Meeting C++ 2017

## **Concepts Driven Design**

Kris Jusiak, Quantlab Financial

#### **Overview**

- Concepts
  - Motivation / History
- Type constraints (C++20)
  - Requirements
    - Design by introspection
  - Named concepts
    - Optional interfaces
- Concepts emulation (C++17)

- Concepts based design
  - Static polymorphism
  - Dynamic polymorphism
    - Virtual concepts (C++2?)
  - Dependency Injection
  - Mocking (testing)
- Future of concepts (C++2X)

#### **Disclaimer**

This talk is from user perspective

See Andrew Sutton talks for more details about concepts!

Concepts, although, merged into C++20 draft, are still a subject for future changes

Compiler	Version	Notes
GCC	6.1+	Requires -fconcepts flag
MSVC	VS2017 15.5	-
Clang	In progress	_

Examples in this talk were compiled using

## Motivation - Well specified interfaces

```
template<class T>
const T& min(const T& a, const T& b) {
  return b < a ? b : a;
}</pre>
```

#### Precise documentation

- What's are the syntax requirements for T?
  - compile-time / concepts
- What's are the semantics requirements for min ?
  - run-time / contracts, tests, manuals

## **Motivation - Compiler diagnostics**

```
int main() {
   auto list = std::list{1, 2, 3};
   std::sort(std::begin(list), std::end(list));
}
```

https://godbolt.org/g/RTRgg2

## **Motivation - Compiler diagnostics**

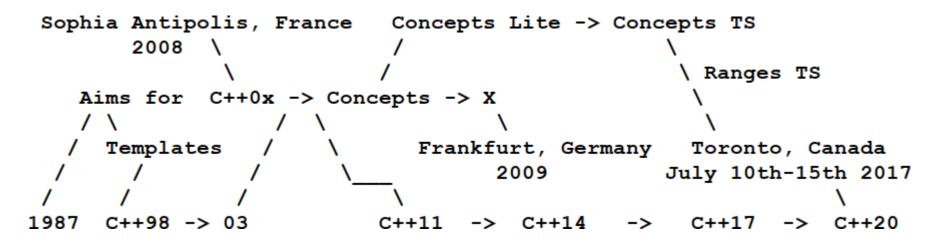
#### Without concepts

#### With concepts

```
error: cannot call std::sort
note: concept RandomAccessIterator was not satisfied
since: expression (b-a) will be ill formed
```

Note: Constraints are checked at the point of use

## **History**



Requirements analysis	https://wg21.link/n3351
Concepts Lite	https://wg21.link/n3701
Concepts TS	https://wg21.link/P0734R0

Bjarne Stroustrup, Andrew Sutton, Gabriel Dos Reis Alex Stepanow, Andrew Lumsdaine, Sean Parent, ...

### **C++20** draft

Requirements

Constraints

Named concepts

http://eel.is/c++draft/temp.constr

# Requirements

### Requires-clause

Specifies constraints on template arguments or on a function declaration

```
std::enable_if on steroids
```

```
template<class> requires false
void foo() {}
```

```
foo<class AnyType>(); // Error: constraints not satisfied
```

```
template<bool Value> requires Value
void bar() {}
```

```
bar<true>(); // Okay
bar<false>(); // Error: constraints not satisfied
```

Note: requires-clause is part of the function signature

### Requires-expression

```
Expression of type bool
 requires ( [parameters] ) { requirements }
requires(T) { // type requirement
 typename T::value_type; };
requires(T t) { // simple requirement
 t[typename T::value_type{}]; };
requires(T t) { // compound requirement
 { t.empty() } -> bool; }; // convertible to bool
requires(T t) { // nested requirement
  requires std::is_enum_v<typename T::value_type>; };
```

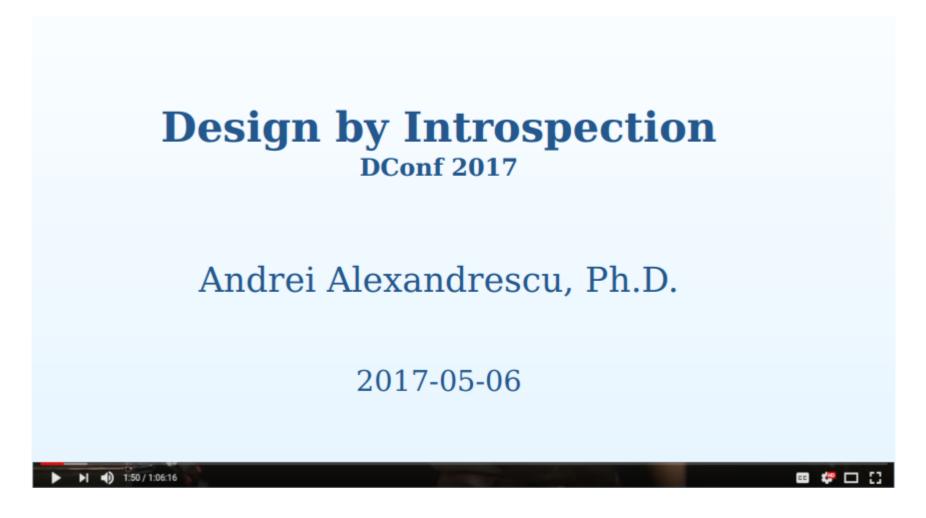
Note: Parameters -> declvals

### Requires-clause/Requires-expression

```
template<class T>
constexpr auto foo(T&& x) // immediate context (SFINAE friendly)
  requires requires(T t) { t.bar(); }
{ return x.bar(); }
```

Note: requires requires -> requires-clause followed by requires-expression

# **Design by introspection**



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29h6jGtZD-U

## **Design by introspection - D lang**

https://dlang.org/spec/traits.html

```
auto foo(T)(T \times) {
  static if(__traits(hasMember, x, "bar")) {
    return x.bar;
 } else {
    return 0;
void main() {
  assert(0 == foo(42));
  struct Bar { int bar = 42; }
  Bar bar;
  assert(42 == foo(bar));
```

https://godbolt.org/g/wpLXzV

### **Design by introspection - C++20**

```
template<class T>
constexpr auto foo(T x) {
 if constexpr(requires(T t) { t.bar; }) { // immediate context
    return x.bar;
 } else {
    return 0;
int main() {
 assert(0 == foo(42));
 struct { int bar{42}; } bar;
 assert(42 == foo(bar));
```

https://godbolt.org/g/uot6Bv

## **Design by introspection - C++**

```
C++ source #1 X
                                                                     x86-64 gcc (trunk) (Editor #1, Compiler #2) X
                                                                     x86-64 gcc (trunk)
                                                                                        -std=c++2a -fconcepts
       template<class T>
                                                                      A₹
       constexpr auto foo(T x) {
                                                                      11010
                                                                                              Demangle
          if constexpr(requires(T t) { t.bar; }) {
            return x.bar;
                                                                             1 main:
          } else {
                                                                                  mov eax, 42
            return 0;
   6
                                                                                  ret
   8
       int main() {
  10
          struct { int bar{42}; } bar;
  11
         return foo(bar);
  12
  13
```

https://godbolt.org/g/MFxqWu

### Requirements

Readability?

```
template < class T >
auto bar(T& t)
  requires requires(T t) {
    typename T::type;
    { t.foo() } -> void;
    requires Movable < T > or Same < T, int >;
  } {
  return foo(t);
}
```

A collection of requirements on a type (variable template)

```
template<template-parameters>
concept concept-name = constraint-expression;
```

"If you like it then you should have put a name on it", Beyonce rule

Predicate constraints

```
template<class>
concept Always = true; // always satisified
```

```
template<class T>
concept Size32 = sizeof(T) == 4;
```

Conjunctions, Disjunctions

```
template<class T>
concept SignedIntegral = std::is_integral_v<T> and std::is_signed_v<T>;
```

#### Requirements

Note: Concepts are never instantiatied (therefore the concept keyword)

Unconstrained class definition

```
template<class> class Bar {};
```

Requires expression (long form)

```
template<class T> requires Fooable<T> class Bar { };
```

Abbreviated templates

```
template<Fooable T> class Bar {};
```

Note: C++17 - Non-type template arguments

```
template<auto T> class Bar {}; // For values -> Bar<42>
```

#### Example

```
struct tcp_socket { void send(std::string_view); };
struct udp_socket { void send(std::string_view); };
struct file { void write(std::string_view); };
```

```
template < class T > void forward(T& t, std::string_view data) {
  t.???(data); // send/write
}
```

**Everything Cpp** 

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xsSYPD0v5Mg

#### Concept definition

```
template < class T > concept File =
  requires(T t, std:string_view data) {
      { t.write(data) } -> void; // compound requirement
};
```

#### Concept overloading

```
template < Socket T > // requires Socket < T >
/*1*/ void forward(T& t, std::string_view data) { t.send(data); }

template < File T > // requires File < T >
/*2*/ void forward(T& t, std::string_view data) { t.write(data); }
```

```
int main() {
  tcp_socket tcp; forward(tcp, "tcp data"sv); // calls 1
  udp_socket udp; forward(udp, "udp data"sv); // calls 1
  file file; forward(file, "file data"sv); // calls 2
}
```

Note: If multiple are satisifed the most constrainted is chosen

Concepts overloading

if constexpr (C++17)

```
template < class T >
void forward(T& t, std::string_view data) {
  if constexpr(Socket < T > ) { // compile - time
     t.send(data);
  } else if constexpr(File < T > ) {
     t.write(data);
  }
}
```

Note: Branch which is not taken is discarded ------ Statement may not compile but syntax has to be valid

Lambdas

```
constexpr auto forward =
  [](auto& t, std::string_view data) {
   using type = std::decay_t<decltype(t)>>;
   if constexpr(Socket<type>) { t.send(data); } else
   if constexpr(File<type>) { t.write(data); }
};
```

Generic lambdas (C++17) - https://wg21.link/P0428r2

```
constexpr auto forward =
  []<class T>(T& t, std::string_view data) {
   if constexpr(Socket<T>) { t.send(data); } else
   if constexpr(File<T>) { t.write(data); }
};
```

Optional interfaces

Example -> Stream<T>

- Copy constructible
- Callable member function write which takes type T&
- Callable member function read which returns type T
- Callable optional member function read\_complete
- Printable

Optional interfaces: Inheritance / virtual functions (not expressive enough)

```
/ * *
 * Implementation requires to be printable and
 * copy constructible
 * /
template<class T>
class istream {
public:
  virtual ~istream() noexcept = default;
  virtual void write(T&) = 0;
  virtual T read() = 0;
 // ??? [[optional]] ???
  virtual void read_complete() = 0;
};
```

Optional interfaces: Concepts

```
template<class T, class TData>
concept Streamable =
 CopyConstructible<T> and // CopyConstructible
 requires(T t, std::ostream& out, TData& data) {
   out << t;  // Printable
t.write(data);  // Writable</pre>
   { t.read() } -> TData // Readable
 } or requires(T t, std::ostream& out, TData& data) {
                 // Printable
   out << t;
   t.write(data);
{ t.read() } -> TData // Readable 1/2
   t.read_complete(); // Readable 2/2
```

Optional interfaces: Usage

```
using data_t = std::array<std::byte, 1024>;

class FileStream {
  public:
    void write(data_t&);
    data_t read();
    void read_complete();
};
```

```
int main() {
   Streamable<data_t> stream = FileStream{};
   const auto data = stream.read();
   ...
   stream.read_complete();
}
```

#### **Placeholders**

Placeholder	Synopsis
Unconstrained	auto
Constrained	<pre>concept-name&lt;[template-argument-list]&gt;</pre>

```
template<class T> class Foo {};
template<class T> concept Fooable = true;
```

```
// auto - least constrained concept
auto foo1 = Foo<int>{};
// C++17 - Constructor Template Argument Deduction
Foo foo2 = Foo<int>{};
// C++20 - placeholder
Fooable foo3 = Foo<int>{};
```

Note: Placeholders can be used for functions void f(auto);

## Concepts in the C++ ISO standard

18	EqualityComparable requirements	467
19	LessThanComparable requirements	467
20	DefaultConstructible requirements	467
21	MoveConstructible requirements	468
22	CopyConstructible requirements (in addition to MoveConstructible)	468
23	MoveAssignable requirements	468
24	CopyAssignable requirements (in addition to MoveAssignable)	468
25	Destructible requirements	468
26	NullablePointer requirements	470
27	Hash requirements	471
28	Descriptive variable definitions	471
29	Allocator requirements	472

Note: More concepts to come with Ranges TS

### Concepts and the C++ ISO standard

Table 18 — EqualityComparable requirements [equalitycomparable]

Expression	Return type	Requirement
a == b	convertible to bool	== is an equivalence relation, that is, it has the following properties:
		— For all a, a == a.
		— If a == b, then b == a.
		— If a == b and b == c, then a == c.

```
class EqualityComparable a where // Haskell typeclasses
  (==) :: a -> a -> Bool
```

### **Concepts - Ranges TS**

```
template <class I>
concept InputIterator =
  Iterator<I> &&
  Readable<I> &&
  requires(I& i, const I& ci) {
    typename iterator_category_t<I>;
    DerivedFrom<
      iterator_category_t<I>, input_iterator_tag>;
    i++;
};
```

https://github.com/CaseyCarter/cmcstl2

# **Concepts emulation (C++17)**

Substituation Failure Is Not An Error (SFINAE)

```
template<bool, class = void>
struct enable_if {}; // no type alias

template<class T>
struct enable_if<true, T> { using type = T; };
```

• false predicates lead to ill-formed code that's discarded

Dedection idiom (C++20)

```
template<class T>
using Fooable = decltype(std::declval<T&>().foo());
struct Foo { void foo(); };
struct Bar { };
static_assert(not std::is_detected<Fooable, Bar>{});
static_assert( std::is_detected<Fooable, Foo>{});
 Note: Under the hood, it uses
 template<class...> using void_t = void;
```

https://wg21.link/n4436

Does the Concepts TS Improve on C++17?

```
template <class F, class... Args, class = decltype(
   std::declval<F&&>()(std::declval<Args&&>()...))>
constexpr auto requires_impl(int) { return true; }

template <class F, class... Args>
constexpr auto requires_impl(...) { return false; }

template <class... Args, class F>
constexpr auto requires(F&&) {
   return requires_impl<F&&, Args&&...>(int{});
}
```

https://wg21.link/P0726R0

requires-clause

```
struct Foo { void foo(); };
struct Bar {};

static_assert(
  requires<Foo>([](auto&& t) -> decltype(t.foo()) {})
);

static_assert(
  !requires<Bar>([](auto&& t) -> decltype(t.foo()) {})
);
```

Design by introspection - C++17

```
template < class T > constexpr auto foo(T x) {
  if constexpr(requires < T > ( // compile-time if
    [](auto&& t) -> decltype(t.bar) {})) {
    return x.bar;
  } else {
    return 0;
  }
}
```

Note: Workaround for expression is not a constant expression

```
if constexpr(
  auto bar = [](auto&& t) -> decltype(t.bar) {};
  requires<T>(bar)
)
```

Named concept

```
template<class T> constexpr auto Socket =
  requires<T>([](auto&& t, std:string_view data)->
    decltype(t.send(data)) {}
);
```

```
template < class T > constexpr auto File =
  requires < T > ([](auto&& t, std:string_view data) ->
    decltype(t.write(data)) {}
);
```

Error message

```
template < class T, class = std::enable_if_t < Socket < T >>
void forward (T& t, std::string_view data) {
  t.send(data);
}
```

```
int main() {
  tcp_socket tcp; forward(tcp, "tcp data"sv); // Okay
  file file; forward(file, "file data"sv);
  // error: no matching function for call to 'forward'
  // possibly many lines of output <- library side
}</pre>
```

Note: No details why function couldn't be called

Concepts overloading

```
template < class T, std::enable_if_t < Socket < T >, int > = 0 >
/*1*/ void forward(T& t, std::string_view data) { t.send(data); }

template < class T std::enable_if_t < File < T >, int > = 0 >
/*2*/ void forward(T& t, std::string_view data) { t.write(data); }
```

```
int main() {
  tcp_socket tcp; forward(tcp, "tcp data"sv); // calls 1
  udp_socket udp; forward(udp, "udp data"sv); // calls 1
  file file; forward(file, "file data"sv); // calls 2
}
```

Note: Default template pramaters aren't part of the function signature (no SFINAE)

```
Concept overloading

if constexpr (C++17)
```

```
template < class T >
void forward(T& t, std::string_view data) {
  if constexpr(Socket < T >) { // compile-time}
    t.send(data);
  } else if constexpr(File < T >) {
    t.write(data);
  }
}
```

Note: Exactly the same way as with C++20 concepts

#### Goals

Expressiveness	Type constraints for better error messages
Loosely coupeled design	Inject all the things! (Policy Design)
Performance	Static dispatch by default (based on concepts)
Flexiblity	Dynamic dispatch using type erasure (based on the same concepts)
Testability	Automatic mocks injection (based on the same concepts)

Static polymorphism

```
template<class T> concept Drawable =
  requires (T t, std::ostream& out) { t.draw(out) } -> void; };
```

```
struct Square {
  void draw(std::ostream& out) { out << "Square"; } };</pre>
struct Circle {
  void draw(std::ostream& out) { out << "Circle"; } };</pre>
template<Drawable T>
void f(T& d) { d.draw(std::cout); }
int main() {
  f(Square{}); // prints Square
  f(Circle{}); // prints Circle
```

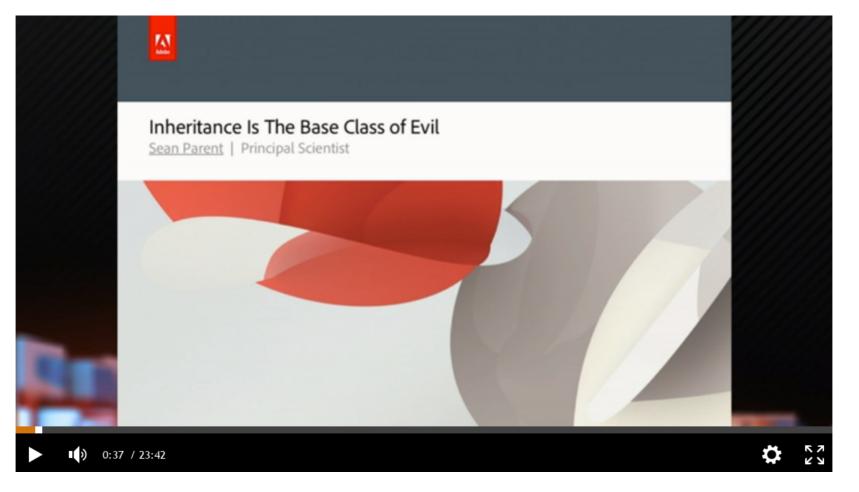
Static polymorphism

```
std::vector v1 = { Square{}, Circle{} };
// ERROR: class template argument deduction failed

std::vector<auto> v2 = { Square{}, Circle{} };
// ERROR: couldn't deduce template parameter

std::vector<Drawable> v3 = { Square{}, Circle{} };
// ERROR: couldn't deduce template parameter
```

Concepts based polymorphism / Dynamic polymorphism



Inheritance-Is-The-Base-Class-of-Evil

Dynamic polymorphism / type erasure

```
class Drawable {
 void* ptr_{}; // ??? Small Buffer Optimization (SBO)
 struct {
   void (*draw)(std::ostream&);
   void (*delete_ptr)(void*);
 } const* const vptr_{{};
public:
 template<class T> Drawable(T t) // non explicit
  : ptr_{new T{t}}, vptr_{
    [](void* self) { static_cast<T*>(self)->draw(); },
    [](void* self) { delete static_cast<T*>(self); } }
 { }
 ~Drawable() { vptr_->delete_ptr(ptr_); }
void draw(std::ostream& os) { vptr_->draw(os); }
```

Dynamic polymorphism / Virtual concepts (C++2?)

```
template<class T> concept Drawable =
  requires() { auto T::draw(std::ostream&) -> void; };
  // Signature requirement
```

```
struct Square {
  void draw(std::ostream& out) { out << "Square"; } };</pre>
struct Circle {
  void draw(std::ostream& out) { out << "Circle"; } };</pre>
void f(virtual Drawable& d) { d.draw(std::cout); }
    // Type erasure
int main() {
  f(Square{}); // prints Square
  f(Circle{}); // prints Circle
```

- Dynamic polymorphism / Virtual concepts (C++2?)
- Signature requirement

```
template<class T>
concept Fooable = requires() {
  auto T::foo() -> void; // NOT C++20!
};
```

#### Dynamic Generic Programming with Virtual Concepts

Note: Virtual concepts aren't part of C++20

Dynamic polymorphism / Virtual concepts (C++2?)

```
std::vector<virtual Drawable> v; // Okay (type erasure)
v.push_back(Square{}); // Okay
v.push_back(Circle{}); // Okay
```

100% value semantics / Stack based / Small buffer optimization (SBO)

Note: Might be also generated with Metaclasses (C++2?)

https://wg21.link/p0707r0

Dynamic polymorphism / Virtual concepts emulation (C++17)

```
template<class T> constexpr auto Drawable =
  Callable<void(T::*)(std::ostream&)>( $((draw)) );
```

```
struct Square {
  void draw(std::ostream& out) { out << "Square"; } };

struct Circle {
  void draw(std::ostream& out) { out << "Circle"; } };

void f(any<$(Drawable)>& d) { d.draw(std::cout); }

int main() {
  f(Square{}); // prints Square
  f(Circle{}); // prints Circle
}
```

Virtual concepts emulation (C++17)

```
Callable < void (T::*) (std::ostream&) > ($((draw))]
                                          -> name
$((name)) [](auto&& r, auto&& t, auto&&... args) {
 struct { // base class
 auto name(decltype(args)... args) ->
    decltype(self.name(args...)){} {
  // static polymorphism (CRTP)
   return static_cast<decltype(t) *>(this)->template
     call<name, typename decltype(r)::type>(args...);
  _; return _;
```

```
$(type) decltype(type<...>)
```

Dependency Injection (policy design) / concepts

```
template < class T >
concept ErrorPolicy =
  requires(T t, std::string_view msg) {
    requires CopyConstructible < T > ;
    { t.onError(msg) } -> void;
};
```

```
struct ThrowPolicy {
  void onError(std::string_view msg) { throw T{msg}; }
};

struct LogPolicy {
  void onError(std::string_view msg) { std::clog << T{msg} << '\n'; }
};</pre>
```

Dependency Injection (policy design) / concepts

```
template<ErrorPolicy TPolicy = class Policy> // inject
struct App {
  TPolicy policy{};
  void run() { if (...) { policy.onError("error!"); } }
};
```

Bindings / Injection

```
Creatable injector = di::injector{
  di::bind<class Policy>.to<ThrowPolicy>()
};
injector.create<App>().run();
```

Same as...

```
App{ThrowPolicy{}}.run();
```

Dependency Injection (policy design) / virtual concepts (C++2?)

```
class App {
public:
 explicit App(virtual ErrorPolicy policy)
  : policy{policy}
 void run() {
    if (...) { policy.onError("error!"); }
private:
virtual ErrorPolicy policy{};
```

Dependency Injection (policy design) / virtual concepts (C++2?)

```
Creatable injector = di::make_injector(
  di::bind<virtual ErrorPolicy>.to<LogPolicy>()
);
injector.create<App>().run();
```

Same as...

```
App{LogPolicy{}}.run();
```

https://github.com/boost-experimental/di

Dependency Injection (policy design) / virtual concepts emulation (C++17)

```
template<class T>
constexpr auto ErrorPolicy =
   CopyConstructible<T> and Callable<void(T::*)()>( $((onError)) ); // expose
```

```
struct App {
  any<$(ErrorPolicy)> policy{};
  void run() { if (...) { policy.onError("error!"); } }
};
```

Dependency Injection (policy design) / virtual concepts emulation (C++17)

```
Creatable injector = di::make_injector(
  di::bind<$(ErrorPolicy)>.to<LogPolicy>()
);
injector.create<App>().run();
```

Same as...

```
App{LogPolicy{}}.run();
```

Note: Same wiring for static/dynamic polymorphism

Mocking (testing)

Interface based mocking

```
struct ErrorPolicy {
  virtual ~ErrorPolicy() = default;
  virtual void onError(std::string_view) = 0;
};
GMock<ErrorPolicy> mock{};
EXPECT_CALL(mock, onError("interface!")).Times(1);
mock.onError("interface!");
```

Concepts based mocking

```
GMock<$(ErrorPolicy)> mock{};
EXPECT_CALL(mock, onError("concept!")).Times(1);
object(mock).onError("concept!");
```

```
Mocking (testing)

automatic mocks injection
```

```
"should print read text"_test = [] {
  auto [app, mocks] = testing::make<App>();

EXPECT_CALL(mocks<$(ErrorPolicy)>, onError("error!"));

app.run();
};
```

Note: make creates mocks based on concepts requirements (reflection)

https://github.com/cpp-testing/gunit

Terse template syntax

```
void forward(Socket& socket, std::string_view data);
```

long form

```
template<Socket T>
void forward(T& socket, std::string_view data);
```

longer form

```
template<class T> requires Socket<T>
void forward(T& socket, std::string_view data);
```

Terse template syntax - https://wg21.link/p0696r1

```
void forward(Socket, Socket);
 long form
template<class T> void forward(T, T);
 VS
void forward(auto, auto);
 long form
template<class T, class U> void forward(T, U);
```

Template-introduction syntax

```
Socket{T} void forward(T, auto);
```

or

```
template<Socket [T]> void forward(T, auto);
```

long form

```
template<class T, class U> void forward(T, U) requires Socket<T>;
```

```
template<class T>
struct tcp_socket {
   static_assert(Socket<tcp_socket>); // always fail, tcp_socket is incomplete
};
```

Metaclasses syntax

```
template<class T> Socket tcp_socket { };
```

https://wg21.link/p0707r0

## **Summary**

Provides better diagnostics

Simplify usage of SFINAE / enable\_if

Introspection by design / Optional interfaces

Well specified interfaces (precised documentation)

Can be emulated in C++14/C++17

variable templates / constexpr / constexpr if

C++20 is just the beginning

- syntax improvements / requirements improvements
- virtual concepts / metaclasses / static reflection

#### **Questions?**

C++20 draft	http://eel.is/c++draft/temp.constr
Concepts	https://wg21.link/P0734R0
Virtual Concepts	https://github.com/andyprowl/virtual- concepts/blob/master/draft/Dynamic Generic Programming with Virtual Concepts.pdf

