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execution::task::valueless()

Abstract

This paper proposes to add a `valueless` member function to `execution::task`.

Tony Table

Before	Proposed
<pre>task<int> t = ...; //is it safe to use t? auto res = sync_wait(t);</pre>	<pre>task<int> t = ...; contract_assert(not t.valueless()); auto res = sync_wait(t);</pre>

Revisions

R0: Initial version

Motivation

Types with *empty states* aren't extraordinary in C++, but types with *unrecoverable empty states* are. The former category includes pointers, optional, variant² and string. The latter category is defined by indirect, polymorphic, generator and `execution::task`.

In general objects in an *unrecoverable empty state* can only destroyed or assigned to, as all their other operations have a precondition on the object not being in this state. Even though this state shouldn't be observed in a valid program, we've added `valueless_after_move` to indirect and polymorphic to guard against it.

There is currently no way to check for this state in generator or task. We originally wanted to propose an API for both of these types, but after examining existing implementations, we've decided to move extensions to generator into a future paper.

Design Space

A task can be in the *unrecoverable empty state* only if it was involved in a move operation, or `connect` was previously called. As there is little value in differentiating these two reasons for the *empty state*, we are proposing only one member function:

```
bool valueless() const noexcept;
```

We don't propose a `task::state::valueless` as contrary to task, `task::state` is not user-facing and will almost exclusively be used in the context of executors.

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² variant has an extraordinary, yet *recoverable empty state*.

Impact on the Standard

This proposal is a pure library addition. Existing standard library classes are modified in a non-ABI-breaking way.

Proposed Wording

Wording is relative to [N5014]. Additions are presented like **this**, removals like ~~this~~ and drafting notes like **this**.

[version.syn]

```
#define __cpp_lib_task YYYYMM202506L // also in <execution>
```

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

[exec.task]

??.??.?? Class template task

[task.class]

```
namespace std::execution {
    template<class T, class Environment>
    class task {
    ...
    ~task();

    bool valueless() const noexcept;

    template<receiver Rcvr>
        state<Rcvr> connect(Rcvr&& rcvr);
    };
}
```

[task.members]

??.??.?? task members

[task.members]

~task();

2 *Effects:* Equivalent to:
 if (*handle*)
 handle.destroy();

bool valueless() const noexcept;

3 *Returns:* **bool(*handle*)** is false.

```
template<receiver Rcvr>
    state<Rcvr> connect(Rcvr&& rcv);
```

34 *Preconditions:* ~~**bool(*handle*)**~~**valueless()** is ~~true~~false.

Acknowledgements

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