Object – Oriented Programming

Week 6, Spring 2009

Templates & STL

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Contents

- Template
- STL

Templates

- Reuse source code
  - generic programming
  - use types as parameters in class or function definitions
- Template functions
  - Example: sort function
- Template classes
  - Example: containers such as stack, list, queue...
    - Stack operations are independent of the type of items in the stack
  - template member functions

Templates

- Templates can use multiple types

```
template< class Key, class Value>
class HashTable {
    const Value& lookup(const Key&) const;
    void install(const Key&, const Value&);

    ...
};
```

- Templates nest — they're just new types!

```
Vector< Vector< double *> > // note space > >
```

- Type arguments can be complicated

```
Vector< int (*)(Vector<double>&, int)>
```

Expression parameters

- Template arguments can be *constant* expressions
- Non-Type parameters
  - can have a default argument

```
template <class T, int bounds = 100>
class FixedVector {
   public:
      FixedVector();
      // ...
      T& operator[](int);
   private:
      T elements[bounds]; // fixed size array!
   };
```

Non-Type parameters

```
template <class T, int bounds>
T& FixedVector<T,bounds>::operator[]( int i ) {
      return elements[i];  // no error checking
}
```

Usage: Non-type parameters

- Usage
  - `FixedVector<int, 50> v1;`
  - `FixedVector<int, 10*5> v2;`
  - `FixedVector<int> v3;  // uses default`
- Summary
  - Embedding sizes not necessarily a good idea
  - Can make code faster
  - Makes use more complicated
    - size argument appears everywhere!
  - Can lead to (even more) code bloat

Templates and inheritance

- Templates can inherit from non-template classes

```
template <class A>
class Derived : public Base { ...
```

- Templates can inherit from template classes

```
template <class A>
class Derived : public List<A> { ...
```

- Non-template classes can inherit from templates

```
class SupervisorGroup : public
  List<Employee*> { ...
```

Notes

- friends
- static members
- In general put the definition and the declaration for the template in the header file
  - won't allocate storage for the class at that point
  - compiler/linker has mechanism for removing multiple definitions

Writing templates

- Get a non-template version working first
- Establish a good set of test cases
- Measure performance and tune

- Review implementation
  - Which types should be parameterized?
- Convert non-parameterized version into template
- Test against established test cases

What is STL

- STL = Standard Template Library
- Part of the ISO Standard C++ Library
- Data Structures and algorithms for C++.

Why should I use STL?

- Reduce development time.
  - Data-structures already written and debugged.
- Code readability
  - Fit more meaningful stuff on one page.
- Robustness
  - STL data structures grow automatically.
- Portable code.
- Maintainable code
- Easy

C++ Standard Library

- Library includes:
  - A Pair class (pairs of anything, int/int, int/char, etc)
  - Containers
    - **Vector (expandable array)**
    - **Deque (expandable array, expands at both ends)**
    - **List (double-linked)**
    - **Sets and Maps**
  - Basic Algorithms (sort, search, etc)
- All identifiers in library are in std namespace

using namespace std;

The three parts of STL

- Containers
- Algorithms
- Iterators

The ‘Top 3’ data structures

- map
  - Any key type, any value type.
  - Sorted.
- vector
  - Like c array, but auto-extending.
- list
  - doubly-linked list

Example using the vector class

- Use “namespace std” so that you can refer to vectors in C++ library
- Just declare a vector of ints (no need to worry about size)
- Add elements
- Have a pre-defined iterator for vector class, can use it to print out the items in vector

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
#include <vector>

int main( ) {
        vector<int> x;
        for (int a=0; a<1000; a++)
            x.push_back(a);
    vector<int>::iterator p;
    for (p=x.begin();
                p<x.end(); p++)
        cout << *p << " ";
    return 0;
}
```

Class Exercises

- The code for the vector example exists at vector.cpp. Modify this code so it puts 5000 items in the vector, and then prints out every fifth element
  - Element 0, element 5, element 10, etc.

Basic Vector Operations

- Constructors

  vector<Elem> c;

  vector<Elem> c1(c2);

- Simple Methods

  V.size( ) // num items

  V.empty( ) // empty?

  ==, !=, <, >, <=, >=

  V.swap(v2) // swap

- Iterators

  I.begin( ) // first position

  I.end( ) // last position

- Element access

  V.at(index)

  V[index]

  V.front( ) // first item

  V.back( ) // last item

- Add/Remove/Find

  V.push_back(e)

  V.pop_back( )

  v.insert(pos, e)

  V.erase(pos)

  V.clear( )

  V.find(first, last, item)

Class Exercises

- Take a look at the code in vector2.cpp . Predict the output of this program.
- Run the program to check your output.

List Class

- Same basic concepts as vector
  - Constructors
  - Ability to compare lists (==, !=, <, <=, >, >=)
  - Ability to access front and back of list

    x.front(), x.back()
  - Ability to assign items to a list, remove items

    x.push_back(item), x.push_front(item)

    x.pop_back(), x.pop_front()

    x.remove(item)

Sample List Application

- Declare a list of strings
- Add elements
  - Some to the back
  - Some to the front
- Iterate through the list
  - Note the termination condition for our iterator

    p != s.end( )
  - Cannot use **p < s.end( )** as with vectors, as the list elements may not be stored in order

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
#include <list>
#include <string>
int main( ) {
    list<string> s;
    s.push_back("hello");
    s.push_back("world");
    s.push_front("tide");
    s.push_front("crimson");
    s.push_front("alabama");
    list<string>::iterator p;
    for (p=s.begin(); p!=s.end(); p++)
            cout << *p << " ";
    cout << endl;
}
```

Maintaining an ordered list

- Declare a list
- Read in five strings, add them in order
- Print out the ordered list

```
#include <iostream>
    using namespace std;
#include <list>
#include <string>
int main( ) {
    list<string> s;  string t;
    list<string>::iterator p;
    for (int a=0; a<5; a++) {
        cout << "enter a string : ";
        cin >> t;
        p = s.begin();                    while
    (p != s.end() && *p < t) p++;
        s.insert(p, t);
    }
    for (p=s.begin(); p!=s.end(); p++)
                        cout << *p << " ";
    cout << endl;   }
```

Example Program

```
#include <map>
#include <string>
map<string,float> price;
price[“snapple”] = 0.75;
price[“coke”] = 0.50;
string item;
double total=0;
while ( cin >> item )
        total += price[item];
```

Example Program

```
#include <map>
#include <string>
map<string,float> price;
price[“snapple”] = 0.75;
price[“coke”] = 0.50;
string item;
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Example Program

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string item;
double total=0;
while ( cin >> item )
        total += price[item];
```

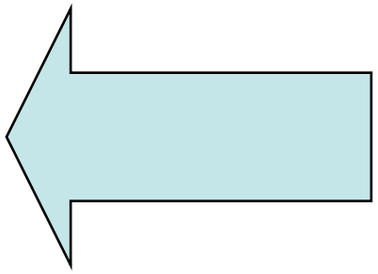

Example Program

```
#include <map>
#include <string>
map<string,float> price;
price[“snapple”] = 0.75;
price[“coke”] = 0.50;
string item;
double total=0;
while ( cin >> item )
        total += price[item];
```

Simple Example of Map

```
map<long,int> root;
root[4] = 2;
root[1000000] = 1000;
long l;
cin >> l;
if (root.count(l)) cout<<root[l]
else cout<<“Not perfect square”;
```

Two ways to use Vector

- Preallocate

```
vector<int> v(100);
v[80]=1;  // okay
v[200]=1;  // bad
```

- Grow tail

```
vector<int> v2;
int i;
while (cin >> i)
  v.push_back(i);
```

Example of List

```
list<int> L;
for(int i=1; i<=5; ++i)
  L.push_back(i);
//delete second item.
L.erase( ++L.begin() );
copy( L.begin(). L.end(),
 ostream_iterator<int>(cout, “,"));
// Prints: 1,2,3,5
```

Iterators

- Declaring

```
list<int>::iterator  li;
```

- Front of container

```
list<int> L;
li = L.begin();
```

- Past the end

```
li = L.end();
```

Iterators

- Can increment

```
list<int>::iterator li;
list<int> L;
li=L.begin();
++li;  // Second thing;
```

- Can be dereferenced

```
*li = 10;
```

Algorithms

- Take iterators as arguments

```
list<int> L;
vector<int> V;
// put list in vector
copy(     L.begin(),
          L.end(),
          V.begin()   );
```

List Example Again

```
list<int> L;
for(int i=1; i<=5; ++i)
  L.push_back(i);
//delete second item.
L.erase( ++L.begin() );
copy( L.begin(). L.end(),
 ostream_iterator<int>(cout, “,"));
// Prints: 1,2,3,5
```

Typdefs

- Annoying to type long names
  - map<Name, list<PhoneNum> > phonebook;
  - map<Name, list<PhoneNum> >::iterator finger;
- Simplify with typedef
  - typedef PB map<Name,list<PhoneNum> >;
  - PB phonebook;
  - PB::iterator finger;
- Easy to change implementation.

Using your own classes in STL Containers

- Might need:
  - Assignment Operator, `operator=()`
  - Default Constructor
- For sorted types, like `map<>`
  - Need less-than operator: `operator<()`
    - Some types have this by default:
      - int, char, string
    - Some do not:
      - char *

Example of User-Defined Type

```
struct point
    {
    float x;
    float y;
    }
vector<point> points;
point p; p.x=1; p.y=1;
points.push_back(1);
```

Example of User-Defined Type

- Sorted container needs sort function.

```
struct full_name {
    char * first;
    char * last;
    bool operator<(full_name & a)
      {return strcmp(first, a.first) < 0;}
    }
map<full_name,int> phonebook;
```

What do I need?

- g++ 2.96
  - Fine for all examples in this talk
  - 3.0.x is even better
    - using namespace std;
- Mostly works with MSVC++
  - So i am told.

Performance

- Personal experience 1:
  - STL implementation was 40% slower than hand-optimized version.
    - STL: used deque
    - Hand Coded: Used “circular buffer” array;
  - Spent several days debugging the hand-coded version.
  - In my case, not worth it.
  - Still have prototype: way to debug fast version.

Performance

- Personal experience 2
- Application with STL list ~5% slower than custom list.
- Custom list “intrusive”
  - struct foo {
  - int a;
  - foo * next;
  - };
- Can only put foo in one list at a time ☹

Pitfalls

- Accessing an invalid vector<> element.

```
vector<int> v;
v[100]=1;  // Whoops!
```

Solutions:

- use push_back()
- Preallocate with constructor.
- Reallocate with reserve()
- Check capacity()

Pitfalls

- Inadvertently inserting into map<>.

```
if (foo["bob"]==1)
//silently created entry "bob"
```

Use count() to check for a key without creating a new entry.

```
if ( foo.count("bob")  )
```

Pitfalls

- Not using empty() on list<> .
  - Slow

```
if ( my_list.count() == 0 ) { ... }
```

  - Fast

```
if ( my_list.empty() ) {...}
```

Pitfalls

- Using invalid iterator

```
list<int> L;
list<int>::iterator li;
li = L.begin();
L.erase(li);
++li;                // WRONG
```

- Use return value of erase to advance

```
li = L.erase(li);  // RIGHT
```

Common Compiler Errors

- vector<vector<int>> vv;
  missing space
  lexer thinks it is a right-shift.

- any error message with pair<...>
  map<a,b> implemented with pair<a,b>

STL versus Java Containers

STL

- Holds any type
- No virtual function calls
- Static type-checking

Java Containers

- Holds things derived from Object
- Virtual Function Call overhead
- No Static type-checking

Other data structures

- set, multiset, multimap
- queue, priority_queue
- stack , deque
- slist, bitset, valarray

Generic Programming Resources

- STL Reference Pages

  www.sgi.com/tech/stl/

More Generic Programming

- GTL : Graph Template Library
- BGL : Boost Graph Library
- MTL : Matrix Template Library
- ITL : Iterative Template Library