

# 1 Introduction

In games its very common to have multiple classes that are similar. In this assignment we are going to work with classes that represent items a player can use.

We will have four types of items: **Weapon**, **Armor**, **Shield** and **Sword**. Each item in this supposed game will have **damage** (how many hitpoints it will remove from enemies when attacked) and **defense** (how many damage points will be removed when an enemy attack the player). These ratings are retrieved by calling **damage()** and **defense()** respectively on the item.

Here is a short summary of each item type:

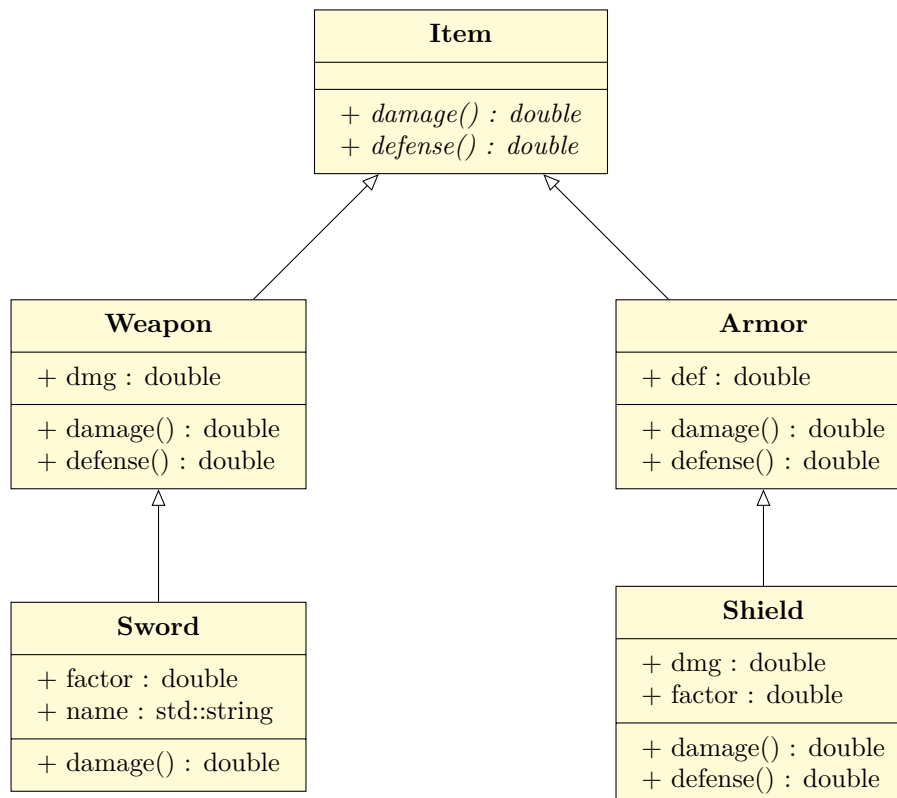
**Weapon** Has a fixed damage stored in data member **dmg** and 0 defense.

**Armor** Has a fixed defense stored in data member **def** and 0 damage.

**Shield** Has a fixed damage stored in data member **dmg** and a fixed defense stored in data member **def**. However it also has a data member **factor** which is multiplied with **def** whenever **defense** is called.

**Sword** Has a name stored in a string **name**. Has a fixed damage stored in data member **dmg** and a data member called **factor** that is multiplied with **dmg** whenever **damage()** is called. It has 0 defense.

There are multiple ways to implement this. Here is one way:



With the following implementations:

```
double Weapon::damage() const
{
    return dmg;
}

double Weapon::defense() const
{
    return 0.0;
}

double Armor::damage() const
{
    return 0.0;
}

double Armor::defense() const
{
    return def;
}

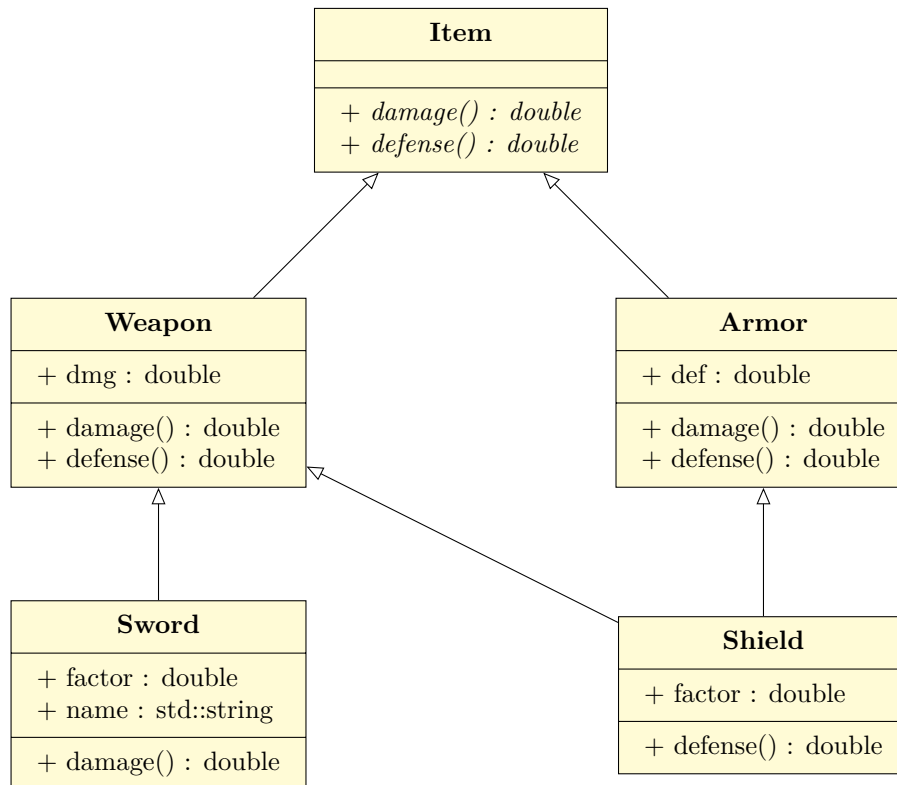
double Sword::damage() const
{
    return factor * Weapon::damage();
}

double Shield::damage() const
{
    return dmg;
}

double Shield::defense() const
{
    return factor * Armor::defense();
}
```

This will work fine but it will quickly get complicated if we add more types of items. Also notice that `Shield::damage` and `Weapon::damage` have exactly the same implementation. Of course, it is fine in this case since they are only one-liners, but imagine we make them more complicated...

One way to solve this code-duplication problem is to use multiple inheritance:



However this introduces *the diamond problem* since **Shield** now inherits twice from **Item**: once through **Weapon** and once through **Armor**. This would force us to introduce virtual inheritance which makes the code a lot slower.

Both of these options work, but one can imagine more complicated situations where the flaws of these two designs gets more troublesome.

## 2 The exercise

Instead of implementing the design(s) described above, you should solve this problem with *mixins*.

The idea is as follows:

Create a class called **Item\_Base** which has two pure-virtual functions **damage()** and **defense()**.

Create a variadic class template called **Item** that takes multiple *components*. **Item** should inherit from **Item\_Base** and all the template parameters (i.e. inherit from all components).

Create five components (classes without a base class):

**Attack** A class with data member **dmg** and a function **damage** that returns **dmg** (you can add whichever parameters you choose).

**Defend** A class with data member **def** and a function **defense** that returns **def** (you can add whichever parameters you choose).

**Damage\_Multiplier** A class with data member **factor** and a function **damage** that takes in the current damage and returns the **factor** multiplied with the current damage.

**Defense\_Multiplier** A class with data member **factor** and a function **defense** that takes in the current defense and returns the **factor** multiplied with the current defense.

**Named** A class that contains a public data member **name** that is a `std::string`.

These are the components we will add to the `Item` to create our different versions of the items. I.e.

```
using Weapon = Item<Attack>;
using Armor  = Item<Defend>;
using Shield = Item<Defend, Attack, Defense_Multiplier>;
using Sword  = Item<Named, Attack, Damage_Multiplier>;
```

In order for this to work properly `Item` must override `damage()` and `defense()` with the following implementations:

1. Create a variable **total** that keeps track of the current damage or defense points.
2. Go through each component and call corresponding **damage** (or **defense**) function. Pass in **total** as a parameter and store the return value into **total**.
3. Return **total**.

**Note:** Not all components have a **damage** or **defense** function, so you should only call them from those components that have them. As a hint, create a function:

```
template <typename T>
double damage_helper(T const* obj, double total)
{
    return obj->damage(total);
}
```

That returns 0.0 if `obj` doesn't have a **damage** function (you might have to modify the parameters).

In `item.cc` there are a few testcases.