Modern std::byte stream IO for C++

Document #: DXXXXR0 Date: 2019-11-19

Project: Programming Language C++

Audience: LEWGI Reply-to: Lyberta

<lyberta@lyberta.net>

Contents

1	Abstract	2				
2	Motivation Prior art Design goals Design decisions					
3						
4						
5						
6	Tutorial 6.1 Example 1: Reading and writing raw bytes 6.2 Example 2: Writing integer with default format 6.3 Example 3: Writing integer with specific layout 6.4 Example 4: Working with floating point numbers 6.5 Example 5: User defined type with fixed format, member functions 6.6 Example 6: User defined type with fixed format, free functions 6.7 Example 7: User defined type with dynamic format, member functions 6.8 Example 8: User defined type with dynamic format, free functions 6.9 Example 9: Working with enums 6.10 Example 10: Resource Interchange File Format	ith default format 6 ith specific layout 7 ting point numbers 7 with fixed format, member functions 8 with dynamic format, member functions 9 with dynamic format, free functions 10 ms 11 ange File Format 12 15 15 io.syn] 16 sj 18 beer] 19 m.concepts] 19 t_stream [stream.concept.input] 19 nt_stream [stream.concept.output] 19 able_stream [stream.concept.seekable] 20 or unformatted IO [io.raw] 21				
7	Implementation experience 1					
8	Future work					
9	Open issues	16				
10	O Wording 10.1 29.1.? General [io.general]	16 16 18 19 19 19 19				

10.7 29.1.? Class format [io.format]
10.7.1 29.1.?.? Constructor [io.format.cons]
10.7.2 29.1.?.? Member functions [io.format.members]
10.8 29.1.? Context concepts [io.context.concepts]
10.8.1 29.1.?.? Concept context [io.context]
10.8.2 29.1.?.? Concept input_context [input.context]
10.8.3 29.1.?.? Concept output_context [output.context]
10.9 29.1.? Class template default_context [io.default.context]
10.9.1 29.1.?.? Constructor [io.default.context.cons]
10.9.2 29.1.?.? Stream [io.default.context.stream]
10.9.3 29.1.?.? Format [io.default.context.format]
10.1029.1.? Customization points for serialization [io.serialization]
10.10.1 29.1.?.? Helper concepts
10.10.229.1.?.? io::read [io.read]
10.10.3 29.1.?.? io::write [io.write]
10.1129.1.? Serialization concepts [serialization.concepts]
10.11.129.1.?.? Concept readable_from [io.concept.readable]
10.11.229.1.?.? Concept writable_to [io.concept.writable]
10.1229.1.? Span streams [span.streams]
10.12.129.1.?.1 Class input_span_stream [input.span.stream]
10.12.229.1.?.2 Class output_span_stream [output.span.stream]
10.12.3 29.1.?.3 Class span_stream [span.stream]
10.1329.1.? Memory streams [memory.streams]
10.13.129.1.?.1 Class template basic_input_memory_stream [input.memory.stream] 3:
10.13.229.1.?.2 Class template basic_output_memory_stream [output.memory.stream] 33
10.13.329.1.?.3 Class template basic_memory_stream [memory.stream]
10.1429.1.? File streams [file.streams???] (naming conflict)
10.14.1 29.1.?.? Native handles [file.streams.native]
10.14.229.1.?.? Class file_stream_base [file.stream.base]
10.14.3 29.1.?.? Class input_file_stream [input.file.stream]
10.14.429.1.?.? Class output_file_stream [output.file.stream]
10.14.5 29.1.?.? Class file_stream [file.stream]

1 Abstract

11 References

This paper proposes fundamental IO concepts, customization points for serialization and deserialization and streams for memory and file IO.

42

2 Motivation

C++ has text streams for a long time. However, there is no comfortable way to read and write binary data. One can argue that it is possible to [ab]use char-based text streams that provide unformatted IO but it has many drawbacks:

- The API still works in terms of char so if you use std::byte in your code base, you have to reinterpret_cast when calling read and write member functions of streams.
- Streams operate in terms of std::char_traits which is not needed when doing binary IO and only complicates the API. In particular, std::ios::pos_type is a very painful type to work with but is required in many IO operations.
- Stream open mode is badly designed and you'd always want to make sure to force it to have std::ios_base::binary.

- Stream objects carry a lot of text formatting flags that are irrelevant when doing binary IO. This leads to wasted memory.
- By default, stream operations don't throw exceptions. This usually means some wrapper code to force exceptions.
- If you want to do IO in memory, you're stuck with string streams that operate using std::string. Most binary data is stored in std::vector<std::byte> which leads to loss of performance due to unnecessary copies.
- There is no agreed standard for customization points for binary IO.

This proposal tries to fix all mentioned issues.

3 Prior art

This proposal is based on author's serialization library which was initially written in 2010 targeting C++98 and was gradually updated to C++20. The library is used to work with the following formats:

- Standard MIDI file
- Microsoft RIFF WAVE
- QuakeC bytecode
- WebAssembly module

The following lessons were learned during development:

- Endianness is of utmost importance. Standard MIDI files are always big-endian. Network byte order is big endian. RIFF can be either big or little. Most newer formats are little-endian. A user must be in control of endianness at all times. There should be transparent way to do endianness conversion. Endianness may change in the middle of the file in case of container formats such as RIFF MIDI.
- Integers should be two's complement by default. While C++98 through C++17 allowed integers to be stored as ones' complement or sign+magnitude, the author is not aware of any file format that uses those representations. C++20 requires integers to be two's complement. A user working with exotic format can supply user defined type that does bit fiddling manually. Such is the case with WebAssembly that uses LEB128 for integers.
- There should be a way to read and write floating point types in ISO 60559 binaryN formats regardless of the native format of floating point types. Most formats store floating point values in ISO 60559 formats. If floating point types provided by the implementation such as float and double are not ISO 60559, then the implementation is effectively cut off from the rest of the world unless there are conversion functions. Though the recent rise of bfloat16 format shows that storage of floating point numbers continues to evolve.

The following problems were encountered:

- There was no byte type. This was fixed by std::byte in C++17.
- There was no sound way to express a range of bytes. This was fixed by std::span in C++20.
- There was no portable way to determine the native endianness, especially since sizes of all fundamental types can be 1 and all fixed-width types are optional. This was fixed by std::endian in C++20.
- There was no easy way to convert integers from native representation to two's complement and vice versa. This was fixed by requiring all integers to be two's complement in C++20.
- There is no easy way to convert integers from native endianness to specific endianness and vice versa. There is an std::byteswap proposal ([P1272R2]) but it doesn't solve the general case because C++ allows systems that are neither big nor little endian.
- There is no easy way to convert floating point number from native representation to ISO/IEC 60559 and vice versa. This makes makes portable serialization of floating point numbers very hard on non-IEC platforms. [P1468R2] should fix this.

While the author thinks that having endianness and floating point convertion functions available publicly is a good idea, they leave them as implementation details in this paper.

Thoughts on [Boost.Serialization]:

- It uses confusing operator overloading akin to standard text streams which leads to several problems such as unnecessary complexity of >> and << returning a reference to the archive.
- It doesn't support portable serialization of floating point values.
- It tries to do too much by adding version number to customization points, performing magic on pointers, arrays, several standard containers and general purpose boost classes.
- Unfortunate macro to split load and save customization points.
- It still uses standard text streams as archives.

Thoughts on [Cereal]:

- It decided to inherit several Boost problems for the sake of compatibility.
- Strange operator() syntax for IO.
- Will not compile if CHAR_BIT > 8.
- Undefined behavior when detecting native endianness due to strict aliasing violation.
- Doesn't support portable serialization of floating point values, but gives helpful static_assert in case of non-IEC platform.
- Still uses standard text streams as archives.

4 Design goals

- Always use std::byte instead of char when meaning raw bytes. Avoid char*, unsigned char* and void*.
- Do not do any text processing or hold any text-related data inside stream classes, even as template parameters.
- Provide intuitive customization points.
- Support different endiannesses and floating point formats.
- Stream classes should efficiently map to OS API in case of file IO.

5 Design decisions

- It was chosen to put all new types into separate namespace std::io. This follows the model ranges took where they define more modern versions of old facilities inside a new namespace.
- The inheritance heirarchy of legacy text streams has been transformed to concepts that use more flat composition of features than inheritance tree. Legacy base class templates have been loosely transformed into the following concepts:
 - std::basic_istream -> std::io::input_stream.
 - std::basic_ostream -> std::io::output_stream.
 - Seeking functionality has been moved to std::io::seekable_stream.
- Concrete class templates have been transformed as follows:
 - std::basic_istringstream -> std::io::basic_input_memory_stream.
 - std::basic ostringstream -> std::io::basic output memory stream.
 - std::basic_stringstream -> std::io::basic_memory_stream.
 - std::basic_ifstream -> std::io::input_file_stream.
 - std::basic_ofstream -> std::io::output_file_stream.
 - std::basic_fstream -> std::io::file_stream.
- The streambuf part of legacy text streams has been dropped.
- Fixed size streams have been added:
 - std::io::input_span_stream.
 - $-- \verb| std::io::output_span_stream|.$
 - std::io::span_stream.
- Since the explicit goal of this proposal is to do IO in terms of std::byte, CharT and Traits template parameters have been removed.
- All text formatting flags have been removed. A new class std::io::format has been introduced for binary format. The format is no longer a part of stream classes but is constructed on demand during [de]serialization as part of IO context.

- Parts of legacy text streams related to std::ios_base::iostate have been removed. It is better to report any specific errors via exceptions and since binary files usually have fixed layout and almost always start chunks of data with size, any kind of IO error is usually unrecoverable.
- std::ios_base::openmode has been split into std::io::mode and std::io::creation that are modeled after the ones from [P1031R2].
- Since there is no more buffering (as of this revision) because of lack of **streambuf** and operating systems only expose a single file position that is used both for reading and writing, the interface has been changed accordingly:
 - tellg and tellp -> get_position.
 - Single argument versions of seekg and seekp -> set_position.
 - Double argument versions of seekg and seekp -> seek_position.
 - peek, putback, unget and flush member functions were removed.
- std::basic_ios::pos_type has been replaced with std::streamoff.
- std::basic_ios::off_type has been replaced with std::streamoff.
- std::ios_base::seekdir has been replaced with std::io::base_position.
- getline and ignore member functions were removed because they don't make sense during binary IO.
- Since it is not always possible to read or write all requested bytes in one system call (especially during networking), the interface has been changed accordingly:
 - std::io::input_stream requires read_some member function that reads zero or more bytes from the stream and returns amount of bytes read.
 - std::io::output_stream requires write_some member function that writes one or more bytes to the stream and returns amount of bytes written.
 - gcount became the return value of read_some.
 - get, read, put and write member functions have been replaced with std::io::read_raw and std::io::write_raw customization points.
- operator>> and operator<< have been replaced with std::io::read and std::io::write customization points.</p>

6 Tutorial

6.1 Example 1: Reading and writing raw bytes

In this example we write some bytes to a file, then read them back and check that the bytes match. Here we use std::io::write_raw and std::io::read_raw customization points. They work with raw bytes and do not try to interpret any data inside those bytes.

```
// Create space for bytes to read from the file.
std::array<std::byte, 4> read_bytes;

{    // Start new RAII block.
        // Open the file again, but now for reading.
        std::io::input_file_stream stream{"test.bin"};
        // Read the bytes from the file.
        std::io::read_raw(read_bytes, stream);
} // End of RAII block. This will close the stream.

// Compare read bytes with initial ones.
if (read_bytes == initial_bytes)
{
        std::cout << "Bytes match.\n";
}
else
{
        std::cout << "Bytes don't match.\n";
}
}</pre>
```

6.2 Example 2: Writing integer with default format

Here we write the integer to memory stream and then inspect individual bytes of the stream to see how the integer was serialized. We use high level std::io::write customization point that can accept non-byte types and can do bit-fiddling if requested.

```
#include <io>
#include <iostream>
int main()
{
    unsigned int value = 42;
    // Create a stream. This stream will write to dynamically allocated memory.
    std::io::output_memory_stream stream;
    // Create a context. Context contains format of non-byte data that is used
    // to correctly do [de]serialization. If stream answers the question
    // "Where?", context answers the question "How?".
    std::io::default_context context{stream};
    // Write the value to the stream.
    std::io::write(value, context);
    // Get reference to the buffer of the stream.
    const auto& buffer = stream.get_buffer();
    // Print the buffer.
    for (auto byte : buffer)
        std::cout << std::to_integer<int>(byte) << ' ';</pre>
    std::cout << '\n';</pre>
```

}

The result is implementation defined because by default the bytes of the integer are being copied as-is without any processing. This is the fastest. You don't pay for what you don't use. The output would depend on CHAR_BIT, sizeof(unsigned int) and std::endian::native. On AMD64 this will print:

```
42 0 0 0
```

This is because CHAR_BIT is 8, sizeof (unsigned int) is 4 and std::endian::native == std::endian::little.

6.3 Example 3: Writing integer with specific layout

Of course, in most real world cases you want to ensure the exact bit layout of all the types. For example, most file formats require bytes to be 8 bits wide, so it is good idea to put static_assert(CHAR_BIT == 8) in the code to only compile on compatible systems. Second, fundamental types such as short, int and long have implementation defined sizes so using them is also out of question. We need to use fixed-width integer types from <cstdint>. Finally, endianness. We need to explicitly specify endianness of the data that we are gonna share with the rest of the world.

```
#include <cstdint>
#include <io>
#include <iostream>
// Do not compile on systems with non-8-bit bytes.
static_assert(CHAR_BIT == 8);
int main()
{
   std::uint32_t value = 42;
   std::io::output_memory_stream stream;
   // Create a context with specific binary format.
    // Here we want our data in the stream to be in big endian byte order.
   std::io::default context context{stream, std::endian::big};
    // Write the value to the stream using our format.
    // This will perform endianness conversion on non-big-endian systems.
   std::io::write(value, context);
   const auto& buffer = stream.get buffer();
   for (auto byte : buffer)
        std::cout << std::to_integer<int>(byte) << ' ';</pre>
   }
   std::cout << '\n';
```

This will either fail to compile on systems where CHAR_BIT $\,!=\,8$ or print:

0 0 0 42

6.4 Example 4: Working with floating point numbers

TODO

6.5 Example 5: User defined type with fixed format, member functions

In a lot of cases you know the format of your data at compile time. Therefore, your types can just provide read and write member functions that take a reference to stream. Then you just create context on the spot and do [de]serialization.

```
#include <io>
#include <iostream>
struct MyType
    int a;
    float b;
    void read(std::io::input_stream auto& stream)
        // We really want only big endian byte order here.
        std::io::default_context context{stream, std::endian::big};
        std::io::read(a, context);
        std::io::read(b, context);
    }
    void write(std::io::output_stream auto& stream) const
        // We really want only big endian byte order here.
        std::io::default_context context{stream, std::endian::big};
        std::io::write(a, context);
        std::io::write(b, context);
    }
};
int main()
    MyType my_object{1, 2.0f};
    std::io::output_memory_stream stream;
    // std::io::write will automatically pickup "write" member function if it
    // has a valid signature.
    std::io::write(my_object, stream);
    const auto& buffer = stream.get_buffer();
    for (auto byte : buffer)
        std::cout << std::to_integer<int>(byte) << ' ';</pre>
    std::cout << '\n';</pre>
```

6.6 Example 6: User defined type with fixed format, free functions

If for some reason you can't add member functions, you can define read and write free functions instead.

```
#include <io>
#include <iostream>
```

```
struct MyType
    int a;
    float b;
}:
// Add "read" and "write" as free functions. They will be picked up
// automatically.
void read(MyType& object, std::io::input_stream auto& stream)
{
    std::io::default_context context{stream, std::endian::big};
    std::io::read(object.a, context);
    std::io::read(object.b, context);
}
void write(const MyType& object, std::io::output_stream auto& stream)
{
    std::io::default_context context{stream, std::endian::big};
    std::io::write(object.a, context);
    std::io::write(object.b, context);
}
int main()
{
    MyType my_object{1, 2.0f};
    std::io::output_memory_stream stream;
    std::io::write(my object, stream);
    const auto& buffer = stream.get_buffer();
    for (auto byte : buffer)
        std::cout << std::to integer<int>(byte) << ' ';</pre>
    std::cout << '\n';</pre>
}
```

6.7 Example 7: User defined type with dynamic format, member functions

In more involved cases such as containers the format of the data in inner layers may depend on data in outer layers. One common example is the header of the container specifying endianness of the data inside of the container. In this case you can provide **read** and **write** member functions that take context instead of stream and pass context from outer layers to inner layers, preserving the format recursively.

```
#include <io>
#include <iostream>

struct MyType
{
   int a;
   float b;

   void read(std::io::input_context auto& context)
```

```
// Deservalize data using the context taken from the outside.
        std::io::read(a, context);
        std::io::read(b, context);
    }
    void write(std::io::output_context auto& context) const
        // Serialize data using the context taken from the outside.
        std::io::write(a, context);
        std::io::write(b, context);
    }
};
int main()
    MyType my_object{1, 2.0f};
    std::io::output_memory_stream stream;
    // Create context at the top layer that we can pass through to lower layers.
    std::io::default_context context{stream, std::endian::big};
    std::io::write(my_object, context);
    const auto& buffer = stream.get_buffer();
    for (auto byte : buffer)
        std::cout << std::to_integer<int>(byte) << ' ';</pre>
    std::cout << '\n';</pre>
```

6.8 Example 8: User defined type with dynamic format, free functions

And again, you can do the same with free functions.

```
#include <io>
#include <iostream>

struct MyType
{
    int a;
    float b;
};

void read(MyType& object, std::io::input_context auto& context)
{
    std::io::read(object.a, context);
    std::io::read(object.b, context);
}

void write(const MyType& object, std::io::output_context auto& context)
{
```

```
std::io::write(object.a, context);
std::io::write(object.b, context);
}

int main()
{
    MyType my_object{1, 2.0f};
    std::io::output_memory_stream stream;

    std::io::default_context context{stream, std::endian::big};

    std::io::write(my_object, context);

    const auto& buffer = stream.get_buffer();

    for (auto byte : buffer)
    {
        std::cout << std::to_integer<int>(byte) << ' ';
    }
    std::cout << '\n';
}</pre>
```

6.9 Example 9: Working with enums

Enumerations are essentially strong integers. Therefore, serializing them is the same as integers and is done out-of-the-box by std::io::write. However, reading is not so simple since there is no language-level mechanism to iterate the valid values. For now you have to write non-member read function that will read the integer and manually check if it has a legal value. It is hopeful that the need to write such boilerplate code will be resolved by reflection in the future.

```
enum class MyEnum
{
    Foo,
    Bar
};
void read(MyEnum& my_enum, std::io::input_context auto& context)
    // Create a raw integer that is the same type as underlying type of our
    // enumeration.
    std::underlying_type_t<MyEnum> raw;
    // Read the integer from the stream.
    std::io::read(raw, context);
    // Cast it to our enumeration.
    my_enum = static_cast<MyEnum>(raw);
    // Check the value of enumeration.
    switch (my_enum)
        case MyEnum::Foo:
        case MyEnum::Bar:
```

```
// The value is legal.
    return;
}
default:
{
    // The value is illegal.
    throw /* ... */
}
}
```

6.10 Example 10: Resource Interchange File Format

There are 2 flavors of RIFF files: little-endian and big-endian. Endianness is determined by the ID of the first chunk. ASCII "RIFF" means little-endian, ASCII "RIFX" means big-endian. We can just read the chunk ID as sequence of bytes, create the context with the correct endianness and read the rest of the file using that context.

```
#include <io>
#include <array>
#include <vector>
namespace RIFF // Put things into separate namespace to save typing long names.
// Describes a single RIFF chunk. It starts with 4 byte ID, then size as 32-bit
// unsigned integer followed by the data of the chunk. The size doesn't include
// ID and size fields, only the size of raw data. If size is odd, there is 1
// byte padding so all chunks are aligned at even offsets.
struct Chunk
{
    using ID = std::array<std::byte, 4>;
    using Size = std::uint32_t;
    ID id;
    std::vector<std::byte> data;
    template <std::io::input_context C>
    requires std::io::seekable_stream<typename C::stream_type>
    Chunk(C& context)
        this->read(context);
    template <std::io::input_context C>
    requires std::io::seekable_stream<typename C::stream_type>
    void read(C& context)
        // Read the ID of the chunk.
        std::io::read(id, context);
        // Read the size of the chunk.
        Size size;
        std::io::read(size, context);
        // Read the data of the chunk.
        data.resize(size);
```

```
std::io::read(data, context);
        // Skip padding.
        if (size % 2 == 1)
            context.get_stream().seek_position(std::io::base_position::current,
                1);
    }
    void write(std::io::output_context auto& context) const
        // Write the ID of the chunk.
        std::io::write(id, context);
        // Write the size of the chunk.
        Size size = std::size(data); // Production code would make sure there is
        // no overflow here.
        std::io::write(size, context);
        // Write the data of the chunk.
        std::io::write(data, context);
        // Write padding.
        if (size % 2 == 1)
            std::io::write(std::byte{0}, context);
        }
    }
    // Returns the full size of the chunk when serializing.
    Size GetSize() const noexcept
        Size size = 8 + std::size(data);
        if (size % 2 == 1)
        {
            ++size;
        return size;
    }
};
// C++ doesn't have ASCII literals but we can use UTF-8 literals instead.
constexpr Chunk::ID LittleEndianFile{
    std::byte{u8'R'}, std::byte{u8'I'}, std::byte{u8'F'}};
constexpr Chunk::ID BigEndianFile{
    std::byte\{u8'R'\}, std::byte\{u8'I'\}, std::byte\{u8'F'\}, std::byte\{u8'X'\}\};
class File
public:
    template <std::io::input_stream S>
    requires std::io::seekable_stream<S>
   File(S& stream)
        this->read(stream);
    }
```

```
template <std::io::input_stream S>
requires std::io::seekable_stream<S>
void read(S& stream)
    // Read the main chunk ID.
    Chunk::ID chunk_id;
    std::io::read_raw(chunk_id, stream);
    if (chunk_id == LittleEndianFile)
        // We have little endian file.
        m_endianness = std::endian::little;
    }
    else if (chunk_id == BigEndianFile)
        // We have big endian file.
        m endianness = std::endian::big;
    }
    else
    {
        throw /* ... */
    // Create context with correct endianness.
    std::io::default_context context{stream, m_endianness};
    // We have set correct endianness based on the 1st chunk ID.
    // The rest of the file will be describlized correctly according to
    // our format.
    Chunk::Size file_size;
    // Read the size of the file.
    std::io::read(file_size, context);
    // Now we can determine where the file ends.
    std::streamoff end_position = stream.get_position() + file_size;
    // Read the form type of the file.
    std::io::read(m form type, context);
    // Read all the chunks.
    while (stream.get_position() < end_position)</pre>
        m_chunks.emplace_back(context);
    }
}
void write(std::io::output_stream auto& stream) const
    // Write the ID of the main chunk.
    if (m endianness == std::endian::little)
        std::io::write_raw(LittleEndianFile, stream);
    else if (m_endianness == std::endian::big)
        std::io::write_raw(BigEndianFile, stream);
    }
    else
```

```
throw /* ... */
        }
        // Create context with correct endianness.
        std::io::default_context context{stream, m_endianness};
        // Calculate the size of the file. For that we need to sum up the size
        // of form type and sizes of all the chunks.
        Chunk::Size file_size = 4;
        for (const auto& chunk : m_chunks)
            file_size += chunk.GetSize();
        // Write the size of the file.
        std::io::write(file_size, context);
        // Write the form type of the file.
        std::io::write(m_form_type, context);
        // Write all the chunks.
        for (const auto& chunk : m_chunks)
            std::io::write(chunk, context);
    }
private:
    std::endian m_endianness;
    ChunkID m_form_type;
    std::vector<Chunk> m_chunks;
}
```

TODO: More tutorials? More explanations.

7 Implementation experience

The reference implementation is here: [cpp-io-impl]

Most of the proposal can be implemented in ISO C++. Low level conversions inside std::io::read and std::io::write require knowledge of implementation defined format of integers and floating point numbers. File IO requires calling operating system API. The following table provides some examples:

Function	POSIX	${\bf Windows}$	UEFI
Constructor	open	CreateFile	EFI_FILE_PROTOCOL.Open
Destructor	close	CloseHandle	EFI_FILE_PROTOCOL.Close
get_position	lseek	${ t SetFilePointerEx}$	EFI_FILE_PROTOCOL.GetPosition
set_position	lseek	SetFilePointerEx	EFI_FILE_PROTOCOL.SetPosition
seek_position	lseek	SetFilePointerEx	No 1:1 mapping
read_some	read	ReadFile	EFI_FILE_PROTOCOL.Read
write_some	write	WriteFile	EFI_FILE_PROTOCOL.Write

8 Future work

It is hopeful that std::io::format will be used to handle Unicode encoding schemes during file and network IO so Unicode layer will only need to handle encoding forms.

This proposal doesn't rule out more low-level library that exposes complex details of modern operating systems. However, the design of this library has been intentionally kept as simple as possible to be novice-friendly.

9 Open issues

```
Error handling using throws + std::error.
std::filesystem::path_view
Remove std::io::floating_point_format if [P1468R2] is accepted.
Buffering for file IO.
Binary versions of std::cin, std::cout and std::cerr.
Vectored IO.
constexpr file streams as a generalization of std::embed.
```

10 Wording

```
All text is relative to [N4849].

Move clauses 29.1 - 29.10 into a new clause 29.2 "Legacy text IO".

Add a new clause 29.1 "Binary IO".
```

10.1 29.1.? General [io.general]

TODO

10.2 29.1.? Header <io> synopsis [io.syn]

```
namespace std
namespace io
enum class io_errc
    bad_file_descriptor = implementation-defined,
    invalid_argument = implementation-defined,
    value_too_large = implementation-defined,
    reached_end_of_file = implementation-defined,
    interrupted = implementation-defined,
    physical error = implementation-defined,
    file_too_large = implementation-defined
};
}
template <> struct is_error_code_enum<io::io_errc> : public true_type { };
namespace io
{
// Error handling
error_code make_error_code(io_errc e) noexcept;
error_condition make_error_condition(io_errc e) noexcept;
```

```
const error_category& category() noexcept;
class io error;
// Stream concepts
template <typename T>
concept input_stream = see below;
template <typename T>
concept output_stream = see below;
template <typename T>
concept stream = see below;
enum class base_position
    beginning,
    current,
    end
};
template <typename T>
concept seekable_stream = see below;
// Customization points for unformatted IO
inline constexpr unspecified read_raw = unspecified;
inline constexpr unspecified write_raw = unspecified;
enum class floating_point_format
{
    iec559,
    native
};
class format;
// Context concepts
template <typename C>
concept context = see below;
template <typename C>
concept input_context = see below;
template <typename C>
concept output_context = see below;
template <stream S>
class default_context;
// Customization points for serialization
inline constexpr unspecified read = unspecified;
inline constexpr unspecified write = unspecified;
// Serialization concepts
template <typename T, typename I, typename... Args>
concept readable_from = see below;
template <typename T, typename O, typename... Args>
```

```
concept writable_to = see below;
// Span streams
class input_span_stream;
class output_span_stream;
class span_stream;
// Memory streams
template <typename Container>
class basic_input_memory_stream;
template <typename Container>
class basic_output_memory_stream;
template <typename Container>
class basic_memory_stream;
using input_memory_stream = basic_input_memory_stream<vector<br/>byte>>;
using output_memory_stream = basic_output_memory_stream<vector<br/>byte>>;
using memory_stream = basic_memory_stream<vector<byte>>;
// File streams
enum class mode
{
    read,
    write
};
enum class creation
    open_existing,
    if_needed,
    truncate_existing
};
class file_stream_base;
class input_file_stream;
class output_file_stream;
class file_stream;
```

10.3 29.1.? Error handling [io.errors]

```
const error_category& category() noexcept;
```

Returns: A reference to an object of a type derived from class error_category. All calls to this function shall return references to the same object.

Remarks: The object's default_error_condition and equivalent virtual functions shall behave as specified for the class error_category. The object's name virtual function shall return a pointer to the string "io".

```
error_code make_error_code(io_errc e) noexcept;
```

Returns: error_code(static_cast<int>(e), io::category()).

```
error_condition make_error_condition(io_errc e) noexcept;
```

Returns: error_condition(static_cast<int>(e), io::category()).

10.4 29.1.? Class io_error [ioerr.ioerr]

```
class io_error : public system_error
{
public:
    io_error(const string& message, error_code ec);
    io_error(const char* message, error_code ec);
};
```

TODO

10.5 29.1.? Stream concepts [stream.concepts]

10.5.1 29.1.?.? Concept input_stream [stream.concept.input]

TODO

10.5.1.1 29.1.?.? Reading [input.stream.read]

```
streamsize read_some(span<byte> buffer);
```

Effects: If ranges::empty(buffer), returns 0. Otherwise reads zero or more bytes from the stream and advances the position by the amount of bytes read.

Returns: The amount of bytes read.

Throws: io_error in case of error.

Error conditions:

- value_too_large if starting position is equal or greater than maximum value supported by the implementation.
- interrupted if reading was iterrupted due to the receipt of a signal.
- physical_error if physical I/O error has occured.

10.5.2 29.1.?.? Concept output_stream [stream.concept.output]

```
template <typename T>
concept output_stream = requires(T s, span<const byte> buffer)
{
     {s.write_some(buffer);} -> same_as<streamsize>;
};
```

TODO

10.5.2.1 29.1.?.?? Writing [output.stream.write]

```
streamsize write_some(span<const byte> buffer);
```

Effects: If ranges::empty(buffer), returns 0. Otherwise writes one or more bytes to the stream and advances the position by the amount of bytes written.

Returns: The amount of bytes written.

Throws: io_error in case of error.

Error conditions:

- file_too_large tried to write past the maximum size supported by the stream.
- interrupted if writing was iterrupted due to the receipt of a signal.
- physical_error if physical I/O error has occured.

10.5.2.2 29.1.?.? Concept stream [stream.concept.stream]

```
template <typename T>
concept stream = input_stream<T> || output_stream<T>;
```

TODO

10.5.3 29.1.?.? Concept seekable_stream [stream.concept.seekable]

TODO

10.5.3.1 29.1.?.?? Position [seekable.stream.position]

```
streamoff get_position();
```

Returns: Current position of the stream.

```
void set_position(streamoff position);
```

Effects: Sets the position of the stream to the given value.

Throws: io error in case of error.

Error conditions:

- invalid_argument if position is negative and the stream doesn't support that.
- value_too_large if position is greater than the maximum size supported by the stream.

```
void seek_position(base_position base);
```

Effects: TODO

```
void seek_position(base_position base, streamoff offset);
```

Effects: TODO

Throws: io_error in case of error.

Error conditions:

- invalid_argument if resulting position is negative and the stream doesn't support that.
- value_too_large if resulting position cannot be represented as type streamoff or is greater than the maximum size supported by the stream.

10.6 29.1.? Customization points for unformatted IO [io.raw]

10.6.1 29.1.?.1 io::read_raw [io.read.raw]

The name read_raw denotes a customization point object. The expression io::read_raw(E, S) for some subexpression E with type T and subexpression S with type U has the following effects:

- If U is not input_stream, io::read_raw(E, S) is ill-formed.
- If T is byte, reads one byte from the stream and assigns it to E.
- If T is ranges::output_range<byte>, for every iterator in the range reads a byte from the stream and assigns it to the said iterator.
- If T is integral and sizeof(T) == 1, reads one byte from the stream and assigns its object representation to E.

10.6.2 29.1.?.2 io::write_raw [io.write.raw]

The name write_raw denotes a customization point object. The expression io::write_raw(E, S) for some subexpression E with type T and subexpression S with type U has the following effects:

- If U is not output_stream, io::write_raw(E, S) is ill-formed.
- If T is byte, writes it to the stream.
- If T is ranges::input_range and same_as<ranges::range_value_t<T>, byte>, for every iterator in the range writes the iterator's value to the stream.
- If T is integral and size of (T) == 1, writes the object representation of E to the stream.

10.7 29.1.? Class format [io.format]

```
class format final
public:
    // Constructor
    constexpr format(endian endianness = endian::native,
        floating point format float format = floating point format::native)
        noexcept;
    // Member functions
    constexpr endian get_endianness() const noexcept;
    constexpr void set endianness(endian new endianness) noexcept;
    constexpr floating point format get floating point format() const noexcept;
    constexpr void set_floating_point_format(floating_point_format new_format)
        noexcept;
    // Equality
    friend constexpr bool operator == (const format& lhs, const format& rhs)
        noexcept = default;
private:
    endian endianness_; // exposition only
```

```
floating_point_format float_format_; // exposition only
};
```

TODO

10.7.1 29.1.?.? Constructor [io.format.cons]

```
constexpr format(endian endianness = endian::native,
  floating_point_format float_format = floating_point_format::native)
  noexcept;
```

Ensures: endianness_ == endianness and float_format_ == float_format.

10.7.2 29.1.?.? Member functions [io.format.members]

Ensures: float_format_ == new_format.

10.8 29.1.? Context concepts [io.context.concepts]

10.8.1 29.1.?.? Concept context [io.context]

```
template <typename C>
concept context =
    stream<typename C::stream_type> &&
    requires(const C ctx)
{
        {ctx.get_stream()} -> same_as<const typename C::stream_type&>;
        {ctx.get_format()} -> same_as<format>;
} && requires(C ctx, format f)
{
        {ctx.get_stream()} -> same_as<typename C::stream_type&>;
        ctx.set_format(f);
};
```

TODO

10.8.2 29.1.?.? Concept input_context [input.context]

```
template <typename C>
concept input_context = context<C> && input_stream<typename C::stream_type>;
```

TODO

10.8.3 29.1.?.? Concept output_context [output.context]

```
template <typename C>
concept output_context = context<C> && output_stream<typename C::stream_type>;
```

TODO

10.9 29.1.? Class template default_context [io.default.context]

```
template <stream S>
class default_context final
{
public:
    using stream_type = S;

    // Constructor
    constexpr default_context(S& s, format f = {}) noexcept;

    // Stream
    constexpr S& get_stream() noexcept;
    constexpr const S& get_stream() const noexcept;

    // Format
    constexpr format get_format() const noexcept;
    constexpr void set_format(format f) noexcept;

private:
    S& stream_; // exposition only
    format format_; // exposition only
};
```

TODO

10.9.1 29.1.?.? Constructor [io.default.context.cons]

```
constexpr default_context(S& s, format f = {}) noexcept;

Effects: Initializes stream_ with s.

Ensures: format_ == f.
```

10.9.2 29.1.?.? Stream [io.default.context.stream]

```
constexpr S& get_stream() noexcept;

Returns: stream_.
constexpr const S& get_stream() const noexcept;
```

10.9.3 29.1.?.? Format [io.default.context.format]

```
constexpr format get_format() const noexcept;
```

Returns: format_.

Returns: stream_.

```
constexpr void set_format(format f) noexcept;
```

Ensures: format_ == f.

10.10 29.1.? Customization points for serialization [io.serialization]

10.10.1 29.1.?.? Helper concepts

```
template <typename T, typename I, typename... Args>
concept customly-readable-from =
    (input_stream<I> || input_context<I>) &&
    requires(T object, I& i, Args&&... args)
    {
        object.read(i, forward<Args>(args)...);
    };

template <typename T, typename 0, typename... Args>
concept customly-writable-to =
    (output_stream<0> || output_context<0>) &&
    requires(const T object, O& o, Args&&... args)
    {
        object.write(o, forward<Args>(args)...);
    };
}
```

10.10.2 29.1.?.? io::read [io.read]

The name read denotes a customization point object. The expression io::read(E, I, args...) for some subexpression E with type T, subexpression I with type U and args with template parameter pack Args has the following effects:

- If U is not input_stream or input_context, io::read(E, I, args...) is ill-formed.
- If T,U and Args satisfy customly-readable-from<T, U, Args...>, calls E.read(I, forward<Args>(args)...).
- Otherwise, if sizeof...(Args) != 0, io::read(E, I, args...) is ill-formed.
- If U is input_stream and:
 - If T is byte or ranges::output_range<byte>, calls io::read_raw(E, I).
 - If T is integral and size of (T) == 1, calls io::read_raw(E, I).
- If U is input_context and:
 - If T is byte or ranges::output_range<byte>, calls io::read(E, I.get_stream()).
 - If T is bool, reads 1 byte from the stream, contextually converts its value to bool and assigns the result to E.
 - If T is integral, reads sizeof(T) bytes from the stream, performs conversion of bytes from context endianness to native endianness and assigns the result to object representation of E.
 - If T is floating_point, reads sizeof(T) bytes from the stream and:
 - If context floating point format is native, assigns the bytes to the object representation of E.
 - If context floating point format is iec559, performs conversion of bytes treated as an ISO/IEC/IEEE 60559 floating point representation in context endianness to native format and assigns the result to the object representation of E.

10.10.3 29.1.?.? io::write [io.write]

The name write denotes a customization point object. The expression io::write(E, O, args...) for some subexpression E with type T, subexpression O with type U and args with template parameter pack Args has the following effects:

```
— If U is not output_stream or output_context, io::write(E, O, args...) is ill-formed.
```

[—] If T,U and Args satisfy customly-writable-to<T, U, Args...>, calls E.write(0, forward<Args>(args)...).

- Otherwise, if sizeof...(Args) != 0, io::write(E, 0, args...) is ill-formed.
- If U is output stream and:
 - If T is byte or ranges::input_range and same_as<ranges::range_value_t<T>, byte>, calls io::write raw(E, 0).
 - If T is integral or an enumeration type and sizeof(T) == 1, calls io::write_raw(static_cast<byte>(E), 0).
- If U is output_context and:
 - If T is byte or ranges::input_range and same_as<ranges::range_value_t<T>, byte>, calls io::write(E, O.get_stream()).
 - If T is bool, writes a single byte whose value is the result of integral promotion of E to the stream.
 - If T is integral or an enumeration type, performs conversion of object representation of E from native endianness to context endianness and writes the result to the stream.
 - If T is floating_point and:
 - If context floating point format is native, writes the object representation of E to the stream.
 - If context floating point format is iec559, performs conversion of object representation of E from native format to ISO/IEC/IEEE 60559 format in context endianness and writes the result to the stream.

10.11 29.1.? Serialization concepts [serialization.concepts]

10.11.1 29.1.?.? Concept readable_from [io.concept.readable]

```
template <typename T, typename I, typename... Args>
concept readable_from =
    (input_stream<I> || input_context<I>) &&
    requires(T& object, I& i, Args&&... args)
    {
        io::read(object, i, forward<Args>(args)...);
    };
```

TODO

10.11.2 29.1.?.? Concept writable_to [io.concept.writable]

```
template <typename T, typename 0, typename... Args>
concept writable_to =
   (output_stream<0> || output_context<0>) &&
   requires(const T& object, O& o, Args&&... args)
   {
      io::write(object, o, forward<Args>(args)...);
   };
```

TODO

10.12 29.1.? Span streams [span.streams]

10.12.1 29.1.?.1 Class input_span_stream [input.span.stream]

```
class input_span_stream final
{
public:
    // Constructors
    constexpr input_span_stream() noexcept;
    constexpr input_span_stream(span<const byte> buffer) noexcept;

// Position
```

```
constexpr streamoff get_position() const noexcept;
    constexpr void set_position(streamoff position);
    constexpr void seek position(base position base, streamoff offset = 0);
    // Reading
    constexpr streamsize read_some(span<byte> buffer);
    // Buffer management
    constexpr span<const byte> get_buffer() const noexcept;
    constexpr void set_buffer(span<const byte> new_buffer) noexcept;
private:
    span<const byte> buffer_; // exposition only
    ptrdiff_t position_; // exposition only
};
TODO
10.12.1.1 29.1.?.?.? Constructors [input.span.stream.cons]
constexpr input_span_stream() noexcept;
Ensures:
  — ranges::empty(buffer_) == true,
  - position_ == 0.
constexpr input_span_stream(span<const byte> buffer) noexcept;
Ensures:
  — ranges::data(buffer_) == ranges::data(buffer),
 — ranges::ssize(buffer_) == ranges::ssize(buffer),
 — position_ == 0.
10.12.1.2 29.1.?.?? Position [input.span.stream.position]
constexpr streamoff get_position() const noexcept;
Returns: position_.
constexpr void set_position(streamoff position);
Ensures: position_ == position.
Throws: io_error in case of error.
Error conditions:
  — invalid_argument - if position is negative.
  — value_too_large - if position cannot be represented as type ptrdiff_t.
constexpr void seek_position(base_position base, streamoff offset = 0);
Effects: TODO
Throws: io_error in case of error.
Error conditions:
  — invalid_argument - if resulting position is negative.
  — value_too_large - if resulting position cannot be represented as type streamoff or ptrdiff_t.
```

10.12.1.3 29.1.?.?? Reading [input.span.stream.read]

```
constexpr streamsize read_some(span<byte> buffer);
```

Effects: If ranges::empty(buffer), returns 0. If position_ >= ranges::ssize(buffer_), returns 0. If position_ == numeric_limits<streamoff>::max(), throws exception. Otherwise determines the amount of bytes to read so that it satisfies the following constrains:

- Must be less than or equal to ranges::ssize(buffer).
- Must be representable as streamsize.
- Position after the read must be less than or equal to ranges::ssize(buffer_).
- Position after the read must be representable as streamoff.

After that reads that amount of bytes from the stream to the given buffer and advances stream position by the amount of bytes read.

Returns: The amount of bytes read.

Throws: io_error in case of error.

Error conditions:

```
— value_too_large - if !ranges::empty(buffer) and position_ == numeric_limits<streamoff>::max().
```

10.12.1.4 29.1.?.?. Buffer management [input.span.stream.buffer]

```
constexpr span<const byte> get_buffer() const noexcept;
```

Returns: buffer_.

```
constexpr void set_buffer(span<const byte> new_buffer) noexcept;
```

Ensures:

```
- ranges::data(buffer_) == ranges::data(new_buffer),
- ranges::ssize(buffer_) == ranges::ssize(new_buffer),
- position_ == 0.
```

10.12.2 29.1.?.2 Class output_span_stream [output.span.stream]

```
class output_span_stream final
{
public:
    // Constructors
    constexpr output_span_stream() noexcept;
    constexpr output_span_stream(span<byte> buffer) noexcept;

    // Position
    constexpr streamoff get_position() const noexcept;
    constexpr void set_position(streamoff position);
    constexpr void seek_position(base_position base, streamoff offset = 0);

    // Writing
    constexpr streamsize write_some(span<const byte> buffer);

    // Buffer management
    constexpr span<byte> get_buffer() const noexcept;
    constexpr void set_buffer(span<byte> new_buffer) noexcept;
private:
```

```
span<byte> buffer_; // exposition only
    ptrdiff_t position_; // exposition only
};
TODO
10.12.2.1 29.1.?.?? Constructors [output.span.stream.cons]
constexpr output_span_stream() noexcept;
Ensures:
  - ranges::empty(buffer ) == true,
  - position == 0.
constexpr output_span_stream(span<byte> buffer) noexcept;
Ensures:
  — ranges::data(buffer_) == ranges::data(buffer),
  — ranges::ssize(buffer_) == ranges::ssize(buffer),
  - position == 0.
10.12.2.2 29.1.?.?. Position [output.span.stream.position]
constexpr streamoff get_position() const noexcept;
Returns: position_.
constexpr void set_position(streamoff position);
Ensures: position_ == position.
Throws: io_error in case of error.
Error conditions:
  — invalid_argument - if position is negative.
  — value_too_large - if position cannot be represented as type ptrdiff_t.
constexpr void seek_position(base_position base, streamoff offset = 0);
Effects: TODO
Throws: io error in case of error.
Error conditions:
  — invalid_argument - if resulting position is negative.

    value_too_large - if resulting position cannot be represented as type streamoff or ptrdiff_t.

10.12.2.3 29.1.?.?. Writing [output.span.stream.write]
constexpr streamsize write_some(span<const byte> buffer);
Effects: If ranges::empty(buffer), returns 0. If position_ >= ranges::ssize(buffer_) or position_ == numeric_limits
throws exception. Otherwise determines the amount of bytes to write so that it satisfies the following constrains:
  — Must be less than or equal to ranges::ssize(buffer).
```

— Position after the write must be less than or equal to ranges::ssize(buffer_).

— Position after the write must be representable as streamoff.

— Must be representable as streamsize.

After that writes that amount of bytes from the given buffer to the stream and advances stream position by the amount of bytes written.

Returns: The amount of bytes written.

Throws: io_error in case of error.

Error conditions:

```
— file_too_large-if!ranges::empty(buffer) && ((position_ == ranges::ssize(buffer_)) || (position_ == n
```

10.12.2.4 29.1.?.? Buffer management [output.span.stream.buffer]

```
constexpr span<byte> get_buffer() const noexcept;
Returns: buffer_.
```

```
constexpr void set_buffer(span<byte> new_buffer) noexcept;
```

Ensures:

```
- ranges::data(buffer_) == ranges::data(new_buffer),
- ranges::ssize(buffer_) == ranges::ssize(new_buffer),
- position_ == 0.
```

10.12.3 29.1.?.3 Class span_stream [span.stream]

```
class span_stream final
{
public:
    // Constructors
    constexpr span_stream() noexcept;
    constexpr span_stream(span<byte> buffer) noexcept;
    // Position
    constexpr streamoff get_position() const noexcept;
    constexpr void set_position(streamoff position);
    constexpr void seek_position(base_position base, streamoff offset = 0);
    // Reading
    constexpr streamsize read_some(span<byte> buffer);
    // Writing
    constexpr streamsize write_some(span<const byte> buffer);
    // Buffer management
    constexpr span<byte> get_buffer() const noexcept;
    constexpr void set_buffer(span<byte> new_buffer) noexcept;
    span<byte> buffer_; // exposition only
    ptrdiff_t position_; // exposition only
};
```

TODO

10.12.3.1 29.1.?.?.? Constructors [span.stream.cons]

```
constexpr span_stream() noexcept;
Ensures:
  — ranges::empty(buffer_) == true,
  - position_ == 0.
constexpr span stream(span<byte> buffer) noexcept;
Ensures:
  — ranges::data(buffer_) == ranges::data(buffer),
  — ranges::ssize(buffer_) == ranges::ssize(buffer),
  — position_ == 0.
10.12.3.2 29.1.?.? Position [output.span.stream.position]
constexpr streamoff get_position() const noexcept;
Returns: position_.
constexpr void set_position(streamoff position);
Ensures: position_ == position.
Throws: io error in case of error.
Error conditions:
  — invalid_argument - if position is negative.
  value_too_large - if position cannot be represented as type ptrdiff_t.
constexpr void seek_position(base_position base, streamoff offset = 0);
Effects: TODO
Throws: io_error in case of error.
Error conditions:
  — invalid_argument - if resulting position is negative.
  — value_too_large - if resulting position cannot be represented as type streamoff or ptrdiff_t.
10.12.3.3 29.1.?.?. Reading [span.stream.read]
constexpr streamsize read_some(span<byte> buffer);
Effects: If ranges::empty(buffer), returns 0. If position_ >= ranges::ssize(buffer_), returns 0. If
position_ == numeric_limits<streamoff>::max(), throws exception. Otherwise determines the amount of
bytes to read so that it satisfies the following constrains:
  — Must be less than or equal to ranges::ssize(buffer).
```

- Must be representable as streamsize.
- Position after the read must be less than or equal to ranges::ssize(buffer_).
- Position after the read must be representable as streamoff.

After that reads that amount of bytes from the stream to the given buffer and advances stream position by the amount of bytes read.

Returns: The amount of bytes read.

Throws: io_error in case of error.

Error conditions:

```
— value_too_large - if !ranges::empty(buffer) and position_ == numeric_limits<streamoff>::max().
```

10.12.3.4 29.1.?.?? Writing [span.stream.write]

```
constexpr streamsize write_some(span<const byte> buffer);
```

Effects: If ranges::empty(buffer), returns 0. If position_ >= ranges::ssize(buffer_) or position_ == numeric_limits throws exception. Otherwise determines the amount of bytes to write so that it satisfies the following constrains:

- Must be less than or equal to ranges::ssize(buffer).
- Must be representable as streamsize.
- Position after the write must be less than or equal to ranges::ssize(buffer_).
- Position after the write must be representable as streamoff.

After that writes that amount of bytes from the given buffer to the stream and advances stream position by the amount of bytes written.

Returns: The amount of bytes written.

Throws: io_error in case of error.

Error conditions:

```
— file_too_large-if!ranges::empty(buffer) && ((position_ == ranges::ssize(buffer_)) || (position_ == n
```

10.12.3.5 29.1.?.?? Buffer management [span.stream.buffer]

```
constexpr span<byte> get_buffer() const noexcept;

Returns: buffer_.

constexpr void set_buffer(span<byte> new_buffer) noexcept;
```

Ensures:

```
- ranges::data(buffer_) == ranges::data(new_buffer),
- ranges::ssize(buffer_) == ranges::ssize(new_buffer),
- position_ == 0.
```

10.13 29.1.? Memory streams [memory.streams]

10.13.1 29.1.?.1 Class template basic_input_memory_stream [input.memory.stream]

```
template <typename Container>
class basic_input_memory_stream final
{
public:
    // Constructors
    constexpr basic_input_memory_stream();
    constexpr basic_input_memory_stream(const Container& c);
    constexpr basic_input_memory_stream(Container&& c);

// Position
    constexpr streamoff get_position() const noexcept;
    constexpr void set_position(streamoff position);
    constexpr void seek_position(base_position base, streamoff offset = 0);

// Reading
    constexpr streamsize read_some(span<br/>byte> buffer);
```

```
// Buffer management
    constexpr const Container& get_buffer() const & noexcept;
    constexpr Container get_buffer() && noexcept;
    constexpr void set_buffer(const Container& new_buffer);
    constexpr void set_buffer(Container&& new_buffer);
    constexpr void reset_buffer() noexcept;
private:
    Container buffer_; // exposition only
    typename Container::difference_type position_; // exposition only
};
TODO
10.13.1.1 29.1.?.? Constructors [input.memory.stream.cons]
constexpr basic_input_memory_stream();
Ensures:
  -- buffer_ == Container{},
  - position_ == 0.
constexpr basic_input_memory_stream(const Container& c);
Effects: Initializes buffer_ with c.
Ensures: position_ == 0.
constexpr basic_input_memory_stream(Container&& c);
Effects: Initializes buffer_ with move(c).
Ensures: position_ == 0.
10.13.1.2 29.1.?.?. Position [input.memory.stream.position]
constexpr streamoff get_position() const noexcept;
Returns: position .
constexpr void set_position(streamoff position);
Ensures: position_ == position.
Throws: io_error in case of error.
Error conditions:
  — invalid_argument - if position is negative.
  — value_too_large - if position if position cannot be represented as type typename Container::difference_type.
constexpr void seek_position(base_position base, streamoff offset = 0);
Effects: TODO
Throws: io_error in case of error.
Error conditions:
  — invalid_argument - if resulting position is negative.
  — value_too_large - if resulting position cannot be represented as type streamoff or typename Container::difference_t
```

```
10.13.1.3 29.1.?.?? Reading [input.memory.stream.read]
```

```
constexpr streamsize read_some(span<byte> buffer);
```

Effects: If ranges::empty(buffer), returns 0. If position_ >= ranges::ssize(buffer_), returns 0. If position_ == numeric_limits<streamoff>::max(), throws exception. Otherwise determines the amount of bytes to read so that it satisfies the following constrains:

- Must be less than or equal to ranges::ssize(buffer).
- Must be representable as streamsize.
- Position after the read must be less than or equal to ranges::ssize(buffer_).
- Position after the read must be representable as streamoff.

After that reads that amount of bytes from the stream to the given buffer and advances stream position by the amount of bytes read.

Returns: The amount of bytes read.

Throws: io_error in case of error.

Error conditions:

```
— value_too_large - if !ranges::empty(buffer) and position_ == numeric_limits<streamoff>::max().
```

10.13.1.4 29.1.?.?? Buffer management [input.memory.stream.buffer]

Effects: Equivalent to buffer_.clear().

constexpr void reset_buffer() noexcept;

Ensures: position_ == 0.

10.13.2 29.1.?.2 Class template basic_output_memory_stream [output.memory.stream]

```
template <typename Container>
class basic_output_memory_stream final
{
public:
    // Constructors
    constexpr basic_output_memory_stream();
    constexpr basic_output_memory_stream(const Container& c);
    constexpr basic_output_memory_stream(Container& c);
```

```
// Position
    constexpr streamoff get_position() const noexcept;
    constexpr void set_position(streamoff position);
    constexpr void seek_position(base_position base, streamoff offset = 0);
    // Writing
    constexpr streamsize write_some(span<const byte> buffer);
    // Buffer management
    constexpr const Container& get_buffer() const & noexcept;
    constexpr Container get_buffer() && noexcept;
    constexpr void set_buffer(const Container& new_buffer);
    constexpr void set_buffer(Container&& new_buffer);
    constexpr void reset_buffer() noexcept;
private:
    Container buffer; // exposition only
    typename Container::difference_type position_; // exposition only
};
TODO
10.13.2.1 29.1.?.?. Constructors [output.memory.stream.cons]
constexpr basic output memory stream();
Ensures:
  -- buffer_ == Container{},
  — position_ == 0.
constexpr basic_output_memory_stream(const Container& c);
Effects: Initializes buffer_ with c.
Ensures: position == 0.
constexpr basic output memory stream(Container&& c);
Effects: Initializes buffer_ with move(c).
Ensures: position_ == 0.
10.13.2.2 29.1.?.?? Position [output.memory.stream.position]
constexpr streamoff get_position() const noexcept;
Returns: position_.
constexpr void set_position(streamoff position);
Ensures: position_ == position.
Throws: io_error in case of error.
Error conditions:
  — invalid argument - if position is negative.
  — value_too_large - if position if position cannot be represented as type typename Container::difference_type.
```

```
constexpr void seek_position(base_position base, streamoff offset = 0);
Effects: TODO
Throws: io_error in case of error.
Error conditions:
  — invalid_argument - if resulting position is negative.
  — value_too_large - if resulting position cannot be represented as type streamoff or typename Container::difference_t
10.13.2.3 29.1.?.?. Writing [output.memory.stream.write]
constexpr streamsize write_some(span<const byte> buffer);
Effects: If ranges::empty(buffer), returns 0. If position_ >= buffer_.max_size() or position_ == numeric_limits<str
throws exception. If position_ < ranges::ssize(buffer_):
  — Determines the amount of bytes to write so that it satisfies the following constrains:
      — Must be less than or equal to ranges::ssize(buffer).
      — Must be representable as streamsize.
      — Position after the write must be less than or equal to ranges::ssize(buffer_).
      — Position after the write must be representable as streamoff.
  — Writes that amount of bytes from the given buffer to the stream and advances stream position by the
     amount of bytes written.
Otherwise:
  — Determines the amount of bytes to write so that it satisfies the following constrains:
      — Must be less than or equal to ranges::ssize(buffer).
      — Must be representable as streamsize.
      — Position after the write must be less than or equal to buffer .max size().
      — Position after the write must be representable as streamoff.
  — Resizes the stream buffer so it has enough space to write the chosen amount of bytes. If any exceptions are
     thrown during resizing of stream buffer, they are propagated outside.
  — Writes chosen amount of bytes from the given buffer to the stream and advances stream position by the
     amount of bytes written.
Returns: The amount of bytes written.
Throws: io_error in case of error.
Error conditions:
  — file_too_large-if!ranges::empty(buffer) && ((position_ == buffer_.max_size()) || (position_ == numer
10.13.2.4 29.1.?.?? Buffer management [output.memory.stream.buffer]
constexpr const Container& get_buffer() const & noexcept;
Returns: buffer .
constexpr Container get_buffer() && noexcept;
Returns: move(buffer_).
constexpr void set_buffer(const Container& new_buffer);
```

```
— buffer_ == new_buffer.
```

[—] position_ == 0.

```
Effects: Move assigns new_buffer to buffer_.
Ensures: position == 0.
constexpr void reset_buffer() noexcept;
Effects: Equivalent to buffer_.clear().
Ensures: position_ == 0.
10.13.3 29.1.?.3 Class template basic memory stream [memory.stream]
template <typename Container>
class basic_memory_stream final
public:
    // Constructors
    constexpr basic_memory_stream();
    constexpr basic_memory_stream(const Container& c);
    constexpr basic_memory_stream(Container&& c);
    // Position
    constexpr streamoff get_position() const noexcept;
    constexpr void set_position(streamoff position);
    constexpr void seek_position(base_position base, streamoff offset = 0);
    // Reading
    constexpr streamsize read_some(span<byte> buffer);
    // Writing
    constexpr streamsize write_some(span<const byte> buffer);
    // Buffer management
    constexpr const Container& get_buffer() const & noexcept;
    constexpr Container get_buffer() && noexcept;
    constexpr void set_buffer(const Container& new_buffer);
    constexpr void set_buffer(Container&& new_buffer);
    constexpr void reset_buffer() noexcept;
private:
    Container buffer_; // exposition only
    typename Container::difference_type position_; // exposition only
};
TODO
10.13.3.1 29.1.?.?.? Constructors [memory.stream.cons]
constexpr basic_memory_stream();
```

constexpr void set_buffer(Container&& new_buffer);

Ensures:

— buffer == Container{},

— position_ == 0.

```
constexpr basic_memory_stream(const Container& c);
Effects: Initializes buffer_ with c.
Ensures: position == 0.
constexpr basic memory stream(Container&& c);
Effects: Initializes buffer_ with move(c).
Ensures: position_ == 0.
10.13.3.2 29.1.?.? Position [memory.stream.position]
constexpr streamoff get_position();
Returns: position_.
constexpr void set_position(streamoff position);
Ensures: position_ == position.
Throws: io_error in case of error.
Error conditions:
  — invalid argument - if position is negative.
  — value_too_large - if position if position cannot be represented as type typename Container::difference_type.
constexpr void seek_position(base_position base, streamoff offset = 0);
Effects: TODO
Throws: io_error in case of error.
Error conditions:
  — invalid_argument - if resulting position is negative.
  — value_too_large - if resulting position cannot be represented as type streamoff or typename Container::difference_t
10.13.3.3 29.1.?.?? Reading [memory.stream.read]
constexpr streamsize read_some(span<byte> buffer);
Effects: If ranges::empty(buffer), returns 0. If position_ >= ranges::ssize(buffer_), returns 0. If
position_ == numeric_limits<streamoff>::max(), throws exception. Otherwise determines the amount of
bytes to read so that it satisfies the following constrains:
  — Must be less than or equal to ranges::ssize(buffer).
 — Must be representable as streamsize.
  — Position after the read must be less than or equal to ranges::ssize(buffer ).
  — Position after the read must be representable as streamoff.
After that reads that amount of bytes from the stream to the given buffer and advances stream position by the
amount of bytes read.
Returns: The amount of bytes read.
Throws: io_error in case of error.
Error conditions:
  — value_too_large - if !ranges::empty(buffer) and position_ == numeric_limits<streamoff>::max().
```

10.13.3.4 29.1.?.?? Writing [memory.stream.write]

```
constexpr streamsize write_some(span<const byte> buffer);
```

Effects: If ranges::empty(buffer), returns 0. If position_ >= buffer_.max_size() or position_ == numeric_limits<structure throws exception. If position_ < ranges::ssize(buffer_):

- Determines the amount of bytes to write so that it satisfies the following constrains:
 - Must be less than or equal to ranges::ssize(buffer).
 - Must be representable as streamsize.
 - Position after the write must be less than or equal to ranges::ssize(buffer_).
 - Position after the write must be representable as streamoff.
- Writes that amount of bytes from the given buffer to the stream and advances stream position by the amount of bytes written.

Otherwise:

- Determines the amount of bytes to write so that it satisfies the following constrains:
 - Must be less than or equal to ranges::ssize(buffer).
 - Must be representable as streamsize.
 - Position after the write must be less than or equal to buffer .max size().
 - Position after the write must be representable as streamoff.
- Resizes the stream buffer so it has enough space to write the chosen amount of bytes. If any exceptions are thrown during resizing of stream buffer, they are propagated outside.
- Writes chosen amount of bytes from the given buffer to the stream and advances stream position by the amount of bytes written.

Returns: The amount of bytes written.

Effects: Equivalent to buffer_.clear().

Ensures: position_ == 0.

Throws: io_error in case of error.

Error conditions:

```
- file_too_large-if!ranges::empty(buffer) && ((position_ == buffer_.max_size()) || (position_ == numer
```

10.13.3.5 29.1.?.?. Buffer management [memory.stream.buffer]

```
10.14 29.1.? File streams [file.streams???] (naming conflict)
10.14.1 29.1.?.? Native handles [file.streams.native]
```

10.14.2 29.1.?.? Class file_stream_base [file.stream.base]

```
class file_stream_base
public:
   using native_handle_type = implementation-defined;
   // Position
   streamoff get_position() const;
   void set_position(streamoff position);
   void seek_position(base_position base, streamoff offset = 0);
   // Native handle management
   native_handle_type native_handle();
   void assign(native_handle_type handle);
   native_handle_type release();
protected:
   // Construct/copy/destroy
   file_stream_base() noexcept;
   file_stream_base(const filesystem::path& file_name, mode mode, creation c);
   file_stream_base(native_handle_type handle);
   file_stream_base(const file_stream_base&) = delete;
   file_stream_base(file_stream_base&&);
   ~file_stream_base();
   file_stream_base& operator=(const file_stream_base&) = delete;
   file_stream_base& operator=(file_stream_base&&);
```

TODO

TODO

10.14.2.1 29.1.?.?? Constructors [file.stream.base.cons]

```
file_stream_base() noexcept;

Effects: TODO
file_stream_base(const filesystem::path& file_name, mode mode, creation c);

Effects: TODO
Throws: TODO
file_stream_base(native_handle_type handle);

Effects: TODO
Throws: TODO
Throws: TODO

10.14.2.2 29.1.?.? Position [file.stream.base.position]

streamoff get_position() const;
```

Returns: Current position of the stream.

```
Throws: TODO
```

```
void set_position(streamoff position);
```

Effects: Sets the position of the stream to the given value.

Throws: TODO

```
void seek_position(base_position base, streamoff offset = 0);
```

Effects: TODO
Throws: TODO

10.14.3 29.1.?.? Class input_file_stream [input.file.stream]

```
class input_file_stream final : public file_stream_base
{
public:
    // Construct/copy/destroy
    input_file_stream() noexcept = default;
    input_file_stream(const filesystem::path& file_name);
    input_file_stream(native_handle_type handle);

// Reading
    streamsize read_some(span<byte> buffer);
};
```

TODO

10.14.3.1 29.1.?.?.? Constructors [input.file.stream.cons]

```
input_file_stream(const filesystem::path& file_name);
```

Effects: Initializes the base class with file_stream_base(file_name, mode::read, creation::open_existing).
input_file_stream(native_handle_type handle);

Effects: Initializes the base class with file_stream_base(handle).

10.14.3.2 29.1.?.?? Reading [input.file.stream.read]

```
streamsize read_some(span<byte> buffer);
```

Effects: If ranges::empty(buffer), returns 0. Otherwise reads zero or more bytes from the stream and advances the position by the amount of bytes read.

Returns: The amount of bytes read.

Throws: TODO

10.14.4 29.1.?.? Class output_file_stream [output.file.stream]

```
class output_file_stream final : public file_stream_base
{
public:
    // Construct/copy/destroy
    output_file_stream() noexcept = default;
    output_file_stream(const filesystem::path& file_name,
```

```
creation c = creation::if_needed);
output_file_stream(native_handle_type handle);

// Writing
streamsize write_some(span<const byte> buffer);
};
```

TODO

10.14.4.1 29.1.?.? Constructors [output.file.stream.cons]

```
output_file_stream(const filesystem::path& file_name,
    creation c = creation::if_needed);
```

Effects: Initializes the base class with file_stream_base(file_name, mode::write, c).

output_file_stream(native_handle_type handle);

Effects: Initializes the base class with file_stream_base(handle).

10.14.4.2 29.1.?.?? Writing [output.file.stream.write]

```
streamsize write_some(span<const byte> buffer);
```

Effects: If ranges::empty(buffer), returns 0. Otherwise writes one or more bytes to the stream and advances the position by the amount of bytes written.

Returns: The amount of bytes written.

Throws: TODO

10.14.5 29.1.?.? Class file_stream [file.stream]

TODO

10.14.5.1 29.1.?.?? Constructors [file.stream.cons]

```
file_stream(const filesystem::path& file_name,
    creation c = creation::if_needed);
```

Effects: Initializes the base class with file_stream_base(file_name, mode::write, c).

file_stream(native_handle_type handle);

Effects: Initializes the base class with file_stream_base(handle).

10.14.5.2 29.1.?.?. Reading [file.stream.read]

```
streamsize read_some(span<byte> buffer);
```

Effects: If ranges::empty(buffer), returns 0. Otherwise reads zero or more bytes from the stream and advances the position by the amount of bytes read.

Returns: The amount of bytes read.

Throws: TODO

10.14.5.3 29.1.?.? Writing [file.stream.write]

```
streamsize write_some(span<const byte> buffer);
```

Effects: If ranges::empty(buffer), returns 0. Otherwise writes one or more bytes to the stream and advances the position by the amount of bytes written.

Returns: The amount of bytes written.

Throws: TODO

11 References

[Boost.Serialization] Boost.Serialization.

https://www.boost.org/doc/libs/1 69 0/libs/serialization/doc/index.html

[Cereal] Cereal.

https://uscilab.github.io/cereal/index.html

[cpp-io-impl] Implementation of modern std::byte stream IO for C++.

https://github.com/Lyberta/cpp-io-impl

[N4849] Richard Smith. 2020. Working Draft, Standard for Programming Language C++.

https://wg21.link/n4849

[P1031R2] Niall Douglas. 2019. Low level file i/o library.

https://wg21.link/p1031r2

[P1272R2] Isabella Muerte. 2019. Byteswapping for fun&&nuf.

https://wg21.link/p1272r2

[P1468R2] Michał Dominiak, David Olsen, Boris Fomitchev, Sergei Nikolaev. 2019. Fixed-layout floating-point type aliases.

https://wg21.link/p1468r2