



Oregon State  
University

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING | School of Electrical Engineering  
and Computer Science

# CS 161

## Introduction to CS I

### Lecture 25

- Recursion recap
- Recursive data structures



# Week 9 tips

- This week
  - Assignment 5 peer reviews – due Weds. 3/4 at midnight
  - Study session – Thursday 3/5 from 6-7 p.m. in LINC 268
  - Assignment 5 – due Sunday 3/8 at midnight
- Beyond week 9
  - Proficiency demo – week 10
  - Makeup assignment (6) – week 10
  - Final exam – Monday 3/16 from 6-7:50 p.m. in **LINC 128**

# Grace Hopper Celebration Scholarship

- Conference: Sept. 29 – Oct. 2 in Orlando, FL
  - <https://ghc.anitab.org/>
- OSU EECS is offering scholarships for up to \$1550 + conference registration
  - More info:  
<https://oregonstate.box.com/s/vtq5ynvfdjb8lgs661lsdcvmy8es891g>
  - Application deadline: March 27



# Questions about Assignment 5?

- My Planet Treasure Chest

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Total value of 2 items: \$127

- You can make this nicer to look at, more color, better symbols
- Random generation of member values
  - Floats: add 0.0 – 1.7 to 2.3: `float(rand()%18)/10 + 2.3`

# Review: Recursion

- What is it?
  - Function that calls itself 1 or more times (directly or indirectly)
  - Has 1 or more base cases for stopping
  - General case must eventually be reduced to a base case
- Recursive step: express relationship between problem( $n$ ) and smaller problem such as problem( $n-1$ )
- Recursive call: calling a function inside itself.

## Your turn: Palindromes with digits

- Palindrome: Same value when read forwards as backwards
  - e.g. 121, 67876, 3
- $\text{Pal}(n)$ : generate a palindromic digit string, given a starting digit

Input -> output

1 -> 1

2 -> 212

3 -> 32123

4 -> 4321234

- What is the base case?
  - 1 -> "1"
- What is the recursive step?
  - $\text{pal}(n) = n + \text{pal}(n-1) + n$

# Your turn: Palindromes with digits

- Implementation

Input -> output

1 -> 1

2 -> 212

3 -> 32123

4 -> 4321234

See lec25-pal-digits.cpp

```
1. string pal(char n) {  
2.     if (n == '1')  
3.         return "1";  
4.     else  
5.         return n + pal(n-1) + n;  
6. }
```

- What is the base case?
  - 1 -> "1"
- What is the recursive step?
  - $\text{pal}(n) = n + \text{pal}(n-1) + n$

## Your turn: Palindromes with digits

- That could have been done easily with an iterative solution
  - Count from n down to 1 and back up to n: two for loops
  - What about this version?

Input -> output

1	->	1
2	->	2112
3	->	3211221123
4	->	4321122112332112211234

- What is the base case?
  - 1 -> 1
- What is the recursive step?
  - $\text{pal}(n) = n + \text{pal}(n-1) + \text{pal}(n-1) + n$

## Your turn: Palindromes with digits

- Implementation: give it a try on your own!

Input -> output

1 -> 1

2 -> 2112

3 -> 3211221123

4 -> 4321122112332112211234

- What is the base case?
  - 1 -> 1
- What is the recursive step?
  - $\text{pal}(n) = n + \text{pal}(n-1) + \text{pal}(n-1) + n$

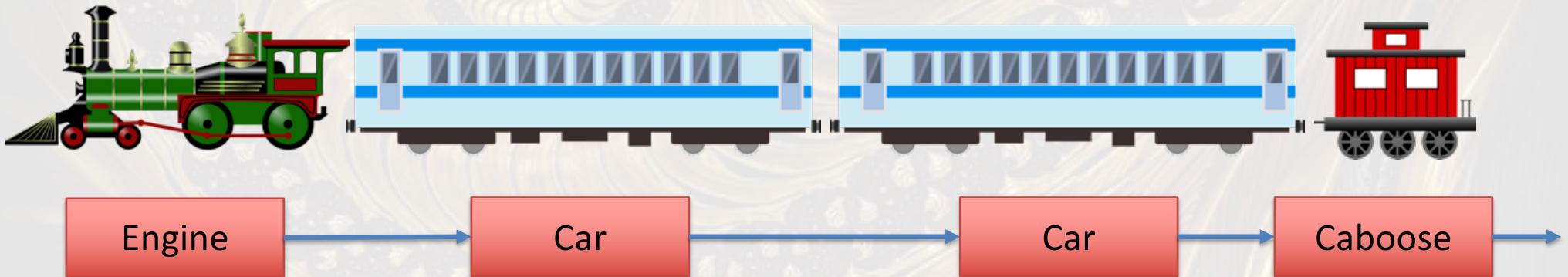
# Recursion with chocolate

- How many chocolates are in this dish?
- Recursive definition of `num_choc(dish)`:
  - **Base case:**  $\text{num\_choc}(\text{empty dish}) = 0$
  - **Recursive step:**  $\text{num\_choc}(\text{dish}) = 1 + \text{num\_choc}(\text{dish} - 1)$

# Recursive data structures

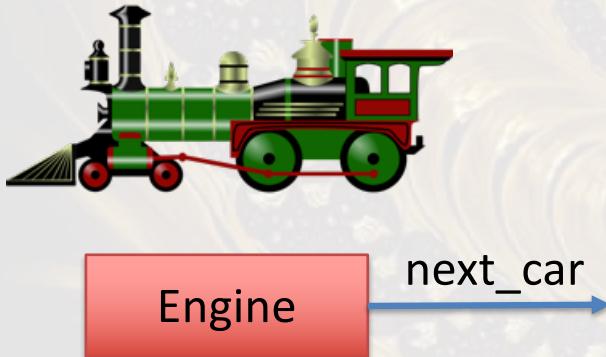
- Let's model a train
  - Train = one or more train\_car items, ending with a caboose

```
1. struct train_car {  
2.     string kind;  
3.     train_car* next_car;  
4. };
```



# Recursive data structures

- Let's create a train
  - First car is the engine



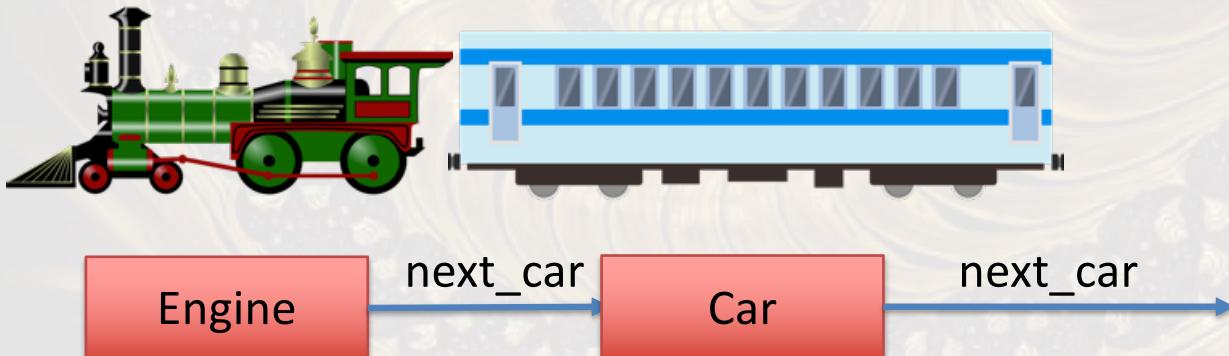
```
1. struct train_car {  
2.     string kind;  
3.     train_car* next_car;  
4. };
```

```
1. train_car* my_train = new train_car;  
2. my_train->kind = "Engine";  
3. my_train->next_car = NULL;
```

# Recursive data structures

- Let's create a train
  - First car is the engine
  - Add more cars

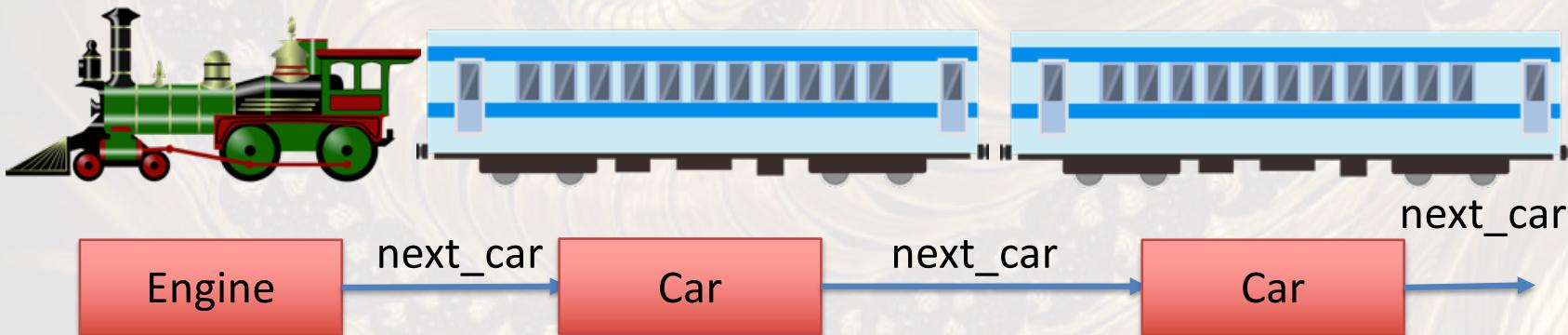
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```



# Recursive data structures

- Let's create a train
  - First car is the engine
  - Add more cars

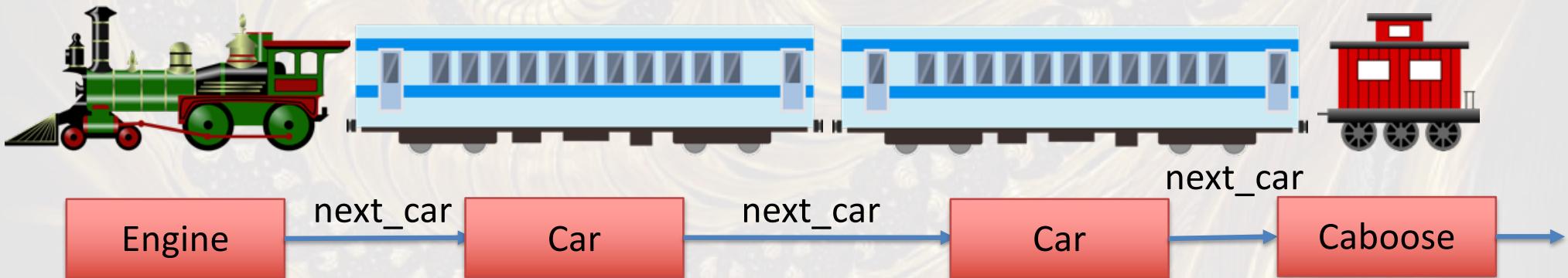
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2.     string kind;  
3.     train_car* next_car;  
4. };
```



# Recursive data structures

- Let's create a train
  - First car is the engine
  - Last one is the **caboose**

```
1. struct train_car {  
2.     string kind;  
3.     train_car* next_car;  
4. };
```



# Recursive train creation

- First car is the engine
- Last one is the **caboose**

```
1. void add_cars(train_car* t, int n_cars) {  
2.     t->next_car = new train_car; /* add a new car */  
3.     t->next_car->next_car = NULL; /* be safe! */  
4.     if (n_cars == 1) { /* base case: caboose */  
5.         t->next_car->kind = "Caboose";  
6.     } else {  
7.         t->next_car->kind = "_***_";  
8.         add_cars(t->next_car, n_cars-1); /* recursive call */  
9.     }  
10. }
```

See lec25-recur-structs.cpp

```
1. int n_cars = rand()%10 + 1;  
2. add_cars(my_train, n_cars);
```

# Your turn: Recursively print the train

```
1. void print_train(train_car* t) {  
2.     cout << t->kind;  
3.     if (t->kind == "Caboose")  
4.         cout << "\n";  
5.     else  
6.         print_train(t->next_car);  
7. }
```

See lec25-recur-structs.cpp

```
1. struct train_car {  
2.     string kind;  
3.     train_car* next_car;  
4. };
```

# Gotchas

- Chasing your tail

```
1. train_car* t = new train_car;  
2. t->kind = "Ouroboros";  
3. t->next_car = t;  
4. print_train(t);
```



- Walking off the end of the train

```
1. void print_train(train_car* t) {  
2.   cout << t->kind;  
3.   print_train(t->next_car);  
4. }
```

# What ideas and skills did we learn today?

- How recursion can be used to construct chains of data types (structs)
- How to traverse (e.g., print) a recursive data structure
- Challenge: implement

```
void delete_train(train_car* t);
```

to clean up the heap and avoid memory leaks

## Week 9 continues

- Attend lab (laptop required)
- Read Rao lesson 7 (pp. 158-161)

Read Miller lecture 8:

<http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/~wjk/C++Intro/RobMillerL8.html>

- Assignment 5 peer reviews (due Wednesday, March 4)**
- Study session Thursday – see worksheet on calendar

See you Friday!