Templates and Generic Programming

OOP (通过多态) 和泛型 (Generic)都能处理在编写程序时不知道类型的情况。不同之处在于,

- 动态绑定可以处理类型在运行之前都未知的情况
- 泛型编程中,编译时可以确定类型

Templates are the foundation of generic programming in C++. A template is a blueprint or formula for creating classes or functions. When we use a generic type, such as vector, or a generic function, such as find, we supply the information needed to transform that blueprint into a specific class or funtion. That transformation happens during compilation.

Defining a Template

```
Avoid the redundant overloaded function:

int cmp(const string &a,const string &b)

int cmp(const int &a,const int &b)

int cmp(const double &a,const double &b)

May be similar to void * in C to do the same works.
```

Function Templates

A function template is a formula from which we can generate type-specific versions of that function. The template version of cmp looks like:

```
template <typename T>
int cmp(const T &a,const T &b){}
```

int cmp(const void *,const void *)

A template definition starts with the keyword template followed by a **template parameter list**, which is a comma-seperated list of one or more **template parameters** bracketed by the < >.

The tempalate parameters represent types or values used in the definition of a class or function. When we use a template, we specify-either implicitly or explicitly-**template arguments** to bind to the template parameters.

Our cmp function declares one type parameter named T. Inside cmp, we use the name T to refer to a type. Which actual type T represents is determined at compiler time based on how cmp is used.

Instantiating a Function Template

When we call a function template, the compiler (ordinarily) uses the arguments of the call deduce the template arguments for use. That is, when we call cmp, the compiler uses the type of the arguments to determine what type to bind to the template parameter T. For example, in this call

```
cmp(1,0);// T is int
```

The compiler will deduce int as the template argument and will bind that argument to the template parameter T.

The compiler uses the deduced template parameters to **instantiate** a specific version of the function for us. When the compiler instantiates a template, it creates a new "instance" of the template using the actual template arguments in place of the corresponding template parameters. For example, given the calls

```
cmp(1,0);
vector<int> vec1{1,2,3},vec2{4,5,6};
cmp(vec1,vec2);// T is vector<int>
```

the compiler will instantiate two different version of cmp. For the first call, the compiler will write and compile a version of cmp with T replaced by int:

```
int cmp(const int &a,const int &b){
    //...
}
```

For the second call, it will generate a version of cmp with T replaced by vector<int>. These compiler-generated functions are generally referred to as an **instantiation** of the template.

We can also do this:

```
auto f = (int(*)(const int&, const int&))cmp<int>;
f(3, 5.4);
```

Template Type Parameters

Each type parameter must be preceded by the keyword class or typename:

```
// error: must preceded U with either typename or class
template<typename T, U> T clac(const T &,const U&);
```

整体来说,typename比后者更适用,两者在绝大多数情况都可以互用,仅有少数只可用typename。而class是先被提出用于模板参数声明的,因此仍有许多程序员延续了class指定模板参数。

```
template <typename T>
int cmp(const T &a,const T &b){}
// do the same work
```

```
template <class T>
int cmp(const T &a,const T&b){}
```

Nontype Template Parameters

Let's begin with one example.

```
template<size_type N, size_type M>
int cmp(const char (&p1)[N],const char (&p2)[M]){
    return strcmp(p1,p2);
}
cmp("hi","mom");
```

至于nontype template parameters的作用,暂时没有搞清楚。略过。

inline and constexpr Function Templates

inline and constexpr sepcify the template functions in the same way as nontemplate functions.

```
// ok, inline specifier follows the template parameter list
template <typename T> inline T min(const T &,const T &);
// error,
inline template <typename T> T min(const T &,const T &);
```

Template Compilation

When the compiler sees the definition of a template, it does not generate code. It generates code only when we instantiate a specific instance of the template. The fact that code is generated only when we uses a template (and not when we define it) affects how we organize our source code and when errors are detected.

Ordinarily, when we call a function, the compiler needs to see only a declaration for the function. Similarly, when we use objects of class type, the class definition must be available, **but the definition of the member functions need not be present**.

Templates are different: To generate an instantiation, the compiler needs to have the code that defines a function template or class template member function.

Class Templates

Class templates differ from function templates in that the compiler cannot deduce the templates parameter types for a class template.

Defining a Class Template

An example:

```
template <typename T> class Blob{
    public:
        typedef T value_type;
        typedef typename std::vector<T>::size_type size_type;
        Blob(std::initializer_list<T> il);
        size_type size() const{return data->size();}
        bool empty() const {return data->empty();}
        void push_back(const T &t){data->push_back(t);}
        // move version
        void push_back(T &&t){data->push_back(std::move(t));}
        void pop_back();
        // element access
        T &back();
        T & operator[](size_type i);
    private:
        std::shared ptr<std::vector<T>> data;
        // throws msg if data[i] isn't valid
        void check(size_type i, const std::string &msg)const;
};
```

Instantiating a Class Template

We should add some extra information that is a list of **explicit template arguments** that are bound to the template's parameters. The compiler uses these template arguments to instantiate a specific class from the template.

```
For example:
```

```
Blob<int> ia;// empty Blob<int>
Bloc<int> ia2={0,1,2};// Blob<int> with five elements
```

From these definitions, the compiler will instantiate a class that is equivalent to

```
template<> class Blob<int>{
    typedef typename std::vector<int>::size_type size_type;
    Blob();
    Blob(std::initializer_list<int> il);
    //...
    int & operator[](size_type i);
    private:
        std::shared_ptr<std::vector<int>> data;
        void check(size_type i,const std::string &msg) const;
}
```

When the compiler instantiates a class from our Blob template, it rewrites the Blob template, replacing each instance of the template parameter T by the given template argument, which in this case is int. **The compiler generates a different class for each element type we specify.

```
// these definitions instantiate two distinct Blob types
Blob<string> names;
Blob<double> prices;
```

Notes: Each instantiation of a class template constitutes an independent class. The type Blob<string> has no relationship to, or any special access to, the member of any other Blob type.

Member Functions of Class Templates

As with any class, we can define the member funcitons of a class template either inside or outside of the class body. As with any other class, member defined inside the class body are implicitly inline.

The definition of a member function outside its class will be like,

```
template<typename T>
ret-type Blob<T>:::member-name(param-list)
```

Instantiation of Class-Template Member Funcitons

By default, a member function of a class template is instantiated only if the program uses that member function. For example, this code

```
// instantiates Blob<int> and the initializer_list<int> constructor
Blob<int> squares={0,1,...,9};
// instantiates Blob<int>::size() const
for(size_t i=0;i!=squares.size();++i){
    squares[i]=i*i;// instantiates Blob<int>::operator[](size_t)
}
```

Thus, if a member function isn't used, it is not instantiated. That fact that members are instantiated only if we use them lets us instantiate a class with a type that may not meet the requirements for some of the template's operations.

Simplifying Use of a Template Class Name inside Class Code

There is one exception to the rule that we must supply template arguments when we use a class template type. **Inside the scope of the class template itself**, we may use the name of the template without arguments:

```
template <typename T>
class BlobPtr{
```

```
public:
BlobPtr(){}

BlobPtr &operator++();
};
```

Here, when we are inside the scope of a class template, the compiler treats references to the template itself as if we had supplied template arguments matching the template's own parameters. That is, it is as if we had written:

```
BlobPtr<T> &operator++();
```

Using a Class Template Name outside the class Template Body

When we define members outside the body of a class template, we must remember that we are not in the scope of the class until the class name is seen:

```
// define members outside the body of a class template
template<typename T>
BlobPtr<T> BlobPtr<T>::operator++(){
    BlobPtr ret=*this;
    ++*this;
    return ret;;
}
```

It is worth noting that BlobPtr ret=*this is inside the function body, which means we are in the scope of the class. The compiler assumes that we are using the same type as the member's instantiation.

```
BlobPtr<T> ret=*this;
```

Note: Inside the scope of a class template, we may refer to the template without specifying template arguments.

Class Template and Friends

one-to-one frienship

When a class contains a friend, the class and the friend can independently be templates or not. A class template that has a nontemplate friend grants that friend access to all the instantiations of the template. When the friend is itself a template, the class granting that friendship controls whether friendship includes all instantiations of the template or only specific instantiations.

An example:

```
// forward declarations needed for friend declarations in Blob
template<typename >
class BlobPtr;
```

```
// needed for parameters in operator==
template<typename >
class Blob;

template<typename T>
bool operator==(const Blob<T> &,const Blob<T> &);
template <typename T>
class Blob{

    // each instantiation of Blob grants access to the version of
    // BlobPtr and the equality operator instantiated with the same type
    friend class BlobPtr<T>;
    friend bool operator==<T>(const Blob<T> &,const Blob<T> &);
};
```

More specifically, the friend declarations use Blob's template parameter as their own template argument. Thus, the friendship is restricted to those instantiations of BlobPtr and the equality operator that are instantiated with the same type:

```
Blob<char> ca;// BlobPtr<char> and operator==<char> are friends
Blob<int> ia;// BlobPtr<int> and operator==<int> are friends
```

The members of BlobPtr<char> may access the nonpublic parts of ca (or any other Blob<char> object), but ca has no special access to ia (or any other Blob<int>) or to any other instantiation of Blob.

General and Specific Template Friendship

A class can also make every instantiation of another template its friend, or it may limit friendship to a specific instantiation:

```
// forward declaration necessary to be friend a specific instantiation of a template
template<typename T>
class Pal;
// C is an ordinary, nontemplate class
class C{
    // Pal instantiated with class C is a friend to C
    friend class Pal<C>;

    // all instances of Pal2 are friends to C;
    template<typename T> friend class Pal2;
};
template<typename T>
class C2{
    // Pal<T> is friend of C2<T>
    friend class Pal<T>;
    // prior declaration needed
```

```
// all instance of Pal2 are friends of each instance of C2
// Pal2<X> is friend of C2<T>
template<typename X> friend class Pal2;

// Pal3 is a nontemplate class that is a friend of every instance of C2
// prior declaration for Pal3 not needed, since Pal3 is a nontemplate class friend class Pal3;
};
```

To allow all instantiations as friends, the friend declaration must use template parameters that differ from those used by the class itself, see below:

```
template<typname X> frined class Pal2;
```

Brfriending the Template's Own Type Parameter

We can make a template type parameter a friend:

```
template<typename T>
class Bar{
   friend T;// grants access to the type used to instantiate Bar
};
```

Thus, for some type named Foo, Foo would be a friend of Bar<Foo>.

It is worth noting that even though a friend ordinarily must be a class or a function, it is okay for Bar to be instantiated with a built-in type. Such friendship is allowed so that we can instantiate classes such as Bar with built-in type.

Template Type Aliase

```
typedef Blob<string> StrBlob;// ok
typedef Blob<T> TBlob;// error
```

However, we can make a type alias for a class template:

```
template<typename T>
using twin=pair<T,T>;
twin<stirng> authors;// authors is a pari<string,string>
```

When we define a template type alias, we can fix one or more of the template parameters:

```
template<typename T>
using partNo=pair<T,unsigned>;
partNo<string> books;// books is a pair<string,unsigned>
```

Staic Members of a Class Templates

Like any other class, a class template can declare static members:

```
template<typename T>
class Foo{
   public:
    static std::size_t count()const {return ctr;}
   //...
   private:
    static std::size_t ctr;
   //...
};
```

Here Foo is a class template that has a public static member function named count and a private static data member named ctr.

Each instantiation of Foo has its own instance of the static members. That is, for any given type X, there is one Foo<X>::ctr and one Foo<x>::count member. All objects of type Foo<X> share the same ctr object and count function. E.g.,

```
// instantiate static members Foo<string>::ctr and Foo<string>::count
Foo<string> fs;

// all three objects share the same Foo<int>::ctr and Foo<int>::count members
Foo<int> f1,f2,f3;
```

There must be exactly one definition of each static data member of a template class. However, there is a distinct object for each instantiation of a class template. As a result, we define a static data member as a template similarly to how we define the member functions of that template: template<typename T>

```
size_t Foo<T>::ctr=0;// define and initialize ctr
```

When Foo is instantiated for a particular template argument type, a **seperate** ctr will be instantiated for that class type and initialized to **0**.

To use a **static** member through the class, we must refer to a specific instantiation:

Like any other member function, a static member function is instantiated only if it is used in a program.

Template Parameters

A template papameter name has no intrinsic meaning. We ordinarily name type parameters T, but we can use any name:

```
template<typename X> X func(...)
template<typename FUCK> FUCK func_(...)
```

Template Parameters and Scope

Template parameters follow normal scoping rules. However, a name used as a template parameter may not be reused within the template.

```
typedef double A;
template<typename A,typename B>
void f(A a,B b){
    A tmp=a; // tmp has same type as the template parameter A, not double
    double B;// error: redeclares template parameter B
}
```

Normal name hiding says that the typedef of A is hidden by the type parameter named A. Thus, tmp is not a double. But we cannot reuse names of template parameters, the declaration of the variable named B is an error.

```
// error: illegal reuse of template parameter name T
template<typename T,typename T>//...
```

Template Declarations

A template declaration must include the template parameters:

```
// declares but does not define compare and Blob
template <typename T> int compare(const T&,const T&);
template<typename T> class Blob;
```

As with function parameters, the names of a template parameter need not be the same across the declarations and the definition of the same template:

```
// all three uses of calc refer to the same function template
template<typename T> T clac(const T &,const T&);// declaration
template<typename U> U calc(const U &,const U&);// declaration
// definition of the template
template<typename Type>
Type clac(const Type &a,const Type &b){/*...*/}
```

Using Class Members That Are Types

Recall that we use the scope operator(::) to access both static members and type members. In ordinary (nontemplate) code, the compiler has access to the class definition. As a result, it knows that whether a name accessed through the scope operator is a type or a static member. For example, when we write string::size_type, the compiler has the definition of string and can see that size_type is a type.

As for template code, what will happen?

When the compiler sees code such as T::mem it won't know until instantiation time whether mem is a type or a static data memebr. However, in order to process the template, the compiler must know whether a name represents a type. For example,

```
T::size_type *p;
```

it needs to know whether we're defining a variable named p or are multiplyin g a static data member named size_type by a variable named p.

By default, the language assumes that a name accessed through the :: is not a type.

We do so by using the keyword typename:

```
template<typename T>
typename T::val_type top(const T &c){
   if(!c.empty())
      return c.back();
   else
      return typename T::val_type();
}
```

Our top function expects a container as its argument and uses typename to specify its return type and to generate a value initialized element to return if c has no elements.

Default Template Arguments

As with the ordinary funciton parameters, we can also supply **default template arguments**.

As an example, we'll rewrite compare to use the library less function-object template by default:

```
// compare has a default template argument, less<T>
// and a default function argument, F()
template <typename T,typename F=less<T> >
int compare(const T&v1,const T&v2,F f=F()){
   if(f(v1,v2)) return -1;
   if(f(v2,v1)) return 1;
   return 0;
}
```

Here, F represents the type of a **callale object** and defined a new function parameter, f, that will be bound to a callable object.

The default template argument specifies that compare will use the library less function-object class, instantiated with the same type parameter as compare. The default function argument says that f will be a default-initialized object of type F.

When uses call this version of compare, the may supply their own comparison operation but are not required to do so:

```
bool i=compare(0,42); // use less; i is -1
// result depends on the isbns in item1 and item2
Sales_data item1(cin),item2(cin);
bool j =compare(item1,item2,compareIsbn);
```

The first call uses the default function argument, which is a default-initialized object of type less<T>. In this call, T is int so that object has type less<int>. This instantiation of compare will use less<int> to do its comparisons.

When **compare** is called with three arguments, the type of the third argument must be a callable object that returns a type that is convertible to **bool** and takes arguments of a type compatible with the types of the first two arguments.

As usual, the types of the template parameters (function template, not class template) are deduced from their corresponding function arguments. In this call, the type T is deduced as Sales_data and F is deduced as the type of comparaIsbn.

对于一个模板参数,只有当其右侧的所有参数都有默认参数时,它才可以有默认实参。

Template Default Arguments and Class Templates

```
Q:为什么类模板必须要加上<>?
A:
```

```
vector<int> vec;// 此时才从模板生成代码,生成一个空的vector<int> 对象 vector vec;// 不知道生成什么类型的类对象
```

函数模板是可以由编译器直接推导出模板参数类型,故可写可不写。

Whenever we use a class template, we must always follow the template's name with brackets. **The brackets indicate that a class must be instantiated from a template**. In particular, if a class template provides default arguments for all of its template parameters, and we want to use those defaults, we must put an empty bracket pair following the template's name:

```
template<class T=int>
class Numbers{
    // by default T is int
```

```
public:
    Numbers(T v=0):val(v){}
    private:
    T val;
};
Numbers<long double> lots_of_precision;
Numbers<> average_precision; // empty<> says we want the default type
```

Member Templates

A class-either an ordinary class or a class template-may have a member function that is itself a template. Such template are referred to as **member templates**.

Member templates may not be virtaul

Member Templates of Ordinary (Nontemplate) Classes

As an example:

```
class DebugDelete{
   public:
    DebugDelete(std::ostream &s=std::cerr):os(s){}
   // as with any function template, the type of T is deduced by the compiler
   template<typename T>
   void operator()(T *p)const{// overloaded function call operator
        os<<"deleting unique_ptr"<<std::endl;
        delete p;
   }
   private:
   std::ostream &os;
};</pre>
```

Each DebugDelete object has an ostream member on which to write, and a member function that is itself a template. We can use this class as a replacement for delete:

```
double *p=new double;
DebugDelete d;// an object that can act like a delete expression
d(p);// calls DebugDelete::operator()(double *), which deletes p
int *ip=new int;
// calls operator()(int *) on a temporary DebugDelete object
DebugDelete()(ip);
```

We can also use DebugDelete as the deleter of a unique_ptr. We supply the type of the deleter inside brackets and supply an object of the deleter type to the constructor:

```
// destroying the object to which p points
// instantiates DebugDelete::operator()<int> (int*)
```

```
// DebugDelete must be a function-like class
unique_ptr<int, DebugDelete> p(new int, DebugDelete());
// instantiates DebugDelete::operator()<string>(string *)
unique_ptr<string, DebugDelete> sp(new string, DebugDelete());
```

Here, we've said that p's deleter will have type DebugDelete, and we have supplied an unnamed object of that type in p's constructor.

The unique_ptr destructor calls the DebugDelete's call operator will also be instantiated: Thus, the definition above will be instantiate:

```
// sample instantiations for member templates of DebugDelete
void DebugDelete::operator()(int *p)const{delete p;};
void DebugDelete::operator()(string *p)const{delete p;}
```

Member Template of Class Templates

In this case, both the class and the member have their own, independent, template parameters.

```
template<typename T>
class Blob{
   template<typename It>
   Blob(It b,It e);
};
```

We give our Blob class a constructor that will take two iterators.

Unlike ordinary function members of class templates, member templates are function templates. When we define a member template outside the body of a class template, we must provide the template parameter list for the class template and for teh function template. The parameter list for the class template comes first, followed by the member's own template parater list:

```
template<typename T>
template<typename It>
Blob<T>::Blob(It b,It e):data(std::make_shared<std::vector<T>>(b,e)){}
```

Instantiation and Member Templates

与往常一样, 我们在哪个对象上调用成员模板, 编译器就根据该对象的类型来推断模板参数的实参。As usual, the compiler typically deduces template arguments for the member template's own parameter(s) from the arguments passed in the call.

```
int ia[]={0,1,2,...,9};
vector<long > vi={0,1,2,...,9};
```

```
list<const char *> w={"now","is","the","time"};
// instantiates the Blob<int> class
// and the Blob<int> constructor that has two int * parameters
Blob<int> a1(begin(ia),end(ia));
// instantiates the Blob<int> constructor that has
// two vector<long>::iterator parameters
Blob<int> a2(vi.begin(),vi.end());
// instantiates the Blob<string> class and the Blob<string>
// constructor that has two list<const char *>::iterator parameters
Blob<string> a3(w.begin(),w.end());
```

When we define a1, we explicitly specify that the compiler should instantiate a version of Blob with the template parameter bound to int. The type parameter for the constructor's own parameters will be deduced from the type of begin(ia) and end(ia). That type is int*. Thus, the definition of a1 instantiates:

```
Blob<int>::Blob(int *,int *);
```

Controlling Instantiations

The fact that instantiations are generated when a template is used means that the same instantiation may appear in multiple object files. When two or more seperately compiled source files use the same template with the same template arguments, there is an instantiation of that template in each of those files.

In large systems, the overhead of instantiating the same template in multiple files can become significant. Under the standard c++11, we can avoid this overhead through an **explicit instantiation**. An explicit instantiation has the form:

```
extern template declaration; // instantiation declaration
template declaration; // instantiation definition
```

Here, declaration is a class or function declaration in which all the template parameters are replaced by the template arguments. For example,

When the compiler sees an extern template declaration, it will not generate code for that instantiation in that file. Declaring an instantiation as extern is a promise that there will be a nonextern use of that instantiation elsewhere in the program. There may be several extern declarations for a given instantiation but there must be exactly one definition for that instantiation.

Because the compiler automatically instantiates a template when we use it, the extern declaration must appear before any code that uses that instantiation:

```
// Application.cc
// these template types must be instantiated elsewhere in the program
extern template class Blob<string>;
extern template int compare(const int &,const int &);
Blob<string> sa1,sa2; // instantiation will appear elsewhere
// Blob<int> and its intializer_list constructor instantiated in this file
Blob<int> a1={0,1,...,9};
Blob<int> a2(a1);// copy constructor instantiated in this file
int i=compare(a1[0],a2[0]);// instantiation will appear elsewhere
```

别的文件实例化类模板,或者函数模板。本文件直接使用(声明创建类对象,调用函数)。

The file Application.o will contain instantiations for Blob<int>, along with the initailizer_list and copy constructors for that class. The compare<int> function and Blob<string> class will not be instantiated in that file. There must be exactly one defintions of these templates in some other other file in the program:

```
// templateBuild.cc
// instantiation file must provide a (nonextern) definition for
// every type and function that other files declare as extern

template int compare(const int &,const int &);
template class Blob<string>;// instantiates all members of the class template
```

以上两个语句,是一种定义,即对模板(类模板、函数模板)的实例化,也就是说,生成相应的代码,用实参替换掉模板的形参。

When the compiler sees an instantiation definition (as opposed to a declaration), it generates code. Thus, the file templateBuild.o will contain the definitions for compare instantiated with int and for the Blob<string> class. When we build the application, we must link templateBuild.o with the Application.o files.

Instantiation Definitions Instantiate All Members

An instantiation definition for a class template instantiates all the members of that template including inline member functions. When teh compiler sees an instantiation definition it cannot know which member functions the program uses. Hence, **unlike the way it handles ordinary class template instantiations, the compiler instantiates all the members of that class. Even if we do not use a member, that member will be instantiated.** Consequently, we can explicit instantiation only for types that can be used with all the members of that template.

```
template <typename T>
class Blob{
    //...
};
```

```
template class Blob<int>;// this is definition to instantiate the class template
template<typename T> class Blob<T>;
```

Ordinary class template instantiations:

```
template <typename T>
class Blob{/*...*/};
Blob<int> obj;
obj.fun();// here, instantiation of member function (template member function or all member function?)
```

Efficiency and Flexibility

利用模板特性,可以给予我们更多灵活性。比如标准库中的shared ptr和unique ptr

- 前者共享指针所有权
- 后者独占所有权

这两者的差异之一是,允许用户重载默认deleter,比如override一个shared_ptr的deleter,只要在创建或reset指针时传递一个可调用的对象即可。另一方面,deleter是unique_ptr对象的一部分,用户必须在定义unique_ptr对象时以显示模板形参的方式提供deleter的类型。

Binding the Deleter at Run time

可以确定的是,shared_ptr并没有将deleter直接保存一个成员,因为deleter的类型直到运行时才被确定。实际上,我们可以随时改变shared_ptr对象的deleter。通常,类的成员的类型在运行时是不能改变的。因此,不能直接保存deleter。

假定shared_ptr将它管理的指针保存在一个成员p中,同时deleter通过一个del的成员来访问p。则 shared ptr的析构函数必须包含

```
// value of del known only at run time; call through a pointer
del?del(p):delete p; // del(p) requires run-time jump to del's location
```

由于deleter是间接保存的,调用del(p)需要一次run-time的跳转操作,转到del保存的地址来执行代码。

Binding at Compile Time

在unique_ptr中, deleter的类型是类类型的一部分, 也就是说, unique_ptr有两个模板参数:

- first, 它管理的指针
- second, deleter的类型 因此, deleter类型作为unique_ptr的一部分在compile-time就确定, 从而deleter直接保存在 unique_ptr对象中。

unique_ptr的析构函数,对其保存的p调用用户提供的deleter或执行delete。

```
// del bound at compile time;
// direct call to the deleter that is instantiated
del(p);// no run-time overhead
```

del的类型可以是默认的deleter类型,也可以是用户提供的。