



Oregon State
University

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING | School of Electrical Engineering
and Computer Science

CS 161

Introduction to CS I

Lecture 13

- Function overloading
- How can functions make changes to their arguments?
 - Passing function arguments by value and reference



Useful tips

- Assignment 3 peer reviews – **write in the comment boxes, not the rubric (ignore if Canvas says it is not complete)**
- Practice proficiency demo status
- Revision plans – submit within 48 hours of demo + email TA
- Study session (Thursday, 6-7 p.m., **LINC 268**) – print and complete the worksheet in advance
- More practice?
 - Edabit: example problems for loops, etc.
 - Assignment 3 implementation questions?

C++ function overloading

- Overloading: Two or more functions with the same name

```
int sum(int a, int b) {  
    return a + b;  
}
```

```
string sum(string a, string b) {  
    return a + b;  
}
```

- For the compiler to know which one to call, the functions must have:

- Different **data types** for the parameters
- Or different **number** of parameters

```
int sum(int a, int b, int c) {  
    return a + b + c;  
}
```

- Different return types alone are NOT sufficient

C++ function overloading

- Compiler decides which function to call based on the following:
 - Exact match:** if the number and types of arguments exactly match a definition (without any automatic type conversion), then that is the definition used
 - Match using **implicit type conversion:** if there is no exact match but there is using implicit type conversion, then the match is used

Implicit conversion from int to float

```
float sum(float a, float b) {  
    return a + b;  
}  
...  
int z = sum(3, 5);
```

Warning! Implicit conversion from float to int

```
int sum(int a, int b) {  
    return a + b;  
}  
...  
float z = sum(3.2, 5.3);
```

C++ function overloading

- If two valid options are present, it is ambiguous (cannot decide)

Ambiguous – which function to call?

```
float sum(float a, float b) {  
    return a + b;  
}  
  
int sum(int a, int b) {  
    return a + b;  
}  
  
...  
float z = sum(3.2, 5.3);
```



Unambiguous – must use first sum()

```
float sum(float a, float b) {  
    return a + b;  
}  
  
string sum(string a, string b) {  
    return a + b;  
}  
  
...  
float z = sum(3.2, 5.3);
```



Course map



Basics
Storing data, calculations,
interacting with users



Decision making (adaptation)
and **repetition** (write once,
repeat forever!)



Divide and conquer part 2
(recursion)



Divide and conquer
(modularization and code re-use
in functions)



Structured data
(arrays and objects)



Dynamic growth
(memory allocation
and management)



Variable scope: practice (1)

What does this code print out?

```
int z = 14;  
for (int z = 0; z < 3; z++) {  
    cout << z << endl;  
}  
cout << z << endl;
```

0
1
2
14



Variable scope: practice (2)

What does this code print out?

```
for (int z = 0; z < 3; z++) {  
    cout << z << endl;  
}  
cout << z << endl;
```

Error!
Will not compile
(z not in scope
on final line)



Variable scope: practice (3)

What does this code print out?

```
int z = 14;  
for (z = 0; z < 3; z++) {  
    cout << z << endl;  
}  
cout << z << endl;
```

0
1
2
3



Variable scope: practice (4)

What does this code print out?

```
int z = 14;  
for (z = 0; z < 3; z++)  
    cout << z << endl;  
  
cout << z << endl;
```

0
1
2
3



Variable scope in functions

```
1. void compute_sum() {  
2.     int sum = x + y;  
3. }  
  
4. int main() {  
5.     int x = 2, y = 3;  
6.     compute_sum();  
7.     cout << sum << endl;  
8.     return 0;  
9. }
```

Where are the error(s)?



Variable scope in functions: errors

```
1. void compute_sum() {  
2.     int sum = x + y;      /* error: x and y outside scope */  
3. }  
  
4. int main() {  
5.     int x = 2, y = 3;  
6.     compute_sum();  
7.     cout << sum << endl; /* error: sum not declared */  
8.     return 0;  
9. }
```



Variable scope: errors fixed

```
1. int compute_sum(int x, int y) {  
2.     int sum = x + y;  
3.     return sum;  
4. }  
  
5. int main() {  
6.     int x = 2, y = 3;  
7.     int sum = compute_sum(x, y);  
8.     cout << sum << endl;  
9.     return 0;  
10.}
```

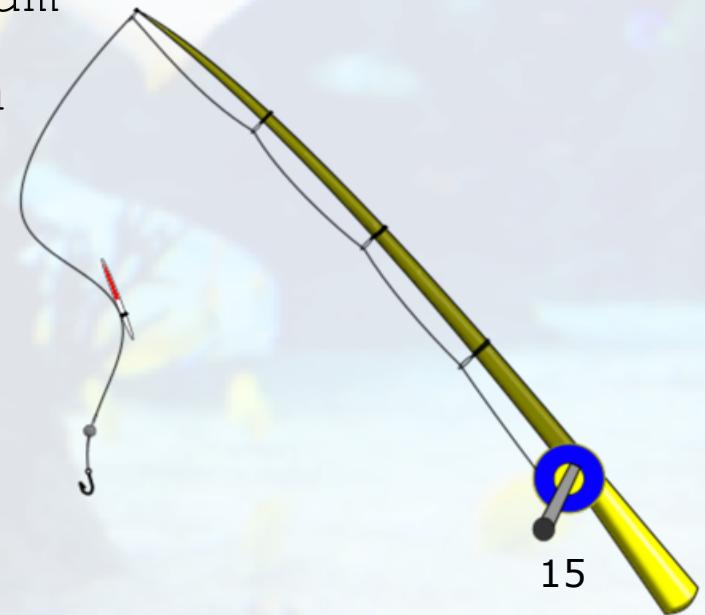


Variable scope: errors fixed (version 2)

```
1. int compute_sum(int a, int b) {  
2.     int sum = a + b;  
3.     return sum;  
4. }  
  
5. int main() {  
6.     int x = 2, y = 3;  
7.     int sum = compute_sum(x, y);  
8.     cout << sum << endl;  
9.     return 0;  
10.}
```

How can we get compute_sum() to do all the work?

- Goal: `compute_sum()` updates sum variable in `main()`
- But `compute_sum()` can't see the sum variable in `main()`
- Bad solution: declare global variable `sum`
- Good solution: pass a reference to `sum`



Variable values and references

- Each variable has:
 - Value
 - Memory location (address)
- Example: `int x = 3;`
 - Variable value `x`: 3
 - Variable reference `&x` (address): 0x7fee5799b10





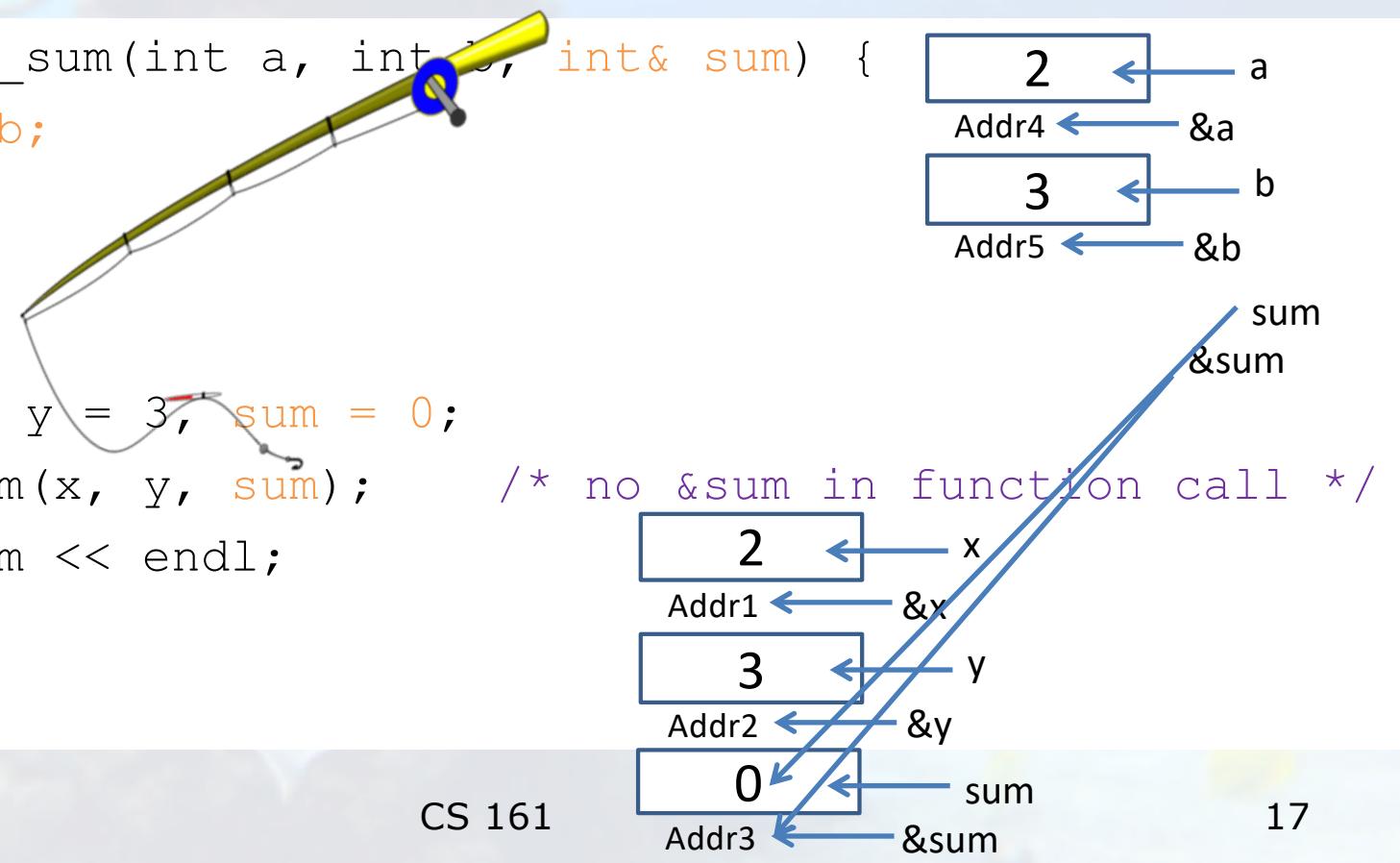
Pass by reference

```

1. void compute_sum(int a, int b, int& sum) {
2.     sum = a + b;
3. }

4. int main() {
5.     int x = 2, y = 3, sum = 0;
6.     compute_sum(x, y, sum);      /* no &sum in function call */
7.     cout << sum << endl;
8.     return 0;
9. }

```



2	a
3	b

2	x
3	y
0	sum



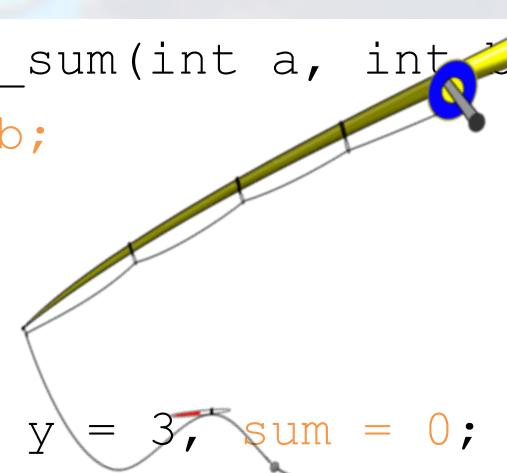
Pass by reference

```

1. void compute_sum(int a, int b, int& sum) {
2.     sum = a + b;
3. }

4. int main() {
5.     int x = 2, y = 3, sum = 0;
6.     compute_sum(x, y, sum);      /* no &sum in function call */
7.     cout << sum << endl;
8.     return 0;
9. }

```



The diagram illustrates the state of memory before and after the function call. On the left, the stack contains variables x=2 at Addr1, y=3 at Addr2, and sum=0 at Addr3. On the right, the stack contains a=2 at Addr4 and b=3 at Addr5. The function compute_sum is called with parameters x, y, and sum. Inside the function, the sum variable is modified to 5. After the call, the stack shows the updated sum value of 5 at Addr3.

2	a
Addr4	&a
3	b
Addr5	&b

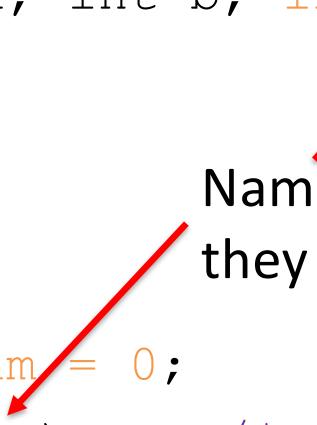
2	x
Addr1	&x
3	y
Addr2	&y
5	sum
Addr3	&sum



Pass by reference: note variable names

```
1. void compute_sum(int a, int b, int& s) {  
2.     s = a + b;  
3. }  
  
4. int main() {  
5.     int x = 2, y = 3, sum = 0;  
6.     compute_sum(x, y, sum); /* no &sum in function call */  
7.     cout << sum << endl;  
8.     return 0;  
9. }
```

Names do not have to match;
they are in different scopes



Passing arguments to functions

- `int v = 3;`
- `void fn(int w);`
- `void fn2(int& w);`
- Pass by value: make a copy
 - `fn(v);`
- Pass by reference: pass the address of the variable
 - `fn2 (&v);`



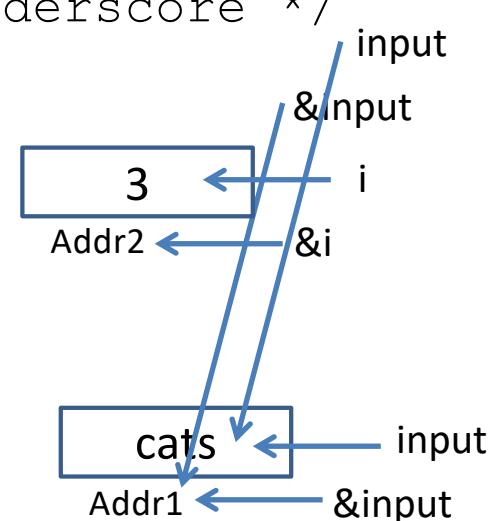
Pass strings by reference

```

1. void destroy_character(string& s, int i) {
2.     /* Change character i to an underscore */
3.     s[i] = '_';
4. }

5. int main() {
6.     string input;    cin >> input;
7.     destroy_character(input, 3);
8.     cout << input << endl;
9.     return 0;
10.}

```





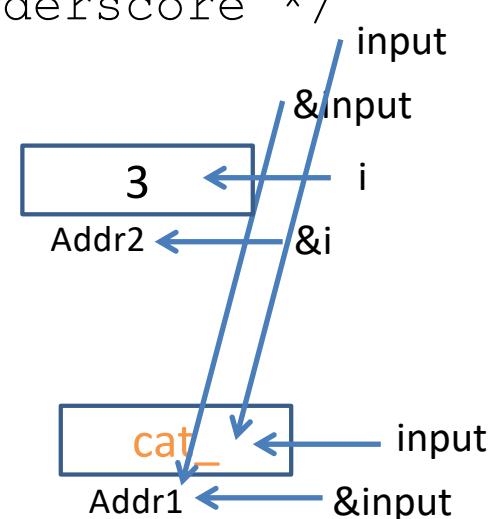
Pass strings by reference

```

1. void destroy_character(string& s, int i) {
2.     /* Change character i to an underscore */
3.     s[i] = '_';
4. }

5. int main() {
6.     string input;    cin >> input;
7.     destroy_character(input, 3);
8.     cout << input << endl;
9.     return 0;
10.}

```



What vocabulary did we learn today?

- Function overloading
- Pass by value
- Pass by reference

What ideas and skills did we learn today?

- When function overloading is ambiguous
- How to make persistent changes to variables that are not in **function** scope (pass function arguments **by reference**)

Week 5 continues

- Attend lab (laptop required)
- Read **Rao Lesson 7** (pp. 166-167) – functions
 - Read **Rao Lesson 8** (pp. 205-210) – references
- Continue working on **Assignment 3** (due **Sunday, Feb. 9**)
- Study session – **Thursday, Feb. 6, 6-7 p.m.**
 - Bring printed worksheet and writing utensil

See you Friday!