# CS100 Lecture 22

### **Contents**

Standard Template Library (STL)

- Overview
- Sequence containers and iterators
- Algorithms and function objects (aka "functors")
- Associative containers

# **Overview of STL**

# **Standard Template Library**

Added into C++ in 1994.

- Containers
- Iterators
- Algorithms
- Function objects
- Some other adapters, like container adapters and iterator adapters
- Allocators

### **Containers**

- Sequence containers
  - vector, list, deque, array (since C++11), forward\_list (since C++11)
- Associative containers
  - set, map, multiset, multimap (often implemented with binary search trees)
- Unordered associative containers (since C++11)
  - unordered\_set , unordered\_map , unordered\_multiset , unordered\_multimap (implemented with hash tables)
- Container adapters: provide a different interface for sequential containers, but they are not containers themselves.
  - stack, queue, priority\_queue
  - o (since C++23) flat\_set , flat\_map , flat\_multiset , flat\_multimap

#### Without iterators:

• Traverse an array

```
for (int i = 0; i != sizeof(a) / sizeof(a[0]); ++i)
  do_something(a[i]);
```

• Traverse a vector

```
for (std::size_t i = 0; i != v.size(); ++i)
  do_something(v[i]);
```

• Traverse a linked-list?

```
for (ListNode *p = 1.head(); p; p = p->next)
  do_something(p->data);
```

A generalization of pointers, used to access elements in different containers in a uniform manner.

#### With iterators:

The following works no matter whether c is an array, a std::string, or any container.

```
for (auto it = std::begin(c); it != std::end(c); ++it)
  do_something(*it);
```

### Equivalent way: range-based for loops

```
for (auto &x : c) do_something(x);
```

# **Algorithms**

The algorithms library defines functions for a variety of purposes:

• searching, sorting, counting, manipulating, ...

#### **Examples:**

```
// assign every element in `a` with the value `x`.
std::fill(a.begin(), a.end(), x);
// sort the elements in `b` in ascending order.
std::sort(b.begin(), b.end());
// find the first element in `b` that is equal to `x`.
auto pos = std::find(b.begin(), b.end(), x);
// reverse the elements in `c`.
std::reverse(c.begin(), c.end());
```

# **Algorithms**

Example: Map every number in data to its rank. ("离散化")

```
auto remap(const std::vector<int> &data) {
  auto tmp = data;
  std::sort(tmp.begin(), tmp.end()); // sort
  auto pos = std::unique(tmp.begin(), tmp.end()); // drop duplicates
  auto ret = data;
  for (auto &x : ret)
    x = std::lower_bound(tmp.begin(), pos, x) - tmp.begin(); // binary search
  return ret;
}
```

## **Function objects**

Things that look like "functions": Callable

- functions, and also function pointers
- objects of a class type that has an overloaded operator() (the function-call operator)
- lambda expressions

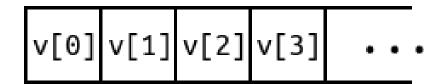
More in later lectures ...

# Sequence containers and iterators

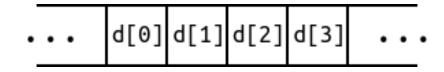
Note: string is not treated as a container but behaves much like one.

### Sequence containers

std::vector<T>: dynamic contiguous array (we are quite familiar with)



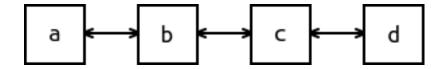
- std::deque<T>: double-ended queue (often pronounced as "deck")
  - std::deque<T> supports fast insertion and deletion at both its beginning and its end. (push\_front, pop\_front, push\_back, pop\_back)



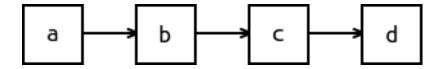
- std::array<T, N>:same as T[N], it is a container
  - It will never decay to T \* .
  - Container interfaces are provided: .at(i), .front(), .back(), .size(), ...,
     as well as iterators.

### Sequence containers

- std::list<T>: doubly-linked list
  - std::list<T> supports fast insertion and deletion anywhere in the container,
  - but fast random access is not supported (i.e. no operator[]).
  - Bidirectional traversal is supported.



- std::forward\_list<T> : singly-linked list
  - Intended to save time and space (compared to std::list).
  - Only forward traversal is supported.



STL containers have consistent interfaces. See here for a full list.

#### Element access:

- c.at(i), c[i]: access the element indexed i. at performs bounds checking, and throws std::out\_of\_range if i exceeds the valid range.
- c.front(), c.back(): access the front/back element.

Size and capacity: c.size() and c.empty() are what we already know.

- c.resize(n), c.resize(n, x): adjust the container to be with exactly n elements. If n > c.size(), n c.size() elements will be appended.
  - o c.resize(n): Appended elements are value-initialized.
  - o c.resize(n, x): Appended elements are copies of x.
- c.capacity(), c.reserve(n), c.shrink\_to\_fit():Only for string and vector.
  - c.capacity() returns the capacity (number of elements that *can* be stored in the current storage)
  - c.reserve(n): reserves space for at least n elements.
  - c.shrink\_to\_fit(): requests to remove the unused capacity, so that
    c.capacity() == c.size().

#### Modifiers:

- c.push\_back(x), c.emplace\_back(args...), c.pop\_back():insert/delete elements at the end of the container.
- c.push\_front(x), c.emplace\_front(args...), c.pop\_front():insert/delete elements at the beginning of the container.
- c.clear() removes all the elements in c.

#### Modifiers:

- c.insert(...), c.emplace(...), c.erase(...): insert/delete elements at a specified location.
  - $\circ$  Warning: For containers that need to maintain contiguous storage (string, vector, deque), insertion and deletion somewhere in the middle can be very slow (O(n)).
  - These functions have a lot of overloads. Remember a few common ones, and STFW (Search The Friendly Web) when you need to use them.

Some of these member functions are not supported on some containers, **depending on the underlying data structure**. For example:

- Any operation that modifies the length of the container is not allowed for array.
- push\_front, emplace\_front and pop\_front are not supported on string,vector and array.
- size is not supported on forward\_list in order to save time and space.
- operator[] and at are not supported on linked-lists.

This table tells you everything.

A generalized "pointer" used for accessing elements in different containers.

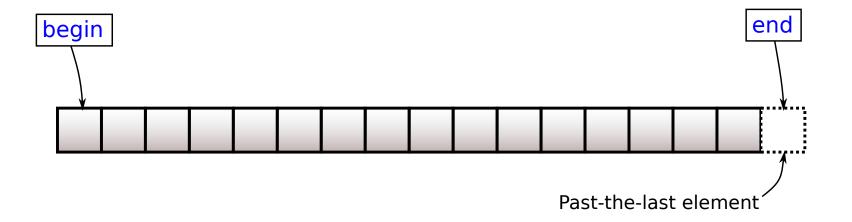
Every container has its iterator: Container::iterator . e.g.

```
std::vector<int>::iterator , std::forward_list<std::string>::iterator
```

auto comes to our rescue!

c.begin() returns the iterator to the first element of c .

c.end() returns the iterator to the element following the last element of c.



A pair of iterators (b, e) is often used to indicate a range [b, e).

Such ranges are **left-inclusive**. Benefits:

- e b is the **length** of the range, i.e. the number of elements. There is no extra +1 or -1.
- If b == e, the range is empty.

Basic operations, supported by almost all kinds of iterators:

- \*it : returns a reference to the element that it refers to.
- it->mem : equivalent to (\*it).mem .
- ++it, it++: moves it one step forward, so that it refers to the "next" element.
  - ++it returns a reference to it, while it++ returns a copy of it before incrementation.
- it1 == it2 : checks whether it1 and it2 refer to the same position in the container.
- it1 != it2 : equivalent to !(it1 == it2).

These are supported by the iterators of all sequence containers, as well as string.

Use the basic operations to traverse a sequence container:

```
void swapcase(std::string &str) {
  for (auto it = str.begin(); it != str.end(); ++it) {
    if (std::islower(*it))
      *it = std::toupper(*it);
    else if (std::isupper(*it))
      *it = std::tolower(*it);
void print(const std::list<int> &lst) {
  for (auto it = lst.begin(); it != lst.end(); ++it)
    std::cout << *it << ' ';
```

Built-in pointers are also iterators: They are the iterator for built-in arrays.

For an array Type a[N]:

- The "begin" iterator is a .
- The "end" (off-the-end) iterator is a + N.

The standard library functions std::begin(c) and std::end(c) (defined in <iterator> and many other header files):

- return c.begin() and c.end() if c is a container;
- return c and c + N if c is an array of length N.

# Range-for demystified

The range-based for loop

```
for (@declaration : container)
  @loop_body
```

is equivalent to

```
{
  auto b = std::begin(container);
  auto e = std::end(container);
  for (; b != e; ++b) {
    @declaration = *b;
    @loop_body
  }
}
```

#### Iterators: dereferenceable

Like pointers, an iterator can be dereferenced (\*it) only when it refers to an existing element. ("dereferenceable")

- \*v.end() is undefined behavior.
- ++it is undefined behavior if it is not dereferenceable. In other words, moving an iterator out of the range [begin, off\_the\_end] is undefined behavior.

### **Iterators:** invalidation

```
Type *storage = new Type[n];
Type *iter = storage;
delete[] storage;
// Now `iter` does not refer to any existing element.
```

Some operations on some containers will **invalidate** some iterators:

• make these iterators not refer to any existing element.

#### For example:

- push\_back(x) on a vector may cause the reallocation of storage. All iterators obtained previously are invalidated.
- Deleting an element in a list will invalidate the iterator referring to that element.

### More operations on iterators

The iterators of containers that support \*it, it->mem, ++it, it++, it1 == it2 and it1 != it2 are ForwardIterators.

BidirectionalIterator: a ForwardIterator that can be moved in both directions

• supports --it and it--.

RandomAccessIterator: a BidirectionalIterator that can be moved to point to any element in constant time.

- supports it + n, n + it, it n, it += n, it -= n for an integer n.
- supports it[n], equivalent to \*(it + n).
- supports it1 it2, returns the distance of two iterators.
- supports < , <= , > , >= .

ForwardIterators: supports \*it , it->mem , ++it , it++ , it1 == it2 , it1 != it2

BidirectionalIterator: a ForwardIterator that can be moved in both directions

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\* Which category is the built-in pointer in?

ForwardIterators: supports \*it , it->mem , ++it , it++ , it1 == it2 , it1 != it2

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- supports < , <= , > , >= .

\* Which category is the built-in pointer in? - RandomAccessIterator.

ForwardIterators: an iterator that can be moved forward.

forward\_list<T>::iterator

BidirectionalIterator: a ForwardIterator that can be moved in both directions

• list<T>::iterator

RandomAccessIterator: a BidirectionalIterator that can be moved to point to any element in constant time.

string::iterator , vector<T>::iterator , deque<T>::iterator ,
array<T,N>::iterator

To know the category of an iterator of a container, consult its type alias member iterator\_category.

```
using vec_iter = std::vector<int>::iterator;
using category = vec_iter::iterator_category;
```

Put your mouse on category, and the IDE will tell you what it is.

```
It is one of the following tags: std::forward_iterator_tag ,
std::bidirectional_iterator_tag , std::random_access_iterator_tag .
```

Note: There are two other categories: InputIterator and OutputIterator. They may (or may not) be covered in later lectures.

### Constructors of containers

All sequence containers can be constructed in the following ways:

- Container c(b, e), where [b, e) is an iterator range.
  - Copies elements from the iterator range [b, e).
- Container c(n, x), where n is a nonnegative integer and x is a value.
  - Initializes the container with n copies of x.
- Container c(n), where n is a nonnegative integer.
  - Initializes the container with n elements. All elements are value-initialized.
  - This is not supported by string. (Why?)

#### Constructors of containers

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  - Initializes the container with n copies of x.
- Container c(n), where n is a nonnegative integer.
  - o Initializes the container with n elements. All elements are value-initialized.
  - This is not supported by string, because it is meaningless to have n value-initializes chars (all of them will be '\0')!

# Algorithms and function objects

# Algorithms

Full list of standard library algorithms can be found here.

No one can remember all of them, but some are quite commonly used.

## Algorithms: interfaces

Parameters: The STL algorithms accept pairs of iterators to represent "ranges":

```
int a[N], b[N]; std::vector<int> v;
std::sort(a, a + N);
std::sort(v.begin(), v.end());
std::copy(a, a + N, b); // copies elements in [a, a+N) to [b, b+N)
std::sort(v.begin(), v.begin() + 10); // Only the first 10 elements are sorted.
```

(since C++20) std::ranges::xxx can be used, which has more modern interfaces

```
std::ranges::sort(a);
std::ranges::copy(a, b);
```

# Algorithms: interfaces

Parameters: The algorithms suffixed \_n use a beginning iterator begin and an integer n to represent a range [begin, begin + n).

Example: Use STL algorithms to rewrite the constructors of Dynarray:

```
Dynarray::Dynarray(const int *begin, const int *end)
    : m_storage{new int[end - begin]}, m_length{end - begin} {
  std::copy(begin, end, m storage);
Dynarray::Dynarray(const Dynarray &other)
    : m storage{new int[other.size()]}, m length{other.size()} {
  std::copy n(other.m storage, other.size(), m storage);
Dynarray::Dynarray(std::size_t n, int x = 0)
    : m_storage{new int[n]}, m_length{n} {
  std::fill_n(m_storage, m_length, x);
```

# Algorithms: interfaces

**Return values**: "Position" is typically represented by an iterator. For example:

```
std::vector<int> v = someValues();
auto pos = std::find(v.begin(), v.end(), 42);
assert(*pos == 42);
auto maxPos = std::max_element(v.begin(), v.end());
```

- pos is an **iterator** pointing to the first occurrence of 42 in v.
- maxPos is an iterator pointing to the max element in v.

"Not found"/"No such element" is often indicated by returning end .

### Algorithms: requirements

An algorithm may have requirements on

- the iterator categories of the passed-in iterators, and
- the type of elements that the iterators point to.

Typically, std::sort requires *RandomAccessIterators*, while std::copy allows any *InputIterators*.

Typically, all algorithms that need to compare elements rely only upon operator< and operator== of the elements.

You don't have to define all the six comparison operators of x in order to sort a
 vector<X>. sort only requires operator<.</li>

# **Algorithms**

Since we pass iterators instead of containers to algorithms, the standard library algorithms never modify the length of the containers.

• STL algorithms never insert or delete elements in the containers (unless the iterator passed to them is some special *iterator adapter*).

For example: std::copy only copies elements, instead of inserting elements.

```
std::vector<int> a = someValues();
std::vector<int> b(a.size());
std::vector<int> c{};
std::copy(a.begin(), a.end(), b.begin()); // OK
std::copy(a.begin(), a.end(), c.begin()); // Undefined behavior!
```

### Some common algorithms (<algorithm>)

Non-modifying sequence operations:

count(begin, end, x), find(begin, end, x), find\_end(begin, end, x),
 find\_first\_of(begin, end, x), search(begin, end, pattern\_begin, pattern\_end)

Modifying sequence operations:

- copy(begin, end, dest), fill(begin, end, x), reverse(begin, end),...
- unique(begin, end): drop duplicate elements.
  - order by default). order by default).
  - It does not remove any elements! Instead, it moves all the duplicated elements to the end of the sequence, and returns an iterator pos, so that [begin, pos) has no duplicate elements.

### Some common algorithms (<algorithm>)

Example: unique

```
std::vector v{1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 3, 5};
auto pos = std::unique(v.begin(), v.end());
// Now [v.begin(), pos) holds {1, 2, 3, 5},
// and [pos, v.end()) holds {1, 2, 2}, but the exact order is not known.
v.erase(pos, v.end()); // Typical use with the container's `erase` operation
// Now v holds {1, 2, 3, 5}.
```

unique does not remove the duplicate elements! To remove them, use the container's erase operation.

### Some common algorithms (<algorithm>)

Partitioning, sorting and merging algorithms:

- partition, is\_partitioned, stable\_partition
- sort, is\_sorted, stable\_sort
- nth\_element
- merge , inplace\_merge

Binary search on sorted ranges:

• lower\_bound, upper\_bound, binary\_search, equal\_range

Heap algorithms:

• is\_heap, make\_heap, push\_heap, pop\_heap, sort\_heap

Learn the underlying algorithms and data structures of these functions in CS101!

### Some common algorithms

Min/Max and comparison algorithms: ( <algorithm>)

- min\_element(begin, end), max\_element(begin, end), minmax\_element(begin, end)
- equal(begin1, end1, begin2), equal(begin1, end1, begin2, end2)
- lexicographical\_compare(begin1, end1, begin2, end2)

Numeric operations: ( < numeric > )

- accumulate(begin, end, initValue): Sum of elements in [begin, end), with initial value initValue.
  - o accumulate(v.begin(), v.end(), 0) returns the sum of elements in v.
- inner\_product(begin1, end1, begin2, initValue): Inner product of two vectors  $\mathbf{a}^T\mathbf{b}$ , added with the initial value initValue.

Consider the Point2d class:

```
struct Point2d {
  double x, y;
};
std::vector<Point2d> points = someValues();
```

Suppose we want to sort points in ascending order of the x coordinate.

- std::sort requires operator< in order to compare the elements,</li>
- but it is not recommended to overload operator< here! (What if we want to sort some Point2d s in another way?)

```
(C++20 modern way: std::ranges::sort(points, {}, &Point2d::x);)
```

std::sort has another version that accepts another argument cmp:

```
bool cmp_by_x(const Point2d &lhs, const Point2d &rhs) {
  return lhs.x < rhs.x;
}
std::sort(points.begin(), points.end(), cmp_by_x);</pre>
```

```
sort(begin, end, cmp)
```

- cmp is a **Callable** object. When called, it accepts two arguments whose type is the same as the element type, and returns bool.
- std::sort will use cmp(x, y) instead of x < y to compare elements.
- After sorting, cmp(v[i], v[i + 1]) is true for every  $i \in [0, v.size()-1)$ .

To sort numbers in reverse (descending) order:

```
bool greater_than(int a, int b) { return a > b; }
std::sort(v.begin(), v.end(), greater_than);
```

To sort them in ascending order of absolute values:

```
bool abs_less(int a, int b) { return std::abs(a) < std::abs(b); } // <cmath>
std::sort(v.begin(), v.end(), abs_less);
```

Many algorithms accept a Callable object. For example, find\_if(begin, end, pred) finds the first element in [begin, end) such that pred(element) is true.

```
bool less_than_10(int x) {
  return x < 10;
}
std::vector<int> v = someValues();
auto pos = std::find_if(v.begin(), v.end(), less_than_10);
```

for\_each(begin, end, operation) performs operation(element) for each element in the range [begin, end).

```
void print_int(int x) { std::cout << x << ' '; }
std::for_each(v.begin(), v.end(), print_int);</pre>
```

Many algorithms accept a Callable object. For example, find\_if(begin, end, pred) finds the first element in [begin, end) such that pred(element) is true.

What if we want to find the first element less than k, where k is determined at runtime?

What if we want to find the first element less than **k**, where **k** is determined at runtime?

```
struct LessThan {
  int k_;
  LessThan(int k) : k_{k} {}
  bool operator()(int x) const {
    return x < k_;
  }
};
auto pos = std::find_if(v.begin(), v.end(), LessThan(k));</pre>
```

- LessThan(k) constructs an object of type LessThan, with the member k\_ initialized to k.
- This object has an operator() overloaded: the function-call operator.
  - LessThan(k)(x) is equivalent to LessThan(k).operator()(x), which is x < k.

### **Function objects**

Modern way:

```
struct LessThan {
  int k_; // No constructor is needed, and k_ is public.
  bool operator()(int x) const { return x < k_; }
};
auto pos = std::find_if(v.begin(), v.end(), LessThan{k}); // {} instead of ()</pre>
```

A function object (aka "functor") is an object fo with operator() overloaded.

• fo(arg1, arg2, ...) is equivalent to fo.operator()(arg1, arg2, ...). Any number of arguments is allowed.

### **Function objects**

Exercise: use a function object to compare integers by their absolute values.

```
struct AbsCmp {
  bool operator()(int a, int b) const {
    return std::abs(a) < std::abs(b);
  }
};
std::sort(v.begin(), v.end(), AbsCmp{});</pre>
```

Defining a function or a function object is not good enough:

- These functions or function objects are almost used only once, but
- too many lines of code is needed, and
- you have to add names to the global scope.

Is there a way to define an unnamed, immediate callable object?

To sort by comparing absolute values:

```
std::sort(v.begin(), v.end(),
    [](int a, int b) -> bool { return std::abs(a) < std::abs(b); });</pre>
```

To sort in reverse order:

```
std::sort(v.begin(), v.end(),
    [](int a, int b) -> bool { return a > b; });
```

To find the first element less than k:

The return type can be omitted and deduced by the compiler.

```
std::sort(v.begin(), v.end(),
        [](int a, int b) { return std::abs(a) < std::abs(b); });

std::sort(v.begin(), v.end(), [](int a, int b) { return a > b; });

auto pos = std::find_if(v.begin(), v.end(), [k](int x) { return x < k; });</pre>
```

A lambda expression has the following syntax:

```
[capture_list](params) -> return_type { function_body }
```

The compiler will generate a function object according to it.

```
int k = 42;
auto f = [k](int x) -> bool { return x < k; };
bool b1 = f(10); // true
bool b2 = f(100); // false</pre>
```

```
[capture_list](params) -> return_type { function_body }
```

It is allowed to write complex statements in function\_body, just as in a function.

### Lambda expressions: capture

To capture more variables:

To capture by reference (so that copy is avoided)

```
std::string str = someString();
std::vector<std::string> wordList;
// finds the first string that is lexicographically greater than `str`,
// but shorter than `str`.
auto pos = std::find_if(wordList.begin(), wordList.end(),
        [&str](const std::string &s) { return s > str && s.size() < str.size();});</pre>
```

Here &str indicates that str is captured by referece. & here is not the address-of operator!

# More on lambda expressions

- C++ Primer Section 10.3
- *Effective Modern C++* Chapter 6 (Item 31-34)

Note that C++ Primer (5th edition) is based on C++11 and Effective Modern C++ is based on C++14. Lambda expressions are evolving at a very fast pace in modern C++, with many new things added and many limitations removed.

More fancy ways of writing lambda expressions are not covered in CS100.

# Back to algorithms

So many things in the algorithm library! How can we remember them?

- Remember the **conventions**:
  - No insertion/deletion of elements
  - Iterator range [begin, end)
  - Functions named with the suffix \_n uses [begin, begin + n)
  - Pass functions, function objects, and lambdas for customized operations
  - Functions named with the suffix \_if requires a boolean predicate
- Remember the common ones: copy, find, for\_each, sort, ...
- Look them up in cppreference before use.

# **Associative containers**