



# C++ STL Intermediate

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# Goal

To understand:

- Continued
  - Set
  - Unordered Set
  - Map
  - Unordered Map
- String
- Custom Sort



# Set

Set in C++ is a container that stores unique, ordered elements.

For sets to work for some data type, the data type must have **inbuilt comparators implemented**. Features include:

- ✓ • Stores Unique Elements
- ✓ • Ordered Elements
- ✓ • Efficient Lookup – Searching for an element takes  $O(\log n)$ .

1, 2, 3

insert(3)

1, 2, 3, 3x

1, 2, 3 ✓

1, 2, 4

insert(3)

1, 2, 4, 3 x

1, 2, 3, 4 ✓





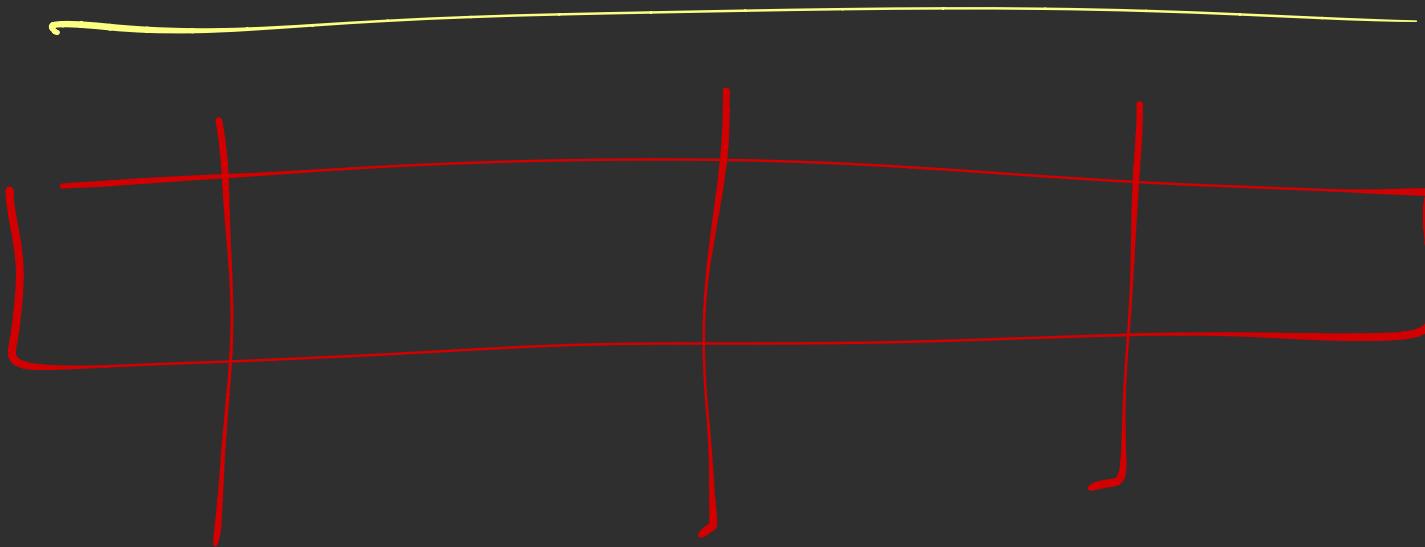
# Set (Tree)

$s[i] \times$   
 $v[i] \checkmark$

Operation	Syntax	Time Complexity
Declare	<u>set&lt;int&gt;</u> s;	O(1)
Insert Element	s.insert(x);	O(log n)
Remove Element	s.erase(x);	O(log n)
Find Element	s.find(x);	O(log n)
Count Element	s.count(x);	O(log n)
Size of Set	s.size();	O(1)
Check Empty	s.empty();	O(1)
Iterate Over Set	for(auto x : s) cout << x;	O(n)
Clear Set	s.clear();	O(n)



lowerbound ( s.begin() ... , t );





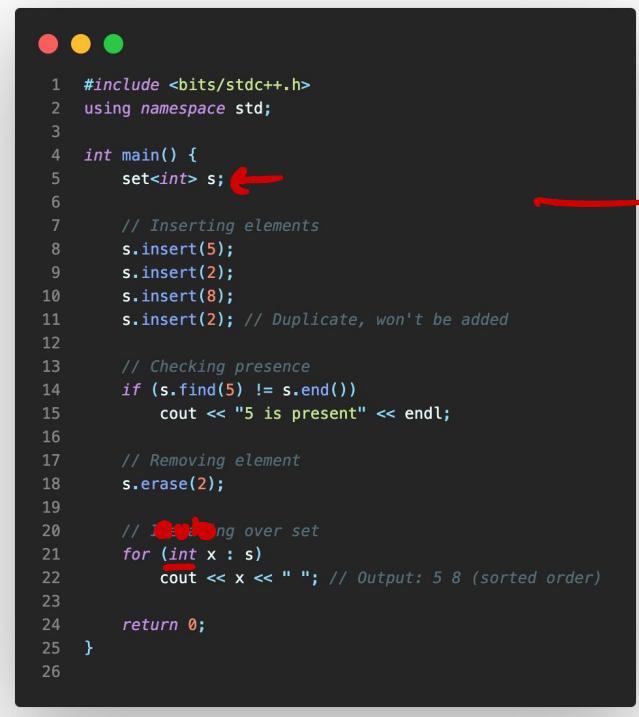
# Lowerbound on set? Tricky ?

Set is typically implemented as a self-balancing tree.

- s.lower\_bound will traverse the tree knowing the properties of the tree structure.
  - **Time Complexity - O(logN)**
- lower\_bound(s.begin(), s.end()) needs to run something akin to a binary search over the data. Much slower.
  - **Time Complexity - O(N)**



# Set - Code Example



A screenshot of a code editor showing a C++ program. The code demonstrates the use of a set container to store integers. It includes inserting elements, checking for presence, and removing elements. A red arrow points from the line `set<int> s;` to the output  $(2, 5, 8)$ .

```
1 #include <bits/stdc++.h>
2 using namespace std;
3
4 int main() {
5     set<int> s; ←
6
7     // Inserting elements
8     s.insert(5);
9     s.insert(2);
10    s.insert(8);
11    s.insert(2); // Duplicate, won't be added
12
13    // Checking presence
14    if (s.find(5) != s.end())
15        cout << "5 is present" << endl;
16
17    // Removing element
18    s.erase(2);
19
20    // Iterating over set
21    for (int x : s)
22        cout << x << " "; // Output: 5 8 (sorted order)
23
24    return 0;
25 }
```

$(2, 5, 8)$

# Map

< key, value >



Map in C++ is a key-value pair container that stores elements in sorted order based on the key.

For maps to work for some data type, the data type must have **inbuilt comparators implemented**. Features include:

- ✓ • Stores Unique Keys – Each key must be unique.
- ✓ • Ordered Storage – Keys are stored in sorted order (ascending by default).
- ✓ • Efficient Lookups – Searching for a key takes  $O(\log n)$ .



```
map<int, int> mp;
```

```
map<int, pair <int,int> > mp;
```

⋮



# Map

$$P = \{ 2, 3 \}$$

Operation	Syntax	Time Complexity
Insert / Assign	<code>mp[key] = value;</code>	$O(\log N)$ ✓
Insert (explicit)	<code>mp.insert({key, value});</code>	$O(\log N)$ ✓
Erase by Key	<code>mp.erase(key);</code>	$O(\log N)$ ✓
Erase by Iterator	<code>mp.erase(it);</code>	$O(1)$ ✓
Find Element	<code>mp.find(key);</code>	$O(\log N)$ ✓
Check if Exists	<code>mp.count(key);</code>	$O(\log N)$ ✓
Access Element	<code>mp[key]</code>	$O(\log N)$ ✓
Get First Element	<code>mp.begin();</code>	$O(1)$ ✓
Get Last Element	<u><code>mp.rbegin();</code></u> <i>cnd</i>	$O(1)$ ✓
Size of Map	<code>mp.size();</code>	$O(1)$ ✓

- ① `sort( v.begin(), v.end() );` }  
`reverse( v.begin(), v.end() );` } X
- ② `sort( v.begin(), v.end(), greater<int> () );`
- ③ `sort( v.end(), v.begin() );` } X  
`sort( v.rbegin(), v rend() );` } ✓

v.begin()



v.end()



v.begin()  
v.rend()



v.begin()  
v.end()







# Map - Code Example

```
 1 #include <bits/stdc++.h>
 2 using namespace std;
 3
 4 int main() {
 5     map<int, string> mp;    ✓
 6
 7     // Inserting key-value pairs
 8     mp[1] = "Alice";        ↙
 9     mp[3] = "Bob";          ↙
10    mp[2] = "Charlie";      ↙
11
12    // Iterating over map (keys are sorted)
13    for (auto p : mp)
14        cout << p.first << " -> " << p.second << endl;
15
16    // Searching for a key
17    if (mp.find(3) != mp.end())
18        cout << "Key 3 found!" << endl;
19
20    return 0;
21 }
22
23
```



# Unordered Set

An `unordered_set` in C++ is a hash-based container that stores unique elements in an unordered manner.

For sets to work for some data type, the data type must have **inbuilt hash function implemented**. Features include:

- ✓ • Unique Elements
- ✓ • Unordered Storage
- ✓ • Fast Operations – Average  $O(1)$  for `insert()`, `erase()`, and `find()`.
- Hash Collisions Possible – Can degrade to  $O(n)$  in worst cases.

% 1e9+7

$a[i] \approx 10^4 - 10^5$



$$123 \% 63 = \underline{60}$$

$a[i] \approx 10^{18}$

123 → hashed → 60

<5, 7>

<1, "Viraj">

$10 \rightarrow h_1$

$20 \rightarrow h_2$

$30 \rightarrow h_3$

$30 \rightarrow h_4 = h_3$        $\times$

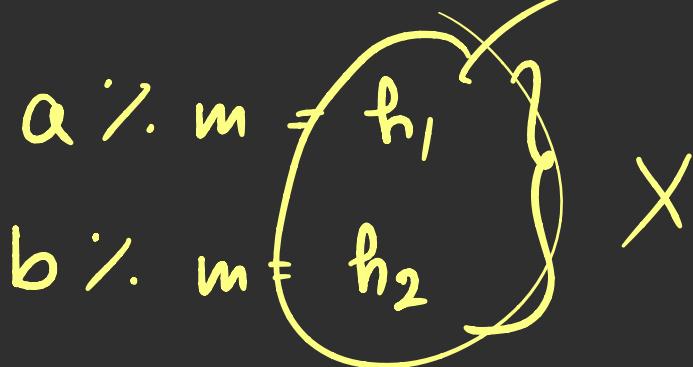
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$\% M$



$(0, M - 1)$

collision



$$a \neq b$$

$$h_1 \neq h_2$$

unordered < int > s;  
- set

unordered < pair<int,int> > s; 

Set< pair<int, int >> s; 



# Unordered Set

Operation	Syntax	Time Complexity
Declare	<code>unordered_set&lt;int&gt; us;</code>	O(1) ✓
Insert Element	<code>us.insert(x);</code>	O(1) (Amortized) ✓
Remove Element	<code>us.erase(x);</code>	O(1) (Amortized) ✓
Find Element	<code>us.find(x);</code>	O(1) (Amortized) ✓
Count Element	<code>us.count(x);</code>	O(1) (Amortized) ✓
Size of Set	<code>us.size();</code>	O(1) ✓
Check Empty	<code>us.empty();</code>	O(1) ✓
Iterate Over Set	<code>for(auto x : us) cout &lt;&lt; x;</code>	O(n) ✓
Clear Set	<code>us.clear();</code>	O(n) ✓



# Unordered Set - Code Example

```
1 #include <bits/stdc++.h>
2 using namespace std;
3
4 int main() {
5     unordered_set<int> us; —
6
7     // Inserting elements
8     us.insert(5); ==
9     us.insert(2); ==
10    us.insert(8);
11    us.insert(2); == Duplicate, won't be added
12
13    // Checking presence
14    if (us.find(5) != us.end())
15        cout << "5 is present" << endl;
16
17    // Removing element
18    us.erase(2);
19
20    // Iterating over unordered_set
21    for (int x : us)
22        cout << x << " "; // Output is in any order
23
24    return 0;
25 }
26
```

2 5 8  
8 5 2  
5 2 8



# Unordered Map

An unordered map in C++ is an associative container that stores key-value pairs using a hash table.

Unlike map, it does not maintain any order of keys and provides average O(1) time complexity. However, in the worst case, when hash collisions occur, these operations may take O(N) time. Features include:

- ✓ • Stores Unique Elements
- ✓ • Unordered Elements
- ✓ • Fast Access



# Unordered Map

Operation	Syntax	Time Complexity
Insert / Assign	<code>ump[key] = value;</code>	$O(1)$ (avg), $O(N)$ (worst) ✓
Insert (explicit)	<code>ump.insert({key, value});</code>	$O(1)$ (avg), $O(N)$ (worst) ✓
Erase by Key	<code>ump.erase(key);</code>	$O(1)$ (avg), $O(N)$ (worst) ✓
Erase by Iterator	<code>ump.erase(it);</code>	$O(1)$ ✓
Find Element	<code>ump.find(key);</code>	$O(1)$ (avg), $O(N)$ (worst) ✓
Check if Exists	<code>ump.count(key);</code>	$O(1)$ (avg), $O(N)$ (worst) ✓
Access Element	<code>ump[key]</code>	$O(1)$ (avg), $O(N)$ (worst) ✓
Get First Element	<code>ump.begin();</code>	$O(1)$ ✓
Get Last Element	<code>ump.rbegin();</code>	$O(1)$ ✓
Size of Map	<code>ump.size();</code>	$O(1)$ ✓



# Unordered Map - Code Example

```
● ● ●  
1 #include <bits/stdc++.h>  
2 using namespace std;  
3  
4 int main() {  
5     unordered_map<string, int> ump;  
6  
7     // Insert elements  
8     ump["Alice"] = 25; ←  
9     ump.insert({"Bob", 30}); ←  
10  
11    // Access elements  
12    cout << "Alice's age: " << ump["Alice"] << endl; ←  
13  
14    // Check if key exists  
15    if (ump.count("Bob")) cout << "Bob exists!" << endl; ←  
16  
17    // Iterate over unordered_map  
18    for (auto &p : ump) ←  
19        cout << p.first << " -> " << p.second << endl;  
20  
21    return 0;  
22 }  
23  
24  
25
```



# String

A string in C++ is a sequence of characters stored in contiguous memory.

Features include:

- ✓ • Dynamic size unlike character arrays (char[])
- ✓ • Supports indexing and iterators
- ✓ • Supports comparison operators (<, >, ==)
- ✓ • Compatible with STL functions (sort(), reverse(), find(), etc.).





# String - Code Example

```
● ● ● 012345 "g" ← .size()
1 string s = "programming"; // Declaration
2 cout << "Length: " << s.length() << endl;
3
4 string s1 = "hello", s2 = "world";
5 cout << "Concatenation: " << s1 + " " + s2 << endl;
6
7 cout << "Substring: " << s.substr(3, 5) << endl; // Extract substring
8
9 cout << "Find 'gram': " << s.find("gram") << endl; // Find substring
10
11 s.erase(2, 3);
12 cout << "After Erase: " << s << endl; // Erase characters
13
14 reverse(s.begin(), s.end());
15 cout << "Reversed: " << s << endl; // Reverse string
```

s.substr( a, b)

↳ optional

①

s.substr( 4 );

( 4<sup>th</sup> index → end ) → substr

②

s.substr( 3, 5 ) → 3 to 4  
index



# String - Code Example

```
16
17 sort(s.begin(), s.end()); ✓
18 cout << "Sorted: " << s << endl; // Sorting string
19
20 string palindrome = "madam"; ←
21 string rev = palindrome; ←
22 reverse(rev.begin(), rev.end()); ←
23 cout << "Is Palindrome: " << (palindrome == rev ? "Yes" : "No") << endl;
24
25 { 0
26     vector<int> freq(26, 0);
27     for (char c : s) freq[c - 'a']++;
28     cout << "Frequency of 'm': " << freq['m' - 'a'] << endl; // Frequency using vector
29
30 { 3
31     unordered_map<char, int> freqMap;
32     for (char c : s) freqMap[c]++;
33     cout << "Frequency of 'g': " << freqMap['g'] << endl; // Frequency using unordered_map
34
```

Annotations on the code:

- Line 17: A red checkmark is placed next to the sorting operation.
- Line 20: A blue arrow points to the variable `palindrome`.
- Line 22: Two blue arrows point to the `reverse` function call and its arguments.
- Line 23: A blue bracket underlines the condition in the ternary operator. A question mark `?` is above the first brace, a colon `:` is above the second brace, and `Yes` and `No` are connected by a brace below the condition.
- Line 25: A yellow circle contains the number `0`, with a brace pointing to the opening brace of the first code block.
- Line 26: A yellow circle contains the number `1`, with a brace pointing to the `for` loop.
- Line 28: A yellow circle contains the number `2`, with a brace pointing to the output statement.
- Line 30: A yellow circle contains the number `3`, with a brace pointing to the opening brace of the second code block.
- Line 33: A yellow circle contains the number `4`, with a brace pointing to the output statement.

a b c d a a

a - 3

b - 1

c - 1

d - 1

0	1	0	0	0	0	.	.	.	.	.
0	1	2	3	4	5	...	...	...	25	

'b' - 'a'

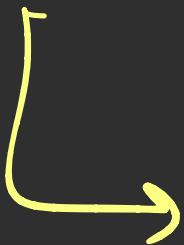
$$\hookrightarrow 98 - 97 = 1$$

['b' - 'a']

# ASCII Code

---

---



'A' → 'Z'

65 → 90

'a' → 'z'

97 → 122

→ abc ba ←

↳ ab cba )

↳ q b cba ←

palindrome



# Custom Sorting

$$\begin{array}{l} a < b \\ b < a \end{array} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \end{array} \right\} O(1)$$

By default, `sort()` sorts elements in ascending order using a hybrid of QuickSort, HeapSort, and InsertionSort.

However, we can customize the sorting order using a custom comparator function.

Time Complexity:  $O(N \log N * \text{TC(comparator)})$

$$s_1 < s_2$$

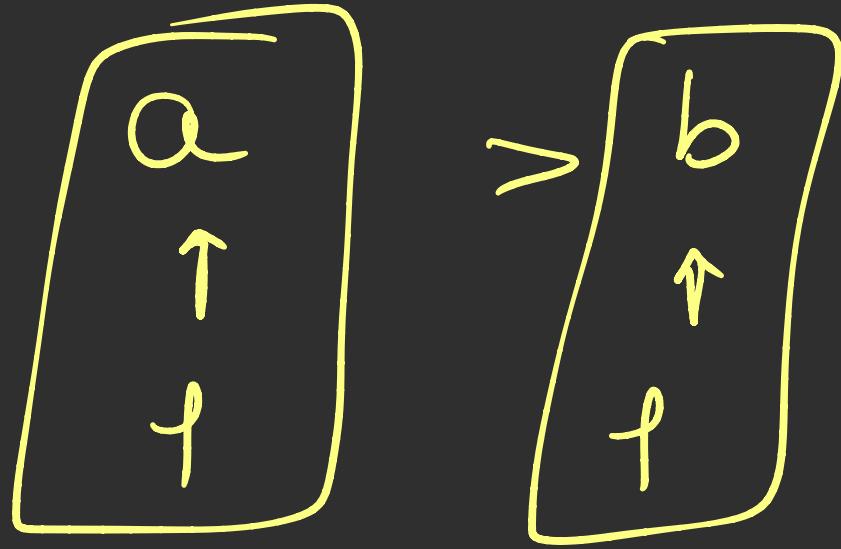
`vector <string> v`  
 $N \log N \times (\text{size of string})$



# Custom Sorting - Code Example

```
● ● ●
1 bool customPairSort(pair<int, int> a, pair<int, int> b) {
2     if (a.first == b.first) ← ↘ T/F
3         return a.second > b.second; // If first values are same, sort by second in descending
4     return a.first < b.first; // Otherwise, sort by first in ascending
5 }
6
7 int main() { ←
8     vector<pair<int, int>> v = {{2, 3}, {1, 5}, {2, 1}, {1, 4}, {3, 2}};
9
10    sort(v.begin(), v.end(), customPairSort);
11
12    for (auto &p : v)
13        cout << "(" << p.first << ", " << p.second << ") ";
14 }
15
```

Q → Should I keep 'a' before 'b'? ↩



$$\hookrightarrow s_a > s_b$$

p. first ← ( $<$ )  
↳ same  
↳ p. second ←

p. first  
↳ same → p. second ( $>$ )



# When to Use Custom Sorting?

- ✓ When sorting pairs, structures, or complex objects.
- ✓ When a non-standard sorting order is needed.
- ✓ When sorting in descending order with specific conditions.

**NOTE:** Avoid if **default sorting** meets the requirement.



## Important Links [Bonus]

- ✓ [https://www.cppreference.com/Cpp\\_STL\\_ReferenceManual.pdf](https://www.cppreference.com/Cpp_STL_ReferenceManual.pdf)
- ✓ <https://devdocs.io/cpp/container> (for STL containers)      ↴
- ✓ <https://devdocs.io/cpp/algorithm> (for STL algorithms)      ↴

Using the above resources, try to learn about multiset, multimap.

$\{1, 2, 3, 3\} \times$