Life cycle of an object

- **construction: creating a new object**
  - implicitly, by entering the scope where it is declared
  - explicitly, by calling **`new`**
  - construction includes initialization
- **copying: using existing object to make a new one**
  - "copy constructor" makes a new object from existing one of the same kind
  - implicitly invoked in (some) declarations, function arguments, function return
- **assignment: changing an existing object**
  - occurs explicitly with `=`, `+=`, etc.
  - meaning of explicit and implicit copying must be part of the representation

    default is member-wise assignment and initialization
- **destruction: destroying an existing object**
  - implicitly, by leaving the scope where it is declared
  - explicitly, by calling **`delete`** on an object created by **`new`**
  - includes cleanup and resource recovery

Strings: constructors & assignment

- **another type that C and C++ don't provide**
- **implementation of a String class combines**
  - constructors, destructors, copy constructor
  - assignment, operator =
  - constant references
  - handles, reference counts, garbage collection

- **Strings should behave like strings in Awk, Python, Java, …**
  - can assign to a string, copy a string, etc.
  - can pass them to functions, return as results, …
- **storage managed automatically**
  - no explicit allocation or deletion
  - grow and shrink automatically
  - efficient

- **can create String from "..." C char* string**
- **can pass String to functions expecting char***

"Copy constructor"

- **when a class object is passed to a function, returned from a function, or used as an initializer in a declaration, a copy is made:**

```
String substr(String s, int start, int len)
```

- **a "copy constructor" creates an object of class X from an existing object of class X**
- **obvious way to write it causes an infinite loop:**

```
class String {
  String(String s) {...} // doesn't work
};
```

- **copy constructor parameter must be a reference so object can be accessed without copying**

```
class String {
    String(const String& s) {...}
    // ...
};
```

- **copy constructor is necessary for declarations, function arguments, function return values**

String class

```
class String {
  private:
    char    *sp;
  public:
    String() { sp=strdup(""); }  // String s;
    String(const char *t) { sp=strdup(t); } // String s("abc");
    String(const String &t) { sp=strdup(t.sp); } // String s(t);
    ~String() { delete [] sp; }

    String& operator =(const char *);// s="abc"
    String& operator =(const String &);// s1=s2

    const char *s() { return sp; } // as char*
};
```

- **assignment is not the same as initialization**
  - changes the state of an existing object
- **the meaning of assignment defined by a member function named `operator=`**

    `x = y` means `x.operator=(y)`

Assignment operators

```
String& String::operator =(const char *t) { // s = "abc"
    delete [] sp;
    sp = strdup(t);
    return *this;
}
String& String::operator=(const String& t) { // s1 = s2
    if (this != &t) {  // avoid s1 = s1
        delete [] sp;
        sp = strdup(t.sp);
    }
    return *this;
}
```

- **in a member function, `this` points to current object, so `*this` is the object (returned as a reference)**
- **assignment operators almost always end with**

  ```
      return *this
  ```

  which returns a reference to the LHS
  - permits multiple assignment `s1 = s2 = s3`

Handles and reference counts

- **how to avoid unnecessary copying for classes like strings, arrays, other containers**

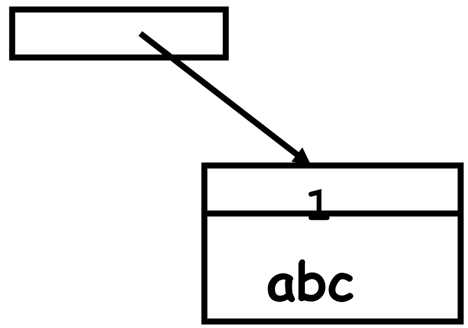
- **copy constructor may allocate new memory even if unnecessary**
  - e.g., in **`f(const String& s)`** string value would be copied
    even if it won't be changed by **`f`**

- **a handle class manages a pointer to the real data**
- **implementation class manages the real data**
  - string data itself
  - counter of how many Strings refer to that data
  - when String is copied, increment the ref count
  - when String is destroyed, decrement the ref count
  - when last reference is gone, free all allocated memory

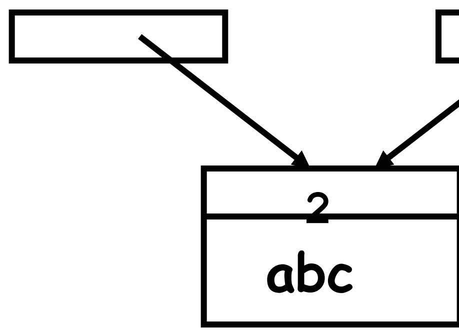
- **with a handle class, copying only increments reference count**
  - "shallow" copy instead of "deep" copy

Reference counts

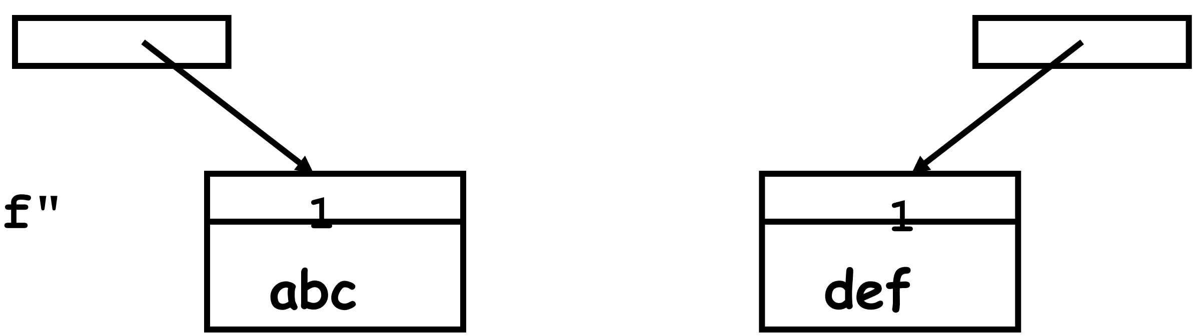
```
s = "abc"
```




```
t = s
```




```
t = "def"
```



Reference/Use counts

```
class Srep {   // string representation
   char *sp;   // data
   int   n;    // ref count
   Srep(const char *s = "") : n(1), sp(strdup(s)) {}
   ~Srep() { delete [] sp; }
   friend class String;
};

class String {
   Srep *r;
 public:
   String(const char *);
   String(const String &);
   ~String();

   String& operator =(const String &);  // s1 = s2;
   String& operator =(const char *);    // s = "abc";
   const char *s() { return r->sp; }
};
```

Reference counts, part 2

```
// constructors, destructor

String::String(const char *s = "") {
   r = new Srep(s); // String s="abc"; String s1;
}

String::String(const String &t) { // String s=t;
   t.r->n++;   // ref count
   r = t.r;
}

String::~String() {
   if (--r->n <= 0) {
      delete r;
   }
}
```

Reference counts, part 3

```
String& String::operator =(const char *s) {
   if (r->n > 1) {        // disconnect self
      r->n--;
      r = new Srep(s);
   } else {
      delete [] r->sp;    // free old String
      r->sp = strdup(s);
   }
   return *this;
}

String& String::operator =(const String &t) {
   t.r->n++;             // protect against s = s
   if (--r->n <= 0) {    // nobody else using me now
      delete r;
   }
   r = t.r;
   return *this;
}
```

Rules for constructors and assignment operators

- **all objects have to have a constructor**
  - if you don't specify a constructor the default constructor copies members by their constructors
  - you need a no-argument constructor for arrays
  - constructors should initialize all members
- **if constructor calls new, destructor must call delete**
  - use **delete [ ]** for an array allocated with **new T[n]**
- **copy constructor X(const X&) makes an object**
  - from another one without making an extra copy
- **if there's a complicated constructor**
  - there will have to be an assignment operator
  - make sure that x = x works
- **assignment is NOT the same as construction**
  - constructors called in declarations, function arguments and function returns, to make a new object
  - assignments called only in assignment statements, to modify an existing object

Inheritance

- **a way to create or describe one class in terms of another**
  - "a D is like a B, with these extra properties..."
  - "a D is a B, plus…"
  - B is the **base** class or **super**class
  - D is the **derived** class or **sub**class

    C++, Perl, Python, … use base/derived; Java, Ruby, … use super/sub

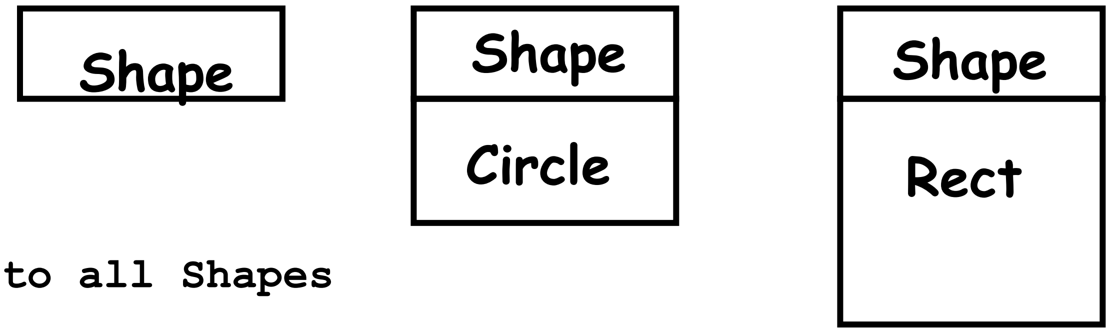
- **inheritance is used for classes that model strongly related concepts**
  - objects share some common properties, behaviors, ...
  - and have some properties and behaviors that are different

- **base class contains aspects common to all**
- **derived classes contain aspects different for different kinds**

Inheritance and derived classes

- **consider different kinds of Shapes**
  - lines, polylines, rectangles, squares, circles, ellipses, ...
- **base class Shape handles methods and properties common to all**
  - color, text, …
- **derived classes contain aspects that are different for different kinds**
  - line: start, end, ...
  - rectangle: origin, corner, ...
  - circle: center, radius
- **sometimes you care about the difference**
- **sometimes you don't**

Derived classes




```
class Shape {
     int color;
     Shape& draw();
     // other items common to all Shapes
};
class Rect: public Shape {
    Point origin; double ht, wid;
    // other items specific to Lines
};
class Circle: public Shape {
    Point center; double rad;
    // other items specific to Bonds
};
```

- **a Rect is a derived class of (a kind of) Shape**
  - a Rect "is a" Shape
  - inherits all members of Shape
  - adds its own members
- **a Circle is also a derived class of Shape**

More on derived classes

- **derived classes can add their own data members**
- **can add their own member functions**
- **can override base class functions with functions of the same name and argument types**

```
class Rect: public Shape {
     Point origin; double ht, wid;
   public:
     bool is_square() {...}
     Shape& draw() {...} // overrides Shape::draw()
};
class Circle: public Shape {
     Point center; double rad;
   public:
     Shape& draw() {...}  // overrides Shape::draw()
};

Rect r;
Circle c;

r.draw();   // calls Rect::draw()
c.draw();   // calls Circle::draw()
```

Virtual Functions

- **a function in a base class that can be overridden by a function in a derived class (with same name and arguments)**

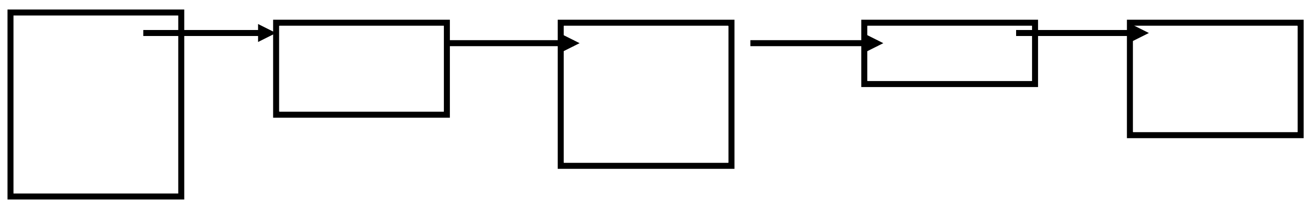
```
class Shape {
    public:
        virtual Shape& draw();
        ...
};
```

- **"virtual" means that a derived class may provide its own version of this function, which will be called automatically for instances of that derived class**
- **the base class can provide a default implementation**
- **if the base class is "pure", it must be derived from**
  - pure base class can't exist on its own; no default implementation

Polymorphism

- when a pointer or reference to a base-class type points to a derived-class object
- and you use that pointer or reference to call a virtual function
- this calls the derived-class function
- "polymorphism": proper function to call is determined at run-time
- e.g., drawing Shapes on a linked list:

```
draw_all(Shape *sp) {
    for ( ; sp != NULL; sp = sp->next)
        sp->draw();
}
```



- virtual function mechanism automatically calls the right draw() function for each object
- the loop does not change if more kinds of Shapes are added

Summary of inheritance

- **a way to describe a family of types**
- **by collecting similarities (base class)**
- **and separating differences (derived classes)**

- **polymorphism: proper member functions determined at run time**
  - virtual functions are the C++ mechanism

- **not every class needs inheritance**
  - may complicate without compensating benefit

- **use composition instead of inheritance?**
  - an object contains an (has) an object
    rather than inheriting from it
- **"is-a" versus "has-a"**
  - inheritance describes "is-a" relationships
  - composition describes "has-a" relationships

Templates (parameterized types, generics)

- **another approach to polymorphism**
- **compile time, not run time**
- **a template specifies a class or a function that is *the same* for several types**
  - except for one or more **type parameters**

- **e.g., a vector template defines a class of vectors that can be instantiated for any particular type**

```
vector<int>
vector<String>
vector<vector<int> >
```

- **templates versus inheritance:**
  - **use inheritance when behaviors are different for different types**
    drawing different Shapes is different
  - **use template when behaviors are the same, regardless of types**
    accessing the n-th element of a vector is the same,
    no matter what type the vector is

Vector template class

- **vector class defined as a template, to be instantiated with different types of elements**

```
template <typename T> class vector {
    T *v;      // pointer to array
    int size; // number of elements
   public:
    vector(int n=1) { v = new T[size = n]; }
    T& operator [](int n) {
        assert(n >= 0 && n < size);
        return v[n];
    }
};

vector<int> iv(100);            // vector of ints
vector<complex> cv(20);         // vector of complex
vector<vector<int> > vvi(10);   // vector of vector of int
vector<double> d;               // default size
```

- **compiler instantiates whatever types are used**

Template functions

- **can define ordinary functions as templates**
  - e.g., `max(T, T)`

```
template <typename T> T max(T x, T y) {
  return x > y ? x : y;
}
```

- **requires operator> for type T**

  already there for C's arithmetic types

- **don't need a type name to use it**

  compiler infers types from arguments

  `max(double, double)`

  `max(int, int)`

  `max(int, double)` doesn't compile: no coercion

- **compiler instantiates code for each different use in a program**

Standard Template Library (STL)

Alex Stepanov

(GE > Bell Labs > HP > SGI > Compaq > Adobe -> A9)

- **general-purpose library of**
  containers (vector, list, set, map, …)
  generic algorithms (find, replace, sort, …)
- **algorithms written in terms of iterators performing specified access patterns on containers**
  - rules for how iterators work, how containers have to support them
- **generic: every algorithm works on a variety of containers, including built-in types**
  - e.g., find elements in char array, vector<int>, list<…>
- **iterators: generalization of pointer for uniform access to items in a container**

Containers and algorithms

- **STL container classes contain objects of any type**
  - sequences: vector, list, slist, deque
  - sorted associative: set, map, multiset, multimap

    hash_set and hash_map are in C++11, as "unordered_set" and "unordered_map"
- **each container class is a template that can be instantiated to contain any type of object**
- ***generic algorithms***
  - find, find_if, find_first_of, search, ...
  - count, min, max, …
  - copy, replace, fill, remove, reverse, …
  - accumulate, inner_product, partial_sum, …
  - sort
  - binary_search, merge, set_union, …
- **performance guarantees**
  - each combination of algorithm and iterator type specifies worst-case (O(…)) performance bound

    e.g., maps are O(log n) access, vectors are O(1) access

Iterators

- **a generalization of *C* pointers**

```
for (p = begin; p < end; ++p)
    do something with *p
```

- **range from `begin()` to just before `end()`   [begin, end)**
- **`++iter` advances to the next if there is one**
- **`*iter` dereferences (points to value)**
- **uses operator `!=` to test for end of range**

```
for (iter i = v.begin(); i != v.end(); ++i)
    do something with *i
```

```
#include <vector>
#include <iterator>
using namespace ::std;
int main() {
   vector<double> v;
   for (int i = 1; i <= 10; i++)
      v.push_back(i);
   vector<double>::const_iterator it;
   double sum = 0;
   for (it = v.begin(); it != v.end(); ++it)
      sum += *it;
   printf("%g\n", sum);
}
```

Iterators (2)

- **no change to loop if type or representation changes**

```
multiset<double> v;
multiset<double>::const_iterator it;
for (it = v.begin(); it != v.end(); ++it)
    sum += *it;
```

- **not all containers support all iterator operations**

- **input iterator**
  - can only read items in order, can't store into them (e.g., input from file)
- **output iterator**
  - can only write items in order, can't read them (output to a file)
- **forward iterator**
  - can read/write items in order, can't go backwards (singly-linked list)
- **bidirectional iterator**
  - can read/write items in either order (doubly-linked list)
- **random access iterator**
  - can access items in any order (array)

Example: STL sort

```
#include <iostream>
#include <iterator>
#include <vector>
#include <string>
#include <algorithm>
using namespace ::std;

int main() {  // sort stdin by lines
    vector<string> vs;
    string tmp;
    while (getline(cin, tmp))
        vs.push_back(tmp);
    sort(vs.begin(), vs.end());
    copy(vs.begin(), vs.end(),
        ostream_iterator<string>(cout, "\n"));
}
```

- **vs.push_back(s) pushes s onto "back" (end) of vs**
- **3rd argument of copy is a "function object" that calls a function for each iteration**
  - uses overloaded operator()

Function objects

- **anything that can be applied to zero or more arguments to get a value and/or change the state of a computation**
- **can be an ordinary function pointer**
- **can be an object of a type defined by a class in which the function call operator `operator()` is overloaded**

```
template <typename T> class bigger {
  public:
    bool operator()(T const& x, T const& y) {
       return x > y;
    }
};
```

- **to sort strings in decreasing order,**

```
vector<string> vs;
sort(vs.begin(), vs.end(), bigger<string>());
```

- **to sort numbers in decreasing order,**

```
vector<double> vd;
sort(vd.begin(), vd.end(), bigger<double>());
```

Template metaprogramming

- **do computation at compile time to avoid computation at run time**
  - evaluating constants, unrolling loops, building data structures

```
// from Effective C++ 3e, by Scott Meyers

#include <iostream>
using namespace ::std;

template<unsigned n> struct Factorial {
   enum { value = n * Factorial<n-1>::value };
};
template<> struct Factorial<0> {
   enum { value = 1 };
};

int main() {
   std::cout << Factorial<5>::value << "\n";
   std::cout << Factorial<10>::value << "\n";
}
```

Some C++11 additions

- **nullptr**
  - type-safe and unambiguous replacement for NULL and 0 pointer values
- **auto**

```
auto x = val;
```

  replaces

```
VeryLongTypeNameLikeWhatYouOftenSeeInJava x = val;
```

  infers the type of **x** from the type of the initializing value
- **range for**

```
for (v : whatever) ...
```

  replaces

```
for (v = whatever.begin(); v != whatever.end(); ++v) ...
```

```
for (std::vector<int>::const_iterator it = myvector.begin();
        it != myvector.end(); ++it)
```

becomes

```
for (auto it = myvector.begin(); it != myvector.end(); ++it)
```

becomes

```
for (auto it : myvector)
```

Word frequency count: C++ STL

```
#include <iostream>
#include <map>
#include <string>

int main() {
    string temp;
    map<string, int> v;
    map<string, int>::const_iterator i;

    while (cin >> temp)
        v[temp]++;
    for (i = v.begin(); i != v.end(); ++i)
        cout << i->first << " " << i->second << "\n";
}
```

Further reading

- **http://google-styleguide.googlecode.com/svn/trunk/cppguide.xml**
- **cpplint.py**
- **http://isocpp.org/**
- **http://cppreference.com**

What to use, what not to use?

- **Use**
  - classes
  - const
  - const references
  - default constructors
  - C++ -style casts
  - bool
  - new / delete
  - C++ string type
  - range for
  - auto

- **Use sparingly / cautiously**
  - overloaded functions
  - inheritance
  - virtual functions
  - exceptions
  - STL

- **Don't use**
  - malloc / free
  - multiple inheritance
  - run time type identification
  - references if not const
  - overloaded operators (except for arithmetic types)
  - default arguments (overload functions instead)