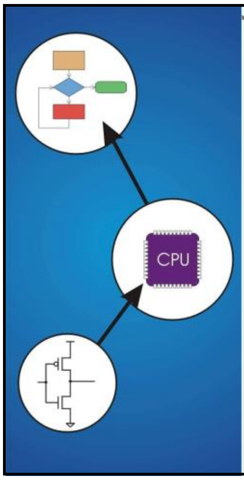


Chapter 19
Data Structures

Original slides from Gregory Byrd, North Carolina State University

Modified slides by Chris Wilcox, Colorado State University

Data Structures

- A data structure is a particular organization of data in memory.
  - We want to group related items together.
  - We want to organize these data bundles in a way that is convenient to program and efficient to execute.
- An array is one kind of data structure.
  In this chapter, we look at two more:
  - `struct` – directly supported by C
  - linked list – built from `struct` and dynamic allocation

Structures in C

- A `struct` is a mechanism for grouping together related data items of different types.
  - Recall that an array groups items of a single type.
  - Example: We want to represent an airborne aircraft:

```
char flightNum[7];
int altitude;
int longitude;
int latitude;
int heading;
double airSpeed;
```

  - We can use a `struct` to group data fields for each plane in a single named entity.

Defining a Struct

- We first need to define a new type for the compiler and tell it what our struct looks like.

```
struct flightType {
  char flightNum[7];  /* max 6 characters */
  int altitude;       /* in meters */
  int longitude;      /* in tenths of degrees */
  int latitude;       /* in tenths of degrees */
  int heading;        /* in tenths of degrees */
  double airSpeed;    /* in km/hr */
};
```

  - This tells the compiler how big our struct is and how the different data items ("members") are laid out in memory.
  - But it does not allocate any memory.

Declaring and Using a Struct

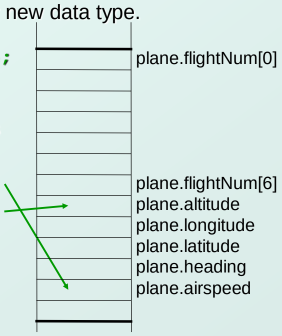
- To allocate memory for a struct,
  we declare a variable using our new data type.

```
struct flightType plane;
```

- Memory is allocated,and we can access individual members of this variable:

```
plane.airSpeed = 800.0;
plane.altitude = 10000;
```

- A struct's members are laid out in the order specified by the definition.



Defining and Declaring at Once

- You can both define and declare a struct at the same time.

```
struct flightType
{
  char flightNum[7];  /* max 6 characters */
  int altitude;       /* in meters */
  int longitude;      /* in tenths of degrees */
  int latitude;       /* in tenths of degrees */
  int heading;        /* in tenths of degrees */
  double airSpeed;    /* in km/hr */
} maverick;
```

- And you can use flightType to declare other structs.

```
struct flightType iceMan;
```


typedef

- C provides a way to define a data type by giving a new name to a predefined type.

Syntax:

```
typedef <type> <name>;
```

Examples:

```
typedef int Color;
typedef struct flightType Flight;
typedef struct ab_type {
    int a;
    double b;
  } ABGroup;
```


Using typedef

- This gives us a way to make code more readable by giving application-specific names to types.

```
Color pixels[500];
Flight plane1, plane2;
```

Typical practice

Put typedef's into a header file, and use type names in main program. If the definition of Color/Flight changes, you might not need to change the code in your main program file.

Array of Structs

- Can declare an array of structs:

```
Flight planes[100];
```

  - Each array element is a struct (of size sizeof(Flight)).
  - To access member of a particular element:

```
planes[34].altitude = 10000;
```

- Because [] and . operators have the same precedence, and both associate left-to-right, this is the same as:

```
(planes[34]).altitude = 10000;
```


Pointer to Struct

- We can declare and create a pointer to a struct:

```
Flight *planePtr;
planePtr = &planes[34];
```

  - To access a member of the struct addressed by pointer:

```
(*planePtr).altitude = 10000;
```

  - Because the . operator has higher precedence than *, this is NOT the same as:

```
*planePtr.altitude = 10000;
```

- C provides special syntax for accessing a struct member through a pointer:

```
planePtr->altitude = 10000;
```


Passing Structs as Arguments

- Unlike an array, a struct is always passed by value into a function.
  - This means the struct members are copied to the function's activation record, and changes inside the function are not reflected in the calling routine's copy.
- Most of the time, you'll want to pass a pointer to a struct.

```
int Collide(Flight *planeA, Flight *planeB)
{
  if (planeA->altitude == planeB->altitude) {
     ...
  }
  else
    return 0;
}
```


Dynamic Allocation

- Suppose we want our weather program to handle a variable number of planes – as many as the user wants to enter.
  - We can't allocate an array, because we don't know the maximum number of planes that might be required.
  - Even if we do know the maximum number, it might be wasteful to allocate that much memory because most of the time only a few planes' worth of data is needed.

Solution:
Allocate storage for data dynamically, as needed.

malloc

- The Standard C Library provides a function for allocating memory at run-time: **malloc**.

```
void *malloc(size_t numBytes);
```

- It returns a generic pointer (`void*`) to a contiguous region of memory of the requested size (in bytes).
- The bytes are allocated from a region in memory called the **heap**.
  - The run-time system keeps track of chunks of memory from the heap that have been allocated.

Using malloc

- To use malloc, we need to know how many bytes to allocate. The `sizeof` operator asks the compiler to calculate the size of a particular type.

```
planes = malloc(n * sizeof(Flight));
```

- We *may* (but don't have to, because `void *` is special) change the type of the return value to the proper kind of pointer – this is called "**casting**."

```
planes =
    (Flight*) malloc(n* sizeof(Flight));
```


Example

```
int airbornePlanes;
Flight *planes;

printf("How many planes are in the air?");
scanf("%d", &airbornePlanes);

planes =
  malloc(sizeof(Flight)*airbornePlanes);
if (planes == NULL) {
  printf("Error in allocating the data array.\n");
  ...
}
planes[0].altitude = ...
```

If allocation fails, malloc returns NULL.

Note: Can use array notation or pointer notation.

free and calloc

- Once the data is no longer needed, it should be released back into the heap for later use.
  - This is done using the **free** function, passing it the same address that was returned by malloc.

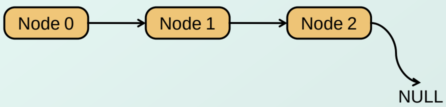
```
void free(void*);
```

  - If allocated data is not freed, the program might run out of heap memory and be unable to continue.
  - Sometimes we prefer to initialize allocated memory to zeros, **calloc** function does this:

```
void *calloc(size_t count, size_t size);
```

The Linked List Data Structure

- A **linked list** is an ordered collection of **nodes**, each of which contains some data, connected using **pointers**.
  - Each node points to the next node in the list.
  - The first node in the list is called the **head**.
  - The last node in the list is called the **tail**.



Linked List vs. Array

- A linked list can only be accessed **sequentially**.
- To find the 5th element, for instance, you must start from the head and follow the links through four other nodes.
- **Advantages of linked list:**
  - Dynamic size
  - Easy to add additional nodes as needed
  - Easy to add or remove nodes from the middle of the list (just add or redirect links)
- **Advantage of array:**
  - Can easily and quickly access arbitrary elements

Example: Car Lot

- Create an inventory database for a used car lot. Support the following actions:
  - **Search** the database for a particular vehicle.
  - **Add** a new car to the database.
  - **Delete** a car from the database.
- The database must remain sorted by vehicle ID.
- Since we don't know how many cars might be on the lot at one time, we choose a linked list representation.

Car data structure

- Each car has the following characterics: vehicle ID, make, model, year, mileage, cost.
- Because it's a linked list, we also need a pointer to the next node in the list:

```
typedef struct carType Car;

struct carType {
  int vehicleID;
  char make[20];
  char model[20];
  int year;
  int mileage;
  double cost;
  Car *next; /* ptr to next car in list */
}
```

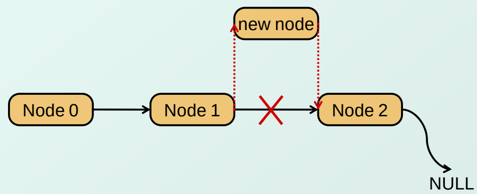
Scanning the List

- Searching, adding, and deleting all require us to find a particular node in the list. We **scan** the list until we find a node whose ID is >= the one we're looking for.

```
Car * ScanList(Car *head, int searchID)
{
  Car *previous, *current;
  previous = head;
  current = head->next;
  /* Traverse until ID >= searchID */
  while ((current!=NULL)
          && (current->vehicleID < searchID)) {
    previous = current;
    current = current->next;
  }
  return previous;
}
```


Adding a Node

- Create a new node with the proper info.
  Find the node (if any) with a greater vehicleID.
  "Splice" the new node into the list:



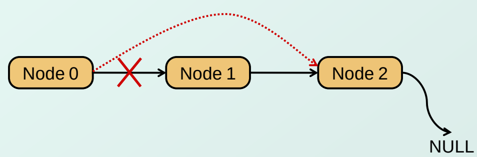
Excerpts from Code to Add a Node

```
newNode = malloc(sizeof(Car));
/* initialize node with new car info */
...
prevNode = ScanList(head, newNode->vehicleID);
nextNode = prevNode->next;

if ((nextNode == NULL)
    || (nextNode->vehicleID != newNode->vehicleID))
  prevNode->next = newNode;
  newNode->next = nextNode;
}
else {
  printf("Car already exists in database.");
  free(newNode);
}
```


Deleting a Node

- Find the node that **points to** the desired node.
  Redirect that node's pointer to the next node (or NULL).
  Free the deleted node's memory.



Excerpts from Code to Delete a Node

```
printf("Enter vehicle ID of car to delete:\n");
scanf("%d", vehicleID);

prevNode = ScanList(head, vehicleID);
delNode = prevNode->next;

if ((delNode != NULL)
     && (delNode->vehicleID == vehicleID))
  prevNode->next = delNode->next;
  free(delNode);
}
else {
  printf("Vehicle not found in database.\n");
}
```


Building on Linked Lists

- The linked list is a fundamental data structure.
  - Dynamic
  - Easy to add and delete nodes
- The concepts described here will be helpful when learning about more elaborate data structures:
  - Trees
  - Hash Tables
  - Directed Acyclic Graphs
  - ...