



## CS61A Lecture 18

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## Non-Local Assignment



```
def make_withdraw(balance):
    """Return a withdraw function with a starting balance."""
    def withdraw(amount):
        nonlocal balance
        if amount > balance:
            return 'Insufficient funds'
        balance = balance - amount
        return balance
    return withdraw
```

Declare the name "balance" nonlocal

Re-bind balance where it was bound previously

## Announcements

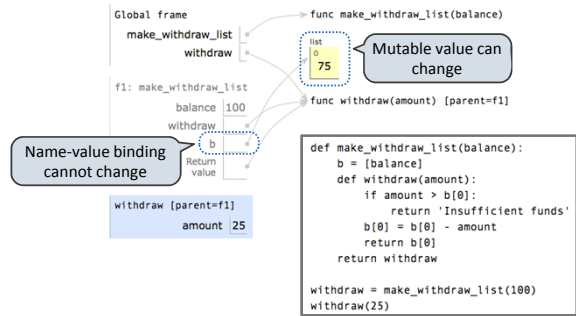


- HW6 due on Thursday
- Trends project due tomorrow
- Ants project out

## Mutable Values and Persistent State



Mutable values can be changed without a nonlocal statement.

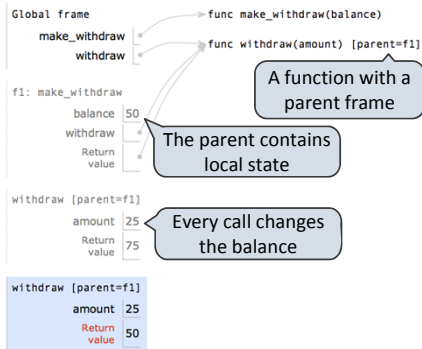


Name-value binding cannot change

Mutable value can change

Example: <http://goo.gl/cEpmz>

## Persistent Local State



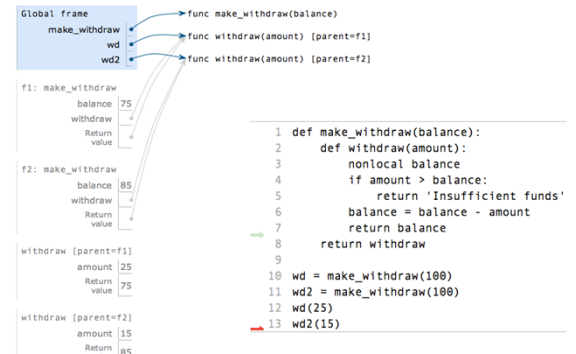
A function with a parent frame

The parent contains local state

Every call changes the balance

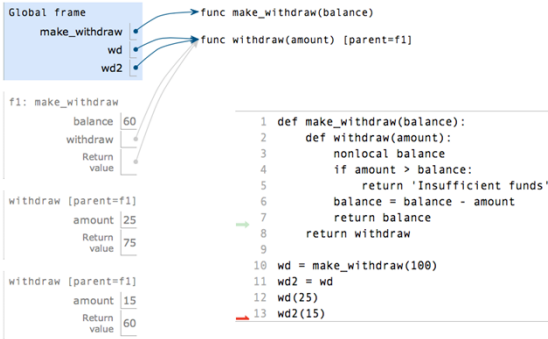
Example: <http://goo.gl/SLZ6F>

## Creating Two Withdraw Functions



Example: <http://goo.gl/gITvB>

## Multiple References to a Withdraw Function



Example: <http://goo.gl/X2qG9>

## A Mutable Container



```
def container(contents):
    """Return a container that is manipulated by two
    functions.

    >>> get, put = container('hello')
    >>> get()
    'hello'
    >>> put('world')
    >>> get()
    'world'
    """
    def get():
        return contents
    def put(value):
        nonlocal contents
        contents = value
    return put, get
```

## The Benefits of Non-Local Assignment



- Ability to maintain some state that is local to a function, but evolves over successive calls to that function.
- The binding for `balance` in the first non-local frame of the environment associated with an instance of `withdraw` is inaccessible to the rest of the program.
- An abstraction of a bank account that manages its own internal state.

Weasley Account
\$10

Potter Account
\$1,000,000

## Dispatch Functions



A technique for packing multiple behaviors into one function

```
def pair(x, y):
    """Return a function that behaves like a pair."""
    def dispatch(m):
        if m == 0:
            return x
        elif m == 1:
            return y
        return dispatch
    return dispatch
```

Message argument can be anything, but strings are most common

The body of a dispatch function is always the same:

- One conditional statement with several clauses
- Headers perform equality tests on the message

## Referential Transparency



Expressions are referentially transparent if substituting an expression with its value does not change the meaning of a program.



```
mul(add(2, mul(4, 6)), 3)
mul(add(2, 24), 3)
mul(26, 3)
```



Mutation is a *side effect* (like printing)

Side effects violate the condition of referential transparency because they do more than just return a value; they change the state of the computer.

## Message Passing



An approach to organizing the relationship among different pieces of a program

Different objects pass messages to each other

- What is your fourth element?
- Change your third element to this new value. (please?)

Encapsulates the behavior of all operations on a piece of data

Important historical role:  
The message passing approach strongly influenced object-oriented programming (next lecture)



## Mutable Container with Message Passing



```
def container_dispatch(contents):      def container(contents):
    def dispatch(message,            def get():
        value=None):
        nonlocal contents
    if message == 'get':              return contents
        return contents
    if message == 'put':              def put(value):
        contents = value                nonlocal contents
                                        contents = value
                                        return put, get
    return dispatch
```



## Mutable Recursive Lists



```
def mutable_rlist():
    contents = empty_rlist
    def dispatch(message, value=None):
        nonlocal contents
        if message == 'len':
            return len_rlist(contents)
        elif message == 'getitem':
            return getitem_rlist(contents, value)
        elif message == 'push':
            contents = make_rlist(value, contents)
        elif message == 'pop':
            item = first(contents)
            contents = rest(contents)
            return item
        elif message == 'str':
            return str_rlist(contents)
    return dispatch
```