Modern C++ as Concurrent Assembly

Diego Perini

C++Now 2014

Overview

- > New Features of C++11/14
- Doppl (a new language)
- > Compiled Doppl code (C++ code)

Materials: http://goo.gl/Hw7oYS

Modern C++

Features

Modern C++

- > Better functional programming support
- > Concurrency support in standard library
- > Better type resolution

> More readable code for the same speed gain

Claim

Concurrency deserves its own type of paradigms and languages

Why so few?

- > Concurrency + Safe code is hard
 - > A Solution:

Functional programming Immutable data structures

> "We all love Haskell but only a few dare to code"

Why so few?

> Portable API for shared memory & message passing is hard to implement

Why so few?

Better Scalability vs Less utility code:

> Scalability always wins!

Claim

Modern C++ has necessary building blocks for a new concurrent language

Ingredients

> Standard library

```
#include <atomic>
#include <functional>
#include <future>
#include <thread>
```

Ingredients

> Parameter packs

```
template<typename C, typename... Ts>
auto call when I need(C callable, Ts... args)
       -> std::future< decltype(callable(args...)) >
   return std::async(
       std::launch::deferred, callable, args...
```

Ingredients

- > Lambdas
 - > Suitable for asynchronous operations
 - > Can capture environment

```
auto generic_add = [] (auto x, auto y) {
   return x + y;
}
```

Data Oriented
Parallel Programming
Language

- > Proof of concept
 - > Compiles to latest C++14 draft (thanks LLVM)
- > Natively parallel
- > Data oriented
- > Readability in mind

Natively parallel:

- > Built-in parallel types
- > Built-in async support
- > Shared memory in user space

Data oriented:

- > Minimal cache miss count
 - > Similar data are close to each other in memory
 - > Order of placement is the same as order of access
 - > Structure of arrays instead of array of structures

Readability in mind:

```
task(1) HelloWorld {
   init: {
     output = "Hello World!\n"
   }
}
```

Apologies

Following Doppl code samples are necessary for the sake of argument stated in the beginning

```
task(1) HelloWorld {
   init: {
     output = "Hello World!\n"
   }
}
```

Keyword for defining tasks

```
task(1) HelloWorld {
   init: {
     output = "Hello World!\n"
   }
}
```

```
Range literal
task(1) HelloWorld {
  init: {
      output = "Hello World!\n"
```

At least 1, at most 10 copies are allowed

```
task(1 10) HelloWorld {
  init: {
    output = "Hello World!\n"
  }
}
```

Number of CPUs available during compilation

```
task(~) HelloWorld {
   init: {
     output = "Hello World!\n"
   }
}
```

Task name task(1) HelloWorld { init: { output = "Hello World!\n"

```
Reserved
    keyword for
    initial state
init:
     output = "Hello World!\n"
```

```
task(1) HelloWorld {
   init: {
      output = "Hello World!\n"
    }
    Global binding for standard output
```

States

```
task(2) HelloWorld {  #this is a line comment
   init: {
       output = "Hello "
       ->my state
   my_state: {
       output = "World!\n"
       -->init
   #infinite hello world loop!
```

States

```
task(2) HelloWorld {  #this is a line comment
    init: {
        output = "Hello "
        ->my state
        Blocking
    my_{\underline{}}
        transition
                    'World!∖n"
        -->init
    #infinite hello world loop!
```

States

```
task(2) HelloWorld {  #this is a line comment
    init: {
        output = "Hello "
        ->my state
        Non-Blocking
    my_{\underline{}}
        transition
                      rld!\n"
        -->init
    #infinite hello world loop!
```

```
task(10) Members {
   my_int = int
   init: {
       my_int = 42
       my_int = my_int + 1
       finish
```

```
task(10) Members {
   my_int = int
                       Who owns this?
   init: {
       my_int = 42
       my_int = my_int + 1
       finish
```

```
task(10) Members {
   my_int = int
                        Who owns this?
    init: {
                            Is this synchronous?
       my_int = 42
       my_int = my_int + 1
        finish
```

```
task(10) Members {
    my_int = int
                         Who owns this?
    init: {
                             Is this synchronous?
       my_int = 42
        my_int = my_int + 1
                                     Is this synchronous?
        finish
```

```
task(10) Members {
    my_int = int
                          Who owns this?
    init: {
                              Is this synchronous?
        my_int =
        my_int = my_int +
                                      Is this synchronous?
        finish
                       What if I want some code to be executed
                       every time I accessed it?
```

A member declaration clause:

scope monadic action member = type
semantic semantic name

A member declaration clause:

scope
semantic

monadic
semantic

action semantic member name

= type

Example:

private

just

data

my_int =

int

Members

scope
semantic

monadic semantic action semantic

member name

type

Available semantics:

private shared just maybe once sole data
future
state
memory
element

member = type name

Members

scope semantic monadic semantic

action semantic

member = type name

Available semantics:

private

just

data

member = type name

If omitted, defaults are the first line (private, just, data)

element

Members

scope semantic monadic semantic action semantic

member = type

Available semantics:

private shared just maybe once sole

data future state member = type
name

We are interested in these

name

Scope Semantics

```
task(10) ScopeSemantics {
  shared my_shared_int = int #there is only 1 of this
  init: {
     my int = 42
     my shared int = 99
     finish
```

Monadic Semantics

```
task(10) MonadicSemantics {
   just my_int = int
                              #always a value, never null
   maybe maybe_int = int  #can be null sometimes
   init: {
      my int = 42
      maybe int = null
      maybe_int = my_int
      finish
```

```
task(1) ActionSemantics {
   data     my_data = int
   future     my_future = int
   state     my_state = int
```

• • •

```
init: {
   my_data = plus_forty_two(3)
   my_future = plus_forty_two(5)
   my_state = plus_forty_two(my_data)
   finish
plus forty two(x = int): {
   #some computation that takes time
   yield 42 + x
```

```
init: {
                                           Synchronous
   my_data = plus_forty_two(3)
   my_future = plus_forty_two(5)
                                                Asynchronous
   my_state = plus_forty_two(my_data)
    finish
plus_forty_two(x = int): {
                                             Creates a closure
                                             that can be used
   #some computation that takes time
                                             later.
    yield 42 + x
                                             my data is captured
                                             by value
```

```
init: {
   my_data = plus_forty_two(3)
   my_future = plus_forty_two(5)
   my_state = plus_forty_two(my_future)
   finish
plus_forty_two(x = int): {
   #some computation that takes time
   yield 42 + x
```

Is this synchronous?

```
init: {
   my_data = plus_forty_two(3)
   my_future = plus_forty_two(5)
   my_state = plus_forty_two(my_future)
   finish
plus_forty_two(x = int): {
   #some computation that takes time
   yield 42 + x
```

NO! It's async

plus_forty_two
adapts its semantics
during capture

Compiling Doppl

C++ Code Generation

Compiler Features

- > Task range independent runtime
- > Scope semantics:
 - > private, shared
- > Action semantics:
 - > data, future, state
- > Concurrent stdin and stdout

Assignment and Member Access

- > We need a unified interface for any kind of assignment and member access
 - > Reason: Avoiding inheritance and pointer type casting

Assignment and Member Access

Assignment:

```
template<typename T, typename... Ts>
void set(T& input, Ts&... args);
```

Member Access:

```
template<typename T>
T get();
```

Assignment and Member Access

Assignment:

```
template<typename T, typename... Ts>
void set(T& input, Ts&... args);
```

Member Access:

```
template<typename T>
T get();
```

We are not putting these in a base class. They are merely concepts. Let's hope concepts become a thing in C++17 or sooner.

Standard Input and Output

C++ Code Generation

Standard Input

```
class input t {
    private:
    std::mutex m;
    public:
    const std::string get() {
         std::lock guard<std::mutex> lock(m);
         std::string value;
         std::cin >> value;
         return value;
    };
```

Standard Output

```
class output t {
     private:
     std::mutex m;
     public:
     void set(const std::string& value) {
          std::lock guard<std::mutex> lock(m);
          std::cout << value;</pre>
     };
};
```

Scope Semantics

C++ Code Generation

Private Members

- > No encapsulation needed
- > Any encapsulation would probably be eliminated by the C++ compiler anyway

- > Shared members are bundled with their own mutex
- > Shared members forward their set() and get() once the mutex is passed

Attention: Literals must not become Lvalue references during encapsulation

```
template<typename T>
class shared {
private:
    T member;
    std::mutex m;
```

```
public:
    //Forward get
    auto get() -> decltype(member.get()) {
        std::lock_guard<std::mutex> lock(m);
        return member.get();
    };
```

```
public:
    //Assignment for member types
    template<typename V, typename... Vs>
    shared<T>& set(V& v, Vs&... args) {
       std::lock guard<std::mutex> lock(m);
       member.set(v, args...);
       return *this; //This is for chaining assignments
    };
```

```
public:
    //Assignment for literals
    shared<T>& set(decltype(member.get())& v) {
       std::lock guard<std::mutex> lock(m);
       member.set(v);
       return *this;
    };
```

C++ Code Generation

```
enum class semantic action specifier {
    data,
    future,
    state/*,
    memory,
    element*/
```

Forward Declarations

```
template<semantic action specifier S, typename T, typename... Ts>
class task member;
template<typename T>
using DM = task member<semantic action specifier::data, T>;
template<typename T>
using FM = task member<semantic action specifier::future, T>;
template<typename T, typename... Ts> //Ts is for parameterized states
using SM = task member<semantic action specifier::state, T, Ts...>;
```

```
template<typename T>
using DM = task member<semantic action specifier::data, T>;
> A template that can store any type
> set(DM<T>& input) is a copy assignment
> set(FM<T>& input) is a copy assignment, synchronizes input
> set(SM<T>& input) is a synchronous call
> set(T&& input) is a literal assignment
> get() is a synchronous value access
```

```
template<typename T>
class task member<semantic action specifier::data, T> {
private:
    T data;
public:
    //Get value
    const T& get() {
      return _data;
    };
```

```
//data = value
DM<T>& set(T&& input) {
   this->_data = input;
   return *this;
};
```

```
//data = data
DM<T>& set(DM<T>& input) {
   this->_data = input._data;
   return *this;
};
```

```
//data = state
template<typename... Ts>
DM<T>& set(SM<T, Ts...>& input, Ts&... args)
   FM<T> future(input, true, args...);
   this->set( future);
                         set() method of FM<T>
   return *this;
                         has an is_lazy flag for
                         lazy assignment
```

```
//data = future
DM<T>& set(FM<T>& input) {
   this->_data = input.get();
   return *this;
};
```

Future Members

```
template<typename T>
using FM = task member<semantic action specifier::future, T>;
> Future members are interchangeable between threads
   > Encapsulates std::shared future<T>
> Value of internal T can be changed by current thread (Sync)
AND
> Value of internal T can be changed by some other thread (Async)
   > Encapsulates std::promise<T> to retrieve its
    std::shared future
```

Future Members

```
template<typename T>
using FM = task member<semantic action specifier::future, T>;
> set(DM<T>& input) is forwarded to internal promise
> set(FM<T>& input) is forwarded to internal shared future
> set(SM<T>& input, const bool is lazy) starts a call
> set(T&& input) is a literal assignment and forwarded to promise
> get() is a synchronous value access
```

```
template<typename T>
class task member<semantic action specifier::future, T> {
private:
    //Internal future and promise
    std::shared future<T> future;
    std::promise<T> promise;
public:
    //Get value and sync
    const T& get() {
         return future.get();
    };
```

```
//future = data
FM<T>& set(DM<T>& input) {
  std::promise<T> p;
  _future = p.get_future();
  p.set_value(input.get());
  return *this:
```

```
//future = value
FM<T>& set(T&& input) {
  std::promise<T> p;
  _future = p.get_future();
  p.set value(input);
  return *this:
```

```
//future = future
FM<T>& set(FM<T>& input) {
   this->_future = input._future;
   return *this;
};
```

```
//future = state
template<typename... Ts>
FM<T>& set(SM<T, Ts...>& input, const bool is lazy, Ts&... args) {
    promise = std::promise<T>();
    future = promise.get future();
    auto f = std::async(
         is lazy ? std::launch::deferred : std::launch::async,
         [&] () { task loop<T, Ts...>()(input, promise, args...); }
    );
    if(is lazy) f.get();
    return *this;
};
```

```
//future = state
template<typename... Ts>
FM<T>& set(SM<T, Ts...>& input, const bool is_lazy, Ts&... args) {
    promise = std::promise<T>();
    future = promise.get future();
    auto f = std::async(
         is lazy ? std::launch::deferred : std::launch::async,
         [&] () { task loop<T, Ts...>()(input, promise, args...); }
    );
    if(is lazy) f.get();
                                           This is our
    return *this;
                                            runtime loop
};
```

```
//future = state
template<typename... Ts>
                                                    This is for
FM<T>& set(SM<T, Ts...>& input, const bool is lazy,
                                                     vield
    promise = std::promise<T>();
    future = promise.get future();
    auto f = std::async(
         is lazy ? std::launch::deferred : std::launch::async,
         [&] () { task loop<T, Ts...>()(input, promise, args...); }
    );
    if(is_lazy) f.get();
                                           This is our
    return *this;
                                           runtime loop
};
```

```
template<typename T, typename... Ts>
using SM = task_member<semantic_action_specifier::state, T, Ts...>;
```

- > Stores a callable
- > Stored callable must be able to transform into a value (yield)
- > Stored callable must be able to set the next callable (transition)
 - > Encapsulates std::function
- > Stored callable must be able to capture some environment
 - > Two template instances (captured and uncaptured)

```
SM<T>
```

```
template<typename T>
class task member<semantic action specifier::state, T> {
private:
  std::function
       void(std::promise<T>&, SM<T>&, SM<T>&)
       > state;
public:
  auto get() -> decltype(_state) {
      return state;
  };
```

```
template<typename T>
class task member<semantic action specifier::state, T> {
private:
                               This is yield
 std::function<
       void(std::promise<T>&, SM<T>&, SM<T>&)
       > state;
public:
  auto get() -> decltype( state) {
      return state;
```

```
template<typename T>
class task member<semantic action specifier::state, T> {
private:
                               This is yield
 std::function
       void(std::promise<T>&, SM<T>&, SM<T>&)
       > state;
                                      This is next
public:
                                      state that we
  auto get() -> decltype( state) {
                                      set to
      return state;
                                      transition
```

```
template<typename T>
class task member<semantic action specifier::state,</pre>
private:
                                This is yield
  std::function
       void(std::promise<T>&, SM<T>&, SM<T>&)
       > state;
public:
  auto get() -> decltype( state) {
      return state;
```

This is finish state to end the call

This is next state that we set to transition

```
public:
SM<T>& set(SM<T>& input) { //state = state (input is a closure)
   this-> state = input. state;
   return *this;
};
SM<T>& set(decltype(_state) input) { //state = function literal
   state = input;
   return *this;
};
```

```
//state = state (input is bound to args to create a closure)
template<typename... Ts, typename... As>
SM<T>& set(SM<T, Ts...>& input, As&... args) {
   this-> state =
       [&] (std::promise<T>& p, SM<T>& n, SM<T>& f) {
           input.get()(p, n, f, args...);
       };
   return *this;
};
```

```
template<typename T, typename... Ts>
class task member<semantic action specifier::state, T, Ts...> {
private:
    std::function<void(std::promise<T>&, SM<T>&, SM<T>&, Ts...)> state;
public:
    //Get callable
    auto get() -> decltype( state) {
         return _state;
    };
```

```
//state = state
SM<T, Ts...>& set(SM<T, Ts...>& input) {
    this->_state = input._state;
    return *this;
};
//state = function literal
SM<T, Ts...>& set(decltype(_state) input) {
    _state = input;
    return *this;
};
```

Runtime (aka Task Loop)

C++ Code Generation

- > A loop that handles state transition
- > A loop that never throws exceptions
- > Its initial state should accept parameters

- > Other than some internal handles, it should not pollute its creators' stack
 - > Reason: We should be able to create task loops as many as we want without worry during runtime
 - > Reason: Temporarily cloned tasks (remember future=state assignments) must use its creators' members without copy.

```
template<typename T, typename... Ts>
class task_loop {
  private:
    SM<T> initial_state;
    SM<T> next_state;
    SM<T> finish state;
Arguments
for initial
    state
```

std::future<void> current_state_future;

```
public:
int operator() (SM<T, Ts...>& init, std::promise<T>& yield,
                Ts&... args) {
    //Set init
    initial state.set(init, args...);
    //Infinite loop escape trigger
    bool is running = true;
    finish state.set(
    [&is running] (std::promise<T>& yield, SM<T>& next, SM<T>& finish)
        { is running = false; } );
```

```
//Default next state assignment
next state.set(finish state);
//Initial state assignment (lazy)
current state future = std::async(
    std::launch::deferred,
    [&] () {
        initial state.get()(yield, next state, finish state);
```

```
//Program loop
try {
    while(is_running) {
         //Run lazily assigned state code
         current_state_future.get();
         //Set next state (lazy)
         current state future = std::async(
              std::launch::deferred, [&] () {
              next_state.get()(yield, next_state, finish_state);
         });
```

```
//Error
catch(std::exception& e) {
  return 1; //Or abort, dunno :)
return 0;
```

Future Members (previous slide)

```
//future = state
template<typename... Ts>
                                                    This is for
FM<T>& set(SM<T, Ts...>& input, const bool is lazy,
                                                     vield
    promise = std::promise<T>();
    future = promise.get future();
    auto f = std::async(
         is lazy ? std::launch::deferred : std::launch::async,
         [&] () { task loop<T, Ts...>()(input, promise, args...); }
    );
    if(is_lazy) f.get();
                                           This is our
    return *this;
                                           runtime loop
};
```

int main()

C++ Code Generation

Pseudo Code

- > Declare range as const int
- > Declare stdin and stdout as input_t and output_t
- > Declare shared members as shared
- > Declare std::array<T, range> for each private member
- > Declare *task_body* as lambda
 - > Declare a task_loop
 - > Declare states
 - > Declare local members
 - > Insert program code
 - > Start declared loop
- > Call std::async(task_body) range times

Future Studies

Wrapping Other Modern C++ Components

Future Studies

- > Partially applied closures: std::bind
- > Native tuple type: std::tuple (see project site)
- > Collections: std::array, std::vector ...
- > Element members: Iterators
- > Memory members: std::shared_ptr, std::unique_ptr
- > Once members: std::call_once (see project site)
- > Sole members: std::lock_guard

Doppl

- > Website:
 doppl.org
- > Presentation Materials and Doppl runtime: github.com/diegoperini
- > Contact: diego@dperini.com

Questions?

Thank you!