

### ALGOL68: Goals & History

Thesis: It is good practice in programming language design to abstain from exceptions.

- Design goals:
  - gen purpose, rigorously-defined language
  - Clear up trouble spots in ALGOL60
    - (but, Pascal more like A60 than A68 is)
  - orthogonality, extensibility
- ALGOL68 development started in mid-60's.
  - Revised report (SIGPLAN Notices, May 1977) cleared up many ambiguities.

### **Key Ideas in ALGOL68**

- User type declarations (modes)
- Orthogonal design (modes, structures, ops)
- Reference mode (pointers of a sort)
- United modes (predecessor to variant records)
- Auto declaration of FOR LOOP index
- User-specified operator overloading
- Notion of "elaboration" on context entry

# **More Key Ideas**

- Mode requirement for formals
- Casting: user-spec'd mode conversion
- Redefinition of operator precedence
- Collateral actions
- Semaphores
- W-grammars two-level grammar
- Contexts (strong, firm, meek, weak, soft)
  - WRT coercion

# **ALGOL68 Structure**

- ALGOL68 is block structured w/ static scope rules
  - Monolithic programming, as in ALGOL60 (and later in Pascal)
- ALGOL68's model of computation:
  - static
  - stack: block/procedure AR's; local data objects
  - heap: "heap" -- dynamic-- data objects
- ALGOL68 is an *expression*-oriented language
  - (note influence on C/C++)

# **ALGOL68: Organization**

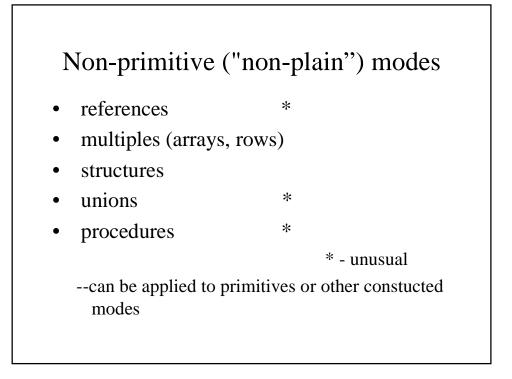
- Declarations:
  - Must be given (FOR LOOP index only exception)
  - Can name new types (modes)
- Imperatives (units)
  - 15 major unit types
  - Assignment is allowable side-effect of units
    - c.f. C

### **Data types (primitive modes)**

- Int }
- Real }
- Char } primitives
- Bool }
- Void }
- Modes created from primitives --defined in "prelude"
  - String
  - Compl
  - Bits Word full of bits

# **More Primitive Modes**

- Bytes Word full of chars
- Sema Semaphore
- Format- I/O
- File I/O
- User defined modes allowed: Mode largeint = long INT
  - and its attendant advantages



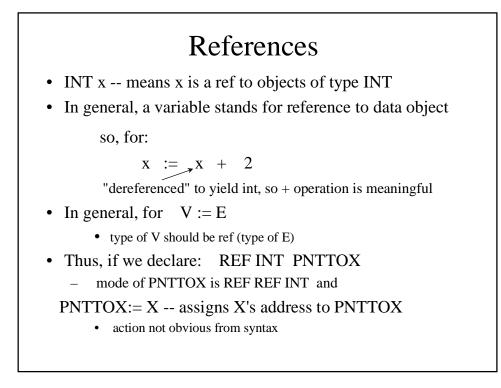
### References

- Variable X has two attributes of concern:
  - its value
  - reference to storage where value is kept
- Most languages don't distinguish

• e.g. 
$$x := x + 2$$
  
 $\uparrow$   $\uparrow$  "value of x"

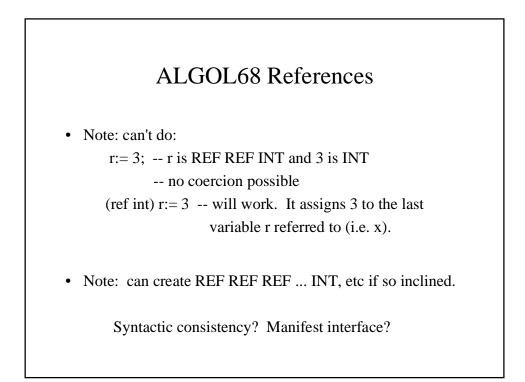
"ref to place where value is stored"

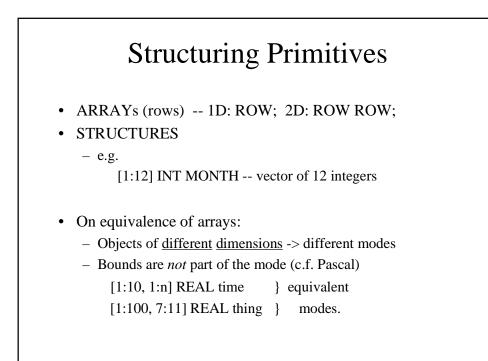
- "The type of x is integer" and "The type of values assigned to x is integer" get combined in this case.
  - ALGOL68 made the distinction (as do e.g. C & C++).

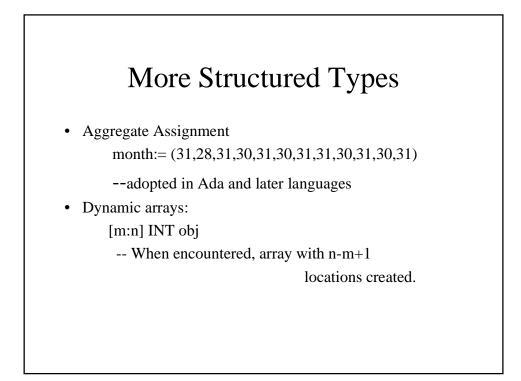


# Consider

	x&y are REFs to objects of type INT r; r is REF to REF INTs
	no deref necessary
,	ditto - pointer assignment
y:= r;	assigns 2 as value of y two derefs required
x:= 3;	no deref necessary;
y:= r;	assigns 3 to y. Two derefs req'd
←	No visual clue that y's value could be affected by assignment to x.







# **Continue Structuring Primitives**

• FLEX ARRAYs -- change size on the fly.

```
– e.g.
```

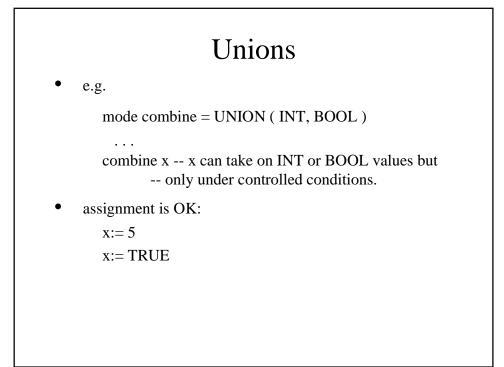
- FLEX [1:0] INT obj -- a row with no integers.
- obj:=(5,5,5) -- changes bounds to 1:3 on the fly.
  - --bounds change only by assignment to whole array
- Aside on strings:

mode string = FLEX[1:0] CHAR -- done in prelude declaration string greetings;

greetings:= "Greetings and salutations"

-- creates vector exact length of string.

Structures:		
• e.g.		
mode bin_tree =		
struct( INT data,		
REF bin_tree l_child, r_child)		
^ note recursive definition		
(illegal definition w/o REF) Why?		
• Other standard modes built up from structs:		
– e.g.		
mode compl = struct ( REAL re, im )		
mode bits = struct ( [1:bits_width] BOOL x )		
mode bytes = struct ( $[1:bytes_width]$ CHAR x)		
mode sema = struct ( REF INT x )		
all in ALGOL68 prelude		



More Unions	
• Using x in an expression requires:	
CASE x IN "conformity clause"	
(INT x1): <use x1=""></use>	
(BOOL x2): <use x2=""></use>	
ESAC	
• Note:	
UNION (t1, t2,, tn) ti can be any mode.	
Only limitation: can't have ti and REF ti in same union.	
"incestuous union"	
creates ambiguity in cases like:	
UNION (INT, REF INT) x;	
INT y;	
x := y; - Can't determine how many deREFs to do on y;	
0: if x is ref ref int; 1: if x is ref int	

#### Procedures

- Procedure units have mode and value;
  mode determined by arg modes and ret mode.
- ALGOL68 supports procedure-valued variables: mode Pr = PROC (vector, matrix) matrix;

Pr P1, P2; -- two instances of generic Pr

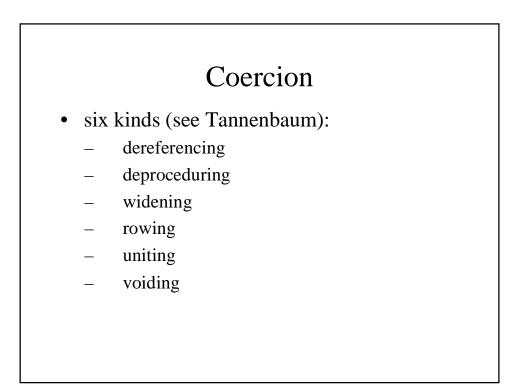
P1 = PROC (vector a, matrix b) matrix: {procedure definition}

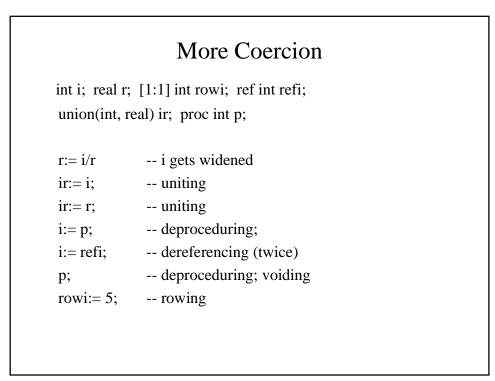
. . .

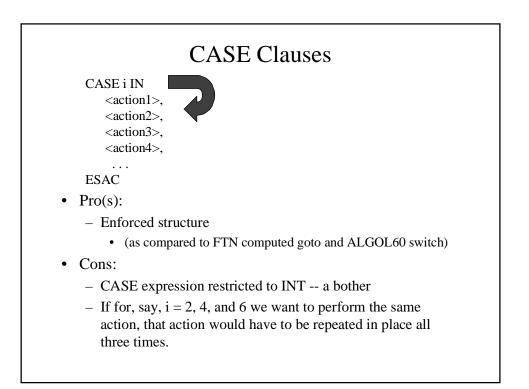
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P2 = P1 -- P2 now has same def as P1 -- implemented using pointers

- Procedure modes can be used as parameters (routine texts)
- Formals and actuals must have same type!

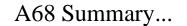






### Continue Cons of CASE Statement

- If during program development/maintenance, an action got added or removed, programmer could miss the change, and the compiler won't complain
- very difficult kind of error to identify.
  - => birth of the labeling principle (Tony Hoare came up with model Wirth included in Pascal).
  - Catchall phrase (else, otherwise, etc) to catch cases not named was born later (incorporated into Ada and Modula-2)



- Coercion
  - Elaborate interactions can lead to ambiguous and difficult to read programs
  - Coercion may take place when user didn't intend it to
  - The more coercion a translator can do, the less error checking provided to the user.

==> Do you provide coercion at expense of security?

#### A68 Summary (cont)...

- Type compatibility
  - A68 uses structural equivalence

mode complex = struct (real rp; real ip); mode weather = struct (real temp; real humid);

- are equivalent
- violates programmer's intentions

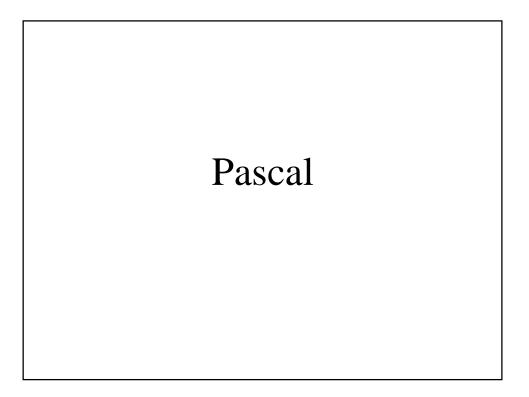
#### A68 Summary (cont)...

- References
  - While dangling refs are controlled in ALGOL68 they can generally only be checked at runtime.
  - Rule: in an assignment to a ref variable, the scope of the object being pointed to must be at least as large as that of the ref variable itself.
  - Dynamic data objects are reclaimed only when control leaves the scope of the associated ref variable.

### A68 Summary (cont)...

• Orthogonality in general

- Small set of concepts interacting in a very complex way.
- How is simplicity best achieved?
  - Algol68: orthogonality
  - Pascal: non-rotho + "simple facilities with simple interactions."

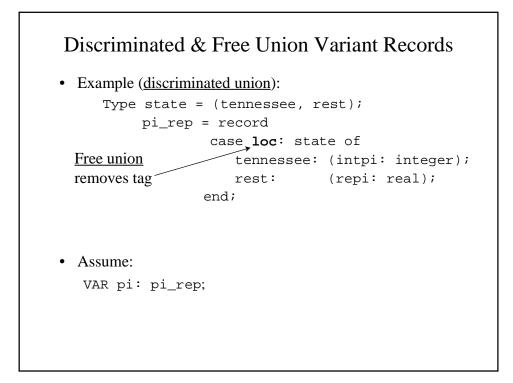


# Pascal History

- Wirth on Design committee for ALGOL68
  - quit over differences in design philosophy
- Pascal meant to be <u>simple</u>, <u>teaching language</u>
- Target was CDC6000 family initially
  - explains functions having simple return types only (fit in one 60-bit word)
- Much of Pascal design drawn from ALGOL68 design
  - Sometimes worse! (e.g. function return types, pointer scope)

#### Pascal: First Impression

- A collection of irregularities
  - Files cannot be passed by value
  - Components of packed data structures cannot be passed by reference
  - Procs and funcs passed as parameters can only have byvalue parameters
  - Functions can only return simple types
  - Formal param types can only be specified by a type identifier, not by its representation
  - Variables of enumerated type can only be initialized by assignment, not by input values



#### Variant Record Examples CASE pi.loc of tennessee: pi.intpi:= 3; --OK. compiler can rest: pi.repi:= 3.1415926; -- often check. end; pi.repi:= 3.1415926; --error if pi.loc = tennessee pi.repi:= 3.1415926; -- OK if pi.loc=rest pi.loc:= tennessee; -- OK, but no aggregate writeln(pi.intpi); -- garbage • w/o tags: pi.repi:= 3.1415926; -- No way to catch this writeln(pi.intpi); -- error, even at runtime. ==> verdict: variant records defeat Pascal type system. --inconsistent with rest of language.

#### Name vs Structure Equivalence

- Name:
  - Types of two objects match only if they were declared using the same type name
  - Provides best protection against errors
  - Can require artificial creation of names simply to satisfy nameequiv requirements.
  - T1 = T2 does not satisfy name equiv but is often allowed.
- Structural:
  - Types of two objects match if they have the same "structure"
  - More relaxed. Prevents unnecessary creation of type names.
  - Has many logical flaws

### Pascal Scope Rules...

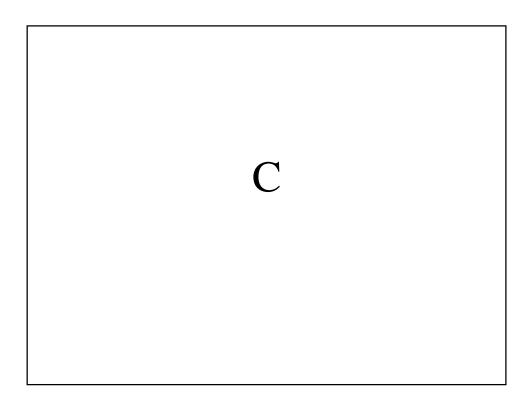
Туре Т1 = ...

• • •

- Procedure p1;
  - Type T2 = <structure of> T1 -- \*\*\*
    - T1 = . . .
- which T1 is ref'd at \*\*\*?
  - (A) T2's ref to T1 is to T1 in outer level
  - (B) T2's ref to T1 is to T1 in local level
- Interpretation (B) is consistent with User Report,
- But (A) is one usually used...

# Binding to Outer Level

- If r2 defined in outer scope, that's what r2ptr is bound to.
- If r2 is defined in outer scope later on, meaning of program is changed!
- Wulf, Shaw: vulnerability...



# Evaluate C

- History
- Design goals
- Contributions
- Support/violation of principles
- Interesting troublesome interactions among language features.