Modern C++ Programming

7. C++ Object Oriented Programming II

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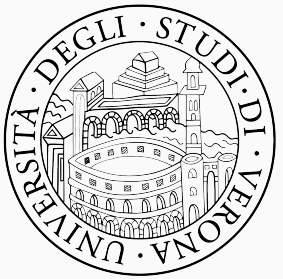

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Polymorphism

Polymorphism

Polymorphism

In Object-Oriented Programming (OOP), **polymorphism** (meaning "having multiple forms") is the capability of an object of *mutating* its behavior in accordance with the specific usage *context*

- At run-time, objects of a *derived class* may be treated as objects of a *base class*
- **Base** classes may define and implement polymorphic (`virtual`) methods, and **derived** classes can `override` them, which means they provide their own implementations which are invoked at run-time depending on the context

Polymorphism - The problem

```
struct A {
    void f()  { cout << "A"; }
};

struct B : A { // B extends A (B does something more than A)
    void f() { cout << "B"; }
};

void g(A& a) { a.f(); } // accepts A and B

void h(B& b) { b.f(); } // accepts only B


A a;
B b;
g(a);     // print "A"
g(b);     // print "A" not "B"!!!
```

Polymorphism vs. Overloading

Overloading is a form of static polymorphism (compile-time polymorphism)

In C++, the term **polymorphic** is strongly associated with dynamic polymorphism (*overriding*)

```
// overloading example
void f(int a)    {}

void f(double b) {}

f(3);         // calls f(int)
f(3.3);       // calls f(double)
f('a');       // calls f(int)
 // f(3.3u); // ambiguous match
```

Function Binding

Connecting the function call to the function body is called *Binding*

- In **Early Binding** or *Static Binding* or *Compile-time Binding*, the compiler identifies the type of object at compile-time
  - the program can jump directly to the function address
- In **Late Binding** or *Dynamic Binding* or *Run-time binding*, the run-time identifies the type of object at execution-time and *then* matches the function call with the correct function definition
  - the program has to read the address held in the pointer and then jump to that address (less efficient since it involves an extra level of indirection)

C++ achieves **late binding** by declaring a `virtual` function

Polymorphism (`virtual` method)

```
struct A {
    virtual void f() { cout << "A"; }
}; // now "f()" is virtual, evaluated at run-time

struct B : A {
    void f() { cout << "B"; }
}; // now "B::f()" overrides "A::f()", evaluated at run-time

void g(A& a) { a.f(); } // accepts A and B

A a;
B b;
g(a);    // print "A"
g(b);    // NOW, print "B"!!!
```

When `virtual` works

```
struct A {
    virtual void f() { cout << "A"; }
};

struct B : A {
    void f() { cout << "B"; }
};

void g(A  a) { a.f();  } // does not work!! print "A"
void h(A& a) { a.f();  } // ok, print "B"
void p(A* a) { a->f(); } // ok, print "B"



B b;
g(b);  // print "A" (cast to A)
h(b);  // print "B"
p(&b); // print "B"
```

Polymorphism Dyanmic Behavior

```
struct A {
    virtual void f() { cout << "A"; }
};

struct B : A {
    void f() { cout << "B"; }
};

A* get_object(bool selectA) {
    return (selectA) ? new A() : new B();
}

get_object(true)->f();  // print "A"
get_object(false)->f(); // print "B"
```

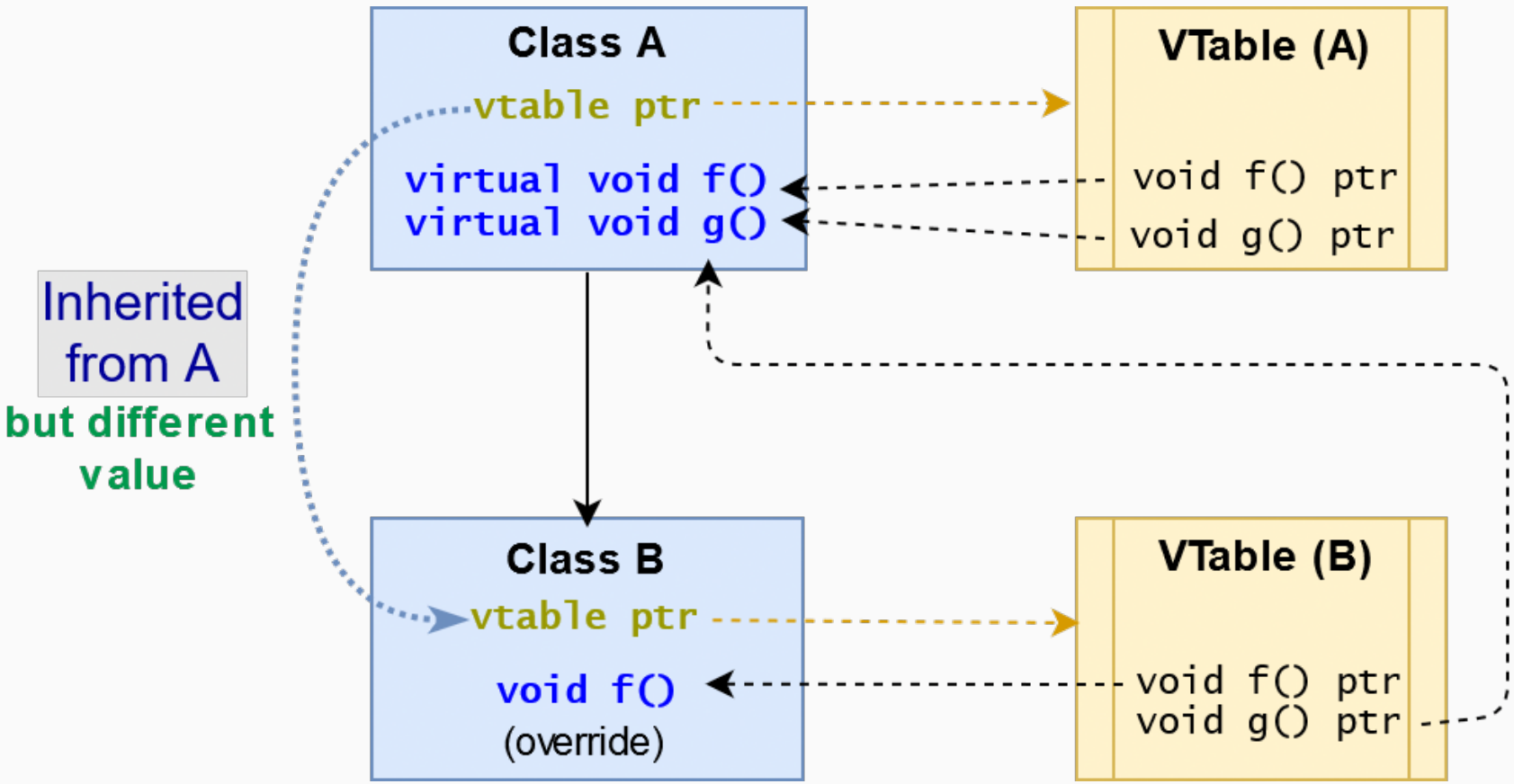
vtable

The **virtual table** (`vtable`) is a lookup table of functions used to resolve function calls and support *dynamic dispatch* (late binding)

A *virtual table* contains one entry for each `virtual` function that can be called by objects of the class. Each entry in this table is simply a function pointer that points to the *most-derived* function accessible by that class

The compiler adds a *hidden* pointer to the base class which points to the virtual table for that class (`sizeof` considers the `vtable` pointer)

```
struct A {
    virtual void f();
    virtual void g();
};
struct B : A {
    void f();
};
```



Does the `vtable` really exist? (answer: YES)

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
struct A {
    int x { 3 };
    virtual void f() { cout << "abc"; }
};

int main() {
   A* a1 = new A;
   A* a2 = (A*) malloc(sizeof(A));

   cout << a1->x;  // print "3"
   cout << a2->x;  // undefined value!!
   a1->f();        // print "abc"
   a2->f();        // segmentation fault
}
```

Lesson learned: Never use `malloc` in C++

Virtual Method Notes

`virtual` classes allocate one extra pointer (hidden)

```
class A {
    virtual void f1();
    virtual void f2();
}

class B : A {
    virtual void f1();
}

cout << sizeof(A); // 8 bytes (vtable pointer)
cout << sizeof(B); // 8 bytes (vtable pointer)
```

The `virtual` keyword is *not necessary* in derived classes, but it improves *readability* and clearly advertises the fact to the user that the function is `virtual`

`override` Keyword (C++11)

The `override` keyword ensures that the function is `virtual` and is overriding a `virtual` function from a base class

It forces the compiler to check the base class to see if there is a `virtual` function with this exact signature

`override` implies `virtual` (`virtual` should be omitted)

```
struct A {
    virtual void f(int a);          // a "float" value is casted
};                                  // to "int". ***

struct B : A {
    void f(int   a) override;       // ok
    void f(float a);                // (still) very dangerous!!
                                    // ***
//  void f(float a) override;       // compile error not safe
//  void f(int   a) const override; // compile error not safe
};

// *** f(3.3f) has a different behavior between A and B
```

final Keyword (C++11)

The final keyword prevents inheriting from classes or prevents overriding methods in derived classes

```
struct A {
    virtual void f(int a) final;  // "final" method
};

struct B : A {
//  void f(int a);    // compile error f(int) is "final"
    void f(float a); // dangerous (still possible)
};                   // "override" prevents these errors

struct C final {   // cannot be extended
};
// struct D : C {  // compile error C is "final"
// };
```

Virtual Methods (Common Error 1)

All classes with at least one `virtual` method should declare a `virtual` *destructor*

```
struct A {
    ~A() { cout << "A"; }   // <-- here the problem (not virtual)
    virtual void f(int a) {}
};
struct B : A {
    int* array;
    B()   { array = new int[1000000]; }
    ~B() { delete[] array;            }
};
//-------------------------------------------------------------------
void destroy(A* a) {
    delete a;    // call ~A()
}

B* b = new B;
destroy(b); // without virtual, ~B() is not called
            // destroy() prints only "A" -> huge memory leak!!
```

Virtual Methods (Common Error 2)

Do not call virtual methods in constructor and destructor

- *Constructor*: The derived class is not ready until constructor is completed
- *Destructor*: The derived class is already destroyed

```
struct A {
    A() { f(); }  // what instance is called? "B" is not ready
                  // it calls A::f(), even though A::f() is virtual
    virtual void f() { cout << "Explosion"; }
};

struct B : A {
    B() : A() {}  // call A(). Note: A() may be also implicit

    void f() override { cout << "Safe"; }
};

B b; // call B()
     // print "Explosion", not "Safe"!!
```

Virtual Methods (Common Error 3)

Do not use default parameters in virtual methods

Default parameters are not inherited

```
struct A {
    virtual void f(int i = 5) { cout << "A::" << i << "\n"; }
    virtual void g(int i = 5) { cout << "A::" << i << "\n"; }
};
struct B : A {
    void f(int i = 3) override { cout << "B::" << i << "\n"; }
    void g(int i)     override { cout << "B::" << i << "\n"; }
};

A a; B b;
a.f();      // ok, print "A::5"
b.f();      // ok, print "B::3"

A& ab = b;
ab.f();     // !!! print "B::5"  // the virtual table of A
                                 // contains f(int i = 5) and
ab.g();     // !!! print "B::5"  // g(int i = 5) but it points
                                 // to B implementations
```

Pure Virtual Method

A **pure virtual method** is a function that must be implemented in derived classes (concrete implementation)

Pure virtual functions can have or not have a body

```
struct A {
    virtual void f() = 0; // pure virtual without body
    virtual void g() = 0; // pure virtual with body
};

void A::g() {} // pure virtual implementation (body) for g()

struct B : A {
    void f() {}  // must be implemented
    void g() {}  // must be implemented
};
```

A class with one *pure virtual function* cannot be instantiated

```
struct A {
    virtual void f() = 0;
};

struct B1 : A {
//  virtual void f() = 0; // implicitly declared
};

struct B2 : A {
    void f() {}
};

// A  a;  // "A"  has a pure virtual method
// B1 b1; // "B1" has a pure virtual method
B2 b2;    //  ok
```

Abstract Class and Interface

- A class is **interface** if it has only *pure virtual* functions and optionally (*suggested*) a virtual destructor. Interfaces do not have implementation or data
- A class is **abstract** if it has at least one *pure virtual* function

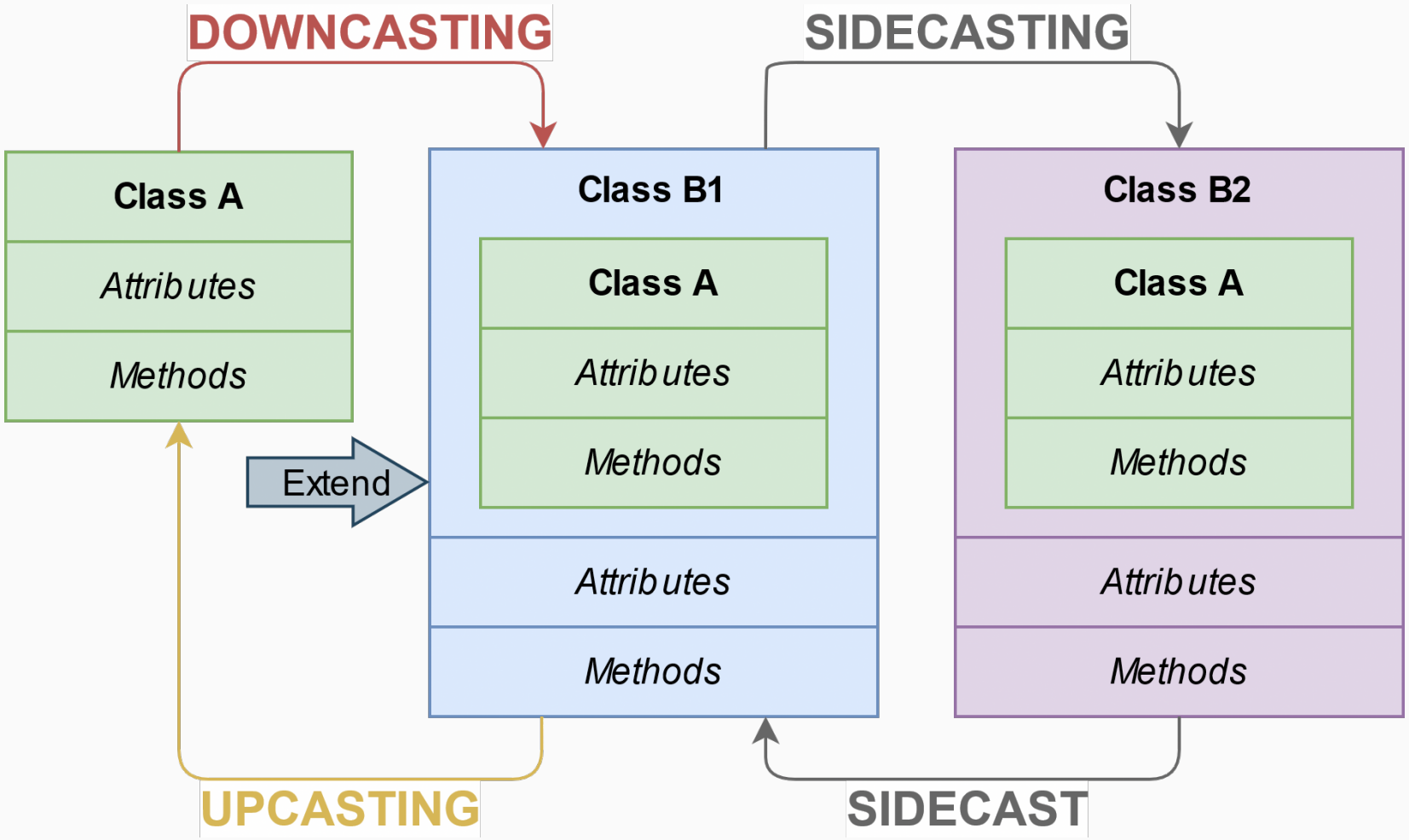
```
struct A {              // INTERFACE
    virtual ~A();   // to implement
    virtual void f(int x) = 0;
};

struct B {              // ABSTRACT CLASS
    B() {}              // abstract classes may have a contructor
    virtual void g(int x) = 0; // at least one pure virtual
protected:
    int x;              // additional data
};
```

Inheritance Casting and Run-time Type Identification ★

Hierarchy Casting

Class-casting allows implicit or explicit conversion of a class into another one across its hierarchy



Hierarchy Casting

Upcasting: Conversion between a derived class reference or pointer to a base class

- It can be *implicit* or *explicit*
- It is safe
- `static_cast` or `dynamic_cast` // see next slides

Downcasting: Conversion between a base class reference or pointer to a derived class

- It is only *explicit*
- It can be dangerous
- `static_cast` or `dynamic_cast`

Sidecasting: (*Cross-cast*) Conversion between a class reference or pointer to an other class of the same hierarchy level

- It is only *explicit*
- It can be dangerous
- `dynamic_cast`

Upcasting and Downcasting Example

```
struct A {
   virtual void f() { cout << "A"; }
};

struct B : A {
   int var = 3;
   virtual void f() { cout << "B"; }
};

void g(A& a) { a.f(); } // print "B"

A a;
B b;
g(b);       // implicit cast (upcasting)
A* a1 = &b; // implicit cast (upcasting)

static_cast<A&>(b).f();          // print "B" (upcasting)
static_cast<B&>(a).f();          // print "A" (downcasting)
cout << b.var;                   // print 3
cout << static_cast<B&>(a).var; // print "0" !!! (downcasting)
                                 // "var" does not exist in "A"
```

Sidecasting Example

```
struct A {
   virtual void f() { cout << "A"; }
};

struct B1 : A {
   virtual void f() { cout << "B1"; }
};

struct B2 : A {
   virtual void f() { cout << "B2"; }
};

void g(A& a) { a.f(); } // print "B"

A  a;
B1 b1;
B2 b2;

dynamic_cast<B2&>(b1).f();   // print "B2", (sidecasting)
dynamic_cast<B1&>(b2).f();   // print "B1", (sidecasting)
// static_cast<B1&>(b2).f(); // compile error
```

Run-time Type Identification

RTTI

Run-Time Type Information (**RTTI**) is a mechanism that allows the type of an object to be *determined at runtime*

C++ expresses RTTI through three features:

- `dynamic_cast` keyword: conversion of polymorphic types
- `typeid` keyword: identifying the exact type of an object
- `type_info` class: type information returned by the `typeid` operator

RTTI is available only for classes that are *polymorphic*, which means they have *at least one* virtual method

type_info and typeid

`type_info` class has the method `name()` which returns the name of the type

```
struct A {
   virtual f() {}
};

struct B : A {};

A  a;
B  b;
A& a1 = b;
cout << typeid(a).name();  // print "1A"
cout << typeid(b).name();  // print "1B"
cout << typeid(a1).name(); // print "1A"
```

`dynamic_cast`

`dynamic_cast`, differently from `static_cast`, uses *RTTI* for deducing the correctness of the output type
This operation happens at run-time and it is expensive

`dynamic_cast<New>(Obj)` has the following properties:

- Convert between a derived class `Obj` to a base class `New` → *upcasting*. `New`, `Obj` are both pointers or references
- Throw `std::bad_cast` if `New`, `Obj` is a reference (`T&`) and `New`, `Obj` cannot be converted
- Returns `NULL` if `New`, `Obj` are pointers (`T*`) and `New`, `Obj` cannot be converted

dynamic_cast Example 1

```
struct A {
   virtual f() { cout << "A"; }
};

struct B : A {
   virtual f() { cout << "B"; }
};



A a;
B b;
dynamic_cast<A&>(b).f();     // print "B" (downcasting)

// dynamic_cast<B&>(a).f(); // throw std::bad_cast
                            // it can be handle

dynamic_cast<B*>(&a);        // "b1" == nullptr
```

dynamic_cast Example 2

```
struct A {
    virtual f() { cout << "A"; }
};

struct B : A {
    virtual f() { cout << "B"; }
};

A* get_object(bool selectA) {
    return (selectA) ? new A() : new B();
}

void g(bool value) {
    A* a = get_object(value);
    B* b = dynamic_cast<B*>(a); // downcast
    if (b != nullptr)
        b->f();      // exectuted only when it is safe
}
```

Operator Overloading

Operator Overloading

Operator overloading is a special case of polymorphism in which some *operators* are treated as polymorphic functions and have different behaviors depending on the type of its arguments

```
struct Point {
    int x, y;

    Point operator+(const Point& p) const {
        return { x + p.x, y + p.x };
    }
};

Point a{1, 2};
Point b{5, 3};
Point c = a + b; // "c" is (6, 5)
```

Operator Overloading

Syntax: `operator@`

Categories not in bold are rarely used in practice

Arithmetic:	`+ - * \ % ++ --`
Comparison:	`== != < <= > >=`
Bitwise:	`| & ^ ~ << >>`
Logical:	`! && ||`
Compound assignment:	`+= <<= *=`, etc.
Subscript:	`[]`
Address-of, Reference, Dereferencing:	`& -> ->* *`
Memory:	`new new[] delete delete[]`
Comma:	`,`

Operators which cannot be overloaded: `? . .* :: sizeof typeof`

Subscript Operator `operator[]`

The **array subscript** `operator[]` allows accessing to an object in an array-like fashion

The operator accepts anything as parameter, not just integers

```
struct A {
    char permutation[] { 'c', 'b', 'd', 'a', 'h', 'y' };

    char& operator[](char c) { // read/write
        return permutation[c - 'a'];
    }
    const char& operator[](char c) const { // read only
        return permutation[c - 'a'];
    }
};

A a;
a['d'] = 't';
```

Comparison Operator `operator<`

Relational and comparison operators `operator<, <=, ==, >= >` are used for comparing two objects

In particular, the `operator<` is used to determine the ordering of a set of objects (e.g. sort)

```
#include <algorithm>
struct A {
    int x;

    bool operator<(A a) const {
        return x * x < a.x * a.x;
    }
};

A array[] = { 5, -1, 4, -7 };
std::sort(array, array + 4);
// array: { -1, 4, 5, -7 }
```

Function Call Operator `operator()`

The **function call operator** `operator()` is generally overloaded to create objects which behave like functions, or for classes that have a primary operation (see `Basic Concepts IV` lecture)

```
#include <numeric>  // for std::accumulate

struct Multiply {
    int operator()(int a, int b) const {
        return a * b;
    }
};

int array[]   = { 2, 3, 4 };
int factorial = std::accumulate(array, array + 3, 1, Multiply{});
cout << factorial;  // 24
```

The **conversion operator** operator T() allows objects to be either implicitly or explicitly (casting) converted to another type

```
class MyBool {
    int x;
public:
    MyBool(int x1) : x{x1} {}

    operator bool() const {
        return x == 0;    // implicit return type
    }
};


MyBool my_bool{ 3 };
bool b = my_bool;  // b = false, call operator bool()
```

Conversion operators can be marked `explicit` to prevent implicit conversions. It is a good practice as for class constructors

```
struct A {
    operator bool() { return true; }
};

struct B {
    explicit operator bool() { return true; }
};



A a;
B b;
bool    c1 = a;
// bool c2 = b;  // compile error: explicit
bool    c2 = static_cast<bool>(b);
```

Increment and Decrement Operators `operator++`

The increment and decrement operators `operator++`, `operator--` are used to update the value of a variable by one unit

```
struct A {
    int* ptr;
    int  pos;
    A& operator++() {      // Prefix notation (++var):
        ++ptr;             //  returns the new copy of the object
        ++pos;             //  by-reference
        return *this;
    }
    A operator++(A& a) {   // Postfix notation (var++):
        A tmp = *this;     //  returns the old copy of the object
        ++ptr;             //  by-value
        ++pos;
        return tmp;
    }
};
```

Assignment Operator `operator=` 1/3

The **assignment operator** `operator=` is used to copy values from one object to another *already existing* object

```
#include <algorithm>  //std::fill, std::copy
struct Array {
    char* array;
    int   size;

    Array(int size1, char value) : size{size1} {
        array = new char[size];
        std::fill(array, array + size, value);
    }
    ~Array() { delete[] array; }

    Array& operator=(const Array& x) { .... } // see next slide
};

Array a{5, 'o'};  // ["ooooo"]
Array b{3, 'b'};  // ["bbb"]
a = b;            // a = ["bbb"] <-- goal
```

- First option:

```
Array& operator=(const Array& x) {
    if (this == &x)           // Check for self assignment
        return *this;
    delete[] array;           // delete everything from this
    size  = x.size;           // copy "x.size"
    array = new int[x.size];
    std::copy(x.array, x.array + size, array); // copy "x.array"
    return *this;
}
```

- Second option (less intuitive):

```
Array& operator=(Array x) {  // pass by value
    swap(this, x);   // now we need a swap function for A
    return *this;    //    see next slide
}                    // x is destroyed at the end
```

- Swap method:

```
friend void swap(A& x, A& y) {
    using std::swap;
    swap(x.size, y.size);
    swap(x.array, y.Array);
}
```

  - **why using `std::swap`?** if `swap(x, y)` finds a better match, it will use that instead of `std::swap`
  - **why `friend`?** it allows the function to be used from outside the structure/class scope

Full story: `stackoverflow.com/questions/5695548`

Stream Operator `operator<<`

The **stream operation** `operator<<` can be overloaded to perform input and output for user-defined types

```
#include <iostream>

struct Point {
    int x, y;

    friend std::ostream& operator<<(std::ostream& stream,
                                    const Point&  point) {
        stream << "(" << point.x << "," << point.y << ")";
        return stream;
    }
    // operator<< is a member of std::ostream -> need friend
};

Point point{1, 2};
std::cout << point;  // print "(1, 2)"
```

Operators Precedence

Operators preserve **precedence** and **short-circuit** properties

```
struct MyInt {
    int x;

    int operator^(int exp) { // exponential
        int ret = 1;
        for (int i = 0; i < exp; i++)
            ret *= x;
        return ret;
    }
};

MyInt x{ 3 };
int   y = x^2;
int   z = x^2 + 2;
cout << y;  // 9
cout << z;  // 81 !!!
```

Binary Operators Note

Binary operators should be implemented as `friend` methods

```
class A {}; class C {};

struct B : public A {
    bool operator==(const A& x) { return true; }
};

class D : public C {
    friend bool operator==(const C& x, const C& y);
};
bool operator==(const C& x, const C& y); { return true; } // <---

int main() {
    A a;  B b;  C c; D d;
    b == a; // ok
//  a == b; // compile error // friend is useful to access
                             // private fields
    c == d; // ok
    d == c; // ok
}
```

C++ Special Objects ★

Aggregate

An **aggregate** is a type which supports *aggregate initialization* (form of list-initialization) through curly braces syntax {}

An aggregate is an *array* or a *class* with

- No user-provided constructors (all)
- No private/protected non-static data members
- No base classes
- No virtual functions (standard functions allowed)

* No *brace-or-equal-initializers* for non-static data members (until C++14)

No restrictions:

- Non-static data member (can be also not aggregate)
- Static data members

Full story: `stackoverflow.com/questions/4178175`

Aggregate (examples) 2/3

```cpp
struct NotAggregate1 {
    NotAggregate1();      // No constructors
    virtual void f();     // No virtual functions
};

class NotAggregate2 : NotAggregate1 { // No base class
    int x;              // x is private
};

struct Aggregate1 {
    int x;
    int y[3];
    int z { 3 };        // only C++14
};

struct Aggregate2 {
    Aggregate1() = default; // ok, defaulted constructor
    NotAggregate2 x;        // ok, public member
    Aggregate2& operator=(const& Aggregate2 obj); // ok
private:                                          // copy-assignment
    void f() {} // ok, private function (no data member)
};
```

```
struct Aggregate1 {
    int x;
    struct Aggregate2 {
        int a;
        int b[3];
    } y;
};

int main() {
    int array1[3] = { 1, 2, 3 };
    int array2[3]   { 1, 2, 3 };
    Aggregate1 agg1 = { 1, { 2, { 3, 4, 5} } };
    Aggregate1 agg2   { 1, { 2, { 3, 4, 5} } };
    Aggregate1 agg3 = { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 };
}
```

Trivial Class

A **Trivial Class** is a class *trivial copyable* (supports `memcpy`)

Trivial copyable:

- No user-provided copy/move/default *constructors* and *destructor*
- No user-provided copy/move *assignment* operators
- No virtual functions (standard functions allowed) or virtual base classes
- No *brace-or-equal-initializers* for non-static data members
- All non-static members are trivial (recursively for members)

No restrictions:

- Other user-declared constructors different from default
- Static data members
- Protected/Private members

```
struct NonTrivial1 {
    int y { 3 };        // brace-or-equal-initializers

    NonTrivial1();      // user-provided constructor
    virtual void f(); // virtual function
};

struct Trivial1 {
    Trivial1() = default;     // defaulted constructor
    int x;
    void f();
private:
    int z; // ok, private
};

struct Trivial2 : Trivial1 { // base class is trivial
    int Trivial1[3];         // array of trivials is trivial
};
```

Standard-Layout

A **standard-layout class** is a class with the same memory layout of the equivalent C `struct` or `union` (useful for communicating with other languages)

Standard-layout class

- No virtual functions or virtual base classes
- Recursively on non-static members, base and derived classes
- Only one control access (public/protected/private) for non-static data members
- No base classes of the same type as the first non-static data member

(a) No non-static data members in the *most derived* class and *at most one base* class with non-static data members

(b) No base classes with non-static data members

Standard-Layout Class (examples) 2/2

```
struct StandardLayout1 {
    StandardLayout1(); // user-provided contructor
    int x;
    void f();          // non-virtual function
};

class StandardLayout2 : StandardLayout1 {
    int x, y;          // both are private
    StandardLayout1 y; // can have members of base type
                       // if they are not the first
};

struct StandardLayout3 { } // empty

struct StandardLayout4 : StandardLayout2, StandardLayout3 {
    // can use multiple inheritance as long only
    // one class in the hierarchy has non-static data members
};
```

Plain Old Data (POD)

C++11, C++14 Standard-Layout (s) + Trivial copyable (t)

(t) No user-provided copy/move/default constructors and destructor

(t) No user-provided copy/move assignment operators

(t) No virtual functions or virtual base classes

(t) No *brace-or-equal-initializers* for non-static data member

(s) Recursively on non-static members, base and derived classes

(s) Only one control access (public/protected/private) for non-static data members

(s) No base classes of the same type as the first non-static data member

(s)a No non-static data members in the *most derived* class and *at most one base* class with non-static data members

(s)b No base classes with non-static data members

C++ std Utilities

C++11 provides three utilities to check if a type is POD, Trivial Copyable, Standard-Layout

- `std::is_pod` checks for POD
- `std::is_trivially_copyable` checks for trivial copyable
- `std::is_standard_layout` checks for standard-layout

```
#include <type_traits>
struct A {
    int x;
private:
    int y;
};
int main() {
    std::cout << std::is_trivial_copyable<A>::value; // true
    std::cout << std::is_standard_layout<A>::value;  // false
    std::cout << std::is_pod<A>::value;              // false
}
```

Special Objects Hierarchy