

■ Other related items:

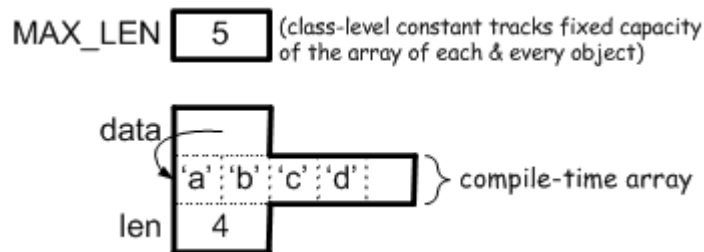
- More Involved `class` Supplement 00
- More Involved `class` Supplement 01
- Logical Memory Pictures - Deep Copying and Resizing
- Object-based Data Type Development Using C++: Some Logical Associations
- Abstraction vis-à-vis Problem Solving
- CS3358 View of C++ Support for Problem Solving

■ Ending portion of Review/Augment by Example 1 repeated:

- To next get into `ourStr` version 2 -> use *runtime/resizable* (instead of *compile-time/fixed-sized*) array to make data type more flexible (string length not limited to certain pre-determined fixed size).

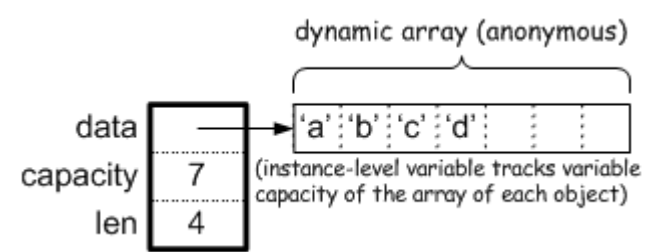
Conceptual ideas (behind "how-to-make-more-flexible"):

- Comparing *logical memory pictures* of an *ourStr-version-1* object and an *ourStr-version-2* object:



Bulk of storage:

- > "internal" to object (*indigenous*)
- > fixed-sized
- > *same constant capacity* for *all objects* at *all times* (data is a pointer *constant*)
- > allocation/deallocation done by system
- > analogy: TxState warehouse built *on-campus*



Bulk of storage:

- > "external" to object (*exogenous*)
- > resizable
- > capacities *vary* with *objects* and *time* (data is a pointer *variable*)
- > allocation/deallocation done by programmer
- > analogy: TxState warehouse built *off-campus*

■ Changes made in representation (in `ourStr.h`):

- Comparing *instance-level* variables:

```
char data[MAX_LEN];
int len;
```

```
char* data;
int capacity;
int len;
```

- Comparing *class-level* constant:

```
static const int MAX_LEN = 5;
```

Represents fixed capacity of compile-time array.

```
static const int DEF_CAP = 1;
```

Represents *default initial* size of dynamic array.

■ Change 1 made in operation – `void resize(int newSize)` member function (in `ourStr.h` and `ourStr.cpp`):

- For use by developer (when implementing other member functions), not for use by end-user.
  - A *utility* (or *helper* or *facilitator*) function for the `class`.
  - Included as *private* (not *public*) member function (in `ourStr.h`).
  - Documentation included in implementation file (`ourStr.cpp`), not in header file (`ourStr.h`).
- For changing the size (capacity) of invoking object's dynamic array.
  - Invoking object should still represent the *exact same data* after resizing.

- ▶ Resizing algorithm:
  - Conceptual formulation using associated logical memory picture (picture at the bottom of the third handout above).
  - Corresponding code (in `ourStr.cpp`) is nothing more than an expression of the conceptual formulation in C++.
- ▶ *Caller's* responsibility to provide the desired *new capacity* when calling.
  - When new capacity must be higher, typically want to choose a new capacity that is *some percentage higher* and *at least 1 higher* than the old capacity.
  - As exemplified by the following statement in the implementation of `setChar`:
 

```
resize( int(1.5*capacity) + 1 );
```

" + 1" is a simple way to ensure that "new" capacity specified is *at least 1 higher than* the "old" capacity.
  - Some past students always used a "new" capacity that is 1 greater than the "old" capacity, *i.e.*, by calling the function as follows:
 

```
resize(capacity + 1);
```

This can cause the program to take a *very long time* to run to completion when resizing (which is *expensive*) has to be done *many many times* on a *large* array.
- ▶ Implementation should check that caller-provided *new capacity* is valid and make appropriate adjustments where necessary.
  - New capacity must enable the invoking object to still represent the *exact same data*.
  - New capacity must be 1 or greater.

DON'T want to use `assert` here, but make appropriate adjustments where necessary.

■ Change 2 made in operation – `ourStr(int init_cap = DEF_CAP)` member function (in `ourStr.h` and `ourStr.cpp`):

- Can take on 2 roles -> collapsing 2 constructors into one by taking advantage of C++'s *function with default arguments* feature:
  - ▶ Default constructor.
    - Client does not supply a value for `init_cap` (e.g.: `ourStr s1;`).
    - `init_cap` will have the value of `DEF_CAP`.
  - ▶ One-argument constructor.
    - Client does supply a value for `init_cap` (e.g.: `ourStr s1(25);`).
    - `init_cap` will have the client-supplied value.
- NOTES:
  - ▶ C++ does not allow a default value (`DEF_CAP` for `init_cap` in our case) to be specified in both the *function prototype* (in the header file) and the *function definition* (in the implementation file).
    - We typically want to specify default values in the interface (header file) to make them visible to the client.
  - ▶ In the implementation, the client-supplied value (that `init_cap` gets) should be checked for validity (*i.e.*, it must be  $\geq 1$ ) because we don't want to dynamically allocate an array of invalid size (0 or negative).
  - ▶ The client-supplied value should be *adjusted where appropriate* (*i.e.*, if it's invalid), by setting it to `DEF_CAP` or 1, for instance.
    - As in `resize`, DON'T want to use `assert` in this case (more generally, in constructors and also in destructor).
  - ▶ In general, a constructor with *1 or more arguments* but have a *default value specified for each and every argument* will cover the default constructor.

- In view of this and if our class has such a constructor, we DON'T want to separately write a default constructor (because that will create an ambiguous situation for the compiler and cause an error during compilation).

■ Change 3 made in operation – `~ourStr()` member function (in `ourStr.h` and `ourStr.cpp`):

- Destructor:
  - ▶ Automatically called, no return type (not even `void`), same name as the class preceded with `~`, parameterless, cannot be overloaded.
  - ▶ Does all necessary "cleaning-up" chores for an object of the class before the object goes out of scope (*i.e.*, before the object's lifetime ends).
  - ▶ In general, the "cleaning-up" chores are related to freeing up *non-automatically managed* resources (*i.e.*, those not managed by the system) associated with the object.
    - In this course, the *non-automatically managed* resources are almost invariably *dynamic memory* associated with the object.

■ Change 4 made in operation – `ourStr(const ourStr& src)` member function (in `ourStr.h` and `ourStr.cpp`):

- Copy constructor:
  - ▶ Automatically called, no return type (not even `void`), same name as the class, 1 single parameter *of the type the class implements*.
  - ▶ Situation 1 for its call:
    - Creating a new object and initializing it to an existing object in a *declaration* statement.
    - Two syntactic alternatives (but the *same situation*) through examples (assuming `s1` is an existing `ourStr` object at the point of the declaration statement):

```
» ourStr s2 = s1;
» ourStr s2(s1);
```

NOTE:

If we instead write the following two statements (*i.e.*, a *declaration* statement followed by an *executable* statement):

```
ourStr s2;
s2 = s1;
```

the *default constructor* will be called in the first statement and the *assignment operator* (`operator=`) will be called in the second statement. The copy constructor will not be involved. It is obviously more expensive to do so (calling the default constructor followed by the assignment operator instead of calling only the copy constructor).

- ▶ Situation 2 for its call:
  - Passing an object of the class *by value* to a function.

NOTE:

Because of this, the parameter in the copy constructor itself *cannot be passed by value*; doing so will cause an error because it will lead to an endless series of calls to the copy constructor itself.

The parameter should be *passed by const reference* instead; although passing the parameter *by reference* won't cause a similar problem (as passing the parameter by value), doing so violates the *principle of least privilege*.

- ▶ Situation 3 for its call:
  - Returning an object of the class *by value* from a function.
- ▶ What we want to do (*deep* copying) vs what automatic (compiler-supplied) version will inadequately do (*shallow* copying):
  - Associated logical memory picture (picture at the top of the third handout above).

■ Change 5 made in operation – `ourStr& operator=(const ourStr& rhs)` member function (in `ourStr.h` and `ourStr.cpp`):

- Overloaded (copy) assignment operator:

- ▶ In comparison to copy constructor (similarities and differences):

- Both perform copying (cloning) but one or the other is called depending on which one of two copying situations applies:
  - » Copy constructor to construct a *new* object as a clone of an *existing* object.
  - » Assignment operator to change an *existing* object so that it becomes a clone of another *existing* object.
- *Self-assignment* ("aliasing") is possible in copy assignment (but not in copy construction) and good to always trap it:

```
if (this != &rhs) // if not self-assignment
{
    ... // code to do deep-copying
}
```

- There's dynamic memory associated with the cloning object in copy assignment but not in copy construction:
  - » Not freeing up dynamic memory associated with the cloning object (in *copy assignment* and when such memory must be replaced) causes *memory leak*.
  - » Attempting to free up dynamic memory not associated with the cloning object (in *copy construction*) can lead to *fatal error at runtime*.

- ▶ In comparison to overloading the `==` operator (discussed earlier when introducing operator overloading):

- Function's name is `operator=` (as opposed to and not to be confused with `operator==` seen earlier)
- C++ allows the assignment operator to be overloaded only with a *member function* (not a non-member function).

- ▶ Typically want to have the function return a *reference to an object of the class*:

- To enable the operator to be used in *chained fashion* (e.g.: `s3 = s2 = s1;`).
- In the implementation (in `ourStr.cpp`), notice that the reference returned (`return *this;`) is actually a *reference to the invoking object*.
  - » (this is so because the associativity for the assignment operator is *right-to-left*)

■ Other changes made in operation – all pertinent member functions (in `ourStr.h` and `ourStr.cpp`):

- A tell tale to help in locating some (if not all) of these:

- ▶ Those that have class-level constant (that is meant for tracking the capacity of compile-time fixed-sized array, which is no longer relevant) appearing in them.
- ▶ Such appearances can occur in the interface and/or the implementation, including documentation (such as preconditions and postconditions).

- Documentation changes – for pertinent functions where appropriate (especially in preconditions and/or postconditions)

- Implementation changes – for pertinent functions where appropriate (especially *mutators* that must be modified to incorporate *resizability* in storage capacity).

■ **Assignment 2** tip – putting the concepts/techniques into action:

- Implementations for `resize`, "default-cum-one-argument-" constructor, destructor, copy constructor and assignment operator in `ourStr.cpp` should be helpful.
  - Simply make all necessary adaptations.
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