

Strings

October 20, 2021

1 C++ Strings

1.1 Topics

- string library
- string objects and methods
- string operators
- slicing string
- string traversal
- comparing and updating strings

1.2 String review

- we've used string library to declare string variables in earlier chapters
- we've seen few examples of string applications over the chapters
- two different ways to declare and use string/text data in C++

1.2.1 C-string

- uses array concept; which we don't know yet!
- C array may not be easy to work with, though important concept to master

1.2.2 C-string example

- no need to include any library to use C-string

```
[1]: #include <iostream>
```

```
using namespace std;
```

```
[2]: // C way to declare string - painful to work with!
```

```
// array of characters
```

```
char text[] = "this is a c-string";
```

```
[3]: cout << "text = " << text << endl;
```

text = this is a c-string

- cin and other operations on C-strings are not easier without knowing array and pointers well

1.2.3 C++ string objects

- `std::string` is a `std::basic_string<char>` template type defined in **string** header
- more: https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/string/basic_string
- string is an advanced type of container with many member variables and member functions
 - variables of advanced type are called objects
 - objects may provide a number of member functions called methods
 - one can define any user-defined type using **struct** or **class** that we'll learn in later chapters

```
[2]: // C++ string
#include <iostream>
#include <string>

using namespace std;

// declare a string variable/object
string first;
```

```
[5]: // assigning string value to string object
first = "Hello, ";
```

```
[6]: // declare and initialize string object
string second = "World";
```

```
[7]: // concatenation
string whole = first + " " + second;
```

1.3 Inputting and Outputting strings

- printing string objects and literal to standard output/console/monitor
- use `<iostream>` and `std` namespace
- syntax:

```
cout << strObject << "string literal" << ...;
```

- inputting string data from standard input/keyboard
- syntax:

```
cin >> strVar >> strVar2 >> ...; // read individual word
getline(cin, strVar); // read a single line with spaces
```

```
[4]: // output string literals and objects
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

cout << first << second << "!" << endl;
```

Hello, World!

```
[8]: cout << whole << endl;
```

Hello, World

```
[9]: cout << "Enter your first name and last name: ";  
cin >> first >> second;  
cout << "Hello, " << first << " " << second << "!";
```

Enter your first name and last name: John Smith

Hello, John Smith!

```
[10]: cout << "Enter your full name: ";  
getline(cin, whole);  
cout << "Hello, " << whole << "!" << endl;
```

Enter your full name: Jake Smith

Hello, Jake Smith!

1.4 C++ strings and variables

- this chapter goes more in depth on string data
- string variable is a container for a sequence of 0 or more characters
 - characters are anything from set of:
 - * symbols (% , & , \$, etc.)
 - * alphabets (a , B , x , etc.)
 - * digits (1 , 9 , 0 , etc.)
- in C++, string is represented using a pair of double quotes ("")
- string is made up of ordered sequence of character elements as depicted in the following figure
- each character has an internal indexing or placing we can refer to it by its index

string fruit = "

b	a	n	a	n	a
---	---	---	---	---	---

 " ;

indices: 0 1 2 3 4 5

Fig. C++ string representation

1.5 String object members

- we use . (dot) member access operator to access object's members
- we'll go over some commonly used methods with examples in this notebook
- syntax to access members of objects:

```
object_name.member_variable  
object_name.member_function()
```

1.6 Element access

- string objects consists of sequence of characters called elements
- each character or element can be extracted or updated in place
- the following member functions/methods let's you access element:
 - **at(index)** - access the specified character at index with bounds checking
 - **operator[index]** - access the specified character at index without bounds checking
 - **front()** - access the first character
 - **back()** - access the last character
- index must be a valid index between **0 to length-1**

```
[3]: string fruit = "banana";
```

```
[4]: char first_letter;
```

```
[5]: // access the first character at index 0  
first_letter = fruit.at(0);
```

```
[6]: cout << "first letter of " << fruit << " is " << first_letter << " = " <<   
↪fruit[0];
```

first letter of banana is b = b

```
[7]: //second character  
cout << "second character = " << fruit[1] << " = " << fruit.at(1);
```

second character = a = a

```
[ ]: // there are 6 characters in banana  
cout << "last character = " << fruit[6];  
// [] - doesn't check the bound; output is undetermined
```

```
[9]: // at() - checks the bounds; throws runtime-error  
cout << "last character = " << fruit.at(6);
```

last character =

Error:

```
[10]: cout << "front = " << fruit.front() << " and back = " << fruit.back();
```

front = b and back = a

1.6.1 Element update

- string is a mutable type that can be changed in place!
- using [index] - element access operator, we can assign new character at some index
 - index must be a valid value between [0 ... length-1]

```
[43]: // capitalize the first character by replacing 'b' with 'B'
fruit[0] = 'B';
```

```
[44]: cout << "I love, " << fruit << "!";
```

I love, Banana!

1.7 Capacity

- knowing the length of a string (numbers of characters) helps with many operations
- the following methods provide capacity of string objects:
 - **length()** or **size()** - returns the number of characters
 - **empty()** - checks whether the string is empty

```
[45]: cout << "length of " << fruit << " = " << fruit.size() << " = " << fruit.
      ↪length();
```

length of Banana = 6 = 6

```
[48]: cout << "is fruit empty? " << boolalpha << fruit.empty();
```

is fruit empty? false

1.8 Traversal

- traversing a string is a common task where you access every character from first to the last
- there are several ways to traverse a string

```
[96]: // using capacity to traverse/iterate over a string
for(int i=0; i<fruit.length(); i++) {
    cout << "fruit[" << i << "] = " << fruit[i] << endl;
}
```

```
fruit[0] = B
fruit[1] = a
fruit[2] = n
fruit[3] = a
fruit[4] = n
fruit[5] = a
```

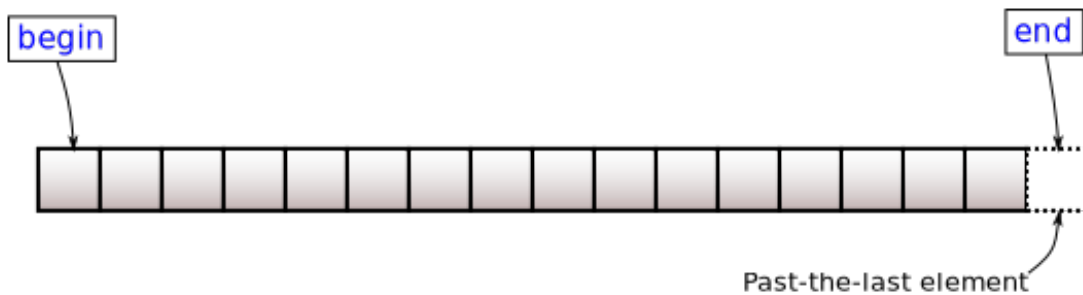
```
[95]: #include <cctype>

for(auto ch: fruit)
    cout << ch << " -> " << char(toupper(ch)) << endl;
```

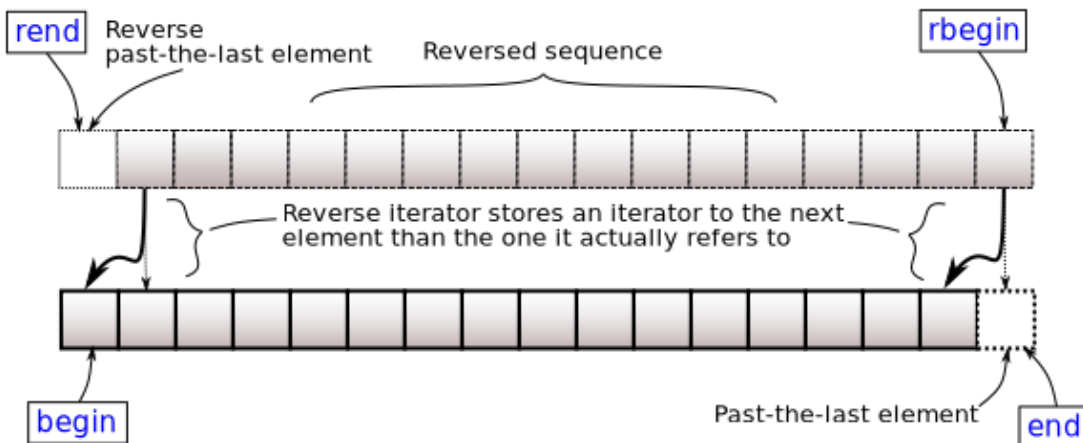
B -> B
 a -> A
 n -> N
 a -> A
 n -> N
 a -> A

1.9 Iterators

- iterators are special pointers that let you iterate over or traverse a string
- the following methods return an iterator:
 - **begin()** - returns a forward iterator to the beginning
 - **end()** - returns a forward iterator to the end
 - **rbegin()** - returns a reverse iterator to the beginning
 - **rend()** - returns a reverse iterator to the end
- the following figure demonstrates begin() and end() iterators



- the following figure demonstrates rbegin() and rend() iterators



```
[20]: // automatically determine the type of iter which is a forward iterator
auto iter = fruit.begin();
```

```
[21]: // what is iter pointing to?
cout << *iter;
```

B

```
[22]: // increment iterator by one element
iter += 1;
```

```
[23]: cout << *iter;
```

a

```
[24]: // forward iterator
for(auto it=fruit.begin(); it != fruit.end(); it += 1) {
    cout << *it << " ";
}
```

B a n a n a

```
[25]: // reverse iterator
for(auto it=fruit.rbegin(); it!=fruit.rend(); it++) {
    cout << *it << " ";
}
```

a n a n a B

1.10 Operations

- string objects can be concatenated with + operator
- string objects also have a bunch of methods to perform various common operations on string data
- the following are some commonly used operations:

1.10.1 clear

- clears the contents making string object empty!

```
[3]: string strData = "Pirates of the Carribean!";
```

```
[4]: // clear the content
strData.clear();
```

```
[5]: cout << "strData = " << strData;
```

strData =

1.10.2 insert

- insert a character or string at a given index
- **insert(index, count, char)** insert count characters at some index
- **insert(index, string)** - insert some string at index

```
[5]: strData = "Pirates of the Carribean!";
```

```
[7]: // insert 1 $ character at index 0  
strData.insert(0, 1, '$');
```

```
[8]: cout << "strData = " << strData;
```

```
strData = $Pirates of the Carribean!
```

```
[10]: // insert 5 asterisks at index 5  
strData.insert(5, 5, '*');
```

```
[11]: cout << "strData = " << strData;
```

```
strData = $Pira*****tes of the Carribean!
```

```
[12]: strData.insert(0, "The ");
```

```
[13]: cout << "strData = " << strData;
```

```
strData = The $Pira*****tes of the Carribean!
```

1.10.3 erase

`erase(index, count)` - erases count characters starting from index

```
[14]: // erase all 5 asterisks starting at index 9  
strData.erase(9, 5);
```

```
[15]: strData
```

```
[15]: "The $Pirates of the Carribean!"
```

1.10.4 append

- the following methods append characters to the end of string objects
 - `push_back(ch)` - appends a character to the end
 - `append(str)` - appends string to the end
 - `operator+=` - appends string to the end

```
[3]: string some_str;
```

```
[4]: some_str = "";
```

```
[5]: some_str.push_back('1');  
some_str.append("2");  
some_str += "3456";
```



```
[6]: some_str
```

```
[6]: "123456"
```

1.11 Search

- searching for a substring is often a common task performed with strings data
- also referred to as “finding a needle in the haystack”
- `find` and `rfind` methods help in finding a substring in some string

1.11.1 `find(str, [pos])`

- finds the first `str` in the string starting from `pos`
 - if no `pos` is provided, first index, 0 is used
- if `str` is found, returns beginning position/index of `str`
- if `str` is not found, returns `npos` constant defined in `string::` namespace
 - `npos` is the largest possible value for `size_t`; system dependent

```
[7]: // what is npos?  
cout << string::npos;
```

```
18446744073709551615
```

```
[8]: string haystack, search_str;  
     size_t found;
```

```
[9]: haystack = "There are maanny needles or just a few needle in the haystack!";
```

```
[10]: search_str = "needle"; // TODO: change this to "Needle" and find
```

```
[10]: "needle"
```

```
[11]: found = haystack.find(search_str);
```

```
[12]: cout << found;
```

```
17
```

```
[13]: // check if substring is found or not  
if (found == string::npos)  
    cout << search_str << " NOT found!\n";  
else  
    cout << search_str << " found at: " << found << endl;
```

```
needle found at: 17
```

1.11.2 rfind(str, [pos])

- search the first substring in backward direction starting from pos
 - if no pos is provided, last index is used

```
[14]: found = haystack.rfind(search_str);  
      // check if substring is found or not  
      if (found == string::npos)  
          cout << search_str << " NOT found!\n";  
      else  
          cout << search_str << " found at: " << found << endl;
```

needle found at: 39

1.11.3 Replace

- replaces the part of string indicated by index with a new string
- **replace(index, count, newStr)**
 - replace some string from index to index+count by newStr

```
[15]: some_str = "12345abc";
```

```
[16]: some_str.replace(0, 1, "A");
```

```
[17]: some_str
```

```
[17]: "A2345abc"
```

```
[18]: some_str.replace(1, 5, "B");
```

```
[19]: some_str
```

```
[19]: "ABbc"
```

```
[20]: // insert with replacing 0 character  
      some_str.replace(1, 0, "WXYZ");
```

```
[21]: some_str
```

```
[21]: "AWXYZBbc"
```

1.11.4 Search and replace application

- a common feature provided by text editors

```
[23]: // let's see the contents of haystack  
      haystack
```

```
[23]: "There are maanny needles or just a few needle in the haystack!"
```

```
[28]: // let's search misspelled word "maanny" and replace with "many"
      size_t wordIndex = haystack.find("maanny")
```

```
[29]: wordIndex
```

```
[29]: 10
```

```
[31]: haystack.replace(wordIndex, string("maanny").length(), "many")
```

```
[31]: "There are many needles or just a few needle in the haystack!"
```

```
[32]: // replace the first needle with poodle
      haystack.replace(haystack.find("needle"), 6, "poodle")
```

```
[32]: "There are many poodles or just a few needle in the haystack!"
```

1.12 Sub string

- **substr(pos, count)** returns a substring from pos index to pos+count index
 - if count is not provided, returns to the end or **npos**
 - **npos** is a constant value defined in **string::** namespace

```
[64]: // return from index 1 to the end or npos
      cout << some_str.substr(1);
```

WXYZB

```
[74]: // return 4 characters starting from 1
      cout << some_str.substr(1, 4);
```

WXYZ

1.13 String comparisons

- two string values can be compared using comparison operators
- all comparison operators (**==**, **!=**, **<**, **<=**, **>**, **>=**) are overloaded to work with string types
- strings are compared character by character using ASCII value

```
[97]: string a = "apple";
```

```
[98]: string b = "ball";
```

```
[104]: string c = "Apple";
```

```
[100]: // both size and values must be equal!
      if (a == b) // every character in var 'a' must equal to corresponding character
        ↪ in var 'b'
        cout << a << " equals to " << b << endl;
```

```
else
    cout << a << " is NOT equal to " << b << endl;
```

apple is NOT equal to ball

```
[102]: if (a <= b)
        cout << a << " comes before " << b << endl;
    else
        cout << a << " doesn't come before " << b << endl;
```

apple comes before ball

```
[106]: if (a <= c)
        cout << a << " comes before " << c << endl;
    else
        cout << a << " doesn't come before " << c << endl;
```

apple doesn't come before Apple

1.14 Numeric conversions

- strings can be converted into numeric values (integers or floating points) as appropriate

1.14.1 string to signed integers

- `stoi()`, `stol()`, `stoll()` - converts a string to a signed integers

```
[107]: cout << stoi("123");
```

123

```
[117]: cout << stoi("-454532") << " " << stol("-45352343441 asdf") << " " <<
    ↪stoll("552353253 adsfasf");
```

-454532 -45352343441 552353253

1.14.2 string to unsigned integers

`stoul()`, `stoull()` - converts a string to unsigned integer

```
[118]: cout << stoul("454532") << " " << stoull("-45352343441 text");
```

454532 18446744028357208175

1.14.3 string to floating point value

- `stof()`, `stod()`, `stold()` - converts a string to floating point value

```
[119]: cout << stof("-454532") << " " << stof("-453.123 text") << " " << stof("552.34
    ↪adsfasf");
```

-454532 -453.123 552.34

```
[120]: // throws run-time error
cout << stof("a5235");
```

Standard Exception: stof: no conversion

```
[6]: cout << stod("-454532") << " " << stod("-453.123 text") << " " << stod("552.34_
↪ adsfasf");
```

-454532 -453.123 552.34

1.14.4 integral or floating point value to string

- `to_string()` converts integral or floats to string

```
[123]: string new_str = to_string(123).append("456");
```

```
[124]: new_str
```

```
[124]: "123456"
```

```
[5]: cout << (to_string(345.44545)).append(" some text");
```

345.445450 some text

1.15 Dynamic string variables

- pointers can point to string types
- string pointers can be used to allocate dynamic memory in heap

```
[1]: #include <iostream>
#include <string>

using namespace std;
```

```
[2]: string full_name = "John Doe";
string * ptr_full_name = &full_name;
```

```
[3]: // dereference ptr_full_name
cout << full_name << " == " << *ptr_full_name;
```

John Doe == John Doe

```
[4]: // allocate dynamic memory in heap and initialize it with data
string * ptr_var = new string("Jake Smith");
```

```
[5]: cout << *ptr_var;
```

Jake Smith

```
[6]: // assign new value to *ptr_var
*ptr_var = "Jane Fisher";
```

1.15.1 String Application - Convert Decimal into Binary

- Define a function that takes an integer and returns the binary representation of the integer.
 - e.g. $10_{10} = 1010_2$
- let's use algorithm defined in Chapter 02 and the partial code in Chapter 03:
 1. repeatedly divide the decimal number by base 2 until the quotient becomes 0
 2. collect the remainders in reverse order
 - the first remainder becomes the last bit (least significant) in binary

```
[1]: #include <iostream>
#include <string>

using namespace std;
```

```
[2]: string binary(unsigned int decimal) {
    // decimal to binary conversion requires to calculate both quotient and
    ↪ remainder
    const int divisor = 2; // divisor is constant name whose value can't be
    ↪ changed once initialized with
    int dividend;
    int quotient, remain;
    string answer = ""; // collect remainders by prepending as a string
    quotient = decimal;

    while(quotient != 0) { // we can programmatically check when the loop should
    ↪ exit
        // repeated computation
        dividend = quotient;
        remain = dividend%divisor;
        quotient = dividend/divisor;
        // print intermediate results; help us see and plan further computation
        //cout << dividend << '/' << divisor << " => quotient: " << quotient <<
    ↪ " remainder: " << remain << endl;
        answer = to_string(remain) + answer; // prepend remainder to answer
    }
    if (answer == "")
        return "0";
    return answer;
}
```

```
[4]: cout << "10 decimal in binary = " << binary(10) << endl;
```

10 decimal in binary = 1010

1.15.2 Convert Binary into Decimal

- algorithm steps as provided in Data, Variable and Operations chapter:
 1. multiply each binary digit by its place value in binary
 2. sum all the products
- Define a function that takes a binary number provided in string and converts into decimal representation
 - E.g. $1010_2 = 10_{10}$

```
[7]: #include <cmath>
#include <iostream>
#include <string>

using namespace std;
```

```
[8]: unsigned int decimal(string binary) {
    int answer = 0;
    int digitCount = binary.size();
    for(int i=0; i<digitCount; i++) {
        if (binary[i] == '0') continue;
        int placeValue = digitCount-i-1;
        answer += pow(2.0, placeValue);
    }
    return answer;
}
```

```
[9]: cout << "1010 in binary = " << decimal("1010") << " in decimal." << endl;
```

1010 in binary = 10 in decimal.

1.16 Labs

1. Read and solve the Kattis problem Hissing Microphone - <https://open.kattis.com/problems/hissingmicrophone>
 - use partial solution file `hissing.cpp` in `labs/hissingmicrophone` folder
 - use Makefile provided to compile the file
 - fix all the FIXMEs and write `#FIXED` next to each FIXME once fixed

1.17 Exercises

1. Write a function that checks if a given string has at least one digit (0-9) in it.
 - Write 3 automated test cases

```
[8]: // Exercise 1 Sample Solution
#include <iostream>
```

```
#include <string>
#include <cstring>
#include <cassert>

using namespace std;
```

```
[9]: bool hasDigit(string text) {
    for(char ch: text) {
        if (isdigit(ch)) return true;
    }
    return false;
}
```

```
[10]: // test hasDigit
void test_hasDigit() {
    assert(hasDigit("some text with digit!") == true);
    assert(hasDigit("this text has no digit") == false);
    assert(hasDigit("24242") == true);
    cerr << "all test cases passed for hasDigit()\n";
}
```

```
[11]: test_hasDigit();
```

all test cases passed for hasDigit()

2. Convert Exercise 1 into a complete program
 - prompt user to enter some text
 - make program continue to run until the user wants to quit
3. Write a function that checks if a given string is a palindrome. Palindromes are words and phrases that read the same backward as forward such as **madam**, **race car**, etc.
 - more on Palindromes: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palindrome>
 - it's okay if the function works for word only
 - challenge yourself to make it work for phrases as well
 - ignore cases (i.e., A equals a)
 - write at least 3 automated test cases

```
[1]: // Sample solution for exercise #3
#include <iostream>
#include <string>
#include <cstring>
#include <cassert>

using namespace std;
```

```
[2]: /*
    palindromic texts: A, AA, ABA, ABBA

    Algorithm steps:
```



```

1. for each character up to the middle one in a given phrase
    ii. compare the corresponding characters from left and right of the phrase
        a. do a case insensitive comparison
    iii. if a single corresponding pair is not equal, the phrase is NOT
    ↪ palindrome
    iv. if all the pairs match, the word is palindrome
*/

bool isPalindrome(string word) {
    int left_index = 0; // index from the beginning of the word
    int right_index = word.length()-1; // index from the end of the word
    int mid = word.length()/2; // mid index to stop the comparison
    bool mismatched = false;
    while(left_index < mid && !mismatched) { // stop before the mid index or
    ↪ any pair mismatched
        // convert to lowercase to make case insensitive comparison
        char left_char = tolower(word[left_index]);
        char right_char = tolower(word[right_index]);
        // if no match, set the mismatched flag to true;
        if (left_char != right_char) mismatched = true;
        // if they match, move the indices to point the next pair
        left_index++;
        right_index--;
    }
    // if mismatched return false; else all pairs must have matched, return true
    return mismatched? false : true;
}

```

```

[3]: void test_isPalindrome() {
    assert(isPalindrome("") == true); // empty string is a plindrome!?!?
    assert(isPalindrome("A") == true);
    assert(isPalindrome("AB") == false);
    assert(isPalindrome("ABA") == true);
    assert(isPalindrome("ABBA") == true);
    assert(isPalindrome("racecar") == true);
    assert(isPalindrome("race car") == false);
    cerr << "all test cases passed for isPalindrome()\n";
}

```

4. Convert Exercise 3 into a complete program.
 - program prompts user to enter a string
 - determines and lets the user know if the string is a palindrome or not
 - program continues to run until the user wants to quit
5. Improve Exercise 4 to ignore punctuations including spaces!
 - if you named the improved isPalindrome function as isPalaindromeV1,
 - the following test cases must pass!

```
[ ]: /*
    palindromic texts: A, AA, ABA, ABBA, "race car"

    Algorithm steps:
    1. for each character up to the middle one in a given phrase
        i. ignore all the non-alphabetic characters on both ends of the phrase
        ii. compare the corresponding characters from left and right of the phrase
        iii. if a single pair is not equal, the phrase is NOT reversible
        iv. if all the pairs match, the word is reversible
    */
    bool isPalindromeV1() {
        // FIXME using the above algorithm
        return true;
    }
```

```
[ ]: void test_isPalindromeV1() {
    assert(isPalindromeV1("") == true); // empty string is a plindrome!?!?
    assert(isPalindromeV1("A") == true);
    assert(isPalindromeV1("AB") == false);
    assert(isPalindromeV1("ABA") == true);
    assert(isPalindromeV1("ABBA") == true);
    assert(isPalindromeV1("racecar") == true);
    assert(isPalindromeV1("race car") == true); // ignore white spaces...
    cerr << "all test cases passed for isPalindromeV1()\n";
}
```

6. Write a program that counts the number of vowels (a, e, i, o, u) and consonants (alphabets except vowels) in a given text.
 - program prompts user to enter the text
 - program should account for both upper and lower case alphabets
 - program should continue to run until the user wants to quit
7. Write a program that checks the strength of the given password.
 - use a scoring system based on the varieties of character type present as described below:
 - 1 point if it contains at least 1 lowercase
 - 1 point if it contains at least 1 uppercase
 - 1 point if it contains at least 1 digit
 - 1 point if it contains at least 1 symbol from the group (~!@#\$%^&*()_-=+={})
 - 1 point if the length of the password is 8 characters or long
 - interpretation of total points (max 5):
 - if points is 5 or more - Excellent
 - if points is 3 or more - Good
 - if points is 2 or less - Bad

1.18 Kattis problems

- there are a lot of Kattis problems on text/string manipulation
- some simple problems are listed below
- solve each problem using function(s) so that you can write at least 3 test cases for function(s)

used as part of the solution

1. Hissing Microphone - <https://open.kattis.com/problems/hissingmicrophone>
2. Avion - <https://open.kattis.com/problems/avion>
3. Apaxiaaaaans! - <https://open.kattis.com/problems/apaxiaaaans>
4. Alphabet Spam - <https://open.kattis.com/problems/alphabetspam>
5. Simon Says - <https://open.kattis.com/problems/simonsays>
6. Simon Says - <https://open.kattis.com/problems/simon>
7. Fifty Shades of Pint - <https://open.kattis.com/problems/fiftyshades>
8. Quick Brown Fox - <https://open.kattis.com/problems/quickbrownfox>
9. Encoded Message - <https://open.kattis.com/problems/encodedmessage>
10. Trik - <https://open.kattis.com/problems/trik>
11. Digit Product - <https://open.kattis.com/problems/sifferprodukt>
12. Magic Trick - <https://open.kattis.com/problems/magicktrick>
13. FYI - <https://open.kattis.com/problems/fyi>
14. Methodic Multiplication - <https://open.kattis.com/problems/methodicmultiplication>
 - Hint: simple multiplication

1.19 Summary

- this chapter covered C++ string type
- declare and use string type
- various operations and member functions or methods provided to string objects
- exercises and sample solutions

[]: