Templates

Ch 17

POOR DESIGN TEMPLATE
This is an example.
- Variable types

```cpp
template <typename T>
void dostuff(T x)
{
    cout << x << endl;
}
```

```cpp
template <typename T>
class holdinStuff {
public:
    T stuff;
};
```
A type is a container for a specific value.
Review: Types

It is normally not good to mix these up...
C++ is fairly picky about most types, only certain values can be stored in a type:

- 42: int
- 'x': char
- "hello world": string

You can convert between types easily (such as from int to double)

But not others (hard to go int to string)
While C++ has no “I can hold any data” type, it does have a “I can be any type” variables

That is there is no “magic” type that can be both int and string simultaneously

Instead, you can specify that “magic” will be some type... you just don't know what yet

In C++ we call this a template
Templates

You can think of this not as “a type to hold all values” but as “a box to hold any type”
Templates

You have actually seen templates before, namely `static_cast` (a function)

You provide the type you wish to convert the data into, but outside of the normal parenthesis

```cpp
cout << static_cast<char>(100) << endl;
```

You can put any type you want here!
Templates

You can use a variable-type for both:
1. Functions
2. Classes

This allows you to make more general functions (thus less code)

However, this function should be generalizable (for example, factorial only works for ints...)

NOT DUPLICATING CODE

BECAUSE I KNOW ABOUT TEMPLATES.
Function: templates

To use a variable-type, you put template before the function and specify the type variable

```cpp
template <typename T>
void coutMe(T x)
{
    cout << x << endl;
}
```

T is a variable for the type

This lets you use “T” as a type anywhere in the function

(see: coutMe.cpp)  (see: goodSwap.cpp)
Function: templates

You can also use multiple types variables, just separate them with a comma:

```cpp
template <typename T, typename T2>
void mswap(T& a, T2& b);
```

You can have as many different (or similar) types of input as you want

(Although this does not work well for swap) (see: multipleTypes.cpp)
Function: templates

You can check to see if the input types are the same by doing this:

```cpp
template <typename T1, typename T2>
void foo(T1 x, T2 y)
{
    if( is_same<T1, T2>::value ) {
        cout << "Same types... doing something\n";
    }
    else {
        cout << "Different types\n";
    }
}
```

(see: checkSameType.cpp)
As C++ is rather old, there are a lot of ways to say the same thing (same with templates)

These both mean the same thing (mostly):

```cpp
template <typename T>
void func(T arg);
```

Some compilers also see these as the same:

```cpp
void func1(int arg);
void func2(int arg);
```
Bad templates!

Templates are not magic that allow you to do anything with any type!

If an operation does not exist between types and you try and use it, computer will get angry.

You also cannot ignore types completely by making everything a template (main must have real types at the very least) (see: badTemplates.cpp)
Templates for classes are very similar:

```cpp
template <typename T>
class holdinStuff {
public:
    T stuff;
};
```

After using template, you can use “T” as a type inside the class anywhere

(see: classTemplate.cpp)