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# C/C++ Disciplined Coding Styles



C++ Object Oriented Programming

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# Introduction

- ❖ *Coding styles* are enforced **by disciplined programmers** to
  - ★ **enhance better readability**
    - ✧ **make the codes talk clearly**
    - ✧ **promote code sharing**
    - ✧ **promote pair programming (peer review)**
    - ✧ **add extensibility**
  - ★ **reduce subconscious coding errors**
- ❖ *Coding styles* are not specified by the language syntax and therefore are **NOT enforced by the compiler**
- ❖ A software programmer would like to save his time and make more money. He does not want to be trapped by repetitions of some common errors. A compiler sets up only the minimal requirements of the codes. **Do not get satisfied by fulfilling the requirements of the compiler!!**

## Introduction (cont'd)

- ❖ Computer programs are generally **more difficult to read** than to **write** (even one's **own code** is often difficult to read after it has been written for a while).
- ❖ Software that is not **internally or externally documented** tends to be thrown-away or rewritten after the person that has written it leaves the organization (it is often thrown-away even if it is documented).
- ❖ Programming languages are designed more for encouraging people to write code **for a compiler to understand** than for other **people** to understand
- ❖ Some people do write readable C programs, but it is definitely a hard-learned skill rather than any widespread natural ability

## Introduction (cont'd)

- ✧ What I am going to ask you to do in the following slides is somewhat still minimal

Write a “self-documented” program

# Introduction (cont'd)

- ❖ Is a program “self-documented” sufficient to keep it easy to be understood or maintained or just not thrown away?
  - ★ NOT, there is always something that can not be expressed well by the program itself.
  - ★ Better described with
    - ✧ Natural language
    - ✧ Examples or Scenarios
    - ✧ Event flows
    - ✧ State charts
    - ✧ Data flows
    - ✧ Static / dynamic relationships of objects
    - ✧ High-level control flows ...
- ❖ A “self-documented” program is somewhat equivalent to a low-level control flowchart (sometime a high-level one)

# Free Format?

❖ Which one is better understood?

```
void updateCRC(unsigned long *crc32,unsigned char *
buf,int len){int i,j;unsigned char b;for(i=0;i<len;
i++){b=buf[i];for(j=0;j<8;j++){if((*crc32^b)&1)*crc32
=(*crc32>>1)^0xedb88320L;else *crc32>>=1;b>>=1;}}}
```

```
void updateCRC(unsigned long *crc32,
                unsigned char *buf, int len) {
    int i, j; unsigned char b;
    for (i=0; i<len; i++) {
        b = buf[i];
        for (j=0; j<8; j++) {
            if ((*crc32 ^ b) & 1)
                *crc32 = (*crc32 >> 1) ^ 0xedb88320L;
            else
                *crc32 >>= 1;
            b >>= 1;
        }
    }
}
```

# Free Format?

- ❖ Is this a clear program segment?

```
for(;P("\n"),R-;P("|"))for(e=C;e-;P("_"+(*u++/8)%2))P("| "+(*u/4)%2);
```

- ❖ Code alignments (using space and new line to form blocks)

```
for (i=0; i<10; i++)  
{  
    statement1;  
    statement2;  
    ....  
}
```

```
for (i=0; i<10; i++) {  
    statement1;  
    statement2;  
    ....  
}
```

- ❖ Literate Programming

- ★ <http://www.literateprogramming.com/>
- ★ *programs should be written to be read by people*





# deckmyn.c

```
#include<stdio.h>
#define c(C) printf("%c",C)
#define C(c) ((int*)(C[1]+6))[c]
main(int c,char
*C[]) { (C[c]=C[
1]+2 ) [0]= c(52*c(\
'C'+ '4'/4 ) );for(c
=0; c<491;++ c)for(*
*C= C[1]['c' +c] =
0;* C[0]<8;( ** C
)++ )C[1][c+ 'c']=
*(C[ 1]+c+'c')+ C[1][
99+ c]+(C[1 ] [**C
+8*c +99]==32 ); (
*C)[4]=*C[2]== 75 ?
*((C[2]+3)-2 )==70?
1:0:0;C(0)=C( 1)=c=0
;while(*C[2]? C[2][1]
?*C[2]+2)?1 :0:0:0)
{if( *C [2 ]>'w'){
C(1)=0;C[1] [2]++;*C
[2]=0;}else C(1)+=*C[
2]==58?2+( C[2][3]&&
*(C[2]+3)< 'x'):*C[2]
=='s'?C[ 2][1]-=48):
*C[2]>=65 ?3-(*C[2]==\
'm'?1:0) :1;C(0)=C(1)>
C(0)?C(1 ):C(0);c+=3;*
(C+2)+=3;}printf(" %d\
%d\n", 56+8*C( 0),80**(C[3] ++))
; *C[2]=0 ;C[2] -=c;*C[3] =0;
while(C[3] [1,- 1]--){ for( **
C=0 ;* C< 80;(** C)++) {C
[2] -=3 ** C[3]; *C[3] ++
=0; *C[ 3] =**C>= 51||* *C<
18 ||* *C %8!=2?0 :255 ;c(1
-1 );c ( *C [3]);for( (*C) [
1] =0;( *C)[ 1]<3;(*C)[1] ++ )c(*C
[3] )|(( *C)[ 4]?**C>18&&* *C<42 ?C[1][
42 +*( * C+1) +3**C]:0: **C>= 11&&*
*C <64? ~C[1 ][ 7**C+97 +( *C)[ 1]]:
0) );c( *C[3] ++); for(C (1)=0; (C
2) =C(1 ))<C (0); {(*C) [2]=C [2]
1] -49; c=(* C[2]<= 63); c=(* C)[0]
-4 *(C[ 3][0 ]=105- C[2][ c] -7*( *C
[2]+c)< 'c') -18*( C[2][c ]<77)+2*(
*C)[4 ]-7* (C[2] [c]<'C' ))-6;for(C
```

# Vanb.c

```
05(02,07,03)char**07;{return!(02+~01+01)?00:!(02-=02>01)?printf("\045\157\012"  
,05(012,07+01,00)):!(02-=02>>01)?(*07<=067&&*07>057?05(03,07,*(*07)++-060+010  
*03):03)!:!(02--=03-~03)?(072>**  
07&&060<=*07?05(04,07,012)*03-060  
+*(07)++):03):!(02--=!03+!!03)?(  
**07>057&&*07<=071?05(05,07,*(  
07)+++03*020-060):**07<=0106&&  
00101<=**07?05(05,07,020*03+*(07)  
++-067):0140<**07&&*07<0147?05(05,  
07,-0127+*(07)+++020*03):03):!(  
02-=02-01)?(**07==050?050**++*07,  
05(013,07,05(012,07,00)):**07<056  
&&054<*07?055**++*07,-05(06,07,  
00):054>**07&&052<**07?050*(*07)  
++,05(06,07,00):!(**07^0170)|!(  
0130^**07)?*++*07,05(05,07,00):*  
*07==0144||**07==0104?++*07,05(04,  
07,00):05(03,07,00):!--02?(*  
*07==052?05(07,07,03*)(*++*07,05(06  
,07,00))):!(045-**07)?05(07,07,  
03%(03+(07)++,07,00))):!(**  
07^057)?05(07,07,03/(03-*++*07,05(  
06,07,00))):03):!(02+=01-02)?05(07  
,07,05(06,07,00)):!(02+=-02/02)?(!(*  
*07-053)?05(011,07,03+(++*07,05(010,07,00))):!(055^**07)?05(011,07,03-(03+*(07  
)++,05(0010,07,00))):03):!(02-=0563&0215)?05(011,07,05(010,07,00)):(++*07,03);}
```

# Identifier Naming

- ❖ Type vs. variable (object): Type is capitalized, object is not

```
class Student {  
    ...  
};  
Student student;  
int numberOfStudents;
```

- ❖ Short vs. expressive names:

```
class FE {  
    ...  
};  
int x, y1, y2, z, zt;  
class FactoryEmployee {  
    ...  
};  
int numberOfClass, number_classes;  
FactoryEmployee manager, employees[10];
```

- ❖ Global identifiers

`gVariable`

- ❖ Member variable identifiers

`m_variable, _memberVariable`

# Hungarian Naming Convention

- ❖ 1990s' Microsoft, mostly for C programs

```
char *pszNameOfStudents;  
int iNumberOfClasses;
```

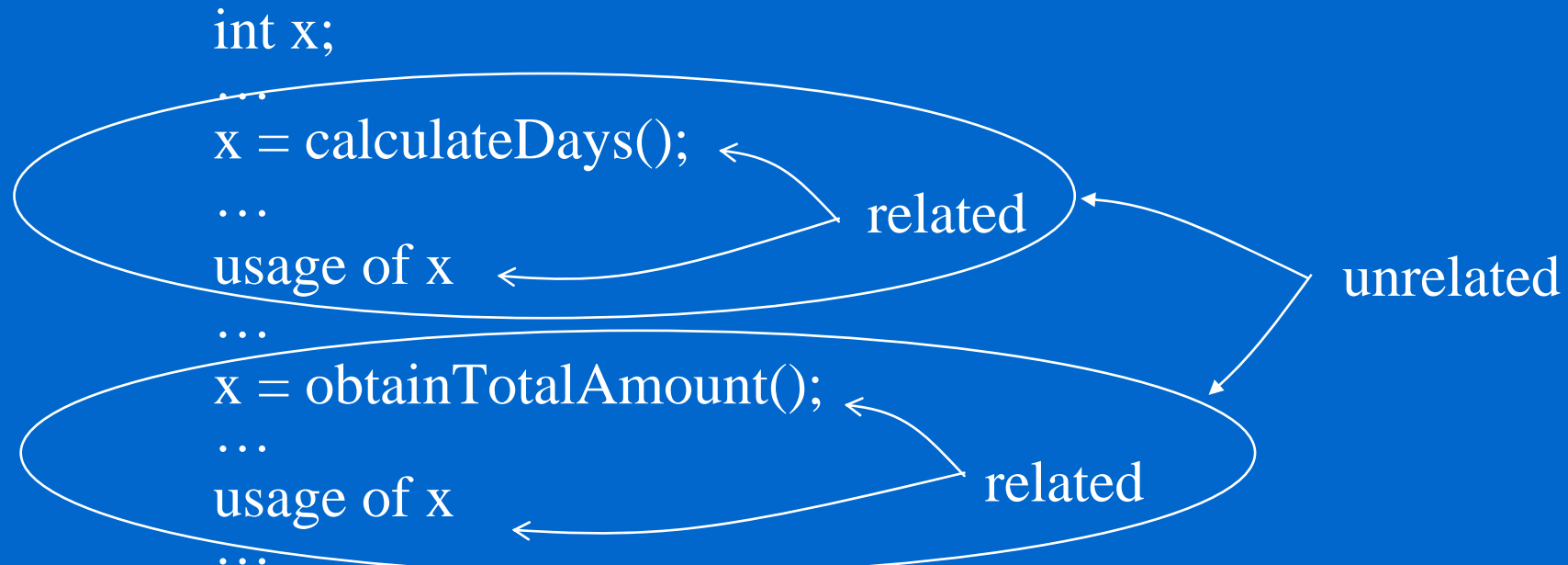
- ★ Usage of a variable is far away from its declaration
  - ★ Avoid checking out the type of every variable frequently
  - ★ Reduce type mismatches of variables
- ❖ Not really necessary if you carefully restructure your program and use new C++ features
    - ★ Should a block of program be such long that a variable is far separated from its definition??
    - ★ Try keep the variable definition as close as possible to its usage. Use C++ declaration on-the-fly.
    - ★ Carefully examine the type mismatch errors/warnings by your compiler

# Variables for Unrelated Purposes

## ❖ Two views of a variable

### ★ A memory space to store some data *temporarily*

- ❖ usually the variable need only have a distinguishing name like x1, x2 ...
- ❖ any data that need to be memorized can be put into, even the type (the data format) can be coerced



# Variables for Unrelated Purposes

## ★ Each variable represents a certain unique quantity

- ✧ Usually the name of a variable should be descriptive, ex. `number_of_pages`, `classOfHistory`...
- ✧ Only the specific data can be put into, no unrelated data should be kept in one single variable
- ✧ Don't worry about memory spaces (foot prints of your codes) at the design time, there are other language features that can help you save the memory spaces when necessary
- ✧ Heavily overloaded usages of a storage
  - introduce BUGS to the program
  - reduce readability of your program
  - impede automatic tools to optimize your program

# Length of a Function

❖ How long should a function extends? When should a function be decomposed into several pieces?

In general

- ★ no more than a page (~50 lines)
- ★ 30 lines would be reasonable
- ★ 3-5 pieces of jobs in a function would be reasonable
- ★ jobs are better related (coherent)
- ★ 5-10 variables are manageable

**Goals: a function should be manageable and understandable in one brief look**

# Avoid Code Repetitions

- ❖ Use functions, MACROS (inline functions better)
- ❖ When do you use a function?
  - ★ There are multiple repetitions of the same code piece (easier to keep consistency, to maintain, saving code size is not that important actually in early design phase)
  - ★ The jobs are better grouped (better readability)
  - ★ The variables are confined, no unrelated variables gathered together (safer, lower probability to make mistakes)

Goals: better modularity (cohesive functionalities, data coupling)



# Avoid Broad Variable Scopes

## ❖ The minimal scope principle:

- ★ Whenever possible, **keep the scope of a variable as small as possible**. If you don't let those unrelated codes see variables used by each other, how can they meddle with the contents of variables of each other.
- ★ The reading complexity of a segment of codes is proportional to the product of executable statements and the number of variables

## ❖ Guidelines:

- ★ Avoid global variables
- ★ Avoid unnecessary member variables
- ★ Declare variable on the fly
- ★ Always start with a variable in the closest scope, even create a scope for that variable

```
{  
    int localVariable;  
    func1(&localVariable);  
    func2(localVariable);  
}
```

# Variable Initialization

- ❖ In practice, all variables should be initialized with suitable values although the grammar does not enforce it.
- ❖ Do not claim that you always are aware that some variables are not initialized yet, and you will do that later!!
  - ★ It is this claim that quite often put a segment of codes into troubles.
- ❖ In C++, the grammars are designed such that all objects are suitably initialized. All experienced programmers practice this rule, although compiler does not enforce it.
- ❖ Make sure that you know the difference btw initialization and assignment

```
int a = 10, b(20);    MyClass obj1(1,2,3), obj2=2;  
a = 30;              obj1 = obj2;
```

# Pointer Deletion

- ❖ It's a good practice to completely forget the contents of a pointer variable after you free/delete the pointer.
- ❖ `free(ptr); ptr=0;`
- ❖ In this way your program will never have a way to refer to any freed segment of memory.
- ❖ There are many related rules for safely using pointers in a program.

# Control Structure: goto

## ✧ goto

- ★ Dijkstra's famous maxim "goto statement considered harmful" noted that spaghetti-like code was hard to reason about.
- ★ No more unstructured statements
- ★ There is always an assembly program equivalent to whatever program you wrote in procedural, object-oriented, or functional languages.
- ★ The readability of a procedural program is mostly sacrificed with astray interwoven label-goto statements
- ★ Many software house practices a SINGLE goto rule. Whenever a function fails, there is a single outlet that handles exception conditions. In this way, you wouldn't see interwoven label-goto statements. It simplified the error processing and looks good. But in C++, you should use throw-try-catch exception handling. There are far more benefits you can get from it than using goto.

# Control Structure: nested if

❖ nested conditions: nested if conditions are buggy

```
Ex.  if (a && (b || !c))  
    {  
        if (b && d) ...  
        else if (c || a) ...  
        else ...  
    }  
    else if (b && !d || !a)  
        ...  
    else if ...
```

- ★ Some combinations of condition variables simply do not exist
- ★ You might neglect some important combinations in your design
- ★ Use **flowchart** to help you design complex controls

❖ Use **state diagram** to verify and simplify your design

# Parallel Arrays

## ❖ Unstructured data elements

```
int score1[100], score2[100], score3[100];
```

```
char *name[100], *id[100];
```

...

- ★ name[i], id[i], score1[i], score2[i], score3[i] are designed to be a set of data storage that pertain to one single person
- ★ However, in the above parallel array representation, the code did not explicitly say so. The data might be misinterpreted.

## ❖ Use struct in C to group data suitably, use class in C++ to encapsulate the designed data structure

# Tough Pointer Arithmetic

- ❖ Pointer arithmetic is powerful but not quite readable

```
void strcat(char *s, char *t) {  
    while (*s) s++;  
    while (*s++ = *t++);  
}
```

// Another version

Looks stupid but far more expressive

```
void strcat(char s[], char t[]) {  
    int lens, lent;  
    for (len_s=0; s[len_s]!=0; len_s++);  
    for (len_t=0; t[len_t]!=0; len_t++);  
    for (i=0; i<len_t; i++)  
        s[len_s+i] = t[i];  
}
```



- ❖ Use array element access operator [] whenever possible.

# Assignment vs. Equality Test

- ❖ Assignment operator =
- ❖ Equality test operator ==
- ❖ It is very easy to have a typo in expression like
  - if (count == 10) ...
  - ➔ if (count = 10) ... // syntax correct by always TRUE statement
- ❖ Safe comparison
  - if (10 == count) ...
  - Compiler will identify the following as error
  - if (10 = count) ...



# Replace #define Macro with Function Call

- ❖ There are many #define traps, and many are not easily identified

```
#define inverse(x) (1/(x))  
double x=5;  
cout << "x=" << inverse(x) << endl;  
int y=5;  
cout << "y=" << inverse(y) << endl;
```

---

```
#define square(x) (x*x)  
void main() {  
    int x=5, y=6;  
    cout << square(x+y);  
}
```

- ❖ Using inline function as a performance adjustment tool in the late performance tuning phase

# Replace #define with const

- ❖ Eliminate numeric constants in the program is a good practice

```
int data[1000]; → int data[kNumberOfData];
```

- ❖ It is better to keep consistency and improve readability in this manner.
- ❖ As previously mentioned, #define is tricky and invisible to compiler and debugger. Use const instead!

# Avoid Type Coercion

- ❖ Type casting: Simply tell the compiler “Forget type checking – forget the original type and treat it as the specified type instead”

```
int iData, *iptr;  
double dData, *dptr;  
void *vptr;
```

...

```
iData = (int) dData;  
vptr = &dData;
```

...

```
dptr = (double *) vptr;  
iptr = (int *) vptr;
```

```
int x;  
printf("%c", *(char *) &x);  
void *vp = &x;
```

- ❖ Type casting introduces holes in the C/C++ type system.  
**It should be used as rarely as possible.**

# Eliminate Downcast

- ✧ “**Downcasting**” is detrimental to OOP as the “**goto**” statement to the procedural programming

```
class Base {  
    ...  
};  
class Derived: public Base {  
    ...  
};
```

```
Base *bp;  
...  
Derived *dp;  
dp = (Derived *) bp;  
dp = reinterpret_cast<Derived *>(bp);
```

Safer: `dp = dynamic_cast<Derived *>(bp);`

# Avoid K&R C Function Definition

- ❖ `int func();` // takes indeterminate number of arguments
  - ★ Use at least an ANSI C compiler
- ❖ Avoid indeterminate number of arguments. This type of flexibility introduces severe errors as usage grows.  
`int func(int *, ...);`
- ❖ Default promotion rule: whenever you disable the type checking of function arguments, the compiler uses this rule to ensure that the data is correctly passed into a function
  - ★ If argument is less than 4 bytes, promote it to 4 bytes.
  - ★ If argument is less than 8 bytes, promote it to 8 bytes.

# Far Away Allocation and Free

- ❖ Dynamic memory allocation and free has better be in the same level of structure. (This is not a universal rule, sometimes the functionality of the program prevents this.)

```
int *data;
```

```
data = new int[1000];
```

```
.... // statements, function calls
```

```
delete[] data;
```

- ❖ Should the dynamic allocated data survive after the program logic exit the block of its allocation, be extremely careful to design the remote ownership of the data. If possible, design C++ **managed pointer** to take care the ownership of a piece of dynamically allocated data.

# Avoid Functions that Introduce BOF

- ❖ strcpy(char \*dest, const char \*src) ;
- ❖ strcat(char \*dest, const char \*src) ;
- ❖ getwd(char \*buf) ;
- ❖ gets(char \*s) ;
- ❖ fscanf(FILE \*stream, const char \*format, ...) ;
- ❖ scanf(const char \*format, ...) ;
- ❖ sscanf(char \*str, const char \*format, ... ) ;
- ❖ realpath(char \*path, char resolved\_path[] ) ;
- ❖ sprintf(char \*str, const char \*format ) ;
- ❖ syslog
- ❖ getopt
- ❖ getpass

Buffer Overflow  
(Buffer Overrun)

# Avoid Bulky Error Checks

- ❖ A software has to behave nicely when something does not occur as expected. It cannot just say “*SORRY*”.

```
int *ptr = (int *) malloc(sizeof(int)*100);
if (ptr==0) {
    cout << "Memory allocation failure!\n";
    // some other resource management tasks, ex. Freeing some memory
    return 0; // return an error code to be handled by the calling program
}
```

- ❖ Traditional error handling method using *return codes*. Return codes are to be handled by the calling program just like the above example.
- ❖ These error handling routines take bulky space in the software because they handle various *unexpected messy* situations.
- ❖ They will be *SELDOM* executed. Maybe one out of a hundred.
- ❖ They blind the normal program logics.
- ❖ Use C++ **exception handling** mechanism instead!!



# Code Optimization vs. Readability

- ❖ “Code Readability” is always the first priority to be taken care of in the development stage of a medium/large scale software project.
  - ★ Something cannot be delayed till the prototype finishes. Coding styles have to be set up from the ground up.
  - ★ Whenever there is a choice between code efficiency / code size and readability before the software is fully tested, give readability higher weights.
  - ★ Artistically crafted codes easily hide functional bugs. There is no point to polish your codes in the early stage of the project development.
- ❖ Optimization can always be left for the compiler or profiler or later-on module replacements.

# Clear Interface Specification

- ❖ *Public first and private last:*
  - ★ C++ is designed for **implementation** of the full functionality of the software, not for abstract specification.
  - ★ Class declaration in C++ includes all information for the implementation and interface. It does not require you to put the public session first, however, this is a *good practice* out of C++'s limited grammar.
- ❖ There is a better language specific for the task of interface description called **IDL** (Interface Description Language). It only contains the interface part and neglecting all implementations.

# Unnecessary Exposure of Private Stuffs

- ❖ Hide implementation details: member data should be considered as private at the first phase of design. Always provide service routines for other objects.
- ❖ Leave implementations of member functions out of class declaration. Inline function is only a means for profiling.
- ❖ Replace struct with class: avoid incautious data coupling between classes.

# Use const as frequently as possible

- ❖ Sort of defensive coding (like defensive driving)
- ❖ Document exactly the requirements and promises of a function through the grammar (instead of comments)
  - ★ const variables: promise the contents won't change
  - ★ const function parameters: promise that the contents of parameters won't change
  - ★ const member function: promise that the message and the corresponding response of the object won't change the state of the object

# Eliminate Unnecessary Friend Usages

- ❖ Friend classes should be considered together as a single huge class.
- ❖ Friend functions should be considered as though they were member functions.
- ❖ In other words, the syntax *friend* (truly good friend) just breaks the encapsulation you are trying very hard to obtain in your OO programs.

# Superfluous Accessor and Mutator

- ❖ Many OOP starters deal with objects in their minds like *data warehouses* for saving important/useful data instead of *smart service providers* (little genie devices that fit into the whole program).

```
class MyClass {  
    public:  
        ...  
        int getData();           // dumb accessor  
        void setData(int newData); // dumb mutator  
        ...  
    private:  
        int data;  
        ...  
};
```

- ❖ Key point: *Object should provide meaningful services.*

# Eliminate Improper Inheritance

- ❖ “Improper Inheritance” introduces design traps for the designer himself or his teammates and especially for the follow-up software maintainers.
  - ★ The inheritance mechanism is used at purely the grammar level instead of the semantic design level.
  - ★ Ex. Inherit a Cabinet class and trim it into a Table class.  
Inherit a UnderGraduateStudent class and trim it into a GraduateStudent class
  - ★ Deprive some unnecessary functionalities in the original class is usually a symptom for this.
- ❖ Inheritance should be proper, natural, and *substitutable* in a more concrete sense.
- ❖ A guideline: require less and promise more in the subclass

# Using Object Counts

- ❖ Sometimes, without the help of tools, you would like to monitor at run time whether your program has any unreleased objects and avoid memory leakage from the ground up.
- ❖ Implement with class variable

```
class MyClass {  
    ...  
public:  
    MyClass();  
    ~MyClass();  
    static void printCounts();  
private:  
    static int objectCounts;  
    ...  
};  
...  
int MyClass::objectCounts=0;
```

```
MyClass::MyClass() {  
    objectCounts++;  
}  
MyClass::~~MyClass() {  
    objectCounts--;  
}  
void MyClass::printCounts() {  
    cout << "Class MyClass "  
        << "active objects: "  
        << objectCounts << endl;  
}
```



# Beware of Function Hiding Effects

- ❖ C++ grammar *augments C grammar* to allow convenient OO modeling.
- ❖ It still bears in its mind the objective of *efficiency* for system programming.
- ❖ Therefore, member functions are by default *NOT virtual* functions, i.e. no polymorphism supported. This is in contrast to the member functions in JAVA, in which they are by default virtual.
- ❖ Non-virtual member functions are hidden by a function with the same name in its derived classes. Sometimes, this causes significant troubles to new C++ programmers.

# Using Initialization List

- ❖ There are several cases where initialization list **MUST** be used
  - ★ Constant data member
  - ★ Reference data member
  - ★ Non-default parent class constructor
  - ★ Non-default component object constructor
- ❖ Coding style: use initialization list as much as possible
  - ★ initialization list is inevitable in many cases
  - ★ initialization will be performed implicitly in the initialization list whether you use it or not. It saves some computation to do it in the initialization list.
- ❖ Caution:
  - ★ The order of expressions in the initialization list is not the order of execution, the defining order of member variables in the class definition defines the order of execution.

```
Dog::Dog(const char *name, const Breed breed, const int age)
    : m_age(age), m_name(new char[strlen(name)+1]), m_breed(breed){
    strcpy(m_name, name);
}
```

Diagram illustrating the order of execution in the initialization list:

- third**: Points to `m_name` in the initialization list.
- first**: Points to `m_breed` in the initialization list.
- second**: Points to `m_age` in the initialization list.

# Do Generic Programming Cautiously

- ❖ Class/function templates in C++ are mighty tools.
- ❖ You can (easily??) use predesigned template libraries (ex. iostream, algorithm, vector, list, ... STLs) in your applications.
- ❖ There are obvious tradeoffs both in storage and execution time between template programming and dynamic binding polymorphism.
- ❖ Yet, the compilation errors due to these templates are difficult to fix.
- ❖ If you are designing your template. Be aware of those cases which simply do not come to your mind at the time of designing. Keep your finger crossed!!

# Code Complexity Metrics (1/3)

## ❖ Complexity of code:

- ★ amount of efforts needed to understand and modify the code correctly (i.e. amount of efforts needed to maintain or test code)

- ★ Maintenance metrics (or static metrics)

- ❖ Formatting metrics:

- indentation conventions,
- comment forms,
- whitespace usage,
- naming conventions

- ❖ Logical metrics:

- number of paths through a program,
- the depth of conditional statements and blocks,
- the level of parenthesization in expressions,
- the number of terms and factors in expressions,
- the number of parameters and arguments used
- ...

# Code Complexity Metrics (2/3)

## ★ McCabe Cyclomatic Metric: $M = E - N + X$

✧ McCabe 1976

✧ Very useful logical metric

✧ The number of linearly independent paths through a program

✧ **E**: the number edges in the graph of the program (the code executed as a result of a decision)

✧ **N**: the number of nodes or decision points in the graph of a program

✧ **X**: the number of exits from the program (explicit return statements)

✧ Example: if each decision point has two possible paths, and **D** is the number of decision points in the program then  $M = D + 1$

Cyclomatic  
Complexity

1-10

a simple program, without much risk

11-20

more complex, moderate risk

21-50

complex, high risk

51+

untestable, very high risk

★ R. Charney, Programming Tools: Code Complexity Metrics,  
<http://www.linuxjournal.com/node/8035>, Jan. 2005

# Code Complexity Metrics (3/3)

- ★ Eclipse:

- ✧ A general purpose IDE environment for Java, C++, ...
- ✧ [www.eclipse.org](http://www.eclipse.org)

- ★ Eclipse supported complexity metrics: for monitoring the health of your codebase

- ✧ McCabe's Cyclomatic Complexity
- ✧ Efferent Coupling
- ✧ Lack of Cohesion in Methods
- ✧ Lines of Code in Method
- ✧ Number of Fields
- ✧ Number of Levels
- ✧ Number of Parameters
- ✧ Number of Statements
- ✧ Weighted Method Per Class

- ★ <http://www.teaminbox.co.uk/downloads/metrics/index.html>