COMPARISON CLASSES AND GENERIC POINTERS

Problem Solving with Computers-II

From last class….

```
int main(){
    int arr[]={10, 2, 80};
    priority_queue<int> pq;
    for(int i=0; i < 3; i++)
        pq.push(arr[i]);

    while(!pq.empty()){
        cout<<pq.top()<<endl;
        pq.pop();
    }
    return 0;
}
```

What is the output of this code?
  A. 10 2 80
  B. 2 10 80
  C. 80 10 2
  D. 80 2 10
  E. None of the above

Comparison class

- A class used to perform comparisons.
- Implements a function operator that compares two keys

```
class cmp{
        bool operator()(int& a, int& b) const {
                return a > b;
        }
};

//Use cmp to compare any two keys
Cmp foo;
cout<<foo(x, y);
```

Configure PQ with a comparison class

```
class cmp{
    bool operator()(int& a, int& b) const {
        return a > b;
    }
};
int main(){
    int arr[]={10, 2, 80};
    priority_queue<int, vector<int>, cmp> pq;
    for(int i=0; i < 3; i++)
        pq.push(arr[i]);

    while(!pq.empty()){
        cout<<pq.top()<<endl;
        pq.pop();
    }
    return 0;
}
```

What is the output of this code?

A. 10 2 80
B. 2 10 80
C. 80 10 2
D. 80 2 10
E. None of the above

std::priority_queue template arguments

The template for priority_queue takes 3 arguments:

```
template <
     class T,
     class Container= vector<T>,
     class Compare = less <T>
     > class priority_queue;
```

- The first is the type of the elements contained in the queue.

- If it is the only template argument used, the remaining 2 get their default values:
  - a **vector<T>** is used as the internal store for the queue,
  - **less is a comparison** class that provides priority comparisons

CHANGING GEARS: C++STL

- The C++ Standard Template Library is a very handy set of three built-in components:

  - Containers: Data structures
  - Iterators: Standard way to search containers
  - Algorithms: These are what we ultimately use to solve problems
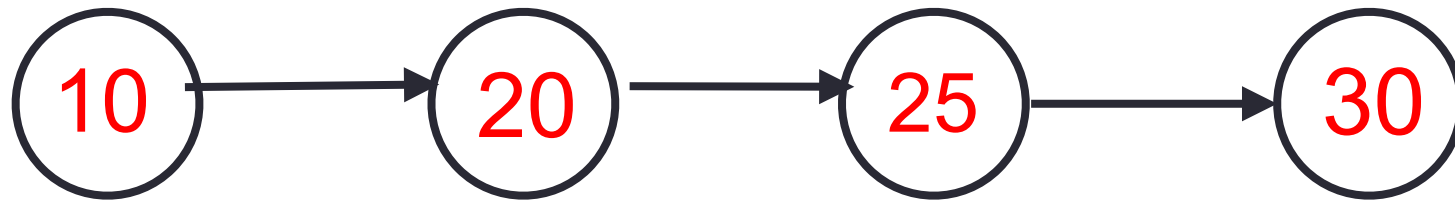
C++ Iterators

- Iterators are generalized pointers.
- Let's consider how we generally use pointers to parse an array

10	20	25	30	46	50	55	60

```cpp
void printElements(int arr[], int size) {
    int* p= arr;
    for(int i=0; i<size; i++) {
        std::cout << *p << std::endl;
        ++p;
    }
}
```

- We would like our print "algorithm" to also work with other data structures
- E,g Linked list or BST

Can a similar pattern work with a LinkedList? Why or Why not?



```
void printElements(LinkedList& ll, int size) {
    _____//How should we define p?
    for(int i=0; i<size; i++) {
        std::cout << *p << std::endl;
        ++p;
    }
}
```

C++ Iterators

- To solve this problem the LinkedList class has to supply to the client (printElements) with a generic pointer (an iterator object) which can be used by the client to access data in the container sequentially, without exposing the underlying details of the class
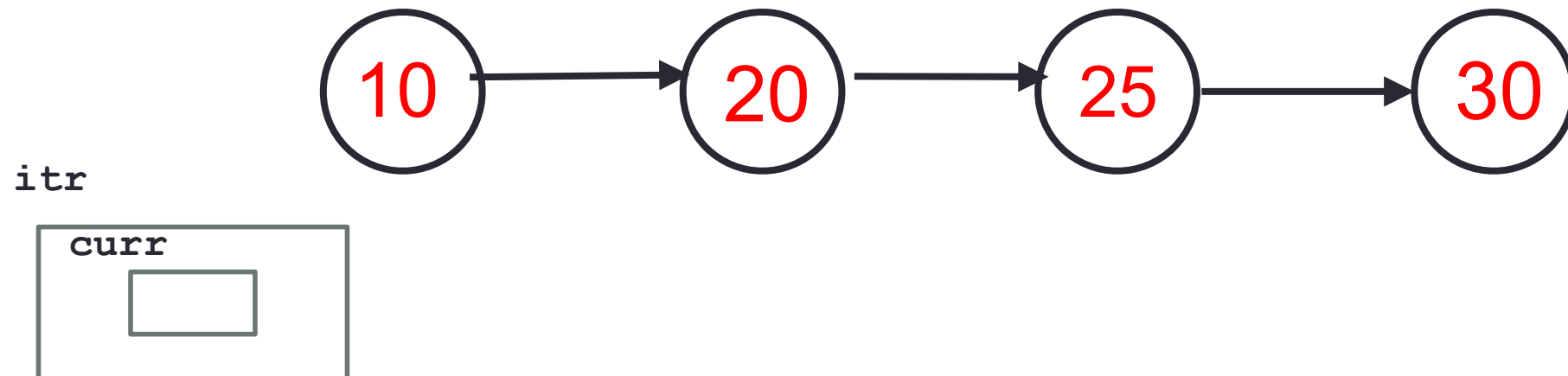
`itr`
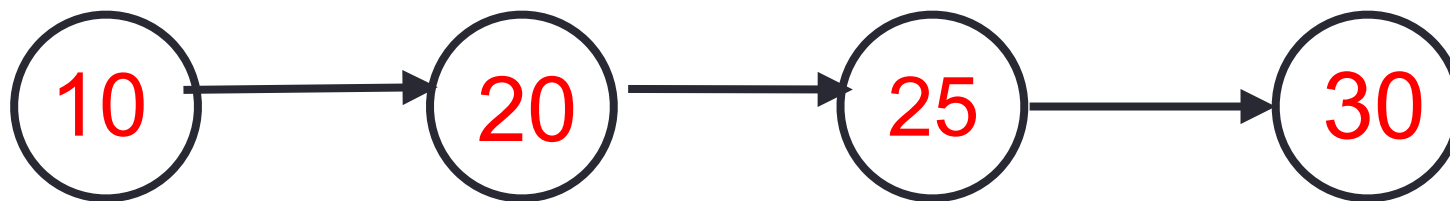
`curr`

10 → 20 → 25 → 30

```
void printElements(LinkedList& ll)  {
   LinkedList::iterator itr = ll.begin();
   LinkedList::iterator en = ll.end();
   while(itr!=en){
        std::cout << *itr <<" ";
        ++itr;
   }
   cout<<endl;
}
```

C++ Iterators: Initializing the iterator

```
void printElements(LinkedList& ll)  {
    LinkedList::iterator itr = ll.begin();
    LinkedList::iterator en = ll.end();
    while(itr!=en){
        std::cout << *itr <<" ";
        ++itr;
    }
    cout<<endl;
}
```

What is the return value of **begin()** ?
A. The address of the first node in the linked list container class
B. An iterator type object that contains the address of the first node
C. None of the above

itr

curr

C++ Iterators: Overloading operators

```cpp
void printElements(LinkedList& ll)  {
   LinkedList::iterator itr = ll.begin();
   LinkedList::iterator en = ll.end();
   while(itr!=en){
        std::cout << *itr <<" ";
        ++itr;
   }
   cout<<endl;
}
```

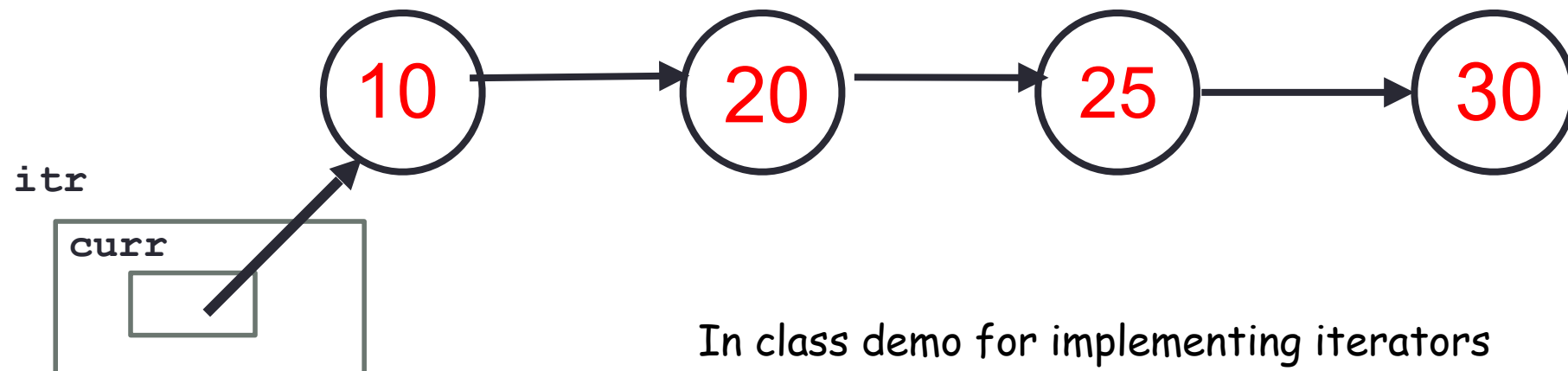List the operators that must be overloaded for iterator objects?
A. *
B. ++
C. !=
D. All of the above
E. None of the above
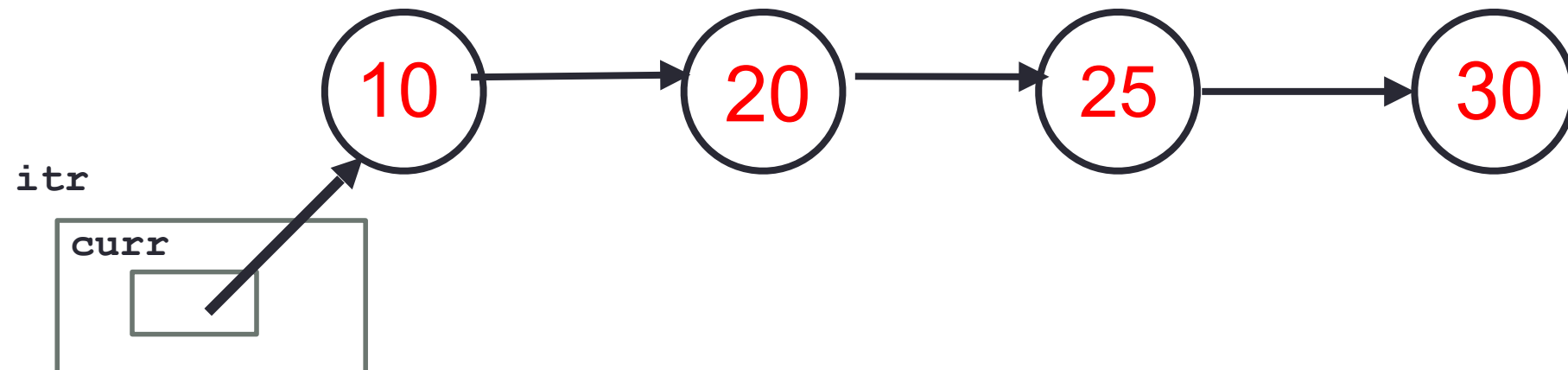
C++ Iterators

```
void printElements(LinkedList& ll) {
   LinkedList::iterator itr = ll.begin();
   LinkedList::iterator en = ll.end();
   while(itr!=en){
       std::cout << *itr <<" ";
       ++itr;
   }
   cout<<endl;
}
```
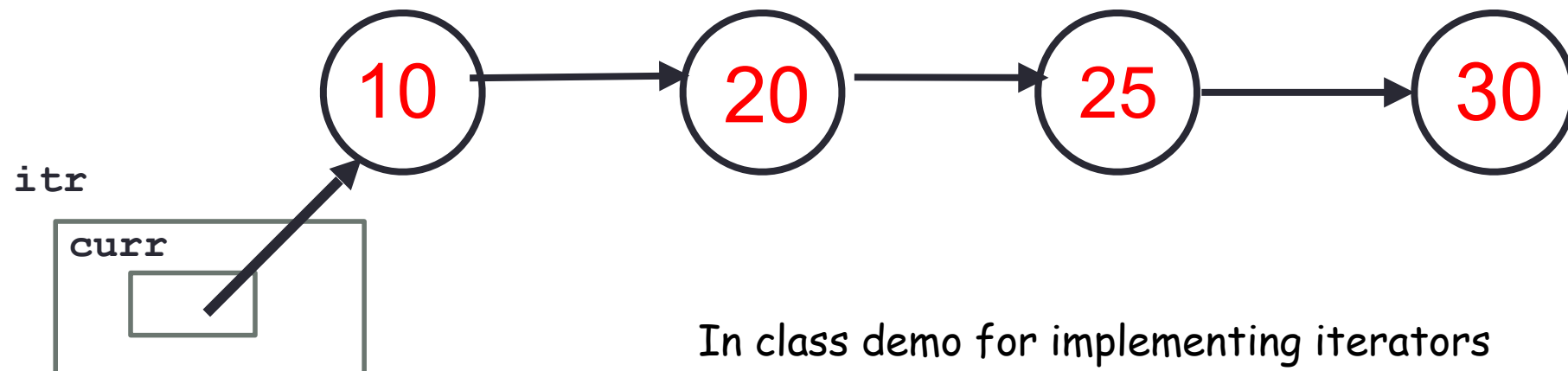
How should the diagram change
as a result of the statement ++itr; ?

itr

curr

In class demo for implementing iterators

C++ shorthand: auto
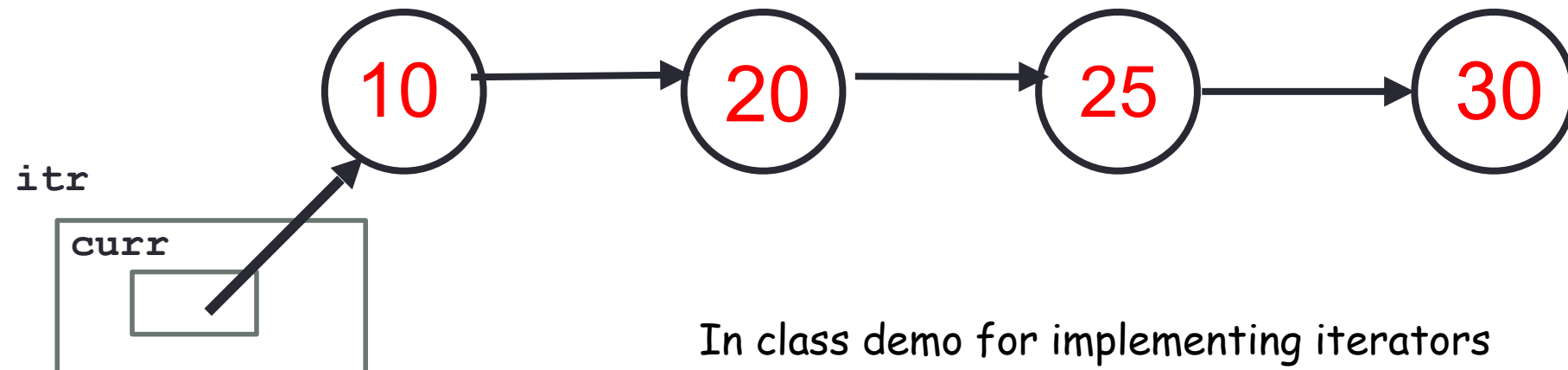
```
void printElements(LinkedList& ll) {
    auto itr = ll.begin();
    auto en = ll.end();
    while(itr!=en){
        std::cout << *itr <<" ";
        ++itr;
    }
    cout<<endl;
}
```


In class demo for implementing iterators

Finally: unveiling the range based for-loop

```
void printElements(LinkedList& ll)  {
  for(auto item:ll){
       std::cout << item <<" ";
  }
  cout<<endl;
}
```


In class demo for implementing iterators

Practice functors and PQs:

```
int main(){
    int arr[]={10, 2, 80};
    priority_queue<int*> pq;
    for(int i=0; i < 3; i++)
        pq.push(arr+i);

    while(!pq.empty()){
        cout<<*pq.top()<<endl;
        pq.pop();
    }
    return 0;
}
```

What is the output of this code?

A. 10 2 80
B. 2 10 80
C. 80 10 2
D. 80 2 10
E. None of the above

Sort array elements using a pq storing pointers

```cpp
int main(){
    int arr[]={10, 2, 80};
    priority_queue<int*> pq;
    for(int i=0; i < 3; i++)
        pq.push(arr+i);

    while(!pq.empty()){
        cout<<*pq.top()<<endl;
        pq.pop();
    }
    return 0;
}
```

How can we change the way pq prioritizes pointers?

Write a comparison class to print the integers in the array in sorted order

```cpp
int main(){
    int arr[]={10, 2, 80};
    priority_queue<int*, vector<int*>, cmpPtr> pq;
    for(int i=0; i < 3; i++)
        pq.push(arr+i);

    while(!pq.empty()){
        cout<<*pq.top()<<endl;
        pq.pop();
    }
    return 0;
}
```