

JavaScript: Objects and Functions

“The” language of the Web

Fulvio Corno

Luigi De Russis

Enrico Masala

This image shows a comprehensive JavaScript reference sheet titled "JavaScript Cheat Sheet" and "Programming Language of Web". It is organized into several sections:

- Math**: Properties like E, LN2, LOG2E, PI, SQRT1_2, SQRT2, and Methods like abs(), ceil(), floor(), round(), trunc(), and trigonometric functions.
- Object**: Properties like constructor, and Methods like assign(), create(), defineProperties(), and others.
- Set**: Properties like size, and Methods like add(), has(), delete(), and clear().
- Map**: Properties like size, and Methods like set(), get(), has(), seal(), and clear().
- Promise**: Properties like iterator, match, species, and Methods like all(), catch(), then(), race(), resolve(), and reject().
- Proxy**: Properties like apply(), construct(), and Methods like trapFunctionCall(), trapNewObject(), trapDelete(), trapForIn(), trapGet(), trapSet(), trapHas(), trapOwnKeys(), preventExtensions(), and setPrototypeOf().
- JSON**: Methods like parse() and stringify().
- Error**: Properties like name and message.
- globals**: Methods like eval(), isFinite(), isNaN(), parseInt(), parseFloat(), encodeURIComponent(), and decodeURIComponent().
- Others**: Fast tips for var, let, const, func, for, if, while, switch, do, try, catch, and throw statements.

The sheet also includes a logo for "CodeMio" at the bottom right.



Outline

- Objects
- Functions
 - Closures



JavaScript: The Definitive Guide, 7th Edition Chapter 5. Objects

Mozilla Developer Network

- Learn web development JavaScript » Dynamic client-side scripting » Introducing JavaScript objects
- Web technology for developers » JavaScript » JavaScript reference » Standard built-in objects » Object
- Web technology for developers » JavaScript » JavaScript reference » Expressions and operators » in operator

JavaScript – The language of the Web

OBJECTS

Big Warnings (a.k.a., *forget Java objects*)

- In JavaScript, Objects may exist without Classes
 - Usually, Objects are **created directly**, without deriving them from a Class definition
- In JavaScript, Objects are dynamic
 - You may **add, delete, redefine** a *property* at any time
 - You may add, delete, redefine a *method* at any time
- In JavaScript, there are no access control methods
 - Every property and every method is always **public** (private/protected don't exist)
- There is no real difference between **properties and methods** (because of how JS functions work)

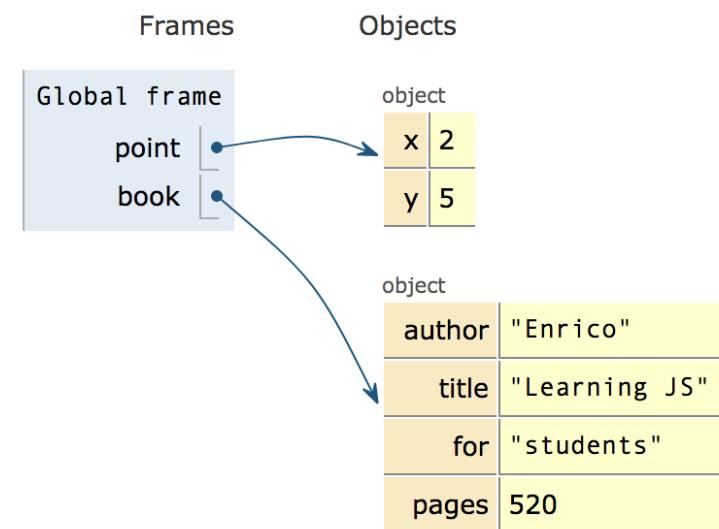
Object

- An object is an **unordered collection of properties**
 - Each property has a **name** (key), and a **value**
- You store and retrieve *property values*, through the *property names*
- Object creation and initialization:

```
let point = { x: 2, y: 5 };

let book = {
    author : "Enrico",
    title : "Learning JS",
    for: "students",
    pages: 520,
};
```

Object literals syntax:
{"name": value,
"name": value, }
or:
{name: value,
name: value, }



Object Properties

Property names are ...

- Identified as a **string**
- Must be unique in each object
- Created at object initialization
- Added after object creation
 - With assignment
- Deleted after object creation
 - With **delete** operator

Property values are ...

- Reference to any **JS value**
- Stored inside the object
- May be **primitive types**
- May be **arrays**, **other objects**, ...
 - Beware: the object stores the reference, the value is *outside*
- May also be **functions** (*methods*)

Accessing properties

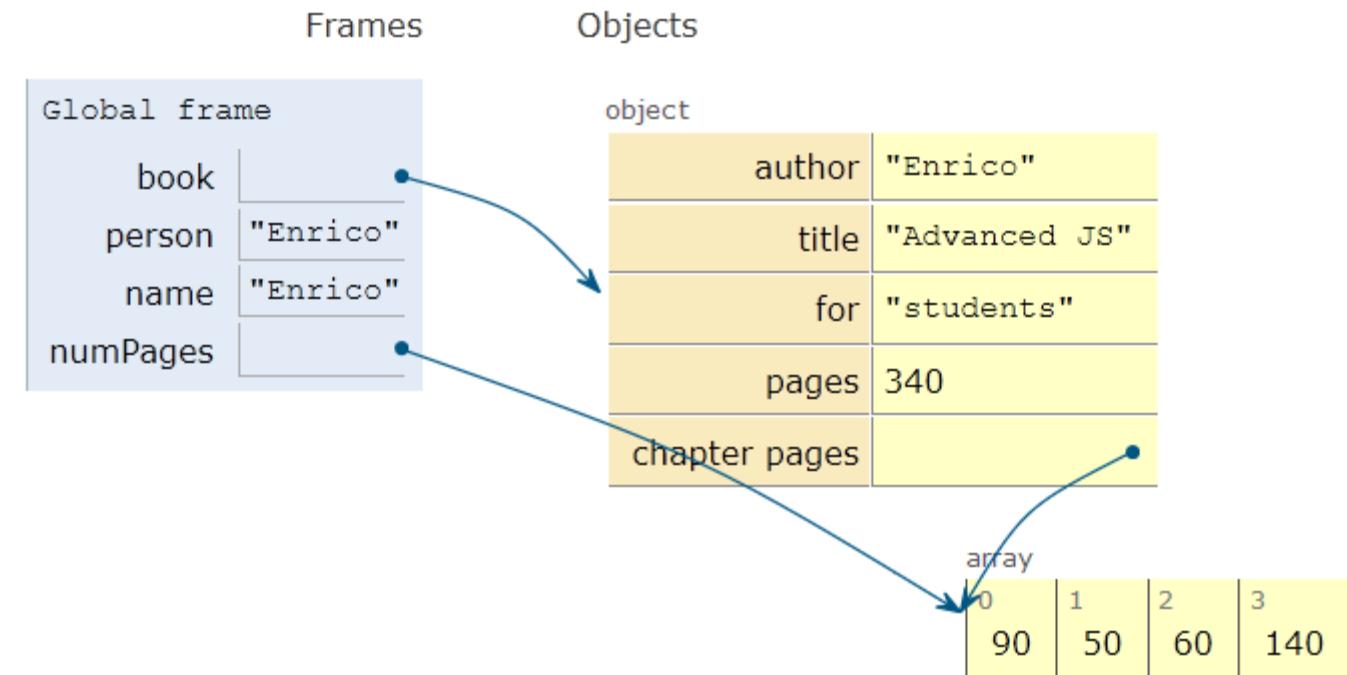
- Dot (.) or square brackets [] notation

```
let book = {  
    author : "Enrico",  
    title : "Learning JS",  
    for: "students",  
    pages: 340,  
    "chapter pages": [90,50,60,140]  
};  
  
let person = book.author;  
let name = book["author"];  
let numPages =  
    book["chapter pages"];  
book.title = "Advanced JS";  
book["pages"] = 340;
```

The . dot notation and omitting the quotes are allowed **when the property name is a valid identifier, only.**

book.title or book['title']

book['my title'] and not ~~book.my title~~



Objects as associative arrays

- The `[]` syntax looks like array access, but the index is *a string*
 - Generally known as *associative arrays*
- Setting a non-existing property creates it:
 - `person["telephone"] = "0110901234";`
 - `person.telephone = "0110901234";`
- Deleting properties
 - `delete person.telephone;`
 - `delete person["telephone"];`

Computed property names

- Flexibility in creating object properties
 - `{[prop]:value}` -> creates an object with property name equal to *the value of the variable prop*
 - `[]` can contain more complex expressions: e.g., `i`-th line of an object with multiple "address" properties (`address1, address2, ...`):
`person["address"+i]`
 - Using expressions is not recommended...
- Beware of quotes:
 - `book["title"]` -> property called `title`
 - Equivalent to `book.title`
 - `book[title]` -> property called with the value of variable `title` (if exists)
 - If `title=="author"`, then equivalent to `book["author"]`
 - No equivalent in dot-notation

Property access errors

- If a property is not defined, the (attempted) access returns `undefined`
- If unsure, must check before accessing
 - Remember: `undefined` is *falsy*, you may use it in Boolean expressions

```
let surname = undefined;  
if (book) {  
    if (book.author) {  
        surname = book.author.surname;  
    }  
}
```

```
surname = book && book.author && book.author.surname;
```

Iterating over properties

- **for .. in** iterates over the properties

```
for( let a in {x: 0, y:3}) {  
    console.log(a) ;  
}
```

```
x  
y
```

```
let book = {  
    author : "Enrico",  
    pages: 340,  
    chapterPages: [90,50,60,140],  
};
```

```
for (const prop in book)  
    console.log(` ${prop} = ${book[prop]}`);
```

```
author = Enrico  
pages = 340  
chapterPages = 90,50,60,140
```

Iterating over properties

- All the (enumerable) properties names (keys) of an object can be accessed as an array, with:

– `let keys = Object.keys(my_object) ;` ['author', 'pages']

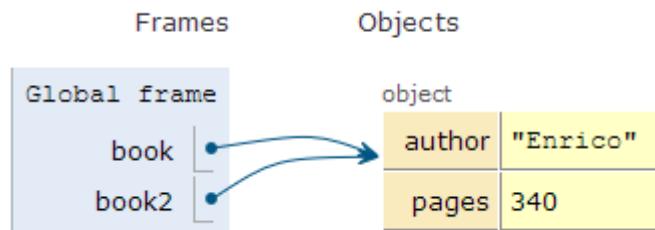
- All pairs [key, value] are returned as an array with:

– `let keys_values = Object.entries(my_object)`

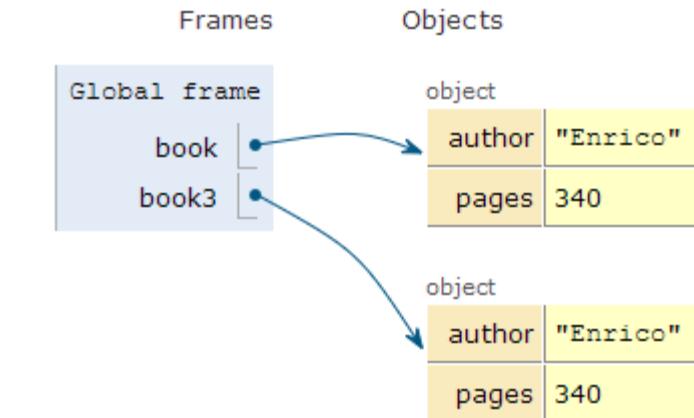
[['author', 'Enrico'], ['pages', 340]]

Copying objects

```
let book = {  
    author : "Enrico",  
    pages: 340,  
};  
  
let book2 = book; // ALIAS
```



```
let book = {  
    author : "Enrico",  
    pages: 340,  
};  
  
let book3 = // COPY  
Object.assign({}, book);
```



Object.assign

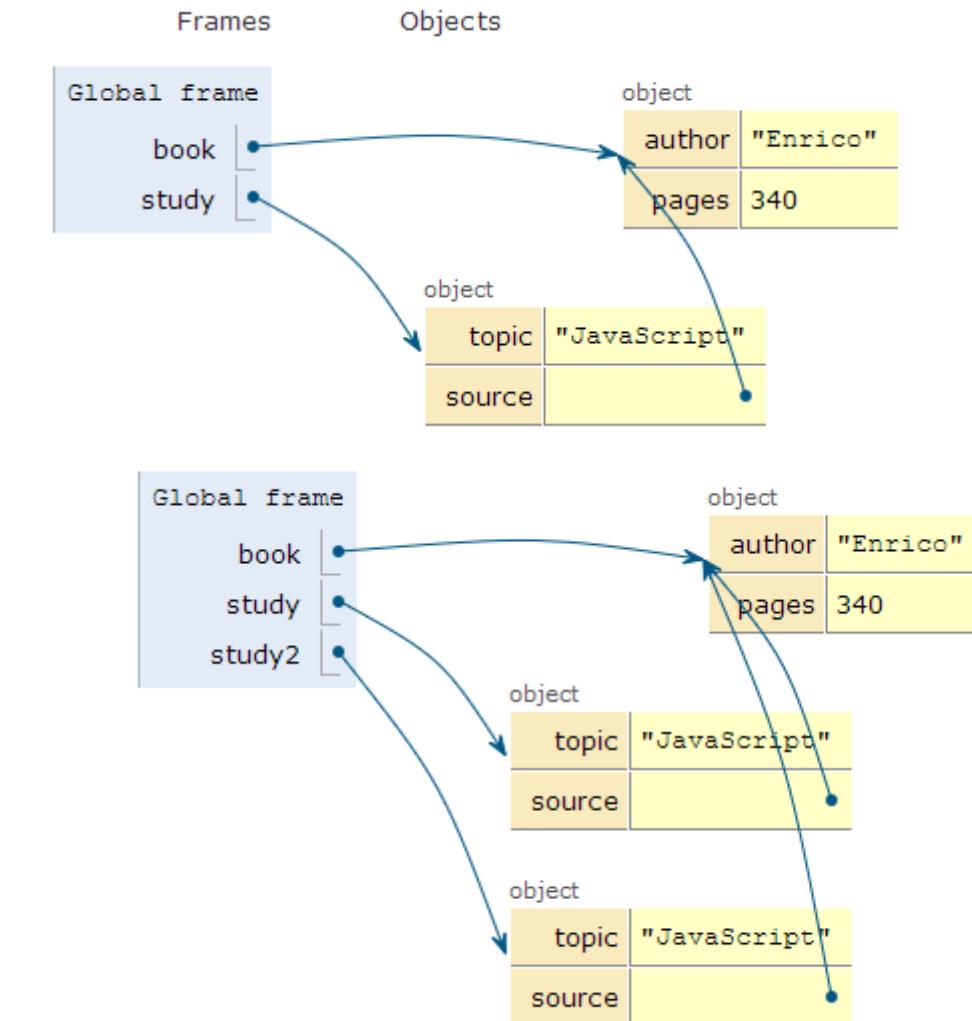
- `let new_object = Object.assign(target, source);`
- Assigns all the properties from the `source` object to the `target` one
- The target may be a new object: `{}`
- The target may be an existing object
- If properties already exists, they will be overwritten
- Returns the target object (after modification)

Beware! Shallow copy, only

```
let book = {  
    author : "Enrico",  
    pages: 340,  
};
```

```
let study = {  
    topic: "JavaScript",  
    source: book,  
};
```

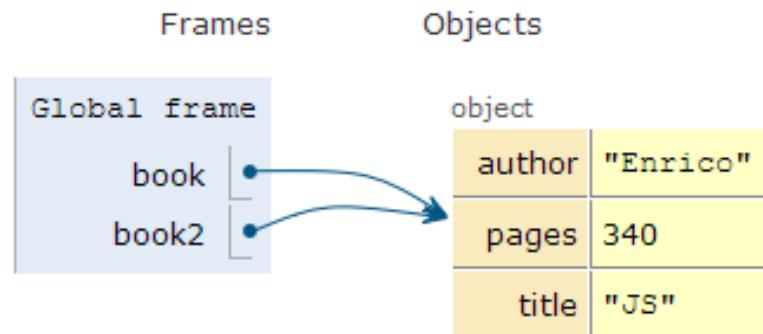
```
let study2 = Object.assign({},  
study);
```



Merge properties (on existing object)

- `Object.assign(target, default values, ..other sources..);`

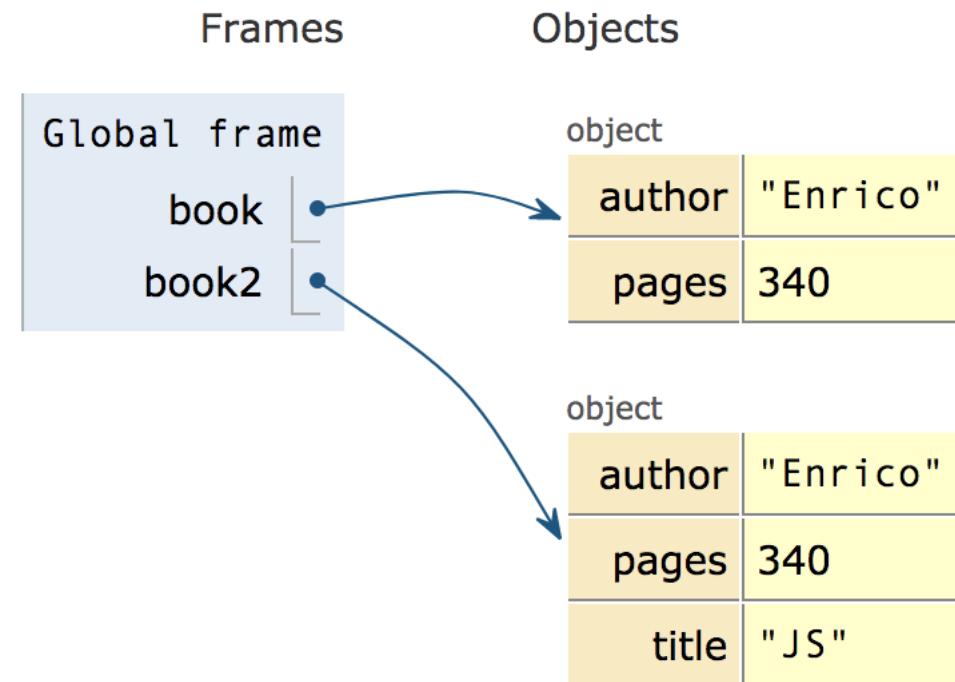
```
let book = {  
    author : "Enrico",  
    pages: 340,  
};  
  
let book2 = Object.assign(  
    book, {title: "JS"}  
);
```



Merge properties (on new object)

- `Object.assign(target, default values, ..sources..);`

```
let book = {  
    author : "Enrico",  
    pages: 340,  
};  
  
let book2 = Object.assign(  
    {}, {title: "JS"}, book  
);
```



Copying with spread operator (ES9 – ES2018)

```
let book = {  
    author : "Enrico",  
    pages: 340,  
};  
  
let book2 = {...book, title: "JS"};  
let book3 = { ...book2 } ;  
console.log(book2);
```

```
{ author: 'Enrico', pages: 340, title: 'JS' }
```

```
const {a,b,...others} =  
    {a:1, b:2, c:3, d:4};  
  
console.log(a);  
console.log(b);  
console.log(others);
```

```
1  
2  
{ c: 3, d: 4 }
```

Checking if properties exist

- Operator **in**
 - Returns true if property is in the object. Do not use with Array

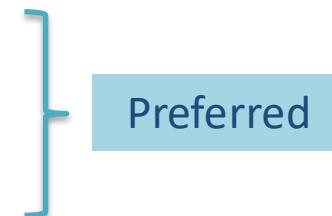
```
let book = {  
    author : "Enrico",  
    pages: 340,  
};  
  
console.log('author' in book);  
delete book.author;  
console.log('author' in book);
```

true
false

```
const v=[ 'a','b','c' ];  
  
console.log('b' in v);  
  
console.log('PI' in Math);
```

false
true

Object creation (equivalent methods)

- By object literal: `const point = {x:2, y:5} ;`
 - By object literal (empty object): `const point = {} ;`
 - By constructor: `const point = new Object() ;`
 - By object static method `create`:
`const point = Object.create({x:2,y:5}) ;`
 - Using a *constructor function*
- 

Preferred



JavaScript: The Definitive Guide, 7th Edition
Chapter 7. Functions

JavaScript – The language of the Web

FUNCTIONS

Functions

- One of the most important elements in JavaScript
- Delimits a block of code with a private scope
- Can accept parameters and returns one value
 - Can also be an object
- Functions themselves are objects in JavaScript
 - They can be assigned to a variable
 - Can be passed as an argument
 - Used as a return value

Declaring functions: 3 ways

1) Classic

```
function do(params) {  
    /* do something */  
}
```

Classic functions

```
function square(x) {  
    let y = x * x ;  
    return y ;  
}  
  
let n = square(4) ;
```

During execution

After execution

Frames

Objects

Global frame

square

```
function square(x) {  
    let y = x * x ;  
    return y ;  
}
```

square

x	4
y	16
Return value	16

Frames

Objects

Global frame

square

```
function square(x) {  
    let y = x * x ;  
    return y ;  
}
```

n
16

Parameters

- Comma-separated list of parameter names
 - May assign a default value, e.g., `function(a, b=1) {}`
- Parameters are passed **by-value**
 - Copies of the **reference** to the object
- Parameters that are not passed in the function call get the value ‘**undefined**’
- Check missing/optional parameters with:
 - `if(p==undefined) p = default_value ;`
 - `p = p || default_value ;`

Variable number of parameters

- Syntax for functions with variable number of parameters, using the `...` operator (called “rest”)
`function fun (par1, par2, ...arr) { }`
- The “rest” parameter must be the last, and will deposit all extra arguments into an array

```
function sumAll(initVal, ...arr) {  
  let sum = initVal;  
  for (let a of arr) sum += a;  
  return sum;  
}  
sumAll(0, 2, 4, 5); // 11
```

Declaring functions: 3 ways

1) Classic

```
function do(params) {  
  /* do something */  
}
```

2a) Function expression

```
const fn = function(params) {  
  /* do something */  
}
```

2b) Named function expression

```
const fn = function do(params) {  
  /* do something */  
}
```

Function expression: indistinguishable

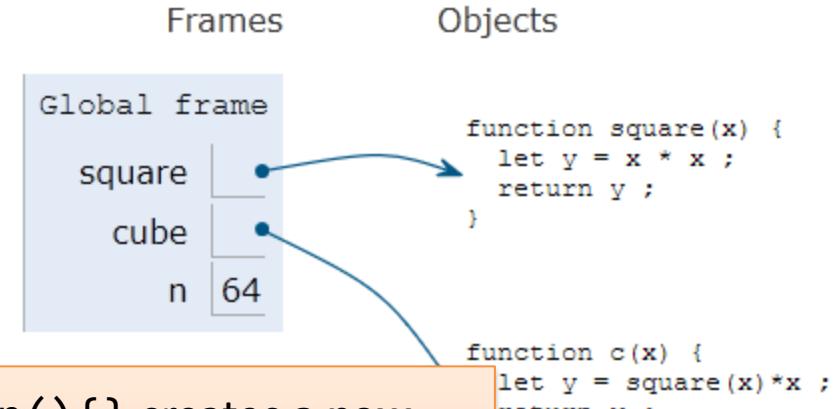
```
function square(x) {  
    let y = x * x ;  
    return y ;  
}  
  
let cube = function c(x) {  
    let y = square(x)*x ;  
    return y ;  
}  
  
let n = cube(4) ;
```

The *expression* `function(){}()` creates a **new object of type ‘function’** and returns the result.

Any variable may “refer” to the function and call it.
You can also store that reference into an array, an object property, pass it as a parameter to a function, redefine it, ...

method

callback



Declaring functions: 3 ways

1) Classic

```
function do(params) {  
  /* do something */  
}
```

2a) Function expression

```
const fn = function(params) {  
  /* do something */  
}
```

3) Arrow function

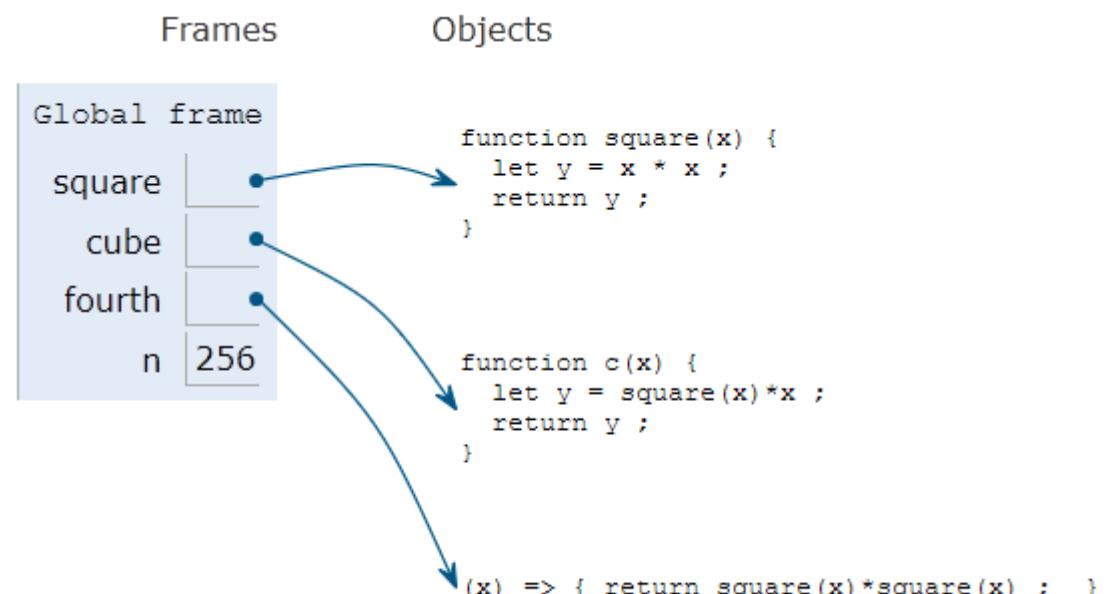
```
const fn = (params) => {  
  /* do something */  
}
```

2b) Named function expression

```
const fn = function do(params) {  
  /* do something */  
}
```

Arrow Function: just a shortcut

```
function square(x) {  
    let y = x * x ;  
    return y ;  
}  
  
let cube = function c(x) {  
    let y = square(x)*x ;  
    return y ;  
}  
  
let fourth = (x) => { return  
square(x)*square(x) ; }  
  
let n = fourth(4) ;
```



Parameters in arrow functions

```
const fun = () => { /* do something */ }           // no params
```

```
const fun = param => { /* do something */ }         // 1 param
```

```
const fun = (param) => { /* do something */ }        // 1 param
```

```
const fun = (par1, par2) => { /* smtg */ } // 2 params
```

```
const fun = (par1 = 1, par2 = 'abc') => { /* smtg */ } // default values
```

Return value

- Default: `undefined`
- Use `return` to return a value
- Only one value can be returned
- However, objects (or arrays) can be returned

```
const fun = () => { return ['hello', 5] ; }
const [ str, num ] = fun() ;
console.log(str) ;
```

- Arrow functions have `implicit return` if there is only one value

```
let fourth = (x) => { return square(x)*square(x) ; }
let fourth = x => square(x)*square(x) ;
```

Nested functions

- Function can be nested, i.e., defined within another function

```
function hypotenuse(a, b) {  
    const square = x => x*x ;  
    return Math.sqrt(square(a) + square(b));  
}
```



=> Preferred in nested functions

```
function hypotenuse(a, b) {  
    function square(x) { return x*x; }  
    return Math.sqrt(square(a) + square(b));  
}
```

- The inner function is *scoped within* the external function and cannot be called outside
- The inner function might *access variables declared* in the *outside* function

Closure: definition (somewhat cryptic)

A **closure** is a name given to a feature in the language by which a **nested** function executed **after** the execution of the outer function can still access **outer function's scope**.

Really: one of the most important concepts in JS

<https://medium.com/@vvkchandra/learn-javascript-closures-through-the-laws-of-karma-49d32d35b3f7>

Closures

- JS uses *lexical scoping*
 - Each new function defines a *scope* for the variables declared inside
 - Nested functions may access the scope of *all enclosing* functions
- Every function object **remembers the scope** where it is defined, even after the external function is no longer active → Closure

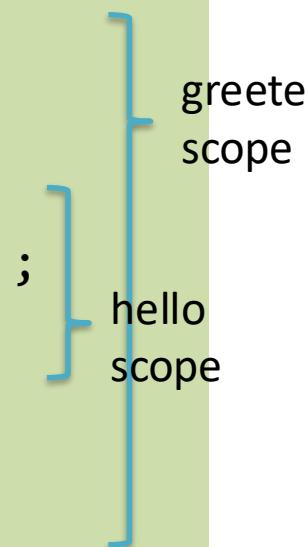
```
"use strict" ;  
  
function greeter(name) {  
    const myname = name ;  
  
    const hello = function () {  
        return "Hello " + myname ;  
    }  
  
    return hello ;  
}  
  
const helloTom = greeter("Tom") ;  
const helloJerry = greeter("Jerry") ;  
  
console.log(helloTom()) ;  
console.log(helloJerry()) ;
```

Warning: not
return hello() ;

Closures

- `hello` accesses the variable `myname`, defined in the outer scope
- The function is returned (as `helloTom` or `helloJerry`)
- Each of the functions “remembers” the reference to `myname`, when it was defined
- The variable `myname` goes out of scope, but is not destroyed
 - Still accessible (referred) by the `hello` functions.

```
"use strict" ;  
  
function greeter(name) {  
    const myname = name ;  
  
    const hello = function () {  
        return "Hello " + myname ;  
    }  
  
    return hello ;  
}  
  
const helloTom = greeter("Tom") ;  
const helloJerry = greeter("Jerry") ;  
  
console.log(helloTom()) ;  
console.log(helloJerry()) ;
```



Using closures to emulate objects

```
"use strict" ;  
  
function counter() {  
    let value = 0 ;  
  
    const getNext = () => {  
        value++;  
        return value;  
    }  
  
    return getNext ;  
}
```

```
const count1 = counter() ;  
console.log(count1()) ;  
console.log(count1()) ;  
console.log(count1()) ;
```

```
const count2 = counter() ;  
console.log(count2()) ;  
console.log(count2()) ;  
console.log(count2()) ;
```

```
1  
2  
3  
1  
2  
3
```

Using closures to emulate objects (with methods)

```
"use strict";

function counter() {
  let n = 0;

  // return an object,
  // containing two function-valued
  // properties
  return {
    count: function() {
      return n++;
    },
    reset: function() { n = 0; }
  };
}
```

```
let c = counter(), d = counter();
// Create two counters

c.count()
// => 0

d.count()
// => 0: they count independently

c.reset()
// reset() and count() methods

c.count()
// => 0: because we reset c

d.count()
// => 1: d was not reset
```

Immediately Invoked Function Expressions (IIFE)

- Functions may protect the *scope* of variables and inner functions
- May declare a function
 - With internal variables
 - With inner functions
 - Call it only once, and discard everything

```
( function() {  
    let a = 3 ;  
    console.log(a) ;  
} ) () ;
```

```
let num = ( function() {  
    let a = 3 ;  
    return a ;  
} ) () ;
```

<https://flaviocopes.com/javascript-iife/>
<https://medium.com/@vvkchandra/essential-javascript-mastering-immediately-invoked-function-expressions-67791338ddc6>

Using IIFE to emulate objects (with methods)

```
"use strict";

const c = (
  function () {
    let n = 0;

    return {
      count: function () {
        return n++; },
      reset: function () {
        n = 0; }
    };
  })();
```

```
console.log(c.count());
console.log(c.count());
c.reset();
console.log(c.count());
console.log(c.count());
```

```
0
1
0
1
```

Construction functions

- Define the object type
 - Use a capital initial letter
 - Set the properties with the keyword **this**
- Create an instance of the object with **new**

```
function Car(make, model, year) {  
    this.make = make;  
    this.model = model;  
    this.year = year;  
    this.isNew = ()=>(year>2000);  
}
```

```
let mycar = new Car('Eagle',  
    'Talon TSi', 1993);
```



License

- These slides are distributed under a Creative Commons license “**Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)**”
- **You are free to:**
 - **Share** — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format
 - **Adapt** — remix, transform, and build upon the material
 - The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms.
- **Under the following terms:**
 - **Attribution** — You must give [appropriate credit](#), provide a link to the license, and [indicate if changes were made](#). You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.
 - **NonCommercial** — You may not use the material for [commercial purposes](#).
 - **ShareAlike** — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the [same license](#) as the original.
 - **No additional restrictions** — You may not apply legal terms or [technological measures](#) that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.
- <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>