Introduction to C++: Part 4
Tutorial Outline: Part 4

- Generics and templates
  - C++ template syntax
  - What happens during compilation
- Using generics: the C++ Standard Template Library (STL)
- STL Containers, Algorithms, and Iterators
- Coding recommendations for a C++ code
- Useful libraries
- Example: Speeding up Python
- Resources
The formal concepts in OOP

- **Object-oriented programming (OOP):**
  - Defines *classes* to represent data and logic in a program. Classes can contain members (data) and methods (internal functions).
  - Creates *instances* of classes, aka *objects*, and builds the programs out of their interactions.

- **The core concepts in addition to classes and objects are:**
  - Encapsulation
  - Inheritance
  - Polymorphism
  - Abstraction
Polymorphism

- This has already been seen in the last tutorial:

  ```cpp
  void PrintArea(Shape &shape) {
    cout << "Area: " << shape.Area() << endl;
  }
  ```

- The different subclasses of Shape automatically call their own Area() method depending on their type.
  - …if virtual method calls are being used!

- This is called polymorphism in C++.

- There are two other kinds defined in computer science:
  - *ad hoc* polymorphism – function overloading in C++
  - *parametric* polymorphism – generics in C++
Function overloading

- Briefly: the same function can be implemented multiple times with different arguments.
- This allows for special cases to be handled, or specialized behavior for different types.
- Multiple constructors in a class are an example of function overloading.

```c
float sum(float a, float b) {
    return a + b;
}

int sum(int a, int b) {
    return a + b;
}
```
Generics aka C++ Templates

- Generic code is code that works on multiple different data types but is only coded once.
- In C++ generic code is called a template.
- A C++ template is implemented entirely in a header file to define generic classes and functions.
- The actual code is generated by the compiler wherever the template is used in your code.
  - There is NO PENALTY when your code is running!
  - If you don’t use the template code it doesn’t get compiled at all.
- For the sake of time in this tutorial we will focus on using the C++ Standard Template Library and walk thru some templates with C::B.
Sample template function

- The template is started with the keyword `template` and is told it'll handle a type which is referred to as `T` in the code.
  - Templates can be created with multiple different types, not limited to just one.
  - You don’t have to use `T`, any non-reserved word will do.
  - Methods inside a class can be template even if the class is not.

- When the compiler sees the call to the template function it will automatically generate a function that takes and returns float types.
  - If the compiler can figure it out you can sometimes skip the type declaration.

```cpp
template <typename T>
T sum_template (T a, T b) {
    return a+b ;
}
// Then call the function:
float x=1.0 ;
float y=2.0 ;
float z=sum_template<float>(x,y) ;
z = sum_template (x,y) ;
```
Templates

- The only limit is that any type or class used with the example function `sum<>` has to support or implement the + operator.

- If you use a template function or class and the type you want to use doesn’t work with the generated code the compiler will tell you with an error message.
  - This may generate an ENORMOUS AMOUNT of error messages from the compiler.
  - If that happens, scroll back to the 1st error, that’s usually the point in your code with the erroneous line creating a templated object.

- If you only have one type to worry about (e.g. only one type of image format), templates are unlikely to offer much (except longer compiles).
- Use them when needed by a library or when you find yourself repeating the same code for multiple types over and over.
A Template Class

- Open the Code::Blocks project:
  - Part 4/Overloads_and_Templates

- Let’s use the C::B debugger to walk through some function overloads, a template function, and a template class to see how the code is created by the compiler.

```cpp
// A Template Class

// Create an object of Sample cast to hold a specific type.
Sample<int> int_Sample(100);
cout << int_Sample.sum_with_stored_value(50) << endl;
```
Template Class Inheritance

- C++ lets you define a base or super class using templates.
- A subclass can inherit as a template or as a specific type.
- Reference: C::B project Part 4/Template_Class_Inheritance

```cpp
template<typename T>
class BaseClassTemplate
{
  public:
    BaseClassTemplate() {}  
    virtual ~BaseClassTemplate() {}  
    T m_base_value;
  protected:
  private:
};

class Subclass1 :
  public BaseClassTemplate<int> 
  public:
    Subclass1() {}
    virtual ~Subclass1() {}
    int m_some_new_val;
};

template<typename T>
class Subclass2 :
  public BaseClassTemplate<T> 
  public:
    Subclass2() {}
    virtual ~Subclass2() {}
    int m_some_new_val;
};

template<typename T, typename Q>
class Subclass3 :
  public BaseClassTemplate<T> 
  public:
    Subclass3() {}
    virtual ~Subclass3() {}
    Q m_some_new_val;
};
```
The Standard Template Library

- The STL is a large collection of containers and algorithms that are part of C++.
  - It provides many of the basic algorithms and data structures used in computer science.
- As the name implies, it consists of generic code that you specialize as needed.
- When developing C++ code it is a good idea to use the STL when possible.
  - Well-vetted and tested.
  - Lots of resources available for help.
  - Programming is hard enough – why write extra code if you don’t have to?
Containers

- There are 16 types of containers in the STL:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>array</td>
<td>1D list of elements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vector</td>
<td>1D list of elements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deque</td>
<td>Double ended queue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>forward_list</td>
<td>Linked list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>list</td>
<td>Double-linked list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stack</td>
<td>Last-in, first-out list.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>queue</td>
<td>First-in, first-out list.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>priority_queue</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; element is always the largest in the container</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>set</td>
<td>Unique collection in a specific order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>multiset</td>
<td>Elements stored in a specific order, can have duplicates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>map</td>
<td>Key-value storage in a specific order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>multimap</td>
<td>Like a map but values can have the same key.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unordered_set</td>
<td>Same as set, sans ordering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unordered_multiset</td>
<td>Same as multiset, sans ordering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unordered_map</td>
<td>Same as map, sans ordering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unordered_multimap</td>
<td>Same as multimap, sans ordering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
 Algorithms

- There are 85 of these.
  - Example: find, count, replace, sort, is_sorted, max, min, binary_search, reverse
- Algorithms manipulate the data stored in containers but is not tied to STL containers
  - These can be applied to your own collections or containers of data
- Example:

```cpp
vector<int> v(3); // Declare a vector of 3 elements.
v[0] = 7;
v[1] = 3;
```

- The implementation is hidden and the necessary code for reverse() is generated from templates at compile time.
vector<T>

- A very common and useful class in C++ is the vector class. Access it with:
  ```
  #include <vector>
  ```

- Vector has many methods:
  - Various constructors
  - Ways to iterate or loop through its contents
  - Copy or assign to another vector
  - Query vector for the number of elements it contains or its backing storage size.

- Example usage:
  ```
  vector<float> my_vec;
  ```
  Or, create `my_vec` with storage pre-allocated:
  ```
  vector<float> my_vec(50);
  ```

- Hidden from the programmer is the backing store:
  - An array allocated in memory that is at least the size of the number of elements you have added or requested.
  - The array will auto-reallocate a new array, copy in the old data, and delete the old array if it hits its size limit.
Destructors

- `vector<t>` can hold objects of any type:
  - Primitive (aka basic) types: int, float, char, etc.
  - Objects: string, your own classes, file stream objects (ex. ostream), etc.
  - Pointers: int*, string*, etc.

- **When a vector is destroyed:**
  - If it holds primitive types or pointers it just deallocates its backing store.
  - If it holds objects it will call each object’s destructor before freeing its backing store.
vector<t> with objects

- If a vector<MyClass> has had some elements added to it the objects can be accessed via the vector using index notation, iterators, via the at() method, etc.
  - vec.at(2) is equivalent to vec[2] except that at(2) double checks the size of the vector before returning the value.

```cpp
// a vector with memory preallocated to hold 1000 objects.
vector<MyClass> my_vec(1000);

// Now make a vector with 1000 MyClass objects
// that are initialized using the MyClass constructor
vector<MyClass> my_vec2(1000, MyClass(arg1, arg2));

// Access an object's method.
my_vec2[100].some_method();
// Or a member
my_vec2[10].member_integer = 100;

// Or in a loop. const prevents the elem
// reference variable from editing the object
// it refers to.
for (const auto &elem : my_vec2) {
    cout << elem.some_method() << endl;
}

// Or...without the reference elem is now a
// COPY of the vector element!!
for (auto elem : my_vec2) {
    cout << elem.some_method() << endl;
}
```
Loop with a “for” loop, referencing the value of `vec` using brackets.

1\textsuperscript{st} time through:
- index = 0
- Print value at `vec[0]`
- Index gets incremented by 1

2\textsuperscript{nd} time through:
- Index = 1
- Etc

After last time through
- Index now equal to `vec.size()`
- Loop exits

Careful! Using an out of range index will likely cause a memory error that crashes your program.

Note we call the `size()` method on every iteration.

```cpp
for (int index = 0 ; index < vec.size() ; ++index)
{
    // ++index means "add 1 to the value of index"
    cout << vec[index] << " " ;
}
```
Iterators

- Iterators are generalized ways of keeping track of positions in a container.
- 3 types: forward iterators, bidirectional, random access
- Forward iterators can only be incremented (as seen here)
- Bidirectional can be added or subtracted to move both directions
- Random access can be used to access the container at any location
```cpp
for (vector<int>::iterator itr = vec.begin(); itr != vec.end(); ++itr)
{
    cout << *itr << " " ;
    // iterators are pointers!
}
```

- Loop with a “for” loop, referencing the value of vec using an iterator type.
- `vector<int>::iterator` is a type that iterates through a vector of int’s.
- 1st time through:
  - `itr` points at 1st element in vec
  - Print value pointed at by `itr`: `*itr`
  - `itr` is incremented to the next element in the vector
- Iterators are very useful C++ concepts. They work on any STL container!
  - No need to worry about the # of elements!
  - Exact iterator behavior depends on the type of container but they are guaranteed to always reach every value.
- Note we are now retrieving the end iterator at every loop to see if we’ve reached it: `vec.end()`
Let the *auto* type ask the C++ compiler to figure out the iterator type automatically.  
- This is MUCH easier code to read.

An extra modification: Assigning the `vec_end` variable avoids calling `vec.end()` on every loop.  
- This is faster, for when it matters.

```cpp
for (auto itr = vec.begin(), auto vec_end = vec.end(); itr != vec_end; ++itr)
{
    cout << *itr << " " ;
}
```
Another iterator-based loop: iterator behavior is handled automatically by the compiler and the element type is *also* handled by the compiler.

Uses a reference so there is no annoying pointer syntax.

Option: use a `const auto` type so the reference to the element can’t alter the vector.

Less typing == less chance for program bugs!
  - The compiler doesn’t mind doing extra work.

Performance considerations:
  - The iterators are general purpose and safer than bracket notation but a wee bit slower. Usually safety and less debugging effort wins over micro-optimizing your code!
  - Using them allow you to substitute different container types if you need to as not every container supports the bracket notation.
  - …meaning you can write a function that takes in begin and end iterators and works on any STL container type!
Using vector<> with our Shape classes

- Open the C::B project Part 4/STL Containers
- This has some worked examples using the vector<> class.
- It includes the Shape class hierarchy worked out in Part 3 of the tutorial.
- Let’s debug our way through the code to see how a vector<> handles objects that are members of a class hierarchy.
- Introduced in the code: some memory allocations and management.
Some OOP Guidelines

- Here are some guidelines for putting together a program using OOP to keep in mind while getting up and running with C++.

- Keep your classes simple and single purpose.

- Logically organize your classes to re-use code via inheritance.

- Use interfaces in place of multiple inheritance
  - Don’t make your life harder while trying to learn the language.

- Keep your methods short
  - It’s better to have many descriptive methods that do little things than giant methods that do lots of things.
  - This also makes for easier debugging.

- Follow the KISS principle:
  - “Keep it simple stupid”
  - “Keep it simple, silly”
  - “Keep it short and sweet”
  - “Make Simple Tasks Simple!” – Bjarne Stroustrup
  - “Make everything as simple as possible, but not simpler” – Albert Einstein
Putting your classes together

- Effective use of OOP demands that the programmer think/plan/design first and code second.
- There is a large body of information on this topic:
  - As this is an academic institution your code may:
    - Live on in your lab long after you have graduated
    - Be worked on by multiple researchers
    - Adapted to new problems you haven’t considered
    - Be shared with collaborators
  - For more structured environments (ex. a team of professional programmers) there exist concepts like SOLID that seek to create OOP code that is maintainable and easily debuggable over time:
    - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SOLID_(object-oriented_design)]
    - …but in an intro tutorial this would be hard to discuss!
Keep your classes simple

- Avoid “monster” classes that implement everything including the kitchen sink.
- Our Rectangle class just holds dimensions and calculates its area.
  - It cannot print out its area, send email, draw to the screen, etc.
- Two standard approaches to help with this are below.

- Single responsibility principle:
  - Every class has responsibility for one piece of functionality in the program.
  - Example:
    - An Image class holds image data and can read and write it from disk.
    - A second class, ImageFilter, has methods that manipulate Image objects and return new ones.

- Resource Allocation Is Initialization (RAII):
  - A late 80’s concept, widely used in OOP.
  - Resources in a class are created in the constructor and released in the destructor.
    - Example: opening files, allocating memory, etc.
  - Therefore resources are guaranteed to be available before the object is used and will be properly handled during program errors.
C++ Libraries

- There are a **LOT** of libraries available for C++ code.
  - Sourceforge alone has >7300
- Before jumping into writing your code, consider what you need and see if there are libraries available.
  
- Many libraries contain code developed by professionals or experts in a particular field.
- Consider what you are trying to accomplish in your research:
  - A) accomplishments in your field or
  - B) C++ programming?
- Probably (A) but there’s nothing wrong with (B), especially if C++ skills will be important to you in the future!
Configuration file formats

- Need a config file for your program? Writing configuration file parsers is not fun.
- Instead, use a standard format that anyone else can easily read in the language of their choice or update using references for the format.
- Here are two: JSON and Windows INI.

**JSON**
- The standard format for WWW communication.
- Supported everywhere.
- Header-only C++ library: json.hpp
- https://github.com/nlohmann/json

```
{
  "pi": 3.141,
  "happy": true,
  "name": "Niels",
  "nothing": null,
  "answer": {
    "everything": 42,
  },
  "list": [1, 0, 2],
  "object": {
    "currency": "USD",
    "value": 42.99
  }
}
```

**Windows INI**
- Informal standard from the early days of MS-DOS
- Supported everywhere.
- Easily readable by humans
- C++ library: RudeConfig
- http://rudeserver.com/config/index.html

```
[owner]
name=John Doe
organization=Acme Widgets Inc.

[database]
; use IP address in case network name resolution is not working
server=192.0.2.62
port=143
file="payroll.dat"
```

Data storage

- CSV format (Excel compatible text)
  - Header-only reader: csv.h
  - [https://github.com/ben-strasser/fast-cpp-csv-parser](https://github.com/ben-strasser/fast-cpp-csv-parser)

- SQLite if a database is desired
  - C++ interface: [https://www.sqlite.org/cintro.html](https://www.sqlite.org/cintro.html)
  - Use SQLite source code directly in your program.
  - Files are accessible from C, Python, Firefox, and more.

- HDF5 for general purpose storage of anything you can think of.
  - HDF5 is intended for scientific data storage.
  - Available on SCC
  - Files are supported in Matlab, Python, R, etc.
  - [https://support.hdfgroup.org/HDF5/doc/cplusplus_RM/](https://support.hdfgroup.org/HDF5/doc/cplusplus_RM/)
Multithreading

- **OpenMP**
  - Open MP is a standard approach to writing multithreaded code to exploit multiple CPU cores with your program.
  - Fully supported in C++
  - See [http://www.openmp.org/](http://www.openmp.org/) for details, or take an RCS tutorial on using it.

- **Intel Thread Building Blocks**
  - C++ specific library
  - Available on the SCC from Intel and is also open source.
  - Much more flexible and much more C++-ish than OpenMP
  - Offers high performance memory allocators for multithreaded code
  - Includes concurrent data types (vectors, etc.) that can automatically be shared amongst threads with no added effort for the programmer to control access to them.
  - If you want to use this and need help email help@scc.bu.edu
Math and Linear Algebra

- **Eigen**
  - Available on the SCC.
  - “Eigen is a C++ template library for linear algebra: matrices, vectors, numerical solvers, and related algorithms.”

- **Armadillo**
  - http://arma.sourceforge.net/
  - Available on the SCC.
  - “Armadillo is a high quality linear algebra library (matrix maths) for the C++ language, aiming towards a good balance between speed and ease of use. Provides high-level syntax (API) deliberately similar to Matlab.”
  - Also see [matlab2cpp](https://github.com/jonathf/matlab2cpp), a semi-automatic tool for converting Matlab code to C++ with Armadillo.
  - And also see [PyJet](https://github.com/wolfv/pyjet), which converts Python and Numpy code to Armadillo/C++ code.

- As nice as the vector<> class is, it’s not going to come close to competing with optimized libraries for handling linear algebra.
Example: Speeding up Python

- Let’s take a terrible Python function: a naïve matrix-matrix multiplication implemented with lists.
- Implemented as a method in a barebones Python Matrix class.

- A C++ version should be faster (even keeping the naïve multiplication algorithm).
- Ideally we’d like to drop the C++ code into our Python script.

- For fun, compare against the same routine run with numpy (uses optimized C).
Python code:

Please do not ever use this terrible in your own code, this is for demonstration purposes only!
C++ Class

- matrix_plugin.h
- An equivalent C++ class.
- Stores its matrix as a vector of vectors.
- Uses the same algorithm.
- Will it be faster?

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

class Matrix_Plugin {
public:
    Matrix_Plugin(const int); // Don't allow for an empty constructor, // only create if a matrix size is given. //Matrix_Plugin()=delete ;

    // Duplicate the Python methods for code compatibility
    Matrix_Plugin multiply(const Matrix_Plugin &mat); // Add an extra "get" method for the size. This lets
    // outside code read the size from the private member.
    int get_matrix_size(); // In order to make this work like the Python class it
    // would be nice to use mymatrix[][] but there is no [][] operator
    // in C++. The () operator can be used instead but that gets a little
    // complicated for this example. So use a get/set combo
    double get_val(const int row, const int col);
    void set_val(const int row, const int col, double val);

private:
    // Need to store the matrix...let's use an STL vector
    // A vector of vectors of doubles will do the trick.
    vector<vector<double>> m_matrix ;

    // And store the matrix size
    int m_matrix_size ;
};
```
- matrix_plugin.cpp

- This is a snippet, showing just the matrix multiplication method. Exact same implementation as in Python.

```cpp
#include "matrix_plugin.h"

Matrix_Plugin Matrix_Plugin::multiply(const Matrix_Plugin &mat) {
    // Implement the exact same algorithm as in Python
    Matrix_Plugin C(m_matrix_size);
    for (int i = 0; i < m_matrix_size; ++i) {
        for (int j = 0; j < m_matrix_size; ++j) {
            for (int k = 0; k < m_matrix_size; ++k) {
                C.m_matrix[i][j] += m_matrix[i][k] * mat.m_matrix[k][j];
            }
        }
    }
    return C;
}
```
Python Calling C++

- Python requires interface or glue code to be written to translate back and forth between the Python interpreter and the C++ code.
- This interface code is written in C.
- It is a fair amount of labor to write this code and it has to be modified any time the C++ code is changed.
- If only it could be auto-generated…
SWIG – Software Wrapper Interface Generator

- Fortunately there is more than one way to generate the interface code automatically!
- SWIG is a popular and well-tested tool.
  - [http://www.swig.org/](http://www.swig.org/)
  - Can generate wrappers for C and C++ code so it can be called in Python, Perl, Java, R, and ~20 other scripting languages
- An alternative is the Boost.Python library
  - More powerful and more flexible than SWIG.
  - Much steeper learning curve.
- To finish the tutorial let’s walk through wrapping faster C++ code with SWIG and plugging it into Python.
SWIG interface file

- File: matrix_plugin.i
- SWIG needs an interface file, which tells it what parts of the C++ code it should create wrappers around for Python.
- In this case it’s pretty minimal. The requirements for this file are in the SWIG documentation but for more straightforward C++ code you just need the header files.
- The C++ class will appear as a Python class.
- The SCC build script is to the right.
- The generated Python interface code is much longer than a human would write at 3661 lines (but it works)!

```swig
%module matrix_plugin
%
{  
  #include "matrix_plugin.h"
}%
%include "matrix_plugin.h"
```

```bash
module load swig
module load python/2.7.11
module load gcc/6.2.0
# The matrix_plugin.i is the SWIG interface file.
swig -c++ -python matrix_plugin.i

# SWIG has produced a Python interface file:  
# matrix_plugin_wrap.c

# Compile the C++ plugin and the SWIG interface files
g++ -O3 -fPIC -std=c++11 -o matrix_plugin.cpp

g++ -O3 -fPIC -std=c++11 -c -I$SCC_PYTHON_INCLUDE/python2.7 \
  matrix_plugin_wrap.cxx
# Link into a shared library

g++ -shared matrix_plugin.o matrix_plugin_wrap.o -o _matrix_plugin.so

# In Python now do:
# import matrix_plugin
# matrix_plugin.Matrix_Plugin(mat_sz)
# to use the new C++ class!
```
How does it compare in speed?

- Compare: original terrible Python code, C++ duplicate code, numpy, and an extra C++ version that uses the Armadillo C++ library to handle its matrix and matrix multiplication.
- Run on scc2.bu.edu
- Time is in seconds.
- Lesson 1: SWIG and C++ are faster than Python!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Matrix Size</th>
<th>Bad Python</th>
<th>C++ Conversion</th>
<th>Numpy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100x100</td>
<td>0.387</td>
<td>0.0015</td>
<td>6.89e-05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200x200</td>
<td>3.35</td>
<td>0.014</td>
<td>0.0002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300x300</td>
<td>11.01</td>
<td>0.049</td>
<td>0.0004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500x500</td>
<td>58.6</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.0012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Lesson 2: a crummy algorithm always loses to an optimized algorithm.
Some Web and Print Resources

- **C++ Primer (5th Edition)** by Stanley B. Lippman, Josée Lajoie, Barbara E. Moo
  - A well-regarded book for anyone learning C++

- **Effective Modern C++: 42 Specific Ways to Improve Your Use of C++11 and C++14 (1st Edition)** by Scott Meyers
  - Not a beginner’s book, but excellent once you feel confident in C++

- **The C++ Standard Library: A Tutorial and Reference (2nd Edition)** by Nicolai M. Josuttis
  - An excellent reference on the STL.

- **http://www.cplusplus.com/**
  - Has tutorials, articles, C++ information, reference materials, and a forum.
  - The reference is excellent with clear explanations and good example code.

- **http://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp**
  - A highly detailed and technical reference. Useful when cplusplus.com doesn’t describe enough of the underlying behavior of things in the C++ language and STL for you.

- **https://isocpp.org/faq**
  - The C++ Super FAQ
  - A great resource!

- **https://www.tutorialspoint.com/cplusplus/index.htm**
  - Tutorialspoint has tutorials for multiple languages.
C++ on the SCC

- Gnu `g++` compiler. For C++11 use versions 4.9.2, 5.3.0, or 6.2.0
  - Ex.:
    ```
    module load gcc/6.2.0
    g++ -o myprog -std=c++11 myfile.cpp
    ```

  - Ex.:
    ```
    module load intel/2016
    icc -o myprog -std=c++11 myfile.cpp
    ```

- LLVM `clang++` compiler. Use version 3.9.0
  - Ex.:
    ```
    module load llvm/3.9.0
    clang++ -o myprog -std=c++11 myfile.cpp
    ```
Tutorial Conclusion

- Topics covered:
  - Some basic C++ syntax
  - OOP concepts: encapsulation, abstraction, inheritance, polymorphism
  - Classes:
    - Syntax
    - Private / protected / public access
    - Methods and members
    - Inheritance
    - Use of the virtual keyword
  - Basics of templates and the STL
  - Use of an IDE (Code::Blocks) to assist with development and debugging
  - Example of accelerating Python with C++
Topics Not Covered

- Where to start?!
  - More C++ syntax
    - If/else, other types of loops
  - Manual memory management
  - File I/O
  - Pointer intricacies
  - Design patterns
    - More ways to organize OOP code
  - Multithreading
  - Template metaprogramming
    - Wherein templates are used not just to adapt to types but to generate code for you.
    - This is the basis of libraries like Armadillo.
    - Really advanced C++.
    - In C++ the template system was accidentally discovered to be *Turing complete*, meaning it can compute anything computable (like C++ itself)...in other words it's like having a separate programming language embedded in C++!
Your thoughts please!

- The main tutorial goal was to introduce C++ and to cover the main reason for choosing it over competitors like FORTRAN or C: object-oriented programming.

- The focus has been on developing classes and understanding the OOP concepts underlying the approach.

- This is the first time that a C++ tutorial has been offered by RCS. What would you change? Add? Remove?