

Writing efficient code

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Outline

1 Virtues of functional programming

- Theory using haskell

2 Practical usage and efficiency

- Functional programming in C++
- Efficiency

3 It's all about helping the compilers

- constness, exceptions
- Avoiding useless copying

4 Do more at compile time

- Templates
- `constexpr` and `if constexpr`
- Virtuality : a counter example

5 Conclusion

Virtues of functional programming

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Functional programming

Definition (Wikipedia) and rules

a programming paradigm where programs are constructed by applying and composing functions. Functions have

- no side effects
- no modification of the input
- new return values

Consequences

- no state, no globals, no members
- guaranteed thread-safety !

Usage

- dedicated languages : Haskell, Erlang, Lisp, ...
- modern C++(lambdas, move, copy elision, ...)

Crash course in functional programming

haskell syntax already tells a lot - godbolt

```
1  -- declaration
2  add :: Int -> Int -> Int
3  -- implementation
4  add x y = x + y
5  -- usage
6  five = add 3 2
7  add_42 = add 42
```

- everything is a function
- functions always take one single parameter
- functions with more arguments are functions returning a function

Crash course in functional programming [2]

Functions are regular objects - godbolt

```
1 apply_operator :: (a -> a -> a) -> a -> a -> a
2 apply_operator op x y = op x y
3 inc = apply_operator add 1
4 double = apply_operator (\ x y -> x * y) 2
```

They can replace loops - godbolt

```
5 a = [1,2,3,4,5]
6 b = map double a
7 -- b is [2,4,6,8,10]
8 fact5 = fold (*) 1 a -- 120
```

Crash course in functional programming [3]

Actual looping is done via recursion - godbolt

```
1  -- map definition
2  map :: (a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]
3  map f [] = []
4  map f (x:xs) = f x : map f xs
5
6  -- fold definition
7  fold :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
8  fold f z []      = z
9  fold f z (x:xs) = f x (fold f z xs)
```

Crash course in functional programming [4]

Evaluation is lazy - godbolt

```
1 allEven = filter even [2..]
2 a = take 5 allEven
3 -- a is [2 4 6 8 10]
```

Crash course in functional programming [4]

Evaluation is lazy - godbolt

```
1 allEven = filter even [2..]
2 a = take 5 allEven
3 -- a is [2 4 6 8 10]
```

Prime computation - godbolt

```
4 filterPrime :: [Int] -> [Int]
5 filterPrime (p:xs) =
6     p : filterPrime (filter (\ x -> x `mod` p /= 0) xs)
7 allPrimes = filterPrime [2..]
8 a = take 10 allPrimes
9 -- a is [2 3 5 7 11 13 17 23 29 31]
```

What to conclude ?

- Nice, very elegant, but not so practical...

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- can we use that in python and C++?
- and is all that really efficient ?

What to conclude ?

- Nice, very elegant, but not so practical...
- can we use that in python and C++?
- and is all that really efficient ?

Short answers : Yes, and double Yes

Practical usage and efficiency

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Everything is a function, also in C++

Concept

- a class can implement `operator()`
- it's then a "functor" (no relation to functors in math)
- allows to use objects in place of functions
- with constructors and data members

First functor - godbolt

```
1 struct Adder {  
2     int m_increment;  
3     Adder(int increment) : m_increment(increment) {}  
4     int operator()(int a) { return a + m_increment; }  
5 };  
6 Adder add_42{42};  
7 int i = add_42(3); // 45
```

And we also have lambdas

Definition

a lambda is a function with no name

Syntax

[captures] (args) -> type { code; }

The type specification is optional

Usage example - godbolt

```
1 auto add = [](int a, int b) { return a+b; };
2 auto add_42 = [&add](int b) { return add(42, b); };
```

Lambdas are essentially syntactic sugar

Lambdas

```
1 [&sum, offset](int x) { sum += x + offset; }
```

Are just functors - [cppinsight](#)

```
1 struct MyFunc {
2     int& m_sum;
3     int m_offset;
4     MyFunc(int& s, int o) : m_sum(s), m_offset(o) {}
5     void operator(int x) { m_sum += x + m_offset; }
6 };
7 MyFunc(sum, offset)
```

By the way, as lambdas are functors, they can inherit from each other !

And this can be super useful.

Functions are regular objects

They can be passed around - godbolt

```
1 auto apply = [](auto f, auto a, auto b)
2     { return f(a, b); };
3 auto inc = [&](auto a) { return apply( add, 1, a ); };
4 auto doubleF = [&](auto a) {
5     return apply([](auto x, auto y) {return x*y;}, 2, a);
6 };
```

They can replace loops - godbolt

```
7 std::vector a{1,2,3,4,5};
8 auto fact =
9     std::ranges::fold_right(a, 1, std::multiplies());
10 std::ranges::transform
11     (begin(a), end(a), begin(a), doubleF);
12 -- a is [2,4,6,8,10]
```

Ranges

Reason of being

- provide easy manipulation of sets of data via views
- simplify the horrible iterator syntax

Syntax

Based on Unix like pipes, and used in range based loops

Example code - godbolt

```
1 std::vector<int> numbers{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6};  
2 auto results =  
3     numbers | filter([](int n){ return n % 2 == 0; })  
4         | transform([](int n){ return n * 2; });  
5 for (auto v: results) std::cout << v << " ";
```

Ranges are lazy evaluated

Example code - godbolt

```
1  using Gen = std::generator<unsigned int>;
2  Gen source() { for (unsigned x = 2; ; x++) co_yield x; }
3  Gen filter(Gen& g, int prime) {
4      for (unsigned x : g) { if ((x % prime) != 0) co_yield x; }
5  }
6  Gen prime(Gen& g) {
7      auto p = *g.begin(); co_yield p;
8      auto ng = filter(g, p);
9      for (auto n : prime(ng)) co_yield n;
10 }
11 auto numbers = source();
12 for (unsigned p : prime(numbers) | std::views::take(10)) {
13     std::cout << p << std::endl;
14 }
```

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Is this efficient ?

Let's compile this code - godbolt

```
1 std::array<int, 6> numbers{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6};  
2 auto results = numbers |  
3     std::ranges::views::transform([](int n){ return n * 23; });  
4 for (auto n : results) std::cout << n << " ";
```

Generated code with -O3

```
1 .L2:  imul    esi, DWORD PTR [rbx], 23  
2      mov     edi, OFFSET FLAT:_ZSt4cout  
3      add     rbx, 4  
4      call    std::basic_ostream::operator<<(int)  
5      cmp     rbp, rbx  
6      jne     .L2  
7 .LC0: .long   1  
8      .long   2  
9      ...
```

Is this efficient ?

Let's compile this code - godbolt

```
1 std::array<int, 6> numbers{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6};  
2 auto results = numbers |  
3     std::ranges::views::transform([](int n){ return n * 23; });  
4 for (auto n : results) std::cout << n << " ";
```

Generated code with -O3

```
1 .L2: imul    esi,    [rbx], 23  
2     mov      edi,    [RIP+18]:_ZSt4cout  
3     add      rbx,   4  
4     call    std::basic_ostream::operator<<(int)  
5     cmp      rbp,   rbx  
6     jne     .L2  
7 .LC0: .long   1  
8     .long   2  
9     ...
```

Optimized

Is that efficient ?

Another bit of C++ code - godbolt

```
1 int foo() {  
2     std::vector<int> a{1,2,3,4,5};  
3     return std::ranges::fold_right(a, 1, std::multiplies());  
4 }  
5 std::cout << foo() << std::endl;
```

We get (gcc trunk)

```
1 foo():  
2     ...  
3     call    operator new(unsigned long)  
4     movdqa xmm0, XMMWORD PTR .LC0[rip]  
5     mov     esi, 20  
6     mov     DWORD PTR [rax+16], 5  
7     mov     rdi, rax  
8     movups XMMWORD PTR [rax], xmm0  
9     call    operator delete(void*, unsigned long)  
10    mov    eax, 120
```

Is that efficient ?

Another bit of C++ code - godbolt

```
1 int foo() {  
2     std::vector<int> a{1,2,3,4,5};  
3     return std::ranges::fold_right(a, 1, std::multiplies());  
4 }  
5 std::cout << foo() << std::endl;
```

We get (gcc trunk)

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9     call    operator delete(void*, unsigned long)  
10    mov    eax, 120
```

Weird

How do we explain that ?

Facts

- what could be precomputed was precomputed
- all functional code is gone
- but vector still created, filled and dropped
 - not even used !

Hypothesis

- creation/deletion of the vector had to be kept in case of side effects
- compiler did not know whether there would be some
- Bottom line :
 - no enough information given to the compiler
 - a.k.a. compiler not clever enough

Switching from vector to array

Another bit of C++ code - godbolt

```
1 int foo() {  
2     std::array<int, 5> a{1,2,3,4,5};  
3     return std::ranges::fold_right(a, 1, std::multiplies());  
4 }  
5 foo();
```

We get (gcc trunk)

```
1 foo():  
2     mov     eax, 120
```

Switching from vector to array

Another bit of C++ code - godbolt

```
1 int foo() {  
2     std::array<int, 5> a{1,2,3,4,5};  
3     return std::ranges::for_each(a, 1, std::multiplies());  
4 }  
5 foo();
```



We get (gcc trunk)

```
1 foo():  
2     mov     eax, 120
```

Using a more clever compiler

Another bit of C++ code - godbolt

```
1 int foo() {  
2     std::vector<int> a{1,2,3,4,5};  
3     return std::ranges::fold_right(a, 1, std::multiplies());  
4 }  
5 foo();
```

We get (clang 18)

```
1 foo():  
2     mov     eax, 120
```

Using a more clever compiler

Another bit of C++ code - godbolt

```
1 int foo() {  
2     std::vector<int> a{1,2,3};  
3     return std::ranges::fold_left(a, 1, std::multiplies());  
4 }  
5 foo();
```



We get (clang 18)

```
1 foo():  
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```

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Constness

The const keyword

- indicates that the variable is constant
- this is all checked at compile time
- and used by the compiler for optimization

```
1 int const i = 6;
2 const int i = 6; // equivalent
3 // error: i is constant
4 i = 5;
5 auto const j = i; // works with auto
```

constness

Non `const` code - godbolt

```
1 void foo( int& k );
2 int bar() {
3     int k = 10;
4     foo(k);
5     return k*k+2*k+1;
6 }
```

We get

```
1 bar():
2     sub    rsp, 24
3     lea     rdi, [rsp+12]
4     mov    DW PTR [rsp+12], 10
5     call   foo(int&)
6     mov    eax, DW PTR [rsp+12]
7     add    rsp, 24
8     mov    edx, eax
9     imul  edx, eax
10    lea    eax, [rdx+1+rax*2]
```

constness

const aware code - godbolt

```
1 void foo( const int& k );
2 int bar() {
3     const int k = 10;
4     foo(k);
5     return k*k+2*k+1;
6 }
```

We get

```
1 bar():
2     sub  rsp, 24
3     lea   rdi, [rsp+12]
4     mov    DW PTR [rsp+12], 10
5     call  foo(int const&)
6     mov    eax, 121
7     add   rsp, 24
```

Data replication can also help

data replication - godbolt

```
1 void foo( int k );
2 int bar() {
3     int k = 10;
4     foo(k);
5     return k*k+2*k+1;
6 }
```

We get

```
1 bar():
2     sub    rsp, 8
3     mov    edi, 10
4     call   foo(int)
5     mov    eax, 121
6     add    rsp, 8
```

C++ exception support

After a lot of thinking and experiencing, the conclusions of the community on exception handling are :

- Never write an exception specification
- Except possibly an empty one

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one of the reasons : performance

- does not allow compiler optimizations
- on the contrary forces extra checks

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one of the reasons : performance

- does not allow compiler optimizations
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Introducing noexcept

```
1 int f() noexcept;
```

- somehow equivalent to throw()
- meaning no exception can go out of the function
- but is checked at compile time
- thus allowing compiler optimizations

Impact on generated code - exceptions

C++ code - godbolt

```

1  struct MyExcept{};
2  int f(int a); // may throw
3
4  int foo() {
5      try {
6          int a = 23;
7          return f(a) + f(-a);
8      } catch (MyExcept& e) {
9          return 0;
10     }
11 }
```

Generated code

```

1   foo():
2     push    rbx
3     mov     edi, 23
4     call    f(int)
5     mov     edi, -23
6     mov     ebx, eax
7     call    f(int)
8     add    eax, ebx
9
10    .L1:
11    pop    rbx
12    ret
13    mov    rdi, rax
14    mov    rax, rdx
15    jmp    .L2
16    foo() [clone .cold]:
17    .L2:
18    sub    rax, 1
19    jne    .L8
20    call    __cxa_begin_catch
21    call    __cxa_end_catch
22    xor    eax, eax
23    jmp    .L1
24    call    _Unwind_Resume
```

Impact on generated code - noexcept

C++ code - godbolt

```
1 struct MyExcept{};  
2 int f(int a) noexcept;  
3  
4 int foo() {  
5     try {  
6         int a = 23;  
7         return f(a) + f(-a);  
8     } catch (MyExcept& e) {  
9         return 0;  
10    }  
11 }
```

Generated code

```
1 foo():  
2     push    rbx  
3     mov     edi, 23  
4     call    f(int)  
5     mov     edi, -23  
6     mov     ebx, eax  
7     call    f(int)  
8     add    eax, ebx  
9     pop    rbx
```

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Useless copying: the problem

Inefficient code

```
1 void swap(std::vector<int> &a,
2             std::vector<int> &b) {
3     std::vector<int> c = a;
4     a = b;
5     b = c;
6 }
7 std::vector<int> v(10000), w(10000);
8 ...
9 swap(v, w);
```

Useless copying: the problem

Inefficient code

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1 void swap(std::vector<int> &a,
2             std::vector<int> &b) {
3     std::vector<int> c = a;
4     a = b;
5     b = c;
6 }
7 std::vector<int> v(10000), w(10000);
8 ...
9 swap(v, w);
```

What happens during swap

- one allocation and one release for 10k **ints**
- a copy of 30k **ints**

Move semantics

The idea

- a new type of reference : rvalue references
 - used for “moving” objects
 - denoted by &&
- 2 new members in every class, with move semantic :
 - a **move constructor** similar to copy constructor
 - a **move assignment operator** similar to assignment operator (now called **copy assignment operator**)
- used when original object can be reused

Move semantics

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- a new type of reference : rvalue references
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- 2 new members in every class, with move semantic :
 - a move constructor similar to copy constructor
 - a move assignment operator similar to assignment operator (now called copy assignment operator)
- used when original object can be reused

Practically

```
1 T(const T& other); // copy construction
2 T(      T&& other); // move construction
3 T& operator=(const T& other); // copy assignment
4 T& operator=(      T&& other); // move assignment
```

Move semantics

A few important points concerning move semantic

- move assignment operator is allowed to destroy source
 - so do not reuse source afterward
- if not implemented, move falls back to copy version
- move is called by the compiler whenever possible
 - and can be forced via `std::move`

Move semantics

A few important points concerning move semantic

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 - so do not reuse source afterward
- if not implemented, move falls back to copy version
- move is called by the compiler whenever possible
 - and can be forced via `std::move`

Practically

```
1 void swap(T &a, T &b) {  
2     T c = std::move(a);      // move construct  
3     a = std::move(b);      // move assign  
4     b = std::move(c);      // move assign  
5 }
```

No allocation, no release, 3x3 pointers copied

Guaranteed copy elision

What is copy elision

```
1 struct Foo { ... };
2 Foo f() {
3     return Foo();
4 }
5 int main() {
6     // No copy here, compiler must elide the copy
7     Foo foo = f();
8 }
```

From C++17 on

The elision is guaranteed.

- superseeds move semantic in some cases
- so do not hesitate anymore to return plain objects in generators
 - and ban pointers for good

const noexcept copy

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Templates

Concept

- The C++ way to write reusable code
 - aka macros on steroids
- Applicable to functions and objects

```
1 template<typename T>
2 const T & max(const T &A, const T &B) {
3     return A > B ? A : B;
4 }
5
6 template<typename T>
7 struct Vector {
8     int m_len;
9     T* m_data;
10};
```

Templates

Warning

These are really like macros

- they need to be defined before used
 - so all templated code has to be in headers
- they are compiled n times
- and thus each version is optimized individually !

```
1 template<typename T>
2 T func(T a) {
3     return a;
4 }
```

func(3)

```
1 int func(int a) {
2     return a;
3 }
```

func(5.2)

```
1 double func(double a) {
2     return a;
3 }
```

A realistic template usage

Generic printing - godbolt

```
1  template<typename T> struct Print {  
2      Print(T const& obj) {  
3          std::cout << "(" << typeid(T).name()  
4                      << ")" " " << obj << "\n";  
5      }  
6  };  
7  Print{5};                                // (i) 5  
8  Print("a text string");                  // (A14_c) a text string
```

A realistic template usage

Generic printing - godbolt

```
1  template<typename T>
2  concept Container = requires( T v1 ) {
3      begin(v1);
4      end(v1);
5  };
6  template<Container T> struct Printer<T> {
7      Printer(T const& obj) {
8          std::cout << "(" << typeid(T).name() << ") ";
9          for( auto& item: obj ) { std::cout << item << " "; }
10         std::cout << "\n";
11     }
12 };
13 Print(std::vector<int>{1,2,3});
14 // (St6vectorIiSaIiEE) 1 2 3
15 Printer(std::array<double, 3>{2,3,4});
16 // (St5arrayIdLm3EE) 2 3 4
```

Pros and cons of templates

Gains

- more generic code, thus less code
- better compiler optimization
- allows some compile time processing
 - also known as template metaprogramming

The drawbacks

- not so trivial syntax, especially when variadic
- heavy for the compiler if abused
- only usable for what you know at compile time

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Generalized Constant Expressions

Reason of being

- use functions to compute constant expressions at compile time

Generalized Constant Expressions

Reason of being

- use functions to compute constant expressions at compile time

Example

```
1 constexpr int f(int x) {
2     if (x > 1) return x * f(x - 1);
3     return 1;
4 }
5 constexpr int a = f(5); // computed at compile-time
6 int b = f(5); // maybe computed at compile-time
7 int n = ...; // runtime value
8 int c = f(n); // computed at runtime
```

if constexpr

Compile time if statement

- takes a generalized constant expression
- decides which branch to keep at compile time
- drops the other branch

if constexpr

Compile time if statement

- takes a generalized constant expression
- decides which branch to keep at compile time
- drops the other branch

Generic printing - godbolt

```
1  template<typename T> struct Print {  
2      Print(T const& obj) {  
3          std::cout << "(" << typeid(T).name() << ")" ";  
4          if constexpr( Container<T> ) {  
5              for( auto& item: obj ) { std::cout << item << " " ; }  
6          } else {  
7              std::cout << obj;  
8          }  
9          std::cout << "\n";  
10     }  
11 };
```

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Virtuality in a nutshell

Principle

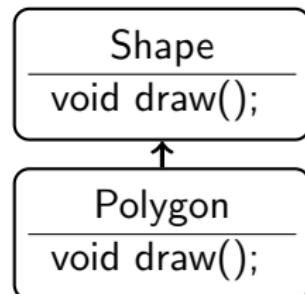
- a base class (aka interface) declares some method virtual
- children can overload these methods (as any other)
- for these method, late binding is applied
- that is most precise type is used

Virtuality in a nutshell

Principle

- a base class (aka interface) declares some method virtual
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- for these method, late binding is applied
- that is most precise type is used

```
1  Polygon p;  
2  p.draw(); // Polygon.draw  
3  
4  Shape & s = p;  
5  s.draw(); // Shape.draw
```

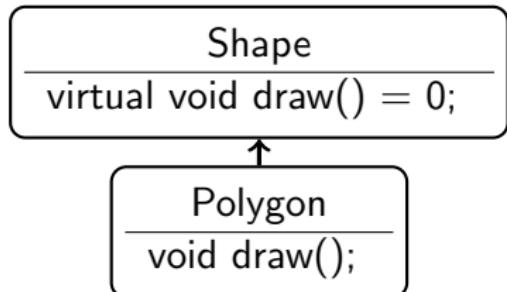


Virtuality in a nutshell

Principle

- a base class (aka interface) declares some method virtual
- children can overload these methods (as any other)
- for these methods, late binding is applied
- that is most precise type is used

```
1  Polygon p;  
2  p.draw(); // Polygon.draw  
3  
4  Shape & s = p;  
5  s.draw(); // Polygon.draw
```



The price of virtuality

Actual implementation

- each object has an extra pointer
- to a “virtual table” object in memory
- where each virtual function points to the right overload

Cost

- extra virtual table in memory, per type
- each virtual call does
 - retrieve virtual table pointer
 - load virtual table into memory
 - lookup right call
 - effectively call
- and is thus much more costful than standard function call
- up to 20% difference in terms of nb of instructions

Actual price of virtuality

Comparison with templates - godbolt / godbolt

```

1  struct Interface {
2      virtual void tick(float n) = 0;
3  };
4  struct Counter : Interface {
5      float sum{0};
6      void tick(float v) override
7          { sum += v; }
8  };
9  void foo(Interface& c) {
10     for (int i = 0; i < 80000; ++i) {
11         for (int j = 0; j < i; ++j) {
12             c.tick(j);
13         }
14     }
15 }
16 int main() {
17     auto obj =
18         std::make_unique<Counter>();
19     foo(*obj);
20 }
```

```

21  struct Counter {
22      float sum{0};
23      void tick(float v) { sum += v; }
24  };
25  template<typename CounterType>
26  void foo(CounterType& c) {
27      for (int i = 0; i < 80000; ++i) {
28          for (int j = 0; j < i; ++j) {
29              c.tick(j);
30          }
31      }
32  }
```

Actual price of virtuality

Comparison with templates - godbolt / godbolt

```

1  struct Interface {
2      virtual void tick(float n) = 0;
3  };
4  struct Counter : Interface {
5      float sum{0};
6      void tick(float v) override
7          { sum += v; }
8  };
9  void foo(Interface& c) {
10     for (int i = 0; i < 80000; ++i) {
11         for (int j = 0; j < i; ++j) {
12             c.tick(j);
13         }
14     }
15 }
16 int main() {
17     auto obj =
18         std::make_unique<Counter>();
19     foo(*obj);
20 }
```

```

21  struct Counter {
22      float sum{0};
23      void tick(float v) { sum += v; }
24  };
25  template<typename CounterType>
26  void foo(CounterType& c) {
27      for (int i = 0; i < 80000; ++i) {
28          for (int j = 0; j < i; ++j) {
29              c.tick(j);
30          }
31      }
32  }
```

Timing	Time(s)	Nb instr(G)
virtual	10.8	35.2
templ	2.97	8.9

● measured on EPYC 7552, with gcc 9.1 and perf

A few explanations

Some consequences of virtuality

- more branching, killing the pipeline
 - here 6.4M vs 0.8M branches !
 - as virtual calls are branches
- lack of inlining possibilities
- lack of optimizations after inlining
 - e.g. auto vectorization

Note that the compiler is trying hard to help

- when it can, when it knows so give it all the knowledge !
- typical on my example

A few explanations

Some consequences of virtuality

- more branching, killing the pipeline
 - here 6.4M vs 0.8M branches !
 - as virtual calls are branches
- lack of inlining possibilities
- lack of optimizations after inlining
 - e.g. auto vectorization

Note that the compiler is trying hard to help

- when it can, when it knows so give it all the knowledge !
- typical on my example
 - declare obj on the stack and the compiler will “drop” virtuality
 - again : drop pointers !
 - gcc 10/12 does much better : 22/16G instructions and 3s

Should I use virtuality ?

Yes, when you cannot know anything at compile time

Typical cases

- you have no knowledge of the implementations of an interface
 - new ones may even be loaded dynamically via shared libraries
- you mix various implementations in a container
 - e.g. `std::vector<MyInterface>`
 - and there is no predefined set of implementations

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Typical cases

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 - e.g. `std::vector<MyInterface>`
 - and there is no predefined set of implementations

Typical alternatives

- templates when everything is compile time
 - allows full optimization of each case
 - and even static polymorphism through CRTP
 - Curiously recurring template pattern
- `std::variant`, `std::any` and visitor
 - when type definitions are known at compile type
 - but not necessary their usage

std::variant, std::any

Purpose

- type safe union and “void*”
- with visitor pattern

std::variant, std::any

Purpose

- type safe union and “void*”
- with visitor pattern

Example code - godbolt

```
1  using Message = std::variant<int, std::string>;
2  Message createMessage(bool error) {
3      if (error) return "Error"; else return 42;
4  }
5  int i = std::get<int>(createMessage(false));
6  struct Visitor {
7      void operator()(int n) const {
8          std::cout << "Int " << n << std::endl;
9      }
10     void operator()(const std::string &s) const {
11         std::cout << "String \" " << s << "\" " << std::endl;
12     }
13 };
14 std::visit(Visitor{}, createMessage(true));
```

std::variant, std::any

Or you use lambdas and their inheritance - godbolt

```
1 template <class ... P> struct Combine : P... {
2     using P::operator()...;
3 };
4 template <class ... F> Combine<F...> combine(F... fs) {
5     return { fs ... };
6 }
7 using Message = std::variant<int, std::string>;
8 Message createMessage(bool error) {
9     if (error) return "Error"; else return 42;
10 }
11 auto f = combine(
12     [](int n) { std::cout << "Int " << n << std::endl; },
13     [](string const &s) {
14         std::cout << "String \" " << s << "\" " << std::endl;
15     });
16 std::visit(f, createMessage(true));
```

A Visitor example

Virtual vs variant - godbolt

```

1  struct Point { virtual float getR() = 0; };
2  struct XYZPoint : Point {
3      float x, y, z;
4      float getR() override { return std::sqrt(x*x+y*y+z*z); } };
5  struct RTPPoint : Point {
6      float r, theta, phi;
7      float getR() override { return r; } };
8  float sumR(std::vector<std::unique_ptr<Point>>& v) {
9      return std::accumulate(begin(v), end(v), 0.0f,
10     [&](float s, std::unique_ptr<Point>& p) { return s + p->getR(); });
11 }
12
13 struct XYZPoint { float x,y,z; }; struct RTPPoint { float r, theta, phi; };
14 using Point=std::variant<XYZPoint, RTPPoint>;
15 float sumR(std::vector<Point>& v) {
16     auto getR = combine(
17     [] (XYZPoint& p) { return std::sqrt(p.x*p.x+p.y*p.y+p.z*p.z); },
18     [] (RTPPoint& p) { return p.r; });
19     return std::accumulate(begin(v), end(v), 0.0f,
20     [&](float s, Point& p) { return s + std::visit(getR, p); });
21 }
```

A Visitor example

Virtual vs variant - godbolt

```

1  struct Point { virtual float getR() = 0; };
2  struct XYZPoint : Point {
3      float x, y, z;
4      float getR() override { return x*x+y*y+z*z; } };
5  struct RTPPoint : Point {
6      float r, theta, phi;
7      float getR() override { return r*r*cos(phi)*cos(theta); } };
8  float sumR(std::vector<std::unique_ptr<Point>>& v) {
9      return std::accumulate(begin(v), end(v), 0.0f,
10     [&](float s, std::unique_ptr<Point>& p) { return s + p->getR(); } );
11 }
12
13 struct XYZPoint { float x,y,z; }; struct RTPPoint { float r, theta, phi; };
14 using Point=std::variant<XYZPoint, RTPPoint>;
15 float sumR(std::vector<Point>& v) {
16     auto getR = combine(
17         [] (XYZPoint& p) { return std::sqrt(p.x*p.x+p.y*p.y+p.z*p.z); },
18         [] (RTPPoint& p) { return p.r*p.r; } );
19     return std::accumulate(begin(v), end(v), 0.0f,
20     [&](float s, Point& p) { return s + std::visit(getR, p); } );
21 }
```

took 3500µs

took 2050µs

Conclusion

Key messages of the day

- functional programming is useful
 - can simplify the code
 - ensures thread safety
 - helps the compiler to optimize better
- the key to performance is the compiler
 - help it by providing information
 - constness, noexcept, fixed lengths, ...
- a lot can be done at compile time
 - find out what you know at compile time
 - make best use of it (templates, variants, ...)

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