

Introduction to C++20

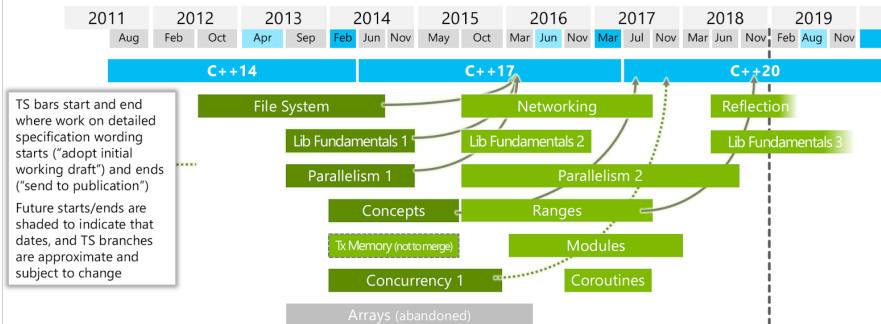
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Overview

- 1 Timeline
- 2 Concepts
- 3 Ranges
- 4 Contracts

Current timeline



C++ committee works asynchronously

- C++ committee votes on certain features, received from proposals
- These features, once voted on, go into the C++ standard
- Particularly large/challenging modules (?) are deferred to be *technical standards*
- Technical standards are worked on independently and can be delivered later (even once the standard itself is finished!)

Current committee progress

Meeting #1: July 2017

Voted in: Concepts, designated initializers, new lambda capture syntax, template parameter lists, ...

Meeting #2: November 2017

Voted in: variable initialization on ranged-for statements, bit-casting object representations, three-way comparison operator, atomic shared pointers, ...

Meeting #3: June 2018

Voted in: Contracts, feature test macros, Ranges, explicit booleans, constexpr virtual functions

Meeting #4: November 2018

Voted in: consteval keyword, constexpr try-catch, constexpr dynamic casts, pointer_traits, ...

Remaining progress

Meeting #5: Q1 2019

Last meeting to vote on new features. Begin drafting C++20 standard.

Meeting #6: Q2 2019

C++20 internal draft completed, committee begins vote to approve.

Concepts: Introduction

- "A description of supported operations on a type"
- Also known as *constraints* – can you guess why?

```
1      template <class Type>
2      concept bool EqualityComparable()
3      {
4          return requires(Type a, Type b)
5              {
6                  {a == b} -> Boolean;
7                  {a != b} -> Boolean;
8              };
9      }
```

Concepts continued

```
1     template <class Type>
2     concept bool GenericConcept()
3     {
4         return requires(Type a, Type b)
5             {
6                 {OPERATION} -> TYPE;
7             };
8     }
```

- *Does the operation make sense on this template type? Are the results convertible to a type that satisfies what you told me to expect?*
- *EqualityComparable* (previous slide) is a *concept*, as well as *TriviallyCopyable* or *ReversibleContainer*

- Allows you to specify *interoperability* between templates, à la template interfaces ..
- .. whereas interfaces are run-time polymorphism, concepts provide **automatic compile-time** polymorphism
- Introducing type-checking to template programming makes it *simpler*

Ranges

- Adds range comprehensions, function composition, and lazy evaluation
- Existing STL containers are being upgraded to ranges

```
std::vector<int> vector{1,2,3};  
  
// C++11  
std::sort(vector.begin(), vector.end());  
  
// C++20  
std::sort(vector);
```

Don't let the above example betray you

Ranges: function composition example

Here's what it looks like in two languages that got Ranges right.

Problem: Find all square numbers under 1000 that are also odd.

Ruby

```
(1..1000).map{|n| n * n}.select{|i| i.odd? && (1000 > i)}
```

--Haskell

```
takeWhile(<1000) . filter odd . map(^2)
```

1,9,25,49,81,121,169,225,289,361,441,529,625,729,841,961

Ranges: function composition example

```
1      #include <ranges>
2
3      using namespace std;
4
5      auto odds = ranges::view::transform(
6          [](int i){return i*i; } ) |
7          [](int i){return i % 2 == 0; } ) |
8          [](int i){return i < 1000; } );
9
10     auto oddNumbers = ranges::view::ints(1) | odds;
```

Where have we seen this kind of syntax?



Perfect squares example explained

- The pipe "`|`" character allows us to *compose* functions on a range
- View adapters give us a "peek" into a subsection of a range and define the iteration behavior. Don't confuse this with `string_view`!
- Our C++ example used lazy evaluation and we didn't even notice, which is good

Perfect squares example review

- odds is an example of a view adapter - specifically the *transform* one (others include *filter*)
- oddNumbers takes an infinite sequence of integers (starting with 1) and applies our view adapter to it
- To print the contents, use any for loop you like, or the new `ranges::for_each` for loop

```
1      #include <ranges>
2
3      using namespace std;
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5      auto odds = ranges::view::transform(
6          [](int i){return i*i; } ) |
7          [](int i){return i % 2 == 0; } ) |
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10     auto oddNumbers = ranges::view::ints(1) | odds;
```

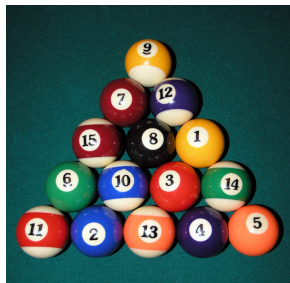
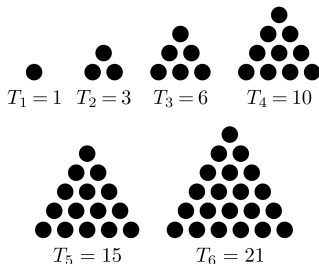
Range comprehensions

- To demonstrate these, I'll use an even more contrived example
- Confession: If you can recognize the logo below, you're already probably very familiar with this concept



Light digression: Triangular numbers

Counts the number of objects arranged in an equaliteral triangle



Heavy digression: Handshake problem

Problem

In a room of n people, how many ways are there for them to shake hands without shaking the same hand twice?

Solution

Big surprise, the answer is triangular numbers (specifically T_{n+1} in this case)

How would we do this in C++20?

Last digression: flashback to 8th grade

Rather than computing solutions directly, we can check if a number is a solution by seeing if it is a triangular number.

$$T_n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \quad (\text{Formula for finding triangular numbers})$$

$$n = \frac{\sqrt{8T_n + 1} - 1}{2} \quad (\text{Inverse of the formula above})$$

Result: For any integer x , if $8x + 1$ is a perfect square, then x is a solution to our problem.

Range comprehensions

Our official solution to this problem looks like this.

```
1      #include <ranges>
2      #include <cmath>
3
4      using namespace std;
5
6      auto solution = ranges::view::ints(1) |
7      ranges::view::for_each([](int i)
8      {
9
10         return yield_if( sqrt(8*i + 1) * sqrt(8*i + 1) == 8*i + 1);
11
12     });
13     // print the first 100 solutions
14     ranges::for_each(solution |
15     view::take_while([](int i){ return i < 100; }), [](int i)
16     {
17         cout << i << endl;
18     });
```

Range comprehension in-depth

- Range comprehensions are analogous to function composition, but can be more terse (this is either a good thing or a bad thing)
- Again, we used lazy evaluation
- The yield statement was an example of a generator, which is a special case of coroutines
- Note: Commitee is still considering adding support for coroutines

Some basic review:

- Preconditions: " a predicate that is supposed to hold upon entry in a function"
- Postconditions: " a predicate that is supposed to hold upon exit from the function"

Saying that Contracts are like `assert()` on steroids is a major understatement

Simplest example: Queues

```
1  auto push(Queue& queue, int value)
2  [[ expects: queue.full() == false ]]
3  [[ ensures: queue.empty() == false ]]
4  {
5      // code goes here
6      [[ assert: queue.is_ok() ]]
7  }
```

- Surprisingly, this is pretty self-explanatory

Contracts: in-depth

The syntax is

```
[[ contract-attribute modifier: conditional expression ]]
```

- contract-attribute: This is one of *expects*, *ensures*, *assert*
- modifier: Possible values are
 - 1 default
 - 2 audit
 - 3 axiom

The hype around Contracts is that *you* get to choose what each of those modifier levels means **and** what happens when your contract is violated

"Build levels"

This is a compiler-specified option that determines *what contracts will be checked*.

- `off` : No contracts whatsoever are run.
- `default` : Only contracts with the default level are checked
- `audit` : Contracts with the audit and default levels are checked

You **cannot** change the build level in source code

So what if I violate the contract?

By default, failing contracts mean program termination

- However, there are **contract violation handlers**
- As the name implies, this is the function that gets called when a contract is violated
- There is one contract violation handler per *translation unit*

Must have specific signature:

```
void(const std::contract_violation &);
```

So is that it?

If only...

- After the contract violation handler is reached, there's two options:
 - 1 Program terminates indefinitely (default option is none is specified!)
 - 2 Program continues
- This option is called the *continuation mode* and can only be set through the compiler (not source code)
- You cannot determine the current continuation mode inside of source code

Contracts: Benefits

How does this compare to the regular `assert()` macro?

- This isn't a macro
- You can handle custom behavior on violations
- Contracts enable compilers to perform more optimizations
- With `assert()` only, its hard to impose precondition checks because you may not always have access to calling site of a function

Herb Sutter (chair of the C++ Committee) has personally said he thinks *"contracts is the most impactful feature of C++20 so far"*

Any sci-fi fans out there?

- C++20 adds a three-way comparison operator ($\lt\!=\!>$)
- Sometimes people call this the spaceship operator
- Given two values A and B , this operator checks each of the following
 - 1 Is $A < B$?
 - 2 Is $A = B$?
 - 3 Is $A > B$?
- Perl, Haskell and Ruby, have this
- This is an extension of C's `strcmp()`

Atomic shared pointers

- Nothing to do with chemistry

The End