Structs & Alignment

CSE 351 Summer 2021

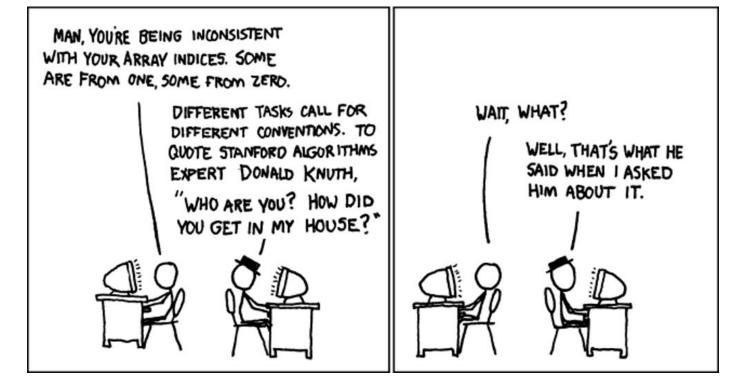
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http://xkcd.com/163/

Gentle, Loving Reminders

- hw12 due tonight! (7/23)
- hw13 due monday (7/26)
- Last lecture of Unit #2!
 - In-class critique on Wednesday (7/28)
 - Unit Summary #2 due on Monday, 8/2
- Lab 3 due next Friday (7/30)
 - You get to write some buffer overflow exploits!

Unit Summary #1 Graded!

- Generally excellent
- Most S->N was because there wasn't any clear tie to socio-technical content
 - Regrades open tonight, if you're bugged
- In general, honest effort got full credit

US #2

- Broadening scope!
 - Narratives *describing* the floor are ok, pictures are ok, any form that you'd like, as long as we can understand it
 - Narratives (stories) or pictures probably easiest
- I'm mostly looking for creative expression

Mid-Quarter Survey

- Thanks for the feedback!
 - My pronouns are still they/them
 - If socio-technical content feels like a waste of time, I'd love to meet and listen
 - If unit summaries felt like a nightmare, or so stressful that you're dreading the next one, let's talk!
- If OH times don't work, send me an email -- I usually have time in the afternoon

Sound good? Feeling ok?

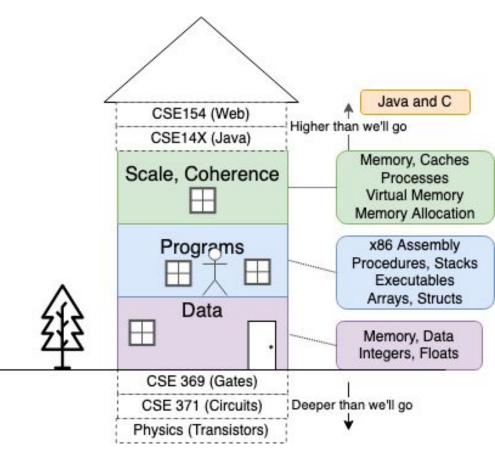
Learning Objectives

Understanding this lecture means you can:

- Draw a representation of structs, laid out in memory, with alignment and padding
- Differentiate between internal & external fragmentation
- Rearrange fields of a struct to save space
- Explain the duality of insulation in computer science
- Give your own working definition of neurodiversity, and explain issues behind spectrum analogies and "high/low functioning" dichotomies

Second Floor! Programs!

- Values in modern processors
- Critical Analysis
- Accessibility, agency and support
- Establishing and extending structures
- How programs are executed by a processor
- How data structures are stored in assembly



Data Structures in Assembly

- Arrays
 - One-dimensional
 - Multi-dimensional (nested)
 - Multi-level

• Structs

- Alignment
- Unions

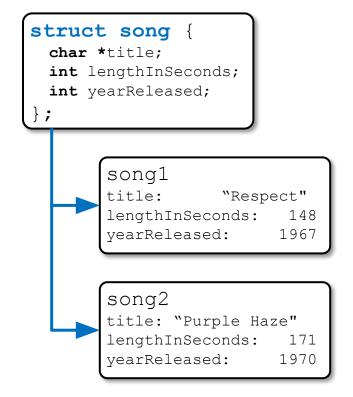
Structs in C

- A structured group of variables, possibly including other structs
 - Way of defining compound data types

```
struct song {
    char *title;
    int lengthInSeconds;
    int yearReleased;
};
struct song song1;
song1.title = "Respect";
song1.lengthInSeconds = 148;
song1.yearReleased = 1967;
struct song song2;
song2.title = "Purple Haze";
```

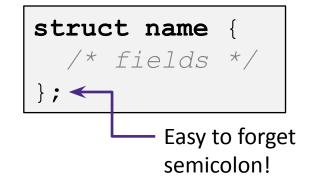
song2.lengthInSeconds = 171;

song2.yearReleased = 1970;

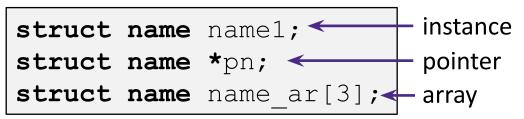


Struct Definitions

- Structure definition:
 - Does NOT declare a variable
 - Variable type is "struct name"

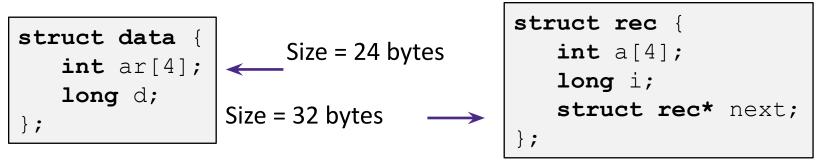


Variable declarations like any other data type:



Scope of Struct Definition

- Placement of struct definition is important!
 - What actually happens when you declare a variable?
 - Creating space for it somewhere!
 - Program needs definition to determine space



- Almost always define structs in global scope near the top of your C file
 - Struct definitions follow normal rules of scope

Accessing Structure Members

 Given a struct instance, access member using the . operator:

> struct rec r1; r1.i = val;

• Given a *pointer* to a struct:

struct rec *r;

```
struct rec {
    int a[4];
    long i;
    struct rec *next;
};
```

r = &r1; // or malloc space for r We have two options:

- Use * and . operators: (*r).i = val;
- Use -> operator for short: r->i = val;

• Assembly: register holds address of first byte

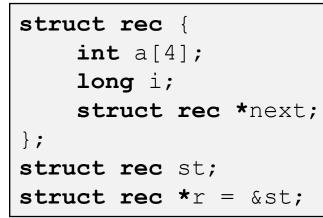
Access members with offsets

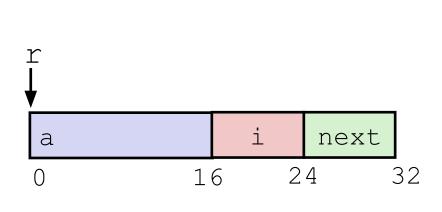
Java connection

class Record {	}
Record x = new	<pre>Record();</pre>

- An instance of a class is like a *pointer to* a struct containing the fields
 - (Ignoring methods and subclassing for now)
 - So Java's x.f is like C's $x \rightarrow f$ or (*x).f
- In Java, almost everything is a pointer ("reference") to an object
 - Cannot declare variables or fields that are structs or arrays
 - Always a *pointer* to a struct or array
 - So every Java variable or field is ≤ 8 bytes (but can point to lots of data)

Structure Representation

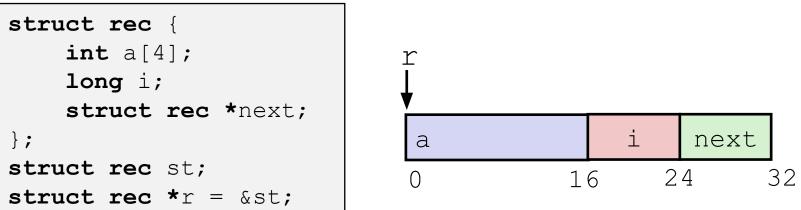




Characteristics

- Contiguously-allocated region of memory
- Refer to members within structure by names
- Fields may be of different types

Structure Representation

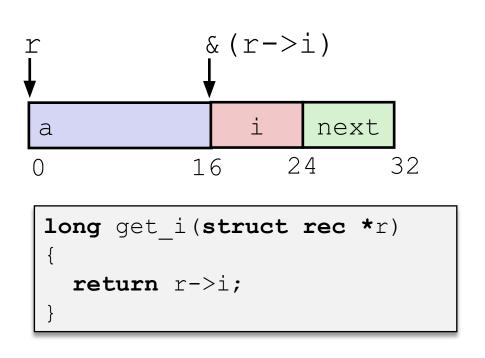


- Structure represented as block of memory
 - Big enough to hold all of the fields
- Fields ordered according to declaration order
 - Even if another ordering would be more compact
- Compiler determines size + positions of fields
 - Machine-level program has no understanding of the structures in the source code

Accessing a Structure Member

```
struct rec {
    int a[4];
    long i;
    struct rec *next;
};
struct rec st;
struct rec st;
```

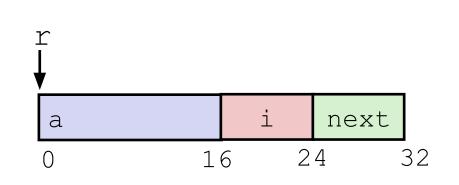
- Compiler knows the offset of each member within a struct
 - Compute as
 - *(r+offset)
 - Referring to absolute offset, so no pointer arithmetic



```
# r in %rdi
movq 16(%rdi), %rax
ret
```

Pointer to Structure Member

```
struct rec {
    int a[4];
    long i;
    struct rec *next;
};
struct rec st;
struct rec st;
```



<pre>long* addr_of_i (struct rec *r)</pre>	# r in %rdi
{ return & (r->i);	<u>leaq</u> 16(rdi),%rax
}	ret

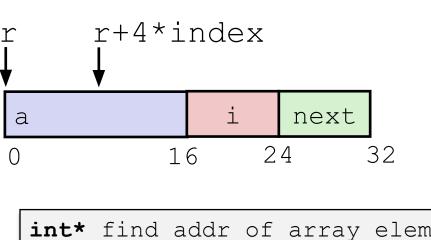
```
struct rec** addr_of_next(struct rec *r)
{
   return & (r->next);
}
```

```
# r in %rdi
<u>leaq</u> 24(rdi),%rax
ret
```

Generating Pointer to Array Element

```
struct rec {
    int a[4];
    long i;
    struct rec *next;
};
struct rec st;
struct rec *r = &st;
```

- Generating Pointer to Array Element
 - Offset of each structure member determined at compile time
 - Compute as: r+4*index



r in %rdi, index in %rsi
leaq (%rdi,%rsi,4), %rax
ret

Feelings check: Struct representation

Review: Memory Alignment in x86-64

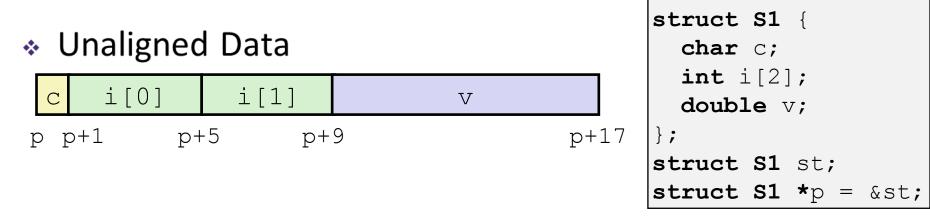
- Aligned means that any primitive object of K bytes must have an address that is a multiple of K
- Aligned addresses for data types:

	Туре	Addresses
1	char	No restrictions
2	short	Lowest bit must be zero:0 ₂
4	int, float	Lowest 2 bits zero:00 ₂
8	long, double, *	Lowest 3 bits zero:000 ₂
16	long double	Lowest 4 bits zero:0000 ₂

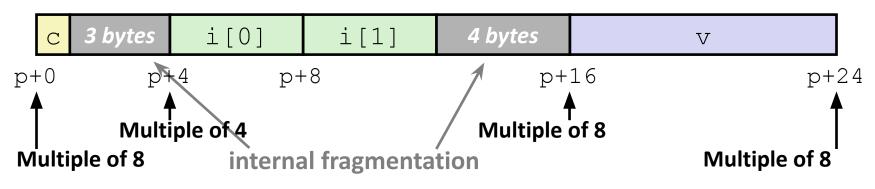
Alignment Principles

- Aligned Data
 - Primitive data type requires K bytes
 - Address must be multiple of K
 - Required on some machines; advised on x86-64
- Motivation for Aligning Data
 - Memory accessed by (aligned) chunks of bytes (width is system dependent)
 - Inefficient to load or store value that spans quad word boundaries
 - Virtual memory trickier when value spans 2 pages (more on this later)
 - Though x86-64 hardware will work regardless of alignment of data

Structures & Alignment

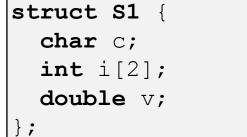


- Aligned Data
 - Primitive data type requires K bytes
 - Address must be multiple of K



Structs & Alignment: Fragmentation

- Fragmentation occurs when there are unused portions of a struct
- Internal Fragmentation
 - Unused portion(s) occur *between*



 c
 j

 bytes
 i[0]

 i[0]
 i[1]

 4 bytes
 v

 p+0
 p+4

 p+8
 p+16

 p+24

i[1]

External Fragmentation

• Unused portion at the end of the struct

```
struct S2 {
   double v;
   int i[2];
   char c;
};
```

p+0

 ∇

p+8 p+12

i[0]

p+16

С

p+24

7 bytes

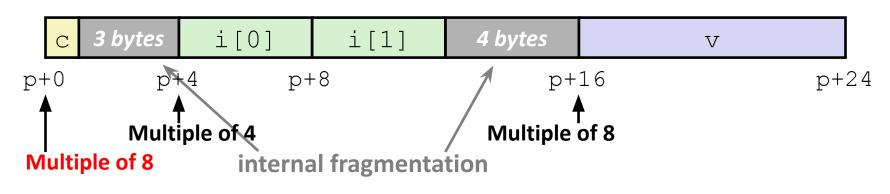
Satisfying Alignment with Structs (1)

- Within structure:
 - Must satisfy each element's alignment requirement
- <u>Overall</u> structure placement
 - Each <u>structure</u> has alignment requirement K_{max}
 - K_{max} = Largest alignment of any element
 - Counts array elements individually as elements

struct S1	[
char c;	
int i[2];	;
double v;	;
};	
struct S1 s	st;
struct S1	•p = &st

Example:

K_{max} = 8, due to double element



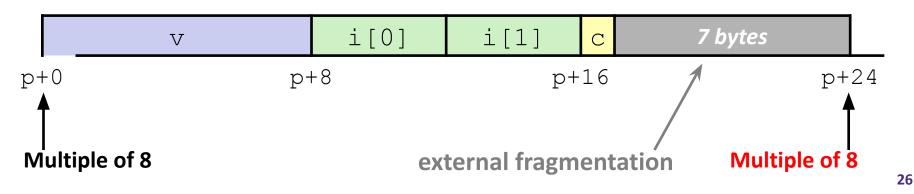
Satisfying Alignment with Structs (2)

- Can find offset of individual fields using offsetof()
 - Need to #include <stddef.h>
 - e.g. offsetof(struct S2, c) returns 16

```
struct S2 {
    double v;
    int i[2];
    char c;
};
struct S2 st;
struct S2 *p = &st;
```

For largest alignment requirement K_{max}, overall structure size must be multiple of K_{max}

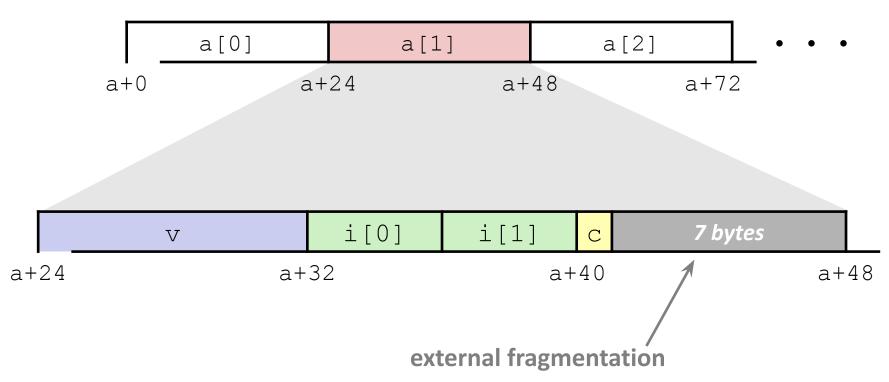
 Compiler will add padding at end of structure to meet overall structure alignment requirement



Arrays of Structures

- Overall structure size multiple of K_{max}
- Satisfy alignment requirement for every element in array

struct S2 {
 double v;
 int i[2];
 char c;
};
struct S2 a[10];



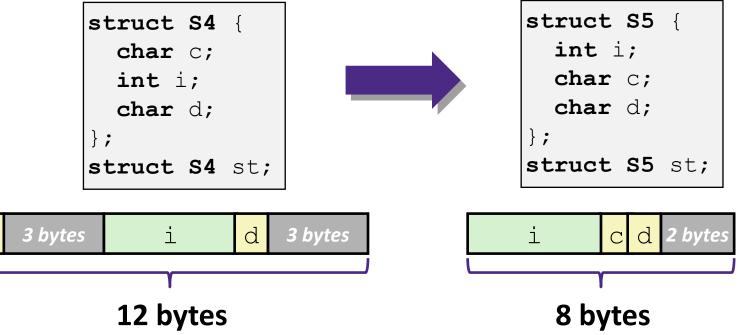
Alignment of Structs

- Compiler will do the following:
 - Maintains declared ordering of fields in struct
 - Each *field* must be aligned *within* the struct (may insert padding)
 - offsetof can be used to get actual field offset
 - Overall struct must be *aligned* according to largest field
 - Total struct *size* must be multiple of its alignment (may insert padding)
 - sizeof should be used to get true size of structs

С

How the Programmer Can Save Space

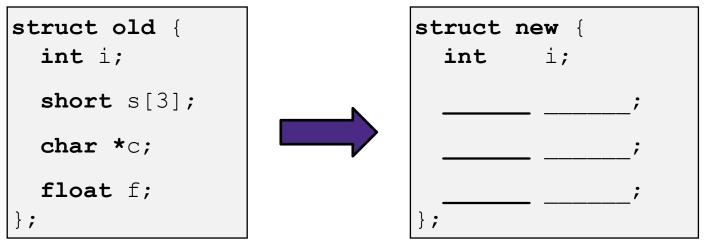
- Compiler must respect order elements are declared in
 - Sometimes the programmer can save space by declaring large data types first



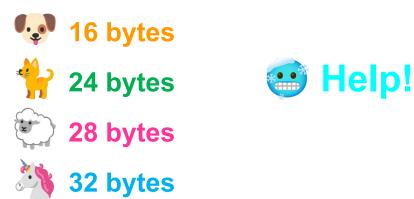
Feelings check: Struct alignment

Checking in: Structs

• Minimize the size of the struct by re-ordering the vars

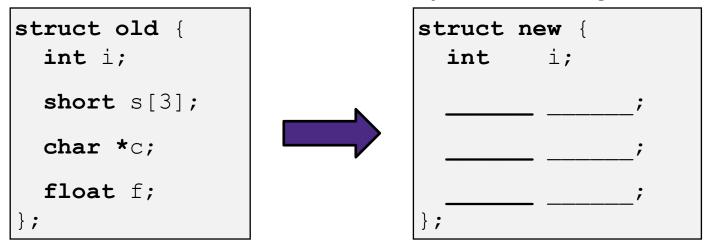


• How big is the old struct?



Checking in: Structs

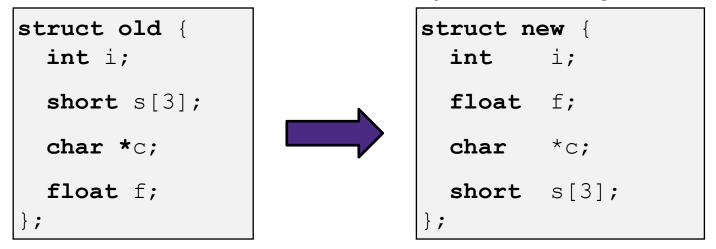
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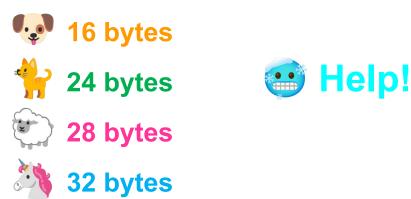
• What's the layout for the new struct?

Checking in: Structs

• Minimize the size of the struct by re-ordering the vars



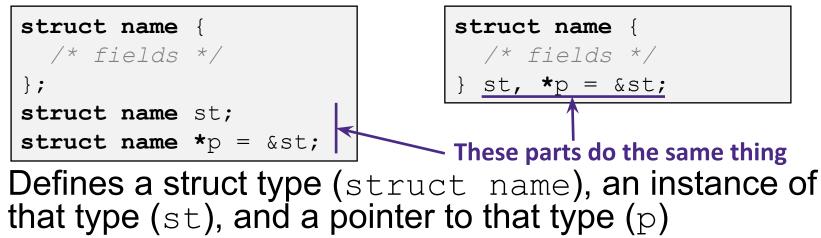
• How big is the new struct?



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Aside: More Struct Definitions

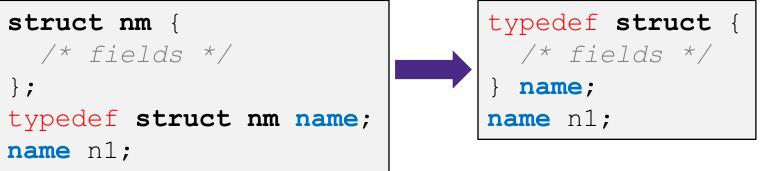
• Can combine struct and instance definitions:



- This syntax is difficult to read
 - Mara doesn't like it in *most* situations because it conflates a type definition with an instance definition. But that's just their opinion...
 - We are showing it because you may see it in code in the future (and on the homework ☺)

Aside: Typedef in C

- A way to create an alias for another data type: typedef <data type> <alias>;
 - After typedef, the alias can be used interchangeably with the original data type
 - e.g. typedef unsigned long int uli;
- Joint struct definition and typedef
 - Don't need to give struct a name in this case
 - typedef alone doesn't create an instance of the struct!



Summary

- $_{\circ}$ Arrays in C
 - Aligned to satisfy every element's alignment requirement
- Structures
 - Allocate bytes for fields in order declared by programmer
 - Pad in middle to satisfy individual element alignment requirements
 - Pad at end to satisfy overall struct alignment requirement

Last look around floor #2

- Arithmetic, conditionals, loops, functions, recursion at the assembly level
- How executables are created from programs
- Data structures in assembly (arrays & structs)
 - What can go wrong -- buffer overflows, inefficient memory usage with structs
- Neoliberalism & Processor values
 - Why we have so few companies..
- Accessibility, Agency, and Support

How would we make C more accessible?

Change the structure!

- Array Bounds Exceptions
- Floating point equality exceptions?
- Auto-reorder struct fields for efficiency?

• Structural changes for accessible spaces!

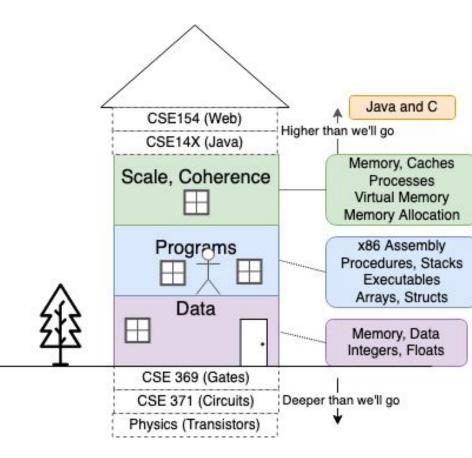
But, what about the individual?

Individual vs. Structure

- We've tried to emphasize structural changes over individual changes
 - i.e. "change C", instead of "don't do X when writing C"
- Largely reflects current rhetoric around justice
 - "Changing hearts & minds" -- hasn't worked
 - "Black faces in high places" -- hasn't worked
 - Structural oppression, structural justice

Structural Representation of a Discipline

- What of this is accessible?
- Where can we find support?
- How much agency to residents have?
- What can we change?
- What do we need to look out for when we create change?
- How can we make change happen?



So much needs to change! Why isn't change happening?

*Disclaimer: only one perspective, there are others

Knowledge & Insulation (intended for L4, but we didn't have time)

L4: Integers I, Bitwise Operators

Operate on bit vectors

- Operations applied bitwise
- All of the properties of Boolean algebra apply

	01101001	01101001	01101001	
<u>&</u>	01010101	01010101	<u>^ 01010101</u>	<u>~ 01010101</u>
	01000001	01111101	00111101	10101010

Examples of useful operations:

$$x^{x} = 0$$

$$x^{x} = 0$$

$$x^{-} 01010101$$

$$x^{-} 01010101$$

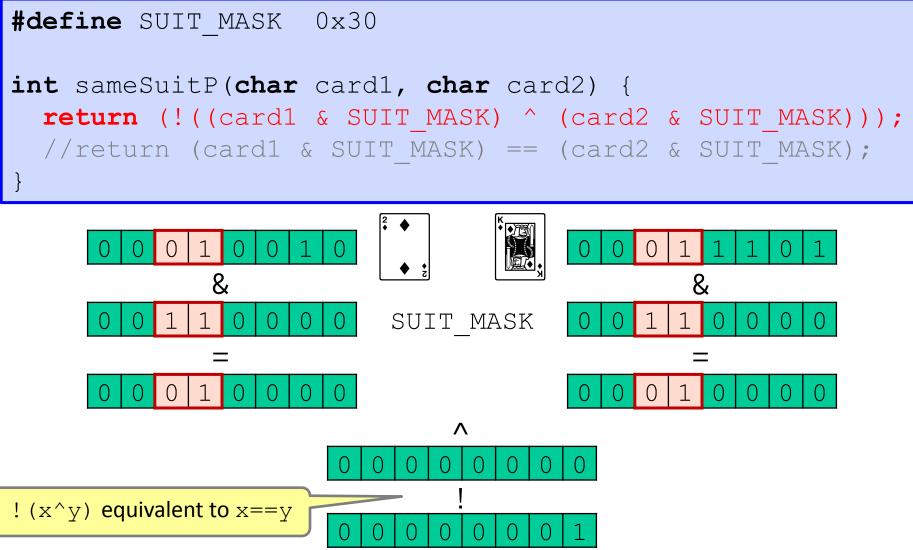
$$00000000$$

$$x^{-} 11110000$$

$$11110000$$

$$11110000$$

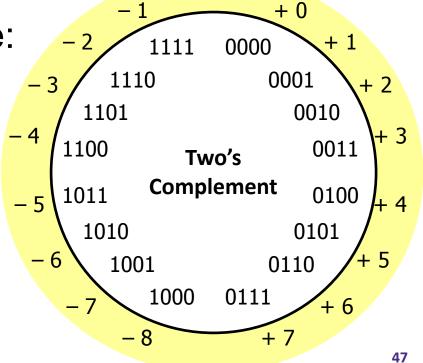
L4: Integers I, Bitwise Operators



L4: Integers I, Bitwise Operators

- Roughly same number of (+) and (-) numbers
- Positive number encodings match unsigned
- Single zero encoding, all zeros
- Simple negation procedure:
 - Get negative representation of any integer by taking bitwise complement and then adding one!

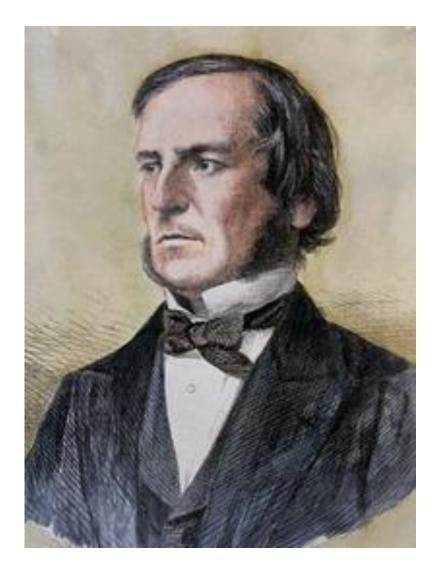
 $(\sim x + 1 == -x)$



Knowledge & Insulation (intended for L4, but we didn't have time)

George Boole

- A committed educator!
 - Walked in the rain to teach, taught in wet clothes, wife wrapped him in wet blankets to cure him
- Philosophy, logic
 - Pseudo-religious doctrine of psychology
 - HEAVILY influenced by Indian systems of logic
 - Navya Logic!



Colonialism in 19th Century

- ^o 18th /19th century India under colonial rule
 - Re-education camps, the whole business

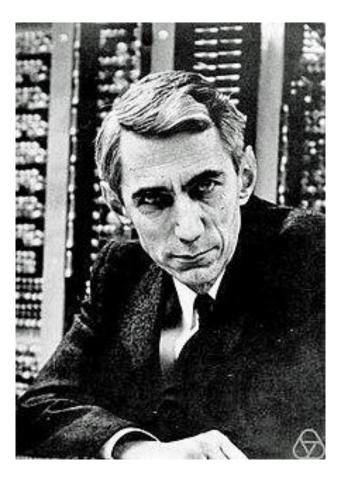
"On examining this work I saw in it, not merely merit worthy of encouragement, but merit of a peculiar kind, the encouragement of which, as it appeared to me, was likely to promote native effort towards the restoration of the native mind in India."

DeMorgan, prefacing: "A treatise on problems of maxima and minima, solved by algebra." by Ram Chundra, European Publication in 1859

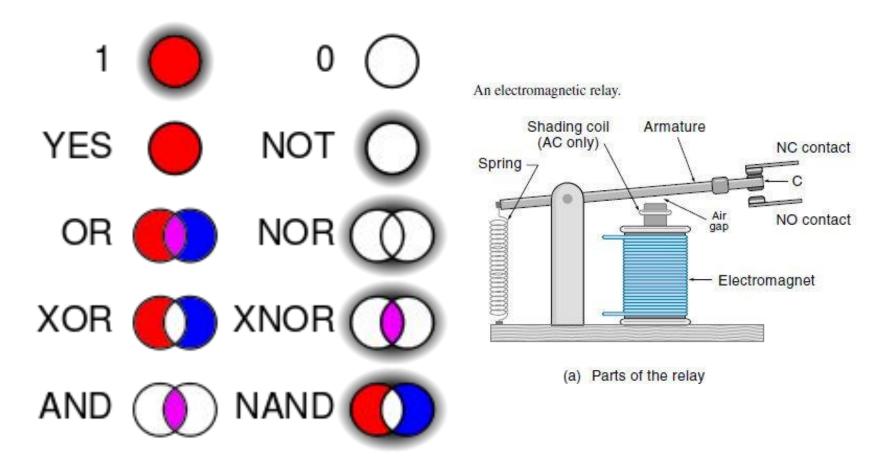
Claude Shannon (1916-2001)

• Mathematician

- Took a philosophy class! Not CS!
- Learned Boole's algebra, realized relevance to digital logic
- 1937 Master's Thesis
 - "Founded" information theory



I mean, it's a close connection



Ba dum **dum**

The "best" ideas come from outside! (Especially ideas for structural changes)

Analogs: Depression, Neurodiversity

- I don't want to ask if any of y'all have experienced depression, anxiety, etc.
 - But, given statistics, I'd guess most of you?
- For me, I haven't realized how bad it was until I started asking for help
 - Including some pretty spooky suicidal spaces
 - I just assumed that everyone felt this way

Analogs: Depression, Neurodiversity

- "I just assumed that everyone felt this way"
- For instance, everyone...
 - Has stretches where they don't leave their house
 - Gradually closes off contact with all support systems
 - Uses their work as a form of self-harm
 - Gets so focused on one thing they forget to eat
 - Can't distinguish sarcasm
 - Can't ignore the humming of fluorescents
 - Can't handle voices while they're falling asleep
 - Habitually avoids mirrors since puberty
 - Lol, jk, this one's trans

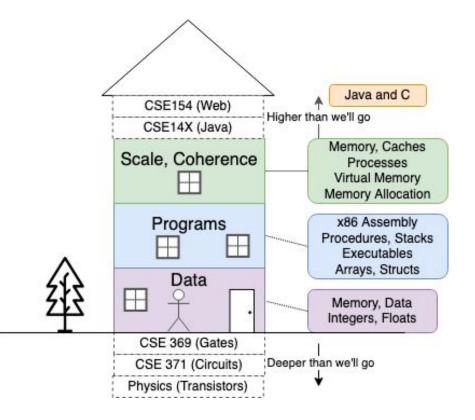
Aside: Being trans/neurodiverse is so phenomenally amazing; I wouldn't change any of it

Realizing what's happening

- I didn't understand until I "left the house"
 - Having someone tell me that this wasn't normal!
 - (In this case, the "house" was my own head, which is a phenomenally good space to isolate yourself)
- I realized three things:
 - 1. Not everyone felt this way
 - 2. Feeling this way wasn't sustainable (and matched a pretty high suicide rate)
 - 3. I could do something about it, even if that was just wearing earplugs
- I still isolate in my own head (grad student, remember), but it's become a much happier home

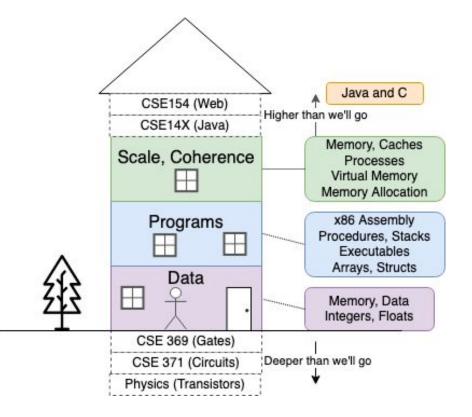
I'd say that I "insulated" myself, as much as I could, from a world that didn't make space for me

Insulation: a metaphor



Insulation: a metaphor

- It keeps us warm!
 - It protects us from the outside!
- It can be harmful!
 - Asbestos, clearly
 - Fiberglass is still bad
 - Modern alternatives still harmful



Insulation keeps us comfortable and protected.

Insulation

- George Boole: European, described a concrete representation for thought & reasoning, influenced by Indian systems of logic
- Claude Shannon: Mathematician, takes a philosophy class, applies knowledge to switches to develop information theory
- Me: Built up personal insulation that would've killed me without external perspectives

I think when you travel a lot, it's so chaotic, you're like "wow, it's amazing that everything doesn't go to hell". When you stay in one place, you think "why is everything going to hell". *Andrew Bird*

It's hard to realize how bad things are, or how they could improve, without leaving insulated spaces.

It's hard to realize how bad things are, or how they could improve, without leaving insulated spaces.

So, why is CS still so insulated?

Amy's Keynote (L4 reading)

- Briefly, CS has been a safe space for:
 - Women, whose jobs were automated by computers
 - Bullied kids that liked calculators
 - Wealthy "young geeks" (me)
 - Closeted trans kids (me)
 - Autistic people (me)
 - Queer folks trying to move to more progressive cities (SF/Seattle)
 - Those seeking social mobility, especially now

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Autism, briefly



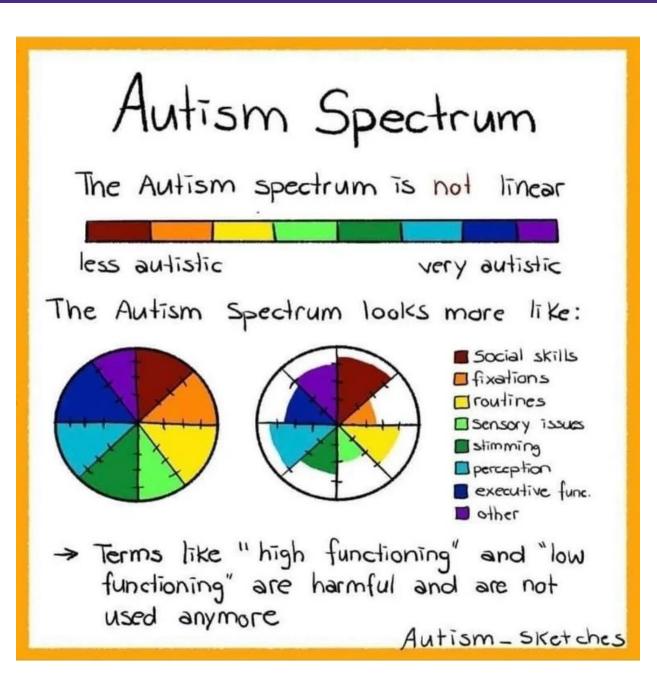
Invisible Strings @M_Kelter

In the last few decades, we have detected thousands of planets outside of our solar system. They did not suddenly appear at the time we found them. No one calls it an "exoplanet epidemic". The planets were always there, just previously undiscovered. This is a tweet about autism.

More information @ https://autisticadvocacy.org/about-asan/about-autism/

Autism, briefly

- Historically, as Asperger's
 - Hans Asperger was a Nazi, also Sukhareva's syndrome from Soviet Psychologist Grunya Sukhareva
- Historically viewed as a *spectrum*
 - Neurotypicality vs neurodiversity
 - "High-Functioning" vs "Low functioning"





"High functioning" is used to deny support.

"Low functioning" is used to deny agency.

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"High functioning" is used to deny support.

"Low functioning" is used to deny agency.

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That's why we talked about agency/support last class!

Autism, briefly

- Special interests: intense, passionate fixations on topics, "little professors"
 - Turing was "obsessed" with codes and ciphers, didn't care about much else
- Theory of mind (some low, some high):
 - Understanding that the brains of others are different than yours (I struggle in some spaces)
- Empathy (some low, some high):
 - I have to be careful who I'm holding space for, others not so much
- Communication
 - Neurodiverse folks tend to communicate well with each other, less well with neurotypical folks

Autism, and computing

- Attention to detail highly valued in CS
- Historically, CS is an intellectual space centering rules (theory) and routines (algorithms)
- Little social interaction required, "don't bother me" assumed
- Lots of space to pursue special interests without interruption!
- Most of the world expect neurotypical conformity, most of CS emphasizes conformity along some* aspects of neurodiversity
 - Again, UW is much better than my undergrad

WHAT YOU SEE

Detail oriented Outgoing Active Super helpful Hardworking Performs well under pressure Loyalty

WHAT THEY'RE EXPERIENCING

Overthinking People pleasing Inability to slow down Trouble saying no Fear of failure Procrastinating or overplanning Poor boundaries

Insulation and me

- I identify as neurodiverse (autistic), trans, enby
- CS is was a great closet...
 - Encouraged to be "in my head", outside my body
 - Focus on patterns, abstract concepts
 - Completely ignore society
- but, really, that's no way to live
 - I promise, it would've killed me
- At some point, leave the house and go exploring!
 - Though camping can still be a stretch

I promise, I'm not alone

I promise, I'm not alone

- Generally, transgender rate of 0.5% to 1%
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) around 1.5%
- o 8-15% ASD among trans* folks!
- Higher rates of ASD in STEM than elsewhere
 - Most CS folks tend not to recognize neurodiversity
 - Especially with themselves, honestly
- I got to undergrad and realized that lots of folks were like me, realized later that most of them were autistic.
 - Though, everyone gets to pick their own labels

Making Space in CS

- Foundations of computing:
 - Insulating for safety (i.e. being trans in Seattle, at UW)
 - Exploring new frontiers (even just philosophy)
- Both foundational!
 - Though, many focus on one or the other
 - Technical/Socio-technical; you need both!
- CS needs both to survive and thrive!
 - New ideas and safe spaces both necessary

So, why is CS insulated?

CS as a refuge

- It's been the only place that's safe for:
 - Women, whose jobs were automated by computers
 - Bullied kids that liked calculators
 - Wealthy "young geeks" (me)
 - Closeted trans kids (me)
 - Autistic people (me)
 - Queer folks trying to move to more progressive cities (SF/Seattle)
 - Those seeking social mobility, especially now

Everyone deserves support & agency.

Everyone deserves a space that feels safe.

Remodeling the house of computing

- If you go in and start swinging hammers, you're going to scare some people
 - Fear sometimes manifests as aggression, especially among folks socialized as men
 - I only had access to anger for 15 years
- You might seem like an oppressor!
 - Even to those who've been oppressing others!
- There aren't many spaces where neurodiversity is valued!
 - There aren't many spaces that are safe!

Insulation is deadly! But, going outside might seem even worse.

Remodeling and Empathy

- Exploring into new spaces, especially for folks that resonate so strongly with routine and sameness, is a hard ask
- I'm not asking you to excuse oppression, or make space for oppression!
 - Just, please, if you're trying to change things, hold space for empathy, especially for those that might've hurt you.
 - You'll maintain the moral high ground!
 - You'll be more able to handle pushback!

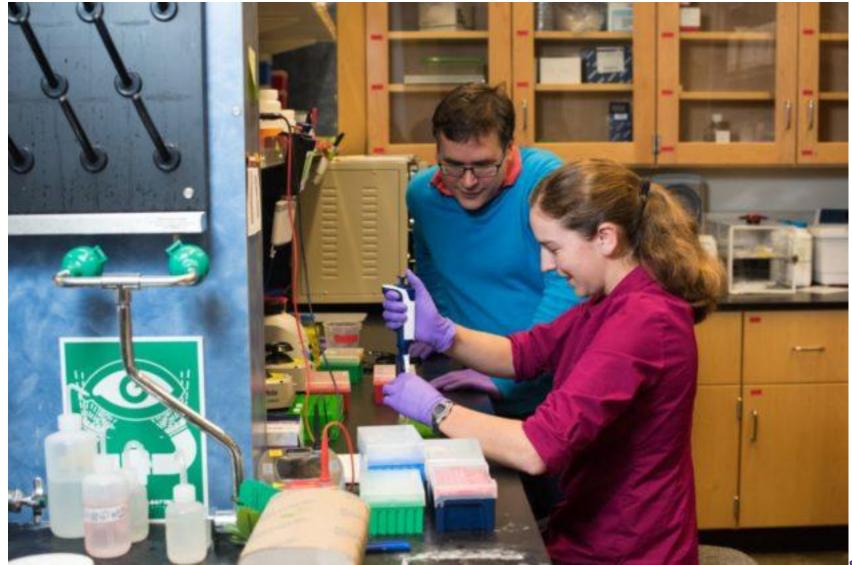
Loving-Kindness

- Offer love and care to yourself, so wholeheartedly that it's like a waterfall
- 2. Offer love and care to others close to you, so wholeheartedly that it's like a waterfall
- 3. Offer the same love and care to strangers, people that you've never met
- 4. Offer the same love and care to those that have hurt you
 - We're aiming for compassion for all beings here, it's a time-honored and quick way to justice

Exploring Space, Making Space

- Goodness, if you can, take classes outside CS
 - Even better if they're non-technical!
 - *Philosophy*, Art, History, *Education??*
- Claude Shannon, *Founder of Information Theory*
 - Go take a class because it looks interesting!
 - Maybe it'll be relevant to computing?
 - More likely, you'll learn something about yourself!
- This is (probably) the most intellectually diverse space that you'll be in for the rest of your life!
 - "Take a pottery class or something"

CS is changing!



CS is changing!

CS is changing! What do you want to change?

CS is still insulated!

CS is still insulated! What can you bring to the house of computing? What do we need to know about that's outside the walls?

We need insulation to survive, we'll die if we don't leave the house.

We need insulation to survive, we'll die if we don't leave the house. Explore and make space, when you can!

This is extra

(non-testable)

material

Data Structures in Assembly

- Arrays
 - One-dimensional
 - Multi-dimensional (nested)
 - Multi-level
- Structs
 - Alignment
- 。 Unions

Unions



- Only allocates enough space for the largest element in union
- Can only use one member at a time

