CS106L Lecture 13: Move Semantics ☐ (C++11)

Fall 2023

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Attendance



https://bit.ly/MoveF23

Plan

- 1. Why do we need move semantics?
- 2. Lvalues, Rvalues, and Rvalues references
- 3. std::move()
- 4. Move constructor and move assignment operator







http://web.stanford.edu/class/cs106l/



There are six special member functions!

These functions are generated only when they're called (and before any are explicitly defined by you):

```
class Widget {
 public:
  Widget();
                                       // default constructor
  Widget (const Widget& w);
                                       // copy constructor
  Widget& operator = (const Widget& w); // copy assignment operator
  ~Widget();
                                       // destructor
                                    // move constructor
  Widget (Widget&& rhs);
  Widget& operator = (Widget&& rhs);  // move assignment operator
```









There are six special member functions!

These functions are generated only when they're called (and before any are explicitly defined by you):

```
class Widget {
 public:
  Widget();
                                         // default constructor
  Widget (const Widget& w);
                                         // copy constructor
  Widget& operator = (const Widget& w); // copy assignment operator
                                            destructor
  ~Widget();
  Widget (Widget&& rhs);
                                         // move constructor
  Widget& operator = (Widget&& rhs);
                                           move assignment operator
```

Before any of that

An I-value

An **I-value** can be to the left <u>or</u> the right of an equal sign!

What's an example?

x can be an I-value for instance
because you can have something like:
 int y = x



x = 344

An r-value

An **r-value** can be \uparrow **ONLY** \uparrow to the right of an equal sign!

What's an example?

21 can be an r-value for instance because you can have something like: int y = 21



$$21 = x$$

L-value & R-value lifetime

L-values live until the end of the scope

R-values live until the end of the line

L-value & R-value lifetime

L-values live until the end of the scope

R-values live until the end of the line

```
int x = 3;
int *ptr = 0x02248837;
vector<int> v1{1, 2, 3};
size_t size = v.size();
v1[1] = 4*i;
ptr = &x;
v1[2] = *ptr;
MyClass obj;
x = obj.public_member_variable;
```

```
//3 is an r-value
int x = 3;
int *ptr = 0x02248837;
vector<int> v1{1, 2, 3};
size_t size = v.size();
v1[1] = 4*i;
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MyClass obj;
x = obj.public_member_variable;
```

```
//3 is an r-value
int x = 3;
                           //0x02248837 is an r-value
int *ptr = 0x02248837;
vector<int> v1\{1, 2, 3\}; \frac{1}{1} is an r-value, \frac{1}{1} is an l-value
size_t size = v.size();
v1[1] = 4*i;
ptr = &x;
v1[2] = *ptr;
MyClass obj;
x = obj.public_member_variable;
```

```
//3 is an r-value
int x = 3;
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```
//3 is an r-value
int x = 3;
                           //0x02248837 is an r-value
int *ptr = 0x02248837;
vector<int> v1\{1, 2, 3\}; //\{1, 2, 3\} is an r-value, v1 is an l-value
size_t size = v.size();  //v.size()is an r-value
v1[1] = 4*i;
ptr = &x;
v1[2] = *ptr;
MyClass obj;
x = obj.public_member_variable;
```

```
//3 is an r-value
int x = 3;
                           //0x02248837 is an r-value
int *ptr = 0x02248837;
vector<int> v1\{1, 2, 3\}; //\{1, 2, 3\} is an r-value, v1 is an l-value
                          //v.size()is an r-value
size_t size = v.size();
                           //4*i is an r-value, v1[1] is an l-value
v1[1] = 4*i;
ptr = &x;
v1[2] = *ptr;
MyClass obj;
x = obj.public_member_variable;
```

```
//3 is an r-value
int x = 3;
                           //0x02248837 is an r-value
int *ptr = 0x02248837;
                         //{1, 2, 3} is an r-value, v1 is an l-value
vector<int> v1{1, 2, 3};
                          //v.size()is an r-value
size_t size = v.size();
                           //4*i is an r-value, v1[1] is an l-value
v1[1] = 4*i;
ptr = &x;
                           //&x is an r-value
v1[2] = *ptr;
MyClass obj;
x = obj.public_member_variable;
```

```
//3 is an r-value
int x = 3;
                           \frac{1}{0}x02248837 is an r-value
int *ptr = 0x02248837;
vector<int> v1\{1, 2, 3\}; //\{1, 2, 3\} is an r-value, v1 is an l-value
                           //v.size()is an r-value
size_t size = v.size();
                            //4*i is an r-value, v1[1] is an l-value
v1[1] = 4*i;
ptr = &x;
                            //&x is an r-value
                            //*ptr is an l-value
v1[2] = *ptr;
MyClass obj;
x = obj.public_member_variable;
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//3 is an r-value
int x = 3;
                           \frac{1}{0}x02248837 is an r-value
int *ptr = 0x02248837;
vector<int> v1\{1, 2, 3\}; //\{1, 2, 3\} is an r-value, v1 is an l-value
                           //v.size()is an r-value
size_t size = v.size();
                           //4*i is an r-value, v1[1] is an l-value
v1[1] = 4*i;
ptr = &x;
                           //&x is an r-value
                            //*ptr is an l-value
v1[2] = *ptr;
                            //obj is an l-value
MyClass obj;
x = obj.public_member_variable;
```

```
//3 is an r-value
int x = 3;
                            \frac{1}{0}x02248837 is an r-value
int *ptr = 0x02248837;
vector<int> v1\{1, 2, 3\}; \frac{1}{1} is an r-value, \frac{1}{1} is an l-value
                           //v.size()is an r-value
size_t size = v.size();
                            //4*i is an r-value, v1[1] is an l-value
v1[1] = 4*i:
ptr = &x;
                            //&x is an r-value
                            //*ptr is an l-value
v1[2] = *ptr;
                            //obj is an l-value
MyClass obj;
x = obj.public_member_variable; //obj.public_member_variable is l-value
```

What questions do we have?



Why did we just review this?

Last time we spoke about r-values we said that we could not refer to them by reference.

Why did we just review this?

Last time we spoke about r-values we said that we could not refer to them by reference.

It turns out that we *can* have r-value references!



How can we reference an R-value? And why in the world would we ever want to do that?

What?

How can we reference an R-value? And why in the world would we ever want to do that?

```
int&& rvalue_ref = 42;
```

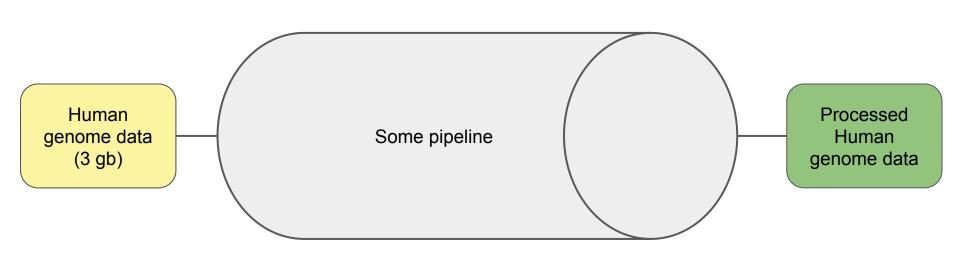
L-value & R-value lifetime

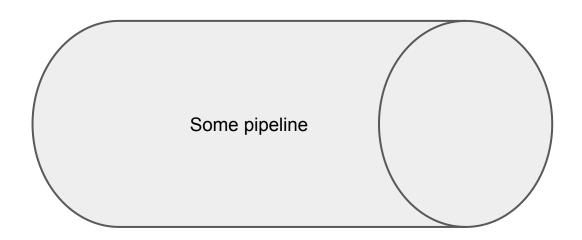
L-values live until the end of the scope

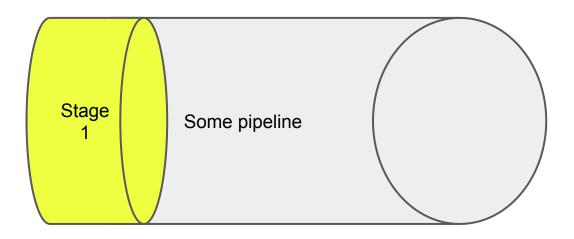
R-values live until the end of the line

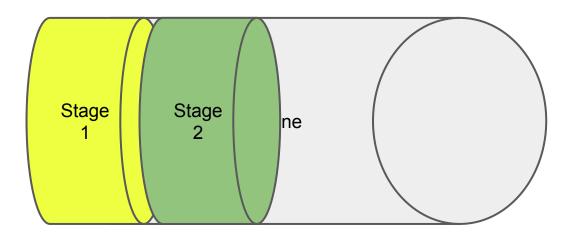
What questions do we have?

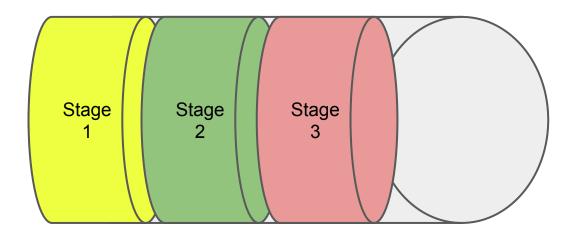


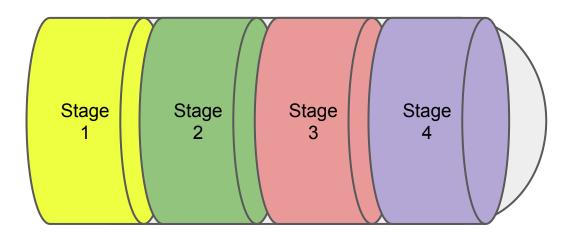


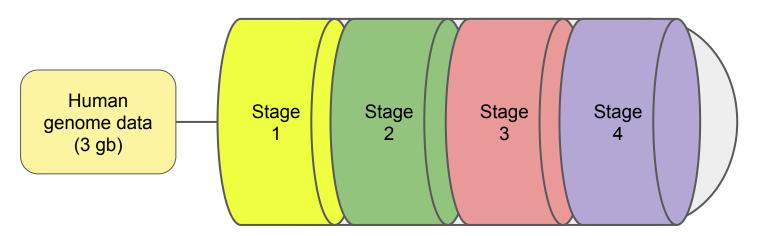


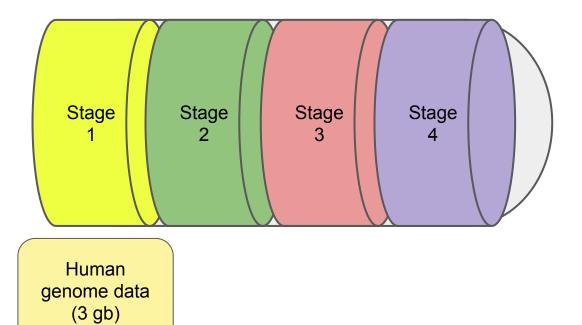


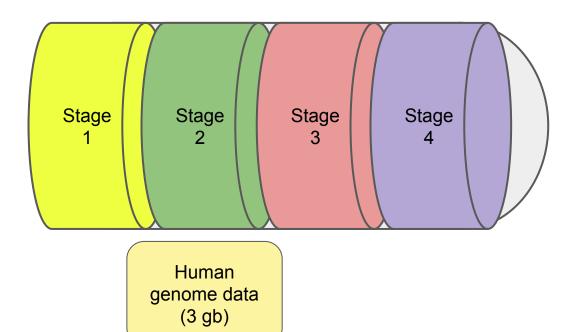




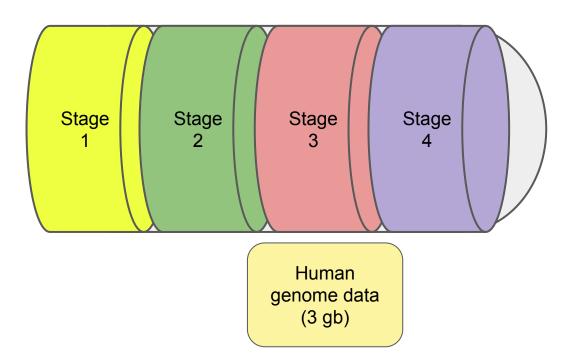




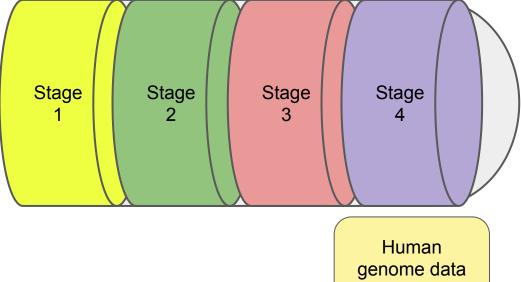




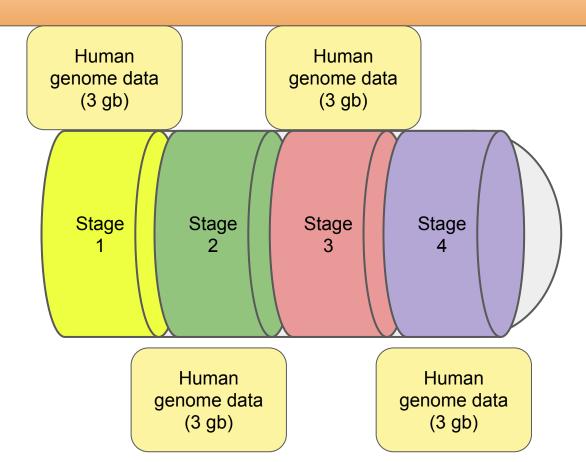
Motivation

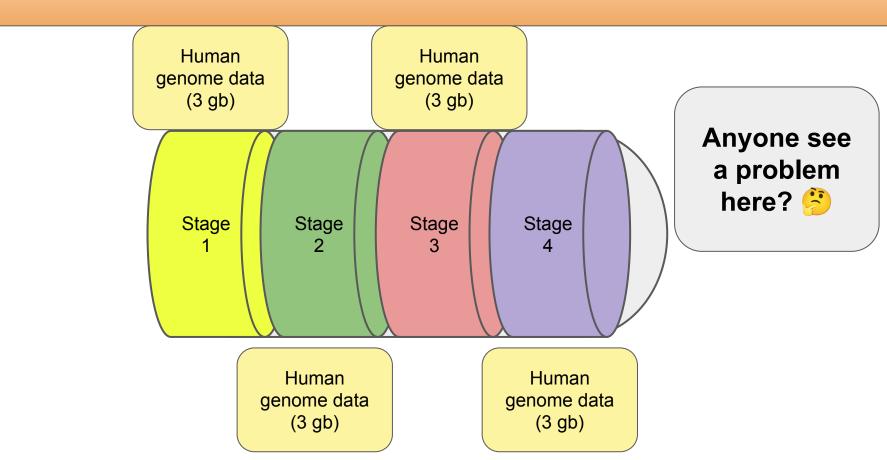


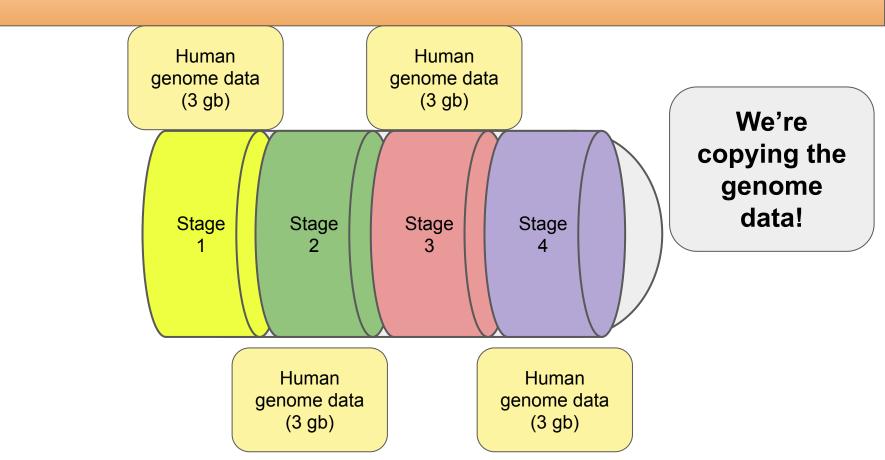
Motivation

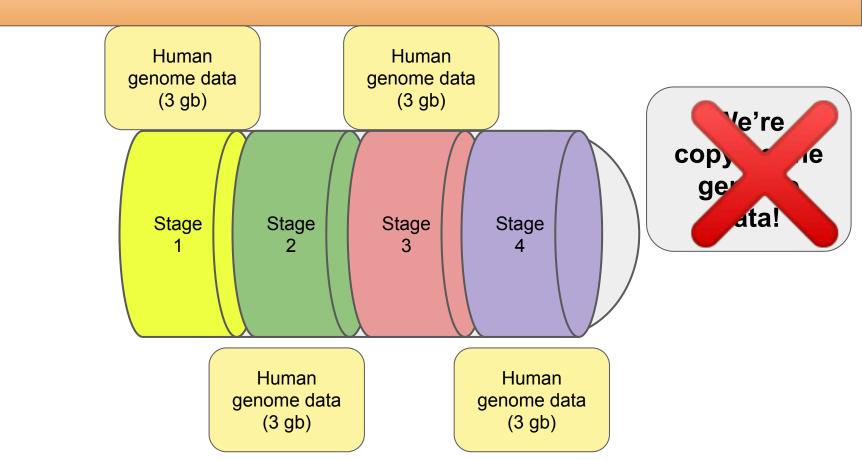


genome data (3 gb)









What does this look like in code?

```
class HumanGenome {
private:
    std::vector<char> data;
public:
    HumanGenome() = default;
    HumanGenome(size_t size): data(size) {
        std::fill(data.begin(), data.end(), 'A');
```

```
class HumanGenome {
private:
    std::vector<char> data;
public:
    // move constructor
    HumanGenome(HumanGenome&& other) noexcept :
    data(std::move(other.data)) {
        std::cout << "HumanGenome moved into stage." << std::endl;</pre>
```

```
class HumanGenome {
private:
    std::vector<char> data;
                                                    This basically says
public:
                                                    "hey I guarantee not
    // move constructor
                                                        to throw an
    HumanGenome(HumanGenome&& other) noexcept
                                                        exception"
    data(std::move(other.data)) {
        std::cout << "HumanGenome moved into stage." << std::endl;</pre>
```

```
class HumanGenome {
private:
    std::vector<char> data;
public:
    // move constructor
    HumanGenome(HumanGenome&& other) noexcept :
    data(std::move(other.data)) {
        std::cout << "HumanGenome moved into stage." << std::endl;</pre>
```

```
class HumanGenome {
                                             This basically says
private:
                                             "I'm gonna yank this
    std::vector<char> data;
                                              thing's resource, I
                                               will treat it as an
public:
                                                   r-value"
    // move constructor
    HumanGenome(HumanGenome&& other) noexcept :
    data(std::move(other.data)) {
        std::cout << "HumanGenome moved into stage." << std::endl;</pre>
```

```
HumanGenome stage1(HumanGenome genome) {
    genome.process(); // assume some process function exists in HumanGenome
    return genome;
HumanGenome stage2(HumanGenome genome) {
    genome.process();
    return genome;
HumanGenome stage3(HumanGenome genome) {
    genome.process();
    return genome;
```

```
HumanGenome stage1(HumanGenome genome) {
    genome.process(); // assume some process function exists in HumanGenome
    return genome;
                                                 Does anyone
                                                remember what
HumanGenome stage2(HumanGenome genome) {
                                                special member
    genome.process();
                                               function is called
    return genome;
                                                    here?
HumanGenome stage3(HumanGenome genome) {
    genome.process();
    return genome;
```

```
HumanGenome stage1(HumanGenome genome) {
    genome.process(); // assume some process function exists in HumanGenome
    return genome;
                                               Copy constructor!
HumanGenome stage2(HumanGenome genome) {
    genome.process();
    return genome;
HumanGenome stage3(HumanGenome genome) {
    genome.process();
    return genome;
```

```
std::vector<char> initialData = {'A', 'T', 'G', 'C'};
HumanGenome genome(initialData);
                                                   Here we're not making
                                                      use of our move
/// pipelines are independent of each other
                                                        semantics!
genome = stage1(genome);
genome = stage2(genome));
genome = stage3(genome);
```

```
std::vector<char> initialData = {'A', 'T', 'G', 'C'};
HumanGenome genome(std::move(initialData);
                                                       Much better
/// pipelines are independent of each other
genome = stage1(std::move(genome));
genome = stage2(std::move(genome));
genome = stage3(std::move(genome));
```

What questions do we have?



```
class HumanGenome {
private:
    std::vector<char> data;
public:
    // Move assignment operator
    HumanGenome& operator=(HumanGenome&& other) noexcept {
        if (this != &other) {
            data = other.data;
            std::cout << "HumanGenome moved within stage." << std::endl;</pre>
        return *this;
```

```
class HumanGenome {
private:
                                                      Does anyone see
    std::vector<char> data;
                                                       a problem here
public:
                                                          though?
    // Move assignment operator
    HumanGenome& operator=(HumanGenome&& other) noexcept {
        if (this != &other) {
            data = other.data;
            std::cout << "HumanGenome moved within stage." << std::endl;</pre>
        return *this;
```

```
class HumanGenome {
private:
    std::vector<char> data;
public:
    // Move assignment operator
    HumanGenome operator (HumanGenome other) noex
                                                          This is actually
        if (this != &other) {
                                                           performing a
            data = other.data; <
                                                            copy! This
                                                           defeats the
            std::cout << "HumanGenome moved within s</pre>
                                                         purpose of move
        return *this;
```

```
class HumanGenome {
private:
    std::vector<char> data;
public:
    // Move assignment operator
    HumanGenome& operator=(HumanGenome&& other) noexcept {
        if (this != &other) {
            data = std::move(other.data);
            std::cout << "HumanGenome moved within stage." << std::endl;</pre>
        return *this;
```

std::move

```
class HumanGenome {
private:
    std::vector<char> data;
public:
    // Move assignment operator
   HumanGenome& operator=(HumanGenome&& other) poexcent {
       if (this != &other) {
                                                   It turns out that
           other.data is an I-value
           std::cout << "HumanGenome moved with</pre>
       return *this;
```

std::move

```
class HumanGenome {
private:
    std::vector<char> data;
public:
    // Move assignment operator
    HumanGenome& operator=(HumanGenome&& other) poexcent {
        if (this != &other) {
                                                    std::move() changes
            data = std::move(other.data); 	◄
                                                    an I-value to an x-value
            std::cout << "HumanGenome moved with</pre>
        return *this;
```

x-value

You can plunder me, **move** anything I'm holding and use it elsewhere (since I'm going to be destroyed soon anyway)".

Check this out if you're interested!





You can plunder me, **move** any going to be destroyed soon any

Don't worry about this too much! This is an aside. Just understand what std::move() is doing on a philosophical level.

k this out if you're intere



std::move()

Whenever the original object is no longer needed you can use std::move() to transfer as opposed to copy



std::move

```
int main() {
    HumanGenome genome_one;
    HumanGenome genome_two;
    // add a base to genome_one; assume add_base method exists
    genome_one.add_base('A');
    genome_two = genome_one;
    genome_one.add_base('T');
                                                           Is there an
                                                           issue here?
```

We need both a copy and move constructor!

```
int main() {
    HumanGenome genome_one;
    HumanGenome genome_two;
    // add a base to genome_one; assume add_base method exists
    genome_one.add_base('A');
    genome_two = genome_one;
    genome_one.add_base('T');
                                              If we don't have a copy
                                                constructor we are
                                                  doing an illegal
```

add base!

Operator overloading

What operators can we overload?

Most of them, actually!

Operator overloading









What operators can we overload?

Most of them, actually!

You can overload the assignment operator!

Operator overloading

Copy assignment

```
HumanGenome& operator=(const HumanGenome&
other) {
    if (&other == this) return *this;
    data = other.data;
    return *this;
}
```

Move assignment

```
HumanGenome& operator=(HumanGenome&&
other) noexcept {
        if (this != &other) {
             data = std::move(other.data);
             std::cout << "HumanGenome</pre>
moved within stage." << std::endl;</pre>
         return *this;
```

We need both a copy and move constructor!

```
int main() {
    HumanGenome genome_one;
    HumanGenome genome_two;
    // add a base to genome_one; assume add_base method exists
    genome_one.add_base('A');
    genome_two = genome_one;
    genome_one.add_base('T');
                                                Happy Bjarne, this
                                                   works now!
```

We need both a copy and move constructor!

```
int main() {
    HumanGenome genome_one;
    HumanGenome genome_two;
    // add a base to genome_one; assume add_base method exists
    genome_one.add_base('A');
    genome_two = genome_one; // uses the copy assignment operator!
    genome_one.add_base('T');
                                                Happy Bjarne, this
                                                   works now!
```

What questions do we have?



Circling back to std::move()

 You should use this when you're assigning some I-value that is no longer needed where it is previously stored

Circling back to std::move()

- You should use this when you're assigning some I-value that is no longer needed where it is previously stored
- Generally, we want to avoid using std::move() in application code.
 Use it in class definitions, like constructors and operators.

```
int main() {
    vector<string> vec1 = {"hello", "world"}
    vector<string> vec2 = std::move(vec1);
    vec1.push_back("Sure hope vec2 doesn't see this!")
}
```

```
int main() {
    vector<string> vec1 = {"hello", "world"}
    vector<string> vec2 = std::move(vec1);
    vec1.push_back("Sure hope vec2 doesn't see this!")
}
```

```
int main() {
    vector<string> vec1 = {"hello", "world"}
    vector<string> vec2 = std::move(vec1);
    vec1.push_back("Sure hope vec2 doesn't see this!")
}
```

In application code we might make a mistake like this and try to push_back() to a moved object.

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int main() {
    vector<string> vec1 = {"hello", "world"}
    vector<string> vec2 = std::move(vec1);
    vec1.push_back("Sure hope vec2 doesn't see this!")
}
```

In application code we might make a mistake like this and try to push_back() to a moved object.





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What questions do we have?



- If your class has copy constructor and copy assignment defined, you should also define a move constructor and move assignment
- Define these by overloading your copy constructor and assignment to be defined for Type&& other as well as Type& other

- Use **std::move** to force the use of other types' move assignments and constructors
- All std::move(x) does is cast x as an rvalue xvalue
- Be wary of std::move(x) in main function code!

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- Use **std::move** to force the use of other types' move assignments and constructors
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- Use **std::move** to force the use of other types' move assignments and constructors
- All std::move(x) does is cast x as an rvalue xvalue
- Be wary of std::move(x) in main function code!

At this point:

You know about:

- 1. **Default constructor:** Initializes an object to a default state
- 2. Copy constructor: Creates a new object by copying an existing object
- 3. **Move constructor:** Creates a new object by moving the resources of an existing object
- Copy Assignment Operator: Assigns the contents of one object to another object
- Move Assignment Operator: Moves the resources of one object to another object
- 6. **Destructor**: Frees any dynamically allocated resources owned by an object when it is destroyed

Some philosophy!



Some philosophy about SMFs!

There are these three guiding principles we follow for special member functions (SMFs):

- 1. Rule of Zero
- 2. Rule of Three
- 3. Rule of Five

If you don't need a constructor or a destructor or copy assignment etc. Then simply don't use it!

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Rule of Three

If you need a custom destructor, then you also probably <u>need</u> to define a copy constructor and a copy assignment operator for your class

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If you need a custom destructor, then you also probably <u>need</u> to define a copy constructor and a copy assignment operator for your class

Why is this the case?

If you use a destructor, that often means that you are manually dealing with dynamic memory allocation/are generally just handling your own memory.

Rule of Three

If you need a custom destructor, then you also probably <u>need</u> to define a copy constructor and a copy assignment operator for your class

Why is this the case?

If you use a destructor, that often means that you are manually dealing with dynamic memory allocation/are generally just handling your own memory.

If this is the case:

The compiler will not be able to automatically generate these for you, because of the manual memory management.

Rule of Five

If you define a copy constructor or copy assignment operator, then you **should** define a move constructor and a move assignment operator as well.

Rule of Five

If you define a copy constructor or copy assignment operator, then you **should** define a move constructor and a move assignment operator as well.

Why?

Copies = Slow

This is less about correctness, unlike the rule of three, and more about efficiency.

What questions do we have?

