

# ECE 2400 Computer Systems Programming

## Fall 2017

### Topic 14: C++ Inheritance

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## 1. Introduction to C++ Inheritance

- Inheritance enables declaring a **derived** class such that it automatically includes all of the member fields and functions associated with a different **base** class
  - Derived class also called the child class or subclass
  - Base class also called the parent class or superclass

### 1.1. Object-Oriented Design Without Inheritance

```
1  class Pawn
2 {
3     public:
4
5     Pawn( char col, int row )
6         : m_col(col), m_row(row)
7     { }
8
9     char get_col() const
10    {
11        return m_col;
12    }
13
14    int get_row() const
15    {
16        return m_row;
17    }
18
19    void move( char col, int row )
20    {
21        if ( (col != m_col)
22             || (row != (m_row + 1)) )
23            throw std::invalid_argument();
24
25        m_col = col;
26        m_row = row;
27    }
28
29    std::string to_str() const
30    {
31        std::stringstream ss;
32        ss << "pawn@" << m_col << m_row;
33        return ss.str();
34    }
35
36    private:
37        char m_col;
38        int m_row;
39
40    };
41
42
43    class Rook
44    {
45        public:
46
47        Rook( char col, int row )
48            : m_col(col), m_row(row)
49        { }
50
51        char get_col() const
52        {
53            return m_col;
54        }
55
56        int get_row() const
57        {
58            return m_row;
59        }
60
61        void move( char col, int row )
62        {
63            if ( (col != m_col)
64                && (row != m_row) )
65                throw std::invalid_argument();
66
67            m_col = col;
68            m_row = row;
69        }
70
71        std::string to_str() const
72        {
73            std::stringstream ss;
74            ss << "pawn@" << m_col << m_row;
75            return ss.str();
76        }
77
78        private:
79            char m_col;
80            int m_row;
81
82    };
83
```

## 1.2. Inheriting Member Fields and Functions

Inheritance allows you to reuse code from one class in another. This is particularly useful when multiple classes share common functionality. Instead of duplicating code, you can define it once in a base class and inherit it into derived classes.

When a class inherits from another, it gains access to all the member fields and functions of the base class. This is known as inheritance. The base class is called the superclass or parent class, and the derived class is called the subclass or child class.

There are three types of inheritance:

- Single inheritance:** A derived class inherits from a single base class.
- Multiple inheritance:** A derived class inherits from multiple base classes.
- Virtual inheritance:** A derived class inherits from a base class through another base class.

In C++, inheritance is implemented using pointers. When a derived class inherits from a base class, it contains a pointer to the base class's memory. This allows the derived class to access the base class's members.

When a derived class inherits from a base class, it can also add its own members. These members are called private members. Private members are only accessible within the derived class.

When a derived class inherits from a base class, it can also override the base class's members. Overriding means that the derived class provides its own implementation of a member function or field. This allows the derived class to change the behavior of the base class's members.

In C++, inheritance is implemented using pointers. When a derived class inherits from a base class, it contains a pointer to the base class's memory. This allows the derived class to access the base class's members.

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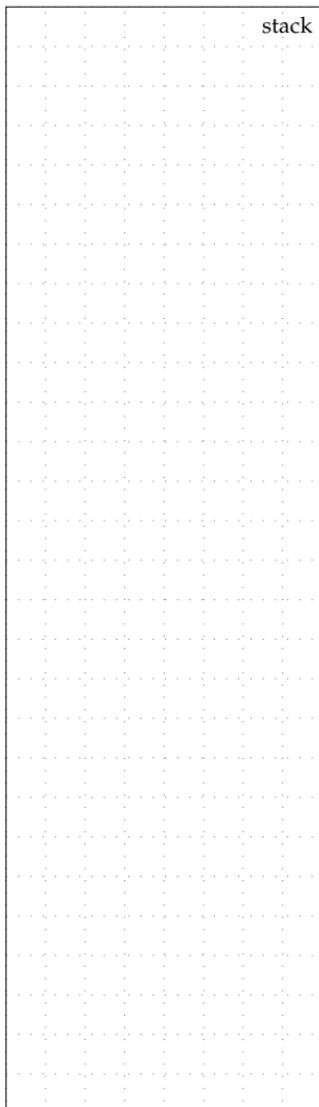
When a derived class inherits from a base class, it can also override the base class's members. Overriding means that the derived class provides its own implementation of a member function or field. This allows the derived class to change the behavior of the base class's members.

---

```
1  class Piece
2  {
3      public:
4
5      Piece( char col, int row )
6          : m_col(col), m_row(row)
7      { }
8
9      char get_col() const
10     {
11         return m_col;
12     }
13
14     int get_row() const
15     {
16         return m_row;
17     }
18
19 // derived classes cannot
20 // access private data in
21 // base class
22 protected:
23
24     char m_col;
25     int  m_row;
26
27 };
```

```
1  class Pawn : public Piece
2  {
3      public:
4
5      Pawn( char col, int row )
6          : Piece( col, row )
7      { }
8
9      void move( char col, int row )
10     {
11         if ( (col != m_col)
12             || (row != (m_row + 1)) )
13             throw std::invalid_argument();
14
15         m_col = col;
16         m_row = row;
17     }
18
19     std::string to_str() const
20     {
21         std::stringstream ss;
22         ss << "pawn@"
23             << m_col << m_row;
24         return ss.str();
25     }
26 };
```

```
1 int main( void )
2 {
3     Pawn pawn( 'a', 2 );
4     int row = pawn.get_row();
5     pawn.move( 'a', 3 );
6     return 0;
7 }
```



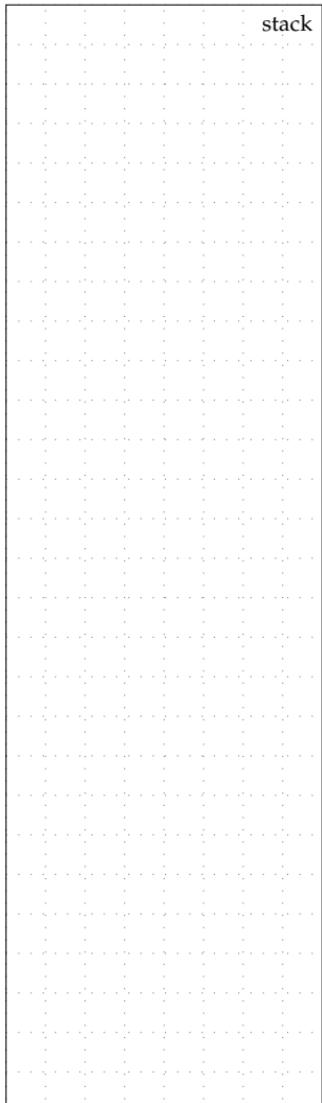
## 1.3. Method Overriding

```
1  class Piece
2  {
3  public:
4
5      Piece( char col, int row )
6          : m_col(col), m_row(row)
7      { }
8
9      char get_col() const
10     {
11         return m_col;
12     }
13
14     int get_row() const
15     {
16         return m_row;
17     }
18
19     void move( char col, int row )
20     {
21         m_col = col;
22         m_row = row;
23     }
24
25     std::string to_str() const
26     {
27         std::stringstream ss;
28         ss << m_col << m_row;
29         return ss.str();
30     }
31
32 protected:
33
34     char m_col;
35     int m_row;
36
37 };
```

```
1  class Pawn : public Piece
2  {
3  public:
4
5      Pawn( char col, int row )
6          : Piece( col, row )
7      { }
8
9      void move( char col, int row )  
10     {  
11         if ( (col != m_col)  
12             || (row != (m_row + 1)) )  
13             throw std::invalid_argument();  
14         Piece::move( col, row );  
15     }  
16
17
18     std::string to_str() const  
19     {  
20         std::stringstream ss;  
21         ss << "pawn@"  
22             << Piece::to_str( col, row );  
23         return ss.str();  
24     }  
25
26 };
```

```
1 // polymorphic function?
2 void move_piece( Piece* p,
3                   char col, int row )
4 {
5     using namespace std;
6     cout << p->to_str() << " to ";
7     p->move( row, col );
8     cout << p->to_str() << endl;
9 }
10
11 int main( void )
12 {
13     Pawn pawn( 'a', 2 );
14     move_piece( &pawn, 'a', 3 );
15     Rook rook( 'h', 1 );
16     move_piece( &rook, 'h', 5 );
17     return 0;
18 }
```

- **Slicing** is when we loose information by accessing a base class via the derived class
- Slicing can occur when we
  - Copy derived class to variable of the base class type
  - Access derived class via a variable of the base class pointer type

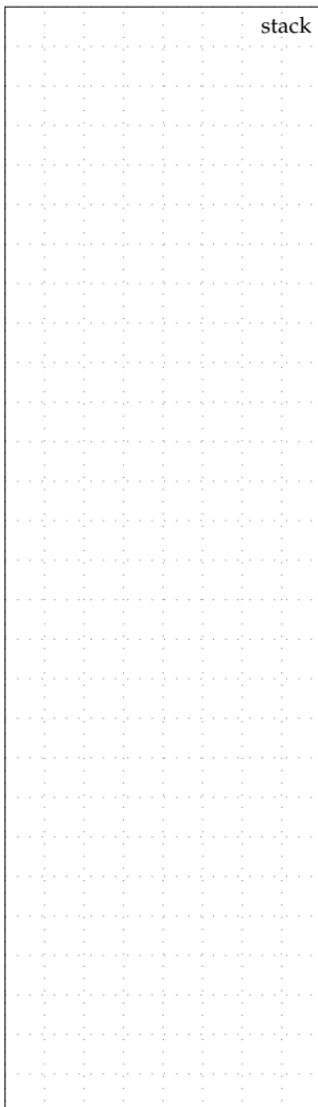


- We need a way to determine the concrete type of the object pointed to by a `Piece*` so we can cast the `Piece*` pointer to either a `Pawn*` or `Rook*` pointer
- We could add a new `m_type` field to `Piece`

```
1  enum PieceType { PAWN, ROOK };
2
3  class Piece
4  {
5      public:
6
7      Piece( PieceType type, char col, int row )
8          : m_type(type), m_col(col), m_row(row)
9      { }
10
11     PieceType get_type() const
12     {
13         return m_type;
14     }
15
16     ...
17
18     protected:
19     PieceType m_type;
20     char       m_col;
21     int        m_row;
22 };
1    class Pawn : public Piece
2    {
3        public:
4
5        Pawn( char col, int row )
6            : Piece( PAWN, col, row )
7        { }
8
9        ...
10    };
11
12    class Rook : public Piece
13    {
14        public:
15
16        Rook( char col, int row )
17            : Piece( ROOK, col, row )
18        { }
19
20        ...
21    };

```

```
1 // polymorphic function?
2 void move_piece( Piece* p,
3                   char row, int col )
4 {
5     using namespace std;
6     if ( p->get_type() == PAWN ) {
7         Pawn* q = (Pawn*) p;
8         cout << q->to_str() << " to ";
9         q->move( row, col );
10        cout << q->to_str() << endl;
11    }
12    else if ( p->get_type() == ROOK ) {
13        Rook* q = (Rook*) p;
14        cout << q->to_str() << " to ";
15        q->move( row, col );
16        cout << q->to_str() << endl;
17    }
18 }
19
20 int main( void )
21 {
22     Pawn pawn( 'a', 2 );
23     move_piece( &pawn, 'a', 3 );
24     Rook rook( 'h', 1 );
25     move_piece( &rook, 'h', 5 );
26     return 0;
27 }
```



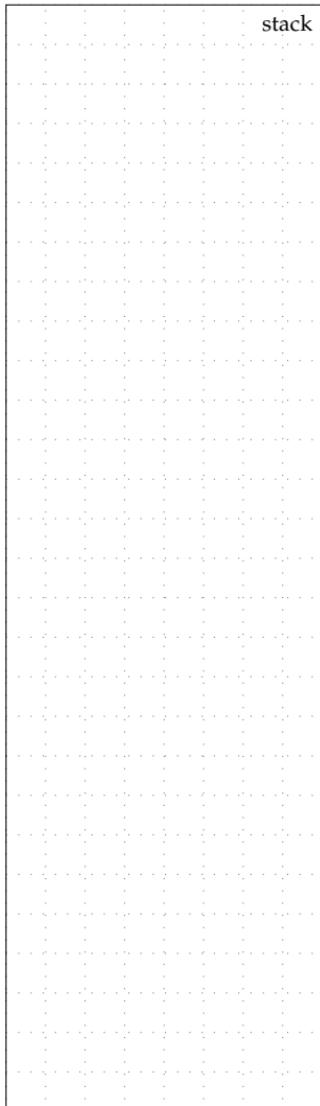
## 1.4. Dynamic Polymorphism via Virtual Methods

```
1  class Piece
2  {
3  public:
4
5      Piece( char col, int row )
6          : m_col(col), m_row(row)
7      { }
8
9      char get_col() const
10     {
11         return m_col;
12     }
13
14     int get_row() const
15     {
16         return m_row;
17     }
18
19     virtual
20     void move( char col, int row )
21     {
22         m_col = col;
23         m_row = row;
24     }
25
26     virtual
27     std::string to_str() const
28     {
29         std::stringstream ss;
30         ss << m_col << m_row;
31         return ss.str();
32     }
33
34     protected:
35
36     char m_col;
37     int m_row;
38
39 };
```

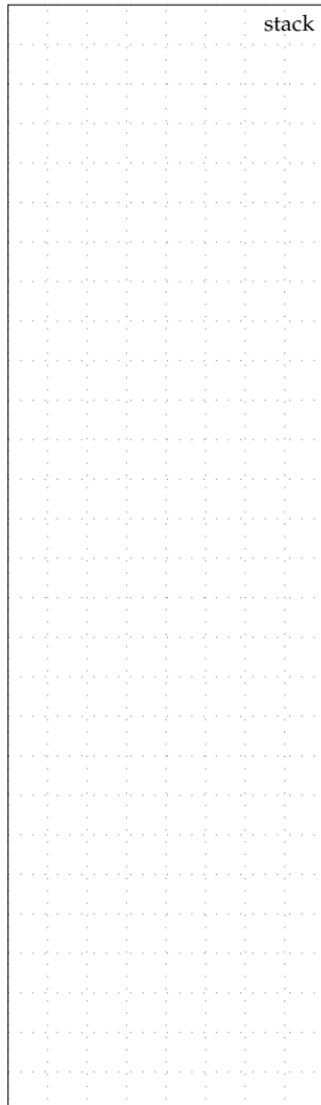
```
1  class Pawn : public Piece
2  {
3  public:
4
5      Pawn( char col, int row )
6          : m_col(col), m_row(row)
7      { }
8
9      void move( char col, int row ) 
10     {
11         if (   (col != m_col)
12             || (row != (m_row + 1)) )
13             throw std::invalid_argument();
14
15         Piece::move( col, row );
16     }
17
18     std::string to_str() const
19     {
20         std::stringstream ss;
21         ss << "pawn@"
22             << Piece::to_str( col, row );
23         return ss.str();
24     }
25
26 };
```

```
1 // polymorphic function!
2 void move_piece( Piece* p,
3                   char col, int row )
4 {
5     using namespace std;
6     cout << p->to_str() << " to ";
7     p->move( row, col );
8     cout << p->to_str() << endl;
9 }
10
11 int main( void )
12 {
13     Pawn pawn( 'a', 2 );
14     move_piece( &pawn, 'a', 3 );
15     Rook rook( 'h', 1 );
16     move_piece( &rook, 'h', 5 );
17     return 0;
18 }
```

- **Dynamic polymorphism** enables a single interface (e.g., function) that operates over many types, where the type information is not known until runtime



```
1 // polymorphic function!
2 void move_piece( Piece* p,
3                   char col, int row )
4 {
5     using namespace std;
6     cout << p->to_str() << " to ";
7     p->move( row, col );
8     cout << p->to_str() << endl;
9 }
10
11 int main( void )
12 {
13     Pawn pawn( 'a', 2 );
14     Piece piece = pawn;
15     move_piece( &piece, 'a', 3 );
16     return 0;
17 }
```

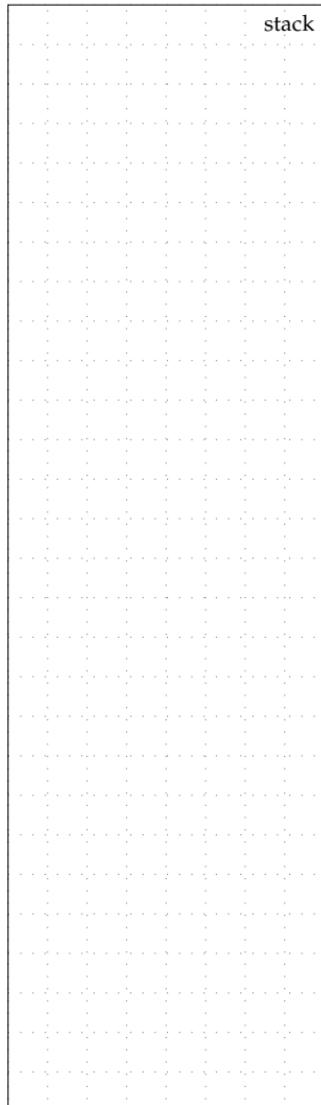


## 1.5. Abstract Base Classes

```
1  class IPiece
2  {
3  public:
4
5      virtual
6      ~IPiece() { };
7
8      virtual
9      char get_col() const = 0;
10
11     virtual
12     int get_row() const = 0;
13
14     virtual
15     void move( char col, int row ) = 0;
16
17     virtual
18     std::string to_str() const = 0;
19
20 };
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42 }
```

```
1  class Pawn : public IPiece
2  {
3  public:
4
5      Pawn( char col, int row )
6          : m_col(col), m_row(row)
7      { }
8
9      ~Pawn()
10     { }
11
12     char get_col() const
13     {
14         return m_col;
15     }
16
17     int get_row() const
18     {
19         return m_row;
20     }
21
22     void move( char col, int row )
23     {
24         if ( (col != m_col)
25             || (row != (m_row + 1)) )
26             throw std::invalid_argument();
27
28         m_col = col;
29         m_row = row;
30     }
31
32     std::string to_str() const
33     {
34         std::stringstream ss;
35         ss << "pawn@"
36         << m_col << m_row;
37         return ss.str();
38     }
39
40     private:
41         char m_col;
42         int m_row;
43     };
44 }
```

```
1 // polymorphic function!
2 void move_piece( Piece* p,
3                   char col, int row )
4 {
5     using namespace std;
6     cout << p->to_str() << " to ";
7     p->move( row, col );
8     cout << p->to_str() << endl;
9 }
10
11 int main( void )
12 {
13     Pawn pawn( 'a', 2 );
14     move_piece( &pawn, 'a', 3 );
15     Rook rook( 'h', 1 );
16     move_piece( &rook, 'h', 5 );
17     return 0;
18 }
```



## 1.6. Revisiting Composition vs. Generalization

Composition is a form of inheritance where one class contains objects of another class as members. This allows for more complex relationships between classes than simple inheritance. Composition is often used to implement parts-of relationships, where a part is a component of a whole.

Generalization is a form of inheritance where a general class is derived from a specific class. This allows for code reuse and polymorphism. Generalization is often used to implement is-a relationships, where a specific class is a type of a general class.

The main difference between composition and generalization is that composition creates a whole-part relationship, while generalization creates a is-a relationship. Composition is also typically implemented using pointers or references, while generalization is typically implemented using inheritance.

Both composition and generalization have their own advantages and disadvantages. Composition can be more flexible than generalization, but it can also be less efficient. Generalization can be more efficient than composition, but it can also be less flexible.

In conclusion, both composition and generalization are important concepts in C++ inheritance. They allow for complex relationships between classes and can be used to implement various design patterns. The choice between them depends on the specific requirements of the application.

```

1  class Position
2  {
3      public:
4          Position( char col, int row )
5              : m_col(col), m_row(row)
6          { }
7
8          char get_col() const
9          {
10             return m_col;
11         }
12
13         int get_row() const
14         {
15             return m_row;
16         }
17
18         void move( char col, int row )
19         {
20             m_col = col;
21             m_row = row;
22         }
23
24         std::string to_str() const
25         {
26             std::stringstream ss;
27             ss << m_col << m_row;
28             return ss.str();
29         }
30
31     private:
32         char m_col;
33         int m_row;
34     };

```

```

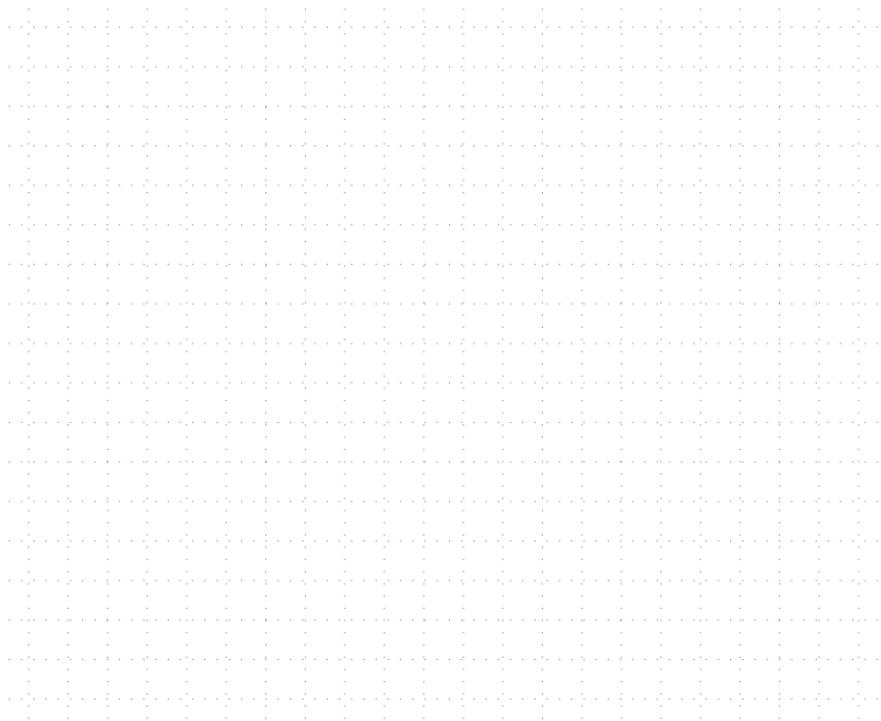
1  class Pawn : public IPiece
2  {
3      public:
4          Pawn( char col, int row )
5              : m_pos(col, row)
6          { }
7
8          ~Pawn()
9          { }
10
11         char get_col() const
12         {
13             return m_pos.get_col();
14         }
15
16         int get_row() const
17         {
18             return m_pos.get_row();
19         }
20
21         void move( char col, int row )
22         {
23             int curr_col = m_pos.get_col();
24             int curr_row = m_pos.get_row();
25             if ( (col != curr_col)
26                  || (row != (curr_row + 1)) )
27                 throw std::invalid_argument();
28
29             m_pos.move( col, row );
30         }
31
32         std::string to_str() const
33         {
34             std::stringstream ss;
35             ss << "pawn@" << m_pos.to_str();
36             return ss.str();
37         }
38
39     private:
40         Position m_pos;
41     };

```

## 2. List Using Dynamic Polymorphism

- So far our list data structure can only store ints
- If we want a list of doubles → copy-and-paste
- If we want a list of complex numbers → copy-and-paste
- We have no way to store elements of different types in a list
- We can use dynamic polymorphism to create a polymorphic list

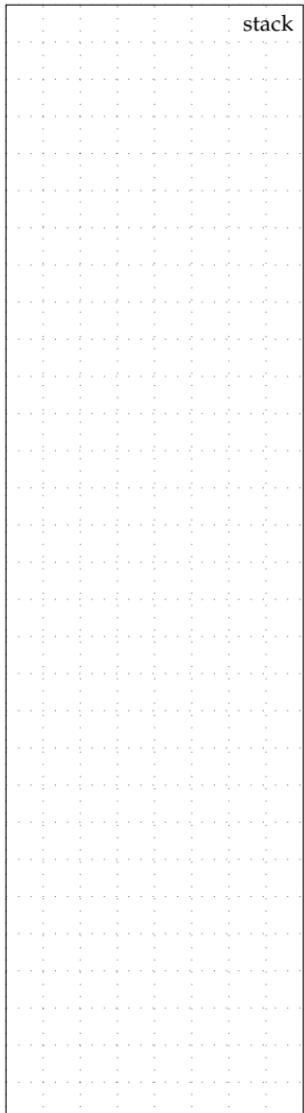
### 2.1. Class Hierarchy for Objects



```
1  class IObject
2  {
3      public:
4
5      virtual ~IObject()
6      { };
7
8      virtual IObject* clone() const = 0;
9      virtual std::string to_str() const = 0;
10     virtual bool eq( const IObject& rhs ) const = 0;
11     virtual bool lt( const IObject& rhs ) const = 0;
12
13 };
14
15 bool operator==( const IObject& lhs, const IObject& rhs )
16 {
17     return lhs.eq(rhs);
18 }
19
20 bool operator!=( const IObject& lhs, const IObject& rhs )
21 {
22     return !lhs.eq(rhs);
23 }
24
25 bool operator<( const IObject& lhs, const IObject& rhs )
26 {
27     return lhs.lt(rhs);
28 }
```

```
1  class Integer : public IObject
2  {
3      public:
4          Integer() : m_data(0) { }
5          Integer( int data ) : m_data(data) { }
6          Integer( const Integer& x ) : m_data(x.m_data) { }
7          ~Integer() { }
8
9      Integer* clone() const
10     {
11         return new Integer( *this );
12     }
13
14     std::string to_str() const
15     {
16         std::stringstream ss;
17         ss << m_data;
18         return ss.str();
19     }
20
21     bool eq( const IObject& rhs ) const
22     {
23         const Integer* rhs_p = dynamic_cast<const Integer*>( &rhs );
24         if ( rhs_p == nullptr )
25             return false;
26         else
27             return ( m_data == rhs_p->m_data );
28     }
29
30     bool lt( const IObject& rhs ) const
31     {
32         const Integer* rhs_p = dynamic_cast<const Integer*>( &rhs );
33         if ( rhs_p == nullptr )
34             return false;
35         else
36             return ( m_data < rhs_p->m_data );
37     }
38
39     private:
40         int m_data;
41     };
}
```

```
1 int main( void )  
2 {  
3     Integer a(2);  
4     Integer b(3);  
5     bool c = ( a == b );  
6     return 0;  
7 }
```



## 2.2. Basic List Interface and Implementation

- Object-oriented list which stores ints

```
1 class List
2 {
3     public:
4     List();                                // constructor
5     ~List();                               // destructor
6     void push_front( int v );             // member function
7
8     struct Node                           //
9     {
10         int    value;                  // nested
11         Node* next_p;               // struct
12     };                                  // definition
13
14     Node* m_head_p;                   // member field
15 }
```

- Object-oriented list which stores IObject\* pointers

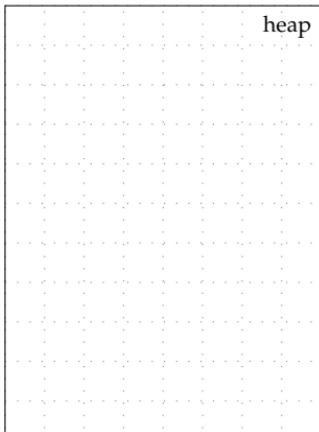
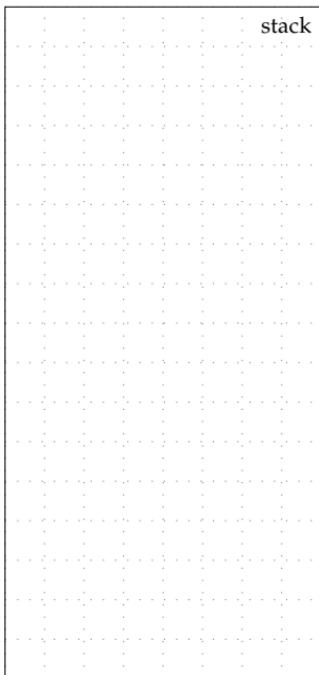
```
1 class List
2 {
3     public:
4     List();                                // constructor
5     ~List();                               // destructor
6     void push_front( const IObject& v ); // member function
7
8     struct Node                           //
9     {
10         IObject* obj_p;                // nested
11         Node*    next_p;              // struct
12     };                                  // definition
13
14     Node* m_head_p;                   // member field
15 }
```

- Implementation of member functions

```
1 List::List()
2   : m_head_p(nullptr)
3 {
4
5 List::~List()
6 {
7     Node* curr_node_p = m_head_p;
8     while( curr_node_p != nullptr ) {
9         Node* next_node_p = curr_node_p->next_p;
10        delete curr_node_p->obj_p;           // notice!
11        delete curr_node_p;
12        curr_node_p = next_node_p;
13    }
14    m_head_p = nullptr;
15 }
16
17 void List::push_front( const IObject& v )
18 {
19     Node* new_node_p   = new Node();
20     new_node_p->obj_p = v.clone();
21     new_node_p->next_p = m_head_p;
22     m_head_p          = new_node_p;
23 }
```

- Rule of threes means we also need to declare and define a copy constructor and an overloaded assignment operator

```
1 int main( void )
2 {
3     List list;
4     list.push_front( Integer(12) );
5     list.push_front( Integer(11) );
6     list.push_front( Integer(10) );
7
8     Node* node_p = list.m_head_p;
9     while ( node_p != nullptr ) {
10         int value = node_p->value;
11         printf( "%d\n", value );
12         node_p = node_p->next_p;
13     }
14
15     return 0;
16 }
```



## 2.3. Iterator-Based List Interface and Implementation

- We can use **iterators** to improve data encapsulation yet still enable the user to cleanly iterate through a sequence

```
1  class List
2  {
3      public:
4
5      class Itr
6      {
7          public:
8              Itr( Node* node_p );
9              void      next();
10             IOobject*& get();
11             bool      eq( Itr itr ) const;
12
13         private:
14             friend class List;
15             Node* m_node_p;
16         };
17
18     Itr begin();
19     Itr end();
20     ...
21
22     private:
23
24     struct Node
25     {
26         IOobject* obj_p;
27         Node*    next_p;
28     };
29
30     Node* m_head_p;
31
32 };
```

```
1 List::Itr::Itr( Node* node_p )
2   : m_node_p(node_p)
3 { }
4
5 void List::Itr::next()
6 {
7   assert( m_node_p != nullptr );
8   m_node_p = m_node_p->next_p;
9 }
10
11 IObject*& List::Itr::get()
12 {
13   assert( m_node_p != nullptr );
14   return m_node_p->obj_p;
15 }
16
17 bool List::Itr::eq( Itr itr ) const
18 {
19   return ( m_node_p == itr.m_node_p );
20 }
21
22 List::Itr List::begin() { return Itr(m_head_p); }
23 List::Itr List::end()   { return Itr(nullptr); }
```

- Same overloaded operators as before

```
1 int main( void )
2 {
3     List list;
4     list.push_front( Integer(12) );
5     list.push_front( Integer(11) );
6     list.push_front( Integer(10) );
7
8     for ( IObject* obj_p : list )
9         std::cout << obj_p->to_str() << std::endl;
10
11    return 0;
12 }
```

```
1 int main( void )
2 {
3     List list;
4     list.push_front( Double(12.3) );
5     list.push_front( Double(11.2) );
6     list.push_front( Double(10.1) );
7
8     for ( IObject* obj_p : list )
9         std::cout << obj_p->to_str() << std::endl;
10
11    return 0;
12 }
```

```
1 int main( void )
2 {
3     List list;
4     list.push_front( Integer ( 12 ) );
5     list.push_front( Double ( 11.2 ) );
6     list.push_front( Complex ( 10.1, 13.5 ) );
7
8     for ( IObject* obj_p : list )
9         std::cout << obj_p->to_str() << std::endl;
10
11    return 0;
12 }
```

## 2.4. Sorting with Iterators

```
1 void List::sort()
2 {
3     for ( auto itr0 = begin(); itr0 != end(); ++itr0 ) {
4         int max = *itr0;
5         for ( auto itr1 = begin(); itr1 != itr0; ++itr1 ) {
6             if ( max < *itr1 ) {
7                 std::swap( max, *itr1 );
8             }
9         }
10        *itr0 = max;
11    }
12 }
13
14 int main( void )
15 {
16     List list0;
17     list0.push_front( Integer(12) );
18     list0.push_front( Integer(11) );
19     list0.push_front( Integer(99) );
20     list0.sort();
21
22     for ( IObject* obj_p : list0 )
23         std::cout << obj_p->to_str() << std::endl;
24
25     List list1;
26     list1.push_front( Double(12.5) );
27     list1.push_front( Double(11.5) );
28     list1.push_front( Double(99.5) );
29     list1.sort();
30
31     for ( IObject* obj_p : list1 )
32         std::cout << obj_p->to_str() << std::endl;
33
34     return 0;
35 }
```

### 3. Drawing Framework Using Dynamic Polymorphism

```
1  class Group
2  {
3      ...
4
5      void add( const Point& point )
6      {
7          assert( m_points_size < 16 );
8          m_points[m_points_size] = point; m_points_size++;
9      }
10
11     void add( const Line& line )
12     {
13         assert( m_lines_size < 16 );
14         m_lines[m_lines_size] = line; m_lines_size++;
15     }
16
17     ...
18
19     void translate( double x_offset, double y_offset )
20     {
21         for ( int i = 0; i < m_points_size; i++ )
22             m_points[i].translate( x_offset, y_offset );
23         for ( int i = 0; i < m_lines_size; i++ )
24             m_lines[i].translate( x_offset, y_offset );
25         for ( int i = 0; i < m_triangles_size; i++ )
26             m_triangles[i].translate( x_offset, y_offset );
27     }
28
29     ...
30
31     private:
32     Point    m_points[16];      int m_points_size;
33     Line     m_lines[16];      int m_lines_size;
34     Triangle m_triangles[16]; int m_triangles_size;
35 }
```

```
1  class Group
2  {
3      ...
4
5      void add( const IShape& shape )
6      {
7          m_shapes.push_back( shape );
8      }
9
10     ...
11
12     void translate( double x_offset, double y_offset )
13     {
14         for ( auto itr = m_shapes.begin();
15               itr != m_shapes.end(); itr++ )
16         {
17             IShape* shape_p = dynamic_cast<Shape*>(*itr);
18             shape->translate( x_offset, y_offset );
19         }
20     }
21
22     private:
23     List m_shapes;
24 }
```