EDAF50 – C++ Programming

8. Classes and polymorphism.

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2025

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Outline

Polymorphism and dynamic binding

Polymorphism

Overloading	*Static binding*
Generic programming (templates)	*Static binding*
Virtual functions	*Dynamic binding*

Static binding:	The meaning of a construct is decided *at compile-time*
Dynamic binding:	The meaning of a construct is decided *at run-time*

Polymorphism

Static

```
void foo(int);
void foo(double);

foo(17);


std::vector<int> v;

std::sort(begin(v), end(v));
```

Dynamic

```
struct Animal{
    virtual void speak();
};

struct Dog :public Animal{
    void speak();
};

struct Cat :public Animal{
    void speak();
};

void use(Animal& a)
{
  a.speak();
}

use(Dog{});
```

Concrete and abstract types

A *concrete type* behaves "just like built-in-types":

- The *representation* is part of the *definition* [1]
- Can be placed on the stack, and in other objects
- can be directly refererred to
- Can be copied
- User code *must be recompiled* if the type is changed

An *Abstract types* isolates the user from implementation details

- Decouples the interface from the representation:
- The representation of objects (*incl. the size!*) is not known
- Cannot be instantiated (*only concrete subclasses can*)
- Can only be accessed through pointers or references
- Code using the abstract type *does not need to be recompiled* if the concrete subclasses are changed

---

[1] can be private, but is known

Concrete and abstract types
A concrete type: Vector

```
class Vector {
public:
    Vector(int l = 0) :elem{new int[l]},sz{l} {}
    ~Vector() {delete[] elem;}
    int size() const {return sz;}
    int& operator[](int i) {return elem[i];}
private:
    int *elem;
    int sz;
};
```

Generalize: *extract interface*

```
class Container {
public:
    virtual int size() const;
    virtual int& operator[](int o);
};
```

Concrete and abstract types

Generalization: an abstract type, Container

```
class Container {
public:
    virtual int size() const  =0;
    virtual int& operator[](int o) =0;
    virtual ~Container() =default;
    // copy and move...
};
```

- *pure virtual* function
- Abstract class
- or `interface` in Java

```
class Vector :public Container {
public:
    Vector(int l = 0) :p{new int[l]},sz{l} {}
    ~Vector() {delete[] elem;}
    int size() const override {return sz;}
    int& operator[](int i) override {return elem[i];}
private:
    int *elem;
    int sz;
};
```

- `extends` (or `implements`) `Container` in Java
- **`override`** ⇔ `@Override` in Java (C++11)
- A polymorph type needs a virtual destructor

Destructors must be `virtual`

Polymorph types are used through base class pointers:

```
Container* c = new Vector(10);

// use...

delete c;
```

- The destructor is called through a `Container*`.
- `~Container()` is called.
- If not virtual, `~Vector()` is never called ⇒ memory leak.

Concrete and abstract types
Use of an abstract class

```
  void fill(Container& c, int v)
{
    for(int i=0; i!=c.size(); ++i){
        c[i] = v;
    }
}
void print(const Container& c)
{
    for(int i=0; i!=c.size(); ++i){
        cout << c[i] << " " ;
    }
    cout << endl;
}
void test_container()
{
    Vector v(10);

    print(v);
    fill(v,3);
    print(v);
}
```

Concrete and abstract types
Use of an abstract class

Assume that we have two other subclasses to `Container`

```
class MyArray : public Container { ...};
class List : public Container { ...};

void test_container()
{
    Vector v(10);
    print(v);
    fill(v,7);
    print(v);

    MyArray a(5);
    fill(a,0);
    print(a);

    List l{1,2,3,4,5,6,7};
    print(l);
}
```

- Dynamic binding of `Container::size()` and `Container::operator[]()`

Concrete and abstract types

Variant, without changing Vector

Instead of changing `Vector` we can use it in a new class:

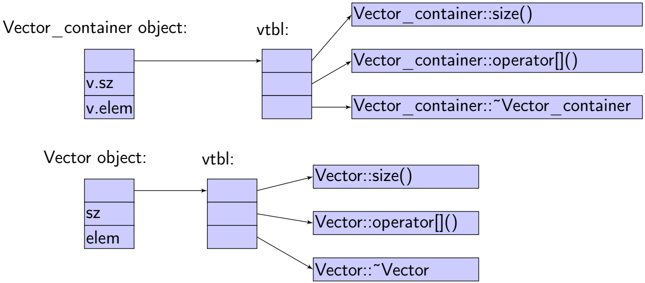
```
class Vector_container :public Container {
public:
    Vector_container(int l = 0) :v{l} {}
    ~Vector_container() =default;
    int size() const override {return v.size();}
    int& operator[](int i) override {return v[i];}
private:
  Vector v;
};
```

- `Vector` is a concrete class
- Note that `v` is a `Vector` object, not a reference
    - Different from Java
- The destructor of a member variable (here, `v`) is implicitly called by the default destructor

Dynamic binding

- virtual function table (*vtbl*)
    - contains pointers to the virtual functions of the object
    - each *class* with virtual member function(s) has a vtbl
    - each *object* of such a class has a *pointer* to the vtbl of the class
    - calling a virtual function (typically) $< 25\%$ more expensive

```
int example(Container& c)
{
  return c.size();
}
```



Vector_container object:

v.sz

v.elem

vtbl:

Vector_container::size()

Vector_container::operator[]()

Vector_container::~Vector_container

Vector object:

sz

elem

vtbl:

Vector::size()

Vector::operator[]()

Vector::~Vector

Constructors and inheritance
Rules for the base class constructor

- The default constructor of the base class is implicitly called
    - if it exists!
- Arguments to the base class constructor
    - are given in the *member initializer list* in the derived class constructor.
    - *the name of the base class* must be used.
      (`super()` like in Java does not exist due to multiple inheritance.)

Constructors and inheritance

Order of initialization in a constructor (for a derived class)

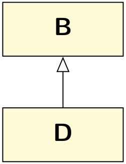
1. *The base class is initialized*: The base class ctor is called
2. *The derived class is initialized*: Data members (in the derived class) is initialized
3. The constructor body of the derived class is executed

Explicit call of base class constructor in the member initializer list

```
D::D(param...) :B(param...), ... {...}
```

Note:

- Constructors are not inherited
- *Do not call virtual functions in a constructor.*:
  In the base class `B`, **`this`** is of type `B*`.



Constructors and inheritance

Constructors are not inherited

```
class Base{
public:
    Base(int i) :x{i} {}
    virtual void print() {cout << "Base: " << x << endl;}
private:
    int x;
};

class Derived :public Base {
};

void test_ctors()
{
    Derived b(5); //no matching function for call to
                  //Derived::Derived(int)
    Derived b2; //use of deleted function Derived::Derived()
}
```

Constructors and inheritance

using: make the base class constructor visible (C++11)

```
class Base{
public:
    Base(int i) :x{i} {}
    virtual void print() {cout << "Base: " << x << endl;}
private:
    int x;
};

class Derived :public Base {
  using Base::Base;
};

void test_ctors()
{
    Derived b(5); // OK!
    Derived b2; //use of deleted function Derived::Derived()
    b.print();
}
```

Constructors and inheritance

Now with a default constructor

```
class Base{
public:
    Base(int i=0) :x{i} {}
    virtual void print() {cout << "Base: " << x << endl;}
private:
    int x;
};

class Derived :public Base {
  using Base::Base;
};

void test_ctors()
{
    Derived b;     // OK!
    b.print();
    Derived b2(5); // OK!
    b2.print();
}
```

Inherited constructors
rules

- **`using`** makes all base class constructors inherited, except
  - those hidden by the derived class (with the same parameters)
  - default, copy, and move constructors
    ⇒ *if not defined, synthesized as usual*
- default arguments in the super class gives multiple inherited constructors

Copying and inheritance

- The copy constructor shall copy *the entire object*
  - typically: call the base class copy-constructor
- The same applies to **`operator`**=
- Different from the destructor
  - A destructor shall only deallocate what has been allocated in the class itself. The base class destructior is implicitly called.
- The synthesized special member functions are *deleted in a derived class* if the corresponding function is *deleted in the base class.* (i.e., **`private`** or =**`delete`**)
  - default constructor,
  - copy (and move) constructor,
  - copy (and move) assignment operator
  - (destructor, but avoid classes without a destructor)
- Base classes should define these =**`default`**

Destructors and inheritance

Destruction is done in reverse order:

Execution order in a destructor

1. The function body of the derived class destructor is executed
2. The members of the derived class are destroyed
3. The base class destructor is called

The base class destructor must be virtual

Accessibility

The different levels of accessibility

```
class C {
public:
      // Members accessible from any function
protected:
      // Members accessible from member functions
      // in the class or a derived class
private:
      // Members accessible only from member functions
      // in the class
};
```

Accessibility

Accessibility and inheritance

```
class D1 : public B { // Public inheritance
    // ...
};

class D2 : protected B { // Protected inheritance
    // ...
};

class D3 : private B { // Private inheritance
    // ...
};
```

Accessibility

Accessibility and inheritance

	Accessibility in `B`	Accessibility through `D`

Public inheritance	`public`
	`protected`
	`private`
		`public`
		`protected`
		`private`

Protected inheritance	`public`
	`protected`
	`private`
		`protected`
		`protected`
		`private`

Private inheritance	`public`
	`protected`
	`private`
		`private`
		`private`
		`private`

The accessibility inside `D` is *not* affected by the type of inheritance

Function overloading and inheritance

Function overloading does not work as usual between levels in a class hierarchy

```
class C1 {
public:
    void f(int) {cout << "C1::f(int)\n";}
};

class C2 : public C1 {
public:
    void f(); {cout << "C2::f(void)\n";}
};

C1 a;
C2 b;
a.f(5);       // Ok, calls C1::f(int)
b.f();        // Ok, calls C2::f(void)
b.f(2)        // Error! C1::f is hidden!
b.C1::f(10); // Ok
```

Function overloading and inheritance

Make base class names visible with `using`

Function overloading between levels of a class hierarchy

```
class C1 {
public:
    void f(int); {cout << "C1::f(int)\n";}
};

class C2 : public C1 {
public:
    using C1::f;
    void f(); {cout << "C2::f(void)\n";}
};

//...
C1 a;
C2 b;
a.f(5); // Ok, calls C1::f(int)
b.f();  // Ok, calls C2::f(void)
b.f(2)  // Ok, calls C1::f(int)
```

Inheritance and *scope*

- The *scope* of a derived class is *nested* inside the base class
  - Names in the base class are visible in derived classes
  - *if not hidden* by the same name in the derived class
- Use the *scope operator* `::` to access hidden names
- Name lookup happens at compile-time
  - *static type* of a pointer or reference determines which names are visible (like in Java)
  - Virtual functions must have the same parameter types in derived classes.

Inheritance without virtual functions

In C++ member functions are *not virtual unless declared so*. (Difference from Java)

- It is possible to inherit from a class and *hide* functions.
- Base class funcions can be called explicitly
- can be used to "extend" a function. (Add things before and after the function.)

Inheritance without virtual functions
Example

```
struct Clock{
    Clock(int h, int m, int s) :seconds{60*(60*h+m) + s} {}
    Clock& tick();        // NB! Not virtual
    int get_ticks() {return seconds;}
private:
    int seconds;
};
struct AlarmClock : public Clock {
    using Clock::Clock;
    void setAlarm(int h, int m, int s);
    AlarmClock& tick(); // hides Clock::tick()
    void soundAlarm();
private:
    int alarmTime;
};

AlarmClock& AlarmClock::tick()
{
    Clock::tick();  // explicit call of base class function
    if(get_ticks() == alarmTime)  soundAlarm();
    return *this;
}
```

Example

Container with polymorph objects

```
int main()
{
  Dog d;
  Cat c;
  Bird b;
  Cow w;

  std::vector<Animal> zoo{d,c,b,w};

  for(auto x : zoo){
    x.speak();
  };

}
```

```
error: cannot allocate an object of abstract type 'Animal'
```

Example

Must use container of pointers

```
int main()
{
  Dog d;
  Cat c;
  Bird b;
  Cow w;

  std::vector<Animal*> zoo{&d,&c,&b,&w};

  for(auto x : zoo){
    x->speak();          Woof!
  };                     Meow!
                         Tweet!
}                        Moo!
```

Pitfalls

- Type conversion
- Non-virtual destructor
- Copying objects of polymorph types

Type conversion and run-time type info

- Be careful with type casts
  - In particular `(Derived*) base_class_pointer`
  - and **`static_cast`**`<Derived*>(base_class_pointer)`
  - No safety net, no `ClassCastException`
- Use **`dynamic_cast`** (returns `nullptr` or throws if not OK)

```
Vector v;

Container* c = &v;

if(dynamic_cast<Vector*>(c)) {
    cout << " *c instanceof Vector\n";
}
```

- **`typeid`** corresponds to `.getClass()` comparison in Java

```
if(typeid(*c) == typeid(Vector)) {
    cout << " *c is a Vector\n";
}
```

Destructors must be virtual

Example: memory leak

```
struct Base {
  Base() = default;
  ~Base() = default;
 virtual void do_stuff();
  ...
};
struct Derived : public Base {
  Derived() :Base(), f{new Foo()) {}
  ~Derived() {delete f;}
 void do_stuff();
  ...
  private:
  Foo* f
 };
```

```
Base* p = new Derived();
...
delete p;
```

As p has static type `Base*`, the destructor `~Base()` is run when **`delete`** p is called. If that is not virtual, `~Derived()` is not run ⇒ memory leak. (The standard says Undefined Behaviour)

Object slicing

Example

```
class Point {...};
class Point3d : public Point {...};

Point3d b;
Point a = b;
```

Not dangerous, but `a` only contains the `Point` part of `b`

```
Point3d b1;
Point3d b2;

Point& point_ref = b2;
point_ref = b1;
```

Wrong! `b2` now contains the `Point` part of `b1` and the `Point3d` part of its old value.

Object slicing

Example

```
struct Point{
    Point(int xi, int yi) :x{xi}, y{yi} {}
    virtual void print() const; // prints Point(x,y)
    int x;
    int y;
};

struct Point3d :public Point{
    Point3d(int xi, int yi, int zi) :Point(xi,yi), z{zi} {}
    virtual void print() const; // prints Point3d(x,y,z)
    int z;
};

void test_slicing() {
    Point3d q1{1,2,3};
    Point3d q2{3,4,5};

    q2.print();      Point3d(3,4,5)
    Point& pr = q2;
    pr = q1;
    q2.print();      Point3d(1,2,5)
}
```

solution: virtual operator=

Object slicing

Solution with virtual `operator=`

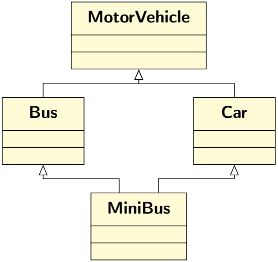
```
struct Point {
  . . .
  virtual Point& operator=(const Point& p) =default;
};

struct Point3d :public Point{
  . . .
  virtual Point3d& operator=(const Point& p);
};

Point3d& Point3d::operator=(const Point& p)
{
  Point::operator=(p);
  auto p3d = dynamic_cast<const Point3d*>(&p);
  if(p3d){
    z = p3d->z;
  } else {
    z = 0;
  }
  return *this;
}
```

Multiple inheritance

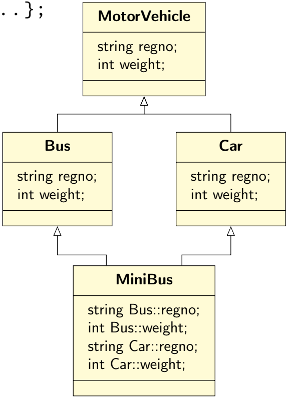
- A class can inherit from multiple base classes
- cf. implementing multiple `interfaces` in Java
    - Like in Java if at most one of the base classes have member variables
    - Can be tricky otherwise
- *The diamond problem*
    - How many `MotorVehicle` are there in a `MiniBus`?



Multiple inheritance

How many `MotorVehicle` are there in a `MiniBus`?

```
class MotorVehicle {...};
class Bus : public MotorVehicle {...};
class Car : public MotorVehicle {...};
class MiniBus : public Bus, public Car {...};
```



Multiple inheritance
The diamond problem

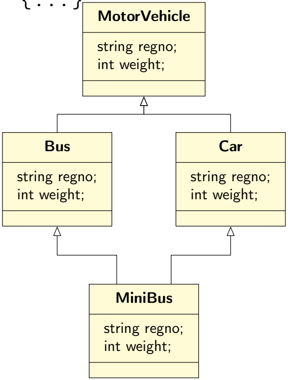
- A common base class is included multiple times
    - Multiple copies of member variables
    - Members must be accessed as `Base::name` to avoid ambiguity
- if *virtual inheritance* is not used

Multiple inheritance

Virtual inheritance

Virtual inheritance : Derived classes share the base class instance. (The base class is only included once)

```
class MotorVehicle {...};
class Bus : public virtual MotorVehicle {...};
class Car : public virtual MotorVehicle {...};
class MiniBus : public Bus, public Car {...};
```



The *most derived class* (`Minibus`) must call *the constructor of the grandparent* (`MotorVehicle`).

Constant objects

- **const** means "I promise not to change this"

- Objects (variables) can be declared **const**
  - "I promise not to change the variable"

- References can be declared **const**
  - "I promise not to change the referenced object"
  - a **const**& can refer to a non-**const** object
  - common for function parameters

- Member functions can be declared **const**
  - "I promise that the function does not change the state of the object"
  - *technically: implicit declaration* `const T* const this;`

Constant objects
Example

const references and const functions

```
class Point{
public:
    Point(int xi, int yi) :x{xi},y{yi}{}
    int get_x() const {return x;}
    int get_y() const {return y;}
    void set_x(int xi) {x = xi;}
    void set_y(int yi) {y = yi;}
private:
    int x;
    int y;
};
void example(Point& p, const Point& o) {
    p.set_y(10);
    cout << "p: "<< p.get_x() << "," << p.get_y() << endl;

    o.set_y(10);
    cout << "o: "<< o.get_x() << "," << o.get_y() << endl;
}
passing 'const Point' as 'this' argument discards qualifiers
```

Constant objects
Example

Note **const** in the declaration (and definition!) of the member function **operator**[](**int**) **const**: ("**const** *is part of the name*")

```
class Vector {
public:
    //...
    double operator[](int i) const;       // function declaration
    //...
private:
    double* elem;
    //...
};


double Vector::operator[](int i) const     // function definition
{
    return elem[i];
}
```

Constant objects

Example: `const` overloading

The functions **`operator[](int)`** and **`operator[](int) const`** *are different functions*.

Example

```
class Vector {
    double& operator[](int i)       {return elem[i];}
    double  operator[](int i) const {return elem[i];}
private:
    double* elem;
    //...
};
```

- If **`operator[]`** is called on a
  - non-**const** object, a *reference* is returned
  - **const** object, a *value* is returned
- The assignment `v[2] = 10;` only works on a non-const `v`.

Next lecture

Standard library containers. More about inheritance.

References to sections in Lippman

Sequential containers	9.1 – 9.3
Container Adapters	9.6
Associative containers	chapter 11
Tuples	17.1
Swap	13.3
Moving objects	13.6

Suggested reading

References to sections in Lippman

Dynamic polymorphism and inheritance chapter 15 – 15.4

Accessibility and scope 15.5 – 15.6

Type conversions and polymorphism 15.2.3

Inheritance and resource management 15.7

Polymorph types and containers 15.8

Multiple inheritance 18.3

Virtual base classes 18.3.4 – 18.3.5