

## Call-by-Value Demands Copies of Structure Arguments

If you pass a structure to a **C** function,

- **call-by-value semantics demand**
- that the **compiler make a copy** of the structure.

Every function call must make a new copy.

Structures can be large.

Doing so is rarely acceptable.\*

\*A complex number composed of two floating-point numbers is an example of a possible exception.

## Let's Define a Stack Structure to Solve a Problem

Let's do an example. Let's **develop**

- a **stack structure** and
- some **operations on a stack**,
- then use the stack to solve a problem.

Our stack structure?

```
struct stack_t
```

**The task:**

- **read input line by line,**
- **then print it out in reverse.**

## Compiler Must Be Able to Know a **struct's** Size

```
struct stack_t {
    // 500 lines of up to 200 chars
    char data[500][200];
    int32_t top;
};
```

**Why only 200 characters per line?**

**And why only 500 lines?**

**Fields must have known size.**

## Fields Can Have Pointer Types

But ...

wait a minute ...

**a pointer has known size, too!**

Later, we will learn how to allocate memory dynamically.

For now, we have to pick values, so

- at most 500 lines, and
- at most 200 characters per line.