

# Mini-LISP

The language that your project's interpreter will process is a subset of [LISP](#), which we call it Mini-LISP for convenience. This handout first offers a general description, then goes into details such as lexical structure and grammar of the subset.

## Overview

LISP is an ancient programming language based on [S-expressions](#) and [lambda calculus](#). All operations in Mini-LISP are written in parenthesized [prefix notation](#). For example, a simple mathematical formula “ $(1 + 2) * 3$ ” written in Mini-LISP is:

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

As a simplified language, Mini-LISP has only three types (**Boolean**, **number** and **function**) and a few operations.

## Type Definition

- Boolean: Boolean type includes two values, #t for true and #f for false.
- Number: **Signed integer from  $-(2^{31})$  to  $2^{31} - 1$** , behavior out of this range is not defined.
- Function: See [Function](#).

Casting: Not allowed, but type checking is a bonus feature.

## Operation Overview

Numerical Operators		
Name	Symbol	Example
Plus	+	(+ 1 2) => 3
Minus	-	(- 1 2) => -1
Multiply	*	(* 2 3) => 6
Divide	/	(/ 6 3) => 2
Modulus	mod	(mod 8 3) => 2
Greater	>	(> 1 2) => #f
Smaller	<	(< 1 2) => #t
Equal	=	(= 1 2) => #f

Logical Operators		
Name	Symbol	Example
And	and	(and #t #f) => #f
Or	or	(or #t #f) => #t
Not	not	(not #t) => #f

**Other Operators:** define, fun, cond

Note that all operators are **reserved words**, you cannot use any of these words as ID.

## Lexical Details

Preliminary Definitions:

separator ::= '\t'(tab) | '\n' | '\r' | ''(space)

letter ::= [a-z]

digit ::= [0-9]

Token Definitions:

number ::= 0 | [1-9]digit\* | -[1-9]digit\*

*Examples: 0, 1, -23, 123456*

id ::= letter (letter | digit | '-' )\*

*Examples: x, y, john, cat-food* bool-

val ::= #t | #f

## Grammar Overview

PROGRAM ::= STMT<sup>+</sup>  
STMT ::= EXP | DEF-STMT | PRINT-STMT  
PRINT-STMT ::= print-num EXP | print-bool EXP  
EXP ::= bool-val | number | VARIABLE | NUM-OP | LOGICAL-OP | FUN-EXP | FUN-CALL  
          | COND-EXP  
NUM-OP ::= PLUS | MINUS | MULTIPLY | DIVIDE | MODULUS  
          | GREATER | SMALLER | EQUAL  
PLUS ::= (+ EXP EXP<sup>+</sup>)  
MINUS ::= (- EXP EXP)  
MULTIPLY ::= (\* EXP EXP<sup>+</sup>)  
DIVIDE ::= (/ EXP EXP)  
MODULUS ::= (mod EXP EXP)  
GREATER ::= (> EXP EXP)  
SMALLER ::= (< EXP EXP)  
EQUAL ::= (= EXP EXP<sup>+</sup>)  
LOGICAL-OP ::= AND-OP | OR-OP | NOT-OP  
AND-OP ::= (and EXP EXP<sup>+</sup>)  
OR-OP ::= (or EXP EXP<sup>+</sup>)  
NOT-OP ::= (not EXP)  
DEF-STMT ::= (define VARIABLE EXP)  
VARIABLE ::= id  
FUN-EXP ::= (fun FUN\_IDS FUN-BODY)  
FUN-IDS ::= (id\*)  
FUN-BODY ::= EXP  
FUN-CALL ::= (FUN-EXP PARAM\*)  
          | (FUN-NAME PARAM\*)  
PARAM ::= EXP  
LAST-EXP ::= EXP  
FUN-NAME ::= id  
IF-EXP ::= (if TEST-EXP THAN-EXP ELSE-EXP)  
TEST-EXP ::= EXP  
THEN-EXP ::= EXP  
ELSE-EXP ::= EXP

## Grammar and Behavior Definition

### 1. Program

PROGRAM ::= STMT<sup>+</sup>

STMT ::= EXP | DEF-STMT | PRINT-STMT

### 2. Print

PRINT-STMT ::= (print-num EXP) | (print-bool EXP)

**Behavior: Print** EXP in decimal, or print out the Boolean value generated by the given exp.

### 3. Expression (EXP)

EXP ::= bool-val | number | VARIABLE

| NUM-OP | LOGICAL-OP | FUN-EXP | FUN-CALL | COND-EXP

### 4. Numerical Operations (NUM-OP)

NUM-OP ::= PLUS | MINUS | MULTIPLY | DIVIDE | MODULUS

| GREATER | SMALLER | EQUAL

PLUS ::= (+ EXP EXP<sup>+</sup>)

**Behavior: return sum of all** EXP inside.

Example: (+ 1 2 3 4) → 10

MINUS ::= (- EXP EXP)

**Behavior: return the result that the 1<sup>st</sup> EXP minus the 2<sup>nd</sup> EXP.**

Example: (- 2 1) → 1

MULTIPLY ::= (\* EXP EXP<sup>+</sup>)

**Behavior: return the product of all** EXP inside.

Example: (\* 1 2 3 4) → 24

DIVIDE ::= (/ EXP EXP)

**Behavior: return the result that 1<sup>st</sup> EXP divided by 2<sup>nd</sup> EXP.**

Example: (/ 10 5) → 2

(/ 3 2) → 1 (just like C++)

MODULUS ::= (mod EXP EXP)

**Behavior: return the modulus that 1<sup>st</sup> EXP divided by 2<sup>nd</sup> EXP.**

Example: (mod 8 5) → 3

GREATER ::= (> EXP EXP)

**Behavior: return #t if 1<sup>st</sup> EXP greater than 2<sup>nd</sup> EXP. #f otherwise.**

Example: (> 1 2) → #f

SMALLER ::= (< EXP EXP)

**Behavior:** return #t if 1<sup>st</sup> EXP smaller than 2<sup>nd</sup> EXP. #f otherwise.

Example: (< 1 2) → #t

EQUAL ::= (= EXP EXP<sup>+</sup>)

**Behavior:** return #t if all EXPs are equal. #f otherwise.

Example: (= (+ 1 1) 2 (/6 3)) → #t

## 5. Logical Operations (LOGICAL-OP)

LOGICAL-OP ::= AND-OP | OR-OP | NOT-OP

AND-OP ::= (and EXP EXP<sup>+</sup>)

**Behavior:** return #t if all EXPs are true. #f otherwise.

Example: (and #t (> 2 1)) → #t

OR-OP ::= (or EXP EXP<sup>+</sup>)

**Behavior:** return #t if at least one EXP is true. #f otherwise.

Example: (or (> 1 2) #f) → #f

NOT-OP ::= (not EXP)

**Behavior:** return #t if EXP is false. #f otherwise.

Example: (not (> 1 2)) → #t

## 6. define Statement (DEF-STMT)

DEF-STMT ::= (define VARIABLE EXP)

VARIABLE ::= id

**Behavior:** Define a variable named id whose value is EXP.

Example:

(define x 5)

(+ x 1) → 6

Note: Redefining is not allowed.

## 7. Function

FUN-EXP ::= (fun FUN\_IDs FUN-BODY)

FUN-IDs ::= (id\*)

FUN-BODY ::= EXP

FUN-CALL ::= (FUN-EXP PARAM\*)

          | (FUN-NAME PARAM\*)

PARAM ::= EXP

LAST-EXP ::= EXP

FUN-NAME ::= id

**Behavior:**

FUN-EXP defines a function. When a function is called, bind FUN-IDs to PARAMs, just

like the define statement. If an id has been defined outside this function, prefer the definition inside the FUN-EXP. The variable definitions inside a function should not affect the outer scope. A FUN-CALL returns the evaluated result of FUN-BODY. Note that variables used in FUN-BODY should be bound to PARAMs.

Examples:

```
((fun (x) (+ x 1)) 2) → 3
  ↑ FUN-EXP      ↑ FUN-CALL
```

```
(define foo (fun () 0))
(foo) → 0
```

```
(define x 1)
(define bar (fun (x y) (+ x y)))
(bar 2 3) → 5
x → 1
```

8. **if** Expression  
IF-EXP ::= (**if** TEST-EXP THEN-EXP ELSE-EXP)  
TEST-EXP ::= EXP  
THEN-EXP ::= EXP  
ELSE-EXP ::= EXP

**Behavior:** When TEST-EXP is true, returns THEN-EXP. Otherwise, returns ELSE-EXP.

Example:

```
(if (= 1 0) 1 2) → 2
(if #t 1 2) → 1
```