```
Classes in C++
CS 16: Solving Problems with Computers 1
     Lecture #15 PRE-RECORDED
                                                 Part 1 of 2
```

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### **Lecture Outline**

- Class Definition and Declaration
- Member Functions
- Public and Private Members

- Declarations and Assignments
- Constructors

Follows textbook section 10.2

#### Classes

A class is a data type whose variables are objects

- The definition of a class includes
  - Description of the kinds of values of the member variables
  - Description of the member functions

Class descriptions look a lot like struct descriptions

## A Class Example

- Let's create a new type of variable named DayOfYear as a class definition
- Member variables?
  - Member variable month is an int (Jan = 1, Feb = 2, etc.)
  - Member variable day is an int
- Member functions?
  - We use just one member function named output

#### Class Definition and Declaration

```
class DayOfYear {
  public:
    void output();
    int month;
    int day;
};
    Member Function Declaration
```

Member Function **Definition** 

- Member functions are declared in the class declaration
- Member function definitions identify the class in which the function is a member using the :: operator

```
void DayOfYear::output() {
  cout << "month = " << month;
  cout << ", day = " << day << endl;
}</pre>
```

## The '::' Operator

- :: is the scope resolution operator
- Tells the class a member function is a member of
  - void DayOfYear::output() indicates that function output is a member of the DayOfYear class
  - The class name that precedes :: is a type qualifier
  - NOTE: Different classes can have same-named member functions!
- Whereas . is used with variables to identify a member DayOfYear birthday; birthday.output();

## Calling Member Functions

Calling the DayOfYear member function output is done in this way:

```
DayOfYear today, birthday;
today.output();
birthday.output();
```

 Note that today and birthday have their own versions of the month and day variables for use by the output function

# Display 10.3 From textbook

```
#include <iostream>
 3
      using namespace std:
      class DayOfYear
      public:
                                       - Member function declaration
           void output( );
           int month;
           int day;
10
11
      };
12
      int main( )
13
14
          DayOfYear today, birthday;
15
           cout << "Enter today's date:\n";</pre>
16
           cout << "Enter month as a number: ";</pre>
17
           cin >> today.month:
18
           cout << "Enter the day of the month: ";</pre>
19
           cin >> today.day;
           cout << "Enter your birthday:\n";</pre>
20
           cout << "Enter month as a number: ";</pre>
21
22
           cin >> birthday.month;
23
           cout << "Enter the day of the month: ";
24
           cin >> birthday.day;
25
           cout << "Today's date is ";</pre>
26
          today.output( );
                                                       Calls to the member
27
           cout << "Your birthday is ";</pre>
                                                       function output
28
          birthday.output();
29
           if (today.month == birthday.month
30
               && today.day == birthday.day)
31
               cout << "Happy Birthday!\n";</pre>
32
           e1se
33
               cout << "Happy Unbirthday!\n";</pre>
34
           return 0;
35
36
      //Uses iostream:
37
      void DayOfYear::output( )
38
                                                          Member function
39
           cout << "month = " << month</pre>
                                                          definition
                << ", day = " << day << endl;
40
41
```

## Limitations With DayOfYear

- Changing how the month is stored in the class DayOfYear requires changes to the program
- Example: if we decide to store the month as 3 characters (JAN, FEB, etc.) instead of an int
  - cin >> today.month
     will no longer work because we now have three character variables to read
  - if(today.month == birthday.month)
    will no longer work to compare months
  - The member function "output" no longer works

#### **Ideal Class Definitions**

- Changing the implementation of DayOfYear requires changes to the program that uses DayOfYear
  - Not ideal

 An ideal class definition of DayOfYear could be changed without requiring changes to the program that uses DayOfYear

## Fixing DayOfYear

- To fix this issue with DayOfYear we will need to do 2 things:
  - add member functions to use when changing or accessing the member variables
    - If the program never directly references the member variables,
       then changing how the variables are stored will not require changing the program!
  - be sure that the program does not directly reference member variables

#### Public Or Private?

- C++ helps us restrict the program from directly referencing member variables
- By default, all members of a class are Public
  - But we can make some of them "Private"

- Private members of a class can only be referenced within the definitions of member functions, not by the program!
  - If the program tries to access a private member, the compiler gives an error message
  - Private members can be variables or functions

#### **Private Variables**

- Private variables cannot be accessed directly by the program
  - Changing their values requires the use of public member functions of the class
  - To set the private month and day variables in a new DayOfYear class use a member function such as

```
void DayOfYear::set(int new_month, int new_day)
{
    month = new_month;
    day = new_day;
}
```

#### Public or Private Members

 The keyword private identifies the members of a class that can be accessed only by member functions of the class

The keyword public identifies the members of a class that can be accessed from

outside the class

```
class DayOfYear {
   public:
       void input( );
       void output( );
       void set(int new month, int new day);
       int get month( );
       int get day( );
   private:
       void check_date( );
       int month;
       int day;
};
```

## A New DayOfYear

- Take a close look at the new DayOfYear class demonstrated in Display 10.4 in the textbook
- Uses all private member variables
- Uses member functions to do all manipulation of the private member variables
  - Member variables and member function definitions can be changed without changes to the program that uses DayOfYear

```
//Program to demonstrate the class DayOfYear.
                                                                                                                    cin >> month;
                                                                                                                                                                          Private members may be
      #include <iostream>
                                              This is an improved version
                                                                                                         43
                                                                                                                    cout << "Enter the day of the month: ";
                                                                                                                                                                          used in member function
      using namespace std;
                                             of the class DavOfYear that
                                                                                                         44
                                                                                                                    cin >> day;
                                                                                                                                                                          definitions (but not
                                              we gave in Display 10.3.
                                                                                                         45
                                                                                                                    check_date( );
                                                                                                                                                                          elsewhere).
      class DayOfYear
                                                                                                         46
5
                                                                                                         47
                                                                                                                                                                          A better definition of
6
      public:
                                                                                                               void DayOfYear::output( )
                                                                                                         48
                                                                                                                                                                          the member function
           void input( ):
                                                                                                                <The rest of the definition of DayOfYear::output is</pre>
                                                                                                                                                                          input would ask the
           void output( ):
8
                                                                                                                 given in Display 10.3.>
                                                                                                                                                                          user to reenter the
           void set(int new month, int new day);
                                                                                                                                                                          date if the user enters
                                                                                                         49
          //Precondition: new_month and new_day form a possible date.
                                                                                                                                                                          an incorrect date.
10
                                                                                                         50
                                                                                                               void DayOfYear::set(int new_month, int new_day)
11
          //Postcondition: The date is reset according to the arguments.
                                                                                                         51
                                                                                                                                                                 The member function check date does
                                                                                                         52
                                                                                                                    month = new month:
                                                                                                                                                                 not check for all illegal dates, but it
12
           int get month();
                                                                                                                    day = new_day;
                                                                                                                                                                 would be easy to make the check complete
                                                                                                         53
          //Returns the month, 1 for January, 2 for February, etc.
13
                                                                                                                    check date();
                                                                                                                                                                 by making it longer. See Self-Test
                                                                                                         54
                                                                                                         55
                                                                                                                                                                 Exercise 14.
14
           int get_day( );
                                                                                                         56
15
          //Returns the day of the month.
                                                                                                         57
                                                                                                               void DayOfYear::check_date( )
16
      private:
                                                                                                         58
17
           void check date( );
                                          ----- Private member function
                                                                                                         59
                                                                                                                    if ((month < 1) || (month > 12) || (day < 1) || (day > 31))
18
           int month:
                                                                                                         60
           int day; 

Private member variables
19
                                                                                                         61
                                                                                                                        cout << "Illegal date. Aborting program.\n";</pre>
20
      };
                                                                                                         62
                                                                                                                        exit(1):
                                                                                                                                                The function exit is discussed in Chapter 6.
                                                                                                         63
21
      int main( )
                                                                                                                                                 It ends the program.
                                                                                                         64
                                                                                                               }
22
                                                                                                         65
23
          DayOfYear today, bach_birthday;
                                                                                                         66
                                                                                                               int DayOfYear::get_month()
24
           cout << "Enter today's date:\n";</pre>
                                                                                                         67
           today.input();
                                                                                                         68
                                                                                                                    return month;
26
           cout << "Today's date is ";</pre>
                                                                                                         69
27
           todav.output( ):
                                                                                                         70
                                                                                                         71
                                                                                                                int DayOfYear::get_day( )
28
           bach birthday.set(3, 21);
                                                                                                         72
           cout << "J. S. Bach's birthday is ";</pre>
                                                                                                         73
                                                                                                                    return day;
           bach_birthday.output();
30
                                                                                                         74
           if (today.get month() == bach birthday.get month() &&
31
32
               today.get day() == bach birthday.get day())
33
               cout << "Happy Birthday Johann Sebastian!\n";</pre>
                                                                                                             Sample Dialogue
34
           e1se
                                                                                                             Enter today's date:
35
               cout << "Happy Unbirthday Johann Sebastian!\n";</pre>
                                                                                                             Enter the month as a number: 3
36
           return 0:
                                                                                                             Enter the day of the month: 21
37
38
      //Uses iostream:
                                                                                                             Today's date is month = 3, day = 21
      void DayOfYear::input( )
39
                                                                                                             J. S. Bach's birthday is month = 3, day = 21
                                                                                              CS16
40
                                                                                                             Happy Birthday Johann Sebastian!
                                                                                                                                                                                       16
41
           cout << "Enter the month as a number: ";</pre>
```

## **Using Private Variables**

- It is conventionally normal to make all member variables private
- Private variables require member functions to perform all changing/retrieving of values
- Accessor functions allow you to obtain the values of member variables
  - Example: get\_day in class DayOfYear

```
int DayOfYear::get_month()
{
    return month;
}
int DayOfYear::get_day()
{
    return day;
}
```

- Mutator functions allow you to change the values of member variables
  - Example: set in class DayOfYear

```
void DayOfYear::set(int new_month, int new_day)
{
    month = new_month;
    day = new_day;
    check_date();
}
```

### **END OF PART 1**

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## **Class Definition Syntax**

```
class Class_Name
  public:
     Member Specification 1
     Member Specification 2
     Member Specification 3
  private:
     Member Specification n+1
     Member_Specification_n+2
     •••
};
```

## Declaring an Object

- Once a class is defined, an object of the class is declared just as variables of any other type
  - i.e. Just like with structs

• Example: To create two objects of type Bicycle:

```
class Bicycle
{
      // class definition here
};
Bicycle my_bike, your_bike;
```

## The Assignment Operator

 Class objects (again, like structs) can be assigned values with the assignment operator (=)

```
Example:
DayOfYear due date, tomorrow;
```

```
tomorrow.set(11, 19);
```

```
due_date = tomorrow;
```

## Program Example: BankAccount Class

- This bank account class allows
  - Withdrawal of money at any time
  - All operations normally expected of a bank account (implemented with member functions)
  - Storing an account balance
  - Storing the account's interest rate

Review this in Display 10.5 in textbook

## Calling Public Members

 Recall that if calling a member function from the main() function of a program, you must include the the object name:

BankAccount account1;

•••

account1.update();

## Calling Private Members

- When a member function calls a private member function, an object name is not used
- Example:

#### Constructors

- A constructor can be used to initialize member variables when an object is declared
- A constructor is a member function that is usually public
- A constructor is automatically called when an object of the class is declared
- A constructor's name must be the same name of the class
- A constructor cannot return a value
  - No return type, not even void, is used in declaring or defining a constructor

#### **Constructor Declaration**

A constructor for the BankAccount class could be declared as:

```
class BankAccount
{
  public:
    BankAccount(int dollars, int cents, double rate);
    //initializes the balance to $dollars.cents
    //initializes the interest rate to "rate" percent
    ... //The rest of the BankAccount definition
};
```

#### **Constructor Definition**

 The constructor for the BankAccount class could be defined like this (this example is in your textbook):

Note that the class name and function name are the same

## Calling A Constructor

A constructor is **not** called like a normal member function:

```
BankAccount account1; account(10, 50, 2.0);
```

Instead, a constructor is called in the object declaration

```
BankAccount account1(10, 50, 2.0);
```

 Creates a BankAccount object and calls the constructor to initialize the member variables

## **Overloading Constructors**

- You can have multiple constructors for the same class!
- Constructors can be overloaded by defining constructors with different parameter lists
- Other possible constructors for the BankAccount class might be BankAccount(double balance, double interest\_rate); BankAccount(double balance); BankAccount(double interest\_rate); BankAccount(); // Default constructor

## **Overloading Constructors**

#### **Another Example:**

The output of this prog. will be:

```
Person1 Age = 20
Person2 Age = 45
```

- Because obj. person1 was initialized with the 1<sup>st</sup> constructor...
  - Person()
  - Called the default constructor
- ...while obj. person2 was initialized with the 2<sup>nd</sup> constructor
  - Person(int a)

```
class Person {
    private:
        int age;
    public:
    // 1. Constructor with no arguments (default constr.)
    Person() { age = 20; }
    // 2. Constructor with an argument
    Person(int a) {
        age = a;
    int getAge() {
        return age;
int main() {
    Person person1, person2(45);
    cout << "Person1 Age = " << person1.getAge() << endl;</pre>
    cout << "Person2 Age = " << person2.getAge() << endl;</pre>
    return 0:
```

#### **Initialization Sections**

 An initialization section in a function definition provides an alternative way to initialize member variables

Example:

```
BankAccount::BankAccount( ): balance(0), interest_rate(0.0)
{
    // No code needed in this example
}
```

The values in parenthesis are the initial values for the member variables listed

#### Parameters and Initialization

Member functions with parameters can use initialization sections

Notice that the parameters can be arguments in the initialization

#### Member Initializers

- C++11 (and beyond) supports a feature called member initialization
- Simply set member variables in the class to some initial value!

Just creating a Coordinate object will initialize its x variable to 1 and y to 2
 (assuming a constructor isn't called that sets the values to something else)

## **Constructor Delegation**

- C++11 also supports constructor delegation.
- Constructor invokes another constructor in the initialization section.

 For example, you can make the default constructor call a second constructor that sets variable x to 99 and y to 99:

```
Coordinate::Coordinate() : Coordinate(99,99) { }
```

## You Can See Examples of Constructors in Use...

... by checking out the demo codes on our web page:

constructorExamples1.cpp constructorExamples2.cpp constructorExamples3.cpp

And don't forget ALL examples in the relevant textbook section (Section 10.2)

