

CS100 Recitation 9

GKxx

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Contents

Inheritance and Polymorphism

- Inheritance

- Dynamic Binding

- Abstract Base Classes

More on Functions

- Default Arguments

- Passing Command-Line Arguments

Aids for Debugging

Type Aliases

Contents

Inheritance and Polymorphism

Inheritance

Dynamic Binding

Abstract Base Classes

More on Functions

Default Arguments

Passing Command-Line Arguments

Aids for Debugging

Type Aliases

Defining a Subclass

An item for sale:

- `std::string name;`
- `double price;`
- `std::string get_name() const;`
- `double net_price(std::size_t n) const;`

A discounted item **is an** item, and has some more information:

- `std::size_t min_quantity;`
- `double discount;`

The net price for such item is $n * \text{price}$ if $n < \text{min_quantity}$,
or $n * \text{discount} * \text{price}$ otherwise.

Defining a Subclass

Things to consider:

- Does your class need a default constructor?
 - If so, what should be a reasonable behavior?
 - What will happen if not?
- Does your class need special copy-control?
 - Seems not.
 - But what if we have another thing called a Basket...?
 - What if every item has a unique id...?
- What value should `discount` have to represent '20% off'?

protected members

A **protected** member is private, except that it is accessible in subclasses.

- price is accessible in Discounted_item.
- Should name be **protected** or **private**?
 - **private** is ok if the subclass doesn't (shouldn't) modify it. It is accessible through the public get_name interface.
 - **protected** is also reasonable.

The core idea is to **separate implementation details and interfaces**.

Inheritance

By defining `Discounted_item` to be a subclass of `Item`, **every object of `Discounted_item` contains an object of `Item`.**

- Every data member and member function, except the constructors, are inherited, no matter what access level they have.
- What can we derive from this?
 - When constructing an object of a subclass, one of the ctors of the base class must be called before initializing the members that the subclass declares.
 - The dtor of the subclass must call the dtor of the base class (automatically) after the members of the subclass are destroyed.
 - `sizeof(Derived) >= sizeof(Base)`.

Inheritance

Core ideas of inheritance:

- Every sub-object contains an object of the base class.
- The father has his own ways of doing things, which children cannot affect!

Inheritance and Constructors

```
class Discounted_item : public Item {  
    std::size_t min_quantity = 0;  
    double discount = 1.0;  
public:  
    Discounted_item(const std::string &s, double p,  
                    std::size_t qty, double disc)  
        : Item(s, p), min_quantity(qty), discount(disc) {}  
    // other members  
};
```

- What if we don't call the ctor of the base class explicitly?
- Can we directly initialize the members of the base class?

```
Discounted_item(const std::string &s, double p,  
                std::size_t qty, double disc)  
    : name(s), price(p), min_quantity(qty),  
      discount(disc) {}
```

Inheritance and Constructors

Constructors are not automatically inherited,
but we can inherit them explicitly:

```

class Binary_node {
protected:
    Expr_node *lhs, *rhs;
    Binary_node(Expr_node *left,
                Expr_node *right)
        : lhs(left), rhs(right) {}
    // other members
};

class Plus_node
    : public Binary_node {
using Binary_node::Binary_node;
    // other members
};

```

then `Plus_node` has a
constructor

```

Plus_node(Expr_node *left,
           Expr_node *right)
    : Binary_node(left, right)
    {}

```

and we can call it by

```

Plus_node pn(a, b);
auto pnp
    = new Plus_node(a, b);

```

Inheritance and Constructors

- Default ctor and copy ctor won't be inherited by a `using` declaration. (Why?)
- All the ctors (except default ctor and copy ctor) are inherited by a `using` declaration. But the subclass can rewrite some.
 - If the subclass has a ctor which has the same parameters as one of the ctors of the base class, then this ctor is hiding the corresponding one of the base class.
- The access-level will be preserved. (Why?)
- The `explicit` attribute, if any, is also preserved.
- How will the inherited ctors initialize the members of the subclass?

Inheritance and friends

Friendship cannot be inherited.

- Are you getting along well with your father's friends?

Inheritance and Copy-control

We will talk about this later...

Contents

Inheritance and Polymorphism

Inheritance

Dynamic Binding

Abstract Base Classes

More on Functions

Default Arguments

Passing Command-Line Arguments

Aids for Debugging

Type Aliases

Upcasting

A reference or pointer to base class can be bound to an object of subclass. (Why?)

```
Discounted_item di = some_value();  
Item &ir = di;    // Treat di as an Item object  
Item *ip = &di;
```

But on such references or pointers, only the members of base class are accessible. (Why?)

Upcasting: Example

```
inline void print_info(const Item &item) {  
    std::cout << "Name: " << item.get_name()  
               << ", price: " << item.net_price(1)  
               << std::endl;  
}  
  
// in main  
Discounted_item di = some_value();  
Item i = some_other_value();  
print_info(di);  
print_info(i);
```


Static Type and Dynamic Type

- **static type** of an expression: The type known at compile-time.
- **dynamic type** of an expression: The real type of the object that the expression or variable is representing. **Known at runtime.**

```
Discounted_item di = some_value();  
Item &ir = di; // ir has static type Item &,  
               // but dynamic type Discounted_item.
```

Static Type and Dynamic Type

```
inline void print_info(const Item &item) {  
    std::cout << "Name: " << item.get_name()  
               << ", price: " << item.net_price(1)  
               << std::endl;  
}
```

The static type of `item` is `const Item &`, but the dynamic type is unknown.

virtual Functions

```
inline void print_info(const Item &item) {  
    std::cout << "Name: " << item.get_name()  
               << ", price: " << item.net_price(1)  
               << std::endl;  
}
```

Which net_price is called?

virtual Functions

```
class Item {  
    public:  
        virtual double net_price(std::size_t n) const;  
        // other members  
};  
class Discounted_item : public Item {  
    public:  
        virtual double net_price(std::size_t n) const override;  
        // other members  
};
```

virtual Functions

- The dynamic type of parameter `item` is runtime-determined.
- Since `net_price` is a **virtual** function, which one is called is determined at **runtime**, so that the correct version is called.
- **late-binding**, or **dynamic-binding**.

Overriding a virtual Function

To **override** a **virtual** function,

- The function must have parameters the same as the function in the base class has.
- The return-type of the function should be either **identical to** or **covariant with** (What's this?) that of the corresponding function in the base class.
- Don't forget the **const** qualifier!

To make sure that your function overrides the one in the base class, use the **override** keyword.

Overriding a virtual Function

- An overriding function is still **virtual**, even if not explicitly declared.
- The best practice is to explicitly write '**virtual**' and '**override**'.
 - The **override** keyword lets the compiler check and report if the function is not actually overriding.
- Distinguish between **overriding**, **overloading** and '**hiding**'.
 - Avoid confusing cases in your program! Don't invite troubles for yourself.

virtual Destructors

```
Base *bp = some_value();  
delete bp;
```

which destructor should be called by 'delete bp'?

virtual Destructors

```
Base *bp = some_value();  
delete bp;
```

which destructor should be called by 'delete bp'?

- To make dynamic binding work correctly, the destructors must be **virtual**!
- The synthesized destructor is **non-virtual**, but we can:

```
virtual ~Base() = default;
```

- If the dtor of the base class is **virtual**, the synthesized destructor is also **virtual**.

Inheritance and Copy-control

Remember to copy the base part correctly! One possible way:

```
class Derived : public Base {
public:
    Derived(const Derived &d)
        : Base(d), /* members of Derived */ {}
    Derived &operator=(const Derived &d) {
        Base::operator=(d);
        // copy members of Derived
        return *this;
    }
};
```

Synthesized Copy-control Functions

- When will the compiler synthesize a copy-control function?
- What's the behavior of them?
- When will the compiler mark them as **deleted**?
- What about default ctors?

Slicing

Suppose Base and Derived have a **virtual** function foo.

```
Derived d = some_value();
```

```
Base b = d;
```

```
b.foo();    // Base::foo or Derived::foo?
```

When using an object of a subclass to initialize or assign to an object of the base class, the copy-ctor or copy-assignment operator **of the base class** is called.

- Therefore, the sub-part of the object is ignored, or **sliced down**.
- Dynamic binding won't happen.

Downcasting

```
Base *bp = new Derived{};
```

We cannot access the members of the subclass through a pointer to the base class. We need a **downcasting**.

- As long as the following conditions are satisfied, you can make a downcasting:
 - The pointer or reference to the base class is **indeed** bound to an object of the subclass.
 - The base class and the subclass are polymorphic, which means that there is at least one **virtual** function.
- You can make a downcasting by **dynamic_cast**:

```
Derived *dp = dynamic_cast<Derived *>(bp);  
Derived &dr = dynamic_cast<Derived &>(*bp);
```

Downcasting

- `dynamic_cast` may have a significant runtime cost.
- Several common ways to avoid `dynamic_cast`, like writing a group of `virtual` functions.
- *Effective C++* Item 27 talks about type-casting.
- *More Effective C++* Item 31 talks about some more complicated cases: Making functions virtual with respect to more than one object.

Notice

Avoid `dynamic_cast`, especially in performance-sensitive code.

Contents

Inheritance and Polymorphism

Inheritance

Dynamic Binding

Abstract Base Classes

More on Functions

Default Arguments

Passing Command-Line Arguments

Aids for Debugging

Type Aliases

Pure virtual Functions

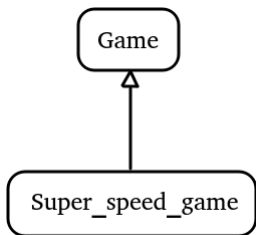
By defining a function to be =0, it is defined as a **pure virtual** function.

- A class with at least one pure virtual function is an **abstract class**.
- A pure virtual function can be overridden in a subclass. But if it is not overridden, the subclass is still abstract.
- Creating objects of a type that is an abstract class is **not allowed**.

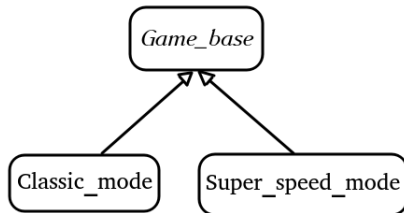
Generally, virtual functions in the base class that do not have a reasonable behavior should be pure virtual, and such class should be abstract.

Example: Greedy Snake

“A super-speed game is a game.”

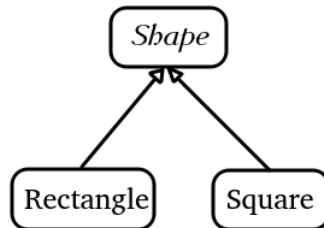
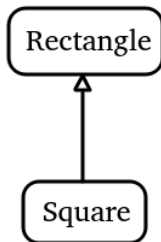


“A classic-mode game is a game.
A super-speed game is also a game.”



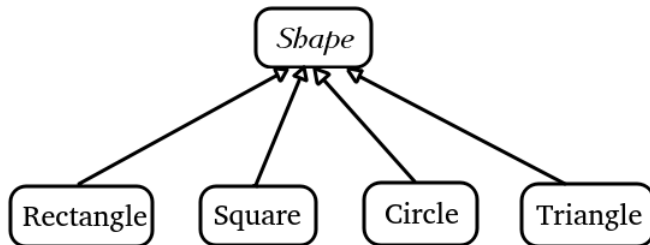
It turns out that the super-speed mode has too many differences from the classic-mode, so I **refactored** the program according to the diagram on the right.

Which One is Better?



Which One is Better?

- “A square **is** a rectangle” is correct, but sometimes this is deceptive. (*Effective C++* Item 32, very important)
- The structure on the right can be extended easily: (**reusability**)



A Pure virtual Destructor

Sometimes a class should be abstract, but there seems to be no reasonable choice over which function should be pure virtual.

A Pure virtual Destructor

Sometimes a class should be abstract, but there seems to be no reasonable choice over which function should be pure virtual.

- Define the destructor to be pure virtual, and provide another definition.

```
class Base {
public:
    virtual ~Base() = 0;
};
Base::~~Base() {}
```

In fact, we can provide definitions for pure virtual functions.

More on Inheritance...

- There is still one thing that is magic to us: the ‘**public**’ keyword:

```
class Discounted_item : public Item {};
```

- **public** inheritance models ‘is-a’, while **private** inheritance models ‘is-implemented-in-terms-of’. What’s that?

Contents

Inheritance and Polymorphism

Inheritance

Dynamic Binding

Abstract Base Classes

More on Functions

Default Arguments

Passing Command-Line Arguments

Aids for Debugging

Type Aliases

Default Arguments

```
void create_window(std::size_t height = 24,  
                  std::size_t width = 80) {  
    // create a window with given height and width  
}
```

If the caller omit the 'width' argument

```
create_window(30);
```

then width will be set to default value 80. If both arguments are omitted

```
create_window();
```

then height is set to 24 and width 80.

Default Arguments

- Only the last few parameters can have default arguments.

```
void fun(int a = 42, int b); // Error
```

- Functions that have default arguments will be treated as **overloading functions**. For the `create_window` function, it is the same as

```
void create_window();  
void create_window(std::size_t height);  
void create_window(std::size_t height,  
                  std::size_t width);
```

Default Arguments

Member functions can also have default arguments:

```

class Vector {
public:
    Vector(std::size_t n, int val = 0)
        : m_size(n), m_capacity(n),
          m_data(new int[n]{})) {
        for (std::size_t i = 0; i < n; ++i)
            m_data[i] = val;
    }
    // other members
};

```

It will be treated as if there are two constructors

```

Vector::Vector(std::size_t);
Vector::Vector(std::size_t, int);

```

Default Argument Declaration

A function may be declared multiple times, but default arguments should **not** be redeclared.

```
class Vector {  
    public:  
        Vector(std::size_t n, int val = 0);  
};  
Vector::Vector(std::size_t n, int val = 0) // Error.  
    : m_size(n), m_capacity(n), m_data(new int[n]{} ) {  
    std::fill_n(m_data, n, val);  
}
```

Default Argument Declaration

A function may be declared multiple times, but default arguments should **not** be redeclared. (Why?)

```
class Vector {  
    public:  
        Vector(std::size_t n, int val = 0);  
};  
Vector::Vector(std::size_t n, int val) // Correct.  
    : m_size(n), m_capacity(n), m_data(new int[n]{} ) {  
    std::fill_n(m_data, n, val);  
}
```

Default Argument Declaration

Although it seems weird, subsequent declarations can have additional default arguments.

```
void create_window(std::size_t height,
                  std::size_t width = 80);
void craete_window(std::size_t height = 24, // OK.
                  std::szie_t width) {
    // ...
}
```

Defaults can be specified only when all parameters to the right already have defaults.

Contents

Inheritance and Polymorphism

Inheritance

Dynamic Binding

Abstract Base Classes

More on Functions

Default Arguments

Passing Command-Line Arguments

Aids for Debugging

Type Aliases

Command-Line Arguments

Suppose you are the author of `g++`. When the user type `g++ -o hello hello.cpp` in the terminal, there should be a way to let your program get this command.

Command-Line Arguments

Suppose you are the author of g++. When the user type `g++ -o hello hello.cpp` in the terminal, there should be a way to let your program get this command.

```
int main(int argc, char **argv) {  
    // ...  
}
```

- `argv` is an array of strings. In this example, `argv = {"g++", "-o", "hello", "hello.cpp"}`.
- `argc` is the number of strings in the array `argv`.
- `char *argv[]` is the same as `char **argv`.

Command-Line Arguments

The only two correct versions of the main function:

```
int main();  
int main(int argc, char **argv);
```

Assertion

```
#include <cassert>
int main() {
    int a, b;
    std::cin >> a >> b;
    assert(b != 0);
    int c = a / b;
    // ...
}
```

C++11 also provides compile-time assertion `static_assert`, but it's too early for you now... (We used this in Problem 2 to detect whether your `Shape` class is abstract.)

Some Helpful Macros

To disable assertions, we can use the NDEBUG macro.

```
int main() {  
    int a, b;  
    std::cin >> a >> b;  
#define NDEBUG  
    assert(b != 0); // This assertion will not be performed.  
#undef NDEBUG  
    assert(b != 0); // This assertion will be performed.  
    // ...  
}
```

Some Helpful Macros

- `__LINE__`: `int`, the line number.
- `__func__`: `const char []`, the name of the current function.
- `__FILE__`: `const char []`, the name of the current file.
- `__TIME__`: `const char []`, the current time.

New-style Alias Declaration

```
using LL = long long;
```

The new-style type alias declaration is more clear:

```
typedef int arr_t[10];  
using arr_t = int[10];
```

The `using` type alias declaration can also be a template, but `typedef` cannot.

Type Alias Member

```
class Vector {  
public:  
    using size_type = std::size_t;  
    using value_type = int;  
    using pointer = int *;  
    using reference = int &;  
    // other members  
};  
  
int main() {  
    Vector v = some_value();  
    for (Vector::size_type i = 0;  
         i < v.size(); ++i)  
        // do something  
}
```

- Access modifiers also apply to type alias members.
- To access a type alias member, use *class-name::type-member*.