

Run Time Environment

Activation Records

Procedure Linkage

Name Translation and Variable Access

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Language Issues

- Scope of Declaration
 - What are the Properties of a Name?
 - Where is it Visible?



- Binding of Names & Values
 - Environment binds Names to Storage
 - State binds Storage to Values

- Static vs Dynamic

STATIC	DYNAMIC
procedure definition name declaration declaration scope	procedure activations name bindings lifetime of binding

Procedure Abstraction

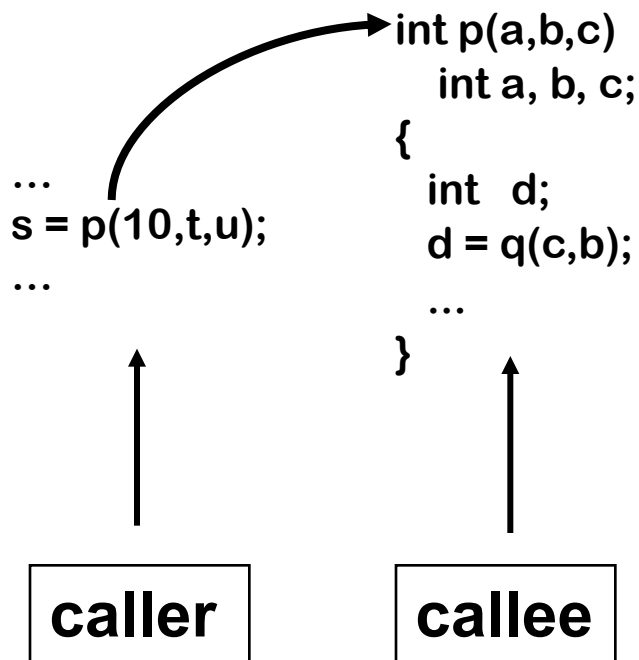
- What is a Procedure?
 - Basic Unit of Abstraction and Program Reasoning
- Why do We use Them?
 - To allow us to build (very) large Programs
 - Conceptually, allows us to abstract from all the details
- How to Generate Code?
 - Storage Allocation (bindings and lifetime of local variables)
 - Scoping, *i.e.*, what is visible and where?
 - Control Transfer (Call and Return)

The Procedure as a Control Abstraction

Procedures have well-defined Control-Flow

The Algol-60 Procedure Call

- Invoked at a Call Site, with some set of *Actual Parameters*
- Control returns to Call Site, immediately after Invocation

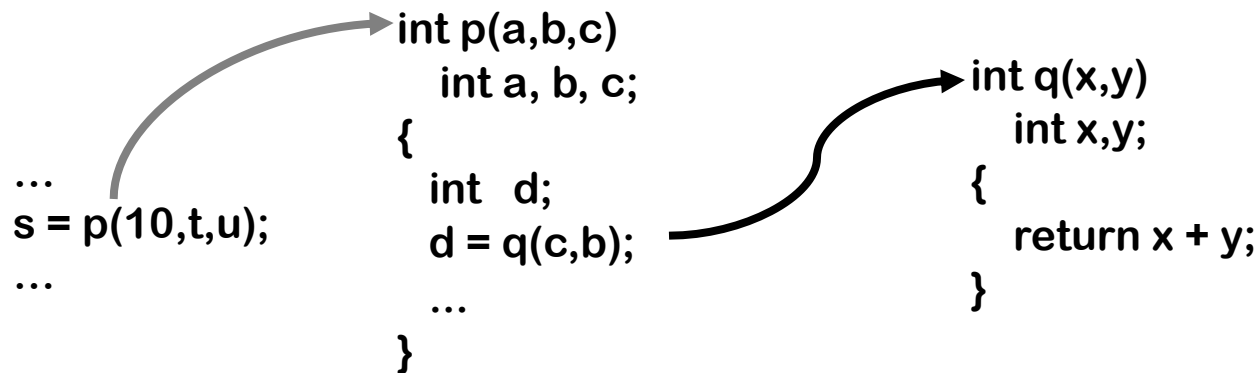


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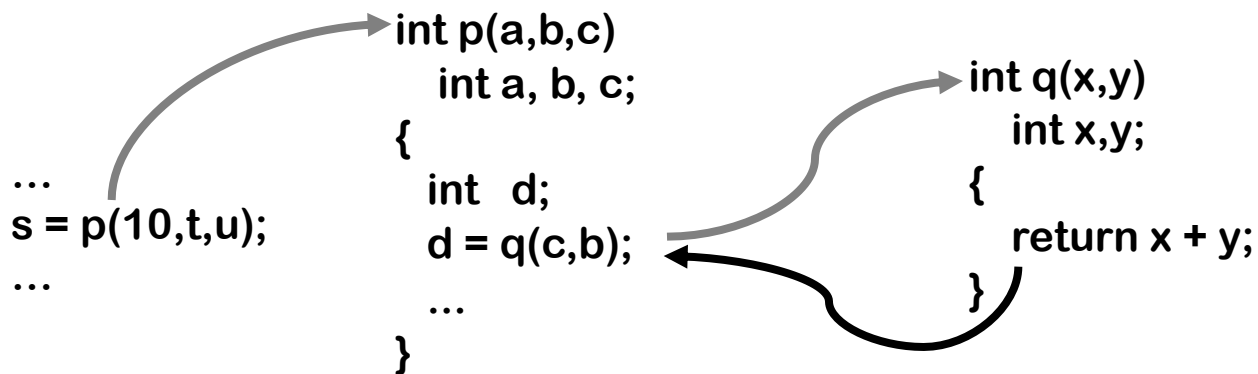


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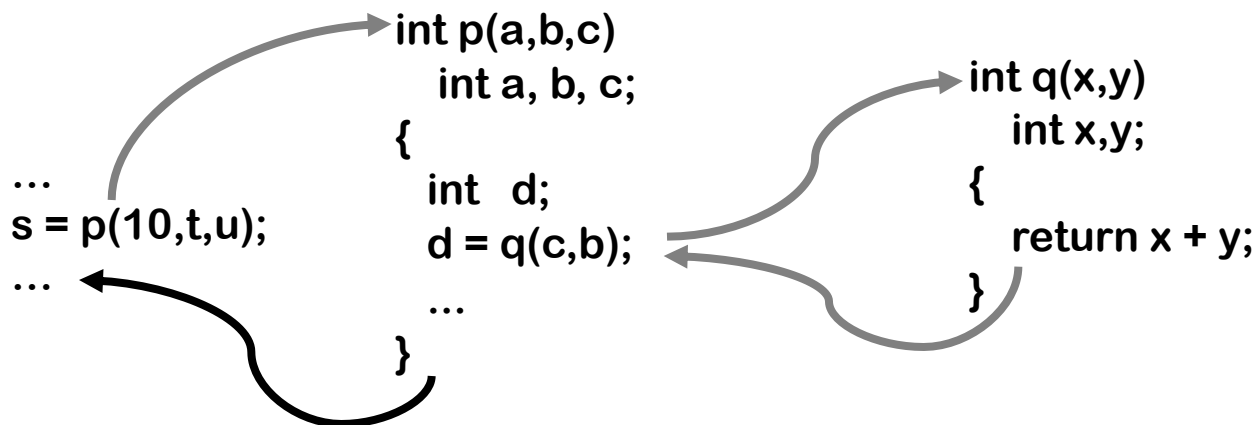


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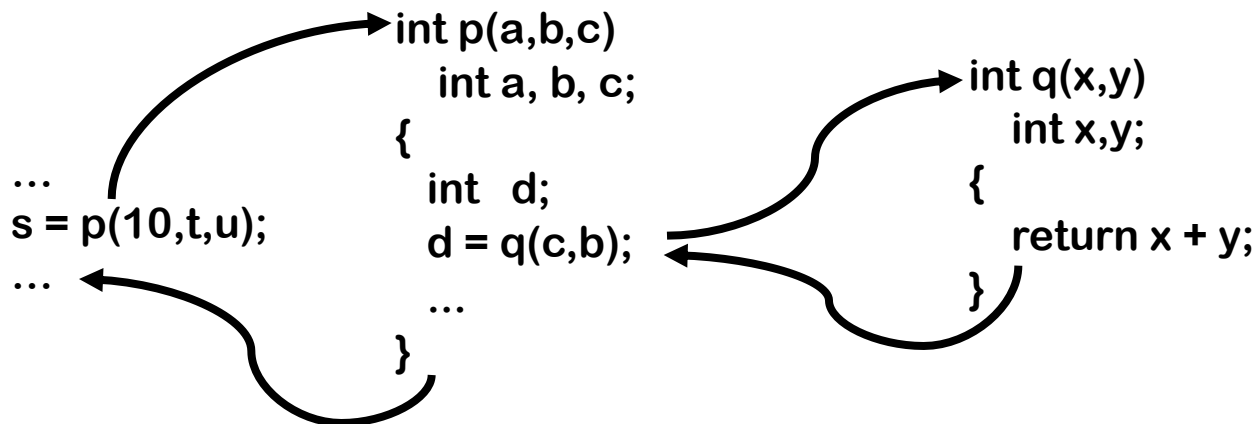


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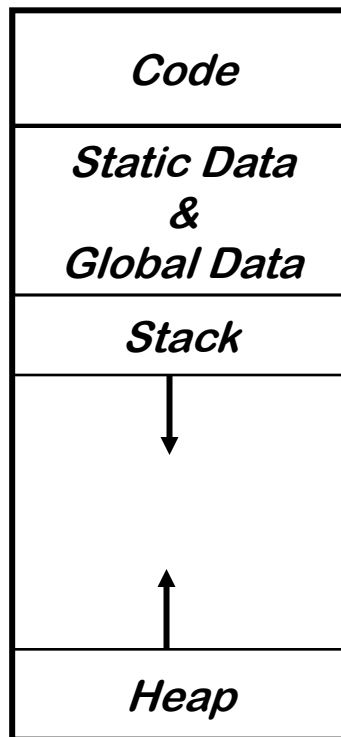


- Most Languages Allow Recursion

Compilation Issues

- How to Generate Code
 - Allocate/Deallocate Storage for Local Variables
 - Transfer of Arguments and Return Results
- How to Execute a Procedure
 - How to Access Local and Non-Local Variables
 - How to Communicate between Caller and Callee
 - How to Transfer Control between Caller and Callee
- The Role of the Symbol Table
 - Keep track of where Names are Defined and Declared
 - Scope and Lifetime

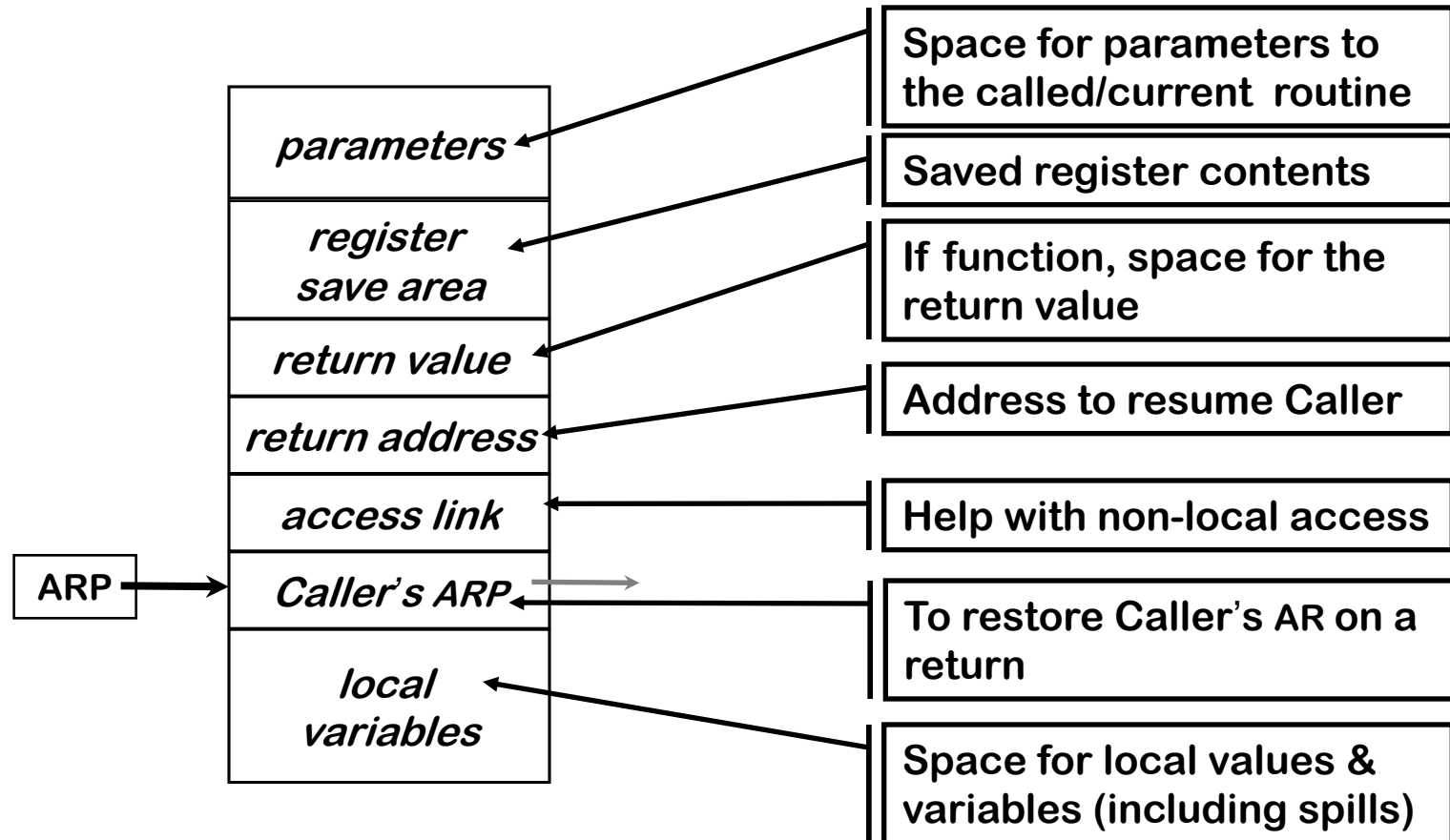
Run-Time Storage Organization



Classical Organization

- Code, Static, & Global Data have known size
 - Use symbolic labels in the code
- Heap & Stack grow and shrink over time
 - Stack used for Activation Records (AR)
 - Heap for Data (including AR) whose lifetime extends beyond activation.
- This is a virtual Address Space

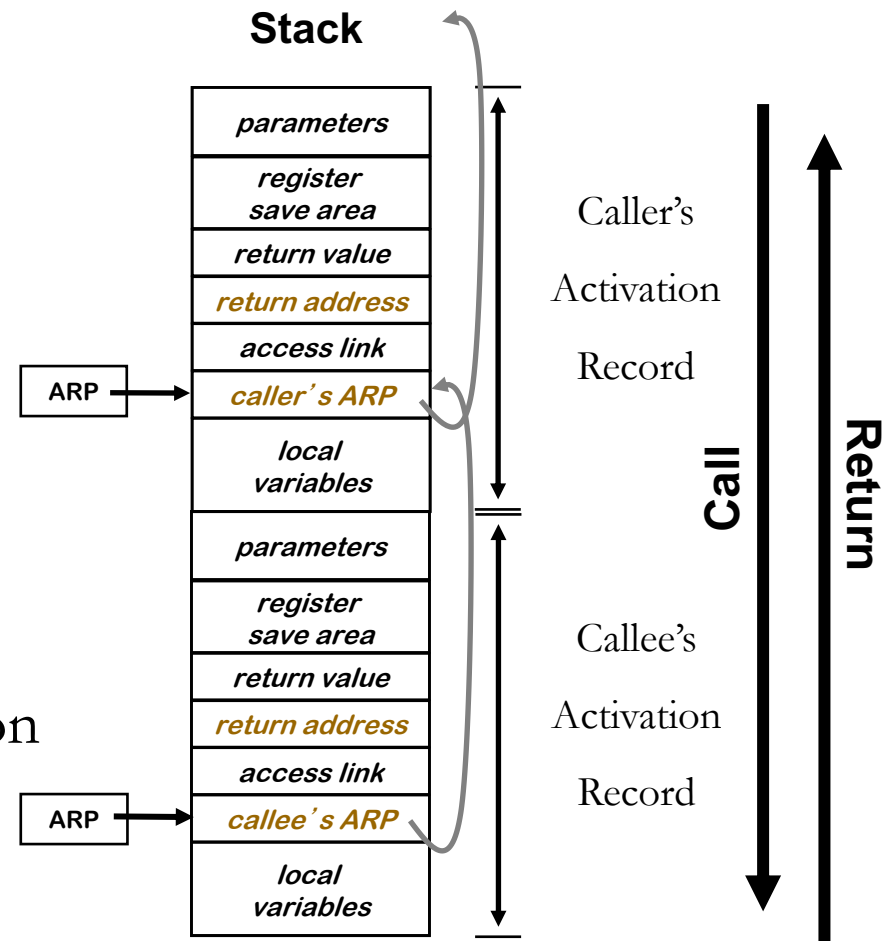
Activation Record Basics



One **AR** for each Invocation of a Procedure

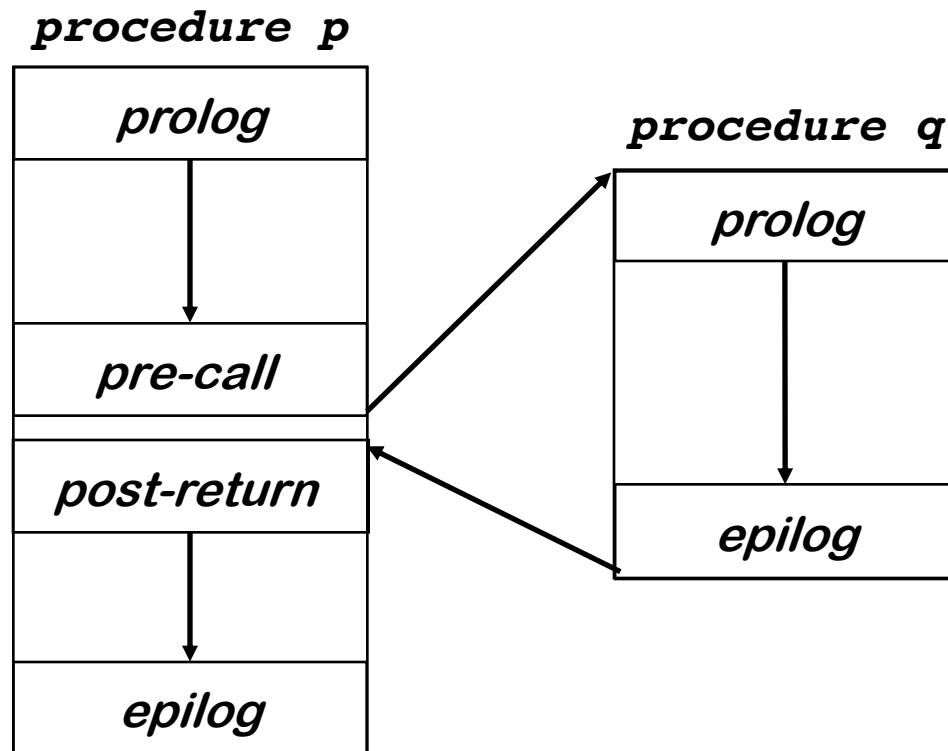
Activation Records on the Stack

- What Happens on a Call?
 - Passing of Arguments
 - Transfer of Control
- What Happens on a Return?
 - Recovery of Results (if any)
 - Transfer of Control
- Need to Save/Restore Execution Context?
 - ARP, PC, Access Link,
 - Register Values



Procedure Linkages

Standard procedure linkage



Procedure has

- standard **prolog**
- standard **epilog**

Each call involves a

- **pre-call** sequence
- **post-return** sequence

These are completely predictable from the Call Site as they depend on the number & type of the actual parameters

Procedure Linkages

Pre-Call Sequence

- Sets up Callee's basic AR
- Helps preserve its own environment

The Details

- Allocate Space for the Callee's AR
 - except space for local variables
- Evaluates each Parameter & Stores Value or Address
- Saves Return Address, caller's ARP into Callee's AR
- If Access Links are used
 - Find appropriate lexical ancestor & copy into Callee's AR
- Save any Caller-save Registers
 - Save into space in Caller's AR
- Jump to Address of Callee's prolog code

Procedure Linkages

Post-Return Sequence

- Finish restoring Caller's environment
- Place any value back where it belongs

The Details

- Copy return value from Callee's AR, if necessary
- Free the Callee's AR
- Restore any caller-save registers
- Restore any call-by-reference parameters to registers, if needed
 - Also copy back call-by-value/result parameters
- Continue execution after the call

Procedure Linkages

Prolog Code

- Finish setting up the Callee's environment
- Preserve parts of the Caller's environment that will be disturbed

The Details

- Preserve any Callee-save registers
- If *Display* is being used
 - Save display entry for current lexical level
 - Store current ARP into display for current lexical level
- Allocate Space for Local Data
 - Easiest scenario is to extend the AR
- Find any Static Data areas referenced in the Callee
- Handle any Local Variable Initializations

With heap allocated AR,
may need to use a
separate heap object for
local variables



Procedure Linkages

Epilog Code

- Wind up the business of the Callee
- Start restoring the Caller's Environment

If ARs are stack allocated, this may not be necessary. (Caller can reset stack top to its pre-call value.)

The Details

- Store Return Value? No, this happens on the return statement
- Restore Callee-save Registers
- Free space for Local Data, if necessary (on the Heap)
- Load Return Address from AR
- Restore caller's ARP
- Jump to the Return Address

Caller-saved vs Callee-saved Registers

- **Caller-saved registers** (volatile registers, or **call-clobbered**)
 - Hold temporary quantities that need not be preserved across Calls.
 - Caller's responsibility to push these registers onto the stack or copy them somewhere else *if* it wants to restore this value after the call.
 - Expected callee to **destroy** temporary values in these registers...

- **Callee-saved registers** (non-volatile registers, or **call-preserved**)
 - Used to hold long-lived values that should be preserved across Calls.
 - Callee's responsibility to push them onto the stack or copy them somewhere else *if* it wants to restore this value after the call.
 - Expected callee to **preserve** (not destroy) temporary values in these registers...

Generated Assembly Code (some)

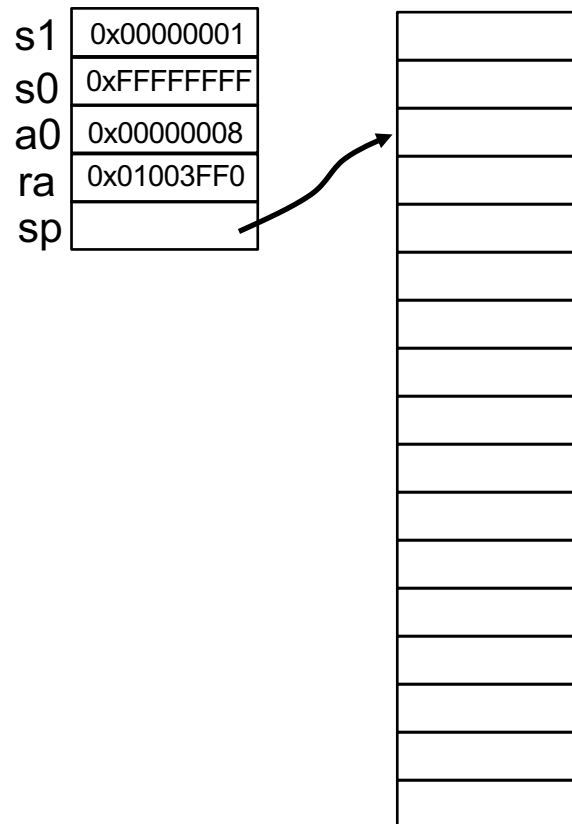
my_function:

Prologue

```
addi sp, sp, -32
sd  ra, 0(sp)
sd  a0, 8(sp)
sd  s0, 16(sp)
sd  s1, 24(sp)
```

Epilogue

```
ld  ra, 0(sp)
ld  a0, 8(sp)
ld  s0, 16(sp)
ld  s1, 24(sp)
addi sp, sp, 32
ret
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- Prologue:

- “allocate” 32 bytes on the stack
- save return address
- save callee-saved registers

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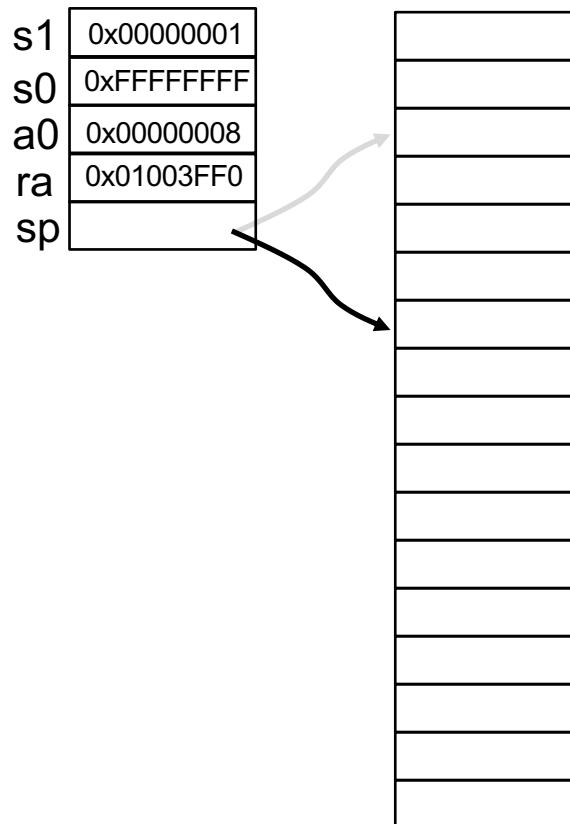
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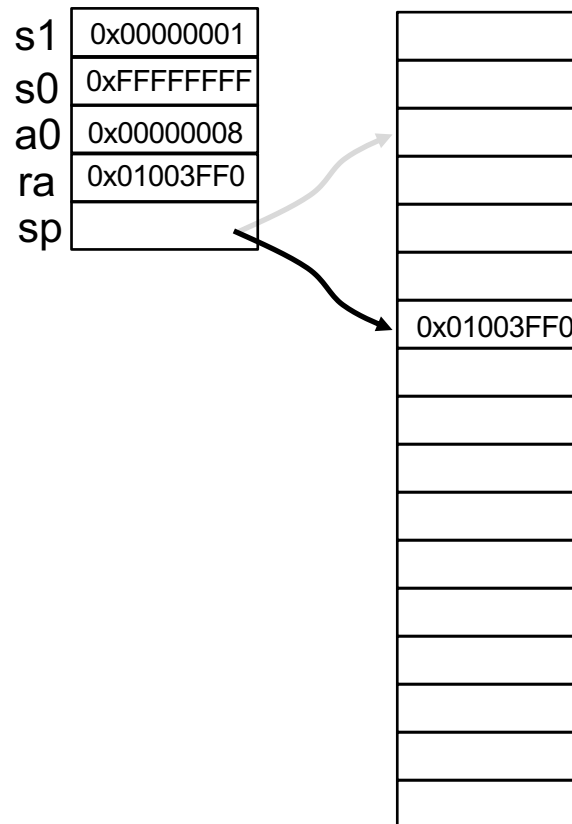
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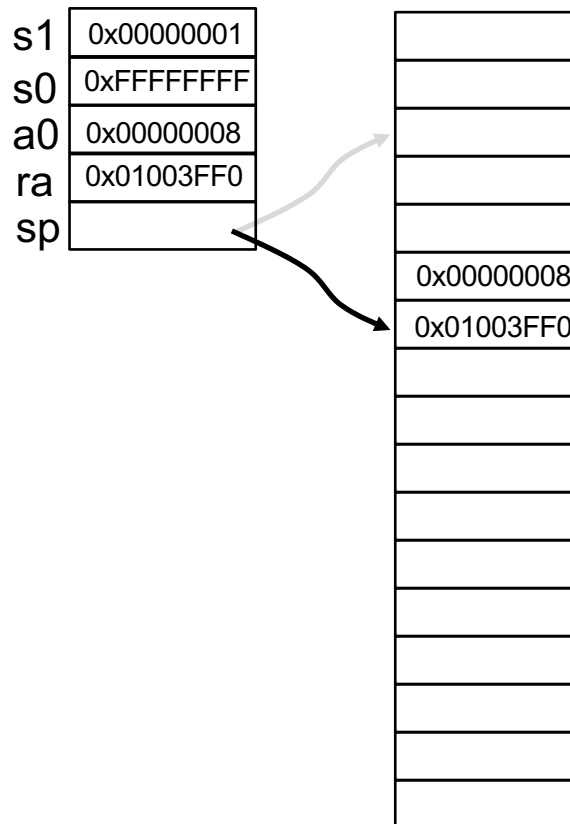
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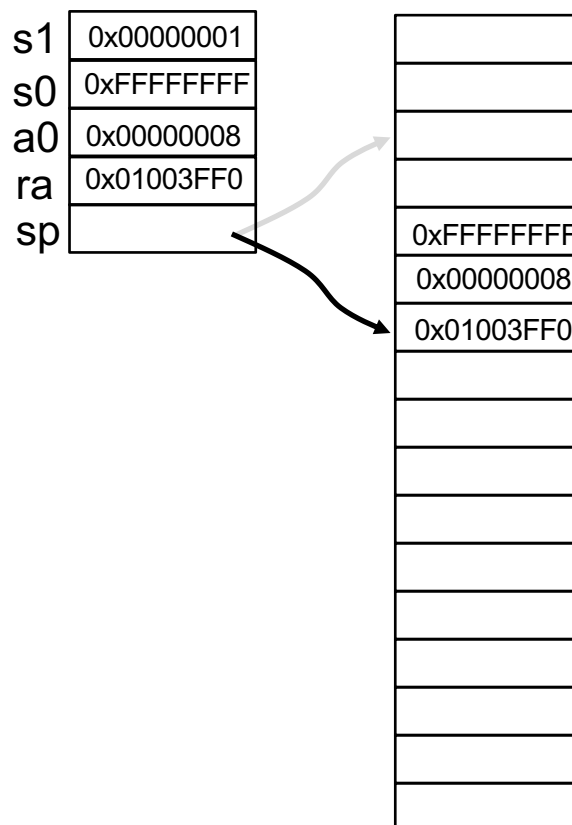
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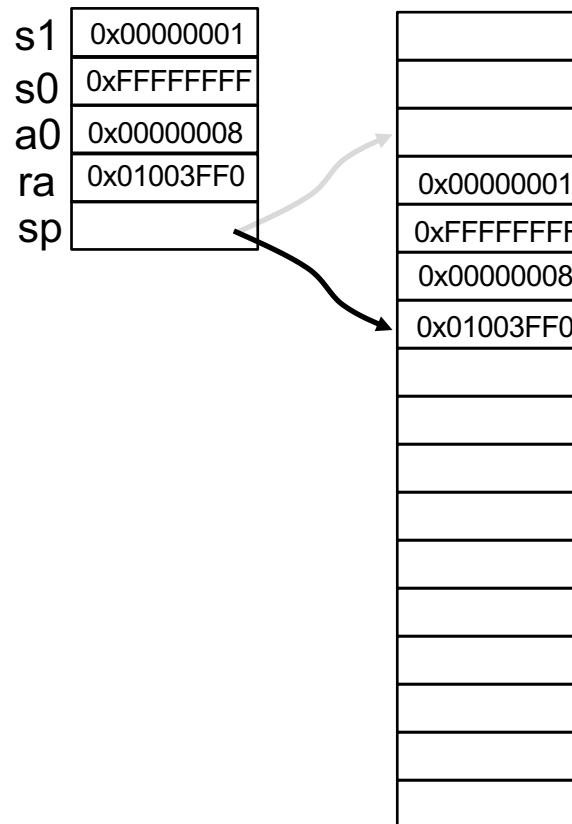
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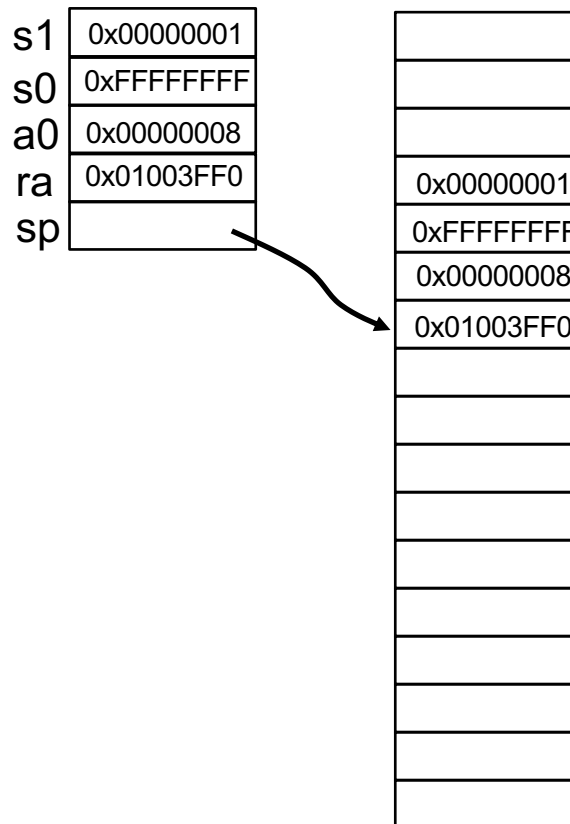
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- Prologue:

- “allocate” 32 bytes on the stack
- save return address
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- Epilogue:

- restore return address
- restore callee-saved registers
- “deallocate” 32 bytes off the stack

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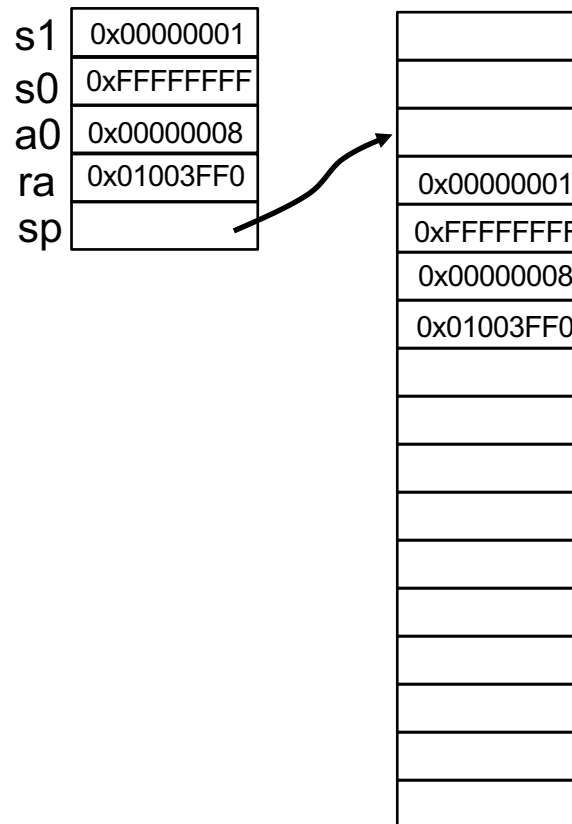
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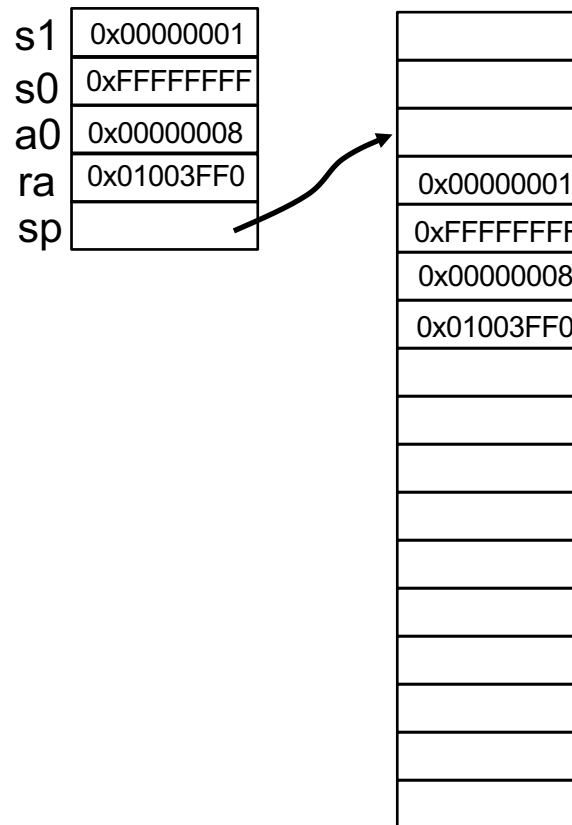
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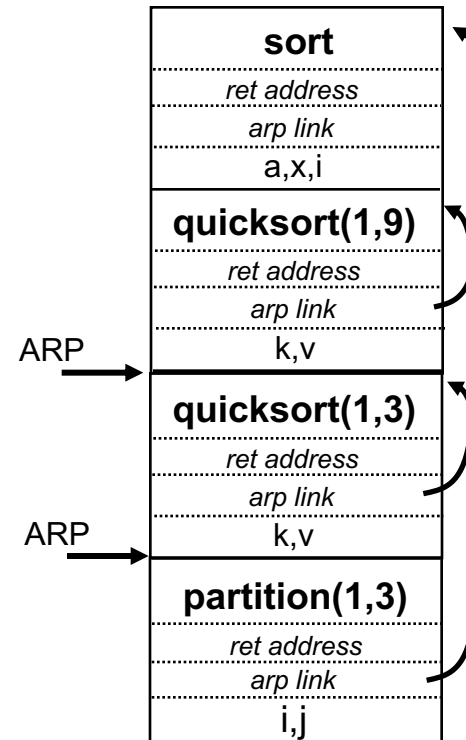


- Prologue:
 - “allocate” 32 bytes on the stack
 - save return address
 - save callee-saved registers
- Epilogue:
 - restore return address
 - restore callee-saved registers
 - “deallocate” 32 bytes off the stack
- Return:
 - `ret` \equiv `jalr x0, x1, 0`
 - where **x1** is **ra** and **x0** is zero
 - So loads **pc** with **ra** ...

Simplified Example

```

1.  program sort(input, output);
2.  var a: array [0..10] of integer;
3.      x, i: integer;
4.  procedure readarray;
5.  var i : integer;
6.  begin ... a... end { readarray } ;
7.  procedure exchange(i, j: integer);
8.      begin
9.          x := a[i]; a[i] := a[j]; a[j] := x;
10.         end { exchange } ;
11. procedure quicksort(m, n : integer);
12.     var k, v: integer;
13.     function partition(y, z : integer) : integer;
14.         var i, j : integer;
15.         begin ... a ...
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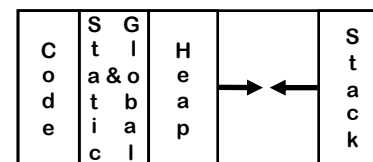


Activation Record Details

Where do Activation Records live?

- If lifetime of AR matches lifetime of invocation, *AND*
- If code normally executes a “return”

⇒ Keep ARs on a stack



- If a procedure can outlive its caller, OR **Yes! This stack.**
- If it can return an object that can reference its execution state

⇒ ARs must be kept in the Heap

- If a procedure makes no Calls

⇒ AR can be allocated statically

Efficiency prefers Static, Stack, then Heap

Activation Record Details

How does the Compiled Code finds the Variables?

- They are at known offsets from the AR pointer
- Code nesting level and AR offset within a procedure
 - **Level** specifies an ARP, offset is the constant (*later...*)

Variable-Length Data

- If AR can be extended, put it after Local Variables
- Leave a pointer at a known offset from ARP
- Otherwise, put variable-length data on the Heap

Initializing Local Variables

- Must generate explicit Code to Store the Values
- Among the procedure's first actions

Storage for Blocks within a Single Procedure

```

B0: {
    int a, b, c
B1: {
    int v, b, x, w
B2: {
    int x, y, z
    ...
    }
B3: {
    int x, a, v
    ...
    }
    ...
    }
    ...
    }

```

- Fixed-length data can always be at a constant offset from the beginning of a procedure
 - In our example, the *a* declared at level 0 will always be the first data element, stored at byte 0 in the fixed-length data area
 - The **x** declared at level 1 will always be the sixth data item, stored at byte 20 in the fixed data area
 - The **x** declared at level 2 will always be the eighth data item, stored at byte 28 in the fixed data area
 - But what about the *a* declared in the second block at level 2?

Variable-Length Data

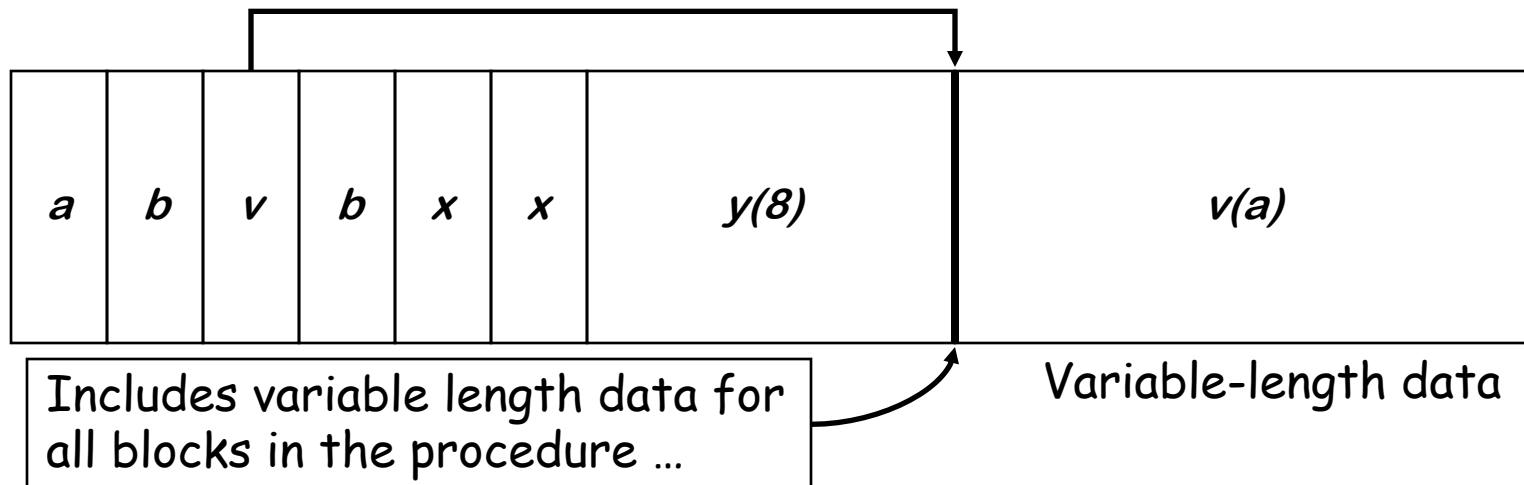
```

B0: {
    int a, b
    ... assign value to a
B1: {
    int v(a), b, x
B2: {
    int x, y(8)
    ....
    }
    }
    }
    }

```

Arrays

- If size is fixed at compile time, store in fixed-length data area
- If size is variable, store **descriptor** in fixed length area, with pointer to variable length area
- Variable-length data area is assigned at the end of the fixed length area for block in which it is allocated



Translating Local Names

How does the compiler represent a specific instance of x ?

- Name is translated into a *static coordinate*
 - $\langle level, offset \rangle$ pair
 - “*level*” is lexical nesting level of the procedure
 - “*offset*” is *unique* within that scope
- Subsequent code will use the static coordinate to generate addresses and references
- “*level*” is a function of the table in which x is found
 - Stored in the entry for each x
- “*offset*” must be assigned and stored in the Symbol Table
 - Assigned at Compile time
 - Known at Compile time
 - Used to Generate code that executes at run-time

Scoping Rules

- Scoping
 - Define which instance each name refers to
- Lexical Scoping
 - Look at the source text of the code
 - Determine the closest (nesting structure) name
 - Ex. FORTRAN, C, Pascal.
- Dynamic Scoping
 - Check at Run-Time the closest variable with the same name
 - Ex. Scheme, Lisp, Miranda, etc.

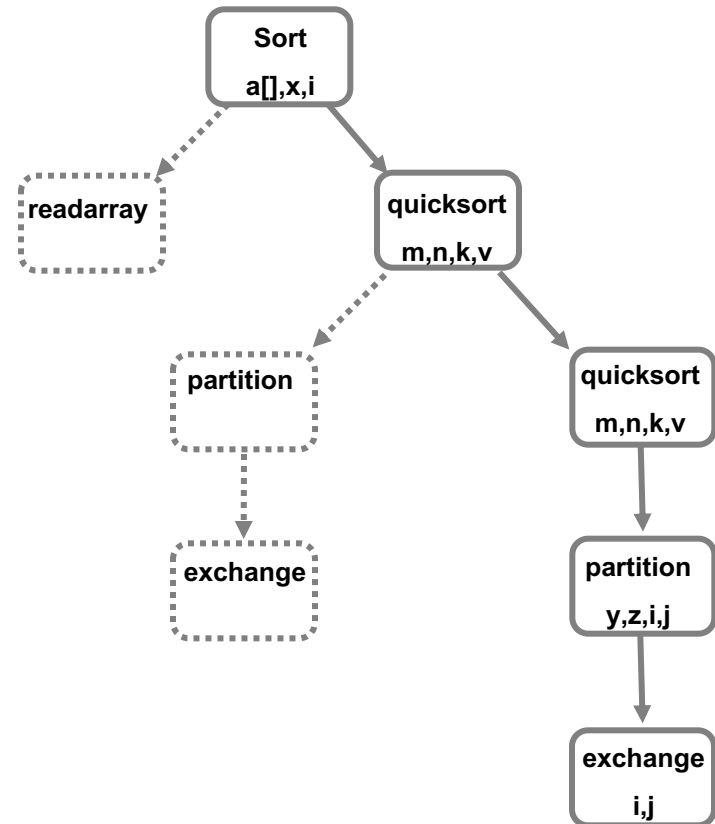
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4.  procedure readarray;
5.  var i: integer;
6.  begin ... a... end { readarray };
7.  procedure exchange(i, j: integer);
8.  begin
9.    x := a[i]; a[i] := a[j]; a[j] := x;
10.  end { exchange };
11. procedure quicksort(m, n: integer);
12.  var k, v: integer;
13.  function partition(y, z: integer): integer;
14.  var i, j: integer;
15.  begin ... a ...
16.    ... v ...
17.    ... exchange(i,j); ...
18.  end { partition }
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```

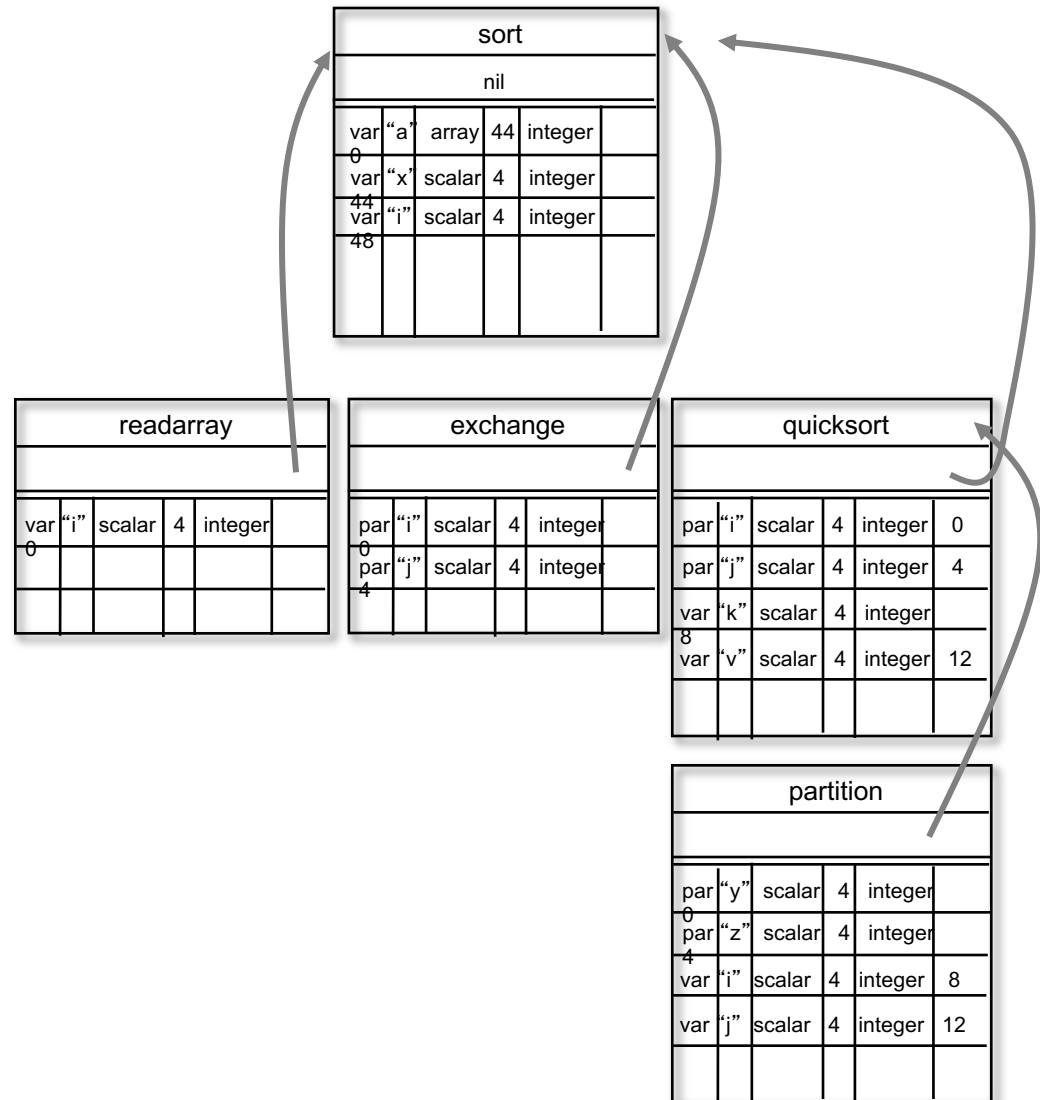
Call Tree



Nested Procedures & Symbol Tables

```

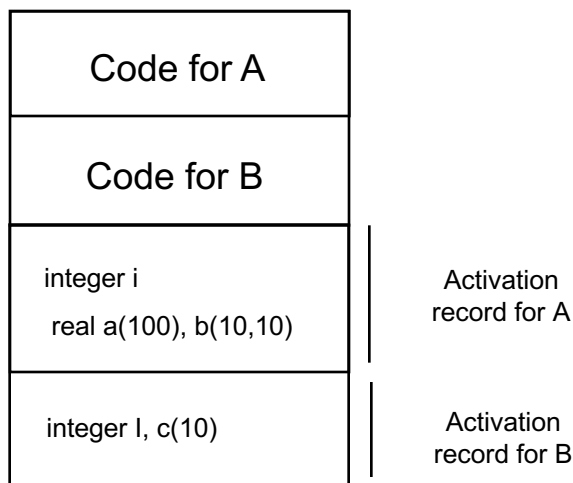
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```



Static Allocation

```
subroutine A()
  integer i
  real a(100), b(10,10)
  do 100 i=1, 10
    a(i*10) = b(i,10)
  100: continue
end
```

```
subroutine B()
  integer i, c(10)
  do 200 i=1, 10
    c(i) = 0
  200: continue
end
```



- Local variables are bound to fixed location in storage
 - Values can be retained across procedure call (static)
 - Save PC in AR but no need for stack
- Limitations:
 - Fixed size variables only
 - Does not support recursion
 - No dynamic memory allocation
- Advantages:
 - Simplified code generation

Lexical Scopes Without Nested Procedures

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4.  procedure readarray;
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16. procedure quicksort(m, n : integer);
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18.     begin ... end { quicksort }
19. begin ... end { sort }
    
```

- Easy location of variables
 - Either local, i.e., in the AR
 - Global, i.e. at specified global offset
- Why Do we Need a Stack?

Lexical Scope With Nested Procedures

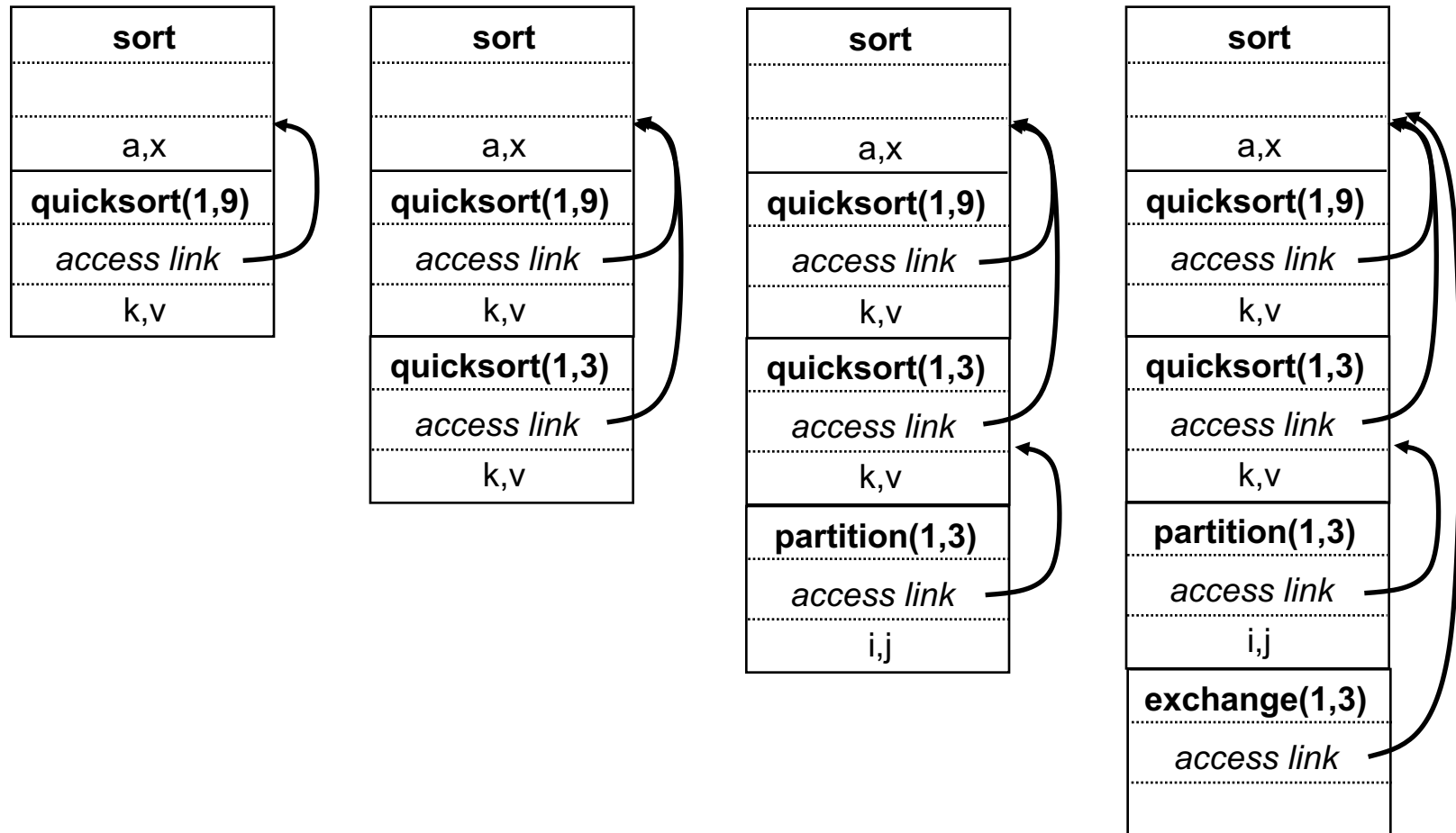
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```

- Problem!
 - Now quicksort might have to access a, x at sort ...
 - Also, partition needs to access k, v at quicksort
 - But which one?
- Need to keep Track of Depth
 - (static) Nesting Depth
 - sort at depth 1
 - readarray, quicksort at depth 2
 - partition at depth 3
 - Implementation
 - Link Chasing in AR
 - Reflect Nesting Structure During Calls
 - Display indexed by depth

Activation Records on the Stack



Lexical Scoping Example

```

1.  program sort(input, output);
2.  var a: array [0..10] of integer;
3.  var x, i: integer;
4.  procedure readarray;
5.  var i : integer;
6.  begin ... a... end { readarray } ;
7.  procedure exchange(i, j: integer);
8.      begin
9.          x := a[i]; a[i] := a[j]; a[j] := x;
10.     end { exchange } ;
11. procedure quicksort(m, n : integer);
12.     var k, v: integer;
13.     function partition(y, z : integer) : integer;
14.         var i, j : integer;
15.         begin ... a ...
16.             ... v ...
17.             ... exchange(i,j); ...
18.         end { partition }
19.     begin ... end { quicksort }
20. begin ... end { sort }

```

Access Links and How to Use Them

- Suppose procedure p at lexical nesting depth n_p refers to non-local variable a at depth $n_q \leq n_p$, then a can be found:
 1. Follow $n_p - n_q$ access links from AR of p
 2. Access the variable at offset a in 'that' AR
- Example:
 - `partition` code at depth = 3 refers to v and a at depth 2 and 1 for which the code should traverse 1 and 2 access links respectively.
- As $(n_p - n_q)$ can be computed at compile-time this tracing “method” is always feasible.
- What happens if $n_q > n_p$?

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- As $(n_p - n_q)$ can be computed at compile-time this tracing “method” is always feasible.
- What happens if $n_q > n_p$?
 - Variable a is not visible! The compiler will never allow this access.

How to Set Up Access Links?

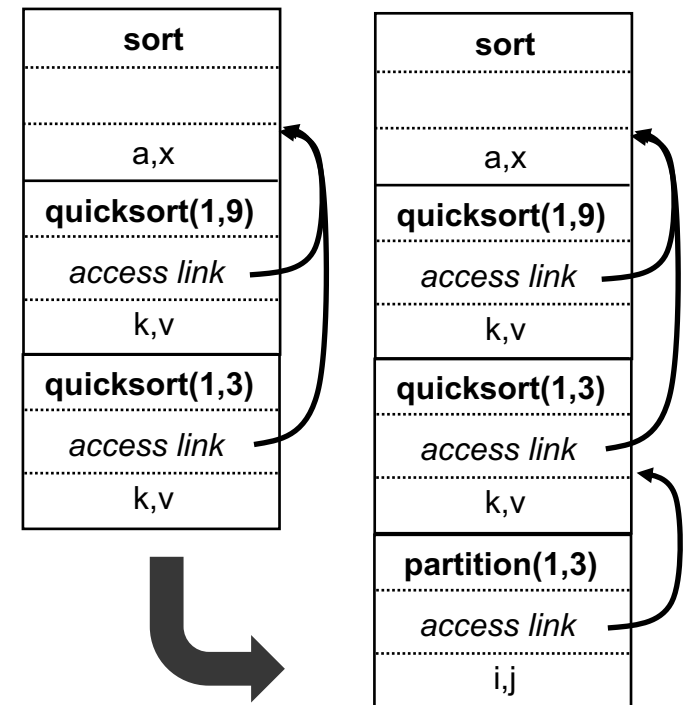
- Procedure **p** at depth n_p calls **q** at depth n_q
- Code generated as part of the calling sequence:
 - Case $n_q > n_p$: procedure **q** is nested more deeply than **p**; it must be declared within **p**, *i.e.* $n_q = n_p + 1$; **Why?**
 - **Action:** copy ARP pointer of the caller's to the callee's access link as this creates an additional indirection (another level)
 - Case $n_q \leq n_p$: all the ARs of the procedures up to **p** are the same, simply need to access the link of the most recent invocation of **p**;
 - **Action:** Follow $n_q - n_p + 1$ access links you reach the correct AR of procedure **r** that encloses **p** to set the access link in the AR of **q**.

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– Example:

- quicksort ($n_p=2$)
calls partition($n_p=3$)

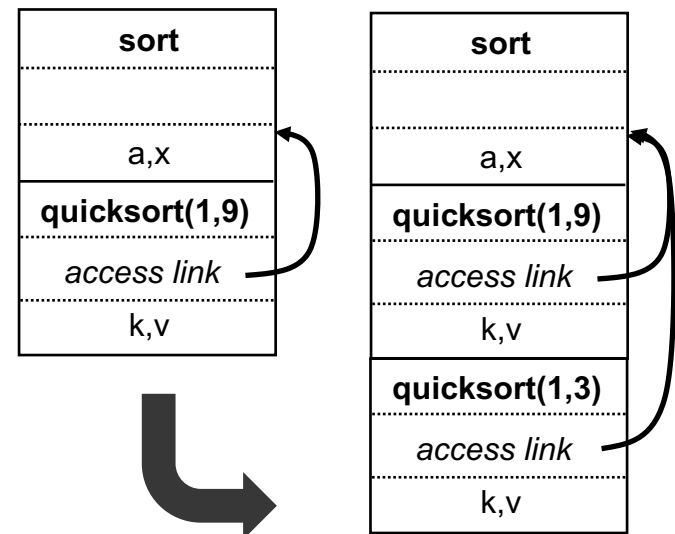


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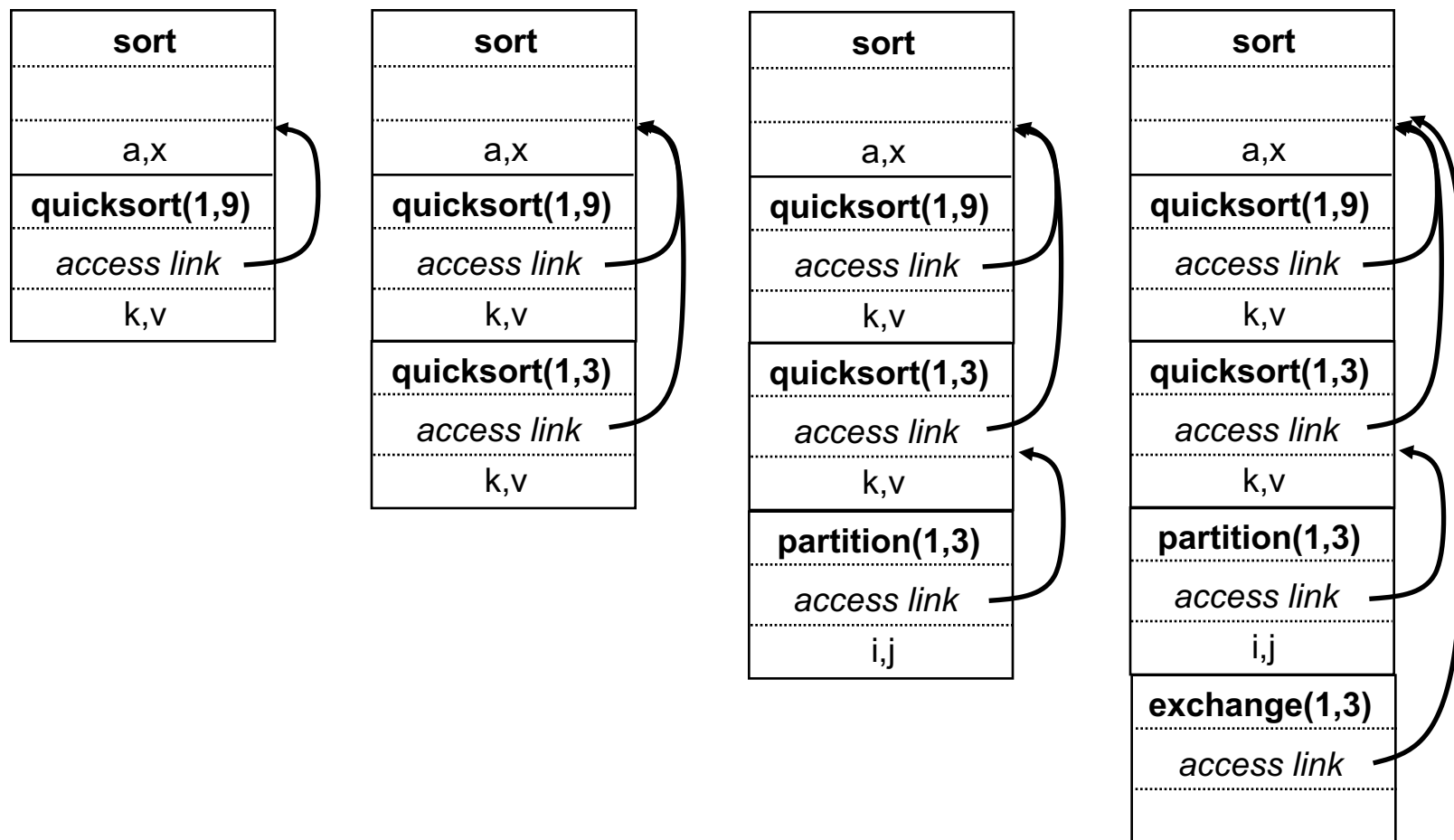
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– Example:

- quicksort ($n_p=2$)
calls quicksort ($n_p=2$)



Lexical Scope with Nested Procedures



sort calls quicksort

$$n_q = n_p + 1$$

quicksort calls quicksort

$$n_q = n_p$$

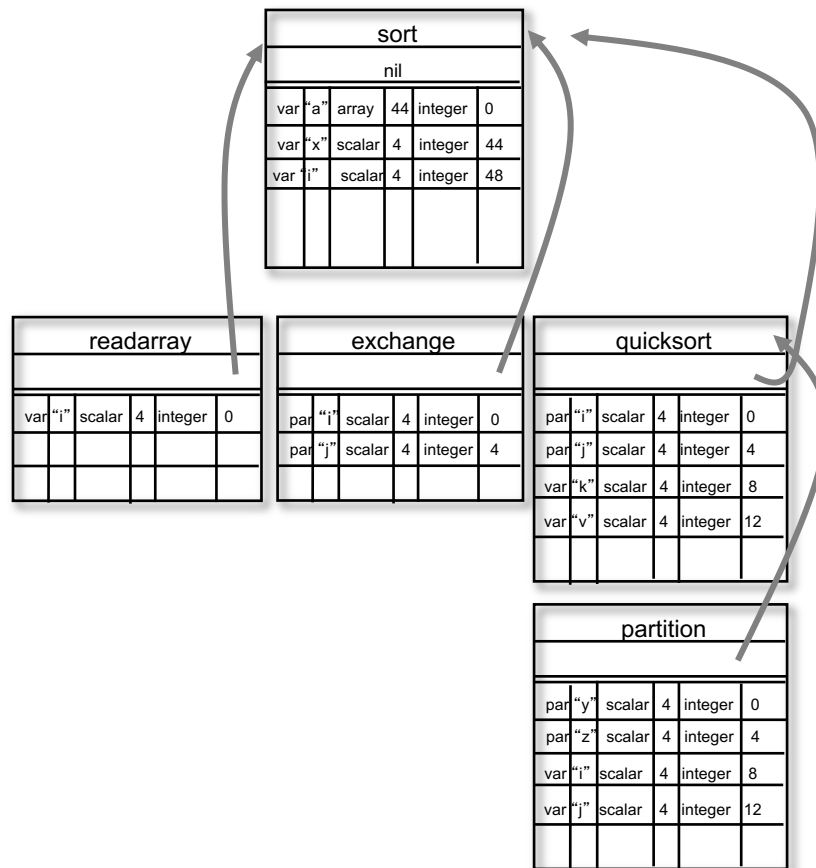
quicksort calls partition

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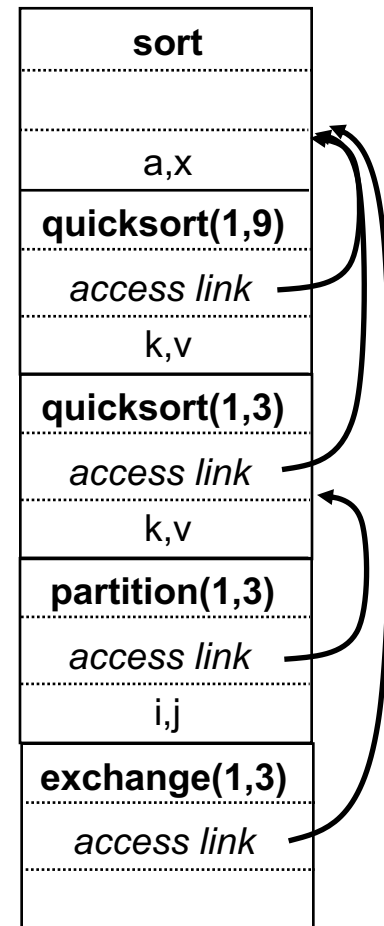
partition calls exchange

$$n_p = n_q + 1$$

Lexical Scope with Nested Procedures

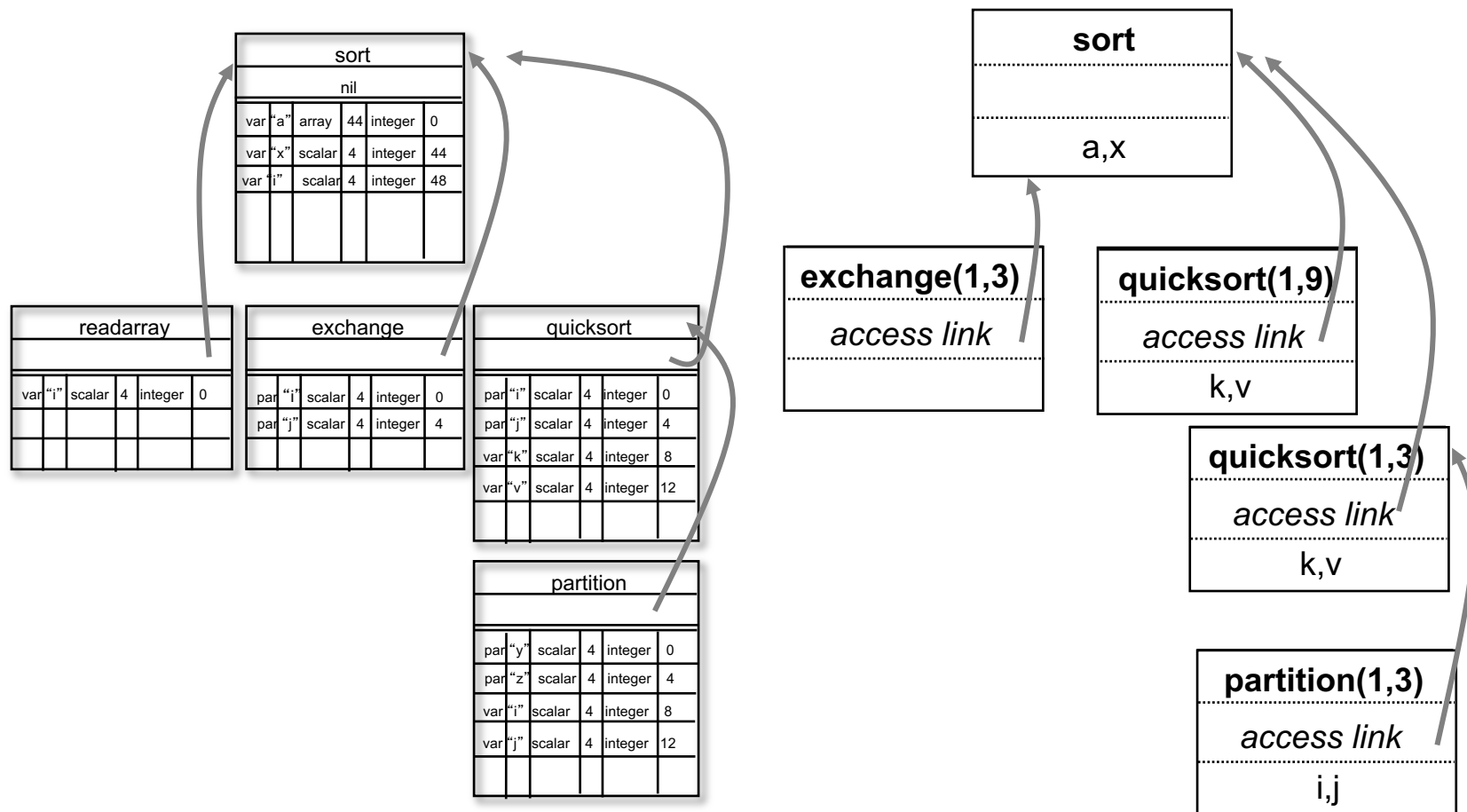


Compile Time



Run Time

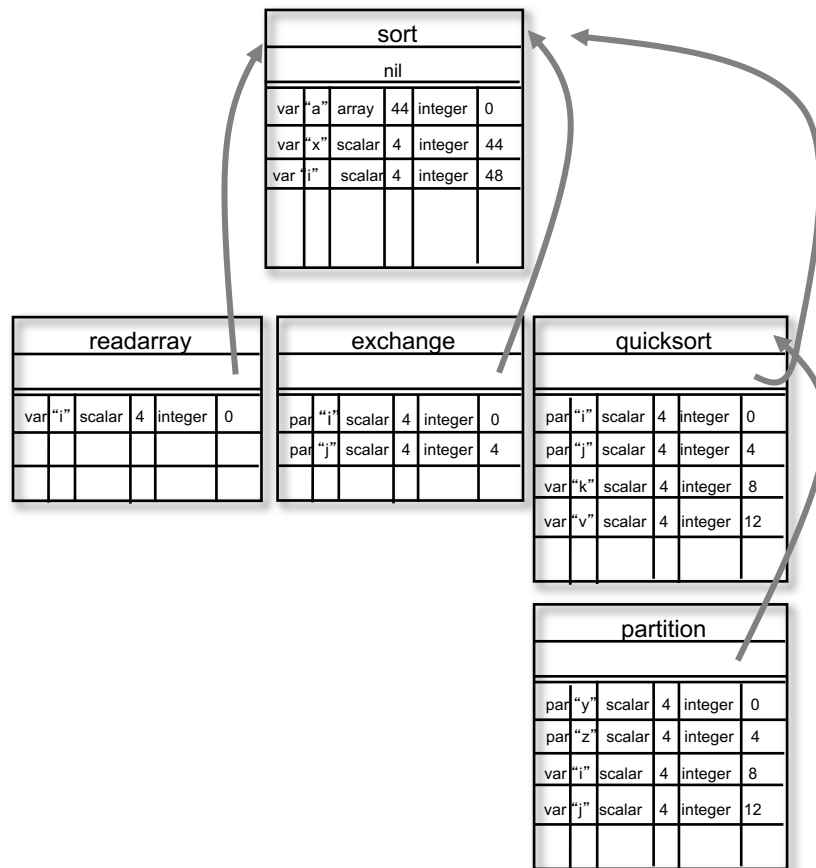
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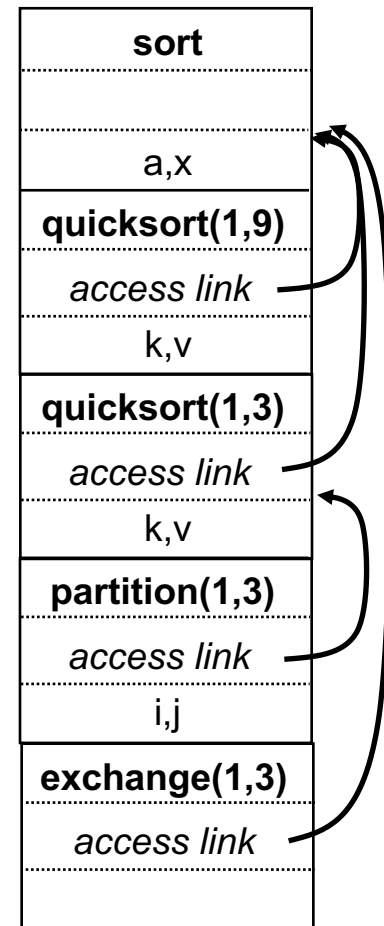
Compile Time

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Lexical Scope with Nested Procedures



Compile Time

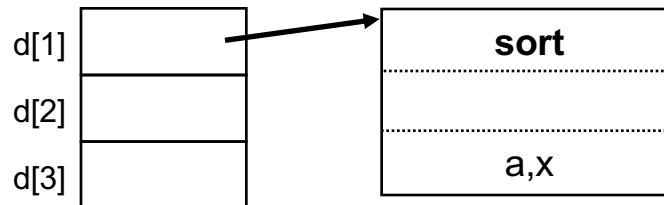


Run Time

Display

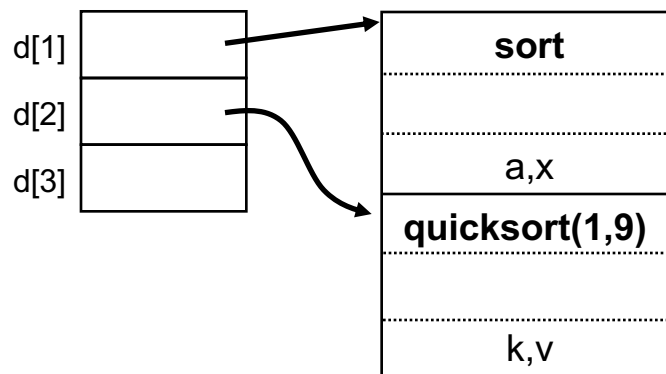
- Following Access Links can take a long Time
- Solution?
 - Keep an auxiliary array of pointers to AR on the stack
 - Storage for a non-local at depth i is in the activation record pointed to by $d[i]$ called *Display*.
 - Faster because you need to follow a single pointer
- How to Maintain the *Display* ?
 - When AR of procedure at depth i is set up:
 - Save the value of $d[i]$ in the new AR
 - Set $d[i]$ to point to the new AR.
 - Just before an activation ends, $d[i]$ is reset to the saved value
 - Values in saved at a specific offset on the AR like ARP and return

Display: Example



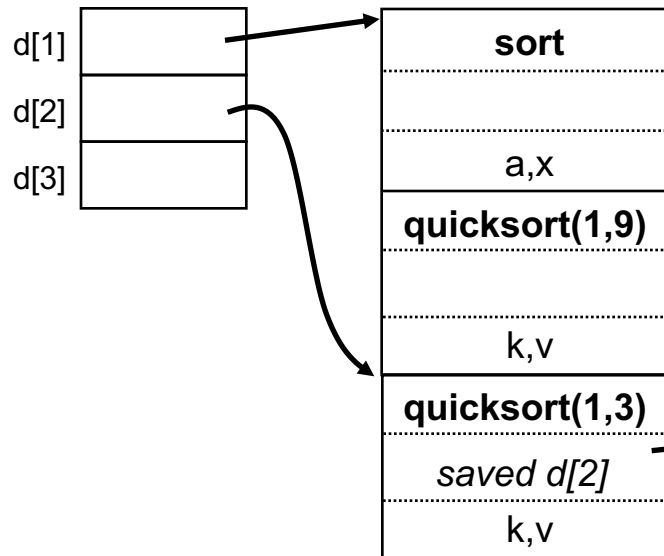
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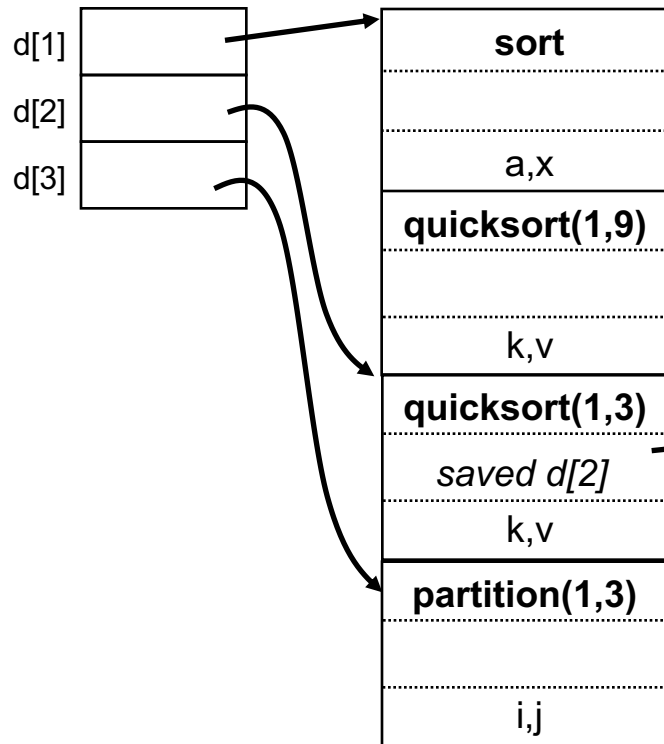
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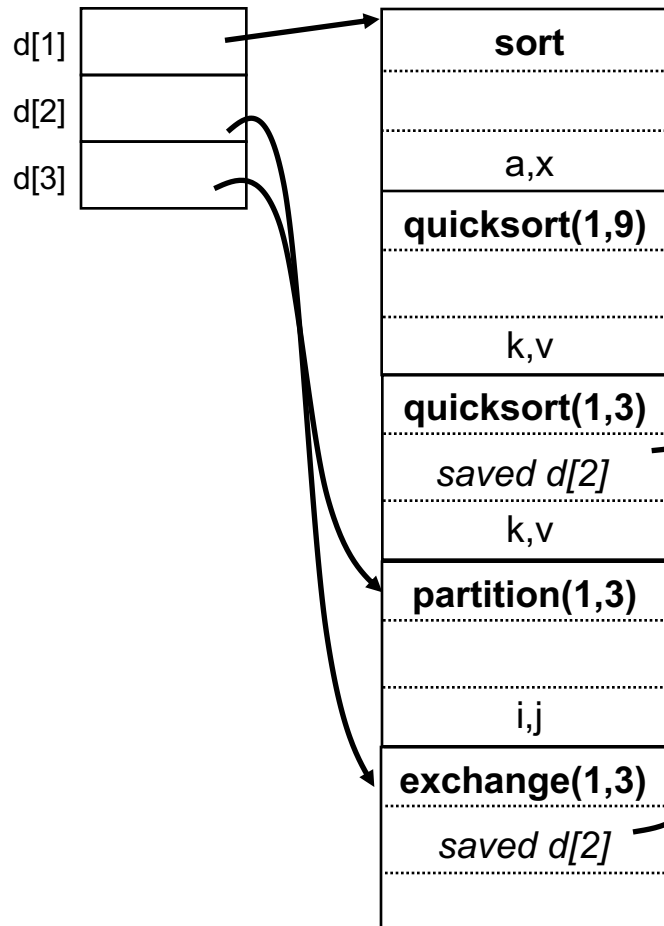
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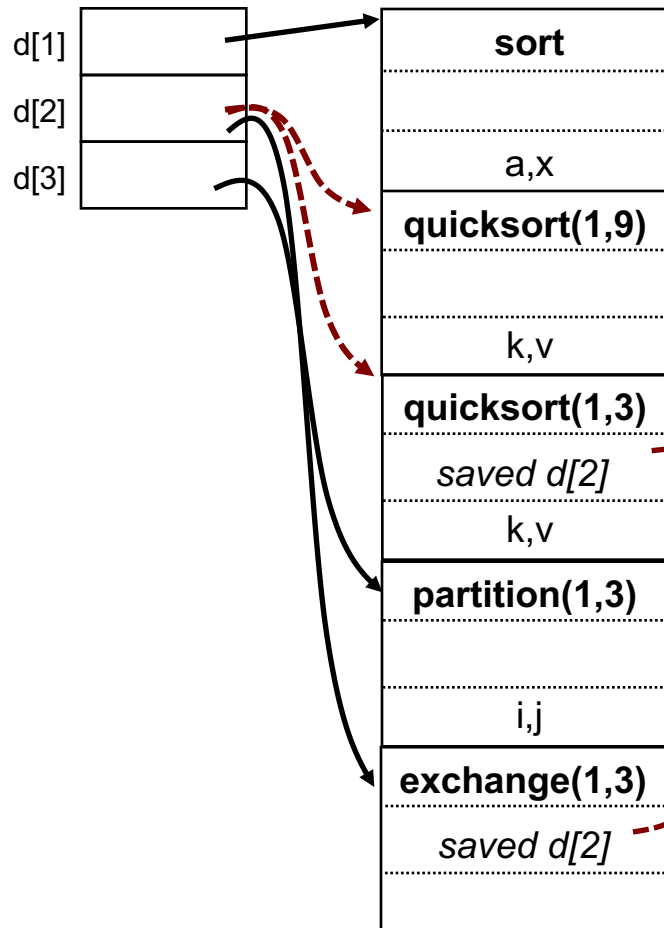
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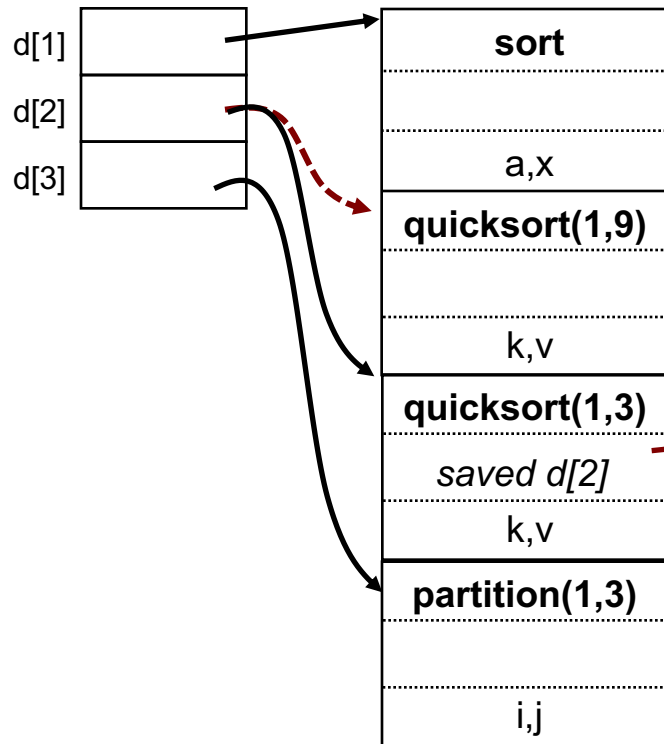
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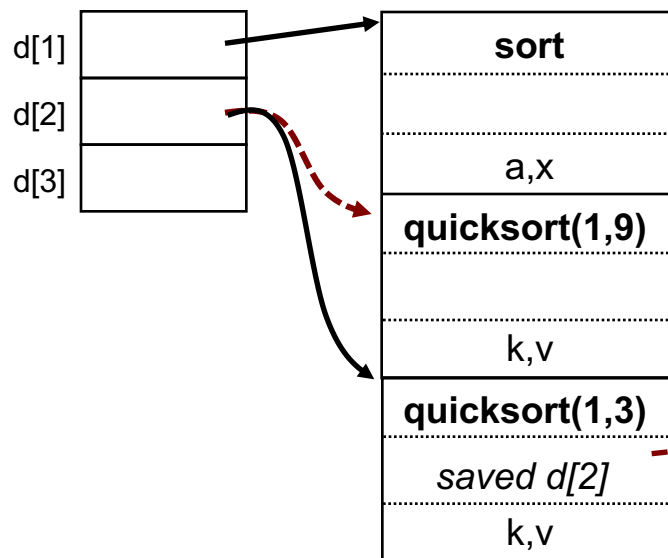
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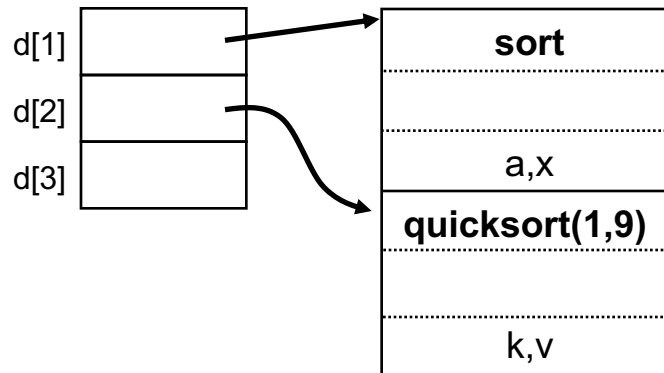
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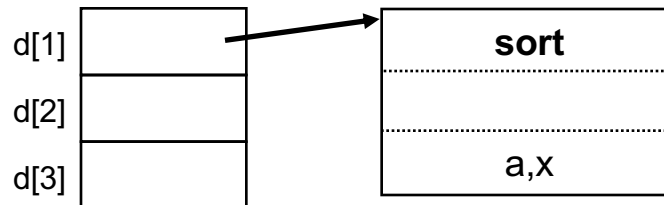
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(Other) Complications

- Passing Functions as Arguments?
 - Just an address of the code, not that hard to implement
 - Need to verify at run-time the number of arguments.
 - Access Link needs to be passed to understand how to follow it...

- What if AR outlives Execution of Procedure?
 - When is this possible?
 - What to do?

- Dynamically Linked Libraries
 - What are the issues with “regular” libraries?

- Position-Independent Code
 - Why is this important?

Code Sharing

- Traditionally Link all Libraries with your code
- Drawbacks:
 - Space as each executable includes the code of all libraries it uses (big as every function needs to be included at link time)
 - Bugs in libraries require recompilation and linking
- Solution: Dynamically Linked Libraries
 - Loaded and linked on-demand during execution
- Advantages:
 - Single Copy in the system rather than replicated.
 - Executable has only what is really needs.
 - Bugs can be fixed later not requiring re-linking

Shared Libraries

- Make it Look Like a Statically Linked
- Linking?
 - Name Resolution: finding bindings for symbols
- Determine before hand if linking will succeed
 - Check for undefined or multiply defined symbols
 - Create a table of symbols for each shared library
 - Pre-execution linking checks the tables
 - Run-time dynamic linker is guaranteed to fail if and only if the pre-execution static linker would.

Summary

- What Have We Learned?
 - AR is a Run-time Structure to hold State regarding the Execution of a Procedure
 - AR can be allocated in Static, Stack or even Heap
 - Links allow Call-Return and Access to Non-local Variables
 - Symbol-Table plays Important Role
- Linkage Conventions
 - Saving Context before Call and restoring after Call
 - Need to understand how to generate code for body