CMSC 106
Lecture Set #12 - Structures

Set Started:
Tuesday, November 20, 2007
Structured Types

- **array**- composite variable, all elements have same type.

- **structure** (or **struct**) - composite variable with components (called members or fields) which can be different types.
parallel arrays

char month[][4] = {"Feb", "Feb", "Mar"};
int day[] = {17, 25, 4};

printf("%s %d %d", month[1], day[1], year[1]);
struct date {
    char month[4];
    int day;
    int year;
};

- 3 fields or members:
  - an array of 4 characters named month,
  - an int named day,
  - an int named year
- date = structure tag or the name of this type of structure
  - month, day, and year are not individual variables, but part of a larger object
  - Structure field names can be the same as individual variables or the same as field names in other structures without conflict.
- Declaring a variable
  - struct date myDay;
  - struct date d1, d2;
**typedef**

typedef struct {
    char month[4];
    int day;
    int year;
} Date;

main()
{
    Date d1, d2;

    - Defines a type named Date (and you don’t have to use the keyword “struct” with its tag).
The . (dot) operator

- `structurevar.fieldname`
  - `structurevar`: name of structure variable
  - `fieldname`: name of field

Structures of the same type can be assigned: `d2 = d1;`
Fields of a structure can be assigned: `d1.day = 21;`
Structure fields can be used like other variables of that type:
  - `d1.day++;`
  - `diff = 2000 - d2.year;`

Entire structures CAN NOT be read or printed
Entire structures CAN NOT be compared
Structure Initializers

- values listed in braces
- fields initialized in the order they appear in the structure definition
- if too few values, remaining fields initialized to 0

Date birthday = {“Dec", 25, 1964};
Arrays of Structures

Date duedates[PROJCOUNT];
strcpy(duedates[0].month, "Feb");
duedates[0].day = 17;
duedates[0].year = 1998;
strcpy(duedates[1].month, "Feb");
duedates[1].day = 25;
duedates[1].year = 1998;
... etc.

int i;
for (i = 0; i < PROJCOUNT; i++){
    printf("%s %d %d", duedates[i].month,
            duedates[i].day, duedates[i].year);
}
Passing Structures, structure references and arrays of structures as parameters

- **Like Arrays**
  - they are a composite type
  - you can pass the whole or pass just a part
  - they can be initialized using `{}` as they first come into existence
  - they can’t be compared using the `==` operator (or `<`, `>`, `!=`)
  - you can compare/process individual members one by one

- **Unlike Arrays**
  - they don’t have to have all parts be of the same type
  - you must use the name of each part rather than the index
  - names of structures are not references
  - you must use `&` to get its address
  - a structure can be the return value of a function
  - they can be assigned using the `=` (assignment operator)