CS106L Lecture 15: RAII, Smart Pointers, Building Projects

Fabio Ibanez, Jacob Roberts-Baca

Attendance



https://tinyurl.com/lastlectureW25

Plan

- 1. RAII (Resource Acquisition Is Initialization)
- 2. Smart Pointers
- 3. Building C++ projects

Plan

- 1. RAII (Resource Acquisition Is Initialization)
- 2. Smart Pointers
- 3. Building C++ projects

```
std::string returnNameCheckPawsome(Pet p) {
    /// NOTE: dogs > cats
   if (p.type() == "Dog" | p.firstName() == "Fluffy") {
        std::cout << p.firstName() << " " <<
          p.lastName() << " is paw-some!" << '\n';</pre>
    return p.firstName() + " " + p.lastName();
```

```
std::string returnNameCheckPawsome(Pet p) {
    /// NOTE: dogs > cats
   if (p.type() == "Dog" | p.firstName() == "Fluffy") {
        std::cout << p.firstName() << " " <<
          p.lastName() << " is paw-some!" << '\n';</pre>
    return p.firstName() + " " + p.lastName();
```

```
std::string returnNameCheckPawsome(Pet p) {
    /// NOTE: dogs > cats
    if (p.type() == "Dog" || p.firstName() == "Fluffy") {
        std::cout << p.firstName() << " " <<
          p.lastName() << " is paw-some!" << '\n';</pre>
    return p.firstName() + " " + p.lastName();
```

```
std::string returnNameCheckPawsome(Pet p) {
    /// NOTE: dogs > cats
    if (p.type() == "Dog" | p.firstName() == "Fluffy") {
        std::cout << p.firstName() << " " <<
          p.lastName() << " is paw-some!" << '\n';</pre>
    return p.firstName() + " " + p.lastName();
```

• Exceptions are a way of handling errors when they arise in code

- Exceptions are a way of handling errors when they arise in code
- Exceptions are "thrown"

- Exceptions are a way of handling errors when they arise in code
- Exceptions are "thrown"
- However, we can write code that lets us handle exceptions so that we can continue in our code without necessarily erroring.

- Exceptions are a way of handling errors when they arise in code
- Exceptions are "thrown"
- We call this "<u>catching</u>" an exception.

```
try {
     // code that we check for exceptions
}
catch([exception type] e1) { // "if"
     // behavior when we encounter an error
}
catch([other exception type] e2) { // "else if"
     // ...
}
catch { // the "else" statement
     // catch-all (haha)
}
```

What questions do we have?



```
std::string returnNameCheckPawsome(Pet p) {
    /// NOTE: dogs > cats
    if (p.type() == "Dog" | p.firstName() == "Fluffy") {
        std::cout << p.firstName() << " " <<
          p.lastName() << " is paw-some!" << '\n';</pre>
    return p.firstName() + " " + p.lastName();
```

At least 23 code paths!

- (1): Copy constructor of Pet may throw
- (5): Constructor of temp strings may throw
- (6): Call to type, firstName (3), lastName (2) may throw
- (10): User overloaded operators may throw
- (1): Copy constructor of returned string may throw

```
std::string returnNameCheckPawsome(Pet p) {
    /// NOTE: dogs > cats
    if (p.type() == "Dog" || p.firstName() == "Fluffy") {
        std::cout << p.firstName() << " " <<
            p.lastName() << " is paw-some!" << '\n';
    }
    return p.firstName() + " " + p.lastName();
}</pre>
```

What could go wrong in this new code?

```
std::string returnNameCheckPawsome(int petId) {
    Pet* p = new Pet(petId);
    if (p.type() == "Dog" || p.firstName() == "Fluffy") {
        std::cout << p.firstName() << " " <<
          p.lastName() << " is paw-some!" << '\n';</pre>
    std::string returnStr = p.firstName() + " " + p.lastName();
    delete p;
    return returnStr;
```

```
std::string returnNameCheckPawsome(int petId) {
              Pet* p = new Pet(petId);
              if (p.type() == "Dog" || p.firstName() == "Fluffy") {
                  std::cout << p.firstName() << " " <<
                   p.lastName() << " is paw-some!" << '\n';
              std::string returnStr = p.firstName() + " " + p.lastName();
              delete p;
  What if this
                urn returnStr;
function threw an
exception here?
```

```
std::string returnNameCheckPawsome(int petId) {
              Pet* p = new Pet(petId);
              if (p.type() == "Dog" || p.firstName() == "Fluffy") {
                  std::cout << p.firstName() << " " <<
                    p.lastName() << " is paw-some!" << '\n';
              std::string returnStr = p.firstName() + " " + p.lastName();
              delete p;
  What if this
                 urn returnStr;
                                                  Or here?
function threw an
exception here?
```

```
std::string returnNameCheckPawsome(int petId) {
              Pet* p = new Pet(petId);
              if (p.type() == "Dog" || p.firstName() == "Fluffy") {
                  std::cout << p.firstName() << " " <<
                    p.lastName() << " is paw-some!" << '\n';
              std::string returnStr = p.firstName() + " " + p.lastName();
              delete p;
  What if this
                 urn returnStr;
                                                  Or here?
function threw an
exception here?
                                  Or here?
```

Or anywhere an exception can be thrown?

```
std::string returnNameCheckPawsome(int petId) {
   Pet* p = new Pet(petId);
   if (p.type() == "Dog" || p.firstName() == "Fluffy") {
        std::cout << p.firstName() << " " <<
          p.lastName() << " is paw-some!" << '\n';</pre>
   std::string returnStr = p.firstName() + " " + p.lastName();
   delete p;
   return returnStr;
```

```
std::string returnNameCheckPawsome(int petId) {
   Pet* p = new Pet(petId);
   if (p.type() == "Dog" || p.firstName() == "Fluffy") {
        std::cout << p.firstName() << " " <<
         p.lastName() << " is paw-some!" << '\n';</pre>
   std::string returnStr = p.firstName() + " " + p.lastName();
   delete p;
   return returnStr;
```

```
std::string returnNameCheckPawsome(int petId) {
             Pet* p = new Pet(petId);
exception
              if (p.type() == "Dog" || p.firstName() == "Fluffy") {
                  std::cout << p.firstName() << " " <<
  here
                   p.lastName() << " is paw-some!" << '\n';</pre>
 means
memory
  leak
              std::string returnStr = p.firstName() + " " + p.lastName();
             delete p;
             return returnStr;
```

This is not unique to just pointers!

It turns out that there are many resources that you need to <u>release</u> after <u>acquiring</u>

	Acquire	Release
Heap memory	new	delete
Files	open	close
Locks	try_lock	unlock
Sockets	socket	close

This is not unique to just pointers!

It turns out that there are many resources that you need to <u>release</u> after <u>acquiring</u>

	Acquire	Release
Heap memory	new	delete
Files	open	close
How to we ensure that we properly release resources	try_lock	unlock
	socket	close
in the case that we		

have an exception?

What questions do we have?



RAII: Resource Acquisition is Initialization

RAII: Resource Acquisition is Initialization

RAII was developed by this lad:

And it's a concept that is very emblematic in C++, among other languages.

RAII: Resource Acquisition is Initialization

RAII was developed by this lad:



And it's a concept that is very emblematic in C++, among other languages.

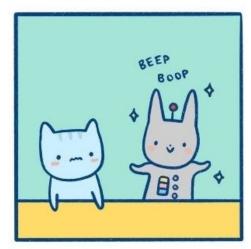
So what is RAII?

- All resources used by a class should be acquired in the constructor!
- All resources that are used by a class should be released in the destructor.

RAII: Resource Acquisition is Initialization







RAII: why tho?

RAII: Resource Acquisition is Initialization

By abiding by the RAII policy we avoid "half-valid" states.

- No matter what, the destructor is called whenever the resource goes out of scope.
- One more thing: the resource/object is usable immediately after it is created.

RAII compliant?

```
void printFile() {
  ifstream input;
  input.open("hamlet.txt");
  string line;
  while(getLine(input, line)) { // might throw an exception
    std::cout << line << std::endl;</pre>
  input.close();
```

RAII compliant?

```
void printFile() {
             ifstream input;
            input.open("hamlet.txt");
    the
ifstream is
             string line;
opened and
             while(getLine(input, line)) { // might throw an exception
 closed in
               std::cout << line << std::endl;</pre>
 code, not
constructor
& destructor
            input.close();
```

Neither is this!

```
void cleanDatabase(mutex& databaseLock, map<int, int>& db) {
 databaseLock.lock();
 // no other thread or machine can change database
  // modify the database
 // if any exception is thrown, the lock never unlocks!
 database.unlock();
```

Neither is this!

```
void cleanDatabase(mutex& databaseLock, map<int, int>& db) {
  databaseLock.lock();
     no other thread or machine can change database
     modify the database
    if any exception is thrown, the lock ne
                                                    If any code throws an
  database.unlock();
                                                  exception in the red area,
                                                    which we can call the
                                                  'critical section', the lock
                                                       never unlocks!
```

How can we fix this?

```
void cleanDatabase(mutex& databaseLock, map<int, int>& db) {
  lock_guard<mutex> lg(databaseLock);
  // no other thread or machine can change database
  // modify the database
  // if exception is throw, mutex is UNLOCKED!
 // no explicit unlock necessary, is handled by lock_guard
```

How can we fix this?

```
void cleanDatabase(mutex& databaseLock, map<int, int>& db) {
  lock_guard<mutex> lg(databaseLock);
  // no other thread or machine can change database
  // modify the database
  // if exception is throw, muter
                                       A lock guard is a RAII-compliant
                                         wrapper that attempts to
  // no explicit unlock necessar
                                        acquire the passed in lock. It
                                      releases the the lock once it goes
                                        out of scope. Read more here
```

What questions do we have?



Plan

- 1. RAII (Resource Acquisition Is Initialization)
- 2. Smart Pointers
- 3. Building C++ projects

Smart Pointers

RAII for locks → **lock_guard**

Smart Pointers

RAII for locks → **lock_guard**

RAII for memory → 🤔

Smart Pointers

R.11: Avoid calling **new** and **delete** explicitly

Reason

The pointer returned by new should belong to a resource handle (that can call delete). If the pointer returned by new is assigned to a plain/naked pointer, the object can be leaked.

Note

In a large program, a naked delete (that is a delete in application code, rather than part of code devoted to resource management) is a likely bug: if you have N delete s, how can you be certain that you don't need N+1 or N-1? The bug may be latent: it may emerge only during maintenance. If you have a naked new, you probably need a naked delete somewhere, so you probably have a bug.

Enforcement

(Simple) Warn on any explicit use of new and delete . Suggest using make_unique instead.

Remember this?

```
std::string returnNameCheckPawsome(int petId) {
    Pet* p = new Pet(petId);
   if (p.type() == "Dog" || p.firstName() == "Fluffy") {
        std::cout << p.firstName() << " " <<
          p.lastName() << " is paw-some!" << '\n';</pre>
    std::string returnStr = p.firstName() + " " + p.lastName();
    delete p;
    return returnStr;
```

What did we do for locks?

RAII for locks → **lock_guard**

 Created a new object that acquires the resource in the constructor and releases in the destructor

What did we do for locks?

RAII for locks → **lock_guard**

 Created a new object that acquires the resource in the constructor and releases in the destructor

RAII for memory → We can do the same **※**



What did we do for locks?

RAII for locks → **lock_guard**

 Created a new object that acquires the resource in the constructor and releases in the destructor

RAII for memory → We can do the same 🥳

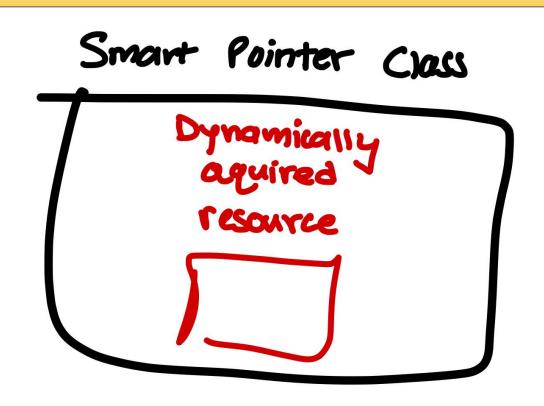
• These "wrapper" pointers are called "smart pointers"!

RAII for locks → **lock_guard**

 Created a new object that acquires the resource in the constructor and releases in the destructor

RAII for memory → We can do the same 🥳

• These "wrapper" pointers are called "smart pointers"!



RAII for memory → We can do the same 🥳

• These "wrapper" pointers are called "smart pointers"!

There are three types of RAII-compliant pointers:

- std::unique_ptr
 - Uniquely owns its resource, can't be copied

RAII for memory → We can do the same 🥳

• These "wrapper" pointers are called "smart pointers"!

There are three types of RAII-compliant pointers:

- std::unique_ptr
 - Uniquely owns its resource, can't be copied
- std::shared_ptr
 - Can make copies, destructed when the <u>underlying memory</u> goes out of scope

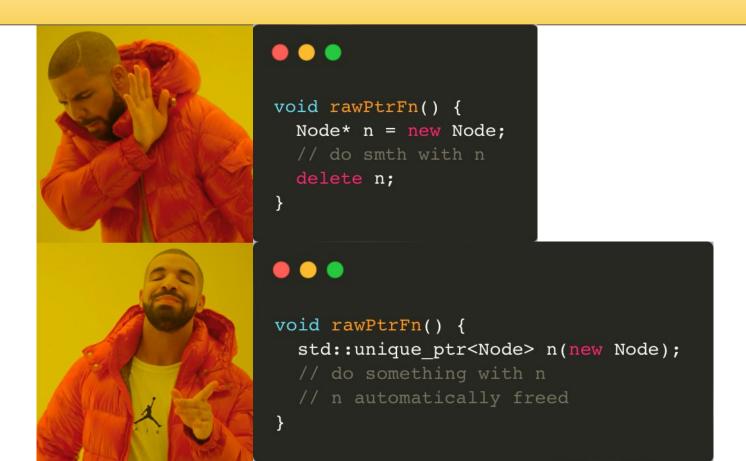
RAII for memory → We can do the same 🥳

• These "wrapper" pointers are called "smart pointers"!

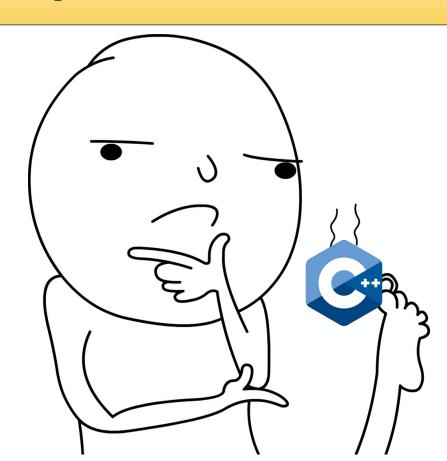
There are three types of RAII-compliant pointers:

- std::unique_ptr
 - Uniquely owns its resource, can't be copied
- std::shared_ptr
 - Can make copies, destructed when the <u>underlying memory</u> goes out of scope
- std::weak_ptr
 - A class of pointers designed to <u>mitigate circular dependencies</u>
 - More on these in a bit

What does this look like?



What questions do we have?



Remember we can't copy unique pointers

```
void rawPtrFn() {
  std::unique_ptr<Node> n(new Node);
  // this is a compile-time error!
  std::unique_ptr<Node> copy = n;
```

Why?

```
void rawPtrFn() {
  std::unique_ptr<Node> n(new Node);
 // this is a compile-time error!
  std::unique_ptr<Node> copy = n;
```

Imagine a case where the original destructor is called *after* the copy happens.

Why?

```
void rawPtrFn() {
  std::unique_ptr<Node> n(new Node);
  // this is a compile-time error!
  std::unique_ptr<Node> copy = n;
```

Imagine a case where the original destructor is called <u>after</u> the copy happens.

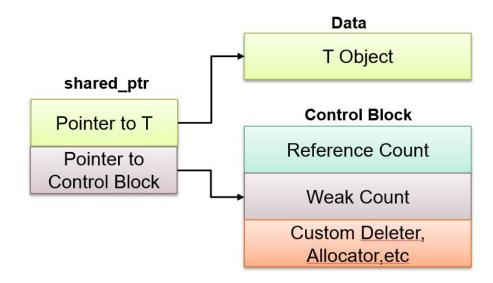
Problem: The copy points to deallocated memory!

std::shared_ptr

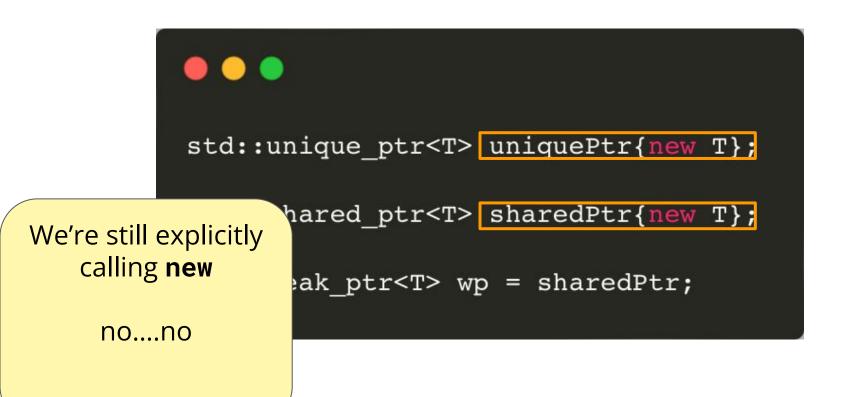
Shared pointers get around our issue of trying to copy **std::unique_ptr**'s by not deallocating the underlying memory until <u>all</u> shared pointers go out of scope!

std::shared_ptr

Shared pointers get around our issue of trying to copy **std::unique_ptr**'s by not deallocating the underlying memory until <u>all</u> shared pointers go out of scope!



```
std::unique ptr<T> uniquePtr{new T};
std::shared ptr<T> sharedPtr{new T};
std::weak ptr<T> wp = sharedPtr;
```



```
// std::unique ptr<T> uniquePtr{new T};
std::unique ptr<T> uniquePtr = std::make unique<T>();
// std::shared ptr<T> sharedPtr{new T};
std::shared ptr<T> sharedPtr = std::make shared<T>();
std::weak ptr<T> wp = sharedPtr;
```

Always use std::make_unique<T> and std::make_shared<T>

Why?

1. The most important reason: if we don't then we're going to allocate memory twice, once for the pointer itself, and once for the **new T**

Always use std::make_unique<T> and std::make_shared<T>

Why?

- 1. The most important reason: if we don't then we're going to allocate memory twice, once for the pointer itself, and once for the **new T**
- 2. We should also be consistent if you use **make_unique** also use **make_shared**!

std::weak_ptr

Weak pointers are a way to avoid circular dependencies in our code so that we don't leak any memory.

```
class B;
class A {
    std::shared_ptr<B> ptr_to_b;
  ~A() {
    std::cout << "All of A's resources deallocated" << std::endl;</pre>
};
class B {
  public:
    std::shared_ptr<A> ptr_to_a;
  ~B() {
    std::cout << "All of B's resources deallocated" << std::endl;</pre>
};
int main() {
  std::shared_ptr<A> shared_ptr_to_a = std::make_shared<A>();
  std::shared_ptr<A> shared_ptr_to_b = std::make_shared<B>();
  a->ptr_to_b = shared_ptr_to_b;
  b->ptr_to_a = shared_ptr_to_a;
  return 0;
```

std::weak_ptr bad example

```
class B;
class A {
    std::shared_ptr<B> ptr_to_b;
  ~A() {
    std::cout << "All of A's resources deallocated" << std::endl;</pre>
};
class B {
    std::shared_ptr<A> ptr_to_a;
    std::cout << "All of B's resources deallocated" << std::endl;</pre>
};
int main() {
  std::shared ptr<A> shared ptr to a = std::make shared<A>();
  std::shared ntr<A> shared ntr to b = std::make shared<B>();
  a->ptr to b = shared ptr to b;
  b->ptr_to_a = shared_ptr_to_a;
  return 0:
```

Both instance a of class A and instance b class B are keeping a share pointer to each other.

std::weak_ptr bad example

```
class B;
class A {
    std::shared_ptr<B> ptr_to_b;
  ~A() {
    std::cout << "All of A's resources deallocated" << std::endl;</pre>
};
class B {
    std::shared_ptr<A> ptr_to_a;
    std::cout << "All of B's resources deallocated" << std::endl;</pre>
};
int main() {
  std::shared ptr<A> shared ptr to a = std::make shared<A>();
  std::shared ntr<A> shared ntr to b = std::make shared<B>();
  a->ptr_to_b = shared_ptr_to_b;
  b->ptr_to_a = shared_ptr_to_a;
  return 0:
```

Both instance a of class A and instance b class B are keeping a share pointer to each other.

Therefore, they will never properly deallocate

std::weak_ptr good example

```
class B;
class A {
    std::shared_ptr<B> ptr_to_b;
  \sim A() {
    std::cout << "All of A's resources deallocated" << std::endl;</pre>
};
class B +
    std::weak_ptr<A> ptr_to_a;
    std::cout << "All of B's resources deallocated" << std::endl;</pre>
int main() {
  std::shared ptr<A> shared ptr to a = std::make shared<A>();
  std::shared ptr<A> shared ptr to b = std::make shared<B>();
  a->ptr to b = shared ptr to b;
  b->ptr to a = shared ptr to a;
  return 0:
```

Here, in class B we are no longer storing a as a shared_ptr so it does not increase the reference count of a.

Therefore a can gracefully be deallocated, and therefore so can b

What questions do we have?



Plan

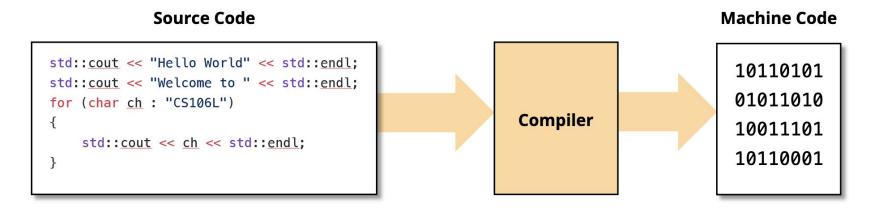
- 1. RAII (Resource Acquisition Is Initialization)
- 2. Smart Pointers
- 3. **Building C++ projects**

Compilation Crash Course

When we write C++ code, it needs to be translated into a form our computer understands it

Compilation Crash Course

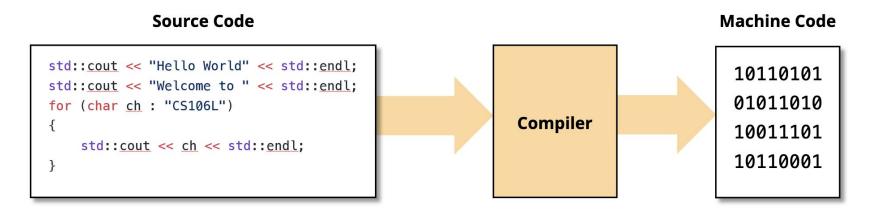
When we write C++ code, it needs to be translated into a form our computer understands it



```
$ g++ main.cpp —o main # g++ is the compiler, outputs binary to main
$ ./main # This actually runs our program
```

Compilation Crash Course

When we write C++ code, it needs to be translated into a form our computer understands it



```
$ g++ main.cpp -o main
$ ./main # g++ is the compiler, outputs binary to main
# This actually runs our program
```

When we write C++ code, it needs to be translated into a form our computer understands it

```
$ g++ main.cpp -o main # g++ is the compiler, outputs binary to main
$ ./main # This actually runs our program
```

This is the compiler command

When we write C++ code, it needs to be translated into a form our computer understands it

```
$ g++ main.cpp -o main # g++ is the compiler, outputs binary to main # Jhis actually runs our program

This is the source file
```

When we write C++ code, it needs to be translated into a form our computer understands it

```
$ g++ main.cpp -o main # g++ is the compiler, outputs binary to main # Jhis actually runs our program
```

This means that you're going to give a specific name to your executable

When we write C++ code, it needs to be translated into a form our computer understands it

```
$ g++ main.cpp -o main
$ ./main # g++ is the compiler, outputs binary to main
# This actually runs our program
```

In this case it's main

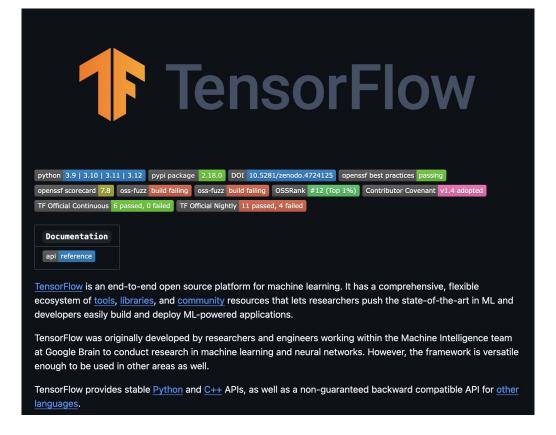




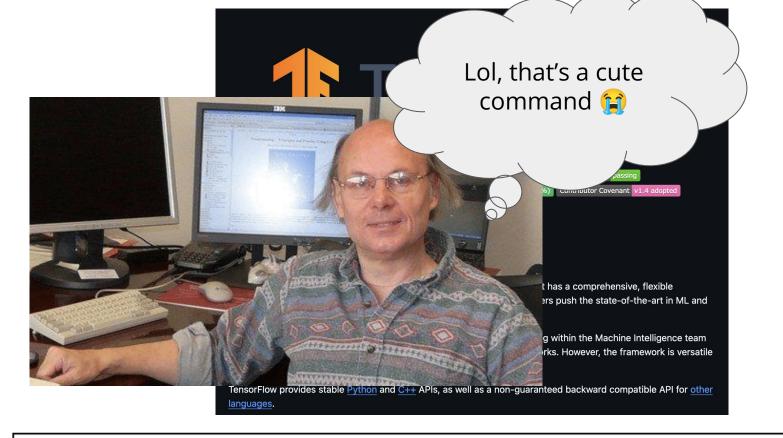


Even the masterpiece among us





The TensorFlow Core is written largely in C++ and it is composed of 2,000+ source files



\$ g++ main.cpp -o main # g++ is the compiler, outputs binary to main
\$./main # This actually runs our program

Makefiles and make

make is a "build system" program that helps you compile!

- You can specify what compiler you want to use
- In order to use **make** you need to have a **Makefile**

What does a **Makefile** look like? Let's take a look!

```
# Compiler
CXX = g++
# Compiler flags
CXXFLAGS = -std=c++20
# Source files and target
SRCS = $(wildcard *.cpp)
TARGET = main
# Default target
all:
   $(CXX) $(CXXFLAGS) $(SRCS) -o $(TARGET)
# Clean up
clean:
   rm -f $(TARGET)
```

This is an example Makefile for our lecture 7 code

What questions do we have?



CMake

CMake is a build system generator.

So you can use **CMake** to generate Makefiles

Is like a higher level abstraction for Makefiles



```
cmake_minimum_required(VERSION 3.10)
project(cs106l_classes)
set(CMAKE_CXX_STANDARD 20)
file(GLOB SRC_FILES "*.cpp")
add_executable(main ${SRC_FILES})
```

```
cmake_minimum_required(VERSION 3.10)
project(cs106l_classes)
set(CMAKE_CXX_STANDARD 20)
file(GLOB SRC_FILES "*.cpp")
add_executable(main ${SRC_FILES})
```

This command tells CMAKE to set the C++ compiler to C++20

```
cmake_minimum_required(VERSION 3.10)
project(cs106l_classes)
set(CMAKE_CXX_STANDARD 20)
file(GLOB_SRC_FILES "*.cpp")
add_executable(main ${SRC_FILES})
```

This GLOB command is telling the CMAKE program to do a wildcard search for all files that have the pattern "*.cpp"

```
cmake_minimum_required(VERSION 3.10)
project(cs106l_classes)
set(CMAKE_CXX_STANDARD 20)
file(GLOB SRC_FILES "*.cpp")
add_executable(main ${SRC_FILES})
```

This command adds all of the source files of our program into the executable

To use CMAKE

- 1. You need to have a CMakeLists.txt file in your project's root directory
- 2. Make a build folder (mkdir build) within your project!
- 3. Go into the build folder (cd build)
- 4. Run cmake ...
 - a. This command runs cmake using the CMakeLists.txt in your project's root folder!
 - b. This generates a Makefile
- 5. Run make
- 6. Execute your program using ./main as usual

A recap

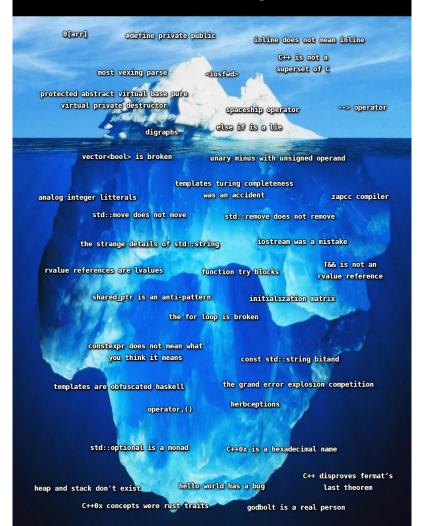
- RAII says that dynamically allocated resources should be acquired inside of the constructor and released inside the destructor.
 - This is what smart pointers to for example
- For compiling our projects we can and should use Makefiles
- For making our Makefiles we can and should use CMAKE

Last lecture

Schedule

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
1	January 7 1. Welcome! LLI Stides Policies	January 9 2. Types and Structs Sides Code Reader
2	January 14 3. Initialization and References Sides Reader	January 16 4. Streams LLL Stides
3	January 21 5. Containers Slides Reader	January 23 6. Iterators and Pointers LLJ Slides
4	January 28 7. Classes LLJ Stides Code	anuary 30 8. Template Classes and Const Correctness ☐ Slides ☐ Code
5	February 4 9. Template Functions Stides Code	February 6 10. Functions and Lambdas Lij Slides Code
6	February 11 11. Operator Overloading Uslides Code	Februry 13 12. Special Member Functions LLLI Slides
7	February II 13. Move Semantics III Stides	February 20 14. std::optional and Type Safety USides Code
8	February 25 15. RAII, Smart Pointers, and Building C++ Projects	February 27 Optional: No Class, Extra Office Hours
9	March 4 Optional: No Class, Extra Office Hours	March 6 Optional: No Class, Extra Office Hours
10	March 11 Optional: No Class, Extra Office Hours	March 13 Optional: No Class, Extra Office Hours

The C++ Iceberg





Thank you for a great quarter!



fabioi@stanford.edu



jtrb@stanford.edu