Dynamic Memory and Arrays

What are real-world examples of classes and abstractions?







object-oriented programming





algorithmic analysis

recursive problem-solving

object-oriented programming





dynamic memory management

linked data structures





object-oriented programming





dynamic memory management

linked data structures

algorithmic analysis

recursive problem-solving

object-oriented programming



abstract data structures (vectors, maps, etc.)

algorithmic analysis

recursive problem-solving

Roadmap





Readymade containers are great!

- You can do so much with the ADTs that you have!
 - Write code that sorts names in the U.S. census
 - Use stacks, grids to search for optimal paths in a maze
 - Generate combinations recursively using sets
- You used their interfaces.

But how are those containers implemented?

- We'll need to learn about more basic building blocks in C++: arrays, pointers.
- Tomorrow, we're building our own vector!

And what if we need custom containers / objects?

- We have to define our own classes.
- A4, you'll be building a priority queue class!

For example, Google Chrome

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Going under the hood

- We'll need to learn about more basic building blocks in C++.
- We'll need more control of memory management.

Going under the hood

Today's question

What are the fundamental building blocks of data storage provided by C++?

Today's topics

1. Review

- 2. Dynamic Allocation
- 3. Arrays
- 4. Pointers

abstraction

Design that hides the details of how something works while still allowing the user to access complex functionality

class

A class defines a new data type for our programs to use.

encapsulation

The process of grouping related information and relevant functions into one unit and defining where that information is accessible

Another way to think about classes...

- A blueprint for a new type of C++ **object**!
 - The blueprint describes a general structure, and we can create specific **instances** of our class using this structure.

Definition

instance

When we create an object that is our new type, we call this creating an instance of our class.

A class is a type that you define

- Every class has two parts:
 - an interface specifying what operations can be performed on instances of the class (this defines the abstraction boundary)
 - an **implementation** specifying how those operations are to be performed
- The only difference between structs + classes are the **encapsulation** defaults.
 - A struct defaults to **public** members (accessible outside the struct itself).
 - A class defaults to **private** members (accessible only inside the class implementation).

Three main parts

- Member variables
 - These are the variables stored within the class
 - Usually not accessible outside the class implementation
- Member functions (methods)
 - Functions you can call on the object
 - E.g. vec.add(), vec.size(), vec.remove(), etc.
- Constructor
 - Gets called when you create the object
 - o E.g. Vector<int> vec;

How do we design a class?

We must specify the 3 parts:

- 1. Member variables: What subvariables make up this new variable type?
- 2. Member functions: *What functions can you call on a variable of this type?*
- 3. Constructor: What happens when you make a new instance of this type?

In general, classes are useful in helping us with complex programs where information can be grouped into objects.

Classes in C++

- Defining a class in C++ (typically) requires two steps:
 - Create a header file (typically suffixed with .h) describing what operations the class can perform and what internal state it needs.
 - Create an **implementation file** (typically suffixed with .cpp) that contains the implementation of the class.
- Clients of the class can then include (using the **#include** directive) the header file to use the class.

Struct vs class?

- The only difference between structs + classes are the **encapsulation** defaults.
 - A struct defaults to **public** members (accessible outside the struct itself).
 - A class defaults to **private** members (accessible only inside the class implementation).

"A struct simply *feels* like an open pile of bits with very little in the way of encapsulation or functionality."

"A class feels like a living and responsible member of society with intelligent services, a strong encapsulation barrier, and a well defined interface."

Structs vs. classes (BankAccount)

```
struct BankAccountStruct {
    string name;
    double amount;
};
```

```
};
```

double amount;

Structs vs. classes (BankAccount)

Final Takeaways

- The constructor is a specially defined method for classes that initializes the state of new objects as they are created.
 - Often accepts parameters for the initial state of the fields.
 - Special naming convention defined as ClassName ()
 - You can never directly call a constructor, but one will always be called when declaring a new instance of an object

• this

- Refers to the current instance of an object that a method is being called on
- Similar to the **self** keyword in Python and the **this** keyword in Java
- Syntax: this->memberVariable
- Common usage: In the constructor, so parameter names can match the names of the object's member variables.

RandomBag Revisited

```
#pragma once
#include "vector.h"
class RandomBag {
public:
  void add(int value);
  int removeRandom();
  int size() const;
  bool isEmpty() const;
private:
  Vector<int> elems;
};
```

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What are the fundamental building blocks of data storage provided by C++?

Getting Storage Space

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• The **Vector**, **Stack**, **Queue**, etc. all need storage space to put the elements that they store.
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- That storage space is acquired using **dynamic memory allocation**.

• Essentially:

- You can, at runtime, ask for extra storage space, which C++ will give to you.
- You can use that storage space however you'd like.
- You have to explicitly tell the language when you're done using the memory.

• Storage space on computers, which we often refer to as memory, is allocated in organized chunks called **arrays**

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- An array is a contiguous chunk of space in the computer's memory, split into slots, each of which can contain one piece of information
 - Contiguous means that each slot is located directly next to the others. There are no "gaps".
 - All arrays have a specific type. Their type dictates what information can be held in each slot.
 - Each slot has an "index" by which we can refer to it.

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1

2

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6

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- In two separate steps:

Type* arr; arr = new Type[size];

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- In two separate steps:

```
Type* arr;
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• Or, in the same line:

Type* arr = new Type[size];

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- Just like all other data types, pointers take up space in memory and can store specific values.
- The meaning of these values is what's important. A pointer always stores a memory address, which is like the specific coordinates of where a piece of memory exists on the computer.
- Thus, they quite literally "point" to another location on your computer.

Announcements

Announcements

- Midterm grades
 - Grades will be released shortly after class today via Gradescope (should receive email)
 - We want you to go through your feedback and reflect on your learning/mastery!
 - To encourage this, your section leaders will be offering mid-quarter check-in meetings
 - Meet with your SL and discuss your midterm performance, your thoughts on your mastery of the content from the first 5 weeks, your plans for the rest of the quarter, etc.
 - If you attend AND engage in thoughtful discussion you earn back ¹/₃ the missed points.
 - To participate: submit a brief reflection (2-3 sentences is fine) on areas you want to focus on to the "Midterm Check-In" assignment on Paperless. Then use the IG Scheduling feature to sign up for time slot with your SL.
- Assignment 3 is due Tuesday, July 19 at 11:59pm with a 24-hour grace.
- Final Project Proposal due Sunday, July 24 at 11:59 pm.
- Weekly announcements will be posted tonight.

Dynamic Allocation Example

int main() {

int numValues = getInteger("How many lines? "); string* arr = new string[numValues]; for (int i = 0; i < numValues; i++) {</pre> arr[i] = getLine("Enter a string: "); for (int i = 0; i < numValues; i++) {</pre> cout << i << ": " << arr[i] << endl; }

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Arrays

- Arrays are allocated with a **fixed size that you can't** subsequently change.
- Even though arrays have a fixed size, **C++ does not make** that size available to the programmer.
 - As a result, programs that work with arrays typically need an additional variable to keep track of the number of elements.
- When we use arrays to build classes, you use pointers and new to allocate and keep track of the memory
- C++ performs **no built-in bounds-checking t**o ensure that the elements you select are actually present in the array.

Attendance ticket: <u>https://tinyurl.com/whylearnarray</u>

Please don't send this link to students who are not here. It's on your honor!

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- The array you get from **new[]** is **fixed-size**: it can neither grow nor shrink once it's created.
 - The programmer's version of "conservation of mass."
- The array you get from **new[]** has **no bounds-checking.** Walking off the beginning or end of an array triggers *undefined behavior*.

0

- C++¹ What are potential examples of "undefined behavior" that could occur if you access beyond the bounds of an array? (select all that apply)
 - shrir Nothing happens
 - You get a random (garbage) value back
 - Your program crashes
 - The
begiYou make your computer vulnerable to a hacker
takeover
 - You make the front page of the New York Times

licity.

ff the

A brief interlude for some ethics + real world consequences...



There has been a pressurced decline in the percentage of eligible Americana who are regiatered to vote, a research group

Nationally, the percentage of eligible Americans who are registered is estimated to be-78.3-percent, down 1.2 points. from the 1994 Murl -The group's study concluded

reports.

that in many of the 30 states where final figures are available the decline was argong

Livermore Laboratory in Livermore, Calif., one of the sites affected by the intrusion. "The cost is going to be alaggering."

Chillerd Stall, a computer security expert at Harvard University, added: "There is not one sustem manager who is not leaving his hair out. It's causing enormous headaches."

The affected computer's carry a tremendous variety of business and research information among

screen. Of it could systematically destroy data in the company's ture discovered, this test is not mel. memory. In this case, the virus program did nothing more than reproduce itself rapidly. The program was apparently a result of an experiment, which

Continued on Page A21, Exturne 2

gram might cause a provocative

but otherwise harmiest message

to appear on the computer's

contractors to use consultants in performing work for the Pencagon, the work must directly benefit the military if it is to be paid for by the Defense Department, Often, Pentagon investiga-

Broader Look at Consultants

The Justice Department's continuing criminal investigation has focused altention on consultants and their role in the designing and selling of weapons, and the Defense Department has been criticized for using consultants too freely. New the Pennagon's own inves-


How to take down the internet (in 1988)

- 1. Many programs were not "memory-safe" back then.
 - a. Programs would let you access memory on the computer that you shouldn't have access to
- 2. Find an array/buffer that lets you access memory you shouldn't have access to.

Buffer overflow example



- 3. Inject some malicious code right after that array.
 - a. The computer will get tricked into running the code.
- 4. Accidentally add a bug that eats up all of the memory on each host computer.
- 5. Crash the entire internet.

The Morris Internet Worm source code

This disk contains the complete source code of the Morris Internet worm program. This tiny, 99-line program brought large pieces of the Internet to a standstill on November 2nd, 1988.

The worm was the first of many intrusive programs that use the Internet to spread.



"Responsible" Hacking

- The story of Robert Morris and his Internet Worm illustrates the core dilemma at the heart of security research
- Identifying and exposing security vulnerabilities is very important!
- Exposing security vulnerabilities in an irresponsible manner can result in devastating damages (monetary, physical, etc.)
- Responsible Disclosure: a vulnerability disclosure model in which a vulnerability or an issue is disclosed only after a period of time that allows for the vulnerability or issue to be patched or mended.

Back to our regularly scheduled programming...

Memory from the Stack vs. Heap

Memory from the Stack vs. Heap

Vector<string> varOnStack;

- Until today, all variables we've created get defined on the **stack**
- This is called static memory allocation
- Variables on the stack are stored directly to the memory and access to this memory is very fast
- We don't have to worry about memory management

Memory from the Stack vs. Heap

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string* arr = new string[numValues];

- We can now request memory from the heap
- This is **dynamic** memory allocation
- We have more control over variables on the heap
- But this means that we also have to handle the memory we're using carefully and properly clean it up when done

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 - Memory allocation is the process by which the computer hands you a piece of computer memory in which you can store data.
 - Memory deallocation is the process by which control of this memory (data storage location) is relinquished back to the computer

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- When declaring local variables or parameters, C++ will automatically handle memory allocation and deallocation for you.
- When using **new**, you are responsible for deallocating the memory you allocate.
- If you don't, you get a **memory leak**. Your program will never be able to use that memory again.
 - Too many leaks can cause a program to crash it's important to not leak memory!

• You can deallocate (free) memory with the **delete**[] operator:

```
delete[] arr;
```

- This destroys the array pointed to by the given pointer, not the pointer itself.
 - You can think of this operation as relinquishing control over the memory back to the computer.



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arr is now a **dangling pointer**. We can re-assign it to point somewhere else, but if we try to read from it or write to it, very bad, bad things will happen!

Takeaways

- You can create arrays of a fixed size at runtime by using **new[]**.
- C++ arrays don't know their lengths and have no bounds-checking. With great power comes great responsibility.
- You are responsible for freeing any memory you explicitly allocate by calling delete[].
- Once you've deleted the memory pointed at by a pointer, you have a dangling pointer and shouldn't read or write from it.



Dynamic Memory and Arrays

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Dynamic Memory and Arrays

- We've learned about **classes**, which have an **interface** and **implementation**.
- When implementing classes at the *lowest level of abstraction*, we need to use **dynamic memory** as a fundamental building block for specifying how much memory something needs.
 - We use the keyword **new** to allocate dynamic memory.
 - We keep track of that memory with a **pointer**. (more on pointers next week!)
 - We must clean up the memory when we're done with **delete**.

Dynamic Memory and Arrays

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- When implementing classes at the *lowest level of abstraction*, we need to use **dynamic memory** as a fundamental building block for specifying how much memory something needs.
 - We use the keyword **new** to allocate dynamic memory.
 - We keep track of that memory with a **pointer**. (more on pointers next week!)
 - We must clean up the memory when we're done with **delete**.
- So far, we've learned how to allocate dynamic memory using **arrays**, which give us a contiguous block of memory that all stores one particular type (int, string, double, etc.).

What's next?

Get ready to build a vector!

Arrays vs. Vectors

- Arrays are a very necessary tool to use if we want to actually store information in a structured way in a program.
- Vectors are a great abstraction, providing helpful methods and a clean interface that other programmers can use to solve interesting problems.
- Idea: Let's use a dynamically allocated array as the underlying method of data storage for a Vector class. Best of both worlds!

Implementing a Dynamic ADT



