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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&lt;double&gt; c{...}; auto &amp; [r, i]{reinterpret_cast&lt;double(&amp;)[2]&gt;(c)};</pre>	<pre>complex&lt;double&gt; c{...}; auto &amp; [r, i]{c};</pre>
<pre>template&lt;typename T&gt; constexpr auto swap_parts(complex&lt;T&gt; c) -&gt; complex&lt;T&gt; {   if not consteval {     auto &amp; [r, i]{reinterpret_cast&lt;double(&amp;)[2]&gt;(c)};     swap(r, i);   } else {     //reinterpret_cast is ill-formed in constexpr...     const auto tmp{c.real()};     c.real(c.imag());     c.imag(tmp);   }   return c; }</pre>	<pre>template&lt;typename T&gt; constexpr auto swap_parts(complex&lt;T&gt; c) -&gt; complex&lt;T&gt; {   auto &amp; [r, i]{c};   swap(r, i);    return c; }</pre>
<pre>vector&lt;complex&lt;double&gt;&gt; v{ ... }; auto reals{v   views::transform([](auto c) {   return c.real(); })   ranges::to&lt;vector&gt;()}; auto imags{v   views::transform([](auto c) {   return c.imag(); })   ranges::to&lt;vector&gt;()};</pre>	<pre>vector&lt;complex&lt;double&gt;&gt; v{ ... }; auto reals{v   views::elements&lt;0&gt;   ranges::to&lt;vector&gt;()}; auto imags{v   views::elements&lt;1&gt;   ranges::to&lt;vector&gt;()};</pre>
<pre>complex&lt;double&gt; c{...}; //interaction with pattern matching proposal P1371R3 inspect(reinterpret_cast&lt;double(&amp;)[2]&gt;(c)) {   [0, 0] =&gt; { cout &lt;&lt; "on origin"; }   [0, i] =&gt; { cout &lt;&lt; "on imaginary axis"; }   [r, 0] =&gt; { cout &lt;&lt; "on real axis"; }   [r, i] =&gt; { cout &lt;&lt; r &lt;&lt; ", " &lt;&lt; i; } }; //interaction with pattern matching proposal P2392R2 inspect(reinterpret_cast&lt;double(&amp;)[2]&gt;(c)) {   is [0, 0] =&gt; cout &lt;&lt; "on origin";   is [0, _] =&gt; cout &lt;&lt; "on imaginary axis";   is [_ , 0] =&gt; cout &lt;&lt; "on real axis";   [r, i] is _ =&gt; cout &lt;&lt; r &lt;&lt; ", " &lt;&lt; i; }</pre>	<pre>complex&lt;double&gt; c{...}; //interaction with pattern matching proposal P1371R3 inspect(c) {   [0, 0] =&gt; { cout &lt;&lt; "on origin"; }   [0, i] =&gt; { cout &lt;&lt; "on imaginary axis"; }   [r, 0] =&gt; { cout &lt;&lt; "on real axis"; }   [r, i] =&gt; { cout &lt;&lt; r &lt;&lt; ", " &lt;&lt; i; } }; //interaction with pattern matching proposal P2392R2 inspect(c) {   is [0, 0] =&gt; cout &lt;&lt; "on origin";   is [0, _] =&gt; cout &lt;&lt; "on imaginary axis";   is [_ , 0] =&gt; cout &lt;&lt; "on real axis";   [r, i] is _ =&gt; cout &lt;&lt; r &lt;&lt; ", " &lt;&lt; i; }</pre>

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# Revisions

**R0:** Initial version

**R1:** Changes after LEWG review on 2023-06-12:

- Made get overloads hidden friends.
- Extending *tuple-like* concept to support tuple-based range algorithms.
- Amended proposed wording with entry to Annex C.

**R2:** Changes after LWG review on 2023-11-08:

- Removed the dedicated feature test macro.
- Made get free functions again as hidden friends do not work for *tuple-like*.
- Removed wording for Annex C.

## 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  $(r, \theta)$  using radius  $r$  and angle  $\theta$ . However, alternative representations of complex numbers such as polar coordinates  $(r, \theta)$  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 function overloads of `get` are provided. Additionally, the exposition-only *tuple-like* concept is amended, enabling support for range algorithms like `views::elements`.

## Impact on the Standard

This proposal is a library extension, that changes the meaning of `tuple-like<complex<T>>`.

## Implementation Experience

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

## Proposed Wording

Wording is relative to [\[N4950\]](#). Additions are presented like [this](#), removals like ~~this~~ and drafting notes like [this](#).

### [version.syn]

```
#define __cpp_lib_tuple_like 202207L-YYYYMML //also in <utility>, <tuple>, <map>, <unordered_map>
```

## [tuple.like]

???.?? Concept *tuple-like*

[tuple.like]

```
template<class T>
    concept tuple-like = see below; //exposition only
```

- 1 A type `T` models and satisfies the exposition-only concept *tuple-like* if `remove_cvref_t<T>` is a specialization of `array`, `complex`, `pair`, `tuple`, or `ranges::subrange`.

## [complex.numbers]

???.?? 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
    ...
}
```

???.?? Class template `complex`

[complex]

...

???.?? Transcendentals

[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 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 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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