

Fundamentals and Machine Model

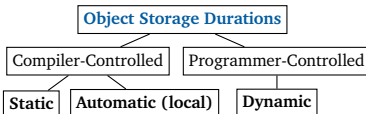
Machine/Memory Model and the Function Call Stack

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: types whose objects 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.

```
1 // Four different ways to initialize an int to 5
2 int a = 5; int b(5); int c{5}; int d = {5};
1 // Explicitly cast an int 'd' to a double 'e'
2 double e = static_cast<double>(d);
```

Objects in C++ are **statically-typed**. Although an object may evaluate to a different type in an expression, the type of an object itself cannot change (class objects obey this rule too).

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).

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 and Arrays

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

❗ An `int*` pointer variable can *only* point to an `int`; an `int**` pointer variable can *only* point to an `int*`; and so on. (E.g. attempting to make an `int*` pointer point to a `double` will lead to a compile error.)

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

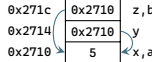
```
1 int x = 3; int y = 4;
2 int *ptr = &x; // ptr initialized to x's address
3 cout << *ptr; // dereferences ptr/prints 3
4 ptr = &y; // no star...assigns y's address to ptr
5 *ptr = 6; // dereferences ptr/assigns 6 to y
```

❗ Assigning `ptr = ptr2`

copies the address stored by `ptr2` to `ptr` (subsequently changing `ptr2` wouldn't change `ptr`).

❗ A reference to a reference is really another reference for the "original" object.

```
1 int x = 5;
2 int* y = &x; // creates pointer to x
3 int* z = y; // creates another pointer to x
4 int &a = x; // creates reference to x
5 int* &b = z; // creates reference to z
6 cout << &b << endl; // Prints 5
7 cout << &y << endl; // prints 0x2714
8 cout << y << endl; // prints 0x2710
9 cout << &(z) << endl; // equiv. to cout << &x
10 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; to do so, set it equal to `nullptr` (`0` or `NULL` also work but are bad style).

Common Pointer Bugs/Errors

❗ Dereferencing a default-initialized 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).

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

```
1 void swap_pointed(int *x, int *y) {
2     int tmp = *x;
3     *x = *y;
4     *y = tmp;
5 }
6
7 int main() {
8     int a = 1216, b = 1261;
9     swap_pointed(&a, &b);
10 }
```

Pointers vs References

References and pointers both enable working between stack frames (scopes) and indirection. Some ways they're different:

- References *must* be explicitly initialized (unlike pointers). This is because references are aliases for existing objects.
- Pointers must be dereferenced to access the objects they point at, while references are used "as-is".
- You can change the object that a (non-const) pointer points to, while a reference's binding to an object can't be changed.

Arrays and Pointer Arithmetic

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

```
1 // Valid array declarations
2 int arr[3] = {1,2}; // {1,2,0}
3 int zeroArr[3] = {}; // {0,0,0}
1 // Valid array declarations
2 int arr[] = {4,5,6};
3 int mat[2][2] = {1,2,3,4};
1 // INVALID array declarations
2 int junk[4]; // Undefined items
3 int err[2][1] = {5,6,7,8}; // No
```

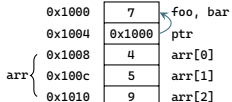
Array decay: using an array in a context where a value is required causes the compiler to convert the array into a pointer to its first element. Array decay is why it's necessary to pass an array's size separately from the array to a function (or to indicate the end of an array with a *sentinel character* 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 add_five(int arr[], int size) {
2     for (int i = 0; i < size; i++) { arr[i] += 5; }
3     // arr[i] += 5 is equiv. to *(arr + i) += 5
4
5     int main() {
6         int arr[] = { 10, 20, 30 };
7         add_five(arr, (sizeof(arr) / sizeof(*arr)));
8         cout << arr[1] << endl; // prints 25
9     } // i[arr] is equiv. to arr[i], but bad style
```

```
❗ cout << &arr[0],
cout << arr, and
cout << &arr
would all print
0x1008.
```

```
1 int foo = 7;
2 int& bar = foo; // value of bar is foo (7)
3 int* ptr = &foo;
4 int arr[3] = { 4, 5, 9 };
5 cout << arr << endl; // prints 0x1008 (decay)
6 cout << (arr + 2) << endl; // prints 0x1010
7 cout << (&foo + 1) << endl; // prints 0x1004
```



Pointer Operations

```
1 // Mainly for pointers into the same array
2 double arr[4] = { 2.5, 5.0, 8.0, 7.0 };
3 double* ptr1 = &arr[0], *ptr2 = &arr[3];
4 cout << *arr << endl; // prints 2.5
5 cout << (ptr2 - ptr1) << endl; // prints 3
6 cout << (ptr1 - ptr2) << endl; // prints -3
7 (ptr1 > ptr2); // equates to false (0)
8 ptr1 += 2; // ptr1 now points at arr[2]
```

Using the `&` operator on an array produces a pointer to the entire array, not a pointer to the first element or a pointer to a pointer (& does not require a value, so it doesn't cause decay).

```
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
```

Traversal By Pointer: arrays can be traversed by pointer (mostly used with C-strings and iterators).

Traversal By Pointer: Pattern 1

```
1 int const SIZE = 3;
2 int arr[SIZE] = { -1, 7, 2 };
3 int *ptr = arr;
4 while (*ptr != -1) {
5     // int* end is just past the end of arr
6     while (ptr < end) {
7         cout << *ptr << endl;
8         ++ptr; // "Walk" ptr across arr
9     } // Alternative to while loop below
1    for (; ptr < end; ++ptr) { ... }
```

Traversal by Pointer: Pattern 2 (C-String Sanitization)

```
1 void sanitize_username(Account *acc, char to_remove) {
2     char *ptr_a = acc->username, *ptr_b = acc->username;
3     while (*ptr_a && *ptr_b) { // while not '\0'
4         if (*ptr_b != to_remove) {
5             *ptr_a = *ptr_b;
6             ++ptr_a; // ++ptr_a only when a char gets copied
7         }
8         ++ptr_b; // ++ptr_b every time the loop executes
9     }
10    *ptr_a = '\0'; // null-terminate string when done
11 }
```

The const Keyword

The `const` type qualifier prevents objects from being modified after initialization (attempting to do so causes a compile error). `const` scalars must be explicitly-initialized to compile.

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 positioning of `const` matters for arrays of pointers.

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, for example, you can assign a const pointer to a pointer-to-const, but the converse is *not* true).

```
1 int foo(int* a) { ... }
2 int bar(int b) { ... }
3 int func(const int* c) { ... }
4 const int x = 3;
5 bar(x); func(&x); // both ok
6 foo(&x); // ERROR
```

```
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

Using C-Strings and Strings

```
1 const char* msg = "Welcome!"; // Only works for string literals; use .c_str() on string variables
2 char color[] = "00274C"; // Create 7-element array (including \0) and copy a string literal to it
3 // Note: '\0' is the only char that evaluates to false (useful for traversal-by-pointer loops).
4 cout << cstr << " " << *cstr << " " << &cstr[0] << endl; // prints "abcd aabcd"
5 cout << (cstr + 1) << " " << *(cstr + 1) << " " << *(cstr + 1); // prints "bcd b 98"
6 string xyz = string(cstr); // Explicitly copy cstring to a string (implicit copy would work too)
```

	Length	Copy Value	Index	Concatenate	Compare
<cstring>	strlen(cstr);	strcpy(cstr1, cstr2);	cstr[1];	strcat(cstr1, cstr2);	strcmp(cstr1, cstr2);
<string>	str.length();	str1 = str2;	str[1];	str1 += str2;	str1 != str2;

Streams and File I/O

Input redirection	Output redirection	Pipeline	Combined redirection
./main.exe < input.txt	./main.exe > output.txt	./output.exe input.exe	./main.exe < input.in > output.out

File I/O Example: Print Lines From File

```
1 #include <fstream> // defines (if/of)stream objects
2 int main() {
3     ifstream inFS;
4     inFS.open("file.txt"); // valid
5     if (!inFS.is_open()) { return 1; }
6     string my_string; // initialized to empty string
7     while (getline(inFS, my_string)) {
8         cout << my_string << endl;
9     } // could close inFS manually via inFS.close();
10    // inFS also closes when scope ends/main returns
```

Ex: Copy One File's Contents to Another

```
1 #include <fstream>
2 int main() {
3     ifstream inFS("input.txt"); // Also valid
4     ofstream outFS("output.txt");
5     string my_string;
6     // newline and space both "delimit" words
7     while (inFS >> my_string) {
8         outFS << my_string << '\n';
9     } // '\n' is the newline char
10 }
```

istreamstream: a stream that "simulates" input from a hardcoded string.

ostreamstream: a stream that captures output and stores it in a string (use `.str()` to get the string).

```
1 string input = "abc";
2 istreamstream inSS(input);
1 ostreamstream outSS; // (i/o)stringstream are defined in <sstream>
2 Mat_print(mat, outSS); // Capture output
```

❗ `ifstream`, `istreamstream`, and `cin` can all be passed to a function with an `istream&` parameter. Likewise, `ofstream`, `ostreamstream`, and `cout` can all be passed to a function with an `ostream&` parameter.

Command-Line Arguments

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

`argv`: functionally, an array of the arguments. Technically, `argv` is passed to `main` as a pointer to an array of pointers to C-strings. So `argv[0]` is a pointer to a C-string that represents the name of the program.

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

❗ const class-type objects must have their data members initialized (or a runtime error will occur).

❗ A const instance of a class or struct cannot call non-const member functions.

Arrow -> operator: shorthand for pointer dereferencing 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 structs are ADTs, some are "plain old data".

❗ Accessing the member data of an ADT directly is said to break the interface and should be avoided. Unit tests should also respect the interface (because they should test behavior, not implementation).

C++ Classes

In C++, the only real difference between classes and structs are that classes have private member access and private inheritance by default (structs default to public access/inheritance).

Constructors

- 1 The compiler implicitly creates a default ctor if there are no user-defined ctors.
- 2 The order in which members are declared in a class is *always* the order they're initialized in.
- 3 Initialization values from a member init. list over-write initializations made during declarations.
- 4 Data members that aren't included in a ctor's member initializer list or initialized at declaration get default-initialized/constructed.
- 5 A delegating ctor must contain a call to the other ctor (and nothing else) in its member init. list.

Constructor Definition Example	
1	class Animal {
2	private: string name;
3	public:
4	Animal(string name_in) // Non-default ctor
5	: name(name_in) { // Member init. list
6	Animal() // Default ctor (no arguments)
7	: Animal("Blank") { // ctor delegation
8	; // Note the semicolon here!
9	
10	class Bird : public Animal {
11	private: bool has_wings;
12	public: Bird(string name, bool wings_in)
13	: Animal(name), has_wings(wings_in) { }
14	; // Derived class ctors must call base ctor
15	
16	class Duck : public Bird {
17	private: string color;
18	public: Duck(string name, bool wings, string rgb)
19	: Bird(name, wings), color(rgb) { }
20	; // Calling Bird ctor also calls Animal ctor
21	
22	// This is how to define a ctor OUTSIDE of body
23	Duck::Duck(string name, bool wings, string rgb)
24	: Bird(name, wings), color(rgb) { }

Nested Classes and Constructors

To initialize a nested class object, initialize it with a valid argument for the nested class's ctor.

Nested class objects in a const class object are also const.

1	class Book {	1	class Person {
2	public:	2	public:
3	Book(double price_in)	3	Person(string& n, double p)
4	: price(price_in) { }	4	: name(n), favBook(p) { }
5	// Note: no default Book ctor	5	private:
6	private:	6	string name;
7	double price;	7	Book favBook;
8	;}	8	;}

C-Style Struct vs Class Syntax

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

Object Creation/Manipulation	
1	// C-Struct
2	Triangle t1, t2;
3	Triangle_init(&t1, 3, 4, 5);
4	t2 = {6, 8, 10}; // Assignment
5	Triangle t3{3, 4, 5}; // Initialization
6	printSides(t3, 4, 5); // Ok if pass-by-val
7	-----
1	// C++ Class
2	Triangle t0; // Calls default ctor
3	Triangle ti(3,4,5); // calls 3-argument ctor
4	Triangle t2 = Triangle(3,4,5); // ditto
5	Triangle t3{3, 4, 5}; // ditto
6	Triangle t4 = {3, 4, 5}; // ditto
7	Triangle t5 = Triangle{3, 4, 5}; // ditto

const function definition	
1	// C-Struct
2	double Triangle_perimeter(const Triangle *t)
3	{ ... } // const goes inside argument list
4	-----
1	// C++ Class
2	class Triangle { // const "this->"
3	double perimeter() const { ... }
4	; } // const comes after signature

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 when a receiver's static and dynamic type are different and you want to use the dynamic version of the function.

override keyword: tells the compiler to verify that the function overrides a base-class virtual function with a matching signature (if no override is found, override causes a compile error).

Pure Virtual Functions and Abstract Classes

Pure virtual function: a virtual base-class function that has no meaning or implementation; they simply make up part of the interface for derived classes. To declare one, add = 0; to the end of a function's signature.

Abstract class: a class with >0 pure virtual functions.

Derived classes of an abstract class must override/define every inherited pure virtual function—including private ones—to avoid becoming abstract themselves.

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

1	class Abst { // Abstract Class
2	public: virtual void foo() = 0;
3	; // Note the lack of empty braces
4	
5	class Concrete : public Abst {
6	public: void foo() { cout << "foo"; }
7	; // public/private doesn't matter here
8	
9	Concrete c;
10	Abst* c_ptr = &c; Abst& c_ref = c; // ok
11	Abst abst_object; // COMPILER ERROR
12	c.Abst::foo(); // RUNTIME ERROR (or U.B.)

- 1 Don't call pure virtual functions or try to instantiate abstract classes.

Container ADTs and Templates (Array-Based 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.

Vectors: resizable array-based container ADTs that store elements at the front and free space at the back.

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.

		Stack and Queue Interfaces				
Container		Operations - optimal implementations are all O(1)				
Stack	empty size	back/top (next)	push_back	pop_back		
Queue	empty size	front (next)	back (last)	push_back	pop_front	

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.

Useful <vector> functions									
.size()	v[i]	.push_back(val)	.pop_back()	.resize(n)	Operation	Unsorted Set	Sorted Set	Stack	Queue
.front()	.back()	.at(i)	.empty()	.clear()	insert, remove	O(n)	O(n)	O(1)*	O(1)*
					contains	O(n)	O(log n)	O(n)	O(n)
					access	O(1)	O(1)	O(n)	O(n)

SortedIntSet::remove() implementation	
1	void remove(int v) {
2	int i = indexOf(v); // indexOf() is a member
3	if (i == -1) { return; }
4	for (; i < elts_size - 1; ++i) {
5	elts[i] = elts[i + 1];
6	}
7	--elts_size; // elts_size == cardinality
8	}

SortedIntSet::insert() implementation	
1	void insert(int v) {
2	if (indexOf(v) == -1) { return; }
3	int i = elts_size;
4	for (; (i > 0) && (elts[i-1]) > v; i--)
5	elts[i] = elts[i-1];
6	elts[i] = v;
7	++elts_size;
8	}

Templates (Parametric Polymorphism)

Templates: flexible models for producing code that take a data type as a parameter to create an object or call a function that works with that type. They help reduce code duplication in container ADT interfaces.

Class Template Syntax	Function Template Syntax
1 template <typename T>	1 template <typename T> // "T" = an arbitrary parameter name
2 class UnsortedSet {	2 // Note: "class" also works in place of "typename".
3 public:	3 T maxVal(const T &valA, const T &valB) {
4 void insert(T my_val);	4 return valB > valA ? valB : valA; // Note: "?" = ternary
5 bool contains(T my_val) const;	5 // This function returns the greater of valA and valB
6 int size() const;	6 // Syntax to call it: maxVal=Int/double/etc(...);
7 private:	
8 T elts[ELTS_CAPACITY];	
9 int elts_size;	
10 ...	
11 ; // Syntax: UnsortedSet<type> s;	

Templated Class Member Function Syntax	
1	template <typename T> // Necessary if outside class body
2	void UnsortedSet<T>::insert(T my_val) { ... }

- 1 A template can accept an invalid type argument during instantiation (leading to a runtime error).
- 2 Template instantiation occurs before linking, so the definitions for templated functions must be included in .h files (or .tpp files) with their declarations, not in separate .cpp files like they usually are.

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 an iterator for a particular ADT, define them as a nested class within the container's class and overload the * (dereference), ++, ==, != 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).

Traversal By Iterator: a more general form of traversing a container data type by pointer.

1	vector<int> v = { 1, 2, 3, 4 };
2	for (vector<int>::iterator it = v.begin(); it != v.end(); ++it)
3	{ cout << *it << endl; } // Traversing vector by iterator

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

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	}

Time Complexity

We define **runtime complexity** in terms of *number of steps*, not literal runtime. Big-O runtime is an *upper-bound* of the magnitude of a function's runtime with respect to input size (this means that any O(n) function is also O(n²), O(n³), etc). Big-Θ and Big-Ω represent average and lower bounds, respectively.

Complexity classes: O(1) < O(log n) < O(n) < O(n log n) = O(log(n)!) < O(n²) < O(n³) < O(2ⁿ) < O(n!) < O(2²ⁿ)

1 Functions in the same complexity class should have growth rates that differ by a constant factor as n → ∞. So O(2ⁿ) and O(8ⁿ) do NOT have the same complexity, but O(log₂ n) and O(log₃ n) do.

Determining Time Complexity

Non-nested loops: add the complexities of each operation that happens inside of the loop and multiply that sum by the number of times the loop executes.

Nested loops: start at the innermost loop and work outwards; essentially, repeat the steps for non-nested loops multiple times. E.g. the complexity of two nested O(n) loops is O(n²).

Addition: the highest-complexity term dominates. E.g. O(n) + O(log n) = O(n).

Multiplication: find the product of the individual terms' complexities. E.g. O(n) × O(log n) = O(n log n).

- 1 Procedures that halve the "remaining steps" each time they execute (like binary search or a for-loop that doubles the loop variable after each iteration) are usually O(log n).
- 2 The complexities of comparison-based sorting algorithms are always Ω(n log n).

Inheritance and Polymorphism

Function Overloading (Ad Hoc Polymorphism) and Operator Overloading

Function Overloading: using one name to refer to 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 of functions with 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 =, O, [] and -> operators can only be overloaded as member functions (along with overloads that need to access private members).

[] overload example (member)		<< and == overload example (top-level)	
1	class IntSet {	1	class Line { ... }; // start/end are public members
2	... // contains() is also a member function	2	
3	public:	3	ostream& operator<<(ostream& os, Line line) {
4	bool operator[](int v) const;	4	return os << line.start << line.end;
5	};	5	}; // os needs to be passed by non-const ref here
6		6	
7	bool IntSet::operator[](int v) const {	7	bool operator==(const Line &a, const Line &b) {
8	return contains(v);	8	return (a.start == b.start && a.end == b.end);
9	}	9	; } // Don't pass by non-const ref here

Inheritance and Derived Classes

All base class members (EXCEPT constructors and destructors) become implicit members of derived classes. So you can call non-private base functions on derived class objects or access non-private inherited data members via (.)->

1 Creating a derived class object *always* calls a base class ctor (if it's not explicitly called, the compiler attempts to implicitly call the base's default ctor). Likewise, a base class ctor is always called when a derived object dies.

Member name lookup via (.)-> starts in the "first" class scope; if no match is found, the base class scope (if one exists) is searched. Lookup stops at the first match; member access levels are checked after name lookup finishes.

2 Attempting to overload functions inherited from a base class will "hide" them, not overload them.

Indirect access of inherited privates	
1	class Base {
2	private:
3	int x = 5;
4	public:
5	int* x_ptr = &x;
6	int get_x() const { return x; };
7	};
8	class Derived : public Base { };

1	Derived d; // cannot directly access x
2	cout << *(d.x_ptr) << endl; // prints 5
3	cout << d.get_x() << endl; // prints 5

Summary: how access modifiers affect direct access		
Modifier	Accessible to derived classes	Accessible out of scope
public	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
private	✗ No	✗ No
protected	✓ Yes	✗ No

Destructors: special functions that are invoked when a class object's lifetime ends (e.g. when you delete a dynamic object or when a local object goes out of scope). Syntax: Triangle:~Triangle() {}

1 For derived class objects, constructors follow *top-down* behavior (i.e., the base class ctor is called first), while destructors are *bottom-up* (the derived class dtor is called first, and the base dtor is called last).

Subtype Polymorphism and Class Casting

Subtype polymorphism allows a publicly-derived class object to be used in place of a base class object; to do this, a base class reference or pointer to a derived class object must be created.

1	class Bird { };
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

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

1 An invalid dynamic_cast evaluates to nullptr, and an invalid static_cast will cause a runtime error.