

# C++ Workshop — Day 2 out of 5

## Object-Orientation

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2015–2021  
January 27, 2021

# Outline

- 1 Smart Pointers: Part I
  - (Raw) Pointers
  - Shared Pointers
  - 0/1 Container is Optional

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- Rationale for inheritance
- Abstract vs Concrete
- Definitions + playing with words
- Subclassing

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- Conclusion
- Shared Pointers with Class Hierarchy

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# Dynamic Allocation & Deallocation

From C to C++:

---

```
C    circle* c = (circle*)malloc(1 * sizeof(circle));  
    or: circle* c; init_circle(c, 1, 6, 64);
```

```
C++  circle* c = new circle{1, 6, 64};
```

---

```
C    free(c);
```

```
C++  delete c;
```

---

```
C    int* buf = (int*)malloc(n * sizeof(int));
```

```
C++  int* buf = new int[n];
```

---

```
C    free(buf);
```

```
C++  delete[] buf;
```

---

Memory management is not easy.



# Why Pointers?

- Pointers in C are a powerful means to play with memory  
`*p++ = a;`
- Pointers are an important means to refer to another place  
`p = &a; /*...*/ p = &b;`
- Pointers are 0/1 containers  
`if (p != nullptr) p->run();`
- Pointers manage dynamically allocated memory  
`p = new int[n];`

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`p = new int[n];`

Wrong!

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  - Forget about pointer arithmetic

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- Pointers are 0/1 containers
  - `nullptr` for empty (Forget about 0 and NULL)
  - Unclear ownership
  - C++17 promotes `std::optional` instead

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  - `nullptr` for empty (Forget about 0 and NULL)
  - Unclear ownership
  - C++17 promotes `std::optional` instead
- Pointers manage dynamically allocated memory
  - `new` “returns” a pointer / Clearly an owning pointer
  - However, in C++ we prefer value semantics
  - So this should be seldom used?

# Runtime Polymorphism

- We use pointers to get a “uniform handle” to objects
- But then again, what about ownership?
  - point to (or “reference to”)  
vs
  - hold some `new`'d object
- Note that many OO languages offer *only* reference semantics
  - So everything is actually a pointer
  - Java, C#, etc.
  - And a Garbage Collector (GC) deals with the details (hopefully for the programmer)

# Runtime Polymorphism

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# Runtime Polymorphism

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- But then again, what about ownership?
  - point to (or “reference to”) do not delete it!  
vs
  - hold some `new`'d object do delete it!
- Note that many OO languages offer *only* reference semantics
  - So everything is actually a pointer
  - Java, C#, etc.
  - And a Garbage Collector (GC) deals with the details (hopefully for the programmer)

The only question is:

`delete`, or not `delete`

The only question is:

`delete`, or not `delete`

owner, or not owner

Smart pointers:

- look like pointers
- behave like pointers
- **manage ownership**
- make your programs more robust

They are so smart!

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- (Raw) Pointers
- **Shared Pointers**
- 0/1 Container is Optional

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# Pointers and Containers

```
struct phoenix
{
    void fly() const {
        std::cout << "fly" << '\n';
    }
    ~phoenix() {
        std::cout << "die!" << '\n';
    }
};

int main()
{
    using phoenix_ptr
        = const phoenix*;
    auto v
        = std::vector<phoenix_ptr>{};
    v.push_back(new phoenix{});
    v.emplace_back(new phoenix{});
    for (auto s : v)
        s->fly();
}
```

`std::vector`

- a dynamic (so resizable) array of `phoenix_ptr`
- both `emplace_back` and `push_back` mean “append” ...

The for loop reads:  
“for each `s` in `v` do”

Result:

```
fly
fly
```

# Pointers and Containers

Replacing “`const phoenix*`” by “`std::shared_ptr<const phoenix>`”:

```
int main()
{
    using phoenix_ptr
        = const phoenix*;
    auto v
        = std::vector<phoenix_ptr>{};
    v.emplace_back(new phoenix{});
    v.emplace_back(new phoenix{});
    for (auto s : v)
        s->fly();
}
```

gives:

```
fly
fly
```

```
int main()
{
    using phoenix_ptr
        = std::shared_ptr<const phoenix>;
    auto v
        = std::vector<phoenix_ptr>{};
    v.emplace_back(new phoenix{});
    v.emplace_back(new phoenix{});
    for (auto s : v)
        s->fly();
}
```

gives:

```
fly
fly
die!
die!
```

# Avoid `new`, prefer `make_shared`

- `shared_ptr<Foo>{new Foo{args}}` **just don't**
  - exception unsafe
  - two allocations
  - redundancy (twice `Foo`)
  - contains a `new` without its `delete`
- `std::make_shared<Foo>(args)` **do**
  - masks an actual `new Foo{args}`
  - returns a `shared_ptr<Foo>`



# Some Sugar

Introducing `decltype`:

with :

```
struct test { void noop() { /*...*/ } };
```

```
auto p = std::make_shared<test>();  
p->noop(); // p is used just like a pointer :-)  
  
decltype(p) p2 = p; // decltype means ``type of''  
std::cout << p.get() << ' ' << p2.get() << '\n'; // same addr  
std::cout << p.use_count() << '\n'; // 2
```

`auto` is often for

`you_dont_want_to_write_a_type_because_it_is_too_long_and_or_obvious`

Both `auto` and `decltype` are great to rely on the compiler.

# What's the problem?

## Reminder:

```
class easy
{
public:
    easy();
    ~easy();
private:
    float* ptr_;
};

easy::easy()
{ // allocate a resource so...
    this->ptr_ = new float;
}

easy::~~easy()
{ // ...deallocate it!
    delete this->ptr_;
    this->ptr_ = nullptr; // safety
}
```

The call `naive(run)` makes `bug` being a copy of `run`, so we have `"bug.ptr_ == run.ptr_";` then `delete` is called **twice** on this addr with `bug.~easy()` (end of `naive`) and `run.~easy()` (end of `main`)!

```
void naive(easy bug)
{
    // nothing done so ok!
}

int main()
{
    easy run;
    naive(run);
}

// compiles but fails at run-time!!!
```

# What's the problem?

## Solution 1: with `&` and `delete`

```
class easy
{
public:
    easy();
    easy(const easy&) = delete;
    void operator=(const easy&) = delete;
    ~easy();
private:
    float* ptr_;
};

easy::easy()
{ // allocate a resource so...
    this->ptr_ = new float;
}

easy::~~easy()
{ // ...deallocate it!
    delete this->ptr_;
    this->ptr_ = nullptr; // safety
}
```

```
void naive(const easy& bug) // \o/
{
    // great, 'bug' is not a copy!
}

int main()
{
    easy run;
    naive(run);
}

// compiles and runs
```

# What's the problem?

## Solution 2: *shallow copy* with `std::shared_ptr`

```
class easy
{
public:
    easy() {
        ptr_ = std::make_shared<float>();
    }
    easy(const easy&) = default;
    easy& operator=(const easy&) = default;
    ~easy() = default;
private:
    std::shared_ptr<float> ptr_;
};
```

```
void naive(easy bug) // copy
{
    // ptr_ is shared between
    // 'run' and 'bug'
}

int main()
{
    easy run;
    naive(run);
}

// compiles and runs
```

The smart pointers do the work :-)

# What's the problem?

## Solution 3: *deep copy*

```
class easy
{
public:
    easy() = default;
    easy(const easy& that)
        // deep copy => get() is mandatory
        : ptr_{std::make_shared<float>(
            *that.ptr_.get())}
    {}
    void operator=(const easy&) = delete;
    ~easy() = default;
private:
    std::shared_ptr<float> ptr_;
};
```

```
void naive(easy bug) // copy
{
    // So ptr_ is *not* shared between
    // 'run' and 'bug'!!!
}

int main()
{
    easy run;
    naive(run);
}

// compiles and runs
```

An unsatisfactory solution: we should have use `std::unique_ptr`

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# 'std::optional' (C++17)

```
// in <cstdlib>
namespace std {
    int atoi(const char* str); // converts a string to an int
}
```

```
auto i = std::atoi("0"); //
auto j = std::atoi("Pastis 51");
```

What's the problem?

```
namespace my {
    int atoi(const std::string& s, bool& ok) // this is my::atoi
    {
        int i;
        std::istringstream{s} >> i;
        ok = std::to_string(i) == s;
        return i;
    }
}
```

What's the problem?

# 'std::optional'

```
namespace my
{
    std::optional<int> atoi(const std::string& s)
    {
        int i;
        std::istringstream{s} >> i;
        if (std::to_string(i) == s)
            return i;
        return {}; // default is ``no object''
                  // or use std::nullopt
    }
}
```

## Usage:

```
auto i = my::atoi("51");
if (i) // or i.has_value()
    std::cout << i.value() << std::endl; // what's printed?

auto s = "51";
auto j = my::atoi(s).value_or(0); // ;-)
```



# 'std::optional'

Forget:

```
class car { // ...
private:
    wheel* spare_; // nullptr or addr of 1 object
    // ...
};
```

this version is better:

```
class car { // ...
private:
    std::shared_ptr<wheel> spare_; // nullptr or 1 shared object
    // ...
};
```

or this one, with a different semantics:

```
class car { // ...
private:
    std::optional<wheel> spare_; // 0 or 1 (copyable) object, not a ptr
    // ...
};
```

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# After day 1

We have

- a toy `circle` class
- nice features (encapsulation / information hiding)

We want rectangles!

→ we want to **extend** our program (to add some new feature).

We would like to *ensure* that:

- extending does not lead to *modify* code  
→ adding = a **non-intrusive** process
- we do not break the “type-safe” property  
→ a new type (`rectangle`) is not really an unknown type!

# Program features

Expected features:

- both circles and rectangles can be translated (moved)
- both circles and rectangles can be printed

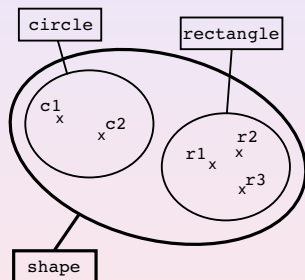
So we want to handle *shapes*:

- circles and rectangles are shapes
- a circle is a shape / a rectangle is a shape
- shapes can be translated and printed
- a shape is either a circle or a rectangle

# Think this way, please

Consider that:

- a type (class) is like a mathematical set
- an instance (object) is like an element



`r2` is a rectangle  $\equiv$  `r2` is an element belonging to the set `rectangle`  
 $\equiv$  `r2` is an instance of the class `rectangle`  
 $\Rightarrow$  `r2` is also a `shape`

# Conclusion

There is a shape **module** in our program:

- sub-modules are *particular* kinds of shapes
- this module can be extended with new sub-modules (what about triangles?)
- such an extension should be non-intrusive

The 3 notions “sub-module / subset / sub-class” are strongly related.

There is a **type** (“shape”) to represent shapes:

- our context is a language with some kind of typing
- “good” typing leads to “good” programs
- compiler is our best friend  
Be honest to your friends. . . When you lie, they get revenge!

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# Definitions

An **abstract class**...

- is a class that represents an abstraction
- cannot be instantiated
- has at least one abstract method

An **abstract method** is...

- a method whose code cannot be given
- a method that is just declared (in an abstract class)
- a method that will be defined in some other classes (all the concrete sub-classes of the abstract class)

A **concrete class** is...

- a class that does not represent an abstraction  
thus not an abstract class!
- a class that can be instantiated
- a class with no abstract method
- (*piece of advice: a class which is not a “superset”, which has no “subclass”*)

# Abstractions

shape is an **abstraction** for both circle and rectangle;  
shape is an abstract type that represents several **concrete** types.

The code invoked by `shape::print` depends on which actual object we have to print; a circle? a rectangle? At that point we do not know.

However:

- an abstract class can have attributes
  - a shape have a center located at  $(x, y)$
- an abstract class can provide methods with their definitions
  - attributes  $\Rightarrow$  a constructor
  - `shape::translate` can be written

# Shape as a C++ abstract class (1/3)

```
class shape
{
public:                                     // 1
    shape(float x, float y);             // 2
    virtual ~shape() {}                  // 3
    void translate(float dx, float dy);  // 4
    virtual void print() const = 0;      // 5
protected:                                // 6
    float x_, y_;                         // 7
};
```

- 1 shape has an interface  
a public accessibility area
- 2 a constructor  
initializing attributes is a safe behavior
- 3 a destructor  
just write it (no explanations here sorry...)
- 4 a translation method  
it will be defined in `shape.cc`
- 5 a printing method (abstract)  
just to say that we want to *print* shapes
- 6 a “protected” accessibility area  
details are given later...
- 7 a couple of hidden attributes  
so they are suffixed by `_`

## Shape as a C++ abstract class (2/3)

To make a method abstract in C++, its declaration

- starts with “`virtual`”
- ends with “`= 0`”

Calling `print` on a shape is then valid:

```
#include "shape.hh"

shape* s = // ...
s->print(); // OK
           // conforms to the declaration of 'shape::print'
```

We are just *unable* to code `shape::print` (so it is abstract).

## Shape as a C++ abstract class (3/3)

In `shape.cc` nothing to be surprised about:

```
#include "shape.hh"

shape::shape(float x, float y)
  : x_{x}, y_{y}
{}

void shape::translate(float dx, float dy)
{
  x_ += dx; // i.e., this->x_ += dx;
  y_ += dy;
}
```

An abstract class looks like a concrete one.

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The “**is-a**” relationship between classes is known as **sub-classing** (or **inheritance**).

A circle “*is-a*” shape so:

- circle is a *sub-class* of shape  
shape is a *super-class* of circle
- circle *inherits* from shape

We also say that:

- circle derives from shape  
circle is a *derived class* of shape / shape is a *base class* for circle
- circle extends shape

# Class Hierarchy

A set of classes related by the “is-a” relationship is called a **class hierarchy**.

- usually a tree
- depicted upside-down  
(superclasses at the top, subclasses at the bottom)

Practicing:

OK:

- a rabbit is-an animal
- a wine is-a drink
- a tulip is-a flower
- (as an exercise find more examples)

OK as anti-examples:

- a guinea pig is-not-a pig
- a piece of cake is-not-a cake
- a program is-not-a language
- (find more)



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# Circle as a C++ subclass

```
8  #include "shape.hh" // 8
9  class circle : public shape // 9
10 {
11 public: // 10
12     circle(float x, float y, float r); // 11
13     void print() const override; // 12
14 private:
15     float r_; // 13
16 };
```

8 knowing the base class of `circle` is required

9 the sub-class relationship is translated by “: `public`”

10 “`public:`” starts the class interface

11 a constructor

12 a `print` definition, tagged with the “`override`” keyword.

13 a single attribute in a private area

# When “inheritance” makes sense (1/4)

Actually the class `circle` has *really* inherited from `shape`:

- the `translate` method
- the couple of attributes `x_` and `y_`

except that it is *implicit*

so

- a `circle` can be translated
- `circle` has *three* attributes

indeed: `sizeof(circle) == 3 * sizeof(float) + sizeof(void*)`  
(the '`void*`' is related to type identification...)

## When “inheritance” makes sense (2/4)

If inheritance were explicit in the class body, we **would** have:

```
class circle : public shape
{
public:
    circle(float x, float y, float r);
    void print() const override;
    void translate(float dx, float dy); // inherited!
private:
    float r_;
protected:
    float x_, y_; // inherited!
};
```

so you do not write such code...

## Circle as a C++ subclass (3/4)

In circle.cc:

```
#include "circle.hh"
#include <cassert>

circle::circle(float x, float y, float r)
    : shape{x, y}, r_{r}
{
    assert(r > 0.f);    // precondition
}

void circle::print() const // kwd 'override' in .hh only
{
    assert(r > 0.f);    // invariant
    std::cout << '(' << x_ << ", " << y_ << ", " << r_ << ')';
}
```

# Circle as a C++ subclass (4/4)

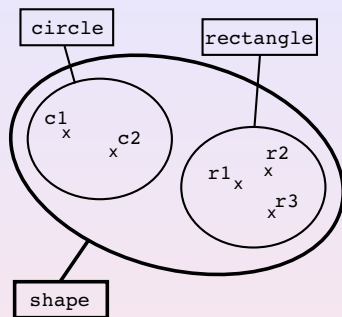
A few remarks:

- the constructor of `circle` first calls the one of `shape`  
having a new circle first means having a new shape...
- the attributes `x_` and `y_` can be accessed  
as if they were defined in the `circle` class
- the “`virtual`” keyword must not appear in source file  
only in the declaration of the method
- likewise with “`override`”  
but `override` is not a keyword!  
Yet, don't use it as a variable name, *please!*

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# Reminder



A circle is-a shape:

- ⇒ an element of the set `circle` belongs to its super-set `shape`
- = an instance of the class `circle` is an instance of the super-class `shape`



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# An object and two types

Let us take a variable that designates an object.

The **static type** of the object is the type of the variable.

Always known at *compile-time*.

The **dynamic type** of the object is its type at instantiation.

We say also “exact type”.

Usually unknown at compile-time, but known at *run-time*.

## Take a guess... (1/2)

In the following piece of code:

```
#include "shape.hh"

void foo(const shape& s)
{
    s.print(); // OK: print is declared in shape:: and is const
}
```

what is the static type of the object in `s`?

and what is its dynamic type?

Important notice:

a variable with an abstract type (such as `s`) is always a pointer or a reference.

## Take a guess... (2/2)

and with:

```
void foo(const shape& s)
{
    s.print();
}

int main()
{
    foo(circle{1,51,5});
}
```

can you answer?

Remark that we can “const reference” a temporary object!

## Valid transtyping (1/2)

Since a circle is a shape, you can write:

```
circle* c = new circle{1, 6, 64};  
shape* s = c;
```

A pointer to a shape is expected (s), you give a pointer to a circle (c); this assignment is valid.

The same goes for references (see the previous slide).

# Valid transtyping (2/2)

What you can do:

- promote constness:

```
circle* c = // init  
const circle* cc = c;
```

```
circle& c = // init  
const circle& cc = c;
```

- changing the static type from a derived class to a base class:

```
circle* c = // init  
shape* s = c;
```

```
circle& c = // init  
shape& s = c;
```

- both at the same time:

```
circle* c = // init  
const shape* s = c;
```

```
circle& c = // init  
const shape& s = c;
```

# Resolving a method call

In this program:

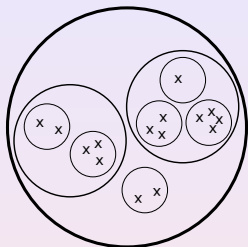
```
void foo(const shape& s) { s.print(); }

int main()
{
    foo(circle{1, 6, 64});
}
```

- which method is called by `foo`?
- which method is actually performed at run-time?
- why? (a “vtable” equips this hierarchy...)

# Quiz

In C++, how many different types for an object?



The case of C:

```
struct triangle* p;  
void* q = p;
```

```
struct shape {  
    float x, y;  
    union {  
        struct circle* c;  
        struct rectangle* r;  
    } sub;  
};
```



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# Three Kinds of Accessibility

- **public**  
accessible from everybody everywhere  
example: `circle::get_r() const`
- **private**  
only accessible from the current class  
example: `circle::r_`
- **protected**  
accessible from the current class *and* from its sub-classes  
example: `shape::x_`

These are called “access specifiers”. It’s about accessibility.

Please, don’t use the word “visibility”, it’s something else.

- Sometimes you do not want a derived class to redefine a method
- `final` allows to flag such cases
  
- Sometimes you do not want to be derived from
- `final` allows to flag such cases

Actually:

- Sometimes, you'd like to help the compiler optimize your code
- Help it know a method will not be overridden

# Final (1/2)

```
class A {  
    // ...  
    virtual void foo() = 0;  
};  
  
class B : public A {  
    // ...  
    void foo() override final; // <- final impl  
};  
  
class C : public B {  
    // ...  
    // B::foo cannot be overridden here  
};
```

Like for `virtual` and `override`, use only in declarations.

## Final (2/2)

```
class A final { // <- now the class is final
    // ...
};

class B : public A {
    // ...
    // does NOT compile because A cannot be derived from
};
```

Thus all the methods of A are `final`.

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# An exercise from the real world

Printing a page means printing every shapes of this page:

```
void print(const page& p)
{
    // for each shape s in the container returned by p.shapes()
    for (const shape& s : p.shapes())
        print(s);
}
```

How to make “print(s)” work properly?

Yes, we want a procedure / function; that's a bit dummy but it's an exercise...

```
void print(const page& p)
{
    for (const shape& s : p.shapes())
        print(s);
}

void print(const shape& s) // no conflict with the 1st print
                          // this is overloading (see tomorrow)
{
    s.print(); // dispatches = calls either circle::print,
               //                               or rectangle::print,
               //                               or...
}

```

Dispatch is only for a method call w.r.t. the dynamic type of the target  
A procedure does *not* dispatch!

→ “s.print()” dispatches; “print(s)” does *not*.



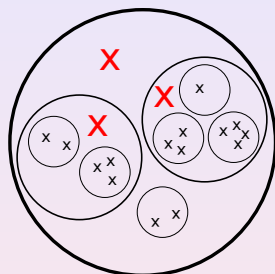
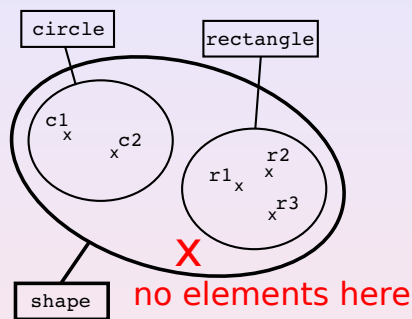
# Hint for beginners

You can avoid many problems by following this advice:

- an abstract class **can** derive from an abstract class
- a concrete class **should not** derive from a concrete class

sorry that's not argued in this material...

# Back with Sets



You can only **create** instances (elements) of leaf classes (deepest sub-sets) of the hierarchy

Object-Orientation (OO)

Object (O) + <sup>=</sup> Class hierarchies

Inheritance is just an artifact of class / set inclusion!

- Rationale: if a `shape` can give its color, then a `circle` can!
- So prefer the term **class hierarchies** over **inheritance**.

# Idioms of Special Methods with Hierarchies

```
class base // are belong to us
{
public:
    base();
    base(int b /*...*/);
    base(const base& rhs);
    base& operator=(const base& rhs);
    virtual ~base();
protected:
    int b_;
    //...
};
```

```
class derived : public base
{
public:
    derived();
    derived(int b, float d);
    derived(const derived& rhs);
    derived& operator=(const derived& rhs);
    virtual ~derived();
private:
    float d_;
    //...
};
```

# Idioms of Special Methods with Hierarchies

```
derived::derived()
: base(),
  d_(0) //...
{
  // allocate resource when needed
}

derived::derived(int b, float d)
: base(b /*...*/),
  d_(d) //...
{
  // allocate resource when needed
}

derived::derived(const derived& rhs)
: base(rhs),
  d_(rhs.d_) //...
{
  // allocate resource when needed
}
```

```
derived&
derived::operator=(const derived& rhs)
{
  if (&rhs != this)
  {
    this->base::operator=(rhs);
    this->d_ = rhs.d_; //...
  }
  return *this;
}

derived::~~derived()
{
  // resource deallocation when needed
  // warning: do NOT call base::~~base()
}
```

Again: please do not think,  
just do like that (!)

- please *strictly* follow the idioms given in the previous slide
- `this->b_`, as an attribute of base, is not processed in the special methods of derived
- each constructor of derived first calls the appropriate constructor of base
- if a class has a `virtual` method, its destructor shall be tagged `virtual`
- in the destructor body (there is one per class), do *not* call the destructor of base classes
- in constructors and destructor bodies, do *not* call on `this` any `virtual` method from the same hierarchy

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# Pointers and Containers

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>

#define PING() std::cerr << __PRETTY_FUNCTION__ << '\n'

class shape {
public:
    virtual ~shape() { PING(); }
    virtual void print() const = 0;
};

class circle : public shape {
public:
    void print() const override { PING(); }
};

class square : public shape {
public:
    void print() const override { PING(); }
};
```



# Pointers and Containers

Replacing “`const shape*`” by “`std::shared_ptr<const shape>`”:

```
int main()
{
    using shape_ptr
        = const shape*;
    auto v
        = std::vector<shape_ptr>{};
    v.emplace_back(new circle{});
    v.emplace_back(new square{});
    for (auto s : v)
        s->print();
}
```

gives:

```
virtual void circle::print() const
virtual void square::print() const
```

```
int main()
{
    using shape_ptr
        = std::shared_ptr<const shape>;
    auto v
        = std::vector<shape_ptr>{};
    v.emplace_back(
        std::make_shared<circle>());
    v.emplace_back(
        std::make_shared<square>());
    for (auto s : v)
        s->print();
}
```

gives:

```
virtual void circle::print() const
virtual void square::print() const
virtual shape::~~shape()
virtual shape::~~shape()
```

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- Use `assert` during the *development* process
  - to detect (and correct) bugs as early as possible
  - to ease and speed up the process
- In *release* process
  - a program should be robust
    - does not stop if a problem arises
  - so handling errors is not the `assert`-way
  - so you have to write specific code for that

Handling errors correctly means

- **recovering** a *coherent* and *stable* execution state
- having some transversal code in programs  
it is an “*aspect*” of your program

## About C-like error handling:

- the client has to test procedure return values and usually forgets to do so
- when an error is detected, you have to code the “unstacking” (procedure calls, and also methods in C++) process (“unwinding”) to get to where the error has to be processed...
- that is tedious...

# A simple illustration in C

without error management:

```
void baz() {  
    // ...  
    // an error happens here  
    // ...  
}  
  
void bar() {  
    // ...  
    baz();  
    // ...  
}  
  
void foo() {  
    // ...  
    bar(); // erroneous result...  
    // ...  
}
```

with error management:

```
int baz() {  
    // ...  
    if (test)  
        return -1; // err detected!  
    // ...  
}  
  
int bar() {  
    // ...  
    if (baz() == -1)  
        return -1; // unstacking...  
    // ...  
}  
  
void foo() {  
    // ...  
    if (bar() == -1) {  
        // err handling...  
    }  
    // ...  
}
```

- An **exception** is an object that represents the error.
- Such an object lives until the error has been properly processed.
- A routine that detects an error **throws** an exception  
in the previous example, it is the case for `baz`
- A routine in which an error might occur can **catch** this error to do something about it  
in the previous example, it is surely the case of `foo` but also the same for `bar`



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# Error hierarchies

An exception is an object so you (as a client) can define to describe errors:

```
#include <exception>

namespace error
{
    class any : public std::exception {};
    class math : public any {}; // abstract class

    // Concrete classes.
    class overflow : public math {};
    class zero_divide : public math {};
}
```

An `error::zero_divide` *is-an* `error::math`.

# Throwing an exception

```
float div(float x, float y)
{
    // code for handling err in dev mode:
    assert(y != 0);

    // code for handling err in release mode:
    if (y == 0)
        throw error::zero_divide(); // call to a ctor

    // code when everything is OK
    return x / y;
}
```

# Sample behavior

Consider that program:

```
void baz() {  
    // code 3  
    div(a, b); // here!  
    // code 4  
}  
  
void bar() {  
    // code 2  
    baz();  
    // code 5  
}  
  
void foo() { // called somewhere  
    // code 1  
    bar(); // if not OK, continue  
    // code 6  
}
```

If  $b \neq 0$  in baz, execution performs:

- first code 1 to code 3,
- then `div(a, b)` that works fine,
- lastly code 4 to code 6.

If  $b == 0$ , it should perform:

- first code 1 to code 3,
- `div(a, b)` that does *not* work,
- then some specific code to handle this error!
- and finally code 6 (program resumes)

# Handling error

With error handling code in “foo”:

```
void baz() {  
    // code 3  
    div(a, b); // can fail!  
    // code 4  
}
```

```
void bar() {  
    // code 2  
    baz();  
    // code 5  
}
```

```
void foo()  
{  
    try {  
        // code 1  
        bar();  
        // code 6  
    }  
    catch (...) {  
        // "... means any exception"  
        std::cerr << "bar aborted!\n";  
    }  
}
```

If no error: code 1 → code 2 → code 3 → div → code 4 → code 5 → code 6

If error: code 1 → code 2 → code 3 → div → err msg

# Recovery from error

```
void bar()
{
    data* ptr = nullptr;
    try {
        // ...
        baz();
        // ...
        ptr = new data; // dyn alloc
        // ...
        baz();
        // ...
    }
    catch (...) {
        delete ptr;
        throw;
    }
}
```

- the 2nd call to baz might fail
- in this example, some action is performed before this call (ptr allocation)
- bar *has to* perform some recovery code if an error occurs during that call (ptr deallocation)
- the `catch` code block is run when an exception has been thrown
- error handling is not completed so the caught exception is thrown again (instruction `throw;`); the error is still alive...

## Handling error (2/2)

With a more complete error handling code:

```
void baz() {
    try {
        // code 3
        div(a, b); // can fail!
        // code 4
    }
    // code Z: catch, fix and throw
}

void bar() {
    try {
        // code 2
        baz();
        // code 5
    }
    // code R: catch, fix and throw
}
```

```
void foo()
{
    try {
        // code 1
        bar();
        // code 6
    }
    catch (...) {
        // "..." means
        //         "any exception"
        std::cerr
            << "bar aborted!\n";
    }
}
```

# Selecting errors to handle

```
void foo() {  
    try {  
        // ...  
    }  
    catch (error::zero_divide) {  
        // handles such error  
    }  
    catch (error::math) {  
        // handles other math errors  
    }  
    catch (error::any) {  
        // handles non-math client errors  
    }  
    catch (std::bad_alloc) {  
        // handles an allocation ('new') that failed  
    }  
    catch (...) {  
        // handles all remaining kinds of errors  
    }  
}
```

- `catch` clauses are inspected in the order they are listed
- the appropriate `catch` clause is selected from the error type
- the corresponding code is run



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# The “real” Class

```
namespace error
{
  class problem : public any
  {
  public :
    problem(const std::string& fname,
            unsigned line,
            const std::string& msg);
    unsigned line() const;
    // ...
  private :
    std::string fname_;
    unsigned line_;
    std::string msg_;
  };
}
```

```
// in namespace error::.
std::ostream&
operator<<(std::ostream& o,
           const problem& p)
{
  o << "err in " << p.fname()
    << "at line " << p.line()
    << ": " << p.msg();
  return o;
}
```

# Using the exception object

An exception is thrown  
an object is constructed

```
void parse(const std::string& s)
{
    // ...
    throw error::problem(__FILE__,
                          __LINE__,
                          "ICE!");
    // ...
}
```

The exception is caught  
the object is inspected

```
void compile()
{
    try {
        // parse something...
    }
    catch(error::problem& pb) {
        std::cerr << pb << '\n';
        // pb is a regular object!
    }
};
```