

Fundamentals and Machine Model

Types, Casting, and Control Structures

Atomic (primitive) types: types whose objects can't be subdivided into smaller objects; includes `int`, `double`, `bool`, `float`, `char`, and all pointer types. Atomic objects are default-initialized to *junk data*.

Casting: converting a value of one data type to a value of another type in an operation. Examples of type casts are: integral (e.g. `int`) \rightarrow floating point (e.g. `double`), or any built-in type \rightarrow `bool`. C++ supports both *explicit* and *implicit* up and down-casts.

1 // Four different ways to initialize an int to 5	1 // Explicitly cast an int 'd' to a double 'e'
2 int a = 5; int b(5); int c{5}; int d = {5};	2 double e = static_cast<double>(d);

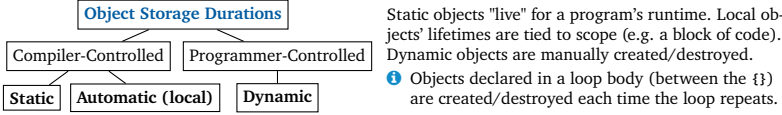
Objects in C++ are **statically-typed**. Although an object may evaluate to a different type in an expression, the type of an object itself cannot change (class objects obey this rule too).

Machine/Memory Model

Object: a piece of data that's stored at a particular location in memory during runtime.

Variable: a *name* in source code for an object (at compile time).

- Not all objects are associated with variables; e.g. dynamically-stored objects and string literals are not.
- The value stored by a variable's memory object may change, but the association between a variable and an object itself can only change when the variable goes out of **scope**.



Static objects "live" for a program's runtime. Local objects' lifetimes are tied to scope (e.g. a block of code). Dynamic objects are manually created/destroyed.

- Objects declared in a loop body (between the `{}`) are created/destroyed each time the loop repeats.

Stack Frames and the Activation Record/Call Stack

The memory allocated to store a function's parameters and local variables during runtime is called a **stack frame** or activation record. Frames are added to the *function call stack* each time a function is called and destroyed when a function returns on a "Last In First Out" (**LIFO**) basis (the memory frame for the last-called function is added to the top of the stack and is always the first frame to be destroyed).

Procedural Abstraction and Program Design

Procedural Abstraction involves using functions to break down a complex procedure into sub-tasks and separate the interface of a procedure (what it does) from implementation (how it works).

Interface examples: declarations in `.h` files, valid/invalid inputs, RME clauses, *signature* (function name and parameter types), and return type.

Implementation examples: definitions in `.cpp` files and code/comments inside function bodies.

Pointers and Arrays

A **pointer** is a type of object that stores another object's memory address as its value.

- An `int*` pointer variable can *only* point to an `int`; an `int**` pointer variable can *only* point to an `int*`; and so on. (E.g. attempting to make an `int*` pointer point to a `double` will lead to a compile error.)

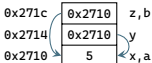
Dereferencing a pointer: getting the object at an address. To the right, `ptr` is dereferenced with the `*` operator on lines 3 and 5.

1 int x = 3; int y = 4;
2 int *ptr = &x; // ptr initialized to x's address
3 cout << *ptr << endl; // prints 3
4 ptr = &y; // no star...ptr now stores y's address
5 *ptr = 6; // yes star...changes value of y to 6

- Set one pointer variable equal to another pointer variable to make them store the same address.

- The `&` operator is used both to get an object's address and to create a reference.

1 int x = 5;	
2 int* y = &x; // creates pointer to x	
3 int* z = y; // creates another pointer to x	
4 int &a = x; // creates reference to x	
5 int* &b = z; // creates reference to z	
6 cout << *b << endl; // Prints 5	
7 cout << &y << endl; // prints 0x2714	
8 cout << y << endl; // prints 0x2718	
9 cout << &(*z) << endl; // equiv. to cout << &x	
10 cout << *(&z) << endl; // equiv. to cout << z	



Null pointer: a pointer whose value is address `0x0` (which no object can be located at) and is considered *false*. Any pointer can be nulled; to do so, set it equal to `nullptr` (`0` or `NULL` also work but are bad style).

Common Pointer Bugs/Errors

- Dereferencing a default-initialized pointer results in undefined behavior, as (like all atomic objects) pointers that aren't explicitly initialized are default-initialized to an undefined value (*not* `nullptr`).
- Dereferencing a null pointer also leads to undefined behavior (almost always a program crash).

❗ Dangling Pointer Bug
1 int* get_address(int x) { return &x; }
2 // oops, x is a local object!
3
4 void print(int val) { cout << val << endl; }
5
6 int main() {
7 int a = 3;
8 int *dangling_ptr = get_address(a);
9 // value of dangling_ptr is undefined

A pointer can outlive the object it points at. Here, `dangling_ptr` is initialized to the address of the local variable `x`, which is destroyed when `get_address` returns (resulting in undefined behavior).

THE FIX: pass `get_address`'s parameter by reference instead of by value—i.e., change the parameter to `get_address(int& x)`. This would alias `x` to `a` in `main` (which doesn't "die" when `get_address` returns).

Number Swap Function
1 void swap_pointed(int *x, int *y) {
2 int tmp = *x;
3 *x = *y;
4 *y = tmp;
5 }
6
7 int main() {
8 int a = 1216, b = 1261;
9 swap_pointed(&a, &b);
10 }

Pointers vs References

References and pointers both enable working between stack frames (scopes) and indirection. Some ways they're different:

- References *must* be explicitly initialized, unlike pointers.
- Pointers must be dereferenced to access the objects they point at, while references are used "as-is".
- You can change the object that a (non-const) pointer points to, while a reference's binding to an object can't be changed.

Arrays and Pointer Arithmetic

Arrays: fixed-size containers that store objects of the same type (and same size) in contiguous memory.

1 // Valid array declarations	1 // Valid array declarations	1 // INVALID array declarations
2 int arr[3] = {1,2}; // {1,2,0}	2 int arr[] = {4,5,6};	2 int junk[4]; // Undefined items
3 int zeroArr[3] = {}; // {0,0,0}	3 int mat[][2] = {1,2,3,4};	3 int err[2][1] = {5,6,7,8}; // No

Array decay: using an array in a context where a value is required causes the compiler to convert the array into a pointer to its first element. Array decay is why it's necessary to pass an array's size separately from the array to a function (or to indicate the end of an array with a *sentinel character* like C-strings do).

Pointer Operations: Adding an `int` to a pointer yields a pointer that's offset from the original. Subtracting two pointers of the same type yields an integer (not necessarily a positive one) equal to how many objects of that type separate them. Comparing pointers compares the addresses they store.

- Pointer arithmetic is mainly useful on pointers into the same array (since only elements of the same array are guaranteed to be in contiguous memory). Pointer comparisons are only well-defined on pointers into the same array or pointers constructed from arithmetic operations on one pointer.

- Dereferencing a pointer that goes past the bounds of an array results in undefined behavior. (But merely *using* a pointer that goes just past the end of an array without dereferencing it is well-defined.)

1 void add_five(int arr[], int size) {
2 for (int i = 0; i < size; i++) { arr[i] += 5; }
3 } // arr[i] += 5 is equiv. to *(arr + i) += 5
4
5 int main() {
6 int arr[] = { 10, 20, 30 };
7 add_five(arr, (sizeof(arr) / sizeof(*arr)));
8 cout << arr[1] << endl; // prints 25
9 } // [arr] is equiv. to arr[1], but bad style

cout << &arr[0],
cout << arr, and
cout << &arr
would all print
0x1008.

1 int foo = 7;
2 int& bar = foo; // value of bar is foo (7)
3 int* ptr = &foo;
4 int arr[3] = { 4, 5, 9 };
5 cout << arr << endl; // prints 0x1008 (decay)
6 cout << (arr + 2) << endl; // prints 0x1018
7 cout << (&foo + 1) << endl; // prints 0x1004

0x1000	7	foo, bar
0x1004	0x1008	ptr
0x1008	4	arr[0]
0x100c	5	arr[1]
0x1010	9	arr[2]

Using the `&` operator on an array produces a pointer to the entire array, not a pointer to the first element or a pointer to a pointer.

1 int arr[4] = { 1, 2, 3, 4 };
2 int (*arr_ptr)[4] = &arr; // pointer to entire array
3 cout << (*arr_ptr)[2] << endl; // prints 3
4 // ++arr_ptr would increment by the size of 4 ints

Traversal By Pointer: arrays can be traversed by pointer (mostly used with C-strings and iterators).

Traversal By Pointer: Pattern 1	Traversal by Pointer: Pattern 2 (C-String Sanitization)
1 int const SIZE = 3;	1 void sanitize_username(Account *acc, char to_remove) {
2 int arr[SIZE] = { -1, 7, 2 };	2 char *ptr_a = acc->username; *ptr_b = acc->username;
3	3 while (*ptr_a && *ptr_b) { // while not '\0'
4 int *end = arr + SIZE;	4 if (*ptr_b != to_remove) {
5 // int* end is just past the end of arr	5 *ptr_a = *ptr_b;
6 while (ptr < end) {	6 ++ptr_a; // ++ptr_a only when a char gets copied
7 cout << *ptr << endl;	7 }
8 ++ptr; // "Walk" ptr across arr	8 ++ptr_b; // ++ptr_b every time the loop executes
9 } // Alternative to while loop below	9 *ptr_a = '\0'; // null-terminate string when done
1 for (; ptr < end; ++ptr) { ... }	10 }
	11 }

The const Keyword

The `const` type qualifier tells the compiler that an object's value shouldn't be changeable (attempting to modify a `const` object causes a compile error). `const` scalars must be explicitly-initialized to compile.

const pointers: pointers that can modify what they point at but cannot be re-pointed to different objects.

Pointer-to-const: read-only pointers; pointers that can be re-bound but can't modify what they point at.

- A `const` pointer must be initialized to compile, but a pointer-to-`const` doesn't need to be.

Reference-to-const: a read-only alias.

const array: an array of `const` elements. Note that the placement of `const` matters for arrays of pointers.

const Conversions and Passing

The compiler assumes that every pointer-to-`const` is pointing at a `const` object and that every reference-to-`const` is aliased to a `const` object. It won't allow conversions that could bypass existing `const` protections (so, for example, you can assign a `const` pointer to a pointer-to-`const`, but the converse is *not* true).

❗ const Passing Errors	❗ Invalid const Conversions
1 int foo(int* a) { ... }	1 const int x = 3;
2 int bar(int b) { ... }	2 int y = x; // Ok
3 int func(const int* c) { ... }	3 const int *ptr = &x; // Ok
4 const int x = 3;	4 const int& cref = x; // Ok
5 bar(x); func(&x); // both ok	5 ptr = ptr; // ERROR 1
6 foo(&x); // ERROR	6 int& ref = cref; // ERROR 2
	1 int x = 2, y = 5;
	2 const int *x_ptr = &x;
	3 int *y_ptr = &y;
	4 *y_ptr = *x_ptr; // Ok
	5 y_ptr = x_ptr; // ERROR (even
	6 though x isn't const) */

- Pass by pointer/reference if: you need to modify the original object (as opposed to a local copy).
- Pass by value if: an object is small (e.g., an `int`) and you can't/don't need to modify the original.
- Pass by pointer/reference-to-const: if you want to pass a large object without modifying it.

Strings, Streams and I/O

Using C-Strings and Strings

1 const char* msg = "Welcome!"; // Only works for string literals; use .c_str() on string variables
2 char color[] = "00274C"; // Create 7-element array (including '\0') and copy a string literal to it
3 // Note: '\0' is the only char that evaluates to false (useful for traversal-by-pointer loops).
4 cout << cstr << " " << cstr << " " << &cstr[0] << endl; // Prints "abcd a bcd"
5 cout << (cstr + 1) << " " << *(cstr + 1) << " " << *(cstr + 1); // prints "bcd b 98"
6 string xyz = string(cstr); // Explicitly copy cstring to a string (implicit copy would work too)

	Length	Copy Value	Index	Concatenate	Compare
<cstring>	strlen(cstr);	strcpy(cstr1, cstr2);	cstr[i];	strcat(cstr1, cstr2);	strcmp(cstr1, cstr2);
<string>	str.length();	str1 = str2;	str[i];	str1 += str2;	str1 != str2;

Streams and File I/O

Input redirection	Output redirection	Pipeline	Combined redirection
./main.exe < input.txt	./main.exe > output.txt	./output.exe input.exe	./main.exe < input.in > output.out

File I/O Example: Print Lines From File	Ex: Copy One File's Contents to Another
1 #include <iostream> // defines (if/of)stream objects	1 #include <fstream>
2 int main() {	2 int main() {
3 ifstream inFS;	3 ifstream inFS("input.txt"); // Also valid
4 inFS.open("file.txt"); // valid	4 ofstream outFS("output.txt");
5 if (!inFS.is_open()) { return 1; }	5 string my_string;
6 string my_string; // initialized to empty string	6 // newline and space both "delimit" words
7 while (getline(inFS, my_string)) {	7 while (inFS >> my_string) {
8 cout << my_string << endl;	8 outFS << my_string << '\n';
9 } // could close inFS manually via inFS.close();	9 } // '\n' is the newline char
10 } // inFS also closes when scope ends/main returns	10 }

istreamstream: a stream that "simulates" input from a hardcoded string.

ostreamstream: a stream that captures output and stores it in a string (use `.str()` to get the string).

1 string input = "abc";	1 ostreamstream outSS; // (i/o)stringstream are defined in <sstream>
2 istreamstream inSS(input);	2 Mat_print(mat, outSS); // Capture output

- `ifstream`, `istreamstream`, and `cin` can all be passed to a function with an `istream&` parameter. Likewise, `ofstream`, `ostreamstream`, and `cout` can all be passed to a function with an `ostream&` parameter.

Command-Line Arguments

`argc`: an `int` parameter of `main` representing the number of a command's arguments.

`argv`: functionally, an array of the arguments. Technically, `argv` is passed to `main` as a pointer to an array of pointers to C-strings. So `argv[0]` is a pointer to a C-string that represents the name of the program.

1 #include <iostream>
2 #include <string> // includes stoi()/stod()
3 int main(int argc, char* argv[]) { // char** argv also OK
4 if (string(argv[1]) == "add") {
5 int sum = 0;
6 for (int i = 2; i < argc; i++) { sum += stoi(argv[i]); }
7 cout << "Sum: " << sum << " arg: " << argv << endl;
8 } // pay attention to where the "actual" arguments start
9 } // Also remember to use stoi()/string() when needed

Terminal
hugokin@ubuntu:~\$./main.exe add 7 2
Sum: 9, arg: 4
hugokin@ubuntu:~\$./main.exe add 1 2 3
Sum: 6, arg: 5
hugokin@ubuntu:~\$ _

ADTs, Structs and Classes

C-Style Structs and ADTs

A struct is a class-type object composed of member subobjects. They're passed by value by default, and they support both assignment and initialization via the = operator. A struct or class object can also be declared as const, which prevents it and all of its data members from being modified after initialization.

❗ const class-type objects must have their data members initialized (or a runtime error will occur).

⚠ A const instance of a class or struct cannot call non-const member functions.

Arrow -> operator: shorthand for pointer dereferencing followed by member access. (*ptr).x == ptr->x;

1 struct Foo { 2 int bar = 5; 3 int* bar_ptr = &bar; 4 }; 5 Foo foo; 6 Foo* foo_ptr = &foo;	1 // Every line below prints "5" 2 // Note: if no parentheses, dot has precedence over dereference 3 cout << foo_ptr->bar << endl; // foo_ptr->bar equiv. to *(foo_ptr).bar 4 cout << *(foo_ptr).bar_ptr << endl; 5 cout << *(foo_ptr->bar_ptr) << endl; // equivalent to line above 6 cout << *foo_ptr->bar_ptr << endl; // -> same precedence as (.)
--	---

Abstract Data Types (ADTs): a data type whose behavior and implementation are separated; an ADT encompasses both heterogeneous data and behaviors/functions that act upon it (not all structs are ADTs).

C++ Classes

In C++, the only real difference between classes and structs are that classes have private member access and private inheritance by default (structs default to public access/inheritance).

Constructors

❗ The compiler implicitly creates a default ctor iff there are no user-defined ctors.

The order in which members are declared in a class is *always* the order they're initialized in.

❗ Initialization values from a member init. list overwrite initializations made during declarations.

⚠ Data members that aren't included in a ctor's member initializer list or initialized at declaration get default-initialized/constructed.

❗ A delegating ctor must contain a call to the other ctor (and nothing else) in its member init. list.

Constructor Definition Example
1 class Animal { 2 private: string name; 3 public: 4 Animal(string name_in) // Non-default ctor 5 : name(name_in) { } // Member init. list 6 Animal() // Default ctor (no arguments) 7 : Animal("Blank") { } // ctor delegation 8 }; // Note the semicolon here! 9 10 class Bird : public Animal { 11 private: bool has_wings; 12 public: Bird(string name, bool wings_in) 13 : Animal(name), has_wings(wings_in) { } 14 }; // Derived class ctors must call base ctor 15 16 class Duck : public Bird { 17 private: string color; 18 public: Duck(string name, bool wings, string rgb) 19 : Bird(name, wings), color(rgb) { } 20 }; // Calling Bird ctor also calls Animal ctor 21 22 // This is how to define a ctor OUTSIDE of body 23 Duck: Duck(string name, bool wings, string rgb) 24 : Bird(name, wings), color(rgb) { }

Nested Classes and Constructors

To initialize a nested class object, initialize it with a valid argument for the object class's ctor.

Nested class objects in a const class object are also const.

1 class Person { 2 public: 3 Person(string& n, double p) 4 : name(n), favBook(p) { } 5 private: 6 string name; 7 Book favBook; 8 };	1 class Book { 2 public: 3 Book(double price_in) 4 : price(price_in) { } 5 ... 6 private: 7 double price; 8 };
--	---

Inheritance and Polymorphism

Function Overloading (Ad Hoc Polymorphism) and Operator Overloading

Function Overloading: using one name to refer to functions with *different signatures*. Functions can only be overloaded in the same scope (otherwise the "closer" scope takes priority). Note: const/non-const passing only changes the signature of functions with pointer/reference parameters.

Operator Overloading: operators like +, -, <<, etc. must be "overloaded" either as a top-level or class member function to work properly with custom classes (at least 1 operand must be of class-type).

❗ An operator must be overloaded as a top level function if the first operand is an atomic type or a class type whose definition we can't access (e.g. ostream). Also, the =, (), [] and -> operators can only be overloaded as member functions (along with overloads that need to access private members).

[] overload example (member)	<< and == overload example (top-level)
1 class IntSet { 2 ... // contains() is also a member function 3 public: 4 bool operator[](int v) const; 5 }; 6 7 bool IntSet::operator[](int v) const { 8 return contains(v); 9 }	1 class Line { ... }; // start/end are public members 2 3 ostream& operator<<(ostream& os, Line line) { 4 return os << line.start << line.end; 5 } // os needs to be passed by non-const ref here 6 7 bool operator==(const Line &a, const Line &b) { 8 return (a.start == b.start && a.end == b.end); 9 } // Don't pass by non-const ref here

Inheritance and Derived Classes

All base class members (EXCEPT constructors and destructors) become implicit members of derived classes. So you can call non-private base functions on derived class objects or access non-private inherited data members via (.)->

⚠ Creating a derived class object always calls a base class ctor (if it's not explicitly called, the compiler attempts to implicitly call the base's default ctor). Likewise, a base class dtor is always called when a derived object dies.

Member name lookup via (.)-> starts in the "first" class scope; if no match is found, the base class scope (if one exists) is searched. Lookup stops at the first match; member access levels are checked after name lookup finishes.

Indirect access of inherited privates	Derived id. // cannot directly access x	Derived id. // cannot directly access x
1 class Base { 2 private: 3 int x = 5; 4 public: 5 int* x_ptr = &x; 6 int get_x() const { return x; }; 7 }; 8 class Derived : public Base { };	2 cout << *(d.x_ptr) << endl; // prints 5 3 cout << d.get_x() << endl; // prints 5	2 cout << *(d.x_ptr) << endl; // prints 5 3 cout << d.get_x() << endl; // prints 5
Summary: how access modifiers affect direct access		
Modifier	Accessible to derived classes	Accessible out of scope
public	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
private	✗ No	✗ No
protected	✓ Yes	✗ No

⚠ Attempting to overload functions inherited from a base class will "hide" them, not overload them.

Destructors: special functions that are invoked when a class object's lifetime ends (e.g. when you delete a dynamic object or when a local object goes out of scope). Syntax: ~Triangle() { }

❗ For derived class objects, constructors follow *top-down* behavior (i.e., the base class ctor is called first), while destructors are *bottom-up* (the derived class dtor is called first, and the base dtor is called last).

Subtype Polymorphism and Class Casting

Subtype polymorphism allows a publicly-derived class object to be used in place of a base class object; to do this, a base class reference or pointer to a derived class object must be created.

1 class Bird { } // Base class 2 class Chicken : public Bird { }; 3 class Duck : public Bird { }; 4 Bird b; Chicken c; Duck d; 5 b = c; // Legal, but "slices" c's data 6 Bird* b_ptr = &c; // Good, no slicing 7 c = b; // ERROR (illegal assignment) 8 Chicken* c_ptr = &b; // ERROR (downcast) 9 Duck* d_ptr = &c; // ERROR	C++ allows implicit upcasts (i.e. base pointers/refs to publicly derived objects), but all downcasts must be explicit via static_cast or (less preferably) dynamic_cast.
--	---

C++ allows implicit **upcasts** (i.e. base pointers/refs to publicly derived objects), but all downcasts must be explicit via static_cast or (less preferably) dynamic_cast.

1 // Be careful - validity not checked at runtime: 2 Chicken* cPtr_a = static_cast<Chicken*>(bird_ptr); 3 // Bird needs at least 1 virtual function for this: 4 Chicken* cPtr_b = dynamic_cast<Chicken*>(bird_ptr);
--

Virtual Functions and the override Keyword

Here, the receiver of the call to talk() on line 13 has a **static type** known at compile time (Bird) and a **dynamic type** known at runtime (Duck). Member lookup starts in the static class, so Duck::talk won't hide Bird::talk. Instead, Bird::talk is declared as virtual to make it dynamically-bound.

Declare a function as virtual when a receiver's static and dynamic type are different and you want to use the dynamic version of the function.

override keyword: tells the compiler to verify that the function overrides a base-class virtual function with a matching signature (if no override is found, override causes a compile error).

Pure Virtual Functions and Abstract Classes

Pure virtual function: a virtual base-class function that has no meaning or implementation; they simply make up part of the interface for derived classes. To declare one, add = 0; to the end of a function's signature.

Abstract class: a class with >0 pure virtual functions.

⚠ Derived classes of an abstract class must override/define every inherited pure virtual function—including private ones—to avoid becoming abstract themselves (this is a good use case for override).

Interface (pure abstract class): a class that contains nothing but pure virtual member functions.

1 class Abst { // Abstract Class 2 public: virtual void foo() = 0; 3 }; // Note the lack of empty braces 4 5 class Concrete : public Abst { 6 public: void foo() { cout << "foo"; } 7 }; // a private override would work too 8 9 Concrete c; 10 Abst* c_ptr = &c; Abst& c_ref = c; // ok 11 Abst abst_obj; // COMPILER ERROR 12 c.Abst::foo(); // RUNTIME ERROR 13 (Technically U.B.) */

❗ Don't call pure virtual functions or try to instantiate abstract classes.

Container ADTs and Templates (Array-Based Data Structures)

Container ADTs

static keyword: used to make one copy of a class data member "shared" between all instances of that class. A static data member has static storage duration but exists only within the scope of a class.

Vectors: resizable array-based container ADTs that store elements at the front and free space at the back.

stack: a container that's designed to operate in a LIFO order.

queue: a container designed to operate in a first-in/first-out (FIFO) order.

❗ An efficient way to implement a queue is to create a vector with free space at both ends (a **ring/circular buffer**). To do so, keep track of the data using head (inclusive) and tail (exclusive) variables.

Useful <vector> functions					Stack and Queue Interfaces				
.size()	v[i]	.push_back(val)	.pop_back()	.resize(n)	Container	Operations - optimal implementations are all O(1)			
.front()	.back()	.at(i)	.empty()	.clear()	Stack	empty	size	back/top (next)	push_back pop_back
					Queue	empty	size	front (next)	back (last) push_back pop_front

SortedIntSet::remove() implementation
1 void remove(int v) { 2 int i = indexOf(v); // indexOf() is a member 3 if (i == -1) return; 4 for (; i < elts_size - 1; ++i) { 5 elts[i] = elts[i + 1]; 6 } 7 --elts_size; // elts_size == cardinality 8 }

SortedIntSet::insert() implementation
1 void insert(int v) { 2 if (indexOf(v) != -1) return; 3 int i = elts_size; 4 for (; i > 0 && (elts[i-1] > v); i--) 5 { elts[i] = elts[i-1]; } 6 elts[i] = v; 7 ++elts_size; 8 }

Templates (Parametric Polymorphism)

Templates: flexible models for producing code that take a data type as a parameter to create an object or call a function that works with that type. They help reduce code duplication in container ADT interfaces.

Class Template Syntax	Function Template Syntax
1 template <typename T> 2 class UnsortedSet { 3 public: 4 void insert(T my_val); 5 bool contains(T my_val) const; 6 int size() const; 7 private: 8 T elts[ELTS_CAPACITY]; 9 int elts_size; 10 ... 11 }; // Syntax: UnsortedSet<type> s;	1 template <typename T> // "T" is an arbitrary parameter name 2 // Note: "class" also works in place of "typename". 3 T maxVal(const T &valA, const T &valB) { 4 return valB > valA ? valB : valA; // Note: "?" = ternary 5 } // This function returns the greater of valA and valB 6 // Syntax to call it: maxVal(int/double/etc>(...));
Templated Class Member Function Syntax	
1 template <typename T> // Necessary if outside class body 2 void UnsortedSet<T>::insert(T my_val) { ... }	

⚠ A template can accept an invalid type argument during instantiation (leading to a runtime error).

⚠ Template instantiation occurs before linking, so the definitions for templated functions must be included in .h files (or .tpp files) with their declarations, not in separate .cpp files like they usually are.

Iterators, Traversal By Iterator, and Range-Based Loops

Iterators: objects that have the same *interface* as pointers, they provide a general interface for traversing different types of container ADTs. To implement an iterator for a particular ADT, define them as a nested class within the container's class and overload the * (dereference), ++, ==, != operators.

❗ std::begin() returns an iterator to the start of an STL container. std::end() returns an iterator that's 1 past the end of an STL container (the iterator returned by std::end() should not be dereferenced).

Traversal By Iterator: a more

general form of traversal by pointer; works on many different container types.

1 vector<int> v = { 1, 2, 3, 4 }; 2 for (vector<int>::iterator it = v.begin(); it != v.end(); ++it) { 3 cout << *it << endl; // Traversing vector by iterator 4 }
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Range-Based For Loop (Works on Any Sequence Traversable by Iterator)		
1 vector<int> v = { 1, 2, 3, 4 }; 2 // for <type> <variable> : <sequence> { ... } 3 for (int item : v) { // works with arrays too 4 cout << item << endl; 5 } // could also declare item as const or a ref	1 // Compiler translation of range-based for loop 2 for (auto it = v.begin(); it != v.end(); ++it) { 3 item = *it; 4 cout << item << endl; 5 }	