A container class is a data type that is capable of holding a collection of items. In C++, container classes can be implemented as a class, along with member functions to add, remove, and examine items.

For the first example, think about a bag. Inside the bag are some numbers. When you first begin to use a bag, the bag will be empty. We count on this to be the initial state of any bag that we use.

Numbers may be inserted into a bag. The 4 is in the bag.
Inserting Numbers into a Bag

- Numbers may be inserted into a bag.
- The bag can hold many numbers.
- We can even insert the same number more than once.

NOW I'M PUTTING ANOTHER NUMBER IN THE BAG -- AN 8.

THE 8 IS ALSO IN THE BAG.

NOW I'M PUTTING A NO TH ER NUMBER IN THE BAG -- AN 8.

NOW THE BAG HAS TWO 4'S AND AN 8.

Examining a Bag

- We may ask about the contents of the bag.

HAVE YOU GOT ANY 4's?

YES, I HAVE TWO OF THEM.

Removing a Number from a Bag

- We may remove a number from a bag.

THIS 4 IS OUTTA HERE!
Removing a Number from a Bag

- We may remove a number from a bag.
- But we remove only one number at a time.

ONE 4 IS GONE, BUT THE OTHER 4 REMAINS.

How Many Numbers

- Another operation is to determine how many numbers are in a bag.

IN MY OPINION, THERE ARE TOO MANY NUMBERS.

Summary of the Bag Operations

- A bag can be put in its initial state, which is an empty bag.
- Numbers can be inserted into the bag.
- You may check how many occurrences of a certain number are in the bag.
- Numbers can be removed from the bag.
- You can check how many numbers are in the bag.

The Bag Class

- C++ classes (introduced in Chapter 2) can be used to implement a container class such as a Bag.
- The class definition includes:
  - The heading of the definition
  - A constructor prototype

```cpp
class Bag
{
public:
    Bag();

    // Prototypes for public member functions
};
```
The Bag Class

- C++ classes (introduced in Chapter 2) can be used to implement a container class such as a Bag.
- The class definition includes:
  - The heading of the definition
  - A constructor prototype
  - Prototypes for public member functions
  - Private member variables

```cpp
class Bag {
public:
  Bag( );
  void insert(...);
  void remove(...);
  ...and so on
private:
  // We'll look at private members later.
};
```

The Bag’s Default Constructor

- Places a bag in the initial state (an empty bag)

```cpp
Bag::Bag( )
// Postcondition: The Bag has been initialized
// and it is now empty.
{
  ...
}
```

The Insert Function

- Inserts a new number in the bag

```cpp
void Bag::insert(int new_entry)
// Precondition: The Bag is not full.
// Postcondition: A new copy of new_entry has been added to the Bag.
{
  ...
}
```

The Size Function

- Counts how many integers are in the bag

```cpp
int Bag::size( ) const
// Postcondition: The return value is the number of integers in the Bag.
{
  ...
}
```

The Occurrences Function

- Counts how many copies of a number occur

```cpp
size_t Bag::occurrences(int target) const
// Postcondition: The return value is the number of copies of target in the Bag.
{
  ...
}
```
The Remove Function

- Removes one copy of a number

```c
void Bag::remove(int target) // Postcondition: If target was in the Bag, then
  // one copy of target has been removed from the
  // Bag; otherwise the Bag is unchanged.
{
  ... 
}
```

The Header File and Implementation File

- The programmer who writes the new Bag class must write two files:
  - `bag1.h`, a header file that contains documentation and the class definition
  - `bag1.cxx`, an implementation file that contains the implementations of the Bag’s member functions

Documentation for the Bag Class

- The documentation gives prototypes and specifications for the bag member functions.
- Specifications are written as precondition/postcondition contracts.
- Everything needed to use the Bag class is included in this comment.

The Bag’s Class Definition

- After the documentation, the header file has the class definition that we’ve seen before:

```c
class Bag
{
  public:
    Bag();
    void insert(...)
    void remove(...)
```

Using the Bag in a Program

- Here is typical code from a program that uses the new Bag class:

```c
Bag ages;
  // Record the ages of three children:
  ages.insert(4);
  ages.insert(8);
  ages.insert(4);
```

The Implementation File

- As with any class, the actual definitions of the member functions are placed in a separate implementation file.
- The definitions of the Bag’s member functions are in `bag1.cxx`.
A Quiz

Suppose that a Mysterious Benefactor provides you with the Bag class, but you are only permitted to read the documentation in the header file. You cannot read the class definition or implementation file. Can you write a program that uses the Bag data type?

① Yes I can.
② No. Not unless I see the class declaration for the Bag.
③ No. I need to see the class declaration for the Bag, and also see the implementation file.

A Quiz

Suppose that a Mysterious Benefactor provides you with the Bag class, but you are only permitted to read the documentation in the header file. You cannot read the class definition or implementation file. Can you write a program that uses the Bag data type?

① Yes I can.
② No. Not unless I see the class declaration for the Bag.
③ No. I need to see the class declaration for the Bag, and also see the implementation file.

Implementation Details

① The entries of a bag will be stored in the front part of an array, as shown in this example.

| [0] | [1] | [2] | [3] | [4] | [5] |...
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|...
| 4   | 8   | 4   |

An array of integers

We don't care what's in this part of the array.

Implementation Details

① The entries may appear in any order. This represents the same bag as the previous one...

| [0] | [1] | [2] | [3] | [4] | [5] |...
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|...
| 4   | 4   | 8   |

An array of integers

We don't care what's in this part of the array.

Implementation Details

① ... and this also represents the same bag.

| [0] | [1] | [2] | [3] | [4] | [5] |...
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|...
| 4   | 4   | 8   |

An array of integers

We don't care what's in this part of the array.

Implementation Details

① We also need to keep track of how many numbers are in the bag.

| [0] | [1] | [2] | [3] | [4] | [5] |...
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|...
| 8   | 4   | 4   |

An integer to keep track of the bag's size

We don't care what's in this part of the array.
An Exercise

Use these ideas to write a list of private member variables could implement the Bag class. You should have two member variables. Make the bag capable of holding up to 20 integers.

You have 60 seconds to write the declaration.

One solution:

```cpp
class Bag {
public:
    ... private:
    int  data[20];
    size_t count;
};
```

A more flexible solution:

```cpp
class Bag {
public:
    static const size_t CAPACITY = 20;
    ... private:
    int  data[CAPACITY];
    size_t count;
};
```

An Example of Calling Insert

```
void Bag::insert(int new_entry)
```

Before calling insert, we might have this bag b:

![Diagram of initial bag b with data and count values]

We make a function call `b.insert(17)`.

What values will be in `b.data` and `b.count` after the member function finishes?

After calling `b.insert(17)`, we will have this bag b:

![Diagram of updated bag b with new inserted value and updated count]
Pseudocode for Bag::insert

1. assert(size() < CAPACITY);
2. Place new_entry in the appropriate location of the data array.
3. Add one to the member variable count.

What is the “appropriate location” of the data array?

```cpp
data[count] = new_entry;
count++;  
```

Pseudocode for Bag::insert

1. assert(size() < CAPACITY);
2. Place new_entry in the appropriate location of the data array.
3. Add one to the member variable count.

The Other Bag Operations

- Read Section 3.1 for the implementations of the other bag member functions.
- Remember: If you are just using the Bag class, then you don’t need to know how the operations are implemented.
- Later we will reimplement the bag using more efficient algorithms.
- We’ll also have a few other operations to manipulate bags.

Other Kinds of Bags

- In this example, we have implemented a bag containing integers.
- But we could have had a bag of float numbers, a bag of characters, a bag of strings . . .

Suppose you wanted one of these other bags. How much would you need to change in the implementation? Section 3.1 gives a simple solution using the C++ typedef statement.

Summary

- A container class is a class that can hold a collection of items.
- Container classes can be implemented with a C++ class.
- The class is implemented with a header file (containing documentation and the class definition) and an implementation file (containing the implementations of the member functions).
- Other details are given in Section 3.1, which you should read.