

Execution context and call stack

Let's break down two of the most fundamental concepts in JavaScript's runtime behavior:

Execution Context

What is it?

An **execution context** is an environment where JavaScript code is evaluated and executed. It defines what data is available and how the code is run.

Types of Execution Contexts

1. Global Execution Context (GEC)

- Created by default when a JavaScript program starts.
- Contains global variables and functions.
- In browsers, it's the `window` object.
- Only one global context exists.

2. Function Execution Context (FEC)

- Created every time a function is invoked.
- Each function has its own execution context.

3. Eval Execution Context

- Created inside the `eval()` function (rarely used and not recommended).
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Execution Context Lifecycle

1. Creation Phase

- Scope is set up.
- Variable and function declarations are hoisted.

- `this`, `arguments`, and lexical environment are established.

2. Execution Phase

- Code is executed line-by-line.
- Variable assignments and function calls are made.

Example:

```
let x = 10;
function show() {
  let y = 20;
  console.log(x + y);
}
show();
```

Execution steps:

1. Global Context is created:

- `x` is declared and assigned `10`
- `show` function is hoisted

2. When `show()` is called:

- A new **Function Execution Context** is created
- `y = 20` is stored in local memory
- `console.log(x + y)` → `10 + 20 = 30`

Call Stack

What is it?

The **call stack** is a data structure that keeps track of function calls in your code. It follows **LIFO** (Last In, First Out).

How it works:

1. Global execution context is pushed onto the stack.
 2. Each time a function is called, a new context is pushed.
 3. When a function finishes, its context is popped from the stack.
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Example:

```
function one() {  
  console.log("One");  
  two();  
}  
function two() {  
  console.log("Two");  
  three();  
}  
function three() {  
  console.log("Three");  
}  
one();
```

Call Stack Behavior:

1. `one()` → pushed
 2. `console.log("One")` runs
 3. `two()` → pushed
 4. `console.log("Two")` runs
 5. `three()` → pushed
 6. `console.log("Three")` runs
 7. `three()` completes → popped
 8. `two()` completes → popped
 9. `one()` completes → popped
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✗ Stack Overflow

If too many contexts are pushed without being popped (like in infinite recursion), you get a **stack overflow**:

```
function recurse() {  
  recurse();  
}  
recurse(); // ✗ Maximum call stack size exceeded
```

✓ Summary

Concept	Description
Execution Context	The "environment" where JS runs code.
Call Stack	The structure that tracks the order of function execution.