

C++ STL (part 1 of 2)

CSE 333 Spring 2023

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Poll Everywhere

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Which concept has given you the most difficulty so far in the context of Homework 2?

- A. **The data structures**
- B. **C-string manipulations**
- C. **POSIX I/O**
- D. **Dynamic memory allocation**
- E. **GDB**
- F. **Style considerations**
- G. **Prefer not to say**

Relevant Course Information

- ❖ Exercise 7 due Monday
- ❖ Homework 2 was due last night
 - Don't forget to clone your repo to double-/triple-/quadruple-check compilation!
 - Use late days if you can't finish & polish your submission! They exist for a reason
- ❖ Homework 3 will be released by Monday, due in **3 weeks**
- ❖ Midterm: May 4 – May 6 (1pm)
 - Take home (Gradescope) and open notes
 - Individual, but high-level discussion allowed (“Gilligan’s Island Rule”)
 - No lecture next Friday (May 5)

C++'s Standard Library

- ❖ C++'s Standard Library consists of four major pieces:
 - 1) The entire C standard library
 - 2) C++'s input/output stream library
 - `std::cin`, `std::cout`, `stringstreams`, `fstreams`, etc.
 - 3) C++'s standard template library (STL) 
 - Containers, iterators, algorithms (sort, find, etc.), numerics
 - 4) C++'s miscellaneous library
 - Strings, exceptions, memory allocation, localization

STL Containers 😊

- ❖ A **container** is an object that stores (in memory) a collection of other objects (elements)
 - Implemented as class templates, so hugely flexible
 - More info in *C++ Primer* §9.2, 11.2
- ❖ Several different classes of container
 - Sequence containers (`vector`, `deque`, `list`, ...)
 - Associative containers (`set`, `map`, `multiset`, `multimap`, `bitset`, ...)
 - Differ in algorithmic cost and supported operations

STL Containers ☹️

- ❖ STL containers store by *value*, not by *reference*
 - When you insert an object, the container makes a *copy*
 - If the container needs to rearrange objects, it makes copies
 - *e.g.*, if you sort a `vector`, it will make many, many copies
 - *e.g.*, if you insert into a `map`, that may trigger several copies
 - What if you don't want this (disabled copy constructor or copying is expensive)?
 - You can insert a wrapper object with a pointer to the object
 - We'll learn about these “smart pointers” soon

Our Tracer Class

- ❖ Wrapper class for an `unsigned int value_`
 - Also holds unique `unsigned int id_` (increasing from 0)
 - Default ctor, cctor, dtor, `op=`, `op<` defined
 - `friend` function `operator<<` defined
 - Private helper method `PrintID()` to return `"(id_, value_)"` as a string
 - Class and member definitions can be found in `Tracer.h` and `Tracer.cc`
- ❖ Useful for tracing behaviors of containers
 - All methods print identifying messages
 - Unique `id_` allows you to follow individual instances

STL `vector`

- ❖ A generic, dynamically resizable array
 - <https://cplusplus.com/reference/vector/vector/>
 - Elements are store in *contiguous* memory locations
 - Elements can be accessed using pointer arithmetic if you'd like
 - Random access is $O(1)$ time
 - Adding/removing from the end is cheap (amortized constant time)
 - Inserting/deleting from the middle or start is expensive (linear time)

vector/Tracer Example

vectorfun.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
#include "Tracer.h"

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    Tracer a, b, c;
    vector<Tracer> vec;

    cout << "vec.push_back " << a << endl;
    vec.push_back(a);
    cout << "vec.push_back " << b << endl;
    vec.push_back(b);
    cout << "vec.push_back " << c << endl;
    vec.push_back(c);

    cout << "vec[0]" << endl << vec[0] << endl;
    cout << "vec[2]" << endl << vec[2] << endl;

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Why All the Copying?