Types and Default Class Members



Parameter Passing

- Several different mechanisms are used by programming languages to pass arguments to functions
- The most common are:
 - -Pass by value a copy of the actual argument is passed
 - —Pass by reference the address of the actual argument is passed
- Java uses pass by value for primitive types, and pass by reference for objects
 - C uses pass by value for everything
 - But pass by reference can be implemented in C by using pointer types as arguments
- Pass by value is inefficient for large objects

Parameter Passing (cont.)

- Which Movie member function(s) use inefficient copies for arguments
 - -And how can we improve the efficiency of argument passing in Movie?

```
// File "movie1.h"
#include "clip1.h"
#include <vector>
typedef std::vector<Clip*> ClipSeq;
class Movie : public Video {
  ClipSeq seq;
                                          NOTE: this default constructor
public:
                                          is optional, as the compiler
  bool play();
                                          will generate it if there are no
  // play each clip in turn
                                          other constructors, because
  Clip* find(std::string info);
                                          a member, seg, has a default
  // the first Clip with info
  // that matches info
                                          constructor
  bool remove(Clip* cp);
  void add(Clip* cp);
  Movie() : seq() {}
```

Parameter Passing (cont.)

- •Movie::find passes a std::string by value
 - -it would be more efficient to pass it using a pointer

```
// File "movietest2.cpp"
                                              #include <iostream>
 // File "movie2.h"
                                              #include "movie1.h"
 #include "clip1.h"
                                              int main() {
 #include <vector>
 typedef std::vector<Clip*> ClipSeq;
                                                Movie m;
 class Movie : public Video {
   ClipSeq seq;
                                                std::string s("Sink");
                                                Clip* cp = m.find(&s);
   Clip* find(std::string* info);
// File "movie2.cpp"
                                                  Changes in 3 files underlined
Clip* Movie::find(std::string* info) {
// return the first Clip with info that includes info, or NULL
  for (ClipSeq::iterator it = seq.begin(); it != seq.end(); ++it)
    if ((*it)->get info().find(*info) != string::npos)
```

Parameter Passing (cont.)

- Passing arguments using pointers is tedious and errorprone
 - —The formal parameter must be declared as a pointer in the function declaration, then dereferenced in the function body
 - —The actual parameter to the function call must be an address
- C or C++ programs with many *'s and &'s are hard to read and maintain
- C++ provides reference parameters as abbreviations for explicit pointers

References

• C++ provides explicit reference types, declared using &

```
// File "movietest3.cpp"
                                         #include <iostream>
 // File "movie3.h"
                                         #include "movie1.h"
 #include "clip1.h"
                                         int main() {
 #include <vector>
 typedef std::vector<Clip*> ClipSeq;
                                           Movie m;
 class Movie : public Video {
   ClipSeq seq;
                                           Clip* cp = m.find("Sink");
   Clip* find(std::string& info);
                                             To convert value type parameters
// File "movie2.cpp"
                                              to reference types ONLY the
                                             function specification needs to
Clip* Movie::find(std::string& info) {
                                            \ change
  // return the first Clip with info that includes info, or NULL
  for (ClipSeq::iterator it = seq.begin(); it != seq.end(); ++it)
    if ((*it)->get info().find(info) != string::npos)
```

- C++ references are very much like Java's pass by references for objects
 - -Except that in C++ the "&" is needed to make pass by reference explicit
- The symbols "&" and "*" have uses in both declarations and expressions

| Symbol | & | * |
|-------------|-------------------|--|
| Declaration | "reference to" | "pointer to" |
| Expression | "take address of" | "dereference" or "follow the pointer" |

Pass by reference works with virtual functions

```
bool transfer(Account& from, Account& to, Money amount) {
    // transfer money between any Account types
    // using virtual functions withdraw and deposit
    if (!from.withdraw(amount)) return false;
    return to.deposit(amount);
}

Can pass in
FlexiAccount,
SuperFlexiAccount,
CheckingAccount,
etc.
```

- Our Video classes currently return
 - -Status values, such as bool for Video::play()
 - -Object copies, such as std::string for
 Clip::get info()
 - —A pointer to an object, such as Clip* for
 Movie::find()
- In C++, a function can return an object by using a reference result
 - -So we could return std::string& for
 Clip::get_info() instead of std::string
 - Avoiding an inefficient copy of an object

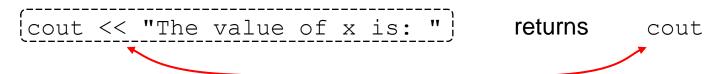
- The Clip class now uses references for
 - –Returning Clip::info from get_info
 - Passing constructor arguments

```
// File "movietest2.cpp"
                               #include "clip2.h"
// File "clip2.h"
#include "video1.h"
                               int main() {
#include <string>
                                 std::string the file("launch.mpg");
class Clip : public Video {
                                 std::string the info("Launch boat");
  std::string filename;
                                 Clip c1(the file, the info);
  std::string info;
public:
                                 the file = "rubbish";
  bool play();
                                 std::cout << c1.get info();</pre>
  std::string& get info()
    { return info; }
                                                           Output the object
  Clip(std::string& init filename,
                                                           the info:
       std::string& init info)
                                                           "launch boat"
: filename(init filename), info(init info) {}
};
```

- Passing and returning objects by reference can be unsafe
 It gives you a "handle" to an object
- Using const can prevent "accidental" changes to to objects

```
// File "movietest2.cpp"
...
#include "clip2.h"
int main() {
   std::string the_file("launch.mpg");
   std::string the_info("Launch boat");
   Clip cl(the_file, the_info);
   ...
   cl.get_info() = "something";
   ...
   Changes
   cl.info to:
        "something"
```

- Predefined meanings for operators in C and C++ often return objects
 - -For fundamental types such as int, "b = a" returns
 "b"; "++a" returns "a"
 - -This allows for concatenation, such as: "c = b = a'' or "b = ++a''
- Library-defined meanings for operators also return objects



 The result of the operator<< is a reference to an ostream object: cout, NOT a copy of object... Why not?

Suppose we wanted to allow concatenation of

```
Movie::add(), e.g
movie1.add(clip1).add(clip2)
```

- -What would Movie::add() need to return?
- A sequence of I/O operations apply to the same object, not a copy: cout << a << b << c << ...
 - -The objects a, b, and c are output to the one object cout
 - -If operator<< returned an object by value, it would be putting the objects onto different output files - copies of cout
- For concatenation, Movie::add() needs to return itself: *this

```
typedef std::vector<Clip*> ClipSeq;
class Movie : public Video {
                                          Movie& Movie::add(Clip& c) {
                                            seq.push back(&cp);
  ClipSeq seq;
                                            return *this;
public:
  bool play();
  Clip* find(std::string& info);
  Movie& remove(Clip& c);
                                                     insert the address of
  Movie \& add (Clip \& c);
                                                     c onto the container seq
  Movie() : seq() { }
};
                                       Now add and remove can be concatenated
                                       e.g., movie1.add(clip1).remove(clip2)
```

Why not just use references everywhere instead of pointers?

```
references;
                                               find returns a reference
typedef std::vector<Clip&> ClipSeq;
                                               to a Clip
class Movie : public Video {
  ClipSeq seq;
                                    // File "movie3.cpp"
public:
  bool play();
                                    Clip& Movie::find(std::string& info)
  Clip& find(std::string& info);
                                    // return the first Clip or a Null
  Movie& remove(Clip& c);
                                      Clip result = ????; // The Null Clip
  Movie& add(Clip& c);
                                      for (ClipSeq::iterator it =
  Movie() : seq() { }
                                          seq.begin(); it != seq.end();
};
                                          ++it)
                                        if ((*it)->get info().find(info)
                                             != string::npos)
                                          result = *it;
    Modify the implementation
                                      return result;
    of Movie::find
```

- The declaration std::vector<Clip&> is a syntax error
- Standard containers cannot have reference types
 - Containers call the "default constructor" for their contained type, when the container needs to grow

Clip c1;

Clip& c ref1 = c1; // OK

Clip& c_ref1; // Syntax error
... new Clip&; // Syntax error

- But reference objects must be initialized while allocated
- No built-in null reference object
 - -So Movie::find(), or preferably the Clip class, needs to define a "Null Clip" object
- References are not a simple alternative to pointers
- Mixing references and pointers can be confusing

Constants

- Many programming languages support declaring constants
 - Java supports final declarations
 - –C programmers often use #defines instead

```
#define MAX CLIPS 42 // substitute 42 for MAX CLIPS
```

- #defines are not type checked, have no syntactic scope
- Use consts instead of #defines whenever possible
- Something being constant means read-only
 - Read-only data can include member data and functions, global constants, function arguments, and return results
 - Declaring data as read-only can significantly improve program readability, reliability, and efficiency

- consts initialized to constant expressions, such as MAX_CLIPS, need not occupy storage
 - -Thus consts are just as efficient at #defines
- A const definition requires an initial value, and a const cannot be re-assigned or modified

```
// File "module2.cpp"
Syntax error:
                                                 #include <iostream>
SIZE1
                                                 extern const int SIZE2;
               // File "module1.cpp"
               const int SIZE1;
                                                 int main() {
              const int SIZE2 = 2;
                                                    std::cin >> SIZE2;
                                                    SIZE2 *= 2;
                 extern <u>declaration</u> references
                 a const in another compilation
                                                     Two syntax errors here
                 unit, initial value not legal
                 here
```

- Initializing one object using an object defined in another compilation unit (another .cpp file) leads to undefined behavior
- As C and C++ do not define the order of initialization across compilation units
 - -Within a unit it is the order of declaration
- Beware of cross-compilation unit initialization dependencies!

```
SIZE1 and SIZE2 could be initialized in any order, but SIZE3 is initialized using SIZE2
```

```
// File "module1.cpp"
const int SIZE1 = 2;
...
```

Output might be 2 or 0

```
// File "module2.cpp"
#include <iostream>
extern const int SIZE1;
const int SIZE2 = SIZE1;
const int SIZE3 = SIZE2+1;
int main() {
   std::cout << SIZE2;
}</pre>
```

- C++'s type-conversion rules enforce conservation of constness
- An object declared as constant can be copied, but cannot be modified, either
 - Directly—by assignment
 - Potentially indirectly—by converting a const to a nonconst to make types match in an assignment or initialization

```
// File "doit1.h"
                           #include "doit1.h"
float doit val(float);
                           const float PI = 3.14159265;
float doit ptr(float*);
                           int main() {
float doit ref(float&);
                                                    OK
                             doit val(PI);
                                                      Syntax error:
                             doit ptr(&PI);
                                                      "cannot convert
                             doit ref(PI);
                                                      const float* to float*"
                                                Syntax error:
                                                "cannot convert
                                                const float to float &"
```

Parameters, like local and global objects, can be const

```
#include "doit2.h"
const float PI = 3.14;
float f;
int main() {
   doit_ptrc(&PI);
   doit_ptrc(&f);
   doit_refc(f);
   doit_refc(f);
   doit_refc(f);
   doit_refc(f);
All legal const or
non-const
can be passed
to a const

**Tile "doit2.h"
float doit_ptrc(const float*);
float doit_refc(const float*);
float float*);
float float*
```

- "non-const" types can convert to const types, but not the other way
- Since almost all functions in OO programs are member functions, a common use of const is in member function declarations

Using consts can make our Video classes more reliable and

efficient

- Passing by const reference is very common in C++
 - —The efficiency of passing by reference with the safety of passing by value
- We could declare data members as consts too

- The program above contains a syntax error
 - –What is it and how can it be fixed?
 - -HINT: get_info() contains a type conversion error

- The return type of get info() is std::string&
 - -But there is no conversion of info, a const
 std::string to std::string&
 - -That would violate the *conservation of constness*
- To fix the error we must make the return type of get_info() a const

```
const Clip clip1("hello.mpg", "Hi!");
                                 Clip clip2("message.mpg", "Help!");
// File "clip-rc3.h"
#include "video1.h"
                                                 Syntax error here, cannot
                                 int main {
#include <string>
                                                 modify const reference result
class Clip : public Video {
                                   std::cin >> clip2.get info();
  const std::string filename;
                                   std::cout << clip1.get info();</pre>
  const std::string info;
public:
  bool play();
  const std::string& get info() { return info;
  Clip(const std::string& init filename,
       const std::string& init info)
                                                         Syntax error here too:
    : filename(init filename), info(init info) {}
                                                         clip1.get info()
};
                                                         Why?
```

#include "clip-rc3.h"

- We cannot call get info() on the const object clip1
- We must somehow declare that get_info() does not modify the object
 - -This is done using const member functions
- To fix the error we must make the return type of get_info() a const

```
const Clip clip1("hello.mpg", "Hi!");
                                Clip clip2("message.mpg", "Help!");
// File "clip-rc3.h"
                                int main {
#include "video1.h"
#include <string>
                                  std::cout << clip1.get info();</pre>
class Clip : public Video {
  const std::string filename;
  const std::string info;
                                                             Legal now
public:
  bool play();
  const std::string& get info() const { return info; }
  Clip(const std::string& init filename,
       const std::string& init info)
    : filename(init filename), info(init info) {}
                                                              const member
};
                                                              function
```

#include "clip-rc3.h"

- A const member functions cannot modify member data
 - Modify member data of the current object directly
 - —Call a non-const member (that might modify member data)
 - -return *this as a non-const object return type or return a data member as a non-const reference return type

- Using consts on member functions, their arguments, and return types, enforces quite strict discipline on the programmer
 - –Making something const in an existing application can have major "ripple effects"
 - —To overcome this, there is even a mutable type modifier that will override const checking
 - -More recent programming languages, such as .NET, have rejected the strict syntactic use of type-checked consts

Strings and Streams



• The std::string class is a typedef for the following template class. (More on templates in Lecture 7)

```
typedef std::basic string<char> string;
```

- The string class provides a rich set of functionality which we have not fully explored. We will do so in this lecture.
- The string class is designed to replace C-style strings, and should be preferred over them as much as possible.

 We can edit characters within a string using subscripting – like a C-style string:

```
std::string tmp = "Hello";

tmp[0] = 'J'; // single quotes!

cout << tmp << endl; // outputs "Jello"</pre>
```

 We can initialise a string in a number of different ways:

```
string s = "Hello";
string empty; // empty string
string s2 = s; // copy initialisation
string s3(3, 'w'); // 3 of 'w', or "www"
string s4(s, 3, 2); // s[3], s[4], or "lo"
```

 To get a C-style string from a string object, use the c_str() member function. This string is null terminated.

```
const char* tmp = s.c_str();
```

• For a non-null terminated string, use the data() member function.

String comparison can be done using the == operator:

```
if (s1 == s2) { } { }
```

 Alternatively, you can use a large range of compare functions, e.g.

```
if (s1.compare(0, 3, s2)) {
    // true if s1[0] -> s1[2]
    // compare with s2[0] -> s2[2]
}
```

Text can be inserted onto a string using the +=
 operator, the append() member function or the
 insert() member function.

```
string s1 = "Hello";
s1 += " World"; // s1 = "Hello World"
s1.append("!"); // s1 = "Hello World!"
s1.insert(5, ","); // s1 = "Hello, World!"
```

The + operator performs string concatenation.

```
string s = s1 + s2;
```

 A substring can be found using the substr() member function.

```
string s1 = "Hello";

string s = s1.substr(3); // s = "lo"

string s2 = s1.substr(2, 2); // s = "ll"
```

 Finding a string or character within a string is performed with the find() functions. There are a large range of find functions, including

```
find_last_of(), find_first_of(),
find_last_not_of(), and find_first_not_of().
```

• If a string is not found, string::npos is returned.
string::npos is the length of the longest
possible string.

```
std::string s = "Hello, World!";
int pos = s.find("Hello");
int pos2 = s.find first of("He");
int pos3 = s.find last not of ("lo");
int pos4 = s.find last not of('l');
int pos5 = s.find first not of ("el");
int pos6 = s.find first not of('H');
```

 We can replace() and erase() sections of a string.

```
std::string s = "This is a bad test";
s.replace(s.find("bad"), 4, "good");
s.erase(s.find("good"), 5);
s.erase(); // empty string
```

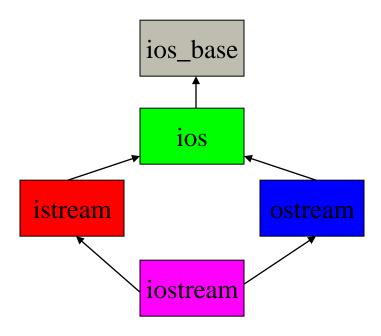
• For further reading, see Stroustrup, Chapter 20



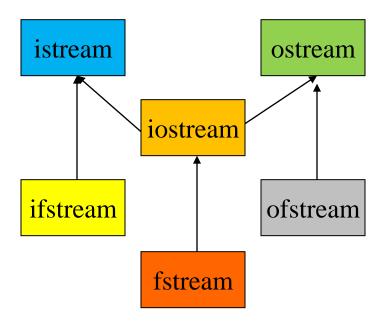
- When discussing input and output, there is often a relationship where data flows from one point to another. The path it flows is called a **stream**.
- We are usually only concerned with the stream's endpoints.
- Endpoints could be a file, the screen, or a network host.

- We have already seen a few streams cin and cout.
- cin is a stream where the endpoints are the application and the keyboard.
- cout is a stream where the endpoints are the application and the screen.
- These are defined in the iostream header.
- Data usually only flows in one direction in a stream.
- Bidirectional streams are streams where data flows from both endpoints in both directions.

 cout and cin are of type ostream and istream respectively. These classes form part of the C++ stream hierarchy:



 File streams are another part of the hierarchy that enables stream input and output to files.



Stream states

- A stream can be in one of four states
 - -good () Next operation on the stream is likely to succeed. Last operation succeeded.
 - -fail() Last operation failed, and next operation is likely to fail, but the stream can be recovered.
 - -bad() Last operation failed. Next operation on the stream is likely to fail, and is probably unrecoverable.
 - -eof () end-of-file marker was seen on the stream.
- operator! is overloaded for streams to return true if the stream is not good ().

Stream states

• A stream can be set back to the good () state, using the clear () function. Note that this does not fix the problem that caused the failure.

```
int main() {
   int value;
   cin >> value;
   if (!cin) {
      cerr << "Error! invalid input\n";
}
   cin.ignore(1000, '\n');
   cin.clear();
   return 0;
}</pre>
```

Using streams

- In this simple example, we have checked if we received a non-integer result (which would set cin.fail()), and then recovered from the error.
- We use the ignore() function here to skip
 1000 characters, or until a new line is seen.
- We then clear the error flag.

Stream operators

- A common practice is to define an overloaded stream output and input operator for a user defined class.
- This needs to be a free function rather than a member function of the user defined type as:
 - -The left hand operand is the stream.
 - -We do not have access to the stream code.
- It is common to make the free functions friends of the user defined class for easily accessing data members.
- It is also necessary to return a stream type from these functions to allow cascaded output, like:

Stream operators

```
class Game {
 friend ostream @ operator << (ostream @, const Game @);
};
ostream& operator<<(ostream& lhs, const Game& rhs) {
   lhs << "Game score: " << rhs.points;</pre>
   return lhs;
//...
Game q;
cout << q << endl;
```

Stream operators

- For an output stream operator, the first parameter and return type must be a reference to an ostream.
- For an input stream operator, the first parameter and return type must be a reference to an istream.
- Together, these functions make user defined types behave nicely with streams.

File streams

- The file stream classes are ifstream and ofstream. These read from, and write to, files respectively.
- Being streams, these support the same ideas that we have seen from using cin and cout.
- This makes using file I/O hardly different from using screen I/O.
- These are located in the <fstream> header.

Writing to a file

First, we need to open a file:

```
std::ofstream fout("filename.txt");
```

We can also provide options to open the file with.

Writing to a file

- The following options are supported (all part of ios base: class:
 - -app all writes go to end of file.
 - —ate open file, set current write position to end.
 - -binary open file in binary mode.
 - −in open file for reading
 - -out open file for writing
 - -trunc truncate file to zero length.

Writing to a file

- To check if the file successfully opened, test if the stream is good ().
- Once the file is opened, we can write data to it:

```
fout << "Hello World!\n";
fout << g << endl;</pre>
```

Reading from a file

• Firstly, we need to open the file.

```
ifstream fin ("filename.txt");
```

 The same options apply to ifstream as to ofstream, and can be specified the same way

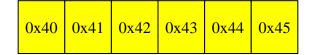
```
ifstream fin("filename.txt", ios_base::ate);
```

- To check if the file was successfully opened, we can check if the stream is good().
- We can then read from the file in the same manner as for cin: fin >> value;

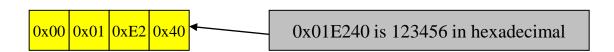
Binary files

 Binary files are different to text files. If we have a text file, and we write an integer value to the file, we get the following:





• If we write the same integer (123456), to a binary file, we write out the binary representation to the file.



Binary files

- Binary files can therefore be more efficient than text files. However, they have hidden complexities.
- The previous example had 4 bytes written to the file with most significant byte first. This is called little-endian format.
- Depending on the architecture, this might be reversed (called big-endian).
- Swapping files between little- and big-endian architectures will prevent the files from being read.

Reading and Writing blocks

 One trick often used with binary files is to do the following:

```
Game g;
fout.write(static_cast<char*>(&g), sizeof(g), 1);
```

- This writes the contents of an object to the file.
- Avoid this! Big and little-endian dramas, and problems when you read back pointer values will guarantee to make this a problem for you.

Reading and Writing blocks

 The way to read a block of file into memory is similar to before:

```
Game g;
fin.read(static_cast<char*>(&g), sizeof(g), 1);
```

•Only use read() and write() to read in blocks of characters or bytes. Don't try to use these for objects.

Moving around in files

• To move around within the file, you can use the seekp() member function. The next read or write operation will occur from the new location.

```
// move to byte 123 in file
fout.seekp(ios_base::SEEK_SET, 123);
```

- If a file is opened with ios_base::app, all writes will occur at the end of the file!
- For an istream object, the member function is called seekg()

Finding position in file

 To find out where the next read or write operation will occur, you can use the tellp() or tellg() functions.

```
int pos = fout.tellp();
int pot = fin.tellg();
```

Closing a file

- To close a file, you may either explicitly call the close() member function, or destroy the stream object.
- The stream object's destructor automatically closes the file for you.

- Streams have formatting flags that control how values written to a stream are output to the endpoint.
- These flags control things like whether to output in decimal or hexadecimal, how many decimal points to display, or how wide an output field is.

- To set a flag, we use the setf() member function.
- Each flag is a constant located in the ios_base class.

```
// output in hexadecimal format
cout.setf(ios_base::hex);
```

Here is a list of flags:

-left pad field to left

-right pad field to right

-Internal pad between sign and value

-Boolalpha display 'true' rather than 1

-dec decimal output

-hex hexadecimal output

-oct octal output

List of flags (cont)

-Scientific floating point 1.23456E9

-fixed fixed point 0.00123

-Showbase place 0 or 0x in front of oct or hex

numbers

-Showpoint always put a decimal point and zeros

-showpos always show + on positive values

–Uppercase Make E in scientific uppercase

I/O Manipulators

- Another option, rather than setting a flag, is to use an I/O manipulator.
- These are found in the <iomanip> header.
- All flags have corresponding manipulators.

I/O Manipulators

Additional manipulators are

-flush

-endl

-ends

-setiosflags

-setbase

-setfill

-Setprecision

-setw

flush stream

put '\n' and flush

put '\0' and flush

set flags via manipulator

set output base

set the fill character

set precision of floating point

set width of field.

I/O Manipulators

Try the following:

String streams

- It is also possible to set a string as the endpoint for a stream. Therefore, we can read and write from strings using the stream functionality.
- These replace sscanf and sprintf functionality from C.
- These string streams are located in the <sstream> header.

String streams

• To write formatted output to a string, we use an ostringstream.

• To access the underlying string, use the str() member function.

```
string s = ost.str();
```

String streams

• Retrieving data from a string is done using an istringstream object.

```
string s = "11 22 33";
istringstream ist(s);
int a, b, c;
ist >> a; // contains 11
ist >> b; // contains 22
ist >> c; // contains 33
```