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Class	C++
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Material	
# Series Number	
	Copy Assignment Operator and Destructor

[Ch13] Copy Control

13.1.2 The Copy-Assignment Operator

Just as a class controls how objects of that class are initialized, it also controls how objects of its class are assigned.

```
Sales_data trans, accum;
trans = accum; // uses the Sales_data copy-assignment operator
```

As with the copy constructor, the compiler synthesizes a copy-assignment operator if the class does not defines its own.

Introducing Overloaded Assignments

Overloaded operators are functions that have the name operator followed by the symbol for the operator being defined. Hence, the assignment operator is a function named operator=. Like any other function, an operator function has a return type and a parameter list.

When an operator is a member function, the left-hand operand is bound to the implicit this parameter. The right-hand operand in a binary operator, such as assignment, is passed as an explicit parameter.

The copy-assignment operator takes an argument of the same type as the class:

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```
class Foo {
public:
   Foo& operator=(const Foo&); //assignment operator
};
```

Best Practices: Assignment operators ordinarily should return a reference to their left-hand operand.

The Synthesized Copy-Assignment Operator

The following code is equivalent to the synthesized sales_data copy-assignment operator:

```
// equivalent to the synthesized copy-assignment operator
Slaes_data& Sales_data::operator=(const Sales_data &rhs) {
  bookNo = rhs.bookNo; //calls the string::operator=
  units_sold = rhs.units_sold; //uses the built-in int assignment
  revenue = rhs.revenue; //uses the built-in double assignment
  return *this; //return a reference to this object.
}
```

Exercise

Exercise 13.8: Write the assignment operator for the HasPtr class from exercise 13.5 in § 13.1.1 (p. 499). As with the copy constructor, your assignment operator should copy the object to which ps points.

See 13_8.cpp

13.1.3 The Destructor

The destructor operates inversely to the constructors: Constructors initialize the nonstatic data members of an object and may do other work; destructors do whatever work is needed to free the resources used by an object and destroy the nonstatic data members of the object.

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The destructor is a member function with the name of the class prefixed by a tilde(~). It has no return value and takes no parameters:

```
class Foo {
public:
   ~Foo(); //destructor
};
```

What a Destructor Does

Just as a constructor has an initialization part and a function body, a destructor has a function body and a destruction part.

In a constructor, members are initialized before the function body is executed, and members are initialized in the same order as they appear in the class.

In a destructor, the function body is executed first and then the members are destroyed. Members are destroyed in reverse order from the order in which they were initialized.

What happens when a member is destroyed depends on the type of the member. Members of class type are destroyed by running the member's own destructor. The built-in types do not have destructors, so nothing is done to destroy members of built-in type.

Note: The implicit destruction of a member of built-in pointer type does not delete the object to which that pointer points.

When a Destructor is Called.

The destructor is used automatically whenever an object of its type is destroyed:

- Variables are destroyed when they go out of scope
- Members of an object are destroyed when the object of which they are a part is destroyed
- Elements in a container-whether a library container or an array-are destroyed when the container is destroyed.

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• Dynamically allocated objects are destroyed when the delete operator is applied to a pointer to the object.

Note: The destructor is not run when a reference or a pointer to an object goes out of scope.