
Subject: Delete element from the structure inside another structure

Posted by [Andrii](#) on Sun, 06 Jul 2014 23:37:35 GMT

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Hello everybody!

I'd like to ask you about one thing which is generally already discussed in other groups.

But my question is a bit more specific.

I have a structure inside another structure like this one:

```
a = { f1: 0, f2: { x: FltArr(10,10,10), y: 0}}
```

My question is, how can I delete just an array x, or to replace an array x with the array y = FltArr(5,5,5)?

Thank you!

Subject: Re: Delete element from the structure inside another structure

Posted by [greg.addr](#) on Mon, 07 Jul 2014 08:50:53 GMT

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Hi Andrii,

I think you can't do that directly. You have two choices: either create a new structure in the shape you want, and explicitly copy over the elements you want to retain (struct_assign), or -- probably the better solution -- use a pointer in the first place, so that:

```
a = { f1: 0, f2: { x: ptr_new(FltArr(10,10,10)), y: 0}}
```

then you could set a.f2.x=ptr_new(FltArr(5,5,5)) and access with

```
print,*(a.f2.x)
```

If you want to be able to change all the values, put the pointers at the lowest level, and recreate the structures each time:

```
a=ptrarr(2)
a[0]=ptr_new(0)
a[1]=ptr_new({ x: ptr_new(FltArr(10,10,10)), y: 0})
```

or

```
a[1]=ptr_new({ x: ptr_new(FltArr(5,5,5)), y: 0})
```

cheers,

Greg

Subject: Re: Delete element from the structure inside another structure

Posted by [Andrii](#) on Mon, 07 Jul 2014 08:57:08 GMT

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Hi Greg,

Thanks a lot. I will try!

Cheers,
Andrii

> Hi Andrii,

>

>

>

> I think you can't do that directly. You have two choices: either create a new structure in the shape you want, and explicitly copy over the elements you want to retain (struct_assign), or -- probably the better solution -- use a pointer in the first place, so that:

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>

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>

>
>
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>
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>
> a[1]=ptr_new({ x: ptr_new(FltArr(5,5,5)), y: 0})
>
>
>
> cheers,
>
> Greg

Subject: Re: Delete element from the structure inside another structure
Posted by [greg.addr](#) on Mon, 07 Jul 2014 09:02:25 GMT
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actually, I should have written:

```
a=ptrarr(2)
a[0]=ptr_new(0)
a[1]=ptr_new({ x: FltArr(10,10,10), y: 0})
```

or

```
a[1]=ptr_new({ x: FltArr(5,5,5), y: 0})
```

greg

Subject: Re: Delete element from the structure inside another structure
Posted by [Andrii](#) on Mon, 07 Jul 2014 09:27:01 GMT
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Thanks!

Could you please also write me, how to completely delete a[1] ?

If I want to print x, should I do it in the next way: print,*a[1].x ?

> actually, I should have written:
>
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```
> a=ptrarr(2)
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>
>
> or
>
>
>
> a[1]=ptr_new({ x: FltArr(5,5,5), y: 0})
>
>
>
> greg
```

Subject: Re: Delete element from the structure inside another structure
Posted by [Andrii](#) on Mon, 07 Jul 2014 09:38:55 GMT
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Thanks!

Could you please also write me, how to completely delete a[1].x ?

As I understand, in order to delete a[1] I have to do it in the next way:
ptr_free, a[1].

If I want to print x, should I do it in the next way: print,*(a[1].x) ?

Subject: Re: Delete element from the structure inside another structure
Posted by [Fabzi](#) on Mon, 07 Jul 2014 09:49:15 GMT
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If you have IDL8+ you can use dictionnaires instead of structures:

```
IDL> a = dictionary('f1', 0, 'f2', dictionary('x', FltArr(3), 'y', 0))
IDL> print, a.f2.x
      0.00000   0.00000   0.00000
IDL> a.f2.x = 2
IDL> print, a.f2.x
      2
IDL> ok = (a.f2)->remove('x')
```

```
IDL> print, a.f2.x
% Key does not exist: "X"
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

Cheers,

Fabien

Subject: Re: Delete element from the structure inside another structure
Posted by [greg.addr](#) on Mon, 07 Jul 2014 09:51:58 GMT
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> Could you please also write me, how to completely delete a[1] ?

I would probably do this:

a[1]=ptr_new() ;this sets a null pointer

and then test for it in the code:

if ptr_valid(a[i]) then...

> If I want to print x, should I do it in the next way: print,*a[1].x ?

print,(*a[1]).x

cheers,
greg
