Exercises week 1: Function Templates

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Exercise 1

Show that templates don't result in 'code bloat'

A function template `add` and a union `PointerUnion` were defined in separate header files. We use this union to print the address of the function `add`. There are two source files, one for `fun` and one for `main`. The function `fun`, which includes `add.h`, instantiates `add` for `int`s and prints its address. Then, in `main` the same happens and `fun` is called. When the two source files of `fun` and `main` are compiled to object modules, they both contain an instantiation of `add`. Then they are linked to obtain an executable. The output of this executable gives two identical addresses, which means that only one instantiation of `add` is present. So it can be concluded that the linker prevents 'code bloat'.

`add.h`

```
1 template <typename Type>
2
3 Type add(Type const &lhs, Type const &rhs)
4 {
5     return lhs + rhs;
6 }
```

`pointerunion.h`

```
1 union PointerUnion
2 {
```

```
3       int (*fp)(int const &, int const &);
4       void *vp;
5   };
```

fun.cc

```
1   #include <iostream>
2   #include "add.h"
3   #include "pointerunion.h"
4
5   void fun()
6   {
7       PointerUnion pu = { add };
8
9       std::cout << pu.vp << '\n';
10  }
```

main.cc

```
1   #include <iostream>
2   #include "add.h"
3   #include "pointerunion.h"
4
5   void fun();
6
7   int main()
8   {
9       PointerUnion pu = { add };
10      std::cout << pu.vp << '\n';
11
12      fun();
13  }
```

Exercise 2

Learn to embed a function template in a function template

We used the following code,

as.h

```
1  template <typename Type1, typename Type2>
2
3  Type1 as(Type2 const &value)
4  {
5      return static_cast<Type1>(value);
6  }
```

main.cc

```
1  #include <iostream>
2  #include "as.h"
3
4  using namespace std;
5
6  int main()
7  {
8      int chVal = 'X';
9
10     cout << as<char>(chVal) << '\n';
11 }
```

Exercise 3

Learn to construct a generic index operator

We used the following code,

storage.h

```
1  #include <vector>
2  #include <initializer_list>
3
4
5  class Storage
6  {
7      std::vector<size_t> d_data;
8
9      public:
10         Storage() = default;
11         Storage(std::initializer_list<size_t> const &list);
12
13         template <typename Type>
14         size_t operator[](Type const &idx) const;
15
16         template <typename Type>
17         size_t &operator[](Type const &idx);
18 };
19
20 template <typename Type>
21 inline size_t Storage::operator[](Type const &idx) const
22 {
23     return d_data[static_cast<size_t>(idx)];
24 }
25
26 template <typename Type>
27 inline size_t &Storage::operator[](Type const &idx)
28 {
29     return d_data[static_cast<size_t>(idx)];
30 }
31
32 inline Storage::Storage(std::initializer_list<size_t> const &list)
33 :
```

```
34      d_data(list)
35  {}
```

Exercise 4

Learn to design and use a function template

The code below is based on the solution of exercise 48 of part II of the C++ course.

exception/exception.h

```
1  #ifndef INCLUDED_EXCEPTION_
2  #define INCLUDED_EXCEPTION_
3
4  #include <string>
5  #include <exception>
6
7  class Exception: public std::exception
8  {
9      template <typename Type>
10     friend Exception &&operator<<(Exception &&in, Type const &txt);
11
12     std::string d_what;
13
14     public:
15         Exception() = default;
16
17         char const *what() const noexcept(true) override;
18 };
19
20 template <typename Type>
21 inline Exception &&operator<<(Exception &&in, Type const &txt)
22 {
23     in.d_what += txt;
24     return std::move(in);
25 }
26
27 #endif
```

Only works if += is defined on string and Type.

exception/exception.ih

```
1  #include "exception.h"
```

exception/what.cc

```
#include "exception.ih"

char const *Exception::what() const noexcept(true)
{
    return d_what.c_str();
}
```

main.cc

```
#include <iostream>
#include "exception/exception.h"

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char **argv)
try
{
    throw Exception{} << "insert anything that's ostream-insertable: "
                         "strings, values, " << argc << ", etc.";
}
catch (exception const &ex)
{
    cout << ex.what() << '\n';
}
```

Exercise 5

Learn to design a generic function template

We used the following code,

forwarder/forwarder.h

```
1  template <typename Function, typename ...Params>
2  void forwarder(Function fun, Params &&...params)
3  {
4      fun(std::forward<Params>(params)...);
5  }
```

main.cc

```
1  #include "main.ih"
2
3  void fun(int first, int second)
4  {
5      cout << "fun(" << first << ", " << second << ")\n";
6  }
7
8  void fun(Demo &&dem1, Demo &&dem2)
9  {
10     cout << "fun(dem1, dem2)\n";
11 }
12
13 int main()
14 {
15                                  // inserts 'fun(dem1, dem2)' to cout
16     forwarder<void(Demo &&, Demo &&)>(fun, Demo{}, Demo{});
17
18                                  // inserts 'fun(1, 3)' to cout
19     forwarder<void(int, int)>(fun, 1, 3);
20 }
```

Exercise 7

Gain some experience with the function selection mechanism

source

```
1  #include <iostream>
2
3  using namespace std;
4
5  template <typename Type>
6  inline Type const &max(Type const &left, Type const &right)
7  {
8      return left > right ? left : right;
9  }
10
11
12 int main()
13 {
14     cout << ::max(3.5, 4) << endl;
15 }
```

Why is the scope resolution operator required when calling `max()`?
Apparently, there is another function template for a function `max` in the header file `iostream`, that also expects two arguments that are a `const &` to the same formal type. The function selection mechanism will find a draw between this template function and ours on all criteria and therefore end the process with an ambiguity. To specify that we call the function `max` for which we defined a template above `main`, we need the scope resolution operator.

When compiling this function the compiler complains with a message like: `max.cc:13: error: no matching function for call to 'max(double, int)'` Why doesn't the compiler generate a `max(double, double)` function in this case?
The standard conversion from `int` to `double` is only allowed for template non-type parameters. It is not part of the three allowed types of parameter type transformations. Since we deal with template type parameters, it is not possible.

Assume we add a function `double max(double const &left, double const &right)` to the source. Explain why this solves the problem.
Now we have added a normal function (not a function template), for which the compiler is allowed to make the implicit conversion from `int` to `double` to fit the arguments to the parameters.

Assume we would then call `::max('a', 12)`. Which `max()` function is then used and why?
Now again the normal, non-template function is used. Both arguments are converted to a `double`.

Remove the additional `max` function. Without using casts or otherwise changing the argument list of the function call `max(3.5, 4)`, how can we get the compiler to compile the source properly?
By calling `::max<double>(3.5, 4)`.

Specify a general characteristic of the answer to the previous question (i.e., can the approach always be used or are there certain limitations?).
This only works if a standard conversion exists to convert the arguments to the type that is specified between pointy brackets.