

“MyVector” Lab

In this lab, you will create your own version of the vector data type. To simplify things, our vectors will only store integers, and they will only have the ability to get larger on the fly as we add items, not get smaller if we remove items (the way C++ vectors can). Furthermore, we will add bounds-checking to myvectors like Python.

Here’s how a myvector will work (very similar to C++ vectors):

- The items in a myvector will be stored on the heap, in a dynamically-allocated array. We need to do this because all arrays declared on the stack (automatic variables) must have their sizes set in stone at compile-time, and we don’t want that restriction.
- A myvector is comprised of three variables (in the private section of a class):
 - `int* items`, a pointer to a C++ array of integers on the heap.
 - `int size`, the current number of items in the myvector (from the user’s perspective)
 - `int capacity`, the current capacity of the items array (from the programmer’s perspective)
- We need both `size` and `capacity` because as we add items to the myvector, we don’t want to overflow the array too often. Therefore, we will allocate extra space in the array that we will use up as we put items into the myvector.
- When `size` equals `capacity`, this means the array is full and we can’t add any more items. If the user asks to add another item, we will have to allocate a new block of memory for a new array (with some more extra space), copy the items in the old array into the new one, then de-allocate the old array.
- So we can see the re-allocation happen more often, a myvector will have an initial capacity of 3 and will grow by 3 items every time we increase the capacity, even though in reality this is way too small an increment (10 is probably more common).

Begin with the Dropbox code, and write the following functions along with a `main()` function to test them as you write them.

1. Write the constructor, which creates a new myvector with `size=0` and `capacity=3`, and allocates space on the heap for these three future elements. This means from the user’s perspective, the myvector will be empty, but behind the scenes, there is space to add three items before we need more memory.
2. Write the destructor. Deallocate the space for items in this myvector. The destructor will be called automatically when your myvector goes out of scope.
3. Write `print()`. This method should print the contents of the myvector using `cout`, along with the `size` and `capacity` (for debugging purposes). Label the `size` and `capacity` so we can easily identify them. Note that you should only print the items at positions `[0]` through `[size-1]`, because while there might be more “valid” positions if `capacity > size`, we know (at the moment) those positions don’t hold any meaningful values. Test in `main()`.
4. Write `push_back()`. Adds a new value to the end of the myvector. This will increase `size` by one. For now, if there is no more space left (`size == capacity`), print an error message and don’t add the new number (we will work on the re-allocation later). Test in `main()`.
5. Write `get()`. Return `items[pos]` in the myvector, assuming `0 <= pos < size`. If this is not true, print an error message and return `-1`. Test in `main()`.
6. Edit your `push_back()` function to support adding a new element when the array is full. To do this, allocate a new array on the heap with enough space for the current `capacity + 3`. Then copy (you will need to use a `for` loop) each item from the old array into the new array. Then add the new value (that would have overflowed the original array) to the appropriate place in the new array. Then deallocate the old array. When done, `size` should be increased by 1, `capacity` should be increased by 3, and `items` should point to the new array. **Make this function print a message during the re-allocation so you can see when it happens.** Test in `main()`.

If you finish early, try these:

- Add a `set` function to change an item in the myvector.
- Add a `remove_back` function to remove the last item in the myvector.
- Add a `remove` function to remove an item from a **specific position** in the myvector; e.g., `v.erase(2)` above would remove the item at position 2 in `v`. Any items to the right should slide over to not leave a hole in the myvector.
- Change the `remove` functions so that when `size` drops too far below `capacity`, the array is re-allocated to eliminate some of the unused space.