

# 2. C++ Templates

---

Klaus Iglberger  
September, 13th, 2021

# Content

---

1. Motivation
2. Function Templates
3. Template Argument Deduction
4. Class Templates
5. Type Traits
6. Variadic Templates
7. Non-Type Template Parameters
8. Tricky Basics

## 2.1. Motivation

---

# What Is Generic Programming?

---

- Generic programming is the approach to implement algorithms and data structures in the most general sensible way.
- Algorithms are written in terms of types to-be-specified later.
- The term **generic programming** was originally coined by David Musser and Alexander Stepanov.
- Generic programming helps us to reduce redundancy and programming effort, while it increases reusability and flexibility.

# Templates

---

- Templates are a kind of pattern for the compiler.
- We can **instantiate** templates with different types or values
  - Each instantiation for a new type or value results in additional code, the fill-in template is generated with the given template argument.
- Templates reduce a lot of writers' work. We do not have to implement functions multiple times just because it's a slightly different type.
- There are different types of templates
  - Function templates
  - Class templates
  - Variable templates (since C++14).
- Templates are always initiated by the keyword `template`.

# Guidelines

---

**Core Guideline T.1:** Use templates to raise the level of abstraction of code

**Core Guideline T.2:** Use templates to express algorithms that apply to many argument types

**Core Guideline T.3:** Use templates to express containers and ranges

**Core Guideline T.5:** Combine generic and OO techniques to amplify their strengths, not their costs

## 2.2. Function Templates

---

# Function Templates

---

## Task (2\_Templates/Max)

Step 1: Write a `max()` function template that takes a single template parameter for its two function parameters.

Step 2: Write a `max()` function template that takes two template parameters instead of one (one for each function parameter).

Step 3: Overload the `max()` function template for integers.

Step 4: Specialize the `max()` function template(s) for integers.

# Max with One Template Parameter

```
template< typename T >
inline T max( T const& a, T const& b )
{
    return ( a < b ) ? b : a;
}
```

Template parameter list (can be type parameters or non-type parameters)

The two template parameters of type T are deduced based on the given arguments. Both arguments are deduced independently and only if the type of both arguments match, the template can be instantiated for that type (i.e. T can be replaced by that type).

```
max( 1, 5 );
template< >
inline int max( int const& a, int const& b )
{
    return ( a < b ) ? b : a;
}
```

Uses of the max() algorithm. Both template arguments match, which instantiates max<int>()

# Max with One Template Parameter

---

Quick Task: Which function is called?

```
max( 7.0, 42.0 );      // Calls max<double> (by argument deduction)
max( 'a', 'b' );       // Calls max<char>      (by argument deduction)
max( 7, 42 );          // Calls max<int>       (by argument deduction)
max<>( 7, 42 );        // Calls max<int>       (by argument deduction)
max<double>( 7, 42 ); // Calls max<double> (no argument deduction)
```

# Max with Two Template Parameter

---

It is possible to define `max()` with two template parameters:

```
template< typename T1, typename T2 >
inline ??? max( T1 const& a, T2 const& b )
{
    return ( a < b ) ? b : a;                                What should the return type be?
}
```

The return type can be specified in five different ways:

- ➊ A third template parameter
- ➋ A return type deduction based on the arguments (C++11)
- ➌ The `common_type` type trait (C++11)
- ➍ The `auto` keyword (C++14)
- ➎ `decltype(auto)` (C++14)

## Max with Three Template Parameters

---

Isn't it possible to define max() with three template parameters?

```
template< typename T1, typename T2, typename RT >
inline RT max( T1 const& a, T2 const& b )
{
    return ( a < b ) ? b : a;
}
```

Unfortunately, the compiler cannot deduce the type of RT with the given template arguments. And since RT is the last parameter, usage is cumbersome:

```
max<int,double,double>( 1.2, -4 ); // Returns 1.2
```

# Max with Three Template Parameters

---

Let's move RT to the front...

```
template< typename RT, typename T1, typename T2 >
inline RT max( T1 const& a, T2 const& b )
{
    return ( a < b ) ? b : a;
}
```

The compiler still cannot deduce RT, but now only RT has to be specified:

```
max<double>( 1.2, -4 ); // Returns 1.2
```

# Return Type Deduction (C++11)

```
template parameter list  
template< typename T1, typename T2 >  
inline auto max( T1 const& a, T2 const& b ) -> decltype(a+b)  
{  
    return ( a < b ) ? b : a;  
}  
function/call parameter list  
trailing return type
```

# Return Type Deduction (C++11)

```
template parameter list  
template< typename T1, typename T2 >  
inline auto max( T1 const& a, T2 const& b )  
-> std::common_type_t<T1,T2>  
{  
    return ( a < b ) ? b : a;  
}  
function/call parameter list  
trailing return type
```

# The auto Keyword (C++14)

```
template parameter list  
template< typename T1, typename T2 >  
inline auto max( T1 const& a, T2 const& b )  
{  
    return ( a < b ) ? b : a;  
}  
function/call parameter list  
return type deduction
```

# decltype(auto) (C++14)

```
template parameter list
template< typename T1, typename T2 >
inline decltype(auto) max( T1 const& a, T2 const& b )
{
    return ( a < b ) ? b : a;
}
function/call parameter list
return type deduction
```

# Overloading Function Templates

---

It is possible to overload function templates

```
// Template version of max
template< typename T1, typename T2 >
inline auto max( T1 const& a, T2 const& b )
{
    return ( a < b ) ? b : a;
}
```

```
// Overload for int
inline int max( int a, int b )
{
    return ( a < b ) ? b : a;
}
```

# Overloading Function Templates

---

Quick Task: Which function is called?

```
max( 7.0, 42.0 );      // Calls max<double> (by argument deduction)  
max( 'a', 'b' );       // Calls max<char>   (by argument deduction)  
max( 7, 42 );          // Calls the nontemplate for two ints  
max<>( 7, 42 );        // Calls max<int>    (by argument deduction)  
max<double>( 7, 42 ); // Calls max<double> (no argument deduction)
```

# Function Call Resolution

---

Remember the first two steps of the compiler to resolve a function call:

1. **Name resolution:** Select all (visible) candidate functions with a certain name within the current scope. If none is found, proceed into the next surrounding scope.
2. **Overload resolution:** Find the best match among the selected candidate functions:
  1. If a non-template is a perfect match, select it.
  2. If a template is available, try to make it a perfect match
    1. If this is possible, select it.
    2. If this is not possible, try to find the best match among the non-template functions; use argument conversions as allowed and necessary.

## Specializing Function Templates

---

Function templates can also be specialized. Given the following base template ...

```
template< typename T1, typename T2 >
void f( T1, T2* );
```

... a specialization for the built-in type int can be created like this:

```
template<>
void f( int, double* );
```

T1 is specialized as int, T2 as double.

# Specializing Function Templates

---

The specialization for the `max()` function looks like this:

```
// Template version of max
template< typename T1, typename T2 >
inline auto max( T1 const& a, T2 const& b )
{
    return ( a < b ) ? b : a;
}

// Specialization of the max function template
template<>
inline int max( int const& a, int const& b )
{
    return ( a < b ) ? b : a;
}
```

# Overloading vs. Specialization

---

Mind the difference between overloading and specialization:

```
template< typename T >
int f( T );           // (1) Base template

template< typename T >
int f( T* );          // (2) Overloading of (1)

template<>
int f( int );          // Specialization of (1)

template<>
int f( int* );         // Specialization of (2)
```

# Overloading vs. Specialization

---

Quick Task: Which version of f() will be invoked by the last line?

```
template< typename T >
void f( T ); // (1)
```

```
template<>
void f<int*>( int* ); // (2)
```

```
template< typename T >
void f( T* ); // (3)
```

```
// ...
```

```
int* p;
f( p ); // Calls (3)
```

# Function Call Resolution

---

Remember the first two steps of the compiler to resolve a function call:

1. **Name resolution:** Select all (visible) candidate functions with a certain name within the current scope. If none is found, proceed into the next surrounding scope.
2. **Overload resolution:** Find the best match among the selected candidate functions:
  1. If a non-template is a perfect match, select it.
  2. If a template is available, try to make it a perfect match
    1. If this is possible, select it.
    2. If this is not possible, try to find the best match among the non-template functions; use argument conversions as allowed and necessary.
  3. **If a template is selected, take all its specialization into consideration**

# Function Templates

---

## Task (2\_Templates/MinMax)

Step 1: Write a `minmax()` function template that takes a single template parameter for its two function parameters.

Step 2: Write a `minmax()` function template that takes two template parameters instead of one (one for each function parameter).

Step 3: Overload the `minmax()` function template for integers.

Step 4: Specialize the `minmax()` function template(s) for integers.

# Function Templates

---

**Task (2\_Templates/StringViewAdd):** The following code example contains a serious bug. Explain the bug and discuss a solution.

# Function Templates

---

## Task (2\_Templates/Compare)

Step 1: Write a generic `compare()` function that returns a negative number if the left-hand side argument is smaller, 0 if both arguments are equal, and a positive number if the left-hand side argument is larger.

Step 2: Specialize the `compare()` function for pointers to `char`.

# Function Templates

---

**Task (2\_Templates/ArraySize):** Write a `constexpr` function template `size()` that returns the size of a given array.

# Function Templates

---

## Task (2\_Templates/Accumulate)

Step 1: Implement the `accumulate()` algorithm. The algorithm should take a pair of iterators, an initial value for the reduction operation, and a binary operation that performs the elementwise reduction.

Step 2: Implement an overload of the `accumulate()` algorithm that uses '`std::plus`' as the default binary operation.

Step 3: Implement an overload of the `accumulate()` algorithm that uses the default of the underlying data type as initial value and `std::plus` as the default binary operation.

Step 4: Test your implementation with a custom binary operation (e.g. `Times`).

# Function Templates

---

**Task (2\_Templates/Find):** Write a function template that acts like the standard library `find()` algorithm. The function needs two template type parameters: One represents the function's iterator parameters, one represents the type of the value to find. Use your function to find a given value in a `std::vector<int>` and a `std::list<std::string>`.

# Function Template Guidelines

**Core Guideline T.2:** Use templates to express algorithms that apply to many argument types

**Guideline:** In case a non-template function and a template function are equally well matched, the non-template function is preferred.

**Guideline:** When accessing a nested type within a template, don't forget to disambiguate with typename.

**Core Guideline T.144:** Don't specialize function templates

## 2.3. Template Argument Deduction

---

# Template Argument Deduction

---

```
template< typename T >
void f( ParamType param );

f( expr );
```

# Case 1: ParamType is Neither Pointer Nor Reference

```
template< typename T >
void f( T param );           // ParamType is 'T'

f( expr );
```

1. If `expr`'s type is a reference, ignore the reference part.
2. Ignore const and volatile qualifiers on `expr`.
3. Then pattern-match `expr`'s type against `ParamType` to determine `T`.

```
int      x = 42;
int const cx = x;
int const& rx = x;

f( x );    // T is 'int', ParamType is 'int'
f( cx );   // T is 'int', ParamType is 'int'
f( rx );   // T is 'int', ParamType is 'int'
```

## Case 2: ParamType is Pointer

---

```
template< typename T >
void f( T* param );           // ParamType is 'T*'

f( expr );
```

1. If `expr`'s type is a reference, ignore the reference part.
2. Then pattern-match `expr`'s type against `ParamType` to determine `T`.

```
int      x = 42;
int const* px = x;

f( &x );    // T is 'int', ParamType is 'int*'
f( cx );   // T is 'int const', ParamType is 'int const*'
```

## Case 3: ParamType is (Non-Forwarding) Reference

```
template< typename T >
void f( T& param );           // ParamType is 'T&'

f( expr );
```

1. If `expr`'s type is a reference, ignore the reference part.
2. Then pattern-match `expr`'s type against `ParamType` to determine `T`.

```
int      x = 42;
int const cx = x;
int const& rx = x;

f( x );    // T is 'int', ParamType is 'int&'

f( cx );   // T is 'int const', ParamType is 'int const&'

f( rx );   // T is 'int const', ParamType is 'int const&'
```

## Case 3: ParamType is (Non-Forwarding) Reference

```
template< typename T >
void f( T const& param ); // ParamType is 'T const&'

f( expr );
```

1. If `expr`'s type is a reference, ignore the reference part.
2. Then pattern-match `expr`'s type against `ParamType` to determine `T`.

```
int          x  = 42;
int const    cx = x;
int const&  rx = x;

f( x );      // T is 'int', ParamType is 'int const&'

f( cx );    // T is 'int', ParamType is 'int const&'

f( rx );    // T is 'int', ParamType is 'int const&'
```

## Case 4: ParamType is Forwarding Reference

```
template< typename T >
void f( T&& param );           // ParamType is 'T&&'

f( expr );
```

1. If `expr` is an lvalue, deduce both `T` and `ParamType` as lvalue reference.
2. If `expr` is an rvalue, deduce `T` and `ParamType` as “normal” reference.

```
int          x  = 42;
int const    cx = x;
int const& rx = x;

f( x );      // T is 'int&', ParamType is 'int&'
f( cx );     // T is 'int const&', ParamType is 'int const&'
f( rx );     // T is 'int const&', ParamType is 'int const&'
f( 42 );     // T is 'int', ParamType is 'int&&'
```

# Guidelines

---

```
template< typename T >
void f( ParamType param );

f( expr );
```

**Guideline:** For non-forwarding references, T is never deduced to be a reference.



# C++ Type Deduction and Why You Care



Scott Meyers, Ph.D.

Image © Fedor Pilnik.  
Used with permission.

Last Revised: 9/8/14

## TYPE DEDUCTION AND WHY YOU CARE

Scott Meyers

▶ ▷ 🔍 1:27 / 1:09:33



## 2.4. Class Templates

---

# Programming Task

---

**Task (2\_Templates/UniquePtr1):** Reimplement a (simplified) std::unique\_ptr class template.

Step 1: Implement the unique\_ptr base template for single resources.

Step 2: Add a template parameter for a deleter.

Step 3: Implement a unique\_ptr specialization for arrays.

Step 4: Implement the copy and move operations.

Step 5: Implement move operations for different pointer types.

Step 6: Implement the reset() and release() functions.

# Defining a Class Template

```
template< typename T >
class unique_ptr
{
public:
    using pointer = T*;
    using element_type = T;

    constexpr unique_ptr();
    explicit unique_ptr( T* ptr );
    unique_ptr( unique_ptr const& u ) = delete;
    unique_ptr( unique_ptr&& u ) noexcept;

    // ...

private:
    T* ptr_;
    // ...
};
```

Template parameter list (can be type parameters or non-type parameters)

Nested type aliases

Member function declarations

Declaration of member data

# Instantiating a Class Template

---

```
int main()
{
    // Instantiates a the unique_ptr class template for 'int'
    // This line of code will only instantiate the according
    // constructor and destructor. No other function is instantiated
    // (on-demand instantiation)
    unique_ptr<int> iptr( new int(42) );

    // Instantiates a the unique_ptr class template for 'std::string'
    // Note that this is a separate class and has nothing to do with
    // the instantiation for 'int'
    unique_ptr<std::string> sptr( new std::string( "42" ) );

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

# Member Functions of Class Templates

```
template< typename T >
class unique_ptr
{
public:
    // ...

    pointer release() noexcept { return std::exchange( ptr_, {} ); }

    void reset( pointer ptr = pointer{} ) noexcept;

private:
    T* ptr_;
};
```

Function definition within the class body



```
template< typename T, typename D >
void unique_ptr<T,D>::reset( pointer ptr ) noexcept
{
    unique_ptr tmp( std::exchange( ptr_, ptr ) );
}
```

Function definition outside the class body



# Member Functions of Class Templates

```
template< typename T >
class unique_ptr
{
public:
    // ...
    pointer release() noexcept; // Function declaration within the class body, definition outside

private:
    T* ptr_; // Compilation error: Type 'pointer' is not known in this context
};

template< typename T >
pointer unique_ptr<T>::release() noexcept
{
    return std::exchange( ptr_, {} );
}
```

# Member Functions of Class Templates

```
template< typename T >
class unique_ptr
{
public:
    // ...

    pointer release() noexcept;          Function declaration within the class body,
                                         definition outside

private:
    T* ptr_;                            Compilation error: 'pointer' is not recognized as type
};

template< typename T >
unique_ptr<T>::pointer unique_ptr<T>::release() noexcept
{
    return std::exchange( ptr_, {} );
}
```

# Member Functions of Class Templates

```
template< typename T >
class unique_ptr
{
public:
    // ...
    pointer release() noexcept;           Function declaration within the class body,
                                         definition outside

private:
    T* ptr_;   Disambiguation with the ‘typename’ keyword
};

template< typename T >
typename unique_ptr<T>::pointer unique_ptr<T>::release() noexcept
{
    return std::exchange( ptr_, {} );
}
```

# Member Functions of Class Templates

```
template< typename T >
class unique_ptr
{
public:
    // ...
    pointer release() noexcept;          // Function declaration within the class body, definition outside

private:
    T* ptr_;   Alternative formulation with a trailing return type.
};   No disambiguation is required!
```

template< typename T >
auto unique\_ptr<T>::release() noexcept -> pointer

# Use of a Class Template Name Inside the Class

```
template< typename T >
class unique_ptr
{
public:
    // ...
    constexpr unique_ptr();
    explicit unique_ptr<T>( T* ptr );
    // ...
private:
    T* ptr_;
    // ...
};
```

Within the class definition it is not necessary to repeat the class template parameters

It is possible, however, to also mention the class template parameter(s); It is not recommended, though, for readability

# Use of a Class Template Name Outside the Class

```
template< typename T >
class unique_ptr
{
public:
    // ...

    void reset( pointer ptr = pointer{} ) noexcept;

private:
    T* ptr_;
};

template< typename F, typename D >
void unique_ptr<T,D>::reset( pointer ptr ) noexcept
{
    unique_ptr tmp( std::exchange( ptr_, ptr ) );
}
```

Outside the class template the class template parameters need to be explicitly used



# Member Templates

```
template< typename T >
class unique_ptr
{
public:
    // ...
    template< typename U >
    unique_ptr( unique_ptr<U>&& u ) noexcept;
    // ...

private:
    T* ptr_;
};
```

Declaration of a member function template

Definition of a member function template outside the class definition

Note the two consecutive list of template parameters. The first refers to the class template, the second to the member function template.

```
template< typename T >
template< typename U >
unique_ptr<T>::unique_ptr( unique_ptr<U>&& u ) noexcept
    : ptr_( u.ptr_ )
{
    u.ptr_ = nullptr;
}
```

# Class Templates and Friends

```

template< typename T >
class unique_ptr
{
public:
    // ...
    template< typename U >
    unique_ptr( unique_ptr<U>&& u ) noexcept;
    // ...

private:
    T* ptr_;

    friend class unique_ptr<int>;
    template< typename U > friend class unique_ptr;
};

template< typename T >
template< typename U >
unique_ptr<T>::unique_ptr( unique_ptr<U>&& u ) noexcept
    : ptr_( u.ptr_ )
{
    u.ptr_ = nullptr;
}

```

Different instantiations of class templates cannot access the data members of other instantiations. If access is necessary, a friend is required.

It is possible to declare a specific instantiation a friend, or all instantiations.

Friend access to another instantiation of the unique\_ptr class template

# Default Template Arguments

```
// Declaration of the unique_ptr class template
template< typename T
        , typename D = default_delete<T> >
class unique_ptr;
```

Default template parameter.

The default parameter must be specified exactly once (ODR) and must be visible even if the class template is forward declared. Therefore the default is usually part of the declaration.

```
// Definition of the unique_ptr class template
template< typename T
        , typename D >
class unique_ptr
{
    // ...
};
```

# Default Template Arguments

---

```
template< typename T >
struct chatty_delete {
    void operator()( T* ptr ) const {
        std::cout << "chatty_delete: deleting ptr...\n";
        delete ptr;
    }
};

int main()
{
    // Instantiating the class template with the default template
    // parameter (i.e. default_delete<int>)
    unique_ptr<int> iptr1( new int(42) );

    // Instantiating the class template with another deleter. This
    // will instantiate another, independent type.
    unique_ptr<int, chatty_delete<int>> iptr2( new int(43) );

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

# Class Template Partial Specialization

```

template< typename T, typename D >
class unique_ptr<T[],D>
{
public:
    using pointer = T*;
    using element_type = T;

    // ...
    T& operator[]( size_t index ) const;
    template< typename U > void reset( U ptr ) noexcept;
    void reset( std::nullptr_t ptr = nullptr ) noexcept;
    // ...

private:
    T* ptr_;
};

template< typename T, typename D >
T& unique_ptr<T[],D>::operator[]( size_t index ) const
{
    return ptr_[index];
}

```

Template parameter list. No separate default parameters possible!

Specialization pattern. The compiler selects the specialization based on this pattern.

Nested type aliases

Member function declarations. The specialization is a separate type and therefore can provide a different set of operations.

Declaration of member data

Member function definition outside the class definition

# Class Template Partial Specialization

---

```
int main()
{
    // Instantiates a the unique_ptr class template for a single 'int'
    // This line of code will only instantiate the according
    // constructor and destructor. No other function is instantiated
    // (on-demand instantiation)
    unique_ptr<int> iptr( new int(42) );

    // Instantiates a the unique_ptr class template specialization
    // for an array of 'int's. This line of code will only instantiate
    // the according constructor and destructor.
    unique_ptr<int[]> sptr( new int[10] );

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

# Class Template Full Specialization

```
template< >
class unique_ptr<int, default_delete<int>>
{
public:
    using pointer = int*;

    pointer release() noexcept;
    // ...

private:
    int* ptr_;
};

auto unique_ptr<int, default_delete<int>>::release() noexcept
-> pointer
{
    return std::exchange( ptr_, {} );
}
```

Empty template parameter list

Specialization pattern, consisting of concrete types or values that don't depend on a template parameter

release() function must be defined as ordinary function, since it is not a template anymore!

# Class Template Full Specialization

---

```
template< >
class unique_ptr<int, default_delete<int>>;
```

```
int main()
{
    // Instantiates a the unique_ptr class template full specialization
    // for a single 'int' and 'default_delete<int>'. This line of code
    // will only instantiate the according constructor and destructor.
    unique_ptr<int> iptr( new int(42) );
```

```
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

# Class Template Guidelines

---

**Core Guideline T.42:** Use template aliases to simplify notation and hide implementation details

**Core Guideline T.64:** Use specialization to provide alternative implementations of class templates

## 2.5. Type Traits

---

# Type Traits

---

Types traits enable type queries at compile time:

```
template< typename T >
void f( const T& t )
{
    if constexpr( std::is_integral<T>::value )
    {
        // Code for integral types
    }
    else
    {
        // Code for non-integral types
    }
}
```

## 2. C++ Templates - Type Traits

# Type Traits

Type properties		Supported operations	
Defined in header <type_traits>			
<b>Primary type categories</b>			
<code>is_void</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is <code>void</code> (class template)	
<code>is_null_pointer</code> (C++14)		checks if a type is <code>std::nullptr_t</code> (class template)	
<code>is_integral</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is integral type (class template)	
<code>is_floating_point</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is floating-point type (class template)	
<code>is_array</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is an array type (class template)	
<code>is_enum</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is an enumeration type (class template)	
<code>is_union</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is an union type (class template)	
<code>is_class</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is a non-union class type (class template)	
<code>is_function</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is a function type (class template)	
<code>is_pointer</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is a pointer type (class template)	
<code>is_lvalue_reference</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is <i>lvalue reference</i> (class template)	
<code>is_rvalue_reference</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is <i>rvalue reference</i> (class template)	
<code>is_member_object_pointer</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is a pointer to a non-static member object (class template)	
<code>is_member_function_pointer</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is a pointer to a non-static member function (class template)	
<b>Composite type categories</b>			
<code>is_fundamental</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is fundamental type (class template)	
<code>is_arithmetic</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is arithmetic type (class template)	
<code>is_scalar</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is scalar type (class template)	
<code>is_object</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is object type (class template)	
<code>is_compound</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is compound type (class template)	
<code>is_reference</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is either <i>lvalue reference</i> or <i>rvalue reference</i> (class template)	
<code>is_member_pointer</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is a pointer to a non-static member function or object (class template)	
<b>Type properties</b>			
<code>is_const</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is const-qualified (class template)	
<code>is_VOLATILE</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is volatile-qualified (class template)	
<code>is_trivial</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is trivial (class template)	
<code>is_trivially_copyable</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is trivially copyable (class template)	
<code>is_standard_layout</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is standard-layout type (class template)	
<code>is_pod</code> (C++11)(deprecated in C++20)		checks if a type is plain-old data (POD) type (class template)	
<code>is_literal_type</code> (C++11)(deprecated in C++17)		checks if a type is literal type (class template)	
<code>has_unique_object_representations</code> (C++17)		checks if every bit in the type's object representation contributes to its value (class template)	
<code>is_empty</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is class (but not union) type and has no data (class template)	
<code>is_polymorphic</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is polymorphic class type (class template)	
<code>is_abstract</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is abstract class type (class template)	
<code>is_final</code> (C++14)		checks if a type is a final class type (class template)	
<code>is_aggregate</code> (C++17)		checks if a type is an aggregate type (class template)	
<code>is_signed</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is signed arithmetic type (class template)	
<code>is_unsigned</code> (C++11)		checks if a type is unsigned arithmetic type (class template)	
<b>Const-volatility specifiers</b>			
<code>remove_cv</code> (C++11)		removes <code>const</code> or/and <code>VOLATILE</code> specifiers from the given type (class template)	
<code>remove_const</code> (C++11)		<code>remove_volatile</code> (C++11)	
<code>add_cv</code> (C++11)		<code>add_const</code> (C++11)	
<code>add_const</code> (C++11)		<code>add_volatile</code> (C++11)	
<b>References</b>			
<code>remove_reference</code> (C++11)		removes reference from the given type (class template)	
<code>add_lvalue_reference</code> (C++11)		<code>add_lvalue_reference</code> (C++11)	
<code>add_rvalue_reference</code> (C++11)		(adds <i>lvalue</i> or <i>rvalue</i> reference to the given type (class template))	
<b>Pointers</b>			
<code>remove_pointer</code> (C++11)		removes pointer from the given type (class template)	
<code>add_pointer</code> (C++11)		adds pointer to the given type (class template)	
<b>Sign modifiers</b>			
<code>make_signed</code> (C++11)		makes the given integral type signed (class template)	
<code>make_unsigned</code> (C++11)		makes the given integral type unsigned (class template)	

# Type Traits – std::integral\_constant

---

```
namespace std {

    template< typename T, T v >
    struct integral_constant
    {
        static constexpr T value = v;
        using value_type = T;
        using type = integral_constant;
        constexpr operator value_type() const noexcept
            { return value; }
        constexpr value_type operator()() const noexcept
            { return value; }
    };
}

} // namespace std
```

## Type Traits – std::true\_type / std::false\_type

---

```
namespace std {  
  
template< bool B >  
using bool_constant = integral_constant<bool,B>;  
  
using true_type = std::bool_constant<true>;  
  
using false_type = std::bool_constant<false>;  
}  
// namespace std
```

## Type Traits – std::is\_const

---

```
namespace std {  
  
template< typename T >           // The base template  
struct is_const                  // represents the default  
    : public false_type          // behavior  
{};  
  
} // namespace std
```

# Type Traits – std::is\_const

---

```
namespace std {  
  
template< typename T >           // The base template  
struct is_const                  // represents the default  
    : public false_type          // behavior  
{};  
  
template< typename T >           // Each specialisation  
struct is_const<const T>         // handles a specific true  
    : public true_type           // case  
{};  
  
} // namespace std
```

# Type Traits – std::is\_const

---

```
namespace std {  
  
    template< typename T >          // The base template  
    struct is_const                // represents the default  
        : public false_type        // behavior  
    {};  
  
    template< typename T >          // Each specialisation  
    struct is_const<const T>       // handles a specific true  
        : public true_type        // case  
    {};  
  
    template< typename T >  
    constexpr bool is_const_v = is_const<T>::value;  
  
} // namespace std
```

## Example: IsConst Type Trait

---

**Task (B\_Advanced\_Templates/IsConst):** Implement the `is_const` type trait in the following example. The type trait should determine if the given type is a const-qualified type. In case the given type is a const-qualified type, the type trait should inherit from `std::true_type`, else it should derive from `std::false_type`.

## Type Traits – std::remove\_const

---

```
namespace std {  
  
template< typename T >           // The base template  
struct remove_const              // represents the default  
{                                // behavior  
    using type = T;  
};  
  
} // namespace std
```

# Type Traits – std::remove\_const

---

```
namespace std {

    template< typename T >           // The base template
    struct remove_const              // represents the default
    {
        using type = T;
    };

    template< typename T >           // Each specialisation
    struct remove_const<T const>     // handles a specific true
    {
        using type = T;
    };
}

} // namespace std
```

# Type Traits – std::remove\_const

---

```
namespace std {

    template< typename T >          // The base template
    struct remove_const             // represents the default
    {
        using type = T;
    };

    template< typename T >          // Each specialisation
    struct remove_const<T const>    // handles a specific true
    {
        using type = T;
    };

    template< typename T >
    using remove_const_t = typename remove_const<T>::type;

} // namespace std
```

## Example: RemoveConst Type Trait

---

**Task (B\_Advanced\_Templates/RemoveConst):** Implement the remove\_const type trait in the following example. The type trait should remove any top level const qualifier from the given type.

## Example: IsPointer Type Trait

---

**Task (B\_Advanced\_Templates/IsPointer):** Implement the `is_pointer` type trait in the following example. The type trait should determine if the given type is a pointer type. In case the given type is a pointer type, the type trait should inherit from `std::true_type`, else it should derive from `std::false_type`.

## Example: RemoveCV Type Trait

---

**Task (B\_Advanced\_Templates/RemoveCV):** Implement the `remove_cv` type trait in the following example. The type trait should remove any top level cv qualifier from the given type.

# Guidelines

---

**Guideline:** Use type traits for compile-time decisions.

**Core Guideline T.142:** Use template variables to simplify notation

## 2.6. Variadic Templates

---

# Programming Task

---

**Task (2\_Templates/Print):** Extend the given print() function by variadic templates to enable an arbitrary number of function arguments.

```
template< typename T >
std::ostream& print( std::ostream& os, const T& value )
{
    return os << value;
}
```

# Solution 1: Tail Recursion with Overloading

C++11

This overload serves as termination criterion for the tail recursion

```
template< typename T >
std::ostream& print( std::ostream& os, const T& value )
{
    return os << value;
}

template< typename T, typename... Ts >
std::ostream& print( std::ostream& os, const T& value, const Ts&... values )
{
    print( os, value );
    print( os, values... );
    return os;
}
```

# Solution 2: Tail Recursion with `constexpr if`

C++17

```
template< typename T, typename... Ts >
std::ostream& print( std::ostream& os, const T& value, const Ts&... values )
{
    std::cout << value;
    if constexpr( sizeof...(Ts) > 0 ) {
        print( os, values... );
    }
    return os;
}
```

## Solution 3: Fold Expressions

---

C++17

```
template< typename T, typename... Ts >
std::ostream& print( std::ostream& os, const T& value, const Ts&... values )
{
    std::cout << value;
    return ( std::cout << ... << values );
}
```

# Fold Expressions

---

# The Situation up to C++14

---

```
// Sum up all the given numbers
template< typename... Ns >
auto sum( Ns... ns );
```

# The Situation up to C++14

---

```
auto sum()
{
    return 0;
}

template< typename N >
auto sum( N n )
{
    return n;
}

template< typename N0, typename... Ns >
auto sum( N0 n0, Ns... ns )
{
    return n0 + sum( ns... );
}
```

# C++17 Fold Expressions

```
// Sum up all the given numbers
template< typename... Ns >
auto sum( Ns... ns )
{
    return ( ns + ... + 0 );
}
```

Note the parenthesis around the fold expression. They are required!



Example:

```
auto a = sum( 3.14, 1E7, -42, 17 );
// 3.14 + ( 1E7 + ( -42 + ( 17 + 0 ) ) )
```

# C++17 Fold Expressions

---

<b>Unary Right Fold</b>	$( E \text{ op } \dots )$	$E_1 \text{ op } (\dots \text{ op } (E_{N-1} \text{ op } E_N))$
<b>Unary Left Fold</b>	$( \dots \text{ op } E )$	$((E_1 \text{ op } E_2) \text{ op } \dots) \text{ op } E_N$
<b>Binary Right Fold</b>	$( E \text{ op } \dots \text{ op } I )$	$E_1 \text{ op } (\dots \text{ op } (E_{N-1} \text{ op } (E_N \text{ op } I)))$
<b>Binary Left Fold</b>	$( I \text{ op } \dots \text{ op } E )$	$((((I \text{ op } E_1) \text{ op } E_2) \text{ op } \dots) \text{ op } E_N)$

- Fold expressions apply unary or binary operators to parameter packs
- Parentheses around the fold expression are required
- The following 32 operators are foldable:

<code>==</code>	<code>!=</code>	<code>&lt;</code>	<code>&gt;</code>	<code>&lt;=</code>	<code>&gt;=</code>	<code>&amp;&amp;</code>	<code>  </code>	,	<code>.*</code>	<code>-&gt;*</code>	<code>=</code>
<code>+</code>	<code>-</code>	<code>*</code>	<code>/</code>	<code>%</code>	<code>^</code>	<code>&amp;</code>	<code> </code>	<code>&lt;&lt;</code>	<code>&gt;&gt;</code>		
<code>+ =</code>	<code>- =</code>	<code>* =</code>	<code>/ =</code>	<code>% =</code>	<code>^ =</code>	<code>&amp; =</code>	<code>  =</code>	<code>&lt;&lt; =</code>	<code>&gt;&gt; =</code>		

# C++17 Fold Expressions

---

For unary folds, if the parameter pack is empty then the value of the fold is

<code>&amp;&amp;</code>	<code>true</code>
<code>  </code>	<code>false</code>
<code>,</code>	<code>void()</code>

For any operator not listed above, a unary fold expression with an empty parameter pack is ill-formed.

## C++17 Fold Expressions – Examples

---

```
template< typename... Ts >
void print( Ts&&... ts )
{
    ( std::cout << ... << std::forward<Ts>( ts ) ) << '\n';
}
```

```
template< typename F, typename... Args >
void for_each_arg( F f, Args&&... args )
{
    ( f( std::forward<Args>( args ) ), ... );
```

# Programming Task

---

**Task (2\_Templates/Sum):** Write a generic `sum()` function that can compute the sum of an arbitrary number of values of any type.

# Programming Task

---

**Task (2\_Templates/VariadicMax):** Extend the `max()` function template for an arbitrary number of elements.

# Programming Task

---

**Task (2\_Templates/VariadicMinMax):** Extend the `minmax()` function template for an arbitrary number of elements.

# Programming Task

---

**Task (2\_Templates/AddSub):** Implement the addsub() function, which performs an alternating addition/subtraction of the given arguments.

# Examples from the Standard Library

[cppreference.com](#)

[Create account](#)

Search

[Page](#)

[Discussion](#)

[View](#) [Edit](#) [History](#)

[C++](#) [Utilities library](#) [Dynamic memory management](#) [std::unique\\_ptr](#)

## std::make\_unique, std::make\_unique\_for\_overwrite

Defined in header `<memory>`

<code>template&lt; class T, class... Args &gt;</code>	(1)	(since C++14)
<code>unique_ptr&lt;T&gt; make_unique( Args&amp;&amp;... args );</code>		(only for non-array types)
<code>template&lt; class T &gt;</code>	(2)	(since C++14)
<code>unique_ptr&lt;T&gt; make_unique( std::size_t size );</code>		(only for array types with unknown bound)
<code>template&lt; class T, class... Args &gt;</code>	(3)	(since C++14)
<code>/* unspecified */ make_unique( Args&amp;&amp;... args ) = delete;</code>		(only for array types with known bound)
<code>template&lt; class T &gt;</code>	(4)	(since C++20)
<code>unique_ptr&lt;T&gt; make_unique_for_overwrite( );</code>		(only for non-array types)
<code>template&lt; class T &gt;</code>	(5)	(since C++20)
<code>unique_ptr&lt;T&gt; make_unique_for_overwrite( std::size_t size );</code>		(only for array types with unknown bound)
<code>template&lt; class T, class... Args &gt;</code>	(6)	(since C++20)
<code>/* unspecified */ make_unique_for_overwrite( Args&amp;&amp;... args ) = delete;</code>		(only for array types with known bound)

Constructs an object of type T and wraps it in a `std::unique_ptr`.

# Programming Task

---

**Task (2\_Templates/MakeUnique):** Implement the `make_unique()` function for the `std::unique_ptr` class template.

# Examples from the Standard Library

cppreference.com

Create account

Search

Page Discussion

View Edit History

C++ Containers library std::vector

## std::vector<T,Allocator>::emplace

```
template< class... Args > (since C++11)
iterator emplace( const_iterator pos, Args&&... args );
                                         (until C++20)

template< class... Args >
constexpr iterator emplace( const_iterator pos, Args&&... args ); (since C++20)
```

Inserts a new element into the container directly before pos.

The element is constructed through `std::allocator_traits::construct`, which typically uses placement-new to construct the element in-place at a location provided by the container. However, if the required location has been occupied by an existing element, the inserted element is constructed at another location at first, and then move assigned into the required location.

The arguments `args...` are forwarded to the constructor as `std::forward<Args>(args)...`. `args...` may directly or indirectly refer to a value in the container.

If the new `size()` is greater than `capacity()`, all iterators and references are invalidated. Otherwise, only the iterators and references before the insertion point remain valid. The past-the-end iterator is also invalidated.

### Parameters

**pos** - iterator before which the new element will be constructed

# Programming Task

---

**Task (2\_Templates/Vector2):** Add an `emplace_back()` function to the `Vector` class template.

# Examples from the Standard Library

cppreference.com

Create account

Search

Page Discussion

View Edit History

C++ Utilities library std::variant

## std::variant

Defined in header `<variant>`

`template <class... Types>`      (since C++17)  
`class variant;`

The class template `std::variant` represents a type-safe [union](#). An instance of `std::variant` at any given time either holds a value of one of its alternative types, or in the case of error - no value (this state is hard to achieve, see [valueless\\_by\\_exception](#)).

As with unions, if a variant holds a value of some object type `T`, the object representation of `T` is allocated directly within the object representation of the variant itself. Variant is not allowed to allocate additional (dynamic) memory.

A variant is not permitted to hold references, arrays, or the type `void`. Empty variants are also ill-formed (`std::variant<std::monostate>` can be used instead).

A variant is permitted to hold the same type more than once, and to hold differently cv-qualified versions of the same type.

Consistent with the behavior of unions during [aggregate initialization](#), a default-constructed variant holds a value of its first alternative, unless that alternative is not default-constructible (in which case the variant is not default-constructible either). The helper class `std::monostate` can be used to make such variants default-constructible.

## Template parameters

# Programming Task

---

**Task (2\_Templates/VariantIndex):** Write the `variant_index` class template to evaluate the index of an alternative within a given variant `V`. In case the given type `T` is found in the list of alternatives, `variant_index` should return the index. Otherwise `variant_index` should return `std::variant::npos`.

# Examples from the Standard Library

[cppreference.com](#)

[Create account](#)

Search

[Page](#) [Discussion](#)

[View](#) [Edit](#) [History](#)

[C++](#) [Utilities library](#) [std::tuple](#)

## std::tuple

Defined in header `<tuple>`

`template< class... Types >` (since C++11)  
`class tuple;`

Class template `std::tuple` is a fixed-size collection of heterogeneous values. It is a generalization of `std::pair`.

If `std::is_trivially_destructible<Ti>::value` is `true` for every `Ti` in `Types`, the destructor of `tuple` is trivial.

### Template parameters

`Types...` - the types of the elements that the tuple stores. Empty list is supported.

### Member functions

`(constructor) (C++11)` constructs a new tuple  
(public member function)

`operator= (C++11)` assigns the contents of one tuple to another  
(public member function)

`swap (C++11)` swaps the contents of two tuples  
(public member function)

# Variadic Template Guidelines

---

**Core Guideline T.100:** Use variadic templates when you need a function that takes a variable number of arguments of a variety of types

**Core Guideline T.103:** Don't use variadic templates for homogeneous arguments lists

## 2.7. Non-Type Template Parameters

---

# An Example

```
template parameter list
template<typename T
          , size_t MaxSize = 100UL>
class Stack {
private:
    T m_elems[MaxSize];
    size_t m_numElems;
public:
    void push ( T const& );
    void pop   ();
    T      top   () const;
    bool empty() const {
        return m_numElems == 0UL;
    }
    bool full() const {
        return m_numElems == MaxSize;
    }
};
```

template default argument

function definitions within the class body

# Restrictions

---

Non-Type template parameters may be ...

- ... constant integral values (constants, `constexpr`, literals, ...)
- ... constant floating point values (since C++20)
- ... pointers to objects with external linkage

Non-Type template parameters may not be ...

- ... class-type objects
- ... pointers to objects with internal linkage (e.g. string literals)

## 2.8. Tricky Basics

---

# The `typename` Keyword

---

The `typename` keyword has two distinct uses. First it is used to declare a template type parameter ...

```
template< typename T >
class MyClass {
    // ...
};
```

... and second it is used to disambiguate nested values/objects from types:

```
template< typename T >
class MyClass {
    typename T::SubType* ptr;
    // ...
};
```

`typename` is required whenever a name that depends on a template parameter is a type.

# Using this->

---

Consider the following example:

```
template< typename T >
class Base {
public:
    void bar();
};

template< typename T >
class Derived : Base<T> {
public:
    void foo() {
        bar();
    }
};
```

# Using this->

---

Consider the following example:

```
template< typename T >
class Base {
public:
    void bar();
};

template< typename T >
class Derived : Base<T> {
public:
    void foo() {
        bar(); // <- Results in a compilation error
    }
};
```

## Using this->

---

Output from the GNU C++ compiler:

```
$ g++ -o DependentNames DependentNames.cpp
DependentNames.cpp:19:11: error: there are no arguments to 'bar'
that depend on a template parameter, so a declaration of 'bar' must
be available [-fpermissive]
```

# Using `this->`

---

Consider the following example:

```
template< typename T >
class Base {
public:
    void bar();
};

template< typename T >
class Derived : Base<T> {
public:
    void foo() {
        this->bar();
    }
};
```

# Using this->

---

The reason behind this behavior:

```
template< typename T >
struct Base {
    int basefield;
};

template< typename T >
struct Derived : public Base<T>
{
    void f() { basefield = 0; }
};

template<>
struct Base<bool>
{
    enum { basefield = 0; }
};

void g( Derived<bool>& d ) {
    d.f();
}
```

# Zero Initialization

---

1. Quick task: What are the initial values of x and ptr?

```
void foo()
{
    int x;      // x has undefined value
    int* ptr;   // ptr points to somewhere
}
```

# Zero Initialization

---

2. Quick task: What is the initial value of x ?

```
template< typename T >
void foo()
{
    T x; // x has undefined value only if T is of
          // built-in type; otherwise the according
          // constructor is called.
}
```

# Zero Initialization

---

3. Quick task: Is the following a solution to "zero initialize" x ?

```
template< typename T >
void foo()
{
    T x(); // Explicitly calling the "constructor"
}
```

# Zero Initialization

---

3. Quick task: Is the following a solution to "zero initialize" `x` ?

```
template< typename T >
void foo()
{
    T x(); // Function declaration
}
```

No, unfortunately it's not. This is a function declaration, not an explicit constructor call.

# Zero Initialization

---

In order to "zero initialize" type dependent values of built-in data type, you should be doing the following

```
template< typename T >
void foo()
{
    T x{}; // Explicit "zero initialization"
}
```

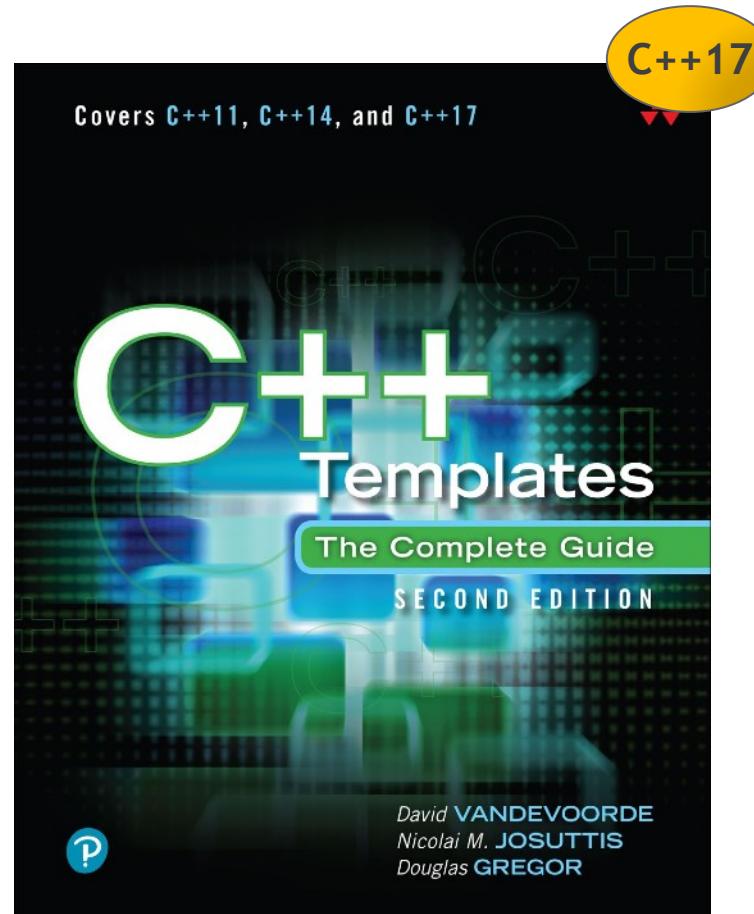
# Things to Remember

---

- Use the power of templates to create isolation points
- Mind the differences between function template overloading and specialization
- Prefer function overloading to function template specialization
- Remember that specialized class templates are new types
- Don't forget non-type template parameters
- Remember the tricky details 😊

# Literature

---



# References

---

- Dan Saks: Back to Basics: Function and Class Templates. CppCon 2019 ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMP\\_sxOaz6g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMP_sxOaz6g))
- Andreas Fertig: Back to Basics: Templates (part 1 of 2). CppCon 2020 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNJ4wiuxJM4>)
- Andreas Fertig: Back to Basics: Templates (part 2 of 2). CppCon 2020 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dtjDTEE0hQ>)
- Scott Meyers, “Type Deduction and Why You Care”. CppCon 2014 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQxj20X-tIU>)
- Walter Brown: C++ Function Templates: How Do They Really Work?. CppCon 2018 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIDEjY5ywqU>)

# Online Resources

---

- Working Draft, Standard for Programming Language C++: <http://eel.is/c++draft/>
- C++ Reference: [www.cppreference.com](http://www.cppreference.com)
- C++ Core Guidelines: [isocpp.github.io/CppCoreGuidelines/CppCoreGuidelines](https://isocpp.github.io/CppCoreGuidelines/CppCoreGuidelines)
- Stackoverflow: [www.stackoverflow.com](http://www.stackoverflow.com)
- Compiler Explorer: [www.godbolt.org](http://www.godbolt.org)
- Quick-Bench: [www.quick-bench.com](http://www.quick-bench.com)
- C++ Insights: [www.cppinsights.io](http://www.cppinsights.io)
- Build-Bench: [www.build-bench.com](http://www.build-bench.com)
- C++ Shell: [cpp.sh](http://cpp.sh)
- Wandbox: [wandbox.org](http://wandbox.org)
- repl.it: [repl.it](http://repl.it)
- Intel Intrinsics Guide: [software.intel.com/sites/landingpage/IntrinsicsGuide](http://software.intel.com/sites/landingpage/IntrinsicsGuide)
- x86/x64 SIMD Instruction List: <https://www.officedaytime.com/simd512e/>

# Additional Online Resources

---

- C++ Bestiary: <http://videocortex.io/2017/Bestiary/>
- More C++ Idioms: [https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/More\\_C%2B%2B\\_Idioms](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/More_C%2B%2B_Idioms)
- Codewars: <https://www.codewars.com>
- CodeKata: <http://codekata.com>

email: [klaus.iglberger@gmx.de](mailto:klaus.iglberger@gmx.de)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/klaus-iglberger-2133694/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/klaus-iglberger-2133694/)

Xing: [xing.com/profile/Klaus\\_Iglberger/cv](https://www.xing.com/profile/Klaus_Iglberger/cv)