Debugging and Profiling C++ Template Metaprograms

Zoltán Porkoláb^{1,2}
Zoltán Borók-Nagy¹
József Mihalicza²

¹ Ericsson Hungary
 ² Eötvös Loránd University

Agenda

- C++ Template Metaprogramming
- Possible debugging and profiling techiques
- Templight back-end tool
- Front-end tools
- Vision

Metaprogramming

"Metaprogramming is the writing of computer programs that write or manipulate other programs (or themselves) as their data, or that do part of the work at compile time that would otherwise be done at runtime."

Wikipedia

```
template <int N>
struct Factorial
  enum { value = Factorial<N-1>::value * N };
};
template <>
struct Factorial<0>
  enum { value = 1 };
int main()
  const int fact5 = Factorial<5>::value;
```

- Optimalisation, compile-time adaption
- Expression templates
- Static interface checking
- Simulating language extensions
- DSL embedding
- Many other areas ...

```
// pre C++11 code
template <class T, class S>
? max( T a, S b)
    if (a > b)
        return a;
    else
        return b;
int main()
    short is = 3; long il = 2; double d = 3.14;
    cout << max( il, is);</pre>
    cout << max( is, d);</pre>
```

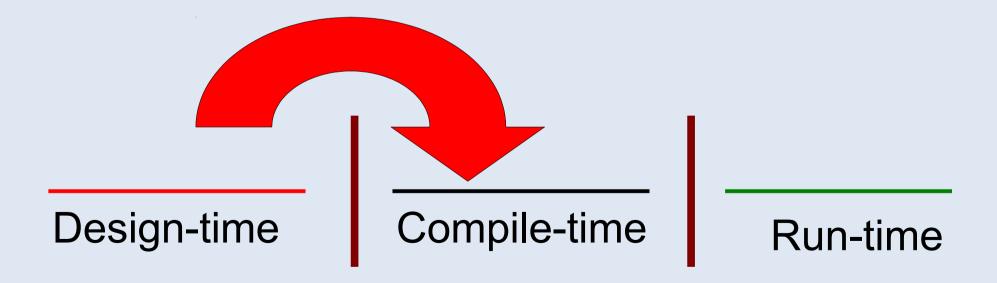
Compile-time

Run-time

```
// pre C++11 code
template <class T, class S>
? max( T a, S b)
    if (a > b)
        return a;
    else
        return b;
int main()
    short is = 3; long il = 2; double d = 3.14;
    cout << max( il, is);</pre>
    cout << max( is, d);</pre>
```

Design-time Compile-time Run-time

```
template <book condition, class Then, class Else>
struct IF
   typedef Then RET;
template <class Then, class Else>
struct IF<false, Then, Else>
{
    typedef Else RET;
};
// we can be much more clever than this
template <class T, class S>
IF<sizeof(T)<sizeof(S),S,T>::RET max( T a, S b)
    if (a > b)
        return a;
    else
        return b;
```



Run-time

Run-time

- Functions
- Values, literals
- Data structures
- If/else
- Loop
- Assignment
- May depend on input

Run-time

- Functions
- Values, literals
- Data structures
- If/else
- Loop
- Assignment
- May depend on input

- Metafunctions (type)
- Const, enum, constexpr
- Typelist (type)
- Pattern matching
- Recursion
- Ref. Transparency
- Deterministic

Pretty good support for run-time C++

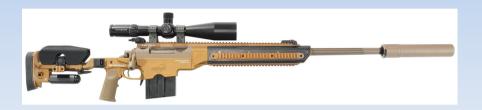
- Pretty good support for run-time C++
 - Static analyzers, lint-like tools
 - Debuggers
 - Profilers
 - Code comprehension tools
 - Style checkers

- Pretty good support for run-time C++
 - Static analyzers, lint-like tools
 - Debuggers
 - Profilers
 - Code comprehension tools
 - Style checkers
- Tools for template metaprogramming

- Pretty good support for run-time C++
 - Static analyzers, lint-like tools
 - Debuggers
 - Profilers
 - Code comprehension tools
 - Style checkers
- Tools for template metaprogramming
 - ?

Run-time

Run-time



Run-time





Run-time







Run-time









Why we need tools?

- C++ syntax is not for metaprogramming
- Compilers are not optimised for detecting and reporting template metaprogram errors
- Compilers are not optimised for template metaprogram execution
- Compiler internals are black box for programmers
- Programmers have less experience with template metaprograms

```
template <int N>
struct Factorial
 enum { value = Factorial<N-1>::value * N };
template <>
struct Factorial<0>
 enum { value = 1 };
int main()
 const int fact5 = Factorial<5>::value;
```

Bugs!



```
template <int N>
struct Factorial
  enum { value = Factorial<N-1>::value * N };
template <>
struct Factorial<0>
  enum { value = 1 };
} //;
int max()
  const int fact5 = Factorial<5>::value;
```

```
template <int N>
struct Factorial
                                 $ clang++ fact2.cpp
                                 fact2.cpp:14:2: error: expected ';' after class
  enum { value = Factoria
                                  1 error generated.
template <>
struct Factorial<0>
  enum { value = 1 };
} //;
int mark
  const int fact5 = Factorial<5>::value;
```

```
template <int N>
struct Factorial
  enum { value = Factorial<N-1>::value * N };
template <>
struct Factorial<0>
  enum { ivalue = 1 };
int main()
  const int fact5 = Factorial<5>::value;
```

```
template <int N>
struct Factorial
  enum { value = Factoria
template <>
struct Factorial<0>
  enum { ivalue = 1 };
int main()
  const int fact5 = Facto
```

```
$ clang++ fact6.cpp
fact6.cpp:5:34: error: no member named 'value' in 'Factorial<0>'
 enum { value = Factorial<N-1>::value * N };
fact6.cpp:5:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<1>'
   requested here
 enum { value = Factorial<N-1>::value * N };
fact6.cpp:5:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<2>'
   requested here
 enum { value = Factorial<N-1>::value * N };
fact6.cpp:5:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<3>'
   requested here
 enum { value = Factorial<N-1>::value * N };
fact6.cpp:5:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<4>'
    requested here
 enum { value = Factorial<N-1>::value * N };
fact6.cpp:16:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>'
   requested here
 const int fact5 = Factorial<5>::value;
1 error generated.
```

```
template <int N>
struct Factorial
  enum { value = Factorial<N-1>::value * N };
template <>
struct Factorial<0>
  enum { value = 1 };
int main()
 const int fact5 = Factorial<-5>::value;
```

```
template <int N>
struct Factorial
};
template <>
struct Factorial<0>
  enum { value = 1 };
int main()
  const int fact5 = Facto
```

```
$ clang++ fact4.cpp
                                            fact4.cpp:6:18: fatal error: recursive template instantiation exceeded
                                             maximum
                                                depth of 512
                                              enum { value = Factorial<N-1>::value * N };
enum { value = Factoria fact4.cpp:6:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<-517>'
                                                requested here
                                              enum { value = Factorial<N-1>::value * N };
                                             Fact4.cpp:6:18: note: (skipping 503 contexts in backtrace; use
                                                -ftemplate-backtrace-limit=0 to see all)
                                             fact4.cpp:18:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<-5>'
                                                requested here
                                              const int fact5 = Factorial<-5>::value;
                                             fact4.cpp:6:18: note: use -ftemplate-depth=N to increase recursive
                                             template
                                                instantiation depth
                                              enum { value = Factorial<N-1>::value * N };
                                             1 error generated.
```

\$ clang++ -ftemplate-depth=10000 fact4.cpp

```
template <int N>
struct Factorial
  enum { value = Factoria
template <>
struct Factorial<0>
  enum { value = 1 };
int main()
  const int fact5 = Factorial<-5>::value;
```

\$ clang++ -ftemplate-depth=10000 fact4.cpp

clang: error: unable to execute command: Segmentation fault

```
clang: error: clang frontend command failed due to signal (use -v to
                                        see invocation)
                                        clang version 3.2 (branches/release 32 180710)
template <int N>
                                        Target: x86 64-unknown-linux-gnu
                                        Thread model: posix
struct Factorial
                                        clang: note: diagnostic msg: PLEASE submit a bug report to
                                        http://llvm.org/bugs/ and include the crash backtrace, preprocessed
                                        source, and associated run script.
   enum { value = Factoria
                                        clang: note: diagnostic msg:
template <>
                                        PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING FILES TO THE BUG REPORT:
struct Factorial<0>
                                        Preprocessed source(s) and associated run script(s) are located at:
                                        clang: note: diagnostic msg: /tmp/fact4-iy6zKp.cpp
                                        clang: note: diagnostic msg: /tmp/fact4-iy6zKp.sh
   enum { value = 1 };
                                        clang: note: diagnostic msg:
int main()
   const int fact5 = Factorial<-5>::value;
}
```

Related

Debugging

- Static assert/Concept check (Siek-Lumsdaine, McNamara-Smaragdakis, Alexandrescu, others...)
- Warning generation (many)
- Instrumentation

Profiling

- Measuring full compilation (Gurtovoy-Abrahams)
- Measuring warning apperance (Watanabe)

Visualize

- Source execution
- Instantiation graph

Run-time

- Running time
- Call stack
- Interactive

Run-time vs. Compile time

Run-time

- Running time
- Call stack
- Interactive

Compile-time

- Compilation time
- Instantiation chain
- Simulated interactive

Run-time vs. Compile time

Run-time

- Running time
- Call stack
- Interactive

Compile-time

- Compilation time
- Instantiation chain
- Simulated interactive
- Forward/backward step by step execution
- Break points
- Filters: eliminate unwanted events
- Visualization: source code + instantiations

```
static int w(char *) { return 1; }
template <int N>
struct Factorial
  enum { begin = sizeof(w("")) };
  enum { value = Factorial<N-1>::value * N };
  enum { end = sizeof(w("")) };
};
template <>
struct Factorial<0>
  enum { begin = sizeof(w("")) };
  enum { value = 1 };
  enum { end = sizeof(w("")) };
};
int main()
  const int fact5 = Factorial<5>::value;
```

static int w(chan *) { nature 1. }

```
template <int N
struct Factoria
  enum { begin
  enum { value
  enum { end =
};
template <>
struct Factoria
  enum { begin
  enum { value
  enum { end =
int main()
  const int fac
```

\$ clang++ factw.cpp 2>&1 | grep -v "\^" | grep -v warning | grep -v enum | grep -v const

factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<4>' requested here factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<3>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<4>' requested here factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<2>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<3>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<4>' requested here factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<1>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<2>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<3>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<4>' requested here factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<2>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<3>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<4>' requested here factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<3>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<4>' requested here factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<4>' requested here factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here

static int w(char *) { return 1. }

```
template <int N
struct Factoria
  enum { begin
  enum { value
  enum { end =
};
template <>
struct Factoria
  enum { begin
  enum { value
  enum { end =
int main()
  const int fac
```

\$ clang++ factw.cpp 2>&1 | grep -v "\^" | grep -v warning | grep -v enum | grep -v const

factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<4>' requested here factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<3>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<4>' requested here factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<2>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<3>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<4>' requested here factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<1>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<2>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<3>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<4>' requested here factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<2>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<3>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<4>' requested here factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<3>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<4>' requested here factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<4>' requested here factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here

```
static int w(ch
                         $ clang++ factw.cpp 2>&1 | grep -v "\^" | grep -v warning | grep -v enum | grep -v const
template <int N
                         factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here
struct Factoria
                         factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<4>' requested here
   enum { begin
                         factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<3>' requested here
          { value
   enum
   enum { end =
                         factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<2>' requested here
};
template <>
                         factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<1>' requested here
struct Factoria
   enum { begin
           { value
   enum
                         factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<2>' requested here
   enum { end = }
};
                         factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<3>' requested here
int main()
                         factw.cpp:8:18: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<4>' requested here
   const int fac
                         factw.cpp:23:21: note: in instantiation of template class 'Factorial<5>' requested here
```

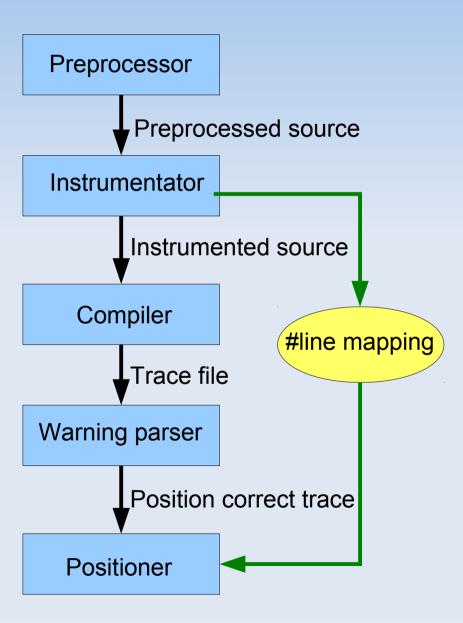
Some history

- GPCE 2006, Portland:
 - Porkoláb, Mihalicza, Sipos:

Debugging C++ template metaprograms

- Templight 1.0
- Based on warning injection

Templight 1.0



```
template<int i>
struct Factorial
    ----- begin inserted ----- */
struct TEMPLIGHT 0s { int a; };
enum { TEMPLIGHT 0 =
Templight::ReportTemplateBegin< TEMPLIGHT 0s,
& TEMPLIGHT 0s::a>::Value
enum { value = Factorial<i-1>::value };
/* ----- begin inserted ----- */
struct TEMPLIGHT 1s { int a; };
enum { TEMPLIGHT 1 =
Templight::ReportTemplateEnd<_TEMPLIGHT_1s,
& TEMPLIGHT 1s::a>::Value
 * ----- */
template<>
struct Factorial<1>
/* ----- begin inserted ----- */
struct TEMPLIGHT 2s { int a; };
enum { TEMPLIGHT 2 =
Templight::ReportTemplateBegin< TEMPLIGHT 2s,
& TEMPLIGHT 2s::a>::Value
/* ----- */
enum { value = 1 };
/* ----- begin inserted ----- */
struct _TEMPLIGHT_3s { int a; };
enum { TEMPLIGHT 3 =
Templight::ReportTemplateEnd<
TEMPLIGHT 3s, & TEMPLIGHT 3s::a>::Value
/* ----- end inserted ----- */
```

Advantages of instrumentation

- Light-way approach
 - (compared to compiler hack)
 - We used wave
- Easier to port
 - Just change the warning generator source
 - But significant differencies between compilers

Issues with instrumentation

- Parsing
- Memoization
- Inheritance
- Not easy to port the warning generator
- No profiling information
 - Collecting and timestamping warnings are delayed
 - Warning generation is costly

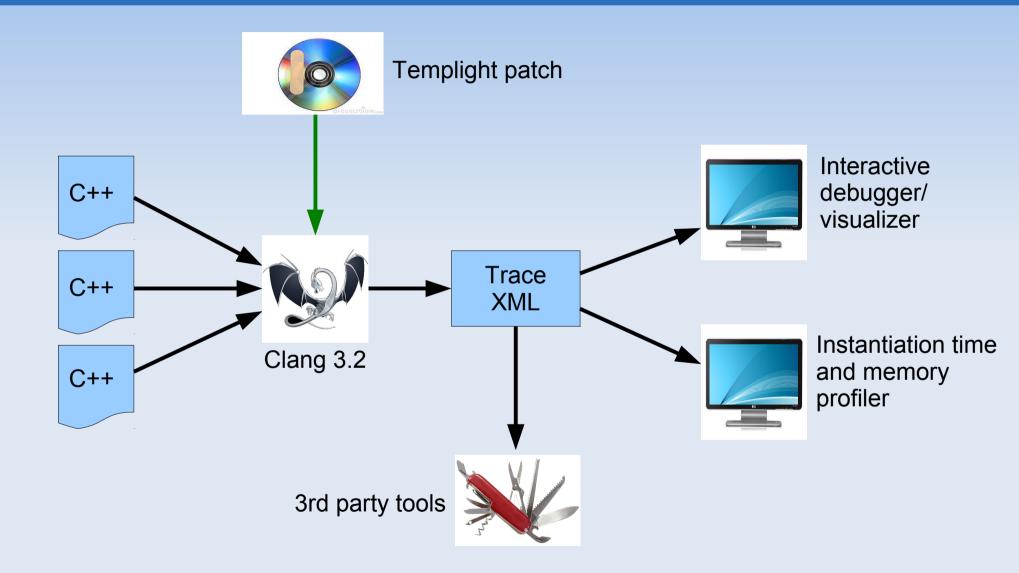
Compiler support

Good quality template metaprogram debugger and profiler requires compiler support!

Templight 2.0

- Based on Clang 3.2
- Patch to
 - Detect/measure instantiation
 - Detect memoization
 - Measure memory consumption (optional)
 - Put timestamp on events
- Emit trace in XML format
- Front-end tools
 - Visual debugger
 - Profiler data viewer

Templight 2.0



Installation

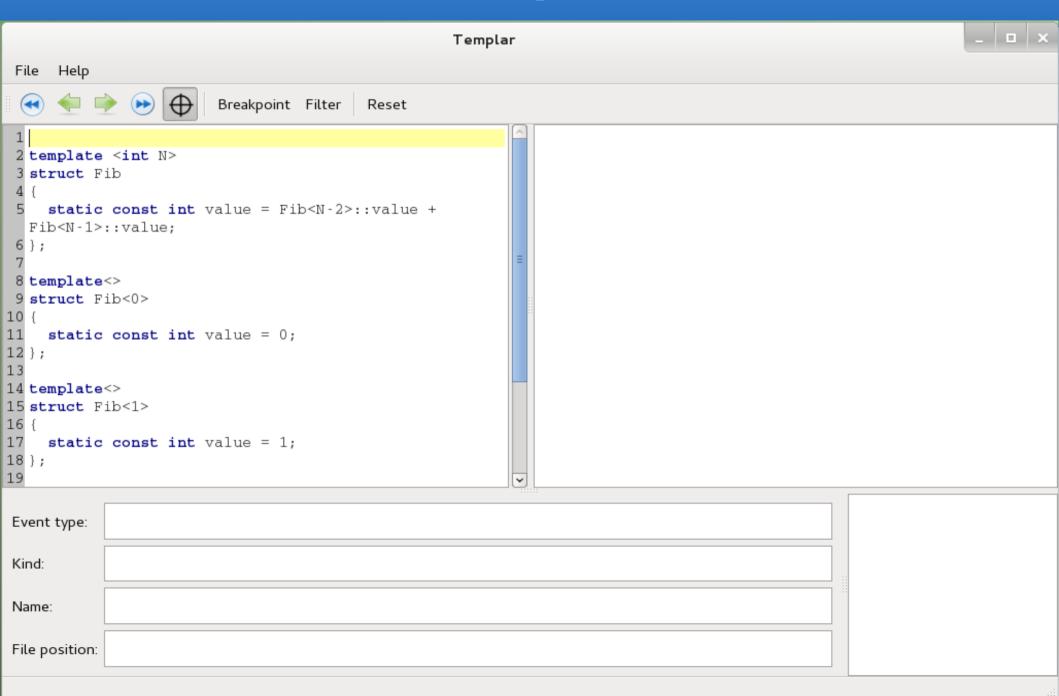
- Visit http://plc.inf.elte.hu/templight
- Download templight-<timestamp>.tar.gz
 - Contains clang patch and the two frontends
- Download Clang 3.2
- Patch and build clang
- Build front-end tools (optional)
 - >=Qt 4.6 and >=Graphviz 2.28.0 required
 - \$ qmake; make

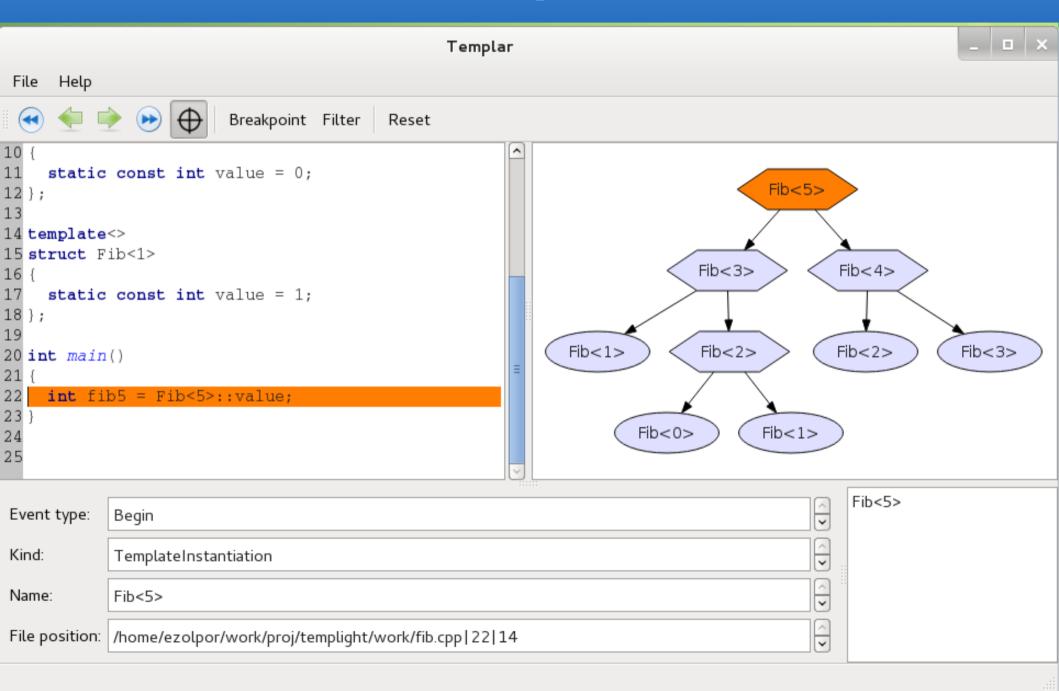
How to use

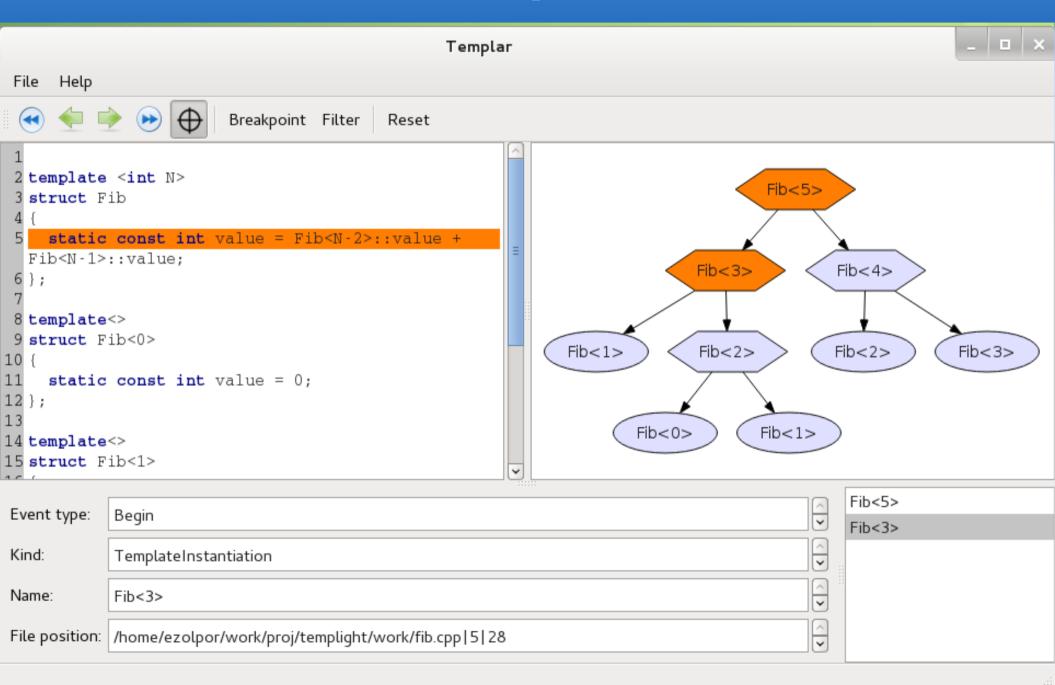
```
struct Fib
  static const int value = Fib<N-2>::value + Fib<N-1>::value;
template<>
struct Fib<0>
  static const int value = 0;
template<>
struct Fib<1>
  static const int value = 1;
int main()
  static const int fib5 = Fib<5>::value;
```

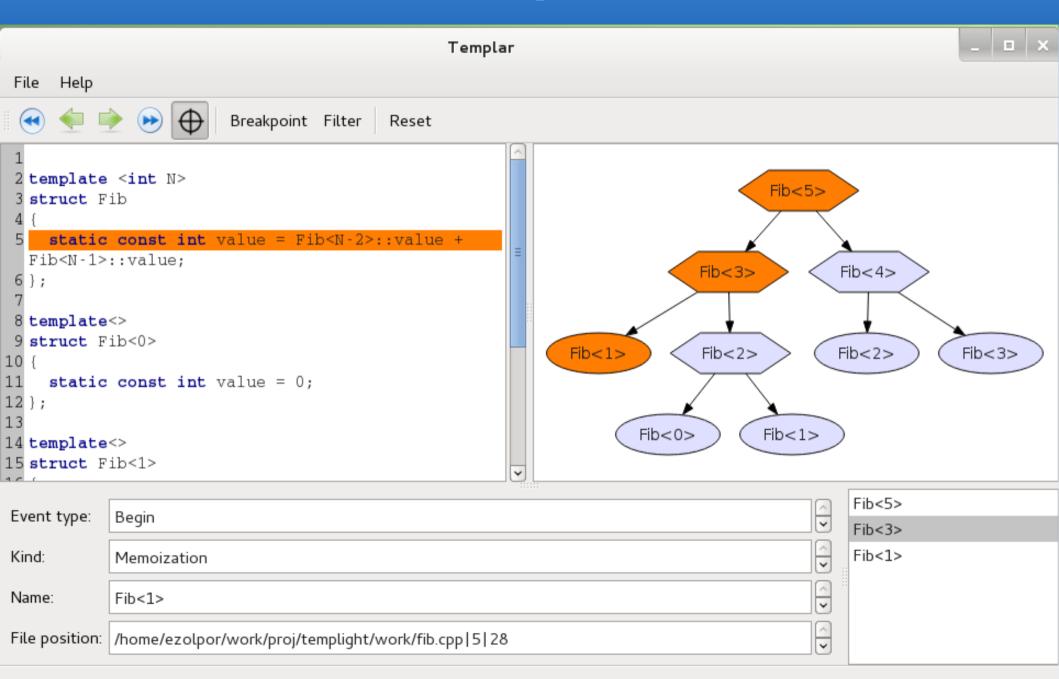
How to use

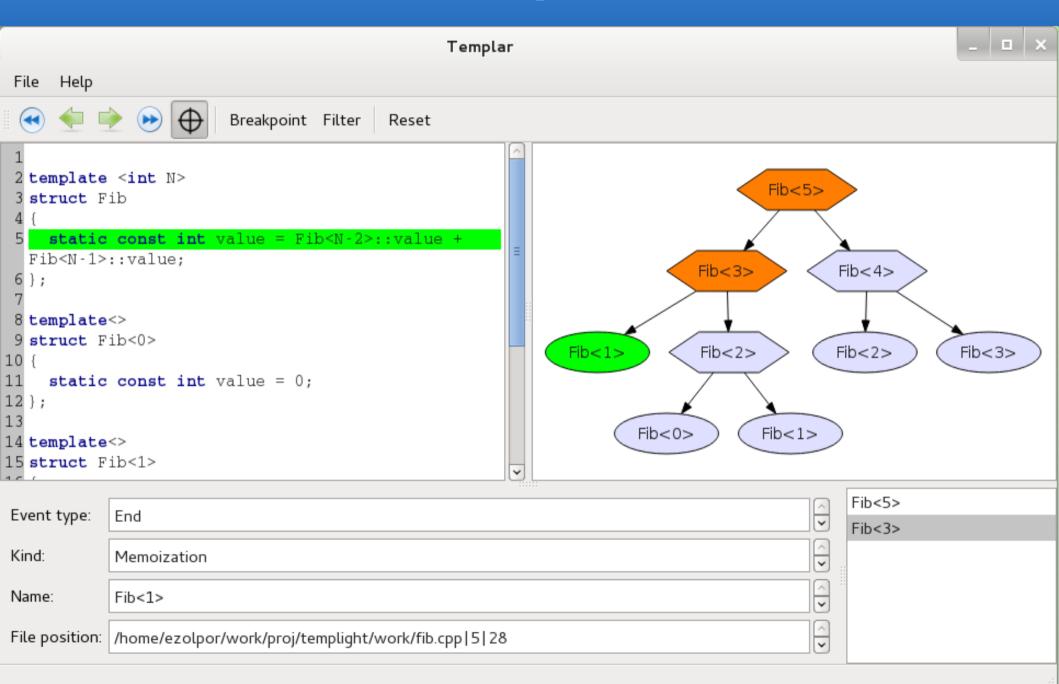
```
$ clang++ -templight fib.cpp
$ ls
fib.cpp.trace.xml
$ wc fib.cpp.trace.xml
$ head fib.cpp.trace.xml
<?xml version="1.0" standalone="yes"?>
<Trace>
<TemplateBegin>
   <Kind>TemplateInstantiation</Kind>
   <Context context = "Fib&lt;5&gt;"/>
   <PointOfInstantiation>fib.cpp|22|14</PointOfInstantiation>
   <TimeStamp time = "421998401.188854"/>
   <MemoryUsage bytes = "0"/>
</TemplateBegin>
<TemplateBegin>
```

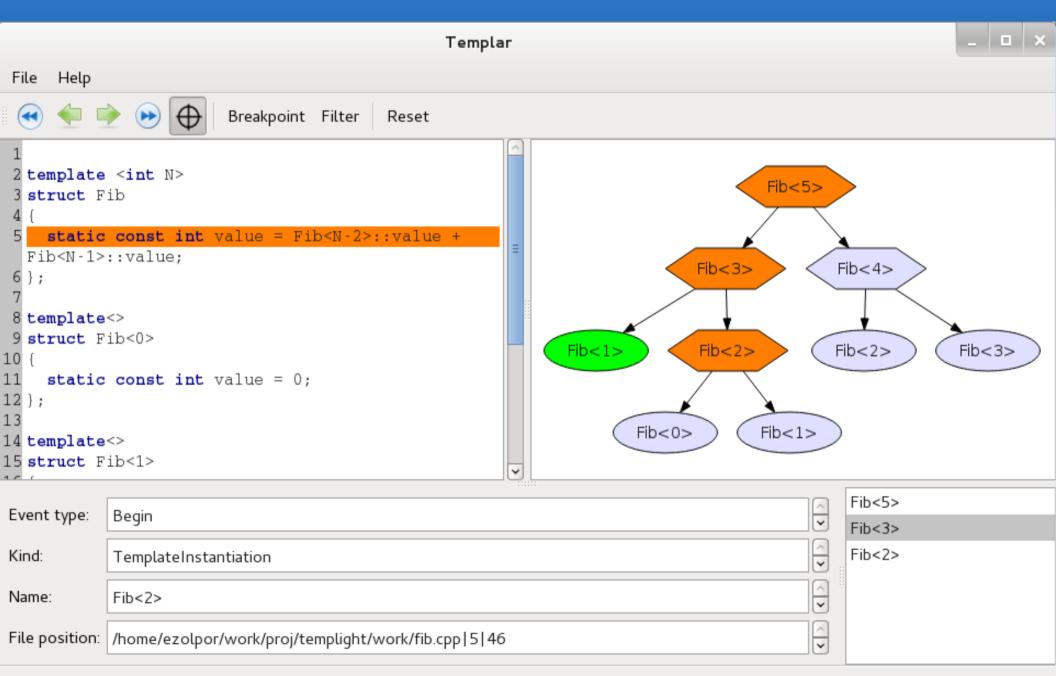


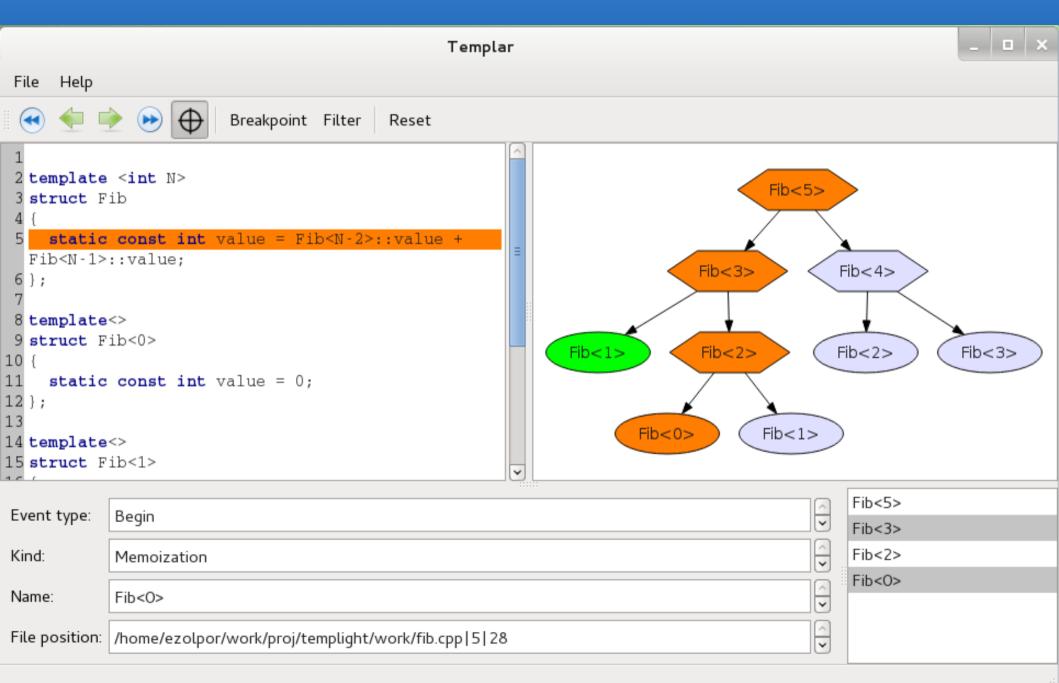


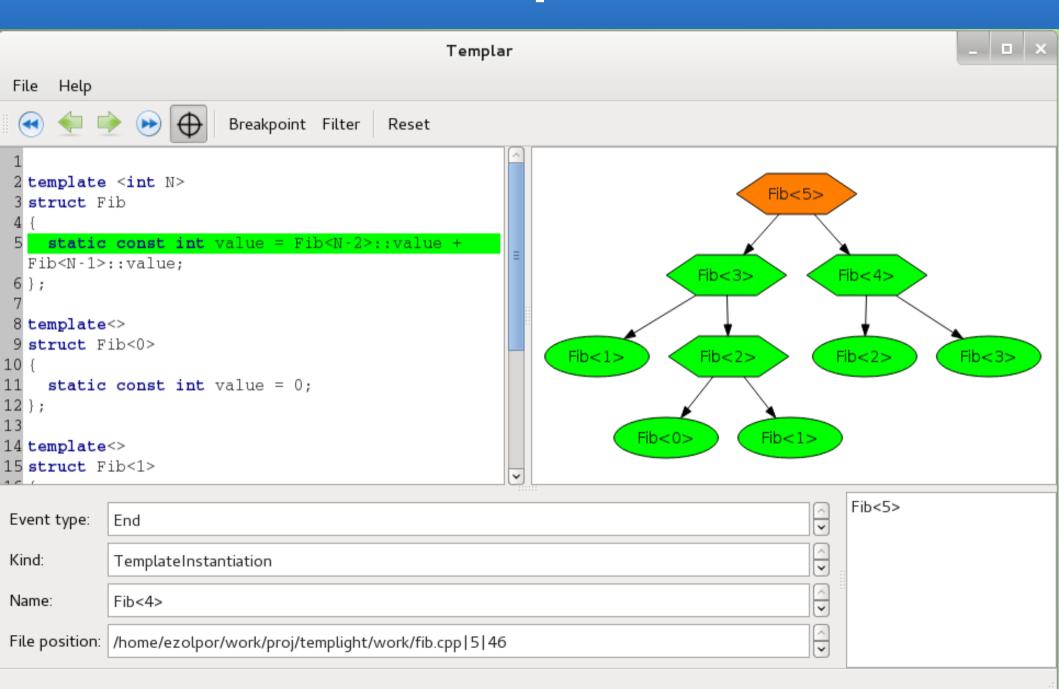


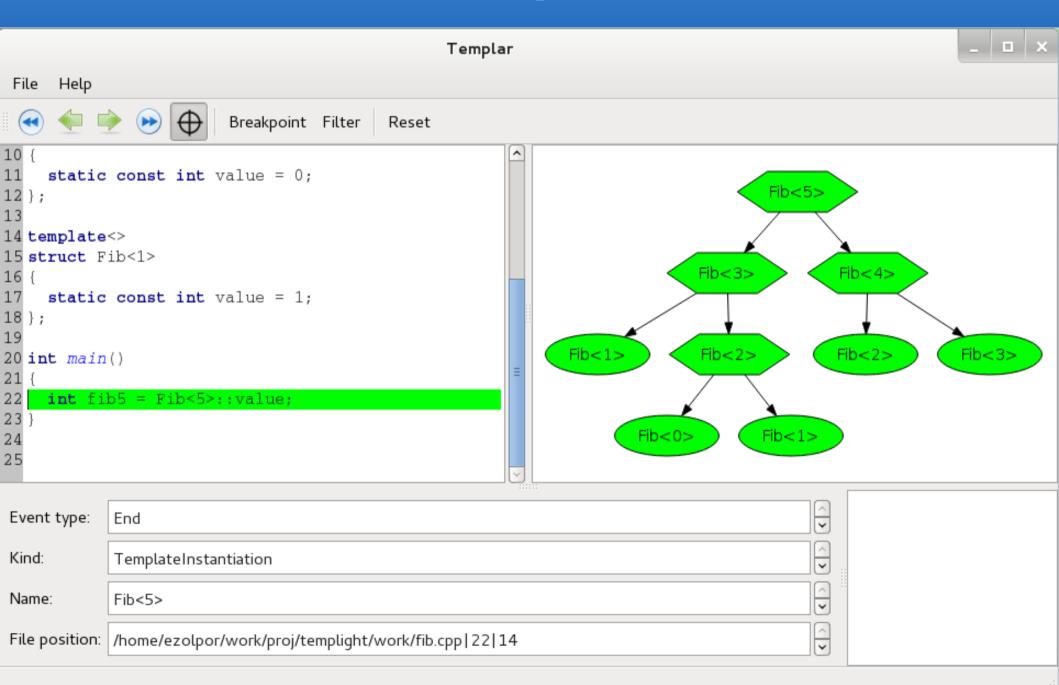


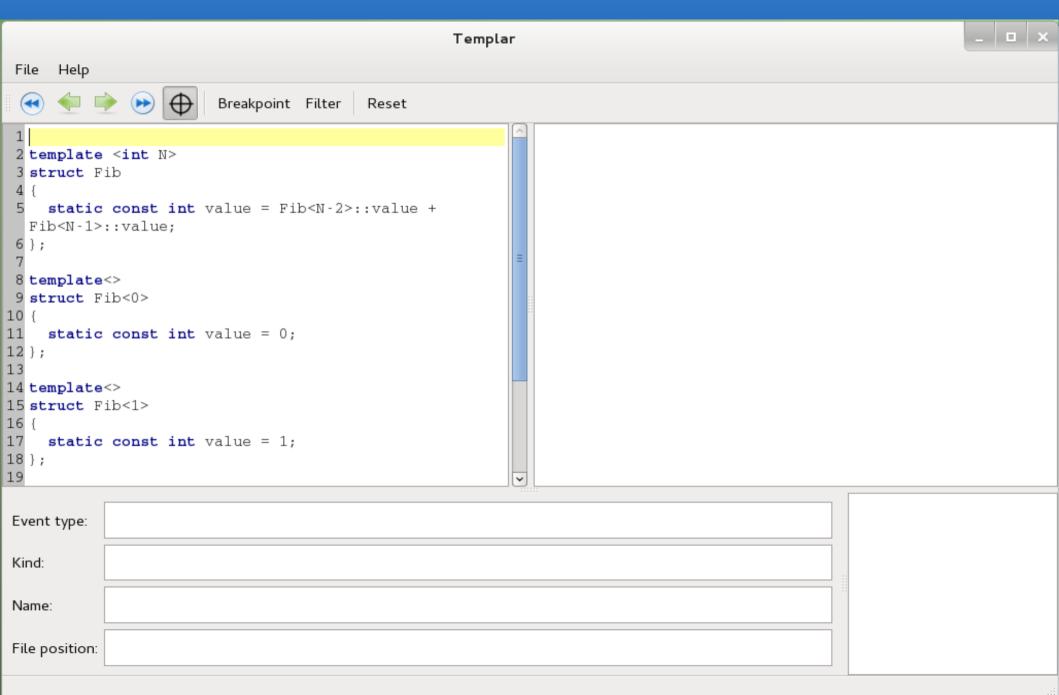


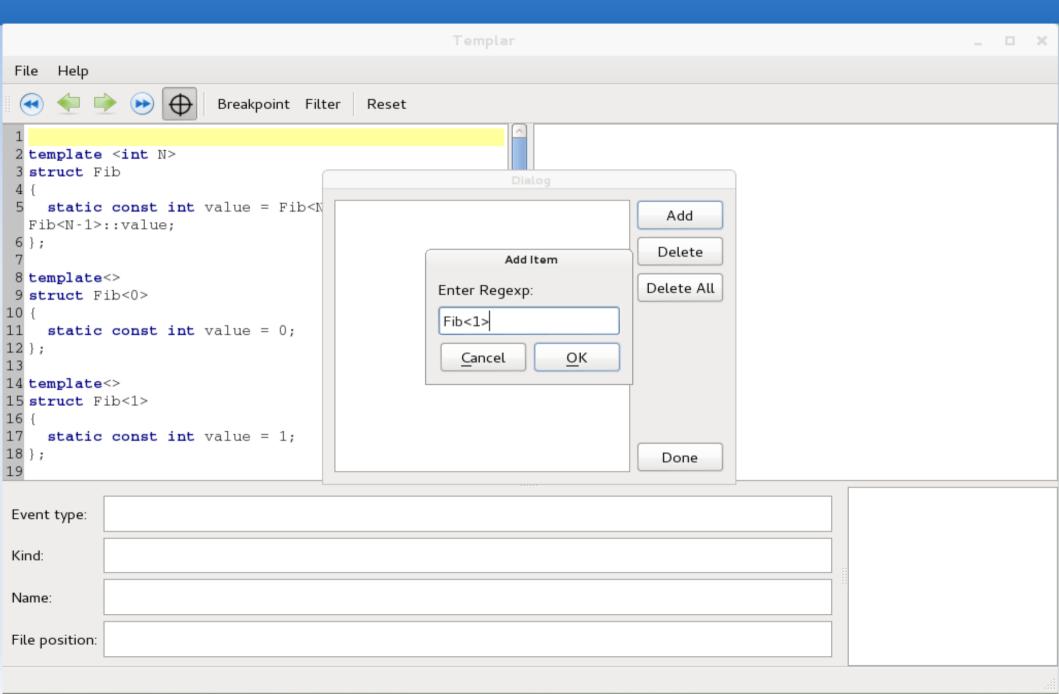


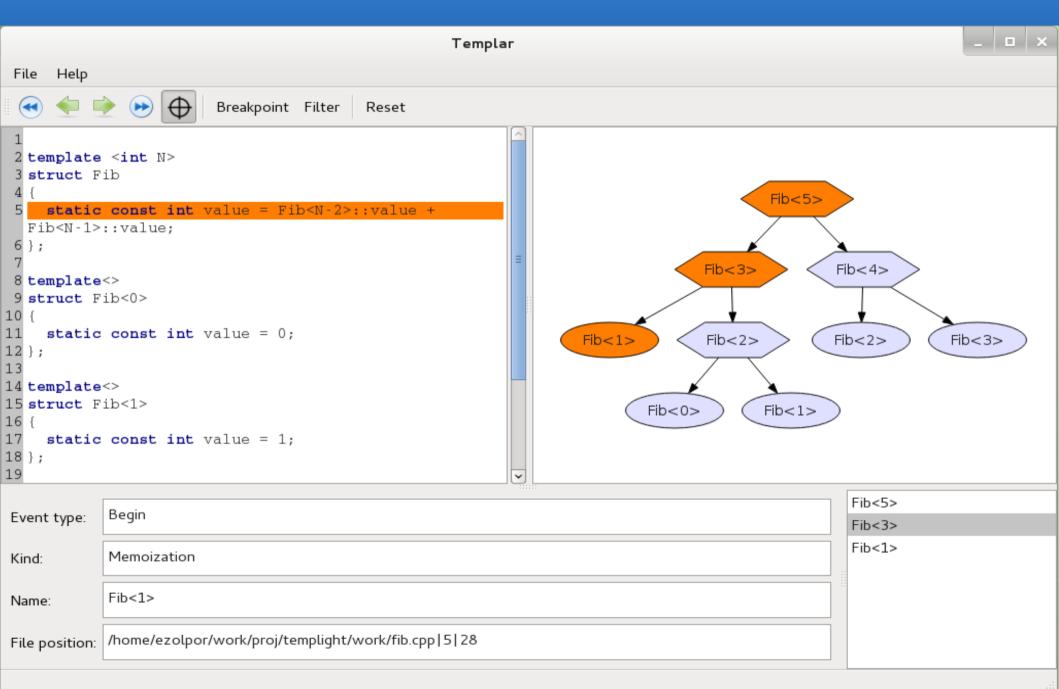


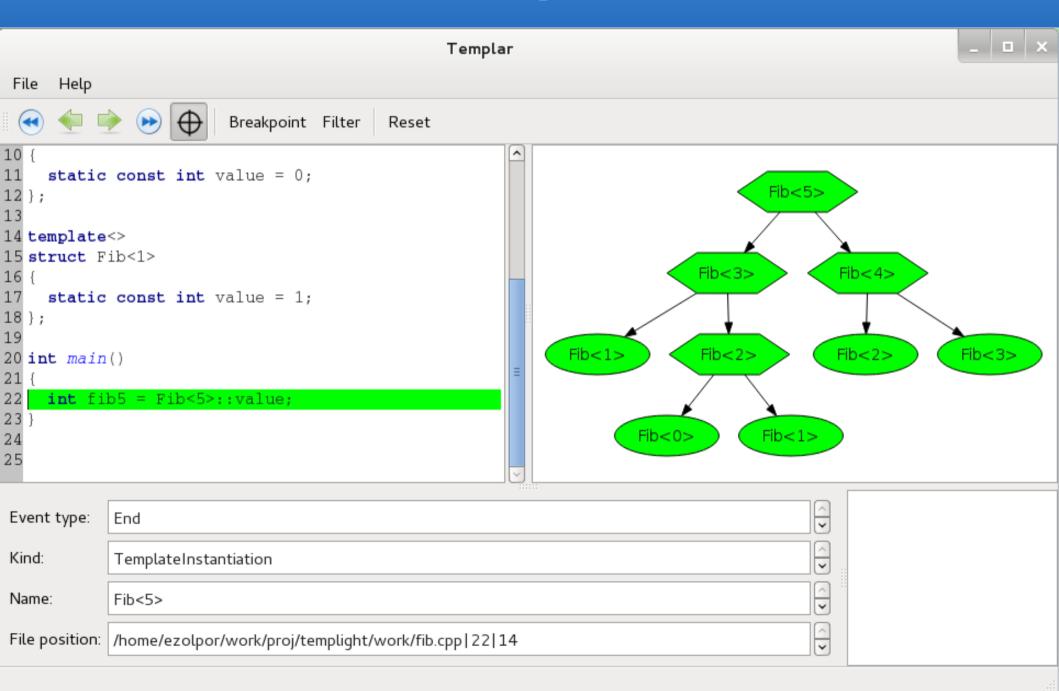






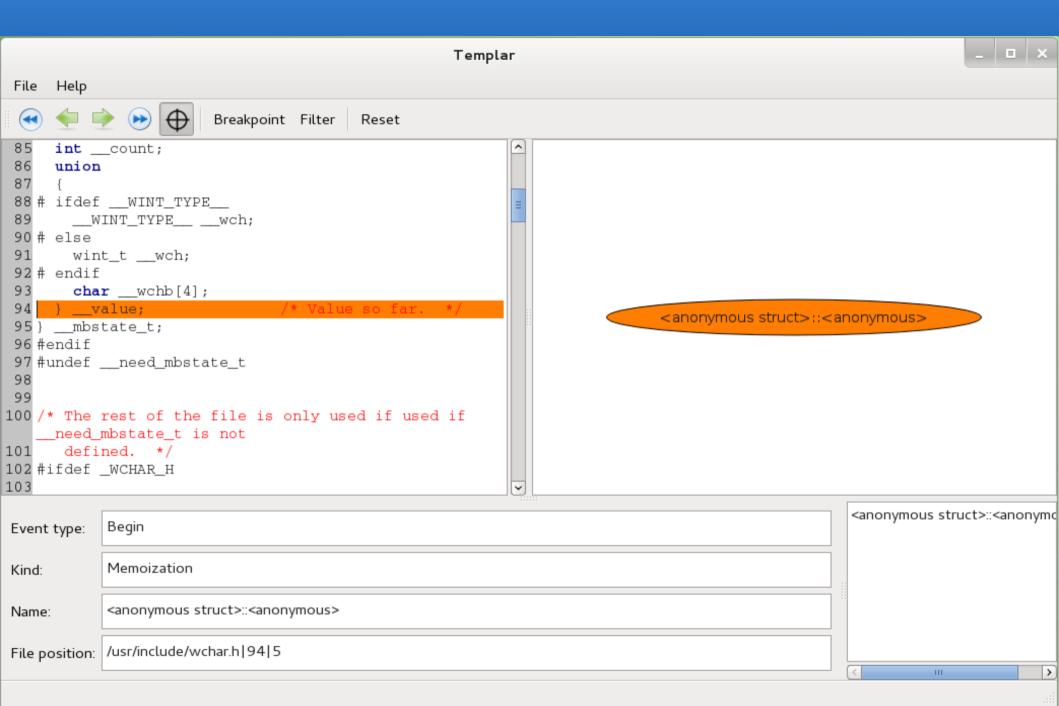


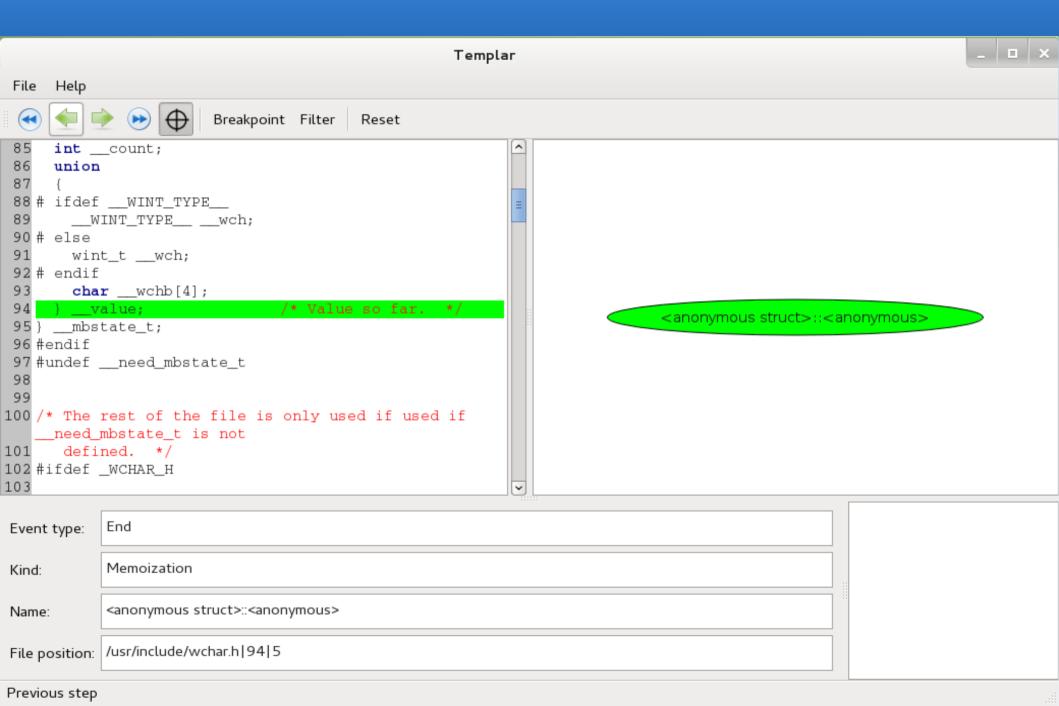


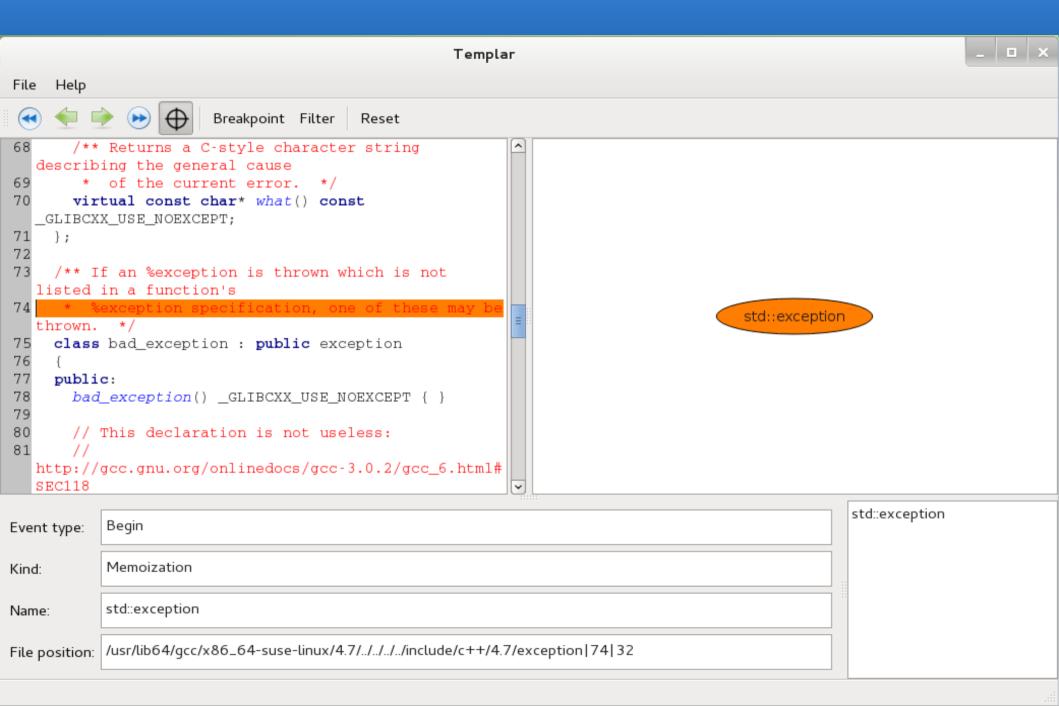


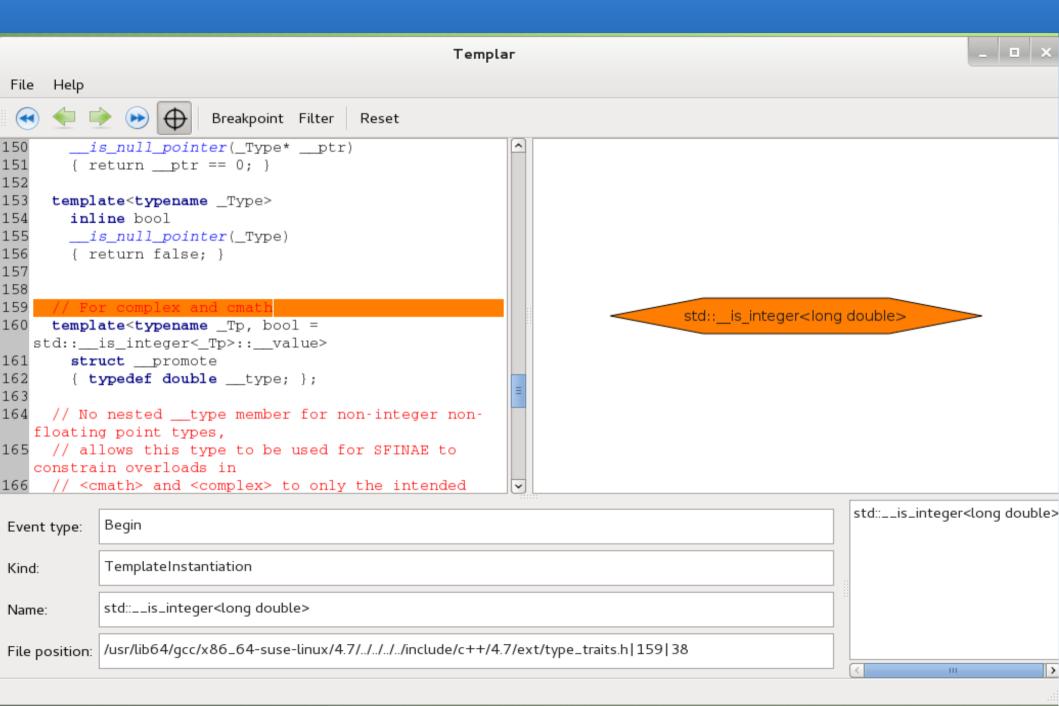
```
#include <iostream>
struct Fib
  static const int value = Fib<N-2>::value + Fib<N-1>::value;
template<>
struct Fib<0>
  static const int value = 0;
};
template<>
struct Fib<1>
  static const int value = 1;
int main()
  std::cout << Fib<5>::value << std::endl;</pre>
  return 0;
```

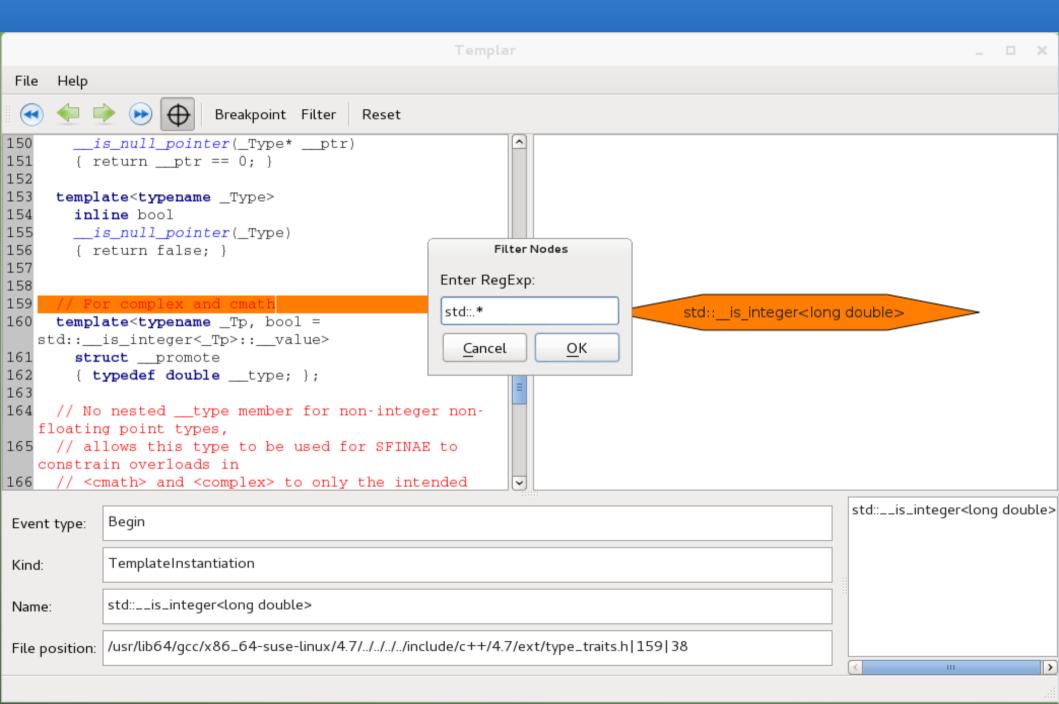
```
$ clang++ -templight fib.cpp
$ ls
fib.cpp.trace.xml
$ wc fib.cpp.trace.xml
18291 41765 738233 fib.cpp.trace.xml
$ head fib.cpp.trace.xml
<?xml version="1.0" standalone="yes"?>
<Trace>
<TemplateBegin>
    <Kind>DefaultTemplateArgumentInstantiation/Kind>
    <Context context = "std::basic string"/>
    <PointOfInstantiation>/usr/lib64/gcc/x86 64-suse-
linux/4.7/../../include/c++/4.7/bits/stringfwd.h|64|
11</PointOfInstantiation>
    <TimeStamp time = "421999330.595354"/>
```

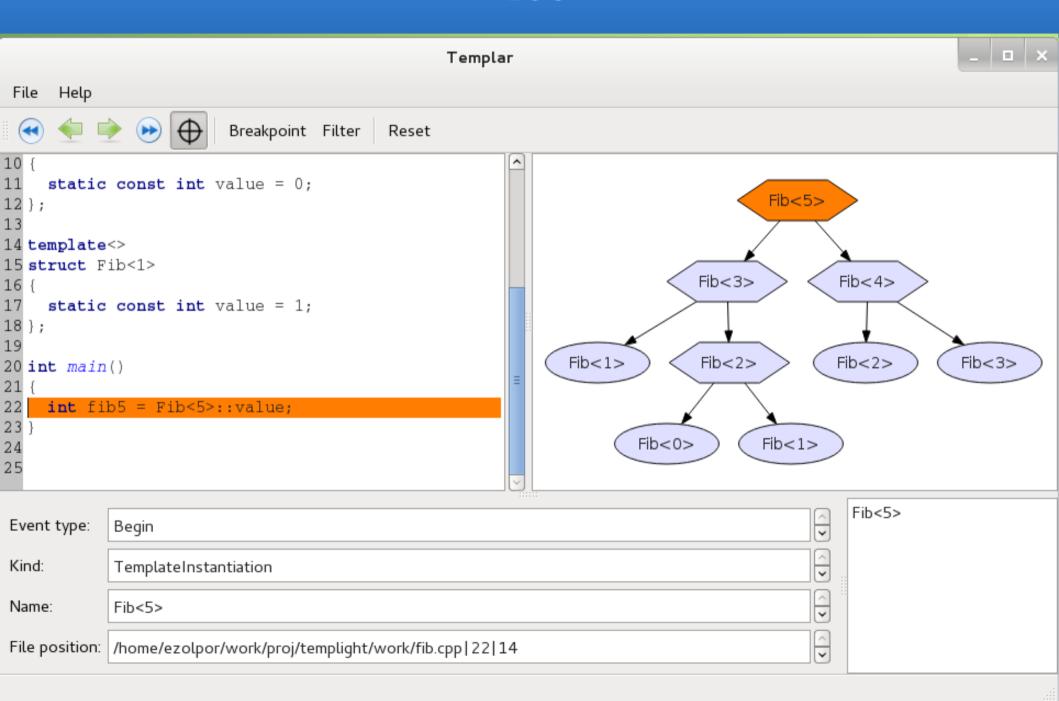












Profiler

_ 🗆 × ProfileDataViewer File Dependencies Namespaces Context Time D std::basic... 0.00440902 b std::basic... 0.00388598 b std::basic... 0.00152701 b std::basic... 0.00149602 b std::basic... 0.00146705 std::basic... 0.00131899 D std::basic... 0.00121498 D std::basic... 0.00115699 ▶ __gnu_c... 0.00114799 std::num_... 0.00113398 b std::colla... 0.00103903 ▶ __qnu_c... 0.000955999 ▶ __gnu_c... 0.000909984 ▶ __gnu_c... 0.000891984 std::num_... 0.00088501 D std::basic... 0.000883996 D std::endl... 0.000838041 std::__ct... 0.000837982 ▶ __gnu_c... 0.000835955

std::num_... 0.000783026

Profiler

_ 🗆 × ProfileDataViewer File Dependencies Namespaces Context Time std 0.0537966 ▶ __gnu_cxx 0.00620002 ▶ Fib 0.000591993 D __cxxabiv1 0.000424147 0.000128984 __pthrea... 0.000120044 timeval 5.6982e-05 __va_list... 8.04663e-06 timespec 5.00679e-06

Profiler

ProfileDataViewer



File

Dependencies		Namespaces
	Context	Time
	▶ std	0.0537966
	▶gnu_cxx	0.00620002
	▽ Fib	0.000591993
	Fib<5>	0.000591993
	Fib<3>	0.000222027
	Fib<2>	0.000113964
	Fib<4>	0.000102043
	Fib<1>	4.94719e-06
	Fib <o></o>	2.98023e-06
		0.000424147
	\triangleright	0.000128984
	pthrea	0.000120044
	timeval	5.6982e-05
	va_list	8.04663e-06
	timespec	5.00679e-06

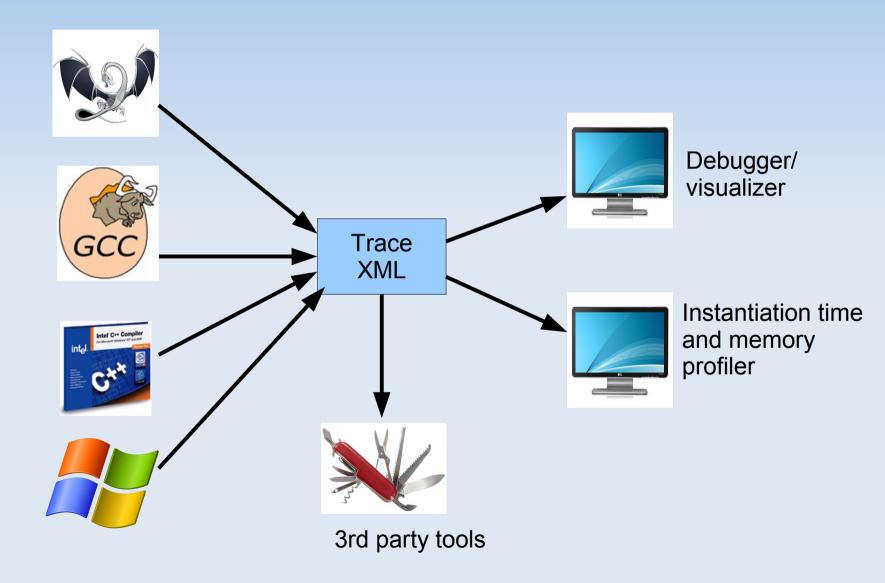
Memory usage

```
$ clang++ -templight-memory fib.cpp
$ ls
fib.cpp.memory.trace.xml
$ wc fib.cpp.memory.trace.xml
  18291 41765 756365 fib5.cpp.memory.trace.xml
0$ head fib.cpp.trace.xml
<?xml version="1.0" standalone="yes"?>
<Trace>
<TemplateBegin>
    <Kind>TemplateInstantiation</Kind>
    <Context context = "Fib&lt;5&gt;"/>
    <PointOfInstantiation>fib.cpp|22|14</PointOfInstantiation>
    <TimeStamp time = "421998401.188854"/>
    <MemoryUsage bytes = "647664"/>
</TemplateBegin>
<TemplateBegin>
```

Distorsion

- Internal buffer collects events
 - Heap allocated, not growing, size = 500.000
 - Flush at end of compilation
 - Distorsion < 3%
 - clang++ -templight -trace-capacity=1000000
- Safe-mode is about to install
 - Invalid profiling info
 - Flush messages even the compiler crashes

Vision



Summary

- Tool support for C++ metaprogramming
- Debugger/profiler requires compiler support
- Templight 2.0
- Please use it, give us feadback
- Compilers, will you support us?

Thank you

Debugging and Profiling C++ Template Metaprograms

http://plc.inf.elte.hu/templight

