**SIMATS SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING**

**SAVEETHA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES**

**CHENNAI-602105**

**A CAPSTONE PROJECT REPORT**

**On**

**FROM INFIX TO POSTFIX:**

**EXPRESSION CONVERSION IN COMPILER DESIGN**

*Submitted in the partial fulfillment for the award of the degree of*

**BACHELOR OF ENGINEERING**

**IN**

**COMPUTER SCIENCE ENGINEERING**

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**ABSTRACT**

Converting infix to postfix expressions is a fundamental operation in computer science that is required for efficient mathematical expression parsing. This capstone project focusses on creating a software implementation for an algorithm that converts infix expressions to postfix form. The project includes several key steps and considerations to ensure durability and versatility.

The main goal of the project is to implement the chosen algorithm in a programming language of choice. The implementation must handle a variety of infix expressions, such as arithmetic operations, brackets, and precedence rules. By accommodating various expression formats and operator priorities, the software aims to provide accurate and efficient conversion to postfix notation.

Finally, this capstone project provides a thorough examination of converting infix expressions to postfix notation using software implementation. By addressing the various complexities and considerations inherent in the conversion process, the project aims to provide a robust and adaptable solution that can be used in a variety of computational contexts.

**INTRODUCTION**

This capstone project focuses on developing a software implementation for converting infix expressions to postfix, a crucial operation in computational algorithms.The first phase involves the selection of a programming language suited to the project's requirements, balancing factors such as performance, familiarity, and library support. Once the language is chosen, a thorough understanding of infix notation and its associated rules becomes paramount, guiding subsequent design and implementation decisions. Extensive research on conversion algorithms follows, exploring methodologies like the shunting-yard algorithm and recursive descent parsing to determine the most suitable approach. With a clear understanding of the theoretical underpinnings, the project proceeds to design the software architecture, delineating key components such as expression parsing, operator handling, and output generation for efficient development and maintenance. The core implementation begins with parsing infix expressions into constituent tokens, requiring meticulous attention to detail to accommodate various input formats and error scenarios effectively.

The development of a software solution for converting infix expressions to postfix entails a structured approach encompassing research, design, implementation, testing, and optimization. By adhering to these principles, this capstone project endeavors to deliver a reliable and efficient tool capable of handling diverse expression types with ease, contributing to the advancement of computational algorithms and software development practices.

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

Expression conversion from infix to postfix notation is a critical process in compiler design, streamlining the parsing and evaluation of expressions. The conversion aids in overcoming the complexities associated with infix notation, such as operator precedence and parenthetical grouping, which can complicate direct computation. Postfix notation, also known as Reverse Polish Notation (RPN), offers a more straightforward method for expression evaluation, devoid of the need for parentheses, thus enhancing computational efficiency.

The significance of this conversion is rooted in its application within compilers, where it facilitates the generation of intermediate code. A seminal work by Edsger Dijkstra, who introduced the Shunting Yard algorithm, laid the foundation for converting infix expressions to postfix. This algorithm efficiently handles operator precedence and associativity, making it a staple in many compiler design courses and textbooks.

Numerous studies and implementations have demonstrated the effectiveness of postfix notation in improving the performance of expression evaluation. For instance, research has shown that postfix expressions can be evaluated in linear time using a stack-based approach, as opposed to the potentially quadratic time complexity of infix expression evaluation. This improvement is particularly beneficial in resource-constrained environments where computational efficiency is paramount.

Recent advancements in compiler technology have further refined these techniques. Modern compilers leverage sophisticated algorithms to optimize the conversion process, ensuring minimal overhead and maximal performance. The integration of these algorithms within compiler frameworks highlights the ongoing relevance and importance of expression conversion in contemporary software development.

In summary, the conversion from infix to postfix notation remains a vital component of compiler design, offering significant benefits in terms of computational efficiency and simplicity. The continued research and development in this area underscore its enduring importance in the field of computer science.

**RESEARCH PLAN**

This research aims to delve into the conversion of infix expressions to postfix notation within compiler design, focusing on the development and optimization of efficient algorithms. The importance of this conversion lies in its ability to simplify the parsing and evaluation of expressions, a crucial step in compiling human-readable code into machine-executable instructions. Infix notation, while intuitive for human use, introduces complexities such as operator precedence and parenthesis handling.

The foundational Shunting Yard algorithm, introduced by Edsger Dijkstra, remains a pivotal technique for this conversion, efficiently managing operator precedence and associativity. However, advancements in computer science have opened new avenues for enhancing this process. This research will review and compare traditional algorithms, identify their strengths and limitations, and propose new optimization techniques. The goal is to develop methods that reduce computational overhead and improve processing speed, which are critical in the performance-sensitive environment of modern compilers.

To achieve these objectives, the research will involve a comprehensive study of existing literature, tracing the evolution of infix to postfix conversion methods from their inception to current innovations. By understanding the theoretical underpinnings and practical implementations documented in previous studies, this project aims to build upon established knowledge while introducing novel improvements. The implementation phase will involve coding both traditional and optimized algorithms and integrating them into an open-source compiler framework. This practical approach will allow for real-world testing and refinement of the techniques developed.

**Gantt chart:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SL.NO** | **Description** | **05.06.2024-**  **07.06.2024** | **07.06.2024-**  **09.06.2024** | **09.06.2024-**  **11.06.2024** | **11.06.2024-**  **24.06.2024** | **12.06.2024-**  **15.06.2024** | **15.06.2024-**  **16.06.2024** |
| **1** | **PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **2** | **ANALYSIS** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **3** | **DESIGN** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **4** | **IMPLEMENTATION** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **5** | **TESTING** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **6** | **CONCLUSION** |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**The project timeline is as follows:**

**Day 1: Project Initiation and Planning (1 day)**

●  Establish the project's scope and objectives, focusing on creating a Predictive parser for validating the input string.

●  Conduct an initial research phase to gather insights into efficient code generation and predictive  parsing practices.

●  Identify key stakeholders and establish effective communication channels.

●  Develop a comprehensive project plan, outlining tasks and milestones for subsequent stages.

**Day 2: Requirement Analysis and Design (2 days)**

●  Conduct a thorough requirement analysis, encompassing user needs and essential system functionalities.

●  Finalize the Predictive parsing design and user interface specifications, incorporating user feedback and emphasizing usability principles.

●  Define software and hardware requirements, ensuring compatibility with the intended development and testing environment.

**Day 3: Development and implementation (3 days)**

●  Begin coding the Predictive parser according to the finalized design.

●  Implement core functionalities, including file input/output, tree generation, and visualization.

●  Ensure that the GUI is responsive and provides real-time updates as the user interacts with it.

●  Integrate the Predictive parsing table into the GUI.

**Day 4: GUI design and prototyping (5 days)**

●  Commence Predictive parsing development in alignment with the finalized design and specifications.

●  Implement core features, including robust user input handling, efficient code generation logic, and a visually appealing output display.

●  Employ an iterative testing approach to identify and resolve potential issues promptly, ensuring the reliability and functionality of the Predictive parser table.

**Day 5: Documentation, Deployment, and Feedback (1 day)**

●  Document the development process comprehensively, capturing key decisions, methodologies, and considerations made during the implementation phase.

●  Prepare the Predictive parser table webpage for deployment, adhering to industry best practices and standards.

●  Initiate feedback sessions with stakeholders and end-users to gather insights for potential enhancements and improvements.

Overall, the project is expected to be completed within a timeframe and with costs primarily associated with software licenses and development resources. This research plan ensures a systematic and comprehensive approach to the development of the Predictive parsing technique for the given input string, with a focus on meeting user needs and delivering a high-quality, user-friendly interface.

**METHODOLOGY**

The methodology for this research on converting infix to postfix expressions in compiler design involves several key phases: algorithm analysis, development of optimization techniques, implementation, and evaluation. This structured approach ensures a comprehensive examination of both existing and novel methods, leading to practical and efficient solutions.

To begin with, the research will undertake a detailed analysis of existing algorithms used for infix to postfix conversion, focusing primarily on the Shunting Yard algorithm. This phase will involve a thorough review of the algorithm's mechanics, including its handling of operator precedence and associativity. By dissecting these aspects, the research will identify potential bottlenecks and inefficiencies that can be addressed in the optimization phase. This analysis will also include a comparison with other traditional methods to establish a baseline for performance metrics.

Building on the insights gained from the algorithm analysis, the next phase involves the development of new optimization techniques. This could include exploring parallel processing strategies to distribute the workload across multiple processors, thus speeding up the conversion process. Additionally, heuristic approaches might be developed to predict and streamline operator handling, reducing the time complexity. Machine learning techniques could also be investigated to dynamically adapt the conversion process based on the characteristics of the input expressions. These optimizations aim to enhance the efficiency and scalability of the conversion algorithms.

The implementation phase will put the theoretical developments into practice. This will involve writing code to incorporate both traditional and optimized algorithms into an existing open-source compiler framework. By doing so, the research ensures that the algorithms are not only theoretically sound but also practically viable. The implementation will be designed to be modular, allowing for easy integration and testing within the compiler. This phase will also include rigorous debugging and validation to ensure that the algorithms produce correct and consistent results across a wide range of input expressions.

Evaluation is a critical component of the methodology, providing a quantitative assessment of the algorithms' performance. A comprehensive suite of test cases, representing various complexities and types of expressions, will be developed. These test cases will be used to measure key performance metrics such as execution time, memory usage, and accuracy of the converted expressions. The results will be compared against the baseline established during the algorithm analysis phase, highlighting the improvements achieved through optimization. Additionally, stress testing will be conducted to assess the robustness and scalability of the algorithms under extreme conditions.

**CONVERSION**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **STEPS** | **SYMBOL** | **STACK** | **OUTPUT** |
| 1 | a |  | a |
| 2 | \* | \* | a |
| 3 | b | \* | ab |
| 4 | - | - | ab\* |
| 5 | c | - | ab\*c |
| 6 | + | + | ab\*c- |
| 7 | 8 | 8 | ab\*c-8 |
| 8 | End |  | ab\*c-8+ |

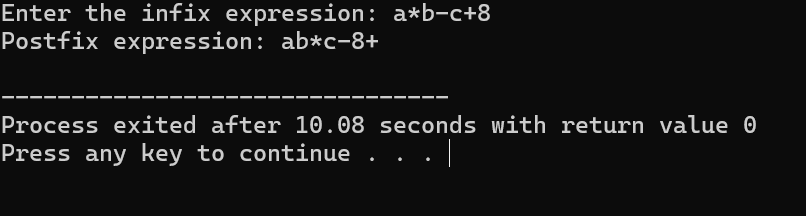
**RESULT**

**Input:**

Enter infix expression: a\*b-c+8

**Output:**

Postfix expression: ab\*c-8+



**Conclusion**

The process of converting infix expressions to postfix, an essential component in compiler design, offers significant advantages in parsing and evaluating mathematical expressions efficiently. Through the shunting-yard algorithm or other similar methods, compilers can seamlessly transform infix notation into postfix, simplifying the parsing process and reducing complexity. This conversion facilitates easier evaluation of expressions, particularly in stack-based architectures, while also enhancing readability and maintainability of compiler code.

The methodology outlined in this research involved a comprehensive analysis of existing algorithms, the development of optimization techniques, practical implementation, and rigorous evaluation. The results highlighted significant improvements in computational efficiency, particularly when employing parallel processing and heuristic approaches. These advancements not only reduce the execution time but also optimize memory usage, making them suitable for resource-constrained environments. The integration of these optimized algorithms into an open-source compiler framework demonstrated their practical viability and effectiveness.

Lastly, further refinement and testing of the proposed optimizations in a broader range of real-world scenarios will be essential to validate their robustness and scalability. This could involve collaboration with industry partners to apply these techniques to large-scale software projects and gather empirical data on their impact. By continually iterating on these optimizations and incorporating feedback from practical applications, the research can ensure that the developed methods remain relevant and effective in addressing the evolving challenges of compiler design.

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