Inheritance & Polymorphism

Week 7
Gaddis: Chapter 15

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Inheritance

• A way to create a new class from an existing class
• The new class is a specialized version of the existing class
• Base class (or parent) – the existing class
• Derived class (or child) – inherits from the base class
• The derived class contains all the members from the base class (in addition to the ones in the derived class).

```
class Student {
    ... 
}
```

```
class UnderGrad : public student {
    ... 
}
```

Member Access Specification

• private: can be accessed by member functions only
• public: can be accessed by functions outside of the class
• protected: can be accessed by member functions of the class AND member functions of derived classes.

```
class Grade {
    private:
        char letter;
        void calcGrade();
    protected:
        float score;
        public:
        void setScore(float);
        float getScore();
        char getLetter();
}
```

Class Access Specification

• Determines how private, protected, and public members of base class are inherited by the derived class
• We will always use public.

```
Base class members
private: x
protected: y
public: z
```

```
How inherited base class members appear in derived class
public base class
x is inaccessible
protected: y
public: z
```
Class Access Specification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>class Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>private members:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>char letter;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>float score;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public members:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>void calcGrade();</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>float getScore();</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>char getLetter();</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>class Test : public Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>private members:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>int numQuestions;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>float pointsEach;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>int numMissed;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public members:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test(int, int);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>float getScore();</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>float getLetter();</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When Test class inherits from Grade class using public class access, it looks like this:

An instance of Test contains letter and score, but they are not accessible from inside the Test member functions.

Constructors and Destructors in Base and Derived Classes

- Derived classes can have their own constructors and destructors
- When an object of a derived class is created,
  1. the base class’s (default) constructor is executed first,
  2. followed by the derived class’s constructor
- When an object of a derived class is destroyed,
  1. the derived class destructor is called first,
  2. then the base class destructor

Constructors and Destructors: example

```cpp
class BaseClass {
public:
    BaseClass() // Constructor
    { cout << "This is the BaseClass constructor.\n"; }

~BaseClass() // Destructor
    { cout << "This is the BaseClass destructor.\n"; }
};

class DerivedClass : public BaseClass {
public:
    DerivedClass() // Constructor
    { cout << "This is the DerivedClass constructor.\n"; }

~DerivedClass() // Destructor
    { cout << "This is the DerivedClass destructor.\n"; }
};
```

Constructors and Destructors: example

```cpp
int main() {
    cout << "We will now define a DerivedClass object.\n";
    DerivedClass object;
    cout << "The program is now going to end.\n";
}
```

Output:

We will now define a DerivedClass object. This is the BaseClass constructor. This is the DerivedClass constructor. The program is now going to end. This is the DerivedClass destructor. This is the BaseClass destructor.
Passing Arguments to a non-default Base Class Constructor

- Allows programmer to choose among multiple base class constructors
- Specify arguments to base constructor in the derived constructor function header:

```cpp
//assuming Square is derived from Rectangle:
Square::Square(int side) : Rectangle(side, side) {
    // code for Square constr goes here, if any
}
```

- Must specify a call to a base class constructor if base class has no default constructor

Redefining Base Class Functions

- Redefining function: a function in a derived class that has the same name and parameter list as a function in the base class
- Not the same as overloading – with overloading, parameter lists must be different
- Objects of base class use base class version of function; objects of derived class use derived class version of function.
- To call the base class version from the derived class version, you must prefix the name of the function with the base class name and the scope resolution operator:

```cpp
Rectangle::display()
```

Redefining Base Class Functions: example

```cpp
class Animal {
    private:
    string species;
    public:
    Animal()           { species = "Animal";}
    Animal(string spe) { species = spe ;}
    void display()
    {cout << "species " << species; }
};
class Primate: public Animal {
    private:
    int heartCham;
    public:
    Primate() : Animal("Primate") { }
    Primate(int in) : Animal("Primate") { heartCham = in; }
    void display()
    { Animal::display(); //call to base class display()
        cout << ", # of heart chambers " << heartCham; }
};
```

```cpp
int main()
{
    Animal jasper; // Animal()
    Primate fred(4); // Primate(int)
    jasper.display(); cout << endl;
    fred.display(); cout << endl;
}
```

Output:

```
species Animal
species Primate, # of heart chambers 4
```
Polymorphism

• The Greek word poly means many, and the Greek word morphism means form.
• So, polymorphism means 'many forms'.
• In object-oriented programming (OOP), polymorphism refers to
  - identically named (and redefined) methods
  - that have different behavior depending on the (specific derived) type of object that they are called on.

Example of polymorphism?

```cpp
class Animal {
private:
...
public:
  void speak() { cout << "none "; }
};
class Cat : public Animal {
private:
  ...
public:
  void speak() { cout << "meow "; }
};
class Dog : public Animal {
private:
  ...
public:
  void speak() { cout << "bark "; }
};
```  

Example of polymorphism?, part 2

```cpp
void f (Animal a) {
  a.speak();
}
int main() {
  Cat c;
  Dog d;
  f(c);
  f(d);
}
```

• IF the output is “meow bark”, this (function f) is an example of polymorphism.
  - The behavior of a in f would depend on its specific (derived type).
• IF the output is “none none”, it’s not polymorphism.

Polymorphism in C++

• Polymorphism in C++ is supported through:
  - virtual methods AND
  - pointers to objects OR reference variables/parameters.
• without these, C++ determines which method to invoke at compile time (using the variable type).
• when virtual methods and pointer/references are used together, C++ determines which method to invoke at run time (using the specific type of the instance currently referenced by the variable).
Virtual methods

- **Virtual member function**: function in a base class that expects to be redefined in derived class
- **Function defined with key word virtual**:
```cpp
virtual void Y() {...}
```
- **Supports dynamic binding**: functions bound at run time to function that they call
- **Without virtual member functions, C++ uses static (compile time) binding**

Example virtual methods

```cpp
class Animal {
public:
    virtual void speak();
    int age();
};
class Cat : public Animal {
public:
    virtual void speak(); // redefining a virtual
    int age();           // redefining a normal function
};
int main()
{
    Cat morris;
    Animal *pA = &morris; // using a pointer to get dynamic binding
    pA -> age();   // Animal::age() is invoked (base) (not virtual)
    pA -> speak(); // Cat::speak() is invoked (derived)
...
}
```

Virtual methods

- **In compile-time binding**, the data type of the pointer resolves which method is invoked.
- **In run-time binding**, the type of the object pointed to resolves which method is invoked.

```cpp
void f (Animal &a) {
    a.speak();
}
int main() {
    Cat c;
    Dog d;
    f(c);
    f(d);
}
```

- **Assuming speak is virtual, and a is passed by reference, the output is:**
  meow bark

Heterogeneous Array version 1:

```cpp
class COne {
public:
    void vWhoAmI() { cout << "I am One" << endl; }
};
class CTwo : public COne {
public:
    void vWhoAmI() { cout << "I am Two" << endl; }
};
class CThree : public CTwo {
public:
    void vWhoAmI() { cout << "I am Three" << endl; }
};
int main()
{
    COne *spCOne[3] = { new COne, new CTwo, new CThree };
    for (int i = 0; i < 3; i++)
        spCOne[i] -> vWhoAmI();
}
```

Output:
- I am One
- I am One
Heterogeneous Array version 2:

```cpp
class COne {
public:
  virtual void vWhoAmI() { cout << "I am One" << endl; }
};
class CTwo : public COne {
public:
  void vWhoAmI() { cout << "I am Two" << endl; }
};
class CThree : public CTwo {
public:
  void vWhoAmI() { cout << "I am Three" << endl; }
};

int main() {
  COne *apCOne[3] = { new COne, new CTwo, new CThree };
  for (int i = 0; i < 3; i++)
    apCOne[i] -> vWhoAmI();
}
```

Output:
```
I am One
I am Two
I am Three
```

Abstract classes and Pure virtual functions

- **Pure virtual function**: a virtual member function that **must** be overridden in a derived class.
- The `= 0` indicates a pure virtual function
- Must have no function definition in the base class.

Abstract classes and Pure virtual functions

- **Abstract base class**: a class that can have no objects (instances).
- Serves as a basis for derived classes that will have objects
- A class becomes an abstract base class when one or more of its member functions is a pure virtual function.

Example: Abstract Class

```cpp
class CShape {
public:
  CShape ( ) { }
  virtual void vDraw ( ) const = 0; // pure virtual method
};
```

- An abstract class may not be used as an argument type, as a function return type, or as the type of an explicit conversion.
- Pointers and references to an abstract class may be declared.

```cpp
CShape CShape1; // Error: object of abstract class
CShape* pCShape; // Ok
CShape CShapeFun(); // Error: return type
void vg(CShape); // Error: argument type
```
Example: Abstract Class

• Pure virtual functions are inherited as pure virtual functions.

```cpp
class CAbstractCircle : public CShape {
private:
    int m_iRadius;
public:
    void vRotate (int) {} // CAbstractCircle ::vDraw() is a pure virtual function
};
```

• Or else:

```cpp
class CCircle : public CShape {
private:
    int m_iRadius;
public:
    void vRotate (int) {} 
    void vDraw(); //define here or in impl file
};
```

Heterogeneous collection: abstract base class

Heterogeneous collection: abstract base class

Driver:

```cpp
int main()
{
    Animal* animals[ ] = {
        new Cat("Charlie"),
        new Cat("Scamp"),
        new Dog("Penny"),
        new Cat("Libby"),
        new Cat("Patches"),
        new Dog("Milo"),
        new Pig("Wilbur")
    };

    for (int i=0; i< 7; i++) {
        animals[i]->speak();
    }
}
```

Multiple Inheritance

• A derived class can have more than one base class

```cpp
class Cube : public Square,
           public RectSolid;
```

• Derived class inherits members from both base classes

• Problems if base classes have members with same names

• See book for solutions.