In this Week

- Polymorphism: Late Binding
- > Virtual member functions
- Dynamic Cast
- > Pure Virtual member functions
- > Abstract classes and Interfaces

- We consider once again the Employee base class and the Manager derived class developed during the topic of inheritance
- Our aim is to declare Employee type pointer variable and point it to Employee object or Manager object and call some member functions and see how we can make the pointer identify the object pointed by the pointer and call the correct member functions of the object
- Similarly we would like to declare Employee type reference variable and make the reference variable call the actual objects correct member functions
- See the following test program

```
int main()
   //Construct an Employee and a Manager objects
   Employee e("Tom", "Mark", 1200.00);
   Manager m("Jack", "Jones", 2800.00, 5);
   //Print the objects
   cout << "Employee e" << e << endl;
   cout << "Manager m" << m << endl;
   //Declare a pointer of Employee type
   Employee* p;
   //Point the pointer to the Employee object
   p = &e;
   //Print the Employee object pointed to by the pointer p using printInfo member function
   p->printInfo(cout);
   //Point the pointer to the Manager object
   //Print the Manager object pointed to by the pointer p using printInfo member function
   p->printInfo(cout);
   //Declare an Employee type reference to the Employee object
   Employee& r1 = e;
   //Print the Employee object referenced by the reference r1 using printInfo member function
   r1.printInfo(cout);
   //Declare an Employee type reference to the Manager object
   Employee& r2 = m;
   //Print the Manager object referenced by the reference r2 using printInfo member function
   r2.printInfo(cout);
   system("Pause");
   return 0;
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```

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The output of the program will be as follows

```
Inside employee non-default constructor
Inside employee non-default constructor
Inside manager non-default constructor
Employee e
        Full Name = Tom Mark
        Salary = 1200
Manager m
        Full Name = Jack Jones
        Salary = 2800
        Number of subordinates = 5
        Full Name = Tom Mark
        Salary = 1200
        Full Name = Jack Jones
        Salary = 2800
        Full Name = Tom Mark
        Salary = 1200
        Full Name = Jack Jones
        Salary = 2800
Press any key to continue . . . _
```

- We notice that although the actual objects are not casted when we use pointers and references but still the pointer or reference variable are blindly calling the **printInfo** member function of the base class
- Now we ask ourselves how can we force the pointer or reference variable identify the underlying object and call its member functions
- Answer: We use virtual member functions

- In order to enforce runtime type checking (late binding) on pointers and references so that they check the underlying object type before executing a member function, we need to designate the member function virtual
- The printInfo member function therefore needs to designated as virtual
- The designation of virtual is needed to be done only on the class declaration but not on the class definition
- Moreover the designation of virtual is needed to be done only in the base class but it is not necessary to be designated as virtual in the derived class
- However C++ programmers typically designate member functions as virtual not only on the base class (which is required) but also on all the inheritance lineage for code clarity purposes
- The printInfo member function designated as virtual both on the base Employee class as well as the derived Manager class is shown below
- In Employee class

virtual void printInfo(ostream&) const;

• In Manager class

virtual void printInfo(ostream&) const;

Now we execute the same test main program and its output will be

```
Inside employee non-default constructor
Inside employee non-default constructor
Inside manager non-default constructor
Employee e
        Full Name = Tom Mark
       Salary = 1200
Manager m
        Full Name = Jack Jones
        Salary = 2800
        Number of subordinates = 5
        Full Name = Tom Mark
        Salary = 1200
        Full Name = Jack Jones
        Salary = 2800
        Number of subordinates = 5
        Full Name = Tom Mark
        Salary = 1200
        Full Name = Jack Jones
        Salary = 2800
        Number of subordinates = 5
Press any key to continue . . .
```

- Thus during the design of classes, it is important to identify member functions that need to be overridden in derived classes and designate them as virtual member functions
- In our case, obviously the following modifications will be needed both in the Employee base class and the derived Manager class
- In Employee class

```
virtual ~Employee();
virtual void readInfo(istream&);
```

In Manager class

```
virtual ~Manager();
virtual void readInfo(istream&);
```

 Observe that the destructor must be designated virtual otherwise we will end up destructing only base class part whenever we destruct objects using base class type pointers or references

 Analyze the following program and determine its output. What would be the effect of the destructor was designated virtual?

```
class A
                                                                      class C: public B
public:
                                                                      public:
                                                                                 C(): B()
                      cout << "\tConstructing A object" << endl;
                                                                                            cout << "\tConstructing C object" << endl;
                                                                                 ~C() //No need to make this virtual. It will work fine
                      cout << "\tDestructing A object" << endl;
                                                                                            cout << "\tDestructing C object" << endl;
class B: public A
                                                                      int main()
                                                                                 cout << "Step 1. Create an object of type C" << endl;
public:
           B(): A()
                                                                                 Cc;
                                                                                 cout << "Step 2. Destruct an object of type C" << endl;
                      cout << "\tConstructing B object" << endl;
                                                                                 cout << "Step 3. Point to a newly created object of type C" << endl;
           ~B() //No need to make this virtual. It will work fine
                                                                                 A^{\bullet} y = new C();
                                                                                 cout << "Step 4. Delete the object pointed to by the pointer" << endl;
                      cout << "\tDestructing B object" << endl;
                                                                                 delete y;
                                                                                 cout << "Done. Bye" << endl;
                                                                                 system("Pause");
                                                                                 return 0;
```

- With the design we now have, we can actually remove the code for the istream and ostream friend operator functions from the Manager class without affecting anything in the workings of our classes
- How?
- Because the istream and ostream friend operator functions in the Employee class will be sufficient for after all when we print Manager objects, these objects will pass by reference to the istream and ostream friend operator functions in the Employee class and because we are passing by reference then the parameter objects will call their correct readInfo or printInfo member functions
- The following program demonstrates the effect of virtual functions and their effects on objects

```
int main()
    Employee* e;
    e = new Manager();
    cin >> *e;
    cout << *e << endl;
    delete e;
    system("Pause");
    return 0;
```

Sample run output

```
Inside employee default constructor
Inside manager default constructor
Enter first name: Tom
Enter last name: Mark
Enter salary: 2500
Enter number of subordinates: 7

Full Name = Tom Mark
Salary = 2500
Number of subordinates = 7

Manager object destructed
Employee object destructed
Press any key to continue . . .
```

- The process of enforcing late binding (runtime type checking) on pointers and references is known as polymorphism
- With the help of polymorphism, we can now create an array of base class type pointers and point the elements of the array to base class or derived class objects without any casting taking place and finally traverse the array and invoke some functions on the elements of the array and so long as we call virtual member functions then the elements of the array will intelligently call the underlying objects' correct member functions as shown below
- We also show how to use the typeid built-in function in the typeinfo library in order to have informative messages in our output

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```
#include <iostream>
#include <string>
#include <typeinfo>
using namespace std;
int main()
   //Declare a static array of pointers and populate
    Employee* E[5];
    for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
       if (i % 2 == 0)
            cout << "Constructing Employee object..." << endl;
            E[i] = new Employee();
        else
            cout << "Constructing Manager object..." << endl;
            E[i] = new Manager();
    //Print the elements of the array
    for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
        string data_type = typeid(*(E[i])).name();
       cout << "Printing " << data_type << " object" << *(E[i]) << endl;</pre>
    //Delete the objects on the heap
    for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
       delete E[i];
        cout << endl;
    system("Pause");
    return 0;
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```

```
Constructing Employee object...
Inside employee default constructor
Constructing Manager object...
Inside employee default constructor
Inside manager default constructor
Constructing Employee object...
Inside employee default constructor
Constructing Manager object...
Inside employee default constructor
Inside manager default constructor
Constructing Employee object...
Inside employee default constructor
Printing class Employee object
        Full Name = N/A N/A
        Salary = 0
Printing class Manager object
        Full Name = N/A N/A
        Salary = 0
        Number of subordinates = 0
Printing class Employee object
        Full Name = N/A N/A
        Salary = 0
Printing class Manager object
        Full Name = N/A N/A
        Salary = 0
        Number of subordinates = 0
Printing class Employee object
        Full Name = N/A N/A
        Salary = 0
Employee object destructed
Manager object destructed
Employee object destructed
Employee object destructed
Manager object destructed
Employee object destructed
Employee object destructed
Press and ked to continue
```

Similarly we may use dynamic array as follows and it will perform the same way

```
int main()
   //Declare a dynamic array of pointers and populate
    Employee** E = new Employee*[5];
    for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
        if (i % 2 == 0)
            cout << "Constructing Employee object..." << endl;</pre>
            E[i] = new Employee();
        else
            cout << "Constructing Manager object..." << endl;</pre>
            E[i] = new Manager();
   //Print the elements of the array
   for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
        string data_type = typeid(*(E[i])).name();
        cout << "Printing " << data_type << " object" << *(E[i]) << endl;</pre>
   //Delete the objects on the heap
   for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
        delete E[i];
        cout << endl;
   delete[] E;
   system("Pause");
    return 0;
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```

Dynamic Cast

- Consider the following program (top part)
- We would think the assignment statement q = p; is valid because p is pointing to a Manager object
- But we see that the assignment statement has syntax error. But why? Because the compiler can not ascertain the pointer p will be pointing to a Manager object when the program executes
- Remember if p were pointing to an Employee object then we should expect an error
- One way to inform the compiler that the type check has to be performed during program execution is to use dynamic cast
- That way the compiler will leave the type check to be performed during run time
- The same program with a dynamic cast is shown (bottom part)
- We should note that dynamic cast causes run time error if the pointer to be casted is not pointing to a Manager object

```
int main()
          Manager m;
          Employee* p;
          Manager* q;
          p = \&m:
          q = p_i
          cout << *q << endl;
          system("Pause");
          return 0;
int main()
   Manager m;
   Employee* p;
   Manager* q;
   p = \&m;
   q = dynamic_cast<Manager*>(p);
   cout << *q << endl;
   system("Pause");
   return 0:
```

Dynamic Cast

- We could also use static_cast instead of dynamic_cast
- However while dynamic_cast will perform validity check before casting and thus we may catch the error during runtime, static_cast will not perform validity check and will cause runtime error
- As a last remark, for a dynamic_cast to be a valid operation, there
 has to be at least one virtual member function in the base class
 which is to say the class inheritance must have polymorphic
 behavior
- We conclude that whenever base class pointers are used in our applications, then unless we use virtual member functions they will always call their class type member functions irrespective of the actual objects they are pointing to and this may be semantically incorrect
- In particular, it is a good programming habit to always designate a destructor of a class virtual to guarantee correct destruction

- Now consider the following problem statement
- **Problem Statement:** Design classes and their inheritance relationships to represent **Rectangle**, **Square**, Triangle, and Circle objects. Assume each of such objects will have a color attribute in addition to its geometrical attributes and provide all the required constructors, destructors, getters, setters, and any other member functions. In particular, provide **getColor**, getType (to return the data type of an object as a string), getArea, getCircumference, readInfo, and printInfo member functions. Last but not least, design your classes such that at the end a container of your base class data type may store several objects of any type of geometrical objects represented by your classes
- We may therefore design the classes as follows

```
|class Rectangle
                                                             class Square : public Rectangle
private:
                                                             public:
    double length, width;
                                                                 Square();
    string color;
                                                                 Square(const double&, const string&);
public:
    Rectangle();
                                                                 double getSide() const;
    Rectangle(const double&, const double&, const string&);
                                                                 virtual void setLength(const double&);
    double getLength() const;
                                                                 virtual void setWidth(const double&);
    double getWidth() const;
                                                                 void setSide(const double&);
    string getColor() const;
                                                                 virtual string getType() const;
    virtual void setLength(const double&);
    virtual void setWidth(const double&);
                                                                 virtual void readInfo(istream&);
    void setColor(const string&);
                                                                 virtual void printInfo(ostream&) const;
                                                                 friend istream& operator>>(istream&, Square&);
                                                                 friend ostream& operator<<(ostream&, const Square&);
    double getArea() const:
    double getPerimeter() const;
                                                             };
    virtual string getType() const;
    virtual void readInfo(istream&);
    virtual void printInfo(ostream&) const;
    friend istream& operator>>(istream&, Rectangle&);
    friend ostream& operator<<(ostream&, const Rectangle&);
};
```

```
class Triangle
                                                          class Circle
private:
                                                          private:
   double base, height;
                                                              double radius;
   string color;
                                                              string color;
public:
                                                          public:
   Triangle();
   Triangle(const double&, const double&, const string&);
                                                              Circle();
                                                              Circle(const double&, const string&);
   double getBase() const;
   double getHeight() const;
                                                              double getRadius() const;
   string getColor() const;
                                                              string getColor() const;
   void setBase(const double&);
                                                              void setRadius(const double&);
   void setHeight(const double&);
                                                              void setColor(const string&);
   void setColor(const string&);
                                                              double getArea() const;
   double getArea() const:
                                                              double getPerimeter() const;
   double getPerimeter() const;
                                                              string getType() const;
   string getType() const;
                                                              void readInfo(istream&);
   void readInfo(istream&);
                                                              void printInfo(ostream&) const;
   void printInfo(ostream&) const;
                                                              friend istream& operator>>(istream&, Circle&);
   friend istream& operator>>(istream&, Triangle&);
                                                              friend ostream& operator<<(ostream&, const Circle&);
   friend ostream& operator<<(ostream&, const Triangle&);
};
                                                          };
```

- With the design we now have, we will still need a base class for all the classes so that a base class type container will be able to store any object constructed from our classes
- Let us design a base class named Shape
- We therefore now move all the common attributes (member variables or member functions) of the different classes to the base class and designate them virtual so that each class will implement them in a correct way for the objects it represents
- The following class declaration shows the **Shape** class declaration as we would start to design it

```
class Shape
private:
    string color;
public:
    Shape();
    Shape(const string&);
    string getColor();
    void setColor(const string&);
    virtual double getArea() const;
    virtual double getPerimeter() const;
    string getType() const;
    virtual void readInfo(istream&);
    virtual void printInfo(ostream&) const;
    friend istream& operator>>(istream& in, Shape& s);
    friend ostream& operator<<(ostream& out, const Shape& s);
};
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```

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- Next, we start implementing the Shape class member functions
- The constructors and getters will be straightforward. But what about the getArea and getPerimeter member functions?
- We observe that the **Shape** class does not actually represent concrete objects; rather it is a blue print for other concrete objects such as Rectangle, Square, Triangle and Square objects
- This implies the getArea and getPerimeter member functions should be declared but they should not be defined in the Shape class
- But C++ requires every declared member function to be implemented
- This is where pure virtual member functions come to play a role
- Whenever a base class does not need to implement any member function but rather leave the implementation to derived classes, then such functions should be designated as pure virtual in the base class
- A member function in a base class is designated as pure virtual by placing
 0 in its declaration
- It is not necessary for a derived class to implement a pure virtual member function. But if it doesn't then there will be consequences discussed later

 The Shape class with its pure virtual member functions together with implementations of the remaining member functions is shown below

```
class Shape
private:
   string color;
public:
   Shape() { color = "None"; }
   Shape(const string& c) { color = c; }
   string getColor() const { return color; }
   void setColor(const string& c) { color = c; }
   virtual double getArea() const = 0;
   virtual double getPerimeter() const = 0;
    string getType() const
        string s = typeid(*this).name();
        return s.substr(find(s.begin(), s.end(), ' ')-s.begin()+1);
   virtual void readInfo(istream&) = 0;
   virtual void printInfo(ostream&) const = 0;
   friend istream& operator>>(istream& in, Shape& s) { s.readInfo(in); return in; }
   friend ostream& operator<<(ostream& out, const Shape& s) { s.printInfo(out); return out; }
};
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```

- A C++ class with at least one pure virtual member function is known as abstract class
- Thus the Shape class shown above is an abstract class
- We can not create (instantiate) an object of an abstract class type
- Neither can an abstract class type used as a parameter if the parameter pass is by value
- However pointers and references of abstract classes can be declared and used with concrete objects
- If a derived class does not implement any of the pure virtual member functions in its base class then the derived class is also automatically an abstract class and the constraints of an abstract class (such as not being able to instantiate an object of the class type) will apply to it
- A C++ class whose member functions are all pure virtual member functions is known as an interface
- The declarations of the Rectangle, Square, Triangle and Circle classes modified to be derived from the Shape class together with their implementations are shown below

```
Rectangle::Rectangle() : Shape()
|class Rectangle : public Shape
                                                                 length = 0;
 private:
                                                                 width = 0;
    double length, width;
 public:
                                                             Rectangle::Rectangle(const double& len, const double& wid, const string& c) : Shape(c)
    Rectangle();
    Rectangle(const double&, const double&, const string&); i
                                                                 length = len;
                                                                 width = wid:
    double getLength() const;
    double getWidth() const;
                                                             double Rectangle::getLength() const { return length; }
                                                             double Rectangle::getWidth() const { return width; }
    virtual void setLength(const double&);
                                                             void Rectangle::setLength(const double& len) { length = len; }
    virtual void setWidth(const double&);
                                                             void Rectangle::setWidth(const double& wid) { width = wid; }
                                                             double Rectangle::getArea() const { return length*width; }
    virtual double getArea() const;
                                                             double Rectangle::getPerimeter() const { return 2*(length+width); }
    virtual double getPerimeter() const;
                                                             void Rectangle::readInfo(istream& in)
    virtual void readInfo(istream&);
                                                                 cout << "\tEnter length ";
    virtual void printInfo(ostream&) const;
                                                                 in >> length;
};
                                                                 cout << "\tEnter width ";
                                                                 in >> width;
                                                             void Rectangle::printInfo(ostream& out) const
                                                                 out << endl;
                                                                 out << "\t" << getType() << endl;
                                                                 out << "\t\tLength = " << length << ", Width = " << width << endl;
                                                                 out << "\t\tarea = " << getArea() << ", Perimeter = " << getPerimeter();
```

```
class Square : public Rectangle
{
public:
    Square();
    Square(const double&, const string&);

    double getSide() const;

    virtual void setLength(const double&);
    virtual void setWidth(const double&);
    void setSide(const double&);

    virtual void readInfo(istream&);
    virtual void printInfo(ostream&) const;
};
```

```
Square::Square() : Rectangle() { }
Square::Square(const double& side, const string& c) : Rectangle(side, side, c) { }
double Square::getSide() const
    return getLength();
void Square::setLength(const double& len)
    setSide(len);
void Square::setWidth(const double& wid)
    setSide(wid);
void Square::setSide(const double& side)
    this->Rectangle::setLength(side);
    this->Rectangle::setWidth(side);
void Square::readInfo(istream& in)
    double temp;
    cout << "\tEnter side ";</pre>
    in >> temp;
    this->setSide(temp);
void Square::printInfo(ostream& out) const
    out << endl;
   out << "\t" << getType() << endl;
   out << "\t\tSide = " << getSide() << endl;
   out << "\t\tArea = " << getArea() << ", Perimeter = " << getPerimeter();
```

```
Triangle::Triangle() : Shape()
class Triangle : public Shape
                                                                     base = 0;
private:
                                                                     height = 0;
    double base, height;
                                                                 Triangle::Triangle(const double& b, const double& h, const string& c) : Shape(c)
public:
    Triangle();
                                                                     base = b;
    Triangle(const double&, const double&, const string&);
                                                                     height= h:
    double getBase() const;
                                                                 double Triangle::getBase() const { return base; }
    double getHeight() const;
                                                                 double Triangle::getHeight() const { return height; }
                                                                 void Triangle::setBase(const double& b) { base = b; }
                                                                 void Triangle::setHeight(const double& h) { height = h; }
    void setBase(const double&);
                                                                 double Triangle::getArea() const
    void setHeight(const double&);
                                                                     return 0.5*base*height;
    virtual double getArea() const;
    virtual double getPerimeter() const;
                                                                 double Triangle::getPerimeter() const
    virtual void readInfo(istream&);
                                                                     return base+height+sqrt(base*base + height*height);
    virtual void printInfo(ostream&) const;
                                                                 void Triangle::readInfo(istream& in)
};
                                                                     cout << "\tEnter base ";
                                                                     in >> base;
                                                                     cout << "\tEnter height ";
                                                                     in >> height;
                                                                 void Triangle::printInfo(ostream& out) const
                                                                     out << endl;
                                                                     out << "\t" << getType() << endl;
                                                                     out << "\t\tBase = " << base << ", Height = " << height << endl;
                                                                     out << "\t\tarea = " << getArea() << ", Perimeter = " << getPerimeter();
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                                                                                                                                         27
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```

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Circle::Circle() : Shape()

```
class Circle : public Shape
                                                             radius = 0;
                                                          Circle::Circle(const double& r, const string& c) : Shape(c)
private:
     double radius;
                                                              radius = r:
public:
                                                          double Circle::getRadius() const
    Circle();
                                                              return radius;
     Circle(const double&, const string&);
                                                          void Circle::setRadius(const double& r)
     double getRadius() const;
                                                              radius = r;
                                                          double Circle::getArea() const
     void setRadius(const double&);
                                                              return 3.14*radius*radius:
     virtual double getArea() const;
                                                          double Circle::getPerimeter() const
     virtual double getPerimeter() const;
                                                              return 2*3.14*radius;
     virtual void readInfo(istream&);
                                                          void Circle::readInfo(istream& in)
     virtual void printInfo(ostream&) const;
                                                              cout << "\tEnter radius ";
};
                                                              in >> radius:
                                                          void Circle::printInfo(ostream& out) const
                                                              out << endl;
                                                             out << "\t" << getType() << endl;
                                                             out << "\t\tRadius = " << radius << endl;
                                                              out << "\t\tarea = " << getArea() << ", Perimeter = " << getPerimeter();
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                                                                                                                          28
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```

Here is a test program together with its output in order to show the effect of our design

```
int main()
   //Construct different objects
   Rectangle r;
   Square s;
   Triangle t;
   Circle c;
   //Declare a pointer of the base class type
   Shape* p;
   cout << "Here are the objects printed using a base class pointer" << endl;
   p = &r;
                                         Here are the objects printed using a base class pointer
   cout << *p << endl;
   D = &s:
                                                   Rectangle
   cout << *p << endl;
                                                             Length = 0, Width = 0
   p = &t;
                                                             Area = 0. Perimeter = 0
   cout << *p << endl;
   p = &c;
                                                   Square
   cout << *p << endl;
                                                             Side = 0
                                                             Area = 0, Perimeter = 0
   system("Pause");
   return 0;
                                                   Triangle
                                                             Base = 0, Height = 0
                                                             Area = 0, Perimeter = 0
                                                   Circle
                                                             Radius = 0
                                                             Area = 0, Perimeter = 0
                                         Press any key to continue \dots \_
```

- Now we may create an array of Shape pointers and point the elements of the array to different objects
- Traversing the elements of the array and invoking some member functions will then invoke the correct member function of the underlying objects thanks to the polymorphic behavior of member functions achieved with the help of virtual functions

```
int main()
   srand(time(0));
   int size:
   cout << "How many objects would you like to store ":
   cin >> size:
   Shape** S = new Shape*[size];
   string color[] = {"Red", "Blue", "Yellow", "Purple", "Green", "Cyan"};
   for (int i = 0; i < size; i++)
      switch(rand() % 4)
         case 0:
            cout << "Constructing a Rectangle object" << endl;</pre>
            S[i] = new Rectangle(rand()%11+5, rand()%11+5, color[rand()%6]);
            break:
         case 1:
            cout << "Constructing a Square object" << endl;
            S[i] = new Square(rand()%11+5, color[rand()%6]);
         case 2:
            cout << "Constructing a Triangle object" << endl;</pre>
            S[i] = new Triangle(rand()%11+5, rand()%11+5, color[rand()%6]);
            break:
         default:
            cout << "Constructing a Circle object" << endl;</pre>
            S[i] = new Circle(rand()%11+5, color[rand()%6]);
   //Print the objects
   for (int i = 0; i < size; i++)
      cout << *(S[i]) << endl;
   //Destruct the objects
   for (int i = 0; i < size; i++)
      delete S[i];
   delete[] S;
   system("Pause");
   return 0:
```