Advanced Programming Concepts with C++ CSI2372 – Fall 2019

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This lecture

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- Object-oriented design
 - Polymorphism
 - Virtual Functions, Ch. 15.3, 15.7
 - Abstract classes, Ch. 15.4
 - Dynamic cast, Ch. 19.2.1

Polymorphism and Inheritance

- Goal: Abstraction
 - Base class summarizes the behavior of all derived classes.
- Concept: Polymorphism
 - A base class handle may give access to different derived types
- types

 Example:

 Bounds

 Exists in different forms

 AABox

 Circle

 OrientedBox

Example: Polymorphism

- Call function defined for all bounding primitives
- Execute different code depending on derived class type of Bounds
- Example: Enclose boundary samples

Bounds
Bounds
Bounds
Circle
OBBox

Example in C++: AABox, Circle and OBBox are Bounds with different properties

```
// Define class hierarchy
class Bounds { ... };
class AABox: public Bounds { ... };
class Circle : public Bounds { ... };
class OBBox : public Bounds { ... };
// Handles to different bounds
Bounds *boundsA = new AABox();
Bounds *boundsB = new Circle();
OBBox objOBB; Bounds& boundsC = objOBB;
// Each bounds should behave differently
Point2D pts[4];
boundsA->enclose(pts, 4); // use algorithm for AABox
boundsB->enclose( pts, 4 ); // use algorithm for Circle
boundsC.enclose( pts, 4 ); // use algorithm for OBBox
```

Dynamic Binding and Virtual Methods

- In Java all methods are virtual
 - Virtual machine decides at run-time what method to execute
- In C++ only methods declared virtual are virtual
 - Dynamic binding is only invoked when pointer or reference to an object is used
 - Type of object is not known until run time but base object is guaranteed to be part of object



Definition of a Virtual Function

```
class Bounds { ...
public:
 virtual bool isInside( const Point2D& qPt ) const;
 virtual bool enclose( Points2D extrema[], int size ) {
    return false; }
};
class AABox : public Bounds { ...
public:
 virtual bool isInside( const Point2D& pt ) const {
    if ( pt.isSmaller( d upperRight ) &&
          pt.isGreater( d lowerLeft ))
    return true; else return false;
```

 Keyword virtual in derived class optional; once a base class defined function virtual



Override

 As soon as we define a function with the same signature than a virtual function in the base class, we override the function: In C++11, we can use override

```
class Bounds { ...
public:
    virtual bool isInside( const Point2D& _qPt ) const;
    virtual bool enclose( Points2D _extrema[], int _size );
    virtual double area();
};

class AABox : public Bounds { ...
public:
    virtual bool isInside( const Point2D& _pt ) const;
    bool enclose( Points2D _extrema[], int _size );
    double area() override;
};
```

Call of a Virtual Function

```
// use a reference to base class (could change for pointer)
bool isInside (const Bounds& bounds, const Point2D& pt ) {
  auto res = bounds.isInside( pt );
  return res;
int main() {
  AABox aab;
  Circle circ;
  Point2D pts[4];
  aab.enclose( pts, 4 ); circ.enclose( pts, 4 );
  Point2D pt( 2.0, 3.0 );
  cout << "Inside AA Box? " << isInside( aab, pt );</pre>
  cout << "Inside Circle? " << isInside( circ, pt );</pre>
```

Example: Virtual Destructors

Base class Bounds

- No need for a dtor by itself; built-in is just fine
- But we don't know about derived classes.

Derived class

Virtual dtor provides a hook for dtor of derived class

```
class Bounds {
public: ...
  virtual ~Bounds() {};
};
class AABox : public Bounds { ...
  ~AABox();
};
```

Virtual Destructors (Dtors)

- Base classes require a virtual destructor
 - Consider what destructor needs to be called:

```
int main() {
  Bounds* boundShape = new Bounds();
  Bounds* boxShape = new AABox();
  delete boundShape; // delete a Bounds
  delete boxShape; // delete a AABox by deleting a Bounds
}
```

 A virtual destructor is needed in the base class, even if it does not need a destructor itself. Because an object of a derived class may be destructed through a pointer to the base class!

Abstract Classes

Familiar Concept from Java

- No objects of an abstract class
- Abstract classes serve purely as a base class

Differences to Java

- No keyword abstract
- Methods are non-virtual by default
- No interfaces; can use abstract classes with only pure virtual methods instead



Pure Virtual Functions and Abstract Classes

- One pure virtual functions make a class abstract
- Abstract classes similar to Java
- Objects of abstract classes can not be generated
- Abstract classes with only pure virtual functions serve similar role than Java interfaces

```
class myAbstractBase {
public:
   virtual float myVirtualFunc() = 0;
}
```

Improvements for Implementing Class Hierarchies in C++11

Inheritance of constructors

- Inherent parent constructors for the derived class
- Constructors "change" their name
- Default and copy constructor are not inherited but synthesized in the usual way
- Access level remains the same

```
class GoalPoint2D : public Point2D {
public:
   using Point2D::Point2D; // All constructors from Point2D
};
...
GoalPoint2D( 2.0, 4.0 );
```

Dynamic Cast

Run-time cast

- Not a compile-time cast than other named casts
- No old-style cast equivalent
- Works with handles: object pointers or object references

Uses

- Down-casts
 - turning a base-class into a sub-class
- Cross-casts
 - multiple inheritance, casting between different parent hierarchies



"Down-Casts"

- Abstraction often implies using a base class to represent a sub-class in interfaces
- However: Would like to interact with sub-class
- Solution: Cast the object down the hierarchy

```
Bounds *getBounds() {
   Bounds* res = new AABox();
   return res;
}
Bounds *myBounds = getBounds();
AABox *myAABox = dynamic_cast<AABox *>( getBounds() );
```

Errors using Dynamic Casts

- Dynamic casts can produce run-time errors
 - Pointers returned by cast is 0
 - Reference cast will throw exception bad_cast

```
Bounds *getBounds() {
  return new Circle();
}
Bounds& getBoundsAsRef() {
  AABox *res = new AABox();
  return *res;
}
// myObb will be 0
OBBox *myObb = dynamic_cast<OBBox *>( getBounds() );
// Line below will throw
OBBox &myObbRef = dynamic_cast<OBBox &>( getBoundsAsRef() );
```

Next

Text is beautiful

- Input and output streams
 - Relevant classes for STL Stream I/O
 - File handling
 - Overloading the insertion and extraction operators
 - String streams

