



 POLITECNICO DI MILANO



Moving to C++

Advanced Operating Systems

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C++ Programs

- Memory allocation
- Passing parameters to functions

Classes

- Constructors and assignments
- Object pointers
- Qualifiers
- Inheritance and polymorphism

Standard Template Library (STL)

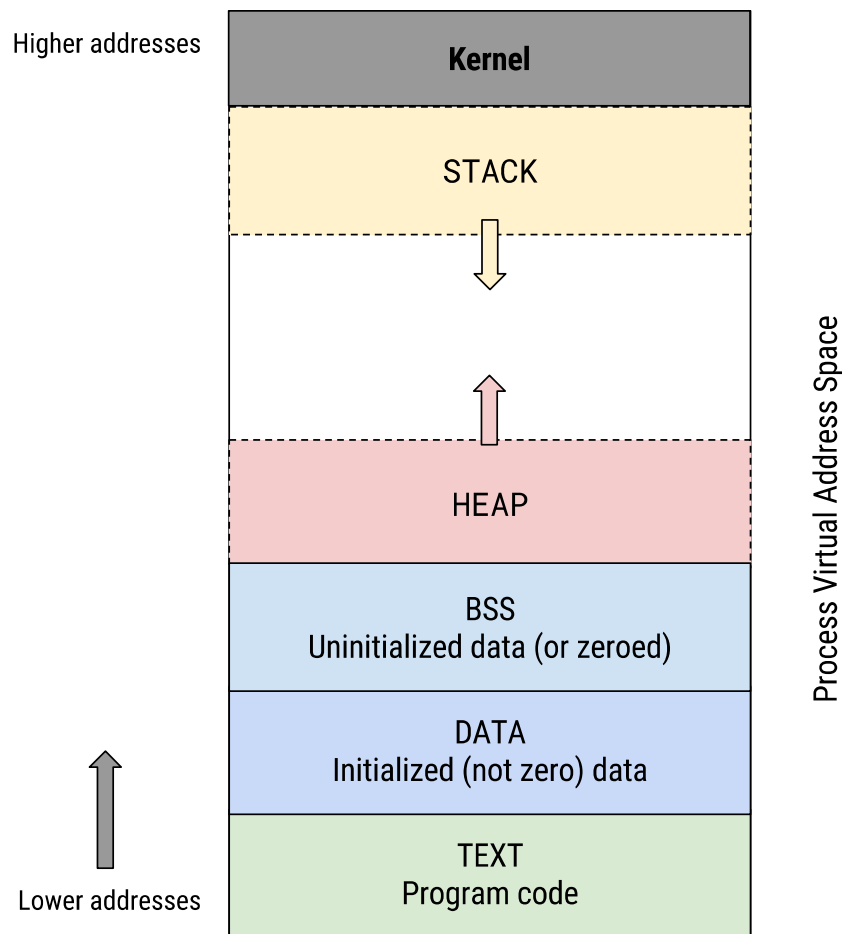
- Templates
- Example: `vector`, `list`, `map`

Memory management in C++11

- From raw to smart pointers

Memory layout

- Once loaded in the main memory a program is typically divided into segments
 - ♦ **TEXT** : Program instructions
 - ♦ **DATA** : Initialized variables
 - ♦ **BSS** : Uninitialized or zeroed variables
 - ♦ **STACK** : Local variables and return address of functions
 - ♦ **HEAP** : *Dynamically* allocated data, i.e., allocated/de-allocated at run-time



Memory allocation

- In C programs dynamic memory allocation and de-allocation is performed through `malloc()` and `free()` functions

```
char * buff = malloc(buff_size);
```

```
free(buff);
```

- In C++ programs operators `new` and `delete` are used
 - ◊ For dynamic array allocation `new ... [] / delete []`

```
char * buff = new char[5]
```

```
delete[] buff;
```

```
Object * obj = new Object();
```

```
delete obj;
```

- `new/delete` call class constructor and destructor respectively
 - ◊ Do not mix `malloc/free` with `new/delete` usage!
Do not use `malloc/free` with C++ objects since they do not call the class constructor/destructor!

Memory allocation

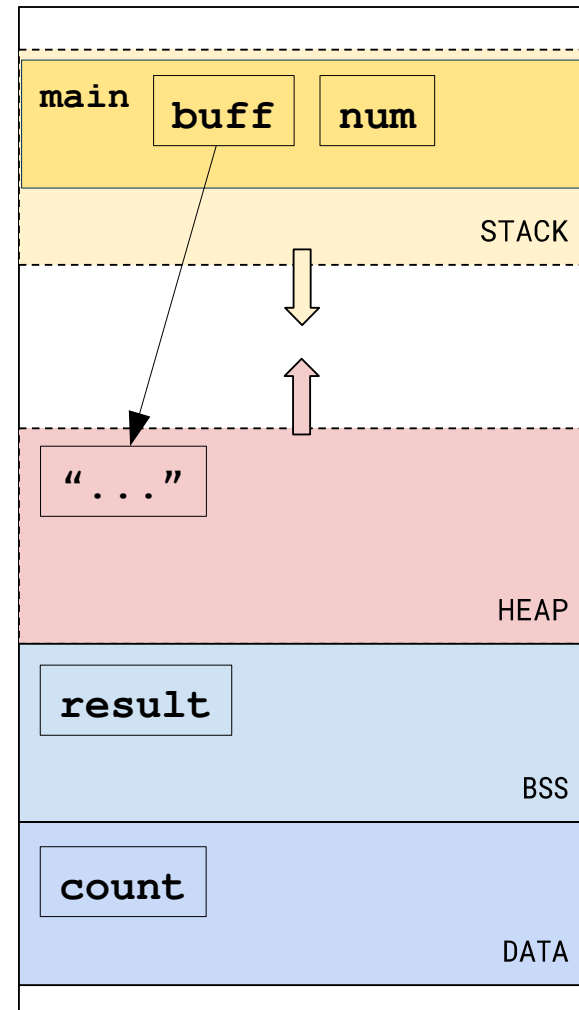
- Example

```
static result;
unsigned int count = 20;

int main() {

    int num;
    char * buff = new char[4];

    ...
    delete[] value;
    return 0;
}
```



Memory leak

- Memory allocated but NOT released
- Application continuously increase memory consumption
 - ◊ Reducing the availability for other applications
- Performance slow down
 - ◊ Operating system may re-map the virtual memory page to the hard drive
- Application or even the system may stop working
 - ◊ Unpredictable behaviour when system memory resource limits are reached

Sources

- We forgotten the related `delete` call for some `new`
- We changed the value of a pointer variable
 - ◊ No other variables point to the previously dynamically allocated data
 - ◊ Such data becomes unreachable!

Memory corruption

- Memory location alteration without an explicit assignment
 - ♦ Attempt of freeing an already freed memory location (dangling pointer)

```
int main() {  
    char * buff = new char[4];  
    delete[] buff;  
    ...  
    delete[] buff;  
}
```

```
$ ./program  
*** Error in `./program':  
double free or corruption  
: 0x0000000011a5040 ***  
  
Aborted (core dumped)
```

- ♦ Attempt of accessing a freed (or not allocated yet) memory location

```
int main() {  
    char * buff;  
    cout << buff << endl;  
}
```

```
$ ./program  
  
Segmentation fault (core dumped)
```

Passing parameters

- By *value*

- ◊ Passed variables/objects are COPIED into the called function stack

```
void func(Object var);
```

```
func(var); // call
```

- By *address* (C approach)

- ◊ Caller passes the address of the object/var to the callee (NO COPY)
- ◊ Callee can modify the content of the object/variable

```
void func(Object * var);
```

```
func(&var); // call
```

- By *reference* (C++ approach)

- ◊ Same effect of passing by address (NO COPY)
- ◊ Callee can modify the content of the variable/object

```
void func(Object & var);
```

```
func(var); // call
```


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Syntax

- A C++ class includes different sections to set the visibility of member *data* (attributes) and member *functions* (methods)
 - ♦ **public**: Publicly accessible
 - ♦ **private**: Only other class members can access
 - ♦ **protected**: Only other class members can access - Derived class will inherit base class protected members

```
class People {  
public:  
...  
protected:  
...  
private:  
...  
};
```

Syntax

- Common practice:
 - ♦ Definitions in the header files (`.h`, `.hh`) / Implementation in source files (`.cc`, `.cpp`)
 - ♦ This unless they are “template” or “inline” functions

```
// people.h

class People {
public:
...
    void Talk();
};
```

```
// people.cpp

void People::Talk {
}
```

Syntax

```
#ifndef PEOPLE_H_
#define PEOPLE_H_

#include <string>

class People {
public:
    People();
    int Walk();
    void Talk() const;

private:
    std::string name;
    int step_count;
};

#endif // PEOPLE_H_

// people.h
```

```
#include <iostream>
#include "people.h"

People::People():
    name("guy"),
    step_count(0) {
}

int People::Walk() {
    return ++step_count;
}

void People::Talk() const {
    std::cout << name
        << " made " << step_count
        << " steps" << std::endl;
}

// people.cpp
```

Constructors

- A function having the same class name but not returning any type
- Called every time an instance of a class is created
- If not provided, the compiler will generate it
- A class can have multiple constructors, with different argument lists

```
class People {  
public:  
    People();  
    People(std::string _name);  
    ...  
private:  
    std::string name;  
    int step_count;  
    ...  
};  
  
// people.h
```

```
People::People():  
    name("Guy"),  
    step_count(0) {  
}  
  
People::People(std::string _name):  
    name(_name),  
    step_count(0) {  
}  
  
// people.cpp
```

Constructors

- Called when we instantiate an object, by declaring a variable of the class type, or we dynamically allocate an object of the class type (see later)

```
int main() {  
    ...  
    People who1;  
    People who2();  
    People simon("Simon");  
  
    who1.Talk();  
    who2.Talk();  
    simon.Talk();  
    ...  
}
```

→ **People()** version is called

→ **People(std::string)** version is called

Output:

```
Guy made 0 steps  
Guy made 0 steps  
Simon made 0 steps
```

Destructors

- Called when the object is going out of scope or it is explicitly deleted
- Syntax: `~ClassName ()` (no arguments)
 - Very often qualified as “virtual” to prevent derived class from invoking the base class destructor
- Commonly includes the implementation of end of life actions, e.g., clean-up code, memory deallocation,...

```
class People {  
public:  
    People();  
    People(std::string _name);  
    virtual ~People();  
...  
};  
// people.h
```

```
...  
People::~~People() {  
    std::cout << name  
        << ": i'm dying..."  
        << std::endl;  
}  
...  
// people.cpp
```

Copy constructors

- Special constructors having an object of the same class as argument
- If not implemented the compiler will automatically generate one
- The default implementation is a *member-wise copy* of the object

```
People::People( const People & other )
{
    name      = other.name;
    step_count = other.step_count;
}
```

- Member-wise copy can be expensive
- Depending on the class definition, it may also lead to undesired behaviours
 - ◊ What if member data are pointers? Pointer object “complex” class types?

Copy constructors

- Example
 - ♦ Fred is created starting from Simon
 - Do we want Fred to have the same Simon's information?
 - ♦ Default copy constructor is called (member-wise copy)

```
int main() {  
    ...  
    People simon("Simon");  
  
    for(int i=0; i<3; ++i)  
        simon.Walk()  
    simon.Talk();  
  
    People fred(simon);  
    fred.Talk();  
    ...  
}
```

Output:

```
Simon made 3 steps  
Simon made 3 steps
```



fred's member data have been initialized to the same value of object **simon**

Copy constructors

- Creating a “People” object starting from another one...
 - ♦ Do we want the “new person” Fred to start with the number of steps of the Simon?
- Overload of the copy constructor implementing our custom version
 - ♦ Set `step_count` to zero, since we are constructing a new object that has never walked before!
 - ♦ Desired behaviour: *Just copy the name of the other person*

```
People::People( const People & other )
{
    name      = other.name;
    step_count = 0;
}
```

Copy constructors

- Example

- ◊ We create a second “Simon” object
- ◊ Custom copy constructor initializes the object using the same of the first Simon

```
int main() {  
    ...  
    People simon1("Simon");  
  
    for(int i=0; i<3; ++i)  
        simon.Walk()  
    simon.Talk();  
  
    People simon2(simon1);  
    simon2.Talk();  
    ...  
}
```

Output:

```
Simon made 3 steps  
Simon made 0 steps
```



simon2 has the same name of **simon1**, but since it has just born, it has never walked before!

Object assignment

- Assignment operation is provided by the compiler
- The default implementation is the member-wise copy of the object
 - Conversely from Java the object variables content is a *value* and not a reference

```
int main() {  
    ...  
    People simon("Simon");  
    People fred;  
  
    fred = simon;  
    simon.Walk();  
    simon.Talk();  
  
    fred.Talk()  
    ...  
}
```

Output:

```
Simon made 1 steps  
Simon made 0 steps
```



Member data **name** value has been copied

Walk() has updated only **simon** status

Object assignment

- We can overload the assignment operator (“=”) too in order to modify the default behaviour
- Assignment operator (“=”) overloading
 - ♦ Syntax similar to member function implementation, but replacing the function name with **operator**<operator_symbol>

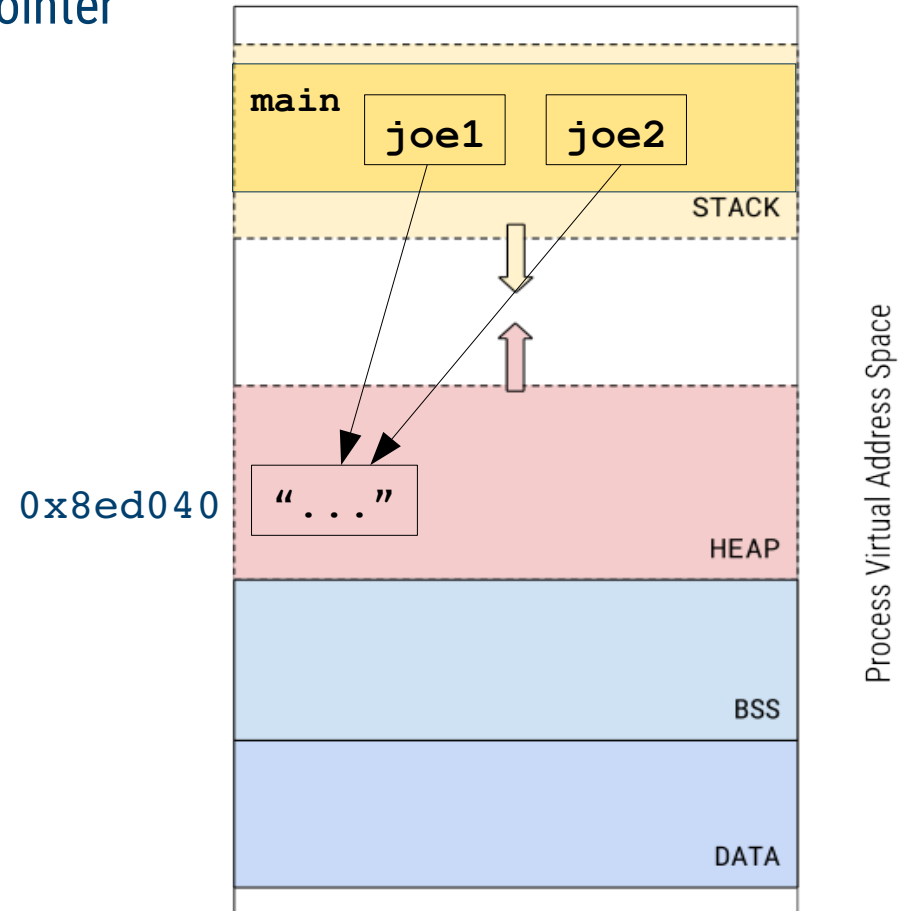
```
class People {
public:
...
    People & operator=(const People & other) {
        name      = other.name;
        step_count = other.step_count;
    }
};
```

Object pointers

- *Pointers* allows multiple variables to jointly access the same object
 - ♦ Assignment operation copies the pointer value, i.e., the memory address

```
int main() {  
    People * joe1 =  
        new People("Joe");  
    People * joe2;  
  
    joe2 = joe1;  
    joe1->Walk();  
    joe1->Talk();  
    joe2->Talk()  
  
    delete joe2;  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
Joe made 1 steps  
Joe made 1 steps
```



Constant members

- Data or function members qualified with `const` keyword
- Const-qualified variables are used to store data that must not change
- Qualifier `const` applies to whatever is on its immediate left
 - ◊ If there is nothing there applies to whatever is its immediate right

```
const int * k; // k is a variable pointer to a constant integer
int const * k; // ...alternative syntax which does the same
int * const k; // k is constant pointer to an integer variable
int const * const k; // k is a constant pointer to a constant integer
```

Constant members

- The `const` keyword can be used also in functions
- To specify a “read-only” function, i.e., that does not change the object status (member data values)

```
void Talk() const;
```

- To pass (by reference) arguments (typically objects) that we do not want to be modified

```
void TalkWith(const & People other);
```

- ◊ Function `TalkWith()` cannot access not `const` member functions of `other`
- To prevent alteration of returned variable of pointer types
 - ◊ Alteration attempts are detected at compile-time

```
const People * GetParent() const;
```


Static members

- The `static` keyword can be used in a class definition for different purposes, depending on if it is applied to data or functions
- Static member ***data*** are variables shared among all the instances
 - ◊ Member data initialization cannot be performed in the class

```
class MyClass { // myclass.h
    static int count;
};
```

```
// myclass.cpp
int MyClass::count = 0;
```

- Static member ***functions*** do not require a class instance
 - ◊ Functions meaningful at *class-level* instead of *instance-level*
 - ◊ They cannot access *non static* members since don't "belong" to any instance

```
class MyClass { // myclass.h
public:
    static int GetCount();
};
```

```
std::cout
    << MyClass::GetCount()
    << std::endl;
```

Static members

- Example

```
class People {
public:
    People();
...
    static int GetPopulation();
private:
    ...
    static int population;
};
// people.h
```

```
int main() {
    People joe;
    std::cout <<
        People::GetPopulation();
    ...
}
```

```
//Init
int People::population = 0;

People::People():
    name("guy"),
    step_count(0) {
    population++;
}

People::~People() {
    population--;
}

int People::GetPopulation() {
    return population;
}
// people.cpp
```

Inheritance

- One of the most important properties of object-oriented programming
- A derived class inherits *public* and *protected* members of the base class
 - ◊ ctors/dtor, friend and private members are excluded
- C++ supports multiple inheritance
 - ◊ A derived class can have multiple base classes
- For the base class(es) we can specify an *access-specifier*
 - **public** → *Same access policy of the base class*
 - **protected** → *Public members of base class become protected in the derived one*
 - **private** → *Public members of base class become private in the derived one*

Inheritance

- Syntax

```
class Man: public People, public Animal {  
    public:  
    ...  
    protected:  
    ...  
    private:  
    ...  
};
```

Polymorphism

- The property of an object to take on multiple “forms”
- In C++ a pointer to a derived class is type-compatible with a pointer to its base class
 - ◊ `base_class * ptr = new derived_class (...); //valid`
- We can dynamically allocate objects of a derived class into arrays declared of type “base class”
- Let’s consider an example...
 - ◊ Base class: Polygon
 - ◊ Derived classes: Triangle and Rectangle

Polymorphism

- Example

```
class Polygon {
    protected:
        int width, height;
    public:
        void set_values (int a, int b)
            { width=a; height=b; }
};

class Rectangle: public Polygon {
    public:
        int area() { return width*height; }
};

class Triangle: public Polygon {
    public:
        int area() { return width*height/2; }
};
```

Polymorphism

- Example: base class Polygon, derived classes Triangle and Rectangle

```
...
int main () {
    Rectangle rect;
    Triangle trgl;
    Polygon * ppoly1 = &rect;
    Polygon * ppoly2 = &trgl;
    ppoly1->set_values (4,5);
    ppoly2->set_values (4,5);
    std::cout << rect.area() << '\n';
    std::cout << trgl.area() << '\n';
    return 0;
}
```

```
20
10
```

- ♦ *ppoly1* and *ppoly2* can access only members inherited from Polygon
 - What if we want to have access to member function `area ()` ?

Polymorphism

- *virtual* functions → functions later redefined in derived classes

```
class Polygon {
    protected:
        int width, height;
    public:
        void set_values (int a, int b)
            { width=a; height=b; }
        virtual int area() { return 0; }
};

class Rectangle: public Polygon {
    public:
        int area() { return width*height; }
};

class Triangle: public Polygon {
    public:
        int area() { return width*height/2; }
};
```


Polymorphism

- Example: base class Polygon, derived classes Triangle and Rectangle

```
...  
int main () {  
    Rectangle rect;  
    Triangle trgl;  
    Polygon * ppoly1 = &rect;  
    Polygon * ppoly2 = &trgl;  
    ppoly1->set_values (4,5);  
    ppoly2->set_values (4,5);  
    std::cout << ppoly1->area() << '\n';  
    std::cout << ppoly2->area() << '\n';  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
20  
10
```

- ♦ `virtual` qualifier made Rectangle and Triangle's member `area()` accessible through pointers to Polygon

Polymorphism

- An *abstract* class is a class including *pure virtual* functions, i.e., a function for which the implementation is not provided
 - Member function must be implemented in derived classes

```
class Polygon {
    protected:
        int width, height;
    public:
        void set_values (int a, int b)
            { width=a; height=b; }
        virtual int area() = 0;
};
```

- An abstract class cannot be used for instantiate objects
 - We can still use to creating pointers (e.g., `Polygon * ppoly`) and exploit polymorphism property
- Useful for defining “interfaces”

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- Templates
- Example: `vector`, `list`, `map`

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Template

- A way of making functions or classes more abstract
- Focus on the behaviour of the function (or the class) without knowing variables data type
 - ♦ A single function / class implementation to cover several data type cases
 - ♦ Avoid code replications (simply due to variables data type)
- Data type resolution performed at compile-time
 - ♦ Compilers generate additional code
 - Large use of template may strongly increase the executable size
 - Longer compilation times
 - ♦ Debugging is complicated by hard to read compiler messages
 - ♦ Template code is placed in header files
 - Modify a template class may lead to entire project re-build

Template functions

- Example of global function performing addition between two variables of a generic type

```
...
template<typename T>
T add(T a1, T a2)
{
    return a1 + a2;
}
...
int main() {
    int i1, i2;
    float f1, f2;
    ...
    cout << add<int>(i1, i2)
          << endl;
    cout << add<float>(f1, f2)
          << endl;
    return 0;
}
```

The compiler will generate two versions of function **add()**



```
int add(int a1, int a2)
{
    return a1 + a2;
}
```

```
float add(float a1, float a2)
{
    return a1 + a2;
}
```

Class template

- A class including generic type members (Example: stack.h)

```
#ifndef STACK_H_
#define STACK_H_

namespace aos {

template <class T>
class Stack {
Public:
    template <class T> Stack(int _size) { ... }

    template <class T> void push(T item) { ... }

    template <class T> T pop() { ... }

};
} // namespace aos

#endif // STACK_H_
```

Class template

- We can instantiate objects of the same class, working on data of different types

```
#include "my_stack.h"
namespace aos {

int main() {
    Stack<int> s1;
    Stack<float> s2;
    Stack<People> s3;

    s1.push(1);
    s2.push(6.0);
    People simon("Simon");
    s3.push(simon);
    ...
    return 0;
}

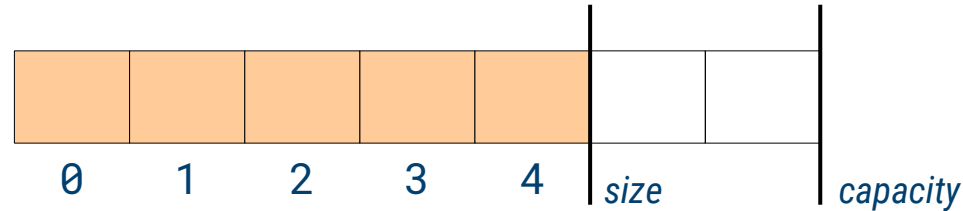
} // namespace aos
```


STL

- A powerful set of C++ template classes
- Provides general-purpose template-based classes and functions
- Implement commonly used algorithms and data structure
- *Containers* are the most noticeable example of data structures
 - ♦ List, queues, stack, map, set, ...
 - ♦ Used to manage a collection of object of a certain class
 - ♦ They differ for functionality, typology (*sequential, associative, unordered*), and complexity of accessing and manipulation operations
- *Iterators* are used to step through the elements of the containers
- *Algorithms* includes function manipulating containers
 - ♦ Search, copy, sort, transform,...

For a complete list: <http://www.cplusplus.com/reference/stl/>

vector



- Sequence container representing dynamic arrays (mutable size)
- Contiguous storage of elements with random access
- High efficiency in accessing items - $O(1)$
- Relatively efficient in insert/delete items at the end
- Not much efficient in insert/delete operations in/from other positions
- If $size > capacity$ the entire vector is reallocated in a bigger memory space

vector

- Example (C++03)

```
int main() {
    People claire("Claire");
    People john("John");
    vector<People> citizens;    // Container of People
    citizens.push_back(john);  // Add to vector
    citizens.push_back(claire); // Add to vector
    vector<People>::iterator it;
    for(it = citizens.begin(); it != citizens.end(); ++it) {
        cout << "Name: " << it->GetName() << endl;
    }
    cout << "Citizen 1 is" << citizens[1].GetName() << endl;
    return 0;
}
```

```
Name: John
Name: Claire
Citizen 1 is Claire
```

vector

- Example (C++11)

```
int main() {
    People claire("Claire");
    People john("John");
    vector<People> citizens;    // Container of People
    citizens.push_back(john);  // Add to vector
    citizens.push_back(claire); // Add to vector

    for(auto & c: citizens) {
        cout << "Name: " << c.GetName() << endl;
    }
    cout << "Citizen 1 is" << citizens[1].GetName() << endl;
    return 0;
}
```

```
Name: John
Name: Claire
Citizen 1 is Claire
```

list



- Sequence containers implementing double-linked lists
- Very efficient insert/remove operations - $O(1)$
- Linear complexity in accessing the single item - $O(n)$
- Extra memory utilization due to storing pointers to 'prev' and 'next' item
- Good for sorting-like operations

list

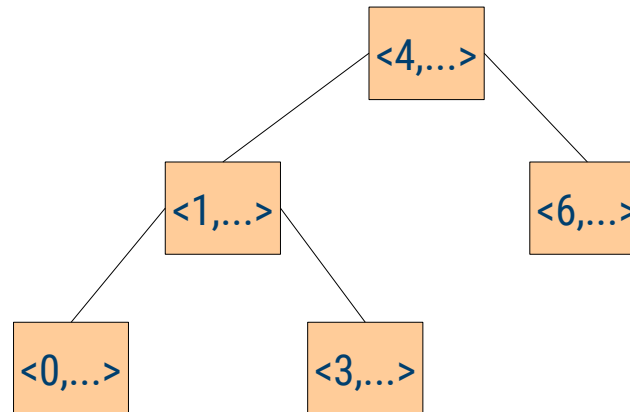
- Example (C++11)

```
int main() {
    People claire("Claire");
    People john("John");
    list<People> citizens;           // Container of People
    citizens.push_back(john);       // Add to list
    citizens.push_back(claire);     // Add to list

    for(auto & c: citizens) {
        cout << "Name: " << c.GetName() << endl;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

```
Name: John
Name: Claire
```

map



- Associative containers storing pairs $\langle \text{key}, \text{value} \rangle$ where the value represents the data, and the key is used for sorting and access purposes
- $O(\log n)$ complexity to access elements
- $O(\log n)$ complexity to insert/remove elements
- Typically implemented as binary search trees
- Slower than *unordered* containers

map

- Example (C++11)

```
int main() {
    People claire("Claire");
    People john("John");
    map<std::string, People> citizens; // Container of People
    citizens.emplace("John", john); // Add to map
    citizens.emplace("Claire", claire); // Add to map

    for(auto & c_pair: citizens) {
        cout << "Key: " << c_pair.first
             << " / Name: " << c_pair.second.GetName() << endl;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

```
Key: Claire / Name: Claire
Key: John / Name: John
```


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Raw pointers

- Using (*raw*) pointers is a powerful C/C++ feature, but in general difficult to handle and error-prone
- Consider the following example:

```
int main() {
    People * joe = new People("Joe");
    People * ann = new People("Ann");
    People * alex = new People("Alex");
    joe->SetChild(alex);
    ann->SetChild(alex);

    delete joe;
    delete ann;
    delete alex;
    return 0;
}
```

```
class People {
public:
    virtual ~People();
    void SetChild(
        People * _child);
private:
    People * child;
}
```

```
People::~~People() {
    delete child;
}
```

- ♦ → “Segmentation fault” since “alex” is deallocated multiple times!

Smart pointers

- To solve the problem we should start from the concept of *ownership*
- To own a dynamically allocated object means to be the entity in charge of deallocating it

- A feature introduced by the C++11 standard, to simplify dynamic memory management in C++ programs
 - ◊ Concept of ownership introduced and exploited
 - ◊ Limited *garbage collection* facilities

- *Base idea: To wrap raw pointers in stack allocated objects that could control the life-cycle of the dynamically allocated object*
- We are going to focus on just two class of smart pointer
 - ◊ Unique pointers (class `unique_ptr<>`)
 - ◊ Shared pointers (class `shared_ptr<>`)

Shared pointers

- Pointers of type *shared* allows us to keep track of the number of shared ownership, i.e. references to the objects
- Reference counting based mechanism
 - ♦ If the count is decreased to zero the object is automatically deallocated
 - ♦ Assignments and scope exit alter the reference counters
 - ♦ A little additional memory overhead

```
#include <memory>
using namespace std;
int main() {
    shared_ptr<People> jack = make_shared<People>("Jack");
    ...
}
```

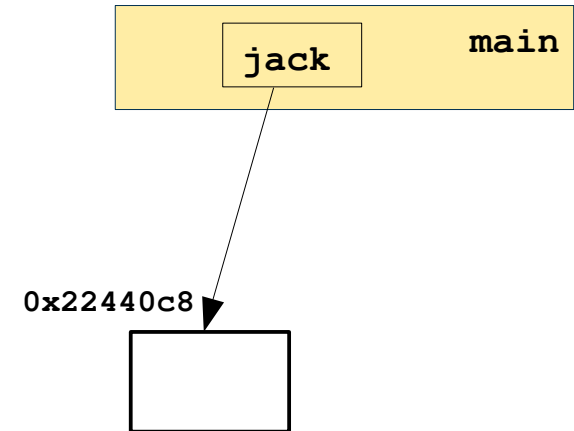
- No more explicit `new/delete` calls
- Append `-std=c++11` to gcc command line

Shared pointers

- Similarly to pointer variables...
 - Object “jack” (of class `shared_ptr<>`) is allocated onto the stack
 - Members of the pointed object are accessed by using the “`->`” operator
- `shared_ptr<>` member function `get ()` returns the raw pointer value
 - Using “`.`” operator to access `shared_ptr<>` member functions

```
...
shared_ptr<People> jack
    = make_shared<People>("Jack");
cout << "Name = " << jack->GetName() << endl;
cout << "Raw ptr = " << jack.get() << endl;
...
```

```
Name = Jack
Raw pointer = 0x22440c8
```



Shared pointers

- Example: an assignment operation and a scope exit

```
#include <memory>
using namespace std;
int main() {
    ...
    shared_ptr<People> jack = make_shared<People>("Jack");
    cout << "Jack ref.count = " << jack.use_count() << endl;
    {
        shared_ptr<People> jack2;
        jack2 = jack;
        cout << "Jack ref.count = " << jack.use_count() << endl;
    }
    cout << "Jack ref.count = " << jack.use_count() << endl;
    return 0;
}
```

```
Jack ref.count = 1
Jack ref.count = 2 // jack2 = jack
Jack ref.count = 1 // jack2 out of scope => jack ref.count decrease
Jack: i'm dying... // People object "Jack" destruction
```

Shared pointers

- The previous “parents” example can be rewritten as follows, using shared pointers (changing also `SetChild()` signature)

```
#include <memory>
using namespace std;
int main() {
    shared_ptr<People> jack = make_shared<People>( "Jack" );
    shared_ptr<People> ann  = make_shared<People>( "Ann" );
    shared_ptr<People> alex = make_shared<People>( "Alex" );
    jack->SetChild(alex);
    ann->SetChild(alex);
    return 0;
}
```

- No need of explicit delete (objects deallocated at main function exit)
- No multiple deallocation thanks to reference counting

Unique pointers

- Do not share the ownership of a pointed object
 - ◊ Unique pointer means unique ownership
 - ◊ Only one object responsible of memory deallocation
- Copy assignments not allowed, only move assignments are

```
#include <memory>
using namespace std;
int main() {
    unique_ptr<People> jason(new People("Jason"));
    unique_ptr<People> laura;
    cout << "Jason = " << jason.get() << endl;
    laura = std::move(jason);
    cout << "Jason = " << jason.get() << endl;
    cout << "Laura = " << laura.get() << endl;
}
```

```
Jason = 0x15fd040
Jason = 0
Laura = 0x15fd040
```


Unique pointers

- Standard C++14 has introduced `make_unique<>` function
 - Append `-std=c++14` to gcc command line
- `make_*` functions are preferable with respect to using “`new ...`”
 - Safer and more efficient option

```
#include <memory>
using namespace std;
int main() {
    unique_ptr<People> jason = make_unique<People>("Jason");
    unique_ptr<People> laura;
    cout << "Jason = " << jason.get() << endl;
    laura = std::move(jason);
    cout << "Jason = " << jason.get() << endl;
    cout << "Laura = " << laura.get() << endl;
}
```

Objects and containers

- Containers can be used to store objects (stack allocated)
 - An object copy is performed when a new object is added to the collection
- Containers can be used to store pointers to objects (heap allocated)

```
int main() {  
    vector<People *> citizens; // Using raw pointers  
    People * p1 = new People("p1");  
    People * p2 = new People("p2");  
    citizens.push_back(p1);  
    citizens.push_back(p2);  
    citizens.clear(); // Clear the container  
    return 0;  
}
```

- For dynamically allocated objects keep in mind the potential pitfalls about memory management

`clear()` calls objects destructors... but what about raw pointers?

Objects and containers

- We may use smart (e.g., shared) pointers also in containers

```
int main() {  
    vector<shared_ptr<People>> citizens; // Using shared pointers  
    shared_ptr<People> p1 = make_shared<People>("p1");  
    shared_ptr<People> p2 = make_shared<People>("p2");  
    citizens.push_back(p1);  
    citizens.push_back(p2);  
    cout << "p1 use count = " << p1.use_count() << endl;  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
p1 use count = 2  
p1: i'm dying...  
p2: i'm dying...  
p3: i'm dying...
```

- Insert/remove operations affect shared pointers reference counting
- Destroying the vector the reference counters are decreased

Web links

- <http://www.cplusplus.com>
- <http://en.cppreference.com/w/>
- <http://www.horstmann.com/ccj2/ccjapp3.html>
- http://www.cprogramming.com/tutorial/constructor_destructor_ordering.html
- <http://www.yolinux.com/TUTORIALS/C++MemoryCorruptionAndMemoryLeaks.html>
- <http://duramecho.com/ComputerInformation/WhyHowCppConst.html>
- http://www.tutorialspoint.com/cplusplus/cpp_stl_tutorial.htm