



## Module 31

Partha Pratim  
Das

Objectives &  
Outline

Staff Salary  
Processing

C Solution  
C++ Solution

Virtual  
Function  
Pointer Table

Summary

# Module 31: Programming in C++

## Virtual Function Table

Partha Pratim Das

Department of Computer Science and Engineering  
Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

*ppd@cse.iitkgp.ernet.in*

Tanwi Mallick  
Srijoni Majumdar  
Himadri B G S Bhuyan



# Module Objectives

## Module 31

Partha Pratim  
Das

Objectives &  
Outline

Staff Salary  
Processing

C Solution  
C++ Solution

Virtual  
Function  
Pointer Table

Summary

- Understand Virtual Function Table for dynamic binding (polymorphic dispatch)



# Module Outline

## Module 31

Partha Pratim  
Das

Objectives &  
Outline

Staff Salary  
Processing

C Solution  
C++ Solution

Virtual  
Function  
Pointer Table

Summary

- Staff Salary Processing: RECAP
  - C Solution using Function Pointers
  - C++ Solution using Polymorphic Hierarchy
  - Comparison of C and C++ Solutions
- Virtual Function Table for Polymorphic Dispatch



# Staff Salary Processing:

## Problem Statement: RECAP (Module 29)

Module 31

Partha Pratim  
Das

Objectives &  
Outline

Staff Salary  
Processing

C Solution  
C++ Solution

Virtual  
Function  
Pointer Table

Summary

- An organization needs to develop a salary processing application for its staff
- At present it has an engineering division only where **Engineers** and **Managers** work. Every **Engineer** reports to some **Manager**. Every **Manager** can also work like an **Engineer**
- The logic for processing salary for **Engineers** and **Managers** are different as they have different salary heads
- In future, it may add **Directors** to the team. Then every **Manager** will report to some **Director**. Every **Director** could also work like a **Manager**
- The logic for processing salary for **Directors** will also be distinct
- Further, in future it may open other divisions, like Sales division, and expand the workforce
- **Make a suitable extensible design**



# C Solution: Function Pointers

## Engineer + Manager: RECAP (Module 29)

### Module 31

Partha Pratim  
Das

Objectives &  
Outline

Staff Salary  
Processing

C Solution  
C++ Solution

Virtual  
Function  
Pointer Table

Summary

- How to represent **Engineers**, **Managers**, and **Directors**?
  - struct
- How to initialize objects?
  - Initialization functions
- How to have a collection of mixed objects?
  - Array of union
- How to model variations in salary processing algorithms?
  - struct-specific functions
- How to invoke the correct algorithm for a correct employee type?
  - Function switch
  - Function pointers



# C Solution: Function Pointers

## Engineer + Manager + Director

### Module 31

Partha Pratim  
Das

Objectives &  
Outline

Staff Salary  
Processing

C Solution  
C++ Solution

Virtual  
Function  
Pointer Table

Summary

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>

typedef enum E_TYPE { Er, Mgr, Dir } E_TYPE;
typedef void (*psFuncPtr)(void *);

typedef struct Engineer { char *name_; } Engineer;
Engineer *InitEngineer(const char *name) { Engineer *e = (Engineer *)malloc(sizeof(Engineer));
    e->name_ = strdup(name); return e;
}

void ProcessSalaryEngineer(void *v) { Engineer *e = (Engineer *)v;
    printf("%s: Process Salary for Engineer\n", e->name_);
}

typedef struct Manager { char *name_; Engineer *reports_[10]; } Manager;
Manager *InitManager(const char *name) { Manager *m = (Manager *)malloc(sizeof(Manager));
    m->name_ = strdup(name); return m;
}

void ProcessSalaryManager(void *v) { Manager *m = (Manager *)v;
    printf("%s: Process Salary for Manager\n", m->name_);
}

typedef struct Director { char *name_; Manager *reports_[10]; } Director;
Director *InitDirector(const char *name) { Director *d = (Director *)malloc(sizeof(Director));
    d->name_ = strdup(name); return d;
}

void ProcessSalaryDirector(void *v) { Director *d = (Director *)v;
    printf("%s: Process Salary for Director\n", d->name_);
}
```



# C Solution: Function Pointers Engineer + Manager + Director

Module 31

Partha Pratim  
Das

Objectives &  
Outline

Staff Salary  
Processing

C Solution  
C++ Solution

Virtual  
Function  
Pointer Table

Summary

```
typedef struct Staff {
    E_TYPE type_;
    void *p;
} Staff;

int main() {
    psFuncPtr psArray[] = { ProcessSalaryEngineer,
                           ProcessSalaryManager,
                           ProcessSalaryDirector };

    Staff staff[] = { { Er, InitEngineer("Rohit") },
                      { Mgr, InitEngineer("Kamala") },
                      { Mgr, InitEngineer("Rajib") },
                      { Er, InitEngineer("Kavita") },
                      { Er, InitEngineer("Shambhu") },
                      { Dir, InitEngineer("Ranjana") } };

    for (int i = 0; i < sizeof(staff) / sizeof(Staff); ++i)
        psArray[staff[i].type_](staff[i].p);

    return 0;
}
-----
```

Output:

```
Rohit: Process Salary for Engineer
Kamala: Process Salary for Manager
Rajib: Process Salary for Manager
Kavita: Process Salary for Engineer
Shambhu: Process Salary for Engineer
Ranjana: Process Salary for Director
```



# C++ Solution: Polymorphic Hierarchy: RECAP

## Engineer + Manager + Director: (Module 30)

### Module 31

Partha Pratim  
Das

Objectives &  
Outline

Staff Salary  
Processing

C Solution  
C++ Solution

Virtual  
Function  
Pointer Table

Summary



- How to represent **Engineers**, **Managers**, and **Directors**?
  - Polymorphic class hierarchy
- How to initialize objects?
  - Constructor / Destructor
- How to have a collection of mixed objects?
  - array of base class pointers
- How to model variations in salary processing algorithms?
  - Member functions
- How to invoke the correct algorithm for a correct employee type?
  - Virtual Functions





# C++ Solution: Polymorphic Hierarchy: RECAP

## Engineer + Manager + Director: (Module 30)

### Module 31

Partha Pratim  
Das

Objectives &  
Outline

Staff Salary  
Processing

C Solution  
C++ Solution

Virtual  
Function  
Pointer Table

Summary

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

class Engineer {
protected:
    string name_;
public:
    Engineer(const string& name) : name_(name) {}
    virtual void ProcessSalary()
        { cout << name_ << ": Process Salary for Engineer" << endl; }
};

class Manager : public Engineer {
    Engineer *reports_[10];
public:
    Manager(const string& name) : Engineer(name) {}
    void ProcessSalary()
        { cout << name_ << ": Process Salary for Manager" << endl; }
};

class Director : public Manager {
    Manager *reports_[10];
public:
    Director(const string& name) : Manager(name) {}
    void ProcessSalary()
        { cout << name_ << ": Process Salary for Director" << endl; }
};
```



# C++ Solution: Polymorphic Hierarchy: RECAP

## Engineer + Manager + Director: (Module 30)

### Module 31

Partha Pratim  
Das

Objectives &  
Outline

Staff Salary  
Processing

C Solution  
C++ Solution

Virtual  
Function  
Pointer Table

Summary

```
int main() {  
    Engineer e1("Rohit");  
    Engineer e2("Kavita");  
    Engineer e3("Shambhu");  
    Manager m1("Kamala");  
    Manager m2("Rajib");  
    Director d("Ranjana");  
  
    Engineer *staff[] = { &e1, &m1, &m2, &e2, &e3, &d };  
  
    for (int i = 0; i < sizeof(staff) / sizeof(Engineer*); ++i) staff[i]->ProcessSalary();  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

Output:

Rohit: Process Salary for Engineer  
Kamala: Process Salary for Manager  
Rajib: Process Salary for Manager  
Kavita: Process Salary for Engineer  
Shambhu: Process Salary for Engineer  
Ranjana: Process Salary for Director



# C and C++ Solutions: A Comparison

Module 31

Partha Pratim  
Das

Objectives &  
Outline

Staff Salary  
Processing

C Solution  
C++ Solution

Virtual  
Function  
Pointer Table

Summary

## C Solution

- How to represent **Engineers**, **Managers**, and **Directors**?
  - structs
- How to initialize objects?
  - Initialization functions
- How to have a collection of mixed objects?
  - array of union wrappers
- How to model variations in salary processing algorithms?
  - functions for structs
- How to invoke the correct algorithm for a correct employee type?
  - Function switch
  - Function pointers

## C++ Solution

- How to represent **Engineers**, **Managers**, and **Directors**?
  - Polymorphic hierarchy
- How to initialize objects?
  - Ctor / Dtor
- How to have a collection of mixed objects?
  - array of base class pointers
- How to model variations in salary processing algorithms?
  - class member functions
- How to invoke the correct algorithm for a correct employee type?
  - Virtual Functions



# C and C++ Solutions: A Comparison

## Module 31

Partha Pratim Das

Objectives & Outline

Staff Salary Processing

C Solution  
C++ Solution

Virtual Function  
Pointer Table

Summary

### C Solution (Function Pointer)

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
typedef enum E_TYPE { Er, Mgr, Dir } E_TYPE;
typedef void (*psFuncPtr)(void *);
typedef struct { E_TYPE type_; void *p; } Staff;
```

```
typedef struct { char *name_; } Engineer;
Engineer *InitEngineer(const char *name);
void ProcessSalaryEngineer(void *v);
typedef struct { char *name_; } Manager;
Manager *InitManager(const char *name);
void ProcessSalaryManager(void *v);
typedef struct { char *name_; } Director;
Director *InitDirector(const char *name);
void ProcessSalaryDirector(void *v);
int main() { psFuncPtr psArray[] = {
    ProcessSalaryEngineer,
    ProcessSalaryManager,
    ProcessSalaryDirector };
```

```
    Staff staff[] = {
        { Er, InitEngineer("Rohit") },
        { Mgr, InitEngineer("Kamala") },
        { Dir, InitEngineer("Ranjana") } };

    for (int i = 0; i <
        sizeof(staff)/sizeof(Staff); ++i)
        psArray[staff[i].type_](staff[i].p);
    return 0;
}
```

### C++ Solution (Virtual Function)

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

```
class Engineer { protected: string name_;
public: Engineer(const string& name);
    virtual void ProcessSalary(); };
class Manager : public Engineer {
public: Manager(const string& name);
    void ProcessSalary(); };
class Director : public Manager {
public: Director(const string& name);
    void ProcessSalary(); };
int main() {
```

```
    Engineer e1("Rohit");
    Manager m1("Kamala");
    Director d("Ranjana");
    Engineer *staff[] = { &e1, &m1, &d };

    for(int i = 0; i <
        sizeof(staff)/sizeof(Engineer*); ++i)
        staff[i]->ProcessSalary();
    return 0;
}
```



# Virtual Function Pointer Table

## Module 31

Partha Pratim Das

Objectives & Outline

Staff Salary Processing

C Solution  
C++ Solution

Virtual Function  
Pointer Table

Summary

### Base Class

```

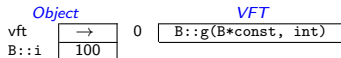
class B {
    int i;
public:
    B(int i_): i(i_) {}
    void f(int); // B::f(B*const, int)
    virtual void g(int); // B::g(B*const, int)
}

```

B b(100);

B \*p = &b;

### b Object Layout



#### Source Expression

b.f(15);

p->f(25);

b.g(35);

p->g(45);

#### Compiled Expression

B::f(&b, 15);

B::f(p, 25);

B::g(&b, 35);

p->vft[0](p, 45);

### Derived Class

```

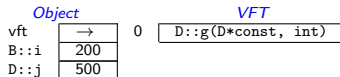
class D: public B {
    int j;
public:
    D(int i_, int j_): B(i_), j(j_) {}
    void f(int); // D::f(D*const, int)
    void g(int); // D::g(D*const, int)
}

```

D d(200, 500);

B \*p = &d;

### d Object Layout



#### Source Expression

d.f(15);

p->f(25);

d.g(35);

p->g(45);

#### Compiled Expression

D::f(&d, 15);

D::f(p, 25);

D::g(&d, 35);

p->vft[0](p, 45);



# Virtual Function Pointer Table

## Module 31

Partha Pratim  
Das

Objectives &  
Outline

Staff Salary  
Processing

C Solution  
C++ Solution

Virtual  
Function  
Pointer Table

Summary

- Whenever a class defines a virtual function a hidden member variable is added to the class which points to an array of pointers to (virtual) functions called the **Virtual Function Table (VFT)**
- VFT pointers are used at run-time to invoke the appropriate function implementations, because at compile time it may not yet be known if the base function is to be called or a derived one implemented by a class that inherits from the base class
- VFT is class-specific – all instances of the class has the same VFT
- VFT carries the **Run-Time Type Information (RTTI)** of objects



# Virtual Function Pointer Table

## Module 31

Partha Pratim Das

Objectives & Outline

Staff Salary Processing

C Solution  
C++ Solution

Virtual Function Pointer Table

Summary

```

class A { public:
    virtual void f(int) { }
    virtual void g(double) { }
    int h(A *) { }
};

```

```

class B: public A { public:
    void f(int) { }
    virtual int h(B *) { }
};

```

```

class C: public B { public:
    void g(double) { }
    int h(B *) { }
};

```

A a; B b; C c;

A \*pA; B \*pB;

### Source Expression

```

pA->f(2);
pA->g(3.2);
pA->h(&a);
pA->h(&b);

```

```

pB->f(2);
pB->g(3.2);
pB->h(&a);
pB->h(&b);

```

### Compiled Expression

```

pA->vft[0](pA, 2);
pA->vft[1](pA, 3.2);
A::h(pA, &a);
A::h(pA, &b);

```

```

pB->vft[0](pB, 2);
pB->vft[1](pB, 3.2);
pB->vft[2](pB, &a);
pB->vft[2](pB, &b);

```

## a Object Layout

Object	VFT
vft → 0	A::f(A*const, int)
1	A::g(A*const, double)

## b Object Layout

Object	VFT
vft → 0	B::f(B*const, int)
1	A::g(A*const, double)
2	B::h(B*const, B*)

## c Object Layout

Object	VFT
vft → 0	B::f(B*const, int)
1	C::g(C*const, double)
2	C::h(C*const, B*)



# Module Summary

## Module 31

Partha Pratim  
Das

Objectives &  
Outline

Staff Salary  
Processing

C Solution  
C++ Solution

Virtual  
Function  
Pointer Table

Summary

- Leveraging an innovative solution to the Salary Processing Application in C using function pointers, we compare C and C++ solutions to the problem
- The new C solution is used to explain the mechanism for dynamic binding (polymorphic dispatch) based on virtual function tables





# Instructor and TAs

## Module 31

Partha Pratim  
Das

Objectives &  
Outline

Staff Salary  
Processing

C Solution  
C++ Solution

Virtual  
Function  
Pointer Table

Summary

Name	Mail	Mobile
Partha Pratim Das, <i>Instructor</i>	ppd@cse.iitkgp.ernet.in	9830030880
Tanwi Mallick, <i>TA</i>	tanwimallick@gmail.com	9674277774
Srijoni Majumdar, <i>TA</i>	majumdarsrijoni@gmail.com	9674474267
Himadri B G S Bhuyan, <i>TA</i>	himadribhuyan@gmail.com	9438911655