CSE 374
Programming Concepts & Tools

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Lecture 19 – Introduction to C++
C++

C++ is an enormous language:

• All of C
• Classes and objects (kind of like Java, some crucial differences)
• Many more little conveniences (I/O, new/delete, function overloading, pass-by-reference, bigger standard library)
• Namespaces (kind of like Java packages)
• Stuff we won’t do: const, different kinds of casts, exceptions, templates, multiple inheritance, …
• We will focus on a couple themes rather than just a “big bag of new features to memorize” …
Our focus

Object-oriented programming in a C-like language may help you understand C and Java better?

- We can put objects on the stack or the heap; an object is not a pointer to an object
- Still have to manage memory manually
- Still lots of ways to HCBWKMSCOD*
- Still distinguish header files from implementation files
- Allocation and initialization still separate concepts, but easier to “construct” and “destruct”
- Programmer has more control on how method-calls work (different defaults from Java)

*hopefully crash, but who knows – might silently corrupt other data
#include <iostream>

int main() {
    // Use standard output stream cout
    // and operator << to send "Hello World"
    // and an end line to stdout
    std::cout << "Hello World" << std::endl;
    return 0;
}

- Differences from C: “new-style” headers (no .h), namespace access (::), I/O via stream operators, …
- Differences from Java: not everything is in a class, any code can go in any file, …
  - Can write procedural programs if that’s what you want
Compiling

• Need a different compiler than for C; use g++ on Linux. Example:
  
  g++ -Wall -o hello hello.cc

• The .cc extension is a convention (just like .c for C), but less universal (also see .cpp, .cxx, .C).

• Uses the C preprocessor (no change there).

• Now: A few “niceties” before our real focus (classes and objects).
I/O

- Operator `<<` takes a “ostream” and (various things) and outputs it; returns the stream, which is why this works:
  ```cpp
  std::cout << 3 << "hi" << f(x) << '\n';
  ```
  - Easier and safer than printf (type safe)
- Operator `>>` takes “istream” and (various things) and inputs into it.
  - Easier and safer than scanf. Do not use pointers; e.g.,
    ```cpp
    int x; std::cin >> x;
    ```
- Can “think of” `>>` and `<<` as keywords, but they are not:
  - Operator overloading redefines them for different pairs of types.
    - In C and core C++ they mean “left-shift” and “right-shift” (of bits); undefined for non-numeric types.
  - Lack of address-of for input done with call-by-reference (coming soon).
Namespaces

- In C, all non-static functions in the program need different names
  - Even operating systems with tens of millions of lines.
- Namespaces (cf. Java packages) let you group top-level names:
  namespace thespace { ... definitions ... }
  - Of course, then different namespaces can have the same function names and they are totally different functions.
  - Can nest them
  - Can reuse the same namespace in multiple places
    - Particularly common: in the .h and the .cc
- Example, the whole C++ standard library is in namespace std.
- To use a function/variable/etc. in another namespace, do thespace::someFun() (not . like in Java)
Using

- To avoid having to always write namespaces and ::
  use a *using declaration*
- Example:

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

int main() {
    cout << "Hello World" << endl;
    return 0;
}
```
Onto Classes and Objects

Like Java:
• Fields vs. methods, static vs. instance, constructors
• Method overloading (functions, operators, and constructors too)

Not quite like Java:
• access-modifier (e.g., private) syntax and default
• declaration separate from implementation (like C)
• funny constructor syntax, default parameters (e.g., ... = 0)

Nothing like Java:
• Objects vs. pointers to objects
• Destructors and copy-constructors
• virtual vs. non-virtual (to be discussed)
Stack vs. heap

- Java: cannot stack-allocate an object (only a pointer to one; all objects are dynamically allocated on the heap).
- C: can stack-allocate a struct, then initialize it.
- C++: stack-allocate and call a constructor (where this is the object’s address, as always, except this is a pointer)
  
  ```
  Thing t(10000);
  ```
- Java: new Thing(...) calls constructor, returns heap-allocated pointer.
- C: Use malloc and then initialized, must free exactly once later, untyped pointers.
- C++: Like Java, new Thing(...), but can also do new int(42). Like C must deallocate, but must use delete instead of free.
Destructors

• An object’s destructor is called just before the space for it is reclaimed.
• A common use: Reclaim space for heap-allocated things pointed to (first calling their destructors).
  – But not if there are other pointers to it (aliases)⁉️
• Meaning of delete x: call the destructor of pointed-to heap object, then reclaim space.
• Destructors also get called for stack-objects (when they leave scope).
• Advice: Always make destructors virtual (learn why soon)
Create a heap-allocated array of objects: new A[10];
• Calls default (zero-argument) constructor for each element.
• Convenient if there’s a good default initialization.
Create a heap-allocated array of pointers to objects:
new A*[10]
• More like Java (but not initialized?)
• As in C, new A() and new A[10] have type A*.
• new A* and new A*[10] both have type A**.
• Unlike C, to delete a non-array, you must write delete e
• Unlike C, to delete an array, you must write delete [ ] e
• Else HYCSBWK – the deleter must know somehow what is an array.
In C, we know function arguments are copies
  – But copying a pointer means you still point to the same (uncopied) thing
Same in C++, but a “reference parameter” (the & character after it) is different.
Callee writes: void f(int& x) { x = x + 1; }
Caller writes: f(y)
But it’s as though the caller wrote f(&y) and everywhere the callee said x they really said *x.
So that little & has a big meaning.
Copy Constructors

• In C, we know x=y or f(y) copies y (if a struct, then member-wise copy).
• Same in C++, unless a copy-constructor is defined, then do whatever the copy-constructor says.
• A copy-constructor by definition takes a reference parameter (else we’d need to copy, but that’s what we’re defining) of the same type.
• Let’s not talk about the const.
  – OK, well maybe a little
const

- const can appear in many places in C++ code
  - Basically means “doesn’t change” or “won’t change”, but there are subtleties
- Examples:
  
  ```
  const int default_length = 125; // don’t use #define
  void examine (const thing &t); // won’t change t
  ```

- “const correctness” is important in real C++ code
  - Learn it if you do any non-trivial C++
Still to come

• So far we have classes and objects (class instances)
  – Enough for many interesting types, particularly small concrete types like strings, complex, date, time, etc.
• For full object-oriented programming we still need (and have) subclassing, inheritance, and related things
  – Many similarities with Java, but more options and different defaults