Bugs, Exceptions, and Testing

1. Bugs
   - classifying errors
   - forcing type checking on input
2. catching and throwing exceptions
   - the `try` block
   - the `out_of_range` exception
   - throwing exceptions
3. Testing and Debugging
   - categories of software testing
   - using gdb

MCS 360 Lecture 6
Introduction to Data Structures
Jan Verschelde, 11 September 2017

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Classifying Errors

Three types of errors:

1. code does not compile: syntax or semantic error
   Compilers improve, catch more errors ...
2. program crashes: run-time error
   Wrong user input or forgot exception handler?
3. incorrect results: logic error
   Preconditions and postconditions may lead
   to formal proof of correctness.

Avoiding and fixing errors:

before: prepare for testing

after: debugging code

Testing for Zero

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main()
{
   int n;

   cout << "Enter a number : ";
   cin >> n;
   cout << "your number " << n;
   if(n = 0)
      cout << " is zero" << endl;
   else
      cout << " is nonzero" << endl;

   return 0;
}
```

Many Wrongs...

Running `test4zero` ...

```
$ /tmp/test4zero
Enter a number : 9
your number 9 is nonzero

$ /tmp/test4zero
Enter a number : 0
your number 0 is nonzero

$ /tmp/test4zero
Enter a number : a
your number 0 is nonzero
$
```

interpret the compiler messages

```
test4zero.cpp:17:9:
warning: using the result of an assignment
as a condition without parentheses [-Wparentheses]
   if(n = 0)
      ~~^~~
test4zero.cpp:17:9:
note: place parentheses around the assignment
to silence this warning
   if(n = 0)
        ^
      (   )
test4zero.cpp:17:9:
note: use '==' to turn this assignment into
an equality comparison
   if(n = 0)
        ^
        ==
1 warning generated.
```

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force type checking

Instead of

```
$ /tmp/read_integer
Enter an integer number : abc
-> your number : 0
```

we want to force type checking on input:

```
$ /tmp/force_type_check
Enter an integer number : abc
terminate called after throwing an instance \
of 'std::ios_base::failure'
  what():  basic_ios::clear
Abort trap
$
```

crash after exception thrown

set error flag

```
#include <iostream>

using namespace std;

int main()
{
   int n;

   cin.exceptions(ios_base::badbit | ios_base::failbit);

   cout << "Enter an integer number : ";
   cin >> n;
   cout << "your number " << n << endl;

   cin.clear();

   return 0;
}
```

keep on trying

We prompt for an integer in a loop:

```
$ /tmp/read_integer1
Enter an integer number : a
Enter an integer number : abc
Enter an integer number : 9
-> your number : 9
$
```

Continue as long as `cin >> n` fails.

In retry:

1. do `cin.clear();` and
2. skip the end of line symbol.

reading integer

```
#include <iostream>
#include <limits>
using namespace std;

int main()
{
   int n;

   do
   {
      cout << "Enter an integer number : ";
      if(cin >> n) break;
      cin.clear(); // clear failed state of cin
      cin.ignore(numeric_limits<int>::max(),'\n');
   }
   while(true);
   cout << "-> your number : " << n << endl;
   return 0;
}
```

opening a file

```
#include <iostream>
#include <fstream>
#include <string>
using namespace std;

int main()
{
   string input_file_name;

   cout << "Give name of input file : ";
   cin >> input_file_name;

   ifstream ins(input_file_name.c_str());

   if(!ins)
      cout << "Opening \"" << input_file_name
           << "\" failed!" << endl;
```

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The `try` Block

To guard code against exceptions:

```
try
{
   // code may throw exception
}
catch( exception-type parameter )
{
   // code to handle exception
}
```

An `exception-type` is e.g.: `ios_base::failure`.

reading integer (again)

```
int n;

cin.exceptions(ios_base::badbit | ios_base::failbit);
do
{
   cout << "Enter and integer number : ";
   try
   {
      cin >> n; break;
   }
   catch(ios_base::failure)
   {
      cin.clear(); // clear failed state of cin
      cin.ignore(numeric_limits<int>::max(),'\n');
   }
}
while(true);
cout << "-> your integer : " << n << endl;
```

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Selecting Characters

To select a character of a string `s`,
there are two ways:

1. with the operator `[ ]`, as `s[k];`
2. with the `at` method, as `s.at(k)`.

The difference?

If index is not in the range of `s`,
then `at` method throws `std::out_of_range`.

The operator `[ ]` throws no exception.

using [ ] and at()

```
int main()
{
   string s;

   cout << "Give a string : "; cin >> s;

   int k;
   cout << "Give an index : "; cin >> k;

   cout << "char at " << k
        << " : " << s[k] << endl;

   cout << "char at " << k
        << " : " << s.at(k) << endl;

   return 0;
}
```

much can go wrong...

Prompting for an index to a string,

1. the index may not be an integer; or
2. the index may be out of range; or
3. some other exception may occur.

```
#include <iostream>
#include <string>
#include <stdexcept>
using namespace std;

int main()
{
   string s;

   cout << "Give a string : "; cin >> s;
   cin.exceptions(ios_base::badbit | ios_base::failbit);
```

hierarchy of exceptions

```
try
{
   int k;
   cout << "Give an index : "; cin >> k;
   cout << "char at " << k
        << " : " << s.at(k) << endl;
} catch(ios_base::failure &e)
{
   cerr << "index is not an integer" << endl;
   cerr << e.what() << endl;
} catch(out_of_range &e)
{
   cerr << "index out of range" << endl;
   cerr << e.what() << endl;
} catch(exception &e)
{
   cerr << "some fatal error occurred" << endl;
   cerr << e.what() << endl;
}
```

parameters of exceptions

running the program `except_hierarchy`:

```
$ /tmp/except_hierarchy
Give a string : abc
Give an index : 9
index out of range
basic_string::at: __n (which is 9) >= this->size() (wh
$
```

The last line is the result of

```
cout << e.what() << endl;
```

where `e` is the argument of

```
catch(out_of_range &e)
```

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converting `int` to `char`

To convert an `int` to `char`, we could use

```
char to_char ( int n )
{
   return char(n);
}
```

However:

1. `char` is unsigned integer;
2. `char` is only 8 bits, `int` is 32 bits.

throwing an exception

If range check fails, throw `bad_cast`:

```
char to_char ( int n )
{
   if((n < 0) || (n > 255))
   {
      cerr << "Throwing bad_cast exception ...";
      throw(bad_cast());
   }
   return char(n);
}
```

encapsulation

`int2char` converts `n` into `c`
returns `true` if okay, `false` otherwise

```
bool int2char ( int n, char& c )
{
   try
   {
      c = to_char(n);
      return true;
   }

   catch(bad_cast)
   {
      cerr << " caught bad_cast exception\n";
      return false;
   }
}
```

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Categories of Software Testing

white-box testing: input based on internal structure;

black-box testing: input based on specification;

An extra dimension:

static: *read* specification or source code;

dynamic: *execute* software or test programs.

1. Static black-box testing: test the specification.
2. Static white-box testing: inspect the code.
3. Dynamic black-box testing: beta testing.
4. Dynamic white-box testing: towards debugging.

Verification: does software meet its specification?

Validation: does software meet user requirements?

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using gdb

`gdb` is the GNU debugger

To use `gdb`: compile code as `g++ -g`.

Capabilities of `gdb`:

1. set break points at line in source code
2. step by step execution
3. printing values
4. examine stack of function calls

gdb on an example

Using `int2char` in `in_char_range.cpp`:

1. compile with option -g
   ```
   $ g++ -g -o /tmp/in_char_range in_char_range.cpp
   ```
2. launch debugger
   ```
   $ gdb /tmp/in_char_range
   ```
3. set a break point
   The call `bool okay = int2char(n,c)` at line 31 is were the action happens.

   ```
   (gdb) b 30
   Breakpoint 1 at 0x1ae2: file \
   in_char_range.cpp, line 30.
   ```

running gdb continued

5. run the program

```
(gdb) r
Starting program: /private/tmp/in_char_range
Give an integer :  -1

Breakpoint 1, main () at in_char_range.cpp:31
31    bool okay = int2char(n,c);
```

6. stepwise execution

```
(gdb) step
int2char (n=-1, c=@0xbffff587) \
at in_char_range.cpp:58
58        c = to_char(n);
(gdb) step
to_char (n=-1) at in_char_range.cpp:46
46    if((n < 0) || (n > 255))
```

stack of function calls

7. do a `backtrace`

```
(gdb) bt
#0  to_char (n=-1) at in_char_range.cpp:46
#1  0x000019db in int2char (n=-1, c=@0xbffff587) \
at in_char_range.cpp:58
#2  0x00001af4 in main () at in_char_range.cpp:31
```

8. continue to the end

```
(gdb) step
48          cerr << "Throwing bad_cast exception ...";
(gdb) step
Throwing bad_cast exception ... caught \
bad_cast exception.
Cannot convert -1 to a character.

Program exited normally.
```

examining values

Checking if `okay` value is right, with `print`.
Line 40 is before `return 0;` we restart `gdb`:

```
(gdb) b 40
Breakpoint 1 at 0x1bcc: file in_char_range.cpp, \
line 40.
(gdb) r
Starting program: /private/tmp/in_char_range
Give an integer : 98
The integer 98 corresponds to character 'b'.

Breakpoint 1, main () at in_char_range.cpp:41
41    return 0;
(gdb) print okay
$1 = true
```

Summary + Exercises

Starting Chapter 2: *Program Correctness and Efficiency*, we explored the use of exceptions in C++.

Exercises:

1. Write a function that prompts the user for an age. Throw an exception when the age is negative.
2. Include `cmath` or `math.h` and verify that `sqrt(x)` for `x` a negative double returns `nan` (not a number). Write a function `double MySqrt(double x)` that throws a `domain_error` exception for `x` < 0.
3. Prompt the user for two integers `p` and `q`. Compute `p/q`. Catch the exception `q` $= 0$ and show an error message.