



Local definitions and lexical scope

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Top-Level Definitions

- We have learned three kinds of definitions thus far:
 1. Function definitions e.g.,

```
(define (f x) (+ x 1))
```
 1. Variable (constant) definitions e.g.,

```
(define two (f 1))
```
 1. Structure definitions e.g.,

```
(define-struct cmplx (real imag))
```
- They appear in Dr. Scheme's `Definitions` window and are called *top-level definitions*



Local Expression

- A *local expression* groups together a set of *disjoint* definitions for use in a subcomputation:

(local (def_1 def_2 ... def_n) exp)

- exp is an arbitrary expression
- def_i is a definition in the set
- def_i is only available for use within the local expression i.e., within def_1 def_2 ... def_n and exp



Simple Examples

`(define x 3) ; ; top-level definition`

`(local ((define x 3)) (+ x 1)) ; ; local expression`

`(define (f x) (+ x 1)) ; ; top-level definition`

`(local ((define x 3) ; ; local definition
 (define (f x) (+ x 1)) ; ; local definition
 (f x)) ; ; body`

`(+ (local ((define x 3) (define (f x) (+ x 1))) (f x)) 1)
; ; local-expression as part of another expression`



Some Incorrect Examples

- What's wrong with following expressions?
 - `(local ((define x 1)))`
 - `(local ((define x 1)
 (define x 2))
 x)`
 - `(local ((define x 1)
 (define f (+ x 1)))
 (f x))`



Why local?

Reason 1: Avoid namespace pollution

```
;; sort: list-of-numbers -> list-of-number
(define (sort alon)
  (cond
    [(empty? alon) empty]
    [(cons? alon) (insert (first alon) (sort (rest alon)))]))

;; insert: number list-of-numbers (sorted) -> list-of number
;; auxiliary function for sort
(define (insert an alon)
  (cond
    [(empty? alon) (list an)]
    [else (cond [(> an (first alon)) (cons an alon)]
                [else (cons (first alon)
                             (insert an (rest alon)))]))]))
```



Why local?

- Reason 1: Avoid namespace pollution (contd)

```
;; sort: list-of-numbers -> list-of-numbers  
(define (sort alon)
```

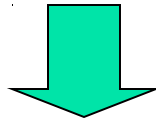
```
(local  
  ( ;; insert: number list-of-numbers (sorted) -> list-of numbers  
    (define (insert an alon)  
      (cond  
        [(empty? alon) (list an)]  
        [else (cond  
                  [(> an (first alon)) (cons an alon)]  
                  [else (cons (first alon)  
                               (insert an (rest alon)))]))])))  
(cond  
  [(empty? alon) empty]  
  [(cons? alon) (insert (first alon) (sort (rest alon)))]))
```



Why local?

Reason 1: Avoid namespace pollution

```
(define (mainFun x) exp)
(define (auxFun1 ...) exp1)
(define (auxFun2 ...) exp2)
```



```
(define (mainFun x)
  (local ((define (mainFun x) exp)
          (define (auxFun1 ...) exp1)
          (define (auxFun2 ...) exp2)))
  (mainFun x)))
```




Why local?

- Reason 2: Avoid repeated computation

```
;; last-occurrence: number list-of-posn -> number or false  
;; (last-occurrence x lop) returns y such that (make-posn x y)  
;; is the last posn p in lop with (posn-x p) = x;  
;; returns "false" if no such posn is found.
```

```
(define (last-occurrence x lop)  
  (cond  
    [(empty? lop) ...]  
    [else ... (first lop)  
              ... (last-occurrence x (rest lop)) ...]))
```



Why local?

- Reason 2: Avoid repeated computation

```
(define (last-occurrence x lop)
```

```
  (cond
```

```
    [(empty? lop) false]
```

```
    [else
```

```
      (cond
```

```
        [(number? (last-occurrence x (rest lop)))
```

```
          (last-occurrence x (rest lop))]
```

```
          [(equal? (posn-x (first lop)) x) (posn-y (first lop))]
```

```
          [else false]]))
```



Why local?

- Reason 2: Avoid repeated computation

```
(define (last-occurrence x lop)
  (cond
    [(empty? lop) false]
    [else
     (cond
       [(number? (last-occurrence x (rest lop)))
        (last-occurrence x (rest lop))]
       [(equal? (posn-x (first lop)) x) (posn-y (first lop))]
       [else false]))]))
```



repeated work



Why local?

- Reason 2: Avoid repeated computation

```
(define (last-occurrence x lop)
  (cond
    [(empty? lop) false]
    [else (local ((define y (last-occurrence x (rest lop))))
              (cond
                [(number? y) y]
                [(equal? (posn-x (first lop)) x) (posn-y (first lop))]
                [else false]))]))
```



Why local?

- Reason 3: Naming complicated expressions

```
;; mult10 : list-of-digits -> list-of-numbers
```

```
;; creates a list of numbers by multiplying each digit in alod
```

```
;; by (expt 10 p) where p is the number of digits that follow
```

```
;; This is bad code used only as an example. Good code
```

```
;; requires refactoring techniques we haven't learned yet.
```

```
(define (mult10 alod)
```

```
  (cond
```

```
    [(empty? alod) empty]
```

```
    [else (cons (* (expt 10 (length (rest alod))) (first alod))
```

```
                (mult10 (rest alod))))))
```



Why local?

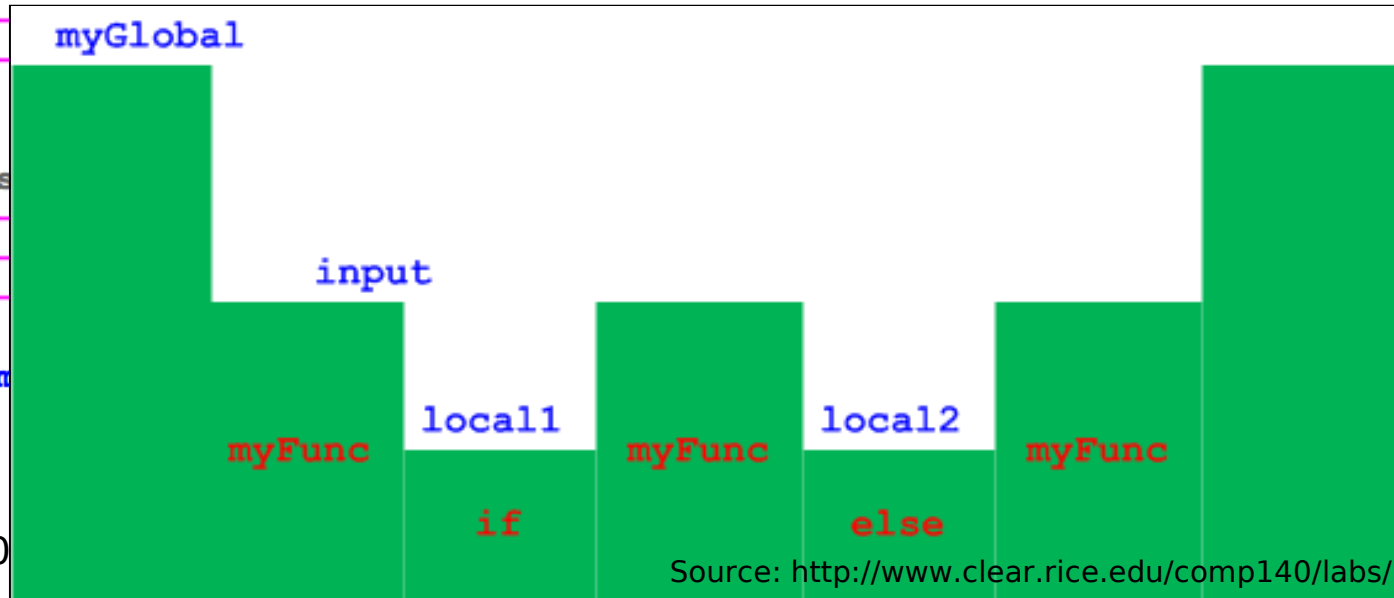
- Reason 3: Naming complicated expressions
 - ;; mult10 : list-of-digits -> list-of-numbers
 - ;; creates a list of numbers by multiplying each digit on alod
 - ;; by (expt 10 p) where p is the number of digits that follow
- ```
(define (mult10 alod)
 (cond
 [(empty? alod) 0]
 [else (local ((define a-digit (first alod))
 (define the-rest (rest alod))
 (define p (length the-rest)))
 (cons (* (expt 10 p) a-digit) (mult10 the-rest)))]))
```

# Recap of Variable Scopes from COMP 140

```
myGlobal = 42
```

```
def myFunc(input):
 print "myFunc: input = ", input
 print "myFunc: myGlobal = ", myGlobal # global variable visible here
 # neither local1 nor local2 are accessible here.
 if input > 0:
 local1 = 100
 # cannot access local2 from here.
 print "myFunc-if: local1 = ", local1
 print "myFunc-
 print "myFunc-
 else:
 local2 = -100
 # cannot acces
 print "myFunc-
 print "myFunc-
 print "myFunc-

print "myGlobal = ", m
myFunc(5)
myFunc(-5)
```





# Variables and Scope in Scheme

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- Example:
  - `(local ((define answer1 42)`  
          `(define (f2 x3) (+ 1 x4)))`  
          `(f5 answer6))`
- Variable occurrences: **1-6**
  - Binding (or defining) occurrences: **1,2,3**
  - Use occurrences: **4,5,6**
  - Scope = code region where a definition may be used
- Scopes of definitions
  - 1:?
  - 2:?
  - 3:?





# Variables and Scope

---

- What will g evaluate to?  
(define x 0)  
(define f x)  
(define g (local ((define x 1)) f))



# Renaming

---

- Recall:
  - `(local ((define answer1 42)`  
    `(define (f2 x3) (+ 1 x4)))`  
    `(f5 answer6))`
  - Which variables can be renamed within the local expression?
  - Use the same name for “binding occurrence” and all its “use occurrences”
    - `(local ((define answer 42)`  
    `(define (f x) (+ 1 x)))`  
    `(f answer)`
  - What name choices can be used? Any name that does not clash with variable names already visible in same scope. A “fresh” variable name.



# Renaming

---

- Recall:
  - `(local ((define answer1 42)`  
`(define (f2 x3) (+ 1 x4)))`  
`(f5 answer6))`
- Which variables can be renamed?
- Use the same new name for “binding occurrence” and “use occurrences”
  - `(local ((define answer' 42)`  
`(define (f x) (+ 1 x)))`  
`(f answer'))`



# Renaming

---

- Recall:
  - `(local ((define answer1 42)`  
    `(define (f2 x3) (+ 1 x4)))`  
    `(f5 answer6))`
- Which variables can be renamed?
- Use the same name for “binding occurrence” and “use occurrence”
  - `(local ((define answer 42)`  
    `(define (f' x) (+ 1 x)))`  
    `(f' answer))`



# Renaming

---

- Recall:
  - `(local ((define answer1 42)`  
`(define (f2 x3) (+ 1 x4)))`  
`(f5 answer6))`
- Which variables can be renamed?
- Use the same name for “binding occurrence” and “use occurrence”
  - `(local ((define answer 42)`  
`(define (f x') (+ 1 x')))`  
`(f answer))`



# Hand Evaluation of Local Expressions

---

- How do we (hand) evaluate Scheme programs with **local**?
- By lifting local definitions to the top level and renaming all of the variables that they introduce with *fresh* names to avoid any collisions with variables already defined at the top level.
- To express these laws we need a new format for expressing rules. Why? Because promoting **local** constructs revises the set of definitions that constitute the *environment* in which evaluation takes place.



# Hand Evaluation Example

---

(define x 2)

;; top-level definition

;; local-expression as part of another expression

(+ (local ((define x 3) (define (f x) (+ x 1)))) (f x)) 1)

=> ???



# When naming can cause problems

---

Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou  
Romeo?

. . .

What's in a name? That which we call a  
rose  
By any other name would smell as  
sweet.

*Romeo and Juliet (II, ii)*