

# 1. C++ advanced (I)

Repetition: vectors, pointers and iterators, range for, keyword auto, a class for vectors, subscript-operator, move-construction, iterators

## What do we learn today?

- Keyword `auto`
- Ranged `for`
- Short recap of the Rule of Three
- Subscript operator
- Move Semantics, X-Values and the Rule of Five
- Custom Iterators

13

14

## We look back...

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
using iterator = std::vector<int>::iterator;

int main(){
    // Vector of length 10
    std::vector<int> v(10);
    // Input
    for (int i = 0; i < v.size(); ++i)
        std::cin >> v[i];
    // Output
    for (iterator it = v.begin(); it != v.end(); ++it)
        std::cout << *it << " ";
}
```

We want to understand this in depth!

This looks too pedestrian

## Useful tools (1): `auto` (C++11)

The keyword `auto`:

The type of a variable is inferred from the initializer.

### Examples

```
int x = 10;
auto y = x; // int
auto z = 3; // int
std::vector<double> v(5);
auto i = v[3]; // double
```

15

16

## Slightly better...

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>

int main(){
    std::vector<int> v(10); // Vector of length 10

    for (int i = 0; i < v.size(); ++i)
        std::cin >> v[i];

    for (auto it = v.begin(); it != v.end(); ++it){
        std::cout << *it << " ";
    }
}
```

17

## Useful tools (2): range for (C++11)

```
for (range-declaration : range-expression)
    statement;
```

*range-declaration*: named variable of element type specified via the sequence in range-expression

*range-expression*: Expression that represents a sequence of elements via iterator pair `begin()`, `end()` or in the form of an initializer list.

### Examples

```
std::vector<double> v(5);
for (double x: v) std::cout << x; // 00000
for (int x: {1,2,5}) std::cout << x; // 125
for (double& x: v) x=5;
```

18

## That is indeed cool!

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>

int main(){
    std::vector<int> v(10); // Vector of length 10

    for (auto& x: v)
        std::cin >> x;

    for (const auto x: v)
        std::cout << x << " ";
}
```

19

## For our detailed understanding

*We build a vector class with the same capabilities ourselves!*

On the way we learn about

- RAII (Resource Acquisition is Initialization) and move construction
- Subscript operators and other utilities
- Templates
- Functors and lambda expressions

20

## A class for (double) vectors

```
class Vector{
public:
    // constructors
    Vector(): sz{0}, elem{nullptr} {};
    Vector(std::size_t s): sz{s}, elem{new double[s]} {}
    // destructor
    ~Vector(){
        delete[] elem;
    }
    // (something is missing here)
private:
    std::size_t sz;
    double* elem;
}
```

21

## Element access

```
class Vector{
    ...
    // getter. pre: 0 <= i < sz;
    double get(std::size_t i) const{
        return elem[i];
    }
    // setter. pre: 0 <= i < sz;
    void set(std::size_t i, double d){
        elem[i] = d;
    }
    // size property
    std::size_t size() const {
        return sz;
    }
}
```

```
class Vector{
public:
    Vector();
    Vector(std::size_t s);
    ~Vector();
    double get(std::size_t i) const;
    void set(std::size_t i, double d);
    std::size_t size() const;
}
```

22

## What's the problem here?

```
int main(){
    Vector v(32);
    for (std::size_t i = 0; i!=v.size(); ++i)
        v.set(i, i);
    Vector w = v;
    for (std::size_t i = 0; i!=w.size(); ++i)
        w.set(i, i*i);
    return 0;
}
```

```
class Vector{
public:
    Vector();
    Vector(std::size_t s);
    ~Vector();
    double get(std::size_t i) const;
    void set(std::size_t i, double d);
    std::size_t size() const;
}
```

```
*** Error in 'vector1': double free or corruption
(!prev): 0x0000000000d23c20 ***
===== Backtrace: =====
/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6(+0x777e5) [0x7fe5a5ac97e5]
```

23

## Rule of Three!

```
class Vector{
    ...
public:
    // copy constructor
    Vector(const Vector &v):
        sz{v.sz}, elem{new double[v.sz]} {
        std::copy(v.elem, v.elem + v.sz, elem);
    }
}
```

```
class Vector{
public:
    Vector();
    Vector(std::size_t s);
    ~Vector();
    Vector(const Vector &v);
    double get(std::size_t i) const;
    void set(std::size_t i, double d);
    std::size_t size() const;
}
```

24

## Rule of Three!

```
class Vector{
...
// assignment operator
Vector& operator=(const Vector& v){
    if (v.elem == elem) return *this;
    if (elem != nullptr) delete[] elem;
    sz = v.sz;
    elem = new double[sz];
    std::copy(v.elem, v.elem+v.sz, elem);
    return *this;
}
}
```

```
class Vector{
public:
    Vector();
    Vector(std::size_t s);
    ~Vector();
    Vector(const Vector &v);
    Vector& operator=(const Vector&v);
    double get(std::size_t i) const;
    void set(std::size_t i, double d);
    std::size_t size() const;
}
```

Now it is correct, but cumbersome.

25

## More elegant this way (part 1):

```
public:
// copy constructor
// (with constructor delegation)
Vector(const Vector &v): Vector(v.sz)
{
    std::copy(v.elem, v.elem + v.sz, elem);
}
```

26

## More elegant this way (part 2):

```
class Vector{
...
// Assignment operator
Vector& operator= (const Vector&v){
    Vector cpy(v);
    swap(cpy);
    return *this;
}
private:
// helper function
void swap(Vector& v){
    std::swap(sz, v.sz);
    std::swap(elem, v.elem);
}
}
```

27

## Syntactic sugar.

Getters and setters are poor. We want a subscript (index) operator.  
Overloading! So?

```
class Vector{
...
double operator[] (std::size_t pos) const{
    return elem[pos];
}
void operator[] (std::size_t pos, double value){
    elem[pos] = value;
}
}
```

No!

28

## Reference types!

```
class Vector{
...
// for non-const objects
double& operator[] (std::size_t pos){
    return elem[pos]; // return by reference!
}
// for const objects
const double& operator[] (std::size_t pos) const{
    return elem[pos];
}
}
```

29

## So far so good.

```
int main(){
    Vector v(32); // constructor
    for (int i = 0; i<v.size(); ++i)
        v[i] = i; // subscript operator

    Vector w = v; // copy constructor
    for (int i = 0; i<w.size(); ++i)
        w[i] = i*i;

    const auto u = w;
    for (int i = 0; i<u.size(); ++i)
        std::cout << v[i] << ":" << u[i] << " "; // 0:0 1:1 2:4 ...
    return 0;
}
```

```
class Vector{
public:
    Vector();
    Vector(std::size_t s);
    ~Vector();
    Vector(const Vector &v);
    Vector& operator=(const Vector&v);
    const double& operator[] (std::size_t pos) const;
    double& operator[] (std::size_t pos);
    std::size_t size() const;
}
```

30

## Number copies

How often is `v` being copied?

```
Vector operator+ (const Vector& l, double r){
    Vector result(l); // copy of l to result
    for (std::size_t i = 0; i < l.size(); ++i)
        result[i] = l[i] + r;
    return result; // deconstruction of result after assignment
}
int main(){
    Vector v(16); // allocation of elems[16]
    v = v + 1; // copy when assigned!
    return 0; // deconstruction of v
}
```

`v` is copied (at least) twice

31

## Move construction and move assignment

```
class Vector{
...
// move constructor
Vector (Vector&& v): Vector() {
    swap(v);
};
// move assignment
Vector& operator=(Vector&& v){
    swap(v);
    return *this;
};
}
```

```
class Vector{
public:
    Vector();
    Vector(std::size_t s);
    ~Vector();
    Vector(const Vector &v);
    Vector& operator=(const Vector&v);
    Vector (Vector&& v);
    Vector& operator=(Vector&& v);
    const double& operator[] (std::size_t pos) const;
    double& operator[] (std::size_t pos);
    std::size_t size() const;
}
```

32

## Explanation

When the source object of an assignment will not continue existing after an assignment the compiler can use the move assignment instead of the assignment operator.<sup>1</sup> Expensive copy operations are then avoided.

Number of copies in the previous example goes down to 1.

<sup>1</sup>Analogously so for the copy-constructor and the move constructor

## Illustration of the Move-Semantics

```
// nonsense implementation of a "vector" for demonstration purposes
class Vec{
public:
    Vec () {
        std::cout << "default constructor\n";}
    Vec (const Vec&) {
        std::cout << "copy constructor\n";}
    Vec& operator = (const Vec&) {
        std::cout << "copy assignment\n"; return *this;}
    ~Vec() {}
};
```

33

34

## How many Copy Operations?

```
Vec operator + (const Vec& a, const Vec& b){
    Vec tmp = a;
    // add b to tmp
    return tmp;
}

int main (){
    Vec f;
    f = f + f + f + f;
}
```

Output  
default constructor  
copy constructor  
copy constructor  
copy constructor  
copy assignment  
4 copies of the vector

35

## Illustration of the Move-Semantics

```
// nonsense implementation of a "vector" for demonstration purposes
class Vec{
public:
    Vec () { std::cout << "default constructor\n";}
    Vec (const Vec&) { std::cout << "copy constructor\n";}
    Vec& operator = (const Vec&) {
        std::cout << "copy assignment\n"; return *this;}
    ~Vec() {}
    // new: move constructor and assignment
    Vec (Vec&&) {
        std::cout << "move constructor\n";}
    Vec& operator = (Vec&&) {
        std::cout << "move assignment\n"; return *this;}
};
```

36

## How many Copy Operations?

```
Vec operator + (const Vec& a, const Vec& b){
    Vec tmp = a;
    // add b to tmp
    return tmp;
}

int main (){
    Vec f;
    f = f + f + f + f;
}
```

Output  
default constructor  
copy constructor  
copy constructor  
copy constructor  
move assignment  
  
3 copies of the vector

## How many Copy Operations?

```
Vec operator + (Vec a, const Vec& b){
    // add b to a
    return a;
}

int main (){
    Vec f;
    f = f + f + f + f;
}
```

Output  
default constructor  
copy constructor  
move constructor  
move constructor  
move constructor  
move assignment  
  
1 copy of the vector

**Explanation:** move semantics are applied when an x-value (expired value) is assigned. R-value return values of a function are examples of x-values.

[http://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/language/value\\_category](http://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/language/value_category)

37

38

## How many Copy Operations?

```
void swap(Vec& a, Vec& b){
    Vec tmp = a;
    a=b;
    b=tmp;
}

int main (){
    Vec f;
    Vec g;
    swap(f,g);
}
```

Output  
default constructor  
default constructor  
copy constructor  
copy assignment  
copy assignment  
  
3 copies of the vector

## Forcing x-values

```
void swap(Vec& a, Vec& b){
    Vec tmp = std::move(a);
    a=std::move(b);
    b=std::move(tmp);
}

int main (){
    Vec f;
    Vec g;
    swap(f,g);
}
```

Output  
default constructor  
default constructor  
move constructor  
move assignment  
move assignment  
  
0 copies of the vector

**Explanation:** With `std::move` an l-value expression can be forced into an x-value. Then move-semantics are applied. <http://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/utility/move>

39

40

## std::swap & std::move

std::swap is implemented as above (using templates)

std::move can be used to move the elements of a container into another

```
std::move(va.begin(), va.end(), vb.begin())
```

## Range for

We wanted this:

```
Vector v = ...;
for (auto x: v)
    std::cout << x << " ";
```

In order to support this, an iterator must be provided via `begin` and `end`.

41

42

## Iterator for the vector

```
class Vector{
...
    // Iterator
    double* begin(){
        return elem;
    }
    double* end(){
        return elem+sz;
    }
}
```

```
class Vector{
public:
    Vector();
    Vector(std::size_t s);
    ~Vector();
    Vector(const Vector &v);
    Vector& operator=(const Vector&v);
    Vector (Vector&& v);
    Vector& operator=(Vector&& v);
    const double& operator[] (std::size_t pos) const;
    double& operator[] (std::size_t pos);
    std::size_t size() const;
    double* begin();
    double* end();
}
```

43

## Const Iterator for the vector

```
class Vector{
...
    // Const-Iterator
    const double* begin() const{
        return elem;
    }
    const double* end() const{
        return elem+sz;
    }
}
```

```
class Vector{
public:
    Vector();
    Vector(std::size_t s);
    ~Vector();
    Vector(const Vector &v);
    Vector& operator=(const Vector&v);
    Vector (Vector&& v);
    Vector& operator=(Vector&& v);
    const double& operator[] (std::size_t pos) const;
    double& operator[] (std::size_t pos);
    std::size_t size() const;
    double* begin();
    double* end();
    const double* begin() const;
    const double* end() const;
}
```

44



## Intermediate result

```
Vector Natural(int from, int to){
    Vector v(to-from+1);
    for (auto& x: v) x = from++;
    return v;
}

int main(){
    auto v = Natural(5,12);
    for (auto x: v)
        std::cout << x << " "; // 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
    std::cout << std::endl;
        << "sum = "
        << std::accumulate(v.begin(), v.end(),0); // sum = 68
    return 0;
}
```

45

## Today's Conclusion

- Use `auto` to infer a type from the initializer.
- X-values are values where the compiler can determine that they go out of scope.
- Use move constructors in order to move X-values instead of copying.
- When you know what you are doing then you can enforce the use of X-Values.
- Subscript operators can be overloaded. In order to write, references are used.
- Behind a ranged `for` there is an iterator working.
- Iteration is supported by implementing an iterator following the syntactic convention of the standard library.

46

## Today's exercise

Implement a *dynamic* vector of `ints` that offers *subscript operators* and features an *efficient memory management*.

47