

Tutorial 43 - Ambiguity Resolution in Inheritance in C++

Concept Overview

Ambiguity in inheritance occurs when a derived class inherits two or more base classes that have functions with the same name. The compiler becomes confused about which function to invoke.

To resolve ambiguity, the **scope resolution operator (::)** is used to explicitly specify the desired base class function.

Example 1: Resolving Ambiguity in Multiple Inheritance

```
1 class Base1 {
2 public:
3     void greet() {
4         cout << "How are you?" << endl;
5     }
6 };
7 class Base2 {
8 public:
9     void greet() {
10        cout << "Kaise ho?" << endl;
11    }
12 };
13 class Derived : public Base1, public Base2 {
14 public:
15     void greet() {
16         Base2::greet(); // Explicitly call Base2's greet function
17     }
18 };
19
```

Explanation:

1. Base1 and Base2 both have a greet() function.
 2. Derived inherits from both Base1 and Base2.
 3. In Derived, ambiguity is resolved by specifying Base2::greet().
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Main Function:

```
1 int main() {
2     Base1 base1obj;
3     Base2 base2obj;
4     Derived d;
5     base1obj.greet(); // Calls Base1's greet
6     base2obj.greet(); // Calls Base2's greet
7     d.greet();        // Calls Base2's greet through Derived
8     return 0;
9 }
10
```

Output:

```
1 How are you?
2 Kaise ho?
```

```
3 Kaise ho?
4
```

Example 2: Method Overriding in Single Inheritance

```
1 class B {
2     public:
3         void say() {
4             cout << "Hello world" << endl;
5         }
6 };
7 class D : public B {
8     public:
9         void say() {
10            cout << "Hello my beautiful people" << endl;
11        }
12 };
13
```

Explanation:

1. B has a function `say()` .
2. D inherits from B and overrides `say()` .
3. If D does not have its own `say()` function, it would call `B::say()` .

Main Function:

```
1 int main() {
2     B b;
3     D d;
4     b.say(); // Calls B's say
5     d.say(); // Calls D's overridden say
6     return 0;
7 }
8
```

Output:

```
1 Hello world
2 Hello my beautiful people
3
```

Short Notes for Notebook

1. Ambiguity in Inheritance:

- Occurs when a derived class inherits multiple base classes with functions having the same name.
- Resolved using the **scope resolution operator** (`::`).

2. Example 1: Multiple Inheritance

- `Base1` and `Base2` have `greet()` functions.
- `Derived` resolves ambiguity by calling `Base2::greet()` explicitly.

3. Example 2: Method Overriding in Single Inheritance

- A derived class overrides a base class function by redefining it.

- If the function is not overridden, the base class function is used.

4. Key Points:

- Scope resolution operator specifies which base class function to call.
 - Method overriding happens by default when a derived class has the same function as its base class.
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Comparison

Scenario	Resolution Method
Multiple Inheritance	Use <code>BaseClassName::Function()</code>
Single Inheritance (Override)	Derived class function overrides base class automatically.