

- C++ has features that we can use to create an *alias* for a *constant* or *type*; for example:

(NOTE: For *constants*, it's conventional to have the aliases in *all-uppercase*.)

- Creating aliases **PI** (π) and **AVG_BIRTH_RATE** for *constants* **3.1416** and **0.1758**:

```
const double PI = 3.1416;
const double AVG_BIRTH_RATE = 0.1758;
```

- Creating alias **ADJ_AMOUNT** for class-level *constant* **5**:

```
static const int ADJ_AMOUNT = 5;
```

- Creating aliases **life_t** (type for tracking *amount of life left*) and **credit_t** (type for tracking *credit points scored*) for type **unsigned int**:

```
typedef unsigned int life_t;
typedef unsigned int credit_t;
```

- Motivational factors for creating aliases may include the following:

(NOTE: Examples of the previous section are continued here.)

- The alias is *more meaningful* and may help in *avoiding usage mix-ups*.
 - ▶ Most probably can figure out from the context that **3.1416** represents π but will be baffled by **0.1758**.
 - ▶ An attempt to store data of type **life_t** into a **credit_t** variable has greater likelihood of *raising a flag* (intuitively) than does an attempt to store data of type **unsigned int** into an **unsigned int** variable.
- The alias is *easier and less error-prone to type* (because it's shorter, etc.).
 - ▶ **3.1416** is not too bad but what if there's need to represent π more precisely as **3.1415926535898**?
- (More Importantly) The alias *makes code modification easier* (i.e., improves modifiability).
 - ▶ To modify code so that π is represented more precisely as **3.1415926535898** (instead of **3.1416**):
 - *Not using alias*: search for all relevant **3.1416** and replace each with **3.1415926535898**.
 - *Using alias*: replace **3.1416** with **3.1415926535898** in the *alias-creating statement* (assuming the alias is *brought to bear*, i.e., **PI** and not **3.1416** has been used in every computation involving π).
 - ▶ To modify code so that credit points scored is allowed to become negative (i.e., want to use **int** for it):
 - *Not using alias*: search for all relevant **unsigned int** and replace each with **int**.
 - *Using alias*: replace **unsigned int** with **int** in the *alias-creating statement* (assuming the alias is *brought to bear*, i.e., **credit_t** and not **unsigned int** has been used in every type reference involving credit points scored).

- When developing (in non-**template** fashion) a *container class* that one wants to use (in different programs) for manipulating objects of different types, the utility of *type aliasing* (using **typedef**) comes in handy as follows:

- Create a type alias (e.g.: **value_type**) for the object type the container class is presently for; for example:

```
typedef int value_type; // presently for containers of int objects
```

- Use the type alias (**value_type** and not **int** for the above example) to refer to the object type thereafter in the class' specification and implementation.

(NOTE: This is *bringing the alias to bear* and is essential for the utility of type aliasing to materialize.)

This way, if we want to use the same type of container but for objects of a different type in another program, we only need to appropriately change the *alias-creating statement*; for example, changing it to

```
typedef char value_type; // presently for containers of char objects
```

if **char** is the purported type.