



VECTORS

CS A150 - C++ Programming 1

VECTORS

- A **vector** is a collection of data items of the same type.
- A list of items that “grows and shrinks”.
- Formed from the **Standard Template Library (STL)**.
 - Using a **template class** → can have different types (int, double, etc.).

VECTOR BASICS

- A vector has a *base type*.
- Syntax:

`vector < Base_Type >`

- Indicates a **template class**
- Any type can be "plugged in" to *Base_Type*
- Example declaration:

`vector<int> v;`

- `v` is a vector of type `int`

DECLARATION

- Each element can be **accessed** *separately*.
- Here we define a **vector** of salaries

```
vector<double> salaries;
```

- Type of the **vector** is a **double**
- The variable **salaries** stores a *sequence* of **doubles**.

ASSIGNING VALUES

- The **first time** you **insert** values in a **vector** you need to use the function **push_back**

```
v.push_back(32);
```

- If you need to modify or output the value assigned, you can use the **[]** operator

```
salaries[4] = 35000;
```

- The **first** index is **0**.
- **Index 4** is the **fifth** index in the vector.

SYNTAX

```
#include <vector>
```

```
...
```

```
vector<int> v;           //declaration
```

```
v.push_back(32);        //initialization
```

```
v.push_back(25);
```

```
cout << v[0] << endl;    //can use to read or change,  
                          //      but NOT to initialize
```

```
cout << "Size: " << v.size() << endl;
```

USING THE **size** FUNCTION

- The function **size** returns an unsigned integer that stores the size of the vector.
- **Efficiency tip:** If you need to call the function more than once use a **variable** to store the size.

```
unsigned int numOfElements = v.size();
```

```
for (unsigned int i = 0; i < numOfElements ; ++i)  
    cout << v[i] << " ";
```

USING THE `const` MODIFIER

- When passing **vectors** as **parameters** you should
 - Pass by *reference* (&)
 - Use the `const` modifier,
if the function does *not* change the vector.

EXAMPLE

- File: vectors_1

DELETING DATA FROM THE VECTOR

- Having a **vector v** of **integers** that contains the following items:

16, 25, 39, 48, 51, 64, 79

- To remove 39 → index **2**:

```
v.erase(v.begin() + 2);
```

- The vector will *shrink*:

16, 25, 48, 51, 64, 79

DELETING DATA FROM THE VECTOR(CONT.)

○ `erase()`

- Removes a single element or a range of elements from the vector.
- **Example 1:** Deleting element at index 3

```
v.erase(v.begin() + 3);
```

- **Example 2:** Deleting elements from index 2 (**included**) to index 5 (**not included**)

```
v.erase(v.begin() + 2, v.begin() + 5);
```

OTHER USEFUL FUNCTIONS (CONT.)

- **insert()**

- Inserts an element *before* the element at position

- **Example:** Given a vector that contains 1 2 3 4 5,
insert 999 at index 3.

```
v.insert(v.begin( ) + 3, 999);
```

- Will result in → 1 2 3 999 4 5

OTHER USEFUL FUNCTIONS (CONT.)

○ `clear()`

- Removes all elements from the vector and resets its size to 0
- **Parameters:** none
- **Return value:** none

○ `empty()`

- Returns whether the vector is empty (size 0)
- **Parameters:** none
- **Return value:** **true** if the vector is empty; **false** otherwise

- Check cplusplus.com for more functions

EXAMPLE

- File: vectors_2

SIZE, CAPACITY, AND MAX SIZE

- At any point in time a vector has a **capacity**, which corresponds to how much memory is allocated to contain elements.
- The **size** denotes the number of elements that have been inserted in the vector.
- The **max_size** is the number of elements that the vector can hold.

EFFICIENCY ISSUES

- **Vectors** grow *automatically*; that is, by default their capacity is **doubled** as needed.
- If **efficiency** is an issue, you should *explicitly* increase the capacity of the vector.

```
//to set the capacity to at least 32 elements  
v.reserve(32);
```

```
//to set the capacity to at least 10 more  
//elements than the number of elements  
//currently in the vector  
v.reserve(v.size() + 10);
```


RESIZING A VECTOR

- You can change the **size** of a vector by using the function **resize()**:

```
v.resize(24);
```

- If the **initial size** of the vector is
 - **greater** than 24, then all but the first 24 elements are lost.
 - **smaller** than 24, then the **additional** elements will be **zeros** by default, OR
 - Can set an element to be inserted, for example **100**:

```
v.resize(24,100);
```

Note: Only the **new** elements will be 100.

EXAMPLE

- File: vectors_3

