

# **#2:** Classes and Reference Variables

**5** January 24, 2020 · *G Carl Evans* 

#### **Our First Class – Cube:**

Cube.h		Cube.cpp	
1	#pragma once	1	#include "Cube.h"
2		2	
3	class Cube {	3	double Cube::getVolume() {
4	public:	4	
5	<pre>double getVolume();</pre>	5	
6		6	}
7		7	
8		8	
9		9	
10		10	
11	private:	11	
12		12	
13		13	
14		14	
15		15	
16	};	16	

### **Public vs. Private:**

Situation	<b>Protection Level</b>
Cube functionality provided to client code	
Variable containing data about the Cube	
Helper function used in Cube	

# **Hierarchy in C++:**

There **cube** class we're building might not be the only **cube** class.

Large libraries in C++ are organized into \_\_\_\_\_\_.

Cube.h		Cube.cpp	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	<pre>#pragma once  namespace cs225 {    class Cube {    public:       double getVolume();</pre>	1 2 3 4 5	<pre>#include "Cube.h"  namespace cs225 {   double     Cube::getVolume() {       return length_ *</pre>

# **Our First Program:**

```
main.cpp

#include "Cube.h"

#include <iostream>

int main() {
    cs225::Cube c;
    std::cout << "Volume: " << c.getVolume() << std::endl;
    return 0;
}</pre>
```

...run this yourself: run make and ./main in the lecture source code.

Several things about C++ are revealed by our first program:

4. However, our program is unreliable. Why?

#### **Default Constructor:**

Every class in C++ has a constructor – even if you didn't define one!

• Automatic/Implicit Default Constructor:

• Custom Default Constructor:

Cube.h		Cube.cpp		
 4 5 6	<pre>class Cube {   public:     Cube();     /* */</pre>	 3 4 5 6	Cube::Cube() { }	

### **Custom, Non-Default Constructors:**

We can provide also create constructors that require parameters when initializing the variable:

Cube.h		Cube.cpp	
 4 5 6	<pre>class Cube {   public:     Cube(double length);     /* */</pre>	 3 4 5 6	Cube::Cube(double length) { }

## Puzzle #1: How do we fix our first program?

```
puzzle.cpp w/ above custom constructor

"" 8 cs225::Cube c;
9 cout << "Volume: " << c.getVolume() << endl;
"" "
```

...run this yourself: run make puzzle and ./puzzle in the lecture source code.

Solution #1:

Solution #2:

The beauty of programming is both solutions work! There's no one right answer, both have advantages and disadvantages!

### **Pointers and References – Introduction**

A major component of C++ that will be used throughout all of CS 225 is the use of references and pointers. References and pointers both:

- Are extremely power, but extremely dangerous.
- Pointers are **level of indirection** via memory to our data.

As a level of indirection via memory to the data:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Often, we will have direct access to our object:

```
Cube c1; // A variable of type Cube
```

Occasionally, we have a reference or pointer to our data:

```
Cube & s1; // A reference variable of type Cube
Cube * s1; // A pointer that points to a Cube
```

#### **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:

...run this yourself: run make and ./main-ref in the lecture source code.

Three things to note about reference variables:

```
1. _____
```

```
2. _____
```

```
3. _____
```

### CS 225 - Things To Be Doing:

- 1. Sign up for "Quiz o" (Quiz starts Friday, Jan. 31st)
- 2. Attend and complete lab\_intro; due Wednesday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>
- 3. MP1 released; due Wednesday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>
- **4.** Visit Piazza and the course website often!