

Names, Scope, and Bindings

COMS W4115



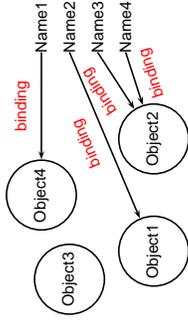
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Names, Objects, and Bindings



When are objects created and destroyed?

When are names created and destroyed?

When are bindings created and destroyed?

Static Objects

```
class Example {  
    public static final int a = 3;  
  
    public void hello() {  
        System.out.println("Hello");  
    }  
}
```

Static class variable

Code for hello method

String constant "hello"

Information about Example class.

What's In a Name?

Name: way to refer to something else
variables, functions, namespaces, objects, types

```
if ( a < 3 ) {  
    int bar = baz(a + 2);  
    int a = 10;  
}
```

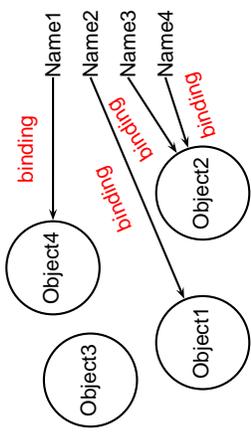


Object Lifetimes

When are objects created and destroyed?



Names, Objects, and Bindings



Object Lifetimes

The objects considered here are regions in memory.

Three principal storage allocation mechanisms:

1. Static
Objects created when program is compiled, persists throughout run
2. Stack
Objects created/destroyed in last-in, first-out order.
Usually associated with function calls.
3. Heap
Objects created/deleted in any order, possibly with automatic garbage collection.

Stack-Allocated Objects



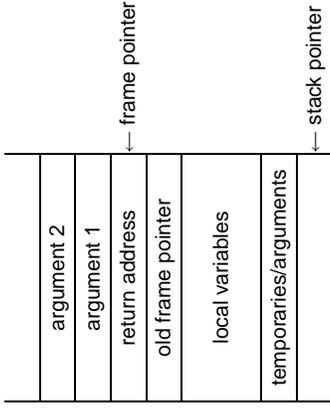
Natural for supporting recursion.

Idea: some objects persist from when a procedure is called to when it returns.

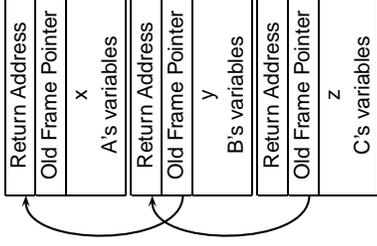
Naturally implemented with a stack: linear array of memory that grows and shrinks at only one boundary.

Each invocation of a procedure gets its own *frame* (*activation record*) where it stores its own local variables and bookkeeping information.

Activation Records



Activation Records



```
int A() {
  int x;
  B();
}

int B() {
  int y;
  C();
}

int C() {
  int z;
}
```

Stack-Based Languages

The FORTH language is stack-based. Very easy to implement cheaply on small processors.

The PostScript language is also stack-based.

Programs are written in Reverse Polish Notation:

```
2 3 * 4 5 * + . ( . is print top-of-stack)
26 OK
```

FORTH

```
: CHANGE 0 ;
: QUARTERS 25 * + ;
: DIMES 10 * + ;
: NICKELS 5 * + ;
: PENNIES + ;
: INTO 25 /MOD CR . . " QUARTERS "
  10 /MOD CR . . " DIMES "
  5 /MOD CR . . " NICKELS "
  CR . . " PENNIES " ;
CHANGE 3 QUARTERS 6 DIMES 10 NICKELS
112 PENNIES INTO
11 QUARTERS
2 DIMES
0 NICKELS
2 PENNIES
```

FORTH

Definitions are stored on a stack. FORGET discards the given definition and all that came after.

```
: FOO ." Stephen" ;
: BAR ." Nina" ;
: FOO ." Edwards" ;
FOO Edwards
BAR Nina
FORGET FOO ( Forgets most-recent FOO)
FOO Stephen
BAR Nina
FORGET FOO ( Forgets FOO and BAR)
FOO FOO ?
BAR BAR ?
```

Heap-Allocated Storage

Static works when you know everything beforehand and always need it.

Stack enables, but also requires, recursive behavior.

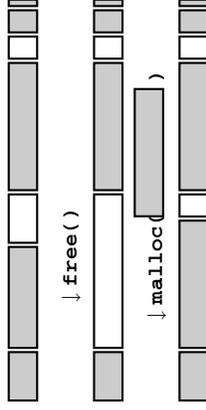
A *heap* is a region of memory where blocks can be allocated and deallocated in any order.

(These heaps are different than those in, e.g., heapsort)

Dynamic Storage Allocation in C

```
struct point { int x, y; };
int play_with_points(int n)
{
  struct point *points;
  points = malloc(n * sizeof(struct point));
  int i;
  for ( i = 0 ; i < n ; i++ ) {
    points[i].x = random();
    points[i].y = random();
  }
  /* do something with the array*/
  free(points);
}
```

Dynamic Storage Allocation



Dynamic Storage Allocation

- Rules:
- Each allocated block contiguous (no holes)
 - Blocks stay fixed once allocated
- ```
malloc()
```
- Find an area large enough for requested block
- Mark memory as allocated
- ```
free()
```
- Mark the block as unallocated

Simple Dynamic Storage Allocation

Maintaining information about free memory

Simplest: Linked list

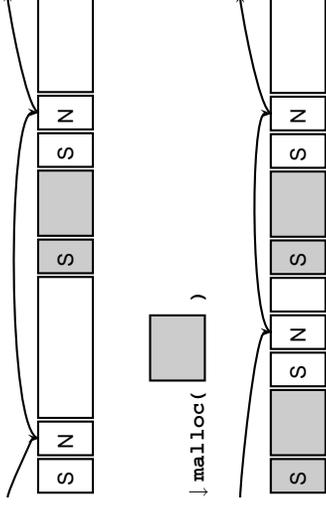
The algorithm for locating a suitable block

Simplest: First-fit

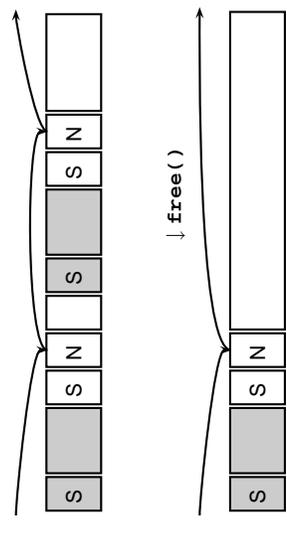
The algorithm for freeing an allocated block

Simplest: Coalesce adjacent free blocks

Dynamic Storage Allocation



Simple Dynamic Storage Allocation



Dynamic Storage Allocation

Many, many other approaches.

Other "fit" algorithms

Segregation of objects by size

More clever data structures

Heap Variants

Memory pools: Differently-managed heap areas

Stack-based pool: only free whole pool at once

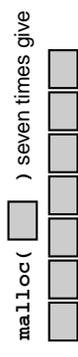
Nice for build-once data structures

Single-size-object pool:

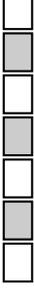
Fit, allocation, etc. much faster

Good for object-oriented programs

Fragmentation



malloc() four times gives



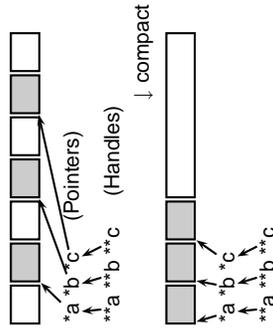
malloc() ?

Need more memory; can't use fragmented memory.

Fragmentation and Handles

Standard CS solution: Add another layer of indirection.

Always reference memory through "handles."



The original Macintosh did this to save memory.

Automatic Garbage Collection

Remove the need for explicit deallocation.

System periodically identifies reachable memory and frees unreachable memory.

Reference counting one approach.

Mark-and-sweep another: cures fragmentation.

Used in Java, functional languages, etc.



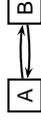
Automatic Garbage Collection

Challenges:

How do you identify all reachable memory?

(Start from program variables, walk all data structures.)

Circular structures defy reference counting:



Neither is reachable, yet both have non-zero reference counts.

Garbage collectors often conservative: don't try to collect everything, just that which is definitely garbage.

Scope

When are names created, visible, and destroyed?



Basic Static Scope

Usually, a name begins life where it is declared and ends at the end of its block.

```
void foo()
{
    int k;
    _____
    _____
    _____
    _____
}
```

Hiding a Definition

Nested scopes can hide earlier definitions, giving a hole.

```
void foo()
{
    int x;
    _____
    while ( a < 10 ) {
        int x;
        _____
    }
    _____
}
```

Static Scoping in Java

```
public void example() {
    // x, y, z not visible
    int x;
    // x visible
    for ( int y = 1 ; y < 10 ; y++ ) {
        // x, y visible
        int z;
        // x, y, z visible
    }
    // x visible
}
```

Scope

The scope of a name is the textual region in the program in which the binding is active.

Static scoping: active names only a function of program text.

Dynamic scoping: active names a function of run-time behavior.

Scope: Why Bother?

Scope is not necessary. Languages such as assembly have exactly one scope: the whole program.

Reason: Information hiding and modularity.

Goal of any language is to make the programmer's job simpler.

One way: keep things isolated.

Make each thing only affect a limited area.

Make it hard to break something far away.

Nested Subroutines in Pascal

```
procedure mergesort;
var N : integer;

procedure split;
var I : integer;
begin .. end

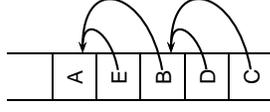
procedure merge;
var J : integer;
begin .. end

begin .. end
```



Nested Subroutines in Pascal

```
procedure A;
  procedure B;
    procedure C;
      begin .. end
    procedure D;
      begin C end
    begin D end
  procedure E;
    begin B end
  begin E end
```



Scope in the Tiger Functional Language

The let expression defines scopes:

```
let
  var x := 8
  _____
  _____
  _____
in
  _____
end
```

Scope in Tiger

Scopes can nest to produce holes

```
let
  var x := 8
in
  let
    var x := 10
  in
  end
end
```

Scope in Tiger

Mutual recursion possible because of odd scoping rules.

Scope of f1, f2, and f3:

```
let
  function f0() = (...)
  var x := 8
  function f1() = (...)
  function f2() = (...)
  function f3() = (...)
in
end
```

Nested Functions in Tiger

Static (lexical) scope like Pascal

```
let
  var a := 3
  function f1() = ( a := a + 1 )
in
  let
    var a := 4
    function f2() = ( f1() )
  in
    f2()
  end
end
```

Dynamic Scoping in TeX

```
% \x, \y undefined
{
  % \x, \y undefined
  \def \x 1
  % \x defined, \y undefined
  \ifnum \a < 5
    \def \y 2
  \fi
  % \x defined, \y may be undefined
}
% \x, \y undefined
```

Static vs. Dynamic Scope

```
program example;
var a : integer; (* Outer a *)

procedure seta;   begin a := 1 end

procedure locala;
var a : integer; (* Inner a *)
begin seta end

begin
  a := 2;
  if (readln() = 'b') locala
  else seta;
  writeln(a)
end
```

Static vs. Dynamic Scope

Most languages now use static scoping.
Easier to understand, harder to break programs.
Advantage of dynamic scoping: ability to change environment.
A way to surreptitiously pass additional parameters.

Application of Dynamic Scoping

```
program messages;
var message : string;

procedure complain;
  writeln(message);

procedure problem1;
  var message : string;
  message := "Out of memory"; complain

procedure problem2;
  var message : string;
  message := "Out of time"; complain
```

Forward Declarations

Languages such as C, C++, and Pascal require *forward declarations* for mutually-recursive references.

```
int foo();
int bar() { ... foo(); ... }
int foo() { ... bar(); ... }
```

Partial side-effect of compiler implementations. Allows single-pass compilation.

Open vs. Closed Scopes

An *open scope* begins life including the symbols in its outer scope.

Example: blocks in Java

```
{ int x;
  for (;;) { /* x visible here */ }
}
```

A *closed scope* begins life devoid of symbols.

Example: structures in C.

```
struct foo {
  int x; float y;
}
```

Overloading

What if there is more than one object for a name?



Function Name Overloading

C++ and Java allow functions/methods to be overloaded.

```
int foo();  
int foo(int a); // OK: different # of args  
float foo(); // Error: only return type  
int foo(float a); // OK: different arg types
```

Useful when doing the same thing many different ways:

```
int add(int a, int b);  
float add(float a, float b);
```

```
void print(int a);  
void print(float a);  
void print(char *s);
```

Symbol Tables

How does a compiler implement scope rules?

Overloading versus Aliases

Overloading: two objects, one name

Alias: one object, two names

In C++

```
int foo(int x) { ... }  
int foo(float x) { ... } // foo overloaded  
  
void bar()  
{  
    int x, *y;  
    y = &x; // Two names for x: x and *y  
}
```

Function Overloading in C++

Complex rules because of *promotions*:

```
int i; long int l;  
l + i
```

Integer promoted to long integer to do addition.

```
3.14159 + 2
```

Integer is promoted to double; addition is done as double.

Examples of Overloading

Most languages overload arithmetic operators:

```
1 + 2 // Integer operation  
3.1415 + 3e-4 // Floating-point operation
```

Resolved by checking the *type* of the operands.

Context must provide enough hints to resolve the ambiguity.

Function Overloading in C++

1. Match trying trivial conversions

```
int a[] to int *a, T to const T, etc.
```

2. Match trying promotions

```
bool to int, float to double, etc.
```

3. Match using standard conversions

```
int to double, double to int
```

4. Match using user-defined conversions

```
operator int() const { return v; }
```

5. Match using the ellipsis ...

Two matches at the same (lowest) level is ambiguous.

Symbol Tables

Implemented as a collection of dictionaries in which each symbol is placed.

Two operations: insert adds a binding to a table and lookup locates the binding for a name.

Symbol tables are created and filled, but never destroyed.

Symbol Tables

Basic mechanism for relating symbols to their definitions in a compiler.

Eventually need to know many things about a symbol:

- Whether it is defined in the current scope. "Undefined symbol"
- Whether its defined type matches its use.
`l + "hello"`
- Where its object is stored (statically allocated, on stack).

Symbol Tables

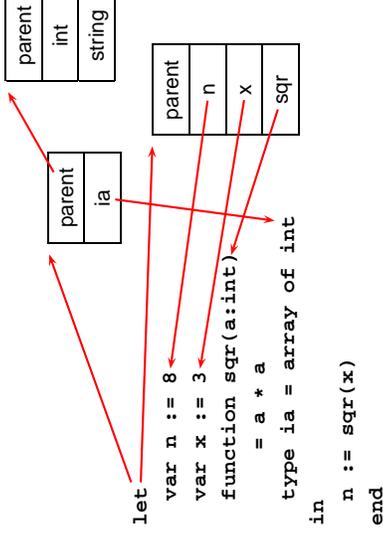
There are three namespaces in the Tiger functional language:

- functions and variables
- types
- record names

How many namespaces are there in Java?

How many namespaces are there in your language?

Symbol Tables in Tiger



Implementing Symbol Tables

Many different ways:

- linked-list
- hash table
- binary tree

Hash tables are faster, but linked lists are good enough for simple compilers.

Symbol Table Lookup

Basic operation is to find the entry for a given symbol.

In many implementations, each symbol table is a scope.

Each symbol table has a pointer to its parent scope.

Lookup: if symbol in current table, return it, otherwise look in parent.

Static Semantic Checking

Main application of symbol tables.

A taste of things to come:

Enter each declaration into its symbol table.

Check that each symbol used is actually defined in the symbol table.

Check its type... (next time)

Binding Time

When are bindings created and destroyed?

Binding Time

When a name is connected to an object.

Bound when	Examples
language designed	if else
language implemented	data widths
Program written	foo bar
compiled	static addresses, code
linked	relative addresses
loaded	shared objects
run	heap-allocated objects

Binding Time and Efficiency

Dynamic method dispatch in OO languages:

```
class Box : Shape {
  public void draw() { ... }
}
class Circle : Shape {
  public void draw() { ... }
}
Shape s;
s.draw(); /* Bound at run time */
```

Binding Time and Efficiency

Interpreters better if language has the ability to create new programs on-the-fly.

Example: Ousterhout's Tcl language.

Scripting language originally interpreted, later byte-compiled.

Everything's a string.

```
set a 1
set b 2
puts "$a + $b = [expr $a + $b]"
```

References to Subroutines

In many languages, you can create a reference to a subroutine and call it later. E.g., in C,

```
int foo(int x, int y) { * ... */ }

void bar()
{
    int (*f)(int, int) = foo;

    (*f)(2, 3); /* invoke foo */
}
```

Where does its environment come from?

Binding Time and Efficiency

Tcl's `eval` runs its argument as a command.

Can be used to build new control structures.

```
proc ifforall {list pred ifstmt} {
    foreach i $list {
        if [expr $pred] { eval $ifstmt }
    }
}

iffforall {0 1 2} {$i % 2 == 0} {
    puts "$i even"
}
0 even
2 even
```

Binding Reference Environments

What happens when you take a snapshot of a subroutine?

References to Subroutines

C is simple: no function nesting; only environment is the omnipresent global one. But what if there were?

```
typedef int (*ifunc)();
ifunc foo() {
    int a = 1;
    int bar() { return a; } /* not C */
    return bar;
}

int main() {
    ifunc f = foo(); /* returns bar */
    return (*f)(); /* call bar. a? */
}
```