

LECTURE 13 · CSE 333 · Summer 2026

C++: inheritance + templates (pt2)



Discussion: What's a really cool hobby that you admire but don't do?

Reminders

Assessments:

- Exercise 5 is due today at 11:59pm
- HW2 is due tomorrow at 11:59pm

General:

- Mid-quarter feedback this week
 - Anonymous, but I see whether you completed it after 1 week
 - 1 participation pt for filling it out
 - Be honest and critical! I can't improve without clear issues to work on 😞
- 1 lecture before the midterm
 - Will have "personalized exams" (details next lecture)

Review

The Six Special Members

Point.c (what you see)

```
1  class Point {  
2      private:  
3          int x_;    // data member  
4          int y_;  
5  };  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17
```

Point.c (what you get)

```
1  class Point {  
2      Point() = default;                // constructor  
3      Point(const Point& other) = default; // copy constructor  
4      Point& operator=(const Point& other) = default; // copy assignment  
5      Point(Point&& other) = default;    // move constructor  
6      Point& operator=(Point&& other) = default; // move assignment  
7      ~Point() = default;              // destructor  
8  
9      private:  
10         int x_;    // data member  
11         int y_;  
12     };  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17
```

Operators are functions with special names

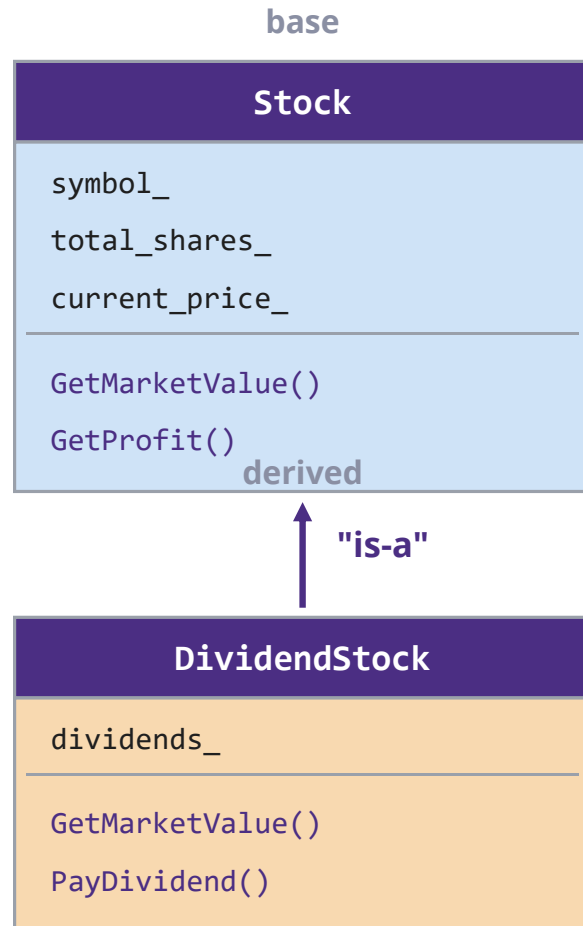
```
1  class IntArray {
2      public:
3          int& operator[](size_t i) { return data_[i]; }
4          // ...
5      };
6
7      IntArray a(3);
8      a[0] = 7;           // write:  calls operator[]
9      int first = a[0];   // read:   calls operator[]
```

```
1  // operator== is just a function with a special name
2  bool operator==(const Point& a, const Point& b) {
3      return a.GetX() == b.GetX()
4             && a.GetY() == b.GetY();
5  }
6
7  Point p(1, 2), q(1, 2);
8  if (p == q) { ... }    // the compiler calls operator==
```

- ❖ **operator[]** makes **a[i]** read and write elements.
- ❖ It returns a reference, so **a[0] = 7** assigns.
- ❖ **operator==** defines what **p == q** means.
- ❖ You already met one: **operator=** (assignment), coming up next.

You can look up the predefined function signatures for other operators on cppreference

Base and derived classes



Java	C++
Superclass	Base class
Subclass	Derived class
extends	: public Base

Why inherit?

- ❖ **Code reuse:** the derived class inherits the base's fields and methods.
- ❖ **Polymorphism:** redefine behavior while keeping the same interface.
- ❖ **Extensibility:** the derived class adds new state and behavior.

class Derived : public Base

```
1  #include "Stock.h"
2
3  class DividendStock : public Stock { // is-a Stock
4  public:
5      DividendStock(...);             // NOT inherited
6      double GetMarketValue() const override;
7      void PayDividend(double amount); // new behavior
8  private:
9      double dividends_;              // new state
10 };
```

Public inheritance

- ❖ **public inheritance** is like Java's extends: every non-private member of Base is part of Derived too.
- ❖ **Access:** public visible to all, private only to the class, protected visible to derived classes.
- ❖ **NOT inherited:** constructors, destructor, copy ctor, operator=. The derived class writes its own.

Static dispatch, the C++ default

```
1  class Stock {  
2      public:  
3          double GetMarketValue() const;           // NOT virtual  
4  };  
5  class DividendStock : public Stock {  
6      public:  
7          double GetMarketValue() const;           // hides the base  
8  };  
9  
10 DividendStock dividend;  
11 Stock* s = &dividend;    // base ptr, derived object  
12 s->GetMarketValue();      // Stock::GetMarketValue (the BASE)
```

Resolved at compile time

- ❖ With no **virtual**, C++ binds the call by the POINTER's declared type.
- ❖ **s** is a **Stock***, so the compiler wires the call to `Stock::GetMarketValue`.
- ❖ **The object is really a DividendStock**, but that does not matter here.
- ❖ **Java surprise:** every Java method is virtual, so this is the opposite of the default you expect.

virtual and override

```
1  class Stock {  
2    public:  
3    virtual double GetMarketValue() const; // opt in  
4    double GetProfit() const;             // inherited  
5  };  
6  class DividendStock : public Stock {  
7    public:  
8    double GetMarketValue() const override; // Google style  
9  };
```

Two keywords

- ❖ **virtual** on the base method requests dynamic dispatch (this is Java's default, always on).
- ❖ **override** on the derived method says 'I mean to override', and the compiler checks the signature matches.
- ❖ **Almost always** you want virtual. Google style: use override, not virtual, in the derived class.

Takeaway: virtual on the base turns on dynamic dispatch; override on the derived catches signature bugs. Use both purposefully and follow the local convention.

Dynamic dispatch with virtual

```
1  class Stock {  
2      public:  
3          virtual double GetMarketValue() const;    // opt in  
4          double GetProfit() const;                // inherited  
5      };  
6      class DividendStock : public Stock {  
7          public:  
8              double GetMarketValue() const override;  
9      };  
10  
11      Stock* s = &dividend;    // still a Stock*  
12      s->GetMarketValue();      // DividendStock::GetMarketValue  
13      s->GetProfit();           // inherited, uses the DERIVED value
```

Resolved at run time

- ❖ **virtual** asks for dynamic dispatch: the actual object decides.
- ❖ **The same `s->GetMarketValue()`** now runs the DividendStock version, through a Stock*.
- ❖ **Inherited code counts too:** GetProfit lives in Stock, but its call to GetMarketValue picks the derived one.
- ❖ **This is Java's default;** in C++ you opt in with virtual.

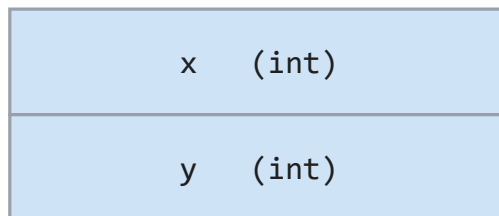
Takeaway: Dynamic dispatch picks the most-derived version from the actual object, even through a base pointer or from inside inherited code.

Memory of a struct vs an object

C: a plain struct

```
1 struct Point {  
2     int x;  
3     int y;  
4 };
```

p : Point

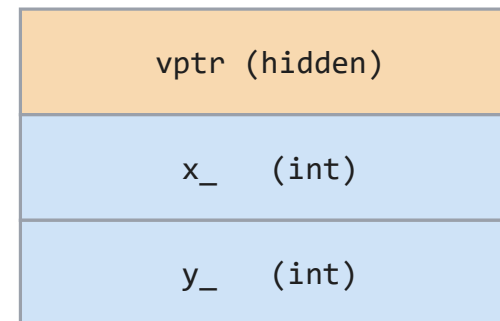


Members sit inline, in declaration order. That is the whole object.

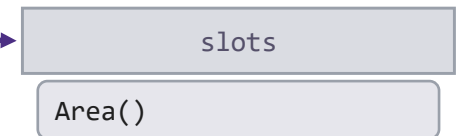
C++: an object with a virtual method

```
1 class Shape {  
2     public:  
3         virtual double Area() const;  
4     int x_;  
5     int y_;  
6 };
```

s : Shape

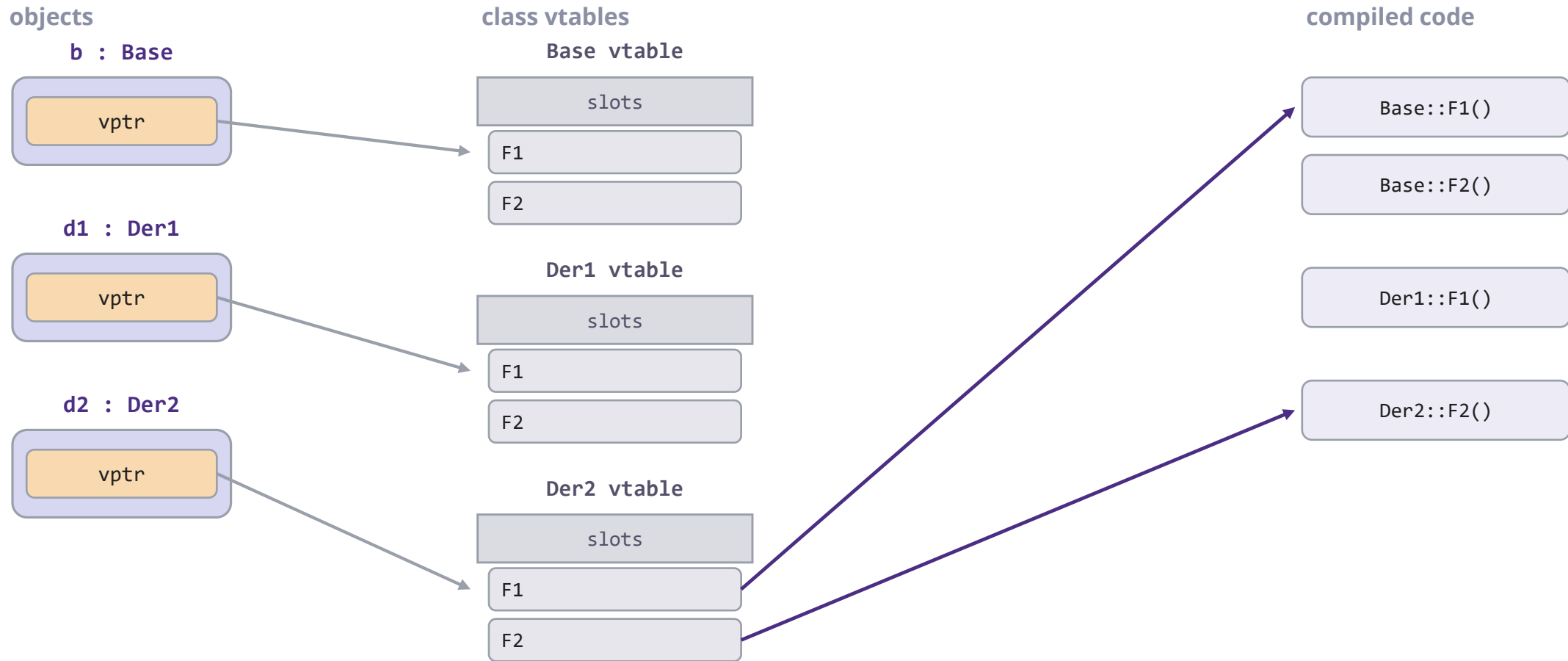


Shape vtable



one per class,
shared by all objects

A virtual call: $p \rightarrow \text{vptr} \rightarrow \text{slot}()$



Takeaway: One vtable per class, one vptr per object. A virtual call follows $p \rightarrow \text{vptr} \rightarrow \text{slot}()$ to the vtable, indexes the method's slot, and jumps to that function.

More Inheritance

Tricky!

```
1  class Base {  
2      public:  
3          Base(int x) : x_(x) { }  
4          int x_;  
5  };  
6  
7  class Der1 : public Base {  
8      public:  
9          Der1(int y) : Base(16), y_(y) { }  
10         int y_;  
11     };  
12  
13     void Foo() {  
14         Base b(1);  
15         Der1 d(2);  
16         b = d;           // What gets called here?  
17     }
```

What happens here:

- Constructor?
- Function?
- Operator?

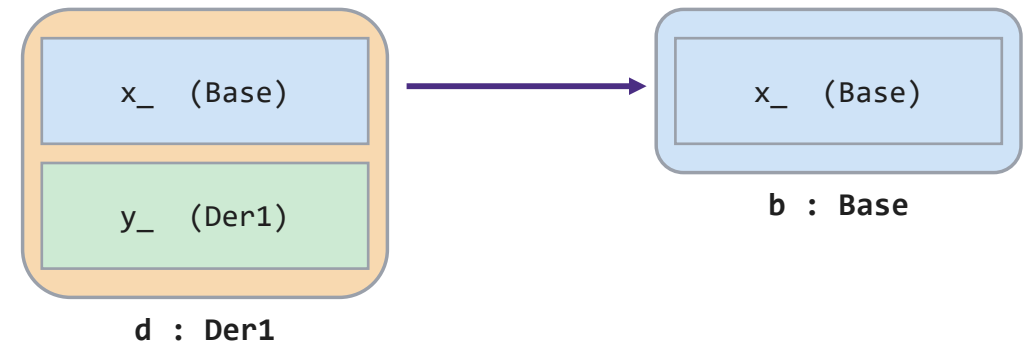
Where is that defined?

What will happen?

Object "slicing"

```
1  class Base {  
2      public:  
3          Base(int x) : x_(x) { }  
4          int x_;  
5  };  
6  
7  class Der1 : public Base {  
8      public:  
9          Der1(int y) : Base(16), y_(y) { }  
10         int y_;  
11     };  
12  
13     void Foo() {  
14         Base b(1);  
15         Der1 d(2);  
16         b = d;    // SLICED: copies x_, drops y_  
17     }
```

b = d; copies only the Base part



y_ has nowhere to go: dropped.

We call the **copy assignment** of the Base class. That's the default copy assignment so it will only copy **x**.

Example: vector<Stock> slices derived types

```
1  #include <vector>
2  #include <memory>
3  #include "Stock.h"
4  #include "DividendStock.h"
5
6  std::vector<Stock> v;           // stores Stock BY VALUE
7  DividendStock ds;
8  v.push_back(ds);              // OUCH: sliced to a Stock
9
10 // Fix: store pointers (ideally smart pointers)
11 std::vector<std::unique_ptr<Stock> > v2;
12 v2.push_back(std::make_unique<DividendStock>());
```

Containers copy by value

- ❖ **So vector<Stock>** copies a DividendStock into a Stock-sized slot: sliced.
- ❖ **Fix: store pointers.** A pointer is the same size for any type, so nothing is dropped.
- ❖ **Best:** vector<unique_ptr<Stock> > so the container also owns and frees them.

Casting

C-style casts

```
1 double d = 3.9;
2 int n = (int) d;           // truncates 3.9 -> 3
3
4 int x = 42;
5 char* p = (char*) &x;     // reinterpret the bits
6
7 // One blunt syntax for very different operations:
8 // numeric conversion vs pointer reinterpretation.
9 // Hard to search for, easy to do the wrong thing.
```

Why C++ moved on

- ❖ **(type) expr** does everything: truncate a double, reinterpret a pointer, strip const.
- ❖ **Intent is hidden:** the reader cannot tell a safe numeric cast from a dangerous pointer reinterpret.
- ❖ **Unsearchable:** you cannot grep for '(type)' meaningfully.
- ❖ **No safety check** beyond what the compiler must allow.

Say what you mean

`static_cast<T>(e)`

- ❖ **Compile-time** conversion between related pointers or numeric types.
- ❖ Example: `static_cast<int>(3.9)`, or up a hierarchy. Down-casts are unchecked and risky.

`dynamic_cast<T>(e)`

- ❖ **Run-time checked** down-cast; needs a polymorphic base (a virtual method).
- ❖ Example: `dynamic_cast<Der1*>(bp)` returns nullptr if bp is not really a Der1.

`const_cast<T>(e)`

- ❖ **Adds or removes const** (or volatile), nothing else.
- ❖ Example: `const_cast<int*>(p)`. Writing through a stripped const can be UB. Use rarely.

`reinterpret_cast<T>(e)`

- ❖ **Raw bit reinterpretation** between unrelated types (pointer <-> int, incompatible pointers).
- ❖ Example: `reinterpret_cast<int*>(addr)`. Dangerous; used carefully in hw3.

static_cast and dynamic_cast

```
1 double d = 3.9;
2 int n = static_cast<int>(d);           // 3: numeric
3
4 Stock* s = portfolio[i];               // base pointer
5 // Is it really a DividendStock? Ask at run time:
6 DividendStock* ds = dynamic_cast<DividendStock*>(s);
7 if (ds != nullptr) {
8     ds->PayDividend(1.0); // safe: it really is one
9 }
```

The two you actually use

❖ **static_cast<T>(e)**: compile-time conversion between numeric types or related pointers (e.g. up a hierarchy).

❖ **dynamic_cast<T>(e)**: run-time CHECKED down-cast. Needs a polymorphic base (a virtual method); returns nullptr if the object is not really a T.

The other two are rare red flags. **const_cast** adds or strips const; **reinterpret_cast** reinterprets raw bits between unrelated types (used carefully in hw3). Both should make a reader pause.

Implicit conversions from constructors

```
1  class Foo {  
2      public:  
3      Foo(int x) : x_(x) { }    // one-arg = conversion path  
4      int x_;  
5  };  
6  int Bar(Foo f) { return f.x_; }  
7  
8  int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
9      return Bar(5);    // becomes Bar(Foo(5)) implicitly!  
10 }
```

```
1  class Foo {  
2      public:  
3      explicit Foo(int x) : x_(x) { }    // no implicit path  
4      int x_;  
5  };  
6  int Bar(Foo f) { return f.x_; }  
7  
8  int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
9      return Bar(5);    // compiler error (good!)  
10 }
```

A single-argument constructor doubles as a conversion path, so `Bar(5)` silently becomes `Bar(Foo(5))`. At most one user-defined conversion is applied. Mark such constructors **explicit** to turn that off.

Templates

The same function, three times

```
1  int compare(const int& a, const int& b) {  
2      if (a < b) return -1;  
3      if (b < a) return 1;  
4      return 0;  
5  }  
6  int compare(const string& a, const string& b) {  
7      if (a < b) return -1;    // exact same body  
8      if (b < a) return 1;  
9      return 0;  
10 }  
11 int compare(const double& a, const double& b) {  
12     if (a < b) return -1;    // ...and again  
13     if (b < a) return 1;  
14     return 0;  
15 }
```

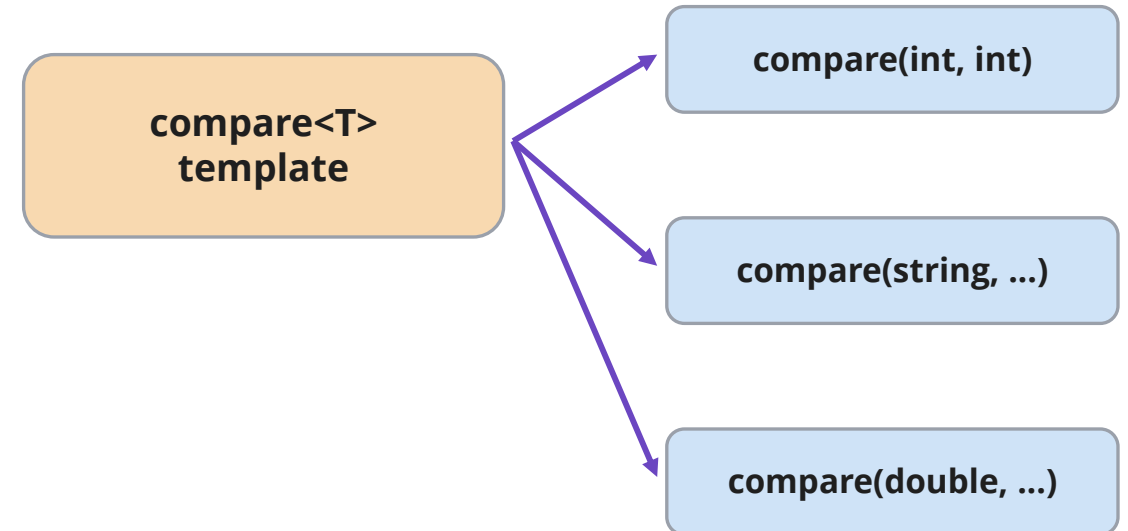
This is all boilerplate

- ❖ We want a **compare** for many types.
- ❖ Overloading forces one copy per type: int, string, double, ...
- ❖ Every body is identical; only the type name changes.
- ❖ The logic only needs **<** to work on the type.
- ❖ **We want** generic (type-independent) code.

A template is a "recipe" for the compiler

Parametric polymorphism

- ❖ A **template** is code parameterized by a TYPE, written once.
- ❖ **The compiler** generates a specialized copy for each type you actually use.
- ❖ This happens at **compile time**, not run time.
- ❖ **The template itself is** not runnable code; it is a pattern for making code.



compiler emits one real function per type

Writing a function template

```
1 // T is a type parameter, filled in by the compiler
2 template <typename T>
3 int compare(const T& a, const T& b) {
4     if (a < b) return -1;
5     if (b < a) return 1;
6     return 0;
7 }
```

The syntax

- ❖ **template <typename T>** introduces a type parameter named T.
- ❖ Inside, **T** is used like any other type.
- ❖ **typename** and **class** are interchangeable here.

- ❖ One definition replaces all three overloads. It works for any type T that supports **operator<**.
- ❖ Nothing is compiled yet: no code exists until someone CALLS compare with a concrete type.

Explicit vs inferred template type

```
1  compare<int>(10, 20);           // explicit: T = int
2  compare(10, 20);               // inferred: T = int
3  compare(3.14, 2.72);           // inferred: T = double
4
5  string s1 = "Hello", s2 = "World";
6  compare(s1, s2);               // inferred: T = string
7
8  compare("Hello", "World");      // T = const char*  !
9                                // compares POINTERS, not text
```

Type inference

- ❖ **compare<int>(...)**: you name T.
- ❖ **compare(10, 20)**: compiler INFERS T from the arguments.
- ❖ **Watch string literals**: "Hello" is a const char*, so T = const char*.
- ❖ **That compares** pointer addresses, not the text.

Takeaway: Usually you let the compiler infer T from the arguments. The classic trap is passing string literals, where T becomes const char* and you compare addresses instead of characters.

The compilation problem

```
1 // compare.h
2 template <typename T>
3 int compare(const T& a, const T& b);    // declaration
4
5 // compare.cc
6 template <typename T>
7 int compare(const T& a, const T& b) { /* ... */ }
8
9 // main.cc
10 #include "compare.h"
11 compare(3, 4);    // LINK ERROR: no code was generated
```

Why it fails to link

- ❖ To make code for **compare<int>**, the compiler must SEE the template body.
- ❖ main.cc only sees the **declaration** from the header.
- ❖ compare.cc compiles alone: nobody used T there, so no code is generated.
- ❖ **Result:** undefined reference at link time.

Definitions go in the header

Solution 1: full definition in .h

```

1 // compare.h (Google style: preferred)
2 template <typename T>
3 int compare(const T& a, const T& b) {
4     if (a < b) return -1;
5     if (b < a) return 1;
6     return 0;
7 }
8 // no compare.cc: definition in header

```

Solution 2: header #includes the .cc (WEIRD!)

```

1 // compare.h
2 template <typename T>
3 int compare(const T& a, const T& b);
4
5 #include "compare.cc" // pull definitions
6
7 // compare.cc holds the template bodies

```

Takeaway: Because the compiler needs to see the body, template definitions go in the header. Google style puts the full definition there directly; that is what we do in CSE 333.

Practice: function template output

```
1  template <typename T>
2  T smaller(T a, T b) { return (a < b) ? a : b; }
3
4  cout << smaller(4, 9)          << endl;    // ?
5  cout << smaller('Z', 'A')      << endl;    // ?
6  cout << smaller(3, 2.5)        << endl;    // ?
7  cout << smaller("pear", "fig") << endl;    // ?
```

What single type does T become in each call?

Predict first: for each call, write down T and the exact output before we reveal it.

Practice: function template output

```
1  template <typename T>
2  T smaller(T a, T b) { return (a < b) ? a : b; }
3
4  cout << smaller(4, 9) << endl;    // int
5  cout << smaller('Z', 'A') << endl; // char
6  cout << smaller(3, 2.5) << endl;  // compiler error
7  cout << smaller("pear", "fig") << endl; // const char*
```

Fix for compiler error:

- ❖ Cast to a specific type
- ❖ Manually specify type by writing: `smaller<double>(3, 2.5)`

Practice: class template output

```
1  template <typename T>
2  class Box {
3  public:
4      Box(T v) : val_(v) { }
5      T Get() const { return val_; }
6  private:
7      T val_;
8  };
9
10 Box<double> a(7);           // T = ?
11 Box<int>    b(7);           // T = ?
12 cout << a.Get() / 2 << endl; // ?
13 cout << b.Get() / 2 << endl; // ?
```

Predict first: predict both printed lines, then decide whether a and b come from the same class.

Practice: class template output

```
1  template <typename T>
2  class Box {
3  public:
4      Box(T v) : val_(v) { }
5      T Get() const { return val_; }
6  private:
7      T val_;
8  };
9
10 Box<double> a(7);           // T = double
11 Box<int>    b(7);           // T = int
12 cout << a.Get() / 2 << endl; // 3
13 cout << b.Get() / 2 << endl; // 3.5
```

Predict first: predict both printed lines, then decide whether a and b come from the same class.

A class template: Pair

```
1  template <typename T>
2  class Pair {
3      public:
4          Pair(const T& a, const T& b) : first_(a), second_(b) { }
5          T First() const { return first_; }
6          T Second() const { return second_; }
7          void Swap() { T t = first_; first_ = second_; second_ = t; }
8      private:
9          T first_, second_;    // members have the parameter type
10 };
```

Classes take T too

- ❖ **template <typename T>** sits above the whole class.
- ❖ Members can have type **T**: `first_` and `second_`.
- ❖ Every method here is **inline**, so it is part of the template.
- ❖ **Swap()** swaps the two members in place.

Using Pair

```
1 Pair<string> names("Alice", "Bob");
2 names.Swap();
3 cout << names.First() << endl;    // Bob
4
5 Pair<int> point(3, 4);              // a fresh instantiation
6 cout << point.Second() << endl;   // 4
```

Instantiation on demand

- ❖ **Pair<string>** tells the compiler to stamp out that class.
- ❖ **Pair<int>** makes a second, unrelated class.
- ❖ You supply T; the compiler does the rest.

Takeaway: A class template is a factory for classes. You pick the type in the angle brackets and the compiler generates the whole class for it. This is exactly how vector, list, and map work.

Practice: function template output

```

1  template <typename T>
2  T smaller(T a, T b) { return (a < b) ? a : b; }
3
4  cout << smaller(4, 9)          << endl;    // ?
5  cout << smaller('Z', 'A')      << endl;    // ?
6  cout << smaller(3, 2.5)        << endl;    // ?
7  cout << smaller("pear", "fig") << endl;    // ?

```

Watch the types

- ❖ What single type does T become in each call?
- ❖ Does a char stay a char when it prints?
- ❖ Can one of these refuse to compile? Why?
- ❖ What are **"pear"** and **"fig"**, really?

Predict first: for each call, write down T and the exact output before we reveal it.

Practice: class template output

```
1  template <typename T>
2  class Box {
3  public:
4      Box(T v) : val_(v) { }
5      T Get() const { return val_; }
6  private:
7      T val_;
8  };
9
10 Box<double> a(7);           // int arg, T = double
11 Box<int> b(7);
12 cout << a.Get() / 2 << endl; // ?
13 cout << b.Get() / 2 << endl; // ?
```

Watch the types

- ❖ **Box<double> a(7)**: what does val_ hold?
- ❖ Is **Get() / 2** integer or real division?
- ❖ Do a and b share one class, or two?

Predict first: predict both printed lines, then decide whether a and b come from the same class.

STL

(Standard Template Library)

The standard library, in three pieces

Containers: hold your data

Own their elements by value: **vector** (array), **list** (linked), **map** (tree).

Examples

```
1 vector<int> v;  
2 list<string> lst;  
3 map<string,int> m;
```

Iterators

Algorithms

A container is an object that owns a collection of elements by value, and vector, list, and map each store them with a different structure and cost.

The standard library, in three pieces

Containers: hold your data

Own their elements by value: **vector** (array), **list** (linked), **map** (tree).

Examples

```
1 vector<int> v;  
2 list<string> lst;  
3 map<string,int> m;
```

Iterators

Algorithms: operate on data

Free functions that **transform or query** a sequence of elements.

Examples

```
1 sort( ... );  
2 find( ..., x );  
3 for_each( ..., f );
```

Algorithms like `sort` and `find` operate on your elements, but notice they never name a container. What goes in the parentheses?

The standard library, in three pieces

Containers: hold your data

Own their elements by value: **vector** (array), **list** (linked), **map** (tree).

Examples

```
1 vector<int> v;  
2 list<string> lst;  
3 map<string,int> m;
```

Iterators: the bridge

A **pointer-like cursor** that lets any algorithm walk any container.

Examples

```
1 auto b = v.begin();  
2 auto e = v.end();  
3 sort(b, e);
```

Algorithms: operate on data

Free functions that **transform or query** a sequence of elements.

Examples

```
1 sort( ... );  
2 find( ..., x );  
3 for_each( ..., f );
```

Iterators manage pointers to a container and provide an interface for the same algorithms to run on many containers.

Java Collections vs. C++ containers

You already know (Java)	C++ STL equivalent
<code>ArrayList<T></code>	<code>vector<T></code> - growable array, stores values.
<code>LinkedList<T></code>	<code>list<T></code> - doubly-linked list.
<code>ArrayDeque<T></code>	<code>deque<T></code> - double-ended queue.
<code>HashMap<K,V></code>	<code>unordered_map<K,V></code> - hash table, average $O(1)$.
<code>TreeMap<K,V></code>	<code>map<K,V></code> - sorted tree, $O(\log n)$.
<code>HashSet<T></code>	<code>unordered_set<T></code> - hashed unique keys.
<code>TreeSet<T></code>	<code>set<T></code> - sorted unique keys.

vector: a resizable array

```
1  #include <vector>
2  std::vector<T> v;
3  T thing1, thing2;           // ctor
4  v.push_back(thing1);
5  v.push_back(thing2);
6
7
```

vector<T>

- ❖ Dynamically resizable, **contiguous array**.
- ❖ **O(1)** random access: `v[i]`, `v.at(i)`.
- ❖ **Amortized O(1)** `push_back` at the end.
- ❖ **Insert/erase in the middle is** $O(n)$: everything after shifts.
- ❖ Each `push_back` **copies** the element in.

Containers store by value

By value means copies

- ❖ An STL container holds its own copy of each element.
- ❖ Insert an object -> the container **copies it in** (copy ctor).
- ❖ Rearranging (sorting, resizing) **copies or moves elements** around.
- ❖ **Big objects** -> copying gets expensive fast.

```
1 class Tracer {  
2     public:  
3         Tracer()                { cout << "ctor\n"; }  
4         Tracer(const Tracer& t) { cout << "copy ctor\n"; }  
5         Tracer& operator=(const Tracer& t) {  
6             cout << "operator=\n"; return *this;  
7         }  
8         ~Tracer()                { cout << "dtor\n"; }  
9     };
```

Tracer prints on every ctor / copy / assign / dtor, so we can SEE the copies.

One copy per push_back

```
1  std::vector<Tracer> v;  
2  v.reserve(3);           // no reallocation  
3  Tracer t;               // ctor  
4  v.push_back(t);         // copy ctor  
5  v.push_back(t);         // copy ctor  
6  v.push_back(t);         // copy ctor
```

```
$ ./a.out
```

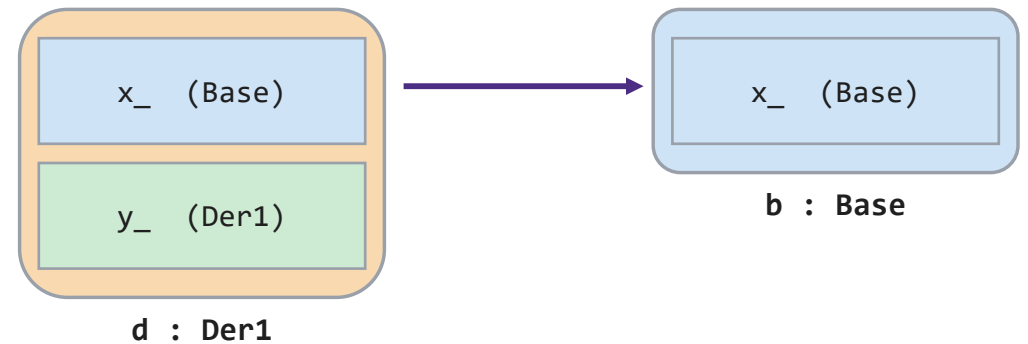
```
ctor                <- Tracer t;  
copy ctor           <- push_back(t)  
copy ctor           <- push_back(t)  
copy ctor           <- push_back(t)
```

The vector keeps its OWN copy of every element, so each **push_back** runs the copy constructor. Remove the **reserve(3)** and a growing vector copies the existing elements into the new buffer on top of that.

Recall: Object "slicing"

```
1  class Base {  
2      public:  
3          Base(int x) : x_(x) { }  
4          int x_;  
5  };  
6  
7  class Der1 : public Base {  
8      public:  
9          Der1(int y) : Base(16), y_(y) { }  
10         int y_;  
11     };  
12  
13     void Foo() {  
14         Base b(1);  
15         Der1 d(2);  
16         b = d;    // SLICED: copies x_, drops y_  
17     }
```

b = d; copies only the Base part



y_ has nowhere to go: dropped.

We call the **copy assignment** of the Base class. That's the default copy assignment so it will only copy **x**.

Object “slicing” in STL

```
1  #include <vector>
2  #include <memory>
3  #include "Stock.h"
4  #include "DividendStock.h"
5
6  std::vector<Stock> v;           // stores Stock BY VALUE
7  DividendStock ds;
8  v.push_back(ds);               // OUCH: sliced to a Stock
9
10 // Fix: store pointers (ideally smart pointers)
11 std::vector<std::unique_ptr<Stock> > v2;
12 v2.push_back(std::make_unique<DividendStock>());
```

Containers copy by value

- ❖ **So `vector<Stock>`** copies a DividendStock into a Stock-sized slot: sliced.
- ❖ **Fix: store pointers.** A pointer is the same size for any type, so nothing is dropped.
- ❖ **Best:** `vector<unique_ptr<Stock> >` so the container also owns and frees them.

Iterators

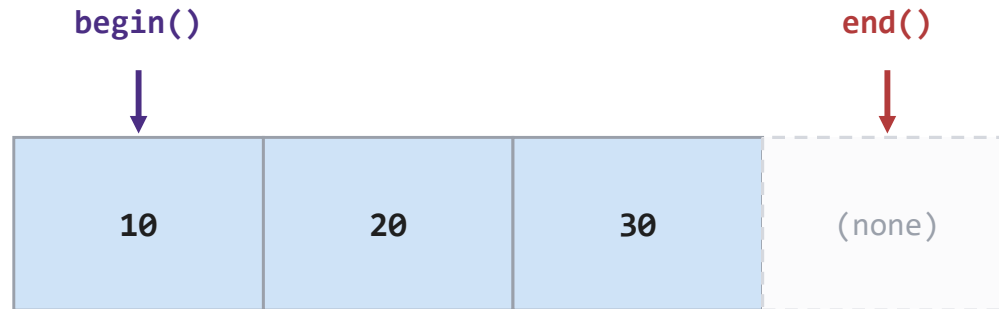
```
1  std::vector<int> v = {10, 20, 30};
2
3  // every container defines its own iterator type
4  std::vector<int>::iterator it;
5  for (it = v.begin(); it != v.end(); ++it) {
6      cout << *it << endl;    // * dereferences the iterator
7  }
```

What an iterator is

- ❖ A generalized **pointer** into a container.
- ❖ **begin()**: points at the first element.
- ❖ **end()**: one PAST the last element.
- ❖ ***it** reads it, **++it** advances it.

- ❖ Every container defines its own **iterator** type, but the loop looks the same for all of them: begin to end, dereference, increment.

The range [begin, end)



Why one-past-the-end?

- ❖ The range is **half-open**: includes begin, excludes end.
- ❖ Empty container -> `begin() == end()`, so the loop runs zero times.
- ❖ `end()` is a marker, not a real element: never dereference it.
- ❖ Size is just `end - begin` for random-access iterators.

Takeaway: STL ranges are half-open: `[begin, end)`. `end()` sits one past the last element as a stop marker, which makes empty ranges and loop termination fall out cleanly.

auto and range-for

```
1 // the verbose iterator loop
2 for (std::vector<int>::iterator it = v.begin();
3      it != v.end(); ++it) { cout << *it; }
4
5 // auto infers the iterator type (C++11)
6 for (auto it = v.begin(); it != v.end(); ++it) { }
7
8 // range-for hides the iterator entirely
9 for (auto& x : v) {
10     cout << x << endl;
11 }
```

C++11 conveniences

- ❖ **auto** asks the compiler to infer the type.
- ❖ Great for iterator types, which are long to spell out.
- ❖ **range-for**: `for (auto& x : v)` visits each element.
- ❖ Use **auto&** to avoid copying each element; **const auto&** to also forbid edits.

Takeaway: `auto` infers the iterator type and `range-for` hides the iterator entirely. Prefer `for (const auto& x : v)` so you walk the container without copying every element.

Algorithms work through iterators

```
1  #include <algorithm>
2
3  std::sort(v.begin(), v.end()); // uses element's operator<
4
5  auto it = std::find(v.begin(), v.end(), 20);
6  if (it != v.end()) { /* found */ }
7
8  std::for_each(v.begin(), v.end(), Print); // call Print(x)
```

Ranges, not containers

- ❖ Algorithms take an **iterator range** **[begin, end)**, not a container.
- ❖ **sort** uses the element's **operator<**.
- ❖ **find** returns an iterator, or **end()** if absent.
- ❖ **for_each** calls your function on every element.

- ❖ Same algorithm, any container: because they speak iterators, sort and find work on a vector's range, a plain array's pointers, and more.

list: a doubly-linked list

```
1  #include <list>
2  std::list<int> lst = {3, 1, 2};
3
4  lst.push_front(0);    // O(1) at either end or middle
5  lst.sort();           // member sort: SPLICES nodes,
6                        // it does not copy the elements
7
8  // lst[2] does NOT compile: no random access
```

list<T> vs vector<T>

- ❖ **Doubly-linked:** nodes, not a contiguous block.
- ❖ **No random access:** there is no `lst[i]`.
- ❖ **O(1)** insert/erase anywhere, given an iterator.
- ❖ Member **sort()** relinks nodes (splices); it does NOT copy elements.

list trades vector's random access for O(1) insertion anywhere and a sort that rewires pointers instead of copying elements. Pick the container by the operations you need.

map: ordered key to value

```
1  #include <map>
2  std::map<string, int> ages;      // key -> value, kept sorted
3  ages["Alice"] = 30;             // insert or update
4  ages["Bob"] = 25;
5
6  auto it = ages.find("Alice");
7  if (it != ages.end())
8      cout << it->first << ": " << it->second;    // Alice: 30
```

`it->first` is the key, `it->second` is the value (it is an iterator to a pair)

map is a sorted key/value tree: unique keys, $O(\log n)$ insert and lookup, elements are `pair<const Key, Value>`, and an iterator gives you `.first` (key) and `.second` (value).

map<Key, Value>

- ❖ Ordered associative container: a **balanced search tree**.
- ❖ Unique keys, kept **sorted**; $O(\log n)$ insert and lookup.
- ❖ Elements are **pair<const Key, Value>**.
- ❖ **m[key]** inserts or updates; **find** returns an iterator.

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Same idea as Java, different rules

You already know (Java)	The C++ STL twist
<code>ArrayList<Foo></code>	<code>vector<Foo></code> stores Foo values , not references: inserting copies.
<code>HashMap (unordered)</code>	<code>map</code> is a sorted tree , $O(\log n)$. <code>unordered_map</code> is the hash map.
<code>map.get(x) -> null</code>	<code>m[x]</code> default-constructs and inserts a missing key.
<code>list.get(i)</code> is checked	<code>v[i]</code> doesn't check whether the index is in bound. Use <code>v.at(i)</code> for a bounds check.

Example #1: sort

```
1  std::vector<std::string> names = {"Bob", "Alice", "Eve", "Dan"};
2
3  std::sort(names.begin(), names.end());
4  // names: Alice Bob Dan Eve
5
6  std::sort(names.begin(), names.end(), std::greater<std::string>());
7  // names: Eve Dan Bob Alice
```

Example #2: count frequencies

```
1  std::vector<std::string> words = {"red", "blue", "red"};
2  std::map<std::string, int> freq;
3
4  for (const std::string& w : words) {
5      freq[w]++;           // [] inserts 0 the first time
6  }
7  // freq: {blue: 1, red: 2}   (kept sorted by key)
```


Example #3: unique

```
1  std::vector<int> v = {3, 1, 3, 2, 1, 2, 3};  
2  
3  // a set keeps unique keys, kept sorted  
4  std::set<int> uniq(v.begin(), v.end());    // {1, 2, 3}  
5  
6  // or in place: sort, then unique + erase  
7  std::sort(v.begin(), v.end());  
8  v.erase(std::unique(v.begin(), v.end()), v.end());    // {1, 2, 3}
```

Example #4: accumulate and max_element

```
1  #include <numeric>      // for std::accumulate
2  std::vector<int> v = {4, 8, 15, 16, 23, 42};
3
4  int total = std::accumulate(v.begin(), v.end(), 0);
5  // total == 108
6
7  auto it = std::max_element(v.begin(), v.end());
8  int biggest = *it;      // biggest == 42
```

Example #5: a custom hash

```
1  struct Point { int x, y; };
2
3  // a custom key needs a hash AND an equality
4  struct PTHash {
5      std::size_t operator()(const Point& p) const {
6          return std::hash<int>()(p.x) * 31 + std::hash<int>()(p.y);
7      }
8  };
9  bool operator==(const Point& a, const Point& b) {
10     return a.x == b.x && a.y == b.y;
11 }
12
13 std::unordered_map<Point, std::string, PTHash> label;
14 label[{1, 2}] = "start";
```

Reminders

Assessments:

- Exercise 5 is due today at 11:59pm
- HW2 is due tomorrow at 11:59pm

General:

- Mid-quarter feedback this week
 - Anonymous, but I see whether you completed it after 1 week
 - 1 participation pt for filling it out
 - Be honest and critical! I can't improve without clear issues to work on 😞
- 1 lecture before the midterm
 - Will have "personalized exams" (details next lecture)

Questions?

Thanks for coming - see you next lecture!