Modern C++ Programming

9. Code Organization and Conventions

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■ C++ Project Organization

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- C++11/C++14 features
- Control Flow
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Basic Concepts

Translation Unit

Header File and Source File

Header files allow to define <u>interfaces</u> (.h,.hpp, ...), while keeping the <u>implementation</u> in separated **source files** (.c, .cpp, ...).

Translation Unit

A **translation unit** (or compilation unit) is the basic unit of compilation in C++. It consists of the contents of a <u>single source</u> <u>file</u>, plus the contents of any header files directly or indirectly included by it. A single translation unit can be compiled into an object file, library, or executable program

Linkage

Linkage

Linkage refers to the visibility of symbols to the linker when processing files

Internal Linkage

Internal linkage refers to everything only in scope of a translation unit

External Linkage

External linkage refers to entities that exist beyond a single translation unit. They are accessible through the whole program, which is the combination of all translation units

Local and Global Scopes

Local Scope

Variables that are declared inside a function or a block are called local variables (**local scope**)

Global Scope

Variables that are defined outside of all the functions and hold their value throughout the life-time of the program are global variables (global scope)

Variables Storage

Storage Class Specifiers

Storage Class

A **storage class** for a variable declarations is a type specifier that governs the lifetime, the linkage, and memory location of objects

- A given object can have only one storage class
- Variables defined within a block have <u>automatic</u> storage unless otherwise specified

Storage Class	Keyword	Lifetime	Visibility	Init value
Automatic	auto/no keyword	Code Block	Local	Not defined
Register	register	Code Block	Local	Not defined
Static	static	Whole Program	Local	Zero-initialized
External	extern	Whole Program	Global	Zero-initialized
Thread Local*	$thread_local$	Thread Execution	Thread	Zero-initialized

*C++11 5/6

Storage Duration Specifiers

<u>Automatic storage duration</u></u>. Scope variables (local variable). register or stack (depending on compiler, architecture, etc.). register hints to the compiler to place the object in the processor registers (deprecated in C++11)

Static storage duration. The storage for the object is allocated when the program begins and deallocated when the program ends (static keyword at local or global scope)

Thread storage duration C++11. The object is allocated when the thread begins and deallocated when the thread ends. Each thread has its own instance of the object. (thread_local can appear together with static or extern)

Dynamic storage duration. The object is allocated and deallocated per request by using dynamic memory allocation functions

Storage Class Examples

```
int x; // global scope*
static int y; // static global scope*
extern int z; // extern global scope*
thread_local int a; // qlobal* (each thread has its own value)
thread_local static int a; // static qlobal* (each thread has
                                   its own value)
int main() {
   int b; // automatic
   static int d; // local scope and whole program lifetime
   register int e; // automatic (deprecated)
   thread_local int t; // automatic (each thread has its own value)
   auto array = new int[10]; // automatic and dynamic storage duration
                                                           7/60
```

static Variable Example

```
#include <iostream>
void f() {
   static bool val = false; // static
   if (val) {
       std::cout << "b";
       return;
   val = true;
   std::cout << "a";
int main() {
   f(); // print "a"
   f(); // print "b"
   f(); // print "b"
```

Dealing with Multiple

Translation Units

One Definition Rule

One Definition Rule (ODR):

- (1) In any translation unit, a template, type, function, or object cannot have more than one definition
 - Any number of declarations are allowed
- (2) In the entire program, an object or non-inline function cannot have more than one definition
- (3) Types, templates, and extern inline functions, can be defined in <u>more than one</u> translation unit. For a given entity, <u>each definition must be the same</u>
 - Non-extern objects and functions in different translation units are different entities, even if their names and types are the same

static and extern keywords

static global variable or functions are visible only within the file (internal linkage)

 Non-static global variables or functions with the same name in different translation units produce name collision (or name conflict)

extern keyword is used to declare the existence of global
variables or functions in another translation unit (external linkage)

 the variable or function must be defined in a one and only one translation unit

If, within a translation unit, the same identifier appears with both internal and external linkage, the behavior is undefined

One Definition Rule (Example, points (1), (2))

void f() { std::cout << b; } // print 5</pre>

header.hpp:

```
void f();
main.cpp:
#include "header.hpp"
                                                 header.hpp
#include <iostream>
int a = 1;
static int b = 2; // internal linkage
extern int c; // external linkage
int main() {
                                           main.cpp
                                                        source.cpp
    std::cout << b; // print 2
    std::cout << c; // print 4
    f();
        // print 5
source.cpp:
#include "header.hpp"
// int a = 2; // linking error !! (multiple definitions)
static int b = 5; // ok
int c = 4; // ok
```

One Definition Rule (Example, point (3))

void h() {
 f();
 g();

```
header.hpp:
inline void f() {} // the function is inline (no linking error)
template<typename T = void>
void g() {}  // the function is a template (no linking error)
using var t = int; // types can be defined multiple times (no linking error)
main.cpp:
#include "header.hpp" // included two times in the program!!
                       // (main.cpp and source.cpp)
int main() {
   f():
   g();
source.cpp:
#include "header.hpp"
```

One Definition Rule (Classes)

```
header.hpp:
struct A {
    void f() {}; // declaration/definition inside struct (correct)
    void g();
};
void A::g() {}  // definition (wrong)!! multiple definitions
struct B {
    void f();  // declaration (correct) : definition is in source.cpp
};
main.cpp:
#include "header.hpp" // linking error !!
                      // multiple definitions of A::g()
int main() {
source.cpp:
#include "header.hpp" // linking error !!
                      // multiple definitions of A::g()
void B::f() {} // definition, ok
```

One Definition Rule (Templates)

```
header.hpp:
template<typename T>
void f();
// template<> // linking error (multiple definitions) included twice
// void f<int>() {} // full specializations are standard functions
main.cpp:
#include "header.hpp"
int main() {
// f<int>(); // linking error, f<int>() is not defined here
source.cpp:
#include "header.hpp"
template<typename T>
void f() {}  // valid only in this translation unit
void g() {
    f<int>(); // ok
                                                                       14/60
```

Good practice: declare full specializations in header

```
header.hpp:
template<typename T>
void f();
void f<int>(); // informs the user that f<int>() has been specialized
template<typename T>
struct A {
    void g();
};
template<>
void A<int>::g(); // informs the user that A<int>::q() has been specialized
source.cpp:
#include "header.hpp"
template<>
void f<int>() {} // f() specialization
template<>
void A<int>::g() {} // A::q() specialization
```

Forward declaration is a declaration of an identifier for which a complete definition has not yet given

"forward" means that an entity is declared before it is used

Functions and Classes have external linkage by default

source.cpp:

```
void f() {} // definition of f()
class A {}; // definition of A()
```

Advantages:

- Forward declarations can save compile time, as #include force the compiler to open more files and process more input
- Forward declarations can save on unnecessary recompilation.
 #include can force your code to be recompiled more often, due to unrelated changes in the header

Disadvantages:

- Forward declarations can hide a dependency, allowing user code to skip necessary recompilation when headers change
- A forward declaration may be broken by subsequent changes to the library
- Forward declaring multiple symbols from a header can be more verbose than simply #including the header

Full Story:

The **include guard** avoids the problem of multiple inclusions of a header file in a translation unit

#pragma once (C++11,C++14) preprocessor directive force the current file to be included only once in a translation unit

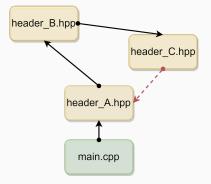
#pragma once should be used in every header files

header_A.hpp
header_B.hpp
main.cpp

Common case:

```
header_A.hpp:
#pragma once // it prevents "multiple definitions" linking error
struct A {
};
header_B.hpp:
#include "header A.hpp" // included here
struct B {
    A a;
};
main.cpp:
#include "header_A.hpp" // .. and included here
#include "header B.hpp"
int main() {
    A a; // ok, here we need "header_A.hpp"
    B b; // ok, here we need "header_B.hpp"
```

A **circular dependency** is a relation between two or more modules which either directly or indirectly depend on each other to function properly



Circular dependencies can be solved by using forward declaration, or better, by rethinking the project organization

```
header_A.hpp:
#pragma once
#include "header_B.hpp"
class A {
    B* b:
};
header_B.hpp:
#pragma once
#include "header C.hpp"
class B {
    C* c;
};
header_C.hpp:
```

```
#pragma once
#include "header_A.hpp"

class C {    // compile error!! "header_A" already included by "main.cpp"
    A* a;    // the compiler cannot view the "class C"
};
```

Circular Dependencies (fix)

```
header_A.hpp:
#pragma once
class B; // forward declaration
class A {
    B* b;
};
header_B.hpp:
#pragma once
class C; // forward declaration
class B {
   C* c;
};
header_C.hpp:
#pragma once
class A; // forward declaration
class C {
    A* a;
};
```

Limit Template Instantiations

```
source.cpp: (templates in a source file)
header.hpp:
                                    #include "header.hpp"
                                    template<typename T>
template<typename T>
                                    void f() {}
void f();
                                    template void f<int>();
                                    template void f<char>();
                                    template<typename T>
template<typename T>
                                    void A<T>::g() {}
class A {
    void g();
                                    template<typename T>
    void h();
                                    void A<T>::h() {}
};
                                    template class A<int>;
                                    template<typename T>
template<typename T>
                                    void B<T>::g() {}
class B {
                                    template<typename T>
    void g();
                                    void B<T>::h() {}
    void h();
};
                                    template void B<int>::f();
```

main.cpp:

```
#include "header.hpp"
int main() {
   f<int>(); // ok
   f<char>(); // ok
// f<short>(); // compile error!! not specialized
   A<int> a1; // ok
   a1.f(); // ok
   a1.g(); // ok
// A<short> a2; // compile error!! not specialized
   B<int> b1; // ok
   b1.f(); // ok
// b1.g(); // compile error!! not specialized
```

Summary

- header: declaration of
 - structs/classes
 - functions, inline functions
 - template function/classes
 - extern global variables/functions
- header implementation: <u>definition</u> of (see next slides)
 - inline functions
 - template functions/classes
- source file: definition of
 - functions
 - templates full specialization
 - limited template instantiations
 - static global variables
 - extern variables/functions definition

Common Linking Errors

Very common *linking* errors:

undefined reference

Solutions:

- Check if the right headers are included
- Break circular dependencies with forward declarations

multiple definitions

Solutions:

- inline function definition
- Add #pragma once to header files
- Use extern declaration for global variables
- Place template definition in header file and full specialization in source files

Namespace

Overview

<u>The problem</u>: Named entities, such as variables, functions, and compound types declared outside any block has *global scope*, meaning that its name is valid anywhere in the code

Namespaces allow to group named entities that otherwise would have global scope into narrower scopes, giving them namespace scope (where std stands for "standard")

Namespaces provide a method for <u>preventing name conflicts</u> in large projects. Symbols declared inside a namespace block are placed in a named scope that prevents them from being mistaken for identically-named symbols in other scopes.

Defining a Namespace

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
namespace ns1 {
  void f() {
       cout << "ns1" << endl;
namespace ns2 {
  void f() {
       cout << "ns2" << endl;
int main () {
   ns1::f(); // print "ns1"
   ns2::f(); // print "ns1"
// f(); // compile error!! f() is not visible
```

Namespace Conflits

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
void f() {
     cout << "global" << endl;</pre>
namespace ns1 {
   void f() { cout << "ns1::f()" << endl; }</pre>
   void g() { cout << "ns1::g()" << endl; }</pre>
int main () {
   f(); // ok, print "global"
// g(); // compile error!! g() is not visible
   using namespace ns1;
// f(); // compile error!! ambiguous function name
    ::f();  // ok, print "qlobal"
   ns1::f(); // ok, print "ns1::f()"
   g(); // ok, print "ns1::q()", only one choice
```

Nested Namespaces and Multiple files

```
header.hpp:
#include <iostream>
namespace ns1 {
    void f() { cout << "ns1::f()" << endl; }
    namespace ns2 {
        void f() { cout << "ns1::ns2::f()" << endl; }
        void g() { cout << "ns1::ns2::g()" << endl; }
    }
}</pre>
```

Namespace Alias

Namespace alias allows declaring an alternate name for an existing namespace

```
namespace ns1 {
    void g() {}
}

namespace ns_alias = ns1; // namespace alias

int main() {
    using namespace ns_alias;
    g();
}
```

inline Namespace

inline namespaces is a concept similar to library versioning. It is a mechanism that makes a nested namespace look and act as if all its declarations were in the surrounding namespace

```
namespace ns1 {
   inline namespace V99 {
       void f(int) {} // most recent version
   namespace V98 {
       void f(int) {}
using namespace ns1;
int main() {
   V98::f(1); // call V98
   V99::f(1); // call V99
   f(1); // call default version (V99)
```

Anonymous Namespace

A namespace with no identifier before an opening brace produces an unnamed/anonymous namespace

Entities inside an anonymous namespace are used for declaring unique identifiers, visible in the same source file

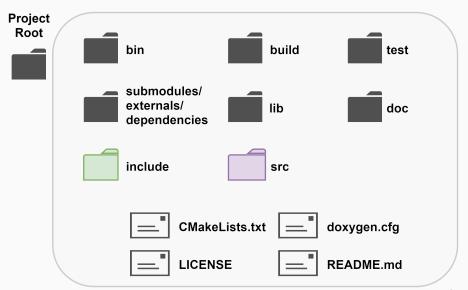
Anonymous namespaces vs. static global entities

Anonymous namespaces allow type declarations and they are less verbose

```
source.cpp
#include <iostream>
namespace { // anonymous
    void f() { std::cout << "source"; }
}
int g() {
    f(); // ok, print "source"
}</pre>
```

C++ Project Organization

Project Organization



Project Directories

bin Output executables

build All object (intermediate) file

data Files used by the executables

doc Project documentation

includes Project header files

src Project source files

test Source files for tests

lib External libraries or third party

submodules (also "externals" or "dependencies") External dependencies or submodules

Project Files

LICENSE Describes how this project can be used and distributed

README.md General information about the project in Markdown* format

CMakeLists.txt Describes how to compile the project (see next lecture)

doxygen.cfg Configuration file used by doxygen to generate the documentation (see next lecture)

*: Markdown is a language to generate text file with a syntax corresponding to a very small subset of HTML tags github.com/adam-p/markdown-here/wiki/Markdown-Cheatsheet

File extensions

Common C++ file extensions:

- header .h .hh .hpp .hxx
- header implementation .i.h .i.hpp
- src .c .cc .cpp .cxx
- textually included at specific points .inc

GOOGLE

EDALAB

Common conventions:

- .h .c .cc GOOGLE
- .hh .cc
- .hpp .cpp
- .hxx .cxx

src/include directories

src/include directories should present exactly the same
directory structure

Every directory included in **src** should be also present in **include**

Organization:

- headers and header implementations in include
- source files in src
- The main file (if present) can be placed in src and called main.* or placed in the project root directory with a generic name

Code Organization Example

include

- MyClass1.hpp
- MyTemplClass.hpp
- MyTemplClass.i.hpp
- subdir1
 - MyLib.hpp
 - MyLib.i.hpp (template/inline functions)
- src
 - MyClass1.cpp
 - MyTemplClass.cpp (specialization)
 - subdir1
 - MyLib.cpp

- main.cpp (if necessary)
 - README.md
- CMakeLists.txt
- doxygen.cfg
- LICENSE
- build (empty)
- bin (empty)
- doc (empty)
- test
 - test1.cpp
 - test2.cpp

Compiler includes and libraries flags

Specify the include path to the compiler:

g++ -std=c++14
$${ extstyle -}$$
Iinclude main.cpp -o main

-I can be used multiple times

Specify the **library path** (path where search for static/dynamic libraries) to the compiler:

g++ -std=c++14
$$^-$$
L main.cpp -o main

-L can be used multiple times

Specify the **library name** (e.g. liblibrary.a) to the compiler: g++ -std=c++14 -llibrary main.cpp -o main

The predefined environmental variable in Linux/Unix for linking dynamic libraries/shared libraries is LD_LIBRARY_PATH

C++ Library

A **library** is a package of code that is meant to be reused by many programs

A **static library (.a)** consists of routines that are <u>compiled</u> and linked directly into your program. If a program is compiled with a static library, all the functionality of the static library becomes part of your executable

A dynamic library, also called a shared library (.so), consists of routines that are <u>loaded</u> into your application at <u>run-time</u>. If a program is compiled with a dynamic library, the library does not become part of your executable. It remains as a separate unit

Coding Styles and

Conventions

Most important rule: BE CONSISTENT!!

"The best code explains itself"

GOOGLE

Coding Styles

Coding styles are common guidelines to improve the readability, prevent common errors, and make the code more uniform

Most popular coding styles:

- LLVM Coding Standards
 llvm.org/docs/CodingStandards.html
- Google C++ Style Guide google.github.io/styleguide/cppguide.html

File names and Spacing

File names:

- Lowercase Underscore (my_file)
- Camel UpperCase (MyFile)

GOOGLE

LLVM

Spacing:

- X Never use tab
 - tab → 2 spaces
 - tab → 4 spaces

LLVM, GOOGLE,
GOOGLE

LLVM

* Separate commands, operators, etc., by a space (Google, LLVM)

```
if(a*b<10&&c) // wrong!!
if (a * c < 10 && c) // correct
```

* Line length (width) should be at most 80 characters long (help code view on a terminal)
LLVM, GOOGLE

Order of #include

LLVM, GOOGLE

- (1) Class header (it is only one)
- (2) Local project includes (in alphetical order)
- (3) System includes (in alphetical order)

System includes are self-contained, local includes might not

Project includes

LLVM, GOOGLE

- should be indicated with "" syntax
- should be <u>absolute paths</u> from the project include root
 e.g. #include "directory1/header.hpp"

System includes

LLVM, GOOGLE

should be indicated with <> syntax e.g. #include <iostream>

- Use only necessary includes
- Include as less as possible, especially in header files
- Every includes must be self-contained (the project must compile with every include order)
- Report at least one function used for each include <iostream> // std::cout, std::cin

Use C++ headers instead of C headers:

```
<cassert> instead of <assert.h>
<cmath> instead of <math.h>, etc.
```

Example:

Namespaces

Namespace guidelines:

- Avoid using -directives at global scope
 LLVM, GOOGLE
- Limit using -directives at local scope and prefer explicit namespace specification GOOGLE
- Always place code in a namespace
- Avoid anonymous namespaces in headers

Style guidelines:

- The contents of namespaces are not indented GOOGLE
- Close namespace declarations with } // namespace <namespace_identifier>

LLVM

GOOGLE

• Close anonymous namespace declarations with

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Variables

Avoid static and global variables

LLVM, GOOGLE

Prefer variable/iterator preincrement

LLVM, GOOGLE

Place a variables in the <u>narrowest</u> scope possible, and <u>initialize</u> variables in the declaration
 GOOGLE, ISOCPP

 Declaration of pointer variables or arguments may be placed with the asterisk adjacent to either the type or to the variable name for <u>all</u> in the same way

```
char* c; char *c;
```

GOOGLE

Use fixed-width integer type (e.g. int64_t)

GOOGLE

 Use brace initialization to convert arithmetic types (narrowing) e.g. int64_t{x}

GOOGLE

Functions

Code guidelines:

- Prefer return values rather than output parameters GOOGLE
- <u>Limit</u> overloaded functions GOOGLE
- Default arguments are allowed <u>only</u> on <u>non-virtual</u> functions

GOOGLE

Style guidelines:

All parameters should be aligned if possible (especially in the declaration)

```
void f(int a,
     const int* b);
```

- Parameter names should be the same for declaration and definition
- Do not use inline when declaring a function (only in the definition)

GOOGLE

Code guidelines:

- Use a struct only for passive objects that carry data; everything else is a class LLVM, GOOGLE
- <u>Use</u> braced initializer lists for aggregate types A{1, 2};
 <u>LLVM</u>, GOOGLE
- ullet Do <u>not use</u> braced initializer lists for constructors LLVM
- Avoid multiple inheritance
- Objects that are fully initialized by constructor call GOOGLE
- Do not define implicit conversions. Use the explicit keyword for conversion operators and single-argument constructors

Style guidelines:

 Class inheritance declarations order: public, protected, private

GOOGLE

- First data members, then function members
- Declare class data members in special way*. Examples:
 - Trailing underscore (e.g. member_var_) GOOGLE
 - Leading underscore (e.g. _member_var) EDALAB, .NET
 - Public members (e.g. m_member_var)

- Tublic members (e.g. mmember_var

*

- It helps to keep track of class variables and local function variables
- The first character is helpful in filtering through the list of available variables $\,^{51/60}$

Structs and Classes

```
int x;
   float y;
};
class B {
public:
   B();
   void public_function();
protected:
                            // in general, it is not visible in
   int _a;
                            // derived classes
   void _protected_function(); // "protected_function()" is not wrong
                            // it may be public in derived classes
private:
   int x;
   float _y;
   void _private_function();
};
```

Use C++11/C++14 features where possible

Use constant expressions instead macros

GOOGLE

static_cast reiterpreter_cast instead old style cast
(type)
GOOGLE

Use range-for loops whatever possible

LLVM

Use auto type deduction to make the code more readable auto array = new int[10]; auto var = static_cast<int>(var);
LLVM. GOOGLE

nullptr instead 0 or NULL

LLVM

- Use [[deprecated]] to indicate deprecated functions
- Use using instead typedef

Use C++11/C++14 features for classes:

- Use explicit constructors
- Use defaulted default constructor
- Use override function keyword
- Use final function keyword

- Multi-lines statements and complex conditions require curly braces
- Boolean expression longer than the standard line length requires to be consistent in how you break up the lines
 GOOGLE
- Curly braces are not required for single-line statements (but allowed)
- The if and else keywords belong on separate lines GOOGLE

Do not use else after a return

- LLVM
- ullet Use early exits (continue, break, return) to simplify the code LLVM
 - Turn predicate loops into predicate functions

LLVM

Merge multiple conditional statements

```
void f() {
    if (c1) {
        <statement1>
        return/break/continue:
    } // error!!
    else
        <statement2>
}
void f() {
    if (c1) {
        <statement1>
        return/break/continue:
    } // correct
    <statement2>
```

```
for (<loop_condition1>) { // should be
    if (<condition2>) { // an external
        var = ... // function
        break;
                         //
if (<condition1>) { // error!!
    if (<condition2>)
        <statement>
                // correct
if (<condition1> && <condition2>)
    <statement>
```

General rule: avoid abbreviation and very long names

variable Variable names should be nouns

- Uppercase Camel style e.g. MyVar LLVM
- Lowercase separated by underscore e.g. my_var GOOGLE

constant - k prefix, e.g. kConstantVar

- GOOGLE
- Upper case separated by underscore CONSTANT_VAR

function Should be verb phrases (as they represent actions)

- Lowercase camel style, e.g. myFunc()

- LLVM
- Uppercase camel style for standard functions
 - e.g. MyFunc() GOOGLE Lowercase separated by underscore for cheap functions
 - GOOGLE, STD e.g. my_func()

namespace Lowercase separated by underscore

e.g. my_namespace

GOOGLE, LLVM_{57/60}

e.g. MY_MACRO GOOGLE

macro Uppercase separated by underscore

do not use macro for enumerator, constant, and functions

Other Issues

Do not use RTTI (dynamic_cast) or exceptions

LLVM, GOOGLE

Code style

- Use common loop variable names
 - i,j,k,l used in order
 - it for iterators
- Use true, false for boolean variables instead numeric value
 0, 1
- Prefer consecutive alignment

```
int     var1 = ...
long long int var2 = ...
```

- Use the same line ending (e.g. '\n') for all files
- Use UTF-8 file encoding for portability
- Close files with a blank line

Code Documentation

- Each file should start with a license
- Each file should include
 @author (name, surname, affiliation, email),
 @version, @date
- Use always the same style
- Comment style
 - Multiple lines

```
/**
 * comment1
 * comment2
 */
```

- single line
/// comment

LLVM