Department I - C Plus Plus

Modern and Lucid C++ Advanced for Professional Programmers

Week 7 - Compile-Time Computation

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```
InBounds(element_index
      ndex
                    Ostschweizer
                    Fachhochschule
      cess
     size_type element_index:
     dBuffer(size_type capacity)
      argument{"Must not create
      other) : capacity{std:
     other.capacity = 0; other
        copy = other; swap(copy
     dex())) T{element}; ++nu
             { return number of
      front() const { throw i
     back_index()); } void popul
       turn number_of_elements:
    ; std::swap(number_of_ele
      () const { return const
    erator end() const
     visiae type index
```

- Recap Week 6
- Compile-time Evaluation with constexpr
- Literal Types
- User-Defined Literal Operators

Participants should...

- ... be able to write C++ code that is evaluated by the compiler
- ... know the restrictions of constexpr functions
- ... be able to write their own literal types
- ... be able to write their own user defined literal operators

Recap Week 6

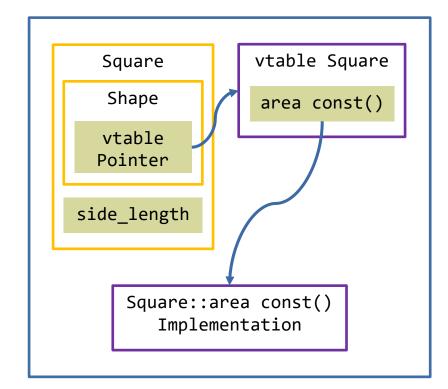


A polymorphic call of a virtual function requires lookup of the target function

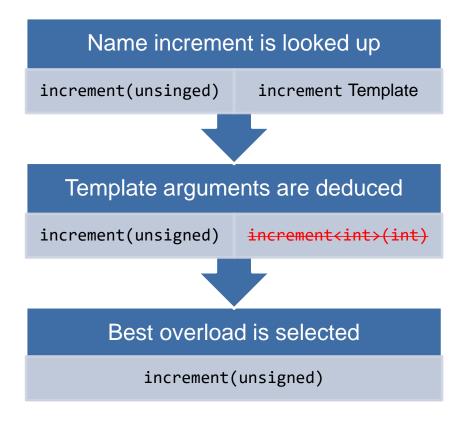
```
struct Shape {
  virtual unsigned area() const = 0;
  virtual ~Shape();
};

struct Square : Shape {
  Square(unsigned side_length)
            : side_length{side_length} {}
        unsigned area() const {
        return side_length * side_length;
    }
    unsigned side_length;
}
```

```
decltype(auto) amountOfSeeds(Shape const & shape) {
  auto area = shape.area();
  return area * seedsPerSquareMeter;
};
```



 Since there is a problem during substitution that overload is discarded



Now the result is 42

```
unsigned increment(unsigned i) {
  return i++;
template<typename T>
auto increment(T value) ->
    decltype(value.increment()) {
  return value.increment();
int main() {
  return increment(42);
```

- This approach, using decltype(...) as trailing return type, is infeasible in general
 - Function might have return type void
 - It is not elegant for complex bodies

```
template <typename T>
concept Incrementable = requires (T const v) {
    {v.increment()} -> std::same_as<T>;
};
```

```
auto increment(Incrementable auto value) -> T {
  return value.increment();
}
```

```
template <Incrementable T>
auto increment(T value) -> T {
  return value.increment();
}
```

Constexpr



- (static) const variables in namespace scope of built-in types initialized with constant expression are usually put into ROMable memory, if at all.
- Allowed in constant expression context
- No complicated computations (except with macros)
- No guarantee to be done at compile-time in all cases

```
size_t const SZ = 6 * 7;
double x[SZ];
```

Constant expression context

Compile-time evaluation

Non-type template arguments

```
std::array<Element, 5> arr{};
```

Array bounds

```
double matrix[ROWS][COLS]{};
```

Case expressions

```
switch (value) {
case 42:
  //...
}
```

Enumerator initializers

```
enum Light {
    Off = 0, On = 1
};
```

static_assert

```
static_assert(order == 66);
```

constexpr variables

```
constexpr unsigned pi = 3;
```

• constexpr if statements

```
if constexpr (size > 0) {
}
```

noexcept

```
Blob(Blob &&) noexcept(true);
```

• . . .

```
static_assert(isGreaterThanZero(Capacity));
static_assert(sizeof(int) == 4, "unexpected size of int");
```

static_assert checked at compile-time

- Compilation fails if it evaluates to false
- The compiler needs to be able to evaluate the expression

Syntax:

- static_assert(condition);
- static_assert(condition, message);

```
constexpr unsigned pi = 3;
constinit unsigned pi = 3;
```

- Evaluated at compile-time (mandatory)
- Initialized by a constant expression
 - Literal value
 - Expression computable by the compiler
 - constexpr function calls
- Require literal type
- Can be used in constant expression contexts

- Possible contexts
 - Local scope
 - Namespace scope
 - static data members
- constexpr variables are const
- constinit variables are non-const

```
constexpr auto factorial(unsigned n) {
   ...
}
```

- constexpr functions can...
 - ... have local variables of "literal" type. The variables must be initialized before used.

```
Since C++20
```

```
int local;
```

```
LiteralType local{};
```

```
int local;
f(local);
```

```
std::string local{};
```

- ... use loops, recursion, arrays, references
- ... even contain branches that rely on run-time features, if branch is not executed during compile-time computations, e.g., throw
- ... but can only call constexpr functions

- constexpr evaluation can now...
 - ... allocate dynamic memory (new, delete) that is cleaned up by the end of the compilation

```
constexpr auto allocate() -> int* {
  return new int{};
} //requires corresponding delete somewhere
```

... be virtual member functions

```
struct Base {
  constexpr virtual auto modify() -> void;
};
```

but still cannot use exception handling (throw, try/catch), on executed path

```
constexpr auto throwError() -> void {
  throw std::logic_error{""};
}
```

Constexpr functions are usable in constexpr and non-constexpr contexts

```
constexpr auto factorial(unsigned n) {
  auto result = 1u;
  for (auto i = 2u; i <= n; i++) {
    result *= i;
  return result;
constexpr auto factorial0f5 = factorial(5);
auto main() -> int {
  static_assert(factorialOf5 == 120);
  std::cout << factorial(5);</pre>
```

Consteval functions are usable in constexpr contexts only

```
consteval auto factorial(unsigned n) {
  auto result = 1u;
  for (auto i = 2u; i <= n; i++) {
    result *= i;
 return result;
constexpr auto factorial0f5 = factorial(5);
auto main() -> int {
  static_assert(factorialOf5 == 120);
 unsigned n;
  std::cin >> n;
  std::cout << factorial(n);</pre>
```

- The compiler will prevent Undefined Behavior
 - Leads to compilation error

```
constexpr auto divide(int n, int d) -> int {
   return n / d;
}

constexpr auto surprise = divide(0, 0);

auto main() -> int {
   std::cout << surprise;
}</pre>
```

```
..\CTUB.cpp:7:33: in 'constexpr' expansion of 'divide(0, 0)'
..\CTUB.cpp:4:12: error: '(0 / 0)' is not a constant expression
  return n / d;
      ~~^~~
```

If constexpr evaluation does not reach an invalid statement, the code is valid

```
constexpr auto throwIfZero(int value) -> void {
   if (value == 0) {
      throw std::logic_error{""};
   }
}

constexpr auto divide(int n, int d) -> int {
   throwIfZero(d);
   return n / d;
}

constexpr auto five = divide(120, 24);
constexpr auto failure = divide(120, 0);
```

```
?
```

```
auto whatIsTheAnswer() -> int {
   return 42;
}
static_assert(whatIsTheAnswer() == 42);
```

```
constexpr int global = 42;
constexpr auto allocate(bool useGlobal) -> int const* {
  if (useGlobal) {
    return &global;
  } else {
    return new int{};
  }
}
constexpr int const* ptr = allocate(true);
```

```
?
```

```
auto whatIsTheAnswer() -> int {
  return 42;
}
static_assert(whatIsTheAnswer() == 42);
```

Incorrect

The expression in static_assert requires a compile-time expression. whatIsTheAnswer() is not a constexpr function.

```
constexpr int global = 42;
constexpr auto allocate(bool useGlobal) -> int const* {
  if (useGlobal) {
    return &global;
  } else {
    return new int{};
  }
}
constexpr int const* ptr = allocate(true);
```

Correct

As long as the path with the new expression is not taken, it is valid to have the code in a constexpr function. allocate(false); could not be used to initialize a compile-time constant.

Literal Types



- Built-in scalar types, like int, double, pointers, enumerations, etc.
- Structs with some restrictions¹
 - Trivial destructor (non-user-defined)
 - With a constexpr/consteval constructor
- Lambdas
- References
- Arrays of literal types
- void
- Literal Types can be used in constexpr functions, but only constexpr member functions can be called on values of literal type

- Trivial Destructor
- Constexpr/consteval Constructor
 - At least one
- Constexpr/consteval Member Functions
 - const & non-const
 - Only those are useable in constexpr context
- Can be a template
- It can still contain non-constexpr constructors and member functions

```
template <typename T>
class Vector {
 constexpr static size t dimensions = 3;
  std::array<T, dimensions> values{};
public:
  constexpr Vector(T x, T y, T z)
    : values{x, y, z}{}
  constexpr auto length() const -> T {
    auto squares = x() * x() +
                   y() * y() +
                   z() * z();
    return std::sqrt(squares);
  constexpr auto x() \rightarrow T& {
    return values[0];
  constexpr auto x() const -> T const& {
    return values[0];
```

- Can be used in constexpr and non-constexpr contexts
- Non-const member functions can be used to modify the object
- constexpr variables are const

```
return v;
}

constexpr auto v = create();
static_assert(doubleEqual(v.length(), 2.4495));

auto main() -> int {
   //v.x() = 1.0; //possible with constinit
   auto v2 = create();
   v2.x() = 2.0;
}
```

Constexpr auto create() -> Vector<double> {

Vector<double> v{1.0, 1.0, 1.0};

v.x() = 2.0;

 Note on Vector: Has hardcoded three dimensions (x/y/z).

```
template <size t n>
struct fact {
  static size_t const value{(n > 1)? n * fact<n-1>::value : 1};
};
template <>
struct fact<0> { // recursion base case: template specialization
  static size t const value = 1;
};
TEST(testFactorialCompiletime) {
  constexpr auto result = fact<5>::value;
 ASSERT_EQUAL(result, 2 * 3 * 4 * 5);
```

"Integer" only (almost) through non-type template parameters (Until C++20*)

Capture types (the types returned by lambda expressions) are literal types as well

- They can be used as types of constexpr variables
- They can be used in constexpr functions
- Restrictions to constexpr functions and variables apply as well

Examples for demonstration purposes

```
constexpr double pi = 3.14159;

constexpr auto area = [](double r) {
  return pi * r * r;
};

constexpr auto circleArea = area(2.0);
```

```
constexpr auto cubeVolume(double x) {
  auto area = [x] {return pi * x * x;};
  return area() * x;
}
constexpr auto cV = cubeVolume(5.0);
```

```
template <size_t N>
constexpr size_t factorial = factorial<N - 1> * N;

template <> //Base case
constexpr size_t factorial<0> = 1;
```

Variable templates...

- ... can be constexpr/constinit
- ... can be defined recursively -> specialization to define the base case

Useage

Template-ID (Name and template arguments)

```
static_assert(factorial<0> == 1);
static_assert(factorial<5> == 120);
```

```
?
```

```
template <std::size_t N>
constexpr size_t McCarthy91 = [] {
   if constexpr (N <= 100) {
     return McCarthy91<McCarthy91<(N + 11)>>;
   }
   return N - 10;
}();
```

```
struct Point {
  constexpr Point(double x, double y)
    : x{x}, y{y}{}
  Point() : Point{0.0, 0.0}{}
  private:
    double x;
    double y;
};
constexpr Point origin{0.0, 0.0};
```

```
?
```

```
template <std::size_t N>
constexpr size_t McCarthy91 = [] {
   if constexpr (N <= 100) {
      return McCarthy91<McCarthy91<(N + 11)>>;
   }
   return N - 10;
}();
```

Correct

Variable templates can be initialized by lambdas, which are literal types, as long as there is a base case. With constexpr if we reach that base case.

```
struct Point {
  constexpr Point(double x, double y)
    : x{x}, y{y}{}
  Point() : Point{0.0, 0.0}{}
private:
  double x;
  double y;
};

constexpr Point origin{0.0, 0.0};
```

Correct

Point is a literal type. Not all constructors need to be constexpr. However, in compile-time constant expressions only the constexpr constructors can be used.

User-Defined Literals



Type for velocity

```
template <typename Unit>
struct Speed {
  constexpr explicit Speed(double value)
    : value{value}{};
  constexpr explicit operator double() const {
    return value;
  }
private:
  double value;
};
```

Can be used in

Quite verbose

Repetitive occurrence of explicit conversion Speed<Unit::XYZ>{x}

```
auto speed1 = Speed<Kph>{5.0};
auto speed2 = Speed<Mph>{5.0};
auto speed3 = Speed<Mps>{5.0};
```

- What if we had the possibility to attach units to our literals?
 - User-defined literals

```
auto speed1 = 5.0_kph;
auto speed2 = 5.0_mph;
auto speed3 = 5.0_mps;
```

Overloading

- UDLSuffix could lexically be any identifier, but must start with underscore _ (other suffixes are reserved for the standard)
- Allows to add dimension, conversion, etc.
- If possible define UDL operator functions as constexpr
- Add the suffix to integer, float and string literals
 - Suffix belongs to literal (no whitespace between)
- Rule: put overloaded UDL operators that belong together in a separate namespace
 - Only a using namespace can import them

```
operator"" _UDLSuffix()
```

```
5.0_kph; //correct
5.0 _mph; //wrong
```

```
using namespace velocity::literals;
```

```
namespace velocity::literals {

constexpr inline auto operator"" _kph(unsigned long long value) -> Speed<Kph> {
    return Speed<Kph>{safeToDouble(value)};
}

constexpr inline auto operator"" _kph(long double value) - Speed<Kph> {
    return Speed<Kph>{safeToDouble(value)};
}

//...
}
```

```
TEST(overtakePedestrianAt10Kph) {
   ASSERT(isFasterThanWalking(10.0_kph));
}

TEST(testConversionFromKphToMph) {
   ASSERT_EQUAL(1.60934_kph, 1.0_mph);
}
```

- Shorter and more expressive literals
- ASSERT_EQUAL for double already has a margin for its comparison

- For literal numbers the following signatures are useful
 - Integral constants

```
auto operator"" _suffix(unsigned long long) -> TYPE
```

Example

```
constexpr inline auto operator"" _kph(unsigned long long value) -> Speed<Kph> {
   return Speed<Kph>{safeToDouble(value)};
}
constexpr auto speed = 5_kmh;
```

Floating point constants

```
auto operator "" _suffix(long double) -> TYPE
```

For string literals the following signature is useful

```
auto operator"" _suffix(char const *, std::size_t len) -> TYPE
```

```
namespace mystring {
inline auto operator"" _s(char const *s, std::size_t len) -> std::string {
  return std::string { s, len };
}
}
```

- Note: This implementation above cannot be constexpr. Why?
- Example:

```
using namespace mystring;
auto s = "hello"_s;
s += " world\n";
std::cout << s;</pre>
```

"RAW" UDL Operator

```
auto operator"" _suffix(char const *) -> TYPE
```

```
namespace mystring {
inline auto operator"" _s(char const *s) -> std::string {
  return std::string { s };
}
}
```

- Note: Works only for integral and floating literals, not for string literals!
- Example:

```
using namespace mystring;
auto rs = 42_s;
rs += " raw\n";
std::cout << rs;</pre>
```

Ternary suffix

Base 3

Examples

Ternary	Decimal
0	0
1	1
2	2
10	3
11	4
12	5
20	6
21	7
22	8
100	9

Problem: exception at run-time

```
namespace ternary {
auto operator"" _3(char const *s) -> unsigned long long {
    size_t convertedupto{};
    auto res = std::stoull(s, &convertedupto, 3u);
    if (convertedupto != strlen(s))
        throw std::logic_error{"invalid ternary"};
    return res;
}
```

```
using namespace ternary;
int four = 11_3;
std::cout << "four is " << four << '\n';
try {
  four = 14_3; // throws
} catch (std::exception const &e) {
  std::cout << e.what() << '\n';
}</pre>
```

Template UDL Operator

```
template <char...>
auto operator"" _suffix() -> TYPE
```

- Empty parameter list
- Variadic template parameter
- Characters of the literal are template arguments

Unfortunately, the template UDL operator does not work with string literals (Until C++20)

- Run-time errors for number conversion is bad
- There exists a variadic template version of UDL operators
- Interpretation of the characters (at compile-time) often requires a variadic class/variable template with specializations

```
template <char ...Digits> requires (is_ternary_digit(Digits) && ...)
constexpr auto operator"" _ternary() -> unsigned long long {
   return ternary_value<Digits...>;
}
```

We will also need a helper function to get the value of the digit: 3ⁿ

```
constexpr auto three_to(std::size_t power) -> unsigned long long {
  return power ? 3ull * three_to(power - 1) : 1ull;
}
```

```
template <char ...Digits>
extern unsigned long long ternary value;
template <char ...Digits>
constexpr unsigned long long ternary_value<'0', Digits...> {
  ternary value<Digits...>
};
template <char ...Digits>
constexpr unsigned long long ternary_value<'1', Digits...> {
  1 * three_to(sizeof ...(Digits)) + ternary_value<Digits...>
};
template <char ...Digits>
constexpr unsigned long long ternary value<'2', Digits...> {
  2 * three to(sizeof ...(Digits)) + ternary value<Digits...>
};
template<>
constexpr unsigned long long ternary value<>{0};
```

- Example: 120_ternary
- 120_ternary -> resolves to ternary_value<'1', '2', '0'>

```
Partial specialization: ternary_value<'1', Digits...>
Value: 1 * 3^2 + ternary_value<'2', '0'>
   Partial specialization: ternary value<'2', Digits...>
   Value: 2 * 3<sup>1</sup> + ternary value<'0'>
       Partial specialization: ternary_value<'0', Digits...>
       Value: ternary_value<>
          Partial specialization: ternary value<>
         Value: 0
       Value: 0
   Value: 6 from 2 * 3^1 + 0
Value: 15 from 1 * 3^2 + 6
```

• Can we avoid the duplication of the specialization for '0', '1' and '2'?

```
constexpr auto is ternary digit(char c) -> bool {
  return c == '0' || c == '1' || c == '2';
constexpr auto value_of(char c) -> unsigned {
  return c - '0';
template <char D, char ...Digits>
constexpr ternary_value<D, Digits...> {
  value_of(D) * three to(sizeof ...(Digits)) + ternary value<Digits...>
};
```

- Standard suffixes don't have a leading underscore
- Suffix for std::string: s
- Suffix for std::complex (imaginary): i, il, if
- Suffixes for std::chrono::duration:ns, us, ms, s, min, h
- More might be defined in the future

Is the following example a problem?

```
using namespace std::string_literals;
using namespace std::chrono_literals;
auto one_s = 1s;
auto one_point_zero_s = 1.0s;
auto fourty_two_s = "42"s;
```

```
?
```

```
auto operator"" _m(unsigned long long v) -> Distance {
  return Distance{v};
}
auto depth = -15_m;
```

```
auto operator"" _regex(std::string value) {
   return std::regex{value};
}

auto isIdentifier(std::string testee) -> bool {
   auto pattern = "[a-zA-Z_][a-zA-Z0-9_]*"_re;
   return std::regex_match(testee, pattern);
}
```

```
auto operator"" _m(unsigned long long v) -> Distance {
  return Distance{v};
}
auto depth = -15_m;
```

Correct

Even though the literal operator only takes an unsigned value, this works, if the Distance type has a unary minus operator. First the literal 15_m is resolved then the unary minus is applied to the resulting object.

```
auto operator"" _regex(std::string value) {
   return std::regex{value};
}

auto isIdentifier(std::string testee) -> bool {
   auto pattern = "[a-zA-Z_][a-zA-Z0-9_]*"_re;
   return std::regex_match(testee, pattern);
}
```

Incorrect

The possible overload of UDL operators are limited to a specific set of parameters. std::string is not a valid overload.

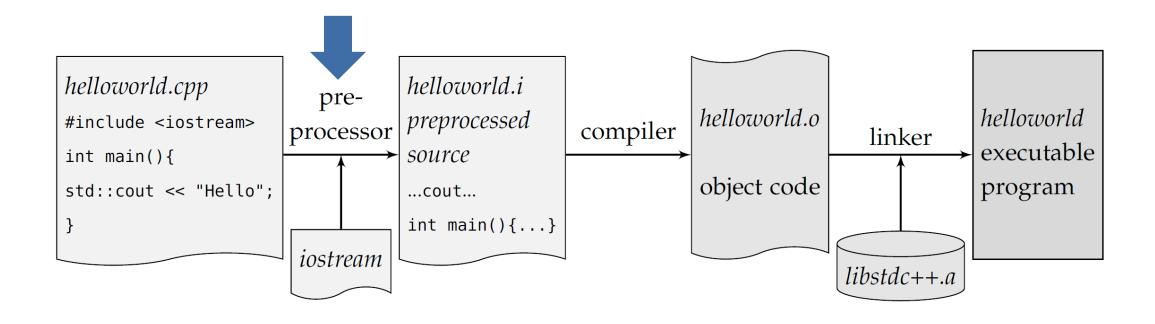
Summary



- Many computations for which the arguments are known upfront can be computed at compile time
- Until C++20 dynamic memory allocation is not possible
- All literal types can be used in constexpr contexts
- User defined literals help giving meaning to simple values
- They can be used to compute numbers at compile-time

Preprocessor





define identifier replacement-list new-line

- Identifier is a unique name in the preprocessor's monolithic namespace
 - By convention the preprocessor names are ALL_CAPS
 - Valid until #undef NAME
- Replacement-list is a, possibly empty, sequence of preprocessor tokens, i.e. parts of of code
- New-line terminates the replacement-list
 - Multi-line macros need to escape the line-breaks with a backslash
- Example

#define NUMBER_OF_ROWS 5

Object- and function-like macro names are replaced by the replacement-list they define

```
#define NUMBER_OF_ROWS 5
int rows[NUMBER_OF_ROWS];
int rows[5];
```

- After the substitution replacement is applied again
 - In this retry already replaced macros are ignored (to avoid endless recursion)

```
#define A B
#define B A
A //gets replaced by B and then by A again
```

```
\# define identifier ( identifier-list? ,? ...? ) replacement-list new-line
```

- Features an optional parameter list, containing only names (no types)
- Ellipsis (...) can be used for a variadic number of arguments

```
#define ADD(A, B) A + B
```

```
#define N_TIMES(N, ACTION) \
  for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) { \
    ACTION; \
  }</pre>
```

in the replacement list before a macro parameter converts it into a string-literal

```
#define CUTE(name) cute::test(&name, #name)
CUTE(testFunction)

cute::test(&testFunction, "testFunction")
```

Can be helpful for log output as there is no reflection

```
#define PRINT_RESULT(TERM) std::cout << #TERM " = " << TERM</pre>
```

```
PRINT_RESULT(1 + 2); | std::cout << "1 + 2 " " = " << 1 + 2;
```

• ## in the replacement list between tokens splices them to a single new token

```
#define CALL(VERSION) Action ## _ ## VERSION ()
```

```
void Action_A();
void Action_B();

CALL_ACTION(B);

void Action_B();

Action_B();
```

Textual inclusion of another file

Typically, for inclusion of header files but there is no restriction to include any file-type

#include "path"

Typically, used for including a header file from the same project or workspace

#include "Subsystem/Component/Module.hpp"

#include <path>

Typically, used for external includes, like the standard library or system libraries

```
#include <algorithm>
#include <boost/operators.hpp>
```

Enable a section depending on a condition

#if constant-expression new-line
#elif constant-expression new-line
#else new-line
#endif new-line

Check for macro definitions

#if defined identifier new-line

#ifdef identifier new-line

Inverted

#ifndef identifier new-line

 Enforcing semicolon after a macro reference can be achieved by putting the contained statements in a do-while loop

```
#define SOME_STATEMENTS \
  do { \
    Statement1();
    Statement2();
  } while (false)
```

 Use of function-like parameters are put in parentheses when operator precedence is important

```
#define MUTIPLY(A, B) \
  (A) * (B)
Int result = MULTIPLY(1 + 1, 2)
```

Macro	
cplusplus	202002L (current C++ standard int literal)
DATE	String literal "Mmm dd yyyy"
FILE	String literal containing the name of the source file
LINE	int literal of the current line number
TIME	String literal "hh:mm:ss"

- #pargma directive
 - Implementation defined behavior

Relative include paths to current file

- Use relative paths to a known include directory
- Respect case-sensitive spelling (also on Windows)

Redefining keywords is undefined behavior

```
#define private public #define protected public #define class struct
```

Using the preprocessor unless inevitable!

Self Study

Compile time code



Have a look at the following code on Godbolt and the binary that is generated

```
constexpr auto factorial(unsigned n) {
 auto result = 1u;
 for (auto i = 2u; i <= n; i++) {
    result *= i;
  return result;
constexpr auto factorial0f5 = factorial(5);
auto main() -> int {
  static_assert(factorialOf5 == 120);
 return factorialOf5;
```

```
1 main:
2 push rbp
3 mov rbp, rsp
4 mov eax, 120
5 pop rbp
6 ret
```

https://www.godbolt.org/z/suMDYp

No calls to the factorial function are present anymore

Compile-time conditional inclusion statement

```
auto printAll() -> void {
}

template <typename First, typename...Types>
auto printAll(First const& first, Types const&...rest) -> void {
   std::cout << first;
   if constexpr (sizeof...(Types)) {
      std::cout << ", ";
      printAll(rest...);
   }
}</pre>
```

Requires compile-time expression

• Instance for printAll("Hello"s);

```
auto printAll(std::string const& first) -> void {
  std::cout << first;
  if constexpr (0) {
    std::cout << ", ";
    printAll(); //rest... expansion
  }
}</pre>
```

```
auto printAll(std::string const& first) -> void {
   std::cout << first;
}</pre>
```

We don't need a base case anymore!