# INHERITANCE & TEMPLATES: TWO KINDS OF GENERALIZATION

# LECTURE 12-2

# JIM FIX, REED COLLEGE CS2-S20

# TODAY'S PLAN

- FINISH INHERITANCE
  - ACCOUNT EXAMPLES
  - DYNAMIC DISPATCH WITH virtual
  - SHAPE EXAMPLE
- ▶ TEMPLATES

A SURVEY OF THE C++ STANDARD TEMPLATE LIBRARY (or C++ STL)

# **CS FACULTY CANDIDATES THIS/NEXT WEEK...**

 Today/Wednesday @4:30pm over Zoom: Tanya Amert, University of North Carolina "Enabling Real-Time Certification of Autonomous-Driving Applications"
 Next Monday @4:30pm over Zoom: Sonia Roberts, University of Pennsylvania (Title forthcoming; will be on her robotics research.)

The full class hierarchy we'll flesh out...



• Savings accounts accrue 2% interest. They charge a penalty for withdrawal.

```
class Savings : public Account { ... }
```

```
class Checking : public Account { ... }
```

The full class hierarchy we'll flesh out...



Savings accounts accrue 2% interest. They charge a penalty for withdrawal.

class Savings : public Account { ... }
Checking accounts accrue 1% interest, but only if balance is above \$1000.

```
class Checking : public Account { ... }
```

The full class hierarchy we'll flesh out...



• Savings accounts accrue 2% interest. They charge a penalty for withdrawal.

class Savings : public Account { ... }
Checking accounts accrue 1% interest, but only if balance is above \$1000.

class Checking : public Account { ... }
 Promotional checking accounts accrue 0.7% interest, but give you \$100 to open the account. You must stay above \$100 to earn that interest.

The full class hierarchy we'll flesh out...



• **Savings** accounts accrue 2% interest. They charge a penalty for withdrawal.

class Savings : public Account { ... }
Checking accounts accrue 1% interest, but only if balance is above \$1000.

class Checking : public Account { ... }
 Promotional checking accounts accrue 0.7% interest, but give you \$100 to open the account. You must stay above \$100 to earn that interest.

# ACCOUNT CLASS, READIED FOR DERIVING

```
class Account {
  private:
    static long gNextNumber; // used to generate account nos.
  protected:
    // instance variables
    std::string name; // description of the account
    long number; // account no.
    double balance; // money held
    double rate; // monthly interest
    public:
    ...
}.
```

```
};
```

# ACCOUNT CLASS, READIED FOR DERIVING

```
class Account {
private:
   static long gNextNumber;
protected:
   // instance variables
   std::string name;
   long number;
   double balance;
   double rate;
public:
   // methods
   ...
};
```

Not publicly accessible, but accessible to any derived class.

# ACCOUNT CLASS, READIED FOR DERIVING

```
class Account {
private:
  static long gNextNumber;
protected:
  // instance variables
public:
  // methods
  Account(std::string name, double amount, double interest);
  virtual double getBalance() const;
  virtual std::string getName() const;
  virtual long getNumber() const;
  virtual double getRate() const;
  virtual void deposit(double amount);
  virtual void gainInterest();
  virtual double withdraw(double amount);
};
              Virtual keyword indicates that the code of
              overriding methods in subclass will get called.
```

#### **ACCOUNT CLASS IMPLEMENTATION (MISSING GETTERS)**

```
Account::Account(std::string name, double amount, double
interest) : name {name},
            balance {amount},
            rate {interest},
            number {Account::gNextNumber++}
{ }
void Account::deposit(double amount) {
  balance += amount;
}
void Account::gainInterest() {
  deposit(rate * balance);
}
double Account::withdraw(double amount) {
  if (amount > balance) {
    amount = balance;
    balance = 0.0;
  } else {
    balance -= amount;
  return amount;
}
```

# **SUBCLASSES OF ACCOUNT**

Example of a subclass Savings deriving from a base Account:

class Savings : public Account { ... }

The keyword **public** means that...

# **SUBCLASSES OF ACCOUNT**

Example of a subclass Savings deriving from a base Account:

class Savings : public Account { ... }

The keyword public means that

- all public members are accessible as public in the derived class,
- all protected members are accessible as protected in the derived class,
- private members are only accessible if that subclass is a **friend**.

```
class Savings : public Account {
protected:
  double penalty; // Savings accounts have a withdrawal penalty.
public:
  Savings(std::string name, double amount);
  double withdraw(double amount); // Charges a penalty.
};
class Checking : public Account {
protected:
  double level;
public:
  Checking(std::string name, double amount);
  void gainInterest();
};
class Promotional : public Checking {
public:
  Promotional(std::string name, double amount);
};
```

```
class Savings : public Account {
protected:
  double penalty; // Savings accounts have a withdrawal penalty.
public:
  Savings(std::string name, double amount);
  double withdraw(double amount); // Charges a penalty.
};
class Checking : public Account {
protected:
  double level;
public:
  Checking(std::string name, double amount);
  void gainInterest();
};
class Promotional : public Checking {
public:
  Promotional(std::string name, double amount);
};
```

```
class Savings : public Account {
protected:
  double penalty;
public:
  Savings(std::string name, double amount);
  double withdraw(double amount);
};
class Checking : public Account {
protected:
  double level; // Checking accounts gain interest above a level
public:
  Checking(std::string name, double amount);
  void gainInterest(); // Checks that level
};
class Promotional : public Checking {
public:
  Promotional(std::string name, double amount);
};
```

```
class Savings : public Account {
protected:
  double penalty;
public:
  Savings(std::string name, double amount);
  double withdraw(double amount);
};
class Checking : public Account {
protected:
  double level;
public:
  Checking(std::string name, double amount);
  void gainInterest();
};
class Promotional : public Checking {
public: // Promotional accounts are a special kind of checking
  Promotional(std::string name, double amount);  // account
};
```

# **SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

Savings accounts accrue 2% interest. They charge a penalty for withdrawal.

We add a **penalty** instance variable.

```
class Savings : public Account {
protected:
  double penalty;
public:
  Savings(std::string name, double amount);
  double withdraw(double amount);
};
Savings::Savings(std::string name, double amount) :
  Account {name, amount, 0.02}, penalty {50.0}
{ }
double Savings::withdraw(double amount) {
  double howmuch = Account::withdraw(amount);
  Account::withdraw(penalty);
  return howmuch;
}
```

# **SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

Savings accounts accrue 2% interest. They charge a penalty for withdrawal.

We override the withdraw method to charge that penalty.

```
class Savings : public Account {
protected:
  double penalty;
public:
  Savings(std::string name, double amount);
  double withdraw(double amount);
};
Savings::Savings(std::string name, double amount) :
  Account {name, amount, 0.02}, penalty {50.0}
{ }
double Savings::withdraw(double amount) {
  double howmuch = Account::withdraw(amount);
  Account::withdraw(penalty);
  return howmuch;
```

```
}
```

# **SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

Savings accounts accrue 2% interest. They charge a penalty for withdrawal.

>We rely on **Account**'s implementation in several places.

```
class Savings : public Account {
protected:
  double penalty;
public:
  Savings(std::string name, double amount);
  double withdraw(double amount);
};
Savings::Savings(std::string name, double amount) :
  Account {name, amount, 0.02}, penalty {50.0}
{ }
double Savings::withdraw(double amount) {
  double howmuch = Account::withdraw(amount);
  Account::withdraw(penalty);
  return howmuch;
}
```

# **CHECKING ACCOUNT**

Checking accounts accrue 1% interest, but only if balance is above \$1000.

```
We add a level instance variable.
```

```
class Checking : public Account {
protected:
  double level;
public:
  Checking(std::string name, double amount);
  void gainInterest();
};
Checking::Checking(std::string name, double amount) :
  Account {name, amount, 0.01}, level {1000.0}
{ }
void Checking::gainInterest() {
  if (balance >= level) {
    Account::gainInterest();
  }
}
```

# **CHECKING ACCOUNT**

Checking accounts accrue 1% interest, but only if balance is above \$1000.

> We *override* the **gainInterest** method to check that level.

```
class Checking : public Account {
protected:
  double level;
public:
  Checking(std::string name, double amount);
  void gainInterest();
};
Checking::Checking(std::string name, double amount) :
  Account {name, amount, 0.01}, level {1000.0}
{ }
void Checking::gainInterest() {
  if (balance >= level) {
    Account::gainInterest();
  }
}
```

# **CHECKING ACCOUNT**

Checking accounts accrue 1% interest, but only if balance is above \$1000.

>We rely on **Account**'s implementation in several places.

```
class Checking : public Account {
protected:
  double level;
public:
  Checking(std::string name, double amount);
  void gainInterest();
};
Checking::Checking(std::string name, double amount) :
  Account {name, amount, 0.01}, level {1000.0}
{ }
void Checking::gainInterest() {
  if (balance >= level) {
    Account::gainInterest();
  }
}
```

# **PROMOTIONAL (CHECKING) ACCOUNT**

Promotional accrues less interest, has an opening gift, has lower threshold.

It derives from Checking. There are no extensions or overrides.

```
class Promotional : public Checking {
  public:
    Promotional(std::string name, double amount);
};
```

```
Promotional::Promotional(std::string name, double amount) :
    Checking {name, amount + 100.0}
{
    rate = 0.07;
    level = 100.0;
}
```

Consider these two class definitions

```
class A {
           • • •
           virtual void m(...); // yes virtual
           • • •
      }
      class B : public A {
           • • •
           void m(\ldots);
           • • •
      }
Consider this client code
      A *b = new B();
      b \rightarrow m(x);
```

Since **m** is marked virtual, the code for **B**: :**m** runs like we'd normally expect.

Consider these two class definitions

```
class A {
    ...
    virtual void m(...); // yes virtual
    ...
  }
  class B : public A {
    ...
    void m(...);
    ...
  }
  Consider this client code
  A *b = new B();
  b->m(x);
```

Since m is marked virtual, the code for B::m runs like we'd normally expect.
This is sometimes called "*dynamic dispatch*" of the "message" m.

Consider these two class definitions

```
class A {
    ...
    virtual void m(...); // yes virtual
    ...
  }
  class B : public A {
    ...
    void m(...);
    ...
  }
  Consider this client code
  A *b = new B();
  b->m(x);
```

Since m is marked virtual, the code for B::m runs like we'd normally expect.
Code run for m is determined by the contents at b, i.e. at run time.

Consider these two class definitions

```
class A {
           virtual void m(...); // yes virtual
           • • •
      }
      class B : public A {
           • • •
           void m(\ldots);
           • • •
      }
Consider this client code
      A *b = new B();
     b \rightarrow m(x);
```

Since m is marked virtual, the code for B::m runs like we'd VIABLY expect.
Code run for m is determined by the contents at b, i.e. at run time.

Consider these two class definitions

```
class A {
           • • •
           void m(...); // NOTE: not virtual!!!
           • • •
      }
      class B : public A {
           • • •
           void m(\ldots);
           • • •
      }
Consider this client code
      A *b = new B();
      b \rightarrow m(x);
```

Since **m** is not marked virtual, the code for **A** : : **m** runs instead.

Consider these two class definitions

```
class A {
          void m(...); // NOTE: not virtual!!!
          • • •
     }
     class B : public A {
          • • •
          void m(\ldots);
          • • •
     }
Consider this client code
     A *b = new B();
     b->m(x); //
```

Since m is not marked virtual, the code for A: m runs instead !!!!!!
 This is sometimes called "static dispatch" of the "message" m.

Consider these two class definitions

```
class A {
           void m(...); // NOTE: not virtual!!!
           • • •
      }
      class B : public A {
           • • •
           void m(\ldots);
           • • •
      }
Consider this client code
      A *a = new B();
      a \rightarrow m(x);
```

Since m is not marked virtual, the code for A: m runs instead!!!!!!
Code run for m is determined by the type of b, i.e. at compile time.

Consider these two class definitions

```
class A {
           void m(...); // NOTE: not virtual!!!
           • • •
      }
      class B : public A {
           • • •
           void m(\ldots);
           • • •
      }
Consider this client code
      A *a = new B();
      a \rightarrow m(x);
```

Since m is not marked virtual, the code for A: m runs instanting in the code for A: m runs instanting in the code run for m is determined by the type of b, i.e. at compile time.

Imagine We have the following hierarchy:

class Shape { virtual void draw(); ... }; class Oval : public Shape { void draw(); ... }; class Rectangle : public Shape { void draw(); ... };

#### Consider this client code that has a linked list **shapes**:

```
ShapeNode* current = shapes->first;
while (current != nullptr) {
    current->shape->draw();
}
```

Imagine We have the following hierarchy:

class Shape { virtual void draw(); ... }; class Oval : public Shape { void draw(); ... }; class Rectangle : public Shape { void draw(); ... };

#### Consider this client code that has a linked list of **shapes**:

```
ShapeNode* current = shapes->first;
while (current != nullptr) {
    current->shape->draw();
}
In the above code, current->shape is of type Shape*.
```

Imagine We have the following hierarchy:

class Shape { virtual void draw(); ... };
class Oval : public Shape { void draw(); ... };
class Rectangle : public Shape { void draw(); ... };

#### Consider this client code that has a linked list of **shapes**:

```
ShapeNode* current = shapes->first;
while (current != nullptr) {
    current->shape->draw();
}
In the above code, current->shape is of type Shape*.
Because the draw method is virtual, dynamic dispatch is used.
```

Imagine We have the following hierarchy:

class Shape { virtual void draw(); ... };
class Oval : public Shape { void draw(); ... };
class Rectangle : public Shape { void draw(); ... };

#### Consider this client code that has a linked list of **shapes**:

```
ShapeNode* current = shapes->first;
while (current != nullptr) {
    current->shape->draw();
}
the above code current >chape is of type
```

In the above code, current->shape is of type Shape\*.

Because the draw method is virtual, dynamic dispatch is used.

• When the list node points to an **Oval** instance, **Oval::draw** is called.

Imagine We have the following hierarchy:

class Shape { virtual void draw(); ... };
class Oval : public Shape { void draw(); ... };
class Rectangle : public Shape { void draw(); ... };

#### Consider this client code that has a linked list of **shapes**:

```
ShapeNode* current = shapes->first;
while (current != nullptr) {
    current->shape->draw();
}
```

In the above code, current->shape is of type Shape\*.

Because the draw method is virtual, dynamic dispatch is used.

- When the list node points to an **Oval** instance, **Oval::draw** is called.
- When it points to a Rectangle, Rectangle::draw is called.

# **ABSTRACT CLASSES**

Note that the Account class probably shouldn't have an instance.

- Nonetheless, it does define a few methods useful to subclass instances:
  - The deposit and withdraw methods as defined in Account provide a default behavior that subclasses may use, or override.

Classes not meant to be instantiated are called *abstract*.

# "PURELY VIRTUAL" METHODS IN AN ABSTRACT BASE

Can't always provide a "default" method behavior in an abstract base...

In C++ we can designate methods as "purely virtual" with a value of O:

```
class A {
    ...
    virtual T m(T1 v1, T2 v2, ...) = 0;
    ...
};
class B : public A {
    ...
    T m(T1 v1, T2 v2, ...) { ... /* actual behavior on B */ }
    ...
};
```

→Method m must be defined by classes that derive from abstract A.

# "PURELY VIRTUAL" METHODS IN AN ABSTRACT BASE

We can't always provide a "default" behavior in the base abstract class.

In C++ we can designate methods as "purely virtual" with a value of 0:

```
class A {
    ...
    virtual T m(T1 v1, T2 v2, ...) = 0;
    ...
};
class B : public A {
    ...
    T m(T1 v1, T2 v2, ...) { ... /* actual behavior on B */ }
    ...
};
```

→Method m must be defined by classes that derive from abstract A.

# "PURELY VIRTUAL" METHODS IN AN ABSTRACT BASE

We can't always provide a "default" behavior in the base abstract class.

In C++ we can designate methods as "purely virtual" with a value of 0:

```
class A {
    ...
    virtual T m(T1 v1, T2 v2, ...) = 0;
    ...
};
class B : public A {
    ...
    T m(T1 v1, T2 v2, ...) { ... /* actual behavior on B */ }
    ...
};
```

→Method **m** must be defined by classes that derive from abstract **A**.

#### **EXAMPLE: SHAPE HIERARCHY**

```
class Shape {
public:
    virtual double perimeter(void) const = 0;
    virtual double area(void) const = 0;
    virtual void print(void) const = 0;
    virtual double getHeight(void) const = 0;
    virtual double getWidth(void) const = 0;
    Rectangle bounds(void);
};
```

```
class Circle : public Shape {
private:
  double radius;
public:
  Circle(double r) : radius(r) { }
  double perimeter(void) { return 2.0 * M_PI * radius; }
  double area(void) { return M PI * radius * radius; }
  void print(void); // This one's many lines long.
  double getHeight(void) { return 2.0 * radius; }
  double getWidth(void) { return 2.0 * radius; }
};
void Circle::print(void) const {
  cout << "A circle with radius " << radius << ":\n" << endl;</pre>
  int w = static cast<int>(ceil(getWidth()));
  if (w == 1) {
    std::cout << "+" << std::endl;</pre>
    return;
  }
  • • •
```

```
class Circle : public Shape {
private:
  double radius;
public:
  Circle(double r) : radius(r) { }
  double perimeter(void) { return 2.0 * M_PI * radius; }
  double area(void) { return M PI * radius * radius; }
  void print(void); // This one's many lines long.
  double getHeight(void) { return 2.0 * radius; }
  double getWidth(void) { return 2.0 * radius; }
};
void Circle::print(void) const {
  cout << "A circle with radius " << radius << ":\n" << endl;</pre>
  int w = static cast<int>(ceil(getWidth()));
  if (w == 1) {
    std::cout << "+" << std::endl;</pre>
    return;
  }
  • • •
```

```
class Circle : public Shape {
private:
  double radius;
public:
  Circle(double r) : radius(r) { }
  double perimeter(void) { return 2.0 * M_PI * radius; }
  double area(void) { return M PI * radius * radius; }
  void print(void); // This one's many lines long.
  double getHeight(void) { return 2.0 * radius; }
  double getWidth(void) { return 2.0 * radius; }
};
void Circle::print(void) const {
  cout << "A circle with radius " << radius << ":\n" << endl;</pre>
  int w = static cast<int>(ceil(getWidth()));
  if (w == 1) {
    std::cout << "+" << std::endl;</pre>
    return;
  }
  • • •
```

```
class Circle : public Shape {
private:
   double radius;
public:
   Circle(double r) : radius(r) { }
   double perimeter(void) { return 2.0 * M_PI * radius; }
   double area(void) { return M_PI * radius * radius; }
   void print(void); // This one's many lines long.
   double getHeight(void) { return 2.0 * radius; }
   double getWidth(void) { return 2.0 * radius; }
};
```

```
void Circle::print(void) const {
   cout << "A circle with radius " << radius << ":\n" << endl;
   int w = static_cast<int>(ceil(getWidth()));
   if (w == 1) {
     std::cout << "+" << std::endl;
     return;
   }
   ...</pre>
```

```
class Rectangle : public Shape {
private:
  double width;
  double height;
  void depict(void);
public:
  Rectangle(double w,double h) : width(w), height(h) { }
  double perimeter(void) { return 2.0 * (width + height); }
  double area(void) { return width * height; }
  void print(void);
  double getHeight(void) { return height; }
  double getWidth(void) { return width; }
  friend class Square;
};
```

```
class Rectangle : public Shape {
private:
  double width;
  double height;
  void depict(void);
public:
  Rectangle(double w,double h) : width(w), height(h) { }
  double perimeter(void) { return 2.0 * (width + height); }
  double area(void) { return width * height; }
  void print(void);
  double getHeight(void) { return height; }
  double getWidth(void) { return width; }
  friend class Square;
};
```

```
class Rectangle : public Shape {
private:
  double width;
  double height;
  void depict(void);
public:
  Rectangle(double w,double h) : width(w), height(h) { }
  double perimeter(void) { return 2.0 * (width + height); }
  double area(void) { return width * height; }
  void print(void);
  double getHeight(void) { return height; }
  double getWidth(void) { return width; }
  friend class Square;
};
```

```
class Rectangle : public Shape {
private:
  double width;
  double height;
  void depict(void) const;
public:
  Rectangle(double w,double h) : width(w), height(h) { }
  double perimeter(void) { return 2.0 * (width + height); }
  double area(void) { return width * height; }
  void print(void);
  double getHeight(void) { return height; }
  double getWidth(void) { return width; }
  friend class Square;
};
void Rectangle::print(void) const {
  std::cout << "Here is a " << width << "x" << height;</pre>
  std::cout << " rectangle:\n" << std::endl;</pre>
  depict();
}
```

```
class Rectangle : public Shape {
private:
  double width;
  double height;
  void depict(void) const;
public:
  Rectangle(double w,double h) : width(w), height(h) { }
  double perimeter(void) { return 2.0 * (width + height); }
  double area(void) { return width * height; }
  void print(void);
  double getHeight(void) { return height; }
  double getWidth(void) { return width; }
  friend class Square;
};
void Rectangle::print(void) const {
  std::cout << "Here is a " << width << "x" << height;</pre>
  std::cout << " rectangle:\n" << std::endl;</pre>
  depict();
}
```

# **SQUARE SUBCLASS DERIVED FROM RECTANGLE**

```
class Rectangle : public Shape {
private:
  void depict(void);
public:
  • • •
  friend Square;
}
class Square : public Rectangle {
public:
  Square(double s) : Rectangle {s, s} { }
  void print(void);
};
void Square::print(void) const {
  std::cout << "Here is a " << getWidth() << "x" << getHeight();</pre>
  std::cout << " square:\n" << std::endl;</pre>
  Rectangle::depict();
```

# **SQUARE SUBCLASS DERIVED FROM RECTANGLE**

```
class Rectangle : public Shape {
private:
  void depict(void);
public:
  • • •
  friend Square;
}
class Square : public Rectangle {
public:
  Square(double s) : Rectangle {s, s} { }
  void print(void);
};
void Square::print(void) const {
  std::cout << "Here is a " << getWidth() << "x" << getHeight();</pre>
  std::cout << " square:\n" << std::endl;</pre>
  Rectangle::depict();
```

# **SQUARE SUBCLASS DERIVED FROM RECTANGLE**

}

```
class Rectangle : public Shape {
private:
  void depict(void);
public:
  • • •
  friend Square;
}
class Square : public Rectangle {
public:
  Square(double s) : Rectangle {s, s} { }
  void print(void);
};
void Square::print(void) const {
  std::cout << "Here is a " << getWidth() << "x" << getHeight();</pre>
  std::cout << " square:\n" << std::endl;</pre>
  Rectangle::depict();
```

#### SHAPE PROGRAM OUTPUT

Here is a circle with radius 5:

\*\*\*\*\*

Here is a 7x3 rectangle:

Here is a 1x1 square:

# POLYMORPHISM IN PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

- Some people say that subclassing provides *polymorphism* 
  - We can have a list of shapes, but the shapes can be of different types.
  - poly "multiple/many" + morph "shape/form"

# POLYMORPHISM IN PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

- Some people say that subclassing provides *polymorphism* 
  - We can have a list of shapes, but the shapes can be of different types.
  - poly "multiple/many" + morph "shape/form"

In general, a language construct that is "polymorphic" allows you to write one piece of code that handles many types of data.

- Object-oriented languages typically have subtype polymorphism.
- C (with void\*) and Python have *ad hoc polymorphism*.

# POLYMORPHISM IN PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

- Some people say that subclassing provides *polymorphism* 
  - We can have a list of shapes, but the shapes can be of different types.
  - poly "multiple/many" + morph "shape/form"

In general, a language construct that is "polymorphic" allows you to write one piece of code that handles many types of data.

- Object-oriented languages typically have subtype polymorphism.
- C (with void\*) and Python have *ad hoc polymorphism*.
- Many modern programming languages have *parameterized polymorphism*.

# **CONTAINER POLYMORPHISM?**

**Recall:** our container classes have had to fixate their element type:

```
class IntStck { int* elements; ... };
class StringStck { std::string* elements; ...};
class ShapeStck { Shape** elements; ... };
```

# **CONTAINER POLYMORPHISM??**

Recall: our container classes have had to fixate their element type:

```
class IntStck { int* elements; ... };
class StringStck { std::string* elements; ...};
class ShapeStck { Shape** elements; ... };
```

# **CONTAINER POLYMORPHISM???**

Recall: our container classes have had to fixate their element type:

```
class IntStck { int* elements; ... };
class StringStck { std::string* elements; ...};
class ShapeStck { Shape** elements; ... };
```

#### Wouldn't it be nice if we could define Stck once to take many forms?

class Stck<T> { T\* elements; ... };

# **CONTAINER POLYMORPHISM????**

Recall: our container classes have had to fixate their element type:

class IntStck { int\* elements; ... }; class StringStck { std::string\* elements; ...}; class ShapeStck { Shape\*\* elements; ... };

#### Wouldn't it be nice if we could define Stck once to take many forms?

class Stck<T> { T\* elements; ... };

#### **That is:** what if this one class definition could describe all these types???

- \* Stck<int> // a stack of integers
- \* Stck<std::string> // a stack of strings
- \* Stck<Shape\*> // a stack of shapes

# **TEMPLATE CLASSES**

▶ C++ also provides an ability to "abstract away" the defining types of a class:

• We can define a class A with type parameters T1, T2, . . . :

```
class A<T1, T2...> {
    ...
    // T1 and T2 used as type names throughout its definition
    ...
};
```

Then the client code can stamp out different **A** types, like so:

A<int,std::string> a1 = ...;
A<char,bool> a2 = ...;

> The definition of **class A** provides a **template** for *different forms* of **A**.

# EXAMPLE: TEMPLATE STACK CLASS (SEE STCK\_T.HH)

```
template <class X>
class Stck {
private:
  int capacity;
  int num_elements;
  X *elements;
public:
  Stck(const int size);
  const bool is_empty() const;
  void push(const X value);
  X pop();
  const X top() const;
  const std::string to_string() const;
  ~Stck();
};
```

# EXAMPLE: TEMPLATE STACK CLASS (SEE STCK\_T.HH)

```
template <class X>
class Stck {
private:
  int capacity;
  int num_elements;
  X *elements;
public:
  Stck(const int size);
  const bool is_empty() const;
  void push(const X value);
  X pop();
  const X top() const;
  const std::string to_string() const;
  ~Stck();
};
```

#### SOME SAMPLE TEMPLATE METHODS (ALSO IN STCK\_T.HH)

```
template <class X>
Stck<X>::Stck(const int size) :
   capacity {size},
   num_elements{0},
   elements {new X[size]}
{ }
```

```
template <class X>
void Stck<X>::push(const X value) {
   elements[num_elements] = value;
   num_elements++;
}
```

```
template <class X>
X Stck<X>::pop() {
    num_elements--;
    return elements[num_elements];
}
```

#### USE OF TEMPLATE BY CLIENT: A NEW DC.CC

```
#include <iostream>
#include <string>
#include "Stck_T.hh"
```

```
int main() {
```

```
Stck<int> s(100);
```

```
std::string entry;
do {
   std::cin >> entry;
   if (entry == "+") {
      int v1 = s.pop();
      int v2 = s.pop();
      int v = v1 + v2;
      s.push(v);
   } else if (entry == "-") {
      int v1 = s.pop();
      int v2 = s.pop();
      int v2 = s.pop();
      int v = v1 - v2;
      s.push(v);
```

# **USE OF TEMPLATE BY CLIENT: A DIFFERENT DC.CC**

```
#include <iostream>
#include <string>
#include "Stck_T.hh"
```

```
int main() {
```

```
Stck<double> s(100);
```

```
std::string entry;
do {
   std::cin >> entry;
   if (entry == "+") {
      double v1 = s.pop();
      double v2 = s.pop();
      double v = v1 + v2;
      s.push(v);
   } else if (entry == "-") {
      double v1 = s.pop();
      double v2 = s.pop();
      double v2 = s.pop();
      double v = v1 - v2;
      s.push(v);
```

# **NOTES ON TEMPLATES**

- Templates provide something like "*generics*" (term used in Java).
- Comes from the *functional programming language* community (e.g. CaML):
  - →parameterized polymorhism, e.g. **tlist**
- Separate compilation in C++ makes templates tricky:
  - You must put *everything* (spec'n and impl'n) into a header file.
  - Client code #includes the full definition, class and methods.
  - Compiler stamps out different code, code for each type parameterization.
- The C++ template mechanism is awkward...
  - ...but generics/parametrized types are a very useful and elegant concept.

# **NOTES ON TEMPLATES**

- Templates provide something like "*generics*" (term used in Java).
- Comes from the functional programming language community (e.g. CaML):
  - →parameterized polymorhism, e.g. ⊤list
- Separate compilation in C++ makes templates tricky:
  - You must put everything (spec'n and impl'n) into a header file.
  - Client code #includes the full definition, class and methods.
  - Compiler stamps out different code, code for each type parameterization.
- The C++ template mechanism is awkward...
  - ...but generics/parametrized types are a very useful and elegant concept.

# **NOTES ON TEMPLATES**

- Templates provide something like "*generics*" (term used in Java).
- Comes from the *functional programming language* community (e.g. CaML):
  - →parameterized polymorhism, e.g. Tlist
- Separate compilation in C++ makes templates tricky:
  - You must put everything (spec'n and impl'n) into a header file.
  - Client code #includes the full definition, class and methods.
  - Compiler stamps out different code, code for each type parameterization.
- The C++ template mechanism is awkward...
  - ...but generics/parametrized types are a very useful and elegant concept.