LArSoft Build Speed Issues

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The Issue

- It was discovered that the LArSoft v04_29_00 took 40 minutes to build¹, while LArSoft v04_26_03 had taken 29 minutes to build: 35% increase in build time.
- This corresponded in moving from to art v1_17_03 from art v1_15_02 (as well as other changes).
- Longer build times were correlated with increased library sizes.
- All details are available at https://cdcvs.fnal.gov/ redmine/projects/cet-is/wiki/2016_Version_Timing.

¹Non-VM machine, using local disk, 4-way parallel build.

The Cause

- Issue was investigated primarily by Patrick Gartung.
- Found a change in fhiclcpp that caused the increased build time.
- Inline function in fhiclcpp that made use of a class template², which template instantiated a large body of code.
- Every module that called the function contained this code.

The Resolution

- 1. Move code that used std::regex out-of-line.
- 2. Modify the function template that called this function so that the use of std::regex appeared only in the .cc file.

Note the generally-useful tips:

- Inline only what is needed (*e.g.*, the function template definition).
- Judicious hiding of template instantiations can help reduce code size and build times.