

## Topic 3 (Part I: Variables)

# **C++ advanced features review: *when can/should I use them?***

資料結構與程式設計  
Data Structure and Programming

Sep, 2011

### **A Proclaimer...**

- ◆ This is NOT a concise “Computer Programming in C++” lecture note!!
  - I assume you know the basics
- ◆ Contents are NOT organized as a complete C++ tutorial
  - More like an itemized focal review
- ◆ But, anyway, if you think some contents are not clear, feel free to raise your questions!!

## **A Proclaimer...**


- ◆ This lecture note contains a lot of details...
  - Not to memorize the details, but to understand why the language is designed that way.
- ◆ You need to have a good sense for programming, and at the same time be precise on the details.

## **Part I: Understanding Variables**

- ◆ Object, pointer, reference
- ◆ Const, static, extern, type cast
- ◆ Namespace

## Key Concept #1: Variable

◆ Variables are stored in memory `int a = 10;`

- Where is it stored?  
→ Memory address `0x7ffa33be5d4` 
- What is it stored?  
→ Memory content (value)
- The name of the variable  
→ NOT part of the program.  
Used by compiler to associate the assignments and operations of the variable  
→ For ease of programming and debugging
- The type of the variable  
→ To determine the “size” of the memory

## Key Concept #2: ‘=’ operator

◆ ‘=’ operator in C/C++ performs “assignment”, not “equal to”

- Assignment := copy the value of the right hand side expression to the location of the left hand side variable
  - `a = b + c;`  
→ Where is the result of “b+c” stored?
- What about:
  - `int *p = q;`  
`int *r = new int(10);`

## Key Concept #3: Pointer Variables

### ◆ Pointers are also variables

- `int a;`  
The memory location of “a” stores an integer value.
- `int *p;`  
The memory location of “p” stores a memory address, which points to an integer memory location.

### ◆ “a” vs. “p”

- Both are variable
- Different types: “int” vs. “int \*”

## Key Concept #4: Reference Variables

### ◆ A reference variable is an “alias” (“symbolic link”) to another variable

- Has the same address entry in the symbol table as the referred variable
- Gets modified simultaneously with the referred variable

### ◆ Must be initialized (defined) when declared (why?)

- (Good) `int& i = a;` // a is an int
- (Bad) `int& i;`
- (Bad) `int& i = 20;` // Why not??

### ◆ Used like the referred variable

- `MyClass& o1 = o2;`  
`o1.getName();` // no `(*o1)`, nor `o1->getName()`

## Summary #1: Types of Variables

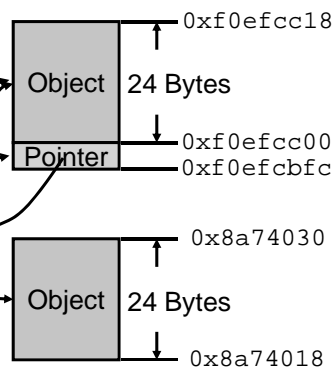
1. Object type
  - `int i = 10;`
  - `MyClass data;`
2. Pointer type
  - `int* i = new int(10);`
  - `MyClass* data = new MyClass("ric");`
3. Reference type
  - `int& i = j;`
  - `MyClass& data = origData;`

## Object, Pointer, Reference?

```
◆ void goo(){  
    MyClass    aaa;    // Object(Let size = 24Byte)  
    MyClass*   ppp;    // Pointer  
    MyClass&   rrr = aaa; // Reference  
    ...  
}
```

### ◆ Symbol table

name	address
aaa	0xf0efcc00
ppp	0xf0efcbfc
rrr	0xf0efcc00

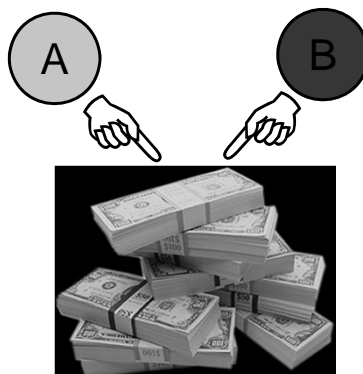


## Can you answer this...

◆ Why do we need “pointer” in C/C++?



## “Share” !!



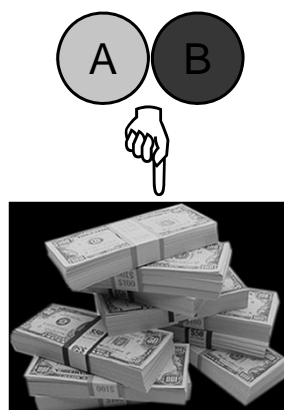
compared:  
`int a = 10;`  
`int b = a;`  
`b += 10;`

## Can you answer this...

◆ Why do we need “reference” in C/C++?



## “Share” and “Clone”!!



## Remember: '=' performs assignment

- ◆ `int a = b;`
  - Copy the content (value) of "b" to "a"
- ◆ `int *p = q;`
  - Copy the content (value) of "q", which is a memory address, to "p"
  - (Question) Is "`int *p = 10`" OK?
- ◆ `int *p = &a;`
  - Copy the address of "a" to (the content of) "p"
- ◆ `int a = *p;`
  - Copy the content of the memory location that "p" points to, to "a"

## Copy the content, but, what is the content?

- ◆ `int a = 10;`  
`int b = 20;`  
`int *p = &a;`  
`int *q = p;`  
`*q = 30;` // what are the values of a, b, p, q?  
`p = &b;` // what are the values of a, b, p, q?  
`b = 40;` // what are the values of a, b, p, q?
- ◆ `int a = 10;`  
`int b = 20;`  
`int& i = a;`  
`int j = i;` // what are the values of a, b, i, j?  
`j = 30;` // what are the values of a, b, i, j?  
`i = b;` // what are the values of a, b, i, j?



## Key Concept #5: Parameters in a function

- ◆ When a function is called, the caller performs “=” operations on its arguments to the corresponding parameters in the function

```
• void f(int a, char c, int *p) { ... }  
...  
int main() {  
    f(i, cc, pp); // int a = i;  
                  // char c = cc;  
                  // int *p = pp;  
}
```

## Passed by Object, Pointer, and Reference

[Rule of thumb] Making an ‘=’ (i.e. copy) from the passed argument in the caller, to the parameter of the called function.

```
void f1(int a)  
{ a = 20; }  
void f2(int& a)  
{ a = 30; }  
void f3(int* p)  
{ *p = 40; }  
void f4(int* p)  
{ p = new int(50); }  
void f5(int* &p)  
{ p = new int(60); }
```

```
main()  
{  
    int a = 10;  
    int* p = &a;  
    int a1,a2,a3,a4,a5;  
    f1(a); a1 = a;  
    f2(a); a2 = a;  
    f3(p); a3 = *p;  
    f4(p); a4 = *p;  
    f5(p); a5 = *p;  
}
```

What are the values of a1, a2, a3, a4, and a5 at the end?

## Summary #2: Called by pointers; called by references

1. If you have some data to share among functions, and you don't want to copy (by '=' ) them during function calling, you can use "call by pointers"

```
class A {  
    int _i; char _c; int *_p; ...  
};  
void f(A *a) { ... }  
...  
int main() {  
    A *a = ...;  
    f(a);  
}
```

## Summary #2: Called by pointers; called by references

2. However, if originally the data is not a pointer type, "called by pointers" is kind of awkward. You should use "called by references"

```
class A {  
    int _i; char _c; int *_p; ...  
};  
void f(A *a) { ... }  
void g(A& a) { ... }  
...  
int main() {  
    A a = ...; // an object, not a pointer  
    f(&a);      // Awkward!! C style ☹  
    g(a);       // Better!!  
}
```

## Summary #2: Called by pointers; called by references

3. But, sometimes we just want to share the data to another function, but don't want it to modify the data.

```
int main() {  
    A a = ...;  
    f(&a);  
    g(a);  
}
```

// a may get modified by f() or g()

➔ Using "const" to constrain !!

## Key Concept #6: Const

- ◆ Const is an adjective
  - When a variable is declared "const", it means it is "READ-ONLY" in that scope.
    - ➔ Cannot be modified
- ◆ Const must be initialized
  - `const int a = 10;` // OK
  - `const int b;` // NOT OK
  - `int a;`
  - ...
  - `const int b = a;` // Is this OK?
  - `const int& c = a;` // Is this OK?
- ◆ "const int" and "int const" are the same
- ◆ "const int \*" and "int \* const" are different !!

## What? const \*&#\$&@%#q

### ◆ Rule of thumb

- Read from right to left

1. f(int\* p)

- Pointer to an int (integer pointer)

2. f(int\*& p)

- Reference to an integer pointer

3. f(int\*const p)

- Constant pointer to an integer

4. f(const int\* p) = f(int const \* p)

- Pointer to a constant integer

5. f(const int\*& p)

- Reference to a pointer of a constant int

6. f(const int\*const& p)

- Reference to a constant pointer address, which points to a constant integer

Passed in a reference to a constant object 'c'

→ 'c' cannot be modified in the function



const A& B::blah (const C& c) const {...}



Return a reference to a  
constant object  
→ The returned object  
can then only call  
constant methods



This is a constant method,  
meaning this object is treated as  
a constant during this function  
→ None of its data members  
can be modified

## The Impact of Const

- ◆ Supposed “\_data” is a data member of class MyClass

```
void MyClass::f() const
{
    _data->g();
}
```

- Because this object is treated as a constant, its data field “\_data” is also treated as a constant in this function
  - ➔ “g()” must be a constant method too!!
- Compiler will signal out this kind of inconsistency

- ◆ If we really want the function “f()” to be a read-only one, putting a “const” can help ensure it

## Const vs. non-const??

- ◆ Passing a non-const argument to a const parameter in a function

```
void f(const int& i) { ... }
void g(const int j) { ... }
int main() {
    int a; ...
    f(a); // a reference of “a” is treated const in f()
    g(a); // a copy of “a” is treated const in g()
}
```

## Const vs. non-const??

- ◆ Passing a const argument to a non-const parameter in a function

```
void f(int& i) { ... }  
void g(int j) { ... }  
int main() {  
    const int a = ...;  
    f(a); // Error → No backdoor for const  
    g(a); // a copy of "a" is treated non-const in g()  
}
```

## Const vs. non-const??

- ◆ Non-const object calling a const method

```
T a;  
a.constMethod(); // OK
```

- "a" will be treated as a const object within "constMethod()"

- ◆ Const object calling non-const method

```
const T a;  
a.nonConstMethod(); // not OK
```

- A const object cannot call a non-const method  
→ compilation error

## Casting “const” to “non-const”

```
const T a;  
a.nonConstMethod();    // not OK
```

Trying...

1. `T(a).nonConstMethod();`
  - Static cast; OK, but may not be safe (why?)
  - Who is calling `nonConstMethod()`?
2. `const_cast<T>(a).nonConstMethod();`
  - Compilation error!!
  - “`const_cast`” can only be used for pointer, reference, or a pointer-to-data-member type
3. `const_cast<T*>(&a)->nonConstMethod();`
  - OK, but kind of awkward

## `const_cast<T*>()` for pointer-to-const object

```
const T* p;  
p->nonConstMethod();    // not OK
```

➔ `const_cast<T*>(p)->nonConstMethod();`  
A const object can now call non-const method

## “mutable” --- a back door for const method

◆ However, sometimes we MUST modify the data member in a const method

- `void MyClass::f() const`  
`{`  
`_flags |= 0x1; // setting a bit of the _flags`  
`}`

- In such case, declare “\_flag” with “mutable” keyword

- e.g.

```
mutable unsigned _flag;
```

## Key Concept #7: Return value of a function

◆ Every function has a return type. At the end of the function execution, it must return a value or a variable to initialize the return type.

- “void f()” means no return is needed

1. Return by object

- `MyClass f(...) {`  
`MyClass a;...; return a; }`  
`MyClass b = f(...);`  
`MyClass& c = f(...);`  
`// What's the diff? Is it OK?`



## Return by Object, Pointer, and Reference

### 2. Return by pointer

- `MyClass* f(...) { MyClass* p;...; return p; }`  
`MyClass* q = f(...);`  
`// Should we "delete q" later?`

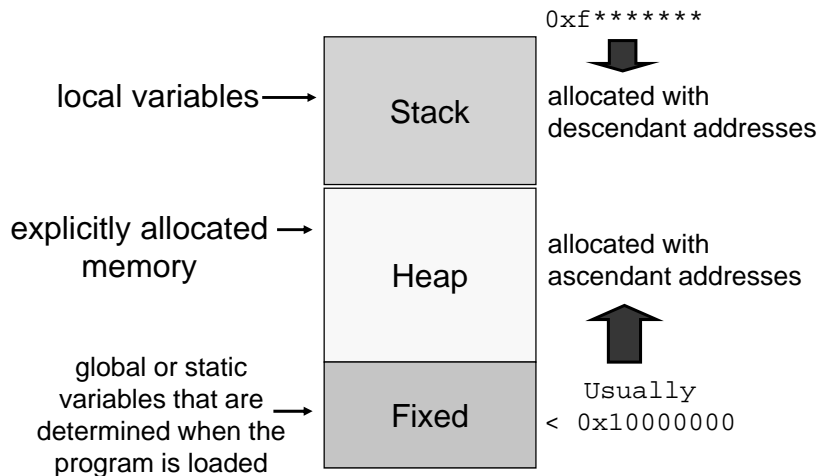
### 3. Return by reference (reference to whom?)

- `MyClass& f(...) { ...; return r; }`  
`// r cannot be local (why?)`  
`MyClass& s = f(...); // <-----|`  
`MyClass t = f(...); // What's the diff?`  
`// Is it OK?`
- [NOTE] Should NOT return the reference of a local variable → `int& f() { int a; ...; return a; }`  
→ compilation warning
- `MyClass& MyClass::f(...) { ...; return (*this); }`  
`MyClass s;`  
`MyClass& t = s.f(...); // <-----|`  
`MyClass v = s.f(...); // What's the diff?`

## When is "return by reference" useful?

```
◆ template<class T> class Array
{
    public:
        Array(size_t i = 0) { _data = new T[i]; }
        T& operator[] (size_t i) { return _data[i]; }
        const T& operator[] (size_t i) const {
            return _data[i]; }
        Array<T>& operator= (const Array& arr) {
            ... return (*this); }
    private:
        T *_data;
};
int main()
{
    Array<int> arr(10); // declare an array of size 10
    int t = arr[5];    // <-----|
    arr[0] = 20;       // Which one will be called?
    Array<int> arr2; arr2 = arr;
} // Why not "Array<int> arr2 = arr;"?
```

## Key Concept #8: Types of Memory Allocations



## Scope and Visibility

1. Local variable (Stack mem)
  - Stack: first in last out
  - Only visible within the local scope (i.e. {...})
  - Constructed when entering the scope; destructed when exiting
2. Explicitly allocated (Heap mem)
  - Must be explicitly allocated and freed
  - Otherwise, memory leaks
3. Global variable (Fixed mem)
  - Visible by all files
  - Use "extern" to refer to global variable that is defined in other file



## Address vs. Content

### ◆ Address

- The memory location where a variable is stored
- `int i;` // the address of `i` is in stack memory
- `int *p;` // the address of `p` is ALSO in stack memory

### ◆ Content

- The data which the memory location contains
- `int i = 10;` // the content of `i` is 10
- `int *p = &i;` // the content of `p` is the address of `i`

### ◆ `int *p1 = &i;` vs. `int *p2 = new int;`

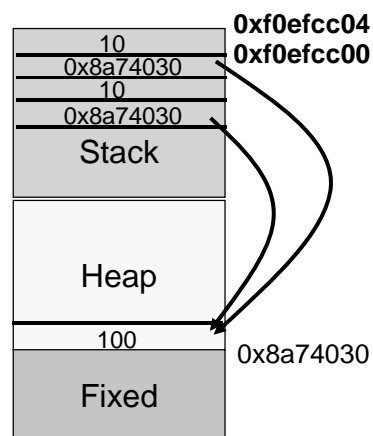
- `p1` and `p2` are both local variables stored in stack memory
- The contents of `p1` and `p2` are both memory addresses
- However, `p1` points to a location in stack memory, while `p2` points to a location in heap memory

## A Simple Example

```
◆ int i = 10;
  int* p = new int(100);
  int j = i;
  int* q = p;
```

### ◆ Symbol table

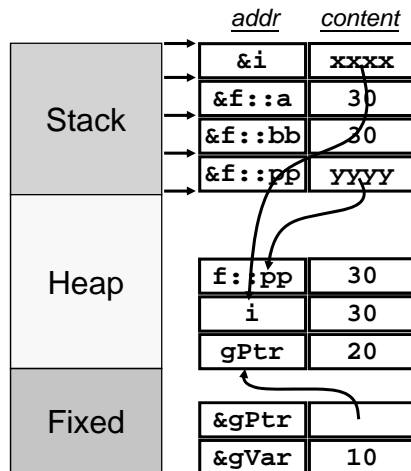
name	address
<code>i</code>	<code>0xf0efcc00</code>
<code>p</code>	<code>0xf0efcbfc</code>
<code>j</code>	<code>0xf0efcbf8</code>
<code>q</code>	<code>0xf0efcbf4</code>



What's the address of `i`?  
 What's the address of `p`?  
 What's the content of `i`?  
 What's the content of `p`?

## Another Memory Allocation Example

Operation : exiting function



```

int gVar = 10;
int* gPtr = new int(20);

void f(int a)
{
    int bb = a;
    int* pp = new int;
    *pp = bb;
    delete pp;
}

int main()
{
    int* i = new int(30);
    f(*i);
    f(gVar);
    f(*gPtr);
}
    
```

## Key Concept #9: Memory Sizes

- ◆ Basic “memory size” unit → Byte (B)
  - 1 Byte = 8 bit
- ◆ 1 memory address → 1 Byte
  - Like same sized apartments
- ◆ Remember: the variable type determines the size of its memory
  - char, bool: 1 Byte (addr += 1)
  - short, unsigned short: 2 Bytes (addr += 2)
  - int, unsigned, float: 4 Bytes (addr += 4)
  - double: 8 Bytes (addr += 8)

## Key Concept #10: Size of a Pointer

### ◆ Remember:

A pointer variable stores a memory address

- What is the memory size of a memory address?

### ◆ The memory size of a memory address depends on the machine architecture

- 32-bit machine: 4 Bytes
- 64-bit machine: 8 Bytes

## Key Concept #11: Memory Alignment

### ◆ What are the addresses of these variables?

```
int *p = new int(10); // let addr(p) = 0x7ffe84ff0e0
char c = 'a';
int i = 20;
int *pp = new int(30);
char cc = 'b';
int *ppp = pp;
int ii = 40;
char ccc = 'c';
char cccc = 'd';
int iii = 30;
```

➔ Given a variable of predefined type with memory size  $S$  (Bytes), its address must be aligned to a multiple of  $S$

## Key Concept #12: Array Variables

◆ An array variable occupies continuous memory locations.

- `int a[10];` // occupies  $10 * \text{sizeof}(\text{int})$
- `int *b[10];` // occupies  $10 * \text{sizeof}(\text{int} *)$
- `int c[5][10];` //  $5 * \text{int}[10]$

## Key Concept #13: new and new []

◆ “new” is to allocate the memory for a single variable; “new []” is to allocate an array variable.

◆ “new A(i)” passes “i” as an argument for A’s constructor; but there’s no “new A[c] (i)”.

- `int *p = new int(10);` // points to an `int = 10`
- `int *q = new int[10];` // points to an array `int[10]`
- `int **r = new int* (&a);` // a is an `int` variable
- `int **r = new int* [10];` // points to an `int *[10]`

◆ “new []” is often used to create a “dynamic array”

- `int *p;` // declared, but size is not yet determined
- ...
- `p = new int[size];`

**int, int [], int \*[], new int(), new int [], new int\*,  
new int \*[] ... orz**

```
◆ int    a = 10;
    int   arr[10] = { 0 };
◆ int   *arrP[10];
    for (int i = 0; i < 10; ++i)
        arrP[i] = &arr[i];
◆ int   *p1 = new int(10);
    int   *p2 = new int[10];
◆ int   **p3 = new int*;
    *p3 = new int(20);
◆ int   **p4 = new int*[10];
    for (int i = 0; i < 10; ++i)
        p4[i] = new int(i + 2);
◆ int   **p5 = new int*[10];
    for (int i = 0; i < 10; ++i)
        p5[i] = new int[i+2];
```

## Key Concept #14: More on Array Variables

- ◆ An array variable represents a “const pointer”
  - `int a[10];` ← treating “a” as an “int \* const”  
`a = anotherArr;` // Error; can’t reassign “a”
  - `int *p = new int[10];`  
`p = anotherPointer;` // OK, but memory leak?  
`p = new int(20);` // also OK
- ◆ An array variable (the const pointer) must be initialized
  - Recall: “const” variable must be initialized
  - `int a[10];` // OK  
`int a[10] = { 0 };` // Initialize array variable and its content  
`int a[ ];` // NOT OK; array size unknown  
`int a[ ] = { 1, 2, 3 };` // OK array size determined by RHS

## Key Concept #15: Pointer Arithmetic

- ◆ ‘+’ / ‘-’ operator on a pointer variable points to the memory location of the next / previous element
  - `int *p = new int(10);`  
`int *q = p + 1; // memory addr += sizeof(int)`
  - `A *r = new A;`  
`r -= 2; // memory addr -= sizeof(A) * 2`
- ◆ For an array variable “arr”, “arr + i” points to the memory location of arr[i]
  - `int arr[10];`  
`*(arr + 2) = 5; // equivalent to “arr[2] = 5”`

## Key Concept #16: delete and delete []

- ◆ “delete” releases the memory of a single occupation; “delete []” releases the memory of an array occupation.
  - `int *p = new int(10); ...; delete p;`  
`int *q = new int[10]; ...; delete [] q;`
  - `int *p = new int(10); ...; delete [] p;`  
`// compilation OK, but strange things may happen`  
`int *q = new int[10]; ...; delete q;`  
`// compilation Ok, but may have memory leak`
- ◆ No “delete [][]”
  - `int **p = new int* (&a); ...; delete p;`
  - `int **q = new int* [10];`  
`for (int i = 0; i < 10; ++i) { q[i] = new int; }`  
`...`  
`for (int i = 0; i < 10; ++i) { delete q[i]; }`  
`delete [] q;`



## More about int [] and int\*

```
◆ int a[10] = { 0 }; // type of a: "int *const"
  int *p = new int[10];
  *a = 10;
  *p = 20; // OK
  *(a + 1) = 20;
  *(a++) = 30; // Compile error; explained later
  a = p; // Compile error; explained later
  p = a; // OK, but memory leak...
  *(p++) = 40; // OK, but potential memory leak
  int *q = a;
  q[2] = 20;
  *(q+3) = 30;
  *(q++) = 40; // OK
  delete a; // compile error/warning; runtime crash...
  delete p; // OK, but memory leak; explained later
  delete []q; // compile OK, but may get fishy result
◆ What about:
  int a = 10; int *p = &a; ... delete p;
```

## Summary #3: Dynamic Array

- ◆ If you are not sure about the size of the array in the beginning, make it a dynamic array.
  - int \*arr;
  - ...
  - size = ....;
  - ...
  - arr = new int[size];
- ◆ “Double pointer” can be used as an array of dynamic arrays, in which each of the dynamic arrays can have different sizes
  - int \*\*darr = new int \*[size];
  - for (int i = 0; i < size; ++i) { darr[i] = new int[size\_i]; }

## Const pointer vs. pointer to a const

```
◆ int a = 10;
  const int c = 10;
  a = c; // OK
  c = a; // NOT OK; even though 10 = 10
◆ int a[10] = { 0 };
  int b[10];
  int *c;
  const int *d;
  int *const e; // Error: uninitialized
  b = a; // Error
  c = a; d = a; // OK
  e = a; // Error
◆ void f(const int* i) { ... }
  int main() {
    int * const a = new int(10);
    f(a); // Any problem?
  }
```

## Not everything can be const...

- ◆ What's the problem?
  1. void f(...) const { ... }
  2. int & const a = ...;
  3. class A
    - {
    - const int \_data = 10;
    - };

## Key Concept #17: “static” in C++

- ◆ As the word “static” suggests, “static xxx” should be allocated, initialized and stay unchanged throughout the program
  - ➔ Resides in the “fixed” memory

However,

- ◆ The keyword “static” is kind of overloaded in C++
  1. Static variable in a file
  2. Static variable in a function
  3. Static function
  4. Static data member of a class
  5. Static member function of a class

## So, what does “static” mean anyway?

- ◆ “static” here, refers to “memory allocation” (storage class)
  - The memory of “static xxx” is allocated before the program starts (i.e. in fixed memory), and stays unchanged throughout the program
- [cf] “auto” storage class
  - Memory allocated is controlled by the execution process (e.g. local variables in the stack memory)

## Visibility of “static” variable and function

1. Static variable in a file
    - It is a file-scope global variable
    - Can be seen throughout this file (only)
    - Variable (storage) remained valid in the entire execution
  2. Static variable in a function
    - It is a local variable (in terms of scope)
    - Can be seen only in this function
    - Variable (storage) remained valid in the entire execution
  3. Static function
    - Can only be seen in this file
- ◆ Static variables and functions can only be seen in the defined scope
- Cannot be seen by other files
  - No effect by using “extern”

## [Note] Storage class vs. visible scope

- ◆ Remember, “static” refers to static “memory allocation” (storage class)
- We’re NOT talking about the “scope” of a variable
- ◆ The scope of a variable is determined by where and how it is declared
- File scope (global variable)
  - Block scope (local variable)
- ➔ However, the “static” keyword does constrain the maximum visible scope of a variable or function to be the file it is defined

## “static” Data Member in a Class

- ◆ Only one copy of this data member is maintained for all objects of this class
  - All the objects of this class see the same copy of the data member (in fixed memory)
  - (Common usage) Used as a counter

```
class T
{
    static int _count;
public:
    T() { _count++; }
    ~T() { _count--; }
};

-----
int T::_count=0;
// Static data member must be initialized in some
//   cpp file ==> NOT by constructor!!! (why?)
```

## “static” Member Function in a Class

- ◆ Useful when you want to access the “static” data member but do not have a class object
  - Calling static member function without an object
    - e.g. T::setGlobalRef();
  - No implicit “this” argument (no corresponding object)
  - Can only see and use “static” data members , enum, or nested types in this class
    - Cannot access other non-static data members
- ◆ Usage
  - T::staticFunction(); // OK
  - object.staticFunction(); // OK
  - T::staticFunction() { ... staticMember... } // OK
  - T::staticFunction() { ... this... } // Not OK
  - T::staticFunction() { ... nonStaticMember... } // Not OK
  - T::nonstaticFunction() { ... staticMember... } // OK

## Example of using “static” in a class

```
class T
{
    static unsigned    _globalRef;
    unsigned           _ref;

public:
    T() : _ref(0) {}
    bool isGlobalRef(){ return (_ref == _GlobalRef); }
    void setToGlobalRef(){ _ref = _global Ref; }
    static void setGlobalRef() { _globalRef++; }
}
```

- ◆ Use this method to replace “setMark()” functions in graph traversal problems (How??)

## static\_cast<T>(a)... Cast away static?? ☹

- ◆ Convert object “a” to the type “T”
  - No consistency check (i.e. sizeof(T))
    - May not be safe
    - cf. dynamic\_cast<T>(a)
  - (Common use) // more safer use  
// Parent-class pointer object wants to  
// call the child-only method  

```
class Child : public Dad { ... };
-----
void f()
{
    Dad* p = new Child;
    ...
    static_cast<Child *>(p)->childOnlyMethod();
};
```

## Key Concept #18: “extern” in C++

- ◆ Remember, static variables and functions can only be seen in the file scope → cannot be seen in other file
- ◆ What if we want to access (global) variables or functions across other .cpp files?

e.g.

```
// file1.cpp
int a = 0;
void f(int i) { ... }
-----
// file2.cpp
int a;    // Error: multiple definition
void g()
{
    f(a); // Error: f(int) not defined
}
```

## Using External Variables and Functions

e.g.

```
// file1.cpp
int a = 0;
void f(int i) { ... }
-----
// file2.cpp
extern int a; // a is an external variable
void f(int); // f() is an external function
              // "extern" can be omitted here

void g()
{
    f(a);
}
```

## Forward Declaration

[Bottom line]

Sometimes we just want to include part of the header file, or refer to some declarations

→ We don't want to include the whole header file

→ To reduce:

1. Executable file size
2. Compilation time due to dependency

e.g.

```
// MyClass.h
class HisClass; // forward declaration
class HerClass; // forward declaration
class MyClass
{
    HisClass* _hisData; // OK
    HerClass _herData; // NOT OK; why?
};
```

## Let's do a review...

### ◆ Classified by “scope of visibility”

- Global: seen by all files/functions

Local: seen in the scope/function it is defined

### ◆ Attributes to a variable

- const: “read-only”
- static: memory of that variable remains valid
- extern: something is declared outside this scope

What if two variables or functions with the same name need to be seen in the same scope?



## Key Concept #19: Namespace

◆ e.g.

```
namespace MyNameSpace {  
    int a;  
    void f();  
    class MyClass;  
} // Note: no ';'
```

◆ namespace MyNS = MyNameSpace; // alias

◆ Must declare in global scope

```
• int main()  
{  
    namespace XYZ { ... } // Error!!  
}
```

## Using namespace

```
1. void g() {  
    MyNameSpace::a = 10;  
} // "::" is the scope operator  
  
2. using MyNameSpace::a;  
void g() {  
    a = 10;  
}  
  
3. using namespace MyNameSpace;  
void g() {  
    a = 10;  
    f();  
}
```

## More about namespace declaration

```
◆ namespace P {  
    namespace A { void f(); }  
    void A::f() { } // ok  
    void A::g() { } // Error!! g() is not  
                    // yet a member of A  
    namespace A { void g(){ ... } }  
}
```

→

1. Can be nested...
2. The definition of a namespace can be split over several parts (e.g. 'A' above)
3. Order matters!! (e.g. A::g())
4. Functions or classes can be defined either inside (e.g. g()) or outside (e.g. f()) "namespace {...}."

## What's next?

- ◆ Understanding "variables"
- ◆ Understanding "classes"
- ◆ Understanding "overloading"
- ◆ Understanding "polymorphism"
- ◆ Understanding "libraries"
- ◆ Exception handling