C++ for Fortran programmers

Kevin Cowtan cowtan@ysbl.york.ac.uk



Part 0: C++ Syntax:
Basics

- C++ is a compiled programming language, like Fortran.
- It contains a range of very similar data types, control statements, and input/output facilities.
- It also includes a range of modern programming features, in particular:
 - Dynamic memory allocation (F90)
 - Namespaces
 - Object orientation

```
integer i
  real n, s, t
  n = 3.0

s = 1.0
10 continue
    t = s
    s = (t+n/t)/2.0
  if (abs(s-t).lt.0.01) goto 10

write (*,*)s
```

```
int i;
float n, s, t;
n = 3.0;

s = 1.0;
loop:
    t = s;
    s = (t+n/t)/2.0;
if (abs(s-t)<0.01) goto loop;

std::cout << s;</pre>
```

- Basic concepts (variables etc.) very similar:
 - Types have different names.
 - In C++, statements separated by ';', not newline.
 - 'goto' is labelled. (But this is the last time you'll see it!)

```
real mat(3,3),x(3),y(3)
integer i,j

C initialise mat
c initialise x

do i = 1,3
    y(i) = 0.0
    do j = 1,3
        y(i) = y(i) + mat(i,j)*x(j)
    enddo
enddo
```

- C/C++ arrays are different:
 - Indices in '[]'
 - Indices start at zero.
 - Only 1-d, but for multidimensional use an array of arrays!
- Loop syntax different, loop body enclosed in '{ }'.
- Comments use //

• Built in types:

```
real float C++

double precision double

integer int

character, character() char, char[]

complex but also std::string
std::complex

logical bool
```

The built in types are very similar.

But in addition to the built in types, C++ has a library called STL of much richer extensions: std::*,

for example strings, complex numbers, resizable arrays.

- Built in types: One big difference:
 - In C++ (not C), variables may be declared at any point in a function. It is normal not to declare a variable until you are about to use it. (Improves readability, saves memory)
 - Variables stay in scope until the end of the block
 ('{ ... }') in which they were declared. This can be a function, or the body of a loop/conditional, or just a self contained group of statements.

int j; j = i; //ok }

Note also: we can initialise on declaration.

Control statements: 'if'

```
if ( ... ) statement

if ( ... ) then
    statements
else
    statements
endif
if ( ... ) statement;
else    statement;
else    statement;
```

Conditionals are similar, but in C/C++, only one statement (ending with ';') follows the condition. Hence no 'endif'. How do we handle conditions containing multiple statements? Wherever you can use a single statement, you can also use a list of statements enclosed in '{ }'.

Control statements: 'if'

```
if ( i.lt.0 ) i = 0

if ( i.gt.6 ) then
    i = 0
    j = 1
endif
if ( i < 0 ) i = 0;

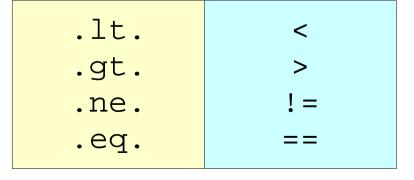
if ( i < 0 ) i = 0;

if ( i < 6 ) {
    i = 0;
    j = 1;
}
```

Note also that the conditions are different:

Beware:

You will get this wrong!



Control statements: 'for'

```
do i=1,n
    statement
    enddo

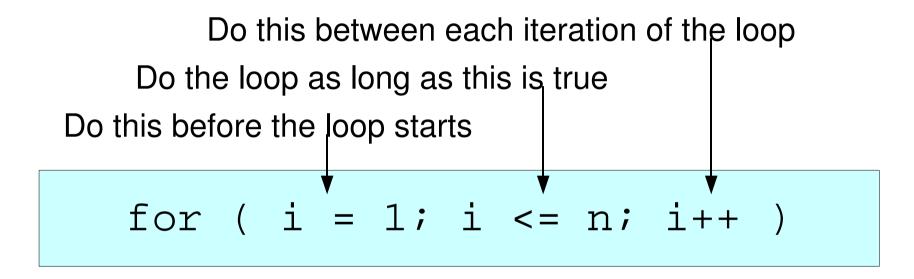
do i=1,n
    statement
    statement
    statement
    statement
    statement
    statement
    statement;
    statement
    statement;
    statement
    statement;
    statement
    statement;
    statemen
```

Basic loop syntax very different, but it follows the same rules as 'if' for the contents:

The loop contains one statement, which may be

- a simple statement followed by ';' or
- a compound statement in '{ }'.

Control statements: 'for'



```
Note: 'i++'

is shorthand for 'i += 1',

which is shorthand for 'i = i + 1'

In C/C++ we usually count from zero, hence:

for ( i = 0; i < n; i++ )
```

Control statements: other loops

Note:

'do' and 'while' loops also available.

Can use for single statements or blocks.

Control statements: 'break'

```
do i = 0,n-1
    if (err) goto 20
    enddo
20 continue
for ( i=0; i<n; i++ ) {
    ...
    if (err) break;
    ...
}
```

A 'break' statement breaks out of the nearest loop (for/do/while) above it.
(It ignores any intervening non-loop blocks).

- Operators and functions:
 - Most operators are the same.
 - Especially:
 - Parentheses
 - Precendence.
 - Trig and log functions.

```
+
  f**q
             pow(x,y)
mod(i,j)
                i%j
mod(f,g)
             mod(f,g)
  .lt.
                 <
  .le.
                 <=
  .gt.
  .ge.
                 >=
  .ne.
  .eq.
  .and.
                 &&
  .or.
  .not.
 abs(i)
              abs(i)
             fabs(f)
 abs(f)
```

Arrays:

- C++ arrays indexed from 0
- Declare and index with '[]'
- Multidimensional arrays are arrays of arrays.

• But:

 In C++, we only use arrays for special purposes where we know size is fixed. Otherwise we use more flexible

objects.

```
integer i(3)
  real m(10,10)
  character c(20)

i(3) = i(1)
  m(1,1) = 1.0

int i[3];
float m[10][10];
char c[20];

i[2] = i[0];
m[0][0] = 1.0;
```

Functions:

```
integer function fact(n)
                            int fact(int n)
integer n
integer i, j
                               int i, j;
j = 1
                               j = 1;
do i = 2, n
                               for (i=2;i<=n;i++) {
  j = j * i
                                 j = j * i;
enddo
fact = j
                               return j;
return
end
```

- Define argument types in the function definition.
- Enclose the body of the function in '{ }'.
- Use 'return' to return result (if any).
 - Arguments are copied the function cannot change them in the calling program (in general).

Kevin Cowtan, cowtan@ysbl.york.ac.uk

Sienna/C++

Functions: (Subroutines)

```
subroutine fact(n,m)
integer n,m
integer i
m = 1
do i = 2,n
   m = m * i
enddo
return
end
```

```
void fact(int n, int& m)
{
   int i;
   m = 1;
   for (i=2;i<=n;i++) {
      m = m * i;
   }
}</pre>
```

- This is an ugly example!
- If there is no return value, return type is 'void'.
- You can pass arguments to be modified by adding '&' after the type.
 - i.e. Don't copy the value, just pass a reference to it.

Functions: (Subroutines)

```
void fact(int n, int& m)

void fact(const int& n, int& m)
```

- We can pass a reference even when we don't want to return something through it.
- The keyword 'const' indicates it will not be changed.
- We passing a complex object (rather than a variable), passing a 'const' reference saves a lot of copying.

Input/Output:

```
integer x
  character s(20)
  write (*,*)s," scored ",x

int x;
char s[20];
std::cout << s << " scored " << x;</pre>
```

- std::cout does free format output.
- std::cin (using '>>') does free format input.
- Use '#include <iostream>' at the start of the program.

Formatted Input/Output:

- '\n' means 'new line'. You can put it in any string.
- Use '#include <stdio>' at the start of the program.

• Main program:

```
program myprog

...

stop
end

int main( int argc, char** argv ) {

...
}
```

- In C/C++, we write a function called 'main'.
- It receives parameters from the OS, which are the number of command line arguments, and the array of arguments.

• Main program:

```
#include <iostream>
int main( int argv, char** argc ) {
  for ( int i = 0; i < argv; i++ )
    std::cout << argc[i] << "\n";
}</pre>
```

- We won't go into the 'char**' notation, but it translates roughly as 'char argc[][]'.
- This program prints out a list of all the command line arguments.

- Putting it all together:
 - Write a program which makes a table of numbers with their factorials.
 - Just add one more technique: since we can define variables anywhere, we can define a loop variable in the 'for' statement.

Putting it all together:

```
#include <iostream>
int fact(int n)
  int j = 1;
  for ( int i=2; i <= n; i++ )
  j = j * i;
  return j;
int main( int argc, char** argv ) {
  for ( int i=1; i<=10; i++ )
    std::cout << i << " factorial is "
              << fact(i) << "\n";
```

Other features:

- C/C++ have other features, which we will avoid using:
 - Pointers: Refer to a variable by its address in memory.
 - int *x; float *y;
 - Memory allocation:
 - C-style (malloc/free)
 - C++-style (new/delete)
- C++ is a huge language, with several ways of doing anything. We are focusing on a small, well defined, modern subset, based on the standard library STL.



Part 1: C++ Syntax: Advanced concepts

- Problem: if we include many libraries in our program, we will eventually get name collisions.
- One solution is to include the library name in every function. Example:

```
- Cmtz_read_file("filename")
- MMDB_read_file("filename")
- Jpeg_read_file("filename")
```

- But it is tedious to retype names when we don't need to (e.g. When a library calls itself).
- Solution: namespaces

- We can hide functions, data, types etc. inside a namespace, to avoid name clashes.
- They can then have obvious short names, with which they refer to one another.
- Anything else outside the namespace must add the name of the namespace before the function (or whatever) name.
 - But if we use something really frequently, we can declare the whole namespace, or individual members, to be available.

```
namespace ccp4 { // begin namespace
 int func1( int n ) {
   return 2*n;
 void func2() {
   int i = func1(6); // 12
               // end of namespace
int func1( int n ) {
 return -n;
void main() {
  int i1 = func1(6); // -6
 int i2 = ccp4::func1(6); // 12
```

```
namespace ccp4 { // begin namespace
 int func1( int n ) {
   return 2*n;
              // end of namespace
using namespace ccp4; // use this
using ccp4::func1; // or this
void main() {
 int i1 = func1(6); // 12
```

Overloading

- Overloading allows us to define several functions with the same name.
- The functions differ only in what arguments they accept. The function to be run is chosen by the compiler on the basis of what arguments are provided.
 - Note: you cannot overload on the basis of return value!

Overloading

• e.g. Three 'minimum' functions:

```
// minimum of two integers
int min( int x, int y ) {
 if (x < y) return x;
 else
              return y;
// minimum of two floats
float min( float x, float y ) {
 if (x < y) return x;
 else return y;
// minimum of three floats
float min( float x, float y, float z ) {
 if ( x < y \&\& x < z ) return x;
 else if (y < z) return y;
 else
                      return z;
```

Overloading

 Note: we will also encounter something called 'operator overloading'. This allows use to redefine how operators like '+' work under special cases.

Looking forward:

C++ has some better ways of doing even simple, non-object oriented tasks.

- std::string an advanced string class.
- std::vector<> a resizeable array class.

Looking forward:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <string>
std::string s = "hello";
std::string t = s.substr(1,3);
int p = s.find("ell");
std::cout << s << "\n";
                               // hello
std::cout << s.length() << "\n"; // 5
                             // ell
std::cout << t << "\n";
                                // 1
std::cout << p << "\n";
```

Strings have many useful methods.

Looking forward:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
std::vector<float> x(6);
std::cout << x.size() << "\n"; // 6
x[0] = 1.0;
x[5] = 3.142;
x.append(2.718);
std::cout << x.size() << "\n"; // 7
x.resize( 1000 );
std::cout << x.size() << "\n"; // 1000
```

- You can also insert into the middle and delete from the middle of the array.
- If this is performance critical, use std::list<> instead.



Part 2: Object Orientation: practice

Object orientation is a programming paradigm. Its aim is to allow the creation of more modular, reusable, maintainable code.

It achieves this by many means, including:

- Allowing the code to better reflect the terms of the problem.
- Separating interfaces (APIs) from implementations.
- Allowing existing implementations to be overridden or extended.
- Allowing algorithms to be generic across many data types, even unknown ones.

We will follow the development of programing language features stepwise to arrive at our first objects.

Next, we will look at the ideas of object orientation in a more general way.

Finally, we will bring these things together.

Starting point: data structures.

- Most languages (except F77) allow us to define new, more complex data types. In OO languages, these are called 'classes'. (In C they are 'struct's).
- A class is a new type, which is added to the language.
- We can declare classes just as we would declare a variable of any built in type.
- A class may contain one or more 'member variables' of any type – including other classes.
 - And a whole lot more... later.

```
class Cell {
public:
 double a,b,c;
 double alpha, beta, gamma;
};
 Cell c1, c2; // make 2 cell objects
 c1.a = 10.0;
  c1.b = 15.0;
  c1.c = 20.0;
  c1.alpha = c1.beta = c1.gamma = pi/2;
  c2 = c1
  c2.a = 30.0;
  std::cout << c2.a << c2.b << c2.c; // 30 15 20
```

```
class Cell {
  public:
    double a,b,c;
    double alpha,beta,gamma;
};
```

- We define a new type, called 'Cell'.
 (Begins with capital letter, by convention)
- It has 6 members (all double), which are publicly accessible (see later).
- Note: at this stage it is not unlike a Fortran common block. But, we can only have one instance of a common block in a program, but we can have many instances of a class.

```
Cell c1, c2;  // make 2 cell objects
c1.a = 10.0;
c1.b = 15.0;
c1.c = 20.0;
c1.alpha = c1.beta = c1.gamma = pi/2;
```

- We create two 'objects' of class 'Cell': c1 and c2. Just like making two int-s or float-s.
- We access the parameters of c1 by using the name of the object, a dot, and then the name of the member.
- The other object, c2, is unaffected.

```
c2 = c1
c2.a = 30.0;
std::cout << c2.a << c2.b << c2.c; // 30 15 20
```

- We can copy all the members of c1 into c2 using a simple assignment.
- We then change just one of the members.
 c1 is unaffected.
- Objects can also be passed to or from functions as arguments or return values.

Terminology:

- An object is an instance of a class.
- A class defines the type of an object.
- A class contains members:
 - Member variables. (members)
 - Member functions. (methods)

Member functions (methods):

- A member function is a function which is defined as part of a class.
- It is used on an object of that class, and operates on the member variables of that object and any arguments passed to the function.
- The result of the function may be returned as a return value, or may modify the member variables, or both.

Member functions (methods):

```
class Cell {
  public:
    double a,b,c;
    double alpha,beta,gamma;

    double volume() {
      return a*b*c*sin(beta); // wrong!
    }
};
```

- The function 'volume' is defined inside the class.
- We don't need to pass the cell parameters, because they are already members of the class.

Member functions (methods):

```
std::cout << c1.volume(); // 10x15x20 = 3000
std::cout << c2.volume(); // 30x15x20 = 9000</pre>
```

- We call the member function by giving the name of the object, a dot, the name of the function, and then any arguments.
- We get a different result depending on which object we use, because they have different parameters.

Class design:

- Once we have member functions, we can then 'hide' the member variables.
- Instead, we provide accessor functions to allow the member variables to be read or modified.
- The result is a class which has a well defined external interface which completely hides the internal implementation. We can then change how the class works internally without affecting the rest of the program.

This is a huge benefit! Use it!

```
class Cell {
public:
 double a() { return a1; } // accessors
 double b() { return b1; }
 double c() { return c1; }
 double alpha() { return alpha1; }
 double beta() { return beta1; }
 double gamma() { return gamma1; }
 double volume() {
    return a1*b1*c1*sin(beta1); // wrong!
private:
 double a1,b1,c1,alpha1,beta1,gamma1;
};
```

- We make the member variables private.
- There is no performance cost the compiler optimizes.

```
class Cell {
  public:
    double a() const { return a1; } // accessors

  private:
    double a1,b1,c1,alpha1,beta1,gamma1;
};
```

- Methods can be declared as 'const',
 i.e. They don't change the state of the object.
 (The compiler will check this for us).
- Doing this for one accessor doesn't make much difference, but if we do it everywhere then the compiler can do a huge amount of checking for us.

- Now that the members are private, how do we set the contents of the object? 3 options...
 - We can define a constructor.
 - We can define 'set' accessors ('setters').
 - For simple cases where the representation is unambiguous, we can return references to the members.

```
class Cell {
public:
 Cell() {}
 Cell( double a, double b, double c,
        double alpha, double beta, double gamma ) {
    a1 = ai b1 = bi c1 = ci
    alpha1 = alpha; beta1 = beta; gamma1 = gamma;
private:
 double a1,b1,c1,alpha1,beta1,gamma1;
```

- Constructor has same name as class.
- Also define null constructor, so we can create an object without initialising it.

```
// construct and initialise
Cell c1( 10.0, 15.0, 20.0, pi/2, pi/2, pi/2 );
// construct uninitialised
Cell c2;
// construct on-the-fly and assign
c2 = Cell( 30.0, 15.0, 20.0, pi/2, pi/2, pi/2 );
```

- We can use the new constructor in two ways -
 - On declaring the object.
 - On the fly, to create a cell object in the middle of an expression.

```
class Cell {
public:
 void set_cell_parameters
      ( double a, double b, double c,
        double alpha, double beta, double gamma ) {
    a1 = a; b1 = b; c1 = c;
    alpha1 = alpha; beta1 = beta; qamma1 = qamma;
  void set_a( double a ) {
    a1 = ai
private:
 double a1,b1,c1,alpha1,beta1,gamma1;
};
```

- 'Set' accessors may set one or many members.
- Can also perform calculations.

Class design:

- One last detail: Destructors

```
class Cell {
 public:
  // Constructor
  Cell( double a, double b, double c, ...) {
  // Destructor
  ~Cell() {
```

- Called automatically when a class is destroyed.
- Clean up any memory allocation, i.e. Do not use!

Class design: Summary

- We can build up compound objects containing collections of built-in data types and other objects.
- We can use these objects wherever we would use a built-in type.
- The objects can also contain relevant functions for manipulating the data.
- In the interests of maintaining a stable API, it is best to only allow access to the members of the object through accessor functions.



Part 3: Object Orientation: theory

Object orientation:

- By making objects which describe the objects in our problem domain, we achieve a better match between the program and the problem.
- Interactions between objects in the real world become methods of objects in the program.
- Even in completely abstract problems, we still have a benefit: the abstraction of the API.

Object orientation:

- How do we chose objects? One approach:
 - Write down a description of the problem, then underline all the nouns.
 - Simple things may become properties of objects (i.e. Member variables).
 - More complex things may become objects.
 - Others are abstract or uninteresting or processes and will be ignored or take other forms.
- e.g. Crystal, cell, space-group, coordinate, map, density, FFT, likelihood.

Object Orientation concepts:

Encapsulation:

 Hiding the details of data representation behind some interface. (We've seen this already).

Inheritance:

 Allows us to customise existing classes to suite our purposes.

• Polymorphism:

 Allows us to make methods and classes which will work on any of a range of different data types.

Inheritance:

- Inheritance provides an efficient way to re-use code.
 - If we want to make a new class which is similar to an existing class, we can use 'inheritance' to do this without touching the original class.
 - The new class is called a 'sub-class' or 'derived-class'. It inherits from its 'super-class', or 'base-class'.
 - The new class has all the members and methods of the parent class, plus any more that are defined.

Inheritance:

- e.g. The unit cell class: a real example:
 - Phil wants to use my Cell class, but he needs a different orthogonalization convention in reciprocal space.
 - So he makes a new class, Cell_cambridge, which inherits from my Cell class.
 - My class has a method which returns the reciprocal orthogonalization matrix.
 - Phil overrides this method with a new method of his own.
 - He can also add completely new methods, and members.

Inheritance:

e.g. The unit cell class: a real example:

```
class Cell {
  public:
    ...
    Mat33 mat_reci_orth() const { return ... ; }
    ...
};

class Cell_cambridge : public Cell {
  public:
    Mat33 mat_reci_orth() const { return ... ; }
};
```

- The 'derivation' comes after the class name.
- Any changes are included in the class body.

Inheritance:

- Properly used, inheritance aids code re-use:
 - Define 'base classes' which are generic.
 - Derive more specific classes, have more details.
 - e.g.

```
Class Atom
    { double x,y,z,occ; };

Class Atom_isotropic : public Atom
    { double u_iso; };

Class Atom_anisotropic : public Atom
    { double u11,u22,u33,u12,u13,u23; };
```

Inheritance:

- Properly used, inheritance aids code re-use:
 - At first, spotting how to use inheritance can be tricky.
 - One (inefficient) approach while learning:
 - Write all the specific classes (using cut and paste for any shared code).
 - Look for any members and method code which can be shared.
 - Implement a base class containing the common features.
 - Even for experienced programmers, class design evolves after the first implementation.

Polymorphism:

 Polymorphism is the ability of classes, methods, and functions to work on a range of different data types, even types which did not exist when the library was written.

Two forms:

- Runtime polymorphism: You can use a derived class wherever you can use its base class.
- Templates [C++/Java only]: You can write template
 classes and functions which can take any type of data.

Polymorphism: (runtime)

- e.g. Suppose our Atom class implements a method 'density_at_xyz(x,y,z)', for a stationary atom.
 - Atom_isotropic and Atom_anisotropic will override this method with methods appropriate to atoms with thermal motion.
 - A method for calculating electron density might take a list of atoms, not caring what type of atom is involved.
 - A later developer may then add another atom type (e.g. Atom_disordered) with a clever method for calculating density. The electron density calculation will still work!

Polymorphism: (runtime)

- Problems: there are (small) memory and performance overheads:
 - Therefore in C++, runtime polymorphism only occurs for classes which have *virtual* methods, and then only those methods of a class which are explicitly declared as 'virtual' (i.e. Can be overridden).
 - Polymorphism only occurs when handling a reference (or pointer) to a class which contains virtual methods.
- It's useful, but in C++, it has limitations.
 - (Clipper uses it, but you don't need to know any more.)

Polymorphism: (templates)

- Templates are a second form of polymorphism, implemented in C++, which has no performance or memory overheads.
- Template polymorphism occurs at compile time.
- Template polymorphism works on any class (which has the right sort of API), whether or not there is an inheritance relationship involved.

Polymorphism: (templates)

- e.g. std::vector: a resize-able array of data of some type.
 - Incredibly useful: use it whenever you want an array whose size isn't absolutely immutable.
 - Makes memory allocation (and therefore memory leaks) obsolete.
 - There are also a whole range of related types, e.g. Singly and doubly linked lists, associative arrays, etc.
- Part of STL: the Standard Template Library.

Polymorphism: (templates)

```
int n = 10;
std::vector<int> i;
std::vector<float> f( 6 );
std::vector<double> d( n, 1.0 );
std::vector<Cell> c;
```

- The type of data comes in angle brackets <> after the class name. This tells the compiler to compile a vector for that type of member.
- The data type can be any built-in or user defined type or class.
- We can optionally define initial size, and value.

Polymorphism: (templates)

```
// get the current size
int old_size = d.size();

// resize the list
d.resize( 20 );
```

- The std::vector class has a method 'size' which returns the current size of the list.
- The std::vector class has a method 'resize' which changes the current size of the list.

Polymorphism: (templates)

• e.g. std::vector:

```
// sum the values in a list
double sum = 0;
for ( int i = 0; i < d.size(); i++ )
  sum = sum + d[i];</pre>
```

• The std::vector class has a method which looks like standard array subscription (i.e. overrides the bracket operator '[]'), which allows us to get at the data is if it were in a normal array.

Polymorphism: (templates)

```
// add to the end of the vector
d.push_back( 3.142 );

// remove from the end of the vector
double x = d.pop_back();
```

- The std::vector class has methods which add to or remove from the back of an array.
- Performance is good it is not uncommon to build up a large array one element at a time.

Polymorphism: (templates)

```
// insert at 3 from the front
d.insert( d.begin()+3, 2.718 );

// delete from three from the end
d.delete ( d.end()-2 )
```

- The std::vector class has methods to insert and deletes at arbitrary positions in the list.
- (There are performance overheads of course a linked list may be better).

Polymorphism: (templates)

```
// sort the list
std::sort( d.begin(), d.end() );
```

- The std::sort algorithm is the most efficient algorithm known.
- We usually want to sort by key: Make std::vector<std::pair<keytype,datatype> > containing the list of keys and data, and apply a std::sort.

Polymorphism: (templates)

- Crystallographic examples from Clipper:
 - A crystallographic map can contain any sort of data:

```
Xmap<float>
Xmap<int>
Xmap<Histogram>
```

 Reflection data can be of any one of a range or predefined or user-defined types, e.g.

```
HKL_data<F_sigF<float> >
HKL_data<F_phi<double> >
HKL_data<ABCD<float> >
```



Part 4: Odds and ends.

Nested classes:

- A class can be defined inside another class. This is useful for:
 - Classes which are only used internally by another class.
 - Classes which are only used in conjunction with another class.
 - Template programming, when you want to use a bundle of classes for a template type, you can put them inside another class.

Nested classes:

Outer class is treated like a namespace:

```
Class Outer {
...
Class Inner {
...
};
...
};
Outer x;
Outer::Inner y;
```

Do:

- Use encapsulaation, const etc.
- Use STL (standard template library) data structures.
- Use STL algorithms.

• Don't:

- Use memory allocation. As soon as you start using memory allocation, your program can develop memory leaks.
 - new/delete
 - malloc/free
 - If there is no usable STL data structure, write one of your own and test it to destruction.
- Use pointers, except where absolutely necessary.
 - Encapsulate in STL style template classes.