CSE 1325: Object-Oriented Programming

Lecture 21 / Chapters 20-21

Standard Template Library (STL) Containers and Iterators

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Based on material by Bjarne Stroustrup www.stroustrup.com/Programming

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Or by appointment



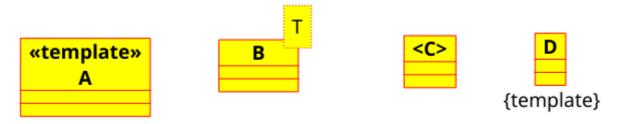
Overview: Containers and Iterators

- Containers
 - Sequence Containers
 - Container Adapters
 - Associative Containers
 - Unordered Associative Containers
- Iterators



Lecture 20 Quick Review

- Writing algorithms in terms of types that are specified as parameters during instantiation or invocation is called <u>Generic Programming</u>.
- A <u>template</u> is a C++ construct representing a function or class in terms of generic types.
- <u>True</u> or False: Both the declaration AND definition of a template class must be placed in the header file.
- The <u>Standard Template</u> <u>Library</u> provides a good variety of well-implemented, mostly non-numerical algorithms focused on organizing code and data as C++ templates.
- A template is represented in the UML as <u>B</u>.



Review Template Summary

- Template A C++ construct representing a function or class in terms of generic types
 - This enables the algorithm to be written independent of the types of data to which it applies
 - A type must be specified when the template class is instanced or the template function is called
 - Templates rely on "Duck Typing": The type must supply whatever methods are access by the template
- Potentially reusable algorithms that are suitable should generally be defined as templates

Review

Vector v0.4 – Now a Template

```
UML Template Class indicator
```

```
vector
template <class T>
                                                                        - sz : int
class vector {
                                                                        - elem: T*
                  // the size
   int sz:
                  // a pointer to the elements
   T* elem:
                                                                        + vector(s:int)
public:
                                                                        + ~vector()
   vector(int s) : sz(s), elem{new T[s]} { }
                                                                        + get(n : int) : T
   ~vector() {delete[] elem; }
   T get(int n) const { return elem[n]; } // access: read
                                                                        + set(n : int, v : 1)
   void set(int n, T v) { elem[n]=v; }
                                              // access: write
};
```

- To convert a class to a template:
 - Add template specifier before the class declaration
 - Replace the type with T

```
ricegf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201801/21$ make vector
g++ -std=c++14 vector.cpp -o vector
ricegf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201801/21$ ./vector
ricegf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201801/21$
```

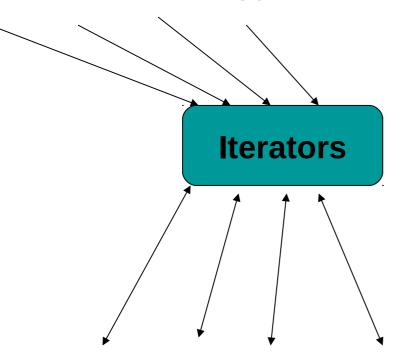
The Standard Template Library (STL)

- The STL provides many well-implemented, mostly nonnumerical algorithms focused on organizing code and data as C++ templates
 - search, count, for_each, copy, transform, fill, reverse, sort, merge
- The STL also provides many containers for managing data
 - vector, array, stack, queue, set / map (multi and unordered variants)
- Each container includes nested iterators to enable the algorithms to manipulate the containers
- The STL also provides many **functors** (a class with operator() defined, thus an instance of a functor can be called just like a function)

Review Basic STL Model

Algorithms

Sort, find, search, copy, ...



- Separation of concerns
 - Algorithms manipulate data, but don't know about containers
 - Containers store data, but don't know about algorithms
 - Algorithms and containers interact through iterators
 - Each container has its own iterator types

vector, list, map, unordered_map, ...

Containers

The STL also defines some **Functors**, but we'll ignore those...

STL Container Overview

- The STL contains the following containers of interest
 - Sequence Containers store data linearly
 - vector, array, list, forward_list, and deque (string is a non-STL sequence container)
 - Container Adapters are façades to Sequence Containers
 - stack, queue, and priority_queue
 - (Ordered) Associative Containers provide fast lookup via keys by maintaining the data in sort order
 - set, map, multiset, and multimap
 - Unordered Associative Containers are unsorted, and thus provide somewhat faster insertion but slower lookups via a hash
 - unordered_set, unordered_map, unordered_multiset, unordered_multimap
- Let's take a brief look at each

Sequence Containers vector and array

- Vector provides a resizable, flexible version of the C / C++ standard array
 - Very fast lookup (e.g., foo[42])
 - Relatively slow insert / delete except at end
- We already know vector fairly well
- Array is basically a fixed-size vector
 - All memory is allocated when instanced
 - While vector has 24 additional bytes of overhead beyond the data buffer, array has none
 - Array is very useful for memory-constrained systems and for embedded programming

Sequence Containers deque (double-ended queue)

- Deque provides a version of vector that supports fast additions at both ends of the underlying array
 - Very fast lookup (e.g., foo[42])
 - Relatively slow insert / delete except at the beginning or end
- Deques can push_back and pop_back like a vector, but also push_front and pop_front
- Supports operator[] just like vector (indexes always start at 0)

Sequence Containers list and forward_list

- Linked lists provide chains of data objects connected via one or more pointers
 - Relatively slow lookup (requires iterators, q.v.)
 - Very fast insert / delete anywhere
- Two types of lists are supported
 - List provides a double-linked list that can be navigated forward (++) or backward (-)
 - Forward_list provides a single-linked list that can be navigated forward (++) only, using slightly less memory with faster insertion / deletion compared to list
- Lists do NOT support operator[]

Sequence Containers String

- OK, this is NOT a "real" STL container, but it works very much like a vector of char
 - Relatively fast lookup (e.g., foo[42])
 - Very slow insert / delete
- Actually, string is just a typedef for basic_string<char>
 - Other string types are not uncommon, e.g., basic_string<wchar>
 - More on this next week

Sequence Adapters stack and queue



- Very fast single-ended push and pop only
- By default, stack is a façade for a deque
- Can be specified to wrap a **vector** or **list** instead,
 e.g., stack<int, std::vector<int>> lifo_of_ints;
- Queue provides a First-In, First-Out (FIFO) stack
 - Very fast opposite-ended push and pop only
 - By default, queue is a façade for a deque
 - Can be specified to wrap a **list** instead, e.g., stack<int, std::list<int>> fifo of ints;

http://www.cplusplus.com/reference/stack/stack/ http://www.cplusplus.com/reference/queue/queue/

Sequence Adapters



- Priority_queue provides a stack for which the highest priority item is always popped next
 - Fast push and constant time lookup for pop
 - By default, priority queue is a façade for a **vector**
 - Can be specified to wrap a **deque** instead, e.g., stack<int, std::list<int>> fifo of ints;
- As with sort, you may need to provide a comparator method for priority queue to use

Associative Containers set and map



- set is a collection of keys, sorted by keys
 - Essentially a vector of objects with duplicates automatically removed, and always sorted
- map is a collection of key-value pairs sorted by keys
 - Essentially a vector of objects with (almost) any type as the key, and always sorted
 - Elements are accessed like a vector, e.g., foo["bar"]
- As with sort and priority_queue, you may need to provide a comparator method for ordered containers
 - Associative Containers also allow non-default allocators, which we won't cover in this class

We'll discuss sets and maps in more detail next class!

Associative Containers multiset and multimap

- multiset and multimap are similar to set and map, but permit duplicate keys
 - For example, a multiset of chars would allow you to store every character in a document separately, then use the count method to determine how many
 - Access is a bit trickier foo["bar"] is ambiguous so iterators are needed (coming shortly)
- As with set and map, you may need to provide a comparator method for ordered containers
 - You may again provide a non-default allocator

Unordered Associative Containers Unordered *

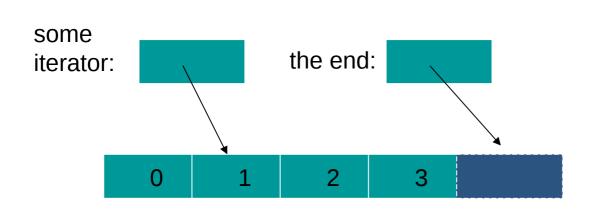
- Unordered_set, unordered_map, unordered_multiset, unordered_multimap, similar to the ordered versions
 - Because they are not sorted, insertions are slightly faster but lookups are slightly slower
 - I've never actually needed one of these
- As with set and map, you may need to provide a comparator method for ordered containers
 - Unordered Associative Containers also allow nondefault allocators and hashes, which we won't cover in this class

Iterators

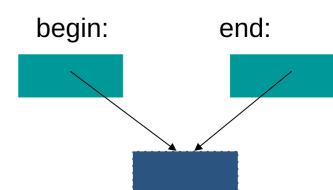
- Iterator: A pointer-like instance of a nested class used to access items managed by the outer class instance
 - An iterator can always be incremented via ++,
 dereferenced with *, and compared to other iterators
 - The outer class provides pre-instanced iterators using methods such as begin() and end()
- Two complementary nested iterator classes are typically provided by a container
 - Iterator allows the dereferenced item to be modified
 - const_iterator prevents modification to the dereferenced item

Algorithms and Iterators

- An iterator object points to (refers to, denotes) an element of a container, e.g., a sequence
- The end of the sequence is "one past the last element"
 - Not "the last element"
 - That's necessary to elegantly represent an empty sequence
 - One-past-the-last-element isn't an element
 - You can compare an iterator pointing to it
 - You can't dereference it (read its value)
- Returning the end of the sequence is the standard idiom for "not found" or "unsuccessful"



An empty sequence:



Iterating Through a Vector With and Without Iterators

```
ricegf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201801/21$ make iteration
                                            a++ -std=c++14
                                                            iteration.cpp
                                                                            -o iteration
                                            ricegf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201801/21$ ./iteration
#include <vector>
#include <iostream>
                                              2 3 4 5
using namespace std;
                                              2 3 4 5
int main() {
                                              2 3 4 5
  vector<int> v = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\};
                                            1 2 3 4 5
                                            ricegf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201801/21$
  // Old school - 3-term counted loop
  for(int i=0; i<v.size(); ++i) cout << v[i] << " ";
  // Verbose school (but more techically accurate) - 3-term counted loop
  for(vector<int>::size_type i=0; i<v.size(); ++i) cout << v[i] << " ";</pre>
  // Verbose school - 1-term for-each loop
                                                               The 1-term for-each loops
  for(vector<int>::value type i : v) cout << i << " ";</pre>
                                                               depend on iterators
  // Classic school - 1-term for-each loop with known type
  for(int& i: v) cout << i << " ";
  // Auto school - 1-term for-each loop where the compiler figures out the type
  for(auto& i : v) cout << i << " ";
  // Explicit school - iterator is a nested class inside vector that returns
  // a pointer to a vector item (or the address past the last item v.end())
  for(vector<int>::iterator p = v.begin(); p!=v.end(); ++p) cout << *p << " ";
```

Common Iterator Methods

- All iterators must provide:
 - copy constructor and destructor
 - operator=, operator++ and operator*
- Input iterators add:
 - operator== and operator!=
- Output iterators add:
 - Dereferencing as an Ivalue (e.g., *x = t)
- Forward iterators add:
 - Default constructor
- Bidirectional iterators add:
 - operator--
- Random access iterators add:

- Containers that support iterators usually provide (x is item, p is iterator):
- begin() returns p pointing to first item
- end() returns p pointing one past last item
- front(), back() first / last item
- size() number of elements
- empty() true if no elements
- push_back(x) / push_front(x) insert at end / begin
- insert(p, x) insert x immediately before p
- pop_back() / pop_front() delete at end / begin
- erase(p) remove item at p

These are <u>conventions</u> – the compiler doesn't care

operator+, operator-, operator< et al, operator+= and operator-=, operator[]

Writing Iterators for Custom Classes

- Writing an iterator from scratch is fairly complex
 - But we usually don't need to write from scratch
- Four common scenarios
 - Pointers A pointer is by definition a (non-class) iterator,
 so if one accesses your data, just return the pointer
 - Nested container (e.g., vector inside a wrapper class) –
 Just delegate to the nested container's iterator
 - Iterator++ (e.g., a range-checked array accessor) –
 This also relies on delegation to the extended iterator, but can be tricky to implement given compiler limitations
 - Written from scratch Hard, but rarely necessary

A Nested Container Example

- Let's produce an "order book" that lists orders for a sales associate in a store
 - The book will identify the sales associate's name, and also include a vector of orders
 - Iterating through the book should return the orders

Defining an Order Book: A Nested Container Example

In addition to the usual structure, we delegate 4 members to vector

That's all there is to it!

A Nested Container Example

- Our order book is now an enhanced vector (adding info on the sales associate) that still iterates
 - This is sometimes called "composite inheritance"

Curly ordered Zany Zeros Moe ordered Quick Quirks

ricegf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201801/21\$

Inheritance vs Composites

- Extending a class via composition often yields the same or similar benefits as inheritance
 - This has led to some debate: "Composition over Inheritance" vs "True Inheritance"
 - We can leave that to the theoreticians (until you become one) – use what works best per application
- With STL classes, you have no choice
 - Never inherit from an STL class use composition
 - You can violate this rule after years of experience –
 but by then you probably won't want to...

Class Constructors and Destructors

- C++ classes require (up to) 4 essential operations
 - Default and Non-default constructors (defaults to: nothing)
 - No default if any non-default constructors are declared
 - Copy constructor (defaults to: copy the member)
 - Needed if the class includes pointers or dynamic memory allocation
 - Copy assignment (defaults to: copy the members)
 - Used when an instance is to the left of the "=" operator
 - Destructor (defaults to: nothing)
 - Used to "clean up" e.g., dynamically allocated memory when an object is deleted (destroyed)

Default Constructor Only

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
// previous slide's code goes here
class Date {
  public:
    void set_date(int y, Month m, int d) {year=y; month=m; day=d;}
    void print_date() {cout << month_to_string(month) << " " <<</pre>
                          day << ", " << year << endl;}
  private:
    int year;
                     ricegf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201701/16$ c++ -std=c++11 enum_class_io_no_constructor.cpp
                     ricegf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201701/16$ ./a.out
    Month month;
                     Unknown 0, -1162798832
    int day;
                     December 30, 1950
};
                     riceqf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201701/16$
int main() {
    Date my birthday;
    my_birthday.print_date(); // Oops - we haven't provided any data yet!
    my birthday.set date(1950, Month::dec, 30); // OK
    my birthday.print date(); // Better
```

Review Non-Default Constructors

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
                                         Multiple constructors (with or without a default)
// previous slide's code goes here
                                         is fine and quite common
class Date {
  public:
    Date(int y, Month m, int d) : year{y}, month{m}, day{d} { }
    Date(): Date(1970, Month::jan, 1) { }
    void set_date(int y, Month m, int d) {year=y; month=m; day=d;}
    void print_date() {cout << month_to_string(month) << " " <<</pre>
                         day << ", " << year << endl;}
  private:
                    ricegf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201801/21$ make date
    int year;
                    a++ -std=c++14
                                     date.cpp
                                              -o date
    Month month;
                    ricegf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201801/21$ ./date
    int day;
                    January 1, 1970
};
                    December 30, 1950
                    ricegf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201801/21$
int main() {
    Date unix epoch; // or unix epoch{} - Default constructor
    unix epoch.print date();
    Date my birthday{1950, Month::dec, 30}; // Non-default constructor
    my birthday.print date();
```

Initialization vs Assignment

This is important for understanding copy constructors vs copy assignment

 Initialization causes a new object to have the same value as an existing object

```
Robot r1 = r2; // initializationRobot r1{r2}; // initialization - exactly the same
```

 Assignment causes an existing object to have the same value as an existing object

```
- Robot r1;
- r1 = r2; // assignment
```

These are two distinct operations in C++

Default Copy Constructors and Copy Assignment

ricegf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201801/21\$ make cc and cao2

```
g++ -std=c++14 cc and cao2.cpp -o cc and cao2
#include <iostream>
                                           ricegf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201801/21$ ./cc and cao2
                                           bar0 = 0
using namespace std;
                                           bar1 = 1
                                           bar2 = 1
class Foo {
                                           bar0 now = 1
    int _val;
                                           ricegf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201801/21$
  public:
    Foo(int val) : _val{val} {} // Non-default constructor
    Foo(): Foo(0) {} // Default constructor
    int val() {return val;}
};
int main() {
  Foo bar0; // Default constructor
  cout << "bar0 = " << bar0.val() << endl;
  Foo bar1{1}; // Non-default constructor
  cout << "bar1 = " << bar1.val() << endl;</pre>
  Foo bar2{bar1}; // Default copy constructor for initialization
  // Foo bar2 = bar1; // Exactly the same thing: bar2 has same values as bar1
  cout << "bar2 = " << bar2.val() << endl;</pre>
  bar0 = bar1;  // Default copy assignment for assignment
  cout << "bar0 now = " << bar0.val() << endl;</pre>
```

Copy Constructor

- For initialization, C++ actually invokes a special constructor – the copy constructor
 - If you have not specified one, you'll get the default –
 all of your variables will be copied directly across
- The copy constructor is thus invoked when:
 - You initialize a new object to an existing object
 - Foo bar2 = bar1; // Identical to Foo bar2{bar1};
 - You pass an object as a non-reference parameter
 - analyze(bar1); // A copy of bar1 is created for analyze
 - You return an object from a function
 - return bar1; // A copy of bar1 is created and returned

Declaring a Copy Constructor

- A copy constructor is just a constructor that accepts a const reference to the object to be copied
 - I know this isn't useful here we'll come back to when writing a copy constructor is useful shortly

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

class Foo {
   int _val;
public:
   Foo(int val) : _val{val} {} // Non-default constructor
   Foo() : Foo(0) {} // Default constructor
   Foo(const Foo &rhs) : _val{rhs.val()} {} // Copy constructor
   int val() {return _val;}
};
```

Copy Assignment

- For assignment, C++ invokes the assignment operator to overwrite the left-hand object's values
 - If you have not specified one, you'll get the default –
 all of your variables will be copied directly across
- The copy assignment is thus invoked when:
 - You assign to an existing object the value of another (or the same) existing object
 - bar2 = bar1; // bar2 was existing, so we *overwrite* it

Declaring a Copy Assignment

- A copy assignment is a definition of the = operator to handle copying members as needed
 - Not useful here, either almost there!

Destructors

- The destructor is invoked when the object itself is being deleted
 - Really useless here! Next slide, promise!

```
class Foo {
    int val;
  public:
    Foo(int val) : _val{val} {}
                                               // Non-default constructor
    Foo() : Foo(0) {}
                                              // Default constructor
    Foo(const Foo &rhs) : _val{rhs.val()} {}
                                              // Copy constructor
    Foo& operator=(const Foo &rhs) {
                                              // Copy assignment
      if (this != &rhs) val = rhs.val();
      return *this;
    ~Foo() {}
                                               // Destructor
    int val() const {return _val;}
};
```

Practical Use and the Rule of Three

- So when would copy constructors, copy assignment, and destructors actualy be useful?
 - Typically, when your class allocates memory from the heap, keeping a pointer to its address
 - To copy the object, you also need to "deep copy" the allocated heap memory to another heap memory area
 - To assign the object, you need to deallocate the existing heap memory before doing the "deep copy" to allocate the new heap memory
 - To delete the object, you also need to delete the heap memory

Rule of Three: If you define <u>one</u> of the above, you probably need to define <u>all three</u> of the above!

Rule of 3 Implementation of Foo

- Allocating and deallocating private variables
- Copy and assignment allocate new heap
 - Rather than pointing to the same heap!

```
class Foo {
    int* val;
  public:
    Foo(int* val) : _val{val} {}
                                                        // Non-default constructor
    Foo() : Foo(new int{0}) {}
                                                        // Default constructor
    Foo(const Foo &rhs) : _val{new int{*rhs.get()}} {} // Copy constructor
    Foo& operator=(const Foo &rhs) {
                                                        // Copy assignment
      if (this != &rhs) _val = new int{*rhs.get()};
      return *this;
    ~Foo() {delete _val;}
                                                        // Destructor
    int* get() const {return _val;}
                                                        // Getter
    void set(int* v) {* val = *v;}
                                                        // Setter
```

Testing the Rule of 3

 Unfortunately, the C++ standard provides no way to determine if a pointer has been deleted, so...

```
int main() {
    Foo foo1{new int{42}};
                                                        // Non-default constructor
    // Test non-default constructor
    if (*foo1.get() != 42) std::cerr << "foo1 set to 42 but is now "
                                      << *foo1.get() << std::endl;
    Foo foo2{foo1};
                                                        // Copy constructor
    Foo foo3;
                                                        // Default constructor
    // Test default constructor
    if (*foo3.get() != 0) std::cerr << "foo3 default constructor set value to "
                                      << *foo3.get() << std::endl;
    foo3 = foo1;
                                                        // Copy assignment operator
                                              ricegf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201801/21$ make cc and caol
    // This should NOT modify foo2 or foo3!
                                              a++ -std=c++14
                                                              cc and caol.cpp -o cc and caol
    int i = 17;
                                              ricegf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201801/21$ ./cc and cao1
    foo1.set(&i);
                                              ricegf@pluto:~/dev/cpp/201801/21$
    // Test copy constructor
    if (*foo2.get() != 42) std::cerr << "foo2 changed from 42 to "
                                      << *foo2.get() << std::endl;
    // Test copy assignment operator
    if (*foo3.get() != 42) std::cerr << "foo3 changed from 42 to "
                                      << *foo3.get() << std::endl;
```

Quick Review

- The four basic types of STL containers in C++ are
 - (a) Memory Managed Containers (b) Unmanaged Containers
 - (c) Sequence Containers (d) Sequence Adapters
 - (e) Associative Containers (f) Associative Adapters
 - (g) Unordered Associative Containers
- _____ are a façade for _____,
- A(n) ______ is a pointer-like instance of a nested class used to access items managed by the outer class instance/
- True or False: With iterators, the end of the sequence is "one past the last element", not "the last element"
- Two types of iterators are typically provided, _____ and ___
- Name some common iterator and container methods in the STL.
- True or False: It is a good practice to derive your classes from STL classes.
- What is a copy constructor? Copy assignment operator?
- Define the Rule of 3.

For Next Class

- (Optional) Read Chapters 20-21 in Stroustrop
 - Do the Drills!
- Skim Chapters 23-24 for next class
 - We'll discuss text manipulation (including regular expressions in more detail) and numerics
- Sprint #2 now in progress: Our first GUI!