

Slides

Development > Programming Languages > C++

The C++ 20 Masterclass : From Fundamentals to Advanced

Learn and Master Modern C++ From Beginning to Advanced in Plain English : C++11, C++14, C++17, C++20 and More!

4.7 ★★★★★

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Section : Operator Overloading

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Operator overloading

```
Point p1(10,10);  
Point p2(20,20);  
Point p3{p1 + p2};  
Point p4{p2 + Point(5,5)};  
  
p3.print_info();  
p4.print_info();  
  
(Point(20,20) + Point(10,10)).print_info();
```

Unary :

- . member : ReturnType operator X ()
- . non member : ReturnType operator X (Type operand)

Binary :

- . member : ReturnType operator X (Type right_operand)
- . non-member : ReturnType operator X (Type left_operand, Type right_operand)

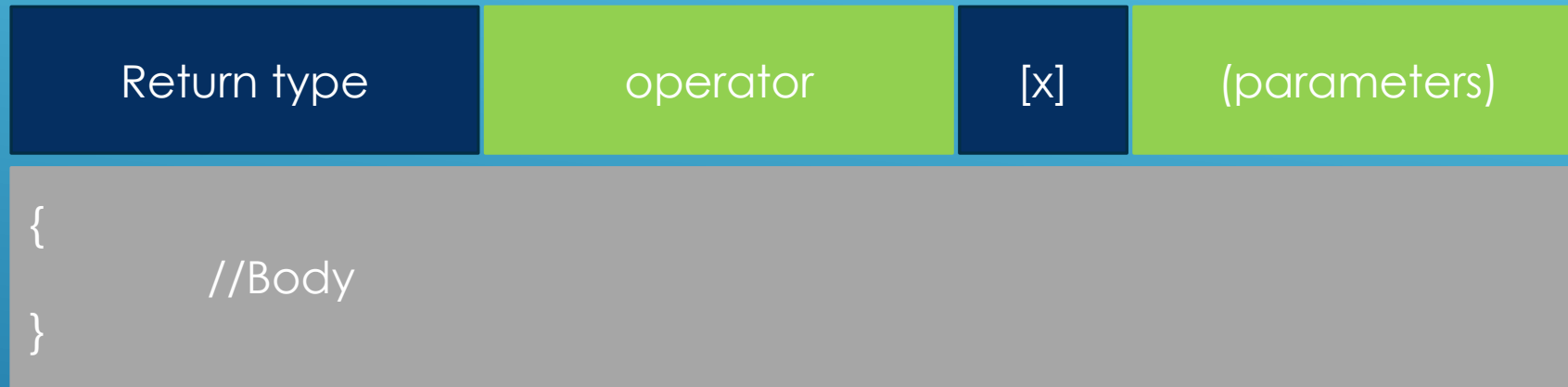
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Operator+ (as member)

```
Point p1(10,10);
Point p2(20,20);
Point p3{p1 + p2};
Point p4{p2 + Point(5,5)};

p3.print_info();
p4.print_info();

(Point(20,20) + Point(10,10)).print_info();
```

```

class Point
{
public:
    Point() = default;
    Point(double x, double y) :
        m_x(x), m_y(y){
    }
    ~Point() = default;

    void print_info(){
        std::cout << "Point [ x : " << m_x << ", y : " << m_y << "]" << std::endl;
    }
private:
    double length() const;    // Function to calculate distance from the point(0,0)
private :
    double m_x{};
    double m_y{};
};

```

```

class Point
{
public:
    Point() = default;
    Point(double x, double y) :
        m_x(x), m_y(y){
    }
    ~Point() = default;

    Point operator+ (const Point& right) const{
        return Point(m_x + right.m_x, m_y + right.m_y);
    }

    void print_info(){
        std::cout << "Point [ x : " << m_x << ", y : " << m_y << "]" << std::endl;
    }
private:
    double length() const;    // Function to calculate distance from the point(0,0)
private :
    double m_x{};
    double m_y{};
};

```



`p1 + p2`

`p1.operator+(p2)`

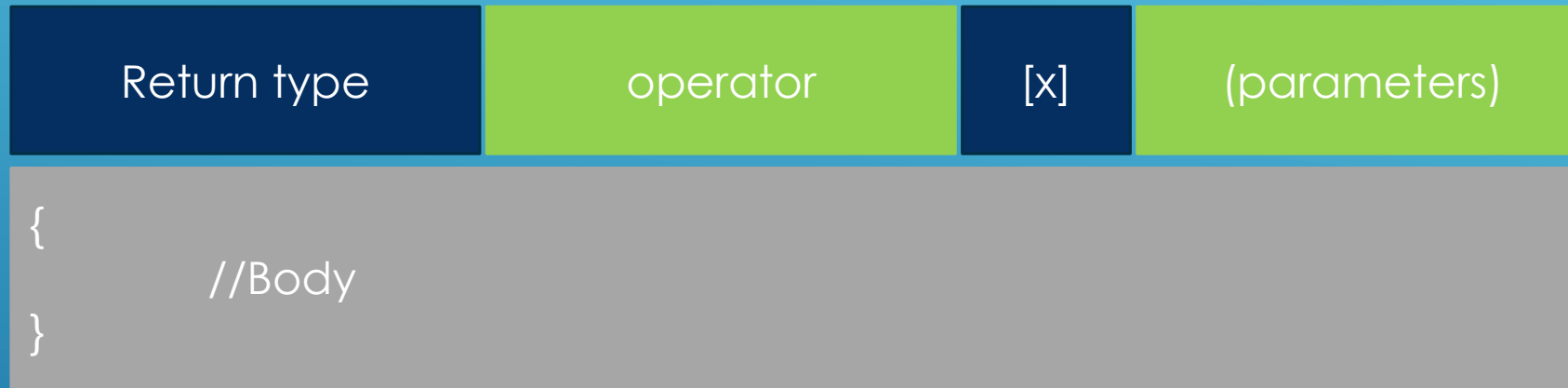
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Operator+ (as NON member)

```
Point p1(10,10);
Point p2(20,20);
Point p3{p1 + p2};
Point p4{p2 + Point(5,5)};

p3.print_info();
p4.print_info();

(Point(20,20) + Point(10,10)).print_info();
```




```
class Point
{
    friend Point operator + (const Point& left, const Point& right);
public:
    Point() = default;
    Point(double x, double y) :
        m_x(x), m_y(y){
    }
    ~Point() = default;

private :
    double m_x{};
    double m_y{};
};

inline Point operator + (const Point& left, const Point& right){
    return Point(left.m_x + right.m_x, left.m_y +right.m_y );
}
```



$p1 + p2$

`operator+(p1,p2)`

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Overloading the subscript operator for reading

20



```
int value = scores[5]
```

```
1 Point point1(20.0,45.0);
2 point1.print_info();
3
4 std::cout << "(x) point1[0] : " << point1[0] << std::endl;
5 std::cout << "(y) point1[1] : " << point1[1] << std::endl;
6
7 point1.print_info();
8
```

```

class Point
{
public:
    Point() = default;
    Point(double x, double y) :
        m_x(x), m_y(y){
    }
    /* ... */

    double operator [](size_t index){
        assert((index == 0) || (index == 1));
        return (index == 0) ? m_x : m_y;
    }

private:
    double length() const; // Function to calculate distance from the point(0,0)
private :
    double m_x{};
    double m_y{};
};

```

- The subscript operator is a binary operator
- It is one of the operators that *MUST* be set up as a member function

`point1[0]`

`point1.operator[] (0)`

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Overloading the subscript operator [Read Write]

```
Point point1(20.0,45.0);
point1.print_info();

std::cout << "(x) point1[0] : " << point1[0] << std::endl;
std::cout << "(y) point1[1] : " << point1[1] << std::endl;

//Modifying through subscript operator
point1[0] = 33;
point1[1] = 76.2;
point1.print_info();
```

```

class Point
{
public:
    Point() = default;
    Point(double x, double y) :
        m_x(x), m_y(y){
    }
    double& operator [](size_t index){
        assert((index == 0) || (index == 1));
        return (index == 0) ? m_x : m_y;
    }
private:
    double length() const;    // Function to calculate distance from the point(0,0)
private :
    double m_x{};
    double m_y{};
};

```

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Subscript operator for collection types

```
class Scores
{
public:
    Scores() = delete;
    Scores(const std::string& course_name_param)
        : course_name(course_name_param){}
    ~Scores() = default;

    //non const
    double& operator[](size_t index);

    //const
    const double& operator[](size_t index) const;
    /* ... */
private :
    std::string course_name;
    double m_scores[20]{};
};
```



```
1 Scores scores_math("Maths");  
2 scores_math.print_info();  
3  
4 scores_math[5] = 88.3;  
5  
6 scores_math.print_info();  
7  
8 std::cout << std::endl;  
9 const Scores scores_geo("Geography");  
10 std::cout << "scores_geo[5] : " << scores_geo[5] << std::endl;
```

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Stream insertion operator

```
Point point1(10,20);  
std::cout << point1 ;
```

```

class Point
{
public:
    friend std::ostream& operator<<(std::ostream& os , const Point& point);

    Point() = default;
    Point(double x, double y) :
        m_x(x), m_y(y){
    }
    ~Point() = default;
    /* ...

private:
    double length() const;    // Function to calculate distance from the point(0,0)
private :
    double m_x{};
    double m_y{};
};

inline std::ostream& operator<<(std::ostream& os , const Point& point){
    os << "Point [ x : " << point.m_x << ", y : " << point.m_y << " ]" << std::endl;
    return os;
}

```

Operator << as member function

```

class Point
{
public:
    friend std::ostream& operator<<(std::ostream& os , const Point& point);

    Point() = default;
    Point(double x, double y) :
        m_x(x), m_y(y){
    }
    ~Point() = default;
    std::ostream& operator << ( std::ostream &os){
        os << "Point [ x : " << m_x << ", y : " << m_y << " ]" << std::endl;
        return os;
    }

private:
    double length() const;    // Function to calculate distance from the point(0,0)
private :
    double m_x{};
    double m_y{};
};

```

```
Point point1(10,20);  
point1 << std::cout;
```


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Stream extraction operator

```
Point point1(10,20);  
std::cout << point1 ;  
  
Point p2;  
  
std::cin >> p2; // Read data from the stream and  
               // create an object out of that on the fly  
  
std::cout << p2;
```

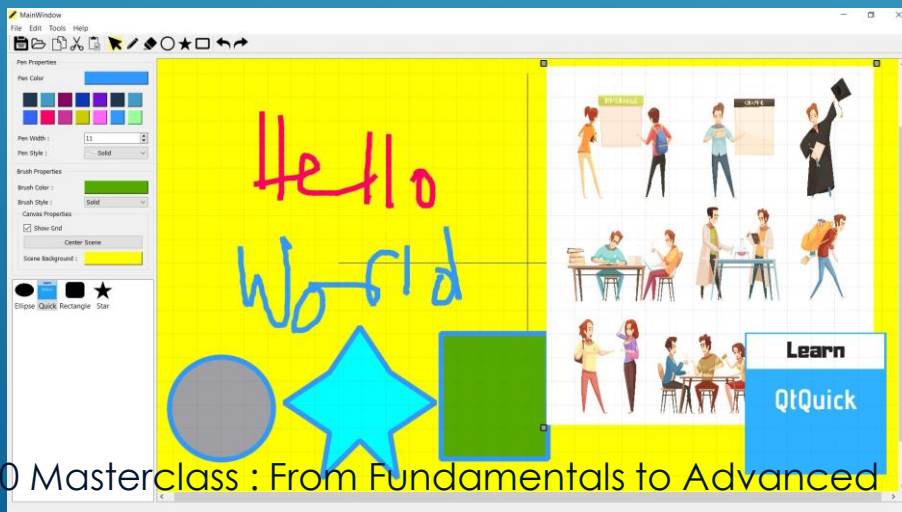
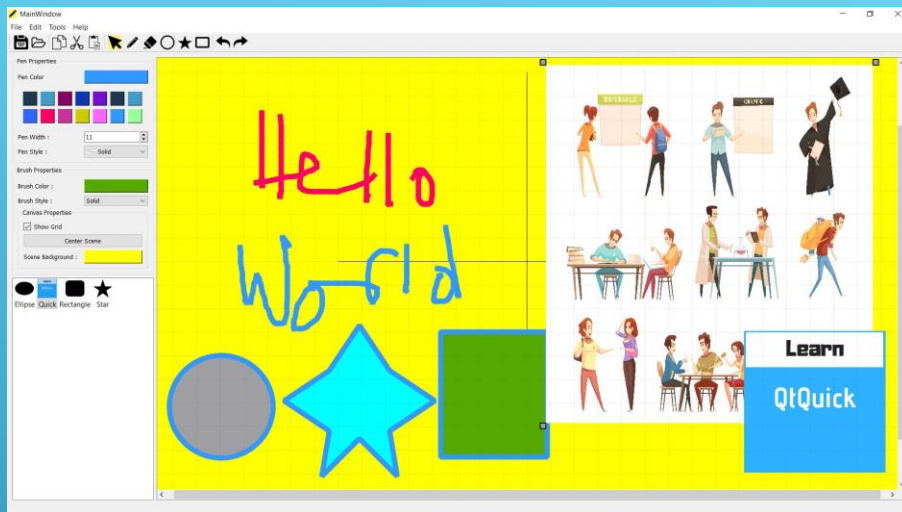
```
// stream insertion <<
inline std::ostream& operator<<(std::ostream& os , const Point& point){
    os << "Point [ x : " << point.m_x << ", y : " << point.m_y << " ]" << std::endl;
    return os;
}

// stream extraction
inline std::istream& operator>>(std::istream& is , Point& point){
    double x;
    double y;

    std::cout << "Please type in the coordinates for the point" << std::endl;
    std::cout << "order [x,y], separated by spaces : ";

    is >> x >> y ;
    point.m_x = x;
    point.m_y = y;

    return is;
}
```



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Arithmetic Operators

Just because you can overload an operator doesn't mean you should

Point : Arithmetic Operators

```
std::cout << (Point(20,20) - Point(10,10)) << std::endl;  
std::cout << (Point(20,20) + Point(10,10)) << std::endl;
```

```
Point p1(10,10);  
Point p2(20,20);  
Point p3{p1 + p2};  
Point p4{p2 - Point(5,5)};
```

```
std::cout << "point1 : " << p1 << std::endl; // (10,10)  
std::cout << "point3 : " << p3 << std::endl; // (30,30)  
std::cout << "point4 : " << p4 << std::endl; // (15,15)
```

```
class Point
{
public:
    friend std::ostream& operator<<(std::ostream& os , const Point& point);
    friend Point operator+ (const Point& left, const Point& right);
    friend Point operator- (const Point& left, const Point& right);
private :
    double m_x{};
    double m_y{};
};

// stream insertion <<
inline std::ostream& operator<<(std::ostream& os , const Point& point){
    os << "Point [ x : " << point.m_x << ", y : " << point.m_y << " ]";
    return os;
}
inline Point operator+ (const Point& left, const Point& right){
    return Point(left.m_x + right.m_x, left.m_y + right.m_y);
}
inline Point operator- (const Point& left, const Point& right){
    return Point(left.m_x - right.m_x, left.m_y - right.m_y);
}
```

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Compound operators - Reusing Operators

52

Point : Arithmetic Operators

+ can be implemented in terms of +=

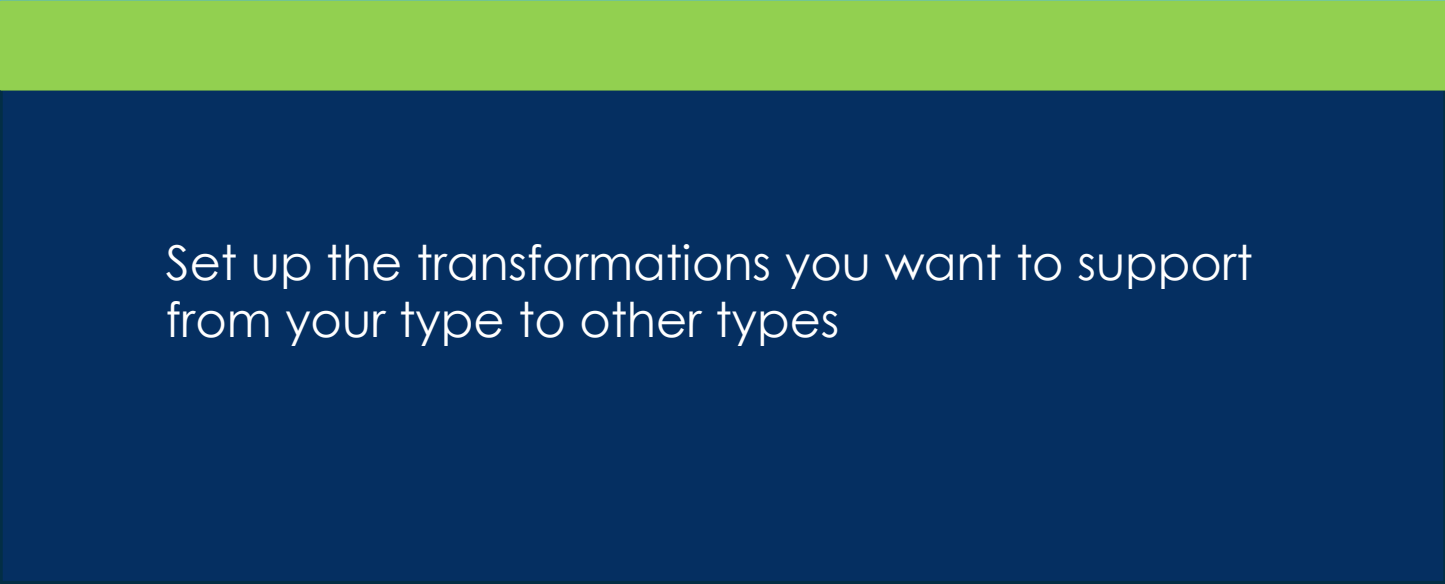
```
inline Point& operator+=( Point& left, const Point& right){
    left.m_x += right.m_x;
    left.m_y += right.m_y;
    return left;
}
inline Point& operator-=( Point& left, const Point& right){
    left.m_x -= right.m_x;
    left.m_y -= right.m_y;
    return left;
}

inline Point operator+ (const Point& left, const Point& right){
    Point p(left.m_x, left.m_y);
    return p+=right;
}

inline Point operator- (const Point& left, const Point& right){
    Point p(left.m_x, left.m_y);
    return p-=right;
}
```

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Custom Type Conversions



Set up the transformations you want to support
from your type to other types

```
class Number
{
public:
    Number() = default;
    Number(int value );

private :
    int m_wrapped_int{0};
};
```

Conversion :

- From Number to double
- From Number to Point

Setting up type conversions

```
class Number
{
public:
    Number() = default;
    Number(int value );

    //Type conversion. Can only be done as member function
    explicit operator double() const{
    //operator double() const{
        std::cout << "Using type conversion from Number to double" << std::endl;
        return static_cast<double>(m_wrapped_int);
    }

    explicit operator Point() const{
        std::cout << "Using type conversion from Number to Point" << std::endl;
        return Point(static_cast<double>(m_wrapped_int),
                      static_cast<double>(m_wrapped_int));
    }

private :
    int m_wrapped_int{0};
};
```

Using type conversions

```
double sum(double a, double b){
    return a + b;
}
void use_point(const Point& p){
    std::cout << "Printing the point from use_point func : " << p << std::endl;
}

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    Number n1(22);
    std::cout << "n1 : " << n1 << std::endl;

    double c{5.5};
    double d = sum(c, static_cast<double>(n1));

    use_point(static_cast<Point>(n1));

    return 0;
}
```

Ambiguity on some compilers

```
class Point
{
public:
    /* ...
    Point() = default;
    Point(double x, double y) :
        m_x(x), m_y(y){
    }
    explicit Point(const Number& n) ;
    ~Point() = default;

private:
    double length() const;    // Function to calculate distance from the point(0,0)
private :
    double m_x{};
    double m_y{};
};
```

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Implicit Conversions with Overloaded binary operators

64

When a binary operator is implemented as a member function, the left operand is never implicitly converted

Implicit conversions don't work for the left operand

```
class Number
{
    friend Number operator-(const Number& left_operand, const Number& right_operand);
    friend Number operator*(const Number& left_operand, const Number& right_operand);
    friend Number operator/(const Number& left_operand, const Number& right_operand);
    friend Number operator%(const Number& left_operand, const Number& right_operand);
public:
    Number() = default;
    Number(int value );
    /* ...

    Number operator+( const Number& right_operand) const{
        return Number(m_wrapped_int + right_operand.m_wrapped_int);
    }

    ~Number();
private :
    int m_wrapped_int{0};
};
```

```
#include <iostream>
#include "number.h"

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    Number number1(10);
    std::cout << " number1 : " << number1 << std::endl;
    std::cout << "number1 + 5 : " << (number1 + 5) << std::endl;

    std::cout << "5 + number1 : " << (5 + number1) << std::endl; // Compiler error
    std::cout << "5 - number1 : " << (5 - number1) << std::endl; // - is done as non member
    return 0;
}
```

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Overloading the prefix ++ operator

```
Point point1(10,10);

point1.operator ++(); // What the compiler does behind
                      // the scenes

for (size_t i{} ; i < 10 ; ++i){
    point1.print_info();
    ++point1; // Using the operator
}
```

```
class Point
{
public:
    Point() = default;
    Point(double x, double y) :
        m_x(x), m_y(y)
    {
    }
    ~Point() = default;

    void operator++(){
        ++m_x;
        ++m_y;
    }
    void print_info()const{ ... }

private:
    double length() const;
private :
    double m_x{};
    double m_y{};
};
```

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Overloading the prefix ++ operator as non member

```
Point point1(10,10);

operator ++(point1);    // What the compiler does behind
                        // the scenes

for (size_t i{} ; i < 10 ;++i){
    point1.print_info();
    ++point1; // Using the operator
}
```

```
class Point
{
public:
    friend void operator++(Point& operand);
    Point() = default;
    Point(double x, double y) :
        m_x(x), m_y(y)
    {
    }
    ~Point() = default;
    void print_info()const{ ...}
private:
    double length() const;
private :
    double m_x{};
    double m_y{};
};

inline void operator++(Point& operand){
    ++(operand.m_x);
    ++(operand.m_y);
}
```

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Unary postfix increment operator

```
Point p1(10,10);  
std::cout << "p1 : " << (p1++) << std::endl; // (10,10)  
std::cout << "p1 : " << p1 << std::endl; // (11,11)
```

Members

```
class Point
{
public:
    Point() = default;
    Point(double x, double y) :
        m_x(x), m_y(y){
    }
    void operator++() {
        ++m_x;
        ++m_y;
    }
    Point operator++(int){
        Point local_point(*this);
        ++(*this);
        return local_point;
    }
private :
    double m_x{};
    double m_y{};
};
```

Non members

```
void operator++(Point& operand){  
    ++(operand.m_x);  
    ++(operand.m_y);  
}  
  
Point operator++(Point& operand, int){  
    Point local_point(operand);  
    ++operand;  
    return local_point;  
}
```


Prefix/postfix decrement operator

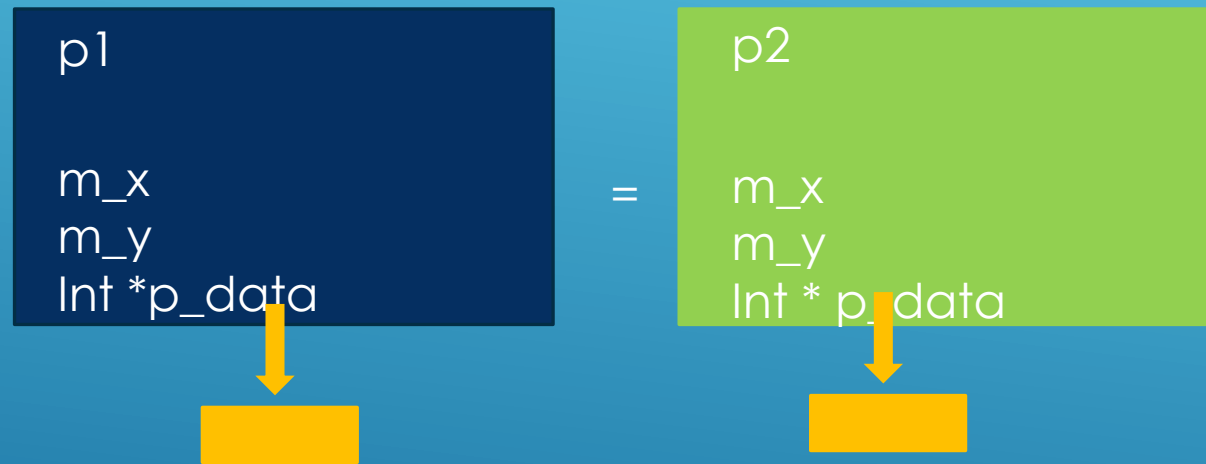
```
100 Point p1(10,10);  
101 std::cout << "p1 : " << (p1--) << std::endl; // (10,10)  
102 std::cout << "p1 : " << p1 << std::endl; // (9,9)
```

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Copy assignment operator

85

Copy assignment operator



If you have no custom copy assignment operator in place, the compiler is going to generate one for you
The compiler generated one is going to do member wise copy

```
class Point
{
    friend std::ostream& operator << (std::ostream& out , const Point& point);
public:
    Point() = default;
    Point(double x ,double y);
    Point(const Point& p); // Copy constructor
    ~Point() = default;

    Point& operator=(const Point& right_operand){
        std::cout << "Copy assignment operator called" << std::endl;
        if(this!= &right_operand){
            m_x = right_operand.m_x;
            m_y = right_operand.m_y;
        }
        return *this;
    }

private:
    double m_x{0.0};
    double m_y{0.0};
};
```


Operator chaining

```
Point point1(10,10);  
Point point2(30,30);  
Point point3(40,40);  
std::cout << std::endl;  
std::cout << "Chain assignment" << std::endl;  
  
point1 = point2 = point3 ;  
std::cout << "point1 : " << point1 << std::endl;  
std::cout << "point2 : " << point2 << std::endl;  
std::cout << "point3 : " << point3 << std::endl;
```

Watch out!

```
Point point4(point4);  
Point point5 = point4; // Doesn't call copy assignment operator  
                        // calls copy constructor. This makes sense  
                        // we are constructing an object
```

Self assignment

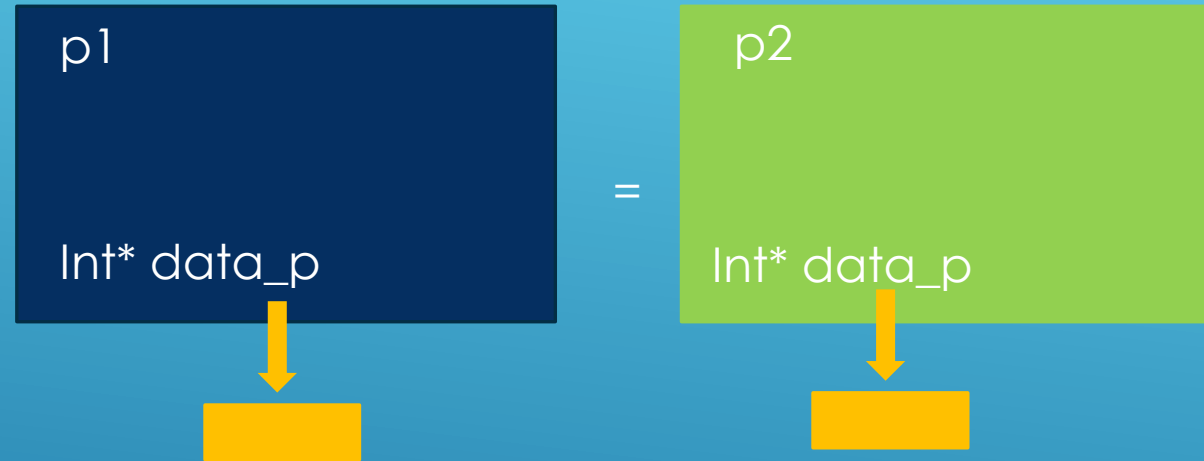
```
1 // Self assignment
2
3 // Self assignment
4 Point point4(40,40);
5 point4 = point4;
6 std::cout << "point4 : " << point4 << std::endl;
```

Why check for self assignment

```
class Point
{
    friend std::ostream& operator << (std::ostream& out , const Point& point);
public:
    Point() = default;
    /* ... */
    Point& operator=(const Point& right_operand){
        delete some_data;
        some_data = new int(right_operand.some_data);
        m_x = right_operand.m_x;
        m_y = right_operand.m_y;
        return *this;
    }

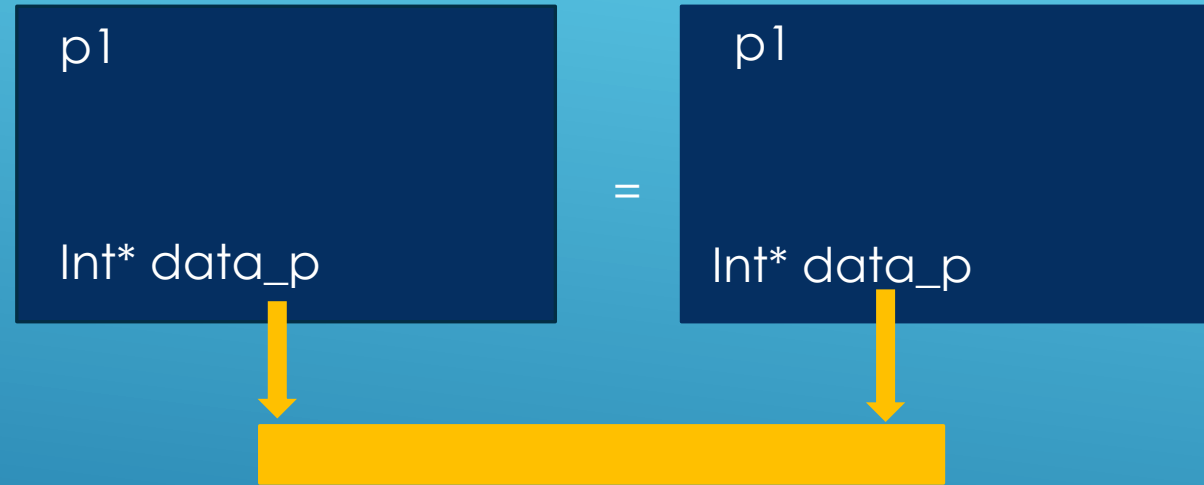
private:
    double m_x{0.0};
    double m_y{0.0};
    int * some_data;
};
```

Why check for self assignment



- Release memory in p1
- Allocate new dynamic memory for data_p
- Copy in data from p2

Why check for self assignment



- Release memory in p1
- Allocate new dynamic memory for data_p
- Copy in data from p1

Self assignment with copy constructors

```
//Self assignment also an issue for copy constructors  
Point point6(point6);// This compiles
```

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Copy assignment operator for other types

```
Point p1(10,10);  
  
Car car1("Red",200.0);  
  
p1 = car1;  
  
std::cout << "p1 : " << p1 << std::endl;
```

```
Point& operator=(const Car& right_operand){  
    m_x = m_y = right_operand.get_speed();  
    return *this;  
}
```

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Custom Type conversions : A Recap

101

```
#include <iostream>
#include "point.h"
#include "number.h"

void do_something_with_point(const Point& p){
    std::cout << "point : " << p << std::endl;
}

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    Point p1(10,10);
    Number n1(22);

    p1 = n1;
    do_something_with_point(n1);

    return 0;
}
```

- Type Conversion Operator : Number -> Point
- Constructor taking Number in : Number -> Point
- Copy assignment operator for Number : Number -> Point

Type conversion operator

```
Number::operator Point() const{  
    std::cout << "Using type conversion from Number to Point" << std::endl;  
    return Point(static_cast<double>(m_wrapped_int),  
                 static_cast<double>(m_wrapped_int));  
}
```


Constructor taking in a Number

```
Point::Point(const Number& n){  
    std::cout << "Point Constructor from Number called..." << std::endl;  
    m_x = m_y = n.get_wrapped_int();  
}
```

Copy assignment operator for Number

```
void Point::operator=(const Number& n){  
    std::cout << "Point Copy assignment operator from Number called..." << std::endl;  
    m_x = m_y = n.get_wrapped_int();  
}
```

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Functors

108



Objects of a class that overloads the () operator

```
class Print{
public :
    void operator()(std::string name) {
        std::cout << "The name is : " << name << std::endl;
    }
    std::string operator()(std::string last_name, std::string first_name){
        return last_name + " " + first_name;
    }
};

void do_something(Print& printer){
    printer("Johnson");
}

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    Print print;
    print("Duncan");
    std::cout << print("John", "Snow") << std::endl;
    return 0;
}
```

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Operator overloading : Summary

112


```
Point p1(10,10);  
Point p2(20,20);  
Point p3{p1 + p2};  
Point p4{p2 + Point(5,5)};  
  
p3.print_info();  
p4.print_info();  
  
(Point(20,20) + Point(10,10)).print_info();
```

Unary :

- . member : ReturnType operator X ()
- . non member : ReturnType operator X (Type operand)

Binary :

- . member : ReturnType operator X (Type right_operand)
- . non-member : ReturnType operator X (Type left_operand, Type right_operand)

Operator+ as a member

```
class Point
{
public:
    Point() = default;
    Point(double x, double y) :
        m_x(x), m_y(y){
    }
    ~Point() = default;

    Point operator+ (const Point& right)const{
        return Point(m_x + right.m_x, m_y + right.m_y);
    }

    void print_info(){
        std::cout << "Point [ x : " << m_x << ", y : " << m_y << "]" << std::endl;
    }
private:
    double length() const;    // Function to calculate distance from the point(0,0)
private :
    double m_x{};
    double m_y{};
};
```

Operator+ as a non member

```
class Point
{
    friend Point operator + (const Point& left, const Point& right);
public:
    Point() = default;
    Point(double x, double y) :
        m_x(x), m_y(y){
    }
    ~Point() = default;
private :
    double m_x{};
    double m_y{};
};

inline Point operator + (const Point& left, const Point& right){
    return Point(left.m_x + right.m_x, left.m_y +right.m_y );
}
```

Subscript operator

```
class Point
{
public:
    Point() = default;
    Point(double x, double y) :
        m_x(x), m_y(y){
    }
    /* ... */

    double operator [](size_t index){
        assert((index == 0) || (index == 1));
        return (index == 0) ? m_x : m_y;
    }

private:
    double length() const; // Function to calculate distance from the point(0,0)
private :
    double m_x{};
    double m_y{};
};
```

Stream insertion operator

```
class Point
{
public:
    friend std::ostream& operator<<(std::ostream& os , const Point& point);

    Point() = default;
    Point(double x, double y) :
        m_x(x), m_y(y){
    }
    ~Point() = default;
    /* ... */

private:
    double length() const;    // Function to calculate distance from the point(0,0)
private :
    double m_x{};
    double m_y{};
};

inline std::ostream& operator<<(std::ostream& os , const Point& point){
    os << "Point [ x : " << point.m_x << ", y : " << point.m_y << " ]" << std::endl;
    return os;
}
```

Stream extraction operator

```
// stream insertion <<
inline std::ostream& operator<<(std::ostream& os , const Point& point){
    os << "Point [ x : " << point.m_x << ", y : " << point.m_y << " ]" << std::endl;
    return os;
}

// stream extraction
inline std::istream& operator>>(std::istream& is , Point& point){
    double x;
    double y;

    std::cout << "Please type in the coordinates for the point" << std::endl;
    std::cout << "order [x,y], separated by spaces : ";

    is >> x >> y ;
    point.m_x = x;
    point.m_y = y;

    return is;
}
```

Compound operators and reusing others

```
inline Point& operator+=( Point& left, const Point& right){
    left.m_x += right.m_x;
    left.m_y += right.m_y;
    return left;
}

inline Point& operator-=( Point& left, const Point& right){
    left.m_x -= right.m_x;
    left.m_y -= right.m_y;
    return left;
}

inline Point operator+ (const Point& left, const Point& right){
    Point p(left.m_x, left.m_y);
    return p+=right;
}

inline Point operator- (const Point& left, const Point& right){
    Point p(left.m_x, left.m_y);
    return p-=right;
}
```


Custom Type Conversions

```
class Number
{
public:
    Number() = default;
    Number(int value );

    //Type conversion. Can only be done as member function
    explicit operator double() const{
    //operator double() const{
        std::cout << "Using type conversion from Number to double" << std::endl;
        return static_cast<double>(m_wrapped_int);
    }

    explicit operator Point() const{
        std::cout << "Using type conversion from Number to Point" << std::endl;
        return Point(static_cast<double>(m_wrapped_int),
                      static_cast<double>(m_wrapped_int));
    }

private :
    int m_wrapped_int{0};
};
```

Implicit conversions with member binary operators

```
class Number
{
    friend Number operator-(const Number& left_operand, const Number& right_operand);
    friend Number operator*(const Number& left_operand, const Number& right_operand);
    friend Number operator/(const Number& left_operand, const Number& right_operand);
    friend Number operator%(const Number& left_operand, const Number& right_operand);
public:
    Number() = default;
    Number(int value );
    /* ...

    Number operator+( const Number& right_operand) const{
        return Number(m_wrapped_int + right_operand.m_wrapped_int);
    }

    ~Number();
private :
    int m_wrapped_int{0};
};
```

Unary Increment operator

```
class Point
{
public:
    Point() = default;
    Point(double x, double y) :
        m_x(x), m_y(y){
    }
    void operator++() {
        ++m_x;
        ++m_y;
    }
    Point operator++(int){
        Point local_point(*this);
        ++(*this);
        return local_point;
    }
private :
    double m_x{};
    double m_y{};
};
```

Copy assignment operator

```
class Point
{
    friend std::ostream& operator << (std::ostream& out , const Point& point);
public:
    Point() = default;
    Point(double x ,double y);
    Point(const Point& p); // Copy constructor
    ~Point() = default;

    Point& operator=(const Point& right_operand){
        std::cout << "Copy assignment operator called" << std::endl;
        if(this!= &right_operand){
            m_x = right_operand.m_x;
            m_y = right_operand.m_y;
        }
        return *this;
    }

private:
    double m_x{0.0};
    double m_y{0.0};
};
```

Copy assignment for other types

```
Point& operator=(const Car& right_operand){  
    m_x = m_y = right_operand.get_speed();  
    return *this;  
}
```

Functors

```
class Print{
public :
    void operator()(std::string name) {
        std::cout << "The name is : " << name << std::endl;
    }
    std::string operator()(std::string last_name, std::string first_name){
        return last_name + " " + first_name;
    }
};

void do_something(Print& printer){
    printer("Johnson");
}

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    Print print;
    print("Duncan");
    std::cout << print("John", "Snow") << std::endl;
    return 0;
}
```

Type conversions

- Constructors
- Custom Type Conversion Operators
- Copy assignment operators for different types

```
#include <iostream>
#include "point.h"
#include "number.h"

void do_something_with_point(const Point& p){
    std::cout << "point : " << p << std::endl;
}

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    Point p1(10,10);
    Number n1(22);

    p1 = n1;
    do_something_with_point(n1);

    return 0;
}
```