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Object Oriented Programming—C++

Lecture6 Classes

Qijun Zhao
College of Computer Science
Sichuan University

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This lecture combines reading materials: Pages 193-232 of the textbook.

(Chapter 8: Abstraction and Classes)

Class: A programmer-defined custom type. An abstraction of an object or data type.

But don’t structs do that?

```
struct Student {
  string name; // these are called fields
  string state; // separate these by semicolons
  int age;
};

Student s = {"Sarah", "CA", 21};
```

Issues with structs

- Public access to all internal state data by default
- Users of struct need to explicitly initialize each data member.

```
Student s;
cout << s.name << endl; //s.name is garbage
s.name = "Sarah";
cout << s.name << endl; //now we're good!
```

“A struct simply feels like an open pile of bits with very little in the way of encapsulation or functionality. A class feels like a living and responsible member of society with intelligent services, a strong encapsulation barrier, and a well defined interface.”

- Bjarne Stroustrup

Classes provide their users with a public interface and separate this from a private implementation

Turning Student into a class: Header File

```
//student.h
class Student {
    public:
    std::string getName();
    void setName(string
    name);
    int getAge();
    void setAge(int age);

    private:
    std::string name;
    std::string state;
    int age;
};
```

Public section:

- Users of the Student object can directly access anything here!
- Defines an interface for interacting with the private member variables!

Private section:

- Usually contains all member variables
- Users can't access or modify anything in the private section

Turning Student into a class: Header File + .cpp File

//student.h

```
class Student {
    public:
    std::string getName();
    void setName(string
    name);
    int getAge();
    void setAge(int age);

    private:
    std::string name;
    std::string state;
    int age;
 };
```

//student.cpp

```
#include student.h
std::string
Student::getName(){
//implementation here!
}
void Student::setName(){
}
int Student::getAge(){
}
 void Student::setAge(int
 age){
}
```

Recall: namespaces

- Put code into logical groups, to avoid name clashes
- Each class has its own namespace
- Syntax for calling/using something in a namespace:

```
namespace_name::name
```

Function definitions with namespaces!

- namespace_name::name in a function prototype means "this is the implementation for an interface function in namespace_name"

- Inside the {...} the private member variables for namespace_name will be in scope!

```
std::string Student::getName(){...}
```

//student.cpp

```
#include student.h
std::string Student::getName(){
    return name; //we can access name here!
}
void Student::setName(std::string name){

}
int Student::getAge(){

}
 void Student::setAge(int age){

}
```

//student.h

```
class Student {
    public:
    std::string getName();
    void setName(string
    name);
    int getAge();
    void setAge(int age);

    private:
    std::string name;
    std::string state;
    int age;
 };
```

//student.cpp

```cpp
#include student.h
std::string Student::getName(){
    return name; //we can access name here!
}
void Student::setName(std::string name){
    name = name; //huh?
}
int Student::getAge(){

}
 void Student::setAge(int age){

}
```

//student.h

```cpp
class Student {
    public:
    std::string getName();
    void setName(string
    name);
    int getAge();
    void setAge(int age);

    private:
    std::string name;
    std::string state;
    int age;
 };
```

The this keyword!

- Here, we mean “set the Student private member variable name equal to the parameter

```
void Student::setName(string name){
    name = name; //huh?
}
```

```
void Student::setName(string name){
    this->name = name; //better!
}
```

- this->element_name means “the item in this Student object with name element_name”.

Use this for naming conflicts!

//student.cpp

```
#include student.h
std::string Student::getName(){
    return name; //we can access name here!
}
void Student::setName(string name){
    this->name = name; //resolved!
}
int Student::getAge(){
    return age;
}
 void Student::setAge(int age){

}
```

//student.h

```
class Student {
    public:
    std::string getName();
    void setName(string
    name);
    int getAge();
    void setAge(int age);

    private:
    std::string name;
    std::string state;
    int age;
 };
```

//student.cpp

```
#include student.h
std::string Student::getName(){
    return name; //we can access name here!
}
void Student::setName(string name){
    this->name = name; //resolved!
}
int Student::getAge(){
    return age;
}
 void Student::setAge(int age){
    //We can define what "age" means!
    if(age >= 0){
        this->age = age;
    }
    else error("Age cannot be negative!");
```

//student.h

```
class Student {
    public:
    std::string getName();
    void setName(string
    name);
    int getAge();
    void setAge(int age);

    private:
    std::string name;
    std::string state;
    int age;
 };
```

- Define how the member variables of an object is initialized
- What gets called when you first create a Student object

```
//student.cpp
#include student.h
Student::Student(){
    age = 0;
    name = "";
    state = "";
}
```

BUT WHAT IS AN OBJECT???

- An Object is an instance of a Class.
- When a class is defined, no memory is allocated but when it is instantiated (i.e. an object is created) memory is allocated.
- A class works as a "blueprint" for creating objects

Constructors 2.0

- Overloadable!

```
//student.cpp
#include student.h
Student::Student(){...}
Student::Student(string name, int age, string state){
    this->name = name;
    this->age = age;
    this->state = state;
}
```

Constructors 3.0

- Use initializer lists for speedier construction!

Uniform Initialization!

```
//student.cpp
#include student.h
Student::Student() : name{""}, age{0}, state{""} {}
Student::Student(string name, int age, string state) :
    name{name}, age{name}, state{state} {}
```

Putting it all together: Using your shiny new class!

```
//main.cpp
#include student.h
int main(){
    Student sarah;
    sarah.setName("Sarah");
    sarah.setAge(21);
    sarah.setState("CA");
    cout << sarah.getName() << " is from " << sarah.getState() << endl;



}
```

Putting it all together: Using your shiny new class!

```
//main.cpp
#include student.h
int main(){
    Student sarah;
    sarah.setName("Sarah");
    sarah.setAge(21);
    sarah.setState("CA");
    cout << sarah.getName() << " is from " << sarah.getState() << endl;

    Student haven("Haven", 21, "AR");
    cout << haven.getName() << " is from " << haven.getState();
}
```

Aside... Arrays

- Arrays are a primitive type! They are the building blocks of all containers
- Think of them as lists of objects of **fixed size** that you can **index into**
- **Think of them as the struct version of vectors. You should not be using them in application code! Vectors are the STL interface for arrays!**

```
//int * is the type of an int array variable
int *my_int_array;

//this is how you initialize an array
int *my_int_array = new int[10];

//this is how you index into an array
int one_element = my_int_array[0];
```

Recall: Arrays

```
//int * is the type of an int array variable
int *my_int_array;
//my_int_array is a pointer!

//this is how you initialize an array
my_int_array = new int[10];
                    +--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
//my_int_array ->   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
                    +--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
//this is how you index into an array
int one_element = my_int_array[0];
```

Memory Management

- Arrays are memory **WE** allocate, so we need to give instructions for when to deallocate that memory!
- When we are done using our array, we need to delete [] it!

```
//int * is the type of an array variable
int *my_int_array;

//this is how you initialize an array
my_int_array = new int[10];
//this is how you index into an array
int one_element = my_int_array[0];
delete [] my_int_array;
```

Destructors

- deleteing (almost) always happens in the **destructor** of a class!

- The destructor is defined using Class_name::~Class_name()

- No one ever explicitly calls it! Its called when Class_name object go out of scope!

- Just like all member functions, declare it in the .h and implement in the .cpp!

Destructor

- Free your memory!

```
//student.cpp
#include student.h
Student::~Student(){
    delete [] my_array; // For illustrative purposes
}
```

Definition

Fundamental Theorem of Software Engineering: Any problem can be solved by adding enough layers of indirection.

The problem with StrVector

- Vectors should be able to contain any data type!

~~Solution? Create IntVector, DoubleVector, BoolVector etc..~~

- What if we want to make a vector of Students?
  - How are we supposed to know about every custom class?
- What if we don’t want to write a class for every type we can think of?

SOLUTION: Template classes!

Definition

Template Class: A class that is parametrized over some number of types. A class that is comprised of member variables of a general type/types.

Template Classes You' ve Used

- Vectors!

```
vector<int> numVec; vector<string> strVec;
```

- Maps!

```
map<int, string> int2Str; map<int, int> int2Int;
```

- Sets!

```
set<int> someNums; set<Student> someStudents;
```

Pretty much all containers!

Writing a template: Syntax

```cpp
//Example: Structs
template<typename First, typename Second> struct MyPair {
    First first;
    Second second;
};
```

```cpp
//Exactly Functionally the same!
template<typename One, typename Two> struct MyPair {
    One first;
    Two second;
};
```

Writing a Template Class: Syntax

```
//mypair.h
template<typename First, typename Second> class MyPair {
    public:
        /*...*/
    private:
        First first;
        Second second;
};
```

Writing a Template Class: Syntax

```
//mypair.h
template<typename First, typename Second> class MyPair {
    public:
        First getFirst();
        Second getSecond();

        void setFirst(First f);
        void setSecond(Second f);
    private:
        First first;
        Second second;
};
```

Writing a Template Class: Syntax

```cpp
//mypair.h
template<typename First, typename Second> class MyPair {
    public:
        First getFirst();
        Second getSecond();

        void setFirst(First f);
        void setSecond(Second f);
    private:
        First first;
        Second second;
};
```

Use generic typenames as placeholders!

Implementing a Template Class: Syntax

```
//mypair.cpp
#include "mypair.h"

First MyPair::getFirst(){
    return first;
}
//Compile error! Must announce every member function is templated :/
```

Implementing a Template Class: Syntax

```
//mypair.cpp
#include “mypair.h”

template<typename First, typename Second>
First MyPair::getFirst(){
    return first;
}

template<typename Second, typename First>
Second MyPair::getSecond(){
    return second;
}
```

A sneaky bug

The Takeaway

Templates don't emit code until instantiated, so include the .cpp in the .h instead of the other way around!

A compile error....

```cpp
// vector.h
template <typename T>
class vector<T> {
    T at(int i);
};
```

```cpp
// vector.cpp
#include "vector.h"
template <typename T>
void vector<T>::at(int i) {
    // oops
}
```

```cpp
// main.cpp
#include "vector.h"
vector<int> a;
a.at(5);
```

What the C++ compiler does with non-template classes

```
// main.cpp
#include "vectorint.h"
vectorInt a;
a.at(5);
```

1. g++ -c vectorint.cpp main.cpp: Compile and create all the code in vectorint.cpp and main.cpp. All the functions in vectorint.h have implementations that have been compiled now, and main can access them because it included vectorint.h

2. "Oh look she used vectorInt::at, sure glad I compiled all that code and can access vectorInt::at right now!"

What the C++ compiler does with template classes

```
// main.cpp
#include "vector.h"
vector a;
a.at(5);
```

1. g++ -c vector.cpp main.cpp: Compile and create all the code in main.cpp. Compile vector.cpp, but since it’ s a template, don’ t create any code yet.
2. “Oh look she made a vector<int>! Better go generate all the code for one of those!”
3. “Oh no! All I have access to is vector.h! There’ s no implementation for the interface in that file! And I can’ t go looking for vector<int>.cpp!”

The fix...

```cpp
// vector.h
template <typename T>
class vector<T> {
    T at(int i);
};
```

```cpp
// vector.cpp
#include "vector.h"
template <typename T>
void vector<T>::at(int i) {
    // oops
}
```

```cpp
// main.cpp
#include "vector.h"
vector<int> a;
a.at(5);
```

Include vector.cpp in vector.h!

```cpp
// vector.h
#include "vector.cpp"
template <typename T>
class vector<T> {
    T at(int i);
};
```

```cpp
// vector.cpp

template <typename T>
void vector<T>::at(int i) {
    // oops
}
```

```cpp
// main.cpp
#include "vector.h"
vector<int> a;
a.at(5);
```

What the C++ compiler does with template classes

```
// main.cpp
#include “vector.h”
vector<int> a;
a.at(5);
```

1. “Oh look she included vector.h! That’ s a template, I’ ll wait to link the implementation until she instantiates a specific kind of vector”
2. “Oh look she made a vector<int>! Better go generate all the code for one of those!”
3. “vector.h includes all the code in vector.cpp, which tells me how to create a vector<int>::at function :)”

The Takeaway

Templates don't emit code until instantiated, so include the .cpp in the .h instead of the other way around!

Coding for love, Coding for the world

Qijun Zhao

qjzhao@scu.edu.cn