

# constexpr comparison operators for `std::array`

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## 1 Introduction

The interface for `std::array` was made mostly `constexpr` in C++17. However, this did not include the comparison operators, presumably because they are specified in terms of `std::equal()` and `std::lexicographical_compare()`, which only recently became `constexpr` in the draft International Standard.

This paper corrects this surprising omission by adding the `constexpr` keyword to the declarations of the `array` comparison operators.

## 2 Proposed wording

Changes are relative to [N4741].

In section 26.3.2 [array.syn], change

```
template<class T, size_t N>
    constexpr bool operator==(const array<T, N>& x, const array<T, N>& y);
template<class T, size_t N>
    constexpr bool operator!=(const array<T, N>& x, const array<T, N>& y);
template<class T, size_t N>
    constexpr bool operator< (const array<T, N>& x, const array<T, N>& y);
template<class T, size_t N>
    constexpr bool operator> (const array<T, N>& x, const array<T, N>& y);
template<class T, size_t N>
    constexpr bool operator<=(const array<T, N>& x, const array<T, N>& y);
template<class T, size_t N>
    constexpr bool operator>=(const array<T, N>& x, const array<T, N>& y);
```

## References

- [N4741] Richard Smith. Working Draft, Standard for Programming Language C++. <http://www.open-std.org/jtc1/sc22/wg21/docs/papers/2018/n4741.pdf>, 2018 (accessed 2018-04-20).