

Inheritance in C++

Fundamental Computer Programming- C++ Lab (II)



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Outline

- Introduction
- Base and Derived Classes
- Access Control and Interitance
- Type of Inheritance
- Multiple Inheritance
- Exercises

Introduction

- One of the most important concepts in object-oriented programming.
- Allows us to **define a class in terms of another class**.
- Makes it **easier to create and maintain** an application.
- Provides an opportunity to **reuse** the code functionality and fast implementation time.

Introduction

- When creating a class, instead of writing completely new data members and member functions, the programmer can designate that the new class should inherit the members of an existing class.
- This existing class is called the **base** class, and the new class is referred to as the **derived** class.
- The idea of inheritance implements the **is a relationship**.

Base and Derived Classes

- A class can be derived **from more than one classes**
- It means it can **inherit data and functions from multiple base classes**.
- To define a derived class, we use a class derivation list to specify the base class(es).
- A class derivation list names one or more base classes and has the form.

```
class derived-class: access-specifier base-class
```

Example

Base class

Derived class

```
#include <iostream>

using namespace std;

// Base class
class Shape {
public:
    void setWidth(int w) {
        width = w;
    }
    void setHeight(int h) {
        height = h;
    }

protected:
    int width;
    int height;
};

// Derived class
class Rectangle: public Shape {
public:
    int getArea() {
        return (width * height);
    }
};

int main(void) {
    Rectangle Rect;

    Rect.setWidth(5);
    Rect.setHeight(7);

    // Print the area of the object.
    cout << "Total area: " << Rect.getArea() << endl;

    return 0;
}
```

OUTPUT

Total area: 35

Access Control and Inheritance

- A derived class can **access all the non-private members** of its base class.
- Summarize the different access types

Access	public	protected	private
Same class	yes	yes	yes
Derived classes	yes	yes	no
Outside classes	yes	no	no

Access Control and Inheritance

- A derived class inherits all base class methods with the following **exceptions**:
 - Constructors, destructors and copy constructors of the base class.
 - Overloaded operators of the base class.
 - The friend functions of the base class.

Type of Inheritance

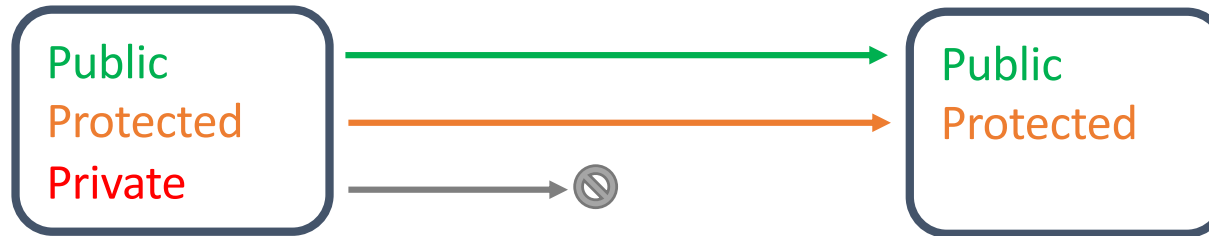
- When deriving a class from a base class, the base class may be inherited through **public**, **protected** or **private** inheritance.

```
class derived-class: access-specifier base-class
```

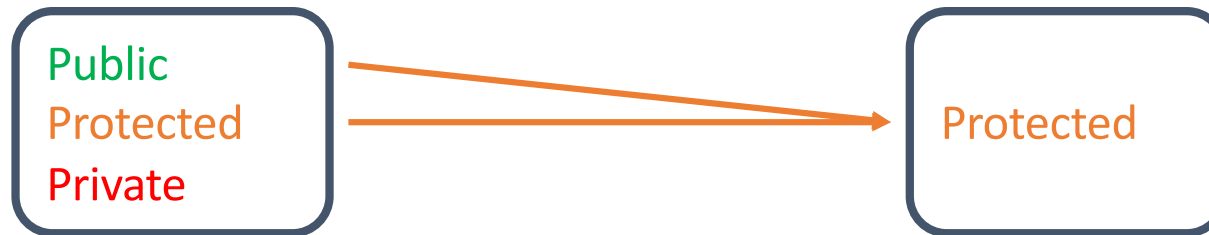
- We hardly use **protected** or **private** inheritance, but **public** inheritance is commonly used

Type of Inheritance

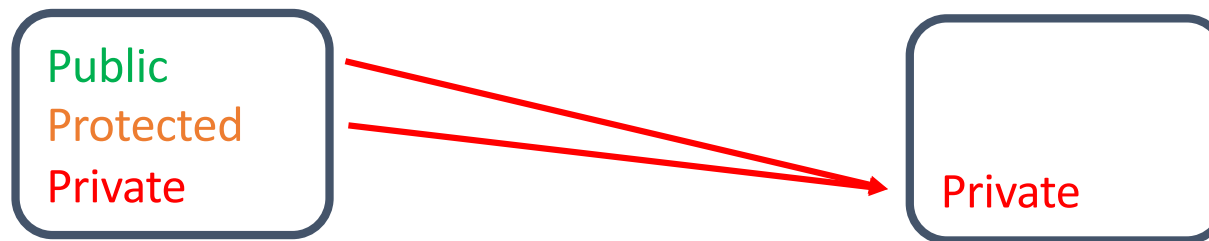
Public Inheritance



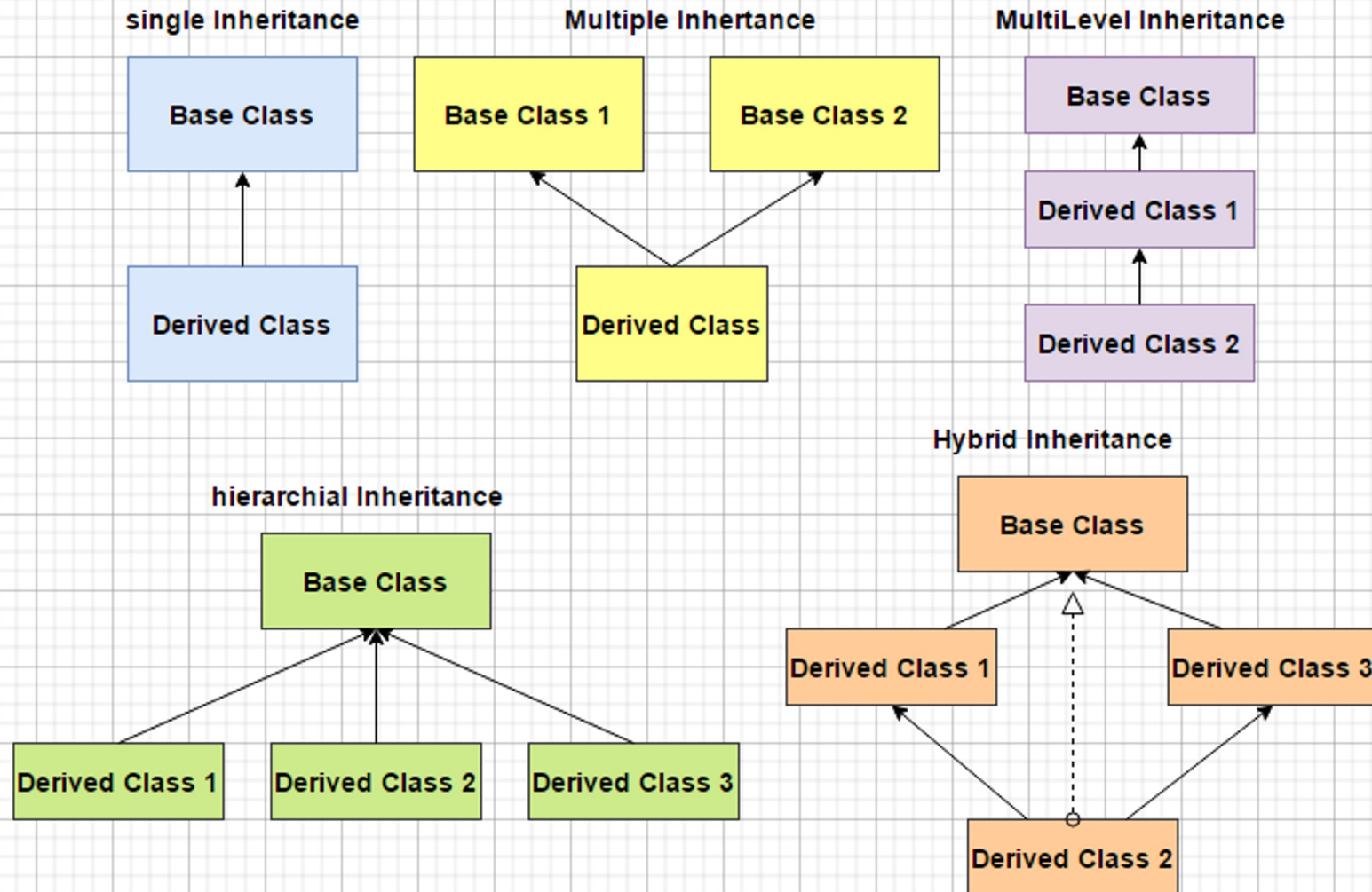
Protected Inheritance



Private Inheritance

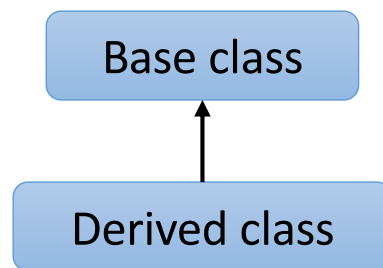


Type of Inheritance



Type of Inheritance

Single Interitance



```
#include <iostream>

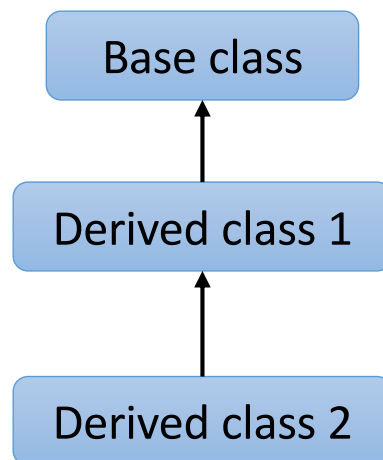
class Animal {
public:
    void eat() {
        std::cout << "Animal is eating" << std::endl;
    }
};

class Dog : public Animal {
public:
    void bark() {
        std::cout << "Dog is barking" << std::endl;
    }
};

int main() {
    Dog myDog;
    myDog.eat(); // Inherited from class Animal
    myDog.bark();
    return 0;
}
```

Type of Inheritance

Multi-level Interitance



```
#include <iostream>

class Parent {
public:
    void parentFunction() {
        std::cout << "Parent function" << std::endl;
    }
};

class Child : public Parent {
public:
    void childFunction() {
        std::cout << "Child function" << std::endl;
    }
};

class GrandChild : public Child {
public:
    void grandChildFunction() {
        std::cout << "Grandchild function" << std::endl;
    }
};

int main() {
    GrandChild myGrandChild;
    myGrandChild.parentFunction();
    myGrandChild.childFunction();
    myGrandChild.grandChildFunction();
    return 0;
}
```

Type of Inheritance

Multiple Interitance

- A C++ class can inherit members from **more than one class** and here is the extended syntax

```
class derived-class: access base-A, access base-B ...
```

- Where access is one of public, protected, or private and would be given for every base class and they will be separated by comma as shown above.

Type of Inheritance

Multiple Interitance

Base class
Shape

Base class
PaintCost

Derived class

```
#include <iostream>

using namespace std;

// Base class Shape
class Shape {
public:
    void setWidth(int w) {
        width = w;
    }
    void setHeight(int h) {
        height = h;
    }

protected:
    int width;
    int height;
};

// Base class PaintCost
class PaintCost {
public:
    int getCost(int area) {
        return area * 70;
    }
};

// Derived class
class Rectangle: public Shape, public PaintCost {
public:
    int getArea() {
        return (width * height);
    }
};

int main(void) {
    Rectangle Rect;
    int area;

    Rect.setWidth(5);
    Rect.setHeight(7);

    area = Rect.getArea();

    // Print the area of the object.
    cout << "Total area: " << Rect.getArea() << endl;

    // Print the total cost of painting
    cout << "Total paint cost: $" << Rect.getCost(area) << endl;

    return 0;
}
```

OUTPUT

Total area: 35

Total paint cost: \$2450

Type of Inheritance

Hybrid inheritance

- Hybrid inheritance is used to solve the “**diamond problem**” in multiclass inheritance.
- This problem occurs when a class inherits from two classes that have the same base class.
- Virtual inheritance ensures that *only one copy of the base class is created*.

```
#include <iostream>

class Component {
public:
    int value;
};

class GraphicsComponent : public virtual Component {
public:
    void draw() {
        std::cout << "Drawing graphics component" << std::endl;
    }
};

class PhysicsComponent : public virtual Component {
public:
    void updatePhysics() {
        std::cout << "Updating physics component" << std::endl;
    }
};

class GameObject : public GraphicsComponent, public PhysicsComponent {
public:
    void update() {
        draw();
        updatePhysics();
    }
};

int main() {
    GameObject obj;
    obj.value = 10; // There is only one copy of the Component class
    obj.update();
    return 0;
}
```


Method Overriding

- Keyword **virtual** used to declare *virtual method* in base class.
- Keyword **override** used in derived class to indicate that the virtual method *is overriding* a method from the base class.

```
#include <iostream>

class Animal {
public:
    virtual void makeSound() {
        std::cout << "Animal makes a sound" << std::endl;
    }
};

class Dog : public Animal {
public:
    void makeSound() override {
        std::cout << "Dog barks" << std::endl;
    }
};

int main() {
    Animal* myAnimal = new Dog();
    myAnimal->makeSound(); // Outputs "Dog barks"
    delete myAnimal;
    return 0;
}
```

Covariance

- **Covariance** essentially means that you can use a more derived type (a subtype) in place of a base type (a supertype) in certain contexts, particularly with return types of virtual functions.

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>

class Window {
public:
    virtual Window* clone() const {
        std::cout << "Cloning a basic window." << std::endl;
        return new Window(*this);
    }

    virtual void draw() const {
        std::cout << "Drawing a basic window." << std::endl;
    }
};

class TextWindow : public Window {
public:
    TextWindow* clone() const override {
        std::cout << "Cloning a text window." << std::endl;
        return new TextWindow(*this);
    }

    void draw() const override {
        std::cout << "Drawing a text window." << std::endl;
    }
};

int main() {
    std::vector<Window*> windows;
    windows.push_back(new Window());
    windows.push_back(new TextWindow());

    for (Window* w : windows) {
        Window* copy = w->clone();
        // Covariance: TextWindow* when w is TextWindow*
        copy->draw();
        delete copy;
    }

    for (Window* w : windows) {
        delete w;
    }

    return 0;
}
```

Contravariance

- **Contravariance** is less common in C++ and involves using a more general type (a supertype) in place of a more specific type (a subtype) in certain contexts, typically with function parameters.

```
#include <iostream>

class DataProcessor {
public:
    virtual void process(void* data) {
        std::cout << "Basic data processor." << std::endl;
    }
};

class StringDataProcessor : public DataProcessor {
public:
    void process(void* data) override {
        std::cout << "String data processor." << std::endl;
        // You would typically cast and process the string data here
    }
};

int main() {
    DataProcessor* processor1 = new DataProcessor();
    DataProcessor* processor2 = new StringDataProcessor();

    int number = 10;
    std::string text = "Hello";

    processor1->process(&number);
    processor2->process(&text);
    // Contravariance: StringDataProcessor can handle void*

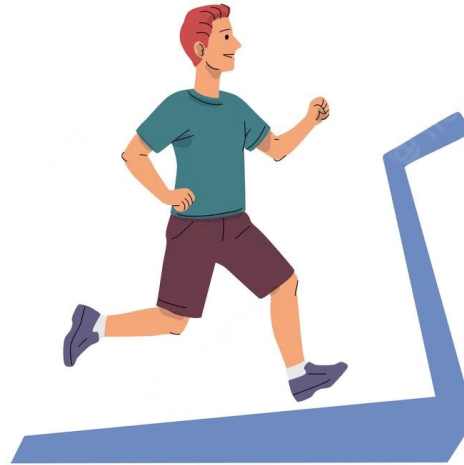
    delete processor1;
    delete processor2;

    return 0;
}
```

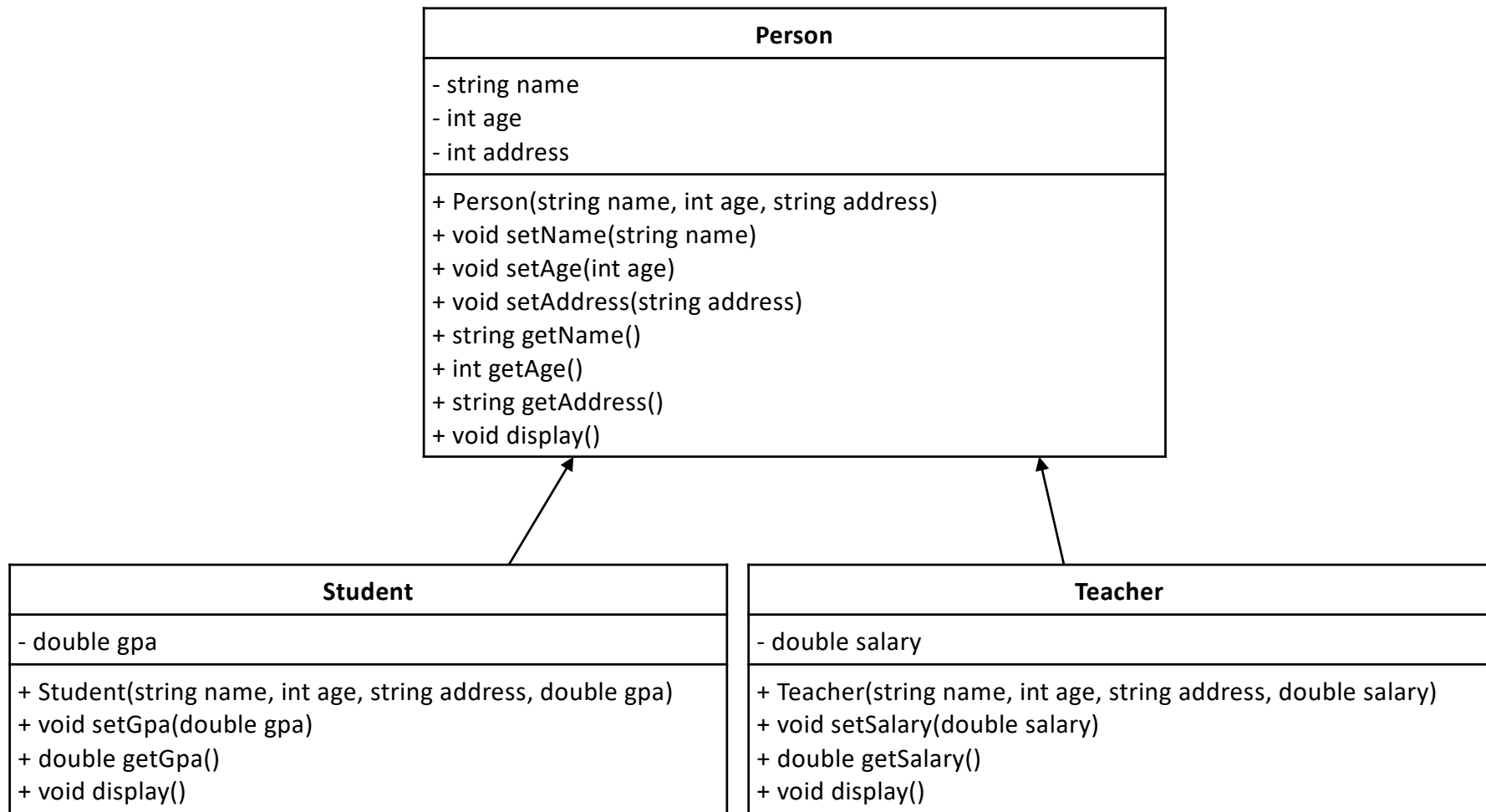
Contravariance

- **Covariance:** Deals with return types, allowing derived classes to return more specific types.
- **Contravariance:** Deals with parameter types, allowing derived classes to accept more general types.
- **Covariance** is much more common than contravariance in standard C++.
- Careful use of these concepts enhances flexibility and polymorphism in your C++ code.

Exercises



Exercise 1



Exercise 1

Suggested main function:

```
#include <iostream>
#include "Person.cpp"
#include "Student.cpp"
#include "Teacher.cpp"

int main() {
    Student s("Lin Jia-Hao", 23, "52 Lide Street", 9.0);
    s.display();

    Teacher t("Chen Zhu-Wei", 35, "12 ShongShan Road", 42000);
    t.display();

    return 0;
}
```

OUTPUT

Name: Lin Jia-Hao

Age: 23

Address: 52 Lide Street

GPA: 9.0

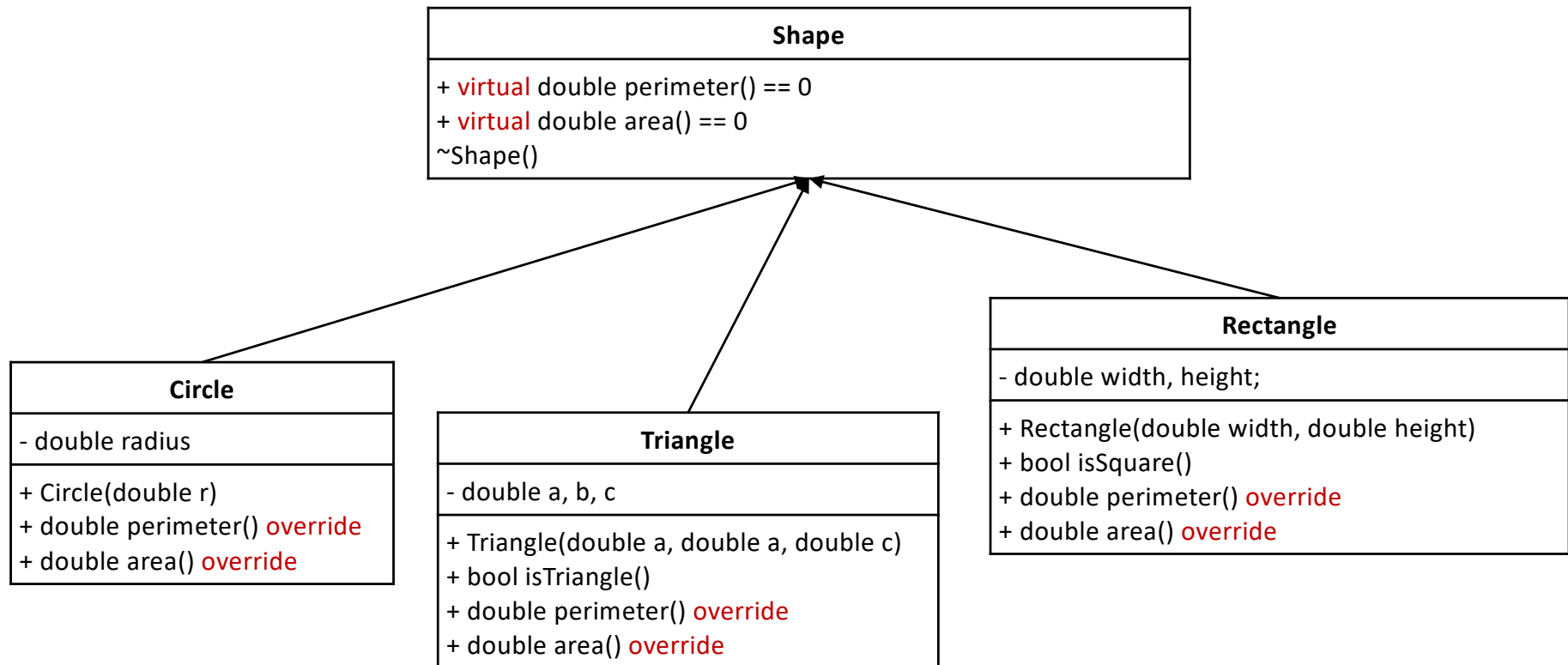
Name: Chen Zhu-Wei

Age: 35

Address: 12 ShongShan Road

Salary: 42,000 TWD

Exercise 2



Exercise 2

Suggested main function:

```
int main() {  
    Circle c(5);  
    Triangle t(3, 4, 5);  
    Rectangle r(4, 6);  
  
    cout << "Perimeter and area of shapes are: " << endl;  
    cout << "Circle: " << endl;  
    cout << "Perimeter: " << c.perimeter() << endl;  
    cout << "Area: " << c.area() << endl;  
  
    cout << "Triangle: " << endl;  
    cout << "Perimeter: " << t.perimeter() << endl;  
    cout << "Area: " << t.area() << endl;  
  
    cout << "Rectangle: " << endl;  
    cout << "Perimeter: " << r.perimeter() << endl;  
    cout << "Area: " << r.area() << endl;  
    return 0;  
}
```

Questions & Answers