Pointers

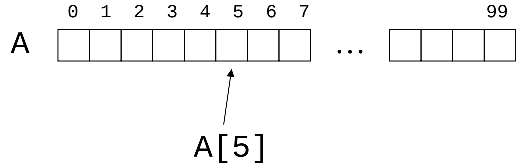
CSE 373

Data Structures

Unit 2

Basic Types and Arrays

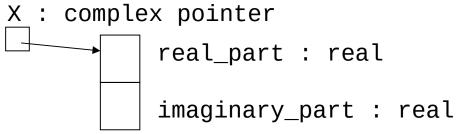
- Basic Types
  - › integer, real (floating point), boolean (0,1), character
- Arrays
  - › A[0..99] : integer array



Records and Pointers

- Record (also called a struct)
  - › Group data together that are related

```
X : complex pointer
```



  - › To access the fields we use “dot” notation.

```
X.real_part
X.imaginary_part
```


Record Definition

- Record definition creates a new type

Definition

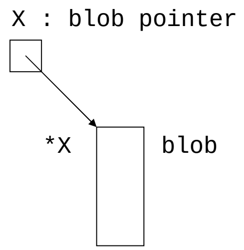
```
record complex : (
  real_part : real,
  imaginary_part : real
)
```

Use in a declaration

```
X : complex
```

Pointer

- A pointer is a reference to a variable or record (or object in Java world).

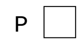


- In C, if X is of type pointer to Y then *X is of type Y

Creating a Record

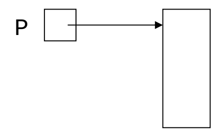
- We use the “new” operator to create a record.

P : pointer to blob;



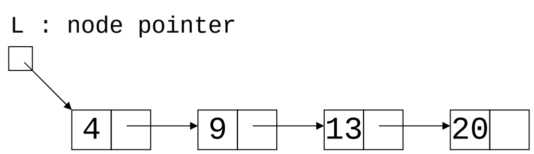
(null pointer)

P := new blob;



Simple Linked List

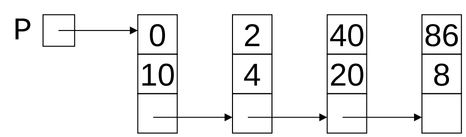
- A linked list
  - › Group data together in a flexible, dynamic way.
  - › We’ll describe several list ADTs later.




```
record node : (
  data : integer,
  next : node pointer
)
```

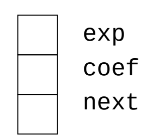

Application Sparse Polynomials

- $10 + 4\,x^{2} + 20\,x^{40} + 8\,x^{86}$

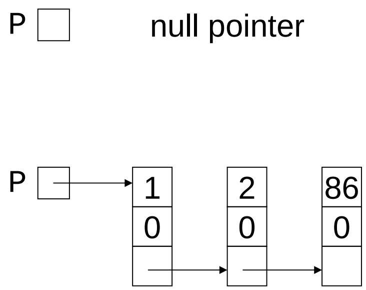


Exponents in Increasing order

```
record poly : (
  exp : integer,
  coef : integer,
  next : poly pointer
)
```

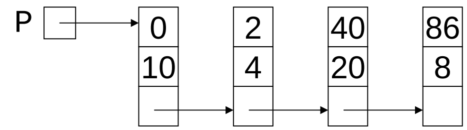


Identically Zero Polynomial

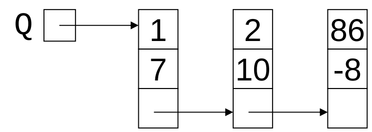


Addition of Polynomials

$10 + 4x^2 + 20x^{40} + 8x^{86}$



$7x + 10x^2 - 8x^{86}$

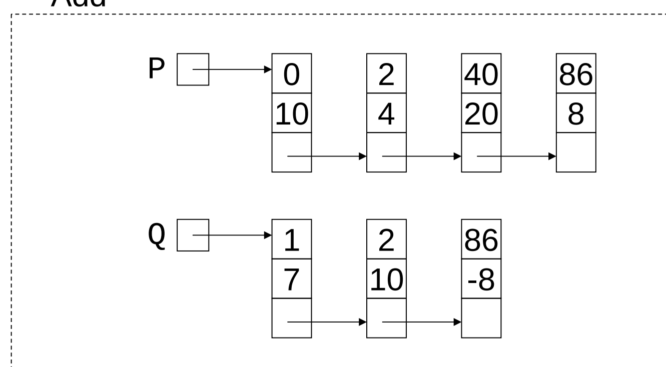


Recursive Addition

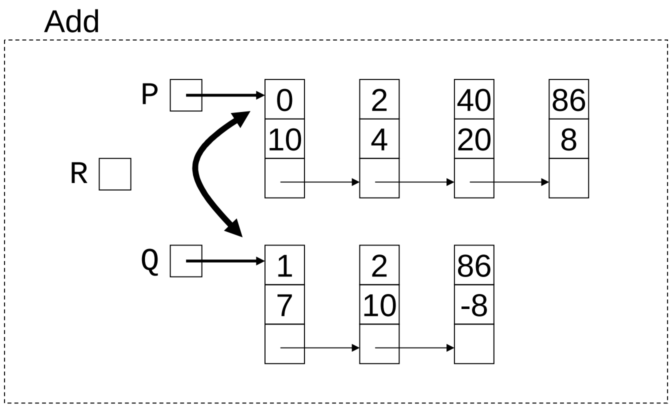
```
Add(P, Q : poly pointer): poly pointer{
R : poly pointer
case {
  P = null : R := Q ;
  Q = null : R := P ;
  P.exp < Q.exp : R := P ;
                  R.next := Add(P.next,Q);
  P.exp > Q.exp : R := Q ;
                  R.next := Add(P,Q.next);
  P.exp = Q.exp : R := P ;
                  R.coef := P.coef + Q.coef ;
                  R.next := Add(P.next,Q.next);
}
return R
}
```


Example

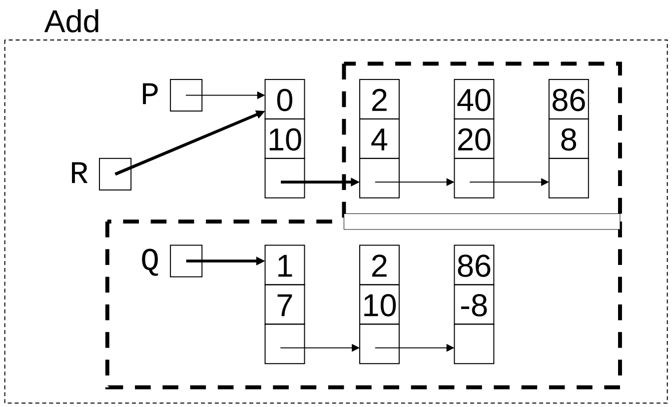
Add



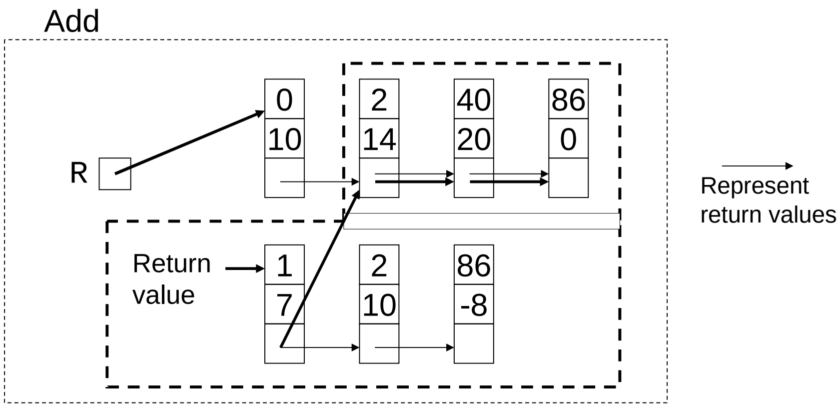
Example (first call)



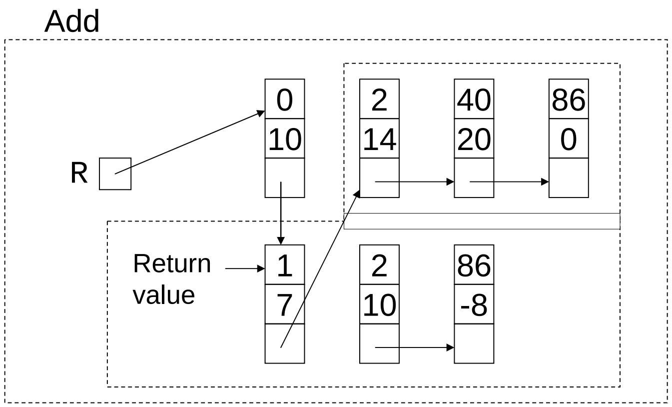
The Recursive Call



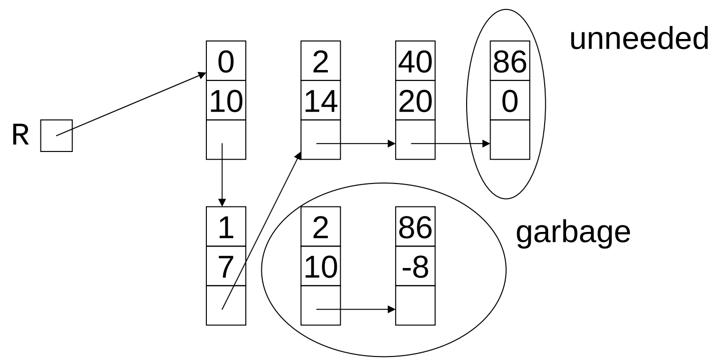
During the Recursive Call



After the Recursive Call



The final picture



Notes on Addition

- Addition is destructive, that is, the original polynomials are gone after the operation.
- We don’t salvage “garbage” nodes. Let’s talk about this.
- We don’t consider the case when the coefficients cancel. Let’s talk about this.

Unneeded nodes to Garbage

- How would you force the unneeded node to be garbage in the code on slide 11?
- Suggestions?

Memory Management – Global Allocator

- Global Allocator’s store – always get and return blocks to global allocator – an area in the memory from which we can dynamically allocate memory.
  - The user (the program) must ‘free’ the memory when done.

Memory Management – Garbage Collection

- Garbage collection – run time system recovers inaccessible blocks from time-to-time. Used in Lisp, Smalltalk, Java.
  - \+ No need to return blocks to an allocator.
  - \- Care must be taken to make unneeded blocks inaccessible.
  - \- When garbage collection kicks in there may be undesirable response time.

Solution for Polyn. Addition

```
P.exp = Q.exp : R := P ;
                R.coef := P.coef + Q.coef ;
                if R.coef = 0 then
                    R := Add(P.next,Q.next);
// The terms with coef = 0 have been removed from the
// result
                else
                    R.next := Add(P.next,Q.next);
}
```


Use of Global Allocator

```
P.exp = Q.exp : R := P ;
                R.coef := P.coef + Q.coef ;
                if R.coef = 0 then
                    R := Add(P.next,Q.next);
                    Free(P); Free(Q);
                else
                    R.next := Add(P.next,Q.next);
                    Free(Q);
}
```