

C++ Programming (HCAC-154)

II semester, BCA

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Syllabus

Unit	Contents	Hours	Remarks
1.	OOP Basics	9	
2.	Classes & Objects	10	
3.	Overloading and Inheritance	10	
4.	Pointers	8	
5.	Virtual function and polymorphism	8	
6.	Templates and Exception Handling	7	
7.	I/O stream	8	

Practical Works

Credit hours : 3

Unit 5

Virtual function & polymorphism

(8 hrs.)

Virtual Function: Normal Member Functions Accessed with Pointers, Virtual Member Function Accessed with Pointers, Dynamic binding Late Binding, pure virtual functions.

Friend Function: Friends as Bridges, Breaching the Walls, friends for functional Notation, friend Classes.

Static Function: Accessing static Functions, Numbering the Objects, Investigating Destructors. This Pointer: Accessing Member Data with this, using this for Returning values, Revised STRIMEM program.

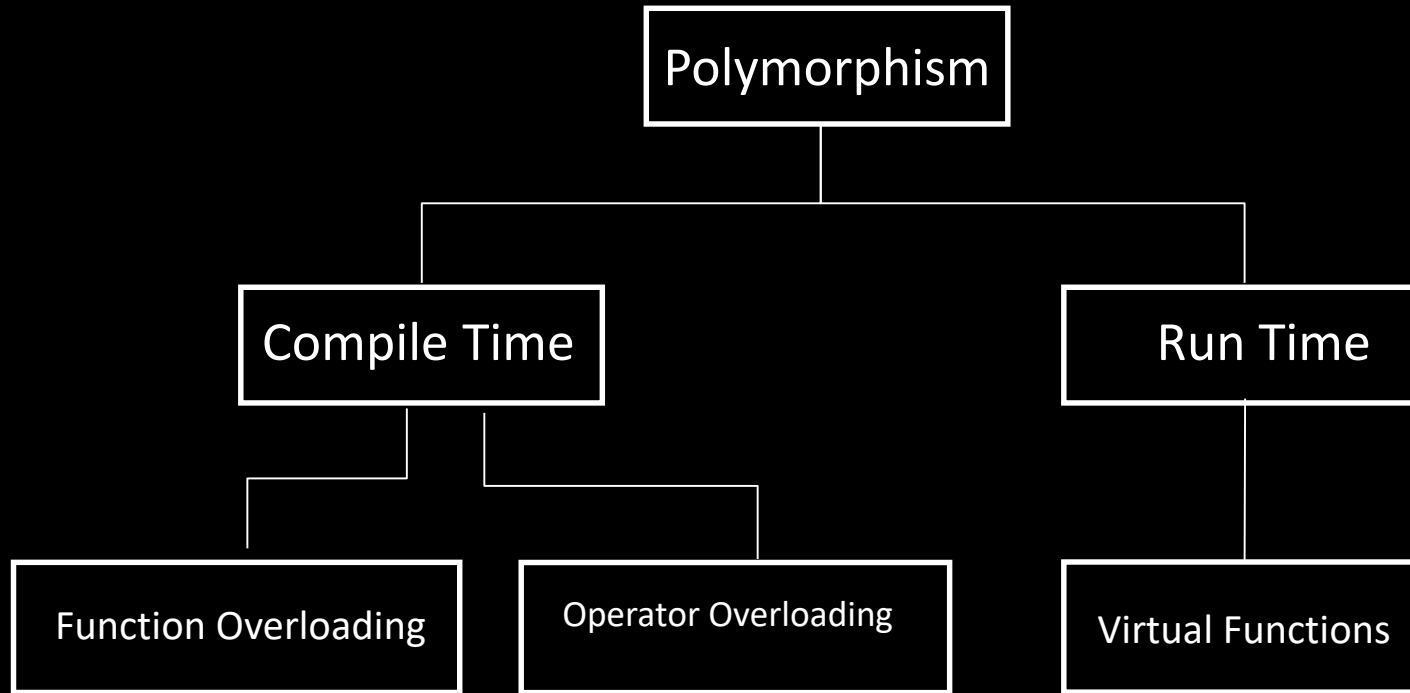


Fig: Types of polymorphism in C++

Polymorphism

- **Polymorphism** means ability to take more than one form. There are two types of polymorphism, compile-time polymorphism and run-time polymorphism.
- Function overloading and operator overloading shows compile time polymorphism whereas run-time polymorphism is achieved through the use of virtual function.

Compile time Polymorphism

- In **compile time polymorphism**, the compiler at the compile time know all the matching arguments, therefore the compiler is able to select the appropriate function for a particular function call at the compile time itself.
- Sometimes compile time polymorphism is also called as **early binding or static binding or static linking**.
- Early binding simply means that an object is bound to its function call at compile time.

Function Overloading

- More than one functions having same name but differs either in number of arguments or type of arguments or both is said to be function overloading.
- Function overloading shows the compile time polymorphism because the particular function call and its associated function definition is known by the compiler before the running of the program i.e.at the compile time only.

Advantages of function overloading:

- Remembering names is easier
- Lesser complexity
- Increases readability

WAP to find the volume of a cube, cuboid and cylinder using the concept of functionoverloading.

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

void volume(float l)
{
    cout<<"The volume of the cube is:"<<l*l*l<<endl;
}

void volume(float l,float b,float h)
{
    cout<<"The volume of the cuboid is:"<<l*b*h<<endl;
}

void volume(float r, float h)
{
    cout<<"The volume of the cylinder is:"<<3.14*r*r*h;
}
```




```
int main( )  
{  
    volume(3.5);  
    volume(3.5,6.5,9.5);  
    volume(3.5,5.5);  
    return 0;  
}
```

Output:

```
The volume of the cube is:42.875  
The volume of the cuboid is:216.125  
The volume of the cylinder is:211.558
```

WAP to find the cube of a integer , float and double number using the concept of function overloading(passing single argument to the function)

WAP to find the cube of a integer , float and double number using the concept of function overloading(passing single argument to the function)

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

void findcube(int a){
    cout<<"The cube of the integer number is:"<<a*a*a<<endl;
}

void findcube(float b)
{
    cout<<"The cube of the float number is:"<<b*b*b<<endl;
}

void findcube(double c)
{
    cout<<"The cube of the double number is:"<<c*c*c;
}
```



```
int main( )
{
    int x;
    float y;
    double z;
    cout<<"Enter values for int, float double type variables respectively:";
    cin>>x>>y>>z;
    findcube(x);
    findcube(y);
    findcube(z);
    return 0;
}
```

Output:

Enter values for int, float double type variables respectively:2

3.5

4.5e+7

The cube of the integer number is:8

The cube of the float number is:42.875

The cube of the double number is:9.1125e+22

Operator Overloading

(Read from previous unit notes)

Run time Polymorphism

- **Run time polymorphism** means, the code associated with particular function call is known by the compiler only during the run of program.
- Sometimes run time polymorphism is also known as **late binding or dynamic binding**. Run-time polymorphism indicates the form of a member function that can be changed at runtime.
- In C++ run time polymorphism is achieved with the help of **virtual function, class hierarchies(function overriding) and base class pointer pointing to derived class**.

Function Overriding

(Read from previous unit Inheritance notes)

Question:

Define function overriding. What are the rules for function overriding. Explain with an example.

Pointer to base class and derived class

Question:

Define pointer in C++. How do you initialize a pointer and access the value stored in it? WAP to illustrate your answer.

Pointer to base class and derived class:

- We can create both the pointer objects of base class as well as the pointer object of a derived class.
- As the properties of base class are inherited in a derived class, we can use the *pointer object of base class to point the object of a derived class*.
- However, the reverse is not true because the inheritance do not work in reverse order.
- The base class pointer object which is pointing to derived class object can access only the members that are inherited from base class.
- The derived class pointer object which is pointing to the derived class object can access all the features of derived class.



- Thus, we can conclude that the accessibility of the pointer depends upon the type of the pointer(base or derived) rather than the object to which it is pointing.

```
#include<iostream>
using namespace std;
class Base
{
    public:
        int m;
        void display( )
        {
            cout<<"The value of m="<<m<<endl;
        }
};
```

```
class Derived:public Base
{
    public:
        int d;
        void display( )
        {
            cout<<"The value of m and d="<<m<<","<<d<<endl;
        }
};
```

```
int main( )  
{  
    Base *bptr;  
    Derived D;  
    bptr=&D;  
    bptr->m=10;  
    //bptr->d=20; error  
    bptr->display( );  
    Derived *dptr;  
    dptr=&D;  
    dptr->d=20;  
    dptr->display( );  
    return 0;  
}
```

Output:

The value of m=10

The value of m and d=10,20

Note:

1. Base class pointer can point to a derived class object (can access only members of Base class)
2. Derived class pointer cannot point to a base class object directly

Need of virtual function

Need of virtual function:

- We have seen earlier that the accessibility of the pointer depends upon the type of the pointer rather than the object to which it is pointing.
- In order to access the function depending upon the object to which it is being pointed to by the pointer object virtual function is needed.
- Virtual function is needed in a class to achieve the run-time polymorphism i.e. if virtual function is used then the compiler knows the appropriate version of the same functions looking to the object being pointed to by base class pointer object during the run of the program.

Need of virtual function:

- When we use the same function name in both the base and the derived classes, the function in base class is declared as virtual using the keyword virtual preceding its normal declaration.
- When the function is made virtual , C++ determines which function to use at run time based on the type of object pointed by the base pointer, rather than the type of the pointer. Thus, by making the base pointer to point to different objects we can execute different versions of the virtual function.



- Virtual function is initially defined in the base class and is redefined in each derived classes which are derived from base class. The keyword virtual is optional in each derived class.

Syntax:

```
class class_name
{
    // protected data_members of a class;

    public:
    virtual return_type function_name( ) //virtual function
    {
        //body of the virtual function;
    }
};
```


Properties/ rules for virtual function:

- The virtual functions must be members of some class.
- They cannot be static members.
- They are accessed by using object pointers.
- A virtual function can be a friend of another class.
- A virtual function in a base class must be defined, even though it may not be used.
- The prototypes of the base class version of a virtual function and all the derived class versions must be identical. If two functions with the same name have different prototypes, C++ considers them as overloaded functions, and the virtual function mechanism is ignored.
- We cannot have virtual constructors, but we can have virtual destructors.

Write a program that shows the runtime polymorphism in C++



//Write a program that shows the runtime polymorphism in C++:

```
#include<iostream>
using namespace std;
class Animal
{
    public:
    virtual void display( )  //Virtual function
    {
        cout<<"Animal class:"<<endl;
    }
};
```

```
class Cow:public Animal
{
public:
    void display( )    //virtual function redefined in derived
    {
        cout<<"Cow class:"<<endl;
    }
};
```



```
class Dog: public Animal
{
public:
void display( )
{
cout<<"Dog class:"<<endl;
}
};
```

Output:

Animal class:

Cow class:

Dog class:

```
int main( )
{
Animal *Anm;
Animal a1;
Cow c1;
Dog d1;
Anm=&a1;
Anm->display( );
Anm=&c1;
Anm->display( );
Anm=&d1;
Anm->display( );
return 0;
}
```

Array of pointer object of Base class

Array of pointer object of Base class:

- We can also make array of pointer object of base class and access the different version of same function according to the object being pointed to by the base class pointer object.

```
#include<iostream>
using namespace std;
class Animal
{
public:
virtual void display( ) //Virtual function
{
cout<<"Animal class:"<<endl;
}
};
```

```
class Cow: public Animal
{
public:
void display( )//virtual function redefined in derived
{
cout<<"Cow class:"<<endl;
}
};
```

```
class Dog: public Animal
{
public:
void display( )
{
    cout<<"Dog class:"<<endl;
}
};
```




```
class Rabbit:public Animal
{
public:
void display( )
{
cout<<"Rabbit class:"<<endl;
}
};
```

Output:

Animal class:

Cow class:

Dog class:

Rabbit class:

```
int main( )
{
Animal a1;
Cow c1;
Dog d1;
Rabbit r1;
Animal *Anm[ ]={&a1,&c1,&d1,&r1};
for(int i=0;i<4;i++)
Anm[i]->display( );
return 0;
}
```

Pure Virtual Function

Pure Virtual Function

- Virtual function of the form , *virtual return_type function_name() = 0*; is said to be pure virtual function.
- Pure virtual function is also called as do-nothing function.
- A pure virtual function is a function declared in a base class that has no body(definition).
- The difference between a virtual and pure virtual function is that a virtual function has an implementation with minimal functionality for the objects and gives the derived class the option of overriding the function however a *pure virtual function does not provide an implementation and requires the derived class to override the function.*

```
class Polygon
{
    public:
        virtual void area()=0;    //pure virtual function
        .
        .
        .
};
```

A pure virtual function has the following properties.

1. A pure virtual function has no implementation in the base class.
2. It acts as an empty bucket(virtual function is partially filled bucket) that the derived class are supposed to fill it.

Abstract Class



Abstract class:

- The class containing *at least one pure virtual function* is called an abstract base class or simply abstract class .
- The object of the abstract class cannot be created, only the pointer object can be created. When we will never want to instantiate(create) objects of a base class we call it an abstract class.
- In above, Polygon become abstract since there is presence of pure virtual function area().
- The expression = 0 has no any other meaning, the equal sign = 0 does not assign 0 to function area(). It is only method to tell the compiler that area() is pure virtual function hence class polygon is abstract class.



- Contrary to this all classes derived from abstract class and implement pure virtual function of abstract class are called **concrete class**.
- The main objective of an abstract base class is to provide some traits to the derived classes and to create a base pointer required for achieving run time polymorphism (Such a class exists only to act as a parent of derived class). When a virtual function is made pure every derived class must provide its own definition.

```
//Example program:
#include<iostream>
using namespace std;
class polygon //Abstract class
{
protected:
float length,height;
```

```
public:
void input( )
{
cout<<"Enter the values to the length and height:"<<endl;
cin>>length>>height;
}

virtual void area( )=0; //pure virtual function
};

class rectangle: public polygon{
public:
void display( )
{
    cout<<"The length of the rectangle="<<length<<endl;
    cout<<"The height of the rectangle="<<height<<endl;
}
```



```
void area( )
{
cout<<"The area of the rectangle="<<length*height<<endl;
}
};

class triangle: public polygon
{
public:
void display( ){
cout<<"The length of the triangle="<<length<<endl;
cout<<"The height of the triangle="<<height<<endl;
}
void area( )
{
cout<<"The area of the triangle="<<0.5*length*height<<endl;
}
};
```



```
int main( )
{
    polygon *pg;
    rectangle rec;
    rec.input( );
    rec.display( );
    pg=&rec;
    pg->area( );
    triangle tg;
    tg.input( );
    tg.display( );
    pg=&tg;
    pg->area( );
    return 0;
}
```

Output:

Enter the values to the length and height:

4

5

The length of the rectangle=4

The height of the rectangle=5

The area of the rectangle=20

Enter the values to the length and height:

5

6

The length of the triangle=5

The height of the triangle=6

The area of the triangle=15

Virtual destructor:

- There may arise a situation that the destructor need to be made as virtual as if the dynamic memory allocation is performed in base and derived class then the allocated memory need to be freed using delete operation in destructor.
- If the base class pointer object is pointing to derived class object and if the base class destructor is made as non-virtual and if we delete base class pointer object by using the delete operator, then only the destructor from the base class is called. So, to call destructors from the base class as well as from the derived class the base class destructor should be made as virtual.

- Since destructors are member functions, they can be made virtual with placing keyword virtual before it. The syntax is

```
virtual~classname( ); //virtual destructor.
```

```
#include<iostream>

using namespace std;

class Base
{
public:
    ~Base( ) //non-virtual destructor
    {
        cout<<"Base destroyed"<<endl;
    }
};
```

```
class Derv:public Base
{
public:
~Derv( )
{
    cout<<"Derv destroyed"<<endl;
}
};

int main( )
{
Base *pBase=new Derv; //Dynamic memory allocation
delete pBase;
return 0;
}
```

Output:
Base destroyed

```
#include<iostream>
using namespace std;
class Base
{
    public:
    virtual~Base( ) //Virtual destructor
    {
        cout<<"Base destroyed"<<endl;
    }
};
```

```
class Derv:public Base
{
    public:
~Derv( )
{
    cout<<"Derv destroyed"<<endl;
}
};

int main( )
{
Base *pBase=new Derv; //Dynamic memory allocation
delete pBase;
return 0;
}
```

Output:

Derv destroyed
Base destroyed

Explanations

- This shows that the destructor for the Derv part of the object isn't called, because the base class destructor is not virtual, but if we make it virtual then both derived and base class destructor is called respectively.
- To ensure that derived –class objects are destroyed properly, you should make destructors in all base classes as virtual.

Friend function

Friend function in C++

- In C++, a *friend function* is a function that is **not a member of a class**, but still has access to the class's **private and protected** members.
- It is useful when you want a function (global or member of another class) to access internal members of a class without making them public.
- A friend function is declared inside the class using the keyword friend.
- It is not a member function of the class.
- It can access private and protected members of the class.
- Can be a normal function, or a member of another class.

Friend function in C++

Why use it?

- To allow an external function to **access private data** of a class.
- Useful when you want a function to **operate on multiple objects** (possibly from different classes).

Friend function in C++

Syntax of Friend Function

Inside class:

```
friend returnType functionName(arguments);
```

Outside class:

```
returnType functionName(arguments) {  
    // can access private members  
}
```

Example 1: Add Two Numbers Using Friend Function

Friend function in C++

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

class Number {
private:
    int value;

public:
    Number(int v = 0) {
        value = v;
    }

    // Declare friend function
    friend int add(Number a, Number b);
};

// Define friend function
int add(Number a, Number b) {
    return a.value + b.value;
}

int main() {
    Number n1(10), n2(20);

    cout << "Sum = " << add(n1, n2) << endl;

    return 0;
}
```

Friend function in C++

Example 2: Friend Function Accessing Two Different Classes

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

class B; // Forward declaration

class A {
private:
    int a;

public:
    A(int val = 0) {
        a = val;
    }

    // Declare friend function
    friend int add(A, B);
};
```

Friend function in C++

Example 2: Friend Function Accessing Two Different Classes

```
class B {  
private:  
    int b;  
  
public:  
    B(int val = 0) {  
        b = val;  
    }  
  
    // Declare friend function  
    friend int add(A, B);  
};  
  
// Define the friend function  
int add(A objA, B objB) {  
    return objA.a + objB.b;  
}
```

Friend function in C++

Example 2: Friend Function Accessing Two Different Classes

```
int main() {  
    A obj1(10);  
    B obj2(20);  
  
    cout << "Sum = " << add(obj1, obj2) << endl;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

Output:
Sum = 30

Static Functions in C++

(Read from previous unit Inheritance notes)

This pointer

this pointer

- “this” is the C++ keyword. *“this” always refers to an object that has called the member function currently.* “this” always refers to the calling object.
- Thus, we can say that “this” is a pointer that points to the current object i.e. the object which is calling the member function.
- *This pointer is implicitly defined in every non static member function.*
- But we use “this” pointer explicitly in every non static member function to return the current object or when the functions and other special member functions of the class takes argument(s) same as that of the data member(s) of the class while initializing the data members of the class.

Why use this pointer?

- **To refer to the calling object:** Helps differentiate between local variables and data members when they have the same name.
- **To return the current object:** Allows returning `*this` to enable function chaining.
- **To pass the current object as an argument:** Useful in operator overloading and comparisons



Example program:

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

class MyClass
{
    public:
    void myfunction()
    {
        cout<<"Address of Object is:"<<this<<endl;
    }
};
```

```
int main()
{
    MyClass obj1,obj2;
    obj1.myfunction();
    obj2.myfunction();
    return 0;
}
```

Output:

Address of Object is:0x61fe1f
Address of Object is:0x61fe1e

```
#include<iostream>
#include<math.h>
using namespace std;
class complexx{
    float real, imag;
public:
    void input(float real,float imag) //arguments same as data members
    {
        this->real=real;      //*this).real=real;
        this->imag=imag;
    }
}
```



```
void display( )
{
    cout<<"("<<real<<" , "<<imag<<")";
    // cout<<"("<<this->real<<" , "<<this->imag<<")';
}

complexx magnitude(complexx c)
{
    float mag1=sqrt(real*real+imag*imag);
    float mag2=sqrt(c.real*c.real+c.imag*c.imag);
    if(mag1>mag2)
        return *this;
    else
        return c;
}

};
```



```
int main( )  
{  
    complexx c1,c2;  
    c1.input(5.5,6.5);  
    c2.input(3.5,6.5);  
    complexx c3=c1.magnitude(c2);  
    cout<<"The largest complexx number is:";  
    c3.display( );  
    return 0;  
}
```

Output:

The largest complexx number is:(5.5 , 6.5)

Using this for returning values

- The `this` pointer can be dereferenced to return the current object (`*this`) .
- This is very useful for function chaining.

Using this for returning values

```
#include <iostream>

using namespace std;

class Box {
    int length;
public:
    Box& setLength(int l) {
        this->length = l;
        return *this; // return current object
    }
    void show() {
        cout << "Length: " << length << endl;
    }
};
```

Using this for returning values

```
int main() {  
    Box b;  
    b.setLength(50).show();    // function chaining  
    return 0;  
}
```

Output

Length: 50

Revised STRIMEM Program

- The STRIMEM program demonstrates using this to compare objects.
- It compares the lengths of two strings and returns the larger string object.

Revised STRIMEM Program

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

class Str {
    char str[50];
public:
    Str(char s[] = "") { strcpy(str, s); }

    void show() {
        cout << str << endl;
    }
}
```

```
// function that returns larger string object
Str& greater(Str &s) {
    if (strlen(s.str) > strlen(this->str))
        return s;
    // return argument object
    else
        return *this;
    // return current object
}
};
```

Revised STRMEM Program

```
int main() {  
    Str s1("AGC"), s2("Ambition Guru College"), s3("");  
  
    cout << "String 1: "; s1.show();  
    cout << "String 2: "; s2.show();  
  
    s3 = s1.greater(s2);    // compare strings  
    cout << "Larger string is: ";  
    s3.show();  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

Output

String 1: AGC

String 2: Ambition Guru College

Larger string is: Ambition Guru College

Questions

1. Difference between compile time and run time polymorphism.
2. Differentiate between function overloading and function overriding. Give example of each.
3. WAP to find the cube of an integer , float and double number using the concept of function overloading(passing single argument to the function)
4. Differentiate between concrete class and abstract class.
5. Why do we need virtual function? Explain the reason for member function overriding when using virtual function.
6. Write short notes on: Early binding and late binding, Virtual function, Abstract class.
7. Define this pointer in C++. Why is it useful? WAP to illustrate your answer.
8. Define friend function. How does it violate the data hiding in C++ ?

THANK YOU
Any Queries ?