

# C++: Vector intro, Sort

BTW

- Make sure you are keeping up with the content on the course website

## Outline

- Vector
- Sort
- Find

## Vector

- Part of standard library `<vector>`
- Container that holds a collection of values
- Type of object it holds specified in `<>`
- Grows as needed
- Allows easy access to individual values

```
struct Student_info {  
    string name;  
    double midterm, final;  
}; // note the semicolon--it's required
```

```
    //students holds a collection of  
    //student_info objects  
    vector<Student_info> students;
```

# Vector - adding

`push_back(element)`

Adds a new element to the end of the vector

Makes COPY of element it adds (so can reuse element)

```
struct Student_info {  
    string name;  
    double midterm, final;  
}; // note the semicolon--it's required
```

```
record.name = "Oliver";  
record.midterm = 50;  
record.final = 100;  
students.push_back(record);
```

# Vector - allocated in contiguous memory (you can use [] for random access)

- Show contiguous memory on board
- Show how indexing works

```
18 int main() {  
19     vector<ms> mv;  
20  
21     ms var1;  
22     for (int i=0;i<4;i++){  
23         var1.v1=i;  
24         mv.push_back(var1);  
25     }  
26  
27     //set and hit breakpoint at return 0  
28     //in expressions view  
29     //sizeof(ms) => returns 4  
30     //&mv[0] => gets address of 1st element in vector  
31     //&mv[1] => 4 away from 0  
32     //&mv[2] => 4 away from 1  
33     return 0;  
34 }
```

- Demo 4\_vector\_prove\_contiguous.git

# Vector - Miscellaneous

- `V.push_back(element)` adds element to the back of the vector
- `V.pop_back()` removes the last element of the vector
- `v.begin()` returns iterator (a “pointer”) to first value in v
- `v.end()` returns iterator (a “pointer”) to last+1 value in v (1 past end)
- `v[i]` returns value stored at i. You must make sure this value exists else undefined behavior.
  - BTW this `container[i]` random access syntax works on contiguous memory containers only ( `std::string`, `std::array`, `std::vector`). It does **not** work on non-contiguous memory containers (`std::list` and most other containers).
- `v.size()` Returns number of elements in v.

# Vector - Miscellaneous

- **v.empty()** checks whether v is empty (boolean)
- **v.reserve()** reserve storage, use this if you know approximately how big your vector will grow
- **v.capacity()** how many elements can be held in current storage
- **v.clear()** clears the contents
- **v.erase()** erase an element (returns iterator to next element, probably causes reallocation which is slow)
- **v.size()** Returns number of elements in v.



# Sorting – simple

- Part of standard library <algorithm>
- Simple sorting – use if type container holds lends itself to comparison using < (int, double, string etc)
- Rearranges the container though, if need the original, make a copy

```
vector<int> myVect;  
myVect.push_back(2);  
myVect.push_back(1);  
myVect.push_back(3);  
int i = myVect[0];  
i=myVect[1];  
i=myVect[2];
```

```
sort(myVect.begin(),myVect.end());  
i = myVect[0]; ← i receives 1  
i=myVect[1]; ← i receives 2  
i=myVect[2]; ← i receives 3
```

# Sorting – complicated

- What if type is a struct that does not respond to `<`
- Sort takes a third parameter, a compare function

```
//used by sort algorithm
bool compareName(const Student_info& x, const Student_info& y)
{
    return x.name < y.name;
}
bool compareMidterm(const Student_info& x, const Student_info& y)
{
    return x.midterm < y.midterm;
}
bool compareFinal(const Student_info& x, const Student_info& y)
{
    return x.final < y.final;
}
//sort by name
sort(students.begin(), students.end(), compareName);
//sort by Midterm
sort(students.begin(), students.end(), compareMidterm);
//sort by Final
sort(students.begin(), students.end(), compareFinal);
```

See 'Vectors and Sorting' project

# Vector – Finding stuff- brute force

```
vector<Student_info> students;

Student_info record;

record.name = "Oliver";
record.midterm = 50;
record.final = 100;
students.push_back(record);

for (Student_info &s : students) {
    if (s.name == "Oliver")
        std::cout << "found " << s.name << std::endl;
}
```

# Summary

- Vectors and sorting
- Make sure value exists before dereference (use `size()`)