

constexpr Functions

Chapter 2 Conditionally Safe Features

Notice that declaring a member function, such as `setY` in the code example above, to be **constexpr** implicitly qualifies the member function as being **const**, thereby making it an error for any **constexpr** member function to attempt to modify its own object’s data members. The inevitable corollary is that any appropriate implementation of *copy* or *move* assignment cannot be declared **constexpr** in C++11 but can be as of C++14.

Finally, **constexpr** member functions cannot be **virtual**³ but can co-exist in the same class with other member functions that *are* virtual.

Restrictions on constexpr function bodies (C++11 only)

The list of C++ programming features permitted in the bodies of **constexpr** functions for C++11 is small and reflective of the nascent state of this feature when it was first standardized. To begin, the body of a **constexpr** function is not permitted to be a **function-try-block**:

```

        int g1()      { return 0; }           // OK
constexpr int g2()  { return 0; }           // OK, no try block
        int g3() try { return 0; } catch(...) {} // OK, not constexpr
constexpr int g4() try { return 0; } catch(...) {} // Error, not allowed

```

C++11 **constexpr** functions that are not *deleted* or *defaulted* (see Section 1.1. “Deleted Functions” on page 53 and Section 1.1. “Defaulted Functions” on page 33, respectively) may consist of only **null statements**, static assertions (see Section 1.1. “**static_assert**” on page 115), **using declarations**, **using directives**, and **typedef** and alias declarations (see Section 1.1. “**using** Aliases” on page 133) that do not define a class or enumeration. Other than constructors, the body of a **constexpr** function must include exactly one **return** statement. A **constexpr** constructor may have a member-initializer list ~~but no other additional statements~~, but see ~~Constraints specific to constructors~~ on page 269. Use of the **ternary operator**, **comma operator**, and recursion is allowed:

```

constexpr int f(int x)
{
    ; // OK, null statement
    static_assert(sizeof(int) == 4, ""); // OK, static assertion
    using MyInt = int; // OK, type alias
    return x > 5 ? x : f(x + 2), f(x + 1); // OK, ternary, comma, and recursion
}

```

Many familiar programming constructs such as runtime assertions, local variables, **if** statements, modifications of function parameters, and ~~using directives~~ that define a type are, however, *not* permitted in C++11:

```

#include <cassert> // standard C assert macro
constexpr int g(int x)
{

```

³C++20 allows **constexpr** member functions to be **virtual** (`dimov18`).