

Prefix, Postfix, Infix Notation

Infix Notation

☞ To add A, B, we write

$$A+B$$

☞ To multiply A, B, we write

$$A*B$$

☞ The operators ('+' and '*') go in between the operands ('A' and 'B')
☞ This is "Infix" notation.

Prefix Notation

☞ Instead of saying "A plus B", we could say "add A,B" and write

+ A B

☞ "Multiply A,B" would be written

* A B

☞ This is Prefix notation.

Postfix Notation

☞ Another alternative is to put the operators after the operands as in

A B +

and

A B *

☞ This is Postfix notation.

Pre A In B Post

The terms infix, prefix, and postfix tell us whether the operators go between, before, or after the operands.

Parentheses

☞ Evaluate $2+3*5$.

☞ + First:

$$(2+3)*5 = 5*5 = 25$$

☞ * First:

$$2+(3*5) = 2+15 = 17$$

☞ Infix notation requires Parentheses.

What about Prefix Notation?

$$\text{calculator icon} + 2 * 35 =$$

$$= + 2 \underline{* 35}$$

$$= + \underline{2 15} = 17$$

$$\text{calculator icon} * + 2 35 =$$

$$= * \underline{+ 2 35}$$

$$= * \underline{55} = 25$$

 No parentheses needed!

Postfix Notation

💡 $2 \ 3 \ 5 * + =$

$$= 2 \underline{3 \ 5 * +}$$

$$= \underline{2 \ 15 +} = 17$$

💡 $2 \ 3 + 5 * =$

$$= \underline{2 \ 3 + 5 *}$$

$$= \underline{5 \ 5 *} = 25$$

💡 No parentheses needed here either!



Conclusion:

☞ Infix is the only notation that requires parentheses in order to change the order in which the operations are done.

Fully Parenthesized Expression (FPE)

- ☞ A FPE has exactly one set of Parentheses enclosing each operator and its operands.
- ☞ Which is fully parenthesized?

$(A + B) * C$

★ $((A + B) * C)$

$((A + B) * (C))$

Infix to Prefix Conversion

Move each operator to the left of its
operands & remove the parentheses:

$$((A + B) * (C + D))$$


Infix to Prefix Conversion

Move each operator to the left of its
operands & remove the parentheses:

$$(+ A B * (C + D))$$


Infix to Prefix Conversion

Move each operator to the left of its
operands & remove the parentheses:

$$\begin{array}{c} * + A \ B \ (C + D) \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array}$$

Infix to Prefix Conversion

Move each operator to the left of its
operands & remove the parentheses:

* + A B + C D

Order of operands does not change!

Infix to Postfix

$$(((A + B)^* C) - ((D + E) / F))$$

A B + C * D E + F / -

- ☞ Operand order does not change!
- ☞ Operators are in order of evaluation!

Computer Algorithm

FPE Infix To Postfix



Assumptions:

1. Space delimited list of tokens represents a FPE infix expression
2. Operands are single characters.
3. Operators +,-,*,/

FPE Infix To Postfix

- ☞ Initialize a Stack for operators, output list
- ☞ Split the input into a list of tokens.
- ☞ for each token (left to right):
 - if it is operand: append to output
 - if it is '(': push onto Stack
 - if it is ')': pop & append till '('

FPE Infix to Postfix

$$(((A + B)^* (C - E)) / (F + G))$$


☞ stack: <empty>

☞ output: []

FPE Infix to Postfix

$$((A + B)^* (C - E)) / (F + G))$$


stack: (

output: []

FPE Infix to Postfix

$$(A + B)^* (C - E)) / (F + G))$$


stack: ((

output: []

FPE Infix to Postfix

$A + B)^* (C - E)) / (F + G))$

stack: (((

output: []

FPE Infix to Postfix

$(A + B) * (C - E)) / (F + G))$



☞ stack: (((

☞ output: [A]

FPE Infix to Postfix

B) * (C - E)) / (F + G))



☞ stack: (((+
☞ output: [A]

FPE Infix to Postfix

$)^* (C - E)) / (F + G))$



☞ stack: (((+

☞ output: [A B]

FPE Infix to Postfix

$* (C - E)) / (F + G))$



☞ stack: ((

☞ output: [A B +]

FPE Infix to Postfix

$(C - E)) / (F + G))$



stack: ((*

output: [A B +]

FPE Infix to Postfix

$C - E))) / (F + G))$



stack: ((* (

output: [A B +]

FPE Infix to Postfix

- E)) / (F + G))



stack: ((* (

output: [A B + C]

FPE Infix to Postfix

$E)) / (F + G))$



☞ stack: ((* (-

☞ output: [A B + C]

FPE Infix to Postfix

$)) / (F + G))$



stack: ((* (-

output: [A B + C E]

FPE Infix to Postfix

) / (F + G))



☞ stack: ((*

☞ output: [A B + C E -]

FPE Infix to Postfix

$/ (F + G))$



☞ stack: (

☞ output: [A B + C E - *]

FPE Infix to Postfix

(F + G))



☞ stack: (/

☞ output: [A B + C E - *]

FPE Infix to Postfix

$F + G))$



☞ stack: (/ (

☞ output: [A B + C E - *]

FPE Infix to Postfix

+ G))



stack: (/ (

output: [A B + C E - * F]

FPE Infix to Postfix

G))



stack: (/ (+

output: [A B + C E - * F]

FPE Infix to Postfix

))



stack: (/ (+

output: [A B + C E - * F G]

FPE Infix to Postfix

)



☞ stack: (/

☞ output: [A B + C E - * F G +]

FPE Infix to Postfix



stack: <empty>

output: [A B + C E - * F G + /]

Problem with FPE

- ☞ Too many parentheses.
- ☞ Need to establish precedence rules.
- ☞ We can alter the previous program to use the precedence rules.

Infix to Postfix

while there are more symbols to be read

read the next symbol

case:

operand --> output it.

'(' --> push it on the stack.

')) --> pop operators from the stack to the output until a '(' is popped; do not output either of the parentheses.

operator --> pop higher- or equal-precedence operators from the stack to the output; stop before popping a lower-precedence operator or a ')'. Push the operator on the stack.

end case

end while

pop the remaining operators from the stack to the output