

Parameter transmission to non-Simula procedures

The S-port FEC will now recognize the following identifiers as KIND in an external procedure declaration:

LIBRARY - will follow the S-port conventions, except no context parameter is generated

C - will follow the SDG proposed C-interface with extensions.

Pascal - will follow the SDG proposed C-interface with extensions.

When compiling an actual call on a C-procedure, FEC will reverse the parameter list. Note that this means that, within such a C-call, the parameters are evaluated FROM RIGHT TO LEFT. Apart from that, no distinction is made between C and Pascal procedures.

1. Remarks on the SDG-proposal.

The "address of the first attribute" of the SDG-proposal is taken to mean "the address of the first attribute of the formal qualifying class, if such an attribute exists".

Probably, a reference qualified by a class with hidden protected attributes should not constitute a legal parameter by name. It could be argued that by value transmission is allowed as long as only visible attributes are copied. In the interest of efficiency (both from the compiler viewpoint, and at run time), this implementation do not bother about such niceties. If anything is to be worked into the proposal, I suggest that such a parameter qualification is illegal.

A TEXT array transmitted by value is copied "in toto", i.e. the elements of the copy will be pointers to copies of the referred texts. No such copying is attempted for REF arrays, i.e. the copy elements point back to (the first attribute of) SIMULA objects (in SIMULA space).

Default mode is not allowed for C-procedures; FEC will generate a mode specification (NAME for arrays and reference types, VALUE for simple types) and issue a warning.

FEC will allow a SIMULA procedure identification as actual parameter for a formal procedure parameter, if the procedure is a proper procedure (i.e. has no type) without parameters. In addition, the identification of any none-SIMULA procedure (with/without type and/or parameters) may occur as actual parameter.

2. S-code generated for C-procedure calls.

a) by name:

type on S-stack before ASSPAR

simple GADDR of attribute

ref GADDR of first attribute of formal qualification
 GNONE if no such attribute, or actual parameter is NONE
 (note: only static none-checking, the value of the
 actual parameter is NOT checked)

text GADDR of first character of text parameter
 GNONE if the value of the actual parameter is notext

array GADDR of first array element (in allocation order)
 GNONE for dummy arrays
 procedure RADDR (body tag). If the actual is a non-SIMULA procedure,
 the tag is the body tag of the external routine. Otherwise,
 a complete profile and routine body is generated, enclosed
 within BSEG-ESEG, and the routine parameter is the body tag
 of this "thunk".

b) by value:

simple Value of parameter
 ref OADDR of copy of the attribute part of the referred object.
 ONONE if no attributes, or actual value is NONE.
 text OADDR of copy of referred (sub)text value, NUL-terminated.
 (note: NEVER ONONE)
 array OADDR of copy of array elements (see below)

The computation of the address for by-name transmission of an array
 is performed by the run time system, as are all value copying
 of none-simple parameters. REF/TEXT by name computation is performed
 inline. The run time support routines are in the (new) RTS module CINT
 (for C-interface).

Copying of a TEXT array is recursive over all referenced texts.

The severe restrictions on SIMULA procedures to be used as
 "call back" from C (or other languages) are caused by a wish
 to make this transmission less of a burden on the compiler. In
 addition, it is not clear how a return value should be handled
 within the framework of the S-code.

Parameter and value transfer may be done through the use of
 variables (objects) non-local to the procedure. Note also that
 the procedure may well be an attribute of some class.

THIS FEATURE IS INHERENTLY UNSAFE. Users should be warned about
 the use of e.g. the sequencing procedures directly or indirectly
 from such call-back procedures, since it is assumed that CURINS
 IS UNCHANGED DURING ANY EXECUTION OF NON-SIMULA PROCEDURES.

On the PC-implementation, use of call-back procedures invalidates the
 statement break/single stepping - which may generate spurious
 interrupts because of the way we handle the hardware stack.

The code generated for a procedure parameter P may be described as

```
BSEG routine Pcall; exit returnAddress;
  begin curins.lsc := returnAddress;
    returnAddress :=
      A_CPRO( "P's static enclosure relative to curins",
        !NOTE: curins at time of call of the C-procedure;
        "P's prototype" );
  end
ESEG
  PUSHV Pcall.bodytag ASSPAR
```

The RTS routine A_CPRO is included in "cint". It will generate the
 activation record for the P incarnation, link it to its static enclosure
 and to curins, and return the start address of P. From the viewpoint of
 SIMULA (disregarding any side effects from the C-call), the effect will
 be as if the entire C-call was replaced by a call on P. It is easy to
 see that if P calls the same or another C-routine, which e.g. calls P
 back VIA THE PREVIOUSLY TRANSMITTED ADDRESS, anything may happen to the
 consistency of the SIMULA system!!!! - and probably to the C system as

well...

3. Extensions of the compiled language.

3.1. Records.

Controlling directive: %RECORD.

(%SPORT does not control this one, since it introduces a new keyword RECORD).

In order to handle structures, a record concept is introduced. It is mainly intended for descriptive purposes, i.e. no such quantity can be materialised within a "pure" Simula program. The record is at the moment so ill defined that I hesitate to give any kind of definition! Here's what will be treated correctly at the moment (bearing in mind that the compiler treatment of this facility is still shaky - we will not publicise it until the whole thing is stabilised):

record-declaration

```
= [ record-prefix ] RECORD record-identifier ;  
   BEGIN { record-variable-declaration } END
```

record-variable-declaration

```
= ( value-type | object-reference-type )  
   identifier [ "(" rep-count ")" ]
```

I plan to extend this concept (and to formalise it) to the full capability of S-code, by emulating to a large extent the record definition of Simulett.

Attributes declared as REF(record-identifier) will get the new type "pointer". Within pure Simula, no records can be generated and such attributes are therefore unassignable (except for ... :- NONE). Non-Simula procedures may, however, be declared as being of this type, and the procedure return value may be assigned to such attributes. (external C ... is ref(some record) procedure malloc(...); will work beautifully).

This concept slips thru garbage collection like you would expect, and allows SIMOB (with the proper declarations) to display (change) values of C structures passed back to Simula, and to follow pointers.

3.2 Macros.

Controlling directive: %SPORT

The macro facility has been incorporated in the production compiler. Further details follows!