

# 1 Operator Overloading

## Operator Overloading

What is Operator Overloading?

- Using traditional operators such as +, =, \*, etc. with user-defined types
- Allows user defined types to behave similar to built-in types
- Can make code more readable and writable
- Not done automatically (except for the assignment operator)  
They must be explicitly defined

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Operator Overloading



by Simey

## Operator Overloading

What operators can be overloaded?

- The majority of C++'s operators can be overloaded
- The following operators cannot be overload

operator
::
:?
.*
.
sizeof

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Operator Overloading



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## Operator Overloading

Mystring class declaration

```
class Mystring {  
  
private:  
    char *str; // C-style string  
  
public:  
    Mystring();  
    Mystring(const char *s);  
    Mystring(const Mystring &source);  
    ~Mystring();  
    void display() const;  
    int get_length() const;  
    const char *get_str() const;  
};
```

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Operator Overloading



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## Operator Overloading

Overloading the copy assignment operator (deep copy)

```
Mystring &Mystring::operator=(const Mystring &rhs) {  
    if (this == &rhs)  
        return *this;  
  
    delete [] str;  
    str = new char[std::strlen(rhs.str) + 1];  
    std::strcpy(str, rhs.str);  
  
    return *this;  
}
```

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Copy Assignment Operator



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## Operator Overloading

What is Operator Overloading?

Suppose we have a Number class that models any number

- Using functions:

```
Number result = multiply(add(a,b),divide(c,d));
```

- Using member methods:

```
Number result = (a.add(b)).multiply(c.divide(d));
```

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Operator Overloading



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## Operator Overloading

Some basic rules

- Precedence and Associativity cannot be changed
- 'arity' cannot be changed (i.e. can't make the division operator unary)
- Can't overload operators for primitive type (e.g. int, double, etc.)
- Can't create new operators
- [], (), ->, and the assignment operator (=) **must** be declared as member methods
- Other operators can be declared as member methods or global functions

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Operator Overloading



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## Operator Overloading

What is Operator Overloading?

Suppose we have a Number class that models any number

- Using overloaded operators

```
Number result = (a+b)*(c/d);
```

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Operator Overloading



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## Operator Overloading

Some examples

- int  
a = b + c  
a < b  
std::cout << a
- std::string  
s1 = s2 + s3  
s1 < s2  
std::cout << s1
- double  
a = b + c  
a < b  
std::cout << a
- long  
a = b + c  
a < b  
std::cout << a
- Player  
p1 < p2  
p1 == p2  
std::cout << p1

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Operator Overloading



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## Operator Overloading

Overloading the copy assignment operator (deep copy)

```
Type &Type::operator=(const Type &rhs);
```

```
Mystring &Mystring::operator=(const Mystring &rhs);
```

```
s2 = s1; // We write this
```

```
s2.operator=(s1); // operator= method is called
```

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Copy Assignment Operator



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## Operator Overloading

Overloading the copy assignment operator – steps for deep copy

- Check for self assignment

```
if (this == &rhs) // p1 = p1;  
    return *this; // return current object
```

- Deallocate storage for this->str since we are overwriting it

```
delete [] str;
```

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Copy Assignment Operator



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## Operator Overloading

Overloading the copy assignment operator – steps for deep copy

- Allocate storage for the deep copy

```
str = new char[std::strlen(rhs.str) + 1];
```

## Operator Overloading

Overloading the copy assignment operator – steps for deep copy

- Perform the copy  

```
std::strcpy(str, rhs.str);
```
- Return the current by reference to allow chain assignment  

```
return *this;
```

```
// s1 = s2 = s3;
```

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Copy Assignment Operator

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## Operator Overloading

Overloading the Move assignment operator – steps

- Check for self assignment  

```
if (this == &rhs)
    return *this; // return current object
```
- Deallocate storage for this->str since we are overwriting it  

```
delete [] str;
```

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Move Assignment Operator

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## Operator Overloading

Mystring operator- make lowercase

```
Mystring larry1 ("LARRY");
Mystring larry2;

larry1.display(); // LARRY
larry2 = -larry1; // larry1.operator-()

larry1.display(); // LARRY
larry2.display(); // larry
```

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Operator as Member Function

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## Operator Overloading

Mystring operator==

```
bool Mystring::operator==(const Mystring &rhs) const {
    if (std::strcmp(str, rhs.str) == 0)
        return true;
    else
        return false;
}

// if (s1 == s2) // s1 and s2 are Mystring objects
```

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Operator as Member Function

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## Operator Overloading

Move assignment operator (=)

- You can choose to overload the move assignment operator  
• C++ will use the copy assignment operator if necessary

```
Mystring s1;
s1 = Mystring {"Frank"}; // move assignment
```

- If we have raw pointer we should overload the move assignment operator for efficiency

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Move Assignment Operator



## Operator Overloading

Overloading the Move assignment operator – steps for deep copy

- Steal the pointer from the rhs object and assign it to this->str  

```
str = rhs.str;
```
- Null out the rhs pointer  

```
rhs.str = nullptr;
```
- Return the current object by reference to allow chain assignment  

```
return *this;
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Move Assignment Operator



## Operator Overloading

Mystring operator- make lowercase

```
Mystring Mystring::operator-() const {
    char *buff = new char[strlen(str) + 1];
    std::strcpy(buff, str);
    for (size_t i=0; i<strlen(buff); i++)
        buff[i] = std::tolower(buff[i]);
    Mystring temp (buff);
    delete [] buff;
    return temp;
}
```

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Operator as Member Function



## Operator Overloading

Mystring operator+ (concatenation)

```
Mystring larry ("Larry");
Mystring moe("Moe");
Mystring stooges (" is one of the three stooges");

Mystring result = larry + stooges;
// larry.operator+(stooges);

result = moe + " is also a stooge";
// moe.operator+"(is also a stooge");

result = "Moe" + stooges; // "Moe".operator+(stooges) ERROR
```

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Operator as Member Function



## Operator Overloading

Overloading the Move assignment operator

```
Type &Type::operator=(Type &&rhs);
```

```
Mystring &Mystring::operator=(Mystring &&rhs);
sl = Mystring("Joe"); // move operator= called
sl = "Frank"; // move operator= called
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Move Assignment Operator



## Operator Overloading

Unary operators as member methods (+, -, ++, --, !)

```
ReturnType Type::operatorOp();
```

```
Number Number::operator-() const;
Number Number::operator++();
Number Number::operator++(int); // pre-increment
Number Number::operator++(int); // post-increment
bool Number::operator!() const;

Number n1 (100);
Number n2 = -n1; // n1.operator-()
n2 = ++n1; // n1.operator()
n2 = n1++; // n1.operator++(int)
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Operator as Member Function



## Operator Overloading

Binary operators as member methods (+,-,==,!,<,>, etc.)

```
ReturnType Type::operatorOp(const &Type rhs);
```

```
Number Number::operator+(const &Number rhs) const;
Number Number::operator-(const &Number rhs) const;
bool Number::operator==(const &Number rhs) const;
bool Number::operator<(const &Number rhs) const;

Number n1 (100), n2 (200);
Number n3 = n1 + n2; // n1.operator+(n2)
n3 = n1 - n2; // n1.operator-(n2)
if (n1 == n2) . . . // n1.operator==(n2)
```

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Operator as Member Function



## Operator Overloading

Mystring operator+ (concatenation)

```
Mystring Mystring::operator+(const Mystring &rhs) const {
    size_t buff_size = std::strlen(str) +
                      std::strlen(rhs.str) + 1;
    char *buff = new char[buff_size];
    std::strcpy(buff, str);
    std::strcat(buff, rhs.str);
    Mystring temp (buff);
    delete [] buff;
    return temp;
}
```

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Operator as Member Function



## Operator Overloading

Unary operators as global functions (+, -, -, !)

```
ReturnType operatorOp(Type &obj);  
  
Number operator-(const Number &obj);  
Number operator++(Number &obj); // pre-increment  
Number operator++(Number &obj, int); // post-increment  
bool operator!(const Number &obj);  
  
Number n1 (100);  
Number n2 = -n1; // operator-(n1)  
n2 = ++n1; // operator++(n1)  
n2 = n1++; // operator++(n1,int)
```

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Operator as Global Function

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## Operator Overloading

Mystring operator- make lowercase

```
Mystring larry1 ("LARRY");  
Mystring larry2;  
  
larry1.display(); // LARRY  
  
larry2 = -larry1; // operator-(larry1)  
  
larry1.display(); // LARRY  
larry2.display(); // larry
```

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Operator as Global Function

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## Operator Overloading

Binary operators as global functions (+, -, ==, !=, <, >, etc.)

```
ReturnType operatorOp(const &Type lhs, const &Type rhs);  
  
Number operator+(const &Number lhs, const &Number rhs);  
Number operator-(const &Number lhs, const &Number rhs);  
bool operator==(const &Number lhs, const &Number rhs);  
bool operator<(const &Number lhs, const &Number rhs);  
  
Number n1 (100), n2 (200);  
Number n3 = n1 + n2; // operator+(n1,n2)  
n3 = n1 - n2; // operator-(n1,n2)  
if (n1 < n2) . . . // operator<(n1,n2)
```

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Operator as Global Function

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## Operator Overloading

Mystring operator==

```
bool operator==(const Mystring &lhs, const Mystring &rhs){  
    if (std::strcmp(lhs.str, rhs.str) == 0)  
        return true;  
    else  
        return false;  
}
```

- If declared as a friend of Mystring can access private str attribute
- Otherwise must use getter methods

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Operator as Global Function

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## Operator Overloading

Mystring operator+ (concatenation)

```
Mystring operator+(const Mystring &lhs, const myString &rhs) {  
    size_t buff_size = std::strlen(lhs.str) +  
        std::strlen(rhs.str) + 1;  
    char *buff = new char[buff_size];  
    std::strcpy(buff, lhs.str);  
    std::strcat(buff, rhs.str);  
    Mystring temp (buff);  
    delete [] buff;  
    return temp;  
}
```

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Operator as Global Function

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## Operator Overloading

stream insertion and extraction operators (<<, >>)

```
Mystring larry ("Larry");  
  
cout << larry << endl; // Larry  
  
Player hero ("Hero", 100, 33);  
  
cout << hero << endl; // (name: Hero, health: 100, xp:33)
```

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Overloading Insertion and Extraction

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## Operator Overloading

stream insertion and extraction operators (<<, >>)

- Doesn't make sense to implement as member methods
- Left operand must be a user-defined class
- Not the way we normally use these operators

```
Mystring larry;  
larry << cout; // huh?  
  
Player hero;  
hero >> cin; // huh?
```

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Overloading Insertion and Extraction

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## Operator Overloading

stream insertion operator (<<)

```
std::ostream &operator<<(std::ostream &os, const Mystring &obj) {  
    os << obj.str; // if friend function  
    // os << obj.get_str(); // if not friend function  
    return os;  
}
```

- Return a reference to the ostream so we can keep inserting
- Don't return ostream by value!

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Overloading Insertion and Extraction

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## Operator Overloading

Mystring operator-

- Often declared as friend functions in the class declaration

```
Mystring operator-(const Mystring &obj) {  
    char *buff = new char[std::strlen(obj.str) + 1];  
    std::strcpy(buff, obj.str);  
    for (size_t i=0; i<std::strlen(buff); i++)  
        buff[i] = std::tolower(buff[i]);  
    Mystring temp (buff);  
    delete [] buff;  
    return temp;  
}
```

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Operator as Global Function

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## Operator Overloading

Mystring operator+ (concatenation)

```
Mystring larry ("Larry");  
Mystring moe ("Moe");  
Mystring stooges (" is one of the three stooges");  
  
Mystring result = larry + stooges;  
// operator+(larry, stooges);  
  
result = moe + " is also a stooge";  
// operator+(moe, " is also a stooge");  
  
result = "Moe" + stooges; // OK with non-member functions
```

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Operator as Global Function

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## Operator Overloading

stream insertion and extraction operators (<<, >>)

```
Mystring larry;  
  
cin >> larry;  
  
Player hero;  
  
cin >> hero;
```

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Overloading Insertion and Extraction

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## Operator Overloading

stream extraction operator (>>)

```
std::istream &operator>>(std::istream &is, Mystring &obj) {  
    char *buff = new char[1000];  
    is >> buff;  
    obj = Mystring(buff); // If you have copy or move assignment  
    delete [] buff;  
    return is;  
}
```

- Return a reference to the istream so we can keep inserting
- Update the object passed in

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Overloading Insertion and Extraction

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## 2 Inheritance

### Inheritance

What is it and why is it used?

- Provides a method for creating new classes from existing classes
- The new class contains the data and behaviors of the existing class
- Allow for reuse of existing classes
- Allows us to focus on the common attributes among a set of classes
- Allows new classes to modify behaviors of existing classes to make it unique
  - Without actually modifying the original class

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
What is Inheritance?



31 mins

### Inheritance

Related classes

- Player, Enemy, Level Boss, Hero, Super Player, etc.
- Account, Savings Account, Checking Account, Trust Account, etc.
- Shape, Line, Oval, Circle, Square, etc.
- Person, Employee, Student, Faculty, Staff, Administrator, etc.

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What is Inheritance?



31 mins

### Inheritance

Accounts

- Account
  - balance, deposit, withdraw, ...
- Savings Account
  - balance, deposit, withdraw, interest rate, ...
- Checking Account
  - balance, deposit, withdraw, minimum balance, per check fee, ...
- Trust Account
  - balance, deposit, withdraw, interest rate, ...

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
What is Inheritance?



31 mins

### Inheritance

Accounts – without inheritance – code duplication

```
class Account {  
    // balance, deposit, withdraw, ...  
};  
  
class Savings_Account {  
    // balance, deposit, withdraw, interest rate, ...  
};  
  
class Checking_Account {  
    // balance, deposit, withdraw, minimum balance, per check fee, ...  
};  
  
class Trust_Account {  
    // balance, deposit, withdraw, interest rate, ...  
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
What is Inheritance?



31 mins

### Inheritance

Accounts – with inheritance – code reuse

```
class Account {  
    // balance, deposit, withdraw, ...  
};  
  
class Savings_Account : public Account {  
    // interest rate, specialized withdraw, ...  
};  
  
class Checking_Account : public Account {  
    // minimum balance, per check fee, specialized withdraw, ...  
};  
  
class Trust_Account : public Account {  
    // interest rate, specialized withdraw, ...  
};
```

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What is Inheritance?



31 mins

### Inheritance

Terminology

- Inheritance
  - Process of creating new classes from existing classes
  - Reuse mechanism
- Single Inheritance
  - A new class is created from another 'single' class
- Multiple Inheritance
  - A new class is created from two (or more) other classes

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Terminology and Notation

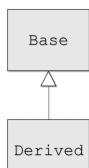


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### Inheritance

Terminology

- Base class (parent class, super class)
  - The class being extended or inherited from
- Derived class (child class, sub class)
  - The class being created from the Base class
  - Will inherit attributes and operations from Base class



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Terminology and Notation



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### Inheritance

Terminology

- "Is-A" relationship
  - Public inheritance
  - Derived classes are sub-types of their Base classes
  - Can use a derived class object wherever we use a base class object
- Generalization
  - Combining similar classes into a single, more general class based on common attributes
- Specialization
  - Creating new classes from existing classes proving more specialized attributes or operations
- Inheritance or Class Hierarchies
  - Organization of our inheritance relationships

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Terminology and Notation



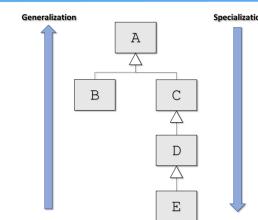
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### Inheritance

Class hierarchy

Classes:

- A
- B is derived from A
- C is derived from A
- D is derived from C
- E is derived from D



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Terminology and Notation

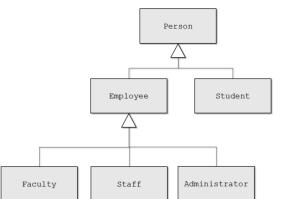


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### Inheritance

Class hierarchy

- Classes:
- Person
  - Employee is derived from Person
  - Student is derived from Person
  - Faculty is derived from Employee
  - Staff is derived from Employee
  - Administrator is derived from Employee



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Terminology and Notation



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### Inheritance

Public Inheritance vs. Composition

- Both allow reuse of existing classes
- Public Inheritance
  - "is-a" relationship
  - Employee is-a Person
  - Checking Account is-a Account
  - Circle is-a Shape
- Composition
  - "has-a" relationship
  - Person has-a Account
  - Player has-a Special Attack
  - Circle has-a Location

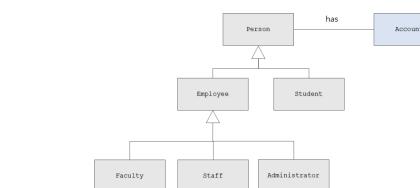
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Inheritance vs Composition



31 mins

### Inheritance

Public Inheritance vs. Composition



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Inheritance vs Composition



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## Inheritance

Composition

```
class Person {  
private:  
    std::string name; // has-a name  
    Account account; // has-a account  
};
```

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Inheritance vs Composition

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## Deriving classes from existing classes

C++ derivation syntax

```
class Account {  
// Account class members . . .  
};  
  
class Savings_Account: public Account {  
// Savings_Account class members . . .  
};  
  
Savings_Account 'is-a' Account
```

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Deriving Classes from Existing Classes

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## Deriving classes from existing classes

C++ derivation syntax

```
class Base {  
// Base class members . . .  
};  
  
class Derived: access-specifier Base {  
// Derived class members . . .  
};
```

Access-specifier can be: public, private, or protected

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Deriving Classes from Existing Classes

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## Deriving classes from existing classes

Types of inheritance in C++

- public

- Most common
- Establishes "is-a" relationship between Derived and Base classes

- private and protected

- Establishes "derived class has a base class" relationship
- "Is implemented in terms of" relationship
- Different from composition

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Deriving Classes from Existing Classes

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## Deriving classes from existing classes

C++ derivation syntax

```
class Account {  
// Account class members . . .  
};  
  
class Savings_Account: public Account {  
// Savings_Account class members . . .  
};  
  
Savings_Account 'is-a' Account
```

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Deriving Classes from Existing Classes

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## Deriving classes from existing classes

C++ creating objects

```
Account account {};  
Account *p_account = new Account();  
  
account.deposit(1000.0);  
p_account->withdraw(200.0);  
  
delete p_account;
```

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Deriving Classes from Existing Classes

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## Deriving classes from existing classes

C++ creating objects

```
Savings_Account sav_account {};  
Savings_Account *p_sav_account = new Savings_Account();  
  
sav_account.deposit(1000.0);  
p_sav_account->withdraw(200.0);  
  
delete p_sav_account;
```

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Deriving Classes from Existing Classes

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## Protected Members and Class Access

The protected class member modifier

```
class Base {  
  
protected:  
// protected Base class members . . .  
};  
  
• Accessible from the Base class itself  
• Accessible from classes Derived from Base  
• Not accessible by objects of Base or Derived
```

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Protected Members and Class Access

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## Protected Members and Class Access

The protected class member modifier

```
class Base {  
public:  
    int a; // public Base class members . . .  
  
protected:  
    int b; // protected Base class members . . .  
  
private:  
    int c; // private Base class members . . .  
};
```

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Protected Members and Class Access

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## Deriving classes from existing classes

Access with **public** inheritance

Base Class

```
public: a  
protected: b  
private: c
```

public inheritance

Derived Class

```
public: a  
protected: b  
c : no access
```

public inheritance

## Deriving classes from existing classes

Access with **protected** inheritance

Base Class

```
public: a  
protected: b  
private: c
```

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Access in  
Derived Class

```
protected: a  
protected: b  
c : no access
```

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## Constructors and Destructors

Constructors and class initialization

- A Derived class inherits from its Base class
- The Base part of the Derived class MUST be initialized BEFORE the Derived class is initialized
- When a Derived object is created
  - Base class constructor executes first
  - Derived class constructor executes

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Constructors and Destructors

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## Constructors and Destructors

Constructors and class initialization

```
class Base {  
public:  
    Base(){ cout << "Base constructor" << endl; }  
};  
  
class Derived : public Base {  
public:  
    Derived(){ cout << "Derived constructor" << endl; }  
};
```

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Constructors and Destructors

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## Constructors and Destructors

Constructors and class initialization

Output

```
Base base;
```

Base constructor

```
Derived derived;
```

Base constructor  
Derived constructor

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Constructors and Destructors



11 mins

## Constructors and Destructors

Destructors

- Class destructors are invoked in the reverse order as constructors
- The Derived part of the Derived class MUST be destroyed BEFORE the Base class destructor is invoked
- When a Derived object is destroyed
  - Derived class destructor executes then
  - Base class destructor executes
  - Each destructor should free resources allocated in its own constructors

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Constructors and Destructors



11 mins

## Constructors and Destructors

Destructors

```
class Base {  
public:  
    Base(){ cout << "Base constructor" << endl; }  
    ~Base(){ cout << "Base destructor" << endl; }  
};  
  
class Derived : public Base {  
public:  
    Derived(){ cout << "Derived constructor" << endl; }  
    ~Derived(){ cout << "Derived destructor" << endl; }  
};
```

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Constructors and Destructors



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## Constructors and Destructors

Constructors and class initialization

Output

```
Base base;
```

Base constructor  
Base destructor

```
Derived derived;
```

Base constructor  
Derived constructor  
Derived destructor  
Base destructor

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Constructors and Destructors



11 mins

## Constructors and Destructors

Constructors and class initialization

- A Derived class does NOT inherit
  - Base class constructors
  - Base class destructor
  - Base class overloaded assignment operators
  - Base class friend functions

However, the base class constructors, destructors, and overloaded assignment operators can invoke the base-class versions

- C++11 allows explicit inheritance of base 'non-special' constructors with
  - using Base::Base;
  - anywhere in the derived class declaration
- Lots of rules involved, often better to define constructors yourself

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Constructors and Destructors



11 mins

## Inheritance

Passing arguments to base class constructors

- The Base part of a Derived class must be initialized first
- How can we control exactly which Base class constructor is used during initialization?
- We can invoke whichever Base class constructor we wish in the initialization list of the Derived class

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Passing Arguments to Base Class Constructors



11 mins

## Inheritance

Passing arguments to base class constructors

```
class Base {  
public:  
    Base();  
    Base(int);  
    ...  
};  
  
Derived::Derived(int x)  
: Base(x), {optional initializers for Derived} {  
    // code  
}
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Passing Arguments to Base Class Constructors



11 mins

## Constructors and Destructors

Constructors and class initialization

```
class Base {  
int value;  
public:  
    Base(): value{0} {  
        cout << "Base no-args constructor" << endl;  
    }  
    Base(int x) : value(x) {  
        cout << "int Base constructor" << endl;  
    }  
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Passing Arguments to Base Class Constructors



11 mins

## Constructors and Destructors

Constructors and class initialization

```
class Derived : public Base {  
int doubled_value;  
public:  
    Derived(): Base{}, doubled_value{} {  
        cout << "Derived no-args constructor" << endl;  
    }  
    Derived(int x) : Base(x), doubled_value(x*2) {  
        cout << "int Derived constructor" << endl;  
    }  
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Passing Arguments to Base Class Constructors



11 mins

## Constructors and Destructors

Constructors and class initialization

Output

```
Base base;  
Base base(100);  
  
Derived derived;  
Derived derived(100);
```

Base no-args constructor  
int Base constructor  
Base no-args constructor  
int Base constructor

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Passing Arguments to Base Class Constructors



11 mins

## Inheritance

Copy/Move constructors and overloaded operator=

- Not inherited from the Base class
- You may not need to provide your own
  - Compiler-provided versions may be just fine
- We can explicitly invoke the Base class versions from the Derived class

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Copy Constructor And Assignment



11 mins

## Inheritance

Copy constructor

- Can invoke Base copy constructor explicitly
  - Derived object 'other' will be sliced
- Derived::Derived(const Derived &other)  
: Base(other), {Derived initialization list}  
{  
 // code  
}

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Copy Constructor And Assignment



11 mins

## Constructors and Destructors

```
Copy Constructors  
class Base {  
    int value;  
public:  
    // Same constructors as previous example  
  
    Base(const Base &other) : value{other.value} {  
        cout << "Base copy constructor" << endl;  
    }  
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Copy Constructor And Assignment



10 mins

## Constructors and Destructors

```
Copy Constructors  
class Derived : public Base {  
    int doubled_value;  
public:  
    // Same constructors as previous example  
  
    Derived(const Derived &other)  
        : Base(other), doubled_value{other.doubled_value} {  
        cout << "Derived copy constructor" << endl;  
    }  
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Copy Constructor And Assignment



10 mins

## Constructors and Destructors

```
operator=  
class Base {  
    int value;  
public:  
    // Same constructors as previous example  
    Base &operator=(const Base &rhs) {  
        if (this != &rhs) {  
            value = rhs.value; // assign  
        }  
        return *this;  
    }  
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Copy Constructor And Assignment



10 mins

## Constructors and Destructors

```
operator=  
class Derived : public Base {  
    int doubled_value;  
public:  
    // Same constructors as previous example  
    Derived &operator=(const Derived &rhs) {  
        if (this != &rhs) {  
            Base::operator=(rhs); // Assign Base part  
            doubled_value = rhs.doubled_value; // Assign Derived part  
        }  
        return *this;  
    }  
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Copy Constructor And Assignment



10 mins

## Inheritance

- Copy/Move constructors and overloaded operator=
- Often you do not need to provide your own
  - If you DO NOT define them in Derived
    - then the compiler will create them and automatically call the base class's version
  - If you DO provide Derived versions
    - then YOU must invoke the Base versions explicitly yourself
  - Be careful with raw pointers
    - Especially if Base and Derived each have raw pointers
    - Provide them with deep copy semantics

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Copy Constructor And Assignment



10 mins

## Inheritance

- Using and redefining Base class methods
- Derived class can directly invoke Base class methods
- Derived class can override or redefine Base class methods
- Very powerful in the context of polymorphism (next section)

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Using And Refining Base Methods



10 mins

## Inheritance

Using and redefining Base class methods

```
class Account {  
public:  
    void deposit(double amount) { balance += amount; }  
};  
  
class Savings_Account: public Account {  
public:  
    void deposit(double amount) { // Redefine Base class method  
        amount += some_interest;  
        Account::deposit(amount); // invoke call Base class method  
    }  
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Using And Refining Base Methods



10 mins

## Inheritance

Static binding of method calls

- Binding of which method to use is done at compile time
  - Default binding for C++ is static
  - Derived class objects will use Derived::deposit
  - But, we can explicitly invoke Base::deposit from Derived::deposit
  - OK, but limited – much more powerful approach is dynamic binding which we will see in the next section

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Using And Refining Base Methods



10 mins

## Inheritance

Static binding of method calls

```
Base b;  
b.deposit(1000.0); // Base::deposit  
  
Derived d;  
d.deposit(1000.0); // Derived::deposit  
  
Base *ptr = new Derived();  
ptr->deposit(1000.0); // Base::deposit ????
```

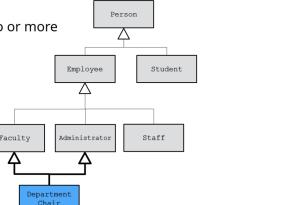
BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Using And Refining Base Methods



10 mins

## Multiple Inheritance

- A derived class inherits from two or more Base classes at the same time
- The Base classes may belong to unrelated class hierarchies
- A Department Chair
  - Is-A Faculty and
  - Is-A Administrator



BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Multiple Inheritance



10 mins

## Multiple Inheritance

C++ Syntax

```
class Department_Chair:  
    public Faculty, public Administrator {  
    . . .  
};
```

- Beyond the scope of this course
- Some compelling use-cases
- Easily misused
- Can be very complex

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Multiple Inheritance



10 mins

# 3 Polymorphism

## What is Polymorphism?

Fundamental to Object-Oriented Programming

### Polymorphism

- Compile-time / early binding / static binding
- Run-time / late binding / dynamic binding

### Runtime polymorphism

- Being able to assign different meanings to the same function at run-time

### Allows us to program more abstractly

- Think general vs. specific
- Let C++ figure out which function to call at run-time

Not the default in C++, run-time polymorphism is achieved via

- Inheritance
- Base class pointers or references
- Virtual functions

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
What is Polymorphism?



## What is Polymorphism?

An non-polymorphic example - Static Binding

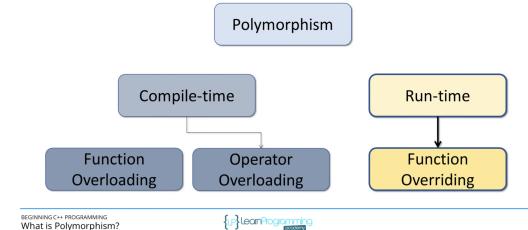
```
void display_account(const Account &acc) {  
    acc.display();  
    // will always use Account::display  
}  
  
Account a;  
display_account(a);  
  
Savings b;  
display_account(b);  
  
Checking c;  
display_account(c);  
  
Trust d;  
display_account(d);
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
What is Polymorphism?



## What is Polymorphism?

An non-polymorphic example - Static Binding



BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
What is Polymorphism?



## What is Polymorphism?

An non-polymorphic example - Static Binding

```
a.withdraw(1000); // Account::withdraw()  
  
Savings b;  
b.withdraw(1000); // Savings::withdraw()  
  
Checking c;  
c.withdraw(1000); // Checking::withdraw()  
  
Trust d;  
d.withdraw(1000); // Trust::withdraw()  
  
Account *p = new Trust();  
p->withdraw(1000); // Trust::withdraw()
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
What is Polymorphism?



## What is Polymorphism?

An non-polymorphic example - Static Binding

## What is Polymorphism?

A polymorphic example - Dynamic Binding

```
Account a;  
a.withdraw(1000); // Account::withdraw()  
  
Savings b;  
b.withdraw(1000); // Savings::withdraw()  
  
Checking c;  
c.withdraw(1000); // Checking::withdraw()  
  
Trust d;  
d.withdraw(1000); // Trust::withdraw()  
  
Account *p = new Trust();  
p->withdraw(1000); // Trust::withdraw()
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
What is Polymorphism?



## What is Polymorphism?

A polymorphic example - Dynamic Binding

```
void display_account(const Account &acc)  
{  
    // will always the display method  
    // dependent on the object's type  
    // at RUN-TIME:  
}  
  
Account a;  
display_account(a);  
  
Savings b;  
display_account(b);  
  
Checking c;  
display_account(c);  
  
Trust d;  
display_account(d);
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
What is Polymorphism?



## Polymorphism

Using a Base class pointer

For dynamic polymorphism we must have:

- Inheritance
- Base class pointer or Base class reference
- virtual functions

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Polymorphism



## Polymorphism

Using a Base class pointer

```
Account *p1 = new Account();  
Account *p2 = new Savings();  
Account *p3 = new Checking();  
Account *p4 = new Trust();  
  
p1->withdraw(1000); // Account::withdraw  
p2->withdraw(1000); // Savings::withdraw  
p3->withdraw(1000); // Checking::withdraw  
p4->withdraw(1000); // Trust::withdraw  
  
// delete the pointers
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Polymorphism



## Polymorphism

Using a Base class pointer

```
Account *p1 = new Account();  
Account *p2 = new Savings();  
Account *p3 = new Checking();  
Account *p4 = new Trust();  
  
Account *array [] = {p1,p2,p3,p4};  
  
for (auto i=0; i<4; ++i)  
    array[i]->withdraw(1000);
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Polymorphism



## Polymorphism

Using a Base class pointer

```
Account *p1 = new Account();  
Account *p2 = new Savings();  
Account *p3 = new Checking();  
Account *p4 = new Trust();  
  
vector<Account> accounts  
(p1, p2, p3, p4);  
  
for (auto acc_ptr: accounts)  
    acc_ptr->withdraw();  
  
// delete the pointers
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Polymorphism



## Polymorphism

Virtual functions

- Redefined functions are bound statically
- Overridden functions are bound dynamically
- Virtual functions are overridden
- Allow us to treat all objects generally as objects of the Base class

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Virtual Functions



## Polymorphism

Declaring virtual functions

- Declare the function you want to override as virtual in the Base class
- Virtual functions are virtual all the way down the hierarchy from this point
- Dynamic polymorphism only via Account class pointer or reference

```
class Account {  
public:  
    virtual void withdraw(double amount);  
    . . .  
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Virtual Functions



## Polymorphism

Declaring virtual functions

- Override the function in the Derived classes
- Function signature and return type must match EXACTLY
- Virtual keyword not required but is best practice
- If you don't provide an overridden version it is inherited from its base class

```
class Checking : public Account {  
public:  
    virtual void withdraw(double amount);  
};
```

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Virtual Functions

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## Polymorphism

Virtual Destructors

- Problems can happen when we destroy polymorphic objects
- If a derived class is destroyed by deleting its storage via the base class pointer and the class a non-virtual destructor. Then the behavior is undefined in the C++ standard.
- Derived objects must be destroyed in the correct order starting at the correct destructor

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Virtual Destructor

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## Polymorphism

Virtual Destructors

- Solution/Rule:
  - If a class has virtual functions
  - ALWAYS provide a public virtual destructor
  - If base class destructor is virtual then all derived class destructors are also virtual

```
class Account {  
public:  
    virtual void withdraw(double amount);  
    virtual ~Account();  
};
```

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Virtual Destructor

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## Polymorphism

The override specifier

- We can override Base class virtual functions
- The function signature and return must be EXACTLY the same
- If they are different then we have redefinition NOT overriding
- Redefinition is statically bound
- Overriding is dynamically bound
- C++11 provides an override specifier to have the compiler ensure overriding

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Virtual Destructor

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## Polymorphism

The override specifier

```
class Base {  
public:  
    virtual void say_hello() const {  
        std::cout << "Hello - I'm a Base class object" << std::endl;  
    }  
    virtual ~Base() {}  
};  
  
class Derived: public Base {  
public:  
    virtual void say_hello() { // Notice I forgot the const - NOT OVERWRITING  
        std::cout << "Hello - I'm a Derived class object" << std::endl;  
    }  
    virtual ~Derived() {}  
};
```

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Virtual Destructor

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## Polymorphism

The override specifier

```
Base:  
  
    virtual void say_hello() const;  
  
Derived:  
  
    virtual void say_hello();
```

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Virtual Destructor

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C++

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## Polymorphism

The override specifier

```
Base *p1 = new Base();  
p1->say_hello(); // "Hello - I'm a Base class object"  
  
Base *p2 = new Derived();  
p2->say_hello(); // "Hello - I'm a Base class object"  
  
• Not what we expected  
• say_hello method signatures are different  
• So Derived redefines say_hello instead of overriding it!
```

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Virtual Destructor

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## Polymorphism

The override specifier

```
class Base {  
public:  
    virtual void say_hello() const {  
        std::cout << "Hello - I'm a Base class object" << std::endl;  
    }  
    virtual ~Base() {}  
};  
  
class Derived: public Base {  
public:  
    virtual void say_hello() override { // Produces compiler error  
        std::cout << "Hello - I'm a Derived class object" << std::endl;  
    }  
    virtual ~Derived() {}  
};
```

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Virtual Destructor

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## Polymorphism

The final specifier

- C++11 provides the final specifier
  - When used at the class level
  - Prevents a class from being derived from
- When used at the method level
- Prevents virtual method from being overridden in derived classes

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The Final Specifier

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## Polymorphism

final class

```
class My_class final {  
    ...  
};  
  
class Derived final: public Base {  
    ...  
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
The Final Specifier

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C++

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## Polymorphism

final method

```
class A {  
public:  
    virtual void do_something();  
};  
  
class B: public A {  
    virtual void do_something() final; // prevent further overriding  
};  
  
class C: public B {  
    virtual void do_something(); // COMPILER ERROR - Can't override  
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
The Final Specifier

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## Polymorphism

Using Base class references

- We can also use Base class references with dynamic polymorphism
- Useful when we pass objects to functions that expect a Base class reference

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Using Base Class References

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## Polymorphism

Using Base class references

```
Account a;  
Account &ref = a;  
ref.withdraw(1000); // Account::withdraw  
  
Trust t;  
Account &ref1 = t;  
ref1.withdraw(1000); // Trust::withdraw
```

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Using Base Class References

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## Polymorphism

Pure virtual functions and abstract classes

- Abstract base class
  - Too generic to create objects from
    - Shape, Employee, Account, Player
  - Serves as parent to Derived classes that may have objects
  - Contains at least one pure virtual function

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Pure Virtual and Abstract Classes

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## Polymorphism

Using Base class references

```
void do_withdraw(Account &account, double amount) {  
    account.withdraw(amount);  
}  
  
Account a;  
do_withdraw(a, 1000); // Account::withdraw  
  
Trust t;  
do_withdraw(t, 1000); // Trust::withdraw
```

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Using Base Class References

Learn Programming

15 min

## Polymorphism

Pure virtual functions and abstract classes

- Abstract class
  - Cannot instantiate objects
  - These classes are used as base classes in inheritance hierarchies
  - Often referred to as Abstract Base Classes

### Concrete class

- Used to instantiate objects from
  - All their member functions are defined
    - Checking Account, Savings Account
    - Faculty, Staff
    - Enemy, Level Boss

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Pure Virtual and Abstract Classes

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## Polymorphism

Pure virtual functions and abstract classes

- Pure virtual function
  - Used to make a class abstract
  - Specified with "=0" in its declaration
  - Typically do not provide implementations

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Pure Virtual and Abstract Classes

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## Polymorphism

Pure virtual functions and abstract classes

- Pure virtual function
  - Used to make a class abstract
  - Specified with "=0" in its declaration
  - Typically do not provide implementations

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Pure Virtual and Abstract Classes

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15 min

## Polymorphism

Pure virtual functions and abstract classes

- Pure virtual function
  - Derived classes MUST override the base class
  - If the Derived class does not override then the Derived class is also abstract
  - Used when it doesn't make sense for a base class to have an implementation
    - But concrete classes must implement it

```
virtual void draw() = 0; // Shape  
virtual void defend() = 0; // Player
```

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Pure Virtual and Abstract Classes

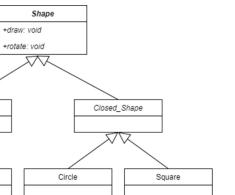
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## Polymorphism

Pure virtual functions and abstract classes

### Shape Class Hierarchy



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Pure Virtual and Abstract Classes

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## Polymorphism

Pure virtual functions and abstract classes

```
class Shape {  
    // Abstract  
private:  
    // attributes common to all shapes  
public:  
    virtual void draw() = 0; // pure virtual function  
    virtual void rotate() = 0; // pure virtual function  
    virtual ~Shape();  
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Pure Virtual and Abstract Classes

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## Polymorphism

Pure virtual functions and abstract classes

```
class Circle: public Shape {  
private:  
    // attributes for a circle  
public:  
    virtual void draw() override {  
        // code to draw a circle  
    }  
    virtual void rotate() override {  
        // code to rotate a circle  
    }  
    virtual ~Circle();  
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Pure Virtual and Abstract Classes

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15 min

## Polymorphism

Pure virtual functions and abstract classes

### Abstract Base class

- Cannot be instantiated

```
Shape shape; // Error
```

```
ptr = new Shape(); // Error
```

- We can use pointers and references to dynamically refer to concrete classes derived from them

```
Shape *ptr = new Circle();  
ptr->draw();  
ptr->rotate();
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Pure Virtual and Abstract Classes

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15 min

## Polymorphism

What is using a class as an interface?

- An abstract class that has only pure virtual functions
- These functions provide a general set of services to the user of the class
- Provided as public
- Each subclass is free to implement these services as needed
- Every service (method) must be implemented
- The service type information is strictly enforced

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Abstract Classes As Interfaces

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15 min

## Polymorphism

A Printable example

- C++ does not provide true interfaces

• We use abstract classes and pure virtual functions to achieve it

- Suppose we want to be able to provide Printable support for any object we wish without knowing its implementation at compile time

```
std::cout << any_object << std::endl;
```

• any\_object must conform to the Printable interface

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Abstract Classes As Interfaces

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15 min

## Polymorphism

A Printable example

```
class Printable {
    friend ostream &operator<<(ostream &s, const Printable &obj);
public:
    virtual void print(ostream &os) const = 0;
    virtual ~Printable() {};
    ...
};

ostream &operator<<(ostream &os, const Printable &obj) {
    obj.print(os);
    return os;
}
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Abstract Classes As Interfaces



33 min

## Polymorphism

An Printable example

```
class Any_Class : public Printable {
public:
    // must override Printable::print()
    virtual void print(ostream *os) override {
        os << "Hi from Any_Class" ;
    }
    ...
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Abstract Classes As Interfaces



33 min

## Polymorphism

An Printable example

```
Any_Class *ptr= new Any_Class();
cout << 'ptr' << endl;

void function1 (Any_Class &obj) {
    cout << obj << endl;
}

void function2 (Printable &obj) {
    cout << obj << endl;
}
function1(*ptr);           // "Hi from Any_Class"
function2(*ptr);           // "Hi from Any_Class"
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Abstract Classes As Interfaces



33 min

## Polymorphism

A Shapes example

```
class Shape {
public:
    virtual void draw() = 0;
    virtual void rotate() = 0;
    virtual ~Shape() {};
    ...
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Abstract Classes As Interfaces



33 min

## Polymorphism

A Shapes example

```
class Circle : public Shape {
public:
    virtual void draw() override { /* code */ };
    virtual void rotate() override { /* code */ };
    virtual ~Circle() {};
    ...
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Abstract Classes As Interfaces



33 min

## Polymorphism

A Shapes example

```
class I_Shape {
public:
    virtual void draw() = 0;
    virtual void rotate() = 0;
    virtual ~I_Shape() {};
    ...
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Abstract Classes As Interfaces



33 min

## Polymorphism

A Shapes example

```
class Circle : public I_Shape {
public:
    virtual void draw() override { /* code */ };
    virtual void rotate() override { /* code */ };
    virtual ~Circle() {};
    ...
};

Line and Square classes would be similar
```

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Abstract Classes As Interfaces



33 min

## Polymorphism

A Shapes example

```
vector< I_Shape *> shapes;

I_Shape *p1 = new Circle();
I_Shape *p2 = new Line();
I_Shape *p3 = new Square();

for (auto const &shape: shapes) {
    shape->rotate();
    shape->draw();
}
// delete the pointers
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Abstract Classes As Interfaces



33 min

# 4 Smart Pointers

## Smart Pointers

### Issues with Raw Pointers

- C++ provides absolute flexibility with memory management
  - Allocation
  - Deallocation
  - Lifetime management

### Some potentially serious problems

- Uninitialized (wild) pointers
  - Memory leaks
  - Dangling pointers
  - Not exception safe
- Ownership?
  - Who owns the pointer?
  - When should a pointer be deleted?

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Issues with Raw Pointers

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## Smart Pointers

### What are they?

- Objects
- Can only point to heap-allocated memory
- Automatically call delete when no longer needed
- Adhere to RAI<sup>I</sup> principles
- C++ Smart Pointers
  - Unique pointers (`unique_ptr`)
  - Shared pointers (`shared_ptr`)
  - Weak pointers (`weak_ptr`)
  - Auto pointers (`auto_ptr`)

Deprecated - we will not discuss

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

What are Smart Pointers

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## Smart Pointers

### What are they?

- #include <memory>
- Defined by class templates
- Wrapper around a raw pointer
- Overloaded operators
  - Dereference (\*)
  - Member selection (->)
  - Pointer arithmetic not supported (+, -, etc.)
- Can have custom deleters

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What are Smart Pointers

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## Smart Pointers

### A simple example

```
{  
    std::smart_pointer<Some_Class> ptr = ...  
  
    ptr->method();  
    cout << (*ptr) << endl;  
}  
  
// ptr will be destroyed automatically when  
// no longer needed
```

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What are Smart Pointers

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## Smart Pointers

### RAII – Resource Acquisition Is Initialization

- Common idiom or pattern used in software design based on container object lifetime
- RAI<sup>I</sup> objects are allocated on the stack
- Resource Acquisition
  - Open a file
  - Allocate memory
  - Acquire a lock
- Is Initialization
  - The resource is acquired in a constructor
- Resource relinquishing
  - Happens in the destructor
    - Close the file
    - Deallocate the memory
    - Release the lock

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What are Smart Pointers

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## Smart Pointers

### unique\_ptr

- Simple smart pointer – very efficient!

- unique\_ptr<T>
  - Points to an object of type T on the heap
  - It is unique – there can only be one unique\_ptr<T> pointing to the object on the heap
  - Owns what it points to
  - Cannot be assigned or copied
  - CAN be moved
  - When the pointer is destroyed, what it points to is automatically destroyed

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Unique Pointers

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## Smart Pointers

### unique\_ptr – creating, initializing and using

```
{  
    std::unique_ptr<int> p1 {new int {100}};  
  
    std::cout << *p1 << std::endl; // 100  
  
    *p1 = 200;  
  
    std::cout << *p1 << std::endl; // 200  
  
} // automatically deleted
```

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Unique Pointers

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## Smart Pointers

### unique\_ptr – some other useful methods

```
{  
    std::unique_ptr<int> p1 {new int {100}};  
  
    std::cout << p1.get() << std::endl; // 0x564388  
  
    p1.reset(); // p1 is now nullptr  
  
    if (p1)  
        std::cout << *p1 << std::endl; // won't execute  
    } // automatically deleted
```

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Unique Pointers

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## Smart Pointers

### unique\_ptr – user defined classes

```
{  
    std::unique_ptr<Account> p1 {new Account("Larry")};  
    std::cout << *p1 << std::endl; // display account  
  
    p1->deposit(1000);  
    p1->withdraw(500);  
  
} // automatically deleted
```

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Unique Pointers

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## Smart Pointers

### unique\_ptr – vectors and move

```
{  
    std::vector<std::unique_ptr<int>> vec;  
  
    std::unique_ptr<int> ptr {new int{100}};  
  
    vec.push_back(ptr); // Error - copy not allowed  
  
    vec.push_back(std::move(ptr));  
  
} // automatically deleted
```

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Unique Pointers

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## Smart Pointers

### unique\_ptr – make\_unique (C++14)

```
{  
    std::unique_ptr<int> p1 = make_unique<int>(100);  
  
    std::unique_ptr<Account> p2 = make_unique<Account>("Curly", 5000);  
  
    auto p3 = make_unique<Player>("Hero", 100, 100);  
  
} // automatically deleted
```

More efficient – no calls to new or delete

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Unique Pointers

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## Smart Pointers

### shared\_ptr

- Provides shared ownership of heap objects

- shared\_ptr<T>
  - Points to an object of type T on the heap
  - It is not unique – there can many shared\_ptrs pointing to the same object on the heap
  - Establishes shared ownership relationship
  - CAN be assigned and copied
  - CAN be moved
  - Doesn't support managing arrays by default
  - When the use count is zero, the managed object on the heap is destroyed

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Shared Pointers

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## Smart Pointers

shared\_ptr - creating, initializing and using

```
{  
    std::shared_ptr<int> p1 {new int {100}};  
  
    std::cout << *p1 << std::endl; // 100  
  
    *p1 = 200;  
  
    std::cout << *p1 << std::endl; // 200  
  
} // automatically deleted
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Shared Pointers



33 min

## Smart Pointers

shared\_ptr - some other useful methods

```
{  
    // use_count - the number of shared_ptr objects managing the heap object  
    std::shared_ptr<int> p1 {new int {100}};  
    std::cout << p1.use_count() << std::endl; // 1  
  
    std::shared_ptr<int> p2 { p1 }; // shared ownership  
    std::cout << p1.use_count() << std::endl; // 2  
  
    p1.reset(); // decrement the use_count; p1 is nulled out  
    std::cout << p1.use_count() << std::endl; // 0  
    std::cout << p2.use_count() << std::endl; // 1  
} // automatically deleted
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Shared Pointers



33 min

## Smart Pointers

shared\_ptr - vectors and move

```
{  
    std::vector<std::shared_ptr<int>> vec;  
  
    std::shared_ptr<int> ptr {new int{100}};  
  
    vec.push_back(ptr); // OK - copy IS allowed  
  
    std::cout << ptr.use_count() << std::endl; // 2  
} // automatically deleted
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Shared Pointers



33 min

## Smart Pointers

shared\_ptr - make\_shared (C++11)

```
{  
    std::shared_ptr<int> p1 = make_shared<int>(100); // use_count : 1  
    std::shared_ptr<int> p2 { p1 }; // use_count : 2  
    std::shared_ptr<int> p3;  
    p3 = p1; // use_count : 3  
  
} // automatically deleted  
  
• Use make_shared - it's more efficient!  
• All 3 pointers point to the SAME object on the heap!  
• When the use_count becomes 0 the heap object is deallocated
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Shared Pointers



33 min

## Smart Pointers

weak\_ptr

- Provides a non-owning "weak" reference
- weak\_ptr<T>
  - Points to an object of type T on the heap
  - Does not participate in owning relationship
  - Always created from a shared\_ptr
  - Does NOT increment or decrement reference use count
  - Used to prevent strong reference cycles which could prevent objects from being deleted

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Weak Pointers

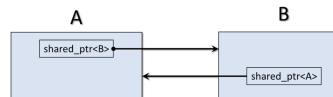


33 min

## Smart Pointers

weak\_ptr - circular or cyclic reference

- A refers to B
- B refers to A
- Shared strong ownership prevents heap deallocation



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Weak Pointers

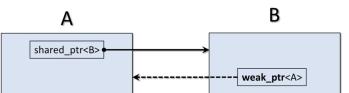


33 min

## Smart Pointers

weak\_ptr - circular or cyclic reference

- Solution - make one of the pointers non-owning or 'weak'
- Now heap storage is deallocated properly



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Weak Pointers



33 min

## Smart Pointers

Custom deleters

- Sometimes when we destroy a smart pointer we need more than to just destroy the object on the heap
- These are special use-cases
- C++ smart pointers allow you to provide custom deleters
- Lots of ways to achieve this
  - Functions
  - Lambdas
  - Others...

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Custom Deleters



33 min

## Smart Pointers

Custom deleters - function

```
void my_deleter(Some_Class *raw_pointer) {  
    // your custom deleter code  
    delete raw_pointer;  
}
```

```
shared_ptr<Some_Class> ptr { new Some_Class{}, my_deleter };
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING  
Custom Deleters



33 min

## Smart Pointers

Custom deleters - lambda

```
shared_ptr<Test> ptr {new Test{100}, [] (Test *ptr) {  
    cout << "\tUsing my custom deleter" << endl;  
    delete ptr;  
}};
```

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Custom Deleters



33 min