

## Fundamentals and Machine Model

### Machine/Memory Model and the Function Call Stack

**Object:** a piece of data that's stored at a particular location in memory during runtime.

**Variable:** a *name* in source code that is associated with an object at compile time.

❗ Not all objects are associated with variables; e.g. dynamically-stored objects and string literals are not.

❗ The value stored by a variable's memory object may change, but the association between a variable and an object itself can only change when the variable goes out of **scope**.



Static objects "live" for essentially a program's runtime. Local objects' lifetimes are tied to scope (e.g. a block of code or pair of curly braces). Dynamic objects are manually created/destroyed.

❗ Objects declared in a loop body (between the {} ) are created/destroyed each time the loop repeats.

**Atomic (primitive) types:** objects that can't be subdivided into smaller objects; includes `int`, `double`, `bool`, `float`, `char`, and all pointer types. Atomic objects are default-initialized to undefined values.

The memory allocated to store a function's parameters and local variables during runtime is called a **stack frame** or activation record. The memory frame for the most-recently called function is added to the "top" of the **function call stack** and is destroyed when the function returns ("Last In First Out" ordering).

❗ Assignments inside of `return` statements (e.g. `return x = y;`) "take effect" before the return.

### Procedural Abstraction and Program Design

**Procedural Abstraction** involves using functions to break down a complex procedure into sub-tasks and separate the interface of a procedure (what it does) from implementation (how it works).

**Interface examples:** declarations in `.h` files, valid/invalid inputs, RME statements, *signature* (function name and parameter types), return type, and ADT representation invariants.

**Implementation examples:** definitions in `.cpp` files and code/comments inside function bodies.

## Pointers, Arrays and References

A **pointer** is a type of object that stores another object's memory address as its value.

❗ An `int*` pointer can *only* point to an `int`; an `int**` pointer can *only* point to an `int*`; and so on. (Trying to, for example, make an `int*` pointer point to a `double` will cause a compile error.)

**Dereferencing:** getting the object at an address. Note that the `*` operator is used both to declare pointers and to dereference them (and the `&` operator is used both to get an object's address and to declare references).

```
1 int x = 3; int y = 4;
2 int* ptr1 = &x; int* ptr2 = &y;
3 int** ptr1_ptr = &ptr1;
4 ptr2 = ptr1; // copies x's address from ptr1 to ptr2
5 ptr1 = &y; // ptr1 now points at y
6 **ptr1_ptr = 6; // now y == 6
7 *ptr2 = 2; // ptr2 still points to x, so now x == 2
```

❗ Printing a non-`char` pointer prints the address that it stores.

```
1 int x = 5; int& a = x;
2 int* y = &x; // creates pointer to x
3 int* z = y; // creates another pointer to x
4 int* ab = z; // creates reference b to pointer z
5 cout << *b << endl; // Prints 5
6 cout << y << endl; // prints 0x2710
7 cout << &(*z) << endl; // equiv. to cout << &x
8 cout << *(&z) << endl; // equiv. to cout << z
```

**Null pointer:** a pointer that holds address `0x0` (which no object can be located at) and implicitly converts to `false`. Any pointer can be nulled by setting it equal to `nullptr` (or `0`, or `NULL`).

### Differences Between Pointers and References:

- References are aliases for existing objects, while pointers are distinct objects with distinct values.
- Pointers must be dereferenced to access the objects they point at, while references are used "as-is".
- You can change what a (non-`const`) pointer points to, but you can't change what a reference refers to.

### Common Pointer/Reference Errors

⚠ Dereferencing an uninitialized pointer results in undefined behavior, as (like all atomic objects) pointers that aren't explicitly initialized are default-initialized to an undefined value (*not* `nullptr`).

⚠ Dereferencing a null pointer also leads to undefined behavior (almost always a program crash).

❗ An uninitialized reference or a reference-to-non-`const` that's bound to a "literal" value won't compile.

⚠ If a function returns a pointer or reference to one of its local variables (which die when the function returns), dereferencing that pointer or using that reference produces undefined behavior.

```
1 int* danglingPtr(int x) { return &x; } // BUGGY
1 int& danglingRef(int x) { return x; } // BUGGY
```

⚠ Be careful with mixing incrementing and dereferencing (and parentheses).

```
int x = 5;
int* ptr = &x;
// Output: 5 and 6
cout << (*ptr)++ << endl;
cout << x << endl;
// ptr == &x

int x = 5;
int* ptr = &x;
// Output: 5 and 5
cout << *ptr++ << endl;
cout << x << endl;
// ptr == junk (++&x)

int x = 5;
int* ptr = &x;
// Output: 6 and 6
cout << ++*ptr << endl;
cout << x << endl;
// ptr == &x

int x = 5;
int* ptr = &x;
// Output: 6 and 6
cout << ++(*ptr) << endl;
cout << x << endl;
// ptr == &x
```

### Arrays and Pointer Arithmetic

**Arrays:** fixed-size containers that store objects of the same type (and same size) in contiguous memory.

```
int A[3] = {1,2}; // {1,2,0}
int B[3] = {}; // {0,0,0}
int C[] = {1,2}; // size = 2

int D[2][3] = {{1,2,3}, {{1,2},{3,0}}
int E[1][3] = {{1,2,3}}; // {{1,2,3}}
int F[3]; // CAUTION: uninitialized!

int G[]; // ERROR: unclear size
int H[2][1] = {{1,2,3,4}}; // Same
int I[] = {}; // Same
```

**Array decay:** using an array in a context where a value is required causes the compiler to convert the array into a pointer to its first element. Array decay is why it's necessary to pass an array's size separately from the array to a function (or to indicate the end of an array with a *sentinel character* like C-strings do).

⚠ Dereferencing a pointer that goes past the bounds of an array results in undefined behavior. But merely *using* a pointer that goes just past the end of an array without dereferencing it is well-defined.

```
1 void reverseArray(int arr[], int size) {
2   for (int i = 0; i < (size / 2); ++i) {
3     int temp = arr[i];
4     arr[i] = arr[(size - i - 1)];
5     arr[(size - i - 1)] = temp;
6   } // Note: arr[i] == *(arr + i) == i[arr]
7   // Therefore, &arr[i] == (arr + i)
```

Passing an array by value passes a pointer to its first element by value, so functions with array parameters like this one actually have pointer parameters.

❗ The number of elements in an array `arr` is equal to `(sizeof(arr) / sizeof(*arr))`.

❗ `cout << &arr[0]` and `cout << &arr` would also print `0x1000`.

❗ You can create references to array elements.

```
1 int arr[3] = { 5, 10, 15 };
2 int* ptr = &arr[2];
3 int* ptr2 = (arr + 1);
4 cout << arr << endl; // prints 0x1000
5 cout << &ptr2 << endl; // prints 0x1014
6 cout << ptr[-1] << endl; // prints 10
```

```
arr { 0x1000 5 arr[0]
      0x1004 10 arr[1]
      0x1008 15 arr[2]
      0x100c 0x1008 ptr
      0x1014 0x1004 ptr2
```

```
1 // Mainly for pointers into the same array
2 int arr[4] = { 5, 10, 15, 20 };
3 int* ptr1 = &arr[0], *ptr2 = &arr[3];
4 cout << *arr << endl; // prints 5
5 cout << (ptr2 - ptr1) << endl; // prints 3
6 cout << (ptr1 - ptr2) << endl; // prints -3
7 assert(ptr1 < ptr2); // true
8 ptr1 += 2; // ptr1 now points at arr[2]
```

```
1 int arr[4] = { 1, 2, 3, 4 };
2 int (*arr_ptr)[4] = &arr; // pointer to entire array
3 cout << (*arr_ptr)[2] << endl; // prints 3
4 // ++*arr_ptr would increment by the size of 4 ints
```

**Pointer arithmetic:** adding an integer `n` to a pointer yields a pointer that is `n` objects forward in memory.

**Pointer subtraction:** Subtracting two pointers of the same type yields an integer (possibly a negative one) equal to the *number of objects* between them.

**Pointer comparison:** comparing pointers of the same type compares the addresses they store.

Using `&` on an array (without an index) creates a pointer to the entire array, not a pointer to the first element or a pointer to a pointer.

**Array traversal:** arrays can be traversed by index or pointer (they're defined by what gets incremented).

```
Traversal By Pointer: Pattern 1
1 int computeRange(const int arr[], int N) {
2   const int min = arr; // Need const here
3   const int* max = arr;
4   const int* end = (arr + N);
5   // end is actually "1-past-the-end"
6   for (const int* p = arr; p < end; ++p) {
7     if (*p < *min) { min = p; }
8     if (*p > *max) { max = p; }
9   } // "walk" the pointer across arr
10  return (*max - *min);
11 }
```

```
Traversal by Pointer: Pattern 2 (C-String Sanitization)
1 void sanitize(char username[], char to_remove) {
2   char* slow = username, *fast = username;
3   while (*slow && *fast) { // while not '\0'
4     if (*fast != to_remove) {
5       *slow = *fast;
6       ++slow; // ++slow only if we copy
7     }
8     ++fast; // ++fast every loop
9   }
10  *slow = '\0'; // null-terminate when done
11 } // NOTE: '\0' is the only char considered "false"
```

## The const Keyword

The `const` type qualifier stops objects from being modified after initialization. Note: `const` scalars must be explicitly-initialized to compile, and `const` class-type objects must have their data members initialized.

**const pointers:** pointers that can modify what they point at but cannot be re-pointed to different objects.

**Pointer-to-const:** read-only pointers; pointers that can be re-bound but can't modify what they point at.

❗ A `const` pointer must be initialized to compile, but a pointer-to-`const` doesn't need to be.

**Reference-to-const:** a read-only alias.

**const array:** an array of `const` elements. Note that the placement of `const` matters for arrays of pointers.

### Special const Type Syntax

```
int x = 5;
int* const ptr_a = &x; // const pointer
const int* ptr_b = &x; // pointer-to-const
const int* ptr_c = &x; // pointer-to-const
const int* const ptr_d = &x; // both
int const* const ptr_e = &x; // both

const int& ref_a = x; // reference-to-const
int const& ref_b = 42; // reference-to-const
const int arr_a[2] = {1, 2}; // array of consts
int const arr_b[2] = {3, 4}; // array of consts
```

```
const int* A[] = {...}; // pointer-to-const array
int* const B[] = {...}; // const pointer array
```

### const Conversions and Passing

The compiler treats every pointer-to-`const` as if they point to a `const` object and every reference-to-`const` as if they're aliased to a `const` object. It won't allow conversions that could bypass existing `const` protections (so, e.g., you can assign a `const` pointer to a pointer-to-`const`, but the converse is *not* true).

```
1 void foo(string& a) {...}
2 void bar(string b) {...}
3 void func(const string& c) {...}
4 const string s = "Hello World";
5 bar(s); func(s); // both ok
6 foo(s); foo("Hello"); // ERRORS
```

```
1 const int x = 3;
2 int y = x; // OK
3 const int* cptr = &x; // OK
4 const int& cref = x; // OK
5 int* ptr = cptr; // ERROR 1
6 int& ref = cref; // ERROR 2
```

```
1 int x = 2, y = 5;
2 const int* x_ptr = &x;
3 int* y_ptr = &y;
4 y_ptr = x_ptr; // OK
5 y_ptr = x_ptr; // ERROR (even
6 though x isn't const!) *
```

- Pass by pointer/reference:** if you need to modify the original object (as opposed to a local copy).
- Pass by value:** if an object is small (e.g., an `int`) and you can't/don't need to modify the original.
- Pass by pointer/reference-to-const:** if you want to pass a large object without modifying it.

## Strings, Streams and I/O

### Creating/Using C-Strings and Strings

```
1 char color[] = "0027UC"; // Create 7-element array (including \0) and copy a string literal to it
2 const char* cstr = "abcd"; // Only works for string literals; use .c_str() on string variables
3 cout << cstr << " " << *cstr << " " << &cstr[0] << endl; // prints "abcd a bcd"
4 cout << (cstr + 1) << " " << *cstr + 1 << " " << *cstr + 1; // prints "bcd b 98" ('a' == 97)
5 string xyz = string(cstr); // Explicitly copy cstring to a string (implicit copy would work too)
```

	Length	Copy Value	Index	Concatenate	Compare
<code>&lt;string&gt;</code>	<code>str.length()</code>	<code>str1 = str2;</code>	<code>str[i];</code>	<code>str1 += str2;</code>	<code>str1 != str2;</code>
<code>&lt;cstring&gt;</code>	<code>strlen(cstr);</code>	<code>strcpy(cstr1, cstr2);</code>	<code>cstr[i];</code>	<code>strcat(cstr1, cstr2);</code>	<code>strcmp(cstr1, cstr2);</code>

### Streams and File I/O

stdin Redirection	stdout Redirection	Pipeline	Combined Redirection
<code>./main.exe &lt; input.txt</code>	<code>./main.exe &gt; output.txt</code>	<code>./output.exe   input.exe</code>	<code>./main.exe &lt; input.in &gt; output.out</code>

```
File I/O Ex 1: Print Lines From File
1 #include <fstream> // defines if/ofstream
2 int main() {
3   ifstream inFS; // or inFS("file.txt");
4   inFS.open("file.txt");
5   if (!inFS.is_open()) { return 1; }
6   string str; // defaults to empty string
7   while (getline(inFS, str)) {
8     cout << str << endl;
9   } // could close inFS via inFS.close();
10  // inFS also closes when scope ends
```

```
Ex 2: Copy One File's Contents to Another
1 #include <fstream> // defines stringstream
2 void copyFile(string file_in, string file_out) {
3   // file streams also accept C-strings as arguments
4   ifstream inFS(file_in);
5   ofstream outFS(file_out);
6   string input_str;
7   while (inFS >> input_str) {
8     outFS << input_str << endl;
9   } // could use '\n' instead of endl
10 }
```

❗ The insertion `<<` and extraction `>>` operators "stop" at any white space (spaces, line breaks, etc).

**istreamstream:** an object that "simulates" *input* with a string as its source. Note: an `istreamstream`, an `ifstream` and `cin` can all be passed to a function with a `std::istream&` parameter.

**ostreamstream:** an object that captures *output* and stores it in a string. Note: an `ostreamstream`, an `ofstream` and `cout` can all be passed to a function with a `std::ostream&` parameter.

```
1 #include <sstream> // defines stringstream
2 void printPlusOne(istream& is, ostream& os) {
3   int num = 0;
4   while (is >> num) { os << (++num) << " "; }
5   // Note: can't pass or return streams by value
6   ...
7   stringstream inSS("1 3 5");
8   stringstream outSS;
9   printPlusOne(inSS, outSS);
10  cout << outSS.str() << endl; // Prints "2 4 6"
```

### Command-Line Arguments

**argc:** an int parameter of `main()` representing the number of a command's arguments.

**argv:** an array of the arguments passed to a program. (Technically, `argv` is an array of pointers to C-strings—so `argv` is passed to `main()` as a pointer to an array of pointers to C-strings).

```
1 #include <string> // defines stoi()/stod()
2 int main(int argc, char* argv[]) { // char** argv also OK
3   if (string(argv[1]) == "add") {
4     int sum = 0;
5     for (int i = 2; i < argc; ++i) {
6       sum += stoi(argv[i]);
7     }
8     cout << "Sum: " << sum << ", argc: " << argc << endl;
9   } // pay attention to where the "actual" arguments start
10  // Also remember to use stoi()/string() when needed
```

```
Terminal
hugokin@ubuntu:~$ ./main.exe add 7 2
Sum: 9, argc: 4
hugokin@ubuntu:~$ ./main.exe add 1 2 3
Sum: 6, argc: 5
hugokin@ubuntu:~$ _
```

## ADTs, Structs and Classes

### C-Style Structs and ADTs

A **struct** is a class-type object composed of member subobjects (heterogeneous data). They're passed by value by default, and they support assignment and initialization via the `=` operator. A **struct** or **class** object can also be declared as `const`, which prevents it and all of its data members from being modified.

❗ You cannot call non-`const` member functions on a `const` instance of a `class` or `struct`. Also, you can't call non-`const` member functions from within a `const` member function.

**Arrow `->` operator:** shorthand for a dereference followed by member access. (`*ptr.x` == `ptr->x`;

❗ Without parentheses, the dot and arrow operators have greater precedence than dereferencing.

**Abstract Data Type:** a data type that separates its behavior and implementation. ADTs encompass both data and behaviors/functions that act upon it. Not all `struct`'s are ADTs, some are "plain old data".

### C++ Classes

In C++, the only real difference between classes and structs are that classes have `private` member access and `private` inheritance by default while `struct`'s default to `public` access/inheritance.

Constructors

- 1 The compiler implicitly creates a default ctor iff there are no user-defined ctors (same for dtors).
- 2 The order in which members are declared in a class body is *always* the order they're initialized in.
- 3 Initialization values from a member init. list take precedence over initializations made at declaration.
- 4 You can't initialize members within a constructor body—attempting to do so actually performs default-initialization followed by assignment.
- 5 A delegating ctor must contain a call to the other ctor (and nothing else) in its member init. list.

```
1 class Animal {
2 private: string name;
3 public:
4     Animal(const string& name_in) // 1-argument ctor
5     : name(name_in) {}
6     Animal() : Animal("Blank") {} // Default ctor
7     // Default ctor delegates to other ctor
8
9 class Bird : public Animal {
10 private: bool can_fly;
11 public: Bird(string name_in, bool fly_in)
12         : Animal(name_in), can_fly(fly_in) {}
13         // Derived class ctors must call a base ctor
14
15 class Duck : public Bird {
16 private: int age;
17 public:
18     Duck(string name_in, bool fly_in, int age_in)
19     : Bird(name_in, fly_in), age(age_in) {}
20     // Calling Bird ctor also calls Animal ctor
21
22     // This is how to define a ctor OUTSIDE of body:
23     Bird(string name_in, bool fly_in)
24     : Animal(name_in), can_fly(fly_in) {}
25 }
```

Inheritance and Polymorphism

Function Overloading (Ad Hoc Polymorphism) and Operator Overloading

**Function Overloading:** using one name for functions with *different signatures*. Functions can only be overloaded in the same scope (otherwise the "closer" scope takes priority). Note: `const`/`non-const` passing only alters the signature if a function has pointer/reference parameters (or implicit `this->` pointers).

**Operator Overloading:** operators like `+`, `=`, `<<`, etc. must be "overloaded" either as a top-level or class member function to work properly with custom classes (at least 1 operand must be of class-type).

1 An operator must be overloaded as a top level function if the first operand is an atomic type or a class type whose definition we can't access (e.g. `ostream`). Also, the `=`, `()`, `[]` and `->` operators can only be overloaded as member functions (along with overloads that need to access `private` members).

```
1 class IntSet {
2 ... // contains() is also a member function
3 public:
4     bool operator[](int v) const;
5
6
7     bool IntSet::operator[](int v) const {
8         return contains(v);
9     }
```

ADT Function Definition

```
1 // C-Style Struct
2 void Triangle::scale(Triangle* t, double s) {
3     t->a *= s; // ">" is necessary here
4 }
5
6 // C++ Class (Inside Body)
7 class Triangle { // "this->" optional
8     void scale(double s) { this->a *= s; }
9     }; // this-> implicit iff no name conflicts
10
11 // C++ Class (Outside Body)
12 void Triangle::scale(double s) {...}
```

Object Creation/Manipulation

```
1 // C-Style Struct
2 Triangle t1;
3 Triangle_init(&t1, 3, 4, 5);
4
5 // C++ Class
6 Triangle t1; // Calls default ctor
7 Triangle t2(3,4,5); // calls 3-argument ctor
8 Triangle t3 = Triangle(3,4,5); // ditto
9 Triangle t4{3, 4, 5}; // ditto
10 Triangle t5 = {3, 4, 5}; // ditto
11 Triangle t6 = Triangle{3, 4, 5}; // ditto
12 // The last 3 work for classes and structs
```

const Function Definition

```
1 // C-Style Struct
2 double area(const Triangle* t) {...}
3 // const goes inside argument list
4
5 // C++ Class (Inside Body)
6 class Triangle {
7     double area() const {...}
8     }; // const comes after signature
9
10 // C++ Class (Outside Body)
11 double Triangle::area() const {...}
```

Pure Virtual Functions and Abstract Classes

**Pure virtual function:** a `virtual` base-class function that has no meaning or implementation (their purpose is to specify the interface of derived classes). To declare one, add `= 0;` to the end of a function's signature.

**Abstract class:** a class with at least one pure virtual member function. Note that derived classes of an abstract class will also be abstract unless they override (implement) every pure virtual function they inherit.

**Interface (pure abstract class):** a class that contains nothing but pure virtual member functions.

```
1 class Abstr { // Abstract Class
2 public: virtual void foo() = 0;
3 }; // Note the lack of empty braces
4
5 class Concrete : public Abstr {
6 public: void foo() { cout << "foo"; }
7 };
8
9 Concrete bar;
10 Abstr* ptr = &bar; Abstr& ref = bar; // ok
11 Abstr abstract_object; // COMPILER ERROR
12 bar.Abstr::foo(); // RUNTIME ERROR/U.B.
```

- 1 Don't call pure virtual functions or try to create abstract class objects.

Containers and Data Structures

Container ADTs

**static keyword:** used to make one copy of a class data member "shared" between all instances of that class. A `static` data member has static storage duration but exists only within the scope of a class.

**stack:** a container that's designed to operate in a LIFO order.

**queue:** a container designed to operate in a first-in/first-out (FIFO) order.

1 An efficient way to implement a queue is to create a vector with free space at both ends (a `ring/circular buffer`). To do so, keep track of the data using head (inclusive) and tail (exclusive) variables.

Container				Interface Operations - Optimal Implementations are All O(1)			
Stack	empty	size	top (next to pop)	push_back	pop_back		
Queue	empty	size	front (next)	back (last)	push_back	pop_front	

Useful std::vector Functions and Constructors

size()	v[1]	at(1)	push_back(val)	pop_back()	resize(n)
front()	back()	erase(iterator)	empty()	clear()	
vector<T> v2(v1.begin(), v1.end())	vector<T> v2(v1)				

Operation

insert/remove	Sorted Set	Stack	Queue	Array	List
search	O(n)	O(1)	O(1)	O(1)	O(1)
access	O(1)	O(1)	O(n)	O(n)	O(n)

\* These refer to the array-based sets we saw in class, not STL sets.

C++ Standard Library Containers

**std::array:** Containers with *compile-time constant* sizes that store elements in contiguous memory.

**std::vector:** resizable containers that store elements at the front and free space at the back.

1 Element insertions/deletions will invalidate `std::vector` iterators *at and after* the modified index. Also, any operation that changes the maximum capacity of a vector invalidates all existing iterators.

**std::list:** a container whose elements are linked via pointers (i.e., in non-contiguous memory).

**std::map:** an associative array that maps unique keys to values. Keys act like indexes for a map.

**std::set:** an associative sorted container that only stores unique keys.

1 Removing an element from a `std::list`, `std::set`, or `std::map` only invalidates iterators to the removed element. Also, inserting an element doesn't ever invalidate iterators for those containers.

```
1 std::array<int, 4> arr = {-4,0,3,6};
2 std::array arr2{1, 2}; // Only way to omit size
3 std::list<int> doubly_linked = {1,2,3};
4 std::forward_list<int> singly_linked = {4,5,6};
5 std::set<int> nums = {3,2,1}; // {1,2,3}
6
7 std::map<string, int> EECs = { {"Bill", 183} };
8 cout << EECs["Bill"] << endl; // prints 183
9 // Two ways to insert into a map:
10 EECs["Emily"] = 203;
11 EECs.insert(pair<string, int>("James", 280));
```

```
1 // Returns iterator to the pair with Key == k
2 // Returns .end() iterator if no such pair exists
3 iterator find(const Key_type& k) const;
4
5 // Inserts a <key, value> std::pair into a map
6 // Returns <iterator, false> if key already in use
7 pair<iterator, bool> insert(const Pair_type& pair);
8
9 // Finds or enters a value for a given key, then
10 // returns a reference to the associated value */
11 Value_type& operator[](const Key_type& key);
```

Container	Ordering	Sorting	Resizable	Contiguous	Duplicate Items	Iterator	Access[]	Insertion/Removal	Search
std::array	Sequential	Unsorted	✗ No	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	Rand. Access	O(1)	O(n) <end	O(1) end
std::vector	Sequential	Unsorted	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	Rand. Access	O(1)	O(n) <end	O(1) end
std::list	Sequential	Unsorted	✓ Yes	✗ No	✓ Yes	Bidirectional	N/A	O(1) anywhere	O(n)
std::set	Associative	Ascending	✓ Yes	✗ No	✗ No	Bidirectional	N/A	O(logn)	O(logn)
std::map	Associative	Asc. Key	✓ Yes	✗ No	✗ Keys/✓ Vals	Bidirectional	O(logn)	O(logn)	O(logn)

Templates (Parametric Polymorphism)

**Templates:** special functions that take a data type as a parameter at compile time and instantiate an object or function compatible with that type. They help reduce code duplication in container interfaces.

Class Template Syntax

```
1 template <typename T>
2 class UnsortedSet {
3 public:
4     void insert(T my_val);
5     bool contains(T my_val) const;
6     int size() const;
7 private:
8     T elts[ELTS_CAPACITY];
9     int elts_size;
10
11     // Syntax: UnsortedSet<type> s;
```

Function Template Syntax

```
1 // Note: "class" also works in place of "typename"
2 template <typename T> // "T" is also an arbitrary name
3 T maxVal(const T &valA, const T &valB) {
4     return (valB > valA) ? valB : valA;
5 } // This function returns the greater of valA and valB
6 // Syntax to call it: maxVal<int/double/etc>(...);
```

Templated Class Member Function Syntax

```
1 template <typename T> // Necessary if outside class body
2 void UnsortedSet<T>::insert(T my_val) {...}
```

Iterators, Traversal by Iterator and Range-Based Loops

**Iterators:** objects that have the same *interface* as pointers; they provide a general interface for traversing different types of container ADTs. To implement iterators for an ADT, define them as a nested class within the container's class and overload the `*` (dereference), `++`, `==`, and `!=` operators.

1 `std::begin()` returns an iterator to the start of an STL container. `std::end()` returns an iterator that's 1 past the end of an STL container (the iterator returned by `std::end()` should not be dereferenced).

1 Using an *invalidated* iterator (e.g. an iterator pointing at a deleted element) causes undefined behavior.

Iterator Type	Random Access Iterators	Bidirectional Iterators	Forward Iterators
Interface Operations	-> [] ++ -- == != < *it +n	++ -- == != *it	*it ++ == !=

Traversal by iterator: a more

general form of traversing a container data type by pointer.

```
1 vector<int> v(3, -1); // this syntax initializes v to {-1,-1,-1}
2 for (vector<int>::iterator it = v.begin(); it != v.end(); ++it)
3 { cout << *it << endl; } // ::const_iterator if const vector
```

```
1 Range-Based For Loop (Works on Any Sequence Traversable by Iterator)
2
3 vector<int> v = { 1, 2, 3, 4 };
4 // for <type> <variable> : <sequence> {...}
5 for (int item : v) { // works with arrays too
6     cout << item << endl;
7 } // could also declare item as const or a ref
```

```
1 // Compiler translation of range-based for loop
2 for (auto it = v.begin(); it != v.end(); ++it) {
3     int item = *it;
4     cout << item << endl;
5 } // auto keyword makes compiler deduce type
```

Time Complexity

Determining Asymptotic/Big-O Complexity

General rules for finding the time complexity of an algorithm:

- Multiply the complexities of nested procedures, e.g. two nested  $O(n)$  loops are  $O(n^2)$ .
- For "independent" procedures, the most complex operation determines the overall runtime of the algorithm (e.g. an  $O(\log n)$  step followed by an  $O(n)$  step is an  $O(n)$  algorithm).

$O(1)$	$O(\log n)$	$O(\sqrt{n})$	$O(n)$	$O(n \log n)$ , $O(\log(n!))$	$O(n^2)$	$O(n^3)$	$O(2^n)$	$O(3^n)$	$O(n!)$	$O(n^n)$	$O(2^{2^n})$
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**Searching:** searching an *unsorted* sequence for a value takes  $O(n)$  time. A *sorted* sequence can be searched in  $O(\log n)$  time by performing binary search (which repeatedly halves the range left to search).

**Insertion/Removal:** inserting into or deleting from the middle of a contiguous container is  $O(n)$ , since you'll need to shift the other elements. If contiguity is not required, then insertion/deletion is  $O(1)$ . Note that, if you need to preserve a sorting order, finding the "target" index adds an additional  $O(\log n)$  step.

**Indexing:** If you store elements of the same size in contiguous memory, accessing an arbitrary index is  $O(1)$ , as only a single pointer arithmetic operation is needed.

Inheritance and Derived Classes

All base class members (EXCEPT ctors and dtors) become implicit members of derived classes. So you can call any public base class function on derived class objects or access inherited base class public members via `./->`

1 Creating a derived class object *always* calls a base class ctor. If you don't call one explicitly, the base class default ctor is implicitly called. Also, a base class dtor is always called when a derived object dies.

```
1 class Base {
2 public:
3     void print() { cout << "B" << endl; }
4     ~Base() {} // custom dtor syntax
5     // Base::~Base() outside class body
6
7 class Derived : public Base {
8 public:
9     void print() { cout << "D" << endl; }
10    void printB() { Base::print(); }
11
12
13 Derived d;
14 d.print(); // prints "D"
15 d.printB(); // prints "B"
16 d.Base::print(); // prints "B"
17 Base* ptr = &d; // Base == static type
18 ptr->print(); // prints "B"
```

Access Modifier	Out-of-scope access	Derived class access
public	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
private	✗ No	✗ No
protected	✗ No	✓ Yes

- 1 Member **name lookup** begins in the *static type* of a receiver/object and moves up the inheritance hierarchy (to the base class) if no match is found. It stops at the first member with a matching *name* or the top of the hierarchy.
- 2 Access levels are only checked *after* name lookup ends.
- 3 Member name lookup searches by name. Virtual function resolution at runtime searches by signature.

Constructor/Destructor Ordering

**Destructors:** special functions that are invoked when a class object's lifetime ends.

Constructors are called in *top-down* order for derived classes (the base ctor is called first), while destructors are *bottom-up* (the derived dtor is called first, and the base dtor last).

1 Non-dynamic objects are destroyed in the opposite order that they were created in.

```
1 class A {
2 public: // Base class
3     A() { cout << "A_ctor "; }
4     ~A() { cout << "A_dtor "; }
5 };
6
7 class B : public A {
8 public: // Derived class
9     B() { cout << "B_ctor "; }
10    ~B() { cout << "B_dtor "; }
11 };
12
13 int main() {
14     A obj_a; // Prints "A_ctor "
15     B obj_b; // Prints "A_ctor B_ctor "
16     A* b_ptr = &obj_b; // Doesn't print anything
17     // When main returns: "B_dtor A_dtor A_dtor "
```

Subtype Polymorphism and Class Casting

**Subtype polymorphism** (a form of runtime polymorphism) allows a publicly-derived class object to be used in place of a base class object through a base-class reference or pointer to the derived object.

C++ allows implicit **upcasts** (i.e. base pointers/refs to publicly derived objects), but all downcasts must be explicit via `static_cast` or (less preferably) `dynamic_cast`.

```
1 class Bird {}; // Base class
2 class Chicken : public Bird {};
3 class Duck : public Bird {};
4 Bird b; Chicken c; Duck d;
5 b = c; // Legal, but "slices" c's data
6 Bird* b_ptr = &c; // Good, no slicing
7 c = b; // ERROR: illegal assignment
8 Chicken* c_ptr = &b; // ERROR: downcast
9 Duck* d_ptr = &c; // ERROR
```

```
1 // Be careful - validity not checked at runtime:
2 Chicken* c_ptr_a = static_cast<Chicken*>(&(bird_ptr));
3 // Bird needs at least 1 virtual function for this:
4 Chicken* c_ptr_b = dynamic_cast<Chicken*>(&(bird_ptr));
```

Virtual Functions and the override Keyword

Here, the *receiver* of the call to `talk()` on line 13 has a **static type** known at compile time (`Bird`) and a **dynamic type** known at runtime (`Duck`). Member lookup starts in the static class, so `Duck::talk()` won't hide `Bird::talk()`. Instead, `Bird::talk()` is declared as **virtual** to make it dynamically-bound.

Declare a function as `virtual` in the base class to use the "most-derived" version on a receiver whose static and dynamic types are different.

1 Placing **override** at the end of a function's signature tells the compiler to verify that it overrides a base-class `virtual` function with a matching signature (a compile error occurs if no override is found).

```
1 class Bird {
2 ... // virtual can only be used in a class body
3 virtual void talk() const { cout << "tweet"; }
4 };
5 // Note: ctors can't be virtual, but dtors can
6 class Duck : public Bird {
7 ... // "virtual" is optional/implicit here
8 void talk() const override { cout << "Quack"; }
9 }; // override = an optional "sanity check"
10
11 Duck duck;
12 Bird* duck_ptr = &duck;
13 duck_ptr->talk(); // prints "Quack"
14 // Scope resolution operator can suppress virtual
15 duck_ptr->Bird::talk(); // prints "tweet"
```