*

```
thing.price = 50;
```

```
(*p).price = 50; /* () around *p is needed */
```

```
p -> price = 50;
```

Pointers to Structures



- `p` is set to point to the first byte of the `struct` variable

Pointers to Structures

```
struct part * p, *q;  
p = (struct part *) malloc( sizeof(struct part) );  
q = (struct part *) malloc( sizeof(struct part) );  
p -> price = 199.99 ;  
strcpy( p -> name, "hard disk" );  
(*q) = (*p);  
q = p;  
free(p);  
free(q); /* This statement causes a problem !!! Why? */
```

Pointers to Structures

- You can allocate a structure array as well:

```
{  
    struct part *ptr;  
    ptr = (struct part *) malloc(10 * sizeof(struct part) );  
    for (i=0; i<10; i++)  
    {  
        ptr[ i ].price = 10.0 * i;  
        sprintf( ptr[ i ].name, "part %d", i );  
    }  
    .....  
    free(ptr);  
}
```


Pointers to Structures

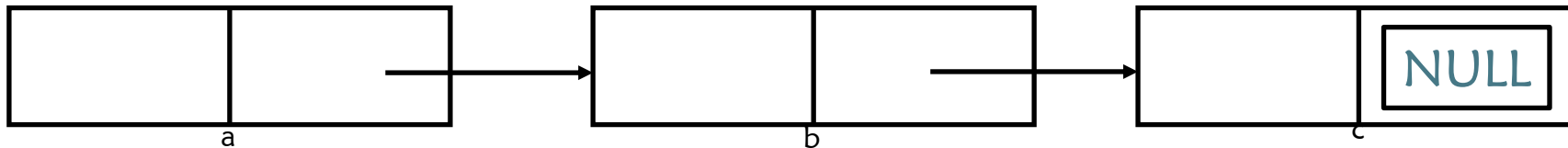
- You can use pointer arithmetic to access the elements of the array:

```
{  
    struct part *ptr, *p;  
    ptr = (struct part *) malloc(10 * sizeof(struct part) );  
    for( i=0, p=ptr; i< 10; i++, p++)  
    {  
        p -> price = 10.0 * i;  
        sprintf( p -> name, "part %d", i );  
    }  
    .....  
    free(ptr);  
}
```

Pointer as Structure Member

```
struct node{
    int data;
    struct node *next;
};
struct node a,b,c;
a.next = &b;
b.next = &c;
c.next = NULL;
```

```
a.data = 1;
a.next->data = 2;
/* b.data = 2 */
a.next->next->data = 3;
/* c.data = 3 */
c.next = (struct node *)
    malloc(sizeof(struct node));
.....
```



Assignment Operator vs. memcpy

- This assign a struct to another

```
{
    struct part a, b;
    b.price = 39.99;
    b.name = "floppy";
    a = b;
}
```
- Equivalently, you can use **memcpy**

```
#include <string.h>
.....
{
    struct part a, b;
    b.price = 39.99;
    b.name = "floppy";
    memcpy(&a, &b, sizeof(part));
}
```

Array Member vs. Pointer Member

```
struct book {  
    float price;  
    char name[50];  
};
```

```
int main()  
{  
    struct book a, b;  
    b.price = 19.99;  
    strcpy(b.name, "C handbook");  
    a = b;  
    strcpy(b.name, "Unix handbook");  
    puts(a.name);  
    puts(b.name);  
}
```

Array Member vs. Pointer Member

```
struct book {  
    float price;  
    char *name;  
};
```

A function called **strdup()** will do the **malloc()** and **strcpy()** in one step for you!

```
int main()  
{  
    struct book a,b;  
    b.price = 19.99;  
    b.name = (char *) malloc(50);  
    strcpy(b.name, "C handbook");  
    a = b;  
    strcpy(b.name, "Unix handbook");  
    puts(a.name);  
    puts(b.name);  
    free(b.name);  
}
```

Passing Structures to Functions (1)

- Structures are **passed by value** to functions
 - The parameter variable is a local variable, which will be assigned by the value of the argument passed.
 - Unlike Java.
- This means that the structure is copied if it is passed as a parameter.
 - This can be inefficient if the structure is big.
 - In this case it may be more efficient to pass a pointer to the **struct**.
- A **struct** can also be returned from a function.

Passing Structures to Functions (2)

```
struct book {
    float price;
    char abstract[5000];
};

void print_abstract( struct book
    *p_book)
{
    puts(p_book -> abstract);
};
```

```
struct pairInt {
    int min, max;
};

struct pairInt min_max(int x,int y)
{
    struct pairInt pair;
    pair.min = (x > y) ? y : x;
    pair.max = (x > y) ? x : y;
    return pairInt;
}

int main(){
    struct pairInt result;
    result = min_max(3, 5);
    printf("%d<=%d", result.min,
    result.max);
}
```