

```
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <ctype.h>
```

```
#define MAXPAROLA 30
#define MAXRIGA 80
```

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    int freq[MAXPAROLA]; /* vettore di contatori
delle frequenze delle lunghezze delle parole */
    char riga[MAXRIGA];
    int i, inizio, lunghezza;
    FILE *f;
```

```
for(i=0; i<MAXPAROLA; i++)
    freq[i]=0;
```

```
if(argc != 2)
```

```
{
    fprintf(stderr, "ERRORE, serve un parametro con il nome del file\n");
    exit(1);
}
```

```
f = fopen(argv[1], "r");
if(f==NULL)
```

```
{
    fprintf(stderr, "ERRORE, impossibile aprire il file %s\n", argv[1]);
    exit(1);
}
```

```
while( fgets( riga, MAXRIGA, f ) != NULL )
```



High Level Programming

Templates and Generic Programming

Stefano Quer

Dipartimento di Automatica e Informatica

Politecnico di Torino

License Information

This work is licensed under the license



Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International

This license requires that reusers give credit to the creator. It allows reusers to copy and distribute the material in any medium or format in unadapted form and for noncommercial purposes only.

① **BY:** Credit must be given to you, the creator.

② **NC:** Only noncommercial use of your work is permitted.

Noncommercial means not primarily intended for or directed towards commercial advantage or monetary compensation.

③ **ND:** No derivatives or adaptations of your work are permitted.

To view a copy of the license, visit:

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/?ref=chooser-v1>

Templates

- ❖ In problem solving, data structures often include different types **T** of data
- ❖ In C++ we can write code whose functionalities are independent from the specific type **T**
 - We have already seen this strategy for containers, generic algorithms, smart pointers, etc.

```
vector<int> vi;  
vector<string> vs;  
vector<vector<<int>>> mi;  
  
map<string,int> word_count;  
  
shared_ptr<string> p1;
```

<int>, <string>, etc.
specify the object type **T**

Templates

- ❖ The problem is how to do a similar thing for our functions, classes, etc.

you want to write a generic function `compare` that can compare two values of any type `T`. Instead of writing separate versions of `compare` for each type, you want to write a single version of `compare` that works for all types `T`.

- ❖ For example

- Let us suppose we want to write the function

```
int compare (T &a, T &b) ;
```

- Which returns

- -1 if $v1 < v2$, 0 if $v1 == v2$, +1 if $v1 > v2$

- And it is independent of the type **T**

- Thus, we can avoid writing several versions of the function **compare** to sharing the structure but working on different types

Examples

```
int compare (const int &v1, const int &v2) {  
    if (v1 < v2)  
        return -1;  
    if (v2 < v1)  
        return 1;  
    return 0;  
}
```

Those functions are nearly identical as the only difference is the type of the parameters

```
int compare (const string &v1, const string &v2) {  
    if (v1 < v2)  
        return -1;  
    if (v2 < v1)  
        return 1;  
    return 0;  
}
```

Can we avoid two (N) versions of **compare**?
How can we avoid massive code duplication?
How can we account for user-defined types?

Templates

- ❖ Rather than defining a new function for each type we can define a **function template**
 - Templates are the foundation of generic programming in C++
- ❖ A function templates is a formula from which we can generate type-specific versions of that function
 - We write functions taking arguments of **arbitrary types**
 - We start with functions, then we see how to write **class templates**

Function templates

- ❖ The template version of the compare function looks like the following
 - T is a template parameter, which must be a type

Template parameter list
(comma-separated list of
one or more parameters)

```
template <typename T>
int compare (const T &v1, const T &v2) {
    if (v1 < v2)
        return -1;
    if (v2 < v1)
        return 1;
    return 0;
}
```

T a label which will be substituted
by the correct object type

Parameters received
by reference !

The **compiler** will generate a new
version of the function (using
polymorphism) when this is required

Instantiation

The template is **never** processed at run-time

- ❖ When you call a template function, the **compiler**
 - Deduces what types to use instead of the template parameters
 - **Instantiates** ("generates") a function with the correct types from the templates

T is an int.
The compiler instantiates
`int compare(const int &, const int &)`
The first version on page 5

```
cout << compare(1, 0) << endl;
```

```
string s1 = "hello";  
string s2 = "world";  
cout << compare(s1, s2) << endl;
```

T is a string:
`int compare(const string &, const string &)`

```
vector<int> v1{1, 2, 3}, v2{4, 5, 6};  
cout << compare(v1, v2) << endl;
```

T is a vector of int.

Personal types

- ❖ A template can also be used with **personal types**
 - Templates usually put some requirements on the argument types
 - If these requirements are not met the instantiation will fail
 - Compilation errors are usually reported during instantiation

T is a Rectangle.
The compiler instantiates
`int compare(const Rectangle &, const Rectangle &)`

```
Rectangle r1(2,3), r2(3,4.5);  
cout << compare(r1, r2) << endl;
```

If the class Rectangle implements operator `<`, everything is ok, otherwise we have an error at compilation time

Explicit types

- ❖ The compiler must always be able to understand to which type T is referring to
 - It is possible to set the type during the call

Type specification
Useless in this case

```
cout << compare<int>(1, 0) << endl;  
  
string s1 = "hello";  
string s2 = "world";  
cout << compare<string>(s1, s2) << endl;
```

Type specification
Useless in this case

Templates with different types

- ❖ A function template can receive more than one type
 - The differentiation **must** make sense
 - The operation **must** be feasible

```
template <typename T1, typename T2>
int compare (const T1 &v1, const T2 &v2) {
    if (v1 < v2)
        return -1;
    if (v2 < v1)
        return 1;
    return 0;
}
```

Function with a return value

- ❖ A template function can also have a template type, to return a variable type

```
template <typename T>
T compare(const T &v1, const T &v2) {
    if (v1 < v2)
        return -1;
    if (v2 < v1)
        return 1;
    return 0;
}
```

Return
value

One type

Two types

```
template <typename T1, typename T2>
T3 compare(const T1 &v1, const T2 &v2) {
    if (v1 < v2) { return -1; }
    if (v2 < v1) { return 1; }
    return 0;
}
```

T3 does not need the
keyword "template"

Parameter type

- ❖ Parameters can be passed by value, pointer, or reference

```
int a, b;
```

```
swap1(a,b);  
swap2(&a,&b);  
swap3(a,b);
```

swap1 will not
swap a and b

```
float a, b;
```

```
swap1(a,b);  
swap2(&a,&b);  
swap3(a,b);
```

```
template<typename T>  
void swap1 (T a, T b) {  
    T tmp;  
    tmp = a; a = b; b = tmp;  
    return;  
}  
template<typename T>  
void swap2 (T *a, T *b) {  
    T tmp;  
    tmp = *a; *a = *b; *b = tmp;  
    return;  
}  
template<typename T>  
void swap3 (T &a, T &b) {  
    T tmp;  
    tmp = a; a = b; b = tmp;  
    return;  
}
```

Limitations

- ❖ Pay attention to the requirements forced on T
 - The previous compare template requires that objects T could be compared with operator "<"
 - Now if we use operator "==" we have a new constrain on T

This implementation forces more requirements on T

```
template <typename T>
int compare (const T &v1, const T &v2) {
    if (v1 < v2) { return -1; }
    if (v1 == v2) { return 0; }
    return 1;
}
```

The arguments are passed by value, so it **must** be possible to **copy** objects of T
Objects of T **must** implement **comparisons** with < and ==

Class templates

- ❖ As functions, also a class can be programmed to deal with generic data types
 - The definition of a class template is similar to the definition of a function template
 - The main difference is that the compiler cannot deduce the type of T
 - For class templates we must specify the type of T when we instantiate it

Explicit type definition

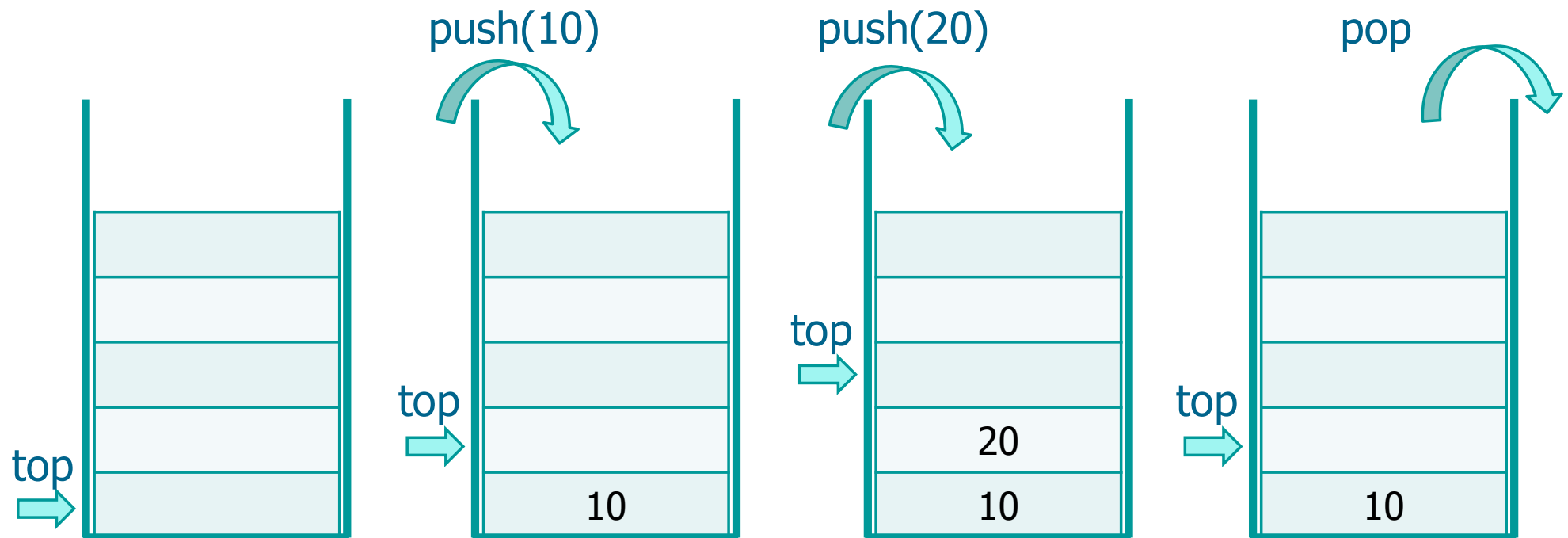
```
vector<int> vi;  
vector<string> vs;  
map<string,int> word_count;  
shared_ptr<string> p1;
```

Class templates

- ❖ Templates do not have a proper implementation
 - The compiler is going to take care of it
 - There is no source code to compile
 - A template specifies a set of instructions that the compiler will use to generate the class definition
 - As with function, a particular realization of a template is called an **instantiation** or **specialization**
- ❖ Thus, given a template, we must understand where to insert its
 - Declaration (interface)
 - Implementation (definition)
- ❖ Several approaches are indeed possible

Exercise

- ❖ Write a template to manipulate a stack such that
 - The standard stack operations are allowed (i.e., push, pop, empty, etc.)
 - The stack can store objects of different types



Approach 1

my.h
Declarations and definitions

```
#ifndef MY_H
#define MY_H
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>

template <class T>
class my_vector {
public:
    void my_push(const T &elem) {
        v.push_back(elem);
    }
    T my_pop() {
        T tmp = v.back();
        v.pop_back();
        return tmp;
    }
private:
    std::vector<T> v;
};

#endif
```

main.c
Client

```
#include "my.h"

using std::cin;
using std::cout;
using std::endl;
using std::string;

int main() {
    my_vector<int> v;
    v.my_push (1);
    v.my_pop ();
    return 0;
}
```

Approach 2

```
#ifndef MY_H
#define MY_H
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
template <class T>
class my_vector {
public:
    void my_push(const T &elem);
    T my_pop();
private:
    std::vector<T> v;
};
template <class T>
void my_vector<T>::my_push(
    const T &elem) {
    v.push_back(elem);
}
template <class T>
T my_vector<T>::my_pop() {
    T tmp = v.back();
    v.pop_back();
    return tmp;
}
#endif
```

my.h
Declarations

Definitions are
outside

Template
information
must be
repeated

main.c
Client

```
#include "my.h"

using std::cin;
using std::cout;
using std::endl;
using std::string;

int main() {
    my_vector<int> v;
    v.my_push (1);
    v.my_pop ();
    return 0;
}
```

Approach 3

my.h

Declarations

```

#ifndef MY_H
#define MY_H
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
template <class T>
class my_vector {
public:
    void my_push(const T &elem);
    T my_pop();
private:
    std::vector<T> v;
}; #endif

```

**** Very Important

In C++, when you define a template class in a header file, you should also include the definitions of the methods of that class in the same header file. This is because the compiler needs to have access to these definitions when it instantiates the template class. If you have defined the methods of your Queue and Stack classes in separate .cpp files (like QueueClass.cpp and StackClass.cpp), you should move these definitions to the respective header files (Queue.h and Stack.h).

my.hpp
Definitions

```

#ifndef MY_HPP
#define MY_HPP
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
template <class T>
void my_vector<T>::my_push(const T &elem) {
    v.push_back(elem);
}
template <class T>
T my_vector<T>::my_pop() {
    T tmp = v.back();
    v.pop_back();
    return tmp;
}
#endif

```

main.c
Client

```

#include "my.h"
#include "my.hpp"

using std::cin;
using std::cout;
using std::endl;
using std::string;

int main() {
    my_vector<int> v;
    v.my_push (1);
    v.my_pop ();
    return 0;
}

```


Approach 4

my.h Declarations

```
#ifndef MY_H
#define MY_H
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
template <class T>
class my_vector {
public:
    void my_push(const T &elem);
    T my_pop();
private:
    std::vector<T> v;
};
#endif
```

in C++ templates, you need to specify `template<class T>` or `template<typename T>` before each function definition in the class. This is because each function is a template function, not just the class itself. As for the difference between class T and typename T in template parameters, there is no difference in modern C++. Both class and typename are interchangeable in this context. The class keyword was used in the original template specification, but it was found to be potentially confusing because it suggests that the template parameter must be a class, which is not the case. The typename keyword was introduced to make it clear that the template parameter can be any type. However, both keywords are now accepted and mean the same thing.

main.c Definitions and client

```
#include "my.h"
using ...
template <class T>
void my_vector<T>::my_push(const T &elem) {
    v.push_back(elem);
}
template <class T>
T my_vector<T>::my_pop() {
    T tmp = v.back();
    v.pop_back();
    return tmp;
}
int main() {
    my_vector<int> v;
    v.my_push (1);
    v.my_pop ();
    return 0;
}
```