AER E 361: Computational Techniques for Aerospace Design Writing Generic Code

Iowa State University





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Union Data Structure

Void Pointers

Git: Review

ALWAYS PULL FIRST

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Prof. Rozier

AER E 361

Git: Review

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- Best tool for watching complex things, like what's stored in memory
- Don't need to figure out what type to print like printf



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Struct

```
struct [structure name] {
    member definition;
    member definition;
    ...
    member definition;
};
```

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Union

```
union [union name] {
    member definition;
    member definition;
    ...
    member definition;
};
```

Struct vs Union

Similarities

- User-defined combination types
- Members can be any type:
 - struct
 - union
 - bit field
 - int, char, array, pointer, ...
- support only assignment and sizeof operators
 - two struct/union(s) in = must have same members and member types

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- can be passed by value
- access members with '.' operator

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Struct vs Union

	STRUCTURE	UNION
Keyword	The keyword struct is used to define a structure	The keyword union is used to define a union.
Size	When a variable is associated with a structure, the compiler allocates the memory for each member. The size of structure is greater than or equal to the sum of sizes of its members.	when a variable is associated with a union, the compiler allocates the memory by considering the size of the largest memory. So, size of union is equal to the size of largest member.
Memory	Each member within a structure is assigned unique storage area of location.	Memory allocated is shared by individual members of union.
Value Altering	Altering the value of a member will not affect other members of the structure.	Altering the value of any of the member will alter other member values.
Accessing members	Individual member can be accessed at a time.	Only one member can be accessed at a time.
Initialization of Members	Several members of a structure can initialize at once.	Only the first member of a union can be initialized.

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The Power of Generic Code!

(void *)
https:
//www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxMMDfeh8_Y&feature=youtu.be

Function Pointers

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axngwDJ79GY

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