

const correctness

```
auto& collection = store.create<ExampleMCCollection>("mc");  
// collection -> ExampleMCCollection&  
for (auto mc : collection) {  
    mc.setEnergy(42); // OK  
}
```

```
auto& const_collection = store.get<ExampleMCCollection>("mc");  
// const_collection -> const ExampleMCCollection&  
for (auto mc : const_collection) {  
    mc.setEnergy(42); // NOT OK  
}
```

- In order to be const-correct, a const collection must not return any object that makes it possible to alter internal state of the collection through this object
- const assumes thread safe in c++ (>11). Not enforced by the compiler, but relied upon by STL
- Currently indexed access as well as iterator based access to collections always return mutable objects: [AIDASoft/podio#176](https://github.com/AIDASoft/podio#176)

- Make the indexed access method return a `Const` object from `const` collections
- Duplicate the `CollectionIterator` and also generate a `ConstCollectionIterator`
- Duplicate the `begin` and `end` members of the collections and make the `const` versions return a `ConstCollectionIterator`

Using `static_assert` to enforce things at compile time

- “Compile-time” unittests. If it compiles it passed

```
~~~
304 TEST_CASE("const correct indexed access to const collections", "[const-correctness]") {
305     static_assert(std::is_same_v<
306                   decltype(std::declval<const ExampleClusterCollection>()[0]),
307                   ConstExampleCluster>,
308                   "const collections should only have indexed access to Const objects");
309
310     static_assert(std::is_same_v<
311                   decltype(std::declval<const ExampleClusterCollection>().at(0)),
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314
315     REQUIRE(true);
316 }
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Fails to compile if first argument is false.
Displays second argument as error message

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314     template<typename U, typename T>
315     REQUIRE(true); std::is_same_v<U, T>
316 } true if U and T are the same type
```

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returns the type of the expression that is passed to it.
The expression has to be evaluated at compile-time

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Essentially gives you an object at compile time to call member functions on

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Get the return type of indexed access via
.at() method or operator[] without even creating an
actual collection object

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```

The type that is expected to be returned for indexed access

Python ``equivalent";)

```
class ConstCorrectAccessTest(unittest.TestCase):  
    def test_const_correct_access(self):  
        collection = ExampleClusterCollection()  
        self.assertTrue(isinstance(collection[0], ConstExampleCluster))
```

- But this needs an actual collection with at least one element
- Cannot check/enforce this at compile time, if it fails it fails only at runtime