1 Abstract

This paper proposes a function template that applies a tuple of arguments to an object constructor similar to the way apply works with non-constructor functions.

The template described in this paper is should be tied to the apply function, which is currently targeted for C++17. Therefore, this feature should also be targeted for C++17.

2 Changes from R1 (from LWG review)

- Added missing std::on forward
- Fixed typos

3 Changes from R0

- Removed uninitialized_construct_from_tuple as per LEWG review.
- Added constexpr
- Added an example.
- Re-based to the March 2016 C++17 working draft

4 Proposal

4.1 Motivation

N3915 introduced the apply function template into the Library Fundamentals TS. This template takes an invocable argument and a tuple argument and unpacks the tuple elements into an argument list for the specified invocable. While extremely useful for invoking a function, apply is not well suited for constructing objects from a list of arguments stored in a tuple. Doing so would require wrapping the object construction in a lambda or other function and passing that function to apply, a process that, done generically, is more complicated than the implementation of apply itself.

4.2 Summary

This proposal introduces a function template, make_from_tuple, to fill the void left by apply. The signature for make_from_tuple is:
template <class T, class Tuple>
    constexpr T make_from_tuple(Tuple&& t);

It simply explodes its tuple argument into separate arguments, which it passes to the constructor for type T, returning the newly-constructed object. Because of mandatory copy-elision in C++17, the return value is effectively constructed in place for the client.

4.3 Example

make_from_tuple can be used to implement the piecewise constructor for std::pair as follows:

template <class T1, class T2>
template <class... Args1, class... Args2>
    pair<T1,T2>::pair(piecewise_construct_t,
        tuple<Args1...> first_args, tuple<Args2...> second_args)
    : first(make_from_tuple<T1>(first_args))
        , second(make_from_tuple<T2>(second_args))
    {
    }

5 Scope

Pure-library extension

6 Alternatives considered

There has been discussion of making tuple functionality more tightly integrated into the core language in such a way that these functions would not be needed. More recently, a proposed direct_initialize facility would allow apply to work with constructors. Until such a time as such a proposal is accepted, however, these functions are simple enough, useful enough, and self-contained enough to consider for C++17 and would continue to be meaningful and convenient even if direct_initialize is accepted.

The names are, of course, up for discussion. A name that contains “apply” might be preferred, but I could think of no reasonable name that met that criterion. LEWG considered several names and stuck with make_from_tuple.

7 Implementation experience

The facility in this proposal have been fully implemented and tested. An open-source implementation under the Boost license is available at: https://github.com/phalpern/uses-allocator

8 Formal wording

The following changes are relative to the March 2016 C++17 working draft. N4582.

In section 20.4.1 ([tuple.general]), add the following declarations to the <tuple> header (within the std namespace), immediately after the declaration of apply:
template <class T, class Tuple>
constexpr T make_from_tuple(Tuple&& t);

In section 20.4.2.5 ([tuple.apply]), immediately after the description of apply, add the description for make_from_tuple:

template <class T, class Tuple>
constexpr T make_from_tuple(Tuple&& t);

Returns: Given the exposition-only function:

template <class T, class Tuple, size_t... I>
constexpr T make_from_tuple_impl(Tuple&& t, index_sequence<I...>) {
    return T(get<I>(std::forward<Tuple>(t))...);
}

Equivalent to:

make_from_tuple_impl<T>(forward<Tuple>(t),
    make_index_sequence<tuple_size_v<decay_t<Tuple>>>())

Note: The type of T must be supplied as an explicit template parameter, as it cannot be deduced from the argument list.