Section Overview

Operator Overloading

- What is Operator Overloading?
- Overloading the assignment operator (=)
  - Copy semantics
  - Move semantics
- Overloading operators as member functions
- Overloading operators as global functions
- Overloading stream insertion (<<) and extraction operators (>>)

Operator Overloading

What is Operator Overloading?

- Using traditional operators such as +, =, *, etc. with user-defined types
- Allows user defined types to behave similar to built-in types
- Can make code more readable and writable
- Not done automatically (except for the assignment operator)
  They must be explicitly defined

Operator Overloading

What is Operator Overloading?

Suppose we have a Number class that models any number

- Using functions:

```
Number result = multiply(add(a,b),divide(c,d));
```

- Using member methods:

```
Number result = (a.add(b)).multiply(c.divide(d));
```

Operator Overloading

What is Operator Overloading?

Suppose we have a Number class that models any number

- Using overloaded operators

```
Number result = (a+b)*(c/d);
```

Operator Overloading

What operators can be overloaded?

- The majority of C++'s operators can be overloaded
- The following operators cannot be overload

operator
::
:?
.*
.
sizeof

Operator Overloading

Some basic rules

- Precedence and Associativity cannot be changed
- 'arity' cannot be changed (i.e. can't make the division operator unary)
- Can't overload operators for primitive type (e.g. `int, double, etc`.)
- Can't create new operators
- `[], (), ->`, and the assignment operator (**=**) **must** be declared as member methods
- Other operators can be declared as member methods or global functions

Operator Overloading

Some examples

- **int**

```
a = b + c
a < b
std::cout << a
```

- **double**

```
a = b + c
a < b
std::cout << a
```

- **long**

```
a = b + c
a < b
std::cout << a
```

- **std::string**

```
s1 = s2 + s3
S1 < s2
std::cout << s1
```

- **Mystring**

```
s1 = s2 + s3
s1 < s2
s1 == s2
std::cout << s1
```

- **Player**

```
p1 < p2
p1 == p2
std::cout << p1
```

Operator Overloading

Mystring class declaration

```
class Mystring {

private:
    char *str; // C-style string

public:
    Mystring();
    Mystring(const char *s);
    Mystring(const Mystring &source);
    ~Mystring();
    void display() const;
    int get_length() const;
    const char *get_str() const;
};
```

Operator Overloading

Copy assignment operator (=)

- C++ provides a default assignment operator used for assigning one object to another

```
Mystring s1 {"Frank"};
Mystring s2 = s1;    // NOT assignment
         // same as Mystring s2{s1};

s2 = s1;      // assignment
```

- Default is memberwise assignment (shallow copy)
  - If we have raw pointer data member we must deep copy

Operator Overloading

Overloading the copy assignment operator (deep copy)

```
Type &Type::operator=(const Type &rhs);


Mystring &Mystring::operator=(const Mystring &rhs);

s2 = s1;                    // We write this

s2.operator=(s1);           // operator= method is called
```

Operator Overloading

Overloading the copy assignment operator (deep copy)

```
Mystring &Mystring::operator=(const Mystring &rhs) {
   if (this == &rhs)
      return *this;

   delete [] str;
   str = new char[std::strlen(rhs.str) + 1];
   std::strcpy(str, rhs.str);

   return *this;
}
```

Operator Overloading

Overloading the copy assignment operator – steps for deep copy

- Check for self assignment

```
if (this == &rhs)   // p1 = p1;
    return *this;   // return current object
```

- Deallocate storage for `this->str` since we are overwriting it

```
delete [] str;
```

Operator Overloading

Overloading the copy assignment operator – steps for deep copy

- Allocate storage for the deep copy

```
str = new char[std::strlen(rhs.str) + 1];
```

Operator Overloading

Overloading the copy assignment operator – steps for deep copy

- Perform the copy

```
std::strcpy(str, rhs.str);
```

- Return the current by reference to allow chain assignment

```
return *this;
```

```
// s1 = s2 = s3;
```

Operator Overloading

Move assignment operator (=)

- You can choose to overload the move assignment operator
  - C++ will use the copy assignment operator if necessary

```
Mystring s1;

s1 = Mystring {"Frank"}; // move assignment
```

- If we have raw pointer we should overload the move assignment operator for efficiency

Operator Overloading

Overloading the Move assignment operator

```
Type &Type::operator=(Type &&rhs);


Mystring &Mystring::operator=(Mystring &&rhs);

s1 = Mystring{"Joe"}; // move operator= called

s1 = "Frank";         // move operator= called
```

Operator Overloading

Overloading the Move assignment operator

```
Mystring &Mystring::operator=(Mystring &&rhs) {

   if (this == &rhs)      // self assignment
      return *this;       // return current object

   delete [] str;         // deallocate current storage
   str = rhs.str;         // steal the pointer

   rhs.str = nullptr;     // null out the rhs object

   return *this;          // return current object
}
```

Operator Overloading

Overloading the Move assignment operator – steps

- Check for self assignment

```
if (this == &rhs)
   return *this;      // return current object
```

- Deallocate storage `for this->str` since we are overwriting it

```
delete [] str;
```

Operator Overloading

Overloading the Move assignment operator – steps for deep copy

- Steal the pointer from the rhs object and assign it to this->str

```
str = rhs.str;
```

- Null out the rhs pointer

```
rhs.str = nullptr;
```

- Return the current object by reference to allow chain assignment

```
return *this;
```

Operator Overloading

Unary operators as member methods (++, --, -, !)

```
ReturnType Type::operatorOp();

Number Number::operator-() const;
Number Number::operator++();          // pre-increment
Number Number::operator++(int);       // post-increment
bool Number::operator!() const;

Number n1 {100};
Number n2 = -n1;                      // n1.operator-()
n2 = ++n1;                            // n1.operator++()
n2 = n1++;                            // n1.operator++(int)
```

Operator Overloading

Mystring `operator`- make lowercase

```
Mystring larry1 {"LARRY"};
Mystring larry2;

larry1.display();          // LARRY

larry2 = -larry1;          // larry1.operator-()

larry1.display();          // LARRY
larry2.display();          // larry
```

Operator Overloading

Mystring `operator-` make lowercase

```
Mystring Mystring::operator-() const {
   char *buff = new char[std::strlen(str) + 1];
   std::strcpy(buff, str);
   for (size_t i=0; i<std::strlen(buff); i++)
      buff[i] = std::tolower(buff[i]);
   Mystring temp {buff};
   delete [] buff;
   return temp;
}
```

Operator Overloading

Binary operators as member methods (+, -, ==, !=, <, >, etc.)

```
ReturnType Type::operatorOp(const Type &rhs);

Number Number::operator+(const Number &rhs) const;
Number Number::operator-(const Number &rhs) const;
bool Number::operator==(const Number &rhs) const;
bool Number::operator<(const Number &rhs) const;

Number n1 {100}, n2 {200};
Number n3 = n1 + n2;                // n1.operator+(n2)
n3 = n1 - n2;                       // n1.operator-(n2)
if (n1 == n2) . . .                 // n1.operator==(n2)
```

Operator Overloading

Mystring `operator==`

```
bool Mystring::operator==(const Mystring &rhs) const {
   if (std::strcmp(str, rhs.str) == 0)
      return true;
   else
      return false;
}

// if (s1 == s2)        // s1 and s2 are Mystring objects
```

Operator Overloading

Mystring `operator+ (concatenation)`

```
Mystring larry {"Larry"};
Mystring moe{"Moe"};
Mystring stooges {" is one of the three stooges"};

Mystring result = larry + stooges;
                // larry.operator+(stooges);

result = moe +  " is also a stooge";
                // moe.operator+("is also a stooge");

result = "Moe" + stooges; // "Moe".operator+(stooges) ERROR
```

Operator Overloading

Mystring `operator+ (concatenation)`

```
Mystring Mystring::operator+(const Mystring &rhs) const {
   size_t buff_size = std::strlen(str) +
                      std::strlen(rhs.str) + 1;
   char *buff = new char[buff_size];
   std::strcpy(buff, str);
   std::strcat(buff, rhs.str);
   Mystring temp {buff};
   delete [] buff;
   return temp;
}
```

Operator Overloading

Unary operators as global functions (++, --, -, !)

```
ReturnType operatorOp(Type &obj);

Number operator-(const Number &obj);
Number operator++(Number &obj);           // pre-increment
Number operator++(Number &obj, int);      // post-increment
bool   operator!(const Number &obj);

Number n1 {100};
Number n2 = -n1;                  // operator-(n1)
n2 = ++n1;                        // operator++(n1)
n2 = n1++;                        // operator++(n1,int)
```

Operator Overloading

Mystring `operator-` make lowercase

```
Mystring larry1 {"LARRY"};
Mystring larry2;

larry1.display();                   // LARRY

larry2 = -larry1;                   // operator-(larry1)

larry1.display();                   // LARRY
larry2.display();                   // larry
```

Operator Overloading

Mystring `operator-`

- Often declared as **friend** functions in the class declaration

```
Mystring operator-(const Mystring &obj) {
   char *buff = new char[std::strlen(obj.str) + 1];
   std::strcpy(buff, obj.str);
   for (size_t i=0; i<std::strlen(buff); i++)
      buff[i] = std::tolower(buff[i]);
   Mystring temp {buff};
   delete [] buff;
   return temp;
}
```

Operator Overloading

Binary operators as global functions (+, -, ==, !=, <, >, etc.)

```
ReturnType operatorOp(const Type &lhs, const Type &rhs);

Number operator+(const Number &lhs, const Number &rhs);
Number operator-(const Number &lhs, const Number &rhs);
bool   operator==(const Number &lhs, const Number &rhs);
bool   operator<(const Number &lhs, const Number &rhs);

Number n1 {100}, n2 {200};
Number n3 = n1 + n2;                // operator+(n1,n2)
n3 = n1 - n2;                       // operator-(n1,n2)
if (n1 == n2) . . .                 // operator==(n1,n2)
```

Operator Overloading

Mystring `operator==`

```
bool operator==(const Mystring &lhs, const Mystring &rhs){
   if (std::strcmp(lhs.str, rhs.str) == 0)
      return true;
   else
      return false;
}
```

- If declared as a friend of `Mystring` can access private `str` attribute
- Otherwise we must use getter methods

Operator Overloading

Mystring `operator+ (concatenation)`

```
Mystring larry {"Larry"};
Mystring moe{"Moe"};
Mystring stooges {" is one of the three stooges"};

Mystring result = larry + stooges;
                // operator+(larry, stooges);

result = moe +  " is also a stooge";
                // operator+(moe, "is also a stooge");

result = "Moe" + stooges; // OK with non-member functions
```

Operator Overloading

Mystring `operator+ (concatenation)`

```
Mystring operator+(const Mystring &lhs, const Mystring &rhs) {
   size_t buff_size = std::strlen(lhs.str) +
                      std::strlen(rhs.str) + 1;
   char *buff = new char[buff_size];
   std::strcpy(buff, lhs.str);
   std::strcat(buff, rhs.str);
   Mystring temp {buff};
   delete [] buff;
   return temp;
}
```

Operator Overloading

stream insertion and extraction operators (<<, >>)

```
Mystring larry {"Larry"};

cout << larry << endl;    // Larry


Player hero {"Hero", 100, 33};

cout << hero << endl;    // {name: Hero, health: 100, xp:33}
```

Operator Overloading

stream insertion and extraction operators (<<, >>)

```
Mystring larry;

cin >> larry;


Player hero;

cin >> hero;
```

Operator Overloading

stream insertion and extraction operators (<<, >>)

- Doesn't make sense to implement as member methods
  - Left operand must be a user-defined class
  - Not the way we normally use these operators

```
Mystring larry;
  larry << cout;        // huh?

  Player hero;
  hero >> cin;      // huh?
```

Operator Overloading

stream insertion operator (<<)

```
std::ostream &operator<<(std::ostream &os, const Mystring &obj) {
    os << obj.str;    // if friend function
    // os << obj.get_str();  // if not friend function
    return os;
}
```

- Return a reference to the `ostream` so we can keep inserting
- Don't return `ostream` by value!

Operator Overloading

stream extraction operator (>>)

```
std::istream &operator>>(std::istream &is, Mystring &obj) {
    char *buff = new char[1000];
    is >> buff;
    obj = Mystring{buff}; // If you have copy or move assignment
    delete [] buff;
    return is;
 }
```

- Return a reference to the `istream` so we can keep inserting
- Update the object passed in