CSPB 2270 Exam 1 Study Guide

LINKED LISTS

Overview

In C++, a linked list is a data structure consisting of a sequence of nodes, where each node contains a value and a pointer/reference to the next node. Unlike arrays and vectors, linked lists do not store elements in contiguous memory locations. Instead, each node in a linked list is dynamically allocated and connected through pointers/references. This allows for efficient insertion and removal of elements at any position in the list, but it requires traversal from the beginning to access specific elements. Linked lists have a flexible size and can expand or shrink as needed by allocating or deallocating nodes, unlike arrays whose size is fixed. However, accessing elements in a linked list requires iterating through the nodes, while arrays and vectors provide direct access using indices.

Common Linked List Operations

Linked lists can be written a number of ways. In the context of this class the linked list was written as a class where the nodes of the linked list was written as a struct. Nodes in linked lists are analgous to elements in an array or vector, the main difference is that nodes contain data (An integer value in the context of this class) and a pointer that points to the next node in the linked list. In doubly linked lists the nodes will contain a pointer that points to the next and the previous nodes in the linked list.

Once a linked list has been created there are a number of operations that can be done on them. Here is a quick summary of some of the linked list operations:

- Accessing & Modifying: Accessing or modifying elements in a linked list involves traversing the list by following the node connections until reaching the desired position, and then performing the required operation on the accessed node, such as retrieving or updating its data value.
- Adding: Adding an element to a linked list involves creating a new node with the desired data, adjusting the node connections to include the new node in the appropriate position, and updating the necessary pointers to maintain the integrity of the list.
- Checking For Empty: Determining if a linked list is empty means checking whether the head node of the list is 'NULL', indicating that there are no elements in the list.
- Checking Size: Finding the size of a linked list involves traversing through the list and counting the number of nodes or elements present in the list.
- Initializing: Initializing a linked list involves creating the first node, setting its data value, and establishing the necessary connections to indicate the beginning of the list.
- Removing: Removing a node from a linked list involves adjusting the node connections to bypass the node to be removed, updating the necessary pointers, and deallocating the memory occupied by the removed node to maintain the integrity of the list.
- Traversing: Traversing a linked list means sequentially visiting each node in the list, starting from the head node, and accessing or performing operations on each node until the end of the list is reached.

We will now examine some of these operations in more detail. The first operation that we will look at is accessing and modifying the data in a linked list.

Accessing & Modifying Elements In Linked List

Accessing & Modifying

Below is an example of accessing and modifying elements in a linked list in the context of C++:

- /* Contains This function determines if an element is present inside a linked
- * list
- * Input:
- * data This is an integer that is being searched for in our linked list
- * Algorithm:
- * First, create a smart pointer called "currPtr" and initialize it to the head

```
of our linked list
      Initialize the return value "ret" to false, so that if a value is not found
      we do not need to change it to false
      Traverse through the linked list with the use of a while loop and check if
      the current nodes "data" member matches
      the input parameter "data"
        If the two are a match, change the value of "ret" to true, otherwise, leave
        it as false
    Output:
      ret - Boolean value indicating if a value was found in the linked list
*/
bool LinkedList::Contains(int data){
    shared_ptr<node> currPtr = top_ptr_;
    bool ret = false;
    while (currPtr != nullptr) {
        if (currPtr->data == data) {
            ret = true;
        }
        else {}
        currPtr = currPtr->next;
    }
    return ret;
}
```

The above is an example of how we access elements in a linked list. In summary, we start traversing the linked list from the head of the list and check if the current node matches what we are looking for. If it does match, then we modify a boolean value indicating that this element exists in the list. We could simply modify the value of linked list by mutating the data of the node if it passes the if statement. We could return the index of this element with slight modification that keeps track of the position of the current node that we are examining. Conversly, we could find the middle element by counting the total size of the list, and then adding some logic that would allow us to determine what the middle index of the linked list would be.

The next operation that we will examine is adding a node to a linked list.

Adding Elements In A Linked List

Adding Elements

Below is an example of adding a node to the linked list in the context of C++. Particularly, this function adds an element to the end of the linked list (The tail).

```
Append - This function appends a new node to the end of a linked list
    Input:
      new_node - A smart pointer to a node object that will be appended to the list
    Algorithm:
     We first nitialize the data members of the new node object to appropriate
     values
     Then we check if the current linked list is empty:
        If the linked list is empty, set the top of the linked list to the input
        parameter "new_node"
        If the linked list is not empty:
        We create a new smart pointer called "currPtr" and set it equal to the top
        of the linked list
       Then we traverse down the linked list until reaching the last node (When
        the next node is nullptr):
       If the next node is not nullptr, move to the next node in the list
        Once at the end of the linked list, set the next pointer of the current
        node to "new_node"
    Output:
     This function does not return a value
*
*/
void LinkedList::Append(shared_ptr<node> new_node){
    new_node ->data;
```

```
new_node->next = nullptr;
    if (top_ptr_ == nullptr) {
        SetTop(new_node);
    }
    else {
        shared_ptr<node> currPtr = top_ptr_;
        while (currPtr->next != nullptr) {
            currPtr = currPtr->next;
        currPtr->next = new_node;
    }
}
```

The above function will append a node to the end of the linked list. This function operates on the assumption that the node has already been initialized (Data member has been set). This function can be modified to handle the case where the value that is to be appended is an input parameter of this function. On the contrary, we can add an element at a certain index in the linked list.

Inserting Elements

Below is an example of adding a node to the linked list at a specified index in the context of C++:

```
Insert - This function inserts a new node into a linked list at the specified
    Input:
      offset - An integer that is the offset at which the new node should be
               inserted
      new_node - A smart pointer of object node that is to be inserted into
                 the linked list
*
    Algorithm:
      First we create a new smart pointer called "currPtr" and set it equal to the
      top of the linked list
      After that we create a vector called "ptrs" to store the smart pointers to
      each node in the linked list
*
      Then we traverse the linked list and add each node's smart pointer to the
      "ptrs" vector
      After that, we check if the offset is zero:
        If it is zero, set the next pointer of the "new_node" node to the current
        Set the top_ptr_ to the "new_node" node, making it the new first node in
        the linked list
*
      If the offset is not zero:
*
        Reset "currPtr" to the top_ptr_ and iterate through the "ptrs" vector
        When the current index matches the offset - 1, set the next pointer of
        "new_node" to currPtr->next
        Update the next pointer of "currPtr" to "insertPtr", inserting it at the
*
        desired offset
    Output:
*
      This function does not return a value
*/
void LinkedList::Insert(int offset, shared_ptr<node> new_node){
    shared_ptr<node> currPtr = top_ptr_;
    vector<shared_ptr<node>> ptrs;
    while (currPtr != nullptr) {
        ptrs.push_back(currPtr);
        currPtr = currPtr->next;
    }
    new_node ->data;
    new_node->next = nullptr;
    if (offset == 0) {
        new_node->next = top_ptr_;
        SetTop(new_node);
    }
```

```
else {
    currPtr = top_ptr_;
        for (int i = 0; i < ptrs.size(); i++) {
            if (i == offset - 1) {
                new_node->next = currPtr->next;
                 currPtr->next = new_node;
            }
            else {}
            currPtr = currPtr->next;
        }
}
```

The above function is adding a node to a linked list at a specific index of the linked list. Similar to the previous function that appends a node to the linked list, we can modify this function to append a value at a certain index by having an input parameter that pertains to the desired value to be inserted into the linked list.

The next operation that we will examine is checking if a linked list is empty.

Checking Empty Linked List

Checking Empty

Below is an example of checking if the linked list is empty in the context of C++:

```
bool LinkedList::IsEmpty() {
   return (top_ptr_ == nullptr);
}
```

The above function checks to see if the linked list is empty mainly by seeing if the head of the linked list is empty or not. This check was not necessarily a tenant of the assignment and that is why there are no comments explaining how the function operates.

The next operation that we will examine is checking for the size of a linked list.

Checking Size Of Linked List

Checking Size

Below is an example of checking for the size of a linked list in the context of C++:

```
Size - This function counts how many nodes are present in our linked list
    Algorithm:
      We first create a smart pointer called "currPtr" and set it equal to our
      "top_ptr_" in our linked list
      We initialize the return value "ret" to zero
      Then we enter a while loop that increments "ret" by one until it runs into
      the tail of the list
      Advance the current pointer object using "currPtr = currPtr->next;"
      ret - Integer value that represents the number of nodes that are present
      in our linked list
*/
int LinkedList::Size(){
    shared_ptr<node> currPtr = top_ptr_;
    int ret = 0;
    while (currPtr != nullptr) {
        ret++;
        currPtr = currPtr->next;
    return ret;
}
```

The above function returns the size of a linked list. This function operates by traversing through the linked list

and incrementing an integer value that indicates the size of the linked list.

The next operation that we will examine is initializing a node in a linked list.

Initializing A Node In A Linked List

Initializing

Below is an example of initializing a node in a linked list in the context of C++:

```
{\tt InitNode\ -\ This\ function\ takes\ in\ an\ integer\ data\ type\ and\ assigns\ that\ value}
    to a "node" data type's "data" member
    Input:
      data - This is an integer data type that is later assigned to a "node" data
      type's "data" member
    Algorithm:
      shared_ptr < node > ret(new node); - This line creates a smart pointer of data
      type "node" named "ret"
    Output:
      ret - After setting "ret"'s data member to the input parameter "data"
      The "next" data member of the "node" object is initially set to nullptr,
      indicating the absence of a next node
*/
shared_ptr<node> LinkedList::InitNode(int data){
    shared_ptr < node > ret(new node);
    ret->data = data;
    return ret;
}
```

The above function initializes a node in a linked list to a specific value. This function does not necessarily update the pointer to the next node in the linked list but that is done in the other functions that have been previously defined.

The next operation that we will examine is removing a node from a linked list.

Removing A Node From A Linked List

Removing

The below function is an example of removing a node from a linked list in the context of C++:

```
Remove - This function removes a node from a linked list at the specified
             offset
     offset - An integer that is the offset of the node to be removed from our
               linked list
    Algorithm:
     First we create a new smart pointer called "currPtr" and set it equal to the
     top of the linked list
     Then we create a vector called "ptrs" to store the smart pointers to each
*
     node in the linked list
     After that we iterate through the linked list and add each node's smart
     pointer to the "ptrs" vector
*
     Then we heck if the offset is zero.
        If it is zero, set the next pointer of the top node to the node after it
     Otherwise, reset "currPtr" to the top node and iterate through the "ptrs"
*
     vector
        When the current index matches the offset - 1, set the next pointer of
        "currPtr" to the node after it
        Break out of the for loop to avoid segmentation faults
*
     Output:
        This function does not return a value.
void LinkedList::Remove(int offset){
```

```
shared_ptr<node> currPtr = top_ptr_;
    vector<shared_ptr<node>> ptrs;
    while (currPtr != nullptr) {
        ptrs.push_back(currPtr);
        currPtr = currPtr->next;
    }
    if (offset == 0) {
        SetTop(top_ptr_->next);
    else {
        currPtr = top_ptr_;
        for (int i = 0; i < ptrs.size(); i++) {
            if (i == offset - 1) {
                 currPtr->next = currPtr->next->next;
                break;
            }
            else {}
                currPtr = currPtr->next;
        }
    }
}
```

The above function removes a node from a linked list at a specified offset of the linked list. We can remove a specific node from a linked list by searching for if the node exists in the linked list and then deleting the node from the linked list. This implementation requires a separate function that will do the removing of the node from the linked list.

The final common operation of the linked list is traversing the linked list. This operation is required for a lot of functions that were previously defined in the linked list. This is done by using a while loop that runs until the current pointer in the linked list is null or some other condition that should be met. We now will look at some extra operations that can be utilized in a linked list.

Extra Linked List Operations

There are some extra operations that can be done on a linked list. These involve operations from reversing a linked list to splitting a linked list. Here is a comprehensive list of extra operations in linked lists:

- Concatenating: Concatenating a linked list involves combining two or more linked lists into a single linked list, where the last node of the first list is connected to the first node of the second list, and so on, creating a continuous sequence of nodes.
- Reversing: Reversing a linked list involves changing the direction of the next pointers in each node, effectively flipping the order of the elements.
- **Sorting:** Sorting a linked list involves rearranging the nodes in a specific order, such as ascending or descending, based on the values contained in each node.
- **Splitting:** Splitting a linked list involves dividing a single linked list into two separate linked lists, typically based on a given condition or position.

We now can examine these operations in more detail. The first extra operation that we are looking at is the concatenating of a linked list.

Concatenating A Linked List

Concatenating

Below is an example of concatenating a linked list in the context of C++:

```
std::shared_ptr<node> current = head1;
while (current->next != nullptr) {
    current = current->next;
}
current->next = head2;
return head1;
}
```

The above function takes in two heads of linked lists. It then traverses the linked list looking for the tail of the first list. It then updates the tail of the first linked list and has it point to the head of the second linked list.

The next extra operation that we are going to look at is reversing a linked list.

Reversing A Linked List

Reversing

Taylor Larrechea

Below is an example of reversing a linked list in the context of C++:

```
std::shared_ptr<node> reverseList(std::shared_ptr<node> head) {
    std::shared_ptr<node> current = head;
    std::shared_ptr<node> previous = nullptr;
    std::shared_ptr<node> next = nullptr;
    while (current != nullptr) {
        next = current->next;
        current->next = previous;
        previous = current;
        current = next;
    }
    return previous;
}
```

The above function reverses the nodes in a linked list. This is done by keeping track of the current, next, and previous nodes in the linked list. This entire operation could be done a lot easier if the linked list in question was a doubly linked list. But this function works on a singly linked list.

The next extra operation that we are going to look at is sorting a linked list. There are a multitude of ways that this can be accomplished, by choosing different sorting algorithms. The easiest way this is done is with the use of a bubble sort.

Sorting A Linked List

Sorting

Below is an example of sorting a linked list with the use of a bubble sort in the context of C++:

```
void bubbleSort(std::shared_ptr<node> head) {
    if (head == nullptr || head->next == nullptr) {
        return;
    }
    bool swapped;
    std::shared_ptr<node> current;
    std::shared_ptr<node> last = nullptr;
    do {
        swapped = false;
        current = head;
        while (current->next != last) {
            if (current->data > current->next->data) {
                // Swap the nodes
                std::swap(current->data, current->next->data);
                swapped = true;
            }
            current = current->next;
        last = current;
```

```
} while (swapped);
}
```

The above function sorts the data in a linked list with the use of a bubble sort algorithm. This algorithm does not require one to update the pointers of the nodes as it is simply mutating the data members of the nodes. One can sort the elements of the linked list in descending order by just changing the if statement that is present in the while loop.

The last extra operation that we are going to look at is splitting a linked list at a specific position.

Splitting A Linked List

Splitting

Below is an example of splitting a linked list in the context of C++:

```
std::pair<std::shared_ptr<node>, std::shared_ptr<node>>
        splitList(std::shared_ptr<node> head, int splitPosition) {
    std::shared_ptr<node> splitPtr = nullptr;
    std::shared_ptr<node> secondHead = nullptr;
    std::shared_ptr<node> current = head;
    int position = 0;
    // Traverse until the split position
    while (current != nullptr && position < splitPosition - 1) {
        current = current->next;
        position++;
    if (current != nullptr) {
        splitPtr = current->next;
        current ->next = nullptr;
                                  // Terminate the first list
        secondHead = splitPtr;
    }
    return {head, secondHead};
}
```

The above function splits a linked list at a specific index of the original linked list. This is done by returning a pair of head nodes after the function is done executing. In the function we iterate until we reach the specified index or if the index happens to be out of bounds. We then assign the head of the second linked list by grabbing the next node after the index position.

Other Implementations Of Linked Lists

There are many other implentations for linked lists. Some implementations of linked lists are the following:

- Circular Linked List: Implementing a linked list as a circular linked list involves connecting the last node of the list to the first node, creating a circular structure.
- **Doubly Linked List:** Implementing a linked list as a doubly linked list involves adding an additional pointer in each node that points to the previous node.
- Stack Or Queue: Implementing a linked list as a stack or queue involves utilizing the respective operations of push/pop for a stack or enqueue/dequeue for a queue to insert or remove elements at one end of the linked list.

We now will look at these implementations one by one. The first implementation that we will look at is circular linked lists.

Circular Linked List

Circular Linked Lists

Below is an example of how to implement a circular linked list in the context of C++:

```
struct Node {
   int data;
   std::shared_ptr<Node> next;
   Node(int val) : data(val), next(nullptr) {}
};
```

```
void traverseCircularLinkedList(const std::shared_ptr<Node>& head) {
    if (head == nullptr) {
         return;
    }
    std::shared_ptr < Node > current = head;
    do {
         std::cout << current->data << " ";
         current = current->next;
    } while (current != head);
    std::cout << std::endl;</pre>
}
int main() {
    // Create a circular linked list with three nodes: 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow (back to 1)
    std::shared_ptr < Node > head = std::make_shared < Node > (1);
    std::shared_ptr<Node> second = std::make_shared<Node>(2);
    std::shared_ptr <Node > third = std::make_shared <Node > (3);
    head->next = second;
    second->next = third;
    third->next = head; // Make it circular
    // Traverse the circular linked list
    traverseCircularLinkedList(head); // Output: 1 2 3
    return 0;
}
```

The above is an example of how to make a linked list circular. The crux of making a linked list circular is to have the last node of the list point to the head of the list. This is done inside the main function above.

Next, we look at how to implement a doubly linked list.

Doubly Linked List

Doubly Linked Lists

Below is an example of doubly linked lists in the context of C++:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <memory>
struct Node {
    int data;
    std::shared_ptr < Node > prev;
    std::shared_ptr < Node > next;
    Node(int val) : data(val), prev(nullptr), next(nullptr) {}
};
void traverseDoublyLinkedListForward(const std::shared_ptr<Node>& head) {
    std::shared_ptr < Node > current = head;
    while (current != nullptr) {
        std::cout << current->data << " ";
        current = current->next;
    }
    std::cout << std::endl;</pre>
```

```
void traverseDoublyLinkedListBackward(const std::shared_ptr<Node>& tail) {
    std::shared_ptr<Node> current = tail;
    while (current != nullptr) {
        std::cout << current->data << " ";
        current = current->prev;
    std::cout << std::endl;</pre>
}
int main() {
    // Create a doubly linked list with three nodes: 1 <-> 2 <-> 3
    std::shared_ptr < Node > head = std::make_shared < Node > (1);
    std::shared_ptr < Node > second = std::make_shared < Node > (2);
    std::shared_ptr < Node > third = std::make_shared < Node > (3);
    head->next = second;
    second->prev = head;
    second->next = third;
    third->prev = second;
    // Traverse the doubly linked list forward and backward
    traverseDoublyLinkedListForward(head); // Output: 1 2 3
    traverseDoublyLinkedListBackward(third); // Output: 3 2 1
    return 0;
}
```

The above is an example of how to create a doubly linked list. In this example, the main difference between our linked list class that we created previously is that the node structure has a previous pointer as well as a next pointer. This in essence is how a doubly linked list is created.

Lastly, we look at how to implement a stack and queue with the use of a linked list.

Stacks & Queues With Linked Lists

Stacks & Queues

Below is an example of how to implement a linked list with the stack and queue data structure. This is first done by looking at the structure of the nodes in the linked list in the context of C++:

```
struct Node {
    int data;
    std::shared_ptr < Node > next;
    Node(int val) : data(val), next(nullptr) {}
};
```

We then move on to looking how we implement the stack data structure with this node structure:

```
class Stack {
    private:
        std::shared_ptr < Node > top;
    public:
        Stack() : top(nullptr) {}
        void push(int val) {
            std::shared_ptr<Node> newNode = std::make_shared<Node>(val);
            newNode->next = top;
            top = newNode;
        }
```

```
void pop() {
             if (top) {
                 std::shared_ptr < Node > temp = top;
                 top = top->next;
                 temp.reset();
            }
        }
        int peek() {
             if (top) {
                 return top->data;
             throw std::runtime_error("Stack is empty.");
        }
        bool isEmpty() {
            return top == nullptr;
        }
    };
  Next, we look at the queue data structure to see how it would be implemented:
class Queue {
    private:
        std::shared_ptr < Node > front;
        std::shared_ptr < Node > rear;
    public:
        Queue() : front(nullptr), rear(nullptr) {}
        void enqueue(int val) {
             std::shared_ptr < Node > newNode = std::make_shared < Node > (val);
             if (!front) {
                 front = newNode;
                 rear = newNode;
             } else {
                 rear -> next = newNode;
                 rear = newNode;
             }
        }
        void dequeue() {
             if (front) {
                 std::shared_ptr < Node > temp = front;
                 front = front->next;
                 temp.reset();
             }
        }
        int peek() {
             if (front) {
                 return front->data;
             throw std::runtime_error("Queue is empty.");
        }
        bool isEmpty() {
             return front == nullptr;
        }
    };
```

And lastly, we look at how these would be implemented:

```
int main() {
    Stack stack;
    stack.push(10);
    stack.push(20);
    stack.push(30);
    while (!stack.isEmpty()) {
        std::cout << stack.peek() << " ";
        stack.pop();
    // Output: 30 20 10
    Queue queue;
    queue.enqueue(5);
    queue.enqueue(15);
    queue.enqueue(25);
    while (!queue.isEmpty()) {
        std::cout << queue.peek() << " ";
        queue.dequeue();
    // Output: 5 15 25
    return 0;
}
```

The above is only one way this can be achieved. There are numerous different ways this outcome can be produced.

Overall, linked lists are a very powerful data structure in object oriented programming. They allow for easy traversal, insertion, and deletion of elements. The biggest downside to linked lists is that someone cannot easily access elements inside the linked list without traversing the list itself. Doubly linked lists allow for easy traversal in each direction but require additional logic to update parameters that are found in the structure of the linked list.

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VECTORS

C++ Vector Overview

In C++, a vector is a dynamic array-like container provided by the Standard Template Library (STL). It is a sequence container that can dynamically resize itself to accommodate elements. Unlike an array, which has a fixed size determined at compile time, a vector can grow or shrink in size as elements are added or removed. Vectors offer various advantages over arrays, such as automatic memory management, the ability to easily change their size, and built-in functions for common operations like inserting, erasing, and accessing elements. Vectors provide similar functionality to arrays but with added flexibility and convenience.

How Do You Declare And Initialize A Vector With Values?

Initializing A Vector

The way we initialize a vector in C++ with values is like the following:

```
#include <vector>
int main() {
    // Declare and initialize a vector of integers
    std::vector<int> numbers = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};

    // Declare and initialize a vector of strings
    std::vector<std::string> names = {"Alice", "Bob", "Charlie"};

    // Declare an empty vector
    std::vector<double> values;

    return 0;
}
```

Vector Operations In C++

Here are some common vector operations in C++. First, we look at how we access elements in a vector.

Accessing Vector Elements

Accessing Elements

Here is how someone accesses elements in a vector:

```
std::vector<int> numbers = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};

// Accessing elements using the indexing operator []
int firstElement = numbers[0]; // Access the first element (1)
int thirdElement = numbers[2]; // Access the third element (3)

// Accessing elements using the at() member function
int secondElement = numbers.at(1); // Access the second element (2)
int fourthElement = numbers.at(3); // Access the fourth element (4)
```

Here is how someone adds elements to a vectors.

Adding Vector Elements

Adding To End

Adding an element at the end of a vector with **push_back()**:

```
std::vector<int> numbers = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
```

```
// Add the number 6 to the end of the vector
numbers.push_back(6);
// Print the modified vector
for (int i = 0; i < numbers.size(); i++) {</pre>
    std::cout << numbers[i] << std::endl;</pre>
}
```

Here is how vectors can be cleared.

Clearing Vectors

Clearing All Elements

Clearing all the elements from a vector with **clear()**:

```
std::vector<int> numbers = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
// Remove all elements from the vector
numbers.clear();
// Print the modified vector
for (int i = 0; i < numbers.size(); i++) {
    std::cout << numbers[i] << std::endl;</pre>
}
```

If you want to find the capacity of a vector, this is how its done.

Finding Capacity Of Vector

Finding Capacity

Finding the capacity of the vector with **capacity()**:

```
std::vector<int> numbers = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
// Find the capacity of the vector
int capacity = numbers.capacity();
// Print the capacity of the vector
std::cout << "The capacity of the vector is: " << capacity << std::endl;
```

To find the size of vector, this is how its done.

Finding Size Of Vector

Finding Size

Finding the size of the vector with **size()**:

```
std::vector<int> numbers = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
// Find the size of the vector
int size = numbers.size();
// Print the size of the vector
std::cout << "The size of the vector is: " << size << std::endl;
```

Next, we look at how we modify elements in a vector.

Modifying Vector Elements

Modifying Elements

Here is how someone modifies elements in a vector:

```
std::vector<int> numbers = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};

// Modifying elements using the indexing operator []
numbers[0] = 10; // Modify the value of the first element to 10
numbers[2] = 30; // Modify the value of the third element to 30

// Modifying elements using the at() member function
numbers.at(1) = 20; // Modify the value of the second element to 20
numbers.at(3) = 40; // Modify the value of the fourth element to 40
```

There are multiple ways to remove an element at an index of a vector, here is one.

Removing Element Of Vector

Removing Element At Index

Removing an element at an index of a vector with **erase()**:

```
std::vector<int> numbers = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};

// Remove the element at index 2 from the vector
int element_to_remove = numbers[2];
numbers.erase(numbers.begin() + 2);

// Print the modified vector
for (int i = 0; i < numbers.size(); i++) {
    std::cout << numbers[i] << std::endl;
}</pre>
```

Another way to remove an element is to remove the last element of a vector.

Removing Last Element Of Vector

Removing Last Element

Removing the last element from a vector with **pop_back()**:

```
std::vector<int> numbers = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};

// Remove the last element from the vector
int last_element = numbers.back();
numbers.pop_back();

// Print the modified vector
for (int i = 0; i < numbers.size(); i++) {
    std::cout << numbers[i] << std::endl;
}</pre>
```

Vectors can be sorted as well, here is how this is done.

Sorting Vectors

Sorting

Vectors can be sorted with sorting algorithms or the built in STL function **sort()**:

```
std::vector < int > numbers = {5, 2, 8, 1, 9};
```

```
// Sort the vector in ascending order
std::sort(numbers.begin(), numbers.end());

// Print the sorted vector
for (const auto& num : numbers) {
    std::cout << num << " ";
}
std::cout << std::endl;</pre>
```

Here is a summary of some common vector operations.

- Accessing Elements:
 - Using the indexing operator [] to access individual elements by their index.
 - Using the at() member function to access elements with bounds checking.
 - Using iterators to traverse the vector and access elements.
- Iterating & Traversing:
 - Using range-based **for** loops or iterators to iterate over the elements of the vector.
 - Using algorithms like for_each(), transform(), or accumulate() from the algorithm library to perform operations
 on each element.
- Modifying Elements:
 - Using the assignment operator = to modify individual elements directly.
 - Using the push_back() member function to add elements at the end of the vector.
 - Using the pop_back() member function to remove the last element from the vector.
 - Using the insert() member function to insert elements at a specified position.
 - Using the **erase()** member function to remove elements at a specified position or range.
- Size & Capacity:
 - Using the size() member function to get the current number of elements in the vector.
 - Using the **empty()** member function to check if the vector is empty.
 - Using the resize() member function to change the size of the vector.
 - Using the reserve() member function to allocate memory for a specified number of elements.
- Sorting & Manipulating Order:
 - Using the **sort()** function from the **algorithm** library to sort the elements in the vector.
 - Using the **reverse()** function from the **algorithm** library to reverse the order of elements.
 - Using algorithms like find(), count(), or binary_search() from the algorithm library to search for elements.

Benefits Of Vectors Over Arrays

There are many benefits to using a vector over an array. Some examples of this are dynamic size, automatic memory management, convenient functions, range checking, and copy and assignment. These are not all of the advantages, rather just some commond examples. Diving into these examples a little bit more:

- Automatic Memory Management: Vectors handle memory allocation and deallocation automatically. When elements are added or removed, the vector manages the underlying memory for you. Arrays, on the other hand, require manual memory management.
- Convenient Functions: Vectors provide a range of built-in functions that make working with elements more convenient. For example, vectors have functions like push_back() to add elements at the end, pop_back() to remove elements from the end, and insert() to insert elements at specific positions. Arrays lack such built-in functions, requiring manual manipulation of elements.
- Copy and Assignment: Vectors can be easily copied or assigned to another vector using the assignment operator (=) or the copy constructor. This simplifies the process of creating copies or working with multiple vectors. Arrays do not have built-in copy or assignment mechanisms, requiring manual copying of each element.

- Dynamic Size: Vectors have a flexible and resizable size, allowing elements to be added or removed easily. In contrast, arrays have a fixed size determined at compile-time, making it difficult to change their size dynamically.
- Range Checking: Vectors perform bounds checking to ensure that accessing elements stays within the valid range. This helps prevent accessing elements outside the vector's size, which can lead to runtime errors. Arrays do not perform such range checking, allowing access to elements beyond the declared size, which can lead to undefined behavior.

Overall, vectors provide more flexibility, convenience, and safety compared to arrays in terms of size management, memory handling, and operations on elements.

C++ Vector Functions Recap

Here is a quick summary of vector functions in C++:

- back(): The 'back()' method in C++ returns a reference to the last element in a vector.
- capacity(): The 'capacity()' method in C++ returns the current storage capacity of a vector, which represents the maximum number of elements that the vector can hold without requiring reallocation of memory.
- clear(): The 'clear()' method in C++ removes all elements from a vector, effectively emptying it.
- erase(): The 'erase()' method in C++ removes one or a range of elements from a vector, based on the specified position or iterator.
- find(): The 'find()' function in C++ searches for a specified element in a vector and returns an iterator pointing to the first occurrence of the element.
- front(): The 'front()' method in C++ returns a reference to the first element in a vector.
- pop_back(): The 'pop_back()' method in C++ removes the last element from a vector.
- push_back(): The 'push_back()' method in C++ adds an element to the end of a vector.
- resize(): The 'resize()' method in C++ changes the size of the vector, either increasing or decreasing it.
- size(): The 'size()' method in C++ returns the number of elements in a vector, representing the current size of the vector.