

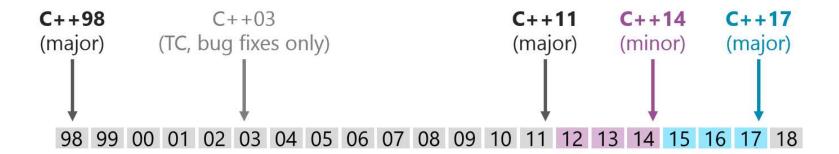
Modern C++: core features

For us



Modern C++

It is what is after C++98/03: C++11, C++14, and C++17





Core features

We shall see some of the core features which help us to at least read some modern C++ code:

 nullptr, auto, type aliases, initializer list, uniform initialization, scoped enumerations, range-based loops, constexpr, override and final.



Prerequisites

To fully understand the course it is required:

Basic knowledge of standard C++98



Prerequisites: C++98

Very basic startup material:

http://www.cplusplus.com/doc/oldtutorial/

Something more:

- Effective C++: 55 Specific Ways to Improve Your Programs and Designs, Scott Meyers



Modern C++

- nullptr,
- auto,
- type aliases,
- initializer list,
- uniform initialization,
- range-based loops,
- constexpr,
- scoped enumerations,
- override and final.



Use nullptr

Since C++11, we prefer the keyword nullptr over 0 or NULL to express a dummy pointer.

Use nullptr because:

- The literal 0 (NULL) is an int, not a pointer and could cause ambiguity in overloaded function resolution.
- It improves code clarity.



Use nullptr

```
void f(int a);
void f(char *a);
void test() { // on compiler armclang w/ both -std=c++98/c++14/c++17
   f(0); // calls f(int a)
   f(NULL); // calls f(int a): it is not what we wanted
   f(nullptr); // calls f(char *a)
   auto result = findRecord( /* arguments */ );
   if(nullptr == result) { // there's no ambiguity:
                          // result must be a pointer type
```



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Use auto whenever possible

The new C++ standards allows the use of auto as a placeholder for types in various contexts and let the compiler deduce the actual type.

An actual term was coined for this by Andrei Alexandrescu and promoted by Herb Sutter: *almost always auto* (AAA).





To declare local variables when you do not want to commit to a specific type with the form:

auto name = expression

```
auto i = 42; // int
auto d = 42.5; // double
auto s = "text"; // char const *
auto v = { 1, 2, 3 }; // std::initializer_list<int>
```



To declare local variables when you need to commit to a specific type with the form:

```
auto name = type-id { expression }
```

```
auto b = new char[10]{ 0 }; // char*
auto s1 = std::string {"text"}; // std::string
auto v1 = std::vector<int> { 1, 2, 3 }; // std::vector<int>
auto p = std::make_shared<int>(42); // std::shared_ptr<int>
```



The auto can be used to specify the return type from a function. In C++11, this requires a trailing return type in the function declaration. In C++14, the type of the return value is deduced by the compiler.

Example

```
auto add(const int a, const int b) -> int { return a+b; } // C++11
auto multiply(const int a, const int b) { return a*b; } // C++14
```

almost always auto (AAA).





To declare named lambda functions, with the form:

auto name = lambda-expression

```
auto half = [](const double v) { return v/2.0; };
auto result = half(8.0);
```



To declare lambda parameters and return values (since C++14).



Benefits of auto

It is not possible to leave a variable uninitialized.

```
auto ihaveavalue = 3; // int
auto idonthaveavalue; // ERROR: its content is unpredictable
```

 Ensures that you always use the correct type and that implicit conversion will not occur

```
auto v = std::vector<int>{ 1, 2, 3 };
int size1 = v.size();  // actually size() returns size_t ...
auto size2 = v.size(); // correct type size_t
```



Benefits of auto

 It means less typing and less concern for types that we don't care about

```
std::map<int, std::string> m; // given this map ...
// we just want to iterate
for (auto it = m.cbegin(); it != m.cend(); ++it)
{ /*...*/ }
// we don't care about the type of the iterator it
for(std::map<int,std::string>::const iterator it = m.cbegin();
it != m.cend(); ++it)
{ /*...*/ }
```

almost always auto (AAA).



Perils of auto

• The user may write obscure code

```
auto var = obtainit();
useit(var);
```



WHAT is var ????

almost always auto (AAA).



Almost always auto but

 Use auto wherever you believe it enhances code readability BUT ... use it well and avoid it where it obscures the intent of the code



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In C++, we can create synonyms for type name with a typedef declaration. However, typedef has some limitations (e.g., it cannot be used with templates).

Since C++11, there is a new using syntax for type aliases and alias templates.



To create type aliases with the form:

Using alias-name = type-id

```
using byte = unsigned char;
using array10b_t = byte[10];
using fpWorker = void (*)(void);
void dosomething() { static array10b_t data = {0}; data[0]++; }
void caller(fpWorker f) { f(); }
void f1() { caller(dosomething); }
```



To create alias templates with the form:

```
template<template-params-list>
using alias-name = type-id
```

```
template <typename T>
using vect_t = std::vector<T>;

vect_t<std::string> vs;
vect_t<int> vi;
```



```
// FP is a synonym for a pointer to a function taking an int and
// a const std::string& and returning nothing
typedef void (*FP)(int, const std::string&); // typedef

// same meaning as above
using FP = void (*)(int, const std::string&); // alias declaration
```



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An object of type std::initializer_list<T> is a lightweight proxy that provides access to an array of objects of type const T.

```
void afun(const std::initializer_list<int> &l);
auto ilis = { 10, 20, 30 }; // the type of ilis is initializer_list<int>
afun(ilis);
auto ilistr = { "hello", "world" };
```



The std::initializer_list<T> is used as a constructor for the std containers. As such, it has wide use in modern C++.

```
std::array<int, 3> a3 = {1, 2, 3};
std::map<int, std::string> mm1 = { {1, "one"}, {2, "two"} };
std::map<int, std::string> mm2{ {3, "three"}, {4, "four"} };
```



```
template <class T>
struct S {
    std::vector<T> v;
    S(std::initializer_list<T> l) : v(l) {      std::cout << "size = " << l.size();    }
    void append(std::initializer_list<T> l) {      v.insert(v.end(), l.begin(), l.end()); }
};

S<int> s = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5}; // copy list-initialization
s.append({6, 7, 8}); // list-initialization in function call
```



Actual use in YARP

```
60 60
61 + /**
62 + * @brief Initializer list constructor.
63 + * @param[in] values, list of std::pair with which initialize the Property.
64 + */
65 + Property(std::initializer_list<std::pair<std::string, yarp::os::Value>> values);
```



Actual use in embedded software of iCub

```
162
 163 static void start evt based(void)
 165
          // pulse led one at 1 hertz
 166
          embot::app::theLEDmanager &theleds = embot::app::theLEDmanager::getInstance();
 167
          theleds.init( { embot::hw::LED::one, embot::hw::LED::two } );
 168
          theleds.get(embot::hw::LED::one).pulse(embot::common::time1second);
 169
class theLEDmanager
public:
   static theLEDmanager& getInstance();
   bool init(const std::initializer list<embot::hw::LED> &leds);
   bool deinit(const std::initializer list<embot::hw::LED> &leds);
   bool deinit();
   bool initialised(embot::hw::LED led) const;
   LEDhandle & get(embot::hw::LED led) const;
   ~theLEDmanager();
private:
   theLEDmanager();
   struct Impl;
   std::unique ptr<Impl> pImpl;
} :
                                                                               initializer list
```



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C++11 has a uniform syntax that can be used anywhere, the braced-initialization: { }

It can be used in direct initiatialization and also in copy initialization:

```
direct initialization copy initialization int i\{2\}; int i = \{2\}; int[] ai\{2,3\}; int ai[] = \{2,3\}; vector<int> vi\{1,2,3\}; vector<int> vi\{1,2,3\};
```



{}

Uniform-initialization

Example w/ built-in types and arrays:

```
int i { 42 }; double d { 1.2 };
int arr1[3] { 1, 2, 3 }; int* arr2 = new int[3]{ 1, 2, 3 };
```

Example w/ standard containers:

```
std::vector<int> v { 1, 2, 3 };

std::vector<int> v1 {};

std::map<int, std::string> m { 1, "one"}, { 2, "two" } };

In C++98, it is possible only w/ std::vector and integral types:

int arr[] = {3, 9, 27, 81};

std::vector<int> vec98 (arr, arr + sizeof(arr) / sizeof(arr[0]) );
```



Example w/ user-defined types:

```
class FAQ {
  std::string question {"*"};
  int answer {42};
public:
  FAQ() = default;
  FAQ(const std::string &q, int a) : question(q), answer(a) {}
void test() {
    FAQ f0{};
    FAQ f2{ "what?", 42};
```



All standard containers have an additional constructor in C++11 that takes an argument std::initializer list<T>

An initializer list always takes precedence over other constructors where brace-initialization is used.

```
struct fee {
  std::array<int, 2> a {0, 0};
  fee() = default;
  fee(int v1, int v2 = 1) : a\{v1, v2\}\{\} // useless
  fee(std::initializer_list<int> | (|.size() == 2)( ... | )
};
fee f{ 1, 2 }; // calls constructor with initializer list<int>;
```



Caveat:

 The precedence of std::initializer_list<> may lead to bugs:

```
std::vector<int> v {5, 1}; // a vector of 2 elements: 5 and 1 std::vector<int> v (5, 1); // a vector of 5 elements with value 1
```

 brace-initialization does not allow narrowing conversion:



Modern C++

Hidden track: std::array<>



std::array<>

The std::array is a container that encapsulates fixed size arrays.

 std::array<T, N> an aggregate type with the same semantics as a struct holding a C-style array T[N] as its only non-static data member.

hidden track: std::array<>



std::array<>

 the struct combines the performance and accessibility of a Cstyle array with the benefits of a standard container, such as knowing its own size, supporting assignment, random access iterators, etc.

```
std::array<int, 4> data0;

size_t pos = getpositionsomewhere();
if(pos < data0.size())
{
    data0[pos]++;
}</pre>
```



std::array<>

```
std::array<int, 4> data0 {};

Data0.fill(41);

for(auto &v : data0)
{
   v++;
}
```





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In C++11, a range-based for loop has the following general syntax:

```
for (decl: expr) stmt;
```

Example

```
std::vector<int> fibo {0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13};
std::vector<std::string> names {};
for(const auto &a : fibo) {
    names.push_back(std::to_string(a));
}

for ( decl : expr ) stmt;
```



A loop can be non mutating:

```
for (int i : fibo) std::cout << i;
for (const int i : fibo) std::cout << i; // It is OK, but prefer the const &
for (const std::string &s : names) std::cout << s;</pre>
```

Or mutating:

```
for (int &i: fibo) i++;
```

Also, it can automatically infer the type:

```
for (auto i : fibo) std::cout << i;
for (const auto i : fibo) std::cout << i; // It is OK, but prefer the const &
for (const auto &s : names) std::cout << s;
for (auto &i : fibo) i++;
```





It works on any *expr* whose type, or decltype(expr):

has begin() / end() member functions (as the STL containers);

```
std::vector<int> fibo{0, 1, 1}; for(const auto &a : fibo) { ... }
```

or: is of array type;

```
int set[] = {1, 2, 3, 4};
for(auto &item : set) item++;
```

• or: has existing begin(decltype(expr)) and end(decltype(expr)) functions, found exclusively via argument-dependent lookup.

```
MySet set;
for(const auto &item : set) { /* use the item set */ }
// it works if we have MySet::begin() / ::end() / related operators ++ and !=
```

```
for ( decl : expr ) stmt;
```



```
The expression for ( decl : expr ) stmt; expands to:
      auto&& __range = expr; // it is a <u>universal reference</u>
      auto b = begin( range);
      auto e = end( range);
      for (; __b != __e; ++__b) {
         decl = * b;
         stmt;
```





Example (compiled w/ armclang and executed)

```
volatile int ciao[] = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}; // placed in RAM @ 0x2000A9B4
// for(auto &item : ciao) item++; // is equivalent to following code:
   auto && __range = ciao; // it is a ref to int[8] and points 0x2000A9B4
   auto __b = std::begin(__range); // it is a int * = 0x2000A9B4
    auto e = std::end(range); // it is a int * = 0x2000A9D4
   for(; b!= e; ++ b){
        auto &item = *__b; // is the reference to each value inside ciao[]
        item++;
```





Example (yarp vector TODO)

```
volatile int ciao[] = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}; // placed in RAM @ 0x2000A9B4
// for(auto &item : ciao) item++; // is equivalent to following code:
   auto && __range = ciao; // it is a ref to int[8] and points 0x2000A9B4
   auto __b = std::begin(__range); // it is a int * = 0x2000A9B4
   auto e = std::end(range); // it is a int * = 0x2000A9D4
   for(; b!= e; ++ b){
        auto &item = *__b; // is the reference to each value inside ciao[]
        item++;
```





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The keyword constexpr (short for constant expression) can be used to declare compile-time constant objects and functions.

The possibility to evaluate expressions at compile time improves runtime execution because there is less code to run and the compiler can perform additional optimizations.





Use constexpr to define non-member functions that can be evaluated at compile time.

```
constexpr unsigned int factorial(const unsigned int n)
{
    return n > 1 ? n * factorial(n-1) : 1;
}
```



Use constexpr to define constructors that can be executed at compile time to initialize constexpr objects.



Use constexpr to define variables that can have their values evaluated at compile time.

```
constexpr P3D origin { 1.3, 1.5, 1.7 };
constexpr unsigned int size = factorial(6);
char buffer[size] {0};
constexpr P3D p {0, 1, 2};
constexpr auto x = p.get_x();
```



Use in embedded software in iCub

```
69 namespace embot { namespace hw { namespace bsp {
70
71
        struct SUPP
72 -
73
           std::uint32 t
                                supportedmask;
74
75
            constexpr SUPP(std::uint32 t m) : supportedmask(m) {}
76
77
            template <typename T>
78
            constexpr bool supported (T v) const
79 -
80
                return embot::binary::bit::check(supportedmask, embot::common::tointegral(v));
81
82
                         5 namespace embot { namespace hw { namespace bsp { namespace pga308 {
84
    }}} // namespace embo6
                                struct PROP
                         В
                         9
                                    embot::hw::GPIO poweron;
                         1 2
                                struct BSP : public embot::hw::bsp::SUPP
                                    constexpr static std::uint8 t maxnumberof = embot::common::tointegral(embot::hw::PGA308
                         5
                                    constexpr BSP(std::uint32 t msk, std::array<const PROP*, maxnumberof> pro) : SUPP(msk),
                                    constexpr BSP() : SUPP(0), properties({0}) {}
                         В
                                    std::array<const PROP*, maxnumberof> properties;
                         9
                                    constexpr const PROP * getPROP(embot::hw::PGA308 h) const { return supported(h) ? prope
                         0
                                    void init(embot::hw::PGA308 h) const;
                                } :
                         2
                                const BSP& getBSP();
```



Use in embedded software in iCub

```
578 Inamespace embot { namespace hw { namespace bsp { namespace pga308 {
579
580
         #if defined(STM32HAL BOARD STRAIN2)
581
582
         constexpr PROP prop { .poweron = {embot::hw::GPIO::PORT::B, embot::hw::GPIO::PIN::fifteen} };
583
584
         constexpr BSP thebsp
             // maskofsupported
586
             mask::pos2mask<uint32 t>(PGA308::one)
                                                     | mask::pos2mask<uint32 t>(PGA308::two)
587
             mask::pos2mask<uint32 t>(PGA308::three) | mask::pos2mask<uint32 t>(PGA308::four) |
588
             mask::pos2mask<uint32 t>(PGA308::five) | mask::pos2mask<uint32 t>(PGA308::six),
589
             // properties
590
             11
591
                 &prop, &prop, &prop, &prop, &prop
592
             11
593
         1:
594
595
         void BSP::init(embot::hw::PGA308 h) const {}
596
597
         #else
598
599
         constexpr BSP thebsp { };
600
         void BSP::init(embot::hw::PGA308 h) const {}
601
602
         #endif
603
604
         const BSP& getBSP()
605
606
             return thebsp;
607
609
     }}}} // namespace embot { namespace hw { namespace bsp { namespace pga308 {
610
```



Use in embedded software in iCub

```
embot_hw_bsp.cpp
 main-strain2-application.cpp
                                                           embot_hw_pga308.cpp*
                                                                                                      embot_app_application_theSTR/
                                           embot_hw_bsp.h
                                                                                   embot_app_canprotocol.h
   146
                return resOK;
   147
            }
   148
   149
            result t init(PGA308 a, const Config &config)
   150 日
   151
                if (false == embot::hw::bsp::pga308::getBSP().supported(a))
   152 -
   153
                    return resNOK;
   154
   155
156
                if(true == initialised(a))
   158
                    return resOK:
   159
   160
   161
                // init chip
   162
                embot::hw::bsp::pga308::getBSP().init(a);
   163
   164
                s privatedata.config[embot::common::tointegral(a)] = config;
   165
   166
                // init onewire. i dont check vs correct config apart from correct gpio
   167
                if (false == config.onewireconfig.gpio.isvalid())
   168 =
   169
                    return resNOK;
   170
                1
   171
   172
                const embot::hw::bsp::pga308::PROP * prop = embot::hw::bsp::pga308::getBSP().getPROP(embot::hw::PGA308::one);
   173
   174
                if(false == prop->poweron.isvalid())
   175 日
   176
                    return resNOK;
   177
   178
```

constexpr



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Scoped enumerators

Enumerators declared with enum class or enum struct are called *scoped enumerators*.

enum color { Black, White, Red }; // unscoped, C++98 enum class Color { black, white, red }; // scoped, C++11

From Effective Modern C++, Scott Meyers:

[item 10]: Prefer scoped enums to unscoped enums



OK, but why enums at all?

From Effective C++, Scott Meyers:

[item 2]: Prefer consts, enums, and inlines to #defines Or: "prefer the compiler to the preprocessor," because #define may be treated as if it's not part of the language per se.

- The enum can be scoped by a namespace, the macro (#define) cannot.
- The macro can be redefined, the enum cannot
- The enum can be used as a type for an argument passing.





Why not just unscoped enum?

The unscoped enums suffer two main problems that the scoped enum have solved:

- nothing else in their scope may have the same name, hence they do scope pollution;
- they implicitly convert to integral types and, from there, to floating-point types.





Reasons for scoped enum

They don't do scope pollution.

enum color { Black, White, Red }; // they are in same scope as color enum class Color { black, white, red }; // they are scoped by Color

```
auto White = false; // error! White already declared in this scope auto white = false; // fine, no other white in scope

Color c = white; // error! no enumerator named white in this scope

Color c = Color::white; // fine

auto c = Color::white; // also fine

enum class LED { one, two, three };

enum class SPI { one, two, three };
```



Reasons for scoped enum

They don't convert to integral types:

```
enum color { Black, White, Red = 2};
enum class Color { black, white, red = 2 };
std::vector<std::size_t> primeFactors(std::size_t x);
color c = Red; // Red but also = 2
if (c < 14.5) { // compare Color to double (!)
     auto factors = primeFactors(c); // SIC! prime factors of a color
Color c = Color::red;
if (c < 14.5) { // error! can't compare Color and double
     auto factors = primeFactors(c); // error! can't pass Color to size_t
```



Underlying types of enum

Since C++11, we can specify an underlying type for enums so that they occupy a given size:

```
enum color : std::uint8_t { Black, White, Red = 1000 }; // error!
enum class Color : std::uint8_t { black, white, red = 2 };
static_assert(sizeof(Color) == 1, "underlying type is not 8 bits");
```

To retrieve the value of the underlying type, use:



Example of scoped enum + constexpr

Example

```
enum class Led::uint8_t { red = 0, green = 1, blue = 63, max = blue };
template<typename E, E max>
 struct eMap {
   static assert(toUType(max) < (8*sizeof(unsigned long long)), "size error");
   std::bitset<toUType(max)+1> map;
   constexpr eMap(const std::initializer list<E> &li) {
      unsigned long long m = 0;
      for(auto &e : li) m |= (static cast<unsigned long long>(1) << toUType(e));
      map = m;
   constexpr bool available(E e) const { return map[toUType(e)]; }
 };
```

enum class





Example of scoped enum + constexpr

Example (continued)

```
enum class Led: std::uint8_t { red = 0, green = 1, blue = 2, white = 63, max = white };
constexpr eMap<Led, Led::max> theLEDs {Led::red, Led::blue}; // resolved at compile...
void init()
    if(theLEDs.available(Led::green) { // resolved at compile time.
          dosomething();
                                       // on armclang compiler with 0 optimization ...
                                        // no code is generated.
    if(theLEDs.available(Led::red) { // resolved at compile time.
          doit();
                                       // on armclang compiler with 0 optimization ...
                                        // only code for doit() is generated.
```



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Use the keyword override to prevent mistakes in the design of virtual functions.

I will use Scott Meyers's words from his book *Effective Modern C++* (Item 12: Declare overriding functions override):

'The world of object-oriented programming in C++ revolves around classes, inheritance, and virtual functions. Among the most fundamental ideas in this world is that virtual function implementations in derived classes *override* the implementations of their base class counterparts. It's disheartening, then, to realize just how easily virtual function overriding can go wrong '



Example (bad design, but OK so far)

```
class Base {
public:
     virtual int get() { return b; } // base class virtual function
class Derived: public Base {
public:
     virtual int get() { return d*d; } // overrides Base::get()
                                           // ("virtual" is optional here)
Base * p = new Derived;
p->get(); // OK: called Derived::get() through a Base *
```

override





Example (bad design, incorrect behaviour)

```
class Base {
public:
     virtual int get() const { return b; } // someone changes signature
class Derived: public Base {
                                      // but forgets the Derived class
public:
     virtual int get() { return d*d; } // it DOES NOT override Base::get()
                                          // anymore
Base * p = new Derived;
p->get(); // ERROR: called Base::get() now
```



Example (better design)

```
class Base {
public:
     virtual int get() { return b; } // base class virtual function
class Derived: public Base {
public:
      virtual int get() override { return d*d; } // overrides Base::get()
                                             // ("virtual" is optional here)
};
Base * p = new Derived;
p->get(); // OK: called Derived::get() through a Base *
```



Example (the error is catched at compile time)

```
class Base {
public:
     virtual int get() const { return b; } // someone changes signature
class Derived: public Base { // but forgets the Derived class
public:
     virtual int get() override { return d*d; } // it DOES NOT compile
Base * p = new Derived;
p->get(); // OK: always calls Base::get()
```



There is also final

In C++11 we have the keyword final which is used to terminate inheritance.

```
struct Point final { int x, y; };
   struct IperPoint : public Point { int i; }: // does not compile
   class Polygon final: public std::vector<Point> { ... }; // it compiles
   class Derived: public Base {
                                              // but forgets the Derived class
   public:
         int get() const override final { return d*d; } // cannot further derive get()
   class Derived : public Derived { // I can further derive the class as long as
                                     // I don't derive get() any further
final
```



EMPTY

Bla bla bla typedef sssss. dece, typedef cercwercver.

• Some etxt.

Soem code // given this map ...