

Subprograms, parameter passing

separation of concern: a subprogram has a single role (theoretically)
level of abstraction - especially for
- functional programming paradigm
- procedural paradigm
also a unit of implementation (Fortran, C-like)
reusable component

joke: do not make a function called "nuke_budapest"!!!

Originally: function: abstracting an expression
 procedure: abstracting a command or "action"
Today: mixed (side effects, "void" return type, etc.)

abstraction: make something more general than the concrete usage:
generalization mechanism:
- parameter passing
 - overloading

Parameter passing

=====

formal parameter(s): in the function definition: double sin(double x)
actual parameter(s)/argument(s): in the function call: sin(.5)

by address (címszerint)
by value (érték szerint)
by result (eredmény szerint)
by name (név szerint)

by address

=====

The formal parameter and the actual argument is the same memory location

FORTRAN, Pascal, C++ reference parameter, Java reference types.

Advantages:

- simple, cheap
- no copy happens on parameter passing
- works for output parameters

Issues:

- the effect inside the function body is not separated from the outer environment
- how to pass non-variables (expressions, constants)

by value

=====

The formal parameter acts like local variable initialized by the arguments
(usually by copy)

Pascal var, C, C++, Java built-in

Advantages:

- easier to understand
- better separation from the environment
- not too complex to implement

Issues:

- not for output Fixes: return value, or use pointers
- copy might be expensive: Fixes: move semantics or passing (const) reference

by result

=====

The same as by value, but returning from function
the output parameter replaces the actual argument

Ada, ?

Advantages:

- like for by value

Issues:

- how to pass non-variables (expressions, constants)

by name

=====

Passing a "closure", not the value

Algol 60, Simula 67, Algol 68

Advantages:

- very scientific

Issues:

- hard and expensive to implement by "closure"
- sometimes hard to understand

Overloading

different functions with the same name (but with different signatures)
sometimes called as "named polymorphism"

```
int pow(int, int)    i^j
double pow(double, double)
```

```
f(int, int)
f(int)
```

```
typedef int length_t;
using length_t = int;
```

```
int max(int i, int j);
double max(double x, double y);
```

```
double z = max(f(max(1, 3.14)), 1);
std::cout << max(1, 3.14)
```

```
f(length_t)
```

```
f(0, 3.14, "Hello")
```

```
void f(int, int)
void f(long, float)
```

```
f(1, 3.14)
```

```
template <typename T>
class std::vector
{
    iterator begin();    ---> __begin( vector *this)
    const_iterator begin() const; ---> __begin( const vector *this)
}
vector<int> v;    v.begin() ---> __begin(&v)
const vector<int> cv; cv.begin() ---> __begin(&cv)
```

Recursion

```
int fact(int n)
{
    if ( i == 1 )
        return 1;
    else
        return n*fact(n-1); // tail recursion
}
```