

CSE 333 13AU

SECTION 5

References, Classes and const.

This or that?

- Consider the following code:

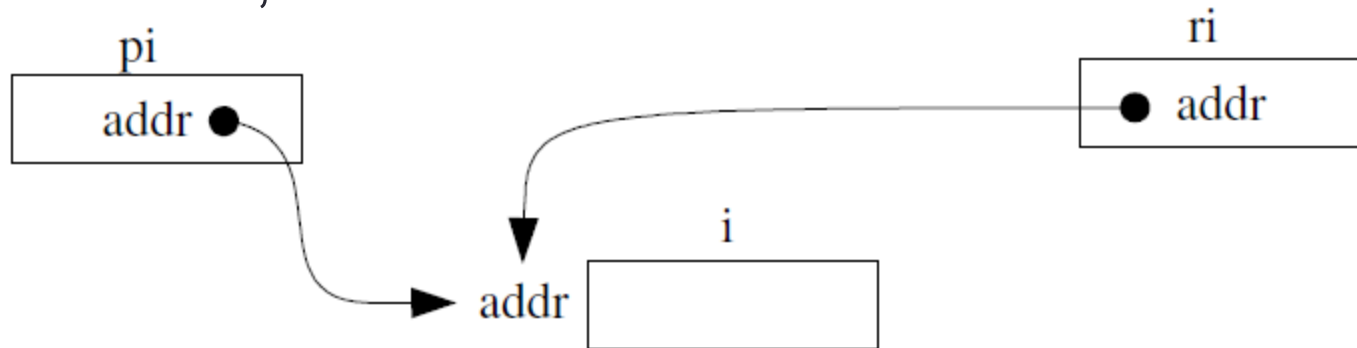
Pointers:

```
int i;  
int *pi = &i;
```

References:

```
int i;  
int &ri = i;
```

In both cases,



The difference lies in how they are used in expressions:

```
*pi = 4;
```

```
ri = 4;
```

C++ const declaration

- As a declaration specifier, `const` is a type specifier that makes objects unmodifiable.

```
int const m = 255;
```

- Reference to constant integer:

```
int n = 100;
```

```
int const &ri = n; //ri becomes read only
```

When to use?

- Function parameter types and return types and functions that declare overloaded operators.
- **Pointers:** may point to many different objects during its lifetime. Pointer arithmetic (++ or --) enables moving from one address to another. (Arrays, for e.g.)
- **References:** can refer to only one object during its lifetime.
- **Style Guide Tip:**
 - use const reference parameters to pass input
 - use pointers to pass output parameters
 - input parameters first, then output parameters last

Example – Pass by Reference (Recap)

```
void swap(int &x, int &y) {  
    int tmp = x;  
    x = y;  
    y = tmp;  
}  
  
int main(int argc, char **argv) {  
    int a = 5, b = 10;  
    swap(a, b);  
    cout << "a: " << a << "; b: " << b << endl;  
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;  
}
```

C++ Classes

//use const to protect class members (make get_x() read-only)

```
class Point {
```

public:

```
Point(const int x, const int y); // constructor
```

```
int get_x() { return x_; } // inline member function
```

```
int get_y() { return y_; } // inline member function
```

```
double Distance(const Point &p) const; // member function
```

```
void SetLocation(const int x, const int y); //member functn
```

private:

```
int x_; // data member
```

```
int y_; // data member
```

```
}; // class Point
```

C++ Classes

```
class Point {  
public:  
    Point(const int x, const int y); // constructor  
    int const get_x() { return x_; } // inline member function  
    int const get_y() { return y_; } // inline member function  
    double Distance(const Point &p) const; // member function  
    void SetLocation(const int x, const int y); // member function  
private:  
    int x_; // data member  
    int y_; // data member  
}; // class Point
```

C++ Classes

```
class Point {                                NOT correct.  
public:                                    It means the return value of get_x() is const.  
Point(const int x, const int y); // constructor  
int const get_x() { return x_; } // inline member function  
int const get_y() { return y_; } // inline member function  
double Distance(const Point &p) const; // member function  
void SetLocation(const int x, const int y); // member function  
private:  
int x_; // data member  
int y_; // data member  
}; // class Point
```


C++ Classes

```
class Point {  
public:  
    Point(const int x, const int y); // constructor  
    int get_x() const { return x_; } // inline member function  
    int get_y() const { return y_; } // inline member function  
    double Distance(const Point &p) const; // member function  
    void SetLocation(const int x, const int y); // member function  
private:  
    int x_; // data member  
    int y_; // data member  
}; // class Point
```

const should be put:

after function header `get_x()` and before `{}`