



C Programming

Structs

Adam Sampson (based on material by Greg Michaelson)
School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences
Heriot-Watt University

Structures

- A finite sequence of elements
 - Like an object, but without methods
- Elements (**fields**) have potentially different types
- Each element is identified by a field name
- e.g. Person contains:
 - name (String)
 - height (Float)
 - age (Integer)

Structure type definition

```
struct name { type1 name1; ... typeN nameN; };
```

- This defines a **new type**, struct *name*
- It does **not** allocate space for an object

```
struct name1 name2;
```

- Allocates space for an instance of struct *name1* called *name2*

typedef

```
typedef oldtype newtype;
```

- Defines an additional name for an existing type
- A **type alias** – not a new, different type

```
typedef float length;
```

```
typedef struct person person_t;
```

```
typedef struct {  
    const char *name;  
    int age;  
} person_t;
```

You can include a struct definition inside a typedef or variable declaration

Structure layout

```
struct { type1 name1; ... typeN nameN; } name;
```

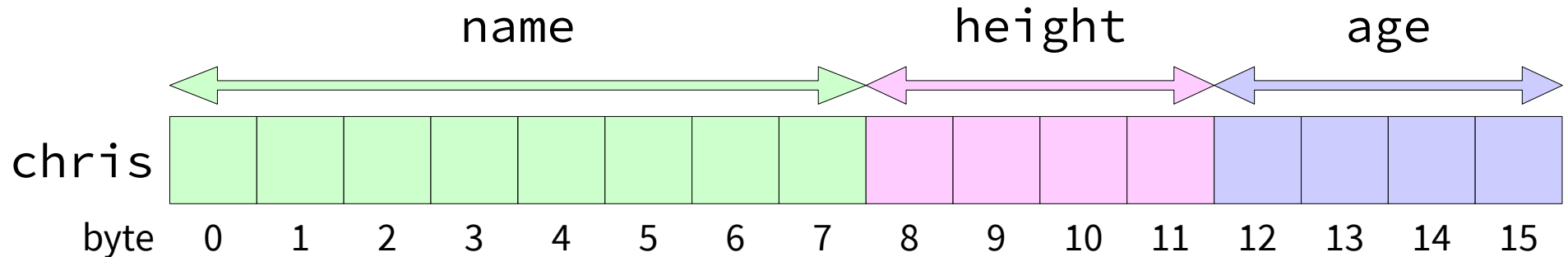
- Size: at least `sizeof(type1) + ... + sizeof(typeN)`
- May be bigger because of **padding** – extra space inserted by the compiler to align fields efficiently in memory
- Fields stored in memory from left to right
- *name* is not the same as *&name*
 - *&name* is a pointer – the **address** of the first byte
 - *name* is the **value** of the structure

person.c

Person structure

Structure declaration

```
struct person {  
    const char *name;  
    float height;  
    int age;  
};  
struct person chris;
```



freq.c

Frequency count

Frequency count

- Count how often each distinct character appears in a file
- Array of `struct`s to hold character and count
- For each character in file:
 - If there is already a `struct` in the array for the next character: increment count within that existing `struct`
 - Else (we haven't seen this character before): create a new `struct` for that character with the count 1, and add it to the array

Frequency count

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
```

```
#define MAX 256
```

```
struct freq {
    int ch;
    int count;
};
```

```
struct freq f[MAX];
int fp;
```

- fp is index of next free entry in f

	ch	count
MAX-1		

fp →		
	'1'	1
	' '	17
	'a'	3
	'0'	4
	' , '	7
0	'v'	2

Frequency count

```
void incFreq(int ch)
{
    for (int i = 0; i < fp; i++) {
        if (f[i].ch == ch) {
            f[i].count++;
            return;
        }
    }
}
```

- Search f for entry for ch
- If found, increment count and return
- If ch was 'a' ...

	ch	count
MAX-1		

fp →		
	'1'	1
	' '	17
i →	'a'	3
	'0'	4
	' , '	7
0	'v'	2

Frequency count

```
void incFreq(int ch)
{
    for (int i = 0; i < fp; i++) {
        if (f[i].ch == ch) {
            f[i].count++;
            return;
        }
    }
}
```

- Search f for entry for ch
- If found, increment count and return
- If ch was 'a' ...

	ch	count
MAX-1		

fp →		
	'1'	1
	' '	17
i →	'a'	4
	'0'	4
	' , '	7
0	'v'	2

Frequency count

```
if (fp == MAX) {  
    printf("error\n");  
    exit(1);  
}  
f[fp].ch = ch;  
f[fp].count = 1;  
fp++;  
}
```

- If the loop doesn't find ch...
- Make sure f isn't full
- Fill in f[fp] with ch and 1
- Increment fp

	ch	count
MAX-1		

fp →		
i →	'1'	1
	' '	17
	'a'	4
	'0'	4
	'.'	7
0	'v'	2

Frequency count

```
if (fp == MAX) {  
    printf("error\n");  
    exit(1);  
}  
f[fp].ch = ch;  
f[fp].count = 1;  
fp++;  
}
```

- If the loop doesn't find ch...
- Make sure f isn't full
- Fill in f[fp] with ch and 1
- Increment fp

	ch	count
MAX-1		

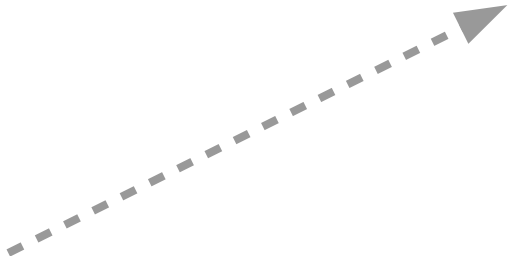
fp →		
	'p'	1
	'1'	1
	' '	17
	'a'	4
	'0'	4
	','	7
0	'v'	2

Frequency count

```
void showFreq(void)
{
    for (int i = 0; i < fp; i++) {
        printf("%c : %d\n", f[i].ch, f[i].count);
    }
}
```

Frequency count

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    FILE *fin;
    if ((fin = fopen(argv[1], "r")) == NULL) {
        printf("can't open %s\n", argv[1]);
        return 1;
    }
    fp = 0;
    while (1) {
        int ch = getc(fin);
        if (ch == EOF)
            break;
        incFreq(ch);
    }
    fclose(fin);
    showFreq();
    return 0;
}
```



Frequency count

```
$ ./freq freq.c h : 22 } : 9 % : 4
# : 3 > : 2 [ : 10 \ : 3
i : 48 : 54 p : 14 , : 6
n : 36 b : 1 F : 6 x : 2
c : 32 f : 35 ( : 21 : : 1
l : 8 M : 4 ) : 21 g : 6
u : 10 A : 4 = : 19 * : 3
d : 8 X : 4 0 : 5 v : 3
e : 27 2 : 1 w : 5 I : 1
: 185 5 : 2 + : 4 L : 3
< : 4 r : 23 1 : 7 E : 2
s : 10 q : 6 " : 8 N : 1
t : 31 { : 9 m : 2 U : 1
o : 12 ; : 29 a : 10 ' : 1
. : 9 ! : 1
0 : 1
```

Newline
'\n'