

C++ TEMPLATES

Alessandro Casalino

Cineca, Casalecchio di Reno, Bologna, Italy

May 5, 2023



OUTLINE

- ► Function Templates
- ► Class Templates
- ► Non-datatype Templates
- ► Template Specialization
- ► C++17: std::tuple and Structured Binding
- ► C++20: Template Concepts
- ► C++20: Templated Lambda Functions

Function Templates

EXAMPLE: MAX

```
int max(int x, int y)
{
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
}</pre>
```

What if we need double?

Note

Function can be used also with double input (e.g., max(2.3,3.4)), but -Wconversion generates warnings. Check: godbolt.org/z/hjbdM1zs8

EXAMPLE: MAX

```
int max(int x, int y)
{
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
}

double max(double x, double y)
{
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
}</pre>
```

- ► Possible approach: overload the function with another one
- ▶ But what if we need unsigned int?

EXAMPLE: MAX

```
int max(int x, int y)
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
double max(double x, double y)
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
unsigned int max (unsigned int x,
                 unsigned int y)
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
```

Ok-ish, but...

- ► The code becomes lengthy in no time!
- ► We are violating **DRY** (**Don't Repeat Yourself**) rule
- ▶ Other datatypes are missing

Warning

Bad things might happen with pure datatype overloads: godbolt.org/z/PETfe789f

FUNCTION TEMPLATES

```
T max(T x, T y)
{
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
}</pre>
```

- ► We want a function with T a **generic** datatype
- ► This is actually the first step to make a template
- ► **But this does not compile**: what is T for the compiler?

FUNCTION TEMPLATES

```
T max(T x, T y)
{
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
}

template <typename T>
T max(T x, T y)
{
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
}</pre>
```

► **First step**: substitute the datatypes

- ► **Second step**: declare the template
 - Datatypes in the <>
 - Keyword for datatype is typename

Best practice

Use capital letters for datatypes, e.g., T, V.

FUNCTION TEMPLATES

```
// Template parameters definition
template<typename T>
// Definition of max<T>
T max(T x, T y)
{
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
}</pre>
```

- ► This is a *template* of the max function
- ► T is a placeholder for any datatype
- ► Pros:
 - Only one code to maintain
 - Compiler generates code (overloaded function) on-demand
 - Thus we don't have to anticipate (datatype) needs

Best practice

Two equivalent ways to specify datatypes for templates are available: typename and class. The second is obsolete, thus prefer typename.

EXAMPLE: MAX FUNCTION

From this ...

```
int max(int x, int y)
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
long int max(long int x, long int y)
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
unsigned int max(unsigned int x,
                unsigned int y)
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
unsigned long int max(unsigned long int x,
                     unsigned long int y)
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
float max(float x, float y)
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
double max(double x, double y)
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
long double max(long double x,
               long double y)
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
```

... to this!

```
template<typename T>
T max(T x, T y)
{
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
}</pre>
```

HOW TO USE TEMPLATES

```
#include <iostream>
template<typename T>
T \max(T x, T y)
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
int main() {
    int a {3}, b {2};
    std::cout << max<int>(a, b)
               << std::endl;</pre>
    double c {4.}, d {5.};
    std::cout << max<double>(c, d)
               << std::endl;</pre>
    return 0;
```

Templates are **not** functions: they generate functions when we request a specific version (**template instantiation**).

- Call with max<datatype> (arg1, arg2)
- Compiler creates a new max<int>(arg1, arg2)

godbolt.org/z/3hWWKE4Y3

HOW TO USE TEMPLATES

```
#include <iostream>
template <typename T>
T \max(T x, T y);
template<>
int max<int>(int x, int y)
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
int main() {
    int a \{3\}, b \{2\};
    std::cout << max<int>(a, b)
               << std::endl;</pre>
    return 0;
```

Result of template instantiation.

- ► Compiler substitutes T with the requested datatype
- Analogously for each datatype requested

Note

If no template instantiation is requested, no function is instantiated in the translation unit.

godbolt.org/z/5ovzbhEqE

HOW TO USE TEMPLATES

```
#include <iostream>
template <typename T>
T \max(T x, T y)
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
int max(int x, int y)
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
int main() {
    int a \{3\}, b \{2\};
    std::cout << max<int>(a, b) << std::endl;</pre>
    std::cout << max<>(a, b) << std::endl;</pre>
    std::cout << max(a, b) << std::endl;</pre>
    return 0;
```

We can also rely on **template argument deduction**.

Question

Which function is called in each case?

Best practice

Unless required, use the standard function call syntax (latter in the example).

```
godbolt.org/z/n5YT113nK
```

WARNING!

```
#include <iostream>
template <typename T>
T foo(T x)
    return x + 2;
int main() {
    std::string str {"Hello world!"};
    std::cout << foo(str) << std::endl;</pre>
    return 0;
```

With great power comes great responsibility! - Peter Parker

Warning

This does not compile! Templates do not check the validity of propositions with all possible datatype. It is up to the programmer to call templates with meaningful datatypes. Or Template Concepts...

Plus check the *clean and meaningful* error list from the compiler :-) godbolt.org/z/aGe9fWjjz

```
#include <iostream>
template <typename T>
T \max(T x, T y)
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
int main() {
    std::cout << max(3, 2.5)
               << std::endl;</pre>
    return 0;
```

Question

Does this code compiles?

godbolt.org/z/3PPerWeqn

```
#include <iostream>
template <typename T>
T \max (T x, T y)
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
int main() {
    std::cout << max(3, 2.5)
               << std::endl;</pre>
    return 0;
```

The compiler

- checks the presence of non-templated max(int,double)
- ► tries to find a suitable template, but only max<T>(T, T) is available

Thus: error!

godbolt.org/z/3PPerWeqn

```
// Static cast the input value
max(static_cast < double > (3), 2.5)
// Call max with explicit data-type
max < double > (3, 2.5)

// Or modify the template
// to use two datatypes
template < typename T, typename U>
T max(T x, U y)
{
   return (x < y) ? y : x;
}</pre>
```

Solutions without modifying the template

► Template with two (potentially) different datatypes

Question

Is this safe?

Hint: compile with -Wconversion.

godbolt.org/z/Kq1n5eY49

```
#include <iostream>
template <typename T, typename U>
T \max(T x, U y)
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
int main() {
    std::cout \ll max(3, 2.5)
               << std::endl;</pre>
    return 0;
```

The issue

- double has precedence on int (arithmetic conversion rules)
- thus when casting on the condition we obtain double
- and in the template instantiation U =
 double, different from return type T =
 int

Note

The compilation succedes, but there are conversions warnings with -Wconversion.

In general, these should be solved!

```
#include <iostream>
template <typename T, typename U>
auto max (T x, U y) // C++14
    return (x < y) ? y : x;
int main() {
    std::cout \ll max(3, 2.5)
               << std::endl;</pre>
    return 0;
```

Solution: let the compiler decide with auto!

Warning

Be careful when using auto! The auto of an operation is decided with the arithmetic conversion rules. And it drops the const (use const auto when needed).

godbolt.org/z/EP4M57Wv5

- ► C++20 feature: auto for function args
- ► Equivalent to the previous
- ► But this way, x and y can have different datatypes.

godbolt.org/z/noMq4s9q7

MIXED TEMPLATED FUNCTIONS

```
#include <iostream>
template <typename T>
T \text{ add}(T x, \text{ double } y)
    return x * static_cast<T>(y);
int main() {
    std::cout << add(3.1f, 2.5)
                << std::endl;
    return 0;
```

We can mix template and non-template datatypes.

Note

In this dummy example, the static_cast<T> is necessary to convert the input and avoid conversion warnings.

godbolt.org/z/36jz8fnno

TEMPLATES AND MULTIPLE FILES

main.cpp

```
#include <iostream>
template <typename T, typename V>
T foo (T i, V j);
int main() {
    std::cout << foo(2,3) << std::endl;
    return 0;
templates.cpp
template <typename T, typename V>
T foo (T i, V j)
   return i + j;
```

- ► This does not compile (linker error)!
- ► This is because the forward declaration and the template are in different translation units.

Translation Unit

From C++ standard:

A translation unit is the basic unit of compilation in C++. It consists of the contents of a single source file, plus the contents of any header files directly or indirectly included by it, minus those lines that were ignored using conditional preprocessing statements.

TEMPLATES AND MULTIPLE FILES

main.cpp

return i + j;

```
#include <iostream>
#include "templates.hpp"

int main() {
    std::cout << foo(2,3) << std::endl;
    return 0;
}

templates.hpp

template <typename T, typename V>
T foo (T i, V j)
{
```

- ► This now compiles correctly!
- ► The template definition and the template call are in the same translation unit.

Note

Suppose the templates.hpp is included in several .cpp: a function is generated from the template for each include if used in the .cpp. This seems a violation of the *one-definition rule* that requires only one definition per program. But templates are exempt from this rule!

RECAP

- ► Templates are used to create prototypes
- ► Templates are converted to functions on demand (template instantiation)
- ► Multiple template datatypes can be used
- ▶ Instantiation calls should be in the same translation unit as the template
- ► C++20: auto is equivalent to use templates. But be careful about the downsides!

Class Templates

EXAMPLE: CLASS MAX

```
#include <iostream>
struct Values {
    int a{}, b{};
};
int max (Values val)
    return (val.a > val.b)
            ? val.a : val.b;
int main()
    Values val \{2, 3\};
    std::cout << max(val)</pre>
               << std::endl;</pre>
    return 0;
```

What if we need double?

EXAMPLE: CLASS MAX

```
struct Values {
    int a{}, b{};
};
struct Values {
    double a{}, b{};
};
int max (Values val)
    return (val.a > val.b)
           ? val.a : val.b;
double max (Values val)
    return (val.a > val.b)
           ? val.a : val.b;
```

This does not compile! godbolt.org/z/MjejbEch9

Issues:

- Classes can not be overloaded
- ► The two max functions have only different return type
- DRY (Don't Repeat Yourself) rule violated

```
template <typename T>
struct Values {
    T a{}, b{};
    Values (T a, T b)
          : a {a}, b {b} {};
};
int main()
    Values<int> vi1 {2, 3};
    Values
           vi2 {2, 3};
    Values < double > vd1 {2.1, 3.4};
               vd2 \{2.1, 3.4\};
    Values
    return 0;
```

- ► Class Templates similar to function
- ► Explicit datatype template calls
- ► (C++17) Class template argument deduction (CTAD)

Ouestion

What happens if we define Values v {2, 3.1}?

godbolt.org/z/cr6We7fhz

```
// Below only works with C++20!
template <typename T>
struct Values {
    T a{}, b{};
    // No explicit constructor:
    // works only for C++20
};
int main()
   Values<int> vi1 {2, 3};
   Values vi2 {2, 3};
   Values < double > vd1 {2.1, 3.4};
   Values vd2 {2.1, 3.4};
   return 0;
```

Warning

This does not compile in C++17: CTAD fails because no explicit constructor is provided. From C++20 this is possible.

godbolt.org/z/x6z6rTYK6

```
template <typename T>
struct Values {
    T a{}, b{};
};
// Deduction guide
template <typename T>
Values(T, T) -> Values<T>;
int main()
    Values vi1 {2, 3};
    Values vd1 {2.1, 3.4};
    return 0;
```

- ► Either we specify the constructor explicitly, or
- ► In C++17 we need to *guide* the compiler with a deduction guide

godbolt.org/z/79PzMhscG

CLASS TEMPLATES

```
template <typename T>
struct Values {
    T a{}, b{};
};

template <typename T>
T foo (Values<T> val)
{
    return doSomething(val);
}
```

► Templated class calls with <>

Warning

Using Values instead of Values<T> as function arg in this context generates compiler errors.

Check for instance: godbolt.org/z/ecsdf1e6Y godbolt.org/z/f1d8b7frY

EXAMPLE: CLASS MAX

```
#include <iostream>
                                            Complete max example with classes.
template <typename T>
struct Values {
    T a{}, b{};
};
template <typename T>
T max (Values<T> val)
    return (val.a > val.b)
            ? val.a : val.b;
int main()
    Values val \{2, 3\};
    std::cout << max(val) << std::endl;</pre>
                                            godbolt.org/z/654Pjo54f
    Values val2 {2.1, 3.4};
    std::cout << max(val2) << std::endl;</pre>
    return 0;
```

```
#include <iostream>
template <typename T, typename U>
struct Values {
    T a{};
    U b{};
};
int main()
    Values val {2, 3.2};
    return 0;
```

We can create classes with multiple templated datatypes.

TEMPLATES AND HEADERS

This does not compile (linker error)!

fooClass.h

```
#ifndef FOOCLASS H
#define FOOCLASS H
template <typename T, typename U>
struct fooClass {
    T i{};
    U v{};
    fooClass(T i, U v)
            : i {i}, v{v} {};
    T foo(T a, U b);
};
#endif //FOOCLASS H
```

fooClass.cpp

```
#include "fooClass.h"

template <typename T, typename U>
T fooClass<T,U>::foo (T a, U b)
{
    return a + b;
}
```

main.cpp

TEMPLATES AND HEADERS

Possible solutions

fooClass.h

```
#ifndef FOOCLASS H
#define FOOCLASS H
template <typename T, typename U>
struct fooClass {
    T i{};
    U v{};
    fooClass(T i, U v)
            : i {i}, v{v} {};
    T foo(T a, U b)
        return a + b;
};
#endif //FOOCLASS H
```

```
#ifndef FOOCLASS H
#define FOOCLASS H
template <typename T, typename U>
struct fooClass {
    T i{};
    U v{};
    fooClass(T i, U v)
            : i {i}, v{v} {};
    T foo(T a, U b);
};
template <typename T, typename U>
T fooClass<T,U>::foo (T a, U b)
   return a + b;
#endif //FOOCLASS H
```

RECAP

- ► Classes can also be templated
- ► And also here multiple types templates can be used
- ▶ Be careful when you create templated classes with methods using the .cpp/.hpp layout

Non-datatype Templates

NON-DATATYPE TEMPLATES

```
#include <iostream>
template <int N>
int multiply()
    return N* N;
int main() {
    std::cout << multiply<2>()
               << std::endl;</pre>
    return 0;
```

- ► Function can be templated with types.
- ► Everything is done at compile time!
- ► Useful when we need to pass constexpr values to functions

Warning

Calling multiply() (without <value>) results in compilation error.

godbolt.org/z/YfzvvW3Yh

NON-DATATYPE TEMPLATES

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cmath>
template <double D>
double getLog()
    static assert (D \geq= 0.0,
    "getLog(): D must be positive");
    return std::log(D);
int main()
    std::cout << getLog<5.0>()
               << std::endl;</pre>
    std::cout << getLog<-5.0>()
               << std::endl;</pre>
    return 0;
```

- static_assert is an assert at compile time
- ► In this way the check is made at compile time, avoiding run-time errors

Warning

This code does not compile as expected: we are asking for log of negative number.

godbolt.org/z/oK4TrE69E

Template Specialization

EXAMPLE

```
#include <iostream>

template <typename T>
void print(T value)
{
    std::cout << value << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    print(5);
    print(6.7);
}</pre>
```

What if we want to use scientific notation for double?

EXAMPLE

```
#include <iostream>
                                             We can use Template Specialization.
template <typename T>
void print(T value)
    std::cout << value << std::endl;</pre>
                                                 template definition.
template <>
void print<double>(double value)
    std::cout << std::scientific << value << std::endl;</pre>
int main()
    print(5);
                                             godbolt.org/z/azc8oh8q7
    print(6.7);
```

- ► The double case is treated differently.
- ▶ But all other datatypes use the first

FUNCTION PARTIAL SPECIALIZATION

```
#include <iostream>
template <typename T, typename U>
                                             Warning
void print(T value, U message)
                                             This does not compile!
    std::cout << message << " : "</pre>
                                             Function partial template specialization
                                             is not allowed in C++.
           << value << std::endl;
template <typename U>
void print<double, U>(double value, U message)
    std::cout << std::scientific << message << " : " << value << std::endl;</pre>
int main()
    print(5, "Hello!");
    print(6.7, "Hello!");
                                            godbolt.org/z/1dxKdE3Yx
```

MULTIPLE TEMPLATE TYPES SPECIALIZATION

```
#include <iostream>
                                           But we can always specialize all datatypes.
template <typename T, typename U>
void print(T value, U message)
    std::cout << message << " : " << value << std::endl;</pre>
template <>
void print<double, const char *>(double value, const char * message)
    std::cout << std::scientific << message << " : " << value << std::endl;</pre>
int main()
    print(5, "Hello!");
    print(6.7, "Hello!");
                                           godbolt.org/z/1dxKdE3Yx
```

DELETE TEMPLATE SPECIALIZATIONS

```
#include <iostream>
template <typename T>
void print(T value) = delete;
template <>
void print<double>(double value)
    std::cout << value << std::endl;</pre>
int main()
    // This generates compiler errors
    // print(5);
    print(6.7);
```

- ➤ We can remove the possibility to use the function if not double (compiler error) with delete
- ► Also the converse can be done (delete on specialized template)

CLASS SPECIALIZATION

```
#include <iostream>
template <typename T, int size = 10>
struct Interface {
    static assert(
        std::is same v<double, T> ||
        std::is same v<float, T>,
        "Error.");
    const T v[size];
};
template <int size>
struct Interface<double, size> {
    const double v[size];
    // Here put double stuffs
};
template <int size>
struct Interface<float, size> {
    const float v[size];
    // Here put float stuffs
};
```

Specialization is possible also with classes.

Partial specialization is possible with classes.

godbolt.org/z/1MW9nEGn4

RECAP

- ► Template specialization allows to differentiate template instantiations based on datatypes and non-datatype templates
- ► Function partial specialization is forbidden
- ► Classes can also be specialized, and their partial specialization is possible
- ▶ delete can be useful to prevent instantiation of some templates

std::tuple and Structured Binding

TUPLE

```
template <typename T>
                                            Example: effective output of foo is made of
struct A { T v; };
                                            two double and one std::string.
template <typename T>
void foo (const A<T>& a, const A<T>& b, Is there a better way to manage this
   T & sum, T & diff, std::string & str) output?
    sum = a.v + b.v;
    diff = a.v - b.v;
    str = diff > 0 ? "a" : "b";
int main()
    A a \{1.\}, b \{2.\};
    double sum, diff;
    std::string str;
    foo(a, b, sum, diff, str);
    std::cout << str << " is bigger" << std::endl;</pre>
    return 0;
```

TUPLE

```
#include <tuple>
                                            A way is to use the templated
                                            std::tuple.
template <typename T>
struct A { T v; };
                                             Note
template <typename T>
std::tuple<T, T, std::string>
    foo (const A<T>& a, const A<T>& b)
                                             the same.
    return \{a.v + b.v.
                                             Best practice
a.v - b.v
            a.v - b.v > 0 ? "a" : "b"};
                                             more.
int main()
    A a \{1.\}, b \{2.\};
                                            godbolt.org/z/GfreWcT6d
    const auto result = foo(a, b);
    std::cout << std::get<2>(result)
               << " is bigger" << std::endl;</pre>
    return 0;
```

There is also std::pair, which accepts only two values. The access methods are

Use std::pair when you have two output values, std::tuple when you have

TUPLE

return 0;

```
#include <tuple>
template <typename T>
struct A { T v; };
template <typename T>
std::tuple<T, std::string>
     foo (const A<T>& a, const A<T>& b)
    return {a.v + b.v,
            a.v - b.v > 0 ? "a" : "b"};
int main()
    A a \{1.\}, b \{2.\};
    const auto result = foo(a, b);
    std::cout << "sum is " << std::get<double>(result) << std::endl;</pre>
    std::cout << std::get<std::string>(result) << " is bigger" << std::endl;</pre>
```

std::get can be used specifying the datatype to extract. It works only if all tuple datatypes are different.

Warning

Do not use this std::get when the tuple is templated (as in the example)! Bad things might happen: godbolt.org/z/bq113oKnc

Best practice

godbolt.org/z/zrqv4Yb96

In general, use std::get with the tuple element number (as in the previous slide).

```
#include <tuple>
                                            From C++17, std::pair and
                                            std::tuple outputs can be redirected to
template <typename T>
                                            auto generated variables. This procedure
struct A { T v; };
                                            is structured binding.
template <typename T>
std::tuple<T, T> foo (const A<T>& a, const A<T>& b)
    return \{a.v + b.v, a.v - b.v\};
int main()
    A a \{1.\}, b \{2.\};
    const auto [sum, diff] = foo(a, b);
    std::cout << "sum is " << sum << std::endl;</pre>
    return 0;
                                            godbolt.org/z/xd9nsednP
```

Template Concepts

TEMPLATE CONCEPTS

```
#include <iostream>
template <typename T>
concept Integral =
        std::is integral v<T>;
template <typename T>
requires Integral<T>
void foo (T a)
    std::cout << "Concept met: "</pre>
               << a << std::endl;
int main()
    foo(1);
    foo(static cast<size t>(2));
    foo(static cast<const int>(3));
    //foo(2.1); // Error
```

From C++20: **Template Concepts**

- Provide standard syntax for template instantiation conditions
- Provide meaningful template errors (previously: a mess!)

Best practice

As for datatypes, use the first capital letter for concepts, e.g., Integral.

godbolt.org/z/zEha4PWze

```
#include <iostream>
                                           From C++20: Template Concepts
#include <vector>
template<typename T>
concept Fundamental
          = std::is_fundamental_v<T>;
template<Fundamental T>
void foo(const T & t){
    std::cout << "T is fundamental: "</pre>
                                           Example to check if the datatype is
               << t << std::endl;
                                           fundamental.
int main()
    foo(1);
    foo(2.3);
                                           godbolt.org/z/o1W9Mz13W
    std::vector v (3,2.);
    //foo(v); Error
```

```
#include <iostream>
                                           From C++20: Template Concepts
template<typename T, typename V>
concept HasConditional
= requires (T t, V v) { t > v ? t : v; };
template<typename T, typename V>
requires HasConditional<T,V>
void foo(T t, V v) {
    std::cout << "Conditional: "</pre>
                                           Example to check if the datatypes admit a
               << (t > v ? t : v)
                                           conditional operation between them.
               << std::endl;
int main()
    foo(1, 2);
    foo("Hello!", "124");
                                           godbolt.org/z/eKrdYeedn
    double * ptr {nullptr};
    // foo(ptr, "124"); Error
```

Templated Lambda Functions

LAMBDA FUNCTIONS

```
#include <iostream>
int main() {
    // Void Lambda
    auto a = [] () {};
    a();
    // One input lambda
    auto b = [] (int i) { return i; };
    std::cout << b(5) << std::endl;</pre>
    return 0;
```

Anatomy of a lambda function:

- []: capture clause (not covered in this course)
- (): args of the lambda function (as in standard functions)
- ► {}: body of the lambda function (as in standard functions)

Best practice

Prefer lambdas over standard functions when a small routine used in a limited context is needed.

godbolt.org/z/vd1r6EjPe

LAMBDA FUNCTIONS

```
#include <iostream>
int main() {
    int v[] \{1, 3, 4\};
    double q[] {1.2, 3., 4.5};
    auto sum = [] (auto * v) { // C++14}
        int sum {0};
        for(size_t i \{0\}; i < 3; i++) {
             sum += v[i];
        };
        return sum;
    };
    std::cout << sum(v) << std::endl;</pre>
    std::cout << sum(g) << std::endl;</pre>
    return 0;
```

Warning

This code compiles, but there are conversion errors! We are narrowing the conversion from double to int when using sum(g).

godbolt.org/z/xMjc65zdM

```
#include <iostream>
                                           From C++20: Templated Lambda
                                           Functions
int main() {
    int v[] \{1, 3, 4\};
    double q[] {1.2, 3., 4.5};
    auto sum = [] <typename T> (T \star v) { // C++20
        T sum {0};
        for(size_t i {0}; i < 3; i++) {
            sum += v[i];
        } ;
        return sum;
    };
    std::cout << sum(v) << std::endl;</pre>
    std::cout << sum(g) << std::endl;</pre>
    return 0;
                                           godbolt.org/z/q66rdqb4d
```

Thank you!

Advanced Template Topics

TEMPLATE METAPROGRAMMING

```
#include <iostream>
template <unsigned char N>
struct factorial {
    static constexpr unsigned value
       = N * factorial < N-1>::value;
};
template <>
struct factorial<1> {
    static constexpr unsigned value=1;
};
int main() {
    std::cout << factorial<5>::value
               << std::endl;</pre>
```

Example of *metaprogramming*: factorial at compile time

godbolt.org/z/n5YcG69fh

REFERENCES COLLAPSING RULES

Consider U a non-reference type. When we use a typedef T, their reference type is collapsed to l-values (U & a) and r-values (U & a) according to the following table.

If	Then	and
T = U	T & = U &	T && = U &&
T = U &	T & = U &	3 U = 33 T
3 U = T	T & = U &	T && = U && $T && = U &$ $T && = U &$