**C++ Notes**

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# 1.0 Vectors

## 1.1 What are vectors

Vectors are a sequence container that store elements. Specifically used in order to work with dynamic data, c++ vectors can expand and scale down as needed. Efficient when you don’t know how big an array will be, however, more costly than a fixed size array in terms of memory and performance.

## 1.2 How to create vectors

Common syntax for vectors is as follows;

vector <type> variable (elements)

For example:

vector <int> rooms (9);

The type and variable name are mandatory for initializing a vector, however, the number of elements is optional.

## 1.3 Iterators

An interator allows you to access the data elements in a vector. There are 5 types of iterators

When iterating through a vector, use size\_t instead of int, as size\_t is the type returned by the .size function.

For(size\_t i = 0; i<vector.size(); i++){

<https://www.bitdegree.org/learn/c-plus-plus-vector#:~:text=C%2B%2B%20vectors%20are%20sequence%20containers,vectors%20can%20automatically%20manage%20storage>.

Read more into vectors

Graphical user interface, text, application, email

Description automatically generated

# 2.0 POINTERS

# 3. Classes, functions and variables

## 3.1 Header files

Text

Description automatically generatedHeader files are designed to provide the information that s needed in code files. They define things such as class declarations, their functions prototypes and variables. This is a general format for how the header class is created, with the different things you can do with it.

A smart way to construct a class is by giving the parameters a default value for any missing parameters when the constructor is initiated.

Text

Description automatically generatedThe ‘const’ keyword at the ends of these lines show that the methods can not change in any way during their runtime.

## 3.2 Code files

Text

Description automatically generatedCode files (.cpp) are, as expected, where the code is. They use the structure from the header file and give the methods and variables meaning. This simple screenshot shows the general gist of how code files are written.

**A picture containing diagram

Description automatically generatedConstant** variables and methods still need to be catered for when writing their code version.

Some classes have variables using other classes data types (Such as a date for example). This is known as **composition**.

## 3.3 Main method

Main methods are where code is tested and executed. Below is how an object is initiated, one being a constant object and the other a normal object.

Text

Description automatically generated

Timeline

Description automatically generatedNon-constant objects can call any type of method, whereas constant objects can only call constant methods, and can not call non-constant methods. The highlighted lines are errors and can not be called.

## 3.4 Friend function

A friend function is a function or method which is assigned outside of the class, but has access to the private and protected data members of the class. A function is a friend function when it precedes the keyword “friend”.

[Useful information](https://www.softwaretestinghelp.com/friend-functions-in-cpp/#:~:text=A%20friend%20function%20in%20C%2B%2B,data%20members%20of%20the%20class.)

## 3.5 This pointer

The “this” pointer is an important pointer which every C++ object has. It is an implicit parameter to all member functions. It can be used to refer to the invoking object. Friend object do not have “this” pointers as they are not members of the class, and need pointers to objects to be used.

The “this” pointer can also be returned to invoke multiple functions within the same method, like so:

Text, letter

Description automatically generatedThis is done by doing the following in the header, and the code in the .cpp file in the subsequent screenshot.

## 3.6 Static class member

A static data member is a copy of a variable shared between all objects of the same class. An example would be a count. A normal variable of count will keep track of separate integers within the separate objects. However, if the count variable is static, all objects of this class share the same count.

## 3.7 Virtual function specifier

Research it

## 3.8 Casting

To cast a variable, use the variable data type in brackets before the data, like so:

float totalSum = (float)balance;

Where balance is an integer and the total sum needs to use decimals.

# 4. Inheritance and Polymorphism

## 4.1 Inheritance

Inheritance absorbs existing class’s data and behaviour and enhances it with new capabilities. The main relationship is between the base class and derived class, also known as parent and child, or super and sub classes in java.

Generally the derived class represents a more specialised group of objects, by implementing additional methods on another class, such as in a game an enemy class is a parent or base class, and a type of enemy like a zombie is a child or derived class.

C++ supports multiple inheritance.

A has-a relationship represents composition, and an is-a relationship represents inheritance. A Person **has-a** bank account, and a Student **is-a** Person.

Diagram

Description automatically generatedExamples

## 4.2 Private members

A derived-class function may need access to base-class data.

Base-class members that should not be accessible to derived classes should be declared as private.

Derived classes can only change access base-class private members through non-private base-class functions.

A base class’s public members are accessible within its body and anywhere in the program that has a handle or one of its derived classes. Private members are only accessible within its body and to the friends of the base class, and using **protected** access offers an intermediate level.

## 4.3 Polymorphism

Polymorphism refers to a programming language’s ability to process objets differently depending on their data type or class. Using the same method but with different uses for each child class, such as area() for different shapes.

## 4.4 Abstract

Abstract classes are declared as abstract, they may or may not include abstract methods. They cannot be instantiated, but they can be subclassed. Abstract classes are declared without any implementation,