



# Iterators

Nicolai M. Josuttis

josuttis.com

@NicoJosuttis

10/23

**C++**

©2023 by josuttis.com

1

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Nicolai M. Josuttis

- **Independent consultant**
  - Continuously learning since 1962
- **C++:**
  - since 1990
  - ISO Standard Committee since 1997
- **Other Topics:**
  - Systems Architect
  - Technical Manager
  - SOA
  - X and OSF/Motif



**C++**

©2023 by josuttis.com

communication



# Modern C++

## Iterators

C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

3

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

### Loop Over Arrays

C/C++

- Two ways to iterate over the elements of an array

- Using **indexes**
- Using **pointers**

```
int arr[] = {10, 20, 30, 40};
```

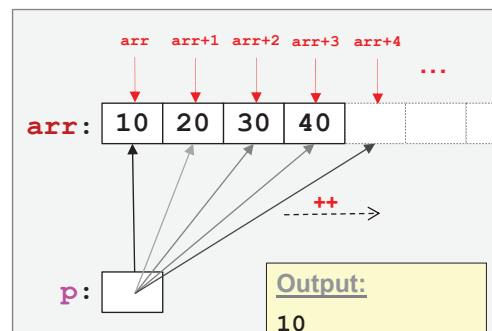
```
// iterate over elements with index:
```

```
for (int i = 0; i < 4; ++i) {
    std::cout << arr[i] << '\n';
}
```

```
// iterate over elements with pointer:
```

```
for (int* p = arr; p < arr + 4; ++p) {
    std::cout << *p << '\n';
}
```

```
int* p = arr + 4; // OK
std::cout << *p; // Undefined Behavior
```



Output:

```
10
20
30
40
10
20
30
40
```

C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

4

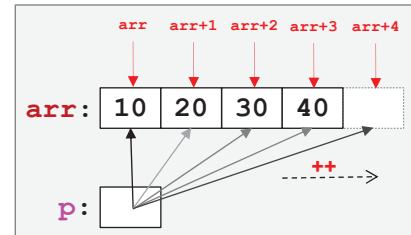
josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Iterators: Generalization of Pointers that Iterate

C++98/C++11

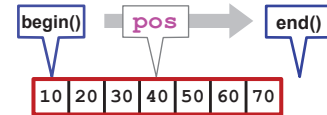
- Iterate like a pointer over elements
  - From `begin()` til `end()`

```
int arr[] = {10, 20, 30, 40};
for (int* p = arr; p < arr+4; ++p) {
    std::cout << *p << '\n';
}
```



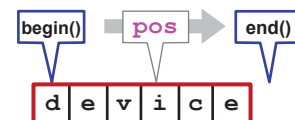
```
std::vector<int> v{10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70};
```

```
for (std::vector<int>::iterator pos = v.begin(); pos < v.end(); ++pos) {
    std::cout << *pos << '\n';
}
```



```
std::string s{"device"};
```

```
for (std::string::iterator pos = s.begin(); pos < s.end(); ++pos) {
    std::cout << *pos << '\n';
}
```



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

5

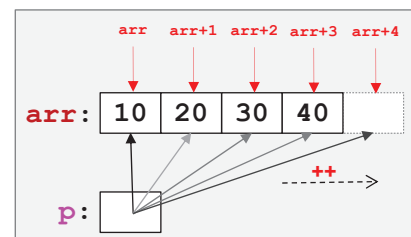
josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Iterators: Generalization of Pointers that Iterate

C++11

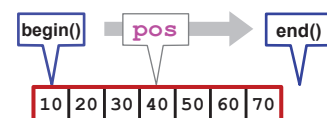
- Iterate like a pointer over elements
  - From `begin()` til `end()`

```
int arr[] = {10, 20, 30, 40};
for (int* p = arr; p < arr+4; ++p) {
    std::cout << *p << '\n';
}
```



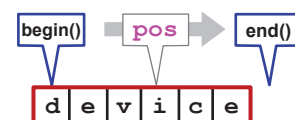
```
std::vector<int> v{10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70};
```

```
for (auto pos = v.begin(); pos < v.end(); ++pos) {
    std::cout << *pos << '\n';
}
```



```
std::string s{"device"};
```

```
for (auto pos = s.begin(); pos < s.end(); ++pos) {
    std::cout << *pos << '\n';
}
```



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

6

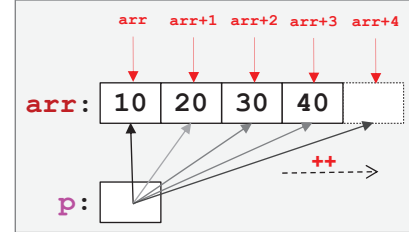
josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Half-Open Range

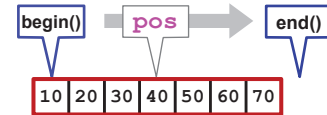
C++11

- Iterate like a pointer over a collection
  - `begin()` and `end()` as **half-open range**

```
int arr[] = {10, 20, 30, 40};
for (int* p = arr; p < arr+4; ++p) {
    std::cout << *p << '\n';
}
```



```
std::vector<int> v{10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70};
for (auto pos = v.begin(); pos < v.end(); ++pos) {
    std::cout << *pos << '\n';
}
```



```
auto pos = v.end(); // OK
std::cout << *pos; // Undefined Behavior
```

C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

7

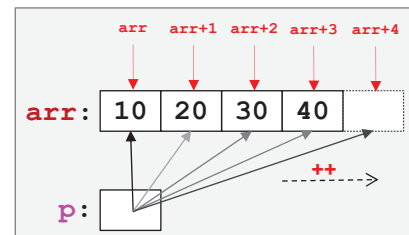
josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Half-Open Range

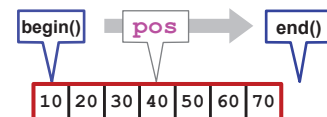
C++11

- Iterate like a pointer over a collection
  - `begin()` and `end()` as **half-open range**

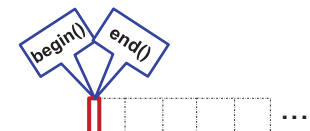
```
int arr[] = {10, 20, 30, 40};
for (int* p = arr; p < arr+4; ++p) {
    std::cout << *p << '\n';
}
```



```
std::vector<int> v{10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70};
for (auto pos = v.begin(); pos < v.end(); ++pos) {
    std::cout << *pos << '\n';
}
```



```
std::vector<int> v2; // empty
for (auto pos = v2.begin(); pos < v2.end(); ++pos) {
    std::cout << *pos << '\n';
}
```



`begin() == end()`  
means empty

C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

8

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication



# Modern C++

## Why Iterators?

C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

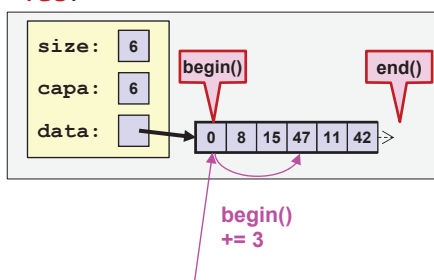
9

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

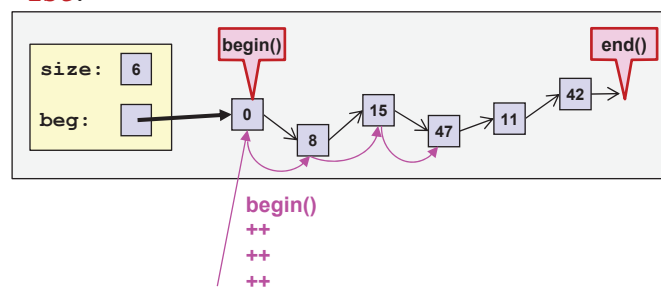
### Index Operator vs. Iterator

C++20

vec:



lst:



```
std::vector<int> vec{0, 8, 15, 47, 11, 42};
```

```
std::cout << vec[3]; // cheap
```

```
std::list<int> lst{0, 8, 15, 47, 11, 42};
```

```
std::cout << lst[3]; // expensive
```

```
for (int i = 0; i < lst.size(); ++i) {
    ... lst[i] ...
}
```

calls:  
lst[0], lst[1], lst[2], lst[3], ...

C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

10

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Iterating with Generic Code

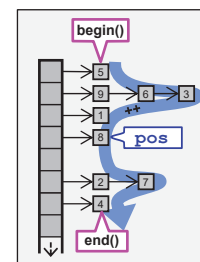
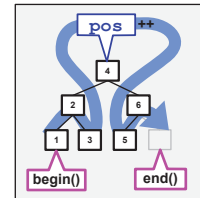
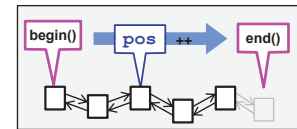
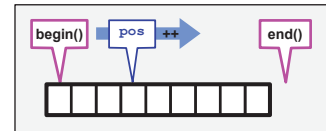
C++11

## Iterator API provided by all containers:

- **begin()** and **end()** yield *iterators*
  - to iterate over elements with **++**, **!=**, **\***, ...

// print all elements:

```
for (auto pos = coll.begin(); pos != coll.end(); ++pos) {
    std::cout << *pos << '\n';
}
```



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

11

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

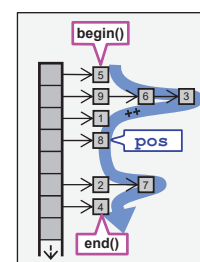
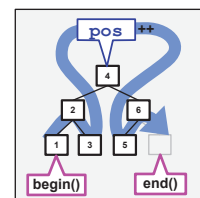
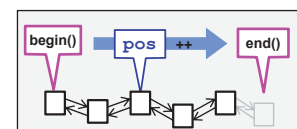
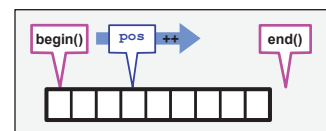
## Iterating with Generic Code

C++11

## Iterator API provided by all containers:

- **begin()** and **end()** yield *iterators*
  - to iterate over elements with **++**, **!=**, **\***, ...

```
template<typename T>
void printElems(const T& coll)
{
    for (auto pos = coll.begin(); pos != coll.end(); ++pos) {
        std::cout << *pos << '\n';
    }
}
```



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

12

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Iterating with Generic Code

C++11

### Iterator API provided by all containers:

- **begin()** and **end()** yield *iterators*
  - to iterate over elements with **++**, **!=**, **\***, ...

```
template<typename T>
void printElems(const T& coll)
{
    for (auto pos = coll.begin(); pos != coll.end(); ++pos) {
        std::cout << *pos << '\n';
    }
}
```

```
std::vector<int> coll1;
...
printElems(coll1);
```

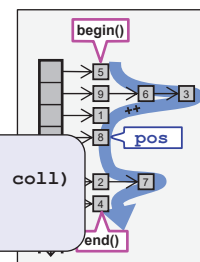
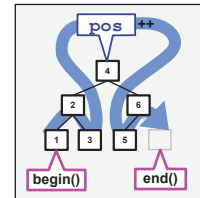
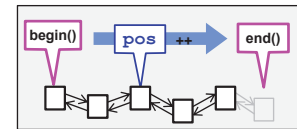
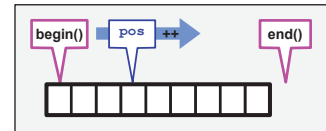
compiles:

```
void printElems(const std::vector<int>& coll)
{
    ... // ++ just moves n bytes to the next element
}
```

```
std::set<std::string> coll2;
...
printElems(coll2);
```

compiles:

```
void printElems(const std::set<std::string>& coll)
{
    ... // ++ navigates to the next element
}
```



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

13

**josuttis | eckstein**  
IT communication


## Modern C++

### How to Use Iterators?

C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

14

**josuttis | eckstein**  
IT communication

## Iterating with Generic Code

C++11

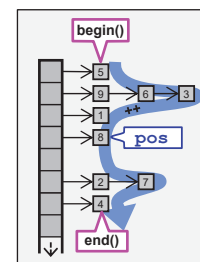
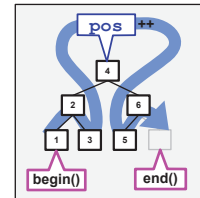
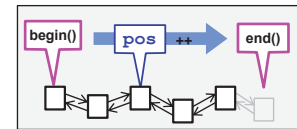
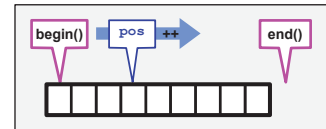
## Iterator API provided by all containers:

- **begin()** and **end()** yield *iterators*
  - to iterator over elements with **++**, **!=**, **\***, ...
- Used by the range-based **for** loop

```
template<typename T>
void printElems(const T& coll)
{
    for (auto pos = coll.begin(); pos != coll.end(); ++pos) {
        std::cout << *pos << '\n';
    }
}
```

C++11

```
template<typename T>
void printElems(const T& coll)
{
    for (const auto& elem : coll) {
        std::cout << elem << '\n';
    }
}
```



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

15

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Iterating with Generic Code

C++20

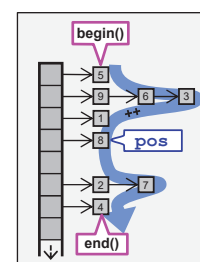
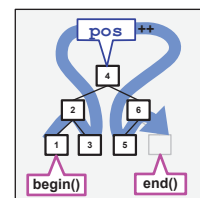
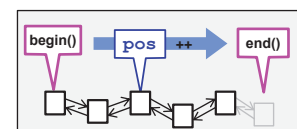
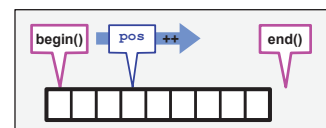
## Iterator API provided by all containers:

- **begin()** and **end()** yield *iterators*
  - to iterator over elements with **++**, **!=**, **\***, ...
- Used by the range-based **for** loop

```
template<typename T>
void printElems(const T& coll)
{
    for (auto pos = coll.begin(); pos != coll.end(); ++pos) {
        std::cout << *pos << '\n';
    }
}
```

C++20

```
void printElems(const auto& coll)
{
    for (const auto& elem : coll) {
        std::cout << elem << '\n';
    }
}
```



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

16

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication



## auto and cbegin() / cend()

C++11

- To support auto for read-only iterations, we have:

- Type `const_iterator`
- `cbegin()` and `cend()`  
`crbegin()` and `crend()`

The `element` the iterator refers to is `const`

```
template<typename T>
void processElements(T& coll)
{
    ...
    for (typename T::const_iterator pos = coll.begin(); pos != coll.end(); ++pos) {
        std::cout << *pos << '\n';
    }
}
```

`*pos = 0;`  
does not compile

```
template<typename T>
void processElements(T& coll)
{
    ...
    for (auto pos = coll.cbegin(); pos != coll.cend(); ++pos) {
        std::cout << *pos << '\n';
    }
}
```

Partially broken  
by C++2x views

C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

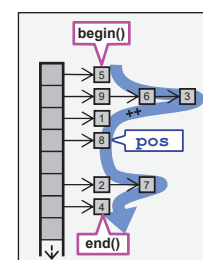
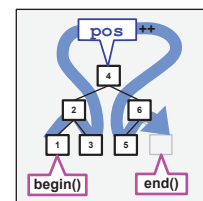
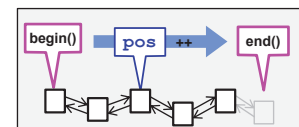
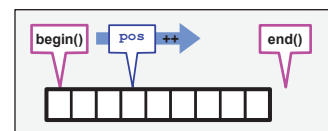
17

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Iterators have different Categories

C++98

- **Random access iterators**
  - Can jump to and compare with any other position  
`=, *, ++, ==, !=, --, +=, -=, <, <=, ... [], -`
  - `vector<>`, `array<>`, `deque<>`, raw arrays, strings
- **Bidirectional iterators**
  - Can iterate forward and backward  
`=, *, ++, ==, !=, --`
  - `list<>`, associative containers (`set<>`, `map<>`, ...)
- **Forward iterators**
  - Can iterate forward only  
`=, *, ++, ==, !=`
  - `forward_list<>`, `unordered` containers (hash tables)
- **Input iterators**
  - Can read elements only once
  - `istream_iterator<>`



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

18

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Iterator Categories

C++11

// print all elements (for all containers):

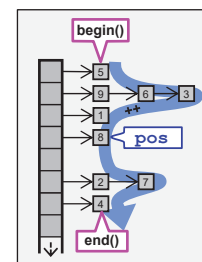
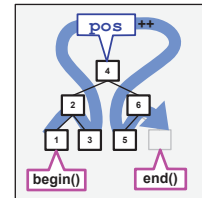
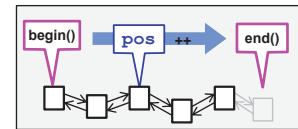
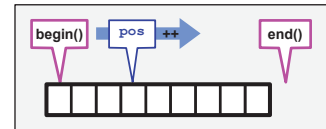
```
for (auto pos = coll.begin(); pos != coll.end(); ++pos) {
    std::cout << *pos << '\n';
}
```

// print every 2<sup>nd</sup> element (array, vector, deque only):

```
for (auto pos = coll.begin(); pos < coll.end(); pos += 2) {
    std::cout << *pos << '\n';
}
```

// print every 2<sup>nd</sup> element (for all containers):

```
for (auto pos = coll.begin(); pos != coll.end(); ) {
    std::cout << *pos << '\n';
    ++pos;
    if (pos != coll.end()) ++pos;
}
```



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

19

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Iterating with Generic Code

C++11

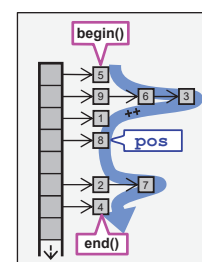
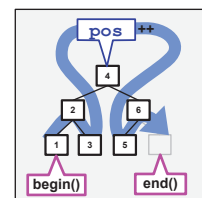
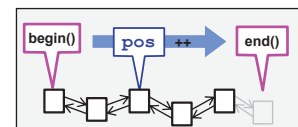
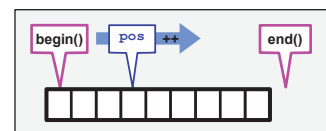
Iterator API provided by all containers:

- **begin()** and **end()** yield *iterators*
  - to iterator over elements with **++**, **!=**, **\***, ...

// print all elements:

```
for (auto pos = coll.begin(); pos != coll.end(); ++pos) {
    std::cout << *pos << '\n';
}
```

- **Prefer != over <**
  - < is not supported by all iterators (only random-access iterators)



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

20

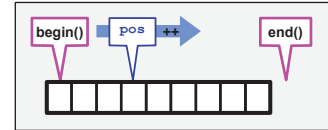
josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Range/Iterator Categories/Concepts since C++20

C++20

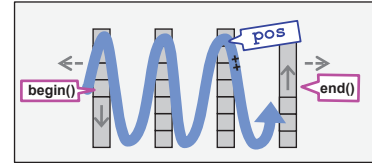
### Contiguous range/iterator

- Can jump to and compare with any other position  
=, \*, ++, ==, !=, --, +=, -=, <, <=, ... [], -
- Iterator may be raw pointer, range has `std::ranges::data()`
- `vector<>`, `array<>`, raw arrays, strings



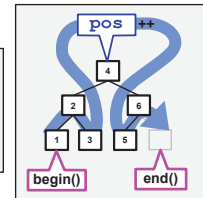
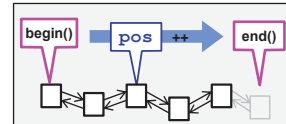
### Random access range/iterator

- Can jump to and compare with any other position  
=, \*, ++, ==, !=, --, +=, -=, <, <=, ... [], -
- `deque<>`



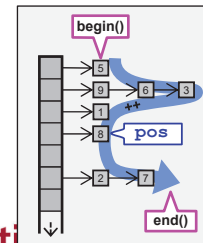
### Bidirectional range/iterator

- Can iterate forward and backward  
=, \*, ++, ==, !=, --
- `list<>`, **associative** containers (`set<>`, `map<>`, ...)



### Forward range/iterator

- Can iterate forward multiple times  
=, \*, ++, ==, !=
- `forward_list<>`, **unordered** containers (hash tables)



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

21

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Modern C++

## Iterators and Algorithms

C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

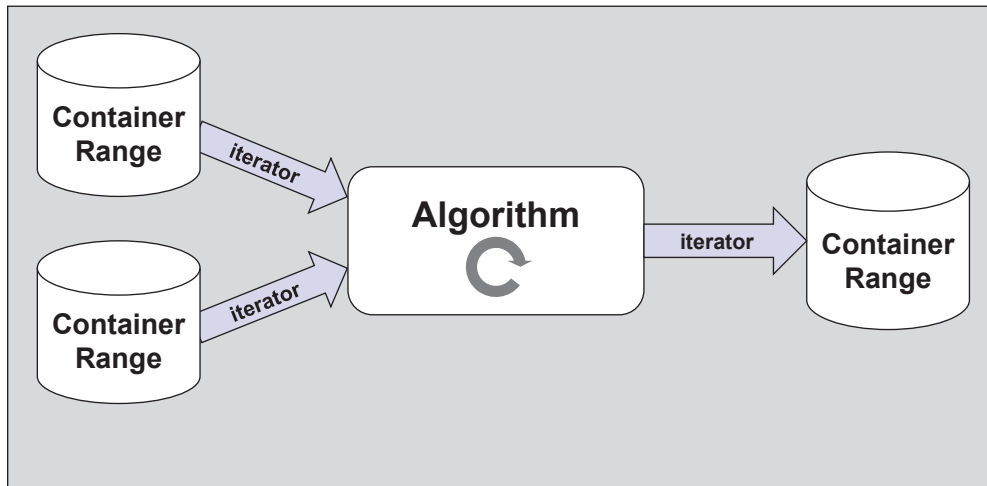
22

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Standard Template Library (STL)

C++98

- **Data structures** as ranges
- **Algorithms**
- **Iterators** as glue interface



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

23

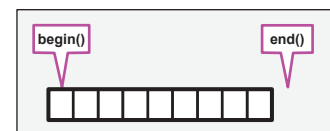
josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## STL Algorithms

C++98 / C++11

## Standard algorithms

- Process elements of **half-open ranges**
- Using the **iterator interface** for element access
- **Generic** to operate on different container types



```
#include <algorithm> // for algorithms
#include <numeric>    // for numeric algorithms like accumulate()
...

// sort elements:
std::sort(coll.begin(), coll.end());

// find the element with the highest value:
auto maxPos = std::max_element(coll.begin(), coll.end());
if (maxPos != coll.end()) {
    std::cout << "max: " << *maxPos;
}

// process the sum of all elements:
auto sum = std::accumulate(coll.begin(), coll.end(),
                           0); // initial value (and return type) for the sum
```

end() signals: none found  
(here: range was empty)

C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

24

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Implementation of STL Algorithms

C++98 / C++11

Algorithms are **generic**:

- Using the **iterator interface** of all containers
- Provided all operations are supported

```
template <typename IterT, typename ValueT>
ValueT accumulate (IterT beg, IterT end, // range
                  ValueT val)           // initial value
{
    for (IterT pos = beg; pos != end; ++pos) {
        val = val + *pos; // add value of each element
    }
    return val;
}
```

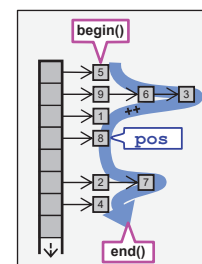
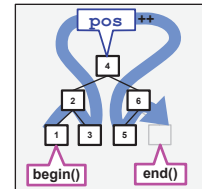
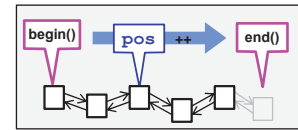
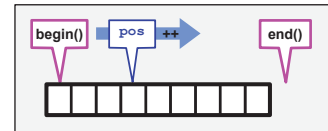
```
std::vector<long> coll{1, 2, 3, 4, 5};

auto res1 = accumulate(coll.begin(), coll.end(), // range
                       0L);                     // initial value

std::cout << res1 << '\n'; // prints: 15

std::set<std::string> words{"one", "two", "three", "four"};
auto res2 = accumulate(words.begin(), words.end(), // range
                       std::string{});           // initial value

std::cout << res2 << '\n'; // prints: fouronethreetwo
```



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

25

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

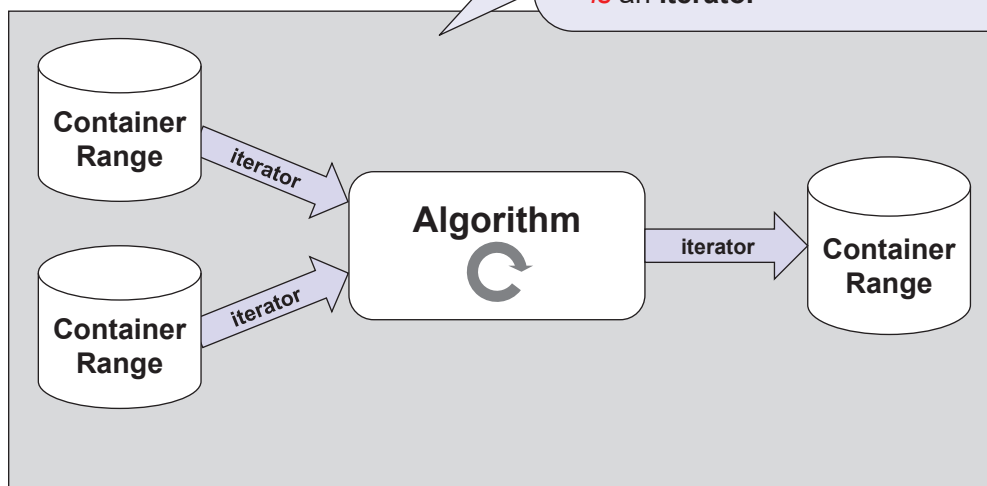
## Standard Template Library (STL)

C++98

- **Data structures** as ranges
- **Algorithms**
- **Iterators** as glue interface

## Pure abstractions:

- Everything that **behaves** like a **container**, **is** a **container**
- Everything that **behaves** like an **iterator**, **is** an **iterator**



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

26

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## STL Algorithms for Pointers

C++98

Algorithms are **generic**:

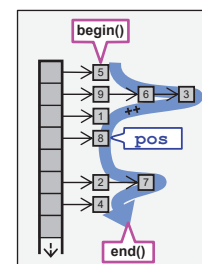
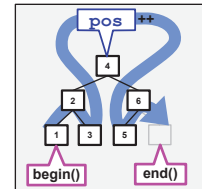
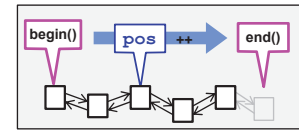
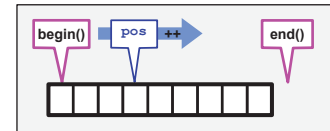
- Using the **iterator interface** of all containers
- Provided all operations are supported

```
template <typename IterT, typename ValueT>
ValueT accumulate (IterT beg, IterT end, // range
                  ValueT val)           // initial value
{
    for (IterT pos = beg; pos != end; ++pos) {
        val = val + *pos; // add value of each element
    }
    return val;
}
```

```
double arr[] = {1.1, 2.2, 3.3, 4.4, 5.5};
```

```
double res = accumulate(arr, arr + 5, // range with pointers
                        0.0);           // initial value
```

```
std::cout << res << '\n'; // prints: 16.5
```



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

27

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Modern C++

## Pitfalls of Iterators

C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

28

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Using Vector Iterators

C++11

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
#include <algorithm>
```

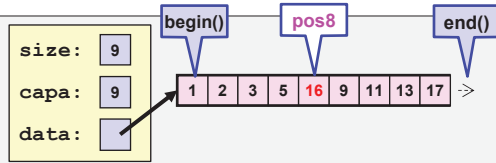
```
int main()
```

```
{
    std::vector<int> coll{1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 17};

    for (int elem : coll) {
        std::cout << elem << ' ';
    }
    std::cout << '\n';

    auto pos8 = std::find(coll.begin(), coll.end(), 8);
    if (pos8 != coll.end()) {
        std::cout << "8 found\n";
        *pos8 *= 2;
    }
}
```

coll:

Output:

```
1 2 3 5 8 9 11 13 17
8 found
```

**C++**

©2023 by josuttis.com

29

**josuttis | eckstein**  
IT communication

## Using Vector Iterators

C++11

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
```

```
int main()
```

```
{
    std::vector<int> coll{1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 17};

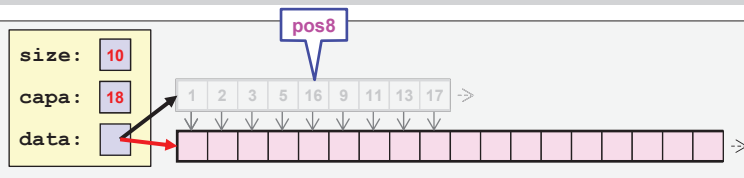
    for (int elem : coll) {
        std::cout << elem << ' ';
    }
    std::cout << '\n';

    auto pos8 = std::find(coll.begin(), coll.end(), 8);
    if (pos8 != coll.end()) {
        std::cout << "8 found\n";
        *pos8 *= 2;
    }

    coll.push_back(15); // append one element

    if (pos8 != coll.end()) {
        *pos8 *= 2; // fatal runtime ERROR: undefined behavior
    }
}
```

coll:

Output:

```
1 2 3 5 8 9 11 13 17
8 found
```

**C++**

©2023 by josuttis.com

30

**josuttis | eckstein**  
IT communication

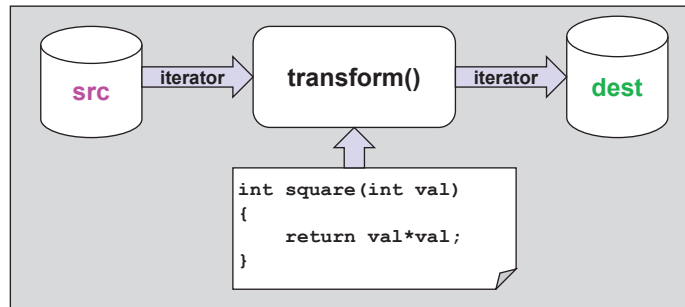
## std::transform() with 4 Arguments

C++98

```
#include <algorithm>
#include <list>
#include <vector>
```

```
int square(int val)
{
    return val * val;
}
```

```
void foo()
{
    std::list<int> src;
    std::vector<int> dest;
    ...
    // transform all elements of the source range to the square in the destination range
    // - overwrites; does not insert
    // - precondition: dest.size() >= src.size()
    std::transform(src.begin(), src.end(), // source range
                  dest.begin(),           // begin of destination range
                  square);                // transformation
    ...
}
```



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

31

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## std::transform() with 4 Arguments

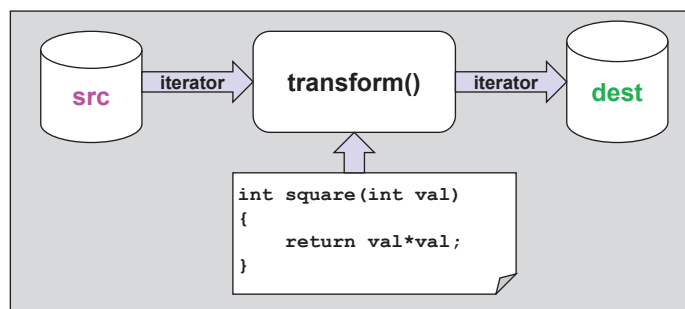
C++98/C++11

```
#include <algorithm>
#include <list>
#include <vector>
```

```
int square(int val)
{
    return val * val;
}
```

```
void foo()
{
    std::list<int> src{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6}; // some elements
    std::vector<int> dest;                // empty !

    // transform all elements of the source range to the square in the destination range
    std::transform(src.begin(), src.end(), // source range
                  dest.begin(),           // begin of destination range
                  square);                // transformation
    ...
}
```



**Fatal runtime error**  
(undefined behavior)

C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

32

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication



## Writing Algorithms

C++98/C++11

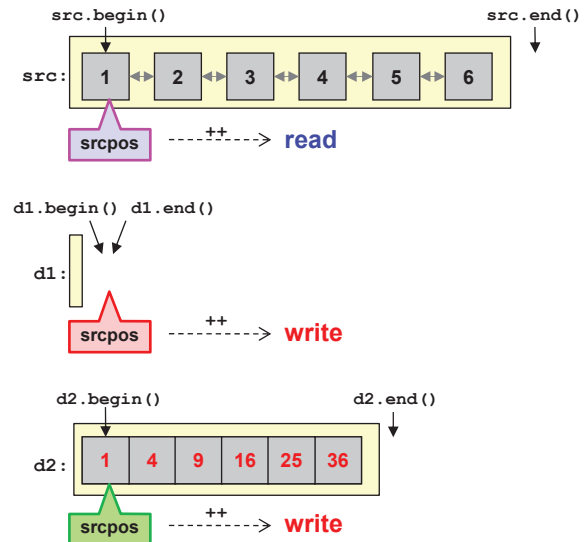
- Output iterators overwrite**

- Refer to a location for an element and don't know where ranges end
- Similar to raw pointers
- => **There must be elements** to overwrite

```
std::list<int> src{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6};

std::vector<int> d1;
std::transform(src.begin(), src.end(),
               d1.begin(), // ERROR
               square);

std::vector<int> d2;
d2.resize(src.size()); // set size big enough
std::transform(src.begin(), src.end(),
               d2.begin(), // OK
               square);
```

**C++**

©2023 by josuttis.com

33

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Using Inserters

C++98/C++11

- Inserters**

- Iterators that know the objects they iterate over
- **Insert** instead of overwrite

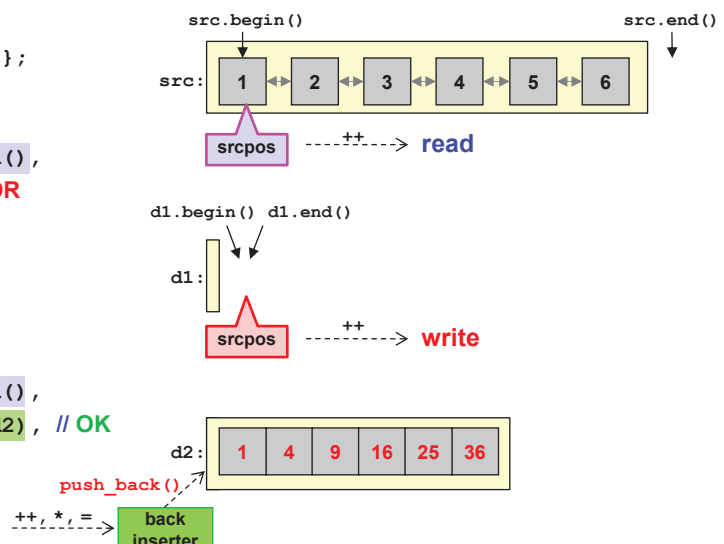
```
std::list<int> src{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6};

std::vector<int> d1;
std::transform(src.begin(), src.end(),
               d1.begin(), // ERROR
               square);

std::vector<int> d2;

std::transform(src.begin(), src.end(),
               std::back_inserter(d2), // OK
               square);
```

helper function  
(needs parentheses)

**C++**

©2023 by josuttis.com

34

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Output of the Following Program?

C++98/C++11

```
int main()
{
    std::list<int> coll{
        6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
    };

```

```
    for (int elem : coll) {                // print all elements
        std::cout << elem << ' ';
    }
    std::cout << '\n';

```

```
// remove all elements with value 3

```

```
std::remove(coll.begin(), coll.end(),    // range
            3);                          // value

```

```
    for (int elem : coll) {                // print all elements again
        std::cout << elem << ' ';
    }
    std::cout << '\n';
}
```

## Output:

6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6

6 5 4 2 1 1 2 4 5 6 5 6

C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

35

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Removing Algorithms

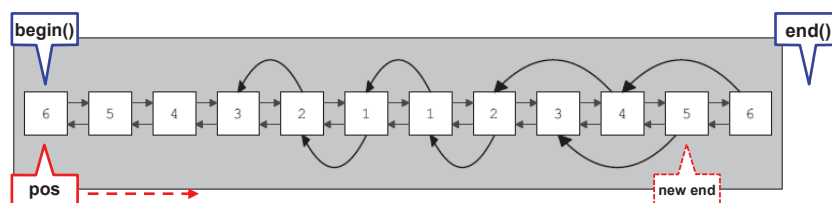
C++98

## Output:

6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6

6 5 4 2 1 1 2 4 5 6 5 6

- Content after `std::remove(..., 3)`:
- **Removing algorithms do not remove**
  - Instead, they **replace removed elements** and return the new end
  - Reason:
    - Iterators operate on elements, not on containers
      - Can only read, write, and go to another value



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

36

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

**"Removing" Algorithms**

C++98/C++11

```
int main()
{
    std::list<int> coll{
        6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
    };

```

```
    for (int elem : coll) {
        std::cout << elem << ' ';
    }
    std::cout << '\n';

```

```
// remove all elements with value 3

```

```
auto newEnd = std::remove(coll.begin(), coll.end(), // range
                          3);                       // value

```

```
for (auto pos = coll.begin(); pos != newEnd; ++pos) { // print elems up to new end
    std::cout << *pos << ' ';
}
std::cout << '\n';
}
```

**Output:**

```
6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6
6 5 4 2 1 1 2 4 5 6
```

**C++**

©2023 by josuttis.com

37

**josuttis | eckstein**  
IT communication**"Removing" Algorithms and Views**

C++20

```
int main()
{
    std::list<int> coll{
        6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
    };

```

```
    for (int elem : coll) {
        std::cout << elem << ' ';
    }
    std::cout << '\n';

```

```
// remove all elements with value 3

```

```
auto newEnd = std::remove(coll.begin(), coll.end(), // range
                          3);                       // value

```

```
for (int elem : std::ranges::subrange(coll.begin(), newEnd)) { // elems til new end
    std::cout << elem << ' ';
}
std::cout << '\n';
}
```

**Output:**

```
6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6
6 5 4 2 1 1 2 4 5 6
```

**C++**

©2023 by josuttis.com

38

**josuttis | eckstein**  
IT communication

## "Removing" Algorithms and Views

C++20

```
int main()
{
    std::list<int> coll{
        6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
    };

```

```
    for (int elem : coll) {                // print all elements
        std::cout << elem << ' ';
    }
    std::cout << '\n';

```

// print all elements not having value 3:

```
auto not3 = [] (const auto& elem) {
    return elem != 3;
};

```

```
for (int elem : coll | std::views::filter(not3)) {
    std::cout << elem << ' ';
}
std::cout << '\n';

```

### Output:

```
6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6
6 5 4 2 1 1 2 4 5 6
```

C++

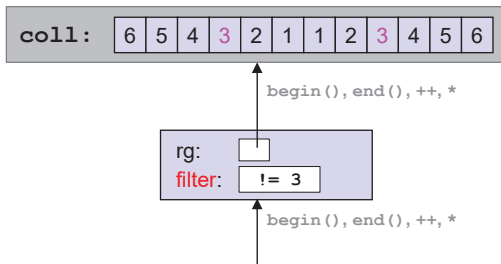
©2023 by josuttis.com

39

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## "Removing" Algorithms and Views

C++20



```
std::list<int> coll{6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6};

```

// print all elements not having value 3:

```
auto not3 = [] (const auto& elem) {
    return elem != 3;
};

```

```
for (int elem : coll | std::views::filter(not3)) {
    std::cout << elem << ' ';
}
std::cout << '\n';

```

C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

40

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Filter Views Intern

C++20

```

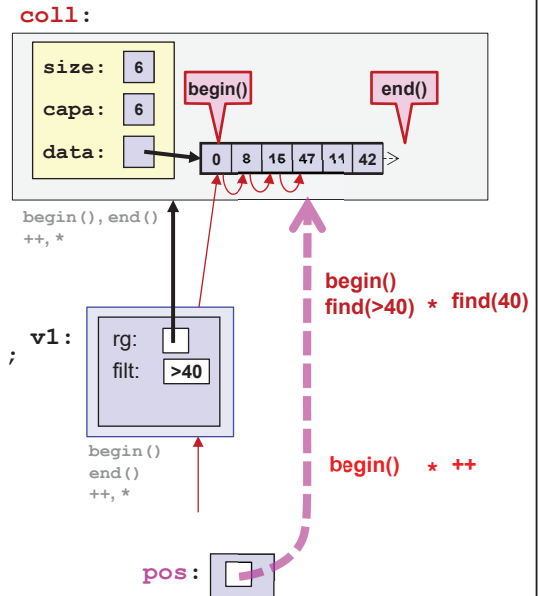
std::vector<int> coll{0, 8, 15, 47, 11, 42};

auto greater40 = [] (const auto& elem) {
    return elem > 40;
};

auto v1 = coll | std::views::filter(greater40);

auto pos = v1.begin();
std::cout << *pos;
++pos;
std::cout << *pos;
...
while (pos != v1.end())

```



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

41

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Filter Views Cache begin()

C++20

```

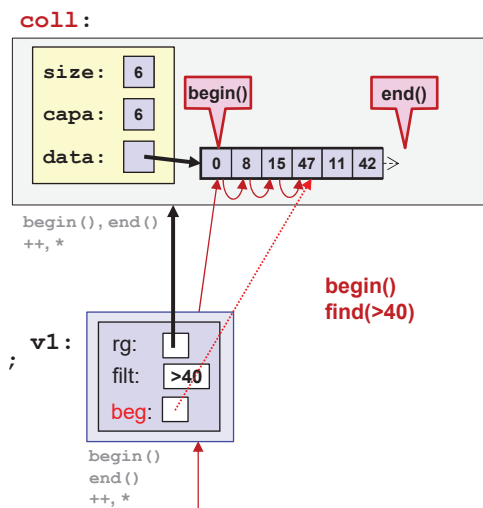
std::vector<int> coll{0, 8, 15, 47, 11, 42};

auto greater40 = [] (const auto& elem) {
    return elem > 40;
};

auto v1 = coll | std::views::filter(greater40);

auto pos = v1.begin();

```



C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

42

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Processing Containers and Views

C++20

```
void print(const auto& coll) {
    for (const auto& elem : coll) {
        std::cout << elem << ' ';
    }
    std::cout << '\n';
}
```

```
std::vector<int> vec{0, 8, 15, 47, 11, 42, 1};
std::list<int> lst{0, 8, 15, 47, 11, 42, 1};
```

```
print(vec);
print(lst);
```

```
auto gt40 = [] (const auto& elem) {return elem > 40};
for (const auto& elem : vec | std::views::filter(gt40)) { // OK
    std::cout << elem << ' ';
}
```

```
print(vec | std::views::filter(gt40)); // ERROR
```

```
print(vec | std::views::drop(3)); // OK
```

```
print(lst | std::views::drop(3)); // ERROR
```

### Output:

```
0 8 15 47 11 42 1
0 8 15 47 11 42 1
```

```
47 42
```

```
ERROR
```

```
47 11 42 1
```

```
ERROR
```

C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

43

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Using the Filter View

C++20

```
std::vector<int> coll{1, 4, 7, 10};
print(coll);
```

```
auto isEven = [] (auto&& i) { return i % 2 == 0; };
auto collEven = coll | std::views::filter(isEven);
```

// add 2 to even elements:

```
for (int& i : collEven) {
    i += 2;
}
print(coll);
```

// add 2 to even elements:

```
for (int& i : collEven) {
    i += 2;
}
print(coll);
```

### Output:

```
1 4 7 10
```

```
1 6 7 12
```

```
1 8 7 14
```

C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

44

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Using the Filter View

C++20

```
std::vector<int> coll{1, 4, 7, 10};
print(coll);
```

1	4	7	10
---	---	---	----

```
auto isEven = [] (auto&& i) { return i % 2 == 0; };
auto collEven = coll | std::views::filter(isEven);
```

// increment even elements:

```
for (int& i : collEven) {
    i += 1; // Runtime Error: UB: predicate broken
}
print(coll);
```

Output:

```
1 4 7 10
1 5 7 11
1 6 7 11
```

// increment even elements:

```
for (int& i : collEven) {
    i += 1; // Runtime Error: UB: predicate broken
}
print(coll);
```

C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

45

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Using the Filter View

C++20

- **Main use case of a filter:**
  - Fix an attribute that some elements might have

has **undefined behavior**: [range.filter.iterator]:

Modification of the element a filter\_view::iterator denotes is permitted, but results in undefined behavior if the resulting value does not satisfy the filter predicate.

// as a shaman:

```
for (auto& m : monsters | std::views::filter(isDead)) {
    m.resurrect(); // undefined behavior: because no longer dead
    m.burn(); // OK (because it is still dead)
}
```

Thanks to Patrice Roy for this example

C++

©2023 by josuttis.com

46

josuttis | eckstein  
IT communication

## Summary

### Iterators

- **Key role for C++**
  - Glue between ranges and algorithms
- **Pure abstraction**
  - Everything that behaves like an iterator is an iterator
- **Different categories with different abilities**
- **Do not know their ranges (in general)**
  - Don't know where the end is
  - Cannot insert/remove
- **Use iterators with care**
  - Referenced range has to be valid
  - Don't compare iterators not referring to the same range
- **Iterators of C++2x filter views cache begin**
  - Results in break idioms and unexpected behavior

**C++**

©2023 by josuttis.com

47

**josuttis | eckstein**  
IT communication

## Thank You!

**Nicolai M. Josuttis****www.josuttis.com****nico@josuttis.com****@NicoJosuttis****C++**

©2023 by josuttis.com

48

**josuttis | eckstein**  
IT communication