Templating

Victor Eijkhout, Susan Lindsey

Fall 2023

last formatted: November 2, 2023

1. What's the problem?

Do you have multiple vector classes?

```
class vector_of_int {
  public:
  int size();
  int at(int i);
};
```

```
class vector_of_float {
  public:
  int size();
  float at(int i);
};
```

2. Templated type name

If you have multiple functions or classes that do 'the same' for multiple types, you want the type name to be a variable, a template parameter. Syntax:

```
template <typename yourtypevariable>
// ... stuff with yourtypevariable ...
```

3. Example: function

Definition:

```
// template/func.cpp
template <typename T>
void function( T x ) {
  cout << std::sqrt(x)-1.772 << '\n';
};
```

We use this with a templated function:

Code:

```
1 // template/func.cpp
2   function<float>( 3.14f );
3   function<double>( 3.14 );
```

Output:

```
4.48513e-06
4.51467e-06
```

The compiler can deduce the type:

```
// template/func.cpp
  function( 3.14f );
  function( 3.14 );
```

4. Templated vector

The templated vector class looks roughly like:

```
template<typename T>
class vector {
private:
  T *vectordata; // internal data
public:
  T at(int i) { return vectordata[i]  };
  int size() { /* return size of data */ };
  // much more
}
```

Exercise 1

Machine precision, or 'machine epsilon', is sometimes defined as the smallest number ϵ so that $1 + \epsilon > 1$ in computer arithmetic.

Write a templated function *epsilon* so that the following code prints out the values of the machine precision for the `float` and `double` type respectively:

Code:

```
1 // template/eps.cpp
2   float float_eps;
3   epsilon(float_eps);
4   cout << "Epsilon float: "
5        << setw(10) <<
      setprecision(4)
6        << float_eps << '\n';
7
8   double double_eps;
9   epsilon(double_eps);
10  cout << "Epsilon double: "
11       << setw(10) <<
      setprecision(4)
12       << double_eps << '\n';
```

Output:

```
Epsilon float:
     1.0000e-07
Epsilon double:
     1.0000e-15
```

5. Class that stores one element

Code:

```
1 // template/example1.cpp
2   Store<int> i5(5);
3   cout << i5.value() << '\n';
```

Output:

```
5
```

6. Class definition

Template parameter is used for private data, return type, etc.

```
// template/example1.cpp
template< typename T >
class Store {
private:
  T stored;
public:
  Store(T v) : stored(v) {};
  T value() { return stored;};
```

7. Templated class as return

Methods that return a templated object:

Code:

```
1 // template/example1.cpp
2   Store<float> also314 =
      f314.copy();
3   cout << also314.value() << '\n';
4   Store<float> min314 =
      f314.negative();
5   cout << min314.value() << '\n';
```

Output:

```
3.14
-3.14
```

8. Class name injection

Template parameter can often be left out in methods:

```
// template/example1.cpp
  Store copy() { return Store(stored); };
  Store<T> negative() { return Store<T>(-stored); };
```

Intermezzo: complex numbers

9. Complex

Code:

```
1 // complex/basic.cpp
2 #include <complex>
3 using std::complex;
4     /* ... */
5   complex<double> d(1.,3.);
6   cout << d << '\n';
7   complex<float> f;
8   f.real(1.); f.imag(2.);
9   cout << f << '\n';
```

Output:

```
(1,3)
(1,2)
```

10. Operations and literals

Code:

```
1 // complex/basic.cpp
2   using namespace
       std::complex_literals;
3   auto e = d*2.;
4   cout << e << '\n';
5   auto g = e + 2.5i + 3.; // note
       3dot
6   cout << g << '\n';
```

Output:

```
(2,6)
(5,8.5)
```

Newton's method

Exercise 2

Rewrite your Newton program so that it works for complex numbers:

```
// newton/newton-complex.cpp
  complex<double> z{.5,.5};
  while ( true ) {
    auto fz = f(z);
    cout << "f( " << z << " ) = " << fz << '\n';
    if (std::abs(fz)<1.e-10 ) break;
    z = z - fz/fprime(z);
  }
```

You may run into the problem that you can not operate immediately between a complex number and a `float` or `double`. Use `static_cast`; see section **??**.

11. Templatized Newton, first attempt

You can templatize your Newton function and derivative:

```
// newton/newton-double.cpp
template<typename T>
T f(T x) { return x*x - 2; };
template<typename T>
T fprime(T x) { return 2 * x; };
```

and then write

```
// newton/newton-double.cpp
  double x{1.};
  while ( true ) {
    auto fx = f<double>(x);
    cout << "f( " << x << " ) = " << fx << '\n';
    if (std::abs(fx)<1.e-10 ) break;
    x = x - fx/fprime<double>(x);
  }
```

Exercise 3

Update your Newton program with templates. If you have it working for `double`, try using *complex*<`double`>. Does it work?

Exercise 4

Use your complex Newton method to compute $\sqrt{2}$. Does it work?

How about $\sqrt{-2}$?

Exercise 5

Can you templatize your Newton code that used lambda expressions? Your function header would now be:

```
// newton/lambda-complex.cpp
template<typename T>
T newton_root
   ( function< T(T) > f,
     function< T(T) > fprime,
     T init) {
```

You would for instance compute $\sqrt{2}$ as:

```
// newton/lambda-complex.cpp
  cout << "sqrt -2 = " <<
    newton_root<complex<double>>
    ( [] (complex<double> x) -> complex<double> {
        return x*x + static_cast<complex<double>>(2); },
      [] (complex<double> x) -> complex<double> {
        return x * static_cast<complex<double>>(2); },
      complex<double>{.1,.1}
      )
      << '\n';
```

Templates and headers

12. Templated declaration

Declaration of a templated class:

```
// template/example2.cpp
template< typename T >
class Store {
private:
  T stored;
public:
  Store(T v);
  T value();
  Store copy();
  Store<T> negative();
};
```