

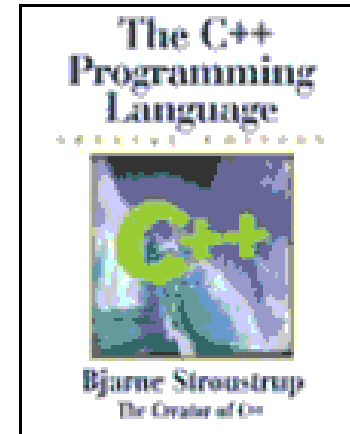
# **A Condensed Crash Course on C++**

**ECE 417/617:  
Elements of Software Engineering**

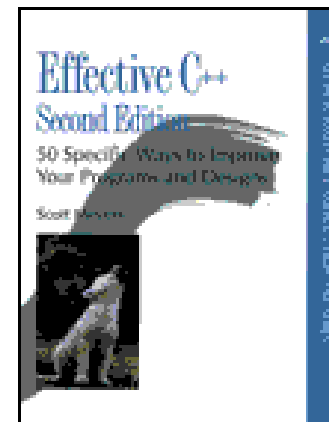
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# Recommended C++ resources

- **Bjarne Stroustrup,**  
*The C++ Programming Language*



- **Scott Meyers,**  
*Effective C++*



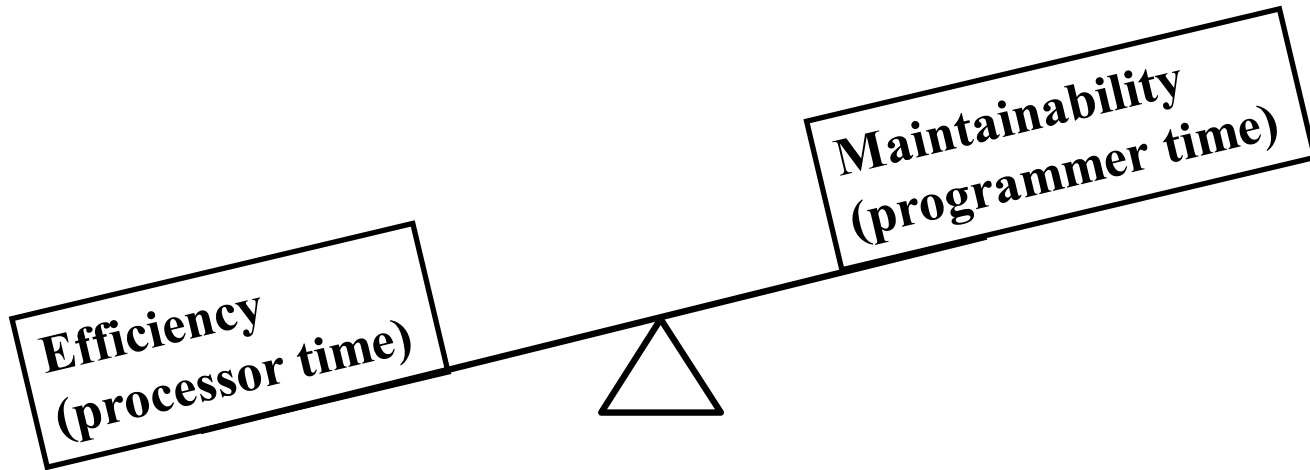
# Why C++?

- **Popular and relevant (used in nearly every application domain):**
  - end-user applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Photoshop, Acrobat, Quicken, games)
  - operating systems (Windows 9x, NT, XP; IBM's K42; some Apple OS X)
  - large-scale web servers/apps (Amazon, Google)
  - central database control (Israel's census bureau; Amadeus; Morgan-Stanley financial modeling)
  - communications (Alcatel; Nokia; 800 telephone numbers; major transmission nodes in Germany and France)
  - numerical computation / graphics (Maya)
  - device drivers under real-time constraints
- **Stable, compatible, scalable**

# C vs. C++

- **C++ is C incremented**  
(orig., “C with classes”)
- **C++ is more *expressive***  
(fewer C++ source lines needed than C source lines for same program)
- **C++ is just as *permissive***  
(anything you can do in C can also be done in C++)
- **C++ can be just as *efficient***  
(most C++ expressions need no run-time support;  
C++ allows you to
  - manipulate bits directly and interface with hardware without regard for safety or ease of comprehension, BUT
  - hide these details behind a safe, clean, elegant interface)
- **C++ is more *maintainable***  
(1000 lines of code – even brute force, spaghetti code will work;  
100,000 lines of code – need good structure, or new errors will be introduced as quickly as old errors are removed)

# Efficiency and Maintainability



**90/10 rule: 10% of your program will take 90% of the processor time to run**

**→ optimize what needs to be optimized, but no more**

**→ focus on design**

# Design goals of C++

- **Backward compatibility with C**  
(almost completely – every program in K&R is a C++ program – but additional keywords can cause problems)
- **Simplicity, elegance**  
(few built-in data types, e.g., no matrices)
- **Support for user-defined data types**  
(act like built-in types; N.B. Standard Template Library (STL))
- **No compromise in efficiency, run-time or memory**  
(unless “advanced features” used)
- **Compilation analysis to prevent accidental corruption of data**  
(type-checking and data hiding)
- **Support object-oriented style of programming**

# Compatibility with C

How is C++ *not* backward compatible with C (C89)?

C++ does not allow

- old-style C function declarations  
`void f(a) int a; {}`
- generic function declarations  
`void f();  
void g() { f(2); }`
- setting enum to int  
`enum Dir {Up, Down};  
Dir d=1;`
- multiple declarations  
`int i; int i;`
- assigning to void \*  
`int* p = malloc(10);`
- “implicit int”  
`signed a = 7;`

Other differences:

- `const` global variables have internal linkage in C++, external in C
- extra keywords in C++  
`void main()  
{ int catch = 5; }`
- **bizarre comments**  
`int f(int a, int b)  
{  
 return a/**/b  
;  
}`

(For these, C++ *is* backward compatible with C99)

# Purpose of a programming language

- **Programming languages serve two purposes:**
  - **vehicle for specifying actions to be executed “close to the machine”**
  - **set of concepts for thinking about what can be done “close to the problem being solved”**
- **Object-oriented C++ excels at both**



# Learning C++

- **Goal: Don't just learn new syntax, but become a better programmer and designer; learn new and better ways of building systems**
- **Be willing to learn C++'s style; don't force another style into it**
- **C++ supports *gradual learning***
  - Use what you know
  - As you learn new features and techniques, add those tools to your toolbox
- **C++ supports variety of *programming paradigms***

# Programming paradigms

- *procedural* – implement algorithms via functions (variables, functions, etc.)
- *modular* – partition program into modules (separate compilation)
- *object-oriented* – divide problem into classes (data hiding, inheritance)
- *abstract* – separate interface from implementation (abstract classes)
- *generic* – manipulate arbitrary data types (STL: containers, algorithms)

# What is object-oriented?

- **Encapsulation**

“black box” – internal data hidden



© SDC

- **Inheritance**

related classes share implementation  
and/or interface

- **Polymorphism**

ability to use a class without knowing its type

“C++ is an object-oriented language” =

C++ provides mechanisms that support object-oriented style of programming

# Some C++ concepts

- **constructor / destructor / copy constructor**
- **initialization list**
- **inheritance**
- **exceptions**
- **overloading operators (e.g., assignment operator)**
- **namespace**
- **const**
- **virtual function**
- **pure virtual (abstract) function**
- **friend**
- **template**
- **standard template library (STL)**
- **pass by value, pass by reference**
- **composition versus derivation**

# A simple C++ program

```
#include <iostream> // std::cout
#include <cstdio> // printf

int main()
{
    int a = 5; // 'a' is L-value
    float b = 0.9f;
    printf("Hello world %d %3.1f \n", a, b);
    std::cout << "Hello world" << a << " "
              << b << " " << std::endl;
    return 0;
}
```

# Declarations and definitions

- **Declaration:**

- `extern char c;`
- `struct User;`
- `double sqrt(double);`

→ Okay to have many

- **Definition:**

- `char c;`
- `int count = 1;`
- `double abs(double a) {`  
    `a > 0 ? a : -a;`  
    `}`

→ Must have exactly one

# Fundamental types

## INTEGRAL

- **bool** (true  $\leftrightarrow$  1, false  $\leftrightarrow$  0)
- **char** (could be signed or unsigned – implementation-defined)

## ARITHMETIC

- **int** (signed by default)
- **double**
- **void** (“pseudo-type”)

## USER-DEFINED

- **enum**
- **class**
- also **short**, **long**, **struct**, **float**, **wchar\_t**, etc.)

**Do not rely on sizes of these!**  
**(Implementation-dependent)**

# Macros

- **Dangerous:**
  - compiler never sees them  
*source code* → *translation unit*
  - global
- **Instead, use**
  - `const`
  - `inline`
  - `template`
  - `enum`
- **Ok to use for *include guards* (“header wrappers”)**
- **If you must use a macro, give it a long ugly name with lots of capital letters**

**Example:**

```
template<typename T>
inline T max(T t) {
    t > 0 ? t : -t;
}
```



# Memory allocation

- **“on the stack”**
  - block delimited by {}
  - object alive till it falls out of scope
  - calls constructor / destructor
- **“on the heap”**
  - new and delete replace malloc, calloc, free
  - object exists independently of scope in which it was created
  - also “on the free store” or “allocated in dynamic memory”
  - be careful: new → delete, new[] → delete[]
  - for safety, same object should both allocate and deallocate
- **“local static store”**

```
void foo() {  
    static int i=0;  
}
```

# Global variables

- **Built-in types initialized to 0**  
(but local variables uninitialized)
- **Initialized before main() invoked**
- **Initialization order:**
  - within translation unit, same as definition
  - between translation units, arbitrary order

file1.cpp

```
double pi = 3.14;
```

file2.cpp

```
double twopi = 2*pi;
```

**Bad!**

**No guarantee that twopi  
will be initialized correctly**

# A class

```
class Date {  
public:  
    enum Month {Jan, Feb, Mar, ...}  
    Date(int year, Month month, int day);  
member  
functions  
(methods)    int GetDay() const;  
    void SetDay(int day);  
    Date& operator+=(int days);  
private:  
member  
variables    Month m_month;  
    int m_year, m_day;  
};
```

# Struct vs. class

- **In C++, no difference b/w struct and class (except default public vs. private)**
- **In C++, struct can have**
  - member variables
  - methods
  - public, private, and protected
  - virtual functions
  - etc.
- **Rule of thumb:**
  - Use struct when member variables are public (just a container)
  - Use class otherwise

# OO in C

- In C, a struct can have both member variables and methods:

```
void CreateFoo()  
{  
}  
  
struct Foo  
{  
    void (*Construct) ();  
    int m_data;  
};  
  
int main()  
{  
    struct Foo a;  
    a.Construct = &CreateFoo;  
    a.Construct();  
}
```

- In C++, syntax is simpler:

```
struct Foo  
{  
    Foo()  
    int m_data;  
};  
  
Foo::Foo()  
{  
}  
  
int main()  
{  
    Foo a;  
}
```

# **Names**

- **Maintain consistent naming style**
  - long names for large scope
  - short names for small scope
- **Don't start with underscore; reserved for special facilities**
- **Avoid similar-looking names: l and 1**
- **Choosing good names is an art**

# Access control

- **Public**: visible to everyone
- **Private**: visible only to the implementer of this particular class
- **Protected**: visible to this class and derived classes
- **Good rule of thumb**:
  - member functions (methods):
    - if non-virtual, then **public** or **protected**
    - if virtual, then **private**
  - member variables should be **private** (except in the case of a struct)

# The big four

- **By default, each class has four methods:**
  - constructor `Date () ;`
  - destructor `~Date () ;`
  - copy constructor  
`Date (const Date& other) ;`
  - assignment operator  
`Date& operator=(const Date& other) ;`
- **These call the appropriate functions on each member variable**
- **Be careful: If this is not what you want, then either override or disallow (by making private)**



# Constructor and destructor

- (Copy) constructor creates object
- Destructor destroys (“cleans up”) object
- Be aware of *temporary objects*

```
class Matrix {  
    Matrix(const Matrix& other);  
    Matrix operator+(const Matrix& other) const;  
    Matrix& operator=(const Matrix& other);  
};
```

```
void foo() {  
    Matrix a, b, c, d;  
    a = b + c + d;  
}
```

**What functions get called?**

(Note: There are ways to speed this up while preserving the syntax)

# Example

Suppose we have a simple class.

```
class A {  
public:  
    A() { printf("con\n"); }  
    A(const A& other) { printf("copycon\n"); }  
    ~A() { printf("des\n"); }  
    A& operator=(const A& other) { printf("assign\n");  
        return *this;  
    }  
};
```

# Example 1

What is the output of the following program?

```
01 {
02     A a;
03     A* b = new A();
04     *b = a;
05     delete b;
06     A c = a;
07 }
02 con
03 con
04 assign
05 des
06 copycon
07 des
07 des
```

# Example 2

What is the output of the following program?

```
01 void F(const A& f, A* g, A h)
02 {
03     *g = f;
04 }

05 {
06     A a, b;
07     F( a, &b, a);
08 }
```

06 con  
06 con  
01 copycon  
03 assign  
04 des  
08 des  
08 des

# Example 3

What is the output of the following program?

```
01 A F()                                (VC++ 6.0 -- Windows)
02 {                                    03 con
03     A tmp;                            07 copycon
04     return tmp;                       05 des
05 }                                    08 des

06 {
07     A a = F();                        (g++ 3.4.3 -- Linux)
08 }
```

# **Avoid new and delete**

- **Whenever possible, avoid ‘new’ and ‘delete’**
- **Instead create object on stack**
- **Automatic destructor makes things easier**
- **No need to worry about forgetting to delete the object (memory leak) or deleting the wrong object (crash)**
- **If you must use ‘new’, then try to keep the ‘delete’ nearby**
- **This helps code maintenance – otherwise it is hard to keep track of the new/delete pairs**

# **When to use new and delete**

- **Sometimes you have to use new and delete**
- **And sometimes the pair cannot be close together**
- **Oh well**
- **The next slide shows an example where we need to break both of these rules**

# An example of new/delete

- You have a base class:  
`class Command { virtual DoSomething(); };`
- You have several derived classes:  
`class CommandAdd : public Command {};`  
`class CommandMove : public Command {};`  
`class CommandSet : public Command {};`
- You have a list of objects whose types are unknown at compile time (polymorphism):  
`std::vector<Command*> undo_list;`
- Must put pointers in list – not actual objects – because the objects may be of different sizes (among other reasons)
- Someone creates the object and puts its pointer on the list:  
`undo_list.push_back( new CommandAdd() );`
- Later the object is removed from the list and deleted:  
`Command* com = undo_list.back();`  
`undo_list.pop();`  
`com->DoSomething(); // call a virtual method`  
`delete com;`



# Initializer lists

**Assign values inside constructor:**

```
Matrix::Matrix(const Matrix& other)
{
    m_n = 0;
    m_a = 0;
}
```

**Use initializer list:**

```
Matrix::Matrix(const Matrix& other)
    : m_n(0), m_a(0)
{
}
```

# Concrete classes

- *A concrete class*
  - does a single, relatively small thing well and efficiently
  - hides data members (encapsulation)
  - provides clean interface
  - acts like a built-in type
  - is a “foundation of elegant programming” – Stroustrup
- **Don't underestimate the importance of this basic C++/OO feature!**

# Class relationships

- **OK:**
  - A calls function from B
  - A creates B
  - A has a data member of type B
- **Bad:**
  - A uses data directly from B  
(without using B's interface)
- **Even worse:**
  - A directly manipulates data in B

# Pointers, arrays, references

- **Use 0, not NULL (stronger type checking)**
- **Name of array is equivalent to pointer to initial element**
- **Access array using \* or [ ]; same efficiency with modern compiler**
- **use `std::vector`, not built-in array, when possible**
- **Reference is like a pointer**

# References

- **Reference:** alternate name for an object (alias)
- There is no null reference
- No reference to a temporary
- Syntax confusing
- Basically a const dereferenced pointer with no operations

```
int b; int &a = b;
```

(Now use 'a' as 'b')

```
int &a;
```

```
int& a = 1;
```

```
int* c = &a;
```

“get address of”  
(not a reference)

# Confusing syntax

```
int a, b;
```

```
int c = a * b;
```

```
int* d = &a;
```

```
int e = *d;
```

```
int& f = a;
```

\* means

- multiplication, *or*
- pointer, *or*
- dereference pointer

& means

- get address of, *or*
- reference

**Same symbol, different meanings!**

# Pass by X

pass  
by  
value

pass  
by  
pointer

pass  
by  
reference

```
void f(int a, int* b, int& c)
{
    // changes to a are NOT reflected outside the function
    // changes to b and c ARE reflected outside the function
}
```

```
main()
{
    int a, b, c;
    f(a, &b, c);
}
```

DOES make a copy

does NOT make a copy

PBP and PBR are *different* syntax for the *same* functionality

# Argument passing / return

- **Pass / return by value**
  - calls copy constructor
  - ok for built-in types

```
int foo(int a) { return 0; }
```
  - performance penalty for structs and classes (*temporary objects*)
- **Pass / return by reference or pointer**
  - does not call copy constructor
  - pass inputs by const reference
  - never pass inputs by “plain” reference

```
void update(int& a); update(2); // error
```
  - pass outputs by pointer

```
int x = 1; next(x); // should not change x
int x = 1; next(&x); // may change x
```
  - ok to return a ref, or const ref



# C++ function mechanisms

- **Overloaded function names**

- **Cleaner and safer**

```
print(int);  
print(float);
```

- **But beware**

```
print(int); print(int*); print(0);
```

- **Default parameters**

```
void print(int a, int b=0, int c=0);
```

- **Operator overloading**

```
Matrix& operator+=(const Matrix& other);
```

- **Implicit conversion operator**

```
operator int() const {} // converts to int
```

- **Provides convenient syntax, but potentially dangerous so use sparingly**

# Opaque pointers

- An *opaque pointer* is used to hide the internal implementation of a datatype
- Also called Pimpl (pointer to implementation) idiom, or Cheshire Cat
- Example: The *d-pointer* is the only private data member of the class and points to an instance of a struct defined in the class' implementation file

```
class Handle {  
private:  
    struct CheshireCat; // Not defined here  
    CheshireCat *smile; // Handle  
  
public:  
    Handle(); // Constructor  
    ~Handle(); // Destructor  
    // Other operations...  
};
```

```
#include "handle.h"  
  
struct Handle::CheshireCat {  
    ... // The actual implementation can be anything  
};  
  
Handle::Handle() {  
    smile = new CheshireCat;  
}  
  
Handle::~~Handle() {  
    delete smile;  
}
```

# Explicit type conversion

- **C++ casts**
  - **static\_cast** between 2 related types  
(int/float, int/enum, 2 pointers in class hierarchy)
  - **reinterpret\_cast** between 2 unrelated types  
(int/ptr, pointers to 2 unrelated classes)
  - **const\_cast** cast away constness
  - **dynamic\_cast** used for polymorphic types  
Run-time type info (RTTI)
- **Avoid casts, but use these instead of C casts**
  - e.g., compiler can perform minimal checking for **static\_cast**, none for **reinterpret\_cast**

# Namespaces

- **Namespace expresses logical grouping**
- **using declaration**
  - **Don't use global using except for transition to older code**
  - **Ok in namespace for composition**
  - **Ok in function for notational convenience**
- **Namespaces are open**
- **Unnamed namespaces restrict code to local translation unit**
- **Aliases ( namespace ShortName = LongName; )**

# Const


- **Const prevents object from being modified (orig., readonly)**
- **Avoid magic numbers**  
`char a[128];`  
`const int maxn = 128;`  
`char a[maxn];`
- **Logical constness vs. physical constness**
- **Const is your friend; use it extensively and consistently**
- **can cast away constness, but be sure to use `mutable`**
- **const pointers:**
  - `const int * const ptr = &a[0]; // const ptr to a const int`
  - `int const * const ptr = &a[0]; // "`
  - `int * const p2 = &a[0]; // const ptr to an int`
  - `const int * p1 = &a[0]; // ptr to a const int`
  - `int const * p2 = &a[0]; // "`

# Assert macro

- **Assert allows the programmer to explicitly type assumptions about expected inputs and values**
- **Use assert generously; it is your friend**
- **Assert helps to catch bugs early during development**
- **Assert is removed by precompiler before final release, so no run-time penalty**
- **Use assert only to check values; do not change values!!!**

```
#include <assert.h>
int GetValue(int index)
{
    assert(index >= 0 && index < array.size());
    if (index < 0 || index >= array.size())
        return -1; // value should make sense
    return array[index];
}
```

If performance is not a concern, then it is okay to augment (but not to replace) assert with an extra check that will remain in the final version.



# Inheritance

- Subclass derived from base class
- Two classes should pass the “ISA” test:  
**derived class is a base class**

```
class Shape {  
};  
class Circle : public Shape {  
};
```

- **Class hierarchy: means of building classes incrementally, using building blocks (subclass becomes base class for someone else)**
- **Facilitates code reuse**

# Inheritance vs. composition

- **Inheritance: “is a”**

```
class Circle : public Shape {  
};
```

- **Composition: “has a”**

```
class Circle {  
private:  
    Shape m_shape;  
};
```

- **Decision should be based on commonality of interface**



# Virtual functions

- **Function of derived class is called even if you have only a pointer to the base class**

## File.h

```
class Shape
{
    virtual void Draw();
};

class Circle : public Shape
{
    virtual void Draw();
};
```

## File.cpp

```
void Func1()
{
    Circle mycirc;
    Func2(&mycirc);
}

void Func2(Shape* s)
{
    s->Draw(); // calls Circle::Draw()
}
```

# How a virtual function works

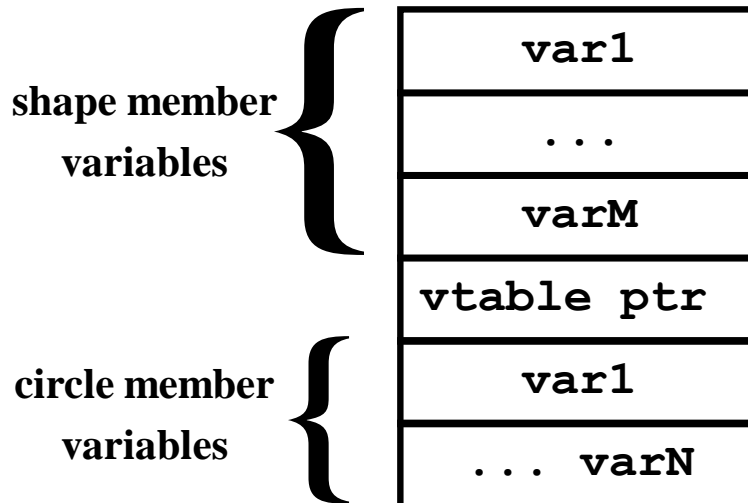
**Shape vtable**

vfunc1 addr
vfunc2 addr
...
vfuncN addr

**Circle vtable**

vfunc1 addr
vfunc2 addr
...
vfuncN addr

**mycirc**



# What is the penalty of a virtual function?

- **Space:**
  - one vtable per class with virtual function(s)
  - one pointer per instance
- **Time:**
  - one extra dereference if type not known at compile time
  - no penalty if type known at compile time (ok to `inline` a virtual function)

# Pure virtual function

- **Pure virtual function**
  - Function intentionally undefined
  - Same penalty as regular virtual function

- ***Abstract class***

```
class Shape {  
    virtual void Draw() = 0;  
};
```


- Contains at least one pure virtual function
  - Cannot instantiate; must derive from base class and override pure virtual function
  - Provides an interface (separates interface from implementation)
- **Advice: virtual functions should always be pure virtual**
  - i.e., “Make non-leaf classes abstract” (Scott Meyers, Item 29)
  - Also, “Don’t derive from concrete classes” (Herb Sutter, p. 137)
- **More advice: Make virtual functions private** (Herb Sutter, p. 134). This separates the override implementation details from the public interface.

# Multiple inheritance

- **C++ allows you to inherit from multiple base classes**
- **Works best if**
  - exactly one base class passes ISA test
  - all other base classes are interfaces
- **Advanced feature that is rarely needed**

```
class MyDialog :  
    public CDialog, Observer {};
```

 **MyDialog is a CDialog**

 **MyDialog needs a single method  
from Observer (lightweight class)  
(see MVC architecture)**

# Polymorphism

- **Polymorphism**
  - “ability to assume different forms”
  - one object acts like many different types of objects (e.g., **Shape\***)
  - getting the right behavior without knowing the type
  - manipulate objects with a common set of operations
- **Two types:**
  - **Run-time (Virtual functions)**
  - **Compile-time (Templates)**

# Exceptions

- **Error handling in C:**
  - **Half of code is error handling**
  - **Dangerous: Easy for programmer to forget to check return value**

```
void Func() {  
    int ret;  
    ret = OpenDevice();  
    if (ret != 0) error("Unable to open device");  
    ret = SetParams();  
    if (ret != 0) error("Unable to set params");  
}
```

# Exceptions (cont.)

- **Error handling in C++:**
  - try-catch blocks safer
  - separate “real code” from error handling code

```
void Func() {
    try {
        OpenDevice();
        SetParams();
    } catch (const MyException& e) {
        e.ReportToUser();
    } catch (...) {
        abort(1);
    }
}

void OpenDevice()
{
    if (bad) throw MyException("Cannot open device");
}
```



# Templates

- Define a class or function once, to work with a variety of types
- Types may not be known until future

```
template<typename T>  
T Max(T a, T b) { return a>b ? a : b; }
```

```
template<typename T>  
class Vector {  
    Vector(int n, T init_val);  
    T* m_vals;  
};
```

- Better type checking and faster (cf. `qsort`)
- *Specialization* can be used to reduce code bloat
- Templates support *generic programming*

# Generic programming

- **Drawbacks of qsort in <stdlib.h>**
  - requires a compare function, even if trivial
  - loss of efficiency b/c dereferencing pointer
  - lost type safety b/c void\*
  - only works with contiguous arrays
  - no control over construction / destruction / assignment; all swapping done by raw memory moves

# Standard Template Library (STL)

- **Containers:**
  - **Sequences**
    - **vector** – array in contiguous memory (replaces realloc)
    - **list** – doubly-linked list (insert/delete fast)
    - **deque** (“deck”) – double-ended queue
    - **stack, queue, priority queue**
  - **Associative**
    - **map** – dictionary; balanced tree of (key,value) pairs like array with non-integer indices
    - **set** – map with values ignored (only keys important)
    - **multimap, multiset** (allow duplicate keys)
  - **Other**
    - **string, basic\_string** – not necessarily contiguous
    - **valarray** – vector for numeric computation
    - **bitset** – set of N bits

# STL (cont.)

- **Algorithms (60 of them):**
  - **Nonmodifying**
    - find, search, mismatch, count, for\_each
  - **Modifying**
    - copy, transform/apply, replace, remove
  - **Others**
    - unique, reverse, random\_shuffle
    - sort, merge, partition
    - set\_union, set\_intersection, set\_difference
    - min, max, min\_element, max\_element
    - next\_permutation, prev\_permutation

# std::string

- **Example:**

```
#include <string>
```

```
void Func()
```

```
{
```

```
    std::string s, t;
```

```
    char c = 'a';
```

```
    s.push_back(c); // s is now "a";
```

```
    const char* cc = s.c_str(); // get ptr to "a"
```

```
    const char dd[] = "afaf";
```

```
    t = dd; // t is now "afaf";
```

```
    t = t + s; // append "a" to "afaf"
```

```
}
```

# std::vector

- **Example:**

```
#include <vector>
void Func()
{
    std::vector<int> v(10);
    int a0 = v[3]; // unchecked access
    int a1 = v.at(3); // checked access
    v.push_back(2); // append element to end
    v.pop_back(); // remove last element
    size_t howbig = v.size(); // get # of elements
    v.insert(v.begin()+5, 2); // insert 2 after 5th element
}
```

# std::vector (cont.)

- **Example:**

```
#include <vector>
#include <algorithm>
void Func()
{
    std::vector<int> v(10);
    v[5] = 3; // set fifth element to 3
    std::vector<int>::const_iterator it
        = std::find(v.begin(), v.end(), 3);
    bool found = it != v.end();
    if (found) {
        int three = *it;
        int indx = it - v.begin();
        int four = 4;
    }
}
```

# Iterators

- *iterator* – generalized pointer
- Each container has its own type of iterator

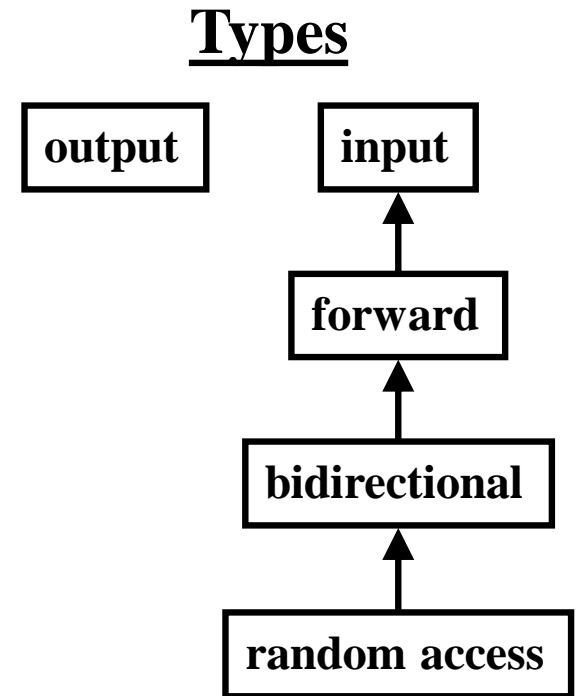
```
void Func() {  
    std::vector<int> v;  
    std::vector<int>::const_iterator it = v.begin();  
    for (it = v.begin() ; it != v.end() ; it++) {  
        int val = *it;  
    }  
}
```



# Types of iterators

```
template<class InputIterator, class Type>
InputIterator
find( InputIterator _First,
      InputIterator _Last,
      const Type& _Val );
```

- Each container provides a different type



# Allocators

- **STL written for maximum flexibility**
- **Each container has an *allocator***
- **Allocator is responsible for memory management (new/delete)**

```
template < class Type,  
           class Allocator = allocator<Type> >  
class vector {  
    ...  
};
```

- **Advice: Ignore allocators**

# Streams

- **C**
  - **flush, fprintf, fscanf, sprintf, sscanf**
  - **fgets,getc**
- **C++**
  - **cout, cin, cerr**

# Buffer overrun

- **Never use *sprintf*!**
- **Use `snprintf` instead to avoid buffer overrun**
- **Or use `std::stringstream`**

# Numerics

- **valarray**
  - **matrix and vector (not `std::vector`)**
  - **slices and gslices**
- **complex**
- **random numbers**