





FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG



What is function overloading and function resolving?

```
void print(int a) { std::cout << "int" << std::endl; }
void print(float b) { std::cout << "float" << std::endl; }
void print(char c) { std::cout << "char" << std::endl; }
int main() {
    float c = 1u;
    print(c);
}</pre>
```

Which function will be called?





#### 1. Gather viable functions

- 1. Gather all functions in the current scope that have the same name as the function called (-> candidate functions)
- 2. Filter all functions with a non-matching number of parameters

#### 2. Check the number of functions

- 1. 0 -> compiler error
- 2. 1 -> call that function
- 3. >1 -> select best match; if there is no best match the compiler will report on an ambiguous function call -> compiler error





```
void print(int a) { std::cout << "1" << std::endl; }
void print(int a, int b) { std::cout << "2" << std::endl; }
void print(int a, int b, int c = 0) { std::cout << "3" << std::endl; }
int main() {
    print(1);
    print(1, 1);
    print(1, 1, 1);</pre>
```





#### Best match

- Each parameter type is matched against the types passed in the call
- In decreasing order of 'goodness':
  - An exact match (e.g. double -> double)
  - A promotion (e.g. float -> double)
  - A standard type conversion (e.g. int -> float)
  - A constructor or user-defined type conversion (e.g. int -> class A)

#### Choosing a winner

- Candidates are as strong as their weakest match
- Candidates with an equivalent number and type of weakest match are compared on their next-weakest (and so on)





```
void print(char c) { std::cout << "char" << std::endl; }</pre>
void print(int a) { std::cout << "int" << std::endl; }</pre>
void print(double b) { std::cout << "double" << std::endl; }</pre>
int main( ) {
        char c = 1;
        print(c);
        short s = 1;
        print(s);
        float f = 1;
        print(f);
        long long 11 = 1;
        print(11);
        long double ld = 1;
        print(ld);
```





```
void print(long a, int b = 0) { std::cout << "long" << std::endl; }
void print(double a, int b = 0) { std::cout << "double" << std::endl; }
void print(float a, int b) { std::cout << "float" << std::endl; }
int main() {
    print(1.f);
    print(1.f, 'c');
}</pre>
```





#### Member functions

- Candidate functions that are member functions are treated as if they had an extra parameter which represents the object for which they are called; it appears before the first of the actual parameters
- ⇒ Functions discarding qualifiers (e.g. const functions called on a non-const object) don't count as valid candidate functions
- Static functions are handled just as non-static functions for the overload resolution





```
struct A {
        static void print(long a, int b = 0) { std::cout << "static long" << std::endl; }</pre>
        static void print(float a, int b) { std::cout << "static float" << std::endl; }</pre>
        void print(double a, int b = 0) { std::cout << "double" << std::endl; }</pre>
        void print(float a, int b) { std::cout << "float" << std::endl; }</pre>
};
int main( ) {
        A::print(1.f);
        A().print(1.f, 'c');
```





```
struct A {
        void print(long a, int b = 0) const { std::cout << "const long" << std::endl; }</pre>
        void print(double a, int b = 0) const { std::cout << "const double" << std::endl; }</pre>
        void print(double a, int b = 0) { std::cout << "double" << std::endl; }</pre>
        void print(float a, int b) { std::cout << "float" << std::endl; }</pre>
int main( ) {
        A().print(1.f);
        A().print(1.f, 'c');
        A().print(11, 1);
        const A cA;
        cA.print(1.f, 'c');
```





```
struct A {
        void print(int a) { std::cout << "A int" << std::endl; }</pre>
        virtual void print(char c) { std::cout << "A char" << std::endl; }</pre>
        void print(float b) { std::cout << "A float" << std::endl; }</pre>
};
struct B : A {
        void print(int a) { std::cout << "B int" << std::endl; }</pre>
        void print(char c) { std::cout << "B char" << std::endl; }</pre>
        virtual void print(float b) { std::cout << "B float" << std::endl; }</pre>
};
int main( ) {
        A a; A^* ap = &a;
        B b: B^* bp = &b:
        ap->print(1);
        bp->print(1);
        A* ba = bp;
        ba->print(1);
        ba->print('1');
        ba->print(1.f);
```





- Template functions
  - Works basically just like 'regular' functions
  - Template arguments are deduced automatically if not provided explicitly
  - In case of ambiguity, the most specialized version is chosen
  - If there is more than one 'most specialized' version -> compiler error









```
template<class T> struct A {
        static void print (T a) { std::cout << "base" << std::endl; }</pre>
};
template<> struct A<int> {
        using T = int;
        static void print (T a) { std::cout << "int" << std::endl; }</pre>
};
template<> void A<double>::print (double a) { std::cout << "double" << std::endl; }</pre>
int main( ) {
        A<char>::print('1');
        A<int>::print('1');
        A<double>::print('1');
```





- Short summary
- More in-depth resources available online, e.g.

http://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/language/overload\_resolution

http://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/language/virtual

http://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/language/template argument deduction









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