Ranges Design Cleanup
1 Abstract

This paper proposes several small, independent design tweaks to Ranges that came up during LWG review of P0896 “The One Ranges Proposal” ([2]).

All wording sections herein are relative to the post-San Diego working draft.

1.1 Revision History

1.1.1 Revision 2

— Add conversion operators to the algorithm result types as needed for the implicit conversion from e.g. copy_result<I, O> to copy_result<dangling, O> to be well-formed.
— Editorial tweaks requested by LWG.

1.1.2 Revision 1

— Rebase wording onto post-San Diego working draft.
— Strike section that suggested making the exposition-only concepts in [special.mem.concepts] available to users; this part of the proposal did not have consensus in LEWG.
— Update safe_subrange_t to account for potential dangling as well.

1.1.3 Revision 0

— In the beginning, all was cv-void. Suddenly, a proposal emerged from the darkness!

2 Deprecate move_iterator::operator->

C++17 [iterator.requirements.general]/1 states:

... An iterator i for which the expression (*i).m is well-defined supports the expression i->m with the same semantics as (*i).m ...

Input iterators are required to support the -> operator ([input.iterators]), and move_iterator is an input iterator, so move_iterator’s arrow operator must satisfy that requirement, right? Sadly, it does not.

For a move_iterator, *i is an xvalue, so (*i).m is also an xvalue. i->m, however, is an lvalue. Consequently, (*i).m and i->m can produce observably different behaviors as subexpressions - they are not substitutable, as would be expected from a strict reading of “with the same semantics.” The fact that -> cannot be implemented with “the same semantics” for iterators whose reference type is an xvalue was the primary motivation for removing the -> requirement from the Ranges iterator concepts. It would benefit users to deprecate move_iterator’s operator-> in C++20 as an indication that its semantics are not equivalent and that it will ideally go away some day.

2.1 Technical Specifications

— Strike move_iterator::operator-> from the class template synopsis in [move.iterator]:

namespace std {
    template<class Iterator>
    class move_iterator {
        [...] =
        constexpr iterator_type base() const;
        constexpr reference operator*() const;
        constexpr pointer operator->() const;
    };
}
constexpr move_iterator& operator++();
constexpr auto operator++(int); [...] };

— Relocate the detailed specification of move_iterator::operator-> from [move.iter.elem]:

constexpr reference operator*() const;
Effects: Equivalent to: return ranges::iter_move(current);
constexpr pointer operator->() const;
Returns: current.

constexpr reference operator[](difference_type n) const;
Effects: Equivalent to: ranges::iter_move(current + n);
to a new subclause “Deprecated move_iterator access” in Annex D between [depr.iterator.primitives] and [depr.util.smartptr.shared.atomic]:

1 The following member is declared in addition to those members specified in [move.iterator.elem]:

namespace std {
    template<class Iterator>
    class move_iterator {
        public:
            constexpr pointer operator->() const;
        }
    }
constexpr pointer operator->() const;
Returns: current.

3 ref-view => ref_view

The authors of P0896 added the exposition-only view type ref-view (P0896R4 [range.view.ref]) to serve as the return type of view::all ([range.adaptors.all]) when passed an lvalue container. ref-view<T> is an “identity view adaptor” – an adaptor which produces a view containing all the elements of the underlying range exactly – of a Range of type T whose representation consists of a T*. A ref-view delegates all operations through that pointer to the underlying Range.

The LEWG-approved design from P0789R3 “Range Adaptors and Utilities” ([1]) used subrange<iterator_t<R>, sentinel_t<R>> as the return type of view::all(c) for an lvalue c of type R. ref-view and subrange are both identity view adaptors, so this change has little to no impact on the existing design. Why bother then? Despite that replacing subrange with ref-view in this case falls under as-if, ref-view has some advantages.

Firstly, a smaller representation: ref-view is a single pointer, whereas subrange is an iterator plus a sentinel, and sometimes a size. View compositions store many views produced by view::all, and many of those are views of lvalue containers in typical usage.

Second, and more significantly, ref-view is future-proof. ref-view retains the exact type of the underlying Range, whereas subrange erases down to the Range’s iterator and sentinel type. ref-view can therefore easily model any and all concepts that the underlying range models simply by implementing any required expressions via delegating to the actual underlying range, but subrange must store somewhere in its representation any properties of the underlying range needed to model a concept which it cannot retrieve from an iterator and sentinel. For example, subrange must store a size to model SizedRange when the underlying range is sized but does not have an iterator and sentinel that model SizedSentinel. If we discover in the future that it is desirable to have the View returned by view::all(container) model additional concepts, we will likely be blocked by ABI concerns with subrange whereas ref-view can simply add more member functions and leave its representation unchanged.
We’ve already realized these advantages for view composition by adding ref-view as an exposition-only View type returned by view::all, but users may like to use it as well as a sort of ‘Ranges reference_wrapper’.

### 3.1 Technical Specifications

— Update references to the name ref-view to ref_view in [range.adaptors.all]/2:

2 The name view::all denotes a range adaptor object ([range.adaptor.object]). For some subexpression E, the expression view::all(E) is expression-equivalent to:

2 — DECAY_COPY(E) if the decayed type of E models View.

2 — Otherwise, ref-view(E).ref_view(E) if that expression is well-formed, where ref_view is the exposition-only View specified below.

2 — Otherwise, subrange{E}.

(2.1) — Change the stable name [range.view.ref] to [range.ref.view] (for consistency with the stable names of the other view classes defined in [range]), retitle to “class template ref_view” and modify as follows:

ref_view is a View of the elements of some other Range.

namespace std::ranges {
    template<Range R>
    requires is_object_v<R>
    class ref_view : public view_interface<ref_view<R>> {
        private:
            R* r_ = nullptr; // exposition only
        public:
            constexpr ref_view() noexcept = default;
            template<not_same_as<ref_view> T>
                requires see below
                constexpr ref_view(T&& t);

            constexpr R& base() const;
            constexpr iterator_t<R> begin() const { return ranges::begin(*r_); }
            constexpr sentinel_t<R> end() const { return ranges::end(*r_); }

            constexpr bool empty() const
                requires requires { ranges::empty(*r_); }
                { return ranges::empty(*r_); }

            constexpr auto size() const requires SizedRange<R>
                { return ranges::size(*r_); }

            constexpr auto data() const requires ContiguousRange<R>
                { return ranges::data(*r_); }

            friend constexpr iterator_t<R> begin(ref_view ref_view r)
                { return r.begin(); }

            friend constexpr sentinel_t<R> end(ref_view ref_view r)
                { return r.end(); }
    }
}

template<not_same_as<ref_view> T>
    requires see below
    constexpr ref_view(T&& t);
4 Comparison function object untemplates

During LWG review of P0896’s comparison function objects (P0896R3 [range.comparisons]) we were asked, “Why are we propagating the design of the std comparison function objects, i.e. class templates that you shouldn’t specialize because they cannot be specialized consistently with the void specializations that you actually should be using?” For the Ranges TS, it was a design goal to minimize differences between std and ranges to ease transition and experimentation. For the Standard, our goal should not be to minimize differences but to produce the best design. (As was evidenced by the LEWG poll in Rapperswil suggesting that we should not be afraid to diverge std and ranges components when there are reasons to do so.)

Absent a good reason to mimic the std comparison function objects exactly, we propose un-template-ing the std::ranges comparison function objects, leaving only concrete classes with the same behavior as the prior void specializations.

4.1 Technical specifications

In [functional.syn], modify the declarations of the ranges comparison function objects as follows:

```cpp
namespace ranges {
    // [range.comparisons], comparisons
    template<class T = void>
    requires see below
    struct equal_to;

    template<class T = void>
    requires see below
    struct not_equal_to;

    template<class T = void>
    requires see below
    struct greater;

    template<class T = void>
    requires see below
    struct less;

    template<class T = void>
    requires see below
    struct greater_equal;

    template<class T = void>
    requires see below
    struct less_equal;

    template<> struct equal_to<void>;
    template<> struct not_equal_to<void>;
    template<> struct greater<void>;
    template<> struct less<void>;
    template<> struct greater_equal<void>;
    template<> struct less_equal<void>;
}
```

Update the specifications in [range.comparisons] as well:

There is an implementation-defined strict total ordering over all pointer values of a given type. This total ordering is consistent with the partial order imposed by the builtin operators <, >, <=, and >=.
template<class T = void>
requires EqualityComparable<T> || Same<T, void> || BUILTIN_PTR_CMP
struct equal_to {
  constexpr bool operator()(const T& x, const T& y) const;
};
3
operator() has effects equivalent to: return ranges::equal_to<>{}(x, y);

template<class T = void>
requires EqualityComparable<T> || Same<T, void> || BUILTIN_PTR_CMP
struct not_equal_to {
  constexpr bool operator()(const T& x, const T& y) const;
};
4
operator() has effects equivalent to: return !ranges::equal_to<>{}(x, y);

template<class T = void>
requires StrictTotallyOrdered<T> || Same<T, void> || BUILTIN_PTR_CMP
struct greater {
  constexpr bool operator()(const T& x, const T& y) const;
};
5
operator() has effects equivalent to: return ranges::less<>{}(y, x);

template<class T = void>
requires StrictTotallyOrdered<T> || Same<T, void> || BUILTIN_PTR_CMP
struct less {
  constexpr bool operator()(const T& x, const T& y) const;
};
6
operator() has effects equivalent to: return ranges::less<>{}(x, y);

template<class T = void>
requires StrictTotallyOrdered<T> || Same<T, void> || BUILTIN_PTR_CMP
struct greater_equal {
  constexpr bool operator()(const T& x, const T& y) const;
};
7
operator() has effects equivalent to: return !ranges::less<>{}(x, y);

template<class T = void>
requires StrictTotallyOrdered<T> || Same<T, void> || BUILTIN_PTR_CMP
struct less_equal {
  constexpr bool operator()(const T& x, const T& y) const;
};
8
operator() has effects equivalent to: return !ranges::less<>{}(y, x);

template<>
struct equal_to<void> {
  template<class T, class U>
  requires EqualityComparableWith<T, U> || BUILTIN_PTR_CMP(T, ==, U)
  constexpr bool operator()(T&& t, U&& u) const;

  using is_transparent = unspecified;
};
9
Expects: If the expression std::forward<T>(t) == std::forward<U>(u) results in a call to a built-in operator == comparing pointers of type P, the conversion sequences from both T and U to P shall be equality-preserving ([concepts.equality]).

Effects:
(10.1) If the expression std::forward<T>(t) == std::forward<U>(u) results in a call to a built-in operator == comparing pointers of type P: returns false if either (the converted value of) t precedes u or u precedes t in the implementation-defined strict total order over pointers of type P and otherwise true.
(10.2) Otherwise, equivalent to: return std::forward<T>(t) == std::forward<U>(u);
template<> struct not_equal_to<void> {
  template<class T, class U>
  requires EqualityComparableWith<T, U> || BUILTIN_PTR_CMP(T, ==, U)
  constexpr bool operator()(T& t, U& u) const;

  using is_transparent = unspecified;
};

operator() has effects equivalent to:
return !ranges::equal_to<>{}(std::forward<T>(t), std::forward<U>(u));

template<> struct greater<void> {
  template<class T, class U>
  requires StrictTotallyOrderedWith<T, U> || BUILTIN_PTR_CMP(U, <, T)
  constexpr bool operator()(T& t, U& u) const;

  using is_transparent = unspecified;
};

operator() has effects equivalent to:
return ranges::less<>{}(std::forward<U>(u), std::forward<T>(t));

template<> struct less<void> {
  template<class T, class U>
  requires StrictTotallyOrderedWith<T, U> || BUILTIN_PTR_CMP(T, <, U)
  constexpr bool operator()(T& t, U& u) const;

  using is_transparent = unspecified;
};

Expects: If the expression std::forward<T>(t) < std::forward<U>(u) results in a call to a built-in operator < comparing pointers of type P, the conversion sequences from both T and U to P shall be equality-preserving ([concepts.equality]). For any expressions ET and EU such that decltype((ET)) is T and decltype((EU)) is U, exactly one of ranges::less<>{}(ET, EU), ranges::less<>{}(EU, ET), or ranges::equal_to<>{}(ET, EU) shall be true.

Effects:
(14.1) — If the expression std::forward<T>(t) < std::forward<U>(u) results in a call to a built-in operator < comparing pointers of type P: returns true if (the converted value of) t precedes u in the implementation-defined strict total order over pointers of type P and otherwise false.

(14.2) — Otherwise, equivalent to: return std::forward<T>(t) < std::forward<U>(u);

template<> struct greater_equal<void> {
  template<class T, class U>
  requires StrictTotallyOrderedWith<T, U> || BUILTIN_PTR_CMP(T, <=, U)
  constexpr bool operator()(T& t, U& u) const;

  using is_transparent = unspecified;
};

operator() has effects equivalent to:
return !ranges::less<>{}(std::forward<T>(t), std::forward<U>(u));

template<> struct less_equal<void> {
  template<class T, class U>
  requires StrictTotallyOrderedWith<T, U> || BUILTIN_PTR_CMP(U, <=, T)
  constexpr bool operator()(T& t, U& u) const;

  using is_transparent = unspecified;
};

operator() has effects equivalent to:
return !ranges::less<>{}(std::forward<U>(u), std::forward<T>(t));

5 Reversing a `reverse_view` [weiv_esrever]

`view::reverse` in P0896 is a range adaptor that produces a `reverse_view` which presents the elements of the underlying range in reverse order - from back to front. `reverse_view` does so via the expedient mechanism of adapting the underlying view's iterators with `std::reverse_iterator`. Reversing a `reverse_view` produces a view of the elements of the original range in their original order. While this behavior is correct, it is likely to exhibit poor performance.

We propose that the effect of `view::reverse(r)` when `r` is an instance of `reverse_view` should be to simply return the underlying view directly. This behavior is both simple to specify and efficient to implement.

Similarly, reversing a `subrange` whose iterator and sentinel are `reverse_iterators` can be made more efficient by yielding a `subrange` of "unwrapped" iterators. Note that in this case we should take care to preserve any stored size information in the original subrange, since the size of the unwrapped base range is the same.

5.1 Technical specifications [sdrow.weiv_esrever]

Modify the specification of `view::reverse` in `[range.reverse.adaptor]` as follows:

1 The name `view::reverse` denotes a range adaptor object ([range.adaptor.object]). For some subexpression `E`, the expression `view::reverse(E)` is expression-equivalent to: `reverse_view{E}`.

(1.1) If the type of `E` is a (possibly cv-qualified) specialization of `reverse_view`, equivalent to `E.base()`.

(1.2) Otherwise, if the type of `E` is cv-qualified `subrange<reverse_iterator<I>, reverse_iterator<I>, K>` for some iterator type `I` and value `K` of type `subrange_kind`,

(1.2.1) if `K` is `subrange_kind::sized`, equivalent to:

```
subrange<I, I, K>(E.end().base(), E.begin().base(), E.size())
```

(1.2.2) otherwise, equivalent to:

```
subrange<I, I, K>(E.end().base(), E.begin().base())
```

However, in either case `E` is evaluated only once.

(1.3) Otherwise, equivalent to `reverse_view(E)`.

6 Use cases left dangling [dangle]

What does this program fragment do in P0896?

```cpp
std::vector<int> f();
o = std::ranges::copy(f(), o).out;
```

how about this one:

```cpp
std::ranges::copy(f(), std::ostream_iterator<int>(std::cout));
```
The correct answer is, “These fragments are ill-formed because the iterator into the input range that ranges::copy returns would dangle - despite that the program fragment ignores that value - because LEWG asked us to remove the dangling wrapper and make such calls ill-formed.”

In the Ranges TS / revision one of P0896 an algorithm that returns an iterator into a range that was passed as an rvalue argument first wraps that iterator with the dangling wrapper template. A caller must retrieve the iterator value from the wrapper by calling a member function, opting in to potentially dangerous behavior explicitly. The use of dangling here makes it impossible for a user to inadvertently use an iterator that dangles.

In practice, the majority of range-v3 users in an extremely rigorous poll of the #ranges Slack channel (i.e., the author and two people who responded) never extract the value from a dangling wrapper. We prefer to always pass lvalue ranges to algorithms when we plan to use the returned iterator, and use dangling only as a tool to help us avoid inadvertent use of potentially dangling iterators. Unfortunately, P0896 makes calls that would have used dangling in the TS design ill-formed which forces passing ranges as lvalues even when the dangling iterator value is not used.

We propose bringing back dangling in a limited capacity as a non-template tag type to be returned by calls that would otherwise return a dangling iterator value. This change makes the program fragments above well-formed, but without introducing the potentially unsafe behavior that LEWG found objectionable in the prior dangling design: there’s no stored iterator value to retrieve.

6.1 Technical specifications

Modify the <ranges> synopsis in [ranges.syn] as follows:

```cpp
namespace std::ranges {
    // [range.range], Range
    template<class T>
    using iterator_t = decltype(ranges::begin(declval<T&>()));

    template<class T>
    using sentinel_t = decltype(ranges::end(declval<T&>()));

    template<forwarding-range R>
    using safe_iterator_t = iterator_t<R>;

    template<class T>
    concept Range = see below;

    // [dangling], dangling iterator handling
    struct dangling;

    template<Range R>
    using safe_iterator_t = conditional_t<forwarding_range<R>, iterator_t<R>, dangling>;

    template<forwarding-range Range R>
    using safe_subrange_t = conditional_t<forwarding-range<R>, subrange<iterator_t<R>>, dangling>;

    // [range.all], all view
    namespace view { inline constexpr unspecified all = unspecified; }
}
```
23.6.4 Dangling iterator handling

The tag type `dangling` is used together with the template aliases `safe_iterator_t` and `safe_subrange_t` to indicate that an algorithm that typically returns an iterator into or subrange of a `Range` argument does not return an iterator or subrange which could potentially reference a range whose lifetime has ended for a particular rvalue `Range` argument which does not model `forwarding-range` ([range.range]).

```cpp
namespace std {
    struct dangling {
        constexpr dangling() noexcept = default;
        template<class... Args>
            constexpr dangling(Args&&...) noexcept { }
    };
}
```

**Example:**

```cpp
vector<int> f();
auto result1 = ranges::find(f(), 42); // #1
static_assert(Same<decltype(result1), dangling>);
auto vec = f();
auto result2 = ranges::find(vec, 42); // #2
static_assert(Same<decltype(result2), vector<int>::iterator>);
auto result3 = ranges::find(subrange{vec}, 42); // #3
static_assert(Same<decltype(result3), vector<int>::iterator>);
```

The call to `ranges::find` at #1 returns `dangling` since `f()` is an rvalue `vector`; the `vector` could potentially be destroyed before a returned iterator is dereferenced. However, the calls at #2 and #3 both return iterators since the lvalue `vec` and specializations of `subrange` model `forwarding-range`. —end example—

Change the `<algorithm>` synopsis in `[algorithm.syn]` as follows:

```cpp
#include <initializer_list>
namespace std {
    namespace ranges {
        template<class I, class F>
            struct for_each_result {
                [[no_unique_address]] I in;
                [[no_unique_address]] F fun;

                template<class I2, class F2>
                    requiresConvertibleTo<const I& , I2> && ConvertibleTo<F & , F2>
                    operator for_each_result<I2 , F2>() const & {
                        return {in, fun};
                    }

                    template<class I2 , class F2>
                        requiresConvertibleTo<I , I2> && ConvertibleTo<F , F2>
                        operator for_each_result<I2 , F2>() && {
                            return {std::move(in) , std::move(fun)};
                        }
                }
            }
}
namespace ranges {
    template<class I1 , class I2>
        struct mismatch_result {
            [[no_unique_address]] I1 in1;
            [[no_unique_address]] I2 in2;
```
template<class II1, class II2>
    requires ConvertibleTo<const I1&, II1> && ConvertibleTo<const I2&, II2>
    operator mismatch_result<II1, II2>() const & {
        return {in1, in2};
    }
}

template<class II1, class II2>
    requires ConvertibleTo<I1, II1> && ConvertibleTo<I2, II2>
    operator mismatch_result<II1, II2>() && {
        return {std::move(in1), std::move(in2)};
    }
};

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 namespace ranges {
template<class I1, class I2, class O>
    struct binary_transform_result {
        [no_unique_address] I1 in1;
        [no_unique_address] I2 in2;
        [no_unique_address] O out;
    
    template<class II1, class II2, class OO>
        requires ConvertibleTo<const I1&, II1> &&
            ConvertibleTo<const I2&, II2> && ConvertibleTo<const O&, OO>
        operator binary_transform_result<II1, II2, OO>() const & {
            return {in1, in2, out};
        }
    
    template<class II1, class II2, class OO>
        requires ConvertibleTo<I1, II1> &&
            ConvertibleTo<I2, II2> && ConvertibleTo<O, OO>
        operator binary_transform_result<II1, II2, OO>() && {
            return {std::move(in1), std::move(in2), std::move(out)};
        }
    
};

namespace ranges {
...
}
template<
class II, class 001, class 002>
requires ConvertibleTo<const I&, II> &&
    ConvertibleTo<const O1&, 001> && ConvertibleTo<const O2&, 002>
operator partition_copy_result<II, 001, 002>() const & {
    return {in, out1, out2};
}

namespace ranges {
    template<class T>
    struct minmax_result {
        [[no_unique_address]] T min;
        [[no_unique_address]] T max;
    }

    template<class T2>
    requires ConvertibleTo<const T&, T2>
    operator minmax_result<T2>() const & {
        return {min, max};
    }

    template<class T2>
    requires ConvertibleTo<T, T2>
    operator minmax_result<T2>() && {
        return {std::move(min), std::move(max)};
    }
};

Bibliography
