

Inheritance and its Type in Object Oriented Programming Using C++

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this review paper is to review the concept of inheritance in C++ programming language. C++ is a general-purpose programming language with an influence towards system programming that supports efficient low-level computations, data abstraction, object-oriented programming, and generic programming. Programming is a fundamental course that is taught to every computer science student during their initial semesters. The course introduces students to basic operations and the architecture of computers, and also polishes the problem-solving skills of students. The review paper begins with a survey of C++ OOP's concepts like inheritance, programming language, and language technical concepts using examples to provide the reader with a feel for the language. Inheritance plays an important role for code reusability.

INTRODUCTION

Reusability is an important feature of OOP. It is always nice if we could reuse something that already exists rather than trying to create the same all over again. The reuse of a class that has already been tested, debugged, and used many times can save us the effort and time of developing and testing the same again.

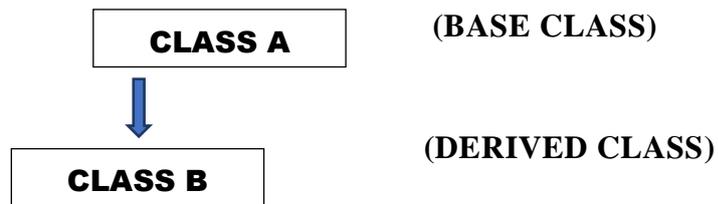
C++ strongly supports the concept of reusability. C++ classes can be reused in several ways. Once a class has been written and tested, it can be adapted by other programmers to suit their requirements. This is basically done by creating new classes, reusing the properties of the existing ones. The mechanism of deriving a new class from an old one is called inheritance (or derivation). The old class is referred to as the base class and the new one is called the derived class or subclass. The derived class inherits some or all of the traits from the base class.

TYPES OF INHERITANCE:

- SINGLE INHERITANCE
- MULTILEVEL INHERITANCE
- MULTIPLE INHERITANCE
- HIERARCHICAL INHERITANCE
- HYBRID INHERITANCE

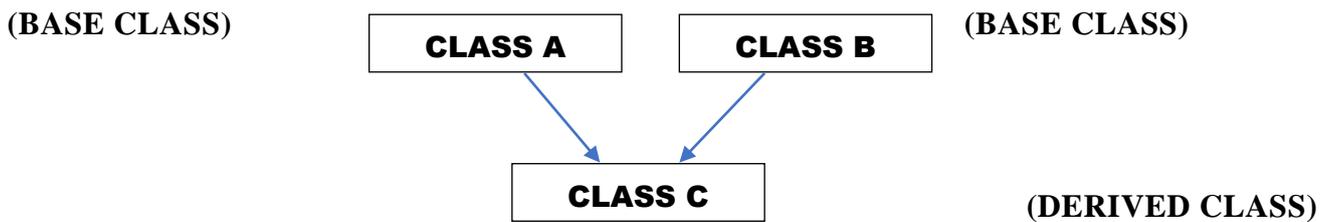
SINGLE INHERITANCE:

Single inheritance is the mechanism of deriving a class from only one single base class. It allows a derived class to inherit the properties of a base class, thus enabling code reusability as well as adding new features to the existing code.



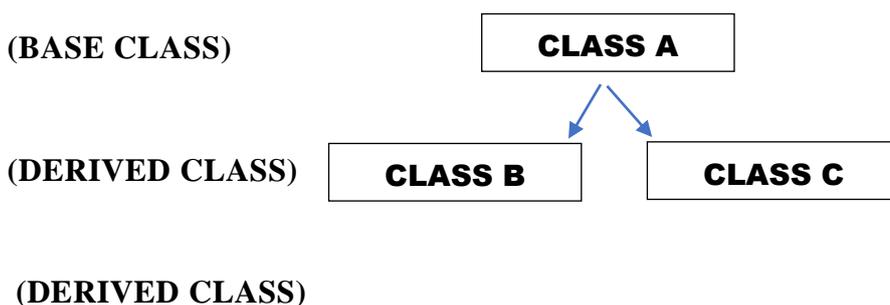
MULTIPLE INHERITANCE:

Derived class with several base classes is called multiple inheritance. Multiple inheritance is complex as compared to multilevel inheritance and not widely used.



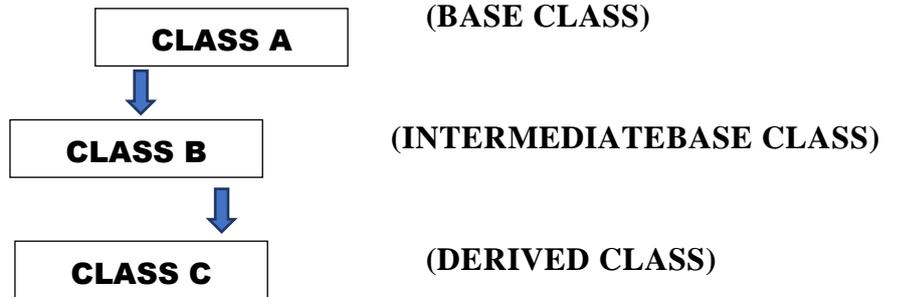
HIERARCHICAL INHERITANCE:

The traits of one class may be inherited by more than one class. This process is known as hierarchical inheritance.



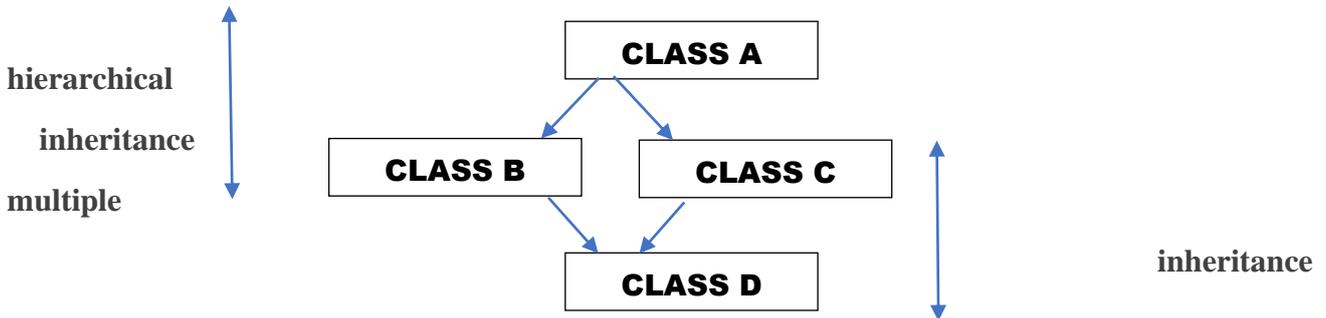
MULTILEVEL INHERITANCE:

The mechanism of deriving a class from another ‘derived class’ is known as multilevel inheritance.



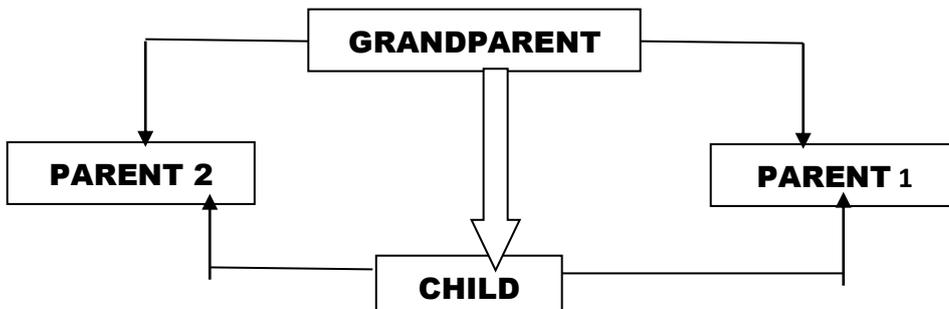
HYBRID INHERITANCE:

The mechanism of combining various types of inheritance like hierarchical, multiple etc. is known as hybrid inheritance.



Virtual base classes

Virtual classes are primarily used during multiple inheritance. To avoid, multiple instances of the same class being taken to the same class which later causes ambiguity, virtual classes are used.



The advantages of Inheritance:

- Makes real world representation of problems easier
- Since, problems are now modularized, solving takes lesser time.
- Improves data security by the use of protected keyword.
- Makes code simpler to understand and implement

The disadvantages of inheritance :

- Adds extra memory overload for the compiler as it will have to keep records of the parent as well as the child class

Applications of Inheritance in C++

- It saves memory space and time.
- It is used to correlate two or more classes.
- It will remove frustration, improve the performance and increase the reliability of code.
- Code reusability.

Limitation of Inheritance in C++

- Over use of inheritance in a program can make it more complex.
- Multiple inheritance can create ambiguity between attributes and operation .
- Also multiple inheritance can increase the likelihood of errors.

Conclusion

Thus we have seen Inheritance is a process that allows the new objects to take on the attributes and properties of existing parent objects. Therefore, it increases code reusability and allows the programmers to alter the properties of data members and member functions defined in other classes.

Syntax:

Class derived-class-name : visibility-mode base-class-name

```
{  
    .....//  
    .....// members of derived class  
    .....//  
}
```

Reference:

E.BALAGURUSWAMY,

The contents of the book are designed in such a way that a beginner can easily start from there and then gradually achieve more understanding of the language from the later topics.