

# When order does not matter

a different approach to C++ functions' arguments passing

Bartek 'BaSz' Szurgot



<http://www.baszerr.eu>

2015-06-17

# Part 1

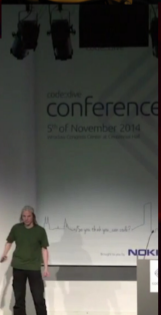
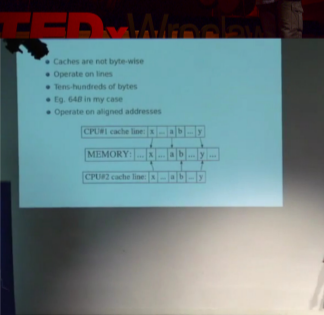
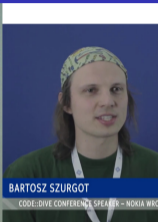
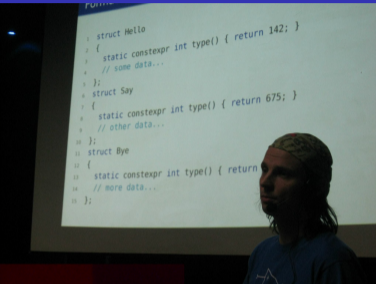
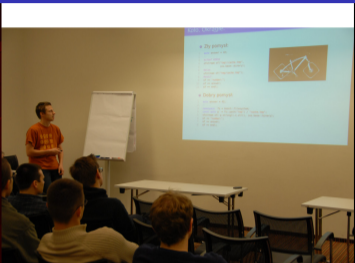
- 1 About me
- 2 The problem
- 3 Means of solving
- 4 Arguments passing
- 5 Sanity checks
- 6 Measurements
- 7 Possible extensions
- 8 Conclusion

# Code for food





# Occasional speaker



KnowCamp to bezpłatne spotkania programistów i fanów nowych technologii odbywające się w luźnej atmosferze popołudniowego relaksu

# Weekend blogger



<http://www.baszerr.eu/doku.php/blog/blog>

## Part 2

- 1 About me
- 2 The problem**
- 3 Means of solving
- 4 Arguments passing
- 5 Sanity checks
- 6 Measurements
- 7 Possible extensions
- 8 Conclusion

# Background

- Beginning of 2014
- Happy programming
- First assignment
- Mission – framework:
  - Messaging (production)
  - Mocking (testing)
- Focus – **testing**
- Unordered arguments. . .





# Regular function call

```
1 void someFunc(Type1, Type2, Type3);
2 // ...
3 const Type1 t1;
4 const Type2 t2;
5 const Type3 t3;
6 // ...
7 someFunc(t1, t2, t3);      // ok!
8 //someFunc(t2, t3, t1);   // oops...
```

- Argument order does matter
- Wrong order == compilation failure

# Good or bad?

- Pros

- Types can repeat
- Strong typing
- Type safety
- Early errors detections
  - Earlier == better
  - Earlier == cheaper
  - Compare – scripting languages. . . ;)



# Good or bad?

- Pros
  - Types can repeat
  - Strong typing
  - Type safety
  - Early errors detections
    - Earlier == better
    - Earlier == cheaper
    - Compare – scripting languages. . . ;)
- Yes, but. . . (aka: cons)
  - Need to remember **The Order**™
  - Also for unique types
  - Defaults in the middle?



## Conclusion

- Generally good

# Conclusion

- Generally good
- Unless not



# Conclusion

- Generally good
- Unless not
- What to do?



# Right tool for the job!



<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/84/Claw-hammer.jpg>

## Real-life example

- New messaging framework
- Simple API:

```
1 struct MyHandler // ...
2 {
3     // ...
4     void handle(Context const& ctx, MessageOne const& msg)
5     {
6         // .. user's code ...
7     }
8 };
```



## Real-life example

- New messaging framework
- Simple API:

```
1 struct MyHandler // ...
2 {
3     // ...
4     void handle(Context const& ctx, MessageOne const& msg)
5     {
6         // .. user's code ...
7     }
8 };
```

- Need testing framework
- Usable mocks wanted!

## Context-ual problem...

```
1 struct Context
2 {
3     Clock::time_point timestamp_;
4     MessageId          id_;
5     ReplyToId          replyToId_;
6     Sender             sender_;
7     Receiver           receiver_;
8 };
```

## Context-ual problem...

```
1 struct Context
2 {
3     Clock::time_point timestamp_;
4     MessageId          id_;
5     ReplyToId          replyToId_;
6     Sender             sender_;
7     Receiver           receiver_;
8 };
```

- Many fields
  - Generated...
  - Unpredictable...
  - Uninteresting...
- Often used in tests

## Context-ual problem...

```
1 struct Context
2 {
3     Clock::time_point timestamp_;
4     MessageId          id_;
5     ReplyToId          replyToId_;
6     Sender             sender_;
7     Receiver           receiver_;
8 };
```

- Tricky part!
- EXPECT\_CALL on that?!

- Many fields
  - Generated...
  - Unpredictable...
  - Uninteresting...
- Often used in tests

# Ideal solution

```
1 struct HandlerMock
2 {
3     MOCK_METHOD2(handle, void(Context const&, MessageOne const&));
4     // ...
5 };
6 // ...
7 HandlerMock mock;
8
9 EXPECT_CALL( mock, handle(
10     makeContext( Sender{/*...*/}, Receiver{/*...*/} /* ignore rest */ ),
11     MessageOne{/*...*/} ) );
```

# Ideal solution

```
1 struct HandlerMock
2 {
3     MOCK_METHOD2(handle, void(Context const&, MessageOne const&));
4     // ...
5 };
6 // ...
7 HandlerMock mock;
8
9 EXPECT_CALL( mock, handle(
10     makeContext( Sender{/*...*/}, Receiver{/*...*/} /* ignore rest */ ),
11     MessageOne{/*...*/} ) );
```

# Ideal solution

```
1 struct HandlerMock
2 {
3     MOCK_METHOD2(handle, void(Context const&, MessageOne const&));
4     // ...
5 };
6 // ...
7 HandlerMock mock;
8
9 EXPECT_CALL( mock, handle(
10     makeContext( Sender{ /*...*/ }, Receiver{ /*...*/ } /* ignore rest */ ),
11     MessageOne{ /*...*/ } ) );
```

- `makeContext()` problems:
  - Arity –  $O(N)$  options
  - Different order –  $O(N!)$  overloads each
- $O(N!)$ ? Nah...

# Part 3

- 1 About me
- 2 The problem
- 3 Means of solving**
- 4 Arguments passing
- 5 Sanity checks
- 6 Measurements
- 7 Possible extensions
- 8 Conclusion



About me  
oooo

The problem  
oooooooo

Means of solving  
●oooooo

Arguments passing  
oooooooooooo

Sanity checks  
oooooooooooooooooooo

Measurements  
oooooooooooooooooooo

Possible extensions  
oooooooo

Conclusion  
oo

# C++ programmer's best f(r)iend

## C++ programmer's best f(r)iend

# template<>

## Repeating without a loop

```
1  template<int on, int times>
2  struct repeat
3  {
4      template<typename F>
5      static void call(F f)
6      { f(); repeat<on+1, times>::call(f); }
7  };
8
9  template<int end>
10 struct repeat<end,end>
11 {
12     template<typename F>
13     static void call(F) { }
14 };
```

# Work saver!

```
1  #include "repeat.hpp"
2
3  void punishment()
4  {
5      cout << "i_will_not_be_lazy" << endl;
6  }
7
8  int main()
9  {
10     repeat<0,300>::call(punishment);
11 }
```



# Or whimsy...

```

deduced from /usr/include/c++/4.9/bits/stl_algobase.h:71:0,
from /usr/include/c++/4.9/bits/char_traits.h:39,
from /usr/include/c++/4.9/string:40,
from my_template.hpp:1:
/c++/4.9/bits/predefined_ops.h: In instantiation of 'bool __gnu_cxx::__ops::Iter_comp_iter<Compare>::operator()(Iterator1, Iterator2) [with Iterator1 = __gnu_cxx::__normal_iterator<std::basic_string<char>*, std::vector<std::basic_string<char> > >; Iterator2 = __gnu_cxx::__normal_iterator<std::basic_string<char>*, std::vector<std::basic_string<char> > >; Compare = Compare<const char*>]':
/c++/4.9/bits/stl_algo.h:1846:27: required from 'void std::insertion_sort(RandomAccessIterator, RandomAccessIterator, Compare) [with RandomAccessIterator = __gnu_cxx::__normal_iterator<std::basic_string<char>*, std::vector<std::basic_string<char> > >; Compare = __gnu_cxx::__ops::Iter_comp_iter<Compare<const char*> >]':
/c++/4.9/bits/stl_algo.h:1884:70: required from 'void std::final_insertion_sort(RandomAccessIterator, RandomAccessIterator, Compare) [with RandomAccessIterator = __gnu_cxx::__normal_iterator<std::basic_string<char>*, std::vector<std::basic_string<char> > >; Compare = __gnu_cxx::__ops::Iter_comp_iter<Compare<const char*> >]':
/c++/4.9/bits/stl_algo.h:1970:55: required from 'void std::sort(RandomAccessIterator, RandomAccessIterator, Compare) [with RandomAccessIterator = __gnu_cxx::__normal_iterator<std::basic_string<char>*, std::vector<std::basic_string<char> > >; Compare = __gnu_cxx::__ops::Iter_comp_iter<Compare<const char*> >]':
/c++/4.9/bits/stl_algo.h:4716:78: required from 'void std::sort(RAIter, RAIter, Compare) [with RAIter = __gnu_cxx::__normal_iterator<std::basic_string<char>*, std::vector<std::basic_string<char> > >; Compare = Compare<const char*>]':
hpp:15:70: required from 'U convert(const T&) [with U = std::vector<std::basic_string<char> >; T = std::vector<const char*>]':
hpp:20:48: required from here
/c++/4.9/bits/predefined_ops.h:121:46: error: no match for call to '(Compare<const char*>)(std::basic_string<char>&, std::basic_string<char>&)'
return bool(M_comp(*_it1, *_it2));
^
hpp:6:8: note: candidate is:
are
hpp:8:8: note: bool Compare<T>::operator()(const T&, const T&) [with T = const char*]
operator()(T const& lhs, T const& rhs)
hpp:8:8: note: no known conversion for argument 1 from 'std::basic_string<char>' to 'const char* const&'
deduced from /usr/include/c++/4.9/bits/stl_algobase.h:71:0,
from /usr/include/c++/4.9/bits/char_traits.h:39,
from /usr/include/c++/4.9/string:40,
from my_template.hpp:1:
/c++/4.9/bits/predefined_ops.h: In instantiation of 'bool __gnu_cxx::__ops::Val_comp_iter<Compare>::operator()(Value&, Iterator) [with Value = std::basic_string<char>; Iterator = __gnu_cxx::__normal_iterator<std::basic_string<char>*, std::vector<std::basic_string<char> > >; Compare = Compare<const char*>]':
/c++/4.9/bits/stl_algo.h:1827:34: required from 'void std::unguarded_linear_insert(RandomAccessIterator, Compare) [with RandomAccessIterator = __gnu_cxx::__normal_iterator<std::basic_string<char>*, std::vector<std::basic_string<char> > >; Compare = __gnu_cxx::__ops::Val_comp_iter<Compare<const char*> >]':
/c++/4.9/bits/stl_algo.h:1855:46: required from 'void std::insertion_sort(RandomAccessIterator, RandomAccessIterator, Compare) [with RandomAccessIterator = __gnu_cxx::__normal_iterator<std::basic_string<char>*, std::vector<std::basic_string<char> > >; Compare = __gnu_cxx::__ops::Iter_comp_iter<Compare<const char*> >]':
/c++/4.9/bits/stl_algo.h:1884:70: required from 'void std::final_insertion_sort(RandomAccessIterator, RandomAccessIterator, Compare) [with RandomAccessIterator = __gnu_cxx::__normal_iterator<std::basic_string<char>*, std::vector<std::basic_string<char> > >; Compare = __gnu_cxx::__ops::Iter_comp_iter<Compare<const char*> >]':
/c++/4.9/bits/stl_algo.h:1970:55: required from 'void std::sort(RandomAccessIterator, RandomAccessIterator, Compare) [with RandomAccessIterator = __gnu_cxx::__normal_iterator<std::basic_string<char>*, std::vector<std::basic_string<char> > >; Compare = __gnu_cxx::__ops::Iter_comp_iter<Compare<const char*> >]':
/c++/4.9/bits/stl_algo.h:4716:78: required from 'void std::sort(RAIter, RAIter, Compare) [with RAIter = __gnu_cxx::__normal_iterator<std::basic_string<char>*, std::vector<std::basic_string<char> > >; Compare = Compare<const char*>]':
hpp:15:70: required from 'U convert(const T&) [with U = std::vector<std::basic_string<char> >; T = std::vector<const char*>]':
hpp:20:48: required from here
/c++/4.9/bits/predefined_ops.h:166:37: error: no match for call to '(Compare<const char*>)(std::basic_string<char>&, std::basic_string<char>&)'
bool(M_comp(_val, *_it));
^
hpp:6:8: note: candidate is:
are
hpp:8:8: note: bool Compare<T>::operator()(const T&, const T&) [with T = const char*]
operator()(T const& lhs, T const& rhs)
hpp:8:8: note: no known conversion for argument 1 from 'std::basic_string<char>' to 'const char* const&'
deduced from /usr/include/c++/4.9/bits/stl_algobase.h:71:0,
from /usr/include/c++/4.9/bits/char_traits.h:39,
from /usr/include/c++/4.9/string:40,

```

## By the end of the day...

- Templates are good
  - Powerful tool
  - Metaprogramming-enablers

## By the end of the day...

- Templates are good
  - Powerful tool
  - Metaprogramming-enablers
- Language within the language
  - Add new possibilities
  - Extend at will!



## By the end of the day...

- Templates are good
  - Powerful tool
  - Metaprogramming-enablers
- Language within the language
  - Add new possibilities
  - Extend at will!
- Use with care
  - Great for backend
  - VooDoo for experts
  - Avoid user-contact



# Some theory

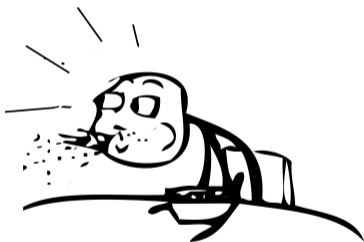
## Theorem 1

Any, arbitrary complex problem can be solved using finite number of templates.

# Some theory

## Theorem 1

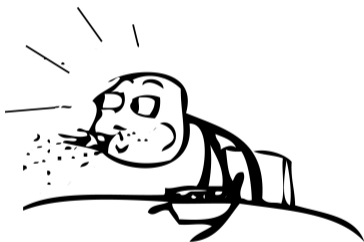
Any, arbitrary complex problem can be solved using finite number of templates.



## Some theory

### Theorem 1

Any, arbitrary complex problem can be solved using finite number of templates.



### Theorem 2

Computers with sufficient amount of random access memory and fast enough processors do not exist yet.

# Part 4

- 1 About me
- 2 The problem
- 3 Means of solving
- 4 Arguments passing**
- 5 Sanity checks
- 6 Measurements
- 7 Possible extensions
- 8 Conclusion

# MPL warning

**Don't look! Dis da scary part.**



# Bring it on!



## Context (reminder)

```
1 struct Context
2 {
3     Clock::time_point timestamp_;
4     MessageId          id_;
5     ReplyToId         replyToId_;
6     Sender            sender_;
7     Receiver          receiver_;
8 };
```

- Simple structure
- Brace-initializable
- All types unique



## Context (reminder)

```
1 struct Context
2 {
3     Clock::time_point timestamp_;
4     MessageId          id_;
5     ReplyToId          replyToId_;
6     Sender             sender_;
7     Receiver           receiver_;
8 };
```

- Simple structure
- Brace-initializable
- All types unique
- How to fill it up?
- Cannot create directly...

## Context (reminder)

```
1 struct Context
2 {
3     Clock::time_point timestamp_;
4     MessageId          id_;
5     ReplyToId          replyToId_;
6     Sender             sender_;
7     Receiver           receiver_;
8 };
```

- Simple structure
- Brace-initializable
- All types unique
- How to fill it up?
- Cannot create directly...
- Layer of indirection
- Use a helper function
- ...

# Helper function

```
1 #include "Context.hpp"
2
3 template<typename ...Args>
4 Context makeContext(Args&&... args)
5 {
6     return Context{
7         // extract & assign filed 1
8         // extract & assign filed 2
9         // ...
10        // extract & assign filed N
11    };
12 }
```

# Function's implementation

```
1 #include "Context.hpp"
2 #include "extract.hpp"
3
4 template<typename ...Args>
5 Context makeContext(Args&&... args)
6 {
7     return {
8         extract<Clock::time_point>::from( std::forward<Args>(args)... ),
9         extract<MessageId>::from( std::forward<Args>(args)... ),
10        extract<ReplyToId>::from( std::forward<Args>(args)... ),
11        extract<Sender>::from( std::forward<Args>(args)... ),
12        extract<Receiver>::from( std::forward<Args>(args)... )
13    };
14 }
```

# Looks like fun?



<http://www.chud.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/critters20.png>

# Argument extraction - interface

```
1  template<typename T>
2  struct extract
3  {
4      static T from();
5
6      template<typename Head, typename ...Tail>
7      static T from(Head&& h, Tail&&... t);
8
9  private:
10     template<typename Head, typename ...Tail>
11     static T fromImpl(std::true_type, Head&& h, Tail&&...);
12
13     template<typename Head, typename ...Tail>
14     static T fromImpl(std::false_type, Head&&, Tail&&... t);
15 };
```

# Argument extraction - interface

```
1  template<typename T>
2  struct extract
3  {
4      static T from();
5
6      template<typename Head, typename ...Tail>
7      static T from(Head&& h, Tail&&... t);
8
9  private:
10     template<typename Head, typename ...Tail>
11     static T fromImpl(std::true_type, Head&& h, Tail&&...);
12
13     template<typename Head, typename ...Tail>
14     static T fromImpl(std::false_type, Head&&, Tail&&... t);
15 };
```





# Argument extraction - internals

```
1  template<typename T>
2  struct extract
3  {
4      static T from();
5
6      template<typename Head, typename ...Tail>
7      static T from(Head&& h, Tail&&... t);
8
9  private:
10     template<typename Head, typename ...Tail>
11     static T fromImpl(std::true_type, Head&& h, Tail&&...);
12
13     template<typename Head, typename ...Tail>
14     static T fromImpl(std::false_type, Head&&, Tail&&... t);
15 };
```

# Argument extraction - internals

```
1  template<typename T>
2  struct extract
3  {
4      static T from();
5
6      template<typename Head, typename ...Tail>
7      static T from(Head&& h, Tail&&... t);
8
9  private:
10     template<typename Head, typename ...Tail>
11     static T fromImpl(std::true_type, Head&& h, Tail&&...);
12
13     template<typename Head, typename ...Tail>
14     static T fromImpl(std::false_type, Head&&, Tail&&... t);
15 };
```

# Internal details

```
1  template<typename T>
2  template<typename Head, typename ...Tail>
3  T extract<T>::fromImpl(std::true_type, Head&& h, Tail&&...)
4  {
5      return std::forward<Head>(h);
6  }
7
8  template<typename T>
9  template<typename Head, typename ...Tail>
10 T extract<T>::fromImpl(std::false_type, Head&&, Tail&&... t)
11 {
12     return from( std::forward<Tail>(t)... );
13 }
```

# We've made it!



[http://img.mota.ru/upload/wallpapers/2009/07/18/11/03/19788/warhammer\\_40000\\_-\\_gid\\_001-1152x864.jpg](http://img.mota.ru/upload/wallpapers/2009/07/18/11/03/19788/warhammer_40000_-_gid_001-1152x864.jpg)

# Part 5

- 1 About me
- 2 The problem
- 3 Means of solving
- 4 Arguments passing
- 5 Sanity checks**
- 6 Measurements
- 7 Possible extensions
- 8 Conclusion

# All carefully planned...



# User strikes back

- *Now what it i just...*

```
1 std::string sender{"Mr._Evil"};  
2 // ...  
3 auto ctx = makeContext( sender, // unsupported type  
4 Receiver{/*...*/},  
5 ReplyToId{/*...*/} );
```



# User strikes back

- *Now what it i just...*

```
1 std::string sender{"Mr._Evil"};  
2 // ...  
3 auto ctx = makeContext( sender, // unsupported type  
4 Receiver{ /*...*/ },  
5 ReplyToId{ /*...*/ } );
```

- Type-typo
- Compiles fine
- Unused at runtime
- Confusing...





## Step 1: all types are valid?

```
1 #include "ValidType.hpp"
2
3 template<typename ...Args>
4 struct CheckAllValid
5 {
6     static constexpr bool value = true;
7 };
8
9 template<typename Head, typename ...Tail>
10 struct CheckAllValid<Head, Tail...>
11 {
12     using H = typename std::decay<Head>::type;
13     static constexpr bool value = ValidType<H>::value &&
14                                     CheckAllValid<Tail...>::value;
15 };
```

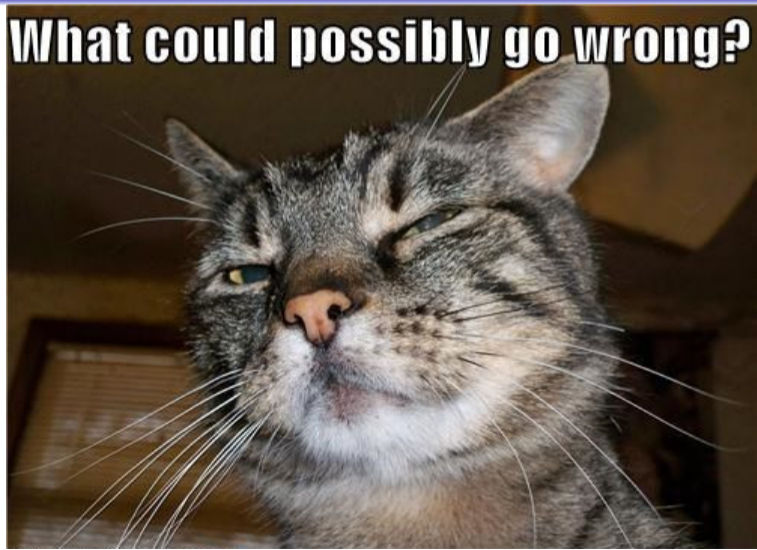
## Step 2: given type is valid?

```
1  template<typename T>
2  struct ValidType: std::false_type { };
3
4  template<>
5  struct ValidType<Clock::time_point>: std::true_type { };
6
7  template<>
8  struct ValidType<MessageId>: std::true_type { };
9
10 template<>
11 struct ValidType<ReplyToId>: std::true_type { };
12
13 template<>
14 struct ValidType<Sender>: std::true_type { };
15
16 template<>
17 struct ValidType<Receiver>: std::true_type { };
```

## Step 3: glue it up!

```
1 #include "Context.hpp"
2 #include "extract.hpp"
3 #include "CheckAllValid.hpp"
4
5 template<typename ...Args>
6 Context makeContext(Args&&... args)
7 {
8     static_assert( CheckAllValid<Args...>::value, "unknown_type_detected");
9     return {
10         extract<Clock::time_point>::from( std::forward<Args>(args)... ),
11         extract<MessageId>::from( std::forward<Args>(args)... ),
12         extract<ReplyToId>::from( std::forward<Args>(args)... ),
13         extract<Sender>::from( std::forward<Args>(args)... ),
14         extract<Receiver>::from( std::forward<Args>(args)... )
15     };
16 }
```

# Are we done here?



# Not quite there yet



# Return of the user

- *Now what it i just...*

```
1 auto ctx = makeContext( Sender{ /*...*/ },  
2                           Sender{ /*...*/ }, // Receiver{} ?  
3                           ReplyToId{ /*...*/ } );
```



## Return of the user

- *Now what it i just...*

```
1 auto ctx = makeContext( Sender{ /*...*/ },  
2                           Sender{ /*...*/ }, // Receiver{} ?  
3                           ReplyToId{ /*...*/ } );
```

- More typos?
- Which value to take?
- Second value ignored
- Yet it compiles
- Confusing...



# Uniqueness checking concept

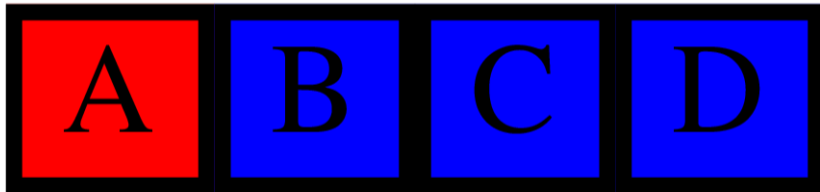




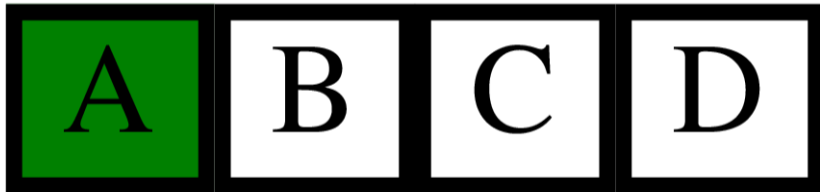
# Uniqueness checking concept



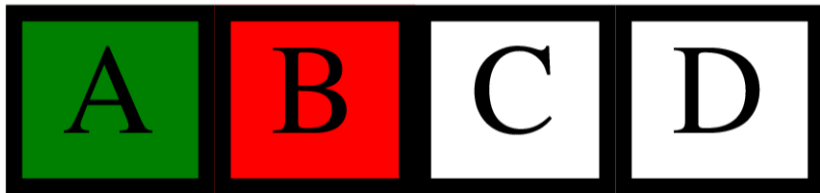
# Uniqueness checking concept



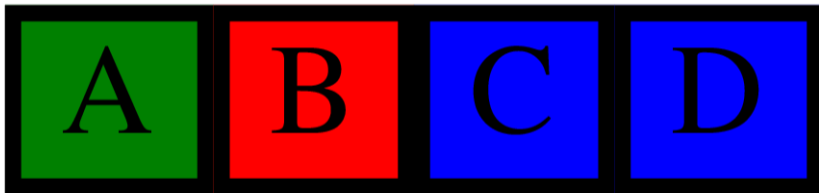
# Uniqueness checking concept



# Uniqueness checking concept



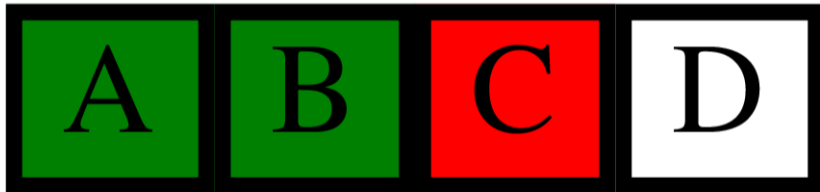
# Uniqueness checking concept



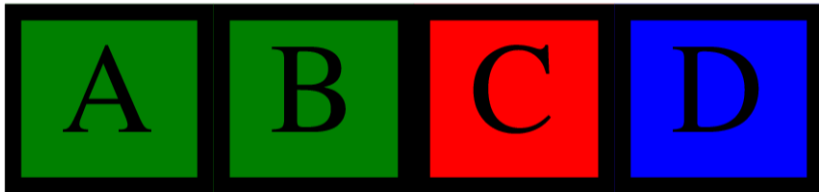
# Uniqueness checking concept



# Uniqueness checking concept



# Uniqueness checking concept





# Uniqueness checking concept



# Uniqueness checking concept



# Uniqueness checking concept





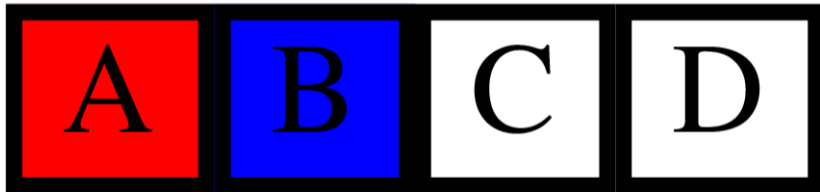
# "Has<>" algorithm



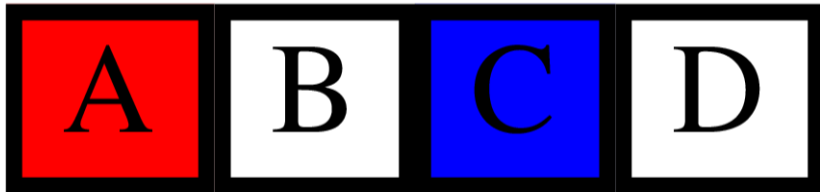
# "Has<>" algorithm



# "Has<>" algorithm

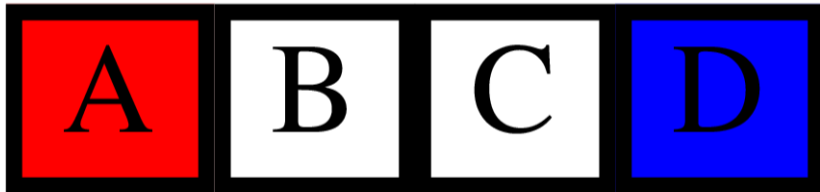


# "Has<>" algorithm

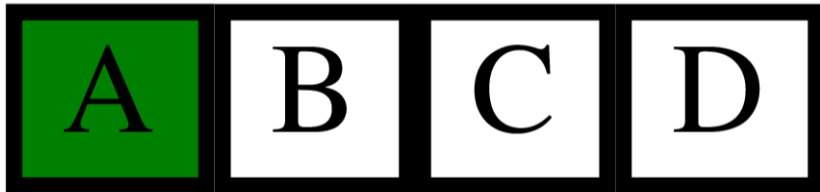




# "Has<>" algorithm



# "Has<>" algorithm



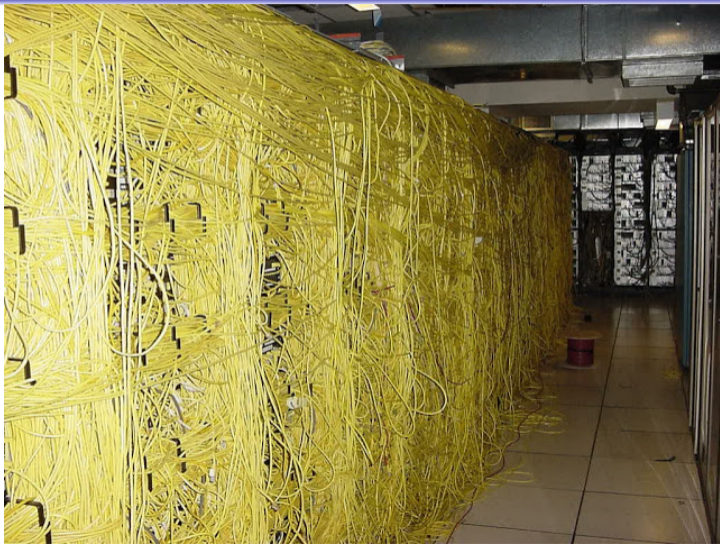
## Step 2: given type is (not) unique?

```
1  #include <type_traits>
2
3  template<typename ...Args>
4  struct Has
5  {
6      static constexpr bool value = false;
7  };
8
9  template<typename T, typename Head, typename ...Tail>
10 struct Has<T, Head, Tail...>
11 {
12     using DT = typename std::decay<T>::type;
13     using DH = typename std::decay<Head>::type;
14     static constexpr bool same = std::is_same<DT,DH>::value;
15     static constexpr bool value = same || Has<T, Tail...>::value;
16 };
```

## Step 3: glue it up!

```
1 #include "Context.hpp"
2 #include "extract.hpp"
3 #include "CheckAllValid.hpp"
4 #include "Unique.hpp"
5
6 template<typename ...Args>
7 Context makeContext(Args&&... args)
8 {
9     static_assert( CheckAllValid<Args...>::value, "unknown_type_detected");
10    static_assert( Unique<Args...>::value, "non-unique_type_detected");
11    return {
12        extract<Clock::time_point>::from( std::forward<Args>(args)... ),
13        extract<MessageId>::from( std::forward<Args>(args)... ),
14        extract<ReplyToId>::from( std::forward<Args>(args)... ),
15        extract<Sender>::from( std::forward<Args>(args)... ),
16        extract<Receiver>::from( std::forward<Args>(args)... )
17    };
18 }
```

# Everything in place



[http://lh3.ggpht.com/abramsv/R-8V6vXRjSI/AAAAAAAAANC4/RLBSbFxaGiA/s640/2036057464\\_0cc80962b6\\_o.jpg](http://lh3.ggpht.com/abramsv/R-8V6vXRjSI/AAAAAAAAANC4/RLBSbFxaGiA/s640/2036057464_0cc80962b6_o.jpg)

# Part 6

- 1 About me
- 2 The problem
- 3 Means of solving
- 4 Arguments passing
- 5 Sanity checks
- 6 Measurements**
- 7 Possible extensions
- 8 Conclusion

## Tested application ('no-order')

```
1  template<typename ...Args>
2  Context makeContext(Args&&... args);
3
4  void sink(Context const&); // does nothing
5
6  int main()
7  {
8      for(auto i=0; i<10*1000*1000; ++i)
9      {
10         const auto ctx = makeContext(/*arg 1, arg 2, ..., arg N*/);
11         sink(ctx);           // disable optimizing ctx away
12     }
13 }
```

## Reference application ('regular')

```
1 // makeContext() declared in the same translation unit
2 Context makeContext(/*arg 1, arg 2, ..., arg N*/);
3
4 void sink(Context const&); // does nothing
5
6 int main()
7 {
8     for(auto i=0; i<10*1000*1000; ++i)
9     {
10         const auto ctx = makeContext(/*arg 1, arg 2, ..., arg N*/);
11         sink(ctx);           // disable optimizing ctx away
12     }
13 }
```



# Test conditions

- Compilers:
  - GCC-5.1 with libstdc++
  - Clang-3.6 with libc++

# Test conditions

- Compilers:
  - GCC-5.1 with libstdc++
  - Clang-3.6 with libc++
- Type:
  - Speed: -O3
  - Size: -Os

# Test conditions

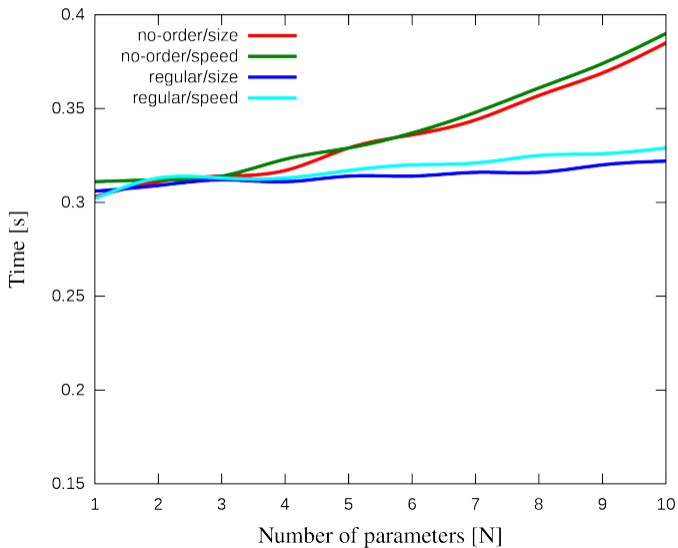
- Compilers:
  - GCC-5.1 with libstdc++
  - Clang-3.6 with libc++
- Type:
  - Speed: -O3
  - Size: -Os
- Common flags: -DNDEBUG -s -march=native
- No LTO (note: sink() function)
- Measurements averaged from 10 runs

# Compilation time

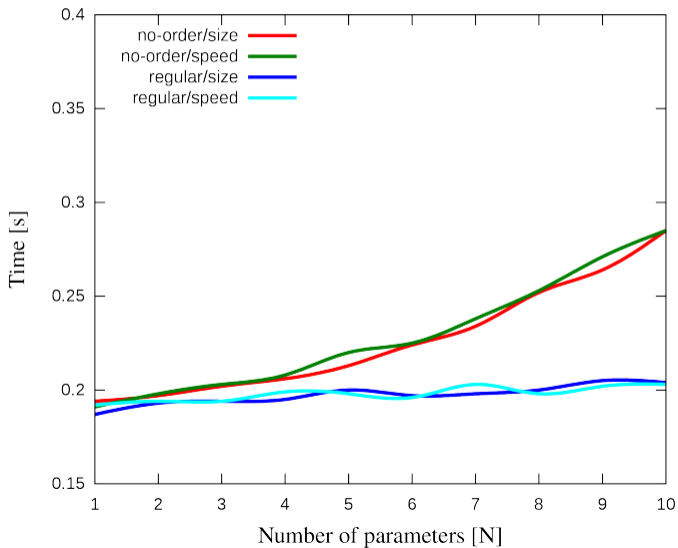


[http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-7lT5HlRH92M/UMNo01\\_UifI/AAAAAAAAA14/fiU7UGltqr8/s1600/Black\\_Hole.jpg](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-7lT5HlRH92M/UMNo01_UifI/AAAAAAAAA14/fiU7UGltqr8/s1600/Black_Hole.jpg)

# Compilation time - GCC



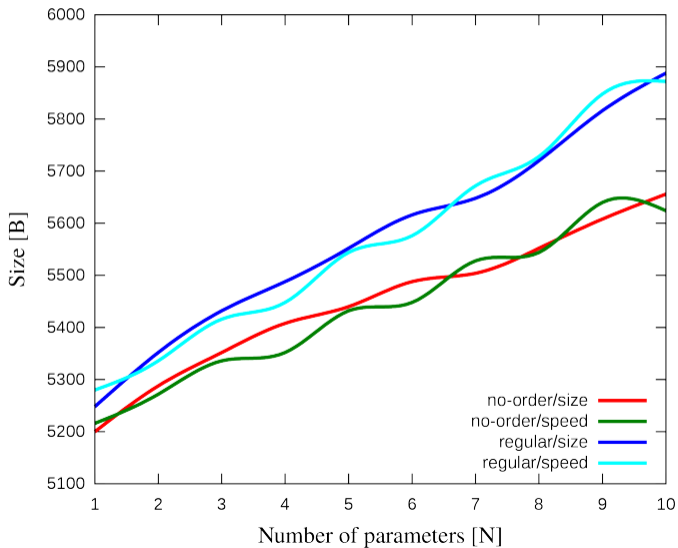
# Compilation time - Clang



# Binary size

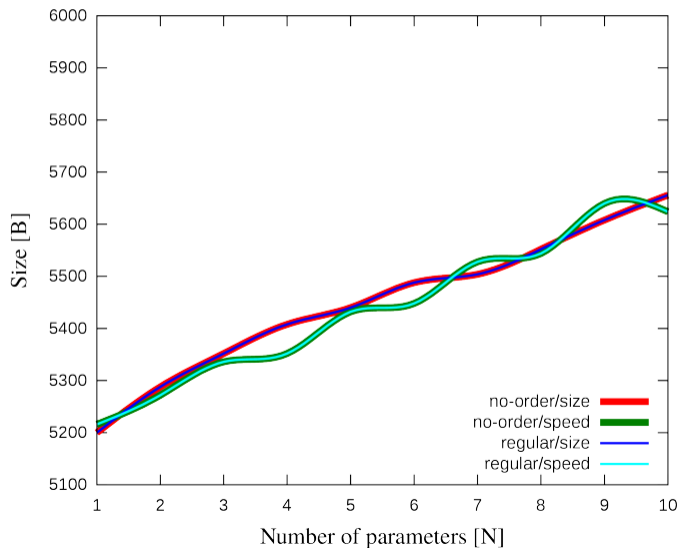


# Binary size - GCC

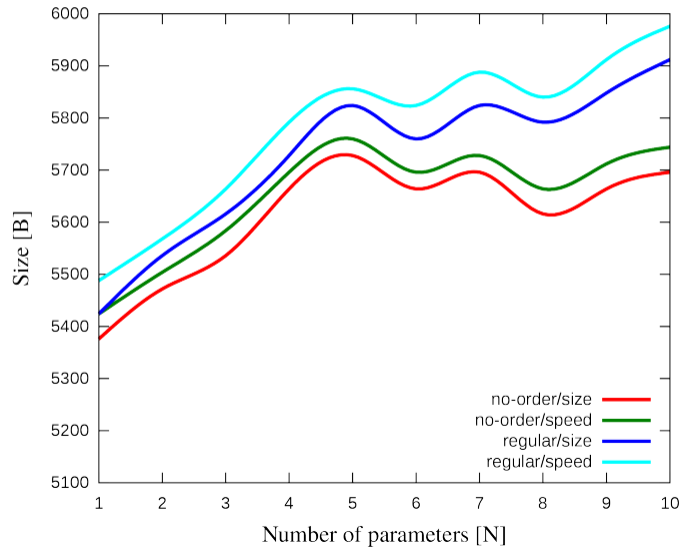




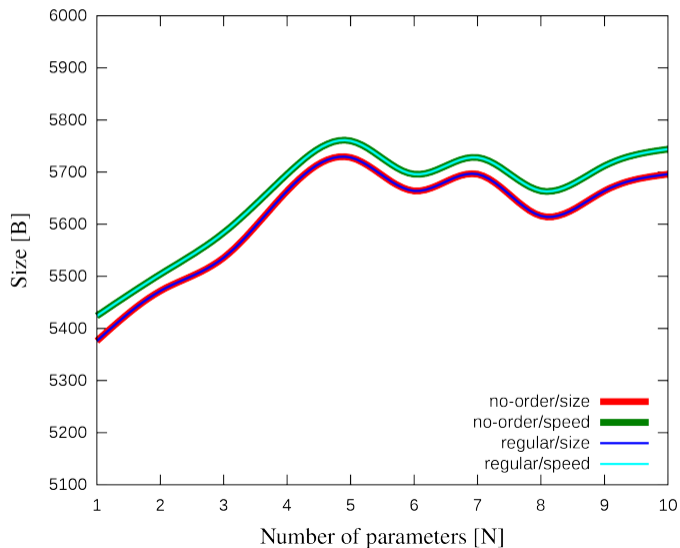
# Binary size (inline version) - GCC



# Binary size - Clang



# Binary size (inline version) - Clang

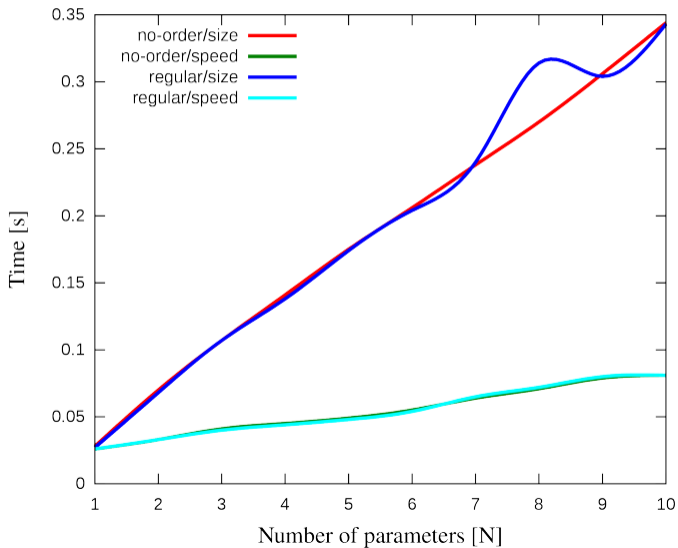


# Run time

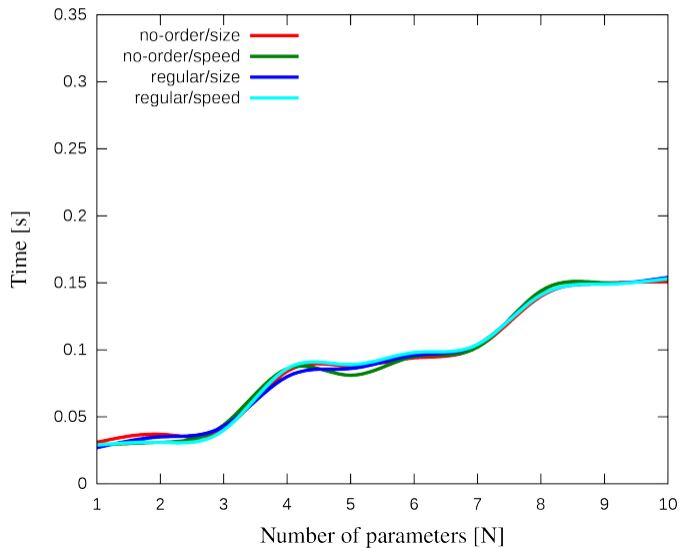


[http://pic5.nipic.com/20100114/3507523\\_174247075692\\_2.jpg](http://pic5.nipic.com/20100114/3507523_174247075692_2.jpg)

# Run time - GCC



# Run time - Clang



# Part 7

- 1 About me
- 2 The problem
- 3 Means of solving
- 4 Arguments passing
- 5 Sanity checks
- 6 Measurements
- 7 Possible extensions**
- 8 Conclusion

# Basic version ready...



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/45/1973\\_Fiat\\_126\\_IMG\\_7855.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/45/1973_Fiat_126_IMG_7855.jpg)



...let's do some upgrading!



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/61/Cuba%2C\\_Havana%2C\\_FIAT\\_126p\\_Polski.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/61/Cuba%2C_Havana%2C_FIAT_126p_Polski.jpg)

# Optional fields

- Current solution:  
require default c-tors!
  - Extra overhead
  - Often limiting
  - Looks bad...
- What if...

# Optional fields

- Current solution:  
require default c-tors!
  - Extra overhead
  - Often limiting
  - Looks bad...
- What if...

- Solution: `boost::optional<>`
  - Setting only used fields
  - Default-constructable
  - Explicit intention (unset vs. default)
  - Nicely printable (*any*)
- Changed Context

# Optional fields

- Current solution:  
require default c-tors!
  - Extra overhead
  - Often limiting
  - Looks bad...
- What if...

```
1 struct ContextMkII
2 {
3     boost::optional<Type1> t1_;
4     boost::optional<Type2> t2_;
5     // ...
6 };
```

- Solution: `boost::optional<>`
  - Setting only used fields
  - Default-constructable
  - Explicit intention (unset vs. default)
  - Nicely printable (*any*)
- Changed Context

# Custom return type

- Current solution:  
return Context
  - Must obey Context's rules
  - All fields always set
- What if...

# Custom return type

- Current solution:  
return Context
  - Must obey Context's rules
  - All fields always set
- What if...
- Solution: return custom type
  - Setting only used fields
  - Comparable with Context
  - Nicely printable
- Context of optionals

# Custom return type

- Current solution:  
return Context
  - Must obey Context's rules
  - All fields always set
- What if...

- Solution: return custom type
  - Setting only used fields
  - Comparable with Context
  - Nicely printable
- Context of optionals

```
1 struct OptionalContext
2 {
3     boost::optional<Type1> t1_;
4     boost::optional<Type2> t2_;
5     // ...
6 };
7 template<typename ...Args>
8 OptionalContext makeContext(Args&&... args);
9
10 bool operator==(Context const&, OptionalContext const&);
11 bool operator==(OptionalContext const&, Context const&);
```

# Exploit language features

- Current solution:  
tones of templates
  - Template error messages
  - Non-trivial implementation
- What if...



# Exploit language features

- Current solution:  
tones of templates
  - Template error messages
  - Non-trivial implementation
- What if...
- Solution: use C++ features
  - Setting fields by name
  - Direct language support
  - Mixes with other extensions

# Exploit language features

- Current solution: tones of templates
  - Template error messages
  - Non-trivial implementation
- What if...
- Solution: use C++ features
  - Setting fields by name
  - Direct language support
  - Mixes with other extensions

```

1 struct OptionalContext
2 {
3     boost::optional<Type1> field1_;
4     boost::optional<Type2> field2_;
5     boost::optional<Type3> field3_;
6     // ...
7 };
8
9 OptionalContext oc{ .field1_ = Type1{ /*...*/ },
10                   .field2_ = Type2{ /*...*/ } };

```

## Exploit language features - "yes, but" part

- Features:
  - Nice error messages
  - No extra code
  - Types can repeat
- Would be nice. . .

## Exploit language features - "yes, but" part

- Features:
  - Nice error messages
  - No extra code
  - Types can repeat
- Would be nice. . .
- Uncommon knowledge
- Poorly supported:

# Exploit language features - "yes, but" part

- Features:
  - Nice error messages
  - No extra code
  - Types can repeat
- Would be nice. . .
- Uncommon knowledge
- Poorly supported:
  - GCC:
    - Only field-by-field
    - Only in-order

# Exploit language features - "yes, but" part

- Features:
  - Nice error messages
  - No extra code
  - Types can repeat
- Would be nice. . .
- Uncommon knowledge
- Poorly supported:
  - GCC:
    - Only field-by-field
    - Only in-order



# Exploit language features - "yes, but" part

- Features:
  - Nice error messages
  - No extra code
  - Types can repeat
- Would be nice. . .
- Uncommon knowledge
- Poorly supported:
  - GCC:
    - Only field-by-field
    - Only in-order
  - MSVC – not implemented



# Exploit language features - "yes, but" part

- Features:
  - Nice error messages
  - No extra code
  - Types can repeat
- Would be nice. . .
- Uncommon knowledge
- Poorly supported:
  - GCC:
    - Only field-by-field
    - Only in-order
  - MSVC – not implemented
  - Clang – works!





# Exploit language features - "yes, but" part

- Features:
  - Nice error messages
  - No extra code
  - Types can repeat
- Would be nice. . .
- Uncommon knowledge
- Poorly supported:
  - GCC:
    - Only field-by-field
    - Only in-order
  - MSVC – not implemented
  - Clang – works!
- Other drawbacks:
  - Bit more verbose
  - Gives test type explicitly



# Other ideas

- Policies:
  - Concept's generalization
  - Separation type-specific parts
  - Providing as a library



# Other ideas

- Policies:
  - Concept's generalization
  - Separation type-specific parts
  - Providing as a library
- C++14's tuples:
  - Addressed by type:  
`std::get<Type1>(tup)`
  - Replacement for `extract<T>::from()`
  - Standard-compliant



# Part 8

- 1 About me
- 2 The problem
- 3 Means of solving
- 4 Arguments passing
- 5 Sanity checks
- 6 Measurements
- 7 Possible extensions
- 8 Conclusion**

# Summary

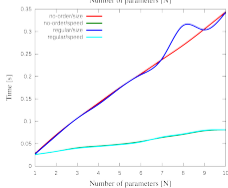
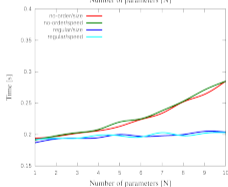
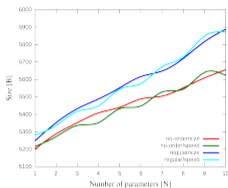
- Problem:
  - Constructing complex type
  - Interesting fields for tests
  - Simple to use

# Summary

- Problem:
  - Constructing complex type
  - Interesting fields for tests
  - Simple to use
- Proposed::Solution<>:
  - Helper function
  - Extraction by (distinct!) types
  - Arguments order does not matter
  - Elastic arity
  - Sanity checks

# Summary

- Problem:
  - Constructing complex type
  - Interesting fields for tests
  - Simple to use
- Proposed::Solution<>:
  - Helper function
  - Extraction by (distinct!) types
  - Arguments order does not matter
  - Elastic arity
  - Sanity checks
- Measurements:
  - No code bloat
  - Slightly longer compile times
  - Identical generated code
  - No runtime overhead



# Knowledge - use with care!

- + Powerful tool
- + Arguments can be reordered. . .



# Knowledge - use with care!

- + Powerful tool
- + Arguments can be reordered. . .
- ... NOT a golden hammer!
- Special purpose tool



[http://fc01.deviantart.net/fs71/i/2011/327/4/7/deep\\_thought\\_by\\_cryptisc-d4h18ya.png](http://fc01.deviantart.net/fs71/i/2011/327/4/7/deep_thought_by_cryptisc-d4h18ya.png)

# Questions?



[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/82/Stora\\_tv%C3%A4rv%C3%A4gen\\_-\\_Ystad\\_11sep2013.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/82/Stora_tv%C3%A4rv%C3%A4gen_-_Ystad_11sep2013.jpg)