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Advanced Inheritance



C++ Object Oriented Programming

Pei-yih Ting

NTOU CS

Contents

- ✧ Abstract Base Class (ABC)
- ✧ What can you do with an ABC?
- ✧ Pure virtual function

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- ✧ Private inheritance
- ✧ Restoring the accessibility of privately inherited interface

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- ✧ Pure virtual function
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- ✧ Virtual Base Class
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- ✧ Restoring the accessibility of privately inherited interface
- Inherit from a template class

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class Person {  
public:  
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    Person(char *name, int age);  
    virtual ~Person();  
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```
error C2259: 'Person' : cannot instantiate abstract class due to following members:  
warning C4259: 'void __thiscall Person::display(void) const' :pure virtual function  
was not defined
```

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```
Person *database[3];          // heterogeneous container  
database[0] = new Undergraduate("Mary", 18);  
database[1] = new Graduate("Angela", 25, 6000, "Fairview 2250");  
database[2] = new Faculty("Sue", 34, "Fairview 2248", "Professor");  
for (int i=0; i<3; i++)  
    database[i]->display();
```

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- ❖ Abstract classes are sometimes called *partial classes*

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```
void Person::display() const {
    cout << getName() << " is " << getAge() << " years old.\n";
}
void Faculty::display() const {
    Person::display();
    cout << " Her address is " << m_office.getAddress() << ".\n";
    cout << " Her rank is " << m_rank << ".\n\n";
}
```

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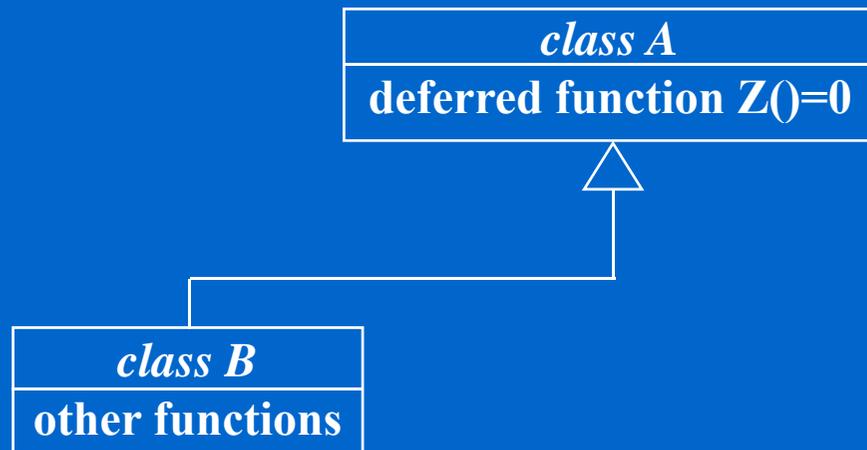
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<i>class A</i>
deferred function Z()=0

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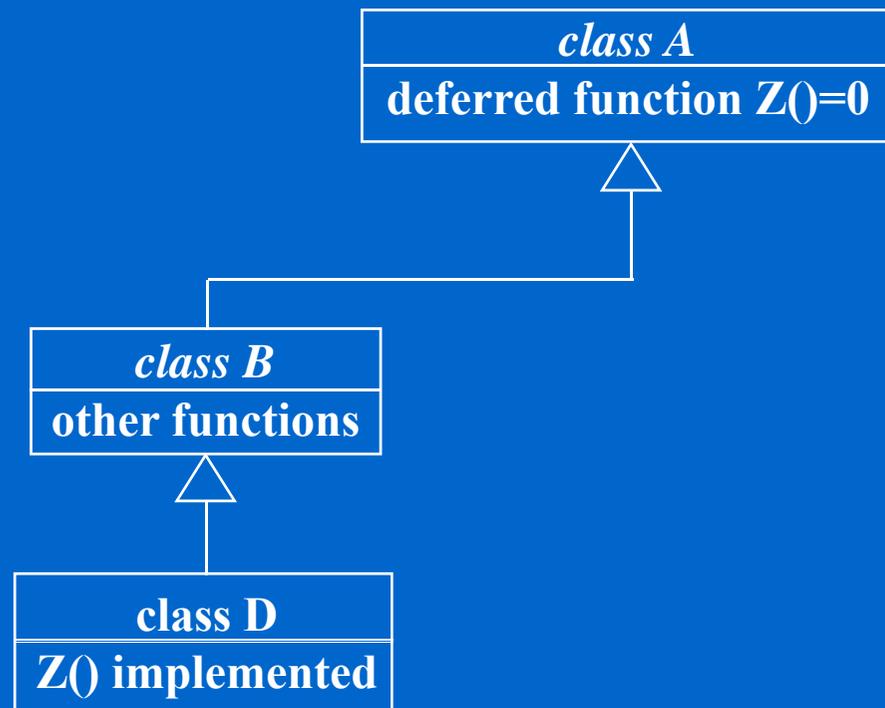
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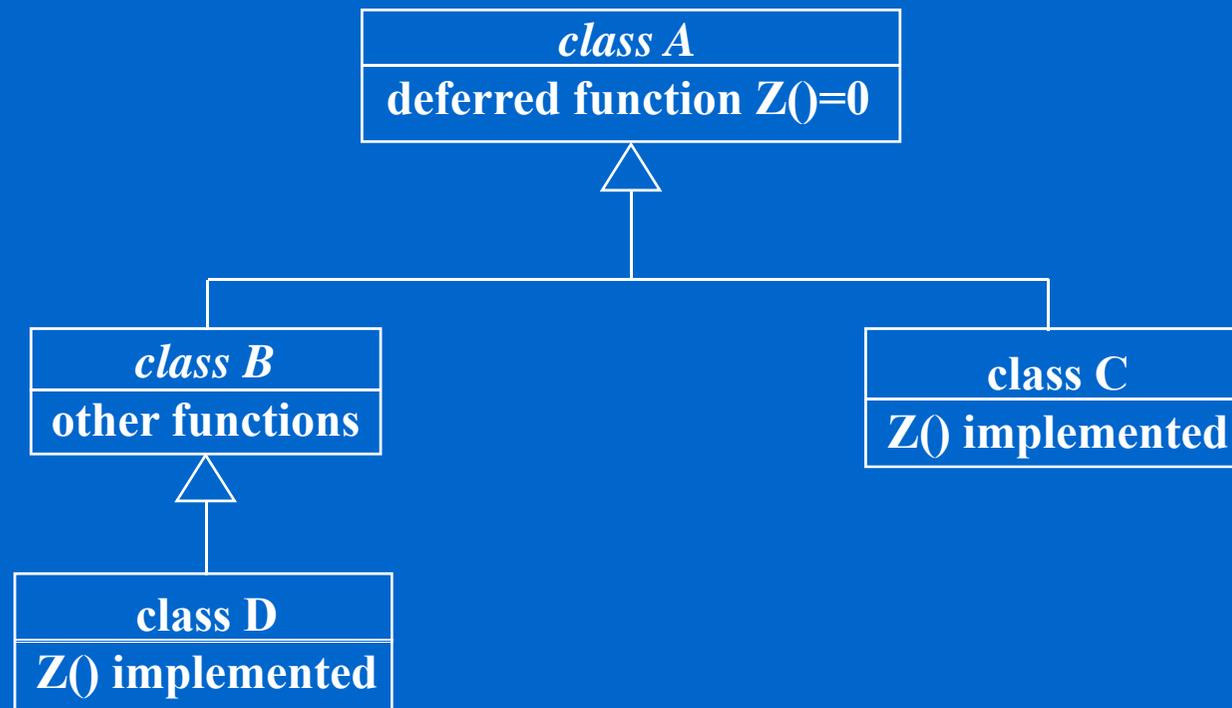
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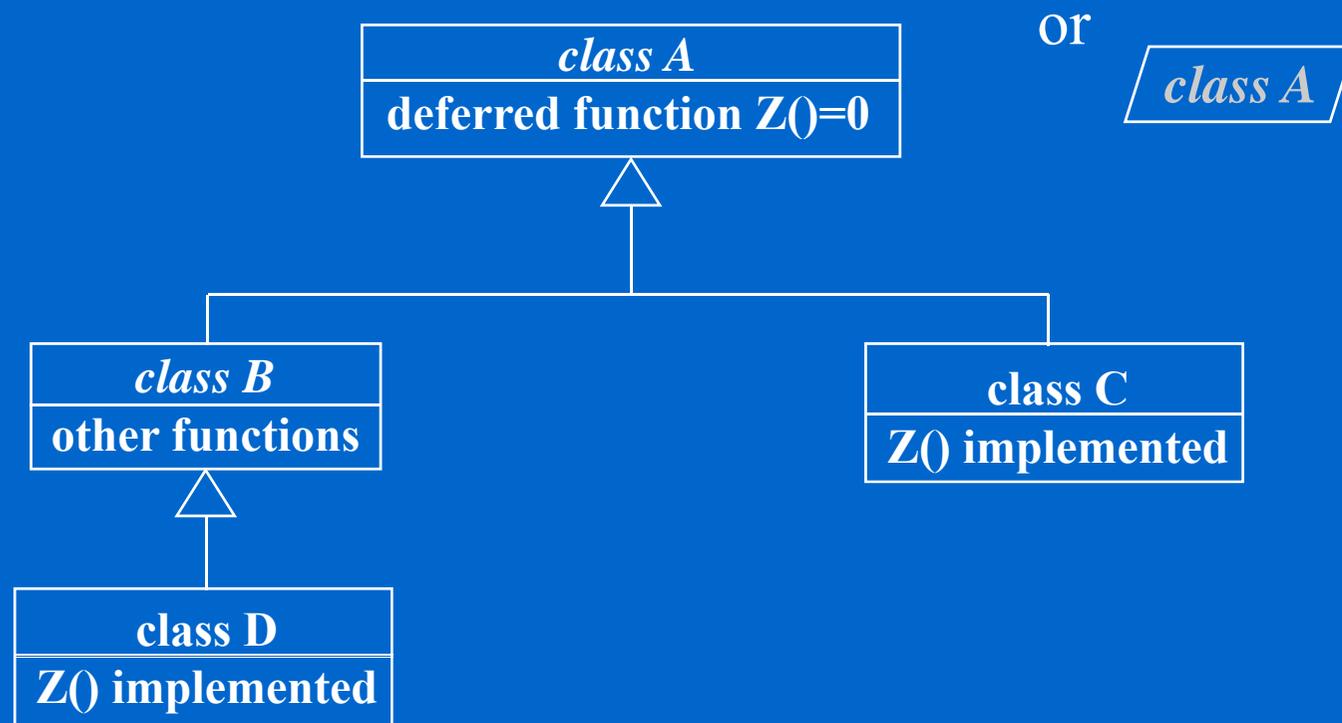
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- ❖ An **interface** specifies a particular **role** (we specify a role with a set of operations) for an object that provides some particular functions to other objects. **An ABC is frequently an adjective**, Ex. Printable, Persistent, ... **only specify some properties.**

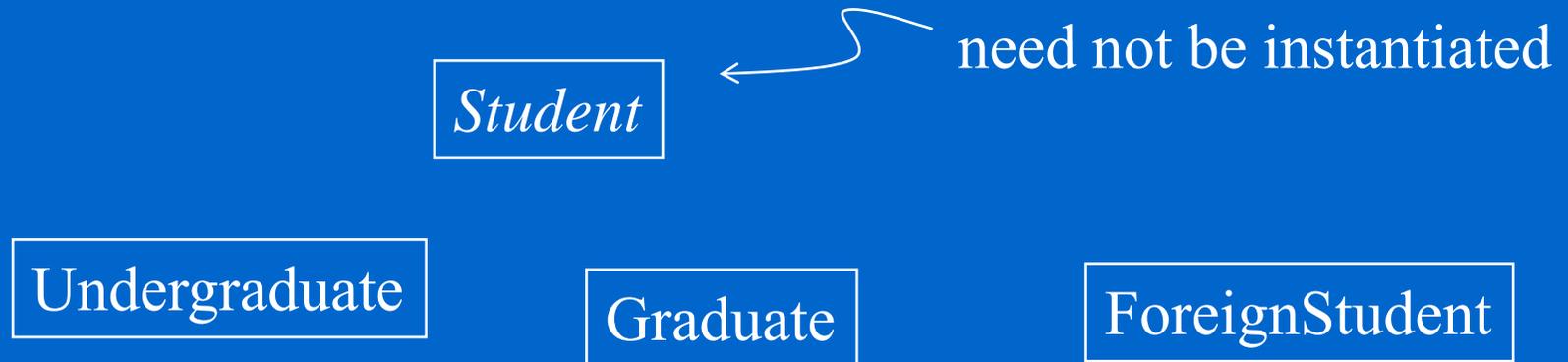
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A class can have many unrelated abstract specifications. We will discuss this language feature in C++ as multiple inheritance.

Why do you need Abstract Classes?

- ❖ Two examples (types) of usage:



Why do you need Abstract Classes?

✧ Two examples (types) of usage:

Student

← need not be instantiated

Undergraduate

Graduate

ForeignStudent

Runnable

Printable

Observable

only describe some partial property

WorkThread

Multiple Inheritance

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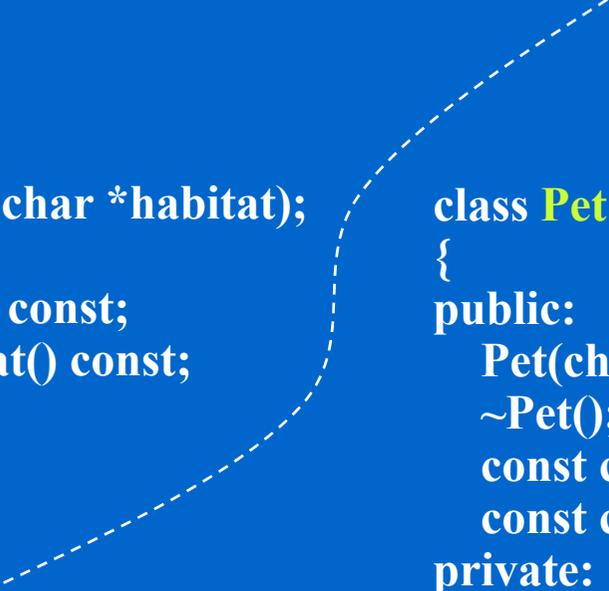
```
class Predator
{
public:
    Predator(char *prey, char *habitat);
    ~Predator();
    const char *getPrey() const;
    const char *getHabitat() const;
private:
    char *m_pre;
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    char *m_habitat;
};
```

```
class Pet
{
public:
    Pet(char *name, char *habitat);
    ~Pet();
    const char *getName() const;
    const char *getHabitat() const;
private:
    char *m_name;
    char *m_habitat;
};
```



Multiple Inheritance (cont'd)

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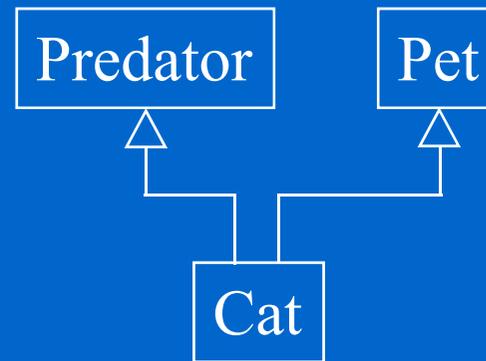
```
class Cat: public Predator, public Pet
{
public:
    Cat(char *name, char *prey, char *habitat);
    void reduceLives();
    int getLives() const;
private:
    int m_lives;
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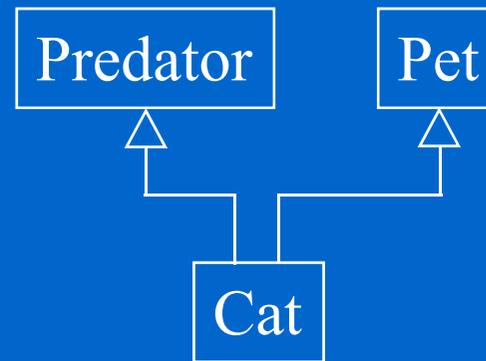
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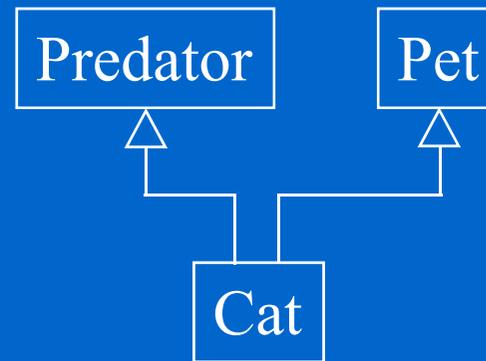
- ❖ The Cat constructor

```
Cat::Cat(char *name, char *prey, char *habitat)
    : Predator(pre, habitat), Pet(name, habitat), m_lives(9)
{
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- ❖ Note that getHabitat() and the m_habitat will be inherited twice

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```
Cat cat("Binky", "mice", "indoors");
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```
Cat cat("Binky", "mice", "indoors");  
cat.reduceLives(); // due to an accident  
cout << cat.getName() << " is a cat who eats " << cat.getPrey() << " and lives "  
    << cat.Pet::getHabitat() << ".\n" << cat.getName() << " currently has "  
    << cat.getLives() << " liv;"\n.se
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- ✧ It is necessary to disambiguate which getHabitat() function we want. In this case, either **Predator::getHabitat()** or **Pet::getHabitat()** is a possible candidate.

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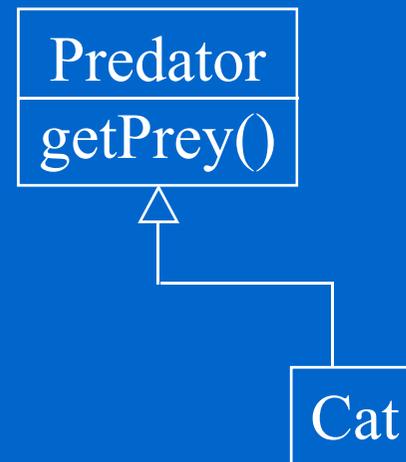
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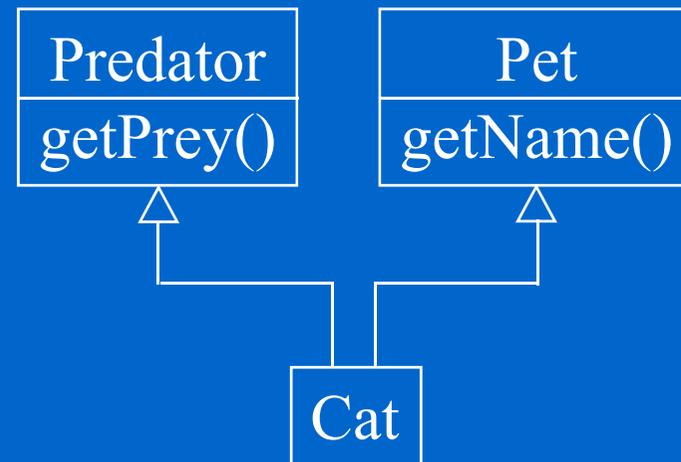
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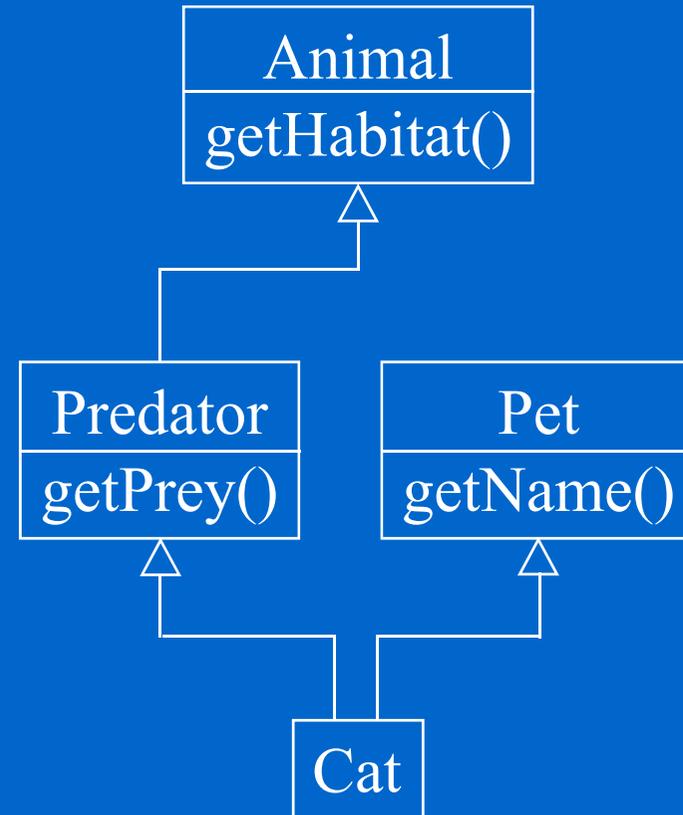
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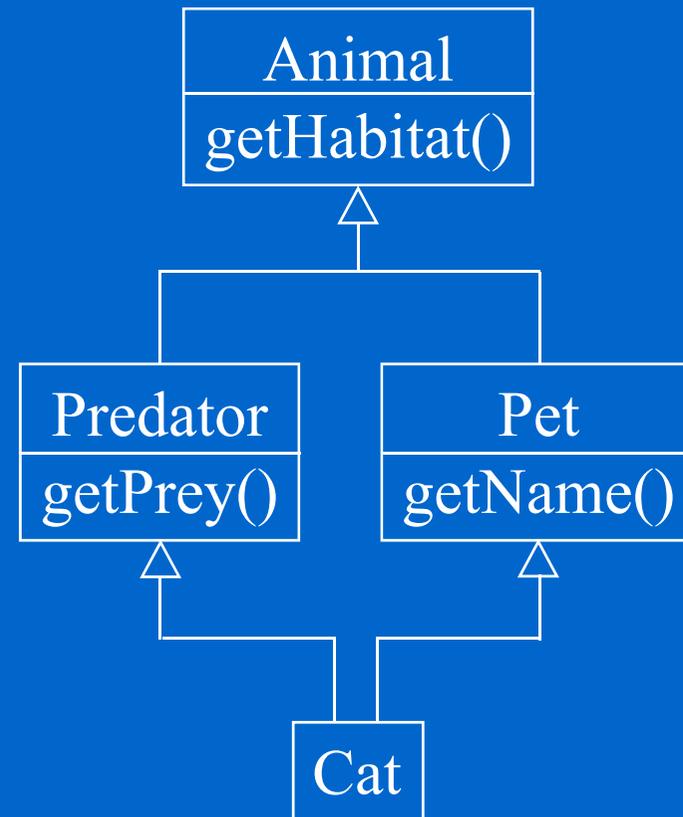
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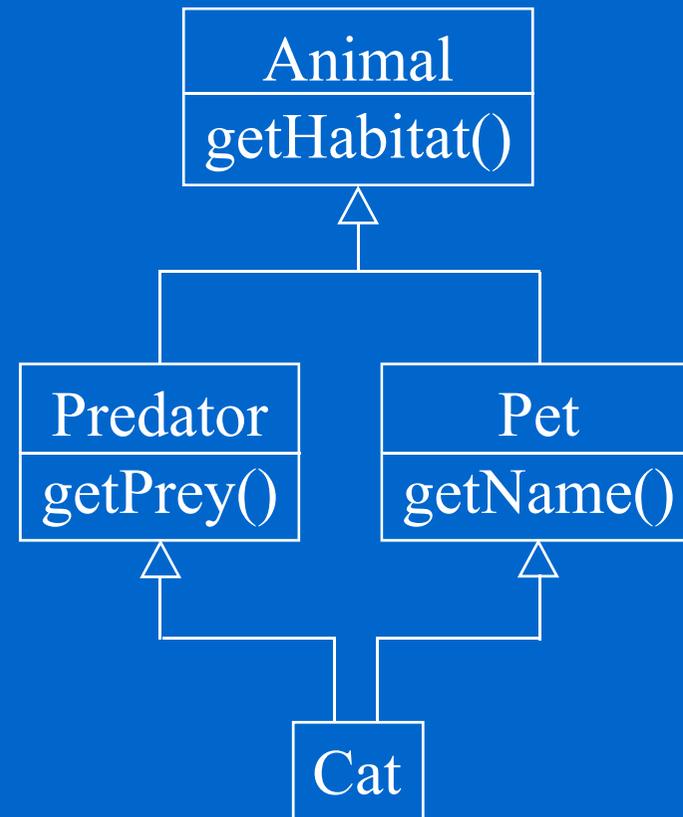
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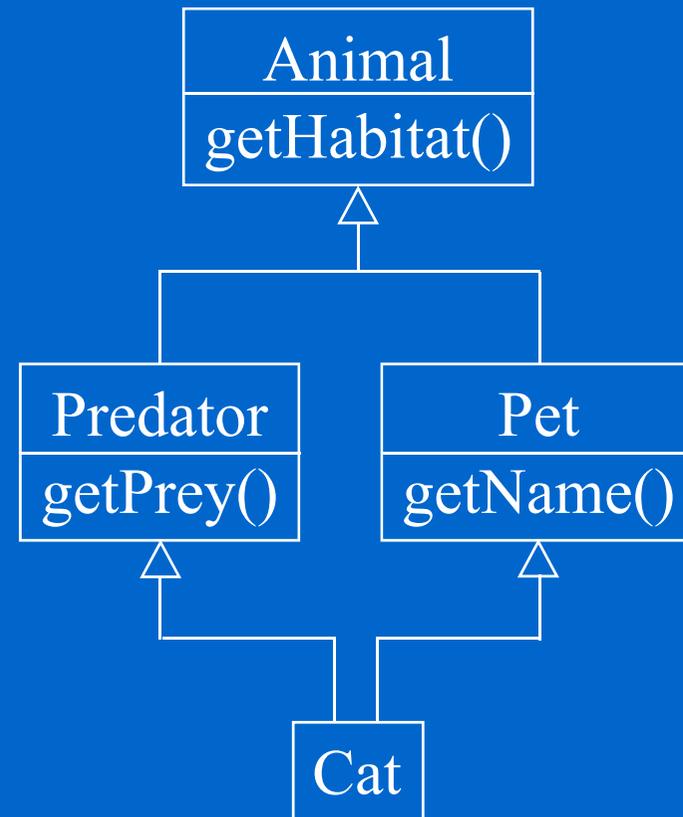
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class Animal {  
public:  
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    virtual ~Animal();  
    const char *getHabitat() const;  
private:  
    char *m_habitat;  
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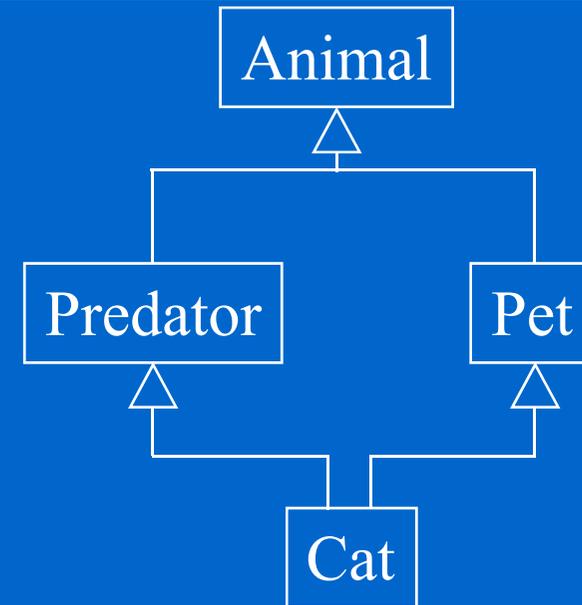
the ‘dreaded diamond’

Virtual Base Class

- ❖ Cat inherits getHabitat() through Predator but also through Pet

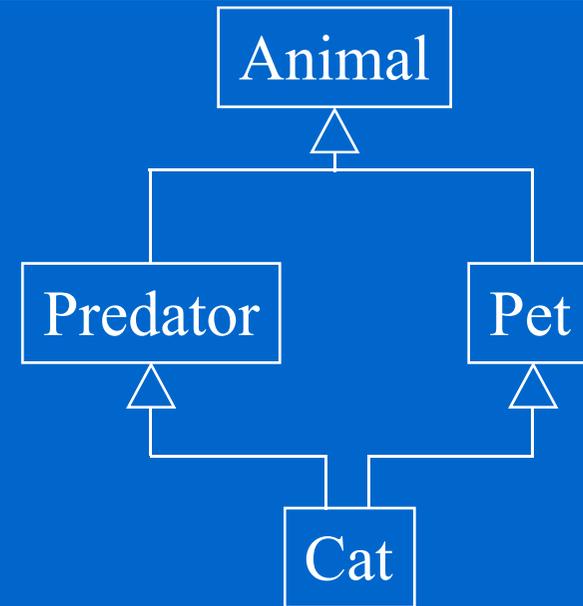
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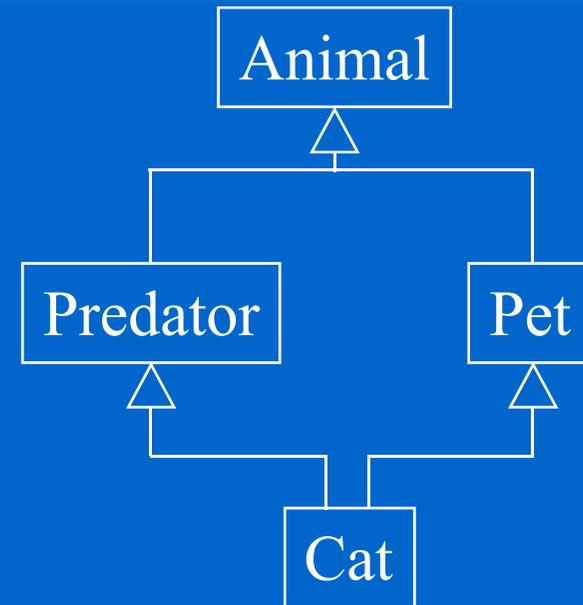
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- ❖ Cat still has two getHabitat()'s
`cout << cat.getHabitat();`



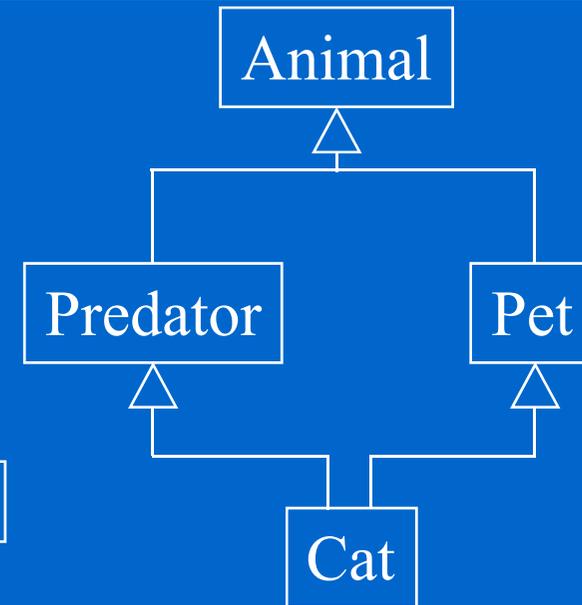
Virtual Base Class

❖ Cat inherits getHabitat() through Predator but also through Pet

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cout << cat.getHabitat();
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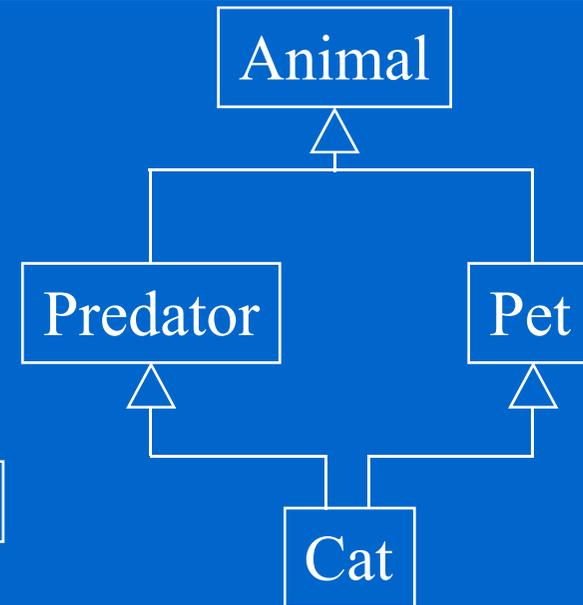
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❖ Still need to disambiguate these two versions

```
cout << cat.Predator::getHabitat() << "\n";
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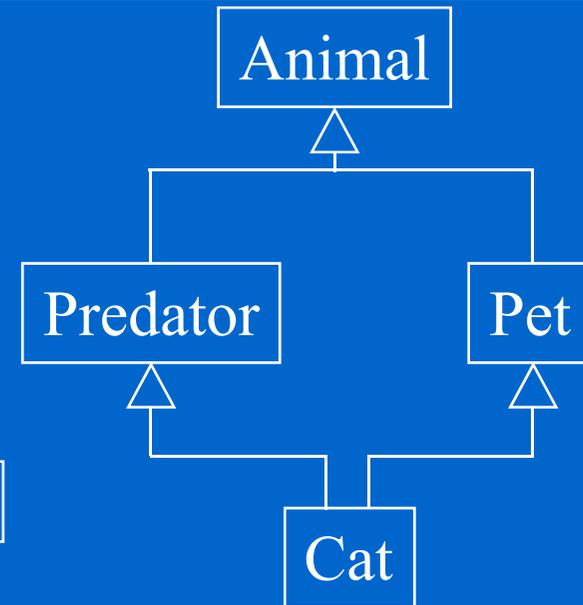
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❖ A better solution is to create a *virtual base class*.



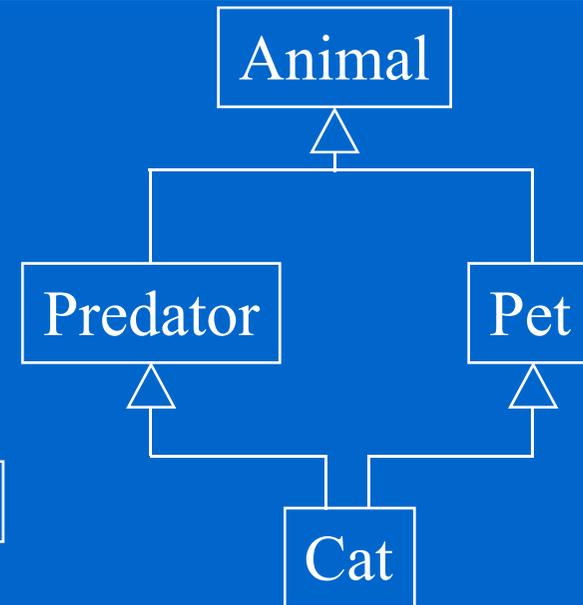
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❖ A virtual base class is included only once in all derived classes.

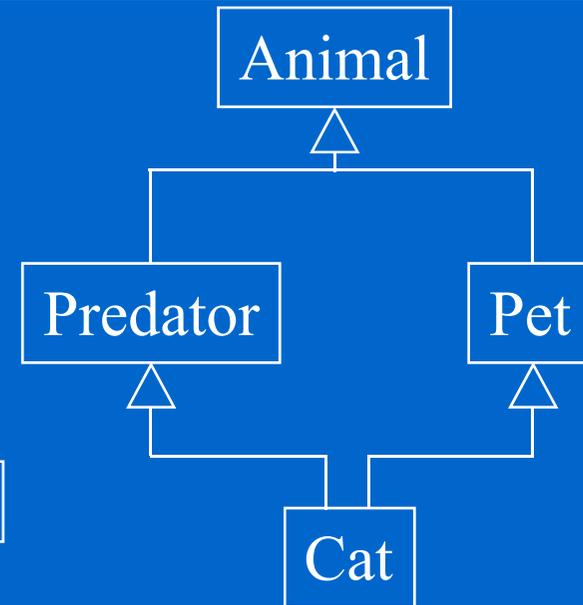
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❖ A better solution is to create a *virtual base class*.

❖ A virtual base class is included only once in all derived classes.

In the case of Cat, **all paths** from Animal to Cat must be marked as virtual, but only once.

Syntax of Virtual Base Class

- ✧ **Animal** class is declared as before, but Predator and Pet must be marked virtual

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```
Cat::Cat(char *name, char *prey, char *habitat)  
    : Animal(habitat), Predator(pre, habitat), Pet(name, habitat), m_lives(9) {  
}  
Predator::Predator(char *prey, char *habitat) : Animal(habitat) {  
    m_pre = new char[strlen(pre)+1];  
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```

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Predator::Predator(char *prey, char *habitat) : Animal(habitat) {  
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}
```

used only in
Predator predator("a", "b");

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Mix-in Inheritance

- ✧ Multiple inheritance is sometimes used to combine disparate classes into a single abstraction. This is called *mix-in inheritance*.

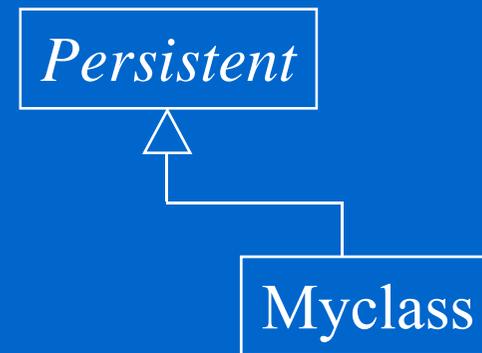
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Myclass

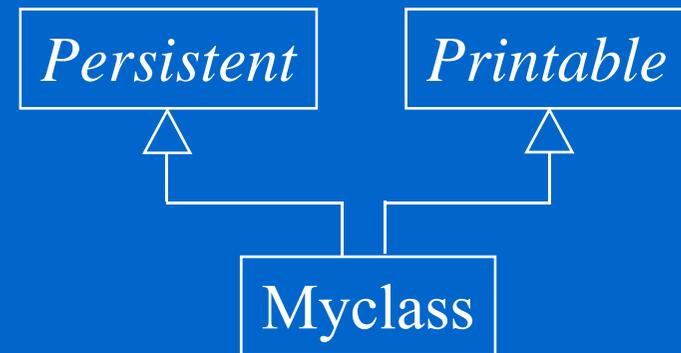
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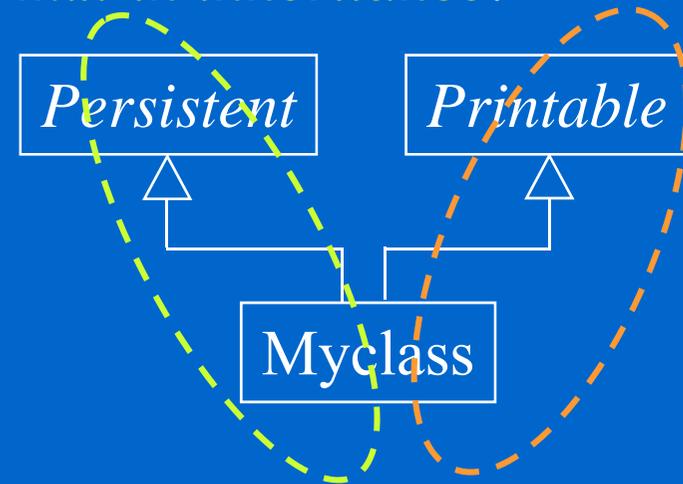
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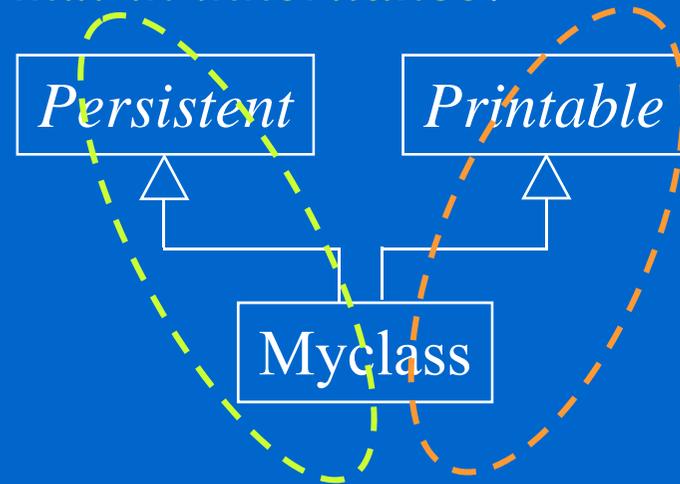
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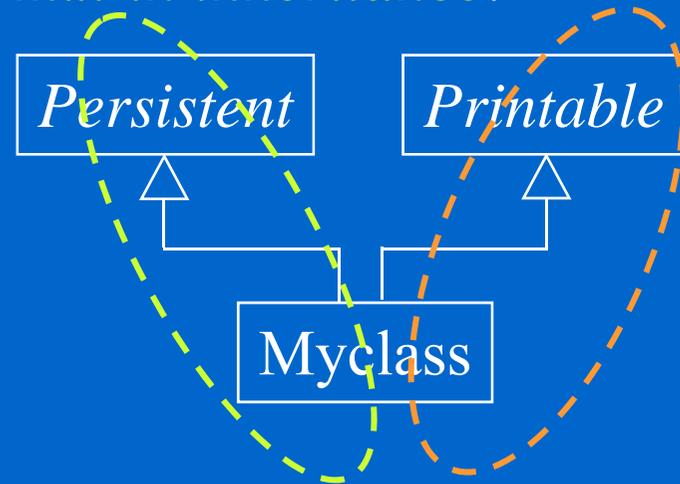
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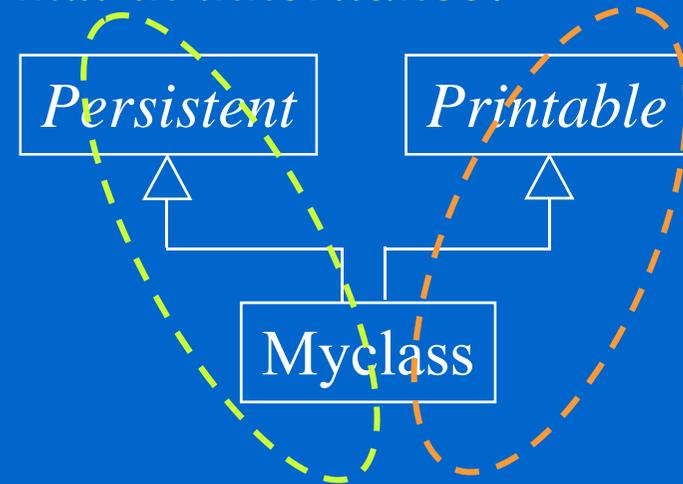
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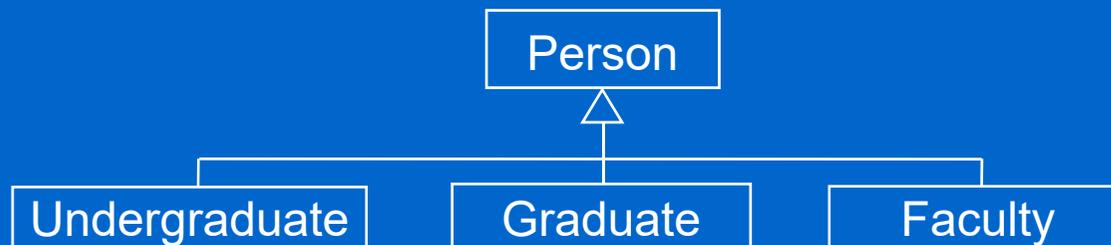
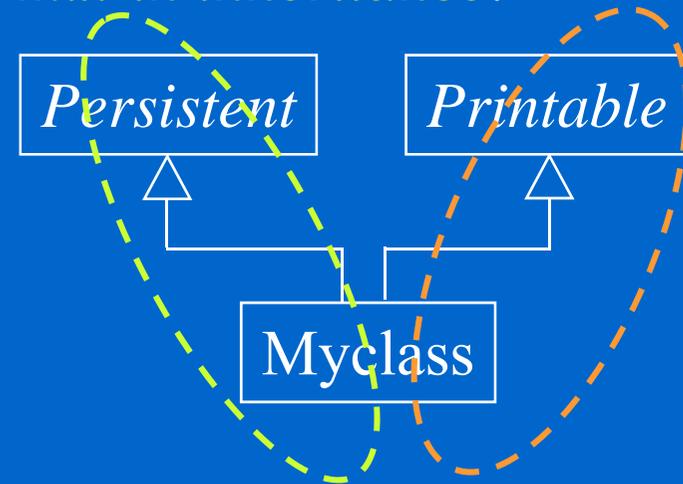
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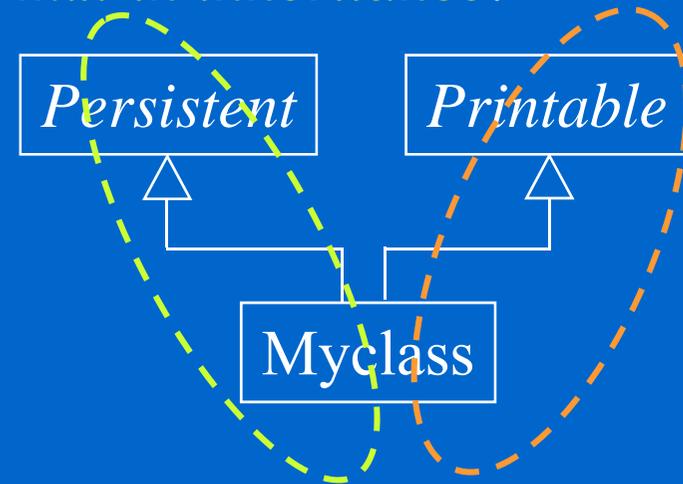
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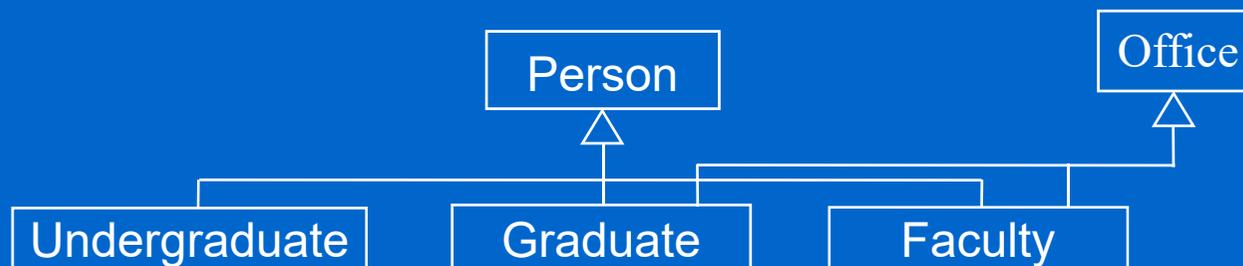
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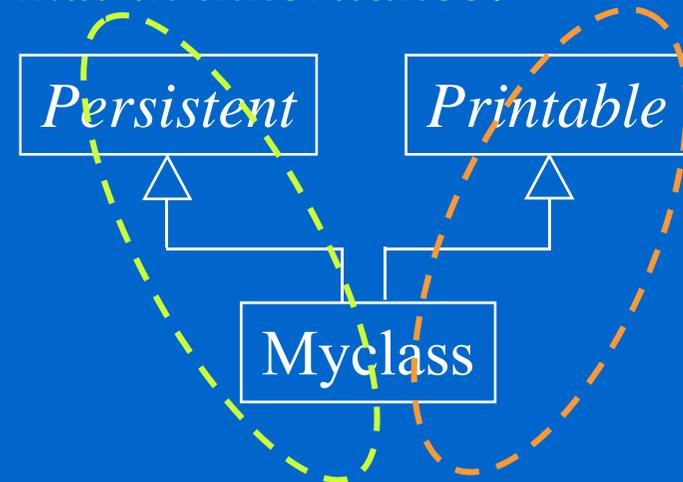
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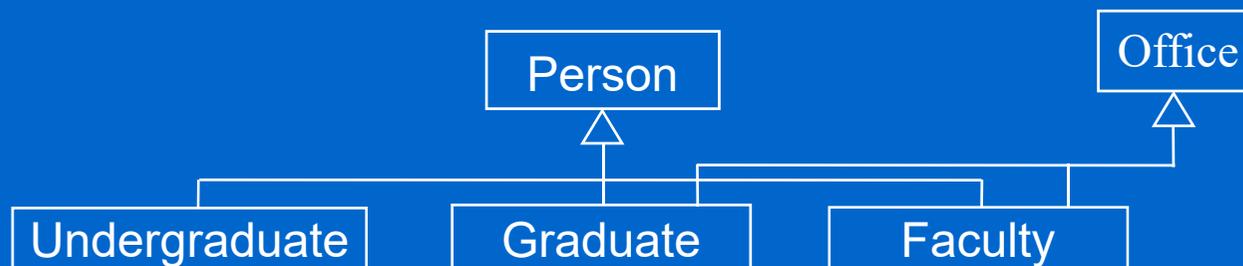
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A graduate student is certainly not an office.

Private Inheritance

✧ Private inheritance

Private Inheritance

❖ Private inheritance

```
class Student {  
public:  
    Student();  
    void setData(char *name, int age);  
    int getAge() const;  
    const char *getName() const;  
private:  
    char *m_name;  
    int *m_age;  
};
```

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};
```

```
class Graduate: private Student {  
public:  
    Graduate(char *name, int age, int stipend);  
    int display() const;  
private:  
    int m_stipend;  
};
```

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class Graduate: private Student {  
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- ❖ All public members of Student are private to Graduate.
- ❖ Classes derived from Graduate would be unable to access any elements or services provided by Student.

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Private inheritance is equivalent to a **HAS-A** relationship.
Outside client code cannot see any trace of the base class from a derived class object.

Restoring the Accessibility

- ✧ In private inheritance, individual functions can be restored to the original access (and only to that level).

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private:  
    int m_stipend;  
};
```

- ❖ Usage

```
Graduate graduateStudent("Angela", 25, 6000);  
cout << graduateStudent.getName();
```

Inherit from a Template Class

- ✧ Assume you have a templated array class

Inherit from a Template Class

- ❖ Assume you have a templated array class

```
template <class type>
class Array {
public:
    Array(int arraySize);
    ~Array();
    void insertElement(int slot, type element);
    type getElement(int slot) const;
    int getSize() const;
private:
    int m_arraySize;
    type *m_array;
};
```

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- ❖ You want the class to also return the largest element in the array

```
template <class type>
class NewArray: public Array<type> {
public:
    NewArray(int arraySize);
    type getLargest();
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template <class type>
class NewArray: public Array<type> {
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```

This derived NewArray class is still a template class.

Inherit from a Template Class

✧ Constructor

Inherit from a Template Class

✧ Constructor

```
template<class type>
NewArray<type>::NewArray(int arraySize): Array<type>(arraySize) {
    for (int i=0; i<arraySize; i++) insertElement(i, 0);
}
```

Inherit from a Template Class

- ❖ Constructor

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- ❖ Extended functionality

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❖ Extended functionality

```
template<class type>
type NewArray<type>::getLargest() {
    type largest = getElement(0);
    for (int i=1; i<getSize(); i++)
        if (getElement(i) > largest)
            largest = getElement(i);
    return largest;
}
```

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```

❖ Usage

```
void main() {
    NewArray<double> array(20);
    array.insertElement(0, 4.6);
    array.insertElement(5, 12.6);
    cout << array.getLargest();
}
```

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Output 12.6
