COMPUTER PROGRAMMING
INHERITANCE

10TH WEEK LECTURE

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Outline

- Inheritance
  - Public
  - Protected
  - Private
- Constructors under Inheritance
- Destructors under Inheritance
- Q&A

Inheritance

- Software reusability
- Create new class from existing class instead of building it entirely from the scratch
  - Existing class's data and behaviors
  - Adding new capabilities
  - Derived class inherits from base class

Class hierarchy

- Direct base class
  - Inherited explicitly (one level up hierarchy)
- Indirect base class
  - Inherited two or more levels up hierarchy
- Single inheritance
  - Inherits from one base class
- Multiple inheritance
  - Inherits from multiple base classes
    - Base classes possibly unrelated

Three Types of Inheritance

- public
  - Every object of derived class is also an object of base class
    - Base-class objects are not objects of derived classes
      - All cars are vehicles, but not all vehicles are cars
- Can access non-private members of base class
  - To access private base-class members
    - Derived class must use inherited non-private member functions
- private (later)
  - Alternative to composition
- protected (later)
  - Rarely used

“is-a” vs “has-a ”

- “is-a”
  - Inheritance
  - Derived class object can be treated as base class object
    - Car is a vehicle
      - Vehicle properties/behaviors also apply to a car
- “has-a”
  - Composition
  - Object contains one or more objects of other classes as members
    - Car has a steering wheel

Base Classes and Derived Classes

- Object of one class “is an” object of another class
  - Rectangle is quadrilateral
    - Class Rectangle inherits from class Quadrilateral
      - base class: quadrilateral
      - derived class: rectangle
- Base class typically represents larger set of objects than derived classes
  - Base class: Vehicle
  - Derived class: Car

Base Classes and Derived Classes Cont'd

- GraduatedStudent class is derived from Student class
- GraduatedStudent class is inherited from Student class
- Student class is super class of GraduatedStudent
- Graduated class is child class or subclass of Student class

Public Inheritance

```
class TwoDimensionalShape : public Shape
```

- Class TwoDimensionalShape inherits from class Shape

- Base class private members
  - Not accessible directly, but still inherited
  - Accessed through inherited public member functions
- Base class public and protected members
  - Inherited with original member access
- friend functions
  - Not inherited

```
class BaseClass {
   // ...
};
class DerivedClass : public BaseClass {
   // ...
};
```

Public Inheritance Cont'd

```
class BaseClass {
    public:
        void public_method();
    protected:
        void protected_method();
    private:
        void private_method();
};

class DerivedClass : public BaseClass {
    public:
        void public_method();
    protected:
        void protected_method();
};
```

Protected Access Specifier

- Intermediate level of protection between public and private
- Protected methods/data cannot be accessible by other classes except for subclasses
- Other classes consider protected members as normal “private” members
- Subclasses consider protected members as normal “public” members

Protected Access Specifier Cont'd

- Protected members are accessible to
  - Base class members
  - Base class friends
  - Derived class members
  - Derived class friends

Protected Access Specifier Cont'd

- Public members in base class is public in derived class
- Protected members in base class are protected in derived class
- Derived-class members
  - Refer to public and protected members of base class
    - Simply use member names
  - Redefined base class members can be accessed by using base-class name and binary scope resolution operator (::)

Protected Inheritance

- public and protected members in base class become protected in derived class

```
class BaseClass {
    public:
        void public_method();
    protected:
        void protected_method();
    private:
        void private_method();
};
class DerivedClass : protected BaseClass {
    protected:
        void public_method();
    protected:
        void protected_method();
};
```

Private Inheritance

```
class BaseClass {
    public:
        void public_method();
    protected:
        void protected_method();
    private:
        void private_method();
};

class DerivedClass : private BaseClass {
    private:
        void public_method();
    private:
        void protected_method();
};
```

Protected Data Members

- Advantages
  - Derived class can modify values directly
    - No set/get method call overhead
- Disadvantages
  - No validity checking
    - Derived class can assign invalid value
  - Implementation dependent
    - Derived class more likely dependent on base class implementation
    - Base class implementation may result in derived class's modification
      - fragile software

Class CommissionEmployee

```
#ifndef COMMISSION_H
#define COMMISSION_H

#include <string>
using std::string;

class CommissionEmployee
{
public:
   CommissionEmployee( const string &,
     const string &, const string &,
      double = 0.0, double = 0.0 );

   void setFirstName( const string & );
   string getFirstName() const;

   void setLastName( const string & );
   string getLastName() const;

   void setSocialSecurityNumber( const
     string & );
   string getSocialSecurityNumber()
     const;
   void setGrossSales( double );
   double getGrossSales() const;
   void setCommissionRate( double );
   double getCommissionRate() const;
   double earnings() const;
   void print() const;

protected:
   string firstName;
   string lastName;
   string socialSecurityNumber;
   double grossSales;
   double commissionRate;
};
#endif
…
double CommissionEmployee::earnings()
     const
{
   return commissionRate * grossSales;
}
```

Class BasePlusCommissionEmployee

```
#ifndef BASEPLUS_H
#define BASEPLUS_H

#include <string> // C++ standard
    string class
using std::string;

#include "CommissionEmployee.h"

class BasePlusCommissionEmployee :
    public CommissionEmployee
{
 public:

    BasePlusCommissionEmployee( c
    onst string &, const string &,
      const string &, double =
    0.0, double = 0.0, double =
    0.0 );

    void setBaseSalary( double );
    double getBaseSalary() const;

    double earnings() const;
    void print() const;

 private:
    double baseSalary;
};

#endif
…
double
    BasePlusCommissionEmployee::e
    arnings() const
{
    return baseSalary +
     ( commissionRate *
     grossSales );
}
```

The Best Software Engineering Practice

- Declare data members as private
  - Enables programmers to change the base-class implementation without having to change derived-class implementations
  - Use the protected access specifier when a base class should provide a service (i.e., a member function) only to its derived classes (and friends), not to other clients
- Provide public get and set functions
- Use get method to obtain values of data members

The Best Software Engineering Practice Cont'd

- Set/get method slightly slower than direct access
  - But today's optimizing compiler inlines set/get methods
  - Or you can explicitly specify "inline" keyword

```
class BaseClass
{
 public:
    inline int
    getx()const{ return x; }
    inline void setx( int v )
    {
        if( v > 100 ) error();
        else x = v;
    }
 private:
    int x;
}
```

Selection of public/protected/private Methods

- According to the service range
  - for all other classes : public
  - for itself and subclasses : protected
  - only for itself : private

Constructors under Inheritance

- Constructor in base class
  - Does not construct derived class specific parts
- Constructor in derived class
  - Initialize its own data members
  - Invokes the constructor of the base class
    - Implicitly or explicitly

Constructors under Inheritance Cont'd

- Base of inheritance hierarchy
  - Last constructor called in chain
  - First constructor body to finish executing
  - CommissionEmployee/BasePlusCommissionEmployee hierarchy
    - CommissionEmployee constructor called last
    - CommissionEmployee constructor body finishes execution first
- Initializing data members
  - Each base-class constructor initializes its data members that are inherited by derived class

Constructors under Inheritance Cont'd

```
class BaseClass
{
 public:
   BaseClass() { x = 1; }

 private:
   int x;
};

class DerivedClass : public
    BaseClass
{
 public:
   DerivedClass() { y = 2; }

 private:
    int y;
};
```

```
class BaseClass
{
 public:
   BaseClass() { x = 1; }
   BaseClass( int a ) { x = a; }

 private:
   int x;
};

class DerivedClass : public
    BaseClass
{
 public:
   DerivedClass() { y = 2; }
   DerivedClass( int x )
    : BaseClass( x ) { y = 2; }

 private:
    int y;
};
```

Constructors under Inheritance Cont'd

```
class BaseClass
{
 public:
   // BaseClass() { x = 1; }
   BaseClass( int a ) { x = a; }

 private:
   int x;
};
class DerivedClass : public
    BaseClass
{
 public:
   DerivedClass() { y = 2; }
   // error

 private:
    int y;
};
```

```
class BaseClass
{
 public:
   BaseClass() {
      cout << "base";
      cout << endl;
   }

};
class DerivedClass : public
    BaseClass
{
 public:
   DerivedClass() {
      cout << "derived";
      cout << endl;
   }
};
============================
base
derived
```

Destructors under Inheritance

- Destroying derived-class object
  - Chain of destructor calls
    - Reverse order of constructor chain
    - Destructor of derived-class called first
    - Destructor of next base class up hierarchy next
      - Continue up hierarchy until final base reached
      - After final base-class destructor, object removed from memory

Destructors under Inheritance Cont'd

```
class BaseClass
{
 public:
   BaseClass() { x = new
    int[100]; }
   ~BaseClass() { delete[] x; }
 private:
   int* x;
};

class DerivedClass : public
    BaseClass
{
 public:
   DerivedClass() { y = new
    int[10]; }
   ~DerivedClass() { delete[] y; }
 private:
    int* y;
};
```

```
class BaseClass {
 public:
    BaseClass() {
        cout << "base con";
        cout << endl;
    }
   ~BaseClass() {
        cout << "base des";
        cout << endl; }
};
class DerivedClass : public
    BaseClass {
 public:
    DerivedClass() {
        cout << "derived con";
        cout << endl;
    }
    ~DerivedClass() {
        cout << "derived des";
        cout << endl;
    }
```

Base-class Member Accessibility in a Derived Class

Base-class member-access specifier	Type of inheritance		
	`public` inheritance	`protected` inheritance	`private` inheritance
`public`	`public` in derived class. Can be accessed directly by member functions, `friend` functions and nonmember functions.	`protected` in derived class. Can be accessed directly by member functions and `friend` functions.	`private` in derived class. Can be accessed directly by member functions and `friend` functions.
`protected`	`protected` in derived class. Can be accessed directly by member functions and `friend` functions.	`protected` in derived class. Can be accessed directly by member functions and `friend` functions.	`private` in derived class. Can be accessed directly by member functions and `friend` functions.
`private`	Hidden in derived class. Can be accessed by member functions and `friend` functions through `public` or `protected` member functions of the base class.	Hidden in derived class. Can be accessed by member functions and `friend` functions through `public` or `protected` member functions of the base class.	Hidden in derived class. Can be accessed by member functions and `friend` functions through `public` or `protected` member functions of the base class.

Customizing and Reusing Existing Software

- Derived class can
  - re-implement the behaviors of the base class
    - Known as “method overriding”
  - add new behaviors or data
    - We can use not only new behaviors but also the existing behaviors
- Factor out common attributes and behaviors and place these in a base class
- Use inheritance to form derived classes, endowing them with capabilities beyond those inherited from the base class
- The creation of a derived class does not affect its base class’s source code