

## Generic Programming with Templates

### \* What are Templates?

- Templates are the important feature of C++ PL, that allows functions and classes to operate with generic data types.
- Constructs a family of <sup>of template</sup> functions or classes to work on many different data types without being rewritten for each one.
- Templates can be
  - Function templates - templates declared for functions.
  - Class templates - templates declared for classes.

### Function Templates

### \* Function templates can be used to create a family of functions with different argument types.

#### Syntax:

```
template <class T>           → at least one argument must  
return type fn-name( arguments )      be template type  
{  
    // Body of function with type T  
}
```

- The function template is prefixed with the keyword 'template' and the template parameter T (ie)
- It tells the compiler that we are going to declare a template and use T as type name in declaration

- When the compiler encounters a call to template functions, it identifies the datatype of parameters and creates a function internally and makes a call to it.
- Templates avoid overhead of rewriting functions having body of same pattern, but operates on different datatypes.

(Eg) Swap function

```
#include <iostream.h>
#include <conio.h>
template <class T>
void swap (T &a , T &b)
{
    T t ;
    t = a ;
    a = b ;
    b = t ;
}
void main()
{
    char c1 , c2 ;
    cout << "Enter two characters\n";
    cin >> c1 >> c2 ;
    swap(c1,c2); // invokes swap fn with char type var
    cout << "After swapping " << c1 << c2 ;
    int x,y ;
    cout << "Enter two integers\n";
    cin >> x >> y ;
    swap(x,y); // invokes swap fn with int type variable
    cout << "After swapping " << x << " " << y ;
}
```

O/P  
 Enter two characters  
 f y  
 After swapping  
 y f  
 Enter two integers  
 4 3  
 After swapping  
 3 4

\* Here the compiler has created two swap fn.  
 operating on char and int internally which is invisible to user.

## Generic function for sorting algorithm (Bubble sort)

- \* Sorting is most commonly used data processing application.
- \* Sorting functions can be declared as function template & can be used to sort data items of any type.

(Eg) Bubble Sort.

```
#include <iostream.h>

template <class T>
void swap (T &a, T &b)
{
    T t;
    t = a;
    a = b;
    b = t;
}

template <class bubble>
void bubblesort (bubble *a, int n)
{
    for (int i=0; i<n-1; i++)
        for (int j=0; j<(n-1)-i; j++)
            if (a[j] > a[j+1])
                swap (a[j], a[j+1]);
}

void main()
{
    int x[5] = {8, 3, 2, 1, 4};
    char y[4] = {'g', 'y', 'd', 'a'};

    bubblesort (x, 5);
    cout << "In sorted integers are\n";
}
```

```
for (int i=0; i<5; i++)
    cout << x[i] << " ";
bubblesort (y, 4);
cout << "In sorted characters are\n";
for (int i=0; i<4; i++)
    cout << y[i] << " ";
}
```

O/P: Sorted integers are

1 2 3 4 8

Sorted characters are  
a d g y

(Eg) Bubble sort

48 32 19 56 28

Pass1: 32 19 48 28 56

Pass2: 19 32 28 48 56

Pass3: 19 28 32 48 56

Pass4: 19 28 32 48 56 ← finalized

## Generic function for searching algorithm

### Linear search

```
#include <iostream.h>

template <class T>
void Lsearch ( T *a, T item, int n )
{
    int z=0;
    for( int i=0; i<n; i++ )
    {
        if ( a[i] == item )
        {
            z=1;
            cout << "Item found at position: " << (i+1) << "\n";
        }
    }
    if ( z==0 )
        cout << "Item not found in the list\n";
}

void main()
{
    int x[6] = { 72, 42, 36, 86, 87, 29 };
    double y[4] = { 6.4, 5.53, 24.4, 89.573 };
    int x1;
    double y1;
    cout << "Elements of Integer Array \n";
    for (int i=0; i<6; i++)
        cout << " " << x[i] << " ";
    cout << "Enter the item to be searched: \n";
    cin >> x1;
    Lsearch ( x, x1, 6 );
    cout << "Elements of double Array \n";
    for (int i=0; i<4; i++)
        cout << y[i] << " ";
    cout << endl;
    cout << "Enter an item to be searched \n";
    cin >> y1;
    Lsearch ( y, y1, 4 );
}
```

## Overloading of Function Templates

- \* Function templates can also be overloaded with multiple declarations.
- \* It may be overloaded by either
  - other functions of the same name or
  - other template functions of the same name.
- \* Overloaded functions differ in terms of number of parameters or their types.

(Eg)

```
#include <iostream.h>

template <class T>
void print (T data) // Single template argument
{
    cout << data << endl;
}

template <class T>
void print (T data, int n) // template and standard argument
{
    for (int i=0; i<n; i++)
        cout << data << endl;
}

void main()
{
    print (2);
    print (2.5);
    print ( 300, 2);
    print ( "Hello", 3);
}
```

O/P:

2  
2.5  
300  
300  
Hello  
Hello  
Hello

- \* Here required fn. is selected based on no. of arguments at fn call.

## Class Templates

- \* Classes can also be declared to operate on different data types. Such classes are called class templates.
- \* Thus class templates are generic classes which support similar operation for different data types.

### Syntax of class template declaration

```
template <class T1, class T2...>
class classname
{
    // data items of template type T1, T2...
    T1 data1;
    // functions of template arguments T1, T2...
    void func1 (T1 a, T2 b);
    ...
};
```

### Syntax of class template instantiation (or) object creation

$\xrightarrow{\text{datatype to be substituted}}$

```
classname <char> obj1;           for template datatype
classname <int> obj2;
```

### Syntax for declaring member function of class template outside its body.

```
template <class T>
class classname
{
    void func1 (T a);
};

template <class T>
void classname <T> :: func1 (T a)
{
    // fn body using template parameters
}
```

## Implementation of Generic stack using class templates

```
#include <iostream.h>

#define MAX 10;

template <class T>

class stack
{
protected:
    T arr[MAX];
public:
    T item, r;
    int top;
    Stack()
    {
        top = -1;
    }
    void push(T a)
    {
        top++;
        if (top < MAX)
        {
            arr[top] = a;
        }
        else
        {
            cout << "STACK IS FULL\n";
            top--;
        }
    }
    T pop()
    {
        if (top == -1)
        {
            cout << "STACK IS EMPTY\n";
            return NULL;
        }
        else
        {
            T data = arr[top];
            top--;
            return data;
        }
    }
};

void main()
{
    stack <char> a;
    int opt = 0;
    do
    {
        cout << "MAX STACK CAPACITY:" << ((MAX - a.top) - 1) << "\n";
        cout << "1. PUSH ITEM\n";
        cout << "2. POP ITEM\n";
        cout << "3. EXIT\n";
        cout << "OPTION:\n";
        cin >> opt;
        switch (opt)
        {
            case 1:
                cout << "Enter item to be pushed\n";
                cin >> a.item;
                a.push(a.item);
                break;
            case 2:
                a.r = a.pop();
                cout << "Item popped from stack:" << a.r << endl;
                getch();
                break;
        }
    } while (opt != 2);
}
```