

# CSE 374: Lecture 24

## C++ Classes



# Before `git commit`

(HW6 part 1 due TONIGHT)

Run your linter

Test your code

Adjust

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# C Structs: Not object-oriented

```
typedef struct person {  
    char* name;  
    int age;  
} person;
```

```
person *p2;  
char name[MAX_NAME];  
int age;  
// fill name, age  
p1 = makePerson (name, age);
```

```
person* makePerson (char *name, int a) {  
    person* p = (person*) malloc (sizeof (person));  
    p->name = (char*) malloc (MAX_NAME+1);  
    strncpy (p->name, name, MAX_NAME);  
    p->age = a;  
    return p;  
}
```

Notes:

Not self contained

need to allocate heap memory so object will persist

need to allocate memory for the string

Unless you statically declare (char name[MAX\_NAME])

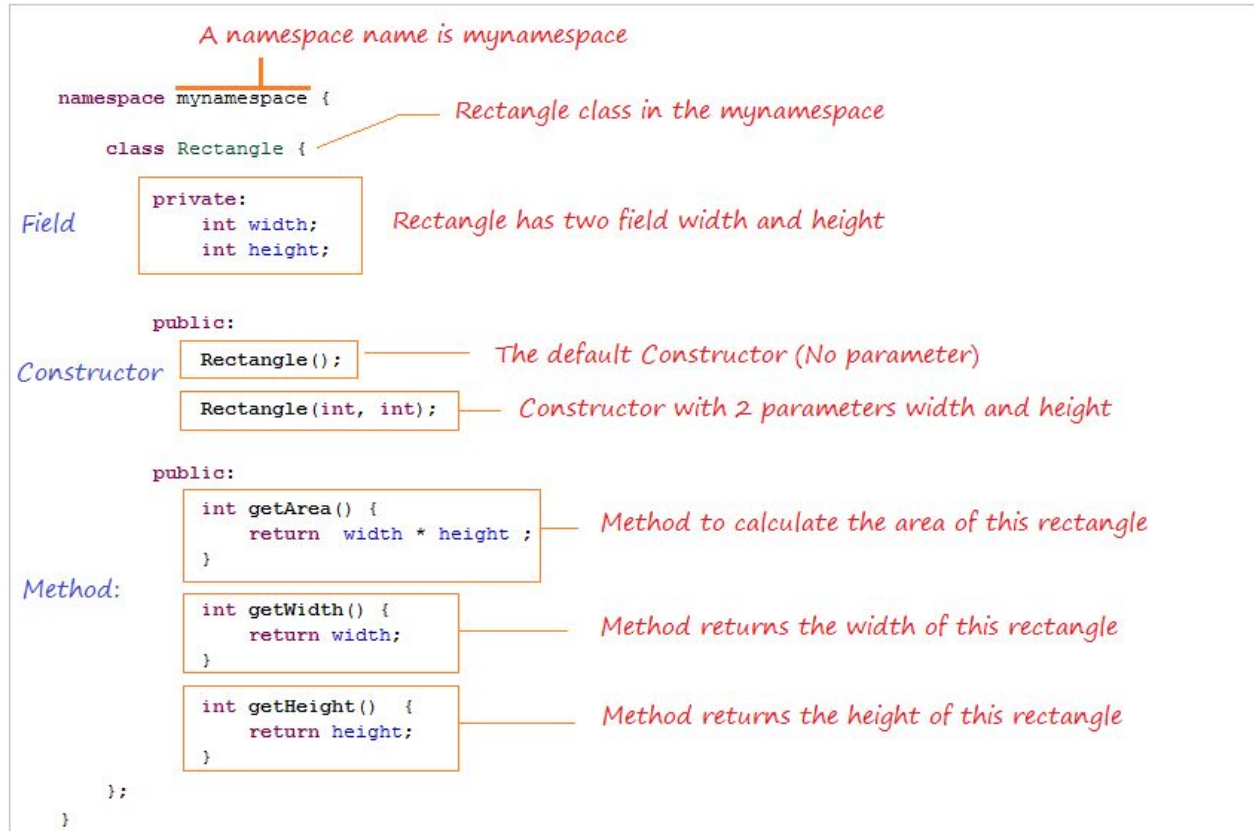
# C++ classes: object-oriented

```
class String {
    public:
        String();
        String(const String& other);
        String(const char* raw);
        virtual ~String();
        String& operator=(const String& other);
        size_t length() const;
        void append(const String& other);
        void clear();
        friend std::ostream&
operator<<(std::ostream& out, const String& s);

    private:
        void makeNewRaw(size_t length);
        char* raw_;
};
```

Classes - can define fields and methods

# Class layout



# Classes

- 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)

# Class Constructors (4 types)

- A *default constructor* takes zero arguments. If you don't define any constructors for your class, the compiler will generate one of these constructors for you.
- A *copy constructor* takes a single parameter which is a *const reference* (const T&) to another object of the same type, and initializes the fields of the new object with a COPY of the fields in the referenced object.
- *User-defined constructors* initialize fields and take whatever arguments you like.
- *Conversion constructors* are constructors that take a single argument. For our string example this is like:

```
String(const char* raw);  
String s = "foo";
```

# 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
- Copy constructor vs. assignment
  - Copy constructor initializes a new bag of bits (new variable or parameter)
  - Assignment (=) replaces an existing value with a new one
    - may need to clean up old state (free heap data?)

# Implicit constructors & destructors

Conversion constructors are implicit: automatically applied when a constructor is called with one argument.

If you want a single argument constructor that is not implicit, must use

```
explicit String(const  
char* raw);
```

Destructors are used by 'free' to clean up when freeing memory.

```
Virtual ~String();
```

You do not call destructors explicitly

# Stack v. Heap

**Java:** cannot stack-allocate an object (only a pointer to one; all objects are dynamically allocated on the heap - all objects are pointers to objects)

**C:** can stack-allocate a struct, then initialize it (And actual object)

**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 initialize, 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`. (never mix `malloc/free` with `new/delete`!)

# Subclasses

- **Polymorphism.** In essence, polymorphism is the ability access different objects through the same *interface*. For instance, if you have an interface that represents an electronic device, that interface would have the ability to turn the device on and off. You can use the actual physical types - computer, phone, television, etc - as if they were an electronic device, because they all have the on/off capability.
- **Inheritance.** This is one of the meatiest pieces of OO programming. Inheritance allows the sharing of BEHAVIORS. For instance, a Square is a type of Rectangle, and has the same way to compute its area (width times height) - therefore by make Square inherit from Rectangle, we can share that behavior and avoid duplicating the code.