

Structures

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Structures

Bundling information

Sometimes a number of variables belong logically together. For instance two doubles can be the x, y components of a vector.

This can be captured in the `struct` construct.

```
struct vector { double x; double y; } ;
```

(This can go in the main program or before it.)

The elements of a structure are usually called *members*.

How to use structures

1. Declare what is in your structure;
2. Make some structures;
3. Use them.

```
// declaration of the struct
struct AStructName { int num; double val; }
int main() {
    // declaration of struct variables
    AStructName mystruct1,mystruct2;
    .... code that uses your structures ....
}
```

Using structures

Once you have defined a structure, you can make variables of that type. Setting and initializing them takes a new syntax:

Code:

```
int main() {  
    struct vector p1,p2;  
  
    p1.x = 1.; p1.y = 2.;  
    p2 = {3.,4.};  
  
    p2 = p1;  
    cout << "p2: " << p2.x << ", " << p2.y << endl;
```

Output:

```
./point  
p2: 1,2
```

Period syntax: 'apostrophe-s'.

Struct initialization

You assign a whole struct, or set defaults in the definition.

```
struct vector_a { double x; double y; } ;  
// needs compiler option: -std=c++11  
struct vector_b { double x=0; double y=0; } ;  
  
int main() {  
  
    // initialization when you create the variable:  
    struct vector_a x_a = {1.5,2.6};  
    // initialization done in the structure definition:  
    struct vector_b x_b;  
    // ILLEGAL:  
    // x_b = {3.7, 4.8};  
    x_b.x = 3.7; x_b.y = 4.8;  
    //end snippet  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

Functions on structures

You can pass a structure to a function:

Code:

```
double distance
( struct vector p1,struct vector p2 ) {
    double d1 = p1.x-p2.x, d2 = p1.y-p2.y;
    return sqrt( d1*d1 + d2*d2 );
}

/* ... */
struct vector p1 = { 1.,1. };
cout << "Displacement x,y?" << endl;
double dx,dy; cin >> dx >> dy;
cout << "dx=" << dx << ", dy=" << dy << endl;
struct vector p2 = { p1.x+dx,p1.y+dy };
cout << "Distance: " << distance(p1,p2) << endl;
```

Output:

```
( echo 5 ; echo 12 ) | ./pointfun
Displacement x,y?
dx=5, dy=12
Distance: 13
```

Returning structures

You can return a structure from a function:

Code:

```
struct vector vector_add
( struct vector p1,
  struct vector p2 ) {
    struct vector p_add =
      {p1.x+p2.x,p1.y+p2.y};
    return p_add;
};
/* ... */
p3 = vector_add(p1,p2);
cout << "Added: " <<
  p3.x << ", " << p3.y << endl;
```

Output:

```
./pointadd
Added: 5,6
```

(Something weird here with scopes: the explanation is that the returned value is copied.)

Exercise 1

Write a function `inner_product` that takes two vector structures and computes the inner product.

Exercise 2

Write a 2×2 matrix class (that is, a structure storing 4 real numbers), and write a function `multiply` that multiplies a matrix times a vector.

Can you make a matrix structure that is based on the vector structure, for instance using vectors to store the matrix rows, and then using the inner product method to multiply matrices?

Project Exercise 3

Rewrite the exercise that found a predetermined number of primes, putting the `number_of_primes_found` and `last_number_tested` variables in a structure. Your main program should now look like:

```
cin >> nprimes;
struct primesequenece sequence;
while (sequence.number_of_primes_found<nprimes) {
    int number = nextprime(sequence);
    cout << "Number " << number << " is prime" << endl;
}
```