Classes in C++98 and C++11

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Overview
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Constructors & ...
What if I don’t write ...
Why Prefer Init?
Static Class Variables
Principle of Least ...
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1. Overview

• When we refer to C++98, we are referring to C++98 and C++03, since they differ only slightly.
• C++98 contained 3 types of constructors, but C++11 added a move constructor.
• The C++ class is one of the most difficult constructs to write correctly.
• Some methods are written silently by the compiler.
• Some methods are required w/ pointers.
• These slides describe classes, including 3 of the 4 constructors.
• We describe move semantics in separate slides.
2. What is a class?

- Unit of encapsulation:
  - Public operations
  - Private implementation

- Abstraction:
  - string: abstracts char* of C
  - student
  - sprite

- C++ Classes: easy to write, hard to get right!

- Need lots of examples
2.1. The actions of a class

- Constructors: initialize data attributes
- Constructors: allocate memory when needed
- Destructor: De-allocate memory when necessary
2.2. C++ class vs C++ struct

- Default access is only difference
- Generally, structs used for data
- Classes used for data and methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bad class</th>
<th>Good Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>class Student {</td>
<td>class Student {</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public:</td>
<td>string name;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>string name;</td>
<td>float gpa;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>float gpa;</td>
<td>}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>}</td>
<td>}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3. Object: an instantiated class

- C++ objects can be stored on the stack:
  ```cpp
class A{};
int main() {
    A a, b;
}
```

- Or on the heap:
  ```cpp
int main() {
    A *a = new A;
    A *b = new B;
}
```

- Compiler does stack; programmer does heap!
3. Constructors & Destructors

- No name and cannot be called directly
- Init data through initialization lists
- Constructor types are distinguished by their parameters.
- The four types of constructors are:
  1. Default
  2. Conversion
  3. Copy
  4. Move (which we describe in later slides)
Constructor examples:

class Student {
    public:
        Student(); // default: no params
        Student(char * n); // convert
        Student(const Student&); // copy: param is Student
        Student(Student&&); // move
        ~Student(); // destructor (no params)
    private:
        char* name;
};
3.1. Default Constructor

```cpp
class string {
public:
    string() : buf(new char[1]) { buf[0] = '\0'; }
private:
    char* buf;
};
```

- No parameters to default constructor
- Uses an initialization list to create a “buffer” of length 1 characters: `buf(new char[1])`
- Places the null termination character into the newly created buffer.
- `cppreference`: Constructs an empty string, with a length of zero characters.
3.2. Prefer **initialization** to assignment

- Initialization is more efficient for data members that are objects (demo later)
- Only way to pass parameters to base class:

```cpp
class Person {
public:
    Person(int a) : age(a) {} // Constructor
private:
    int age;
};

class Student : public Person {
public:
    Student(int age, float g) : Person(age), gpa(g) {} // Constructor
private:
    float gpa;
};
```
3.3. Init performed in order of declare

- In `Student`, the constructor will initialize `iq` first, then `age`, because `iq` appears first in declaration (line 5).

- Initialization list not needed for built-in types.

```cpp
class Student {
public:
    Student(int a) : age(a), iq(age+100) {}

private:
    int iq;
    int age;
};
```
3.4. Conversion Constructor

```cpp
class string {
public:
  string(const char* b) :
    buf(new char[strlen(b)+1]) {
    strcpy(buf, b);
  }
private:
  char* buf;
};
```

- Converts `b`, on line 3, into a `string`
- `strlen` returns the size of the c-string, not including the null termination
- On line 4 we allocate `strlen(b)+1` bytes, where +1 allows for the null termination
3.5. Copy Constructor

```cpp
class string {
  public:
    string(const string& s) :
      buf(new char[strlen(s.buf)+1]) {
      strcpy(buf, s.buf);
    }
  private:
    char* buf;
};
```

- Copy constructor uses the parameter `s`, line 3, to make a **deep** copy.

- Notice the parameter transmission mode: `const&`
3.6. Destructor

```cpp
class string {
public:
    ~string() { delete [] buf; }
private:
    char* buf;
};
```

- We used `new char[]` in the constructors to allocate an array.
- We use `delete []` on line 3 to indicate that we are deallocating an array.
4. What if I don’t write one

I write this:

class Empty{};

Compiler writes this:

class Empty {
public:
    Empty();
    Empty(const Empty &);
    ~Empty();
    Empty& operator=(const Empty &);
};
4.1. Here’s what they look like:

```cpp
inline Empty::Empty() {}
inline Empty::~Empty() {}
inline Empty * Empty::operator&() {return this;}
inline const Empty * Empty::operator&() const {
    return this;
}
```

The copy constructor & assignment operator simply do a member wise copy, i.e., shallow. Note that the default copy/assign may induce leak/dble free
4.2. What can go wrong? Consider:

```cpp
#include <iostream>
#include <cstring>

class string {
 public:
  string() : buf(new char[1]) { buf[0] = '\0'; }
  string(const char * s) :
    buf(new char[strlen(s)+1]) {
    strcpy(buf, s);
  }
  ~string() { delete [] buf; }
 private:
  char * buf;
};

int main() {
  string a, b(a);
}
```
4.3. Shallow Copy

- The previous example gives undefined behavior, usually **double free**.
- Default constructor creates **string a**, line 15
- However, the compiler generated copy constructor simply copies the address in `a.buf` into `b.buf`, which makes a shallow copy
- In memory it looks like:

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a</th>
<th>b</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>buf</td>
<td>buf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'\0'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

Deletion of `a` is okay; deletion of `b` is a problem!
4.4. Prevent Compiler Generated Ctors

- To address the problem of shallow copies, C++98 developers suggested placing signatures in private (line 10).
  
- Use of copy constructor won’t compile
  
- This is Item #6 in Meyers Effective C++.

```cpp
#include <iostream>
#include <cstring>

class string {

public:
    string();
    string(const char * s);
    ~string() { delete [] buf; }

private:
    char * buf;
    string(const string&);
};
```
4.5. C++11 Solution

- If the special syntax `= delete` is used, the function is defined as deleted (line 8)

- Any use of a deleted function is ill-formed and the program will not compile.

```cpp
#include <iostream>
#include <cstring>

class string {
  public:
    string();
    string(const char *s);
  ~string() { delete []; buf; }
    string(const string&) = delete;
  private:
    char *buf;
};
```
4.6. Canonical Form

- James Coplien: a class with pointer data should be in *Canonical Form*, aka *The Rule of Three*, which means programmer writes:
  1. Copy constructor
  2. Copy assignment
  3. Destructor

- Canonical form prevents shallow copy
4.7. Compiler generated ⇒ Shallow Copy
4.8. Canonical Form ⇒ Deep Copy

Original Object

Deep Copy

⇒ Deep Copy
5. Why Prefer Init?

- Meyers, in Item #4 of Effective C++, says “prefer initialization to assignment” in ctors.

- The two examples in Sections 5.1 and 5.2 illustrate a considerable efficiency boost when using initialization rather than assignment.

- The two examples are exactly the same except for line 18:
  - Section 5.1, line 18, assignment::
    ```cpp
    TestAssign(char* n) { name = n; }
    ```
  - Section 5.2, line 18, initialization list:
    ```cpp
    TestAssign(char* n) : name(n) { }
    ```
5.1. assign Example

```cpp
#include <iostream>
#include <cstring>

class string {
public:
    string() { std::cout << "default" << std::endl; }
    string(const char* b) { std::cout << "convert" << std::endl; }
    string(const string& s) { std::cout << "copy" << std::endl; }
    ~string() { std::cout << "destructor" << std::endl; }
    string& operator=(const string&) {
        std::cout << "assign" << std::endl;
        return *this;
    }
private:
    char* buf;
};

class TestAssign {
public:
    TestAssign(char* n) { name = n; }
private:
    string name;
};

int main() { TestAssign test("dog"); }
```
• The output for the previous program in Section 5.1 is:

default
correct
assign
destructor
destructor

• The first line of output, default, results when the compiler tries to initialize name in an initialization list. Since there isn’t one, it uses the default constructor.
• The next two lines of output, `convert` and `assign` result from `name = n`, which doesn’t match any function call as written. However, if `n` is converted to a string then it will match: `string.operator=(string)`.

• The first destructor call results when the compiler reallocates the temporary string that was created with the `convert`.

• The final destructor call results when the compiler deallocates `name` in `Student`.
5.2. Init Example

```cpp
#include <iostream>
#include <cstring>
class string {
    public:
        string() { std::cout << "default" << std::endl; }
        string(const char* b) { std::cout << "convert" << std::endl; }
        string(const string& s) { std::cout << "copy" << std::endl; }
        ~string() { std::cout << "destructor" << std::endl; }
        string& operator=(const string&) {
            std::cout << "assign" << std::endl;
            return *this;
        }
    private:
        char* buf;
};
class TestInit {
    public:
        TestInit(char* n) : name(n) { }
    private:
        string name;
};
int main() { TestInit test("dog"); }
```
• The output for the previous program in Section 5.2 is:

    convert
destructor

• Clearly, the initialization list, name(n), is a use of the conversion constructor in string to convert n to a string.
6. Static Class Variables

-
7. Principle of Least Privilege

- A `const` class method cannot change any of the class data attributes.
- Use `const` as much as possible!
- Can reduce debugging
- Provides documentation
- Allow a function enough data access to accomplish its task and no more!
- Most beginners take them all out ... probably need more!
7.1. Example of Least Privilege

class string {
   public:
      string(const char* n) : buf(new char[strlen(n)+1]) {
         strcpy(buf, n);
      }
      const char* get() const { return buf; }
   private:
      char *buf;
   }; 
std::ostream&
operator<<(std::ostream& out, const string& s) {
      return out << s.get();
}
int main() {
   string x("Hello");
   std::cout << x.get() << std::endl;
}
7.2. What’s wrong with this class?

```cpp
class Student {
public:
    Student(const char * n) : name(n) { }
    const getName() const { return name; }
    void setName(char *n) { name = n; }
private:
    char *name;
};
```
8. Interface vs Implementation

Interface goes in .h file:
```
class Student {
public:
  getName() const { return name; }
  getGpa() const { return gpa; }
private:
  char * name;
  float gpa;
};
ostream& operator <<(ostream &, const Student &);
```

Implementation goes in .cpp file:
```
ostream & operator<<(ostream& out, const Student& s) {
  out << s.getName() << s.getGpa();
  return out;
}
```
9. Makefiles

- Useful as projects grow larger with multiple files.
- Consist of definitions,
- Followed by sequences of 2 line commands.
  - First line begins with <id>; followed by dependencies of <id>.
  - Second line is the rule to make <id>; this line MUST be preceded by a tab
- To use the make file type: make {<id>}, or simply: make
9.1. Simple makefile

CCC=g++
FLAGS=-Wall

main: main.o Binary.o
   $(CCC) $(FLAGS) -o main main.o Binary.o

main.o: main.cpp Binary.h
   $(CCC) $(FLAGS) -c main.cpp

Binary.o: Binary.cpp Binary.h
   $(CCC) $(FLAGS) -c Binary.cpp

clean:
   rm -f main *.o core
9.2. Discussion of Makefile

- $(CCC) permits us to easily switch to another compiler; e.g. clang++
- `make clean` will clean the directory of large files
- `-o` option creates an executable
- `-c` option creates `.o` file
10. Overload Operators

```cpp
class string {
  public:
    string();
    string(const char *);
    string(const string &);
    ~string();
    string operator+(const string &);
    string& operator=(const string &);
    char& operator[](int index);
    const char& operator[](int index);
  private:
    char *buf;
};
ostream& operator<<(ostream&, const string &); 
string operator+(const char*, const string &);

Overloaded operators will be described separately.
```