

# Arithmetic expression evaluation

Goal. Evaluate infix expressions.

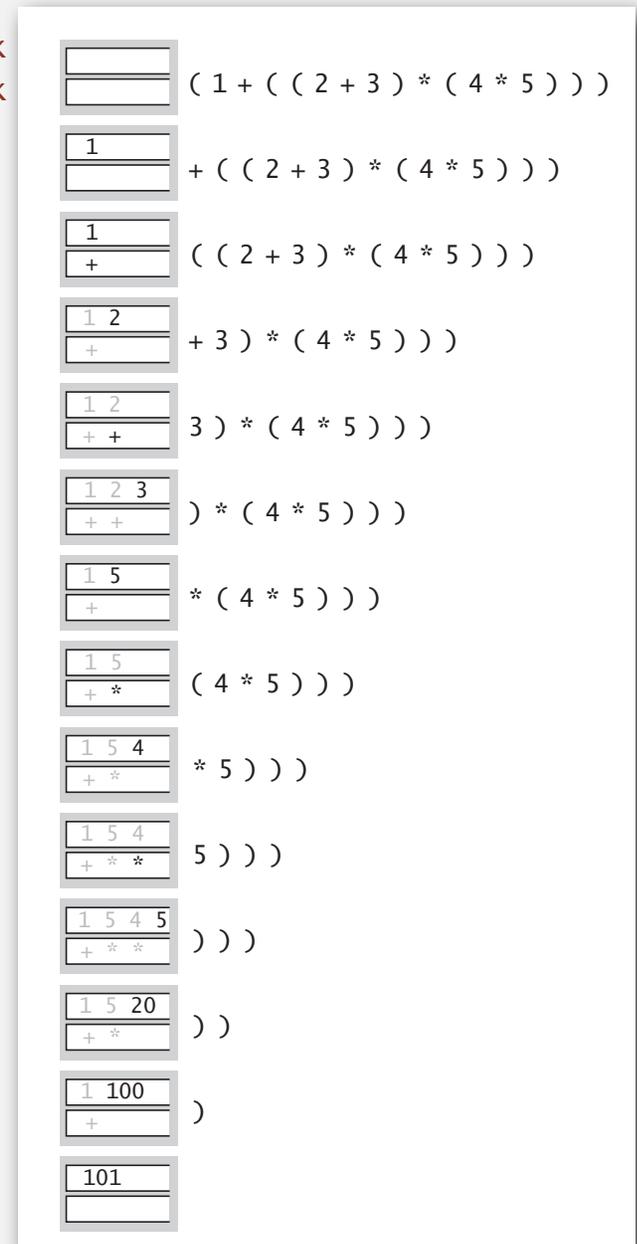


Two-stack algorithm. [E. W. Dijkstra]

- Value: push onto the value stack.
- Operator: push onto the operator stack.
- Left parenthesis: ignore.
- Right parenthesis: pop operator and two values; push the result of applying that operator to those values onto the operand stack.

Context. An interpreter!

value stack  
operator stack



## Arithmetic expression evaluation

```
public class Evaluate
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        Stack<String> ops = new Stack<String>();
        Stack<Double> vals = new Stack<Double>();
        while (!StdIn.isEmpty()) {
            String s = StdIn.readString();
            if (s.equals("("))
                ops.push(s);
            else if (s.equals("+")) ops.push(s);
            else if (s.equals("*")) ops.push(s);
            else if (s.equals(")")
            {
                String op = ops.pop();
                if (op.equals("+")) vals.push(vals.pop() + vals.pop());
                else if (op.equals("*")) vals.push(vals.pop() * vals.pop());
            }
            else vals.push(Double.parseDouble(s));
        }
        StdOut.println(vals.pop());
    }
}
```

```
% java Evaluate
( 1 + ( ( 2 + 3 ) * ( 4 * 5 ) ) )
101.0
```

## Correctness

Q. Why correct?

A. When algorithm encounters an operator surrounded by two values within parentheses, it leaves the result on the value stack.

```
( 1 + ( ( 2 + 3 ) * ( 4 * 5 ) ) )
```

as if the original input were:

```
( 1 + ( 5 * ( 4 * 5 ) ) )
```

Repeating the argument:

```
( 1 + ( 5 * 20 ) )  
( 1 + 100 )  
101
```

**Extensions.** More ops, precedence order, associativity.