

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 {  
    . . .  
} Base class
```

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

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Member Access Specification

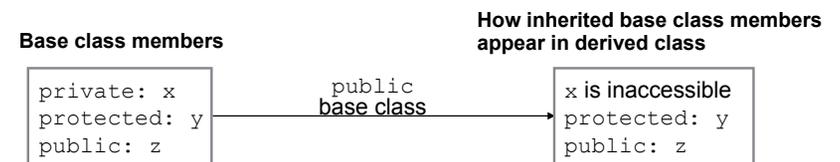
- private: can be accessed by member functions only
- public: can be accessed by functions outside of the class
- protected: can be accessed by member functions of the class AND member functions of derived classes.

```
class Grade {  
private:  
    char letter; ← Accessed in Grade's member functions only  
    void calcGrade();  
protected:  
    float score; ← Accessed in member functions of Grade and  
    Grade's derived classes only.  
public:  
    void setScore(float);  
    float getScore(); ← Accessed anywhere  
    char getLetter();  
}
```

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Class Access Specification

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



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Class Access Specification

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

```
class Test : public Grade
private members:
int numQuestions;
float pointsEach;
int numMissed;
public members:
Test(int, int);
```

```
private members:
int numQuestions;
float pointsEach;
int numMissed;
public members:
Test(int, int);
void setScore(float);
float getScore();
float getLetter();
```

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.

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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**,
 - the base class's (default) constructor is executed first,
 - followed by the derived class's constructor
- When an object of a derived class is **destroyed**,
 - the derived class destructor is called first,
 - then the base class destructor

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Constructors and Destructors: example

```
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"; }
};
```

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Constructors and Destructors: example

```
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.
```

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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:

```
//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

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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:

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

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Redefining Base Class Functions: example

```
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; }  
};
```

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Redefining Base Class Functions: example

```
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
```

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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.

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Example of polymorphism?

```
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 "; }
};
```

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Example of polymorphism?, part 2

```
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.

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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).

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Virtual methods

- Virtual member function: function in a base class that expects to be redefined in derived class
- Function defined with key word virtual:

```
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

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Example virtual methods

```
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)
    ...
}
```

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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.

```
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
```

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Heterogeneous Array version 1:

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

Output:

```
I am One
I am One
I am One
```

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Heterogeneous Array version 2:

```
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
```

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Abstract classes and Pure virtual functions

- Pure virtual function: a virtual member function that **must** be overridden in a derived class.

```
virtual void Y() = 0;
```

- The = 0 indicates a pure virtual function
- Must have no function definition in the base class.

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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.

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Example: Abstract Class

```
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.

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

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Example: Abstract Class

- Pure virtual functions are inherited as pure virtual functions.

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

- Or else:

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

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Heterogeneous collection: abstract base class

```
class Animal {
private:
    string name;
public:
    Animal(string n) {name = n;}
    virtual void speak() = 0;
};
class Cat : public Animal {
public:
    Cat(string n) : Animal(n) { };
    void speak() {cout << "meow "; }
};
class Dog : public Animal {
public:
    Dog(string n) : Animal(n) { };
    void speak() {cout << "bark "; }
};
class Pig : public Animal {
public:
    Pig(string n) : Animal(n) { };
    void speak() {cout << "oink "; }
};
```

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Heterogeneous collection: abstract base class

- Driver:

```
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();
    }
}
```

meow meow bark meow meow bark oink

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Multiple Inheritance

- A derived class can have more than one base class

```
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.

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