



# Namespaces

Bachelor of Science - École polytechnique

[gael.thomas@inria.fr](mailto:gael.thomas@inria.fr)

# Key concepts

- A namespace avoids name collisions
  - `namespace id { .. };`
  - Isolate the symbols defined between the braces
  - Accessed with `id::`
- Importing a name space with `using namespace id;`
- We can alias a namespace with `namespace a = b;`
- A class can acts as a namespace with the `static` keyword

# Namespace

- New concept introduced in C++ to avoid name collision
  - `namespace id { .. };`
  - Isolate the symbols defined between the braces
  - Accessed with `id::`

```
namespace game {
    struct monster_t {
        const char* name;
        int health;
    };
};

int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    game::monster_t m { "Pikachu", 42 };
}
```

# Namespace

- We can implement a method of a namespace where we want

```
namespace game {
    struct monster_t {
        const char* name;
        int health;

        monster_t();
        void print();
    };

    monster_t::monster_t()
        : name { nullptr }, health { 0 } { }
};

void game::monster_t::print() {
    printf("( %s, %d)\n", name, health);
}
```

# Importing a namespace

- We can import a namespace with **using namespace id;**

```
namespace game {
    struct monster_t {
        const char* name;
        int health;

        void print();
    };
};

using namespace game;

void monster_t::print() {
    printf("(%s, %d)\n", name, health);
}
```

# Namespace aliasing

- We can alias a namespace with `namespace a = b;`

```
namespace x {
    namespace y {
        struct monster_t {
            const char* name;
            int health;
        };
    };
};

namespace z = x::y;

int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    x::y::monster_t m1 { "Pikachu", 42 };
    z::monster_t m2 { "Blastoise", 83 };

    return 0;
}
```

# static methods and fields

- A class can act as a namespace with the `static` keyword
  - A static method belongs to a class but does not have a receiver
  - A static field belongs to a class but is a global variable

```
struct point_t {
    static int nb_points; // nb_points is global
    int x;

    point_t(int x) : x { x } {
        nb_points++;
    }

    static void print_nb_points() {
        std::cout << nb_points << std::endl;
        // no access to x since we don't have a "this" parameter
    }
};

// nb_points also has to be declared as a global variable
int point_t::nb_points = 0;
```

# static methods and fields

- A class can act as a namespace with the `static` keyword
  - A static method belongs to a class but does not have a receiver
  - A static field belongs to a class but is a global variable

```
struct point_t {
    static int nb_points; // nb_points is global
    int x;
    ...
};

...

void f() {
    // point_t acts now as a kind of namespace
    // for the field nb_points and the method display()
    point_t::display();
}
```



# Key concepts

- A namespace avoids name collisions
  - `namespace id { .. };`
  - Isolate the symbols defined inside the braces
  - Accessed with `id::`
- Importing a name space with `using namespace id;`
- We can alias a namespace with `namespace a = b;`
- A class can acts as a namespace with the `static` keyword