

References, RAI, More C++

Computer Systems Programming, Spring 2025

Instructor: Travis McGaha

Teaching Assistants:

Andrew Lukashchuk

Ashwin Alaparthi

Lobi Zhao

Angie Cao

Austin Lin

Pearl Liu

Aniket Ghorpade

Hassan Rizwan

Perrie Quek



pollev.com/tqm

❖ How are you?

Administrivia

- ❖ First Assignment (HW00 `simple_string`)
 - Was “Due” Friday 01/24
 - Extended to be due Wednesday the 28th (course selection period ends)
 - Mostly a C refresher

- ❖ Check-in 00
 - Short unlimited attempt quiz
 - Extended to be due Wednesday the 28th (course selection period ends)

- ❖ Check-in 01
 - Will be posted on Thursday or Friday

Administrivia

- ❖ Second Assignment (HW01 Vector)
 - Released! Should have everything you need
 - Due Friday 01/31
 - Implementing a simple C++ object

- ❖ Pre semester Survey
 - Anonymous
 - Due Wednesday the 28th

Lecture Outline

- ❖ **Error Reporting: Optional & Exceptions**
- ❖ Vector
- ❖ References
- ❖ C++ Classes
 - RAI
 - Copy Constructors
 - Copying

C++ Documentation

- ❖ As said, there is a LOT to C++
 - There are a lot of functions, objects, features, etc
 - We will NOT have time to talk about them all

- ❖ We highly recommend you make use of a C++ reference
 - cplusplus.com
 - Most find this one easier to read
 - Probably has the information you need
 - cppreference.com
 - Much more detailed (in Travis' opinion)
 - Is in various languages (scroll to the bottom)

Functions that sometimes fail

- ❖ It is pretty common to write functions that sometimes fail. Sometimes they don't return what is expected
- ❖ Consider we were building up a Queue data structure that held strings, that could
 - Add elements to the end of a sequence
 - `void add(string data);`
 - Remove elements from the beginning of a sequence
 - `???? remove(????);`
 - How do we design this function to handle the case where there are no strings in the queue (e.g. it errors?)

Previous ways to handle failing functions

- ❖ Return an "invalid" value: e.g. if looking for an index, return -1 if it can't be found.
 - What if there is no nice "invalid" state?

```
// what is an invalid string?  
string remove();
```

- ❖ C-style: return an error code or success/failure.
Real output returned through output param

```
bool remove(string* output);
```


Aside: Java “Object” variables

- ❖ Does this java compile?

```
public static String foo () {  
    return null;  
}
```

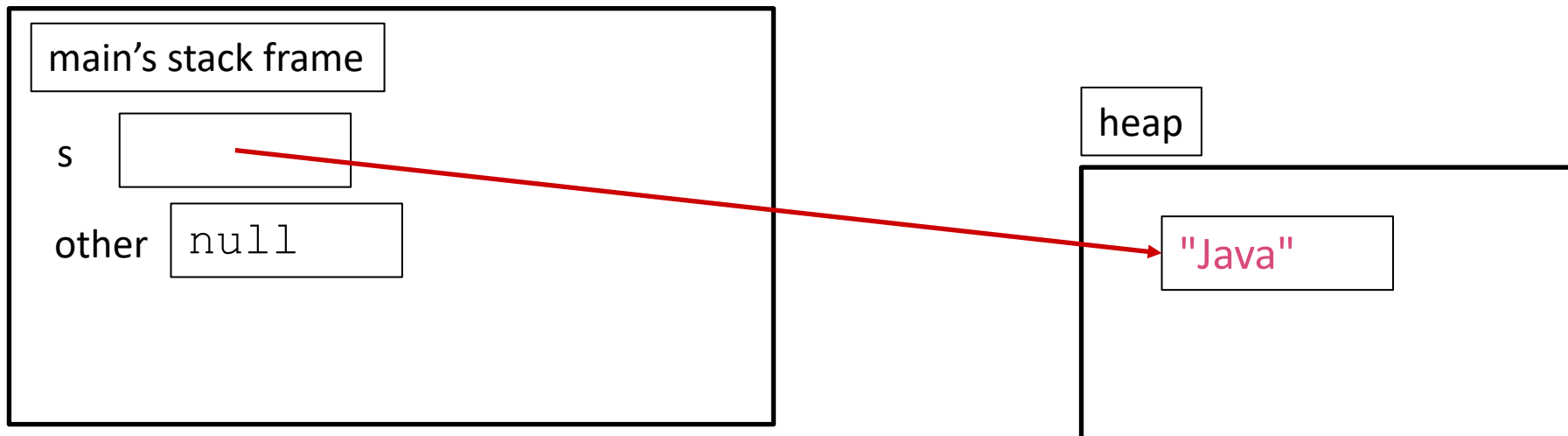
- ❖ What about this C++?

```
string foo () {  
    return nullptr;  
}
```

Aside: Java “Object” variables

- ❖ In high level languages (like java), object variables don’t actually contain an object, they contain a reference to an object.
 - References in these languages can be null

```
String s = new String("Java");  
String other = null;
```



Aside: Java “Object” variables

- ❖ In C++, a string variable is itself a string object

```
string s{"C++"};
```

// does not do what you think it does

```
string other = nullptr;
```

main's stack frame

s

"C++"

More on this idea when I
talk about pointers later

Previous ways to handle failing functions

- ❖ Return a pointer to a heap allocated object, could return `nullptr` on error
 - Uses the heap when it is otherwise unnecessary ☹️
 - Need to remember to **delete** the string

```
string* remove ();
```

```
string* remove () {  
    if (this->size () <= 0U) {  
        return nullptr;  
    }  
    ...  
    return new string (...);  
}
```

Previous ways to handle failing functions

❖ “More Modern” Style: throw an exception in the case of an error
return the value as normal

- Exceptions can make your code a bit slower
- Exception catching not always the easiest to handle
- Exceptions aren't always the best for readability:

- What exception(s) does this function throw?

```
string remove();
```

- Need to read the comment usually, easier to mess up :(

```
string remove() {  
    if (this->size() <= 0U) {  
        throw out_of_range("Error!");  
    }  
}
```

```
string result;  
try {  
    result = q.remove();  
} catch (exception err) {  
    // handle error  
}
```

std::optional

- ❖ `optional<T>` is a struct that can either:
 - Have some value `T`
(`optional<string> { "Hello!" }`)
 - Have nothing
(`nullopt`)
- ❖ `optional<T>` effectively extends the type `T` to have a "null" or "invalid" state

```
optional<string> foo() {  
    if (/* some error */) {  
        return nullopt;  
    }  
    return "It worked!";  
}
```

Using an optional

- ❖ If we call a function that returns an optional, we need to check to see if it has a value or not

```
optional<string> foo() {  
    if (/* some error */) {  
        return nullopt;  
    }  
    return "It worked!";  
}  
  
int main() {  
    auto opt = foo();  
    if (!opt.has_value()) {  
        return EXIT_FAILURE;  
    }  
    string s = opt.value();  
}
```

Lecture Outline

- ❖ Error Reporting: Optional & Exceptions
- ❖ **Vector**
- ❖ References
- ❖ C++ Classes
 - RAI
 - Copy Constructors
 - Copying

vector

C++ equivalent of ArrayList

- ❖ A generic, dynamically resizable array
 - <https://cplusplus.com/reference/vector/vector/>
 - Elements are store in contiguous memory locations
 - Can index into it like an array
 - Random access is $O(1)$ time
 - Adding/removing from the end is cheap (amortized constant time)
 - Inserting/deleting from the middle or start is expensive (linear time)
- ❖ Most common member function: **push_back ()**
 - Adds an element to the end of the vector
- ❖ **Probably the most important data structure**
 - More on this later

Vector example

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

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    vector<int> vec {6, 5, 4};
    vec.push_back(3);
    vec.push_back(2);
    vec.push_back(1);

    cout << "vec.at(0)" << endl << vec.at(0) << endl;
    cout << "vec.at(1)" << endl << vec.at(1) << endl;

    // iterates through all elements
    for (size_t i = 0; i < vec.size(); ++i) {
        cout << vec.at(i) << endl;
    }

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Most containers are in a module of the same name

Constructs a vector with three initial elements

Add three integers to the vector

Print all the values in the array

Vector iterator

```
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    vector<int> vec {6, 5, 4};

    vector<int>::iterator it = vec.begin();
    it = vec.insert(it, 3);
    ++it;
    it = vec.insert(it, 1);
    it = vec.end();
    it = vec.insert(it, 2);

    cout << "Iterating:" << endl;
    for (it = vec.begin(); it < vec.end(); ++it) {
        cout << *it << endl;
    }

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Can get an iterator to the beginning of the vector

Insert 3 // {3, 6, 5, 4}

Advances iterator to index 1

Inserts 1 to index 1 {3, 1, 6, 5, 4}

Sets iterator to the end

Same as push_back(2);

Accesses the current element of the iterator

range for loop

- ❖ Syntactic sugar similar to Java's foreach

```
for (declaration : expression) {  
    statements  
}
```

- *declaration* defines the loop variable
- *expression* is an object representing a sequence
 - Strings, and most STL containers work with this

```
string str("hello");  
// prints out each character  
for (char c : str) {  
    cout << c << endl;  
}
```

range for loop vector example

- ❖ If you need to iterate over every element in a sequence, you should use a range for loop.
 - Why? It is harder to mess it up that way

```
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    vector<int> vec {6, 5, 4};
    vec.push_back(3);
    vec.push_back(2);
    vec.push_back(1);

    // iterates through all elements
    for (int element : vec) {
        cout << element << endl;
    }

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Other vector functions

- ❖ `pop_back()`
 - Removes the last element of the vector
- ❖ `empty()`
 - Returns true if the vector is empty
- ❖ `clear()`
 - Removes all elements currently in the vector
- ❖ `erase(iterator position)`
 - Erases from the element at the specified position
- ❖ A bunch more:
 - <https://www.cplusplus.com/reference/vector/vector/>

Poll Everywhere

pollev.com/tqm

- ❖ What is the final value of vec?

5, 9, 5
 ↑
5 9 6 5 ∅

```
int main() {  
    vector<int> vec {5, 9};  
  
    vec.push_back(5);  
  
    vector<int>::iterator it = vec.begin();  
    it += 2;  
    it = vec.insert(it, 6);  
    it = vec.end();  
    it = vec.insert(it, 0);  
  
    for (int i : vec) {  
        i *= 2;  
    }  
}
```

- ❖ What is the final value of `v` by the end of the `main()` function?

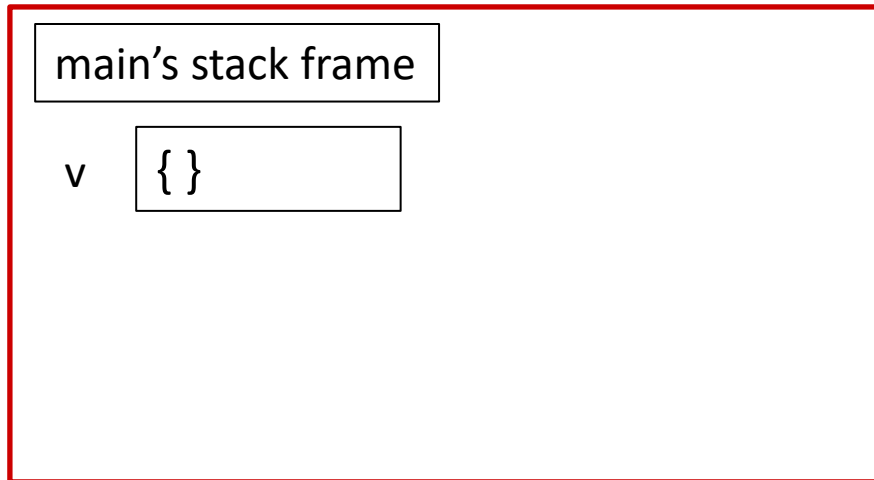
```
#include <vector>
#include <iostream>

using namespace std;

void populate_vec(vector<int> v) {
    v.push_back(5950);
}

int main() {
    vector<int> v {};
    populate_vec(v);
    cout << v.size() << endl;
    for (size_t i = 0U; i < v.size(); ++i) {
        cout << v.at(i) << endl;
    }
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```


Visualization



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

using namespace std;

void populate_vec(vector<int> v) {
    v.push_back(5950);
}

int main() {
    vector<int> v {};
    populate_vec(v);
    cout << v.size() << endl;
    // loop removed for space
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Visualization

main's stack frame

v {}

populate_vec's stack frame

v {}

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

using namespace std;

void populate_vec(vector<int> v) {
    v.push_back(5950);
}

int main() {
    vector<int> v {};
    populate_vec(v);
    cout << v.size() << endl;
    // loop removed for space
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Visualization

main's stack frame

v {}

populate_vec's stack frame

v {5950}

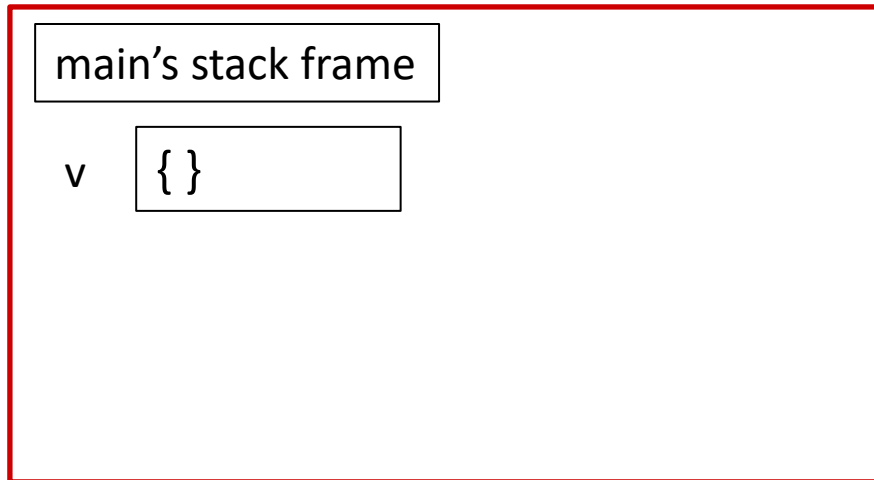
```
#include <vector>
#include <iostream>

using namespace std;

void populate_vec(vector<int> v) {
    v.push_back(5950);
}

int main() {
    vector<int> v {};
    populate_vec(v);
    cout << v.size() << endl;
    // loop removed for space
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Visualization



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

using namespace std;

void populate_vec(vector<int> v) {
    v.push_back(5950);
}

int main() {
    vector<int> v {};
    populate_vec(v);
    cout << v.size() << endl;
    // loop removed for space
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Lecture Outline

- ❖ Error Reporting: Optional & Exceptions
- ❖ Vector
- ❖ **References**
- ❖ C++ Classes
 - RAI
 - Copy Constructors
 - Copying

References

- ❖ A **reference** is an alias for another variable
 - *Alias*: another name that is bound to the aliased variable
 - Mutating a reference *is* mutating the aliased variable
 - Introduced in C++ as part of the language
- ❖ References are mostly an alternative to pointers
 - They are implemented internally with a pointer
 - But references are a lot easier to use
 - Can't do everything with references, sometimes a pointer is needed.
 - References are used a lot more often than pointers are

References

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

- ❖ A **reference** is an alias for another variable
 - *Alias*: another name that is bound to the aliased variable
 - Mutating a reference *is* mutating the aliased variable
 - Introduced in C++ as part of the language

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int x = 5, y = 10;  
    int& z = x;  
  
    z += 1;  
    x += 1;  
  
    z = y;  
    z += 1;  
  
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;  
}
```

When we use '&' in a type declaration, it is a reference.

x	5
----------	---

y	10
----------	----

References

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

- ❖ A **reference** is an alias for another variable
 - *Alias*: another name that is bound to the aliased variable
 - Mutating a reference *is* mutating the aliased variable
 - Introduced in C++ as part of the language

```

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int x = 5, y = 10;
    int& z = x; // binds the name "z" to x
    z += 1;
    x += 1;

    z = y;
    z += 1;

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
    
```

x, z	5
-------------	---

y	10
----------	----

References

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

- ❖ A **reference** is an alias for another variable
 - *Alias*: another name that is bound to the aliased variable
 - Mutating a reference *is* mutating the aliased variable
 - Introduced in C++ as part of the language

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int x = 5, y = 10;
    int& z = x; // binds the name "z" to x

    z += 1; // sets z (and x) to 6
    x += 1;

    z = y;
    z += 1;

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

x, z	6
-------------	---

y	10
----------	----

References

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

- ❖ A **reference** is an alias for another variable
 - *Alias*: another name that is bound to the aliased variable
 - Mutating a reference *is* mutating the aliased variable
 - Introduced in C++ as part of the language

```

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int x = 5, y = 10;
    int& z = x; // binds the name "z" to x

    z += 1; // sets z (and x) to 6
    x += 1; // sets x (and z) to 7

    → z = y; // Normal assignment
    z += 1;

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
    
```

x, z	7
-------------	---

y	10
----------	----

References

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

- ❖ A **reference** is an alias for another variable
 - *Alias*: another name that is bound to the aliased variable
 - Mutating a reference *is* mutating the aliased variable
 - Introduced in C++ as part of the language

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int x = 5, y = 10;  
    int& z = x; // binds the name "z" to x  
  
    z += 1; // sets z (and x) to 6  
    x += 1; // sets x (and z) to 7  
  
    z = y; // sets z (and x) to the value of y  
    z += 1;  
  
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;  
}
```

x, z	10
-------------	----

y	10
----------	----

References

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

- ❖ A **reference** is an alias for another variable
 - *Alias*: another name that is bound to the aliased variable
 - Mutating a reference *is* mutating the aliased variable
 - Introduced in C++ as part of the language

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int x = 5, y = 10;  
    int& z = x; // binds the name "z" to x  
  
    z += 1; // sets z (and x) to 6  
    x += 1; // sets x (and z) to 7  
  
    z = y; // sets z (and x) to the value of y  
    z += 1; // sets z (and x) to 11  
  
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;  
}
```

x, z	11
-------------	-----------

y	10
----------	----



Pass-By-Reference

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

- ❖ C++ allows you to use real *pass-by-reference*
 - Client passes in an argument with normal syntax
 - Function uses reference parameters with normal syntax
 - Modifying a reference parameter modifies the caller's argument!

```
void swap(int& x, int& y) {  
    int tmp = x;  
    x = y;  
    y = tmp;  
}  
  
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int a = 5, b = 10;  
    swap(a, b);  
    cout << "a: " << a << "; b: " << b << endl;  
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;  
}
```

Parameters are attached
To variables provided by caller

(main) a	5
-----------------	---

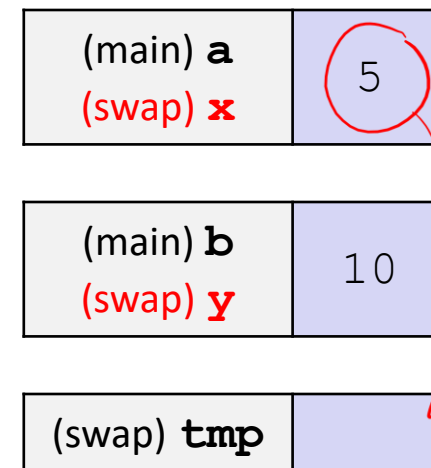
(main) b	10
-----------------	----

Pass-By-Reference

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

- ❖ C++ allows you to use real *pass-by-reference*
 - Client passes in an argument with normal syntax
 - Function uses reference parameters with normal syntax
 - Modifying a reference parameter modifies the caller's argument!

```
void swap(int& x, int& y) {  
    int tmp = x;  
    x = y;  
    y = tmp;  
}  
  
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int a = 5, b = 10;  
  
    swap(a, b);  
    cout << "a: " << a << "; b: " << b << endl;  
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;  
}
```

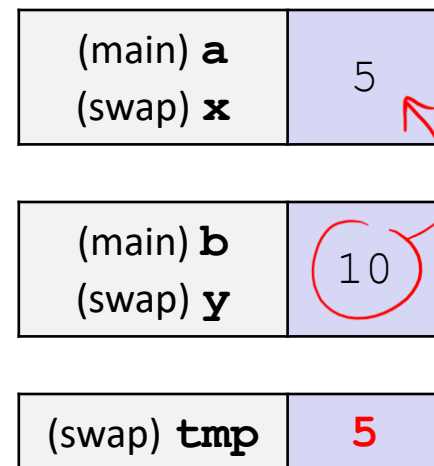


Pass-By-Reference

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

- ❖ C++ allows you to use real *pass-by-reference*
 - Client passes in an argument with normal syntax
 - Function uses reference parameters with normal syntax
 - Modifying a reference parameter modifies the caller's argument!

```
void swap(int& x, int& y) {  
    int tmp = x;  
    x = y;  
    y = tmp;  
}  
  
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int a = 5, b = 10;  
  
    swap(a, b);  
    cout << "a: " << a << "; b: " << b << endl;  
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;  
}
```



Pass-By-Reference

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

- ❖ C++ allows you to use real *pass-by-reference*
 - Client passes in an argument with normal syntax
 - Function uses reference parameters with normal syntax
 - Modifying a reference parameter modifies the caller's argument!

```
void swap(int& x, int& y) {  
    int tmp = x;  
    x = y;  
    y = tmp;  
}  
  
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int a = 5, b = 10;  
  
    swap(a, b);  
    cout << "a: " << a << "; b: " << b << endl;  
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;  
}
```

(main) a	10
(swap) x	10

(main) b	10
(swap) y	10

(swap) tmp	5
-------------------	---

Pass-By-Reference

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

- ❖ C++ allows you to use real *pass-by-reference*
 - Client passes in an argument with normal syntax
 - Function uses reference parameters with normal syntax
 - Modifying a reference parameter modifies the caller's argument!

```
void swap(int& x, int& y) {  
    int tmp = x;  
    x = y;  
    y = tmp;  
}  
  
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int a = 5, b = 10;  
  
    swap(a, b);  
    cout << "a: " << a << "; b: " << b << endl;  
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;  
}
```

(main) a	10
(swap) x	10

(main) b	5
(swap) y	5

(swap) tmp	5
-------------------	---

Pass-By-Reference

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

- ❖ C++ allows you to use real *pass-by-reference*
 - Client passes in an argument with normal syntax
 - Function uses reference parameters with normal syntax
 - Modifying a reference parameter modifies the caller's argument!

```
void swap(int& x, int& y) {  
    int tmp = x;  
    x = y;  
    y = tmp;  
}  
  
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    int a = 5, b = 10;  
  
    swap(a, b);  
    cout << "a: " << a << "; b: " << b << endl;  
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;  
}
```

(main) a	10
-----------------	----

(main) b	5
-----------------	---



Pass-By-Reference

- ❖ C++ allows you to use real *pass-by-reference*
 - Client passes in an argument with normal syntax
 - Function uses reference parameters with normal syntax
 - Modifying a reference parameter modifies the caller's argument!

- ❖ Can use on objects as well!

- ❖ Now v is actually changed"

```
void populate_vec(vector<int>& v) {  
    v.push_back(5950);  
}  
  
int main() {  
    vector<int> v {};  
    populate_vec(v);  
    cout << v.size() << endl;  
    // loop removed for space  
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;  
}
```

Pass-By-Reference

- ❖ C++ allows you to use real *pass-by-reference*
 - Client passes in an argument with normal syntax
 - Function uses reference parameters with normal syntax
 - Modifying a reference parameter modifies the caller's argument!

- ❖ Can use in range for loops as well!

- ❖ Now vector values are actually changed"

```
int main() {  
    vector<int> vec {5, 9};  
  
    for (int& i : vec) {  
        i *= 2;  
    }  
}
```

 **Poll Everywhere**pollev.com/tqm

❖ What will happen when we run this?

- A. Output "(3,3,3)"
- B. Output "(3,3,2)"
- C. Output "(3, 3, 1)"
- D. Compiler error
- E. We're lost...

```
void foo(int& x, int& y, int z) {  
    z = y;  
    x += 2;  
    y = x;  
}  
  
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {  
    int a = 1;  
    int b = 2;  
    int& c = a;  
  
    foo(a, b, c);  
    cout << "(" << a << ", " << b  
         << ", " << c << ")" << endl;  
  
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;  
}
```

Polling Question

- ❖ What will happen when we run this?

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

```
void foo(int& x, int& y, int z) {
    z = y;
    x += 2;
    y = x;
}

int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    int a = 1;
    int b = 2;
    int& c = a;

    →foo(a, b, c);
    cout << "(" << a << ", " << b
         << ", " << c << ")" << endl;

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

a, c	1
------	---

b	2
---	---

Polling Question

- ❖ What will happen when we run this?

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

```
void foo(int& x, int& y, int z) {
  → z = y;
  x += 2;
  y = x;
}
```

z	1
---	---

```
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
  int a = 1;
  int b = 2;
  int& c = a;

  foo(a, b, c);
  cout << "(" << a << ", " << b
        << ", " << c << ")" << endl;

  return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

(main) a, c	1
(foo) x	

(main) b	2
(foo) y	

Polling Question

- ❖ What will happen when we run this?

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

```
void foo(int& x, int& y, int z) {  
    z = y;  
    → x += 2;  
    y = x;  
}
```

z	2
---	---

```
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {  
    int a = 1;  
    int b = 2;  
    int& c = a;  
  
    foo(a, b, c);  
    cout << "(" << a << ", " << b  
         << ", " << c << ")" << endl;  
  
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;  
}
```

(main) a, c (foo) x	1
------------------------	---

(main) b (foo) y	2
---------------------	---

Polling Question

- ❖ What will happen when we run this?

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

```
void foo(int& x, int& y, int z) {
    z = y;
    x += 2;
    → y = x;
}
```

z	2
---	---

```
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    int a = 1;
    int b = 2;
    int& c = a;

    foo(a, b, c);
    cout << "(" << a << ", " << b
         << ", " << c << ")" << endl;

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

(main) a, c (foo) x	3
------------------------	---

(main) b (foo) y	2
---------------------	---

Polling Question

- ❖ What will happen when we run this?

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

```
void foo(int& x, int& y, int z) {  
    z = y;  
    x += 2;  
    y = x;  
    }  
    ↗
```

z	2
---	---

```
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {  
    int a = 1;  
    int b = 2;  
    int& c = a;  
  
    foo(a, b, c);  
    cout << "(" << a << ", " << b  
        << ", " << c << ")" << endl;  
  
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;  
}
```

(main) a, c (foo) x	3
------------------------	---

(main) b (foo) y	2
---------------------	---

Polling Question

- ❖ What will happen when we run this?

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

```
void foo(int& x, int& y, int z) {
    z = y;
    x += 2;
    y = x;
    }

```

z	2
----------	----------

```
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    int a = 1;
    int b = 2;
    int& c = a;

    foo(a, b, c);
    cout << "(" << a << ", " << b
         << ", " << c << ")" << endl;

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}

```

(main) a, c	3
(foo) x	

(main) b	3
(foo) y	

Polling Question

❖ What will happen when we run this?

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

A. Output "(3,3,3)"

B. Output "(3,3,2)"

C. Output "(3, 3, 1)"

D. Compiler error

E. We're lost...

```
void foo(int& x, int& y, int z) {
    z = y;
    x += 2;
    y = x;
}

int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    int a = 1;
    int b = 2;
    int& c = a;

    foo(a, b, c);
    → cout << "(" << a << ", " << b
        << ", " << c << ")" << endl;

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

a, c	3
------	---

b	3
---	---

Lecture Outline

- ❖ Error Reporting: Optional & Exceptions
- ❖ Vector
- ❖ References
- ❖ **C++ Classes**
 - **RAII**
 - Copy Constructors
 - Copying

short discussion

- ❖ This code uses the heap
- ❖ Does this code memory leak?

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

using namespace std;

int main() {
    vector<int> v {333, 484};
    v.push_back(5950);
    cout << v.size() << endl;
    for (size_t i = 0U; i < v.size(); ++i) {
        cout << v.at(i) << endl;
    }
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Destructors

- ❖ C++ has the notion of a **destructor (dtor)**
 - Invoked automatically when a class instance is deleted, goes out of scope, etc. (even via exceptions or other causes!)
 - Place to put your cleanup code – free any dynamic storage or other resources owned by the object
 - Standard C++ idiom for managing dynamic resources
 - Slogan: “*Resource Acquisition Is Initialization*” (RAII)

tilde No parameters More on RAII in a later lecture

```
MyObj::~~MyObj() { // destructor
    // do any cleanup needed when a "MyObj" object goes away
    // (nothing to do here since we have no dynamic resources)
}
```

When a destructor is invoked:

1. run destructor body
2. Call destructor of any data members

Destructor Example

```
class Integer {  
public:  
    Integer(int val) { // Constructor  
        val_ = new int(val);  
    }  
  
    ~Integer() { delete val_; } // Destructor  
    int get_value() { return *val_; } // inline member function  
private:  
    int* val_; // data member  
}; // class Integer
```

Allocates memory in the
constructor

Without destructor, the
memory wouldn't be freed

Integer.h

```
#include "Integer.h"  
#include <iostream>  
  
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    Integer best_course{5950};  
    cout << best_course.get_value() << endl;  
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;  
}
```

Destruct the object when it falls
out of scope (when we return)

Default Destructor

- ❖ 9 out of ten times, most objects do not need to create an explicit destructor.
- ❖ Destructors can be specified to be a default the C++ generates for you
- ❖ The default destructor just runs the destructor of any data member (fields) the object has.
 - So, if your custom object has a vector or a map, then those data structures will automatically get destructed/"cleaned-up"

Default Destructor Example

```
#ifndef POINT_HPP_
#define POINT_HPP_

class Point {
public:
    Point(int x, int y); // constructor
    ~Point() = default;
    int get_x() { return x_; } // inline member function
    int get_y() { return y_; } // inline member function
    double Distance(Point p); // member function
    void SetLocation(int x, int y); // member function

private:
    int x_; // data member
    int y_; // data member
}; // class Point

#endif // POINT_HPP_
```

Default destructor since we don't do any allocation in Point

Lecture Outline

- ❖ Error Reporting: Optional & Exceptions
- ❖ Vector
- ❖ References
- ❖ **C++ Classes**
 - RAI
 - **Copy Constructors**
 - **Copying**

Copy Constructors

- ❖ C++ has the notion of a **copy constructor (ctor)**
 - Used to create a new object as an independent copy of an existing object

```
Point::Point(const int x, const int y) {
    x_ = x;
    y_ = y;
}

// copy constructor
Point::Point(const Point& copyme) {
    x_ = copyme.x_;
    y_ = copyme.y_;
}

void foo() {
    Point x(1, 2); // invokes the 2-int-arguments constructor
                  // Use a ctor since we are constructing based on x
    Point y(x);   // invokes the copy constructor
                  // could also be written as "Point y = x;"
}

// Point y didn't exist before, a ctor must be called
```

Reference to object of same type

Synthesized Copy Constructor

- ❖ If you don't define your own copy constructor, C++ will synthesize one for you
 - It will do a *shallow* copy of all of the fields (*i.e.* member variables) of your class
 - Calls ctor of data members that are objects*
 - Does assignment for primitives*
 - Could be problematic with pointers*
 - Sometimes the right thing; sometimes the wrong thing

```
#include "SimplePoint.h" // In this example, synthesized ctor is fine
... // definitions for Distance() and SetLocation()

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    SimplePoint x;
    SimplePoint y(x); // invokes synthesized copy constructor
    ...
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Synthesized Copy Constructor: Example

- ❖ If you don't define your own copy constructor, C++ will synthesize one for you
 - It will do a *shallow* copy of all of the fields (*i.e.* member variables) of your class
 - Sometimes the right thing; sometimes the wrong thing
 - This is an example of what the synthesized copy constructor would look like. Is this correct?

↑ Calls ctor of data members that are objects
Does assignment for primitives
Could be problematic with pointers

pollev.com/tqm

```
class Integer {
public:
    Integer(int val) { // Constructor
        val_ = new int(val);
    }
    Integer(const Integer& other) {
        val_ = other.val_;
    }
    ~Integer() { delete val_; } // Destructor
    int get_value() { return *val_; } // inline member function
private:
    int* val_; // data member
}; // class Integer
```

 **Poll Everywhere**pollev.com/tqm

- ❖ This is an example of what the synthesized copy constructor would look like. Is this correct?

pollev.com/tqm

```
class Integer {
public:
    Integer(int val) { // Constructor
        val_ = new int(val);
    }
    Integer(const Integer& other) {
        val_ = other.val_;
    }
    ~Integer() { delete val_; } // Destructor
    int get_value() { return *val_; }
private:
    int* val_; // data member
}; // class Integer
```

```
int main() {
    Integer x(5950);
    Integer y(x);

    cout << y.get_value() << endl;
    cout << x.get_value() << endl;
}
```

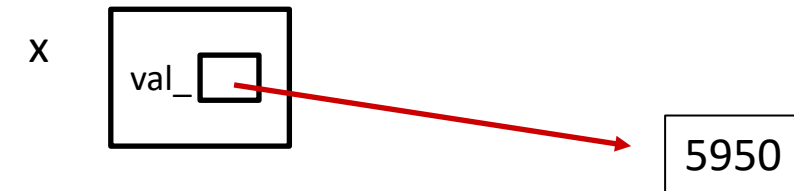
Synthesized Copy Constructor: Example

- ❖ This is an example of what the synthesized copy constructor would look like. Is this correct?

pollev.com/tqm

```
class Integer {  
public:  
    Integer(int val) { // Constructor  
        val_ = new int(val);  
    }  
    Integer(const Integer& other) {  
        val_ = other.val_;  
    }  
    ~Integer() { delete val_; } // Destructor  
    int get_value() { return *val_; }  
private:  
    int* val_; // data member  
}; // class Integer
```

```
int main() {  
    Integer x(5950);  
    Integer y(x);  
  
    cout << y.get_value() << endl;  
    cout << x.get_value() << endl;  
}
```



Synthesized Copy Constructor: Example

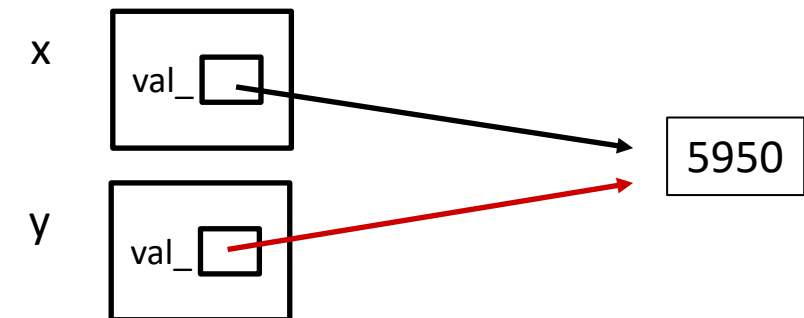
- ❖ This is an example of what the synthesized copy constructor would look like. Is this correct?

pollev.com/tqm

```
class Integer {
public:
    Integer(int val) { // Constructor
        val_ = new int(val);
    }
    Integer(const Integer& other) {
        val_ = other.val_;
    }
    ~Integer() { delete val_; } // Destructor
    int get_value() { return *val_; }
private:
    int* val_; // data member
}; // class Integer
```

```
int main() {
    Integer x(5950);
    Integer y(x);

    cout << y.get_value() << endl;
    cout << x.get_value() << endl;
}
```



Synthesized Copy Constructor: Example

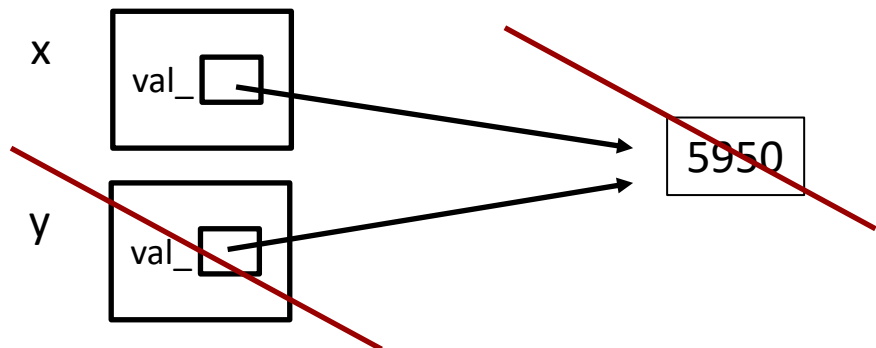
- ❖ This is an example of what the synthesized copy constructor would look like. Is this correct?

pollev.com/tqm

```
class Integer {
public:
    Integer(int val) { // Constructor
        val_ = new int(val);
    }
    Integer(const Integer& other) {
        val_ = other.val_;
    }
    ~Integer() { delete val_; } // Destructor
    int get_value() { return *val_; }
private:
    int* val_; // data member
}; // class Integer
```

```
int main() {
    Integer x(5950);
    Integer y(x);

    cout << y.get_value() << endl;
    cout << x.get_value() << endl;
}
```



Synthesized Copy Constructor: Example

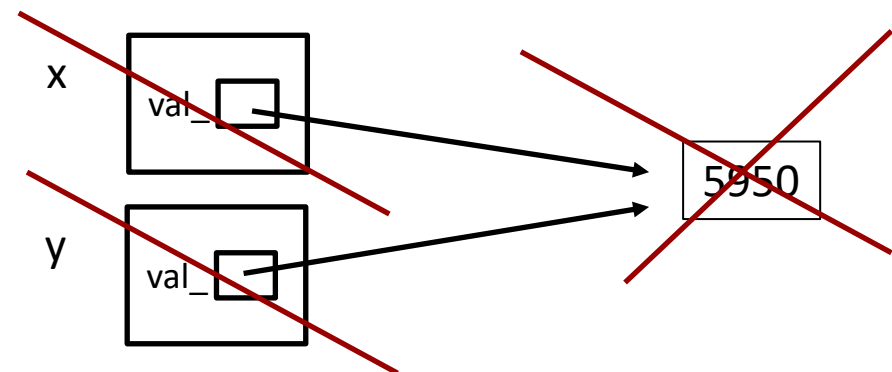
- ❖ This is an example of what the synthesized copy constructor would look like. Is this correct?

pollev.com/tqm

```
class Integer {
public:
    Integer(int val) { // Constructor
        val_ = new int(val);
    }
    Integer(const Integer& other) {
        val_ = other.val_;
    }
    ~Integer() { delete val_; } // Destructor
    int get_value() { return *val_; }
private:
    int* val_; // data member
}; // class Integer
```

```
int main() {
    Integer x(5950);
    Integer y(x);

    cout << y.get_value() << endl;
    cout << x.get_value() << endl;
}
```



They are not independent, and we get a double delete error

Copy Constructor: Fixed

❖ Fixed Copy Constructor :)

```
class Integer {
public:
    Integer(int val) { // Constructor
        val_ = new int(val);
    }
    Integer(const Integer& other) {
        val_ = new int(other.get_value());
    }
    ~Integer() { delete val_; } // Destructor
    int get_value() { return *val_; }
private:
    int* val_; // data member
}; // class Integer
```

pollev.com/tqm

❖ What does this code print?

```
int main() {  
    vector<int> v {3, 5};  
    v.push_back(2);  
  
    vector<int> plato = v;  
    plato.push_back(16);  
  
    for (int i : v) {  
        cout << i << endl;  
    }  
}
```

When Do Copies Happen?

❖ The copy constructor is invoked if:

- You *initialize* an object from another object of the same type:

```
Point x;           // default ctor
Point y(x);       // copy ctor
Point z = y;      // copy ctor
```

- You pass a non-reference object as a value parameter to a function:

```
void foo(Point x) { ... }

Point y;           // default ctor
foo(y);           // copy ctor
```

- You return a non-reference object value from a function:

```
Point foo() {
    Point y;       // default ctor
    return y;     // copy ctor
}
```



Poll Everywhere

pollev.com/tqm

❖ How many times does the **destructor** get invoked?

- Assume `Point` with everything defined (ctor, cctor, dtor)
- Assume no compiler optimizations

Trace through entire code! See if you can also count ctor, cctor

```
class Point {
public:
    // ctor
    Point(int x, int y);
    // cctor
    Point(const Point& other);
    // doesn't make any copies
    Distance(const Point& other);
};
```

A. 1

B. 2

C. 3

D. 4

E. We're lost...

```
Point PrintRad(Point& pt) {
    Point origin(0, 0);
    double r = origin.Distance(pt);
    double theta = atan2(pt.get_y(), pt.get_x());
    cout << "r = " << r << endl;
    cout << "theta = " << theta << " rad" << endl;
    return pt;
}

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    Point pt(3, 4);
    Point p = PrintRad(pt);
    return 0;
}
```

Polling Question

❖ How many times does the **destructor** get invoked?

- Assume `Point` with everything defined (ctor, cctor, =, dtor)
- Assume no compiler optimizations

Note: Arrow points
to *next* instruction.

test.cc

.....
main

```
Point PrintRad(Point& pt) {  
    Point origin(0, 0);  
    double r = origin.Distance(pt);  
    double theta = atan2(pt.get_y(), pt.get_x());  
    cout << "r = " << r << endl;  
    cout << "theta = " << theta << " rad" << endl;  
    return pt;  
}  
  
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    → Point pt(3, 4);  
    Point p = PrintRad(pt);  
    return 0;  
}
```

ctor	cctor	dtor
0	0	0

Polling Question

❖ How many times does the **destructor** get invoked?

- Assume `Point` with everything defined (ctor, cctor, =, dtor)
- Assume no compiler optimizations

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

main

<code>pt</code>	<code>{3,4}</code>
-----------------	--------------------

```
Point PrintRad(Point& pt) {
    Point origin(0, 0);
    double r = origin.Distance(pt);
    double theta = atan2(pt.get_y(), pt.get_x());
    cout << "r = " << r << endl;
    cout << "theta = " << theta << " rad" << endl;
    return pt;
}

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    Point pt(3, 4);
    Point p = PrintRad(pt);
    return 0;
}
```

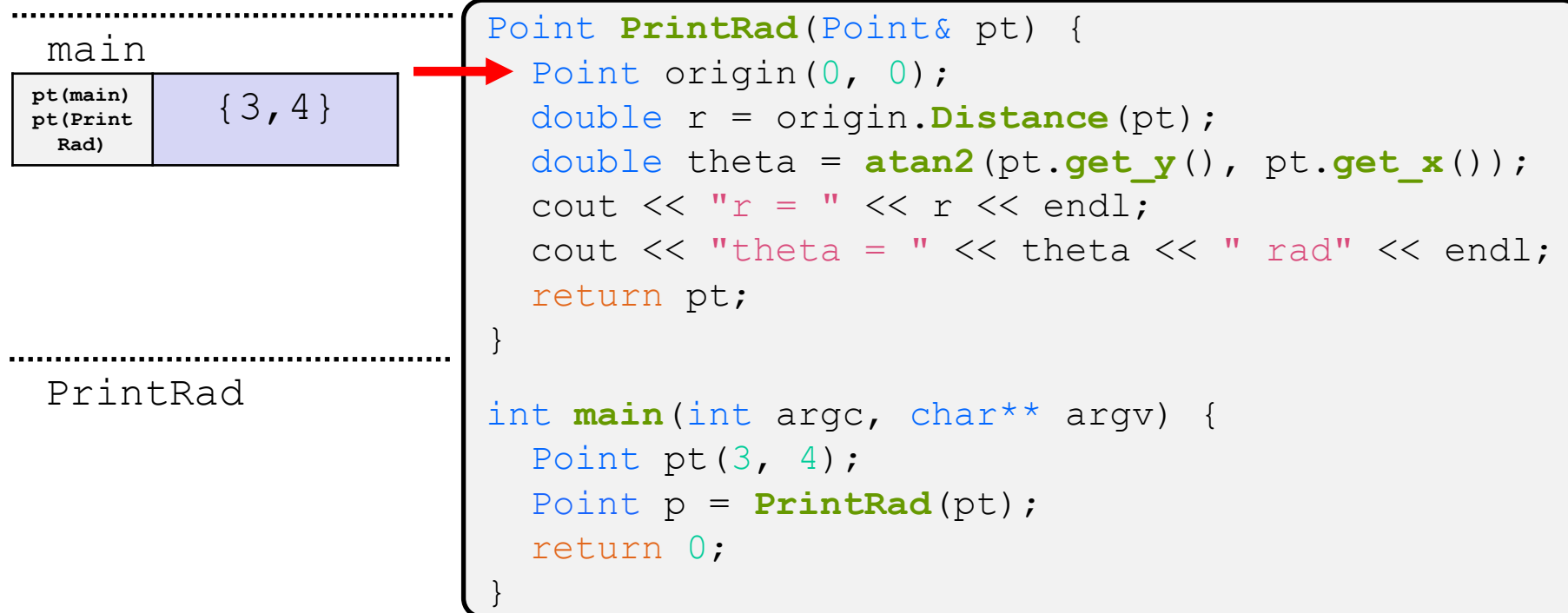
ctor	cctor	dtor
1	0	0

Polling Question

❖ How many times does the **destructor** get invoked?

- Assume `Point` with everything defined (ctor, cctor, =, dtor)
- Assume no compiler optimizations

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.



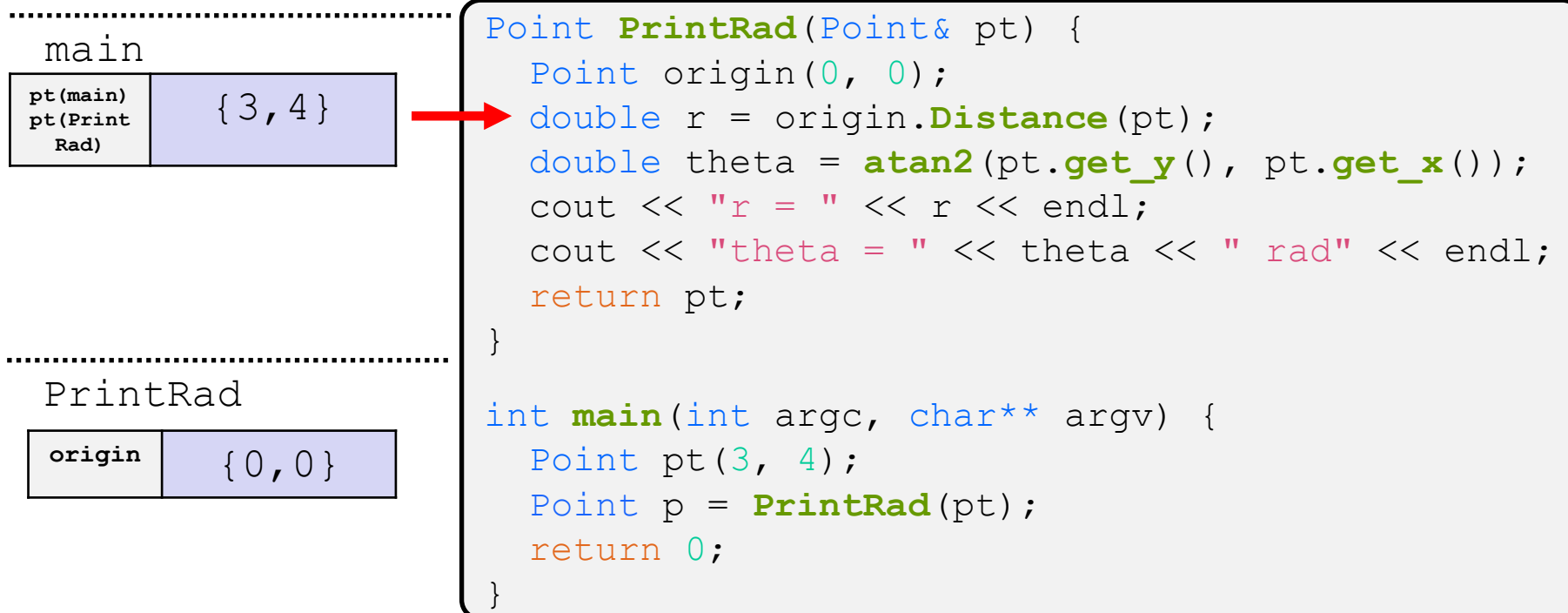
ctor	cctor	dtor
1	0	0

Polling Question

❖ How many times does the **destructor** get invoked?

- Assume `Point` with everything defined (ctor, cctor, =, dtor)
- Assume no compiler optimizations

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.



ctor	cctor	dtor
2	0	0

Polling Question

❖ How many times does the **destructor** get invoked?

- Assume `Point` with everything defined (ctor, cctor, =, dtor)
- Assume no compiler optimizations

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

.....

main

pt(main) pt(Print Rad)	{3, 4}
------------------------------	--------

.....

PrintRad

origin	{0, 0}
--------	--------

.....

Point::Distance

// Takes a const
// ref, just
// computation

```

Point PrintRad(Point& pt) {
    Point origin(0, 0);
    double r = origin.Distance(pt);
    double theta = atan2(pt.get_y(), pt.get_x());
    cout << "r = " << r << endl;
    cout << "theta = " << theta << " rad" << endl;
    return pt;
}

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    Point pt(3, 4);
    Point p = PrintRad(pt);
    return 0;
}

```

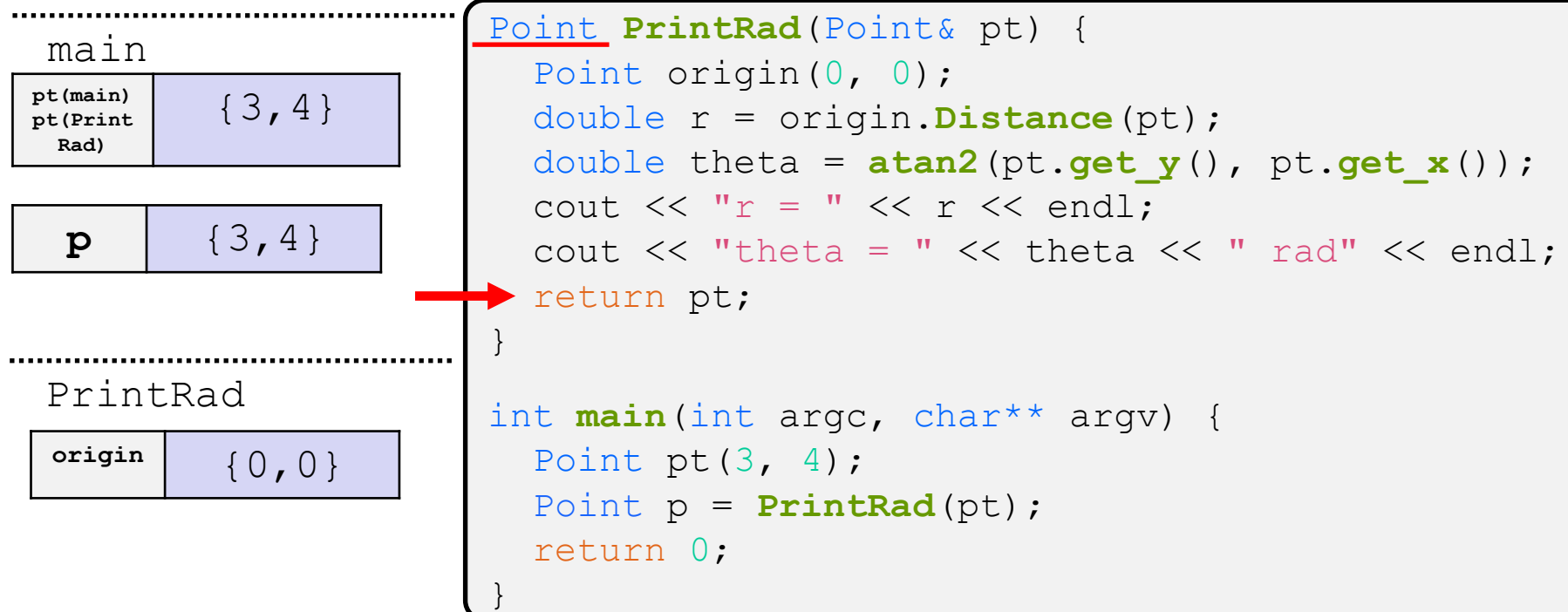
ctor	cctor	dtor
2	0	0

Polling Question

❖ How many times does the **destructor** get invoked?

- Assume `Point` with everything defined (ctor, cctor, =, dtor)
- Assume no compiler optimizations

Note: Arrow points to next instruction.



```

Point PrintRad(Point& pt) {
    Point origin(0, 0);
    double r = origin.Distance(pt);
    double theta = atan2(pt.get_y(), pt.get_x());
    cout << "r = " << r << endl;
    cout << "theta = " << theta << " rad" << endl;
    return pt;
}

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    Point pt(3, 4);
    Point p = PrintRad(pt);
    return 0;
}

```

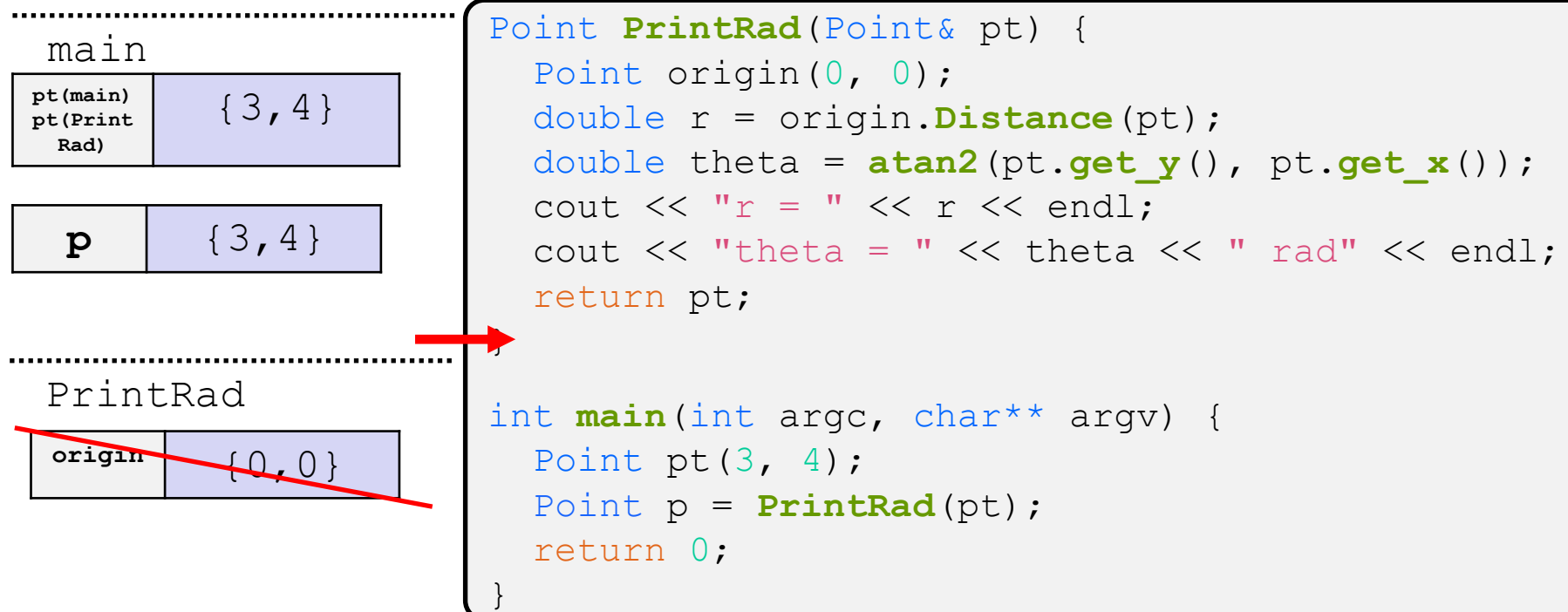
ctor	cctor	dtor
2	1	0

Polling Question

❖ How many times does the **destructor** get invoked?

- Assume `Point` with everything defined (ctor, cctor, =, dtor)
- Assume no compiler optimizations

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.



```
Point PrintRad(Point& pt) {
    Point origin(0, 0);
    double r = origin.Distance(pt);
    double theta = atan2(pt.get_y(), pt.get_x());
    cout << "r = " << r << endl;
    cout << "theta = " << theta << " rad" << endl;
    return pt;
}
```

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    Point pt(3, 4);
    Point p = PrintRad(pt);
    return 0;
}
```

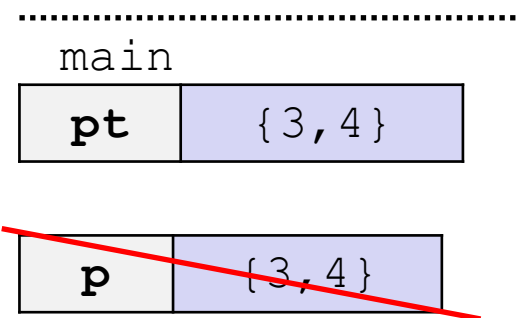
ctor	cctor	dtor
2	1	1

Polling Question

❖ How many times does the **destructor** get invoked?

- Assume `Point` with everything defined (ctor, cctor, =, dtor)
- Assume no compiler optimizations

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.



```
Point PrintRad(Point& pt) {
    Point origin(0, 0);
    double r = origin.Distance(pt);
    double theta = atan2(pt.get_y(), pt.get_x());
    cout << "r = " << r << endl;
    cout << "theta = " << theta << " rad" << endl;
    return pt;
}

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    Point pt(3, 4);
    Point p = PrintRad(pt);
    return 0;
}
```

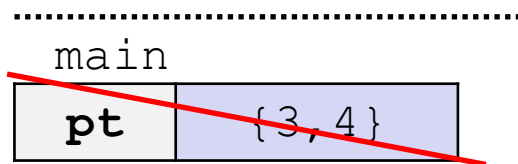
ctor	cctor	dtor
2	1	2

Polling Question

❖ How many times does the **destructor** get invoked?

- Assume `Point` with everything defined (ctor, cctor, =, dtor)
- Assume no compiler optimizations

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.



```
Point PrintRad(Point& pt) {
    Point origin(0, 0);
    double r = origin.Distance(pt);
    double theta = atan2(pt.get_y(), pt.get_x());
    cout << "r = " << r << endl;
    cout << "theta = " << theta << " rad" << endl;
    return pt;
}
```

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    Point pt(3, 4);
    Point p = PrintRad(pt);
    return 0;
}
```

C. 3

ctor	cctor	dtor
2	1	3

That's it for now!

- ❖ More next lecture 😊
 - Copying
 - Copying Overhead
 - Lifetimes
 - `std::variant`
 - And more!