

# POLYMORPHISM

Lecturer: 陈笑沙

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# **9.1 POLYMORPHISM**

The basic meaning of polymorphism:

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**The same content, in different contexts, expresses different meanings.**

```
int b = 0;  
Object b = Object();  
// Equal sign handles different types of data  
// Can be considered a form of polymorphism
```

# 9.1 POLYMORPHISM

```
1 int max(int a, int b) {  
2     return a > b ? a : b;  
3 }  
4  
5 int max(int a, int b, int c) {  
6     return max(max(a, b), c);  
7 }  
8  
9 int x = max(3, 6);  
10 int y = max(3, 6, 9);
```

# 9.1 POLYMORPHISM

```
1 int max(int a, int b) {  
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3 }  
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5 int max(int a, int b, int c) {  
6     return max(max(a, b), c);  
7 }  
8  
9 int x = max(3, 6);  
10 int y = max(3, 6, 9);
```

The same `max`, with different actual execution content, can also be considered a naive form of polymorphism.

# 9.1 POLYMORPHISM

```
Base *b1 = new Derived1();
Base *b2 = new Derived2();
b1->print();
b2->print();
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```
Base *b1 = new Derived1();
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b1->print();
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```

Narrowly speaking, polymorphism in object-oriented programming design, the same pointer, different execution effects.

# **9.1 POLYMORPHISM**

## **ASSIGNMENT COMPATIBILITY RULES**

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  - Derived class objects can be directly assigned to base class objects
  - Base class object references can reference a derived class object

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- In public inheritance, derived class objects can be used as base class objects in the following ways:
  - Derived class objects can be directly assigned to base class objects
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## ASSIGNMENT COMPATIBILITY RULES

- In public inheritance, derived class objects can be used as base class objects in the following ways:
  - Derived class objects can be directly assigned to base class objects
  - Base class object references can reference a derived class object
  - Base class object pointers can point to a derived class object
- This rule can be simply understood as: All dogs are animals. But not all animals are dogs — all child class objects are base class objects.

# 9.1 POLYMORPHISM

```
1 #include <iostream>
2
3 using std::cout;
4 using std::endl;
5
6 class Animal {
7 public:
8     void bark() const {
9         cout << "Some animal is barking!" << endl;
10    }
11 };
12
13 class Dog : public Animal {
14 public:
15     void bark() const {
```

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3 using std::cout;
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6 class Animal {
7 public:
8     void bark() const {
9         cout << "Some animal is barking!" << endl;
10    }
11 };
12
13 class Dog : public Animal {
14 public:
15     void bark() const {
16         cout << "A dog is barking!" << endl;
17     }
18 }
```

# 9.1 POLYMORPHISM

```
8 void bark() const {
9     cout << "Some animal is barking!" << endl;
10 }
11 };
12
13 class Dog : public Animal {
14 public:
15     void bark() const {
16         cout << "Wang wang!" << endl;
17     }
18 };
19
20 int main(int argc, char** argv) {
21     Animal *animal = new Dog();
22     animal->bark();
23 }
```

# 9.1 POLYMORPHISM

```
10  }
11 };
12
13 class Dog : public Animal {
14 public:
15     void bark() const {
16         cout << "Wang wang!" << endl;
17     }
18 };
19
20 int main(int argc, char** argv) {
21     Animal *animal = new Dog();
22     animal->bark();
23     return 0;
24 }
```

# **9.1 POLYMORPHISM**

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# 9.1 POLYMORPHISM

- Through base class references or pointers, what you can see is a base class object
- Members of the derived class are "invisible" to base class references or pointers
- We can use the virtual function mechanism of C++ to declare the relevant functions of the base class as virtual functions
- This allows you to access the relevant functions in the derived class through base class references or pointers.

# 9.1 POLYMORPHISM

- Different objects in the class hierarchy can exhibit different behaviors for the same operation
- Once the class hierarchy is included in unified processing, the polymorphic behavior in the class hierarchy cannot be demonstrated

# 9.1 POLYMORPHISM

- Overloading ordinary member functions in two ways:
  - Overloading within the same class: Overloaded functions are distinguished by parameter characteristics.
  - Derived classes overload member functions of the base class.
- Since overloaded functions are in different classes, their prototypes can be completely identical. When calling, use the "ClassName::FunctionName" method to distinguish.
- The matching of the above two overloads is statically completed at compile time.

# 9.1 POLYMORPHISM

- Overloading is a simple form of polymorphism.
- C++ provides another more flexible polymorphic mechanism: virtual functions.
- Virtual functions allow the matching of function calls and function bodies to be determined at runtime.
- Virtual functions provide a dynamic binding mechanism.

# 9.2 HOW POLYMORPHISM WORKS

## VIRTUAL FUNCTIONS

- Member functions declared with the `virtual` keyword in the base class are called virtual functions.
- Virtual functions can be redefined in one or more derived classes, but the prototype of the virtual function (including return value type, function name, and parameter list) must be exactly the same when redefined. Otherwise, the function will lose its virtual nature.

# 9.2 HOW POLYMORPHISM WORKS

## VIRTUAL FUNCTIONS

- Declare functions as virtual functions using `virtual` in the base class.
- Overload the virtual function consistently in the public derived class.
- Define a base class reference or pointer to refer to or point to a derived class object.
- When calling a virtual function through this reference or pointer, the function will exhibit its virtual nature.

# 9.2 HOW POLYMORPHISM WORKS

## VIRTUAL FUNCTIONS

In C++, the base class must indicate which functions it expects derived classes to redefine. Functions declared as virtual are those that the base class expects derived classes to redefine, while functions that the base class expects derived classes to inherit should not be declared as virtual.

## 9.2 HOW POLYMORPHISM WORKS

Example project:

/example/lec09/particle

# 9.3 IMPROPER VIRTUAL FUNCTIONS

## Improper Virtual Functions

```
1 #include <iostream>
2 using namespace std;
3 class Base {
4 public:
5     virtual void fn(int x) {
6         cout << "In Base class, int x = " << x << endl;
7     } // Base class virtual function
8 };
9 class SubClass : public Base {
10 public:
11     // Subclass virtual function,
12     // not a virtual function passed to the subclass
13     virtual void fn(float x) {
14         cout << "In SubClass, float x = " << x << endl;
15 }
```

# 9.3 IMPROPER VIRTUAL FUNCTIONS

## Improper Virtual Functions

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1 #include <iostream>
2 using namespace std;
3 class Base {
4 public:
5     virtual void fn(int x) {
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7     } // Base class virtual function
8 };
9 class SubClass : public Base {
10 public:
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13     virtual void fn(float x) {
14         cout << "In SubClass, float x = " << x << endl;
15     }
```

# 9.3 IMPROPER VIRTUAL FUNCTIONS

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5     virtual void fn(int x) {
6         cout << "In Base class, int x = " << x << endl;
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8 };
9 class SubClass : public Base {
10 public:
11     // Subclass virtual function,
12     // not a virtual function passed to the subclass
13     virtual void fn(float x) {
14         cout << "In SubClass, float x = " << x << endl;
15     }
16 };
17
18 // When b refers to a base class object,
19 // fn is a base class function,
20 // it will call the base class fn.
```

# 9.3 IMPROPER VIRTUAL FUNCTIONS

## Improper Virtual Functions

```
16 ,  
17  
18 // When b refers to a base class object,  
19 // fn is a base class function,  
20 // and since there is no virtual function passed  
21 // to the subclass, polymorphism is not displayed  
22 void test(Base &b) {  
23     // When b refers to a subclass object,  
24     // all visible functions are base class functions  
25     b.fn(2);  
26     // When b refers to a base class object,  
27     // all visible functions are base class functions  
28     b.fn(2.2f);  
29 }  
30 int main() {  
31     ...  
32 }
```

# 9.3 IMPROPER VIRTUAL FUNCTIONS

## Improper Virtual Functions

```
23 // When b refers to a subclass object,  
24 // all visible functions are base class functions  
25 b.fn(2);  
26 // When b refers to a base class object,  
27 // all visible functions are base class functions  
28 b.fn(2.2f);  
29 }  
30 int main() {  
31     cout << "Calling test(bc)\n";  
32     Base b;  
33     test(b); // Passing a base class object  
34     cout << "Calling test(sc)\n";  
35     SubClass sc;  
36     test(sc); // Passing a subclass object  
37 }
```

# 9.4 RESTRICTIONS ON VIRTUAL FUNCTIONS

If the return type is the class itself, the subclass can return a subclass entity, and the virtual function continues to pass to the subclass

```
1 #include <iostream>
2 using namespace std;
3 class Base {
4 public:
5     virtual Base *afn() {
6         cout << "This is Base class.\n";
7         return this;
8     }
9 };
10 class SubClass : public Base {
11 public:
12     SubClass *afn() {
13         cout << "This is SubClass.\n";
14         return this;
15     }
16 };
17 void test(Base &x) {
18     Base *b = x.afn();
19     cout << "Return value calling:" << endl;
20     b->afn();
21 }
```

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12     SubClass *afn() {
13         cout << "This is SubClass.\n";
14         return this;
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17 void test(Base &x) {
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15     }
16 };
17 void test(Base &x) {
18     Base *b = x.afn();
19     cout << "Return value calling:" << endl;
20     b->afn();
21 }
22 int main() {
23     Base b;
```

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7     return this;
8 }
9 };
10 class SubClass : public Base {
11 public:
12     SubClass *afn() {
13         cout << "This is SubClass.\n";
14         return this;
15     }
16 };
17 void test(Base &x) {
18     Base *b = x.afn();
19     cout << "Return value calling:" << endl;
20     b->afn();
21 }
22 int main() {
23     Base b;
24     test(b); // 传递基类对象
25     SubClass sc;
26     test(sc); // 传递子类对象
27 }
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12     SubClass *afn() {
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17 void test(Base &x) {
18     Base *b = x.afn();
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23     Base b;
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27 }
```

## 9.5 ABSTRACT CLASSES AND PURE VIRTUAL FUNCTIONS

- Only member functions can be declared as virtual functions
- Virtual functions cannot be declared as global functions
- Virtual functions cannot be declared as friend functions
- Static member functions cannot be virtual functions
- Inline functions cannot be virtual functions
- Constructors cannot be virtual functions (destructors are usually virtual functions)

# **9.5 ABSTRACT CLASSES AND PURE VIRTUAL FUNCTIONS**

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- The base class represents an abstract concept, providing some common interfaces representing the common operations that objects of this class have.
- These common interfaces in the base class only need to be declared without implementation, i.e., pure virtual functions.
- Pure virtual functions outline the protocols that derived classes should follow, with the specific implementations determined by the derived classes.

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# 9.5 ABSTRACT CLASSES AND PURE VIRTUAL FUNCTIONS

- If a class contains pure virtual functions (possibly more than one), then the class is an abstract class
- If a class is an abstract class, it must contain pure virtual functions
- Abstract classes cannot create objects
- If the subclass of an abstract class has all its virtual functions defined (i.e., no longer has pure virtual functions), it becomes a concrete class

# **9.5 ABSTRACT CLASSES AND PURE VIRTUAL FUNCTIONS**

Example: Change Shape in the particle project to an abstract class.

# HOMEWORK

- Create a Shape class, which only includes double getArea() and double getPerimeter() pure virtual functions.
  - Create three sub-classes of Shape: Rectangle, Circle and Triangle.
  - Implement getArea and getPerimeter for these sub classes.
  - Create a std::vector that contains Shape objects.
  - Put some subclasses into that vector (should include all shape types).
  - Print the area and perimeter of each shape in that vector.
1. If a triangle's side lengths are  $a, b, c$ , then its area is:

$$\sqrt{p(p - a)(p - b)(p - c)}, \text{ where } p = (a + b + c)/2$$

2. Submit your homework in website: <https://pdcxs.github.io/homework>