

Lecture #3: Environments

- Substitution is not as simple as it might seem.

- For example:

```
def f(x):  
    def g(x):  
        return x + 10  
    return g(5)  
f(3)
```

- When we call `f(3)`, we should **not** substitute 3 for the `xs` in `g`!
- And there are other difficulties...

Last modified: Mon Mar 3 01:54:56 2014

CS61A: Lecture #3 1

Names

- Evaluating expressions that are literals is easy: the literal's text gives all the information needed.
- But how did I evaluate names like `add`, `mul`, or `print`?
- How do I explain *assignment*? Substitution inadequate.

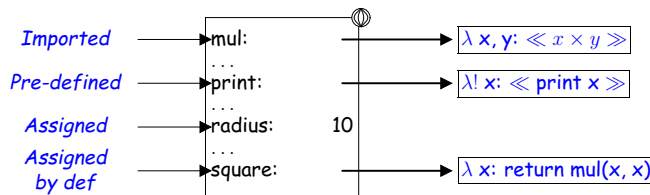
```
x = 3  
print(x)  
x = 4  
print(x)    # After x = 3, does this x change to 3??!
```
- Deduction: there must be another source of information.
- We'll use the concept of an *environment* to explain it.

Last modified: Mon Mar 3 01:54:56 2014

CS61A: Lecture #3 2

Environments

- An *environment* is a mapping from names to values.
- We say that a name is *bound to* a value in this environment.
- Every expression is evaluated *in an environment*, which supplies the meanings of any names in it.
- Simplest environment consists of a single *global environment frame*:

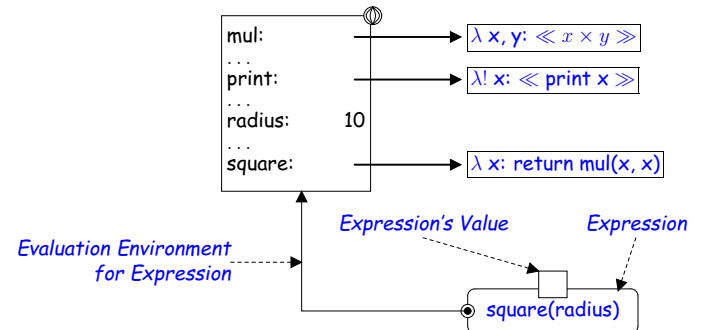


Last modified: Mon Mar 3 01:54:56 2014

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Evaluation of Names

- To evaluate a name (identifier) in an environment, look for what that name *"is bound to"* in that environment.
- For example, in this situation...

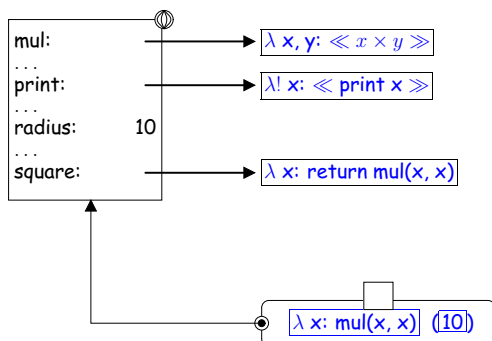


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Evaluation of Names (II)

... We find the values for `square` and `radius` in the global frame (the big box with the globe on its upper right).

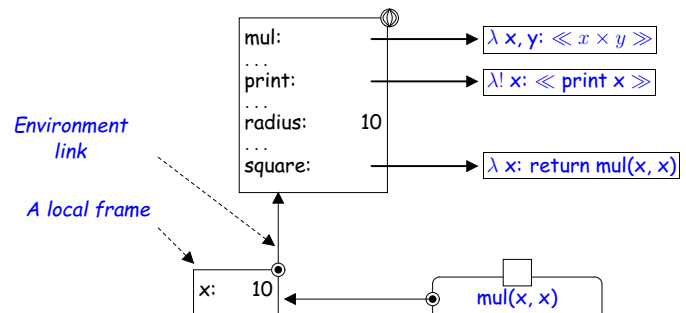


Last modified: Mon Mar 3 01:54:56 2014

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Evaluation of Names: More Complicated Environments

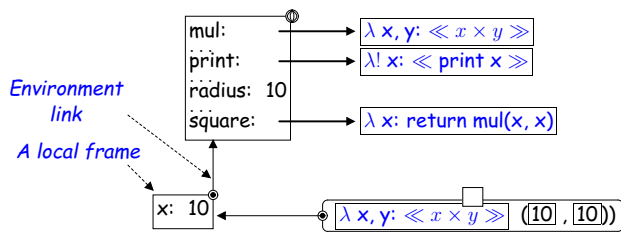
- In general, as we'll see, environments consist of *chains of frames*.
- Here, we find the value of `x` in the small, "*local frame*"
- We don't find `mul`, there, so we must follow the "*environment link*" looking for it.



Last modified: Mon Mar 3 01:54:56 2014

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More Complicated Environments (II)



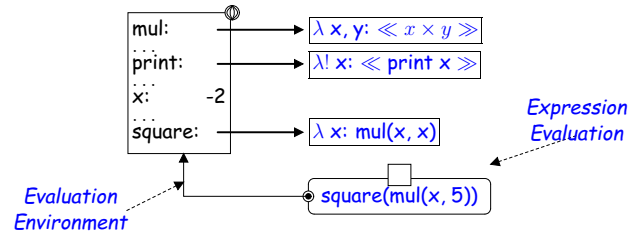
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Evaluating User-Defined Function Calls

- Consider the expression `square(mul(x, x))` in

```
from operator import mul
def square(x):
    return mul(x, x)
x = -2
print(square(mul(x, 5)))
```

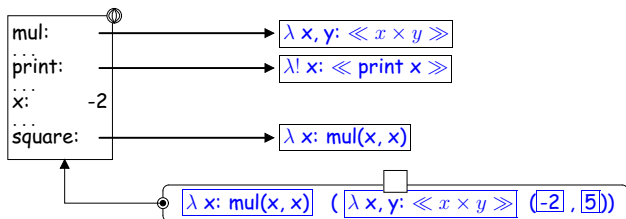


Last modified: Mon Mar 3 01:54:56 2014

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Evaluating User-Defined Function Calls (II)

- First evaluate the subexpressions of `square(mul(x, x))` in the global environment:



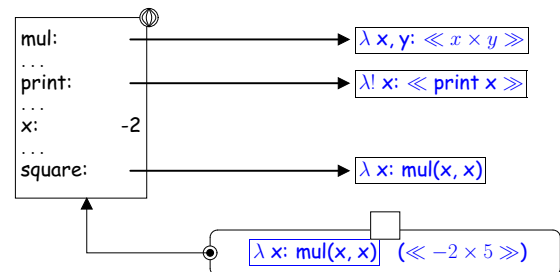
- Evaluating subexpressions `x`, `mul`, and `square` takes values from the expression's environment.

Last modified: Mon Mar 3 01:54:56 2014

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Evaluating User-Defined Functions Calls (III)

- Then call the multiply function. Since this is primitive, let's just use the substitution model:

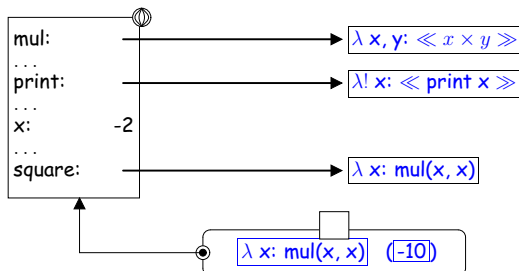


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CS61A: Lecture #3 10

Evaluating User-Defined Functions Calls (IV)

- Execute the primitive operation:

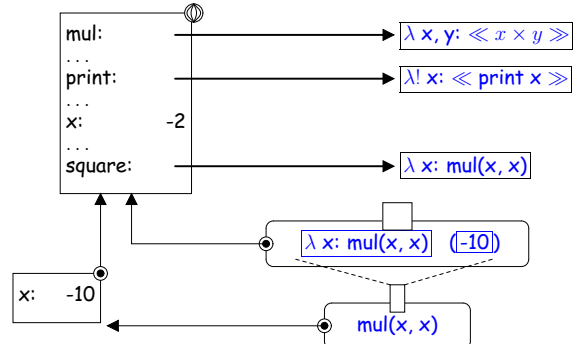


Last modified: Mon Mar 3 01:54:56 2014

CS61A: Lecture #3 11

Evaluating User-Defined Functions Calls (V)

- To evaluate the call to the user-defined function (`square`), start a new evaluation in a new *local environment frame*, attached to the frame where `square` was defined (the global frame here), and giving `x` the operand value.

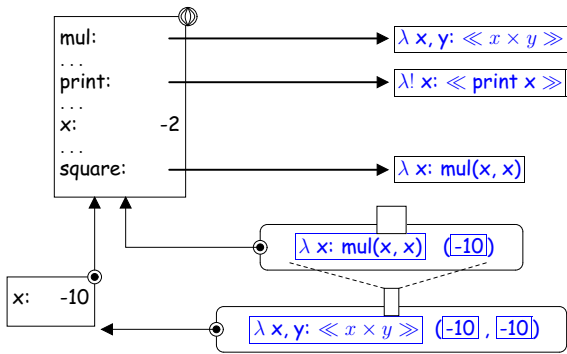


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CS61A: Lecture #3 12

Evaluating User-Defined Functions Calls (VI)

- When we evaluate `mul(x, x)` in this new environment, we get the same value as before for `mul`, but the local value for `x`.

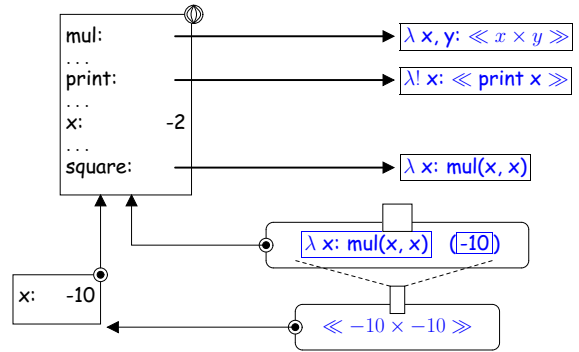


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Evaluating User-Defined Functions Calls (VII)

- Evaluate the primitive multiplication as before:

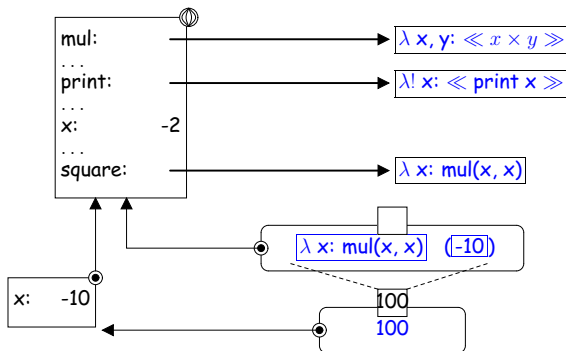


Last modified: Mon Mar 3 01:54:56 2014

CS61A: Lecture #3 14

Evaluating User-Defined Functions Calls (VIII)

- And return the finished value...

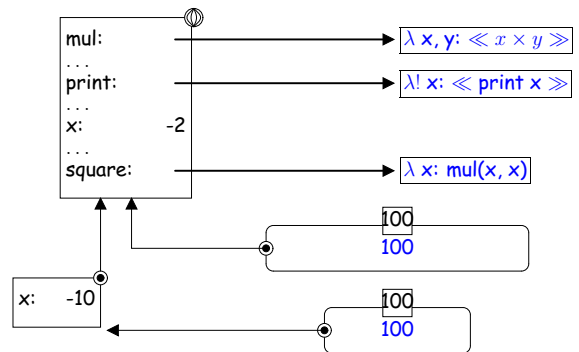


Last modified: Mon Mar 3 01:54:56 2014

CS61A: Lecture #3 15

Evaluating User-Defined Functions Calls (IX)

- ...replacing the call to the user-defined function and yielding the final value:



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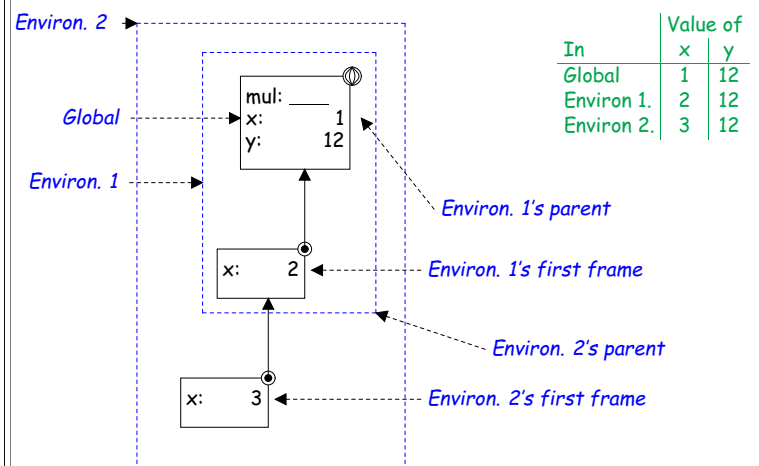
Summary: Environments

- Environments** map names to values.
- They consist of chains of **environment frames**.
- An environment is either a **global frame** or a first (local) frame chained to a **parent environment** (which is itself either a global frame or ...).
- We say that a name is **bound to** a value in a frame.
- The **value (or meaning) of a name** in an environment is the value it is bound to in the first frame, if there is one, ...
- ... or if not, the meaning of the name in the parent environment

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A Sample Environment Chain



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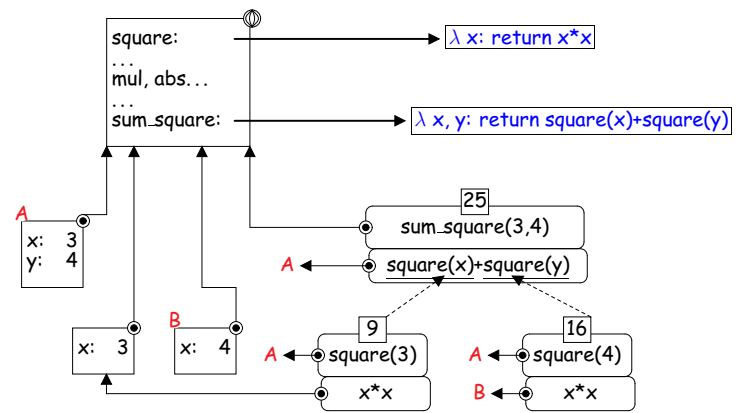
Environments: Binding and Evaluation

- Every expression and statement is evaluated (executed) in an environment, which determines the meaning of its names.
- Subexpressions (pieces) of an expression are evaluated in the same environment as the expression
- **Assigning** to a variable binds a value to it in (for now) the first frame of the environment in which the assignment is executed.
- **Def statements** bind a name to a function value in the first frame of the environment in which the **def** statement is executed.
- **Calling** a user-defined function creates a new local environment and binds the operand values in the call to the parameter names in that environment.

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Example: Evaluation of a Call: `sum_square(3,4)`



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