



Unit 7 (Ch 15)

Inheritance & Polymorphism

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- 7.1 Inheritance Basics
- 7.2 More about Inheritance
- 7.3 Polymorphism





Why Inheritance?

- In OOP, a class is used to represent a concept
 - Polygon, rectangle, ellipse, circle, shape, ...
- Concepts don't exist in isolation; they are related
 - Rectangle is a special kind of polygon
 - Circle is a special kind of ellipse
 - They are all shapes
- The same concepts can be inherited from parents
 - → no need to re-write them again
 - Reduce reuse efforts
- Inheritance is one of the key feature of OOP
 - Express such hierarchical relationships
 - Base class vs. derived class (e.g. polygon vs. rectangle)

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Inheritance Basics

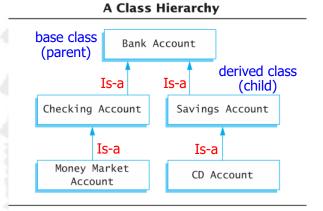
- Inheritance is the process by which a new class is created from another class
- If class D is inherited from class B
 - The more specific class (D) is a derived or child class
 - The more general class (B) is the base, super, or parent class
- A derived class automatically has all the member variables and functions of the base class
 - A derived class can add its own member variables and/or member functions
 - Cannot be accessed by its parent class





Inheritance Example

- Natural hierarchy of bank accounts
- Most general: A Bank Account stores a balance
- A Checking Account "IS A" Bank Account that allows customers to write checks
- A Savings Account "IS A" **Bank Account without** checks but higher interest



Accounts are more specific as we go down the hierarchy

Each box can be a class





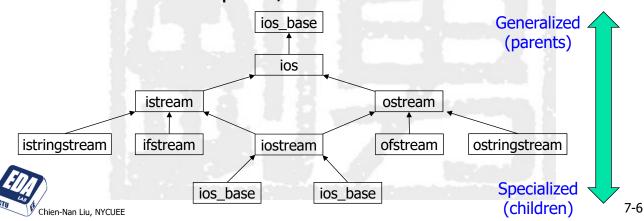
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Class Hierarchy

A derived class can be the base class of another derived class

```
class Employee { /* ... */ };
class Manager: public Employee { /* ... */ };
class Director: public Manager { /* ... */ };
```

Another example: I/O stream





Example: Employee Classes

- To design a record-keeping program with records for salaried and hourly employees...
 - Salaried and hourly employees are all employees
 → share some common property in "employee" class
- All employees have a name and SSN
 - Functions to manipulate name and SSN are the same for hourly and salaried employees → inheritance
- Different-type employees have different pays
 - Salaried employees is a subset of employees with a fixed wage
 - Hourly employees is another subset of employees who earn hourly wages

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A Base Class

- Define a class (Employee) for all employees
 - The base class
- The Employee class will be used to define hourly and salaried employees
 - Two derived classes:
 - -- HourlyEmployee
 - -- SalariedEmployee

```
class Employee
public:
   Employee();
   Employee(string theName, string theSSN);
   string getName() const;
   string getSSN() const;
   double getNetPay() const;
   void setName(string newName);
   void setSSN(string newSSN);
   void setNetPay(double newNetPay);
   void printcheck() const;
 private:
   string name;
   string ssn;
   double netPay;
};
```





Code for Employee Class (1/2)

```
#ifndef EMPLOYEE_H
#define EMPLOYEE_H

#include <string>
using namespace std;

namespace employeessavitch
{
   class Employee
      { /* see previous page */ };
} //employeessavitch

#endif //EMPLOYEE_H
```

Employee.h

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Code for Employee Class (2/2)

```
string Employee::getName() const
{
    return name;
}
string Employee::getSSN() const
{
    return ssn;
}
double Employee::getNetPay() const
{
    return netPay;
}
void Employee::setName(string newName)
{
    name = newName;
}
```

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Class HourlyEmployee

- HourlyEmployee is derived from Class Employee
 - Inherits all member functions and member variables of Employee
- class HourlyEmployee : public Employee
 - :public Employee shows that it is derived from class Employee
 - Declares additional member variables wageRate & hours

```
class HourlyEmployee: public Employee
 public:
   HourlyEmployee();
   HourlyEmployee(string theName,
                   string theSSN,
                   double the Wage Rate,
                   double theHours);
   void setRate(double newWageRate);
   double getRate() const;
   void setHours(double hoursWorked);
   double getHours() const;
   void printCheck();
 private:
   double wageRate;
   double hours;
};
```



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Public Inheritance

- Public inheritance models "is-a" relationship
 - A derived class inherits all the members of the parent class
 - The derived class does not re-declare or re-define members inherited from the parent
 - Redefines member functions will induce a different definition in the derived class
- The derived class can add member variables and functions
 - The added member functions should be defined in the implementation file for the derived class

string name; string SSN; double netPay;

.....

double wageRate; double hours;

.

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Code for HourlyEmployee (1/2)

```
#include <string>
#include <iostream>
#include "hourlyemployee.h"
using namespace std;
namespace employeessavitch
  HourlyEmployee::HourlyEmployee():
        Employee(), wageRate(0), hours(0)
     //deliberately empty
  HourlyEmployee::HourlyEmployee(string
        theName, string theNumber, double
        theWageRate, double theHours):
        Employee(theName, theNumber),
         wageRate(theWageRate),
        hours(theHours)
     //deliberately empty
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```

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Code for HourlyEmployee (2/2)

} //employeessavitch





Class SalariedEmployee

- SalariedEmployee is also derived from Employee
- Function *printCheck* is redefined here
 - Have a specific meaning to salaried employees
- SalariedEmployee adds a member variable *salary*
 - Fixed weekly wage

```
class SalariedEmployee: public Employee
public:
  SalariedEmployee();
  SalariedEmployee (string theName, string
           theSSN, double theWeeklySalary);
  double getSalary() const;
  void setSalary(double newSalary);
  void printCheck( );
private:
  double salary; //weekly
};
```



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Code for SalariedEmployee (1/2)

#include "salariedemployee.h"

```
#ifndef SALARIEDEMPLOYEE_H
#define SALARIEDEMPLOYEE H
#include <iostream>
#include <string>
#include "employee.h"
using namespace std;
namespace employeessavitch
  class SalariedEmployee: public Employee
  { /* see previous page */ };
} //employeessavitch
#endif //SALARIEDEMPLOYEE_H
       salariedemployee.h
```

```
using namespace std;
namespace employeessavitch
  SalariedEmployee::SalariedEmployee():
                     Employee(), salary(0)
  { /*deliberately empty*/ }
  SalariedEmployee::SalariedEmployee(string
         theName, string theNumber, double
         theWeeklySalary): Employee(theName,
         theNumber), salary(theWeeklySalary)
  { /*deliberately empty*/ }
  double SalariedEmployee::getSalary() const
     return salary;
  }
```

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Code for SalariedEmployee (2/2)

```
void SalariedEmployee::setSalary(double newSalary)
        salary = newSalary;
     void SalariedEmployee::printCheck( ) // different to the base class
        setNetPay(salary);
        cout << "\n
                                                                                \n";
        cout << "Pay to the order of " << getName( ) << endl;
        cout << "The sum of " << getNetPay( ) << " Dollars\n";
                                                                             \n";
        cout << "
        cout << "Check Stub NOT NEGOTIABLE \n";
        cout << "Employee Number: " << getSSN( ) << endl;
        cout << "Salaried Employee. Regular Pay: "
             << salary << endl;
                                                                             \n"
        cout << "
  } //employeessavitch
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```

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Test the Class Inheritance

}

```
#include <iostream>
#include "hourlyemployee.h"
#include "salariedemployee.h"
using std::cout;
using std::endl;
using namespace employeessavitch;
int main()
HourlyEmployee joe;
  joe.setName("Mighty Joe");
  joe.setSSN("123-45-6789");
  joe.setRate(20.50);
  joe.setHours(40);
  cout << "Check for " << joe.getName()
   << " for " << joe.getHours( ) << " hours.\n";
  joe.printCheck( );
  cout << endl;
```

```
SalariedEmployee boss("Mr. Big Shot", "987-
                               65-4321", 10500.50);
  cout << "Check for " << boss.getName( )</pre>
        << endl;
  boss.printCheck();
  return 0;
    Sample Dialogue
    Check for Mighty Joe for 40 hours.
    Pay to the order of Mighty Joe
    The sum of 820 Dollars
    Check Stub: NOT NEGOTIABLE
    Employee Number: 123-45-6789
    Hourly Employee.
    Hours worked: 40 Rate: 20.5 Pay: 820
    Check for Mr. Big Shot
    Pay to the order of Mr. Big Shot
    The sum of 10500.5 Dollars
    Check Stub NOT NEGOTIABLE
    Employee Number: 987-65-4321
    Salaried Employee. Regular Pay: 10500.5
```

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Constructors in Derived Class

- Although a child class inherits all the member of its parent class, the constructor is not inherited
 - The base class constructor can be invoked by the constructor of the derived class at initialization section
 - Besides the parent's constructor, you may also add extra initialization operations in child's constructor

You can specify any Employee constructor here



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Order of Constructors

- If a derived class does not invoke a base class constructor explicitly, use the default constructor
- Assume class B is derived from class A, and class C is derived from class B. When creating an object of class C:
 - The base class A's constructor is the first invoked
 - Class B's constructor is invoked next
 - C's constructor completes execution
- Class objects are destroyed in reverse order of construction
 - Destructors are not inherited, either ...

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Demo the Order of Constructors

```
class A {
        A() { cout << "ctor A" << endl; }
        ~A( ) { cout << "dtor A" << endl; }
     };
     class B {
        B() { cout << "ctor B" << endl; }
        ~B( ) { cout << "dtor B" << endl; }
     };
     class C: public B {
        Aa;
        C() { cout << "ctor C" << endl; }
                                                         Output:
        ~C( ) { cout << "dtor C" << endl; }
                                                                     parent
                                                          ctor B
     };
                                                                      local variable
                                                          ctor A
                                                                     object itself
                                                          ctor C
     int main() {
                                                          dtor C
        C c;
                                                                      reverse order
                                                          dtor A
        return 0;
                                                          dtor B
                                                                                  7-21
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```



Redefinition of Member Functions

- When defining a derived class, you only have to list the inherited functions that you wish to change
 - HourlyEmployee and SalariedEmployee each have their own definitions of printCheck
- The parent's class function can still be used, even though a new version is defined in a derived class
 - To specify that you want to use the base class version of the redefined function:

```
HourlyEmployee sallyH;
sallyH.printCheck(); // new version in child's class
sallyH.Employee::printCheck(); // original version of parent
```





Redefining or Overloading

- A redefined function in a derived class has the same number and type of parameters
 - The derived class has only one function with the same name as the base class
- An overloaded function has a different number and/or type of parameters than the base class
 - The derived class has two functions with the same name as the base class
 - One is defined in the base class, one in the derived class



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Overview

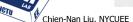
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Inheritance Details

- Some special functions are, for all practical purposes, not inherited by a derived class
 - Copy constructors
 - The assignment operator
 - Destructors
- If those special functions are not defined in derived classes, C++ will generate a default version
 - Often do nothing in the default version
 - The original functions in the base class are not used !!
- If there are pointers and dynamic variables in the base class, special handling is required ...
 - You should define your own versions in derived classes



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The Assignment (=) Operator

- In implementing an overloaded assignment operator in a derived class:
 - Use the assignment operator from the base class
 - It is written as a member function of the class
 - Assign the member variables introduced in the derived class

```
Ex: Derived& Derived::operator= (const Derived& rhs) {
    Base::operator=(rhs)
```

- This line handles the assignment of the inherited member variables by calling the base class assignment operator
- The remaining code handles the new members in the derived class

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The Copy Constructor

- Default copy constructor only copies the contents of member variables
 - Not working for pointers and dynamic variables
- Implementing the correct copy constructor in a derived class is similar to that for = operator:

- Invoking the copy constructor of its base class sets up the inherited member variables
 - Since object is of type Derived, it is also of type Base



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Destructors in Derived Classes

- If the base class has a destructor, defining the destructor for the derived class is relatively easy
 - When the destructor for a derived class is called, the destructor for the base class is automatically called



- The derived class destructor only need to delete the dynamic variables added in the derived class
- Assume class B is derived from class A, and class C is derived from class B. When an object of class C goes out of scope ...
 - The destructor of class C is called
 - Then the destructor of class B
 - Then the destructor of class A

destructors are called in the reverse order of constructor calls

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The Protected Qualifier

- The private member variable/function in the parent class is still not accessible to the child class
 - The parent class member functions must be used to access the private members of the parent

```
void HourlyEmployee::printCheck( )
{
    netPay = hours * wageRate;
```



- netPay is a private member of Employee!
- What if the member variables name, netPay, and ssn are listed as protected (not private) in the parent
 - Protected members appear to be private outside the class, but are accessible by derived classes
 - This illegal code becomes legal !!

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Access Control of Members

- The members of a class can be private, protected, or public
 - Apply to both data members and member functions
- Public members
 - Its name can be used by any functions
- Private members
 - Its name can be used only by member functions and friends of the class in which it declared
- Protected members
 - Its name can be used only by member functions and friends of the class in which it declared, and
 - by member functions and friends of classes derived from this class



Demo the Protected Members

```
class B {
  private:
    int b_priv;
  protected:
    void b_prot();
  public:
    void b_pub();
};

class D : public B {
  public:
    void d_pub();
};
```

```
void D::d_func() {  // D's member function
  b_priv = 1;  // Error!! B's private member
  b_prot();  // OK. Child can access protected member
  b_pub();  // OK. Allowed in any function
  ......
};

void func(B& b) {  // A global function
  b.b_priv = 1;  // Error!! B's private member
  b.b_prot();  // Error!! B's protected member
  b.b_pub();  // OK. Allowed in any function
  ......
};
```

- It's not a good idea to have protected data members
 - Difficult to trace if you have many descendants (sons, sons of sons, sons of sons of sons, ...)
- Sometimes useful to have protected member functions



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Access Control of Base Classes

 Like a member, a base class can be declared as private, protected, or public

```
class X : public B { /* ... */ }; // public inheritance class Y : protected B { /* ... */ }; // protected inheritance class Z : private B { /* ... */ }; // private inheritance
```

Member in base class	Type of Inheritance		
	public	protected	private
public	public	protected	private
protected	protected	protected	private
private	no access	no access	no access

- Public inheritance models "is-a" relationship
 - This is the most common form of inheritance





Is-a vs. Has-a



- "Is-a" relationship is modeled by public inheritance
- "Has-a" relationship is modeled through composition
 - Class (e.g. Student) has an object from another class (e.g. Date) as a data member
 Extractast Student Student
 - Ex: class Student { string name; Date birthday;

.....

- Student "is a" Date; // Wrong !!
 Student "has a" Date called birthday; // Composition
- Both encourage software reuse ...

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Software Engineering with Inheritance

- Classes are often closely related
 - "Factor out" common attributes and behaviors and place these in a base class
 - Use inheritance to form different derived classes
- If modifications to a base class are necessary
 - Derived classes do not change as long as the public and protected interfaces are the same
 - However, derived classes may need to be recompiled
- Multiple inheritance is allowed in C++, but not encouraged to use until you are an expert
 - A class has more than one direct base classes
 → easy to confuse

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Case Study: Point and Circle

- Circle class is derived from the Point class
 - Parent class shares its members in protected section

```
#ifndef POINT2 H
#define POINT2 H
#include <iostream>
using std::ostream;
class Point {
  friend ostream & operator < < (ostream &,
                               const Point &);
public:
  Point(int=0, int=0); // default constructor
  void setPoint(int, int); // set coordinates
  int getX() const { return x; } // get x value
  int getY() const { return y; } // get y value
protected: // accessible to derived classes
              // coordinates of the point
  int x, y;
  // end class Point
#endif
```

```
#ifndef CIRCLE2 H
#define CIRCLE2 H
using std::ostream;
#include "point2.h"
class Circle : public Point {
  friend ostream & operator < < (ostream &,
                              const Circle & );
public:
  Circle(double r=0.0, int x=0, int y=0);
  void setRadius( double ); // set radius
  double getRadius() const; // return radius
  double area() const;
                             // calculate area
protected:
              // accessible to derived classes
  double radius; // radius of the Circle
}; // end class Circle
#endif
                                           7-35
```

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Code for Point Class

```
point2.cpp
#include "point2.h"
// Constructor for class Point
Point::Point( int a, int b ) { setPoint( a, b ); }
// Set the x and y coordinates
void Point::setPoint( int a, int b )
{
  x = a;
  y = b;
} // end function setPoint
// Output the Point
ostream & operator < < ( ostream & output,
                         const Point &p )
  output << '[' << p.x << ", " << p.y << ']';
  return output;
                  // enables cascading
} // end operator << function
```

```
application.cpp
#include <iostream>
using std::cout;
using std::endl;
#include "point2.h"
int main()
{
  Point p(72, 115); // instantiate Point object p
   // protected data of Point inaccessible to main
   // access protected data through member func
  cout << "X coordinate is " << p.getX()
         << "\nY coordinate is " << p.getY();
  p.setPoint( 10, 10 );
  cout << "\n\nThe new location of p is " << p;
  cout << endl;
  return 0;
} // end function main
                               program output
        X coordinate is 72
```



Code for Circle Class

```
#include <iomanip>
using std::ios;
using std::setiosflags;
using std::setprecision;
#include "circle2.h"

Circle::Circle( double r, int a, int b )
        : Point( a, b ) // call base-class constructor
{ setRadius( r ); } // initialize its own variable

void Circle::setRadius( double r )
{ radius = ( r >= 0 ? r : 0 ); }

double Circle::getRadius() const
{ return radius; }

double Circle::area() const
{ return 3.14159 * radius * radius; }
```

```
ostream & operator < <( ostream & output, const Circle & c )

{
    output << "Center = " << static_cast<Point> (c)
        << "; Radius = "
        << setiosflags(ios::fixed | ios::showpoint )
        << setprecision( 2 ) << c.radius; return output; // enables cascaded calls
} // end operator << function

Get the inherited part in object c and turn its type to Class point
```



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Test the Circle Class

 program output

Program output X coordinate is 37 Y coordinate is 43 Radius is 2.5

The new location and radius of c are Center = [2, 2]; Radius = 4.25 Area 56.74

Circle printed as a Point is: [2, 2]

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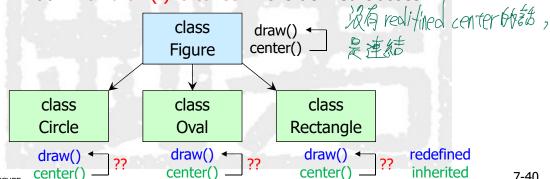


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A Binding Issue in Inheritance

- Imagine a program with several types of figures
 - Each figure may be an object of a different class, such as a circle, oval, rectangle, etc.
 - Figure is the base class, others are derived classes
 - Each has a function draw() specific to each shape
 - Class Figure has a function center() inherited to all figures
 - It calls function draw() to redraw the figure at the center
 - But which draw() is called in the derived classes??



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Polymorphism

- If you don't know how the function is implemented, tell the compiler to wait until the function is used
 - Get the correct version based on the actual calling object
 - This mechanism is called late binding
 - 只說歷連結到某個function; The unbound function is specified as a virtual function
- Polymorphism refers to the ability to associate multiple meanings with one function \$ 5 Livitual function
 - In C++, polymorphism is achieved through virtual functions, and
 - manipulating objects through pointers or references
- Polymorphism is a key component of the philosophy of object oriented programming

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Virtual Functions in C++

- To define a function differently in a derived class and to make it virtual
 - Add keyword virtual to the function declaration in the base class devive 7-2 \$ virtua
 - Only non-static functions can be made virtual
 - virtual is not needed for the function declaration in the derived class, but is often included
 - virtual is not added to the function definition
 - Virtual functions require considerable overhead so excessive use reduces program efficiency





An Example w/o Virtual Function

```
class Employee {
    // data members are omitted
    public:
    void print() const; // Employee::print()
    ......
}

void Employee::print() const {
    cout << name << '\t' << depar << endl;
}

class Manager : public Employee {
    // data members are omitted
    public:
    void print() const; // Manager::print()
    ......
}

Manager redefines
Employee's print()
```

```
void Manager::print() const {
  Employee::print(); // Manager is also an Employee
  cout << "Level: " << level << endl;
}
void f() {
  Employee ta("TA", 3);
  Manager jim("Jimmy", 3, 1);
                       // use Employee::print()
  ta.print();
                       // use Manager::print()
  jim.print();
  Employee *pe = &ta;
  Manager *pm = &jim;
  pe->print();
                        // use Employee::print()
  pm->print();
                       // use Manager::print()
  pe = %jim;
                       // OK. jim is also an Employee
  pe->print();
                       // use Employee::print()
                       // but jim is a manager ...
```

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With Virtual Function, It Becomes ...

```
class Employee {
    // data members are omitted
    public:
    virtual void print() const; // always virtual
    // in all derived
}

no "virtual" here !! // classes

void Employee::print() const {
    cout << name << '\t' << depar << endl;
}

class Manager : public Employee {
    // data members are omitted
    public:
    void print() const; // Manager::print()
    ......
}

Manager class is
    unchanged at all
```

```
void Manager::print() const {
  Employee::print(); // Manager is also an Employee
  cout << "Level: " << level << endl;
void f() {
  Employee ta("TA", 3);
  Manager jim("Jimmy", 3, 1);
  ta.print();
                       // use Employee::print()
 jim.print();
                       // use Manager::print()
  Employee *pe = &ta;
  Manager *pm = &jim;
  pe->print();
                       // use Employee::print()
                       // use Manager::print()
  pm->print();
  pe = \&jim;
                       // OK. jim is also an Employee
  pe->print();
                      // use Manager::print()
                      // It knows what pe point to ...
```

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Virtual vs. Non-Virtual Functions

- For non-virtual (member) functions
 - Function calls are statically bound (i.e. bound at compile time)
- For virtual (member) functions
 - Function calls are dynamically bound (i.e. bound at runtime)

```
class Manager: public Employee {
class Employee {
 // data members are omitted
                                                   // data members are omitted
public:
                                                  public:
 void print1() const;
                                                   void print1() const; // non-virtual, override
 virtual void print2() const;
                                                   void print2() const; // virtual, late binding
               void f() {
                  Employee ta(TA'', 3), *pe = &ta;
                 Manager jim("Jimmy", 3, 1), *pm = &jim;
                                       // static binding, use Manager::print1()
                 pm->print1();
                  pe->print2();
                                       // dynamic binding, use Employee::print2()
                                       // pe is now pointing to Manager
                 pe = %jim;
                  pe->print1();
                                       // still static binding, use Employee::print1()
                  pe->print2();
                                       // dynamic binding, use Manager::print2()
                                                                                                7-45
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```



Another Example: Auto Parts Store

- We want a versatile program for recordkeeping in an auto parts store
 - But we do not know all the possible types of sales we might have to account for at this moment ...
 - Later we may add mail-order and discount sales
- Functions to compute bills will have to be added later when we know what type of sales to add
- To accommodate the future possibilities, we will make the bill function a virtual function





The Base Class – Sale Class

- All sales will be derived from the base class Sale
- The bill function of the Sale class is virtual
 - Determined later based on the type of calling object
- Both the member function savings and operator < use this virtual function
 - Changed automatically when the virtual function is bound to a specific type

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Code for Sale Class

```
#include "sale.h"

namespace salesavitch
{
    Sale::Sale() : price(0) { /* empty */ }
    Sale::Sale(double thePrice) : price(thePrice) { }
    double Sale::bill() const {
        return price;
    }
    double Sale::savings(const Sale& other) const {
        return ( bill() - other.bill() );
    }
    bool operator < (const Sale& first, const Sale& second) {
        return (first.bill() < second.bill());
    }
} //salesavitch</pre>
```





The Derived Class -- DiscountSale

- Derived class has its own version of virtual function bill
- When a DiscountSale object calls its savings function (inherited from the Sale class)
- → Sale::savings() use the function bill from the DiscountSale class
- Because bill is a virtual function in class Sale, C++ uses the version of bill defined in the object that called savings()

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Code for DiscountSale Class

```
#ifndef DISCOUNTSALE_H
#define DISCOUNTSALE_H
#include "sale.h"

namespace salesavitch
{
    class DiscountSale : public Sale
    { /* see previous page */ };
} //salesavitch

#endif //DISCOUNTSALE_H

discountsale.h
```

```
//This is the implementation for the class DiscountSale.
#include "discountsale.h"

namespace salesavitch
{
    DiscountSale::DiscountSale() : Sale(), discount(0)
    { /* empty */ }

    DiscountSale::DiscountSale(double thePrice, double theDiscount) : Sale(thePrice), discount(theDiscount)
    { /* empty */ }

    double DiscountSale::bill() const
    {
        double fraction = discount/100;
        return (1 - fraction)*price;
    }
} //salesavitch

    discountsale.cpp
```





Test Sale & DiscountSale

```
#include <iostream>
#include "sale.h"
   //Not really needed, but safe due to ifndef.
#include "discountsale.h"
using namespace std;
using namespace salesavitch;
int main()
{
    Sale simple(10.00); //One item at $10.00.
    DiscountSale discount(11.00, 10);
    //One item at $11.00 with a 10% discount.
    cout.setf(ios::fixed);
    cout.setf(ios::showpoint);
    cout.precision(2);
```



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Redefine vs. Override

- When a derived class D modifies the definition of an inherited non-virtual member function mf
 - We say class D redefines mf, or mf is redefined in D

```
class B { public: void mf(); }
class D: public B { public: void mf(); } // D redefines mf()
```

- When a derived class D modified the definition of a virtual member function mf inherited from class B
 - We say D::mf overrides B::mf, or B::mf is overridden by D::mf

```
class B { public: virtual void mf(); } // D::mf() overrides class D: public B { public: void mf(); } // B::mf()
```

Fundamental concepts are different between them

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Type Checking in Inheritance

- C++ carefully checks for type mismatches in the use of values and variables
 - This is referred to as strong type checking
- Generally the type of a value assigned to a variable must match the type of the variable
 - Recall that some automatic type casting occurs, e.g. double d=2.5; int a = d; → a will become 2, not 2.5
- It is legal to assign a derived class object into a base class variable, but some info will be truncated

```
Ex: class Pet { public: public: virtual void print(); string name; } class Dog: public Pet { public: virtual void print(); string breed; } Dog
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```



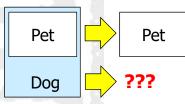
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A Sliced Dog is a Pet

C++ allows the following assignments:

```
vdog.name = "Tiny";
vdog.breed = "Great Dane";
vpet = vdog;
```

- However, vpet will loose the breed member of vdog since this member does not exist in class Pet
 - This code would be illegal: cout << vpet.breed;
- This is called the slicing problem
- What if you assign a base class object into a derived class variable??





Dynamic Variables & Derived Classes

- It is possible in C++ to avoid the slicing problem
 - Using pointers to dynamic variables !!
 - Will not lose members of the object because you only transfer the memory address, not actual object
- Ex:

ppet->print() is legal and produces: name: Tiny

breed: Great Dane

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Use Virtual Functions

- In this example, ppet->print() worked because print was declared as a virtual function by class Pet
 - The computer checks the virtual table for classes Pet and Dog and finds that ppet points to an object of type Dog
 - Since ppet points to a Dog object, Dog::print() is used
- This code would still produce an error:

```
cout << "breed: " << ppet->breed;
```

- ppet is a pointer to a Pet object that has no breed member
- If p_ancestor is a pointer to the base class and p_descendant is a pointer to the derived class
 - p_ancestor = p_descendant is allowed without losing info
 - However, virtual functions are required to access members

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Avoid Hiding Inheritance Names (1/2)

```
class Base {
                             public:
                               virtual void mf1(); // pure virtual function
                               virtual void mf1(int); //overload virtual function
                               virtual void mf2(); // simple virtual function
                              void mf3();
                                                   // non-virtual member function
                                                   // overloaded non-virtual function
                               void mf3(double);
                            };
                            class Derived : public Base { public:
                               virtual void mf1(); // override Base::mf1
                                                  // redefine mf3
                              void mf3();
                                                                                   Base::mf1() is hidden.
                                                                                   Number of parameters
Base::mf3() is hidden.
                            void f() {
                                                                                   does not match to
Number of parameters
                               Derived d;
                                                                                   Derived::mf1()
does not match to
                               d.mf1();
                                                   // OK. Call Derived::mf1()
Derived::mf3()
                                                   // Surprising error!!
                               d.mf1(10);
                                                   // OK. Call Base::mf2()
                               d.mf2();
                                                  // OK. Call Derived mf3()
                               d.mf3();
                               d.mf3(10.0);
                                                   // Surprising error!!
                                                                                                       7-57
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```



Avoid Hiding Inheritance Names (2/2)

```
class Base {
                        // same as in previous page ...
                        class Derived : public Base {
                        public:
                                              // make all mf1 in Base visible in Derived
                          using Base::mf1;
                          virtual void mf1(); // override Base::mf1() only
                                             // redefine mf3
                          void mf3();
                       }
Clearly specify the
                                                                                   # parameters does
function to call.
                                                                                   not match to mf1().
                       void f() {
                                                                                   Call Base::mf1(int).
                          Derived d;
                          d.mf1();
                                             // OK. Call Derived::mf1()
                                              // OK now. Call Base::mf1(int) -
                          d.mf1(10);
                          d.mf2();
                                             // OK. Call Base::mf2()
                                             // OK. Call Derived mf3()
                          d.mf3();
                         d.Base::mf3(10.0); // OK now. Call Base::mf3(double) explicitly
```

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Virtual Destructors

- Destructors should be made virtual
 - Consider Base *pBase = new Derived; ... delete pBase;
 - If the destructor in Base is <u>virtual</u>, the destructor for Derived is invoked as pBase points to a Derived object
 - Returning all members in Derived, including the member inherited from Base, to the freestore
- If the Base destructor is <u>not virtual</u>, <u>only the</u>
 Base destructor is invoked
 - This leaves Derived members, which are not a part of Base, in memory

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Demo the Virtual Destructor

```
class Base {
  public:
    virtual ~Base(); // virtual dtor
    ..... // other stuffs
};
class Derived : public Base
{ /* add some members... */ }

void f() {
    Base *pB = new Derived;
    // OK. Call Derived's ctor
    .....
    delete pB; // OK. Call Derived's dtor
};
    // since it is virtual
```

- Declare destructors virtual in polymorphic base classes
 - Otherwise, you may call the wrong destructor and return wrong size of memory
- Don't blindly declare destructors virtual in all classes
 - Incur memory and runtime overhead → there's no free lunch