Generics and The STL

CMPT 125
Mar. 13
Lecture 25

Today:

● Re-using Code Using Generics
● C++ template
● C++ Standard Template Library (STL)
  ○ queue<T>
  ○ sort()
Code Re-Use (Review)

If a piece of code can be employed for multiple purposes, then you *factor* the code

- Principle: Write it once, and then re-use it.

We built a Queue ADT for integers. Can we easily re-use the code for:

- doubles?
- strings?
- ordered pairs?

Use C++ *template*
Generic Programming

Express the algorithms so that they work on any type, to be specified as a parameter. C++ uses the `template` construct to do this.

```cpp
class queue {
    private:
        LL_t * intlist;
    public:
        queue();
        ~queue();
        int isEmpty();
        void enqueue(int data);
        int dequeue();
};
```

```cpp
template <class T>
class queue {
    private:
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};

template <class T>
class queue {
    private:
        Linked List of Ts;
    public:
        queue();
        ~queue();
        int isEmpty();
        void enqueue(T data);
        T dequeue();
};
Implementing Generic Methods

- Implement all methods in the header file.
- Prefix is: template <class T> class<T>::
- The typename T will be substituted throughout throughout.

```cpp
int queue::isEmpty() {
    return list->isEmpty();
}

void queue::enqueue(int data) {
    list->append(data);
}

int queue::dequeue() {
    return list->removeHead();
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template <class T>
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```
Example: Developing Generics

In our Queue ADT example, there was dependency among the code.

A *dependency graph* shows the dependency relationship among entities (files and classes)

- $X \rightarrow Y$ means that $X$ depends on $Y$

Strategy: start at the end without dependencies
Compiling Your Code In Multiple Files

- Before, to compile C code, you used gcc
- Now, to compile C++ code, use g++

- Compile all files with automatically chosen output file (a.out)
  
g++ LL-node.h LL.cpp LL.h driver.cpp queue.cpp queue.h

- Compile all files but choose output file name (main)
  
g++ -o main LL-node.h LL.cpp LL.h driver.cpp queue.cpp queue.h
Some Useful g++ Options

- `-Wall`: turn most warnings on
- `-o <name>`: name of output file
- `-c`: output an object file (.o), used for multi-stage compilation
- `-I<include path>`: specify an include directory
- `-L<include path>`: specify an library directory
- `-g`: turn on debugging
Makefile

- A Linux utility called “make” will look for a file called “makefile” in the same directory.

- A makefile makes the compilation process more convenient:
  - Only compiles files that have changed.
Makefile

- Makefile contains blocks of instructions for compiling the code.

  target: prerequisites
  command
  command
  command
  ...

- Each block contains three parts
  - “target”: name of executable or object file generated by g++, or name of action(s) to carry out
  - “prerequisites”: a list of files that are needed to create/perform the target (AKA dependencies)
  - “command”: the actual action to be carried out, in the form of a g++ command
Our code from last class

- **Compile LL and LL-node**

  - `LL.o: LL.h LL.cpp LL-node.h`
  ```
g++ -Wall -c LL.cpp
  ```

  - prerequisites
  - target (output file)
  - command (just 1 command in this case)
Makefile

- Compile LL and LL-node
  LL.o: LL.h LL.cpp LL-node.h
  g++ -Wall -c LL.cpp

- Compile queue
  queue.o: LL.h queue.cpp queue.h
  g++ -Wall -c queue.cpp

- Compile driver
  driver.o: driver.cpp queue.h
  g++ -Wall -c driver.cpp

- Compile driver, which includes all above compilations
  driver: driver.o LL.o queue.o
  g++ -Wall -o driver driver.o queue.o LL.o
Makefile

- Cleaning up
- You always need a target called “clean”, that allows users to remove all compiled files
  - This allows us to share source code, and let the other person compile, instead of sharing the application

```
clean:
    rm -f driver *.o *.gch
```
Pitfalls with Generics

Some commands are not easily made generic

- E.g., \texttt{return -1;} in method \texttt{removeHead()}
- E.g., \texttt{printf( . . . )} in method \texttt{print()}

C++ offers some solutions:

- operator overloading
- streams
- exceptions

All of these are possible, but not wonderful

- . . . and not recommended
- . . . and beyond the scope of CMPT 125 / 118
C++ Standard Template Library (STL)

A collection of containers, definitions and algorithms for common use.

#include <queue>

int main () {
    std::queue<int> *Q = new std::queue<int>;
    for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
        Q->push(i);
    while (!Q->empty()) {
        printf("front = %d, back = %d\n", Q->front(), Q->back());
        Q->pop();
    }
    delete Q;
    return 0;
}

STL queue<T> Interface:

- empty() — same as isEmpty()
- push(x) — same as enqueue(x)
- pop() — similar to dequeue(), except no return value
- front() — returns a copy of the next item to be dequeued
- back() — returns a copy of the last item that was enqueued
C++ Standard Template Library (STL)

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```cpp
#include <queue>
using namespace std;

int main () {
    queue<int> *Q = new queue<int>;
    for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
        Q->push(i);
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    }
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```

**STL queue<T> Interface:**
- `empty()` — same as `isEmpty()`  
- `push(x)` — same as `enqueue(x)`  
- `pop()` — similar to `dequeue()`, except no return value  
- `front()` — returns a copy of the next item to be dequeued  
- `back()` — returns a copy of the last item that was enqueued

For more natural usage of the standard template library.
Generic `sort()` in STL

There are two versions of `sort()`:

- one that uses the built-in less than operator `<`
- one that uses your own comparison function

Q. What’s the difference between these?
Look up sort() in STL