11. A bit of C++

UNIVERSITÄT BERN

Roadmap

- > C++ vs C
- > C++ vs Java
- > References vs pointers
- > C++ classes: Orthodox Canonical Form
- > A quick look at STL — The Standard Template Library

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> **C++ vs C**
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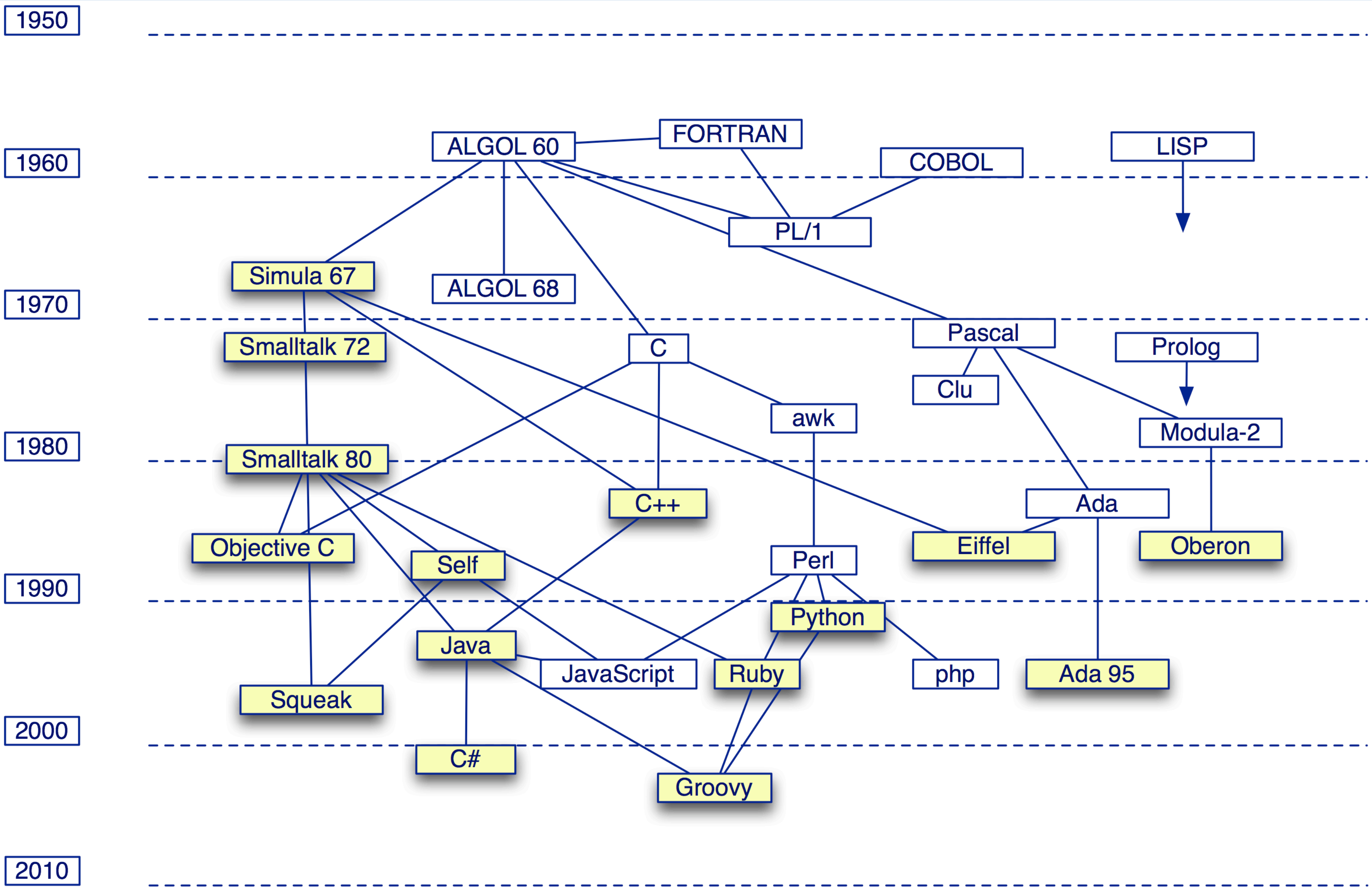
Essential C++ Texts

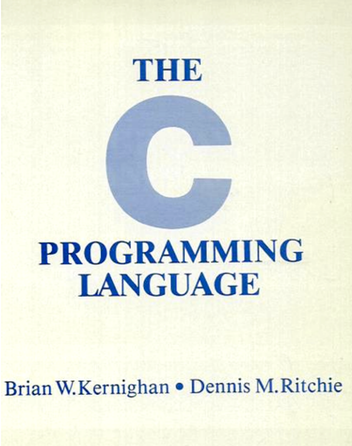
- Bjarne Stroustrup, *The C++ Programming Language* (Special Edition), Addison Wesley, 2000.
- Stanley B. Lippman and Josee LaJoie, *C++ Primer*, Third Edition, Addison-Wesley, 1998.
- Scott Meyers, *Effective C++,* 2d ed., Addison-Wesley, 1998.
- James O. Coplien, *Advanced C++: Programming Styles and Idioms*, Addison-Wesley, 1992.
- David R. Musser, Gilmer J. Derge and Atul Saini, *STL Tutorial and Reference Guide*, 2d ed., Addison-Wesley, 2000.
- Erich Gamma, Richard Helm, Ralph Johnson and John Vlissides, *Design Patterns*, Addison Wesley, Reading, MA, 1995.

Object-oriented language genealogy



What is C?

- C is a general purpose, procedural, imperative language developed in 1972 by Dennis Ritchie at Bell Labs for the Unix Operating System.
  - Low-level access to memory
  - Language constructs close to machine instructions
  - Used as a *"machine-independent assembler"*



My first C Program

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
      printf("hello, world\n");
      return 0;
}
```

A preprocessor directive

Include standard io declarations

Write to standard output

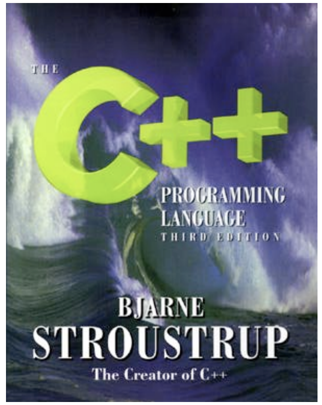
char array

Indicate correct termination

What is C++?

A *"better C"* (http://www.research.att.com/~bs/C++.html) that supports:

- Systems programming
- Object-oriented programming (*classes* & *inheritance*)
- Programming-in-the-large (*namespaces*, *exceptions*)
- Generic programming (*templates*)
- Reuse (large class & template libraries)

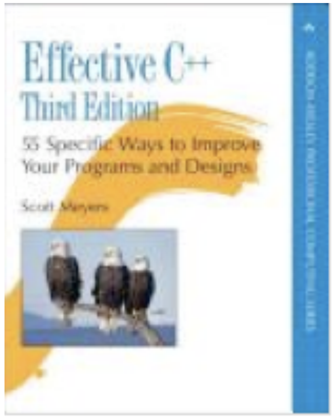


C++ vs C

Most C programs are also C++ programs.

Nevertheless, good C++ programs usually do not resemble C:

- avoid macros (use `inline`)
- avoid pointers (use references)
- avoid `malloc` and `free` (use `new` and `delete`)
- avoid arrays and `char*` (use `vectors` and `strings`) ...
- avoid `structs` (use classes)



C++ encourages a different style of programming:

- avoid procedural programming
  - *model your domain* with classes and templates

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Hello World in Java

```
package p2;
// My first Java program!
public class HelloMain {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("hello world!");
        return 0;
    }
}
```

"Hello World" in C++

Use the standard namespace

Include standard iostream classes

A C++ comment

```
using namespace std;
#include <iostream>
// My first C++ program!
int main(void)
{
  cout << "hello world!" << endl;
  return 0;
}
```

cout is an instance of ostream

operator overloading
(two *different* argument types!)

Makefiles / Managed Make in CDT

You could compile it all together by hand:

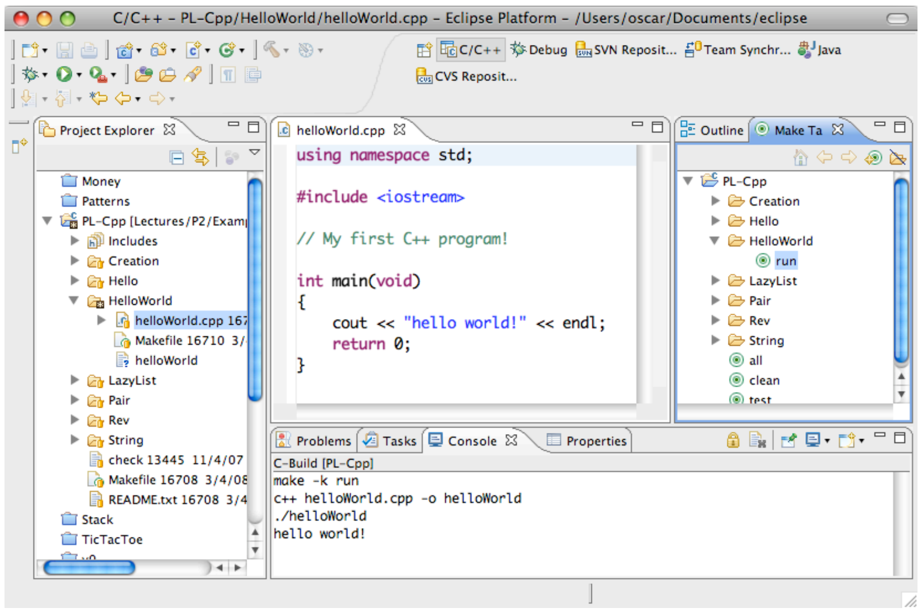
```
c++ helloWorld.cpp -o helloWorld
```

Or you could use a *Makefile* to manage dependencies:

```
helloWorld : helloWorld.cpp
	c++ $@.cpp -o $@
```

```
make helloWorld
```

Or you could use *cdt with eclipse* to create a standard managed make project



C++ Design Goals

"C with Classes" designed by Bjarne Stroustrup in early 1980s:

- Originally a translator to C
  - Initially difficult to debug and inefficient
- Mostly *upward compatible* extension of C
  - "As close to C as possible, but no closer"
  - Stronger type-checking
  - Support for object-oriented programming
- Run-time efficiency
  - Language primitives close to machine instructions
  - *Minimal cost for new features*

C++ Features

C with Classes	Classes as structs Inheritance; virtual functions Inline functions
C++ 1.0 (1985)	Strong typing; function prototypes new and delete operators
C++ 2.0	Local classes; protected members Multiple inheritance
C++ 3.0	Templates Exception handling
ANSI C++ (1998)	Namespaces RTTI (Runtime Type Information)

Java and C++ — Similarities and Extensions

Similarities:

> primitive data types (in Java, platform independent)
> syntax: control structures, exceptions ...
> classes, visibility declarations (public, private)
> multiple constructors, this, new
> types, type casting (safe in Java, not in C++)
> comments

Some Java Extensions:

> garbage collection
> standard abstract machine
> standard classes (came later to C++)
> packages (now C++ has namespaces)
> final classes
> autoboxing
> generics instead of templates

Java Simplifications of C++

- no pointers — **just references**
- no functions — can declare **`static`** methods
- no global variables — use **`public static`** variables
- no destructors — **garbage collection** and **`finalize`**
- no linking — dynamic class loading
- no header files — can define **`interface`**
- no operator overloading — only method overloading
- no member initialization lists — call **`super`** constructor
- no preprocessor — **`static final`** **constants** and automatic inlining
- no multiple inheritance — **implement multiple interfaces**
- no structs, unions, enums — **typically not needed**

New Keywords

In addition the keywords inherited from C, C++ adds:

Exceptions	`catch, throw, try`
Declarations:	`bool, class, enum, explicit, export, friend, inline, mutable, namespace, operator, private, protected, public, template, typename, using, virtual, volatile, wchar_t`
Expressions:	`and, and_eq, bitand, bitor, compl, const_cast, delete, dynamic_cast, false, new, not, not_eq, or, or_eq, reinterpret_cast, static_cast, this, true, typeid, xor, xor_eq`

***(see** http://www.glenmccl.com/glos.htm)*

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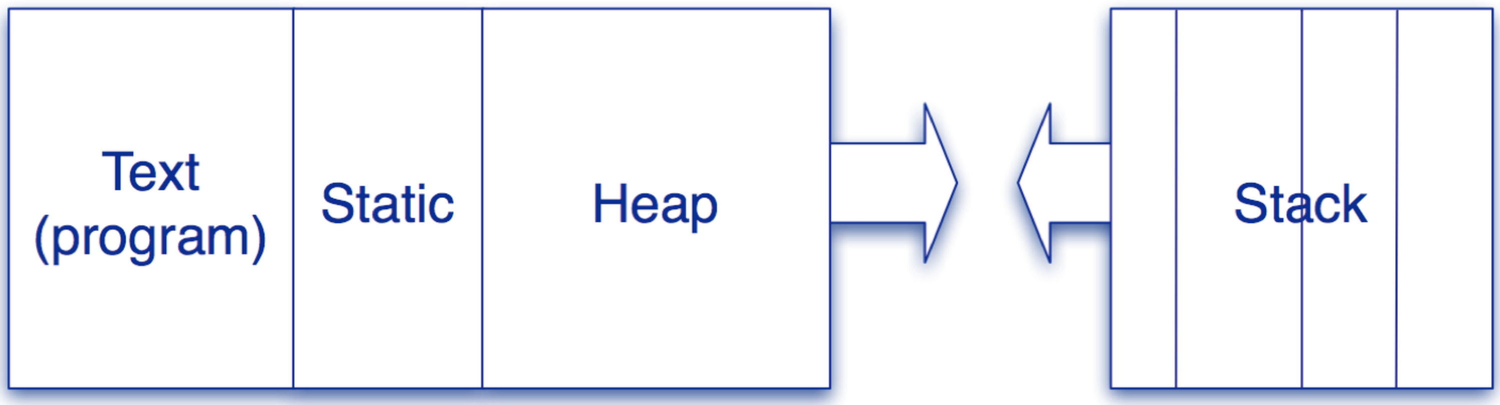
Memory Layout

The address space consists of (at least):

Text:	executable program text (not writable)
Static:	static data
Heap:	dynamically allocated global memory (grows upward)
Stack:	local memory for function calls (grows downward)



Pointers in C++

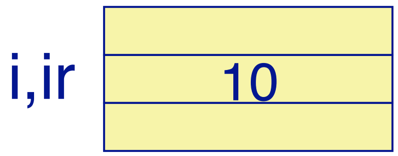
```
int i;
int *iPtr; // a pointer to an integer

iPtr = &i; // iPtr contains the address of I
*iPtr = 100;
```

variable	value	Address in hex
	...	
i	100	456FD4
iPtr	456FD4	456FD0
	...	

References

A <u>reference</u> is an ***alias*** for another variable:

```
int i = 10;
int &ir = i;    // reference (alias)
ir = ir + 1;    // increment i
```



Once initialized, references cannot be changed.

References are especially useful in ***procedure calls*** to avoid the overhead of passing arguments by value, without the clutter of explicit pointer dereferencing (y = *ptr;)

```
void refInc(int &n)
{
    n = n+1; // increment the variable n refers to
}
```

References vs Pointers

References should be preferred to pointers ***except*** *when:*

- manipulating dynamically allocated objects
  - **`new`** returns an object pointer
- a variable must range over a set of objects
  - use a **pointer** to walk through the set

C++ Classes

C++ classes may be instantiated either *automatically* (on the stack):

```
MyClass oVal;       // constructor called
                    // destroyed when scope ends
```

or *dynamically* (in the heap)

```
MyClass *oPtr;          // uninitialized pointer

oPtr = new MyClass;     // constructor called
                        // must be explicitly deleted
```

Constructors and destructors

Include standard iostream and string classes

Use initialization list in constructor

Specify cleanup in destructor

```
#include <iostream>
#include <string>

using namespace std;
class MyClass {
private:
    string name;
public:
    MyClass(string name) : name(name) {
      cout << "create " << name << endl;
    }
    ~MyClass() {
      cout << "destroy " << name << endl;
    }
};
```

Automatic and dynamic destruction

```
MyClass& start() {                       // returns a reference
    MyClass a("a");                     // automatic
    MyClass *b = new MyClass("b");      // dynamic
    return *b;                          // returns a reference (!) to b
}                                      // a goes out of scope

void finish(MyClass& b) {
    delete &b;                          // need pointer to b
}
```

```
#include "MyClass.h”
using namespace std;
int main (int argc, char **argv) {
    MyClass aClass("d");
    MyClass& bClass = aClass.start();
    aClass.finish(bClass);
    return 0;
}
```

```
create d
create a
create b
destroy a
destroy b
destroy d
```

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Orthodox Canonical Form

Most of your classes should look like this:

```
class myClass {
public:
    myClass(void);                              // default constructor
    myClass(const myClass& copy);               // copy constructor
      ...                                       // other constructors
    ~myClass(void);                             // destructor
    myClass& operator=(const myClass&);         // assignment
      ...                              // other public member functions
private:
      ...
};
```

Why OCF?

If you don't define these four member functions, *C++ will generate them:*

- ***default constructor***
  - will call default constructor for each data member
- ***destructor***
  - will call destructor of each data member
- ***copy constructor***
  - will *shallow copy* each data member
  - pointers will be copied, not the objects pointed to!
- ***assignment***
  - will *shallow copy* each data member

Example: A String Class

We would like a `String` class that protects C-style strings:

- strings are indistinguishable from `char` pointers
- string updates may cause memory to be corrupted

Strings should support:

- creation and destruction
- initialization from char arrays
- copying
- safe indexing
- safe concatenation and updating
- output
- length, and other common operations ...

A Simple String.h

```
class String
{
    friend ostream& operator<<(ostream&, const String&);
public:
    String(void);                          // default constru
    ~String(void);                         // destructor
    String(const String& copy);            // copy constructo
    String(const char*s);                  // char* constructor
    String& operator=(const String&);   // assignment

    inline int length(void) const { return ::strlen(_s); }
    char& operator[](const int n) throw(exception);
    String& operator+=(const String&) throw(exception);  // concatenation
private:
    char *_s; // invariant: _s points to a null-terminated heap string
    void become(const char*) throw(exception);    // internal copy function
};
```

Returns a reference to ostream

Operator overloading

A friend function prototype declaration of the String class

Operator overloading of =

inline

Default Constructors

Every constructor should *establish the class invariant:*

Allocate memory for the string

```
String::String(void)
{
    _s = new char[1];           // allocate a char array
    _s[0] = '\0';               // NULL terminate it!
}
```

The *default constructor* for a class is called when a new instance is declared without any initialization parameters:

```
String anEmptyString;          // call String::String()
String stringVector[10];       // call it ten times!
```

Destructors

The `String` destructor must *explicitly free* any memory allocated by that object.

```
String::~String (void)
{
   delete [] _s;
}
```

free memory

Every new must be matched somewhere by a delete!

> use `new` and `delete` for *objects*

> use `new[]` and `delete[]` for *arrays*!

Copy Constructors

Our `String` copy constructor must create a *deep copy:*

```
String::String(const String& copy)
{
   become(copy._s);             // call helper
}

void String::become(const char* s) throw (exception)
{
   _s = new char[::strlen(s) + 1];
   if (_s == 0) throw(logic_error("new failed"));
   ::strcpy(_s, s);
}
```

From std

A few remarks ...

- We **must** define a copy constructor,
  … else copies of Strings will *share the same representation!*
  - Modifying one will modify the other!
  - Destroying one will invalidate the other!

- We **must** declare `copy` as `const`,
  … else we won't be able to construct a copy of a `const String`!
  - Only const (immutable) operations are permitted on const values

- We **must** declare `copy` as `String&`, not `String`,
  … else a *new copy* will be made before it is passed to the constructor!
  - Functions arguments are always passed by value in C++
  - The "value" of a pointer is a pointer!

- **The abstraction boundary is a class**, *not an object*. Within a class, **all private members are visible** (as is `copy._s`)

Other Constructors

Class constructors may have arbitrary arguments, as long as their signatures are unique and unambiguous:

```
String::String(const char* s)
{
   become(s);
}
```

Since the argument is not modified, we can declare it as **`const`**. This will allow us to construct `String` instances from constant `char` arrays.

Assignment Operators

Assignment is different from the copy constructor because *an instance already exists:*

```
String& String::operator=(const String& copy)
{
   if (this != &copy) {       // take care!
      delete [] _s;
      become(copy._s);
   }
   return *this;                // NB: a reference, not a copy
}
```

> Return **`String&`** rather than void so the result *can be used in an expression*
> Return **`String&`** rather than `String` so the result *won't be copied!*
> **`this`** is a pseudo-variable whose value is a pointer to the current object
  — so **`*this`** is the value of the current object, which is *returned by reference*

Implicit Conversion

When an argument of the “wrong” type is passed to a function, the C++ compiler looks for a constructor that will convert it to the “right” type:

```
str = "hello world";
```

is implicitly converted to:

```
str = String("hello world");
```

NB: compare to autoboxing in Java

Operator Overloading (indexing)

Not only assignment, but other useful operators can be "overloaded" provided their signatures are unique:

```
char& String::operator[] (const int n) throw(exception)
{
   if ((n<0) || (length()<=n)) {
     throw(logic_error("array index out of bounds"));
   }
   return _s[n];
}
```

*NB: a non-const reference is returned, so can be used as an **lvalue** in an assignment.*

Overloadable Operators

The following operators may be overloaded:

+	-	*	/	%	^	&	|
-	!	,	=	<	>	<=	>=
++	--	<<	>>	==	!=	&&	||
+=	-=	/=	%=	^=	&=	|=	*=
<<=	>>=	[]	()	->	->*	new	delete

NB: arity and precedence are fixed by C++

Friends

We would like to be able to write:

```
cout << String("TESTING ... ") << endl;
```

But:

- **It can’t be a member function of `ostream`, since we can’t extend the standard library.**
- It can’t be a member function of `String` since the target is **`cout`.**
- But it must have access to `String`’s **private data**

So ... we need a binary *function* << that takes a `cout` and a `String` as arguments, and is a *`friend`* of `String`.

Friends ...

*We **declare**:*

```
class String
{
 friend ostream&
           operator<<(ostream&, const String&);
    ...
};
```

*And **define**:*

```
ostream&
operator<<(ostream& outStream, const String& s)
{
   return outStream << s._s;
}
```

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Standard Template Library

STL is a general-purpose C++ library of generic algorithms and data structures.

1. Containers store *collections of objects*
   — `vector, list, deque, set, multiset, map, multimap`
2. Iterators *traverse containers*
   — random access, bidirectional, forward/backward ...
3. Function Objects encapsulate *functions as objects*
   — arithmetic, comparison, logical, and user-defined ...
4. Algorithms implement *generic procedures*
   — `search, count, copy, random_shuffle, sort, ...`
5. Adaptors provide an *alternative interface* to a component
   — `stack, queue, reverse_iterator, ...`

An STL Line Reverser

```
#include <iostream>
#include <stack>                              // STL stacks
#include <string>                             // Standard strings

void rev(void)
{
   typedef stack<string> IOStack;    // instantiate the template
   IOStack ioStack;                 // instantiate the template class
   string buf;

   while (getline(cin, buf)) {
     ioStack.push(buf);
   }
   while (ioStack.size() != 0) {
     cout << ioStack.top() << endl;
     ioStack.pop();
   }
}
```

What we didn’t have time for ...

> virtual member functions, pure virtuals
> public, private and multiple inheritance
> default arguments, default initializers
> method overloading
> const declarations
> enumerations
> smart pointers
> static and dynamic casts
> Templates, STL
> template specialization
> namespaces
> RTTI
> ...

What you should know!

- ✎ *What new features does C++ add to C?*
- ✎ *What does Java remove from C++?*
- ✎ *How should you use C and C++ commenting styles?*
- ✎ *How does a reference differ from a pointer?*
- ✎ *When should you use pointers in C++?*
- ✎ *Where do C++ objects live in memory?*
- ✎ *What is a member initialization list?*
- ✎ *Why does C++ need destructors?*
- ✎ *What is OCF and why is it important?*
- ✎ *What's the difference between delete and delete[]?*
- ✎ *What is operator overloading?*

Can you answer these questions?

- ✎ *Why doesn't C++ support garbage collection?*
- ✎ *Why doesn't Java support multiple inheritance?*
- ✎ *What trouble can you get into with references?*
- ✎ *Why doesn't C++ just make deep copies by default?*
- ✎ *How can you declare a class without a default constructor?*
- ✎ *Why can objects of the same class access each others private members?*

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