

lecture5

Lecture 5: Containers

What: Containers

What more: STL vector set stack queue map

1. What the heck is the STL? What are templates?

🔗 [2025Fall-05-Containers..p.21](#)

| STL: Standard Template Library

- All STL containers are templates!
 - STL include: Containers, Iterators, Functions, Algorithms.
-

2. Sequence Containers

| Store a linear sequence of elements.

🔗 [2025Fall-05-Containers..p.35](#)

| Sequence containers store a linear sequence of elements

2.1 Vector

- Initialization:

- `std::vector<int> v`
- `std::vector<int> v(n)`
- `std::vector<int> v(n, k)`

- Functions:

- `v.push_back() / v.clear()`

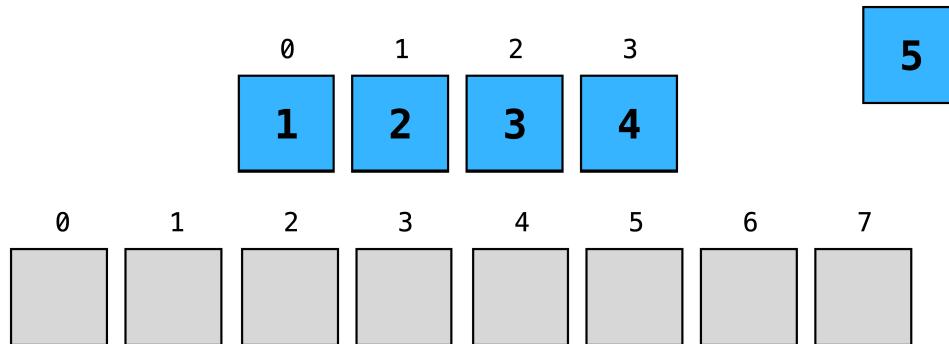
- `if(v.empty())` --> if v is empty
- `v[i]` and `v.at(i)`: 区别在于 **Bounds checking** (边界检查)。`at()` 会报错 runtime error, 但 `operator[]` 只有 undefined behavior。

Stanford vs. STL vector

What you want to do?	Stanford Vector<int>	<code>std::vector<int></code>
Create an empty vector	<code>Vector<int> v;</code>	<code>std::vector<int> v;</code>
Create a vector with <code>n</code> copies of <code>0</code>	<code>Vector<int> v(n);</code>	<code>std::vector<int> v(n);</code>
Create a vector with <code>n</code> copies of value <code>k</code>	<code>Vector<int> v(n, k);</code>	<code>std::vector<int> v(n, k);</code>
Add <code>k</code> to the end of the vector	<code>v.add(k);</code>	<code>v.push_back(k);</code>
Clear vector	<code>v.clear();</code>	<code>v.clear();</code>
Check if <code>v</code> is empty	<code>if (v.isEmpty())</code>	<code>if (v.empty())</code>
Get the element at index <code>i</code>	<code>int v = v.get(i); int k = v[i];</code>	<code>int k = v.at(i); int k = v[i];</code>
Replace the element at index <code>i</code>	<code>v.get(i) = k; v[i] = k;</code>	<code>v.at(i) = k; v[i] = k;</code>

- Implementation 建议:

How is vector implemented?



size = 4, capacity = 8

C++

```
for(auto elem : vec){
    cout << elem << " ";
}
```

- 优化: 如果是只读元素且数据类型占有内存很大:

```
for(const auto & elem : v)
```

这种写法不复制原数据，仅仅只读。

Tip: Use `const auto&` when possible

```
std::vector<MassiveType> vec { ... };
for (auto elem : vec) ...
```



```
for (const auto& elem : v)
```

- Applies for all iterable containers, not just `std::vector`
- Saves making a potentially expensive copy of each element
- 局限性: 滑动窗口。让 `vector` 前面插入一个，后面删除一个，无法做到。

`std::vector` is not the best for all cases...

- Suppose we need to observe the last 10,000 prices of a stock
- What might be concerning about the code below?

```
void receivePrice(vector<double>& prices, double price)
{
    prices.push_front(price);
    if (prices.size() > 10000)
        prices.pop_back(); // Remove last price
                            // so we don't exceed 10k
}
```

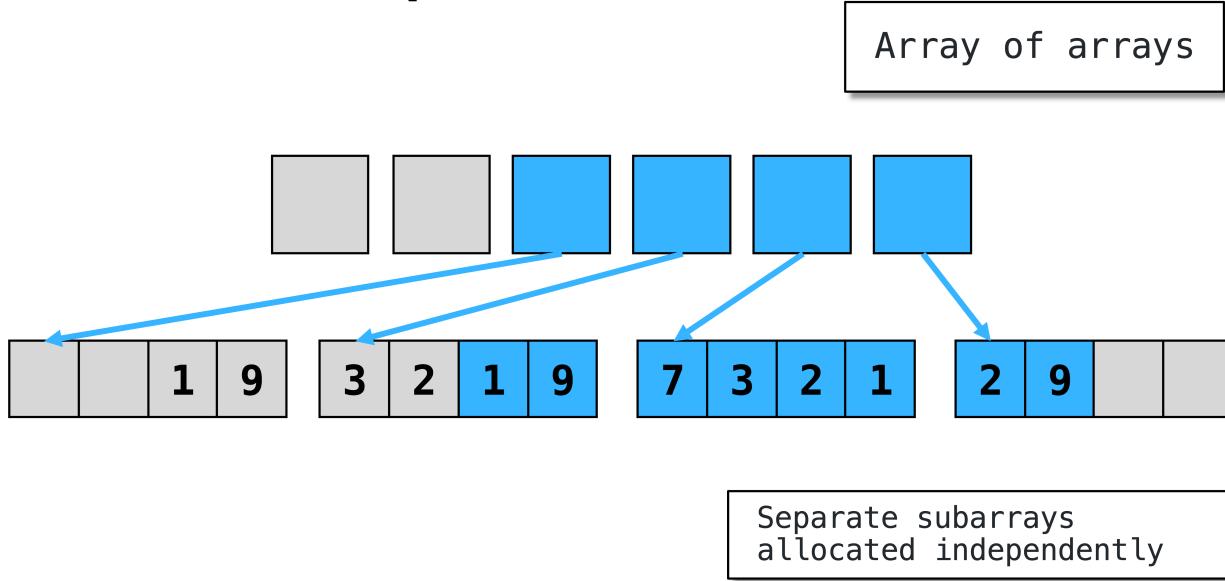
2.2 Deque

🔗 [2025Fall-05-Containers,.p.53](#)

A deque has the same interface as vector, except we can `push_front / pop_front`

- **特点:** 相比 vector, deque 可以前插可以后面删除。
- **Performance:** Efficient insertion/removal.
- **Implementation:** 分成小数组思想。前后各自留有位置，便于前后插入数据。

How is deque implemented?



3. Associative Containers

🔗 [2025Fall-05-Containers,_p.58](#)

Associative containers organize elements by unique keys

3.1 Map

- **Functions:**
 - `m.insert{{k, v}}` / `m[k] = v` / `m.erase(k)`
 - `if(m.count(k))` or `if(m.contains(k))`
 - `int i = m[k]` --> **retrieve/overwrite**

Stanford vs. STL map

What you want to do?	Stanford Map<char, int>	std::map<char, int>
Create an empty map	Map<char, int> m;	std::map<char, int> m;
Add key k with value v into the map (* C++20)	m.put(k, v); m[k] = v;	m.insert({k, v}); m[k] = v;
Remove key k from the map	m.remove(k);	m.erase(k);
Check if k is in the map (* C++20)	if (m.containsKey(k))	if (m.count(k)) if (m.contains(k)) (*)
Check if the map is empty	if (m.isEmpty())	if (m.empty())
Retrieve or overwrite value associated with key k (auto-insert default if doesn't exist)	int i = m[k]; m[k] = i;	int i = m[k]; m[k] = i;

- **Nature:** Map 由 pair 组成 (Map as a collection of pair)。

map as a collection of pair

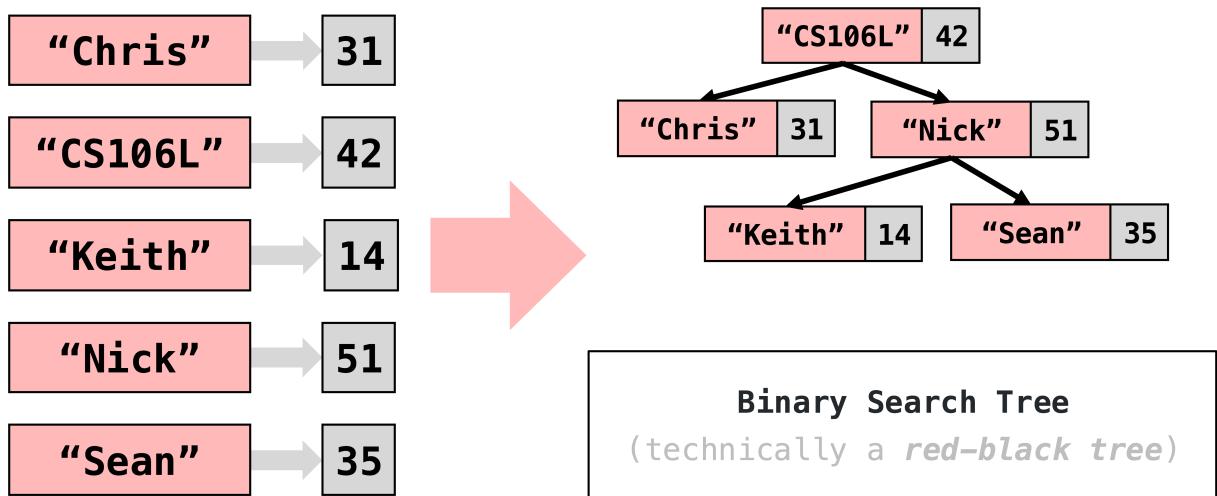
We can iterate through the key-value pairs using a range based for loop

```
std::map<std::string, int> map;

for (auto kv : map) {
    // kv is a std::pair<const std::string, int>
    std::string key = kv.first;
    int value = kv.second;
}
```

- **Implementation:** 红黑树 (一种二叉搜索树)。

How is map implemented?



- 注意: `map<K, V>` 的 K 必须支持 “`<`” 操作符 (就是可以比较大小)。

3.2 Set

- Functions:** `s.insert(k)`, `s.erase(k)`, `s.count(k)`, `s.empty()`.

Stanford vs. STL set

What you want to do?	Stanford Set<char>	<code>std::set<char></code>
Create an empty set	<code>Set<char> s;</code>	<code>std::set<char> s;</code>
Add k to the set	<code>s.add(k);</code>	<code>s.insert(k);</code>
Remove k from the set	<code>s.remove(k);</code>	<code>s.erase(k);</code>
Check if k is in the set (* C++20)	<code>if (s.contains(k))</code>	<code>if (s.count(k))</code> <code>if (s.contains(k)) (*)</code>
Check if the set is empty	<code>if (s.isEmpty())</code>	<code>if (s.empty())</code>

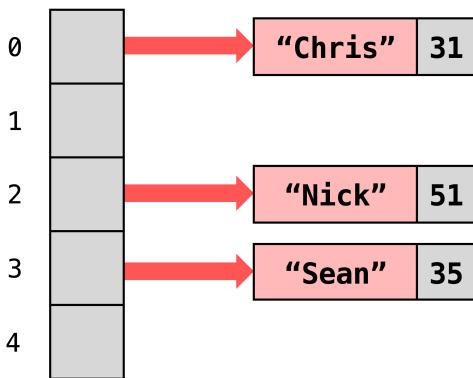
- Implementation:** 同 map, 基于红黑树。

4. Unordered_map / set

- 特点:** 经过优化的 (Optimized)。
- Implementation:** Hash table (哈希表)。

How is `unordered_map` implemented?

- Remember, `map` is a collection of `std::pair`
- `unordered_map` stores a collection of n "buckets" of pairs

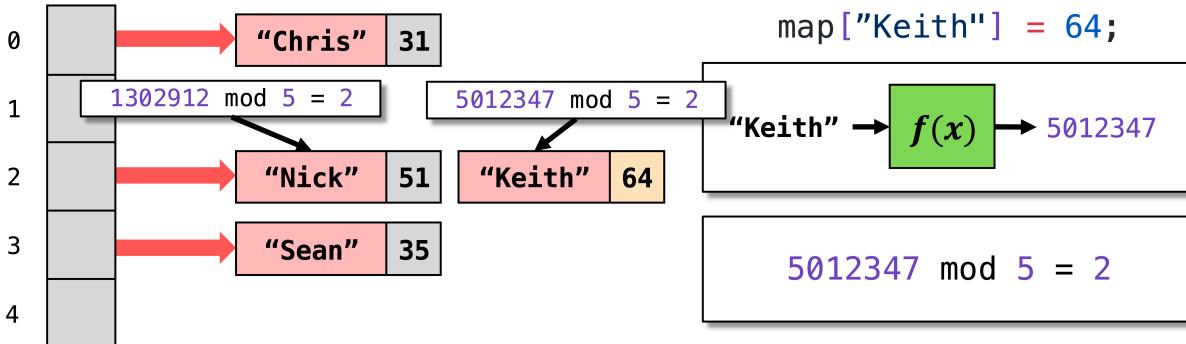


```
std::unordered_map<std::string, int> map {  
    { "Chris", 31 },  
    { "Nick", 51 },  
    { "Sean", 35 },  
};
```

- 步骤：
 - 先对 key 做 hash 函数变化 -> 。
 - 取，决定放在哪个桶 (Bucket)。
 - 若多个 key 分到一个桶，共存一个桶 (Hash collision)。

How is `unordered_map` implemented?

- If two keys hash to the same bucket, we get a **hash collision**
- During lookup, we loop through bucket and check key equality
 - Two keys with the same hash are not necessarily equal!



- Hash Function 要求：
 - 打乱，随机。
 - 雪崩效应：Small changes produce large changes.
 - `std::unordered_map<K, V>` requires K to have a hash function (and equality).

4.1 Load Factor (负载因子)

- Definition: (Average number items per bucket).

- **Optimization:** `unordered_map` allows super fast lookup by keeping load factor small.
- **Possion 分布:** 默认 load factor = 1 时，桶内元素个数：
 - 0 个: 36.8%
 - 1 个: 36.8%
 - 2 个: 18.4%
- **Rehash:** If load factor gets too large (above 1.0 by default), we **rehash**. 你可以手动调整这个 `max_load_factor`。

Fun C++ Trivia: `max_load_factor`

You can control the max load factor before rehashing

```
std::unordered_map<std::string, int> map;

double lf = map.load_factor(); // Get current load factor
map.max_load_factor(2.0); // Set the max load factor

// Now the map will not rehash until load factor exceeds 2.0
// You should almost never need to do this,
// but it's a fun fact (good for parties!)
```

5. Summary & When to use

- **A good hash function:** 均匀分布、雪崩效应、确定性、高效计算。
- **Selection:** `unordered_map` 比 `map` 更快 (一个，一个)，但花大内存。若 `key_type` 不用比较大小，可以用。
- **补充:** `multiset` 和 `multimap` 可以包含可重复元素和键值对。

Summary of Data Structures

	i th element	Search	Insertion	Erase
std::vector	Very Fast	Slow	Slow	Slow
std::deque	Fast	Slow	Fast (front/back) Slow (all others)	Fast (front/back) Slow (all others)
std::set	Slow	Fast	Fast	Fast
std::map	Slow	Fast	Fast	Fast
std::unordered_set	N/A	Very Fast	Very Fast	Very Fast
std::unordered_map	N/A	Very Fast	Very Fast	Very Fast

Recap

- What the heck is the STL? What are templates?
 - "The Standard Template Library"
- Sequence Containers
 - A linear sequence of elements
 - `std::vector`, `std::deque`
- Associative Containers
 - A set of elements organized by unique keys
 - `std::map`, `std::set`, `std::unordered_map`, `std::unordered_set`