

Ch6 Functions

Cover the following topics:

- Function declaration, arguments, and return values
 - named function, function expression, arrow function
- Variable scope in functions
- Nested functions and closures
- Function callbacks

1. What are functions?

- Functions are **reusable blocks** of code that can be called by **name**.
- Functions are **objects**
 - can be passed as arguments to other functions
 - can be returned by other functions
 - can be assigned to variables

BEST PRACTICE Do not repeat yourself.

- If you find yourself writing the same code multiple times, consider refactoring it into a function.
- It makes your codes more readable and maintainable.

2. Function declaration

- Recall that function is an object.
- You declare a function and then call it by its name.
- There are three ways to declare a function:
 - `function` statement
 - `function` expression
 - Arrow function (ES6)

Function statement

Create a function that takes two arguments and returns the sum of the two arguments.

- Use the `function` statement

```
function add(a, b) {  
    return a + b;  
}
```

Function expression

- Use the `function` expression
 - the expression in the LHS create a function object and assign it to the variable `add`.

```
const add = function(a, b) {  
  return a + b;  
};
```

Arrow function (ES6)

- Use the arrow function
 - a short-hand syntax to create a function object.

```
const add = (a, b) => {return a+b;};
```

- If you have only one return statement in the function, you can omit the curly braces and the `return` keyword.

```
const add = (a, b) => a+b;
```

Concept review: When to append a semicolon to the end of a line?

- Append a semicolon to end of a statement to avoid unexpected behavior and improve code readability.
- You don't need to append a semicolon to the end of a code blocks.
 - e.g. if, for, while, function statements.

Lab 6.1: Write a function that takes the body weight and height of a person and returns the BMI of the person.

- The formula for BMI is `weight / (height**2)` .
- Use the `function` statement, `function` expression, and arrow function to create the function.
- Default the height to 0 if it is undefined, null, or not a number (false values) .

3. Invoking a function

- Invoke a function by calling its name followed by parentheses.
- Provide the arguments in the parentheses.

```
const sum = add(1, 2);  
console.log(sum); // 3
```

- If you don't provide the parentheses, you are not calling the function but referencing the function object.

```
add = (x, y) => x + y;  
console.log(add); // Prints the function object
```

```
> add = (x, y) => x + y;  
console.log(add);  
  
  (x, y) => x + y  
↵ undefined
```

BEST PRACTICE: Write comments for your functions.

- Describe the purpose of the function.
- Describe the arguments and return values.
- Follow the [JSDoc](#) format to allow tools to automatically generate documentation for your code.
- [How to use JSDoc - Basics & Introduction @ youtube 13:04](#)

Example of writing comments for a function using JSDoc format:

```
/**
 * Calculate the BMI of a person.
 * @param {number} weight - The body weight of the person.
 * @param {number} height - The height of the person.
 * @returns {number} The BMI of the person.
 */
const calculateBMI = (weight, height) => {
  height = height || 0;
  return weight / (height ** 2);
};
```

Immediately-Invoked Function Expressions (IIFE)

- An IIFE is a function that is immediately invoked after it is defined (self-invoking function).
 - Combine the function definition and invocation in a single expression.
- They don't pollute the global object -
 - the variables declared inside the IIFE are not accessible outside the IIFE.
- The IIFE cannot be reinvoked after it is executed because it don't have a name (anonymous function).

When to use IIFE?

- Add event listeners to elements when the page is loaded.
- Use IIFE to avoid polluting the global namespace.
- Create private properties for a function/object.

Reading: [IIFEs in JavaScript—Use cases](#)

Syntax of IIFE

The syntax of an IIFE:

```
(function() {  
    // code here  
})(arguments);
```

Can use the arrow function in the IIFE, too:

```
(( ) => {  
  // code here  
})();
```

Pass arguments to the IIFE:

```
((a, b) => {  
  console.log(a + b);  
})(1, 2);
```


Example: Add an event listener to a button element using an IIFE.

```
// IIFE
(function() {
  // define a function to calculate the BMI
  const calculateBMI = (weight, height) => {
    return weight / (height ** 2);
  };

  // Add an event listener to a button with the id 'calculateButton'
  document.getElementById('calculateButton').addEventListener('click', function() {
    const weight = parseFloat(document.getElementById('weight').value);
    const height = parseFloat(document.getElementById('height').value);
    const bmi = calculateBMI(weight, height);
    alert('Your BMI is: ' + bmi);
  });
})();
```

You can not access the `calculateBMI` function outside the IIFE.

See full example in [ex_06_iife.html](#)

Example: Not using the IIFE

```
const calculateBMI = (weight, height) => {  
    return weight / (height ** 2);  
};  
  
/**  
 * Init function. (Global object, get an extra object in the global space)  
 */  
function init () {  
    // Add an event listener to a button with the id 'calculateButton'  
    document.getElementById('calculateButton').addEventListener('click', function() {  
        const weight = parseFloat(document.getElementById('weight').value);  
        const height = parseFloat(document.getElementById('height').value);  
        const bmi = calculateBMI(weight, height);  
        alert('Your BMI is: ' + bmi);  
    })  
    // Invoke the function  
    init();  
}
```

The global object has extra function objects: `calculateBMI` and `init`.

Example: Create private properties for a function/object.

Create a module that has two functions:

- `increment` : increment a counter by 1.
- `setStartValue` : set the start value of the counter.
- The counter is a private variable of the module.

```
(function() {  
    let counter = 0;  
  
    function setStartValue(startValue) {  
        counter = startValue;  
    }  
    function increment() {  
        counter += 1;  
        console.log(counter);  
    }  
  
    // Expose the private functions to the global or window objects publicly.  
    // Use the global object to attach the module in the NODE.js environment  
    // Use the window object to attach the module in the browser environment  
    global.myModule = {  
        increment: increment,  
        setStartValue: setStartValue  
    };  
})();
```

Run the following code to test the module.

```
myModule.setStartValue(10);  
myModule.increment()  
myModule.increment();  
myModule.increment();
```

Outputs:

```
11  
12  
13
```

Lab 6.2 Create a program that will randomly describe an inputted name.

Create a module that has a function that randomly describes a name.

- The module has a private array of descriptive words.
- The function takes a name as the argument.
 - Select a random value from the array of descriptive words.
 - Return a string that describes the name.

For example, the list of descriptive words is `['smart', 'funny', 'kind', 'hardworking']`. Given the name `Alice`, the program may print `Alice, you are smart`.

Hint:

- `Math.random()` returns a random number between 0 and 1.
- `Math.floor()` returns the largest integer less than or equal to a given number.

4. Function parameters and arguments

Parameters vs Arguments

- Parameters are the variables in the function declaration.
- Arguments are the values passed to the function when it is called.

```
const add = (a, b) => a + b;  
const sum = add(1, 2);
```

- The function `add` has two parameters `a` and `b`.
- The function is called with the arguments `1` and `2`.

Flexible number of arguments

- The number of arguments passed to a function can be different from the number of parameters.
- When the number of arguments is fewer than the number of parameters, the missing parameters are assigned `undefined`.

Example:

```
const add = (a, b) => a + b;  
const sum = add(1); // 1 + undefined = NaN
```

- parameter `b` is `undefined` because the argument is missing.

- When the number of arguments is more than the number of parameters, the extra arguments are ignored.

```
const add = (a, b) => a + b;  
const sum = add(1, 1, 4); // 1 + 1 = 2
```

- The extra argument `4` is ignored because no extra parameter to take it.

Optional parameters (Or default parameters)

- Some parameters might be optional when you invoke the function.
- You need to provide a default value for the optional parameters.
- Set the default value in the function declaration.

```
function greet(name = 'Alice') {  
    return `Hello, ${name}`;  
}  
console.log(greet()); // Hello, Alice  
console.log(greet('Bob')); // Hello, Bob
```

Example:

```
// The descWords parameter is optional.  
function randomWord(name, descWords = ['smart', 'funny', 'kind', 'hardworking']) {  
  // scale the random number to the length of the array and round down to the nearest whole number  
  let randomIndex = Math.floor(Math.random() * descWords.length);  
  return `${name}, you are ${words[randomIndex]}`;  
}  
console.log(randomWord('Alice')); // might be: Alice, you are smart.
```

- The second parameter `descWords` has a default value of `['smart', 'funny', 'kind', 'hardworking']`.
- If you don't provide the second argument, the default value is used.

Pass an array to a function as a list of arguments: the spread operator ...

Consider the following scenario:

- You have an array of numbers `[1, 2, 3, 4]` .
- You have defined a function that takes four arguments and returns the maximum value of the four arguments.

```
(x, y, z, w) => Math.max(x, y, z, w)
```

- How do you apply the function to the array of numbers?

Use the spread operator `...` to spread elements of an array into a list of arguments.

Use the spread operator in the function invocation.

```
const numbers = [1, 2, 3, 4];  
const maxFunction = (x, y, z, w) => Math.max(x, y, z, w);  
const max = maxFunction(...numbers); // equivalent to maxFunction(1, 2, 3, 4). Result: 4
```

Rest of the parameters (ES6)

- You might not know the number of arguments passed to a function in advance.
- The feature of "Rest of the parameters" will help you to handle the variable number of arguments.
- e.g. Design a function to find the maximum value of a variable number of arguments.
- A function that can take variable variable number of arguments is call **vararg (or variadic) function**

The syntax of the rest of the parameters

```
function yourFunction(param1, param2, ...restOfParams) {  
  // code here  
}
```

- `restOfParams` is an **array** that contains the rest of the arguments passed to the function.
- Use the spread operator `...` to declare the rest of the parameters.

Example: variable arguments

- Create a function that takes a variable number of arguments and returns the max value.

```
const maxValues = (...numbers) => {  
  // numbers is an array  
  console.log(typeof numbers); // array object  
  console.log(`array size: ${numbers.length}`);  
  return Math.max(...numbers);  
};  
const max = maxValues(1, 2, 3, 4, 5); // 5
```

Application of the rest of the parameters:

A function calls another function with arguments.

```
const add = (a, b) => a + b;

function invokeFunction(func, ...args) {
  // args is an array. Use the spread operator to take the elements out of the array.
  return func(...args);
}

const sum = invokeFunction(add, 1, 2); // 3
```

Lab 6.3: Create a simple addition and multiplication calculator.

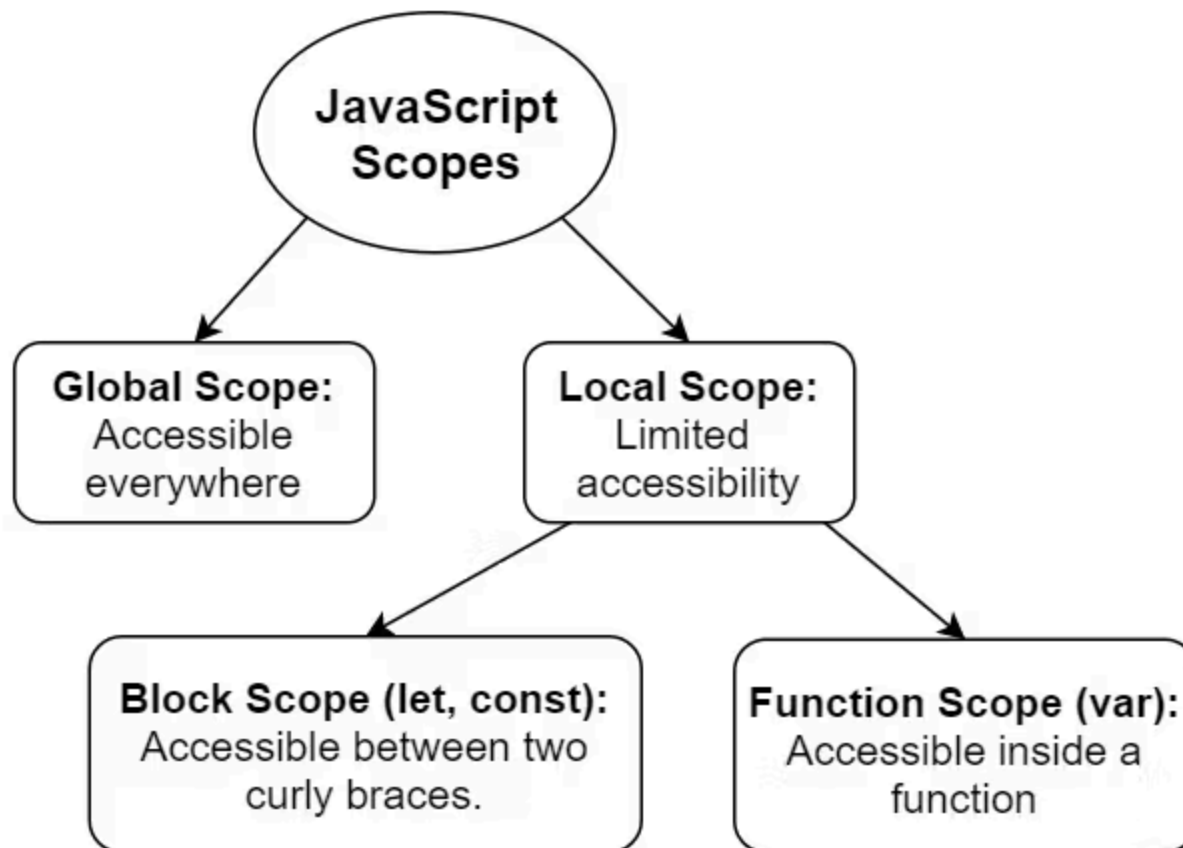
1. Create an `sum` function that takes a variable number of arguments and returns the sum of the arguments.
2. Create a `multiply` function that takes a variable number of arguments and returns the product of the arguments.
3. You must write a function to invoke the `sum` and `multiply` functions with the arguments provided.
4. For the inputted string "sum 1 2 3 4", your program should call the `sum` function with the arguments 1, 2, 3, and 4 and print the result.
5. For the inputted string "multiply 1 2 3 4", your program should call the `multiply` function with the arguments 1, 2, 3, and 4 and print the result.

Hint:

- Use the `split` method of `String` to split the inputted string into an array of strings. Then, assign them to an array of variables (array destructuring technique).
 - `let [operation, ...args] = str.split(" ");`
- Use the map data structure to index and store the functions if you don't want to use a switch or if-else statement.

5. Variable scope in functions

- Scope defines where you can access a certain variable.
- JavaScript has three types of scope



- Global scope: variables declared outside of a function.
- Function scope: variables declared inside of a function.
 - Use the `var` keyword to declare a variable with function scope.
 - Can be accessed in the entire function.
- Local scope: variables declared inside a block in a function.
 - Use the `let` or `const` keyword to declare a variable with local scope.

Example: function and local scope

```
var x = 1; // Global Scope

function myFunction(p) {
  // parameter p is function scope variable
  var functionScopeVar = 10; // function scope variable
  if (true){
    let y = 20; // block scope variable
    var z = 30; // function scope variable
  }
  // leave the if block
  console.log(x); // 1 (Global)
  console.log(y); // ReferenceError: y is not defined (block scope)
  console.log(z); // 30 (Function scope)
  console.log(p); // 100 (Function scope)
}

myFunction(100);
console.log(x); // 1
console.log(y); // ReferenceError: y is not defined
console.log(z); // ReferenceError: z is not defined
console.log(p); // ReferenceError: param is not defined
```

Hoisting characteristics of `var` variable declarations

- For variables declared with `var`, their declarations are hoisted (move) to the top of the function without an initialization.

For example:

```
// hoisting characteristics of var
function hoisting() {
  // use of the variable `a` before declaring it.
  // Since the variable declaration is moved
  // to the top of the function (hoisted) without initialization, the value is `undefined`.
  console.log(a); // undefined
  // Assign a value to a; Not declare a new variable
  var a = 10;
  console.log(a); // 10
}
```

Note:

- JS engine will not hoist the variables declared with `let` and `const`.

6. Nested functions

- A function (inner) can be defined inside another function (outer).
 - Let call the former the inner function and the latter the outer function.
- Recall that functions are objects and you can declare variables inside a function (function or block scope).
- Be careful of using the nested functions because of the limitation caused by the scopes of variables or functions.

```
function outerFunction() {  
    let outerVar = 10;  
    ...  
    function innerFunction() {  
        let innerVar = 20;  
        ...  
    }  
}
```

Rules of the variable scope in nested functions

- Rule 1: An inner function can access the variables and parameters of the outer function.
- The inner function is within the scope of the outer function. So, it can access the variables and parameters of the outer function.

```
function outerFunction(x) {  
  let outerVar = 10;  
  function innerFunction() {  
    console.log(x); // Hi, the argument passed to the outer function  
    console.log(outerVar); // 10  
  }  
  innerFunction();  
}  
outerFunction('Hi');
```

- Rule 2: An outer function cannot access the variables and parameters of the inner function.
 - The inner function is close to the outer function.

```
function outerFunction() {  
  function innerFunction() {  
    // function scope starts  
    let innerVar = 20;  
  } // function scope ends  
  
  console.log(innerVar); // ReferenceError: innerVar is not defined  
}  
outerFunction();
```

- Rule 3: We cannot invoke the inner function from the outside of the outer function.
 - The inner function is only visible within the outer function.

```
function outerFunction() {  
  function innerFunction() {  
    console.log('Inner function');  
  }  
}  
innerFunction(); // ReferenceError: innerFunction is not defined
```

7. Closures

- A closure is a function that binds to the variables of the outer function when it executes.
- The closure is a common pattern and a powerful technique in JavaScript.
- This happens commonly when you return a (nested) function from a (outer) function within which the nested function was defined.

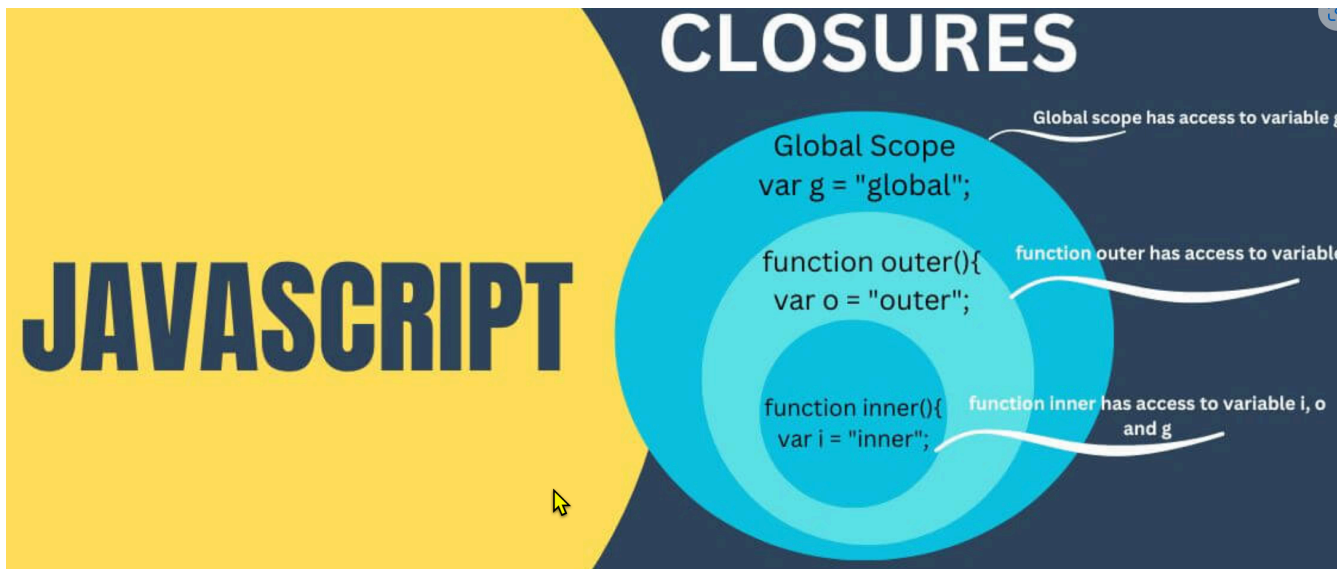


Fig Src: [Understanding Closure Functions in JavaScript: Examples and Explanation - Blog and News](#)

Example: Return a function from a function generates a closure.

```
function outerFunction() {  
  let outerVar = 10;  
  function innerFunction() {  
    console.log(outerVar);  
  }  
  // return the inner function object (not invoking the inner function)  
  return innerFunction;  
}  
  
// aFunc and innerFunction refer to the same function object  
const aFunc = outerFunction();
```

A question arises: Can `aFunc` access the variable `outerVar` ?

- The `outVar` is a local variable of the `outerFunction` .

We need to understand the concept of the lexical scope to answer the question.

Lexical Scope and variable scope of the inner function

- **Lexical scope** is the scope of a variable defined by its location in the source code.
 - When executing, the nested functions have access to variables declared in their outer scope
 - This means that the **inner function** are executed using the **variable scope that was in effect when they were defined**, not the one that is in effect when they are invoked.


```
// Global variable
const a = 10;

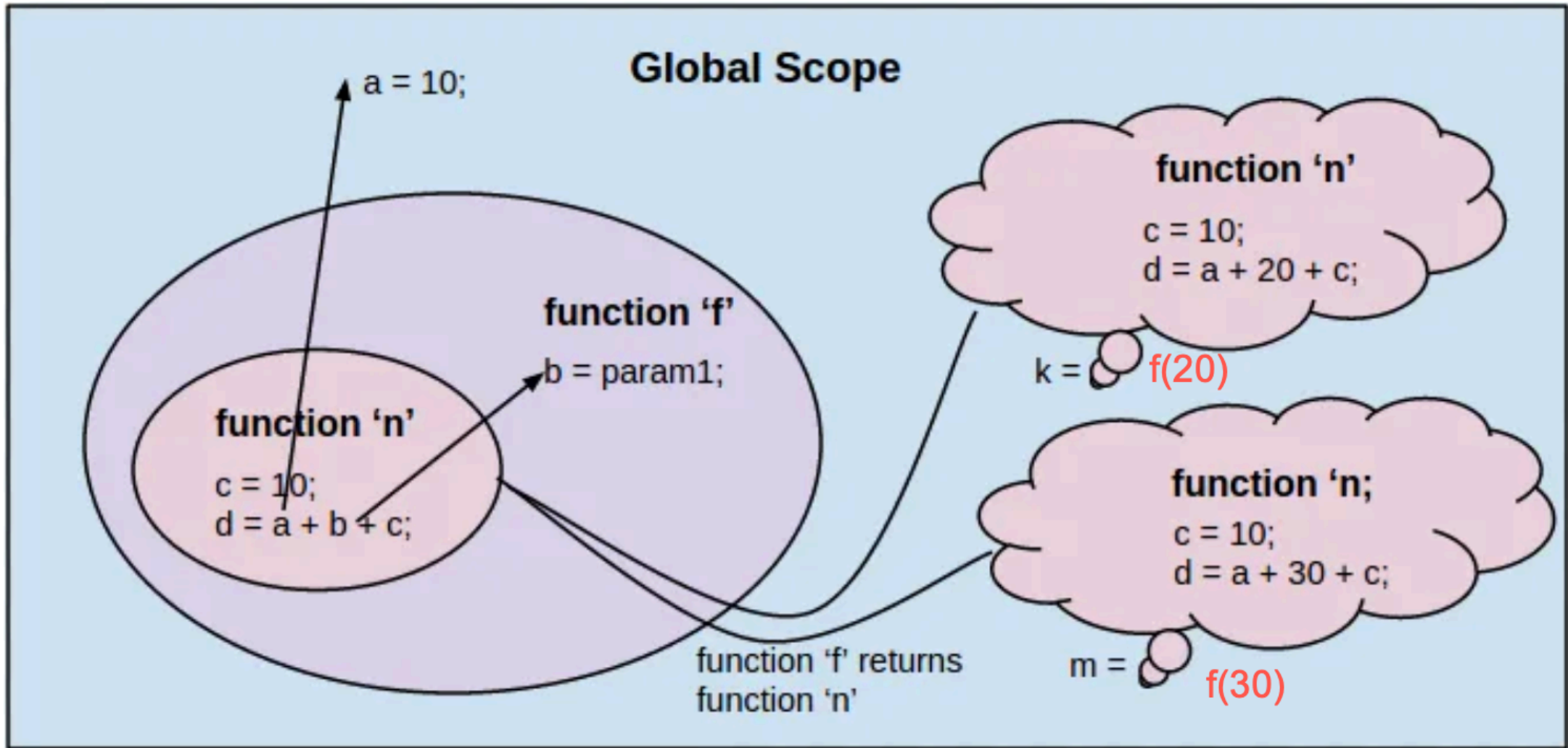
function f(b){
  // return a function object that has access
  // to the variables or parameters of the outer function,
  // The parameter b is a lexical variable of the inner.
  // It is in effect when the inner function is defined
  return function (){
    let c = 10;
    return a + b + c;
  }
}

funcN1 = f(20);
// funcN1 has the lexical variable b = 20
const k = funcN1();
console.log(k); // 40

funcN2 = f(30);
// funcN2 has the lexical variable b = 30
const m = funcN2();
console.log(m); // 50
```

Key Point: the parameter **b** becomes a private variable of the inner function.

The following figure depicts the closure in the above example.



Lab 6.4: Count the number of clicks for buttons (Application of closures)

This lab demonstrates using the closure technique to create a private variable for each event listener.

1. Create a HTML page with three buttons, each with a label to indicate the number of clicks. Give each button a unique id.
2. Create a function that returns a function as the event handler.
 - The returned function increments a counter and updates the label with the counter.
3. Add the event listener to each button

Count the number of clicks for buttons.

Button 1	1
Button 2	2
Button 3	2

Demo in CodePen

Hint:

- Need to use the closure technique to have each listener function to have its own counter.
- You may use the IIFE technique to shorten the code.

Solutions:

Step 1. Create a HTML page with three buttons.

```
<h1>Lab 6.4 Solution</h1>
<h2>Count the number of clicks for buttons.</h2>
<!-- Create three buttons with labels. -->
<div>
  <button id="btn1">Button 1</button> <label id="lbl1"></label>
</div>
<div>
  <button id="btn2">Button 2</button> <label id="lbl2"></label>
</div>
<div>
  <button id="btn3">Button 3</button> <label id="lbl3"></label>
</div>
<script>
  // Add an event listener to each button that increments a counter when the button is clicked.
</script>
```

Step 2. Create a function that returns a function as the event handler.

```
// define a function to return a function as the event handler
counterFun = function(idx, counter){
    return function(){
        // get the label element
        // idx and counter are the private variables of the inner function
        // They are lexical scope to the inner function
        var lbl = document.getElementById(`lbl${idx+1}`);
        counter++;
        lbl.innerHTML = counter;
    }
}
```

Step 3. Add the event listener to each button.

```
// Find all the buttons in the document
var buttons = document.getElementsByTagName("button");
// Add an event listener to each button
for (let [idx, btn] of Array.from(buttons).entries()){
    // get the id of the Button
    console.log(idx)
    // add the event listener to the button
    btn.addEventListener("click", counterFun(idx, 0));
}
```

- If you want to shorten the code, you can use the IIFE technique, as shown below.
 - Replace the function name with the function definition in the event listener.
- In this case, you don't need to define the `counterFun` function in the step 2.

```
var buttons = document.getElementsByTagName("button");
for (let idx = 0; idx < buttons.length; idx++) {
  buttons[idx].addEventListener("click", (function(idx){
    return function(){
      var lbl = document.getElementById(`lbl${idx+1}`);
      counter++;
      lbl.innerHTML = counter;
    }
  })(idx, 0));
}
```

Step 4. Test your page.

Conclusion for the lab:

- Use the closure technique to create a private variable for each event listener.
- The parameters of the outer function become the private variables of the inner function.
- The parameters of the outer function are lexically scoped to the inner function.

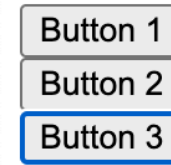
What wrong with the following code?

```
// add event listener to the buttons
// HTML collection
var buttons = document.getElementsByTagName("button");
for (let idx = 0; idx < buttons.length; idx++) {
    // add the event listener to the button
    var counter = 0;
    buttons[idx].addEventListener("click", function(idx, counter){
        console.log('clicked btn ' + idx);
        counter++;
        console.log(counter);
    });
} // end of for loop
```

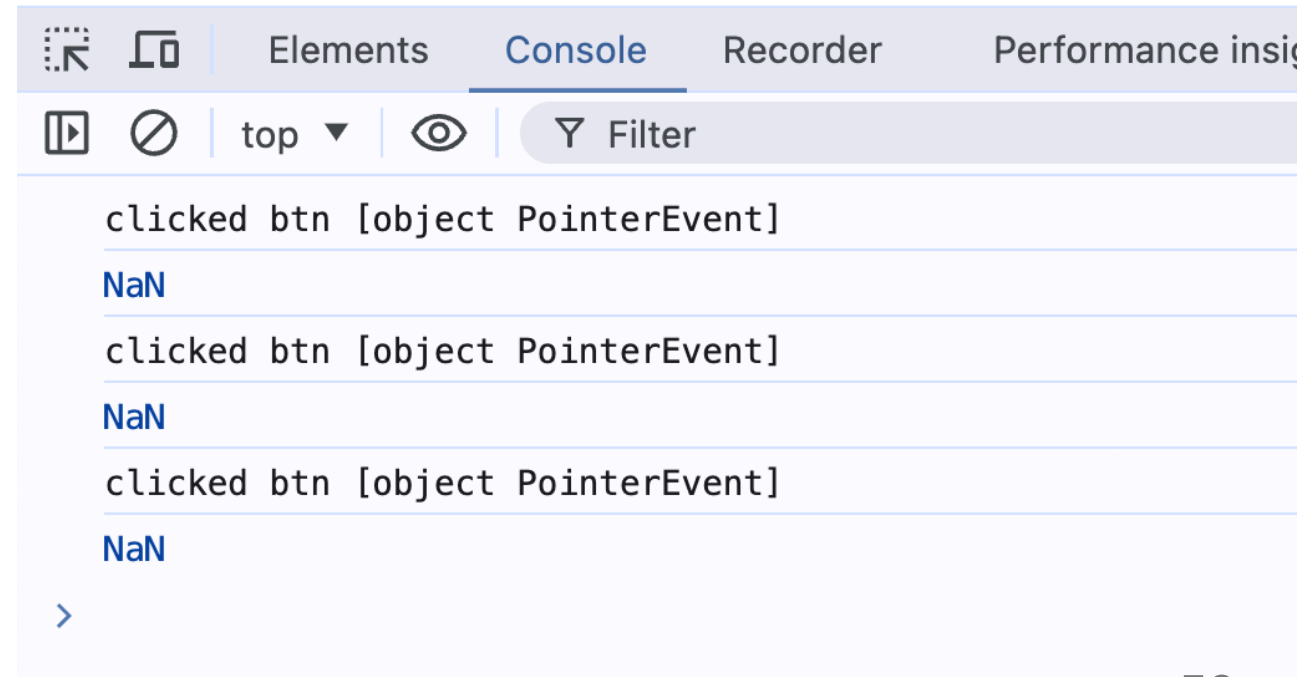
- When user clicks the button, the corresponding function is invoked.
- However, the parameters `idx` and `counter` are no longer available, because they don't have the lexical scope to the inner function.

Lab 6.4 Solution

Count the number of clicks for buttons.



Incorrect Version



8. Function callbacks: passing a function as an argument

- A callback function is a function that is passed as an argument to another function.
- The invoking function can call the callback function.

Example: Executing a function at an interval.

- Use the built-in `setInterval()` to execute a function at a specified interval.

Example:

```
function sayHello() {  
    console.log('Hello');  
}  
setInterval(sayHello, 1000); // print 'Hello' every second
```

9. Summary

- Functions are objects in JavaScript.
- To define a function, you can use the `function` statement, `function` expression, or arrow function.
- IIFE is an expression that combine the function definition and invocation.
 - use it when
 - to avoid polluting the global namespace
 - to create private properties for a function/object.
 - to add event listeners to elements when the page is loaded.

- Calling a function with a flexible number of arguments.
 - JS allows you to pass more or fewer arguments than the number of parameters.
 - Lang features: optional parameters, rest of the parameters, and spread operator.
- Variable hoisting for `var` variables in a function.
- Nested functions and closures.
 - A closure is a function that binds to the variables of the outer function when it executes.
 - The closure is a common pattern and a powerful technique in JavaScript.