
Object-Oriented Programming (in C++)

Operator Overloading

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Outline

- Introduction to Operator Overloading
- Restrictions on Operator Overloading
- Overloading Stream Insertion/Extraction Operators
- Case Study: Array Class
- Converting between Types
 - ❖ explicit Constructors
- Overloading Function Call Operator
- Overloading ++ and --

- Proxy Classes



Operator Overloading

- Recall: Function overloading
 - ⊕ C++ allows the same name to be used for two or more different functions
 - ⊕ Requirements for overloaded functions
 - ◆ They have different signatures
 - i.e., different ordered parameter types
- Operator overloading
 - ⊕ C++ allows an operator to behave differently based on the types of operands used
 - ⊕ Same requirements as overloaded functions



<<: A Built-in Overloaded Operator

- <<
 - ❖ Bitwise shift-left operator
 - ◆ Shifts the bits of the first operand left by the number of bits specified by the second operand
 - Fill from right with 0 bits
 - ◆ E.g., `3 << 1 = 6`
 - ❖ Stream insertion operator
 - ◆ E.g., `cout << "Hello" << endl;`
- Similarly, >> is also overloaded



Fundamentals of Operator Overloading

- Operators for primitive data types cannot be overloaded
- Operators can be overloaded only for user-defined data types (classes and structs)
 - ⊕ Can use existing operators with user-defined types
 - ⊕ C++ does not allow new operators to be created



Using Operators on Class Objects

- If you want to use an operator on an object, the operator *must* be overloaded, with three exceptions (i.e., the following three operators has default behaviors)
 - ◆ = (memberwise assignment operator)
 - ◆ & (address-of operator)
 - ◆ , (comma operator)
 - ◆ Evaluates the expression to its left then the expression to its right, and returns the value of the latter expression



How to Overload An Operator?

1. Write a non-static member function definition
 - ❖ The operator must be called on an object

Or write a global function definition
2. Name the function with the reserved word **operator** followed by the symbol for the operator being overloaded
 - ❖ E.g., `operator+`



Performing Addition of Objects Using Functions

Using a member function add

```
class Time {  
    Time add(Time&) const;  
    ...  
};
```

Time.h

```
#include "Time.h"  
int main() {  
    Time t1, t2;  
    Time t3 = t1.add(t2);  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

client.cpp



Performing Addition of Objects Using Operators (1/3)

Using an overloaded operator +

```
class Time {  
    Time operator+(Time&) const;  
    ...  
};
```

Time.h

A non-static
member function

```
#include "Time.h"  
int main() {  
    Time t1, t2;  
    Time t3 = t1 + t2;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

client.cpp

<leftObject>.operator<op>(<rightObject>)
= t1.operator+(t2)
= t1 + t2



Performing Addition of Objects Using Operators (2/3)

Using an overloaded operator +

```
class Time {
```

```
    friend Time operator+(Time&, Time&);
```

```
    ...
```

Making the function a friend function of Time

```
};
```

```
Time operator+(Time&, Time&);
```

Time.h

A global function

```
#include "Time.h"
```

```
int main() {
```

```
    Time t1, t2;
```

```
    Time t3 = t1 + t2;
```

```
    return 0;
```

```
}
```

client.cpp

operator<op>(<leftObject>, <rightObject>)
= operator+(t1, t2)
= t1 + t2



Operators as Global, friend Functions

- Global functions are often made friends for performance reasons
- It is possible to overload an operator as a global, non-friend function
 - ❖ If the function requires access to a class's private members, it needs to use set or get functions
 - ❖ The overhead of calling these functions could cause poor performance
 - ❖ An alternative solution is to inline the set and get functions



Arguments of Operator Functions

- Operator functions as member functions
 - ⊕ Zero arguments for unary, one for binary
 - ⊕ The object becomes the left-hand argument
- Operator functions as global functions
 - ⊕ One argument for unary operators, two for binary operators
- E.g.

```
class String {  
public:  
    bool operator<(const String &) const;  
    ...  
};
```

Member function

```
bool operator<(const String &, const String &);
```

Global function



Operators as Member or Global Functions?

- $()$, $[]$, $->$, or any of the assignment operators (e.g., $=$, $+=$, $-=$) must be overloaded as member functions
- If the leftmost (or only) operand must be an object of a different class or a fundamental type, this operator function must be implemented as a global function
 - ⊕ When an operator function is implemented as a member function, the leftmost operand must be an object of the operator's class



Performing Addition of Objects Using Operators (3/3)

Using an overloaded operator +

```
class Time {  
    friend Time operator+(int, Time&);  
    ...  
};
```

Time.h

Cannot be implemented as a member function

```
Time operator+(int, Time&);
```

```
#include "Time.h"
```

client.cpp

```
int main() {  
    int value;  
    Time t1;  
    Time t3 = value + t1;  
    return 0;  
}
```



Operators as Global Functions

- Another reason why one might choose a global function to overload an operator is to **enable the operator to be commutative**
 - ❖ For example, suppose we have an object number (of type `long int`) and an object `biginteger1` (of class `HugeInteger`)
 - ◆ $\text{biginteger1} + \text{number}$
 $\equiv \text{number} + \text{biginteger1}$



`HugeInteger` is a class in which integers may be arbitrarily large rather than being limited by the machine word size of the underlying hardware



HugeInteger Class

```
class HugeInteger {  
    friend HugeInteger operator+(HugeInteger, Long int);  
    friend HugeInteger operator+(Long int, HugeInteger);  
public:  
    ...  
private:  
    char digit[41];  
};  
HugeInteger operator+(HugeInteger&, Long int);  
HugeInteger operator+(Long int, HugeInteger&);
```

HugeInteger.h

```
...  
HugeInteger operator+(Long int a, HugeInteger& b) {  
    return b + a;  
}
```

HugeInteger.cpp



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Restrictions on Operator Overloading (1/2)

Operators that can be overloaded

+	-	*	/	%	\wedge	&	
~	!	=	<	>	$\wedge=$	$-=$	$*=$
$/=$	$\%=$	$\wedge=$	$\&=$	$ =$	$<<$	$>>$	$>>=$
$<<=$	$==$	$!=$	$<=$	$>=$	$\&\&$	$ $	$++$
--	$->*$,	$->$	[]	\circ	new	delete
new[]	delete[]						

Operators that cannot be overloaded

.

.*

::

?:



Restrictions on Operator Overloading (2/2)

- Cannot create new operators
- Cannot change
 - ❖ Precedence of operator (order of evaluation)
 - ◆ Use parentheses to force order of operators
 - ❖ Associativity (left-to-right or right-to-left)
 - ❖ Number of operands
 - ◆ E.g., & is unary, and it can only act on one operand
 - ❖ How operators act on built-in data types (i.e., cannot change integer addition)
- Operators must be overloaded explicitly
 - ❖ Overloading + and = does not overload +=



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Recall: <iostream> Header File

- Declares basic services required for all stream-input/output operations
- Defines input/output classes
 - ◆ `iostream`
 - ◆ `ostream`
- Defines standard stream objects
 - ◆ `cin` (an `iostream` object)
 - ◆ Connected to the standard input device, usually the keyboard
 - ◆ `cout` (an `ostream` object)
 - ◆ Connected to the standard output device, usually the display screen



Stream Insertion/Extraction Operators

- Stream insertion operator
 - ◆ Left-shift operator(<<) is overloaded for stream output
 - ◆ Left operand of type ostream &
 - ◆ Such as `cout` object in `cout << classObject`
- Stream extraction operator
 - ◆ Right-shift operator(>>) is overloaded for stream input
 - ◆ Left operand of type istream&
 - ◆ Such as `cin` object in `cin >> classObject`
- Already overloaded to process each built-in type, including pointers and C-style `char*` strings



Overloading Stream Insertion/Extraction Operators

```
class classA {  
    ...  
};
```

classA.h

```
#include "classA.h"  
int main() {  
    classA obj;  
    cin >> obj;  
    cout << obj;  
    return 0;  
}
```

- Must be overloaded as a global function
 - ❖ The left operand has type `istream&` or `ostream&`
 - ❖ Could be overloaded as a member function of `istream` or `ostream` class
 - ❖ However, you are not allowed to modify `iostream.h` and `iostream.cpp`



An Example of Overloading << and >>

- Suppose we have designed a class, called `PhoneNumber`
- We can overload << and >> to perform input and output for our own types
 - ❖ Inputting and outputting objects in the format “(000) 000-0000”
- We assume telephone numbers are input correctly



PhoneNumber.h

```
1 // Fig. 11.3: PhoneNumber.h
2 // PhoneNumber class definition
3 #ifndef PHONENUMBER_H
4 #define PHONENUMBER_H
5
6 #include <iostream>
7 #include <string>
8 using namespace std;
9
10 class PhoneNumber
11 {
12     friend ostream &operator<<( ostream &, const PhoneNumber & );
13     friend istream &operator>>( istream &, PhoneNumber & );
14 private:
15     string areaCode; // 3-digit area code
16     string exchange; // 3-digit exchange
17     string line; // 4-digit line
18 }; // end class PhoneNumber
19
20 #endif
```

Global, friend functions



PhoneNumber.cpp

```
4 #include <iomanip>
5 #include "PhoneNumber.h"
6 using namespace std;
7
8 // overloaded stream insertion operator; cannot be
9 // a member function if we would like to invoke it with
10 // cout << somePhoneNumber;
11 ostream &operator<<( ostream &output, const PhoneNumber &number )
12 {
13     output << "(" << number.areaCode << ") "
14         << number.exchange << "-" << number.line;
15     return output; // enables cout << a << b << c;
16 } // end function operator<<
17
18 // overloaded stream extraction operator; cannot be
19 // a member function if we would like to invoke it with
20 // cin >> somePhoneNumber;
21 istream &operator>>( istream &input, PhoneNumber &number )
22 {
23     input.ignore(); // skip (
24     input >> setw( 3 ) >> number.areaCode; // input area code
25     input.ignore( 2 ); // skip ) and space
26     input >> setw( 3 ) >> number.exchange; // input exchange
27     input.ignore(); // skip dash (-)
28     input >> setw( 4 ) >> number.line; // input line
29     return input; // enables cin >> a >> b >> c;
30 } // end function operator>>
```

Allows << to be cascaded



A Client of Class PhoneNumber

```
4 #include <iostream>
5 #include "PhoneNumber.h"
6 using namespace std;
7
8 int main()
9 {
10     PhoneNumber phone; // create object phone
11
12     cout << "Enter phone number in the form (123) 456-7890:" << endl;
13
14     // cin >> phone invokes operator>> by implicitly issuing
15     // the global function call operator>>( cin, phone )
16     cin >> phone;
17
18     cout << "The phone number entered was: ";
19
20     // cout << phone invokes operator<< by implicitly issuing
21     // the global function call operator<<( cout, phone )
22     cout << phone << endl;
23 } // end main
```

Enter phone number in the form (123) 456-7890:
(800) 555-1212

The phone number entered was: (800) 555-1212



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Recall: Pointer-Based vs Object-Based Arrays

- Pointer-based arrays have many problems
 - ❖ No boundary check
 - ❖ Subscript ranges are limited from 0 to $n - 1$ (if the array size is n)
 - ❖ An entire array cannot be input or output at once
 - ◆ Each array element must be read or written individually (unless it is a null-terminated C string)
 - ❖ Two arrays cannot be meaningfully compared with equality or relational operators
 - ❖ An array does not know its size
 - ❖ One array cannot be assigned to another array with the assignment operator



Array Class

- You can develop a class, called `Array`, to address the problems that pointer-based arrays encounter



Array.h

```
3 #ifndef ARRAY_H
4 #define ARRAY_H
5
6 #include <iostream>
7 using namespace std;
8
9 class Array
10 {
11     friend ostream &operator<<( ostream &, const Array & );
12     friend istream &operator>>( istream &, Array & );
13 public:
14     Array( int = 10 ); // default constructor
15     Array( const Array & ); // copy constructor
16     ~Array(); // destructor
17     int getSize() const; // return size
18
19     const Array &operator=( const Array & ); // assignment operator
20     bool operator==( const Array & ) const; // equality operator
21
22     // inequality operator; returns opposite of == operator
23     bool operator!=( const Array &right ) const
24     {
25         return ! ( *this == right ); // invokes Array::operator==
26     } // end function operator!=
27
28     // subscript operator for non-const objects returns modifiable lvalue
29     int &operator[]( int );
30
31     // subscript operator for const objects returns rvalue
32     int operator[]( int ) const;
33 private:
34     int size; // pointer-based array size
35     int *ptr; // pointer to first element of pointer-based array
36 }; // end class Array
37
38 #endif
```



Array.cpp: Constructor

```
1 // Fig 11.7: Array.cpp
2 // Array class member- and friend-function definitions.
3 #include <iostream>
4 #include <iomanip>
5 #include <cstdlib> // exit function prototype
6 #include "Array.h" // Array class definition
7 using namespace std;
8
9 // default constructor for class Array (default size 10)
10 Array::Array( int arraySize )
11 {
12     size = ( arraySize > 0 ? arraySize : 10 ); // validate arraySize
13     ptr = new int[ size ]; // create space for pointer-based array
14
15     for ( int i = 0; i < size; i++ )
16         ptr[ i ] = 0; // set pointer-based array element
17 } // end Array default constructor
18
```



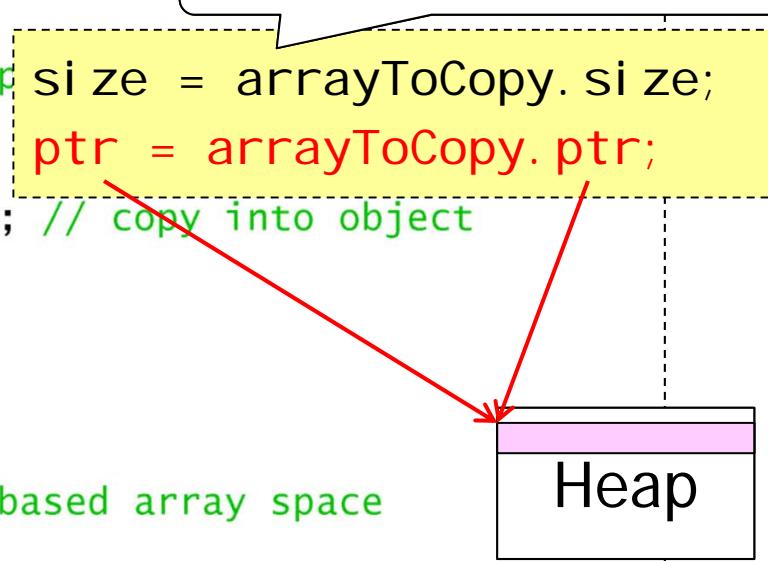
Array.cpp: Copy Constructor, Destructor, and getSize()

```
19 // copy constructor for class Array;  
20 // must receive a reference to prevent infinite recursion  
21 Array::Array( const Array &arrayToCopy )  
    : size( arrayToCopy.size )  
22 {  
23     ptr = new int[ size ]; // create space  
24     for ( int i = 0; i < size; i++ )  
25         ptr[ i ] = arrayToCopy.ptr[ i ]; // copy into object  
26     size = arrayToCopy.size;  
27 } // end Array copy constructor  
28  
29 // destructor for class Array  
30 Array::~Array()  
31 {  
32     delete [] ptr; // release pointer-based array space  
33 } // end destructor  
34  
35 // return number of elements of Array  
36 int Array::getSize() const  
37 {  
38     return size; // number of elements in Array  
39 } // end function getSize  
40  
41
```

Default copy constructor

size = arrayToCopy.size;
ptr = arrayToCopy.ptr;

Heap



Array.cpp: Copy Constructor, Destructor, and getSize()

```
#include "Array.h"
int main() {
    Array array1;
    Array array2(array1);

    return 0;
}

30 // destructor for class Array
31 Array::~Array()
32 {
33     delete [] ptr; // release pointer-based array space
34 } // end destructor
35
36 // return number of elements of Array
37 int Array::getSize() const
38 {
39     return size; // number of elements in
40 } // end function getSize
41
```

t infinite recursion
y)

Default copy constructor

size = arrayToCopy.size;
ptr = arrayToCopy.ptr;
; // copy into object

array2

array1



A dangling pointer appears
when array1 and array2
are destroyed



Array.cpp: = Operator

```
42 // overloaded assignment operator;
43 // const return avoids: ( a1 = a2 ) = a3
44 const Array &Array::operator=( const Array &right )
45 {
46     if ( &right != this ) // avoid self-assignment
47     {
48         // for Arrays of different sizes,
49         // left-side array, then allocate
50         if ( size != right.size )
51         {
52             delete [] ptr; // release space
53             size = right.size; // resize this object
54             ptr = new int[ size ]; // create new
55         } // end inner if
56
57         for ( int i = 0; i < size; i++ )
58             ptr[ i ] = right.ptr[ i ]; //
59     } // end outer if
60
61     return *this; // enables x = y = z,
62 } // end function operator=
63 }
```

a1=a2=a3 is allowed

Default assignment operator

size = right.size;
ptr = right.ptr;

#include "Array.h"
int main() {
 Array array1, array2;
 array2 = array1;
 // array2.operator=(array1);

 return 0;
}



Reading: <http://www.parashift.com/c++-faq/self-assignment-why.html>

Array.cpp: == Operator

```
64 // determine if two Arrays are equal and
65 // return true, otherwise return false
66 bool Array::operator==( const Array &right ) const
67 {
68     if ( size != right.size )
69         return false; // arrays of different number of elements
70
71     for ( int i = 0; i < size; i++ )
72         if ( ptr[ i ] != right.ptr[ i ] )
73             return false; // Array contents are not equal
74
75     return true; // Arrays are equal
76 } // end function operator==
```

```
#include "Array.h"
int main() {
    Array array1, array2;
    while (array1 == array2); // while (array1.operator==(array2));
    return 0;
}
```



Array.cpp: [] Operator

```
78 // overloaded subscript operator for non-const Arrays
79 // reference return creates a modifiable lvalue
80 int &Array::operator[]( int subscript )
81 {
82     // check for subscript out-of-range error
83     if ( subscript < 0 || subscript >= size )
84     {
85         cerr << "\nError: Subscript "
86             << " out of range" << endl;
87         exit( 1 ); // terminate program; subscript out of range
88     } // end if
89
90     return ptr[ subscript ]; // reference return
91 } // end function operator[]
```

```
#include "Array.h"
int main()
{
    Array array1;
    array1[5] = 1000; // array1.operator[](5) = 1000;
    return 0;
}
```



Array.cpp: [] and >> Operators

```
93 // overloaded subscript operator for const Arrays
94 // const reference return creates an rvalue
95 int Array::operator[]( int subscript ) const
96 {
97     // check for subscript out-of-range error
98     if ( subscript < 0 || subscript >= size )
99     {
100         cerr << "\nError: Subscript "
101             << " out of range" << endl;
102         exit( 1 ); // terminate program; sub
103     } // end if
104
105     return ptr[ subscript ]; // returns cop
106 } // end function operator[]
107
108 // overloaded input operator for class Arr
109 // inputs values for entire Array
110 istream &operator>>( istream &input, Array &a )
111 {
112     for ( int i = 0; i < a.size; i++ )
113         input >> a.ptr[ i ];
114
115     return input; // enables cin >> x >> y;
116 } // end function
```

```
#include "Array.h"
int main() {
    const Array array1;
    cout << array1[3];
    // cout << array1.operator[](3);

    return 0;
}
```



Array.cpp: << Operator

```
I18 // overloaded output operator for class Array
I19 ostream &operator<<( ostream &output, const Array &a )
I20 {
I21     int i;
I22
I23     // output private ptr-based array
I24     for ( i = 0; i < a.size; i++ )
I25     {
I26         output << setw( 12 ) << a.ptr[ i ];
I27
I28         if ( ( i + 1 ) % 4 == 0 ) // 4 numbers per line
I29             output << endl;
I30     } // end for
I31
I32     if ( i % 4 != 0 ) // end last line of output
I33         output << endl;
I34
I35     return output; // enables cout << x << y;
I36 } // end function operator<<
```

```
#include "Array.h"
int main()
{
    Array array1;
    cout << array1;

    return 0;
}
```

0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0		



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Conversion Constructors and Operators

- The compiler knows how to perform certain conversions among fundamental types, but what about user-defined types?
- **Conversion constructors** (single-argument constructors)
 - ◆ Converting **objects of other types** into **objects of user-defined types**
- **Conversion operators** (also called **cast operators**)
 - ◆ Converting **objects of user-defined types** into **objects of other types**



An Example of Conversion Constructor (1/2)

```
#ifndef STRING_H
#define STRING_H

class String {
public:
    // conversion/default constructor
    String( const char * = "" );
    ...
private:
    int length; // string length, not counting null terminator
    char *sPtr; // pointer to start of pointer-based string
    void setString( const char * ); // utility function
};
#endif
```

String.h

```
#include "String.h"

int main() {
    String s;
    s = "hello";
    // s = String("hello");
}
```



An Example of Conversion Constructor (2/2)

```
#include "String.h" // String class definition
#include <cstring> // contains strlen and strcpy prototypes
```

String.cpp

```
// conversion/default constructor
String::String( const char *s )
    : length( ( s != 0 ) ? strlen( s ) : 0 ) {
    setString( s ); // call utility function
}

void String::setString( const char *string2 ) {
    sPtr = new char[ length + 1 ]; // allocate memory
    if ( string2 != 0 )
        strcpy( sPtr, string2 ); // copy literal to object
    else
        sPtr[ 0 ] = '\0'; // empty string
}
```



Conversion (Cast) Operators

```
classA::operator char *() const;  
classA::operator int() const;  
classA::operator OtherClass() const;
```

Converting a classA object
into a char * object

- Non-static member functions
- Specify no return type
 - ❖ The return type is the type to which the object is being converted
- Suppose s is a class object
 - ❖ When the compiler sees the expressions

```
static_cast<char *>(s)
```
 - ❖ The compiler generates the call

```
s.operator char *()
```



An Example of Cast Operator

```
#ifndef STRING_H
#define STRING_H

class String {
public:
    // conversion (cast) operator
    operator char *() {
        sPtr[length] = '\0';
        return sPtr;
    }
    ...
private:
    int length; // string length
    char *sPtr; // pointer to start of pointer-based string
};
#endif
```

String.h

```
#include "String.h"

int main() {
    String s("hello");
    char *str;
    str = s;
    // str =
    //     s.operator char *();

    return 0;
}
```



Using Conversion Operators

- Suppose an object `s` is a user-defined `String` class
- We can just develop a cast operator for the `String` class to make the following statement compilable and executable, without overloading the stream insertion operator

```
cout << s;
```



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Misusing a Constructor as a Conversion Constructor

```
class Array {  
public:  
    Array(int = 10); // default constructor  
    ...  
private:  
    int size; // pointer-based array size  
    int *ptr; // pointer to start of pointer-based array  
};  
// default constructor for class Array (default size 10)  
Array::Array( int arraySize )  
{  
    size = ( arraySize > 0 ? arraySize : 10 ); // validate arraySize  
    ptr = new int[ size ]; // create space for pointer-based array  
    for ( int i = 0; i < size; i++ )  
        ptr[ i ] = 0; // set pointer-based array element  
} // end Array default constructor
```

Array.h

The compiler might treat it as a conversion constructor
that converts an int to an array object

Array.cpp

- This constructor can be misused by the compiler to perform an implicit conversion



Accidentally Using a Constructor as a Conversion Constructor

```
3 #include <iostream>
4 #include "Array.h"
5 using namespace std;
6
7 void outputArray( const Array & ); // prototype
8
9 int main()
10 {
11     Array integers1( 7 ); // 7-element array
12     outputArray( integers1 ); // output Array integers1
13     outputArray( 3 ); // convert 3 to an Array and output Array's contents
14 } // end main
15
16 // print Array contents
17 void outputArray( const Array &arrayToOutput )
18 {
19     cout << "The Array received has " << arrayToOutput.getSize()
20         << " elements. The contents are:\n" << arrayToOutput << endl;
21 } // end outputArray
```

- The compiler thought there is a conversion constructor that converts 3 into an array object



expl i ci t Constructors

- C++ provides the keyword **expl i ci t** to suppress implicit conversions via conversion constructors
 - ❖ A constructor that is declared **expl i ci t** cannot be used in an implicit conversion

```
class Array {  
public:  
    explicit Array(int = 10); // default constructor  
    ...  
private:  
    int length; // string length  
    char *sPtr; // pointer to start of pointer-based string  
};
```

Array.h

- ❖ The compiler will then report a compilation error that the argument of `outputArray` is incorrect in the previous example



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- Overloading ++ and --

- Proxy Classes



Overloading Function Call Operator (1/2)

```
#ifndef STRING_H
#define STRING_H

class String {
public:
    // return a substring
    String operator()(int, int = 0) const;
    ...
private:
    int length; // string length, not counting null terminator
    char *sPtr; // pointer to start of pointer-based string
};
#endif
```

String.h



Overloading Function Call Operator (2/2)

```
#include "String.h"
#include <cstring>

// return a substring beginning at index and of length subLength
String String::operator()( int index, int subLength ) const {
    // if index is out of range or substring length < 0,
    // return an empty String object
    if ( index < 0 || index >= length || subLength < 0 )
        return ""; // converted to a String object automatically

    // determine length of substring
    int len;
    if ( ( subLength == 0 ) || ( index + subLength > length ) )
        len = length - index;
    else
        len = subLength;

    // allocate temporary array for substring and
    // terminating null character
    char *tempPtr = new char[ len + 1 ];

    // copy substring into char array and terminate string
    strncpy( tempPtr, &sPtr[ index ], len );
    tempPtr[ len ] = '\0';

    // create temporary String object containing the substring
    String tempString( tempPtr );
    delete [] tempPtr; // delete temporary array

    return tempString; // return copy of the temporary String
} // end function operator()
```

String.cpp

```
#include "String.h"

int main() {
    String str("Hello World");
    cout << str(6, 5) << endl;
    return 0;
}
```

World



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Overloading ++ and --

Operators as member functions

- Overloading the **prefix** ++ and --

```
classA &classA::operator++();
```

- Overloading the **postfix** ++ and --

```
classA classA::operator++(int);
```

Operators as global functions

- Overloading the **prefix** ++ and --

```
classA &operator++(classA &);
```

- Overloading the **postfix** ++ and --

```
classA operator++(classA &, int);
```



How the Compiler Deals with ++ and --?

```
#include "classA.h"

int main() {
    classA obj;

    ++obj; // compiler generates obj.operator++()
            // or operator++(obj)

    obj++; // compiler generates obj.operator++(0)
            // or operator++(obj, 0)

    return 0;
}
```

A “dummy value”



An Example of ++ and --

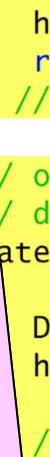
Date.h

```
3 #ifndef DATE_H
4 #define DATE_H
5
6 #include <iostream>
7 using namespace std;
8
9 class Date
10 {
11     friend ostream &operator<<( ostream &, const Date & );
12 public:
13     Date( int m = 1, int d = 1, int y = 1900 ); // default constructor
14     void setDate( int, int, int ); // set month, day, year
15     Date &operator++(); // prefix increment operator
16     Date operator++( int ); // postfix increment operator
17     const Date &operator+=( int ); // add days, modify object
18     static bool leapYear( int ); // is date in a leap year?
19     bool endOfMonth( int ) const; // is date at the end of month?
20 private:
21     int month;
22     int day;
23     int year;
24
25     static const int days[]; // array of days per month
26     void helpIncrement(); // utility function for incrementing date
27 }; // end class Date
28
29 #endif
```



Partial Codes of Date. cpp

```
31 // overloaded prefix increment operator
32 Date &Date::operator++()
33 {
34     helpIncrement(); // increment date
35     return *this; // reference return to create a lvalue
36 } // end function operator++
37
38 // overloaded postfix increment operator; note that the
39 // dummy integer parameter does not have a parameter name
40 Date Date::operator++( int )
41 {
42     Date temp = *this; // +-----+ +-----+
43     helpIncrement(); // function to help increment
44
45     // return unincremented
46     return temp; // value
47 } // end function operator++
```



```
77 // function to help increment
78 void Date::helpIncrement()
79 {
80     // day is not end of month
81     if ( !endOfMonth( day ) )
82         day++; // increment
```

Returning the
reference to temp
is a logic error

```
77 // function to help increment the date
78 void Date::helpIncrement()
79 {
80     // day is not end of month
81     if ( !endOfMonth( day ) )
82         day++; // increment day
83     else
84         if ( month < 12 ) // day is end of month and month < 12
85         {
86             month++; // increment month
87             day = 1; // first day of new month
88         } // end if
89     else // last day of year
90     {
91         year++; // increment year
92         month = 1; // first month of new year
93         day = 1; // first day of new month
94     } // end else
95 } // end function helpIncrement
```



A Client of Date Class

```
3 #include <iostream>
4 #include "Date.h" // Date class definition
5 using namespace std;
6
7 int main()
8 {
9     Date d1; // defaults to January 1, 1900
10    Date d2( 12, 27, 1992 ); // December 27, 1992
11    Date d3( 0, 99, 8045 ); // invalid date
12
13    cout << "d1 is " << d1 << "\nd2 is " << d2 << "\nd3 is " << d3;
14    cout << "\n\n d3 is " << d3;
15
16    d3.setDate( 2, 28, 1992 );
17    cout << "\n\n d3 is " << d3;
18    cout << "\n++d3 is " << ++d3 << " (leap year allows 29th)";
19
20    Date d4( 7, 13, 2002 );
21
22    cout << "\n\nTesting the prefix increment operator:\n"
23        << " d4 is " << d4 << endl;
24    cout << "++d4 is " << ++d4 << endl;
25    cout << " d4 is " << d4;
26
27    cout << "\n\nTesting the postfix increment operator:\n"
28        << " d4 is " << d4 << endl;
29    cout << "d4++ is " << d4++ << endl;
30    cout << " d4 is " << d4 << endl;
31 } // end main
```



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Proxy Classes

- Good software practice: separate interface (.h) from implementation (and hide implementation details in .cpp)
- BUT header file does contain names of private variables
- Solution: proxy class
 - ❖ Have a wrapper class (Interface) that contains all functions of class you are wrapping (Implementation), and only 1 private data member—a pointer to the class you are wrapping
 - ❖ Each function in Interface class just calls `Impl ementati onObj ->functi onName();`
 - ❖ Client only sees wrapper class—the Interface .h file



An Example of Proxy Classes (Implementation)

```
4 class Implementation
5 {
6 public:
7     // constructor
8     Implementation( int v )
9         : value( v ) // initialize value with v
10    {
11        // empty body
12    } // end constructor Implementation
13
14    // set value to v
15    void setValue( int v )
16    {
17        value = v; // should validate v
18    } // end function setValue
19
20    // return value
21    int getValue() const
22    {
23        return value;
24    } // end function getValue
25 private:
26     int value; // data that we would like to hide from the client
27 }; // end class Implementation
```

Implementation.h



An Example of Proxy Classes (Interface)

```
1 // Fig. 11.17: Interface.h
2 // Proxy class Interface definition.
3 // Client sees this source code, but the source code does not reveal
4 // the data layout of class Implementation.
5
6 class Implementation; // forward class declaration required by line 17
7
8 class Interface
9 {
10 public:
11     Interface( int ); // constructor
12     void setValue( int ); // same public interface as
13     int getValue() const; // class Implementation has
14     ~Interface(); // destructor
15 private:
16     // requires previous forward declaration (line 6)
17     Implementation *ptr;
18 };// end class Interface
```

Interface.h



An Example of Proxy Classes (Interface)

```
4 #include "Interface.h" // Interface class definition
5 #include "Implementation.h" // Implementation class definition
6
7 // constructor
8 Interface::Interface( int v )
9     : ptr ( new Implementation( v ) ) // initialize ptr to point to
10    {                                // a new Implementation object
11        // empty body
12    } // end Interface constructor
13
14 // call Implementation's setValue function
15 void Interface::setValue( int v )
16 {
17     ptr->setValue( v );
18 } // end function setValue
19
20 // call Implementation's getValue function
21 int Interface::getValue() const
22 {
23     return ptr->getValue();
24 } // end function getValue
25
26 // destructor
27 Interface::~Interface()
28 {
29     delete ptr;
30 } // end ~Interface destructor
```

Interface.cpp

The proxy class imposes an extra “layer”
of function calls as “price to pay” for
hiding the private data



An Example of Proxy Classes (Client)

```
3 #include <iostream>
4 #include "Interface.h" // Interface class definition
5 using namespace std;
6
7 int main()
8 {
9     Interface i( 5 ); // create Interface object
10
11    cout << "Interface contains: " << i.getValue()
12        << " before setValue" << endl;
13
14    i.setValue( 10 );
15
16    cout << "Interface contains: " << i.getValue()
17        << " after setValue" << endl;
18 } // end main
```

Interface contains: 5 before setValue
Interface contains: 10 after setValue

