

The Stack Calculator

Implement the following algorithm for the evaluation of arithmetic expressions.

Each operator has a *precedence*. The + and - operators have the lowest precedence, * and / have a higher (and equal) precedence, and ^ (which denotes “raising to a power” in this exercise) has the highest.

For example, should mean the same as with a value of 53.

Enhance your algorithm to deal with parentheses. Also, make sure that subtractions and divisions are carried out in the correct order. For example, 12 - 5 - 3 should yield 4.

In your algorithm, use two stacks. One stack holds numbers, the other holds operators. When you encounter a number, push it on the number stack. When you encounter an operator, push it on the operator stack if it has higher precedence than the operator on the top of the stack. Otherwise, pop an operator off the operator stack, pop two numbers off the number stack, and push the result of the computation on the number stack. Repeat until the top of the operator stack has lower precedence. At the end of the expression, clear the stack in the same way. For example, here is how the expression $3 * 4 \wedge 2 + 5$ is evaluated:

Expression: $3 * 4 \wedge 2 + 5$			
1	Remaining expression:	$* 4 \wedge 2 + 5$	Number stack 3 Operator stack
2	Remaining expression:	$4 \wedge 2 + 5$	Number stack 3 Operator stack *
3	Remaining expression:	$\wedge 2 + 5$	Number stack 4 3 Operator stack *
4	Remaining expression:	$2 + 5$	Number stack 4 3 Operator stack \wedge *
5	Remaining expression:	$+ 5$	Number stack 2 4 3 Operator stack \wedge *
6	Remaining expression:	$+ 5$	Number stack 16 3 Operator stack *
7	Remaining expression:	5	Number stack 48 Operator stack +
8	Remaining expression:		Number stack 5 48 Operator stack +
9	Remaining expression:		Number stack 53 Operator stack

