

A ***generic algorithm*** is an algorithm that is not part of any particular kind of container, but instead takes a cue from its arguments' types about how to access the data it uses. The standard library's generic algorithms usually take iterators among their arguments, which they use to manipulate the elements of the underlying containers.

Iterator adaptors are functions that yield iterators with properties that are related to their arguments in useful ways. They are defined in `< iterator >` and the most common one is `back_inserter`, which takes a container as its argument and yields an iterator that, when used as a destination, appends values to the container.

The ***decrement operator*** works like the increment operator, but it decrements its operand instead. It comes in prefix and postfix versions. The prefix version decrements its operand and returns the new value.