SICP

God's Programming Book

Lecture-13 Mutable Functions

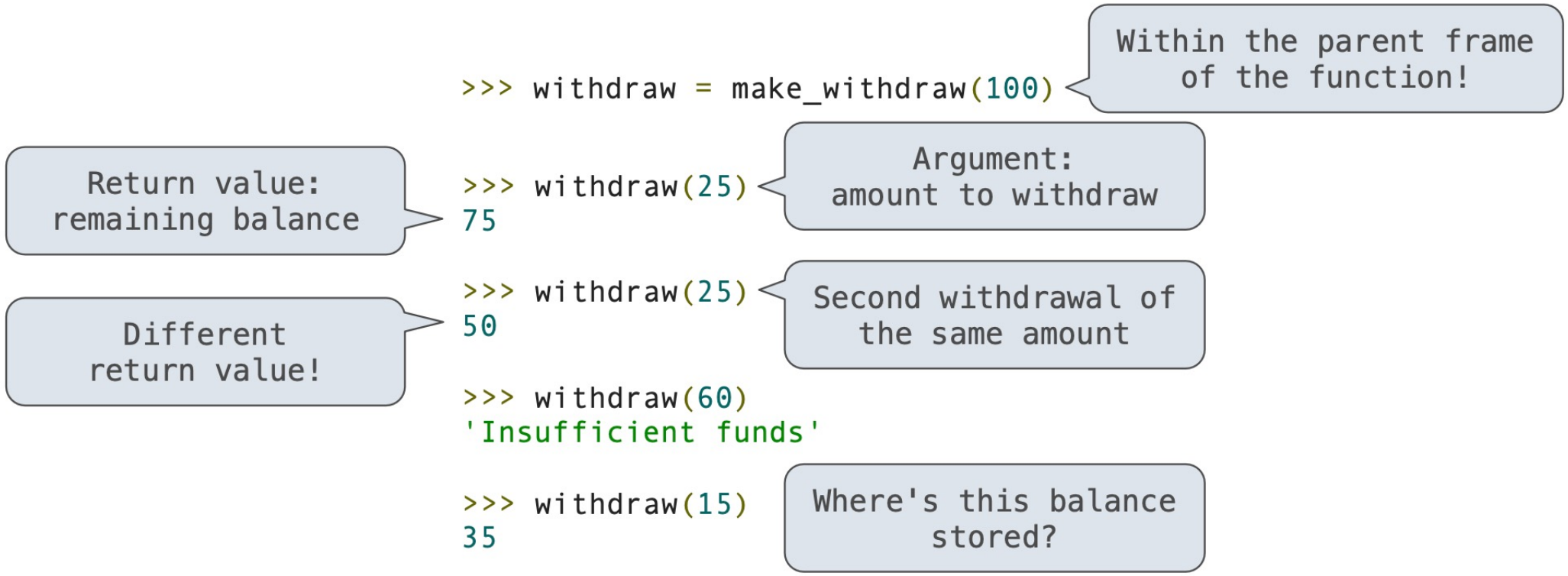
Mutable Functions

Slides Adapted from cs61a of UC Berkeley

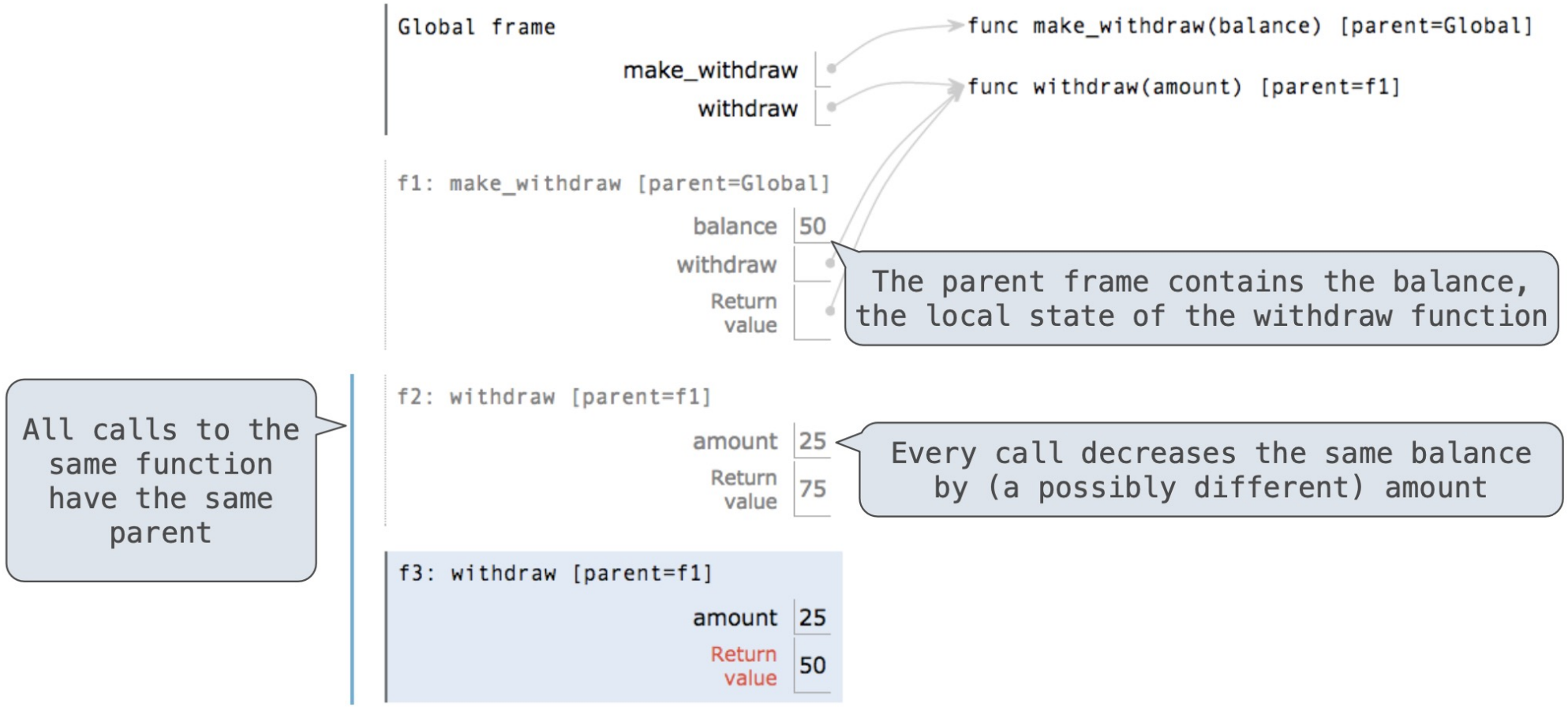
Mutable Functions

A Function with Behavior That Varies Over Time

- Let's model a bank account that has a balance of $100



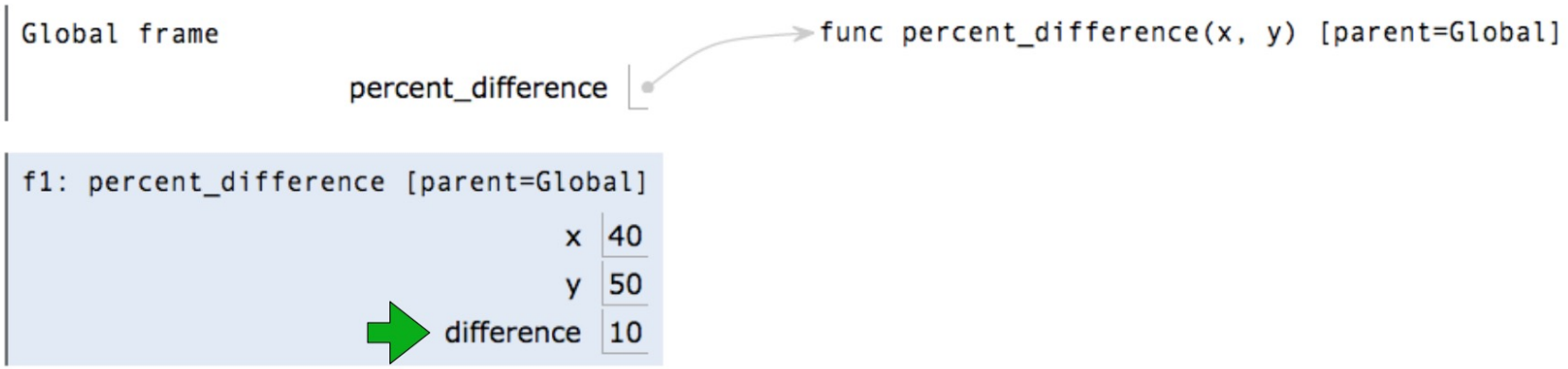
Persistent Local State Using Environments



Reminder: Local Assignment

```
def percent_difference(x, y):
    difference = abs(x-y)
    return 100 * difference / x
diff = percent_difference(40, 50)
```

Assignment binds name(s) to value(s) in the first frame of the current environment



Execution rule for assignment statements:

1. Evaluate all expressions right of =, from left to right
2. Bind the names on the left to the resulting values in the **current frame**

Non-Local Assignment & Persistent Local State

```
def make_withdraw(balance):
    """Return a withdraw function with a starting balance."""
    def withdraw(amount):
        nonlocal balance
        if amount > balance:
            return 'Insufficient funds'
        balance = balance - amount
        return balance
    return withdraw
```

Declare the name "balance" nonlocal at the top of the body of the function in which it is re-assigned

Re-bind balance in the first non-local frame in which it was bound previously

Non-Local Assignment

The Effect of Nonlocal Statements

```
nonlocal <name>, <name>, ...
```

Effect: Future assignments to that name change its pre-existing binding in the **first non-local frame** of the current environment in which that name is bound.

Python Docs: an "enclosing scope"

From the Python 3 language reference:

Names listed in a nonlocal statement must refer to pre-existing bindings in an enclosing scope.

Names listed in a nonlocal statement must not collide with pre-existing bindings in the local scope.

Current frame

The Many Meanings of Assignment Statements

```
x = 2
```

Status	Effect
• No nonlocal statement • "x" **is not** bound locally	Create a new binding from name "x" to object 2 in the first frame of the current environment
• No nonlocal statement • "x" **is** bound locally	Re-bind name "x" to object 2 in the first frame of the current environment
• nonlocal x • "x" **is** bound in a non-local frame	Re-bind "x" to 2 in the first non-local frame of the current environment in which "x" is bound
• nonlocal x • "x" **is not** bound in a non-local frame	SyntaxError: no binding for nonlocal 'x' found
• nonlocal x • "x" **is** bound in a non-local frame • "x" **is** also bound locally	SyntaxError: name 'x' is parameter and nonlocal

Python Particulars

- Python pre-computes which frame contains each name before executing the body of a function.
- Within the body of a function, all instances of a name must refer to the same frame.

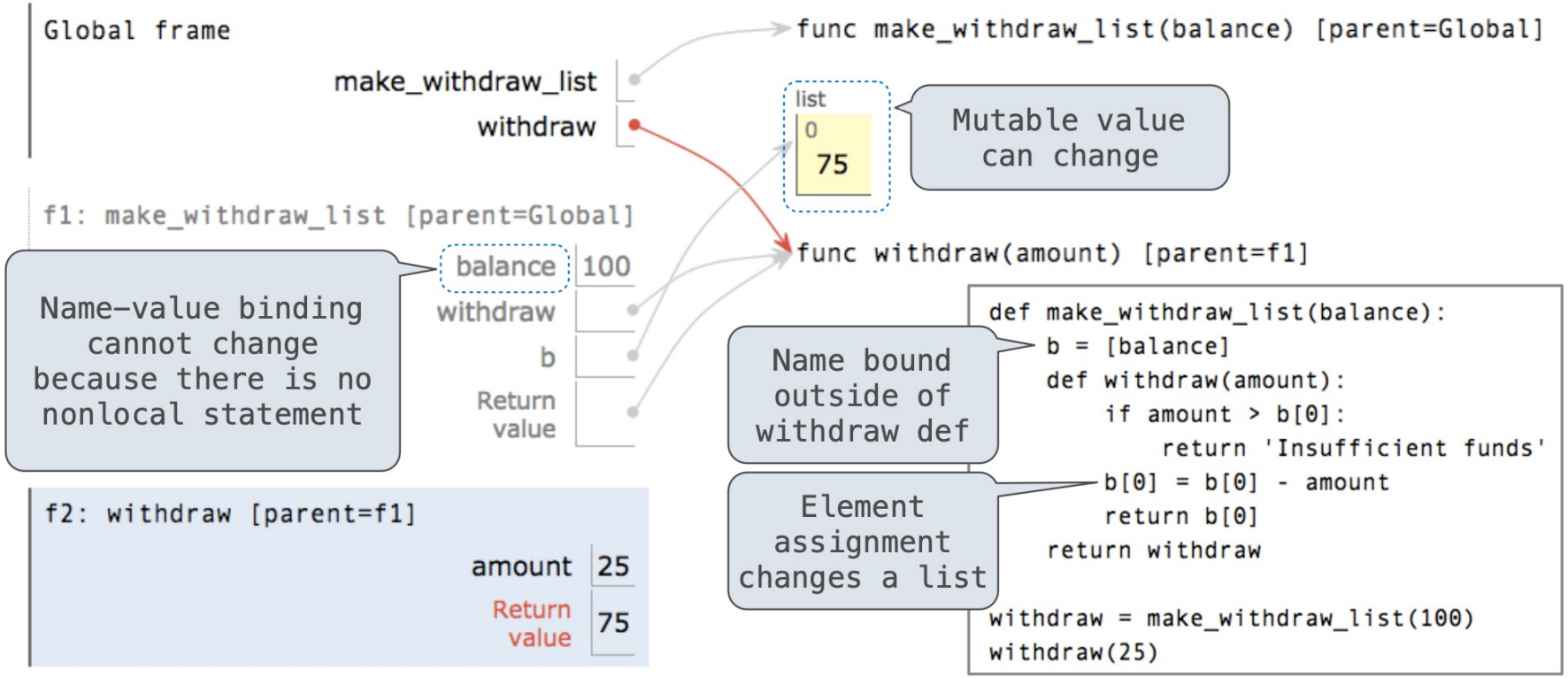
```
def make_withdraw(balance):
    def withdraw(amount):
        if amount > balance:
            return 'Insufficient funds'
        balance = balance - amount
        return balance
    return withdraw

wd = make_withdraw(20)
wd(5)
```

Local assignment

UnboundLocalError: local variable 'balance' referenced before assignment

Mutable Values & Persistent Local State

Mutable values can be changed *without* a nonlocal statement.



Multiple Mutable Functions

(Demo)

Referential Transparency, Lost

- Expressions are **referentially transparent** if substituting an expression with its value does not change the meaning of a program.

```
mul(add(2, mul(4, 6)), add(3, 5))

mul(add(2,    24    ), add(3, 5))

mul(       26         , add(3, 5))
```

- Mutation operations violate the condition of referential transparency because they do more than just return a value; **they change the environment**.

Thanks for Listening