

Section 2.1 C++11

Generalized PODs '11

According to the C++ Standard, the value `std::is_standard_layout<T>::value` is intended to be **true** for any `T` that is a **standard-layout type**. There are, however, certain seldom encountered cases where the incorrect **value** is produced by this trait. In particular, some popular compilers¹² produce the wrong **value** for the trait (**true**) when the compiler is forced to pad an object with empty space to prevent overlapping **footprints** for an otherwise empty base class and the first **nonstatic data member**.

The value `std::is_trivial<T>::value` is supposed to be **true** for any `T` that is a **trivial type**. This trait too is often flawed for some edge cases. In particular, on the same contemporary versions of popular compilers,¹³ `std::is_trivial` too yields a false positive (evaluates to **true**) for a class having a deleted default constructor, deleted copy and move operations, or deleted destructor (e.g., S4d, S4j, S4k, S5d, S5i, S5j, S7b, S7h, S7j, S7k, and S7l in the examples above). Using these same compilers, `std::is_trivial` yields a false negative (evaluates to **false**) when a class **deletes** a copy or move operation that would invoke a non-trivial operation for a base class or a data member (e.g., S7j, S7k, and S7l in the examples above).

For querying if an arbitrary constructor is trivial, the Standard Library provides another **type trait**, `is_trivially_constructible`, which identifies if construction with a given sequence of **arguments** and subsequent destruction is well defined and **trivial** for a given type `T`:

```
namespace std {

    template <typename T, typename... Args>
    struct is_trivially_constructible
    {
        // The value is true if T t(std::declval<Args>()...) invokes no non-trivial
        // operations.
    };

}
```

Because it is **defined** in terms of a **variable declaration**, this trait tests the **triviality** of both construction and destruction. The construction combines a **template parameter pack** with the Standard Library utility `std::declval` to specify a **variable declaration** initialized by a sequence of **arguments** of the specified types; see Section 2.1. “Variadic Templates” on page 873. Three more specific **type traits** are provided to identify the various types of constructors that could potentially be trivial; note that nothing other than a **default constructor**, **copy constructor**, or **move constructor** can be trivial:

```
namespace std {

    template <typename T>
    struct is_trivially_default_constructible
        : std::is_trivially_constructible<T> { };           // possible definition

}
```

¹²E.g., GCC 11.1 (c. 2021) and Clang 12.0 (c. 2021).

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