CSE 333
Lecture 10 - references, const, classes

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Yet another exercise out today, due before class Friday

Section this week: C++, const / references / classes
Today's goals

Useful C++ features
- references, const

Introducing C++ classes
- defining, using them
Reminder: pointers

C: a pointer is a variable containing an address

- you can change its value to change what it is pointing to
- a pointer can contain the address of a different variable

```c
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    int x = 5, y = 10;
    int *z = &x;

    *z += 1;  // sets x to 6
    x += 1;   // sets x (and therefore *z) to 7

    z = &y;   // sets z to the address of y
    *z += 1;  // sets y (and therefore *z) to 11

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

pointer.cc
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(pointer.cc)
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}
```
References

C++: introduces references *as part of the language*

- a reference is **an alias** for some other variable
  - *alias*: another name that is bound to the aliased variable
  - mutating a reference **is** mutating the referenced variable

```cpp
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    int x = 5, y = 10;
    int &z = x;  // binds the name "z" to variable x
    z += 1;     // sets z (and thus x) to 6
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    z = y;      // sets z (and thus x) to the value of y
    z += 1;     // sets z (and thus x) to 11
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
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*reference1.cc*
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Reference1.cc
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```

(x, z) 7

y 10
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```
x, z 10
y 10
```
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```

x, z | 11
---|---
y | 10

reference1.cc
Pass by reference

C++ allows you to truly pass-by-reference

- client passes in an argument with normal syntax
  - function uses reference parameters with normal syntax
  - modifying a reference parameter modifies the caller’s argument

```cpp
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;
}
```

passbyreference.cc
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int main(int argc, char **argv) {
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int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    int a = 5, b = 10;
    swap(a, b);
    cout << "a: " << a << "; b: " << b << endl;
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
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    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;
}
```

passbyreference.cc
**const**

**const**: cannot be changed

- used much more in C++ than in C

```cpp
#include <iostream>

void BrokenPrintSquare(const int &i) {
    i = i*i;  // Compiler error here!
    std::cout << i << std::endl;
}

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    int j = 2;
    BrokenPrintSquare(j);
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

`brokenpassbyrefconst.cc`
const

const’s syntax is confusing

```cpp
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    int x = 5;  // x is an int
    const int y = 6;  // y is a (const int)
    y++;  // compiler error

    const int *z = &y;  // z is a (variable pointer) to a (const int)
    *z += 1;  // compiler error
    z++;  // ok

    int *const w = &x;  // w is a (const pointer) to a (variable int)
    *w += 1;  // ok
    w++;  // compiler error

    const int *const v = &x;  // v is a (const pointer) to a (const int)
    *v += 1;  // compiler error
    v++;  // compiler error

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

constmadness.cc
style guide tip

use const reference parameters for input values
- particularly for large values

use pointers for output parameters

input parameters first, then output parameters last

```c
#include <cstdlib>

void CalcArea(const int &width, const int &height,
               int *const area) {
    *area = width * height;
}

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    int w = 10, h = 20, a;

    CalcArea(w, h, &a);
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
```

styleguide.cc
When to use references?

A stylistic choice
- not something mandated by the C++ language

Google C++ style guide suggests:
- input parameters:
  - either use values (for primitive types like int or small structs/objects)
  - or use const references (for complex structs / object instances)
- output parameters
  - use const pointers (i.e., unchangeable pointers referencing changeable data – see previous slide)
virality of const

- **OK to pass**
  - a pointer to non-const
  - to a function that expects
    - a pointer to const
- **not OK to pass**
  - a pointer to a const
  - to a function that expects
    - a pointer to a non-const

```cpp
#include <iostream>

void foo(const int *y) {
    std::cout << *y << std::endl;
}

void bar(int *y) {
    std::cout << *y << std::endl;
}

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    const int a = 10;
    int b = 20;

    foo(&b); // OK
    bar(&a); // not OK

    return 0;
}
```
Classes

class declaration syntax (in a .h file)

```cpp
class Name {
    public:
        members;
    private:
        members;
};
```

class member definition syntax (in a .cc file)

```cpp
returntype classname::methodname(parameters) {
    statements;
}
```

You can name your .cc, .h file anything (unlike Java)

- typically name them Classname.cc, Classname.h
```cpp
#ifndef _POINT_H_
define _POINT_H_

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 functn

    private:
        int x_; // data member
        int y_; // data member
    };

#undef _POINT_H_
#endif // _POINT_H_

Point.h
```
#include <cmath>
#include "Point.h"

Point::Point(const int x, const int y) {
    x_ = x;
    this->y_ = y; // "this->" is optional, unless names conflict
}

double Point::Distance(const Point &p) const {
    // We can access p's x_ and y_ variables either through the
    // get_x(), get_y() accessor functions, or the x_, y_ private
    // member variables directly, since we're in a member
    // function of the same class.
    double distance = (x_ - p.get_x()) * (x_ - p.get_x());
    distance += (y_ - p.y_) * (y_ - p.y_);
    return sqrt(distance);
}

void Point::SetLocation(const int x, const int y) {
    x_ = x;
    y_ = y;
}
```cpp
#include <iostream>
#include "Point.h"

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    Point p1(1, 2); // stack allocate a new Point
    Point p2(4, 6); // stack allocate a new Point

cout << "p1 is: (" << p1.get_x() << ", ", ";
cout << p1.get_y() << ")" << endl;

cout << "p2 is: (" << p2.get_x() << ", ", ";
cout << p2.get_y() << ")" << endl;

cout << "dist : " << p1.Distance(p2) << endl;
return 0;
}
```
struct vs. class

in C
- a struct contains only fields
  ‣ cannot contain methods
  ‣ does not have public vs. private vs. protected

in C++
- struct and class are (nearly) the same
  ‣ both can contain methods
  ‣ both can have public vs. private vs. protected
- **struct**: default public, **class**: default private
- common style convention: structs for simple bundles of data (maybe with convenience constructors); classes for abstractions with data + functions
Reading Assignment

Before next class: read sections in *C++ Primer* covering constructors, copy constructors, assignment (operator=), and destructors

- Ignore “move semantics” for now
- The table of contents and index are your friends…
Exercise 1

Write a C++ program that:

- has a class representing a 3-dimensional point
- has the following methods:
  ‣ return the inner product of two 3d points
  ‣ return the distance between two 3d points
  ‣ accessors and mutators for the x, y, z coordinates
Exercise 2

Write a C++ program that:

- has a class representing a 3-dimensional box
  
  » use your exercise 1 class representing 3d points to store the coordinates of the vertices that define it
  
  » assume the box has right-angles only and its faces are parallel to the axes, so you only need two vertices to define it

- has the following methods:

  » test if one box is inside another box
  
  » return the volume of a box
  
  » handles "<<", "=" , and a copy constructor
  
  » uses const in all the right places
See you on Friday!