# C++ Expert

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## C++ Expert

Peter Sommerlad peter.cpp@sommerlad.ch @PeterSommerlad (40)

Slides:



https://github.com/PeterSommerlad/CPPCourseExpert/

### My philosophy

# Less Code

# More Software

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Speaker notes

I borrowed this philosophy from Kevlin Henney.

### What is in C++



Replying to @TartanLlama @pati\_gallardo and @Cor3ntin

C++ is two languages: the library language, and the application language.

You typically only need one library developer per team, the rest can mostly stick to business logic. The fact that they all use approx the same programming language is just a bonus for moments of crossover.

8:17 PM · Apr 2, 2022 · Twitter for Android

#### Speaker notes

In the C++ Introduction we look solely on parts of C++ that are relevant for App development.

In C++ Advanced we start to look at C++ parts that cross over to the library language, but mostly to cover things that might have been used in existing applications without need (or that are no longer needed in more recent C++ versions).

This course C++ Expert will dive more deeply into the "dirty" language features that might be needed for library code, but that requires careful attention to detail to not be misused. However, I will refrain from using "bad stuff", whenever there is a cleaner modern solution available. See the notes like here for further old style variations that you might encounter.

### In this course

- Modern C++17 and parts of C++20
- IDE Cevelop
- C++ Unit Testing Easier library (CUTE)

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#### Speaker notes

While you might prefer other IDEs, I chose the Eclipse-CDT-based IDE Cevelop that my former team at IFS Institute for Software created.

Cevelop provides some checkers for typical beginner mistakas as well as good support for writing Unit Tests with my test framework CUTE (https::/cute-test.com). The latter is important, because CUTE relies on the IDE to automatically generate test registration code.

### Not in this course

- All of C++
- Building C++ on the command line
- C++ build systems (cmake, scons, make)
- C++ package manager (conan, vcpkg)
- other C++ Unit Test Frameworks (Catch2, GoogleTest)
- C++98
- Other C++ IDEs (vscode, clion)

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Speaker notes

You can observe the command line used by Cevelop in its Console window.

We will not look at all features of C++20 and only some of the limitations of previous C++ language standards.

### C++ Resources

- ISO C++ standardization
- C++ Reference
- Compiler Explorer
- C++ Core Guidelines
- Hacking C++ reference sheets
- Our Exercises

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#### Speaker notes

complete link texts, PDF generation via browser causes hyperlinks to vanish from slide part, but should stick in the notes part:

- https://isocpp.org/
- https://en.cppreference.com/w/
- https://compiler-explorer.com/
- https://isocpp.github.io/CppCoreGuidelines/CppCoreGuidelines
- https://hackingcpp.com/
- https://github.com/PeterSommerlad/CPPCourseExpert

### C++ Genealogy

#### C++98

initial standardized version

#### C++03

bug-fix of C++98, no new features

#### C++11

major release (known as C++0x): lambdas, constexpr, threads, variadic templates

#### C++14

fixes and extends C++11 features: variable templates, generic lambdas

#### C++17

(almost) completes C++11 features: CTAD, better lambdas

#### C++20

new major extension: concepts, coroutines, modules, constexpr "heap"

#### C++23

feature-complete (2022-02), fixes/extends C++20

ç

#### Speaker notes

The ISO standardization process uses a three year release cycle since 2011. However, for major releases it takes time for implementors to provide the new language features and library. Most C++ compilers do not yet have fully implemented C++20 and some implementation diverge in subtle details, because the specification is inaccurate. This is a typical chicken-egg problem: \* compilers will only implement language features in production quality, when they are part of the standard \* specification in the standard is only scrutinized when independent compiler/library authors implement them

C++20 modules and coroutines are not yet generally usable across compilers. Concepts are. The ranges library similarly is not "complete" for C++20 in all compilers, so I won't cover it here.

# Quick Overview of Modern C++

We can switch to C++ Introduction/Advanced slides to go into details

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Speaker notes

Please do not hesitate to ask, if I am talking about something that you didn't yet have experienced.

### Value Types

"When in doubt - do as the **int**s do" - Scott Meyers

- Regular Types:
  - Default Constructible
  - Copyable
  - (Equality Comparable)

Refrain from implicit conversions!

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Speaker notes

for your own notes

### Algorithms over Loops

### employ the "canned" loops in the standard library

- #include<algorithm>
- #include<numeric>
- #include<iterator>

#### Algorithms come with parallelized overloads

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#### Speaker notes

#### https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/algorithm

The parallelizable algorithms come with an overload that takes an std::execution\_policy parameter.

- seq: sequential (default) iteration
- par: allows parallel (multiple-threads) execution
- par\_unseq : allows vectorization and multiple threads
- unseq: allows vectorization on a single thread

Code employing the non-sequential versions of the algorithms is required to not incur data races or deadlocks. Usually the input ranges have to be random access to allow automatic parallelization.

Vectorization usually is valid, when elements touched by a single vector-instruction are contiguous in memory, such as provided by std::vector or std::array. This sometimes leads to the question if one keeps such data as a vector of structs vs. a struct of vector. The latter keeps data from a single dimensions contiguously and associates data from different dimensions through a common index.

### **Function Parameter Kind**

Prefer parameter definitions as follows:

#### 1. pass by value

- 2. pass by const-reference const &-> optimization of 1
- 3. pass by reference & -> side effect
- 4. pass by rvalue-reference & -> transfer of ownership
- 5. pass by forwarding reference (T&&) -> perfect forwarding

Do not forget that you also can pass a template parameter at compile time.

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#### Speaker notes

Some dependencies stay hidden, such as on heap availability, OS-resources, or external communication partners. Their failure mode is discussed below.

Prefer pass by value, unless the type is really expensive to copy, i.e., a large std::vector or std::array. Then, pass by const-reference.

When you need a side effect on specific object or the object cannot easily be copied or moved, and only then, pass by non-const reference.

Always consider implementing pure function, returning their result based on a parameter instead of a side effect on the parameter.

Passing by r-value reference is for taking ownership. This is a topic for C++ Advanced.

Passing by forwarding reference (deduced r-value reference syntax) is for perfect forwarding. This is a topic for C++ Expert.

# What Classes We Design and How

### a mental model for class design

#### C++ object Roles:

- Value what
- Subject here
- Relation where

C++ specific:

• Manager - clean up

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#### Speaker notes

A type of an object can be simultaneously serve to more than one category

For example, providing a relation to a value object makes the latter a subject even if it holds a value, because now its location is important.

How to implement Manager types is one of the main topics this week.

### Manager Classes Manager Classes

### Manage a **single** resource

- - Non-copyable, non-movable
  - can be returned from factory functions (C++17)
- Unique Manager 📓 🎩
  - Move-only, Transfer of ownership
  - Resource can not be easily duplicated
- General Manager 📓 🖔
  - Copyable, Move-operation for optimization
  - Resource can be (expensively?) duplicated

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Speaker notes

Have a non-empty destructor body, e.g., for cleaning up!

### Scoped Manager } 📓 📦

```
struct Scoped {
    Scoped(); // acquire resource
    ~Scoped(); // release resource
    Scoped& operator=(Scoped &&other) = delete;
private:
    Resource resource; // only one!
};
```

Constructor usually has parameters identifying the resource.

# DesDeMovA Rule of if Destructor defined Deleted Move Assigment

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#### Speaker notes

A scoped manager usually does not have a default constructor, but one that takes an identification for the resource to allocate.

Destructor definition has a non-empty body.

If acquisition can fail **AND** exceptions are disabled: make constructor private and have a factory function that returns an optional<Scoped> or variant<Scoped, Error>.

### Unique Manager 🎩

```
class Unique {
2
       std::optional<Resource> resource;
3
       void release() noexcept;
4
  public:
5
       Unique() = default;
6
       Unique(Params p); // acquire resource
7
       ~Unique() noexcept;
8
       Unique& operator=(Unique &&other) & noexcept;
9
       Unique(Unique &&other) noexcept;
0
```

New Rule of Three, for move-only types

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#### Speaker notes

### Move = Transfer of ownership 25



#### $A = std: move(B ) \longrightarrow A , B = (actually moved)$

```
Unique::Unique(Unique &&other) noexcept
:resource{std::move(other.resource)}{
    other.resource.reset(); // clear RHS optional
Unique::operator=(Unique &&other) & noexcept {
    if (this != &other) { // self-assignment check
required
        this->release();
        std::swap(this->resource, other.resource);
    return *this;
void Unique::release() noexcept {
    if (resource) { // is optional non-empty
        // really release resource here
        resource.reset(); // AND clear the optional
```

```
Unique::~Unique()
noexcept {
    this-
>release();
```

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Unique Managers require a deliberate empty "moved-from" state.

using std::optional provides the extra "empty" state required for the moved-from state.

If the resources managed is memory, managing that with a std::unique\_ptr can often employ the default move operations.

New "Rule of Three for move-only types"

### General Manager 💰

```
struct MValue {
    MValue() = default;
    ~MValue();
    MValue(const MValue &other);
    MValue& operator=(const MValue &other) &;
    MValue(MValue &&other) noexcept; // optional optimization
    MValue& operator=(MValue &&other) & noexcept; // optional
    optimization
};
```

Move for optimization only through "gut stealing".

A==B ← A , B= (actually moved)

Rule of Three(classic) / Rule of Five/Six

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In this course we will exercise implementing General Manager types!

### Special Member Functions

#### Rule of Zero Rulez

Never define a destructor with an empty body

**=default** virtual destructor

3 kinds of Managers 📓



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- Rule of DesDeMovA least code for non-copyable
- Rule of Three(new) for move-only Unique Managers
- Rule of Three(classic) or Six for General Managers

#### Speaker notes

Define a destructor only when you must do it and never define it with just an empty body (use =default for virtual destructor in a base class).

have unique and general managers have a default constructor, creating an "empty" managing object that does not own a resource for managing.

### Qualify Member Functions

#### Mark member functions

- with side effects using & refqualifier
- without side effects on (\*this) using const

It is a legacy language design error allowing unqualified (non-const) member functions on temporary objects

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#### Speaker notes

This ref-qualification of a member function is a feature introduced with C++11.

Most code still does not explicitly mark the member functions with a side effect on \*this.

However, this introduces a hole in the C++ type system and an inconsistency with regular parameters. Therefore, use & to mark member functions that have a side effect on the class' object.

Returning a reference to the guts is a side effect. If leaking references from temporaries should not happen, **=delete** the **66** overland

### Dynamic Memory

- NO plain pointers (T\*), except encapsulated
- prefer std::unique\_ptr over std::shared\_ptr,
   never use T\* for owning heap memory
- prefer std::vector/std::string to heap-allocated arrays
- use a library for object graphs
  - if DIY, avoid circular dependencies from shared ptr
    - use **std::weak\_ptr** to break such cycles
- std::shared\_ptr copying can be slow



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#### Speaker notes

Do not use NULL or 0 for pointers that are invalid, but use nullptr

We will see, when it might be necessary/desired to use a heap-allocated array.

No manual memory management using **new**, **delete**, **malloc()**, **free()** etc. in modern C++.

### Compile-time over Run-time

#### errors at compile time are cheapest to fix

- **static\_assert** to ensure assumption
- constexpr/consteval functions and variables
- static polymorphism (template, auto) over dynamic polymorphism (virtual)
- distinct (strong) types over primitive types (e.g. int double)
- minimalist preprocessor use #include and -guards

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We will look later at how to do compile-time computation

### Conscious Error Handling

#### When a function's contract could be violated

- 0. ignore faults and eventually have undefined behavior
- 1. return a **standard result** to cover the error
- 2. return a special error value
- 3. provide an error status as a side-effect
- 4. throw an exception

Or if there cannot be a contract violation:

-1. always succeed

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Be aware of your function's contract, even if you don't state it explicitly

For option 2 consider std::optional<T> as a return type.

The functions without UB (0.) and not throwing exceptions (4.) could be marked with **noexcept**. However, doing so can incur an overhead at the call site due to the need to **std::terminate()** in case an exception is thrown nevertheless.

## Anything Else?

• Ask me Anything?

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Speaker notes

for your own notes

### **Abstraction**

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#### Speaker notes

This section gives an overview on the abstraction mechanisms available in C++ without going into details.

It is provided to form a supportive mental model.

If time is brief, we just might skip it.

And later watch Kate Gregory's ACCU 2022 talk on abstraction that is much more elaborate:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3wxJD3BpqI

### What is Abstraction?

- give a **Name** for "stuff"
  - recall/use via Name
- hide details behind Name
  - encapsulation enables change

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Speaker notes

Abstraction is a key concept to programming, even when it is often neglected in teaching programming.

### Using Abstraction?

- recall via name allows layering
  - details below details
  - abstraction on top of abstraction
- allows to parametrize "stuff"
  - recall passes arguments
  - parameters are substituted with argument values
  - more generic solution, better reuse

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#### Speaker notes

Once we have "abstracted" a thing by giving its definition a name, we can recall that "thing" without having to repeat its definition.

Abstraction is further the key to allow parameters for "things": placeholders that can be filled in later with arguments.

This is the key mechanism to achieve "more software with less code".

### Abstraction Example

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#### Speaker notes

this is not a splendid code example. It is just here to demonstrate the parameter/argument mechanism.

https://compiler-explorer.com/z/1PYGvGMj8

### Abstraction in C++

#### what

- value, expression
- computation (sequence)
- operation
- set of functions
- value set + behavior
- set of types
- related stuff

#### how

- (const) variable
- function
- overloading
- function template
- (class) type
- class template
- namespace

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#### Speaker notes

this table is just a rough comparison of the C++ features.

Namespaces (such as std::) are not really a means of abstraction, but of grouping.

C++20 in addition allows to abstract otherwise implicit requirements on template arguments with concepts.

### Parameterization {} () <>

### Abstractions can have parameters

- initialization: var{value}
- functions: f(params)
- templates: T<tparams>

arguments: compile time {}()<>, run time (){}

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Speaker notes

This is a very rough overview.

### C++ Parameterization

We can parameterize several things:

- functions with function parameters
- lambdas with captures
- template with template parameters
  - class templates
  - function templates
  - variable templates

- template parameters:
  - class templates
  - types
  - compile-time values
  - global references
- argument deduction
  - function templates
  - class templates/constructo

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Speaker notes

Parameterization is what makes code composable, testable, and reusable.

Relying on global state syntactically, e.g., writing to std::cout, makes code untestable and hard to reuse.

Remove unnecessary dependencies to objects/values/types by introducing parameters for them.

### C++ strengths

- C++ has powerful abstraction mechanisms
- compile-time type safety
- generates efficient code (no virtual machine)
- cares much about backward compatibility

the last point is responsible for some of C++ weaknesses

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This concludes the more general overview on abstraction and we will look into the technicalities of C++ again.

### Exercise 1

exercises/exercise01/

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Speaker notes

https://github.com/PeterSommerlad/CPPCourseExpert/blob/main/exercises/exercise01/

## **Templates**

Compile-time Code Parametrization

- types (and aliases (C++11))
- functions (and lambdas (C++14))
- variables (C++14)
- concepts (C++20)

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for your own notes

### Terminology rehash

### Template

- definition template<>/li>
- instantiation: std::vector<int>
- specialization: template<>...name<>
- parameter template<param>
  - class template, typename, compile-time value
- argument std::vector<int>
- argument deduction

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#### Speaker notes

We can specialize class templates and variable templates to provide definitions for special cases, or to prevent using the template with specific arguments. Every template instantiation is an (often implicit) specialization of a template. While syntactically it is possible to also specialize function templates, this doesn't provide the same special-case selection as with class and variable templates, therefore, we rely on **overloading** for function templates, which provides the special casing and can use either functions or function templates with the same name forming the overload set.

### **Function Templates**

```
#ifndef MYMIN_H_
#define MYMIN_H_
namespace MyMin{
template <typename T>
T min(T a, T b){
    return (a < b)? a : b
    ;
}
#endif</pre>
```

https://godbolt.org/z/jr

- **template** keyword with
  - <> for template parameters
  - typename for type parameters
  - function definition
- definition in header file
  - implicitly inline

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#### Speaker notes

Function templates are implicitly inline functions, even without the keyword inline

Template parameters in <> can be

- types (typename or class),
- class templates (template), or
- values/NTTP (integral type or auto (C++20))
  - in addition to integral types, pointers and references are also possible
  - C++20 extends the types for values to "structural types" as well, which can be structs (literal types) with public members and bases or arrays of structural types. Creating a special structural type, C++20 even allows string literals to be used as template arguments. Type deduction using auto for NTTPs was introduced in C++20.

Often it makes sense to define function templates as **constexpr** functions, to allow their use at compile time.

Using value template parameters is an advanced topic, typically employed in template-meta-programming. Before C++20, value parameters where called "non-type template parameters" NTTP. They allow to parameterize templates with compile-time values, like the number of elements in a std::array<T, N>. Originally, provided for such a case, it was discovered during the initial standardization that they allow turing-complete compile-time programming. This unintended consequence of lisp-style programming using templates was later eased by introducing constexpr(C++11) and consteval (C++20) keywords and their corresponding uses, which allow most of C++ to be used at compile time with the original syntax.

Compiler explorer: https://compiler-explorer.com/z/jroxGa6a8

### Generic Lambdas

```
auto lambdamin = [](auto const &l, auto const &r){ return l<r ? l : r; };</pre>
```

different **auto** parameters are independent typename template parameters

C++20 allows to specify template parameters for a lambda:

```
auto min = []<typename T>(T const &l, T const &r){ return l<r ? l : r; };</pre>
```

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In the first case, heterogeneous lambda function argument types are possible. As long as implicit conversions work for the comparison and return, the code compiles:

#### https://godbolt.org/z/qMed3ef1d

Specifying the template parameter explicitly and thus giving it a name, allows to ensure both arguments are of the same type.

#### https://godbolt.org/z/ar576Ga1o

However, neither so far prevent calling the lambda with string literals or pointers. This requires C++20 requires.

### Constrained Lambdas

- Lambdas can not be specialized or overloaded
- C++ 20 allows to constrain them:

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#### Speaker notes

In addition to the explicit constraints given by the **requires** clause, such a lambda still carries the implicit requirements given by its parameter types and implementation body. Here the existence of the comparison operator< and the need for returning is only implicitly specified.

#### https://godbolt.org/z/c4d6hq7hq

If we want concept-based compile errors, we can chose to ask for the concept in the lambda template parameter

### More Constrained Lambda

• replace typename with concept

https://godbolt.org/z/4Kas8G49n

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Play with it:

https://godbolt.org/z/4Kas8G49n

unfortunately, we cannot use "totally\_ordered" to constrain the individual lambda parameters directly, because that would again allow heterogeneous calls.

# Lambda with own concept

### constraints can be combined into a concept

### https://godbolt.org/z/9E1E1P1M8

more on concepts and SFINAE later...

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#### Speaker notes

For defining concepts it is often the case that one relies on bool variable templates, often from the standard library header <type\_traits>.

The standard defines some predefined concepts as well, such as the std::totally\_ordered<T>, most of them in the header <concepts>

https://godbolt.org/z/9E1E1P1M8

# Class Templates

- generic data structures
- prevent specific template arguments
   static\_assert() or declare without definition
- more questions?

see C++ Advanced

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Speaker notes

see C++ Advanced material

http://localhost:8000/Advanced.html#/class-templates

# **Parameters**

### Function parameters

- value
- Ivalue-reference
- const Ivaluereference
- rvalue reference

# Compile-time template parameters

- types
- constant objects
- functions
- templates
- concepts (for constraints)

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#### Speaker notes

We do not promote pointers as function parameters here, because pointers behave like value parameters, but have the semantics of an optional Ivalue-reference. See C++ Advanced course for replacement strategies of pointers (repeated and extended towards the end of this course, time permitting)

### **Function Parameter Kind**

Prefer parameter definitions as follows:

- 1. pass by value
- 2. pass by const-reference **const** &
  - -> opt-/pess-imization of 1
- 3. pass by Ivalue-reference & -> side effect
- 4. pass by rvalue-reference & -> transfer of ownership
- 5. pass by forwarding reference (T&&)
  - -> perfect forwarding

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#### Speaker notes

Some dependencies stay hidden, such as on heap availability, OS-resources, or external communication partners. Their failure mode is discussed below.

Prefer pass by value, unless the type is really expensive to copy, i.e., a large std::vector or std::array. Then, pass by const-reference.

When you need a side effect on specific object or the object cannot easily be copied or moved, and only then, pass by non-const reference.

Always consider implementing pure function, returning their result based on a parameter instead of a side effect on the parameter.

Passing by r-value reference is for taking ownership.

Passing by forwarding reference (deduced r-value reference syntax) is for perfect forwarding.

### Move Semantics

- 1. Transfer of ownership with Unique Managers
- 2. Copy-optimization through "gut stealing" with General Managers

A==B ← A , B= (actually moved)

Copy is also a valid move operation

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#### Speaker notes

A type is movable, when it is copyable, but a type can have a dedicated overload of its move operations either, because it is a unique manager for a non-duplicatable resource, or it is a general manager where move operations perform "gut stealing" and thus optimize copy.

1. std::unique\_ptr<T> - Unique Manager

2. std::vector<T> - move optimized General Manager

Some types are so cheap to copy, move support is superfluous (e.g. int).

Some types are always expensive to copy and won't allow move optimization, because they contain all data, e.g., std::array<T,N>

# Copying Content

```
A♠=B♠ ← A♠, B♠ (copy)
```

```
#include <iostream>
struct CopyableThing {
   CopyableThing() {
     std::cout << "Create Thing\n";
   }
   CopyableThing(CopyableThing const &) {
     std::cout << "Copy Thing\n";
   }
};
CopyableThing create() {
   CopyableThing t{};
   return t;
}
int main() {
   CopyableThing created = create();
}</pre>
```

https://godbolt.org/z/EKsoE8nEo

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#### https://godbolt.org/z/EKsoE8nEo

Experiment with different language standards with and without -fno-elide-constructors:

- -02 -std=c++11 -fno-elide-constructors: https://godbolt.org/z/EKsoE8nEo
- -02 -std=c++17 -fno-elide-constructors: https://godbolt.org/z/rM9KfMP14
- -02 -std-c++17: https://godbolt.org/z/qbaobqajh

C++17 introduced mandatory copy-elision -> single copy

GCC implements Named-Return-Value-Optimization (NRVO) -> no copy

# Moving Content

**A**•=**B**•• **A**••, **B**•• (move)

```
#include <iostream>
struct MoveOnlyThing {
    MoveOnlyThing() {
        std::cout << "Create Thing\n";
    }
    MoveOnlyThing(MoveOnlyThing &&) {
        std::cout << "Move Thing\n";
    }
};
MoveOnlyThing create() {
    MoveOnlyThing t{};
    return t;
}
int main() {
    MoveOnlyThing created = create();
}</pre>
```

https://godbolt.org/z/abK8q9zaz

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#### https://godbolt.org/z/abK8q9zaz

Experiment with different language standards with and without -fno-elide-constructors:

- -02 -std=c++14 -fno-elide-constructors: https://godbolt.org/z/64hrPW56b
- -02 -std=c++17 -fno-elide-constructors: https://godbolt.org/z/abK8q9zaz
- -02 -std-c++17 :https://godbolt.org/z/59Gd1sEe8

C++17 introduced mandatory copy/move-elision -> single move

GCC implements Named-Return-Value-Optimization (NRVO) -> no move

### Where move is relevant?

```
using BigObject = std::array<int, 1'000'000>;
struct ContainerForBigObject {
  ContainerForBigObject()
      : resource{std::make_unique<BigObject>()}
  ContainerForBigObject(ContainerForBigObject const & other)
 : resource{std::make_unique<BigObject>(*other.resource)} {}
ContainerForBigObject(ContainerForBigObject && other) noexcept
      : resource{std::move(other.resource)}
  ContainerForBigObject & operator=(ContainerForBigObject const & other) {
    resource = std::make_unique<BigObject>(*other.resource);
    return *this;
  ContainerForBigObject & operator=(ContainerForBigObject && other) noexcept {
    std::swap(resource, other.resource);
    //resource = std::move(other.resource);// is possible too
    return *this:
private:
 std::unique_ptr<BigObject> resource;
```

https://godbolt.org/z/W14Pqzbbh

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#### Speaker notes

Since std::array actually holds its elements within the object, it is big and expensive to copy. Therefore, dynamic allocation makes sense, because it not only prevents overflowing the stack memory, but also allows copy optimization through a move operation.

This is a general manager type for demonstration purposes only, that doesn't require a destructor, but implements copy and move operations. Actually the move operation implementations could be defaulted and will generate identical code, if swap() is replaced with move assignment.

#### https://godbolt.org/z/W14Pqzbbh

Defaulted move operations:

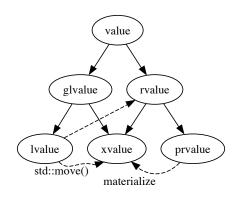
#### https://godbolt.org/z/sesPebnqr

For containers and Manager objects that manage dynamic memory (via std::unique\_ptr if DIY) for their contents, move-optimization makes sense.

If a class' data members support move optimization, the compiler-provided default move operations (if not suppressed otherwise) readily employ the optimization without the need to implement them oneself for the class.

# Excursion: C++ Value Categories

### expressions have a type and a value category



T - (pr)value, T& - Ivalue, T& - xvalue

The type representation is not exactly correct

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#### Speaker notes

original value categories from C contain Ivalues and rvalues, where I and r denote the position within an assignment. Ivalues have a space where to store a value. rvalues just are the value that is read/used.

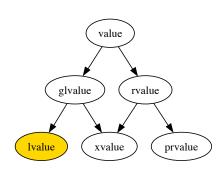
With C++11 introduction of move semantics the value categories have gotten a finder granularity:

- glvalue represents a location where a value resides (lvalue or xvalue)
- Ivalue represents a location where a value can be stored
- xvalue represents a value that can be consumed (the moved from value might change on move), eXpiring value
- rvalue represents a value that is read or used (xvalue or prvalue)
- prvalue represents a "pure" rvalue that does not need to have a location

Within an expression that just uses the value of a variable, conceptually an implicit Ivalue-to-rvalue conversion happens. However, there is no implicit conversion from Ivalue to xvalue! A pure rvalue (prvalue), like formed from a literal, e.g., 42, implicitly converts to an xvalue through a conceptual mechanism called "materialization" when passed to a function taking an rvalue-reference parameter. Most of these implicit conversions have any run-time overhead, because they just cover how the compiler treats the expressions' types.

rvalue-references (T66) actually refer to an **xvalue** and thus should be called "xvalue-references" but we cannot change established terminology.

### Ivalue-references T&



- function parameter for sideeffects
- can dangle!
  - return type (must survive call!)
  - member or local variable

### never return a local variable by reference

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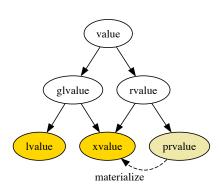
#### Speaker notes

While T const & is also an Ivalue reference, such const-references when used as parameters can also bind to rvalues (= temporaries).

For local const-references that bind to a (member of a) temporary object that is directly created directly in the binding expression, the lifetime of the temporary is extended until the end of the block. However, slight refactorings or binding to a reference returned from a function won't extend the lifetime and lead to dangling. In addition C++17's mandatory copy elision actually eliminated most cases, where this was used for copy prevention.

I suggest strongly to not rely to temporary lifetime extension by binding it to a local reference. The C++ standard even contains a bug-problem caused by such "optimization" in the specification of the range-for loop statement.

### const-Ivalue references T const &



- parameter for copyoptimization
  - pessimization for "small" types
- can dangle!
  - return type (must survive!)
  - returning a member "ok"

### never return a local variable by reference

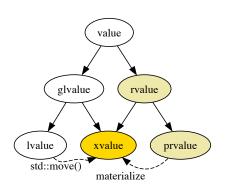
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#### Speaker notes

Technically a prvalue is "materialized" (dashed arrow) to become a temporary (xvalue), when it has to be bound to a (const-) reference.

Using local variables that are const-references, have an interesting but very error prone effect, that they bind to a temporary and extend its lifetime. Minimal refactorings can break the lifetime extension and thus lead to dangling **©**.

### rvalue-references T&&



- function parameter for transfer of ownership
- parameter name is Ivalue in function
- In deduced scope (auto&&)
  does not mean rvaluereference!

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#### Speaker notes

Like const-references, local rvalue-references bind to temporary objects and extend their lifetime. However, as with const-references such lifetime extension is error prone and can lead to dangling when code gets refactored. DO NOT USE IT!

Also be aware that an rvalue-reference parameter becomes an Ivalue when its name is used within a function.

Having a function with an rvalue-reference return type is most often not very useful (return by value instead if it is a non-local (surviving) variable in the return statement, you might want to use std::move in the return statement to optimize the copy)

# Parameter Reference Binding

struct S	f(S) value	f(S &) side effect	f(S const &) no copy	f(S &&) transfer of ownership
S s{}; f(s);	<b>▼</b>	v preferred	$\overline{\checkmark}$	×
<pre>S const s{}; f(s);</pre>	<b>✓</b>	×	<b>▽</b>	×
f(S{});	<b>✓</b>	×	<b>▽</b>	<b>▽</b> preferred
<pre>S s{}; f(std::move(s));</pre>	<b>✓</b>	×	<b>▽</b>	<b>▽</b> preferred

• either per value or per reference, combined overloads can cause ambiguities

Speaker notes

Value overload causes ambiguities if also a reference overload exists.

If both const and non-const Ivalue reference overload exist, constness of the argument determines which one is selected.

While syntactically possible to from const-rvalue-references, they make semantically no sense, because they are there for "gut stealing"

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### Overload resolution member functions

S:: m() qualifier:	none	const	8	const &	88
usage	side effect		side effect		consume
S s{}; s.m();		V	preferred	V	×
<pre>S const s{}; s.m();</pre>	×	V	×	V	×
S{}.m();			×	<b>V</b>	<b>✓</b> preferred
<pre>S s{}; std::move(s).m();</pre>	<b>▽</b>	<b>~</b>	×	<b>~</b>	preferred

side effects on temporaries with unqualified member functions is an unfixable legacy hole 🕳 in the type system

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#### Speaker notes

I strongly recommend to qualify member functions that are intended to be called on mutable Ivalues!

Unfortunately, within an overload set of member functions, as of up to at least C++20, one needs to either ref-qualify all member functions (new style) or none (old style).

While in theory the syntax for **const 86** exists, it is quite useless in practice.

### Simple Type Deduction

#### auto

- (local) variables (= C++11 {val} C++14)
- function return types (C++11<sup>(\*)</sup> C++14)
- lambda parameters (C++14)
- function parameters (C++20)
- template<typename T>void f(T)
  - function template from call argument
  - class template from constructor argument (C++17)

Deduced type is from value without further qualification.

(\*) C++11 **auto** return type requires -> trailing return type

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#### Speaker notes

In C++11 auto i{42}; would deduce std::initializer\_list<int> as the type for i. This confusing "specification bug" was retroactively fixed so that using curly braces for type deduction from a single value would not trigger deducing std::initializer\_list. Unfortunately, there are other problems around initializer lists that couldn't be fixed (the priority of selecting an initializer\_list constructor, even when implicit conversions would be necessary).

The type deduction for **auto** is specified in terms of type deduction that happens for **typename** function template parameters used as function parameter types.

# Ivalue-ref Type Deduction

# auto & template<typename T> void f(T &)

declaration	call	instantiated	deduced T
int x{1};	f(x)	f(int &)	int
<pre>int const cx{2};</pre>	f(cx)	f(int const &)	int <b>const</b>
<pre>int const &amp;crx{3};</pre>	f(crx)	f(int const &)	int <b>const</b>

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Speaker notes

for your own notes

# const & Type Deduction

# auto const & template<typename T> void f(T const &)

declaration	call	instantiated	deduced T
int x{1};	f(x)	f(int const &)	int
<pre>int const cx{2};</pre>	f(cx)	f(int const &)	int
<pre>int const &amp;crx{3};</pre>	f(crx)	f(int const &)	int

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for your own notes

# Forwarding Reference Type Deduction

# auto&& template<typename T> void f(T&&)

declaration	call	instantiated	deduced T
int x{1};	f(x)	f(int &)	int &
<pre>int const cx{2};</pre>	f(cx)	f(int const &)	int const &
	f(42)	f(int &&)	int <b>&amp;&amp;</b>
<pre>int const &amp;crx{3};</pre>	f(crx)	f(int const &)	int const &

**T&&** is a forwarding reference, type deduced keeps "referencyness"

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#### Speaker notes

Note that a regular rvalue-reference function parameter std::unique\_ptr<int> && in non-deduced contexts will only bind to xvalues and not to an Ivalue.

Such rvalue-reference paramters are only useful to explicitly mark the consumption of a function argument and expect to be called with temporaries. If the underlying type is a move-only type, it is sufficient to use call-by-value for the same effect. So taking ownership via an rvalue-reference parameter is only useful for General Manager types, such as std::vector<int> where the "gut stealing" is intentional.

In generic containers insertion member functions often come in overloads for **const8** and **86** parameters. This allows to optimize for temporaries to be moved into their place in the container and for Ivalues to be copied into their place in the container. It is also required to support move-only types in containers, that cannot be simply copied.

# decltype(auto)

**decltype(expr)** deduces the type of expr

while **auto** deduces always the value type, **auto&&** always deduces a reference, **decltype(auto)** keeps the deduced type's "referenciness"

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#### Speaker notes

The main use of decltype(auto) is for determining the return type of generic functions that might return references. Here, we also have a lot of potential danger situations that can lead to returning a dangling reference!

# decltype(auto) deduction

```
decltype(auto) funcName() {
  int local = 42;
  return local; //decltype(local) => int
}
decltype(auto) funcPrvalue() {
  return 5; //int
}
```

```
decltype(auto) funcNameRef() {
   static int local = 42;
   int & lref = local;
   return lref; //decltype(lref) => int &
}
decltype(auto) funcXvalue() {
   int local = 42;
   return std::move(local); //int && ->
        bad
}
decltype(auto) funcLvalue() {
   int local = 42;
   return (local); //int & -> bad
}
```

- variable or data member name
  - T type of the expression (retains reference)
  - here lvalue->rvalue implicit conversion happens
- expression of value category prvalue
  - T
- expression of category xvalue
  - **T&&** rvalue reference type
- expression of value category Ivalue
  - this includes (name)!
  - T& Ivalue reference

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#### Speaker notes

type deduction with **decltype(auto)** is tricky, because of the special case of putting parenthesis around a named return value. So as a general rule, never use parentheses around the expression in the return value, since this also prevents application of the optional named-return-value optimization (NRVO).

# Useful decltype()

In generic inline functions, where returning a-potentially const-reference is useful.

```
template<typename Container, typename Index>
decltype(auto) access(Container & c, Index i) {
   return c[i]; // keep return type of Container::operator[]
}
```

from C++11 on in trailing return type referring parameters

```
template<typename Container, typename Index>
auto access(Container & c, Index i) -> decltype(c[i]) {
  return c[i];
}
```

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Speaker notes

In C++11 **auto** for function return type, requires to specify the return type after the function parameters using an -> to provide a "trailing return type" specification. The same syntax is available for Lambda expressions, if the deduced type wouldn't be unique or would be different from the actual type of the return expression.

# Generic Wrapping

Move-only types require rvalue-reference or value parameters

```
template<typename T>
struct wrapper{
  wrapper() = default;
  explicit wrapper(T const &x)
  :value{x}{} // copy
  explicit wrapper(T&& x)
  :value{std::move(x)}{}
  T value;
};
```

```
template<typename T>
struct wrapper{
  wrapper() = default;
  explicit wrapper(T x)
  :value{std::move(x)}{}
  T value;
};
```

std::move(x), because named parameter x is treated as an Ivalue when used.

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Speaker notes

play with it: https://godbolt.org/z/EnaEr8s5z

This code is over-simplified to show the different options for constructor parameters. We will extend it further later.

At the moment, we can observe, that the type needs to be *default constructible* and *moveable* (copyable is a special form of movable)

### inside std::move

- How does std::move() move objects?
  - it doesn't!
  - it is a static\_cast<T&&>()
  - T& -> T&&
- possible implementation:

```
template<typename T>
decltype(auto) move(T && param) {
  return static_cast<std::remove_reference_t<T>&&>(param);
}
```

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#### Speaker notes

std::remove\_reference\_t is used to create the T from T& Ivalue-reference type

decltype(auto) return type retains rvalue-reference as return type.

Some library implementers use the **static\_cast<T&&>** directly, because some C++ frontends don't optimize the function call away, as they should IMHO. However, that needs to ensure that the underlying type T is a value type. If it is already a reference, so called reference collapsing kicks in.

# Why not just **static\_cast<T&&>**?

### reference collapsing

• static\_cast<T&&>(x) might yield an Ivalue reference!

Туре	Combination	Resulting Type
T	T &	T <b>&amp;</b>
<b>T&amp;</b>	T& &	T <b>&amp;</b>
<b>788</b>	T&& &	T <b>&amp;</b>
Т	T 88	T <b>&amp;&amp;</b>
T <b>&amp;</b>	T& &&	T&
T <b>88</b>	T <b>&amp;&amp; &amp;&amp;</b>	T <b>&amp;&amp;</b>

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#### Speaker notes

Reference collapsing only results in an rvalue reference if the rvalue-reference is added to a value type or a type that is already an rvalue reference type. All other cases of reference adding to a type yield an Ivalue reference.

# Replacing the wrapped object

```
template<typename</pre>
                     template<typename T>
                      struct wrapper{
        T>
struct wrapper{
                       wrapper() = default;
                       explicit wrapper(T x)
  wrapper() =
                       :value{std::move(x)}{}
        default;
                       T value;
  explicit
                       void replace(T x)& {
        wrapper(T
                         value = std::move(x);
        const &x)
  :value{x}{}
  explicit
                      };
        wrapper(T&&
         x)
        :value{std::mopass-by-value might need to copy
                     twice: ok for move-optimized or small
  T value;
  void replace(T
                     types
        const &x)
        & {
   value = x;
```

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Assuming the existence of move-assignment, we can also replace the value.

However, neither works for types that cannot be assigned or moved.

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# Wrapping non-movable?

```
template<typename T>
struct wrapper{
  wrapper() = default;
  explicit wrapper(T const &x)
    :value{x}{} // copy
  explicit wrapper(T&& x)
    :value{std::move(x)}{}
  T value;
};
struct nonmovable{
    nonmovable& operator=(nonmovable&&)=delete; // rule of DesDeMovA
};
wrapper<nonmovable> w{nonmovable{}}; // doesn't compile
```

### we need a means to construct an object in place

https://godbolt.org/z/4GKaYEP7z

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#### Speaker notes

#### https://godbolt.org/z/4GKaYEP7z

We can not use our wrapper with scoped manager types or types that are cannot be moved and thus not copied.

To facilitate such types, we need a means to construct an object in place. This can also be used for objects that are very expensive to copy, because they are large, and that do not benefit from move optimization. The standard library employs such in the <code>emplace(...)</code> member function templates of its container class templates.

# Wrapping a function

```
template<typename FUNC, typename T>
auto wrapit(FUNC &&f,T arg){
  f(arg); // f(T) or f(T const &)
}

template<typename FUNC, typename T>
auto wrapit(FUNC &&f,T&& arg){
  f(arg); // f(T), f(T const &), f(T&)
}

template<typename FUNC, typename T>
auto wrapit(FUNC &&f,T&& arg){
  f(arg); // f(T&)
}

template<typename FUNC, typename T>
auto wrapit(FUNC &&f,T&& arg){
  f(arg); // f(T&)
}

f(arg); // f(T&)
}
```

https://godbolt.org/z/Kb6hq4rGM

### Perfect Forwarding:

```
template<typename FUNC, typename T>
auto wrapit(FUNC &&f,T&& arg){
  f(std::forward<T>(arg));
}
```

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#### Speaker notes

- Pass by value, only works well for copyable value types.
- Pass by Ivalue-reference, only works well with Ivalue-reference parameters
- Pass by forwarding-reference, works with value and Ivalue-references, but cannot pass-on a move-only type directly, because the parameter itself is an Ivalue. \*\* using std::move() is not a solution, because that would prohibit pass-by-Ivalue-reference \*\* using std::forward<T>() is the solution

The function parameter is passed by forwarding reference to enable the use of either functions (Ivalue), function objects (Ivalue), or lambda expressions (xvalue). In theory, it would also benefit from perfect forwarding, but that is not needed here, because plain functions can always be called.

https://godbolt.org/z/Kb6hq4rGM

# Perfect Forwarding gotchas

```
template<typename FUNC, typename T>
auto wrapit(FUNC &&f,T&& arg){
  f(std::forward<T>(arg));
}
int main(){
  int i{41};
  int const ic{44};
  int &&ixref=43;
  func f{};
  wrapit(f,i); // lvalue-ref
  wrapit(f,42); // xvalue-ref
  wrapit(f,static_cast<int const &>(42)); // const lvalue-ref
  wrapit(f,ixref); // lvalue-ref
  wrapit(f,ixref); // lvalue-ref
  wrapit(f,ixref); // lvalue-ref
  wrapit(f,ixref); // lvalue-ref
  wrapit(f,std::move(i)); // xvalue-ref
}
```

https://godbolt.org/z/bEf6KEjd3

Speaker notes

#### https://godbolt.org/z/bEf6KEjd3

- · Passing an rvalue will bind to rvalue-reference
- Passing an Ivalue will bind to Ivalue-reference
- Passing a const Ivalue or a const Ivalue reference binds to const-Ivalue-reference

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# Perfect Forwarding for construction

variadic template forwarding parameter...

```
template<typename T>
struct wrapper{
    //construct in-place
    template<typename...PARAMS>
    explicit wrapper(PARAMS &&...args)
    :value(std::forward<PARAMS>(args)...)
        {}
    T value;
};
struct nmv_def {
    nmv_def& operator=(nmv_def&&)=delete;
};
wrapper<nmv_def> w{};
```

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https://godbolt.org/z/7s57r887n

Using a variadic forwarding parameter pack with std::forward<>() pack expansion is the way for generic forwarding.

# Perfect Forwarding Usage

### emplace()

- containers use emplace() to prevent additional copies when inserting elements by constructing elements directly through perfect forwarding
  - e.g., std::vector::emplace\_back()

```
template< class... Args >
reference emplace_back( Args&... args );
```

generic wrappers similarly: std::optional, std::any

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https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/container/vector/emplace https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/utility/optional/emplace https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/utility/any/emplace 74

# Parameter summary

- prefer pass-by-value
- use pass-by-Ivalue reference for side-effects
- use pass-by-const-reference for copy-optimization
- use pass-by rvalue-reference for taking ownership
  - don't forget std::move(arg)
- use forwarding-reference for perfect forwarding
  - don't forget std::forward<T>(arg)

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for your own notes

# Exercise 2

exercises/exercise02/

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https://github.com/PeterSommerlad/CPPCourseExpert/blob/main/exercises/exercise02/

# Object Lifetime and Raw Memory

In contrast to C, C++ is much more specific about object lifetime.

In contrast to Python, C++ object lifetime is deterministic

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for your own notes

### C++ Object Lifetime

- C++ has a deterministic lifetime model
- Lifetime starts, when the first constructor finishes successfully
- Lifetime ends, when its destructor is called
- in principle also for non-class types
- Existence of memory doesn't start lifetime
- re-interpreting bits of an object as another type is invalid in most cases

Accessing an object outside of its lifetime is Undefined Behavior



#### Speaker notes

While the concept of type-punning - interpreting bits of one object as an object of another type - is common practice in C, for example with unions, there are only very few cases, where doing so is valid in C++. Even with built-in types that share the same layout and range the underlying types are considered distinct by the type system.

This section is dealing with the cases when and how such things are valid in C++. Note, that a successful warning-free compilation not necessarily guarantees that.

Please note, that the C++ standard experts are currently still discussing details of what operations on raw memory are valid or not, based on the standard. (un)fortunately, many such low-level accesses that programmers think should work, work in practice, even when not sanctioned by the standard. However, there are several corner cases, where compilers might take the C++ standard omissions (= undefined behavior) as a source for optimization potential and thus create opportunities for code not behaving in a way the developer expects, especially with optimization turned on.

# Dynamic Storage aka Heap Memory

- Use standard library containers, if not sufficient:
- std::make\_unique() is the modern way for memory allocation

### classic:

- auto ptr = new T() heap allocation and construction
- **delete** ptr; destruction and deallocation

always been obsolete (C):

- char \* ptr = malloc(sizeof(T));
- free(ptr);

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#### Speaker notes

correctly pairing **new** and **delete** is required to not leak memory, even in case of exceptions and also to not cause undefined behavior, in case of an array allocation, **delete[]** needs to be used accordingly for releasing the corresponding memory.

In modern C++, one should exclusively use std::make\_unique<T>() to allocate objects on the heap, except when one needs shared pointers and then uses std::make\_shared.

A last expert-level option for specific allocation strategies in containers is to use the std::allocator\_traits API with dedicated allocators or with the containers from the namespace std::pmr:: that support polymorphic allocators to provide dedicated memory resource objects derived from std::pmr::memory\_resource. The latter allows to mix containers with different memory resources, without encoding the allocator in its concrete type, as it is the case with containers from the namespace std::

## **Allocators**

# Standard containers have an **Allocator** typename template parameter

```
template<class T, class Allocator = std::allocator<T>> class vector;
```

An allocator provides two significant member functions:

```
T* allocate( std::size_t n );
void deallocate( T* p, std::size_t n );
```

```
the std::allocator<T> delegates to plain ::newand ::delete and is stateless
```

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#### Speaker notes

For memory limited devices or specific (concurrent/parallel) architectures it can be useful to use/define dedicated allocators.

However, since the standard container templates are paraemterized by allocator type, mixing default containers with those with a dedicated allocator type is not simple.

The standard library therefore provides containers in namespace std::pmr that allow to mix containers with different allocation strategies, defined by "polymorphic memory resource". Using those should be clearly motivated by the architecture and make a measurable difference.

## **Employing Allocators**

# Indirection through std::allocator\_traits<Alloc<T>>

```
[[nodiscard]] static constexpr T* allocate( Alloc& a, size_type n );
template< class T, class... Args >
static void construct( Alloc& a, T* p, Args&&... args );
template< class T >
static void destroy( Alloc& a, T* p );
static void deallocate( Alloc& a, T* p, size_type n );
```

For dedicated allocation strategy consider std::pmr::memory\_resources subclasses

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#### Speaker notes

Types supporting allocators have to follow specific conventions. The type trait std::uses\_allocator<T,Alloc> can be employed in generic code to determine if allocator support is enabled in type T for a specific allocator type Alloc.

#### https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/memory/uses\_allocator

Types using allocators, usually employ an indirection through std::allocator\_traits<Alloc> for creating and destroying objects.

C++20 introduces compile-time allocators support by declaring the corresponding functions **constexpr**. However, while such allocators can be used at compile time, the memory allocated by the standard allocator at compile-time must also be released at compile-time, so it is impossible to create regular **std::vector** or **std::string** with content at compile time and later use them at run-time.

# C++17 <memory\_resource>

polymorphic\_allocator used by std::pmr::string and std::pmr::vector
employs classes derived from memory\_resource for dedicated allocation strategies.

- memory resources provided use the decorator pattern to add features
  - synchronized pool resource thread safe pool
  - unsynchronized\_pool\_resource no-sync overhead memory pool
  - monotonic buffer resource very fast, releasing everything at destruction
- A global default memory resource relying on **::new** and **::delete** can be obtained
  - new\_delete\_resource() noexcept;
- A memory resource applying the null-object design pattern is also available
  - null\_memory\_resource() noexcept;
  - employ this as a base for a monotonic\_buffer\_resource to limit allocations
  - and for testing out-of-memory situation behavior

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### Speaker notes

https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/memory/synchronized\_pool\_resource https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/memory/unsynchronized\_pool\_resource https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/memory/monotonic\_buffer\_resource https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/memory/null\_memory\_resource

# Polymorphic Memory Resource Example

```
int use_vector_with_pmr_resource(){
    using namespace std::pmr;
    std::array<std::byte,1000> heap{};
    monotonic_buffer_resource memory{
        heap.data()
            ,heap.size()
            ,null_memory_resource()};
    polymorphic_allocator<std::byte> const myalloc { &memory };
    vector<int64_t> v{myalloc};
    try {
            //v.reserve(sizeof(heap)/sizeof(decltype(v)::value_type));
            generate_n(std::back_inserter(v),1000,[i=0]()mutable{return i++;});
    } catch (std::bad_alloc const &) {
            // ignore here intentionally
    }
    return std::accumulate(begin(v),end(v),0);
}
int main() {
        std::cout << use_vector_with_pmr_resource() << '\n';
}</pre>
```

https://godbolt.org/z/KMvzThGeh

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Speaker notes

https://godbolt.org/z/KMvzThGeh

# std::pmr or DIY Allocators?

## Don't, unless you can measure the benefit!

- employing dedicated allocators can have huge impact
- passing Allocators as types and eventuelly as objects can clutter the code
- not all details shown here (e.g., copy/movepropagation, scoped\_allocator\_adapter)
- architecture is important
- small bugs can have huge impact
- consider Allocator support for DIY containers

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#### Speaker notes

I have implemented dedicated allocators in pre-standard C++ in a beneficial way with thread-specific memory pools (no synchronization overhead on allocation and deallocation) where each pool was also managed like a monotonic\_buffer\_resource. But this is something where you really need top be able to measure, because it might be hard to out-do the standard library implementors.

# Raw Memory

## DIY generic containers can require using raw memory

- arrays of std::byte are privileged as raw memory
- raw memory can provide location for objects of other type
  - when contained objects are not default\_constructible or default\_initializable
  - when objects are not movable.
- reinterpreting (type punning) of (raw) memory as another object is usually not allowed in C++
  - std::bit\_cast (C++20)
  - std::construct\_at (C++20) or
  - placement new in combination with std::launder() are needed

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#### Speaker notes

For backwards compatibility, in addition to std::byte also the types char and unsigned char are privileged to denote raw memory.

https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/language/classes#Standard-layout\_class

# std::bit\_cast<TO>(from)

reinterpret\_cast to access an object's binary
 representation is often UB
std::memcpy of the raw bytes can work

```
#include <bit>
constexpr double f64v = 19880124.0;
constexpr auto u64v = std::bit_cast<std::uint64_t>(f64v);
static_assert( std::bit_cast<double>(u64v) == f64v ); // round-trip

constexpr std::uint64_t u64v2 = 0x3fe9000000000000ull;
constexpr auto f64v2 = std::bit_cast<double>(u64v2);
static_assert( std::bit_cast<std::uint64_t>(f64v2) == u64v2 ); // round-trip
```

bit\_cast works in constexpr context

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Speaker notes

https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/numeric/bit\_cast

One allowed reinterpretation is between object pointer types and std::uintptr\_t by reinterpret\_cast<>(). Don't do it, unless you want to log memory addresses, which can be done anyway without doing so.

# Raw (Dynamic) Memory

```
struct demo {
     int i; // might have a hole here
     double d;
   static_assert(sizeof(demo)> sizeof(int)+sizeof(double), "oops no padding");
   // provide storage array
   alignas(demo) std::array<std::byte, sizeof(demo)> buf;
   // make_unique allocates aligned correctly
   auto buf = std::make unique<std::byte[]>(sizeof(demo));
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   // non-initialized (C++20)
   auto buf = std::make_unique_for_overwrite<std::byte[]>(sizeof(demo));
14
16
   // non-initialized (C++20, pod only, otherwise default init)
   auto ptr = std::make_unique_for_overwrite<demo>();
```

alternatives for providing storage for an object of type demo

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#### Speaker notes

std::make\_unique\_for\_overwrite is to allow to allocate a unique\_ptr of the right type, but with an default
initialized object which might mean uninitialized for types without a constructor. normal std::make\_unique will valueinitialize the object and thus zero objects without a constructor.

# Creating an object in raw memory

optr = std::construct\_at(vptr,ctor-args); // C++20

old style placement new

optr = new (vptr) T{ctor-args};

beware of alignment restrictions of T!

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#### Speaker notes

Not obtaining the resulting pointer from a placement new, is one of the dark corner cases of the C++ standard. 
While the pointer argument to placement-new and its returned value refer to the identical address, only the returned pointer officially refers to the living object, and compilers might make use of that.

 $https:/\!/en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/memory/construct\_at$ 

If the result of placement new is not used, one needs to apply ptr = std::launder(ptr) to tell the compiler that it must assume that the pointer now refers to a living object. See example at

https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/memory/destroy\_at

for a use of std::launder

# Raw with object creation

## dynamic memory

```
auto buf{std::make_unique<std::byte[]>(sizeof(demo)));
auto ptr{reinterpret_cast<demo*>(&buf[0]));
ptr = std::construct_at(ptr, 42, 3.14);
// struct is not destroyed,
// memory released by buf's destructor
```

### old style placement new

```
auto buf{std::make_unique<std::byte[]>(sizeof(demo))};
auto ptr{new(buf.get()) demo {42,3.14}};
// struct is not destroyed,
// memory released by buf's destructor
```

## stack/static memory

```
alignas(demo)
std::array<std::byte, sizeof(demo)> buf;
auto ptr{reinterpret_cast<demo*>(&buf[0])};
ptr = std::construct_at(ptr, 42, 3.14);
// struct is not destroyed,
// memory released at end of scope
```

### old style placement new

```
alignas(demo)
std::array<std::byte, sizeof(demo)> buf;
auto ptr{new(buf.data()) demo {42,3.14}};
// struct is not destroyed,
// memory released at end of scope
```

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### Speaker notes

For types with non-trivial destructors this code is insuficient and will result in UB, because destroying the unique pointer would cause undefined behavior, because the object in the storage is not destroyed before.

# Ending the lifetime

std::destroy\_at(optr); // C++17

old style

optr->~T(); // explicit destructor call

neither release the underlying memory

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https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/memory/destroy\_at

# Raw with object creation and destruction

## dynamic memory

```
auto buf{std::make_unique<std::byte[]>(sizeof(demo))};
auto ptr{reinterpret_cast<demo*>(&buf[0])};
ptr = std::construct_at(ptr,42,3.14);
ASSERT_EQUAL(42*3.14 , ptr->i * ptr->d);
std::destroy_at(ptr);
// explicit object destruction
```

old style: explicit destructor call

```
auto buf{std::make_unique<std::byte[]>(sizeof(demo))};
auto ptr{new(buf.get()) demo {42,3.14}};
ASSERT_EQUAL(42*3.14 , ptr->i * ptr->d);
ptr->~demo();
// explicit object destruction
```

### stack/static memory

```
alignas(demo)
std::array<std::byte, sizeof(demo)> buf;
auto ptr{reinterpret_cast<demo*>(&buf[0])};
ptr = std::construct_at(ptr,42,3.14);
ASSERT_EQUAL(42*3.14 , ptr->i * ptr->d);
std::destroy_at(ptr);
```

old style: explicit destructor call

```
alignas(demo)
std::array<std::byte, sizeof(demo)> buf;
auto ptr{new(buf.data()) demo {42,3.14}};
ASSERT_EQUAL(42*3.14 , ptr->i * ptr->d);
ptr->~demo();
```

Speaker notes

for your own notes

# Correctly Accessing an object in raw memory

## std::launder() your reinterpret\_cast pointers

```
alignas(demo) std::array<std::byte, sizeof(demo)> buf;
auto ptr = reinterpret_cast<demo*>(&buf[0]);
std::construct_at(ptr,42,3.14); // not using result
auto ptr2 = std::launder(reinterpret_cast<demo*>(&buf[0]));
ASSERT_EQUAL(42*3.14 , ptr2->i * ptr2->d);

auto buf{std::make_unique<std::byte[]>(sizeof(demo))};
auto ptr{reinterpret_cast<demo*>(&buf[0])};
std::construct_at(ptr,42,3.14);
auto ptr2{reinterpret_cast<demo*>(&buf[0])};
ASSERT_EQUAL(42*3.14 , ptr2->i * ptr2->d);
std::destroy_at(ptr2);
```

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### Speaker notes

The need to use std::launder() is contentional in the C++ standardization community. However, my current believe is that you need to launder a pointer received via reinterpret\_cast to raw memory. It is not needed, when one uses the pointer returned from placement new or construct\_at. Neither is possible in a manager where creation of the object in raw memory is separate from the access to the object. Due to the complex pointer aliasing rules of the C++ abstract machine std::launder is needed to implement access to an object via a pointer that was created by a reinterpret\_cast to raw memory. Regardless of the need for launder, the reinterpret\_cast of a byte-pointer to an object pointer is only valid, if the corresponding memory is correctly aligned and contains a live object of the correct type.

# A wrapper with replacment

```
template<typename T>
struct wrapper{
    //construct in-place
    template<typename...PARAMS>
    explicit wrapper(PARAMS &&...args)
    :value(std::forward<PARAMS>(args)...){}
    T value;
    template<typename...PARAMS>
    void replace(PARAMS &&...args)
    {
        std::destroy_at(&value);
        std::construct_at(&value, std::forward<PARAMS>(args)...);
    }
};
```

https://godbolt.org/z/j5jbWzcnd

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A multi-C++ version supporting implementation is provided in the project SimpleWrapper.

Play with it: https://godbolt.org/z/j5jbWzcnd

Note that this version is more elaborated and gets close to what std::optional is doing.

# Where Explicit Lifetime?

## DON'T, unless you must and know what you are doing!

## mostly for supporting non-regular objects

- generic containers for non-movable objects
  - caution about exception safety!
- object wrappers
  - std::optional
- replacing objects without assignment
  - not really, but possible
  - caution about exception safety!

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# **Exception Safety**

## Manager Types "should just work" TM

## Levels of exception safety:

- 3. no guarantee UB possible, but fastest
- 2. basic guarantee no leaks, invariants preserved
- 1. strong guarantee transaction: all or nothing
- 0. **noexcept(true)**/nothrow guarantee
- generic parameter types can give unpleasant exception properties

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# O. noexcept(true)

Must be provided for

- destructors (implicit)
- move operations (explicit)
- swap operations (explicit)

other functions with **noexcept(true)** can lead to code generation overhead at call sites, because of **std::terminate()** calls inserted on exceptions

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For inline functions that cannot throw, one might consider **noexcept**, but at the moment, compilers tend to be not optimizing away the code to detect an exception and call std::terminate().

# 1. strong guarantee

## std::vector::push\_back()

- either successfully appends argument
- or vector stays unchanged in case of an exception
  - caveat: noexcept(false) move constructor

## what can go wrong?

- allocation fails
- copying/moving new element fails
- copying old elements fails

corollary: never have throwing move operations!

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#### Speaker notes

It is hard to provide the strong guarantee in generic containers. One needs to have a clear understanding and model of which things can go wrong and which not.

For example, after a move operation that throws, you will have no idea if the moved-from object is still in a valid state (=its invariants are preserved).

## copy-swap for copy-assignment

manager internal allocation can fail:

```
struct mgr {
//...
mgr& operator=(mgr const &other) & {
   mgr tmp{other}; // copy, might fail, no change
   using std::swap();
   swap(*this,tmp); // is noexcept (hopefully)
}
//...
};
```

copy-swap can achieve strong exception guarantee for copy-assignment

qq

#### Speaker notes

The copy-swap idiom is only useful for copy-assignment to achieve strong guarantee. It must not be applied to move-assignment, because this can lead to endless recursion, because the default implementation of std::swap() will employ move construction and move assignment.

## 2. basic guarantee

Achieving basic guarantee with 2 managed resources is almost impossible!

tips for achieving basic guarantee:

- manage dynamic memory through std::unique\_ptr/std::make\_unique
- manage other resources through a Manager type each (SBRM/RAII)
- never try to manually manage two resources in a single Manager type
- prefer value types over relation types
- stay away from "interesting" invariants, unless managed through RAII
- · write lot of tests for generic code with bad behaving types
  - or **static\_assert** for well behaved template arguments
- combining well-behaving value types just works

## Never define a manager with throwing move!

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#### Speaker notes

Why not always strong guarantee? It might be costly to achieve it. For example, a complex operation with strong guarantee might need to keep twice the memory to store keep the old state around until the new state is fully computed (see copy-swap).

You want to employ efficient move operations to reduce overhead. This works well, when move is noexcept. std::move\_if\_noexcept() will help to select move operation only, when it is noexcept and will otherwise select the copy operation:

```
auto x = std::move_if_noexcept(y);
```

here x obtains the value of y either by copy construction or by move construction, if the latter is defined as noexcept.

Note that std::move\_if\_noexcept is still supporting a throwing move operation if the type is move-only.

I know that managing two resources at onces is hard! I tried for std::experimental::unique\_resource and failed first, With help of Eric Niebler, we believe it is now OK, but who knows about all corner cases.\_

# 3. no exception safety guarantee

usually not acceptable for library code!

## Avoiding tips:

- static\_assert for required behavior on generic parameters
- Consciously use or implement suitable manager types
  - NO raw pointers
- Know your relation types that might dangle
- document, what you cannot (static\_)assert

need for speed must be measurable and justifyable

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#### Speaker notes

In (modern) C++ resource-leaks are not excusable. While C programs can have a hard time with respect to managing resources ownership and cleanup, C++'s deterministic lifetime model, transfer of ownership through move with unique managers, and destructors allow fully resource-safe programming.

# Summary

# Use **std::vector** or other suitable standard library containers

• provide move operations only, when they are noexcept

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Speaker notes

Please don't show off what you learn this week, Prefer value types and simple solutions over error-prone low-level

# Exercise 3

exercises/exercise03/

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https://github.com/PeterSommerlad/CPPCourseExpert/blob/main/exercises/exercise03/

# More Templates

Compile-time Code Parametrization

- types (and aliases (C++11))
- functions (and lambdas (C++14))
- variables (C++14)
- concepts (C++20)

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# Why constrain templates?

## Dedicated Overload/Specialization Selection

- SFINAE
- if constexpr-C++17
- require, concept C++20

## Prevent Misuse

• + static\_assert() - C++11

## Earlier/Better Compile Error

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#### Speaker notes

While the hope of concepts was to get more terse, user-friendly error messages, this is not necessarily true. However, compilers are attempting to better explain why a template instantiation failed. Nevertheless, this can still lead to a lot of text and it might be hard to spot the actual source of the problem.

## **SFINAE**

## Substitution Failure Is Not An Error

- when constexpr if is not enough
- pre-C++20 constraints on functions and templates
  - remove function/select function from overload set
  - select template specialization
- prevents hard errors, when multiple options are possible

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#### Speaker notes

Except for the strange acronym the mechanism can be quite handy to prevent using or even an unsuitable function, when there are alternatives available.

potentially "wrong" syntax must depend on a template parameter (directly or indirectly) and it can occur in one of the following positions:

- · template parameter or its default argument
- function type, parameter type or return type
  - here also within expressions in unevaluated contexts (often with decltype(expr))

SFINAE does not apply in function bodies, not even in the body of a lambda expression in an unevaluated context.

This limits its applicability to validity of expressions or the validity of forming a type.

https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/language/sfinae

C++20 concepts can replace most if not all uses of SFINAE and provide a few more capabilities.

# Motivating example

- two overloads of increment()
  - non-template with implicit conversion
  - function template with no conversion
- function template is a better match
  - but body requires class type with
    - .increment()
  - implicit concept!
- implicit conversion to unsigned could work

```
unsigned increment(unsigned i) {
  return i++;
}
template<typename T>
T increment(T value) {
  return value.increment();
}
int main() {
  return increment(42); // error
}
```

https://godbolt.org/z/GEsW9rrEo

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https://godbolt.org/z/GEsW9rrEo

# expression SFINAE example

- two overloads of increment()
  - non-template with implicit conversion
  - function template with no conversion
- prevent function template match by using required expression in trailing return type (SFINAE)
- implicit conversion to unsigned selected

```
unsigned increment(unsigned i) {
  return i++;
}
template<typename T>
auto increment(T value)
  -> decltype(value.increment()) {
  return value.increment();
}
int main() {
  return increment(42);
}
```

https://godbolt.org/z/K676vPr8n

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### Speaker notes

The given code is not really a splendid example of SFINAE and just there to give an impression of the mechanics.

For example, using decitype is not feasible, when the function return type is void. It is not scaling well, when multiple dependent expressions exists in the body that need to be constrained. It is not easy to use a compile-time type trait/condition (e.g. std::is\_class\_v<T>)

even if the expression is not providing the actual return type, one can use the trailing-return-decitype trick in pre-C++20 for SFINAE by using the comma operator within the decitype. For example, if the template function increment() should return bool instead, we can use **, false** in the decitype expression:

```
unsigned increment(unsigned i) {
   return i++;
}
template<typename T>
auto increment(T value)
   -> decltype(value.increment(), false) {
   return value.increment();
}
int main() {
   return increment(42);
}
```

https://godbolt.org/z/K676vPr8n

# std::enable\_if\_t

std::is\_class\_v<T> checks wether T is a class type.

How to ensure a function template overload is only considered for class types?

- Form a type that is invalid, when it is not a class and use it as
  - template parameter default type
  - function return type
  - function parameter type

```
std::enable_if_t<bool , type>
```

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#### Speaker notes

std::enable\_if\_t is defined in terms of std::enable\_if. This class template is specialized for true by providing a type alias as a member and empty without such an alias otherwise:

accessing the ::type member fails, if the compile-time condition provided is false. This forms an invalid type which does not compile, but is SFINAE-friendly.

```
#include<type_traits>
int main() {
    std::enable_if_t<true, int> i;
    //std::enable_if_t<false, int> doesntcompile;
}
```

https://godbolt.org/z/W3xP5xb5W

# Applying std::enable\_if\_t

```
template<typename T, typename=SFINAE >
SFINAE increment(SFINAE value) {
  return value.increment();
}
```

## Positions:

- template parameter default type
- function return type
- function parameter type

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# SFINAE return type

```
template<typename T>
std::enable_if_t<std::is_class_v<T>, T>
increment(T value) {
  return value.increment();
}

template<typename T>
auto increment(T value) -> std::enable_if_t<std::is_class_v<T>, T> {
  return value.increment();
}
```

condition *is\_class\_v<T>* is incomplete concept

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#### Speaker notes

the syntax with trailing return type is necessary, when one needs to check for a valid expression formed from the function arguments.

# SFINAE return type **decltype()**

• need trailing return type, when referring parameter

```
template<typename T>
auto increment(T value)
-> decltype(value.increment()) {
  return value.increment();
}
```

• std::declval<T>() can form any value in unevaluated context

```
template<typename T>
decltype(std::declval<T>().increment())
increment(T value) {
  return value.increment();
}
```

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https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/language/decltype https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/utility/declval

# SFINAE on parameter type

## often hinders template argument deduction

```
template<typename T>
T increment(std::enable_if_t<std::is_class_v<T>, T> value) {
  return value.increment();
}
```

## workaround with extra defaulted parameter:

```
template<typename T>
T increment(T value, std::enable_if_t<std::is_class_v<T>, bool> =false) {
   return value.increment();
}
```

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The first version doesn't compile, because the argument cannot be deduced:

Watch out for the space between bool> and =false. Without it, the code wouldn't compile, because the C++ parser's "max munch" principle, would parse it as >= instead of the closing template angle bracket and assignment.

# SFINAE on template parameter

this is the only way for class template specializations to use SFINAE

```
template<typename T, typename = std::enable_if_t<std::is_class_v<T>, void>>
T increment(T value) {
   return value.increment();
}
```

- constraining class template constructors
  - template parameter when constructor template
  - constructor parameter based on class template parameter

https://godbolt.org/z/roEKbz5r4

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Speaker notes

https://godbolt.org/z/roEKbz5r4

Instead of the default argument with a typename parameter, one can also use the result type of enable\_if\_t directly (e.g. bool) to specify a non-type-template parameter with a default value.

# SFINAE: What for?

- prevent a specific template (partial) specialization
  - better: static\_assert
- influence overload selection based on type
  - consider if constexpr (C++17)
  - tag-dispatch (see <algorithm> on std::iterator\_traits)
  - consider concepts (S++20)
- compute a type trait
  - see detection idiom

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Speaker notes

for your own notes

### Detection idiom: why

```
template <typename U>
struct Out{
    friend std::ostream&
    operator<<(std::ostream &out, U const &r) {
        if constexpr (detail_::has_prefix<U>{}){
            out << U::prefix;
        }
        auto const &[v]=r;
        out << v;
        if constexpr (detail_::has_suffix<U>{}){
            out << U::suffix;
        }
        return out;
    }
};</pre>
```

code should be excluded if prefix or suffix are not defined or cannot be output

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The problem to

see also https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/experimental/is\_detected

#### Detection idiom - classic trait

the more-specialized version "wins" if it is well-formed

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#### Speaker notes

For historical reasons C++ type traits have been formed by delegating to std::true\_type and std::false\_type that each convert into bool

With variable templates that were introduced in C++14, C++17 defined type traits in addition as variable templates, usually by delegating to the ::value constexpr static data member of

std::bool\_constant<bool>/std::integral\_constant<typename T, T value>. These types represent
individual values.

```
template< class T >
inline constexpr bool is_integral_v = is_integral<T>::value;

template<typename T, T v>
struct integral_constant {
    static constexpr T value = v;
    using value_type = T;
    using type = integral_constant; // using injected-class-name
    constexpr operator value_type() const noexcept { return value; }
    constexpr value_type operator()() const noexcept { return value; } // since c++14
};
```

The duality of representing constant values as types, or even types as compile-time values is a key mechanism to meta-programming.

Helper template std::void\_t was made available in C++17, but DIY is simple

```
template< class... >
using void_t = void;
```

It is just use to be able to form a (list of) valid type(s), which fails, if one of the arguments is an invalid type.

https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/types/void\_t

### Detection idiom - variable templates

variable templates can directly construct the bool

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#### Speaker notes

As a nitty detail, the mechanism used here and in the standard library as well is not officially specified in the C++ standard, which was recognized in 2014 but never officially fixed.

see https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/language/sfinae

# Detection idiom - using variable templates

```
template <typename U>
struct Out{
    friend std::ostream&
    operator<<(std::ostream &out, U const &r) {
        if constexpr (detail_::has_prefix_v<U>){
            out << U::prefix;
        }
        auto const &[v]=r;
        out << v;
        if constexpr (detail_::has_suffix_v<U>){
            out << U::suffix;
        }
        return out;
}</pre>
```

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With variable templates the code is slightly simpler.

Before C++17 one would need 4 overloads and dispatch to the appropriate one by either true\_type or false\_type

That is the situation where representing a value as a type is beneficial. However, C++17 **if constexpr** eliminated the need for many simple cases.

### Tag dispatch (C++14 or earlier)

```
template <typename U>
class Out{
    static std::ostream& print(std::ostream &out, U const &r, std::true_type, std::true_type)
    {
        return out << U::prefix << r.value << U::suffix;
    }
    static std::ostream& print(std::ostream &out, U const &r, std::true_type, std::false_type)
    {
        return out << U::prefix << r.value;
    }
    static std::ostream& print(std::ostream &out, U const &r, std::false_type, std::true_type)
    {
        return out << r.value << U::suffix;
    }
    static std::ostream& print(std::ostream &out, U const &r, std::false_type, std::false_type)
    {
        return out << r.value;
    }
    friend std::ostream& out, U const &r) {
        using namespace detail__;
        return print(out, r, has_prefix<U>{}, has_suffix<U>{});
    }
};
```

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#### Speaker notes

When there are more than 2 cases to consider, using individual functions for each **if constexpr** will use fewer overloads, there is no need for exponential number of overloads!

### Concepts instead of SFINAE

most of what C++20 concepts allow is available in previous versions just with much more and uglier syntax.

 concept is (almost) equivalent to a constexpr bool variable template

```
template<typename U>
concept has_prefixc = requires (U u) { U::prefix; };
template<typename U>
concept has_suffixc = requires (U u) { U::suffix; };
```

#### requires keyword has two uses

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#### Speaker notes

Unfortunately, for historical reasons, the introduction of variable templates and concepts occurred independently and we missed the chance to use bool variable templates as concepts. This lead to the situation that I often define a variable template to define a concept. I might even use a requires expression to define the variable template. I do not know if that is a good or bad practice yet, because concepts themselves can be used as conditions in **if constexpr** 

#### requires expression

check if a template parameter supports specific expressions with optionally a constrained result type

```
requires (T t) { { ++t } -> std::same_as<T6>; }
is equivalent to
std::is_same_v<decltype(++std::declval<T6>()), T6>
```

- produces consteval bool value
  - init of bool variable template
  - definition of concept
  - condition in if constexpr

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#### Speaker notes

As we can see, simple requires expressions are a substitute for **decltype()** with much simpler syntax.

the parenthesis () after the **requires** keyword can be used to create "invented" parameters that are only used within the curly braces {} to form expressions that must be valid. Each expression is terminated with a semicolon. If the expression must result in a specific type, it can be enclosed in additional braces followed by an arrow -> specifying a constraint on the result type (similar to the "trailing return type" syntax for lambdas and C++11 **auto** return type functions) In addition to expressions one can use **typename** to form a type that must be a valid type. Last but not least, one can use **requires** within the body of a requires expression to check for the validity of a concept.

Caution: the body of a lambda expression, even if it is an expression cannot be used to define constraints, only "normal" expressions formed work. This is consistent with the SFINAE restrictions that only work on forming types or syntactical expressions in unevaluated contexts.

### requires constraint

#### concepts can limit templates like SFINAE

```
unsigned increment(unsigned i) {
  return i++;
}
template<typename T>
auto increment(T value)
requires requires (T x) { {x.increment()} -> std::same_as<T>;}
{
  return value.increment();
}
```

#### requires requires is not a typo!

https://godbolt.org/z/Kx4nhK3x6

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#### Speaker notes

For the return type constraint, we have to use the binary standard concept std::same\_as, where the second argument is provided by the expression's type.

https://godbolt.org/z/Kx4nhK3x6

### defining concepts

#### take **requires** expression and provide a name

```
template<typename T>
concept incrementable = requires (T x) { {x.increment()} ->
    std::same_as<T>;};
```

#### can use in requires clause:

```
template<typename T>
auto increment(T value)
requires incrementable<T>
{
   return value.increment();
}
```

```
template<typename T>
requires incrementable<T>
auto increment(T value)
{
   return value.increment();
}
```

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Speaker notes

In the requires clause a concept must be provided with its template arguments!

#### https://godbolt.org/z/oahEn3Paj

multiple concepts/conditions can be combined with the usual logical operators. There is some extra magic about such combined concepts in a requires clause that for me so far didn't differ from my assumptions. It is related with syntactical equivalent of concepts and so-called "subsumption" that identifies needless checks, because on concept is always fulfilled as part of another. This provides a partial order of concepts and allows to select the "most-specific" match to win in overload/specialization selection, when multiple matches occur. If multiple matches with the same best rank occur the ambiguity leads to a compile error. It is also a compile error when multiple matches have incomparable concepts that neither subsume the other. The details are so tricky that I actually cannot remember them from the top of my head or needed them yet in my own code.

see "Partial ordering of constraints" at https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/language/constraints

### using concepts for shorter syntax

#### template typename parameter instead of typename

```
template<incrementable T>
auto increment(T value)
{
  return value.increment();
}
```

#### function parameter, return type (or variable) with auto

```
auto increment(incrementable auto value){
  return value.increment();
}
```

#### concept's template argument is implicit here

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#### Speaker notes

I am not yet a big fan of using the concept name to implicitly define a function template without using the keyword template.

It is much harder to spot the embedded auto. However, I must confess it is a nice shorthand syntax.

Using auto for non-type template parameters is a feature of C++17 that is extended in C++20 by allowing to constrain the type:

```
template<std::integral auto by>
auto increment_by(std::integral auto value)
{
    return value+=by;
}
```

I personally prefer the shorthand syntax only for template parameter definition, because this at least allows to have backward-compatible alternative syntax selected with the preprocessor, or to disable the requires clause of a function template via the preprocessor conditional compilation in pre-C++20 mode.

## Concept and backward compatible SFINAE

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Speaker notes

from https://github.com/PeterSommerlad/PSsimplesafeint my safe integer replacement library.

### Perfect Match (C++20)

#### Preventing implicit argument conversion

```
char const &first_char(std::same_as<std::string>> auto const &s){
  return s[0]; // no dangling, must have been a std::string argument
}
int main(){
  auto &c = first_char("Hello");// doesn't compile
}
```

#### https://compiler-explorer.com/z/T186ave95

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#### Speaker notes

Thanks to Jason Turner (@lefticus): https://twitter.com/lefticus/status/1542183060795301888? s=20&t=tggeLV0qNKagwLuYxEDeXA

There are also other ways to prevent implicit conversions, such as deleting the rvalue-reference overload:

```
#include <string>
std::size_t func(std::string const & s)
{
    return s.size();
}
std::size_t func(std::string & s)=delete;
int main()
{
    using namespace std::literals;
    //[[maybe_unused]] auto value = func("Hello World"); // fails to compile
    ///[[maybe_unused]] auto value = func("Hello World"s); // fails to compile
auto const str="Hello World"s];
[[[maybe_unused]] auto value = func(str); // compiles
}
```

However, that would prevent functions that could benefit from move operations.

https://godbolt.org/z/MGxcPc691

### Summary: SFINAE and Concepts

Should you strive to constrain your templates?

### NO, unless you really need it

- · overload selection support is helpful
- disabling a function template overload can help
- guiding template specialization selection can help

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#### Speaker notes

Not fulfilling a required concept can lead to error messages that might be clearer ("concept mismatch/no available overload") over classical template instantiation errors ("error in ...instantiated from ... \*") but I haven't seen a compile error where I personally benefited from concepts.

### Exercise 4

exercises/exercise04/

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https://github.com/PeterSommerlad/CPPCourseExpert/blob/main/exercises/exercise04/

# C++ Parallelism and Concurrency

- parallelism and concurrency are hard
- even world-class experts get it sometimes wrong
- required synchronizations can make system slower
- problem must suit parallel architecture

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Speaker notes

### Concurrency Problems

- race conditions
  - check and acting upon result not atomic
- data race: undefined behavior
  - concurrent access of shared mutable data
- deadlock: circular blocking waits
- starvation: unfair wake up
- livelock: circular non-blocked waits

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Speaker notes

#### What is a race condition?

- You walk into town and see a nice T-shirt in shop window
- You think about it and decide to buy it
- But you first need to pick up your prescription at the pharmacy, because it closes soon
- When you return to the shop, the T-shirt is no longer on display
- You enter and ask for the T-shirt that was on display
- The shop keeper tells you, that the last one was just sold

Interleaving between the decision based on a condition and the acting up, the condition changed

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#### Speaker notes

Race conditions happen in real life and in computers.

Database systems can attempt to prevent race conditions with "pessimistic locking", or detect the occurrence of a race condition with "optimistic locking".

While the pessimistic approach limits concurrency, the later can result in user dissatisfaction through cancelled transactions.

### Expensive Synchronisation

- when synchronisation is required it can be expensive
- bring all cores to a halt
- stalls cores' pipelines
- synchronize caches
- make writes visible (write through/read through)
- regardless of the mechanism (atomics, mutex)

**volatile** for sharing data across threads **DOES NOT WORK** 

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Speaker notes

On multi-core systems, mutexes and atomic access can be very expensive compared to regular memory accesses.

#### Parallelization?

- Suitable Problem?
- Architecture first!
- Minimize need for synchronisation!
- Prove that there are no
  - data races
  - deadlocks
  - other bad behaviour
- Even world-class experts make mistakes!

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#### Speaker notes

To paralellize a problem, one need to map the problem to a suitable architecture first. There exist many architectural/design patterns on how to arrange computation in a parallelizable way. For example: Processing Pipelines/Pipes & Filters, Embarrassingly Parallel, Map-Reduce, ...

For real-time applications:

For example, automotive control units use special real-time multi-cores that operate in lock-step to enable bounding instructions and simplify synchronization.

General guidance: separate real-time critical parts from uncritical parts and look out for accidental priority inversion/deadline misses.

#### C++ standard concurrency

- parallel algorithms
- async and futures
- jthread (C++20) and thread
- mutex, scoped\_lock and unique\_lock
- condition\_variable
- atomic<T>
- thread\_local storage class specifier
- (C++20 Coroutines (co\_await, co\_yield, co\_return))

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#### Speaker notes

The above lists tries to be sorted by "ease of use", but is not necessarily that one would use async(), when there is no parallel algorithm.

Unfortunately, the design of higher-level parallelization infrastructure for the C++ standard library was highly contentious and is still in flux. This includes the library support for C++20 Coroutines. Because of the lacking library support and also the still lacking implementation of coroutines in the major compilers, we won't look at those during this course.

### C++ parallel algorithms

- most of <algorithm>, new ones in <numeric>
- execution policy as additional first parameter (std::execution::)
  - seq, par, par\_unseq, unseq (C++20)
- par might start new threads
- par\_unseq, unseq use vectorization
- data elements and operations must be independent for parallelization
- new names in <numeric>, e.g.,
  - accumulate() becomes reduce()
  - inner\_product -> transform\_reduce
- best with vector and array of trivial types

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#### Speaker notes

There are restrictions on data access patterns and what types can be used for parallelization and vectorization.

Not all implementations actually parallelize the algorithms, sequential execution is conforming, even when the execution policy is not **seq**.

#### parallel algorithm example

#### https://godbolt.org/z/6MMrbr5dW

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Speaker notes

#### https://godbolt.org/z/6MMrbr5dW

Even though execution policy par is given, it is not parallelized on major compilers.

Actually, with Intel Thread-building Block library activated and -O3 code will be parallelized if data is big enough on GCC.

### C++ simple async()

std::async() takes a function object to execute

```
std::launch::async = new thread
std::launch::deferred = run on future.get()
```

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### C++ async() gotchas

- must obtain the future object, even if void
  - otherwise, async() is synchronous
- starting a new thread is expensive
- pass data by value to the function executed, otherwise dangling or data races can occur
  - future might be returned and scope left
  - launch::async starts a new thread
- future::get() is one-shot (std::shared\_future)

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While <code>async()</code> was meant to be simple to use, the mixing of deferred execution with concurrent/parallel execution leads to some potentially surprising behavior. For example, the <code>std::launch::async</code> policy will start a separate thread to execute the provided function. This causes the returned future object to wait for that thread's termination, either when the value is obtained, or when the future object is destroyed. Not keeping the future returned by async, will cause its destructor to immediately wait for the thread started to terminate. That way it becomes a very expensive sequential call.

### Bad async() example

```
#include <future> // defines async and future
#include <iostream>
#include <chrono>
unsigned long long fibo_def(unsigned long long n){
if (n < 1) return 0;
if (n < 2) return 1;
auto f1 = std::async( fibo_def,n-1); // obtain future, may be start thread
auto f2 = std::async( fibo_def,n-2); // obtain future, may be start thread
return f1.get() + f2.get(); // use future's result

int main(int argc, char **argv){
if (argc < 2 || atoi(argv[1]) <1) {
    std::cout<< "Usage: "<< argv[0] << " number\n";
    return 1;
}

unsigned long long n=std::strtoull(argv[1],nullptr,10);
using namespace std::chrono_literals;
using Clock=std::chrono:high_resolution_clock;
Clock::time_point t0 = clock::now(); // standard millisecond timing
auto fibn=fibo_def(n);
Clock::time_point t1 = Clock::now();
std::cout <<"fibo_def("<<n<<") = " << fibn<<" " s\n";
}</pre>
```

https://godbolt.org/z/oEKzxWYG5

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Speaker notes

https://godbolt.org/z/oEKzxWYG5

### Futures and underlying features

- future<T> one-time ticket for a promised result
- shared\_future<T> multi-reader ticket
  - requires copyable T
  - a future object has .share() to create a shared\_future
- promise<T> shared value holder referred by future
- packaged\_task abstracts a later invocation, provides a future

promise with future can signal state across thread boundaries

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Speaker notes

### Guaranteeing single execution

multiple threads might try to initialize stuff, that must only be initialized once

- local **static** variables are initialized once.
- DIY can use
  - std::call\_once() call a function once successfully
  - std::once\_flag used to interlock call\_once calls
  - throwing an exception means unsuccessful

Example cppreference

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Speaker notes

### C++20 jthread vs. thread

- both for a thread of execution running the function argument
- jthread joins thread in its destructor
- thread terminates in its destructor if not joined
- jthread provides "stop token" a cooperative interruption mechanism

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Speaker notes

### simple (and wrong)thread example

```
#include <iostream>
#include <ithread>
#include <thread>
#include <thread *include <t
```

#### result is (almost always) wrong!

https://godbolt.org/z/K5xdKKd4E

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#### Speaker notes

#### https://godbolt.org/z/K5xdKKd4E

The shared resource of a counter is passed to the thread function by reference (lambda capture). This almost always indicates a problem, unless the resource is read-only (const/constexpr). Here the mutation by different threads is intentional and causes undefined behavior!

Turning on optimization might flatten the loop and accidentally cause the correct result.

### better (not good) thread example

```
#include <thread>
struct ConcurrentCounter {
                                                                                       ConcurrentCounter counter{};
                                                                                       auto run = [&counter]{
  for (int i = 0; i < 100'000'000; ++i)</pre>
  void increment() {
    m.lock();
++value;
                                                                                             counter.increment();
    m.unlock(); // problematic with exceptions
                                                                                       };
std::thread t1{run};
  int current() const {
                                                                                       std::thread t2{run};
    int const current = value;
m.unlock(); // problematic with complex flow
return current;
                                                                                       t1.join();
t2.join();
                                                                                       std::cout << "Counter "
                                                                                          << counter.current() << " result\n" ;</pre>
  mutable std::mutex m{}; // will change in
current(
  int value{};
```

result is correct now, but much slower!

https://godbolt.org/z/h1ez43EPd

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#### Speaker notes

#### https://godbolt.org/z/h1ez43EPd

Explicitly using the pair of std::mutex member functions lock() and unlock() can break, for example, when an exception is thrown while locked or when the control flow is complex and accidentally a branch returns without unlocking. Therefore, see next slide!

### better with scoped\_lock

```
struct ConcurrentCounter {
                                                                 int main () {
     void increment() {
                                                                      ConcurrentCounter counter{};
                                                                      auto run = [Scounter]{
   for (int i = 0; i < 100'000'000; ++i) {
      counter.increment();
   }
}</pre>
           std::scoped_lock
lock{m};
    ++value;
} // unlocks always
     int current() const {
    std::scoped_lock
                                                                      };
std::thread t1{run};
lock{m};
                                                                      std::thread t2{run};
     return value;
} // unlocks always
                                                                      t1.join();
t2.join();
private:
    mutable std::mutex m{};
                                                                      std::cout << "Counter " << counter.current() << "</pre>
                                                                 result\n" ;
     int value{};
```

result is correct now, and safely locked!

https://godbolt.org/z/zKvn9GqYs

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#### Speaker notes

#### https://godbolt.org/z/zKvn9GqYs

std::scoped\_lock always releases the lock in its destructor, regardless if a locking function returns or throws and exception.

In addition std::scoped\_lock can lock multiple mutexes at once without causing deadlocks, when all such uses use the same set.

#### better with atomic<int>

```
#include <iostream>
                                                int main () {
#include <thread>
                                                    AtomicCounter counter{};
                                                    auto run = [6counter]{
   for (int i = 0; i < 100'000'000; ++i) {</pre>
#include <atomic>
struct AtomicCounter {
                                                             counter.increment();
    void increment() {
        ++value:
                                                    std::thread t1{run};
    int current() const {
                                                    std::thread t2{run};
                                                    t1.join();
        return value:
                                                    std::cout << "Counter " << counter.current() << " result\n" ;</pre>
private:
    std::atomic<int> value{};
```

For "simple" types and operations use std::atomic<T>

https://godbolt.org/z/1Wzsf8qGP

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#### Speaker notes

#### https://godbolt.org/z/1Wzsf8qGP

For simple values the std::atomic<T> wrapper can be used. It is optimized to use the most appropriate mechanism for simple types, such as int which also provide "specializations" for operations, such as increment (operator++). For user-defined types (which must provide trivially copyable, i.e., not have non-trivial members), the library can chose to use a std::mutex to achieve the required atomicity and usually only allows exchanging, reading and writing a value.

The specialized atomics are defined to be compatible/identical to the C11 atomics and thus provide interoperability.

Without further flags, atomic variables provide sequential consistency (std::memory\_order\_seq\_cst). However, using atomic variables allows to employ more relaxed memory order flags (relaxed, aquire-release). Use of those flags might allow better performance and more interleaving on some hardware, but is less intuitive and can have surprising results. Correct application in "lock-free" data structures usually calls for a formal proof that all required properties are still correct. Very easy to make things wrong.

"relaxed" atomic for example guarantee data-race-free code (no UB in that respect), but usually do not guarantee visibility of a specific value across threads. incrementing counters can be an example.

### Memory-order with atomic<int>

```
#include <iostream>
                                                                   int main () {
#include <thread>
                                                                      AtomicCounter counter{};
#include <atomic>
                                                                      auto run = [&counter]{
  for (int i = 0; i < 100'000'000; ++i) {</pre>
struct AtomicCounter {
                                                                           counter.increment();
      void increment() {
          value.fetch_add(1, relaxed);
                                                                      std::thread t1{run};
                                                                     run(); // at least 100'000'000 seen
t1.join();
std::cout << "Counter"</pre>
      int current() const {
          return value.load(relaxed);
                                                                        << counter.current() << " result\n" ;</pre>
private:
   constexpr static auto
relaxed{std::memory_order_relaxed};
   std::atomic<int> value{};
```

Result might be incomplete on some hardware (not Intel)

https://godbolt.org/z/v8osxT33a

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on X86 only sequential consistency is provided by the hardware. PowerPC or ARM for example, have more relaxed atomic operations and thus can deliver faster concurrency at higher risk to get things wrong.

https://godbolt.org/z/v8osxT33a

### Higher-level synchronization

Data structures require more than just mutual exclusion

- condition\_variable wait on a status protected by a mutex
  - use unique\_lock instead of scoped\_lock
- condition\_variable\_any generic CV
- notify\_at\_thread\_exit notify\_all() CVs

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Speaker notes

### C++20 Higher-level synchronisation

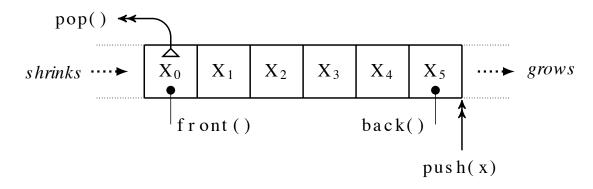
- latch one-time synchronisation barrier
- barrier cyclic synchronisation barrier
- binary\_semaphore semaphore with two states
- **counting\_semaphore** semaphore with nonnegative count
- osyncstream wrap std::ostream for non-UB, non-intermixed output

These are still quite low-level building blocks

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Speaker notes

### Queue



pop() needs to wait when empty()

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Speaker notes

## Producer-Consumer Queue

```
#include <condition_variable>
#include <mutex>
#include <queue>
                                                                  20
21
22
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                                                                             bool empty() const {
    std::scoped_lock const lk { mx };
    return q.empty();
namespace TSQ {
struct ThreadsafeQueue {
                                                                             void swap(ThreadsafeQueue & other) {
     void push(T t) {
    std::scoped_lock const lk { mx
                                                                                   if (this == &other) {
    return;
           q.push(std::move(t));
                                                                                   std::scoped_lock const both { mx,
                                                                        other.mx };
// no need to swap cv or
           notEmpty.notify_one();
     T pop() {
    std::unique_lock lk { mx };
    notEmpty.wait(lk,
        [this] {return
                                                                  30
                                                                                   std::swap(q, other.q);
                                                                             friend void swap(ThreadsafeQueue & left,
 !q.empty();});
                                                                                                     ThreadsafeQueue & other){
           T t = std::move(q.front());
q.pop();
return t;
                                                                                   left.swap(other);
                                                                 36
37
38
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                                                                        private:
                                                                             mutable MUTEX mx { };
                                                                             std::condition_variable notEmpty { };
                                                                             std::queue<T> q { };
```

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Speaker notes

Play with it:

https://godbolt.org/z/nWhf487vK

It even supports move-only types:

https://godbolt.org/z/x816qvG1z

## Using ThreadSafeQueue

```
int main() {
                                                                                   std::thread cons { [8] {
  using namespace std::this_thread;
                                                                                     sleep_for(15ms); // demonstration
  using namespace std::chrono_literals;
  TSQ::ThreadsafeQueue<int> queue { };
  std::thread prod1 { [6] {
    sleep_for(10ms); // demonstration only
    for(int j=0; j < 10; ++j) {</pre>
                                                                                        std::osyncstream{std::cout}
                                                                                           << "consume:
                                                                                           << queue.pop() << '\n';
       queue.push(j); yield(); sleep_for(1ms);
                                                                                        yield();
                                                                                     } while (!queue.empty());
 std::thread prod2 { [8] {
    sleep_for(9ms); // demonstration only
    for(int i=0; i < 10; ++i) {
        queue.push(i*11); yield();
    }
}</pre>
                                                                                  prod1.join(), prod2.join(),
                                                                                 cons.join();
                                                                          30
                                                                                  std::cout << "non-processed</pre>
                                                                                 elements:\n":
                                                                                  while (!queue.empty()) {
sleep_for(1ms);
                                                                                     std::cout << queue.pop() << '\n';</pre>
```

## Never "synchronize" with sleep\_for()

https://godbolt.org/z/nWhf487vK

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Speaker notes

Namespace std::this\_thread provides yield() and sleep\_for

Namespace std::chrono\_literals the ms UDL suffix.

std::osyncstream wraps any output stream and guarantees 'atomic' output (non interleaving of current output with
other threads). For std::cout even without osyncstream there are no data races, but potential mixed output from
different threads. Other output streams (e.g. ofstream) that are shared across threads, such wrapping is required

The sleeping is only here to demonstrate variability in output. Never attempt to use it for solving synchronization issues.

Play with it:

https://godbolt.org/z/nWhf487vK

It even supports move-only types:

https://godbolt.org/z/x816qvG1z

## Synchronisation beyond mutex

Mutual exclusion (std::mutex) is insufficient

#### need to wait for other threads' work

### condition variables synchronize

- wait(lock,condition) only when mutex held
- internally unlocks mutex
- when notified relocks mutex and checks condition
- other threads need to notify when they fulfil condition
- when fulfilled returns with mutex locked

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#### Speaker notes

Working with std::condition\_variable requires one to use std::unique\_lock instead of std::scoped\_lock, because the condition variable needs a means to unlock and relock the lock.

For locks that do not wrap std::mutex one needs to use std::condition\_variable\_any. This might be less performant, because it cannot directly use the corresponding OS synchronisation primitives employed by std::mutex.

## Single Element Queue

```
struct ThreadsafeExchange {
  void push(T const &t) {
    std::unique_lock lk { mx };
    notFull.wait(lk, [this]() {
       return not q.has_value();
    });
    q.emplace(t);
    notEmpty.notify_one();
}
T pop() {
    std::unique_lock lk { mx };
    notEmpty.wait(lk, [this] {
       return q.has_value();
    });
    T t = q.value();
    q.reset();
    notFull.notify_one();
    return t;
}
```

```
// don't call when holding a lock!
bool empty() const {
   std::scoped_lock const lk { mx };
   return not q.has_value();
}
private:
   mutable MUTEX mx { };
   std::condition_variable notEmpty { };
   std::condition_variable notFull { };
   std::optional<T> q { };
};
```

need 2 condition variables!

we use **std::optional** for a bounded queue here

https://godbolt.org/z/KKaq35e3x

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#### Speaker notes

We now need two condition variables, one marking that there is something to consume in the buffer, the other one to mark there is space in the buffer. With a larger buffer value, this means that both conditions can be met (notFull and notEmpty).

https://godbolt.org/z/KKaq35e3x

## trying - really hard

Full synchronisation can deadlock, when opposite partner is gone

```
struct ThreadsafeExchange {
  bool try_push(T const &t) {
    std::scoped_lock const lk { mx };
    if (not q.has_value()){
        q.emplace(t);
        notEmpty.notify_one();
        return true;
    }
    return false;
}

template <typename Rep, typename Period>
bool try_push_for(T const &t, std::chrono::duration<Rep,Period> dur) {
    std::unique_lock lk { mx };
    if (notFull.wait_for(lk, dur, [this]() {
        return not q.has_value();
    })) {
        q.emplace(t);
        notEmpty.notify_one();
        return true;
    } else {
        return false;
    }
}
```

https://godbolt.org/z/KKaq35e3x

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Be careful to not rely on the empty() member function, because that also acquires the lock and will cause self-deadlock.

https://godbolt.org/z/KKaq35e3x

## using a starting latch

#### prevent threads from premature start

```
std::latch startit{3+1};
// we have 3 threads +main
// start other threads
sleep_for(10ms);
std::cout << "Go go go..."<< std::endl;
startit.arrive_and_wait(); // turn on</pre>
```

```
std::jthread prod1 { [8] (std::stop_token stop){
    startit.arrive_and_wait();
//...
std::jthread prod2 { [8] (std::stop_token stop) {
    startit.arrive_and_wait();
//...
std::jthread cons { [6] (std::stop_token stop) {
    startit.arrive_and_wait();
}
```

https://godbolt.org/z/snYa131ef

multi-use: cyclic std::barrier

https://godbolt.org/z/4dzeh64Mj

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https://godbolt.org/z/snYa131ef

https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/thread/latch

In addition to the single-pass latch, one can use the cyclic std::barrier

https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/thread/barrier

This allows multiple synchronisation points and can execute a "completion function" that is called when the barrier opens.

## Architecture for Multicore

## Introducing parallelism only with clear architecture

- Understand competing goals:
  - latency
  - throughput
  - utilization
- Minimize need for synchronization
- Know usable architectural patterns
  - and choose wisely

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Speaker notes

for your own notes

## Classic parallelism patterns

- Leader-Followers
- Half-Sync Half-Async
- Pipes and Filters
- Task Farm
- Embarrassing Parallelism

## Those are a separate topic

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#### Speaker notes

while I could talk about these things, this would go far beyond the scope of the C++ training and also would only be fruitful after the concrete constraints are much better known.

## Common Architectural Features

## C++ standard library lacks most

- thread pool(s)
- task (unit of work) abstraction
- task continuations
- synchronized queue(s)
- scheduling mechanism

C++26 may provide those, but still very low-level

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#### Speaker notes

In addition to mistakes one can make, choosing the wrong mechanism for the problem at hand, can result in less-than-required performance characteristics.

## Threading Summary

- programming multi-threaded code that works correctly is hard
  - even world-class experts make mistakes
- interactive debugging of multi-threaded code often hides synchronization problems
  - core dumps from deadlocks are helpful
- do not attempt multi-threading without clear architecture
  - best to employ architectural patterns or frameworkds
- using parallel algorithms can be helpful
  - unfortunately not all standard libraries actually implement them parallelized
- C++20 coroutines (will) add another dimension to shoot your foot

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## Exercise 5

https://github.com/PeterSommerlad/CPPCourseExpert/blo

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for your own notes

## Compile-time Computation

## template

constexpr - C++11

[](){} - constexpr C++17

consteval - C++20

constinit - C++20

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#### Speaker notes

While the ability to do compile-time computation in C++98/03 was more-or-less accidental (discovered) through non-type template parameters and static const data members, from C++11 onwards compile-time computability was progressively enhanced over the standard iterations.

## Why Comile-time Computation?

- no more #define MACROS()
  - plain C++ with real types
- Better run-time performance
  - but compile-times can increase
  - compilers have built-in limits
- limitations lifted over C++ generations
  - "almost everything possible" in C++20

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For the sake of brevity and slide layout I'll use C-t-C as a short-hand for "compile-time computation" on the following

## **Evolution C-t-C**

C++98/03: class templates with non-type template parameters and **static const** data members, recursion and template specializations for base cases.

C++11: constexpr functions (with single return statement), variables, literal types, variadic templates

C++14: relaxed **constexpr** function bodies, generic lambdas, **constexpr** std::array, variable templates

C++17: lambdas (implicitly) constexpr, constexpr if, **constexpr** member functions no longer **const**, mutable **array** 

C++20: consteval, constinit, dynamic memory: vector, string

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#### Speaker notes

With the growing experience in the use of compile-time computation features, design mistakes or deficiencies were made and fixed. For example, first **constexpr** on member functions implied **const**. This was later relaxed to allow computation with literal class types in constexpr functions, but not immediately applied in the standard library, such as std::array. With C++20 further extensions to compile-time computations were allowed, including dynamic memory.

## Where is C-t-C guaranteed?

```
array bound: char a[c_t_c]
NTTP: std::array<int,c_t_c>
case: switch(i){ case c_t_c:;}
enumerators: enum{ on=c_t_c}
static_assert(c_t_c,""); C++11
constexpr auto a{c_t_c};
constexprif: if constexpr(c_t_c) - C++17
noexcept(c_t_c), explicit(c_t_c) - C++20
consteval functions - C++20
constinit initializer - C++20
```

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#### Speaker notes

NTTP: non-type template parameter aka value template parameter

Some expressions have always been "core constant expressions", but the contexts were compile-time computation happens in c++ has been extended over the years.

For details see: https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/language/constant\_expression

unfortunately it is complicated, but that only matters if things don't compile/work as expected.

## C++98 C-t-C

## value class template parameter with recursion base case through specialization

```
#include <iostream>
template<size_t N>
struct fact{
    static const size_t value=N * fact<N-1>::value;
};
template<>
struct fact<0>{
    static const size_t value=1;
};
char a[fact<5>::value]; // enforce compile-time eval
int main(){
    std::cout << "sizeof a :" << sizeof(a) << '\n';
    std::cout << "factorial(6) :" << fact<6>::value << '\n';
}</pre>
```

https://godbolt.org/z/MYnqW4edP

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https://godbolt.org/z/MYnqW4edP

## C++11 C-t-C

## single-statement (recursive) **constexpr** function base case through **?:**

```
#include <iostream>
constexpr size_t fact(size_t N) {
   return N==0?1:N*fact(N-1);
}
char a[fact(5)]; // enforce compile-time eval
int main(){
   std::cout << "sizeof a :" << sizeof(a) << '\n';
   std::cout << "factorial(6) :" << fact(6) << '\n';
}</pre>
```

https://godbolt.org/z/55rG4cb4d

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https://godbolt.org/z/55rG4cb4d

## C++14 C-t-C

## **constexpr** function with loops and local variables

```
#include <iostream>
constexpr auto fact(size_t N) {
    size_t result{1};
    while(N>0){
        result *= N--;
    }
    return result;
}
char a[fact(5)]; // enforce compile-time eval
int main(){
    std::cout << "sizeof a :" << sizeof(a) << '\n';
    std::cout << "factorial(6) :" << fact(6) << '\n';
}</pre>
```

https://godbolt.org/z/GsW7a5bx5

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https://godbolt.org/z/GsW7a5bx5

## C++14 variable templates C-t-C

variable template with value template parameter recursion with base case through specialization

```
#include <iostream>
template<size_t N>
constexpr size_t fact{ N* fact<N-1>};
template<>
constexpr size_t fact<0>{ 1};
char a[fact<5>]; // enforce compile-time eval
int main(){
    std::cout << "sizeof a :" << sizeof(a) << '\n';
    std::cout << "factorial(6) :" << fact<6> << '\n';
}</pre>
```

https://godbolt.org/z/9v5EPTczx

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https://godbolt.org/z/9v5EPTczx

## C++17 C-t-C

## lambdas are literal types and implicit **constexpr**

```
#include <iostream>
constexpr auto fact{ [](size_t N) {
    size_t result{1};
    for(;N>0;--N){
        result *= N;
    }
    return result;
}};
char a[fact(5)]; // enforce compile-time eval
int main(){
    std::cout << "sizeof a :" << sizeof(a) << '\n';
    std::cout << "factorial(6) :" << fact(6) << '\n';
}</pre>
```

https://godbolt.org/z/3aPebhjoP

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https://godbolt.org/z/3aPebhjoP

## C++20 C-t-C

## consteval enforces compile-time evaluation constinit enforces compile-time initialization

```
#include <iostream>
consteval auto fact(size_t N) {
    size_t result{1};
    while(N>0){ result *= N--;}
    return result;
}
char a[fact(5)]; // enforce compile-time eval
constinit auto f3{fact(3)}; // non-const!
int main(){
    std::cout << "sizeof a : " << sizeof(a) << '\n';
    std::cout << "factorial(6) : " << fact(6) << '\n';
    std::cout << "++factorial(3) : " << ++f3 << '\n';
    //fact(f3); // doesn't compile
}</pre>
```

https://godbolt.org/z/MvnxY7bG1

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with this link you can see the compile error caused by calling a **consteval** function with a non-compile-time argument:

#### https://godbolt.org/z/3oc6YnsYj

Marking a function as **consteval** has the benefit over constexpr that this guarantees that the function is evaluated at compile time.

The **constinit** specifier is only relevant for variables with static storage duration (=globals) or **thread\_local** variables that might change during program execution, because otherwise **constexpr** would be sufficient, because it implies **const** for variables. Because mutable global variables carry the risk of data races, the **constinit** specifier is rarely useful, except for implicitly synchronizing types, such as **std::mutex** or **std::atomic<T>**, when the template parameter type requires non-trivial but **consteval** initialization.

# C++20 **consteval** vs std::is\_constant\_evaluated

- consteval: function only for C-t-C
- constexpr: function for C-t-C or run-time
- std::is\_constant\_evaluated(): true if constexpr function used
  for C-t-C

```
constexpr double power(double b, unsigned x)
{
    if (std::is_constant_evaluated()) {
        double r = 1.0;
        while (x != 0) {
            if (x & 1) r *= b;
            x /= 2; b *= b;
        }
    return r;
    } else { // run-time lib:
        return std::pow(b, x);
    }
}
```

https://godbolt.org/z/sj9osYGxn

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https://godbolt.org/z/sj9osYGxn

Experiment, what happens if you change the value of the exponent to 1000u in both cases. What are the results? https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/types/is\_constant\_evaluated

C++23 will introduce a new **if consteval** {} **else** {} statement that corresonds to **if** (std::is\_constant\_evaluated()).

https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/language/if#Consteval\_if

## Restrictions C-t-C

some expressions and statements are not allowed at compile-time but they still can occur in constexpr functions

- throwing exceptions
- undefined behavior, e.g. int overflow

if called at run-time everything is OK, at compile-time -> compile error

```
constexpr auto fact(long long N) {
   long long result{1}; // signed integer UB on overflow
   while(N>0){ result *= N--;}
   return result;
}
constexpr auto fails{fact(42)};// compile error due to UB
```

https://godbolt.org/z/h1Mar3z5v

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#### Speaker notes

Some of the restrictions can be used to prevent calling a constexpr function at run-time, but in C++20 we can use **consteval** for that.

If one is doubting if a piece of code has undefined behaviour, using it in compile-time-evaluation enforces the compiler to create a hard error.

#### https://godbolt.org/z/h1Mar3z5v

A lot of standard library features became available for compile-time computation over the years, however, often only one release after the corresponding language feature was established. For example, std::array as an aggregate was usable/constructable in constexpr functions quite early on, but could only be manipulated in a constexpr function with C++17, when almost all member functions were made **constexpr** (fill() and swap() became constexpr with C++20).

## Types for C-t-C

### Literal Type can be used at compile time

- built-in (scalar) types, references
- arrays
- class types with at least one constexpr constructor
  - or an aggregate
  - trivial/constexpr destructor
  - and all subobjects of literal type
- User-defined Literals (UDL operators) ease use

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Speaker notes

for all the details see:

#### https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/named\_req/LiteralType

C++20 relaxed a lot of previous restrictions, especially the allowance of dynamic memory for literal types and thus provides std::vector and std::string to be usable at compile-time. However, values of those types must not live into the run-time.

Before C++20 virtual member functions and destructors couldn't be constexpr.

There are still a few restrictions on what is allowed in constexpr function bodies which seem to become completely lifted in C++23. However, there are still restrictions to what expressions/statements in a constexpr function are allowed to be executed at compile time.

C++20 provides the special function std::is\_constant\_evaluated() that returns true if a constexpr function is actually evaluated at compile time, or false at run time. C++23 will replace that by a special if statement if consteval {/\*compile-time\*/} else { /\* run-time \*/}.

For limits in C++11 and C++14 constexpr functions, please refer to talks by Scott Schurr's excellent talks at CppCon 2015 on constexpr:

C++ constexpr Introduction https://youtu.be/fZjYCQ8dzTc

C++ constexpr Applications https://youtu.be/qO-9yiAOQqc

## Example: Literal Type

- constexpr constructor (>=1)
  - or aggregate of literal types
- trivial/constexpr destructor
- constexpr member functions
  - can have non-constexpr
  - only constepxr usable in C-t-C
- can be class template

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In retrospect it would be beneficial, if like lambdas, any inline function would be considered constexpr, as long as its body allows it. Unfortunately, this is another case where C++ gets its default syntax/default behavior the wrong way around, as for example with **const** vs. **mutable** 

## Usage Vec3d

- can be used in constexpr and regular contexts
- non-const member functions can modify the object (C++14)
- constexpr variables are const

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This is a simple example and using std::array is kind of overkill. However, with that one could implement computing the length by employing a standard algorithm:

return std::sqrt(std::reduce(begin(values),end(values),T{},[](auto s, auto e){ return s + e\*e;}));

## Constexpr if

## compile-time conditional dependent on template parameters

https://godbolt.org/z/4Yf58ndbd

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#### Speaker notes

constexpr if is often the easier solution for simple cases, where older code required to use function template overloads for the special case.

For example like in:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <string>

void printAll(std::ostream & out) { // recursion base case
    out << '\n';
}

template<typename First, typename...Types>
void printAll(std::ostream & out, First const & first, Types const &...rest) {
    out << first;
    if (sizeof...(Types)) {
        out << ", ";
    }
    printAll(out, rest...);
}

int main() {
    int i{42}; double d{1.25}; std::string book{"Lucid C++"};
    printAll(std::cout, i, d, book);
    printAll(std::cout, i, the answer is ", 6*7);
    auto const number = 2;
    printAll(std::cout, 5, " times ", number, " is ", 5 * number, '\n');
}</pre>
```

play with it:

https://godbolt.org/z/4Yf58ndbd

## Lambda Expressions constexpr

variable templates can be lambdas or computed by a lambda

 This allows lambdas paramterized by template arguments to the variable template

```
#include<iostream>
template<size_t N>
constexpr auto divides_by =
   [](auto x)->bool{ return 0 == x%N;};
int main(){
    std::cout << std::boolalpha <<
        divides_by<2>(42) << ' ' << divides_by<3>(42) << ' ' <<
        divides_by<4>(42) << ' ' << divides_by<5>(42) << ' ' <<
        divides_by<6>(42) << ' ' << divides_by<7>(42);
    return divides_by<7>(42);
}
```

https://godbolt.org/z/zcccsYb71

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#### https://godbolt.org/z/zcccsYb71

Using a variable template allows to parametrize a named lambda expression

In C++20 lambda expressions can have template parameters, but those can only refer to generic function parameters and provide typenames for referring to the deduced types, e.g., to put constraints on them with requires clauses, or to guarantee a specific type.

## Built-in types are potentially evil

### some examples of possible undesirable behavior

- int overflow is UB 💣
- unsigned overflow silently wraps
- x / 0 is UB 💣
- unsigned short promotes to int
- double implicitly converts to int
- bool promotes to int

none of the built-in types carries semantic meaning

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#### Speaker notes

While using built-in types is very convenient, there is a lot of legacy behavior (from C) that requires utmost programmer attention to not fall into the traps the type system keeps for backward compatibility. Especially problematic are the silent implicit conversions that happen and can have surprising effects, such as loss of precision.

In addition the C++ type system can be employed to actually give semantic meaning to the values we compute with and prevent accidental nonsensical operations to be applied.

Both of these problems can be dealt by creating wrapper types (Whole Type Pattern) that prevent silent conversions and that only provide meaningful. To make such wrapper types as usable as the built-in types, it is important to implement their behavior with **constexpr** functions.

## enum for wrapping integers

## signed integer overflow is undefined behavior

### integral promotion is a curse

- enum class types
- operator overloading
- concepts

allow to implement wrapping, non-promoting integers: Simple Safe Integers psssafeint.h

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Speaker notes

An example for wrapping integer types to prevent the worst implicit conversions and error prone operations I have provided a corresponding library:

Simple Safe Integers psssafeint.h

## using enums as integers

```
// unsigned
enum class ui8: std::uint8_t{};
enum class ui16: std::uint16_t{};
enum class ui32: std::uint32_t{};
enum class ui64: std::uint64_t{};
// signed
enum class si8: std::int8_t{};
enum class si16: std::int16_t{};
enum class si32: std::int32_t{};
enum class si64: std::int64_t{};
```

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The standard library uses the trick to create an **enum class** type without defining an enumeration value for the type std::byte.

While all values of the underlying type are valid values for the corresponding enumeration, the enumeration values never implicitly promote or convert.

We don't look at the corresponding operations right now, but how to create corresponding values within the program.

## User-defined Literals (UDL)

```
inline namespace literals {
consteval
ui16 operator""_ui16(unsigned long long val) {
    if (val <= std::numeric_limits<std::underlying_type_t<ui16>>::max()) {
        return ui16(val);
    } else {
        throw "integral constant too large"; // trigger compile-time error
    }
}
// etc...
```

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#### Speaker notes

User-defined literal operator overloads are often good candidates for compile-time computation, because they might include range checks of their arguments, which better happen at compile time. employing a non-constexpr allowed operation will trigger a compilation error.

If one has to use pre-C++20 constexpr instead of consteval for such an UDL operator you might get an occasional runtime error instead, but better than silent truncation.

Please note, that we must use round parentheses when constructing the value (u16(val)), because the formal parameter of the UDL operator is always an unsigned long long and curly braces would prevent narrowing (u16{val} doesn't compile.)

## Using UDLs

```
using namespace psssint::literals; // required for UDLs

void ui16intExists() {
    using psssint::ui16;
    auto large=0xff00_ui16;
    //0x10000_ui16; // compile error
    //ui16{0xfffff}; // narrowing detection
    ASSERT_EQUAL(ui16{0xff00u}, large);
}
```

https://godbolt.org/z/vK3zobM3f

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#### Speaker notes

It is wise to support ADL by defining wrapper types in their dedicated namespace. The a using declaration can import just the type and any functions and operators defined in the associated namespace will be dragged along implicitly.

For UDL operator definitions we have to use a using namespace directive to make them usable (or import just the operator with a complicated using declaration: using psssint::literals::operator""\_ui16;)

https://godbolt.org/z/vK3zobM3f

## Simplest Type Wrappers

https://godbolt.org/z/1oedqrq4h

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#### Speaker notes

When providing UDL-operators for floating point numbers, we need to create two overloads, one for when the compiler sees a floating point literal (using decimal point or exponent) and one when it is prefixed with just an number sequence, which is parsed as an integer. Otherwise, one has to always use floating point notation.

Note, that it doesn't make sense to define the output operator overload as constexpr, even so it is defined as an inline function, because the iostream library is not (yet?) available in a constexpr form.

https://godbolt.org/z/1oedqrq4h

## UDL parameter possibilities

#### numbers 123\_UDL

- (unsgined long long) integers
- (long double) floating point
- (char \*) number without other
- <char...>() raw number, DIY parse

#### characters 'a'\_UDL

• (char) - character (all variations)

#### strings "str"\_UDL

- (char const \*, size\_t) strings (all variations)
- <S s>() C++20 string for constexpr S(char const \*)

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#### Speaker notes

The raw UDL operators (taking number characters as template arguments) and the C++20 string UDL operators allow to use the UDL argument as template argument, while the other versions make this impossible (you cannot use function parameters as template arguments anywhere)

https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/language/user\_literal

## template UDL for ternary numbers

https://godbolt.org/z/TsrKzvdsT

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https://godbolt.org/z/TsrKzvdsT

### Supporting quantities with different units

A full fledged units library might be too much, but a simple wrapper type too little

```
struct Speed {
  double kph;
};
```

- What if one needs to support m/s or mph?
- one could normalize on one and support conversion factory functions

```
struct Speed {
static Speed from_Kph(double value);
static Speed from_Mph(double value);
static Speed from_mps(double value);
private:
Speed(double);
};
```

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Hard to extend.

### One solution: tag-types

```
struct Kph; // just declare
struct Mhp;
struct mps;
template<typename Unit>
struct Speed{
//...
constexpr auto operator<=>(Speed const & other) const =default;
double value;
};
Speed<Kph> local_limit{50};
```

- different Speeed types
- now we can define conversion

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Note, this approach only works well in the small. If you have quantities with many physical units that need to combine in computations, it is best to use/create a full fledged SI units system. For example, Mateusz Pusz' units library https://github.com/mpusz/units

#### Conversion based on traits

```
template<typename Target, typename Source>
struct ConversionTraits {
  constexpr static Speed<Target> convert(Speed<Source> sourceValue) = delete;
}; // default is no conversion possible
  template<typename Target, typename Source>
  constexpr Speed<Target> speedCast(Speed<Source> const & source) {
    return Speed<Target>{ ConversionTraits<Target, Source>::convert(source)
    };
}
```

• conversion from a speed with a specific trait to another

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as you can see this generic approach doesn't scale well, because we have to define conversions for each combination explicitly.

#### Conversion Specialization

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#### Speaker notes

Here we can see the limits, for each combination that one wants to support, a corresponding full specialization of the conversion cast needs to be provided.

## Using trait-based conversion and comparison

```
template <typename Unit>
bool isFasterThanWalking(Speed<Unit> speed) {
  return velocity::speedCast<Kph>(speed) > Speed<Kph>{5.0};
}
```

need to implement comparison operations

```
template <typename LeftTag, typename RightTag>
constexpr bool operator==(Speed<LeftTag> const & lhs, Speed<RightTag> const & rhs)
{
   return lhs.value == speedCast<LeftTag>(rhs).value;
}
template <typename LeftTag, typename RightTag>
constexpr auto operator<=>(Speed<LeftTag> const & lhs, Speed<RightTag> const & rhs)
{
   return lhs <=> speedCast<LeftTag>(rhs);
}
```

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C++20 makes implementing comparison operations simpler by only requiring to implement **operator==** and **operator<=>**. With that all other comparison operators are made available.

#### Summary Compile-time Computation

- constexpr most inline functions (makes inline implicit)
  - is\_constant\_evaluated
- if constexpr for special cases in function templates instead of overloads
- consteval for UDL operators in C++20
- create literal types, esp. for built-in type wrappers
- **constexpr** or **consteval** for constants
- replace older template compile time magic with simpler constexpr/consteval functions
  - limitation that you cannot use function paramter values as template arguments
- static\_assert for compile-time unit tests
  - detects possible UB as compile errors!
- implement strong types as literal types

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#### Exercise 6

exercises/exercise06/

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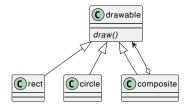
https://github.com/PeterSommerlad/CPPCourseExpert/blob/main/exercises/exercise06/

# Dynamic Polymorphism without Inheritance

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Speaker notes for your own notes

#### virtual classic



```
struct drawable {
    virtual ~drawable()=default;
    virtual void draw(screen& on)=0;
protected:
    drawable& operator=(drawable&&)=delete;
};
using widget=std::unique_ptr<drawable>;
using widgets=std::vector<widget>;
struct crect : drawable{ ... };
struct circle : drawable{ ... };
struct composite : drawable{ void add(widget w){ content.push_back(std::move(w));
}
void draw(screen &on){ on << "{ ";
    for(auto &w : content){ w->draw(on); }
    on << " }";
}
private:
    widgets content{};
};</pre>
```

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#### virtual usage

```
struct drawable {
    virtual ~drawable()=default;
    virtual void draw(screen& on)=0;
};
using widget=std::unique_ptr<drawable>;
using widgets=std::vector<widget>;
struct rect:drawable{ ... };
struct circle:drawable{ ... };
struct composite:drawable{ ... };
```

```
void testComposite(){
   std::ostringstream out{};
   composite c{};
   c.add(std::make_unique<circle>(Radius{42}));
   c.add(std::make_unique<rect>(Width{4}, Height{2}));
   c.add(std::make_unique<circle>(Radius{4}));
   c.draw(out);
   ASSERT_EQUAL("{ circle:42rectangle:4,2circle:4 }",
   out.str());
}
```

#### requires use of base references or (unique) pointers

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#### Speaker notes

If lifetime is guaranteed to be long enough, you could use std::vector<std::reference\_wrapper<draw>> in the composite implementation.

### Type Erasure std::any

- std::function<ret(params)> can store all function objects that match signature
- std::any some; can store any value type
  - muss access type that was last stored
  - might be empty
  - with fixed set: std::variant
  - empty state in variant:

std::monostate

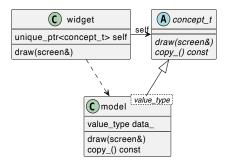
```
void demoAny(){
    std::any some;
    ASSERT(!some.has_value());
    some = 42;
    ASSERT(some.has_value());
    ASSERT_EQUAL(42, std::any_cast<int>(some));
    some = 3.14;
    ASSERT_THROWS(std::any_cast<int>
        (some), std::bad_any_cast);
    some = "anything";
    ASSERT_EQUAL("anything", std::any_cast<charconst*>(some));
}
```

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#### **DIY Type Erasure**

- dynamic polymorphism without need for inheritance
- make polymorphic types regular
- employs type erasure
  - combines inheritance and templates
  - can store arbitrary values, like std::any
  - plus a polymorphic interface



```
void testComposite(){
   std::ostringstream out{};
   composite c{};
   c.add(circle(Radius{42}));
   c.add(rect(Width{4}, Height{2}));
   c.add(42);
   c.add(42);
   c.add("a c string");
   widget w{c};
   draw(w,out);
   ASSERT_EQUAL("...",out.str());
}
```

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#### Polymorphic Values with Type Erasure

```
struct widget {
  template<typename T>
  widget(T x):
       self_(std::make_unique<model<T>>
            (std::move(x))) {
    }
  widget(widget const &x):
       self_(x.self_->copy_()) {
    }
  widget(widget&&) noexcept = default;
  widget& operator=(widget const &x) & {
       return *this = widget(x);
  }
  widget& operator=(widget&&) & noexcept = default;
  friend void draw(widget const &x, screen &out) {
       x.self_->draw_(out);
  }
  ~widget() = default; // rule of 5, non-virtual
```

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Note that widget is a General Manager class where the defaulted move operations just work, because its sole data member is a unique\_ptr.

We get copy-optimization through move for free.

Also recognize that both assignment operators are ensured to only work with Ivalues on the left hand side by providing a ref-qualification.

### Allowing any Value Types

- provide interface function for existing types
- arbitrary types can be added later that way

```
void draw(std::string s, screen&os){
   os << "string:" << s;
}
void draw(int i, screen &os){
   os << "an_int:" << i;
}</pre>
```

 add new types with interface function

```
struct rect{
  rect(Width w, Height h)
  : width{w},height{h}{}
  Width width;
  Height height;
};
void draw(rect const &r, screen& on){
  on << "rectangle:" << r.width
  << "," << r.height;
}
struct circle{
  circle(Radius r) : radius{r}{}
   Radius radius;
};
void draw(circle const &c, screen& on){
   on << "circle:" << c.radius;
}</pre>
```

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### Composite for type erased widgets

```
struct composite{
    void add(widget w){
        content.emplace_back(std::move(w));
}

friend void draw(composite const &c, screen &on){
        on << "{ ";
        for(widget const &drawable:c.content){
            draw(drawable, on); on << ',';
        }
        on << " }";
}

private:
    widgets content{};
};</pre>
```

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To prevent superfluous copies, we use emplace\_back(std::move(w)), but just push\_back would also work, because the widget class implements copy operations

#### std::variant fixed set of types

provide common function interface as before

```
template<typename T>
void draw(T const & o, screen &out){
  out << o;
}
struct composite;
using widget =
std::variant<rect,circle,composite,int,std::string>;
using widgets=std::vector<widget>;
void draw(widget const &w, screen &on);
```

· composite identical as before

draw variant through visit()

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std::variant::visit() will call the specific lambda based on the type of the stored value. The trick with the overloaded variadic template didn't make it into standardization, but is simple enough to replicate.

It is type safe, if we omit a type we get a compile error. If we do not want to specify a version for each variant, a lambda with an elipses parameter (...) can be used as a catch-all option.

Note that through the lambdas, we gain more flexibility for different types, so that a common function is not really needed.

#### Polymorphism summary

- prefer static polymorphism
- consider relying solely on regular value types
  - makes live much simpler
- consciously select dynamic polymorphism mechanism
  - type erasure provides least coupling
  - virtual with inheritance strongest coupling
  - std::variant often sufficient when alternatives are fixed

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#### Exercise 7

exercises/exercise07/

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https://github.com/PeterSommerlad/CPPCourseExpert/blob/main/exercises/exercise07/

### Modernizing existing Code

Write Unit Tests (first)!

Don't write C, preprocessor only for #include(-guards)

Values over Objects.

Compile-time over Run-time

NO plain arrays or pointers

Do you have own code to look at?
 C++ Introduction C++ Advanced

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#### Speaker notes

Most of the modernization aspects are addressed in the previous courses, but I summarize briefly here.

https://github.com/PeterSommerlad/CPPCourseIntroduction

https://github.com/PeterSommerlad/CPPCourseAdvanced

C++ 20 modules will provide even better modularization. However, the specification has some subtle holes (most of them might be fixed for C++23), and not all major compilers implement modules yet.

#### No Pointers

- References (as parameter types)
  - for side effects, even on member functions
  - const& only for managers and "big" types
- return by value
  - empty optional<T> or exceptions to mark errors
- manage memory with vector, string, containers
  - unique\_ptr only when other things insufficient

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If you really need optional references, consider using a non-standard optional implementation or std::optional<std::reference\_wrapper<T>>

### Pointer replacement overview

owning T	non- null	value	Т	most safe and useful
		heap	unique_ptr <t> const</t>	must be init with make_unique <t></t>
	nullable	value	optional <t></t>	to denote missing value best for return values
		heap	unique_ptr <t> const</t>	T can be base class with make_uniqe <derived></derived>
referring T	non- null	fixed	T <b>&amp;</b>	can dangle
		rebind	reference_wrapper <t></t>	assignability with a reference member
	nullable	fixed	<pre>jss::object_ptr<t> const boost::optional<t8> const</t8></t></pre>	missing in std std::optional can not do this boost::optional can object_ptr <t> by A. Williams</t>
		rebind	<pre>jss::object_ptr<t> boost::optional<t&> optional<reference_wrapper<t>&gt;</reference_wrapper<t></t&></t></pre>	

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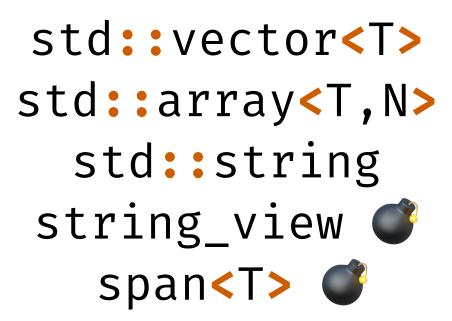
### Pointers as Array replacement

	Old/Unsafe	Modern/Better	Alternative
with explicit bound	<pre>void absarray(int a[], size_t len) {     for(size_t i=0; i &lt; len; ++i)         a[i] = a[i] &lt; 0? -a[i]:a[i]; }</pre>	<pre>template<size_t n=""> void absarray(int (&amp;a)[N]) {    for(size_t i=0; i &lt; N; ++i)         a[i] = a[i] &lt; 0? -a[i]:a[i]; }</size_t></pre>	<pre>// C++ 20 or GSL void absarrayspan(std::span<int> a){     for(size_t i=0; i &lt; a.size(); ++i)         a[i] = a[i] &lt; 0? -a[i] : a[i]; }</int></pre>
implicit sentinel nul/nullptr	<pre>void takecharptr(char *s){     for (; *s; *+s)</pre>	<pre>void takestring(std::string &amp;s){   transform(s.begin(),s.end(),</pre>	<pre>void take(std::string_view s){    // can not change }</pre>
explicit range	<pre>void absintptrrange(int *b, int *e){    for (;b != e; *+b){         if(*b &lt; 0) *b = - *b;    } }</pre>	<pre>void absintptrrange(int *b, int *e) {   std::transform(b,e,b,      [](auto i){ return std::abs(i);}); }</pre>	<pre>template <typename fwditer=""> void absintarray(FWDITER b, FWDITER e) {     std::transform(b,e,b,         [](auto i){ return std::abs(i);}); }</typename></pre>

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#### Alternatives to plain arrays



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std::string\_view and std::span are *relation types*, so they might dangle. Those types can only safely be used as parameter types to pass a range in a lightweight way (no copying of the range). However, returning them from a function or having a local variable of these types is almost always an error, because it is too easy to make the mistake to use the range view, when the underlying container is already gone. Even if it works today, a slight refactoring of the code can break it and cause undefined behavior.

### Side-step virtual

#### Unbounded dynamic polymorphism only when needed

- static polymorphism: overloading and templates
- std::variant
- type erasure

do not overdo it!

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if existing code uses virtual and inheritance and works well that is OK

#### Compile-time over run-time

- mark function templates with constexpr (or consteval)
- templates over class hierarchies
- static\_assert() over assert()
- "test" your code at compile time

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### Warnings and Static Analysis

- compile with -Wall -pedantic -Werror pedantic-error
  - -Wextra might give too many false positives
  - select further warning candidates
- Run (unit) tests with every build
  - employ -fsanitize=... for tests
- look at IDE features for code improvement
  - my past self had many implemented for Cevelop
  - fine tune against false positives
- employ (commercial) static analysis tools
  - look for upcoming new MISRA-C++ guidelines
  - C++ Vulnerabilities

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Don't run static analysis tools as an afterthought. The number of messages can be overwhelming. Each tool might require fine tuning wrt potential false positives. Not every check might be appropriate in your code base, but most violation should have a good reason that goes beyond: "that's just how we implemented it".

https://iso-iec-jtc1-sc22-wg23-cpp.github.io/wg23-tr24772-10-public/

### Beware of built-in types

- Use **char** only for text characters
- shorter (unsigned) types promote to int
- silent narrowing, widening, sign change happens

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#### enum for wrapping integers

signed integer overflow is undefined behavior

#### integral promotion is a curse

- enum class types
- operator overloading
- concepts

allow to implement wrapping, non-promoting integers:

Simple Safe Integers psssafeint.h

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#### using enums as integers

```
// unsigned
enum class ui8: std::uint8_t{ tag_to_prevent_mixing_other_enums };
enum class ui16: std::uint16_t{ tag_to_prevent_mixing_other_enums };
enum class ui32: std::uint32_t{ tag_to_prevent_mixing_other_enums };
enum class ui64: std::uint64_t{ tag_to_prevent_mixing_other_enums };
// signed
enum class si8: std::int8_t{ tag_to_prevent_mixing_other_enums };
enum class si16: std::int16_t{tag_to_prevent_mixing_other_enums};
enum class si32: std::int32_t{tag_to_prevent_mixing_other_enums};
enum class si64: std::int64_t{tag_to_prevent_mixing_other_enums};
enum class si64: std::int64_t{tag_to_prevent_mixing_other_enums};
```

#### User-defined Literals (UDL)

```
inline namespace literals {
consteval
ui16 operator""_ui16(unsigned long long val) {
    if (val <= std::numeric_limits<std::underlying_type_t<ui16>>::max()) {
        return ui16(val);
    } else {
        throw "integral constant too large"; // trigger compile-time error
    }
}
// etc...
```

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#### Using UDLs

```
using namespace psssint::literals; // required for UDLs

void ui16intExists() {
    using psssint::ui16;
    auto large=0xff00_ui16;
    //0x10000_ui16; // compile error
    //ui16{0xfffff}; // narrowing detection
    ASSERT_EQUAL(ui16{0xff00u}, large);
}
```

#### Traits and Concepts

```
template<typename T>
using plain = std::remove_cvref_t<T>;
template<typename T>
concept an_enum = std::is_enum_v<plain<T>>;
// from C++23
template<an_enum T>
constexpr bool
is_scoped_enum_v = !std::is_convertible_v<T, std::underlying_type_t<T>>;
template<typename T>
concept a_scoped_enum = is_scoped_enum_v<T>;
```

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#### Detection Idiom with Concept

```
template<typename T>
constexpr bool
is_safeint_v = false;
template<a_scoped_enum E>
constexpr bool
is_safeint_v<E> = requires {
    E{} == E::tag_to_prevent_mixing_other_enums;
};
template<typename E>
concept a_safeint = is_safeint_v<E>;
```

#### **Testing Detection Idiom**

```
namespace _testing {
using namespace psssint;
static_assert(is_safeint_v<ui8>);
static_assert(is_safeint_v<ui32>);
static_assert(is_safeint_v<ui64>);
static_assert(is_safeint_v<si8>);
static_assert(is_safeint_v<si16>);
static_assert(is_safeint_v<si32>);
static_assert(is_safeint_v<si64>);
enum class enum4test{};
static_assert(!is_safeint_v<enum4test>);
static_assert(!is_safeint_v<std::byte>);
```

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#### Meta Programming for Promotion

#### Testing Same-sign Promotion

```
static_assert(std::is_same_v<unsigned,decltype(to_int(1_ui8)+1)>);
static_assert(std::is_same_v<unsigned,decltype(to_int(2_ui16)+1)>);
static_assert(std::is_same_v<int8_t,decltype(to_int(1_si8))>);
static_assert(std::is_same_v<int16_t,decltype(to_int(2_si16))>);
```

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### Concept for limiting integral

### Meta Programming for Conversion

```
template<an_integer T>
constexpr auto
from_int(T val) {
   using std::is_same_v;
    using std::conditional_t;
    struct cannot_convert_integer{};
   using result_t =
        conditional_t<is_same_v<uint8_t,T>, ui8,
         conditional_t<is_same_v<uint16_t,T>, ui16,
          conditional_t<is_same_v<uint32_t,T>, ui32;
           conditional_t<is_same_v<uint64_t,T>, ui64,
            conditional_t<is_same_v<int8_t,T>, si8,
             conditional_t<is_same_v<int16_t,T>, si16,
              conditional_t<is_same_v<int32_t,T>, si32;
               conditional_t<is_same_v<int64_t,T>, si64,
        cannot_convert_integer>>>>;
    return static_cast<result_t>(val);
```

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#### **Directed Conversion**

```
template<a_safeint TO, an_integer FROM>
constexpr TO
from_int_to(FROM val) {
    using std::is_same_v;
    using std::conditional_t;
    using result_t = TO;
    if constexpr(std::is_unsigned_v<std::underlying_type_t<result_t>>>){
        if (val <= std::numeric_limits<std::underlying_type_t<result_t>>::max()) {
            return static_cast<result_t>(val);
        } else {
            throw "integral constant too large";
        }
    } else {
        if (val <= std::numeric_limits<std::underlying_type_t<result_t>>::max() &&
            val >= std::numeric_limits<std::underlying_type_t<result_t>>::min()) {
            return static_cast<result_t>(val);
        } else {
            throw "integral constant out of range";
        }
    }
}
```

#### Testing from\_int Conversion

```
static_assert(1_ui8 == from_int(uint8_t(1)));
static_assert(42_si8 == from_int_to<si8>(42));
//static_assert(32_ui8 == from_int(' ')); // does not compile
//static_assert(1_ui8 == from_int_to<ui8>(true)); // does not compile

void checkedFromInt(){
    using namespace psssint;
    ASSERT_THROWS(from_int_to<ui8>(2400u), char const *);
}
```

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#### Output Operator

```
template<a_safeint E>
std::ostream& operator<<(std::ostream &out, E value){
   out << +to_int(value); // + triggers promotion and prevents char
   return out;
}</pre>
```

concept a\_safeint prevents using it for other types

```
std::ostream& operator<<(std::ostream &out, a_safeint auto value){
  out << +to_int(value); // + triggers promotion and prevents char
  return out;
}</pre>
```

| prefer template<a concept T> over (a concept auto

#### Arithmetic Operators

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#### Wrapping Simple Safe Integers

- Free to use and download
- requires C++20
  - a C++17 backport is available
- Target audience:
  - embedded developers
  - safety critical systems developers
- best if regulare integer types are prevented by static analysis

https://github.com/PeterSommerlad/PSsimplesafeint

### Strong Types over built-ins

- Beware of implicit conversions and integral promotion
- Model your system with strong types

#### C++ Advanced Strong Types

• Consider a units library for physical dimensions

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#### Exercise 8

• exercises/exercise08/

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• https://github.com/PeterSommerlad/CPPCourseExpert/blob/main/exercises/exercise08/

### Done...

Feel free to contact me @PeterSommerlad or peter.cpp@sommerlad.ch in case of further questions

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