Modern C++ Programming

9. C++ Templates and Meta-programming II

CLASS TEMPLATES AND SFINAE

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Class Template

Class Template

In a similar way to function templates, **class templates** are used to build a <u>family</u> of classes

```
template<typename T>
struct A { // template class (typename template)
    T x = 0:
};
template<int N1>
struct B { // template class (numeric template)
    int N = N1;
};
A<int> a1; // a1.x is int x = 0
A<float> a2; // a2.x is float x = 0.0f
B<1> b1: // b1.N is 1
B<2> b2: // b2.N is 2
```

Template Class Constructor

C++17 introduces *automatic* deduction of class template arguments for object constructor

```
template<typename T, typename R>
struct A {
    A(T x, R y) {}
};

A<int, float> a1(3, 4.0f); // < C++17
A    a2(3, 4.0f); // C++17</pre>
```

The main difference with template functions is that classes can be partially specialized

Note: Every class specialization (both partial and full) is a completely $\underline{\text{new class}}$ and it does not share anything with the generic class

Template Class Specialization

```
template<typename T, typename R>
struct A {
      // GENERIC template class
   T x;
};
template<typename T>
struct A<T, int> { // PARTIAL specialization
   Ty;
};
A<float, float> a1;
a1.x; // ok, generic template
// a1.y; // compile error
A<float, int> a2;
a2.y; // ok, partial specialization
// a2.x; // compile error
```

Example 1: Implement a Simple Type Trait

```
template<typename T, typename R> // GENERIC template declaration
struct is same {
   static constexpr bool value = false;
};
template<typename T>
static constexpr bool value = true;
};
cout << is same< int, char>::value; // print false, generic template
cout << is same<float, float>::value; // print true, partial template
```

Example 2: Check if a Pointer is const

```
#include <type traits>
// std::true_type and std::false_type contain a field "value"
// set to true or false respectively
template<typename T>
struct is const pointer : std::false type {}; // GENERIC template declaration
template<typename R>
                                             // PARTIAL specialization
struct is const pointer<const R*> : std::true type {};
cout << is_const_pointer<int*>::value;  // print false, generic template
cout << is const pointer<const int*>::value; // print true, partial template
cout << is_const_pointer<int* const>::value; // print false, generic template
```

Example 3: Compare Class Templates

```
#include <type traits>
template<typename T>
struct A {}:
template<typename T, typename R>
struct Compare : std::false_type {};
                                            // GENERIC template declaration
template<typename T, typename R>
struct Compare<A<T>, A<R>> : std::true type {}; // PARTIAL specialization
cout << Compare<int, float>::value;
                                           // false, generic template
cout << Compare<A<int>, A<int>>::value;
                                            // true. partial template
cout << Compare<A<int>, A<float>>::value;
                                           // true, partial template
```

Advanced Concepts

Class Template -

Given a template class and a template member function

```
template<typename T, typename R>
struct A {
   template<typename X, typename Y>
   void f();
};
```

There are two ways to specialize the class/function:

- Generic class, generic function
- Full class specialization, generic/full specialization function

```
template<typename T, typename R>
template<typename X, typename Y>
void A<T, R>::f() {}
// ok, A < T, R > and f < X, Y > are not specialized
template<>
template<typename X, typename Y>
void A<int, int>::f() {}
// ok, A<int, int> is full specialized
// ok. f<X. Y> is not specialized
template<>
template<>
void A<int, int>::f<int, int>() {}
// ok, A<int, int> and f<int, int> are full specialized
```

```
template<typename T>
template<typename X, typename Y>
void A<T, int>::f() {}
// error A<T, int> is partially specialized
// (A<T, int> class must be declared before)
template<typename T, typename R>
template<typename X>
void A<T, R>::f<int, X>() {}
// error function members cannot be partially specialized
template<typename T, typename R>
template<>
void A<T, R>::f<int, int>() {}
// error function members of a unspecialized class cannot be specialized
       (requires a binding to a specific template instantiation at the compile-time)
```

Structure templates can have different data members for each specialization.

The compiler needs to known in advance if a symbol within a structure is a <u>type</u> or a static member when the structure template *depends on* another template parameter

The keyword typename placed before a structure template solves this ambiguous

The using keyword can be used to simply the expression to get the structure type

```
template<typename T>
struct A {
    using type = int;
};
template<typename T>
using AType = typename A<T>::type;
template<typename R>
void g() {
    using X = AType<R>;
```

Template Dependent Names - template Keyword

The template keyword tells the compiler that what follows is a function template, and not a member data

This is important when there are two (or more) dependent names

```
template<typename T>
struct A {
    template<typename R>
    void g() {}
};
template<typename T> // (A<T> is a dependent name (from T)
void f(A < T > a) {
// a.g<int>(); compile error
              a<int> is a dependent name (from int)
                 interpreted as: "(a.q < int) > ()"
    a.template g<int>(); // ok
                                                                                    16/66
```

Class Template Hierarchy

Member of class templates can be used *internally* in derived class templates by specifying the particular type of the base class with the keyword using

```
template<typename T>
struct A {
      x:
   void f() {}
};
template<typename T>
struct B : A < T > \{
    using A<T>::x; // needed (otherwise it could be also a specialization)
    using A<T>::f: // needed
    void g() {
        x; // without 'using': this->x
        f():
};
```

virtual Function and Template

Virtual functions cannot have template arguments

- **Templates** are a compile-time feature
- Virtual functions are a run-time feature

Full story:

The reason for the language disallowing the particular construct is that there are potentially <u>infinite</u> different types that could be instantiating your template member function, and that in turn means that the compiler would have to generate code to dynamically dispatch those many types, which is infeasible

stackoverflow.com/a/79682130

friend Keyword

```
template<typename T, typename R> struct B {};
class C {
   friend void f<int>();
                                 // match only f<int>
   template<typename T> friend void f(): // match all templates
   friend struct A<int>:
                                 // match only A<int>
   template<typename> friend struct A; // match all A templates
   template<typename T> friend struct B<int, T>;
     partial specialization cannot be declared as a friend
};
                                                                   19/66
```

Template Template Arguments

Template template parameters match *templates* instead of concrete types

```
template<typename T> struct A {};
template < template < typename > class R >
struct B {
    R < int > x:
    R<float> v;
};
template < template < typename > class R, typename S >
void f(R \le x) {} // works with every class with exactly one template parameter
B < A > y;
f( A<int>() ):
```

class and typename keyword are interchangeably in C++17

Meta-Programming

Template

Template Meta-Programming

"Metaprogramming is the writing of computer programs with the ability to **treat programs as their data**. It means that a program could be designed to read, generate, analyze or transform other programs, and even modify itself while running"

"Template meta-programming refers to uses of the C++ template system to **perform computation at compile-time** within the code. Templates meta-programming include compile-time constants, data structures, and complete functions"

Template Meta-Programming

- Template Meta-Programming is fast (runtime)
 Template Metaprogramming is computed at compile-time (nothing is computed at run-time)
- Template Meta-Programming is Turing Complete
 Template Metaprogramming is capable of expressing all tasks that standard programming language can accomplish
- Template Meta-Programming requires longer compile time
 Template recursion heavily slows down the compile time, and requires much more memory than compiling standard code
- Template Meta-Programming is complex
 Everything is expressed recursively. Hard to read, hard to write, and also very hard to debug

Example 1: Factorial

```
template<int N>
struct Factorial {      // GENERIC template: Recursive step
    static constexpr int value = N * Factorial<N - 1>::value;
};
template<>
struct Factorial<0> { // FULL SPECIALIZATION: Base case
    static constexpr int value = 1;
};
constexpr int x = Factorial<5>::value; // 120
// int y = Factorial<-1>::value; // Infinite recursion :)
```

Example 1: Factorial (Notes)

The previous example can be easily written as a constexpr in C++14

```
template<typename T>
constexpr int factorial(T value) {
   T tmp = 1;
   for (int i = 2; i <= value; i++)
        tmp *= i;
   return tmp;
};</pre>
```

Advantages:

- Easy to read and write (easy to debug)
- Faster compile time (no recursion)
- Works with different types (typename T)
- Works at run-time and compile-time

Example 2: Log2

```
template<int N>
struct Log2 {     // GENERIC template: Recursive step
    static_assert(N > 0, "N must be greater than zero");
    static constexpr int value = 1 + Log2<N / 2>::value;
};
template<>
struct Log2<1> { // FULL SPECIALIZATION: Base case
    static constexpr int value = 0;
};
constexpr int x = Log2<20>::value; // 4
```

Example 3: Log

```
template<int A, int B>
struct Max { // utility
    static constexpr int value = A > B ? A : B:
};
template<int N, int BASE>
struct Log {      // GENERIC template: Recursive step
    static assert(N > 0, "N must be greater than zero");
    static_assert(BASE > 0, "BASE must be greater than zero");
                              // Max is used to avoid Log<0, BASE>
    static constexpr int TMP = Max<1, N / BASE>::value;
    static constexpr int value = 1 + Log<TMP, BASE>::value;
};
template<int BASE>
struct Log<1, BASE> { // PARTIAL SPECIALIZATION: Base case
    static constexpr int value = 0;
}:
constexpr int x = Log<20, 2>::value: // 4
```

Example 4: Unroll (Compile-time/Run-time Mix) *

```
template<int NUM_UNROLL, int STEP = 0>
struct Unroll {
                            // GENERIC template: Recursive step
    template<typename <pre>Op>
    static void run(Op op) {
        op(STEP);
        Unroll<NUM_UNROLL, STEP + 1>::run(op);
};
template<int NUM UNROLL>
struct Unroll<NUM UNROLL, NUM UNROLL> { // PARTIAL SPECIALIZATION: Base case
    template<typename <pre>Op>
    static void run(Op) {}
};
auto lambda = [](int step) { cout << step << ", "; };</pre>
Unroll<5>::run(lambda); // print "0, 1, 2, 3, 4"
```

SFINAE:

Substitution Failure
Is Not An Error

SFINAE

SFINAE

Substitution Failure Is Not An Error (SFINAE) applies during overload resolution of function templates. When substituting the deduced type for the template parameter <u>fails</u>, the specialization <u>is discarded</u> from the overload set *instead* of causing a compile error

The Problem

```
template<typename T>
T ceil_div(T value, T div);
template<>
unsigned ceil div<unsigned>(unsigned value, unsigned div) {
    return (value + div - 1) / div:
template<>
int ceil div<int>(int value, int div) { // handle negative values
    return (value > 0) ^{\land} (div > 0) ?
           (value / div) : (value + div - 1) / div;
}
```

What about long long int, long long unsigned, short, unsigned short, etc.?

std::enable_if Type Trait

The common way to adopt SFINAE is using the

```
std::enable_if/std::enable_if_t type traits
```

std::enable_if allows a function template or a class template specialization to
include or exclude itself from a set of matching functions/classes

```
template<bool Condition, typename T = void>
struct enable_if {
    // "type" is not defined if "Condition == false"
};
template<typename T>
struct enable_if<true, T> {
    using type = T;
};
```

helper alias: std::enable_if_t<T> instead of typename std::enable_if<T>::type

```
#include <type traits> // std::is signed v, std::enable if t
template<typename T>
std::enable_if_t<std::is_signed_v<T>>
f(T) {
    cout << "signed";</pre>
template<typename T>
std::enable_if_t<!std::is_signed_v<T>>
f(T) {
    cout << "unsigned";</pre>
f(1); // print "signed"
f(1u); // print "unsigned"
```

```
#include <type traits>
template<typename T>
void f(std::enable_if_t<std::is_signed_v<T>, T>) {
    cout << "signed";</pre>
template<typename T>
void f(std::enable_if_t<!std::is_signed_v<T>, T>) {
    cout << "unsigned":</pre>
f(1); // print "signed"
f(1u); // print "unsigned"
```

```
#include <type traits>
template<typename T>
void f(T,
       std::enable_if_t<std::is_signed_v<T>, int> = 0) {
    cout << "signed";</pre>
template<typename T>
void f(T,
       std::enable_if_t<!std::is_signed_v<T>, int> = 0) {
    cout << "unsigned";</pre>
f(1); // print "signed"
f(1u); // print "unsigned"
```

```
#include <type traits>
template<typename T,
         std::enable_if_t<std::is_signed_v<T>, int> = 0>
void f(T) {}
template<typename T,
         std::enable_if_t<!std::is_signed_v<T>, int> = 0>
void f(T) {}
f(4):
f(4u);
```

```
#include <type traits>
template<typename T, typename R> // (1)
decltype(T\{\} + R\{\}) add(T a, R b) { // T\{\} + R\{\} is not possible with 'A'
   return a + b;
template<typename T, typename R> // (2)
std::enable if t<std::is class v<T>, T> // 'int' is not a class
add(T a, R b) {
   return a:
struct A {};
add(1, 2u); // call (1)
add(A{}, A{}): // call (2)
// if 'A' supports operator+, then we have a conflict
```

Function SFINAE Example - Array vs. Pointer

```
#include <type traits>
template<typename T, int Size>
void f(T (&array)[Size]) {} // (1)
//template<typename T, int Size>
//void f(T* array) {} {} {}/{} (2)
template<typename T>
std::enable_if_t<std::is_pointer_v<T>>
f(T ptr) {}
             // (3)
int array[3];
f(array); // It is not possible to call (1) if (2) is present
         // The reason is that 'array' decays in a pointer
         // Now with (3), the code calls (1)
```

Class SFINAE

```
#include <type traits>
template<typename T, typename Enable = void>
struct A;
template<typename T>
struct A<T, std::enable_if_t<std::is_signed_v<T>>> {
};
template<typename T>
struct A<T, std::enable_if_t<!std::is_signed_v<T>>> {
};
A<int>;
A<unsigned>;
```

Class + Function SFINAE ★

```
#include <type traits>
template<typename T>
class A {
// this does not work because T depends on A, not on h
// void h(T,
            std::enable\ if\ t < std::is\ signed\ v < T >,\ int > = 0) {
// cout << "signed";</pre>
    template<typename R = T > // now R dependes on h
    void h(R,
            std::enable_if_t<std::is_signed_v<R>, int> = 0) {
       cout << "signed";</pre>
};
A<int>;
```

SFINAE can be also used to check if a structure has a specific data member or type

Let consider the following structures:

```
struct A {
    static int x;
    int     y;
    using type = int;
};
struct B {};
```

```
#include <type traits>
template<typename T, typename = void>
struct has x : std::false type {};
template<typename T>
struct has_x<T, decltype((void) T::x)> : std::true_type {};
template<typename T, typename = void>
struct has y : std::false_type {};
template<typename T>
struct has y<T, decltype((void) std::declval<T>().y)> : std::true type {};
has x< A >::value; // returns true
has x< B >::value; // returns false
has v< A >::value: // returns true
has y < B >::value; // returns false
```

```
template<typename...>
using void t = void; // included in C++17 <utility>
template<typename T, typename = void>
struct has_type : std::false_type {};
template<typename T>
struct has type<T,
                std::void t<tvpename T::tvpe> > : std::true tvpe {};
has type< A >::value; // returns true
has_type< B >::value; // returns false
```

Support Trait for Stream Operator ★

```
template<typename T>
using EnableP = decltype( std::declval<std::ostream&>() <<</pre>
                          std::declval<T>() );
template<typename T, typename = void>
struct is_stream_supported : std::false_type {};
template<typename T>
struct is stream supported<T, EnableP<T>> : std::true type {};
struct A {};
is stream supported<int>::value; // returns true
is_stream_supported<A>::value; // returns false
```

SFINAE



Variadic Templates

Variadic Template

Variadic template (C++11)

Variadic templates, also called *template parameter pack*, are templates that take a *variable number* of arguments of any type

Note: variadic arguments must be the last one in the declaration

The number of variadic arguments can be retrieved with the <code>sizeof...</code> operator

```
sizeof...(args)
```

Variadic Template - Example

```
// BASE CASE
template<typename T, typename R>
auto add(T a, R b) {
   return a + b;
// RECURSIVE CASE
template<typename T, typename... TArgs> // Variadic typename
auto add(T a, TArgs... args) { // Typename expansion
   return a + add(args...);
                          // Arguments expansion
add(2, 3.0); // 5
add(2, 3.0, 4); // 9
add(2, 3.0, 4, 5); // 14
// add(2); // compile error the base case accepts only two arguments
```

Variadic Template - Parameter Types

```
template<typename... TArgs>
void f(TArgs... args) {}  // pass by-value
template<typename... TArgs>
void g(const TArgs&... args) {} // pass by-const reference
template<typename... TArgs>
void h(TArgs*... args) {}  // pass by-pointer
int* a, *b;
f(1, 2.0):
h(a, b);
```

Variadic Template - Function Application

```
template<typename T>
T square(T value) { return value * value; }
template<typename T, typename R>
auto add(T a, R b) { return a + b; } // BASE case
template<typename T, typename... TArgs> // RECURSIVE case
auto add(T a, TArgs... args) {
    return a + add(args...);
template<typename... TArgs>
auto add square(TArgs... args) {
    return add(square(args)...); // square() is applied to each
                                 // variadic argument
add square(2, 2, 3.0f); // returns 17.0f
```

Variadic Template - Arguments to Array

```
template<typename... TArgs>
void f(TArgs... args) {
   constexpr int Size = sizeof...(args);
   int array[] = {args...};
   for (auto x : array)
       cout << x << " ";
f(1, 2, 3); // print "1 2 3"
f(1, 2, 3, 4); // print "1 2 3 4"
```

C++17 **Folding expressions** perform a *fold* of a template parameter pack over a *binary* operator

Unary/Binary folding

```
template<typename... Args>
auto add_unary(Args... args) { // Unary folding
   return (... + args); // unfold: 1 + 2.0f + 3ull
template<tvpename... Args>
auto add_binary(Args... args) { // Binary folding
   return (1 + ... + args); // unfold: 1 + 1 + 2.0f + 3ull
add_unary(1, 2.0f, 311); // returns 6.0f (float)
add binary(1, 2.0f, 311); // returns 7.0f (float)
```

Same example of "Variadic Template - Function Application" ... but shorter

```
template<typename T>
T square(T value) { return value * value; }

template<typename... TArgs>
auto add_square(TArgs... args) {
    return (square(args) + ...); // square() is applied to each
}

// variadic argument

add_square(2, 2, 3.0f); // returns 17.0f
```

Variadic Template and Classes

```
template<int... NArgs>
                       // data structure declaration
struct Add:
template<int N1, int N2>
struct Add<N1, N2> { // BASE case
   static constexpr int value = N1 + N2;
};
template<int N1, int... NArgs>
struct Add<N1, NArgs...> { // RECURSIVE case
   static constexpr int value = N1 + Add<NArgs...>::value;
};
Add<2, 3, 4>::value; // returns 9
// Add<>; // compile error no match
// Add<2>::value; // compile error
                    // call Add<N1, NArgs...>, then Add<>
```

Variadic Class Template ★

Variadic Template can be used to build recursive data structures

```
template<typename... TArgs>
struct Tuple; // data structure declaration
template<typename T>
struct Tuple<T> { // base case
   T value; // specialization with one parameter
};
template<typename T, typename... TArgs>
struct Tuple<T, TArgs...> { // recursive case
    т
                  value: // specialization with more
   Tuple<TArgs...> tail; // than one parameter
};
Tuple<int, float, char> t1 { 2, 2.0, 'a' };
t1.value; // 2
t1.tail.value; // 2.0
t1.tail.tail.value; // 'a'
```

Get function arity at compile-time:

```
template <typename T>
struct GetArity;
// generic function pointer
template<typename R, typename... Args>
struct GetArity<R(*)(Args...)> {
    static const int value = sizeof...(Args);
};
// generic function reference
template<typename R, typename... Args>
struct GetArity<R(&)(Args...)> {
    static const int value = sizeof...(Args);
}:
// generic function object
template<typename R, typename... Args>
struct GetArity<R(Args...)> {
    static const int value = sizeof...(Args);
};
```

```
void f(int, char, double) {}
int main() {
    // function object
    GetArity<decltype(f)>::value;
    auto& g = f;
    // function reference
    GetArity<decltype(g)>::value;
    // function reference
    GetAritv<decltvpe((f))>::value:
    auto* h = f:
    // function pointer
    GetArity<decltype(h)>::value;
```

Variadic Template and Class Specialization ★

Get operator() (and lambda) arity at compile-time:

```
template <typename T>
struct GetArity;
template<typename R, typename C, typename... Args>
struct GetArity<R(C::*)(Args...)> {      // class member
    static constexpr int value = sizeof...(Args);
}:
template<typename R, typename C, typename... Args>
struct GetArity<R(C::*)(Args...) const> { // "const" class member
    static constexpr int value = sizeof...(Args);
}:
struct A {
    void operator()(char, char) {}
    void operator()(char, char) const {}
};
GetArity<A>::value; // call GetArity<R(C::*)(Args...)>
GetAritv<const A>::value: // call GetAritv<R(C::*)(Args...) const>
```

C++20 Concepts

C++20 Concepts

C++20 introduces **concepts** as an extension for *templates* to enforce *constraints*, which specifies the *requirements* on template arguments

Concepts allows to perform compile-time validation of template arguments

Advantages compared to SFINAE (std::enable_if):

- Concepts are easier to read and write
- Clear compile-time messages for debugging
- Faster compile time

Keyword:

concept Constrain

requires Constrain list/Requirements, clause and expression

- The concept behind C++ concepts
- Constraints and concepts
- What are C++20 concepts and constraints? How to use them?

The Problem

Goal: define a function to sum only arithmetic types

```
template<typename T>
T add(T valueA, T valueB) {
    return valueA + valueB;
}
struct A {};
add(3, 4); // ok
// add(A{}, A{}); // not supported
```

SFINAE solution (ugly, verbose):

```
template<typename T>
std::enable_if_t<T, std::is_arithmetic_v<T>>
add(T valueA, T valueB) {
    return valueA + valueB;
}
```

concept Keyword

```
[template arguments]
concept [name] = [compile-time boolean expression];
```

Example: arithmetic type concept

```
template<typename T>
concept Arithmetic = std::is_arithmetic_v<T>;
```

Template argument constrain

```
template<Arithmetic T>
T add(T valueA, T valueB) {
    return valueA + valueB;
}
```

auto deduction constrain (constrained auto)

```
auto add(Arithmetic auto valueA, Arithmetic auto valueB) {
   return valueA + valueB;
}
```

requires Clause

```
requires [compile-time boolean expression or Concept]
```

it acts like SFINAE

• After template parameter list

```
template<typename T>
requires Arithmetic<T>
T add(T valueA, T valueB) {
    return valueA + valueB;
}
```

• After function declaration

```
template<typename T>
T add(T valueA, T valueB) requires (sizeof(T) == 4) {
    return valueA + valueB;
}
```

requires Clause and concept Notes

Concepts and requirements can have multiple statements. It must be a primary expression, e.g. constexpr value (not a constexpr function) or a sequence of primary expressions joined with the operator && or

```
template<typename T>
concept Arithmetic2 = std::is_arithmetic_v<T> && sizeof(T) >= 4;
```

Concepts and requirements can be used together

```
template<Arithmetic T>
requires (sizeof(T) >= 4)
T add(T valueA, T valueB) {
```

A requires expression is a *compile-time* expression of type bool that defines the **constraints** on template arguments

```
requires [(arguments)] {
    [SFINAE contrain];  // or
    requires [predicate];
} -> bool
```

Concept library

```
#include <concept>
template<tvpename T>
concept MyConcept2 = requires (T a, T b) {
    {*a + 1} -> std::convertible_to<float>; // Req. 6 - can be deferred and the sum
                                           // with an integer is convertible
                                           // to float
    {a * a} -> std::same_as<int>;
                                          // Req. 7 - "a * a" must be valid and
                                           // the result tupe is "int"
};
```

requires Expression + Clause

};

requires expression can be combined with requires clause
(see requires definition, second case) to compute a boolean value starting from SFINAE expressions

requires std::is floating point v<T>; // clause -> SFINAE from boolean

requires Clause + Expression

requires clause can be combined with requires expression to apply SFINAE (functions, structures) starting from a compile-time boolean expressions

requires and constexpr

Some examples:

```
if constexpr (MyConcept<T>)

static_assert(requires(T v){ ++v; }, "no increment");

template<typename Iter>
constexpr bool is_iterator() {
   return requires(Iter it) { *it++; };
}
```

constexpr bool has_member_x = requires(T v){ v.x; };

Nested requires

Nested requires example:

```
requires(Iter v) { // expression -> bool (one arg)
    Iter it;
    requires requires(typename Iter::value_type v) {
// clause -> SFINAE followed by
// expression -> bool (one arg)
    v = *it; // read
    *it = v; // write
    };
}
```