

Week 9 – CS 101 –J

Functions (Pass by Value and Reference)



Functions

- In this lecture, we will study about function receiving 2 types of inputs:
 - Receiving an input value which it can modify (pass by reference)
 - Receiving an input value which it can not modify (pass by value)
- By default, pass by value is utilized



Function – call by value

- In order to understand the term **call by value**, let me present you with a code



Example 1

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
```

```
void f1(int x);
```

```
int main()
{
    int x;
    x=10;
    cout<<"The value of x is "<<x<<endl;
    f1(x);
    cout<<"The value of x is "<<x<<endl;
    return 0;
}
```

```
void f1(int x)
{
    x=x+50;
    cout<<"The value of x is "<<x<<endl;
}
```

Now what is the output?

Example 1

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
```

```
void f1(int x);
```

```
int main()
{
    int x;
    x=10;
    cout<<"The value of x is "<<x<<endl;
    f1(x);
    cout<<"The value of x is "<<x<<endl;
    return 0;
}
```

```
The value of x is 10
The value of x is 60
The value of x is 10
```

```
void f1(int x)
{
    x=x+50;
    cout<<"The value of x is "<<x<<endl;
}
```

Now what is the output?





Function – call by value

- In the previous example, what happens to the value of variable **x** in function **f1**?
- Function **f1** changes the value of x by adding 50 with it, but when the program returns to main function, the value of x is again 10
- This is called as passing by value – meaning a copy of the value of x (or variable) is passed
 - Any change in the copy of variable is not reflected in the original one
- You can compare it with photostat example (photocopy of a document)



Function – call by reference

- In call by reference, the original variable is passed to function and if any change is made by the function, then it is reflected in the original variable also
- In order to pass the value of a variable by reference, we need to use & symbol
- Let us revisit the code again

Example 2

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
```

```
void f1(int &x);
```

```
int main()
{
    int x;
    x=10;
    cout<<"The value of x is "<<x<<endl;
    f1(x);
    cout<<"The value of x is "<<x<<endl;
    return 0;
}
```

```
The value of x is 10
The value of x is 60
The value of x is 60
```

```
void f1(int &x)
{
    x=x+50;
    cout<<"The value of x is "<<x<<endl;
}
```

Now what is the output?





Recursion

- Can a function call itself again?
- Yes, it can – and this process is called as recursion
- When using recursion, it is VERY IMPORTANT to write a condition, called as **base case** – (used to stop infinite calling of function itself)



Recursion

- There are certain problem (engineering and scientific) which requires recursion.
 - E.g. Factorial, Fibonacci Series, Tower of Hanoi, Graph Searching
- Not all problems require recursion concept



Recursion

- Example: factorial

$$n! = n * (n - 1) * (n - 2) * ... * 1$$

- Recursive relationship ($n! = n * (n - 1)!$)

$$5! = 5 * 4!$$

$$4! = 4 * 3!...$$

- Base case ($1! = 0! = 1$)

Recursion

```
void fun1(int n)  
{  
    if (n<1)  
        return;  
    cout<<n;  
    fun1(n-1);  
}
```

What would be the output of fun1(5)?

Recursion unrolled

What would be the output of fun1(5)?

fun1(5)

5 < 1 ?

cout<<n; → 5

fun1(4)

4 < 1 ?

cout<<n; → 4

fun1(3)

3 < 1 ?

cout<<n; → 3

fun1(2)

2 < 1 ?

cout<<n; → 2

fun1(1)

1 < 1 ?

cout<<n; → 1

fun1(0)

0 < 1

return;



Recursion

- Understanding the flow of statements in a recursion call is very important.
- Let us re-visit the code again and write **cout after** the function calls itself

Recursion with Example fun2

```
void fun2(int n)  
    {  
        if (n<1)  
            return;  
        fun2(n-1);  
        cout<<n;  
    }
```

What would be the output of fun2(5)?

Recursion unrolled

What would be the output of fun2(5)?

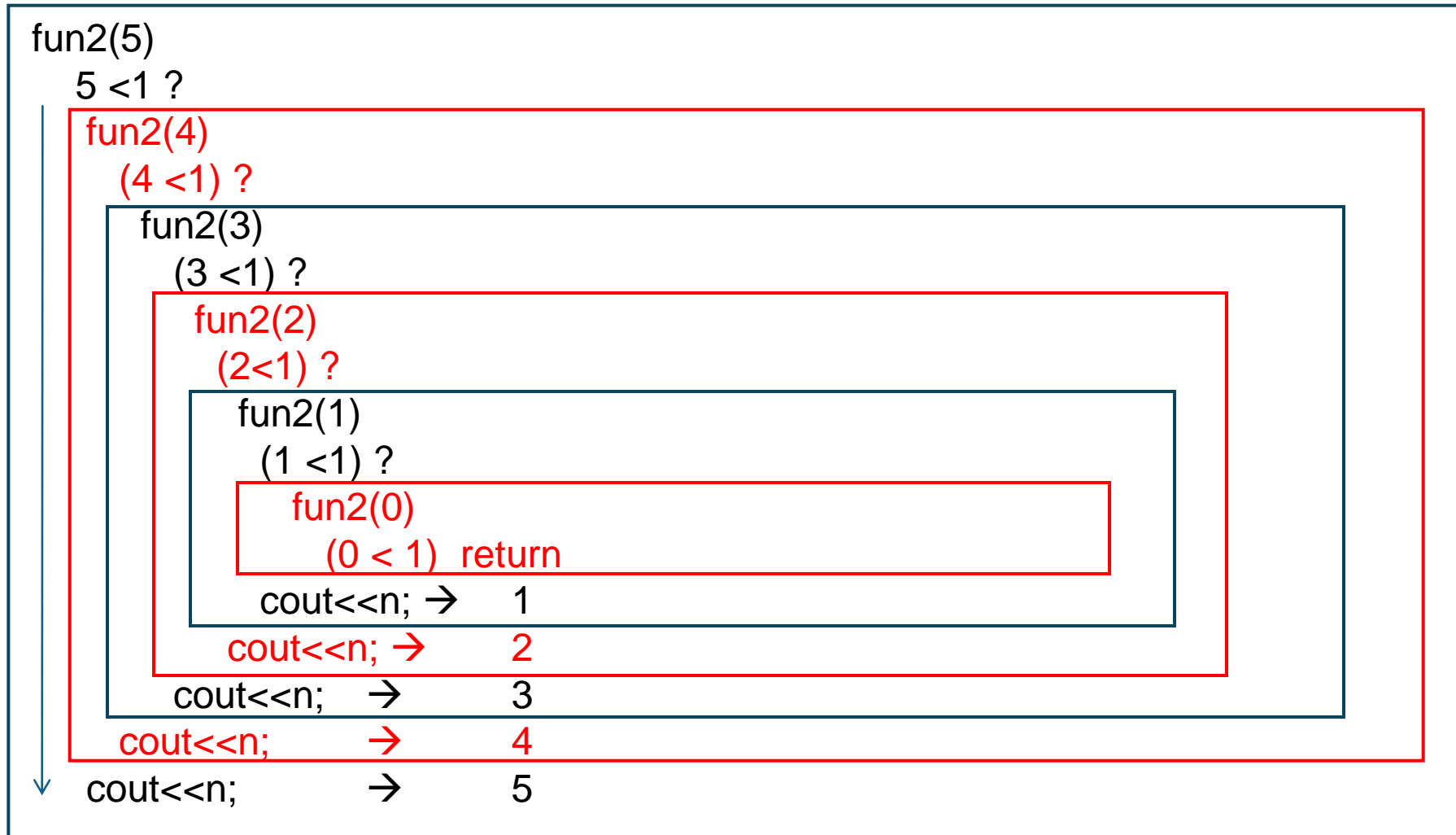
```
void fun2(int n){
```

```
    if (n<1) return;
```

```
    fun2(n-1);
```

```
    cout<<n;
```

```
}
```



Factorial: Example Using Recursion

$$n! = n * (n - 1) * (n - 2) * \dots * 1$$

- Recursive relationship ($n! = n * (n - 1)!$)

$$5! = 5 * 4!$$

$$4! = 4 * 3! \dots$$

- Base case ($1! = 0! = 1$)

- C++ code for **factorial** function

```
unsigned long factorial(unsigned long n )
{
    if ( n <= 1)    // base case
        return 1;
    else            // recursive case
        return n * factorial(n -1);
}
```

Factorial: Non-recursive implementation



```
unsigned long factorial(unsigned long n )
{
    for (int i = n-1; i >0; i--)
        n = n*i;

    return n;
}

int main()
{
    cout << factorial(5) ;
    return 0;
}
```



Recursion vs. Iteration

- Repetition
 - Iteration: explicit loop
 - Recursion: repeated function calls
- Termination
 - Iteration: loop condition fails
 - Recursion: base case recognized
- Both can have infinite loops



Inline functions

- If a function has very statements, as 1 line code or 2 line codes, then we can also use inline functions for that

- For example:

```
inline double sqr(double x )  
{ return x * x; }
```

- What are the advantages of inline function?
 - The compiler does not call the function, rather it pastes the code when the function is called



Inline functions

- Inline functions are not used if
 - A function contains a loop
 - A function uses static variables
 - A function uses recursion
 - A function contains switch statements
- Use inline function is a function has say for example: one cout statement, and one maths statement (like square or cube or max or min)



Function default parameters

- If a function has 2 input parameters, is it necessary to ALWAYS pass 2 input parameters?
- No, -- you can use some default values of variables also (in case nothing is passed in input)
- `int fun (int x = 1, int y = 2) ;`



Function overloading

- Can you write 2 functions with same name, and same number of arguments?
- Yes, you can – and this is sometimes good also
- We call this as function overloading

Function overloading

```
int square (int x)
{
    int y;
    y= x*x;
    return y;
}

float square (float x)
{
    float y;
    y= x*x;
    return y;
}
```



How much more course to cover before Final Exam?



- Final Exam will be of 3 hours and have 40% weight
- We will be having 2 more quizzes, and 3 assignments
- Total 5 quizzes, 5 assignments
- Topics Remaining: Arrays, and Pointers