Introduction to Abstract Data Types

K08 Δομές Δεδομένων και Τεχνικές Προγραμματισμού

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Abstract Data Type (ADT)

- A collection of **data** and **operations** that
  - have precisely described behaviour (we know **what** they do)
  - but no precise implementation (we don't know **how** they do it)
- **ADTBookStore** (from the first lecture)
  - `insert(title)`
  - `remove(title)`
  - `find(title)`
- Do we know any such type?

Native types

- How is `int` implemented?
- What does `int a = -2;` store in memory?
  - `10...10` (sign-magnitude)
  - `1111101` (1-complement)
  - `1111110` (2-complement)
  - bit order? (little vs big endian)
  - size? (16, 32, 64 bits)
  - at least $3 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 = 18$ possibilities! The choice dependes on the CPU.
- How is `a++` implemented?

Native types

- Even simple native types and operations are in reality **abstract**
- We know **what** they do but not **how**
- `int a = 1` stores **some representation** of 1 in `a`
- `a++` stores the representation of $a + 1$ in `a`
  - where a is the number represented in `a`
- `printf("%d", a)` prints the number a represented in `a`

Why?

1. We can write programs without **thinking** (or even knowing) about how these operations are implemented
   - use complicated algorithms easily
2. We can **change the implementation** of `int` (eg change the CPU) without changing the code
   - easy maintenance

It would be impossible to write complex programs without these features!

Writing our own ADTs

- ADTFoo will be represented by the **module** `ADTFoo.h`
  - Declare a list of functions, constants, typedefs, etc
  - Describe **what** the module does, with documentation!
- To **use** ADTFoo
  - `#include "ADTFoo.h"`
  - Call its methods, eg `foo_create()`
  - Link with `foo.o` (or some library containing it)
- To **implement** ADTFoo
  - Create `foo.c`, implementing all functions
  - The implementation should match the advertised behaviour

Containers

- The ADTs we learn in this class are **containers**
  - They allow to **insert** data (stored in the container)
  - Then **retrieve** it in different ways
  - And **remove** it
- Store values of **any type**: `void*`
- They have similar interfaces
  - Differ in the **way** data is inserted/removed/retrieved

ADT Overview

ADT	Description
ADTVector	An abstract growable “array”
ADTList	Insert at any position, no “random access”
ADTQueue	First-in, First-out
ADTStack	Last-in, First-out
ADTPriorityQueue	Fast-access of the maximum element
ADTMap	Associate key => value (array with any type of index)
ADTSet	Ordered collection of unique items

Naming

- We use **different** names for **ADTs** and **Data Structures**
  - eg. **ADTVector** implemented by a **Dynamic Array**
- Loosely following the naming of the C++ standard library
- Be careful: each ADT/DS is known under many different names
  - also: the same name is often used for ADTs and DSs
- Remember the substance, not just the names!

A typical container ADTFoo

```c
// ADTFoo.h

// Ένα foo αναπαριστάται από τον τύπο Foo. Ο χρήστης δε χρειάζεται να
// γνωρίζει το περιεχόμενο του τύπου αυτού, απλά χρησιμοποιεί τις συν
// foo_* που δέχονται και επιστρέφουν Foo.

typedef struct foo* Foo;
```

- We use an **incomplete struct** to hide the implementation
- The user cannot create `struct foo` variables or access their content
- We can only store **pointers** to `struct foo` created by the module
  - called **handles**
  - using the `Foo` typedef we forget that they are pointers!
- And pass them to other methods

A typical container ADTFoo

```c
// Δημιουργεί και επιστρέφει ένα νεό foo

Foo foo_create();

// Επιστρέφει τον αριθμό στοιχείων που περιέχει το foo

int foo_size(Foo foo);

// Προσθέτει την τιμή value στο foo

void foo_insert(Foo foo, Pointer value, ...);

// Αφαιρεί και επιστρέφει μια τιμή από το foo

Pointer foo_remove(Foo foo, ...);

// Βρίσκει και επιστρέφει ένα στοιχείο από το foo

Pointer foo_find(Foo foo, ...);

// Ελευθερώνει όλη τη μνήμη που δεσμεύει το foo

void foo_destroy(Foo foo);
```


A typical use of ADTFoo

```c
// program.c

#include "ADTFoo.h"

int main() {
    Foo foo = foo_create();

    // insert
    int a = 1, b = 2;
    foo_insert(foo, &a);
    foo_insert(foo, &b);

    // remove
    foo_remove(foo, ...);

    // find
    int* value = foo_find(foo, ...);
    printf("found: %d", *value);

    // free memory
    foo_destroy(foo);
}
```

Many containers allow iterating

Using the concept of **node**.

```
Foo foo = foo_create();
// ...insert...

// Διάσχιση όλων των στοιχείων (η σειρά εξαρτάται από τον ADT)

for(FooNode node = foo_first(foo);          // ξενικάμε από τον πρώτο
    node != FOO_EOF;                        // μέχρι να φτάσουμε στο
    node = foo_next(foo, node)) {           // μετάβαση στον επόμενο

    int* value = foo_node_value(foo, node); // η τιμή του συγκεκριμέν
    printf("value: %d\n", *value);
}
```