

Lambdas – *uses* *and abuses*

Dawid Zalewski

15-Nov-20



github.com/zaldawid
zaldawid@gmail.com
[@zaldawid](#)

```
auto forty_two = 42;
```

```
std::vector functions = {  
    [forty_two]() { return forty_two; },  
    [](auto denominator) { return 1.0 / denominator; },  
    [](auto a, auto b) { return a + b; }  
};
```

error: class template argument deduction failed

```
auto forty_two = 42;
```

```
std::vector functions = {  
    [](int a, int b){ return a + b; },  
    [](int a, int b){ return a - b; },  
    [](int a, int b){ return a * b; },  
};
```

error: class template argument deduction failed

```
auto forty_two = 42;
```

```
container_t functions = {  
    [forty_two]() { return forty_two; },  
    [](auto denominator) { return 1.0 / denominator; },  
    [](auto a, auto b) { return a + b; }  
};
```

```
auto answer      = functions.call();  
auto reciprocal  = functions.call(42);  
auto sum         = functions.call(4, 2);
```

Lambdas' anatomy

lambda introducer
(capture list)

lambda declarator
(params & specifiers)

compound statement
(lambda body)

[cnt] <typename T> (T a, T b) mutable { while (cnt--) a+=b; return a; }

template params
(c++20 only)

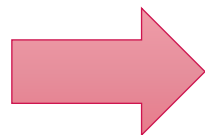
lambda params

specifiers

Closures

Lambda expression

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



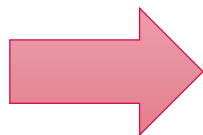
Closure type

```
class lmb_t{  
public:  
  
    inline constexpr auto  
    operator()(int x, int y) const {  
        return x + y;  
    }  
  
    lmb_t() = default;  
};  
  
auto lmb = lmb_t();
```

Closures with function templates

Lambda expression

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



Closure type

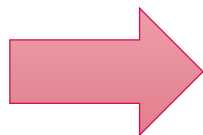
```
class lmb_t{  
public:  
    template <typename T1, typename T2>  
    inline constexpr auto  
    operator()(T1 x, T2 y) const {  
        return x + y;  
    }  
  
    lmb_t() = default;  
};  
  
auto lmb = lmb_t();
```

'invented' types

Closures with concepts

Lambda expression

```
auto lmb =  
[] <std::integral T> (T x, T y) {  
    return x + y;  
};
```



Closure type

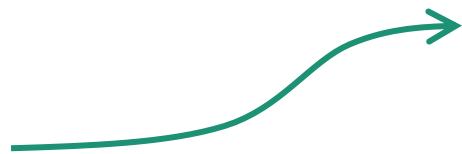
```
class lmb_t{  
public:  
    template <std::integral T>  
    inline constexpr auto  
    operator()(T x, T y) const {  
        return x + y;  
    }  
  
    lmb_t() = default;  
};  
  
auto lmb = lmb_t();
```


Closures: member variables

Lambda expression

```
void func(){
    auto k = 42;

    auto lmb1 = [=] () {
        return k += 11;
    };
    return lmb1();
}
```



Closure type

```
class lmb1_t{
public:
    int operator()() const {
        return k += 11;
    }
private:
    int k;
}

auto lmb1 = lmb1_t(k);
```

error: assignment of read-only variable 'k'

Closures: member variables

Lambda expression

```
void func(){
    auto k = 42;

    auto lmb2 = [=] () mutable {
        return k += 11;
    };
    return lmb2();
}
```

Closure type

```
class lmb2_t{
public:
    int operator()() {
        return k += 11;
    }
private:
    int k;
};

auto lmb2 = lmb2(k);
```

Lambdas before C++20

- Limited generic types (no `template <typename...>`) [p0428]
- Lambdas are not default-constructible [p0624]
- Lambdas cannot appear in unevaluated context [p0315]
- No pack expansion in init capture [p0780]
- No capturing of structured bindings [p1091]
- Weirdness around captures in member functions [p0806, p0409]
- No self-referencing (recursive) lambdas [p0839]

Lambdas in C++20: templates

Generic lambdas with implicit invented types are no fun:

```
std::vector<double> v;  
push_one(v);
```

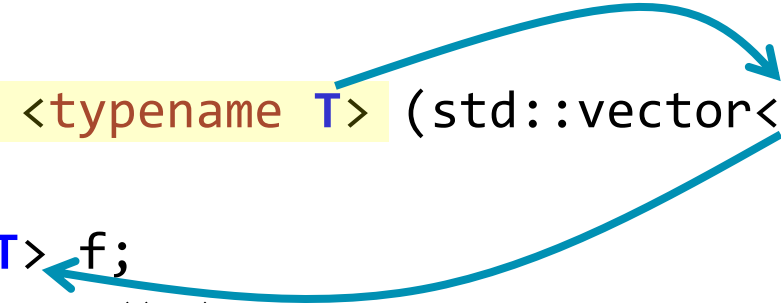
```
auto push_one = [](auto& v){  
    using T = typename std::remove_reference_t<decltype(v)>::value_type;  
    value_factory<T> f;  
    v.push_back( f.get() );  
};
```

Lambdas in C++20: templates

Explicit templates remove the boilerplate code:

```
std::vector<double> v;  
push_one(v);
```

```
auto push_one = [] <typename T> (std::vector<T>& v){  
  
    value_factory<T> f;  
    v.push_back( f.get() );  
  
};
```



Lambdas in C++20: templates++

```
#include <concepts>
```

```
auto sum = [] <std::integral T> (T a, T b) { return a + b; };
```

```
auto sum = [] (T a, T b) requires std::integral<T> { return a + b; };
```

```
sum(21.0, 21.0);
```

```
error: (...) candidate template ignored: constraints not satisfied  
with T = double] because 'double' does not satisfy 'Integral'
```

Lambdas in C++20: unevaluated & def-constructible

```
struct Process { int priority; };
```

```
using Container = std::vector<Process>;
```

```
using ProcessOrdering =
```

```
    decltype( [](auto&& lhs, auto&& rhs){ return lhs.priority > rhs.priority; } );
```

← Only for capture-less lambdas!

```
std::priority_queue< Process, Container, ProcessOrdering > queue;
```

```
...
```

```
auto ordering = ProcessOrdering();
```

Lambdas in C++20: init capture pack expansion

```

template<class F, class... Args>
auto make_task(F&& f, Args&&... args) {
    return [f = std::forward<F>(f), args...]() mutable {
        return std::forward<F>(f)(std::forward<Args>(args)...);
    };
}

```

unnecessary copy (pointing to `args...`)

task closure (pointing to the lambda body)

```

auto f = [](const auto& ... s) {((std::cout << s) ,...)};

```

```

auto task = make_task(f, std::string("bob"));

```

```

task();

```


Lambdas in C++20: init capture pack expansion

```
template<class F, class... Args>  
auto make_task(F&& f, Args&&... args) {
```

```
    return [f = std::forward<F>(f), ...args=std::forward<Args>(args)]() mutable {
```

```
        return std::forward<F>(f)(std::forward<Args>(args)...);
```

```
    };
```

task closure

```
}
```

```
auto f = [](const auto&& ... s) {((std::cout << s) ,...)};
```

```
auto task = make_task(f, std::string("bob"));
```

Init-captures with pack expansions help avoiding copies.

Lambdas in C++20: recursive lambdas

Let's build a recursive lambda:

```
auto sum = [](int n) { return n == 0? 0 : n + sum(n-1); };
```

>> error: use of 'sum' before deduction of 'auto'

```
auto sum = [](int n) { return n == 0? 0 : n + operator()(n-1); };
```

>> error: use of undeclared 'operator()'

Lambdas in C++20: recursive lambdas

Function pointers to the rescue?

```
int (*sum)(int) = [](int n) { return n == 0? 0 : n + sum(n-1); };
```

>> error: 'sum' is not captured

```
int (*sum)(int) = [&](int n) { return n == 0? 0 : n + sum(n-1); };
```

>> error: cannot convert '<lambda>' to 'int (*)(int)' in initialization

```
std::function<int(int)> sum = [&](int n) { return n == 0? 0 : n + sum(n-1); };
```

>> but std::function, really?

Lambdas applied: recursive lambdas (I)

Add another lever of indirection:

```
auto sum = [](auto n){  
  
    auto sum_impl = [](auto&& self, auto n){  
        if (n == 0) return 0;  
        return n + self(self, n - 1);  
    };  
  
    return sum_impl(sum_impl, n);  
  
};  
  
sum(42); //903
```

Lambdas applied: recursive lambdas (2)

Use the magic:

```
auto sum_ = [](auto&& sum, auto n) -> int { return n == 0? 0 : sum(n-1) + n; };
```



```
auto sum = magic_something{std::move(sum_)};
```

```
auto value = sum(42);
```

Lambdas applied: recursive lambdas (3)

Use the magic: a higher-order function (Y-combinator):

```

template <typename F>
struct recurse {
    F func;
    template <typename... Args>
    decltype(auto) operator()(Args&&... args) const {
        return func(*this, std::forward<Args>(args)...);
    }
};

auto sum_ = [](auto&& sum, auto n) -> int { return n == 0? 0 : sum(n-1) + n; };

auto sum = recurse{std::move(sum_)};

```

calls recurse::operator()

calls the lambda

Aggregate initialization

Lambdas applied: recursive lambdas (3)

Use the magic: a higher-order function (Y-combinator):

```
template <typename F>
struct recurse {
    F func;
    template <typename... Args>
    decltype(auto) operator()(Args&&... args) const {
        return func(*this, std::forward<Args>(args)...);
    }
};
```

```
template <typename F>
recurse(F) -> recurse<F>;
```

Recursive lambdas: better composition

Composing through inheritance

```

template <typename F>
struct recurse : F {
    F func;
    template <typename... Args>
    decltype(auto) operator()(Args&&... args) const {
        return F::operator>(*this, std::forward<Args>(args)...);
    }
};

```

Inheriting from a lambda

```

template <typename F>
recurse(F) -> recurse<F>;
auto sum = recurse{std::move(sum_)};

```

*Aggregate initialization still works!**

**Each direct public base (F) is copy-initialized from the corresponding lambda in the list.*

Lambdas applied: initializers

Default function arguments

```
void print_number(int number =  
    [](auto n){ auto sum = n; while(n--) sum += n; return sum; }(42) ){  
    std::cout << number;  
}
```

Lambdas applied: initializers

Complex initialization using a function

```
auto x = 42;
```

```
auto x = log_init("init x with: ", 42);
```

```
template <typename Arg>  
decltype(auto) log_init(std::string_view msg, Arg&& arg){  
    std::cout << msg << arg;  
    return std::forward<Arg>(arg);  
}
```

Lambdas applied: initializers

Re-usable & composable initialization: inheritance?

```
std::ofstream flog{"log.out"};
```

```
log_init_t log_init{
```

```
    [fout=std::move(flog)](auto msg, auto&& value) mutable { fout << msg << value; },
```

```
    [](auto msg, auto&& value){ std::cout << msg << value; }
```

```
};
```

```
auto x = 42;
```

```
auto x = log_init("init x with: ", 42);
```

Lambdas applied: initializers

Composing through multiple inheritance

```
template <typename...Fs>
struct log_init_t : Fs...{
    template <typename Arg>
    decltype(auto) operator()(std::string_view msg, Arg&& arg){
        (Fs::operator()(msg, arg),...);
        return std::forward<Arg>(arg);
    }
};
```

```
Fs... -> {Fs1, Fs2, Fs3}
```

```
Fs1::operator()(msg, arg), Fs2::operator()(msg, arg), Fs3::operator()(msg, arg);
```

Lambdas applied: initializers

Composing through multiple inheritance


```
template <typename...Fs>
struct log_init_t : Fs...{
    template <typename Arg>
    decltype(auto) operator()(std::string_view msg, Arg&& arg){
        (Fs::operator()(msg, arg),...);
        return std::forward<Arg>(arg);
    }
};
```

```
template <typename...Fs>
log_init_t(Fs...) -> log_init_t<Fs...>;
```

Lambdas applied: initializers

C++20 lambdas can do the same:

```
template <typename...Fs>
decltype(auto) mk_loginit(Fs&&...fs){
    return [...fs=std::forward<Fs>(fs)]<typename Arg>(auto msg, Arg&& arg) mutable {
        (fs(msg, arg),...);
        return std::forward<Arg>(arg);
    };
}
```



```
auto log_init = mk_loginit(
    [fout=std::move(flog)](auto msg, auto&& value) mutable { fout << msg << value; },
    [](auto msg, auto&& value){ std::cout << msg << value; }
);
```

Lambdas applied: wrappers

When just lambdas aren't enough:

```
auto logger = [](const auto& msg) { std::cout << msg; };
```

```
logger << "alice" << 42;
```

```
logger{[](const auto& msg) { std::cout << msg; }} << "alice" << 42;
```

Lambdas applied: wrappers

Lambdas used as building blocks for a composition / adapter

```
std::ofstream fout{"out.txt"};
```

```
logger{  
    [](const auto& msg){ std::cout << msg; }  
    [fout=std::move(fout)](const auto& msg) mutable { fout << msg; },  
} << "alice" << 42;
```


Lambdas applied: multiple inheritance

Lambdas used as building blocks for an adapter

```
logger{/*Lambdas*/} << "alice" << 42;
```

```
template <typename...Fs>  
struct logger: Fs...{
```

```
    template <typename T>  
    logger& operator<<(const T& arg){  
        (Fs::operator()(arg),...);  
        return *this;  
    }  
};
```

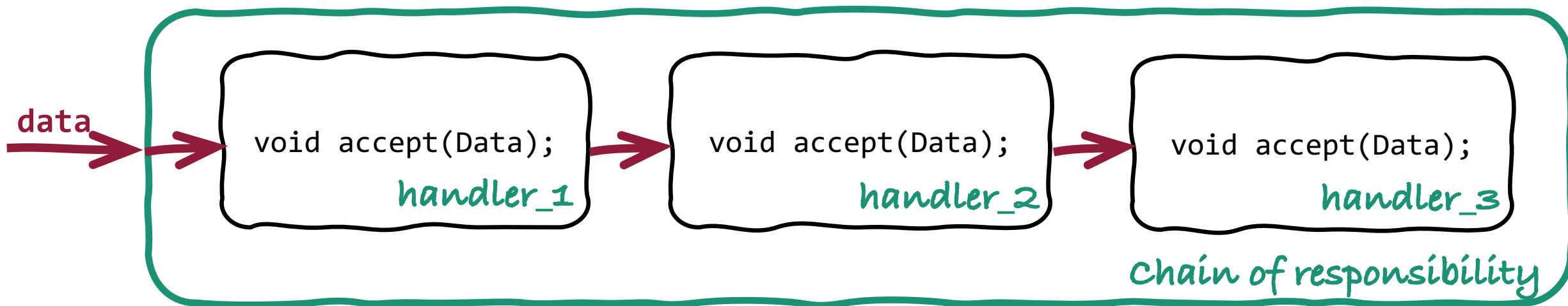
Returning **this* to enable
chained method calls.



```
template <typename...Fs> logger(Fs...) -> logger<Fs...>;
```

Chain of responsibility

But this look like the *chain of responsibility* design pattern!



Chain of responsibility: multiple loggers

A typical chain of responsibility

```
enum severity : int { info = 0, warn, error };

auto info_logger =
    [](severity s, auto msg){ if (s >= info) { /*handle logging*/ } };
auto warn_logger =
    [](severity s, auto msg){ if (s >= warn) { /*handle logging*/ } };

auto rc = resp_chain{info_logger, warn_logger};
...
rc(info, "System started");           // only info_logger should log
rc(warning, "Voltage too low (4.2)"); // only warn_logger should log
```

Chain of responsibility: multiple loggers

A typical chain of responsibility

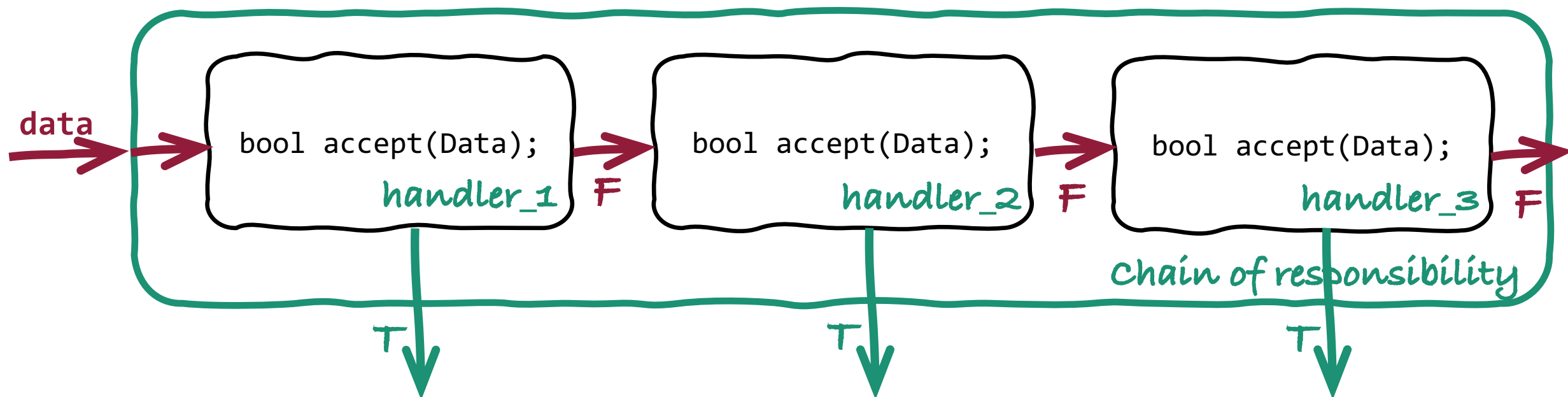
```
template<typename...Fs>
struct resp_chain : Fs... {

    template<typename...Args>
    void operator()(const Args&...args) {
        ((Fs::operator()(args...)), ...);
    }

};

template<typename...Fs>
resp_chain(Fs...) -> resp_chain<Fs...>;
```

Chain of responsibility: the canonical version



Chain of responsibility: the canonical version

Forwarding only if not handled

```
auto info_logger = [](severity s, auto msg){
    if (s == info) { /*handle logging*/ return true; } return false; };

auto warn_logger = [](severity s, auto msg){
    if (s == warn) { /*handle logging*/ return true; } return false; };

auto rc = resp_chain{info_logger, warn_logger};

...
rc(info, "System started");
rc(warning, "Voltage too low (4.2)");
```

Chain of responsibility: the canonical version

Folding lambda parameter pack over binary or.

```
template<typename...Fs>
struct resp_chain : Fs... {
```

```
    template<typename...Args>
    void operator()(const Args&...args) {
        ((Fs::operator()(args...)) || ...);
    }
};
```

```
};
```

*We could return
the result here*

*unary right fold of **Fs...** over **||***

Chain of responsibility: the canonical version

Folding lambda parameter pack over binary or.

```
template<typename...Fs>
struct resp_chain : Fs... {

    template<typename...Args>
    decltype(auto) operator()(const Args&...args) {
        return ((Fs::operator()(args...)) || ...);
    }

};

template<typename...Fs>
resp_chain(Fs...) -> resp_chain<Fs...>;
```

*unary right fold of **Fs...** over **||***

Chain of responsibility with optionals

Returning `std::optional` instead of `bool` complicates things...

```
struct log_entry{};

auto info_logger = [](severity s, auto msg) -> std::optional<log_entry> {
    if (s == info) { /*handle logging*/ return std::optional(log_entry{...}); }
    return std::nullopt; };

auto warn_logger = [](severity s, auto msg) -> std::optional<log_entry> {
    if (s == warn) { /*handle logging*/ return std::optional(log_entry{...}); }
    return std::nullopt; };

auto log_1 = rc(info, "System started");
auto log_2 = rc(error, "Low memory");
```

Chain of responsibility with optionals

Returning `std::optional` instead of `bool` complicates things...

```
template<typename F, typename ... Fs>
struct resp_chain : F, Fs... {
```

```
    template<typename...Args>
    decltype(auto) operator()(const Args&...args) {
        auto res{F::operator()(args...)};
        ((res) || (( res = std::move(Fs::operator()(args...))) || ...));
        return res;
    }
};
```

Binary left fold of `Fs...` over `||`



Fizz-buzz

All of the sudden fizz-buzz becomes a child's play

```
auto fizz_buzz = resp_chain{
    [](auto n) { return n % 15 == 0 ? std::optional("FizzBuzz") : std::nullopt; },
    [](auto n) { return n % 3  == 0 ? std::optional("Fizz")   : std::nullopt; },
    [](auto n) { return n % 5  == 0 ? std::optional("Buzz")  : std::nullopt; },
    [](auto n) { return std::optional(itoa(n)); }
};
```

```
auto number = 0;
while (number++ != 100) {
    std::cout << number << ": " << *fizz_buzz(number) << "\n";
}
```

An ugly case...

Global state variable and side effects

```
auto _handled{false};
```

```
void set_handled();
```

```
bool is_handled();
```

Global
state

```
auto info_logger = [](severity s, auto msg) {  
    if (s == info) { /*handle logging*/ set_handled(); } };
```

```
auto warn_logger = [](severity s, auto msg){  
    if (s == warn) { /*handle logging*/ set_handled(); } };
```

Side
effects

An ugly case: inheriting from (deeper) self

Recursion + primary class template

```
template<typename F, typename ... Fs>
struct resp_chain : F, Fs... {
```

```
    template <typename SF, typename...Args>
    void operator()(SF& sf, const Args&...args){
        if (F::operator()(args...); !sf()){
            resp_chain<Fs...>::operator()(sf, args...);
        }
    }
};
```

`bool is_handled();`

*Recursive call to
the rest of the chain*

An ugly case: inheriting from (deeper) self

Specialization for the final case

```
template<typename F>
struct resp_chain<F> : F {

    template <typename SF, typename...Args>
    void operator()(SF&, const Args&...args) {
        F::operator()(args...);
    }
};
```

```
template<typename... Fs>
resp_chain(Fs...) -> resp_chain<Fs...>;
```

All the inheritance on one slide

```
template<typename F>  
struct lambdas : F {};
```

Simple cases

```
template<typename...Fs>  
struct lambdas : Fs... {};
```

*Multiple lambda's
Pack expansion
Fold expressions*

```
template<typename F, typename...Fs>  
struct lambdas : F, Fs... {};
```

For picking the result of the first lambda

```
template<typename F, typename...Fs>  
struct lambdas : F, lambdas<Fs...> {};
```

Recursive calls

But there is more!

Adding new handlers to an existing chain

```
enum severity { info, warning, error };
```

```
auto info_logger = [](severity s, auto msg) { if (s == info) ...};
```

```
auto warn_logger = [](severity s, auto msg) { if (s == warn) ...};
```

```
auto rc = resp_chain{info_logger, warn_logger};
```

```
rc(error, "Low memory");
```

won't be handled



But there is more!

Adding new handlers to an existing chain

```
auto rc = resp_chain{info_logger, warn_logger};  
rc_with_error(error, "Low memory"); // won't be handled
```

```
auto err_logger = [](severity s, auto msg) -> std::optional<log_entry> {  
    if (s == error){ /*handle logging*/ return std::optional(log_entry{...}); }  
    return std::nullopt; };
```

```
auto rc_with_err = rc.set_next(std::move(err_logger));
```

```
rc_with_error(error, "Low memory");
```

Handled by err_logger

But there is more: programming with types

```
template<typename F, typename ... Fs>
struct resp_chain : F, Fs ... {
```

```
    template<typename...Args>
    decltype(auto) operator()(Args&& ...args) { ... }
```

```
template<typename G>
```

```
decltype(auto) set_next(G&& g) {
```

```
    using G_ = std::remove_cvref_t<G>;
```

```
    return resp_chain<F, Fs..., G_>{*this,
```

```
        static_cast<Fs&>(*this)...,
```

```
        std::forward<G>(g)};
```

```
};
```

```
};
```

*set_next returns
a new type!*

*Copy-initialize
base classes*

Uses and abuses



- Folds + inheritance = composable lambdas
- Clean, reusable abstractions
- Strong types for safer code
- Compile-time checks

Lambdas, uses & abuses



Dawid Zalewski
github.com/zaldawid
zaldawid@gmail.com
[@zaldawid](https://twitter.com/zaldawid)