

Classes-1 Homework

Lecture Content:

1. Procedural programming vs Object Oriented Programming
2. Characteristics of OOP
3. Class and object

1) Procedural programming vs Object Oriented Programming

Until now, we were working in procedural programming domain. There are two common programming methods in practice today: procedural programming and object-oriented programming (or OOP).

- **Procedural programming** is a method of writing a program centered on the procedures or actions that take place in a program.
 - Typically, data is stored in a collection of variables and/or structures, coupled with a set of functions that perform operations on the data.
 - The data and the functions are separate entities.
 - Variables and data structures in a procedural program are passed to the functions that perform the desired operations.
 - The main disadvantage is programs become larger and more complex, the separation of a program's data and the code that operates on the data can lead to problems (especially when format of Data is altered)
- Object-oriented programming is centered on the object. Objects are created from abstract data types that encapsulate related data and functions together. An object is a software entity that contains both data and procedures.
 - The data that are contained in an object are known as the **objects attributes or data members**.
 - The procedures that an object performs are called **member functions**.
 - The object is, conceptually, a self-contained unit consisting of attributes (data) and procedures (functions).

2) Four Basic Characteristics of OOP:

1. Encapsulation (Data Hiding)
 2. Abstraction
 3. Inheritance
 4. Polymorphism
- OOP addresses the problems that can result from the separation of code and data through encapsulation and data hiding. Encapsulation refers to the combining of data and code into a single object. Data hiding refers to an object's ability to hide its data from code that is outside the object. Only the object's member functions may directly access and make changes to the object's data. **An object typically hides its data, but allows outside code to access its member functions.**
 - When an object's internal data are hidden from outside code, and access to that data is restricted to the object's member functions, the data are protected from accidental corruption.

- Programming code outside the object does not need to know about the format or internal structure of the object's data.
- When a programmer changes the structure of an object's internal data, he or she also modifies the object's member functions so they may properly operate on the data. The way in which outside code interacts with the member functions, however, does not change.
- OOP has also been encouraged by the trend of object reusability through inheritance. An object is not a stand-alone program, but is used by programs that need its service.

Class: In C++, the class is the construct primarily used to create objects. A class is code that specifies the attributes and member functions that a particular type of object may have. Think of a class as a "MAP or Model" that objects may be created from.

Access Specifiers:

Access specifiers specify how class members may be accessed. **These are private, public and protected.**

- Programming statements outside the class cannot access **private** class members. By default, member of a class are **private**.
- A class's **public** members may be accessed by code outside the class.
- **Protected** data members are only accessed by the derived classes of a class.

Content:

- **How to create a class**
- **Instantiation of an object of a class**
- **Constructors**
 - **Default constructors**
 - **Parameterized constructor**

1) How to create a class:

A class is similar to a structure. It is a data type defined by the programmer, consisting of variables and functions. Here is the general format of a class declaration:

```
class ClassName
{
    private:
        //private members are declare here
        .
        .
        .
    public:
```

```

        //public members are declare here
        .
        .
        .
};

```

- The declaration statements inside a class declaration are for the variables and functions that are members of that class.
- The **data items** within a class are called *data members* or *data fields* or *instance variables*.
- **Member functions** are **functions** that are included within a class. Also known as *instance functions, behaviors or methods*.
- Private class members cannot be accessed by programming statements outside the class. By default, access of a class is private. Member Variables (instance variables) are mostly declared as private.
- Public members may be accessed by code outside the class. To allow access to a class's private member variables, you create public member functions that work with the private member variables.
- Notice that the access specifiers are followed by a colon (:), and then followed by one or more member declarations (As Mentioned in player class below).
- Member functions can be defined inside class scope and are implicitly declared inline.
- Member functions can be defined outside class body/definition tied with scope resolution (::) operator are still in class scope. It can be done by using following general format:

ReturnType ClassName :: functionName (ParameterList)

- Best practice is define function outside class declaration. Only small and stable member functions should be defined inside class definition.

2) Instantiation of an object of a class

Class objects must be defined after the class is declared. An object can be created by using syntax:

ClassName objectName; //instantiation of class object

- In the general format, ClassName is the name of a class and objectName is the name we are giving the object. Defining a class object is called the *instantiation* of a class.
- Class objects are not created in memory until they are defined.
- A member function is accessed by using any already existing object's reference as:

objectName.funcName();

- When an object is used to call a member function, the member function has direct access to that object's member variables.
- An object has a unique identity, state, and behaviors.
- The **state** of an **object** consists of *a set of data fields* (also known as **properties**) with their **current values**.

- An object's state is simply the data that is stored in the object's attributes at any given moment. Object's state can be changed by calling any member function.
- **Avoid stale data**

3) Constructor:

A Constructor is a special type of function invoked automatically to construct (initialize) objects from the class. i.e., it instantiate the instance variables of an object.

- Constructor has exactly the same name as the defining class. Do not have any return type (Not even a void).
- Constructors can be *overloaded* (i.e., multiple constructors with different signatures)
- A class may be declared without constructors. In this case, a *no-argument constructor with an empty body* is implicitly declared (by compiler) in the class known as *default constructor*.

Content:

- Utility functions
- Accessors/getters and Mutator/setters Functions

1) Utility functions:

These are helper functions in a class used for any calculation printing and other purposes.

2) Accessors:

A member function that gets a value from a class's member variable but does not change it is known as an accessor. It is also called getter function. Getter functions are often declared/defined as constant functions because they are not changing value of a member variable.

3) Mutators:

A member function that stores a value in member variable or changes the value of member variable in some other way is known as a mutator. It is also called setter function.