

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

LearnProgramming
YouTube

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));
```

Operator Overloading

What operators can be overloaded?

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

operator
::
:?
.*
.
sizeof

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Operator Overloading

LearnProgramming
YouTube

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

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;  
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Operator Overloading

LearnProgramming
YouTube

Operator Overloading

Copy assignment operator (=)

- C++ provides a default assignment operator used for assigning one object to another

```
MyString s1 ("Frank");  
MyString s2 = s1; // NOT assignment  
// same as MyString s2(s1);  
  
s2 = s1; // assignment
```

- Default is memberwise assignment (shallow copy)
• If we have raw pointer data member we must deep copy

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;  
}
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Copy Assignment Operator

LearnProgramming
YouTube

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;
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Copy Assignment Operator

LearnProgramming
YouTube

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);
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Operator Overloading

LearnProgramming
YouTube

Operator Overloading

Some examples

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Operator Overloading

LearnProgramming
YouTube

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
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Copy Assignment Operator

LearnProgramming
YouTube

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];
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Copy Assignment Operator

LearnProgramming
YouTube

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;
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Copy Assignment Operator

LearnProgramming



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;
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Move Assignment Operator

LearnProgramming



Operator Overloading

Mystring operator- make lowercase

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

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

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Operator as Member Function

LearnProgramming



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
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Operator as Member Function

LearnProgramming



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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

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;
}
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

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
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

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)
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

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;
}
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

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)
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Operator as Global Function

LearnProgramming

Operator Overloading

Mystring operator- make lowercase

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Operator as Global Function

LearnProgramming

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)
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Operator as Global Function

LearnProgramming

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Operator as Global Function

LearnProgramming

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;  
}
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Operator as Global Function

LearnProgramming

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)
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Overloading Insertion and Extraction

LearnProgramming

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?
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Overloading Insertion and Extraction

LearnProgramming

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!

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Overloading Insertion and Extraction

LearnProgramming

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;  
}
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Operator as Global Function

LearnProgramming

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
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Operator as Global Function

LearnProgramming

Operator Overloading

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

```
Mystring larry;  
  
cin >> larry;
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Overloading Insertion and Extraction

LearnProgramming

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Overloading Insertion and Extraction

LearnProgramming

Section 14 Challenge
Operator overloading

Overload the following operators in the provided MyString class.

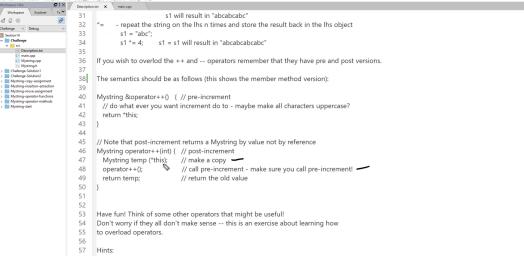
To gain experience overloading operators, you should do this challenge twice.
First, overload the operators using member functions and then in another project overload the same operators
again using non-member functions.

Please do it once using member methods and then again using non-member functions.

Here is a list of some of the operators that you can overload for this class:

- unary minus. Returns the lowercase version of the object's string
- = = returns true if the two strings are equal
- < = returns true if the left string is less than or equal to the right string
- < returns true if the two strings are not equal
- + adds the two strings together
- ($s1 < s2$) returns true if the lhs string is lexically less than the rhs string
- ($s1 > s2$) returns true if the lhs string is lexically greater than the rhs string
- ($s1 >= s2$)
- + concatenation. Returns an object that concatenates the lhs and rhs
- ($s1 + s2$)
- ($s1 + s2$) concatenates the lhs string to the rhs string and store the result in its object
- ($s1 + s2$) equivalent to $s1 + s1 + s2$
- * repeat - results in a string that is copied n times
- ($s1 * 3$)
- ($s1 * 3$)
- ($s1 + s2 + 3$)
- ($s1 + s2 + 3$)

MyString.java



```
1 // This is a MyString class
2 public class MyString {
3     private string value;
4
5     public MyString(string value) {
6         this.value = value;
7     }
8
9     public void Print() {
10        Console.WriteLine(value);
11    }
12
13    public void Append(string s) {
14        value += s;
15    }
16
17    public void Prepend(string s) {
18        value = s + value;
19    }
20
21    public void Insert(int index, string s) {
22        value = value.Insert(index, s);
23    }
24
25    public void Remove(int start, int end) {
26        value = value.Remove(start, end);
27    }
28
29    public void Reverse() {
30        value = value.Reverse();
31    }
32
33    public void Repeat(int n) {
34        string s = value;
35        for (int i = 1; i < n; i++) {
36            value += s;
37        }
38    }
39
40    public void Mystery_Identifier() {
41        // If you wish to overload the + and -- operators remember that they have pre and post versions.
42
43        // The members should be as follows (this shows the member method version):
44
45        // Post-increment
46        public MyString PostIncrement() {
47            return value + "!";
48        }
49
50        // What ever you want increment do to - maybe make all characters uppercase?
51        public MyString PostIncrementUpper() {
52            return value.ToUpper();
53        }
54
55        // Note that post-increment returns a MyString by value not by reference
56        public MyString PostIncrement() {
57            MyString temp = value;
58            operator += 1;
59            return temp;
60        }
61
62        // Call pre-increment - make sure you call pre-increment
63        public MyString PreIncrement() {
64            operator += 1;
65            return value;
66        }
67
68        // Hint: Think of some other operators that might be useful!
69        // Don't worry if they all don't make sense - this is an exercise about learning how
70        // to overload operators.
71
72        // Hint: Take advantage of the returning function for the equality operators!
73        // The ++ and -- operators should return a MyString &
74        // 3. rather than duplicate code in the ++ and -- functions use the + and - operators which you have already overloaded!
```



```
1 //ifndef _MYSTRING_H_
2 #define _MYSTRING_H_
3
4 class MyString
5 {
6 public:
7     friend std::ostream &operator<<(std::ostream &os, const MyString &rhs);
8     friend std::istream &operator>>(std::istream &in, MyString &rhs);
9
10    private:
11        char *str; // pointer to a char[] that holds a C-style string
12
13    MyString(); // No-param constructor
14    MyString(const char *s); // Overloaded constructor
15    MyString(const MyString &source); // Copy constructor
16    MyString( MyString &source); // Move constructor
17    ~MyString(); // Destructor
18
19    MyString &operator=(const MyString &rhs); // Copy assignment
20    MyString &operator=(MyString &rhs); // Move assignment
21
22    void display() const;
23
24    int getLength() const; // getters
25    const char *getStr() const;
26
27 #endif // _MYSTRING_H_
```



```
1 //include <iostream>
2 #include <string>
3 #include "MyString.h"
4
5 MyString::MyString()
6 {
7     str[0] = '\0';
8     str[1] = '\0';
9 }
10
11 // Overloaded constructor
12 MyString::MyString(const char *s)
13 {
14     str[0] = '\0';
15     if (s != NULL) {
16         str = new char[s];
17         *str = '\0';
18     }
19     else {
20         str = new char[strlen(s)+1];
21         strcpy(str, s);
22     }
23 }
24
25 // Copy constructor
26 MyString::MyString(const MyString &source)
27 {
28     str = new char[strlen(source.str)+1];
29     strcpy(str, source.str);
30     if (str != &source.str)
31         cout << "Copy constructor used" << endl;
32 }
```



The screenshot shows the Microsoft Visual Studio IDE with the following details:

- Title Bar:** MyString.h (C++ File) - Microsoft Visual Studio
- Menu Bar:** File, Edit, View, Search, Tools, Build, Analyze, Projects, Resources, Settings, Help
- Toolbars:** Standard, Debug, Task List, Solution Explorer, Properties, Task List, Status Bar
- Solution Explorer:** Shows the project structure with files like MyString.h, MyString.cpp, and main.cpp.
- Properties Window:** Shows build configurations (Debug, Release).
- Task List:** Shows tasks related to the current file.
- Status Bar:** Lines 1-61, 100%, 1000x500, 1440x900

Code Editor Content:

```
1 // Move constructor
2 MyString::MyString( MyString &source)
3 {
4     std::cout << "Move constructor used" << std::endl;
5 }
6
7 // Destructor
8 MyString::~MyString()
9 {
10    delete [] str;
11 }
12
13 // Copy assignment
14 MyString &MyString::operator=(const MyString &rhs)
15 {
16     if (this == &rhs)
17     {
18         delete [] str;
19         str = new char[strlen(rhs.str) + 1];
20         strcpy(str, rhs.str);
21         return *this;
22     }
23
24     // Move assignment
25     MyString( MyString&rhs) { MyString &rhs; }
26     if (this == &rhs)
27     {
28         std::cout << "Using move assignment" << std::endl;
29         return *this;
30     }
31 }
```

A callout box labeled "learnProgramming" points to the line "if (this == &rhs)".



The screenshot shows the Microsoft Visual Studio Code interface with the following details:

- Title Bar:** Shows the file path "C:\Users\...MyString.h" and the title "MyString.h - LearnProgramming".
- Code Editor:** Displays the C++ code for the MyString class. The code includes a constructor, a destructor, assignment operators (copy and move), and a display method.
- Toolbars:** Standard VS Code toolbars for File, Edit, View, Search, Insert, Tools, Debug, Angle, Inspector, General, Help.
- Status Bar:** Shows the current file path "C:\Users\...MyString.h" and the status "1 file(s) changed, 0 errors, 0 warnings".



The screenshot shows a C++ development environment with the following code in the editor:

```
18 b = "george";
19 cout << (a+b) << endl; // false
20 cout << (a-b) << endl; // true
21 cout << (a+b) << endl; // true
22 cout << (a-b) << endl; // false
23
24 MyString s1["FRANK"];
25 s1 += "1"; // frank1
26 cout << s1 << endl;
27
28 s1 += "*****"; // frank*****
29 cout << s1 << endl;
30
31 s1 += "-----"; // frank*****-----
32 cout << s1 << endl;
33
34 MyString s2("12345");
35 s1 += s2; // frank12345
36 cout << s1 << endl; // 123451234512345
37
38 MyString s3("abcdef");
39 s3 += $; // abcdef$bcdefbcdefbcdefbcdef
40 cout << s3 << endl;
41
42 MyString s = "FRANK";
43 s += $; // FRANK$
44 cout << s << endl;
45
46 s = $; // frank
47 cout << s << endl; // frank
```

The status bar at the bottom indicates the current file is "main.cpp", the build configuration is "Debug", and the line number is 65.

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.

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING



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



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 balan-
};

class Trust_Account {
    // balance, deposit, withdraw, interest rate
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING



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, . . .  
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

What is Inheritance?

LearnProgramming

15 min

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Terminology and Notation

LearnProgramming

15 min

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Terminology and Notation

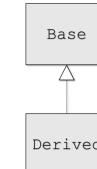
LearnProgramming

15 min

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



BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Terminology and Notation

LearnProgramming

15 min

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Terminology and Notation

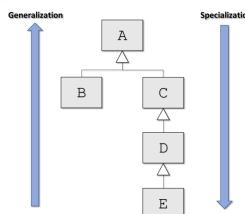
LearnProgramming

15 min

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



BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Terminology and Notation

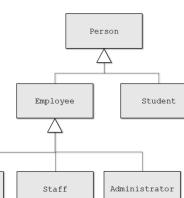
LearnProgramming

15 min

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



BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Terminology and Notation

LearnProgramming

15 min

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

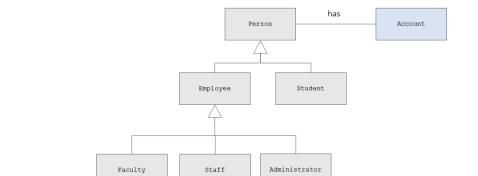
Inheritance vs Composition

LearnProgramming

15 min

Inheritance

Public Inheritance vs. Composition



BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Inheritance vs Composition

LearnProgramming

15 min

Inheritance

Composition

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Inheritance vs Composition

LearnProgramming

15 min

Deriving classes from exiting 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
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Deriving Classes from Existing Classes

LearnProgramming

15 min

Deriving classes from exiting 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 "is-a"
 - Different from composition

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Deriving Classes from Existing Classes

LearnProgramming

15 min

Deriving classes from exiting classes

C++ derivation syntax

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Deriving Classes from Existing Classes

LearnProgramming

15 min

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;
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Deriving Classes from Existing Classes

LearnProgramming

1 lesson

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 . . .
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Protected Members and Class Access

LearnProgramming

1 lesson

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;
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Deriving Classes from Existing Classes

LearnProgramming

1 lesson

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
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Protected Members and Class Access

LearnProgramming

1 lesson

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 then
 - Derived class constructor executes

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Constructors and Destructors

LearnProgramming

1 lesson

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; }
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Constructors and Destructors

LearnProgramming

1 lesson

Constructors and Destructors

Constructors and class initialization

Output

Base base; Base constructor

Derived derived; Base constructor
Derived constructor

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Constructors and Destructors

LearnProgramming

1 lesson

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Constructors and Destructors

LearnProgramming

1 lesson

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; }
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Constructors and Destructors

LearnProgramming

1 lesson

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

LearnProgramming

1 lesson

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



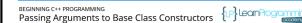
11 mins

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 the 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{0} {  
        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 no-args constructor
Base base{100};	int Base constructor
Derived derived;	Base no-args constructor
Derived derived{100};	int Base constructor int Derived constructor

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING Passing Arguments to Base Class Constructors



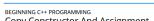
11 mins

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

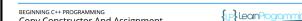
Inheritance

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



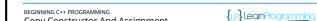
11 mins

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



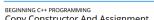
11 mins

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



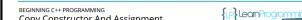
11 mins

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



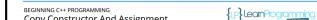
11 mins

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



11 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



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



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

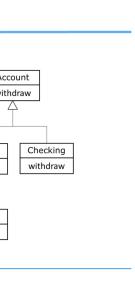


What is Polymorphism?

An non-polymorphic example - Static 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); // Account::withdraw()  
// should be  
// Trust::withdraw()
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
What is Polymorphism?



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



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



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

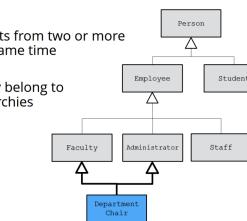


Multiple Inheritance

- 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

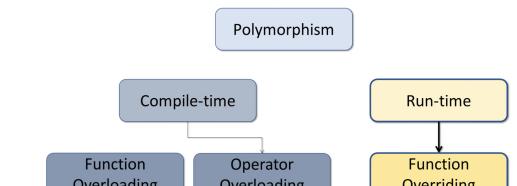


BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
Multiple Inheritance



What is Polymorphism?

An non-polymorphic example - Static Binding



BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
What is Polymorphism?



What is Polymorphism?

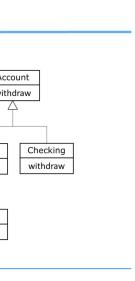
An non-polymorphic example - Static Binding

What is Polymorphism?

An non-polymorphic example - Static Binding

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
What is Polymorphism?



What is Polymorphism?

A polymorphic example - Dynamic Binding



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
    // depending on the object's type
    // at RUN-TIME!
}

Account a;
display_account(a);

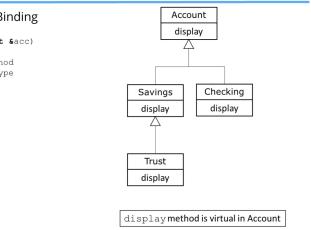
Savings b;
display_account(b);

Checking c;
display_account(c);

Trust d;
display_account(d);
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

What is Polymorphism?



LearnProgramming

Course

15 min

Polymorphism

Using a Base class pointer

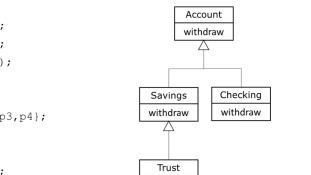
```
Account *p1 = new Account();
Account *p2 = new Savings();
Account *p3 = new Checking();
Account *p4 = new Trust();

Account *array [] = {p1,p2,p3,p4};

for (auto i=0; i<4; ++i)
    array[i]->withdraw(1000);
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Polymorphism



LearnProgramming

Course

15 min

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

LearnProgramming

Course

15 min

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

LearnProgramming

Course

15 min

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

LearnProgramming

Course

15 min

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



LearnProgramming

Course

15 min

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);
    ...
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Virtual Functions

LearnProgramming

Course

15 min

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Virtual Destructor

LearnProgramming

Course

15 min

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();
    ...
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Virtual Destructor



LearnProgramming

Course

15 min

Polymorphism

The override specifier

- We can override Base class virtual functions
- The function signature and return type 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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Virtual Destructor

LearnProgramming

Course

15 min

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 OVERRIDING
        std::cout << "Hello - I'm a Derived class object" << std::endl;
    }
    virtual ~Derived() {}
};
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Virtual Destructor

LearnProgramming

Course

15 min

Polymorphism

The override specifier

Base:

```
virtual void say_hello() const;
```

Derived:

```
virtual void say_hello();
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Virtual Destructor

Learn Programming

15 min

Polymorphism

The override specifier

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Virtual Destructor

Learn Programming

15 min

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() {}  
}
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Virtual Destructor

Learn Programming

15 min

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

The Final Specifier

Learn Programming

15 min

Polymorphism

final class

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

The Final Specifier

Learn Programming

15 min

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

Learn Programming

15 min

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Using Base Class References

Learn Programming

15 min

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
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Using Base Class References

Learn Programming

15 min

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
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Pure Virtual and Abstract Classes

Learn Programming

15 min

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Pure Virtual and Abstract Classes

Learn Programming

15 min

Polymorphism

Pure virtual functions and abstract classes

- Pure virtual function
 - Used to make a class abstract
- Specified with "=0" in its declaration
 - virtual void function() = 0; // pure virtual function
- Typically do not provide implementations

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Pure Virtual and Abstract Classes

Learn Programming

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
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Pure Virtual and Abstract Classes

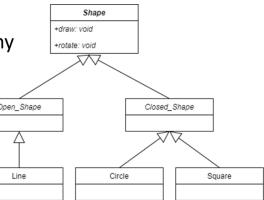
Learn Programming

15 min

Polymorphism

Pure virtual functions and abstract classes

Shape Class Hierarchy



BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Pure Virtual and Abstract Classes

Learn Programming

15 min

Polymorphism

Pure virtual functions and abstract classes

```
class Shape {  
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

Learn Programming

15 min

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

Learn Programming

15 min

Polymorphism

Pure virtual functions and abstract classes

Abstract Base class

- Cannot be instantiated

```
Shape shape;  
Shape *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

Learn Programming

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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Abstract Classes As Interfaces

Learn Programming

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
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Abstract Classes As Interfaces

Learn Programming

15 min

Polymorphism

An Printable example

```
class Printable {  
friend ostream &operator<<(ostream &os, 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

Learn Programming

15 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

Learn Programming

15 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);  
function2(*ptr); // "Hi from Any_Class"
```

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING

Abstract Classes As Interfaces

Learn Programming

15 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

Learn Programming

15 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

Learn Programming

15 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

BEGINNING C++ PROGRAMMING
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