Department I - C Plus Plus

Modern and Lucid C++ Advanced for Professional Programmers

Week 6 - Advanced Templates

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```
mInBounds(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
            number_of_elements:
    ; std::swap(number_of_ele
       () const { return const
    erator end() const
     /-ize type index
```

- Week 5 Recap
- Static vs. Dynamic Polymorphism
- Substitution Failure Is Not An Error (SFINAE)
- Type Constraints

Participants should...

- ... get a deeper understanding of why template code (static polymorphism) is faster than virtually dispatched code (dynamic polymorphism)
- ... have refreshed their general template knowledge
- ... can implement deduction guides for class template argument deduction
- ... are able to eliminate function template overloads by applying SFINAE
- ... define their own named type constraints and use them to restrict template parameters

Recap Week 5



Simple function overload resolution determines which implementation to use

```
template <typename InputIter, typename Distance>
auto advanceImpl(InputIter& i, Distance d, std::input_iterator_tag) -> void {
   while (d--) { i++; }
}

template <typename RandomAccessIter, typename Distance>
auto advanceImpl(RandomAccessIter& i, Distance d, std::random_access_iterator_tag) -> void {
   i += d;
}

template <typename InputIter, typename Distance>
auto advance(InputIter& i, Distance n) -> void {
   typename std::iterator_traits<InputIter>::difference_type d = n;
   advanceImpl(i, d, typename std::iterator_traits<InputIter>::iterator_category{});
}
```

::advance(iter, 15);

struct IntIteratorBoost

};

Using boost/operators.hpp shortens definition

Pass own type
CRTP = Curiously Recurring Template Parameter

```
: boost::input iterator helper<IntIteratorBoost, int> {
                 explicit IntIteratorBoost(int start = 0)
  Explicit
                   : value { start } {}
Constructor
                 auto operator==(IntIteratorBoost const& r) const -> bool {
                   return value == r.value;
                 auto operator*() const -> value type { return value; }
                 auto operator ++() -> IntIteratorBoost& {
                   ++value;
                   return *this;
               private:
                 value type value;
```

Inherit to obtain types and operations (through CRTP)

operator== required

Reuse predefined type

```
struct IntInputter {
 using iterator category = std::input iterator tag;
 using value type = int;
  /* Other Member Types Omitted */
 IntInputter();
                                                                              Default Constructor
  explicit IntInputter(std::istream & in)
                                                                                    for EOF
    : input { in } {}
  auto operator*() -> value type;
  auto operator++() -> IntInputter& f
                                                                               ++ does nothing
   return *this;
  auto operator++(int) -> IntInputter {
   IntInputter old{*this};
   ++(*this);
   return old;
                                                                               Equal only if both
  auto operator==(IntInputter const & other) const -> bool;
                                                                                     EOF
  auto operator!=(IntInputter const & other) const -> bool {
   return !(*this == other);
                                                                              Caller must guarantee survival
                                                                               of object, otherwise "dangling"
private:
  std::istream & input;
                                                                                         reference!
```

Static vs. Dynamic Polymorphism



Pros of static polymorphism

- Happens at compile-time
- Faster execution time
 - No dynamic dispatch required
 - Easier to optimize (inline)
- Type checks at compile-time

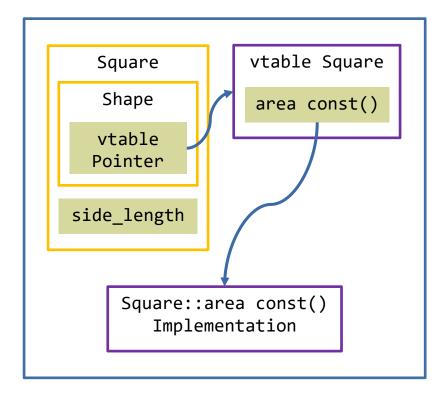
Cons of static polymorphism

- Longer compile-times
- Template code has to be known when used
- Larger binary size
 - Copy of the used parts for each (template) instance

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;
};
```



Article on this topic: http://eli.thegreenplace.net/2013/12/05/the-cost-of-dynamic-virtual-calls-vs-static-crtp-dispatch-in-c

Non-virtual calls directly call the target function

```
struct Square {
     Square(unsigned side_length)
       : side length{side length} {}
    unsigned area() const {
Argument
       return side length * side length;
                                                                            Square
     unsigned side_length;
                                                                          side_length
  template<typename ShapeType>
  decltype(auto) amountOfSeeds(ShapeType const & shape) {
     auto area = shape.area();
     return area * seedsPerSquareMeter;
  decltype(auto) amountOfSeeds(Square const & shape) {
                                                                              Square::area const()
     auto area = shape.area(); --
                                                                                 Implementation
     return area * seedsPerSquareMeter;
```

- Object is smaller
 - No vtable
- Compiler flag for (cl.exe)
 - /d1reportSingleClassLayout<ClassName>
 - /d1reportAllClassLayout

```
class Shape
                  size(4):
           {vfptr}
Shape::$vftable@:
           &Shape_meta
           &Shape::area
           &Shape::{dtor}
class Square size(8):
           +--- (base class Shape)
             {vfptr}
           side_length
Square::$vftable@:
           &Square meta
           &Square::area
           &Square::{dtor}
```

Copy-pasting at compile-time

- Instances for Square, Circle and Triangle
- The optimizer might get rid of them

```
template<typename ShapeType>
decltype(auto) amountOfSeeds(ShapeType const & shape) {
    auto area = shape.area();
    return area * seedsPerSquareMeter;
};

unsigned amountOfSeeds(Square const & shape) {
    auto area = shape.area();
    return area * seedsPerSquareMeter;
};

Circle const & shape) {
    a();
    return area * seedsPerSquareMeter;
};

Initially const & shape) {
    a();
    rSquareMeter;
};
```

Substitution Failure Is Not An Error (SFINAE)



- What do you expect is the return value of the program on the right?
 - None, the program does not compile!

```
Name increment is looked up
                     increment Template
increment(unsinged)
  Template arguments are deduced
increment(unsigned)
                    increment<int>(int)
      Best overload is selected
            increment(int)
```

```
auto increment(unsigned i) -> unsigned {
  return i++;
}

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

auto main() -> int {
  return increment(42);
}
```

```
error: request for member 'increment' in 'value',
which is of non-class type 'int'
```

- During overload resolution the template parameters in a template declaration are substituted with the deduced types
 - This may result in template instances that cannot be compiled
 - Or otherwise suboptimal selection
- If the substitution of template parameter fails that overload candidate is discarded
- Substitution failure might happen in
 - Function return type
 - Function parameter
 - Template parameter declaration
 - And expressions in the above
- Errors in the instance body are still errors

```
Substitution

template <typename T>

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

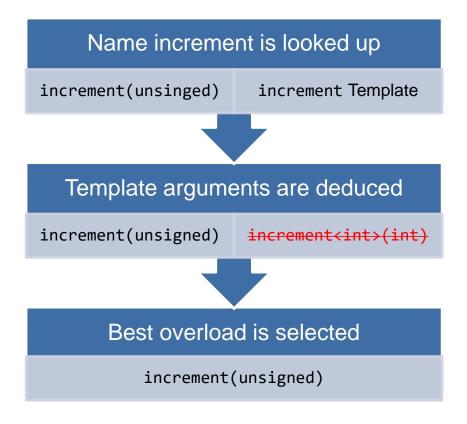
Substitution

auto increment(int value) -> int {
  return value.increment();
} //T = int
```

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

- We can break the return type
- If we tell the compiler to use the type of value.increment() as return type for increment<int>
 - That type cannot be determined during substitution

 Since there is a problem during substitution that overload is discarded



Now the result is 42

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

- The standard library provides many predefined checks for type traits¹
- A trait contains a boolean value
- Usually, they are available in two versions
- Example:

```
■ std::is same<T, U>
```

```
std::is_same_v<T, U>
```

```
template <typename T, typename U>
struct is_same : false_type {
  // inherits
 // static constexpr bool value = false;
};
template <typename T>
struct is_same<T, T> : true_type {
 // inherits
 // static constexpr bool value = true;
};
template <typename T, typename U>
constexpr bool is_same_v = is_same<T, U>::value;
```

¹ https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/header/type_traits

Let's examine our example again

We want the increment template to be selected only for class type arguments

There exists a template std::is_class<T>

- contains static constexpr bool value;
- value is true if T is a class, false otherwise
- Variable template: std::is_class_v<T>
 - Type bool (direct access of ::value)

Can we apply this to the increment template directly?

- No, either value (true or false) is still valid
- We need something to create an error in the type of the function

```
template <typename T>
auto increment(T value) -> T {
  return value.increment();
}
auto main() -> int {
  return increment(42);
}
```

```
#include <type_traits>
struct S{};

auto main() -> int {
   std::is_class<S>::value; // true
   std::is_class<int>::value; // false
}
```

```
template <bool expr, typename T = void>
struct enable_if;
```

- The std::enable_if_t template takes an expression and a type
 - If the expression evaluates to true std::enable_if_t represents the given type
 - Otherwise it does NOT represent a type

• Inside std::enable_if

```
template <typename T>
struct enable_if<true, T> {
  using type = T;
};
```

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

Spots to apply enable_if (SFINAE)

Possibilities

```
template <typename T>
auto increment(T value) -> std::enable if t<std::is class v<T>, T> {
  return value.increment();
                                                                      enable_if as parameter
                                                                        impairs type deduction
template <typename T>
auto increment(std::enable_if_t<std::is_class_v<T>, T> value) -> T {
  return value.increment();
template <typename T, typename = std::enable_if_t<std::is_class_v<T>, void>>
auto increment(T value) -> T {
  return value.increment();
                                                                      would be void per default
```

Example: Box-Container with

- Default constructor
- Copy constructor
- Move constructor
- Size constructor

Box<MemoryOperationCounter> b{1};

```
template <typename T>
struct Box {
  Box() = default;
  Box(Box const& box)
    : items{box.items}{}
  Box(Box&& box)
    : items{std::move(box.items)} {}
 explicit Box(size_t size)
    : items(size) {}
  //...
private:
  std::vector<T> items{};
};
```

 What if we replace the copy/move constructors with a forwarding constructor?

Box<MemoryOperationCounter> b{1};

```
template <typename T>
struct Box {
  Box() = default;
  template <typename BoxType>
explicit Box(BoxType&& other)
    : items(std::forward<BoxType>(other).items) {}
  explicit Box(size t size)
    : items(size) {}
  //...
private:
  std::vector<T> items{};
};
```

- We don't want the forwarding constructor to match anything else than Boxes
 - Type traits can be used to narrow down the valid calls.

```
template <typename T>
struct Box {
   Box() = default;
   template <typename BoxType, typename = std::enable_if_t<std::is_same_v<Box, BoxType>>>
   explicit Box(BoxType && other)
        : items(std::forward<BoxType>(other).items) {}
   explicit Box(size_t size)
        : items(size) {}
        //...
private:
   std::vector<T> items{};
};
```

 This is just an example for demonstrating the mechanism. Do not implement a forwarding constructor as replacement for the move and copy constructor.

```
?
```

```
template <typename T>
auto convert(T value) -> int {
  using namespace std;
  enable_if_t<
    is_constructible_v<int, T>, int
  > converted{value};
  return converted;
}
//This function can be eliminated by SFINAE
```

```
?
```

Correct

std::is_reference is std::true_type if T is a reference otherwise std::false_type. If the forwarding reference is initialized with an Ivalue T is a reference. std::negation_v negates the true/false_type. The overload is only enabled for rvalues.

```
template <typename T>
auto convert(T value) -> int {
   using namespace std;
   enable_if_t<
      is_constructible_v<int, T>, int
   > converted{value};
   return converted;
}
//This function can be eliminated by SFINAE
```

Incorrect

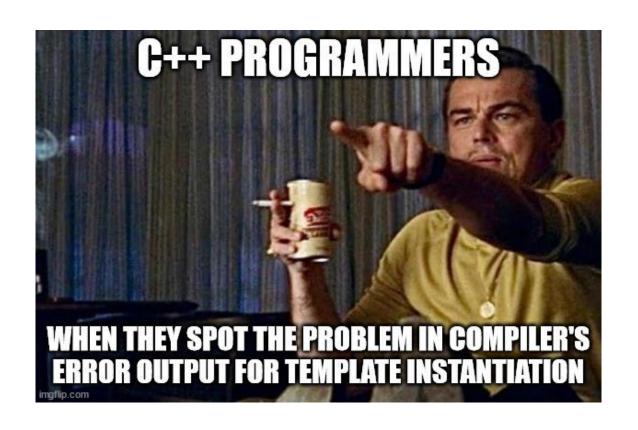
This is not SFINAE! It will compile if called with something that can be used to construct an int, but the overload will be taken anyway.

Template Parameter Constraints

C++20 introduced constraints for template parameters



- Provide a means to specify the characteristics of a type (requirement) in template contexts
 - Opposed to the implicit syntactic requirements imposed by the use of the template parameter
- Earlier detection of violation in the template instantiation process
 - Better error messages
- More expressive SFINAE



- So called requires clauses allow constraining template parameters
- requires is followed by a compile-time constant boolean expression
- requires clauses are either placed after the template parameter list...

```
template <typename T>
requires true
auto function(T argument) -> void {
}
```

• ... or after the function template's declarator

```
template <typename T>
auto function(T argument) -> void requires true {
}
```

```
template <typename T>
requires std::is_class_v<T>
auto function(T argument) -> void {
}
```

```
function(1);
function(std::string{});
```

requires also starts an expression that evaluates to bool

```
requires {
  // Sequence of requirements
}
```

```
requires ($parameter-list$) {
   // Sequence of requirements
}
```

Requirements overview

- Simple requirements are statements that are true when they can be compiled
- Type requirements check whether a specific type exists (typically, for nested types)
- Compound requirements checks constraints on an expression's type
- Nested requirements contain further (nested) requires expressions

Simple requirements are statements that are true when they can be compiled

```
requires (T v) {
  v.increment();
}
```

Applied to our previous «incrementable» example

```
template <typename T>
requires requires (T const v) { v.increment(); }
auto increment(T value) -> T {
  return value.increment();
}
```

- Type requirements check whether a specific type exists (typically, for nested types)
- Starts with typename keyword

```
requires {
    typename $type$;
}
```

To check the types on BoundedBuffer the requirements could look as follows:

```
requires {
    typename BoundedBuffer<int>::value_type;
    typename BoundedBuffer<int>::size_type;
    typename BoundedBuffer<int>::reference;
    typename BoundedBuffer<int>::const_reference;
}
```

- Compound requirements check whether an expression is valid and can check constraints on the expression's type
- The return-type-requirement is optional

```
requires (T v) {
    { $expression$ } -> $type-constraint$;
}
```

Applied to our previous «incrementable» example

```
template <typename T>
requires requires (T const v) {
    { v.increment() } -> std::same_as<T>;
}
auto increment(T value) -> T {
    return value.increment();
}
```

Specifies a named type requirement

```
template <typename T>
concept TypeRequirementName = $bool-expression$;
```

- Typically, a requires expression is used as bool expression (or is at least part of it)
- Conjunctions (&&) and disjunctions (||) can be used to combine constraints

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

Named constraints can be used in template parameter declarations

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

Or as part of a requires clause

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

- Use auto as parameter type instead of template declaration
 - with an unconstrained parameter

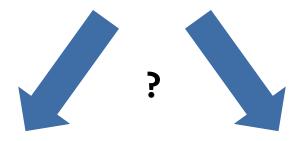
```
auto function(auto argument) -> void {
}
```

This is equivalent to

```
template <typename T>
auto function(T argument) -> void {
}
```

What is the equivalent for?

```
auto function(auto arg1, auto arg2) -> void {
}
```



```
template <typename T>
auto function(T arg1, T arg2) -> void {
}
```

```
template <typename T1, typename T2>
auto function(T1 arg1, T2 arg2) -> void {
}
```

Abbreviated function template parameters can be constrained too

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

Corresponds to

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

Given the following named type constraints

```
template <typename T>
concept Printable = requires (T const v, std::ostream& os) {
   v.print(os);
};

template <typename T>
concept LeftshiftOutputtable = requires (T const v, std::ostream& os) {
   {os << v} -> std::same_as<std::ostream&>;
};
```

Function overloads that have constraints not satisfied are excluded from overload resolution too

```
auto print(Printable auto const& printable) {
  printable.print(std::cout);
auto print(LeftshiftOutputtable auto const& outputtable) {
  std::cout << outputtable;</pre>
auto printAll(auto const& first, auto const&... rest) -> void {
  print(first);
  if constexpr (sizeof...(rest)) {
    std::cout << ", ";
    printAll(rest...);
```

- Many predefined type constraints exist in the standard library
- Examples
 - std::equality_comparable checks whether a type can be == and != compared
 - std::default_initializable checks whether a type can be default constructed
 - std::floating_point checks whether a type is a floating-point type
 - Many more

Summary



- Function calls resolved at compile-time can be much faster
- SFINAE is used to eliminate overload candidates
- Concepts encode requirements for types and (should) provide compiler error messages that are easier to read

Templates Recap

Repetition Material for Self-Study



- Template declaration
 - template Keyword
 - Template Parameters
- Function is implicitly inline

```
template
Keyword

template
template<typename ShapeType>
decltype(auto) amountOfSeeds(ShapeType const & shape) {
   auto area = shape.area();
   return area * seedsPerSquareMeter;
};
```

Template arguments might be deduced from the function call arguments

```
ShapeType is deduced to be Rectangle

Rectangle r{5, 8};
auto seeds = amountOfSeeds(r);
```

```
Explicitly specified
    to be Rectangle

Rectangle r{5, 8};
auto seeds = amountOfSeeds<Rectangle>(r);
```

Template Template Parameter

Template Type
Parameter

Template Non-Type
Parameter

```
template<template<typename, unsigned> typename Container, typename Target, std::size_t N>
Target extractMiddleElement(Container<Target, N> & container) {
  using std::swap;
  Target middleElement{};
  swap(container.at(N / 2), middleElement);
  return middleElement;
}
```

```
std::array<int, 3> values{1, 2, 3};
extractMiddleElement(values);

Container => std::array
Target => int
N => 3
```

```
BoundedBuffer<int, 3> values{1, 2, 3};
extractMiddleElement(values);

Container => BoundedBuffer
Target => int
N => 3
```

Before C++17 template template parameter were declared with «template <...> class»

- We could also implement extractMiddleElement differently
 - Instead of N we might use size()
 - Instead of Target we have the member type value_type of Container
- That changes the Concept of the parameter. How?

- Container must have:
- member type value_type
- size() member function
 It does not need to be a template
 with type and unsigned parameter
 anymore.

- The member type value_type is a dependent type
 - The compiler does not know whether Container::value_type is a member type, function or variable
 - To tell the compiler that it is a type the typename keyword is required (there is also a template keyword for cases where the member is a template)

```
template<typename Container>
auto extractMiddleElement(Container & container) {
   typename Container::value_type middleElement{};
   std::swap(container.at(container.size() / 2), middleElement);
   return middleElement;
}
```

- In specific cases the number of template parameters might not be fix/known upfront
- Thus the template shall take an arbitrary number of parameters
- Example:

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

- Syntax (ellipses everywhere): ...
 - ... in template parameter list for an arbitrary number of template parameters (Template Parameter Pack)
 - ... in function parameter list for an arbitrary number of function arguments (Function Parameter Pack)
 - ... after sizeof to access the number of elements in template parameter pack
 - ... in the variadic template implementation after a pattern (Pack Expansion)

- Templates allow generic programming in C++
- A template is instantiated for a specific set of template arguments

```
Type
                           Non-Type
        Parameter
                           Parameter
template<typename Freight, unsigned Space>
struct Carriage {
  std::array<Freight, Space> cargo{};
};
decltype(auto) createSmallTankWagon() {
  return Carriage<0il, 1>{};
           Creates
```

Template Instance

```
struct Carriage {
   std::array<Oil, 1> cargo{};
};
```

- Templates can be (partially) specialized
- Liskov's Substitution Principle does not apply for specializations, i.e. a specialized template does not need to satisfy the interface of the base template!

```
template<typename Freight, unsigned Space>
struct Carriage;

template<unsigned Space>
struct Carriage<Passenger, Space> {
  unsigned const doors{7};
}

decltype(auto) createPassengerWagon() {
  return Carriage<Passenger, 124>{};
}
```

```
struct Carriage {
  unsigned const doors{7};
}
```



When a template is instantiated the compiler has to decide whether to use the base template or one
of its specializations

Syntax

```
template<[Parameters]>
Type name [= initialization];
```

- Can be specialized
- Usually constexpr

Purpose

- Compile-time predicates and properties of types
- Usually applied in template meta programming
- Before C++14 it was necessary to create a class template with a static member variable
 - Now less code is required for the same effect

```
template<typename T>
constexpr T pi = T(3.1415926535897932385);

template<typename T>
constexpr bool is_integer = false;

template<>
constexpr bool is_integer<int> = true;
```

Deduction Guides



Class template arguments can usually be determined by the compiler

```
template <typename T>
struct Box {
    Box(T content)
        : content{content}{}
    T content;
};

int main() {
    Box<int> b0{0}; //Before C++17
    Box    b1{1}; //Since C++17
}
```

The behavior is similar to pretending as if there was a factory function for each constructor

```
template <typename T>
Box<T> make_box(T content) {
  return Box<T>{content};
}
```

```
auto gift = make_box(teddy);
```

• In the following example the only template parameter is T, which can be deduced from std::initializer_list<T>

```
template <typename T>
class Sack {
    //...
    Sack(std::initializer_list<T> values)
        : theSack(values) {
    }
    //...
};
```

```
void testImplicitDeductionGuide () {
   Sack charSack{'a', 'b', 'c'};
   ASSERT_EQUAL(3, charSack.size());
}

std::initializer_list<char>
```

There is no direct relation from Iter to T (constructor parameters to template parameter)

```
template <typename T>
struct BoundedBuffer {
    //...
   template <typename Iter>
   BoundedBuffer(Iter begin, Iter end);
   //...
};
```

```
void testDeductionFromIterators() {
   std::vector values{3, 1, 4, 1, 5, 9, 2, 6};
   BoundedBuffer buffer{begin(values), end(values)};
   ASSERT_EQUAL(values.size(), buffer.size());
}
```

```
error: class template argument deduction failed:
   Sack aSack(begin(values), end(values));
```

- User-defined deduction guides can be specified in the same scope as the template
 - Usually, after the template definition itself

```
TemplateName(ConstructorParameters) -> TemplateID;
```

- Might be necessary for complex cases, e.g. template constructors if the constructor template parameters do not map directly to the class template parameters
- The deduction guide can be (and usually is) a template itself
- It looks similar to a free-standing constructor
- Unfortunately, Cevelop does not recognize the deduction guides yet

```
Template declaration for Iter

template <typename Iter>
BoundedBuffer(Iter begin, Iter end) -> BoundedBuffer<typename std::iterator_traits<Iter>::value_type>;

Constructor signature

Deduced template instance
```

Test for deducing template argument from iterator works

```
void testDeductionFromIterators() {
  std::vector values{3, 1, 4, 1, 5, 9, 2, 6};
  BoundedBuffer buffer{begin(values), end(values)};
  ASSERT_EQUAL(values.size(), buffer.size());
}
```

Pack Expansion (Recap)

Variadic Template Instances Unfolded (Recap)



• Template declaration:

```
template<typename First, typename...Types>
void printAll(First const & first, Types const &...rest);
```

• Implicit instantiation:

```
int i{42}; double d{1.25}; std::string book{"Lucid C++"};
printAll(i, f, book);
```

• Template instance:

sizeof...(<PACK>) will be replaced by the number of arguments in the pack parameter

```
0, 1, 2, ...
```

```
template<typename First, typename...Types>
void printAll(First const & first, Types const &...rest) {
   //...
   printAll(rest...);
}
```

- Pattern: rest
- The pattern must contain at least one pack parameter
- An expansion is a coma-separated list of instances of the pattern
- For each argument in that pack an instance of the pattern is created
- In an instance of the pattern the parameter pack name is replaced by an argument of the pack

```
void printAll(int const & first, double const & __rest0, std::string const & __rest1) {
   //...
   printAll(__rest0, __rest1); //rest...
}
```

For the call printAll(__rest0, __rest1): printAll<double, std::string>

```
void printAll(double const & first, std::string const & __rest0) {
   std::cout << first;
   if (1) { //sizeof...(Types) - Number of arguments in the pack
      std::cout << ", ";
   }
   printAll(__rest0); //rest... expansion
}</pre>
```

For the call printAll(<rest0>): printAll<std::string>

```
void printAll(std::string const & first) {
   std::cout << first;
   if (0) { //sizeof...(Types) - Number of arguments in the pack
      std::cout << ", ";
   }
   printAll(); //rest... expansion
}</pre>
```

What about printAll()?

- What about printAll()?
 - The variadic template printAll is not viable, as it requires at least one parameter
- We need a base case for the recursion

```
void printAll() {
}
```

Wouldn't it be feasible to just rearange the code in the variadic template?

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