

Slides

Development > Programming Languages > C++

The C++ 20 Masterclass : From Fundamentals to Advanced

Learn and Master Modern C++ From Beginning to Advanced in Plain English : C++11, C++14, C++17, C++20 and More!

4.7 ★★★★★

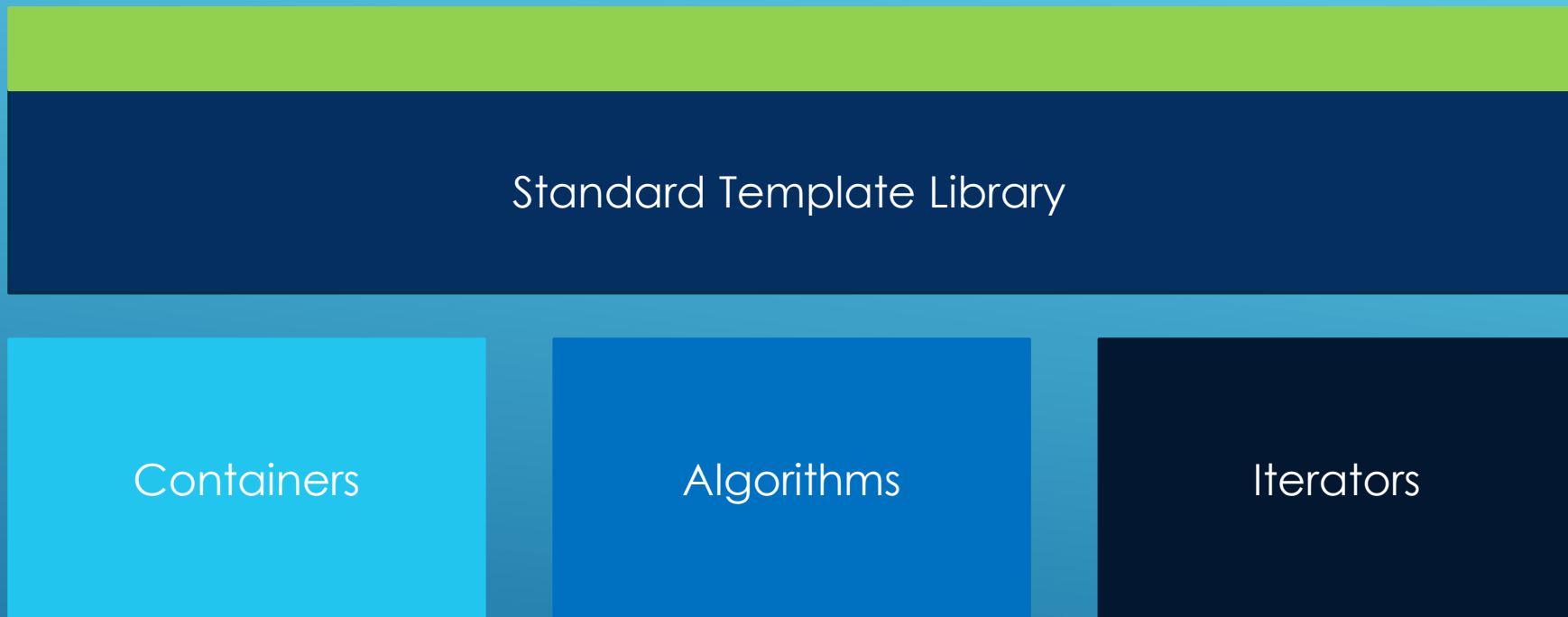
Created by [Daniel Gakwaya](#)

Section : STL Containers and Iterators

1

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STL Containers and Iterators : Introduction



Collections (Containers)

- . BoxContainer is a container class that provides the features
 - . add_item
 - . remove_item
 - . remove_all
- . We can add BoxContainer's up with :
 - . +=
 - . +
- . Additionally we can :
 - . Stream insert BoxContainers with operator<<
 - . Copy construct BoxContainer's
 - . Copy assign BoxContainer's



size

capacity



Adding elements



size

capacity



Adding elements



size

capacity



Adding elements



size

capacity

10



Adding elements

Capacity extension



size

capacity



Removing elements



Capacity extension



size

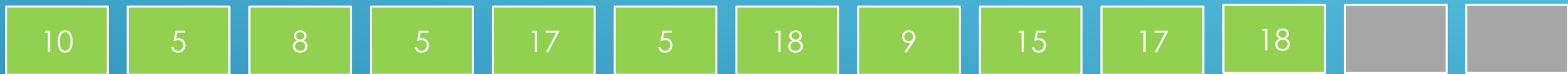
capacity



Removing elements



Capacity extension



size

capacity



Removing elements

Capacity extension



size

capacity



Removing elements



Capacity extension



size

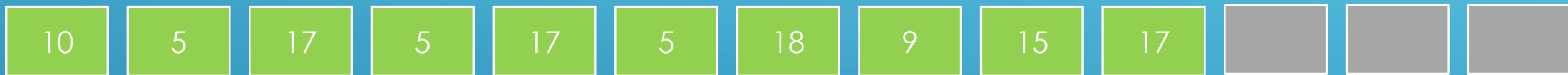
capacity



Removing elements



Capacity extension



size

capacity

16



Removing elements

Capacity extension



size

capacity

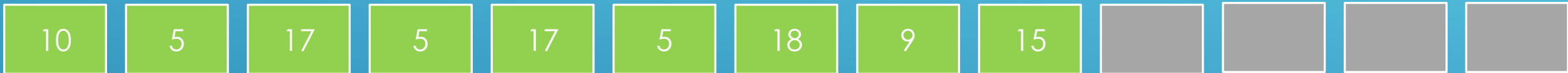
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Removing elements



Capacity extension



size

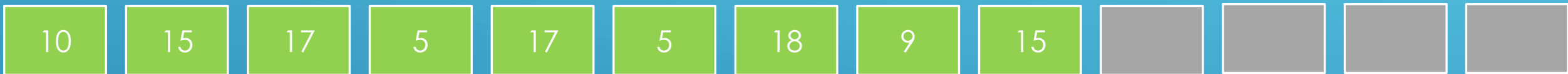
capacity



Removing elements



Capacity extension



size

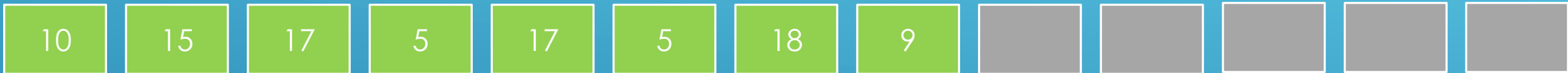
capacity



Removing elements



Capacity extension



size

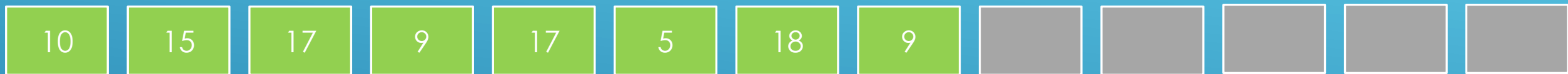
capacity



Removing elements



Capacity extension



size

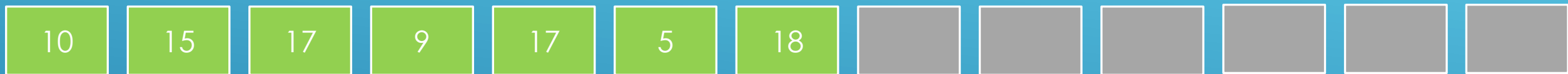
capacity



Removing elements



Capacity extension



size

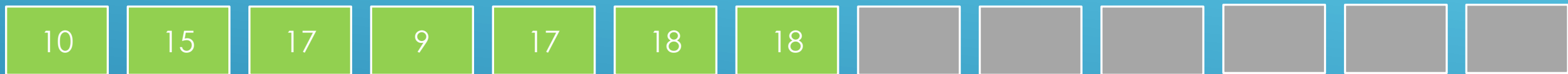
capacity



Removing elements



Capacity extension



size

capacity



Removing elements

Capacity extension



size

capacity



Operator+=





Operator+=

box1

1

2

3

box2

10

20

box2 += box1



Operator+=



box2 += box1





box2 + box1



Class wrapping on top of raw array

```
class BoxContainer : public StreamInsertable
{
    typedef int value_type; // Allows us to change what's stored in the vector on the fly
                           // Can make it store int, double,...
    static const size_t DEFAULT_CAPACITY = 30;
public:
    BoxContainer(size_t capacity = DEFAULT_CAPACITY);
    BoxContainer(const BoxContainer& source);
    ~BoxContainer();

    //StreamInsertable Interface
    virtual void stream_insert(std::ostream& out) const;

    // Helper getter methods
    size_t size( ) const { return m_size; }
    size_t capacity() const { return m_capacity; }

    /* ... */

private :
    value_type * m_items;
    size_t m_capacity;
    size_t m_size;
};
```

`std::vector`

`std::array`

`std::list`

`std::deque`

`std::stack`

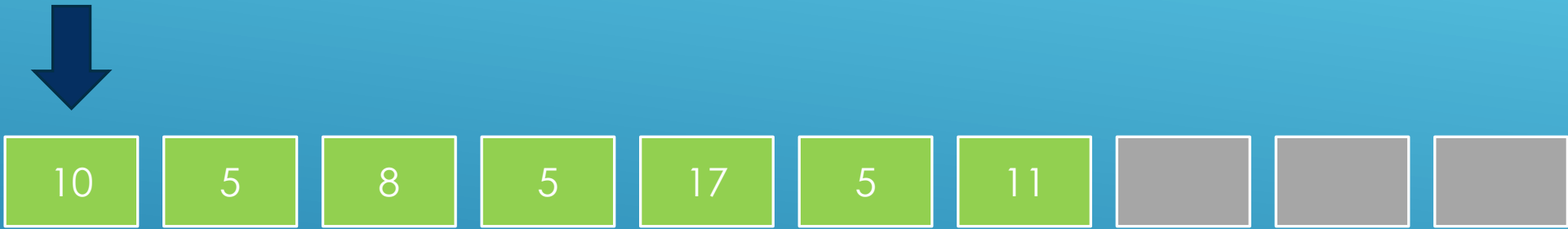
`std::queue`

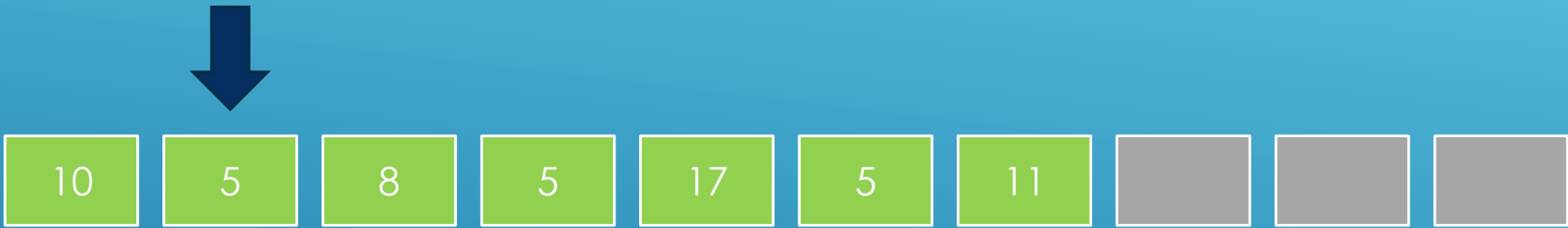
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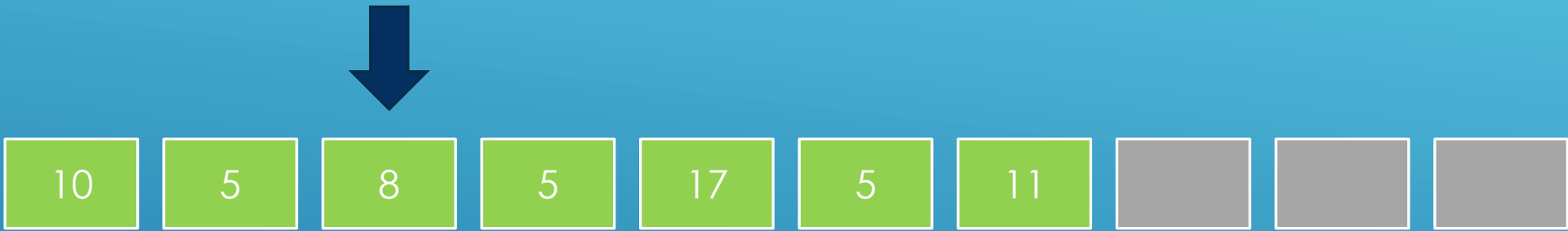
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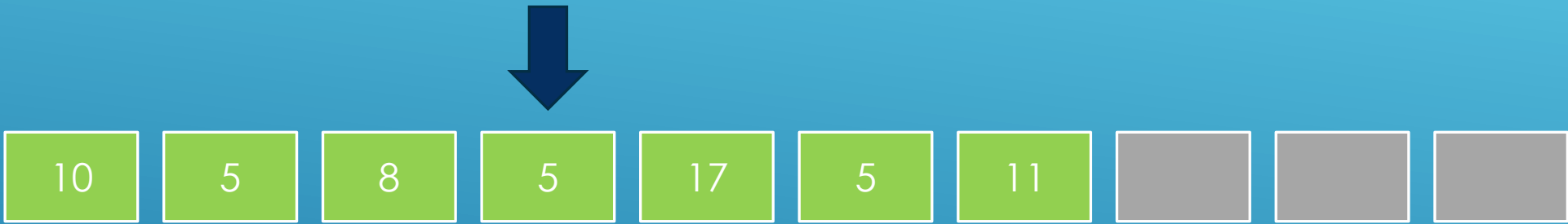
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Iterators



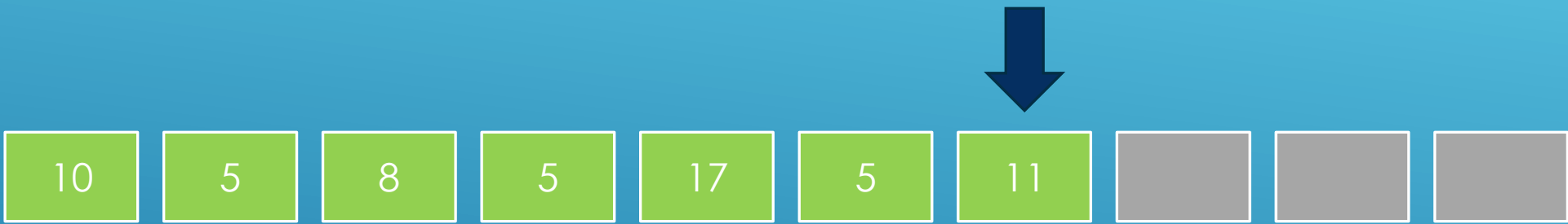












Begin



10

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8

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17

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11

End



Algorithms

sorting

finding

copying

filling

generating

transforming

...

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Algorithms library

The algorithms library defines functions for a variety of purposes (e.g. searching, sorting, counting, manipulating) that operate on ranges of elements. Note that a range is defined as `[first, last)` where `last` refers to the element *past* the last element to inspect or modify.

Constrained algorithms

C++20 provides **constrained** versions of most algorithms in the namespace `std::ranges`. In these algorithms, a range can be specified as either an **iterator-sentinel** pair or as a single **range** argument, and projections and pointer-to-member callables are supported. Additionally, the return types of most algorithms have been changed to return all potentially useful information computed during the execution of the algorithm.

(since C++20)

```
std::vector<int> v = {7, 1, 4, 0, -1};  
std::ranges::sort(v); // constrained algorithm
```

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`std::vector`



Std::vector

Storing stuff contiguously in memory and providing helper methods to manipulate the data

Std::vector

```
#include <vector>
```


Constructing std::vector's

```
//Constructing vectors
std::cout << "Constructing vectors " << std::endl;
std::vector<std::string> vec_str{"The","sky","is","blue","my","friend"};
//std::cout << vec_str << std::endl;
print_vec(vec_str);

std::vector<int> ints1;
print_vec(ints1); // Won't print anything, the vector has no content

std::vector<int> ints2 = { 1,2,3,4 };
std::vector<int> ints3{ 11,22,33,44 };

print_vec(ints2);
print_vec(ints3);

std::vector<int> ints4(20, 55); // A vector with 20 items, all initialized to 55
print_vec(ints4);

//Be careful about uniform initialization
std::vector<int> ints5{20, 55}; // A vector with 2 items : 20 and 55
print_vec(ints5);
```

Looping around and printing

```
template <typename T>
void print_vec( const std::vector<T>& vec){
    for(size_t i{}; i < vec.size();++i){
        std::cout << vec[i] << " ";
    }
    std::cout << std::endl;
}
```

Accessing elements

```
1 //Accessing elements
2 std::cout << std::endl;
3 std::cout << "Accessing elements in a vector: " << std::endl;
4 std::cout << "vec_str[2] : " << vec_str[2] << std::endl;
5 std::cout << "vec_str.at(3) : " << vec_str.at(3) << std::endl;
6 std::cout << "vec_str.front() : " << vec_str.front() << std::endl;
7 std::cout << "vec_str.back() : " << vec_str.back() << std::endl;
8
9 //The data method : getting direct access to the underlying array
10 print_raw_array(vec_str.data(),vec_str.size());
11
```

Using the underlying raw array

```
template <typename T>
void print_raw_array(const T* p, std::size_t size)
{
    std::cout << "data = ";
    for (std::size_t i = 0; i < size; ++i)
        std::cout << p[i] << ' ';
    std::cout << std::endl;
}
```

Adding and removing stuff

```
std::cout << "ints1 : " ;  
print_vec(ints1);  
  
//Pushing back  
ints1.push_back(100);  
ints1.push_back(200);  
ints1.push_back(300);  
ints1.push_back(500);  
std::cout << "ints1 : " ;  
print_vec(ints1);  
  
//Popping back  
ints1.pop_back();  
std::cout << "ints1 : " ;  
print_vec(ints1);
```

Slide intentionally left empty

`std::array`



`Std::array`

Storing stuff in a fixed size container

`std::array`

```
#include <array>
```

Constructing std::array's

```
std::array<int, 3> int_array1; // Will contain junk by default
std::array<int, 3> int_array2{ 1,2 }; // Will contain 1,2,0
std::array<int, 3> int_array3{}; // Will contain 0 0 0
std::array<int, 3> int_array4{ 1,2 }; //Compiler will deduce std::array<int,2>
//std::array<int, 3> int_array5{1,2,3,4,5}; // Compiler error : More than enough elements
//Can deduce the type with auto.
auto int_array6 = std::experimental::make_array(1, 2, 3, 4, 5);

std::cout << "int_array1 : " ;
print_array(int_array1);

std::cout << "int_array2 : " ;
print_array(int_array2);

std::cout << "int_array3 : " ;
print_array(int_array3);

std::cout << "int_array4 : " ;
print_array(int_array4);

std::cout << "int_array6 : " ;
print_array(int_array6);
```

Adding stuff

```
//Adding and removing stuff
//Can't really add stuff. Can specify content at initialization
//Can also fill the entire array with an element
std::cout << std::endl;
std::cout << "Filling the array : " << std::endl;
int_array1.fill(321);
int_array4.fill(500);
std::cout << "int_array1 : " ;
print_array(int_array1);
std::cout << "int_array4 : " ;
print_array(int_array4);
```

Looping around and printing

```
template <typename T, size_t Size> // The second template argument has to be a size.
void print_array( const std::array<T, Size>& arr){
    for(size_t i{}; i < arr.size(); ++i){
        std::cout << arr[i] << " ";
    }
    std::cout << std::endl;
}
```

Adding and removing stuff

```
//Adding and removing stuff
//Can't really add stuff. Can specify content at initialization
//Can also fill the entire array with an element
std::cout << std::endl;
std::cout << "Filling the array : " << std::endl;
int_array1.fill(321);
int_array4.fill(500);
std::cout << "int_array1 : " ;
print_array(int_array1);
std::cout << "int_array4 : " ;
print_array(int_array4);
```

Accessing elements

```
1 //Accessing elements
2 std::cout << std::endl;
3 std::cout << "Accessing elements in an array: " << std::endl;
4 std::cout << "int_array2[0] : " << int_array2[0] << std::endl;
5 std::cout << "int_array2.at(1) : " << int_array2.at(1) << std::endl;
6 std::cout << "int_array2.front() : " << int_array2.front() << std::endl;
7 std::cout << "int_array2.back() : " << int_array2.back() << std::endl;
8 //data method
9 print_raw_array(int_array2.data(),int_array2.size());
```

Using the underlying raw array

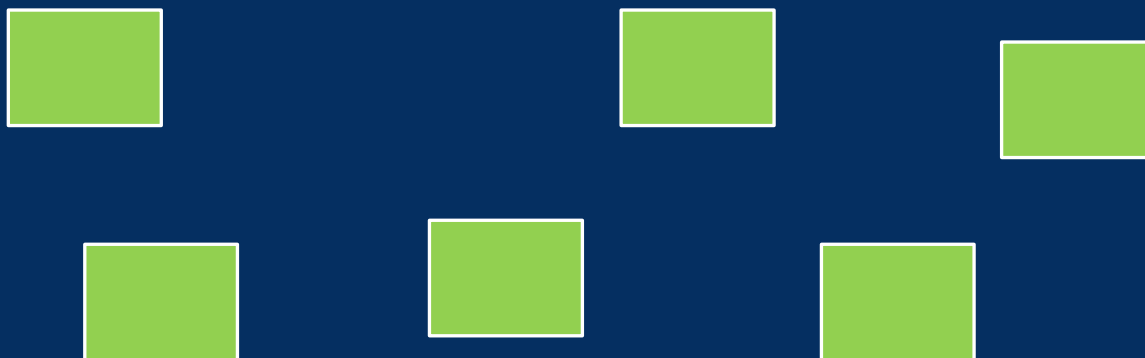
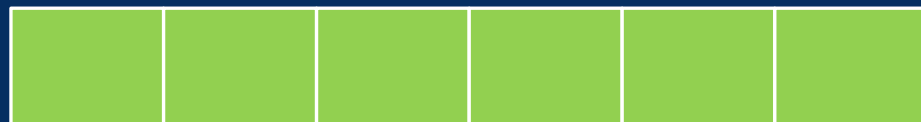
```
template <typename T>
void print_raw_array(const T* p, std::size_t size)
{
    std::cout << "data = ";
    for (std::size_t i = 0; i < size; ++i)
        std::cout << p[i] << ' ';
    std::cout << std::endl;
}
```

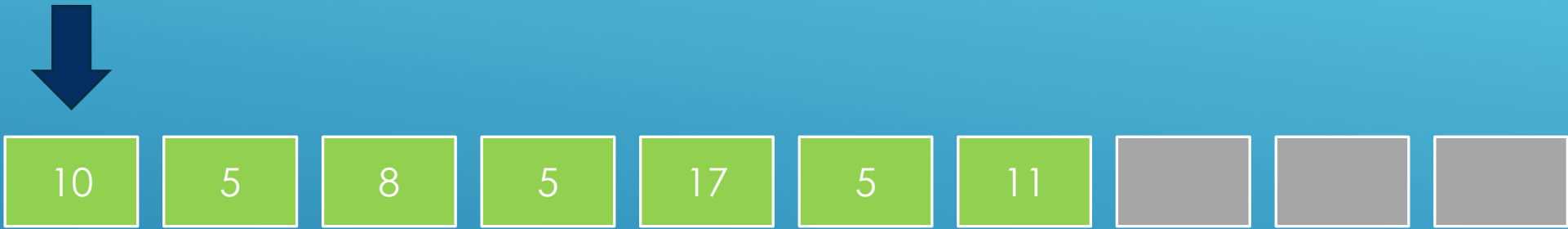

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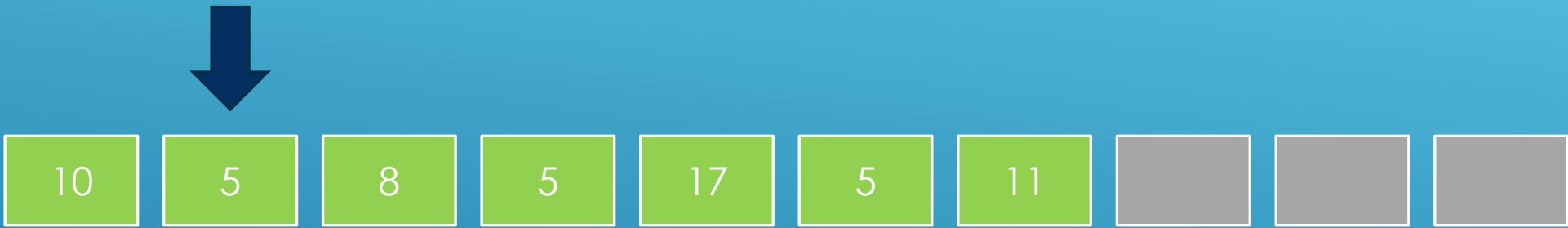
Iterators

Iterators

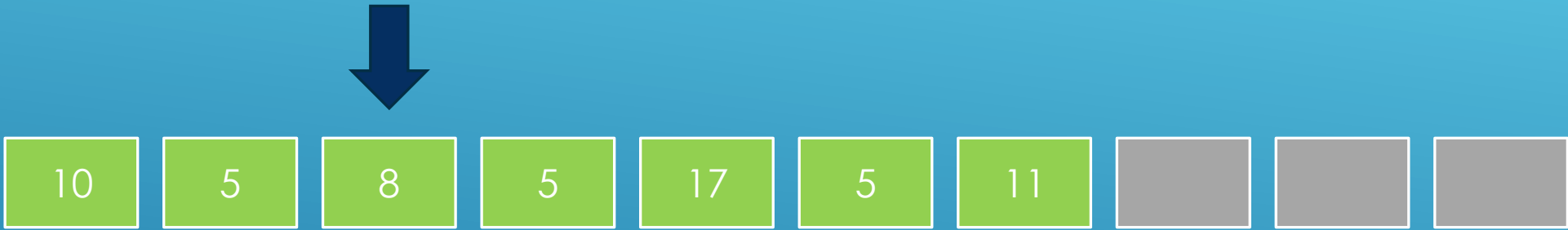
Traversing containers in a unified way, regardless of the internal structure of the container. Each C++ container usually also defines iterators that traverse it.

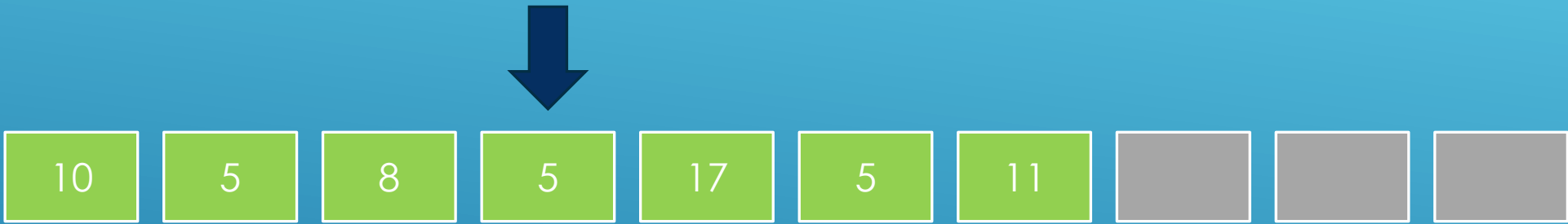






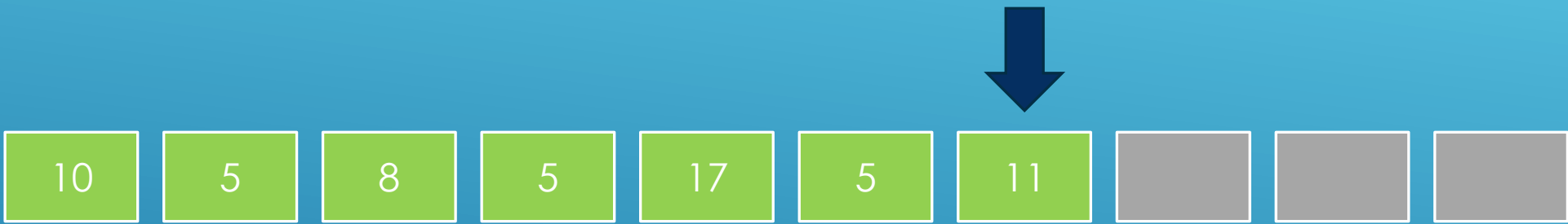
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Begin



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End



begin() and end() iterators

```
std::vector<int> ints1{ 11,22,33,44 };
std::vector<int>::iterator it = ints1.begin();
std::vector<int>::iterator end_it = ints1.end();

std::cout << std::boolalpha;
std::cout << "first elt : " << *it << std::endl;
std::cout << "it = end_it : " << (it == end_it) << std::endl;

++it;
std::cout << std::endl;
std::cout << "second elt : " << *it << std::endl;
std::cout << "it = end_it : " << (it == end_it) << std::endl;

/* ...

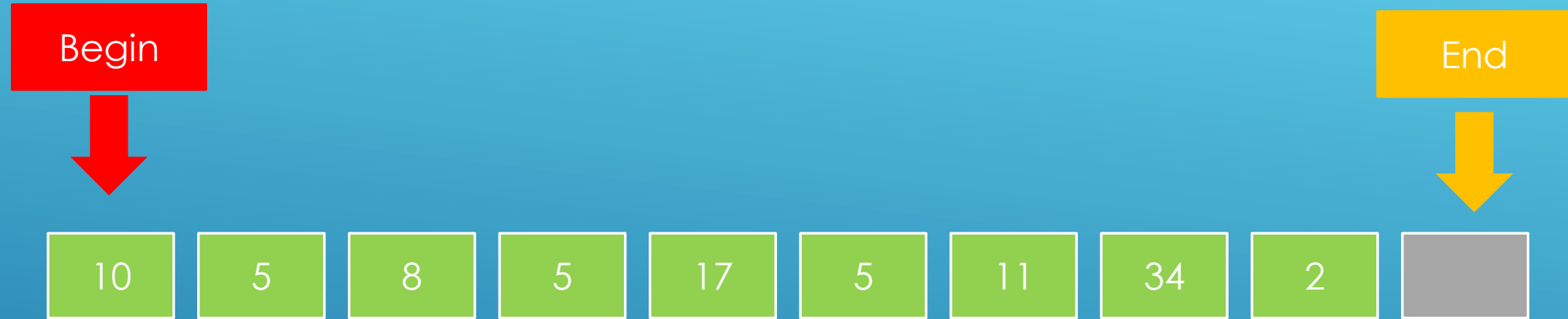
++it;
std::cout << std::endl;
std::cout << "it = end_it : " << (it == end_it) << std::endl;
```

Uniform traversal of containers

```
template <typename T>
void print_collection(const T& collection){
    // ...
    auto it = collection.begin();
    // ...
    std::cout << " [";
    while(it != collection.end()){
        std::cout << " " << *it ;
        ++it;
    }
    std::cout << "]" << std::endl;
}
```

```
std::vector<int> ints1{ 11,22,33,44 };  
std::array<int,4> ints2 {100,200,300,400};  
print_collection(ints1);  
print_collection(ints2);
```


Traversing container subsets with iterators



```

template <typename T>
void print_collection(const T& collection , size_t begin_adjustment,
                    size_t end_adjustment){
    //Adjudt begining and end
    auto start_point = collection.begin() + begin_adjustment;
    auto end_point = collection.end() - end_adjustment;

    std::cout << " [";
    while(start_point != end_point){
        std::cout << " " << *start_point ;
        ++start_point;
    }
    std::cout << "]" << std::endl;
}

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    std::vector<int> ints1{ 11,22,33,44,55,66,77 };
    std::array<int,6> ints2 {100,200,300,400,500,600};

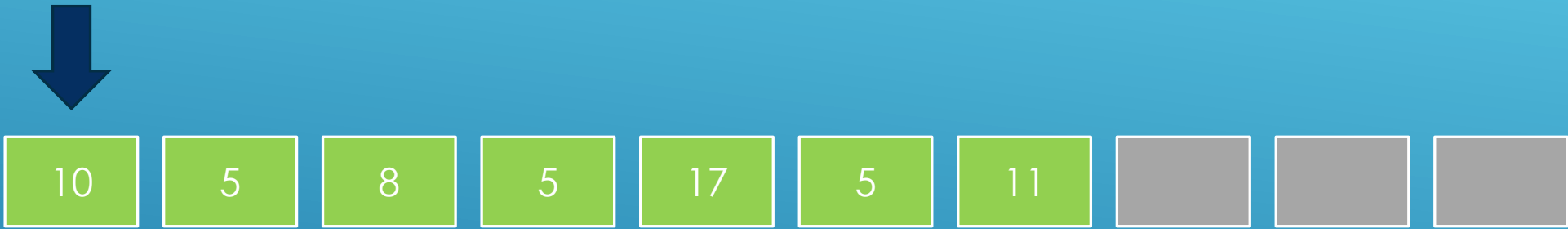
    print_collection(ints1,2,2);
    print_collection(ints2,1,1);
    return 0;
}

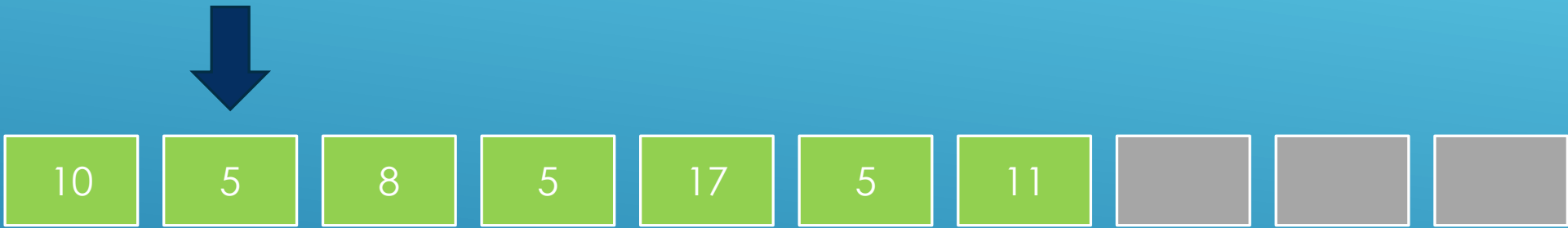
```

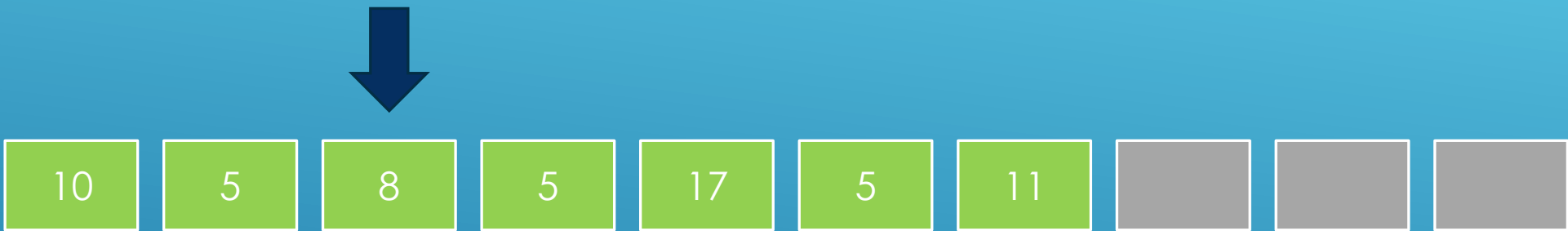
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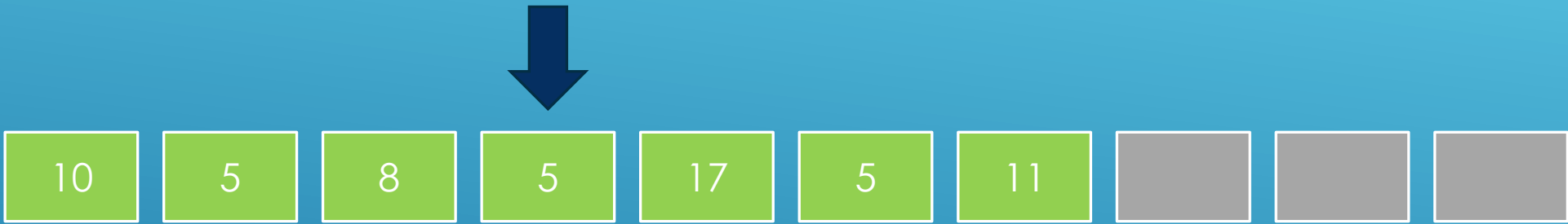
Reverse iterators

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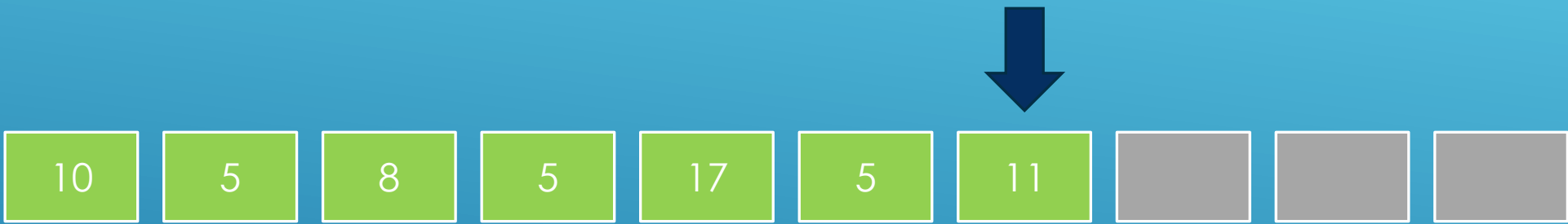












rend()



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rbegin()



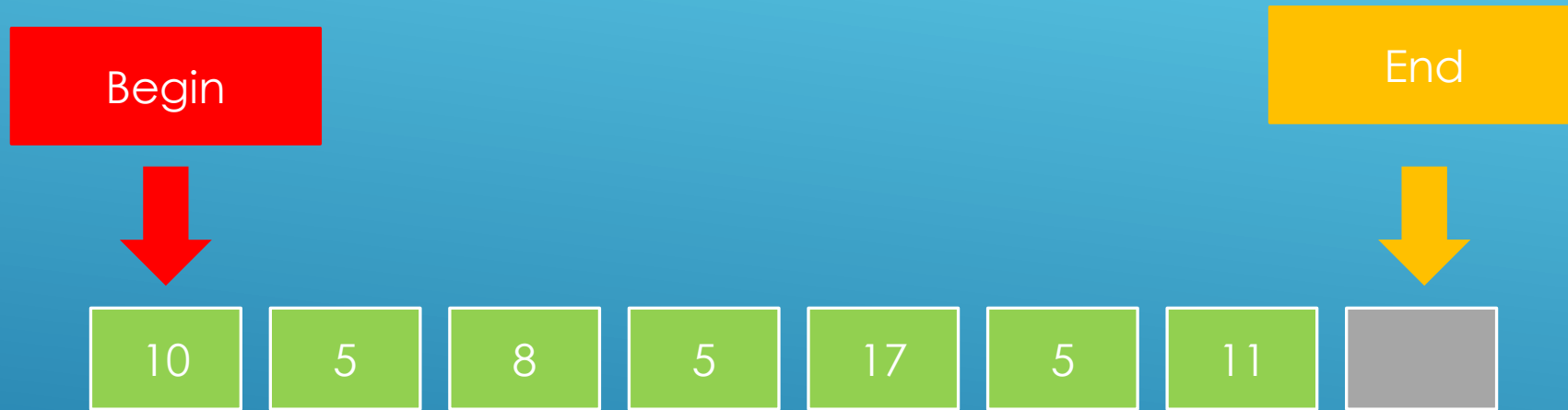
```
std::vector<int> numbers {1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10};  
//auto it = numbers.rbegin(); // A reverse iterator increments backwards from the end.  
std::vector<int>::reverse_iterator it= numbers.rbegin();  
std::cout << "Numbers : [";  
while(it != numbers.rend()){  
    std::cout << " " << *it ;  
    ++it;  
}  
std::cout << "]" << std::endl;
```

Comparing iterators of different types

```
1 //Can't compare iterators of diffeent types
2 auto it_rev = numbers.rbegin();
3
4 if( it_rev != numbers.end()){ // Compiler error.
5     std::cout << "Do something..." << std::endl;
6 }
7
```

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Constant iterators



Regular non const iterators

```
std::vector<int> numbers{ 11,22,33,44,55,66,77};  
auto it = numbers.begin(); // Non const iterator, can modify underlying data through it.  
  
while( it != numbers.end()){  
    *it = 100;  
    ++it;  
}  
print_collection(numbers);
```

Const iterator

```
std::vector<int> numbers{ 11,22,33,44,55,66,77};  
//std::vector<int>::const_iterator it = numbers.begin();  
//std::vector<int>::const_iterator it = numbers.cbegin();  
auto it = numbers.cbegin(); // const iterator  
  
while( it != numbers.end()){  
    // std::cout << " " << *it ;  
    *it = 100; // Can't change underlying data through a const iterator  
    ++it;  
}  
print_collection(numbers);
```

Constant reverse iterators

```
std::vector<int> numbers{ 11,22,33,44,55,66,77};
auto it1 = numbers.crbegin();
//std::vector<int>::const_reverse_iterator it1= numbers.crbegin();

while(it1 != numbers.crend()){
    *it1 = 600; // Compiler error, it1 is a const iterator, we can't modify
               // container data through it.
    ++it1;
}
```

Const iterators from const containers

```
//Const container
const std::vector<int> numbers1 {1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10};

auto it_modify = numbers1.begin();
std::cout << *it_modify << std::endl;

//Because the container is const, begin() here returns a const iterator.
*it_modify =4; // Compiler error
```

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Iterator types

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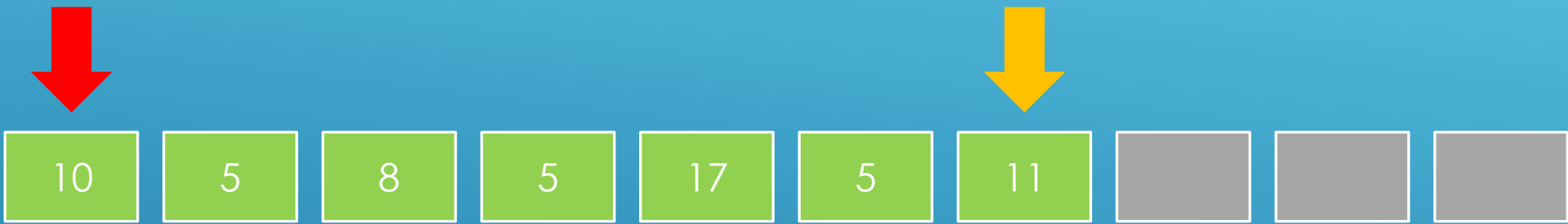
Notes to self

Use these references :

<https://www.cplusplus.com/reference/iterator/>

<https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/iterator>

[https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/iterator/contiguous iterator](https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/iterator/contiguous_iterator)



Begin



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End



Input iterators

```
Input iterators :  
- Used to read stuff from containers  
- single pass from beginning to end.  
- Some operators :  
    * operator ++  
    * operator * (read)  
    * operator -> (read)  
    * operator ==  
    * operator !=
```

Output iterators

`std::back_inserter`. Output iterators

`std::back_inserter` - Used to write stuff into containers

`std::back_inserter` - single pass from beginning to end

`std::back_inserter` - Some operators :

`std::back_inserter` * `operator ++`

`std::back_inserter` * `operator * (write)`

`std::back_inserter` * `operator -> (write)`

`std::back_inserter` * `operator==`

`std::back_inserter` * `operator!=`

Bidirectional iterators

```

- Bidirectional iterators
- Like input iterators, used to read stuff. But can read
  forward and backwards
- Single pass
- Some operators :
  * operator ++
  * operator --
  * operator * (read)
  * operator -> (read)
  * operator==
  * operator!=

```

Forward iterators

11.1. Forward iterators

- 11.1.1 - Combination of input and output iterators
- 11.1.2 - Can't read backwards though, only forward
- 11.1.3 - multipass
- 11.1.4 - Some operators :
 - 11.1.4.1 * operator ++
 - 11.1.4.2 * operator * (read,write)
 - 11.1.4.3 * operator -> (read,write)
 - 11.1.4.4 * operator==
 - 11.1.4.5 * operator!=

Random access iterators

```
1 // 1. Random access iterators
2 // 1.1 - Can read/write randomly from/to any index in the container
3 // 1.2 - multipass
4 // 1.3 - Some perators :-
5 // 1.3.1 * operator[]
6 // 1.3.2 * operator ++
7 // 1.3.3 * operator * (read,write)
8 // 1.3.4 * operator -> (read,write)
9 // 1.3.5 * operator==
10 // 1.3.6 * operator!=
```


Contiguous iterators

What are contiguous iterators useful for ?

StackOverflow

<https://stackoverflow.com/q/60587869>

Input iterators

Output iterators

Forward iterators

Bidirectional iterators

Random access iterators

Contiguous iterators

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`std::begin(T) & std::end(T)`

- `std::begin` and `std::end()` template functions return the begin and end iterator respectively for the underlying container passed as parameter
- These functions are usually helpful when you want your iterator based code to work even for regular raw c arrays. C arrays support pointers and pointers meet all the requirements for random access iterators.
- The requirement for the template argument is that the collection passed in should support these begin and end iterators.

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

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

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

Head to the IDE and show all this off.

STL, Containers and Iterators : Summary

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The diagram illustrates the structure of the C++ Standard Template Library (STL). It features a large dark blue rectangle at the top, which is divided into two horizontal sections: a thin light green section at the very top and a larger dark blue section below it. The text 'Standard Template Library' is centered in the dark blue section. Below this large rectangle, there are three smaller, horizontally aligned rectangles. The first rectangle on the left is light blue and contains the word 'Containers'. The middle rectangle is a medium blue and contains the word 'Algorithms'. The third rectangle on the right is dark blue and contains the word 'Iterators'. The entire diagram is set against a light blue background with a subtle gradient.

Standard Template Library

Containers

Algorithms

Iterators

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Collections (Containers)

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`std::vector`

`std::array`

`std::list`

`std::deque`

`std::stack`

`std::queue`

...

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Iterators

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Begin



10

5

8

5

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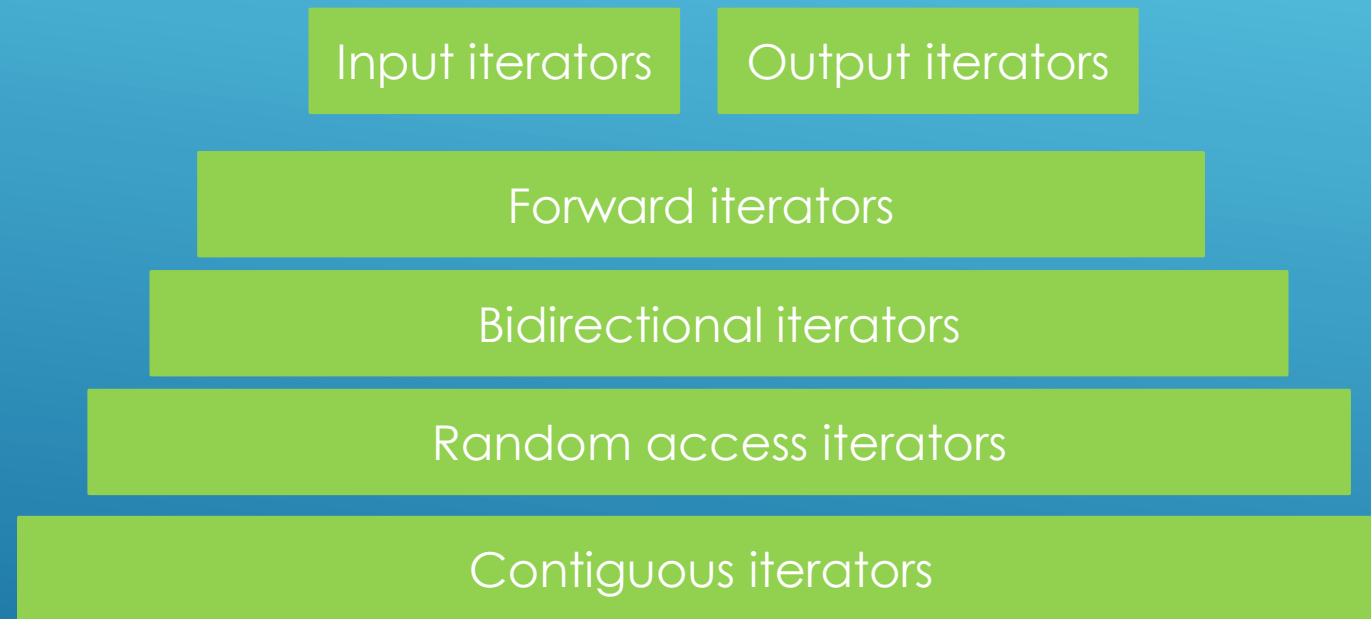
5

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End



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Algorithms

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sorting

finding

copying

filling

generating

transforming

...

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Std::vector

```
//Constructing vectors
std::cout << "Constructing vectors " << std::endl;
std::vector<std::string> vec_str{"The","sky","is","blue","my","friend"};
//std::cout << vec_str << std::endl;
print_vec(vec_str);

std::vector<int> ints1;
print_vec(ints1); // Won't print anything, the vector has no content

std::vector<int> ints2 = { 1,2,3,4 };
std::vector<int> ints3{ 11,22,33,44 };

print_vec(ints2);
print_vec(ints3);

std::vector<int> ints4(20, 55); // A vector with 20 items, all initialized to 55
print_vec(ints4);

//Be careful about uniform initialization
std::vector<int> ints5{20, 55}; // A vector with 2 items : 20 and 55
print_vec(ints5);
```

Std::array

```
std::array<int, 3> int_array1; // Will contain junk by default
std::array<int, 3> int_array2{ 1,2 }; // Will contain 1,2,0
std::array<int, 3> int_array3{}; // Will contain 0 0 0
std::array<int, 3> int_array4{ 1,2 }; //Compiler will deduce std::array<int,2>
//std::array<int, 3> int_array5{1,2,3,4,5}; // Compiler error : More than enough elements
//Can deduce the type with auto.
auto int_array6 = std::experimental::make_array(1, 2, 3, 4, 5);

std::cout << "int_array1 : " ;
print_array(int_array1);

std::cout << "int_array2 : " ;
print_array(int_array2);

std::cout << "int_array3 : " ;
print_array(int_array3);

std::cout << "int_array4 : " ;
print_array(int_array4);

std::cout << "int_array6 : " ;
print_array(int_array6);
```

Iterators

```
std::vector<int> ints1{ 11,22,33,44 };
std::vector<int>::iterator it = ints1.begin();
std::vector<int>::iterator end_it = ints1.end();

std::cout << std::boolalpha;
std::cout << "first elt : " << *it << std::endl;
std::cout << "it = end_it : " << (it == end_it) << std::endl;

++it;
std::cout << std::endl;
std::cout << "second elt : " << *it << std::endl;
std::cout << "it = end_it : " << (it == end_it) << std::endl;

/* ...

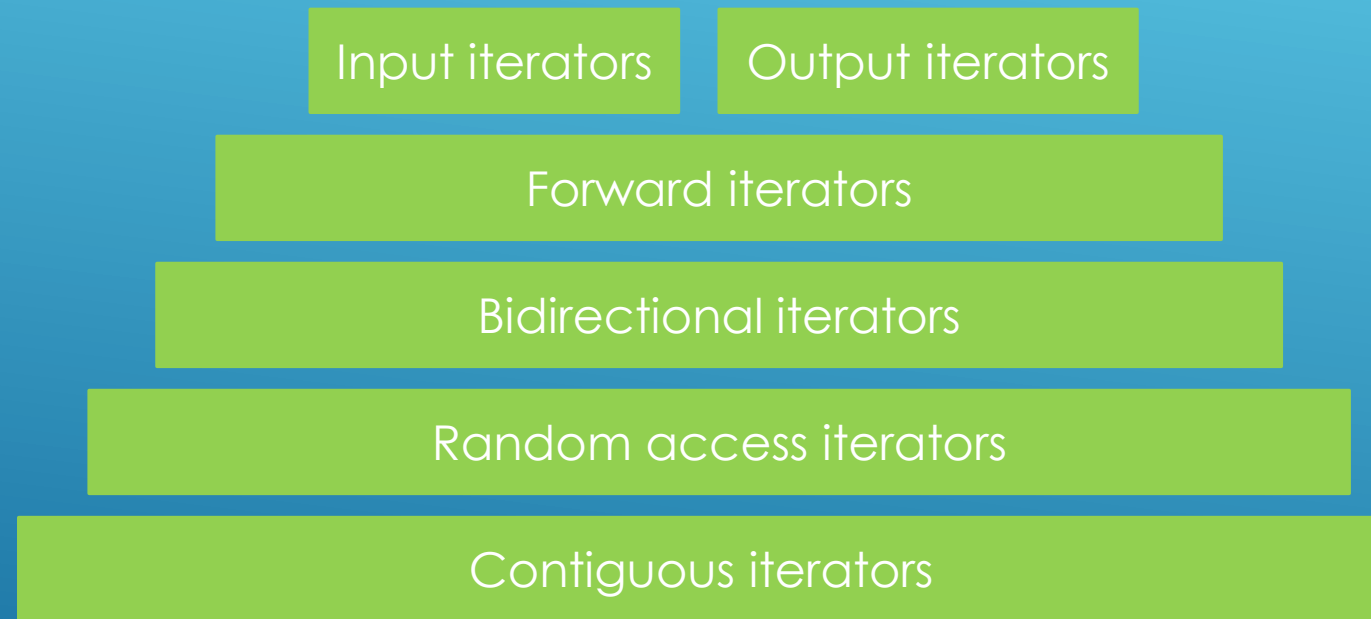
++it;
std::cout << std::endl;
std::cout << "it = end_it : " << (it == end_it) << std::endl;
```

Reverse iterators

```
std::vector<int> numbers {1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10};  
//auto it = numbers.rbegin(); // A reverse iterator increments backwards from the end.  
std::vector<int>::reverse_iterator it= numbers.rbegin();  
std::cout << "Numbers : [";  
while(it != numbers.rend()){  
    std::cout << " " << *it ;  
    ++it;  
}  
std::cout << "]" << std::endl;
```

Constant iterators

```
std::vector<int> numbers{ 11,22,33,44,55,66,77};  
//std::vector<int>::const_iterator it = numbers.begin();  
//std::vector<int>::const_iterator it = numbers.cbegin();  
auto it = numbers.cbegin(); // const iterator  
  
while( it != numbers.end()){  
    // std::cout << " " << *it ;  
    *it = 100; // Can't change underlying data through a const iterator  
    ++it;  
}  
print_collection(numbers);
```



std::begin() and std::end()

```
std::vector<int> vi {1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9};  
//int vi[] {1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9};  
  
std::cout << " Collection : " ;  
/*  
for(auto it = vi.begin(); it!= vi.end(); ++it){  
    std::cout << *it << " ";  
}  
*/  
  
for(auto it = std::begin(vi); it!= std::end(vi); ++it){  
    std::cout << *it << " ";  
}  
std::cout << std::endl;
```

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