



Back to Basics: Lambdas

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- **Independent consultant**
 - Continuously learning since 1962
- **C++:**
 - since 1990
 - ISO Standard Committee since 1997
- **Other Topics:**
 - Systems Architect
 - Technical Manager
 - SOA
 - X and OSF/Motif



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Modern C++

Lambdas

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Helper Function as Sorting Criterion

```
class Person {
public:
    std::string firstname() const;
    std::string lastname() const;
    ...
    friend bool operator< (const Person&, const Person&); // or op<=> since C++20
};
```

```
bool lessPerson(const Person& p1, const Person& p2) {
    // sort ascending to the last name or if equal ascending to the first name:
    return p1.lastname() < p2.lastname() ||
        (p1.lastname() == p2.lastname() && p1.firstname() < p2.firstname());
}
```

```
std::vector<Person> coll;
```

```
...
```

```
// sort elements with operator < :
```

```
std::sort(coll.begin(), coll.end()); // pass begin and end of elements to sort
```

```
...
```

```
// sort elements with a special sorting criterion:
```

```
std::sort(coll.begin(), coll.end(), // elements to sort
          lessPerson); // sorting criterion
```

Cannot be defined
inside functions

- Need good name
- May be hard to maintain

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Lambdas as Sorting Criterion (since C++11)

```

class Person {
public:
    std::string firstname() const;
    std::string lastname() const;
    ...
    std::string getCustNo() const; // return customer number
    ...
};

std::vector<Person> coll;
...
// sort according to the name:
std::sort(coll.begin(), coll.end(), // elements to sort
    [] (const Person& p1, const Person& p2) { // sorting criterion
        // sort ascending to the last name or if equal ascending to the first name:
        return p1.lastname() < p2.lastname() ||
            (p1.lastname() == p2.lastname() && p1.firstname() < p2.firstname());
    });

// sort according to the customer number:
std::sort(coll.begin(), coll.end(), // elements to sort
    [] (const Person& p1, const Person& p2) { // sorting criterion
        return p1.getCustNo() < p2.getCustNo();
    });

```

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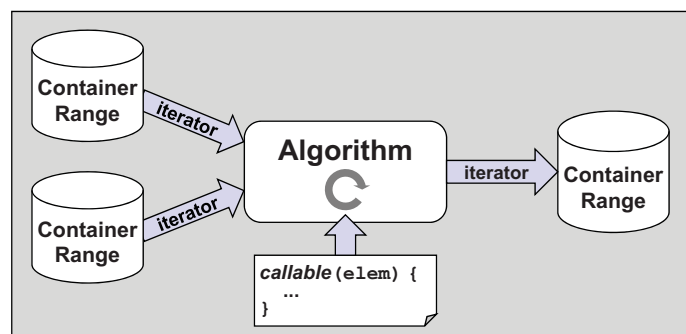
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Standard Template Library Architecture

- **Data structures and algorithms**
 - Combine different data structures with different algorithms
 - Some combinations can be a problem (e.g., can't sort read-only elements)
- **Iterators as glue interface**
 - Passed as **half-open ranges** (including begin, excluding end)
- **Generic rather than OO approach**
 - Everything that *behaves* like a container, is a **container**
 - Everything that *behaves* like an iterator, is an **iterator**
 - Everything you can *call*, is a **callable**



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Algorithms Using Helper Functions

```
bool isOdd (int value)
{
    return value % 2 != 0;
}
```

Output:

```
odd elems: 6
first odd elem: 15
```

```
std::vector<int> coll{0, 8, 15, 42, 11, 1, 77, -1, 3};
```

// count number of elements with odd value:

```
int num = std::count_if(coll.begin(), coll.end(), // range
                       isOdd);                // criterion
std::cout << "odd elems: " << num << '\n';
```

// find position of first element with odd value (returns iterator):

```
auto pos = std::find_if(coll.begin(), coll.end(), // range
                       isOdd);                 // criterion
if (pos != coll.end()) {                       // use position if any
    std::cout << "first odd elem: " << *pos << '\n';
}
```

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Lambdas

- **Lambda: Function defined on the fly**

Output:

```
odd elems: 6
first odd elem: 15
```

```
std::vector<int> coll{0, 8, 15, 42, 11, 1, 77, -1, 3};
```

// count number of elements with odd value:

```
int num = std::count_if(coll.begin(), coll.end(), // range
                       [] (int elem) {          // criterion (defined on the fly)
                           return elem % 2 != 0;
                       });
std::cout << "odd elems: " << num << '\n';
```

// find position of first element with odd value:

```
auto pos = std::find_if(coll.begin(), coll.end(), // range
                       [] (int elem) {          // criterion (defined on the fly)
                           return elem % 2 != 0;
                       });
if (pos != coll.end()) {                       // use position if any
    std::cout << "first odd elem: " << *pos << '\n';
}
```

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Lambdas

- Lambda: **Function object** defined on the fly

Output:

```
odd elems: 6
first odd elem: 15
```

```
std::vector<int> coll{0, 8, 15, 42, 11, 1, 77, -1, 3};
```

```
auto isOdd = [] (int elem) {
    return elem % 2 != 0;
};
```

isOdd is an **object**
that can be used like a **function**

// count number of elements with odd value:

```
int num = std::count_if(coll.begin(), coll.end(), // range
                       isOdd);                 // criterion
std::cout << "odd elems: " << num << '\n';
```

// find position of first element with odd value:

```
auto pos = std::find_if(coll.begin(), coll.end(), // range
                        isOdd);                 // criterion
if (pos != coll.end()) {                       // use position if any
    std::cout << "first odd elem: " << *pos << '\n';
}
```

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Combining Lambdas with Standard Algorithms

Output:

```
Berlin Cologne Here LA London are cities some
are Berlin cities Cologne Here LA London some
```

```
int main()
{
    std::vector<std::string> coll{"Here", "are", "some", "cities", "Berlin", "LA",
                                "London", "Cologne"};

    std::sort(coll.begin(), coll.end());
    print(coll);

    std::sort(coll.begin(), coll.end(), // range to sort
              [] (const std::string& s1, const std::string& s2) { // sort criterion
                  return std::lexicographical_compare(s1.begin(), s1.end(), // string as 1st range
                                                       s2.begin(), s2.end(), // string as 2nd range
                                                       [] (char c1, char c2) { // compare criterion
                                                           return std::toupper(c1)
                                                              < std::toupper(c2);
                                                       });
              });

    print(coll);
}
```

Compare elements
of two containers

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Combining Lambdas with Standard Range Algorithms (C++20)

Output:

Berlin Cologne Here LA London are cities some
are Berlin cities Cologne Here LA London some

```
int main()
{
    std::vector<std::string> coll{"Here", "are", "some", "cities", "Berlin", "LA",
                                "London", "Cologne"};

    std::ranges::sort(coll);
    print(coll);

    std::ranges::sort(coll, // range to sort
                      [] (const std::string& s1, const std::string& s2) { // sort criterion
                          auto toUpper = [] (char c) {return std::toupper(c);};
                          return std::ranges::lexicographical_compare(s1, // string as 1st range
                              s2, // string as 2nd range
                              std::less{}, // compare criterion
                              toUpper, // projection for s1 elem
                              toUpper) // projection for s2 elem
                      });
    print(coll);
}
```

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C++14: Named Generic Lambdas

// define a generic lambda object:

```
auto twice = [] (const auto& x) {
    return x + x;
};
```

// and call/use it:

```
auto i = twice(3); // i is int => 6
auto d = twice(1.7); // d is double => 3.4
auto s = twice(std::string{"hi"}); // s is std::string => "hihi"
auto t = twice("hi"); // Error: const char[3] + const char[3]
```

Lambda is compiled for
different parameter types

// print all elements of any kind:

```
for (const auto& elem : coll) {
    std::cout << "- " << twice(elem) << '\n';
}
```

// replace all elements of coll by the sum of adding them to themselves:

```
std::transform(coll.begin(), coll.end(), // source range
              coll.begin(), // destination range
              twice); // transformation
```

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Lambdas Without Captures

- **Lambdas with no captures**

- Can be used as ordinary **function pointers**
- Can be used as **sorting criterion / hash function type** (since C++20)

```
#include <cstdlib>           // for atexit()
#include <unordered_set>
...

int main()
{
    std::atexit([] () {      // lambda to be called on regular exit
        std::cout << "good bye\n";
    });

    auto hashFunc = [] (const auto& obj) { // lambda to be used as hash function
        return ...;
    };

    ...
    std::unordered_set<MyType, decltype(hashFunc)> coll;
    ...
}
```

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Lambdas as Better Functions

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Lambdas are More Than Functions

- **Local functions**
- **Convenient way to define functions at runtime**
 - Functions **with state**

```
bool less7(int v)
{
    return v < 7;
}

bool less8(int v)
{
    return v < 8;
}

count_if(c.begin(), c.end(),
         less7);

count_if(c.begin(), c.end(),
         less8);

void foo(int max) {
    count_if(c.begin(), c.end(),
             lessMax); // ???
}
```

```
count_if(c.begin(), c.end(),
         [] (int v) {
             return v < 7;
         });

count_if(c.begin(), c.end(),
         [] (int v) {
             return v < 8;
         });

void foo(int max) {
    count_if(c.begin(), c.end(),
             [max] (int v) {
                 return v < max;
             });
}
```

function (object)
created on the fly

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Lambdas Captures

- **Lambdas**
 - **Capture** behavior parameters
 - Functionality can depend on run-time parameters
 - to deal with **call parameters**

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
#include <algorithm>

int main()
{
    std::vector<int> coll{0, 8, 15, 42, 11, 1, 77, -1, 3};

    int max = 30;
    ...
    // count number of elements less or equal max
    int num = std::count_if (coll.begin(), coll.end(), // range
                            [max] (int elem) { // criterion (defined on the fly)
                                return elem < max;
                            });

    std::cout << "elems <" << max << ": " << num << '\n';
}
```

Output:

elems <30: 7

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Generic Lambdas (since C++14)

• Generic Lambdas

- Call arguments may have a generic type
 - **auto**, **const auto&**, ...
- Not possible in normal functions before C++20

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
#include <algorithm>

int main()
{
    std::vector<int> coll{0, 8, 15, 42, 11, 1, 77, -1, 3};
    int max = 30;
    ...
    // count number of elements less or equal max
    int num = std::count_if (coll.begin(), coll.end(), // range
                           [max] (auto elem) { // criterion (defined on the fly)
                               return elem < max;
                           });
    std::cout << "elems <" << max << ": " << num << '\n';
}

```

Output:

```
elems <30: 7
```

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Using Lambdas

• Lambdas can be used as objects

- **Local functions** (behavior defined at runtime)
- Type has to be **auto** (type name is platform dependent)

```
void processInvoice(const Invoice& iv)
{
    double tax = getTax(iv);
    auto plusTax = [tax] (double d) {
        return d * (1 + tax);
    };

    // add tax at various places of the invoice:
    std::cout << plusTax(iv.getSum()) << '\n'; // prints result of sum * (1 + tax)

    for (const auto& item : iv) {
        std::cout << plusTax(item) << '\n'; // prints items plus tax
    }

    std::transform(iv.begin(), iv.end(), // transform elements of the invoice
                  iv.begin(), // writing back the result
                  plusTax); // to add tax
}

```

Local function object
that adds tax for invoice iv

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Using Lambdas

- **Lambdas can be used as objects**

- **Functions passed around** (behavior defined at runtime)
- **Multiple "functions" can co-exist**

```
auto makeAddTaxFunc(const Invoice& iv)
{
    double tax = getTax(iv);
    return [tax] (double d) {
        return d * (1 + tax);
    };
}
```

Return function object
that adds tax for invoice iv

```
Invoice iv1, iv2;
...
auto plusTax1 = makeAddTaxFunc(iv1);
auto plusTax2 = makeAddTaxFunc(iv2);
...
std::cout << plusTax1(iv1.getSum()) << '\n';
std::cout << plusTax2(iv2.getSum()) << '\n';
...
```

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**Lambdas
are Function Objects**

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Lambdas are Function Objects

- Lambdas are **function objects** defined "on the fly"
 - Simple way to define objects that can be used like functions
 - Using **operator()**
- have a "unique, unnamed non-union class type"
 - "closure type"

```
auto add = [] (int x, int y) {
    return x + y;
};
```

Usage:

```
int i = 4;
...
i = add(17, i);
```

calls:

```
add.operator() (17, i);
```

has the effect of:

```
class lambda??? {
public:
    lambda??? (); // only callable by compiler before C++20
    int operator() (int x, int y) const {
        return x + y;
    }
};

auto add = lambda???{};
```

For each lambda in the source code, the compiler

- defines a class ("closure type")
- and creates an object of this class

Lambdas are Function Objects

```
while (...) {
    int min, max;
    ... // set min and max
    p = std::find_if(coll.begin(), coll.end(), // find element between min and max
        [min, max] (int i) {
            return min <= i && i <= max;
        });
}
```

has the effect of:

```
class lambda??? {
private:
    int _min, _max;
public:
    lambda??? (int min, int max) // only called by compiler
        : _min{min}, _max{max} {}
    bool operator() (int i) const {
        return _min <= i && i <= _max;
    }
};
```

```
template <typename Iter, typename Callback>
Iter find_if (Iter beg, Iter end, // range
             Callback op) // predicate
{
    for (Iter pos = beg; pos != end; ++pos) {
        if (op(*pos)) { // if op() yields true for element
            return pos; // return iterator to element
        }
    }
    return end;
}
```

calls:

```
op.operator() (*pos);
```

For each lambda in the source code, the compiler

- defines a class ("closure type")
- and creates an object of this class

```
while (...) {
    int min, max;
    ...
    p = std::find_if(coll.begin(), coll.end(),
        lambda??? (min, max));
}
```

C++14: Generic Lambdas

- Lambdas for generic parameter types

- Using **auto**
- Defines function template member
 - Usual template deduction rules apply

```
auto plus = [] (auto x, auto y) {
    return x + y;
};
```

has the effect of:

```
class lambda??? {
public:
    lambda??? (); // only callable by compiler before C++20
    template<typename T1, typename T2>
    auto operator() (T1 x, T2 y) const {
        return x + y;
    }
};

auto plus = lambda???{};
```

calls:

```
plus.operator()<double,int>(7.7, i);
```

Usage:

```
int i = 42;
...
double d = plus(7.7, i);

std::string s{"hi"};
...
std::cout << plus("s: ", s);
```

For each lambda in the source code, the compiler

- defines a class ("closure type")
- and creates an object of this class

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Generic Functions vs. Generic Lambdas

- Generic lambdas since C++14:

```
auto printLmbd = [] (const auto& coll) {
    for (const auto& elem : coll) {
        std::cout << elem << '\n';
    }
};
```

Function object

with generic operator()

- Generic functions:

```
template<typename T>
void printFunc(const T& coll) {
    for (const auto& elem : coll) {
        std::cout << elem << '\n';
    }
}
```

Function template

(generic before the call)

```
std::vector<int> v;
...
printFunc(v);
printLmbd(v);
printFunc<std::string>("hello"); // OK
printLmbd<std::string>("hello"); // ERROR

call(printFunc, v); // ERROR
call(printFunc<decltype(v)>, v); // OK
call(printLmbd, v); // OK
```

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Generic Functions vs. Generic Lambdas (since C++20)

- **Generic lambdas since C++14:**

```
auto printLmbd = [] (const auto& coll) {
    for (const auto& elem : coll) {
        std::cout << elem << '\n';
    }
};
```

Function object
with generic operator()

- **Generic functions since C++20:**

```
void printFunc(const auto& coll) {
    for (const auto& elem : coll) {
        std::cout << elem << '\n';
    }
}
```

Function template
(generic before the call)

```
std::vector<int> v;
...
printFunc(v);
printLmbd(v);
printFunc<std::string>("hello"); // OK
printLmbd<std::string>("hello"); // ERROR

call(printFunc, v); // ERROR
call(printFunc<decltype(v)>, v); // OK
call(printLmbd, v); // OK
```

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Capturing in Detail

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Lambdas: Capture by Value

```
#include <iostream>
#include <deque>
#include <algorithm>

int main()
{
    std::deque<int> coll{1, 3, 19, 5, 13,
                       7, 11, 2, 17};

    int min = 5;
    int max = 12;
    ...
    // find position of first element greater than x and less than y:
    auto pos = std::find_if(coll.begin(), coll.end(),
                           [min, max](int i) { // capture x and y
                               return min <= i && i <= max;
                           });

    if (pos != coll.end()) {
        std::cout << "first found element: " << *pos << '\n';
    }
}
```

Objects **captured by value** are by default **read-only copies** - to make the lambda **stateless** (can't change its behavior)

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Capturing in Detail

- **Capturing is performed when the lambda is created**
 - Local read-only copy (unless passed by reference)

```
std::string prefix = "elem: ";

auto printval = [prefix] (int i) { // captures local copy
    std::cout << prefix << i << '\n';
};

prefix = "value: "; // no impact on printval

printval(17); // prints: elem: 17
```

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Lambdas: Capture by Reference

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
#include <algorithm>

int main()
{
    std::vector<double> coll;
    ...

    // process average value of all elements
    double sum = 0.0;
    std::for_each (coll.begin(), coll.end(),
        [&sum] (double d) { // [&] would catch all by reference
            sum += d;
        });

    std::cout << "average: " << sum / coll.size() << '\n';
}
```

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C++14: Lambda Capture Initializers

- Since C++14, you can pass **initializers** to lambda captures
 - Enables adding local state
 - Enables capturing by const reference with `std::as_const()`

// compute price function on the fly:

```
auto price = [disc = getDiscount(cust)] (auto item) { // compute discount once for cust
    return getPrice(item) * disc; // and use it for all function calls
};
```

Initialization happens on lambda definition

```
...
for (const auto& item : order) {
    std::cout << "your price: " << price(item) << '\n'; // use computed discount
}
```

// capture by const&:

```
auto coll = ...;
...
auto dealWithColl = [&coll = std::as_const(coll)] { // ensure coll can't be modified
    ...
};
```

Available since C++17

```
dealWithColl(); // coll can be used inside the lambda but is not mutable
...
```

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Capture by Value

- Lambdas are **stateless** by default
 - Not allowed to modified values captured by-value

```
auto changed = [prev = 0] (auto val) {
    bool changed = prev != val;
    prev = val;    // ERROR: prev is read-only copy
    return changed;
};
```

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Mutable Lambdas

- Lambdas are **stateless** by default
 - Not allowed to modified values captured by-value
- **mutable** makes them **stateful** (modifications allowed)

```
auto changed = [prev = 0] (auto val) mutable {
    bool changed = prev != val;
    prev = val;    // OK due to mutable
    return changed;
};
```

```
std::vector<int> coll{7, 42, 42, 0, 3, 3, 7};
std::copy_if(coll.begin(), coll.end(),
             std::ostream_iterator<int>(std::cout, " "),
             changed);

std::copy_if(coll.begin(), coll.end(),
             std::ostream_iterator<int>(std::cout, " "),
             changed);

changed(7);
std::copy_if(coll.begin(), coll.end(),
             std::ostream_iterator<int>(std::cout, " "),
             changed);
```

Output:

```
7 42 42 0 3 3 7
7 42 0 3 7
7 42 0 3 7
42 0 3 7
```

Standard algorithms take callables by value

- Operate on a copy of **changed**

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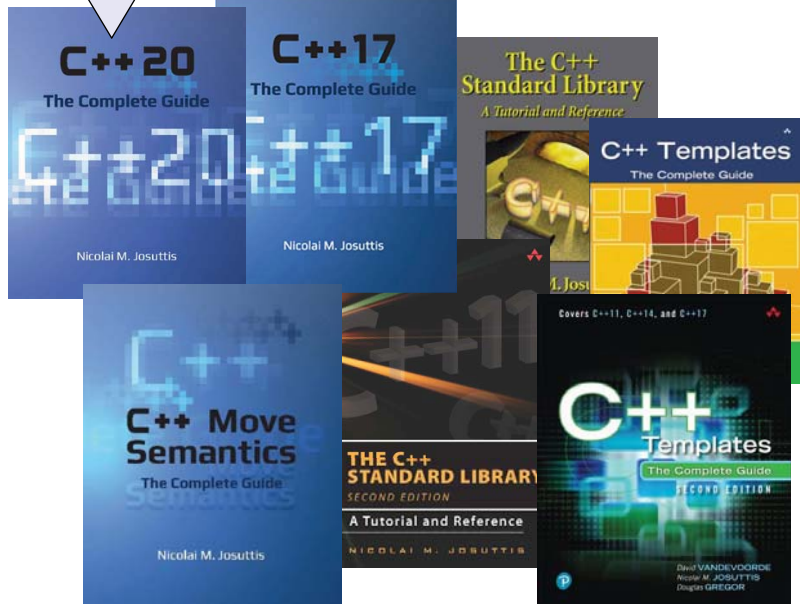
Thank You!



First draft is out
cppstd20.com

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