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Generic Programming Without (Writing Your Own) Templates

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Templates



Templates

```
#include <iostream>

template <typename T>
void print(const T& val)
{
    std::cout << val << "\n";
}

int main()
{
    print(3);
    print(2.0);
}
```

```
3
2
```

Templates

```
#include <iostream>

template <typename T>
void print(const T& val)
{
    std::cout << val << "\n";
}

struct date
{
    int day;
    int month;
    int year;
};

int main()
{
    const auto accu_talk_date = date{ .day = 11, .month = 3, .year = 2021 };
    print(accu_talk_date);
}
```


Templates

```
1>D:\programs\accu2021\examples.cpp(112,1):  
  error C2679: binary '<<': no operator found which takes a right-hand operand  
  of type 'const T' (or there is no acceptable conversion)  
1>      with  
1>      [  
1>      T=date  
1>      ]
```

Templates

```
template <typename T>
concept streamable = requires (std::ostream s, T val) { s << val; };

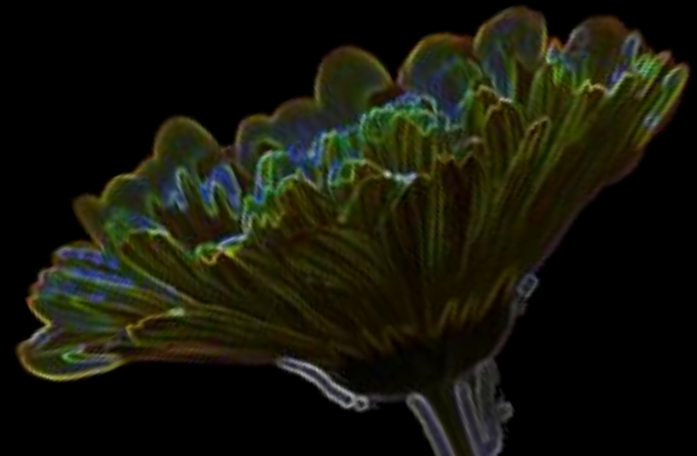
template <typename T>
void print(const T& val) requires streamable<T>
{
    std::cout << val << "\n";
}
```

```
1>D:\programs\accu2021\examples.cpp(131,5): error C2672: 'print': no matching overloaded function found
```

```
1>D:\programs\accu2021\examples.cpp(131,25): error C7602: 'print': the associated constraints are not satisfied
```

```
1>D:\programs\accu2021\examples.cpp(114): message : see declaration of 'print'
```

`std::span`



Why span?

```
auto mean(const std::vector<double>& range)
{
    return std::accumulate(range.begin(), range.end(), 0.0) / static_cast<double>(range.size());
}
```

```
auto mean(const std::array<double>& range)
{
    return std::accumulate(range.begin(), range.end(), 0.0) / static_cast<double>(range.size());
}
```

```
template <typename T>
auto mean(const T& range)
{
    return std::accumulate(range.begin(), range.end(), 0.0) / static_cast<double>(range.size());
}
```

Why span?

```
auto mean(const std::span<const double> range)
{
    return std::accumulate(range.begin(), range.end(), 0.0) / static_cast<double>(range.size());
}
```

```
const auto v = std::vector(10, 0.0);
const auto mean_v = mean(v);
```

```
const auto a = std::array{ 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 };
const auto mean_a = mean(a);
```

```
const double a[] = { 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0 };
const auto mean_a = mean(a);
```

How to use a span



```
const auto vec = std::vector({ 1.0, 3.0, 4.0, 7.0, 4.0, 7.0, 2.0, 5.0 });  
std::cout << mean(vec) << std::endl;
```

```
std::cout << mean({ &vec[2], &vec[vec.size() - 2] }) << std::endl;
```

```
std::cout << mean({ vec.begin() + 2, vec.end() - 2 }) << std::endl;
```

```
std::cout << mean(vec | drop(2) | drop_last(2)) << std::endl;
```

```
const auto s = std::span(vec) | stride(2);
```

Pitfalls

```
auto vec = std::vector(10, 0);  
auto s = std::span(vec);  
s[0] = 100;
```



```
vec { 100, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 }
```

Pitfalls

```
auto vec = std::vector(10, 0);  
auto s = std::span(vec);  
s[0] = 100;
```



```
const auto vec = std::vector(10, 0);  
auto s = std::span(vec);  
s[0] = 100;
```



```
const auto vec = std::vector(10, 0);  
const auto s = std::span(vec);  
s[0] = 100;
```



```
auto vec = std::vector(10, 0);  
const auto s = std::span(vec);  
s[0] = 100;
```



```
vec { 100, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 }
```

Pitfalls

```
auto vec = std::vector(100, 0);  
const auto s = std::span<const int>(vec);  
s[0] = 100;
```

Pitfalls

```
double& return_a_ref()
{
    const auto value = 0.0;
    const auto& zero = value;
    return zero;
}

const auto zero = return_a_ref();
```

```
auto return_a_span()
{
    const auto vec = std::vector(10, 10);
    const auto s = std::span(vec);
    return s;
}

const auto s = return_a_span()
```

Pitfalls

```
auto make_span(const boost::multi_array<double, 1>& multi_array)
{
    return std::span(multi_array.origin(), multi_array.num_elements());
}

const auto arr = boost::multi_array<double, 1>(boost::extens[10]);
const auto sp = make_span(arr);
```


Pitfalls

```
auto a_vector()  
{  
    return std::vector(10, 5);  
}  
  
const auto vec1 = a_vector();  
const auto& vec2 = a_vector();  
const auto s = std::span<const int>(a_vector());
```

No C++20?

```
auto mean(const std::span<const double> range)
{
    return std::accumulate(range.begin(), range.end(), 0.0) / static_cast<double>(range.size());
}
```

```
const auto v = std::vector(10, 0.0);
const auto mean_v = mean(v);
```

```
const auto a = std::array{ 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 };
const auto mean_a = mean(a);
```

```
const double a[] = { 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0 };
const auto mean_a = mean(a);
```

No C++20?

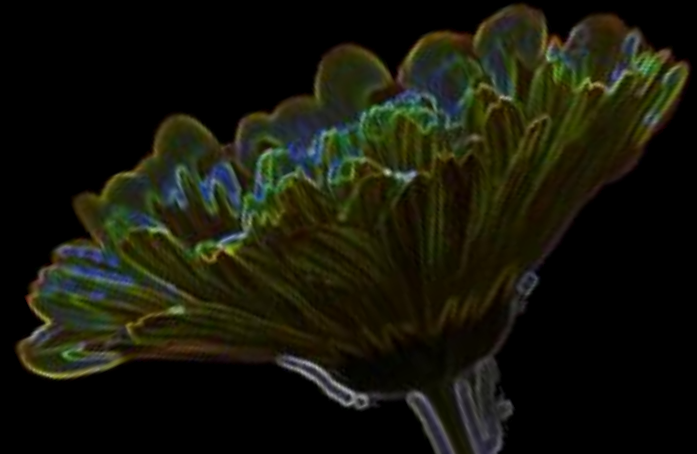
```
auto mean(const gsl::span<const double> range)
{
    return std::accumulate(range.begin(), range.end(), 0.0) / static_cast<double>(range.size());
}
```

```
const auto v = std::vector(10, 0.0);
const auto mean_v = mean(v);
```

```
const auto a = std::array{ 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 };
const auto mean_a = mean(a);
```

```
const double a[] = { 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0 };
const auto mean_a = mean(a);
```

Questions?



`std::variant`



a type-safe union?



a type-safe union?

```
union types
{
    short  short_val;
    int    int_val;
    double double_val;
};
```



a type-safe union?



```
union types
{
    short  short_val;
    int    int_val;
    double double_val;
};
```

```
int main()
{
    auto t = types();

    t.int_val = 3;
    std::cout << t.int_val << "\n"; ✓

    t.double_val = 5.0;
    std::cout << t.double_val << "\n"; ✓

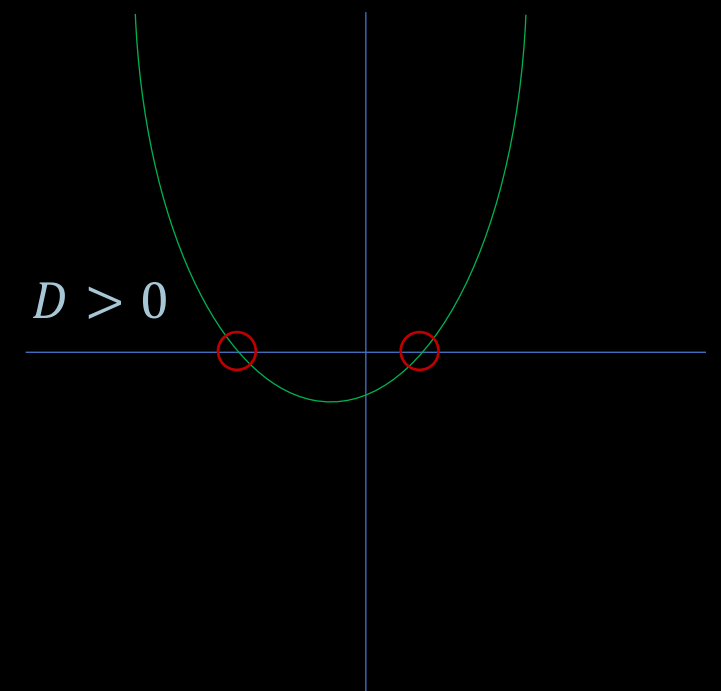
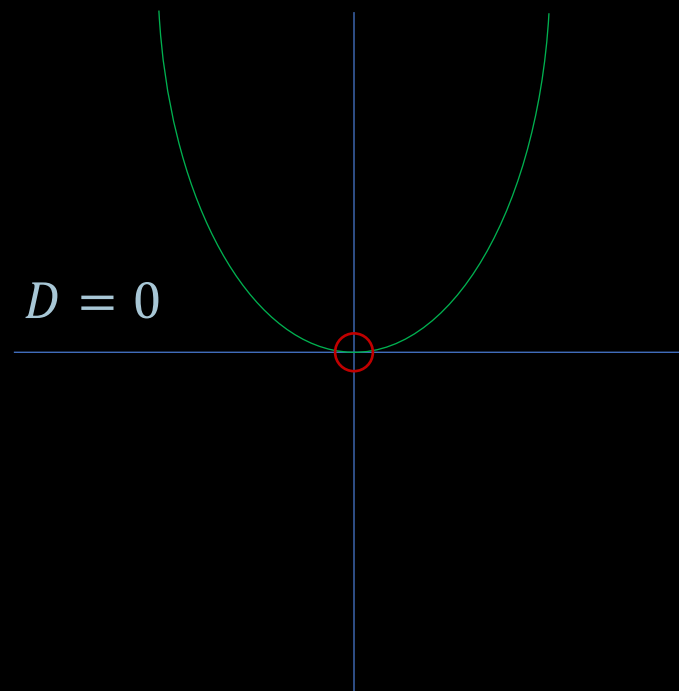
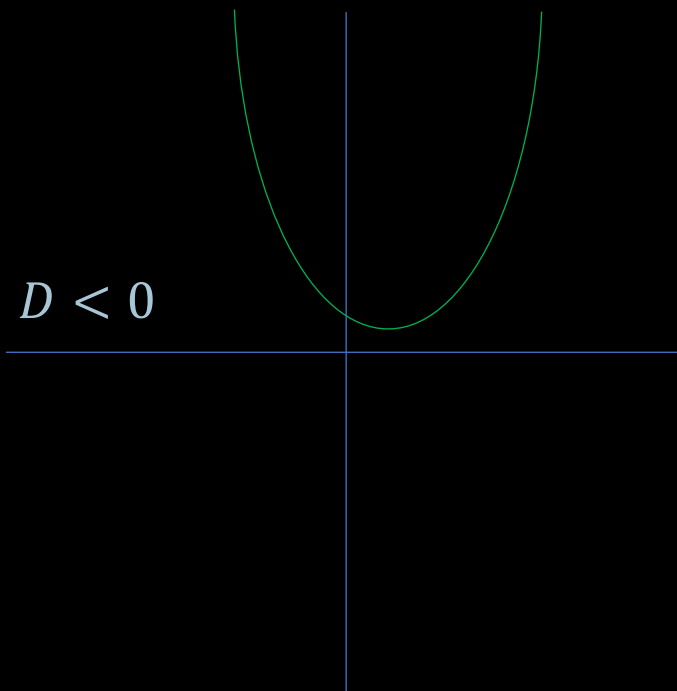
    std::cout << t.int_val << "\n"; ← undefined behavior
}
```


Example

$$y = ax^2 + bx + c$$

$$x_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$D = b^2 - 4ac$$



Example

```
using roots = std::variant<std::pair<double, double>, double, std::monostate>;
```

```
roots calculate_roots(const double a, const double b, const double c)
{
    const auto d = b * b - 4 * a * c;

    if (d > 0.0)
    {
        const auto p = std::sqrt(d) / (2 * a);
        return std::pair{ -b + p, -b - p };
    }

    if (d == 0.0)
    {
        return -b / (2 * a);
    }

    return std::monostate();
}
```

Example



```
const auto result = calculate_roots(10.0, -2.0, -5.0);

if (std::holds_alternative<std::pair<double, double>>(result))
{
    const auto [first_result, second_result] = std::get<std::pair<double, double>>(result);
    std::cout << "2 roots: " << first_result << " " << second_result << "\n";
}

if (std::holds_alternative<double>(result))
{
    std::cout << "1 root: " << std::get<double>(result) << "\n";
}

if (std::holds_alternative<std::monostate>(result))
{
    std::cout << "No roots found.\n";
}
```

Example



```
const auto index = result.index();

if (index == 0)
{
    const auto [first_result, second_result] = std::get<0>(result);
    std::cout << "2 roots: " << first_result << " " << second_result << "\n";
}

if (index == 1)
{
    std::cout << "1 root: " << std::get<1>(result) << "\n";
}

if (index == 2)
{
    std::cout << "No roots found.\n";
}
```

visit

```
struct root_printer
{
    void operator()(const std::pair<double, double>& arg) const
    {
        std::cout << "2 roots: " << arg.first << " " << arg.second << '\n';
    }

    void operator()(const double arg) const
    {
        std::cout << "1 root: " << arg << '\n';
    }

    void operator()(const std::monostate) const
    {
        std::cout << "No roots found.\n";
    }
};
```

visit



```
int main()
{
    const auto printer = root_printer();
    std::visit(printer, calculate_roots(10, 0, -2));
    std::visit(printer, calculate_roots(2, 1, 2));
}
```

```
2 roots: 0.447214 -0.447214
No roots found.
```

```
int main()
{
    std::visit([](const auto& element) { std::cout << element; }, calculate_roots(10, 0, -2));
}
```

overload pattern



```
template<class... Ts> struct overload : Ts... { using Ts::operator()...; };  
template<class... Ts> overload(Ts...) -> overload<Ts...>;
```

```
std::visit(overload{  
    [](const std::pair<double, double>& arg)  
    {  
        std::cout << "2 roots: " << arg.first << " " << arg.second << '\n';  
    },  
  
    [](const double arg)  
    {  
        std::cout << "1 root: " << arg << '\n';  
    },  
  
    [](const std::monostate)  
    {  
        std::cout << "No roots found.\n";  
    }  
}, calculate_roots(10.0, -2.0, -5.0));
```

Questions?



`std::any`



void*



```
val = 3
val = [1.1, 1.2, 1.3]
val = "Hello ACCU"
val = np.array([0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13])
```

```
auto my_string = "Hello ACCU"s;
auto my_double = 2.0;
auto my_int = 1;

void* my_any = &my_string;
my_any = &my_double;
my_any = &my_int;

std::cout << *static_cast<int*>(my_any) << '\n';
std::cout << *static_cast<double*>(my_any) << '\n';
```

any



```
std::any my_any = "Hello ACCU"s;
my_any = 2.0;
my_any = 1;

std::cout << my_any.has_value() << '\n';
std::cout << my_any.type().name() << '\n';

std::cout << std::any_cast<int>(my_any) << '\n';
std::cout << std::any_cast<double>(my_any) << '\n'; ← bad_any_cast

my_any.reset();
my_any.emplace<my_complex_type>(my_complex_type{});
```

Use cases



```
struct property
{
    property() = default;
    property(const std::string_view name, const std::any& value) : name(name), value(value) {}

    std::string name;
    std::any value;
};

using properties = std::vector<property>;
```

No C++17?

Feature	Boost.Any	std::any
Extra memory allocation	Yes	Yes
Small buffer optimization	No	Yes
emplace	No	Yes
in_place_type_t in constructor	No	Yes

Further reading

How std::any Works

Published February 5, 2021

In [the previous post](#) we've seen a very nice technique to use value semantics with inheritance and virtual methods, which was made possible by `std::any`.

Inheritance Without Pointers

Published January 29, 2021

Inheritance is a useful but controversial technique in C++. There is even a famous talk by Sean Parent called [Inheritance is the base class of evil](#). So inheritance is not the most popular feature of the C++ community.

Questions?



`std::function`



Example

```
template <typename Func>
auto filter_and_do_stuff(const std::vector<double>& data, const Func& condition)
{
    for (const auto element : data)
    {
        if (condition(element))
        {
            std::cout << element << "\n";
            // do stuff
        }
    }
}
```

```
int main()
{
    const auto data = std::vector{ 1.0, 2.0, 4.0, 0.0, 5.0 };
    filter_and_do_stuff(data, [](const double element) {return element > 2.0; });
    filter_and_do_stuff(data, [](const double element) {return element; });
}
```

Example



```
auto filter_and_do_stuff(const std::vector<double>& data,
                        const std::function<bool(double)>& condition)
{
    for (const auto element : data)
    {
        if (condition(element))
        {
            std::cout << element << "\n";
            // do stuff
        }
    }
}
```

```
int main()
{
    const auto data = std::vector{ 1.0, 2.0, 4.0, 0.0, 5.0 };
    filter_and_do_stuff(data, [](const double element) {return element > 2.0; });
    filter_and_do_stuff(data, [](const double element) {return element; });
}
```

function_ref

```
auto filter_and_do_stuff(const std::vector<double>& data,
                        const tl::function_ref<bool(double)>& condition)
{
    for (const auto element : data)
    {
        if (condition(element))
        {
            std::cout << element << "\n";
            // do stuff
        }
    }
}
```

```
int main()
{
    const auto data = std::vector{ 1.0, 2.0, 4.0, 0.0, 5.0 };
    filter_and_do_stuff(data, [](const double element) {return element > 2.0; });
    filter_and_do_stuff(data, [](const double element) {return element; });
}
```

Summary



Questions?

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ACCU 2021



Resources

general

- <https://en.cppreference.com/>
- <https://cppinsights.io/>

variant

- <https://www.wallexfox.com/course/patternmatchingcpp17.php>
- <https://www.bfilipek.com/2018/06/variant.html>
- <https://www.bfilipek.com/2019/02/2lines3featuresoverload.html>
- <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-gb/cpp/cpp/unions?view=msvc-160>
- <https://arne-mertz.de/2018/05/modern-c-features-stdvariant-and-stdvisit/>

Resources

any

- <https://www.bfilipek.com/2018/06/any.html>
- <https://dzone.com/articles/everything-you-need-to-know-about-stdany-from-c17>
- <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/void-pointer-c-cpp/>
- <https://devblogs.microsoft.com/cppblog/stdany-how-when-and-why/>
- <https://www.nextptr.com/tutorial/ta1571648512/stdany-comparison-with-void-and-motivating-examples>
- <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/stdany-class-in-c/>
- https://www.boost.org/doc/libs/1_75_0/doc/html/any.html
- <https://www.fluentcpp.com/2021/02/05/how-stdany-works/>
- <https://www.fluentcpp.com/2021/01/29/inheritance-without-pointers/>

Resources

function

- https://github.com/TartanLlama/function_ref
- <http://www.open-std.org/jtc1/sc22/wg21/docs/papers/2018/p0792r2.html>
- <https://blog.demofox.org/2015/02/25/avoiding-the-performance-hazzards-of-stdfunction/>

gsl

- <https://github.com/isocpp/CppCoreGuidelines/blob/master/docs/gsl-intro.md>