

More Objects

Victor Eijkhout, Susan Lindsey

Fall 2025

last formatted: September 28, 2025

Interaction between objects

1. Methods that create a new object

Code:

```
1 // geom/pointscale.cpp
2 class Point {
3     /* ... */
4     Point scale( float a ) {
5         Point scaledpoint( x*a, y*a );
6         return scaledpoint;
7     };
8     /* ... */
9     println("p1 to origin {:.5}",
10            p1.dist_to_origin());
11     Point p2 = p1.scale(2.);
12     println("p2 to origin {:.5}",
13            p2.dist_to_origin());
```

Output:

```
1 p1 to origin 2.2361
2 p2 to origin 4.4721
```

2. Anonymous objects

Create a point by scaling another point:

```
1 new_point = old_point.scale(2.81);
```

Two ways of handling the `return` statement of the `scale` method:

Naive:

```
1 // geom/pointscale.cpp
2 Point Point::scale( float a ) {
3     Point scaledpoint =
4         Point( x*a, y*a );
5     return scaledpoint;
6 };
```

Concise:

```
1 // geom/pointscale.cpp
2 Point Point::scale( float a ) {
3     return Point( x*a, y*a );
4 };
```

‘move semantics’ and ‘copy elision’:
compiler is pretty good at avoiding copies

Exercise 1

Write a method *halfway* that, given two *Point* objects *p*, *q*, construct the *Point* halfway, that is, $(p + q)/2$:

```
1 Point p(1,2.2), q(3.4,5.6);  
2 Point h = p.halfway(q);
```

You can write this function directly, or you could write functions *Add* and *Scale* and combine these.

(Later you will learn about operator overloading.)

How would you print out a *Point* to make sure you compute the halfway point correctly?

3. Using the default constructor

No constructor explicitly defined;

You recognize the default constructor in the main by the fact that an object is defined without any parameters.

Code:

```
1 // object/default.cpp
2 class IamOne {
3 private:
4     int i=1;
5 public:
6     void print() {
7         println( "{}",i );
8     };
9 };
10 /* ... */
11 IamOne one;
12 one.print();
```

Output:

```
1 1
```

4. Default constructor

Refer to *Point* definition above.

Consider this code that looks like variable declaration, but for objects:

```
1 Point p1(1.5, 2.3);  
2 Point p2;  
3 p2 = p1.scaleby(3.1);
```

Compiling gives an error (g++; different for intel):

```
1 pointdefault.cpp: In function 'int main()':  
2 pointdefault.cpp:32:21: error: no matching function for call to  
3     'Point::Point()'
```

5. Default constructor

The problem is with *p2*:

```
1 Point p1(1.5, 2.3);  
2 Point p2;
```

- *p1* is created with your explicitly given constructor;
- *p2* uses the default constructor:

```
1 Point() {};
```

- default constructor is there by default, unless you define another constructor.
- you can re-introduce the default constructor:

```
1 // geom/pointdefault.cpp  
2 Point() = default;  
3 Point( float x, float y )  
4   : x(x), y(y) {};
```

(but often you can avoid needing it)

6. Other way

State that the default constructor exists with the `default` keyword:

```
1 // object/default.cpp
2 Point() = default;
3 Point( double x, double y )
4   : x(x), y(y) {};
```

State that there should be no default constructor with the `delete` keyword:

```
Point() = delete;
```

Exercise 2

Make a class *LinearFunction* with a constructor:

```
LinearFunction( Point input_p1,Point input_p2 );
```

and a member function

```
float evaluate_at( float x );
```

which you can use as:

```
1 LinearFunction line(p1,p2);  
2 cout << "Value at 4.0: " << line.evaluate_at(4.0) << endl;
```

7. Classes for abstract objects

Objects can model fairly abstract things:

Code:

```
1 // object/stream.cpp
2 class Stream {
3 private:
4     int last_result{0};
5 public:
6     int next() {
7         return last_result++; };
8 };
9
10 int main() {
11     Stream ints;
12     println( "Next: {}",
13         ints.next() );
14     println( "Next: {}",
15         ints.next() );
16     println( "Next: {}",
17         ints.next() );
```

Output:

```
1 Next: 0
2 Next: 1
3 Next: 2
```

8. Preliminary to the following exercise

A prime number generator has:
an API of just one function: `nextprime`

To support this it needs to store:
an integer `last_prime_found`

Programming Project Exercise 3

Write a class *primegenerator* that contains:

- Methods *number_of_primes_found* and *nextprime*;
- Also write a function *isprime* that does not need to be in the class.

Your main program should look as follows:

```
1 // primes/6primesbyclass.cpp
2 cin >> nprimes;
3 primegenerator sequence;
4 while (sequence.number_of_primes_found()<nprimes) {
5     int number = sequence.nextprime();
6     cout << "Number " << number << " is prime" << '\n';
7 }
```

Programming Project Exercise 4

Write a program to test the Goldbach conjecture for the even numbers up to a bound that you read in.

First formulate the quantor structure of this statement, then translate that top-down to code, using the generator you developed above.

1. Make an outer loop over the even numbers e .
2. For each e , generate all primes p .
3. From $p + q = e$, it follows that $q = e - p$ is prime: test if that q is prime.

For each even number e then print e, p, q , for instance:

The number 10 is 3+7

If multiple possibilities exist, only print the first one you find.

9. A Goldbach corollary

The Goldbach conjecture says that every even number $2n$ (starting at 4), is the sum of two primes $p + q$:

$$2n = p + q.$$

Equivalently, every number n is equidistant from two primes:

$$n = \frac{p + q}{2} \quad \text{or} \quad q - n = n - p.$$

In particular this holds for each prime number:

$$\forall_{r \text{ prime}} \exists_{p, q \text{ prime}} : r = (p + q)/2 \text{ is prime.}$$

We now have the statement that each prime number is the average of two other prime numbers.

Programming Project Exercise 5

Write a program that tests this. You need at least one loop that tests all primes r , for each r you then need to find the primes p, q that are equidistant to it.

Use your prime generator. Do you use two generators for this, or is one enough? Do you need three, for p, q, r ?

For each r value, when the program finds the p, q values, print the p, q, r triple and move on to the next r .