# constexpr for specialized memory algorithms

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Project: Programming Language C++
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#### 1 Introduction

This paper proposes adding constexpr support to the specialized memory algorithms. This is essentially a followup to [P0784R7] which added constexpr support for all necessary machinery.

## 2 Motivation and Scope

These algorithms have been forgotten in the final crunch to get C++20 out. To add insult to injury, they are essential to implementing constexpr container support, so every library has to provide its own internal helpers to do the exact same thing during constant evaluation. Just fill the void and add constexpr everywhere except the parallel overloads.

But wait, what about uninitialized\_default\_construct? We cannot use std::construct\_at there! This is correct and there are two possible solutions:

- 1. Add an overload of std::construct\_at that takes a std::default\_construct\_tag and does the right thing. This is just bad design. If we go to the trouble of inventing a new name, we should do #2
- 2. Add a new library function std::default\_construct\_at that does the right thing. This is what is proposed here.

# 3 Impact on the Standard

This proposal is a pure library extension.

# 4 Proposed Wording

# 4.1 Modify 7.7 [expr.const] $\S6$ of [N4762] as follows

For the purposes of determining whether an expression E is a core constant expression, the evaluation of a call to a member function of std::allocator as defined in [allocator.members], where T is a literal type, does not disqualify E from being a core constant expression, even if the actual evaluation of such a call would otherwise fail the requirements for a core constant expression. Similarly, the evaluation of a call to std::destroy\_at, std::ranges::destroy\_at, std::default\_construct\_at, std::ranges::default\_construct\_at, std::construct\_at, or std::ranges::construct\_at does not disqualify E from being a core constant expression unless:

for a call to std::default\_construct\_at, std::ranges::default\_construct\_at, std::construct\_at or std::ranges::construct\_at, the first argument, of type T\*, does not point to storage allocated with std::allocator or to an object whose lifetime began within the evaluation of E, or the evaluation of the underlying constructor call disqualifies E from being a core constant expression, or

### 4.2 Modify 20.10.2 [memory.syn] of [N4762] as follows

```
template<class NoThrowForwardIterator>
  constexpr void uninitialized_default_construct(NoThrowForwardIterator first,
                                                 NoThrowForwardIterator last);
template<class ExecutionPolicy, class NoThrowForwardIterator>
  void uninitialized_default_construct(ExecutionPolicy&& exec,
                                                                       // see [algorithms.parallel.over]
                                       NoThrowForwardIterator first,
                                       NoThrowForwardIterator last);
template < class NoThrowForwardIterator, class Size >
  constexpr NoThrowForwardIterator
   uninitialized_default_construct_n(NoThrowForwardIterator first, Size n);
template < class Execution Policy, class NoThrowForwardIterator, class Size >
 NoThrowForwardIterator
    uninitialized_default_construct_n(ExecutionPolicy&& exec,
                                                                      // see [algorithms.parallel.over]
                                      NoThrowForwardIterator first, Size n);
namespace ranges {
 template<no-throw-forward-iterator I, no-throw-sentinel-for<I> S>
    requires default_initializable<iter_value_t<I>>>
      constexpr I uninitialized_default_construct(I first, S last);
 template<no-throw-forward-range R>
   requires default_initializable<range_value_t<R>>
      constexpr borrowed_iterator_t<R> uninitialized_default_construct(R&& r);
 template<no-throw-forward-iterator I>
   requires default initializable<iter value t<I>>>
      constexpr I uninitialized_default_construct_n(I first, iter_difference_t<I> n);
}
template < class NoThrowForwardIterator>
 constexpr void uninitialized_value_construct(NoThrowForwardIterator first,
                                                 NoThrowForwardIterator last);
template < class Execution Policy, class NoThrowForwardIterator>
 void uninitialized_value_construct(ExecutionPolicy&& exec, // see [algorithms.parallel.overloads]
                                     NoThrowForwardIterator first,
                                     NoThrowForwardIterator last);
template < class NoThrowForwardIterator, class Size >
 constexpr NoThrowForwardIterator
    uninitialized_value_construct_n(NoThrowForwardIterator first, Size n);
template < class Execution Policy, class NoThrowForwardIterator, class Size >
 NoThrowForwardIterator
    uninitialized_value_construct_n(ExecutionPolicy&& exec, // see [algorithms.parallel.overloads]
                                    NoThrowForwardIterator first, Size n);
namespace ranges {
 template<no-throw-forward-iterator I, no-throw-sentinel-for<I> S>
   requires default_initializable<iter_value_t<I>>>
      constexpr I uninitialized_value_construct(I first, S last);
 template<no-throw-forward-range R>
    requires default_initializable<range_value_t<R>>
     constexpr borrowed_iterator_t<R> uninitialized_value_construct(R&& r);
```

```
template<no-throw-forward-iterator I>
    requires default_initializable<iter_value_t<I>>>
      constexpr I uninitialized_value_construct_n(I first, iter_difference_t<I> n);
}
template < class InputIterator, class NoThrowForwardIterator >
  constexpr NoThrowForwardIterator
    uninitialized_copy(InputIterator first, InputIterator last,
                       NoThrowForwardIterator result);
template < class Execution Policy, class InputIterator, class NoThrowForwardIterator>
  NoThrowForwardIterator uninitialized_copy(ExecutionPolicy&& exec, // see [algorithms.parallel.overl
                                            InputIterator first, InputIterator last,
                                            NoThrowForwardIterator result);
template<class InputIterator, class Size, class NoThrowForwardIterator>
  constexpr NoThrowForwardIterator
   uninitialized_copy_n(InputIterator first, Size n, NoThrowForwardIterator result);
template < class Execution Policy, class InputIterator, class Size, class NoThrowForwardIterator>
  NoThrowForwardIterator uninitialized_copy_n(ExecutionPolicy&& exec, // see [algorithms.parallel.overl
                                               InputIterator first, Size n,
                                               NoThrowForwardIterator result);
namespace ranges {
 template < class I, class 0>
    using uninitialized_copy_result = in_out_result<I, 0>;
  template<input_iterator I, sentinel_for<I> S1,
           no-throw-forward-iterator 0, no-throw-sentinel-for<0> S2>
   requires constructible_from<iter_value_t<0>, iter_reference_t<I>>>
      constexpr uninitialized_copy_result<I, 0>
        uninitialized_copy(I ifirst, S1 ilast, O ofirst, S2 olast);
 template<input_range IR, no-throw-forward-range OR>
    requires constructible_from<range_value_t<OR>, range_reference_t<IR>>
      constexpr uninitialized_copy_result<br/>borrowed_iterator_t<IR>, borrowed_iterator_t<OR>>>
        uninitialized_copy(IR&& in_range, OR&& out_range);
 template<class I, class 0>
    using uninitialized_copy_n_result = in_out_result<I, 0>;
 template<input_iterator I, no-throw-forward-iterator O, no-throw-sentinel-for<0> S>
    requires constructible_from<iter_value_t<0>, iter_reference_t<I>>>
      constexpr uninitialized_copy_n_result<I, 0>
        uninitialized_copy_n(I ifirst, iter_difference_t<I> n, 0 ofirst, S olast);
}
template < class InputIterator, class NoThrowForwardIterator >
 constexpr NoThrowForwardIterator
    uninitialized_move(InputIterator first, InputIterator last,
                       NoThrowForwardIterator result);
template < class Execution Policy, class InputIterator, class NoThrowForwardIterator>
 NoThrowForwardIterator uninitialized_move(ExecutionPolicy&& exec,
                                                                      // see [algorithms.parallel.over]
                                            InputIterator first, InputIterator last,
                                            NoThrowForwardIterator result);
template < class InputIterator, class Size, class NoThrowForwardIterator>
  constexpr pair<InputIterator, NoThrowForwardIterator>
    uninitialized_move_n(InputIterator first, Size n, NoThrowForwardIterator result);
template < class Execution Policy, class InputIterator, class Size, class NoThrowForwardIterator>
```

```
pair<InputIterator, NoThrowForwardIterator>
    uninitialized_move_n(ExecutionPolicy&& exec,
                                                              // see [algorithms.parallel.overloads]
                         InputIterator first, Size n, NoThrowForwardIterator result);
namespace ranges {
 template < class I, class 0>
    using uninitialized_move_result = in_out_result<I, 0>;
 template<input_iterator I, sentinel_for<I> S1,
           no-throw-forward-iterator 0, no-throw-sentinel-for<0> S2>
   requires constructible_from<iter_value_t<0>, iter_rvalue_reference_t<I>>>
      constexpr uninitialized move result<I, 0>
        uninitialized_move(I ifirst, S1 ilast, O ofirst, S2 olast);
  template<input range IR, no-throw-forward-range OR>
   requires constructible_from<range_value_t<OR>, range_rvalue_reference_t<IR>>>
      constexpr uninitialized_move_result<br/>borrowed_iterator_t<IR>, borrowed_iterator_t<OR>>
        uninitialized_move(IR&& in_range, OR&& out_range);
 template<class I, class 0>
    using uninitialized_move_n_result = in_out_result<I, 0>;
  template<input_iterator I,</pre>
           no-throw-forward-iterator 0, no-throw-sentinel-for<0> S>
   requires constructible_from<iter_value_t<0>, iter_rvalue_reference_t<I>>>
      constexpr uninitialized_move_n_result<I, 0>
        uninitialized_move_n(I ifirst, iter_difference_t<I> n, 0 ofirst, S olast);
}
template<class NoThrowForwardIterator, class T>
 constexpr void uninitialized_fill(NoThrowForwardIterator first,
                                    NoThrowForwardIterator last, const T& x);
template<class ExecutionPolicy, class NoThrowForwardIterator, class T>
 void uninitialized_fill(ExecutionPolicy&& exec,
                                                               // see [algorithms.parallel.overloads]
                          NoThrowForwardIterator first, NoThrowForwardIterator last,
                          const T& x);
template < class NoThrowForwardIterator, class Size, class T>
  constexpr NoThrowForwardIterator
    uninitialized_fill_n(NoThrowForwardIterator first, Size n, const T& x);
template<class ExecutionPolicy, class NoThrowForwardIterator, class Size, class T>
 {\tt NoThrowForwardIterator}
    uninitialized_fill_n(ExecutionPolicy&& exec,
                                                               // see [algorithms.parallel.overloads]
                         NoThrowForwardIterator first, Size n, const T& x);
namespace ranges {
 template<no-throw-forward-iterator I, no-throw-sentinel-for<I> S, class T>
   requires constructible_from<iter_value_t<I>, const T&>
      constexpr I uninitialized_fill(I first, S last, const T& x);
 template<no-throw-forward-range R, class T>
    requires constructible from<range value t<R>, const T&>
      constexpr borrowed_iterator_t<R> uninitialized_fill(R&& r, const T& x);
 template<no-throw-forward-iterator I, class T>
   requires constructible_from<iter_value_t<I>, const T&>
     constexpr I uninitialized_fill_n(I first, iter_difference_t<I> n, const T& x);
}
```

```
// [specialized.construct], construct_at
template<class T, class... Args>
    constexpr T* construct_at(T* location, Args&&... args);

namespace ranges {
    template<class T, class... Args>
        constexpr T* construct_at(T* location, Args&&... args);
}

// [specialized.default_construct], default_construct_at
template<class T>
    constexpr T* default_construct_at(T* location);

namespace ranges {
    template<class T>
        constexpr T* default_construct_at(T* location);
}
```

## 4.3 Modify 25.11.3 [uninitialized.construct.default] of [N4762] as follows

```
template<class NoThrowForwardIterator>
     void uninitialized_default_construct(NoThrowForwardIterator first, NoThrowForwardIterator last);
     constexpr void uninitialized_default_construct(NoThrowForwardIterator first,
                                                    NoThrowForwardIterator last);
Effects: Equivalent to:
  for (; first != last; ++first)
     ::new (voidify(*first)) typename iterator_traits<NoThrowForwardIterator>::value_type;
     default_construct_at(to_address(first));
namespace ranges {
   template<no-throw-forward-iterator I, no-throw-sentinel-for<I> S>
     requires default_initializable<iter_value_t<I>>>
     I uninitialized_default_construct(I first, S last);
     constexpr I uninitialized_default_construct(I first, S last);
   template<no-throw-forward-range R>
     requires default_initializable<range_value_t<R>>
     borrowed_iterator_t<R> uninitialized_default_construct(R&& r);
     constexpr borrowed_iterator_t<R> uninitialized_default_construct(R&& r);
Effects: Equivalent to:
   for (; first != last; ++first)
     ::new (voidify(*first)) remove_reference_t<iter_reference_t<I>>>;
     default_construct_at(to_address(first));
   return first;
template < class NoThrowForwardIterator, class Size >
  NoThrowForwardIterator uninitialized_default_construct_n(NoThrowForwardIterator first, Size n);
  constexpr NoThrowForwardIterator
     uninitialized_default_construct_n(NoThrowForwardIterator first, Size n);
Effects: Equivalent to:
```

#### 4.4 Modify 25.11.4 [uninitialized.construct.value] of [N4762] as follows

```
template<class NoThrowForwardIterator>
  void uninitialized_value_construct(NoThrowForwardIterator first, NoThrowForwardIterator last);
  constexpr void uninitialized value construct(NoThrowForwardIterator first,
                                               NoThrowForwardIterator last);
Effects: Equivalent to:
  for (; first != last; ++first)
    ::new (voidify(*first)) typename iterator_traits<NoThrowForwardIterator>::value_type();
    construct_at(to_address(first));
namespace ranges {
  template<no-throw-forward-iterator I, no-throw-sentinel-for<I> S>
    requires value_initializable<iter_value_t<I>>>
    I uninitialized_value_construct(I first, S last);
    constexpr I uninitialized_value_construct(I first, S last);
  template<no-throw-forward-range R>
    requires value_initializable<range_value_t<R>>>
    borrowed_iterator_t<R> uninitialized_value_construct(R&& r);
    constexpr borrowed_iterator_t<R> uninitialized_value_construct(R&& r);
Effects: Equivalent to:
  for (; first != last; ++first)
    ::new (voidify(*first)) remove_reference_t<iter_reference_t<I>>)();
    construct at(to address(first));
  return first;
template < class NoThrowForwardIterator, class Size >
 NoThrowForwardIterator uninitialized_value_construct_n(NoThrowForwardIterator first, Size n);
  constexpr NoThrowForwardIterator
    uninitialized_value_construct_n(NoThrowForwardIterator first, Size n);
Effects: Equivalent to:
  for (; n > 0; (void)++first, --n)
 ::new (voidify(*first)) typename iterator_traits<NoThrowForwardIterator>::value_type();
```

## 4.5 Modify 25.11.5 [uninitialized.copy] of [N4762] as follows

```
template < class InputIterator, class NoThrowForwardIterator >
   NoThrowForwardIterator uninitialized_copy(InputIterator first, InputIterator last,
                                              NoThrowForwardIterator result);
   constexpr NoThrowForwardIterator
+
      uninitialized_copy(InputIterator first, InputIterator last,
                         NoThrowForwardIterator result);
 Preconditions:
   result + [0, (last - first)) does not overlap with [first, last).
 Effects: Equivalent to:
   for (; first != last; ++result, (void) ++first)
      ::new (voidify(*result))
        typename iterator_traits<NoThrowForwardIterator>::value_type(*first);
      construct_at(to_address(result), *first);
 Returns: result.
 namespace ranges {
   template<input_iterator I, sentinel_for<I> S1,
            no-throw-forward-iterator 0, no-throw-sentinel-for<0> S2>
      requires constructible from<iter value t<0>, iter reference t<I>>>
      uninitialized_copy_result<I, 0>
      constexpr uninitialized_copy_result<I, 0>
        uninitialized_copy(I ifirst, S1 ilast, O ofirst, S2 olast);
   template<input_range IR, no-throw-forward-range OR>
      requires constructible from<range value t<OR>, range reference t<IR>>>
      uninitialized_copy_result<br/>borrowed_iterator_t<IR>, borrowed_iterator_t<OR>>
      constexpr uninitialized_copy_result<br/>borrowed_iterator_t<IR>, borrowed_iterator_t<OR>>
        uninitialized_copy(IR&& in_range, OR&& out_range);
 }
 Preconditions:
    [ofirst, olast) does not overlap with [ifirst, ilast).
 Effects: Equivalent to:
   for (; ifirst != ilast && ofirst != olast; ++ofirst, (void)++ifirst)
```

```
::new (voidify(*ofirst)) remove_reference_t<iter_reference_t<0>>(*ifirst);
    construct_at(to_address(ofirst), *ifirst);
  return {std::move(ifirst), ofirst};
template<class InputIterator, class Size, class NoThrowForwardIterator>
  NoThrowForwardIterator uninitialized_copy_n(InputIterator first, Size n,
                                              NoThrowForwardIterator result);
  constexpr NoThrowForwardIterator
    uninitialized_copy_n(InputIterator first, Size n, NoThrowForwardIterator result);
Preconditions:
  result + [0, n) does not overlap with first + [0, n).
Effects: Equivalent to:
  for (; n > 0; ++result, (void) ++first, --n)
    ::new (voidify(*result))
      typename iterator_traits<NoThrowForwardIterator>::value_type(*first);
    construct_at(to_address(result), *first);
Returns: result.
namespace ranges {
  template<input_iterator I, no-throw-forward-iterator O, no-throw-sentinel-for<0> S>
    requires constructible_from<iter_value_t<0>, iter_reference_t<I>>>
    uninitialized_copy_n_result<I, 0>
    constexpr uninitialized_copy_n_result<I, 0>
      uninitialized_copy_n(I ifirst, iter_difference_t<I> n, O ofirst, S olast);
}
Preconditions:
  [ofirst, olast) does not overlap with ifirst + [0, n).
Effects: Equivalent to:
  auto t = uninitialized_copy(counted_iterator(ifirst, n),
                              default_sentinel, ofirst, olast);
  return {std::move(t.in).base(), t.out};
```

#### 4.6 Modify 25.11.6 [uninitialized.move] of [N4762] as follows

```
Returns: result.
namespace ranges {
  template<input_iterator I, sentinel_for<I> S1,
          no-throw-forward-iterator 0, no-throw-sentinel-for<0> S2>
    requires constructible_from<iter_value_t<0>, iter_rvalue_reference_t<1>>
    uninitialized_move_result<I, 0>
    constexpr uninitialized_move_result<I, 0>
      uninitialized_move(I ifirst, S1 ilast, O ofirst, S2 olast);
  template<input_range IR, no-throw-forward-range OR>
    requires constructible_from<range_value_t<OR>, range_rvalue_reference_t<IR>>>
    uninitialized_move_result<br/>borrowed_iterator_t<IR>, borrowed_iterator_t<OR>>
    constexpr uninitialized_move_result<br/>borrowed_iterator_t<IR>, borrowed_iterator_t<OR>>
      uninitialized_move(IR&& in_range, OR&& out_range);
Preconditions:
  [ofirst, olast) does not overlap with [ifirst, ilast).
Effects: Equivalent to:
  for (; ifirst != ilast && ofirst != olast; ++ofirst, (void)++ifirst)
    ::new (voidify(*ofirst))
      remove_reference_t<iter_reference_t<0>>(ranges::iter_move(ifirst);
    construct_at(to_address(ofirst), ranges::iter_move(ifirst);
  return {std::move(ifirst), ofirst};
[Note 1: If an exception is thrown, some objects in the range [first, last) are left in a valid, but un
template < class InputIterator, class Size, class NoThrowForwardIterator>
 NoThrowForwardIterator uninitialized_move_n(InputIterator first, Size n,
                                              NoThrowForwardIterator result);
  constexpr NoThrowForwardIterator
    uninitialized_move_n(InputIterator first, Size n, NoThrowForwardIterator result);
Preconditions:
  result + [0, n) does not overlap with first + [0, n).
Effects: Equivalent to:
  for (; n > 0; ++result, (void) ++first, --n)
    ::new (voidify(*result))
      typename iterator_traits<NoThrowForwardIterator>::value_type(std::move(*first));
    construct_at(to_address(result), std::move(*first));
Returns: result.
namespace ranges {
  template<input_iterator I, no-throw-forward-iterator O, no-throw-sentinel-for<0> S>
    requires constructible_from<iter_value_t<0>, iter_rvalue_reference_t<I>>>
    uninitialized_move_n_result<I, 0>
    constexpr uninitialized_move_n_result<I, 0>
      uninitialized move n(I ifirst, iter difference t<I> n, O ofirst, S olast);
Preconditions:
```

### 4.7 Modify 25.11.7 [uninitialized.fill] of [N4762] as follows

```
template<class NoThrowForwardIterator, class T>
  void uninitialized_fill(NoThrowForwardIterator first, NoThrowForwardIterator last, const T& x);
  constexpr void uninitialized_fill(NoThrowForwardIterator first,
                                    NoThrowForwardIterator last, const T& x);
Effects: Equivalent to:
  for (; first != last; ++first)
    ::new (voidify(*first))
      typename iterator traits<NoThrowForwardIterator>::value type(x);
    construct_at(to_address(first), x);
namespace ranges {
  template<no-throw-forward-iterator I, no-throw-sentinel-for<I> S, class T>
    requires constructible_from<iter_value_t<I>, const T&>
    I uninitialized_fill(I first, S last, const T& x);
    constexpr I uninitialized_fill(I first, S last, const T& x);
  template<no-throw-forward-range R, class T>
    requires constructible_from<range_value_t<R>, const T&>
    borrowed_iterator_t<R> uninitialized_fill(R&& r, const T& x);
    constexpr borrowed_iterator_t<R> uninitialized_fill(R&& r, const T& x);
Effects: Equivalent to:
  for (; first != last; ++first)
    ::new (voidify(*first)) remove_reference_t<iter_reference_t<I>>>(x);
    construct_at(to_address(first), x);
  return first;
template<class NoThrowForwardIterator, class Size, class T>
  NoThrowForwardIterator uninitialized_fill_n(NoThrowForwardIterator first, Size n, const T& x);
  constexpr NoThrowForwardIterator uninitialized_fill_n(NoThrowForwardIterator first,
                                                        Size n, const T& x);
Effects: Equivalent to:
  for (; n--; ++first)
    ::new (voidify(*first))
      typename iterator_traits<NoThrowForwardIterator>::value_type(x);
    construct_at(to_address(first), x);
  return first;
namespace ranges {
  template<no-throw-forward-iterator I, class T>
    requires constructible_from<iter_value_t<I>, const T&>
```

```
- I uninitialized_fill_n(I first, iter_difference_t<I> n, const T& x);
+ constexpr I uninitialized_fill_n(I first, iter_difference_t<I> n, const T& x);
}

Effects: Equivalent to:
    return uninitialized_fill(counted_iterator(first, n), default_sentinel, x).base();
```

## 4.8 Add 25.11.8 [special.default\_construct] to [N4762]

```
template<class T>
    constexpr T* default_construct_at(T* location);

namespace ranges {
    template<class T>
        constexpr T* default_construct_at(T* location);
}

Constraints:
    The expression ::new (declval<void*>()) T is well-formed when treated as an unevaluated operand.

Effects: Equivalent to:
    return ::new (voidify(*location)) T;
```

## 5 Implementation Experience

— Microsoft STL This has been partially implemented for support of constexpr vector in MSVC STL.

#### 6 References

```
    [N4762] Richard Smith. 2018-07-07. Working Draft, Standard for Programming Language C++. 
https://wg21.link/n4762
    [P0784R7] 2019. More constexpr containers. 
http://www.open-std.org/jtc1/sc22/wg21/docs/papers/2019/p0784r7.html
```