

## Range for

## Chapter 2 Conditionally Safe Features

Using the `ZipIterator`, all three containers can be traversed using a single **range-based for** loop:

```
void addVectors2(std::vector<int>& result,
                const std::vector<int>& a,
                const std::vector<int>& b)
{
    assert(a.size() == b.size());
    result.resize(a.size());

    for (std::tuple<int, int, int>& elems : makeZipRange(a, b, result))
    {
        std::get<2>(elems) = std::get<0>(elems) + std::get<1>(elems);
    }
}
```

Each iteration, instead of yielding a single element, yields an `std::tuple` of elements resulting from the traversal of multiple **ranges** simultaneously. To be used, the elements must be unpacked from the `std::tuple` using `std::get`. Zip iterators become much more attractive in C++17 with the advent of **structured bindings**, which allow multiple loop **variables** to be declared at once, without the need to directly unpack the `std::tuples`. The implementation and usage of `ZipRange` above is just a rough sketch: The full design and implementation of zip iterators and zip **ranges** are beyond the scope of this section.

### Adapters are required for many tasks

In the usage examples above, we have seen a number of adapters, e.g., to traverse subranges, to traverse a container in reverse, to generate sequential **values**, and to iterate over multiple **ranges** at once. None of these adapters would be required for a classic **for** loop, which for a one-off situation might express the solution more simply. On the other hand, the adapters that we would create to make **range-based for** loops usable in more situations can lead to the development of a reusable *library* of adapters. Using the `ValueGenerator` class from `Range` generators, for example, produces simpler and more expressive code than using a classic **for** loop would.<sup>11</sup>

### No support for sentinel iterator types

For a given **range** expression, `__range`, `begin(__range)` and `end(__range)` must return the same type to be usable with a **range-based for** loop. This limitation is problematic for **ranges** of indeterminate length, where the condition for ending a loop is not determined by comparing two iterators. For example, in the `RandomIntSequence` example (see *Use Cases — Range generators* on page 687), the end iterator for the infinite random sequence holds a null pointer and is never used, not even within `operator!=`. It would be more efficient and

<sup>11</sup>The Standard’s Ranges Library, introduced in C++20, provides a sophisticated **algebra** for working with and adapting **ranges**.