





Background and This Effort

Background

- 'foreach' loops were proposed in the 1.24 timeframe as a new kind of loop
 - -Signifies that the loop body is order-independent
 - Parallelizable but does not create new tasks
 - Implies that the loop body is safe for vectorization or being launched as a GPU kernel

This Effort

• In 1.25, 'foreach' loops are implemented

```
foreach i in a.domain do  // this loop is order-independent
    a[i] += i*2;
```

```
iter myIter() {
  for ... do
    yield ...;
}

for i in myIter() do
  a[i] = i*2;
Not Vectorizable
Neither the loop nor
the iterator uses 'foreach'
```

```
iter myIter() {
  for ... do
    yield ...;
}

for i in myIter() do
  a[i] = i*2;
Not Vectorizable
Neither the loop nor
the iterator uses 'foreach'
```

```
iter myIter() {
  foreach ... do
    yield ...;
} Not Vectorizable
The loop does not use 'foreach'

for i in myIter() do
  a[i] = i*2;
```

```
iter myIter() {
   for ... do
      yield ...;
}

for i in myIter() do
   a[i] = i*2;
Not Vectorizable
Neither the loop nor
the iterator uses 'foreach'
```

```
iter myIter() {
  for ... do
    yield ...;
}

foreach i in myIter() do //or'forall'
  a[i] = i*2;
```

```
iter myIter() {
  foreach ... do
    yield ...;
}

for i in myIter() do
  a[i] = i*2;

Not Vectorizable
The loop does not use 'foreach'
```

```
iter myIter() {
  for ... do
    yield ...;
}

for i in myIter() do
  a[i] = i*2;
Not Vectorizable
Neither the loop nor
the iterator uses 'foreach'
```

```
iter myIter() {
    for ... do
        yield ...;
}

foreach i in myIter() do //or'forall'
    a[i] = i*2;
```

```
iter myIter() {
   foreach ... do
     yield ...;
}

for i in myIter() do
   a[i] = i*2;
```

```
iter myIter() {
  foreach ... do
    yield ...;
}

foreach i in myIter() do //or'forall'
  a[i] = i*2;
Vectorizable
Both the loop and
the iterator use 'foreach'
```

Status and Next Steps

Status

- 'foreach' is a new loop type that can potentially parallelize the loop through vectorization or GPU kernel launch
- 'forall' loops already indicated order-independence of the loop body
 - -So, they are generally vectorizable
 - As with 'foreach', follower iterator(s) need to use 'foreach' to indicate order-independence
- 'foreach' loops do not support intents yet
- Outer-loop vectorization is not yet supported

Next Steps

- Enable outer loop vectorization
 - We are planning to incorporate Region Vectorizer in the bundled LLVM to enable outer-loop vectorization
- Implement intents for 'foreach' to enable:
 - vector-lane-private variables
 - vectorized reductions
 - -See issue #18500





OPERATORS

Background and This Effort

Background:

Operators have traditionally been defined as standalone functions with symbolic names

```
proc +(a: Foo, b: Bar) { ... }
```

- Standalone functions were complicated to make visible in all scopes in which the operators were used
- In the 1.24 release, added support for declaring operators with an 'operator' keyword

```
operator +(a: Foo, b: Bar) { ... }
```

Also enabled declaring operators as methods

```
operator Foo.+(a: Foo, b: Foo) { ... }
```

-Operator methods are treated like normal methods—primary and secondary operators are available to all instances

This Effort:

- Deprecated declaring operators with 'proc', must now use 'operator' keyword form
- Made the compiler generate default operator methods instead of standalone operators for types
- Updated libraries to use operator methods instead of standalone operators when applicable



OPERATORS

Impact and Next Steps

Impact:

- All operators can be found by searching for 'operator' in code
- Default operators for a type are guaranteed to be callable on any instance
 - Even if the type declaration is not otherwise visible to the current scope, as with methods

Next Steps:

- Add support for forwarding operator methods
- Enable listing operators in 'use'/'import' limitation clauses and forwarding lists

```
use M only +, -;
import M. {<, >, <=, >=, !=, ==};
```

- Note: 'use M except *;' was deprecated this release, so '*' will only refer to the multiplication operator in the future
- Update 'chpldoc' and syntax highlighters to support 'operator' keyword



'MANAGE' STATEMENT

Background

• Python provides a language feature that can be used for context management

```
# Open a file, print it, and close it automatically at the end of the block.
with open('file.txt', 'r') as myFile:
    print(myFile.read())
```

- Context management is a feature with a lot of potential uses
 - E.g., managing files, timers, locks...
- Brought up when discussing ways to resize arrays of non-nilable classes
 - An array could be put into an unsafe state and resized within the scope of a managed block
- Decided to add context managers to Chapel due to these useful applications

'MANAGE' STATEMENT

This Effort

- Introduced the 'manage' statement to the Chapel language
 - Syntax and semantics are heavily inspired by Python

```
use IO;
// A type that emulates a file reader.
record reader {
  var path: string;
  var f: file;
// Assume the file given here always exists.
var rdr = new reader('file.txt');
// Use the reader to print the contents of the file.
manage rdr as c do write(c.lines());
```

```
proc reader.init(path: string) {
  this.path = path;
// Called when entering the block.
proc reader.enterThis() {
  f = open(path, mode=iomode.r);
  return f.reader();
// Called when leaving the block.
proc reader.leaveThis(in e: owned Error?) {
  f.close();
  if e then halt(e);
```

'MANAGE' STATEMENT

Status and Next Steps

- Status: The 'manage' statement is prototypical and is marked as '--warn-unstable' in this release
- **Next Steps**: There are still a few design questions that need answers...
 - What should the enter/leave methods be named? Currently 'enterThis()' and 'leaveThis()'
 - If multiple return intents exist for 'enterThis()', which overload should be called?
 - How should context managers interact with thrown errors besides guaranteeing that cleanup occurs?
 - E.g., in Python the '__exit__()' method takes the thrown error as an argument
 - Should users be allowed to specify the storage of a resource? E.g...

```
// Here we specify that 'count' is a 'var'.
manage m as var count do count += 1;
```



RESIZING NON-NILABLE ARRAYS

Background: Needed a general way to resize the domain of an array of non-nilable classes

- Decided the 'manage' statement could provide such a mechanism
 - The 'manage' statement is a new language feature added in this release

This Effort: A domain method that returns a context manager used to resize the domain

```
class C { var x = 0; }
var D = {0..0};
var A: [D] shared C = [new shared C(0)];

// Resize 'D', and manually initialize the new element of 'A'.

// A runtime error occurs if any element is uninitialized at the end of the block.

manage D.unsafeResize({0..1}, checks=true) do
    moveInitialize(A[1], new shared C(1));

writeln(A); // Prints '{x = 0}, {x = 1}'
```

Status: Still being implemented; should be complete by the next release





Background

Background:

- As we work toward Chapel 2.0, we're reviewing methods/functions on built-in types
- In reviewing ranges/domains/arrays, we identified a few things that felt worth addressing in Chapel 1.25:
 - '.size' has traditionally returned 'idxType', which can be problematic

```
...(-120..120:int(8)).size... // uh-oh, size exceeds max(int(8))
...(1..20:uint(8), 1..20:uint(8)).size... // uh-oh, size exceeds max(uint(8))
```

- 'array.indices' was nearly identical to 'array.domain'
 - returned a copy of the array's domain versus the domain itself
 - not particularly useful, and somewhat redundant
- 'ident(r1: range(?), r2: range(?))' returned whether two ranges' defining (low, high, stride, alignment) values were identical
 - no other types support 'ident()', and it seems unlikely to be widely used

This Effort: '.size'

- Started making '.size' return 'int' for ranges/domains/arrays, as with other standard types and collections
 - rationale: 'int' is Chapel's default integer type and 'int(64)' is typically plenty large
- Added a '.sizeAs(type t: integral)' method to request the size to be returned as a particular integer type
 - rationale: for backwards-compatibility, or to query the size of a large collection as 'uint(64)'
 - to avoid breaking current code, added a warning when 'idxType != int' ...(-120..120:int(8)).size...

```
warning: 'range(int(8)).size' is changing to return 'int' values rather than 'int(8)'
  (to get the value as a different type, call the new method '.sizeAs(type t)')
  (to opt into the change now, re-compile with '-ssizeReturnsInt=true')
```

This Effort: '.indices'

- Decided to make '.indices' always return the domain's / array's indices as local values
 - e.g., for a Block-distributed array A, 'A.indices' now returns a non-distributed domain, like '{1..n, 1..n}'
 - rationale:
 - makes it more distinct from '.domain'
 - is often a useful thing to want to know, particularly when implementing distributions
 - other '.indices' queries on tuples, strings, lists, etc. also return a local representation
- As with '.size', used a warning to indicate this transition and a flag to opt-in early

...A.indices...

warning: the current behavior of '.indices' on arrays is deprecated; see
https://chapel-lang.org/docs/1.25/builtins/ChapelArray.html#ChapelArray.indices for
details

- Open question: What should '.indices' do for sparse/associative arrays? [#18353]
 - in distributed cases, may not want to (or be able to) store all indices locally in a closed form
 - current proposal: '.indices' is an iterator for these cases, yielding indices locally

This Effort: 'ident'

- Simply deprecated 'ident()' for now
 - rationale: strongly suspect that it's completely unused
- Have proposed supporting it using '===' if/when it is required [#17124]

Status and Next Steps

Status:

- Old behavior is preserved with warnings
- Users can opt into new behavior via compile-time flags
- Ready to finalize these in their new forms in the next release

Impact:

- For most user programs, only minimal changes should be required, if any
 - -e.g., 'idxType' is most commonly 'int', so '.size' won't change in those cases
- These types are now closer to their expected Chapel 2.0 forms

Next Steps:

- Continue stabilizing the APIs for ranges, domains, and arrays, as well as other built-in types
- See the module review notes in "Ongoing Efforts" for details





SLICING ASSOCIATIVE ARRAYS

Background and This Effort

Background:

- Chapel supports slicing arrays by domains
 - ...MyArr[MyDom] ... // refer to the sub-array of 'MyArr' defined by the indices in 'MyDom'
- Traditionally, this support has focused primarily on rectangular arrays
 - e.g., slicing local or distributed dense arrays using dense or sparse domains

This Effort:

• Extended Chapel array slicing to support associative domains and arrays

SLICING ASSOCIATIVE ARRAYS

Impact and Next Steps

Impact:

• Permits interesting associative subarrays to be specified succinctly

Next Steps:

- Continue expanding slicing support to general mixes of array/domain types
 - relates to improving the definition of zippered iteration between regular and irregular arrays/domains



RANGES AND SINGLE-VALUE ENUMS

Background and This Effort

Background:

- The default value for a range is '1..0' (or the closest equivalent using their 'idxType')
 - rationale: it's an empty range, and it uses the two most basic values
- However, single-value enums don't have multiple values, which leads to challenges:

- Traditionally, have not supported such single-value range types due to this challenge
- However, multiple users have requested such support over time

This Effort:

- Added support for such ranges
- Value effectively defaults to '0..<0' as a special-case (e.g., 'black..<black' for 'r' above)
 - queries such as '.low', '.size' work as expected (e.g., returning 'black' and 'O' for 'r' above)
 - -querying '.high' returns 'black', but also prints an execution-time warning that the value can't be trusted
- Of course, once the range is assigned 'black..black' (its only other legal value), everything works as expected

RANGES AND SINGLE-VALUE ENUMS

Status

Status:

- Single-value enum ranges are now supported
 - the main caveat being that '.high' is not a meaningful query for them
 - could be extended to other single-value types in the future
- The internal range module code was significantly cleaned up as a result of this effort
 - better initializers, error messages, etc.

Next Steps:

Confirm that users are satisfied with this change





INTERFACES

Background

- Interfaces for Chapel were proposed in CHIP 2
 - similar to concepts in C++20
 - provide cleaner specification and once-and-for-all type-checking of interface-constrained generics
- An initial implementation of interfaces has been available since 1.24 (see <u>release notes</u>)
 - enables experimentation with the feature
 - exposes a number of design questions see issue #8629
 - uses hybrid resolution semantics
 - traditional generics are handled as before:
 - type-checked late, i.e., after instantiation
 - interface generics are:
 - type-checked *early*, i.e., before instantiation
 - then handled like traditional generics without late type-check

INTERFACES

This Effort

- Advanced the implementation of interfaces
 - enabled more use cases
 - revised some design decisions
 - exposed more design questions
- Investigated approaches for...
 - early checking of generic records
 - mixing interface-constrained and traditional generics



INTERFACES

New Supported Use Cases 1/3

• 'implements' statements can now work with argument conversions and other call adjustments:

• 'implements' statements can now work with promotion:

```
interface Drawable { proc draw(arg: Self): void; }
proc draw(arg: Box): void { ... }
implements Drawable([1..3] Box); // uses a promoted version of draw()
```

New Supported Use Cases 2/3

• An interface can now require a function that is itself an interface-constrained generic:

```
interface Drawable {
   proc draw(arg: Self, win: ?W) where W implements Window;
}

Box implements Drawable;
proc draw(arg: Box, win: ?W) where W implements Window //an interface-constrained implementation
{ ... }
```

New Supported Use Cases 3/3

• Given:

```
interface Drawable {
   type CT; CT implements Content; // CT is an associated type
}
interface Content {
   proc bbox(arg: Self): 2*int;
}
```

Can now pass an argument of associated type:

```
// can now pass 'content', whose type is an associated type, to another interface-constrained function
proc drawWithContent(shape: Drawable, content: arg1.CT) {
   helper(shape, content);
}
```

• Can now invoke a function available through an associated constraint:

```
// can now call 'bbox', which is available in the interface of the associated constraint 'CT implements Content'
proc helper(arg1: Drawable, arg2: arg1.CT) {
    ...bbox(arg2)...
}
```

Revised Design Decisions 1/2

- Inference of implicit 'implements' statements is now off by default
 - switching to on-by-default in the future, if desired, will lead to fewer changes in user code
 - can be enabled using '--infer-implements-decls'

Revised Design Decisions 2/2

- Implements statements with traditional generics are now checked late
 - traditional generics are ill-suited for early checking
 - the following code compiles in 1.25:



More Design Questions 1/4

• How deep are required functions available through associated constraints?

- Currently 3 levels are supported
 - an arbitrary choice intended to limit compilation time
- Should there continue to be a limit on interface nesting?
- For now, a helper function can be used when the limit is too restrictive

More Design Questions 2/4

- Should an implementation of a required function preserve the names of the formals?
 - For example, Chapel's standard implementations of '==' currently use a variety of formal argument names therefore, a user cannot require any particular names for '==' in their interfaces
 - This issue also comes up in overriding methods see issue #11069
 - Need to be able to opt out of named-based argument passing to avoid the issue
 - especially when using third-party code to implement an interface
 - In 1.25 this check is not performed

More Design Questions 3/4

How can a function correlate the associated types of multiple interfaces?

```
interface HashtableEntry {
     type Key;
      type Val;
   interface Hashtable {
     type Key;
     type Val;
   // how to require 'table' and 'entry' to have matching 'Key' and 'Val' associated types?
   proc addEntry(ref table: Hashtable, in entry: HashtableEntry) { ... }
• Option 1: equality constraints
    ... where table. Key == entry. Key && table. Val == entry. Val ...

    Option 2: explicit associated types
```

... in entry: HashtableEntry(Key = table.Key, Val = table.Val) ...

44

More Design Questions 4/4

- How to support 'param' variations of an interface?
 - Many important cases in existing code, for example:
 - 'RandomStream' implementations support 'param parSafe: bool'
 - an interface representing rectangular arrays will need to support 'param dimension: int'
 - Option 1: stamp out an interface for all values of a 'param' in order to have complete early checking
 - not practical: would result in stamping out and early-checking a lot of unused code
 - Option 2: support associated params in interfaces

```
interface Array { param rank; type eltType; ... }
```

- treat params as non-param constants during "early" checking except when passing to param formals of required functions
- post-process an interface-constrained generic upon instantiation to param-fold the conditionals etc.
- Post-processing will also enable other functionality (currently not supported), for example:
 - passing around types and params
 - compile-time checks "does this interface type implement that other interface?"



Early Checking of Generic Records 1/3

- Generic records are currently treated as traditional generics
- Yet, early checking is desirable for methods just like it is for standalone functions
- Proposal: treat each generic field as an interface-constrained type when defining a method
 - For example, if a hash table implementation looks like this:

```
record hashtable {
   type keyType implements Hashable;
   type valType implements Copyable;
   var table: [] entry(keyType, valType); // supposing array and 'entry' are traditional generic types
}
```

A 'fillSlot' method can be written like this:

```
proc hashtable.fillSlot(ref e: entry(keyType, valType), in k: keyType, in v: valType);
```

• The compiler can interpret that method as if it were written like this:

• Requires instantiating traditional generics (e.g., 'entry' above) with interface types during early checking



Early Checking of Generic Records 2/3

• Instantiating traditional generics with interface types appears intuitive:

```
// given this type for a hash table entry:
record entry {
   var key;
   var val;
}
// ... and a value instantiated with interface types keyType, valType, as on the previous slide
keyType implements Hashable; valType implements Copyable;
ref tableEntry: entry(keyType, valType)
// ... then its fields have the respective interface types:
tableEntry.key: keyType
tableEntry.val: valType
```

• availability of operations on such types is determined by the interfaces they implement

```
interface Hashable(Key) { proc hash(arg: Key): uint; }
...hash(tableEntry.key)... // this is OK, given that keyType implements Hashable
```

Early Checking of Generic Records 3/3

- Chapel 1.25 supports an alternative approach to early checking of methods
 - avoids instantiating traditional generics with interface types
 - is based on introducing an interface that the generic record implements
 - is illustrated with a modification to modules/internal/ChapelHashtable.chpl:

• hash table methods are defined as methods on this interface, e.g.:

```
proc Hashtable.fillSlot(ref e: this.entryType, in k: this.keyType, in v: this.valType) ...
```

Mixing Interface-Constrained and Traditional Generics

- Gradual conversion of existing generic code to interfaces is likely to lead to mixed generics, e.g.:
 - a function with interface-constrained and traditional generic formals
 - a record or class with interface-constrained and traditional generic fields
 - interface-constrained code that references traditional generic types or calls traditional generic functions
- Proposal: for a mixed generic, instantiate traditional generic types then treat it as interface-constrained

```
// if, in this declaration, 'keyType' is interface-constrained and 'valType' is traditional generic ...
proc (hashtable(?keyType, ?valType)).fillSlot
    (ref e: entry(keyType, valType), in k: keyType, in v: valType)
    where keyType implements Hashable { ... }
// ... check it only upon a concrete instantiation, e.g.. for this call where keyType=valType=int:
myTable.fillSlot(myEntry, 3, 5);
// ... retaining keyType as an interface-constrained generic and instantiating valType, as in:
proc (hashtable(?keyType, int)).fillSlot
    (ref e: entry(keyType, int), in k: keyType, in v: int)
    where keyType implements Hashable { ... }
```



Status

- The current implementation:
 - enables using interface-constrained generics in a variety of use cases
 - is ready for experimentation and learning about interfaces
 - reflects language design that is not yet stable
 - code using interfaces that works with 1.25 may not work in future releases as we refine the design
- 95 tests pass nightly testing, including early checking of methods:
 - a prototype conversion of modules/internal/ChapelHashtable.chpl
 - see test/constrained-generics/hashtable/MyHashtable.chpl
 - a partial conversion of modules/standard/Random.chpl
 - see test/constrained-generics/random/demo-random.chpl

Next Steps

- Streamline the implementation
- Convert more Chapel libraries and internal code to interfaces
- Make progress on design discussions and decisions



OTHER LANGUAGE IMPROVEMENTS

For a more complete list of language changes and improvements in the 1.25 release, refer to the following sections in the CHANGES.md file:

- 'Semantic Changes / Changes to Chapel Language'
- 'New Features'
- 'Feature Improvements'
- 'Deprecated / Removed Language Features'

