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## Wording for fundamental bit manipulation utilities

**Note:** this is an early draft. It's known to be incomplet and incorrekt, and it has lots of bad fomattting.

# 1 Bit manipulation library

[bit]

## 1.1 General

[bit.general]

- <sup>1</sup> This Clause describes the contents of the header `<bit>` (1.2) that provides components that C++ programs may use to access, manipulate and process both individual bits and bit sequences.
- <sup>2</sup> The bit library relies on four main classes `bit_value` (1.4), `bit_reference` (1.5), `bit_pointer` (1.6) and `bit_iterator` (1.7) as well as on a helper class `binary_digits` (1.3). For generic purposes `bit_value` and `bit_reference` exhibit roughly the same interface. Most of the non-member operations on `bit_value` (1.4.9) are provided on `bit_reference` through an implicit conversion to `bit_value`.
- <sup>3</sup> In all the following, a *bit* refers to an object that can hold one of the two values designated as 0 and 1. As a part of the C++ memory model, `CHAR_BIT` bits are packed together in *bytes*, with `CHAR_BIT`  $\geq 8$ . Bytes are themselves packed together to form *machine words*. Because the smallest addressable entity in memory are bytes in the C++ memory model, a bit object is hypothetical. The bit manipulation library provides wrapper classes to mimic the behavior of this hypothetical object.
- <sup>4</sup> An object of a *word* type refers to an object that provides an access to its underlying bits. An object of a word type shall provide the operators `>>` and `&` such that the expression `(word >> position) & static_cast<decltype(word)>(1)` is a valid expression, with `word` an object of a word type and `position` a value of type `size_t`.
- <sup>5</sup> The bit library is only compatible with word types `WordType` for which `binary_digits_v<WordType>` is defined and is not zero (1.3.3). `binary_digits_v<WordType>` corresponds to the number of individual bits within a word of type `WordType`.
- <sup>6</sup> The *position* of a bit within a word is the unsigned integral number `n < binary_digits_v<decltype(word)>` such that `(word >> n) & static_cast<decltype(word)>(1)` returns the `n`-th bit of the word `word`. [*Note:* For unsigned integral types, `(word >> n) & static_cast<decltype(word)>(1)` is equivalent to `word & (static_cast<decltype(word)>(1) << n)` for `n < binary_digits_v<decltype(word)>`. — *end note*]
- <sup>7</sup> The *least significant bit* of a word, or *lsb*, is the bit at position 0. The *most significant bit* of a word, or *msb*, is the bit at position `binary_digits_v<WordType> - 1`.
- <sup>8</sup> The default direction in which bits are iterated through goes from the least significant bit to the most significant bit of each word. The next bit of the most significant bit of a word is considered to be the least significant bit of the next word. The arithmetic of bit pointers (1.6.1) and bit iterators (1.7.1) is based on this behavior.

## 1.2 Header `<bit>` synopsis

[bit.syn]

```
namespace std {
    // 1.3, helper class binary_digits
    template <class T> struct binary_digits;
    template <class T> constexpr binary_digits_v = binary_digits<T>::value;

    // 1.4, class bit_value
    class bit_value;

    // 1.4.9, bit_value operations
    constexpr bit_value operator~(bit_value rhs) noexcept;
    constexpr bit_value operator&(bit_value lhs, bit_value rhs) noexcept;
    constexpr bit_value operator|(bit_value lhs, bit_value rhs) noexcept;
```

```

constexpr bit_value operator^(bit_value lhs, bit_value rhs) noexcept;

// 1.4.9, bit_value comparisons
constexpr bool operator==(bit_value lhs, bit_value rhs) noexcept;
constexpr bool operator!=(bit_value lhs, bit_value rhs) noexcept;
constexpr bool operator<(bit_value lhs, bit_value rhs) noexcept;
constexpr bool operator<=(bit_value lhs, bit_value rhs) noexcept;
constexpr bool operator>(bit_value lhs, bit_value rhs) noexcept;
constexpr bool operator>=(bit_value lhs, bit_value rhs) noexcept;

// 1.4.9, bit_value input and output
template <class charT, class traits>
    basic_istream<charT, traits>& operator>>(basic_istream<charT, traits>& is,
                                             bit_value& x);
template <class charT, class traits>
    basic_ostream<charT, traits>& operator<<(basic_ostream<charT, traits>& os,
                                             bit_value x);

// 1.4.10, bit_value objects
inline constexpr bit_value bit0(0U);
inline constexpr bit_value bit1(1U);

// 1.5, class template bit_reference
template <class WordType> class bit_reference;

// 1.5.9, bit_reference swap
template <class T>
    void swap(bit_reference<T> lhs, bit_reference<T> rhs) noexcept;
template <class T, class U>
    void swap(bit_reference<T> lhs, bit_reference<U> rhs) noexcept;
template <class T>
    void swap(bit_reference<T> lhs, bit_value& rhs) noexcept;
template <class U>
    void swap(bit_value& lhs, bit_reference<U> rhs) noexcept;

// 1.5.9, bit_reference input and output
template <class charT, class traits, class T>
    basic_istream<charT, traits>& operator>>(basic_istream<charT, traits>& is,
                                             bit_reference<T>& x);
template <class charT, class traits, class T>
    basic_ostream<charT, traits>& operator<<(basic_ostream<charT, traits>& os,
                                             bit_reference<T> x);

// 1.6, class template bit_pointer
template <class WordType> class bit_pointer;

// 1.6.7, bit_pointer arithmetic
template <class T>
    constexpr bit_pointer<T> operator+(typename bit_pointer<T>::difference_type n,
                                       bit_pointer<T> x);

template <class T, class U>
    constexpr common_type_t<
        typename bit_pointer<T>::difference_type,
        typename bit_pointer<U>::difference_type
    > operator-(bit_pointer<T> lhs, bit_pointer<U> rhs);

```

```

// 1.6.7, bit_pointer comparisons
template <class T, class U>
    constexpr bool operator==(bit_pointer<T> lhs, bit_pointer<U> rhs) noexcept;
template <class T, class U>
    constexpr bool operator!=(bit_pointer<T> lhs, bit_pointer<U> rhs) noexcept;
template <class T, class U>
    constexpr bool operator<(bit_pointer<T> lhs, bit_pointer<U> rhs) noexcept;
template <class T, class U>
    constexpr bool operator<=(bit_pointer<T> lhs, bit_pointer<U> rhs) noexcept;
template <class T, class U>
    constexpr bool operator>(bit_pointer<T> lhs, bit_pointer<U> rhs) noexcept;
template <class T, class U>
    constexpr bool operator>=(bit_pointer<T> lhs, bit_pointer<U> rhs) noexcept;

// 1.7, class template bit_iterator
template <class Iterator> class bit_iterator;

// 1.7.7, bit_iterator arithmetic
template <class T>
    constexpr bit_iterator<T> operator+(typename bit_iterator<T>::difference_type n,
                                       const bit_iterator<T>& i);

template <class T, class U>
    constexpr common_type_t<
        typename bit_iterator<T>::difference_type,
        typename bit_iterator<U>::difference_type
    > operator-(const bit_iterator<T>& lhs, const bit_iterator<U>& rhs);

// 1.7.7, bit_iterator comparisons
template <class T, class U>
    constexpr bool operator==(const bit_iterator<T>& lhs, const bit_iterator<U>& rhs);
template <class T, class U>
    constexpr bool operator!=(const bit_iterator<T>& lhs, const bit_iterator<U>& rhs);
template <class T, class U>
    constexpr bool operator<(const bit_iterator<T>& lhs, const bit_iterator<U>& rhs);
template <class T, class U>
    constexpr bool operator<=(const bit_iterator<T>& lhs, const bit_iterator<U>& rhs);
template <class T, class U>
    constexpr bool operator>(const bit_iterator<T>& lhs, const bit_iterator<U>& rhs);
template <class T, class U>
    constexpr bool operator>=(const bit_iterator<T>& lhs, const bit_iterator<U>& rhs);
}

```

## 1.3 Helper class `binary_digits` [bit.helper]

### 1.3.1 Class `binary_digits` overview [bit.helper.overview]

```

template <class UIntType> struct binary_digits
    : integral_constant<size_t, numeric_limits<UIntType>::digits> { };

```

- 1 *Requires:* `UIntType` is an (possibly cv-qualified) unsigned integer type [ *Note:* This excludes (possibly cv-qualified) `bool`. — *end note* ], otherwise the program is ill-formed.
- 2 *Remarks:* Specialization of this helper class for a type `T` informs other library components that this type `T` corresponds to a word type whose bits can be accessed through `bit_value`, `bit_reference`, `bit_pointer` and `bit_iterator`.

### 1.3.2 Class `binary_digits` specializations

[[bit.helper.specializations](#)]

```
template <class T> struct binary_digits<const T>;
template <class T> struct binary_digits<volatile T>;
template <class T> struct binary_digits<const volatile T>;
```

- <sup>1</sup> The value of each member of a specialization of `binary_digits` on a cv-qualified type cv T shall be equal to the value of the corresponding member of the specialization on the unqualified type T.

```
template <> struct binary_digits<byte>
: integral_constant<size_t, numeric_limits<unsigned char>::digits> { };
```

- <sup>2</sup> The specialization of `binary_digits` for (possibly cv-qualified) `byte` makes `byte` a viable word type to hold bits.

### 1.3.3 Variable template `binary_digits_v`

[[bit.helper.variable](#)]

```
template <class T> constexpr binary_digits_v = binary_digits<T>::value;
```

- <sup>1</sup> The variable template `binary_digits_v` provides an access to the `value` member of `binary_digits` for convenience.

## 1.4 Class `bit_value`

[[bit.value](#)]

### 1.4.1 Class `bit_value` overview

[[bit.value.overview](#)]

- <sup>1</sup> A `bit_value` emulates the behavior an independent single bit, with no arithmetic behavior apart from bitwise compound assignment (1.4.5) and bitwise operators (1.4.9). It provides the bit modifier members `set`, `reset` and `flip` (1.4.7). [*Note: A `bit_value` is typically implemented as a wrapper around `bool`. — end note*]
- <sup>2</sup> A `bit_value` is implicitly convertible from a `bit_reference` (1.5), typically to create temporary values from references to bits.
- <sup>3</sup> To prevent implicit conversions to `bool` and `int` potentially leading to misleading arithmetic behaviors, a `bit_value` is explicitly, and not implicitly, convertible to `bool` (1.4.6).
- <sup>4</sup> For convenience, two global `bit_value` objects are provided (1.4.10).

```
class bit_value {
public:
    // 1.4.2, types
    using size_type = see below;

    // 1.4.3, constructors
    bit_value() noexcept = default;
    template <class T> constexpr bit_value(bit_reference<T> ref) noexcept;
    template <class WordType> explicit constexpr bit_value(WordType val) noexcept;
    template <class WordType> constexpr bit_value(WordType val, size_type pos);

    // 1.4.4, assignment
    template <class T> constexpr bit_value& operator=(bit_reference<T> ref) noexcept;
    template <class WordType> constexpr bit_value& assign(WordType val) noexcept;
    template <class WordType> constexpr bit_value& assign(WordType val, size_type pos);

    // 1.4.5, compound assignment
    constexpr bit_value& operator&=(bit_value rhs) noexcept;
    constexpr bit_value& operator|=(bit_value rhs) noexcept;
    constexpr bit_value& operator^=(bit_value rhs) noexcept;

    // 1.4.6, observers
```

```

explicit constexpr operator bool() const noexcept;

// 1.4.7, modifiers
constexpr bit_value& set(bool b) noexcept;
constexpr bit_value& set() noexcept;
constexpr bit_value& reset() noexcept;
constexpr bit_value& flip() noexcept;

// 1.4.8, swap
void swap(bit_value& rhs) noexcept;
template <class T> void swap(bit_reference<T> rhs) noexcept;
};

```

#### 1.4.2 bit\_value member types [bit.value.types]

using size\_type = see below;

- 1 *Type:* An implementation-defined unsigned integer type capable of holding at least as many values as `binary_digits_v<std::uintmax_t>`. Same as `std::remove_cv<decltype(binary_digits_v<std::uintmax_t>>>::type` (1.3.3).

#### 1.4.3 bit\_value constructors [bit.value.cons]

`bit_value()` noexcept = default;

- 1 *Effects:* Constructs a default-initialized object of type `bit_value`.

template <class T> constexpr bit\_value(bit\_reference<T> ref) noexcept;

- 2 *Effects:* Constructs an object of type `bit_value` from the value of the bit referenced by `ref`.

template <class WordType> explicit constexpr bit\_value(WordType val) noexcept;

- 3 *Effects:* Constructs an object of type `bit_value` from the value of the bit in `val` at position 0.

- 4 *Remarks:* This constructor shall not participate in overload resolution unless `binary_digits_v<WordType>` is well-defined and is not equal to zero (1.3).

- 5 [ *Note:* Contrarily to the more generic constructor that takes an arbitrary position as an argument, this constructor is marked `noexcept`. — *end note* ]

template <class WordType> constexpr bit\_value(WordType val, size\_type pos);

- 6 *Requires:* `pos < binary_digits_v<WordType>`.

- 7 *Effects:* Constructs an object of type `bit_value` from the value of the bit in `val` at position `pos`.

- 8 *Throws:* Nothing.

- 9 *Remarks:* This constructor shall not participate in overload resolution unless `binary_digits_v<WordType>` is well-defined and is not equal to zero (1.3).

#### 1.4.4 bit\_value assignment [bit.value.assign]

template <class T> constexpr bit\_value& operator=(bit\_reference<T> ref) noexcept;

- 1 *Effects:* Assigns the value of the bit referenced by `ref` to `*this`.

- 2 *Returns:* `*this`.

template <class WordType> constexpr bit\_value& assign(WordType val) noexcept;

- 3 *Effects:* Assigns the value of the bit in `val` at position 0 to `*this`.

4 *Returns: \*this.*  
5 *Remarks:* This function shall not participate in overload resolution unless `binary_digits_v<WordType>`  
is well-defined and is not equal to zero (1.3).

6 [*Note:* Contrarily to the more generic `assign` member function that takes an arbitrary position as an  
argument, this member function is marked `noexcept`. — *end note*]

```
template <class WordType> constexpr bit_value& assign(WordType val, size_type pos);
```

7 *Requires:* `pos < binary_digits_v<WordType>`.

8 *Effects:* Assigns the value of the bit in `val` at position `pos` to `*this`.

9 *Returns: \*this.*

10 *Throws:* Nothing.

11 *Remarks:* This function shall not participate in overload resolution unless `binary_digits_v<WordType>`  
is well-defined and is not equal to zero (1.3).

#### 1.4.5 `bit_value` compound assignment [bit.value.cassign]

```
constexpr bit_value& operator&=(bit_value rhs) noexcept;
```

1 *Effects:* Sets the bit to zero if `rhs` is set to zero. Otherwise, no effects.

2 *Returns: \*this.*

```
constexpr bit_value& operator|=(bit_value rhs) noexcept;
```

3 *Effects:* Sets the bit to one if `rhs` is set to one. Otherwise, no effects.

4 *Returns: \*this.*

```
constexpr bit_value& operator^=(bit_value rhs) noexcept;
```

5 *Effects:* Toggles the bit if `rhs` is set to one. Otherwise, no effects.

6 *Returns: \*this.*

#### 1.4.6 `bit_value` observers [bit.value.observers]

```
explicit constexpr operator bool() const noexcept;
```

1 *Returns:* `false` if the bit is cleared, `true` if it is set.

#### 1.4.7 `bit_value` modifiers [bit.value.modifiers]

```
constexpr bit_value& set(bool b) noexcept;
```

1 *Effects:* Stores a new value in the bit: one if `b` is `true`, zero otherwise.

2 *Returns: \*this.*

```
constexpr bit_value& set() noexcept;
```

3 *Effects:* Sets the bit to one.

4 *Returns: \*this.*

```
constexpr bit_value& reset() noexcept;
```

5 *Effects:* Resets the bit to zero.

6 *Returns: \*this.*

```
constexpr bit_value& flip() noexcept;
```

7       *Effects:* Toggles the bit.

8       *Returns:* *\*this*.

#### 1.4.8 bit\_value swap

[bit.value.swap]

```
void swap(bit_value& rhs) noexcept;
```

1       *Effects:* Toggles the bit stored in *\*this* and the bit stored in *rhs* if their value differ as in `static_cast<bool>(*this) != static_cast<bool>(rhs)`.

```
template <class T> void swap(bit_reference<T> rhs) noexcept;
```

2       *Effects:* Toggles the bit stored in *\*this* and the bit referenced by *rhs* if their value differ as in `static_cast<bool>(*this) != static_cast<bool>(rhs)`.

#### 1.4.9 bit\_value non-member operations

[bit.value.nonmembers]

```
constexpr bit_value operator~(bit_value rhs) noexcept;
```

1       *Effects:* Constructs an object *x* of class `bit_value` and initializes it with *rhs*.

2       *Returns:* *x.flip()*.

```
constexpr bit_value operator&(bit_value lhs, bit_value rhs) noexcept;
```

3       *Returns:* `bit_value(lhs) &= rhs`.

```
constexpr bit_value operator|(bit_value lhs, bit_value rhs) noexcept;
```

4       *Returns:* `bit_value(lhs) |= rhs`.

```
constexpr bit_value operator^(bit_value lhs, bit_value rhs) noexcept;
```

5       *Returns:* `bit_value(lhs) ^= rhs`.

```
constexpr bool operator==(bit_value lhs, bit_value rhs) noexcept;
```

6       *Returns:* `static_cast<bool>(lhs) == static_cast<bool>(rhs)`.

```
constexpr bool operator!=(bit_value lhs, bit_value rhs) noexcept;
```

7       *Returns:* `static_cast<bool>(lhs) != static_cast<bool>(rhs)`.

```
constexpr bool operator<(bit_value lhs, bit_value rhs) noexcept;
```

8       *Returns:* `static_cast<bool>(lhs) < static_cast<bool>(rhs)`.

```
constexpr bool operator<=(bit_value lhs, bit_value rhs) noexcept;
```

9       *Returns:* `static_cast<bool>(lhs) <= static_cast<bool>(rhs)`.

```
constexpr bool operator>(bit_value lhs, bit_value rhs) noexcept;
```

10       *Returns:* `static_cast<bool>(lhs) > static_cast<bool>(rhs)`.

```
constexpr bool operator>=(bit_value lhs, bit_value rhs) noexcept;
```

11       *Returns:* `static_cast<bool>(lhs) >= static_cast<bool>(rhs)`.

```
template <class charT, class traits>
```

```
    basic_istream<charT, traits>&
```

```
    operator>>(basic_istream<charT, traits>& is, bit_value& x);
```

12       A formatted input function ([istream.formatted]).

13 *Effects:* A sentry object is first constructed. If the sentry object returns `true`, one character is extracted from `is`. If the character is successfully extracted with no end-of-file encountered, it is compared to `is.widen('0')` and to `is.widen('1')` and a temporary `bit_value` is set accordingly. If the character is neither equal to `is.widen('0')` nor to `is.widen('1')`, the extracted character is put back into the sequence. If the extraction succeeds, the temporary bit value is assigned to `x`, otherwise `is.setstate(ios_base::failbit)` is called (which may throw `ios_base::failure`).

14 *Returns:* `is`.

```
template <class charT, class traits>
    basic_ostream<charT, traits>&
        operator<<(basic_ostream<charT, traits>& os, bit_value x);
```

15 A formatted output function ([`ostream.formatted.reqmts`]).

16 *Effects:* Outputs the bit to the stream.

17 *Returns:* `os << os.widen(x ? '1' : '0')`.

### 1.4.10 bit\_value objects

[`bit.value.objects`]

```
inline constexpr bit_value bit0(0U);
```

1 The object `bit0` represents a constant bit of value 0. [*Note:* This is mostly a convenience feature, for example to make the call of bit manipulation algorithms less verbose and less error-prone as in `count(first_bit, last_bit, bit0)` instead of `count(first_bit, last_bit, bit_value(0U))`. — *end note*]

```
inline constexpr bit_value bit1(1U);
```

2 The object `bit1` represents a constant bit of value 1. [*Note:* This is mostly a convenience feature, for example to make the call of bit manipulation algorithms less verbose and less error-prone as in `count(first_bit, last_bit, bit1)` instead of `count(first_bit, last_bit, bit_value(1U))`. — *end note*]

## 1.5 Class template bit\_reference

[`bit.reference`]

### 1.5.1 Class template bit\_reference overview

[`bit.reference.overview`]

1 A `bit_reference` emulates the behavior of a reference to a bit within an object, with no arithmetic behavior apart from bitwise compound assignment (1.5.5) and bitwise operators provided through implicit conversion to `bit_value` (1.4.9). Comparison operators are provided through implicit conversion to `bit_value` (1.4.9). As for `bit_value` (1.4.7), it provides the bit modifier members `set`, `reset` and `flip` (1.5.7). [*Note:* A `bit_reference` is typically implemented in terms of a bit position or a mask, and in terms of a pointer or a reference to the object in which the bit is referenced. — *end note*]

2 The copy assignment operator is overloaded to assign a new value to the referenced bit without changing the underlying reference itself. Specializations of `swap` are provided for the same reason, typically using a temporary `bit_value` (1.4) to ensure that the referenced values are swapped and not the references themselves.

3 The address-of operator of `bit_reference` (1.5.6) is overloaded to return a `bit_pointer` (1.6) to the referenced bit. [*Note:* A pointer to a `bit_reference` can be obtained through the `addressof` function of the standard library. — *end note*]

4 An access to the underlying representation of a `bit_reference` is provided through the function members `address`, `position` and `mask` (1.5.6).

5 To prevent implicit conversions to `bool` and `int` potentially leading to misleading arithmetic behaviors, a `bit_reference` is explicitly, and not implicitly, convertible to `bool` (1.5.6).

- 6 The template parameter type `WordType` should be a type such that `binary_digits_v<WordType>` is well-defined and is not zero (1.3), otherwise the program is ill-formed. A reference to a constant bit shall be obtained through `bit_reference<const WordType>`.
- 7 Concurrently mutating multiple bits belonging to the same underlying word through bit references may result in a data race.

```

template <class WordType>
class bit_reference {
public:
    // 1.5.2, types
    using word_type = WordType;
    using size_type = see below;

    // 1.5.3, constructors
    template <class T> constexpr bit_reference(const bit_reference<T>& other) noexcept;
    explicit constexpr bit_reference(word_type& ref) noexcept;
    constexpr bit_reference(word_type& ref, size_type pos);

    // 1.5.4, assignment
    constexpr bit_reference& operator=(const bit_reference& other) noexcept;
    template <class T> constexpr bit_reference& operator=(const bit_reference<T>& other) noexcept;
    constexpr bit_reference& operator=(bit_value val) noexcept;
    constexpr bit_reference& assign(word_type val) noexcept;
    constexpr bit_reference& assign(word_type val, size_type pos);

    // 1.5.5, compound assignment
    constexpr bit_reference& operator&=(bit_value rhs) noexcept;
    constexpr bit_reference& operator|=(bit_value rhs) noexcept;
    constexpr bit_reference& operator^=(bit_value rhs) noexcept;

    // 1.5.6, observers
    explicit constexpr operator bool() const noexcept;
    constexpr bit_pointer<WordType> operator&() const noexcept;
    constexpr word_type* address() const noexcept;
    constexpr size_type position() const noexcept;
    constexpr typename std::remove_cv<word_type>::type mask() const noexcept;

    // 1.5.7, modifiers
    constexpr bit_reference& set(bool b) noexcept;
    constexpr bit_reference& set() noexcept;
    constexpr bit_reference& reset() noexcept;
    constexpr bit_reference& flip() noexcept;

    // 1.5.8, swap
    template <class T> void swap(bit_reference<T> rhs) noexcept;
    void swap(bit_value& rhs) noexcept;
};

```

## 1.5.2 bit\_reference member types

[bit.reference.types]

```
using word_type = WordType;
```

- 1 *Type*: Refers to the underlying word type that is being provided as a template parameter.

```
using size_type = see below;
```

- 2 *Type*: An implementation-defined unsigned integer type capable of holding at least as many values as

binary\_digits\_v<word\_type>. Same as bit\_value::size\_type (1.4.2).

### 1.5.3 bit\_reference constructors

[bit.reference.cons]

```
template <class T> constexpr bit_reference(const bit_reference<T>& other) noexcept;
```

1 *Effects:* Constructs an object of type `bit_reference` from another referenced bit `other`. [ *Note:* This constructor is typically used for implicit conversions of cv-qualified bit references. — *end note* ]

2 *Remarks:* This constructor shall not participate in overload resolution unless `is_convertible_v<T&, word_type&> == true`.

```
explicit constexpr bit_reference(word_type& ref) noexcept;
```

3 *Effects:* Constructs a reference to the bit at position 0 of `ref`.

4 [ *Note:* Contrarily to the more generic constructor that takes an arbitrary position as an argument, this constructor is marked `noexcept`. — *end note* ]

```
constexpr bit_reference(word_type& ref, size_type pos);
```

5 *Requires:* `pos < binary_digits_v<word_type>`.

6 *Effects:* Constructs a reference to the bit at position `pos` of `ref`.

7 *Throws:* Nothing.

### 1.5.4 bit\_reference assignment

[bit.reference.assign]

```
constexpr bit_reference& operator=(const bit_reference& other) noexcept;
```

1 *Effects:* Copies the value of the bit referenced by `other` to the bit referenced by `*this`.

2 *Returns:* `*this`.

3 [ *Note:* The copy assignment operator is not implicitly generated in order to ensure that the value of the referenced bit is changed instead of the underlying reference itself. — *end note* ]

```
template <class T> constexpr bit_reference& operator=(const bit_reference<T>& other) noexcept;
```

4 *Effects:* Assigns the value of the bit referenced by `other` to the bit referenced by `*this`.

5 *Returns:* `*this`.

```
constexpr bit_reference& operator=(bit_value val) noexcept;
```

6 *Effects:* Assigns the value of the bit `val` to the bit referenced by `*this`.

7 *Returns:* `*this`.

```
constexpr bit_reference& assign(word_type val) noexcept;
```

8 *Effects:* Assigns the value of the bit in `val` at position 0 to the bit referenced by `*this`.

9 *Returns:* `*this`.

10 [ *Note:* Contrarily to the more generic `assign` member function that takes an arbitrary position as an argument, this member function is marked `noexcept`. — *end note* ]

```
constexpr bit_reference& assign(word_type val, size_type pos);
```

11 *Requires:* `pos < binary_digits_v<word_type>`.

12 *Effects:* Assigns the value of the bit in `val` at position `pos` to the bit referenced by `*this`.

13 *Returns:* `*this`.

14 *Throws:* Nothing.

### 1.5.5 `bit_reference` compound assignment [`bit.reference.cassign`]

`constexpr bit_reference& operator&=(bit_value rhs) noexcept;`

1 *Effects:* Sets the bit referenced by `*this` to zero if `rhs` is set to zero. Otherwise, no effects.

2 *Returns:* `*this`.

`constexpr bit_reference& operator|=(bit_value rhs) noexcept;`

3 *Effects:* Sets the bit referenced by `*this` to one if `rhs` is set to one. Otherwise, no effects.

4 *Returns:* `*this`.

`constexpr bit_reference& operator^=(bit_value rhs) noexcept;`

5 *Effects:* Toggles the bit referenced by `*this` if `rhs` is set to one. Otherwise, no effects.

6 *Returns:* `*this`.

### 1.5.6 `bit_reference` observers [`bit.reference.observers`]

`explicit constexpr operator bool() const noexcept;`

1 *Returns:* `false` if the bit referenced by `*this` is cleared, `true` if it is set.

`constexpr bit_pointer<WordType> operator&() const noexcept;`

2 *Returns:* A `bit_pointer` (1.6) pointing to the bit referenced by `*this`.

3 [ *Note:* The actual address of a `bit_reference` object can be obtained through the `addressof` function of the standard library. — *end note* ]

`constexpr word_type* address() const noexcept;`

4 *Returns:* A pointer to the word containing the bit referenced by `*this`.

`constexpr size_type position() const noexcept;`

5 *Returns:* The position of the bit referenced by `*this` within the word containing it.

`constexpr typename std::remove_cv<word_type>::type mask() const noexcept;`

6 *Returns:* A mask of type `std::remove_cv<word_type>::type` whose only set bit is the bit at the position of the bit referenced by `*this` within the word containing it as in `static_cast<word_type>(1) << position()`.

### 1.5.7 `bit_reference` modifiers [`bit.reference.modifiers`]

`constexpr bit_reference& set(bool b) noexcept;`

1 *Effects:* Stores a new value in the bit referenced by `*this`: one if `b` is `true`, zero otherwise.

2 *Returns:* `*this`.

`constexpr bit_reference& set() noexcept;`

3 *Effects:* Sets the bit referenced by `*this` to one.

4 *Returns:* `*this`.

`constexpr bit_reference& reset() noexcept;`

5 *Effects:* Resets the bit referenced by `*this` to zero.

6 *Returns: \*this.*

```
constexpr bit_reference& flip() noexcept;
```

7 *Effects:* Toggles the bit referenced by *\*this*.

8 *Returns: \*this.*

### 1.5.8 bit\_reference swap

[bit.reference.swap]

```
template <class T> void swap(bit_reference<T> rhs) noexcept;
```

1 *Effects:* Toggles the bit referenced by *\*this* and the bit referenced by *rhs* if their value differ as in `static_cast<bool>(*this) != static_cast<bool>(rhs)`.

```
void swap(bit_value& rhs) noexcept;
```

2 *Effects:* Toggles the bit referenced by *\*this* and the bit stored in *rhs* if their value differ as in `static_cast<bool>(*this) != static_cast<bool>(rhs)`.

### 1.5.9 bit\_reference non-member operations

[bit.reference.nonmembers]

```
template <class T> void swap(bit_reference<T> lhs, bit_reference<T> rhs) noexcept;
```

1 *Effects:* Toggles the bit referenced by *lhs* and the bit referenced by *rhs* if their value differ as in `static_cast<bool>(lhs) != static_cast<bool>(rhs)`.

2 *Remarks:* This overload of `swap` ensures that the values of the referenced bits are swapped instead of the underlying references themselves.

```
template <class T, class U> void swap(bit_reference<T> lhs, bit_reference<U> rhs) noexcept;
```

3 *Effects:* Toggles the bit referenced by *lhs* and the bit referenced by *rhs* if their value differ as in `static_cast<bool>(lhs) != static_cast<bool>(rhs)`.

```
template <class T> void swap(bit_reference<T> lhs, bit_value& rhs) noexcept;
```

4 *Effects:* Toggles the bit referenced by *lhs* and the bit stored in *rhs* if their value differ as in `static_cast<bool>(lhs) != static_cast<bool>(rhs)`.

```
template <class T> void swap(bit_reference<T> lhs, bit_value& rhs) noexcept;
```

5 *Effects:* Toggles the bit stored in *lhs* and the bit referenced by *rhs* if their value differ as in `static_cast<bool>(lhs) != static_cast<bool>(rhs)`.

```
template <class charT, class traits, class T>  
    basic_istream<charT, traits>&  
    operator>>(basic_istream<charT, traits>& is, bit_reference<T>& x);
```

6 A formatted input function ([istream.formatted]).

7 *Effects:* A sentry object is first constructed. If the sentry object returns `true`, one character is extracted from `is`. If the character is successfully extracted with no end-of-file encountered, it is compared to `is.widen('0')` and to `is.widen('1')` and a temporary `bit_value` is set accordingly. If the character is neither equal to `is.widen('0')` nor to `is.widen('1')`, the extracted character is put back into the sequence. If the extraction succeeds, the temporary bit value is assigned to `x`, otherwise `is.setstate(ios_base::failbit)` is called (which may throw `ios_base::failure`).

8 *Returns:* `is`.

```
template <class charT, class traits, class T>  
    basic_ostream<charT, traits>&
```

```
operator<<(basic_ostream<charT, traits>& os, bit_reference<T> x);
```

9 A formatted output function ([ostream.formatted.reqmts]).

10 *Effects:* Outputs the bit to the stream.

11 *Returns:* `os << os.widen(x ? '1' : '0')`.

## 1.6 Class template `bit_pointer`

[bit.pointer]

### 1.6.1 Class template `bit_pointer` overview

[bit.pointer.overview]

1 A `bit_pointer` emulates the behavior of a pointer to a bit within an object. [Note: A `bit_pointer` can be implemented in terms of a pointer to a `bit_reference` (1.5). — end note]

2 The indirection operator `*` of `bit_pointer` (1.6.5) is overloaded to return a `bit_reference` (1.5) to the pointed bit, while the arrow operator `->` is overloaded to return a pointer to a `bit_reference` (1.5). Bit modifiers (1.5.7) can be accessed through this interface, as well as the underlying representation (1.5.6).

3 A null bit pointer can be created from a null pointer (1.6.3). Dereferencing a null bit pointer leads to an undefined behavior. The explicit conversion to `bool` (1.6.5) shall return `false` for a null bit pointer, and `true` otherwise.

4 The arithmetic of bit pointers (1.6.6) rely on the ordering described in 1.1: a bit pointer `ptr2` is considered to be the next bit pointer of `ptr1` if both of them are not null and if either of the following is `true`:

(4.1) — `ptr2->address() - ptr1->address() == 0`  
`&& ptr2->position() - ptr1->position() == 1`

(4.2) — `ptr2->address() - ptr1->address() == 1`  
`&& binary_digits_v<typename decltype(ptr1)::word_type> - ptr1->position() == 1`  
`&& ptr2->position() == 0`

Comparison operators for `bit_pointer` (1.6.7) rely on the same ordering, first comparing the addresses of the underlying values and then comparing bit positions in case of equality.

5 The template parameter type `WordType` should be a type such that `binary_digits_v<WordType>` is well-defined and is not zero (1.3), otherwise the program is ill-formed. A pointer to a constant bit shall be obtained through `bit_pointer<const WordType>`. A constant pointer to a mutable bit shall be obtained through `const bit_pointer<WordType>`. A constant pointer to a constant bit shall be obtained through `const bit_pointer<const WordType>`.

6 The return type of the difference between two bit pointers (1.6.2) shall be an implementation-defined signed integer type capable of holding at least as many values as `ptrdiff_t`.

```
template <class WordType>
class bit_pointer {
public:
    // 1.6.2, types
    using word_type = WordType;
    using size_type = see below;
    using difference_type = see below;

    // 1.6.3, constructors
    bit_pointer() noexcept = default;
    template <class T> constexpr bit_pointer(const bit_pointer<T>& other) noexcept;
    constexpr bit_pointer(nullptr_t) noexcept;
    explicit constexpr bit_pointer(word_type* ptr) noexcept;
    constexpr bit_pointer(word_type* ptr, size_type pos);

    // 1.6.4, assignment
```

```

constexpr bit_pointer& operator=(nullptr_t) noexcept;
constexpr bit_pointer& operator=(const bit_pointer& other) noexcept;
template <class T> constexpr bit_pointer& operator=(const bit_pointer<T>& other) noexcept;

// 1.6.5, observers
explicit constexpr operator bool() const noexcept;
constexpr bit_reference<WordType> operator*() const;
constexpr bit_reference<WordType>* operator->() const;
constexpr bit_reference<WordType> operator[] (difference_type n) const;

// 1.6.6, arithmetic
constexpr bit_pointer& operator++();
constexpr bit_pointer& operator--();
constexpr bit_pointer operator++(int);
constexpr bit_pointer operator--(int);
constexpr bit_pointer operator+(difference_type n) const;
constexpr bit_pointer operator-(difference_type n) const;
constexpr bit_pointer& operator+=(difference_type n);
constexpr bit_pointer& operator-=(difference_type n);
};

```

## 1.6.2 bit\_pointer member types

[bit.pointer.types]

```
using word_type = WordType;
```

1 *Type:* Refers to the underlying word type that is being provided as a template parameter.

```
using size_type = see below;
```

2 *Type:* An implementation-defined unsigned integer type capable of holding at least as many values as `binary_digits_v<word_type>`. Same as `bit_value::size_type` (1.4.2).

```
using difference_type = see below;
```

3 *Type:* An implementation-defined signed integer type capable of holding at least as many values as `ptrdiff_t`.

## 1.6.3 bit\_pointer constructors

[bit.pointer.cons]

```
bit_pointer() noexcept = default;
```

1 *Effects:* Constructs a default-initialized object of type `bit_pointer`.

2 *Remarks:* Observing (1.6.5) an uninitialized bit pointer, calling member arithmetic operators (1.6.6) on uninitialized bit pointers or calling non-member arithmetic operators (1.6.7) on uninitialized bit pointers leads to an undefined behavior.

```
template <class T> constexpr bit_pointer(const bit_pointer<T>& other) noexcept;
```

3 *Effects:* Constructs an object of type `bit_pointer` from another bit pointer `other`. [Note: This constructor is typically used for implicit conversions of cv-qualified bit pointers. — end note]

4 *Remarks:* This constructor shall not participate in overload resolution unless `is_convertible_v<T*, word_type*> == true`.

```
constexpr bit_pointer(nullptr_t) noexcept;
```

5 *Effects:* Constructs a null bit pointer.

```
explicit constexpr bit_pointer(word_type* ptr) noexcept;
```

6 *Effects:* Constructs a pointer to the bit at position 0 of the word pointed to by `ptr`.  
7 [*Note:* Contrarily to the more generic constructor that takes an arbitrary position as an argument, this constructor is marked `noexcept`. — *end note*]

```
constexpr bit_pointer(word_type* ptr, size_type pos);
```

8 *Requires:* `pos < binary_digits_v<word_type>`.

9 *Effects:* Constructs a pointer to the bit at position `pos` of the word pointed to by `ptr`.

10 *Throws:* Nothing.

#### 1.6.4 `bit_pointer` assignment

[`bit.pointer.assign`]

```
constexpr bit_pointer& operator=(nullptr_t) noexcept;
```

1 *Effects:* Assigns a null bit pointer to `*this`.

2 *Returns:* `*this`.

```
constexpr bit_pointer& operator=(const bit_pointer& other) noexcept;
```

3 *Effects:* Copies the bit pointer `other` to `*this`.

4 *Returns:* `*this`.

5 [*Note:* The copy assignment operator is not implicitly generated in order to ensure that the pointer itself is changed instead of the value of the bit pointed to by `*this`. — *end note*]

```
template <class T> constexpr bit_pointer& operator=(const bit_pointer<T>& other) noexcept;
```

6 *Effects:* Assigns the bit pointer `other` to `*this`.

7 *Returns:* `*this`.

8 *Remarks:* This operator shall not participate in overload resolution unless `is_convertible_v<T*, word_type*> == true`.

#### 1.6.5 `bit_pointer` observers

[`bit.pointer.observers`]

```
explicit constexpr operator bool() const noexcept;
```

1 *Returns:* `false` if `*this` is a null bit pointer, `true` otherwise.

```
constexpr bit_reference<WordType> operator*() const;
```

2 *Requires:* `static_cast<bool>(*this) == true`.

3 *Returns:* A `bit_reference` (1.5) referencing the bit pointed to by `*this`.

4 *Throws:* Nothing.

```
constexpr bit_reference<WordType>* operator->() const;
```

5 *Requires:* `static_cast<bool>(*this) == true`.

6 *Returns:* A pointer to a `bit_reference` (1.5) referencing the bit pointed to by `*this`.

7 *Throws:* Nothing.

```
constexpr bit_reference<WordType> operator[](difference_type n) const;
```

8 *Requires:* `static_cast<bool>(*this) == true`.

9 *Returns:* A `bit_reference` (1.5) referencing the `n`-th bit after (or before for negative `n`) the bit pointed to by `*this` according to the arithmetic of bit pointers described in 1.6.1.

10 *Throws:* Nothing.

### 1.6.6 bit\_pointer arithmetic

[bit.pointer.arithmetic]

```
constexpr bit_pointer& operator++();
```

1 *Requires:* `static_cast<bool>(*this) == true`.

2 *Effects:* Increments `*this` according to the arithmetic of bit pointers described in 1.6.1.

3 *Returns:* `*this`

```
constexpr bit_pointer& operator--();
```

4 *Requires:* `static_cast<bool>(*this) == true`.

5 *Effects:* Decrements `*this` according to the arithmetic of bit pointers described in 1.6.1.

6 *Returns:* `*this`

```
constexpr bit_pointer operator++(int);
```

7 *Requires:* `static_cast<bool>(*this) == true`.

8 *Effects:* Makes a copy of `*this`, increments `*this` according to the arithmetic of bit pointers described in 1.6.1, and returns the original copy.

9 *Returns:* A copy of `*this` made before the increment.

```
constexpr bit_pointer operator--(int);
```

10 *Requires:* `static_cast<bool>(*this) == true`.

11 *Effects:* Makes a copy of `*this`, decrements `*this` according to the arithmetic of bit pointers described in 1.6.1, and returns the original copy.

12 *Returns:* A copy of `*this` made before the decrement.

```
constexpr bit_pointer operator+(difference_type n) const;
```

13 *Requires:* `static_cast<bool>(*this) == true || n == 0`.

14 *Returns:* A `bit_pointer` pointing to the `n`-th bit after (or before for negative `n`) the bit pointed to by `*this` according to the arithmetic of bit pointers described in 1.6.1.

```
constexpr bit_pointer operator-(difference_type n) const;
```

15 *Requires:* `static_cast<bool>(*this) == true || n == 0`.

16 *Returns:* A `bit_pointer` pointing to the `n`-th bit before (or after for negative `n`) the bit pointed to by `*this` according to the arithmetic of bit pointers described in 1.6.1.

```
constexpr bit_pointer& operator+=(difference_type n);
```

17 *Requires:* `static_cast<bool>(*this) == true || n == 0`.

18 *Effects:* Increments `*this` (or decrements for negative `n`) `n` times according to the arithmetic of bit pointers described in 1.6.1.

19 *Returns:* `*this`.

```
constexpr bit_pointer& operator-=(difference_type n);
```

20 *Requires:* `static_cast<bool>(*this) == true || n == 0`.

21 *Effects:* Decrements `*this` (or increments for negative `n`) `n` times according to the arithmetic of bit pointers described in 1.6.1.

22 *Returns: \*this.*

## 1.6.7 bit\_pointer non-member operations

[bit.pointer.nonmembers]

```
template <class T>
constexpr bit_pointer<T>
operator+(typename bit_pointer<T>::difference_type n, bit_pointer<T> x);
```

1 *Requires: static\_cast<bool>(x) == true || n == 0.*

2 *Returns: x + n.*

```
template <class T, class U>
constexpr common_type_t<
typename bit_pointer<T>::difference_type,
typename bit_pointer<U>::difference_type
> operator-(bit_pointer<T> lhs, bit_pointer<U> rhs);
```

3 *Requires: lhs->address() - rhs->address() is well-defined.*

4 *Returns: If lhs and rhs are both null bit pointers, returns 0. Otherwise, returns the number of bits n such that lhs + n == rhs.*

```
template <class T, class U>
constexpr bool operator==(bit_pointer<T> lhs, bit_pointer<U> rhs) noexcept;
```

5 *Returns: static\_cast<bool>(lhs) == static\_cast<bool>(rhs) && (!static\_cast<bool>(lhs) || (lhs->address() == rhs->address() && lhs->position() == rhs->position())).*

```
template <class T, class U>
constexpr bool operator!=(bit_pointer<T> lhs, bit_pointer<U> rhs) noexcept;
```

6 *Returns: static\_cast<bool>(lhs) != static\_cast<bool>(rhs) || (static\_cast<bool>(lhs) && (lhs->address() != rhs->address() || lhs->position() != rhs->position())).*

```
template <class T, class U>
constexpr bool operator<(bit_pointer<T> lhs, bit_pointer<U> rhs) noexcept;
```

7 *Requires: static\_cast<bool>(lhs) == static\_cast<bool>(rhs).*

8 *Returns: static\_cast<bool>(lhs) && (lhs->address() < rhs->address() || (lhs->address() == rhs->address() && lhs->position() < rhs->position())).*

```
template <class T, class U>
constexpr bool operator<=(bit_pointer<T> lhs, bit_pointer<U> rhs) noexcept;
```

9 *Requires: static\_cast<bool>(lhs) == static\_cast<bool>(rhs).*

10 *Returns: !static\_cast<bool>(lhs) || (lhs->address() < rhs->address() || (lhs->address() == rhs->address() && lhs->position() <= rhs->position())).*

```
template <class T, class U>
constexpr bool operator>(bit_pointer<T> lhs, bit_pointer<U> rhs) noexcept;
```

11 *Requires: static\_cast<bool>(lhs) == static\_cast<bool>(rhs).*

12 *Returns: static\_cast<bool>(lhs) && (lhs->address() > rhs->address() || (lhs->address() == rhs->address() && lhs->position() > rhs->position())).*

```
template <class T, class U>
constexpr bool operator>=(bit_pointer<T> lhs, bit_pointer<U> rhs) noexcept;
```

13 *Requires: static\_cast<bool>(lhs) == static\_cast<bool>(rhs).*

14 `Returns: !static_cast<bool>(lhs) || (lhs->address() > rhs->address())  
|| (lhs->address() == rhs->address() && lhs->position() >= rhs->position()))).`

## 1.7 Class template `bit_iterator` [`bit.iterator`]

### 1.7.1 Class template `bit_iterator` overview [`bit.iterator.overview`]

<sup>1</sup> A `bit_iterator` is an iterator adaptor to iterate over the bits of a range of underlying words. The `value_type` (1.7.2) of a `bit_iterator` is defined as a `bit_value` (1.4), the reference type (1.7.2) is defined as a `bit_reference` (1.5) and the pointer type (1.7.2) is defined as a `bit_pointer` (1.6). [*Note: A `bit_iterator` is typically implemented in terms of a bit position or a mask, and in terms of an underlying iterator. — end note*]

<sup>2</sup> The arithmetic of bit iterators (1.7.6) rely on the ordering described in 1.1: a bit iterator `it2` is considered to be the next bit iterator of `it1` if either of the following is `true`:

- (2.1) — `it2.base() == it1.base()`  
`&& it2.position() - it1.position() == 1`
- (2.2) — `it2.base() == next(it1.base())`  
`&& binary_digits_v<typename decltype(it1)::word_type> - it1.position() == 1`  
`&& it2.position() == 0`

Comparison operators for `bit_iterator` (1.7.7) rely on the same ordering, first comparing the underlying iterator and then comparing bit positions in case of equality.

<sup>3</sup> The template parameter type `Iterator` shall be an iterator such that the following types are the same:

- (3.1) — `iterator_traits<Iterator>::value_type`
- (3.2) — `remove_cv_t<remove_reference_t<typename iterator_traits<Iterator>::reference>>`
- (3.3) — `remove_cv_t<remove_pointer_t<typename iterator_traits<Iterator>::pointer>>`

, such that the following types are the same:

- (3.4) — `remove_reference_t<typename iterator_traits<Iterator>::reference>>`
- (3.5) — `remove_pointer_t<typename iterator_traits<Iterator>::pointer>>`

and such that:

- (3.6) — `bit_reference<remove_reference_t<typename iterator_traits<Iterator>::reference>>`
- (3.7) — `bit_pointer<remove_pointer_t<typename iterator_traits<Iterator>::pointer>>`

can be instantiated, otherwise the program is ill-formed. The member type `word_type` (1.7.2) keeps track of the cv-qualification of the underlying word type. [*Note: For this reason, the types of `iterator_traits<Iterator>::value_type` and `bit_iterator<Iterator>::word_type` may have different cv-qualifiers. Implementations may use `remove_reference_t<typename iterator_traits<Iterator>::reference>` to propagate cv-qualifiers instead of `iterator_traits<Iterator>::value_type`. — end note*]

<sup>4</sup> An access to the underlying representation of a `bit_iterator` is provided through the function members `base`, `position` and `mask` (1.7.5).

<sup>5</sup> The return type of the difference between two bit iterator (1.6.2) shall be an implementation-defined signed integer type capable of holding at least as many values as `ptrdiff_t`.

```
template <class Iterator>
class bit_iterator {
public:
    // 1.7.2, types
    using iterator_type = Iterator;
    using word_type = see below;
```

```

using iterator_category = typename iterator_traits<Iterator>::iterator_category;
using value_type = bit_value;
using difference_type = see below;
using pointer = bit_pointer<word_type>;
using reference = bit_reference<word_type>;
using size_type = see below;

// 1.7.3, constructors
constexpr bit_iterator();
template <class T> constexpr bit_iterator(const bit_iterator<T>& other);
explicit constexpr bit_iterator(iterator_type i);
constexpr bit_iterator(iterator_type i, size_type pos);

// 1.7.4, assignment
template <class T> constexpr bit_iterator& operator=(const bit_iterator<T>& other);

// 1.7.5, observers
constexpr reference operator*() const noexcept;
constexpr pointer operator->() const noexcept;
constexpr reference operator[](difference_type n) const;
constexpr iterator_type base() const;
constexpr size_type position() const noexcept;
constexpr typename std::remove_cv<word_type>::type mask() const noexcept;

// 1.7.6, arithmetic
constexpr bit_iterator& operator++();
constexpr bit_iterator& operator--();
constexpr bit_iterator operator++(int);
constexpr bit_iterator operator--(int);
constexpr bit_iterator operator+(difference_type n) const;
constexpr bit_iterator operator-(difference_type n) const;
constexpr bit_iterator& operator+=(difference_type n);
constexpr bit_iterator& operator-=(difference_type n);
};

```

## 1.7.2 bit\_iterator member types

[bit.iterator.types]

```
using iterator_type = Iterator;
```

1 *Type*: Refers to the `Iterator` template type parameter that is being adapted.

```
using word_type = see below;
```

2 *Type*: Refers to the cv-qualified type on which the underlying iterator is iterating, which is equivalent to `remove_reference_t<typename iterator_traits<Iterator>::reference>` according to 1.7.1.

```
using iterator_category = typename iterator_traits<Iterator>::iterator_category;
```

3 *Type*: Refers to the same iterator category as the one of the underlying iterator.

```
using value_type = bit_value;
```

4 *Type*: `bit_value`.

```
using difference_type = see below;
```

5 *Type*: An implementation-defined signed integer type capable of holding at least as many values as `ptrdiff_t`. Same as `bit_pointer<word_type>::difference_type` (1.6.2).

```

using pointer = bit_pointer<word_type>;
6     Type: bit_pointer<word_type>.

using reference = bit_reference<word_type>;
7     Type: bit_reference<word_type>.

using size_type = see below;
8     Type: An implementation-defined unsigned integer type capable of holding at least as many values as
        binary_digits_v<word_type>. Same as bit_value::size_type (1.4.2).

```

### 1.7.3 bit\_iterator constructors [bit.iterator.cons]

```

constexpr bit_iterator();
1     Effects: Value-initializes the underlying word iterator and the underlying bit position. Iterator operations
        applied to the resulting iterator have defined behavior if and only if the corresponding operations are
        defined on a value-initialized iterator of type iterator_type.

template <class T> constexpr bit_iterator(const bit_iterator<T>& other);
2     Requires: is_constructible_v<iterator_type, T> == true
3     Effects: Constructs an object of type bit_iterator from another bit iterator other, initializing
        the underlying word iterator from other.base() and initializing the underlying bit position from
        other.position().

explicit constexpr bit_iterator(iterator_type i);
4     Effects: Constructs an iterator over the bit at position 0 of the word iterated over by it.

constexpr bit_iterator(iterator_type i, size_type pos);
5     Requires: pos < binary_digits_v<word_type>.
6     Effects: Constructs an iterator over the bit at position pos of the word iterated over by it.
7     Throws: Nothing.

```

### 1.7.4 bit\_iterator assignment [bit.iterator.assign]

```

template <class T> constexpr bit_iterator& operator=(const bit_iterator<T>& other);
1     Requires: is_assignable_v<iterator_type, T> == true
2     Effects: Assigns the bit iterator other to *this, assigning other.base() to the underlying word
        iterator of *this and assigning other.position() to the underlying bit position of *this.
3     Returns: *this.

```

### 1.7.5 bit\_iterator observers [bit.iterator.observers]

```

constexpr reference operator*() const noexcept;
1     Returns: A bit_reference (1.5) referencing the bit iterated over by *this.

constexpr pointer operator->() const noexcept;
2     Returns: A bit_pointer (1.6) pointing to the bit iterated over by *this.

constexpr reference operator[](difference_type n) const;

```

3 *Returns:* A `bit_reference` (1.5) referencing the `n`-th bit after (or before for negative `n`) the bit iterated over by `*this` according to the arithmetic of bit iterators described in 1.7.1.

`constexpr iterator_type base() const;`

4 *Returns:* An iterator over the word containing the bit iterated over by `*this`.

`constexpr size_type position() const noexcept;`

5 *Returns:* The position of the bit iterated over by `*this` within the word containing it.

`constexpr typename std::remove_cv<word_type>::type mask() const noexcept;`

6 *Returns:* A mask of type `std::remove_cv<word_type>::type` whose only set bit is the bit at the position of the bit iterated over by `*this` within the word containing it as in `static_cast<word_type>(1) << position()`.

### 1.7.6 `bit_iterator` arithmetic

[`bit.iterator.arithmetic`]

`constexpr bit_iterator& operator++();`

1 *Effects:* Increments `*this` according to the arithmetic of bit iterators described in 1.7.1.

2 *Returns:* `*this`

`constexpr bit_iterator& operator--();`

3 *Effects:* Decrements `*this` according to the arithmetic of bit iterators described in 1.7.1.

4 *Returns:* `*this`

`constexpr bit_iterator operator++(int);`

5 *Effects:* Makes a copy of `*this`, increments `*this` according to the arithmetic of bit iterators described in 1.7.1, and returns the original copy.

6 *Returns:* A copy of `*this` made before the increment.

`constexpr bit_iterator operator--(int);`

7 *Effects:* Makes a copy of `*this`, decrements `*this` according to the arithmetic of bit iterators described in 1.7.1, and returns the original copy.

8 *Returns:* A copy of `*this` made before the decrement.

`constexpr bit_iterator operator+(difference_type n) const;`

9 *Returns:* A `bit_iterator` over the `n`-th bit after (or before for negative `n`) the bit over which `*this` iterates according to the arithmetic of bit iterators described in 1.7.1.

`constexpr bit_iterator operator-(difference_type n) const;`

10 *Returns:* A `bit_iterator` over the `n`-th bit before (or after for negative `n`) the bit over which `*this` iterates according to the arithmetic of bit iterators described in 1.7.1.

`constexpr bit_iterator& operator+=(difference_type n);`

11 *Effects:* Increments `*this` (or decrements for negative `n`) `n` times according to the arithmetic of bit iterators described in 1.7.1.

12 *Returns:* `*this`.

`constexpr bit_iterator& operator-=(difference_type n);`

13 *Effects:* Decrements `*this` (or increments for negative `n`) `n` times according to the arithmetic of bit

iterators described in 1.7.1.

14 *Returns: \*this.*

### 1.7.7 bit\_iterator non-member operations

[bit.iterator.nonmembers]

```
template <class T>
constexpr bit_iterator<T>
operator+(typename bit_iterator<T>::difference_type n, const bit_iterator<T>& i);
```

1 *Returns: i + n.*

```
template <class T, class U>
constexpr common_type_t<
typename bit_iterator<T>::difference_type,
typename bit_iterator<U>::difference_type
> operator-(const bit_iterator<T>& lhs, const bit_iterator<U>& rhs);
```

2 *Returns: The number of bits n such that lhs + n == rhs.*

```
template <class T, class U>
constexpr bool operator==(const bit_iterator<T>& lhs, const bit_iterator<U>& rhs);
```

3 *Returns: lhs.base() == rhs.base() && lhs.position() == rhs.position().*

```
template <class T, class U>
constexpr bool operator!=(const bit_iterator<T>& lhs, const bit_iterator<U>& rhs);
```

4 *Returns: lhs.base() != rhs.base() || lhs.position() != rhs.position().*

```
template <class T, class U>
constexpr bool operator<(const bit_iterator<T>& lhs, const bit_iterator<U>& rhs);
```

5 *Returns: lhs.base() < rhs.base() || (lhs.base() == rhs.base() && lhs.position() < rhs.position()).*

```
template <class T, class U>
constexpr bool operator<=(const bit_iterator<T>& lhs, const bit_iterator<U>& rhs);
```

6 *Returns: lhs.base() < rhs.base() || (lhs.base() == rhs.base() && lhs.position() <= rhs.position()).*

```
template <class T, class U>
constexpr bool operator>(const bit_iterator<T>& lhs, const bit_iterator<U>& rhs);
```

7 *Returns: lhs.base() > rhs.base() || (lhs.base() == rhs.base() && lhs.position() > rhs.position()).*

```
template <class T, class U>
constexpr bool operator>=(const bit_iterator<T>& lhs, const bit_iterator<U>& rhs);
```

8 *Returns: lhs.base() > rhs.base() || (lhs.base() == rhs.base() && lhs.position() >= rhs.position()).*

# Annex A Comments & remarks [bit.annex]

- <sup>1</sup> This annex is not a part of the wording, but comments and remarks on P0237R9.
- <sup>2</sup> This document corresponds to the updated version of the proposal that has been presented to LEWG during the Toronto meeting, with feedback and comments taken into account. LEWG decided to forward the proposal to LWG in Toronto.
- <sup>3</sup> History of the proposal includes the original motivating and design review paper P0237R0 (pre-Jacksonville), the wording explorations P0237R1 (pre-Oulu), P0237R2 (post-Oulu), P0237R3 (pre-Issaquah), P0237R4 (post-Issaquah), P0237R5 (pre-Kona), P0237R6 (post-Kona), the formal wording P0237R7 (pre-Toronto), and the version that was approved by LEWG P0237R8 (post-Toronto). The proposal has also been presented at CppCon2016. The Bit Library provides a working implementation [ *Note*: The implementation at a given time  $t$  may differ from the proposal by few minor details. — *end note* ] that has been in use at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since late 2015 with applications in high performance tree data structures, arbitrary precision arithmetic, machine learning and bioinformatics.
- <sup>4</sup> Throughout the history of the proposal, most design questions have been debated and answered through discussions and polls as reported in the first part of P0237R6. The paper has been presented to LEWG since its first version. The early design has been reviewed by SG14. The paper has been approved by SG6 in Kona.
- <sup>5</sup> The feedback from users of The Bit Library the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since late 2015 has been very positive, especially regarding to design and performances. The authors have had no problem teaching the library to students, some of whom have contributed to the implementation of bit manipulation algorithms.
- <sup>6</sup> Long term plans for the standard library based on the bit utilities described in this proposal include high performance overloads of the standard algorithms for bit iterators and a bit container adapter to replace `vector<bool>` and `bitset`. Future arbitrary precision numeric types may also benefit from bit utilities to provide an interface to access the underlying representation.
- <sup>7</sup> The motivations behind `bit_value` against `bool` are explained in great depth in P0237R0. Discussions during the Jacksonville meeting favored `bit_value` against `bool`. The authors of the paper strongly support the introduction of `bit_value` in order to avoid some of the misleading behavior users have experienced during the last decades with `vector<bool>`. Some of the advantages of `bit_value` over `bool` can be summarized as follow:
  - (7.1) — A `bit` refers to memory while a `bool` refers to boolean logic, `true`, `false` and `conditions`, in the same way a `byte` differs from `unsigned char` even though both of them have 256 possible values. If a `bit` and a `bool` were the same, one could wonder why `vector<bool>` has been considered to be such a problem. A `bit` is to a `bool` what `byte` is to an `unsigned char`.
  - (7.2) — Using `bool` instead of `bit_value` would allow all the implicit conversions of `bool`, enabling unintuitive behaviors. `bit_value` provides additional type safety.
  - (7.3) — LEWG has given guidance in Oulu to favor the use of member functions for `set`, `reset` and `flip`. The design presented in this proposal allows `bit_value` and `bit_reference` to provide a similar interface. `bit_value` also provides a 2-argument constructor taking a word and a position as arguments, contrarily to `bool`. Removing `bit_value` and replacing it by `bool` would make the writing generic code more difficult.

The name `bit_value` has been chosen instead of `bit` to follow the same convention as in `bit_reference`, `bit_pointer` and `bit_iterator`. It also highlights the fact that the class is a wrapper with `sizeof(bit_`

`value) >= 1` as any other object in the C++ memory model, the size being expressed as a number of bytes. Feedback from users of [The Bit Library](#) regarding `bit_value` has been very positive. As an additional remark, high-level code often does not use `bit_value` directly since manipulating bit sequences is achieved through `bit_iterator`, `bit_value` only serving as a helper class for `bit_iterator::value_type`. Since this proposal is targeting a Technical Specification, the Technical Specification could gather more feedback on the use of `bit_value` instead of `bool`.

8 The following points are among those that need to be discussed by LWG:

- (8.1) — The names of bit constants were bikeshedded by LEWG and `bit_on/bit_off` were suggested. The authors would like the comments of LWG on that.
- (8.2) — Should `binary_digits` work with `char`?
- (8.3) — The default constructor of `bit_value` should initialize it to zero: how should this be specified in the wording?
- (8.4) — The default constructor of `bit_pointer` should initialize it to a null bit pointer: how should this be specified in the wording?
- (8.5) — How should the bit position be defined?
- (8.6) — The way `bit_reference` deals with constness (deep const, shallow const) should be checked.
- (8.7) — Is reference convertibility between `T` and `word_type` the right test in [1.5.3](#)? Same question for bit values, and bit pointers?
- (8.8) — How the `mask` member function should produce the mask?
- (8.9) — What should be the lifetime guarantee of the pointer returned by the `operator->` of a `bit_pointer`.
- (8.10) — How should the arithmetic of `bit_pointer` be specified to avoid out-of-bound scenarios?