

Programming Language Concepts

Object Oriented Prog: Objects

Onur Tolga Şehitoğlu

Bilgisayar Mühendisliği



Outline

1 Object Oriented Programming

2 Constructors/Destructors

- Constructors
- Heap Objects
- Destructors
- Constructor Calls

- const Keyword
- Copy Constructor
- Pass by reference
- Move Constructor

3 Operator Overloading

- Friends

4 Implementation of Objects

Object Oriented Programming

- Abstraction
- Encapsulation
- Hiding
- Inheritance

Encapsulation/Scope

- Objects consist of:

- attributes (member variables)
- methods (member functions)

encapsulated in a package scope

- attributes: state of objects
- methods: behaviour of objects
- alternative terminology: messages
call a method \equiv send message to an object
- A class is the family for similar objects.
- An object is an **instance** of a class.

Person
name
surname
no
+ getname()
+ setno()

```
class Person {  
    char name[40], surname[40];  
    int no;  
public:  
    const char * getname() { return name;}  
    void setno(int);  
} obj ;  
  
void Person::setno(int a) {  
    no=a;  
}
```

- C++ allows definitions inside the class or outside by **scope operator '::'**
- Environment is recursive collateral.
- `obj.getname()`; calls the method in the context of object `obj`.
- **this** keyword denotes pointer to current object in member functions. (`self()` in some other languages)

Hiding

- Interface vs detail. Details are hidden, only interface members are exported outside.
- C++ uses `private:`, `protected:`, and `public:` labels to mark hiding.
- only members following a `public:` label are visible outside (the object for example). Member functions can access all members regardless of their labels.
- `obj.setno(4)` is legal, `obj.no` is not.
- Hiding depends on scope and it is lexical. In C++ pointer conversions can violate hiding.
- By convention all member variables should be private, some member functions can be private, only some of member functions are public.
- `protected` keyword is useful with inheritance.

Abstraction

- An object is an abstraction over the programming entity defined by the model in the design.
- Model: customer, bank, registration, course, advisor, mail, chatroom,...
- Class should provide:
 - Transparent behaviour for the objects, access via interface functions.
 - Data integrity. Objects should be valid through their lifetimes.
- Data integrity at the beginning of lifetime provided by constructors (+destructors in C++)

Constructors

- Special member functions called when lifetime of the object starts **just after storage of members are ready**
- Automatically called. No explicit calls.
- no return value, name is same with the class
- can be overloaded

```
class Person {  
    char *name[40], *surname[40];  
    int no;  
public:  
    Person(const char *n, const char *s) {  
        strcpy(name,n) ; strcpy(surname,s) ; no=0;  
    }  
    Person() { name[0]=0; surname[0]=0; no=0;}  
} obj ;
```


■ Constructors can be overloaded

Definition	Constructor
Person a ;	Person()
Person a("ali","veli");	Person(const char *, const char *)
Number a=3;	Number(int)
Number a(3);	Number(int)
Number b=a;	Number(Number &a)
Number a[2]={0,1}	Number(int)

- If no constructor implemented, empty constructor (do nothing) assumed
- If at least one constructor exists, variables should match at least one of them, no empty constructor assumed
- Constructors are called by the language when lifetime started:
 - 1 start of program for global objects
 - 2 entrance to function for local objects
 - 3 when heap objects are created (with `new`)

Heap Objects

- `new` and `delete` operators instead of `malloc()` and `free()`.
Why?
- `Person *p=new Person("ali","veli");`
`delete p;`
- Array allocation/deallocation:
`Person *p=new Person[100];`
`delete [] p;`

Destructors

- When storage (members) of an object allocated dynamically
- Lifetime is over : garbage
- We need calls to collect heap variables within the object
- Java solution: garbage collector does the job. We need nothing
- C++: **destructors**: member functions called when lifetime is over.
- A class only have one destructor with exact type and name: `~ClassName()`. Called:
 - 1 end of program for global objects
 - 2 return from function for local objects
 - 3 when heap objects are deallocated (with `delete`)

Constructor Calls

- Calling a constructor as a member function is not allowed:
`Person p ; p.Person("john");` is a compiler error
- Constructor **definitions** can call each other with special syntax:
`Person():Person("john_doe") { ... } (C++11 only)`
- Explicit constructor calls create a **temporary object**:
`Person p; p = Person("john");` is equivalent to:
`Person p; { Person tmp("john"); p = tmp; }`
 note that lifetime of `tmp` is over at the end of line
- In definitions, no intermediate object created:
`Person p = Person("john");`
- A constructor also works as a type conversion operator:
`p = (Person) "john";` is equivalent to `p = Person("john");`, creates a temporary object
- Also type conversion works implicitly. C++ calls constructors when type conversion is required:
`p = "john";` is equivalent to the call above.

const Keyword

- C++ does strict type checking on constant restriction on `const`
- `const char *p` VS `char *const q`
 - 1 `p[3]='a';` ✗
 - 2 `q[3]='a';` ✓
 - 3 `p++;` ✓
 - 4 `q++;` ✗
- `const char * const p`
- `f(const ClassName &a)` makes the parameter object constant during the function scope
- `const ClassName &f()` makes the returned object reference constant in expression containing the function call
- What's beside assignment? `constant member functions`

Constant Member Functions

```

■ void f(const Rational &a) { ...; a.clear(3);...;a.out();}
  void Rational::clear() { a=b=0;}

```

What is wrong above?

- `void Rational::out() const {...; a=b=0; }`
`const` keyword preceding the function body makes member function a constant function.
- Constant functions cannot update member variables, only can inspect them
`a=b=0` in `out()` is invalid above
- If an object is constant, only constant member functions can be called.
`a.clear(3);` is invalid above
- Type system of C++ prohibits those → Syntax error.

Copy Constructor

- Destructor does not solve all problems with objects with heap members:
 - Semantics of assignment
 - Semantics of parameter passing
 - Semantics of return value
 - Initialization
- Default behaviour of C++ is **copy member values byte by byte**.
- Java assigns/passes by reference. No copying.
- C++ Solution: implement your own semantic by **Copy constructor** and overloading assignment operator.
- Assignment operator destroys an existing object and replaces with the data from new one, copy constructor copies data into an empty object.

Copy Constructor

- Type is: `ClassName(const ClassName &)`
- Called when:
 - Object passed by value: `void add(ClassName a) {...}`
 - Object initialized by object: `ClassName a,b=a;`
 - Object returned as a value `ClassName getVal() {...}`
- Last one is a little tricky.
- Default behaviour exists even if it other constructors exist.


```

class List {
    struct Node { int x; Node *next} *head;
public: List() { head=NULL;}
    List(const List &); // Copy constructor
    ~List();
};

void passbyvalue(List a) {
    ...
}

List returnasvalue(List &a) {
    List b = a;
    ...
    return a;
}

...
passbyvalue(c);
...
d=returnasvalue(c)
...

```

Diagram illustrating the use of the Copy Constructor:

- A green arrow points from the parameter `a` in the `passbyvalue` function to the `List b = a;` line in the `returnasvalue` function, labeled "Copy Constructor".
- Another green arrow points from the parameter `c` in the `passbyvalue(c);` call to the `d=returnasvalue(c)` line, labeled "Copy Constructor".
- A third green arrow points from the `return a;` line in the `returnasvalue` function to the `d=returnasvalue(c)` line, labeled "Copy Constructor, explicit".

- Pass by value of objects are constructed by the copy constructor
- Return an object as a value creates a temporary object in place of return and uses it:

```
d=returnasvalue(c);  $\equiv$  {List tmp=returnasvalue(c); d=tmp; }
```

- Temporary objects are created at such expressions and deallocated at the end of the line (at ';'), destructors are called regularly.
- Explicit call to a constructor also creates such a temporary object.

```
g=Person("ali","veli");
```

- C++ compilers avoid copy constructor calls when possible, called **copy elision**.

```
List f() { List t;...; return t;} ... ; d=f(); ...
```

If possible, compiler binds local object and returned temporary object same storage → No constructor call.

Pass by reference

- `Person &a` denotes a reference type and implements **pass by reference**. No new object is created for parameter.
- Can be used in declaration to create an alias:
`Person & q = p;` (subject to lifetime of `p`)
`const Person &t = Person("john");` (temporary read only object with a longer lifetime)
- Returning reference type is also possible:
`int & Person::get() { ... }`
`p.get()++;`
- `const` references follow the semantics of `const`.
- Temp. objects, **r-values** cannot be passed by non-const references:
`void print(Person &p) { ... }`
`print((Person) "marry");` is an error.
- **r-values** can be passed by constant references:
`void print(const Person &p) { ... }`
`print((Person) "marry");` is ok.

Efficiency of Parameter Passing

- Pass by reference is efficient but modification of actual parameter is not always desired
- `const` references avoid modification of actual parameters and may get `r-values` however parameter object cannot be modified.
- `Copy constructor` and pass by value solves modifiable parameter object and r-value problem.
- Copying is expensive and r-values, temporary objects have a very short lifetime.
- One solution is stealing the resources of an object instead of copying.
- An r-value has a short lifetime, so stealing its resources would not harm the integrity.
- C++11 defined `rvalue references`, `move constructor` and `assignment move operator` to solve this problem.

Move Constructor

- C++11 introduced the following:

- 1 rvalue reference: `Person &&p`
- 2 move constructor: `Person(Person &&p)`
- 3 assignment move: `operator=(Person &&p)`
- 4 `T &&std::move(T &)`, a reference converter.

- rvalue references are created for temporary objects and by making explicit `std::move()` calls.
- move constructor and all functions getting rvalue references (including assignment) gets resources directly from parameter object and leaves the parameter in a valid but nullified state.
- move constructor does not allocate and copy values. Just get references and pointers. Therefore they are more efficient.
- After call, parameter will not contain its previous values but a minimum valid state.

- **move constructor** is bound to return as a value cases (copy cons. called if it does not exist)
- Similarly passing temporary objects to assignment or rvalue parameters will be more efficient.
- Programmers may convert lvalue references to rvalue references explicitly by calling `std::move()` if the object does not need its content afterwards.
- Move constructor is subject to **copy elision**. Compiler avoids calling it if possible.
- Destructor is called for the moved rvalue when its lifetime is over. So it should be left in a state without dangling references, double free problems etc.

```

class LList {
    struct Node { int a; Node *next; } *head;
public:
    LList() { head = nullptr; }
    LList(const LList &l) { // copy constructor
        Node **prev = &head;
        for (Node *p = l.head; p != nullptr; p = p->next) {
            Node *q = new Node;
            q->a = p->a; (*prev) = q; prev = &(q->next);
        }
        *prev = nullptr;
    }
    LList(LList &&l) { // move constructor
        head = l.head; l.head = nullptr; // steal and nullify
    }
    ~LList() { /* a decent llist destructor here */
};

LList series(int n) { // assume no copy elision!
    LList t;
    for (int i = n; i >= 0 ; i--)
        t.push(i);
    return t;
}

...
series(10).out(); // picks MOVE (or none if copy elision)

```

```

LList LList::operator=(LList &&l) {    // move assignment
    for (Node *p = head; p != nullptr;) {
        Node *q = p;                // deallocate current list
        p = p->next; delete q;
    }
    head = l.head; l.head = nullptr; // steal and nullify
}

...
// first move constructor (if no elision) then assignment
// above is called. But it is the same linked list
// which is local to series() is assigned to c
c = series(10);

```


Operator Overloading

- Not an essential feature of object oriented programming but improves readability in some cases.
- Especially useful in implementing selector abstraction, algebra based applications.
- Do not use it when the operator is not intuitive for the context (class and the operation).
- C++ allows overloading of existing operators with same arity and precedence and only if at least one class type involves in the operator
- Operator can be implemented as a member function (first parameter is the class) or as an external function (which has at least one parameter being a class)

- All C++ operators except '.', '?:', '::', '.*' and '->*'
- For unary operators:
 - ① `void ClassName::operator++();`
 - ② `void operator++(ClassName &a);`
- For binary operators:
 - ① `void ClassName::operator&&(int a);`
 - ② `void operator&&(int a,ClassName &b);`
- First versions are member functions, can exist private members. Only operand in unary case, LHS in binary case is the current object
- Second versions are outside of the definition. You need `friend` declaration if they need to access private members.

```

Rational & Rational::operator+(Rational &b) {...}
Rational & Rational::operator+(int n) {...}
Rational & Rational::operator<(Rational &b) {...}
Rational & Rational::operator!() {...}
Rational & Rational::operator++() {...}
Rational & Rational::operator++(int nouse) {...}
Rational::operator double() {...}      // no return type

void Hash::operator=(Hash &a) {...}
double Hash::operator[](int a) {...}
double Hash::operator[](const char a[]) {...}
Hash & Hash::operator()(const char a[]) {...}
Hash & Hash::operator()(const char a[], int size) {...}

double Pointer::operator*() {...}
void * Pointer::new(size_t size) {...}
void * Pointer::delete(void *p, size_t size) {...}

Rational a,b,c; Hash h,j; Pointer p,*q;
a+b;      a+3;      if (a<b) ... ;   !a;
++a;      a++;      x=(double)a;

h=j;      x=h[3];    x=h["ali"];      i=h("a-b");    i=h("a-b",1);

x=*p;      q=new Pointer;              delete q;

```

```
int operator+(int a, Rational &b) {...}
Rational & operator++(Rational &b) {...}
ostream & operator<<(ostream &os, Rational &a) {...}
istream & operator>>(istream &os, Rational &a) {...}

void operator+=(Hash &a, Rational b) {...}

Rational a,b; Hash h,j;

i=i+a;
++a;
cout << a; cout << 3 << a << b ;
cin >> b;
h+=a;
```

Friends

- When an external function or class needs to access private members, **friend** declaration is used to grant access.

```
class Rational {
    friend class Hash;
    friend ostream & operator<<(ostream &, const Rational &);
    int a,b;
public: ...
};
class Hash {
    ...
    void operator+=(Rational &a) { .. a.a; .. a.b; ...}
};
ostream & operator<<(ostream &os, const Rational &a) {
    os << a.a << "//" << a.b << '\n';
    return os;
}
```

Implementation of Objects

class Person

char name[40]	40*sizeof(char)
int id	sizeof(int)
char * getname()	sizeof(char *(*)())
void print()	sizeof(void (*)(*))

- What is size of object? Size of member variables + size of member function pointers?
- No! Each object does not have to store the function information.
Its storage is same with the structure without any member functions.
- Function membership handled by the type system:
Person::getname() instead of getname()

- How functions get object context (which object they refer to?)?
- `Person::getname(Person *this)` instead of no parameters
- `Person a; a.getname();`
converted to `Person::getname(&a);` internally
- All member references inside member function are converted to:

```
char *getname() {... id=5; ... ; strlen(name);...} →
```

```
char *Person::getname(Person *this) {  
.. this->id=5; ... ; strlen(this->name);...}
```