

# 19. Dynamic Data Structures II

Linked Lists, Vectors as Linked Lists

# Different Memory Layout: Linked List

- *No* contiguous area of memory and *no* random access



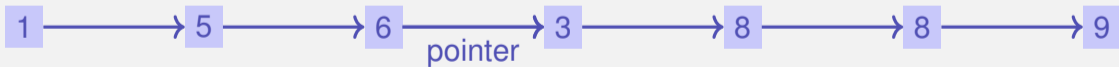
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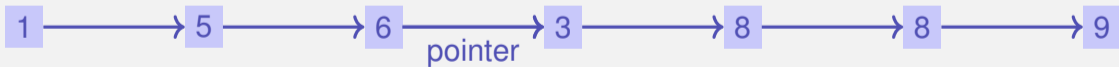
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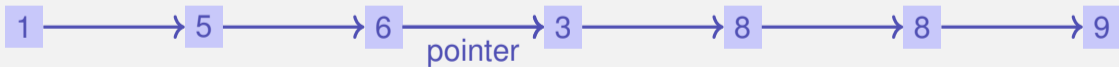
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- Insertion and deletion of *arbitrary* elements is simple



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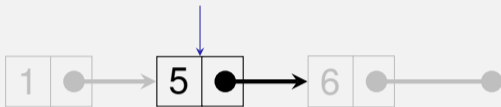
⇒ Our vector can be implemented as a linked list

# Linked List: Zoom



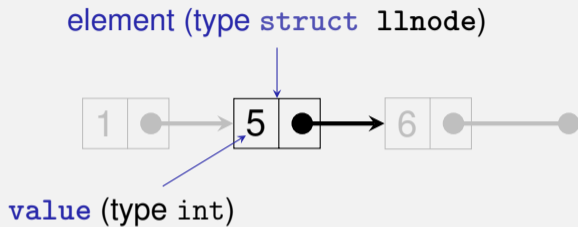
# Linked List: Zoom

element (type struct llnode)

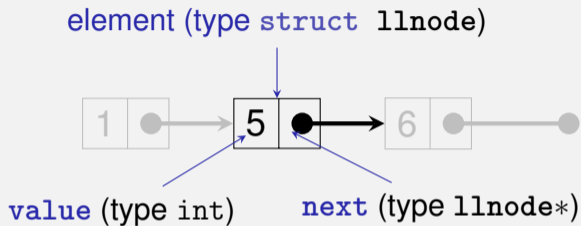




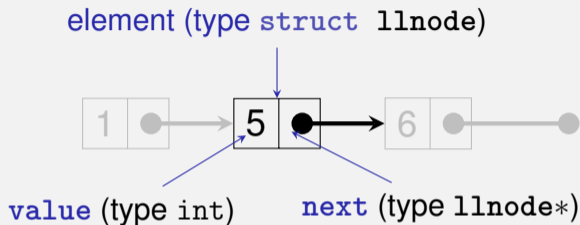
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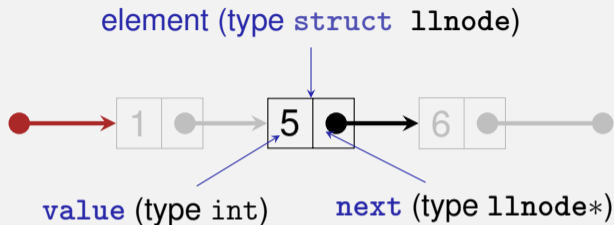


# Linked List: Zoom



```
struct llnode {  
    int value;  
    llnode* next;  
  
    llnode(int v, llnode* n): value(v), next(n) {} // Constructor  
};
```

# Vector = Pointer to the First Element



```
class llvec {
    llnode* head;
public:
    // Public interface identical to avec's
    llvec(unsigned int size);
    unsigned int size() const;
    ...
};
```

# Function `llvec::print()`

```
struct llnode {  
    int value;  
    llnode* next;  
    ...  
};
```

```
void llvec::print(std::ostream& sink) const {  
    for (llnode* n = this->head;  ← Pointer to first element  
        n != nullptr;  
        n = n->next)  
    {  
        sink << n->value << ' ' ;  
    }  
}
```





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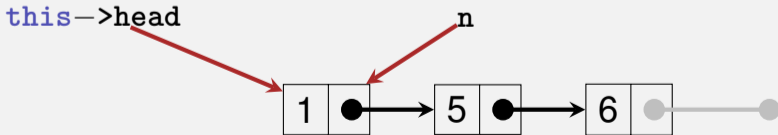
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```

Output current element



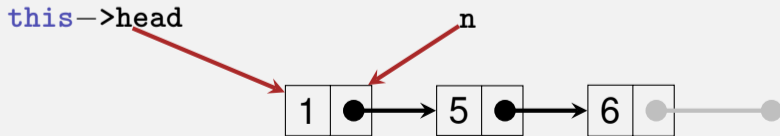
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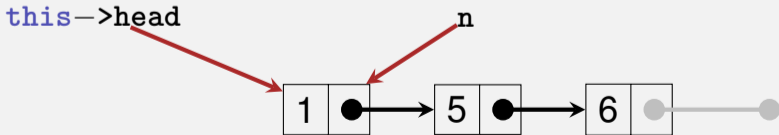
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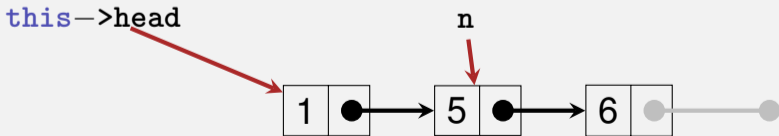
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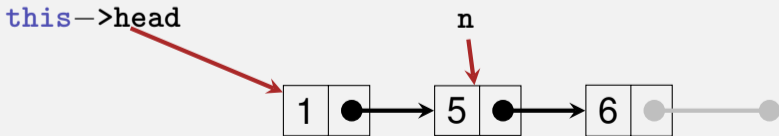
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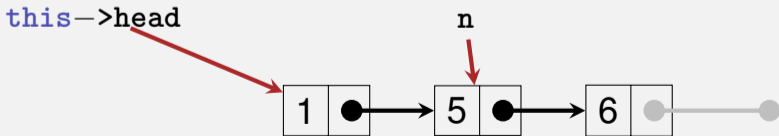
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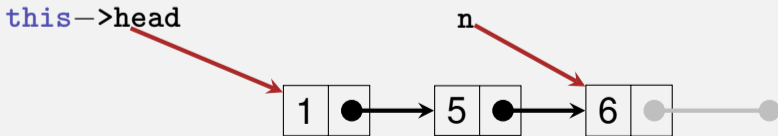
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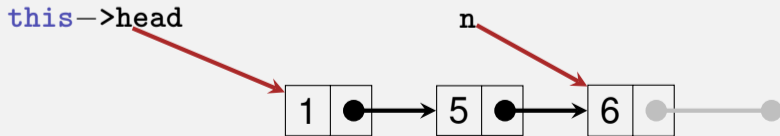
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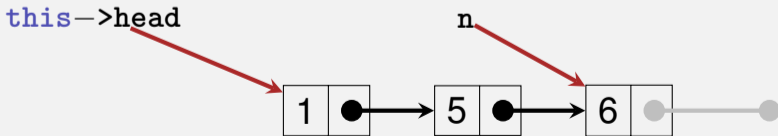
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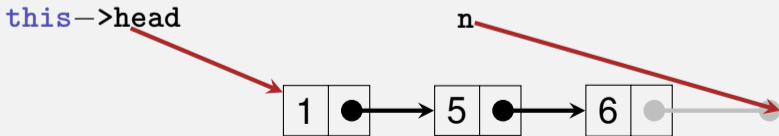
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# Function `llvec::operator []`

Accessing *i*th Element is implemented similarly to `print()`:

```
int& llvec::operator [] (unsigned int i) {  
    llnode* n = this->head;  Pointer to first element  
  
    for (; 0 < i; --i)  
        n = n->next;  
  
    return n->value;  
}
```

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        n = n->next; ←  
  
    return n->value;  
}
```

Step to *i*th element

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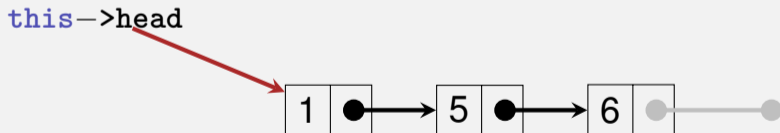
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    llnode* n = this->head;  
  
    for (; 0 < i; --i)  
        n = n->next;  
  
    return n->value;   
}
```

Return *i*th element

# Function `llvec::push_front()`

Advantage `llvec`: Prepending elements is very easy:

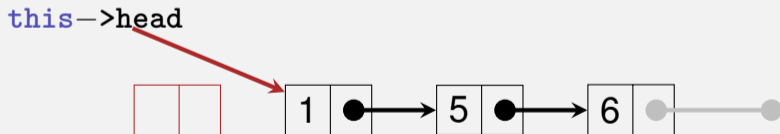
```
void llvec::push_front(int e) {  
    this->head =  
        new llnode{e, this->head};  
}
```



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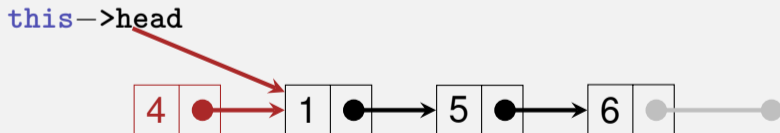
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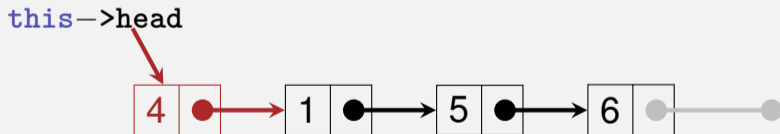




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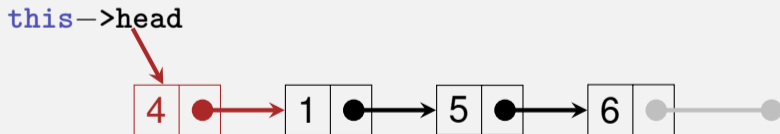
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void llvec::push_front(int e) {  
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Attention: If the new `llnode` weren't allocated *dynamically*, then it would be deleted (= memory deallocated) as soon as `push_front` terminates

# Function `llvec::llvec()`

Constructor can be implemented using `push_front()`:

```
llvec::llvec(unsigned int size) {  
    this->head = nullptr; ← head initially points to nowhere  
  
    for (; 0 < size; --size)  
        this->push_front(0);  
}
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← Prepend 0 size times

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}
```

Use case:

```
llvec v = llvec(3);  
std::cout << v; // 0 0 0
```

# Function `llvec::push_back()`

Simple, but inefficient: traverse linked list to its end and append new element

```
void llvec::push_back(int e) {  
    llnode* n = this->head;  Start at first element ...  
  
    for (; n->next != nullptr; n = n->next);  
  
    n->next =  
        new llnode{e, nullptr};  
}
```

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... and go to the last element

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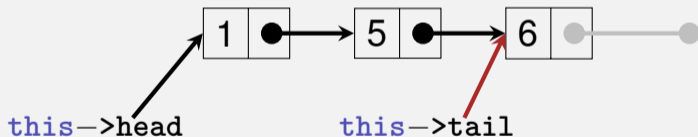
Append new element to currently last



# Function `llvec::push_back()`

- More efficient, but also slightly more complex:

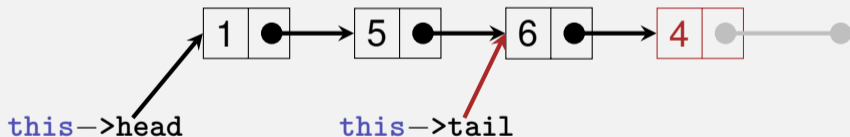
- 1 Second pointer, pointing to the last element: `this->tail`



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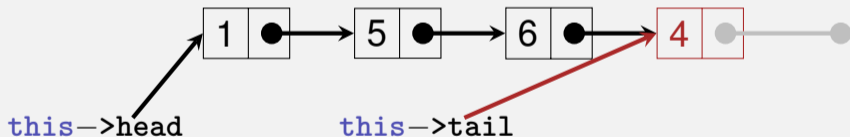
- 1 Second pointer, pointing to the last element: `this->tail`
- 2 Using this pointer, it is possible to append to the end directly



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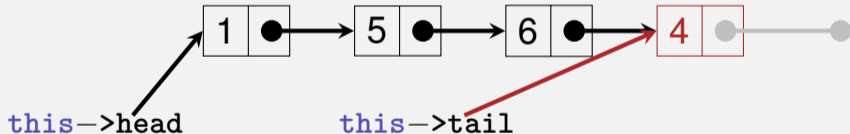
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- More efficient, but also slightly more complex:
  - 1 Second pointer, pointing to the last element: `this->tail`
  - 2 Using this pointer, it is possible to append to the end directly



- **But:** Several corner cases, e.g. vector still empty, must be accounted for

# Function `llvec::size()`

Simple, but inefficient: *compute* size by counting

```
unsigned int llvec::size() const {  
    unsigned int c = 0; ← Count initially 0  
  
    for (llnode* n = this->head;  
         n != nullptr;  
         n = n->next)  
        ++c;  
  
    return c;  
}
```

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Count linked-list length

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Return count

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More efficient, but also slightly more complex: *maintain* size as member variable

- 1 Add member variable `unsigned int` `count` to class `llvec`
- 2 `this->count` must now be updated *each* time an operation (such as `push_front`) affects the vector's size

# Efficiency: Arrays vs. Linked Lists

- Memory: our `avec` requires roughly  $n$  ints (vector size  $n$ ), our `llvec` roughly  $3n$  ints (a pointer typically requires 8 byte)

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- Memory: our `avec` requires roughly  $n$  ints (vector size  $n$ ), our `llvec` roughly  $3n$  ints (a pointer typically requires 8 byte)
- Runtime (with `avec = std::vector`, `llvec = std::list`):

```
prepending (insert at front) [100,000x]:
  ▶ avec:    675 ms
  ▶ llvec:   10 ms
appending (insert at back) [100,000x]:
  ▶ avec:    2 ms
  ▶ llvec:    9 ms
removing first [100,000x]:
  ▶ avec:    675 ms
  ▶ llvec:    4 ms
removing last [100,000x]:
  ▶ avec:    0 ms
  ▶ llvec:    4 ms

removing randomly [10,000x]:
  ▶ avec:     3 ms
  ▶ llvec:  113 ms
inserting randomly [10,000x]:
  ▶ avec:    16 ms
  ▶ llvec:  117 ms
fully iterate sequentially (5000 elements) [5,000x]:
  ▶ avec:   354 ms
  ▶ llvec:  525 ms
```

# 20. Containers, Iterators and Algorithms

Containers, Sets, Iterators, const-Iterators, Algorithms, Templates

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- In C++, `vector<T>` and similar data structures are called *container*
- Called *collections* in some other languages, e.g. Java

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  - Inserting at/removing from arbitrary index is potentially inefficient
  - Looking for a specific element is potentially inefficient
  - Can contain the same element more than once
  - Elements are in insertion order (ordered but not sorted)

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- That's why C++'s standard library includes several containers with different properties, see <https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/container>
- Many more are available from 3rd-party libraries, e.g. [https://www.boost.org/doc/libs/1\\_68\\_0/doc/html/container.html](https://www.boost.org/doc/libs/1_68_0/doc/html/container.html), <https://github.com/abseil/abseil-cpp>

## Example Container: `std::unordered_set<T>`

- A *mathematical set* is an unordered, duplicate-free collection of elements:

$$\{1, 2, 1\} = \{1, 2\} = \{2, 1\}$$

- In C++: `std::unordered_set<T>`



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  - Efficient “element contained?” check
  - Efficient insertion and removal of elements
- Side remark: implemented as a hash table

# Use Case `std::unordered_set<T>`

Problem:

- given a sequence of pairs (*name, percentage*) of Code Expert submissions ...

```
// Input: file submissions.txt
Friedrich 90
Schwerhoff 10
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Friedrich 90
Schwerhoff 10
Lehner 20
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```

- ... determine the submitters that achieved at least 50%

```
// Output
Friedrich
```

# Use Case `std::unordered_set<T>`

```
std::ifstream in("submissions.txt"); ← Open submissions.txt
std::unordered_set<std::string> names;

std::string name;
unsigned int score;

while (in >> name >> score) {
    if (50 <= score)
        names.insert(name);
}

std::cout << "Unique submitters: "
          << names << '\n';
```

# Use Case `std::unordered_set<T>`

```
std::ifstream in("submissions.txt");
std::unordered_set<std::string> names; ← Set of names, initially empty

std::string name;
unsigned int score;

while (in >> name >> score) {
    if (50 <= score)
        names.insert(name);
}

std::cout << "Unique submitters: "
          << names << '\n';
```



# Use Case `std::unordered_set<T>`

```
std::ifstream in("submissions.txt");  
std::unordered_set<std::string> names;
```

```
std::string name;  
unsigned int score;
```



Pair (*name*, *score*)

```
while (in >> name >> score) {  
    if (50 <= score)  
        names.insert(name);  
}
```

```
std::cout << "Unique submitters: "  
           << names << '\n';
```

# Use Case `std::unordered_set<T>`

```
std::ifstream in("submissions.txt");  
std::unordered_set<std::string> names;
```

```
std::string name;  
unsigned int score;
```

```
while (in >> name >> score) {  
    if (50 <= score)  
        names.insert(name);  
}
```



Input next pair

```
std::cout << "Unique submitters: "  
          << names << '\n';
```


# Use Case `std::unordered_set<T>`

```
std::ifstream in("submissions.txt");  
std::unordered_set<std::string> names;
```

```
std::string name;  
unsigned int score;
```

```
while (in >> name >> score) {  
    if (50 <= score)  
        names.insert(name);  
}
```

Record name if score suffices



```
std::cout << "Unique submitters: "  
           << names << '\n';
```

# Use Case `std::unordered_set<T>`

```
std::ifstream in("submissions.txt");  
std::unordered_set<std::string> names;
```

```
std::string name;  
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```

```
while (in >> name >> score) {  
    if (50 <= score)  
        names.insert(name);  
}
```

```
std::cout << "Unique submitters: "  
          << names << '\n';
```



Output recorded names

## Example Container: `std::set<T>`

- Nearly equivalent to `std::unordered_set<T>`, but the elements are *ordered*

$$\{1, 2, 1\} = \{1, 2\} \neq \{2, 1\}$$

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- That's because maintaining the order does not come for free
- Side remark: implemented as a red-black tree



# Use Case `std::set<T>`

```
std::ifstream in("submissions.txt");  
std::set<std::string> names; ←
```

set instead of unordered\_set ...

```
std::string name;  
unsigned int score;
```

```
while (in >> name >> score) {  
    if (50 <= score)  
        names.insert(name);  
}
```

```
std::cout << "Unique submitters: "  
          << names << '\n';
```

# Use Case `std::set<T>`

```
std::ifstream in("submissions.txt");  
std::set<std::string> names;
```

```
std::string name;  
unsigned int score;
```

```
while (in >> name >> score) {  
    if (50 <= score)  
        names.insert(name);  
}
```

```
std::cout << "Unique submitters: "  
           << names << '\n';
```

← ... and the output is in alphabetical order

# Printing Containers

- Recall: `avec::print()` and `l1vec::print()`

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- Recall: `avec::print()` and `l1vec::print()`
- What about printing `set`, `unordered_set`, ...?
- Commonality: iterate over container elements and print them

# Similar Functions

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# Recall: Iterating With Pointers

- Iteration over an *array*:



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- Iteration over an *array*:
  - Point to start element: `p = this->arr`
  - Access current element: `*p`
  - Check if end reached: `p == p + size`
  - Advance pointer: `p = p + 1`





# Recall: Iterating With Pointers

- Iteration over an *array*:
  - Point to start element:  $p = \text{this} \rightarrow \text{arr}$
  - Access current element:  $*p$
  - Check if end reached:  $p == p + \text{size}$
  - Advance pointer:  $p = p + 1$
  
- Iteration over a *linked list*:



# Recall: Iterating With Pointers

## ■ Iteration over an *array*:

- Point to start element:  $p = \text{this} \rightarrow \text{arr}$
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## ■ Iteration over a *linked list*:

- Point to start element:  $p = \text{this} \rightarrow \text{head}$



# Recall: Iterating With Pointers

## ■ Iteration over an *array*:

- Point to start element:  $p = \text{this} \rightarrow \text{arr}$
- Access current element:  $*p$
- Check if end reached:  $p == p + \text{size}$
- Advance pointer:  $p = p + 1$



## ■ Iteration over a *linked list*:

- Point to start element:  $p = \text{this} \rightarrow \text{head}$
- Access current element:  $p \rightarrow \text{value}$



# Recall: Iterating With Pointers

## ■ Iteration over an *array*:

- Point to start element: `p = this->arr`
- Access current element: `*p`
- Check if end reached: `p == p + size`
- Advance pointer: `p = p + 1`



## ■ Iteration over a *linked list*:

- Point to start element: `p = this->head`
- Access current element: `p->value`
- Check if end reached: `p == nullptr`



# Recall: Iterating With Pointers

## ■ Iteration over an *array*:

- Point to start element:  $p = \text{this} \rightarrow \text{arr}$
- Access current element:  $*p$
- Check if end reached:  $p == p + \text{size}$
- Advance pointer:  $p = p + 1$



## ■ Iteration over a *linked list*:

- Point to start element:  $p = \text{this} \rightarrow \text{head}$
- Access current element:  $p \rightarrow \text{value}$
- Check if end reached:  $p == \text{nullptr}$
- Advance pointer:  $p = p \rightarrow \text{next}$



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# Iterators

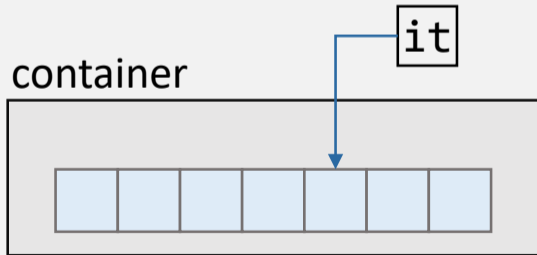
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  - `*it`: Access current element
  - `++it`: Advance iterator by one element
- Iterators are essentially pimped pointers

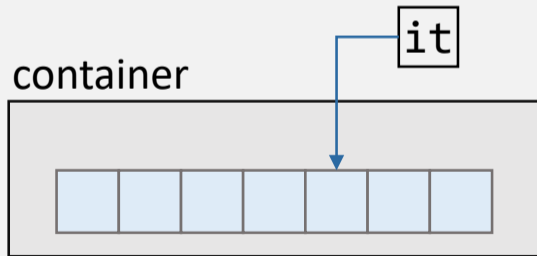
# Iterators

- Iterators allow accessing different containers in a *uniform* way: `*it`, `++it`, etc.



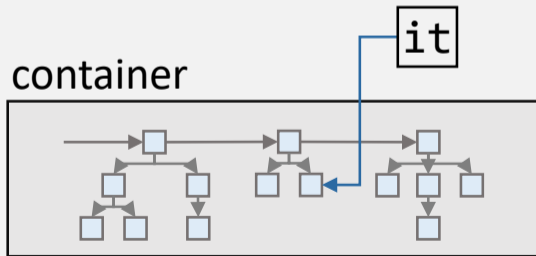
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- Users remain independent of the container implementation



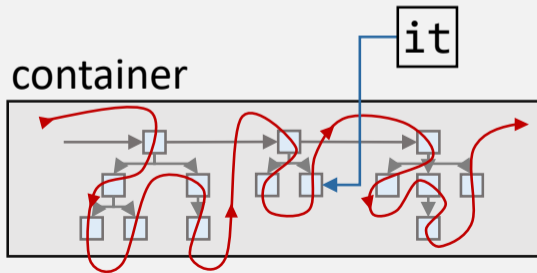
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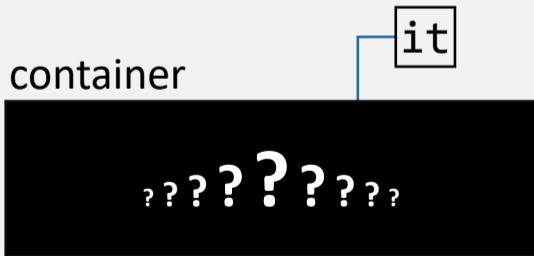
# Iterators

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- Iterator knows how to iterate over the elements of “its” container



# Iterators

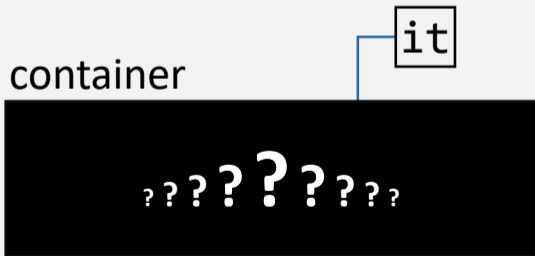
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# Iterators

- Iterators allow accessing different containers in a *uniform* way: `*it`, `++it`, etc.
- Users remain independent of the container implementation
- Iterator knows how to iterate over the elements of “its” container
- Users don't need to and also shouldn't know internal details
- ⇒



# Example: Iterate over `std::vector`

`it` is an iterator specific to `std::vector<int>`

```
std::vector<int> v = {1, 2, 3};

for (std::vector<int>::iterator it = v.begin();
     it != v.end();
     ++it) {

    *it = -*it;
}

std::cout << v; // -1 -2 -3
```

# Example: Iterate over `std::vector`

```
std::vector<int> v = {1, 2, 3};
```


it initially points to the first element

```
for (std::vector<int>::iterator it = v.begin(),  
     it != v.end();  
     ++it) {  
  
    *it = -*it;  
}
```

```
std::cout << v; // -1 -2 -3
```

# Example: Iterate over `std::vector`

```
std::vector<int> v = {1, 2, 3};

for (std::vector<int>::iterator it = v.begin();
     it != v.end();  Abort if it reached the end
     ++it) {

    *it = -*it;
}

std::cout << v; // -1 -2 -3
```

# Example: Iterate over `std::vector`

```
std::vector<int> v = {1, 2, 3};  
  
for (std::vector<int>::iterator it = v.begin();  
     it != v.end();  
     ++it) ← { Advance it element-wise  
  
    *it = -*it;  
}  
  
std::cout << v; // -1 -2 -3
```

# Example: Iterate over `std::vector`

```
std::vector<int> v = {1, 2, 3};
```

```
for (std::vector<int>::iterator it = v.begin();  
     it != v.end();  
     ++it) {
```

```
    *it = -*it;  Negate current element ( $e \rightarrow -e$ )  
}
```

```
std::cout << v; // -1 -2 -3
```

# Example: Iterate over `std::vector`

```
std::vector<int> v = {1, 2, 3};

for (std::vector<int>::iterator it = v.begin();
     it != v.end();
     ++it) {

    *it = -*it;
}

std::cout << v; // -1 -2 -3
```

# Example: Iterate over `std::vector`

Recall: type aliases can be used to shorten often-used type names

```
using ivit = std::vector<int>::iterator; // int-vector iterator  
  
for (ivit it = v.begin();  
     ...
```



# Negate as a Function

```
void neg(std::vector<int>& v) {
    for (std::vector<int>::iterator it = v.begin();
         it != v.end();
         ++it) {

        *it = -*it;
    }
}

// in main():
std::vector<int> v = {1, 2, 3};
neg(v); // v = {-1, -2, -3}
```

# Negate as a Function

```
void neg(std::vector<int>& v) {
    for (std::vector<int>::iterator it = v.begin();
         it != v.end();
         ++it) {

        *it = -*it;
    }
}

// in main():
std::vector<int> v = {1, 2, 3};
neg(v); // v = {-1, -2, -3}
```

*Disadvantage:* Always negates the complete vector

# Negate as a Function

*Better: negate inside a specific range (interval)*

```
void neg(std::vector<int>::iterator begin;
        std::vector<int>::iterator end) {

    for (std::vector<int>::iterator it = begin;
         it != end;
         ++it) {

        *it = -*it;
    }
}
```

Negate elements in  
interval [begin, end)

# Negate as a Function

*Better: negate inside a specific range (interval)*

```
void neg(std::vector<int>::iterator start;  
        std::vector<int>::iterator end);
```

```
// in main():
```

```
std::vector<int> v = {1, 2, 3};
```

```
neg(v.begin(), v.begin() + (v.size() / 2));
```

← Negate first half

# Algorithms Library in C++

- The C++ standard library includes lots of useful algorithms (functions) that work on iterator-defined intervals [*begin*, *end*)

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- The C++ standard library includes lots of useful algorithms (functions) that work on iterator-defined intervals [*begin*, *end*)
- For example `find`, `fill` and `sort`
- See also <https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/algorithm>

# An iterator for `llvec`

We need:

- 1 An `llvec`-specific iterator with at least the following functionality:
  - Access current element: `operator*`
  - Advance iterator: `operator++`
  - End-reached check: `operator!=` (or `operator==`)



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  - Access current element: `operator*`
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  - End-reached check: `operator!=` (or `operator==`)
- 2 Member functions `begin()` and `end()` for `llvec` to get an iterator to the beginning and past the end, respectively

# Iterator avec `::iterator` (Step 1/2)

```
class l1vec {  
    ...  
public:  
    class iterator {  
        ...  
    };  
  
    ...  
}
```


- The iterator belongs to our vector, that's why `iterator` is a public *inner class* of `l1vec`

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class l1vec {  
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        ...  
    };  
  
    ...  
}
```

- The iterator belongs to our vector, that's why `iterator` is a public *inner class* of `l1vec`
- Instances of our iterator are of type `l1vec::iterator`

# Iterator `llvec::iterator` (Step 1/2)

```
class iterator {  
    llnode* node;    
  
public:  
    iterator(llnode* n);  
    iterator& operator++();  
    int& operator*() const;  
    bool operator!=(const iterator& other) const;  
};
```

Pointer to current vector element

# Iterator `llvec::iterator` (Step 1/2)

```
class iterator {  
    llnode* node;  
  
public:  
    iterator(llnode* n); ← Create iterator to specific element  
    iterator& operator++();  
    int& operator*() const;  
    bool operator!=(const iterator& other) const;  
};
```

# Iterator `llvec::iterator` (Step 1/2)

```
class iterator {  
    llnode* node;  
  
public:  
    iterator(llnode* n);  
    iterator& operator++(); ← Advance iterator by one element  
    int& operator*() const;  
    bool operator!=(const iterator& other) const;  
};
```

# Iterator `llvec::iterator` (Step 1/2)

```
class iterator {  
    llnode* node;  
  
public:  
    iterator(llnode* n);  
    iterator& operator++();  
    int& operator*() const; ← Access current element  
    bool operator!=(const iterator& other) const;  
};
```

# Iterator `llvec::iterator` (Step 1/2)

```
class iterator {  
    llnode* node;  
  
public:  
    iterator(llnode* n);  
    iterator& operator++();  
    int& operator*() const;  
    bool operator!=(const iterator& other) const;  
};
```

Compare with other iterator





# Iterator `llvec::iterator` (Step 1/2)

```
// Constructor
llvec::iterator::iterator(llnode* n): node(n) {}

// Pre-increment
llvec::iterator& llvec::iterator::operator++() {
    assert(this->node != nullptr);

    this->node = this->node->next;

    return *this;
}
```

# Iterator `llvec::iterator` (Step 1/2)

```
// Constructor
```

```
llvec::iterator::iterator(llnode* n): node(n) {}
```

Let iterator point to `n` initially

```
// Pre-increment
```

```
llvec::iterator& llvec::iterator::operator++() {
```

```
    assert(this->node != nullptr);
```

```
    this->node = this->node->next;
```

```
    return *this;
```

```
}
```

## Iterator `llvec::iterator` (Step 1/2)

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```
// Constructor
llvec::iterator::iterator(llnode* n): node(n) {}

// Pre-increment
llvec::iterator& llvec::iterator::operator++() {
    assert(this->node != nullptr);

    this->node = this->node->next; ← Advance iterator by one element

    return *this;
}
```

# Iterator `llvec::iterator` (Step 1/2)

```
// Constructor
llvec::iterator::iterator(llnode* n): node(n) {}

// Pre-increment
llvec::iterator& llvec::iterator::operator++() {
    assert(this->node != nullptr);

    this->node = this->node->next;

    return *this; ← Return reference to advanced iterator
}
```

## Iterator `llvec::iterator` (Step 1/2)

```
// Element access
int& llvec::iterator::operator*() const {
    return this->node->value;
}

// Comparison
bool llvec::iterator::operator!=(const llvec::iterator& other)
    const {
    return this->node != other.node;
}
```

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bool llvec::iterator::operator!=(const llvec::iterator& other)
    const {
    return this->node != other.node; ←
}


```

this iterator different from other if they point to different element

# An iterator for `l1vec` (Repetition)

We need:

1 An `l1vec`-specific iterator with at least the following functionality:

- Access current element: `operator*`
  - Advance iterator: `operator++`
  - End-reached check: `operator!=` (or `operator==`)
- 

2 Member functions `begin()` and `end()` for `l1vec` to get an iterator to the beginning and past the end, respectively

## Iterator avec ::iterator (Step 2/2)

```
class l1vec {  
    ...  
public:  
    class iterator {...};  
  
    iterator begin();  
    iterator end();  
  
    ...  
}
```

`l1vec` needs member functions to issue iterators pointing *to the beginning* and *past the end*, respectively, of the vector

## Iterator `llvec::iterator` (Step 2/2)

```
llvec::iterator llvec::begin() {  
    return llvec::iterator(this->head);  
}
```

Iterator to first vector element



```
llvec::iterator llvec::end() {  
    return llvec::iterator(nullptr);  
}
```

## Iterator `llvec::iterator` (Step 2/2)

```
llvec::iterator llvec::begin() {  
    return llvec::iterator(this->head);  
}
```

```
llvec::iterator llvec::end() {  
    return llvec::iterator(nullptr);  
}
```



Iterator past last vector element

# Const-Iterators

- In addition to `iterator`, every container should also provide a *const-iterator* `const_iterator`
- Const-iterators grant only read access to the underlying Container
- For example for `llvec`:

```
llvec::const_iterator llvec::cbegin() const;  
llvec::const_iterator llvec::cend() const;  
  
const int& llvec::const_iterator::operator*() const;  
...
```

# Const-Iterators

- In addition to `iterator`, every container should also provide a *const-iterator* `const_iterator`
- Const-iterators grant only read access to the underlying Container
- For example for `llvec`:

```
llvec::const_iterator llvec::cbegin() const;  
llvec::const_iterator llvec::cend() const;  
  
const int& llvec::const_iterator::operator*() const;  
...
```

- Therefore not possible (compiler error): `*(v.cbegin()) = 0`

# Const-Iterators

Const-Iterator *can* be used to allow only reading:

```
llvec v = ...;
for (llvec::const_iterator it = v.cbegin(); ...)
    std::cout << *it;
```

It would also possible to use the non-const iterator here



# Const-Iterators

Const-Iterator *must* be used if the vector is const:

```
const l1vec v = ...;
for (l1vec::const_iterator it = v.cbegin(); ...)
    std::cout << *it;
```

It is not possible to use `iterator` here (compiler error)

# Excursion: Templates

- **Goal:** A *generic* output operator `<<` for *iterable Containers*: `llvec`, `avec`, `std::vector`, `std::set`, ...

# Excursion: Templates

- **Goal:** A *generic* output operator `<<` for *iterable Containers*: `llvec`, `avec`, `std::vector`, `std::set`, ...
- I.e. `std::cout << c << '\n'` should work for any such container `c`

# Excursion: Templates

*Templates* enable *type-generic* functions and classes:

- Templates enable the use of *types as arguments*

```
template <typename S, typename C>  
S& operator<<(S& sink, const C& container);
```

# Excursion: Templates

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- Templates enable the use of *types as arguments*

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```


We already know the pointy brackets from vectors. Vectors are also implemented as templates.

# Excursion: Templates

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- Templates enable the use of *types as arguments*

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S& operator<<(S& sink, const C& container);
```



Intuition: operator works for every output stream `sink` of type `S` and every container `container` of type `C`

# Excursion: Templates

*Templates* enable *type-generic* functions and classes:

- Templates enable the use of *types as arguments*

```
template <typename S, typename C>  
S& operator<<(S& sink, const C& container);
```

- The compiler *infers* suitable types from the call arguments

```
std::set<int> s = ...;  
std::cout << s << '\n'; ← S = std::ostream, C = std::set<int>
```

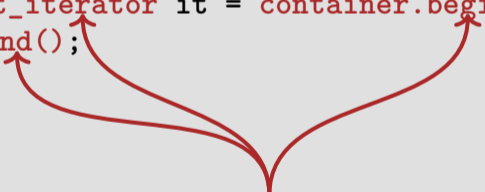
# Excursion: Templates

Implementation of `<< constrains S and C` (Compiler errors if not satisfied):

```
template <typename S, typename C>
S& operator<<(S& sink, const C& container) {
    for (typename C::const_iterator it = container.begin();
         it != container.end();
         ++it) {

        sink << *it << ' ';
    }

    return sink;
}
```



**C must appropriate iterators**



# Excursion: Templates

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C must appropriate iterators  
– with appropriate functions

# Excursion: Templates

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S& operator<<(S& sink, const C& container) {
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    }

    return sink;
}
```

S must support outputting elements (\*it) and characters (' ')