CSE 333
Lecture 15 - inheritance

Steve Gribble
Department of Computer Science & Engineering
University of Washington
Today

C++ inheritance

- *thanks to Marty Stepp for his “portfolio” case study*
Let’s build a stock portfolio

A portfolio represents a person’s financial investments

- each asset has a cost (how much was paid for it) and a market value (how much it is worth)
  ‣ the difference is the profit (or loss)

- different assets compute market value in different ways
  ‣ **stock**: has a symbol (“GOOG”), a number of shares, share price paid, and current share price
  ‣ **dividend stock**: is a stock that also has dividend payments
  ‣ **cash**: money; never incurs profit or loss. (hah!)
One possible design

One class per asset type

- Problem: redundancy
- Problem: cannot treat multiple investments the same way
  - e.g., cannot put them in a single array or Vector
see initial_design/
Inheritance

A parent-child relationship between classes

- a child (**derived** class) extends a parent (**base** class)

Benefits:

- code reuse: subclasses inherit code from superclasses
- polymorphism
  - ability to redefine existing behavior but preserve the interface
  - children can override behavior of parent
  - others can make calls on objects without knowing which part of the inheritance tree it is in
- extensibility: children can add behavior
Better design

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stock</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Total shares</th>
<th>Total cost</th>
<th>Current price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GetMarketValue()</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GetProfit()</td>
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<td>GetCost()</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DividendStock</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Total shares</th>
<th>Total cost</th>
<th>Current price</th>
<th>Dividends</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Asset (abstract) |                     |               |               |               |
| GetMarketValue() |           |               |               |               |
| GetProfit()      |           |               |               |               |
| GetCost()        |           |               |               |               |

| Cash            | Amount_ |               |               |
|-----------------|---------|               |               |
| GetMarketValue() |         |               |               |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mutual Fund</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Total shares</th>
<th>Total cost</th>
<th>Current price</th>
<th>Assets_[]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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Access specifiers

**public:** visible to all other classes

**protected:** visible to current class and its subclasses

**private:** visible only to the current class

declare members as **protected** if:

- you don’t want random customers accessing them
  - you want to be subclassed and let subclasses access them
Public inheritance

- “public” inheritance
  - anything that is [public, protected] in the base is [public, protected] in the derived class

- derived class inherits **almost** all behavior from the base class
  - not constructors and destructors
  - not the assignment operator or copy constructor
Revisiting the portfolio example

Without inheritance (separate class per type)
- lots of redundancy
- no type relationship between the classes
Revisiting the portfolio example

A derived class:

- **inherits** the behavior and state of the base class
- **overrides** some of the base class’s member functions
- **extends** the base class with new member functions, variables
( implement better _design/ )
Static dispatch

When a member function is invoked on an object...

- the code that is invoked is decided at compile time, based on the compile-time visible type of the callee

```cpp
double DividendStock::GetMarketValue() const {
    return get_shares() * get_share_price() + _dividends;
}

double DividendStock::GetProfit() const {
    return GetMarketValue() - GetCost();
}
```

```cpp
double Stock::GetMarketValue() const {
    return get_shares() * get_share_price();
}

double Stock::GetProfit() const {
    return GetMarketValue() - GetCost();
}
```
Static dispatch

DividendStock dividend();
DividendStock *ds = &dividend;
Stock *s = &dividend;

// invokes Stock::GetProfit(), since that function is
// inherited (i.e., not overridden). Stock::GetProfit()
// invokes Stock::GetMarketValue(), since C++ uses
// static dispatch by default.
ds->GetProfit();

// invokes DividendStock::GetMarketValue()
 ds->GetMarketValue();

// invokes Stock::GetMarketValue()
 s->GetMarketValue();
Dynamic dispatch

Usually, when a derived function is available to an object, we want that derived function to be invoked by it.

- as we will see, this requires a runtime decision of what code to invoke.

When a member function is invoked on an object...

- the code that is invoked is decided at run time, and is the **most-derived function** accessible to the object’s visible type.
How to use dynamic dispatch

If you want a member function to use dynamic dispatch, prefix its declaration with the “virtual” keyword

- derived (child) functions don’t need to repeat the virtual keyword, but it is good style to do so

(see even_better_design/)
Dynamic dispatch

When a member function is invoked on an object

- the code that is invoked is decided at run time, and is the most-derived function accessible to the object’s visible type

```cpp
double DividendStock::GetMarketValue() const {
    return get_shares() * get_share_price() + _dividends;
}

double DividendStock::GetProfit() const {
    return DividendStock::GetMarketValue() - GetCost();
}  

double Stock::GetMarketValue() const {
    return get_shares() * get_share_price();
}

double Stock::GetProfit() const {
    return GetMarketValue() - GetCost();
}
```
Dynamic dispatch

DividendStock dividend();
DividendStock *ds = &dividend;
Stock *s = &dividend;

// invokes Stock::GetProfit(), since that function is
// inherited (i.e., not overridden). Stock::GetProfit()
// invokes Dividend::GetMarketValue(), since that is
// the most-derived accessible function.
ds->GetProfit();

// invokes DividendStock::GetMarketValue()
ds->GetMarketValue();

// invokes DividendStock::GetMarketValue()
s->GetMarketValue();
Dynamic dispatch

Here’s what “most derived” means:

class A {
   public:
      // Foo will use dynamic dispatch
      virtual void Foo();
};

class B : public A {
   public:
      // B::Foo overrides A::Foo
      virtual void Foo();
};

class C : public B {
   public:
      // C inherits B::Foo()
};

void function() {
   A *a_ptr;
   C c;

   // Why is this OK?
   a_ptr = &c;

   // Whose Foo() is called?
   a_ptr->Foo();
}
Dynamic dispatch

A more extreme version

```cpp
class A {
    public:
        virtual void Foo();
};

class B : public A {
    public:
        virtual void Foo();
};
class C : public B {
};
class D : public C {
    public:
        virtual void Foo();
};
class E : public C {
};

void function() {
    A *a_ptr;
    C c;
    E e;

    // Whose Foo() is called?
    a_ptr = &c;
    a_ptr->Foo();

    // Whose Foo() is called?
    a_ptr = &e;
    a_ptr->Foo();
}
```
But how can this possibly work??

The compiler produces Stock.o from Stock.cc

- while doing this, it can’t know that DividendStock exists
  
  ‣ so, how does the code emitted for Stock::GetProfit() know to invoke Stock::GetMarketValue() some of the time, and DividendStock::GetMarketValue() other times??!!?

```cpp
virtual double Stock::GetMarketValue() const;
virtual double Stock::GetProfit() const;
```

```cpp
double Stock::GetMarketValue() const {
    return get_shares() * get_share_price();
}
double Stock::GetProfit() const {
    return GetMarketValue() - GetCost();
}
```
vtables and the vptr

If a member function is virtual, the compiler emits:

- a “vtable”, or virtual function table, **for the class**
  - it contains a function pointer for each virtual function in the class
  - the pointer points to the most-derived function for that class

- a “vptr”, or virtual table pointer, **for each object instance**
  - the vptr is a pointer to a virtual table, and it is essentially a hidden member variable inserted by the compiler
  - when the object’s constructor is invoked, the vptr is initialized to point to the virtual table for the object’s class
  - thus, the vptr “remembers” what class the object is
vtable/vptr example

class Base {  
  public:
    virtual void fn1() {};  
    virtual void fn2() {};  
};

class Dr1: public Base {  
  public:
    virtual void fn1() {};  
};

class Dr2: public Base {  
  public:
    virtual void fn2() {};  
};

// what needs to work
Base b;
Dr1 d1;
Dr2 d2;

Base *bptr = &b;
Base *d1ptr = &d1;
Base *d2ptr = &d2;

bptr->fn1(); // Base::fn1()  
bptr->fn2(); // Base::fn2()  
d1ptr->fn1(); // Dr1::fn1()  
d1ptr->fn2(); // Base::fn2()  
d2.fn1();  // Base::fn1()  
d2ptr->fn1(); // Base::fn1()  
d2ptr->fn2(); // Dr2::fn2();
// what happens

Base b;
Dr1 d1;
Dr2 d2;

Base *d2ptr = &d2;

d2.fn1();
// d2.vptr -->
// Dr2.vtable.fn1 -->
// Base::fn1()

d2ptr->fn2();
// d2ptr -->
// d2.vptr -->
// Dr2.vtable.fn2 -->
// Dr2::fn2()
actual code

class Base {
    public:
    virtual void fn1() {};
    virtual void fn2() {};
};

class Dr1: public Base {
    public:
    virtual void fn1() {};
};

main() {
    Dr1 d1;
    d1.fn1();
    Base *ptr = &d1;
    ptr->fn1();
}

Let’s compile this and use objdump to see what g++ emits!
- g++ -g vtable.cc
- objdump -CDSRTtx a.out | less
Inheritance and constructors

A derived class **does not inherit** the base class’s constructor

- the derived class *must* have its own constructor
  - if you don’t provide one, C++ synthesizes a default constructor for you
    - it initializes derived class’s member variables to zero-equivalents and invokes the default constructor of the base class
    - if the base class has no default constructor, a compiler error
- a constructor of the base class is invoked before the constructor of the derived class
  - you can specify which base class constructor in the initialization list of the derived class, or C++ will invoke default constructor of base class
Examples

// Base has no default constructor
class Base {
    public:
        Base(int x) : y(x) { }
    int y;
};

// Compiler error when you try
// to instantiate a D1, as D1’s
// synthesized default constructor
// needs to invoke Base's default
// constructor.
class D1 : public Base {
    public:
        int z;
};

// Works.
class D2 : public Base {
    public:
        D2(int z) :
            Base(z+1) {
                this->z = z;
            }
        int z;
};
Destructors

When the destructor of a derived class is invoked...

- the destructor of the base class is invoked after the destructor of the derived class finishes

Note that static dispatch of destructors is almost always a mistake!

- good habit to always defined a destructor as virtual

  - empty if you have no work to do

```cpp
class Base {
    public:
    Base() { x = new int; }
    ~Base() { delete x; }
    int *x;
};

class D1 : public Base {
    public:
    D1() { y = new int; }
    ~D1() { delete y; }
    int *y;
};

Base *b = new Base;
Base *dptr = (Base *) new D1;
delete b;  // ok
delete dptr; // leaks D1::y
```
Slicing -- C++’s revenge

C++ allows you to...

- assign to...
  ‣ an instance of a base class...
  ‣ the value of a derived class

```cpp
class Base {
public:
    Base(int x) : x_(x) { }
    int x_; 
};

class Dr : public Base {
public:
    Dr(int y) : Base(16), y_(y) { }
    int y_; 
};

main() {
    Base b(1);
    Dr d(2);
    b = d;  // what happens to y_?
    // d = b; // compiler error
}
```
Given this, STL containers?? :(

STL stores **copies of values** in containers, not pointers to object instances

- so, what if you have a class hierarchy, and want to store mixes of object types in a single container?
  
  - e.g., Stock and DividendStock in the same list
  
- you get sliced! :( 

```
class Stock {
    ...
};

class DivStock : public Stock {
    ...
};

main() {
    Stock s;
    DivStock ds;
    list<Stock> li;

    l.push_back(s);  // OK
    l.push_back(ds); // OUCH!
}
```
STL + inheritance: use pointers?

Store pointers to heap-allocated objects in STL containers
- no slicing :)
  - you have to remember to delete your objects before destroying the container :(  
  - sort() does the wrong thing :( :(  

Use smart pointers!

```cpp
#include <list>
using namespace std;

class Integer {
    public:
        Integer(int x) : x_(x) {}
    private:
        int x_;  
};

main() {
    list<Integer *> li;
    Integer *i1 = new Integer(2);
    Integer *i2 = new Integer(3);

    li.push_back(i1);
    li.push_back(i2);
    li.sort();  // waaaaaaah!!
}
```
Explicit casting in C

C’s explicit typecasting syntax is simple

\[ \text{lhs} = (\text{new type}) \; \text{rhs}; \]

- C’s explicit casting is used to...
  - convert between pointers of arbitrary type
  - forcibly convert a primitive type to another
    - e.g., an integer to a float, so that you can do integer division

```c
int x = 5;
int y = 2;
printf("%d\n", x / y); // prints 2
printf("%f\n", ((float) x) / y); // prints 2.5
```
C++

You can use C-style casting in C++, but C++ provides an alternative style that is more informative:

- `static_cast<to_type>(expression)`
- `dynamic_cast<to_type>(expression)`
- `const_cast<to_type>(expression)`
- `reinterpret_cast<to_type>(expression)`
static_cast

C++’s static_cast can convert:

- pointers to classes **of related type**
  - get a compiler error if you attempt to static_cast between pointers to non-related classes
  - dangerous to cast a pointer to a base class into a pointer to a derived class
- non-pointer conversion
  - float to int, etc.

static_cast is checked at compile time

```cpp
class Foo {
  public:
    int x_
  
};

class Bar {
  public:
    float x_
  
};

class Wow : public Bar {
  public:
    char x_
  
};

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
  Foo a, *aptr;
  Bar b, *bptr;
  Wow c, *cptr;

  // compiler error
  aptr = static_cast<Foo*>(&b);

  // OK
  bptr = static_cast<Bar*>(&c);

  // compiles, but dangerous
  cptr = static_cast<Wow*>(&b);
  return 0;
}
```
C++’s dynamic_cast can convert:

- pointers to classes of related type
- references to classes of related type

dynamic_cast is checked at both compile time and run time

- casts between unrelated classes fail at compile time
- casts from base to derived fail at run-time if the pointed-to object is not a full derived object

```cpp
class Base {
  public:
    virtual int foo() { return 1; }
    float x_;  
};

class Deriv : public Base {
  public:
    char x_;  
};

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
  Base b, *bptr = &b;
  Deriv d, *dptr = &d;

  // OK (run-time check passes).
  bptr = dynamic_cast<Base*>(&d);
  assert(bptr != NULL);

  // OK (run-time check passes).
  dptr = dynamic_cast<Deriv*>(bptr);
  assert(dptr != NULL);

  // Run-time check fails, so the cast returns NULL.
  bptr = &b;
  dptr = dynamic_cast<Deriv*>(bptr);
  assert(dptr != NULL);

  return 0;
}
```
**const_cast**

Is used to strip or add const-ness

- dangerous!

```cpp
void foo(int *x) {
    *x++;
}

void bar(const int *x) {
    foo(x); // compiler error
    foo(const_cast<int *>(x)); // succeeds
}

main() {
    int x = 7;
    bar(&x);
}
```
reinterpret_cast

casts between incompatible types

- storing a pointer in an int, or vice-versa
  - works as long as the integral type is “wide” enough
- converting between incompatible pointers
  - dangerous!
Implicit conversion

The compiler tries to infer some kinds of conversions

- when you don’t specify an explicit cast, and types are not equal, the compiler looks for an acceptable implicit conversion

```cpp
void bar(std::string x);

void foo() {
    int x = 5.7;  // implicit conversion float -> int
    bar("hi");   // implicit conversion, (const char *) -> string
    char c = x;   // implicit conversion, int -> char
}
```
Sneaky implicit conversions

How did the (const char *) --> string conversion work??

- if a class has a constructor with a single parameter, the compiler will exploit it to perform implicit conversions

- at most one user-defined implicit conversion will happen

  ‣ can do int --> Foo
  ‣ can’t do int --> Foo --> Baz

```cpp
class Foo {
    public:
        Foo(int x) : x_(x) { }
        int x_; 
    
    int Bar(Foo f) {
        return f.x_; 
    }

    int main(int argc, char **argv) { 
        // The compiler uses Foo's (int x) constructor to make an implicit conversion from the int 5 to a Foo.
        // equiv to return Bar(Foo(5)); // !!!
        return Bar(5); 
    }
}
```
Avoiding sneaky implicits

Declare one-argument constructors as “explicit” if you want to disable them from being used as an implicit conversion path

- usually a good idea

```cpp
class Foo {
    public:
    explicit Foo(int x) : x_(x) { }
    int x_;}
}

int Bar(Foo f) {
    return f.x_;}

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    // compiler error
    return Bar(5);
}
```
Exercise 1

Design a class hierarchy to represent shapes:

- examples of shapes: Circle, Triangle, Square

Implement methods that:

- construct shapes
- move a shape (i.e., add (x, y) to the shape position)
- returns the centroid of the shape
- returns the area of the shape
- Print( ), which prints out the details of a shape
Exercise 2

Implement a program that:

- uses your exercise 1
  ‣ constructs a vector of shapes
  ‣ sorts the vector according to the area of the shape
  ‣ prints out each member of the vector

- notes:
  ‣ to avoid slicing, you’ll have to store pointers in the vector
  ‣ to be able to sort, you’ll have to implement a wrapper for the pointers, and you’ll have to override the “<“ operator
See you on Monday!