CS+X fails at Stanford

www.stanforddaily.com/2019/01/23/csx-major-program-to-no-longer-accept-new-students

"Just four years after its inception, the CS+X joint major pilot program will be "discontinued" due to limited interest. The academic program allows students to attain a Bachelor's of Arts and Sciences degree in CS and a humanities discipline. Since its launch as a six-year pilot program in fall 2014, the CS+X has expanded from two joint majors, CS+English and CS+Music, to 14 majors combining computer science with various humanities disciplines. However, the program conferred fewer than 15 degrees in the 2017-2018 academic year and has drawn criticism for its lack of depth and interdisciplinary cohesion. Prof Eric Roberts also intended for the CS+X program to reduce the load on computer science professors. But according to him, "faculty across the university saw the CS+X idea as a way to integrate more computer science into their own majors." Roberts believes this put additional strain on an already-overwhelmed CS department. While 20 percent of undergraduates major in computer science, only two percent of the University's faculty teach in the department. He observed that overload in the CS department has contributed to increased attrition among faculty."

Announcements

Environments for Higher-Order Functions

Environments Enable Higher-Order Functions

Functions are first-class: Functions are values in our programming language

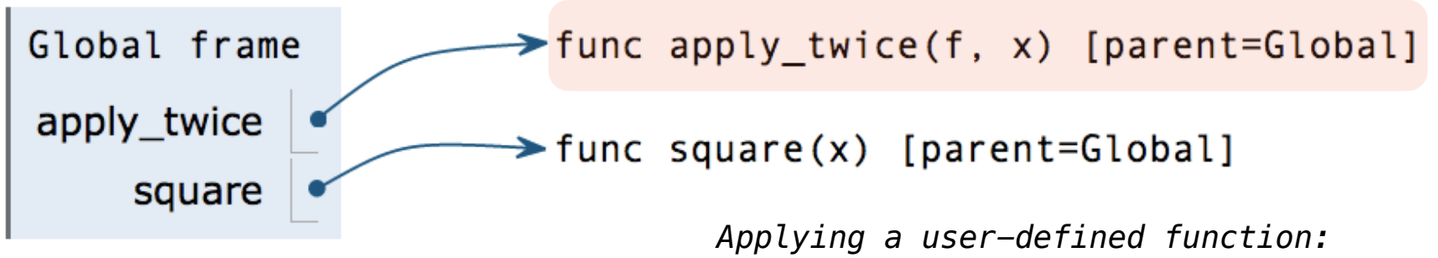
Higher-order function: A function that takes a function as an argument value **or**
A function that returns a function as a return value

Environment diagrams describe how higher-order functions work!

(Demo1)

Names can be Bound to Functional Arguments

```
1  def apply_twice(f, x):
2      return f(f(x))
3
4  def square(x):
5      return x * x
6
7  result = apply_twice(square, 2)
```



Applying a user-defined function:

- Create a new frame
- Bind formal parameters (f & x) to arguments
- Execute the body: return f(f(x))

```
1  def apply_twice(f, x):
2      return f(f(x))
3
4  def square(x):
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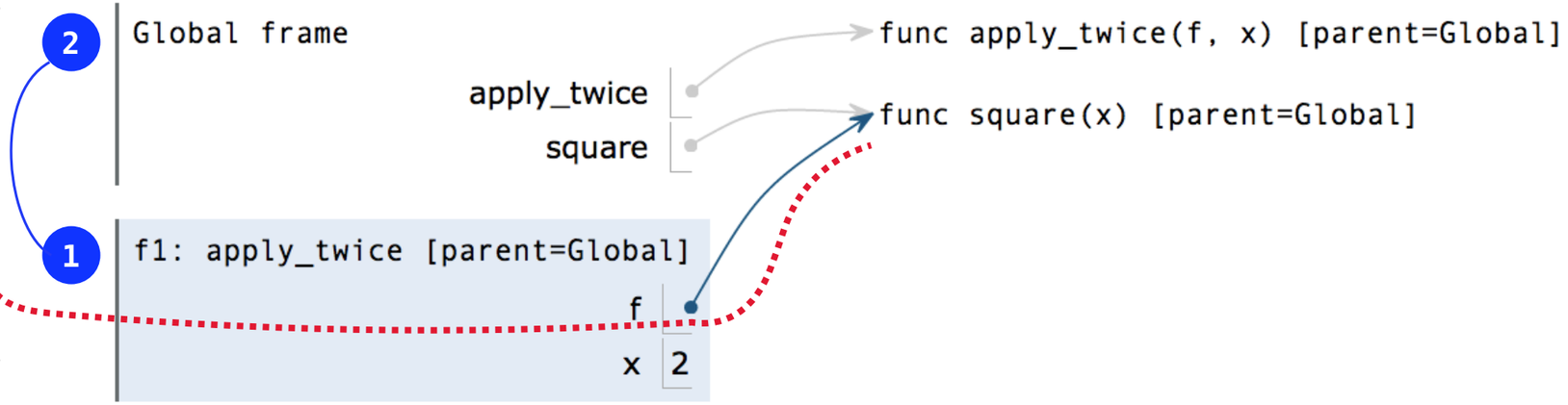

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Functions as Return Values

Locally Defined Functions

Functions defined within other function bodies are bound to names in a local frame

A function that returns a function

```
def make_adder(n):
    """Return a function that takes one argument k and returns k + n.

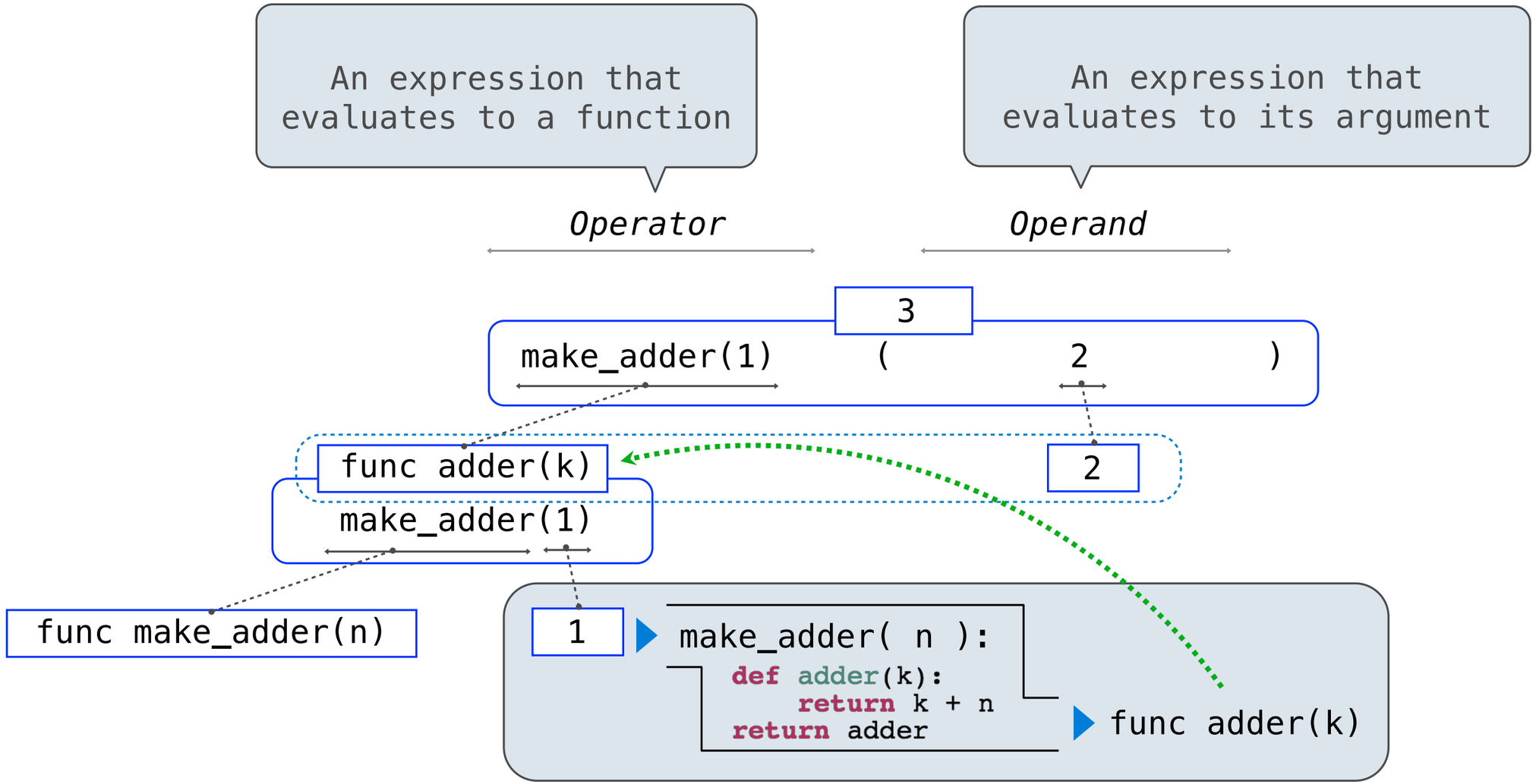
    >>> add_three = make_adder(3)
    >>> add_three(4)
    7
    """
    def adder(k):
        return k + n
    return adder
```

The name add_three is bound to a function

A def statement within another def statement

Can refer to names in the enclosing function

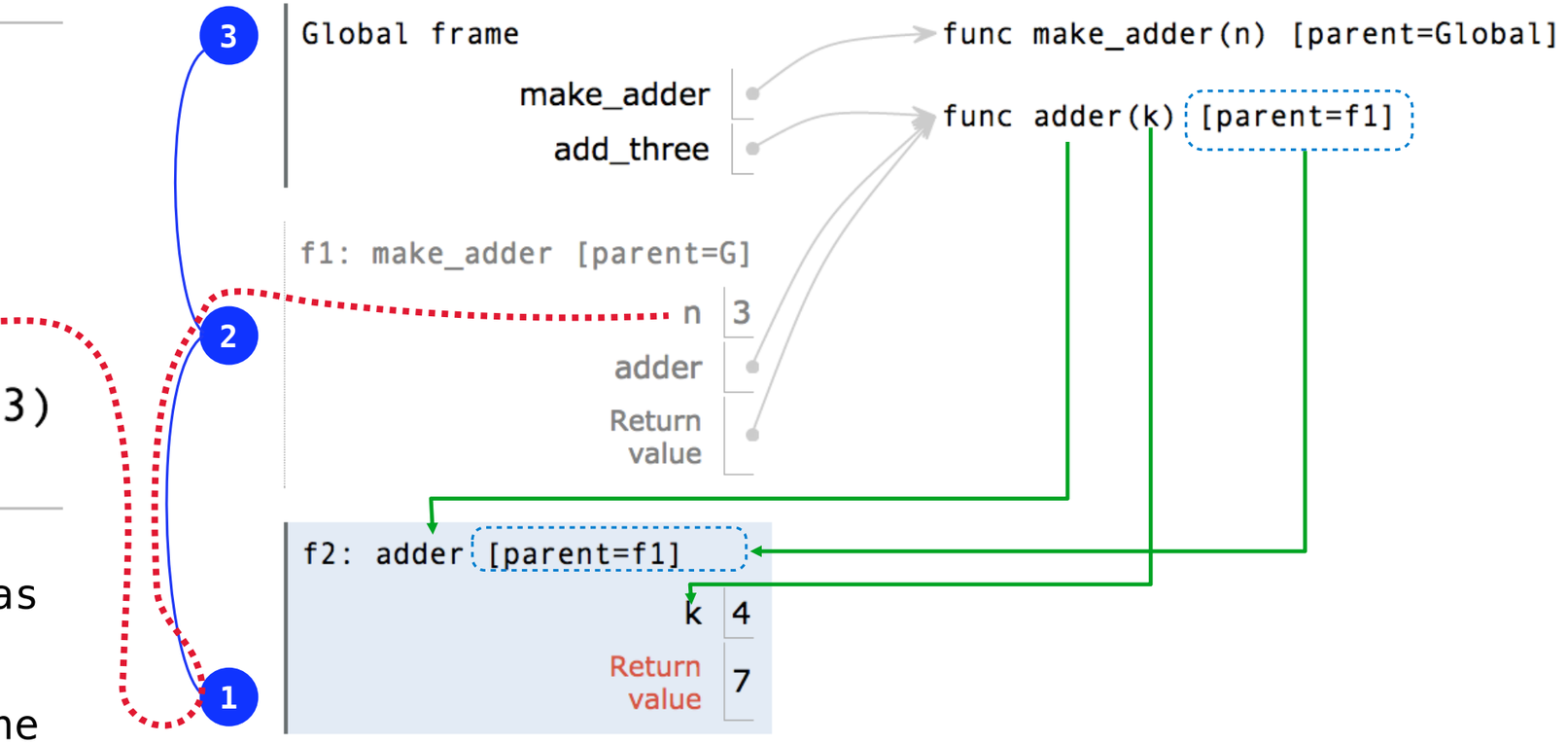
Call Expressions as Operator Expressions



Environment Diagrams for Nested Def Statements

Nested def

```
1  def make_adder(n):
2      def adder(k):
3          return k + n
4      return adder
5
6  add_three = make_adder(3)
7  add_three(4)
```



- Every user-defined function has a parent frame (often global)
- The parent of a function is the frame in which it was defined
- Every local frame has a parent frame (often global)
- The parent of a frame is the parent of the function called

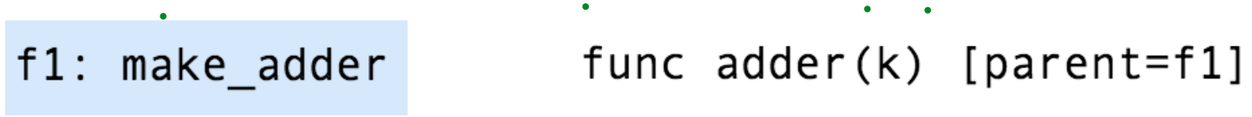
http://pythontutor.com/composingprograms.html#code=def%20make_adder%28n%29%3A%0A%20%20%20%20def%20adder%28k%29%3A%0A%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20return%20k%20%2B%20n%0A%20%20%20%20return%20adder%0A%20%20%20%20%0Athree_more_than%20%3D%20make_adder%283%29%0Aresult%20%3D%20three_more_than%284%29&cumulative=false&curInstr=0&mode=display&origin=composingprograms.js&py=3&rawInputLstJSON=%5B%5D

How to Draw an Environment Diagram

When a function is defined:

Create a function value: `func <name>(<formal parameters>) [parent=<label>]`

Its parent is the current frame.



Bind `<name>` to the function value in the current frame

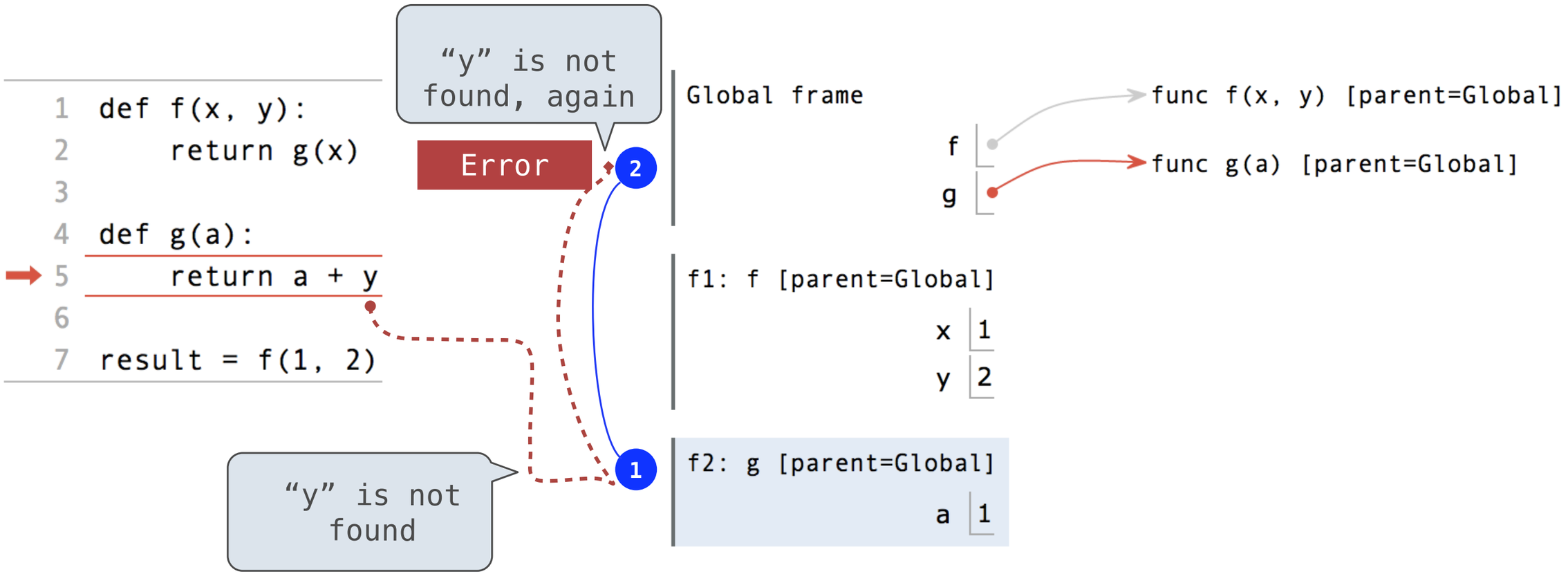
When a function is called:

1. Add a local frame, titled with the `<name>` of the function being called.
2. Copy the parent of the function to the local frame: `[parent=<label>]`
3. Bind the `<formal parameters>` to the arguments in the local frame.
4. Execute the body of the function in the environment that starts with the local frame.

Local Names

(Demo2)

Local Names are not Visible to Other (Non-Nested) Functions



- An environment is a sequence of frames.
- The environment created by calling a top-level function (no def within def) consists of one local frame, followed by the global frame.

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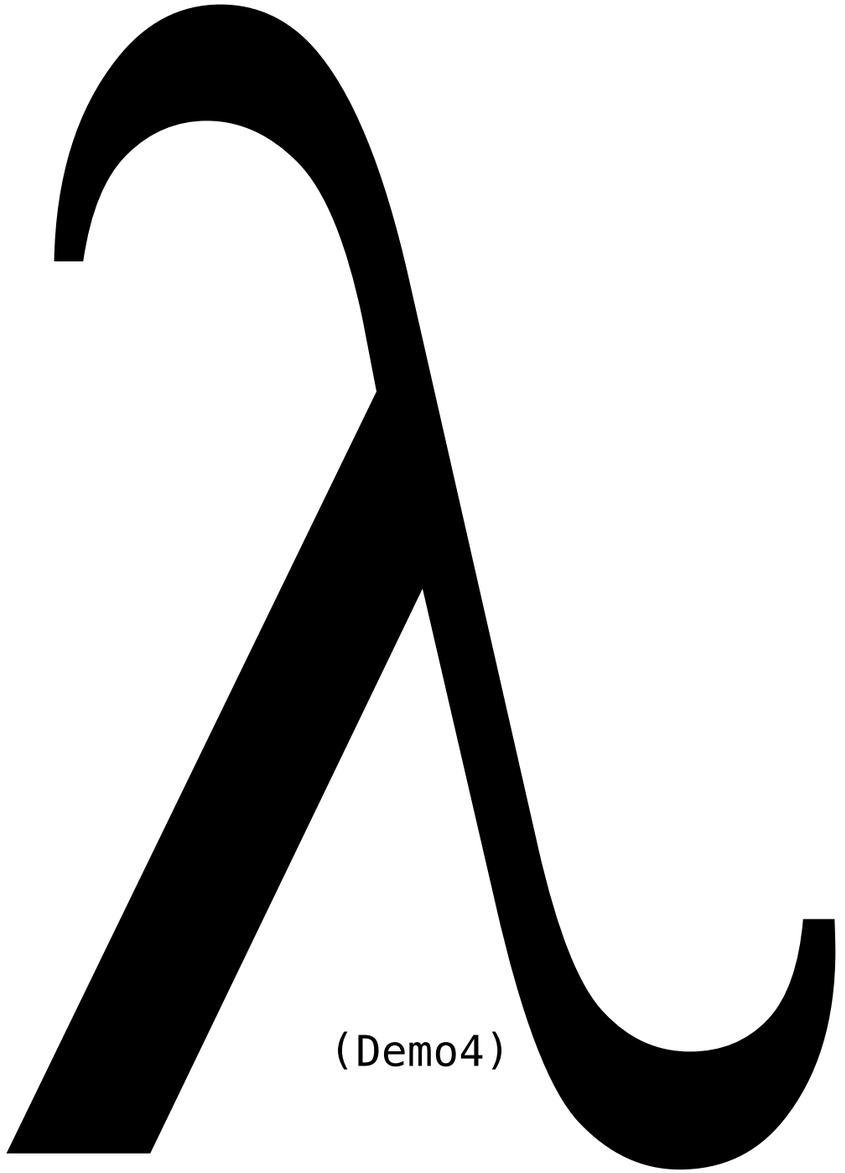
Lambda Expressions



(Demo4)

Lambda Expressions

```
>>> x = 10
>>> square = x * x
>>> square = lambda x: x * x
>>> square(4)
16
```

An expression: this one evaluates to a number

Also an expression: evaluates to a function

Important: No "return" keyword!

A function
with formal parameter x
that returns the value of "x * x"

Must be a single expression

Lambda expressions are not common in Python, but important in general

Lambda expressions in Python cannot contain statements at all!

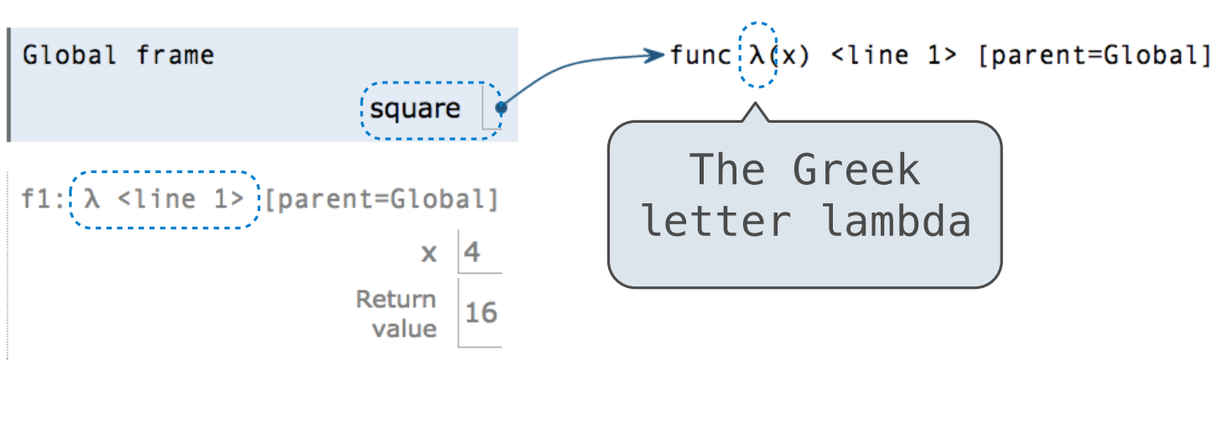
Lambda Expressions Versus Def Statements

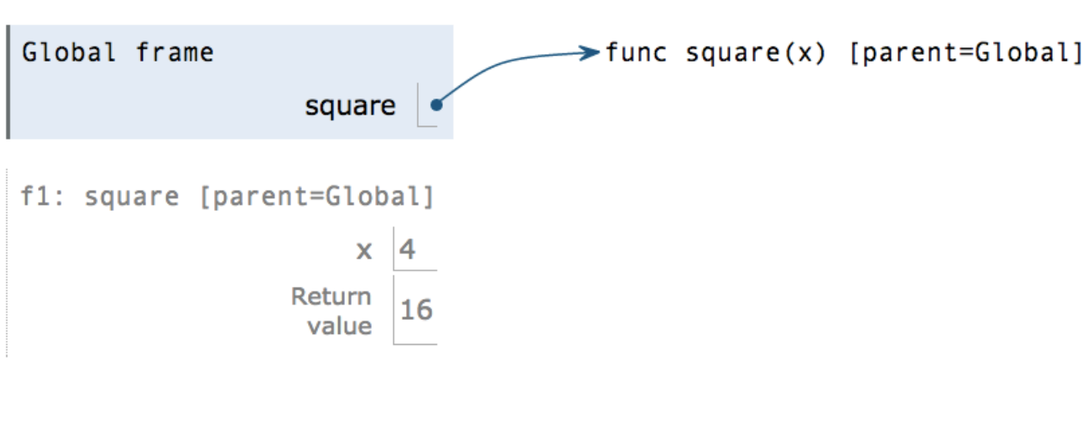
```
square = lambda x: x * x
```

VS

```
def square(x):
    return x * x
```

- Both create a function with the same domain, range, and behavior.
- Both bind that function to the name square.
- Only the def statement gives the function an intrinsic name, which shows up in environment diagrams but doesn't affect execution (unless the function is printed).





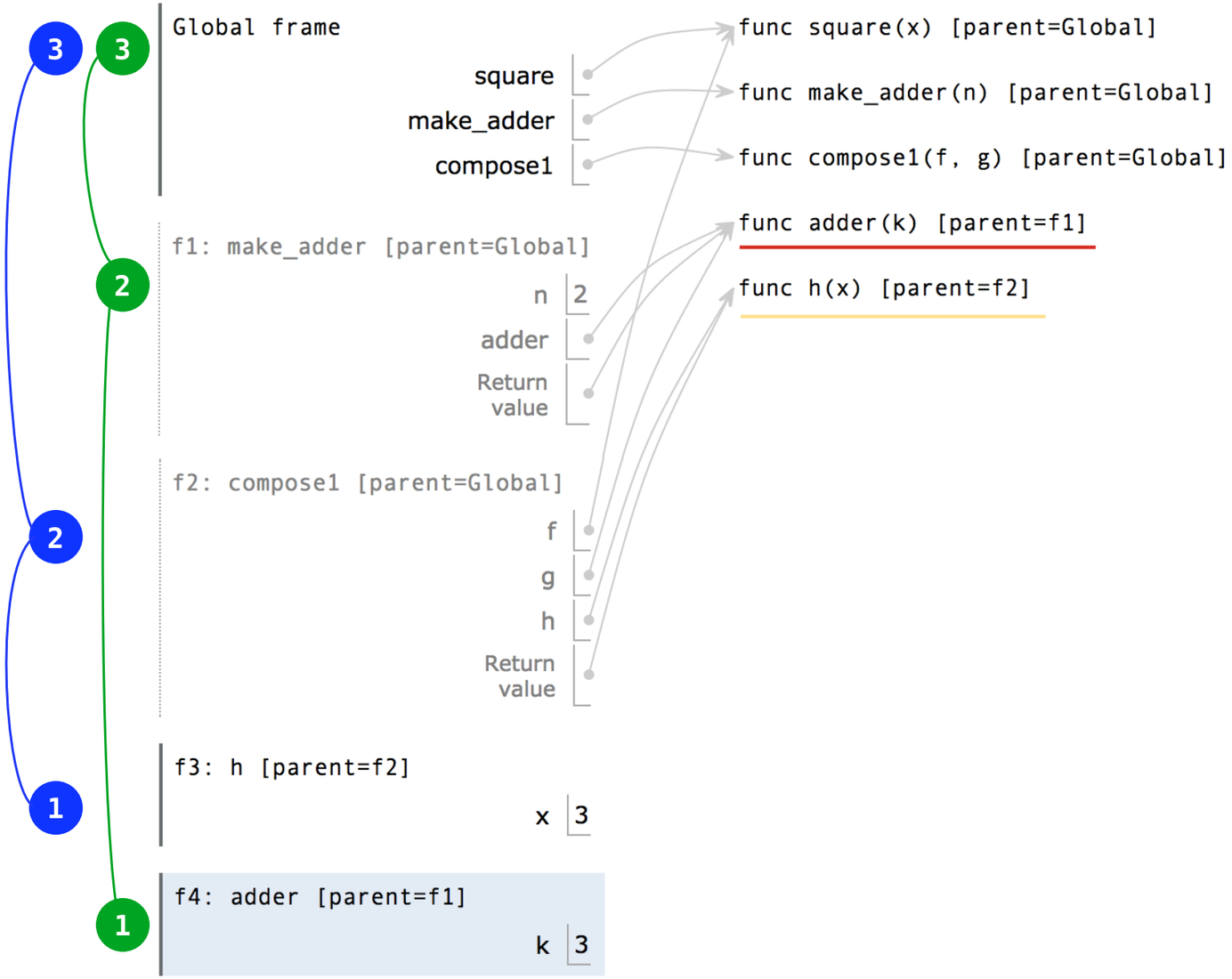
Function Composition

(Demo5)

The Environment Diagram for Function Composition

```
1  def square(x):
2      return x * x
3
4  def make_adder(n):
5      def adder(k):
6          return k + n
7      return adder
8
9  def compose1(f, g):
10     def h(x):
11         return f(g(x))
12     return h
13
14 compose1(square, make_adder(2))(3)
```

Return value of make_adder is an argument to compose1



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