# MIT WORLD PEACE UNIVERSITY

# Object Oriented Programming with Java and C++ Second Year B. Tech, Semester 1

# IMPLEMENTATION OF STL IN C++

# PRACTICAL REPORT

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# 1 Aim and Objectives

- To understand the user of Standard Template Library in C++
- To get familiar with list containers and iterators.

#### 2 Problem Statement

A shop maintains the inventory of items. It stores information of items like ItemCode, ItemName, Quantity and Cost of it in a list of STL. Whenever Customer wants to buy an item, sales person inputs the ItemCode and or ItemName and the system searches in a file and displays whether it is available or not otherwise an appropriate message is displayed. If it is, then the system displays the item details and request for the quantity of items required. If the requested quantity of items are available, the total cost of items is displayed; otherwise the message is displayed as required items not in stock. After purchasing an item, system updates the list. Design a system using a class called Items with suitable data members and member functions. Implement a Menu Driven C++ program using STL concepts.

# 3 Theory

## 3.1 Concept of Standard Template Library

The Standard Template Library (STL) is a set of C++ template classes to provide common programming data structures and functions such as lists, stacks, arrays, etc. It is a library of container classes, algorithms, and iterators. It is a generalized library and so, its components are parameterized. It has a lot of useful things that we can use in our own code, without worrying to write lengthy implementations of basic data structure concepts.

STL has 4 components:

- 1. Algorithms: They act on containers and provide means for various operations for the contents of the containers.
- 2. Containers: Containers or container classes store objects and data.
- 3. Functions :The STL includes classes that overload the function call operator. Instances of such classes are called function objects or functors.
- 4. Iterators: As the name suggests, iterators are used for working upon a sequence of values. They are the major feature that allows generality in STL.

#### 3.2 How is STL different from the C++ Standard Library?

The **STL** was written by Alexander Stepanov in the days long before C++ was standardised. The STL was already widely used as a library for C++, giving programmers access to containers, iterators and algorithms. When the standardisation happened, the language committee designed parts of the C++ Standard Library (which is part of the language standard) to very closely match the STL.

Over the years, many people — including prominent book authors, and various websites — have continued to refer to the C++ Standard Library as **The STL** despite the fact that the two entities are separate and that there are some differences. These differences are even more pronounced in the upcoming new C++ standard, which includes various features and significantly alters some classes.

So A lot of the functions and containers were written before the formation of various important libraries that we now use in C++. It is those libraries that are called the "STL". C++ standard libraries are ones written after it using those libraries in part.

#### 3.3 Concept of Containers, Ierators and Algorithms

#### 3.3.1 Containers

In C++, there are generally 3 kinds of STL containers:

• Sequential Containers: In C++, sequential containers allow us to store elements that can be accessed in sequential order. Internally, sequential containers are implemented as arrays or linked lists data structures.

Types of Sequential Containers

- Array
- Vector
- Deque
- List
- Forward List

```
#include <iostream>
  #include <vector>
  using namespace std;
  int main() {
    // initialize a vector of int type
    vector<int> numbers = {1, 100, 10, 70, 100};
    // print the vector
    cout << "Numbers are: ";</pre>
    for(auto &num: numbers) {
12
      cout << num << ", ";
13
14
15
    return 0;
16 }
18 //Output
19 Numbers are: 1, 100, 10, 70, 100,
```

- Associative Containers: In C++, associative containers allow us to store elements in sorted order. The order doesn't depend upon when the element is inserted. Internally, they are implemented as binary tree data structures. Types of associative Containers.
  - Set
  - Map
  - Multiset
  - Multimap

```
#include <iostream>
         #include <set>
         using namespace std;
         int main() {
           // initialize a set of int type
           set < int > numbers = {1, 100, 10, 70, 100};
9
10
           // print the set
11
           cout << "Numbers are: ";</pre>
12
          for(auto &num: numbers) {
             cout << num << ", ";
13
14
15
          return 0;
        }
17
         // Output:
18
         Numbers are: 1, 10, 70, 100,
19
```

- Unordered Associative Containers: In C++, STL Unordered Associative Containers provide the unsorted versions of the associative container. Internally, unordered associative containers are implemented as hash table data structures. Types of Unordered Associated Containers
  - Unordered Set
  - Unordered Map
  - Unordered Multiset
  - Unordered Multimap

```
#include <iostream>
#include <unordered_set>
3 using namespace std;
5 int main() {
    // initialize an unordered_set of int type
    unordered_set < int > numbers = {1, 100, 10, 70, 100};
    // print the set
10
   cout << "Numbers are: ";</pre>
11
   for(auto &num: numbers) {
12
      cout << num << ", ";
13
14
15
    return 0;
16
17 }
18 // Output
19 Numbers are: 70, 10, 100, 1,
```

#### 3.3.2 Iterators

Iterators are one of the four pillars of the Standard Template Library or STL in C++. An iterator is used to point to the memory address of the STL container classes. For better understanding, you can

relate them with a pointer, to some extent. Iterators act as a bridge that connects algorithms to STL containers and allows the modifications of the data present inside the container. They allow you to iterate over the container, access and assign the values, and run different operators over them, to get the desired result.

#### **Applications of Iterators:**

- 1. The primary objective of an iterator is to access the STL container elements and perform certain operations on them.
- 2. The internal structure of a container does not matter, since the iterators provide common usage for all of them.
- 3. Iterator algorithms are not dependent on the container type.
- 4. An iterator can be used to iterate over the container elements. It can also provide access to those elements to modify their values.
- 5. Iterators follow a generic approach for STL container classes. This way, the programmers dont need to learn about different iterators for different containers.

#### **Example to Demonstrate use of Iterators**

```
#include < iostream >
  #include < iterator > // for iterators
  #include < vector > // for vectors
  using namespace std;
  int main()
6
    vector<int> ar = { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 };
    // Declaring iterator to a vector
9
10
    vector < int >::iterator ptr;
    // Displaying vector elements using begin() and end()
12
    cout << "The vector elements are : ";</pre>
13
    for (ptr = ar.begin(); ptr < ar.end(); ptr++)</pre>
14
      cout << *ptr << " ";
15
16
    return 0;
17
18 }
19 //Output
20 The vector elements are : 1 2 3 4 5
```

#### 3.3.3 Algorithms

STL provide different types of algorithms that can be implemented upon any of the container with the help of iterators. Thus now we don't have to define complex algorithm instead we just use the built in functions provided by the algorithm library in STL.

Algorithm functions provided by algorithm library works on the iterators, not on the containers. Thus one algorithm function can be used on any type of container. Use of algorithms from STL saves time, effort, code and are very reliable.

There are many types of algorithms already implemented reliably in the STL. Here we will use a simple Non Modifying Algorithm as an example.

```
#include <iostream>
#include <algorithm>
using namespace std;
int main ()

{
   int values[] = {5,1,6,9,10,1,12,5,5,5,1,8,9,7,46};
   int count_5 = count(values, values+15, 5);
   cout<<"The number of times '5' appears in array= "<<count_5;
   return 0;
}

// Output
The number of times 5 appears in an array= 4</pre>
```

#### 4 Platform

Operating System: Arch Linux x86-64

IDEs or Text Editors Used: Visual Studio Code

Compilers: g++ and gcc on linux for C++

# 5 Input

#### For C++

- 1. Basic menu to add new elements, or purchase an item.
- 2. The Details of the item to add.
- 3. The quantity and code of the product that you wanna purchase.

# 6 Output

#### For C++

- 1. A list of all the elements in the Database.
- 2. Their codes and Quantities
- 3. Appropriate messages after each action is performed.

#### 7 Code

## 7.1 C++ Implementation of Problem A

```
1 // Shop has item code, item name, quantity, and the cost.
2 // Input would be some item name, where we would first add things to the shop inventory
3 // Another option would be to check for the item in the database which is a list.
4 // If the item is found in the shop then you are supposed to ask them the number of items.
5 // if its available then you sell it, or else you tell them that that may items arent in stock.
```

```
7 #include <iostream>
8 #include <list>
9 #include <iomanip>
10 using namespace std;
12 // struct so we can put it in a single linked list.
13 struct Items
14 {
      int item_code;
16
      string item_name;
17
      int item_quantity;
18
      int item_cost;
      Items(int a, string b, int q, int c) : item_code(a), item_name(b),
19
      item_quantity(q), item_cost(c)
      }
21
22 } currentItem(0, "", 0, 0), itemToAdd(0, "", 0, 0);
24 // linked list items so we can put objects of structures in it easily.
25 list < Items > items = {
      Items(101, "Burger", 10, 200),
      Items(102, "Fries", 10, 129),
27
      Items(103, "Ice Cream", 10, 40),
      Items (104, "Coke", 10, 50),
29
30 };
31
32 bool itemFound = false;
33 // returns true or false depending on whether the item was found
34 bool searchItem(int itemCode)
      int i = 0;
36
      for (list<Items>::iterator it = items.begin(); it != items.end(); it++, i++)
37
           struct Items temp = *it;
           if (temp.item_code == itemCode)
41
               currentItem = temp;
42
               return true;
43
           }
44
      }
45
46
      return false;
47 }
49 // inserts items in the list
50 void insertItems()
51 {
      cout << "Enter the details of the Item that you wanna enter to the database"</pre>
52
      << endl;
53 i:
      cout << "Enter the Code of the new Item: ";</pre>
      cin >> itemToAdd.item_code;
55
      if (searchItem(itemToAdd.item_code))
56
      {
57
           cout << "Item already exists, try another code!" << endl;</pre>
58
60
      cout << "Enter the Name of the new Item: ";</pre>
61
    cin >> itemToAdd.item_name;
```

```
63
       cout << "Enter the Quantity of the new Item: ";</pre>
64
65
       cin >> itemToAdd.item_quantity;
66
       cout << "Enter the Cost of the new Item: ";</pre>
67
       cin >> itemToAdd.item_cost;
68
69
       items.push_back(itemToAdd);
       cout << "Item added successfully" << endl;</pre>
71
72 }
74 // just find the element at the element currentItemIndex, and replace it with the
      currentItem struct object.
75 void updateItems(int updatedItemcost, int updatedQuantity, int currentItemCode)
76 {
77
       for (list<Items>::iterator it = items.begin(); it != items.end(); it++)
78
           struct Items temp = *it;
79
           if (temp.item_code == currentItemCode)
80
81
                currentItem.item_quantity = updatedQuantity;
                currentItem.item_cost = updatedItemcost;
                items.erase(it);
                items.push_back(currentItem);
86
           }
       }
87
88 }
89
90 // just displays the items in a table nicely
  void displayItems()
92 {
       struct Items tempItem(0, "", 0, 0);
93
       cout << "The Items that you can buy are: " << endl;</pre>
94
95
       cout << setw(20) << "ITEM CODE" << setw(20) << "ITEM NAME" << setw(20) << "
      ITEM QUANTITY" << setw(20) << "ITEM COST" << endl;</pre>
97
       for (list<Items>::iterator it = items.begin(); it != items.end(); it++)
98
           tempItem = *it;
99
           cout << setw(20) << tempItem.item_code << setw(20) << tempItem.item_name</pre>
100
      << setw(20) << tempItem.item_quantity << setw(20) << tempItem.item_cost << endl
       }
101
102 }
103
_{104} // display the things, and check if the selected item code by the user exists in
      the thing by calling searchItem. Then input the item quantity, check for it,
      and update the currentItem object.
105 // then call the updateItem function.
  bool PurchaseItems()
107
       int selectedItemCode = -1;
108
       int selectedQuantity = 0;
109
110 C:
111
       try
112
           cout << "Please enter the code of the item that you wanna buy" << endl;</pre>
           cin >> selectedItemCode;
114
           if (!searchItem(selectedItemCode))
```

```
{
116
117
                 throw selectedItemCode;
            }
118
119
       1:
            cout << "Enter the Quantity of the Item that you wanna buy."</pre>
120
                  << endl;
            cout << "Max quantity is: " << currentItem.item_quantity << endl;</pre>
122
123
            cin >> selectedQuantity;
124
            try
125
            {
126
                if (selectedQuantity > currentItem.item_quantity || selectedQuantity
       <= 0)
                {
127
                     throw selectedQuantity;
128
                }
129
                else
131
                     cout << "That will be: " << currentItem.item_cost *</pre>
132
       selectedQuantity << " Rupees" << endl;</pre>
                     cout << "Thank you for Purchasing!" << endl;</pre>
133
                     updateItems(currentItem.item_cost, currentItem.item_quantity -
134
       selectedQuantity, selectedItemCode);
136
            }
            catch (int something)
138
                 cout << "Quantity you entered is not sensible! Try again!" << endl;</pre>
139
140
                 goto 1;
            }
141
            return true;
142
       }
143
       catch (int something)
144
145
            cout << "The code of the item that you entered doesnt exist. Try again. "</pre>
146
       << endl;
            goto c;
147
148
       return true;
149
150 }
151
152 // function to change the price of the item.
bool changePrice()
154 {
       int selectedItemCode = -1;
155
       int updatedCost = 0;
156
157 C:
       try
158
159
            cout << "Please enter the code of the item that you wanna Change the Price
        of" << endl;
            cin >> selectedItemCode;
161
            if (!searchItem(selectedItemCode))
162
163
            {
                 throw selectedItemCode;
164
            }
165
       1:
166
            cout << "Enter the Updated Price of the Item."</pre>
167
                  << endl;
168
            cout << "Current Price is: " << currentItem.item_cost << endl;</pre>
169
```

```
cin >> updatedCost;
170
171
            try
172
            {
173
                 if (updatedCost <= 0)</pre>
                 {
174
                      throw updatedCost;
175
                 }
176
177
                 else
178
179
                      cout << "Done!" << endl;</pre>
180
                     updateItems(updatedCost, currentItem.item_quantity,
       selectedItemCode);
181
                 }
            }
182
            catch (int something)
183
                 cout << "Cost you entered is not sensible! Try again!" << endl;</pre>
185
                 goto 1;
186
            }
187
            return true;
188
       }
189
190
       catch (int something)
192
            cout << "The code of the item that you entered doesnt exist. Try again. "
       << endl;
193
            goto c;
194
195
       return true;
196 }
  // function to change the quantity of the item.
  bool changeQuantity()
199
  {
200
       int selectedItemCode = -1;
201
       int updatedQuantity = 0;
202
203
   c:
204
       try
       {
205
            cout << "Please enter the code of the item that you wanna update" << endl;</pre>
206
            cin >> selectedItemCode;
207
            if (!searchItem(selectedItemCode))
208
209
                 throw selectedItemCode;
210
            }
211
       1:
212
            cout << "Enter the updated Quantity"</pre>
213
                  << endl;
214
            cout << "Current quantity is: " << currentItem.item_quantity << endl;</pre>
215
            cin >> updatedQuantity;
217
            try
218
                 if (updatedQuantity <= 0)</pre>
219
                 {
220
                      throw updatedQuantity;
221
                 }
222
                 else
223
                 {
224
                      cout << "Done!" << endl;</pre>
225
                     updateItems(currentItem.item_cost, updatedQuantity,
226
```

```
selectedItemCode);
227
                 }
            }
229
            catch (int something)
            {
230
                 cout << "Quantity you entered is not sensible! Try again!" << endl;</pre>
231
                 goto 1;
232
            }
233
234
            return true;
       }
236
       catch (int something)
237
            cout << "The code of the item that you entered doesnt exist. Try again. "</pre>
238
       << endl;
239
            goto c;
       }
240
       return true;
241
242 }
243
244 int main()
245 {
        int choice = 0;
246
247
        struct Items;
248
        cout << "Welcome to McRonalds" << endl;</pre>
249
       do
250
       {
251
            cout << endl
252
                  << "What do you wanna do?\n\
253
            1. Add new Items\n\
254
            2. Purchase Item\n\
            3. Change Price of Item\n\
256
            4. Change Quantity of Item\n\
257
            5. View Items\n\
258
            6. Quit\n"
259
                  << endl;
261
            cin >> choice;
            switch (choice)
262
263
            case 1:
264
                 insertItems();
265
266
                 break;
            case 2:
267
                 displayItems();
268
                 PurchaseItems();
269
                 break;
270
            case 3:
271
                 displayItems();
                 changePrice();
                 break;
             case 4:
275
                 displayItems();
276
                 changeQuantity();
277
                 break;
278
279
            case 5:
                 displayItems();
                 break;
281
            case 6:
282
                 cout << "Thanks for Visiting our store!" << endl;</pre>
283
```

Listing 1: Main.Cpp

#### 7.1.1 C++ Input and Output

```
1 Welcome to McRonalds
3 What do you wanna do?
          1. Add new Items
          2. Purchase Item
          3. Change Price of Item
6
          4. Change Quantity of Item
          5. View Items
          6. Quit
11 5
12 The Items that you can buy are:
                                                   ITEM QUANTITY
             ITEM CODE
                                   ITEM NAME
                                                                             ITEM COST
13
                                                                                    200
14
                    101
                                     Burger
                                                               10
                                                                10
                                                                                    129
                    102
                                      Fries
                    103
                                   Ice Cream
                                                                10
                                                                                     40
                    104
                                        Coke
                                                                10
                                                                                     50
17
18
19 What do you wanna do?
          1. Add new Items
20
          2. Purchase Item
21
          3. Change Price of Item
          4. Change Quantity of Item
24
          5. View Items
          6. Quit
25
26
27 1
28 Enter the details of the Item that you wanna enter to the database
29 Enter the Code of the new Item: 101
30 Item already exists, try another code!
31 Enter the Code of the new Item: 108
32 Enter the Name of the new Item: oreo
33 Enter the Quantity of the new Item: 50
34 Enter the Cost of the new Item: 40
35 Item added successfully
37 What do you wanna do?
38
          1. Add new Items
          2. Purchase Item
39
          3. Change Price of Item
40
          4. Change Quantity of Item
41
          5. View Items
          6. Quit
43
44
45 5
```

```
46 The Items that you can buy are:
             ITEM CODE
                                                     ITEM QUANTITY
                                                                              ITEM COST
                                   ITEM NAME
47
                    101
                                                                                     200
                                      Burger
                                                                10
                    102
                                       Fries
                                                                10
                                                                                     129
                    103
                                   Ice Cream
                                                                10
                                                                                      40
50
                    104
                                                                10
                                                                                      50
                                        Coke
51
                    108
                                                                50
                                                                                      40
                                         oreo
52
53
54 What do you wanna do?
          1. Add new Items
           2. Purchase Item
           3. Change Price of Item
57
           4. Change Quantity of Item
58
           5. View Items
59
           6. Quit
60
61
63 The Items that you can buy are:
             ITEM CODE
                                   ITEM NAME
                                                    ITEM QUANTITY
                                                                              ITEM COST
64
                    101
                                                                10
                                                                                     200
                                      Burger
65
                    102
                                                                 10
                                                                                     129
                                       Fries
66
                    103
                                   Ice Cream
                                                                 10
                                                                                      40
67
                    104
                                         Coke
                                                                 10
                                                                                      50
                     108
                                         oreo
                                                                 50
                                                                                      40
70 Please enter the code of the item that you wanna buy
72 Enter the Quantity of the Item that you wanna buy.
73 Max quantity is: 50
74 55
75 Quantity you entered is not sensible! Try again!
76 Enter the Quantity of the Item that you wanna buy.
77 Max quantity is: 50
78 4
79 That will be: 160 Rupees
80 Thank you for Purchasing!
82 What do you wanna do?
          1. Add new Items
83
           2. Purchase Item
84
           3. Change Price of Item
85
           4. Change Quantity of Item
86
           5. View Items
87
           6. Quit
89
90 3
91 The Items that you can buy are:
              ITEM CODE
                                   ITEM NAME
                                                    ITEM QUANTITY
                                                                               ITEM COST
                    101
                                       Burger
                                                                                     200
93
                                                                 10
                    102
                                        Fries
                                                                 10
                                                                                     129
                    103
                                   Ice Cream
                                                                 10
                                                                                      40
                    104
                                         Coke
                                                                 10
                                                                                      50
                    108
                                         oreo
                                                                                      40
98 Please enter the code of the item that you wanna Change the Price of
100 Enter the Updated Price of the Item.
101 Current Price is: 50
102 45
103 Done!
104
```

```
105 What do you wanna do?
           1. Add new Items
106
            2. Purchase Item
108
            3. Change Price of Item
            4. Change Quantity of Item
109
            5. View Items
110
            6. Quit
  The Items that you can buy are:
115
               ITEM CODE
                                      ITEM NAME
                                                        ITEM QUANTITY
                                                                                   ITEM COST
116
                      101
                                         Burger
                                                                     10
                                                                                          200
                      102
                                                                     10
                                                                                          129
117
                                          Fries
                      103
                                      Ice Cream
                                                                     10
                                                                                           40
118
                      108
                                                                     46
                                                                                           40
119
                                           oreo
                      104
                                           Coke
                                                                     10
                                                                                           45
121 Please enter the code of the item that you wanna update
123 Enter the updated Quantity
124 Current quantity is: 46
125 50
126 Done!
  What do you wanna do?
           1. Add new Items
129
            2. Purchase Item
130
           3. Change Price of Item
131
           4. Change Quantity of Item
132
           5. View Items
           6. Quit
134
135
136 5
137 The Items that you can buy are:
               ITEM CODE
                                      ITEM NAME
                                                        ITEM QUANTITY
                                                                                   ITEM COST
138
                      101
                                                                                          200
139
                                         Burger
                                                                     10
                      102
                                          Fries
                                                                     10
                                                                                          129
141
                      103
                                      Ice Cream
                                                                     10
                                                                                           40
                      104
                                                                     10
                                                                                           45
142
                                           Coke
                      108
                                           oreo
                                                                     50
                                                                                           40
143
144
145 What do you wanna do?
           1. Add new Items
146
           2. Purchase Item
147
           3. Change Price of Item
148
            4. Change Quantity of Item
149
           5. View Items
150
            6. Quit
151
152
154 Thanks for Visiting our store!
```

Listing 2: Output for Problem 1

#### 8 Conclusion

Thus, the purpose of the STL libraries in C++ was understood, and implemented successfully. Containers like lists and iterators for them were also used and understood.

## 9 FAQs

# 1. What are class templates? How are they created? What is the need for class templates?

Templates are powerful features of C++ which allows us to write generic programs. There are two ways we can implement templates:

- Function Templates
- Class Templates

Similar to function templates, we can use class templates to create a single class to work with different data types. There are few, but important reasons to use class templates:

- Class templates come in handy as they can make our code shorter and more manageable.
- If you have various functions that you wanna implement on a set of data, but you arent sure which data type will be given as input, then you can use class templates.
- Example: If you creating a calculator, a class template to include basic functions like addition, subtraction etc would be perfect as you can get an integer or a floating point value as your input for your calculator.
- 2. Create a template for bubble sort functions.

```
template <class T>
   T bubbleSort(T arr[], int n)

{
   int i, j;
   for (i = 0; i < n - 1; i++)
      for (j = 0; j < n - i - 1; j++)
      if (arr[j] > arr[j + 1])
        swap(arr[j], arr[j + 1]);
}
```

3. Explain with example, how Function Templates are implemented?

```
#include <iostream>
2 using namespace std;
3 template < class T > T add(T &a,T &b)
4 {
    T result = a+b;
5
    return result;
6
7 }
8 int main()
9 {
   int i =2;
10
11
   int j =3;
   float m = 2.3;
  float n = 1.2;
13
   cout << "Addition of i and j is : " << add(i, j);</pre>
14
   cout << '\n';
15
    cout << "Addition of m and n is : " << add(m,n);</pre>
16
return 0;
```

```
18 }
19
```

4. Explain with example how can a class template be created.

```
1 // Class template
2 template <class T>
3 class Number {
    private:
    // Variable of type Tf
    T num;
    public:
8
    Number(T n) : num(n) {}
                                // constructor
9
10
    T getNum() {
11
       return num;
12
    }
13
14 };
15
  int main() {
16
17
    // create object with int type
18
    Number < int > numberInt(7);
19
20
    // create object with double type
21
    Number < double > numberDouble(7.7);
22
23
    cout << "int Number = " << numberInt.getNum() << endl;</pre>
24
    cout << "double Number = " << numberDouble.getNum() << endl;</pre>
25
26
    return 0;
27
28 }
29 // Output
  int Number = 7
  double Number = 7.7
```

#### 5. Explain Generic functions and Generic class.

- Generic functions use the concept of a function template. Generic functions define a set of operations that can be applied to the various types of data.
- The type of the data that the function will operate on depends on the type of the data passed as a parameter.
- For example, Quick sorting algorithm is implemented using a generic function, it can be implemented to an array of integers or array of floats.
- A Generic function is created by using the keyword template. The template defines what function will do.
- Just like a class is a collection of a bunch of functions, that can be inherited and instantiated at once, generic functions are similar in that manner, except in a generic class, you could use a generic data type, and this would be applicable and useful for implementing each function in the Class. So each function in the class can be called and can manipulate variables of the genereic data type for which the class is defined.