JONAS.IO
SCHMEDTMANN

THE COMPLETE JAVASCRIPT COURSE

FROM ZERO TO EXPERT!

@JONASSCHMEDTMAN

SECTION

HOW JAVASCRIPT WORKS BEHIND THE SCENES

LECTURE

SCOPE AND THE SCOPE CHAIN

JS

SCOPING AND SCOPE IN JAVASCRIPT: CONCEPTS

EXECUTION CONTEXT

- 👉 Variable environment
- 👉 Scope chain
- 👉 `this` keyword

SCOPE CONCEPTS

- 👉 **Scoping:** How our program's variables are **organized** and **accessed**. *"Where do variables live?"* or *"Where can we access a certain variable, and where not?"*;
- 👉 **Lexical scoping:** Scoping is controlled by **placement** of functions and blocks in the code;
- 👉 **Scope:** Space or environment in which a certain variable is **declared** (*variable environment in case of functions*). There is **global** scope, **function** scope, and **block** scope;
- 👉 **Scope of a variable:** Region of our code where a certain variable can be **accessed**.

THE 3 TYPES OF SCOPE

GLOBAL SCOPE

```
const me = 'Jonas';
const job = 'teacher';
const year = 1989;
```

- 👉 Outside of **any** function or block
- 👉 Variables declared in global scope are accessible **everywhere**

FUNCTION SCOPE

```
function calcAge(birthYear) {
  const now = 2037;
  const age = now - birthYear;
  return age;
}

console.log(now); // ReferenceError
```

- 👉 Variables are accessible only **inside function**, **NOT** outside
- 👉 Also called local scope

BLOCK SCOPE (ES6)

```
if (year >= 1981 && year <= 1996) {
  const millenial = true;
  const food = 'Avocado toast';
}
```

Example: `if` block, `for` loop block, etc.

```
console.log(millenial); // ReferenceError
```

- 👉 Variables are accessible only **inside block** (block scoped)
- ⚠️ **HOWEVER**, this only applies to **`let`** and **`const`** variables!
- 👉 Functions are **also block scoped** (only in strict mode)

THE SCOPE CHAIN

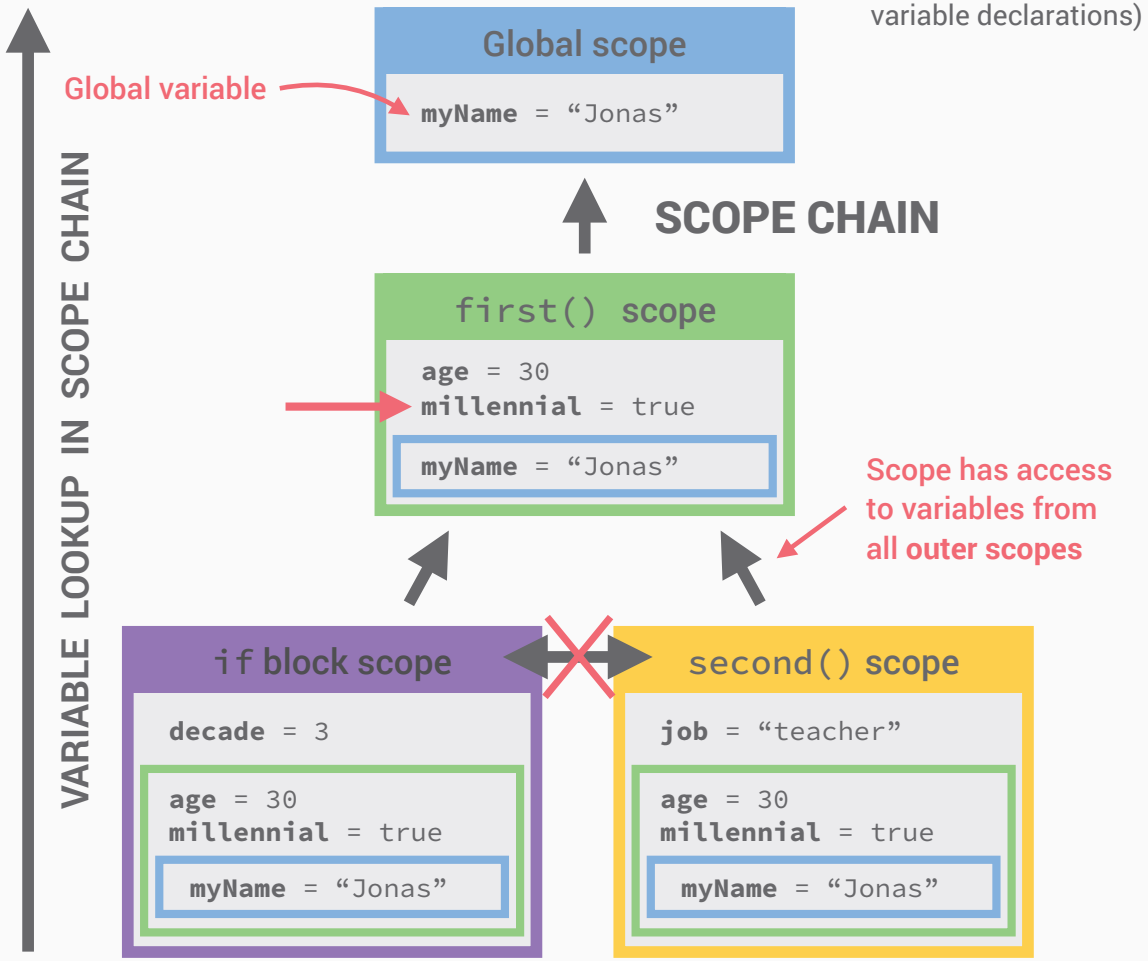
```
const myName = 'Jonas';

function first() {
  const age = 30;

  if (age >= 30) {  // true
    const decade = 3;
    var millenial = true;
  }

  function second() {
    const job = 'teacher';

    console.log(`${myName} is a ${age}-old ${job}`);
    // Jonas is a 30-old teacher
  }

  second();
}

first();
```

let and const are **block-scoped**

var is **function-scoped**

Variables not in current scope

(Considering only variable declarations)

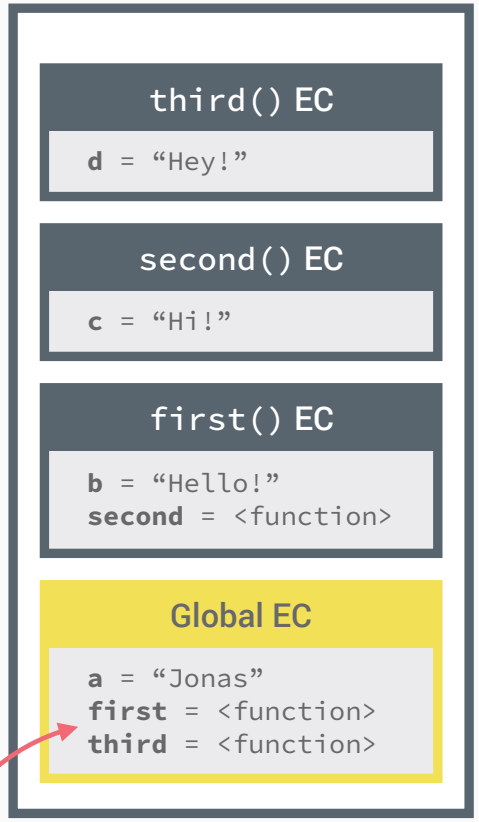


SCOPE CHAIN VS. CALL STACK

```
const a = 'Jonas';
first();

function first() {
  const b = 'Hello!';
  second();

  function second() {
    const c = 'Hi!';
    third();
  }
}

function third() {
  const d = 'Hey!';
  console.log(d + c + b + a);
  // ReferenceError
}
```

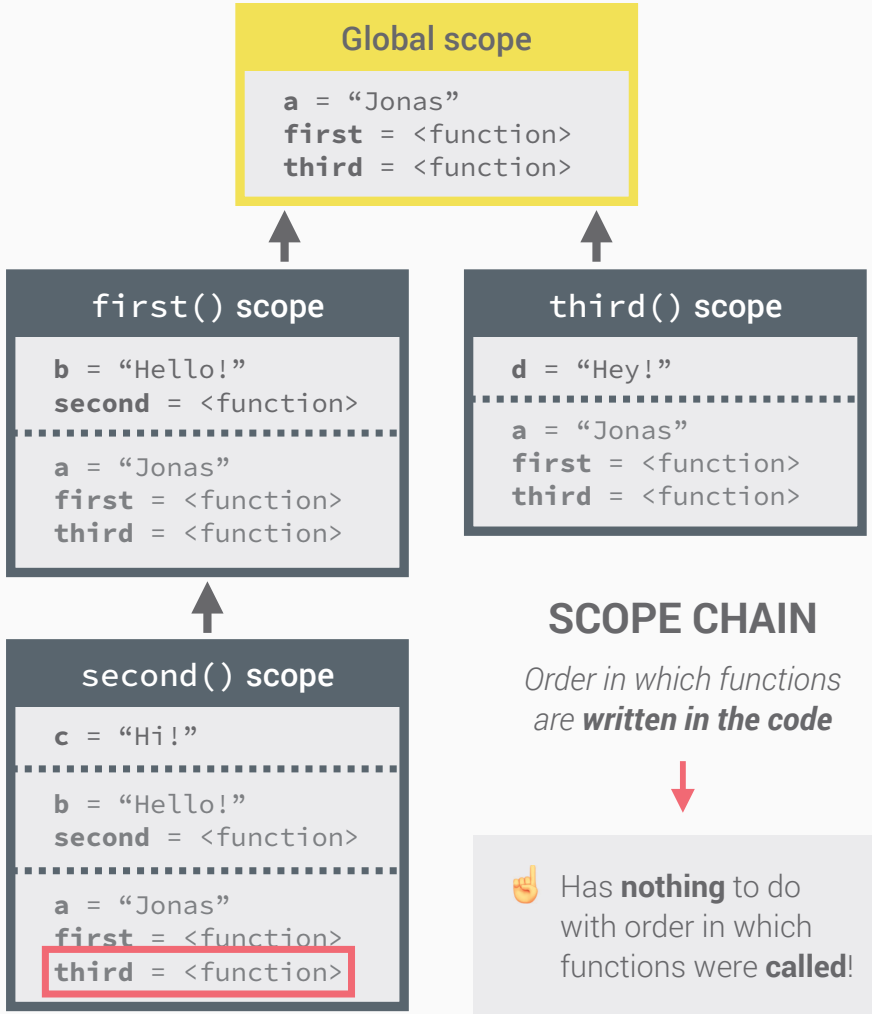
c and b can NOT be found in `third()` scope!

Variable environment (VE)



CALL STACK

*Order in which functions were **called***



SCOPE CHAIN

*Order in which functions are **written in the code***

☝ Has **nothing** to do with order in which functions were **called**!

SUMMARY 🥳

- 👉 Scoping asks the question *“Where do variables live?”* or *“Where can we access a certain variable, and where not?”*;
- 👉 There are 3 types of scope in JavaScript: the global scope, scopes defined by functions, and scopes defined by blocks;
- 👉 Only `let` and `const` variables are block-scoped. Variables declared with `var` end up in the closest function scope;
- 👉 In JavaScript, we have lexical scoping, so the rules of where we can access variables are based on exactly where in the code functions and blocks are written;
- 👉 Every scope always has access to all the variables from all its outer scopes. This is the scope chain!
- 👉 When a variable is not in the current scope, the engine looks up in the scope chain until it finds the variable it’s looking for. This is called variable lookup;
- 👉 The scope chain is a one-way street: a scope will never, ever have access to the variables of an inner scope;
- 👉 The scope chain in a certain scope is equal to adding together all the variable environments of the all parent scopes;
- 👉 The scope chain has nothing to do with the order in which functions were called. It does not affect the scope chain at all!

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VARIABLE ENVIRONMENT: HOISTING AND THE TDZ

JS

HOISTING IN JAVASCRIPT

👉 **Hoisting:** Makes some types of variables accessible/usable in the code before they are actually declared. "Variables lifted to the top of their scope".

BEHIND THE SCENES

Before execution, code is scanned for variable declarations, and for each variable, a new property is created in the **variable environment object**.

EXECUTION CONTEXT

- 👉 Variable environment
- ✅ Scope chain
- 👉 `this` keyword

	HOISTED? 👇	INITIAL VALUE 👇	SCOPE 👇
`function` declarations	✅ YES	Actual function	Block
`var` variables	✅ YES	`undefined`	Function
`let` and `const` variables	🚫 NO	`<uninitialized>`, TDZ	Block
`function` expressions and arrows	🤷‍♂️ Depends if using `var` or `let/const`		

In strict mode. Otherwise: function!

Technically, yes. But not in practice

Temporal Dead Zone

TEMPORAL DEAD ZONE, LET AND CONST

```
const myName = 'Jonas';

if (myName === 'Jonas') {
  console.log(`Jonas is a ${job}`);
  const age = 2037 - 1989;
  console.log(age);
  const job = 'teacher';
  console.log(x);
}
```

TEMPORAL DEAD ZONE FOR **`job`** VARIABLE

- Different kinds of error messages:

```
ReferenceError: Cannot access 'job' before initialization
ReferenceError: x is not defined
```

WHY HOISTING?

- **Using functions before actual declaration;**
- `var` hoisting is just a byproduct.

WHY TDZ?

- **Makes it easier to avoid and catch errors:** accessing variables before declaration is bad practice and should be avoided;
- **Makes `const` variables actually work**