

Chapter 17 - The Preprocessor

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17.1 Introduction

preprocessing

- occurs before a program is compiled.
- inclusion of other files
- definition of *symbolic constants* and *macros*,
- conditional compilation of program code
- conditional execution of preprocessor directives

• Format of preprocessor directives:

- lines begin with #
- only whitespace characters before directives on a line
- they are not C++ statements no semicolon (;)



17.2 The #include Preprocessor Directive

• #include

copy of a specified file included in place of the directive
 #include <filename> - searches standard library for file
 (use for standard library files)

#include "filename" - searches current directory, then standard library (use for user-defined files)

Used for

- loading header files (#include <iostream>)
- programs with multiple source files to be compiled together
- header file has common declarations and definitions (classes, structures, function prototypes)
 - **#include** statement in each file



17.3 The #define Preprocessor Directive: Symbolic Constants

#define

 preprocessor directive used to create symbolic constants and macros.

Symbolic constants

- when program compiled, all occurrences of symbolic constant replaced with replacement text
- Format: #define identifier replacement-text
 - Example: #define PI 3.14159
 - everything to right of identifier replaces text #define PI = 3.14159
 - replaces "PI" with " = 3.14159", probably results in an error
 - cannot redefine symbolic constants with more #define statements



17.4 The #define Preprocessor Directive: Macros

- Macro operation defined in #define
 - intended for C programs
 - macro without arguments: treated like a symbolic constant
 - macro with arguments: arguments substituted for replacement text,
 macro expanded
 - performs a text substitution no data type checking

Example:

```
#define CIRCLE_AREA( x ) ( PI * ( x ) * ( x ) )
area = CIRCLE_AREA( 4 );
  becomes
area = ( 3.14159 * ( 4 ) * ( 4 ) );
```



17.4 The #define Preprocessor Directive: Macros (II)

• use parenthesis:

```
- without them,
#define CIRCLE_AREA( x ) PI * ( x ) * ( x )
area = CIRCLE_AREA( c + 2 );
becomes
area = 3.14159 * c + 2 * c + 2;
which evaluates incorrectly
```

• multiple arguments:

```
#define RECTANGLE_AREA( x, y ) ( ( x ) * ( y ) )
rectArea = RECTANGLE_AREA( a + 4, b + 7 );
becomes
rectArea = ( ( a + 4 ) * ( b + 7 ) );
```

#undef

undefines a symbolic constant or macro, which can later be redefined



17.5 Conditional Compilation

- conditional compilation
 - control preprocessor directives and compilation
 - cast expressions, sizeof, enumeration constants cannot be evaluated
- structure similar to **if**

```
#if !defined( NULL )
    #define NULL 0
#endif
```

- determines if symbolic constant **NULL** defined
 - if NULL is defined, defined(NULL) evaluates to 1
 - if **NULL** not defined, defines **NULL** as **0**
- every #if ends with #endif
- #ifdef short for #if defined(name)
- #ifndef short for #if !defined(name)



17.5 Conditional Compilation (II)

• Other statements:

```
#elif - equivalent of else if in an if structure
#else - equivalent of else in an if structure
```

• "Comment out" code

```
- cannot use /* ... */
- use
    #if 0
        code commented out
    #endif
    to enable code, change 0 to 1
```



17.5 Conditional Compilation (III)

Debugging

```
#define DEBUG 1
#ifdef DEBUG
    cerr << "Variable x = " << x << endl;
#endif</pre>
```

Defining **DEBUG** enables code. After code corrected, remove **#define** statement and debugging statements are ignored.



17.6 The #error and #pragma Preprocessor Directives

• #error tokens

- tokens sequences of characters separated by spaces
 - "I like C++" has 3 tokens
- prints message and tokens (depends on implementation)
- for example: when #error encountered, tokens displayed and preprocessing stops (program does not compile)

• #pragma tokens

- implementation defined action (consult compiler documentation)
- pragmas not recognized by compiler are ignored



17.7 The # and ## Operators

- replacement text token converted to string with quotes
#define HELLO(x) cout << "Hello, " #x << endl;
HELLO(John) becomes
cout << "Hello, " "John" << endl;
Notice #</pre>

- strings separated by whitespace are concatenated when using cout
- ## concatenates two tokens
 #define TOKENCONCAT(x, y) x ## y
 TOKENCONCAT(O, K) becomes
 OK

17.8 Line Numbers

• #line

- renumbers subsequent code lines, starting with integer value
- file name can be included

• #line 100 "myFile.c"

- lines are numbered from **100** beginning with next source code file
- for purposes of errors, file name is "myFile.c"
- makes errors more meaningful
- line numbers do not appear in source file

17.9 Predefined Symbolic Constants

- Five predefined symbolic constants
 - cannot be used in #define or #undef

Symbolic constant	Description
LINE	The line number of the current source code line (an integer constant).
FILE	The presumed name of the source file (a string).
DATE	The date the source file is compiled (a string of the form "Mmm dd yyyy" such as "Jan 19 2001").
TIME	The time the source file is compiled (a string literal of the form "hh:mm:ss").

17.10 Assertions

- assert macro
 - header <cassert>
 - tests value of an expression
 - if 0 (false) prints error message and calls abort
 assert(x <= 10);</pre>
- if **NDEBUG** defined, all subsequent **assert** statements ignored
 - #define NDEBUG