Modern C++ Programming

7. C++ Object Oriented Programming II

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Table of Context

1 Polymorphism

- virtual Methods
- Virtual Table
- override Keyword
- final Keyword
- Common Errors
- Pure Virtual Method
- Abstract Class and Interface
- Inheritance Casting and Run-time Type Identification *

Table of Context

3 Operator Overloading

- Overview
- Subscript Operator operator[]
- Comparison Operator operator <
- Spaceship Operator operator<=>
- Function Call Operator operator()
- Conversion Operator operator T()
- Return Type Overloading Resolution ★
- Increment and Decrement Operators operator++/--
- Assignment Operator operator type=
- Stream Operator operator<<

- O----- Nata

Table of Context

4 C++ Object Layout ★

- Aggregate
- Trivial Class
- Standard-Layout Class
- Plain Old Data (POD)
- Hierarchy

Polymorphism

Polymorphism

Polymorphism

In Object-Oriented Programming (OOP), **polymorphism** (meaning "having multiple forms") is the capability of an object of *mutating* its behavior in accordance with the specific usage *context*

- At <u>run-time</u>, objects of a base class behaves as objects of a derived class
- A Base class may define and implement polymorphic methods, and derived classes can override them, which means they provide their own implementations, invoked at run-time depending on the context

Polymorphism vs. Overloading

Overloading is a form of static polymorphism (compile-time polymorphism)

In C++, the term **polymorphic** is strongly associated with <u>dynamic polymorphism</u> (*overriding*)

```
// overloading example
void f(int a) {}

void f(double b) {}

f(3);  // calls f(int)
f(3.3);  // calls f(double)
```

Function Binding

Connecting the function call to the function body is called Binding

- In **Early Binding** or *Static Binding* or *Compile-time Binding*, the compiler identifies the type of object at <u>compile-time</u>
 - the program can jump directly to the function address
- In Late Binding or Dynamic Binding or Run-time binding, the run-time identifies
 the type of object at execution-time and then matches the function call with the
 correct function definition
 - the program has to read the address held in the pointer and then jump to that address (less efficient since it involves an extra level of indirection)

C++ achieves **late binding** by declaring a **virtual** function

Polymorphism - The problem

```
struct A {
    void f() { cout << "A"; }</pre>
};
struct B : A {
    void f() { cout << "B"; }</pre>
};
void g(A\& a) \{ a.f(); \} // accepts A and B
void h(B& b) { b.f(); } // accepts only B
A a;
B b:
g(a); // print "A"
g(b); // print "A" not "B"!!!
```

${\bf Polymorphism\,-\,virtual\,\,method}$

```
struct A {
    virtual void f() { cout << "A"; }</pre>
}; // now "f()" is virtual, evaluated at run-time
struct B : A {
    void f() { cout << "B"; }</pre>
}; // now "B::f()" overrides "A::f()", evaluated at run-time
void g(A& a) { a.f(); } // accepts A and B
Aa;
B b:
g(a): // print "A"
g(b); // NOW, print "B"!!!
```

The virtual keyword is <u>not</u> <u>necessary</u> in <u>derived</u> classes, but it improves <u>readability</u> and clearly advertises the fact to the user that the function is virtual

When virtual works

```
struct A {
    virtual void f() { cout << "A"; }</pre>
};
struct B : A {
    void f() { cout << "B"; }</pre>
};
void f(A& a) { a.f(); } // ok, print "B"
void g(A* a) { a->f(); } // ok, print "B"
void h(A a) { a.f(); } // does not work!! print "A"
B b:
f(b); // print "B"
g(&b); // print "B"
h(b); // print "A" (cast to A)
```

Polymorphism Dynamic Behavior

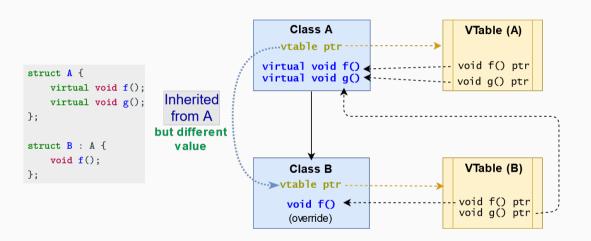
```
struct A {
    virtual void f() { cout << "A"; }</pre>
};
struct B : A {
    void f() { cout << "B"; }</pre>
};
A* get_object(bool selectA) {
    return (selectA) ? new A() : new B():
get_object(true)->f(); // print "A"
get_object(false)->f(); // print "B"
```

vtable

The **virtual table** (vtable) is a lookup table of functions used to resolve function calls and support *dynamic dispatch* (late binding)

A *virtual table* contains one entry for each <u>virtual</u> function that can be called by objects of the class. Each entry in this table is simply a function pointer that points to the *most-derived* function accessible by that class

The compiler adds a *hidden* pointer to the base class which points to the virtual table for that class (sizeof considers the vtable pointer)



Does the vtable really exist? (answer: YES)

```
struct A {
    int x = 3:
    virtual void f() { cout << "abc": }</pre>
};
A* a1 = new A:
A* a2 = (A*) malloc(sizeof(A)):
cout << a1->x; // print "3"
cout << a2->x; // undefined value!!
a1->f(): // print "abc"
a2->f(); // segmentation fault 2
```

Lesson learned: Never use malloc in C++

Virtual Method Notes

virtual classes allocate one extra pointer (hidden)

```
class A {
    virtual void f1();
    virtual void f2();
}

class B : A {};

cout << sizeof(A); // 8 bytes (vtable pointer)
cout << sizeof(B); // 8 bytes (vtable pointer)</pre>
```

override Keyword (C++11)

The override keyword ensures that the function is virtual and is overriding a virtual function from a base class

It forces the compiler to check the base class to see if there is a virtual function with this exact signature

override implies virtual (virtual should be omitted)

```
struct A {
   virtual void f(int a);  // a "float" value is casted to "int"
                                // ***
};
struct B : A {
   void f(int a) override; // ok
                    // (still) very dangerous!!
   void f(float a);
                                // ***
// void f(float a) override: // compile error not safe
// void f(int a) const override; // compile error not safe
};
//*** f(3.3f) has a different behavior between A and B
```

final Keyword

final Keyword (C++11)

The **final** keyword prevents inheriting from classes or overriding methods in derived classes

```
struct A {
    virtual void f(int a) final: // "final" method
};
struct B : A {
// void f(int a); // compile error f(int) is "final"
    void f(float a); // dangerous (still possible)
};
                     // "override" prevents these errors
struct C final { // cannot be extended
};
// struct D : C { // compile error C is "final"
// 7:
```

17/61

Virtual Methods (Common Error 1)

All classes with at least one virtual method should declare a virtual destructor

```
struct A {
    \simA() { cout << "A"; } // <-- here the problem (not virtual)
    virtual void f(int a) {}
};
struct B : A {
    int* array;
    B() { array = new int[1000000]; }
    ~B() { delete[] array;
};
void destrov(A* a) {
    delete a; // call \sim A()
B* b = new B:
destroy(b); // without virtual, \sim B() is not called
            // destrou() prints only "A" -> huge memory leak!!
```

Virtual Methods (Common Error 2)

Do not call virtual methods in constructor and destructor

- Constructor: The derived class is not ready until constructor is completed
- Destructor: The derived class is already destroyed

```
struct A {
    A() { f(); } // what instance is called? "B" is not ready
                   // it calls A::f(), even though A::f() is virtual
    virtual void f() { cout << "Explosion"; }</pre>
};
struct B : A {
    B() = default; // call A(). Note: A() may be also implicit
    void f() override { cout << "Safe": }</pre>
};
B b; // call B(), print "Explosion", not "Safe"!!
```

Virtual Methods (Common Error 3)

Do not use default parameters in virtual methods

Default parameters are not inherited

```
struct A {
    virtual void f(int i = 5) { cout << "A::" << i << "\n": }</pre>
    virtual void g(int i = 5) { cout << "A::" << i << "\n"; }</pre>
};
struct B : A {
   void f(int i = 3) override { cout << "B::" << i << "\n"; }</pre>
   };
A a: B b:
a.f(); // ok, print "A::5"
b.f(): // ok. print "B::3"
A\& ab = b:
ab.f(); // !!! print "B::5" // the virtual table of A
                            // contains f(int i = 5) and
ab.g(); //!!! print "B::5" // q(int i = 5) but it points
                             // to B implementations
```

Pure Virtual Method

A **pure virtual method** is a function that <u>must</u> be implemented in derived classes (concrete implementation)

Pure virtual functions can have or not have a body

```
struct A {
    virtual void f() = 0; // pure virtual without body
    virtual void g() = 0; // pure virtual with body
};
void A::g() {} // pure virtual implementation (body) for g()

struct B : A {
    void f() override {} // must be implemented
    void g() override {} // must be implemented
};
```

A class with one *pure virtual function* cannot be instantiated

```
struct A {
    virtual void f() = 0;
};
struct B1 : A {
// virtual void f() = 0; // implicitly declared
};
struct B2 : A {
    void f() override {}
};
// A a; // "A" has a pure virtual method
// B1 b1; // "B1" has a pure virtual method
B2 b2: // ok
```

Abstract Class and Interface

- A class is interface if it has <u>only</u> pure virtual functions and optionally (suggested)
 a virtual destructor. Interfaces do not have implementation or data
- A class is abstract if it has at least one pure virtual function

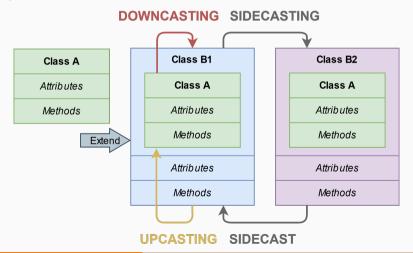
```
struct A { // INTERFACE
   virtual \sim A(); // to implement
   virtual void f() = 0:
}:
struct B { // ABSTRACT CLASS
   B() {} // abstract classes may have a contructor
   virtual void g() = 0; // at least one pure virtual
protected:
          // additional data
   int x:
};
```

Inheritance Casting and Run-time Type

Identification ★

Hierarchy Casting

Class-casting allows implicit or explicit conversion of a class into another one across its hierarchy



Hierarchy Casting

Upcasting Conversion between a <u>derived</u> class reference or pointer to a <u>base</u> class

- It can be *implicit* or *explicit*
- It is safe
- static_cast or dynamic_cast // see next slides

Downcasting Conversion between a base class reference or pointer to a derived class

- It is only explicit
- It can be dangerous
- static_cast or dynamic_cast

Sidecasting (Cross-cast) Conversion between a class reference or pointer to an other class of the same hierarchy level

- It is only explicit
- It can be dangerous
- dynamic_cast

Upcasting and Downcasting Example

```
struct A {
   virtual void f() { cout << "A"; }</pre>
};
struct B : A {
   int var;
   void f() override { cout << "B": }</pre>
};
A a:
B b;
A& a1 = b; // implicit cast upcasting
static_cast<A&>(b).f();  // print "B" upcasting
static_cast<B&>(a1).f();  // print "A" downcasting
                             // print 3
cout << b.var;</pre>
cout << static_cast<B&>(a1).var; // potential segfault!!!
```

Sidecasting Example

```
struct A {
   virtual void f() { cout << "A"; }</pre>
};
struct B1 : A {
   void f() override { cout << "B1"; }</pre>
};
struct B2 : A {
   void f() override { cout << "B2"; }</pre>
};
B1 b1:
B2 b2:
dynamic_cast<B2&>(b1).f(); // print "B2", sidecasting
dynamic cast<B1&>(b2).f(); // print "B1", sidecasting
// static cast<B1&>(b2).f(); // compile error
```

Run-time Type Identification

RTTI

Run-Time Type Information (RTTI) is a mechanism that allows the type of an object to be *determined at runtime*

C++ expresses RTTI through three features:

- dynamic_cast keyword: conversion of polymorphic types
- typeid keyword: identifying the exact type of an object
- type_info class: type information returned by the typeid operator

RTTI is available only for classes that are *polymorphic*, which means they have *at least* one virtual method

type_info and typeid

type_info class has the method name() which returns the name of the type

```
struct A {
   virtual f() {}
};
struct B : A {};
A a;
B b;
A\& a1 = b:
cout << typeid(a).name(); // print "1A"</pre>
cout << typeid(b).name(); // print "1B"</pre>
cout << typeid(a1).name(); // print "1A"</pre>
```

$dynamic_cast$

dynamic_cast , differently from static_cast , uses RTTI for deducing the
correctness of the output type
This operation happens at run-time and it is expensive

dynamic_cast<New>(Obj) has the following properties:

- Convert between a <u>derived</u> class <code>Obj</code> to a <u>base</u> class <code>New</code> \to *upcasting*. <code>New</code> , <code>Obj</code> are both pointers or references
- Throw std::bad_cast if New, Obj is a reference (T&) and New, Obj cannot be converted
- Returns NULL if New, Obj are pointers (T*) and New, Obj cannot be converted

${\tt dynamic_cast} \ \, \textbf{Example} \ \, \textbf{1}$

```
struct A {
   virtual void f() { cout << "A"; }</pre>
};
struct B : A {
   void f() override { cout << "B"; }</pre>
};
A a:
B b:
dynamic_cast<A&>(b).f(); // print "B" upcasting
// dynamic_cast<B&>(a).f(); // throw std::bad_cast
                             // wrong downcasting
dynamic cast<B*>(&a);  // returns nullptr
                             // wrong downcasting
```

${\tt dynamic_cast} \ \, \textbf{Example 2}$

```
struct A {
    virtual void f() { cout << "A"; }</pre>
};
struct B : A {
    void f() override { cout << "B"; }</pre>
};
A* get_object(bool selectA) {
    return (selectA) ? new A() : new B();
void g(bool value) {
    A* a = get_object(value);
    B* b = dynamic_cast<B*>(a); // downcasting + check
    if (b != nullptr)
        b->f(); // exectuted only when it is safe
```

Operator

Overloading

Operator Overloading

Operator Overloading

Operator overloading is a special case of polymorphism in which some *operators* are treated as polymorphic functions and have different behaviors depending on the type of its arguments

```
struct Point {
    int x, y;
    Point operator+(const Point& p) const {
        return \{x + p.x, y + p.x\};
};
Point a{1, 2}:
Point b{5, 3}:
Point c = a + b; // "c" is (6, 5)
```

Operator Overloading

Categories not in bold are rarely used in practice

Arithmetic:	+ - * \ % ++
Comparison:	== != < <= >>=
Bitwise:	& ^ ~ << >>
Logical:	! &&
Compound assignment:	+= <<= *= , etc.
Subscript:	
Address-of, Reference, Dereferencing:	& -> ->* *
Memory:	<pre>new new[] delete delete[]</pre>
Comma:	,

Subscript Operator []

The array subscript operator[] allows accessing to an object in an array-like fashion

The operator accepts everything as parameter, not just integers

```
struct A {
    char permutation[] {'c', 'b', 'd', 'a', 'h', 'y'};
    char& operator[](char c) { // read/write
        return permutation[c - 'a'];
    char operator[](char c) const { // read only
        return permutation[c - 'a'];
};
A a;
a['d'] = 't':
```

Comparison Operator operator <

Relational and comparison operators operator<, <=, ==, >= > are used for comparing two objects

In particular, the operator< is used to determine the ordering of a set of objects (e.g. sort)

```
#include <algorithm>
struct A {
    int x:
    bool operator<(A a) const {</pre>
        return x * x < a.x * a.x;
A array[] = \{5, -1, 4, -7\}:
std::sort(array, array + 4);
                                                                                         36/61
// array: {-1, 4, 5, -7}
```

C++20 allows overloading the **spaceship operator** <=> for replacing <u>all</u> comparison operator<, <=, ==, >= >

```
struct A {
    bool operator==(const A&) const;
    bool operator!=(const A&) const;
    bool operator<(const A&) const;</pre>
    bool operator<=(const A&) const;</pre>
    bool operator>(const A&) const;
    bool operator>=(const A&) const;
};
// replaced by
struct B {
    int operator<=>(const B&) const;
};
```

```
#include <compare>
struct Obj {
    int x;
    auto operator<=>(const Obj& other) {
       return x - other.x; // or even better "x <=> other.x"
};
Obj a{3};
Obj b{5};
a < b; // true, even if the operator< is not defined
a == b; // false
a <=> b < 0; // true
```

The compiler can also generates the code for the *spaceship operator* = default, even for multiple fields and arrays, by using the default comparison semantic of its members

```
#include <compare>
struct Obj {
    int x:
    char v;
    short z[2];
    auto operator<=>(const Obj&) const = default:
    // if x == other.x. then compare y
    // if y == other.y, then compare z
    // if z[0] == other.z[0], then compare z[1]
};
```

The *spaceship operator* can use one of the following ordering:

```
strong ordering
```

- if a is equivalent to b, f(a) is also equivalent to f(b)
- exactly one of < . == , or > must be true
- O integral types, e.g. int, char

weak ordering

- if a is equivalent to b, f(a) may not be equivalent to f(b)
 - exactly one of < , == , or > must be true
- \bigcirc rectangles, e.g. $R\{2, 5\} == R\{5, 2\}$

partial ordering

- if a is equivalent to b, f(a) may not be equivalent to f(b)
- < , == , or > may all be false
- O floating-point float, e.g. NaN

Function Call Operator ()

The **function call operator** operator() is generally overloaded to create objects which behave like functions, or for classes that have a primary operation (see Basic Concepts IV lecture)

```
#include <numeric> // for std::accumulate
struct Multiply {
    int operator()(int a, int b) const {
        return a * b:
};
int array[] = { 2, 3, 4 };
int factorial = std::accumulate(array, array + 3, 1, Multiply{});
cout << factorial; // 24
```

The **conversion operator** operator T() allows objects to be either implicitly or explicitly (casting) converted to another type

```
class MyBool {
    int x:
public:
    MyBool(int x1) : x\{x1\} \{\}
    operator bool() const { // implicit return type
        return x == 0;
};
MyBool my_bool{3};
bool b = my_bool; // b = false, call operator bool()
```

Conversion operators can be marked **explicit** to prevent implicit conversions. It is a good practice as for class constructors

```
struct A {
    operator bool() { return true; }
};
struct B {
    explicit operator bool() { return true; }
};
A a:
B b:
bool c1 = a;
// bool c2 = b; // compile error: explicit
bool    c3 = static cast<bool>(b):
```

Return Type Overloading Resolution *

```
struct A {
    operator float() { return 3.0f; }
    operator int() { return 2; }
};
auto f() {
    return A{};
float x = f():
int y = f();
cout << x << " " << y; // x=3.0f, y=2
```

Increment and Decrement Operators operator++/--

The increment and decrement operators operator++, operator-- are used to update the value of a variable by one unit

```
struct A {
   int* ptr;
   int pos;
   A& operator++() { // Prefix notation (++var):
               // returns the new copy of the object by-reference
       ++ptr;
       ++pos:
       return *this:
   A operator++(int a) { // Postfix notation (var++):
       A tmp = *this; // returns the old copy of the object by-value
       ++ptr:
       ++pos:
       return tmp;
                                                                                 45/61
```

The **assignment operator** operator= is used to copy values from one object to another *already existing* object

```
#include <algorithm> //std::fill, std::copy
struct Array {
    char* array;
    int size;
    Array(int size1, char value) : size{size1} {
         array = new char[size];
         std::fill(array, array + size, value);
    ~Array() { delete[] array; }
    Array& operator=(const Array& x) { .... } // --> see next slide
}:
Array a{5, 'o'}; // ["00000"]
Array b{3, 'b'}; // ["bbb"]
a = b; // a = ["bbb"] <-- qoal
```

• First option:

Second option (less intuitive):

swap method:

```
friend void swap(A& x, A& y) {
   using std::swap;
   swap(x.size, y.size);
   swap(x.array, y.Array);
}
```

- why using std::swap? if swap(x, y) finds a better match, it will use that instead of std::swap
- why friend? it allows the function to be used from outside the structure/class scope

Stream Operator<<</pre>

The **stream operation** operator<< can be overloaded to perform input and output for user-defined types

```
#include <iostream>
struct Point {
    int x, y;
    friend std::ostream& operator << (std::ostream& stream,
                                    const Point& point) {
        stream << "(" << point.x << "," << point.y << ")";
        return stream:
    // operator<< is a member of std::ostream -> need friend
}; // implementation and definition can be splitted (not suggested for operator<<)
Point point{1, 2};
                                                                                    49/61
std::cout << point; // print "(1, 2)"
```

Operators Precedence

Operators preserve precedence and short-circuit properties

```
struct MyInt {
    int x;
    int operator^(int exp) { // exponential
        int ret = 1;
        for (int i = 0; i < exp; i++)
           ret *= x;
        return ret:
};
MyInt x{3};
int y = x^2;
cout << y; // 9
int z = x^2 + 2:
cout << z; // 81 !!!
```

Binary Operators Note

Binary operators should be implemented as friend methods

```
struct A {}; struct C {};
struct B : A {
    bool operator==(const A& x) { return true; }
}:
struct D : C {
    friend bool operator == (const C& x, const C& y);
}:
bool operator == (const C& x, const C& y); { return true; }
A a; B b; C c; D d;
b == a: // ok
// a == b; // compile error // "A" does not have == operator
c == d: // ok. use operator==(const C&, const C&)
d == c: // ok. use operator==(const C&, const C&)
```


Aggregate

An **aggregate** is a type which supports *aggregate initialization* (form of list-initialization) through curly braces syntax {}

An aggregate is an array or a class with

- No user-provided constructors (all)
- No private/protected non-static data members
- No base classes
- No virtual functions (standard functions allowed)
- * No $\it brace-or-equal-initializers$ for non-static data members (until C++14)

No restrictions:

- Non-static data member (can be also not aggregate)
- Static data members

Aggregate - Examples

```
struct NotAggregate1 {
    NotAggregate1(); // No constructors
    virtual void f(); // No virtual functions
};
class NotAggregate2 : NotAggregate1 { // No base class
    int x: // x is private
};
struct Aggregate1 {
    int x;
    int y[3];
    int z { 3 }: // only C++14
};
struct Aggregate2 {
    Aggregate1() = default; // ok, defaulted constructor
    NotAggregate2 x; // ok, public member
    Aggregate2& operator=(const& Aggregate2 obj); // ok
                                                // copy-assignment
private:
    void f() {} // ok, private function (no data member)
};
```

```
struct Aggregate1 {
    int x;
    struct Aggregate2 {
        int a:
        int b[3];
    } y;
};
int main() {
    int arrav1[3] = { 1, 2, 3 };
    int array2[3] { 1, 2, 3 };
    Aggregate1 agg1 = \{ 1, \{ 2, \{ 3, 4, 5 \} \} \};
    Aggregate1 agg2 { 1, { 2, { 3, 4, 5} } };
    Aggregate1 agg3 = { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 };
```

Trivial Class

A **Trivial Class** is a class *trivial copyable* (supports memcpy)

Trivial copyable:

- No user-provided copy/move/default constructors and destructor
- No user-provided copy/move assignment operators
- No virtual functions (standard functions allowed) or virtual base classes
- No brace-or-equal-initializers for non-static data members
- All non-static members are trivial (recursively for members)

No restrictions:

- Other user-declared constructors different from default
- Static data members
- Protected/Private members

Trivial Class - Examples

```
struct NonTrivial1 {
    int v { 3 }: // brace-or-equal-initializers
    NonTrivial1(); // user-provided constructor
    virtual void f(); // virtual function
};
struct Trivial1 {
    Trivial1() = default; // defaulted constructor
    int x:
    void f();
private:
    int z: // ok, private
}:
struct Trivial2 : Trivial1 { // base class is trivial
    int Trivial1[3];  // array of trivials is trivial
};
```

Standard-Layout

A **standard-layout class** is a class with the same memory layout of the equivalent C struct or union (useful for communicating with other languages)

Standard-layout class

- No virtual functions or virtual base classes
- Recursively on non-static members, base and derived classes
- Only one control access (public/protected/private) for non-static data members
- No base classes of the same type as the first non-static data member
- (a) No non-static data members in the *most derived* class and *at most one base* class with non-static data members
- (b) No base classes with non-static data members

```
struct StandardLayout1 {
    StandardLayout1(); // user-provided contructor
    int x;
    void f();  // non-virtual function
};
class StandardLayout2 : StandardLayout1 {
    int x, y; // both are private
    StandardLayout1 v: // can have members of base type
                      // if they are not the first
};
struct StandardLayout3 { } // empty
struct StandardLayout4 : StandardLayout2, StandardLayout3 {
    // can use multiple inheritance as long only
    // one class in the hierarchy has non-static data members
};
```

Plain Old Data (POD)

- C++11, C++14 Standard-Layout (s) + Trivial copyable (t)
- (t) No user-provided copy/move/default constructors and destructor
- (t) No user-provided copy/move assignment operators
- (t) No virtual functions or virtual base classes
- (t) No brace-or-equal-initializers for non-static data member
- (s) Recursively on non-static members, base and derived classes
- (s) Only one control access (public/protected/private) for non-static data members
- (s) No base classes of the same type as the first non-static data member
- (s)a No non-static data members in the *most derived* class and *at most one base* class with non-static data members
- (s)b No base classes with non-static data members

C++ std Utilities

C++11 provides three utilities to check if a type is POD, Trivial Copyable, Standard-Lavout

- std::is_pod checks for POD
- std::is_trivially_copyable checks for trivial copyable
- std::is_standard_layout checks for standard-layout

```
#include <type_traits>
struct A {
    int x:
private:
    int v:
};
cout << std::is_trivial_copyable<A>::value; // true
cout << std::is_standard_layout<A>::value; // false
cout << std::is_pod<A>::value;
                                            // false
```

Object Layout Hierarchy

