

Dynamic Scope

Lisp uses dynamic scope, in which an identifier's binding is

The meaning of a symbol depends on the run-time context in which it is accessed.

Example: If we write:

and then call p2 by itself:

but if we call p2 in different contexts (p1 vs. p3):

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Caller's AR

return-value

parameters locals

control-link

other caller state

temporaries

(defun p2 () (princ i) (terpri)) (defun p3 () (let ((i 3.0)) (p2))) (defun p1 () (setq i 1) (p2) (p3)) (p2) ;; call p2 by itself ;; call p2 (p1) within p1 within p3 Calvin College Dept of Computer Science

(setq i 0)

Dynamic Scope: What is happening?

Each activation record contains a pointing to the activation record of its caller:

When an identifier *id* is accessed, the system follows this algorithm:

- a. temp = stack pointer;
- b. do (in the AR pointed to by *temp*):
 - 1) found = search temp's parameters/locals for id;
 - 2) if not found: temp = temp->control_link; while *temp* != NULL && not *found*.

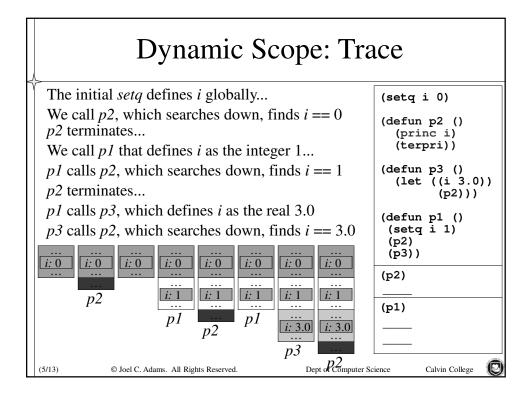
On a non-local access, dynamic scope

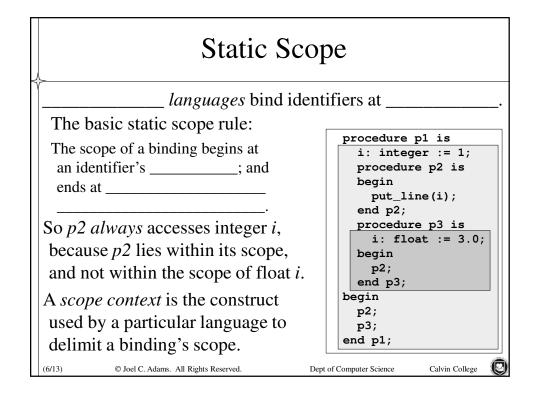
"down" through the run-time stack until a definition of id is found.

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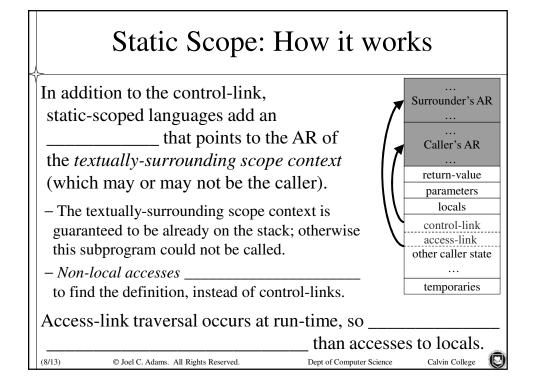
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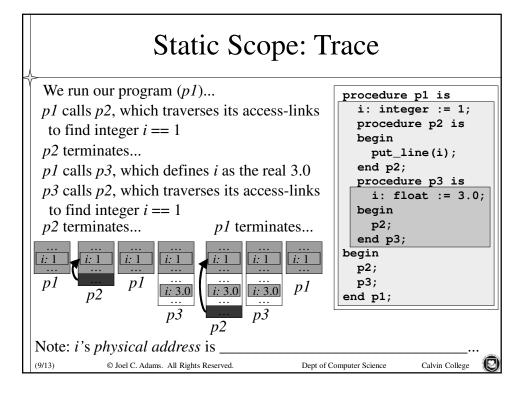






Static Scope: Holes A nested declaration of the same identifier creates a in the scope of the outer binding: procedure pl is - Within p3, references to i access float i, i: integer := 1; not integer i. procedure p2 is - Ada provides a workaround: begin put_line(i); within p3, ____ will access integer i. end p2; procedure p3 is Holes are not limited to Ada... i: float := 3.0; char i = 'J'; begin p2; // char i now // hidden int i = 1; end p3; if (...) begin double i = 3.0;p2; // char, int i both hidden p3; end p1; © Joel C. Adams. All Rights Reserved. Calvin College Dept of Computer Science





Non-local Accesses

Non-locals should be avoided where possible because:

- •Non-local accesses take 2+ times as long as local accesses
 - Traversal of access-links at run-time increases access time.
- Non-local accesses separate the *use* of an identifier from its declaration, _____and maintainability.
- Subprograms that access non-locals are *not self-contained*, reducing their modularity, as they _____ the non-local.
- If a subprogram accesses no non-locals, then it doesn't matter whether the language uses static or dynamic scope
 - Static- and dynamic-scoped languages _

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Non-local Accesses (ii)

Non-local accesses cannot be completely avoided though...

```
class Point {
  public:
    Point(int x, int y) { myX = x; myY = y; }
    int getX() const { return myX; }
    int getY() const { return myY; }
    void print(ostream & out)
        { out << '(' << myX << ',' << myY << ')'; }
    private:
        int myX, myY;
};

int main() {
    Point aPoint(0, 0);
    aPoint.print(cout);
}</pre>
```

#include <iostream> using namespace std;

How many non-local accesses can you find in this example ?

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1	Summary
	Dynamic-scoped languages bind identifiers at - Traversing down the run-time stack.
	Static-scoped languages bind locals at - But binding for non-locals still occurs at run-time via
	Static- and dynamic-scoping behave exactly the same, except when resolving
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