# C++0x Today: Features for Building Better Libraries

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#### What is C++0x?

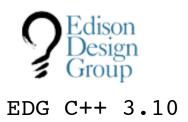
- Upcoming revision of the C++ standard
- □ Goals:
  - Make C++ easier to teach and learn
  - Make C++ a better language for systems programming and library-building
  - Maintain backward compatibility





#### C++0x Status

- ISO standardization process:
  - Feature complete in June
  - Complete draft out for voting in October
  - Rubber stamp by end of 2009 (we hope)
- Partial implementations coming online





GCC 4.3



CodeWarrior 10





#### **Ground Rules**

- Every feature I describe is in the current C++0x Working Paper (N2588)
  - Very likely to be in C++0x standard, but...
- □ Some features still might be in C++0x:
  - Concepts
  - Generalized initializer lists
  - Attributes





## A Cautionary Tale

□ The smallest addition to C++0x...

```
vector<vector<double>> matrix;
No space!
```

... breaks backward compatibility!





# C++0x Library Features: Outline

- Types and Type Deduction
- Rvalue references
- Variadic templates
- Miscellaneous features
- Moving forward...





# Types and Type Deduction

#### References:

- J. Järvi, B. Stroustrup, and G. Dos Reis. *Deducing the type of a variable from its initializer expression*. N1984=06-0054.
- J. Järvi, B. Stroustrup, and G. Dos Reis. *Decltype (revision 7): proposed wording.* N2343=07-0203.
- J. Merrill. New Function Declarator Syntax Wording. N2541=08-0051.





# Deducing a Variable's Type

Writing types can be a real drag:

```
for(std::vector<Employee>::iterator e =
   employees.begin(); e != employees.end(); ++e) {
   // Do some large operation on each employee
}
```

auto allows the deduction of a variable's type from its initializer:

```
for(auto e = employees.begin();
    e != employees.end(); ++e) {
    // Do some large operation on each employee
}
```





#### **How Does Deduction Work?**

Can use auto wherever a normal type specifier would work:

```
auto &e = employees.front();
auto *p = &employees[17];
```

auto deduction is template argument deduction:

```
template<typename AUTO> void deduce(AUTO *p);
deduce(&employees[17]);
```





#### Where Can You Use auto?

- auto can be used for
  - local variables,
  - global variables,
  - variables defined in for and if statements,
  - and in-class definitions of static data members.





#### What You Can't Do With auto

■ These aren't allowed:

```
void foo(auto x, auto y); // ill-formed

// ill-formed

template<typename T, typename U>
   auto add(T x, U y) { return x + y; }
```





# Deducing an Expression Type

- decltype(e) provides the type of an expression:
  - If e is an id-expression, decltype (e) is the type of the entity named,
  - If e is a function call, decltype(e) is the return type of the function called,
  - Otherwise, T is the type of e, and
    - □ if e is an Ivalue, decltype (e) is T&,
    - □ if e is an rvalue, decltype (e) is T





## decltype Examples

#### □ Given:

```
int& get_ith(std::vector<int>& v, int i);
int x; char c;
std::vector<int> v;
```

- We have the following deductions:
  - $\blacksquare$  decltype(x)  $\rightarrow$  int
  - $\blacksquare$  decltype(x + c)  $\rightarrow$  int
  - $decltype((x)) \rightarrow int&$
  - $decltype(get_ith(v, x)) \rightarrow int&$





# Where's My typeof?

- decltype is the C++0x answer to the
  need for typeof
- Important distinction: the type of an expression does not involve references
  - Rather, we talk about Ivalues/rvalues
- typeof(e) ==
  remove\_reference<decltype(e)>::type





# New Function Declarator Syntax

- Remember the add function, where we wanted to deduce the return type?
- Can use the new syntax for declaring functions:

```
template<typename T, typename U>
  auto add(T x, U y) -> decltype (x + y)
  {
    return x + y;
}
```





# auto Backward Compatibility

auto has lost its old meaning:

```
auto int i = 17;
```

And its really, really old meaning:

```
auto f = 3.14159;
```

 One of the few places the committee has knowingly broken compatibility





#### **Extended SFINAE Cases**

- Substitution Failure Is Not An Error is getting more powerful
  - Extended to arbitrary expressions

```
template<typename T, typename U>
  auto add(T x, U y) -> decltype (x + y); // #1
void int add(...); // #2
int C::* pm;
add(pm, pm); // okay: calls #2
```





# Recap – Types and Deduction

- Use auto to avoid writing long types
- Use decltype to determine the type of an expression
- Use the new function declarator syntax with decltype for forwarding functions
- Extended SFINAE makes more type inspection possible [\*].





#### Rvalue References

#### References:

- H. Hinnant, B. Stroustrup, B. Kozicki. *A Brief Introduction to Rvalue References*. N2027=06-0097.
- H. Hinnant, D. Abrahams, P. Dimov. *A Proposal to Add an Rvalue Reference to the C++ Language.* N1690=04-0130.
- H. Hinnant. A Proposal to Add an Rvalue Reference to the C++ Language: Proposed Wording (Revision 2). N1952=06-0022.





#### Rvalue References

- A new kind of reference (&&) that binds to rvalues. Two major uses:
  - Move semantics: allows one to "move" a value from one variable to another
  - Argument forwarding: allows one to accept any argument and forward it to another function





# **Terminology**

- Ivalue: an expression that refers to an object in memory (that has a name)
- rvalue: an expression that refers to a temporary value
- □ A reference type is T& or T&&
  - T& is an Ivalue reference type
  - T&& is an rvalue reference type





#### **Move Semantics**

#### Why is this slow?

```
struct Vector {
  float* data;
  int length;
  // ...
};
Vector operator+(Vector const& u, Vector const& v);
Vector u, v, w; // initialize u, v
  = u + v; // slow!
         We copy resources that
        will be destroyed anyway!
```





# Copy vs. Move Assignment

#### Copy assignment:

```
Vector& Vector::operator=(Vector const& v) {
  data = new float[v.length]; length = v.length;
  for (int i = 0; i < length; ++i)
   data[i] = v.data[i];
}</pre>
```

#### Move assignment:

```
Vector& Vector::operator=(Vector&& v) {
  data = v.data; length = v.length;
  v.data = 0; v.length = 0;
}
```





# Cannibalizing Temporaries

```
class Vector {
public:
    Vector(Vector const&); // copy constructor
    Vector(Vector&&); // move constructor
    Vector& operator=(Vector const&); // copy assign
    Vector& operator=(Vector&&); // move assign
};
```

#### Copy vs. move:

```
Vector u, v, w; // initialize u, v
w = u; // calls copy-assignment operator
w = u + v; // calls move-assignment operator
```





## Overloading Rvalue References

- Basic overloading rules:
  - Ivalues can bind to any kind of reference (but prefer Ivalue references)
  - rvalues can bind to an rvalue reference or a const-qualified Ivalue reference





## Overloading Examples

```
struct X {};

void f(X&&); // #1

void f(const X&); // #2

void h(X x) {
  f(X()); // both #1 and #2 apply; prefers #1
  f(x); // both #1 and #2 apply; prefers #2
}
```





#### Overloading Examples

```
struct X {};

void f(X&&); // #1

void f(const X&); // #2

void h(X x) {
  f(X()); // both #1 and #2 apply; prefers #1
  f(x); // both #1 and #2 apply; prefers #2
}
```





# Re-using Temporaries

Vector's operator+ builds temporaries

```
Vector operator+(Vector const& u, Vector const& v);
```

□ Could also "re-use" temporaries:

```
Vector operator+(Vector && u, Vector const& v) {
  for (int i = 0; i < u.length; ++i)
    u.data[i] += v.data[i];
  return std::move(u);
}</pre>
```





## Re-using Temporaries

Vector's operator+ builds temporaries

```
Vector operator+(Vector const& u, Vector const& v);
```

Could also "re-use" temporaries:

```
Vector operator+(Vector && u, Vector const& v) {
  for (int i = 0; i < u.length; ++i)
    u.data[i] += v.data[i];
  return std::move(u); // move, rather than copy, u
}</pre>
```





#### Using std::move

- Ivalues prefer to bind to Ivalue references:
  - In "return u;", u is an Ivalue
- std::move specifically says: "move this
  value"
  - In "return std::move(u);", std::move
    (u) is an rvalue
- Example forcing move-assign:

```
v = std::move(u);
```





#### Improving swap

The basic swap makes several copies:

```
template <class T>
void swap(T& a, T& b) {
   T tmp(a); // now we have two copies of a
   a = b; // now we have two copies of b
   b = tmp; // now we have two copies of tmp (aka a)
}
```





## Improving swap

Improved swap moves the values:

```
template <class T>
void swap(T& a, T& b) {
  T tmp(std::move(a));
  a = std::move(b);
  b = std::move(tmp);
}
```





# Move-Only Types: unique ptr

```
template<typename T>
class unique ptr {
  unique ptr (unique ptr const&);
  unique ptr& operator=(unique ptr const&);
  T* ptr;
public:
  unique ptr() : ptr(0) { }
  explicit unique ptr(T* ptr) : ptr(ptr) { }
  ~unique ptr() { delete ptr; }
  unique ptr(unique ptr&& other);
  unique ptr& operator=(unique ptr&& other);
};
```





#### Aside: deleted functions

```
template<typename T>
class unique ptr {
  unique ptr (unique ptr const&) = delete;
  unique ptr& operator=(unique ptr const&) = delete;
  T* ptr;
public:
  unique ptr() : ptr(0) { }
  explicit unique ptr(T* ptr) : ptr(ptr) { }
  ~unique ptr() { delete ptr; }
  unique ptr(unique ptr&& other);
  unique ptr& operator=(unique ptr&& other);
};
```





## unique ptr implementation

Move constructor:

```
unique_ptr::unique_ptr(unique_ptr&& x) : ptr(x.ptr)
{ x.ptr = 0; }
```

Copy constructor:

```
unique_ptr& unique_ptr::operator=(unique_ptr&& x) {
  delete ptr;
  ptr = x.ptr;
  x.ptr = 0;
  return *this;
}
```





# "Perfect" Forwarding

□ Task: try to write a function "forward" that forwards two of its arguments to a function object f:

```
template<class F, class T1, class T2>
void forward(F f, T1 const& a1, T2 const& a2) {
  f(a1, a2);
}
```

- Several problems here:
  - Non-const Ivalues become const
  - Rvalues become const lvalues





# Perfect Forwarding

Rvalue references allow perfect forwarding:

```
template<class F, class T1, class T2>
void forward(F f, T1&& a1, T2&& a2) {
   f(std::forward<T1>(a1), std::forward<T2>(a2));
}
```

Uses special template argument deduction rules for T1 & &, T2 & &, reference collapsing





# **Template Argument Deduction**

- □ A function parameter of type T&& has special deduction rules:
  - Let X by the type of the argument
  - If the argument is an Ivalue, T is X &
  - Otherwise, T is X.

#### Example:

```
template<class T1, class T2> void f(T1&&, T2&&);
void g(X x) { f(x, X(); }

T1 is X&, T2 is X
```





# Reference Collapsing

Reference collapsing occurs during instantiation:

```
template<typename T> struct X { typedef T& type; };
```

- X<int&>::type will result in int&
- Rvalue reference collapsing rules:
  - A& & → A&
  - A&& & → A&
  - A& && → A&
  - $\blacksquare$  A&& &&  $\rightarrow$  A&&





# Perfect Forwarding Revisted

Rvalue references allow perfect forwarding:

```
template<class F, class T1, class T2>
void forward(F f, T1&& a1, T2&& a2) {
   f(std::forward<T1>(a1), std::forward<T2>(a2));
}
```

- How it works:
  - Template argument deduction determines types
  - Reference collapsing makes actual parameter type match the argument and its I/r-valueness
  - std::forward keeps the I/r-valueness





# Perfect Forwarding Is Imperfect

- Forwarding preserves:
  - object type, including const, volatile
  - I/r-valueness
  - address of the object (no copies)
- Forwarding does not preserve the value of integral constant expressions

```
void f(int*);
template<class T> void g(T&& t) {f(std::forward<T>(t));}
g(0); // error: can't initialize an int* with an int
```





#### std::forward and std::move

Forward forwards an argument:

```
template <class T> struct identity
  { typedef T type; };
template <class T>
  T&& forward(typename identity<T>::type&& a)
  { return a; }
```

Move turns an argument into an rvalue:

```
template <class T>
  typename remove_reference<T>::type&& move(T&& a)
  { return a; }
```





#### Rvalue references recap

- □ Reference binding rules:
  - An rvalue reference (& &) binds to rvalues
  - Lvalue references prefer lvalues, rvalue references prefer rvalues
- Use std::move to treat values as rvalues
- Use std::forward for perfect
  forwarding





#### Variadic Templates

#### References:

- D. Gregor. A Brief Introduction to Variadic Templates. N2087=06-0157.
- D. Gregor, J. Järvi, and G. Powell. Variadic Templates (Revision 3). N2080=06-0150.
- D. Gregor, J. Järvi, J. Maurer, and J. Merrill. *Proposed Wording for Variadic Templates (Revision 2)*. N2242=07-0102.





# Parameterization in Templates

- Most templates have a fixed set of parameters:
  - vector<T, Allocator>
  - copy<InputIterator, OutputIterator>
  - pair<T1, T2>
- What about Boost's tuple?
  - tuple<>
  - tuple<int>
  - tuple<char, float, string>





## Tuple, In Brief

■ tuple is a generalized pair:

```
tuple<string, int, double> t("Hello", 17, 3.14);
```

Data access is through get:

```
get<0>(t) == "Hello"
get<1>(t) == 17
```

□ tie() helps with multiple return values:

```
tuple<float, float> statistics(vector<float>);
tie(mean, stddev) = statistics(grades);
```





# Implementing tuple, Today





# Problems with Today's tuple

- Usability problems:
  - Fixed upper limit on number of arguments
  - Poor error messages:

```
"tuple<int, float, unused, unused, unused, unused, unused, unused, unused, unused, unused> has no member 'foo'"
```

- Code repetition -> longer compile times
- Other parts of Boost/TR1 have the same problems.





## Variadic Templates

- Naturally express templates that accept a variable number of template arguments.
- Benefits:
  - More general way to accept an arbitrary number of template arguments
  - Allows perfect argument forwarding, "inheriting" constructors, etc.
  - Eliminates most preprocessor metaprogramming





# A Variadic Tuple

```
template<typename ... Elements>
struct tuple;
```

- A parameter pack is a new kind of entity
  - Template parameter packs bind to zero or more template arguments
  - Introduced with the ellipsis "..." to the left of the parameter name.
  - Think of it as "typename T1, typename T2, ..., typename TN"





# Parameter Pack Binding

```
template<typename ... Elements>
struct tuple { };
```

#### tuple accepts any number of type arguments





# Length of a Tuple

#### Declaration

template<typename Tuple>
 struct tuple length;

#### **Basis Case**

```
template<>
struct tuple_length<tuple<> > {
public:
   static const int value = 0;
};
```

#### Recursive Case

```
template<typename Head, typename ... Tail>
struct tuple_length<tuple<Head, Tail ...> > {
public:
    static const int value =
    1 + tuple_length<tuple<Tail ...> >::value;
}:
```





## Pack Expansions

```
template<typename Head, typename ... Tail>
struct tuple_length<tuple<Head, Tail ...> > {
public:
    static const int value =
    1 + tuple_length<tuple<Tail ...> >::value;
};
```

- The ellipsis "..." to the right of an argument indicates a pack expansion
  - A pack expansion "unpacks" a parameter pack into separate arguments.
  - Think of it as "T1, T2, ..., TN"





## Unraveling tuple length

- □ Given tuple<short, int, long>:
  - Recursive case: Head=short, Tail=int, long
  - result is 1 + length of tuple<int, long>
    - □ Recursive case: Head=int, Tail = long
    - result is 1 + length of tuple<int>
      - **Recursive case**: Head=long, Tail is empty
      - result is 1 + length of tuple<>
        - Basis case: result = 0





## Recursive Data Storage

■ Basis case:

```
template<> struct tuple<> { };
```

Recursive case:

```
template<typename Head, typename... Tail>
struct tuple<Head, Tail...> : tuple<Tail...>
{
   Head head;
};
```





## Fun with Pack Expansions

- Pack expansions apply to an entire template argument
  - Tail... expands to T1, T2, ..., TN
  - Tail&... expands to T1&, T2&, ..., TN&
  - typename add\_reference<Tail>::type...
    expands to

```
typename add_reference<T1>::type,
typename add_reference<T2>::type,
...
typename add_reference<TN>::type
```





## Tuple of References

From tuple of types, let's build a tuple of references to those types:

```
template<typename Tuple>
    struct add_references;

template<typename... Elements>
struct add_references<tuple<Elements...>> {
    typedef tuple<Elements& ...> type;
};
```





## Sequence Transform

#### Used to transform sequences:

```
transform<add_reference, tuple<short, int, long>>
::type
```

#### becomes

```
tuple<short&, int&, long&>
```





## **Tuple Transform**

```
template<template<class T> class Metafun,
         typename Sequence>
  struct transform;
template<template<class T> class Metafun,
         typename... Elements>
  struct transform < Metafun,
                   tuple<Elements...>> {
    typedef
      tuple<typename Metafun<Elements>::type...>
        type;
  };
```





# Zipping Tuples

Turn two tuples into a tuple of pairs:

```
zip<tuple<short, int>, tuple<float, double>>::type
   becomes

tuple<pair<short, float>, pair<int, double>>

Implementation:

template<typename, typename> struct zip;

template<typename... Elems1, typename... Elems2>
   struct zip<tuple<Elems1...>, tuple<Elem2...> > {
      typedef tuple<pair<Elems1, Elems2>...> type;
```



**}**;



#### **Quick Review**

- An ellipsis to the left of a template parameter indicates a parameter pack
  - Template parameter packs bind to multiple template arguments
- An ellipsis to the right of a template argument indicates a pack expansion
  - Template argument pack expansions expand into multiple template arguments





# Variadic Function Templates?

Say we want to write a simple function that prints all of its arguments:

```
print("Hello", 17, std::string("World"));
```

- Today's solutions are poor:
  - Overloaded templates for each number of arguments
  - 2. C-style varargs
  - 3. Operator overloading tricks





#### **Function Parameter Packs**

```
template<typename... Args>
  void print(Args const&... args);
```

- □ A function parameter pack:
  - Accepts zero or more function arguments
  - Is introduced by an ellipsis to the left of the function parameter name
  - Has a type that involves one or more template parameter packs





# **Printing Arguments**

```
Basis Case
void print() { }
```

```
Recursive Case

template<typename First, typename... Rest>

void print(First const& first, Rest const&... rest)

{
   std::cout << first;
   print(rest...);
}</pre>
```





## Inheriting Constructors

```
class EmployeeRoster : public std::list<Employee> {
   typedef std::list<Employee> inherited;
public:
```

};





## Inheriting Constructors

```
class EmployeeRoster : public std::list<Employee> {
  typedef std::list<Employee> inherited;
public:
  template<typename T1>
    explicit EmployeeRoster(const T1& a1)
      : inherited(a1) { }
  template<typename T1, typename T2>
    EmployeeRoster(const T1& a1, const T2& a2)
      : inherited(a1, a2) { }
};
```





## Inheriting Constructors

```
class EmployeeRoster : public std::list<Employee> {
  typedef std::list<Employee> inherited;
public:
  template<typename ... Args>
    explicit EmployeeRoster(const Args&... args)
      : inherited(args ...) { }
};
```





# Perfect Forwarding

■ Use rvalue references:

... with variadic templates:

```
template<typename ... Args>
  explicit EmployeeRoster(Args&& ... args)
  : inherited(std::forward<Args>(args)...) { }
```





# Perfect Forwarding Function

Rvalue references and variadic templates and decltype... oh my!

```
template<typename F, typename... Args>
auto forward(F& f, Args&&... args)
     -> decltype(f(std::forward<Args>(args)...))
{
    return f(std::forward<Args>(args)...);
}
```





# Where Can We Unpack? (1/2)

- In an argument to a template:
  - tuple<Args...>
- In an argument to a function:
  - print(args...)
- In a function type's parameter list:
  - R (\*) (Args...)
- □ In a special sizeof expression:
  - sizeof…(Args)





# Where Can We Unpack? (2/2)

- In a base class list:
  - class MyClass : public Mixins...
- In a base-class initializer list:
  - my\_class(Args... args)
    : Mixins(args)...
- □ In a throw specifier:
  - throw (Exceptions...)
- In an initializer list:
  - $\blacksquare$  any array[] = { args... };





# Review: Variadic Templates

- Use variadic templates to eliminate repeated template parameters
  - Ellipsis to the left of a parameter name is a parameter pack
  - Ellipsis to the right of an argument is a pack expansion





# Miscellaneous Features





#### Static Assertions

- Statically check that a certain condition is true
  - If not, provide a custom error message

```
template<typename RAIter>
void sort(RAIter first, RAIter last) {
    static_assert(is_convertible<
        iterator_traits<RAIter>::iterator_category,
        random_access_iteratr_tag
    >::value,
    "Iterators are not Random Access Iterators");
}
```





# **Explicit Conversion Operations**

User-defined conversion operators have always been implicit conversions:

```
template<typename T> struct shared_ptr {
  operator bool() const;
};
shared_ptr<int> p;
if (p) { ... } // we like this
p + 17; // we don't like this
```

- They can now be explicit:
  - explicit operator bool() const;





## Delegating Constructors

Classes with several constructors often need to duplicate initialization logic:

```
struct Rectangle {
  float left, top, right, bottom;
  float area;
  Rectangle(float l, float t, float r, float b)
    : left(l), top(t), right(r), bottom(b),
        area((right-left) * (bottom-top)) { }
  Rectangle(Point lt, Point rb)
    : left(lt.x), top(lt.y), right(rb.x), bottom(rb.y),
        area((rb.x - lt.x) * (rb.y - lt.y)) { }
};
```





## Delegating Constructors

Delegating constructors allow one constructor to call another:

```
struct Rectangle {
  float left, top, right, bottom;
  float area;
  Rectangle(float l, float t, float r, float b)
    : left(l), top(t), right(r), bottom(b),
        area((right-left) * (bottom-top)) { }
    Rectangle(Point lt, Point rb)
    : Rectangle(lt.x, lt.y, rb.x, rb.y) { }
};
```





# Inheriting Constructors

- Subclassing inherits all of the members of the base class... except constructors.
- Inheriting constructors allows one to explicitly inherit constructors. Example:

```
class EmployeeList : public std::vector<Employee> {
  public:
    using std::vector<Employee>::vector;
    double giveRaise(double percent);
    // inherits push_back(), begin(), etc. from vector
};
```





#### **Defaulted Functions**

- C++ provides default definitions for special class members
  - What does struct X { }; contain?
- To be explicit, one can now explicitly request default implementations:

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





## Template Aliases

Like a typedef, but for templates:

```
template<typename T>
  using ArenaVector
  = vector<T, ArenaAllocator<T>>;
```

The same syntax works for types:

```
using string = basic_string<char>;
```





# Summary and Recap

- auto and decltype allow the deduction of types from expressions
- Improved SFINAE for compile-time inspection
- Rvalue references enable move semantics and perfect forwarding
- Variadic templates eliminate preprocessor metaprogramming





# Preparing for C++0x

- □ If you are using GCC 4.3 or newer
  - Compile with –Wc++0x-compat
  - Play with –std=gnu++0x
- □ Libraries should move to C++0x first:
  - C++0x feature detection macros in Boost
  - Expect side-by-side C++98/C++0x implementations
- "Boost.Fusion using C++0x" workshop





## Questions?







## Lambda Expressions/Closures

- Lambdas allow the construction of function objects with little syntax
- Useful, e.g., for using generic algorithms:





# Lambda Expressions/Closures

- Lambdas can have state (making them closures)
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#### More on Capture Lists

- The [brackets] in a lambda contains a capture list, containing:
  - Optional default capture:
    - & for reference capture
    - = for copy capture
  - Optional, comma-separated capture list:
    - &var: capture var by reference
    - var: capture var by value
    - this: capture the this pointer
  - Example: [&, min\_salary, this, &employees]



