Meeting C++ 2017

Concepts Driven Design

Kris Jusiak, Quantlab Financial

kris@jusiak.net | @krisjusiak | linkedin.com/in/kris-jusiak

Agenda

- Concepts
  - Motivation / History
- Type constraints (C++20)
  - Requirements
    - Design by introspection
  - Named `concepts`
    - Optional interfaces
- Concepts emulation (C++17)
- Virtual concepts (C++2?)
- Concepts based design
  - Static polymorphism (`policy design`)
  - Dynamic polymorphism (`type erasure`)
  - Mocking (`automatic mocks injection`)
- Future of concepts (C++2X)

Disclaimer

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...	It had C++0x concepts support

Examples in this talk were compiled using

```
g++7.2 -std=c++2a -fconcepts
```

Motivation - Error Novel

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

https://godbolt.org/g/RTRgg2

Motivation - Improve error messages
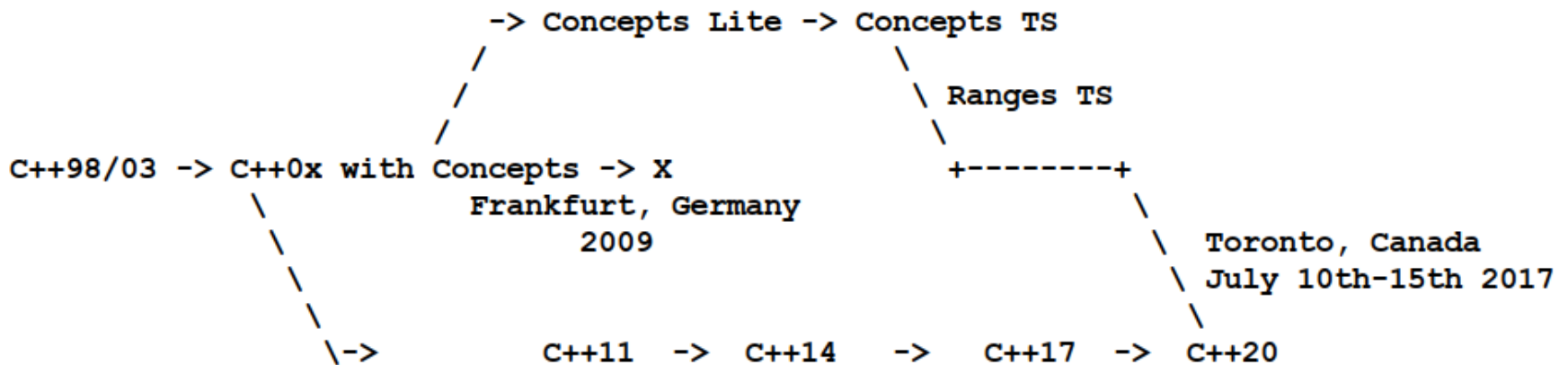
Without concepts

```
invalid operands to binary expression
  ('std::_List_iterator<int>' and
   'std::_List_iterator<int>')
std::__lg(__last - __first) * 2);
          ~~~~~~ ^ ~~~~~~~
...many lines of output f<- library side
```

With concepts

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

Concepts - History

```
                    -> Concepts Lite -> Concepts TS
                   /                         \
                  /                           \ Ranges TS
                 /                             \
C++98/03 -> C++0x with Concepts -> X           +--------+
             \             Frankfurt, Germany            \
              \                 2009                      \ Toronto, Canada
               \                                           \ July 10th-15th 2017
                \                                           \
                 \->        C++11  ->  C++14   ->   C++17  ->  C++20
```

Concepts Lite - https://wg21.link/n3701

Andrew Sutton, Bjarne Stroustrup, Gabriel Dos Reis

Concepts TS - https://wg21.link/P0734R0

Andrew Sutton, Bjarne Stroustrup

Concepts - C++20 draft

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

17.4	Template constraints	[temp.constr]
17.4.1	Constraints	[temp.constr.constr]
17.4.1.1	Logical operations	[temp.constr.op]
17.4.1.2	Atomic constraints	[temp.constr.atomic]
17.4.2	Constrained declarations	[temp.constr.decl]
17.4.3	Constraint normalization	[temp.constr.normal]
17.4.4	Partial ordering by constraints	[temp.constr.order]

- Requirements
    - `requires-clause` , `requires-expression`
- Constraints
    - `predicates, conjunctions, disjunctions`
- Named concepts
    - `placeholders` , `abbreviated templates`

Requirements

Requires-clause

Specifies constraints on template arguments or on a function declaration

`std::enable_if` on steroids

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

```cpp
int main() {
  foo<true>();  // Okay
  foo<false>(); // Error: constraints not satisfied
}
```

Note: requires-clause is part of the function signature

Requires-expression

> prvalue expression of type bool
>
> ```
> requires ( [parameters] ) { requirements }
> ```

```cpp
// type requirement
requires(T) { typename T::value_type; };
```

```cpp
// simple requirement
requires(T t) { t[typename T::value_type{}]; };
```

```cpp
// compound requirement
requires(T t) { { t.empty() } -> bool;  };
```

```cpp
// nested requirement
requires(T t) {
  requires std::is_integral_v<typename T::value_type>;
};
```

Requires-clause/Requires-expression

```cpp
template<class T>
constexpr auto foo(T&& x)
  requires requires(T t) { t.bar(); }
{ return x.bar(); }
```

```cpp
struct { void bar() {} } bar;
foo(bar); // Okay
foo(42);  // Error: constraints not satisfied
          //  note: the required expression
          //        't.bar()' would be ill-formed
```

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
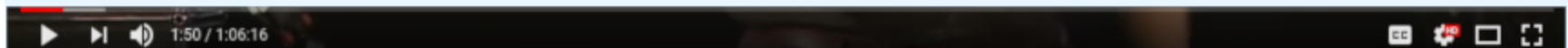
```d
auto foo(T)(T x) {
  static if(__traits(hasMember, x, "bar")) {
    return x.bar;
  } else {
    return 0;
  }
}

void main() {
  assert(0 == foo(42));

  struct Bar { int bar = 42; }
  Bar bar;
  assert(42 == foo(bar));
}
```

https://godbolt.org/g/wpLXzV
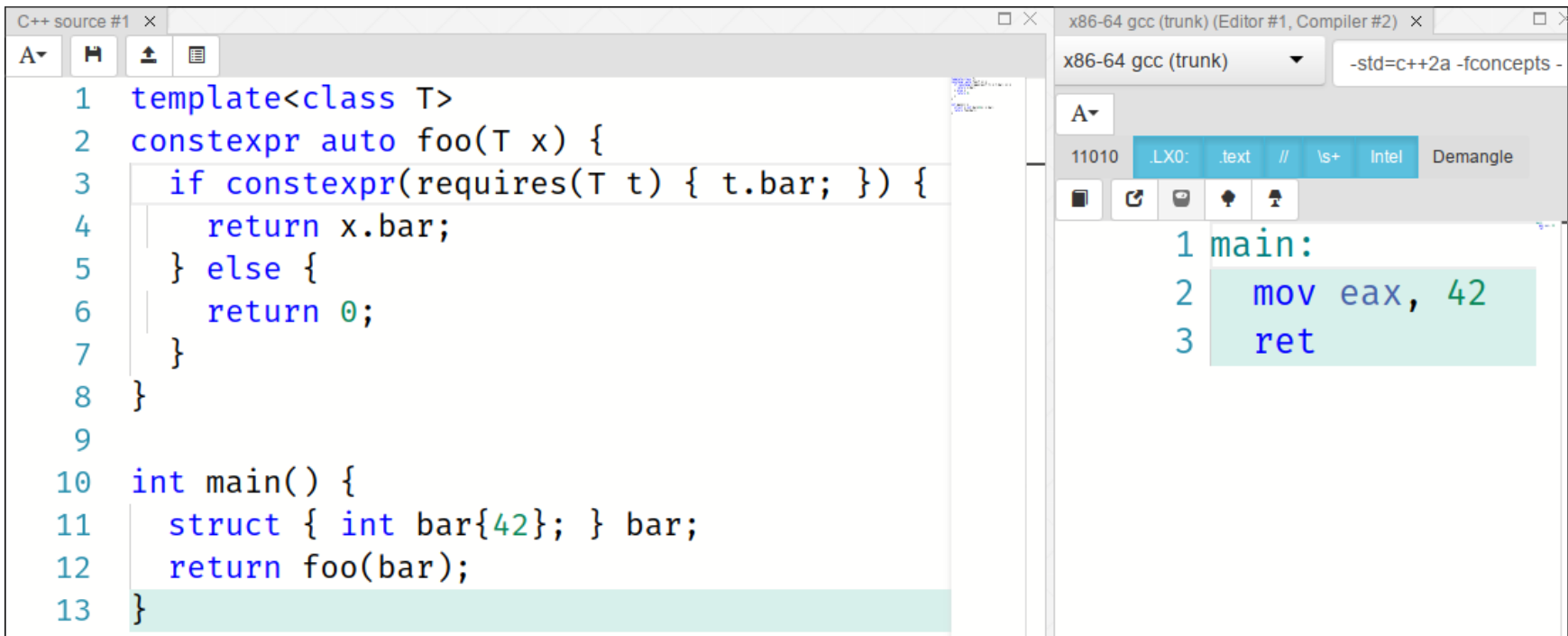
Design by introspection - C++20

```cpp
template<class T>
constexpr auto foo(T x) {
  if constexpr(requires(T t) { t.bar; }) {
    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++

```
1   template<class T>
2   constexpr auto foo(T x) {
3     if constexpr(requires(T t) { t.bar; }) {
4       return x.bar;
5     } else {
6       return 0;
7     }
8   }
9
10  int main() {
11    struct { int bar{42}; } bar;
12    return foo(bar);
13  }
```

```
x86-64 gcc (trunk)        -std=c++2a -fconcepts -

11010   .LX0:  .text  //  \s+  Intel   Demangle

1  main:
2      mov eax, 42
3      ret
```

https://godbolt.org/g/MFxqWu

Named concepts

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

Named concepts

Predicate constraints

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

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

Conjunctions, Disjunctions

```cpp
template<class T>
concept SignedIntegral = std::is_integral<T>{} and
                         std::is_signed<T>{};
```

Named concepts

> Requirements

```cpp
template<class T>
concept Fooable =                // named concept
  requires(T t) {                // collection of
    typename T::type;            //   type requirement
    { t.foo() } -> void;         //   compound requirement
    requires Movable<T> or       //   nested requirement
             Same<T, int>;
  };
```

Named concepts

Unconstrained class definition

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

Requires expression

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

Abbreviated templates

```
template<Fooable T>  // Fooable instead of
class Bar {};        // typename/class
```

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

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

Named concepts

Example

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

Everything Cpp

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

Named concepts

Concept definition

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

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

Named concepts

Concept overloading

```cpp
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);
}
```

```cpp
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
}
```

Named concepts

Concepts overloading

`if constexpr` (C++17)

```cpp
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

Named concepts

Lambdas

```cpp
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

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

Named concepts

> Optional interfaces

Example -> `Stream<T>`

- Callable member function `` `write `` which takes type T
- Callable member function `read` which returns type T
- Callable **optional** member function `read_complete`
- Copy constructible
- Printable using `std::cout`

Named concepts

Optional interfaces

Virtual functions (no expressive enough)

```cpp
/**
 * 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;
  // virtual void read_complete() = 0; // [optional]
};
```

Named concepts

Optional interfaces

Concepts

```cpp
template<class T, class TData>
concept Streamable =
  CopyConstructible<T> and
  requires(T t, std::cout& out) { out << t; } and
  requires(T t, TData data) { t.write(data); } and (
    requires(T t) { { t.read(data) } -> TData } and
    requires(T t) { { t.read_complete(); } }
  ) or (
    requires(T t) { { t.read(data) } -> TData }
  )
};
```

Placeholders

Placeholder	Synopsis
Unconstrained	`auto`
Constrained	`concept-name<[template-argument-list]>`

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

```cpp
// auto - weakest placeholder
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 and the C++ ISO standard

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.

```
template<class T> // C++20 concepts
concept EqualityComparable = requires(T a, T b) {
  { a == b } -> bool;
};
```

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

Concepts - Ranges TS

```cpp
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)

Concepts emulation (C++17)

Substituation Failure Is Not An Error (SFINAE)

```cpp
template<bool, class = void>
struct enable_if {};

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

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

Concepts emulation (C++17)

> Dedection idiom (C++20)

```cpp
template<class T>
using Fooable = decltype(std::declval<T&>().foo());
```

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

```cpp
static_assert(not std::is_detected<Fooable, Bar>{});
static_assert(    std::is_detected<Fooable, Foo>{});
```

https://wg21.link/n4436

Concepts emulation (C++17)

> Does the Concepts TS Improve on C++17?

```cpp
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

Concepts emulation (C++17)

Error message

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

```cpp
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
}
```

Note: No details why function couldn't be called

Concepts emulation (C++17)

> requires-clause

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

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

static_assert(
  not requires<Bar>([](auto&& t) ->
    decltype(t.foo()) {})
);
```

Concepts emulation (C++17)

Named concept

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

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

Concepts emulation (C++17)

Concepts overloading

```cpp
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);
}
```

```cpp
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
}
```
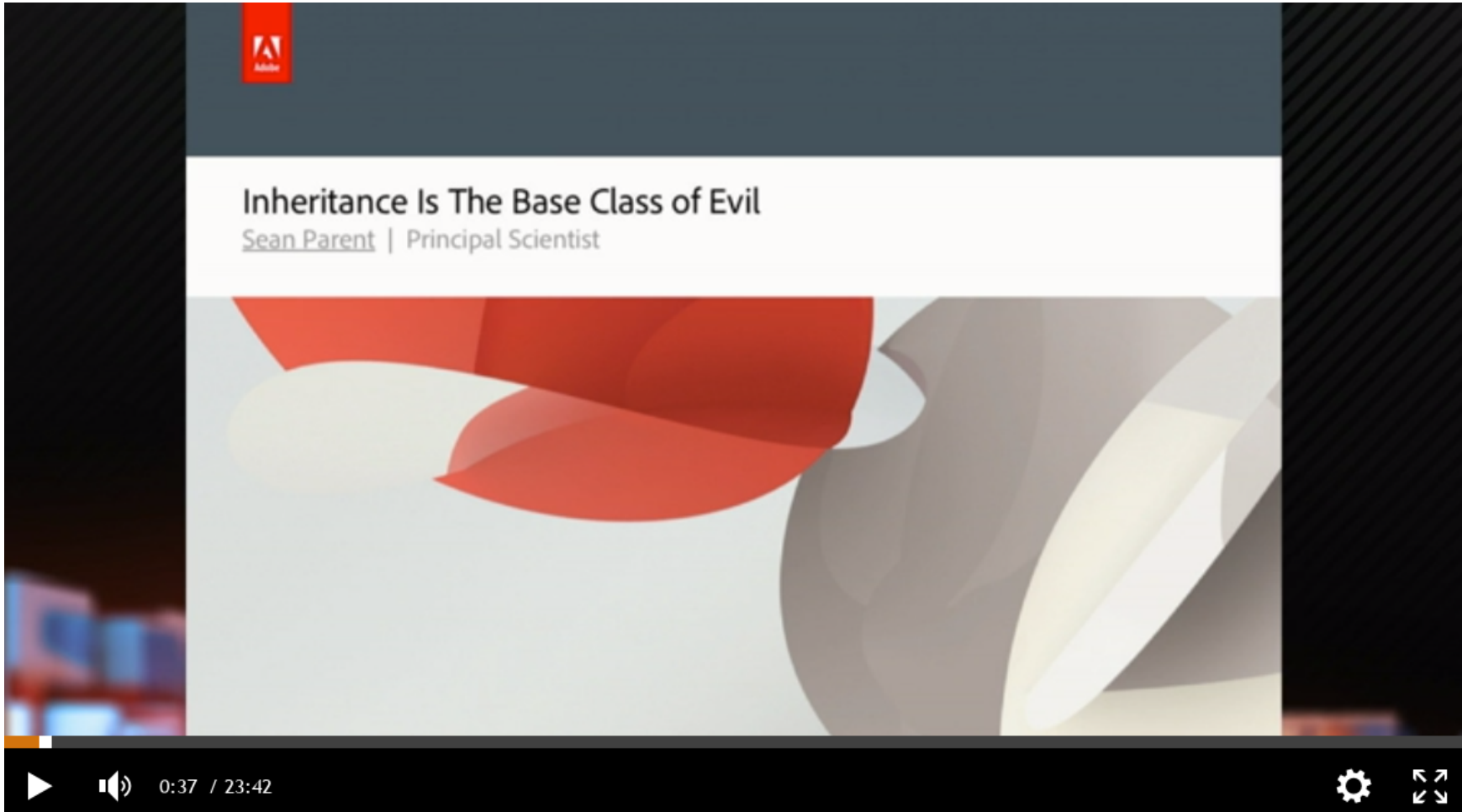
Concepts emulation (C++17)

Concept overloading

`if constexpr` (C++17)

```cpp
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

Virtual concepts

Virtual concepts

https://channel9.msdn.com/Events/GoingNative/2013/Inheritance-Is-The-Base-Class-of-Evil

Virtual concepts

type erasure based on concepts

```cpp
template<class T> concept Any = requires(T) {
  requires DefaultConstructible<T> and
    CopyConstructible<T> and
    NoThrowMoveConstructible<T> and
    CopyAssignable<T> and
    NoThrowMoveAssignable<T> and
    Destructible<T>;
};
```

```cpp
std::vector v1;
 // error:  class template argument deduction failed
std::vector<auto> v2;
 // error: couldn't deduce template parameter
std::vector<Any> v3;
 // error: couldn't deduce template parameter
```

Virtual concepts

```cpp
std::vector<virtual Any> v;      // Okay (type erasure)
v.push_back("Meeting C++"sv);    // Okay
v.push_back(2017);               // Okay
```

Dynamic Generic Programming with Virtual Concepts

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

Virtual concepts

Signature requirement

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

Note: Can be generated with metaclasses

https://wg21.link/p0707r0

```
template<class T>
type_erased Foo {
  auto foo(const T&) -> void;
};
```

Virtual concepts

Dynamic polymorphism

```cpp
template<class T> concept Drawable =
  requires Any<T> and
  requires(T t) { auto draw() -> void };
```

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

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

void f(virtual Drawable& d) { d.draw(std::cout); }

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

Concepts based design

Concepts based design

> Goals

Expressiveness	Type constraints for better error messages (Design by Introspection)
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)

Concepts based design

Static polymorphism (`policy design`)

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

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

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

Concepts based design

Static polymorphism (`policy design`)

```cpp
template<ErrorPolicy TPolicy = class Policy>
class App {
 public: explicit App(TPolicy policy):policy{policy} {}
  void run() {
    if (...) { policy.onError("error!"); }
  }
 private: TPolicy policy{};
};
```

```cpp
int main() {
  const auto injector = di::make_injector(
    di::bind<class Policy>.to<ThrowPolicy>()
  );
  injector.create<App>().run();
}
```

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

Concepts based design

Dynamic polymorphism (`type erasure`)

Virtual concepts (C++2?)

```cpp
class App {
public:
 explicit App(virtual ErrorPolicy policy)
  : policy{policy}
 { }

  void run() {
    if (...) { policy.onError("error!"); }
  }

private:
 virtual Policy policy{};
};
```

Concepts based design

> Dynamic polymorphism (`type erasure`)
>
> Virtual concepts emulation (C++17)

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

```cpp
class App {
 public: explicit App(any<ErrorPolicy> policy)
  : policy{policy} {}
 void run() {
   if (...) { policy.onError("error!"); }
 }
 private: any<Policy> policy{};
};
```

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

Concepts based design

Dynamic polymorphism (`type erasure`)

Virtual concepts emulation (C++17)

```cpp
int main() {
  const auto injector = di::make_injector(
    di::bind<class Policy>.to<LogPolicy>()
  );
  injector.create<App>().run();
}
```

Note: Static, dynamic polimorhpism wiring uses the same syntax

Concepts based design

Mocking (`automatic mocks injection`)

```cpp
"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

Future of concepts (C++2X)

Future of concepts (C++2X)

Terse template syntax

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

same as...

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

same as...

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

Note: Problem `f(auto, auto) vs f(Socket, Socket)`

Future of concepts (C++2X)

Template-introduction syntax

```
Concept{A, B, C} void f(A a, B b, C c);
```

or

```
template<Concept [A, B, C]> void f(A a, B b, C c);
```

same as...

```
template<class A, class B, class C>
void f(A a, B b, C c) requires Concept<A, B, C>;
```

Future of concepts (C++2X)

Metaclasses syntax

```cpp
template<class T>
Fooable Foo { };  // static_assert(Fooable<Foo>);
```

https://wg21.link/p0707r0

Summary

Provides better diagnostics

Simplify usage of SFINAE/enable_if

- Introspection by design

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

- `variable templates` / `constexpr` / `constexpr if`

C++20 is just the beginning

- `syntax improvements` / `requirements improvements`
- `metaclasses` / `static reflection`

Questions?

Concepts	https://wg21.link/P0734R0
Virtual Concepts	https://github.com/andyprowl/virtual-concepts/blob/master/draft/Dynamic Generic Programming with Virtual Concepts.pdf