Pointers, Classes, Inheritance & Polymorphism

Rahul Deodhar

www.rahuldeodhar.com rahuldeodhar@gmail.com @rahuldeodhar +91 9820213813

1

Procedural Concept



• The main program coordinates calls to procedures and hands over appropriate data as parameters.

Object-Oriented Concept



• Objects of the program interact by sending messages to each other

C++

- Supports Data Abstraction
- Supports OOP
 - Encapsulation
 - Inheritance
 - Polymorphism
- Supports Generic Programming
 - Containers
 - Stack of char, int, double etc
 - Generic Algorithms
 - sort(), copy(), search() any container Stack/Vector/List

Pointers, Dynamic Data, and Reference Types

- Review on Pointers
- Reference Variables
- Dynamic Memory Allocation
 - The **new** operator
 - The **delete** operator
 - Dynamic Memory Allocation for Arrays



Recall that . . .

char str [8];

- **str** is the base address of the array.
- We say **str** is a pointer because its value is an address.
- It is a <u>pointer constant</u> because the value of **str** itself cannot be changed by assignment. It "points" to the memory location of a char.

6000

'H'	'e'	"	,	"]"	' 0'	"\ 0 "	
str [0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]

Addresses in Memory

• When a variable is declared, enough memory to hold a value of that type is allocated for it at an unused memory location. This is the address of the variable

int	х;	
float	number;	
char	ch;	
2000	2002	2006
×	number	ch

Obtaining Memory Addresses

• The address of a *non-array variable* can be obtained by using the address-of operator &



What is a pointer variable?

- A pointer variable is a variable whose value is the address of a location in memory.
- To declare a pointer variable, you must specify the type of value that the pointer will point to, for example,

int* ptr; // ptr will hold the address of an int
char* q; // q will hold the address of a char

Using a Pointer Variable



NOTE: Because ptr holds the address of x, we say that ptr "points to" x

*: dereference operator



NOTE: The value pointed to by ptr is denoted by *ptr

Using the Dereference Operator

int x; x = 12;	2000 12 5 X
<pre>int* ptr; ptr = &x</pre>	3000 2000 ptr
*ptr = 5;	<pre>// changes the value</pre>

address ptr points to 5

at the

Self-Test on Pointers



Using a Pointer to Access the Elements of a String



Reference Variables

Reference variable = *alias for another variable*

- Contains the address of a variable (like a pointer)
- No need to perform any dereferencing (unlike a pointer)
- Must be initialized when it is declared

```
int x = 5;
int &z = x; // z is another name for x
int &y; //Error: reference must be initialized
cout << x << endl; -> prints 5
cout << z << endl; -> prints 5
z = 9; // same as x = 9;
cout << x << endl; -> prints 9
cout << z << endl; -> prints 9
```

Why Reference Variables

- Are primarily used as function parameters
- Advantages of using references:
 - you don't have to pass the address of a variable
 - you don't have to dereference the variable inside the called function

Reference Variables Example

```
#include <iostream.h>
// Function prototypes
  (required in C++)
void p swap(int *, int *);
void r swap(int&, int&);
int main (void) {
 int v = 5, x = 10;
 cout \ll v \ll x \ll endl;
p swap(&v, &x);
 cout << v << x << endl;
 r_swap(v,x);
 cout << v << x << endl;
                               }
 return 0;
}
```

```
void p swap(int *a, int *b)
ł
  int temp;
  temp = *a;
                  (2)
  *a = *b;
                          (3)
  *b = temp;
}
void r swap(int &a, int &b)
 int temp;
 temp = a;
                         (2)
 a = b;
                  (3)
b = temp;
                         18
```

Dynamic Memory Allocation

In C and C++, three types of memory are used by programs:

- **Static memory** where global and static variables live
- Heap memory dynamically allocated at execution time
 - "managed" memory accessed using pointers
- **Stack memory** used by automatic variables

Static Memory

Global Variables Static Variables

Heap Memory (or free store)

Dynamically Allocated Memory (Unnamed variables)

<u>Stack Memory</u>

Auto Variables Function parameters

3 Kinds of Program Data

- **STATIC DATA**: Allocated at compiler time
- **DYNAMIC DATA**: explicitly allocated and deallocated during program execution by C++ instructions written by programmer using operators **new** and **delete**
- AUTOMATIC DATA: automatically created at function entry, resides in activation frame of the function, and is destroyed when returning from function

Dynamic Memory Allocation Diagram



Dynamic Memory Allocation

- *In C*, functions such as malloc() are used to dynamically allocate memory from the **Heap**.
- *In C++*, this is accomplished using the **new** and **delete** operators
- **new** is used to allocate memory during execution time
 - returns a pointer to the address where the object is to be stored
 - always returns a pointer to the type that follows the new

Operator **new** Syntax

new DataType

new DataType [IntExpression]

- If memory is available, in an area called the heap (or free store) new allocates the requested object or array, and returns a pointer to (address of) the memory allocated.
- Otherwise, program terminates with error message.
- The dynamically allocated object exists until the delete operator destroys it.

Operator new



NOTE: Dynamic data has no variable name

The **NULL** Pointer

- There is a pointer constant called the "null pointer" denoted by NULL
- But NULL is not memory address 0.
- NOTE: It is an error to dereference a pointer whose value is NULL. Such an error may cause your program to crash, or behave erratically. It is the programmer's job to check for this.

// ok to use *ptr here

25

Operator **delete** Syntax



- The object or array currently pointed to by Pointer is deallocated, and the value of Pointer is undefined. The memory is returned to the free store.
- Good idea to set the pointer to the released memory to NULL
- Square brackets are used with delete to deallocate a dynamically allocated array.

Operator delete



Example



ptr 3000

// deallocates the array pointed to by ptr
// ptr itself is not deallocated
// the value of ptr becomes undefined

Pointers and Constants

```
char* p;
p = new char[20];
char c[] = "Hello";
const char* pc = c; //pointer to a constant
pc[2] = 'a'; // error
pc = p;
char *const cp = c; //constant pointer
cp[2] = 'a';
cp = p; // error
const char *const cpc = c; //constant pointer to a const
```

cpc[2] = 'a'; //error cpc = p; //error

Take Home Message

- Be aware of where a pointer points to, and what is the size of that space.
- Have the same information in mind when you use reference variables.
- Always check if a pointer points to NULL before accessing it.

Review: Pointers & Dynamic Data

• A pointer variable is a variable whose value is the address of a location in memory

int x; x = 5;	
int* ptr1;	
ptrI = &x	
<pre>int* ptr2; ptr2 = ptr1;</pre>	
*ptr1 = 6;	
cout << ptr1 << endl;	
cout << *ptr2 << endl;	

int* ptr3; ptr3 = new int; *ptr3 = 5; delete ptr3; ptr3 = NULL; int *ptr4; ptr4 = new int[5]; ptr4[0] = 100; ptr4[4] = 123; delete [] ptr4; ptr4 = NULL;

Review: Reference Types

- Reference Types
 - Alias for another variable
 - Must be initialized when declared

```
- Are primarily used as function parameters
```

```
int main (void){
    int a1 = 5, a2 = 10;
    int *a3 = new int;
    *a3 = 15;
    int &a4 = a3;
    cout << a1 << a2 << a3 << endl;
    increment(a1, a2, a3);
    cout << a1 << a2 << a3 << endl;
    delete a3; a3 = NULL;
    return 0;</pre>
```

```
void increment(int b1, int &b2, int *b3)
{
    b1 += 2;
    b2 += 2
    *b3 += 2;
}
```

Object-Oriented Programming Introduction to Classes

- Class Definition
- Class Examples
- Objects
- Constructors
- Destructors

Class

- The class is the cornerstone of C++
 - It makes possible encapsulation, data hiding and inheritance
- Type
 - Concrete representation of a concept
 - Eg. float with operations like -, *, + (math real numbers)
- Class
 - A user defined type
 - Consists of both data and methods
 - Defines properties and behavior of that type
- Advantages
 - Types matching program concepts
 - Game Program (Explosion type)
 - Concise program
 - Code analysis easy
 - Compiler can detect illegal uses of types
- Data Abstraction
 - Separate the implementation details from its essential properties

Classes & Objects



Define a Class Type


Class Definition

- Data Members
 Can be of any type, built-in or user-defined
- *non-static* data member
 - Each class object has its own copy
- static data member
 - Acts as a global variable
 - One copy per class type, e.g. counter

Static Data Member



Rectangle r1; Rectangle r2; Rectangle r3;



Class Definition Member Functions

- Used to
 - access the values of the data members (accessor)
 - perform operations on the data members (implementor)
- Are declared inside the class body
- Their definition can be placed inside the class body, or outside the class body
- Can access both public and private members of the class
- Can be referred to using dot or arrow member access operator

Define a Member Function



Class Definition Member Functions

- const member function
 - declaration
 - return_type func_name (para_list) const;
 - definition
 - return_type func_name (para_list) const { ... }
 - return_type class_name :: func_name (para_list) const { ... }
 - Makes no modification about the data members (safe function)
 - It is illegal for a const member function to modify a class data member

Const Member Function



Class Definition - Access Control

- Information hiding
 - To prevent the internal representation from direct access from outside the class
- Access Specifiers
 - public
 - may be accessible from anywhere within a program
 - private
 - may be accessed only by the member functions, and friends of this class
 - protected
 - acts as public for derived classes
 - behaves as private for the rest of the program

class Time Specification

```
class Time
{
 public :
          Set (int hours, int minutes, int seconds);
  void
          Increment();
  void
         Write () const;
  void
  Time
          (int initHrs, int initMins, int initSecs); // constructor
  Time
         ();
                                             // default constructor
 private :
  int
             hrs;
             mins;
  int
  int
             secs;
};
                                                                      44
```

Class Interface Diagram



Class Definition Access Control

- The default access specifier is *private*
- The data members are usually private or protected
- A **private** member function is a helper, may only be accessed by another member function of the same class (exception *friend* function)
- The **public** member functions are part of the <u>class</u> <u>interface</u>
- Each access control section is optional, repeatable, and sections may occur in any order

What is an object?



class Rectangle { private: int width; int length; public: void set(int w, int l); int area(); **};**

```
main()
```

{

Rectangle r1; Rectangle r2;

r1.set(5, 8); cout<<r1.area()<<endl;

r2.set(8,10); cout<<r2.area()<<endl;

48

Another Example

```
#include <iostream.h>
class circle
{
    private:
    double radius;
    public:
    void store(double);
    double area(void);
    void display(void);
};
```

```
// member function definitions
void circle::store(double r)
{
  radius = r;
}
double circle::area(void)
{
  return 3.14*radius*radius;
}
void circle::display(void)
{
  cout << "r = " << radius << endl;
}
</pre>
```

```
int main(void) {
    circle c; // an object of circle class
    c.store(5.0);
    cout << "The area of circle c is " << c.area() << endl;
    c.display();
}</pre>
```

class Rectangle { private: int width; int length; public: void set(int w, int l); int area(); };

r1 is statically allocated

main()
{
 Rectangle r1;
 r1.set(5, 8);
}

class Rectangle { private: int width; int length; public: void set(int w, int l); int area(); $\};$

r2 is a pointer to a Rectangle obje



```
class Rectangle
{
  private:
    int width;
    int length;
  public:
    void set(int w, int l);
    int area();
};
```

```
r3 is dynamically allocated
main()
ł
   Rectangle *r3;
   r3 = new Rectangle();
   r3->set(80,100);
                    //arrow notatior
   delete r3;
r3 = NULL;
}
r3
    6000
                     5000
      NULL
                      width = 80
                      length = 100
```

	1. By Assignment
#include <iostream.h></iostream.h>	
class circle	Only work for public data members
{ public: double radius:	• No control over the operations on data members
};	
int main() {	
circle c1; // Decl	are an instance of the class circle
c1.radius = 5; // Initialize by a	ssignment

}

#include <iostream.h>

```
class circle
{
  private:
    double radius;
  public:
    void set (double r)
      {radius = r;}
    double get_r ()
      {return radius;}
```

2. By Public Member Functions

};

int main(void) {
 circle c; // an object of circle class
 c.set(5.0); // initialize an object with a public member function
 cout << "The radius of circle c is " << c.get_r() << endl;
 // access a private data member with an accessor</pre>

}

```
class Rectangle
ł
  private:
    int width;
    int length;
  public:
    void set(int w, int l);
    int area();
```

r2 is a pointer to a Rectangle object

```
main()
{
    Rectangle r1;
    r1.set(5, 8); //dot notation
    Rectangle *r2;
    r2 = &r1;
    r2->set(8,10); //arrow notation
}
```

r1 and r2 are both initialized by public member function set

class Rectangle

```
{
```

private:

- int width;
- int length;

public:

- Rectangle();
- Rectangle(const Rectangle &r); Rectangle(int w, int l);
- void set(int w, int l);
- int area();

3. By Constructor

- Default constructor
- Copy constructor
- Constructor with parameters

They are publicly accessible Have the same name as the class There is no return type Are used to initialize class data members They have different signatures

};

class Rectangle

private: int width; int length; public: void set(int w, int l); int area(); }; When a class is declared with no constructors, the compiler automatically assumes default constructor and copy constructor for it.

• Default constructor

Rectangle :: Rectangle() { };

• Copy constructor

Rectangle :: Rectangle (const Rectangle &
 r)
{
 width = r.width; length = r.length;

class Rectangle { private: int width; int length; public: void set(int w, int l); int area(); }

• Initialize with default constructor

Rectangle r1; Rectangle *r3 = new Rectangle();

• Initialize with copy constructor

Rectangle r4; r4.set(60,80); Rectangle r5 = r4; Rectangle r6(r4); Rectangle *r7 = new Rectangle(r4);



If any constructor with any number of parameters is declared, no default constructor will exist, unless you define it.

Rectangle r4; // error

• Initialize with constructor

Rectangle r5(60,80);

Rectangle *r6 = new Rectangle(60,80);

class Rectangle

```
{
```

}

private: int width; int length; public: Rectangle(); Rectangle(int w, int l); void set(int w, int l); int area();

Write your own constructors

```
Rectangle :: Rectangle()
{
    width = 20;
    length = 50;
};
```

Rectangle *r7 = new Rectangle();



};

class Account	
{	
private:	A
char *name;	{
double balance;	
unsigned int id;	
public:	
Account();	};
Account(const Account &a);	
Account(const char *person);	
}	А

```
Account :: Account()
{
    name = NULL; balance = 0.0;
    id = 0;
};
```

With constructors, we have more control over the data members

```
Account :: Account(const Account &a)
```

```
name = new char[strlen(a.name)+1];
strcpy (name, a.name);
balance = a.balance;
id = a.id;
```

Account :: Account(const char *person)

name = new char[strlen(person)+1]; strcpy (name, person); balance = 0.0; id = 0;

So far, ...

- An object can be initialized by a class constructor
 - default constructor
 - copy constructor
 - constructor with parameters
- Resources are allocated when an object is initialized
- Resources should be revoked when an object is about to end its lifetime

Cleanup of An Object

class Account

```
{
```

private:

```
char *name;
```

```
double balance;
```

```
unsigned int id; //unique public:
```

```
Account();
```

```
Account(const Account &a);
Account(const char *person);
```

```
~Account();
```

Destructor

```
Account :: ~Account()
```

```
delete[] name;
```

```
)
```

```
    Its name is the class name preceded
by a ~ (tilde)
```

```
• It has no argument
```

- It is used to release dynamically allocated memory and to perform other "cleanup" activities
- It is executed automatically when the object goes out of scope

Putting Them Together

class Str

char *pData; int nLength; public: //constructors Str(); Str(char *s); Str(const Str &str); //accessors

char* get_Data();
int get_Len();

```
//destructor
~Str();
```

};

```
Str :: Str() {
    pData = new char[1];
    *pData = '\0';
    nLength = 0;
};
```

```
Str :: Str(char *s) {
    pData = new char[strlen(s)+1];
    strcpy(pData, s);
    nLength = strlen(s);
};
```

```
Str :: Str(const Str &str) {
    int n = str.nLength;
    pData = new char[n+1];
    nLength = n;
    strcpy(pData,str.pData);
};
```

Putting Them Together

class Str

char *pData; int nLength; public: //constructors Str(); Str(char *s); Str(const Str &str);

//accessors
char* get_Data();
int get_Len();

//destructor
~Str();

};

```
char* Str :: get_Data()
{
    return pData;
};
```

int Str :: get_Len()
{
 return nLength;
};

Str :: ~Str()
{
 delete[] pData;
};

65

Putting Them Together

}

class Str

char *pData; int nLength; public: //constructors Str(); Str(char *s); Str(const Str &str);

//accessors
char* get_Data();
int get_Len();

//destructor
~Str();

};

int main()
{
 int x=3;
 Str *pStr1 = new Str("Joe");
 Str *pStr2 = new Str();

Interacting Objects

Class A

Class B







class Polygon {
 protected:
 int numVertices;
 float *xCoord, float *yCoord;
 public:
 void set(float *x, float *y, int nV);
};

class Rectangle {
 protected:
 int numVertices;
 float *xCoord, float *yCoord;
 public:
 void set(float *x, float *y, int nV);
 float area();
};



```
class Triangle : public Polygon{
    public:
    float area();
};
```

class Polygon{
 protected:
 int numVertices;
 float *xCoord, float *yCoord;
 public:
 void set(float *x, float *y, int nV);
};

```
class Triangle {
    protected:
        int numVertices;
        float *xCoord, float *yCoord;
    public:
        void set(float *x, float *y, int nV);
        float area();
};
```



class Point{
 protected:
 int x, y;
 public:
 void set (int a, int b);
};

class Circle : public Point{ private: double r;

};

class 3D-Point: public Point{
 private:
 int z;

};

• Augmenting the original class



• Specializing the original class


Why Inheritance?

Inheritance is a mechanism for

- building class types from existing class types
- defining new class types to be a
 - -specialization
 - -augmentation
 - of existing types

Define a Class Hierarchy

• Syntax:

class *DerivedClassName* : access-level *BaseClassName*

where

- access-level specifies the type of derivation
 - private by default, or
 - public
- Any class can serve as a base class
 - Thus a derived class can also be a base class

Class Derivation



Point is the base class of 3D-Point, while 3D-Point is the base class of Sphere

What to inherit?

- In principle, every member of a base class is inherited by a derived class
 - just with different access permission

Access Control Over the Members



- Two levels of access control over class members
 - class definition
 - inheritance type

```
class Point{
    protected: int x, y;
    public: void set(int a, int b);
}
```

};

};

class Circle : public Point{

••• •••

Access Rights of Derived Classes

Type of Inheritance

Access Control for Members		private	protected	public
	private	-	-	-
	protected	private	protected	protected
	public	private	protected	public

• The type of inheritance defines the access level for the members of derived class that are inherited from the base class

Class Derivation

```
class mother {
```

```
protected: int mProc;
public: int mPubl;
private: int mPriv;
};
```

```
private/protected/public
class daughter : ----- mother{
    private: double dPriv;
    public: void dFoo ( );
};
```

```
void daughter :: dFoo ( ){
    mPriv = 10; //error
    mProc = 20;
};
```

class grandDaughter : public daughter {
 private: double gPriv;
 public: void gFoo ();
};

int main() {
 /*....*/
}

What to inherit?

• In principle, every member of a base class is inherited by a derived class

- just with different access permission

- However, there are exceptions for
 - constructor and destructor
 - operator=() member
 - friends

Since all these functions are class-specific

Constructor Rules for Derived Classes

The default constructor and the destructor of the base class are always called when a new object of a derived class is created or destroyed.



Constructor Rules for Derived Classes

You can also specify an constructor of the base class other than the default constructor

DerivedClassCon (derivedClass args) : BaseClassCon (baseClass args)

```
{ DerivedClass constructor body }
```

class A { class C : public A { public: public: A() C (int a) : A(a){cout<< "A:default"<<endl;} {cout<<"C"<<endl;} A (int a) }; {cout<<"A:parameter"<<endl;} }; output: A:parameter C test(1);C 82

Define its Own Members

The derived class can also define its own members, in addition to the members inherited from the base class



class Circle : public Point{
 private:
 double r;
 public:
 void set_r(double c);
};

class Point{
 protected:
 int x, y;
 public:
 void set(int a, int b);
};

class Circle{
 protected:
 int x, y;
 private:
 double r;
 public:
 void set(int a, int b);
 void set_r(double c);
};

Even more ...

- A derived class can override methods defined in its parent class. With overriding,
 - the method in the subclass has the identical signature to the method in the base class.
 - a subclass implements its own version of a base class method.

class A {	
	class B · public A {
protected:	
int x v.	public:
· · · ·	void print ()
public:	
void print () $$	$ \{cout << From B'' << endl; \}$
	3:
{cout<<"From A"< <endl;}< th=""><th>))</th></endl;}<>))
}.	
۶,	84

Access a Method

```
class Point{
    protected:
        int x, y;
    public:
        void set(int a, int b)
        {x=a; y=b;}
        void foo ();
        void print();
};
```

Point A; A.set(30,50); // from base class Point A.print(); // from base class Point class Circle : public Point{
 private: double r;
 public:
 void set (int a, int b, double c) {
 Point :: set(a, b); //same name function call
 r = c;
 }
 void print(); };

Circle C; C.set(10,10,100); // from class Circle C.foo (); // from base class Point C.print(); // from class Circle

Putting Them Together



- Time is the base class
- ExtTime is the derived class with public inheritance
- The derived class can
 - inherit all members from the base class, except the constructor
 - access all public and protected members of the base class
 - define its private data member
 - provide its own constructor
 - define its public member functions
 - override functions inherited from the base class

class Time Specification

```
// SPECIFICATION FILE
                                                 (time.h)
class Time{
 public :
         Set ( int h, int m, int s );
   void
        Increment ();
   void
   void Write() const;
   Time
         (int initH, int initM, int initS); // constructor
   Time
         ();
                                           // default constructor
 protected :
   int
             hrs;
             mins;
   int
   int
             secs;
};
```

07

Class Interface Diagram



Derived Class ExtTime

```
(exttime.h)
// SPECIFICATION FILE
#include "time.h"
enum ZoneType {EST, CST, MST, PST, EDT, CDT, MDT, PDT };
class ExtTime : public Time
        // Time is the base class and use public inheritance
ł
 public :
             Set ( int h, int m, int s, ZoneType timeZone );
   void
   void
             Write () const; //overridden
   ExtTime (int initH, int initM, int initS, ZoneType initZone);
  ExtTime (); // default constructor
private :
   ZoneType zone ; // added data member
};
```

Class Interface Diagram

ExtTime class



Implementation of ExtTime

Default Constructor

```
ExtTime :: ExtTime ( )
{
    zone = EST;
}
```

The default constructor of base class, Time(), is automatically called, when an ExtTime object is created. ExtTime et1;

```
et1

hrs = 0
mins = 0
secs = 0
zone = EST
```

Implementation of ExtTime

Another Constructor

ExtTime :: ExtTime (int initH, int initM, int initS, ZoneType initZone)
 : Time (initH, initM, initS)
 // constructor initializer
{
 zone = initZone ;
}



Implementation of ExtTime

```
void ExtTime :: Set (int h, int m, int s, ZoneType timeZone)
{
    Time :: Set (hours, minutes, seconds); // same name function call
    zone = timeZone ;
}
```

```
void ExtTime :: Write () const // function overriding
{
    string zoneString[8] =
        {"EST", "CST", MST", "PST", "EDT", "CDT", "MDT",
        "PDT"};
Time :: Write ();
cout << ` `<<zoneString[zone]<<endl;
}</pre>
```

Working with **ExtTime**

#include "exttime.h"					
•••					
int main() {					
ExtTime thisTime (8, 35, 0, PST	ExtTime thisTime (8, 35, 0, PST);				
ExtTime thatTime;	// default constructor called				
<pre>thatTime.Write() ;</pre>	// outputs 00:00:00 EST				
<pre>thatTime.Set (16, 49, 23, CDT) ; thatTime.Write();</pre>	// outputs 16:49:23 CDT				
<pre>thisTime.Increment(); thisTime.Increment(); thisTime.Write();</pre>	// outputs 08:35:02 PST				
	-				

Take Home Message

- Inheritance is a mechanism for defining new class types to be a specialization or an augmentation of existing types.
- In principle, every member of a base class is inherited by a derived class with different access permissions, except for the constructors

Polymorphism

Object-Oriented Concept

- Encapsulation
 - ADT, Object
- Inheritance
 - Derived object
- Polymorphism
 - Each object knows what it is

Polymorphism – An Introduction

- noun, the quality or state of being able to assume different forms Webster
- An essential feature of an OO Language
- It builds upon Inheritance

Before we proceed....

- Inheritance Basic Concepts
 - Class Hierarchy
 - Code Reuse, Easy to maintain
 - Type of inheritance : public, private
 - Function overriding

Class Interface Diagram



Why Polymorphism?--Review: Time and ExtTime Example by Inheritance

```
void Print (Time someTime) //pass an object by value
{
    cout << "Time is ";
    someTime.Write();
    cout << endl;
}</pre>
```

CLIENT CODE

 Time
 startTime (8, 30, 0);

 ExtTime
 endTime (10, 45, 0, CST);

```
Print ( startTime ) ;
Print ( endTime ) ;
```

OUTPUT

Time is 08:30:00 Time is 10:45:00

Static Binding

• When the type of a formal parameter is a parent class, the argument used can be:

the same type as the formal parameter, or, any derived class type.

- Static binding is the compile-time determination of which function to call for a particular object based on the type of the formal parameter
- When pass-by-value is used, static binding occurs

Can we do better?

```
void Print (Time someTime) //pass an object by value
{
    cout << "Time is ";
    someTime.Write();
    cout << endl;
}</pre>
```

CLIENT CODE

 Time
 startTime (8, 30, 0);

 ExtTime
 endTime (10, 45, 0, CST);

```
Print ( startTime ) ;
Print ( endTime ) ;
```

OUTPUT

Time is 08:30:00 Time is 10:45:00

Polymorphism – An Introduction

- noun, the quality or state of being able to assume different forms Webster
- An essential feature of an OO Language
- It builds upon Inheritance
- Allows <u>run-time</u> interpretation of object type for a given class hierarchy

- Also Known as "Late Binding"

• Implemented in C++ using <u>virtual functions</u>

Dynamic Binding

- Is the run-time determination of which function to call for a particular object of a derived class based on the type of the argument
- Declaring a member function to be virtual instructs the compiler to generate code that guarantees dynamic binding
- Dynamic binding requires pass-by-reference

Virtual Member Function

```
// SPECIFICATION FILE
                                    (time.h)
class Time
{
public :
   . . .
   virtual void Write (); // for dynamic binding
   virtual ~Time();
                  // destructor
private :
   int
           hrs;
   int
            mins;
   int
            secs;
};
```

This is the way we like to see...

```
void Print (Time * someTime)
{
    cout << "Time is ";
    someTime->Write ( );
    cout << endl;
}</pre>
```

CLIENT CODE

Time startTime(8, 30, 0) ; ExtTime endTime(10, 45, 0, CST) ;

Time *timeptr; timeptr = &startTime;

Print (timeptr) ;

Time::write()

timeptr = &endTime;
Print (timeptr);

⁾⁷ ExtTime::write()

OUTPUT

Time is 10:45:00 CST

Time is 08:30:00

Virtual Functions

- Virtual Functions overcome the problem of run time object determination
- Keyword virtual instructs the compiler to use late binding and delay the object interpretation
- How ?
 - Define a virtual function in the base class. The word virtual appears only in the base class
 - If a base class declares a virtual function, it must implement that function, even if the body is empty
 - Virtual function in base class stays virtual in all the derived classes
 - It can be overridden in the derived classes
 - But, a derived class is not required to re-implement a virtual function. If it does not, the base class version is used
Polymorphism Summary:

- When you use virtual functions, compiler store additional information about the types of object available and created
- Polymorphism is supported at this additional overhead
- Important :
 - virtual functions work only with pointers/references
 - Not with objects even if the function is virtual
 - If a class declares any virtual methods, the destructor of the class should be declared as virtual as well.

Abstract Classes & Pure Virtual Functions

- Some classes exist logically but not physically.
- Example : Shape
 - Shape s; // Legal but silly..!! : "Shapeless shape"
 - Shape makes sense only as a base of some classes derived from it. Serves as a "category"
 - Hence instantiation of such a class must be prevented



Shape s; // error : variable of an abstract class



- A pure virtual function <u>not defined</u> in the derived class remains a pure virtual function.
- Hence derived class also becomes abstract

```
class Circle : public Shape { //No draw() - Abstract
   public :
   void print(){
      cout << "I am a circle" << endl;
   }}
class Rectangle : public Shape {
   public :
   void draw(){ // Override Shape::draw()
      cout << "Drawing Rectangle" << endl;
   }}</pre>
```

```
Rectangle r; // Valid
Circle c; // error : variable of an abstract class
```

Pure virtual functions : Summary

- Pure virtual functions are useful because they make explicit the abstractness of a class
- Tell both the user and the compiler how it was intended to be used
- Note : It is a good idea to keep the common code as close as possible to the root of you hierarchy

Summary ...continued

- It is still possible to provide definition of a pure virtual function in the base class
- The class still remains abstract and functions must be redefined in the derived classes, but a common piece of code can be kept there to facilitate reuse
- In this case, they can not be declared inline

```
class Shape { //
Abstract
public :
   virtual void
draw() = 0;
};
// OK, not defined
class Rectangle :
public Shape
public Shape
{
   public :
    void draw(){
    Shape::draw(); //
   Reuse
```

Take Home Message

- Polymorphism is built upon class inheritance
- It allows different versions of a function to be called in the same manner, with some overhead
- Polymorphism is implemented with virtual functions, and requires pass-by-reference