Classes and Objects in C++

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Today's Lecture

- Classes
 - data members and member functions
- Constructors
 - Special member functions
- private and public members
- Helper and utility methods
 - setters
 - getters
 - accessors

Classes in C++

- A class is a set of data and functions that define the characteristics and behavior of an object
 - Characteristics also known as attributes
 - Behavior is what an object can do and is referred to also as its interface

Interface or Member Functions

Data members or attributes

```
class Result {
 public:
   // constructors
  Result() { }
   Result(const double& mean, const double& stdDev) {
     mean = mean;
     stdDev = stdDev;
   // accessors
   double getMean() { return mean ; };
   double getStdDev() { return stdDev ; };
  private:
   double mean ;
  double stdDev ;
```

Don't's forget; at the end of definition!

Data Members (Attributes)

```
class Datum {
    double value_;
    double error_;
};
```

- Data defined in the scope of a class are called data members of that class
- Data members are defined in the class and can be used by all member functions
- Contain the actual data that characterise the content of the class
- Can be public or private
 - public data members are generally bad and symptom of bad design
 - More on this topic later in the course

Interface: Member Functions

- Member functions are methods defined inside the scope of a class
 - Have access to all data members

name_ is a datamember

No declaration of name_ in member functions!

name is a local variable only within setName()

```
// Student
#include <iostream>
#include <string>
class Student {
 using namespace std;
 public:
   // default constructor
   Student() { name = ""; }
   // another constructor
   Student(const string& name) { name = name; }
   // getter method: access to info from the class
   string name() { return name ; }
   // setter: set attribute of object
   void setName(const string& name) { name = name; }
   // utility method
   void print() \( \delta \)
     cout << "My name is: " << name << endl;</pre>
 private:
   string name ; // data member
};
```

Arguments of Member Functions

- All C++ rules discussed so far hold
- You can pass variables by value, pointer, or reference
- You can use the constant qualifier to protect input data and restrict the capabilities of the methods
 - This has implications on declaration of methods using constants
 - We will discuss constant methods and data members next week
- Member functions can return any type
 - Exceptions! Constructors and Destructor
 - Have no return type
 - More on this later

Access specifiers public and private

- Public functions and data members are available to anyone
- Private members and methods are available ONLY to other member functions

```
1 #include <iostream>
 2 using std::cout;
 3 using std::endl;
 5 class Datum {
     public:
 7
       Datum() { }
 8
       Datum(double val, double error) {
 9
         value = val;
10
         error = error;
11
12
13
     double value() { return value ; }
14
     double error() { return error ; }
15
16
     void setValue(double value) { value = value; }
    void setError(double error) { error = error; }
17
18
19
     double value ; // public data member!!!
20
21
    private:
22
       double error ; // private data member
23 };
```

Access elements of an object through member selection operator "."

```
25 int main() {
26
27
     Datum d1(1.1223,0.23);
28
29
     cout << "d1.value(): " << d1.value()^
          << " d1.error(): " << d1.error()
30
          << endl:
31
32
33
34
     cout << "d1.value : " << d1.value</pre>
35
          << " d1.error : " << d1.error
36
          << endl:
37
38
     return 0;
39 }
```

Accessing private members is a compilation error!

```
$ g++ -o class1 class1.cc
class1.cc: In function `int main()':
class1.cc:22: error: `double Datum::error_' is private
class1.cc:35: error: within this context
```

private members

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
class Datum {
 public:
    Datum(double val, double error) {
      value = val;
      error = error;
    double value() { return value ; }
    double error() { return error ; }
    void setValue(double value)
      { value = value; }
    void setError(double error)
      { error = error; }
    void print() {
      cout << "datum: " << value</pre>
           << " +/- " << error
           << endl;
 private:
    double value ; // private data member!!!
    double error ; // private data member
};
```

```
$ g++ -o class2 class2.cc
$ ./class2
d1.value(): 8.563 d1.error(): 0.23
datum: 8.563 +/- 0.23
```

private methods

Can be used only inside other methods but not from outside

```
1 // class3.cc
 2 #include <iostream>
 3 using namespace std;
 5 class Datum {
   public:
       Datum() { reset(); } // reset data members
8
 9
       double value() { return value ; }
10
       double error() { return error ; }
11
       void setValue(double value) { value = value; }
12
13
       void setError(double error) { error = error; }
14
15
       void print() {
         cout << "datum: " << value << " +/- "
              << error << endl;
17
18
19
    private:
20
       void reset() {
         value = 0.0;
21
         error = 0.0;
23
       }
24
25
       double value ;
26
       double error ;
27 };
```

```
int main() {
  Datum d1;
  d1.setValue( 8.563 );
  d1.print();
  return 0;
}
```

```
$ g++ -o class3 class3.cc
$ ./class3
datum: 8.563 +/- 0
```

```
30 int main() {
31
32    Datum d1;
33    d1.setValue(8.563);
34    d1.print();
35    d1.reset();
36
37    return 0;
38 }
```

```
$ g++ -o class4 class4.cc
class4.cc: In function `int main()':
class4.cc:20: error: `void Datum::reset()' is private
class4.cc:35: error: within this context
```

Hiding Implementation from Users/Clients

How to decide what to make public or private?

- Principle of Least Privilege
 - elements of a class, data or functions, must be private unless proven to be needed as public!
- Users should rely solely on the interface of a class

- They should never use the internal details of the class
- That's why having public data members is a VERY bad idea!
 - name and characteristics of data members can change
 - Functionalities and methods remain the same
 - You must be able to change internal structure of the class without affecting the clients!

Bad Example of Public Data Members

```
int main() {
   Datum d1(1.1223,0.23);
   double x = d1.value();
   double y = d1.error_;
   cout << "x: " << x << "\t y: " << y << endl;
   return 0;
}</pre>
```

```
class Datum {
 public:
   Datum(double val, double error) {
     value = val;
     error = error;
   double value() { return value ; }
   double error() { return error ; }
   void setValue(double value) { value = value; }
   void setError(double error) { error = error; }
   void print() {
     cout << "datum: " << value << " +/- " << error << endl;
 //private:
              // all data are public!
   double value ;
   double error ;
};
```

application uses directly the data member!

Bad Example of Public Data Members

Same Application as before

Change the names of data members

No change of functionality so no one should be affected!

```
36
class Datum {
                                                 37 }
 public:
   Datum(double val, double error) {
     val = val;
     err = error;
   double value() { return val ; }
   double error() { return err ; }
   void setValue(double value) { val = value; }
   void setError(double error) { err = error; }
   void print() {
     cout << "datum: " << val << " +/- " << err << endl;
 //private: // alla data are public!
   double val ; // value → val_
   double err ; // error → err
};
```

```
28 int main() {
29
30    Datum d1(1.1223,0.23);
31    double x = d1.value();
32    double y = d1.error_;
33
34    cout << "x: " << x << "\t y: " << y << endl;
35
36    return 0;
37 }</pre>
```

Our application is now broken!

But Datum has not changed its behavior!

Bad programming!

Only use the interface of an object not its internal data!

Private data members prevent this

```
$ g++ -o class7 class7.cc
class7.cc: In function `int main()':
class7.cc:32: error: 'class Datum' has no member named `error_'
```

Constructors

```
class Datum {
  public:
    Datum() { }
    Datum(double val, double error) {
     value_ = val;
     error_ = error;
  }

  private:
    double value_; // public data member!!!
    double error_; // private data member
};
```

- Special member functions
 - Required by C++ to create a new object
 - MUST have the same name of the class
 - Used to initialize data members of an instance of the class
 - Can accept any number of arguments
 - Same rules as any other C++ function applies
- Constructors have no return type!
- There can be several constructors for a class
 - Different ways to declare and an object of a given type

Different Types of Constructors

Default constructor

- Has no argument
- On most machines the default values for data members are assigned

Copy Constructor

 Make a new object from an existing one

Regular constructor

 Provide sufficient arguments to initialize data members

```
class Datum {
 public:
    Datum() { }
    Datum(double x, double y) {
      value = x;
      error = y;
    Datum(const Datum& datum) {
      value_ = datum.value ;
      error_ = datum.error ;
 private:
    double value ;
    double error ;
```

Using Constructors

```
// class5.cc
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
class Datum {
 public:
    Datum() { }
    Datum(double x, double y) {
      value = x;
      error = y;
    Datum(const Datum& datum) {
      value = datum.value ;
      error = datum.error ;
    void print() {
      cout << "datum: " << value</pre>
           << " +/- " << error
           << endl;
    }
 private:
    double value ;
    double error ;
};
```

```
int main() {
   Datum d1;
   d1.print();

   Datum d2(0.23,0.212);
   d2.print();

   Datum d3( d2 );
   d3.print();

  return 0;
}
```

```
$ g++ -o class5 class5.cc
$ ./class5
datum: NaN +/- 8.48798e-314
datum: 0.23 +/- 0.212
datum: 0.23 +/- 0.212
```

Default Constructors on Different Architectures

```
$ uname -a
CYGWIN_NT-5.1 lajolla 1.5.18(0.132/4/2) 2005-07-02 20:30 i686 unknown
unknown Cygwin
$ gcc -v
Reading specs from /usr/lib/gcc/i686-pc-cygwin/3.4.4/specs
...
gcc version 3.4.4 (cygming special) (gdc 0.12, using dmd 0.125)
$ g++ -o class5 class5.cc
$ ./class5
datum: NaN +/- 8.48798e-314
datum: 0.23 +/- 0.212
datum: 0.23 +/- 0.212
```

Windows XP with CygWin

```
$ uname -a
Linux pccms02.romal.infn.it 2.6.14-1.1656_FC4smp #1 SMP Thu Jan 5 22:24:06 EST
2006 i686 i686 i386 GNU/Linux
$ gcc -v
Using built-in specs.
Target: i386-redhat-linux
...
gcc version 4.0.2 20051125 (Red Hat 4.0.2-8)
$ g++ -o class5 class5.cc
$ ./class5
datum: 6.3275e-308 +/- 4.85825e-270
datum: 0.23 +/- 0.212
datum: 0.23 +/- 0.212
```

Default Assignment

```
// ctor.cc
#include <iostream>
using std::cout;
using std::endl;

class Datum {
  public:
    Datum(double x) { x_ = x; }
    double value() { return x_; }
    void setValue(double x) { x_ = x; }
    void print() {
      cout << "x: " << x_ << endl;
    }

    private:
      double x_;
};</pre>
```

```
d3.x_ = d1.x_
done by compiler
```

```
int main() {
   Datum d1(1.2);
   d1.print();

// no default ctor. compiler error if uncommented
   //Datum d2;
   //d2.print();

Datum d3 = d1; // default assignment by compiler
   d3.print();
   cout << "&d1: " << &d1
        << "\t &d3: " << &d3 << endl;
   return 0;
}</pre>
```

```
$ g++ -o ctor ctor.cc
$ ./ctor
x: 1.2
x: 1.2
&d1: 0x23ef10      &d3: 0x23ef08
```

Question

- Can a constructor be private?
 - Is it allowed by the compiler?
 - How to instantiate an object with no public constructor?

■ Find a working example of a very simple class for next week

Accessors and Helper/Utility Methods

- Methods that allow read access to data members
- Can also provide functionalities commonly needed by users to elaborate information from the class
 - for example formatted printing of data
- Usually they do not modify the objects, i.e. do not change the value of its attributes

```
class Student {
  public:

    // getter method: access to data members
    string name() { return name_; }

    // utility method
    void print() {
       cout << "My name is: " << name_ << endl;
    }

    private:
    string name_; // data member
};</pre>
```

Getter Methods

- getters are helpers methods with explicit names returning individual data members
 - Do not modify the data members simply return them
 - Good practice: call these methods as getFoo() or foo() for member foo_
- Return value of a getter method should be that of the data member

```
class Datum {
  public:
    Datum(double val, double error) {
      val_ = val;
      err = error;
    double value() { return val ; }
    double error() { return err ; }
    void setValue(double value) { val = value; }
    void setError(double error) { err_ = error; }
    void print() {
      cout << "datum: " << val << " +/- " << err
           << endl;
 private:
    double val ;
    double err ;
};
```

```
// Student
#include <iostream>
#include <string>
using namespace std;
class Student {
  public:
   // default constructor
   Student() { name = ""; }
   // another constructor
   Student(const string& name) { name = name; }
   // getter method: access to info from the class
   string name() { return name ; }
   // setter: set attribute of object
   void setName(const string& name) { name = name; }
   // utility method
   void print() {
     cout << "My name is: " << name << endl;</pre>
 private:
  string name ; // data member
};
```

Setter Methods

- Setters are member functions that modify attributes of an object after it is created
 - Typically defined as void
 - Could return other values for error handling purposes
 - Very useful to assign correct attributes to an object in algorithms
 - As usual abusing setter methods can cause unexpected problems

```
// class8.cc
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
class Datum {
 public:
   Datum(double val, double error) {
     value = val;
      error = error;
    double value() { return value ; }
    double error() { return error ; }
    void setValue(double value) { value = value; }
    void setError(double error) { error = error; }
   void print() {
      cout << "datum: " << value << " +/- "
           << error << endl;
 private:
    double value ;
   double error ;
};
```

```
int main() {
   Datum d1(23.4,7.5);
   d1.print();

   d1.setValue( 8.563 );
   d1.setError( 0.45 );
   d1.print();

   return 0;
}
```

```
$ g++ -o class8 class8.cc
$ ./class8
datum: 23.4 +/- 7.5
datum: 8.563 +/- 0.45
```

Pointers and References to Objects

```
// app2.cpp
#include <iostream>
using std::cout; // use using only for specific
classes
using std::endl; // not for entire namespace
class Counter {
 public:
    Counter() { count = 0; x = 0.0; \};
    int value() { return count ; }
    void reset() { count = 0; x = 0.0; }
    void increment() { count ++; }
    void increment(int step)
       { count = count +step; }
    void print() {
      cout << "--- Counter::print() ----" << endl;</pre>
      cout << "my count : " << count << endl;</pre>
      // this is special pointer
      cout << "my address: " << this << endl;</pre>
      cout << "&x : " << &x << " sizeof(x): "
           << sizeof(x ) << endl;</pre>
      cout << "&count : " << &count_</pre>
      << " sizeof(count): "</pre>
      << sizeof(count ) << endl;
      cout << "--- Counter::print()----" << endl;</pre>
 private:
    int count ;
    double x ; // dummy variable
};
```

```
void printCounter(Counter& counter) {
  cout << "counter value: " << counter.value() << endl;
}

void printByPtr(Counter* counter) {
  cout << "counter value: " << counter->value() << endl;
}</pre>
```

```
int main-()-{----
Counter counter;
 counter.increment(7)
  // ptr is a pointer to a Counter Object
  Counter* ptr = &counter;
  cout << "ptr = &counter: " << &counter << endl;</pre>
  // use . to access member of objects
  cout << "counter.value(): " << counter.value() << endl;</pre>
  // use -> with pointer to objects
  cout << "ptr->value(): " << ptr->value() << endl;</pre>
 printCounter( counter );
 printByPtr( ptr );
 ptr->print();
  cout << "sizeof(ptr): " << sizeof(ptr) << "\t"</pre>
       << "sizeof(counter): " << sizeof(counter)</pre>
       << endl;
return 0;
```

-> instead of . When using pointers to objects

Size and Address of Objects

gcc 3.4.4 on cygwin

gcc 4.1.1 on fedora core 6

```
$ g++ -o app2 app2.cpp
$ ./app2
ptr = &counter: 0x22ccd0
counter.value(): 7
ptr->value(): 7
printCounter: counter value: 7
printByPtr: counter value: 7
---- Counter::print() : begin ----
my count: 7
my address: 0x22ccd0
&count : 0x22ccd0 sizeof(count): 4
&x : 0x22ccd8 sizeof(x): 8
---- Counter::print() : end ----
&i: 0x22ccc8
sizeof(ptr): 4 sizeof(counter): 16
sizeof(int): 4 sizeof(double): 8
```

```
$ g++ -o app2 app2.cpp
$ ./app2
ptr = &counter: 0xbf841e20
counter.value(): 7
ptr->value(): 7
printCounter: counter value: 7
printByPtr: counter value: 7
---- Counter::print() : begin ----
my count: 7
my address: 0xbf841e20
&count : 0xbf841e20 sizeof(count): 4
&x : 0xbf841e24 sizeof(x): 8
---- Counter::print() : en\overline{d} ----
&i: 0xbf841e1c
sizeof(ptr): 4 sizeof(counter): 12
sizeof(int): 4 sizeof(double): 8
```

- Different size of objects on different platform!
 - Different configuration of compiler
 - Optimization for access to memory
- Address of object is address of first data member in the object

Classes and Applications

 So far we have always included the definition of classes together with the main application in one file

The advantage is that we have only one file to modify

- Disadvantage are many
 - There is always ONE file to modify no matter what kind of modification you want to make
 - This file becomes VERY long after a very short time
 - Hard to maintain everything in only one place
 - We compile everything even after very simple changes

Example of Typical Application So Far

```
// app3.cpp
#include <iostream>
using std::cout;
using std::endl;

#include "Counter.h"

Counter makeCounter() {
   Counter c;
   return c;
}

void printCounter(Counter& counter) {
   cout << "counter value: " << counter.value() << endl;
}

void printByPtr(Counter* counter) {
   cout << "counter value: " << counter->value() << endl;
}</pre>
```

```
int main() {
  Counter counter;
  counter.increment(7);
 Counter* ptr = &counter;
  cout << "counter.value(): " << counter.value()</pre>
       << endl;
  cout << "ptr = &counter: " << &counter << endl;</pre>
  cout << "ptr->value(): " << ptr->value() << endl;</pre>
 Counter c2 = makeCounter();
  c2.increment();
 printCounter( c2 );
 cout << "sizeof(ptr): " << sizeof(ptr)</pre>
       << " sizeof(c2): " << sizeof(c2)</pre>
       << endl:
 return 0;
```

Separating Classes and Applications

It's good practice to separate classes from applications

- Create one file with only your application
 - Use #include directive to add all classes needed in your application

Keep a separate file for each class

Compile your classes separately

Include compiled classes (or libraries) when linking your application

First Attempt at Improving Code Management

```
// Datum1.cc
// include all header files needed
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
class Datum {
 public:
   Datum() { }
    Datum(double x, double y) {
      value = x;
      error = y;
    Datum(const Datum& datum) {
      value = datum.value ;
      error = datum.error ;
    void print() {
      cout << "datum: " << value</pre>
           << " +/- " << error
           << endl;
 private:
    double value ;
    double error ;
};
```

```
// app1.cpp
#include "Datum1.cc"
int main() {
 Datum d1;
  d1.print();
  Datum d2(0.23,0.212);
  d2.print();
  Datum d3 ( d2 );
  d3.print();
  return 0;
```

```
$ g++ -o app1 app1.cpp
$ ./app1
datum: NaN +/- 8.48798e-314
datum: 0.23 +/- 0.212
datum: 0.23 +/- 0.212
```

Problems with Previous Example

• Although we have two files it is basically if we had just one!

- Datum1.cc includes not only the declaration but also the definition of class Datum
 - Implementation of all methods exposed to user

- When compiling app1.cpp we also compile class Datum every time!
 - We do not need any library because app1.cpp includes all source code!
 - When compiling and linking app1.cpp we also create compiled code for Datum to be used in our application
 - Remember what #include does!

Pre-Compiled version of Datum1.cc

Our source file is only a few lines long

```
$ wc -1 Datum1.cc
30 Datum1.cc
$ wc -1 app1.cpp
16 app1.cpp
$ g++ -E -c Datum1.cc > Datum1.cc-precomoiled
$ wc -1 Datum1.cc-precompiled
23740 Datum1.cc-precompiled
```

- The precompiled version is almost 24000 lines!
 - This is all code included in and by iostream

```
$ grep "#include" /usr/lib/gcc/i686-pc-cygwin//3.4.4/include/c++/
iostream
  * This is a Standard C++ Library header. You should @c #include
this header
#include <bits/c++config.h>
#include <ostream>
#include <istream>
```

iostream

```
#ifndef _GLIBCXX_IOSTREAM
#define GLIBCXX IOSTREAM 1
#pragma GCC system_header
#include <bits/c++config.h>
#include <ostream>
#include <istream>
namespace std
{
 /**
   @name Standard Stream Objects
*/
//@{
 extern istream cin;
                        ///< Linked to standard input
 extern ostream cout;
                          ///< Linked to standard output
                         ///< Linked to standard error (unbuffered)
 extern ostream cerr;
 extern ostream clog;
                          ///< Linked to standard error (buffered)
#ifdef _GLIBCXX_USE_WCHAR_T
 extern wistream wcin;
                           ///< Linked to standard input
 extern wostream wcout;
                            ///< Linked to standard output
                            ///< Linked to standard error (unbuffered)
 extern wostream wcerr;
                            ///< Linked to standard error (buffered)
 extern wostream wclog;
#endif
//@}
 // For construction of filebuffers for cout, cin, cerr, clog et. al.
 static ios_base::Init __ioinit;
} // namespace std
#endif /* _GLIBCXX_IOSTREAM */
```

I have removed all comments from the file to make it fit in this slide

Additional code included by the header files in this file

How do you find iostream file on your computer?

Separating Interface from Implementation

Clients of your classes only need to know the interface of your classes

Remember:

- Users should only rely on public members of your class
- Internal data structure must be hidden and not needed in applications
- Compiler needs only the declaration of your classes, its functions and their signature to compile the application
 - Signature of a function is the exact set of arguments passed to a function and it return type
- The compiled class code (definition) is needed only at link time
 - Libraries are needed to link not to compile!

Header and Source Files

- We can separate the declaration of a class from its implementation
 - Declaration tells the compiler about data members and member functions of a class
 - We know how many and what type of arguments a function has by looking at the declaration but we don't know how the function is implemented
- Declaration of a class Counter goes into a file usually called Counter.h
 or Counter.hh suffix

 Implementation of methods goes into the source file usually called Counter.cc

Counter.h and Counter.cc

```
// Counter.h
// Counter Class: simple counter class.
// Allows simple or step
// increments and also a reset function
// include header files for types
// and classes used in the declaration
class Counter {
 public:
    Counter();
    int value();
    void reset();
    void increment();
    void increment(int step);
 private:
    int count ;
};
```

Scope operator :: is used to tell methods belong to Class Counter

```
// Counter.cc
// include class header files
#include "Counter.h"
   include any additional header files
   needed in the class
// definition
#include <iostream>
using std::cout;
using std::endl;
Counter::Counter() {
  count = 0;
};
int Counter::value() {
  return count ;
void Counter::reset() {
  count = 0;
void Counter::increment() {
  count ++;
void Counter::increment(int step) {
  count = count +step;
```

What is included in header files?

- Declaration of the class
 - Public and data members

- All header files for types and classes used in the header
 - data members, arguments or return types of member functions
- Sometimes when we have very simple methods these are directly implemented in the header file

- Methods implemented in the header file are referred to as inline functions
 - For example getter methods are a good candidate to become inline functions

What is included in source file?

- Header file of the class being implemented
 - Compiler needs the prototype (declaration) of the methods
- Implementation of methods declared in the header file
 - Scope operator :: must be used to tell the compiler methods belong to a class

- Header files for all additional types used in the implementation but not needed in the header!
 - Nota bene: header files include in the header file of the class are automatically included in the source file

Compiling Source Files of a Class

```
$ g++ Counter.cc
/usr/lib/gcc/i386-redhat-linux/4.0.2/../../crt1.o(.text+0x18):
In function `_start':: undefined reference to `main'
collect2: ld returned 1 exit status
Linux
```

Do you understand the error?

- What does undefined symbol usually mean?
- Why we did not encounter this error earlier?