

Allowing multiple template parameter packs for class templates provided they can be deduced using CTAD

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1 Introduction

This paper proposes that class templates be allowed to have multiple template parameter packs as long as they can be deduced using class template argument deduction(CTAD).

Currently the standard does not allow the use of multiple template parameter packs in class templates. But since C++17 added CTAD, it should be possible to have multiple template parameter packs in a class template **as long as** those can be deduced using CTAD. This is like multiple template parameter packs are already allowed by the standard in "function templates" as long they can be deduced.

Below is an example demonstrating the issue:

```
1 //this is allowed and works as expected using deduction
2 template< typename... Param,typename Ret, typename... Args>
3 void doStuff(Ret (*ptrFunc)(const Param&... param),const Args&... args)
4 {
5 }
6 /*this is not allowed according to the current wording but should
7 be allowed from C++17(&onwards) since we have CTAD*/
8 template< typename... Param,typename Ret, typename... Args>
9 struct C
10 {
11     C(Ret (*ptrFunc)(const Param&... param),const Args&... args);
12 };
```

Currently all compilers are standard conformant and allow multiple template parameter packs in function templates. But since the current wording doesn't allow multiple template parameter packs in class template even if they can be deduced using CTAD, the program is currently rejected by all compilers.

I suggest that the shown class template C in the above program should be allowed since the template arguments can be deduced using CTAD. If on the other hand, CTAD cannot be used to deduce those multiple template parameter packs, then the program should be rejected. This is the same behavior as in function templates where the function template will also be rejected if the multiple template parameter pack cannot be deduced.

2 Motivation and Scope

The main motivation is to increase consistency of CTAD with normal template argument deduction that happens with function templates with multiple template parameter packs where they can be deduced. Additionally, this will increase usability of class templates.

3 Impact on the Standard

This proposal will only make currently invalid programs(that have multiple template parameter packs that can be deduced using CTAD) valid. That is, currently accepted program will not be affected/rejected by the introduction of this proposal into the standard.

4 Before-After Comparision(s)

Before	After
<pre data-bbox="188 810 748 1041">//ill-formed template< typename... Param,typename Ret, typename... Args> struct C { C(Ret (*ptrFunc)(const Param&... param), const Args&... args); };</pre>	<pre data-bbox="870 810 1427 1041">//well-formed template< typename... Param,typename Ret, typename... Args> struct C { C(Ret (*ptrFunc)(const Param&... param), const Args&... args); };</pre>
