The Big 3

Three (optional) methods for your class:
- Copy constructor: creates copies of object
  - When passing by value
  - When used in variable initializer
- Assignment operator: copies object over existing object in assignment
- Destructor: called when object goes out of scope or is deleted

C++ provides default behaviors for each of these...
(but we’ll want to override the defaults!)

Copy Constructor

Used to create a new object as a copy of another:

```cpp
foo x;
foo y(x); // copy of x
```

Or:

```cpp
foo y = x; // also uses copy
// constructor, not
// assignment operator
```

Also called when:
- Passed by value into function
- Returned (by value) from function

Assignment Operator

Used when assigning using existing objects:

```cpp
foo x, y;
x = y;
```

Destructor

Applied automatically when:
- Object goes out of scope
- Object is deleted

E.g.,

```cpp
foo *p = new foo;
delete p; // *p is deleted
```

Or

```cpp
while (true) {
  foo f;
  break;
}
// f is now out of scope
```
### Default Behavior: Copy and Assignment

Simply copies instance variables...

```cpp
class foo {
public:
  int n;
};
foo x;
x.n = 42;
foo y(x);  // y.n also now equals 42
y.n = 17;  // y.n also now equals 17
```

This is typically the behavior we want! However...

### Default Behavior with Dynamically Allocated Memory: Copy

Example:

```cpp
class number {
public:
  number(int n) { ptr = new int(n); }
private:
  int* ptr;
};
number x(42);
number y = x;
```

Problem: we only copied the pointer – x and y now "share" memory

### Default Behavior with Dynamically Allocated Memory: Copy

Example, illustrated:

- Number x(42);
- Number y = x;

What we want to happen:

- x:
  - `ptr`
  - `42`
- y:
  - `ptr`
  - `42`

y is an independent copy of x

What actually happens:

- x:
  - `ptr`
  - `42`
- y:
  - `ptr`
  - `42`

Instead, y shares x's dynamically allocated memory.

### Deep Copy

- The default behavior is called a shallow copy
- The behavior we want is called a deep copy
  - Copy memory pointed to by member pointer variables
    - Where appropriate – it isn’t always correct to do so
    - May need to allocate/reallocate
  - Copy member non-pointer variables recursively

### Default Behavior with Dynamically Allocated Memory: Assignment

Example of assignment:

```cpp
number x(42), y(17);
```

Initially:

- x:
  - `ptr`
  - `42`
- y:
  - `ptr`
  - `17`
Default Behavior with Dynamically Allocated Memory: Assignment

Example of assignment:
number x(42), y(17);
y = x;

What we expect:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>x: ptr</th>
<th>42</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>y: ptr</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

y’s dynamically allocated value is overwritten with x’s value

What actually happens:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>x: ptr</th>
<th>42</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>y: ptr</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Instead, y once again shares x’s memory. Note we just leaked y’s memory, too!

Default Behavior with Dynamically Allocated Memory: Destructor

The default destructor:
– Call destructors of each member variable
– Does nothing to primitive types (and pointers)

While this is generally appropriate, it will result in a memory leak for our number class.

Fixing the Defaults

We can override the defaults by defining our own copy constructor, destructor, and assignment operator:

```cpp
class number {
public:
    number(int n) { ptr = new int(n); }
    number(const number& num);
    ~number();
    number& operator=(const number& num);
private:
    int* ptr;
};
```

Fixing the Copy Constructor

```cpp
number::number(const number& num) {
    ptr = new int;
    *ptr = *(num.ptr);
}
```

Step 1: allocate our own memory
Step 2: copy value (not pointer!)

Note: must be passed by reference! (Why?)

Fixing the Assignment Operator

Similar to copy constructor... but different.

```cpp
number& number::operator=(const number& num) {
    if (this == &num) return *this; // self assignment
    *ptr = *(num.ptr);
    return *this;
}
```

Step 1: check for self-assignment
Step 2: allocate/de-allocate (if necessary)
Step 3: copy value
Step 4: return *this
Fixing the Destructor

Just need to clean up our memory...

```cpp
number::~number() {
    delete ptr;
}
```

Adding the "Big 3" to Array List

```cpp
class array_list {
public:
    array_list();
    int size();
    int get(int index);
    void set(int index, int val);
private:
    int* _arr;
    int _size;
    int _capacity;
    void _resize();
};
```

Array List Class + Big 3

```cpp
class array_list {
public:
    array_list();
    array_list(const array_list& lst);
    ~array_list();
    array_list& operator=(const array_list& lst);
    int size();
    int get(int index);
    void set(int index, int val);
private:
    int* _arr;
    int _size;
    int _capacity;
    void _resize();
};
```

Array List: Copy Constructor

```cpp
array_list::array_list(const array_list& src) {
    _capacity = src._capacity; // same cap.
    _size = src._size; // same size
    _arr = new int[_capacity]; // allocate
    for (int j = 0; j < _size; j++) {
        _arr[j] = src._arr[j]; // copy
    }
}
```

Array List: Assignment Operator

```cpp
array_list& array_list::operator=(const array_list& src) {
    if (this == &src) return *this; // self-assign chk
    delete[] _arr; // clean up old
    _capacity = src._capacity;
    _size = src._size;
    _arr = new int[_capacity]; // allocate
    for (int j = 0; j < _size; j++) {
        _arr[j] = src._arr[j]; // copy
    }
    return *this; // return *this
}
```
Refactoring Opportunity

```cpp
array_list& array_list::operator=(const array_list& src) {
    if (this == &src) return;
    delete[] _arr;
    _capacity = src._capacity;
    _size = src._size;
    _arr = new int[_capacity];
    for (int j = 0; j < _size; j++) {
        _arr[j] = src._arr[j];
    }
    return *this;
}
```

Array List Refactoring

```cpp
void array_list::deep_copy(const array_list& src) {
    _capacity = src._capacity;
    _size = src._size;
    _arr = new int[_capacity];
    for (int j = 0; j < _size; j++) {
        _arr[j] = src._arr[j];
    }
}
```

Array List Destructor

```cpp
array_list::~array_list() {
    delete[] _arr;
}
```

Up Next

- Wednesday, Oct. 25
  - Templates
  - Read chapter 14
- Friday, Oct. 27
  - Lab 9 (TBD)
  - APT 4 due