

# Programming Languages Subprograms

**Programming Languages  
Module 8 (Chapter 9 - PART I)**

**Dr. Tamer ABUHMED  
College of Computing**

# Topics to be covered

---

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Fundamentals of Subprograms
- ▶ Design Issues for Subprograms
- ▶ Local Referencing Environments
- ▶ Parameter-Passing Methods
- ▶ Parameters That Are Subprograms
- ▶ Calling Subprograms Indirectly
- ▶ Overloaded Subprograms
- ▶ Generic Subprograms
- ▶ Design Issues for Functions
- ▶ User-Defined Overloaded Operators
- ▶ Closures
- ▶ Coroutines



## Part 1

# Fundamentals of Subprograms

- ▶ Each subprogram has a single entry point
- ▶ The calling program is suspended during execution of the called subprogram
- ▶ Control always returns to the caller when the called subprogram's execution terminates

```
int addition(int a, int b)
{
    int r;
    r = a + b;
    return r;
}

int main()
{
    int z;
    z = addition(5, 3);
    cout << "The result is " <<
    z;
}
```

# Basic Definitions

---

- ▶ A *subprogram definition* describes the interface to and the actions of the subprogram abstraction
  - ▶ In Python, function definitions are executable; in all other languages, they are non-executable
  - ▶ In Ruby, function definitions can appear either in or outside of class definitions. If outside, they are methods of `Object`. They can be called without an object, like a function
  - ▶ In Lua, all functions are anonymous
- ▶ A *subprogram call* is an explicit request that the subprogram be executed
- ▶ A *subprogram header* is the first part of the definition, including the name, the kind of subprogram, and the formal parameters
- ▶ The *parameter profile* (aka *signature*) of a subprogram is the number, order, and types of its parameters
- ▶ The *protocol* is a subprogram's *parameter profile* and, if it is a function, its return *type*

# Basic Definitions (continued)

- ▶ Function **declarations** in C and C++ are often called **prototypes**
- ▶ A *subprogram declaration* provides the **protocol**, but not the body, of the subprogram
- ▶ A *formal parameter* is a dummy variable listed in the subprogram header and used in the subprogram
- ▶ An *actual parameter* represents a value or address used in the subprogram call statement

The diagram illustrates the mapping between formal parameters in a function prototype and actual parameters in a function call. In the prototype `int addition(int , int );`, the two `int` parameters are labeled *formal parameters*. In the main function call `z = addition(a , b);`, the variables `a` and `b` are labeled *actual parameters*. Arrows point from each formal parameter to its corresponding actual parameter.

```
int addition(int , int );
int main()
{ int a, b, z;
a = 5; b = 3;
z = addition(a , b);
cout << "The result is " << z;
}

int addition(int a, int b)
{
int r;
r = a + b;
return r;
}
```

# Python function definitions are executable

```
def func():
    print('func()')
    i = 1
    if i == 1:
        def func1():
            print('func1')
    else:
        def func2():
            print('func2')
    func1()
    func2()
func()
```

def func2() will never executed, so func2 is not exist

```
func2()
UnboundLocalError: local variable 'func2' referenced before assignment
```

# Actual/Formal Parameter Correspondence

---

## ▶ Positional

- ▶ The binding of actual parameters to formal parameters is by position: the first actual parameter is bound to the first formal parameter and so forth
- ▶ Safe and effective

## ▶ Keyword

- ▶ The name of the formal parameter to which an actual parameter is to be bound is specified with the actual parameter
- ▶ Advantage: Parameters can appear in any order, thereby avoiding parameter correspondence errors
- ▶ Disadvantage: User must know the formal parameter's names

# Binding of actual parameters to formal parameters (Positional) C++

- In certain languages (e.g., C++, Python, Ruby, Ada, PHP), formal parameters can have default values (if no actual parameter is passed)
- In C++, default parameters must appear last because parameters are positionally associated (no keyword parameters)

```
void point(int x = 3, int y = 4);
void main(){
    point(1, 2); // calls point(1,2)
    point(1);    // calls point(1,4)
    point();     // calls point(3,4)
}
```

```
void summation(int x, int y = 3 , int z);
//error :'summation' :missing default parameter for parameter 3
```

```
float compute_pay(float income, float tax_rate, int exemptions = 1);
void main(){
    compute_pay(1200.5, 0.02); // exemptions = 1
}
```

# Binding of actual parameters to formal parameters (Keywords) Python

```
def display (ID , Name, Age = 0, Family = [] ):  
    print ("ID: ", ID)  
    print ("Name: ", Name)  
    print ("Age: ", Age)  
    for i in Family:  
        print ("Family member: ", i)  
display(ID = 154, Name = "Alice", Age = 23, Family = ["Father, Mother, Brother"])
```

```
def display (ID = 0, Name = "Alice",*, Age, Family ):  
    print ("ID: ", ID)  
    print ("Name: ", Name)  
    print ("Age: ", Age)  
    for i in Family:
```

Positional

Keywords arguments

```
    print ("Family member: ", i)
```

```
display(154 , "Alice", Age = 23, Family = ["Father, Mother, Brother"])
```

# Variable subprogram Parameter Lists

- ▶ Variable numbers of parameters
  - ▶ C++ functions can accept a variable number of parameters as long as they are of the same type—the corresponding formal parameter is an array preceded by `va_list`
- ▶ As C++, Java also support passing a variable number of arguments to methods. However, variable parameter in C++ must be as an argument to the end of the list

## C++

```
#include <stdargs.h>
void F(int first, ...) {
    int i = first;
    va_list marker; // retrieve arguments
    va_start(marker, first);
    while(i != -1)
        i = va_arg(marker, int); va_end(marker);
}
```

## Java

```
void F(int... args)
{
    for(int i : args) {}
}
```

# Variable subprogram Parameter Lists

- ▶ Python support passing variable *positional* and *keyword* arguments

```
# variable positional arguments  
  
def function(*args):  
    for i in args:  
        print(i)  
  
function(564,64,6,6)
```

```
def function2(**kwargs):  
    for i in kwargs.items():  
        print(i)  
  
function2(x = 2, y = 7, z = 8)  
  
def function3(*args,**kwargs):  
    for i in args:  
        print(i)  
    for i in kwargs.items():  
        print(i)  
  
function3(8,x = 2, y = 7, z = 8)
```

# Procedures and Functions

---

- ▶ There are two categories of subprograms
  - ▶ *Procedures* are collection of statements that define parameterized computations
  - ▶ *Functions* structurally resemble procedures but are semantically modeled on mathematical functions
    - ▶ They are expected to produce no side effects
    - ▶ In practice, program functions have side effects

# Design Issues for Subprograms

---

- ▶ Are local variables static or dynamic?
- ▶ Can subprogram definitions appear in other subprogram definitions?
- ▶ What parameter passing methods are provided?
- ▶ Are parameter types checked?
- ▶ If subprograms can be passed as parameters and subprograms can be nested, what is the referencing environment of a passed subprogram?
- ▶ Can subprograms be overloaded?
- ▶ Can subprogram be generic?
- ▶ If the language allows nested subprograms, are closures supported?

# Local Referencing Environments

---

- ▶ Local variables can be stack-dynamic
  - Advantages
    - ▶ Support for recursion
    - ▶ Storage for locals is shared among some subprograms
  - ▶ Disadvantages
    - ▶ Allocation/de-allocation, initialization time
    - ▶ Indirect addressing
    - ▶ Subprograms cannot be history sensitive
- ▶ Local variables can be static
  - ▶ Advantages and disadvantages are the opposite of those for stack-dynamic local variables

## Local Referencing Environments: Examples

---

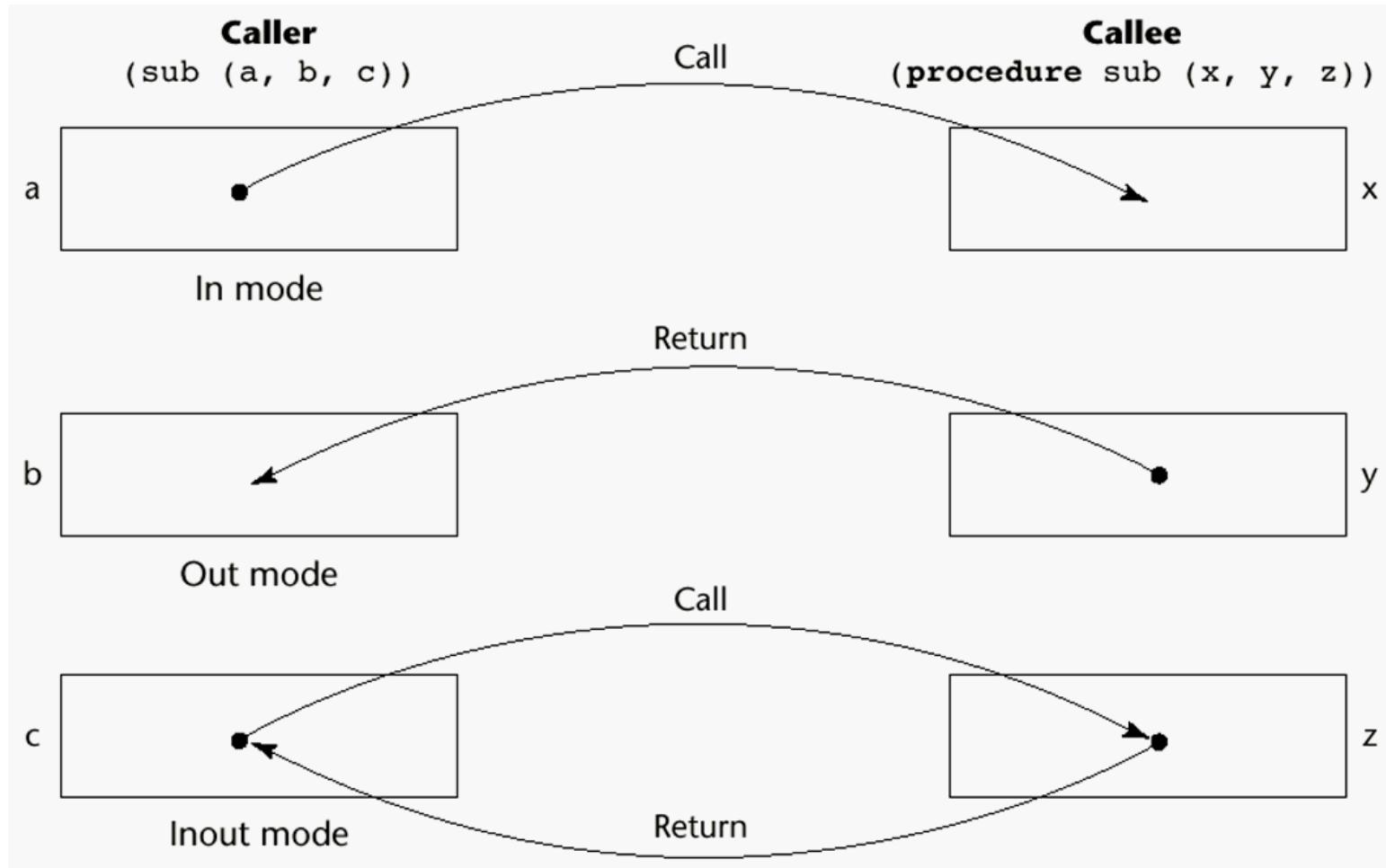
- ▶ In most contemporary languages, locals are stack dynamic
- ▶ In C-based languages, locals are by default stack dynamic, but can be declared `static`
- ▶ The methods of C++, Java, and C# only have stack dynamic locals
- ▶ In Lua, all implicitly declared variables are global; local variables are declared with `local` and are stack dynamic

# Semantic Models of Parameter Passing

---

- ▶ Formal parameters are characterized by one of three distinct semantics models:
  - 1) **In mode** :They can receive data from the corresponding actual parameter;
  - 2) **Out mode**: they can transmit data to the actual parameter; or
  - 3) **Inout mode**: they can do both.

# Models of Parameter Passing



# Pass-by-Value (In Mode)

- ▶ The value of the actual parameter is used to initialize the corresponding formal parameter
  - ▶ Normally implemented by copying
  - ▶ Can be implemented by transmitting an access path but not recommended (enforcing write protection is not easy)
  - ▶ *Disadvantages (if by physical move):* additional storage is required (stored twice) and the actual move can be costly (for large parameters)
  - ▶ *Disadvantages (if by access path method):* must write-protect in the called subprogram and accesses cost more (indirect addressing)

```
int main() {  
    int x = 10, y = 20;  
    swap(x, y);  
    /* no change!  
     x == 10, y == 20 */
```

# Pass-by-Result (Out Mode)

- ▶ When a parameter is passed by result, no value is transmitted to the subprogram; the corresponding formal parameter acts as a local variable; its value is transmitted to caller's actual parameter when control is returned to the caller, by physical move
  - ▶ Require extra storage location and copy operation
- ▶ Potential problems:
  - ▶ `sub(p1, p1);` whichever formal parameter is copied back will represent the current value of `p1`
  - ▶ `sub(list[sub], sub);` Compute address of `list[sub]` at the beginning of the subprogram or end?

```
void DoIt(out int x, int index) {  
    x = 17;  
    index = 42;  
}  
  
sub = 21;  
f.DoIt(list[sub], sub);
```

```
void Fixer(out int x, out int y) {  
    x = 17;  
    y = 35;  
}  
  
. . .  
f.Fixer(out a, out a);
```

# **Pass-by-Value-Result (inout Mode)**

---

- ▶ A combination of pass-by-value and pass-by-result
- ▶ Sometimes called pass-by-copy
- ▶ Formal parameters have local storage
- ▶ Disadvantages:
  - ▶ Those of pass-by-result
  - ▶ Those of pass-by-value

# Pass-by-Reference (Inout Mode)

- ▶ Pass an access path
- ▶ Also called pass-by-sharing
- ▶ Advantage: Passing process is efficient (no copying and no duplicated storage)
- ▶ Disadvantages
  - ▶ Slower accesses (compared to pass-by-value) to formal parameters
  - ▶ Potentials for unwanted side effects (collisions)
  - ▶ Unwanted aliases (access broadened)

```
fun(total, total);  fun(list[i], list[j];  fun(list[i], i);
```

```
void swap(int& i, int& j)
{
    int t = i;
    i = j;
    j = t; }
```

```
int main() {
    int x = 10, y = 20;
    swap(x, y);
    /* changed!
    x == 10, y == 20 */
```

# Pass-by-Name (Inout Mode)

---

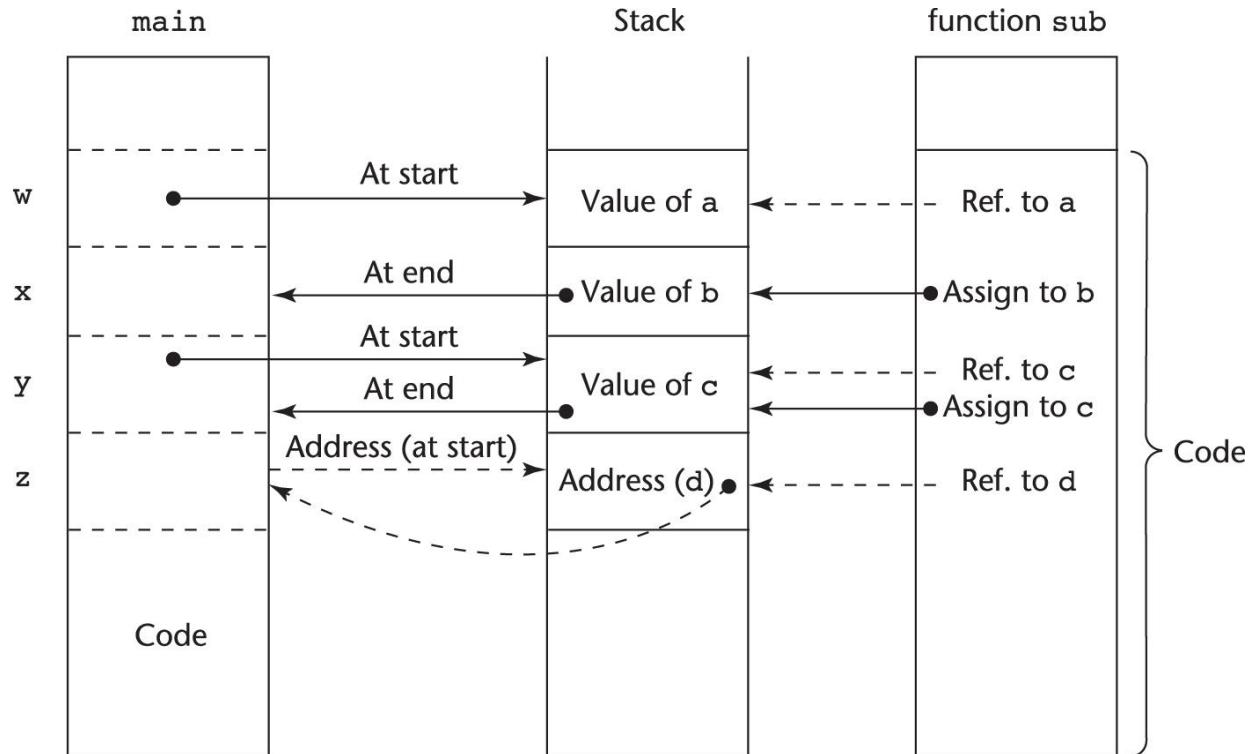
- ▶ By textual substitution
- ▶ Formals are bound to an access method at the time of the call, but actual binding to a value or address takes place at the time of a reference or assignment
- ▶ Allows flexibility in late binding
- ▶ Implementation requires that the referencing environment of the caller is passed with the parameter, so the actual parameter address can be calculated

# Implementing Parameter-Passing Methods

---

- ▶ In most languages parameter communication takes place thru the run-time stack
- ▶ Pass-by-reference are the simplest to implement; only an address is placed in the stack

# Implementing Parameter-Passing Methods



Function header: `void sub(int a, int b, int c, int d)`

Function call in main: `sub(w, x, y, z)`

(pass `w` by value, `x` by result, `y` by value-result, `z` by reference)

# Parameter Passing Methods of Major Languages

---

- ▶ C
  - ▶ Pass-by-value
  - ▶ Pass-by-reference is achieved by using pointers as parameters
- ▶ C++
  - ▶ A special pointer type called reference type for pass-by-reference
- ▶ Java
  - ▶ All parameters are passed by value
  - ▶ Object parameters are passed by reference
- ▶ Ada
  - ▶ Three semantics modes of parameter transmission: `in`, `out`, `in out`; `in` is the default mode
  - ▶ Formal parameters declared `out` can be assigned but not referenced; those declared `in` can be referenced but not assigned; `in out` parameters can be referenced and assigned

# Parameter Passing Methods of Major Languages (continued)

---

- ▶ Fortran 95+
  - Parameters can be declared to be in, out, or inout mode
- ▶ C#
  - Default method: pass-by-value
    - ▶ Pass-by-reference is specified by preceding both a formal parameter and its actual parameter with `ref`
- ▶ PHP: very similar to C#, except that either the actual or the formal parameter can specify `ref`
- ▶ Perl: all actual parameters are implicitly placed in a predefined array named `@_`
- ▶ Python and Ruby use pass-by-assignment (all data values are objects); the actual is assigned to the formal

# Summary

---

- ▶ A subprogram definition describes the actions represented by the subprogram
  - ▶ Subprograms can be either functions or procedures
  - ▶ Local variables in subprograms can be stack-dynamic or static
  - ▶ Three models of parameter passing: in mode, out mode, and inout mode
- ▶