

# Controlling overload resolution with SFINAE

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Short follow-up on the discussion  
during Roland Bock's presentation  
“**Template Magic for Beginners**”  
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# Controlling overload resolution with SFINAE

Question:

Is it possible to have more than two paths to choose from when controlling overload resolution with SFINAE?

# Used type traits

- `std::is_pointer`
- `std::is_pod`

Note that both traits are independent - a type can be both, only POD or neither

- `std::is_integral`
- `std::is_floating_point`
- `std::is_arithmetic`

Note that `is_arithmetic` is the union of `is_integral` and `is_floating_point`.

Using its negation will result in disjoint traits.

# Note on SFINAE syntax

Roland Bock used the following syntax in his presentation:

```
template <class T, typename = std::enable_if_t<std::is_pointer<T>::value>>
void foo(T)
{
    // ...
}
```

The syntax surprised me at first, but then I realized that it is a really short and elegant way of using `std::enable_if`.

However this does not fare well if used for more than one overload. Turning one overload off is possible, but selecting from several overloads fails. Your code **would not compile**, even if you do not instantiate any of the function templates.

`cppreference` explains why this is illegal:

“... because default template arguments are not part of [the] function template's signature, and declaring two different function templates with the same signature is illegal.”

# Oppositional conditions work

```
#include <iostream>
#include <memory>
#include <type_traits>

template <class T, std::enable_if_t<std::is_pointer<T>::value, int> = 0>
void foo(T)
{
    std::cout << "foo<is_pointer>()" << std::endl;
}

template <class T, std::enable_if_t<!std::is_pointer<T>::value, int> = 0>
void foo(T)
{
    std::cout << "foo<!is_pointer>()" << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo(5);
    foo(&foo<int>);
}
```

```
foo<!is_pointer>()
foo<is_pointer>()
```

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# Disjoint conditions work

```
#include <iostream>
#include <type_traits>

template <class T, std::enable_if_t<std::is_integral<T>::value, int> = 0>
void foo(T)
{
    std::cout << "foo<is_integral>()" << std::endl;
}

template <class T, std::enable_if_t<std::is_floating_point<T>::value, int> = 0>
void foo(T)
{
    std::cout << "foo<is_floating_point>()" << std::endl;
}

template <class T, std::enable_if_t<!std::is_arithmetic<T>::value, int> = 0>
void foo(T)
{
    std::cout << "foo<!std::is_arithmetic>()" << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo(42);
    foo(3.14);
    foo(&foo<int>);
}

foo<is_integral>()
foo<is_floating_point>()
foo<!std::is_arithmetic>()
```

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# Overlapping conditions fail

```
#include <iostream>
#include <type_traits>

template <class T, std::enable_if_t<std::is_pointer<T>::value, int> = 0>
void foo(T)
{
    std::cout << "foo<is_pointer>()" << std::endl;
}

template <class T, std::enable_if_t<std::is_pod<T>::value, int> = 0>
void foo(T)
{
    std::cout << "foo<is_pod>()" << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo(static_cast<int*>(nullptr));
}
```

```
main.cpp: In function 'int main()':
main.cpp:18:35: error: call of overloaded 'foo(int*)' is ambiguous
    foo(static_cast<int*>(nullptr));
                          ^
main.cpp:5:6: note: candidate: void foo(T) [with T = int*;
    typename std::enable_if<std::is_pointer<_Tp>::value, int>::type <anonymous> = 0]
    void foo(T)
    ^~~
main.cpp:11:6: note: candidate: void foo(T) [with T = int*;
    typename std::enable_if<std::is_pod<_Tp>::value, int>::type <anonymous> = 0]
    void foo(T)
    ^~~
```

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# Or do they?

```
#include <iostream>
#include <type_traits>

template <class T, std::enable_if_t<std::is_pointer<T>::value, int> = 0>
void foo(T)
{
    std::cout << "foo<is_pointer>()" << std::endl;
}

template <class T, std::enable_if_t<std::is_pod<T>::value, int> = 0>
void foo(T)
{
    std::cout << "foo<is_pod>()" << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    foo(nullptr);
}

foo<is_pod>()
```

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Thanks for your attention