$\begin{bmatrix} CS_2 \\ 2 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$

#5: Parameters

September 1, 2021 · G Carl Evans

Heap Memory – Allocating Arrays

```
heap-puzzle3.cpp

5   int *x;
6   int size = 3;
7
8   x = new int[size];
9
10   for (int i = 0; i < size; i++) {
11     x[i] = i + 3;
12   }
13
14   delete[] x;
```

*: new[] and delete[] are identical to new and delete, except the constructor/destructor are called on each object in the array.

Reference Variable

A reference variable is an <u>alias</u> to an existing variable. Modifying the reference variable modifies the variable being aliased. Internally, a reference variable maps to the same memory as the variable being aliased. Three key ideas:

1

2.

3.

```
reference.cpp
   int main() {
      int i = 7;
5
      int & j = i; // j is an alias of i
 6
7
                                      // j and i are both 4.
     std::cout << i << " " << j << std::endl;
8
9
10
                                      // j and i are both 2.
11
      std::cout << i << " " << j << std::endl;
12
      return 0;
13
```

Memory and Function Calls

Suppose we want to join two Cubes together:

```
joinCubes-byValue.cpp
11
12
     * Creates a new Cube that contains the exact volume
13
     * of the volume of the two input Cubes.
14
15
    Cube joinCubes(Cube c1, Cube c2) {
      double totalVolume = c1.getVolume() + c2.getVolume();
16
17
18
      double newLength = std::pow( totalVolume, 1.0/3.0 );
19
20
      Cube result(newLength);
21
      return result;
22
```

By default, arguments are "passed by value" to a function. This means that:

•

•

Alterative #1: Pass by Pointer

```
joinCubes-byPointer.cpp

15   Cube joinCubes(Cube * c1, Cube * c2) {
        double totalVolume = c1->getVolume() + c2->getVolume();
        double newLength = std::pow( totalVolume, 1.0/3.0 );
        Cube result(newLength);
        return result;
    }
```

Alternative #2: Pass by Reference

```
joinCubes-byReference.cpp

15   Cube joinCubes(Cube & c1, Cube & c2) {
        double totalVolume = c1.getVolume() + c2.getVolume();

17

18        double newLength = std::pow( totalVolume, 1.0/3.0 );

19

20        Cube result(newLength);
        return result;

21        return result;
```

Contrasting the three methods:

	By Value	By Pointer	By Reference
Exactly what is copied when the function is invoked?			
Does modification of the passed in object modify the caller's object?			
Is there always a valid object passed in to the function?			
Speed			
Safety			

Using the const keyword

1. Using const in function parameters:

joinCubes-by*-const.cpp									
15	Cube :	joinCubes(const	Cube	s1,	const	Cube	s2)	
15	Cube	joinCubes(<mark>const</mark>	Cube	*s1,	<mark>const</mark>	Cube	*s2)	
15	Cube	joinCubes(<mark>const</mark>	Cube	&s1,	<mark>const</mark>	Cube	&s2)	

```
Best Practice: "All parameters passed by reference must be labeled const." – Google C++ Style Guide
```

2. Using **const** as part of a member functions' declaration:

```
Cube . h
    #pragma once
2
    namespace cs225 {
      class Cube {
 5
        public:
 6
          Cube();
          Cube (double length);
 8
          double getVolume()
 9
          double getSurfaceArea()
10
11
        private:
12
          double length ;
13
      };
14
```

```
Cube.cpp

...

11   double Cube::getVolume() {
12    return length_ * length_;
13   }
14

15   double Cube::getSurfaceArea() {
16    return 6 * length_ * length_;
17   }
...
```

Returning from a function

Identical to passing into a function, we also have three choices on how memory is used when returning from a function:

Return by value:

```
15 Cube joinCubes(const Cube &s1, const Cube &s2)
```

Return by reference:

```
15 Cube &joinCubes(const Cube &s1, const Cube &s2)
```

...remember: never return a reference to stack memory!

Return by pointer:

```
15 Cube *joinCubes(const Cube &s1, const Cube &s2)
```

...remember: never return a reference to stack memory!

CS 225 – Things To Be Doing:

- 1. Finish up mp_intro Due Tuesday, Sep. 7 at 11:59pm
- 2. Complete lab_into, new lab this week in lab sections
- 3. First PotD out today due tomorrow at noon.