



# Programming Languages Subprograms

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

**Dr. Tamer ABUHMED  
College of Computing**

# Topics to be covered

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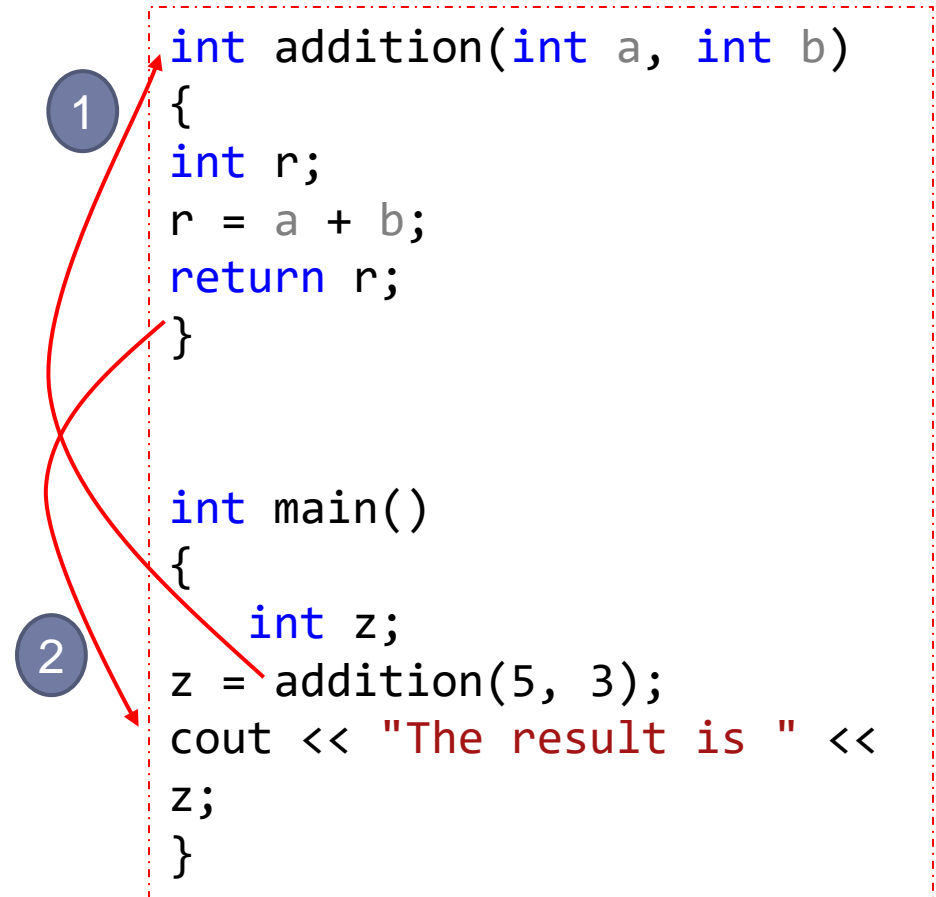
- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Fundamentals of Subprograms
- ▶ Design Issues for Subprograms
- ▶ Local Referencing Environments
- ▶ Parameter-Passing Methods
- ▶ Parameters That Are Subprograms
- ▶ Calling Subprograms Indirectly
- ▶ Overloaded Subprograms
- ▶ Generic Subprograms
- ▶ Design Issues for Functions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



# Basic Definitions

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- ▶ 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**
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# 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

*formal parameters*

```
int addition(int , int );
```

*actual parameters*

```
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

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```
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 be executed, so func2 does not exist

func2()

UnboundLocalError: local variable 'func2' referenced before assignment

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# Actual/Formal Parameter Correspondence

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

Positional

Keywords arguments

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

# Variable subprogram Parameter Lists

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- ▶ 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 <stdarg.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

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- ▶ 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
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# Design Issues for Subprograms

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- ▶ 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?
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# Local Referencing Environments

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- ▶ 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
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## Local Referencing Environments: Examples

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- ▶ 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
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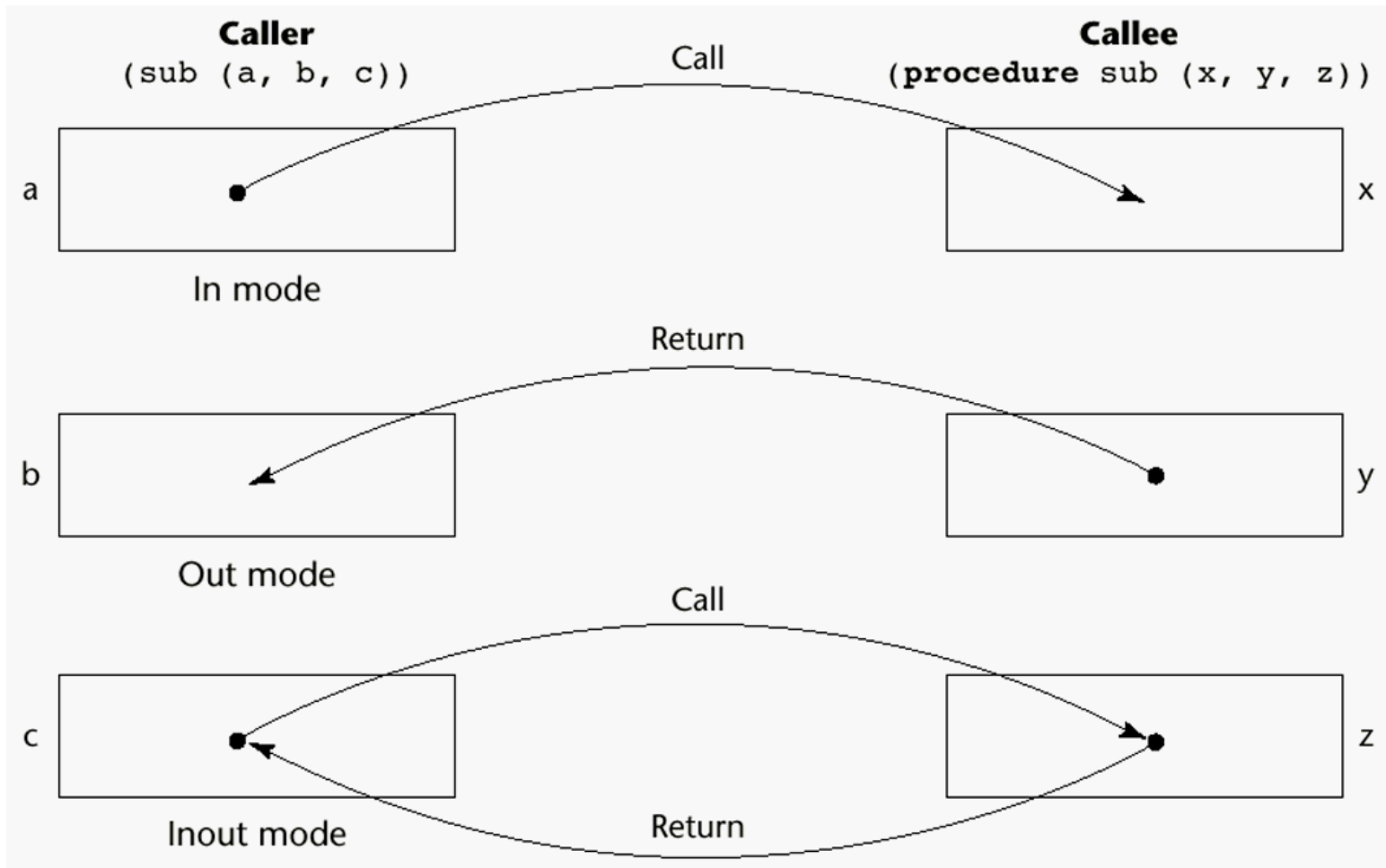
# Semantic Models of Parameter Passing

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- ▶ 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.
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# Models of Parameter Passing



# Pass-by-Value (In Mode)

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- ▶ 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)

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- ▶ 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)

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- ▶ 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
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# Pass-by-Reference (Inout Mode)

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- ▶ 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)

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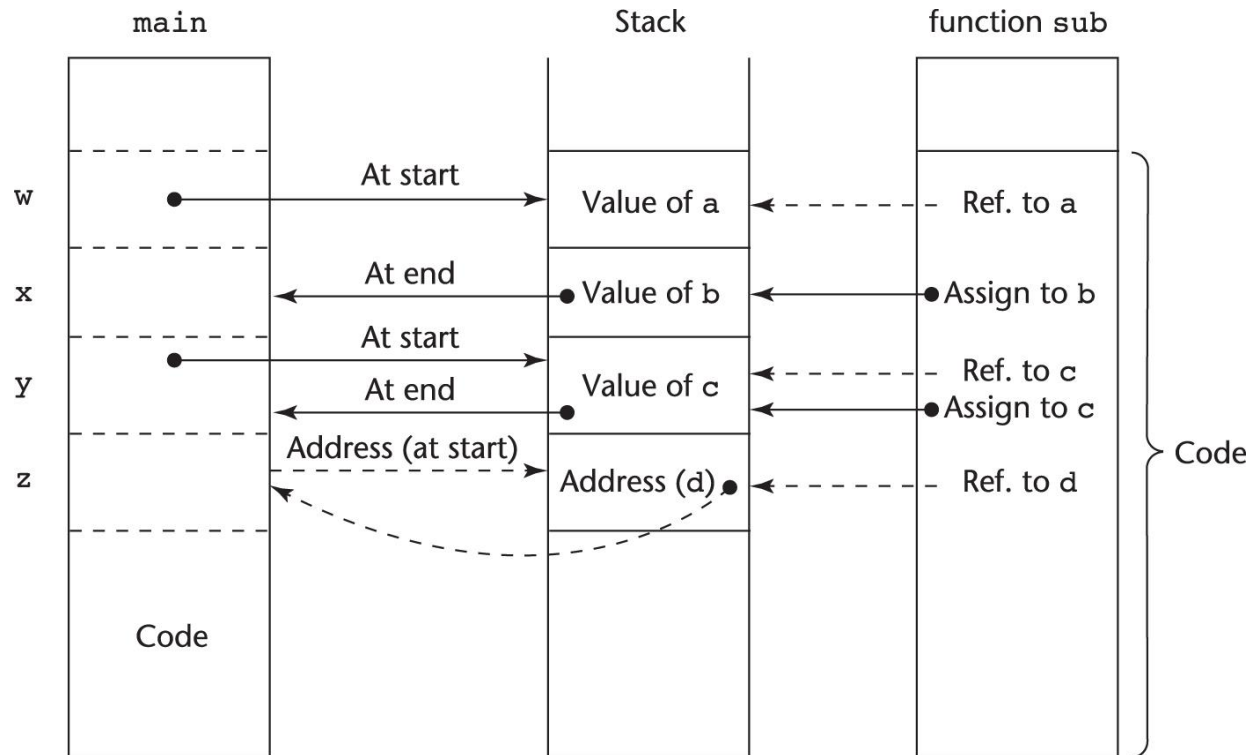
- ▶ By textual substitution
  - ▶ Formals are bound to an access method at the time of the call, but actual binding to a value or address takes place at the time of a reference or assignment
  - ▶ Allows flexibility in late binding
  - ▶ Implementation requires that the referencing environment of the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

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- ▶ 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
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# 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

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- ▶ 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
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# Parameter Passing Methods of Major Languages (continued)

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- ▶ 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
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# Summary

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- ▶ 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
  - ▶
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