

# CS2310 Computer Programming

## LT06: Class and Object

*Computer Science, City University of Hong Kong (Dongguan)*

*Semester A 2025-26*

# Outline

- Introduction to class
- Class definition
- Public and private members
- Constructor and destructor
- String class

# Class and Object : Example (circle)

Without class/object

```
int radius;  
double getCircleArea()  
{  
    return 3.14*radius*radius;  
}  
double getCirclePerimeter()  
{  
    return 2*3.14*radius;  
}
```

With class/object

```
class Circle {  
    public:  
        int radius;  
        double getCircleArea()  
        {  
            return  
                3.14*radius*radius;  
        }  
        double getCirclePerimeter()  
        {  
            return 2*3.14*radius;  
        }  
};
```

# Class and Object

```
void main() {
    cout << "Please enter the radius of circle";
    cin >> radius;
    cout << getCircleArea();
}
```

Without class/object

```
void main() {
    Circle c; //Circle is a class, c is an object of Circle
    cout << "Please enter the radius of circle";
    cin >> c.radius;
    cout << c.getCircleArea();
}
```

With class/object

# Class and Object : Example (Rect)

Without class/object

```
int width, height;  
double getRectangleArea()  
{  
    return width*height;  
}  
  
double getRectanglePerimeter()  
{  
    return 2*(width+height);  
}
```

With class/object

```
class Rect{  
    public:  
        int width, height;  
        double getRectangleArea()  
        {  
            return  
                width*height;  
        }  
        double  
        getRectanglePerimeter()  
        {  
            return  
                2* (width+height);  
        }  
};
```

# Class and Object

```
void main()
{
    cout << "Please enter the width and height of a
rectangle";
    cin >> width >> height;
    cout << getRectangleArea();
}
```

Without class/object

```
void main() {
    Rect r; //Rect is a class, r is an object of Rect
    cout << "Please enter the width and height of a
rectangle";
    cin >> r.width >> r.height;
    cout << r.getRectangleArea();
}
```

Thinking: Size?

Code: lec06-01-classSize.cpp

With class/object

# Class and Object

- **Class** and **object** are important features of **Object-oriented** Programming Language (like C++, Java, C#)
- With **class**, **variables** and their directly related **functions** can be **grouped** together to form a new **data type**
- It promotes **reusability** and **object-oriented** design
- **Object** is an **instance** of class, i.e. *class* is a blue-print and its product is its *object*

# Class in Computer Programming

- An **abstract** view of real-world objects, e.g. car, horse
- Computer program is a model of real-world problem
- **Simple** problem: program with **variables** and **functions**
- **Large** scale program: **class** and **object**
- Class:
  - Definition of program **component**
  - Consists of **member variables** and **member functions**
    - Member variable : **variable** belong to class
    - Member function: **function** primarily designed to **access/manipulate** the **member variable** of the class
- Object:
  - An **instance** of class / runtime representation of a class

# Class in programming

```
void start();  
void shutdown();  
void moveForward(int step);  
void turnLeft(int degree);  
void turnRight(int degree);  
void takePhoto();  
.....
```

Class:Robot



Member  
variables

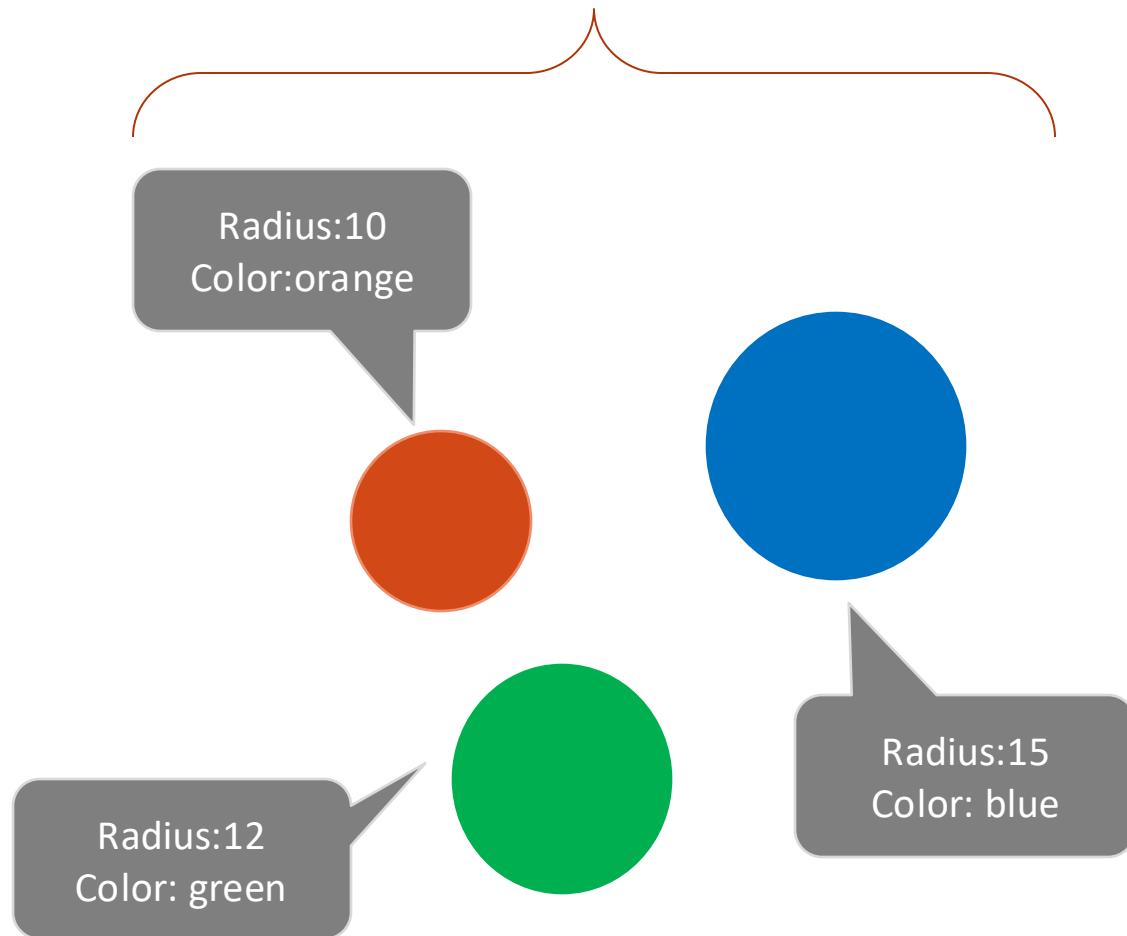
Member  
functions

```
int modelNum;  
int width;  
int height;  
int powerLevel;  
.....
```

# What is an object?



## Objects of Circle



# Classes and Objects in C++

- A **class** is a **data type**, objects are **variables of this type** (e.g., `Circle c;` => `int x;`)
- An object is a **variable** with **member functions** and **data values**
- `cin`, `cout` are objects defined in header  
`<iostream> (cin.get(), cin.getline())`
- C++ has great facilities for you to define your own class and objects

# Outline

- Introduction to class
- Class definition
- Public and private members
- Constructor and destructor
- String class

# Defining classes

```
class class_name
{
    public / protected / private:
        variable declaration; //member variable
        return_type function () //member function
    {
        function body statement;
    }
};
```

# Defining classes

```
class class_name
{
    public / protected / private:
        variable declaration; //member variable
        function prototype; //member function
};

return_type class_name::function() {
    method body statement;
}
```

# Member function – Declare and Define

- In C++, a class **definition** commonly contains only the **prototypes** of its member functions (except for *inline functions*)
- Use **classname::functionName** to define the member function (method) of particular class

```
class Circle
{
    .....
    int radius;
    .....
    double getArea(); <----- Declaration
};

double Circle::getArea() {
    return 3.1415*radius*radius;
}
```

# Defining classes (example I)

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
class DayOfYear
{
public:
    int month; }
    int day; }
void output() {
    cout << "month =" << month;
    cout << ", day =" << day << endl;
}
};
```

Member variables

Member function

# Defining classes (example II)

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
class DayOfYear
{
public:
    void output(); //member func. prototype
    int month;
    int day;
};
void DayOfYear::output()
{
    cout << "month =" << month
        << ", day =" << day << endl;
}
```

Define the method  
elsewhere

# Main function

```
void main()
{
    DayofYear today, birthday;
    cin >> today.month >> today.day;
    cin >> birthday.month >> birthday.day;
    cout << "Today's date is: ";
    today.output();
    cout << "Your birthday is: ";
    birthday.output();
    if (today.month == birthday.month
        && today.day == birthday.day)
        cout << "Happy Birthday! \n";
}
```

# Create object and access its member function

- To declare an object of a class

***Class\_name object\_name;***

Examples:

***Circle c1, c2;***

***DayofYear today;***

- A member function of an object is called using the **dot operator**:

- `today.output();`

- `c1.getArea();`

# Create pointer and access its function

- We can also declare the pointer of a class

*Class\_name\** *pointer\_name*;

Examples:

Circle \*cPtr1, \*cPtr2;

DayofYear \*today;

- A member function of the pointer is called using the **arrow operator (->)**:
  - today->output () ;
  - cPtr1->getArea () ;

# Outline

- Introduction to class
- Class definition
- Public and private members
- Constructor and destructor
- String class

# Public and private members

- By default, all members of a class are **private**
  - By default, all members of a structure are **public**
- You can declare public members using the keyword **public**
- **Private members** can be accessed only by **member functions** (and *friend* functions) of that class, i.e. only from within the class, not from **outside** (e.g., main function).

# Private Variable and Access functions

- Member functions that give you **access** to the values of the **private member** variables are called **access functions**, e.g., `get_month()`, `set(...)`
- Useful for controlling access to **private members**:
  - E.g. Provide **data validation** to ensure data integrity
- Needed when testing equality of 2 objects. (The predefined **equality operator** `= =` does **not work** for objects and variables of structure type.), e.g. `obj1==obj2` (**not work!**)

# Why private variable?

- Prevent others from accessing the variables directly, i.e. variables can be **only** accessed by **access functions**.

```
class DayOfYear
{
    .....
private:
    int month;
    int day;
    .....
};
```

```
void DayOfYear::set(int new_m, int
                     new_d)
{
    .....
    month = new_m;
    day   = new_d;
    .....
}
int DayOfYear::get_month()
{
    return month;
}

int DayOfYear::get_day()
{
    return day;
}
```

# Why private variable?

- Change of the internal presentation, e.g. **variable name, type**, will not affect the how the others access the object. **Caller still calling the same function with same parameters**

```
class DayOfYear
{
    .....
private:
    int month;
    int d; //day
    .....
};
```

```
void DayOfYear::set(int new_m, int new_d)
{
    .....
    month = new_m;
    d = new_d;
    .....
}
int DayOfYear::get_month()
{
    return month;
}
int DayOfYear::get_day()
{
    return d;
}
```

# A new main program

```
void main()
{ DayOfYear today, birthday;

today.input();
birthday.input();
cout << "Today's date is:\n";
today.output();
cout << "Your birthday is:\n";
birthday.output();

if (today.get_month() == birthday.get_month()
    &&
    today.get_day() == birthday.get_day())
    cout << "Happy Birthday!\n";
}
```

# Private or public members?

- The common style of class definitions
  - To have all member **variables** **private**
  - Provide enough **access functions** to **get** and **set** the member variables
  - **Supporting functions** used by the **member functions** should also be made **private** (e.g., `isValid(...)`)
  - Only functions that need to **interact** with the **outside** can be made **public**

# Friend function

- In some cases, we want to access the **private** members of a class through functions outside the class **directly**
- Instead of changing the private members into **public**, we can declare functions with keyword **friend**
- A friend function is a normal function defined outside the class, while we declare it inside the class with keyword **friend**

# Friend function

```
class DayOfYear
{
    friend void printDate(DayOfYear *d);

public:
    set(int m, int d) {
        month = m;
        day = d
    }

private:
    int month;
    int day;
};
```

# Friend function

- We define and use the friend function like normal function outside the class

```
int main() {
    DayOfYear day;
    day.set(1, 1);
    printDate(&day);
    return 0;
}
void printDate(DayOfYear *d) {
    cout<<"The month is "<< d->month <<endl;
    cout<<"The day is "<< d->day <<endl;
}
```

# Assignment operator for objects

- It is **legal** to use assignment operator = with objects
- E.g. **DayOfYear** due\_date, tomorrow;  
    tomorrow.input();  
    due\_date = tomorrow;

# Outline

- Introduction to class
- Class definition
- Public and private members
- Constructor and destructor
- String class

# Constructors for initialization

- Class contains **variables** and functions
- Variables must be **initialized** before use
- In C++, a **constructor** is designed to initialize variables
- A **constructor** is a member **function** that is **automatically** called when an object of that class is declared

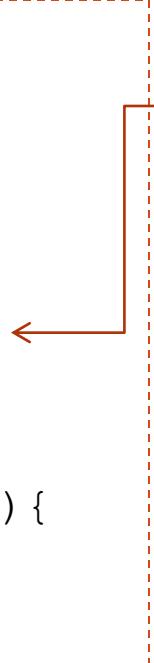
`DayOfYear due_date;`

- Special rules:
  - A constructor must have the **same** name as the class
  - A constructor definition **cannot** return a value

# Default constructors

- A constructor with **no** parameters
- Will be called when **no** argument is given
- Mainly for initializing variables (to 0) and set pointers to NULL.

```
class Circle{  
    int radius;  
    Circle();  
    double getArea();  
};  
Circle:: Circle() {  
    radius=0;  
}  
double Circle::getArea() {  
    return 3.1415*radius;  
}
```



```
void main() {  
    Circle circle;  
    circle.getArea();  
}
```

# Default constructors

- Default constructor will be generated by compiler automatically if NO constructor is defined so far
- However, if a non-default constructor is defined, the compiler will not generate its default constructor

```
class Circle{  
    int radius;  
    Circle(int r);  
    double getArea();  
};  
Circle::Circle(int r){  
    radius=r;  
}  
double Circle::getArea(){  
    return 3.1415*radius;  
}
```

```
void main() {  
    Circle circle2; //illegal  
    Circle circle(6); //OK  
}
```

# Example: Bank account

- E.g., Suppose we want to define a bank account class which has member variables balance and interest\_rate. We want to have a constructor that initializes the member variables.

```
class BankAcc
{
public:
    BankAcc(int dollars, int cents, double rate);
    ...
private:
    double balance;
    double interest_rate;
};

...
BankAcc::BankAcc(int dollars, int cents, double rate)
{
    balance = dollars + 0.01*cents;
    interest_rate = rate;
}
```

# Constructors

- When declaring objects of BankAcc class:

```
BankAcc account1(10,50,2.0),  
account2(500,0,4.5);
```

```
BankAcc(int dollars, int cents, double rate);
```

- Note: A constructor **cannot** be called in the same way as an ordinary **member function** is called:

```
account1.BankAcc(10,20,1.0); // illegal
```

# Constructors

- **More than one** versions of **constructors** are usually defined (overloaded) so that objects can be **initialized** in **more than one way**, e.g.

```
class BankAcc
{
public:
    BankAcc(int dollars, int cents, double rate);
    BankAcc(int dollars, double rate);
    BankAcc();
    ...
private:
    double balance;
    double interest_rate;
};
```

# Constructors

```
BankAcc::BankAcc(int dollars, int cents, double rate)
{
    balance = dollars + 0.01*cents;
    interest_rate = rate;
}

BankAcc::BankAcc(int dollars, double rate)
{
    balance = dollars;
    interest_rate = rate;
}

BankAcc::BankAcc()
{
    balance = 0;
    interest_rate = 0.0;
}
```

# Constructors

- When the constructor has no arguments, **DO NOT** include any parentheses in the object declaration.
- E.g.

```
BankAcc acc1(100, 50, 2.0), // OK  
acc2(100, 2.3), // OK  
acc3(), // error  
acc4; // correct
```

- The compiler thinks that it is the prototype of a **function** called acc3 that takes no arguments and returns a value of type BankAcc

# Destructors

- Automatically invoked when an object is destroyed
- Has the **same name** as the class name preceded with a tilde (~) symbol
- **No return value** and **no arguments**
- **Cannot have more than one** version

```
class DayOfYear {  
public:  
    DayOfYear()    {} // constructor  
    ~DayOfYear()   {} // destructor  
};
```

# Object as a Member Variable

- Member object

```
class AClass {};  
class BClass {  
    AClass a;  
};
```

- Whose constructor/destructor is called first?

```
class AClass {  
public:  
    AClass()          { cout << "A-Construction" << endl; }  
    ~AClass()         { cout << "A-Destruction" << endl; }  
};  
  
class BClass {  
public:  
    BClass()          { cout << "B-Construction" << endl; }  
    ~BClass()         { cout << "B-Destruction" << endl; }  
  
    AClass a;  
};
```

# Initializer List

- Initialize member variables of a class

```
class DayOfYear {  
public:  
    DayOfYear(int d, int m) :m_Day(d), m_Month(m) {}  
    int m_Day;  
    int m_Month;  
};
```

- It is a preferred way to initialize member variables
  - More efficient
  - Sometime we have to use it
    - For constant member variables
    - For member objects that do not have a default constructor

# Initializer List

- Example

```
class AClass {
    int x;
    AClass(int i) { x = i; }
};

class BClass {
    AClass a;
    const int y;

    BClass(int j): a(j), y(10) {}
};
```

# Static Members

- Static member variable
  - Shared by all the objects
  - Memory is allocated during compilation
  - Declared in the class, but initialized outside the class

```
class Circle {  
public:  
    static int cnt_pub;  
private:  
    static int cnt_pri;  
};  
  
int Circle::cnt_pub = 0;  
int Circle::cnt_pri = 0;
```

```
int main() {  
    Circle c1, c2;  
    c1.cnt_pub++;  
    c2.cnt_pub++;  
  
    cout << Circle::cnt_pub << endl;  
  
    // not allowed:  
    cout << circle::cnt_pri << endl;  
}
```

# Static Members

- Static member function
  - It can only access static member variables

```
class Circle {  
public:  
    static void print(int x) {  
        cnt_pub = x;  
        cout << cnt_pub << endl;  
    }  
    static int cnt_pub;  
    int radius;  
};  
  
int Circle::pub = 0;  
  
Circle c1;  
c1.print(10);  
Circle::print(100);
```

# Outline

- Introduction to class
- Class definition
- Public and private members
- Constructor and destructor
- **String class**

# C++ string class

- It is a class
  - #include <string>
- Many useful **functions** and **operators**
  - search, replacement, compare, substring, etc.
  - assign, concatenate, etc.

# Create String Objects

- Different constructors
  - `string();`
  - `string(a string constant);`
  - `string(another string object);`
  - `string(int n, char c);`

```
#include <iostream>
#include <string>
...
string str1;
string str2("cs2310");
string str3(str2);
string str4(5, 'a'); // str4 stores "aaaaa"
```

# Assignment

- Use assignment operator =
  - `string str5("cs2310");`
  - `string str6 = str5;`
- Use `assign()` function
  - `string str7.assign(str6); // "cs2310"`
- Use `assign(str, pos, n)` function, which gets n characters from str, starting at pos
  - `string str7;`
  - `str7.assign(str6, 2, 4); // str4 stores "2310"`

# Concatenation

- Use operator `+=`
  - `string str8 = "cs"; str8 += "2310";`
- Use `append()` function
  - `str8.append("-computer");`
- Use `append(str, pos, n)` function, which appends `n` characters from `str`, starting at `pos`
  - `str8.append("-programming-language", 0, 12);`

# Access Character(s)

- Function `.at(index)`
  - returns the character at position `index`
  - can throw an exception if `index` is out of range
  - `string str9 = "cs2310"; cout << str9.at(0) << endl;`
- `[]` has no range checking
  - `cout << str9[1] << endl;`

# Find and Replace

- find/rfind function
  - find function searches from **beginning to end** of the string
  - rfind function searches from **end to beginning** of the string
  - if **found**, the **index** is returned
  - if **not found**, **-1** is returned
    - `string str10 = "cs2310cs";`
    - `cout << str10.find("cs") << endl;` // 0
    - `cout << str10.rfind("cs") << endl;` // 6
- replace function
  - `str11.replace(pos, n, str2);`
  - pos: starting from position pos of str1
  - n: number of characters to be replaced
  - str: replaced by str2

# Insert and Delete

- `str12.insert(pos, str2);`
  - **insert str2 from position pos of str1**
- `str12.erase(pos);`
  - **delete all characters from pos to end of str1**
- `str12.erase(pos, n);`
  - **delete n characters from pos of str1**

# Substring

- `str.substr(pos, n);`
  - `string str13 = "cs2310";`
  - `string str14 = str13.substr(2, 4); // "2310"`
- Example: extract the username from an email address, e.g., `abc@cityu-dg.edu.cn`
  - **Step 1:** find the position of '@'
  - **Step 2:** use `substr()` to get the username part

# Compare

- May use this function for **sorting**
- `str16.compare(str17); // str17:"aab"`
- Return **three** possible values:
  - 0: when they are **equal**
  - < 0: either the value of the **first** character that does not match is **smaller** in str16, or all compared characters match but the str16 string is **shorter**
  - > 0: either the value of the **first** character that does not match is **greater** in str16, or all compared characters match but the str16 string is **longer**
- E.g.,
  - str16 is aac, aaa, aabc, aa, aab, etc.