

# Why doesn't overloading work for derived classes?

Question (in many variations) are usually prompted by an example like this:

```
#include<iostream>
using namespace std;

class B {
public:
    int f(int i) { cout << "f(int): "; return i+1; }
    // ...
};

class D : public B {
public:
    double f(double d) { cout << "f(double): "; return d+1.3; }
    // ...
};

int main()
{
    D* pd = new D;

    cout << pd->f(2) << '\n';
    cout << pd->f(2.3) << '\n';
}
```

which will produce:

```
f(double): 3.3
f(double): 3.6
```

rather than the

```
f(int): 3
f(double): 3.6
```

that some people (wrongly) guessed.

In other words, there is no overload resolution between D and B. The compiler looks into the scope of D, finds the single function "double f(double)" and calls it. It never bothers with the (enclosing) scope of B. In C++, there is no overloading across scopes - derived class scopes are not an exception to this general rule. (See [D&E](#) or [TC++PL3](#) for details).

But what if I want to create an overload set of all my f() functions from my base and derived class? That's easily done using a using-declaration:

```
class D : public B {
public:
    using B::f;          // make every f from B available
    double f(double d) { cout << "f(double): "; return d+1.3; }
    // ...
};
```

Give that modification, the output will be