

HAM!



Pillars of Modern C++

 @arne_mertz

History



- 1979 “C with classes” (influenced by Simula, ALGOL68,...)
- 1983 renamed to “C++”, Cfront compiler
- 1985 “The C++ Programming Language, 1st Ed.”
- 1990 C++ 2.0 & “The Annotated C++ Reference Manual”
- 1998 *ISO/IEC 14882:1998*
- 2003 *ISO/IEC 14882:2003 „Bugfix release“*
- 2011 *ISO/IEC 14882:2011 „feels like a new language“*
- 2014 *ISO/IEC 14882:2014 „minor features“*
- 2017 *ISO/IEC 14882:2017 „major features“*



Photo by Julia Kryuchkova CC BY-SA 2.5

Modern C++?

A screenshot of the Merriam-Webster Dictionary website. The header includes the Merriam-Webster logo and "SINCE 1828". Below the header, the word "modern" is displayed in large letters, with "DICTIONARY" and "THESAURUS" options underneath. The main content area shows the definition of "modern" with four numbered points. Definitions 1 and 2 are grouped under "CONTEMPORARY", while definitions 3 and 4 are grouped under "capitalized".

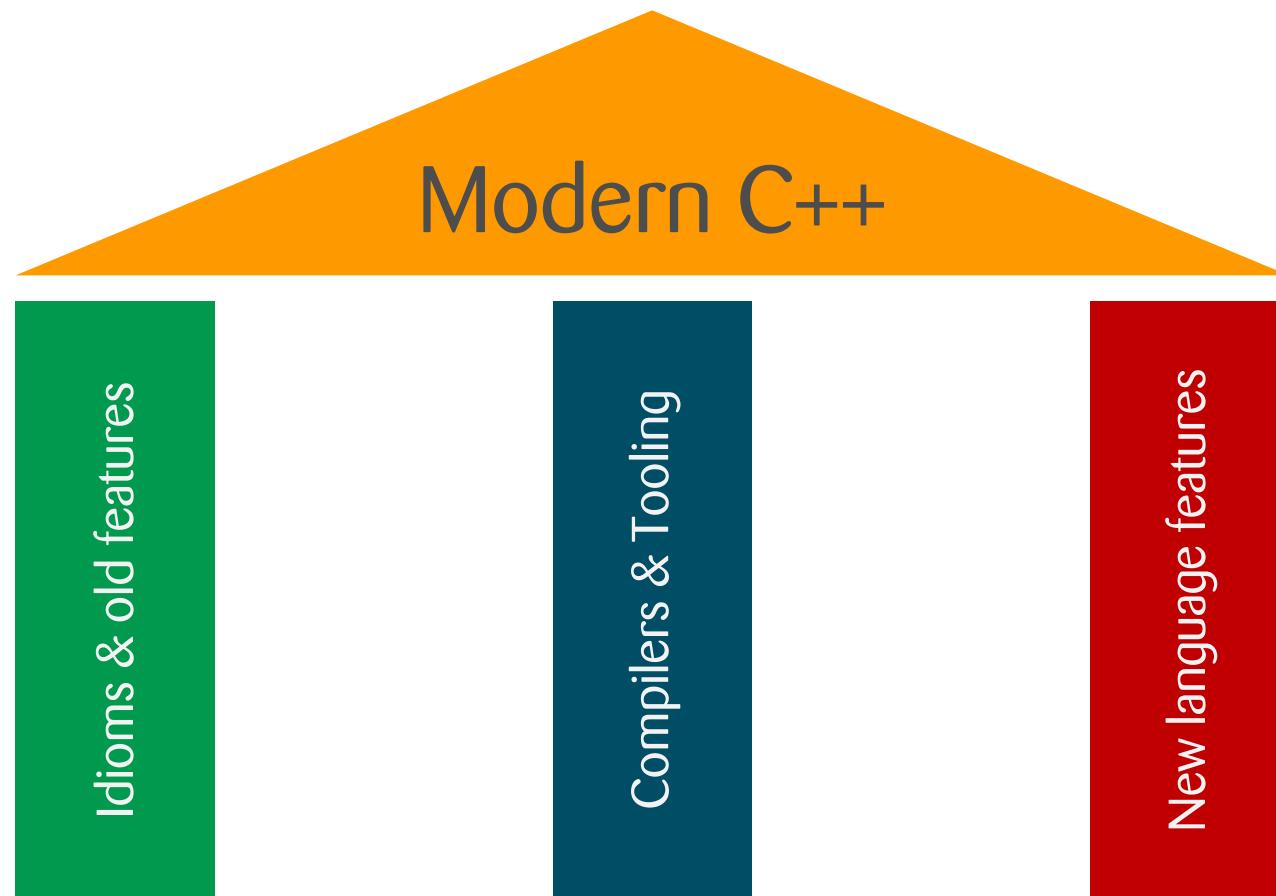
1 a : of, relating to, or characteristic of the present or the immediate past : CONTEMPORARY • the *modern* American family
b : of, relating to, or characteristic of a period extending from a relevant remote past to the present time • *modern* history

2 : involving recent techniques, methods, or ideas : UP-TO-DATE • *modern* methods of communication

3 capitalized : of, relating to, or having the characteristics of the present or most recent period of development of a language • *Modern English*

4 : of or relating to modernism : MODERNIST • *Modern* art has abandoned the representation of recognizable objects.

“Modern C++” != “New Standards”



RAII

Resource Acquisition Is Initialization

One of the key C++ language features:

}

Deterministic Object Lifetime

$\sim X()$

RAII

Resource Acquisition Is Initialization

- Use destructors to clean up resources

- Memory
- File handles
- Mutex locks
- Database connections
- Network sockets
- ...

}

$\sim X()$

RAII

Responsibility

~~Resource~~ Acquisition Is Initialization

- ... but also non-resources
 - Close XML tags
 - Set the wait cursor back to normal cursor
 - Reactivate interrupts
- ... or (un)do anything else that needs to be (un)done reliably in the end
- This is why C++ does not have or need **finally**

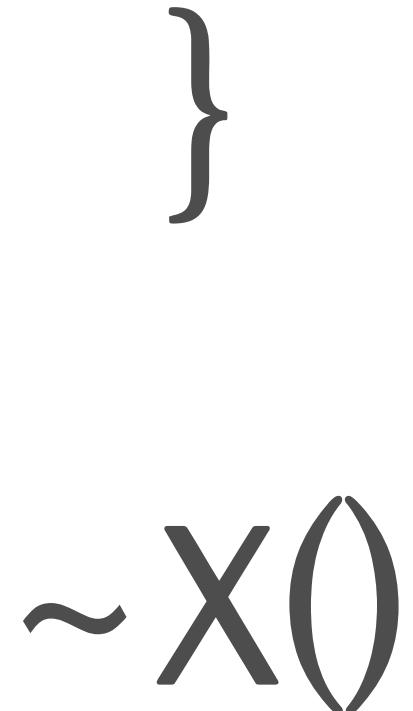
}

$\sim X()$

RAII

Resource Acquisition Is Initialization

```
class ScopePrinter {  
public:  
    std::string message;  
    ScopePrinter(std::string const& msg) : message(msg) {  
        std::cout << "START " << message << "\n";  
    }  
  
    ~ScopePrinter() { std::cout << "END " << message << "\n"; }  
};  
  
int main() {  
    ScopePrinter sp1("main");      // START main  
    {  
        ScopePrinter sp2("inner"); // START inner  
        // END inner  
        ScopePrinter sp3("main2");  // START main2  
        // END main2  
        // END main  
    }  
}
```



RAII

Resource Acquisition Is Initialization

- In the standard library:
- std::vector (memory - for dynamic arrays)
- std::fstream (file I/O)
- std::unique_ptr (memory, unique owner)
- std::shared_ptr (memory, shared owner, ref-counting)
- std::lock_guard, std::unique_lock, ... (mutexes)
- ... and more

}

~X()

RAII

Resource Acquisition Is Initialization

```
class LinkedList {
    struct Node {
        int value;
        std::unique_ptr<Node> next;
        Node(int v, std::unique_ptr<Node> n)
            : value{v}, next{std::move(n)}
        {}
    };
    std::unique_ptr<Node> head;
public:
    void push(int i) {
        head = std::make_unique<Node>(i, std::move(head));
    }
    void pop() {
        head = std::move(head->next);
    }
};
```



Strong Typing

Is C++ type-safe?



```
void sendMessage(int messageID, int receiverID, int priority);  
sendMessage(SEVERE, MSG_SOME_ERROR, myReceiver); //oops
```

Strong Typing

... as type-safe as we make it!



```
enum Priority {
    SEVERE,
    //...
};

struct MessageID {
    int id;
};

struct ReceiverID {
    int id;
};

void sendMessage(MessageID messageID, ReceiverID receiverID, Priority priority);

sendMessage(SEVERE, MSG_SOME_ERROR, myReceiver);

//error: could not convert 'SEVERE' from 'Priority' to 'MessageID'
//error: could not convert 'MSG_SOME_ERROR' from 'const MessageID' to 'ReceiverID'
//error: cannot convert 'ReceiverID' to 'Priority'
```

What does it cost?

Because performance matters!



Nothing.

(at runtime)

Zero-Cost Abstractions



- Language/library design philosophy: “Zero overhead principle”
 - Don’t pay for what you don’t use
 - Can’t reasonably be written more efficiently by hand
- Modern C++ compilers have very good optimizers
 - Inlining of functions
 - Elimination of variables
 - Even at link time

Compilers



- Trust the compiler, not the myths!
- Measure before you manually “optimize”
And after!
- Maybe have a look at the assembler: godbolt.org

Compiler Explorer Secure | https://godbolt.org

COMPILER EXPLORER Editor Diff View More Share Other Policies

C++ source #1 x

A Save/Load + Add new... C++ ▾

```

1 #include <cstdio>
2 enum class Priority {
3     SEVERE,
4     //...
5 };
6
7 struct MessageID {
8     int id;
9 };
10
11 constexpr static MessageID MSG_SOME_ERROR{42};
12
13
14 struct ReceiverID {
15     int id;
16 };
17
18 void sendMessage(MessageID messageID, ReceiverID receiverID) {
19     std::printf("%i %i %i\n", messageID.id, receiverID.id);
20 }
21
22 void sendMessage2(int messageID, int receiverID, int priority) {
23     std::printf("%i %i %i\n", messageID, receiverID, priority);
24 }
25
26 void call1() {
27     ReceiverID myReceiver{12};
28     sendMessage(MSG_SOME_ERROR, myReceiver, Priority::SEVERE);
29 }
30 void call2() {
31     ReceiverID myReceiver{12};
32     sendMessage2(MSG_SOME_ERROR.id, myReceiver.id, Priority::SEVERE);
33 }
34
35
36
37 
```

x86-64 gcc 8.1 (Editor #1, Compiler #1) C++ x

x86-64 gcc 8.1 ▾ -std=c++14 --pedantic

A	11010	.LX0:	.text	//	\s+	Intel	Demangle	?	+
26			mov	DWORD PTR [rbp-4],	esi				
27			mov	DWORD PTR [rbp-8],	esi				
28			mov	DWORD PTR [rbp-12],	edx				
29			mov	ecx, DWORD PTR [rbp-12]					
30			mov	edx, DWORD PTR [rbp-8]					
31			mov	eax, DWORD PTR [rbp-4]					
32			mov	esi, eax					
33			mov	edi, OFFSET FLAT:.LC0					
34			mov	eax, 0					
35			call	printf					
36			nop						
37			leave						
38			ret						
39			call1():						
40			push	rbp					
41			mov	rbp, rsp					
42			sub	rsp, 16					
43			mov	DWORD PTR [rbp-4], 12					
44			mov	eax, DWORD PTR [rbp-4]					
45			mov	edx, 0					
46			mov	esi, eax					
47			mov	edi, DWORD PTR MSG_SOME_ERROR[rip]					
48			call	sendMessage(MessageID, ReceiverID,					
49			nop						
50			leave						
51			ret						
52			call2():						
53			push	rbp					
54			mov	rbp, rsp					
55			sub	rsp, 16					
56			mov	DWORD PTR [rbp-4], 12					
57			mov	eax, DWORD PTR [rbp-4]					
58			mov	ecx, 42					
59			mov	edx, 0					
60			mov	esi, eax					

x86-64 gcc 8.2 (Editor #1, Compiler #2) C++ x

x86-64 gcc 8.2 ▾ -std=c++14 --pedantic -O2

A	11010	.LX0:	.text	//	\s+	Intel	Demangle	?	+
1	.LC0:								
2			.string	"%i %i %i\n"					
3			sendMessage	(MessageID, ReceiverID, Priority):					
4			mov	ecx, edx					
5			xor	eax, eax					
6			mov	edx, esi					
7			mov	esi, edi					
8			mov	edi, OFFSET FLAT:.LC0					
9			jmp	printf					
10	sendMessage2	(int, int, int):							
11			mov	ecx, edx					
12			xor	eax, eax					
13			mov	edx, esi					
14			mov	esi, edi					
15			mov	edi, OFFSET FLAT:.LC0					
16			jmp	printf					
17	call1()	:							
18			xor	ecx, ecx					
19			mov	edx, 12					
20			mov	esi, 42					
21			xor	eax, eax					
22			mov	edi, OFFSET FLAT:.LC0					
23			jmp	printf					
24	call2()	:							
25			xor	ecx, ecx					
26			mov	edx, 12					
27			mov	esi, 42					
28			xor	eax, eax					
29			mov	edi, OFFSET FLAT:.LC0					
30			jmp	printf					

Output (0/0) g++ (GCC-Explorer-Build) 8.1.0 - cached (29826B)

Output (0/0) g++ (GCC-Explorer-Build) 8.2.0 - cached (33660B)

Is C++ an Object Oriented Language?



- It's procedural. (But not “C with classes”)
- It's *also* object oriented. (But not “Java without the GC”)
- It's *also* functional. (But not “Haskell with poor syntax”)
- It's also generic.

C++ is called a *multi-paradigm language*

Pick the aspect that best solves the problem at hand.

Speaking of Generic...



- In C++03: *Template Metaprogramming* is a powerful technique for compile time logic
- *Metafunctions* map types and values to other types and/or values

```
template <unsigned int N>
struct fib {
    const static unsigned int value = fib<N-1>::value + fib<N-2>::value;
};

template <> struct fib<0> {
    const static unsigned int value = 1;
};
template <> struct fib<1> {
    const static unsigned int value = 1;
};
```

Template Metaprogramming

... is Turing complete

A collage of three screenshots illustrating C++ metaprogramming:

- A screenshot of a web browser showing a blog post titled "C++ templates: Creating a compile-time higher-order meta-programming language". The URL is matt.might.net/articles/c%2B%2B-template-meta-programming-with-lambda-calculus/.
- A screenshot of a web browser showing a blog post titled "Executing BrainföK at Compile Time with C++ Templates". The URL is https://blog.galowicz.de/2016/06/16/cpp_template_compile_time_brafnfck_interpreter/. The page features a large emoji of a brain with steam coming out of it.
- A screenshot of a web browser showing a blog post titled "Jacek's C++ Blog - Execut". The URL is https://blog.galowicz.de/2016/06/16/cpp_template_compile_time_brafnfck_interpreter/. This screenshot is partially obscured by the other two.

Modern language features

C++11, C++14, C++17, ...



- Language and library
- “Quality of life”
- Standardizing existing extensions
- Access to compiler intrinsics

More compile time logic



- Since C++11/14: keyword `constexpr`
- “Normal” C++ code that can be executed at compile time
 - Can not allocate memory, throw exceptions, etc.
 - Classes can have `constexpr` constructors etc.

```
constexpr int fib(int n) {
    if (n < 0) throw std::logic_error("Negative argument!");
    if (n < 2) return 1;
    return fib(n-1) + fib(n-2);
}
```

Constexpr

... is Turing complete. Of course.



constexpr-8cc: Compile-time C Compiler build passing

constexpr-8cc is a compile-time C compiler implemented as C++14 constant expressions. This enables you to compile while you compile! This project is a port of 8cc built on ELVM Infrastructure.

Constant expressions in C++ are expressions that can be evaluated at compile-time. In C++14, by relaxing constraints, constant expressions became so powerful that a C compiler can be implemented in!

Pull Requests (2)

- update config.hpp 2 years ago
- Add test on OS X 2 years ago
- Fix travis_test.sh 2 years ago

More templates

```
template <class T>
void print(T const& t) {
    std::cout << t << '\n';
}

template <class Head, class... Tail>
void print(Head const& head, Tail const&... tail) {
    print(head);
    print(tail...);
}

int main() {
    print("Hello, ", 42, 2.71828);
    //print<char const*, int, double>
}
```

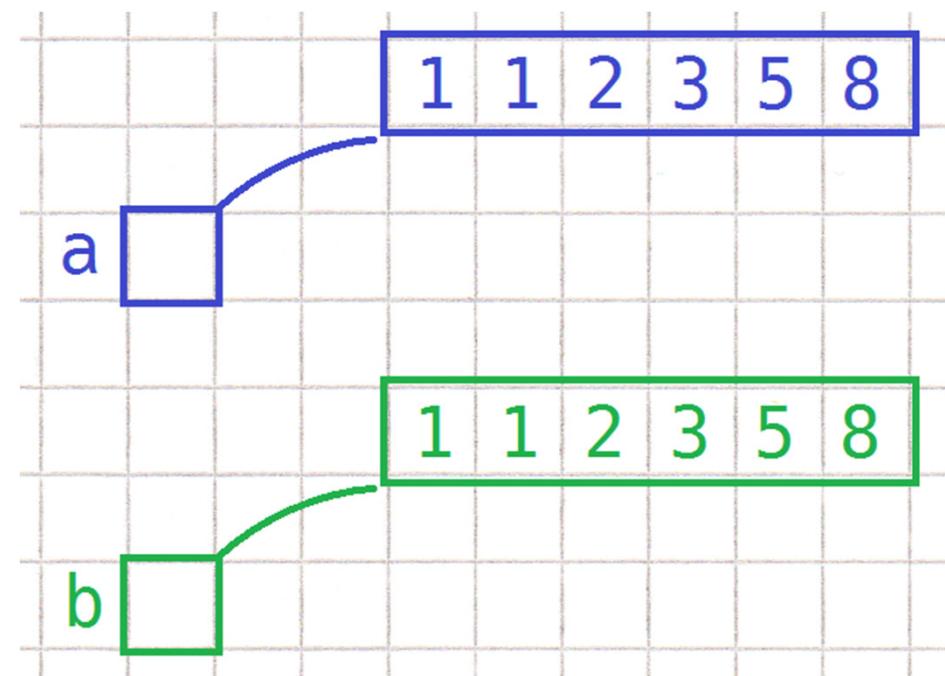
```
template <class T>
const static std::size_t BYTE_COUNT
    = sizeof(T);

template <class T>
using ByteArray
    = std::array<uint8_t, BYTE_COUNT<T>>;
```

Move semantics

Before (C++03):

```
std::vector<int> create();  
  
class C {  
    std::vector<int> m_data;  
public:  
    C(std::vector<int> const& data)  
        : m_data(data)  
    {}  
};  
  
int main() {  
    auto data = create();  
    C c(data);  
}
```



Move semantics

C++11 adds rvalue references

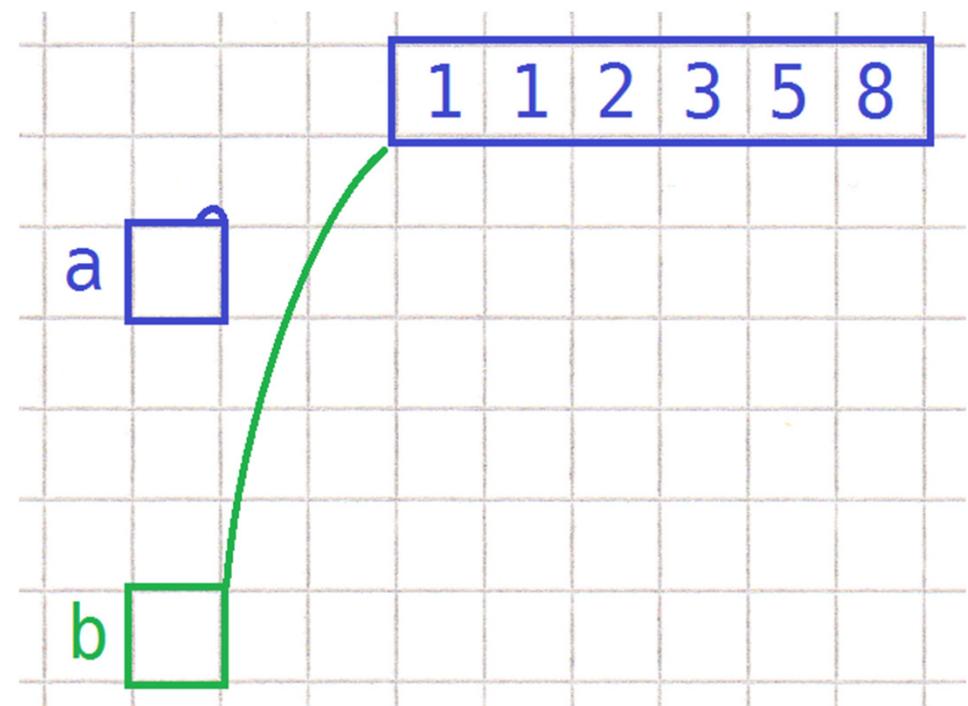
- Rvalue: r for “right side of assignment”
- Rvalue references bind to temporaries
 - E.g. function return values
 - `void f(int&& i)`
- `std::move`: “cast to rvalue”

```
class X;  
  
void f(X && rvalue);  
void f(X const& lvalue);  
  
X g();  
  
int main() {  
    X x;  
    f(x);      //lvalue  
    f(g());   //rvalue  
    f(X());   //rvalue  
    f(std::move(x)); //rvalue  
}
```

Move semantics

Copy and Move Constructor

```
class vector {  
    int* data;  
public:  
    vector(vector const& other)  
        : data(deepcopy(other))  
    {}  
  
    vector(vector && other)  
        : data(nullptr)  
    {  
        swap(data, other.data);  
    }  
};
```



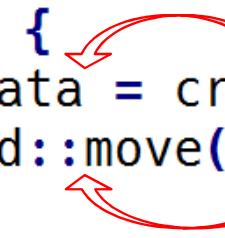
Move semantics

Then vs. Now

```
std::vector<int> create();  
  
class C {  
    std::vector<int> m_data;  
public:  
    C(std::vector<int> const& data)  
        : m_data(data)  
    {}  
};  
  
int main() {  
    auto data = create();  
    C c(data);  
}
```



```
std::vector<int> create();  
  
class C {  
    std::vector<int> m_data;  
public:  
    C(std::vector<int> && data)  
        : m_data(std::move(data))  
    {}  
};  
  
int main() {  
    auto data = create();  
    C c(std::move(data));  
}
```



Quality of life features



Auto type deduction (C++11)

```
auto i = myVector.begin();
```

Trailing return types (C++11)

```
template <class T, class U>
auto sum(T const& t, U const& u) -> decltype(t+u)
{
    return t+u;
}
```

Return type deduction (C++14)

```
for (auto const& element : myContainer)
{
    std::cout << element << '\n';
}
```

Range-based for loops (C++11)

```
struct X {
    X(X const& x) = delete;
    X(X && x)      = default;
};
```

Defaulted and deleted
functions (C++11)

Quality of life features



```
std::pair<int, double> f();
auto [i, d] = f();
```

Structured Bindings (C++17)

```
void g(X* xPtr);
g(0);           //C++03
g(nullptr);    //C++11
```

nullptr (C++11)

```
struct S : Base {
    using Base::Base;
```

Inheriting constructors (C++11)

```
S(int i) { std::cout << i; }
S(int i, double d) : S(i) { std::cout << ", " << d; }
};
```

Delegating constructors (C++11)

Quality of life features

Let's print contents of a map: (key → value)



```
template <class Map>
void printMap (Map const& m) {
    for (typename Map::const_iterator it = m.begin(); it != m.end(); ++it) {
        typename Map::key_type const& key = it->first;
        typename Map::mapped_type const& value = it->second;
        std::cout << "(" << key << " -> " << value << ")\n";
    }
}
```

```
template <class Map>
void printMap2 (Map const& m) {
    for (auto const& [key, value] : m) {
        std::cout << "(" << key << " -> " << value << ")\n";
    }
}
```

C++03

C++17

Lambdas

C++11/14

```
std::copy_if(  
    std::begin(oldSeq), std::end(oldSeq),  
    std::begin(newSeq),  
    [](int i) -> int { return i >= 5; }  
);
```

≈

```
class %$@#& {  
    auto operator()(int i) -> int  
    { return i >= 5; }  
};
```



```
int lim = 5;  
std::copy_if(  
    std::begin(oldSeq), std::end(oldSeq),  
    std::begin(newSeq),  
    [lim](auto i) { return i >= lim; }  
);
```

≈

```
class @%$&# {  
    int lim;  
    template <class T>  
    auto operator()(T i) const  
    { return i >= lim; }  
};
```

Lambdas

Higher order functions

```
auto filter(int lim) {  
    return [lim](int i) {  
        return i >= lim;  
    };  
}
```

```
template <class F, class G>  
auto compose(F f, G g) {  
    return [f, g](auto x){  
        return f(g(x));  
    };  
}
```



Future

C++20, C++23, ...

C++2x feature	PaperID	Version	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	Digital Pillar C++
Concepts	P017480	+++2+	Lang	x	(TBD poly)													
Contracts	P024285	+++2+	Lang															
Default member initializers for br-ticks	P023581	+++2+	Lang	x	x													
Const-qualified pointers to members	P027461	+++2+	Lang	x	x													
Allow lambda capture (Rvalue)	P040926	+++2+	Lang	x	x													
.../VADT...	P030649	+++2+	Lang	x	x													
Designated initialize	P023264	+++2+	Lang	x	x	4.7 (partial)*	5.0 (partial)*											
Template parameters for general lambdas	P042283	+++2+	Lang	x														
Initialiser list components in class template argument deduction	P072815	+++2+	Lang	x	x													
Requirements for range-based for loops	P021416	+++2+	Lang	x														
Three-way comparison operators	P015180	+++2+																
attribute [no_unique_address]	P024082	+++2+	Lang															
array::at() [const] and [non-const]	P047958	+++2+	Lang															
Type-aware optional	P025420	+++2+	Lang															
Class types as template template parameters	P023283	+++2+	Lang															
explicit bool	P025210	+++2+																
concept/primitive function	P026480	+++2+	Lang															
efficient sized delete for standardised classes	P023285	+++2+	Lang															
Interpreting our features test mode	P024120	+++2+	Lang															
Partial exception in lambda no-capture	P027001	+++2+	Lang															
Default constructible and copyable for raw pointers and lambdas	P021403	+++2+	Lang	x														
Concept library	P025585	+++2+																
Three-way comparison operators [support]	P021593	+++2+																
std::lambdas	P044010	+++2+		x														
std::exterior_ref	P001292	+++2+																
std::list::next	P047610	+++2+																
Extending std::vector to support arrays	P027411	+++2+																
Calendar and timesince	P025517	+++2+																
std::join	P022287	+++2+																
Floating point atomic	P022088	+++2+																
Synchronized and buffered streams	P025587	+++2+																
constraint for std::is_lvalue_ref and std::is_rvalue_ref	P022235	+++2+																
More constraints for std::is_xxx	P021510	+++2+																
std::remove_cvref	P022082	+++2+		x	x													
Stringやりとゆつ	P024710	+++2+																
Utility to convert a pointer to a raw pointer	P025520	+++2+		x	x													
overload	P027340	+++2+		x														

- Contracts
- Concepts
- Ranges
- Modules
- Coroutines
- Even more constexpr
- Compile time reflection
- Metaclasses?
- Zero overhead exceptions?

Thank you 



Simplify C++! – www.arne-mertz.de



@arne_mertz



arne.mertz@zuehlke.com

emojis by [EmojiOne](#)