# Advanced Topics

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# Pointers

# Simple example

**Code:**

```cpp
class HasX {
private:
  double x;
public:
  HasX( double x) : x(x) {};
  auto &val() { return x; };
};

int main() {
  auto X = make_shared<HasX>(5);
  cout << X->val() << endl;
  X->val() = 6;
  cout << X->val() << endl;
```

**Output**
**[pointer] pointx:**

5
6

# Reference counting illustrated

We need a class with constructor and destructor tracing:

```cpp
class thing {
public:
  thing()  { cout << ".. calling constructor\n"; };
  ~thing() { cout << ".. calling destructor\n"; };
};
```

# Pointer overwrite

Let's create a pointer and overwrite it:

**Code:**

```
cout << "set pointer1"
     << endl;
auto thing_ptr1 =
  make_shared<thing>();
cout << "overwrite pointer"
     << endl;
thing_ptr1 = nullptr;
```

**Output**
**[pointer] ptr1:**

```
set pointer1
.. calling constructor
overwrite pointer
.. calling destructor
```

# Pointer copy

**Code:**

```cpp
cout << "set pointer2" << endl;
auto thing_ptr2 =
  make_shared<thing>();
cout << "set pointer3 by copy"
     << endl;
auto thing_ptr3 = thing_ptr2;
cout << "overwrite pointer2"
     << endl;
thing_ptr2 = nullptr;
cout << "overwrite pointer3"
     << endl;
thing_ptr3 = nullptr;
```

**Output
[pointer] ptr2:**

```
set pointer2
.. calling constructor
set pointer3 by copy
overwrite pointer2
overwrite pointer3
.. calling destructor
```
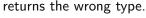
# Linked list code

```
node *node::prepend_or_append(node *other) {
  if (other->value>this->value) {
    this->tail = other;
    return this;
  } else {
    other->tail = this;
    return other;
  }
};
```

Can we do this with shared pointers?

# A problem with shared pointers

```
shared_pointer<node> node:prepend_or_append
    ( shared_ptr<node> other ) {
  if (other->value>this->value) {
    this->tail = other;
```

So far so good. However, `this` is a `node*`, not a
`shared_ptr<node>`, so

```
    return this;
```

returns the wrong type.

# Solution: shared from this

It is possible to have a 'shared pointer to this' if you define your
node class with (warning, major magic alert):

```
class node : public enable_shared_from_this<node> {
```

This allows you to write:

```
    return this->shared_from_this();
```

# Namespaces

# You have already seen namespaces

Safest:

```
#include <vector>
int main() {
  std::vector<stuff> foo;
}
```

Drastic:

```
#include <vector>
using namespace std;
int main() {
  vector<stuff> foo;
}
```

Prudent:

```
#include <vector>
using std::vector;
int main() {
  vector<stuff> foo;
}
```

# Why not 'using namespace std'?

This compiles, but should not:

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

int main() {
  int i=1,j=2;
  swap(i,j);
  cout << i << endl;
  return 0;
}
```

This gives an error:

```cpp
#include <iostream>
using std::cout;
using std::endl;

int main() {
  int i=1,j=2;
  swap(i,j);
  cout << i << endl;
  return 0;
}
```

# Defining a namespace

You can make your own namespace by writing

```
namespace a_namespace {
  // definitions
  class an_object {
  };
|
```

# Namespace usage

```
a_namespace::an_object myobject();
```

or

```
using namespace a_namespace;
an_object myobject();
```

or

```
using a_namespace::an_object;
an_object myobject();
```

**Templates**

# Templated type name

If you have multiple routines that do 'the same' for multiple types, you want the type name to be a variable. Syntax:

```
template <typename yourtypevariable>
// ... stuff with yourtypevariable ...
```

# Example: function

Definition:

```
template<typename T>
void function(T var) { cout << var << end; }
```

Usage:

```
int i; function(i);
double x; function(x);
```

and the code will behave as if you had defined `function` twice, once for `int` and once for `double`.

# Exercise 1

Machine precision, or 'machine epsilon', is sometimes defined as the smallest number $\epsilon$ so that $1 + \epsilon > 1$ in computer arithmetic.

Write a templated function epsilon so that the following code prints out the values of the machine precision for the float and double type respectively:

**Code:**

```
float float_eps;
epsilon(float_eps);
cout << "Epsilon float: "
     << setw(10) << setprecision(4)
     << float_eps << endl;

double double_eps;
epsilon(double_eps);
cout << "Epsilon double: "
     << setw(10) << setprecision(4)
     << double_eps << endl;
```

**Output**
**[template] eps:**

```
Epsilon float: 1.0000e-07
Epsilon double: 1.0000e-15
```

# Templated vector

the Standard Template Library (STL) contains in effect

```cpp
template<typename T>
class vector {
private:
  // data definitions omitted
public:
  T at(int i) { /* return element i */ };
  int size() { /* return size of data */ };
  // much more
}
```

**Exceptions**

# Exception throwing

*Throwing* an *exception* is one way of signalling an error or unexpected behaviour:

```
void do_something() {
  if ( oops )
    throw(5);
}
```

# Catching an exception

It now becomes possible to detect this unexpected behaviour by *catching* the exception:

```
try {
  do_something();
} catch (int i) {
  cout << "doing something failed: error=" << i << endl;
}
```

# Exception classes

```cpp
class MyError {
public :
  int error_no; string error_msg;
  MyError( int i,string msg )
  : error_no(i),error_msg(msg) {};
}

throw( MyError(27,"oops");

try {
  // something
} catch ( MyError &m ) {
  cout << "My error with code=" << m.error_no
    << " msg=" << m.error_msg << endl;
}
```

You can use exception inheritance!

# Multiple catches

You can multiple catch statements to catch different types of errors:

```cpp
try {
  // something
} catch ( int i ) {
  // handle int exception
} catch ( std::string c ) {
  // handle string exception
}
```

# Catch any exception

Catch exceptions without specifying the type:

```
try {
  // something
} catch ( ... ) { // literally: three dots
  cout << "Something went wrong!" << endl;
}
```

# More about exceptions

- Functions can define what exceptions they throw:

  ```
  void func() throw( MyError, std::string );
  void funk() throw();
  ```

- Predefined exceptions: bad_alloc, bad_exception, etc.

- An exception handler can throw an exception; to rethrow the same exception use 'throw;' without arguments.

- Exceptions delete all stack data, but not new data. Also, destructors are called; section **??**.

- There is an implicit try/except block around your main. You can replace the handler for that. See the exception header file.

- Keyword noexcept:

  ```
  void f() noexcept { ... };
  ```

- There is no exception thrown when dereferencing a nullptr.

# Destructors and exceptions

The destructor is called when you throw an exception:

**Code:**

```cpp
class SomeObject {
public:
  SomeObject() {
    cout << "calling the constructor"
         << endl; };
  ~SomeObject() {
    cout <<  "calling the destructor"
         << endl; };
};
  /* ... */
  try {
    SomeObject obj;
    cout << "Inside the nested scope"
    << endl;
    throw(1);
  } catch (...) {
    cout << "Exception caught" << endl;
  }
```

**Output**
**[object]**
**exceptdestruct:**

make[4]: *** No rule to make ta

**Auto**

# Type deduction

In:

```
std::vector< std::shared_ptr< myclass >>*
  myvar = new std::vector< std::shared_ptr< myclass >>
                ( 20, new myclass(1.3) );
```

the compiler can figure it out:

```
auto myvar =
  new std::vector< std::shared_ptr< myclass >>
            ( 20, new myclass(1.3) );
auto result = someobject.somemethod();
```

# Type deduction in functions

Return type can be deduced in C++17:

```cpp
auto equal(int i,int j) {
  return i==j;
};
```

# Auto and references, 1

auto discards references and such:

**Code:**

```
A my_a(5.7);
auto get_data = my_a.access();
get_data += 1;
my_a.print();
```

**Output
[auto] plainget:**

```
data: 5.7
```

# Auto and references, 2

Combine `auto` and references:

**Code:**

```
A my_a(5.7);
auto &get_data = my_a.access();
get_data += 1;
my_a.print();
```

**Output**
**[auto] refget:**

```
data: 6.7
```

# Auto and references, 3

For good measure:

**Code:**

```
A my_a(5.7);
const auto &get_data = my_a.
    access();
get_data += 1;
my_a.print();
```

**Output [auto] constrefget:**

```
make[4]: *** No rule to make target 'e
```

# Auto iterators

```
vector<int> myvector(20);
for ( auto copy_of_int : myvector )
  s += copy_of_int;
for ( auto &ref_to_int : myvector )
  ref_to_int = s;

// short for:

for ( std::iterator it=myvector.begin() ;
      it!=myvector.end() ; ++it )
  s += *it ; // note the deref
```

Can be used with anything that is iteratable
(vector, map, your own classes!)