

Structures

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Course Material - SD, SB, PSK, NSN, DK, TAG - CS&E, IIT M



- Collection of one or more variables, possibly of different types, grouped together under a single name for easy handling.
- For example a structure which represents a point in a two dimensional plane











Operations on Structures

- · Structures may be copied by assignment statement
- The address of the structure (use &) can be passed
 - to functions and can be returned by functions
 - one can pass an entire structure
 - one can pass some components of a structure
 - one can pass a pointer to a structure
- Structures may not be compared

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<i>struct</i> rectangle screen;			
struct point middle;			
struct point makePoint(int, int);			
<pre>screen.pt1 = makePoint(0, 0);</pre>			
<pre>screen.pt2 = makePoint(XMAX, YMAX);</pre>			
middle =			
<pre>makePoint((screen.pt1.x+screen.pt2.x)/2,</pre>			
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<i>typedef struct</i> book{	
char title[20];	
char authors[30];	
<i>int</i> accNo;	
char subject[25];	
} <i>BookType</i> ;	
BookType cText;	// a C textbook
BookType shelf[100];	// a shelf holds 100 books

Using Structures • Let us create a type for complex numbers and a few operations on complex numbers *typedef struct* { *float* real; *float* imag; }Complex; Complex sum (Complex *m*, Complex *n*); Complex product (Complex *m*, Complex *n*); SD, PSK, NSN, DK, TAG-CS&E, IIT M











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• Given the de	claration <i>struct</i> { <i>int len</i> ; <i>char</i> * <i>str</i> ;} * <i>p</i>
• ++ <i>p</i> -> <i>len</i>	// increments <i>len</i> not <i>p</i> ; same as ++(<i>p</i> -> <i>len</i>
• (++ <i>p</i>)-> <i>len</i>	// increments p before accessing len
• <i>p</i> ++-> <i>len</i>	// increments p after accessing len
• * <i>p->str</i>	// fetches whatever str points to
• * <i>p->str</i> ++	// increments <i>str</i> after accessing // whatever it points to
• (*p->str)++	// increments whatever str points to
• * <i>p</i> ++-> <i>str</i>	// increments p after accessing whatever str // points to

Dynamic Data Structures

- How does one cater to an uncertain and changing amount of memory requirements?
 - for example if the number of students writing an online surprise exam is unknown
- One way is to use dynamic tables/arrays
 - declare an array of some size N
 - if it seems to be getting full declare an array of twice the size and copy all elements into it
- The other is to ask for memory for a structure one at a time and link them together

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# <i>include</i> <stdio.h></stdio.h>	We create a linked list of 10 words, read
# <i>include</i> <stdlib.h></stdlib.h>	from input and set their frequencies as 1.
# <i>include</i> <string.h></string.h>	We go down the list to also print the words.
<i>typedef struct</i> node	
{ <i>char</i> word[20]; <i>int</i>	freq; <i>struct</i> node *nextWord;} wordNode;
<i>void</i> main() {	
wordNode *firstNode	e, *temp, *lastNode;
firstNode = NULLI ·	
man tout - NULL,	
<i>for</i> (<i>int</i> i = 0; i < 10; i <i>char</i> word[20];	+++) { /* create a 10 word list with freq = 1 *
<i>for (int</i> i = 0; i < 10; i <i>char</i> word[20]; <i>printf</i> ("Input a word	++) { /* create a 10 word list with freq = 1 * d of max length 20 and press enter: ");
<i>for (int</i> i = 0; i < 10; i <i>char</i> word[20]; <i>printf</i> ("Input a word <i>scanf</i> ("%s", word)	++) { /* create a 10 word list with freq = 1 * rd of max length 20 and press enter: ");

<pre>temp = (wordNode *) malloc (sizeof(wordNode));</pre>	
<i>strcpy</i> (temp->word, word); temp->freq = 1;	
<i>if</i> (firstNode == NULL) firstNode = temp; /* add the new node	*/
<i>else</i> lastNode -> nextWord = temp;	
<pre>lastNode = temp; } /* end of for loop */</pre>	
Temp = firstNode;	
<i>Printf</i> ("The words you gave are: \n");	
<i>While</i> (temp != NULL) do {	
<i>Printf</i> ("%s \n", temp->word);	
Temp = temp->nextWord; }	
} /* end of main */	
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Exercise

- Suppose we have a travel agency which stores information about each flight:
 - Flight Number
 - Originating airport code (3 letters)
 - Destination airport code (3 letters)
 - Departure Time
 - Arrival Time
- Define a structure(s) for the flight information
- Write a function to read in the flight info for all flights
- Write a function to find the info for a given origin and destination

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Storing and Accessing Elements

- Linked list are accessed by following the pointers – linear time complexity
- Search trees are traversed by comparing values at nodes – logarithmic time complexity for balanced trees
- · Array elements are accessed by using the index
 - constant time complexity
 - index value should be known (else search)
- Can we store names/strings in arrays?
 - and find them in constant time
 - Yes, in Hash tables (average complexity)

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Computer Solutions

- Problem Solving
 - main purpose of using computers
- Steps
 - clear specification, understanding of the problem
 - remove unnecessary details and retain only the required parameters, constraints of the problem
 "abstraction" better insight, helps in thinking
 - find the method of solving the problem
 "algorithm design" "efficiency"
 - express the solution in a programming language

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References

- Peter Grogono and Sharon Nelson, Problem Solving and Computer Programming, Narosa, 1987.
- R G Dromey, How to Solve it by Computer, Prentice-Hall India, 1996.

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Homework Exercise

- Write a program to take a filename as a command line argument, open the file and count the frequencies of the different words in the file.
- Given a "-n" option it should print the words preceded by their counts in an increasing order of frequency, one word per line.
- Otherwise it should print the words in alphabetic order

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