CS 101: Computer Programming and Utilization

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with

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Course webpage: https://www.cse.iitb.ac.in/~cs101/

Lecture 23: Dynamic memory management and the C++ Standard Template Library

Classes

- A class is essentially the same as a struct, except:
 - Any members/member functions in a struct are public by default
 - Any members/member functions in a class are private by default

Classes

Example: A Queue class

```
class Queue{
    int elements[N], nWaiting, front;
public:
    Queue(){...}
    bool remove(int &v){...}
    bool insert(int v){...}
};
```

• The members - elements, nWaiting and front will be private.

Function definition and declaration (with class)

```
class V3{
  double x,y,z;
  V3(double v){
    x = y = z = v;
  double X(){
    return x;
```

```
class V3{
  double x,y,z;
 V3(double v);
  double X();
//implementations
V3::V3(double v){
  x = y = z = v;
double V3::X(){
  return x;
```

Example (with struct)

```
struct V3{
  double x,y,z;
  V3(double v){
    x = y = z = v;
  double X(){
    return x;
```

```
struct V3{
  double x,y,z;
  V3(double v);
  double X();
//implementations
V3::V3(double v){
  x = y = z = v;
double V3::X(){
  return x;
```

The C++ Standard (Template) Library

Chapter 22

The C++ Standard Library

- Comes with every C++ distribution
- Contains many functions and classes that you are likely to need in day to day programming
- The classes have been optimized and debugged thoroughly
- If you use them, you may be able to write programs with very little work
- Highly recommended that you use functions and classes form the standard library whenever possible
- Files, Strings, Maps, Vectors, Sets, Lists, Queues ...

Input Output Classes (stdin/stdout/files)

- cin, cout: objects of class istream, ostream resp. predefined in C++
- <<, >> : operators defined for the objects of these classes
- ifstream: another class like istream
- You create an object of class ifstream and associate it with a file on your computer
- Now you can read from that file by invoking the >> operator!
- ofstream: a class like ostream, to be used for writing to files
- Must include header file <fstream> to uses ifstream and ofstream

Example of File i/o

```
#include <fstream>
#include <simplecpp>
int main(){
  ifstream infile("f1.txt");
  // constructor call.
  // object infile is created and associated
  // with fl.txt, which must be present in the current directory
  ofstream outfile("f2.txt");
  // constructor call. Object outfile is created and associated
  // with f2.txt, which will get created in the current directory
  repeat(10){
      int v;
      infile >> v;
      outfile << v;
  }
  // fl.txt must begin with 10 numbers. These will be read and
  // written to file f2.txt
```

ifstream /ofstream member functions

```
• open, close, is_open
```

```
• >> , << , !
```

- get, getline, peek, read
- put, write

"String theory"

- Iterative computations are demonstrated well on arrays
- strings ... the system manages the array space for us
- string message; // a character string

- Can assign and append to strings
- Can read a position: cout << message[px]
- Can write a position: message[px] = 'q'

Strings without string

• character arrays!
char str[5] = {'h', 'e', 'l', 'l', 'o'};

- why string then?
- the dreaded NULL character
- null character => character with ASCII value 0
- require *null-terminated* character array to represent end of string
- no end of string can lead to chaos!

Challenge with char arrays!

```
char str[6] = {'e', 'a', 'r', 't', 'h'};

cout << str; // early takeoff of space shuttle

str[5] = '\0';
cout << str; // back to earth!</pre>
```

- Have to ensure null-termination at all points
- Character array sizing has to be managed (via copies etc.) explicitly
- Not objects!

the string class

```
string str = "earth";
cout << str; // stay on earth!</pre>
```

- can use indexing as in arrays
- other member functions
 - size, clear, empty,
 - + , = , +=, >>, <<
 - push_back, pop_back, append
 - insert, erase, find, substr

Printing a string in reverse

```
string message;
getline(cin, message);
int mx = message.size()-1;
while (mx >= 0) {
  cout << message[mx];
  --mx;
}</pre>
```

Character at position mx in string message

- mx updated in a predictable way
- Ideal candidate to write as for loop

Finding needles in a haystack

- Given two strings, needles and haystack
- needles has no repeated characters
- haystack may repeat characters
- How many characters in needles appear in haystack at least once?
- needles = "bat", haystack = "tabla" → 3
- needles = "tab", haystack = "bottle" → 2

One needle in a haystack

 Subproblem: given one character ch and a string find if ch appears in string at least once

```
char ch;
cin >> ch;
string haystack;
cin >> haystack;
int ans = 0; // will change to 1 if found
for (int hx = 0; hx < haystack.size(); ++hx) {
  if (ch == haystack[hx]) {
    ++ans;
    break; // quit on first match
```

Many needles: nested loop

```
main() {
  string needles, haystack;
  getline(cin, needles); getline(cin, haystack);
  int ans = 0;
  for (int nx=0; nx < needles.size(); ++nx) {</pre>
    char ch = needles[nx];
    for (int hx = 0; hx < haystack.size(); ++hx) {
      if (ch == haystack[hx]) {
        ++ans;
        break; // quit on first match
    } // ends haystack loop
  } // ends needles loop
```

Generalize to work in case needles can also have repeated characters

Duplicate needles

- needles = "bat", haystack = "tabla" → 3
- needles = "tab", haystack = "bottle" → 2
- needles = "bata", haystack = "tabla" → 3

- Two approaches
 - Dedup needles before executing earlier code (reducing to known problem)
 - Dedup needles "on the fly" (inside the nx loop)

Strings and member functions (example)

```
#include <string>
string v = "abcdab";
string w(v);
v[2] = v[3]; // indexing allowed. v becomes "abddab"
cout << v.substr(2) << v.substr(1,3) << endl;</pre>
// substring starting at v[2] ("ddab")
// substring starting at v[1] of length 3 ("bdd")
int i = v.find("ab"); // find occurrence of "ab" in v
                      // and return index
int j = v.find("ab",1); // find from index 1
cout << i << ", " << j << endl; // will print out 0, 4.
```

Dynamic memory management

The Heap memory

- In C++ there is a separate, reserved region of memory called the Heap memory, or just the *Heap*.
- It is possible to **explicitly request** that memory for a certain variable be allocated in the heap.
- When there is no more use for the variable thus allocated, the program must explicitly return the memory to the heap.
 After the memory is returned, it can be used to satisfy other memory allocation requests in the future.
- How?

A variable on the heap to store a Book object

```
class Book{
  char title[100];
  double price;
};
Book *bptr;
bptr = new Book();
bptr->price = 399;
delete bptr;
```

- new asks for heap memory
- Must be followed by type name T
- Memory for storing one variable of type T is allocated on the heap.
- new T returns address of allocated memory.
- Now use the memory!
- After the memory is no longer needed, it must be returned by executing delete.
- new and delete are reserved words, also operators

With facility comes RESPONSIBILITY!

Allocation and deallocation is simple and convenient

- However, experience shows that managing heap memory is tricky and prone to errors!
 - forgetting to deallocate (delete) memory.
 - Referring to memory that has been deallocated.
 ("Dangling reference")
 - Destroying the only pointer to memory allocated on the heap before it is deallocated ("Memory Leak")

Error 1: Dangling reference

```
int* iptr;
iptr = new int;
*iptr = ...;
delete iptr;
*iptr = ...; // dangling reference!
```

- In the last statement, iptr points to memory that has been returned, and so should not be used.
- ... it might in general be allocated for some other request.
- Here the error is obvious, but if there are many intervening statements it may not be.

Error 2: Memory Leak 1

```
int *iptr;
iptr = new int; // statement 1
iptr = new int; // statement 2
```

- Memory is allocated in statement 1, and its address, say A, is stored in iptr.
 However, this address is overwritten in statement 2.
- Memory allocated at address A cannot be used by the program because we have destroyed the address.
- However, we did not return (delete) that memory before destroying the address. Heap allocation functions think that it has been given to us.
- The memory at address A has become useless! "Leaked"

Error 3: Memory Leak 2

```
{int *iptr;
  iptr = new int; // statement 1
}
```

Memory is allocated in statement 1, and its address, say A, is stored in iptr.

When control exits the block, then **iptr** is destroyed.

Memory allocated in statement 1 cannot be used by the program because we do not know the address any longer.

However, we did not return (delete) that memory before destroying the address. Heap allocation functions think that it has been given to us.

Memory at address A has become unusable!

Simple strategy for preventing memory leaks

- Suppose a certain pointer variable, ptr, is the only variable that contains the address of a variable allocated on the heap.
- We must not store anything into ptr and destroy its contents.
- When ptr is about to go out of scope, (control exits the block in which ptr is defined) we must execute delete ptr;

Strategy for preventing dangling references

- Why we get a dangling reference:
- There are two pointers, say aptr and bptr which point to the same variable on the heap.
- We execute delete aptr;
- Later we dereference **bptr**, not realizing the memory it points to has been deallocated.
- Simple way to avoid this:
- Ensure that at all times, each variable on the heap will be pointed to only by one pointer!
- More complex strategies are possible. See the book.

Avoiding dangling references and memory leaks

- Ensure each variable allocated on the heap is pointed to by exactly one pointer at any time.
- If aptr points to a heap variable, then before executing aptr = ... execute delete aptr;

- If aptr points to a heap variable, and if control is about to exit the block in which aptr is defined, then execute delete aptr;
- We can automate this!

A class for representing character strings

 We would like to build a mystring class in which we can store character strings of arbitrary length, without worrying about allocating memory, memory leaks, dangling references.

 We should be able to create mystrings, pass them to functions, concatenate them, search them, and so on.

A program we should be able to write

```
int main(){
 mystring a, b, c;
  a = "pqr";
 b = a;
  mystring c = a + b;
   // concatenation
   c.print();
  cout << c[2] << endl;
 mystring d[2];
  d[0] = "xyz";
  d[1] = d[0] + c;
  d[1].print();
```

- Our class should enable us to write the program shown.
- Creation of string variables
- Assignment
- Concatenation
- Printing
- Declaring arrays
- All this requires memory
 management, but that should
 happen behind the scenes,
 without memory leaks, dangling
 pointers.

Basic ideas in designing mystring

- Store the string itself on the heap, while maintain a pointer ptr to it inside the class.
- The string will be terminated using the null character '\0'.
- When no string is stored, n.set ptr to NULL.
- NULL (=0): standard convention, means pointer is invalid.
- NULL pointer different from NULL character.
- To avoid dangling references and memory leaks, ensure that
 - Each ptr will point to a distinct char array on the heap.
 - Before storing anything into ptr, delete the variable it points to.
 - When any ptr is about to go out of scope, delete it.
- Other designs also possible later.

mystring class!

```
class mystring{
  char* ptr;
  mystring(){
                         // constructor
                         // initially empty string
    ptr = NULL;
  void print(){
                         // print function
    if(ptr != NULL)
      cout << ptr;</pre>
    else
      cout <<"NULL";
  // other member functions..
```

Assigning a character string constant

Allow a character string constant to be stored in a myString

```
mystring a;
a = "pqr";
```

Thus, we must define member function operator=

Character string constant is represented by a const char*
 which points to the first character in the string

 So we will define a member function operator= taking a const char* as an argument

What should happen for a = "pqr";

- a.ptr must be set to point to a string on the heap holding "pqr"
- Why not set a.ptr to point to "pqr" directly?
 - Member ptr must point to the heap memory. The character string constant "pqr" may not be on the heap.
- a.ptr may already be pointing to some variable on the heap.
 - We are guaranteed that no other pointer points to that variable, so we must delete a.ptr so that the memory occupied by the variable is returned to the heap.

The code

```
mystring& operator=(const char* rhs){
 // release the memory that ptr already points to.
                                              int len(char* ptr){
 delete ptr;
                                                 int I = 0:
                                                 while(ptr[l]!='\0') l++;
 // make a copy of rhs on the heap
                                                 return I++;
 // allocate len(rhs) + 1 byte to store 
 ptr = new char[len(rhs)+1];
 // actually copy. Function scopy defined in book
 scopy(ptr, rhs);
                                       void scopy(char* ptr, char* rhs){
 // We return a reference to the
                                         for(int i=0; i<len(rhs);i++) {
 // allow chaining of assignments
                                          ptr[i] = rhs[i];
 return *this;
```

Assigning a String to another String

We want to allow code such as

```
mystring a, b;
a = "pqr";
b = a;
```

- The statement b = a; will cause a call
 b.operator=(a) to be made.
- need a member function operator= which takes a mystring as argument

The code

```
mystring& operator=(const mystring &rhs){
  // We must allow self assignment.
  // If a self assignment, do nothing.
   if(this == &rhs) return *this;
   // Call the previous "=" operator.
   *this = rhs.ptr;
    return *this;
```

The mystring destructor

- The destructor gets called when a myString object goes out of scope, i.e., control exits the block in which it is defined.
- Clearly, we must delete ptr to prevent memory leaks.

```
~mystring(){
  delete ptr;
}
```

 Note that this will work even if ptr is NULL; in such cases delete does nothing.

The copy constructor

- Copy constructor is like an assignment, except that
 - we know that the destination object is also just being created, and hence its ptr cannot be pointing to any heap variable.
 - we don't need to return anything.
- Hence this will be a simplified version of the assignment operator:

```
mystring(const mystring &rhs){
    ptr = new char[length(rhs.ptr)+1];
    scopy(ptr,rhs.ptr);
}
```

The [] operator

 To access the individual characters of the character string, we define operator[].

```
char& operator[](int i){
  return ptr[i];
}
```

 We are returning a reference, so that we can change characters also, i.e. write something like

```
String a; a = "pqr";
a[0] = a[1];
```

This should cause a to become "qqr".

Concatenation: + operator

• We use a+b to mean the concatenation of a, b.

```
String operator+(const String &rhs) {
 String res; // result
// Allocate space for the result.
 res.ptr = new char[length(ptr)+length(rhs.ptr)+1];
 // Copy the string in the receiver into the result.
  // Copy the string in rhs but start at length(ptr)
  // New version of scopy defined in book.
  scopy(res.ptr, rhs.ptr, length(ptr));
 return res;
```

Remarks

- We have given the definitions of all the member functions needed to be able to perform assignment, passing and returning from functions, concatenation etc. of mystring objects.
- The code given should be inserted into the definition of mystring.

Using the mystring class

Here is a program to read 100 names and store them.

```
int main(){
   String names[100];
   char buffer[80]
   for(int i=0; i<100; i++){
      cin.getline(buffer,80);
      names[i] = buffer;
   }
   // now use the array names[] however you want.
}</pre>
```

 If we use our class mystring, we do not need to mention memory allocation, it happens automatically in the member functions.

Concluding remarks

- The class myString that we have defined performs memory allocation and deallocation behind the scenes, automatically.
- From the point of the user, myString variables are similar to or as simple as int variables, except that myString variables can contain character strings of arbitrary length rather than integers.
- C++ Standard Library contains a class string (all lowercase) which is a richer version of our myString class.



Template functions

- Function templates (Sec 12.5 in book)
- Consider these three functions: same body, different types

A common template to unite them all . . .

```
template<typename T>
T Abs(T x) {
   if (x < 0)
     return -x;
   else return x;
}</pre>
```

Template Class

Like function templates, create class with templates.

```
main () {
template <class T>
                                Queue<V3> q;
class Queue {
                                Queue<int> r;
   int front, nWaiting;
   T elements[100];
                                r.insert(10);
public:
   bool insert(T value)
                                v V3(1,1,1);
   {...}
                                q.insert(v);
   bool remove(T &val)
   {...}
};
```

Vectors

- Friendlier, more versatile version of arrays
- Must include header file <vector> to use it
- vectors of any type by supplying the type as an argument to the template
- Indexing possible like arrays
- Possible to extend length, or even insert in the middle

vector examples

```
#include <vector> // needed
vector<int> v1;  //empty vector. Elements will be int
vector<float> v2; //empty vector. Elements will be float
vector<short> v3(10); // vector of length 10.
                    // Elements are of type short
cout << v3.size() << endl; // prints vector length, 10</pre>
                        // v3.length() is same
v3[6] = 34;
                        // standard indexing
```

vector examples (continued)

```
#include <vector>
                                // needed
v3.push back(22);
                               // append 22 to v3.
                               // Length increases
vector<char> w;
                              // element by element copy
w = v5;
v1.resize(9);
                          // change length to 9
v2.resize(5, 3.3);
                         // length becomes 5, all
                          // values become 3.3
vector<string> s;
                          // vector of string
vector<vector<int> > vv;  // allowed!
```

size_t

- The member function size returns a value of type size_t
- size_t is an unsigned integer type; it is meant specially for storing array indices
- When going through array elements, use size_t for the index variable

```
vector<double> v(10);  // initialize v
for(size_t i=0; i<v.size(); i++)
      cout << v[i] << endl;</pre>
```

- If i were declared int, then the compiler would warn about the comparison between i and v.size()
 - comparison between signed and unsigned int, which is tricky as discussed in Section 6.8.
 - By declaring i to be size_t, the warning is suppressed.

Multi-dimensional vectors

```
vector <int> > vv;
// each element of vv is itself a vector of int
// we must supply two indices to get to int
// Hence it is a 2d vector!
// Currently vv is empty

vector <vector <int> > vv1(5, vector <int>(10,23));
// vv1 has 5 elements
// each of which is a vector <int>
// of length 10,
// having initial value 23
```

Multi-dimensional vectors usage

- Note that the syntax is not new/special
- It is merely repeated use of specifying the length and initial value:
 vector<type> name(length, value)
- Two dimensional arrays can be accessed by supplying two indices,
 i.e., vv1[4][6] and so on
- Write vv1.size() and vv1[0].size() to get number of rows and columns

Creating a 5x5 identity matrix

Ch. 22 (22.2.7)

The book discusses a matrix class which internally uses vector of vectors

 This class is better than two dimensional arrays because it can be passed to functions by value or by reference, with the matrix size being arbitrary

Sorting a vector

- C++ provides a built-in facility to sort vectors and also arrays
- You must include <algorithm> to use this

```
vector<int> v(10);
// somehow initialize v
sort(v.begin(), v.end());
```

- That's it! v is sorted in non decreasing order
- begin() and end() return "iterators" over v.
 Think of them as abstract pointers to the beginning and the end.

Sorting an array

 The algorithms in header file <algorithm> can also sort arrays as follows

```
double a[100];
// somehow initialize a
sort(a, a+100); // sorted!
// second argument is name+length
```

More variations in the book

The Map Template Class

- A vector or an array give us an element when we supply an index
 - Index must be an integer
- May want to use indices which are not integers, but strings
 - Given the name of a country, we may want to find out its population, or its capital
 - This can be done using a map
 - (a.k.a) key-value store
 - keys and values can be of data types other than integers

The Map

General form: map<indextype, valuetype> mapname; Examples: map<string, double> population; Indices will have type string (country names), and elements will have type double (population) map<string, vector<string>> dictionary; **??**

Map usage

```
map<string, double> population;
population["India"] = 1.21;
// in billions. Map entry created
population["China"] = 1.35;
population["USA"] = 0.31;
cout << population["China"] << endl;</pre>
// will print 1.35
population["India"] = 1.22;
//update allowed
```

Checking index validity

```
string country;
cout << "Give country name: ";</pre>
cin >> country;
if(population.count(country)>0) {
// true if element with index = country
// was stored earlier
// count is a known member function
   cout << population[country] << endl;</pre>
else cout << "Not known.\n";
```

Remarks

- A lot goes on behind the scenes to implement a map
- Basic idea is discussed in Chapter 24 of the textbook
- How to print all entries of a map?

Iterators

- A map can be thought of as holding a sequence of pairs, of the form (index, value)
- For example, the population map can be considered to be the sequence of pairs
 [("China",1.35), ("India",1.21), ("USA", 0.31)]
- You may wish to access all elements in the map, one after another,
 and do something with them
- For this, you can obtain an **iterator**, which points to (in an abstract sense) elements of the sequence

Iterators (continued)

An iterator points to (in an abstract sense) elements of the sequence

- An iterator can be initialized to point to the first element of the sequence
- In general, given an iterator which points to some element, you can ask if there is any element following the element, and if so make the iterator point to the next element
- An iterator for a map<index,value> is an object with type map<index,value>::iterator

Using iterators

- An iterator points to elements in the map; each element is a struct with members first and second
- We can get to the members by using dereferencing
- Note that this simply means that the dereferencing operators are defined for iterators
- If many elements are stored in an iterator, they are arranged in (lexicographically) increasing order of the key

Example

```
map<string,double> population;
population["India"] = 1.21;
map<string,double>::iterator mi;
mi = population.begin();
// population.begin() : constant iterator
// points to the first element of population
// mi points to (India,1.21)
cout << mi->first << endl; // or (*mi).first << endl;</pre>
// will print out India
cout << mi->second << endl;</pre>
// will print out 1.21
```

Example

```
map<string,double> population;
population["India"] = 1.21;
population["China"] = 1.35;
population["USA"] = 0.31;
for(map<string,double>::iterator
      mi = population.begin();
      mi != population.end(); mi++)
// population.end() : constant iterator
// marking the end of population
// ++ sets mi to point to the
// next element of the map
// loop body
```

Example

```
map<string,double> population;
population["India"] = 1.21;
population["USA"] = 0.31;
population["China"] = 1.35;
for(map<string,double>::iterator
      mi = population.begin();
      mi != population.end();
      mi++)
  cout << (*mi).first << ": " << (*mi).second << endl;</pre>
  // or cout << mi->first << ": " << mi->second << endl;
// will print out countries and population in
alphabetical order
```

Remarks

- Iterators can work with vectors and arrays too
- Iterators can be used to find and delete elements from maps and vectors.

Maps with user-defined class as index

- Any class used as indextype on a map must implement the "<" operator.
- Example, the following code will not work because "<" is not defined on V3.
 - class V3 {public: double x,y,z};
 - map<V3, string> vec2string;
- A correct implementation of V3 may be something like:

```
class V3 {
   public:
   double x,y,z;
   bool operator<(const V3& a) const {
      if (x < a.x) return true;
      if (x == a.x && y < a.y) return true;
      if (x==a.x && y == a.y && z < a.z) return true;
      return false;
   }
};</pre>
```

Sets

- Sets are containers that store unique elements following a specific order
- The value of the elements in a set cannot be modified once in the container (the elements are always const), but they can be inserted or removed from the container
- Internally, the elements in a set are always sorted following a specific ordering criterion indicated by its internal comparison object

Populating and Traversing a Set

```
#include <set>
                     // set class library
 set<int> set1; // create a set object,
                   // specifying its content as int
                  // the set is empty
int ar[]={3,2,4,2};
for (int i = 0; i < 4; i++) {
  set1.insert(ar[i]); // add elements to the set.
}
for (set<int>::iterator iter = set1.begin();
     iter != set1.end(); iter++) {
      cout << *iter << " ";
  // prints 2 3 4
```

Application of Set

Given N students where each student has a list of courses that they have taken. Create group of all students that have taken exactly the same set of courses.

```
map<set<string>, vector<int>> study group;
 // key of the map is the set of courses.
 // value is vector of student roll-numbers of students
 // who have taken this course.
  cin >> N;
  for(int i = 0; i < N; i++) {
      int roll, int n;
      cin >> roll >> n;
      set<string> subjects;
```

Application of Set (continued)

```
for (int j = 0; j < n; j++) {
    string s; cin >> s;
    subjects.insert(s);
}
study_group[subjects].push_back(rollno);
}
```

List

- Implements a classic list data structure
- Supports a dynamic bidirectional linear list
- Unlike a C++ array, the objects the STL list contains cannot be accessed directly (i.e., by subscript)
- Is defined as a template class, meaning that it can be customized to hold objects of any type
- Responds like an unsorted list (i.e., the order of the list is not maintained).
 - However, there are functions available for sorting the list

Populating and Traversing a List

```
#include <list>
                       // list class library
 list <int> list1;  // create a list object,
                       // specifying its content as int
                       // the list is empty
for (i=0; i<5; i++)
   list1.push_back (i); // add at the end of the list
while (list1.size() > 0)
  cout << list1.front();  // print the front item</pre>
                         // discard the front item
    list1.pop front();
// other functions
// insert, remove, pop_back, push_front, remove, sort, ...
```

Concluding Remarks

- Standard Library contains other useful classes, e.g. queue, list, set etc.
- The Standard Library classes use heap memory, however this happens behind the scenes and you don't have to knowabout it
- The library classes are very useful. Get some practice with them

More details on the web.

Example: http://www.cplusplus.com/reference/stl/