Programming Techniques for Scientific Simulations I

More on classes, Operators, function objects

Review: Classes

- Are a way to create new data types ("extended data structure")
 - E.g., vector, matrix, genome, animal, frog, ... type
- Object oriented programming:
 - Instead of asking: "What are the subroutines?"
 - We ask:
 - What are the abstract entities?
 - What are the properties of these entities?
 - How can they be manipulated?
 - Then we implement these entities as classes
- Principles
 - High level of abstraction possible (Abstraction)
 - Hiding of representation dependent details (Encapsulation)
 - Basing one identity upon another retaining similar properties (Inheritance)
 - Single interface to identities of different types (**Polymorphism**)

Review: What are classes?

- Classes are collections of "members" representing one entity
- Members can be
 - Functions
 - Data
 - Types
- These members can be split into
 - public: accessible interface to the outside. Should not be modified later!
 - private: hidden representation of the concept. Can be changed without breaking any program using the class.
 - protected: like private but also available to derived types. Should be used only for member functions (not data!)
- Objects are instances of a class
- Objects of this type can be modified only through these member functions -> localization of access, easier debugging

Classes are specified as

```
class class_name {
  access_specifier_1:
    member1;
  access_specifier_2:
    member2;
    Optional objects
} object_names;
```

- The access specifier are (in principle) optional
 - class keyword: default access private
 - struct keyword: default access public

• A simple "point" example:

```
class Point {
  public:
    void set_values(double, double); // set Cartesian coordinates
    double x() { return x_; }; // x coordinate
    double y() { return y_; } // y coordinate
    double abs(); // distance from origin aka polar radius
    double angle(); // polar angle
    private:
    double x_, y_; // Cartesian coordinates
};
Point p;
```

• How many members? Which ones are declared/defined?

A simple "point" example:

```
class Point {
  public:
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};
Point p;
```

- How many members? Which ones are declared/defined?
 - 2 private data members, 5 public function members (3/2 declared/defined)

• A simple "point" example:

```
class Point {
  public:
    void set_values(double, double); // set Cartesian coordinates
    double x() { return x_; }; // x coordinate
    double y() { return y_; } // y coordinate
    double abs(); // distance from origin aka polar radius
    double angle(); // polar angle
    private:
    double x_, y_; // Cartesian coordinates
};
Point p;
```

Outside of class definition with the scope operator : :

```
void Point::set_values(double x, double y) {
  x_ = x;
  y_ = y;
}
```

- Difference between inside or outside of class definition?
 - Inside the function is considered implicitly inline
 - Outside not
- No difference in actual behavior, but just possible compiler optimizations
- Possibility to separate into header (declaration) and source files (implementation)
- Access object members with dot: object.member_name

```
p.set_values(1. ,2.);
std::cout << "p.x() = " << p.x() << '\n';
std::cout << "p.y() = " << p.y() << '\n';</pre>
```

Define recurring type with

```
class Point {
  public:

    void set_values(double, double); // set Cartesian coordinates
    double x() { return x_; }; // x coordinate
    double y() { return y_; } // y coordinate
    double abs(); // distance from origin aka polar radius
    double angle(); // polar angle
    private:
    double x_, y_; // Cartesian coordinates
};
```

Define recurring type with typedef

```
class Point {
  public:
    typedef double coord_t;
    void set_values(coord_t, coord_t); // set Cartesian coordinates
    coord_t x() { return x_; }; // x coordinate
    coord_t y() { return y_; } // y coordinate
    coord_t abs(); // distance from origin aka polar radius
    coord_t angle(); // polar angle
    private:
    coord_t x_, y_; // Cartesian coordinates
};
```

Access types with the scope operator : :

```
Point::coord_t Point::abs() {
  return std::sqrt(x_*x_ + y_*y_);
}
```

Define recurring type with using (C++11)

```
class Point {
  public:
    using coord_t = double;
    void set_values(coord_t, coord_t); // set Cartesian coordinates
    coord_t x() { return x_; }; // x coordinate
    coord_t y() { return y_; } // y coordinate
    coord_t abs(); // distance from origin aka polar radius
    coord_t angle(); // polar angle
    private:
    coord_t x_, y_; // Cartesian coordinates
};
```

Access types with the scope operator : :

```
Point::coord_t Point::abs() {
  return std::sqrt(x_*x_ + y_*y_);
}
```

Multiple objects (instances) of the class (the type)

```
Point p1, p2;

p1.set_values(1. ,2.);
p2.set_values(7. ,3.14);

std::cout << "p1.angle() = " << p1.angle() << '\n';
std::cout << "p2.abs() = " << p2.abs() << '\n';</pre>
```

- Each of them has his own members
- Since classes are types, they can be passed to functions, other objects, ... Objectoriented paradigm
- As opposed to something like
 - E.g., LAPACK (FORTRAN77) subroutine to compute eigenvalues (see here for doc.)

```
SUBROUTINE DSYTRD( UPLO, N, A, LDA, D, E, TAU, WORK, LWORK, INFO )
```

• What's wrong?

```
Point p1, p2;

std::cout << "p1.angle() = " << p1.angle() << '\n';

std::cout << "p2.abs() = " << p2.abs() << '\n';

p1.set_values(1. ,2.);
 p2.set_values(7. ,3.14);</pre>
```

• What's wrong?

```
Point p1, p2;

std::cout << "p1.angle() = " << p1.angle() << '\n';

std::cout << "p2.abs() = " << p2.abs() << '\n';

p1.set_values(1. ,2.);
 p2.set_values(7. ,3.14);</pre>
```

Solution: constructor (ctor)!

Constructor (ctor)

- Automatically called when an object of a class is created
- Like ordinary member function, but with same name as the class and no return

Constructor (ctor)

- p1 and p2 are constructed by calling the ctor with its arguments
- What about p3?

Overloading constructors

- Constructor with no arguments is called the default ctor
- It's special because it's called when an object is declared

Overloading constructors

- The default ctor cannot be called directly!
- Why?

Overloading constructors

- The default ctor cannot be called directly!
- Why? Because it looks like a function declaration! ("Most vexing parse")

Uniform initialization (C++11)

```
class Point {
                public:
                  using coord t = double;
                  Point() { x_{-} = 0.; y_{-} = 0.; } // default ctor
                  Point(coord_t, coord_t); // ctor
                  coord_t x() { return x_; }; // x coordinate
Functional form
                  coord_t y() { return y_; } // y coordinate
                  coord_t abs();  // distance from origin aka polar radius
coord_t angle();  // polar angle
                private:
                  coord_t x_, y_; // Cartesian coordinates
              };
              Point p1(1., 2.), p2{7., 3.14};
              std::cout << "p1.x() = " << p1.x() << '\n';
              std::cout << "p1.y() = " << p1.y() << '\n';
              Point p3{};
```

- Use braces / curly brackets
- (Mostly) Stylistic

Member initialization in constructors with initializer list

- Insert a colon : and a list of initializations for class members (before ctor body)
 - member(value)
 - member{value} (C++11 uniform initialization) Can be a waste!
- For fundamental types no difference, class types default-ctor called

Sometimes it is necessary to use the initializer list

- Without the initializer list: no way of setting members that are const, reference or of a class type that does not have a default ctor!
- Stylistic advice: always use initializer list
- Order of member initialization: same order as declared (And not order in initializer list!)

Constructors are (special) functions

```
class Point {
  public:
    using coord_t = double;
    Point() : x_(0.), y_(0.) {} // default ctor

    Point(coord_t x = 0., coord_t y = 0.) : x_(x), y_(y) {} // (default) ctor
    coord_t x() { return x_; }; // x coordinate
    coord_t y() { return y_; } // y coordinate
    coord_t abs(); // distance from origin aka polar radius
    coord_t angle(); // polar angle
    private:
    coord_t x_, y_; // Cartesian coordinates
};
```

 So we can use default arguments (and avoid the definition of the previous default ctor)

Pointers to classes

```
class Point {
// ...
Point op(1., 2.);
Point* pp1;
Point* pp2 = new Point(3., 12.);
Point ap1[] = \{\{1., 2.\}, \{3., 4.\}\};
Point* ap2 = new Point[2] \{\{5., 6., \}, \{7., 8.\}\};
pp1 = &op;
std::cout << "ap2[1].angle() = " << ap2[1].angle() << '\n';
// ...
```

The usual expressions

expression	means	
*X	object pointed to by X	
&x	address of object x	
x.y	member y of object x	
x->y	member y of object pointed to by x	
(*x).y	member y of object pointed to by x (same as ->)	
x[0]	first object pointed to by x	

See: https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/language/operator_member_access

• Classes introduce new types and we would like to define operations on them:

```
Complex a(1., 2.);
Complex b(2., 0.);
Complex c = a + b;
Matrix A;
Vector x;
Vector b = A*x;
```

C++ lets overload the following operators

```
+ - * / = < > += -= *= /= << >> 
<<= >>= != <= >= ++ -- % & ^ ! |
~ &= ^= |= && || %= [] () , ->* -> new
delete new[] delete[]
```

• The syntax is:

```
type operator OP ( arguments ) { /*... body ...*/ }
```

Consider a simple complex numbers class

We want that: a = 1 + 2i b = 3 + 4i c = a + b = 4 + 6i

• The syntax is:

```
type operator OP (arguments) { /*... body ...*/}
```

Consider a simple complex numbers class

• We want that: Complex a(1., 2.); Complex b(3., 4.);

c = a + b; c = a.operator+(b);

• The syntax is:

```
type operator OP (arguments) { /*... body ...*/}
```

Consider a simple complex numbers class

• We want that:

```
Complex a(1., 2.);
Complex b(3., 4.);
c = a + b;
c = a.operator+(b);
```

• The syntax is:

```
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Consider a simple complex numbers class

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c = a + b; c = a.operator+(b);

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Consider a simple complex numbers class

 Overloads are just regular functions... However, it is strongly recommended to keep some relation to their usual (mathematical) meaning!!!

• A summary of the different operators and their "overload form" scope

Expression	Operator	Member function	Non-member function
<u>@</u> a	+ - * & ! ~ ++	A::operator@()	operator@(A)
a@	++	A::operator@(int)	operator@(A,int)
a@b	+ - * / % ^ & < > == != <= >= << >> && ,	A::operator@(B)	operator@(A,B)
a@b	= += -= *= /= %= ^= &= = <<= >>= []	A::operator@(B)	-
a(b,c)	()	A::operator() (B,C)	-
a->b	->	A::operator->()	-
(TYPE) a	TYPE	A::operator TYPE()	-
		"Inside" class def	"Outside" class def

"Inside" class def.

"Outside" class def. (aka free function)

See: https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/language/operators

Classes: Overloading operators (introducing friend)

Implementing the minus operator as a non-member function

- Grants a function or another class access to the private and protected members of the class
- What could be the benefits? (More on this later... Symmetric OPs in expressions with mixed types...)

Example: pretty printing Point

We want

```
std::cout << "p0 = " << p0 << '\n';
// prints: p0 = ( x, y)</pre>
```

Pretty printing: overloading the "insertion" << operator

```
what would it mean to "copy"?

std::ostream& out, Point const& p) {
  out << "( " << p.x() << ", " << p.y() << " )";
  return out;
}</pre>
```

Exercise: overload the "extraction" >> operator

Example: function objects

• We sometimes want to use an object like a function, e.g.,

```
Potential V;
double distance;
std::cout << V(distance);</pre>
```

 This works only if Potential is a function pointer, or if we define the function call operator

```
class Potential {
   // ...
   double operator()(double d) { return 1./d; }
   // ...
};
```

- Don't get confused by the two pairs of ()()
 - The first is the name of the operator
 - The second is the argument list

Example: function objects

Assume a function with parameters, e.g.,

```
f(x;\lambda) = \exp(-\lambda x)
```

```
double func(double x, double lambda) {
  return exp(-lambda*x);
}
```

- Cannot directly be used with Simpson integrator from exercises!
- Solution: use a function object

```
class MyFunc {
  public:
    MyFunc(double l) : lambda(l) {}
    double operator() (double x) {
      return exp(-lambda*x);
    }
  private:
    const double lambda;
};
MyFunc f(3.5);
integrate(f, 0., 1., 1000);
```

- Uses object of type MyFunc like a function!
- Very useful and widely used technique

Function objects alternative: lambda (C++11)

- A lambda expression (or lambda function or simply lambda) is a simplified notation for defining and using an anonymous function object
- Particularly useful to define small local functions,
 e.g., to pass as an argument to an algorithm
- Syntax:

```
[capture list] (parameter list) { body }
```

Lambda expressions (C++11)

- Syntax: [capture list] (parameter list) { body }
- The capture list contains the variables from the enclosing scope that should be captured inside the lambda and how:

[]	Capture nothing
[&]	Capture any referenced variable by reference
[=]	Capture any referenced variable by making a copy
[=, &foo]	Capture any referenced variable by making a copy, but capture variable foo by reference
[bar]	Capture bar by making a copy; don't copy anything else
[this]	Capture the this pointer of the enclosing class

Example: lambda

Assume a function with parameters, e.g.,

```
f(x;\lambda) = \exp(-\lambda x)
```

```
double func(double x, double lambda) {
  return exp(-lambda*x);
}
```

- Cannot directly be used with Simpson integrator from exercises!
- Solution: use a lambda

```
lambda = -3.5;
auto f = [lambda] (double x) { return std::exp(-lambda*x); };
integrate(f, 0., 1., 1000);
```

- Uses object f like a function!
- Very useful and widely used technique

Classes: this

- The keyword this is a pointer to the object whose member function is being executed.
- It's used to refer to yourself within a member function, e.g.,

```
Point::coord_t Point::x() {
  return this->x_; // or (*this).x_ or simply x_
}
```

• Often used in the assignment operators:

```
Point& Point::operator = (Point const& rhs) {
  x_ = rhs.x_;
  y_ = rhs.y_;
  return *this;
}
```

• Why?

Classes: this

- The keyword this is a pointer to the object whose member function is being executed.
- It's used to refer to yourself within a member function, e.g.,

```
Point::coord_t Point::x() {
  return this->x_; // or (*this).x_ or simply x_
}
```

• Often used in the assignment operators:

```
Point& Point::operator = (Point const& rhs) {
   x_ = rhs.x_;
   y_ = rhs.y_;
   return *this;
}
```

Why? To allow, e.g., chains of assignments (like the built-in types)

```
a = b = c = 4; // "do as the ints do"
```

Classes: static members

- A static data member is one common variable for all the objects of that same class
- Also known as a "class variable"
- Why?

Classes: static members

- A static data member is one common variable for all the objects of that same class
- Also known as a "class variable"
- Example: struct ImCounting {
 ImCounting() { cnt++; }
 static int cnt;
 };
 // initialize count to zero
 int ImCounting::cnt = 0;

 int main() {

 ImCounting a;
 ImCounting b;
 std::cout << ImCounting::cnt << '\n';
 ImCounting* p = new ImCounting[9];
 std::cout << ImCounting::cnt << '\n';
 delete[] p;
 }</pre>
- What should that print?

Classes: static members

- Are shared by all objects of a type
- Act like global variables in a name space
- Exist even without an object, thus :: notation used:

```
Genome::gene_number;
Genome::set_mutation_rate(2);
```

- Static member functions can only access static member variables! Reason: which object's members to use?
- Must be declared and defined!
- Will not link otherwise
- See demo: IDGenerator

```
// in header file:
class Genome {
  public:
    Genome(); // ctor
    // const static data member
    static const unsigned short gene_number=64;
    Genome clone() const;
    static void set_mutation_rate(unsigned short);
  private:
    unsigned long gene_;
    static unsigned short mutation_rate_;
};
// in source file:
// definition
unsigned short Genome::mutation_rate_=2;
```

Classes: const member functions

 Member functions that don't change the state of an object should be qualified as such (by the keyword const):

```
After function (prototype)!
class Point {
 public:
    using coord t = double;
    Point(coord_t x = \frac{1}{2}, coord_t y = 0.); // otor defaults to (0,0)
    coord_t x() const { return x_; } // x coordinate
    coord_t y() const { return y_; } // y coordinate
    coord_t abs() const;
                                           distance from origin aka polar radius
    coord_t angle();
                                          polar angle
 private:
    coord_t x_,y_; // Cartesian coordinates
};
Point::coord_t Point::abs() const {
  return std::sqrt(x_*x_+ y_*y_-);
```

• Which member functions can be called on the following?

Classes: const member functions

 Member functions that don't change the state of an object should be qualified as such (by the keyword const):

```
class Point {
    public:
        using coord_t = double;
        Point(coord_t x = 0, coord_t y = 0.); // ctor defaults to (0,0)
        coord_t x() const { return x_; } // x coordinate
        coord_t y() const { return y_; } // y coordinate
        coord_t abs() const;
        coord_t angle() const;
        private:
        coord_t x_,y_; // Cartesian coordinates
};

Point::coord_t Point::abs() const {
    return std::sqrt(x_*x_ + y_*y_);
}
```

Which member functions can be called on the following? All!
 Only qualified const member function can be called on const objects

Classes: mutable

Consider some class

```
class A {
  public:
    int func() const;
  private:
    int cnt_;
};
int A::func() const {
  cnt_++;
  return 42;
}
```

 Problem: want to count number of calls to func() function

Classes: mutable

Consider some class

```
class A {
  public:
    int func() const;
  private:
    int cnt_;
};
int A::func() const {
  cnt_++; // ERROR: const!
  return 42;
}
```

 Problem: want to count number of calls to func() function

Solution:

 mutable qualifier allows modification of member even in const object!

```
class A {
  public:
    int func() const;
  private:
    mutable int cnt_;
};
int A::func() const {
  cnt_++; // OK!
  return 42;
}
```

Next week

- Special member functions
 - E.g., Copy constructor: Creates (new) copies of objects C(C const&); // copy ctor
- Resource management: RAII
- Class templates
- Type traits (first contact with C++ template metaprogramming)