EXPLORATION OF C++20 METAPROGRAMMING INBAL LEVI

WHO AM I?

- A C++ enthusiast.
- An embedded software engineer at Solar Edge working on smart home.
- One of the organizers of CoreCpp conference and user group.
- A Member of WG21.
- One of the founders of the Israeli NB.
- I've studied physics, I also love math. ©

NOTIVATION of

- Templates are a powerful tool for C++ programmers.
- Each C++ version has evolved templates, allowing better usage.
- We'll see the value of adding templates to your code.

MOTIVATION

• Some environments discourage extensive use of templates

^{co} Template metaprogramming

Avoid complicated template programming.

(...)

Decision:

Template metaprogramming sometimes allows cleaner and easier-to-use interfaces than would be possible without it, but it's also often a temptation to be overly clever. It's best used in a small number of low level components where the extra maintenance burden is spread out over a large number of uses.

And I don't blame them...

• We'll see how C++20 creates a paradigm shift in the way we use metaprogramming.

OUTLINE

- Part 0: (Prologue) What are templates?
- Part I: Adding templates to existing code
- Part II: Overload resolution and ADL
- Part III: Conditions at compile time pre C++20
- Part IV: Conditions at compile time using C++20 (and beyond...)
- Part V: Advanced methods for controlling compile time logic

PART 0: WHAT ARE TEMPLATES?

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• A template allows creating a class or a function

```
template <typename T>
class TemplatedClass {
   // Define members, using T
};
template <typename T>
void TemplatedFunction() {
    // Use T
};
template <typename T>
void TemplatedFunction(T x) {
    // Use T
```

PART 0: WHAT ARE TEMPLATES

A Function template is usable only if a definition exists.

Instantiation of a function template can be explicit or implicit.

```
template void foo <int>(int i);  // Explicit instantiation
template void foo(int i);  // Explicit instantiation
```

```
int main()
{
    int i; float j;
    foo<int>(i);
    foo(i);
    void(*ptr)(int) = foo;
}

// Implicit instantiation by call
// Implicit by call (+ argument deduction)
// Implicit by pointer (+ argument deduction)
```

* C++20 adds syntactic sugar for declaring a function template.

PART 0: WHAT ARE TEMPLATES

- Templates are evaluated at compile time.
- Templates are Turing Complete: you can achieve any functionality of a Turing machine with templates.
- Templates have a few layers of usage:
 - They can be used to avoid rewriting repeated logic.
 - They can be used to write a generic code, which can be provided as library.
 - They provide a mechanism for moving logic to compile-time.
- Templates, in their simplest use do not generate extra code.

 In fact, they have very similar size and compilation time to regular code.



PART I: ADDING TEMPLATES TO EXISTING CODE

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- Consider the following <u>template free</u> code.
- Overload resolution is by parameters only.

```
void foo(int i);
                    // Overload 1
void foo(float s);
                    // Overload 2
void foo(SomeClass c);  // Overload 3
int main()
  int i;
  float j;
  SomeClass c;
  foo(i);
                    // Overload 1
  foo(j);
                      Overload 2
  foo(c);
                      Overload 3
```

DEPART I: ADDING TEMPLATES TO EXISTING CODE

- We could replace our overloads with a single template function.
- This way, we get two main advantages:
 - 1. In Code: Save coding time, code duplication, changes can be done in a single place.
 - 2. In Binary Size: The advantage of code generated only for used types. (lower space overhead)

```
template <typename T>
void foo(T t) {
    // do something with T
}
int main()
{
    int i;
    float j;
    foo(i);    // (implicit) Instantiation for int
    foo(j);    // (implicit) Instantiation for float
}
```

```
void foo<int>(int):
    push rbp
    mov rbp, rsp
    push rbx
ret

void foo<float>(float):
    push rbp
    mov rbp, rsp
    push rbp
    mov rbp, rsp
    push rbx
```

PART I: ADDING TEMPLATES TO EXISTING CODE

Partial specialization of a class

```
template<typename T, typename U>
struct FullType {
    FullType() {
        cout << "FullType CTOR" << '\n';</pre>
template<typename T>
struct FullType<T,T> {
    FullType() {
        cout << "FullType same type CTOR" << '\n';</pre>
    };
int main()
    FullType<int, bool> i;
                                   // FullType CTOR
    FullType<int, int> j;
                                    // FullType same type CTOR
```

```
.LCO:
    .string "FullType CTOR "

FullType<int, bool>::FullType() [base object push rbp mov rbp, rsp sub rsp, 16

.LCO:
    .string "FullType same type CTOR "

FullType<int, int>::FullType() [base object of push rbp mov rbp, rsp sub rsp, 16
```

PART I: ADDING TEMPLATES TO EXISTING CODE

Partial specialization of a function

```
template <typename T>
struct Wrapper {
    Wrapper(T t ): t(t ) {
        cout << "Wrapper: " << typeid(T).name() << '\n';</pre>
    };
    T t;
template <typename T>
void Foo(T t) {
    cout << "Foo: " << typeid(T).name() << '\n';</pre>
template <typename T>
void Foo(Wrapper<T> t) {
    cout << "Foo with wrapper: " << typeid(T).name() << '\n';</pre>
int main()
    int i; foo(i);
                                     // Foo: i
    Wrapper<int> j; foo(j);
                                     // Foo with wrapper: i
```

```
.LCO:
    .string "Foo: "

void foo<int>(int):
    push rbp
    mov rbp, rsp
    push rbx

.LC1:
    .string "Foo with wrapper: "

void foo<int>(Wrapper<int>):
    push rbp
    mov rbp, rsp
    push rbp
    mov rbp, rsp
```

PART II: OVERLOAD RESOLUTION AND ADL

PART II: OVERLOAD RESOLUTION AND ADL

Resolution of overloaded template functions:

- 1. The compiler creates a set of candidates (all functions f that can be accessed from where the call is)
- 2. The compiler creates a subset of viable functions (according to the number of parameters):
 - 1. Name Lookup (NL)
 - 2. Partial Ordering of Function Templates (POFT)
 - 3. Template Argument Deduction (ADL)
- 3. The best viable function is the one whose parameters all have either better or equal-ranked implicit conversion sequences.

Notes:

• Member functions (excluding constructors) are treated as if they had an extra parameter appear before the first actual parameter.

PART II: OVERLOAD RESOLUTION AND ADL

Overload resolution includes the following processes and rules:

- 1. Name Lookup (NL)
 - All the functions with a suitable name are associated to the function call.
- 2. Partial Ordering of Function Templates (POFT)
 - Choosing a function template is done according to the most specialized version.
- 3. Template Argument Deduction (ADL)
 - Including the namespace of the arguments in addition to the function call scope.

Notes:

- Ambiguity will be created when there is more than one viable function (compiler error).
- We will not get an error if no candidate function is found (Substitution Failure Is Not An Error).
- We will get an error if we try to <u>call a function</u> with no viable candidates.



<type_traits>:

- type_traits are part of <types> library.
- Verified at compile time.
- A class type trait (since C++11):
 - Identifies whether a condition is true or false.
 - Every type trait class has a value member.
 - The member can be retrieved by
 - (C++11) trait_name<A,B,...>::value
 - (C++17) trait_name_v<A,B,...>
- A function type trait (since C++20):
 - A constexpr function.
 - Identifies a situation.

<type_traits>: overview

- Classes:
 - Queries
 - Helper classes (is constant)
 - Primary type categories (void, class, etc.)
 - Composite type categories (reference, etc.)
 - Type properties (CV, final, aggregate, etc.)
 - Query supported operations (trivially_assignable, etc.)
 - Query properties (alignment_of, rank, extent, etc.)
 - Type relationships (is_same, is_nothrow_convertible, etc.)

- Operations
 - Const volatility (remove_cv, add_cv, etc.)
 - References (remove_reference, etc.)
 - Pointers (remove_pointer, add_pointer)
 - Sign (make_signed, make_unsigned)
 - Arrays (remove_extent, remove_all_extent)
- Transformation related functionality
- Operations on traits (conjunction, disjunction, negation)

- Functions (C++20):
 - Member relationships (is_corresponding_member, is_pointer_interconvertible_with_class)
 - Constant evaluation context (is_constant_evaluated)

Two main types of conditions exist

1. Conditions using bool

```
template<typename T, typename U>
bool IsSame = std::is_same_v<T, U>;
int main()
{
   cout << "IsSame: " << IsSame<int, double>; // IsSame: 0
}
```

2. Conditions using function

```
template<typename T, typename U>
void IsSame() {
   cout << "IsSame: "<< std::is_same_v<T,U> << '\n';
};
int main()
{
   IsSame<int, bool>();
}
// IsSame: 0
```

Function conditions using overloads and enable_if (C++11):

Function conditions using constexpr if (C++17):

<type_traits>: (C++17) conjunction, disjunction, negation

std::conjunction (&&)

```
template<typename T, typename... Ts>
bool IsAllSame() {
   cout << "conjunction: "<< std::conjunction_v<std::is_same<T,Ts>...> << '\n';
   return std::conjunction_v<std::is_same<T,Ts>...>;
};
int main()
{
   IsAllSame<int, int, int>();  // conjunction: 1
}
```

<type_traits>: conjunction, disjunction, negation

std::disjunction (||)

```
template<typename T, typename... Ts>
bool IsTwoSame() {
    cout << "disjunction: "<< std::disjunction_v<std::is_same<T,Ts>...> << '\n';
    return std::disjunction_v<std::is_same<T,Ts>...>;
};

int main()
{
    IsTwoSame<int, string, bool>();  // disjunction: 0
}
```

std::negation (!)

```
template<typename T, typename U>
bool IsNotSame() {
   cout << "!IsSame: "<< std::negation_v<std::is_same<T,U>> << '\n';
   return std::negation_v<std::is_same<T,U>>;
};

int main()
{
   IsNotSame<int, int>();  // IsNotSame: 0
}
```

Using std:: versions over (&&, ||, !) will optimize by avoiding instantiation of parameters pack if condition is met.



- C++20 created a paradigm shift in metaprogramming.
- Concepts and constraints allow the user to introduce a new 'type category' (vs. type) to the compiler.



- In the following slides, we will review:
 - C++20's new type-traits.
 - New syntax for controlling the overload set.
 - New tools to use in C++20 template metaprogramming, and beyond.

- Classes:
 - Type properties:
 - is_bounded_array<A>;
 - is_unbounded_array<A>;
 - Type relationships:
 - is_nothrow_convertible<A, B>;
 - is_layout_compatible<A,B>;
 - is_pointer_interconvertible_base_of<A,B>;
- Functions:
 - Member relationships:
 - is_pointer_interconvertible_with_class<A,B>
 - is_corresponding_member<A, B, C, D>
 - Constant evaluation context:
 - is_constant_evaluated

- Transformations related functionality:
 - remove_cvref<A>;

```
is_layout_compatible<A,B>;
is_pointer_interconvertible_base_of<A,B>;
is_pointer_interconvertible_with_class<A,B>
is_corresponding_member<A, B, C, D>
is_constant_evaluated();
```

```
constexpr int foo(int a) {
   if (is_constant_evaluated()) {
      cout << "Evaluated at compile time!" << '\n';
   }
}</pre>
```

• Provides greater reflection abilities!

Concepts:

Concepts are a way for the developer to define restrictions on the "type category".

```
template <typename T>
concept concept_name = (condition);
```

- The expression is not evaluated, only validated.
- The condition can be:
 - A simple condition
 - Requires expression, which will return true if valid, false otherwise

```
template <typename T>
concept concept_name = requires(T t) { valid_expression; };
```

Requires expression, which describes requirements on the return value of a function (compound):

Concepts:

Concepts can be used to identify whether a type belongs to the "type category" *

```
template <typename T>
concept concept_name = (condition);
```

```
template <typename T>
concept trivial = std::is_trivial_v<T>;
int main()
{
   cout << "Trivial: " << trivial<int> << '\n';  // Trivial: 1
}</pre>
```

- A concept cannot be constrained (for example, by using another concept to restrict its params).
- A concept cannot recursively refer to itself.
 - * A popular way do declare a concept:

```
template <typename... Ts>
constexpr auto concept_name = (condition);
```

Concepts:

Core language concepts:

- same_as
- derived_from
- convertible_to
- common_reference_with
- common_with

- integral
- signed_integral
- unsigned_integral
- floating_point
- assignable_from

- swappable
- swappable_with
- destructible
- constructible_from
- default_initializable

Comparison concepts:

- boolean-testable
- equality_comparable

- equality_comparable_with
- totally_ordered

totally_ordered_with

move_constructible

copy_constructible

Object concepts:

movable

copyable

semiregular

regular

Callable concepts:

invocable

• predicate

- equivalence_relation
- strict_weak_order

• regular_invocable

relation

Constraints:

• Constraints are used to restrict the types which can instantiate the template

```
template <typename T>
void foo() requires integral<T> {
    // do something requires integral types
}
```

• Constraints can also be defined in a form that resembles enable_if

```
template <typename T>
  requires integral<T>
  void foo() {
    // do something requires integral types
}
```

Constraints:

- Constraints express additional data on the types
- Constraints can be used to restrict:
 - Template parameters
 - Variables
- Constraints normalization is the process of 'unpacking' the constraints
- Constraints can be added to the code as follows:
 - 1. In the declaration of the template parameters.
 - 2. Using requires clause after the template parameter list.
 - 3. Using concept on the placeholder type in an abbreviated function template declaration.
 - 4. Using trailing requires clause.

Constraints:

Evaluation will be in the following order, with conjunction between the expressions

1. In the declaration of the template parameters

```
template <integral T>
void foo(T t) {
    // do something with T
}
```

2. Using requires clause after the template parameter list

```
template <typename T>
  requires integral<T>
  void foo(T t) {
      // do something with T
}
```

Constraints:

3. Using concept on the placeholder type in an abbreviated function template declaration.

```
void foo(some_concept auto T) {
   // do something with T
}
```

```
void foo(some_concept auto... T) {
    // do something with T
}
```

4. Using requires clause after the template parameter list.

```
template <typename T>
void foo(T t) requires integral<T> {
    // do something with T
}
```

^{*} Remember this list, we will go back to that later.

Real world use case: wrapper type

- The "type category" can be used in a broader way than the type.
 - Concept: contains_data

```
template <class T>
concept contains_data = requires(T t)
{
   t.data;
};
```

DataType which satisfies that concept:

> PART IV: CONDITIONS AT COMPILE TIME USING C++20

Real world use case: wrapper type

A wrapper accepts only types which satisfy contains_data

```
template <typename...>
class wrapper
{
public:
    template <typename T>
    wrapper(T t) = delete;

    template <contains_data T> // create from any contains_data type
    wrapper(T t) {
        cout << "wrapper from any contains_data, with data: " << t.data << '\n';
};
};</pre>
```

Wrap1 contains DataType<int>, Wrap2 fails.

PART IV: CONDITIONS AT COMPILE TIME USING C++20

Explicit circuit braking:

P2199R0: Concepts to Differentiate Types / Isabella Muerte
 Not in the standard yet, suggests concepts which can solve the problem of recursive evaluation.

```
template <class T, class U>
  concept different_from = not same_as<T, U>;

template <class T, class U>
  concept similar_to = same_as<remove_cvref_t<T>, remove_cvref_t<U>>;

template <class T, class U>
  concept distinct_from = not similar_to<T, U>;
```



PART V: ADVANCED METHODS FOR COMPILE TIME LOGIC

PART V: ADVANCED METHODS FOR COMPILE TIME LOGIC

Lazy evaluation:

- Temporaries are created and returned from an operation.
- We can reduce the instantiation of temps, by avoiding their creation.
- As a result, we can improve the compile time of our program, by avoiding unnecessary overhead.

DEPART V: ADVANCED METHODS FOR COMPILE TIME LOGIC

```
template<typename T, typename InternalVec = std::vector<T>>
struct VecWrapper {
   VecWrapper(size t n);
                                                                 // CTOR VecWrapper
   VecWrapper(const InternalVec& other);
                                                                   CCTOR VecWrapper
    template<typename T1, typename V1>
    VecWrapper& operator=(const VecWrapper<T1, V1>& other);
                                                                 // VecWrapper op=
    template<typename T1, typename V1>
    VecWrapper operator+(const VecWrapper<T1, V1>& other);
                                                                 // VecWrapper op+
    (\ldots)
                                                                 // VecWrapper op[]
    InternalVec vec;
};
```

```
int main()
{
    VecWrapper<int> x(3);
    VecWrapper<int> y(3);
    x[0] = x[1] = x[2] = 0;
    y = y + x;
}
// CTOR VecWrapper
// op[]
// op[]
// op+
}
```

DEPART V: ADVANCED METHODS FOR COMPILE TIME LOGIC

```
template<typename T, typename InternalVec = std::vector<T>>
struct VecWrapper {
   VecWrapper(size t n);
                                                                  // CTOR VecWrapper
   VecWrapper(const InternalVec& other);
                                                                    CCTOR VecWrapper
    template<typename T1, typename V1>
    VecWrapper& operator=(const VecWrapper<T1, V1>& other);
                                                                 // VecWrapper op=
    template<typename T1, typename V1>
    VecWrapper operator+(const VecWrapper<T1, V1>& other);
                                                                 // VecWrapper op+
    (\ldots)
                                                                 // VecWrapper op[]
    Internal Vec vec;
};
```

```
template<typename T, typename A, typename B>
VecWrapper<T, Sum<T, A, B>> operator+ (const VecWrapper<T, A>& a, const VecWrapper<T, B>& b) {
    cout << "Operator+ of VecWrapper" << '\n';
    return VecWrapper <T, Sum<T, A, B>> (Sum<T, A, B> (a.vec, b.vec));
}
```

> PART V: ADVANCED METHODS FOR COMPILE TIME LOGIC

DEPART V: ADVANCED METHODS FOR COMPILE TIME LOGIC

```
int main()
{
    VecWrapper<int> x(3);
    VecWrapper<int> y(3);
    VecWrapper<int> z(3);

    x[0] = x[1] = x[2] = 0;
    y[0] = y[1] = y[2] = 1;
    z[0] = z[1] = z[2] = 2;

    VecWrapper<int> sum(3);
    sum = x + y + z;
    // Lazy evaluation
}
```

```
Operator+ of VecWrapper
CTOR Sum
CCTOR VecWrapper
Operator+ of VecWrapper
CTOR Sum
CCTOR VecWrapper
Op= VecWrapper
Op= VecWrapper
Op= VecWrapper
Op= VecWrapper
```

PART V: ADVANCED METHODS FOR COMPILE TIME LOGIC

Ranges (But not just yet...)

- Ranges were added to C++20
- Input range adaptors, along with zip, zip_with, stayed out.
- You can experiment with it by adding Eric Niebler's range-v3 library.

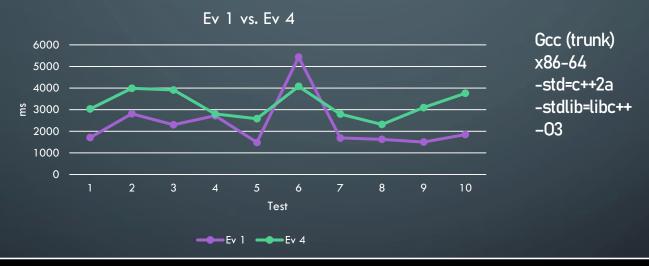
std::plus< >::operator()

```
template< class T, class U>
constexpr auto operator()( T&& lhs, U&& rhs ) const
-> decltype(std::forward<T>(lhs) + std::forward<U>(rhs));
```

Using zip_with for lazy evaluation

> PART V: ADVANCED METHODS FOR COMPILE TIME LOGIC

Constraints evaluation



```
template <braking_condition T>
    wrapper(T t)requires additional_condition<T> {};
```

TAKEAWAYS

- Template metaprogramming is a powerful tool.
- C++20 extends the vocabulary for template metaprogramming.
- C++20's Concepts & constraints are a step towards increasing readability of template code.
- Some more improvements are expected in the following years.
- C++20 added powerful compile-time tools, use them.
- Let's strive to extend the usage of templates!

BOOKS

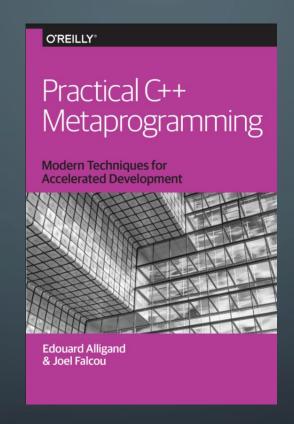
C++ Template Metaprogramming

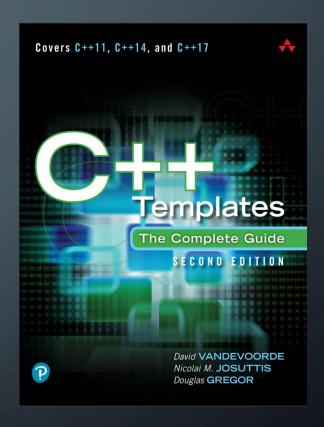
Concepts, Tools, and Techniques from Boost and Beyond

David Abrahams Aleksey Gurtovoy

*







LINKS

CppCon talks:

- Template Metaprogramming: Type Traits / Jody Hagins
- Back to Basics: Templates / Andreas Fertig
- Constructing Generic Algorithms: Principles and Practice / Ben Deane
- How C++20 Changes the Way We Write Code / Timur Doumler
- CppCon 2019: Modern Template Techniques / Jon Kalb: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLV4IVc4Swl
- CppCon 2019: Range Algorithms, Views and Actions: A Comprehensive Guide / Dvir Yitzchaki: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQtS50ZChN8
- MeetingC++ 2014: Expression Templates Revisited / Klaus Iglberger: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfn0BVOegac

• Technical data:

- P0734R0: Working Draft, C++ extensions for Concepts / Andrew Sutton (2017): http://www.open-std.org/jtc1/sc22/wg21/docs/papers/2017/p0734r0.pdf
- Partial ordering of function templates / Microsoft: https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/cpp/cpp/partial-ordering-of-function-templates-cpp?view=vs-2019
- Guidelines For snake_case Concept Naming / Jonathan Müller: http://www.open-std.org/jtc1/sc22/wg21/docs/papers/2019/p1851r0.html
- Requires-expression / Andrzej Krzemienski: https://akrzemi1.wordpress.com/2020/01/29/requires-expression/
- Cpp Insights: https://cppinsights.io/

Papers:

- P2199R0: Concepts to Differentiate Types / Isabella Muerte: http://www.open-std.org/jtc1/sc22/wg21/docs/papers/2020/p2199r0.html
- P1035R4: Input range adaptors / Christopher D. B., Casey C., Corentin J.: http://www.open-std.org/jtc1/sc22/wg21/docs/papers/2019/p1035r4.html#zip_with-in-c20

THANK YOU!

I hope you're now inspired to go and explore C++20 templates ©

Inbal Levi

Mail: sinbal2l@gmail.com

Twitter: @Inbal_l

Linkdin: /inballevi

Github: /inbal2l

