Arrays in Classes

Victor Eijkhout, Susan Lindsey

Fall 2025

last formatted: September 28, 2025



Vectors in classes



1. Can you make a class around a vector?

You may want a class of objects that contain a vector. For instance, you may want to name your vectors.

```
1 class named_field {
2 private:
3  vector<double> values;
4  string name;
```

The problem here is when and how that vector is going to be created.



2. Create the contained vector

Use initializers for creating the contained vector:

```
1 class named_field {
2 private:
3   string name;
4   vector<double> values;
5 public:
6   named_field( string name,int n )
7   : name(name),
8   values(vector<double>(n)) {
9   };
10 };
```

Even shorter:

```
named_field( string name,int n )
named_field( string name,int n )
name(name),values(n) {
};
```



Multi-dimensional arrays



3. Multi-dimensional vectors

Multi-dimensional is harder with vectors:

```
1 vector<float> row(20);
2 vector<vector<float>> rows(10,row);
```

Create a row vector, then store 10 copies of that: vector of vectors.



4. Matrix class

```
1 // array/matrixclass.cpp
2 class matrix {
3 private:
4    vector<double> matrix_data;
5    int m,n;
6 public:
7    matrix(int m,int n)
8    : m(m),n(n),matrix_data(m*n) {};

(Can you combine the get/set methods, using ???)
```



Write rows() and cols() methods for this class that return the number of rows and columns respectively.



Write a method **void set(double)** that sets all matrix elements to the same value.

Write a method double totalsum() that returns the sum of all elements.

```
Code:

1 // array/matrix.cpp
2 A.set(3.);
3 cout << "Sum of elements: "
4 << A.totalsum() << '\n';
```

```
Output:
1 Sum of elements: 30
```



5. Matrix class; better design

Linearized indexing:

Class:

```
1 // array/matrixclass.cpp
2 class matrix {
3 private:
4   vector<double> matrix_data;
5   int m,n;
6 public:
7   matrix(int m,int n)
8   : m(m),n(n),matrix_data(m*n)
      {};
```

Methods:

```
1 void setij(int i,int j,double v) {
2  matrix_data.at( i*n +j ) = v;
3 };
4 double getij(int i,int j) {
5  return matrix_data.at( i*n +j );
6 };
```



In the matrix class of the previous slide, why are m,n stored explicitly while that would not be needed in the scheme of section $\ref{eq:matrix}$?



Add methods such as transpose, scale to your matrix class.

Implement matrix-matrix multiplication.



6. Pascal's triangle

Pascal's triangle contains binomial coefficients:

where

$$p_{rc} = \begin{pmatrix} r \\ c \end{pmatrix} = \frac{r!}{c!(r-c)!}.$$

The coefficients can be computed from the recurrence

$$p_{rc} = \begin{cases} 1 & c \equiv 1 \lor c \equiv r \\ p_{r-1,c-1} + p_{r-1,c} \end{cases}$$



are other formulas. Why are they less preferable?)

- Write a class pascal so that pascal(n) is the object containing
 n rows of the above coefficients. Write a method getvalue(i,j) that
 returns the (i,j) coefficient.
- Write a method print that prints the above display.

The object needs to have an array internally. The easiest solution is to make an array of size $n \times n$. Optionally you can optimize your code to use precisely enough space for the coefficients.



Write a method print(int m) that prints a star if the coefficient modulo m is nonzero, and a space otherwise.





Optional exercise 6

Extend the Pascal exercise:

Optimize your code to use precisely enough space for the coefficients.



Write a class storage that provides get/set methods that only read from and write to the data structure. The pascal class can then inherit from it, and do the coefficient calculation. Do you use public or private inheritance? Extend the storage class:

- If a coefficient outside the initial triangle is asked, the triangle should dynamically be extended to the row of that coefficient.
- This requires the storage class to extend the space for the coefficients.
- It also requires the pascal class to track how many rows have been filled in, and possibly compute some missing coefficients.



Other array stuff



7. Array class

Arrays:

```
1 #include <array>
2 std::array<int,5> fiveints;
```

- Size known at compile time.
- Vector methods that do not affect storage
- Zero overhead.



8. Random walk exercise

```
// walk/walk_lib_vec.cpp
class Mosquito {
private:
  vector<float> pos;
public:
  Mosquito(int d)
    : pos( vector<float>(d,0.f) ) { };
// walk/walk_lib_vec.cpp
void step() {
  int d = pos.size();
  auto incr = random_step(d);
  for (int id=0; id<d; ++id)</pre>
    pos.at(id) += incr.at(id);
};
```

Finish the implementation. Do you get improvement from using the array class?



9. Span

Create a $_{\rm span}$ from a $_{\rm vector}$, starting at its second element and ending before its last:

```
1 #include <span>
2 vector<double> v;
3 std::span<double> v_span( v.data()+1,v.size()-2 );
```



Array creation

C-style arrays still exist,

```
// array/staticinit.cpp
{
   int numbers[] = {5,4,3,2,1};
   println("{}",numbers[3]);
}
{
   int numbers[5]{5,4,3,2,1};
   numbers[3] = 21;
   println("{}",numbers[3]);
}
```

but you shouldn't use them.

Prefer to use $\frac{1}{2}$ class (not in this course) or $\frac{1}{2}$ class (very advanced)

