

## 9. Standard library containers. Class idioms.

Sven Gestegård Robertz  
Computer Science, LTH

2019



## Outline

## 1 The standard library

- Sequences
- Insertion
- Container adapters
- Sets and maps
- tuples and std::tie()

## 2 Classes, copy and move

## 3 Multiple inheritance

## Standard containers

## Sequences (homogeneous)

- ▶ vector<T>
- ▶ deque<T>
- ▶ list<T>

Associative containers (also *unordered*)

- ▶ map<K,V>, multimap<K,V>
- ▶ set<T>, multiset<T>

## Heterogeneous sequences (not “containers”)

- ▶ tuple<T1, T2, ...>
- ▶ pair<T1,T2>

## The classes vector and deque

## Operations in the class vector

```
v.clear(), v.size(), v.empty()
v.push_back(), v.pop_back(), v.emplace_back()
v.front(), v.back(), v.at(i), v[i]
v.assign(), v.insert(), v.emplace()
v.resize(), v.reserve()
```

## Additional operations in deque

```
d.push_front(), d.pop_front(), d.emplace_front()
```

The classes vector and deque  
Constructors and the function assign

Constructors and assign have three overloads:

- ▶ **fill**: n elements with the same value
 

```
void assign (size_type n, const value_type& val);
```
- ▶ **initializer list**

```
void assign (initializer_list<value_type> il);
```
- ▶ **range**: copies the elements in the interval [first, last) (i.e., from first to last, excl. last)
 

```
template <class InputIterator>
void assign (InputIterator first, InputIterator last);
```

Use () for constructor arguments, and {} for list of elements.

The classes vector and deque  
The member function assign, example

```
vector<int> v;
int a[]{0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9};

v.assign(3,3);
print_seq(v);           length = 3: [3][3][3]

v.assign({3,3});
print_seq(v);           length = 2: [3][3]

v.assign(a, a+5);
print_seq(v);           length = 5: [0][1][2][3][4]

// constructor example:
std::deque<int> d(v.begin(), v.end());
print_seq(d);           length = 5: [0][1][2][3][4]
```

*Examples of iterators*

## The classes vector and deque

### Member functions push and pop

- push adds an element, increasing size
- pop removes an element, decreasing size
- front, back get a reference to the first (last) element

\*\_back operates at the end, available in both

```
void push_back (const value_type& val);    //copy
void pop_back();
reference front();
reference back();
```

only in deque: \*\_front

```
void push_front (const value_type& val);    //copy
void pop_front();
```

## pop\_X(), front() and back()

NB! The return type of pop\_back() is **void**.

```
auto val = v.back();
v.pop_back();
```

Why separate functions?

- Don't pay for what you don't need.
  - A non-void pop() has to return by value (copy).
  - front()/back() can return a reference.
  - Let the caller decide if it wants a copy.

## Container and resource management

- Containers have value semantics
- Elements are copied into the container

## The classes vector and deque

### Insertion with insert and emplace

#### insert: copying

```
iterator insert (const_iterator pos, const value_type& val);
iterator insert (const_iterator pos, size_type n,
                 const value_type& val);
template <class InputIterator>
iterator insert (const_iterator pos, InputIterator first,
                 InputIterator last);
iterator insert (const_iterator pos,
                 initializer_list<value_type> il);
```

#### emplace: construction "in-place"

```
template <class... Args>
iterator emplace (const_iterator position, Args&&... args);

template <class... Args>
void emplace_back (Args&&... args);
```

## The classes vector and deque

### Example with insert and emplace

```
struct Foo {
    int x;
    int y;
    Foo(int a=0,int b=0) :x{a},y{b} {cout<<*this <<"\n";}
    Foo(const Foo& f) :x{f.x},y{f.y} {cout<<"**Copying Foo\n";}
};

std::ostream& operator<<(std::ostream& os, const Foo& f)
{
    return os << "Foo(" << f.x << ", "<< f.y << ")";
}

vector<Foo> v;
v.reserve(4);
v.insert(v.begin(), Foo(17,42)); Foo(17,42)
                                **Copying Foo
print_seq(v); length = 1: [Foo(17,42)]
v.insert(v.end(), Foo(7,2));   Foo(7,2)
                                **Copying Foo
print_seq(v); length = 2: [Foo(17,42)][Foo(7,2)]
v.emplace_back();   Foo(0,0)
print_seq(v); length = 3: [Foo(17,42)][Foo(7,2)][Foo(0,0)]
v.emplace_back(10);   Foo(10,0)
print_seq(v); length = 4: [Foo(17,42)][Foo(7,2)][Foo(0,0)][Foo(10,0)]
```

## Container and resource management

- Containers have value semantics
- Elements are copied into the container
- When an element is removed, it is destroyed
- The destructor of a container destroys all elements
- Usually a bad idea to store owning raw pointers in a container
  - Requires explicit destruction of the elements
  - Use smart pointers
- Don't force the compiler to make copies
  - Use emplace\_back instead of push\_back of a temporary
  - use resize before doing a known number of \*\_back
  - reuse capacity when possible

## Queues and stacks

- *adapter classes*, providing a limited interface to one of the standard containers: stack, queue, priority\_queue
  - fewer operations
  - do not have iterators

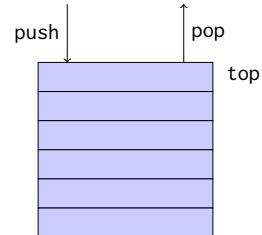
Has a default underlying container. E.g., for stack:

```
template<
    class T,
    class Container = std::deque<T>
> class stack;
```

but stack can be instantiated with any class that has push\_back(), pop\_back() and back().

## Queues and stacks

- Stack: LIFO queue (Last In First Out)
- Operations: push, pop, top, size and empty



The standard library : Container adapters

9. Standard library containers. Class idioms.

13/41

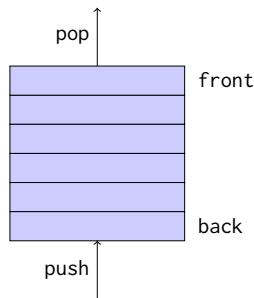
The standard library : Container adapters

9. Standard library containers. Class idioms.

14/41

## Queues and stacks

- Queue: FIFO-queue (First In First Out)
- Operations: push, pop, front, back, size and empty



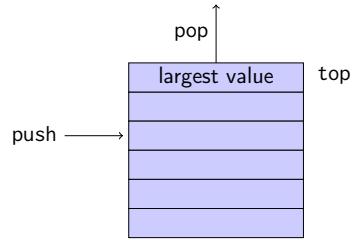
The standard library : Container adapters

9. Standard library containers. Class idioms.

15/41

## Queues and stacks

- Priority queue: sorted queue. The element highest priority is first in the queue.
- Operations: push, pop, top, size and empty



*Compares elements with std::less<T> by default.  
A custom comparator can be used. E.g., using std::greater<T> would cause the smallest element to be first.*

The standard library : Container adapters

9. Standard library containers. Class idioms.

16/41

## Sets and maps

### Associative containers

map<Key,Value>	Unique keys
multimap<Key,Value>	Can contain duplicate keys
set<Key>	Unique keys
multiset<Key>	Can contain duplicate keys

*set is in principle a map without values.*

- By default orders elements with **operator<**
  - A custom comparator can be provided, e.g.
- ```
template<class Key, class Compare = std::less<Key>>
class set{
    explicit set( const Compare& comp = Compare());
    ...
};
```

The standard library : Sets and maps

9. Standard library containers. Class idioms.

17/41

## Sets and maps

### <set>: std::set

```
void test_set()
{
    std::set<int> ints{1,3,7};

    ints.insert(5);
    for(auto x : ints) {
        cout << x << " ";
    }
    cout << endl;
    auto has_one = ints.find(1);

    if(has_one != ints.end()){
        cout << "one is in the set\n";
    } else {
        cout << "one is not in the set\n";
    }
}
```

*Or*  
1 3 5 7  
one is in the set

```
if(ints.count(1))
```

The standard library : Sets and maps

9. Standard library containers. Class idioms.

18/41

## Sets and maps

<map>: std::map

```
map<string, int> msi;
msi.insert(make_pair("Kalle", 1));
msi.emplace("Lisa", 2);
msi["Kim"] = 5;
for(const auto& a: msi) {
    cout << a.first << " : " << a.second << endl;
}
cout << "Lisa --> " << msi.at("Lisa") << endl;
cout << "Hasse --> " << msi["Hasse"] << endl;
auto nisse = msi.find("Nisse");
if(nisse != msi.end()) {
    cout << "Nisse : " << nisse->second << endl;
} else {
    cout << "Nisse not found\n";
}
Kalle : 1
Kim : 5
Lisa : 2
Lisa --> 2
Hasse --> 0
Nisse not found
```

The standard library : Sets and maps

9. Standard library containers. Class idioms.

19/41

## Sets and maps

A std::set is in principle a std::map without values

### Operations on std::map

```
insert, emplace, [], at, find, count,
erase, clear, size, empty,
lower_bound, upper_bound, equal_range
```

### Operations on std::set

```
insert, emplace, find, count,
erase, clear, size, empty,
lower_bound, upper_bound, equal_range
```

Use the member functions, not algorithms like std::find()  
(It works, but is less efficient – linear time complexity instead of logarithmic.)

## Sets and maps

### The return value of insert

#### insert() returns a pair

```
std::pair<iterator, bool> insert( const value_type& value );
```

The insert member function returns two things:

- An iterator to the inserted value
  - or to the element that prevented insertion
- A bool: true if the element was inserted

insert() in multiset and multimap just returns an iterator.

#### Using std::tie to unpack a pair (or tuple)

```
bool inserted;
std::tie(std::ignore, inserted) = set.insert(value);
```

The standard library : Sets and maps

9. Standard library containers. Class idioms.

21/41

## pairs and std::tie

### Example: using std::tie

#### Getting the elements of a pair

```
void example1b()
{
    auto t = std::make_pair(10, "Hello");

    int i;
    string s;

    std::tie(i,s) = t;

    cout << "i: " << i << ", s: " << s << endl;
}
```

The standard library : tuples and std::tie()

9. Standard library containers. Class idioms.

23/41

## pairs and std::tie

### Example: explicit element access

#### Getting the elements of a pair

```
void example1c()
{
    auto t = std::make_pair(10, "Hello");

    int i      = t.first;
    string s   = t.second;

    cout << "i: " << i << ", s: " << s << endl;
}
```

The standard library : tuples and std::tie()

9. Standard library containers. Class idioms.

22/41

## pairs and std::tie

### Example: structured binding (C++17)

#### Getting the elements of a pair

```
void example1c()
{
    auto t = std::make_pair(10, "Hello");

    const auto& [i, s] = t;

    cout << "i: " << i << ", s: " << s << endl;
}
```

NB! cannot use std::ignore: warnings for unused variables.

The standard library : tuples and std::tie()

9. Standard library containers. Class idioms.

24/41

## tuples and std::tie

Example: using std::get(std::tuple)

### Getting the elements of a tuple

```
void example2()
{
    auto t = std::make_tuple(10, "Hello", 4.2);

    int i;
    string s;
    double d;

    i = std::get<0>(t);
    s = std::get<1>(t);
    d = std::get<2>(t);

    cout << "i: " << i << ", s: " << s << ", d: " << d << endl;
}
```

NB! std::get(std::tuple) takes the index as a *template parameter*.

The standard library : tuples and std::tie()

9. Standard library containers. Class idioms.

25/41

## tuples and std::tie

Example: using std::tie

### Getting the elements of a tuple

```
void example2b()
{
    auto t = std::make_tuple(10, "Hello", 4.2);

    int i;
    string s;
    double d;

    std::tie(i,s,d) = t;

    cout << "i: " << i << ", s: " << s << ", d: " << d << endl;
}
```

The standard library : tuples and std::tie()

9. Standard library containers. Class idioms.

26/41

## std::tie

Example: ignoring values with std::ignore

### Getting the elements of a tuple

```
void example2c()
{
    auto t = std::make_tuple(10, "Hello", 4.2);

    int i;
    double d;

    std::tie(i,std::ignore,d) = t;

    cout << "i: " << i << ", d: " << d << endl;
}
```

std::ignore is an object of unspecified type such that assigning any value to it has no effect.

The standard library : tuples and std::tie()

9. Standard library containers. Class idioms.

27/41

## std::tie

Example: implementation sketch

### tie for a pair<int, string>

```
std::pair<int&, string&> mytie(int& x, string& y)
{
    return std::pair<int&, string&>(x,y);
}
```

- returns a temporary pair of *lvalue references*
- the assignment operator of pair assigns each member
- the references are *aliases for the variables* passed as arguments
- assigning to the references is the same as assigning to the variables

```
int i;
string s;

mytie(i,s) = t;
```

The standard library : tuples and std::tie()

9. Standard library containers. Class idioms.

28/41

## std::tie

Comments

### possible implementation

```
template <typename... Args>
std::tuple<Args&...> tie(Args&... args)
{
    return std::tuple<Args&...>(args...);
}
```

- std::tie can be used on both std::pair and std::tuple, as a tuple has an implicit conversion from pair.
- The variables used with std::tie must have been declared.
- C++17 introduces *structured bindings* that lets you write code like `const auto& [i,s,d] = some_tuple;`
  - No need to declare variables before
  - Cannot use std::ignore: warning for unused variables.

The standard library : tuples and std::tie()

9. Standard library containers. Class idioms.

29/41

## Resource management

copy assignment: `operator=`

### Declaration (in the class definition of Vector)

```
const Vector& operator=(const Vector& v);
```

### Definitionen (outside the class definition)

```
Vector& Vector::operator=(const Vector& v)
{
    if (this != &v) {
        auto tmp = new int[v.sz];
        for (int i=0; i<sz; i++)
            tmp[i] = v.elem[i];
        sz = v.sz;
        delete[] elem;
        elem = tmp;
    }
    return *this;
}
```

❶ check "self assignment"  
❷ Allocate new resources  
❸ Copy values  
❹ Free old resources

*For error handling, better to allocate and copy first and only delete if copying succeeded.*

Classes, copy and move

9. Standard library containers. Class idioms.

30/41

## We can do better

- ▶ Code complexity
  - ▶ Both copy and move assignment operators
  - ▶ Code duplication
  - ▶ Brittle, manual code
    - ▶ self-assignment check
    - ▶ copying
    - ▶ memory management
- ▶ exception safety: what if copy or move throws
  - ▶ Weak exception guarantee: don't leak memory
  - ▶ Strong exception guarantee: retain object state
  - ▶ Important for move, as it destroys the source

*alternative: The copy-and-swap idiom.*

## Swapping – std::swap

The standard library defines a function (template) for swapping the values of two variables:

### Example implementation (C++11)

```
template <typename T>
void swap(T& a, T& b)
{
    T tmp = a;
    a = b;
    b = tmp;
}
```

```
template <typename T>
void swap(T& a, T& b)
{
    T tmp = std::move(a);
    a = std::move(b);
    b = std::move(tmp);
}
```

The generic version does unnecessary copying, for Vector we can simply swap the members.

### Overload for Vector (needs to be friend)

```
void swap(Vector& a, Vector& b) noexcept
{
    using std::swap;
    swap(a.sz, b.sz);
    swap(a.elem, b.elem);
}
```

## Copy assignment

### The copy and swap idiom

#### Copy-assignment

```
Vector& Vector::operator=(Vector v) {
    swap(*this, v);
    return *this;
}
```

- ▶ Call by value
  - ▶ let the compiler do the copy
  - ▶ works for both copy assign and move assign
    - ▶ called with *lvalue* ⇒ copy construction
    - ▶ called with *rvalue* ⇒ move construction
- ▶ No code duplication
- ▶ Less error-prone
- ▶ Needs an overloaded swap()
  - ▶ In the same namespace, to be found through ADL
- ▶ Slightly less efficient (one additional assignment)

## Swapping – std::swap

- ▶ The swap function can be both declared as a friend and *defined inside the class definition*.
- ▶ Still a free function
- ▶ In the same namespace as the class
  - ▶ Good for ADL

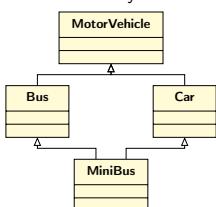
### Overload for Vector ("inline" friend)

```
class Vector {
    ...
    friend void swap(Vector& a, Vector& b) noexcept
    {
        using std::swap;
        swap(a.sz, b.sz);
        swap(a.elem, b.elem);
    }
}
```

- ▶ use `using` to make `std::swap` visible
- ▶ call `swap` unqualified to allow ADL to find an overloaded `swap` for the argument type

## Multiple inheritance

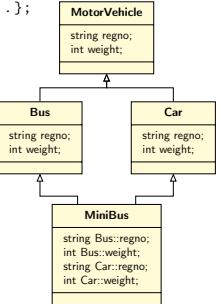
- ▶ A class can inherit from multiple base classes
- ▶ cf. implementing multiple interfaces in Java
  - ▶ Like in Java if at most one of the base classes have member variables
  - ▶ Can be tricky otherwise
- ▶ *The diamond problem*
  - ▶ How many MotorVehicle are there in a MiniBus?



## Multiple inheritance

How many MotorVehicle are there in a MiniBus?

```
class MotorVehicle {...};
class Bus : public MotorVehicle {...};
class Car : public MotorVehicle {...};
class MiniBus : public Bus, public Car {...};
```



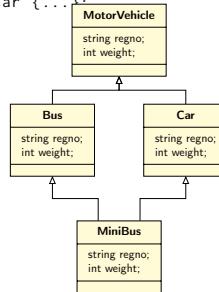
## Multiple inheritance The diamond problem

- ▶ A common base class is included multiple times
  - ▶ Multiple copies of member variables
  - ▶ Members must be accessed as Base::name to avoid ambiguity
- ▶ if *virtual inheritance* is not used

## Multiple inheritance Virtual inheritance

*Virtual inheritance* : Derived classes share the base class instance.  
(The base class is only included once)

```
class MotorVehicle {...};  
class Bus : public virtual MotorVehicle {...};  
class Car : public virtual MotorVehicle {...};  
class MiniBus : public Bus, public Car {...};
```



The *most derived class* (Minibus) must call *the constructor of the grandparent* (MotorVehicle).

## Suggested reading

References to sections in Lippman

Sequential containers 9.1 – 9.3

Container Adapters 9.6

Associative containers chapter 11

Tuples 17.1

Swap 13.3

Multiple inheritance 18.3