Generalization: Intro to Inheritance

Inheritance

Generalization versus Abstraction

Using Objects of Derived Classes
Order of Constructor Execution
A Sibling Class
Assigning Derived Type to Base Type
Assigning Base Type to Derived Type
Parameter Passing Issues

Four-Fold Path to Generalization

Hierarchy
Taxonomy
Inheritance
SalariedEmployee Class w/o Inheritance
HourlyEmployee Class w/o Inheritance
What is Common?
What Do We Want?
How Do We Get It?
The Base Class: Employee
A Derived Class: HourlyEmployee
Derived Class Access Privileges
Protected Access
Logical View of an HourlyEmployee
Object
Using Objects of Derived Classes

Generalization versus Abstraction

Abstraction: simplify the description of something to those aspects that are relevant to the problem at hand.

Generalization: find and exploit the common properties in a set of abstractions.

Hierarchy
Polymorphism
Genericity
Patterns

Four-Fold Path to Generalization

Hierarchy: Exploitation of an “is-a” relationship among kinds of entities to allow related kinds to share properties and implementation.

Polyorphism: Exploitation of logical or structural similarities of organization to allow related kinds to exhibit similar behaviors via similar interfaces.

Genericity: Exploitation of logical or structural similarities of organization to produce generic objects.

Pattern: Exploitation of common relationship scenarios among objects. (e.g., client/server system)

Hierarchy

Represented by generalize/specialize graph

Based on “is-a” relationship
E.g., a Manager is an Employee; a robin is a bird, and so is an ostrich.

Is a form of knowledge representation – a “taxonomy” structures knowledge about nearby entities.

Extendable without redefining everything
E.g., knowing a robin is a bird tells me that a robin has certain properties and behaviors, assuming I know what a “bird” is.

Specialization can be added to proper subset of hierarchy
Inheritance

Terminology
- Base type or class (a.k.a. superclass)
- Derived type or class (a.k.a. subclass)

Important Aspects
- Programming: implement efficiently a set of related classes (mechanical)
- Design: organize coherently the concepts in an application domain (conceptual)
- Software Engineering: design for flexibility and extensibility in software systems (logical)

Taxonomy
A generalization/specialization hierarchy based on “is-a” relationships:

Employee
  FirstName
  LastName
  ID
Hourly Employee
  FirstName
  LastName
  ID
  Hourly Rate
Salaried Employee
  FirstName
  LastName
  ID
  Salary

SalariedEmployee Class w/o Inheritance

class SalariedEmployee {
private:
  string FName;
  string LName;
  string ID;
  double Salary;
public:
  SalariedEmployee();
  SalariedEmployee(string FN, string LN, string Ident, double S);
  string getName() const;
  string getID() const;
  void setName(string FN, string LN);
  void setID(string Ident);
  void setSalary(double Sal);
  ~SalariedEmployee();
};

Specify all the data members
Specify appropriate constructors
Specify accessors and mutators for all data members

HourlyEmployee Class w/o Inheritance

class HourlyEmployee {
private:
  string FName;
  string LName;
  string ID;
  double Rate;
  double Hours;
public:
  HourlyEmployee();
  HourlyEmployee(string FN, string LN, string ID, double R, double H);
  string getName() const;
  string getID() const;
  void setName(string FN, string LN);
  void setID(string Ident);
  double getRate() const;
  void setRate(double R);
  double getHours() const;
  void setHours(double H);
  ~HourlyEmployee();
};
Inheritance

What is Common?

Both classes contain the data members

```cpp
    string FName;
    string LName;
    string ID;
```

and the associated member functions

```cpp
    string getName() const;
    string getID() const;
    void setName(string FN, string LN);
    void setID(string Ident);
```

From a coding perspective, this is somewhat wasteful because we must duplicate the declarations and implementations in each class.

From a S/E perspective, this is undesirable since we must effectively maintain two copies of identical code.

What Do We Want?

Simply put, we want to exploit the fact that SalariedEmployee and HourlyEmployee both are Employees.

That is, each shares certain data and function members which logically belong to a more general (more basic) type which we call an Employee.

We would prefer to NOT duplicate implementation but rather to specify that each of the more specific types will automatically have certain features (data and functions) that are derived from (or inherited from) the general type.

How Do We Get It?

By employing the C++ inheritance mechanism…

Inheritance in C++ is NOT simple, either syntactically or semantically. We will examine a simple case first (based on the previous discussion) and defer explicit coverage of many specifics until later.

Inheritance in C++ involves specifying in the declaration of one class that it is derived from (or inherits from) another class.

Inheritance may be either public or private. At this time we will consider only public inheritance.

It is also possible for a class to be derived from more than one (unrelated) base class. Such multiple inheritance will be discussed later…

The Base Class: Employee

Having identified the common elements shared by both classes (HourlyEmployee and SalariedEmployee), we specify a suitable base class:

```cpp
class Employee {
    private:
        string FName;
        string LName;
        string ID;
    public:
        Employee();
        Employee(string FN, string LN, string ID);
        string getName() const;
        string getID() const;
        void setName(string FN, string LN);
        void setID(string Ident);
        ~Employee();
};
```
A Derived Class: HourlyEmployee

Specify base class:

```cpp
class HourlyEmployee : public Employee {
    double Rate;    // Additional data member not in base class
    double Hours;

    public:
        HourlyEmployee();    // Constructor
        HourlyEmployee(string FN, string LN, string ID, double R, double H);
        double getRate() const;    // Accessor
        double getHours() const;    // Accessor
        void setRate(double R);    // Mutator
        void setHours(double H);    // Mutator
        ~HourlyEmployee();    // Destructor
};
```

Specify public inheritance:

```cpp
class HourlyEmployee : public Employee {    // Specify base class
    double Rate;    // Additional data member not present in base class

    public:
        HourlyEmployee();    // Constructor
        HourlyEmployee(string FN, string LN, string ID, double R, double H);
        double getRate() const;    // Accessor
        double getHours() const;    // Accessor
        void setRate(double R);    // Mutator
        void setHours(double H);    // Mutator
        ~HourlyEmployee();    // Destructor
};
```

Specify additional data members:

```cpp
class HourlyEmployee : public Employee {
    double Rate;    // Additional data member not present in base class
    double Hours;

    public:
        HourlyEmployee();    // Constructor
        HourlyEmployee(string FN, string LN, string ID, double R, double H);
        double getRate() const;    // Accessor
        double getHours() const;    // Accessor
        void setRate(double R);    // Mutator
        void setHours(double H);    // Mutator
        ~HourlyEmployee();    // Destructor
};
```

Derived Class Access Privileges

Objects of a derived type inherit the data members and function members of the base type. However, the derived object may not directly access the private members of the base type:

```cpp
HourlyEmployee::HourlyEmployee() {
    FName = "Anonymous";    // Cannot access private member
    LName = "Person";
    ID = "000-00-0000";
    Rate = 0.0;
    Hours = 0.0;
}
```

This would be allowed:

```cpp
HourlyEmployee::HourlyEmployee() {
    setName("Anonymous", "Person");    // Corrected constructor
    setID("000-00-0000");    // Corrected constructor
    Rate = 0.0;
    Hours = 0.0;
}
```

Protected Access

The fact that derived types cannot access the private members of their base types seems to pose a dilemma. On the one hand, using only public members is unacceptable. On the other hand, the approach used in the corrected constructor on the previous slide is clumsy, at best.

C++ provides a middle-ground level of access control that allows derived types access but denies access by unrelated types.

This is specified using the keyword `protected` to specify the access restrictions for a class member:

```cpp
class Employee {    // Base class
    protected:
        string FName;    // Protected data member
        string LName;
        string ID;

    public:
        ...    // Public members
};
```

Logical View of an HourlyEmployee Object
Inheritance

### Using Objects of Derived Classes

```cpp
#include "Employee.h"
#include "HourlyEmployee.h"

void PrintEmployee(Employee toPrint, ostream& Out) {
    Out << toPrint.getID();
    Out << '	';
    Out << toPrint.getName();
    Out << '
';
}

void PrintHourlyEmployee(HourlyEmployee toPrint, ostream& Out) {
    Out.setf(ios::floatfield, ios::fixed);
    Out.setf(ios::showpoint);
    Out << toPrint.getID();
    Out << '	';
    string Name = toPrint.getName();
    Out << Name;
    Out << setw(30 - Name.length()) << setprecision(2) << toPrint.getRate();
    Out << setw(10) << setprecision(2) << toPrint.getHours();
    Out << '
';
}
```

```cpp
void main() {
    Employee Me("William", "McQuain", "999-99-9999");
    PrintEmployee(Me, cout);

    HourlyEmployee Homer("Homer", "Simpson", "000-00-0001", 13.42, 7.5);
    PrintHourlyEmployee(Homer, cout);
    PrintEmployee(Homer, cout);
}
```

Create and print a base object…

and a derived object...

This is legal. Homer is an instance of HourlyEmployee which is derived from Employee, so Homer IS-AN Employee. However, when passed, Homer is converted (sliced) and the local copy loses the additional members provided by HourlyEmployee.

Order of Constructor Execution

When an object of a derived type is declared, the default constructor for the base type will be invoked BEFORE the body of the constructor for the derived type is executed (unless an alternative action is specified...).

```cpp
HourlyEmployee::HourlyEmployee() {
    FName = "Anonymous";
    LName = "Person";
    ID = "000-00-0000";
    Rate = 0.0;
    Hours = 0.0;
}
```

Redundant: these members would be assigned the same values by the default Employee constructor anyway.

Alternatively, the derived type constructor may explicitly invoke a base type constructor:

```cpp
HourlyEmployee::HourlyEmployee() :
    Employee("Anonymous", "Hourly", "777-77-7777") {
    FName = "Anonymous";
    LName = "Person";
    ID = "000-00-0000";
    Rate = 0.0;
    Hours = 0.0;
}
```

The derived type constructor may specify parameters for the base type constructor, including parameters passed through the derived type constructor:

```cpp
HourlyEmployee::HourlyEmployee(string FN, string LN, string ID, double R, double H) :
    Employee(FN, LN, ID) {
    Rate = R;
    Hours = H;
}
```

The derived type constructor may also invoke constructors for any aggregated data members:

```cpp
HourlyEmployee::HourlyEmployee(string FN, string LN, string ID, double R, double H) :
    Employee(FN, LN, ID, Rate(R), Hours(H)) {
    // nothing left to initialize
}
```
Inheritance

Order of Constructor Execution

When an object of a derived type is declared, the default constructor for the base type will be invoked BEFORE the body of the constructor for the derived type is executed (unless an alternative action is specified…).

Redundant: these members would be assigned the same values by the default Employee constructor anyway.

Alternatively, the derived type constructor may explicitly invoke a base type constructor:

```cpp
HourlyEmployee::HourlyEmployee() : Employee("Anonymous", "Hourly", "777-77-7777") {
  FName = "Anonymous";
  LName = "Person";
  ID = "000-00-0000";
  Rate = 0.0;
  Hours = 0.0;
}
```

A Sibling Class

```cpp
class SalariedEmployee : public Employee {
  private:
    double Salary;
  public:
    SalariedEmployee();
    SalariedEmployee(string FN, string LN, string ID, double S);
    double getSalary() const;
    void setSalary(double R);
    ~SalariedEmployee();
};
```

SalariedEmployee and HourlyEmployee are both derived from the base type Employee (as forecast on slide 5).

Note that, so far as the language is concerned, SalariedEmployee and HourlyEmployee enjoy no special relationship as a result of this.

Assigning Derived Type to Base Type

By default, a derived type object may be assigned to a base type object:

```cpp
HourlyEmployee Homer("Homer", "Simpson", "000-00-0001", 13.42, 7.5);
Employee Anon;
Anon = Homer; // illegal – compile time error
```

However… the base type object will receive only the appropriate "slice" of the derived type object.

Assigning Base Type to Derived Type

By default, a base type object may not be assigned to a derived type object:

```cpp
Employee Homer("Homer", "Simpson", "000-00-0001");
HourlyEmployee Anon;
Anon = Homer; // illegal – compile time error
```

It’s possible to legalize this with the right overloading (later), but…

... some sort of action must be taken with respect to the derived type data members that have no analogs in the base type.
Parameter Passing Issues

The rules are essentially the same when passing an object as a parameter.

A derived type may be passed when a base type is expected — however, slicing will occur.

A base type may not be passed when a derived type is expected — unless a suitable copy constructor is provided to legalize the conversion.

```cpp
Employee Homer("Homer", "Simpson", "000-00-0001");
HourlyEmployee Fred("Fred", "Flintstone", "000-00-0002", 17.50, 42.5);
PrintEmployee(Fred, cout); // legal
PrintHourlyEmployee(Homer, cout); // illegal
```