

Section 2.1 C++11

Generalized PODs '11

```
struct X { int i, j; double d[2]; };    X x = {}; // OK, X is an aggregate.
class Y { int i; public: Y(); ~Y(); };  Y y = {}; // Error, Y isn't.
```

A C++03 aggregate is an array, **class**, **struct**, or **union** having no **user-declared**⁶ constructors, no **private** or **protected nonstatic data members**, no base classes, and no **virtual** functions:

```
// Class declaration           Is a C++03 aggregate?
class A0 { };                  // Yes, empty class is an aggregate.
class A1 { int x; };           // no, private data member
class A2 { protected: int x; }; // no, protected data member
class A3 { public: int x; };    // yes, public data
class A4 { int f(); };         // yes, private nonvirtual function
class A5 { static A1 x; };     // Yes, static members don't matter.
struct A6 { A6() { } };       // no, user-declared default ctor
struct A7 { A7(const A7&) { } }; // no, user-declared copy ctor
struct A8 { A8(int) { } };    // no, user-declared value ctor
struct A9 { ~A9(); };         // Yes, destructor can be declared.
struct A10 { A10& operator=(const A10&); };
                                // yes, user-declared copy assignment allowed
struct A11 { int* x; };        // Yes, pointers are allowed in aggregates.
struct A12 : A0 { };          // no, base class
struct A13 { virtual void f(); }; // no, virtual function
struct A14 { A1 x; };         // Yes, data members need not be aggregates.
struct A15 { A13 x; };        // Yes, " " " " " " "
                                // yes, but must initialize const values
struct A16 { const int x; };   // yes, " " " references
struct A17 { int& x; };        // yes, " " " references
union A18 { int x; double y; }; // Yes, unions can be aggregates.
```

As the example types above illustrate, an **aggregate** may contain arbitrary public data members, private nonvirtual functions, and static members of any kind. Although an aggregate may not declare any constructors, it is permitted to declare a **copy-assignment operator** and a **destructor**. Importantly, an **aggregate** is permitted to contain elements that are themselves not of **aggregate type**. Hence, an array of any C++ type would itself be considered an **aggregate**:

```
#include <string> // std::string
std::string a[10] = {}; // a is an aggregate.
```

⁶The C++03 term **user-declared** is replaced in C++11 by **user-provided** because a **special member function** that is explicitly declared and immediately **defaulted** (see Section 1.1. “Defaulted Functions” on page 33) or **deleted** (see Section 1.1. “Deleted Functions” on page 53) is considered **user-declared** and yet is not **user-provided**; hence, a class with, e.g., explicitly **defaulted** constructors can still be an **aggregate** in C++11.