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Add tuple protocol to complex

Abstract

This paper proposes amending `complex` with the tuple protocol, enabling structured binding and easy referential access.

Tony Table

Before	Proposed
<pre>complex<double> c{...}; auto & [r, i]{reinterpret_cast<double(&)[2]>(c)};</pre>	<pre>complex<double> c{...}; auto & [r, i]{c};</pre>
<pre>template<typename T> constexpr auto swap_parts(complex<T> c) -> complex<T> { if not consteval { auto & [r, i]{reinterpret_cast<double(&)[2]>(c)}; swap(r, i); } else { //required fallback as reinterpret_cast is //ill-formed in constexpr contexts! const auto r{c.real()}; const auto i{c.imag()}; c.imag(r); c.real(i); } return c; }</pre>	<pre>template<typename T> constexpr auto swap_parts(complex<T> c) -> complex<T> { auto & [r, i]{c}; swap(r, i); return c; }</pre>
<pre>complex<double> c{...}; //interaction with pattern matching proposal P1371R3 inspect(reinterpret_cast<double(&)[2]>(c)) { [0, 0] => { cout << "on origin"; } [0, i] => { cout << "on imaginary axis"; } [r, 0] => { cout << "on real axis"; } [r, i] => { cout << r << ", " << i; } }; //interaction with pattern matching proposal P2392R2 inspect(reinterpret_cast<double(&)[2]>(c)) { is [0, 0] => cout << "on origin"; is [0, _] => cout << "on imaginary axis"; is [_ , 0] => cout << "on real axis"; [r, i] is _ => cout << r << ", " << i; }</pre>	<pre>complex<double> c{...}; //interaction with pattern matching proposal P1371R3 inspect(c) { [0, 0] => { cout << "on origin"; } [0, i] => { cout << "on imaginary axis"; } [r, 0] => { cout << "on real axis"; } [r, i] => { cout << r << ", " << i; } }; //interaction with pattern matching proposal P2392R2 inspect(c) { is [0, 0] => cout << "on origin"; is [0, _] => cout << "on imaginary axis"; is [_ , 0] => cout << "on real axis"; [r, i] is _ => cout << r << ", " << i; }</pre>

Revisions

R0: Initial version

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Motivation

Mathematically the set of complex numbers \mathbb{C} is isomorphic to \mathbb{R}^2 as a vector space with the isomorphism $\Phi: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ such that $\Phi(a+bi) = (a, b)$. Therefore, complex numbers can be identified with tuples and should possess the same characteristics, which is covered by the tuple protocol.

Complex numbers can equivalently be represented in cartesian coordinates (a, b) as well as in polar coordinates (r, θ) using radius r and angle θ . However, alternative representations of complex numbers such as polar coordinates (r, θ) are prohibited by the requirement of matching C's `_Complex floating-point` feature.

As the respective getters do not expose referential access (changing them to do so would result in an ABI-break), the only way to get a reference to the real and imaginary parts of a complex is by performing a `reinterpret_cast` (mandated to be valid, see [\[complex.numbers.general\]](#)), which is not valid in a `constexpr` context. Supporting the tuple protocol enables structured binding and referential access to the components of a complex number in a `constexpr` compatible way.

Lastly, the current pattern matching proposals ([\[P1371R3\]](#) and [\[P2392R2\]](#)) allow inspection of *tuple-like* objects, the proposed changes make complex *tuple-like*.

Design Space

The tuple protocol traits (`tuple_size<T>` and `tuple_element<I, T>`) are partially specialized for `complex<U>` and four free function overloads of `get` are provided.

Impact on the Standard

This proposal is a pure library extension.

Implementation Experience

The proposed design has been implemented at <https://github.com/MFHava/STL/tree/P2819>.

Proposed Wording

Wording is relative to [\[N4928\]](#). Additions are presented like **this**, removals like ~~this~~ and drafting notes like **this**.

[version.syn]

In `[version.syn]`, add:

```
#define __cpp_lib_complex_tuple YYYYMMML //also in <complex>
```

[DRAFTING NOTE: Adjust the placeholder value as needed to denote the proposal's date of adoption.]

[complex.numbers]

In [complex.numbers], add:

```
???.?? Header <complex> synopsis [complex.syn]

namespace std {
...
// [complex.transcendentals], transcendentals
...
template<class T> complex<T> tanh (const complex<T>&);

// [complex.tuple], tuple interface
template<class T> struct tuple_size;
template<size_t I, class T> struct tuple_element;
template<class T>
struct tuple_size<complex<T>>;
template<size_t I, class T>
struct tuple_element<I, complex<T>>;
template<size_t I, class T>
constexpr T& get(complex<T>&) noexcept;
template<size_t I, class T>
constexpr T&& get(complex<T>&&) noexcept;
template<size_t I, class T>
constexpr const T& get(const complex<T>&) noexcept;
template<size_t I, class T>
constexpr const T&& get(const complex<T>&&) noexcept;

// [complex.literals], complex literals
...
}

???.?? Trancendentals [complex.transcendentals]

...

template<class T> complex<T> tanh(const complex<T>& x);

27 Returns: The complex hyperbolic tangent of x.

???.?? Tuple interface [complex.tuple]

template<class T>
struct tuple_size<complex<T>> : integral_constant<size_t, 2> {};

template<size_t I, class T>
struct tuple_element<I, complex<T>> {
using type = T;
};

1 Mandates: I < 2 is true.

template<size_t I, class T>
constexpr T& get(complex<T>& z) noexcept;
template<size_t I, class T>
constexpr const T& get(const complex<T>& z) noexcept;
template<size_t I, class T>
constexpr T&& get(complex<T>&& z) noexcept;
template<size_t I, class T>
constexpr const T&& get(const complex<T>&& z) noexcept;

2 Mandates: I < 2 is true.

3 Returns: A reference to the real part of z if I == 0 is true, otherwise a reference to the imaginary part of z.

???.?? Additional overloads [cmplx.over]
```

Acknowledgements

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