

Polymorphism: The basics

```
/*
    . Topics:
        . Showing static binding in action in preparation for polymorphism.
        . We would want to manage derived objects through base class pointers and references.
        . But when we call the draw() function, we want the derived class's draw() to be called.
        . This is not the default behavior in C++.
        . We will see how to achieve this with polymorphism, in a later lecture.

*/
```

```
Shape
|   ↘ draw()
|
|   ▼
Oval : public Shape
|   ↘ draw()
|
|   ▼
Circle : public Oval
    ↘ draw()
```

```
std::unique_ptr<Circle> circle = std::make_unique<Circle>(7.0, "Circle Shape");
circle->draw();
```

Polymorphism: The basics - static binding



```
Shape
|   └-> draw()
|
▼
Oval : public Shape
|   └-> draw()
|
▼
Circle : public Oval
└-> draw()
```



```
// Shape class
export class Shape {
public:
    Shape() = default;
    Shape(std::string_view description) : m_description(description) {}

    void draw() const {
        fmt::println("Shape::draw() called. Drawing {}", m_description);
    }

protected:
    std::string m_description{ "" };
};
```

Polymorphism: The basics - static binding



```
Shape
|   ↓-> draw()
|
▼
Oval : public Shape
|   ↓-> draw()
|
▼
Circle : public Oval
|   ↓-> draw()
```



```
// Oval class
export class Oval : public Shape {
public:
    Oval(double x_radius, double y_radius, std::string_view description)
        : Shape(description), m_x_radius(x_radius), m_y_radius(y_radius) {}

    void draw() const {
        fmt::println("Oval::draw() called. Drawing {} with m_x_radius: {} and m_y_radius: {}", m_description, m_x_radius, m_y_radius);
    }

protected:
    double m_x_radius{ 0.0 };
    double m_y_radius{ 0.0 };
};
```

Polymorphism: The basics - static binding



```
Shape
|   └-> draw()
|
▼
Oval : public Shape
|   └-> draw()
|
▼
Circle : public Oval
└-> draw()
```



```
// Circle class
export class Circle : public Oval {
public:
    Circle(double radius, std::string_view description)
        : Oval(radius, radius, description) {}

    void draw() const {
        fmt::println("Circle::draw() called. Drawing {} with radius: {}", m_description, m_x_radius);
    }
};
```

Polymorphism: The basics - static binding



```
Shape
|   ↓
└-> draw()

|
↓
Oval : public Shape
|   ↓
└-> draw()

|
↓
Circle : public Oval
└-> draw()
```



```
// Trying it out
// Creating instances of Shape, Oval, and Circle
poly_1::Shape shape("Generic Shape");
poly_1::Oval oval(5.0, 3.0, "Oval Shape");
poly_1::Circle circle(7.0, "Circle Shape");

// Managing objects via pointers
poly_1::Shape* shape_ptr = &shape;
poly_1::Shape* oval_ptr = &oval;      // Pointer to base class, but points to Oval object
poly_1::Shape* circle_ptr = &circle; // Pointer to base class, but points to Circle object

fmt::println("Calling draw() using Shape pointer (static binding):");
shape_ptr->draw();    // Calls Shape's draw() (as expected)
oval_ptr->draw();    // Still calls Shape's draw(), static binding
circle_ptr->draw(); // Still calls Shape's draw(), static binding
```

Polymorphism: The basics - static binding

```
Shape
  └── draw()

Oval : public Shape
  └── draw()

Circle : public Oval
  └── draw()
```

```
namespace poly_1{

    // Helper functions for drawing.
    export void draw_shape(Shape* shape){
        shape->draw();
    }
    export void draw_shape(Shape& shape){
        shape.draw();
    }

int main(){
    // Trying it out
    // Managing objects via references
    poly_1::Shape& shape_ref = shape;
    poly_1::Shape& oval_ref = oval;      // Reference to base class, refers to Oval object
    poly_1::Shape& circle_ref = circle; // Reference to base class, refers to Circle object

    fmt::println("\nCalling draw() using Shape reference (static binding):");
    shape_ref.draw();    // Calls Shape's draw() (as expected)
    oval_ref.draw();    // Still calls Shape's draw(), static binding
    circle_ref.draw();  // Still calls Shape's draw(), static binding

    // Calling the draw functions
    fmt::println("\nCalling the draw functions");
    poly_1::draw_shape(&circle);
    poly_1::draw_shape(circle);

}
```

Demo time!



Shape

```
|  
└--> draw()
```



Oval : public Shape

```
|  
└--> draw()
```



Circle : public Oval

```
└--> draw()
```

Polymorphism with virtual functions

```
Shape
|  
└─> virtual draw()  
  
|  
▼  
Oval : public Shape  
|  
└─> virtual draw()  
  
|  
▼  
Circle : public Oval  
└─> virtual draw()
```

```
std::unique_ptr<Circle> circle = std::make_unique<Circle>(7.0, "Circle Shape");  
circle->draw();
```

Important facts:

- We opt into polymorphism by setting up at least one virtual function
- A virtual function is a function in the base class that can be overridden in derived classes.
- Virtual functions enable runtime polymorphism by ensuring that the correct function (based on the actual object type) is called, WHEN accessed through a base class pointer or reference.
- When a derived class provides its own implementation of a virtual function from the base class, this is called function overriding.
- Overriding allows derived classes to provide specific behavior while keeping the same interface (method signature) as the base class.
- The `override` keyword is used to indicate that a function is intended to override a virtual function in the base class. It's optional, but highly recommended.

```
*/
```

Polymorphism with virtual functions

```
Shape
|   ↗ virtual draw()
|
▼
Oval : public Shape
|   ↗ virtual draw()
|
▼
Circle : public Oval
    ↗ virtual draw()
```

```
// Shape class
export class Shape {
public:
    Shape(std::string_view description = "") : m_description(description) {}

    virtual void draw() const {
        fmt::println("Shape::draw() called. Drawing {}", m_description);
    }

    virtual ~Shape() = default; // Virtual destructor for proper cleanup
protected:
    std::string m_description;
};
```

Polymorphism with virtual functions

```
Shape
|   ↗ virtual draw()
|
▼
Oval : public Shape
|   ↗ virtual draw()
|
▼
Circle : public Oval
    ↗ virtual draw()
```

```
// Oval class
export class Oval : public Shape {
public:
    Oval(double x_radius, double y_radius, std::string_view description)
        : Shape(description), m_x_radius(x_radius), m_y_radius(y_radius) {}

    virtual void draw() const override {
        fmt::println("Oval::draw() called. Drawing {} with m_x_radius: {} and m_y_radius: {}",
                    m_description, m_x_radius, m_y_radius);
    }

protected:
    double m_x_radius{0.0};
    double m_y_radius{0.0};
};
```

Polymorphism with virtual functions

```
graph TD; Shape[Shape] --> virtualDraw["virtual draw()"]; Shape --> Oval["Oval : public Shape"]; Oval --> virtualDraw; Oval --> circle["circle : public Oval"]; circle --> virtualDraw;
```

The diagram illustrates a class hierarchy. At the top is the `Shape` class, which contains a `virtual draw()` method. An arrow points from `Shape` to this method. Below `Shape` is the `Oval` class, indicated by a vertical line and a downward-pointing triangle. The `Oval` class inherits from `Shape`, as shown by another vertical line connecting them. Inside the `Oval` class, there is also a `virtual draw()` method, indicated by an orange arrow. Below `Oval` is the `circle` class, also indicated by a vertical line and a downward-pointing triangle. The `circle` class inherits from `Oval`, as shown by another vertical line connecting them. Inside the `circle` class, there is a `virtual draw()` method, indicated by an orange arrow.

Polymorphism with virtual functions

```
Shape
|  
└─> virtual draw()  
  
▼  
Oval : public Shape  
|  
└─> virtual draw()  
  
▼  
Circle : public Oval  
└─> virtual draw()
```

```
// Trying it out  
// Creating instances of Shape, Oval, and Circle  
poly_2::Shape shape("Generic Shape");  
poly_2::Oval oval(5.0, 3.0, "Oval Shape");  
poly_2::Circle circle(7.0, "Circle Shape");  
  
// Managing objects via pointers and references  
poly_2::Shape* shape_ptr = &shape;  
poly_2::Shape* oval_ptr = &oval; // Pointer to base class, but points to Oval object  
poly_2::Shape* circle_ptr = &circle; // Pointer to base class, but points to Circle object  
  
fmt::println("Calling draw() using Shape pointer (polymorphism):");  
shape_ptr->draw(); // Calls Shape's draw() (as expected)  
oval_ptr->draw(); // Calls Oval's draw(), polymorphism  
circle_ptr->draw(); // Calls Circle's draw(), polymorphism
```

Polymorphism with virtual functions

```
Shape
|  
└─> virtual draw()  
  
▼  
Oval : public Shape  
|  
└─> virtual draw()  
  
▼  
Circle : public Oval  
└─> virtual draw()
```

```
// Trying it out  
// Creating instances of Shape, Oval, and Circle  
poly_2::Shape shape("Generic Shape");  
poly_2::Oval oval(5.0, 3.0, "Oval Shape");  
poly_2::Circle circle(7.0, "Circle Shape");  
  
// Managing objects via pointers and references  
poly_2::Shape* shape_ptr = &shape;  
poly_2::Shape* oval_ptr = &oval; // Pointer to base class, but points to Oval object  
poly_2::Shape* circle_ptr = &circle; // Pointer to base class, but points to Circle object  
  
fmt::println("Calling draw() using Shape pointer (polymorphism):");  
shape_ptr->draw(); // Calls Shape's draw() (as expected)  
oval_ptr->draw(); // Calls Oval's draw(), polymorphism  
circle_ptr->draw(); // Calls Circle's draw(), polymorphism
```

Polymorphism with virtual functions

```
Shape
|  
└─> virtual draw()  
|  
▼  
Oval : public Shape  
|  
└─> virtual draw()  
|  
▼  
Circle : public Oval  
└─> virtual draw()
```

```
// Trying it out  
// Managing objects via references  
poly_2::Shape& shape_ref = shape;  
poly_2::Shape& oval_ref = oval; // Reference to base class, refers to Oval object  
poly_2::Shape& circle_ref = circle; // Reference to base class, refers to Circle object  
  
fmt::println("\nCalling draw() using Shape reference (polymorphism):");  
  
shape_ref.draw(); // Calls Shape's draw() (as expected)  
oval_ref.draw(); // Calls Oval's draw(), polymorphism  
circle_ref.draw(); // Calls Circle's draw(), polymorphism
```

Polymorphism with virtual functions

```
Shape
|   ↗ virtual draw()
|
▼
Oval : public Shape
|   ↗ virtual draw()
|
▼
Circle : public Oval
    ↗ virtual draw()
```

```
// If dynamic memory is involved, use smart pointers.
// Bring the classes into scope, to shorten the code.
using poly_2::Shape;
using poly_2::Oval;
using poly_2::Circle;

fmt::println("\nUsing smart pointers:");
{
    std::unique_ptr<Shape> shape = std::make_unique<Shape>("Basic Shape");
    shape->draw(); // Calls Shape's draw()
} // shape goes out of scope and is destroyed here

{
    std::unique_ptr<Oval> oval = std::make_unique<Oval>(5.0, 10.0, "Oval Shape");
    oval->draw(); // Calls Oval's draw()
} // oval goes out of scope and is destroyed here

{
    std::unique_ptr<Circle> circle = std::make_unique<Circle>(7.0, "Circle Shape");
    circle->draw(); // Calls Circle's draw()
} // circle goes out of scope and is destroyed here
```

Demo time!

```
Shape
|   ↘ virtual draw()
|
▼
Oval : public Shape
|   ↘ virtual draw()
|
▼
Circle : public Oval
    ↘ virtual draw()
```

Polymorphism: The need for virtual destructors

```
Base
|   ↘ ~Base()           // Non-virtual destructor, fmt::println("Base class destructor")
|
|   ↘ virtual show()    // Virtual function, fmt::println("Base class show()")
|
|   ↘ Base()            // Default constructor (implicitly called by Derived), no custom message
|
|   ▼
Derived : public Base
|   ↘ ~Derived()        // Destructor, fmt::println("Derived class destructor")
|   |                   // Deletes dynamically allocated memory (int* data)
|   ↘ Derived()         // Constructor, allocates dynamic memory for `data`
|   |                   // fmt::println("Derived class constructor")
|   ↘ virtual show()    // Overrides show(), fmt::println("Derived class show()")
```

Polymorphism: The need for virtual destructors

```
Base
|   ~Base()
|
|   virtual show()
|
|   Base()
|
|▽
Derived : public Base
|   ~Derived()
|
|   Derived()
|
|   virtual show()
```

```
std::unique_ptr<Base> base_ptr = std::make_unique<Base>(param1, param2);
//Goes out of scope: Only the base destructor is called.
```

/*
 . If the base class destructor is not virtual, when you delete an object
 through a pointer to the base class, the compiler will only call the
 destructor of the static type (the base class). This is because non-virtual
 functions are resolved at compile-time based on the static type of the pointer.
*/

Polymorphism: The need for virtual destructors

```
Base
|   └─> virtual ~Base()
|   └─> virtual show()
|
└─> Base()

▼

Derived : public Base
|   └─> virtual ~Derived()
|
└─> Derived()
|   └─> virtual show()
```

```
std::unique_ptr<Base> base_ptr = std::make_unique<Base>(param1, param2);
//Goes out of scope: Only the base destructor is called.
```

```
//Solution: Mark the destructors virtual
export class Base {
public:
    // Virtual destructor
    virtual ~Base() {
        fmt::println("Base class destructor");
    }

    virtual void show() const {
        fmt::println("Base class show()");
    }
};
```

Polymorphism: The need for virtual destructors

```
Base
|   -> virtual ~Base()
|   -> virtual show()
|   -> Base()
|
▼
Derived : public Base
|   -> virtual ~Derived()
|   -> Derived()
|   -> virtual show()
```

```
std::unique_ptr<Base> base_ptr = std::make_unique<Base>(param1, param2);
// Goes out of scope: Only the base destructor is called.
```

```
// Solution: Mark the destructors virtual
export class Derived : public Base {
public:
    int* data;

    Derived() {
        data = new int[100];
        fmt::println("Derived class constructor");
    }

    ~Derived() override {
        delete[] data; // Memory cleanup
        fmt::println("Derived class destructor");
    }

    void show() const override {
        fmt::println("Derived class show()");
    }
};
```

Demo time!



Base

```
|  
|-> virtual ~Base()  
|
```

```
|-> virtual show()  
|
```

```
|-> Base()  
|  
|
```

Derived : public Base

```
|-> virtual ~Derived()  
|
```

```
|-> Derived()  
|
```

```
|-> virtual show()
```



```
std::unique_ptr<Base> base_ptr = std::make_unique<Base>(param1, param2);  
// Goes out of scope: Only the base destructor is called.
```



Object sizes and slicing

```
early_binding::Shape
```

```
    └─> draw()
```

```
    └─> Shape()
```

```
    └
```

```
early_binding::Oval : public Shape
```

```
    └─> draw()
```

```
    └─> Oval()
```

```
    └
```

```
early_binding::Circle : public Oval
```

```
    └─> draw()
```

```
    └─> Circle()
```

```
late_binding::Shape
```

```
    └─> virtual draw()
```

```
    └─> Shape()
```

```
    └
```

```
late_binding::Oval : public Shape
```

```
    └─> draw() override
```

```
    └─> Oval()
```

```
    └
```

```
late_binding::Circle : public Oval
```

```
    └─> draw() override
```

```
    └─> circle()
```

```
// Polymorphism increases the sizes of your objects by a bit because of the vtable
```

Object sizes and slicing

```
//early binding
fmt::println("\nObject sizes with static binding:");
fmt::println("sizeof(Shape) : {}", sizeof(poly_4::early_binding::Shape));
fmt::println("sizeof(Oval) : {}", sizeof(poly_4::early_binding::Oval));
fmt::println("sizeof(Circle) : {}", sizeof(poly_4::early_binding::Circle));

//late binding
fmt::println("\nObject sizes with dynamic binding:");
fmt::println("sizeof(Shape) : {}", sizeof(poly_4::late_binding::Shape));
fmt::println("sizeof(Oval) : {}", sizeof(poly_4::late_binding::Oval));
fmt::println("sizeof(Circle) : {}", sizeof(poly_4::late_binding::Circle));

//Slicing
fmt::println("\nSlicing:");
poly_4::late_binding::Circle circle1(3.3, "Circle1");
poly_4::late_binding::Shape shape = circle1;
shape.draw(); // Shape::draw
```