



# C++ Allocators for the Working Programmer









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John Lakos Joshua Berne

**♣** Addison-Wesley

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

### LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CIP DATA WILL GO HERE; MUST BE ALIGNED AS INDICATED BY LOC

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ISBN-13: NUMBER HERE ISBN-10: NUMBER HERE

Text printed in the United States on recycled paper at PRINTER INFO HERE.

First printing, MONTH YEAR

This is John's dedication to Josh for being so great and writing this book so well.

JL

This is Josh's dedication to his wife, child, and mother-in-law for being all supportive and wonderful. And to steak. Steak is great.

 ${\rm JMB}$ 



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### Foreword

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### Preface

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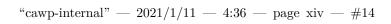


### Acknowledgements

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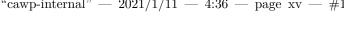












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### **Foundations**

#### 1.1 Motivation

- Why local allocation can help
- Limits of global allocation
- Reference Emery's paper?

#### 1.1.1 What is an Allocator

- an allocator allocates and deallocates memory
- what is a "general purpose" allocator
  - same contract and requirements as new/delete malloc/free
  - thread-safe allocate concurrently, deallocate from any thread
  - objects of any size
  - overhead constant in terms of currently allocated memory
- types of "special purpose" allocators
  - Unsynchronized
  - Monotonic
- Global vs. Local allocators
  - global allocators can be specialized
  - local allocators can be general purpose

### 1.1.2 The History of C++ Allocators

- describe C++03 allocators
- [?] Towards a better allocator model
- [?], [?],
- Scoped allocators: [?], [?],
- c++17, c++20 changes to PMR

1

2

#### Chapter 1 Foundations

### 1.1.3 What we'll teach you about allocators

• Summary of what each chapter will teach

#### 1.1.4 Making money with allocators

• Summary of how architecture can facilitate leveraging allocators

#### 1.2 Technical Basics

#### 1.2.1 C++ Allocators

 $\bullet\,$  Go over the mess of c++03 style allocator types

### 1.2.2 The std::pmr Interface

- $\bullet \ \ Show \ std::pmr::polymorphic\_allocator$
- Show simplification to ALLOCATOR types
- $\bullet\,$  Show the memory\_resource interface, how to do an allocation





### Application Developers

- 2.1 What is an Allocator-Aware Type?
- 2.1.1 Defining a PMR Allocator-Aware Type
- 2.1.2 std::pmr Collections
- 2.2 Using Allocator-Aware Types
- 2.2.1 How to use a Custom Memory Resource
- 2.2.2 How to Choose an Allocator
- 2.2.3 Testing Code that Allocates
- 2.3 Case Study 1: Unique Value Counting





### Library Writers

- 3.1 Writing Allocator-Aware Types
- 3.1.1 Aggregating Other Allocator-Aware Types
- 3.1.2 Doing Allocation
- 3.1.3 Testing Allocator-Aware Types
- 3.2 Case Study 3: PMR Optional and Variant





### Writing Allocators

- 4.1 Implementation
- 4.1.1 Learning from Global Alocators
- 4.1.2 Thread-Unsafe Allocators
- 4.1.3 Reuse Free Allocators
- 4.1.4 Wrapping Other Allocators for Utility
- 4.2 Benchmarking Allocators
- 4.3 Case Study 4: A Buffered Sequential Allocator



### Making Money

### 5.1 Optimizing exisitng software

### 5.1.1 Identifying short-lived objects

- escape analysis
- recursive functions
- Automated tooling to help discover?

#### 5.1.2 Replacing many allocations with few

• identify

### 5.2 Designing for allocator usage

#### 5.2.1 Shaping tasks for allocators

- Differentiating between long and short lived data.
- Message processing in local allocators, updating persistent state in global allocator
- Structuruing persistent data for advantageous cache usage

#### 5.2.2 Keeping allocators with subsystems

• Moving allocators with their data - queues of smart pointers,





### Advanced

#### 6.1 Modern Hardware

#### 6.2 **Effective Benchmarking**

Here we would be discussing the approach we have to benchmarking.

```
6.2. Determine a
                                                                                      better location for
struct S {
                                                                                      benchmarking section
  void foo();
void S::foo()
```





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# Appendix A

### Other Libraries

A.1 BDE

A.2 Thrust







# Appendix B

# Future Developments

- **B.1** More PMR Types
- **B.2** Automating Allocator Suppoer





# Todo list

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