

Programming in C/C++

- Algorithms -



Container and Iterators

- Recap:
 - Container is a concept of the STL for objects that store data
 - Iterators are objects to traverse container
- Common interface but different container specific implementations

Recall: Container



- Container (like vector, map, set, list, ...) are an STL concept
- It defines what operations are allowed on an object
- Classes that implement the same concepts can be easily replaced
- One central part of the container concept are iterators (which themselves are also a concept of the STL) that allow to traverse a container.
- Iterators are more generic abstraction than working with indices
- Separating data (stored in container) and algorithms (working on iterators) allows to build powerful abstractions

Recall: Iterators



- Assignment: operator =

 If one iterator gets assigned to another, both point on the same element in the container.
- Comparison: operator == Or operator !=
 Are iterators equal? E.g., do they point to the same element?
- Increment: operator ++
 Move to the next element
- Dereferencing: operator *
 Returns the element the operator points to
- All iterators can be incremented, **bidirectional iterators** (e.g.: list::iterator) also decremented ++iter or iter++ next element

```
--iter or iter-- previous element
```

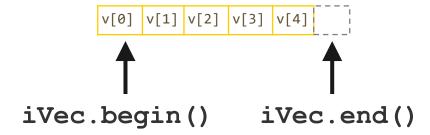
• Random access iterators (e.g.: vector::iterator) also support simple arithmetic operations:

• Example 1: Iterator on element in the middle: v.begin() + v.size() / 2

Iterators and Ranges



- Sequential containers have iterators to mark the beginning and the end
- The past-the-end iterator is a sentinel to know when we processed the last element.
 Implementation for vector: memory location after the last element



- Two iterators define a range: [begin, end)
- Free functions: std::begin(iVec) and std::end(iVec) also work (details later...)

```
vector<int> iVecA;

// Copy the whole range into a new vector
vector<int> iVecB(iVecA.begin(), iVecA.end());
vector<int> iVecB(begin(iVecA), end(iVecA));
```

Iterating over all Elements



In a loop, the past-the-end iterator acts as a sentinel, so we know when we processed the last element.

```
#include <vector>
vector<int> iVec(100, 0); // 100 elements vector, all zeros

// loop over the elements
for (vector<int>::iterator iter = iVec.begin(); iter != iVec.end(); ++iter ) {
    // access to values of vector via *iter
}

// alternative (since C++11)
for (const auto& v : iVec) {
        // access to values of a vector as v
}
```

If begin() == end() → the container is empty().

Iterators Categories



In addition to different iterator types:

- Input/output iterators
- Forward iterators
- Bidirectional iterators
- Random access iterators

There are also different variations:

- const iterator referenced elements cannot be changed
- reverse directions (++/--) are inverted
- ... and combination of both.

```
Reverse past-the-last element Reversed sequence rbegin
```

```
vector<int> iVecB(iVecA.cbegin(), iVecA.cend());
vector<int> iVecB(rbegin(iVecA), rend(iVecA));
```



STL Algorithms

A journey through STL algorithms

- Standard Algorithms and Iterators
- Basic Algorithms and their use with Lambdas/Predicates
- Container Adapters
- Searching, Sorting, Partitioning

STL Algorithms



- STL: more than 105 algorithms to prevent you reimplementing code over and over again
- Often more efficient than what you would write
- Avoids common mistakes (corner cases, off-by-one errors, ...)
- Many support easy parallelization
- Increasing support for compile-time processing ("constexpr everywhere...")
- Makes code more expressive/shorter: higher level of abstraction
- Makes code easier to read: common vocabulary
- Many of them are independent of the container type: they operate on iterator ranges
- These can be applied to
 - STL containers, e.g. std::vector, std::list, std::set ...
 - or build in arrays
- We will now start a wild journey through the world of STL algorithms...



STL Functions on Iterators



STL algorithms use templates and iterators to work independently of the actual container used. How is this achieved?

```
Some examples:
• std::for_each
• std::fill / std::generate
• std::transform
• std::copy
• std::min_element
• std::max_element
• std::find / std::binary_search
• std::replace
```

• std::reverse



- Iterates over all elements in the specified iterator range and
- Executes the passed function

A possible implementation of for each in the STL:

```
template < class InputIt, class UnaryFunction >
constexpr UnaryFunction for_each(InputIt first, InputIt last, UnaryFunction f)
{
   for (; first != last; ++first) {
     f(*first);
   }
   return f;
}
```

• We see that for_each is a template (hence: STL).

The iterator type and the function are both template parameter.



- Iterates over all elements in the specified iterator range
- Assigns val to each element

A possible implementation in the STL:

```
template <class ForwardIterator, class T>
void fill(ForwardIterator first, ForwardIterator last, const T &val) {
  while (first != last) {
    *first = val;
    ++first;
  }
}
```



- Iterates over all elements in the specified iterator range
- Similar to std::fill but uses a function to fill values (e.g., random numbers)

A possible implementation in the STL:

```
template <class ForwardIt, class Generator>
constexpr void generate(ForwardIt first, ForwardIt last, Generator g) {
  while (first != last) {
    *first++ = g();
  }
}
```

lambda captures



- std::generate uses a function to fill values (e.g., random numbers).
- Digressions: how to capture values
 - Recall: empty [] captures all variables by copy, [&] captures all variables by reference
- The captured variables are copies of the outer scope variables, not the actual variables!

```
int i = 0;
auto x = [i]() { ++i; }; // error, internal copy of i is const

int val = 0;
auto y = [i]() mutable { ++i; };
y(); // i is still 0 after call because only internal copy was changed

auto z = [&i]() { ++i; };
z(); // i is 1 after call because we captured a reference
```

- mutable allows changing the internal copy in the lambda object
- Lambda captures can be declared and initialized:

```
generate(v.begin(), v.end(), [n = 0] mutable { return n++; }); // == like std::iota: 0,1,2,3, ...
```



- Iterates over all elements in the specified iterator range
- Applies the given function to a range and stores the result in another range

A possible implementation in the STL:

```
std::vector<int> v1{1, 2, 3, 4, 5}, v2(5);
auto f = [](int i) { return ++i; };
std::transform(v1.begin(), v1.end(), v2.begin(), f); // v2 -> {2,3,4,5,6}
```

<algorithm>



- Copies the elements in the iterator range to another iterator
- Simplifies copying between different structures

```
template <class InputIt, class OutputIt>
OutputIt copy(InputIt first, InputIt last, OutputIt d_first) {
  while (first != last) {
    *d_first++ = *first++;
    }
    return d_first;
}
```



• Recall: free functions std::begin/std::end make code work with containers and arrays.

Example: copy two arrays revisited

Example: generic handling of array[], vector, list, ...

```
void print(int i) { cout << i << " "; }
int main() {
   int arr[] = { 2, 4, 8, 1, 0, 2, 1, 4 };
   vector<int> v(8);
   list<int> l(4);

   copy(begin(arr), end(arr), v.begin()); // copy all elements
   copy(arr + 2, arr + 6, l.begin()); // copy 4 elements

   for_each( begin(v), end(v), print); // print the vector
   for_each( begin(l), end(l), print); // print the list
}
```

STL Algorithms - Queries



Example: Queries - testing a condition on all elements of a container:

```
std::vector<int> v(10, 2); // construct with 10 elements, all with value 2
bool r = std::all_of(v.begin(), v.end(), [](int i) { return i % 2 == 0; });
```

- std::all_of returns true of the unary predicate returns true for all elements in the range
- The range is defined by two iterators, the start and a sentinel
- Here: v.begin() and v.end() return iterators that define the full range -> iterate from start v.begin() over the whole container until the sentinel v.end() is reached.
- Lambda function is used to evaluate if current element is even.
- Recall: the second iterator, here v.end() is not dereferenced.
- Notable other STL queries:

```
- std::any_of
- std::none of
```

STL Algorithms - Counting



(again: with free function)

STL Algorithms - Searching



- std::find, std::find_if, std::find_if_not
 - find elements in a range
 - return iterator to first occurrence or to end of range if not found

```
std::vector<int> v{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 5};

// find
auto it1 = std::find(v.cbegin(), v.cend(), 5); // it1 points to first 5 in range (index 4)
auto it2 = std::find(v.cbegin(), v.cend(), 0); // it2 points to v.cend() (no 0 in range)

// find_if and find_if_not
auto is_even = [](int i) { return i % 2 == 0; };
auto it3 = std::find_if(v.cbegin(), v.cend(), is_even); // it3 points to first even element
auto it4 = std::find_if_not(v.cbegin(), v.cend(), is_even); // it4 points to first odd ...
```

STL Algorithms - Searching in sorted containers



• Example: binary search

```
vector<int> haystack {1, 3, 4, 5, 9};
vector<int> needles {1, 2, 3};

for (auto needle : needles) {
   if (std::binary_search(haystack.begin(), haystack.end(), needle)) {
     std::cout << "Found " << needle << '\n';
   }}</pre>
```

- But can we search for (closest) floating point?
- **Example:** "binary search with doubles": closest element with lower_bound + checks

```
long search_closest(const vector<double>& sorted, double x) {
   auto iter_geq = lower_bound(sorted.begin(), sorted.end(), x); // first element >= x
   if (iter_geq == sorted_array.begin()) return iter_geq;
   double a = *(iter_geq - 1);
   double b = *(iter_geq);
   if (fabs(x - a) < fabs(x - b)) return iter_geq - 1; // element left is closer?
   return iter_geq;
}</pre>
```

STL Algorithms - Searching for sequences



std::search and std::find_end
 are like std::find but search for a sequence of elements in a range
 std::search returns iterator to first element of first occurrence of the sequence
 std::find end returns iterator to first element of last occurrence of the sequence

```
std::vector<int> v1{5, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 5, 6, 7};
std::vector<int> v2{5, 6, 7};
auto it1 = std::search(v1.begin(), v1.end(), v2.begin(), v2.end()); // it1 points to index 4
auto it2 = std::find_end(v1.begin(), v1.end(), v2.begin(), v2.end()); // it2 points to index 7
```

 since C++17 for std::search different search algorithms can be selected (std::default_searcher, std::boyer_moore_searcher and std::boyer moore horspool searcher)

STL Algorithms - copy, remove



std::copy, std::copy_if - copy elements from one range to another

Better: for containers supporting push_back() operation:

```
std::vector<int> v2; // empty target
v3.reserve(v1.size()) // pre-allocate storage
std::copy_if(v1.begin(), v1.end(), std::back_inserter(v2), is_even);
```

std::back_inserter adds elements to target using push_back()

STL Algorithms - copy, remove (2)



• std::remove: remove elements equal to a specified values

```
std::vector<int> v1{1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
v1.enase(std::remove(v1.begin(), v1.end(), 3), v1.end());
// remove 3 and adjust vector size
```

• std::remove_if: remove elements for which given predicate returns true

```
v1.erase(std::remove_if(v1.begin(), v1.end(), is_even), v1.end());
// remove even numbers
```

Note: Combination of **remove** and **erase** is called the **erase-remove idiom**.

```
(since C++20) std::erase and std::erase_if (for std::vector)
std::erase_if(v1, is_even); // finally: no erase-remove needed
```

STL Algorithms - Swapping



- Recall: std::swap
 - swap two objects (or elements in two ranges with std::swap_ranges)
 - uses move constructor and move assignment if implemented
 - (or a free function overload exists)

std::iter_swap swap objects via iterators

```
std::iter_swap(v1.begin() + 2, v1.begin() + 6); // swap v1[2] and v1[6]
```

STL Algorithms - Sorting



- std::sort sort elements in a given range.
- std::stable_sort sort elements in a given range. Among equal elements order is preserved.
- std::partial_sort sort (a small) subset of elements in a range and place at front.

```
std::vector<int> v{5, 7, 12, 4, 2, 8, 6, 9, 0};
std::partial_sort(v.begin(), v.begin() + 3, v.end());
// top 3 at front: v is now {0,2,4,<remaining entries in unspecified order>}
```

- std::is_sorted check if range is sorted
- std::is_sorted_until finds the longest sorted *prefix* of range

```
std::vector<int> v2{5, 7, 12, 4, 2, 8, 6, 9, 0};
size_t len =
    std::distance(v2.begin(), std::is_sorted_until(v2.begin(), v2.end()));
// len = 3
```

STL Algorithms - Sorting



• std::sort — custom sort of elements in a given range.

```
std::vector < Person > v;
// ...
auto name_is_less = []( const auto& lhs, const auto& rhs ) {
    return std::tie(lhs.lastName, lhs.firstName) <
        std::tie(rhs.lastName, rhs.firstName);
    }
sort(v.begin(), v.end(), name_is_less);</pre>
```

```
std::vector < Person > v;
// ...
struct name_is_less // using a struct as functor
{
    bool operator()( const Person& lhs, const Person& rhs ) const {
        // ...
    }
};
sort( v.begin(), v.end( ), name_is_less);
```

STL Algorithms - Partitioning



• std::partition reorders elements in a range such that all elements where predicate returns true precede those where it returns false

```
auto is_even = [](int i) { return i % 2 == 0; };
std::vector<int> v{5, 7, 12, 4, 2, 8, 6, 9, 0};
auto it = std::partition(v.begin(), v.end(), is_even);
```

- Now: all even numbers precede odd numbers in v
- it points to index 6 (past the last even element)
- std::partition_copy
 like std::partition but copies the elements to two different ranges

STL Algorithms - Set Operations (on sorted ranges)





• std::includes returns true if one sorted range is a subsequence (need not be contiguous) of a second sorted range

```
vector<char> v1{'a', 'b', 'c', 'f', 'h', 'x'};
vector<char> v2{'a', 'b', 'f'};
vector<char> v3{'a', 'c', 'g'};
bool v21 = std::includes(v1.begin(), v1.end(), v2.begin(), v2.end()); // v21 = true
bool v31 = std::includes(v1.begin(), v1.end(), v3.begin(), v3.end()); // v31 = false
```

• std::set_difference, std::set_intersection, std::set_union between two sorted ranges

```
std::vector<char> vdiff12, vdiff41;
auto end12 = std::set_difference(
    v1.begin(), v1.end(), v2.begin(), v2.end(),
    std::back_inserter(vdiff12)); // vdiff12 = {'c', 'h', 'x'}

vector<char> v4{'a', 'b', 'c', 'c', 'c', 'f', 'h', 'x'}; // no set: repeated elements!
auto end41 = std::set_difference(
    v4.begin(), v4.end(), v1.begin(), v1.end(),
    std::back_inserter(vdiff41)); // vdiff41 = {'c', 'c'} (3*c - 1*c)
```

STL Algorithms - Permutations



Generate all permutations with std::next_permutation

- Ends if permutation is generated that is lexicographically greater than last one
- Sorted container will generate all permutations with do... while loop

```
string s = "cat";
sort(s.begin(), s.end()); // sort is important!
do {
   cout << s << '\n';
} while(std::next_permutation(s.begin(), s.end()));

act
   cat
   cta
   tac
   tca
   tac
   tca</pre>
```

Numeric < numeric >



• std::accumulate compute the sum of a given value with all elements in a range

std::inner_product compute inner product / scalar product of two ranges

```
int dot = std::inner_product(v.begin(), v.end(), v.begin(), 0); // inner = 91
```

- can also be provided with custom + and * operators

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_ib_i}{a_ib_i} = \frac{a_1b_1}{a_1b_1} + \frac{a_2b_2}{a_1b_1} + \cdots + \frac{a_nb_n}{a_nb_n}$$

STL Algorithms – creative use



Examples:

Q: What does it calculate?

```
double value = 0.12;
double c = *std::min_element(v.begin(), v.end(), [&](auto x, auto y)
{
   return std::abs(x - value) < std::abs(y - value);
});</pre>
```

• Q: And this one?

STL Algorithms – creative use



Examples:

- Q: What does it calculate?
- A: The maximum of all abs. diferences

```
double value = 0.12;
double c = *std::min_element(v.begin(), v.end(), [&](auto x, auto y)
{
   return std::abs(x - value) < std::abs(y - value);
});</pre>
```

- Q: And this one?
- A: The element in v that is closest to value



Container Adapter

Container Adapter



• STL offers container adapter that "create" new data structures with specific functionality:

```
std::stack, std::priority_queue, std::heap
```

• Using the basic containers:

```
std::vector, std::set, std::deque, std::list
```

```
template <class T, class Container = std::deque<T>> class stack;
```

- Adapts std::deque to implement a stack
- Stack methods:
 - top()
 - push()
 - pop()
- Can be applied to other containers that provide:
 - back()
 - push_back()
 - pop_back()



- Adapts std::vector to implement a priority queue
- Uses a heap to keep elements sorted
- Methods:
 - top()
 - push()
 - pop()

Heap Structure



 The heap structure can be represented by an array in the implementation, allowing efficient swap operations for the elements

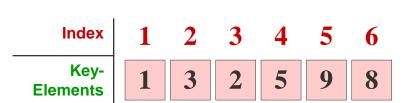
• Structure: Root (= position 1)

Children of the root (= positions 2 and 3)

Nodes of the next level (positions 4, 5, 6)



- the children of the k-th node on the positions 2k (left child) and 2k+1 (right child)
- the parent node of a node k is to be found the position k/2
- Since the heap is a **complete tree**, there are no gaps in the array
- Due to the representation as a tree, element sequences can be sorted without building additional data structures



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#3

Heap Property and Operation

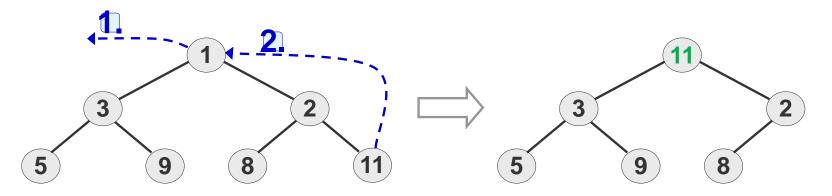


- The array arr[1, ..., n] fulfills the heap property if $arr[k] \le arr[2k]$ and $arr[k] \le arr[2k+1]$, $\forall k \ge 1 \land 2k+1 \ge n$
- Pick the smallest element from root
- Re-establish heap property
 - 1. Remove the right-most object in the tree (position 6 with key element/value 8).
 - 2. Copying the key element of this node (here: 2) to the root node
 - 3. Subsequently let the element sink in the element is moved down until the heap property is met again

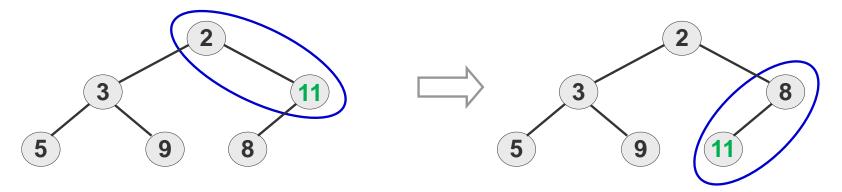
Remove Root and Re-establish Heap Property



• Removing element 1 results in a "hole" and moving the last element to the root



Compare with successor elements and "percolate" if successors are smaller
 (here: swap elements 11 and 2); further percolation leads to swap of elements 11 and 8



Heap property re-established

Heap Functions

<algorithm>



- Requires RandomAccessIterator (std::vector, std::deque)
- Methods

```
- push_heap()
```

- pop_heap()
- make_heap()
- sort_heap()
- front()



```
template <class BidirIt>
void inplace_merge(BidirIt first, BidirIt middle, BidirIt last);
```

• Merges two sorted subsequences into one sorted sequence

Summary



- Iterators categories and possible operations
- Iterators and ranges
- STL algorithms and sample implementations
- Still many white spots on our map (but already blisters ...):
 - Some we already covered but just have a STL name suffix:
 - _if evaluates condition, lambda/predicate
 - _copy copies result into new range instead of working in place
 - Others we didn't cover at all
 - Check out complete list of algorithms!

Outlook:

Parallelization with the STL