C++

Overload resolution

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Overloading in programming languages

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- c - overloading supported for builtin operators only
- ocaml - overloading supported for relational operators only
- haskell - no overloading at all (typeclasses as alternative)

Why use overloading?

```
1
2  template <typename T>
3  void myFunction(T &t1, T &t2) {
4    using std::swap;
5    swap(t1, t2);
6  }
```

Overloadable declarations

```
1  struct A {
2    void f(int);
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2    void f(int);
3    void f(const int);
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3 f(5);
```

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3 f(5);              // T = int
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Overloading and object initialization

```
1  struct A;
2  struct B {
3    B();
4    B(const A&);
5  };
6
7  struct A {
8    operator B();
9  };
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11 int main() {
12   A a;
13   (B)a;

14   B b = a;
15 }
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11 int main() {
12   A a;
13   (B)a; /* call B::B(const A&), A::operator B() not
14       considered */
14   B b = a; /* call cast operator of A */
15 }
```

How overloading can be joined with other language features.

```
1 template <typename T> void f(T);
2 template <typename T> void f(T*);
3 template <> void f(int *);
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C++ standard (n3797), §14.7.3.7

„When writing a specialization, be careful about its location; or to make it compile will be such a trial as to kindle its self-immolation”

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- invocation of a user-defined conversion for copy-initialization of a class object;
- invocation of a conversion function for initialization of an object of a nonclass type from an expression of class type;
- invocation of a conversion function for conversion to a glvalue or class prvalue to which a reference will be directly bound.

For purpose of overload resolution a member function is considered to have an extra parameter, called the implicit object parameter, which represents the object for which the member function has been called. Type of the implicit object parameter is

- „lvalue reference to cv X” for functions declared without a ref-qualifier or with the ref-qualifier
- „rvalue reference to cv X” for functions declared with the ref-qualifier

```
1 class X {
2 int f(int); // int f(A &, int) binds to rvalue
3 int f(int) volatile; // int f(volatile A &, int) binds
      to rvalue
4 int f(int) volatile &; // int f(volatile A &, int)
      cannot bind to rvalue
5 int f(int) const &&; // int f(const A &&, int)
6 };
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    - in case of user defined conversion conversion of return type does matter
    - non-template function is preferred before specializations
    - more specialized template is preffered before less specialized
- if selected function is not available program is ill-formed

Overloading and object initialization, explanation

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2  struct B {
3    B();
4    B(const A&);
5  };
6
7  struct A {
8    operator B();
9  };
10
11 int main() {
12   A a;
13   B b = a;
14   // candidate functions: B(const A&) and operator B(A&)
15   // operator B(A&) is better match
16 }
```

Thank You