C++ basics cheat sheet

Michele Iarossi*

October 11, 2021 - Version 1.01 - GNU GPL v3.0

Type casting

```
// int 15 to double 15.0
double num;
num = static_cast<double>(15);
```

Functions

Function declaration with default trailing arguments

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

// if year is omitted,
// then year = 2000
void setBirthday(int day,
int month, int year=2000);
```

Random numbers

```
#include <cstdlib>
#include <ctime>
using namespace std;

// seed the generator
srand( time(0) );
// integer random number between
// 0 and RAND_MAX
int n = rand();
```

Pointers

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

// simple pointer to double
double *d = new double(5.123);

// dynamic array of 10 doubles
double *dd = new double[10];

// delete the storage
// on the freestore
delete d;
delete [] dd;
```

Arrays

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

// range based for statement
int arr[] = {2, 4, 6, 8};

for (int& x : arr)
  x++;
// outputs 3579
for (auto x : arr)
  cout << x;
cout << endl;
```

C-Strings

```
#include <cstring>
#include <cstdlib>

// C-string for max 10 characters
// long string + null char '\0'
const int SIZE = 10 + 1;
char msg[SIZE] = "Hello!";

// correct looping over C-strings
int i = 0;
while ( msg[i] != '\0' && i < SIZE)
{
   // process msg[i]
}

// safe string copy,
// at most 10 characters are copied
strncpy(msg, srcStr, 10);

// safe string compare,
// at most 10 characters
// are compared
strncmp(msg, srcStr, 10);

// safe string concatenation,
// at most 10 characters
// are concatenated
strncat(msg, srcStr, 10);

// from C-string to int,
// long, float
int n = atoi("567");
long n = atol("1234567");
double n = atof("12.345");
```

Standard I/O

```
#include <iostream>
#include <iomanip>
using namespace std;

// set flag
cout.setf(ios::fixed);
// unset flag
cout.unsetf(ios::fixed);

// set ios::fixed or
// ios::scientific notation
cout.setf(ios::fixed);
cout << fixed;

// set precision
cout.precision(4);
cout << setprecision(4);

// set character text width
cout.width(10);
cout << setw(10);

// set ios::left or
// ios::right alignment
cout.setf(ios::left);
cout << left;

// always show decimal
// point and zeros
cout.setf(ios::showpoint);
cout << showpoint;

// always show plus sign
cout.setf(ios::showpos);
cout << showpos;
```

Character I/O

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

// read any character from cin
// (doesn't skip spaces,
// newlines, etc.)
char nextChar;
cin.get(nextChar);

// write a character to cout
cout.put(nextChar)

// read a whole line of 80 chars
char line[80+1];
cin.getline(line,81);

// put back a char to cin
// nextChar will be the next
// char read by cin.get()
cin.putback(nextChar);
```

Files

```
#include <fstream>
using namespace std;

// input file
ifstream inStream;
// output file
ofstream outStream;

// open
inStream.open("infile.dat");
outStream.open("outfile.dat");

// check for failure
if ( inStream.fail() ||
     outStream.fail() )
{
  // file opening failed
}

// read/write data
inStream >> data1 >> data2;
outStram << data1 << data2;

// checking for end of file
while ( ! inStream.eof() )
{
  inStream >> next;
}

// close file
inStream.close();
outStream.close()
```

Strings

```
#include <string>
using namespace std;

// initialization
string s1 = "Hello";
string s2("World");

// concatenation
string s3 = s1 + ", " + s2;

// read a line
string line;
getline(cin,line);

// access to the ith character
// (no illegal index checking)
s1[i];
```

*michele@mathsophy.com

```
// access to the ith character
// (with illegal index checking)
s1.at(i);

// append
s1.append(s2);

// size and length
s1.size();
s1.length();

// substring from position 5
// and length 4 characters
s4.substr(5,4);

// find (returns string::npos
// if not found)
s3.find("World");

// find starting from position 5
s3.find("l",5);

// C-string
s3.c_str();

// from string to int,
// long, float
int n = stoi("456");
long n = stol("1234567");
double n = stod("12.345");

// from numeric type to string
string s = to_string(123.456);
```

Vectors

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
using namespace std;

// vector with base type int
vector<int> v = {2, 4, 6, 8};

// vector with 10 elements
// all initialised to 0
vector<int> v(10);

for (auto x : v)
  cout << v << endl;

// access to ith element
cout << v[i];

// add an element
v.push_back(10);

// size
cout << v.size();

// capacity: number of
// elements currently allocated
cout << v.capacity();

// reserve more capacity
// e.g. at least 64 ints
v.reserve(64);
```

Classes

Note: If you give no constructor, the compiler will generate a default constructor that does nothing. If you give at least one constructor, then the C++ compiler will generate no other constructors.

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

class Car
{
public:
    // constructor
    Car(double);
    // mutators
    void setEngineSize(const
         double&);
    // accessors
    double getEngineSize() const;
    // friend function
    friend bool equal(const Car&,
                const Car&);
private:
    double engineLiter;
};

// constructor
// with initialization list
Car::Car(double engineSize) :
engineLiter(engineSize)
{
}

// parameter passed by
// reference for efficiency
void Car::setEngineSize(const
                double &size)
{
    engineLiter = size;
}

// constant member function
// doesn't change the object
double Car::getEngineSize() const
{
    return engineLiter;
}

// friend function with
// direct access to
// private members
bool equal(const Car &car1,
        const Car &car2)
{
    return car1.engineLiter ==
         car2.engineLiter;
}
```

Operator overloading

Note: the behaviour is different if overloaded as class members or friend functions.

As class members:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

class Euro
{
    // constructor for  euro
    Euro(int);
    // constructor for  euro and
    // cents
    Euro(int,int);
    // works for Euro(5) + 2,
    // equivalent to
    // Euro(5).operator+( Euro(2) )
    // doesn't work for 2 + Euro(5)
    // 2 is not a calling object
    // of type Euro !
    Euro operator+(const Euro&);
    friend Euro
        operator+(const Euro&,
                const Euro&);
private:
    int euro;
    int cents;
};
```

As friend members:

```
class Euro
{
    // constructor for  euro
    Euro(int);
    // constructor for euro and
    // cents
    Euro(int,int);
    // works for every combination
    // int arguments are converted
    // by the constructor to Euro
    // objects
    friend Euro
        operator+(const Euro&,
             const Euro&);
    // insertion and extraction
    // operators
    friend ostream&
        operator<<(ostream&,
            const Euro&);
    friend istream&
        operator>>(istream&, Euro&);
private:
    int euro;
    int cents;
};
```

Copy constructor / Assignment operator

Note: If not defined, C++ automatically adds the default copy constructor and the default assignment operator. They might not be correct if dynamic variables are used, because class members are simply copied.

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

class IntList
{
    // constructor with
    // size of the list
    IntList(int);
    // copy constructor
    IntList(IntList&);
    // assignment operator
    IntList& operator=(const IntList&);
private:
    int *p;
    int size;
}

// call the copy constructor
// secondList is initialised
// from firstList
IntList secondList(firstList);

// call the assignment operator
thirdList = firstList;
```

Inheritance

Note: Constructors, desctructor, private member functions, copy constructor and assignment operator are not inherited! Derived classes get the default ones if they are not explicitely provided but are present in the base class.

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

// a simple book class
class Book
{
public:
    Book(string t,int p);
    void print(ostream& os);
protected:
    int pages;
    string title;
};
```

Redefinition of function members:

```
// a simple textbook class
class Textbook : public Book
{
public:
    Textbook(string t,int p,
          string s);
    // redefinition of print()
    // from the base class
    void print(ostream& os);
protected:
    string subject;
};
```

protecetd members can be accessed by derived function members:

```
// has access to protected
// members of he base class
void Textbook::print(ostream& os)
{
    os << "The title of this "
         << "textbook is '" <<
        title << "' and the"
        << " textbook is " <<
        pages << " pages long."
        << endl;
```

```
    os << "The subject is '"
       << subject
       << "'" << endl;
}
```

Note: With redefinition, no polymorphism!

```
Book *abook = &aMathTextbook;
// call Book::print()
// not Textbook::print()!
abook->print(cout);
```

Polymorphism

virtual allows for late binding, i.e. polymorphism. Function members are overridden in the derived class. Note: Destructors should also be declared **virtual**. When derived objects are referenced by base class pointers, the destructor of the derived class is called if it is declared virtual.

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

// a simple book class
class Book
{
public:
    Book(string t,int p);
    virtual ~Book();
    void print(ostream& os);
protected:
    int *pages;
    string *title;
};

Book::Book(string t, int p)
{
    pages = new int(p);
    title = new string(t);
}

Book::~Book()
{
    delete pages;
    delete title;
}

// a simple textbook class
class Textbook : public Book
{
public:
    Textbook(string t,int p,
          string s);
    virtual ~Textbook();
    // overriding of print()
    // from the base class
    virtual void print(ostream& os);
protected:
    string *subject;
};

Textbook::Textbook(string t,
     int p, string s) :
Book(t,p)
{
    subject = new string(s);
}

Textbook::~Textbook()
{
    delete subject;
}

Book *abook = &aMathTextbook;
// call Textbook::print()!
abook->print(cout);
```

Exceptions

Note: The value thrown by **throw** can be of any type.

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

// exception class
class MyException
{
public:
    MyException(string s);
    virtual ~MyException();
    friend ostream&
        operator<<(ostream&,
            const MyException& e);
protected:
    string msg;
};

try
{
    throw MyException("error");
}
catch (MyException e)
{
    cout << e;
}
// everything else
catch (...)
{
    exit(1);
}
```

Functions throwing exceptions should list the exceptions thrown in the exception specification list. These exceptions are not caught by the function itself!

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

// exceptions of type DivideByZero or
// OtherException are
// to be caught outside the function.
// All other exceptions end the program
// if not caught inside the function.
void myFunction( ) throw (DivideByZero,
            OtherException);

// empty exception list;
// all exceptions end the
// program if thrown but
// not caught inside the function.
void myFunction( ) throw ( );

// all exceptions of all
// types treated normally.
void myFunction( );
```

Templates

Function templates:

Note: C++ does not need the template declaration. The template function definition is included directly.

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

// generic swap function
template<class T>
void swap(T& a, T& b)
{
    T temp = a;
    a = b;
    b = temp;
}

int a, b;
char c,d;

// swaps two ints
swap(a,b);

// swaps two chars
swap(c,d);
```

Class templates:

Note: Methods are defined as template functions

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

template<class T>
class AList
{
    // constructor with
    // size of the list
    AList(int size);
    // destructor
    ~AList();
    // copy constructor
    AList(AList<T>& b);
    // assignment operator
    AList<T>& operator=(const
        AList<T>& b);
private:
    T *p;
    int size;
}

// constructor definition
template<class T>
AList<T>::AList(int size)
{
    p = new T[size];
}

// variable declaration
AList<double> list;
```

Iterators

An iterator is a generalization of a pointer. Different containers have different iterators.

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
using namespace std;

vector<int> v = {1,2,3,4,5};
// mutable iterator
vector<int>::iterator e;

// bidirectional access
e = v.begin();
++e;
// print v[1]
cout << *e << endl;
--e;
// print v[0]
cout << *e << endl;

// random access
e = v.begin();
// print v[3]
cout << e[3] << endl;

// change an element
e[3] = 9;

// constant iterator (only read)
vector<int>::constant_iterator c;

// print out the vector content
// (read only)
for (c = v.begin(); c != v.end(); c++)
    cout << *c << endl;

// not allowed
// c[2] = 2;

// reverse iterator
vector<int>::reverse_iterator r;

// print out the vector content
// in reverse order
for (r = v.rbegin(); r != v.rend(); r++)
    cout << *r << endl;
```

Containers

Sequential containers: **list**

```
#include <iostream>
#include <list>
using namespace std;

list<double> data = {1.32,-2.45,5.65};

// adds elements
data.push_back(9.23);
data.push_front(-3.94);

// bidirectional iterator
// no random access
list<double>::iterator e;

// erase
e = data.begin();
```

```
++e;
data.erase(e);

// print out the content
for (e = data.begin();
     e != data.end(); e++)
     cout << *e << endl;
```

Adapter containers: **stack**

```
#include <iostream>
#include <stack>
using namespace std;

stack<double> numbers;

// push on the stack
numbers.push(5.65);
numbers.push(-3.95);
numbers.push(6.95);

// size
cout << numbers.size()

// read top data element
double d = numbers.top();

// pop top element
numbers.pop();
```

Associative containers: **set**

```
#include <iostream>
#include <set>
using namespace std;

set<char> letters;

// inserting elements
letters.insert('a');
letters.insert('d');
// no duplicates!
letters.insert('d');
letters.insert('g');

// erase
letters.erase('a');

// const iterator
set<char>::const_iterator c;
for (c = letters.begin();
     c != letters.end(); c++)
     cout << *c << endl;
```

Associative containers: **map**

```
#include <iostream>
#include <string>
#include <map>
#include <utility>
using namespace std;

// initialization
map<string,int> dict =
    { {"one",1}, {"two",2} };
pair<string,int> three("three",3);

// insertion
dict.insert(three);
dict["four"] = 4;
dict["five"] = 5;

// iterator
map<string,int>::iterator two;

// find
two = dict.find("two");

// erase
dict.erase(two);

// ranged loop
for (auto n : dict)
    cout << "(" <<  n.first
            << "," <<  n.second
            << ")" << endl;
```

Algorithms

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
#include <algorithm>

using namespace std;

vector<int> v = {6,2,7,13,4,3,1};
vector<int>::iterator p;
bool found;

// find
p = find(v.begin(),v.end(),13);

// merge sort
sort(v.begin(),v.end());

// binary search
found = binary_search(v.begin(),
    v.end(),3);

// reverse
reverse(v.begin(),v.end());
```