

**DESIGN OF GENERIC  
LIBRARIES**

**Alexander A. Stepanov  
Concurrent Computing Dept.  
Hewlett-Packard Labs  
Palo Alto, CA**

# HISTORY OF THE ACTIVITY

## 1. 79-84 TECTON

- specialized functional forms
- algorithms on algebraic structures
- complexity signatures

## 2. 84-87 Higher Order Imperative Programming

- extensive library
- complex graph algorithms
- extensive use of state

## 3. 87-89 Ada Generic Library

- Common Lisp functionality
- deep layering
- high efficiency

## 4. 88-91 C++ Component Library

- production quality
- developed structuring

## OBJECTIVE

To develop a way to construct  
libraries of software components.

Components should be:

- useful;
- efficient;
- generic;
- correct.

Libraries should be:

- comprehensive;
- well-structured;
- well-documented.

## Bentley and Binary Search

```
L:=1; U:=N
loop
if L>U then
    P:=0; break
M:=(L+U) div 2
case
    X[M]<T : L:=M+1
    X[M]=T : P:=M; break
    X[M]>T : L:=M-1
```

**lessThan:**

returns the smallest index K in the sorted segment such that COMP is negative for all indices smaller than K.

**greaterThan:**

returns the smallest index K in the sorted segment such that COMP is non-positive for all indices smaller than K.

**equalTo:**

returns a pair of

(lessThan(), greaterThan()).

But is faster than calling them separately.

## lessThan

### Declaration

```
Index SortedSegment::lessThan();
```

### Description

`lessThan` returns the index of the rightmost element in the sorted segment such that for all indices in the segment that are smaller than it `comp` is negative. Normally, `lessThan()-first()` is equal to the number of the elements in the segment for which `comp` is negative, and `length()-(lessThan()-first())` is equal to the number of the elements in the segment for which `comp` is non-positive. (Subtraction of indices is not required by the algorithm, but is normally defined.)

See Also `greaterThan`, `equalTo`, `insert`, `setInsert`

**Time Complexity** Logarithmic. If  $n$  is the number of elements in the segment then at most  $\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor + 1$  operations `comp` are performed.

**Space Complexity** Constant

**Mutative?** No

### Implementation

```
Index SortedSegment::lessThan()
{
    register Index start = first();
    register Integer len = length();

    while (len>0)
    {
        register Integer half = len>>1;
        register Index middle = half+start;

        if (comp(middle)<0)
        {
            start = middle+(Integer)1;
            len = (len-half)-(Integer)1;
        }
        else
            len = half;
    }
}
```

```

Index SortedSegment::lessThan()
{
    register Index start = first();
    register Integer len = length();

    while (len>0)
    {
        register Integer half = len>>1;
        register Index middle = start+half;

        if (comp(middle)<0)
        {
            start = middle+(Integer)1;
            len = (len-half)-(Integer)1;
        }
        else
            len = half;
    }

    return start;
}

```

```
Index SortedSegment::lessThan()
{
    Index start = first();
    Integer len = length();

    while (len>0)
    {
        Integer half = len>>1;
        Index middle = start+half;

        if (comp(middle)<0)
        {
            start = middle+(Integer)1;
            len = (len-half)-(Integer)1;
        }
        else
            len = half;
    }

    return start;
}
```



## CLASS ASSUMPTIONS

```
classtype Integer;  
// an (unsigned) integral type
```

```
classtype Index  
{  
public:  
    Index operator+(Integer);  
implied:  
    int operator<(Index);  
meaning:  
    {Index s; Integer x, y;  
      (s+x)+y==s+(x+y);  
    }  
    {Index s; Integer x;  
      s<s+x;  
    }  
};
```

```
classtype SortedSegment  
{  
public:  
    Index first();  
    Integer length();  
    int comp(Index);  
meaning:  
    {Integer x, y;  
      x>y ||  
      y>length() ||  
      comp(first()+x)<=comp(first()+y);  
    }  
};
```

## MEANING OF BINARY SEARCH

```
SortedSegment::lessThan::meaning()  
{  
    {Integer x;  
        !(x>=0) ||  
        !(x<length()) ||  
        !(first()+x<lessThan()) ||  
        comp(x)<0;  
    }  
  
    { !(lessThan()<length()) ||  
        comp(lessThan())>=0;  
    }  
}
```

## DOING IT FOR VECTORS

```
typedef float Type;  
typedef int Integer;  
typedef Type* Index;
```

```
class Fvector  
{  
private:  
    Index b;  
    Integer l;  
    Type v;  
public:  
    Fvector(Index x, Integer y, Type z) :  
    b(x), l(y), v(z){};  
    Integer length() {return l;}  
    Index first() {return b;}  
    void set_value(type z){v=z;}  
    int comp(Index x){return int(*x-t);}  
    Index lessThan();  
};
```

```
#define SortedSegment Fvector  
#include "lessThan.H"
```

## DOING IT FOR LISTS (1)

```
typedef float Type;  
typedef int Integer;
```

```
struct Node  
{  
    Node* cdr;  
    Type car;  
};
```

```
struct Index  
{  
    Node* i;  
    Index(Node* j) : i(j);  
    Index operator+(Integer n)  
    {  
        Node* t = i;  
        while (n-->0) t = *t;  
        return Index(t);  
    }  
}
```

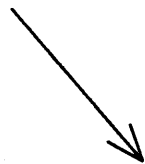
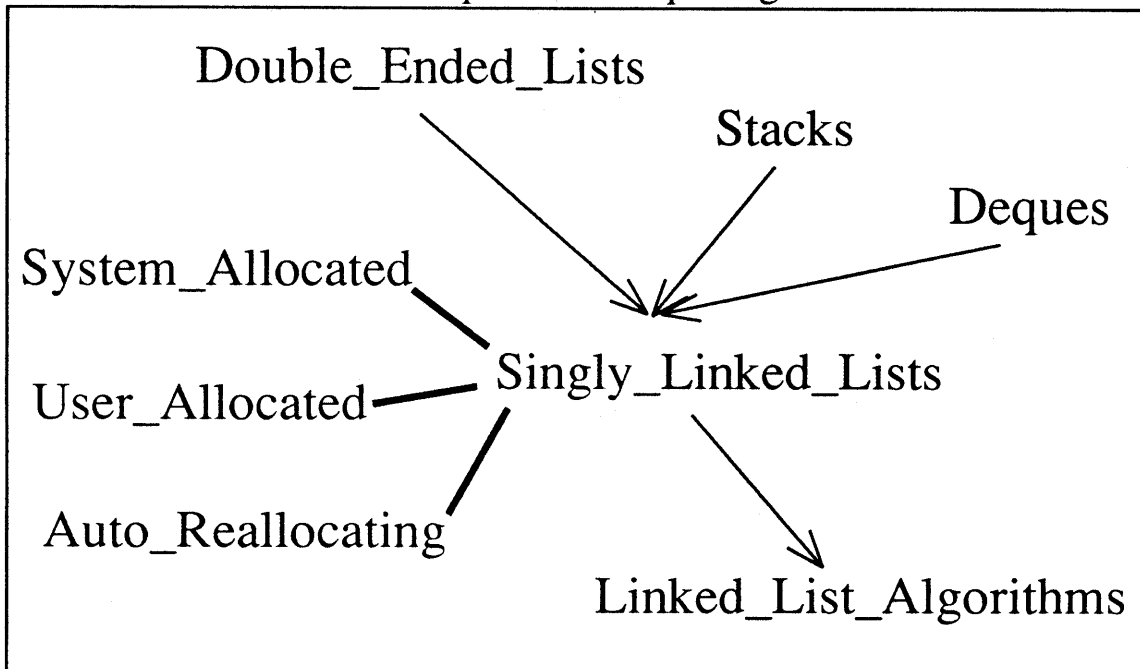
## DOING IT FOR LISTS (2)

```
class Flist
{
private:
    Index b;
    Type v;
public:
    Flist(Index x, Type z) :
    b(x), v(z){};
    Integer length()
    {
        for(int i = 0; b.cdr(); i++);
        return i;
    }
    Index first() {return b;}
    void set_value(type z){v=z;}
    int comp(Index x){return int(*x-t);}
    Index lessThan();
};
```

```
#define SortedSegment Fvector
#include "lessThan.H"
```

D. R. Musser & A. A. Stepanov  
*Ada Generic Library:*  
*Linear List Processing Packages*  
Springer-Verlag, 1989

170 Components in 8 packages



= *implemented in terms of*



= *plugs together with*

## PARTIAL AND APPROXIMATE MODELS

A partial model is isomorphic to the complete model when the partial model is defined.

E.g.,

- bounded sequences
- fixed precision arithmetic

An approximate model may also disagree with the complete model, but all the disagreements are within well defined tolerance

E.g.,

- floating point arithmetic
- pixel representation of continuous images

# ORGANIZATION OF THE LIBRARY

## 1. Structures

- set of operations
- generic meaning
- generic algorithms

sequences

## 2. Realizations

- relative complexity
- specific meaning
- specific algorithms

vectors, lists

## 3. Implementations

- constraints
- exact complexity
- exception handling

bounded vectors,  
extensible vectors

singly linked lists with  
incremental garbage collection



## CLASSIFICATION OF OPERATIONS

### Pseudo-permutations

{some of the same elements  
in a different order}

### Improper permutations:

index based:

subrange, even-numbered

predicate-based:

remove, stable remove

comparison-based:

remove-duplicates, select largest half

### Proper permutations:

index based:

reverse, rotate, random-shuffle

predicate-based:

partition, stable partition

comparison-based:

sort, stable sort, partial sort

## FUNCTIONAL vs. MUTATIVE

## FUTURE PLANS

- \* Community selection
  - formal
  - software engineering
  - systems
  
- \* CSP (Maxwell, Datamesh)
  - classification of disk algorithms
  - build DataMesh from reusable components