C++ Intro
CSE 333 Winter 2025

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Administrivia

- Exercise 7 posted yesterday, due Monday
  - POSIX I/O for directories and reading data from files
  - Read a directory and open/copy text files found there
    - Copy *exactly* and ***only*** the bytes in the file(s). No extra output, no "formatting", no "titles", no other transformations.
  - Good warm-up for…
- Homework 2 due in two weeks (2/6)
  - File system crawler, indexer, and search engine
  - Spec posted now
  - Starter files will be pushed out late today
  - Demo in class today!

Now?

Administrivia (added Monday)

- New exercise 8 out today – First C++ program: read a number and print its factors
  - Due Wed. morning 10 am

- HW2 – how's it look? Be sure to make good progress this week
  - Bug in test suite – will be pushing correction(s) to repos shortly, watch ed for news
    - Remember – always "git pull" before ~~any~~ every commit, push
  - And *only* use CSE linux machines (attu, workstation, VM)

- Git/gitlab repos: *please* follow instructions
  - Never checkout/branch/merge/rebase your primary repo
    - (Well, maybe to recover a previous version of a file, but only if you know how to reset the repo back to it's proper state)
  - Main reason for checkout is to verify that *a clone* of your repo is correct after finishing hw*x*. **Don't** do that in your main copy.
  - (git is a swiss army knife with dozens of very sharp blades. Different organizations have different conventions for using it. We're deliberately being really, really simple to minimize problems unlike, say, the way you might have used it in the past or your friends use github or … .)

Today's Goals

- An introduction to C++
  - Some comparisons to C and shortcomings that C++ addresses
  - Give you a perspective on how to learn C++
  - Kick the tires and look at some code

- **Advice:** You ***must*** read related sections in the *C++ Primer*
  - It's hard to learn the "why is it done this way" from reference docs, and even harder to learn from random stuff on the web
  - Lectures and examples will introduce the main ideas, but aren't everything you'll ~~want~~ need to understand
  - 3 hours of web searching *might* save you 20 min. of reading in the *Primer* – but is that a good tradeoff?
  - And *free* access through UW libraries (O'Reilly books online)

C

- We had to work hard to mimic encapsulation, abstraction
  - **Encapsulation:** hiding implementation details
    - Used header file conventions and the "static" specifier to separate private functions from public functions
    - Cast structures to (void*) to hide implementation-specific details
  - **Abstraction:** associating behavior with encapsulated state
    - Function that operate on a LinkedList were not really tied to the linked list structure
    - We passed a linked list to a function, rather than invoking a method on a linked list instance

C++

- A major addition is support for classes and objects!
  - Classes
    - Public, private, and protected **methods** and **instance variables**
    - (multiple!) inheritance
  - Polymorphism
    - Static polymorphism: multiple functions or methods with the same name, but different argument types (overloading)
      - Works for all functions, not just class members
    - Dynamic (subtype) polymorphism: derived classes can override methods of parents, and methods will be dispatched correctly

C

- We had to emulate generic data structures
  - Generic linked list using `void*` payload
  - Pass function pointers to generalize different "methods" for data structures
    - Comparisons, deallocation, pickling up state, etc.

C++

- Supports templates to facilitate generic data types
  - Parametric polymorphism – same idea as Java generics, but different in details, particularly implementation
  - To declare that x is a vector of ints: `vector<int> x;`
  - To declare that x is a vector of strings: `vector<string> x;`
  - To declare that x is a vector of (vectors of floats): `vector<vector<float>> x;`

C

- We had to be careful about namespace collisions
  - C distinguishes between external and internal linkage
    - Use `static` to prevent a name from being visible outside a source file (as close as C gets to "private")
    - Otherwise, name is global and visible everywhere
  - We used naming conventions to help avoid collisions in the global namespace
    - *e.g.* **LL**`IteratorNext` vs. **HT**`IteratorNext`, etc.

C++

- Permits a module to define its own namespace!
  - The linked list module could define an "`LL`" namespace while the hash table module could define an "`HT`" namespace
  - Both modules could define an Iterator class
    - One would be globally named `LL::Iterator`
    - The other would be globally named `HT::Iterator`
- Classes also allow duplicate names without collisions
  - Namespaces group and isolate names in collections of classes and other "global" things (somewhat like Java packages)
    - Entire C++ standard library is in a namespace `std` (more later…)

C

- C does not provide any standard data structures
  - We had to implement our own linked list and hash table
  - As a C programmer, you often reinvent the wheel… poorly
    - Maybe if you're clever you'll use somebody else's libraries
    - But C's lack of abstraction, encapsulation, and generics means you'll probably end up tinkering with them or tweak your code to use them

C++

- The C++ standard library is huge!
  - **Generic containers:** bitset, queue, list, associative array (including hash table), deque, set, stack, and vector
    - And iterators for most of these
  - **A `string` class:** hides the implementation of strings
  - **Streams:** allows you to stream data to and from objects, consoles, files, strings, and so on
  - And more…

C

- Error handling is a pain
  - Have to define error codes and return them
  - Customers have to understand error code conventions and need to constantly test return values
  - *e.g.* if `a()` calls `b()`, which calls `c()`
    - `a` depends on `b` to propagate an error in `c` back to it

C++

- Supports exceptions!
  - `try` / `throw` / `catch`
  - If used with discipline, can simplify error processing
    - But, if used carelessly, can complicate memory management
    - Consider: `a()` calls `b()`, which calls `c()`
      - If `c()` throws an exception that `b()` doesn't catch, you might not get a chance to clean up resources allocated inside `b()`
  - But much C++ code still needs to work with C & old C++ libraries that are not exception-safe, so still uses return codes, exit(), etc.
    - We won't use (and Google style guide doesn't use either)

Some Tasks Still Hurt in C++

- Memory management
  - C++ has no garbage collector
    - You have to manage memory allocation and deallocation and track ownership of memory
    - It's still possible to have leaks, double frees, and so on
  - But there are some things that help
    - "Smart pointers"
      - Classes that encapsulate pointers and track reference counts
      - Deallocate memory when the reference count goes to zero
    - C++'s destructors permit a pattern known as "Resource Allocation Is Initialization" (RAII) (terrible name but super useful idea)
      - Useful for releasing memory, locks, database transactions, and more

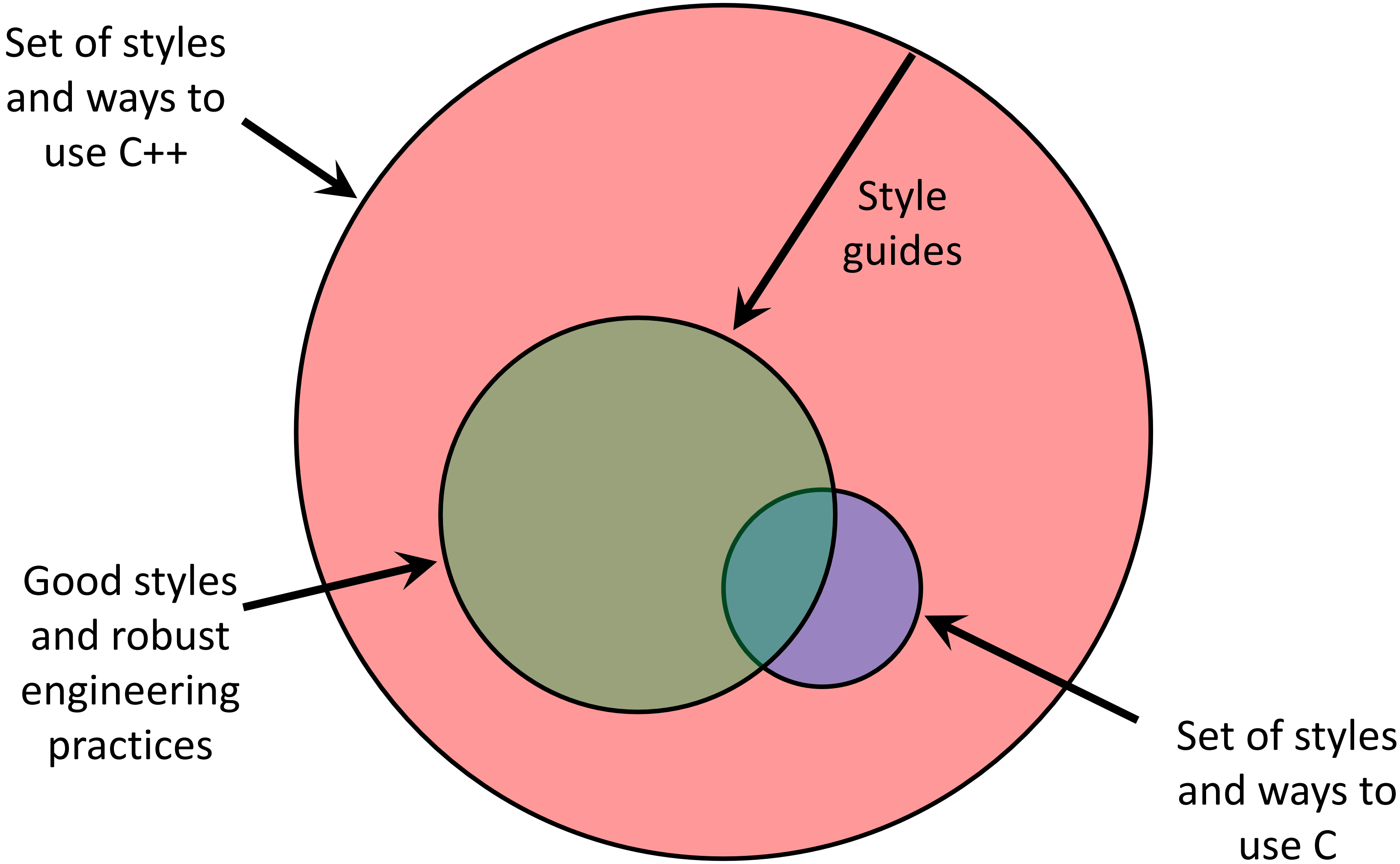
Some Tasks Still Hurt in C++

- C++ doesn't guarantee type or memory safety
  - You can still:
    - Forcibly cast pointers between incompatible types
    - Walk off the end of an array and smash memory
    - Have dangling pointers
    - Conjure up a pointer to an arbitrary address of your choosing

C++ Has Many, Many Features

- Operator overloading
  - Your class can define methods for handling "+", "->", etc.
- Object constructors, destructors
  - Particularly handy for stack-allocated objects
- Reference types
  - True call-by-reference instead of always call-by-value
- Advanced Objects
  - Multiple inheritance, virtual base classes, dynamic dispatch

How to Think About C++



Or…

In the hands of a disciplined programmer, C++ is a powerful tool

But if you're not so disciplined about how you use C++…

Hello World in C

helloworld.c

```
#include <stdio.h>     // for printf()
#include <stdlib.h>    // for EXIT_SUCCESS

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  printf("Hello, World!\n");
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- You never had a chance to write this!
  - Compile with `gcc`:

```
gcc -Wall -g -std=c17 -o hello helloworld.c
```

  - You should be able to describe in detail everything in this code

Hello World in C++

helloworld.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  std::cout << "Hello, World!" << std::endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- Looks simple enough…
  - Compile with `g++` instead of `gcc`:

```
g++ -Wall -g -std=c++17 -o helloworld helloworld.cc
```

  - Let's walk through the program step-by-step to highlight some differences

Hello World in C++

helloworld.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  std::cout << "Hello, World!" << std::endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- `iostream` is part of the ***C++*** standard library
  - Note: you don't write "`.h`" when you include C++ standard library headers
    - But you *do* for local headers (*e.g.* `#include "ll.h"`)
  - `iostream` declares stream *object* instances in the "`std`" namespace
    - *e.g.* `std::cin`, `std::cout`, `std::cerr`

Hello World in C++

helloworld.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  std::cout << "Hello, World!" << std::endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- `cstdlib` is the ***C*** standard library's `stdlib.h`
  - Nearly all C standard library functions are available to you
    - For C header `foo.h`, you should `#include <cfoo>`
  - We include it here for `EXIT_SUCCESS`, as usual

Hello World in C++

helloworld.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  std::cout << "Hello, World!" << std::endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- `std::cout` is the "`cout`" object instance declared by `iostream`, living within the "`std`" namespace
  - C++'s name for `stdout`
  - `std::cout` is an object of class `ostream`
    - http://www.cplusplus.com/reference/ostream/ostream/
  - Used to format and write output to the console
  - The entire standard library is in the namespace `std`

Hello World in C++

helloworld.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  std::cout << "Hello, World!" << std::endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- C++ distinguishes between objects and primitive types
  - These include the familiar ones from C: `char`, `short`, `int`, `long`, `float`, `double`, etc.
  - C++ also defines `bool` as a primitive type (woo-hoo!)
    - Use it!
    - (but bool and int values silently convert types for compatiblity)

Hello World in C++

helloworld.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  std::cout << "Hello, World!" << std::endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- "<<" is an operator defined by the C++ language
  - Defined in C as well: usually it bit-shifts integers (in C/C++)
  - C++ allows classes and functions to overload operators!
    - Here, the `ostream` class overloads "<<"
    - *i.e.* it defines different member functions (methods) that are invoked when an `ostream` is the left-hand side of the << operator

Hello World in C++

helloworld.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  std::cout << "Hello, World!" << std::endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- `ostream` has many different methods to handle `<<`
  - The functions differ in the type of the right-hand side (RHS) of `<<`
  - *e.g.* if you do `std::cout << "foo";` then C++ invokes `cout`'s function to handle << with RHS `char*`

Hello World in C++

helloworld.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  std::cout << "Hello, World!" << std::endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- The `ostream` class' member functions that handle `<<` return a reference to themselves
  - When `std::cout << "Hello, World!";` is evaluated:
    - A member function of the `std::cout` object is invoked
    - It buffers the string `"Hello, World!"` for the console
    - And it returns a reference to `std::cout`

Hello World in C++

helloworld.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  std::cout << "Hello, World!" << std::endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- Next, another member function on `std::cout` is invoked to handle `<<` with RHS `std::endl`
  - `std::endl` is a pointer to a "manipulator" function
    - This manipulator function writes newline (`'\n'`) to the `ostream` it is invoked on and then flushes the `ostream`'s buffer
    - This *enforces* that something is printed to the console at this point

Wow…

helloworld.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  std::cout << "Hello, World!" << std::endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- You should be surprised and scared at this point
  - C++ makes it easy to hide a significant amount of complexity
    - It’s powerful, but really dangerous 
    - Once you mix everything together (templates, operator overloading, method overloading, generics, multiple inheritance), it can get *really* hard to know what’s actually happening!

Let’s Refine It a Bit

helloworld2.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>
#include <string>

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  string hello("Hello, World!");
  cout << hello << endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- C++’s standard library has a `std::string` class
  - Include the `string` header to use it
    - Seems to be automatically included in `iostream` on CSE Linux environment (C++17) – but include it explicitly anyway if you use it
  - http://www.cplusplus.com/reference/string/

Let's Refine It a Bit

helloworld2.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>
#include <string>

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  string hello("Hello, World!");
  cout << hello << endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- The `using` keyword introduces a namespace (or part of) into the current region
  - `using namespace std;` imports all names from `std::`
  - `using std::cout;` imports *only* `std::cout` (used as `cout`)

Let’s Refine It a Bit

helloworld2.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>
#include <string>

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  string hello("Hello, World!");
  cout << hello << endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- Benefits of `using namespace std;`
  - We can now refer to `std::string` as `string`, `std::cout` as `cout`, and `std::endl` as `endl`
    - Google style guide says never use `using namespace`, only `using` for individual items; but for 333 `using namespace std;` is ok

Let’s Refine It a Bit

helloworld2.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>
#include <string>

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  string hello("Hello, World!");
  cout << hello << endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- Here we are instantiating a `std::string` object *on the stack* (an ordinary local variable)
  - Passing the C string `"Hello, World!"` to its constructor method
  - `hello` is deallocated (and its destructor invoked) when `main` returns

Let’s Refine It a Bit

helloworld2.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>
#include <string>

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  string hello("Hello, World!");
  cout << hello << endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- The C++ string library also overloads the << operator
  - Defines a function (*not* an object method) that is invoked when the LHS is `ostream` and the RHS is `std::string`
    - http://www.cplusplus.com/reference/string/string/operator<</

String Concatenation

concat.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>
#include <string>

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  string hello("Hello");
  hello = hello + ", World!";
  cout << hello << endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- The string class overloads the "+" operator
  - Creates and returns a new string that is the concatenation of the LHS and RHS

String Assignment

concat.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>
#include <string>

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  string hello("Hello");
  hello = hello + ", World!";
  cout << hello << endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- The string class overloads the "=" operator
  - Copies the RHS and replaces the string's contents with it

String Manipulation

concat.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>
#include <string>

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  string hello("Hello");
  hello = hello + ", World!";
  cout << hello << endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- This statement is complex!
  - First "+" creates a string that is the concatenation of `hello`'s current contents and `", World!"`
  - Then "=" creates a copy of the concatenation to store in `hello`
  - Without the syntactic sugar:
    - `hello.operator=(hello.operator+(", World!"));`

Stream Manipulators

manip.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>
#include <iomanip>

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  cout << "Hi! " << setw(4) << 5 << " " << 5 << endl;
  cout << hex << 16 << " " << 13 << endl;
  cout << dec << 16 << " " << 13 << endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- `iomanip` defines a set of stream manipulator functions
  - Pass them to a stream to affect formatting
    - http://www.cplusplus.com/reference/iomanip/
    - http://www.cplusplus.com/reference/ios/

Stream Manipulators

manip.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>
#include <iomanip>

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  cout << "Hi! " << setw(4) << 5 << " " << 5 << endl;
  cout << hex << 16 << " " << 13 << endl;
  cout << dec << 16 << " " << 13 << endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- `setw(x)` sets the width of the *next* field to `x`
  - Only affects the next thing sent to the output stream (*i.e.* it is not persistent)

Stream Manipulators

manip.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>
#include <iomanip>

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  cout << "Hi! " << setw(4) << 5 << " " << 5 << endl;
  cout << hex << 16 << " " << 13 << endl;
  cout << dec << 16 << " " << 13 << endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- `hex`, `dec`, and `oct` set the numerical base for *integer* output to the stream
  - Stays in effect until you set the stream to another base (*i.e.* it is persistent)

C and C++

helloworld3.cc

```
#include <cstdio>
#include <cstdlib>

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  printf("Hello from C!\n");
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- C is (roughly) a subset of C++
  - You can still use `printf` – but bad style in ordinary C++ code
  - Can mix C and C++ idioms if needed to work with existing code, but avoid mixing if you can
    - Use C++(17)

Reading

echonum.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
  int num;
  cout << "Type a number: ";
  cin >> num;
  cout << "You typed: " << num << endl;
  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

- `std::cin` is an object instance of class `istream`
  - Supports the `>>` operator for "extraction"
    - Can be used in conditionals – (`std::cin>>num`) is `true` if successful
  - Has a `getline()` method and methods to detect and clear errors

Extra Exercise #1

- Write a C++ program that uses stream to:
  - Prompt the user to type 5 floats
  - Prints them out in opposite order with 4 digits of precision