

C++ STL

CSE 333 Spring 2021

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Administrivia


- ❖ Exercise 7 released Monday
 - Namespace is `vector333`, not `vector333`
 - Due Monday May 3rd
- ❖ Homework 2 due Tomorrow @ 11:59 pm!
 - Don't forget to clone your repo to double-/triple-/quadruple-check compilation!
 - Use Late days if you can't finish & polish your submission! They exist for a reason



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How are you liking C++?

C++'s Standard Library

- ❖ C++'s Standard Library consists of four major pieces:
 - 1) The entire C standard library
 - 2) C++'s input/output stream library
 - `std::cin`, `std::cout`, `stringstreams`, `fstreams`, etc.
 - 3) C++'s standard template library (STL) 
 - Containers, iterators, algorithms (sort, find, etc.), numerics
 - 4) C++'s miscellaneous library
 - Strings, exceptions, memory allocation, localization

STL Containers 😊

- ❖ A **container** is an object that stores (in memory) a collection of other objects (elements)
 - Implemented as class templates, so hugely flexible
 - More info in *C++ Primer* §9.2, 11.2
- ❖ Several different classes of container
 - Sequence containers (`vector`, `deque`, `list`, ...)
 - Associative containers (`set`, `map`, `multiset`, `multimap`, `bitset`, ...)
 - Differ in algorithmic cost and supported operations

STL Containers ☹️

- ❖ STL containers store by *value*, not by *reference*
 - When you insert an object, the container makes a *copy*
 - If the container needs to rearrange objects, it makes copies
 - e.g. if you sort a `vector`, it will make many, many copies
 - e.g. if you insert into a `map`, that may trigger several copies
 - What if you don't want this (disabled copy constructor or copying is expensive)?
 - You can insert a wrapper object with a pointer to the object
 - We'll learn about these "smart pointers" soon

Our Tracer Class

- ❖ Wrapper class for an `unsigned int` `value_`
 - Also holds unique `unsigned int` `id_` (increasing from 0)
 - Default ctor, cctor, dtor, `op=`, `op<` defined
 - `friend` function `operator<<` defined
 - Private helper method `PrintID()` to return `"(id_, value_)"` as a string
 - Class and member definitions can be found in `Tracer.h` and `Tracer.cc`
- ❖ Useful for tracing behaviors of containers
 - All methods print identifying messages
 - Unique `id_` allows you to follow individual instances

STL `vector`

- ❖ A generic, dynamically resizable array
 - <http://www.cplusplus.com/reference/stl/vector/vector/>
 - Elements are store in *contiguous* memory locations
 - Elements can be accessed using pointer arithmetic if you'd like
 - Random access is $O(1)$ time
 - Adding/removing from the end is cheap (amortized constant time)
 - Inserting/deleting from the middle or start is expensive (linear time)

vector/Tracer Example

vectorfun.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
#include "Tracer.h"

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    Tracer a, b, c;
    vector<Tracer> vec;

    cout << "vec.push_back " << a << endl;
    vec.push_back(a);
    cout << "vec.push_back " << b << endl;
    vec.push_back(b);
    cout << "vec.push_back " << c << endl;
    vec.push_back(c);

    cout << "vec[0]" << endl << vec[0] << endl;
    cout << "vec[2]" << endl << vec[2] << endl;

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Why All the Copying?

Push back calls	Tracers constructed
0	3 (a,b,c)
1	4
2	6
3	9
4	10
5	15

STL *iterator*

- ❖ Each container class has an associated **iterator** class (e.g. `vector<int>::iterator`) used to iterate through elements of the container
 - <http://www.cplusplus.com/reference/std/iterator/>
 - **Iterator range** is from `begin` up to `end` i.e., `[begin, end)`
 - `end` is one past the last container element!
 - Some container iterators support more operations than others
 - All can be incremented (`++`), copied, copy-constructed
 - Some can be dereferenced on RHS (e.g. `x = *it;`)
 - Some can be dereferenced on LHS (e.g. `*it = x;`)
 - Some can be decremented (`--`)
 - Some support random access (`[]`, `+`, `-`, `+=`, `-=`, `<`, `>` operators)

iterator Example

vectoriterator.cc

```
#include <vector>

#include "Tracer.h"

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    Tracer a, b, c;
    vector<Tracer> vec;

    vec.push_back(a);
    vec.push_back(b);
    vec.push_back(c);

    cout << "Iterating:" << endl;
    vector<Tracer>::iterator it;
    for (it = vec.begin(); it < vec.end(); it++) {
        cout << *it << endl;
    }
    cout << "Done iterating!" << endl;
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Type Inference (C++11)

- ❖ The `auto` keyword can be used to infer types
 - Simplifies your life if, for example, functions return complicated types
 - The expression using `auto` must contain explicit initialization for it to work

```
// Calculate and return a vector  
// containing all factors of n  
std::vector<int> Factors(int n);  
  
void foo(void) {  
    // Manually identified type  
    std::vector<int> facts1 =  
        Factors(324234);  
  
    // Inferred type  
    auto facts2 = Factors(12321);  
  
    // Compiler error here  
    auto facts3;  
}
```

auto and Iterators

- ❖ Life becomes much simpler!

```
for (vector<Tracer>::iterator it = vec.begin(); it < vec.end(); it++) {  
    cout << *it << endl;  
}
```



```
for (auto it = vec.begin(); it < vec.end(); it++) {  
    cout << *it << endl;  
}
```

Range for Statement (C++11)

- ❖ Syntactic sugar similar to Java's `foreach`

```
for ( declaration : expression ) {  
    statements  
}
```

- *declaration* defines loop variable
- *expression* is an object representing a sequence
 - Strings, initializer lists, arrays with an explicit length defined, STL containers that support iterators

```
// Prints out a string, one  
// character per line  
std::string str("hello");  
  
for ( auto c : str ) {  
    std::cout << c << std::endl;  
}
```

Updated `iterator` Example

`vectoriterator_2011.cc`

```
#include <vector>

#include "Tracer.h"

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    Tracer a, b, c;
    vector<Tracer> vec;

    vec.push_back(a);
    vec.push_back(b);
    vec.push_back(c);

    cout << "Iterating:" << endl;
    // "auto" is a C++11 feature not available on older compilers
    for (auto& p : vec) {
        cout << p << endl;
    }
    cout << "Done iterating!" << endl;
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

STL Algorithms

- ❖ A set of functions to be used on ranges of elements
 - **Range**: any sequence that can be accessed through *iterators* or *pointers*, like arrays or some of the containers
 - General form: `algorithm(begin, end, ...);`
- ❖ Algorithms operate directly on range *elements* rather than the containers they live in
 - Make use of elements' copy ctor, =, ==, !=, <
 - Some do not modify elements
 - e.g. `find`, `count`, `for_each`, `min_element`, `binary_search`
 - Some do modify elements
 - e.g. `sort`, `transform`, `copy`, `swap`

Algorithms Example

vectoralgos.cc

```
#include <vector>
#include <algorithm>
#include "Tracer.h"
using namespace std;

void PrintOut(const Tracer& p) {
    cout << " printout: " << p << endl;
}

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    Tracer a, b, c;
    vector<Tracer> vec;

    vec.push_back(c);
    vec.push_back(a);
    vec.push_back(b);
    cout << "sort:" << endl;
    sort(vec.begin(), vec.end());
    cout << "done sort!" << endl;
    for_each(vec.begin(), vec.end(), &PrintOut);
    return 0;
}
```

Extra Exercise #1

- ❖ Using the `Tracer.h/.cc` files from lecture:
 - Construct a vector of lists of Tracers
 - *i.e.* a `vector` container with each element being a `list` of `Tracers`
 - Observe how many copies happen 😊
 - Use the sort algorithm to sort the vector
 - Use the `list.sort()` function to sort each list