#### VARIADIC TEMPLATES

#### Plan for Today

- Variadic Function Templates
- Understanding constexpr
- Fold Expressions
- Variadic Class Templates

#### Variadic Templates: Introduction

- Having to deal with unknown number of elements in type-safe fashion is common problem
  - Error reporting function may take between zero and ten arguments of varying types
  - Logging function may take unknown number of arguments of unknown types
  - Matrix may have between one and ten dimensions
  - Tuple can have zero to ten elements of varying types
- Templates that can take varying number of arguments of possibly differing types

#### Templates: Basic Terminology

```
function parameter
                                function parameter type
template type parameter
    template <typename(T) void f(ParamType param);</pre>
    // call f with some expression
    f(expn);
function argument
           type of function argument is template type argument
```

#### Variadic Template: Definition

- Template whose definition captures a parameter pack in its template and function parameters
  - Parameter pack means "zero or more elements of something" and is represented by token . . .
  - typename ... captures list of template type parameters in template parameter pack Types
  - In variadic function template, Types ... captures (type/value) list of function parameters in function parameter pack params with each value in list having type in corresponding template parameter pack

```
// Types is template parameter pack
// params is function parameter pack
template <typename ...Types>
void variadic_template(Types ...params) {
   // statements ...
}
```

#### Variadic Templates: 1<sup>st</sup> Example

```
template <typename ...Types>
void f(Types&& ...params) {
 // empty function
template <typename ...Types>
class C {
// empty class
};
        f(); // f<>();
        f(1); // f<int>(1);
        f(1, "hello", std::string{"world"}, 3.14); // ???
        C<> c0;
        C<int> c1;
        C<int, char const*, std::string, double> c2;
```

#### Variadic Templates: 2<sup>nd</sup> Example

 We can specify type parameter to disallow zero template arguments in previous example

```
template <typename T, typename ...Types>
void f(T&& t, Types&& ...params) { /* empty function */ }

template <typename T, typename ...Types>
class C { /* empty class */ };
```

```
f(); // error!!!
f(1); // empty pack
f(1, "hello"); // one parameter in pack
f(1, "hello", std::string{"world"}); // two parameters in pack
f(1, "hello", std::string{"world"}, 3.14); // 3 parameters in pack

C<> c0; // error!!!
C<int> c1; // empty pack
C<int, char const*, std::string, double> c2;
```

#### sizeof... Operator (1/2)

Queries number of elements in parameter pack

```
template <typename ...Types>
void f(Types ...params) {
  std::cout << "Number of parameters: "</pre>
            << sizeof...(Types) << '\n';
f(); // params has zero parameters
f(1); // params has 1 parameter: int
f(2,1.0); // params has 2 parameters: int,double
f(2,1.0,"hello"); // params has 3 parameters:
                  // int, double, char const*
```

#### sizeof... Operator (2/2)

```
template <typename ...Types>
struct C {
  auto size() const {
    return sizeof...(Types);
C<> c0;
std::cout << c0.size() << "\n"; // prints 0
C<int> c1;
std::cout << c1.size() << "\n"; // prints 1
C<int, double> c2;
std::cout << c2.size() << "\n"; // prints 2
C<int, double, char const*> c3;
std::cout << c3.size() << "\n"; // prints 3</pre>
```

# Pack Expansion: Function Call (1/17)

- Only other thing we can do with parameter pack is to unpack/expand it using a pattern
  - Unfortunately, parameter packs can only be expanded in function calls and initializer lists
  - Expansion separates pack into its constituent parts, applying pattern to each unpacked element
  - Simplest pack expansion is triggered by putting pack to left of ... in function call resulting in comma-separated list of pack elements

```
template <typename T, typename ...Types>
void print(T t, Types ...params) {
   std::cout << t << "\n"; // print first parameter
   print(params...); // call print for remaining parameters
}</pre>
```

# Pack Expansion: Function Call (2/17)

Print variable number of arguments of different types

```
void print() {} // base function to end recursive
                // function template instantiation ...
template <typename T, typename ... Types>
void print(T t, Types ...params) {
  std::cout << t << "\n"; // print first parameter</pre>
  print(params...); // call print for remaining parameters
print(7.5);
print(7.5, "hello");
print(7.5, "hello", 7, std::string{"world"});
print(7.5, "hello", 7)
```

1<sup>st</sup> argument is t and remaining arguments bundled into parameter pack params for later use

#### Pack Expansion: Function Call (3/17)

```
void print() {} // base function to end recursive
                 // function template instantiation ...
template <typename T, typename ... Types>
void print(T t, Types ...params) {
  std::cout << t << "\n";</pre>
  print(params...);
                          Parameter pack params is unpacked or
                          expanded so that 1st element of params is
                         selected as t and params is one element
print(7.5, "hello", 7);
                          shorter than in previous call.
```

This carries on until params is empty, so

that we call void print();

# Pack Expansion: Function Call (4/17)

```
void print() {}

template <typename T, typename ...Types>
void print(T t, Types ...params) {
   std::cout << t << "\n";
   print(params...);
}</pre>
```

Call	t	params
<pre>print(7.5, "hello", 7)</pre>	7.5	"hello", 7
<pre>print("hello", 7)</pre>	"hello"	7
print(7)	7	Because of empty parameter pack, nonvariadic version of print is called

# Pack Expansion: Function Call (5/17)

Previous example can also be implemented as overload of variadic and nonvariadic templates:

```
template <typename T>
void print(T t) {
  std::cout << t << '\n';
template <typename T, typename ...Types>
void print(T t, Types ...params) {
  print(t);  // call print() for first parameter
  print(params...); // call print() for remaining params
print(7.5, "hello", 7);
```

If 2 function templates only differ by trailing parameter pack, function template without trailing parameter pack is preferred!!!

## Pack Expansion: Function Call (6/17)

Call	t	params	
<pre>print(7.5, "hello", 7)</pre>	7.5	"hello", 7	
<pre>print("hello", 7)</pre>	"hello"	7	
<pre>print(7) [nonvariadic]</pre>			

# Pack Expansion: Function Call (7/17)

Previous example can be generalized to any output stream:

```
template <typename T>
std::ostream& print( std::ostream& os, T const& t) {
  return os << t << '\n';
}
template <typename T, typename ...Types>
std::ostream& // return type
print(std::ostream& os, T const& t, Types const& ...params) {
  os << t << ", "; // print first argument in call
  return print(os, params...); // print remaining arguments in call
}
print(std::cout, 7.5, "hello", 7);
```

# Pack Expansion: Function Call (8/17)

Another example illustrating recursion pattern ...

```
template <typename T> T sum(T t) { return t; }

template <typename T, typename ...Types>
T sum(T t, Types ...params) { return t + sum(params...); }

std::cout << sum(1, 2, 3, 4, 5) << '\n';</pre>
```

Call	t	params	
sum(1, 2, 3, 4, 5)	1	2, 3, 4, 5	
sum(2, 3, 4, 5)	2	3, 4, 5	
sum(3, 4, 5)	3	4, 5	
sum(4, 5)	4	5	
sum(5) [nonvariadic]			

#### Pack Expansion: Function Call (9/17)

- Helpful convention to avoid confusion with . . .
  - Put parameter into which you pack on right side of ...
  - Put parameter that is to be unpacked on left side of ...
- See how this convention applies to types and objects of Sum function
  - typename ...Types: Pack multiple template type arguments into template type parameter Types
  - Types ...>: Unpack Types when instantiating class or function template
  - Types ...params: Pack multiple function arguments into variable pack params
  - sum(params...): Unpack variable pack params as commaseparated values and call sum with these values as multiple arguments

# Pack Expansion: Function Call (10/17)

- More complicated patterns are possible when expanding function parameter pack
- When expansion pack appears inside function call operator, largest expression to left of . . . is pattern that is applied!!!

# Pack Expansion: Function Call (11/17)

In function call operator, pattern that is expanded is largest expression or brace initialization list to left of . . .

```
// see earlier slide for variadic function template print ...
template <typename ...Types>
std::ostream&
print2(std::ostream& os, Types const& ...params) {
   return print(os, params+params...);
}
print2(std::cout, 7.5, "hello", 7);
```

# Pack Expansion: Function Call (12/17)

Use a variadic list of indices to access corresponding element of container ...

```
// see earlier slide for variadic function template print ...
template <typename Cont, typename ... Indices>
std::ostream& // return type ...
print_elems(std::ostream& os, Cont const& cont,
            Indices ... idx) {
  return print(os, cont[idx]...);
std::vector<std::string> vs{"good","times","say","bye"};
print_elems(std::cout, vs, 3); // ???
print_elems(std::cout, vs, 2,0,3); // ???
```

# Pack Expansion: Function Call (13/17)

 You can declare nontype template parameters to be parameter packs

```
// see earlier slide for variadic function template print ...
template <std::size_t ...Indices, typename Cont>
std::ostream& print_idx(std::ostream& os, Cont const& cont) {
   return print(os, cont[Indices]...);
}
std::vector<std::string> vs{"good","times","say","bye"};
print_idx<3>(std::cout, vs);
print_idx<2,0,3>(std::cout, vs);
```

#### Pack Expansion: Function Call (14/17)

Example of expanding more complex expression ...

```
// we want to print unknown number of arguments of unknown type
// separated by a comma ...
template <typename ...Types>
void dummy(Types ... params) {}

template <typename ...Types>
std::ostream& print_comma(std::ostream& os, Types const& ...params) {
   dummy((os << params << ", ", 0)...);
   return os << '\n';
}</pre>
```

# Pack Expansion: Function Call (15/17)

Example of expanding more complex expression ...

```
// to print arguments in same order as in call to print_comma(),
// we use initializer list ...
template <typename ...Types>
std::ostream& print_comma(std::ostream& os, Types const& ...params) {
  auto dummy [[maybe_unused]] = {(os << params << ", ", 0)...};
  return os << '\n';
}</pre>
```

# Pack Expansion: Function Call (16/17)

In function call operator, pattern that is expanded is largest expression or brace initialization list to left of . . .

```
template <typename T> T incr(T x) { return x+1; }
template <typename T> T sum(T t) { return t; }
template <typename T, typename ...Types>
T sum(T t, Types ...params) { return t + sum(params...); }
template <typename ... Types>
auto sum_addone(Types ...params) {
  return sum(incr(params)...);
// equivalent to: sum(incr(1), incr(2), incr(3), incr(4))
sum(1, 2, 3, 4);
```

#### Pack Expansion: Function Call (17/17)

 Parameter packs can unfortunately only be expanded in function calls and initializer lists

```
// expansion of parameter pack Types on sizeof operator
// in an initializer list ...
template <typename ...Types>
auto create_array() {
  return std::array<std::size t, sizeof...(Types)>
                                {sizeof(Types)...};
auto x = create_array<int, double, std::string, float>();
for (auto y : x) {
  std::cout << y << ' '; // ???
```

#### Variadic Function Templates: Recursion (1/6)

 Implementation of variadic templates is typically thro' recursive "first"/"last" manipulation

#### Variadic Function Templates: Recursion (2/6)

□ Here, we do something with  $1^{st}$  parameter head by calling g():

```
// write parameter to output stream
template <typename T>
void g(T const& t) {
  std::cout << t << ' ';
}</pre>
```

#### Variadic Function Templates: Recursion (3/6)

□ Then, f() is called recursively with rest of parameters in parameter pack tail...

#### Variadic Function Templates: Recursion (4/6)

- Eventually, tail parameter pack will become empty
- □ Need a separate function to deal with it:

```
void f() { } // do nothing
```

## Variadic Function Templates: Recursion (5/6)

```
// nonvariadic function must be declared
// before variadic function
template <typename T>
void g(T const& t) {
  std::cout << t << ' ';
void f() { } // do nothing
template <typename T, typename ...Tail>
void f(T const& head, Tail const& ...tail) {
  g(head); // do something to 1st parameter
  f(tail...); // repeat with tail
```

#### Variadic Function Templates: Recursion (6/6)

□ In call f(0.3, 'c', 1) recursion will execute as follows:

Call	head	tail
<pre>f<double,char,int>(0.3,'c',1)</double,char,int></pre>	0.3	'c',1
f <char,int>('c',1)</char,int>	'c'	1
f <int>(1)</int>	1	empty

#### Forwarding Parameter Packs

```
template <typename T, typename ...Types>
std::unique_ptr<T> factory(Types&& ...params) {
  return std::make_unique<T>(std::forward<Types>(params)...);
struct C {
  C(int&, double&, double&&) {}
  friend std::ostream& operator<< (std::ostream& os, C const&) {</pre>
    return << os << "C";
    std::unique_ptr<double> pd = factory<double>(11.89);
    std::cout << "*pd: " << *pd << "\n";
    std::unique_ptr<int> pi = factory<int>(17);
    std::cout << "*pi: " << *pi << "\n";
    std::unique_ptr<std::string> ps =
                             factory<std::string>("hello world");
    std::cout << "*ps: " << *ps << "\n";
    std::unique_ptr<C> pc = factory<C>(i, d, 3.14);
    std::cout << "*pc: " << *pc << "\n";
```

# Variadic Function Templates: Summary

- Provide type-safety and extensibility to userdefined types in contrast to variadic functions implemented thro' <cstdarg>
- Performance
  - No actual recursion at runtime
  - Instead, sequence of function calls are pre-generated at compile time
  - With aggressive inlining, compilers can remove runtime function calls
  - In contrast, variadic functions using <cstdarg> involve manipulation of runtime stack

#### From const to constexpr (1/3)

- Prior to C++11, const machinery was restricted to two things:
  - Qualifying a type as const, and thus any instance of that type is immutable
  - Qualifying a nonstatic member function so that\*this is const in its body

```
class int_wrapper {
public:
    explicit int_wrapper(int);
    void mutate(int);
    int inspect() const;
private:
    int mi;
};

const int_wrapper iwc{7};
iwc.mutate(5);  // error
    int i = iwc.inspect(); // ok
};
```

#### From const to constexpr (2/3)

- Values known during compilation are privileged especially integral constant expressions
  - Array sizes, integral template arguments, lengths of std::array objects, enumerator values, alignment specifiers, ...
  - Mathematical constants ...
- constexpr object is like const object that has values known at compile time

### From const to constexpr (3/3)

```
int sz{}; // non-constexpr variable
// error: sz's value not known at compilation
constexpr auto arr sz1 = sz; // ok???
// error: same problem
std::array<int, sz> a1; // ok???
// fine, 10 is a compile-time constant
constexpr auto arr sz2 = 10; // ok???
// fine, arr_sz2 is constexpr
std::array<int, arr sz2> a2; // ok???
```

# Difference Between const and constexpr (1/2)

- const doesn't offer same guarantee as constexpr
  - const objects need not be initialized with values known during compilation

```
int sz; // non-constexpr variable

// fine: arr_sz is const copy of sz
const auto arr_sz = sz; // ok???

// error: arr_sz's value not known at compilation
std::array<int, arr_sz> data; // ok???
```

# Difference Between const and constexpr (2/2)

- Simply put, all constexpr objects are const, but not all const objects are constexpr
- If you want compilers to guarantee that a variable has a value that can be used in contexts requiring compile-time constants, use constexpr, not const!!!

# Header-Only Libraries: Inlined Variables (1/4)

- C++17 introduced inline variables to allow for header-only libraries with variable definitions in header file
  - ODR not invoked when header file is included by many source files
  - Instead, all source files including that header file will have same address for inline variable

```
// possibly defined in multiple header files
inline long double pi{3.141'592'653'589'793'238'462'643'383'279L};

// in source file that includes a header file shown above
long double circ_area(long double const& r) {
   return pi*r*r;
}
```

# Header-Only Libraries: Inlined Variables (2/4)

- constexpr [and const] objects can be defined in header files
  - By default, such objects have static or internal linkage

```
// possibly defined in multiple header files
constexpr
long double pi{3.141'592'653'589'793'238'462'643'383'279L};

// in source file that includes a header file shown above
long double circ_area(long double r) {
   return pi*r*r;
}
```

# Header-Only Libraries: Inlined Variables (3/4)

If you require address of constant to be same everywhere, you mark it as inline

```
// possibly defined in multiple header files
inline constexpr
long double pi{3.141'592'653'589'793'238'462'643'383'279L};

// in source file that includes a header file shown above
long double circ_area(long double const& r) {
   return pi*r*r;
}
```

# Header-Only Libraries: Inlined Variables (4/4)

 C++17 allows static data members to be defined and initialized in class

```
struct Counter {
   // static data member is now defined and initialized
   // in-class without the need to provide definition in
   // source file
   static inline int counter = 0;

Counter() { ++counter; }
   ~Counter() { --counter; }
};
```

### Variable Templates (1/5)

 Since C++14, variables can be parameterized by specific type

```
// can be defined in a header file
template <typename T>
constexpr T pi{3.141'592'653'589'793'238'462'643'383'279L};
template <class T>
T circ_area(T const& r) {
 return pi<T>*r*r;
std::cout << pi<long double> << '\n';</pre>
std::cout << pi<double>
                     << '\n';
```

### Variable Templates (2/5)

 Variables templates can also have default template arguments

```
template <typename T = long double>
constexpr T pi = T{3.141'592'653'589'793'238L};

std::cout << pi<> << '\n'; // outputs a long double
std::cout << pi<float> << '\n'; // outputs a float</pre>
```

### Variable Templates (3/5)

 Variables templates can also be parameterized by nontype parameters

```
// array with N elements, zero-initialized
template <int N> std::array<int,N> arr{};
// nontype parameter is used to parameterize initializer
template <auto N> constexpr decltype(N) dval{N};
std::cout << dval<'c'> << '\n'; // N has value 'c'</pre>
std::cout << dval<42> << '\n'; // N has value 'c'
arr<5>[0] = 42; // set first element of global object arr
arr<51>[0] = 42; // will this compile?
```

### Variable Templates (4/5)

 Useful application of variable templates is to define variables that represent members of class templates

```
// given definition of class C
template <typename T>
class C {
public:
  static constexpr int max{100};
};
// you can define variable template c max:
template <typename T> int c_max = C<T>::max;
// so that you can define different values for
// different specialization of C<>:
auto sc = c_max<std::string>; // instead of C<string>::max
```

### Variable Templates (5/5)

```
// better example ...
// for standard class such as
namespace std {
  template <typename T> class numeric_limits {
  public:
    static constexpr bool is signed = false;
  };
// you can define variable template
template <typename T>
constexpr bool is_signed = std::numeric_limits<T>::is_signed;
// to be able to write expression
is_signed<char>
// rather than lengthier expression
std::numeric_limits<char>::is_signed
```

- Functions that produce compile-time constants when they're called with compile-time constants
  - constexpr functions can be used in contexts that demand compile-time constants
  - Acts like normal function computing its result at runtime when called with one or more values that are not known during compilation

constexpr in front of fibonacci doesn't say that fibonacci returns a const value, it says that if n is compile-time constant, fibonacci's result may be used as compile-time constant. If n is not compile-time constant, fibonacci's result will be computed at runtime.

```
constexpr long fibonacci(long n) {
  return n <= 2 ? 1 : fibonacci(n-1) + fibonacci(n-2);
}</pre>
```

```
template <typename T>
constexpr T square(T x) noexcept {
  return x*x;
}
```

```
constexpr
int pow(int base, int exp) noexcept {
  int result{1};
  for (int i{}; i < exp; ++i) result *= base;
  return result;
}</pre>
```

constexpr functions can be used in places
 with compile-time contexts

```
constexpr
int pow(int base, int exp) noexcept {
  int result{1};
  for (int i{}; i < exp; ++i) result *= base;</pre>
  return result;
// 5 conditions each with 3 possible states
constexpr int conds {5}, states{3};
std::array<int, pow(states, conds)> results;
```

 Another example of constexpr functions used in places with compile-time contexts

```
template <typename T1, typename T2>
constexpr
auto Max(T1 a, T2 b) -> decltype(b<a?a:b) {</pre>
  return b < a ? a : b;
}
int ai[Max(sizeof(int), 10L)] {1,2,3};
std::array<std::string, Max(sizeof(int), 8L)>
                              as{"a","b","c"};
```

Another example ...

```
constexpr bool is prime(uint64 t p) {
 for (uint64 t d{2}; d <= p/2; ++d) {
   // found divisor without remainder
   if (p % d == 0) return false;
 // no divisor without remainder found
  return p > 1;
bool found =
is_prime(std::numeric_limits<uint64 t>::max());
```

```
Compiles with g++ but not with clang++!!!

constexpr long floor_sqrt(long n) {
  return floor(sqrt(n));
}
```

- constexpr functions are limited to taking and returning literal types [types that can have values determined during compilation]
  - All built-in types except void qualify
- User-defined types can be literal too ...

```
class Point {
  double x, y;
public:
  constexpr
  Point(double dx=0.0, double dy=0.0) noexcept
  : x{dx}, y{dy} {}
 // other stuff ...
```

```
class Point {
  double x, y;
public:
  constexpr
  Point(double dx=0.0, double dy=0.0) noexcept
  : x{dx}, y{dy} {}
 // other stuff ...
// compiler will run constexpr ctor
constexpr Point p1(9.4, 27.7);
constexpr Point p2(28.8, 5.3);
```

```
class Point {
 double x, y;
public:
  constexpr
 Point(double dx=0.0, double dy=0.0) noexcept
  : x{dx}, y{dy} {}
 constexpr double X() const noexcept { return x; }
 constexpr double Y() const noexcept { return y; }
 // other stuff ...
```

```
constexpr Point p1(9.4, 27.7);
class Point {
                         constexpr Point p2(28.8, 5.3);
 double x, y;
                         constexpr Point mid = midpt(p1, p2);
public:
 constexpr
  Point(double dx=0.0, double dy=0.0) noexcept
  : x{dx}, y{dy} {}
  constexpr double X() const noexcept { return x; }
  constexpr double Y() const noexcept { return y; }
 // other stuff ...
constexpr
Point midpt(Point const& p1, Point const& p2) noexcept {
  return { (p1.X()+p2.X())/2.0, (p1.Y()+p2.Y())/2.0 };
```

```
class Point {
 double x, y;
public:
 constexpr
 Point(double dx=0.0, double dy=0.0) noexcept
  : x{dx}, y{dy} {}
 constexpr double X() const noexcept { return x; }
 constexpr double Y() const noexcept { return y; }
 constexpr void X(double dx) noexcept { x = dx; }
  constexpr void Y(double dy) noexcept { x = dy; }
```

```
class Point {
  double x, y;
public:
    constexpr
Point(double dx=0.0, double dy=0.0) noexcept
    : x{dx}, y{dy} {}
  constexpr double X() const noexcept { return x; }
    constexpr double Y() const noexcept { return y; }

    constexpr void X(double dx) noexcept { x = dx; }
    constexpr void Y(double dy) noexcept { x = dy; }
};
```

```
constexpr Point reflection(Point const& p) noexcept {
   Point result;
   result.X(-p.X());
   result.Y(-p.Y());
   return result;
}
```

#### Folding

- Higher-order function that abstract process of iterating over recursive structures such as vectors, lists, trees, ... and lets you gradually build required result
- Called std::accumulate in C++ standard library
- □ Picture required

#### Compile-Time if

C++17 introduces compile-time if statement that allows us to enable or disable specific statement based on compile-time conditions

#### Compile-Time if

```
template <typename T>
void print(T const& t) {
  std::cout << t << '\n';
template <typename T, typename... Params>
void print(T const& head, Params const&... tail) {
  print(head);
  print(tail...);
            template <typename T, typename... Params>
            void print(T const& head, Params const&... tail) {
              std::cout << head << '\n';</pre>
              if constexpr(sizeof...(tail) > 0) {
                // code only available if sizeof...(args)>0
                print(tail...);
```