
Subject: Re: taming the shrew, a.k.a. structure
Posted by [HILBERMAN](#) on Thu, 02 Aug 2001 17:30:51 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

```
> Here is what I tried:  
>  
> IDL> month_struct = {month_struct, name: ptr_new( ), day: ptr_new(), $  
>     temp_c: Ptr_New()}  
> IDL> station = {station, number:0L, month:{month_struct}}  
> IDL> po_basin = replicate (station, 2)  
> IDL> po_basin.month.name = ptr_new( strarr(2190) )  
> IDL> *((po_basin)[0].month.name) = 'dad'  
> IDL> *((po_basin)[1].month.name) = 'mom'  
>  
> What is the problem!?  
>
```

Good question!

I took snippets of advice from all the responses and played around with them a bit, but I'm still not successful at getting the pointers to work. Unfortunately, I'm not quite sure what I'm doing wrong. Since I only started programming in march, and that was in C (IDL just a few weeks ago), my comfort with pointers is...well...closer to discomfort. I appreciate you all taking the time to help out. If you want to get the full picture, I just did a quick and dirty job of posting the .pro file (along with the data file it requires) on my website at <http://instaar.colorado.edu/~hilberma/> click on the idl link.

Two questions come to mind:

David, you gave the nice example of `*((po_basin)[0].month.name) = 'dad'` as a way to define the zeroth element of the `po_basin` array; is this the same syntax you would use to access and manipulate `po_basin[0]`? In other words, does the `*` function like the `&` does in C? I assume so, but I don't yet trust my assumptions w.r.t. IDL.

Also, Pavel mentioned a stylistic preference w.r.t. spaces--is there a good web resource for beginners that gives some tips on good IDL programming style?

Thanks!
RDH
