Modern C++ Programming

5. Basic Concepts IV

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Declaration and

Definition

Declaration/Definition

Declaration/Prototype

A declaration (or prototype) of an entity is an identifier describing its type

A declaration is what the compiler and the linker needs to accept references (usage) to that identifier

C++ entities (class, functions, etc.) can be declared <u>multiple</u> times (with the same signature)

Definition/Implementation

An entity **definition** is the implementation of a declaration

For each entity, only a single definition is allowed

Declaration/Definition Function Example

```
void f(int a, char* b): // function declaration
void f(int a, char*) { // function definition
                         // "b" can be omitted if not used
    . . .
void f(int a, char* b); // function declaration
                          // multiple declarations is valid
f(3, "abc");
                         // usage
```

```
void g(); // function declaration
g(); // linking error "g" is not defined
```

Declaration/Definition struct Example

A declaration without a concrete implementation is an incomplete type (as void)

```
struct A; // declaration 1
struct A: // declaration 2 (ok)
struct B { // declaration and definition
    int b;
// A x; // compile error incomplete type
    A* y; // ok, pointer to incomplete type
};
struct A { // definition
    char c;
```

Functions

Overview

A **function** (**procedure** or **routine**) is a piece of code that performs a *specific* task

Purpose:

- lacktriangle Avoiding code duplication: less code for the same functionality ightarrow less bugs
- Readability: better express what the code does
- Organization: break the code in separate modules

Function Parameter and Argument

Function Parameter [formal]

A parameter is the variable which is part of the method signature

Function Argument [actual]

An **argument** is the actual value (instance) of the variable that gets <u>passed to</u> the function

Pass by-Value

Call-by-value

The <u>object</u> is <u>copied</u> and assigned to input arguments of the method f(T x)

Advantages:

Changes made to the parameter inside the function have no effect on the argument

Disadvantages:

 Performance penalty if the copied arguments are large (e.g. a structure with several data members)

When to use:

■ Built-in data type and small objects (≤ 8 bytes)

When not to use:

- Fixed size arrays which decay into pointers
- Large objects

Pass by-Pointer

Call-by-pointer

The <u>address</u> of a variable is <u>copied</u> and assigned to input arguments of the method f(T*x)

Advantages:

- Allows a function to change the value of the argument
- The argument is not copied (fast)

Disadvantages:

- The argument may be a null pointer
- Dereferencing a pointer is slower than accessing a value directly

When to use:

Raw arrays (use const T* if read-only)

When not to use:

All other cases

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Pass by-Reference

Call-by-reference

The <u>reference</u> of a variable is copied and assigned to input arguments of the method f(T&x)

Advantages:

- Allows a function to change the value of the argument (better readability compared with pointers)
- The argument is not copied (fast)References must be initialized (no null pointer)
- Avoid implicit conversion (without const T&)

When to use:

All cases except raw pointers

When not to use:

Pass by-value could give performance advantages and improve the readability with built-in data type and small objects that are trivially copyable

Examples

```
struct MyStruct;
void f1(int a);  // pass by-value
void f2(int& a);  // pass by-reference
void f3(const int& a); // pass by-const reference
void f4(MyStruct& a); // pass by-reference
void f5(int* a);  // pass by-pointer
void f6(const int* a); // pass by-const pointer
void f7(MyStruct* a); // pass by-pointer
void f8(int*& a);  // pass a pointer by-reference
char c = 'a';
f1(c); // ok, pass by-value (implicit conversion)
// f2(c); // compile error different types
f3(c); // ok, pass by-value (implicit conversion)
```

Signature

Function signature defines the *input types* for a (specialized) function and the *inputs* + *outputs types* for a template function

A function signature includes the $\underline{\text{number}}$ of arguments, the $\underline{\text{types}}$ of arguments, and the order of the arguments

- The C++ standard prohibits a function declaration that only differs in the return type
- Function declarations with different signatures can have distinct return types

Overloading

Function overloading allows to have distinct functions with the same name but with different *signatures*

```
void f(int a, char* b);  // signature: (int, char*)
// char f(int a, char* b); // compile error same signature
                               // but different return types
void f(const int a, char* b); // same signature, ok
                               // const int == int
void f(int a, const char* b); // overloading with signature: (int, const char*)
int f(float):
                               // overloading with signature: (float)
                               // the return type is different
```

Overloading Resolution Rules

- An exact match
- A promotion (e.g. char to int)
- A standard type conversion (e.g. float and int)
- A constructor or user-defined type conversion

Overloading and =delete

=delete can be used to prevent calling the wrong overload

```
void g(int) {}
void g(double) = delete;
g(3); // ok
g(3.0); // compile error
#include <cstddef> // std::nullptr t
void f(int*) {}
void f(std::nullptr_t) = delete;
f(nullptr); // compile error
```

Function Default Parameters

Default/Optional parameter

A default parameter is a function parameter that has a default value

- If the user does not supply a value for this parameter, the default value will be used
- All default parameters must be the rightmost parameters
- Default parameters must be declared only once
- Default parameters can improve compile time and avoid redundant code because they avoid defining other overloaded functions

```
void f(int a, int b = 20);  // declaration

//void f(int a, int b = 10) { ... } // compile error, already set in the declaration

void f(int a, int b) { ... }  // definition, default value of "b" is already set

f(5); // b is 20
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```

C++ allows to mark functions with standard properties to better express their intent:

- C++11 [[noreturn]] indicates that the function does not return
- C++14 [[deprecated]], [[deprecated("reason")]] indicates the use of a function is discouraged (for some reason). It issues a warning if used
- C++17 [[nodiscard]]
 C++20 [[nodiscard("reason")]] issues a warning if the return value is
 discarded
- C++17 [[maybe_unused]] suppresses compiler warnings on unused functions, if any (it applies also to other entities)

Function Attributes [[attribute]]

```
[[noreturn]] void f() { std::exit(0); }
[[deprecated]] void my rand() { ... }
[[nodiscard]] bool g(int& x) {
    update(x);
    bool status = ...;
   return status;
void h([[maybe_unused]] x) {
#if !defined(SKIP COMPUTATION)
    ... use x ...
#endif
my_rand(); // WARNING "deprecated"
g(v):
      // WARNING "discard return value"
int z = g(); // no warning
h(3);
       // no warning if SKIP COMPUTATION is defined
```

Function Pointers and Function **Objects**

Standard C achieves generic programming capabilities and composability through the concept of **function pointer**

A function can be passed as a pointer to another function and behaves as an "indirect call"

```
#include <stdlib.h> // qsort

int descending(const void* a, const void* b) {
    return *((const int*) a) > *((const int*) b);
}

int array[] = {7, 2, 5, 1};
qsort(array, 4, sizeof(int), descending);
// array: { 7, 5, 2, 1 }
```

```
int eval(int a, int b, int (*f)(int, int)) {
    return f(a, b);
}
// type: int (*)(int, int)
int add(int a, int b) { return a + b; }
int sub(int a, int b) { return a - b; }

cout << eval(4, 3, add); // print 7
cout << eval(4, 3, sub); // print 1</pre>
```

Problems:

Safety There is no check of the argument type in the generic case (e.g. qsort)

Performance Any operation requires an indirect call to the original function. Function inlining is not possible

Function Object

A **function object**, or **functor**, is a *callable* object that can be treated as a parameter

C++ provides a more efficient and convenience way to pass "procedure" to other functions called **function object**

Advantages:

Safety Argument type checking is always possible. It could involves templates

Performance The compiler injects operator() in the code of the destination function and then compile the routine. Operator inlining is the standard behavior

 $\mathsf{C}++11$ simplifies the concept by providing less verbose function objects called lambda expressions

Lambda Expressions

Lambda Expression

Lambda Expression

A C++11 lambda expression is an *inline local-scope* function object

```
auto x = [capture clause] (parameters) { body }
```

- The [capture clause] marks the declaration of the lambda and how the local scope arguments are captured (by-value, by-reference, etc.)
- The parameters of the lambda are normal function parameters (optional)
- The body of the lambda is a normal function body

The expression to the right of the = is the **lambda expression**, and the runtime object x created by that expression is the **closure**

Lambda Expression

```
#include <algorithm> // for std::sort
int array[] = {7, 2, 5, 1};
auto lambda = [](int a, int b){ return a > b; }; // named lambda
std::sort(array, array + 4, lambda);
// array: { 7, 5, 2, 1 }
// in alternative, in one line of code: // unnamed lambda
std::sort(array, array + 4, [](int a, int b){ return a > b; });
// array: { 7, 5, 2, 1 }
```

Capture List

Lambda expressions *capture* external variables used in the body of the lambda in two ways:

- Capture by-value
- Capture by-reference (can modify external variable values)

Capture list can be passed as follows

- no capture
- [=] captures <u>all</u> variables by-value
- [&] captures <u>all</u> variables *by-reference*
- [var1] captures only var1 by-value
- [&var2] captures only var2 by-reference
- [var1, &var2] captures var1 by-value and var2 by-reference

Capture List Examples

```
// GOAL: find the first element greater than "limit"
#include <algorithm> // for std::find if
int limit = ...
auto lambda1 = [=](int value)
                                  { return value > limit; }; // by-value
auto lambda2 = [\&](int value)
                                  { return value > limit; }; // by-reference
auto lambda3 = [limit](int value) { return value > limit; }; // "limit" by-value
auto lambda4 = [&limit](int value) { return value > limit; }; // "limit" by-reference
// auto lambda5 = [](int value) { return value > limit; }; // no capture
                                                             // compile error
int arrav[] = {7, 2, 5, 1};
std::find if(array, array + 4, lambda1);
```

Capture List - Other Cases

- [=, &var1] captures all variables used in the body of the lambda by-value, except var1 that is captured by-reference
- [&, var1] captures all variables used in the body of the lambda by-reference, except var1 that is captured by-value
- A lambda expression can read a variable without capturing it if the variable is constexpr

```
constexpr int limit = 5;
int var1 = 3, var2 = 4;
auto lambda1 = [](int value){ return value > limit; };
auto lambda2 = [=, &var2]() { return var1 > var2; };
```

Lambda Expressions - Parameters

C++14 Lambda expression parameters can be automatically deduced auto $x = [](auto value) \{ return value + 4; \};$

C++14 Lambda expression parameters can be initialized

```
auto x = [](int i = 6) { return i + 4; };
```

Lambda Expressions - Composability

Lambda expressions can be composed

```
auto lambda1 = [](int value){ return value + 4; };
auto lambda2 = [](int value){ return value * 2; };

auto lambda3 = [&](int value){ return lambda2(lambda1(value)); };

// returns (value + 4) * 2
```

A function can return a lambda (dynamic dispatch is also possible)

```
auto f() {
    return [](int value){ return value + 4; };
}
auto lambda = f();
cout << lambda(2); // print "6"</pre>
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```

constexpr/consteval Lambda Expression

C++17 Lambda expression supports constexpr

C++20 Lambda expression supports consteval

```
// constexpr lambda
auto factorial = [](int value) constexpr {
    int ret = 1:
    for (int i = 2; i <= value; i++)</pre>
       ret *= i;
    return ret:
};
auto mul = [](int v) consteval { return v * 2; };
constexpr int v1 = factorial(4) + mul(5); // '24' + '10'
```

template Lambda Expression \leadsto

C++20 Lambda expression supports template and requires clause

mutable Lambda Expression

Lambda capture is by-const-value

mutable specifier allows the lambda to modify the parameters captured by-value

```
int var = 1;
auto lambda1 = \lceil k \rceil() { var = 4: }: // ok
lambda1():
cout << var; // print '4'
// auto lambda2 = [=]() { var = 3: }: // compile error
// lambda operator() is const
auto lambda3 = [=]() mutable { var = 3; }; // ok
lambda3():
cout << var: // print '4'. lambda3 captures by-value
```

[[nodiscard]] Attribute

C++23 allows to add the [[nodiscard]] attribute to lambda expressions

```
auto lambda = [] [[nodiscard]] (){ return 4; };
lambda();  // compiler warning
auto x = lambda(); // ok
```

Capture List and Classes →

- [this] captures the current object (*this) by-reference (implicit in C++17)
- [x = x] captures the current object member x by-value C++14
- [&x = x] captures the current object member x by-reference C++14
- [=] default capture of this pointer by value has been deprecated C++20

```
class A {
   int data = 1;
   void f() {
       int var = 2:
                                                     // <-- local variable
       auto lambda1 = [=]() { return var; }; // copy by-value, return 2
       auto lambda2 = [=]() { int var = 3; return var; }; // return 3 (nearest scope)
       auto lambda3 = [this]() { return data; }; // copy by-reference, return 1
       auto lambda4 = [*this]() { return data; }; // copy by-value (C++17), return 1
       auto lambda5 = [data]() { return data; }: // compile error 'data' is not visible
       auto lambda6 = [data = data]() { return data; }; // return 1
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};
```

Preprocessing

Preprocessing and Macro

A **preprocessor directive** is any line preceded by a *hash* symbol (#) which tells the compiler how to interpret the source code <u>before</u> compiling it

Macro are preprocessor directives which substitute any occurrence of an *identifier* in the rest of the code by replacement

Macro are evil:

Do not use macro expansion!!

...or use as little as possible

- Macro cannot be directly debugged
- Macro expansions can have unexpected side effects
- Macro have no namespace or scope

Preprocessors

All statements starting with

- #include "my_file.h"
 Inject the code in the current file
 - #define MACRO <expression>
 Define a new macro
- #undef MACRO
 Undefine a macro
 (a macro should be undefined as early as possible for safety reasons)

Multi-line Preprocessing: \ at the end of the line

Indent: # define

Conditional Compiling

- #if defined(MACRO) equal to #ifdef MACRO
 #elif defined(MACRO) equal to #elifdef MACRO C++23
 Check if a macro is defined
- #if !defined(MACRO) equal to #ifndef MACRO
 #elif !defined(MACRO) equal to #elifndef MACRO C++23
 Check if a macro is not defined

return value + 3;

Do not define macro in header files and before includes!!

```
#include <instream>
#define value // very dangerous!!
#include "big lib.hpp"
int main() {
    std::cout << f(4); // should print 7. but it prints always 3
big_lib.hpp:
int f(int value) { // 'value' disapear
```

It is very hard to see this problem when the macro is in a header

Use parenthesis in macro definition!!

```
#include <iostream>
#define SUB1(a, b) a - b // WRONG
# define SUB2(a, b) (a - b) // WRONG
#define SUB3(a, b) ((a) - (b)) // correct
int main() {
   std::cout << (5 * SUB1(2, 1)); // print 9 not 5!!
   std::cout << SUB2(3 + 3, 2 + 2); // print 6 not 2!!
   std::cout << SUB3(3 + 3, 2 + 2); // print 2
```

Macros make hard to find compile errors!!

```
1: #include <iostream>
2:
3: #define F(a) {
4: ... \
5: ... \
6: return v;
7:
8: int main() {
9: F(3); // compile error at line 9!!
10: }
```

• In which line is the error??!*

^{*}modern compilers are able to roll out the macro

Macro content is not always evaluated!!

```
#if defined(DEBUG)
  define CHECK(EXPR) // do something with EXPR
    void check(bool b) { /* do something with b */ }
#else
    define CHECK(EXPR) // do nothing
   void check(bool) {} // do nothing
#endif
bool f() { /* return a boolean value */ }
check(f())
CHECK(f())
```

- What happens when DEBUG is not defined?
 - f() is not evaluated the second time

Use curly brackets in multi-lines macros!!

```
#include <instream>
#include <nuclear_explosion.hpp>
#define NUCLEAR EXPLOSION
                                              \ // {
    std::cout << "start nuclear explosion"; \</pre>
    nuclear_explosion();
                                                11 }
int main() {
    bool never happen = false;
    if (never_happen)
        NUCLEAR_EXPLOSION
} // BOOM!! 🧟
```

The second line is executed!!

Macros do not have scope!!

```
#include <iostream>
void f() {
   #define value 4
   std::cout << value;
int main() {
   f();
       // 4
   std::cout << value; // 4
   #define value 3
   f(); // 4
   std::cout << value; // 3
```

Macros can have side effect!!

```
# define MIN(a, b) ((a) < (b) ? (a) : (b))
int main() {
    int array1[] = { 1, 5, 2 };
    int array2[] = { 6, 3, 4 };
    int i = 0;
    int j = 0;
    int v1 = MIN(arrav1[i++], arrav2[i++]); // v1 = 5!!
    int v2 = MIN(array1[i++], array2[j++]); // undefined behavior/segmentation fault 🙎
```

When Preprocessors are Necessary

- Conditional compiling: different architectures, compiler features, etc.
- Mixing different languages: code generation (example: asm assembly)
- Complex name replacing: see template programming

Otherwise, prefer const and constexpr for constant values and functions

```
#define SIZE 3  // replaced with
const int SIZE = 3; // only C++11 at global scope

#define SUB(a, b) ((a) - (b)) // replaced with
constexpr int sub(int a, int b) {
    return a - b;
}
```

- __LINE__ Integer value representing the current line in the source code file being compiled
- __FILE__ A string literal containing the presumed name of the source file being compiled
- __DATE__ A string literal in the form "MMM DD YYYY" containing the date in which the compilation process began
 - __TIME__ A string literal in the form "hh:mm:ss" containing the time at which the compilation process began

```
main.cpp:
#include <iostream>
int main() {
    std::cout << __FILE__ << ":" << __LINE__; // print main.cpp:2
}</pre>
```

```
#include <source_location>
      current() get source location info (static)
         line() source code line
       column() line column
    file_name() current file name
function name() current function name
    #include <source location>
    void f(std::source location s = std::source location::current()) {
        std::cout << "line " << s.line();
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    f(); // print: "line 6"
```

C++20 provides source location utilities for replacing macro-based approach

Select code depending on the C/C++ version

- #if defined(__cplusplus) C++ code
- #if __cplusplus == 199711L ISO C++ 1998/2003
- #if __cplusplus == 201103L ISO C++ 2011*
- #if __cplusplus == 201402L ISO C++ 2014*
- #if __cplusplus == 201703L ISO C++ 2017*

Select code depending on the compiler

- #if defined(_GNUG__) The compiler is gcc/g++ †
- #if defined(__clang__) The compiler is clang/clang++
- #if defined(_MSC_VER) The compiler is Microsoft Visual C++

^{*} MSVC defines __cplusplus == 199711L even for C++11/14. Link: MSVC now correctly reports __cplusplus Avatar

Select code depending on the operation system or environment

- #if defined(_WIN64) OS is Windows 64-bit
- #if defined(__linux__) OS is Linux
- #if defined(__APPLE__) OS is Mac OS
- #if defined(__MINGW32__) OS is MinGW 32-bit
- ...and many others

Very Comprehensive Macro list:

- sourceforge.net/p/predef/wiki/Home/
- Compiler predefined macros
- Abseil platform macros

Feature Testing Macro

C++17 introduces **_has_include** keyword which returns 1 if header or source file with the specified name exists

```
#if __has_include(<iostream>)
# include <iostream>
#endif
```

C++20 introduces a set of macro to evaluate if a given feature is supported by the compiler

```
#if __cpp_constexpr
constexpr int square(int x) { return x * x; }
#endif
```

Macros depend on compilers and environment!!

The code works fine on Linux, but not under Windows MSVC. MSVC sets $__$ cplusplus to 199711 even if C++11/14/17 flag is set!! in this case the code can return NaN

Stringizing Operator (#)

The **stringizing macro operator** (**#**) causes the corresponding actual argument to be enclosed in double quotation marks "

```
#define STRING_MACRO(string) #string
cout << STRING_MACRO(hello); // equivalent to "hello"</pre>
```

Code injection

```
#include <cstdio>
#define CHECK ERROR(condition)
   if (condition) {
      std::printf("expr: " \#condition " failed at line \%d\n", \
                  LINE );
int t = 6, s = 3;
CHECK_ERROR(t > s) // print "expr: t > s failed at line 13"
CHECK_ERROR(t % s == 0) // segmentation fault!!!
// printf interprets "% s" as a format specifier
```

#error and #warning

- #error "text" The directive emits a user-specified error message at compile time when the compiler parse it and stop the compilation process
- C++23 #warning "text" The directive emits a user-specified warining message at compile time when the compiler parse it without stopping the compilation process

#pragma

The **#pragma** directive controls implementation-specific behavior of the compiler. In general, it is not portable

- #pragma message "text" Display informational messages at compile time (every time this instruction is parsed)
- #pragma GCC diagnostic warning "-Wformat"
 Disable a GCC warning
- Pragma(<command>) (C++11)
 It is a keyword and can be embedded in a #define

```
#define MY_MESSAGE \
   _Pragma("message(\"hello\")")
```

Token-Pasting Operator (##) ★

The token-concatenation (or pasting) macro operator (##) allows combining two tokens (without leaving no blank spaces)

```
#define FUNC GEN A(tokenA, tokenB) \
    void tokenA##tokenB() {}
#define FUNC GEN B(tokenA, tokenB) \
    void tokenA## ##tokenB() {}
FUNC_GEN_A(my, function)
FUNC GEN B(my, function)
myfunction(); // ok, from FUNC GEN A
my_function(); // ok, from FUNC_GEN_B
```

Variadic Macro ★

A variadic macro C++11 is a special macro accepting a variable number of arguments (separated by comma)

Each occurrence of the special identifier __VA_ARGS__ in the macro replacement list is replaced by the passed arguments

Example:

Macro Trick ★

Convert a number literal to a string literal

```
#define TO_LITERAL_AUX(x) #x
#define TO_LITERAL(x) TO_LITERAL_AUX(x)
```

Motivation: avoid integer to string conversion (performance)

```
int main() {
  int x1 = 3 * 10;
  int y1 = __LINE__ + 4;
  char x2[] = TO_LITERAL(3);
  char y2[] = TO_LITERAL(__LINE__);
}
```

Avoid Unused Variable Warning [[maybe_unused]]

```
int f(int value) {
    [[maybe_unused]] int x = value * 2;
#if defined(ENABLE FAST RETURN)
    return x + 3:
#else defined(ENABLE CUBE RETURN)
    return x * x * x;
#01.50
    return 0:
#endif
```

If the two macros are not defined, the compiler issues a warning because the variable x is unused. C++17 introduces [[maybe_unused]] attribute to prevent this warning