


CSE 3302  
Programming Languages




# Data Types

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Fall 2007

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Algorithms+Data Structures=Programs



- Niklaus Wirth, 1976.
- Most languages clearly show traces of both
- Some languages appears to be mostly data?
- Some languages appears to be mostly control?

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## Data Types




- What is a data type?  
A name with certain attributes:
  - The values that can be stored, the internal representation, the operations, ...
- A data type is a set of values
  - e.g., int in Java:
 

```
int x;
x∈Integers= [-2147483648, 2147483647]
```
- A data type is also a set of operations on the values
- Thus a data type is an algebra

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## Why are data types important?



- Example:  $Z = x / y$ ; (Java)
  - int x, y; x=5; y=2;
    - Integer division, x/y results in 2.
    - int z: z = 2;
    - double z: z=2.0;
  - double x, y; x=5; y=2;
    - floating-point division, x/y results in 2.5
    - int z: wrong!
    - double z: z=2.5;

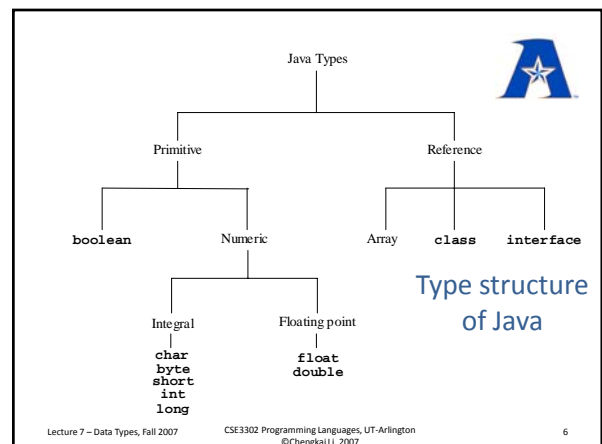
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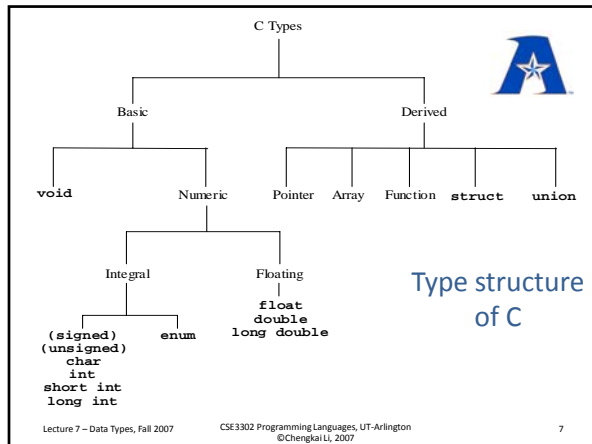
## Data Types in Sample Languages



- Different terminologies and hierarchies for similar things.

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## Simple Data Types



- No internal structure:  
e.g., integer, double, character, and Boolean.
- Often directly supported in hardware.
  - machine dependency
  - standardization efforts: e.g., IEEE standard 754 floating point
    - Single precision: 32 bit representation with 1 bit sign, 8 bit exponent, 23 bit mantissa
- Most predefined types are simple types.
  - Exceptions: *String* in Java.
- Some simple types are not predefined
  - Enumerated types
  - Subrange types

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## Enumerated Types



*ordered* set, whose elements are *named* and *listed* explicitly.

- Examples:

```
enum Color_Type {Red, Green, Blue};      ( C )
type Color_Type is (Red, Green, Blue);  ( Ada )
datatype Color_Type = Red | Green | Blue; ( ML )
```

- Operations: ?

Successor and predecessor

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## Ada Example



```
type Color_Type is (Red, Green, Blue);
```

```
x : Color_Type := Green;
x : Color_Type' Succ(x);
x : Color_Type' Pred(x);
put(x);          -- prints GREEN
```

- No assumptions about the internal representation of values
- Print the value name itself

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## Pascal Example



```
type
  cardsuit = (club, diamond, heart, spade);
  card = record
    suit: cardsuit;
    value: 1 .. 13;
  end;
var
  hand: array [ 1 .. 13 ] of card;
```

- Succ(diamond) = heart; Pred(spade) = heart;
- club < heart; is true.
- for acard := club to heart do

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## C Example



```
#include <stdio.h>
enum Color {Red, Green, Blue};
enum Courses {CSE1111=1, CSE3302=3, CSE3310=3, CSE5555=4};
main() {
  enum Color x = Green;
  x++;
  printf("%d\n",x);
  printf("%d\n",Blue+1);
  return 0;
}
```

What's the result?

- Enum in C is simply int
- Can customize the values

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## Subrange Types

*contiguous subsets* of simple types, with a *least* and *greatest* element.

- Example:
 

```
type Digit_Type is range 0..9;           (Ada)
byte digit:    //-128..127
...
if (digit>9 || digit <0) throw new DigitException();
```
- Not available in C,C++,Java. Need to use something like:
  - defined over **ordinal types**:
    - ordered, every value has a next/previous element
      - E.g., integer, enumerations, and subrange itself
    - Even floating number is ordinal type in Ada
      - Unit\_Interval is digits 8 range 0.0 .. 1.0;

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## Evaluation of Enumeration Types

- **Efficiency** – e.g., compiler can select and use a compact efficient representation (e.g., small integers)
- **Readability** -- e.g. no need to code a color as a number
- **Maintainability** – e.g., adding a new color doesn't require updating hard-coded constants.
- **Reliability** -- e.g. compiler can check operations and ranges of value.

Courtesy of Charles Nicholas at UMBC

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## Type constructors: Defining New Types

- Remember our view of data types as sets?
- Type constructors as set operations:
  - Cartesian product
  - Union
  - Subset
  - Functions (Arrays)
- Some type constructors do not correspond to set operations (e.g., pointers)
- Some set operators don't have corresponding type constructors (e.g., intersection)

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## Cartesian Product

- **Ordered Pairs of elements from U and V**

$$U \times V = \{(u, v) \mid u \in U \text{ and } v \in V\}$$

- **Operations:**

- **projection**

$$p_1: U \times V \rightarrow U; \quad p_2: U \times V \rightarrow V$$

$$p_1((u,v))=u; \quad p_2((u,v))=v$$

- **copy**

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## Examples

- **struct in C**

```
struct IntCharReal
{
    int i;
    char c;
    double r;
}
int x char x double
```
- **record in Ada**

```
type IntCharReal is record
    i: integer;
    c: character;
    r: float;
end record;
```

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## The same type?

```
struct IntCharReal
{
    int i;
    char c;
    double r;
}

struct IntCharReal
{
    char c;
    int i;
    double r;
}
```

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## The same type?



```
struct IntCharReal
{
    int i;
    char c;
    double r;
}

struct IntCharReal
{
    int j;
    char ch;
    double d;
}
```

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## Record/structure are not exactly Cartesian products



- Component selector: projection by component names  

```
struct IntCharReal x;
x.i;
```
- Most languages consider component names to be part of the type.
- Thus the previous two types can be considered different, even though they represent the same Cartesian product.

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## ML: Pure Cartesian Product



```
type IntCharReal = int * char * real;
```

- (2, #"a", 3.14): string \* int
- #3(2, #"a", 3.14) = 3.14

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## Union



- $U \cup V = \{x \mid x \in U \text{ or } x \in V\}$ 
  - data items with different types are stored in overlapping region, reduce memory allocation.
  - Only one type of value is valid at one time.
  - E.g.,

```
union IntOrReal {
    int i;
    double r;
}
```
- Different from records?

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## Undiscriminated Union in C



```
union IntOrReal {
    int i;
    double r;
}
union IntOrReal x;
x.i = 1;
printf("%f\n", x.r);
```

- Can be unsafe

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## Create Discriminated Union in C++



```
struct IntOrReal {
    bool isInt;
    union {
        int i;
        double r;
    };
};

IntOrReal x;
x.isInt = true;
x.i = 1;
...
if (x.isInt) printf("%d\n", x.i);
else printf("%f\n", x.r);
```

- Safe now
- or not?

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## Discriminated Union in Ada

- Variant record (with tag or discriminator)

```
type Disc is (IsInt, IsReal);
type IntOrReal (which: Disc) is
record
  case which is
    when IsInt => i: integer;
    when IsReal => r: float;
  end case;
end record;
...
x: IntOrReal := (IsReal, 2.3);
put (x.i); -- generates ERROR
```

- Safe: programmers won't be able to create inconsistent data

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## Discriminated Union in Pascal

- Variant record
- Can be unsafe:
  - First, the tag is optional
  - Second, the tag can be set inconsistently.

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## Discriminated Union in ML

```
datatype IntOrReal =
  IsInt of int | IsReal of real;
```

- `val x = IsReal(2.3);`

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## How about Java?

- Is there record or union in java? Why?

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## “Union” in Java

- `public abstract class A {...};`  
`public class B extends A {...};`  
`public class C extends A {...};`

Abstract class A: union of B and C.

- Discriminated union: `instanceof`

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