

Variadic expansion in examples

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Outline

1. Introduction to variadic templates
2. Variadic syntax and recursive techniques
3. Tuple unpacking
4. A SFINAE technique with variadic packs
5. Variadic expansion of expressions
6. Expansion of lambda blocks
7. Implementing a variant type

Templates

```
std::vector<int> vector_of_ints = { 1, 2, 3 };  
std::vector<std::string> vector_of_strings = { "abc", "def" };
```

Templates

```
std::vector<int> vector_of_ints = { 1, 2, 3 };  
std::vector<std::string> vector_of_strings = { "abc", "def" };  
std::vector<bool> not_a_container = { true, false };
```

Templates

```
template<typename T>
const T & min(const T & t, const T & u)
{
    return t < u ? t : u;
}
```

Templates

```
template<typename T, typename U>  
decltype(auto) min(T && t, U && u)  
{  
    return t < u ? std::forward<T>(t) : std::forward<U>(u);  
}
```

Templates

```
template<typename T, typename U>  
auto min(T t, U u)  
{  
    return t < u ? t : u;  
}
```

The need for variable number of arguments

- What about getting a minimal value among more than two, all of (possibly) different types?

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The need for variable number of arguments

- What about getting a minimal value among more than two, all of (possibly) different types?
- What about binding functions to their arguments (partial application)?
(We do not speak of `std::bind1st` and `std::bind2nd...`)
- What about types parametrized on an arbitrary number of types?

The need for variable number of arguments

- What about getting a minimal value among more than two, all of (possibly) different types?
- What about binding functions to their arguments (partial application)?
(We do not speak of `std::bind1st` and `std::bind2nd...`)
- What about types parametrized on an arbitrary number of types?
Concrete example: variant types.

Boost approach: preprocessor

Let's talk about `boost::variant...`

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Boost approach: preprocessor

Let's talk about `boost::variant`... a poster child for people saying that templates are what's wrong with C++.

```
#define BOOST_VARIANT_AUX_DECLARE_PARAMS \  
    BOOST_PP_ENUM( \  
        BOOST_VARIANT_LIMIT_TYPES \  
        , BOOST_VARIANT_AUX_DECLARE_PARAMS_IMPL \  
        , T \  
    ) \  
/**/
```

```
template < BOOST_VARIANT_AUX_DECLARE_PARAMS > class variant;
```

Boost approach: preprocessor

```
template < typename T0 = detail::variant::void_ , typename T1 = detail::var
    , typename T2 = detail::variant::void_ , typename T3 = detail::variant
    , typename T4 = detail::variant::void_ , typename T5 = detail::variant
    , typename T6 = detail::variant::void_ , typename T7 = detail::variant
    , typename T8 = detail::variant::void_ , typename T9 = detail::variant
    , typename T10 = detail::variant::void_ , typename T11 = detail::varian
    , typename T12 = detail::variant::void_ , typename T13 = detail::varian
    , typename T14 = detail::variant::void_ , typename T15 = detail::varian
    , typename T16 = detail::variant::void_ , typename T17 = detail::varian
    , typename T18 = detail::variant::void_ , typename T19 = detail::varian
> class variant;
```


Recursive approach

```
struct tail  
{  
};
```

```
template<std::size_t Index, typename T, typename Tail = tail>  
struct type_list  
{  
};
```

Recursive approach

```
struct tail
{
};

template<std::size_t Index, typename T, typename Tail = tail>
struct type_list
{
};

using list = type_list<0, int, type_list<1, float> >;
```

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Syntax

```
template<typename... Ts>  
auto min(Ts... ts);
```

Syntax

```
template<typename... Ts>
auto min(Ts... ts);

min(1, 2, 3);
min(1, 2.f, 3.0, 'a');
```

Syntax

```
template<typename... Ts>  
auto min(Ts... ts);  
  
min(1, 2, 3);  
min(1, 2.f, 3.0, 'a');  
  
template<typename... Ts>  
class variant;
```

Syntax

```
template<typename... Ts>
auto min(Ts... ts);

min(1, 2, 3);
min(1, 2.f, 3.0, 'a');

template<typename... Ts>
class variant;

variant<int, float> v1;
variant<std::string, int, bool> v2;
```

Recursive unpacking

```
template<typename First, typename Second, typename... Tail>  
auto min(First first, Second second, Tail... tail)  
{  
    return first < second ? min(first, tail...) : min(second, tail...);  
}
```


Recursive unpacking

```
template<typename First, typename Second, typename... Tail>
auto min(First first, Second second, Tail... tail)
{
    return first < second ? min(first, tail...) : min(second, tail...);
}

template<typename Only>
auto min(Only only)
{
    return only;
}
```

Recursive unpacking

```
min(1, 2, 3, 4);
```

Recursive unpacking

```
min(1, 2, 3, 4);  
auto min(int first, int second, int tail0, int tail1)  
{  
    return first < second ? min(first, tail0, tail1) : min(second, tail0, tail1);  
}
```

Recursive unpacking

```
min(1, 2, 3, 4);  
auto min(int first, int second, int tail0, int tail1)  
{  
    return first < second ? min(first, tail0, tail1) : min(second, tail0, tail1);  
}  
auto min(int first, int second, int tail0)  
{  
    return first < second ? min(first, tail0) : min(second, tail0);  
}
```

Recursive unpacking

```
min(1, 2, 3, 4);  
auto min(int first, int second, int tail0, int tail1)  
{  
    return first < second ? min(first, tail0, tail1) : min(second, tail0, tail1);  
}  
auto min(int first, int second, int tail0)  
{  
    return first < second ? min(first, tail0) : min(second, tail0);  
}  
auto min(int first, int second /* no tail - empty pack */)   
{  
    return first < second ? min(first) : min(second);  
}
```

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Tuples

Tuple – a generic data structure containing values of several defined types.

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```
template<typename... Ts>  
class tuple;
```


Tuples

Tuple – a generic data structure containing values of several defined types.

```
template<typename... Ts>
class tuple;

std::tuple<int, float> t1 = { 1, 2.f };
auto t2 = std::make_tuple('a', true);
```

Tuples

Tuple – a generic data structure containing values of several defined types.

```
template<typename... Ts>
class tuple;

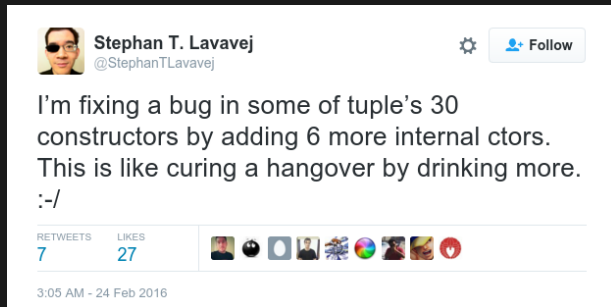
std::tuple<int, float> t1 = { 1, 2.f };
auto t2 = std::make_tuple('a', true);

auto v1 = std::get<0>(t1); // == 1
auto v2 = std::get<1>(t2); // == true
```

Tuples

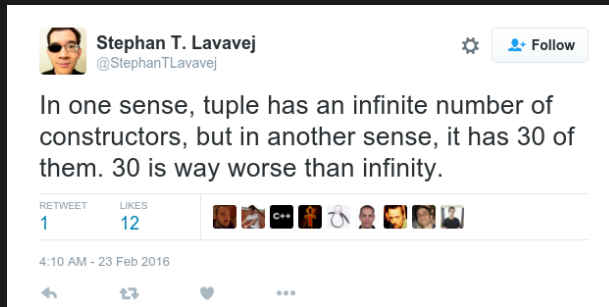
`std::tuple` is also the bane of existence of the standard library developers.

Tuples



<https://twitter.com/StephanTLavavej/status/702313387041038336>

Tuples



<https://twitter.com/StephanTLavavej/status/701967296978247680>

Problem definition

- `std::tuple` used as generic storage.
- A function is passed in later on to be called with the stored arguments.

std::make_integer_sequence

Generation of that integer list was so common that the committee deemed it useful to include a standard tool for that.

std::make_integer_sequence

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```
template<typename T, T... Is>
struct integer_sequence;
```

`std::make_integer_sequence`

Generation of that integer list was so common that the committee deemed it useful to include a standard tool for that.

```
template<typename T, T... Is>
struct integer_sequence;

template<std::size_t... Is>
using index_sequence = integer_sequence<std::size_t, Is...>;
```

`std::make_integer_sequence`

Generation of that integer list was so common that the committee deemed it useful to include a standard tool for that.

```
template<typename T, T... Is>
struct integer_sequence;

template<std::size_t... Is>
using index_sequence = integer_sequence<std::size_t, Is...>;

auto sequence = std::make_index_sequence<3>();
// decltype(sequence) == std::index_sequence<0, 1, 2>
```

Tuple unpacking

```
template<typename... Ts>
auto do_something(std::tuple<Ts...> tuple)
{
    return do_something_impl(tuple, std::make_index_sequence<sizeof...(Ts)>());
}
```

Tuple unpacking

```
template<typename... Ts>
auto do_something(std::tuple<Ts...> tuple)
{
    return do_something_impl(tuple, std::make_index_sequence<sizeof...(Ts)>());
}

template<typename... Ts, std::size_t... Is>
auto do_something_impl(std::tuple<Ts...> tuple, std::index_sequence<Is...>)
{
    return function_to_call(std::get<Is>(tuple)...);
}
```

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SFINAE

SFINAE - Substitution Failure Is Not An Error

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```
template<bool B, typename T = void>
struct enable_if
{
    using type = T;
};
```

SFINAE

SFINAE - Substitution Failure Is Not An Error

```
template<bool B, typename T = void>
struct enable_if
{
    using type = T;
};

template<typename T>
struct enable_if<false, T>
{
};
```

SFINAE

```
template<typename T>  
auto something(const T &)  
-> typename std::enable_if<interesting_trait<T>::value>::type;
```

SFINAE

```
template<typename T>
auto something(const T &)
    -> typename std::enable_if<interesting_trait<T>::value>::type;

template<typename T,
        typename std::enable_if<interesting_trait<T>::value, int>::type = 0>
auto something(const T &);
```

Variadic SFINAE

```
template<typename T,  
        typename std::enable_if<interesting_trait<T>::value, int>::type...>  
auto something(const T &);
```

Variadic SFINAE

```
template<typename T,  
        typename std::enable_if<interesting_trait<T>::value, int>::type...>  
auto something(const T &);  
  
template<typename T,  
        typename std::enable_if<interesting_trait<T>::value> *...>  
auto something(const T &);
```

Compiler bugs

Bug 11723 - Clang doesn't substitute into template parameter list of type template parameter pack if the pack is unused

Status: NEW

Product: clang

Component: C++11

Version: trunk

Platform: All All

Reported: 2012-01-07 20:29 CST by Johannes Schaub

Modified: 2016-02-10 11:06 CST ([History](#))

CC List: 11 users ([show](#))

[See Also:](#)

Importance: P normal

Assigned To: Unassigned Clang Bugs

URL:

Keywords:

Depends on:

Blocks:

https://llvm.org/bugs/show_bug.cgi?id=11723

Compiler bugs

This was the state before February.

Compiler bugs

Nathan Ridge 2016-07-04 23:11:42 CDT

[Comment 9](#)

I just discovered that this has been fixed on trunk for 5 months, in ~~bug-23840~~!\o/

(It missed the clang 3.8 release, however.)

Closing as dupe.

*** This bug has been marked as a duplicate of ~~bug-23840~~ ***

Compiler bugs

Richard Smith 2016-02-03 14:41:49 CST

[Comment 1](#)

Fixed in r259688.

Nathan Ridge 2016-07-04 23:11:42 CDT

[Comment 2](#)

*** [Bug-11723](#) has been marked as a duplicate of this bug. ***

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Contexts in which pack expansion is allowed

- expressions

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- expressions
- list of base classes

Contexts in which pack expansion is allowed

- expressions
- list of base classes
- list of arguments (both template and function)

Contexts in which pack expansion is allowed

- expressions
- list of base classes
- list of arguments (both template and function)
- values or types passed as said arguments

Contexts in which pack expansion is not allowed

- declarations (to declare something for every element in a pack)

Contexts in which pack expansion is not allowed

- declarations (to declare something for every element in a pack)
- statements (to execute a statement for every element in a pack)

Problem definition

Objective: calling a function per every argument.

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```
template<typename... Args>
void foo(Args... args)
{
    bar(args)...; // doesn't work!
    // "expected expression"
    // "expected ; before ..."
    // "pack not expanded"
}
```

An attempt

```
template<typename... Args>
void swallow(Args &&...)
{
}
```

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template<typename... Args>  
void swallow(Args &&...)  
{  
}
```

```
template<typename... Args>  
void foo(Args... args)  
{  
    swallow(bar(args)...);  
}
```

An attempt

```
template<typename... Args>  
void foo(Args &&... args)  
{  
    swallow((bar(std::forward<Args>(args)), 0)...);  
}
```

An attempt

```
template<typename... Args>
void f(Args... args)
{
    swallow((std::cout << args << ' ', 0)...);
}

int main()
{
    f(1, 2, "abc");
}
```

An attempt

```
$ clang++ -std=c++11 main.cpp && ./a.out  
1 2 abc
```


An attempt

```
$ clang++ -std=c++11 main.cpp && ./a.out
```

```
1 2 abc
```

```
$ g++ -std=c++11 main.cpp && ./a.out
```

```
abc 2 1
```

An attempt



Helpers

```
struct unit  
{  
};
```

Helpers

```
struct unit
{
};

struct swallow
{
    template<typename... Args>
    swallow(Args &&...)
    {
    }
};
```

A proper attempt

```
template<typename... Args>
void f(Args... args)
{
    swallow{ (std::cout << args << ' ', unit{})... };
}

int main()
{
    f(1, 2, "abc");
}
```

A proper attempt

```
$ clang++ -std=c++11 main.cpp && ./a.out  
1 2 abc
```

A proper attempt

```
$ clang++ -std=c++11 main.cpp && ./a.out
```

```
1 2 abc
```

```
$ g++ -std=c++11 main.cpp && ./a.out
```

```
1 2 abc
```

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Motivation

- Runtime dispatch in cases of type erasure is usually implemented in terms of virtual function calls.

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- Virtual function calls usually mean two pointer accesses.

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- For erasure where the possible types are known at compile time, *we can do better!*

Motivation

- Runtime dispatch in cases of type erasure is usually implemented in terms of virtual function calls.
- Virtual function calls usually mean two pointer accesses.
- For erasure where the possible types are known at compile time, *we can do better!* (...provided we have `constexpr` lambdas.)

Basic idea

Lambdas are expressions.

Basic idea

Lambdas are expressions.

```
template<typename... Ts>
void print(variant<Ts...> v)
{
    using visitor_type = void (*)(variant<Ts...>);
    static visitor_type handlers[] = {
        [](variant<Ts...> v) {
            using T = Ts;
            std::cout << get<index_of<T, Ts...>::value>(v) << std::endl;
        }...
    };
    handlers[v.index()](std::move(v));
}
```

Compiler bugs, again

Bug 47226 - [C++0x] GCC doesn't expand template parameter pack that appears in a lambda-expression

Status: NEW

Alias: None

Product: gcc

Component: C++ ([show other bugs](#))

Version: 4.6.0

Importance: P3 normal

Target Milestone: ---

Assignee: Not yet assigned to anyone

URL:

Keywords:

Depends on:

Blocks: [54367](#)

Show dependency [tree](#) / [graph](#)

Reported: 2011-01-08 20:58 UTC by Johannes Schaub

Modified: 2015-11-27 22:19 UTC ([History](#))

CC List: 9 users ([show](#))

See Also:

Host:

Target:

Build:

Known to work:

Known to fail:

Last reconfirmed: 2013-05-21 00:00:00

https://gcc.gnu.org/bugzilla/show_bug.cgi?id=47226

Helpers

```
template<typename T>
struct id
{
    using type = T;
}
```


A workaround

```
template<typename... Ts>
void print(variant<Ts...> v)
{
    using visitor_type = void (*)(variant<Ts...>);
    auto generator = [](auto type) {
        using T = typename decltype(type)::type;
        return [](variant<Ts...> v) {
            std::cout << get<index_of<T, Ts...>::value>(v) << std::endl;
        };
    };
    static visitor_type handlers[] = { generator(id<Ts>())... };
    handlers[v.index()](std::move(v));
}
```

Compiler output

Compiler output

```
template<typename T>
struct id {
    using type = T;
};
template<typename... Ts>
struct foo {
    void call(std::size_t i) {
        using visitor = void (*)(T);
        auto generator = [] (auto type) {
            using T = typename decltype(type)::type;
            return [] () { std::cout << sizeof(T); };
        };
        static visitor visitors[] = { generator(id<Ts>())... };
        visitors[i]();
    }
};
int main() {
    foo<int, float, double> f;
    volatile std::size_t i = 1;
    f.call(i);
}
```

Compiler output - GCC 6

```

_ZZZN3fooIJifdEE4callEmENKUlT_E_cIi2idIiEEEDaS1_ENUlvE_4_FUNEv:
    movl    $4, %esi
    movl    std::cout, %edi
    jmp     std::basic_ostream<char, std::char_traits<char> >& std::basic_ostream<char, std::char_traits<char> >
           ::Mininsert<unsigned long>(unsigned long)
_ZZZN3fooIJifdEE4callEmENKUlT_E_cIi2idIfEEEDaS1_ENUlvE_4_FUNEv:
    movl    $4, %esi
    movl    std::cout, %edi
    jmp     std::basic_ostream<char, std::char_traits<char> >& std::basic_ostream<char, std::char_traits<char> >
           ::M_insert<unsigned long>(unsigned long)
_ZZZN3fooIJifdEE4callEmENKUlT_E_cIi2idIdEEEDaS1_ENUlvE_4_FUNEv:
    movl    $8, %esi
    movl    std::cout, %edi
    jmp     std::basic_ostream<char, std::char_traits<char> >& std::basic_ostream<char, std::char_traits<char> >
           ::M_insert<unsigned long>(unsigned long)
main:
    pushq   %rbx
    subq    $16, %rsp
    movq    $1, 8(%rsp)
    movq    8(%rsp), %rbx
    movzbl  guard variable for foo<int, float, double>::call(unsigned long)::visitors(%rip), %eax
    testb   %al, %al
    je      .L13

```

Compiler output - GCC 6

```
.L6:    call    *foo<int, float, double>::call(unsigned long)::visitors(,%rbx,8)
      addq   $16, %rsp
      xorl   %eax, %eax
      popq   %rbx
      ret

.L13:   movl   guard variable for foo<int, float, double>::call(unsigned long)::visitors, %edi
      call   __cxa_guard_acquire
      testl  %eax, %eax
      je     .L6
      movl   guard variable for foo<int, float, double>::call(unsigned long)::visitors, %edi
      movq   $ _ZZN3fooIJfdEE4callEmENKU1T_E_clI2idIiEEEDaS1_ENUlvE_4_FUNEv, foo<int, float, double>
      ::call(unsigned long)::visitors(%rip)
      movq   $ _ZZN3fooIJfdEE4callEmENKU1T_E_clI2idIfEEEDaS1_ENUlvE_4_FUNEv, foo<int, float, double>
      ::call(unsigned long)::visitors+8(%rip)
      movq   $ _ZZN3fooIJfdEE4callEmENKU1T_E_clI2idIdEEEDaS1_ENUlvE_4_FUNEv, foo<int, float, double>
      ::call(unsigned long)::visitors+16(%rip)
      call   __cxa_guard_release
      jmp    .L6
```

Compiler output - GCC 7

```

movl    $4, %esi
movl    std::cout, %edi
jmp     std::basic_ostream<char, std::char_traits<char> >& std::basic_ostream<char, std::char_traits<char> >
::M_insert<unsigned long>(unsigned long)
movl    $4, %esi
movl    std::cout, %edi
jmp     std::basic_ostream<char, std::char_traits<char> >& std::basic_ostream<char, std::char_traits<char> >
::M_insert<unsigned long>(unsigned long)
movl    $8, %esi
movl    std::cout, %edi
jmp     std::basic_ostream<char, std::char_traits<char> >& std::basic_ostream<char, std::char_traits<char> >
::M_insert<unsigned long>(unsigned long)
main:   subq    $24, %rsp
movq    $1, 8(%rsp)
movq    8(%rsp), %rax
call    *foo<int, float, double>::call(unsigned long)::visitors(,%rax,8)
xorl    %eax, %eax
addq    $24, %rsp
ret
# the thing from above main: repeated
# iostream's Init()
foo<int, float, double>::call(unsigned long)::visitors:

```

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std::aligned_storage

```
template<std::size_t Size,  
        std::size_t Alignment = /* default alignment */>  
struct aligned_storage  
{  
    using type = /* type of size Size, aligned with Alignment */;  
};
```


std::aligned_storage

```
template<std::size_t Size,  
        std::size_t Alignment = /* default alignment */>  
struct aligned_storage  
{  
    using type = /* type of size Size, aligned with Alignment */;  
};  
  
template<std::size_t Size,  
        std::size_t Alignment = /* default alignment */>  
using aligned_storage_t = typename aligned_storage<Size, Alignment>::type;
```

Basics

```
template<typename... Ts>
class variant
{
    std::aligned_storage_t<
        max(sizeof(Ts)...),
        max(alignof(Ts)...)> storage;

    std::size_t tag;
};
```

Construction

```
template<typename T, typename std::enable_if<
    any_of<std::is_same<T, Ts>::value...>::value,
    int
>::type = 0>
variant(T t) : tag(index_of<T, Ts...>::value)
{
    new (&storage) T(std::move(t));
}
```

Copy construction

```
variant(const variant & other) : tag(other.tag)
{
    using visitor_type = void(*)(variant & self, const variant & other);
    auto generator = [](auto type) {
        using Arg = typename decltype(type)::type;
        return [](variant & self, const variant & other) {
            new (&self.storage) Arg(*reinterpret_cast<const Arg *>(&other.storage));
        };
    };
    static visitor_type copy_ctors[] = { generator(id<Ts>())... };
    copy_ctors[tag](*this, other);
}
```

Copy assignment

```
variant & operator=(const variant & other)
{
    using visitor_type = void (*)(variant & self, const variant & other);
    auto generator = [](auto type) {
        using T = typename decltype(type)::type;
        return [](variant & self, variant & other) {
            auto generator = [](auto type) {
                using Arg = typename decltype(type)::type;
                return [](variant & self, const variant & other) {
                    reinterpret_cast<T *>(&self.storage)->T();
                    new (&self.storage) Arg(*reinterpret_cast<const Arg *>(&other.storage));
                    self.tag = other.tag;
                    return;
                };
            };
        };
        static visitor_type assignment_helpers[] = { generator(id<Ts>())... };
        assignment_helpers[other.tag](self, other);
    };
    static visitor_type copy_assignments[] = { generator(id<Ts>())... };
    copy_assignments[tag](*this, other);
    return *this;
}
```

Destruction

```
~variant()  
{  
    using dtor_type = void (*)(variant &);  
    auto generator = [](auto type) {  
        using Arg = typename decltype(type)::type;  
        return [](variant & v) {  
            reinterpret_cast<Arg *>(&v.storage)->~Arg();  
        };  
    };  
    static dtor_type dtors[] = { generator(id<Args>())... };  
    dtors[tag](*this);  
}
```

Visitation

Note: the following code is a free function, friend with variant.

```
template<std::size_t N, typename... Ts>
const auto & get(const variant<Ts...> & variant)
{
    if (variant.tag != N)
    {
        throw invalid_variant_get(N, variant.tag);
    }

    return *reinterpret_cast<const nth<N, Ts...>*>(&variant.storage);
}
```

Visitation

```
template<typename... Ts, typename F>
auto fmap(const variant<Ts...> & var, F && f)
{
    using result_type = /* variant that can hold any of the return values */;
    using visitor_type = result_type (*)(const variant<Ts...> &, F &&);
    auto generator = [](auto type) {
        using T = typename decltype(type)::type;
        return [](const variant<Ts...> & v, F && f) -> result_type {
            return invoke(std::forward<F>(f), get<index_of<T, Ts...>::value>(v));
        };
    };
    static visitor_type visitors[] = { generator(id<Ts>())... };
    auto index = var.index();
    return visitors[index](var, std::forward<F>(f));
}
```


Links

- <https://github.com/reaver-project/reaverlib/blob/master/include/reaver/variant.h>
- <https://github.com/reaver-project/reaverlib/blob/master/tests/variant.cpp>