

Vectors in C++ are part of the Standard Template Library (STL) and provide a dynamic array with powerful functionalities. Let's go from the **basics** to **advanced** concepts of vectors.

Basic Syntax and Declaration

A vector is declared using the `std::vector` keyword.

Declaration:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector> // Include vector header file

int main() {
    std::vector<int> v; // Declaring an empty vector of integers
    return 0;
}
```

Initialization of Vectors

There are multiple ways to initialize a vector:

1. Default Initialization

```
std::vector<int> v; // Empty vector
```

2. Initialize with Specific Size

```
std::vector<int> v(5); // Vector of size 5, all elements initialized to 0
```

3. Initialize with Size and Default Value

```
std::vector<int> v(5, 10); // Vector of size 5, all elements initialized to 10
```

4. Initialize Using an Array

```
int arr[] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
std::vector<int> v(arr, arr + 5); // Using array elements to initialize vector
```

5. Initialize Using Another Vector

```
std::vector<int> v1 = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};  
std::vector<int> v2(v1); // Copy constructor
```

Basic Vector Operations

1. Adding Elements (**push_back**)

```
std::vector<int> v;  
v.push_back(10);  
v.push_back(20);  
v.push_back(30);
```

2. Removing Last Element (**pop_back**)

```
v.pop_back(); // Removes last element
```

3. Accessing Elements (**[]** and **at()**)

```
std::cout << v[1]; // Access 2nd element  
std::cout << v.at(1); // Safe way to access element
```

4. Checking Size and Capacity

```
std::cout << v.size(); // Number of elements  
std::cout << v.capacity(); // Current allocated space
```

5. Clearing All Elements

```
v.clear();
```

6. Checking if Vector is Empty

```
if (v.empty()) {  
    std::cout << "Vector is empty";  
}
```

Iterating Through a Vector

1. Using **for** Loop (Index-Based)

```
for (int i = 0; i < v.size(); i++) {  
    std::cout << v[i] << " ";  
}
```

2. Using **for-each** Loop

```
for (int num : v) {  
    std::cout << num << " ";  
}
```

3. Using Iterators

```
for (std::vector<int>::iterator it = v.begin(); it != v.end(); it++) {  
    std::cout << *it << " ";  
}
```

4. Using **auto** with Iterators

```
for (auto it = v.begin(); it != v.end(); it++) {  
    std::cout << *it << " ";  
}
```

Advanced Vector Operations

1. Inserting Elements at a Specific Position

```
std::vector<int> v = {1, 2, 3, 5};  
v.insert(v.begin() + 3, 4); // Inserts 4 at index 3
```

2. Erasing Elements

```
v.erase(v.begin() + 2); // Removes element at index 2
```

3. Erasing a Range of Elements

```
v.erase(v.begin(), v.begin() + 2); // Removes first two elements
```

4. Resizing a Vector

```
v.resize(10); // Changes size to 10, new elements initialized to 0
```

5. Swapping Two Vectors

```
std::vector<int> v1 = {1, 2, 3};  
std::vector<int> v2 = {4, 5, 6};  
v1.swap(v2);
```

Sorting a Vector

Sorting is done using `sort()` from `<algorithm>` library.

Ascending Order

```
#include <algorithm>  
std::sort(v.begin(), v.end());
```

Descending Order

```
std::sort(v.rbegin(), v.rend());
```

Custom Sorting

```
bool compare(int a, int b) {  
    return a > b; // Sort in descending order  
}  
  
std::sort(v.begin(), v.end(), compare);
```

2D Vectors (Vector of Vectors)

Declaration of 2D Vector

```
std::vector<std::vector<int>>> matrix;
```

Initializing a 2D Vector

```
std::vector<std::vector<int>>> matrix(3, std::vector<int>(4, 0));  
// 3x4 matrix filled with 0s
```

Accessing 2D Vector Elements

```
matrix[0][1] = 5; // Set value at row 0, column 1
```

Iterating Over 2D Vectors

```
for (int i = 0; i < matrix.size(); i++) {  
    for (int j = 0; j < matrix[i].size(); j++) {  
        std::cout << matrix[i][j] << " ";  
    }  
    std::cout << "\n";  
}
```

Vector Functions Overview

Function	Description
<code>push_back(x)</code>	Adds element <code>x</code> to the end
<code>pop_back()</code>	Removes last element

Function	Description
<code>size()</code>	Returns the number of elements
<code>capacity()</code>	Returns current allocated space
<code>resize(n)</code>	Changes vector size to <code>n</code>
<code>insert(pos, x)</code>	Inserts <code>x</code> at <code>pos</code>
<code>erase(pos)</code>	Removes element at <code>pos</code>
<code>clear()</code>	Clears all elements
<code>empty()</code>	Checks if vector is empty
<code>swap(v2)</code>	Swaps contents with <code>v2</code>
<code>at(i)</code>	Accesses element at <code>i</code> safely

Key Takeaways

- **Vectors are dynamic arrays** that grow and shrink automatically.
- Use `push_back()` and `pop_back()` for adding/removing elements.
- Access elements using `[]` or `at()`.
- Use **iterators** for efficient traversal.
- Sorting can be done using `sort()` from `<algorithm>`.
- **2D vectors** can be used for matrix representation.
- Be mindful of **capacity vs. size** for performance optimization.

Would you like any specific explanation or examples on any topic? 