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How many copies?

```
std::string foo() {
  std::string s = some_value();
  return s;
}
std::string t = foo();
```

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How many copies?

```
std::string foo() {
  std::string s = some_value();
  return s;
}
std::string t = foo();
```

- 1 Before C++11, the local variable s is returned by a copy-initialization of a temporary object,
- 2 which is then used to copy-initialize t.

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How many copies?

```
std::string foo() {
  std::string s = some_value();
  return s;
}
std::string t = foo();
```

- Before C++11, the local variable s is returned by a copy-initialization of a temporary object,
- 2 which is then used to copy-initialize t.

Modern compilers perform Return-value optimization (RVO) which eliminates the first copy.

But this is not guaranteed by the standard.

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How copy affects efficiency

```
char some_char(int);
std::string fun1(int n) {
  std::string s = "";
  for (auto i = 0; i != n; ++i)
    s += some_char(i);
  return s;
std::string fun2(int n) {
  std::string s = "";
  for (auto i = 0; i != n; ++i)
    s = s + some_char(i);
  return s;
```

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How copy affects efficiency

```
for (auto i = 0; i != n; ++i)
  s += some_char(i);
for (auto i = 0; i != n; ++i)
  s = s + some_char(i);
```

- s += some_char(i) is virtually the same as
 s.push_back(i), which consumes little time.
- s = s + some_char(i) causes two copies: a temporary object generated by s + some_char(i), and a copy-assignment to s.

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How copy affects efficiency

```
for (auto i = 0; i != n; ++i)
  s += some_char(i);
for (auto i = 0; i != n; ++i)
  s = s + some_char(i);
```

- s += some_char(i) is virtually the same as
 s.push_back(i), which consumes little time.
- s = s + some_char(i) causes two copies: a temporary object generated by s + some_char(i), and a copy-assignment to s.

As a result, the first code takes O(n) time, while the second one takes $O(n^2)$ time (assuming some_char(i) is O(1)).

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Why is copy needed?

a = b;

- We may want a and b to be different and independent objects.
- We may want to make changes to a without affecting b.

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Why is copy needed?

a = b;

- We may want a and b to be different and independent objects.
- We may want to make changes to a without affecting b. However, sometimes the "copied-from object" is about to die.

$$a = c + d;$$

Can we just let a take the ownership of b's resources?

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A special constructor/operator=?

We need a special constructor/operator= that

- is different than copy operations, and
- has the semantics of "taking ownership of resources".

What would the parameter type be?

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Rvalue Reference

A kind of reference that is bound to rvalues:

```
int &r = 42;
                    // Error.
int &&rr = 42:
                    // Correct.
const int &cr = 42;  // Also correct.
const int &&crr = 42; // Correct but useless.
int i = 42;
int &r2 = i * 42; // Error.
const int &cr2 = i * 2; // Correct.
int \&\&r3 = i * 42;
                    // Correct.
```

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Rvalue Reference

A kind of reference that is bound to rvalues:

- (Lvalue) references can only be bound to lvalues.
- Rvalue references can only be bound to rvalues.
- (Lvalue) reference-to-const can also be bound to rvalues.
- Rvalue reference-to-const is useless in most cases (we will see why).

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Overload Resolution for References

```
void fun(const std::string &);
void fun(std::string &&);
```

- fun("hello") matches fun(std::string &&).
- fun(s) matches fun(const std::string &).
- fun(s1 + s2) matches fun(std::string &&).

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Overload Resolution for References

```
void fun(int);
void fun(int &&);
```

- fun(i) matches fun(int).
- fun(42) is ambiguous (compile-error).

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Overload Resolution for References

```
void fun(int);
void fun(int &&);

• fun(i) matches fun(int).

• fun(42) is ambiguous (compile-error).
void test(int);
void test(int &);

• test(42) matches test(int).
```

test(i) is ambiguous.

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Universal Reference std::forward The move constructor and the move assignment operator.

```
class Widget {
  public:
    Widget(Widget &&) noexcept;
    Widget &operator=(Widget &&) noexcept;
};
```

 Move operations should be noexcept in most cases (we will see this later).

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The Move Constructor

The resources owned by the "moved-from" object are *stolen* in move operations.

```
template <typename T>
class Array {
  std::size_t m_size;
  T *m_data;
public:
  Array(Array &&other) noexcept
     : m_size(other.m_size), m_data(other.m_data) {
    other.m_size = 0;
    other.m_data = nullptr;
  }
};
```

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The Move Assignment Operator

```
template <typename T>
class Array {
  std::size_t m_size;
  T *m data:
 public:
  Array & operator = (Array & & other) no except {
    if (this != &other) {
      delete[] m_data;
      m_size = other.m_size;
      m_data = other.m_data;
      other.m_size = 0;
      other.m_data = nullptr;
    return *this;
```

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The Move Constructor

```
template <typename T>
Array<T>::Array(Array &&other) noexcept
    : m_size(other.m_size), m_data(other.m_data) {
}
```

Obtain the resources directly instead of making a copy.

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The Move Constructor

```
template <typename T>
Array<T>::Array(Array &&other) noexcept
    : m_size(other.m_size), m_data(other.m_data) {
    other.m_size = 0;
    other.m_data = nullptr;
}
```

- Obtain the resources directly instead of making a copy.
- Make sure the "moved-from" object is in a valid state and can be safely destroyed.

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The Move-Assignment Operator

```
template <typename T>
Array<T> &Array<T>::operator=(Array &&other) noexcept {
  if (this != &other) {
```

} }

Test self-assignment directly.

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The Move-Assignment Operator

```
template <typename T>
Array<T> &Array<T>::operator=(Array &&other) noexcept {
  if (this != &other) {
    delete[] m_data;
    m_size = other.m_size;
   m_data = other.m_data;
```

- Test self-assignment directly.
- Obtain the resources.

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The Move-Assignment Operator

```
template <typename T>
Array<T> &Array<T>::operator=(Array &&other) noexcept {
  if (this != &other) {
    delete[] m_data;
    m_size = other.m_size;
    m_data = other.m_data;
    other.m_size = 0;
    other.m_data = nullptr;
```

- Test self-assignment directly.
- Obtain the resources.
- Make sure the "moved-from" object is in a valid state and can be safely destroyed.

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Copy-and-Swap Still Works!

```
template <typename T>
class Array {
 public:
  void swap(Array &other) noexcept {
    using std::swap;
    swap(m_size, other.m_size);
    swap(m_data, other.m_data);
  Array & operator = (Array other) noexcept {
    Array(other).swap(*this);
    return *this;
};
```

 Surprisingly, we obtain both a copy-assignment operator and a move-assignment operator!

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Lvalues are Copied; Rvalues are Moved

Lvalues are copied; rvalues are moved...

```
Array<int> arr = some_value();
Array<int> arr2 = arr; // copy
Array<int> arr3 = arr.slice(1, r); // move
```

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Lvalues are Copied; Rvalues are Moved

Lvalues are copied; rvalues are moved...

```
Array<int> arr = some_value();
Array<int> arr2 = arr; // copy
Array<int> arr3 = arr.slice(1, r); // move
```

... but rvalues are copied if there is no move constructor.

```
struct Widget {
   Widget(Widget &&) = delete;
   Widget(const Widget &) = default;
};
Widget f();
Widget w = f(); // copy (before C++17 and without RVO)
```

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Call Move Operations

```
class Widget {
  Array<int> m_array;
  std::string m_str;
public:
  Widget(Widget &&other) noexcept
     : m_array(other.m_array), m_str(other.m_str) {}
};
```

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Call Move Operations

```
class Widget {
   Array<int> m_array;
   std::string m_str;
public:
   Widget(Widget &&other) noexcept
      : m_array(other.m_array), m_str(other.m_str) {}
};
```

Unfortunately, this will call the **copy constructors** instead of move constructors.

Question

Is rvalue reference an Ivalue or an rvalue?

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Lvalues Persist; Rvalues are Ephemeral

Roughly speaking,

- Ivalues have persistent state, whereas
- rvalues are often literals or temporary objects that only live within an expression.
 - Rvalues are about to be destroyed and won't be used by anyone else.

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Lvalues Persist; Rvalues are Ephemeral

Roughly speaking,

- Ivalues have persistent state, whereas
- rvalues are often literals or temporary objects that only live within an expression.
 - Rvalues are about to be destroyed and won't be used by anyone else.

By referring to an rvalue, an rvalue reference is **extending** the lifetime of it.

- I value reference-to-const, also does this.
- An rvalue reference is an **Ivalue** because it has persistent state.

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Generate an Rvalue

By casting to an rvalue reference using static_cast, we can produce an rvalue manually:

```
std::string s(t); // copy
std::string s2(static_cast<std::string &&>(t)); // move
```

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Reference

Generate an Rvalue

By casting to an rvalue reference using static_cast, we can produce an rvalue manually:

```
std::string s(t); // copy
std::string s2(static_cast<std::string &&>(t)); // move
```

The standard library function std::move does this.

```
std::string s3(std::move(s)); // move
```

Note: a function call whose return type is rvalue reference to object is treated as an rvalue.

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std::move

Defined in header <utility>.

- std::move performs a static_cast to rvalue reference, which produces an rvalue.
- std::move is used to indicate that an object may be "moved from".
 - · It does not "move" anything in fact!

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Examples Universal Reference

std::move

Defined in header <utility>.

- std::move performs a static_cast to rvalue reference, which produces an rvalue.
- std::move is used to indicate that an object may be "moved from".
 - It does not "move" anything in fact!

Possible implementation:

```
template <typename T>
[[nodiscard]] constexpr auto move (T &&t) noexcept
   -> std::remove_reference_t<T> && {
   return static_cast<std::remove_reference_t<T> &&>(t);
}
```

* The parameter is a **universal reference**, which we will talk about later.

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Call Move Operations

```
class Widget {
  Array<int> m_array;
  std::string m_str;
 public:
  Widget (Widget &&other) noexcept
      : m_array(std::move(other.m_array)),
        m str(std::move(other.m str)) {}
  Widget &operator=(Widget &&other) noexcept {
    m_array = std::move(other.m_array);
    m_str = std::move(other.m_str);
    return *this;
```

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The Moved-from Object

What might be the output?

```
int i = 42;
int j = std::move(i);
std::cout << i << '\n';
std::string s = "hello";
std::string t = std::move(s);
std::cout << s << '\n';</pre>
```

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The Moved-from Object

What might be the output?

```
int i = 42;
int j = std::move(i);
std::cout << i << '\n';
std::string s = "hello";
std::string t = std::move(s);
std::cout << s << '\n';</pre>
```

- After a move operation, the moved-from object remains a valid, destructible object,
- but users may make no assumptions about its value.

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The Moved-from Object

What might be the output?

```
int i = 42;
int j = std::move(i);
std::cout << i << '\n';
std::string s = "hello";
std::string t = std::move(s);
std::cout << s << '\n';</pre>
```

- After a move operation, the moved-from object remains a valid, destructible object,
- but users may make no assumptions about its value.
- The moved-from object is possibly modified in a move operation.
 - That's why rvalue reference-to-const is rarely used.

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Synthesized Move Operations

```
class Widget {
  Array<int> m_array;
  std::string m_str;
public:
  Widget(Widget &&) = default;
  Widget &operator=(Widget &&) = default;
}
```

- The synthesized move operations call the corresponding move operations of each member in the order in which they are declared.
- The synthesized move operations are noexcept.

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The updated copy control members:

- Copy constructor
- Copy-assignment operator
- Move constructor
- Move-assignment operator
- Destructor

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The updated copy control members:

- Copy constructor
- Copy-assignment operator
- Move constructor
- Move-assignment operator
- Destructor

If one of them is user-declared, the copy control of the class is thought of to have special behaviors.

 Therefore, the move ctor or move-assignment operator will not be generated if any of the rest four members has been declared by the user. The Rule of Five Move Operations and Exceptions

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- The move ctor or move-assignment operator will not be generated if any of the rest four members has been declared by the user.
- The copy ctor or copy-assignment operator, if not provided by the user, will be implicitly deleted if the class has a user-declared move operation.
- The generation of the copy ctor or copy-assignment operator is deprecated (since C++11) when the class has a user-declared copy operation or destructor.

To sum up, the five copy control members are thought of as a unit in modern C++: If you think it necessary to define one of them, consider defining them all.

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Consider how std::vector grows:

```
template <typename T, typename Alloc>
void vector<T, Alloc>::reallocate(size_type cap) {
   using all_tr = std::allocator_traits<Alloc>;
   auto new_data = all_tr::allocate(s_alloc, cap), p = new_data;
   for (size_type i = 0; i != m_size; ++i, ++p)
        all_tr::construct(s_alloc, p, m_data[i]);
   m_free(); // destroys all elements and deallocates memory
   m_data = new_data;
   m_capacity = cap;
}
```

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Move Operations and Exceptions

To enable strong exception safety guarantee:

```
template <typename T, typename Alloc>
void vector<T. Alloc>::reallocate(size type cap) {
 using all_tr = std::allocator_traits<Alloc>;
  auto new_data = all_tr::allocate(s_alloc, cap), p = new_data;
 try {
    for (size_type i = 0; i != m_size; ++i, ++p)
      all_tr::construct(s_alloc, p, m_data[i]);
 } catch (...) {
    while (p != new_data)
      all_tr::destroy(s_alloc, --p);
    all_tr::deallocate(s_alloc, new_data, cap);
    throw:
 m_free();
 m data = new data:
 m_{capacity} = cap;
```

```
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```

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Move Operations and Exceptions

With C++11, a natural optimization is to move-construct each element when value_type is move-constructible:

```
template <typename T, typename Alloc>
void vector<T, Alloc>::reallocate(size_type cap) {
 using all_tr = std::allocator_traits<Alloc>;
  auto new_data = all_tr::allocate(s_alloc, cap), p = new_data;
 try {
   for (size_type i = 0; i != m_size; ++i, ++p)
      all_tr::construct(s_alloc, p, std::move(m_data[i]));
 } catch (...) {
    while (p != new data)
      all_tr::destroy(s_alloc, --p);
    all_tr::deallocate(s_alloc, new_data, cap);
    throw:
 m_free();
 m data = new data:
 m_capacity = cap;
```

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Move Operations and Exceptions

What if the move constructor throws an exception?

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Move Operations and Exceptions

What if the move constructor throws an exception?

The preceding elements have been moved! How can we restore them?

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Move Operations and Exceptions

Exception is not welcome in move operations.

- Copy is to create something else in terms of existing things,
- whereas move is to change the existing things.

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Move Operations and Exceptions

Exception is not welcome in move operations.

- Copy is to create something else in terms of existing things,
- whereas move is to change the existing things.

Use std::move_if_noexcept to move the elements only when the move constructor does not throw.

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std::move_if_noexcept

Possible implementation:

```
template <typename T>
[[nodiscard]] constexpr std::conditional_t<
 !std::is_nothrow_move_constructible_v<T>
    && std::is_copy_constructible_v<T>,
    const T &,
    T &&
> move_if_noexcept(T &&x) noexcept {
    return std::move(x);
}
```

Note: for move-only types (for which copy constructor is not available), move constructor is used either way and the strong exception-safety guarantee may be waived.

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Move from Local Variables and Parameters

When an object (non-volatile) being returned is declared

- in the function body, or
- as a parameter of the function,

the overload resolution to select the constructor to use for initialization of the returned value is performed twice:

- first as if the object were an **rvalue** (thus it may select the move constructor),
- 2 and if the first overload resolution failed, then overload resolution is performed as usual, with the object considered as an Ivalue (so it may select the copy constructor).

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Move from Local Variables and Parameters

In short, the returned value will be copy-initialized only when the move constructor is not available:

```
std::string foo() {
  std::string s = some_value();
  return s;
}
std::string t = foo();
```

This causes only two moves.

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Guaranteed Copy Elision

Since C++17, elision of copy/move operations are mandatory (instead of a compiler optimization) in some cases, e.g.

 returning a prvalue of the same class type (ignoring cv-qualification) as the function return-type:

```
std::string f() {
  return std::string(10, 'c');
}
f(); // only calls std::string(10, 'c')
  // No copy or move is made.
```

• Initializing an object with a prvalue initializer of the same class type (ignoring cv-qualification):

```
std::string s = f(); // No copy or move is made.
// equivalent to 'std::string s(10, 'c');'
```

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Guaranteed Copy Elision

With C++17 copy elision, the following code causes only one move:

```
std::string foo() {
  std::string s = some_value();
  return s;
}
std::string t = foo();
```

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Guaranteed Copy Elision

With C++17 copy elision, the following code causes only one move:

```
std::string foo() {
  std::string s = some_value();
  return s;
}
std::string t = foo();
This code compiles even with Widget (Widget &&) = delete; :
Widget fun() {
  return Widget{};
Widget w = fun(); // No copy or move is made.
```

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Forward Arguments

Some functions need to forward the arguments to another function.

```
std::invoke(f, x, y, z);
std::vector<Type> v;
v.emplace_back(x, y, z);
```

- std::invoke(f, args...) calls f(args...).
- v.emplace_back(args...) constructs the element by calling the constructor Type(args...).
 - It is different from v.push_back(Type(args...)) in that it does not copy the object.

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Forward Arguments

Value categories must be preserved.

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Forward Arguments

Value categories must be preserved.

```
std::vector<std::string> vs;
std::string s = some_value();
vs.emplace_back(s);
                               // copy
vs.emplace_back(std::move(s)); // move
cv-qualifiers must be preserved.
struct Widget {
  Widget(const std::string &);
  Widget(std::string &);
};
std::vector<Widget> vw;
vw.emplace_back(s); // Widget(std::string &)
vw.emplace_back("abc"); // Widget(const std::string &)
```

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Forward Arguments

Value categories must be preserved.

```
std::vector<std::string> vs;
std::string s = some_value();
vs.emplace_back(s);
                               // copy
vs.emplace_back(std::move(s)); // move
cv-qualifiers must be preserved.
struct Widget {
  Widget(const std::string &);
  Widget(std::string &);
};
std::vector<Widget> vw;
vw.emplace_back(s); // Widget(std::string &)
vw.emplace_back("abc"); // Widget(const std::string &)
```

Still, we need to avoid unnecessary copies.

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Universal Reference

```
template <typename T>
void fun(T &&x) {
  std::cout << gkxx::get_type_name<T>() << '\n';</pre>
}
int main() {
  int i = 42;
  fun(i);
  fun(42);
  const int j = 42;
  fun(j);
  return 0;
Output:
int&
int
const int&
```

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template <typename T>
void fun(T &&x);

- If the argument is an rvalue of type Tp, this is a normal rvalue reference initialization and T = Tp.
- If the argument is an Ivalue of type Tp, it follows the special rule:
 - T would be deduced to an Ivalue reference, i.e. T = Tp &.
 - x is of type Tp & && , which collapses to Tp & through the reference collapsing rule.

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Universal Reference

template <typename T>
void fun(T &&x);

- If the argument is an rvalue of type Tp, this is a normal rvalue reference initialization and T = Tp.
- If the argument is an Ivalue of type Tp, it follows the special rule:
 - T would be deduced to an Ivalue reference, i.e. T = Tp &.
 - x is of type Tp & && , which collapses to Tp & through the reference collapsing rule.
- cv-qualifiers would be preserved since this is a reference initialization.
 - e.g. x will be an Ivalue reference-to-const if the argument is a const Ivalue.

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Reference Collapsing

It is permitted to form "references to references" through type manipulations in **templates** or **type aliasing**, in which case the reference collapsing rules apply:

- & & , & && and && & collapse to & .
- && && collapses to &&.

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Universal Reference vs Rvalue Reference

The form T &&x is a universal reference iff T is obtained through type deduction directly.

```
template <typename T>
void fun(T &&x);
                             // universal reference
template <typename T>
class Widget {
  void fun(T &&x);
                             // rvalue reference
};
                             // universal reference
auto \&\&x = y;
template <typename T>
void f(std::vector<T> &&x); // rvalue reference
```

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```
std::forward
```

Defined in header file <utility>.

```
template <typename Func, typename T>
auto invoke1(Func f, T &&arg) {
  return f(std::forward<T>(arg));
}
```

- std::forward<T&>(x) returns an Ivalue reference, which produces an Ivalue.
- std::forward<T>(x), where T is not a reference, returns an rvalue reference, which produces an rvalue.
 - In this case, it is equivalent to std::move(x).

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std::forward

std::forward does not actually "forward" anything! It is used to preserve all the details about an argument's type (including value categories and cv-qualifiers).

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Reference std::forward

std::forward

std::forward does not actually "forward" anything! It is used to preserve all the details about an argument's type (including value categories and cv-qualifiers).

Combining std::forward with universal reference and variadic template, we can perfectly forward any number of arguments with any types:

```
template <typename Func, typename... Args>
auto invoke(Func f, Args &&...args) {
  return f(std::forward<Args>(args)...);
}
```

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Example: std::invoke

To avoid copying the callable object, we may forward f as well:

```
template <typename Func, typename... Args>
auto invoke(Func &&f, Args &&...args) {
  return (std::forward<Func>(f))(
    std::forward<Args>(args)...
  );
}
```

* The return-type might be problematic here...

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Example:

vector<T>::emplace_back

```
template <tvpename T. tvpename Alloc>
class vector {
 public:
  template <typename... Args>
  void emplace_back(Args &&...args) {
    check and realloc():
    using all_tr = std::allocator_traits<Alloc>;
    all_tr::construct(s_alloc, m_data + m_size,
                      std::forward<Args>(args)...);
    ++m_size;
  void push_back(value_type &&x) {
    emplace_back(std::move(x)); // move
  7
  void push_back(const value_type &x) {
    emplace_back(x);
                                 // copy
};
```

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Example: a Python-style print

```
template <typename First, typename... Rest>
inline void print(First &&first, Rest &&...rest) {
  std::cout << std::forward<First>(first):
  if constexpr (sizeof...(rest) == 0)
    std::cout << '\n':
  else {
    std::cout << ' ':
    print(std::forward<Rest>(rest)...);
  }
inline void print() {
  std::cout << '\n';
}
```

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Reading Materials

Effective Modern C++:

- Item 26: Avoid overloading on universal references.
- Item 27: Familiarize yourself with alternatives to overloading on universal references.
- Item 29: Assume that move operations are not present, not cheap, and not used.
- Item 30: Familiarize yourself with perfect forwarding failure cases.
- Item 41: Consider pass by value for copyable parameters that are cheap to move and always copied.