Map and Set

Key-Value Containers Concept, Maps, Sets, STL Algorithms

SoftUni Team

Technical Trainers

Software University

SoftUni

Software University

https://softuni.bg

Have a Question?

Software University

sli.do

#cpp-advanced

Table of Contents

Key-Value Containers

Key-Value Containers

Software University

- Real-World information is often "**labeled**" or "**named**"
  - Contacts usually have names and numbers / emails

```
{George -> +359899123123}

{NSA -> 1-301-688-6524}
```

  - Labels can also be created by context – this is called "mapping"
  - **Example**: numeric values mapped to their names

```
{1 -> "one"}

{2 -> "two"}
```

Key-Value Pairs

- `std::pair<T1, T2>` can represent two values in one variable
  - `pair<string, int> namedNumber("five", 5);`
  - `#include<utility>`
  - `first` accesses the first value, `second` accesses the second value
  - `first` and `second` can be read and written directly
    `namedNumber.first="six"; namedNumber.second=6;`

```
pair<string, string> contact("George", "***@gmail.com");
contact.first = "George Georgiev";
cout << contact.first << " " << contact.second << endl;
```

Key-Value Pairs

- Computer Science calls these labeled values "**key-value** pairs"
  - A "**key**" is the label
  - A "**value**" is the thing we have labeled
  - Accessing the value – through the key
- There are containers optimized for key-value operations
  - Called **associative containers**, **maps**, **dictionaries**
  - Fast access, insertion and deletion by **key** – `O(log(N))` or `O(1)`

C++ Associative Containers

Maps, Sets, Ordered & Unordered

Associative Containers vs. Linear Containers

- **Associative containers** are arrays indexed by **keys**
  - A **key** can be anything – integer, string, or any other object
  - Linear containers can only **have numeric indexing** (array, vector)

Array or `std::vector`

key	0	1	2	3	4
value	8	-3	12	408	33

Associative array

key	value
John Smith	+1-555-8976
Lisa Smith	+1-555-1234
Sam Doe	+1-555-5030

Associative Containers

Software University

- Saying just "Associative Container" implies "ordered"
  - `std::map`, `std::set`, `std::multimap`, `std::multiset`
  - Keep elements **ordered by key** – iterating gives them sorted by key
  - `find()`, `insert()`, and `erase()` are fast – `O(log(N))`
- Ordered associative containers have requirements for the key
  - By default – must support `operator<` (`int`, `double`, `string`)

std::map – Initialization

Software University

- Represents keys associated with values, ordered by key
  - Two type parameters – key and value `map<K, V>`

```
map<string, int> cities =
{
  pair<string, int> {"Gabrovo", 58950},
  pair<string, int> {"Sofia", 1307376},
  pair<string, int> {"Melnik", 385},
};
```

std::map – Iteration

- Iterating – elements are **pairs**, ordered by **pair::first**

```
for (auto i = cities.begin(); i != cities.end(); i++)
{
    cout << i->first << " " << i->second << endl;
}

for (pair<string, int> element : cityPopulations)
{
    cout << element.first << " " << element.second << endl;
}
```

std::map – Access

- `operator[]` by key, returns direct reference to the value
  - Accesses value, if no such element, creates it

```
cities["X"]++;
 // adds {"X", 0}
 // returns int& (the 0)
 // 0++ gives 1
 // so {"X", 1}
```

std::map – Search

- Searching – `find()` by key, returns iterator to the pair

```
cout << cities.find("Lom")->second
// prints 27294
```

  - If **not** found: `cities.find("Z") == cities.end();`

```
auto result = cities.find(searchCityName);
if (result != cities.end())
  cout << result -> first << " " << result -> second;
else
  cout << "No information about " << searchCityName << endl;
```

std::map – Insert & Erase

Software University

- `insert()` **adds an element** (key-value pair) into the map
  - Position is determined automatically by the map

```
cities.insert(pair<string, int>("Melnik", 385));
```

- `erase()` **can remove** by key or by iterator

```
cities.erase("Melnik");

// almost the same as:
cities.erase(cities.find("Melnik"));
```

If "Melnik" key is in the map, otherwise there will be a runtime error in the second case

  - Deletion by iterator (if you have it) is a bit faster

std::set

Software University

- Similar to map, but only stores keys, without values
  - Single type parameter – `set<K>`, no `operator[]`
  - Useful for removing duplicates

```
set<int> nums { 4, 1, 4, 0, 6, 9, 1, 8, 6, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 };
for (int n : nums)
  cout << n << " ";
  // 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
```

- Search, insertion, and deletion work the same as for `map`
  - `find()` returns iterator to key, or `end()` if not found
  - `insert()` only inserts if there is no such key

Unordered Associative Containers

Software University

- Same names but with `unordered_` prefix
  - `unordered_map`
  - `unordered_set`
- Same `operator[]`
  - `find()`, `insert()`, `erase()`
- Faster *(usually)* – operations are `O(1)` instead of `O(log(N))`
- Elements are NOT ordered in any way

std::unordered_map

Software University

- Same **operations**, **methods**, **initialization** as **map**

```
unordered_map<string, int> cities =
{
  pair<string, int> {"Gabrovo", 58950}
};
cities.insert(pair<string, int> {"Sofia", 58950});
cities["Melnik"] = 385;
cities.erase("Gabrovo");
```

std::unordered_map

Software University

- Iteration order is **not defined** (random)
- **Same syntax**

```
for (auto i = cities.begin(); i != cities.end(); i++)
{
  cout << i->first << " " << i->second << endl;
}

for (pair<string, int> element : cityPopulations)
{
  cout << element.first << " " << element.second << endl;
}
```

std::unordered_set

Software University

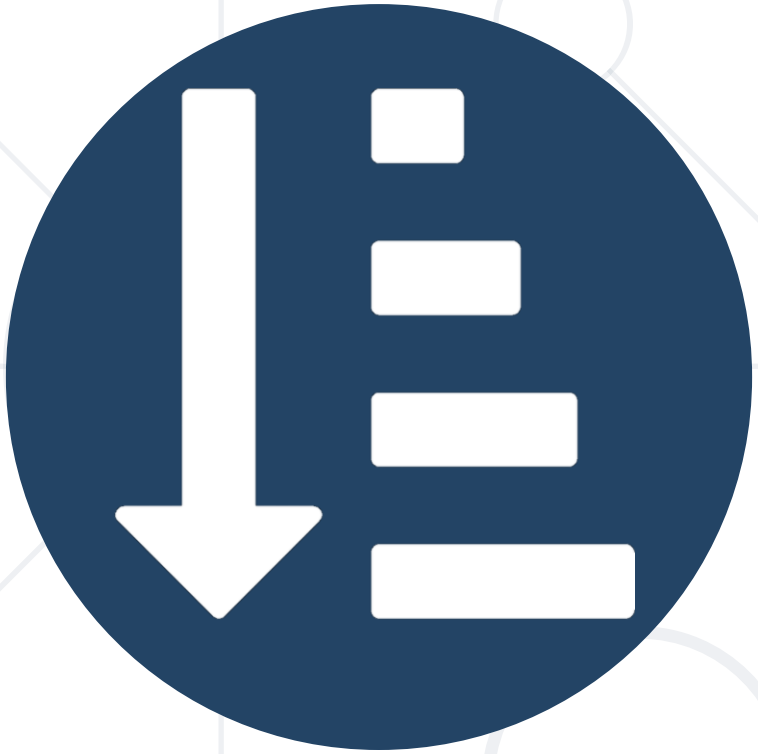
- Same as `set`, but no order for the keys

```
unordered_set<int> nums {
  4, 1, 4, 0, 6, 9, 1, 8, 6, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
};
for (int n : nums) { cout << n << " "; }
// prints 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9, but the order is unknown
```

  - Single type parameter – `set<K>`, no `operator[]`
- Useful when existence of elements needs to be checked
  - cases when no order information is needed
  - cases where output order will not match "natural" order

Multiple Values with Same Key

- A common case is keeping multiple values having the same key
- One approach is a map of vectors (or other linear container)
  - The key points to a `list`/`vector`/… of items,
    e. g. `map<string, vector<int> > studentGrades;`
- Another approach (less common) – `multimap`/`multiset`
  - Allow duplicate keys & have operations for multiple equal keys

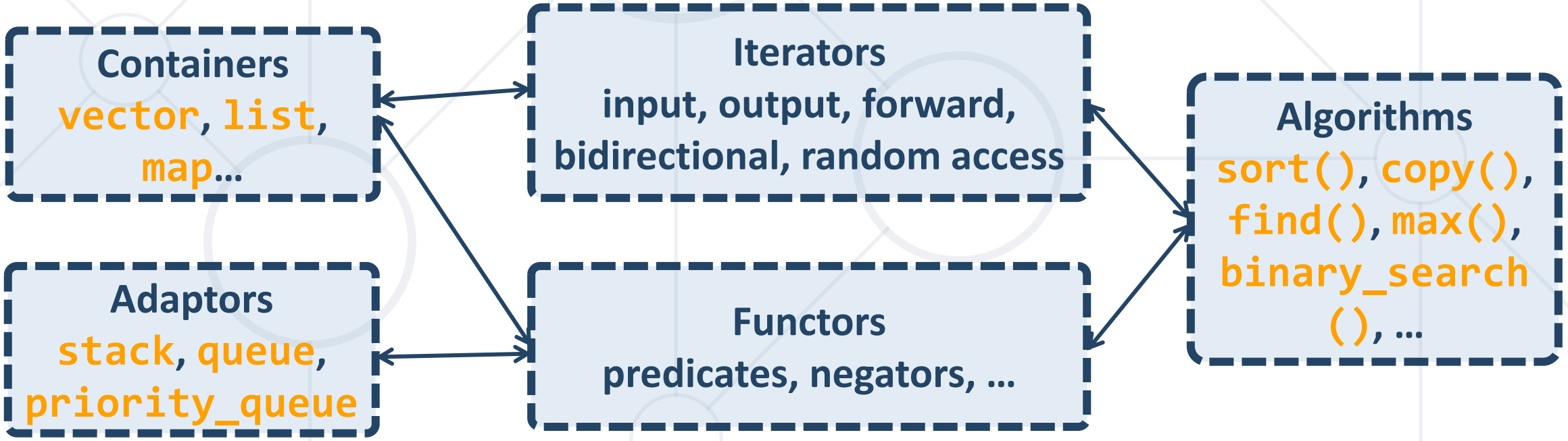


STL Algorithms

Sorting, Searching

STL Algorithms

- STL Provides common Computer Science algorithms
- Iterators define **where to act** (from `begin()` to `end()`)
- Functors define **how to act** (how to **compare values**)



Array Iterators

Software University

- Normal arrays can also be used in **STL algorithms**
  - The array's **name** acts as its **begin()** iterator
  - Array iterators are random-access iterators
  - **array name + array size = array end()** iterator

```
string wordsArray[4] { "whales", "cats", "dogs", "fish" };
auto begin = wordsArray;
auto end = wordsArray + 4;
```

Sorting Array-Like Containers

Software University

- `std::sort(begin, end)`
  - Sorts the range `[begin, end)`, data must have `operator<`
  - Requires random-access iterators (`array`, `vector`, `deque`)

```
vector<int> numsVect { 61, 41, 231, 764, 45 };
sort(numsVect.begin(), numsVect.end());
string wordsArr[4] { "whales", "cats", "dogs", "fish" };
sort(wordsArr, wordsArr + 4);
```

- `std::greater<T>` additional parameter for descending sort

```
sort(numsVect.begin(), numsVect.end(), greater<int>());
```

Sorting Linked-Lists

Software University

- `std::list` is not random-access
  - `std::sort` requires random-access iterators
- Lists have their own `sort` version
  - Called directly on a list, i.e. `someList.sort();`

```
list<int> nums { 61, 41, 231, 764, 45 };
nums.sort();
```

  - List sort can also be told to sort from greater to lesser values

```
nums.sort(std::greater<int>());
```

Searching – Find

- `std::find(begin, end, value)`
  - Searches `[begin, end)` for `value`
  - Returns iterator to `value`, or `end` if `value` isn't found
  - If searching a `vector`/array, can subtract `begin()` to get index

```
vector<int> nums { 61, 41, 231, 764, 45 };
auto it = find(nums.begin(), nums.end(), 41);
if (it != nums.end()) {
  cout << "found " << *it << " at " << it - nums.begin() << endl;
} else {
  cout << "not found" << endl; }
```

Searching – min_element & max_element

- `std::min_element(begin, end)`
  - Searches `[begin, end)` for the minimum element
  - Returns iterator if range is not empty, `end` otherwise
  - Data must have `operator<`
- `std::max_element` does the same for the maximum element

```
vector<int> nums { 61, 41, 231, 764, 45 };
cout << *min_element(nums.begin(), nums.end()) << endl; // 41
cout << *max_element(nums.begin(), nums.end()) << endl; // 764
```

Some Other Algorithms

- `std::lower_bound(begin, end, value)`
  - Requires `[begin, end)` to be sorted
  - Returns where `value` is, if it exists in `[begin, end)`
  - Returns where `value` should be if it doesn't exist
  - Fast – `O(log(N))`, vs. `O(N)` for `find()`
- There are many other algorithms
  - `upper_bound`, `copy`, `replace`
  - `remove`, `count`, `random_shuffle`

Summary

- Associative containers map kesy to values
- Maps contain key-value pairs
  - map, unordered_map, multimap, unordered_multimap
- Sets only contain keys
  - set, unordered_set
- The <algorithm> library provides many common algorithms

Questions?

SoftUni

Software University | SoftUni AI | SoftUni Digital | SoftUni Creative | SoftUni Foundation | СофтУни БУДИТЕЛ | Finance Academy

SoftUni Diamond Partners

Software University

Coca-Cola HBC Bulgaria

Postbank

top EMPLOYER България Bulgaria 2025

FOR A BETTER WORLD OF WORK

SUPER HOSTING .BG

createX

DRAFT KINGS

THE CROWN IS YOURS

INDEAVR

Serving the high achievers

encorp.io

VIVACOM

Trainings @ Software University (SoftUni)

- Software University – High-Quality Education, Profession and Job for Software Developers
  - softuni.bg, about.softuni.bg
- Software University Foundation
  - softuni.foundation
- Software University @ Facebook
  - facebook.com/SoftwareUniversity
- Software University Forums
  - forum.softuni.bg

License

- This course (slides, examples, demos, exercises, homework, documents, videos and other assets) is **copyrighted content**
- Unauthorized copy, reproduction or use is illegal
- © SoftUni – https://about.softuni.bg/
- © Software University – https://softuni.bg