
Creative Software Design

Modern C++

Yunho Kim

yunhokim@hanyang.ac.kr

Dept. of Computer Science

Topics Covered

- History of C++
- Various useful features in modern C++
- Smart pointers

History of C++

- C++ is a continuously evolving language
 - Most recent C++ version (C++23) is published in 2024 and the next version (C++26) is being developed
- Before C++ standard
 - In 1979, Bjarne Stroustrup at Bell Labs developed C++ as an extension of the C language
 - In 1990 and 1991, ANSI and ISO C++ standard committee founded, respectively
- Traditional C++
 - In 1998, the first C++ standard, C++98 was published
 - (Almost) all features in C++ learned so far is included in C++98
 - In 2003, C++03, minor update of C++98 was published
 - C++03 does not introduce a new feature, but make corrections to C++98

History of C++

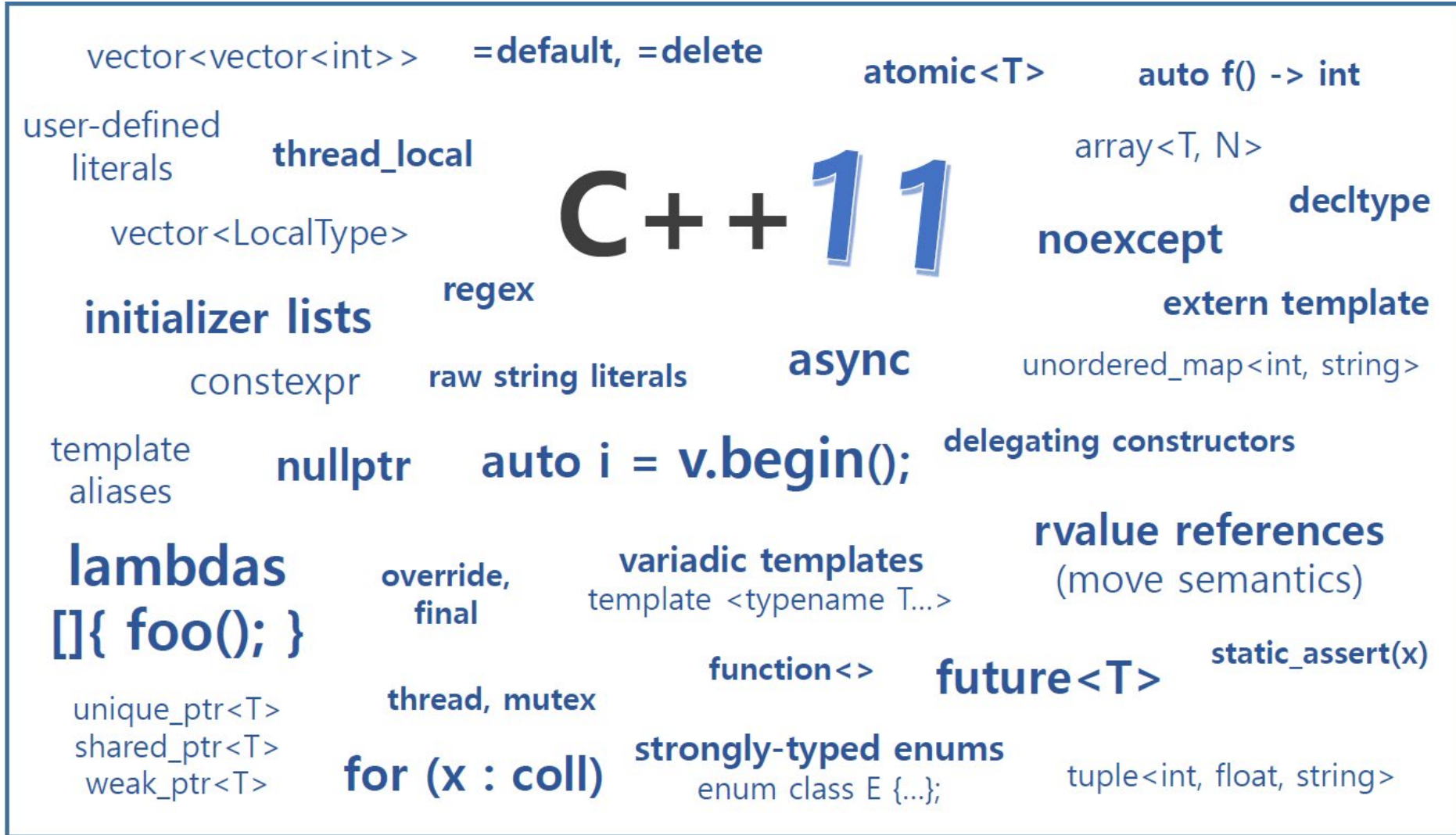
- Until 2011, there was no significant update to C++
 - It means that there was no update to C++ from 2003 to 2011
- Modern C++
 - C++11, C++14, , C++17, C++20, and C++23
 - C++ standard is published every 3 years

C++ is Really Evolving

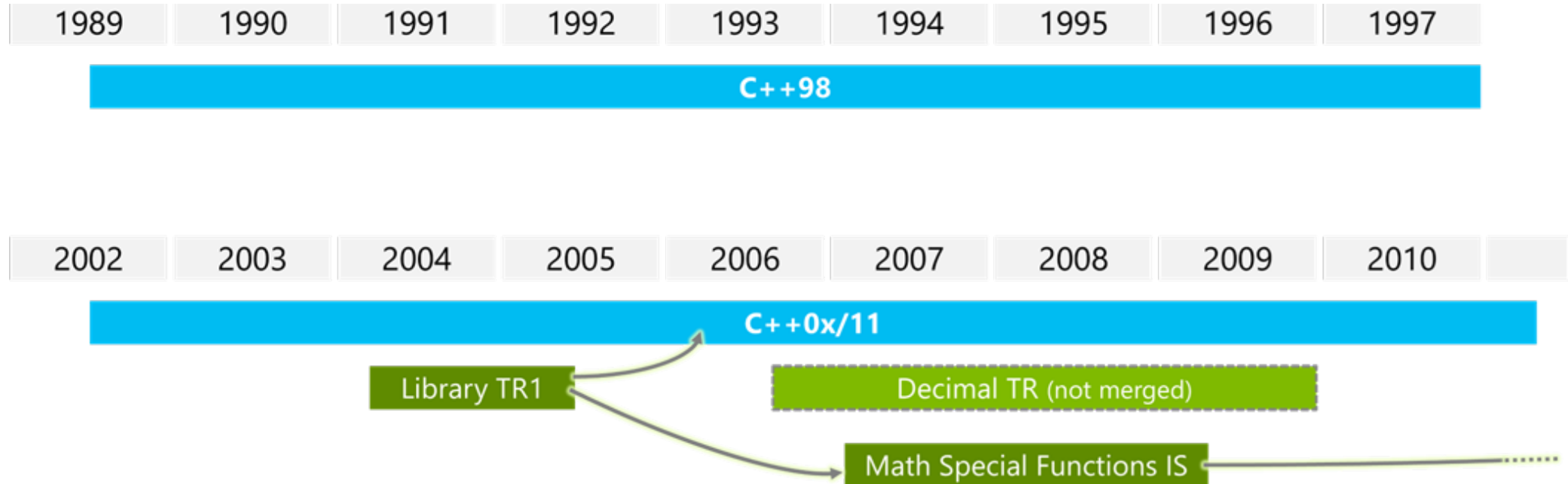
- Modern C++ includes a lot futures and becomes complex more and more

C++ version	#pages in standard documents	delta in #pages	
C++98	732		
C++03	757	25	(3.4%)
C++11	1338	581	(76.8%)
C++14	1358	20	(1.5%)
C++17	1605	247	(18.2%)
C++20	1853	248	(15.5%)
C++23	2104	251	(13.5%)

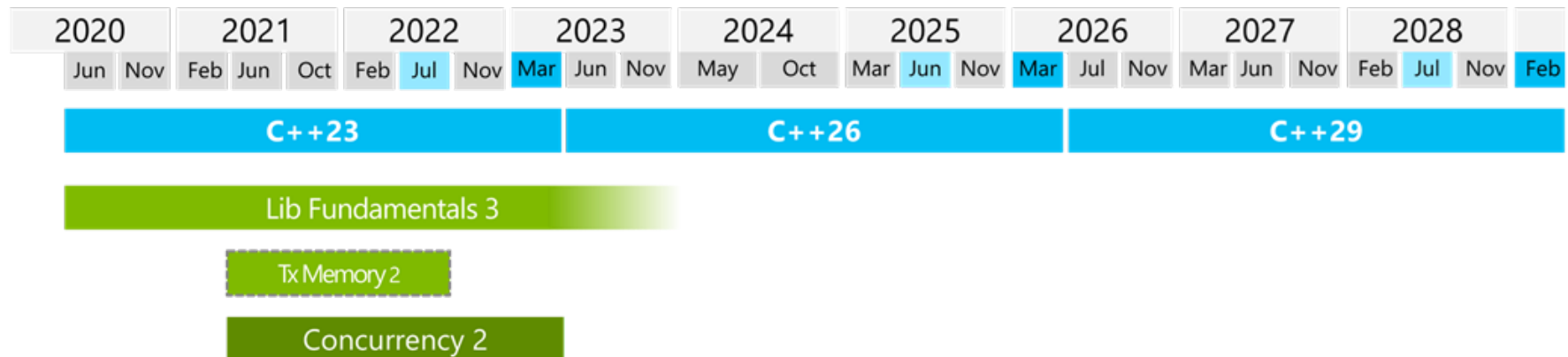
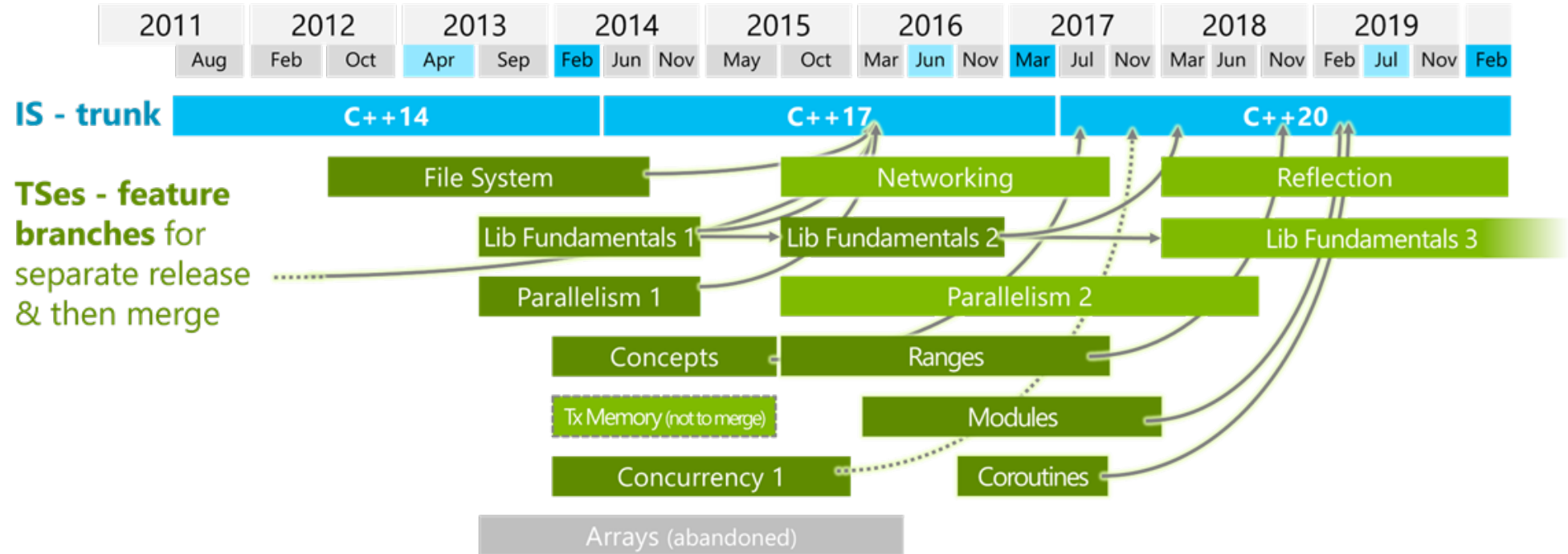
New features in C++11 (and C++14)



Old Days of C++



Evolving C++



auto

- auto keywords specifies the type of the variable that is being declared automatically
 - The actual type will be deduced from its initializer

```
map<string, string>::const_iterator it = m.cbegin();  
double const param = config["param"];  
singleton& s = singleton::instance();
```



```
auto it = m.cbegin();  
auto const param = config["param"];  
auto& s = singleton::instance();
```

auto

- `auto` cannot be used for function and template type parameters in C++11
 - It's because parameter type cannot be deduced at compile-time

```
void f(auto a, auto b){...} // not allowed
```

- Since C++17, you can use `auto` in the template type parameters

```
template<auto n>  
struct B { /* ... */ };  
B<5> b1;    // OK: non-type template parameter type is int
```

- Since C++20, you can use `auto` in the parameter list of a function

```
void f1(auto); // same as template<class T> void f1(T)
```

decltype

- Suppose that you are writing a function template that takes two parameters and return the sum of them

```
template<class T, class U>  
??? add(T x, U y)  
{  
    return x + y;  
}
```

- What should be the return type of add()?
 - T? U? something else?
 - Can we know the type of return at compile-time?

decltype

- Can we know the type of return at compile-time?
 - Yes we can. Use `decltype`
- `decltype(expr)` represents the type of an `expr`

```
int a;  
decltype(a) b; // same as int b;
```

```
template<class T, class U>  
auto add(T x, U y) -> decltype(x+y)  
{  
    return x + y;  
}
```

- The return type of `add()` is the type of `(x+y)`

auto as a Return Type

- Since C++14, you can use auto in the declared return type of a function

- We call it return type deduction

```
auto g() { return 0.0; } // OK since C++14: g returns double
```

- Return type deduction is not always possible.

```
auto f(bool val)
{
    if (val) return 123; // deduces return type int
    else return 3.14f;   // Error: deduces return type float
}
```

- FYI: https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/language/function#Return_type_deduction

auto and decltype

- auto and decltype can be used together

```
int x = 1;  
// return type is int, same as decltype(x)  
decltype(auto) f() { return x; }  
// return type is int&, same as decltype((x))  
decltype(auto) f() { return(x); }
```

Range-based for

- Recall to for statements in Python
 - How can we iterate each element of a list?

```
mylist = [1,2,3]
for i in mylist:
    ...
```

- How can we do the (almost) same thing in C++?

```
vector<int> mylist = {1,2,3};
for (vector<int>::iterator it = mylist.begin(); it != mylist.end(); ++it)
{...}
```

or

```
vector<int> mylist = {1,2,3};
for (auto it = mylist.begin(); it != mylist.end(); ++it)
{...}
```

Range-based for

- It's still too long!
 - Why do we need to repeat typing `XX.begin()`, `XX.end()`, etc?

```
vector<int> mylist = {1,2,3};  
for (auto it = mylist.begin(); it != mylist.end(); ++it)  
{...}
```

- C++11 introduces range-based for

```
vector<int> mylist = {1,2,3};  
for (auto& it : mylist){ ... }
```

```
mylist = [1,2,3]  
for i in mylist:  
    ...
```


override

- One of the common mistake on C++
 - `MyDerived::f1(int f)` does not overrides `MyBase::f1(float f)` because their parameter type is different

```
class MyBase{
public:
    virtual void f1(float f){
        cout << "MyBase::f1(float f)" << endl;
    }
};
class MyDerived :public MyBase{
public:
    virtual void f1(int f){
        cout << "MyDerived::f1(int f)" << endl;
    }
};
int main(){
    MyBase *pd = new MyDerived();
    pd->f1(2.4); // what will be printed?
    return 0;
}
```

override

- How can we avoid such mistake?
 - Explicitly specify that `MyDerived::f1()` should override some function in its super class

```
class MyBase{
public:
    virtual void f1(float f){
        cout << "MyBase::f1(float f)" << endl;
    }
};
class MyDerived :public MyBase{
public:
    virtual void f1(int f) override { // Compile error!
        cout << "MyDerived::f1(int f)" << endl;
    }
};
int main(){
    MyBase *pd = new MyDerived();
    pd->f1(2.4); // what will be printed?
    return 0;
}
```

final

- How can we restrict some function cannot be overridden?
 - Use `final` keyword

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
class MyBase{
public:
    virtual void f1(float f) {
        cout << "MyBase::f1(float f)" << endl;
    }
};
class MyDerived :public MyBase{
public:
    void f1(float f) final {
        cout << "MyDerived::f1(float f)" << endl;
    }
};
class MyDerivedDerived :public MyDerived {
public:
    void f1(float f) { // Compile error
        cout << "MyDerivedDerived::f1(float f)" << endl;
    }
};
```

final

- `final` keyword is also used for class to make the class unavailable for inheritance
 - `MyBase` class is not inheritable

```
class MyBase final{  
};  
class MyDerived :public MyBase {// Compile error  
};
```

default

- Recall that default constructor is generated by compiler only when there is no user-define constructor
 - What if we want to use user-defined copy constructor and just default compiler-generated constructor?

```
class MyClass{
private:
    int data;
public:
    MyClass(const MyClass& obj) :data{obj.data} { // Copy constructor
    }
};

int main() {
    MyClass obj1; // Compile error: No default constructor
    return 0;
}
```

default

- We can use `default` keyword to use compiler-generated special functions like constructor, copy constructor, and assignment operator with user-defined ones

```
class MyClass
{
private:
    int data;
public:
    MyClass() = default;
    MyClass(const MyClass& obj) :data{obj.data} {

    }
};

int main(){
    MyClass obj1;
    return 0;
}
```

delete

- How can we prevent someone from copying the object of MyClass?
 - One way is to declare private copy constructor

```
class MyClass{
    friend MyFriend;
private:
    int data;
    MyClass(const MyClass& obj) :data{obj.data} {
    }
};

int main() {
    MyClass obj1, obj2;
    obj2 = obj1; // Compile error
    return 0;
}
```

- However, friend class or function of MyClass still can copy the object of MyClass

delete

- You can use `delete` keyword to completely remove special functions

```
class MyClass{
    friend MyFriend;
private:
    int data;
    MyClass(const MyClass& obj) = delete;

int main() {
    MyClass obj1, obj2;
    obj2 = obj1; // Compile error
    return 0;
}
```


delete

- How can we prevent someone from invoking `factorial()` with a parameter of other than the `int` type?

```
int factorial(int n){
    if (n <= 1)
        return n;
    else
        return n*factorial(n-1);
}

int main(){
    long f{ 0 };
    f = factorial(2);
    f = factorial(2.4);
    f = factorial('a');
    f = factorial(true);
    return 0;
}
```

delete

- You can use `delete` keyword to remove normal functions

```
int factorial(int n){
    if (n <= 1)
        return n;
    else
        return n*factorial(n-1);
}
int factorial(double) = delete;
int factorial(char) = delete;
int factorial(bool) = delete;

int main(){
    long f{ 0 };
    f = factorial(2);
    f = factorial(2.4); // Compile error
    f = factorial('a'); // Compile error
    f = factorial(true); // Compile error
    return 0;
}
```

Quiz #1

- What is the expected output? (including compile/runtime error)

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

template <class A, class B>
auto findMin(A a, B b) -> decltype(a < b ? a : b)
{
    return (a < b) ? a : b;
}

int main(){
    cout << findMin(4, 3.44) << endl;

    cout << findMin(5.4, 3) << endl;

    return 0;
}
```

Motivation on Smart Pointers

- Pointer is a powerful, but error-prone feature of C++ (and C)
- Memory leak is one of the notorious problems in C++
 - Object declared in a function scope is automatically released when the function terminates
 - Memory space allocated in a function scope is **NOT** released when the function terminates
 - This is especially serious in situations where exceptions occur.
- How can we automatically release memory when it is not necessary further?

C++ Smart Pointers

- A **smart pointer** is an *object* that stores a pointer to a heap-allocated object
 - A smart pointer looks and behaves like a regular C++ pointer
 - By overloading `*`, `->`, `[]`, etc.
 - These can help you manage memory
 - The smart pointer will delete the pointed-to object *at the right time* including invoking the object's destructor
 - When that is depends on what kind of smart pointer you use
 - With correct use of smart pointers, you no longer have to remember when to delete new'd memory!

A Toy Smart Pointer

- We can implement a simple one with:
 - A constructor that accepts a pointer
 - A destructor that frees the pointer
 - Overloaded `*` and `->` operators that access the pointer

ToyPtr Class Template

```
#ifndef _TOYPTR_H_
#define _TOYPTR_H_

template <typename T> class ToyPtr {
public:
    ToyPtr(T *ptr) : ptr_(ptr) { }           // constructor
    ~ToyPtr() { delete ptr_; }                // destructor

    T &operator*() { return *ptr_; }          // * operator
    T *operator->() { return ptr_; }          // -> operator

private:
    T *ptr_;                                 // the pointer itself
};

#endif // _TOYPTR_H_
```

ToyPtr Example

```
#include <iostream>
#include "ToyPtr.h"

// simply struct to use
typedef struct { int x = 1, y = 2; } Point;
std::ostream &operator<<(std::ostream &out, const Point &rhs) {
    return out << "(" << rhs.x << "," << rhs.y << ")";
}

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    // Create a dumb pointer
    Point *leak = new Point;

    // Create a "smart" pointer (OK, it's still pretty dumb)
    ToyPtr<Point> notleak(new Point);

    std::cout << "    *leak: " << *leak << std::endl;
    std::cout << "    leak->x: " << leak->x << std::endl;
    std::cout << "    *notleak: " << *notleak << std::endl;
    std::cout << "    notleak->x: " << notleak->x << std::endl;

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```


What Makes This a Toy?

- Can't handle:
 - Arrays
 - Copying
 - Reassignment
 - Comparison
 - ... plus many other subtleties...
- Luckily, others have built non-toy smart pointers for us in STL!

Smart Pointers in Modern C++

- Smart Pointers
 - `std::unique_ptr`
 - Reference counting
 - `std::shared_ptr` and `std::weak_ptr`

Refresher: ToyPtr Class Template

```
#ifndef _TOYPTR_H_
#define _TOYPTR_H_

template <typename T> class ToyPtr {
public:
    ToyPtr(T *ptr) : ptr_(ptr) { }           // constructor
    ~ToyPtr() { delete ptr_; }               // destructor

    T &operator*() { return *ptr_; }         // * operator
    T *operator->() { return ptr_; }         // -> operator

private:
    T *ptr_;                                // the pointer itself
};

#endif // _TOYPTR_H_
```

std::unique_ptr

- A `unique_ptr` *takes ownership* of a pointer
 - Part of C++’s standard library (C++11)
 - A template: template parameter is the type that the “owned” pointer references (*i.e.* the `T` in pointer type `T*`)
 - Its destructor invokes `delete` on the owned pointer
 - Invoked when `unique_ptr` object is `delete`’d or falls out of scope

Using unique_ptr

```
#include <iostream>    // for std::cout, std::endl
#include <memory>       // for std::unique_ptr
#include <cstdlib>      // for EXIT_SUCCESS

void Leaky() {
    int *x = new int(5); // heap-allocated
    (*x)++;
    std::cout << *x << std::endl;
} // never used delete, therefore leak

void NotLeaky() {
    std::unique_ptr<int> x(new int(5)); // wrapped, heap-allocated
    (*x)++;
    std::cout << *x << std::endl;
} // never used delete, but no leak

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    Leaky();
    NotLeaky();
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Why are `unique_ptr`s useful?

- If you have many potential exits out of a function, it's easy to forget to call `delete` on all of them
 - Especially, an exception handling is the case
 - `unique_ptr` will `delete` its pointer when it falls out of scope
 - Thus, a `unique_ptr` also helps with *exception safety*

```
void NotLeaky() {  
    std::unique_ptr<int> x(new int(5));  
    ...  
    // lots of code, including several returns  
    // lots of code, including potential exception throws  
    ...  
}
```

unique_ptr Operations

```
#include <memory>    // for std::unique_ptr
#include <cstdlib>    // for EXIT_SUCCESS

using namespace std;
typedef struct { int a, b; } IntPair;

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    unique_ptr<int> x(new int(5));

    int *ptr = x.get(); // Return a pointer to pointed-to object
    int val = *x;       // Return the value of pointed-to object

    // Access a field or function of a pointed-to object
    unique_ptr<IntPair> ip(new IntPair);
    ip->a = 100;

    // Deallocate current pointed-to object and store new pointer
    x.reset(new int(1));

    ptr = x.release(); // Release responsibility for freeing
    delete ptr;
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

unique_ptr Cannot Be Copied

- `std::unique_ptr` has disabled its copy constructor and assignment operator
 - You cannot copy a `unique_ptr`, helping maintain “uniqueness” or “ownership”

```
#include <memory>    // for std::unique_ptr
#include <cstdlib>    // for EXIT_SUCCESS

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    std::unique_ptr<int> x(new int(5));

    std::unique_ptr<int> y(x);           // compile error

    std::unique_ptr<int> z;

    z = x;                             // compile error

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```


Transferring Ownership

- Use **reset** () and **release** () to transfer ownership
 - **release** returns the pointer, sets wrapped pointer to nullptr
 - **reset** delete's the current pointer and stores a new one

```
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    unique_ptr<int> x(new int(5));
    cout << "x: " << x.get() << endl;

    unique_ptr<int> y(x.release()); // x abdicates ownership to y
    cout << "x: " << x.get() << endl;
    cout << "y: " << y.get() << endl;

    unique_ptr<int> z(new int(10));

    // y transfers ownership of its pointer to z.
    // z's old pointer was delete'd in the process.
    z.reset(y.release());

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

unique_ptr and STL

- `unique_ptr` *can* be stored in STL containers
 - Wait, what? STL containers like to make lots of copies of stored objects and `unique_ptr` cannot be copied...
- Move semantics to the rescue!
 - When supported, STL containers will *move* rather than *copy*
 - `unique_ptr` support move semantics
- You will learn move semantics in the next lecture

unique_ptr and STL Example

```
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    std::vector<std::unique_ptr<int> > vec;

    vec.push_back(std::unique_ptr<int>(new int(9)));
    vec.push_back(std::unique_ptr<int>(new int(5)));
    vec.push_back(std::unique_ptr<int>(new int(7)));

    int z = *vec[1];
    std::cout << "z is: " << z << std::endl;

    // compile error
    std::unique_ptr<int> copied = vec[1];

    // OK
    std::unique_ptr<int> moved = std::move(vec[1]);
    std::cout << "*moved: " << *moved << std::endl;
    std::cout << "vec[1].get(): " << vec[1].get() << std::endl;

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

unique_ptr and Arrays

- `unique_ptr` can store arrays as well
 - Will call `delete []` on destruction

```
#include <memory>    // for std::unique_ptr
#include <cstdlib>    // for EXIT_SUCCESS

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    unique_ptr<int[]> x(new int[5]);

    x[0] = 1;
    x[2] = 2;

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Quiz #2

- What is the expected output? (including compile/runtime error)

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

int main()
{
    A *ap = (A *)0x1234; // Never write code like this. This is only for quiz
    unique_ptr<A> p1(ap);
    p1->show();

    // returns the memory address of p1
    cout << p1.get() << endl;

    // transfers ownership to p2
    unique_ptr<A> p2 = move(p1);
    p2->show();
    cout << p1.get() << endl; cout << p2.get() << endl;

    // transfers ownership to p3
    unique_ptr<A> p3 = move(p2);
    p3->show();
    cout << p1.get() << endl; cout << p2.get() << endl; cout << p3.get() << endl;

    p3.release();
    return 0;
}
```

Reference Counting

- **Reference counting** is a technique for managing resources by counting and storing the number of references (*i.e.* pointers that hold the address) to an object

std::shared_ptr

- `shared_ptr` is similar to `unique_ptr` but we allow shared objects to have multiple owners
 - The copy/assign operators are not disabled and *increment* or *decrement* reference counts as needed
 - After a copy/assign, the two `shared_ptr` objects point to the same pointed-to object and the (shared) reference count is 2
 - When a `shared_ptr` is destroyed, the reference count is *decremented*
 - When the reference count hits 0, we *delete* the pointed-to object!
 - You can see the ref. counter of `shared_ptr` by calling `use_count()` member function

shared_ptr Example

```
#include <cstdlib>    // for EXIT_SUCCESS
#include <iostream>   // for std::cout, std::endl
#include <memory>     // for std::shared_ptr

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    std::shared_ptr<int> x(new int(10)); // ref count: 1

    // temporary inner scope
    {
        std::shared_ptr<int> y = x;      // ref count: 2
        std::cout << *y << std::endl;
    }

    std::cout << *x << std::endl;        // ref count: 1

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```


shared_ptr and STL Containers

- Even simpler than `unique_ptr`
 - Safe to store `shared_ptr` in containers, since copy/assign maintain a shared reference count

```
vector<std::shared_ptr<int> > vec;

vec.push_back(std::shared_ptr<int>(new int(9)));
vec.push_back(std::shared_ptr<int>(new int(5)));
vec.push_back(std::shared_ptr<int>(new int(7)));

int &z = *vec[1];
std::cout << "z is: " << z << std::endl;

std::shared_ptr<int> copied = vec[1]; // works! Incr. ref. cnt
std::cout << "*copied: " << *copied << std::endl;

// works! no change to ref. faster than copy
std::shared_ptr<int> moved = std::move(vec[1]);
std::cout << "*moved: " << *moved << std::endl;
std::cout << "vec[1].get(): " << vec[1].get() << std::endl;
```

Cycle of shared_ptrs

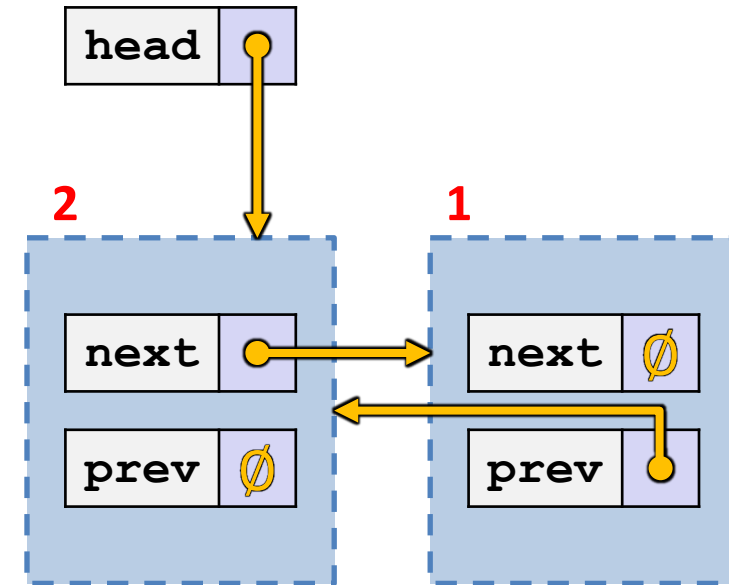
```
#include <cstdlib>
#include <memory>

using std::shared_ptr;

struct A {
    shared_ptr<A> next;
    shared_ptr<A> prev;
};

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    shared_ptr<A> head(new A());
    head->next = shared_ptr<A>(new A());
    head->next->prev = head;

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```



- What happens when we **delete** head?

std::weak_ptr

- `weak_ptr` is similar to a `shared_ptr` but doesn't affect the reference count
 - Can *only* “point to” an object that is managed by a `shared_ptr`
 - Not *really* a pointer – can't actually dereference unless you “get” its associated `shared_ptr`
 - Because it doesn't influence the reference count, `weak_ptr`s can become “*dangling*”
 - Object referenced may have been `delete`'d
 - But you can check to see if the object still exists
- Can be used to break our cycle problem!

Breaking the Cycle with weak_ptr

weakcycle.cc

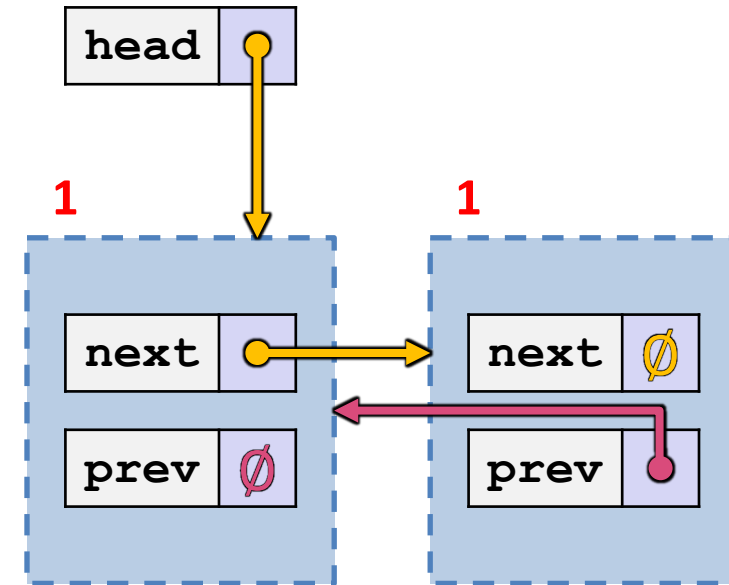
```
#include <cstdlib>
#include <memory>

using std::shared_ptr;
using std::weak_ptr;

struct A {
    shared_ptr<A> next;
    weak_ptr<A> prev;
};

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    shared_ptr<A> head(new A());
    head->next = shared_ptr<A>(new A());
    head->next->prev = head;

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```



- Now what happens when we `delete` head?

Using a weak_ptr

```
#include <cstdlib>    // for EXIT_SUCCESS
#include <iostream>   // for std::cout, std::endl
#include <memory>     // for std::shared_ptr, std::weak_ptr

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    std::weak_ptr<int> w;

    { // temporary inner scope
        std::shared_ptr<int> x;
        { // temporary inner-inner scope
            std::shared_ptr<int> y(new int(10));
            w = y;
            x = w.lock(); // returns "promoted" shared_ptr
            std::cout << *x << std::endl;
        }
        std::cout << *x << std::endl;
    }
    std::shared_ptr<int> a = w.lock();
    std::cout << a << std::endl;

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Quiz #3

- What is the expected output? (including compile/runtime error)

```
#include <iostream>
#include <memory>
using namespace std;
int main() {
    std::shared_ptr<double> a(new double);
    *a = 3.1415;

    std::cout << "Use count: " << a.use_count() << '\n'; // A
    std::shared_ptr<double> a2(a);
    std::cout << "Use count: " << a2.use_count() << '\n'; // B

    std::weak_ptr<double> w(a2);
    std::cout << "Use count: " << w.use_count() << '\n'; // C

    w.reset();
    std::cout << "Use count: " << w.use_count() << '\n'; // D

    a2.reset();
    std::cout << "Use count: " << a2.use_count() << '\n'; // E

    std::cout << "Use count: " << a.use_count() << '\n'; // F
    return 0;
}
```

Summary of Smart Pointers

- A `unique_ptr` *takes ownership* of a pointer
 - Cannot be copied, but can be moved
 - `get()` returns a copy of the pointer, but is dangerous to use; better to use `release()` instead
 - `reset()` `deletes` old pointer value and stores a new one
- A `shared_ptr` allows shared objects to have multiple owners by doing *reference counting*
 - `deletes` an object once its reference count reaches zero
- A `weak_ptr` works with a shared object but doesn't affect the reference count
 - Can't actually be dereferenced, but can check if the object still exists and can get a `shared_ptr` from the `weak_ptr` if it does

New features in C++11 (and C++14)

C++11

vector<vector<int>> **=default, =delete** **atomic<T>** **auto f() -> int**

user-defined literals **thread_local** array<T, N>

vector<LocalType> **decltype**

noexcept

initializer lists **regex** **extern template**

constexpr raw string literals **async** unordered_map<int, string>

template aliases **nullptr** **auto i = v.begin();** delegating constructors

lambdas **override, final** **variadic templates** **rvalue references**
[] { foo(); } template <typename T...> (move semantics)

unique_ptr<T> thread, mutex **function<>** **future<T>** **static_assert(x)**

shared_ptr<T> **for (x : coll)** **strongly-typed enums** tuple<int, float, string>
weak_ptr<T> enum class E {...};