

# Bit Field (1A)

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# Padding

**Padding:** aligned with a natural address boundary

32-bit platforms

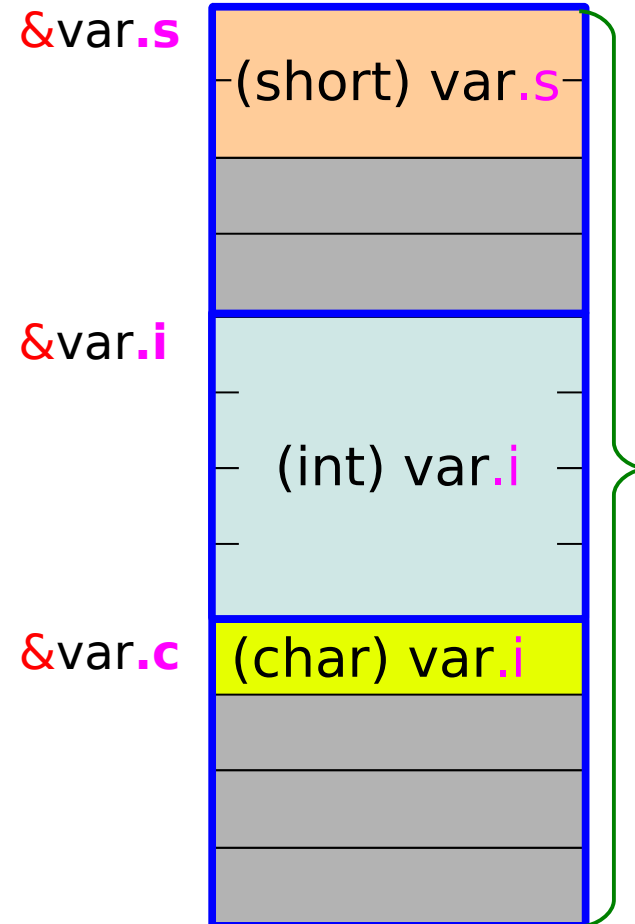
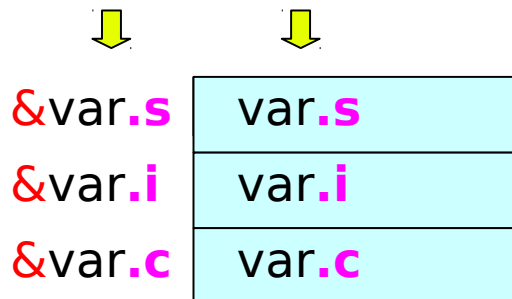
```
struct aaa {  
    short s;  
    int i;  
    char c;  
};
```

definition

```
struct aaa var;
```

var declaration

address data



sizeof (var) = 12 bytes

# Packing Structure

structure type

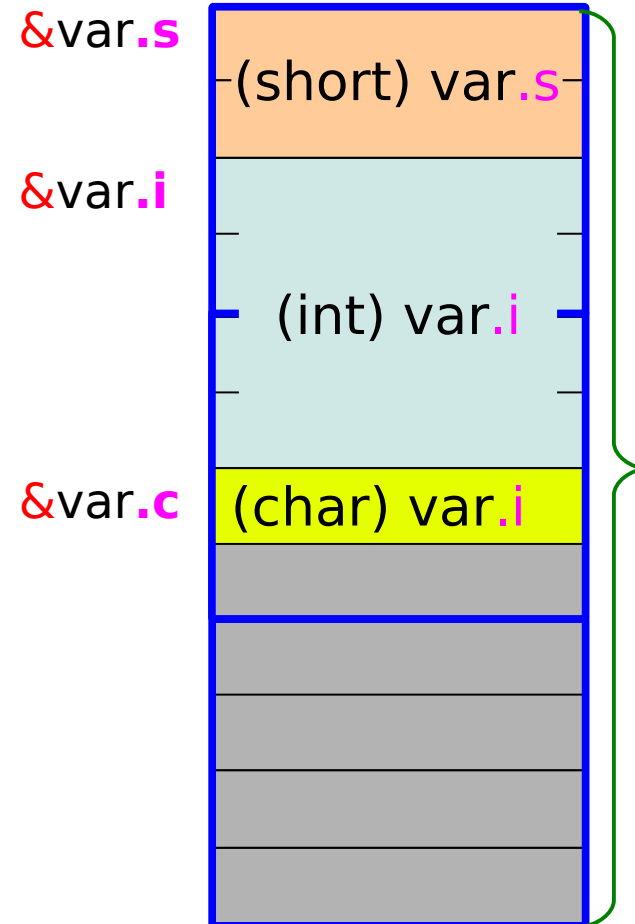
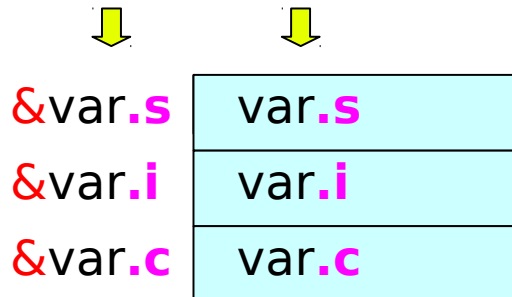
```
struct __attribute__((__packed__)) aaa {  
    short    s;   
    int      i;   
    char     c;  
};
```

definition

```
struct __attribute__((__packed__)) aaa var;
```

var declaration

address data



sizeof (var) = 7 bytes

# Bit Field

structure type definition

```
struct aaa {
```

```
    unsigned a:4;
```

```
    unsigned b:3;
```

```
    unsigned c:1;
```

```
};
```

Subdivision of unsigned int field

```
unsigned int X;
```

```
struct aaa
```

```
var;
```

var declaration

Accessing bit fields

```
var.a
```

```
var.b
```

```
var.c
```

types for subdivision

- unsigned int
- (signed) int
- unsigned char

# Bit Field Width – Little Endian Examples

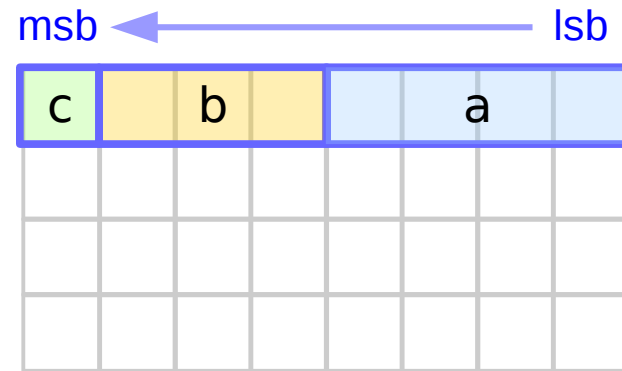
structure type definition

```
struct aaa {  
    unsigned a:4;  
    unsigned b:3;  
    unsigned c:1;  
};
```

```
struct aaa var;
```

var declaration

LSByte  
↓  
MSByte



a:4 bits;

b:3 bits;

c:1 bit;

sizeof(unsigned) = 4 bytes (32-bits)

Little Endian: LSB first

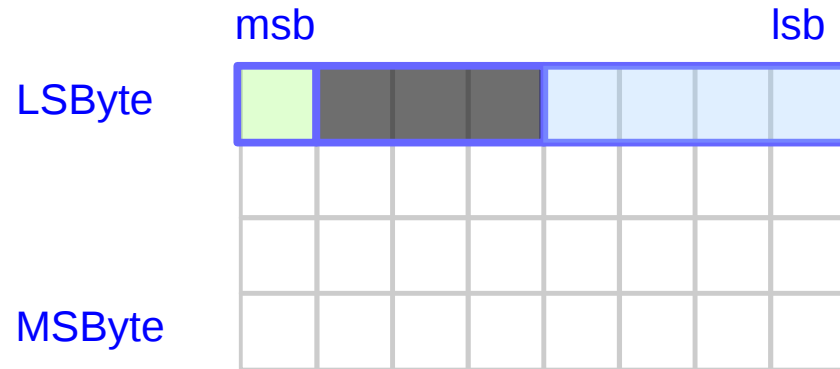
# Unnamed Bit Field - Padding

structure type definition

```
struct aaa {  
    unsigned int a:4;  
    signed int   :3;  
    int          c:1;  
};
```

```
struct aaa var;
```

var declaration



# Bit Field & Endians

structure type

```
struct aaa {
```

```
    unsigned int a:4;
```

```
    unsigned int b:3;
```

```
    unsigned int c:1;
```

```
};
```

lsb



structure type

```
struct aaa {
```

```
    unsigned int c:1;
```

```
    unsigned int b:3;
```

```
    unsigned int a:4;
```

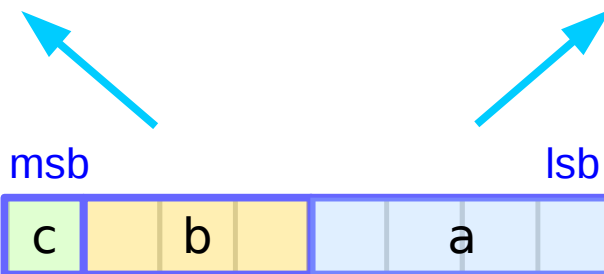
```
};
```

msb



Little Endian

Big Endian





## References

- [1] Essential C, Nick Parlante
- [2] Efficient C Programming, Mark A. Weiss
- [3] C A Reference Manual, Samuel P. Harbison & Guy L. Steele Jr.
- [4] C Language Express, I. K. Chun
- [5] “A Whirlwind Tutorial on Creating Really Teensy ELF Executables for Linux”  
<http://cseweb.ucsd.edu/~ricko/CSE131/teensyELF.htm>
- [6] “Fundamentals of Embedded Software ...”, D.L. Lewis