

Where to Store Variables?

Static Allocation

Variables created at compile-time
Size and address known at compile-time

Stack Allocation

Variables placed in activation records on a stack
Variables are created / destroyed in LIFO order

Heap Allocation

Size and address determined at run-time
Creation / destruction of data occurs in any order

Static Allocation

Early Languages (FORTRAN)

Each variable is placed in memory (“static allocation”)

Fortran had routines, but...

- No stack
- Recursion was not possible

Values of a routine’s variables are retained across invocations

Initialization vs. re-initialization

Each variable’s size must be known at compile-time

Dynamic arrays?

Stack Allocation

Each variable is “local” to some routine

Invoke a routine?

Allocate storage for its variables
(and initialize it?)

Return?

Pop frame
(Variables are destroyed)

Consider one routine (e.g., “quicksort”)

Many activations, many frames

⇒ Many copies of each local variable

Local variables:

Each invocation has its own set of variables

The “currently active” invocation

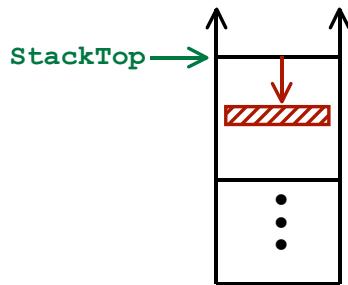
Its variables will be in the frame on top of stack.

Every reference to a local variable...

will access data in the top frame

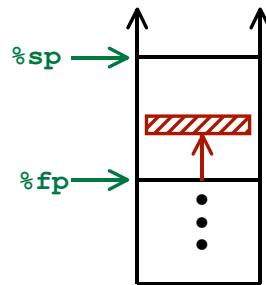
References to a local variable in the currently active routine...

General Idea



$*(\text{StackTop} + \text{offset}_x)$

In the SPARC



ld [%fp-48], %15

Laying Out the Frame

Each local (and temp) variable has a size

- “C” int: 4 bytes,
- double: 8 bytes,

Each local and temp variable needs an “**offset**”

```
for each procedure (or block) do
  offset = 0;
  for each local and temp variable do
    assign this variable to current offset
    offset = offset + this variable's length
  endFor
endFor
```

Laying Out the Frame

Each local (and temp) variable has a size

- “C” int: 4 bytes,
- double: 8 bytes,
- “PCAT” all variables: 4 bytes

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May start at some other value (-4)
*We'll use
-4*

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  offset = 0;
  for each local and temp variable do
    assign this variable to current offset
    offset = offset + this variable's length
  endFor
endFor
```

*We'll use
-4*

We'll treat “main” body as just another routine.

It will have a frame

Global variables

Treat identically to local variables for procedures!

Example

Variable	Size	Offset
w	4	0
x	8	4
y	4	12
z	1	16
a	8	17
b	1	25
c	8	26
	34	34

Ignoring alignment issues

Example

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Offset</u>	<u>Offset with Alignment</u>
w	4	0	0
x	8	4	8
y	4	12	16
z	1	16	20
a	8	17	24
b	1	25	32
c	8	26	40
	<u>34</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>48</u>

Example

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Offset</u>	<u>Offset with Alignment</u>
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c	8	26	40
	<u>34</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>48</u>

Re-order!

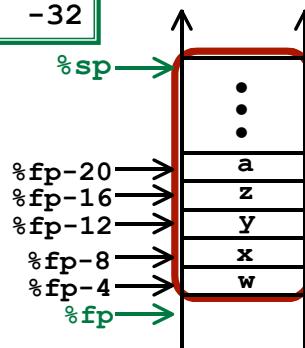
Place variables with
most restrictive alignment
first.

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Offset</u>
x	8	0
a	8	8
c	8	16
w	4	24
y	4	28
z	1	32
b	1	33
	<u>34</u>	<u>34</u>

PCAT Example

Initial offset: -4
Increment: -4

Variable	Size	Offset
w	4	-4
x	4	-8
y	4	-12
z	4	-16
a	4	-20
b	4	-24
c	4	-28
	28	-32



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The Stack of Activation Records*An Abstract View...*

STACK TOP

*One activation record
("Stack frame")*

Temp data fields

Local data fields

Machine Status

Static link
("access link")Dynamic link
("control link")

Return address

Returned value
(optional)Arguments
("actuals")

...

*To access a local
or temp variable...
(stacktop + offset)

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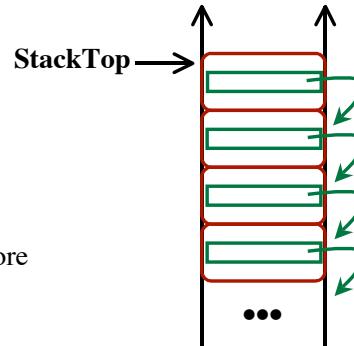
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The Dynamic Link

When we return, we need to be able to go back to previous frame.

During a call:

- Save old StackTop
- Increment StackTop
(Allocate new frame)
- Store old StackTop
in Dynamic Link field



During a return:

- Use the Dynamic Link to restore
the old StackTop

To access local variables:

$[\text{StackTop} + \text{offset}_x]$

To access variables in our caller's frame:

$[[\text{StackTop} + \text{offset}_{\text{DynamicLink}}] + \text{offset}_x]$

What do we need from the caller's frame?

- Arguments?
- Place to store a returned result?

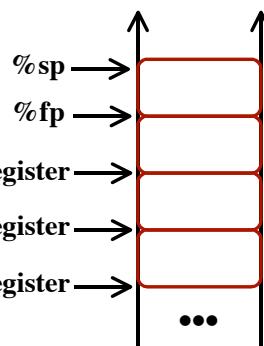
The Static Link
used to access
non-local variables
(to be discussed later)

SPARC

Much of the Activation Record is cached in registers!!!

Dynamic Link

Stored in registers (%sp, %fp)



Return Address

Stored in registers (%i7, %o7)

Arguments

Some in registers %i0 ... %i5
Rest in caller's frame



Returned Value

32-bits: in register (%i0, %o0)

Machine Status

64 bytes

Architecture dependent & often not needed

The “Calling Sequence”

- Compute argument values
- Allocate new frame
- Initialize it
 - Move arguments into the new frame (optional)
 - Save machine state (optional)
 - Save return address
- Transfer control to new routine

The “Return Sequence”

- Compute and move return value (optional)
- Pop stack / delete the top frame
- Resume execution in the caller’s code

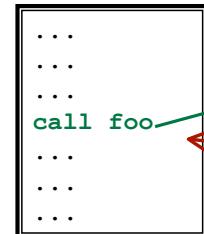
Flexibility as to who...

- *caller*
- *callee*

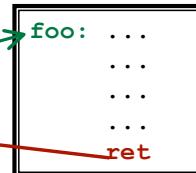
...does what...

- *calling sequence*
- *return sequence*

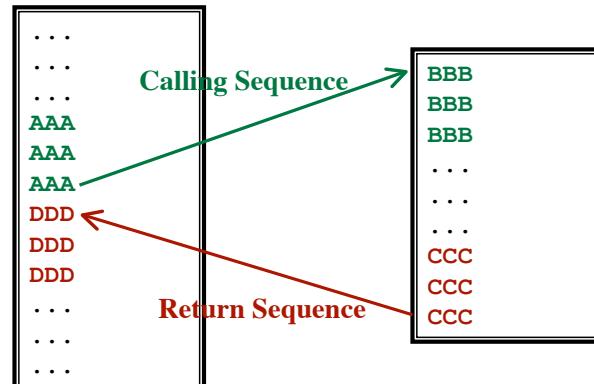
Caller’s Code:



Callee’s Code:



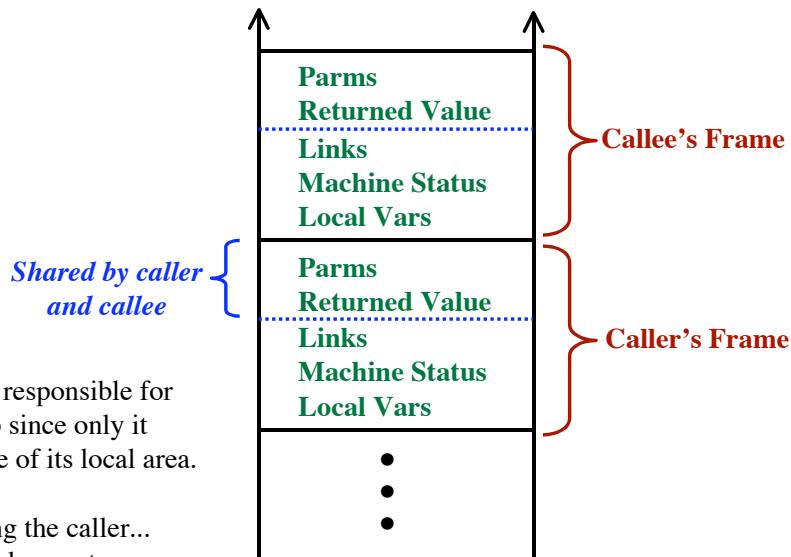
Calling Sequence



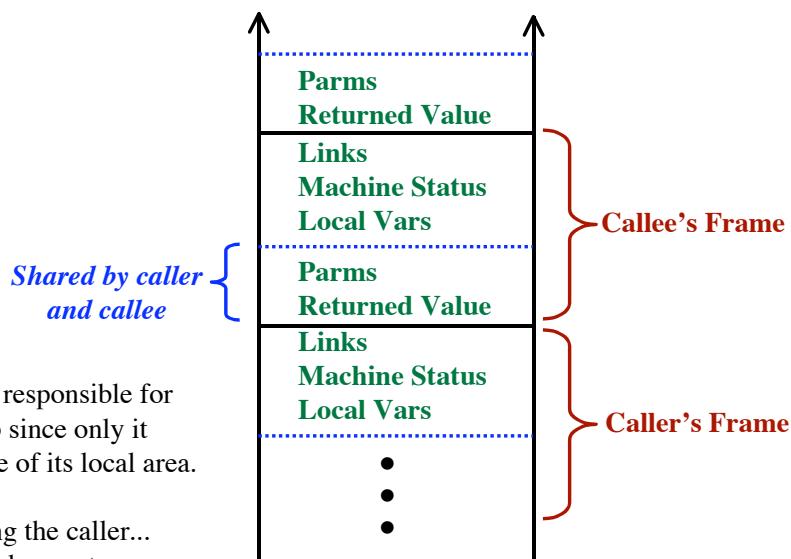
BBB
BBB
BBB
...

Return Sequence

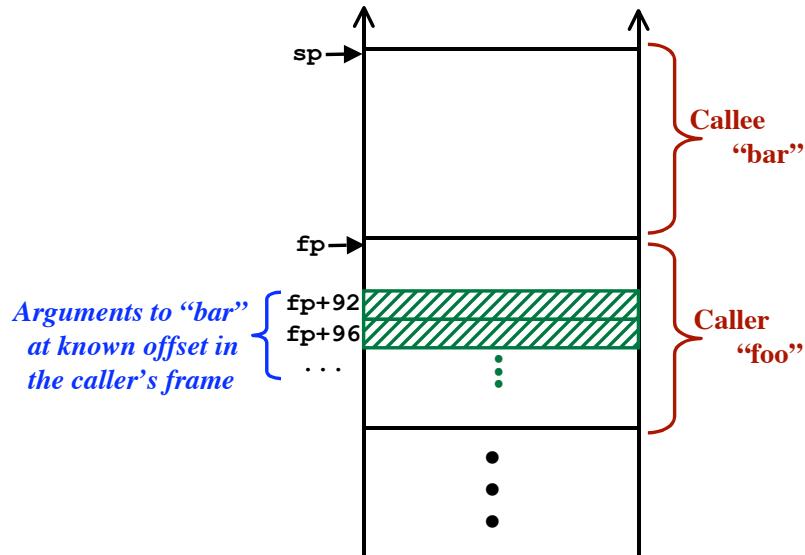
Where do you draw the line between the caller's frame and the callee's frame?



Where do you draw the line between the caller's frame and the callee's frame?



Parameter Passing in SPARC



Using a Stack for Expression Evaluation

Source Code:

```
x := y + (2 * z);
```

Target Code:

```
push y
push 2
push z
mult
add
pop x
```

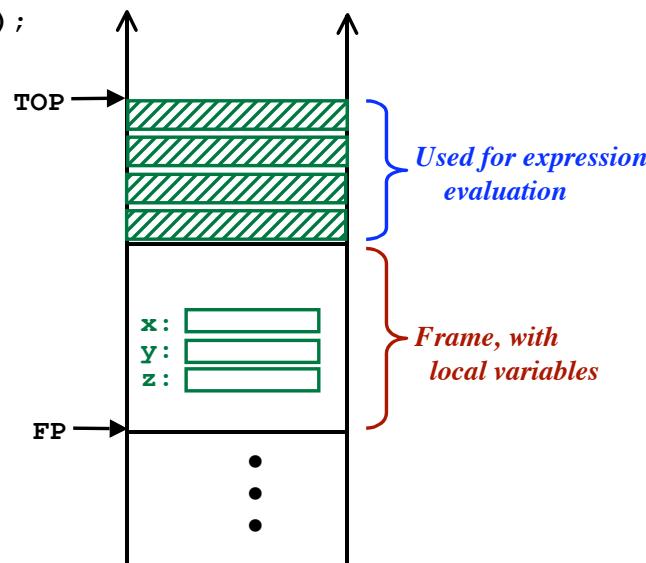
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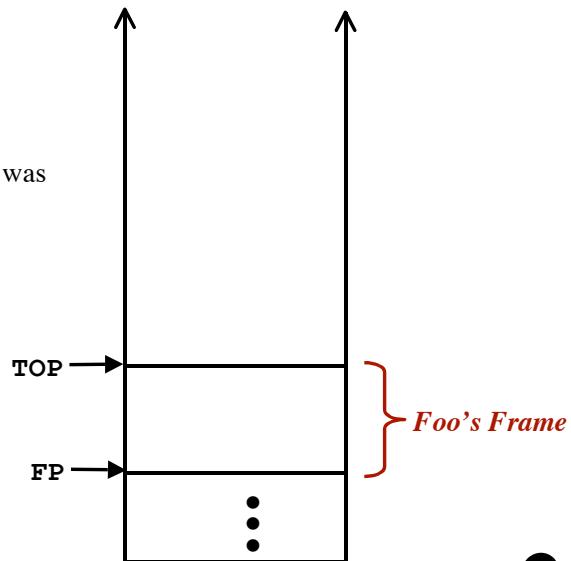
Using a Stack for Argument Evaluation and Parameter Passing

Calling Sequence:

- Push args onto the stack
- Save FP
- FP = TOP
- TOP = TOP + FrameSize

Return Sequence:

- Move return value to where arg 1 was
- Restore TOP, FP
- Pop stack top into...



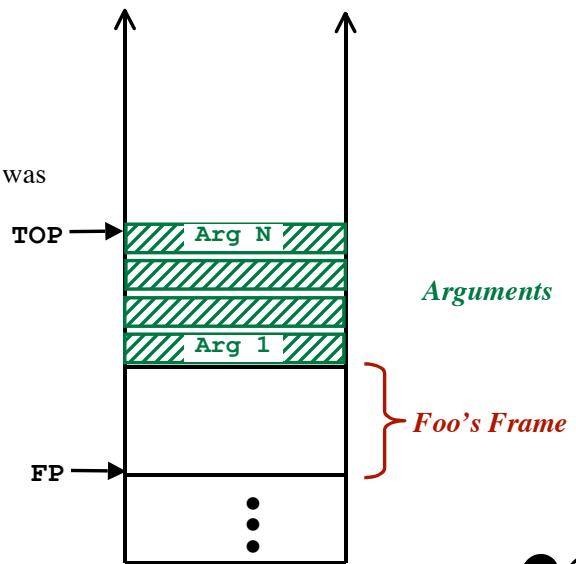
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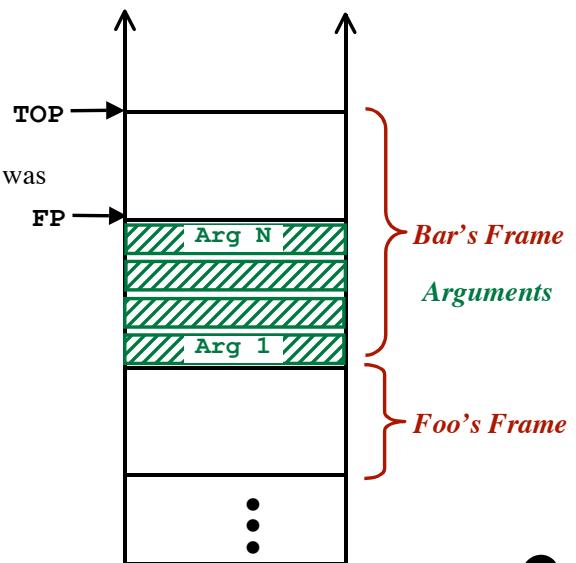
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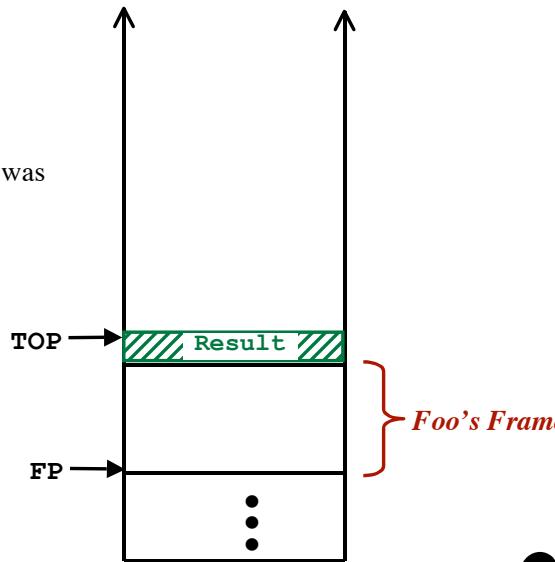
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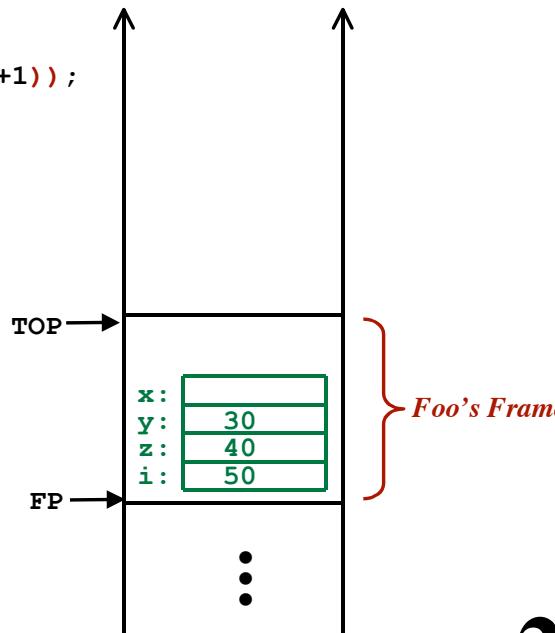
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Source Code:

```
x := y + 2 * (bar(7, i+1));
```

Target Code:

```
→ push y
  push 2
  push 7
  push i
  push 1
  add
  call bar
  mult
  add
  pop x
```



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Using a Stack for Argument Evaluation and Parameter Passing

Source Code:

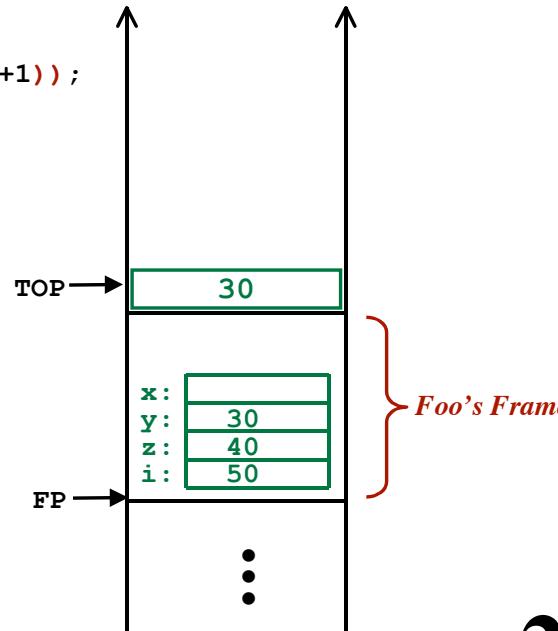
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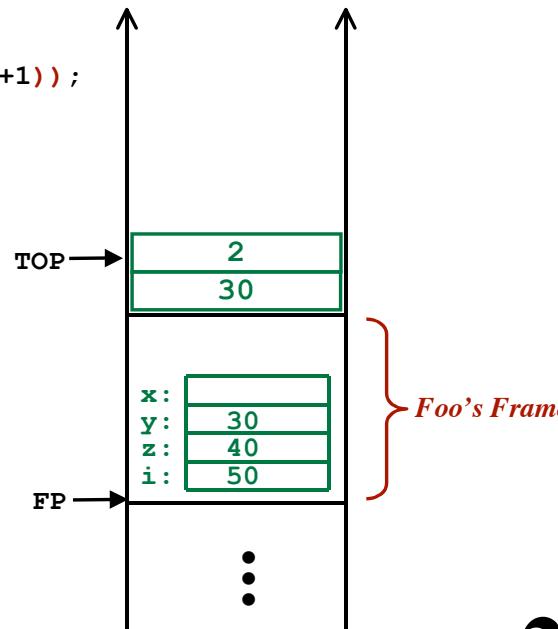
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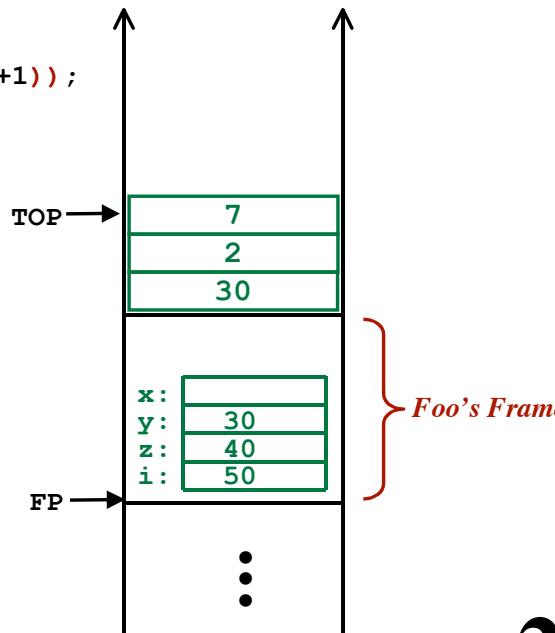
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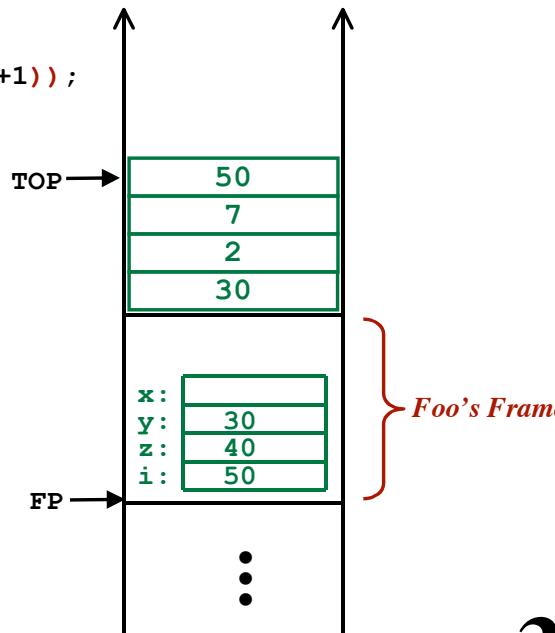
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Using a Stack for Argument Evaluation and Parameter Passing

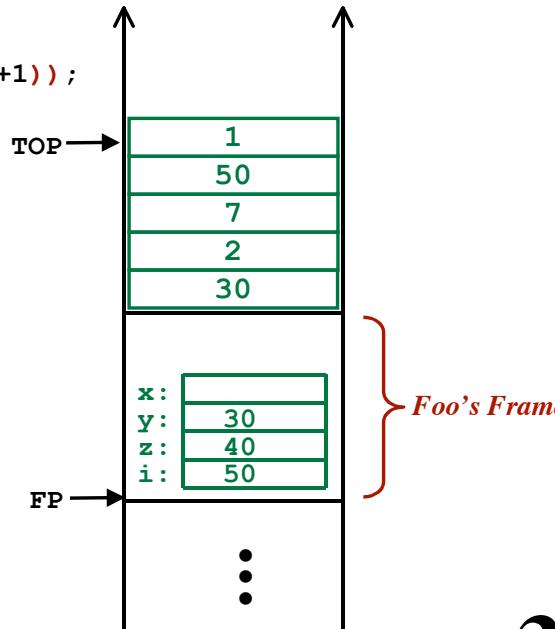
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Using a Stack for Argument Evaluation and Parameter Passing

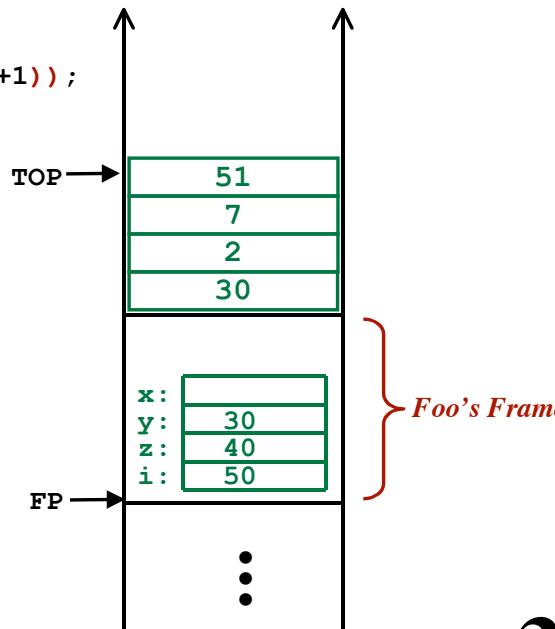
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Source Code:

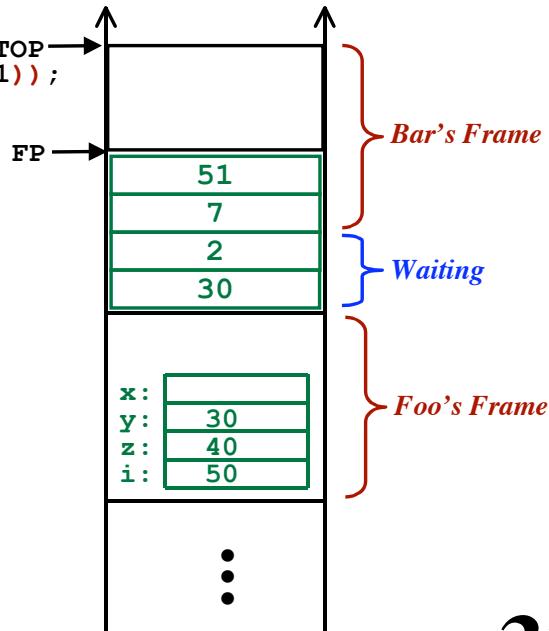
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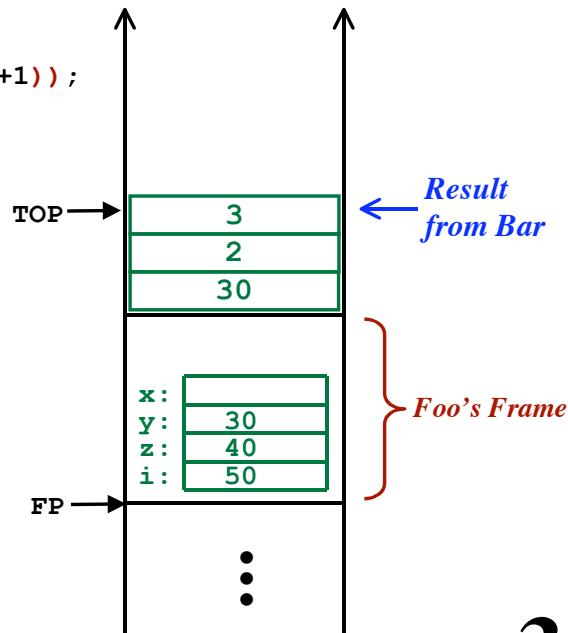
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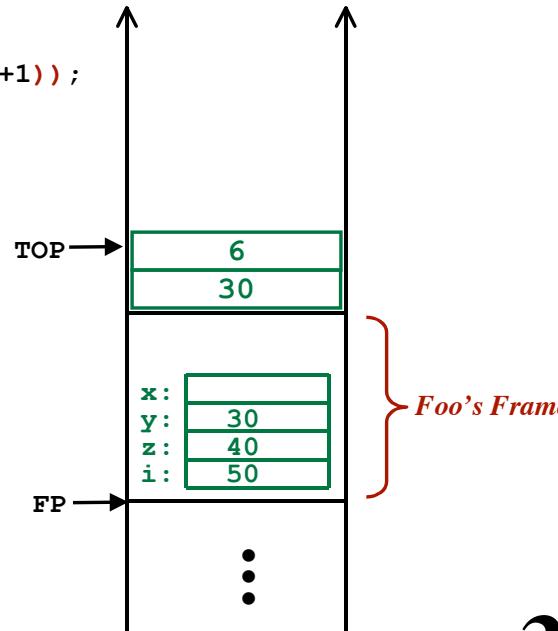
Target Code:

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→



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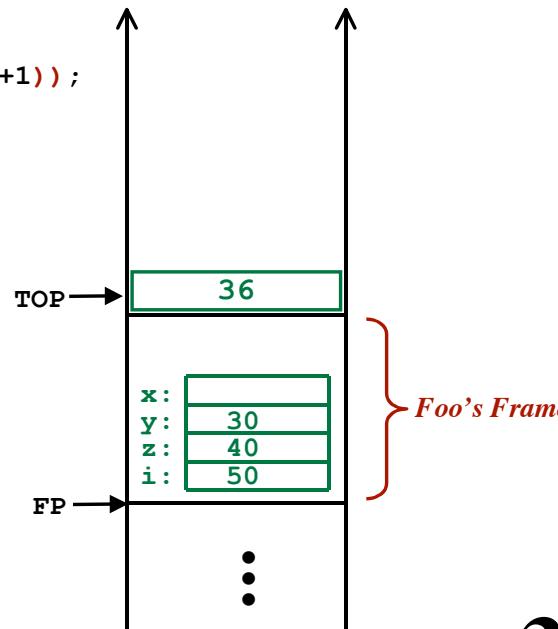
Target Code:

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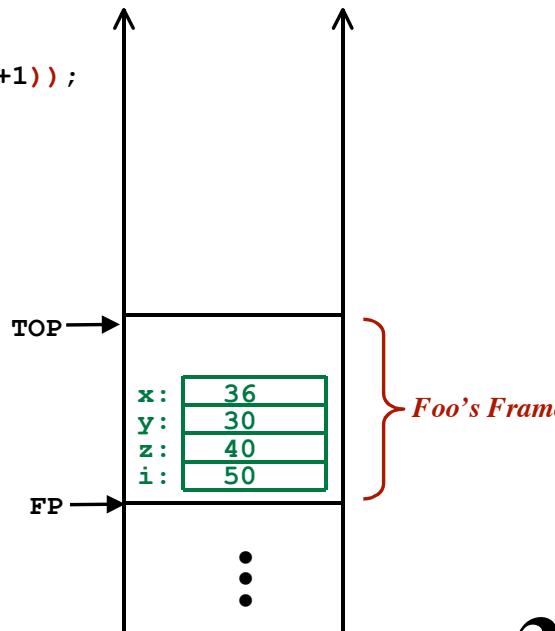
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Variable-Length Local Variables

Goal:

Allow a routine to have variable-length data
(i.e., dynamically-sized arrays) as local data in frame

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Variable-Length Local Variables

Goal:

Allow a routine to have variable-length data
 (i.e., dynamically-sized arrays) as local data in frame

Option 1:

Allocate the variable on the heap
 Work with pointers to the data
 PCAT: Hide the pointers from the programmer
 Programmer codes:
 $a[i]$
 Compiler produces code like this:
 $*(a + 4*i)$
 Auto free the data when the routine returns?

Variable-Length Local Variables

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Allow a routine to have variable-length data
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 Work with pointers to the data
 PCAT: Hide the pointers from the programmer
 Programmer codes:
 $a[i]$
 Compiler produces code like this:
 $*(a + 4*i)$
 Auto free the data when the routine returns?

Option 2:

Create the variable on the stack, dynamically
 Effectively: Enlarge the frame as necessary
 Still need to work with pointers

Variable-Length Local Variables

We must have two pointers:

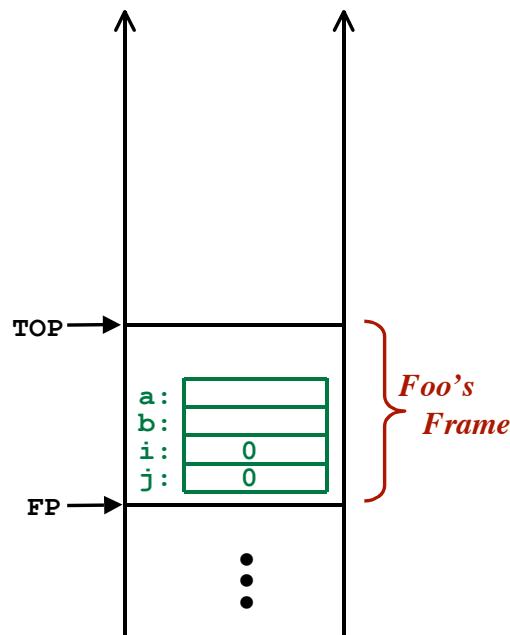
Stack Top

FP

Local Variables
at fixed offsets from FP

Dynamically sized variables
use hidden pointers

All references to "a" and "b"
will be indirect
through hidden pointers



Variable-Length Local Variables

We must have two pointers:

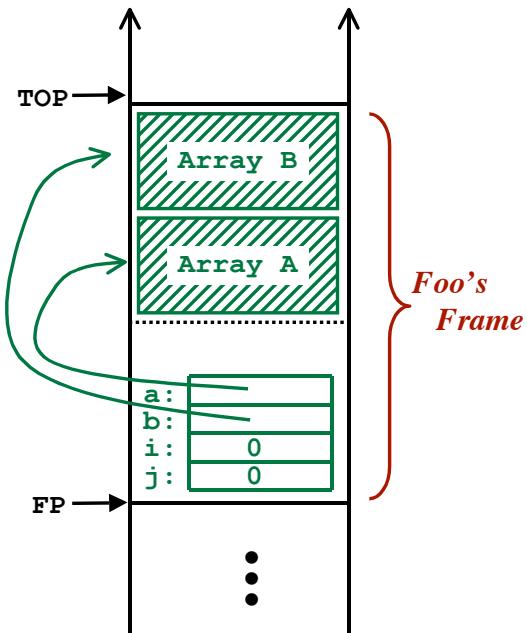
Stack Top

FP

Local Variables
at fixed offsets from FP

Dynamically sized variables
use hidden pointers

All references to "a" and "b"
will be indirect
through hidden pointers



Local / Non-Local Variables

```

procedure main() {
    int y;
    procedure foo1() {
        int x;
        procedure foo2() {
            ...x...
            call foo3();
            ...y...
        }
        procedure foo3() {
            int x;

            ...x...
            call foo1 / call foo2
        }
        call foo1 / call foo2
        ...x...
    }
    call foo1
    ...y...
}

```

Local / Non-Local Variables

```

procedure main() {          0
    int y;
    procedure foo1() {        1
        int x1;
        procedure foo2() {      2
            ...x...
            call foo3();
            ...y...
        }
        procedure foo3() {      2
            int x3;

            ...x...
            call foo1 / call foo2
        }
        call foo1 / call foo2
        ...x...
    }
    call foo1
    ...y...
}

```

Local / Non-Local Variables

```

procedure main() { 0
    int y;
    procedure foo1() { 1
        int x1;
        procedure foo2() { 2
            ...x...
            Non-Local (1 level)
            call foo3();
            ...
            Non-Local (2 levels)
        }
        procedure foo3() { 2
            int x3;
            Local (0 levels)
            ...
            call foo1 / call foo2
        }
        call foo1 / call foo2
        ...
    }
    call foo1
    ...
}

```

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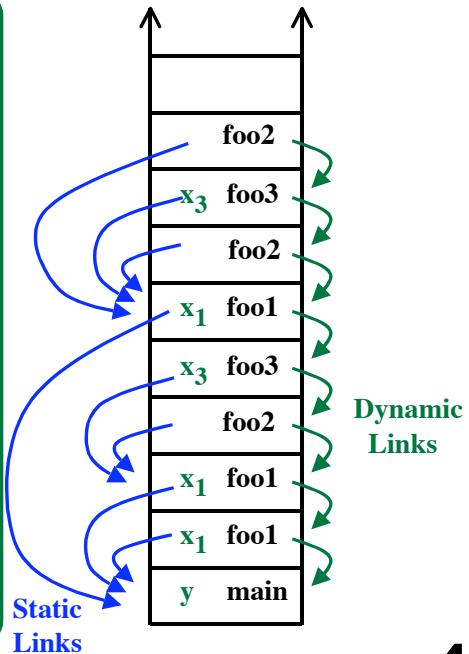
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Local / Non-Local Variables

```

procedure main() { 0
    int y;
    procedure foo1() { 1
        int x1;
        procedure foo2() { 2
            ...x...
            Non-Local (1 level)
            call foo3();
            ...
            Non-Local (2 levels)
        }
        procedure foo3() { 2
            int x3;
            Local (0 levels)
            ...
            call foo1 / call foo2
        }
        call foo1 / call foo2
        ...
    }
    call foo1
    ...
}

```



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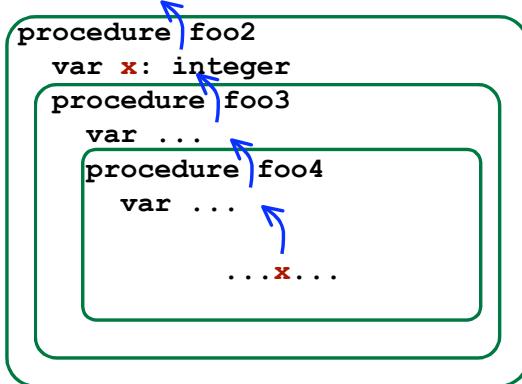
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Static Scoping Rules

“Lexical Scoping”

For non-local variables...

- Look in syntactically enclosing routine
- Look in next enclosing routine
- ...etc...



Dynamic Scoping Rules

For non-local variables...

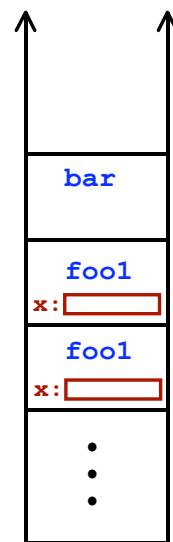
- Search the calling stack at runtime
to locate the right variable.

Uncommon.

```

procedure bar ()
begin
  ...x...
end
procedure fool ()
var x: integer
begin
  ...call bar()...
end
procedure foo2 ()
var x: integer
begin
  ...call bar()...
end

```



Syntax:

```
begin ... end;  
{ ... }
```

Statement Blocks

```
procedure foo () is  
  var x,y: ...;  
  ...  
  begin  
    var temp: ...;  
    temp := x;  
    x := y;  
    y := temp;  
  end;  
  ...  
  begin  
    var y,z: ...;  
    ...  
    begin  
      ...  
    end;  
    ...  
  end;  
  ...  
endProcedure;
```

Statement Blocks

Blocks are entered and exited in nested order.

Idea:

Create a new frame for each block.

Push on stack.

Statement Blocks

Blocks are entered and exited in nested order.

Idea:

Create a new frame for each block.

Push on stack.

But:

No parameters

No recursion

All calls are inline

⇒ Overhead!

So:

Just put variables in frame of surrounding routine!

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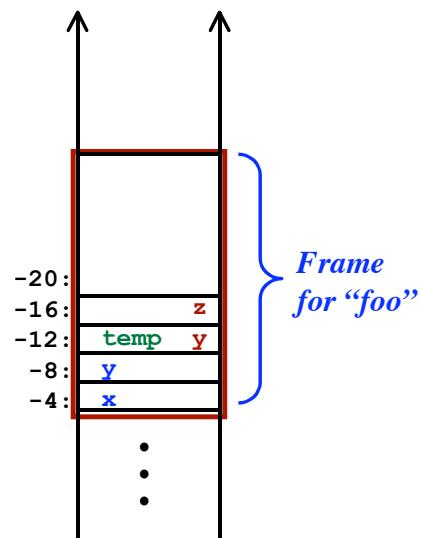
Statement Blocks

Syntax:
`begin ... end;`
`{ ... }`

```

procedure foo () is
    var x,y: ...;
    ...
    begin
        var temp: ...;
        temp := x;
        x := y;
        y := temp;
    end;
    ...
    begin
        var y,z: ...;
        ...
        begin
            ...
        end;
        ...
    end;
    ...
endProcedure;

```



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Function Contexts

Consider a language with:

- Functions as objects
- Non-local variable accesses

```

procedure main()
    var p: function
    ...
    p = ...
    ...
    call p()
    ...
endProcedure

```

Function Contexts

Consider a language with:

- Functions as objects
- Non-local variable accesses

- Bar is called
 - Bar's frame is created
 - “x” is created
- Bar sets “p” to point to function “foo”
- Bar returns
 - Bar's frame is popped
 - “x” is destroyed
- foo is invoked
 - foo accesses variable “x”

```

procedure main()
    var p: function
    procedure bar()
        var x: ...
        procedure foo()
            ... x ...
        endProcedure
        ...
        p = foo
        ...
    endProcedure
    ...
    call bar()
    ...
    call p()
    ...
endProcedure

```

Function Contexts

Consider a language with:

- Functions as objects
- Non-local variable accesses

- Bar is called
Bar's frame is created
“x” is created
- Bar sets “p” to point to function “foo”
- Bar returns
Bar's frame is popped
“x” is destroyed
- foo is invoked
foo accesses variable “x”

Solution:

- Do not free bar's frame
... until it is no longer needed
- Put bar's frame on the heap
- Automatic garbage collection

```

procedure main()
var p: function
procedure bar()
var x: ...
procedure foo()
... x ...
endProcedure
...
p = foo
...
endProcedure
...
call bar()
...
call p()
...
endProcedure

```

The “C” Solution

“C” allows non-locales
to be used within a function

However...

- Functions may not be nested
- Variables are either
 - Local
 - Global (i.e., static)

```

static int x;

void foo() {
    ... x ...
}

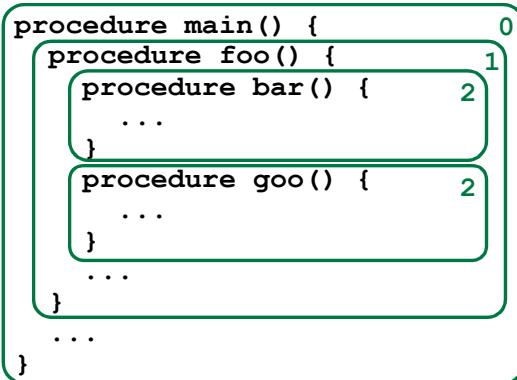
void bar () {
    ...
    p = &foo;
}

void main () {
    ...
    bar();
    ...
    (*p) ();
    ...
}

```

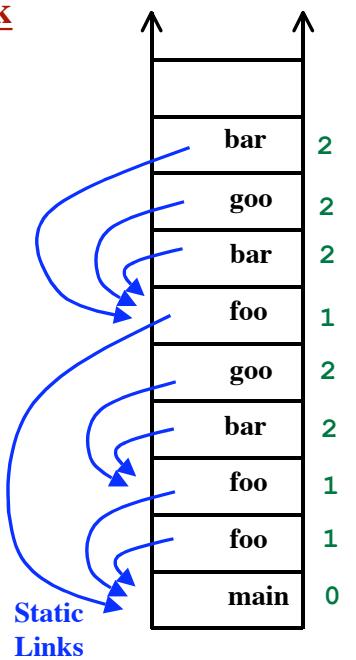
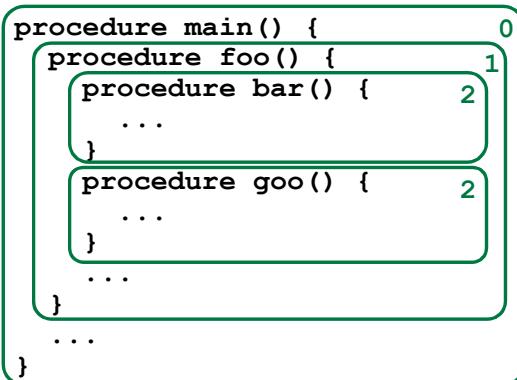
The “Static” Link

“Nesting Depth: A routine’s lexical level...
 Main body $\Rightarrow 0$
 Nested routines \Rightarrow Add one
 Each frame contains a “static” link
 Points to the frame of
 the most recently invoked activation
 of the lexically surrounding routine.



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 Points to the frame of
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Given a variable usage...

How do we find the frame containing the right variable?

Assume that **x** is declared at lexical level **M**.

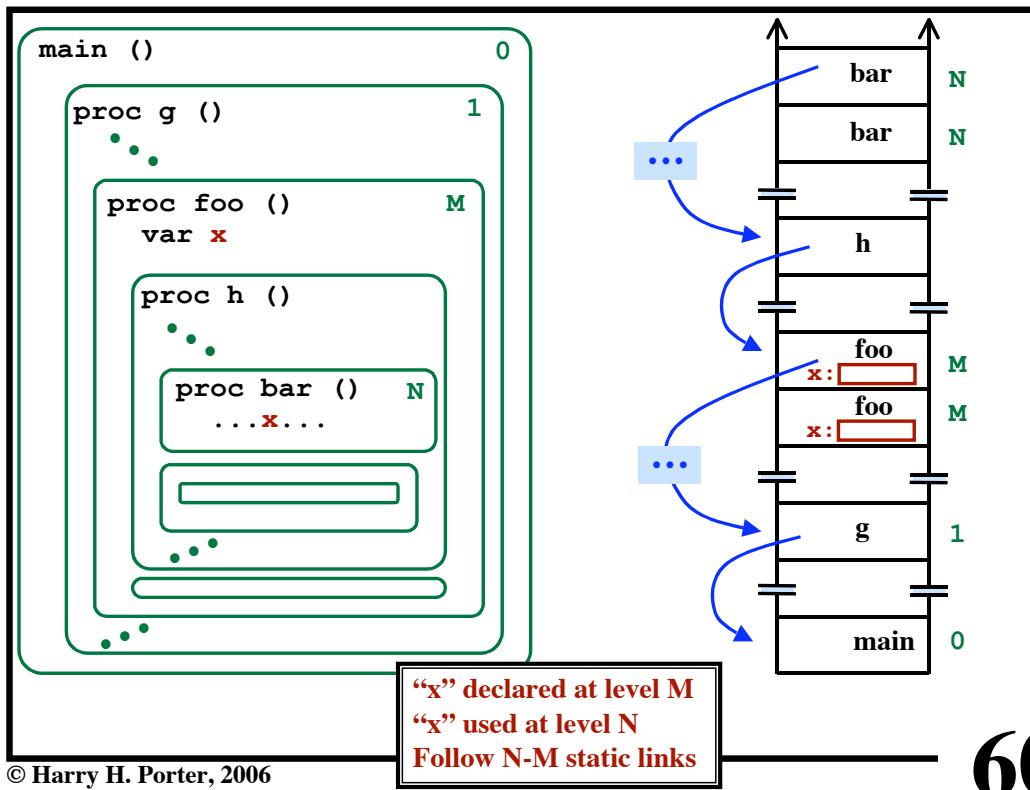
Assume that **x** is used at lexical level **N**.

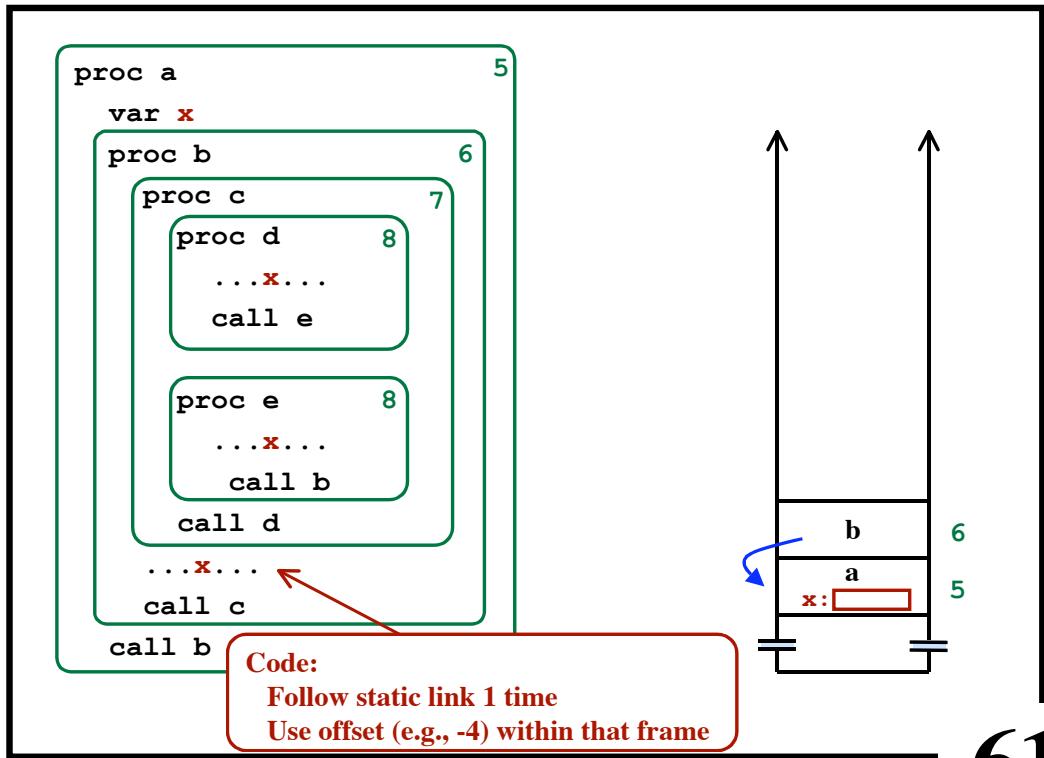
(We must have $N \geq M$)

At runtime...

Follow **N-M** static links to find the right frame.

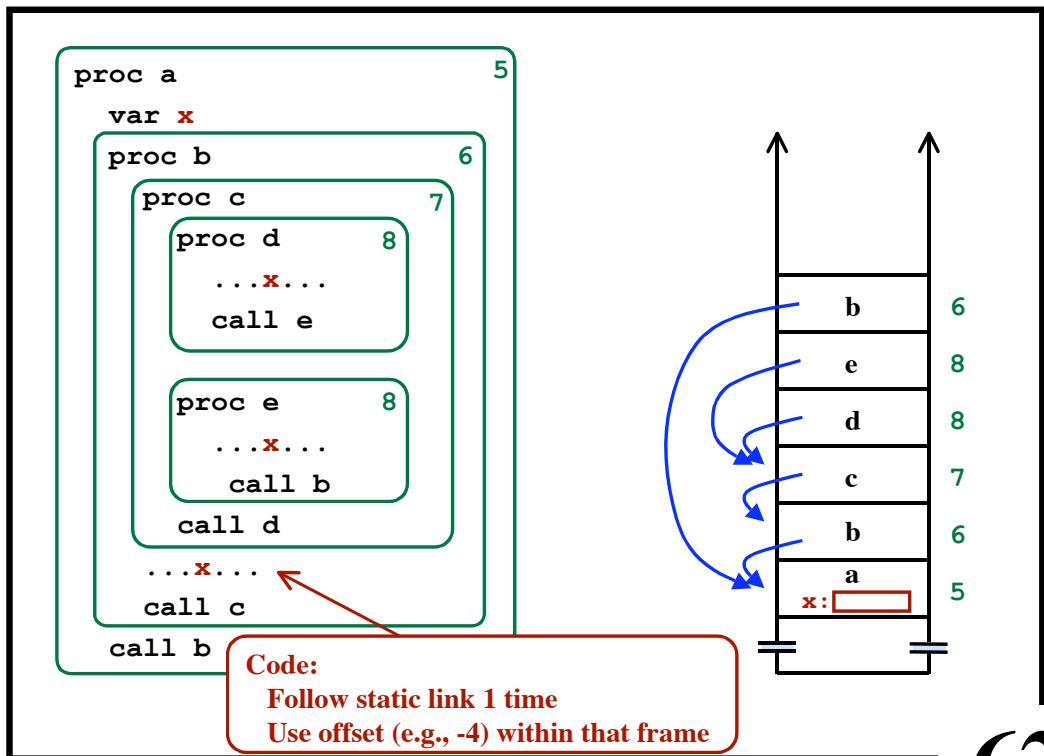
Use the offset of **x** within that frame.





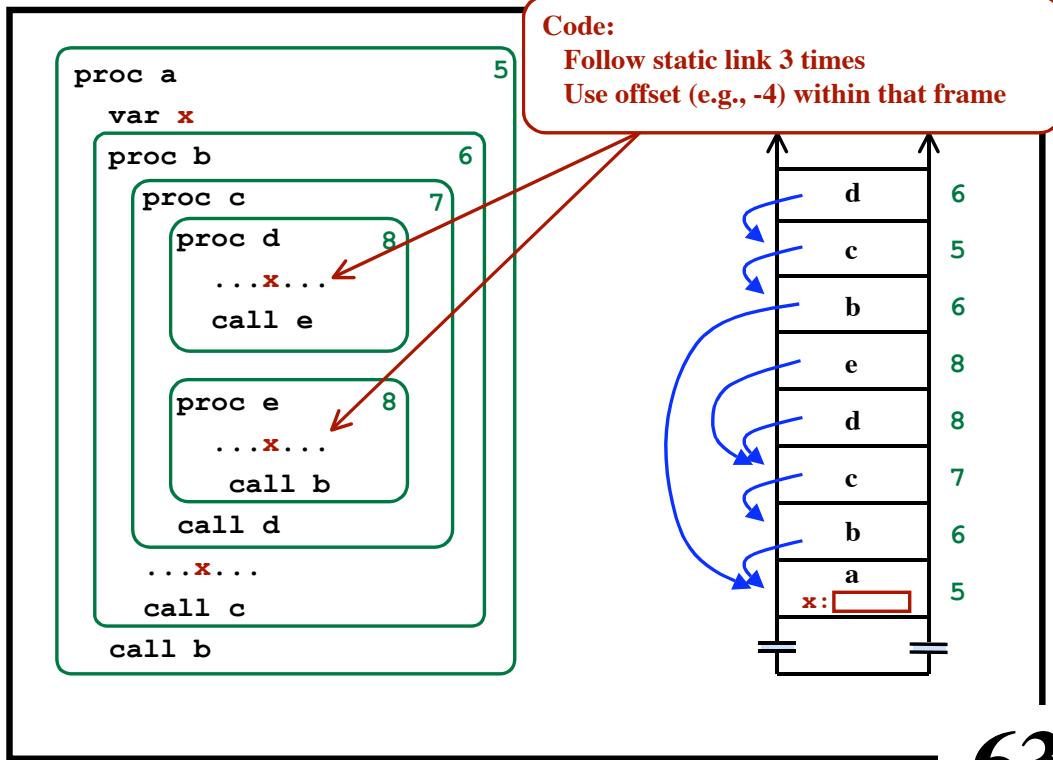
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How do we set up the Static Links?

Whenever we call a routine...
must initialize static link in new frame.

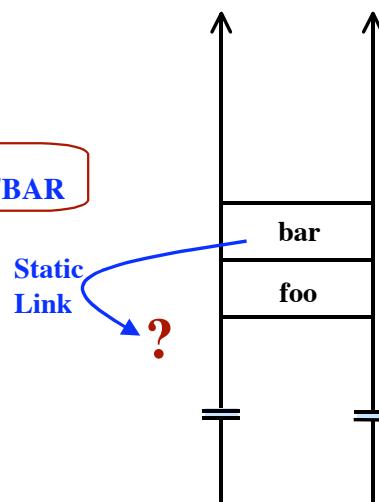
Assume "foo" calls "bar"

Level = L_{FOO}

Level = L_{BAR}

Want to initialize bar's static link.

What frame should it point to???



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Initializing the Static Link

foo calls bar

Goal:

Find the frame of the routine that lexically encloses bar
Set bar's static link to point to it.

Given:

foo's frame is on the stack,
directly below the newly allocated frame for bar.

Approach:

Use the static link in foo's frame.
Follow $L_{FOO} - L_{BAR} + 1$ static links from foo's frame.

This will be the frame of the routine that lexically encloses bar!!!

Make bar's static link point to it.

Case 1:

$$L_{BAR} = L_{FOO} + 1$$

foo contains bar directly

`proc foo`

`proc bar`

`...call bar`

Case 2:

$$L_{BAR} = L_{FOO}$$

foo and bar at same level

`proc bar`

`proc foo`

`...call bar`

Case 4:

$$L_{BAR} > L_{FOO} + 1$$

bar is nested deeply

`proc foo`

`proc bar`

`...call bar`

Case 3:

$$L_{BAR} < L_{FOO}$$

foo is more deeply nested

`proc bar`

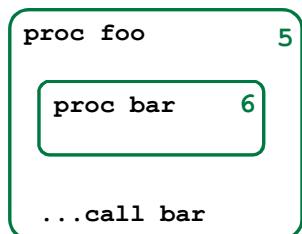
`proc foo`

`...call bar`

Not Allowed!

Case 1: $L_{BAR} = L_{FOO} + 1$

Foo statically contains bar directly.



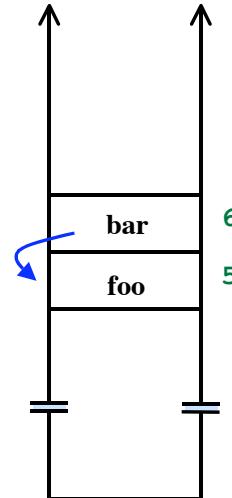
$$L_{FOO} - L_{BAR} + 1$$

$$5 - 6 + 1 = 0$$

From foo's frame...

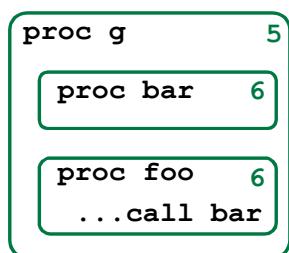
follow 0 links!

Just make bar's static link point to foo's frame.



Case 2: $L_{BAR} = L_{FOO}$

Foo and bar at same level.

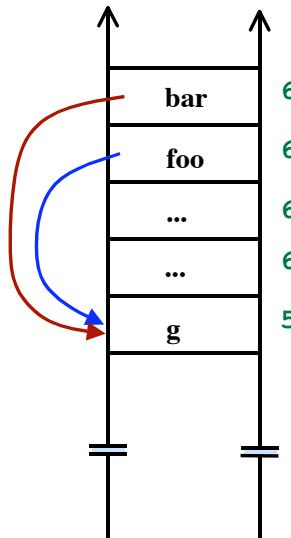


$$L_{FOO} - L_{BAR} + 1$$

$$6 - 6 + 1 = 1$$

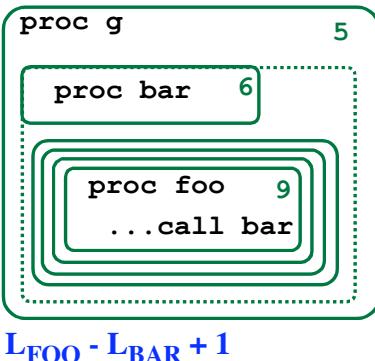
From foo's frame...

follow 1 link!



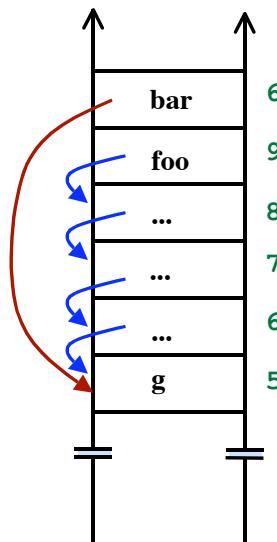
Case 3: $L_{BAR} < L_{FOO}$

*foo is more deeply nested
(within bar or one of bar's siblings)*



$$9 - 6 + 1 = 4$$

From foo's frame
follow 4 links!



Display Registers

The Idea:

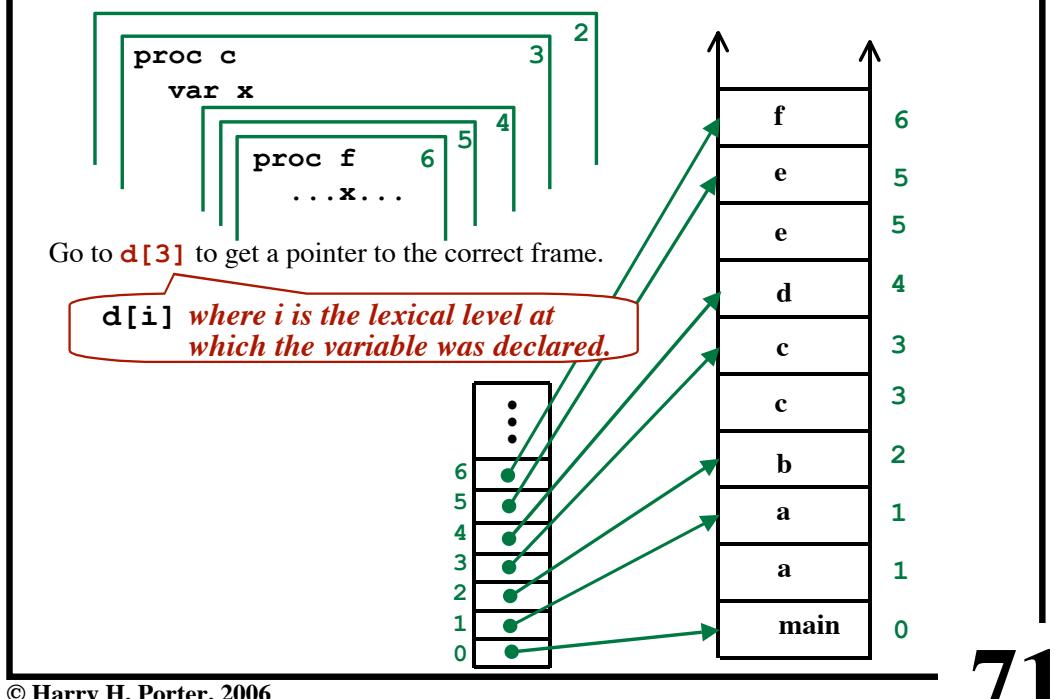
In static storage...
maintain an array of pointers
 $d[\dots]$

The i -th element will be a pointer to an activation record on the stack...
...whose lexical level is i .

Assume we are currently executing in a routine ("f") at lexical level 6...

- $d[6]$ points to the top frame
(i.e., the currently executing frame, for "f")
- $d[5]$ points to the most recent activation of the routine
that lexically encloses "f".
(a routine at level 5, call it "g")
- $d[4]$ points to the most recent activation of the routine
that lexically encloses "g"
(a routine at level 4, call it "h")
- ⋮
- $d[0]$ points to the most recent activation of a routine
at level 0, call it "main"

To access a non-local variable...



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How to Maintain the Display Registers?

During “call” and “return” sequences...

Each activation record will have a word in which to save
an old value of a display register.

“display register save area”

When calling a routine at lexical level “ i ”...

Allocate a new frame on the stack
Save old value of $d[i]$ in that word in the new frame
 $d[i] := \text{ptr to the new frame}$

When returning...

$d[i] = \text{the saved value}$

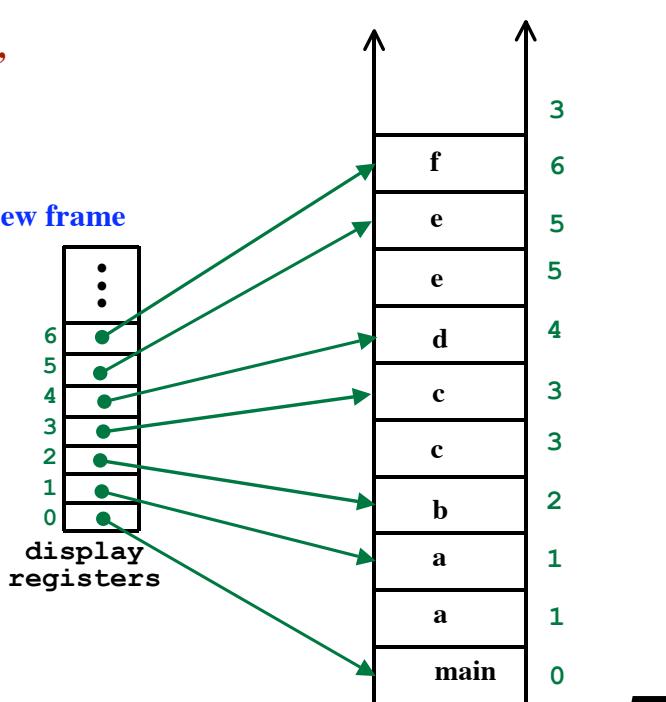
Note: The entire array of display registers will always be restored
to its previous value
after any sequence of calls and matching returns!

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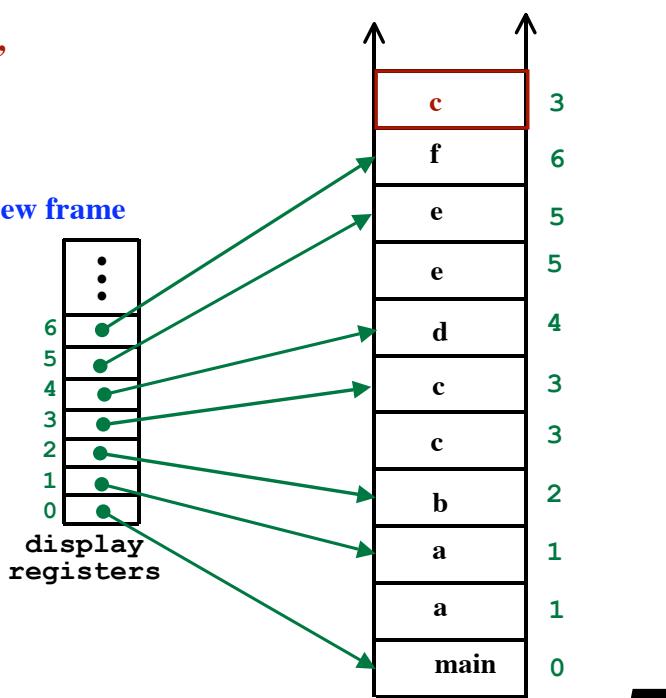
Example: "f" calls "c"

- Allocate new frame
- Save old d[3]
- Set d[3] to point to new frame



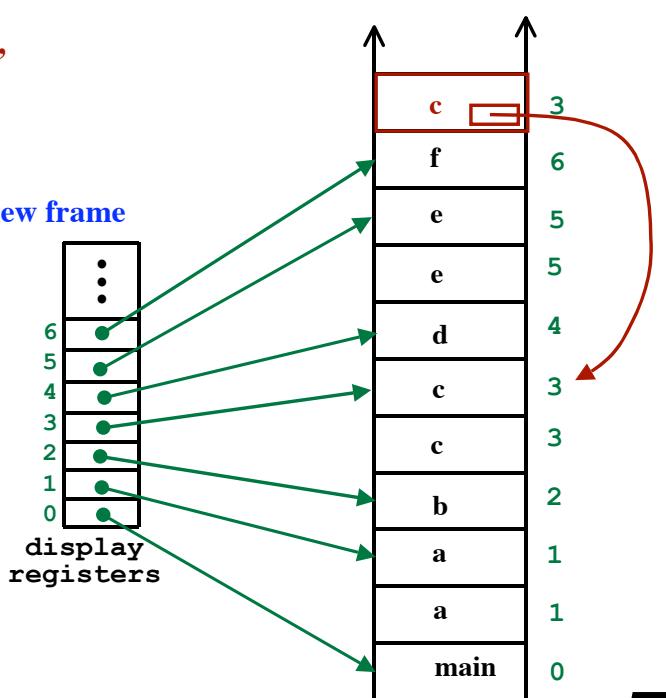
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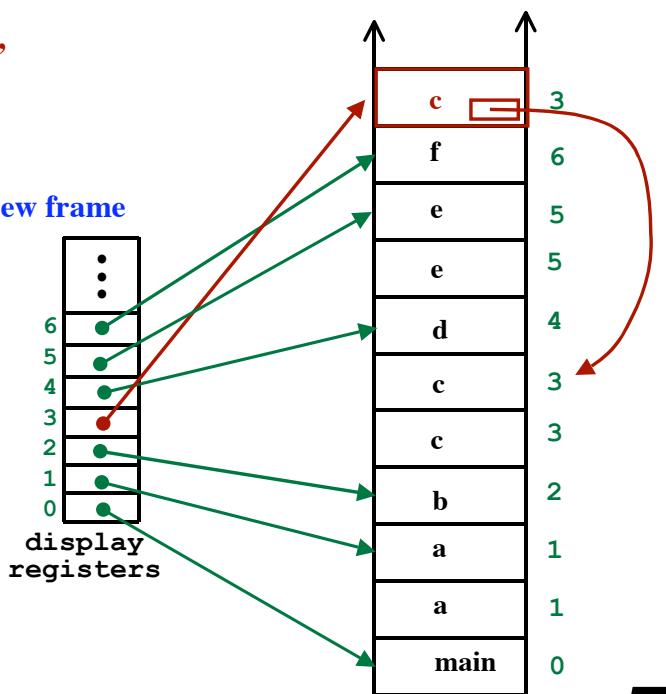


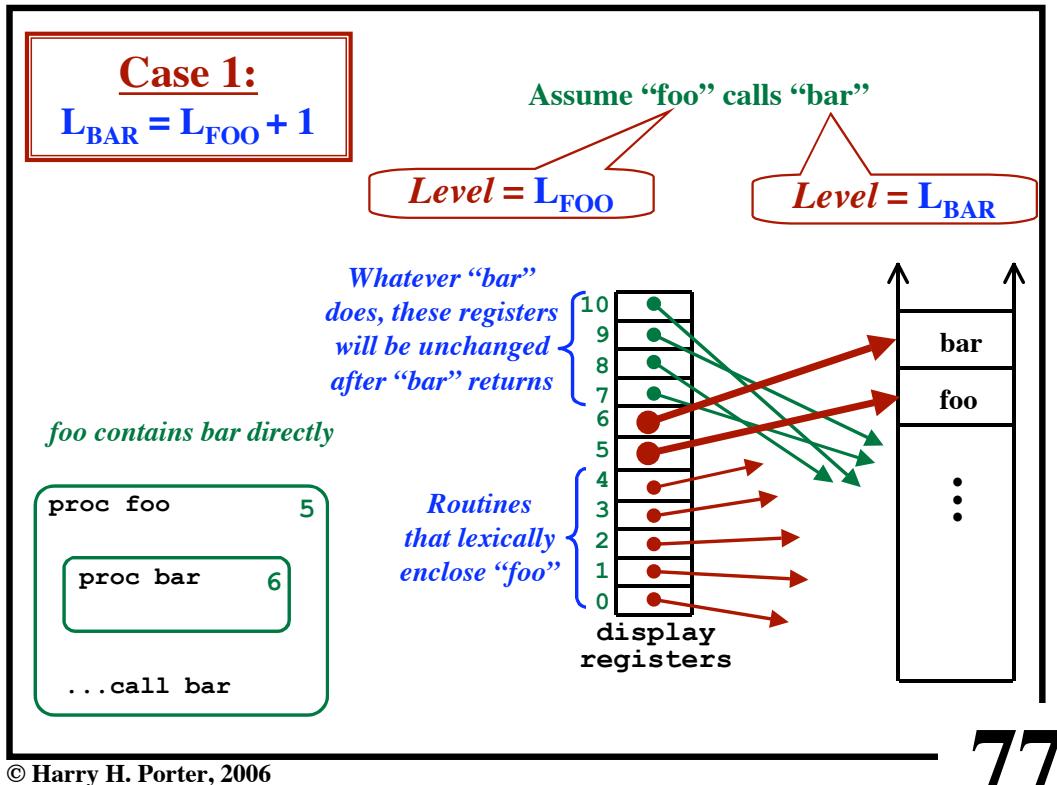
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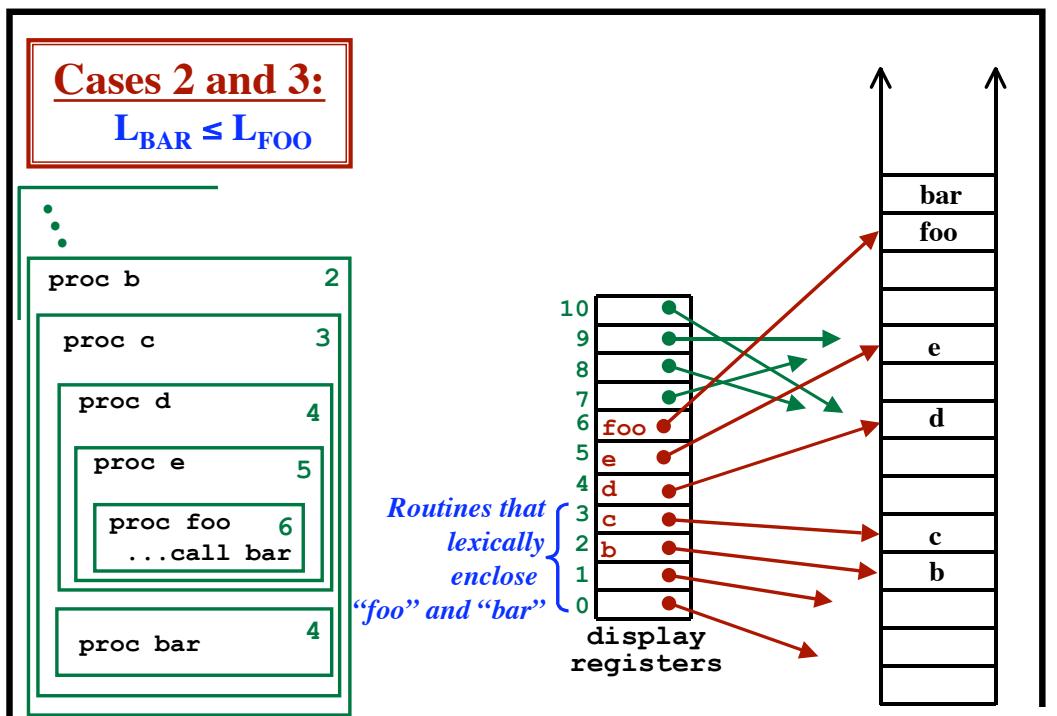
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