OOP (C++): Exceptions

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- 1 About Errors
- Exception in OOP Case Study: Parsing Regular Expressions
- 3 Exceptions as part of function specification
- 4 Standard Exceptions
- **5** Handling Unexpected Exceptions

Plan

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What the Experts Say

- "...I realized that from now on a large part of my life would be spent finding and correcting my own mistakes."
 Maurice Wilkes, 1949 (EDSAC computer), Turing Award in 1967
- "My guess is that avoiding, finding, and correcting errors is 95% or more of the effort for serious software development."
 "Error handling is a difficult task for which the programmer needs all the help that can be provided."
 Bjarne Stroustroup (C++ creator)

This rate can be improved by using the right programming skills!



Three Main Requirements for a Program

- to produce the desired outputs, as specified, for legal inputs (correctness)
- to give reasonable error messages for illegal entries
- to allow termination in case of an error

A Taxonomy of Errors

- compilation errors
 - detected by the compiler
 - · generally easy to fix
- linking errors
 - functions/methods not implemented
 - library access
- run-time errors
 - the source may be the computer, a component of a library, or the program itself
- logical errors
 - the program does not have the desired behavior
 - can be detected by the programmer (by testing)
 ... or by the user (customer)

Errors Must be Reported

```
int PolygonalLine::length() {
  if (n <= 0)
   return -1
 else {
  // ...
int p = L.length();
if (p < 0)
 printError("Bad computation of a polygonal line");
// ...
```

How to Report an Error?

- error reporting must be uniform: same message for the same type of error (location information may differ)
- ... therefore an "error indicator" must be managed
- association of numbers for errors is a solution but it can be problematic
- OOP has the necessary means to smartly organize the detection and reporting of errors

Error vs Exception

- often the two terms are confused
- however, there is a (subtle) difference between the meanings of the two notions
- error = abnormal behavior detected during operation to be eliminated by repairing the program
- exception = unforeseen behavior that can occur in rare or very rare situations
- exceptions should be handled in the case of programs
- an untreated exception is an error!

In this lecture we discuss more about exceptions.

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General Principles

 the exceptions in OOP were designed with the intention of separating the business logic from the mechanism of error transmission

 the purpose is to allow the handling of errors, which occur as exceptions, at an appropriate level that does not interfere with business logic

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Recall from Algorithm Design 1/3

Syntax for regular expressions:

Recall from Algorithm Design 2/3

Alk data structure for AST: ast(e)

```
• empty: []
  • ε: ["", <>]
  • a ∈ Σ: ["a", <>]
 • e_1e_2...; ["_._", \langle ast(e_1), ast(e_2), ... \rangle]
 • e_1 + e_2 + \cdots: ["_+_", \langle ast(e_1), ast(e_2), \cdots \rangle]
  • e*: ["_*", <ast(e)>]
Example: (ab + b) * (ba)
["_._", <["_*", <["_+_", <["_._", <["a", <>],
["b", <>]>], ["b", <>]>], [" . ", <["b",
<>], ["a", <>]>>]
```

Recall from Algorithm Design 3/3

Some functions from AST domain:

```
// number of children
chldNo(ast) {
  if (ast.size() > 0) return ast[1].size();
  return 0;
// the i-th child of an AST
chld(ast, i) {
  if (ast.size() > 0 && i < ast[1].size()) {</pre>
    return ast[1].at(i);
```

From Alk to C++: Class for ASTs, First Attempt

```
class Ast {
private:
  string label;
  vector<Ast*> children;
public:
  AstNonEmpty(string aLabel = "",
              vector<Ast*> aList = vector<Ast*>())
      label = aLabel;
      children = aList;
};
```

We have a problem: how to represent the empty AST ("[]")? In the above declaration, the default constructor builds the AST for the empty string ε .

From Alk to C++: Class for ASTs, Second Attempt

```
class Ast {
           //abstract class
public:
 virtual int chldNo() = 0;
 virtual Ast* child(int i) = 0;
 . . .
};
public:
 AstEmptv() {} //emptv object
 . . .
};
class AstNonEmpty : public Ast {    //non empty AST ["...",<...>]
private:
 string label;
 vector<Ast*> children;
public:
 AstNonEmpty(string aLabel = "",
            vector<Ast*> aList = vector<Ast*>())
     label = aLabel:
     children = aList;
```

Implementation of AstEmpty (partial)

```
int AstEmpty::chldNo() {
    #?? is it OK to return -1? \( \) exception
}
Ast* AstEmpty::child(int i) {
    #?? is it OK to return new AstEmpty? \( \) exception
}
```

Implementation of AstNonEmpty (partial)

```
Ast* AstNonEmpty::child(int i) {
  if (0 <= i and i < chldNo()) {
    return children[i];
  }
  #?? is it OK to return new AstEmpty? 
}</pre>
```

Recall from Algorithm Design: the Parser

Global variables:

```
input - the expression given as inputsigma - the alphabetindex - the current position in the input
```

• the current symbol:

```
sym() modifies index, input {
  if (index < input.size())
    return input.at(index);
  return "\0";
}</pre>
```

next symbol

```
nextSym() modifies index, input {
  if (index < input.size()) {
    index++;
  } else
    error("nextsym: expected a symbol");
}</pre>
```

• ..

From Alk description to C++ 1/3

```
class Parser {
private:
  string input;
  vector<char> sigma;
  int index;
 public:
  Parser(vector<char> alphabet = vector<char>()) {
    sigma = alphabet;
    input = "";
    index = 0;
```

From Alk description to C++ 2/3

```
char Parser::sym() {
  if (index < input.size()) {</pre>
    return input[index];
  return '\0';
void Parser::nextSym() {
  if (index < input.size()) {</pre>
    index++;
  else {
    error("nextsym: expected a symbol"); // ← exception
```

From Alk description to C++ 3/3

Alk

C++

```
Ast* Parser::factor() {
                                    Ast* past;
factor() {
                                    char s = sym();
    s = sym();
                                    if (acceptSigma()) {
    if (acceptSigma()) {
                                      past =
      return [s, <>];
                                         new AstNonEmpty(string(1, s));
    } else if (accept("(")) {
                                    } else if (accept('(')) {
        ast = expression();
                                       past = expression();
        expect(")");
                                       expect(')');
        return ast;
                                    // else ?? \Leftarrow exception
                                    return past;
```

Similar the other methods.

Testing

```
Test source:
```

```
int main() {
  vector<char> alph{'a', 'b', 'c'}; // c++11
  Parser parser(alph);
  parser.setInput("(a.b+"); // wrong expression
  past = parser.expression();
  past->print();
  return 0;
}
```

Test Run:

```
$ g++ ast.cpp parser.cpp test-parser.cpp -std=c++11
$ ./a.out
Bus error: 10
```

try, throw and catch

From the manual:

- throw expression signals that an exceptional condition—often, an error—has occurred in a try block. You can use an object of any type as the operand of a throw expression. Typically, this object is used to communicate information about the error
 - try block is used to enclose one or more statements that might throw an exception (business component)
- catch blocks are implemented immediately following a try block. Each catch block specifies the type of exception it can handle (error handling component)

try - throw - catch play



try (business logic)



throw



catch (exception thrown) (exception handling)

Ast Hierarchy with exceptions

Consider only problematic methods:

```
int AstEmpty::chldNo() {
   throw "Error: trying to access children of an empty AST";
}
Ast* AstEmpty::child(int i) {
   throw "Error: trying to access children of an empty AST";
}
Ast* AstNonEmpty::child(int i) {
   if (0 <= i and i < chldNo()) {
      return children[i];
}
throw "Error: index out of bounds.";</pre>
```

Testing, w/o Try

Test source:

```
int main() {
  AstEmpty ast;
  cout << "ast.child(1)->print(): ";
  ast.child(1)->print();
  cout << endl;
  cout << "ast.chldNo(): ";</pre>
  cout << ast.chldNo();</pre>
  cout << endl;
  return 0;
Test Run:
$ g++ ast.cpp parser.cpp test-ast-empty.cpp -std=c++11
$ ./a.out
libc++abi.dylib: terminating with uncaught exception
    of type char const*
ast.child(1)->print(): Abort trap: 6
```

Testing, w/ Try

Test source:

```
try {      //business logic block
    AstEmpty ast;
    cout << "ast.child(1)->print(): ";
    ast.child(1)->print();
    cout << endl;
    cout << "ast.chldNo(): ";</pre>
    cout << ast.chldNo();
    cout << endl:
  catch (char const* msq) { //exception handling block
    cout << msq << endl;
    cout << "Here the exceptions can be handled." << endl;</pre>
Test Run:
$ g++ ast.cpp parser.cpp test-ast-empty-w-try.cpp -std=c++11
$ ./a.out
ast.child(1)->print(): Error: trying to access children
    of an empty AST
Here the exceptions can be handled.
```

Parser Class with exceptions 1/2

Only problematic methods:

```
void Parser::nextSym() {
  if (index < input.size()) {</pre>
    index++;
  else {
    throw "Error: index out of input size";
//bool Parser::expect(char s) {
void Parser::expect(char s) {
  if (accept(s)) {
    // return true;
    return;
  // error("unexpected symbol at position " + to_string(index)
  // return false;
  throw s;
```

Parser Class with exceptions 2/2

Only problematic methods:

```
Ast* Parser::factor() {
   Ast* past;
   char s = sym();
   if (acceptSigma()) {
      past = new AstNonEmpty(string(1, s));
   } else if (accept('(')) {
      past = expression();
      expect(')');
   }
   // else ???
   else
      throw "expected alphabet symbol or (.";
   return past;
}
```

Testing, w/ Try 1/3

Test source:

```
try{
  vector<char> alph{'a', 'b', 'c'};  // c++11
  Parser parser(alph);
  parser.setInput("(a.b+");  // wrong expression
  Ast* past = parser.expression();
  past->print();
}
catch (char const* msg) {
  cout << msg << endl;
  cout << "Here the parsing exceptions can be handled." << e
}</pre>
```

Test Run:

```
$ g++ ast.cpp parser.cpp test-parser-exc2.cpp -std=c++11
$ ./a.out
expected alphabet symbol or (.
Here the parsing exceptions can be handled.
```

Testing, w/ Try 2/3

Test source:

of type char

Abort trap: 6

```
try{
    vector<char> alph{'a', 'b', 'c'}; // c++11
    Parser parser (alph);
    parser.setInput("(a.b+c"); // wrong expression
    Ast* past = parser.expression();
    past->print();
  catch (char const* msg) {
    cout << msq << endl;
    cout << "Here the parsing exceptions can be handled." << e
Test Run:
$ g++ ast.cpp parser.cpp test-parser-exc2.cpp -std=c++11
$ ./a.out
libc++abi.dylib: terminating with uncaught exception
```

Testing, w/ Try 3/3

Test source:

```
trv{
  vector<char> alph{'a', 'b', 'c'}; // c++11
  Parser parser (alph);
  parser.setInput("(a.b+c"); // wrong expression
  Ast* past = parser.expression();
  past->print();
catch (char const* msg) { // catching C string exceptions
  cout << msg << endl;
  cout << "Here the parsing exceptions can be handled." << e
catch (char s) { // catching char exceptions
  cout << "expected character " << s << endl;</pre>
  cout << "Here the parsing exceptions can be handled." << e
```

Test Run:

```
$ g++ ast.cpp parser.cpp test-parser-exc2.cpp -std=c++11
$ ./a.out
expected character )
Here the parsing exceptions can be handled.
```

Hierarchy of Exceptions 1/3

It is recommended to organize the exceptions into a hierarchy. AST exceptions I:

```
class MyException {
 public:
  virtual void debugPrint() {
    std::cout << "Exception: ";
};
class AstException : public MyException {
 public:
  virtual void debugPrint() {
    this->MyException::debugPrint();
    std::cout << "AST: ";
};
class EmptyAstException : public AstException {
 public:
  virtual void debugPrint()
    this->AstException::debugPrint();
    std::cout << "trying to access an empty tree.";
};
```

Hierarchy of Exceptions 2/3

AST exceptions II:

```
class NonEmptyAstException : public AstException {
  private:
    int badIndex;
  public:
    void setBadIndex(int j) {
      badIndex = j;
    }
    virtual void debugPrint() {
      this->AstException::debugPrint();
      std::cout << "index out of bounds (" << badIndex << ").\n"
    }
};</pre>
```

Hierarchy of Exceptions 3/3

Parser exceptions:

```
class ParserException : public MyException {
 public:
 private:
  int badPos;
  std::string errMsg;
 public:
  void setBadPos(int j) {
    badPos = j;
  void setErrMsg(std::string msg) {
    errMsq = msq;
  virtual void debugPrint() {
    this->MyException::debugPrint();
    std::cout << "Parsing: " << errMsg</pre>
              << " at input position " << badPos << ".\n";
```

Ast Hierarchy with exceptions, revisited

Consider only problematic methods:

```
int AstEmpty::chldNo() {
   throw EmptyAstException();
 Ast* AstEmpty::child(int i) {
    throw EmptyAstException();
Ast* AstNonEmpty::child(int i) {
   if (0 <= i and i < chldNo()) {</pre>
     return children[i];
   NonEmptyAstException exc;
   exc.setBadIndex(i);
   throw exc:
```

Parser Class with exceptions, revisited 1/2

Only problematic methods:

```
void Parser::nextSym() {
  if (index < input.size()) {</pre>
    index++;
  else {
    ParserException exc;
    exc.setBadPos(index);
    throw exc:
void Parser::expect(char s) {
  if (accept(s)) {
    return:
  ParserException exc;
  exc.setErrMsq(string("unexpected symbol"));
  exc.setBadPos(index);
  throw exc;
```

Parser Class with exceptions, revisited 2/2

Only problematic methods:

```
Ast* Parser::factor() {
  Ast* past;
  char s = sym();
  if (acceptSigma()) {
    past = new AstNonEmpty(string(1, s));
  } else if (accept('(')) {
    past = expression();
    expect(')');
  } // else ???
  else {
    ParserException exc;
    exc.setErrMsg(string("expected alphabet symbol or ("));
    exc.setBadPos(index);
    throw exc;
  return past;
```

Testing 1/3

Menu function:

```
void printMenu() {
  cout << "\n1. Empty AST exception.\n";
  cout << "2. Nonempty AST exception.\n";
  cout << "3. Parser exception.\n";
  cout << "0. Exit.\n";
  cout << "Option: ";
}</pre>
```

Test source:

```
while (opt != 0) {
  try{
    printMenu();
    cin >> opt;
    switch (opt) {
    case 1: {
      AstEmpty* peast = new AstEmpty();
      peast->child(0)->print();
      break;
  catch (MyException& exc) {
    exc.debugPrint();
    cout « endl;
    parser.setIndex(0);
```

0. Exit.
Option: 0

Testing 3/3

\$./a.out 1. Empty AST exception. 2. Nonempty AST exception. Parser exception. O. Exit. Option: 1 Exception: AST: trying to access an empty tree. 1. Empty AST exception. 2. Nonempty AST exception. 3. Parser exception. O. Exit. Option: 2 Exception: AST: index out of bounds (2). 1. Empty AST exception. 2. Nonempty AST exception. 3. Parser exception. O. Exit. Option: 3 Exception: Parsing: expected alphabet symbol or (at input position 7. 1. Empty AST exception. 2. Nonempty AST exception. 3. Parser exception.

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Specify what exceptions are thrown

```
Ast* Parser::factor() throw(ParserException) {
  Ast* past;
  char s = sym();
  if (acceptSigma()) {
    past = new AstNonEmpty(string(1, s));
  } else if (accept('(')) {
    past = expression();
    expect(')');
  } else {
    ParserException* pexc = new ParserException();
    pexc->setErrMsq(string("expected alphabet symbol or ("));
    pexc->setBadPos(index);
    throw pexc;
  return past;
```

Empty throw Specification

```
    C++ 2003
    void f() throw();
    C++ 2011
    void f() noexcept(true);
```

Example 1/2

Exceptions in destructors may lead to unpredictable behavior:

```
class A {
    public:
        ~A() {
            throw "Thrown by Destructor";
};
int main() {
    trv {
        A a;
    catch(const char *exc) {
      std::cout << "Print " << exc;
Output:
libc++abi.dylib: terminating with uncaught exception
    of type char const*
Abort trap: 6
```

Example 2/2

Using noexcept spec we get predictable behavior:

```
class A {
    public:
        ~A() noexcept(false) {
            throw "Thrown by Destructor";
        }
};
```

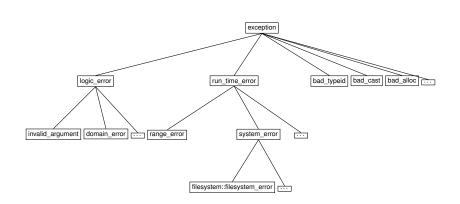
Output:

Print This Thrown by Destructor

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Standard Exceptions Hirerarchy (partial)



Example: regex-error (<regex>)

```
Source code:
```

```
try {
    std::regex re("[a-z]*[a");
}
catch (const std::regex_error& e) {
    std::cout << "regex_error caught: " << e.what() << '\n';
    if (e.code() == std::regex_constants::error_brack) {
        std::cout << "The code was error_brack\n";
    }
}
Testing:
$ g++ regex-error.cpp -std=c++11
$ ./a.out
regex_error caught:</pre>
```

The expression contained mismatched [and].

The code was error brack

Example: bad-function-call (<functional>)

Source code:

```
std::function<int()> f = nullptr;
try {
  f();
} catch(const std::bad_function_call& e) {
  std::cout << "bad_function_call caught: " << e.what() << '</pre>
return 0:
```

Testing: Mac OS

```
$ g++ bad-function-call.cpp -std=c++11
$ ./a.out
bad_function_call caught: std::exception
```

Windows:

```
> cl bad-function-call.cpp /std:c++14
> bad-function-call.exe
bad_function_call caught: bad function call
```

Example: bad-alloc (<new>) 1/3

Source code:

```
int negative = -1;
int small = 1;
int large = INT MAX;
int opt = -1;
while (opt != 0) {
 trv {
   printMenu();
    cin >> opt;
    switch (opt) {
    case 1: new int[negative]; break;
    case 2: new int[small]{1,2,3}; break;
    case 3: new int[large][1000000]; break;
    default: opt = 0:
  }catch(const std::bad_array_new_length &e) {
    cout << "bad array new length caught: " << e.what() << '\n';</pre>
  } catch(const std::bad alloc &e) {
    cout << "bad alloc caught: " << e.what() << '\n';
  } catch(...) {
    cout << "unknown exceptions caught.";
```

Example: bad-alloc (<new>) 2/3

Testing Mac OS:

2. Small.

```
1. Negative.
2. Small.
3. Large.
Option: 1
bad alloc caught: std::bad alloc
1. Negative.
2. Small.
3. Large.
Option: 2
bad_alloc caught: std::bad_alloc
1. Negative.
2. Small.
3. Large.
Option: 3
a.out(21194.0x11e7b15c0) malloc: can't allocate region
*** mach_vm_map(size=8589934588002304) failed (error code=3)
a.out(21194,0x11e7b15c0) malloc: *** set a breakpoint in malloc_error_
bad alloc caught: std::bad alloc
1. Negative.
```

Example: bad-alloc (<new>) 3/3

```
Testing Windows:
```

```
1. Negative.
2. Small.
3. Large.
Option: 1
bad_array_new_length caught: bad array new length
1. Negative.
2. Small.
3. Large.
Option: 2
1. Negative.
2. Small.
3. Large.
Option: 3
bad_array_new_length caught: bad array new length
```

exception Class

```
class exception {
public:
    exception () throw();
    exception (const exception&) throw();
    exception& operator= (const exception&) throw();
    virtual ~exception() throw();
    virtual const char* what() const throw();
    // ...
}
```

Deriving from exception

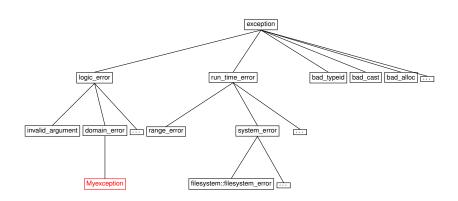
```
class MyException : public exception {
public:
   const char * what () const throw ()
     return "Division by zero. ";
};
int safeDiv(int divident, int divisor)
  if (divisor == 0)
    throw MyException();
  return divident / divisor;
```

Testing

Source:

```
try {
    safeDiv(3, 0);
} catch (MyException& exc) {
    std::cout << "MyException caught" << std::endl;</pre>
    std::cout << exc.what() << std::endl;</pre>
} catch(std::exception& e) {
    //Other errors
Output:
$ q++ demo.cpp
$ ./a.out
MyException caught
Division by zero.
```

Deriving from Standard Exceptions



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Missing a Throw 1/2

```
class One : public exception { };
class Two : public exception { };
void q() {
  throw "Surprise.";
void fct(int x) throw (One, Two) {
  switch (x) {
  case 1: throw One();
  case 2: throw Two();
 g();
```

Missing a Throw 2/2

Testing source:

```
cout << "Option (1-3): "; cin >> option;
  try {
    fct (option);
  } catch (One) {
    cout << "Exception one" << endl;
  } catch (Two)
    cout << "Exception two" << endl;
Output:
$ ./a.011t
Option (1-3): 2
Exception two
$ ./a.out
Option (1-3): 3
libc++abi.dylib: terminating with unexpected exception
  of type char const*
Abort trap: 6
```

Using set_unexpected

Write a function to be executed when an unexpected exception occurs:

```
void my unexpected() {
  cout << "My unexpected exception.\n";</pre>
  exit(1);
In the main program set it as such a function:
  set unexpected (my unexpected);
Testing:
$ q++ missed-throw.cpp
$ ./a.out
Option (1-3): 3
My unexpected exception.
```

noexcept () Operator

- tests whether or not an expression throws an exception
- returns false if there is any subexpression that can throw exceptions, i.e., if there is any expression that is not specified with noexcep(true) or throw()
- returns true if all subexpressions are specified with noexcept (true) or throw ()
- very useful when moving objects (e.g., reserve() method)

noexcept(): Example

```
class A {
public:
 A() noexcept(false) {
    throw 2;
};
class B {
public:
  B() noexcept(true) { }
};
```

noexcept ():: Testing 1/3

Source:

```
template <typename T>
void f() {
  if (noexcept(T()))
    std::cout << "NO Exception in Constructor" << std::e</pre>
  else
    std::cout << "Exception in Constructor" << std::endl</pre>
int main() {
  f < A > ();
  f < B > ();
Output:
$ g++ noexcept-operator.cpp -std=c++11
$ ./a.out
Exception in Constructor
NO Exception in Constructor
```

noexcept ():: Testing 2/3

Testing in a similar way the destructor does not work:

```
class C {
public:
 C() noexcept(true) {}
 ~C() noexcept(false) {}
};
template <typename T>
void q() {
 if (noexcept(~T()))
    std::cout << "NO Exception in Destructor\n";</pre>
 else
    std::cout << "Possible Exception in Destructor\n";</pre>
int main() {
 q<C>();
Output:
$ q++ -std=c++17 noexcept-declval.cpp
noexcept-declval.cpp:13:16: error: invalid argument type 'C' t
  if (noexcept(~T()))
                                       ^~~~
```

noexcept ():: Testing 3/3

```
Use std::declval<T>():
class C {
public:
  C() noexcept(true) {}
  ~C() noexcept(false) {}
};
template <typename T>
void q() {
  if (noexcept(std::declval<T>().~T()))
    std::cout << "NO Exception in Destructor\n";</pre>
  else
    std::cout << "Possible Exception in Destructor\n";</pre>
int main() {
  q<C>();
Output:
$ g++ -std=c++17 noexcept-declval.cpp
$ ./a.out
Possible Exception in Destructor
```

C++2017: noexcept is a Part of Function Type

Source:

```
void g() noexcept {}
int main()
    auto f = q;
    std::cout << std::boolalpha \</pre>
               << noexcept(f()) << std::endl;
Output:
$ q++ -std=c++17 exc-part-of-type.cpp
$ ./a.out
true
```

Recommendations

- always specify exceptions
- always start with standard exceptions
- declare the exceptions of a class within it
- uses exception hierarchies
- captures by references
- throw exceptions in constructors
- attention to memory release for partially created objects
- be careful how you test if an object has been created OK
- do not cause exceptions in destructors unless it is a must and then do it very carefully (preferably in C ++ 2011 or after)

Recommendations

Some reasons why it is not recommended to throw exceptions by constructors/destructors

- if a constructor throws an exception when the stack is in an unstable state, then program execution ends
- it is almost impossible to design predictable and accurate containers in the presence of exceptions in destructors
- certain pieces of C ++ code may have undefined behavior when destructors throw exceptions
- what happens to the object whose "destruction" failed (because the destructor method threw an exception)?