

# C++ Refresher

ECEN 427

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# References

- References are aliases; pointers store addresses
  - References must be initialized and cannot be reseated
  - Pointers can be null and reassigned
  - References are safer and clearer for parameters
  - Pointers required for dynamic allocation and ownership semantics

```
int x = 10;  
  
int& r = x;      // reference  
int* p = &x;     // pointer  
  
r = 20;          // modifies x  
*p = 30;         // modifies x  
  
printf("x: %d", r); // print using ref  
printf("x: %d", *p); // print using pointer
```

# Reference Members in Classes

- Reference members must be initialized
  - Initialization must occur in constructor initializer list
  - References cannot be reseated

```
class Foo {  
    int& ref;  
  
public:  
    Foo(int& x) : ref(x) {}  
};  
  
int main() {  
    int a = 10;  
    Foo f(a); // ref aliases a  
}
```

- Standard Template Library
  - Provides various data structures
  - *Template*: They provide the template, you provide the type (T)
    - list of integers
    - map of int -> string
- `std::vector<T>`: This is a contiguous array
  - Fast random access, fast iteration, fast insertion at the end
  - Slow insertion/deletion in the middle
- `std::list<T>`: Linked list
  - No random access
  - Fast insertion/deletion anywhere
- `std::map<T1,T2>`: Key-Value mapping, like a dictionary
  - Fast to add and delete entries, and to lookup a value by a key

# Range-Based Loop Example

## New Method

```
std::vector<int> v = {1, 2, 3};  
  
for (int x : v) {  
    std::cout << x << std::endl;  
}
```

## OLD Method

```
for (std::vector<int>::iterator it = v.begin();  
     it != v.end();  
     ++it)  
{  
    std::cout << *it << std::endl;  
}
```

## You can also use auto...

```
for (auto x : v) {  
    std::cout << x << std::endl;  
}
```

# Iterating Through map (Example)

```
std::map<std::string, int> m;  
  
for (const auto& [k, v] : m) {  
    std::cout << k << ":" << v << std::endl;  
}
```

# Erasing From a List

How to look through this vector/list and erase items?

```
std::vector<Foo*> v;
```

**Can't do this:**

```
for (auto p : v) {  
    if (p->isDead()) {  
        delete p;  
        v.erase(...); // iterator invalidation → undefined behavior  
    }  
}
```

**You'll need to use iterators, and do so carefully**

```
for (auto it = v.begin(); it != v.end(); ) {  
    if ((*it)->isDead()) {  
        delete *it; // if vector owns the objects  
        it = v.erase(it); // shifts elements, returns next iterator  
    } else {  
        ++it;  
    }  
}
```

# Base Constructor and Function Call

```
class Base {  
public:  
    Base(int x) {}  
    void f() {}  
};  
  
class Derived : public Base {  
public:  
    Derived() : Base(42) {}  
    void g() { Base::f(); }  
};
```

- The provided headers use inheritance
- GameObject class
  - Move, erase, draw, kill
  - Alien, Bullet, Bunker, BunkerBlock, Tank, UFO
- Look at how the constructor initialized the base object in the initialization list
- Look at how code in a subclass calls the base class method

# How should we track global stuff?

- Games have lots of global state
- One approach:
  - Organize global data into classes
  - Enforce only one instance of the class
- There are many different approaches for managing global data. This is just one

## Meyer's Singleton

### globals.h

```
class Globals {  
public:  
    static Graphics& getGraphics() {  
        static Graphics g;  
        return g;  
    }  
}
```

### Function-local static

- Initialized on first use
- Thread-safe since C++11
- Avoids static initialization order issues

## Static class member

### globals.h

```
class Globals {  
public:  
    static Graphics& getGraphics() {  
        return graphics;  
    }  
  
private:  
    static Graphics graphics;  
};
```

### globals.cpp

```
Graphics Globals::graphics;
```