



# **Chapter 6, Functions and an Introduction to Recursion**

C++ How to Program, 7/e



## 6.1 Introduction

- ▶ Experience has shown that the best way to develop and maintain a large program is to construct it from small, simple pieces, or components.
  - This technique is called **divide and conquer**.
- ▶ Emphasize how to declare and use functions to facilitate the design, implementation, operation and maintenance of large programs.



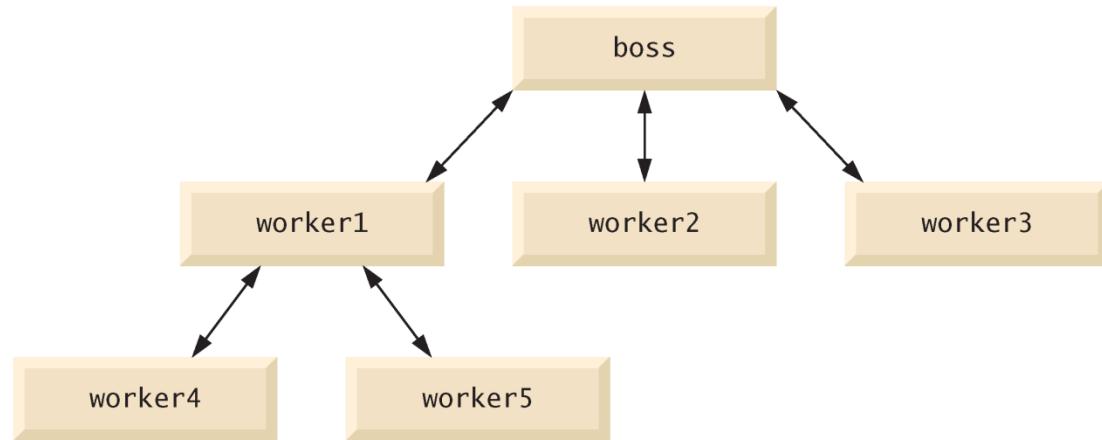
## 6.2 Program Components in C++

- ▶ C++ programs are typically written by combining new functions and classes you write with “prepackaged” functions and classes available in the C++ Standard Library.
- ▶ The C++ Standard Library provides a rich collection of functions.
- ▶ Functions you write are referred to as **user-defined functions** or **programmer-defined functions**.
- ▶ The statements in function bodies are written only once, are reused from perhaps several locations in a program and are hidden from other functions.



## 6.2 Program Components in C++ (cont.)

- ▶ A function is invoked by a function call, and when the called function completes its task, it either returns a result or simply returns control to the caller.
- ▶ An analogy to this program structure is the hierarchical form of management (Figure 6.1).
  - A boss (similar to the calling function) asks a worker (similar to the called function) to perform a task and report back (i.e., return) the results after completing the task.
  - The boss function does not know how the worker function performs its designated tasks.
  - The worker may also call other worker functions, unbeknownst to the boss.
- ▶ This hiding of implementation details promotes good software engineering.



**Fig. 6.1** | Hierarchical boss function/worker function relationship.



## 6.3 Math Library Functions

- ▶ The `<cmath>` header file provides a collection of functions that enable you to perform common mathematical calculations.
- ▶ *All functions in the `<cmath>` header file are global functions—therefore, each is called simply by specifying the name of the function followed by parentheses containing the function's arguments.*
- ▶ Some math library functions are summarized in Fig. 6.2.
  - In the figure, the variables `x` and `y` are of type `double`.



Function	Description	Example
<code>ceil( x )</code>	rounds $x$ to the smallest integer not less than $x$	<code>ceil( 9.2 )</code> is 10.0 <code>ceil( -9.8 )</code> is -9.0
<code>cos( x )</code>	trigonometric cosine of $x$ ( $x$ in radians)	<code>cos( 0.0 )</code> is 1.0
<code>exp( x )</code>	exponential function $e^x$	<code>exp( 1.0 )</code> is 2.718282 <code>exp( 2.0 )</code> is 7.389056
<code>fabs( x )</code>	absolute value of $x$	<code>fabs( 5.1 )</code> is 5.1 <code>fabs( 0.0 )</code> is 0.0 <code>fabs( -8.76 )</code> is 8.76
<code>floor( x )</code>	rounds $x$ to the largest integer not greater than $x$	<code>floor( 9.2 )</code> is 9.0 <code>floor( -9.8 )</code> is -10.0
<code>fmod( x, y )</code>	remainder of $x/y$ as a floating-point number	<code>fmod( 2.6, 1.2 )</code> is 0.2
<code>log( x )</code>	natural logarithm of $x$ (base $e$ )	<code>log( 2.718282 )</code> is 1.0 <code>log( 7.389056 )</code> is 2.0
<code>log10( x )</code>	logarithm of $x$ (base 10)	<code>log10( 10.0 )</code> is 1.0 <code>log10( 100.0 )</code> is 2.0

**Fig. 6.2** | Math library functions. (Part 1 of 2.)



Function	Description	Example
<code>pow( x, y )</code>	$x$ raised to power $y$ ( $x^y$ )	<code>pow( 2, 7 )</code> is 128 <code>pow( 9, .5 )</code> is 3
<code>sin( x )</code>	trigonometric sine of $x$ ( $x$ in radians)	<code>sin( 0.0 )</code> is 0
<code>sqrt( x )</code>	square root of $x$ (where $x$ is a nonnegative value)	<code>sqrt( 9.0 )</code> is 3.0
<code>tan( x )</code>	trigonometric tangent of $x$ ( $x$ in radians)	<code>tan( 0.0 )</code> is 0

**Fig. 6.2** | Math library functions. (Part 2 of 2.)



## 6.4 Function Definitions with Multiple Parameters

- ▶ Functions often require more than one piece of information to perform their tasks.
- ▶ Such functions have multiple parameters.
- ▶ There must be one argument in the function call for each parameter (also called a **formal parameter**) in the function definition.
- ▶ Multiple parameters are specified in both the function prototype and the function header as a comma-separated list.



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

int maximum(int, int, int);

int main()
{
    int maximumGrade = 0;
    cout << "Enter 3 grades : " << endl;
    int first, second, third;
    cin >> first >> second >> third;
    maximumGrade = maximum(first, second, third);
    cout << "maximum number is " << maximumGrade << endl;
    return 0;
}
```



```
int maximum(int a, int b, int c)
{
    int result = a;
    if (result < b)
        result = b;
    else if (result < c)
        result = c;
    return result;
}
```



## 6.5 Function Prototypes and Argument Coercion

- ▶ A function prototype (also called a **function declaration**) tells the compiler
  - the name of a function
  - the type of data returned by the function
  - the number of parameters the function expects to receive
  - the types of those parameters and
  - the order in which the parameters of those types are expected.



## 6.5 Function Prototypes and Argument Coercion (cont.)

- ▶ The portion of a function prototype that includes the name of the function and the types of its arguments is called the **function signature** or simply the **signature**.
  - Signature does not specify the function's return type.
- ▶ Functions in the same scope must have unique signatures.



## 6.5 Function Prototypes and Argument Coercion (cont.)

- ▶ An important feature of function prototypes is **argument coercion**
  - forcing arguments to the appropriate types specified by the parameter declarations.
  - These conversions occur as specified by C++’s **promotion rules**.
  - The promotion rules indicate how to convert between types without losing data.
- ▶ The promotion rules apply to expressions containing values of two or more data types
  - also referred to as **mixed-type expressions**.
- ▶ The type of each value in a mixed-type expression is promoted to the “highest” type in the expression.



## 6.5 Function Prototypes and Argument Coercion (cont.)

- ▶ Promotion also occurs when the type of a function argument does not match the parameter type specified in the function definition or prototype.
- ▶ Figure 6.6 lists the fundamental data types in order from “highest type” to “lowest type.”
- ▶ Converting values to lower fundamental types can result in incorrect values.
- ▶ Therefore, a value can be converted to a lower fundamental type only by explicitly assigning the value to a variable of lower type or by using a cast operator.



## Data types

```
long double
double
float
unsigned long int(synonymous with unsigned long)
long int(synonymous with long)
unsigned int(synonymous with unsigned)
int
unsigned short int(synonymous with unsigned short)
short int(synonymous with short)
unsigned char
char
bool
```

**Fig. 6.6** | Promotion hierarchy for fundamental data types.



## 6.7 Case Study: Random Number Generation

- ▶ The element of chance can be introduced into computer applications by using the C++ Standard Library function `rand`.
- ▶ The function `rand` generates an unsigned integer between 0 and `RAND_MAX` (a symbolic constant defined in the `<cstdlib>` header file).
- ▶ The value of `RAND_MAX` must be at least 32767—the maximum positive value for a two-byte (16-bit) integer.
- ▶ For GNU C++, the value of `RAND_MAX` is 2147483647; for Visual Studio, the value of `RAND_MAX` is 32767.
- ▶ If `rand` truly produces integers at random, every number between 0 and `RAND_MAX` has an equal *chance (or probability)* of being chosen each time `rand` is called.



## 6.7 Case Study: Random Number Generation (cont.)

- ▶ The function prototype for the `rand` function is in `<cstdlib>`.
- ▶ To produce integers in the range 0 to 5, we use the modulus operator (%) with `rand`:
  - `rand() % 6`
  - This is called **scaling**.
  - The number 6 is called the **scaling factor**. Six values are produced.
- ▶ We can **shift** the range of numbers produced by adding a value.



```
1 // Fig. 6.8: fig06_08.cpp
2 // Shifted and scaled random integers.
3 #include <iostream>
4 #include <iomanip>
5 #include <cstdlib> // contains function prototype for rand
6 using namespace std;
7
8 int main()
9 {
10    // Loop 20 times
11    for ( int counter = 1; counter <= 20; counter++ )
12    {
13        // pick random number from 1 to 6 and output it
14        cout << setw( 10 ) << ( 1 + rand() % 6 );
15
16        // if counter is divisible by 5, start a new line of output
17        if ( counter % 5 == 0 )
18            cout << endl;
19    } // end for
20 } // end main
```

**Fig. 6.8** | Shifted, scaled integers produced by `1 + rand() % 6`. (Part I of 2.)



6	6	5	5	6
5	1	1	5	3
6	6	2	4	2
6	2	3	4	1

**Fig. 6.8** | Shifted, scaled integers produced by `1 + rand() % 6.` (Part 2 of 2.)



## 6.7 Case Study: Random Number Generation (cont.)

- ▶ To show that the numbers produced by `rand` occur with approximately equal likelihood, Fig. 6.9 simulates 6,000,000 rolls of a die.
- ▶ Each integer in the range 1 to 6 should appear approximately 1,000,000 times.



```
1 // Fig. 6.9: fig06_09.cpp
2 // Roll a six-sided die 6,000,000 times.
3 #include <iostream>
4 #include <iomanip>
5 #include <cstdlib> // contains function prototype for rand
6 using namespace std;
7
8 int main()
9 {
10    int frequency1 = 0; // count of 1s rolled
11    int frequency2 = 0; // count of 2s rolled
12    int frequency3 = 0; // count of 3s rolled
13    int frequency4 = 0; // count of 4s rolled
14    int frequency5 = 0; // count of 5s rolled
15    int frequency6 = 0; // count of 6s rolled
16
17    int face; // stores most recently rolled value
18
19    // summarize results of 6,000,000 rolls of a die
20    for ( int roll = 1; roll <= 6000000; roll++ )
21    {
22        face = 1 + rand() % 6; // random number from 1 to 6
23    }
```

**Fig. 6.9** | Rolling a six-sided die 6,000,000 times. (Part I of 3.)



```
24     // determine roll value 1-6 and increment appropriate counter
25     switch ( face )
26     {
27         case 1:
28             ++frequency1; // increment the 1s counter
29             break;
30         case 2:
31             ++frequency2; // increment the 2s counter
32             break;
33         case 3:
34             ++frequency3; // increment the 3s counter
35             break;
36         case 4:
37             ++frequency4; // increment the 4s counter
38             break;
39         case 5:
40             ++frequency5; // increment the 5s counter
41             break;
42         case 6:
43             ++frequency6; // increment the 6s counter
44             break;
45         default: // invalid value
46             cout << "Program should never get here!";
47     } // end switch
48 } // end for
```

**Fig. 6.9** | Rolling a six-sided die 6,000,000 times. (Part 2 of 3.)



```
49
50     cout << "Face" << setw( 13 ) << "Frequency" << endl; // output headers
51     cout << "    1" << setw( 13 ) << frequency1
52         << "\n    2" << setw( 13 ) << frequency2
53         << "\n    3" << setw( 13 ) << frequency3
54         << "\n    4" << setw( 13 ) << frequency4
55         << "\n    5" << setw( 13 ) << frequency5
56         << "\n    6" << setw( 13 ) << frequency6 << endl;
57 } // end main
```

Face	Frequency
1	999702
2	1000823
3	999378
4	998898
5	1000777
6	1000422

**Fig. 6.9** | Rolling a six-sided die 6,000,000 times. (Part 3 of 3.)



## 6.7 Case Study: Random Number Generation (cont.)

- ▶ Executing the program of Fig. 6.8 again produces exactly the same sequence of values.
  - This repeatability is an important characteristic of function `rand`.
  - Essential for proving that program works and for debugging.
- ▶ Function `rand` actually generates **pseudorandom numbers**.
  - Repeatedly calling `rand` produces a sequence of numbers that appears to be random.
  - The sequence repeats itself each time the program executes.



## 6.7 Case Study: Random Number Generation (cont.)

- Once a program has been debugged, it can be conditioned to produce a different sequence of random numbers for each execution.
- This is called **randomizing** and is accomplished with the C++ Standard Library function **srand**.
- Function **srand** takes an **unsigned** integer argument and **seeds** the **rand** function to produce a different sequence of random numbers for each execution.



---

```
1 // Fig. 6.10: fig06_10.cpp
2 // Randomizing die-rolling program.
3 #include <iostream>
4 #include <iomanip>
5 #include <cstdlib> // contains prototypes for functions srand and rand
6 using namespace std;
7
8 int main()
9 {
10    unsigned seed; // stores the seed entered by the user
11
12    cout << "Enter seed: ";
13    cin >> seed;
14    srand( seed ); // seed random number generator
15
16    // loop 10 times
17    for ( int counter = 1; counter <= 10; counter++ )
18    {
19        // pick random number from 1 to 6 and output it
20        cout << setw( 10 ) << ( 1 + rand() % 6 );
21    }
}
```

---

**Fig. 6.10** | Randomizing the die-rolling program. (Part I of 2.)



```
22     // if counter is divisible by 5, start a new line of output
23     if ( counter % 5 == 0 )
24         cout << endl;
25 } // end for
26 } // end main
```

Enter seed: 67

6	1	4	6	2
1	6	1	6	4

Enter seed: 432

4	6	3	1	6
3	1	5	4	2

Enter seed: 67

6	1	4	6	2
1	6	1	6	4

**Fig. 6.10** | Randomizing the die-rolling program. (Part 2 of 2.)



## 6.7 Case Study: Random Number Generation (cont.)

- ▶ To randomize without having to enter a seed each time, we may use a statement like
  - `srand( time( 0 ) );`
- ▶ This causes the computer to read its clock to obtain the value for the seed.
- ▶ Function `time` (with the argument 0 as written in the preceding statement) typically re-turns the current time as the number of seconds since January 1, 1970, at midnight Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
- ▶ The function prototype for `time` is in `<ctime>`.



## 6.7 Case Study: Random Number Generation (cont.)

- ▶ To produce random numbers in a specific range use:
  - *number = shiftingValue + rand() % scalingFactor;*
- ▶ where *shiftingValue* is equal to the first number in the desired range of consecutive integers and *scalingFactor* is equal to the width of the desired range of consecutive integers.



## 6.10 Scope Rules

- ▶ The portion of the program where an identifier can be used is known as its scope.



```
1 // Fig. 6.12: fig06_12.cpp
2 // A scoping example.
3 #include <iostream>
4 using namespace std;
5
6 void useLocal(); // function prototype
7 void useStaticLocal(); // function prototype
8 void useGlobal(); // function prototype
9
10 int x = 1; // global variable
11
12 int main()
13 {
14     cout << "global x in main is " << x << endl;
15
16     int x = 5; // local variable to main
17
18     cout << "local x in main's outer scope is " << x << endl;
19
20     { // start new scope
21         int x = 7; // hides both x in outer scope and global x
22
23         cout << "local x in main's inner scope is " << x << endl;
24     } // end new scope
```

**Fig. 6.12** | Scoping example. (Part I of 4.)



---

```
25     cout << "local x in main's outer scope is " << x << endl;
26
27     useLocal(); // useLocal has local x
28     useStaticLocal(); // useStaticLocal has static local x
29     useGlobal(); // useGlobal uses global x
30
31     useLocal(); // useLocal reinitializes its local x
32     useStaticLocal(); // static local x retains its prior value
33     useGlobal(); // global x also retains its prior value
34
35     cout << "\nlocal x in main is " << x << endl;
36 } // end main
37
38 // useLocal reinitializes local variable x during each call
39 void useLocal()
40 {
41     int x = 25; // initialized each time useLocal is called
42
43     cout << "\nlocal x is " << x << " on entering useLocal" << endl;
44     x++;
45     cout << "local x is " << x << " on exiting useLocal" << endl;
46 } // end function useLocal
47
```

---

**Fig. 6.12** | Scoping example. (Part 2 of 4.)



---

```
48 // useStaticLocal initializes static local variable x only the
49 // first time the function is called; value of x is saved
50 // between calls to this function
51 void useStaticLocal()
52 {
53     static int x = 50; // initialized first time useStaticLocal is called
54
55     cout << "\nlocal static x is " << x << " on entering useStaticLocal"
56         << endl;
57     x++;
58     cout << "local static x is " << x << " on exiting useStaticLocal"
59         << endl;
60 } // end function useStaticLocal
61
62 // useGlobal modifies global variable x during each call
63 void useGlobal()
64 {
65     cout << "\nglobal x is " << x << " on entering useGlobal" << endl;
66     x *= 10;
67     cout << "global x is " << x << " on exiting useGlobal" << endl;
68 } // end function useGlobal
```

---

**Fig. 6.12** | Scoping example. (Part 3 of 4.)



```
global x in main is 1
local x in main's outer scope is 5
local x in main's inner scope is 7
local x in main's outer scope is 5

local x is 25 on entering useLocal
local x is 26 on exiting useLocal

local static x is 50 on entering useStaticLocal
local static x is 51 on exiting useStaticLocal

global x is 1 on entering useGlobal
global x is 10 on exiting useGlobal

local x is 25 on entering useLocal
local x is 26 on exiting useLocal

local static x is 51 on entering useStaticLocal
local static x is 52 on exiting useStaticLocal

global x is 10 on entering useGlobal
global x is 100 on exiting useGlobal

local x in main is 5
```

**Fig. 6.12** | Scoping example. (Part 4 of 4.)



## 6.16 Unary Scope Resolution Operator

- ▶ It's possible to declare local and global variables of the same name.
- ▶ C++ provides the **unary scope resolution operator ( :: )** to access a global variable when a local variable of the same name is in scope.
- ▶ Using the unary scope resolution operator ( :: ) with a given variable name is optional when the only variable with that name is a global variable.



```
1 // Fig. 6.23: fig06_23.cpp
2 // Using the unary scope resolution operator.
3 #include <iostream>
4 using namespace std;
5
6 int number = 7; // global variable named number
7
8 int main()
9 {
10    double number = 10.5; // local variable named number
11
12    // display values of local and global variables
13    cout << "Local double value of number = " << number
14    << "\nGlobal int value of number = " << ::number << endl;
15 } // end main
```

```
Local double value of number = 10.5
Global int value of number = 7
```

**Fig. 6.23** | Unary scope resolution operator.



## 6.12 Functions with Empty Parameter Lists

- In C++, an empty parameter list is specified by writing either `void` or nothing at all in parentheses.



```
1 // Fig. 6.17: fig06_17.cpp
2 // Functions that take no arguments.
3 #include <iostream>
4 using namespace std;
5
6 void function1(); // function that takes no arguments
7 void function2( void ); // function that takes no arguments
8
9 int main()
10 {
11     function1(); // call function1 with no arguments
12     function2(); // call function2 with no arguments
13 } // end main
14
15 // function1 uses an empty parameter list to specify that
16 // the function receives no arguments
17 void function1()
18 {
19     cout << "function1 takes no arguments" << endl;
20 } // end function1
21
```

**Fig. 6.17** | Functions that take no arguments. (Part I of 2.)



```
22 // function2 uses a void parameter list to specify that
23 // the function receives no arguments
24 void function2( void )
25 {
26     cout << "function2 also takes no arguments" << endl;
27 } // end function2
```

```
function1 takes no arguments
function2 also takes no arguments
```

**Fig. 6.17** | Functions that take no arguments. (Part 2 of 2.)



## 6.14 References and Reference Parameters

- ▶ Two ways to pass arguments to functions in many programming languages are **pass-by-value** and **pass-by-reference**.
- ▶ When an argument is passed by value, a *copy of the argument's value is made and passed (on the function call stack) to the called function.*
  - Changes to the copy do not affect the original variable's value in the caller.
- ▶ To specify a reference to a constant, place the **const** qualifier before the type specifier in the parameter declaration.



## 6.14 References and Reference Parameters (cont.)

- ▶ With pass-by-reference, the caller gives the called function the ability to access the caller's data directly, and to modify that data.
- ▶ A reference parameter is an alias for its corresponding argument in a function call.
- ▶ To indicate that a function parameter is passed by reference, simply follow the parameter's type in the function prototype by an ampersand (&); use the same convention when listing the parameter's type in the function header.



```
1 // Fig. 6.19: fig06_19.cpp
2 // Comparing pass-by-value and pass-by-reference with references.
3 #include <iostream>
4 using namespace std;
5
6 int squareByValue( int ); // function prototype (value pass)
7 void squareByReference( int & ); // function prototype (reference pass)
8
9 int main()
10 {
11     int x = 2; // value to square using squareByValue
12     int z = 4; // value to square using squareByReference
13
14     // demonstrate squareByValue
15     cout << "x = " << x << " before squareByValue\n";
16     cout << "Value returned by squareByValue: "
17         << squareByValue( x ) << endl;
18     cout << "x = " << x << " after squareByValue\n" << endl;
19
20     // demonstrate squareByReference
21     cout << "z = " << z << " before squareByReference" << endl;
22     squareByReference( z );
23     cout << "z = " << z << " after squareByReference" << endl;
24 } // end main
```

**Fig. 6.19** | Passing arguments by value and by reference. (Part I of 2.)



```
25
26 // squareByValue multiplies number by itself, stores the
27 // result in number and returns the new value of number
28 int squareByValue( int number )
29 {
30     return number *= number; // caller's argument not modified
31 } // end function squareByValue
32
33 // squareByReference multiplies numberRef by itself and stores the result
34 // in the variable to which numberRef refers in function main
35 void squareByReference( int &numberRef )
36 {
37     numberRef *= numberRef; // caller's argument modified
38 } // end function squareByReference
```

```
x = 2 before squareByValue
Value returned by squareByValue: 4
x = 2 after squareByValue
```

```
z = 4 before squareByReference
z = 16 after squareByReference
```

**Fig. 6.19** | Passing arguments by value and by reference. (Part 2 of 2.)



## 6.15 Default Arguments

- ▶ It isn't uncommon for a program to invoke a function repeatedly with the same argument value for a particular parameter.
- ▶ Can specify that such a parameter has a **default argument**, i.e., a default value to be passed to that parameter.
- ▶ When a program omits an argument for a parameter with a default argument in a function call, the compiler rewrites the function call and inserts the default value of that argument.
- ▶ Default arguments must be the rightmost (trailing) arguments in a function's parameter list.



```
1 // Fig. 6.22: fig06_22.cpp
2 // Using default arguments.
3 #include <iostream>
4 using namespace std;
5
6 // function prototype that specifies default arguments
7 int boxVolume( int length = 1, int width = 1, int height = 1 );
8
9 int main()
10 {
11     // no arguments--use default values for all dimensions
12     cout << "The default box volume is: " << boxVolume();
13
14     // specify length; default width and height
15     cout << "\n\nThe volume of a box with length 10,\n"
16         << "width 1 and height 1 is: " << boxVolume( 10 );
17
18     // specify length and width; default height
19     cout << "\n\nThe volume of a box with length 10,\n"
20         << "width 5 and height 1 is: " << boxVolume( 10, 5 );
21
```

**Fig. 6.22** | Default arguments to a function. (Part 1 of 2.)



```
22 // specify all arguments
23 cout << "\n\nThe volume of a box with length 10,\n"
24     << "width 5 and height 2 is: " << boxVolume( 10, 5, 2 )
25     << endl;
26 } // end main
27
28 // function boxVolume calculates the volume of a box
29 int boxVolume( int length, int width, int height )
30 {
31     return length * width * height;
32 } // end function boxVolume
```

The default box volume is: 1

The volume of a box with length 10,  
width 1 and height 1 is: 10

The volume of a box with length 10,  
width 5 and height 1 is: 50

The volume of a box with length 10,  
width 5 and height 2 is: 100

**Fig. 6.22** | Default arguments to a function. (Part 2 of 2.)



## 6.17 Function Overloading

- ▶ C++ enables several functions of the same name to be defined, as long as they have different signatures.
- ▶ This is called **function overloading**.
- ▶ The C++ compiler selects the proper function to call by examining the number, types and order of the arguments in the call.
- ▶ Function overloading is used to create several functions of the same name that perform similar tasks, but on different data types.



```
1 // Fig. 6.24: fig06_24.cpp
2 // Overloaded functions.
3 #include <iostream>
4 using namespace std;
5
6 // function square for int values
7 int square( int x )
8 {
9     cout << "square of integer " << x << " is ";
10    return x * x;
11 } // end function square with int argument
12
13 // function square for double values
14 double square( double y )
15 {
16     cout << "square of double " << y << " is ";
17     return y * y;
18 } // end function square with double argument
19
```

**Fig. 6.24** | Overloaded square functions. (Part I of 2.)



```
20 int main()
21 {
22     cout << square( 7 ); // calls int version
23     cout << endl;
24     cout << square( 7.5 ); // calls double version
25     cout << endl;
26 } // end main
```

```
square of integer 7 is 49
square of double 7.5 is 56.25
```

**Fig. 6.24** | Overloaded square functions. (Part 2 of 2.)



## 6.19 Recursion

- ▶ A **recursive function** is a function that calls itself, either directly, or indirectly (through another function).
- ▶ Recursive problem-solving approaches have a number of elements in common.
  - A recursive function is called to solve a problem.
  - The function actually knows how to solve only the simplest case(s), or so-called **base case(s)**.
  - If the function is called with a base case, the function simply returns a result.
  - If the function is called with a more complex problem, it typically divides the problem into two conceptual pieces—a piece that the function knows how to do and a piece that it does not know how to do.
  - This new problem looks like the original, so the function calls a copy of itself to work on the smaller problem—this is referred to as a **recursive call** and is also called the **recursion step**.



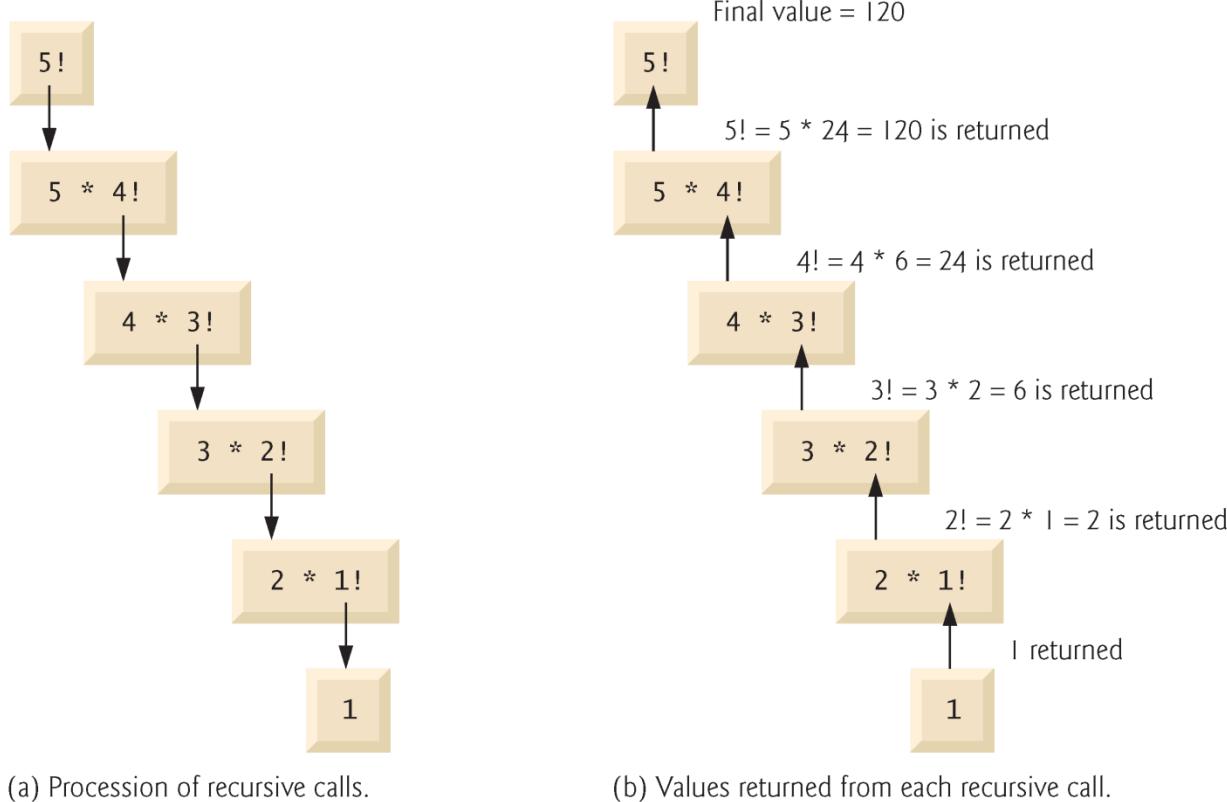
## 6.19 Recursion (cont.)

- ▶ The recursion step often includes the key-word **return**, because its result will be combined with the portion of the problem the function knew how to solve to form the result passed back to the original caller, possibly **main**.
- ▶ The recursion step executes while the original call to the function is still “open,” i.e., it has not yet finished executing.
- ▶ The recursion step can result in many more such recursive calls.



## 6.19 Recursion (cont.)

- ▶ The factorial of a nonnegative integer  $n$ , written  $n!$  (*and pronounced “ $n$  factorial”*), is *the product*
  - $n \cdot (n - 1) \cdot (n - 2) \cdot \dots \cdot 1$
- ▶ with  $1!$  equal to 1, and  $0!$  defined to be 1.
- ▶ The factorial of an integer, **number**, greater than or equal to 0, can be calculated **iteratively** (nonrecursively) by using a loop.
- ▶ A recursive definition of the factorial function is arrived at by observing the following algebraic relationship:
  - $n! = n \cdot (n - 1)!$



**Fig. 6.28** | Recursive evaluation of  $5!$ .



```
1 // Fig. 6.29: fig06_29.cpp
2 // Demonstrating the recursive function factorial.
3 #include <iostream>
4 #include <iomanip>
5 using namespace std;
6
7 unsigned long factorial( unsigned long ); // function prototype
8
9 int main()
10 {
11     // calculate the factorials of 0 through 10
12     for ( int counter = 0; counter <= 10; counter++ )
13         cout << setw( 2 ) << counter << "!" = " << factorial( counter )
14         << endl;
15 } // end main
16
17 // recursive definition of function factorial
18 unsigned long factorial( unsigned long number )
19 {
20     if ( number <= 1 ) // test for base case
21         return 1; // base cases: 0! = 1 and 1! = 1
22     else // recursion step
23         return number * factorial( number - 1 );
24 } // end function factorial
```

**Fig. 6.29** | Demonstrating the recursive function factorial. (Part 1 of 2.)



```
0! = 1  
1! = 1  
2! = 2  
3! = 6  
4! = 24  
5! = 120  
6! = 720  
7! = 5040  
8! = 40320  
9! = 362880  
10! = 3628800
```

**Fig. 6.29** | Demonstrating the recursive function factorial. (Part 2 of 2.)



## 6.20 Example Using Recursion: Fibonacci Series

- ▶ The Fibonacci series
  - 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, ...
- ▶ begins with 0 and 1 and has the property that each subsequent Fibonacci number is the sum of the previous two Fibonacci numbers.
- ▶ The series occurs in nature and, in particular, describes a form of spiral.
- ▶ The ratio of successive Fibonacci numbers converges on a constant value of 1.618....
- ▶ This number, too, frequently occurs in nature and has been called the **golden ratio** or the **golden mean**.
- ▶ Humans tend to find the golden mean aesthetically pleasing.



## 6.20 Example Using Recursion: Fibonacci Series (cont.)

- ▶ The Fibonacci series can be defined recursively as follows:
  - $\text{fibonacci}(0) = 0$
  - $\text{fibonacci}(1) = 1$
  - $\text{fibonacci}(n) = \text{fibonacci}(n - 1) + \text{fibonacci}(n - 2)$
- ▶ The program of Fig. 6.30 calculates the *n<sup>th</sup> Fibonacci number recursively by using function fibonacci.*



```
1 // Fig. 6.30: fig06_30.cpp
2 // Testing the recursive fibonacci function.
3 #include <iostream>
4 using namespace std;
5
6 unsigned long fibonacci( unsigned long ); // function prototype
7
8 int main()
9 {
10    // calculate the fibonacci values of 0 through 10
11    for ( int counter = 0; counter <= 10; counter++ )
12        cout << "fibonacci( " << counter << " ) = "
13        << fibonacci( counter ) << endl;
14
15    // display higher fibonacci values
16    cout << "fibonacci( 20 ) = " << fibonacci( 20 ) << endl;
17    cout << "fibonacci( 30 ) = " << fibonacci( 30 ) << endl;
18    cout << "fibonacci( 35 ) = " << fibonacci( 35 ) << endl;
19 } // end main
20
```

**Fig. 6.30** | Demonstrating function fibonacci. (Part I of 2.)



```
21 // recursive function fibonacci
22 unsigned long fibonacci( unsigned long number )
23 {
24     if ( ( number == 0 ) || ( number == 1 ) ) // base cases
25         return number;
26     else // recursion step
27         return fibonacci( number - 1 ) + fibonacci( number - 2 );
28 } // end function fibonacci
```

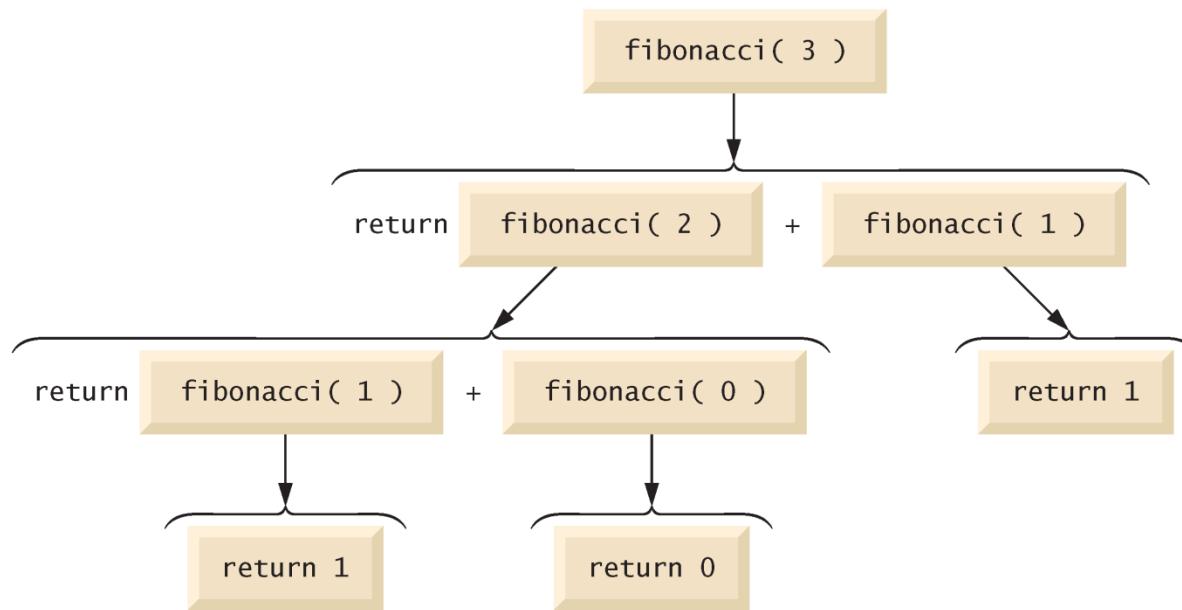
```
fibonacci( 0 ) = 0
fibonacci( 1 ) = 1
fibonacci( 2 ) = 1
fibonacci( 3 ) = 2
fibonacci( 4 ) = 3
fibonacci( 5 ) = 5
fibonacci( 6 ) = 8
fibonacci( 7 ) = 13
fibonacci( 8 ) = 21
fibonacci( 9 ) = 34
fibonacci( 10 ) = 55
fibonacci( 20 ) = 6765
fibonacci( 30 ) = 832040
fibonacci( 35 ) = 9227465
```

**Fig. 6.30** | Demonstrating function fibonacci. (Part 2 of 2.)



## 6.20 Example Using Recursion: Fibonacci Series (cont.)

- ▶ Figure 6.31 shows how function `fibonacci` would evaluate `fibonacci(3)`.
- ▶ This figure raises some interesting issues about the order in which C++ compilers evaluate the operands of operators.
- ▶ This is a separate issue from the order in which operators are applied to their operands, namely, the order dictated by the rules of operator precedence and associativity.
- ▶ Most programmers simply assume that operands are evaluated left to right.
- ▶ C++ does not specify the order in which the operands of most operators (including `+`) are to be evaluated.
- ▶ Therefore, you must make no assumption about the order in which these calls execute.



**Fig. 6.31** | Set of recursive calls to function `fibonacci`.



## 6.21 Recursion vs. Iteration

- ▶ Both iteration and recursion are based on a control statement: Iteration uses a repetition structure; recursion uses a selection structure.
- ▶ Both iteration and recursion involve repetition: Iteration explicitly uses a repetition structure; recursion achieves repetition through repeated function calls.
- ▶ Iteration and recursion both involve a termination test: Iteration terminates when the loop-continuation condition fails; recursion terminates when a base case is recognized.



## 6.21 Recursion vs. Iteration (cont.)

- ▶ Iteration with counter-controlled repetition and recursion both gradually approach termination: Iteration modifies a counter until the counter assumes a value that makes the loop-continuation condition fail; recursion produces simpler versions of the original problem until the base case is reached.
- ▶ Both iteration and recursion can occur infinitely: An infinite loop occurs with iteration if the loop-continuation test never becomes false; infinite recursion occurs if the recursion step does not reduce the problem during each recursive call in a manner that converges on the base case.



```
1 // Fig. 6.32: fig06_32.cpp
2 // Testing the iterative factorial function.
3 #include <iostream>
4 #include <iomanip>
5 using namespace std;
6
7 unsigned long factorial( unsigned long ); // function prototype
8
9 int main()
10 {
11     // calculate the factorials of 0 through 10
12     for ( int counter = 0; counter <= 10; counter++ )
13         cout << setw( 2 ) << counter << "!" = " << factorial( counter )
14             << endl;
15 } // end main
16
```

**Fig. 6.32** | Iterative factorial solution. (Part I of 2.)



```
17 // iterative function factorial
18 unsigned long factorial( unsigned long number )
19 {
20     unsigned long result = 1;
21
22     // iterative factorial calculation
23     for ( unsigned long i = number; i >= 1; i-- )
24         result *= i;
25
26     return result;
27 } // end function factorial
```

```
0! = 1
1! = 1
2! = 2
3! = 6
4! = 24
5! = 120
6! = 720
7! = 5040
8! = 40320
9! = 362880
10! = 3628800
```

**Fig. 6.32** | Iterative factorial solution. (Part 2 of 2.)