39

## Summary of Polymorphism

- First we figure out what we want to represent (like a bunch of shapes)
- Then we define a base class that contains functions common to all of the derived classes (e.g. getArea, plotShape).
- Then we write our derived classes, creating specialized versions of each common function:

```
Square version of getArea

virtual int getArea()
{
   return(m_side * m_side);
}

Circle version of getArea

virtual int getArea()
{
   return(3.14*m_rad*m_rad);
}
```

- We can access derived variables with a base class pointer or reference.
- Finally, we should (MUST) always define a virtual destructor in your base class, whether it needs it or not. (no vd in the base class, no points!)

## Polymorphism Cheat Sheet

You can't access private members of the base class from the derived class:

```
// GOOD!
// RAD
class Base
                                    class Base
public:
                                    public:
                                       Base(int x)
                                         \{ v = x; \}
                                       void setV(int x)
                                        \{ v = x; \}
private:
                                    private:
  int v
                                       int v;
};
                                    };
class Derived: public Base
                                    class Derived: public Base
public:
                                    public:
                                       Derived(int q)
: Base(q) // GOOD!
   Derived(int a)
      v = q; // ERROR!
                                      }
   void foo()
                                       void foo()
      v = 10; // ERROR!
                                          setV(10); // GOOD!
                                      }
};
                                    };
```

Always make sure to add a virtual destructor to your base class:

```
// BAD
                                  // GOOD!
class Base
                                  class Base
public:
                                  public:
  ~Base() { ... } // BAD!
                                   virtual ~Base() { ... } // GOOD!
class Derived: public Base
                                  class Derived: public Base
};
class Person
                                                  Don't forget to
public:
                                                   use virtual to
  virtual void talk(string &s) { ... }
                                                 define methods in
                                                 your base class, if
                                                 you expect to re-
                                                   define them in
class Professor: public Person
                                                   your derived
                                                      class(es)
public:
    void talk(std::string &s)
                                                   To call a base-
                                                 class method that
       cout « "I profess the following: "
```

Person::talk(s); // uses Person's talk

So long as you define your BASE version of a function with virtual, all derived versions of the function will automatically be virtual too (even without the virtual keyword)!

}:

```
class SomeBaseClass
public:
   virtual void aVirtualFunc() { cout << "I'm virtual"; } // #1
   void notVirtualFunc() { cout << "I'm not"; }</pre>
   void tricky()
                                                       //#3
                                                      // ***
      aVirtualFunc();
      notVirtualFunc();
class SomeDerivedClass: public SomeBaseClass
public:
   void aVirtualFunc() { cout << "Also virtual!"; }</pre>
                                                      //#4
   void notVirtualFunc() { cout << "Still not"; }</pre>
                                                      // #5
int main()
   SomeDerivedClass d;
   SomeBaseClass *b = &d; // base ptr points to derived obj
   // Example #1
  cout << b->aVirtualFunc();
                                // calls function #4
   // Example #2
   cout << b->notVirtualFunc(); // calls function #2
   // Example #3
   b->tricky();
                   // calls func #3 which calls #4 then #2
```

## Polymorphism Cheat Sheet, Page #2

has been re-

defined in a derived class, use

the base:: prefix!

Example #1: When you use a BASE pointer to access a DERIVED object, AND you call a VIRTUAL function defined in both the BASE and the DERIVED classes, your code will call the DERIVED version of the function.

Example #2: When you use a BASE pointer to access a DERIVED object, AND you call a NON-VIRTUAL function defined in both the BASE and the DERIVED classes, your code will call the BASE version of the function.

Example #3: When you use a BASE pointer to access a DERIVED object, all function calls to VIRTUAL functions (\*\*\*) will be directed to the derived object's version, even if the function (tricky) calling the virtual function is NOT VIRTUAL itself.

## Binary Search: C++ Code

Here's a real binary search implementation in C++. Let's see how it works!