

Consider the following Python program:

```
message = "The result is"

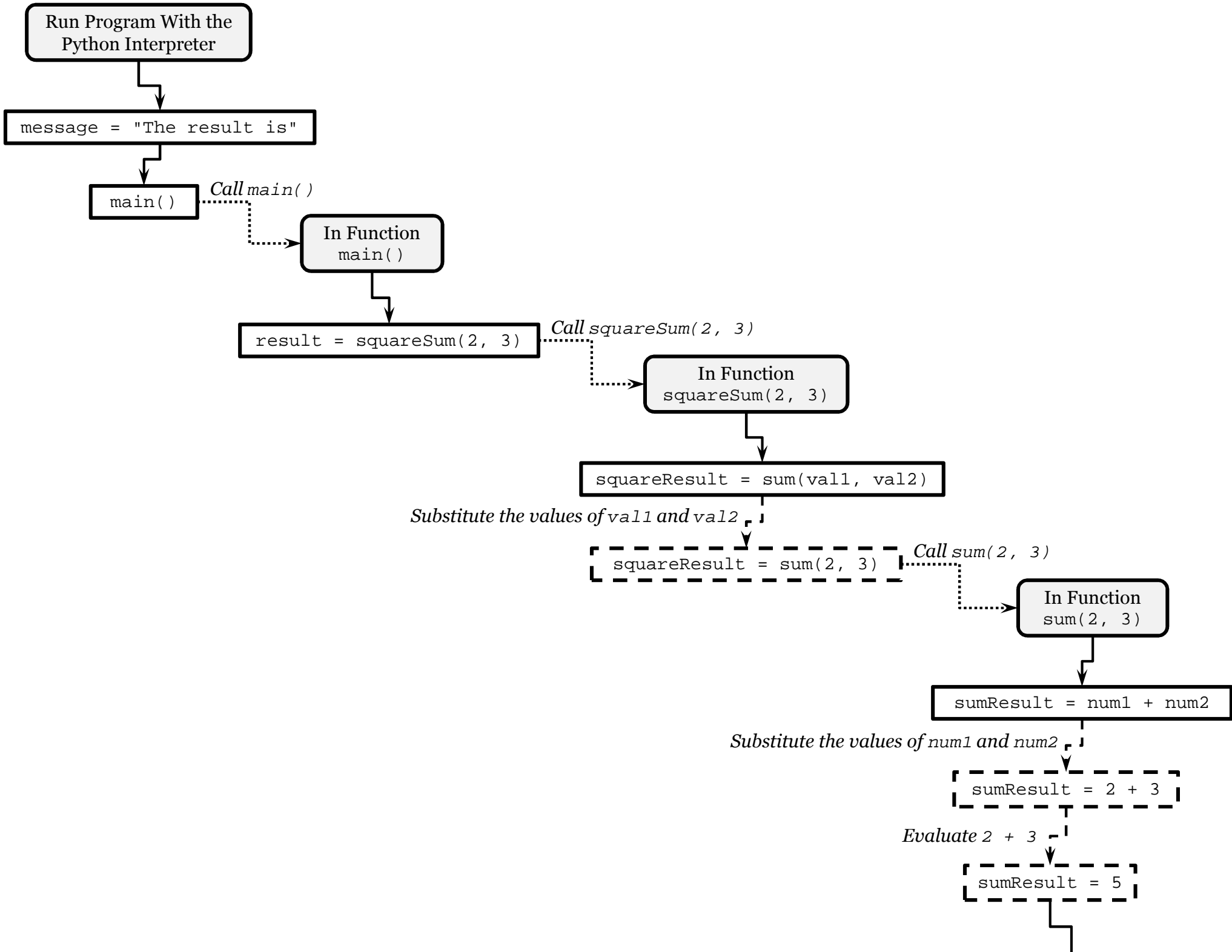
def sum(num1, num2):
    sumResult = num1 + num2
    return sumResult

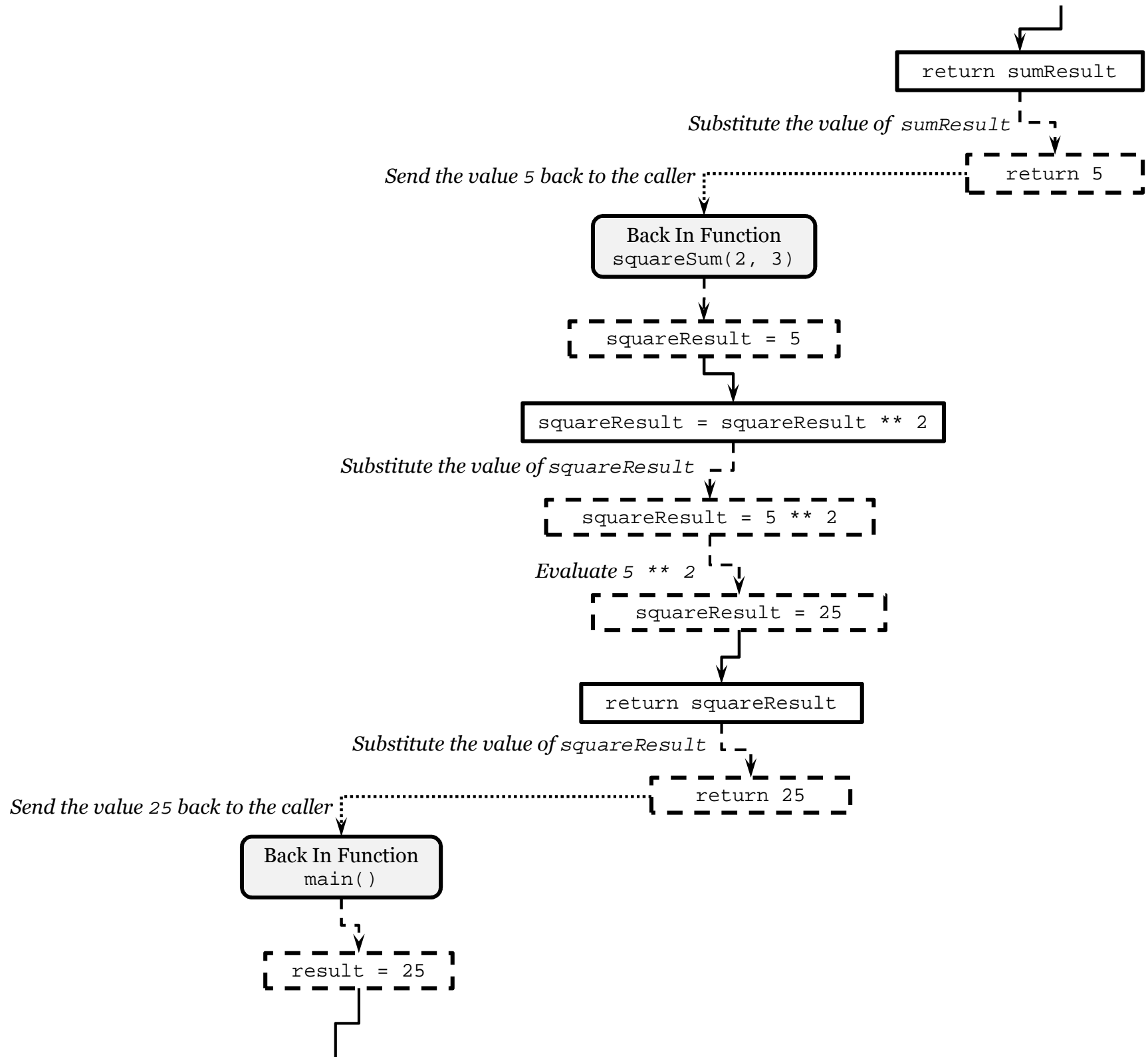
def squareSum(val1, val2):
    squareResult = sum(val1, val2)
    squareResult = squareResult ** 2
    return squareResult

def main():
    result = squareSum(2, 3)
    print(message, result)

main()
```

When the Python interpreter runs this program, what is the sequence of commands executed?





`print(message, result)`

Substitute the values of message and result

`print("The result is", 25)`

Call print("The result is", 25)

In Function print("The result is", 25)

The arguments are printed on the screen

No value is sent back

Back In Function
main()

Program Is
Finished

Now consider the following shorter version of the previous program:

```
message = "The result is"
```

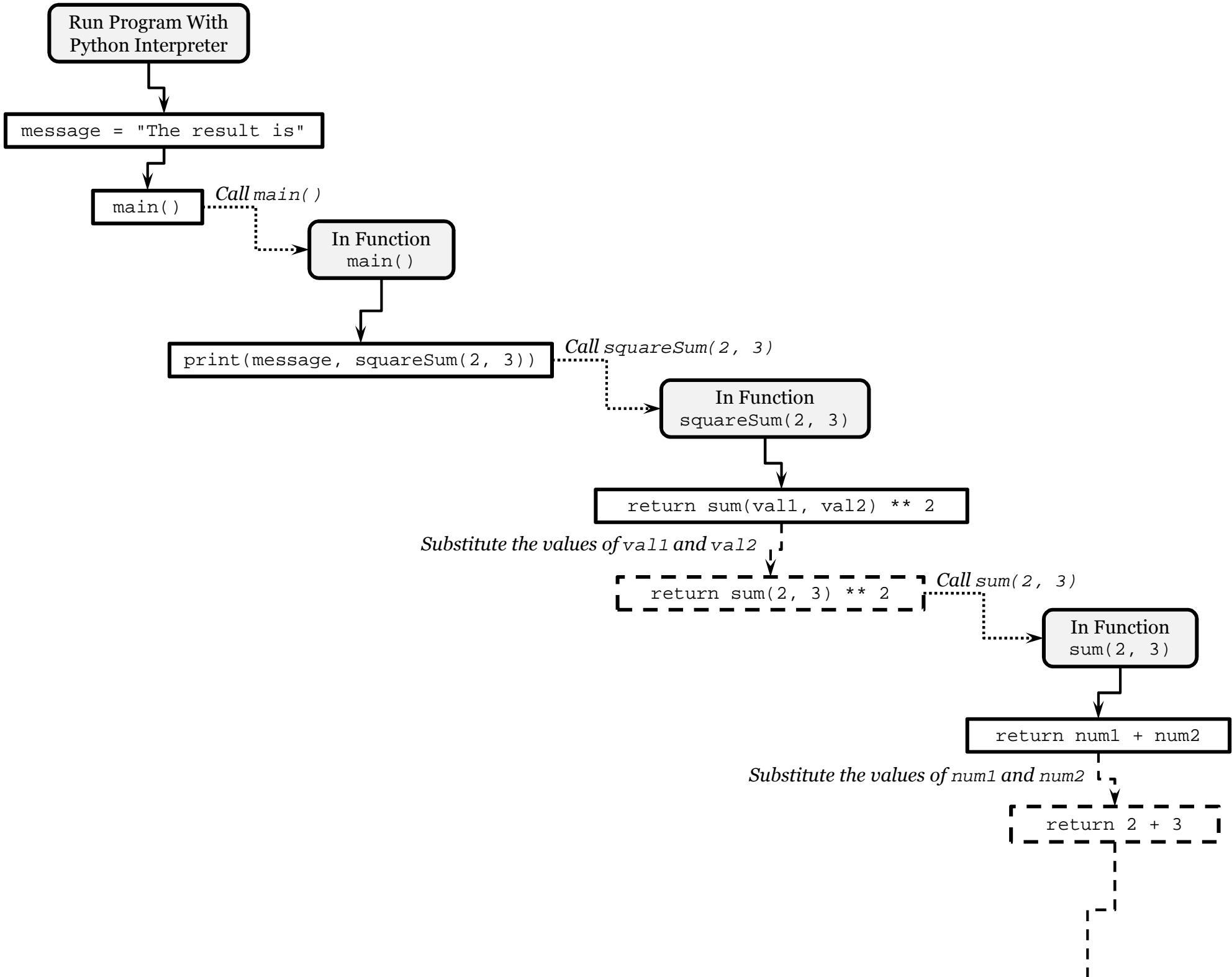
```
def sum(num1, num2):  
    return num1 + num2
```

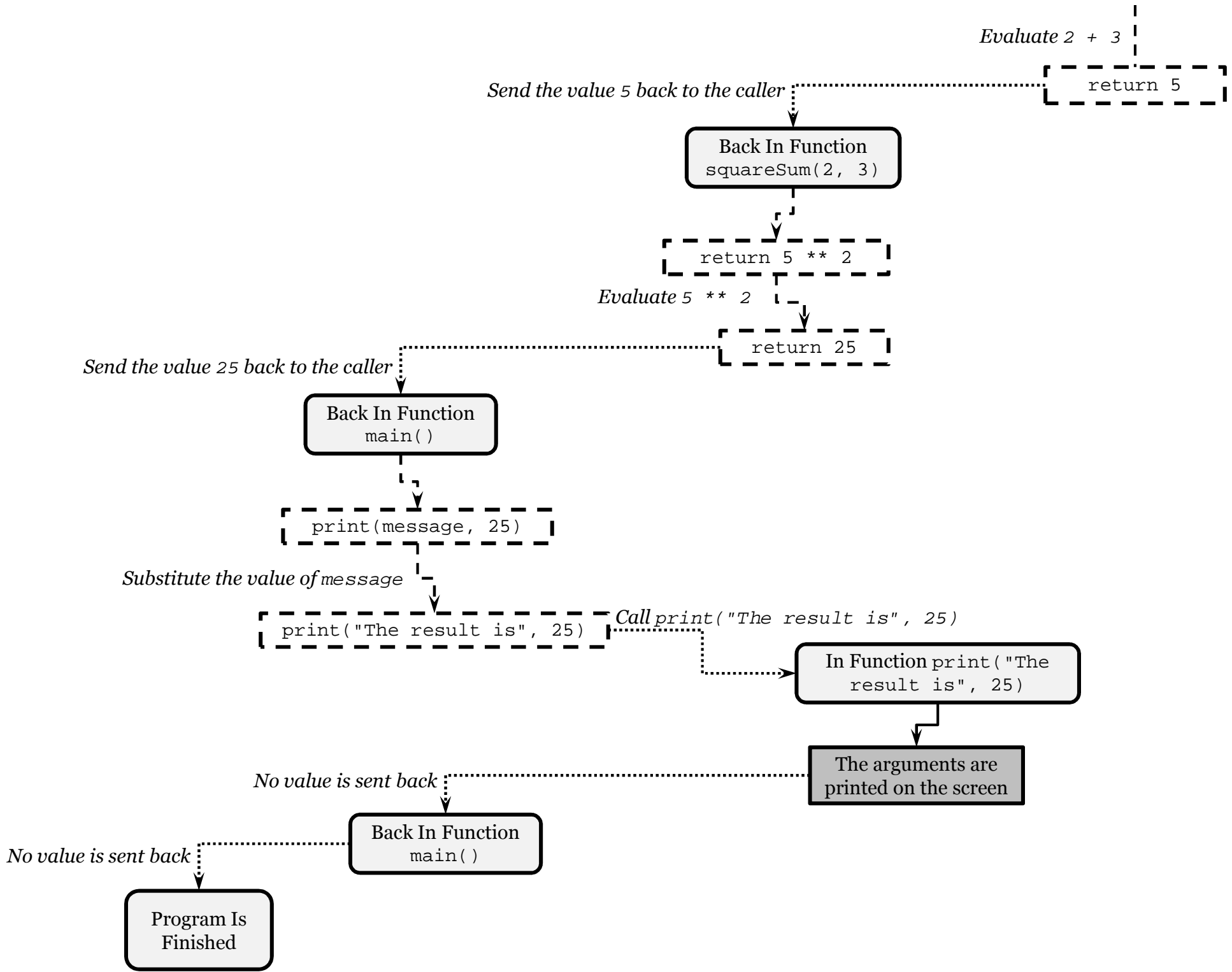
```
def squareSum(val1, val2):  
    return sum(val1, val2) ** 2
```

```
def main():  
    print(message, squareSum(2, 3))
```

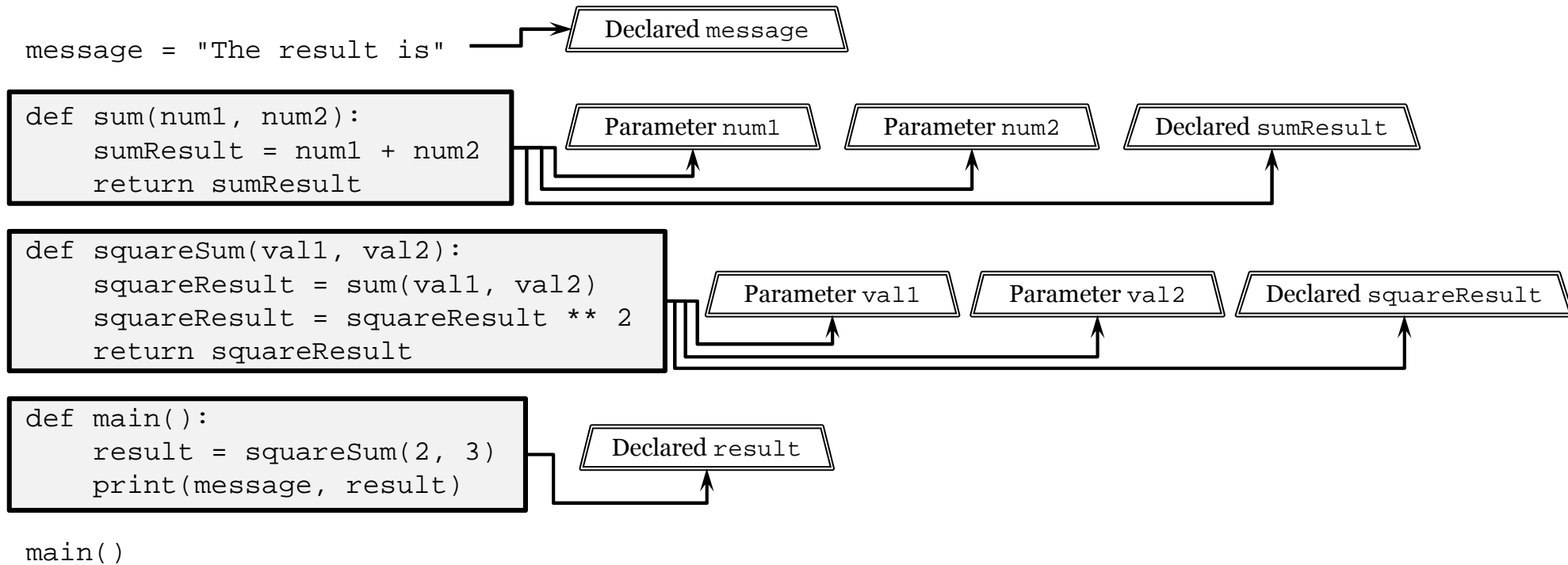
```
main()
```

When the Python interpreter runs this program, what is the sequence of commands executed?





What are the variables in this Python program and where are they defined?



The function `sum(...)` has three *local* variables that only exist in `sum(...)`: parameters `num1` and `num2`, and declared variable `sumResult`. These variables can **not** be used in any function other than `sum(...)`; their *scope* is their function, represented here by the grey rectangle around `sum(...)`.

Think of these variables as having a “local scope rule” implicitly attached to their names: `num1` only exists in `sum(...)`, `num2` only exists in `sum(...)` and `sumResult` only exists in `sum(...)`. These attachments aren’t actually used in Python; they’re imaginary devices used here to illustrate a variable’s scope.

The function `squareSum(...)` has its own local variables: parameters `val1` and `val2`, as well declared variable `squareResult`. The function `main()` has one local declared variable: `result`.

Now consider introducing the following bug in `main()`:

```
def main():
    result = squareSum(2, 3)
    print("The values are", num1, "and", num2)
    print(message, result)
```

The bug may not be obvious here. Try attaching the "local scope rule" to the variable names for `result`, `num1` and `num2`:

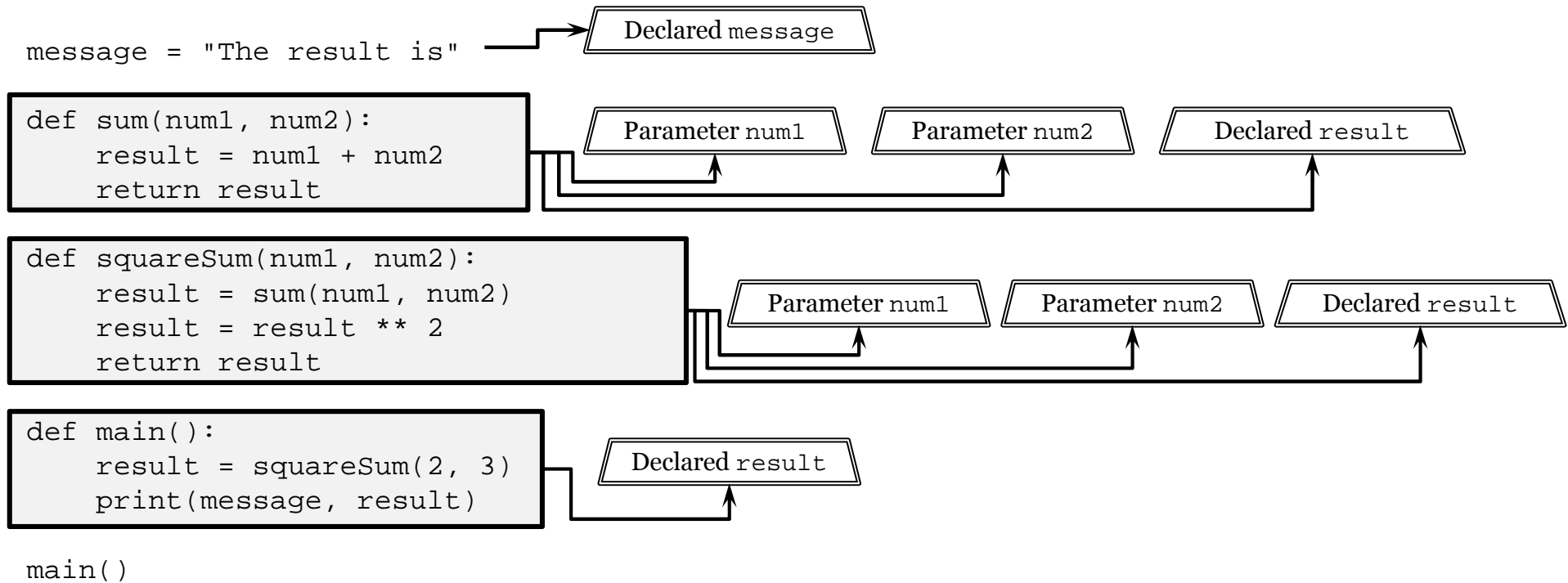
```
def main():
    resultonly exists in main() = squareSum(2, 3)
    print("The values are", num1only exists in sum(...), "and", num2only exists in sum(...))
    print(message, resultonly exists in main())
```

The bug becomes more clear now: the `main()` function is attempting to use variables that only exist in the function `sum(...)`. But why isn't this a problem with variable `message`? It's being used in `main()` without issue.

The variable `message` is a *global* variable; it is not declared inside any function. This means that `message` can be used everywhere and its *scope* is the entire program. In this case it's only used in `main()`, but it could also be used in `sum(...)` or `squareSum(...)` or both. Think of this variable as having a "global scope rule" implicitly attached to its name: `message` _{exists everywhere}. If you attached all the "scope rules" to the variable names in `main()` it would look like this:

```
def main():
    resultonly exists in main() = squareSum(2, 3)
    print(messageexists everywhere, resultonly exists in main())
```


What if the variable names are changed?



Even though many of the variables have the same names, the program operates in exactly the same way. There are still three independent sets of local variables, listed below with their “scope rules” attached to distinguish between them:

- `num1` only exists in `sum(...)`, `num2` only exists in `sum(...)` and `result` only exists in `sum(...)` local to function `sum(...)`
- `num1` only exists in `squareSum(...)`, `num2` only exists in `squareSum(...)` and `result` only exists in `squareSum(...)` local to function `squareSum(...)`
- `result` only exists in `main()` local to function `main()`

There are two separate variables in this program with name `num1`, two separate variables with name `num2`, and three separate variables with name `result`. A function can only use its own local variables and any global variables; it can not use variables from other functions, even if they have the same names.