

# Computer Systems

CSE 410 Spring 2012

8 – Data Structures: Arrays, Structs, and (a little about) Unions

# Data Structures in Memory!

## ■ Arrays

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

## ■ Structs

- Alignment

## ■ Unions

# Data Structures in Assembly...

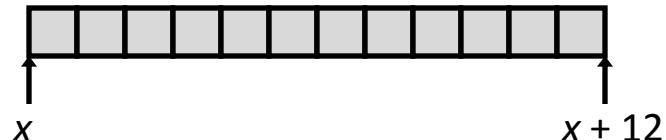
- Arrays?
- Strings?
- Structs?

# Array Allocation

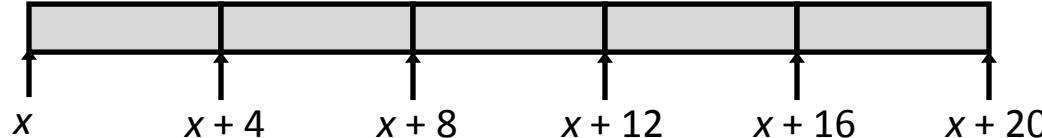
## ■ Basic Principle

- $T A[N];$
- Array of data type  $T$  and length  $N$
- Contiguously allocated region of  $N * \text{sizeof}(T)$  bytes

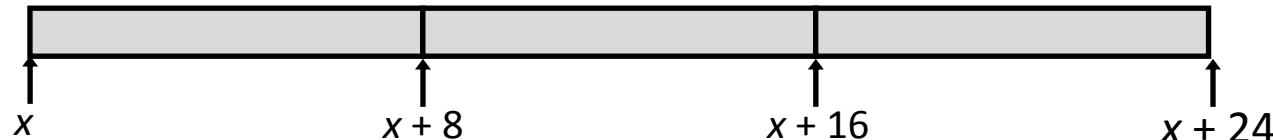
```
char string[12];
```



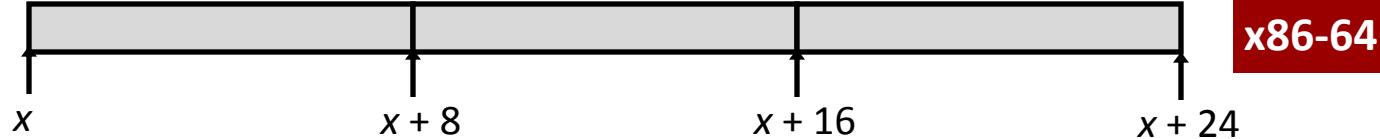
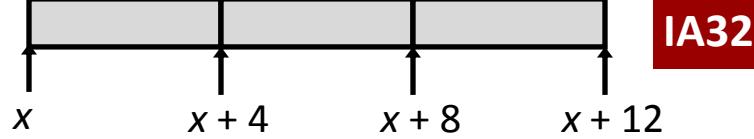
```
int val[5];
```



```
double a[3];
```



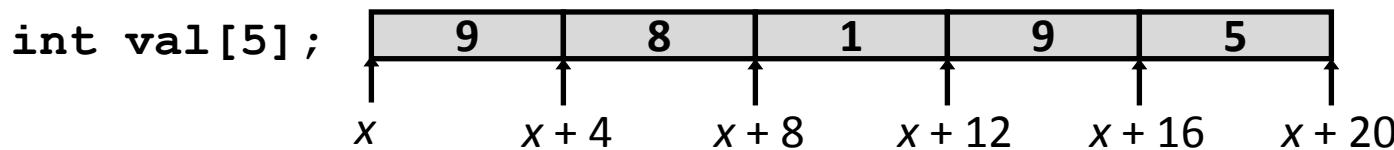
```
char *p[3];
```



# Array Access

## ■ Basic Principle

- $T A[N];$
- Array of data type  $T$  and length  $N$
- Identifier  $A$  can be used as a pointer to array element 0: Type  $T^*$



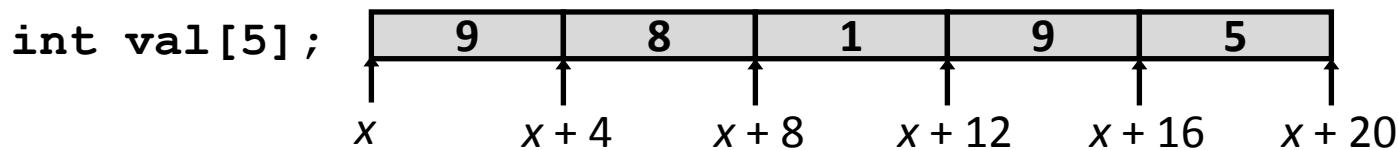
## ■ Reference Type Value

- `val[4]` int
- `val` int \*
- `val+1` int \*
- `&val[2]` int \*
- `val[5]` int
- `*(val+1)` int
- `val + i` int \*

# Array Access

## ■ Basic Principle

- $T A[N];$
- Array of data type  $T$  and length  $N$
- Identifier  $A$  can be used as a pointer to array element 0: Type  $T^*$



## ■ Reference Type Value

- `val[4]`      int      5
- `val`          int \*       $x$
- `val+1`       int \*       $x + 4$
- `&val[2]`      int \*       $x + 8$
- `val[5]`       int      ??
- `*(val+1)`    int      8
- `val + i`       int \*       $x + 4 + i$

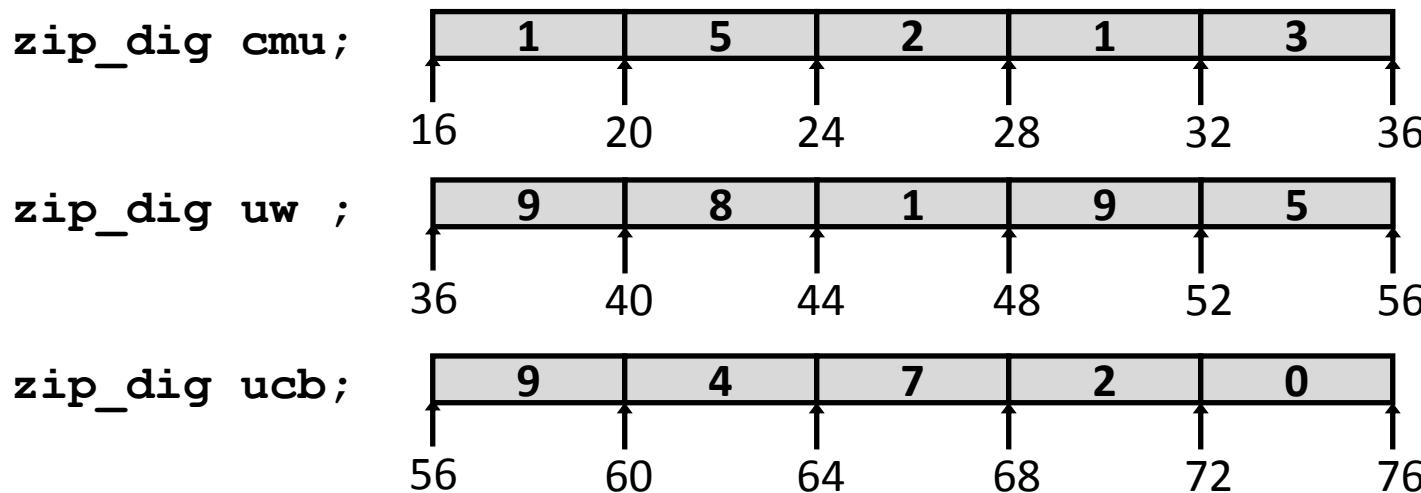
# Array Example

```
typedef int zip_dig[5];

zip_dig cmu = { 1, 5, 2, 1, 3 };
zip_dig uw  = { 9, 8, 1, 9, 5 };
zip_dig ucb = { 9, 4, 7, 2, 0 };
```

# Array Example

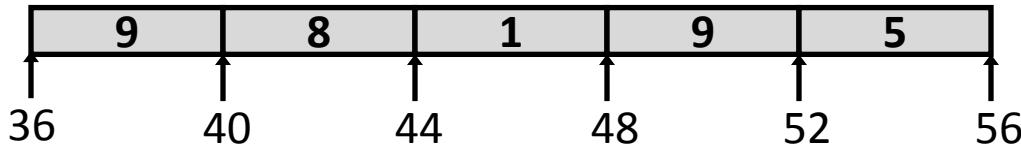
```
typedef int zip_dig[5];  
  
zip_dig cmu = { 1, 5, 2, 1, 3 };  
zip_dig uw = { 9, 8, 1, 9, 5 };  
zip_dig ucb = { 9, 4, 7, 2, 0 };
```



- Declaration “`zip_dig uw`” equivalent to “`int uw[5]`”
- Example arrays were allocated in successive 20 byte blocks
  - Not guaranteed to happen in general

# Array Accessing Example

`zip_dig uw;`



```
int get_digit
  (zip_dig z, int dig)
{
  return z[dig];
}
```

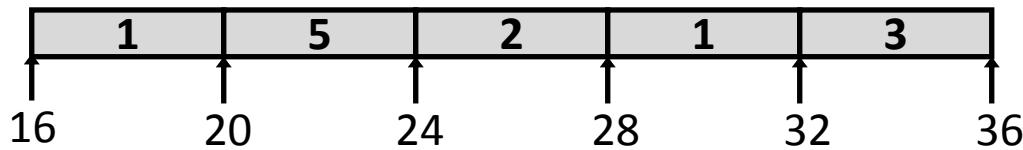
IA32

```
# %edx = z
# %eax = dig
movl (%edx,%eax,4),%eax # z[dig]
```

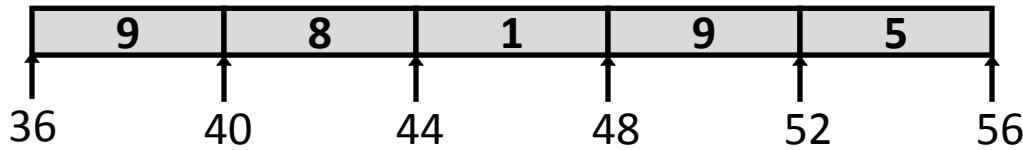
- Register **%edx** contains starting address of array
- Register **%eax** contains array index
- Desired digit at  $4 * \%eax + \%edx$
- Use memory reference  $(\%edx, \%eax, 4)$

# Referencing Examples

`zip_dig cmu;`



`zip_dig uw ;`



`zip_dig ucb;`



## ■ Reference

`uw[3]`

`uw[6]`

`uw[-1]`

`cmu[15]`

## Address

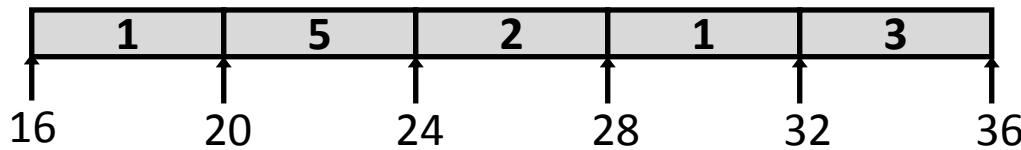
## Value

## Guaranteed?

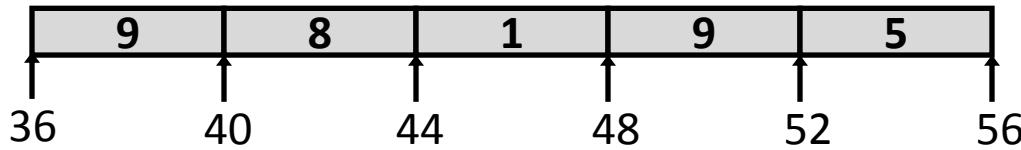
What are these values?

# Referencing Examples

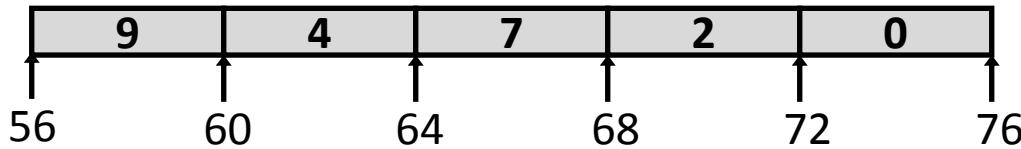
`zip_dig cmu;`



`zip_dig uw ;`



`zip_dig ucb;`

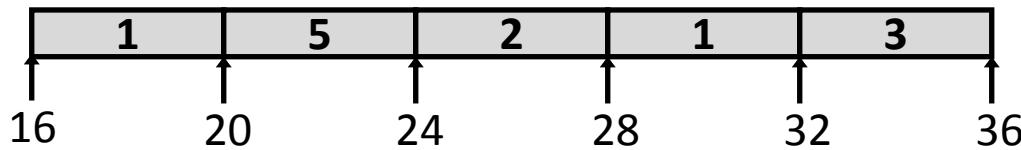


Reference	Address	Value	Guaranteed?
<code>uw[3]</code>	$36 + 4 * 3 = 48$	9	
<code>uw[6]</code>	$36 + 4 * 6 = 60$	4	
<code>uw[-1]</code>	$36 + 4 * -1 = 32$	3	
<code>cmu[15]</code>	$16 + 4 * 15 = 76$	??	

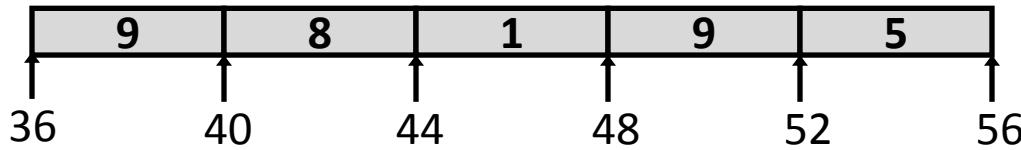
- No bound checking
- Out-of-range behavior implementation-dependent
- No guaranteed relative allocation of different arrays

# Referencing Examples

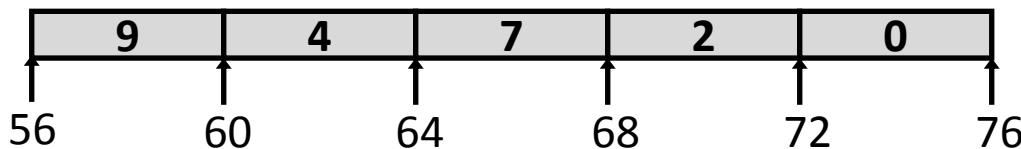
`zip_dig cmu;`



`zip_dig uw ;`



`zip_dig ucb;`



Reference	Address	Value	Guaranteed?
<code>uw[3]</code>	$36 + 4 * 3 = 48$	9	Yes
<code>uw[6]</code>	$36 + 4 * 6 = 60$	4	No
<code>uw[-1]</code>	$36 + 4 * -1 = 32$	3	No
<code>cmu[15]</code>	$16 + 4 * 15 = 76$	??	No

- No bound checking
- Out-of-range behavior implementation-dependent
- No guaranteed relative allocation of different arrays

# Array Loop Example

```
int zd2int(zip_dig z)
{
    int i;
    int zi = 0;
    for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
        zi = 10 * zi + z[i];
    }
    return zi;
}
```

# Array Loop Example

## ■ Original

```
int zd2int(zip_dig z)
{
    int i;
    int zi = 0;
    for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
        zi = 10 * zi + z[i];
    }
    return zi;
}
```

## ■ Transformed

- Eliminate loop variable i
- Convert array code to pointer code
- Express in do-while form (no test at entrance)

```
int zd2int(zip_dig z)
{
    int zi = 0;
    int *zend = z + 4;
    do {
        zi = 10 * zi + *z;
        z++;
    } while (z <= zend);
    return zi;
}
```

# Array Loop Implementation (IA32)

```
int zd2int(zip_dig z)
{
    int zi = 0;
    int *zend = z + 4;
    do {
        zi = 10 * zi + *z;
        z++;
    } while(z <= zend);
    return zi;
}
```

```
# %ecx = z
xorl %eax,%eax
leal 16(%ecx),%ebx
.L59:
    leal (%eax,%eax,4),%edx
    movl (%ecx),%eax
    addl $4,%ecx
    leal (%eax,%edx,2),%eax
    cmpl %ebx,%ecx
    jle .L59
```

Translation?

# Array Loop Implementation (IA32)

## Registers

```
%ecx z
%eax zi
%ebx zend
```

## Computations

- $10*zi + *z$  implemented as  
 $*z + 2*(zi+4*zi)$
- $z++$  increments by 4

```
int zd2int(zip_dig z)
{
    int zi = 0;
    int *zend = z + 4;
    do {
        zi = 10 * zi + *z;
        z++;
    } while(z <= zend);
    return zi;
}
```

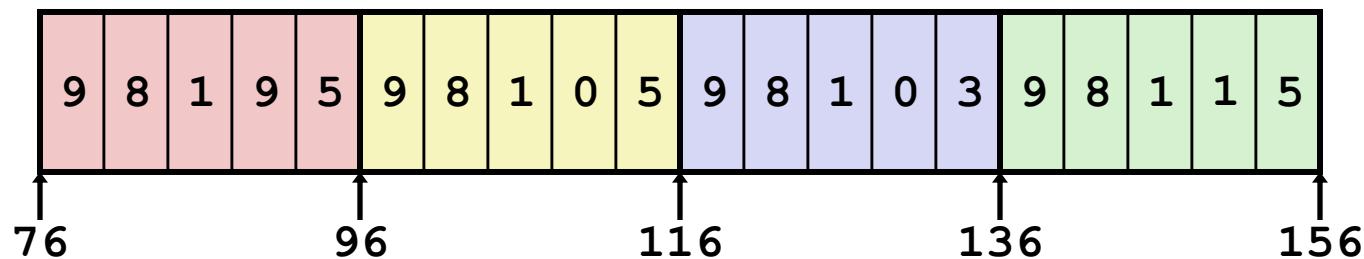
```
# %ecx = z
xorl %eax,%eax          # zi = 0
leal 16(%ecx),%ebx       # zend = z+4
.L59:
    leal (%eax,%eax,4),%edx # 5*zi
    movl (%ecx),%eax         # *z
    addl $4,%ecx             # z++
    leal (%eax,%edx,2),%eax # zi = *z + 2*(5*zi)
cmpl %ebx,%ecx           # z : zend
jle .L59                  # if <= goto loop
```

# Nested Array Example

```
#define PCOUNT 4
zip_dig sea[PCOUNT] =
{{ 9, 8, 1, 9, 5 },
 { 9, 8, 1, 0, 5 },
 { 9, 8, 1, 0, 3 },
 { 9, 8, 1, 1, 5 }};
```

# Nested Array Example

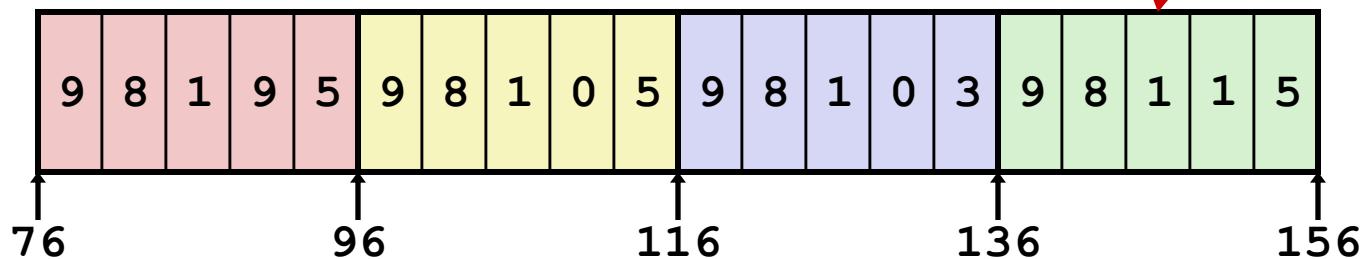
```
#define PCOUNT 4
zip_dig sea[PCOUNT] =
{{ 9, 8, 1, 9, 5 },
 { 9, 8, 1, 0, 5 },
 { 9, 8, 1, 0, 3 },
 { 9, 8, 1, 1, 5 }};
```



# Nested Array Example

```
#define PCOUNT 4
zip_dig sea[PCOUNT] =
{{ 9, 8, 1, 9, 5 },
 { 9, 8, 1, 0, 5 },
 { 9, 8, 1, 0, 3 },
 { 9, 8, 1, 1, 5 }};
```

&sea[3][2];



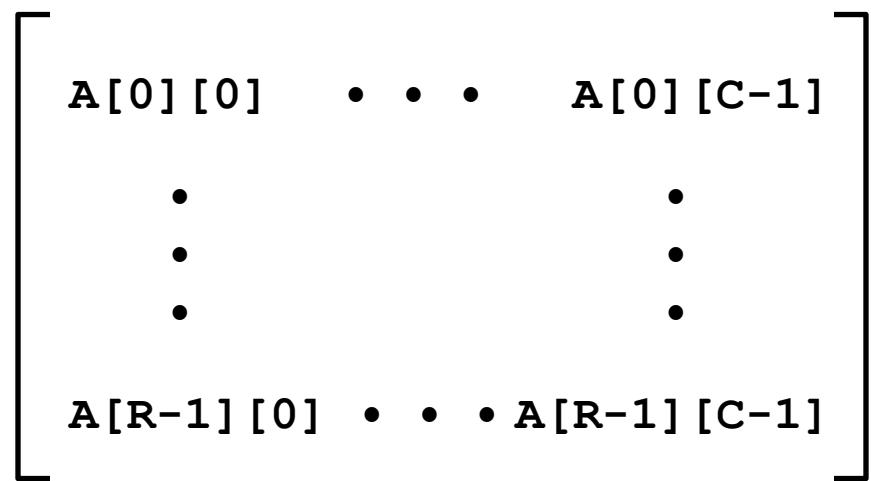
- “row-major” ordering of all elements
- Guaranteed?

# Multidimensional (Nested) Arrays

## ■ Declaration

- $T \ A[R][C];$
- 2D array of data type T
- R rows, C columns
- Type T element requires K bytes

## ■ Array size?



# Multidimensional (Nested) Arrays

## ■ Declaration

- $T \ A[R][C];$
- 2D array of data type T
- R rows, C columns
- Type T element requires K bytes

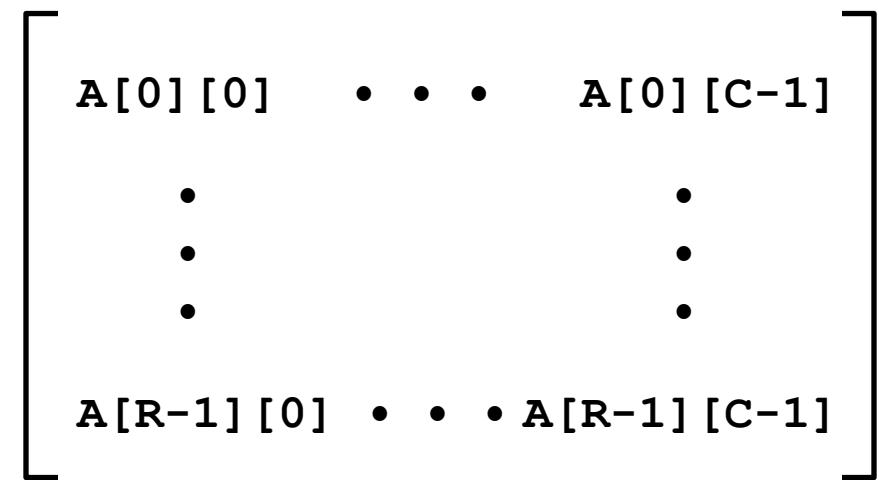
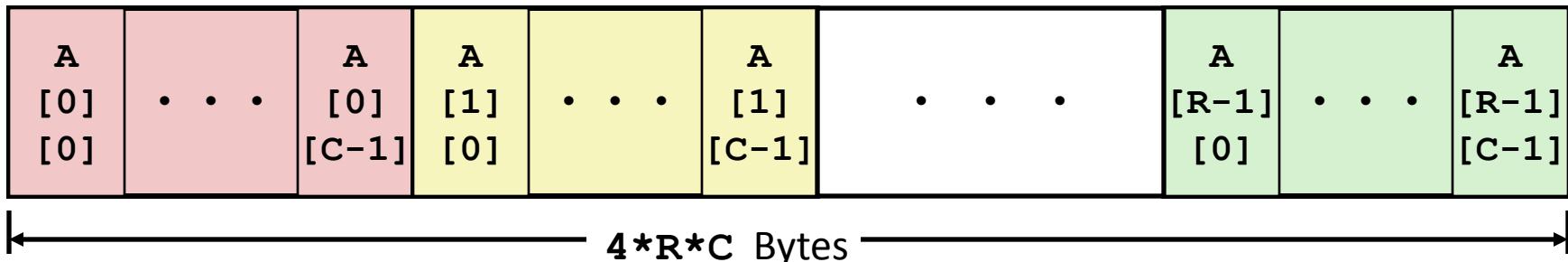
## ■ Array size

- $R * C * K$  bytes

## ■ Arrangement

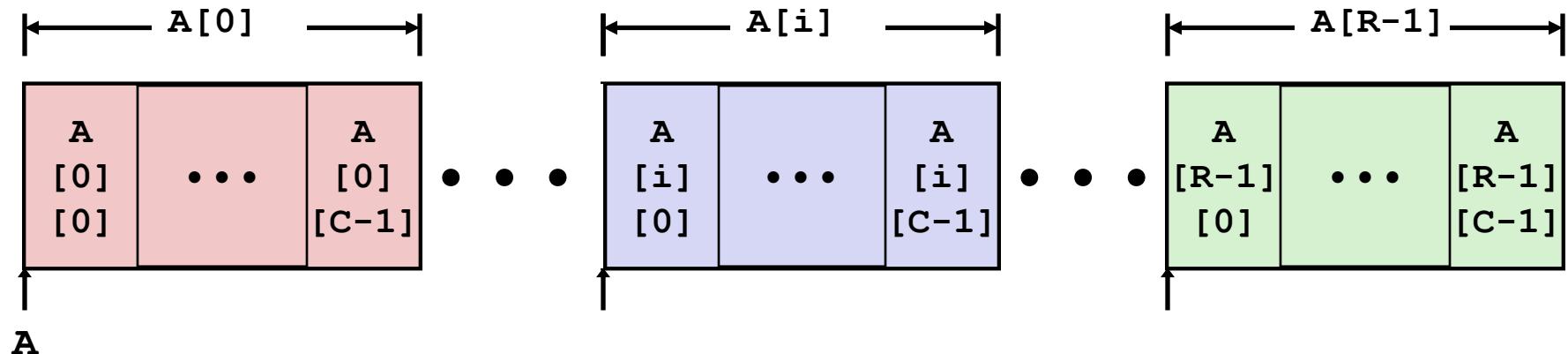
- Row-major ordering

```
int A[R][C];
```



# Nested Array Row Access

```
int A[R][C];
```

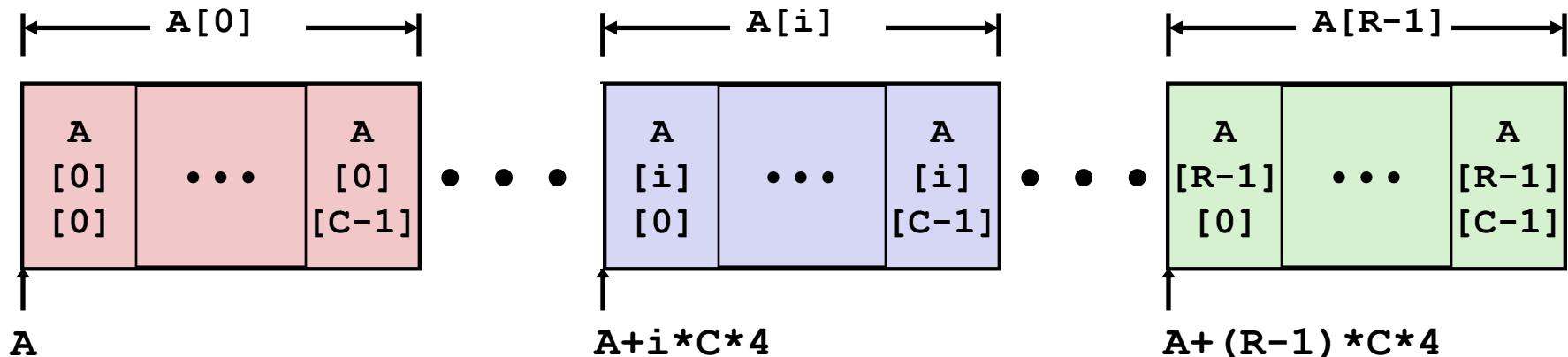


# Nested Array Row Access

## ■ Row vectors

- $A[i]$  is array of  $C$  elements
- Each element of type  $T$  requires  $K$  bytes
- Starting address  $A + i * (C * K)$

```
int A[R][C];
```



# Nested Array Row Access Code

```
int *get_sea_zip(int index)
{
    return sea[index];
}
```

```
#define PCOUNT 4
zip_dig sea[PCOUNT] =
{{ 9, 8, 1, 9, 5 },
{ 9, 8, 1, 0, 5 },
{ 9, 8, 1, 0, 3 },
{ 9, 8, 1, 1, 5 }};
```

# Nested Array Row Access Code

```
int *get_sea_zip(int index)
{
    return sea[index];
}
```

```
#define PCOUNT 4
zip_dig sea[PCOUNT] =
{{ 9, 8, 1, 9, 5 },
{ 9, 8, 1, 0, 5 },
{ 9, 8, 1, 0, 3 },
{ 9, 8, 1, 1, 5 }};
```

- What data type is `sea [index]` ?
- What is its starting address?

```
# %eax = index
leal (%eax,%eax,4),%eax
leal sea(,%eax,4),%eax
```

Translation?

# Nested Array Row Access Code

```
int *get_sea_zip(int index)
{
    return sea[index];
}
```

```
#define PCOUNT 4
zip_dig sea[PCOUNT] =
{{ 9, 8, 1, 9, 5 },
{ 9, 8, 1, 0, 5 },
{ 9, 8, 1, 0, 3 },
{ 9, 8, 1, 1, 5 }};
```

```
# %eax = index
leal (%eax,%eax,4),%eax # 5 * index
leal sea(,%eax,4),%eax # sea + (20 * index)
```

## ■ Row Vector

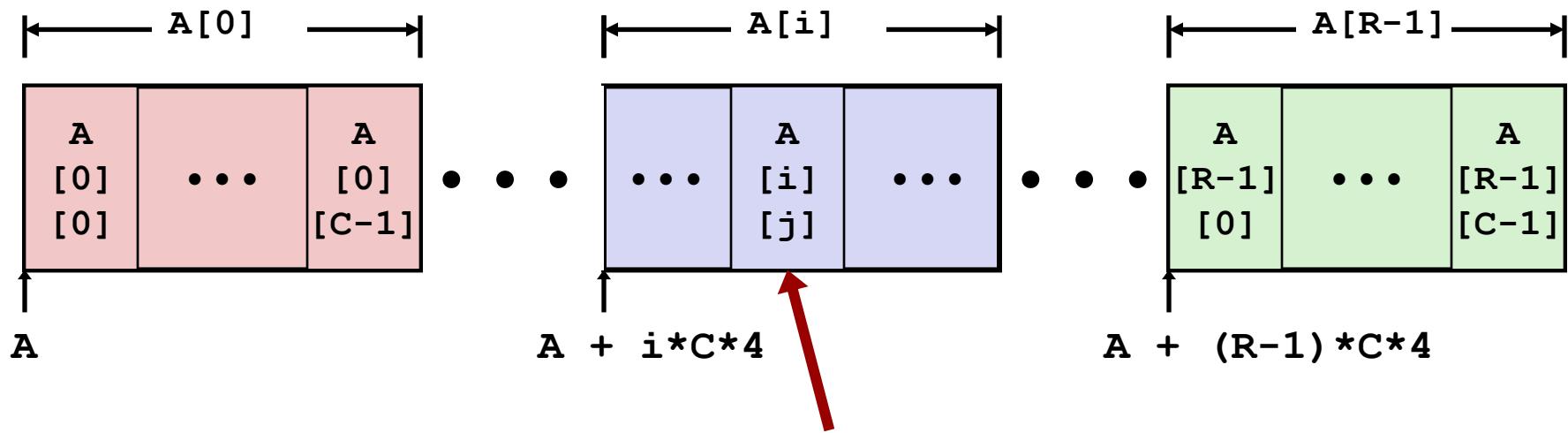
- **sea[index]** is array of 5 **ints**
- Starting address **sea+20\*index**

## ■ IA32 Code

- Computes and returns address
- Compute as **sea+4\*(index+4\*index)=sea+20\*index**

# Nested Array Row Access

```
int A[R][C];
```

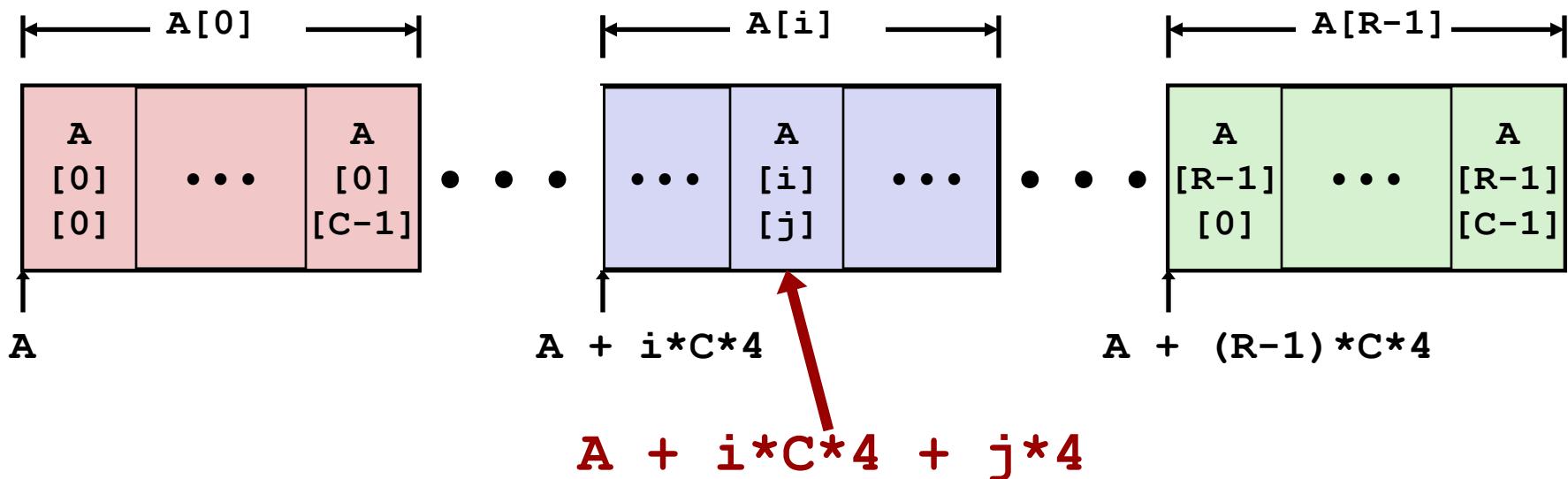


# Nested Array Row Access

## ■ Array Elements

- $A[i][j]$  is element of type T, which requires K bytes
- Address  $A + i * (C * K) + j * K = A + (i * C + j) * K$

```
int A[R][C];
```



# Nested Array Element Access Code

```
int get_sea_digit
    (int index, int dig)
{
    return sea[index][dig];
}
```

```
# %ecx = dig
# %eax = index
leal 0(,%ecx,4),%edx          # 4*dig
leal (%eax,%eax,4),%eax      # 5*index
movl sea(%edx,%eax,4),%eax   # *(sea + 4*dig + 20*index)
```

## ■ Array Elements

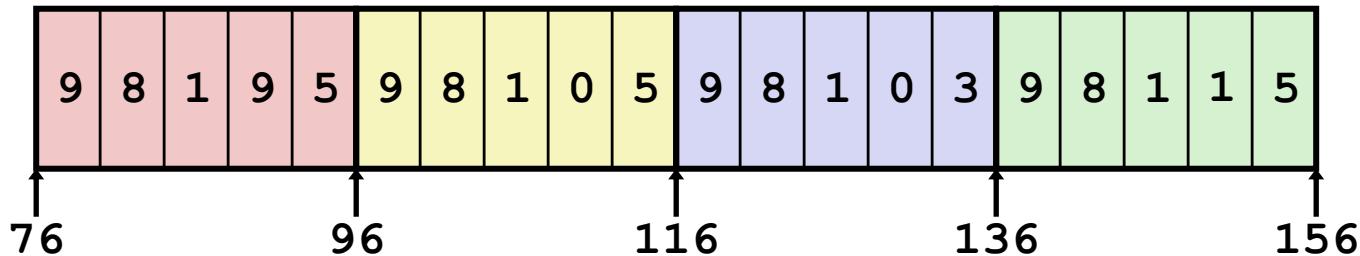
- $\text{sea}[\text{index}][\text{dig}]$  is int
- Address:  $\text{sea} + 20 * \text{index} + 4 * \text{dig}$

## ■ IA32 Code

- Computes address  $\text{sea} + 4 * \text{dig} + 4 * (\text{index} + 4 * \text{index})$
- `movl` performs memory reference

# Strange Referencing Examples

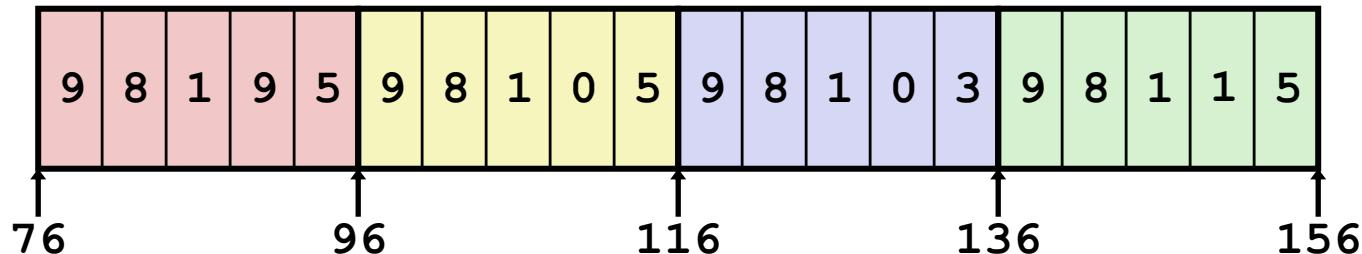
```
zip_dig  
sea[4];
```



■ Reference	Address	Value	Guaranteed?
<code>sea[3][3]</code>			
<code>sea[2][5]</code>			
<code>sea[2][-1]</code>			
<code>sea[4][-1]</code>			
<code>sea[0][19]</code>			
<code>sea[0][-1]</code>			

# Strange Referencing Examples

```
zip_dig
sea[4];
```

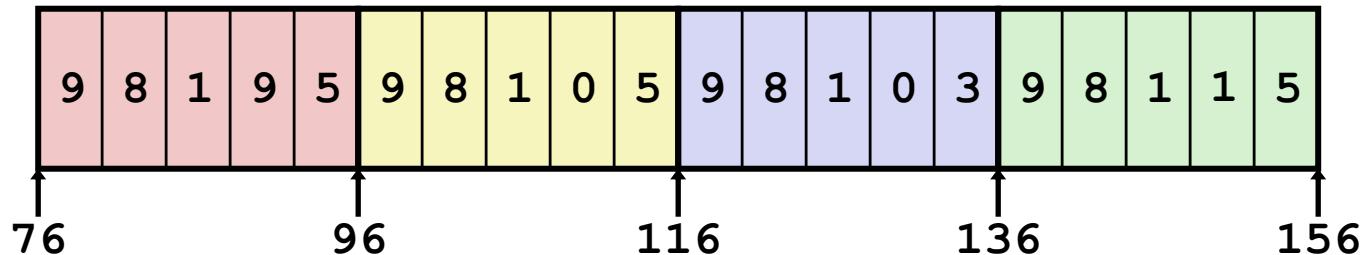


■ Reference	Address	Value	Guaranteed?
<b>sea[3][3]</b>	$76+20*3+4*3 = 148$	1	
<b>sea[2][5]</b>	$76+20*2+4*5 = 136$	9	
<b>sea[2][-1]</b>	$76+20*2+4*-1 = 112$	5	
<b>sea[4][-1]</b>	$76+20*4+4*-1 = 152$	5	
<b>sea[0][19]</b>	$76+20*0+4*19 = 152$	5	
<b>sea[0][-1]</b>	$76+20*0+4*-1 = 72$	??	

- Code does not do any bounds checking
- Ordering of elements within array guaranteed

# Strange Referencing Examples

```
zip_dig
sea[4];
```



Reference	Address	Value	Guaranteed?
sea[3][3]	$76+20*3+4*3 = 148$	1	Yes
sea[2][5]	$76+20*2+4*5 = 136$	9	Yes
sea[2][-1]	$76+20*2+4*-1 = 112$	5	Yes
sea[4][-1]	$76+20*4+4*-1 = 152$	5	Yes
sea[0][19]	$76+20*0+4*19 = 152$	5	Yes
sea[0][-1]	$76+20*0+4*-1 = 72$	??	No

- Code does not do any bounds checking
- Ordering of elements within array guaranteed

# Multi-Level Array Example

```
zip_dig cmu = { 1, 5, 2, 1, 3 };  
zip_dig uw  = { 9, 8, 1, 9, 5 };  
zip_dig ucb = { 9, 4, 7, 2, 0 };
```

```
#define UCOUNT 3  
int *univ[UCOUNT] = {uw, cmu, ucb};
```

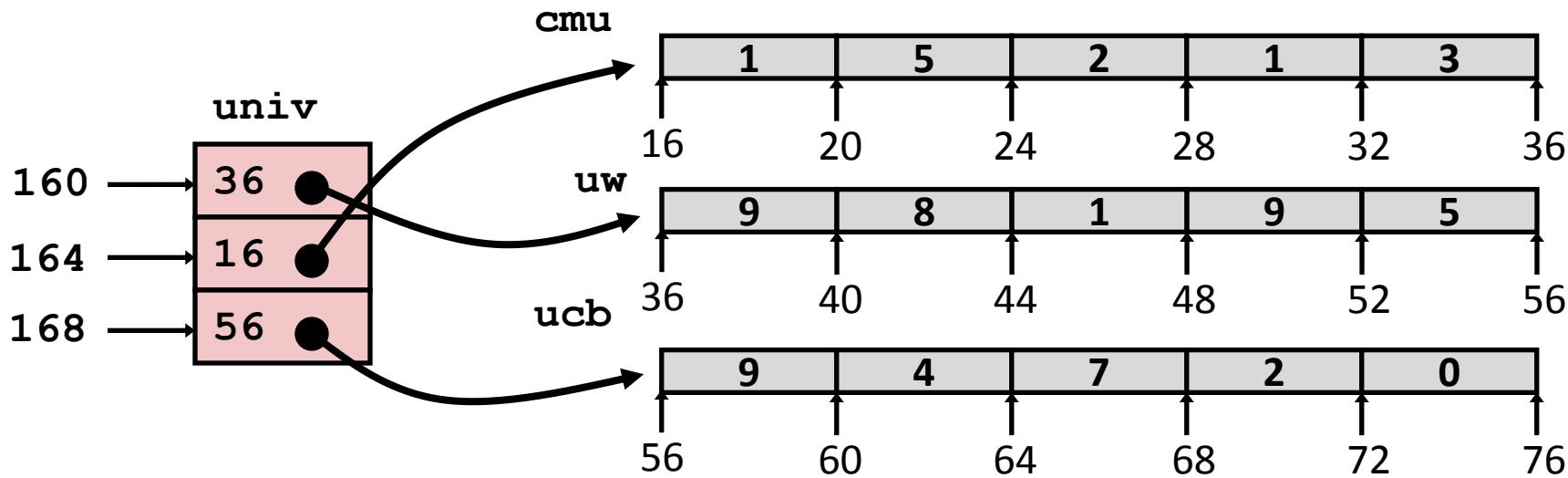
Same thing as a 2D array?

# Multi-Level Array Example

```
zip_dig cmu = { 1, 5, 2, 1, 3 };  
zip_dig uw  = { 9, 8, 1, 9, 5 };  
zip_dig ucb = { 9, 4, 7, 2, 0 };
```

```
#define UCOUNT 3  
int *univ[UCOUNT] = {uw, cmu, ucb};
```

NB: This is how Java represents multi-dimensional arrays.

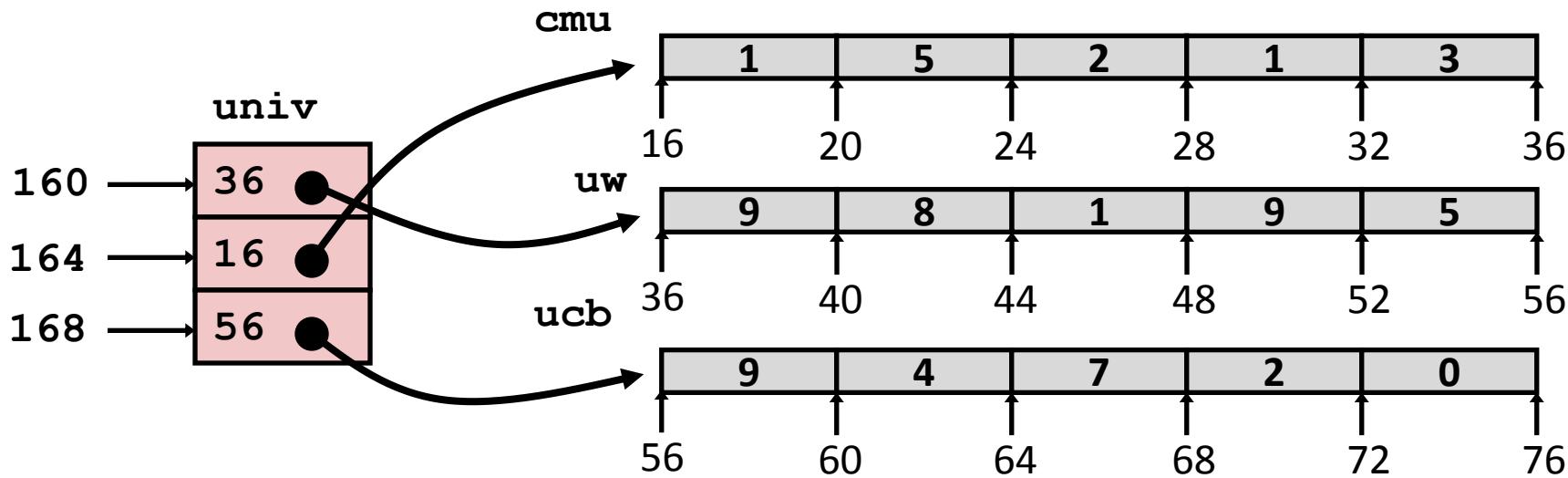


# Multi-Level Array Example

```
zip_dig cmu = { 1, 5, 2, 1, 3 };
zip_dig uw  = { 9, 8, 1, 9, 5 };
zip_dig ucb = { 9, 4, 7, 2, 0 };
```

```
#define UCOUNT 3
int *univ[UCOUNT] = {uw, cmu, ucb};
```

- Variable **univ** denotes array of 3 elements
- Each element is a pointer
  - 4 bytes
- Each pointer points to array of ints



# Element Access in Multi-Level Array

```
int get_univ_digit
    (int index, int dig)
{
    return univ[index] [dig];
}
```

```
# %ecx = index
# %eax = dig
leal 0(,%ecx,4),%edx
movl univ(%edx),%edx
movl (%edx,%eax,4),%eax
```

# Element Access in Multi-Level Array

```
int get_univ_digit
    (int index, int dig)
{
    return univ[index][dig];
}
```

```
# %ecx = index
# %eax = dig
leal 0(,%ecx,4),%edx      # 4*index
movl univ(%edx),%edx      # Mem[univ+4*index]
movl (%edx,%eax,4),%eax  # Mem[...+4*dig]
```

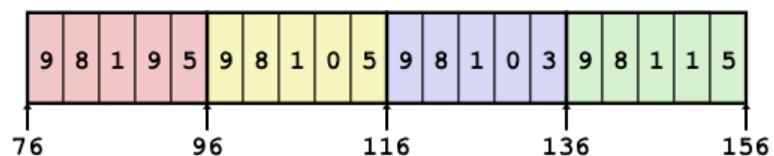
## ■ Computation (IA32)

- Element access  $\text{Mem}[\text{Mem}[\text{univ}+4*\text{index}]+4*\text{dig}]$
- Must do two memory reads
  - First get pointer to row array
  - Then access element within array

# Array Element Accesses

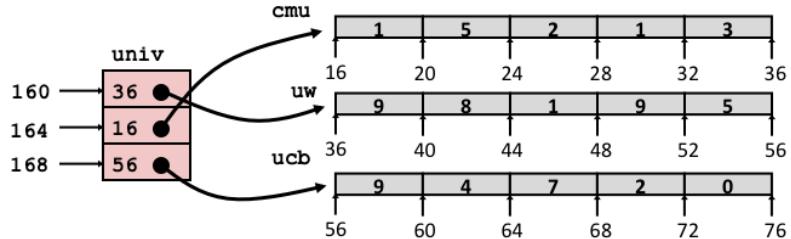
## Nested array

```
int get_sea_digit
    (int index, int dig)
{
    return sea[index] [dig];
}
```



## Multi-level array

```
int get_univ_digit
    (int index, int dig)
{
    return univ[index] [dig];
}
```

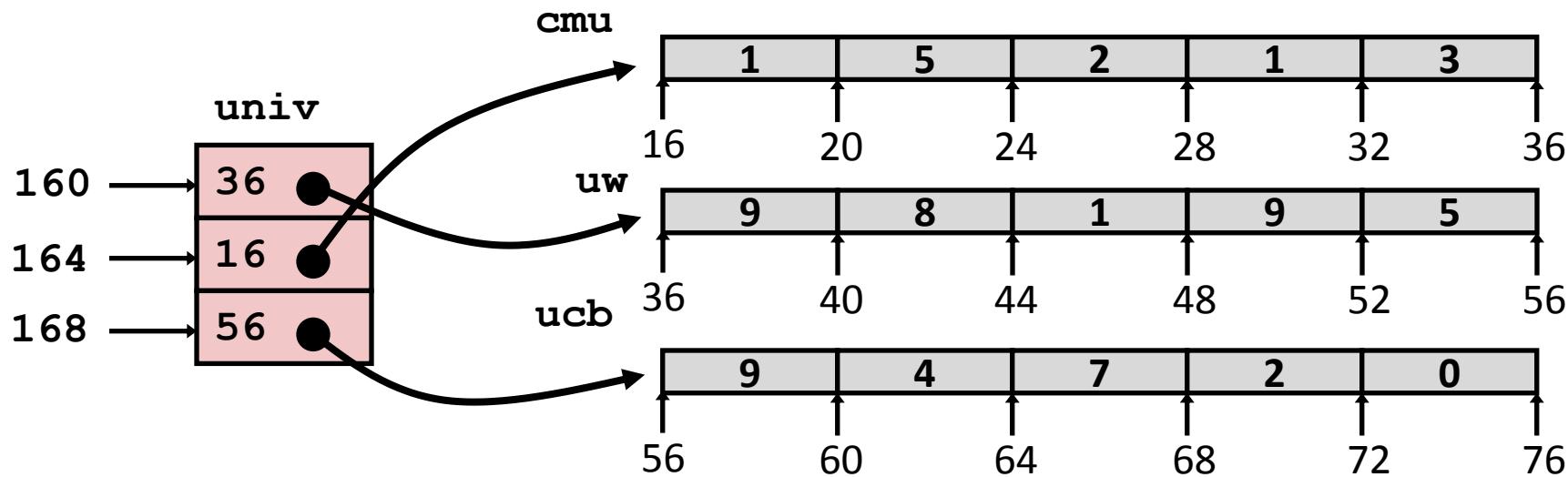


Access looks similar, but it isn't:

`Mem[sea+20*index+4*dig]`

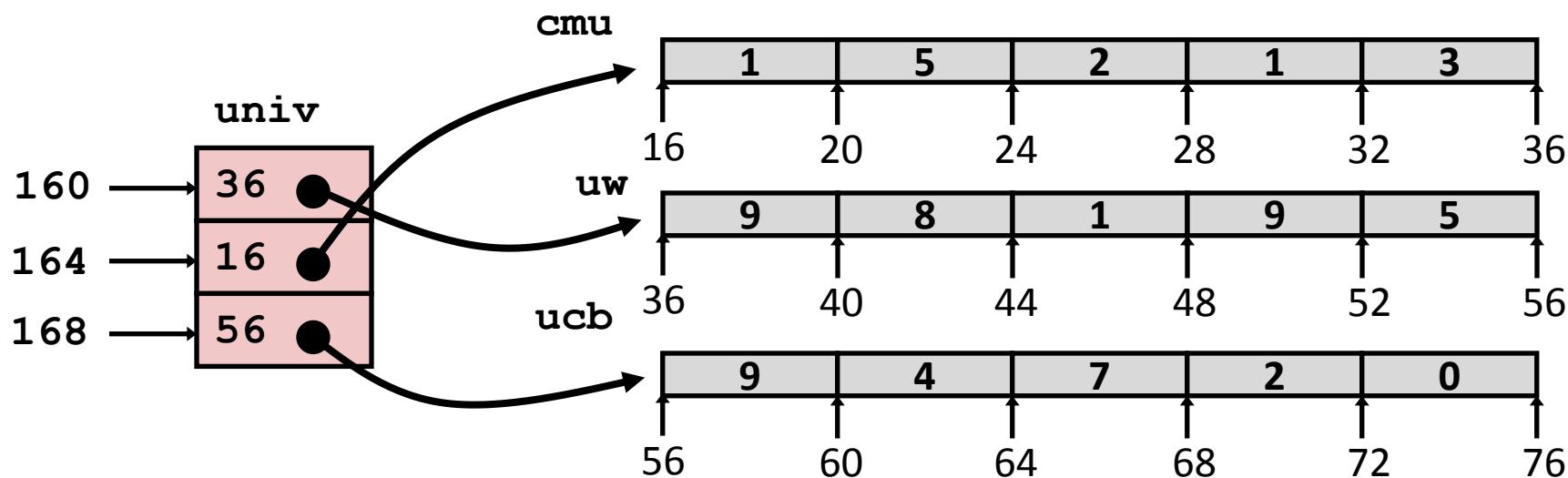
`Mem[Mem[univ+4*index]+4*dig]`

# Strange Referencing Examples



Reference	Address	Value	Guaranteed?
<code>univ[2][3]</code>			
<code>univ[1][5]</code>			
<code>univ[2][-1]</code>			<b>What values go here?</b>
<code>univ[3][-1]</code>			
<code>univ[1][12]</code>			

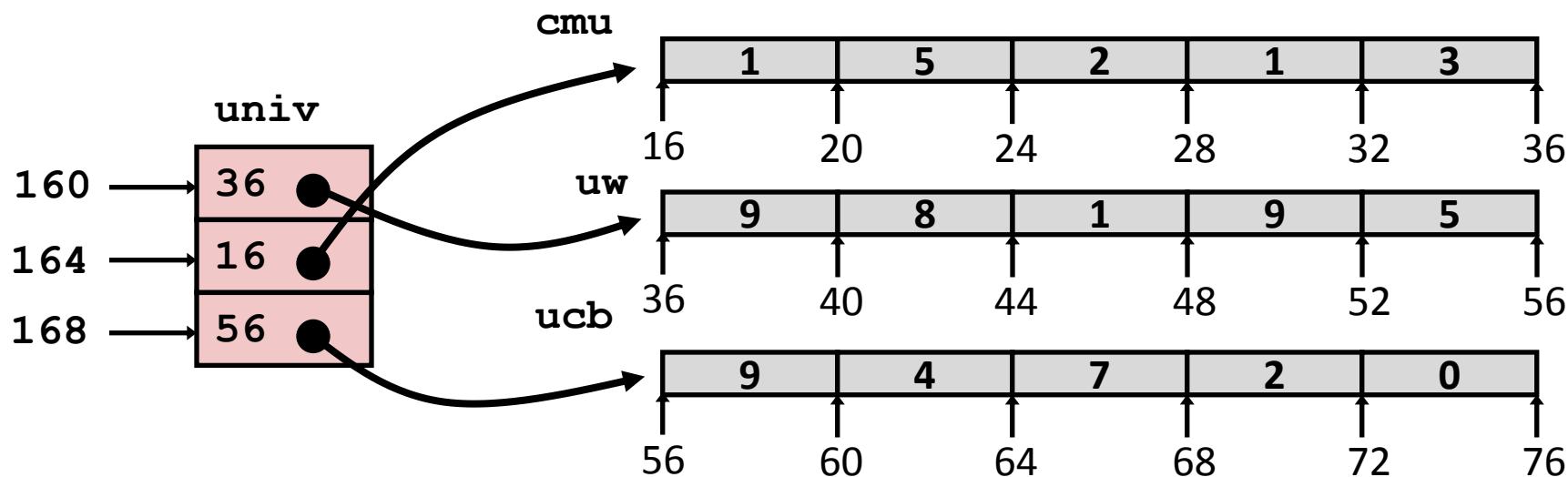
# Strange Referencing Examples



Reference	Address	Value	Guaranteed?
<code>univ[2][3]</code>	$56+4*3 = 68$	2	
<code>univ[1][5]</code>	$16+4*5 = 36$	9	
<code>univ[2][-1]</code>	$56+4*-1 = 52$	5	
<code>univ[3][-1]</code>	??	??	
<code>univ[1][12]</code>	$16+4*12 = 64$	7	

- Code does not do any bounds checking
- Ordering of elements in different arrays not guaranteed

# Strange Referencing Examples



Reference	Address	Value	Guaranteed?
<code>univ[2][3]</code>	$56+4*3 = 68$	2	Yes
<code>univ[1][5]</code>	$16+4*5 = 36$	9	No
<code>univ[2][-1]</code>	$56+4*-1 = 52$	5	No
<code>univ[3][-1]</code>	??	??	No
<code>univ[1][12]</code>	$16+4*12 = 64$	7	No

- Code does not do any bounds checking
- Ordering of elements in different arrays not guaranteed

# Using Nested Arrays

```
#define N 16
typedef int fix_matrix[N][N];
```

```
/* Compute element i,k of
   fixed matrix product */
int fix_prod_ele
(fix_matrix a, fix_matrix b,
 int i, int k)
{
    int j;
    int result = 0;
    for (j = 0; j < N; j++)
        result += a[i][j]*b[j][k];
    return result;
}
```

# Using Nested Arrays

## ■ Strengths

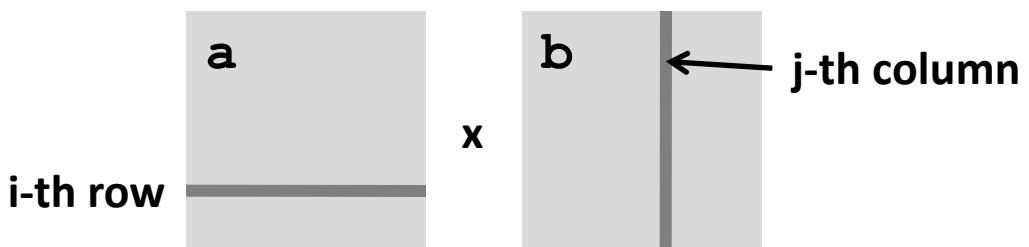
- C compiler handles doubly subscripted arrays
- Generates very efficient code
- Avoids multiply in index computation

## ■ Limitation

- Only works for fixed array size

```
#define N 16
typedef int fix_matrix[N][N];
```

```
/* Compute element i,k of
   fixed matrix product */
int fix_prod_ele
(fix_matrix a, fix_matrix b,
 int i, int k)
{
    int j;
    int result = 0;
    for (j = 0; j < N; j++)
        result += a[i][j]*b[j][k];
    return result;
}
```



# Dynamic Nested Arrays

## ■ Strength

- Can create matrix of any size

## ■ Programming

- Must do index computation explicitly

## ■ Performance

- Accessing single element costly
- Must do multiplication

```
int * new_var_matrix(int n)
{
    return (int *)
        calloc(sizeof(int), n*n);
}
```

```
int var_ele
    (int *a, int i, int j, int n)
{
    return a[i*n+j];
}
```

```
movl 12(%ebp),%eax      # i
movl 8(%ebp),%edx       # a
imull 20(%ebp),%eax     # n*i
addl 16(%ebp),%eax      # n*i+j
movl (%edx,%eax,4),%eax # Mem[a+4*(i*n+j)]
```

# Structures

```
struct rec {  
    int i;  
    int a[3];  
    int *p;  
};
```

# Structures

```
struct rec {
    int i;
    int a[3];
    int *p;
};
```

## Memory Layout



## Concept

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

## Accessing structure member

```
void
set_i(struct rec *r,
      int val)
{
    r->i = val;
// (*r).i = val;
}
```

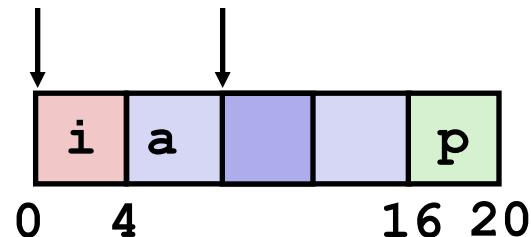
In java: `r.i = val;`

## IA32 Assembly

```
# %eax = val
# %edx = r
movl %eax, (%edx)    # Mem[r] = val
```

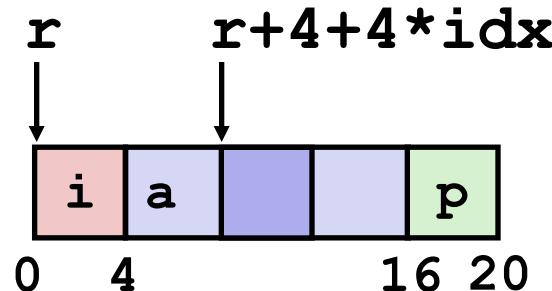
# Generating Pointer to Structure Member

```
struct rec {  
    int i;  
    int a[3];  
    int *p;  
};
```



# Generating Pointer to Structure Member

```
struct rec {
    int i;
    int a[3];
    int *p;
};
```



## ■ Generating Pointer to Array Element

- Offset of each structure member determined at compile time

```
int *find_a // r.a[idx]
(struct rec *r, int idx)
{
    return &r->a[idx];
// return &(*((r).a + idx));
}
```

```
# %ecx = idx
# %edx = r
leal 0(,%ecx,4),%eax    # 4*idx
leal 4(%eax,%edx),%eax # r+4*idx+4
```

# Structure Referencing (Cont.)

## ■ C Code

```
struct rec {  
    int i;  
    int a[3];  
    int *p;  
};
```

```
void set_p(struct rec *r)  
{  
    r->p = &r->a[r->i];  
    // (*r).p = &(*((*r).a+(*r).i));  
}
```



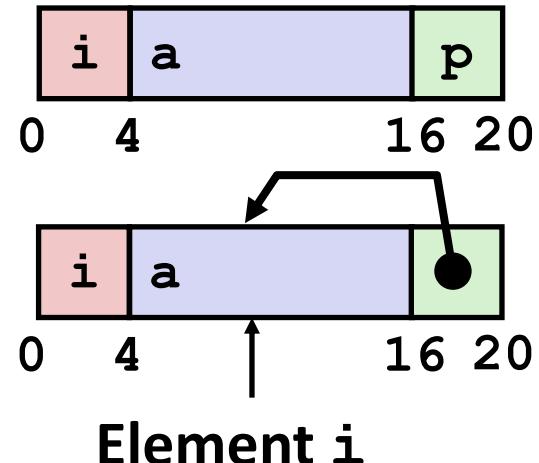
# Structure Referencing (Cont.)

## ■ C Code

```
struct rec {
    int i;
    int a[3];
    int *p;
};
```

```
void set_p(struct rec *r)
{
    r->p = &r->a[r->i];
// (*r).p = &(*((*r).a+(*r).i));
}
```

```
# %edx = r
movl (%edx),%ecx          # r->i
leal 0(%ecx,4),%eax        # 4*(r->i)
leal 4(%edx,%eax),%eax    # r+4+4*(r->i)
movl %eax,16(%edx)         # Update r->p
```



# Alignment

## ■ Aligned Data

- Primitive data type requires K bytes
- Address must be multiple of K
- Required on some machines; advised on IA32
  - treated differently by IA32 Linux, x86-64 Linux, and Windows!

## ■ What is the motivation for alignment?

# Alignment

## ■ Aligned Data

- Primitive data type requires K bytes
- Address must be multiple of K
- Required on some machines; advised on IA32
  - treated differently by IA32 Linux, x86-64 Linux, and Windows!

## ■ Motivation for Aligning Data

- Memory accessed by (aligned) chunks of 4 or 8 bytes (system-dependent)
  - Inefficient to load or store datum that spans quad word boundaries
  - Virtual memory very tricky when datum spans two pages (later...)

## ■ Compiler

- Inserts gaps in structure to ensure correct alignment of fields

# Specific Cases of Alignment (IA32)

- **1 byte: char, ...**
  - no restrictions on address
- **2 bytes: short, ...**
  - lowest 1 bit of address must be  $0_2$
- **4 bytes: int, float, char \*, ...**
  - lowest 2 bits of address must be  $00_2$
- **8 bytes: double, ...**
  - Windows (and most other OS's & instruction sets): lowest 3 bits  $000_2$
  - Linux: lowest 2 bits of address must be  $00_2$ 
    - i.e., treated the same as a 4-byte primitive data type
- **12 bytes: long double**
  - Windows, Linux: (same as Linux double)

# Satisfying Alignment with Structures

## ■ Within structure:

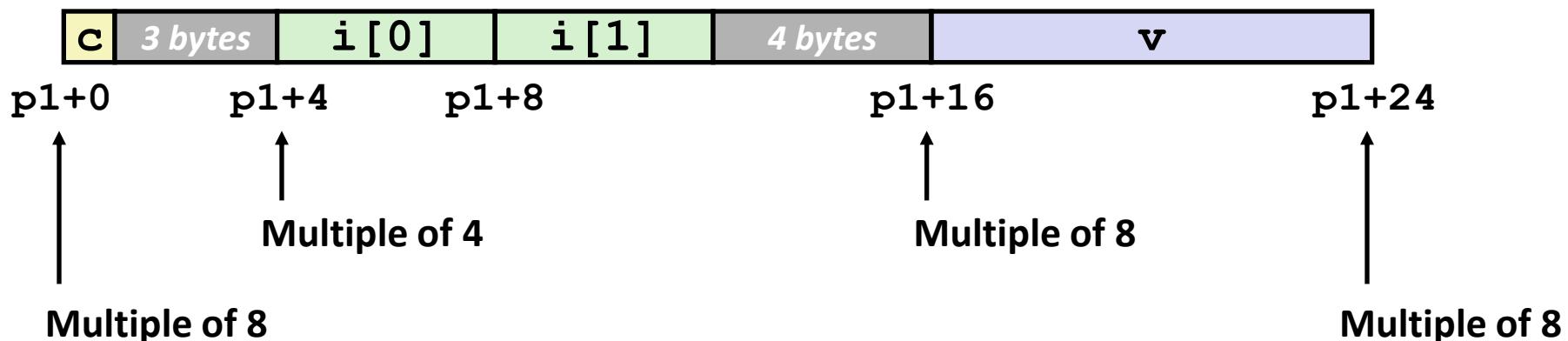
- Must satisfy element's alignment requirement

## ■ Overall structure placement

- Each structure has alignment requirement K
  - $K = \text{Largest alignment of any element}$
- Initial address & structure length must be multiples of K

## ■ Example (under Windows or x86-64):

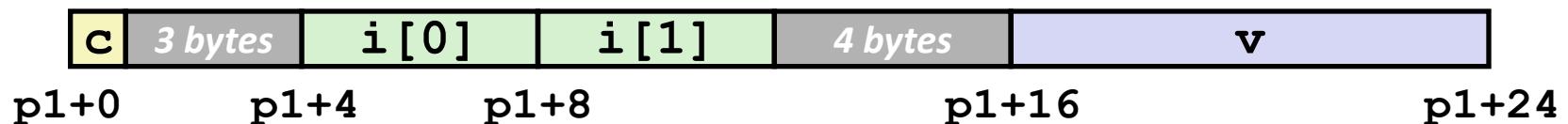
- $K = 8$ , due to double element



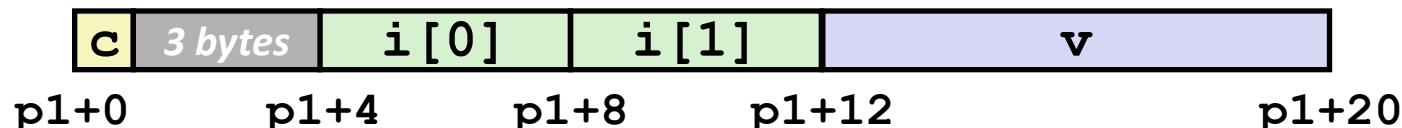
# Different Alignment Conventions

- IA32 Windows or x86-64:
  - K = 8, due to double element

```
struct S1 {  
    char c;  
    int i[2];  
    double v;  
} *p1;
```

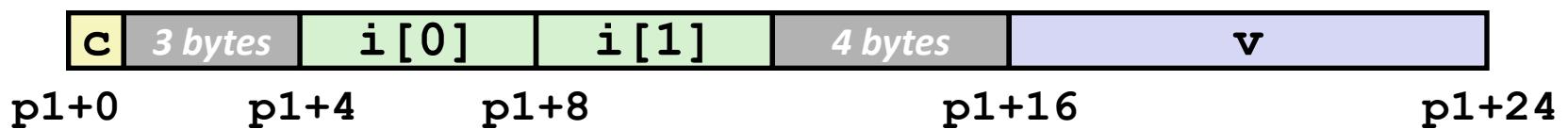


- IA32 Linux
  - K = 4; double treated like a 4-byte data type



# Saving Space

```
struct S1 {  
    char c;  
    int i[2];  
    double v;  
} *p1;
```



# Saving Space

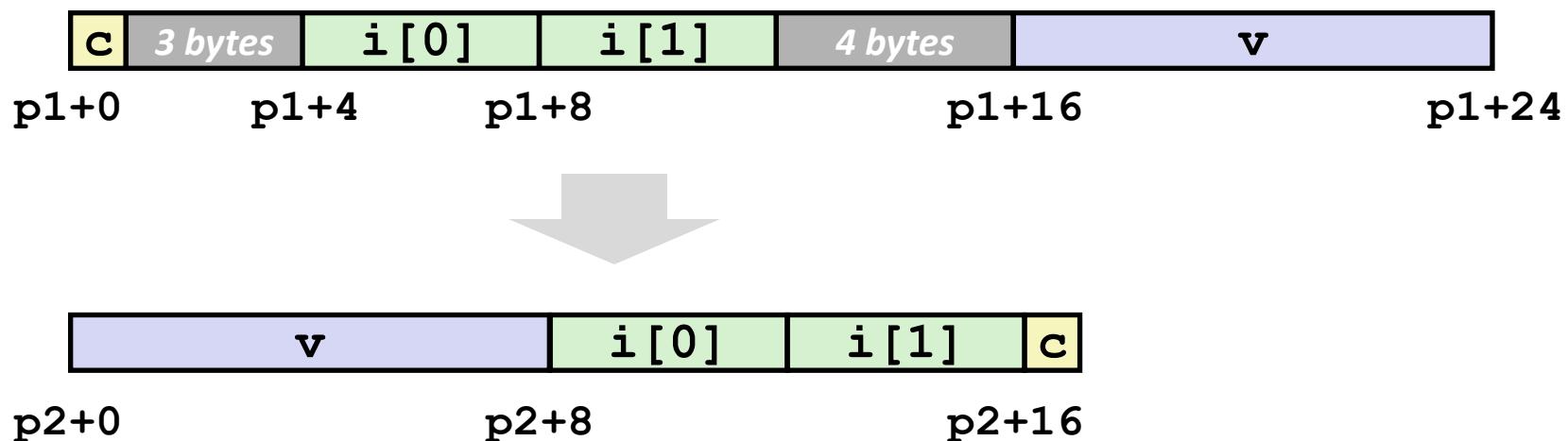
- Put large data types first

```
struct S1 {  
    char c;  
    int i[2];  
    double v;  
} *p1;
```



```
struct S2 {  
    double v;  
    int i[2];  
    char c;  
} *p2;
```

- Effect (example x86-64, both have K=8)



# Arrays of Structures

- Satisfy alignment requirement for every element

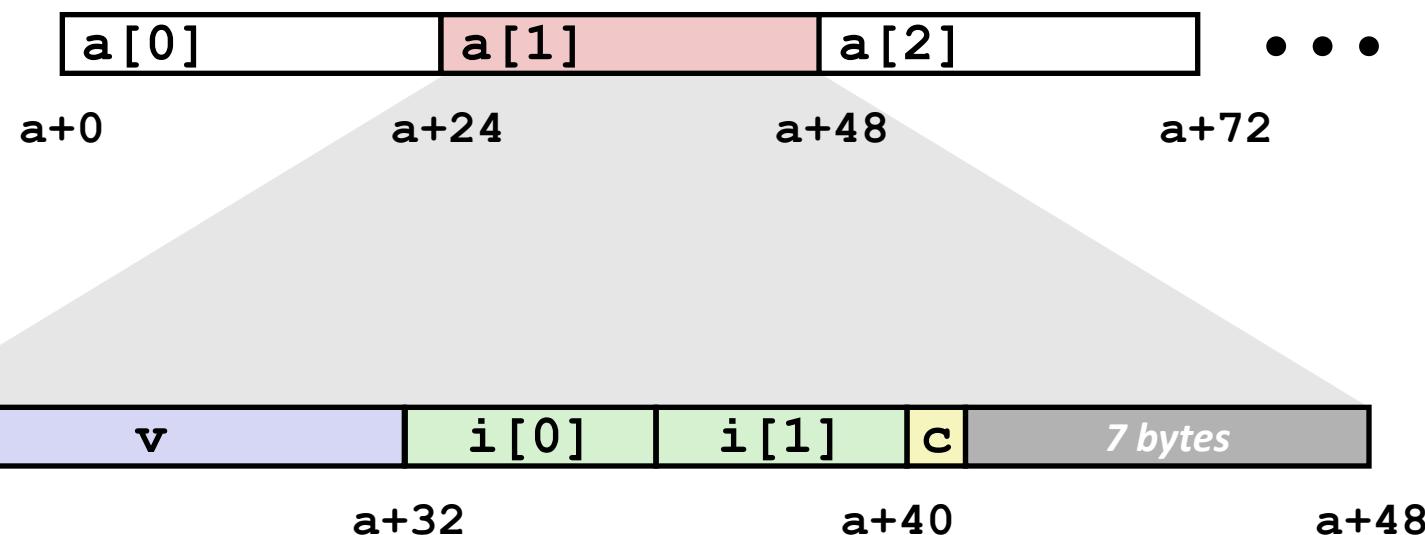
```
struct s2 {  
    double v;  
    int i[2];  
    char c;  
} a[10];
```



# Arrays of Structures

- Satisfy alignment requirement for every element

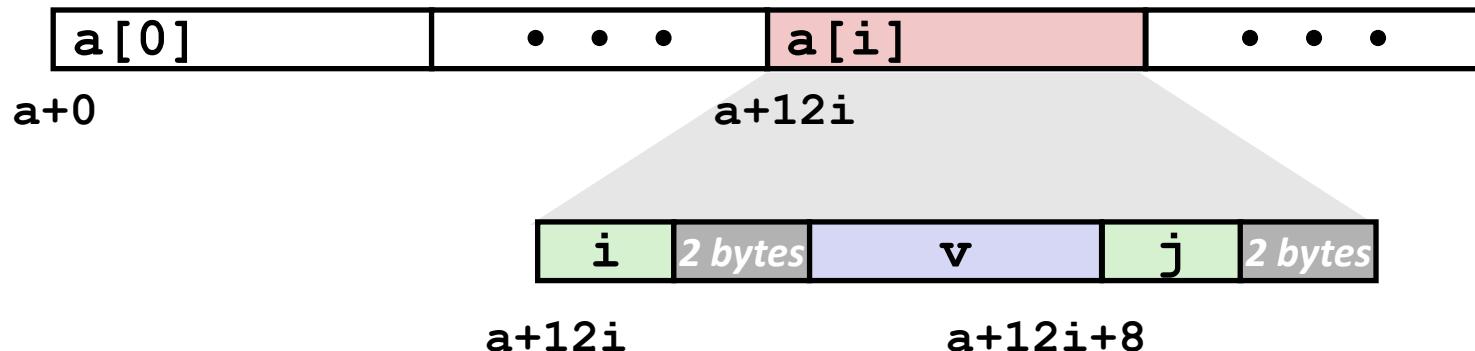
```
struct S2 {  
    double v;  
    int i[2];  
    char c;  
} a[10];
```



# Accessing Array Elements

- Compute array offset  $12i$
- Compute offset  $8$  with structure
- Assembler gives offset  $a+8$ 
  - Resolved during linking

```
struct S3 {
    short i;
    float v;
    short j;
} a[10];
```



```
short get_j(int idx)
{
    return a[idx].j;
// return (a + idx)->j;
}
```

```
# %eax = idx
leal (%eax,%eax,2),%eax # 3*idx
movswl a+8(,%eax,4),%eax
```

# Unions

```
struct rec {  
    int i;  
    int a[3];  
    int *p;  
};
```

```
union urec {  
    int i;  
    int a[3];  
    int *p;  
};
```

## ■ Concept

- Allow same regions of memory to be referenced as different types
- Aliases for the same memory location

# Unions

```
struct rec {  
    int i;  
    int a[3];  
    int *p;  
};
```

```
union urec {  
    int i;  
    int a[3];  
    int *p;  
};
```

## Concept

- Allow same regions of memory to be referenced as different types
- Aliases for the same memory location

## Structure Layout



# Unions

```
struct rec {
    int i;
    int a[3];
    int *p;
};
```

```
union urec {
    int i;
    int a[3];
    int *p;
};
```

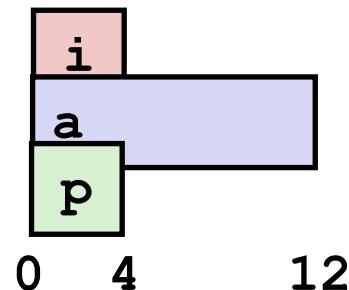
## Concept

- Allow same regions of memory to be referenced as different types
- Aliases for the same memory location

## Structure Layout



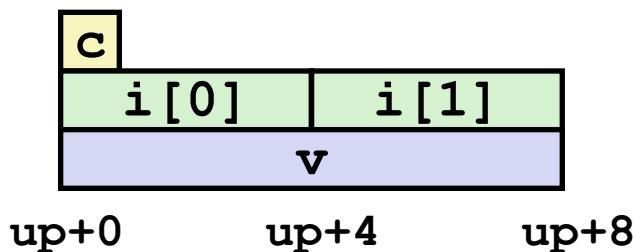
## Union Layout



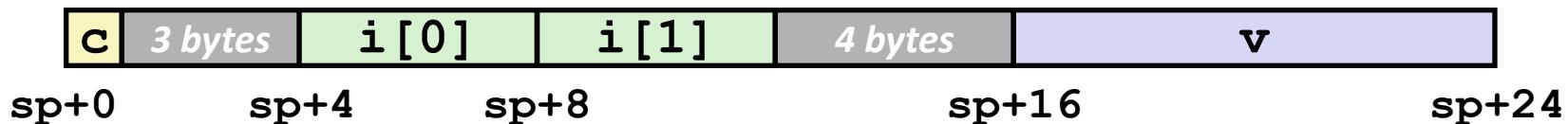
# Union Allocation

- Allocate according to largest element
- Can only use one field at a time

```
union U1 {
    char c;
    int i[2];
    double v;
} *up;
```

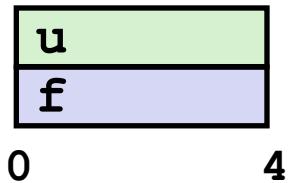


```
struct S1 {
    char c;
    int i[2];
    double v;
} *sp;
```



# Using Union to Access Bit Patterns

```
typedef union {
    float f;
    unsigned u;
} bit_float_t;
```



```
float bit2float(unsigned u)
{
    bit_float_t arg;
    arg.u = u;
    return arg.f;
}
```

```
unsigned float2bit(float f)
{
    bit_float_t arg;
    arg.f = f;
    return arg.u;
}
```

Same as (float) u ?

Same as (unsigned) f ?

# Summary

## ■ Arrays in C

- Contiguous allocation of memory
- Aligned to satisfy every element's alignment requirement
- Pointer to first element
- No bounds checking

## ■ Structures

- Allocate bytes in order declared
- Pad in middle and at end to satisfy alignment

## ■ Unions

- Overlay declarations
- Way to circumvent type system