[C++] Day44



[Ch11] Associative Containers

Associative and sequential containers differ from one another in a fundamental way: Elements in an associative container are stored and retrieved by a key.

In contrast, elements in a sequential container are stored and accessed sequentially by their position in the container.

Associative containers support efficient lookup and retrieval by a key. The two primary associative-container types are map and set.

- The elements in a map are key-value pairs: The key serves as an index into the map, and the value represents the data associated with that index.
- A set element contains only a key; a set supports efficient queries as to whether a
 given key is present.

The library provides eight associative containers, listed below. These eight differ along three dimensions. Each container is

- 1. A set or a map
- 2. Requires unique keys or allows multiple keys
- 3. Stores the elements in order or not.

The containers that allow multiple keys include the word multi; those that do not keep their keys ordered start with the word unordered.

Table 11.1. Associative Container Types

Elements Ordered by Key Associative array; holds key-value pairs map Container in which the key is the value set map in which a key can appear multiple times multimap set in which a key can appear multiple times multiset Unordered Collections map organized by a hash function unordered map set organized by a hash function unordered set unordered multimap Hashed map; keys can appear multiple times unordered multiset Hashed set; keys can appear multiple times

- The map and multimap types are defined in the map header
- The set and multiset types are in the set header
- The unordered containers are in the unordered_map and unordered_set headers.

11.1 Using an Associative Container

A map is a collection of key-value pairs.

For example, each pair might contain a person's name as a key and a phone number as its value. We speak of such a data structure as "mapping names to phone numbers."

The map type is often referred to as an associative array. An associative array is like a "normal" array except that its subscripts don't have to be integers.

Given a map of names to phone numbers, we'd use a person's name as a subscript to fetch that person's phone number.

In contrast, a set is simply a collection of keys. A set is most useful when we simply want to know whether a value is present.

For example, a business might define a set named bad_checks to hold the names of individuals who have written bad checks.

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Using a map

A classic example that relies on associative arrays is a word-counting program:

To define a map, we must specify both the key and value types.

In this program, the map stores elements in which the keys are strings and the values are size_t. When we subscript word_count, we use a string as the subscript, and we get back the size_t counter associated with that string.

When we fetch an element from a map, we get an object of type pair.

Briefly, a pair is a template type that holds two (public) data elements named first and second. The pairs used by map have a first member that is the key and a second member that is the corresponding value.

Using a set

A logical extension to our program is to ignore common words like "the", "and", "or", and so on. We'll use a set to hold the words we want to ignore and count only those words that are not in this set.

```
map<string, size_type> word_count;
set<string> exclude = {"And", "Or", "The", "and", "or", "the"};
string buffer;
while(cin >> buffer) {
  if(exclude.find(buffer) == exclude.end())
    ++word_count[buffer];
}
```

To define a set, we specify the type of its elements, which in this case are strings. As with the sequential containers, we can list initialize the elements of an associative container.

Exercise

Exercise 11.3: Write your own version of the word-counting program.

Exercise 11.4: Extend your program to ignore case and punctuation. For example, "example." "example," and "Example" should all increment the same counter.

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```
word.erase(remove_if(word.begin(), word.end(), ispunct), word.end());
    ++word_count[word];

}
for(const auto &elem : word_count)
    std::cout << elem.first << " occurs " << elem.second << " times" << std::endl;
return 0;
}</pre>
```

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