Exception Handling and Exception Safety

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Things Tend to Go Wrong

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Example: Copy

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July 11, 2022

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Input Failure

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```
int num_of_people;
std::cin >> num_of_people;
```

What happens when the input is not an integer?

strcpy

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You are asked to write a strcpy function...

```
void strcpy(char *dest, const char *source) {
  while (*source)
    *dest++ = *source++;
  *dest = '\0';
}
```

strcpy

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You are asked to write a strcpy function...

```
void strcpy(char *dest, const char *source) {
  while (*source)
    *dest++ = *source++;
  *dest = '\0';
}
```

In reality, things may go wrong:

- Null pointers?
- Buffer overflow?

Detecting buffer overflow may not be easy.

Which is Better?

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1. Terminate the program on failure and report the error.

```
void strcpy(char *dest,
    const char *source) {
  if (!dest || !source) {
    std::cerr << "Invalid
        arguments for
        strcpy.\n";
    exit(1);
  while (*source)
    *dest++ = *source++;
  *dest = '\0';
```

2. Return false on failure:

Which is Better?

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3. Be silent to errors.

```
void strcpy(char *dest,
    const char *source) {
    if (dest && source) {
        while (*source)
          *dest++ = *source++;
        *dest = '\0';
    }
}
```

4. Use assertions.

```
void strcpy(char *dest,
        const char *source) {
   assert(dest != NULL);
   assert(source != NULL);
   while (*source)
      *dest++ = *source++;
   *dest = '\0';
}
```

https://blog.csdn.net/myan/article/details/1921

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Throwing an Exception

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```
void strcpy(char *dest, const char *source) {
  if (!dest || !source)
    throw std::invalid_argument("Null pointers passed
        to strcpy.");
  while (*source)
    *dest++ = *source++;
  *dest = '\0';
}
```

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bad alloc logic error runtime error bad cast defined in <new> defined in <type info> length error range error domain_error overflow error out of range underflow error invalid argument

exception

defined in <exception>

■ logic_error, runtime_error and their subclasses are defined in <stdexcept>.

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- The normal new and new[] operators throw std::bad_alloc when running out of memory.
- dynamic_cast for references throws std::bad_cast when the casting fails.
 - dynamic_cast for pointers does not throw. It returns nullptr on failure.

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- The normal new and new[] operators throw std::bad_alloc when running out of memory.
- dynamic_cast for references throws std::bad_cast when the casting fails.
 - dynamic_cast for pointers does not throw. It returns nullptr on failure.
- std::system_error is thrown in many cases, especially in functions that interface with OS facilities, e.g. the constructor of std::thread.
- <chrono> defines std::nonexistent_local_time and std::ambiguous_local_time.

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operator[] for STL containers does not check boundaries, but at() does.

```
std::vector<int> v;
v.at(0) = 42; // Throws std::out_of_range.
v[0] = 42; // Does not throw, but probably causes a
    segmentation fault.
```

We will see that exceptions thrown could be catch-ed and handled.

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Let our Array do the same thing?

```
template <typename T>
class Array {
 public:
  const T &at(std::size_t n) const {
    if (n >= m_size)
      throw std::out_of_range("Array subscript out of
          range.");
    return m_data[n];
  T &at(std::size t n) {
    return const cast<T &>(
      static_cast<const Array<T> *>(this)->at(n)
    ); // see Effective C++ Item 3
```

```
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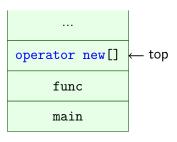
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```
void func(int n) {
  int x = 42;
  int *p = new int[n];
  // ...
}
int main() {
  int size = 100;
  func(size);
  // ...
}
```



Suppose operator new[] encounters shortage of memory...

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std::bad_alloc is raised in operator new[].

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```
void func(int n) {
  int x = 42;
  int *p = new int[n];
  // ...
}
int main() {
  int size = 100;
  func(size);
  // ...
}
```

- std::bad_alloc is raised in operator new[].
- Control flow returns to func.

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```
void func(int n) {
   int x = 42;
   int *p = new int[n];
   // ...
}
int main() {
   int size = 100;
   func(size);
   // ...
}
```

- std::bad_alloc is raised in operator new[].
- 2 Control flow returns to func.
- 3 x is destroyed.

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```
void func(int n) {
  int x = 42;
  int *p = new int[n];
  // ...
}
int main() {
  int size = 100;
  func(size);
  // ...
}
```

- std::bad_alloc is raised in operator new[].
- 2 Control flow returns to func.
- 3 x is destroyed.
- 1 n is destroyed.

```
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```
void func(int n) {
  int x = 42;
  int *p = new int[n];
  // ...
}
int main() {
  int size = 100;
  func(size);
  // ...
```

- std::bad_alloc is raised in operator new[].
- 2 Control flow returns to func.
- 3 x is destroyed.
- 4 n is destroyed.
- 5 Control flow returns to main.

```
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```

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```
void func(int n) {
  int x = 42;
  int *p = new int[n];
  // ...
}
int main() {
  int size = 100;
  func(size);
  // ...
}
```

- std::bad_alloc is raised in operator new[].
- 2 Control flow returns to func.
- 3 x is destroyed.
- 1 n is destroyed.
- Control flow returns to main.
- 6 size is destroyed.

```
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```
void func(int n) {
  int x = 42;
  int *p = new int[n];
  // ...
}
int main() {
  int size = 100;
  func(size);
  // ...
}
```

- std::bad_alloc is raised in operator new[].
- 2 Control flow returns to func.
- 3 x is destroyed.
- 1 n is destroyed.
- Control flow returns to main.
- 6 size is destroyed.

Notice

Stack unwinding is only guaranteed to happen for **caught** exceptions. If an exception is not caught, whether the stack is unwound is **implementation-defined**.

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```
void func(int n) {
  int x = 42:
  int *p = new int[n];
 // ...
int main() {
  try {
    int size = 100;
    func(size);
  } catch (const std::bad_alloc &e) {
    // deal with shortage of memory here.
```

More Effective C++ Item 13: Catch exceptions by reference.

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The error message could be obtained via the 'what' member function, which is virtual, const and noexcept.

```
void fun() {
  throw std::runtime_error("I love watermelons.");
}
int main() {
  try {
    fun();
  } catch (const std::runtime_error &re) {
    std::cout << re.what() << std::endl;
  }
}</pre>
```

Output:

I love watermelons.

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```

try-catch

}

```
void f(const std::vector<int> &v) {
  try {
    int i = 42;
    std::vector<int> copy = v;
    int x = copy.at(100);
    g(x);
  } catch (const std::bad_alloc &ba) {
    // deal with shortage of memory
  } catch (const std::out_of_range &oor) {
    // deal with illegal subscript '100'
  } catch (...) {
    // What else may happen? idk
    throw; // Throw the exception again.
  }
  std::cout << "returns.\n":
```

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Control

```
Suppose std::out_of_range is raised.
void f(const std::vector<int> &v) {
  try {
    int i = 42;
    std::vector<int> copy = v;
\bigwedge int x = copy.at(100);
                                throws std::out_of_range
    g(x);
  } catch (const std::bad_alloc &ba) {
    // deal with shortage of memory
  } catch (const std::out_of_range &oor) {
    // deal with illegal subscript '100'
  } catch (...) {
    // What else may happen? idk
    throw; // Throw the exception again.
  std::cout << "returns\n":
```

```
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```
Suppose std::out_of_range is raised.
void f(const std::vector<int> &v) {
  try {
    int i = 42;
    std::vector<int> copy = v; 'copy' is destroyed
    int x = copy.at(100);
    g(x);
  } catch (const std::bad_alloc &ba) {
    // deal with shortage of memory
  } catch (const std::out_of_range &oor) {
    // deal with illegal subscript '100'
  } catch (...) {
    // What else may happen? idk
    throw; // Throw the exception again.
  std::cout << "returns\n":
```

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Control

```
Suppose std::out_of_range is raised.
void f(const std::vector<int> &v) {
  try {
    int i = 42;
                       'i' is destroyed
    std::vector<int> copy = v;
    int x = copy.at(100);
    g(x);
  } catch (const std::bad_alloc &ba) {
    // deal with shortage of memory
  } catch (const std::out_of_range &oor) {
    // deal with illegal subscript '100'
  } catch (...) {
    // What else may happen? idk
    throw; // Throw the exception again.
  std::cout << "returns\n":
```

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Control

```
Suppose std::out_of_range is raised.
void f(const std::vector<int> &v) {
  try {
    int i = 42;
    std::vector<int> copy = v;
    int x = copy.at(100);
    g(x);
 } catch (const std::bad_alloc &ba) { Not matched
    // deal with shortage of memory
  } catch (const std::out_of_range &oor) {
    // deal with illegal subscript '100'
  } catch (...) {
    // What else may happen? idk
    throw; // Throw the exception again.
  std::cout << "returns\n":
```

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```
Suppose std::out_of_range is raised.
void f(const std::vector<int> &v) {
  try {
    int i = 42;
    std::vector<int> copy = v;
    int x = copy.at(100);
   g(x);
  } catch (const std::bad_alloc &ba) {
    // deal with shortage of memory
 } catch (const std::out_of_range &oor) { Matched
    // deal with illegal subscript '100'
  } catch (...) {
    // What else may happen? idk
    throw; // Throw the exception again.
  std::cout << "returns\n":
```

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```
Suppose std::out_of_range is raised.
void f(const std::vector<int> &v) {
  try {
    int i = 42;
    std::vector<int> copy = v;
    int x = copy.at(100);
    g(x);
  } catch (const std::bad_alloc &ba) {
    // deal with shortage of memory
  } catch (const std::out_of_range &oor) {
    // deal with illegal subscript '100'
  } catch (...) {
    // What else may happen? idk
    throw; // Throw the exception again.
  std::cout << "returns\n":
```

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```
Suppose std::out_of_range is raised.
void f(const std::vector<int> &v) {
  try {
    int i = 42;
    std::vector<int> copy = v;
    int x = copy.at(100);
    g(x);
  } catch (const std::bad_alloc &ba) {
    // deal with shortage of memory
  } catch (const std::out_of_range &oor) {
    // deal with illegal subscript '100'
  } catch (...) {
    // What else may happen? idk
    throw; // Throw the exception again.
  }
  std::cout << "returns\n": Control flow continues here
```

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operator new[] raises std::bad_alloc when out of memory.

But if the array-new length is obviously invalid, an instance of std::bad_array_new_length is raised.

```
new int[-1]; // negative size
new int[3]{2, 3, 4, 6, 8}; // too many initializers
new int[LONG_MAX][100]; // too large
```

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operator new[] raises std::bad_alloc when out of memory.

But if the array-new length is obviously invalid, an instance of std::bad_array_new_length is raised.

```
new int[-1]; // negative size
new int[3]{2, 3, 4, 6, 8}; // too many initializers
new int[LONG_MAX][100]; // too large
```

catch (const std::bad_alloc &) also catches it, because of inheritance:

```
exception bad_alloc bad_array_new_length
```

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```
try {
  do_something();
} catch (const std::runtime_error &re) {
  // deal with runtime_error
} catch (const std::exception &e) {
  // deal with other kinds of exceptions
} catch (...) {
  // deal with other things
}
```

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```
try {
  do_something();
} catch (const std::runtime_error &re) {
  // deal with runtime_error
} catch (const std::exception &e) {
  // deal with other kinds of exceptions
} catch (...) {
  // deal with other things
}
Note: Other things (e.g. a string) can also be thrown.
throw "I don\'t want to talk to you.";
In this case, these things are caught by catch (...).
```

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catch clauses are examined one-by-one.

```
try {
  do_something();
} catch (const std::exception &e) {
  std::cout << "exception\n";
} catch (const std::runtime_error &re) {
  std::cout << "runtime_error\n";
} catch (...) {
  // deal with other things
}</pre>
```

If an instance of std::runtime_error is thrown, it will be caught by "const std::exception &" instead of "const std::runtime_error &" in this case.

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```
void fun() {
  int i = 42;
  std::vector<int> v;
N.at(i) = 10; throws std::out_of_range
int main() {
  try {
    std::string str("Hello");
    fun();
  } catch (...) {}
```

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```
void fun() {
  int i = 42;
  std::vector<int> v; 'v' is destroyed
  v.at(i) = 10;
int main() {
  try {
    std::string str("Hello");
    fun();
  } catch (...) {}
}
```

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```
void fun() {
  int i = 42;
                 'i' is destroyed
  std::vector<int> v;
  v.at(i) = 10;
int main() {
  try {
    std::string str("Hello");
    fun();
  } catch (...) {}
}
```

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```
void fun() {
  int i = 42;
  std::vector<int> v;
  v.at(i) = 10;
int main() {
  try {
    std::string str("Hello");
    fun();
           Control flow returns here
  } catch (...) {}
}
```

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```
void fun() {
  int i = 42;
  std::vector<int> v;
  v.at(i) = 10;
int main() {
  try {
    std::string str("Hello"); 'str' is destroyed
    fun();
  } catch (...) {}
}
```

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```
void fun() {
  int i = 42;
  std::vector<int> v;
  v.at(i) = 10;
int main() {
  try {
    std::string str("Hello");
    fun();
 } catch (...) {} The exception is caught.
```

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- The try block and catch blocks are independent scopes.
 Objects declared in the try block cannot be used in catch blocks.
- When an exception occurs, local objects in the try block are destroyed before the exception is caught.
- Stack unwinding is only guaranteed to happen for caught exceptions.
- If an exception is thrown and not caught,
 'std::terminate' will be called to terminate the program.
 (defined in <exception>)

try-catch for Constructors

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```
template <typename T>
class Array {
  public:
    Array(std::size_t n)
        try : m_size(n), m_data(new T[n]{}) {}
  catch (const std::bad_alloc &ba) {
    std::cerr << "No enough memory.\n";
    throw;
  }
};</pre>
```

Notes:

- Exceptions raised both in constructor initializer list and function body can be caught.
- Non-static data members cannot be referred to in such catch blocks. (Why?)

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```
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```
class Wrong_answer : public std::logic_error {
 public:
  Wrong_answer(std::size_t line_no)
      : std::logic_error("Wrong answer on line "
          + std::to_string(line_no)) {}
};
#define assert(X)
  { if (!(X)) throw Wrong_answer(__LINE__); }
int main() {
  int a = rand(), b = rand();
  int ans = add(a, b);
  assert(ans == a + b);
  return 0;
}
```

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Exception-safe functions offer one of three guarantees:

- **Nothrow guarantee**: Promise never to throw exceptions.
- **Strong guarantee**: Promise that if an exception is thrown, the state of the program is unchanged (as if the function had not been called).
- Weak guarantee (basic guarantee): Promise that if an exception is thrown, everything in the program remains in a valid state.
 - No objects or data structures become corrupted.
 - All class invariants are satisfied.

Effective C++ Item 29: Strive for exception-safe code.

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Example: Cop

Effective C++ Item 29:

A software system is either exception-safe or it's not. There's no such thing as a partially exception-safe system. If a system has even a single function that's not exception-safe, the system as a whole is not exception-safe.

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Exception Specifications Example: Copy Effective C++ Item 29:

A software system is either exception-safe or it's not. There's no such thing as a partially exception-safe system. If a system has even a single function that's not exception-safe, the system as a whole is not exception-safe.

A function can usually offer a guarantee no stronger than the **weakest** guarantee of the functions it calls.

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Before C++11, a function may declare in advance what exception it may throw.

```
void *operator new(std::size_t size) throw(std::
   bad_alloc);
```

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Before C++11, a function may declare in advance what exception it may throw.

```
void *operator new(std::size_t size) throw(std::
   bad alloc):
```

To declare that a function does not throw exceptions:

```
int add(int a, int b) throw() {
 return a + b;
```

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People came to realize that it is whether the function throws exceptions or not that really matters.

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People came to realize that it is whether the function throws exceptions or not that really matters.

Since C++11, declare noexcept for non-throwing functions.

```
template <typename T>
void swap(Array<T> &a, Array<T> &b) noexcept {
  a.swap(b);
}
```

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xample: Copy

People came to realize that it is whether the function throws exceptions or not that really matters.

Since C++11, declare noexcept for non-throwing functions.

```
template <typename T>
void swap(Array<T> &a, Array<T> &b) noexcept {
  a.swap(b);
}
```

The throw() specifiers have been deprecated and removed in modern C++.

noexcept

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The noexcept specifier makes it possible for more optimization.

- When an exception is thrown inside a noexcept function, the stack is possibly unwound.
 - Compilers need not keep the runtime stack in an unwindable state.
- Certain functions must be noexcept so that they can be called by standard library functions.
 - Move constructors and move assignment operators.

noexcept

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noexcept is not checked in compile-time. A noexcept function may still

- call functions that are not noexcept, or
- throw exceptions under certain circumstances.

Arguments to noexcept

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noexcept may take one argument that is a constant expression and is convertible to bool.

```
// noexcept iff T is nothrow-copy-constructible.
template <typename T>
void fun() noexcept(
    std::is_nothrow_copy_constructible<T>::value) {
    // ...
}
```

noexcept is equivalent to noexcept(true).

The noexcept Operator

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noexcept can also work as an operator, which returns a bool value indicating whether an expression throws exceptions.

```
template <typename T>
class Box {
   T thing;
public:
   void swap(Box<T> &other)
        noexcept(noexcept(std::swap(thing, other.thing)))
   {
      std::swap(thing, other.thing);
   }
};
```

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```
class Array {
  int *m data:
  std::size_t m_size;
 public:
  Array & operator = (const Array & other) {
    if (this != &other) {
      delete[] m_data;
      m_data = new int[other.m_size];
      std::copy(other.m_data,
                other.m_data + other.m_size, m_data);
      m_size = other.m_size;
    return *this;
```

```
Exception
            class Array {
Handling and
 Exception
              int *m data:
  Safety
              std::size_t m_size;
             public:
              Array &operator=(const Array &other) {
                if (this != &other) {
                   delete[] m_data;
                  m_data = new int[other.m_size];
                   std::copy(other.m_data,
                              other.m_data + other.m_size, m_data);
                  m_size = other.m_size;
Example: Copy
                return *this;
Control
```

It does not offer even the basic guarantee.

```
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```

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Example: Copy

```
class Array {
 public:
  Array & operator = (const Array & other) {
    auto new_data = new int[other.m_size];
    std::copy(other.m_data,
              other.m_data + other.m_size, new_data);
    delete[] m_data;
    m_data = new_data;
    m_size = other.m_size;
    return *this;
```

```
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```

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Example: Copy

```
class Array {
 public:
  Array & operator = (const Array & other) {
    auto new_data = new int[other.m_size];
    std::copy(other.m_data,
              other.m_data + other.m_size, new_data);
    delete[] m data:
    m_data = new_data;
    m_size = other.m_size;
    return *this;
```

Strong guarantee.

```
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```

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Example: Copy

```
class Array {
 public:
  Array & operator = (const Array & other) {
    m_size = other.m_size;
    auto new_data = new int[m_size];
    std::copy(other.m_data,
              other.m_data + m_size, new_data);
    delete[] m_data;
    m_data = new_data;
    return *this;
```

```
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Example: Copy Control

```
class Array {
 public:
  Array & operator = (const Array & other) {
    m size = other.m size:
    auto new_data = new int[m_size];
    std::copy(other.m_data,
              other.m_data + m_size, new_data);
    delete[] m_data;
    m_data = new_data;
    return *this;
```

No exception-safety guarantee.

```
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```

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Example: Copy

```
class Array {
 public:
  void swap(Array &other) noexcept {
    using std::swap;
    swap(m_size, other.m_size);
    swap(m_data, other.m_data);
  }
  Array & operator = (const Array & other) {
    Array(other).swap(*this);
    return *this;
```

```
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```

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Example: Copy Control

```
class Array {
 public:
  void swap(Array &other) noexcept {
    using std::swap;
    swap(m_size, other.m_size);
    swap(m_data, other.m_data);
  }
  Array & operator = (const Array & other) {
    Array(other).swap(*this);
    return *this;
```

Strong guarantee.

Which Part may Throw?

```
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Example: Copy Control

```
// For simplicity, assume T is default-constructible
    and copy-assignable.
template <typename T>
class Array {
  T *m_data;
  std::size_t m_size;
 public:
  Array(const Array &other)
      : m_data(new T[other.m_size]),
        m_size(other.m_size) {
    std::copy(other.m_data,
              other.m_data + other.m_size, m_data);
```

```
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```

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No guarantee. If an exception occurs when copying, m_size and m_data will be destroyed, resulting in memory leak.

Make it Exception-safe

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Example: Copy Control

```
template <typename T>
class Array {
 public:
  Array(const Array &other)
      : m_data(new T[other.m_size]),
        m size(other.m size) {
    try {
      std::copy(other.m_data,
                other.m_data + other.m_size, m_data);
    } catch (...) {
      delete[] m_data; // Avoid memory leak
      throw; // Let the caller know it!
```

```
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```

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Example: Copy Control

```
template <typename T>
class Array {
 public:
  Array & operator = (const Array & other) {
    auto new data = new T[other.m size];
    std::copy(other.m_data,
              other.m_data + other.m_size, new_data);
    delete[] m data:
    m data = new data:
    m size = other.m size:
    return *this;
```

```
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Example: Copy Control

```
template <typename T>
class Array {
 public:
  Array & operator = (const Array & other) {
    auto new data = new T[other.m size]:
    std::copy(other.m_data,
              other.m_data + other.m_size, new_data);
    delete[] m data:
    m data = new data:
    m size = other.m size:
    return *this;
```

No guarantee.

Make it Exception-safe

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Example: Copy Control

```
template <typename T>
class Array {
 public:
  Array & operator = (const Array & other) {
    auto new_data = new T[other.m_size];
    try {
      std::copy(other.m_data,
                 other.m_data + other.m_size, new_data);
    } catch (...) {
      delete [] new data:
      throw;
    }
    delete[] m data:
    m_data = new_data;
    m_size = other.m_size;
    return *this:
```

```
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Example: Copy Control

```
template <typename T>
class Array {
 public:
  void swap(Array &other) noexcept {
    using std::swap;
    swap(m_size, other.m_size);
    swap(m_data, other.m_data);
  }
  Array & operator = (const Array & other) {
    Array(other).swap(*this);
    return *this;
```

```
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```

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Example: Copy Control

```
template <typename T>
class Array {
 public:
  void swap(Array &other) noexcept {
    using std::swap;
    swap(m_size, other.m_size);
    swap(m_data, other.m_data);
  }
  Array & operator = (const Array & other) {
    Array(other).swap(*this);
    return *this;
```

Strong guarantee.