



创心 D2 第十四届 前端技术论坛

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翻译 / Translation





BABEL

Under the Hood



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Babel team

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What is Babel?





What is Babel?

Babel is a JavaScript
compiler





```
const square = n => n ** 2;
```

```
[square]  
  StackCheck  
  Ldar a0  
  ExpSmi [2], [0]  
  Return
```



```
const square = n => n ** 2;
```





It's a JavaScript to JavaScript compiler

```
const square = n => n ** 2;
```

```
var square = function (n) {  
  return Math.pow(n, 2);  
};
```





Compilers' data structure: **Abstract Syntax Tree (AST)**





A naive approach to compilation: *Regular Expressions*

`n => n ** 2`



A naive approach to compilation: *Regular Expressions*

`n => n ** 2`

`/((\w+)\s**\s*\s*(\w+))/`

Words or numbers

Spaces

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`Math.pow($1, $2)`

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`Math.pow($1, $2)`

`n => Math.pow(n, 2)`

A naive approach to compilation: *Regular Expressions*



A naive approach to compilation: *Regular Expressions*

COMPLEXITY

`fn(a) ** (2 ** 3)`



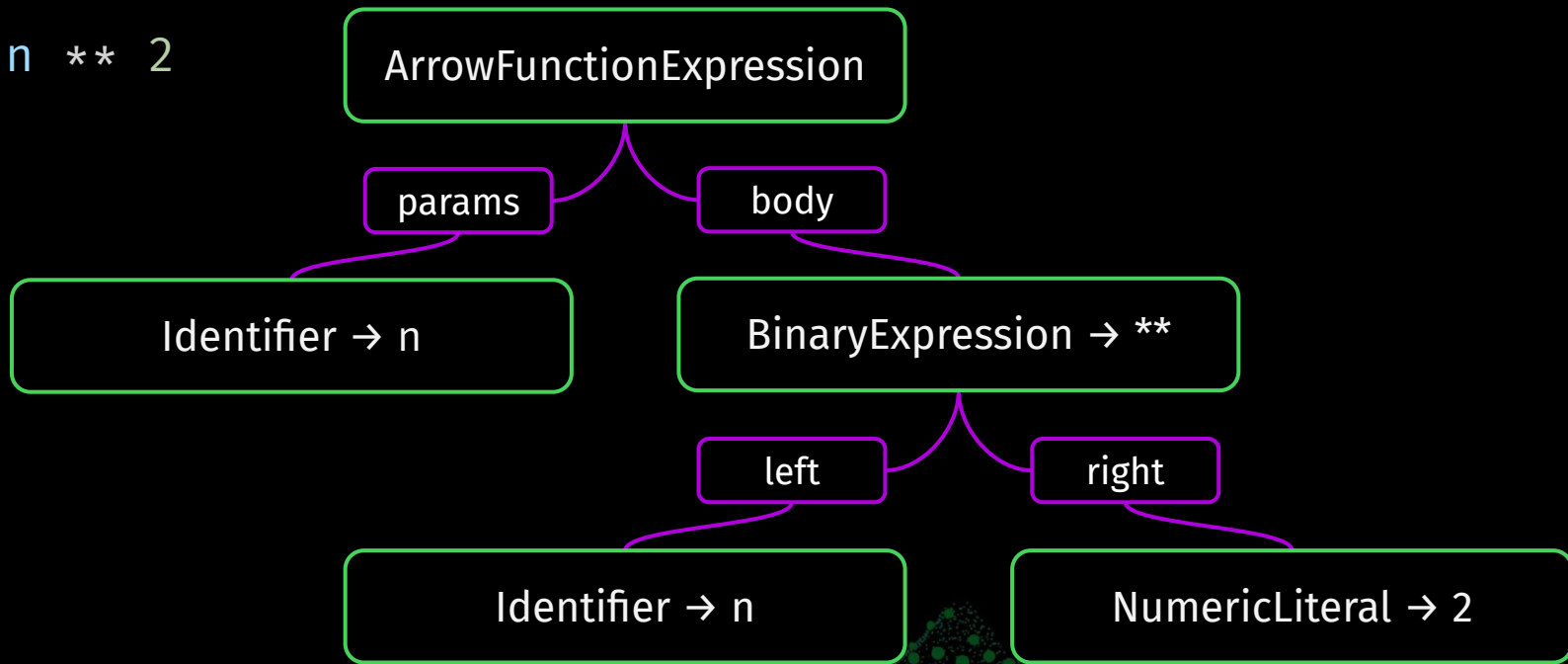
INACCURACY

`"8" !== "2 ** 3"`



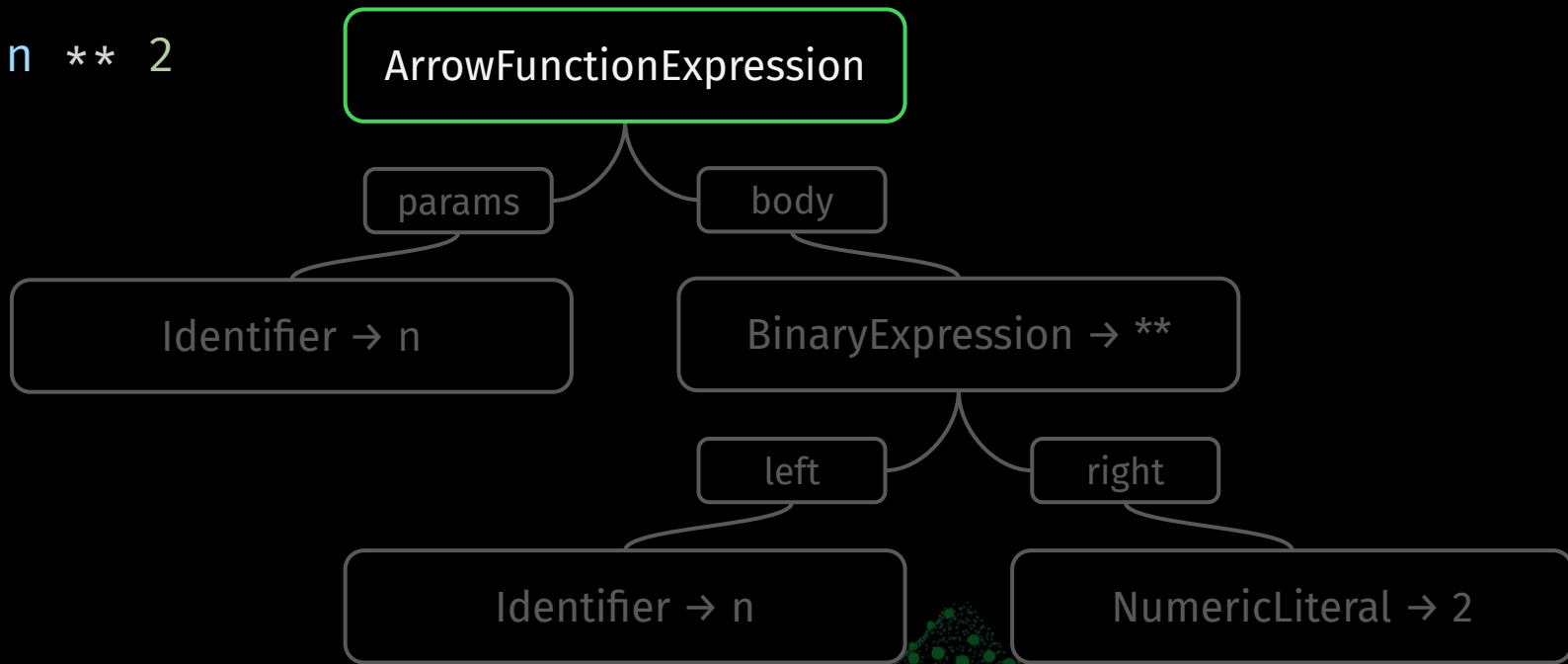
Abstract Syntax Tree

`n => n ** 2`



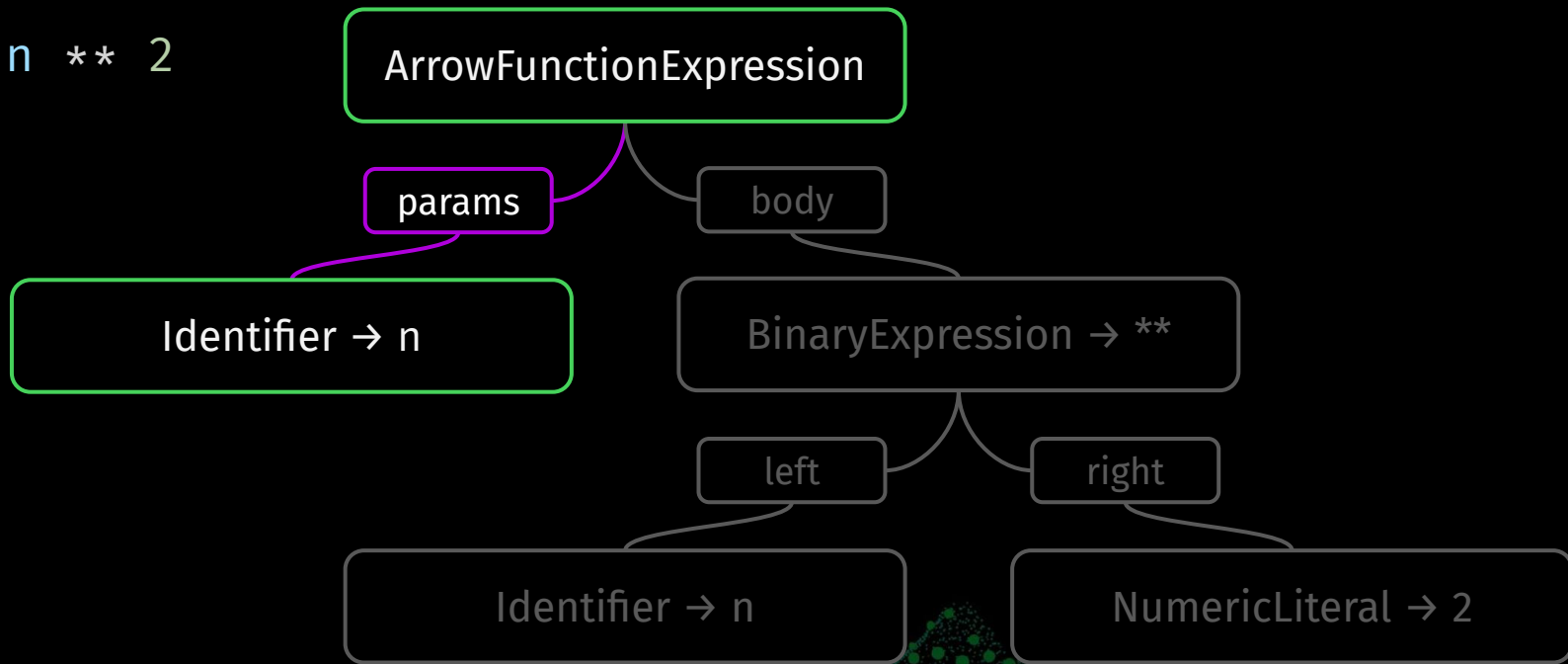
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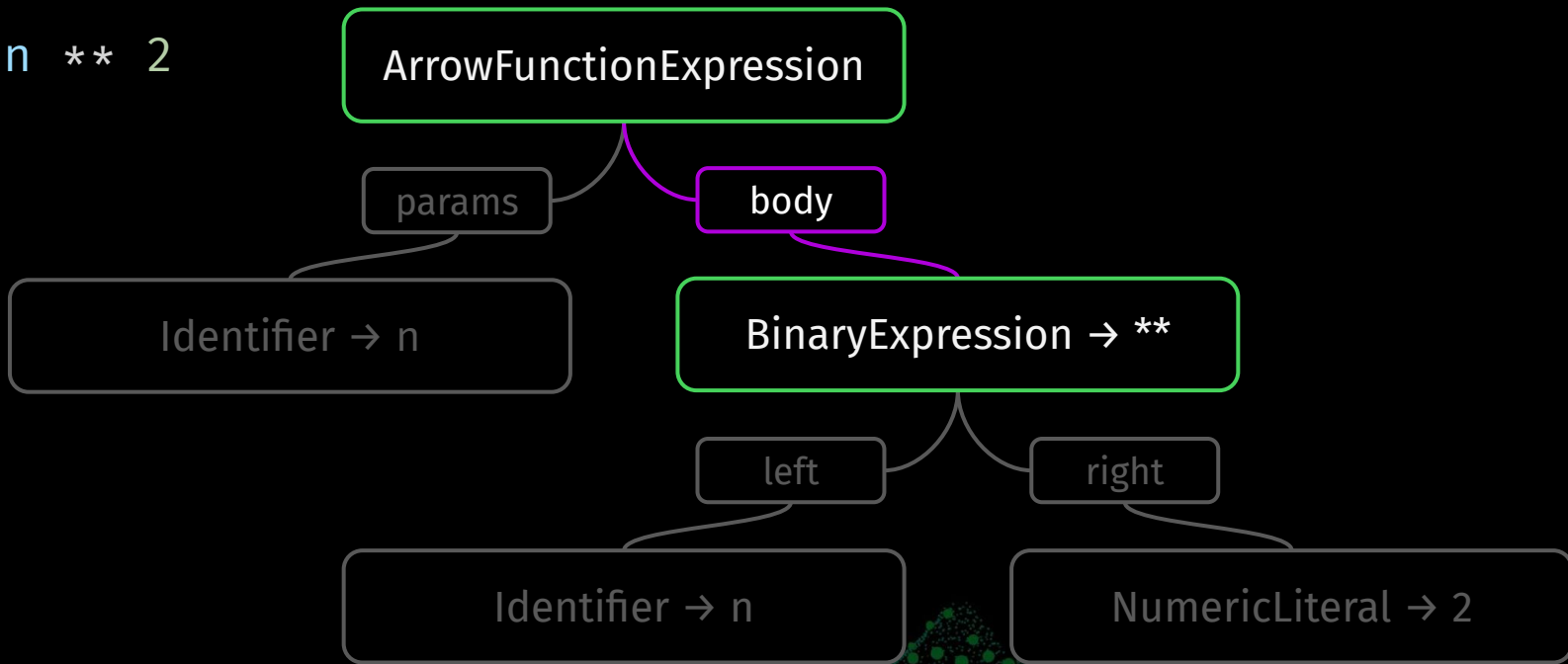
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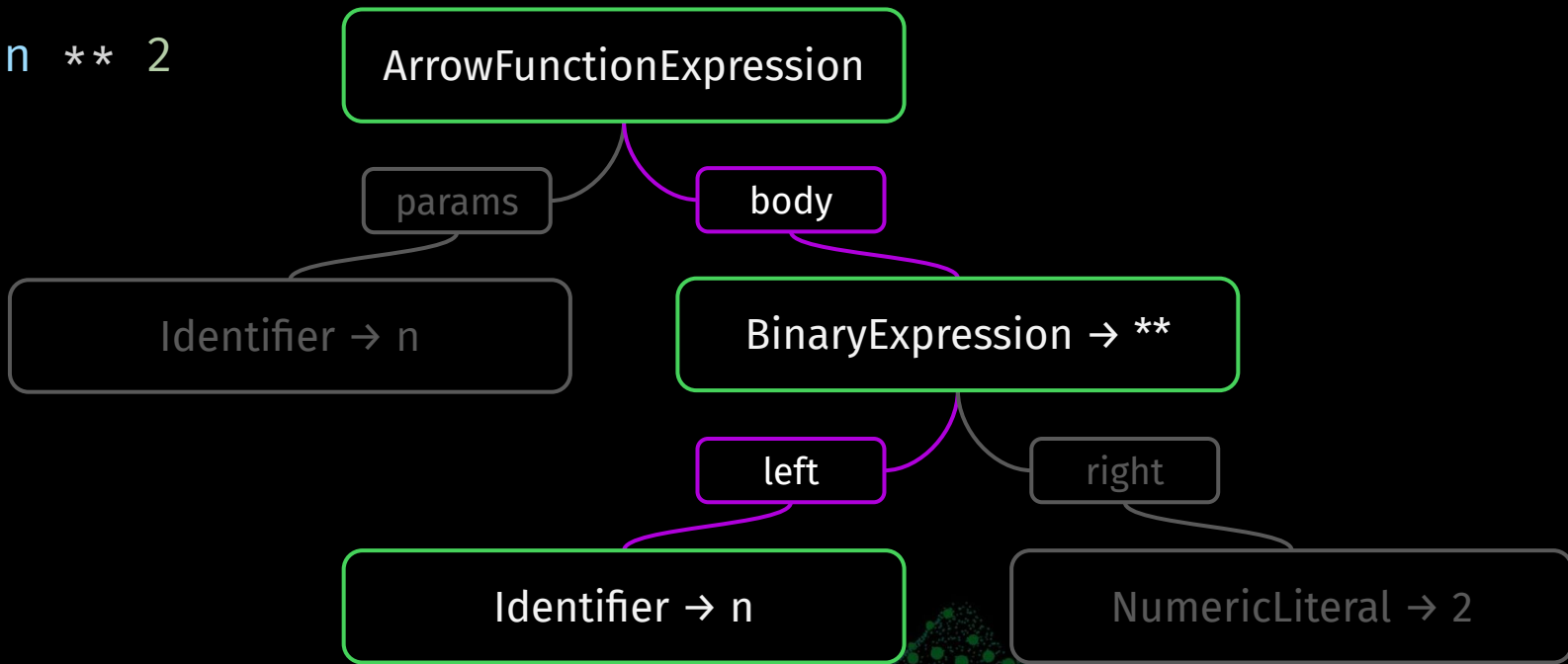
Abstract Syntax Tree

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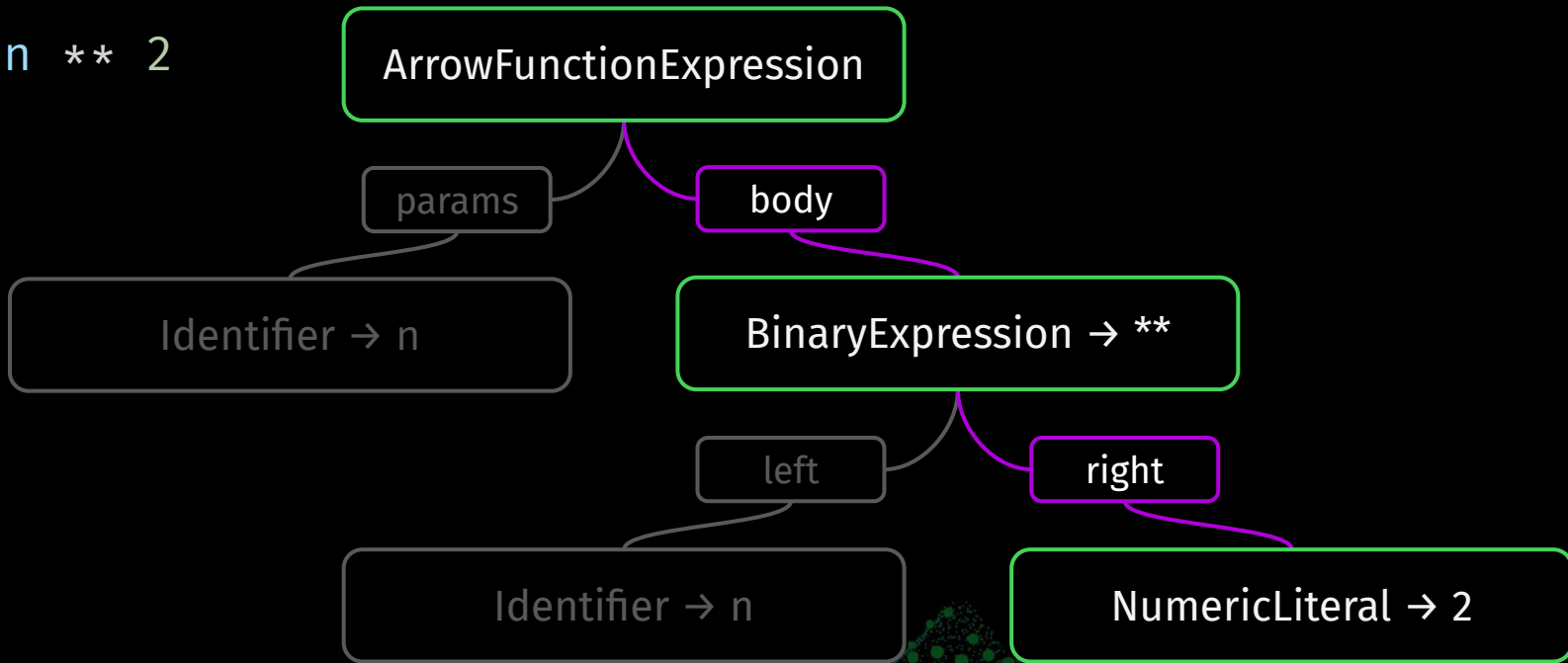
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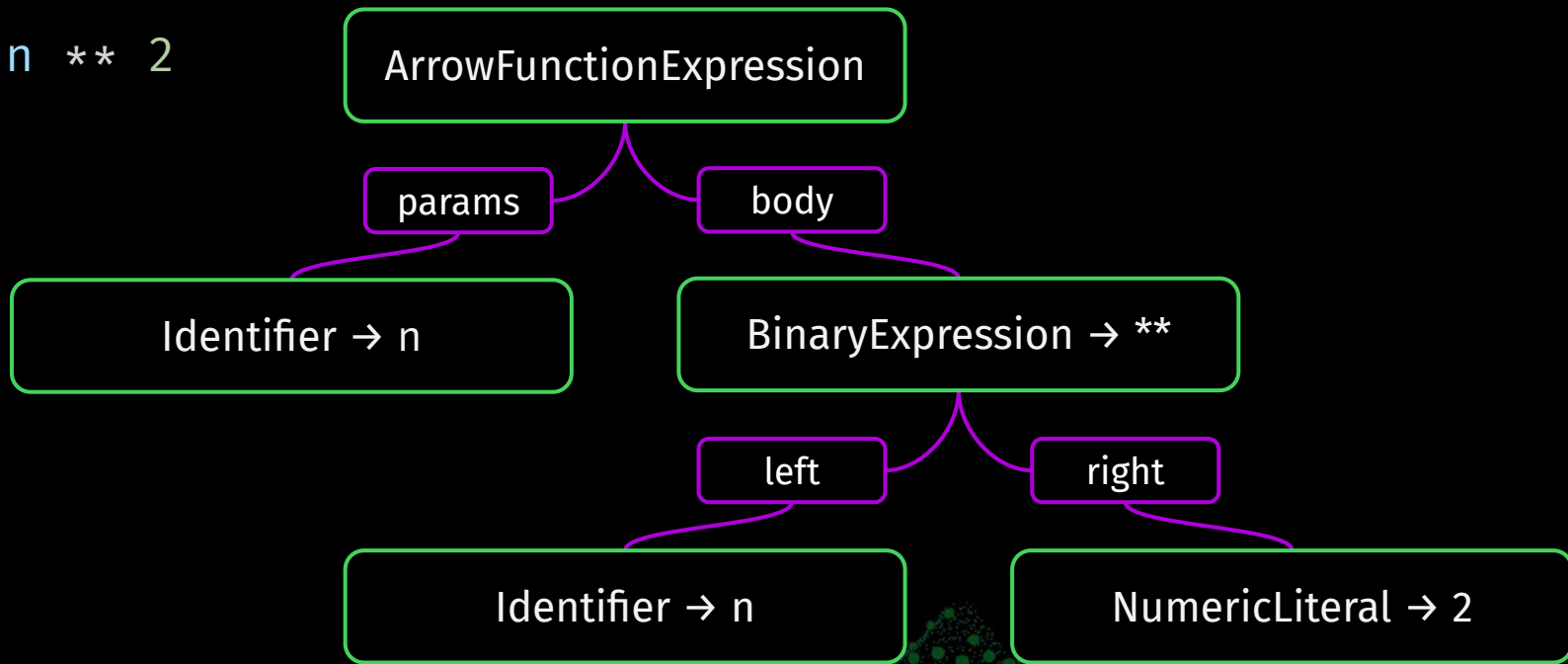
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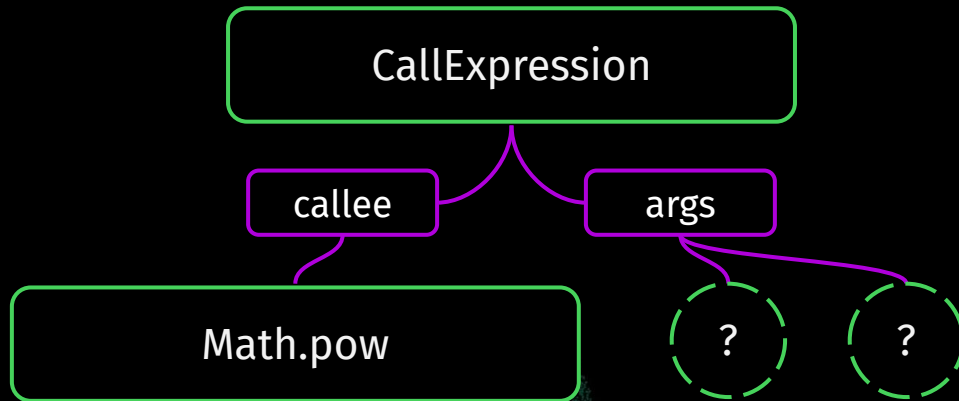
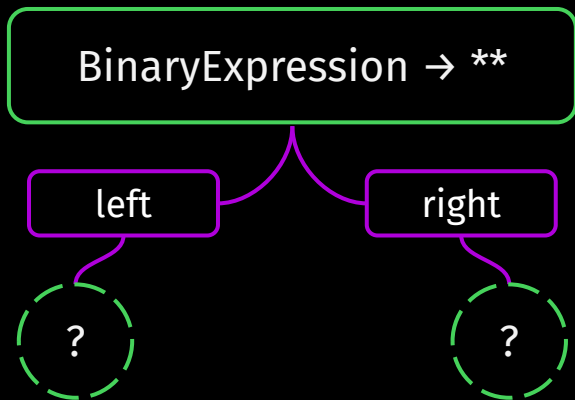


Abstract Syntax Tree

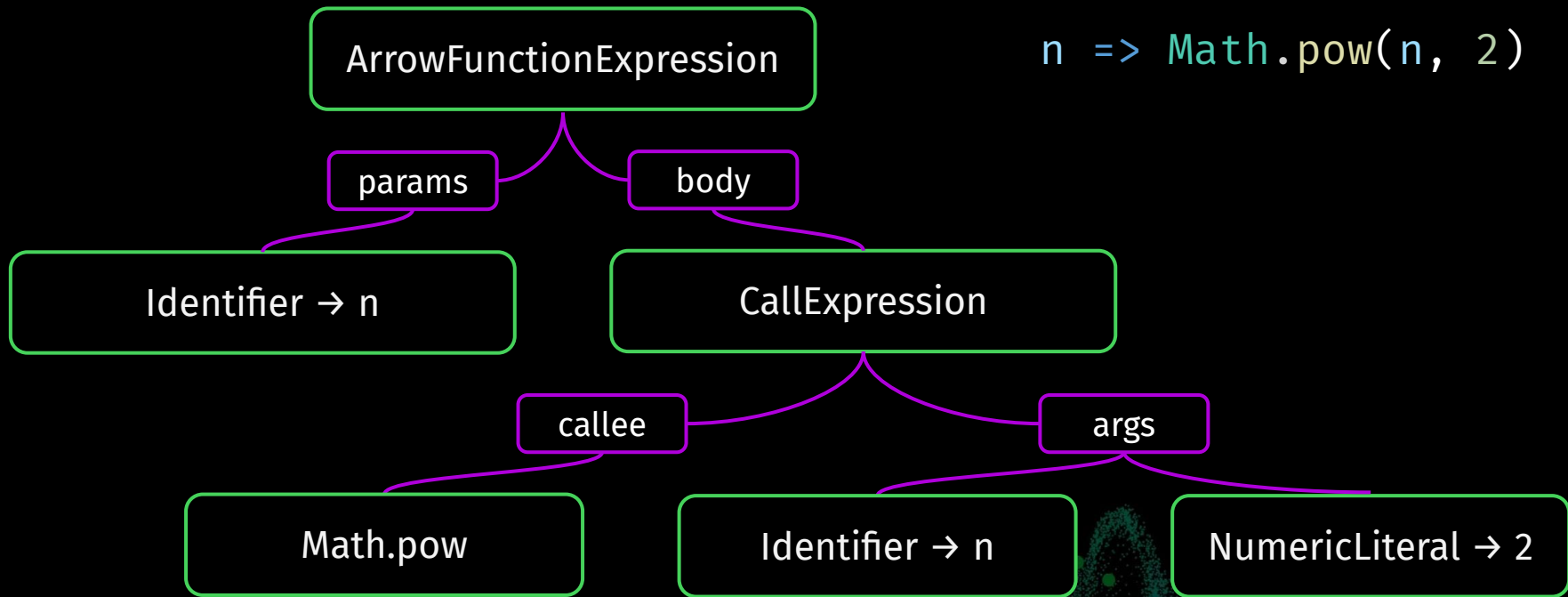
`n => n ** 2`



AST node replacement



AST node replacement





AST node replacement



AST node replacement



~~COMPLEXITY~~

`fn(a) ** (2 ** 3)`

~~INACCURACY~~

`"8" !== "2 ** 3"`



`**`



`StringLiteral → "2 ** 3"`



Babel's AST

```
{  
  "type": "BinaryExpression",  
  "operator": "**",  
  "left": {  
    "type": "Identifier",  
    "name": "n"  
  },  
  "right": {  
    "type": "NumericLiteral",  
    "value": 2  
  }  
}
```

```
{  
  "type": "CallExpression",  
  "callee": { /* ... */ },  
  "arguments": [{  
    "type": "Identifier",  
    "name": "n"  
  }, {  
    "type": "NumericLiteral",  
    "value": 2  
  }]  
}
```



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```

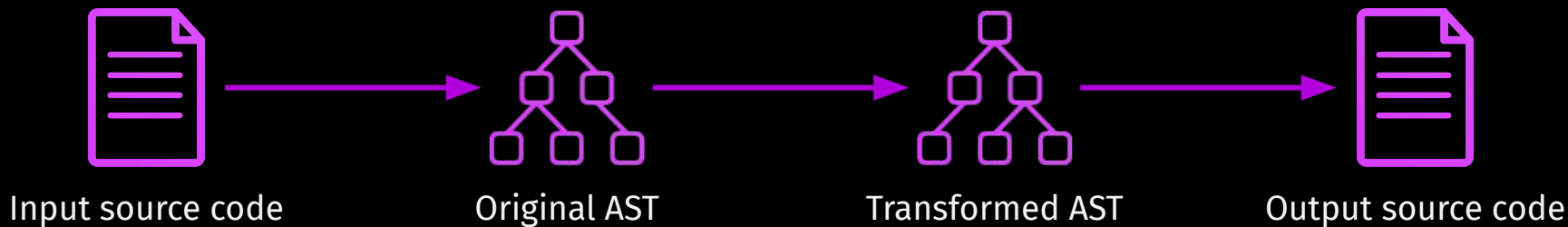




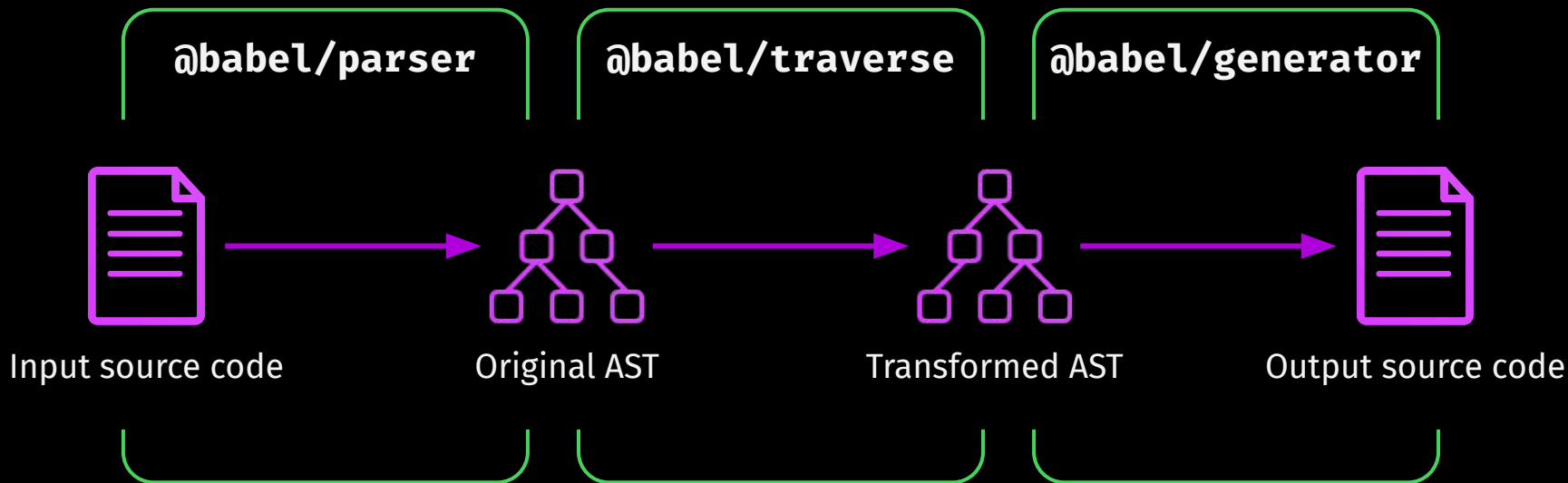
A look inside Babel



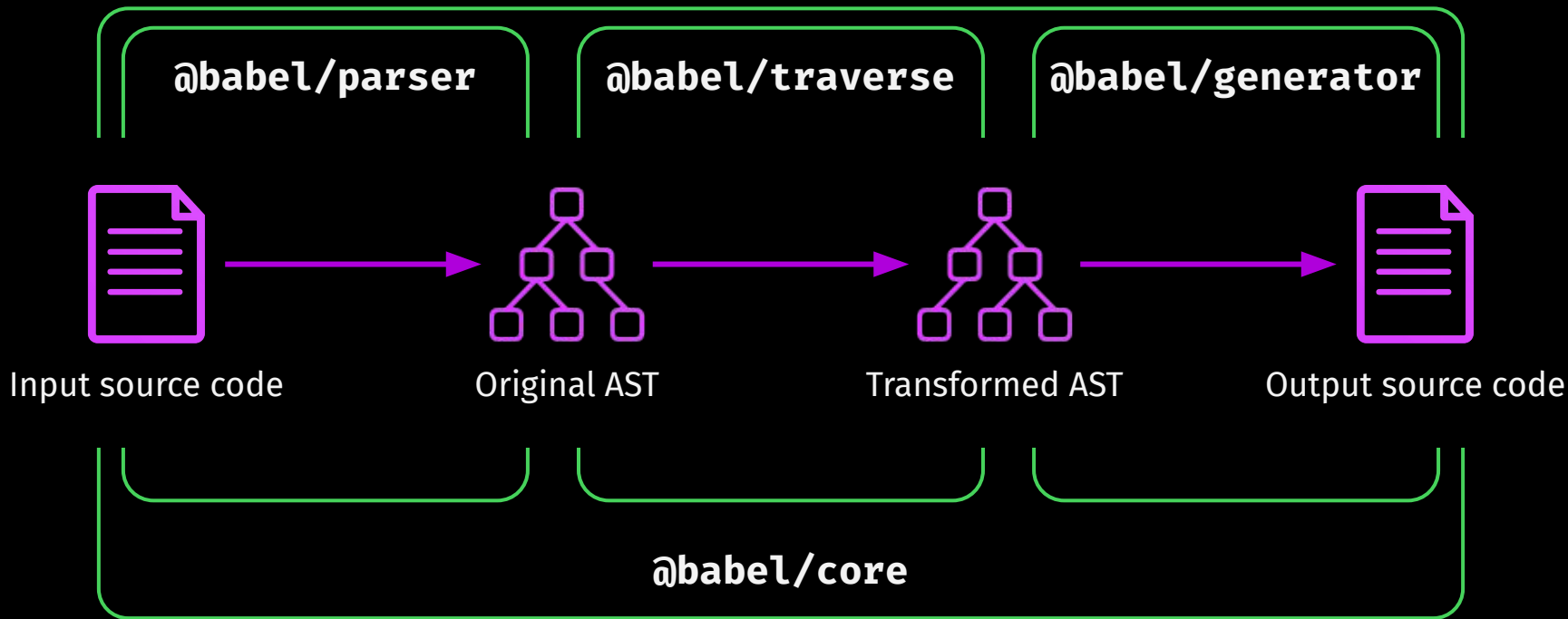
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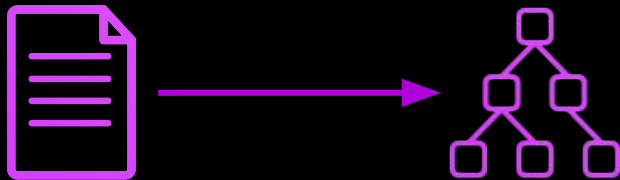


A look inside Babel



A look inside Babel:

@babel/parser





1. Lexical analysis

Transform the input source code into a list of ***tokens***

```
var a = 7;
```



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1. Keyword `var`



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|---------------|-----|
| 1. Keyword | var |
| 2. Identifier | a |



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var a = 7;
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| 1. Keyword | <code>var</code> |
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| 3. Punctuator | <code>=</code> |



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| 4. Literal | <code>7</code> |

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| 3. | Punctuator | <code>=</code> |
| 4. | Literal | <code>7</code> |
| 5. | Punctuator | <code>;</code> |





1. Lexical analysis

Report errors about invalid literals or characters





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Unterminated comment

```
/* var a = 7;
```



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```
/* var a = 7;
```

Unexpected character '°'

```
var a = 7°;
```

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Report errors about invalid literals or characters

Unterminated comment

```
/* var a = 7;
```

Unexpected character '°'

```
var a = 7°;
```

Expected number in radix 2

```
var a = 0b20;
```



2. Syntax analysis

Transform the list of tokens into an *AST*

```
var a = 7;
```



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Transform the list of tokens into an *AST*

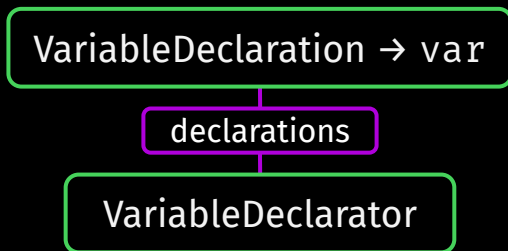
```
var a = 7;
```

VariableDeclaration → var

2. Syntax analysis

Transform the list of tokens into an *AST*

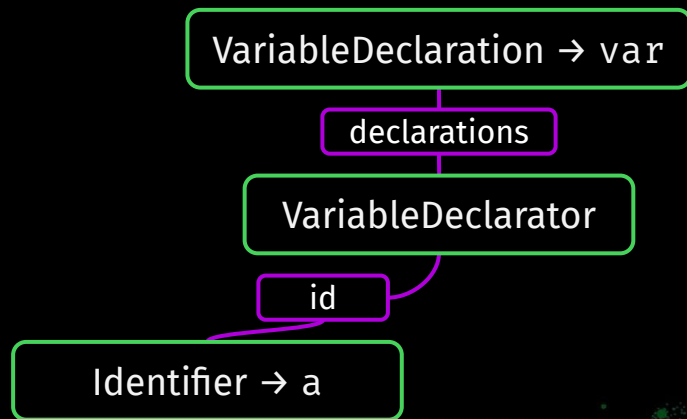
```
var a = 7;
```



2. Syntax analysis

Transform the list of tokens into an *AST*

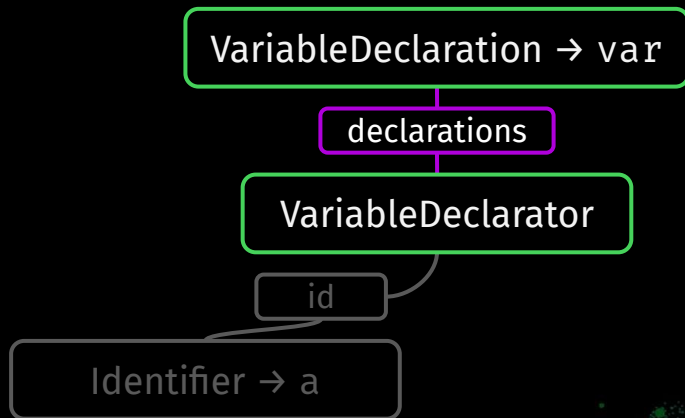
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2. Syntax analysis

Transform the list of tokens into an **AST**

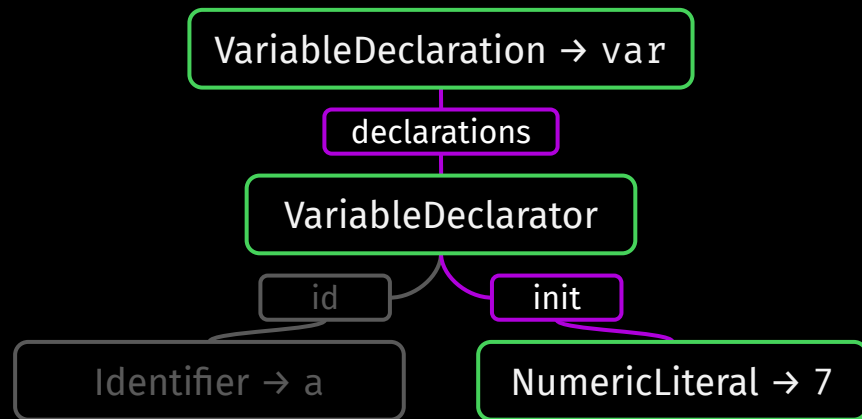
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```



2. Syntax analysis

Transform the list of tokens into an *AST*

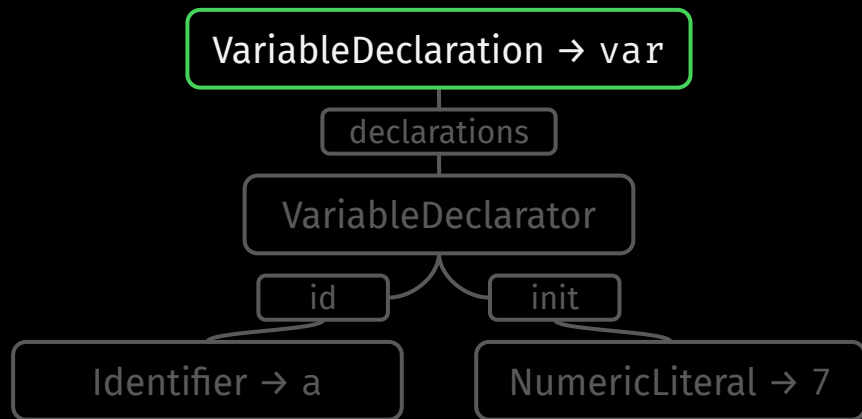
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2. Syntax analysis

Transform the list of tokens into an **AST**

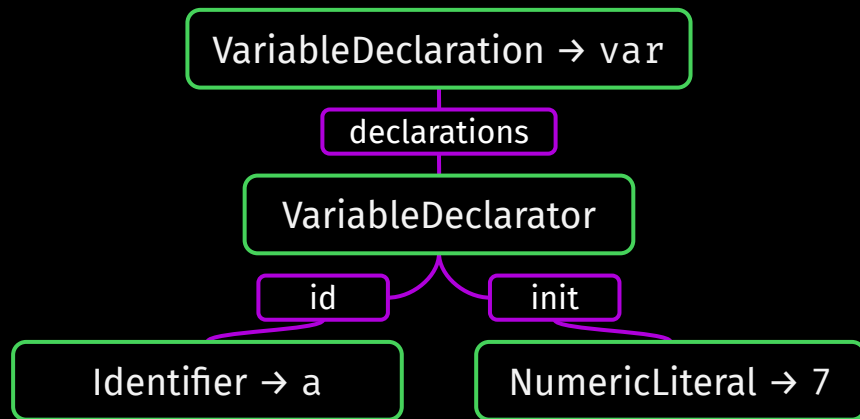
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2. Syntax analysis

Transform the list of tokens into an *AST*

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2. Syntax analysis

Handle automatic semicolon insertion (ASI)



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```
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foo.forEach(fn)
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Handle automatic semicolon insertion (ASI)

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foo.forEach(fn)
```

```
var a = foo;  
foo.forEach(fn);
```

```
var a = foo  
[7].forEach(fn)
```

```
var a = foo[7].forEach(n);
```





2. Syntax analysis

Report errors about misplaced tokens



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Unexpected token, expected ")" `var a = double(7;`



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Unexpected token, expected ")" `var a = double(7;`

Unexpected keyword 'if' `1 + if;`





3. Semantic analysis

Check that the AST respects all the static ECMAScript rules: *early errors*



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Check that the AST respects all the static ECMAScript rules: **early errors**

Redefinition of `__proto__` property

```
( { __proto__: x,  
  __proto__: y,  
 })
```

3. Semantic analysis

Check that the AST respects all the static ECMAScript rules: **early errors**

*Redefinition of `__proto__`
property*

```
({ __proto__: x,  
  __proto__: y,  
})
```

'with' in strict mode

```
"use strict";  
with (obj) {}
```



3. Semantic analysis

Report errors about invalid variables, using a ***scope tracker***



3. Semantic analysis

Report errors about invalid variables, using a **scope tracker**

*Identifier 'foo' has
already been declared*

```
let foo = 2;  
let foo = 3;
```

3. Semantic analysis

Report errors about invalid variables, using a **scope tracker**

*Identifier 'foo' has
already been declared*

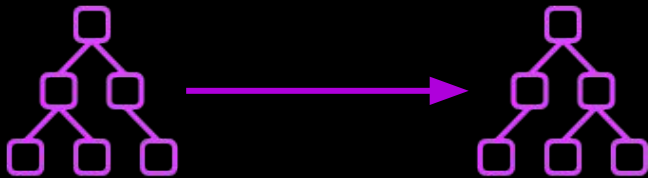
```
let foo = 2;  
let foo = 3;
```

*Export 'bar' is not
defined*

```
{ let bar = 2; }  
export { bar };
```

A look inside Babel:

@babel/traverse



Declarative traversal

Algorithm: Depth-first search, in-order (enter) and out-order (exit)

```
traverse(ast, {  
  CallExpression: {  
    enter() {  
      console.log("Function call!")  
    }  
  }  
})
```

Declarative traversal

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traverse(ast, {  
  CallExpression: {  
    enter() { ← enter is the default  
      console.log("Function call!")  
    }  
  }  
})
```

Declarative traversal

Algorithm: Depth-first search, in-order (enter) and out-order (exit)

```
traverse(ast, {  
  CallExpression() {
```

```
    console.log("Function call!")
```

```
  }  
})
```

enter is the default
traversal order



Dynamic Abstract Syntax Tree

`1 + fn(3)`

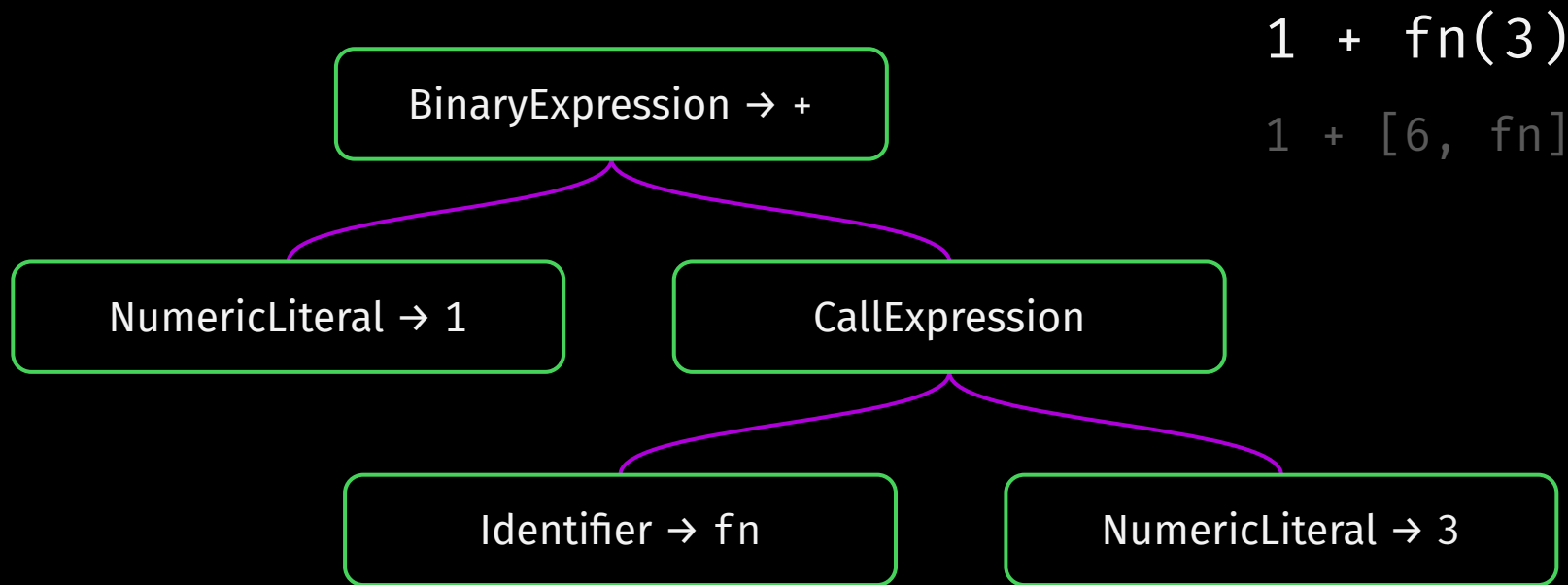
`1 + [6, fn]`

Example:

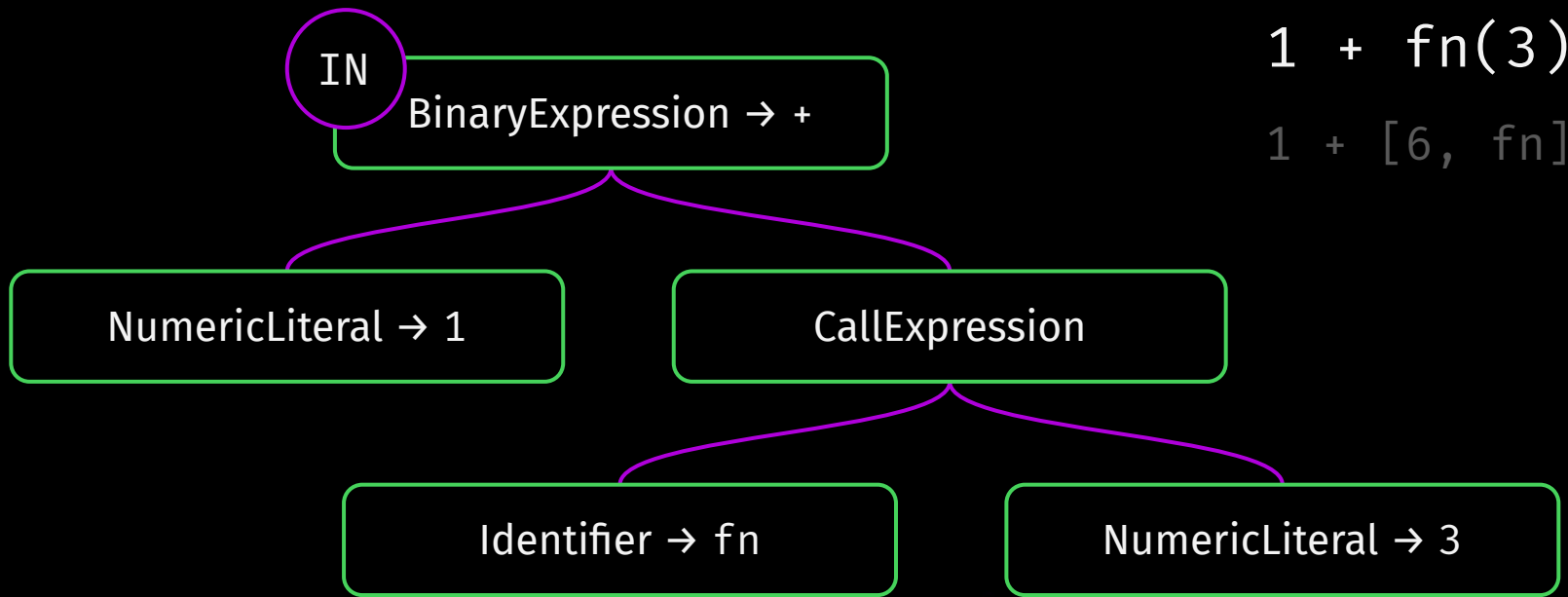
- Traverse `1 + fn(3)`
- When we reach `fn(3)`, during the "exit" phase, replace it with `[6, fn]`



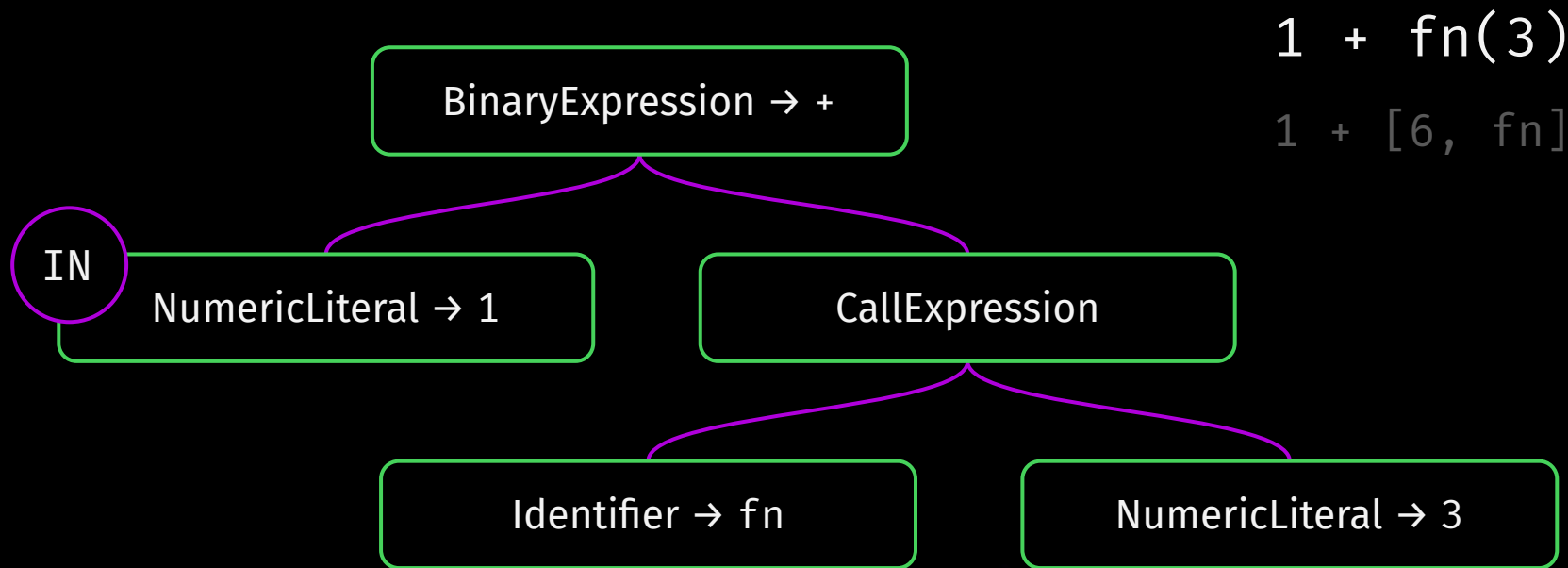
Dynamic Abstract Syntax Tree



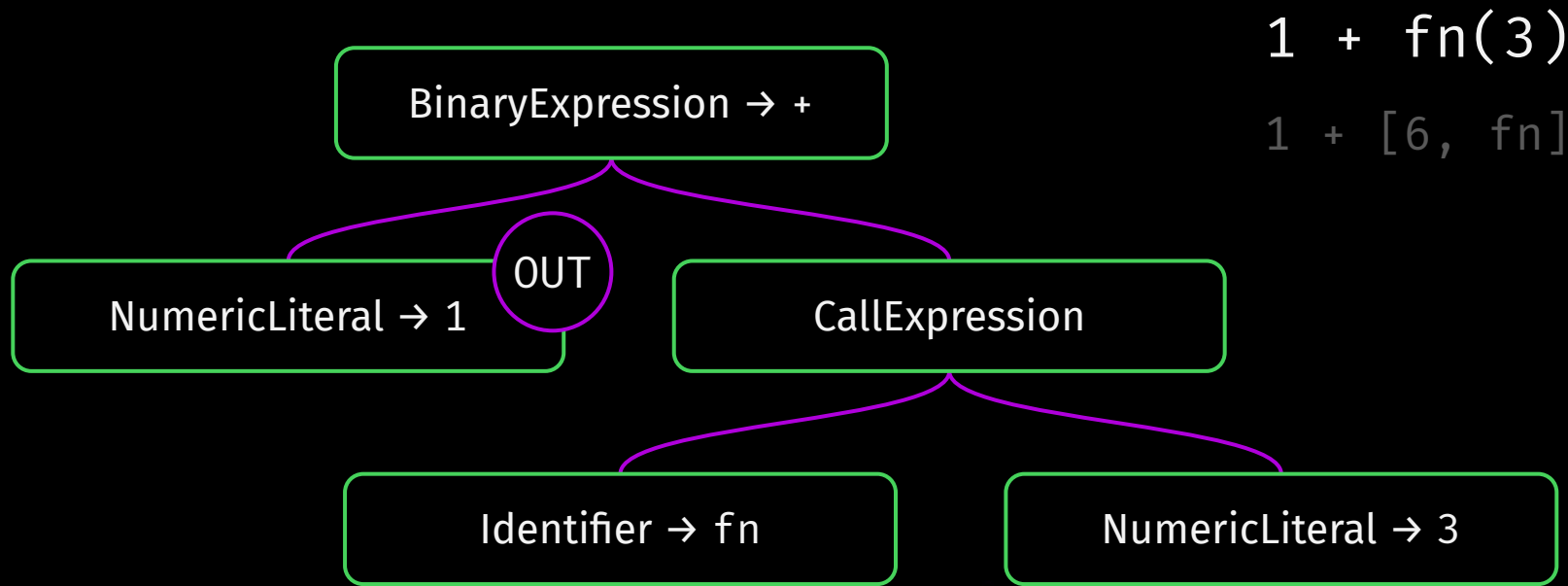
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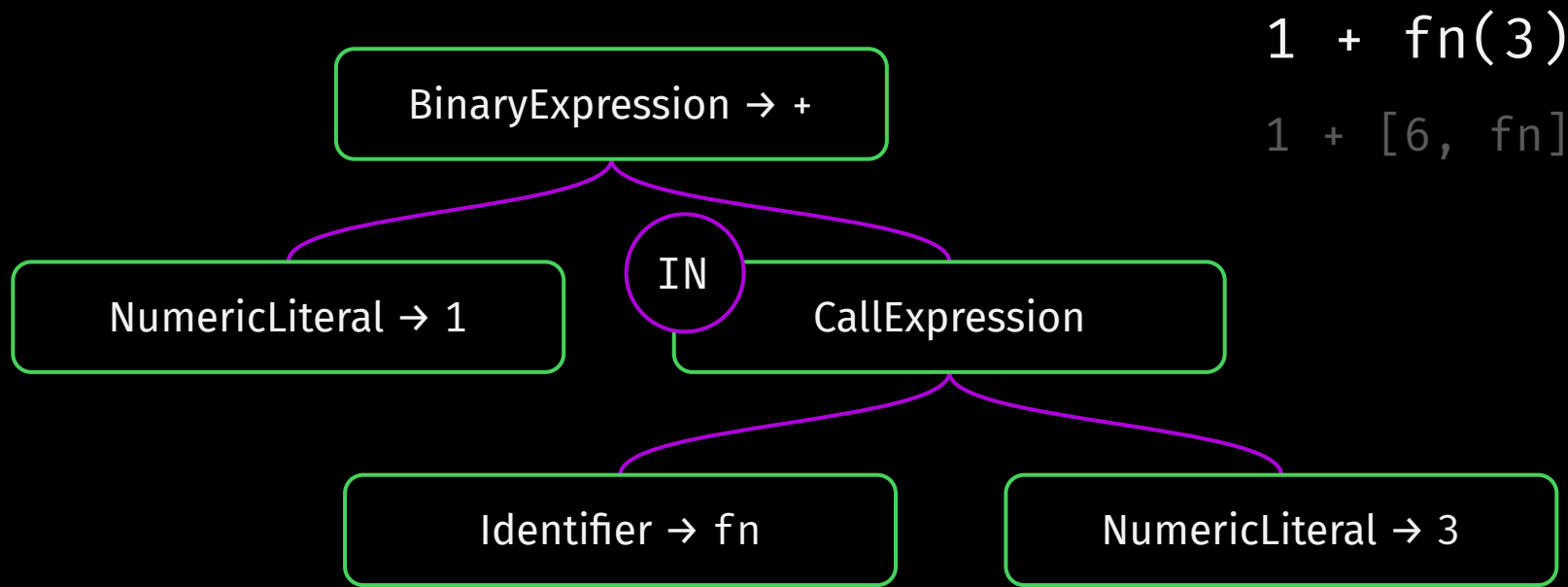
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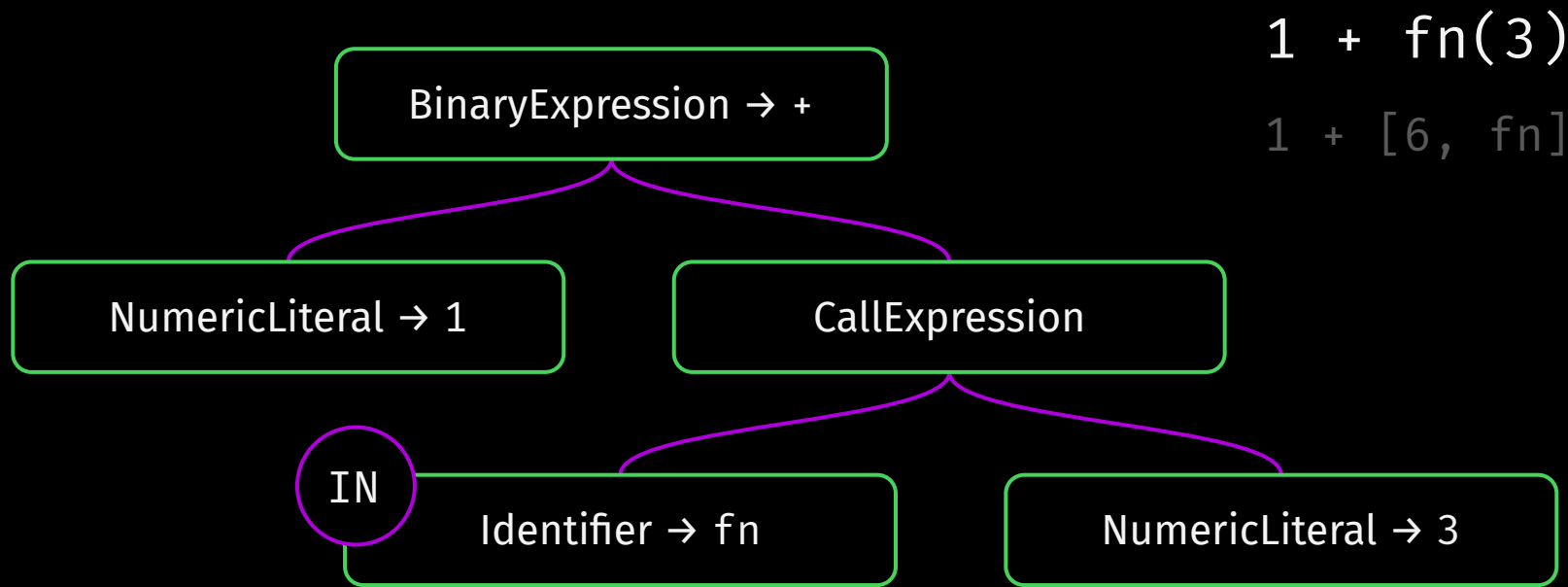
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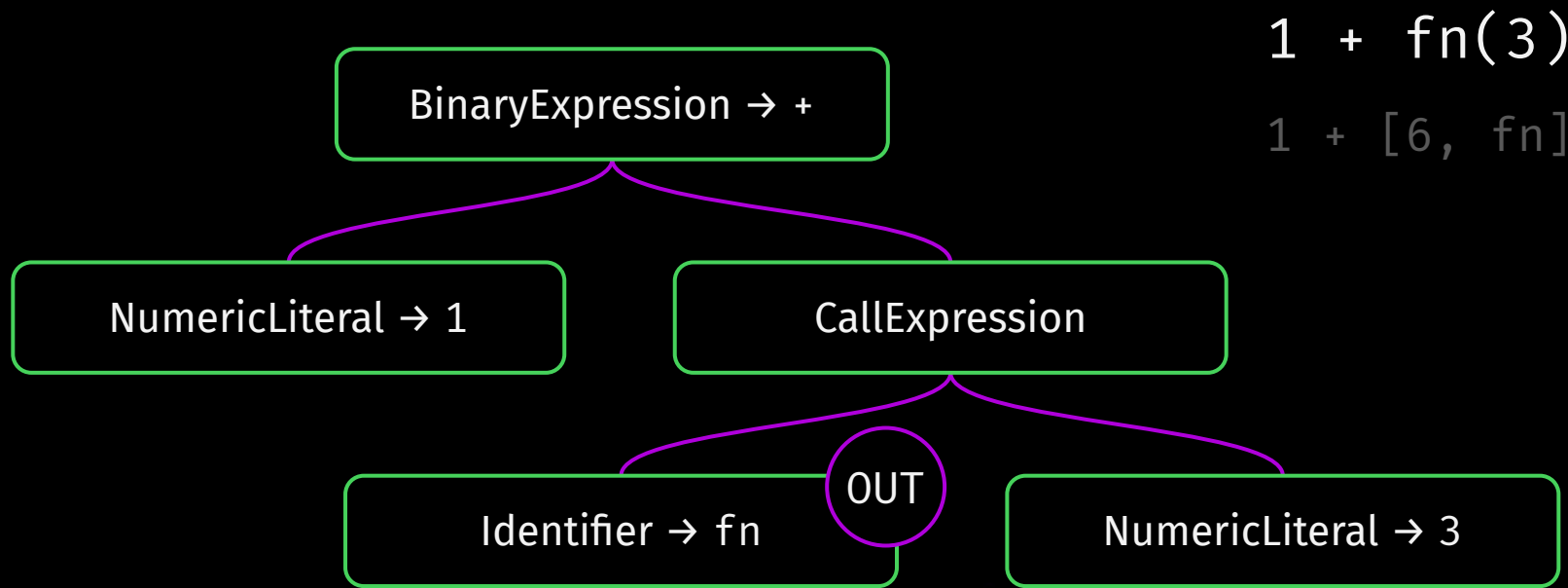
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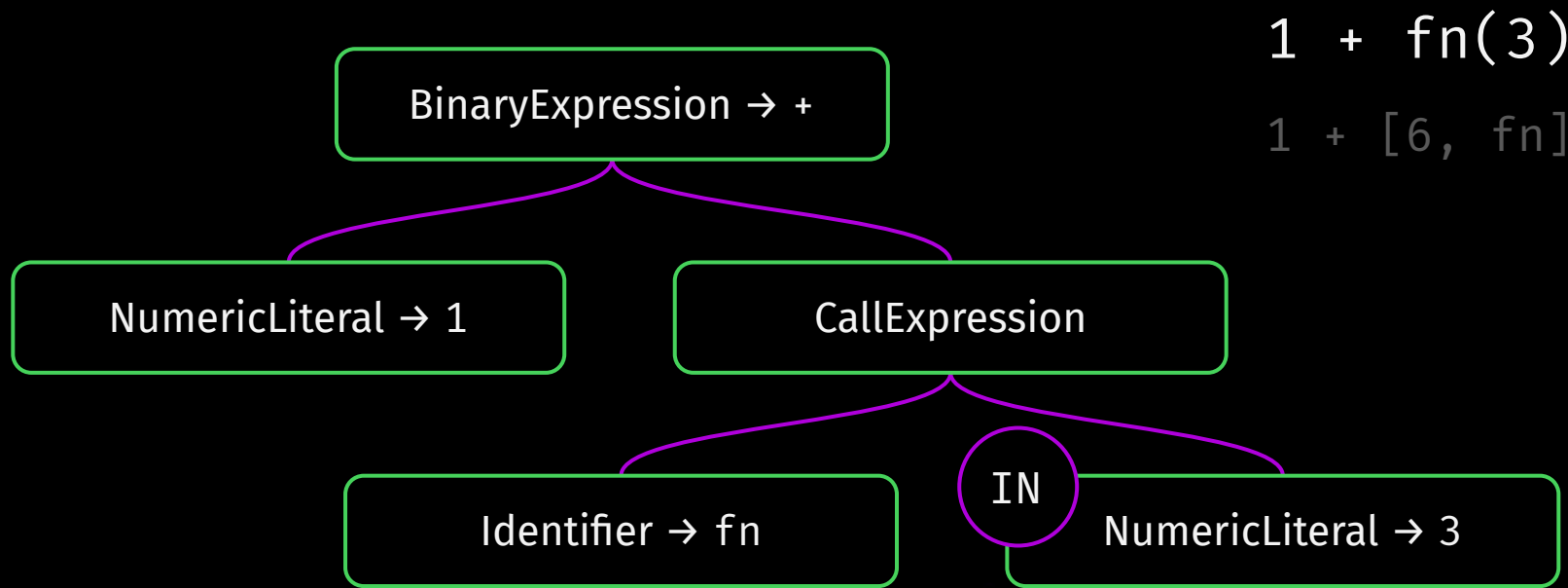
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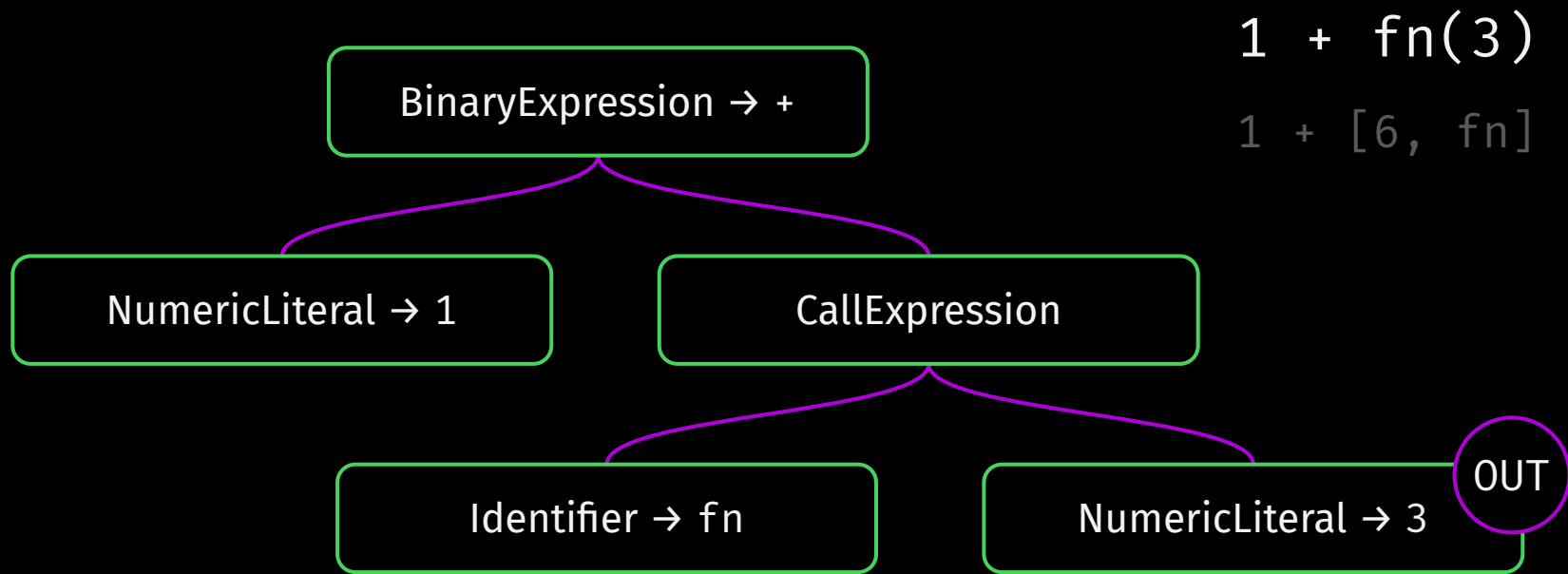
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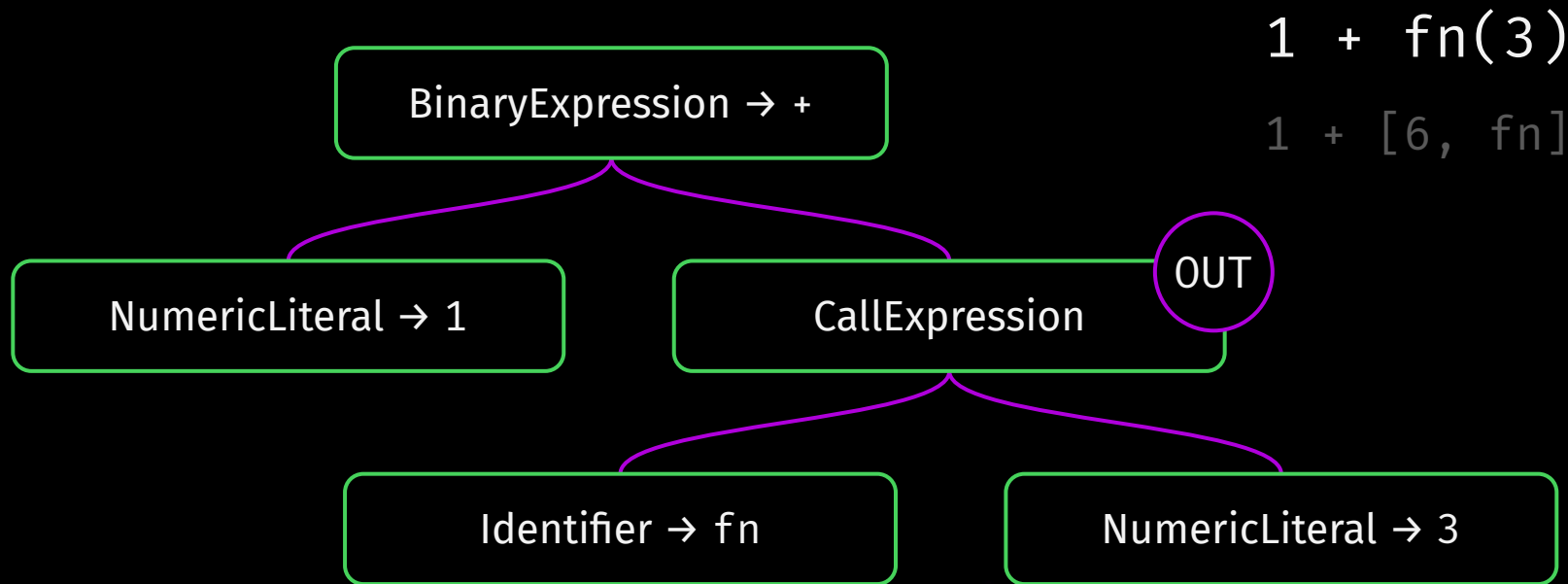
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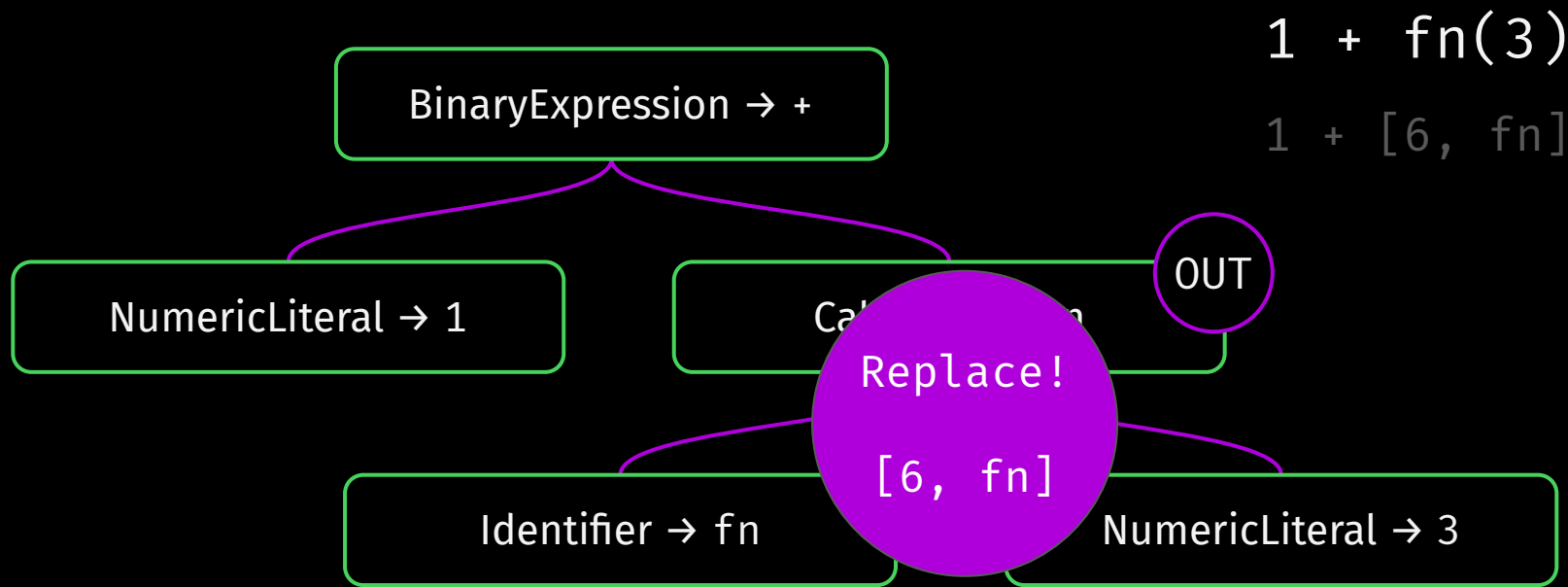
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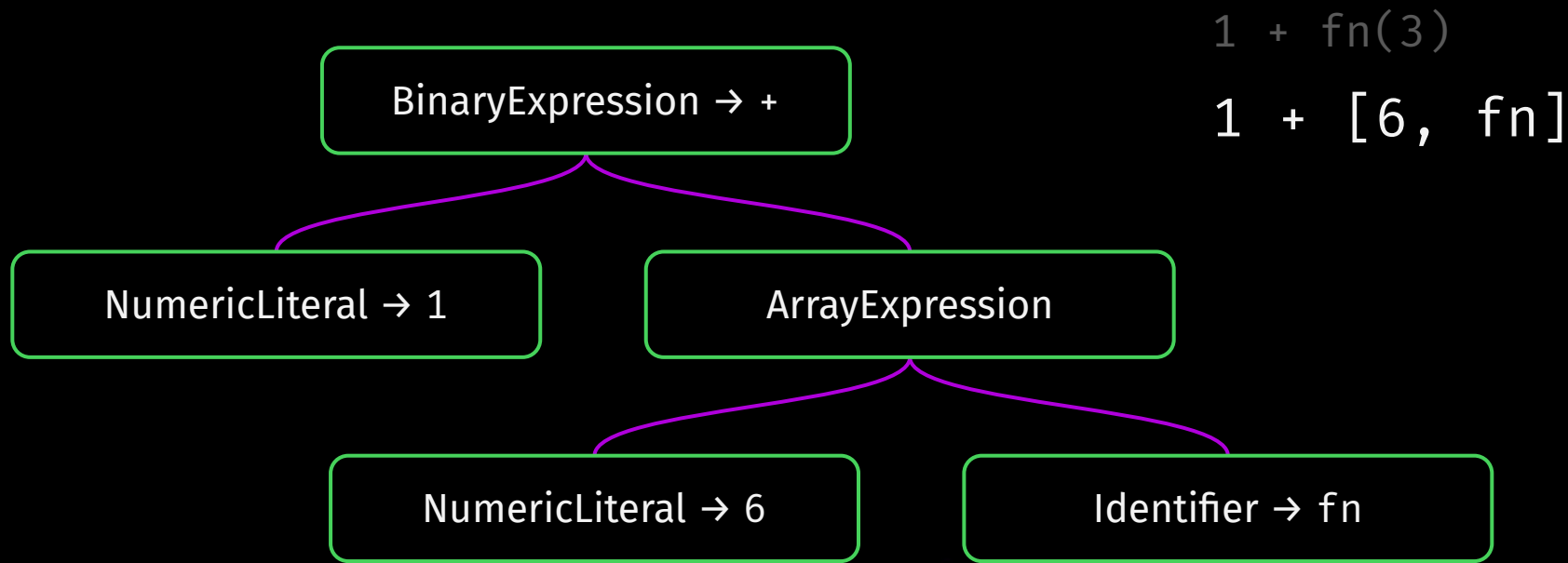
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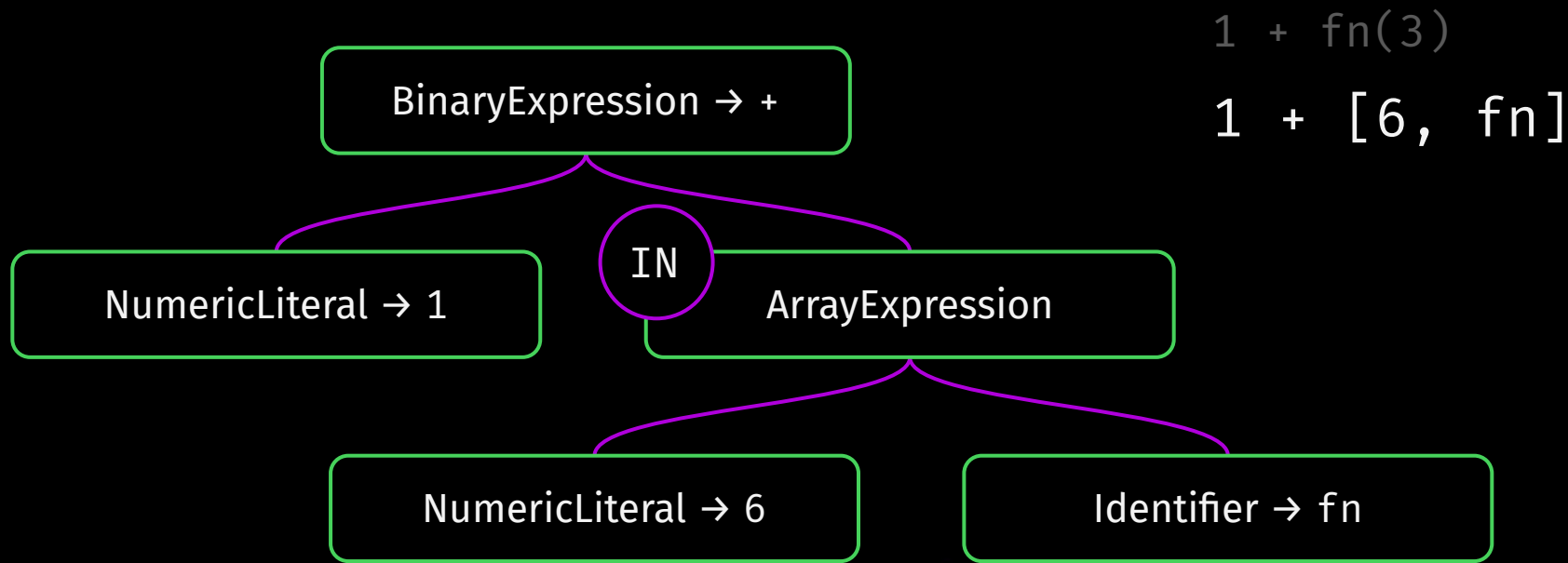
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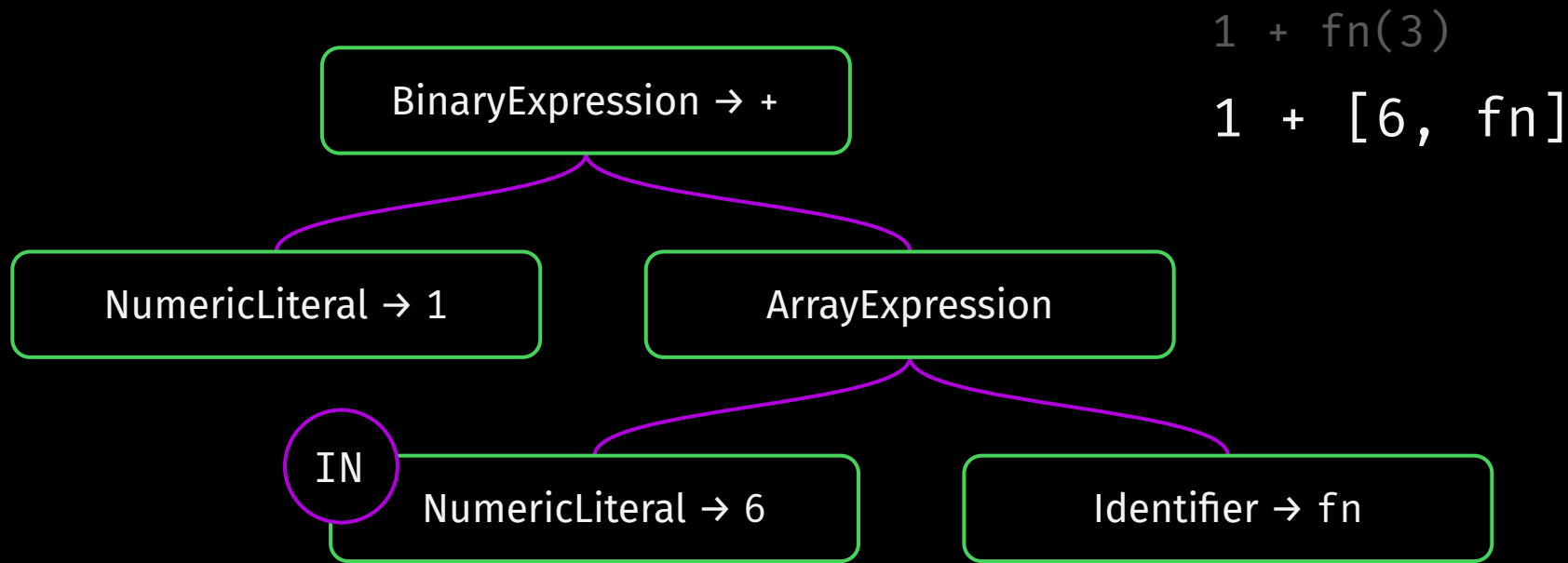
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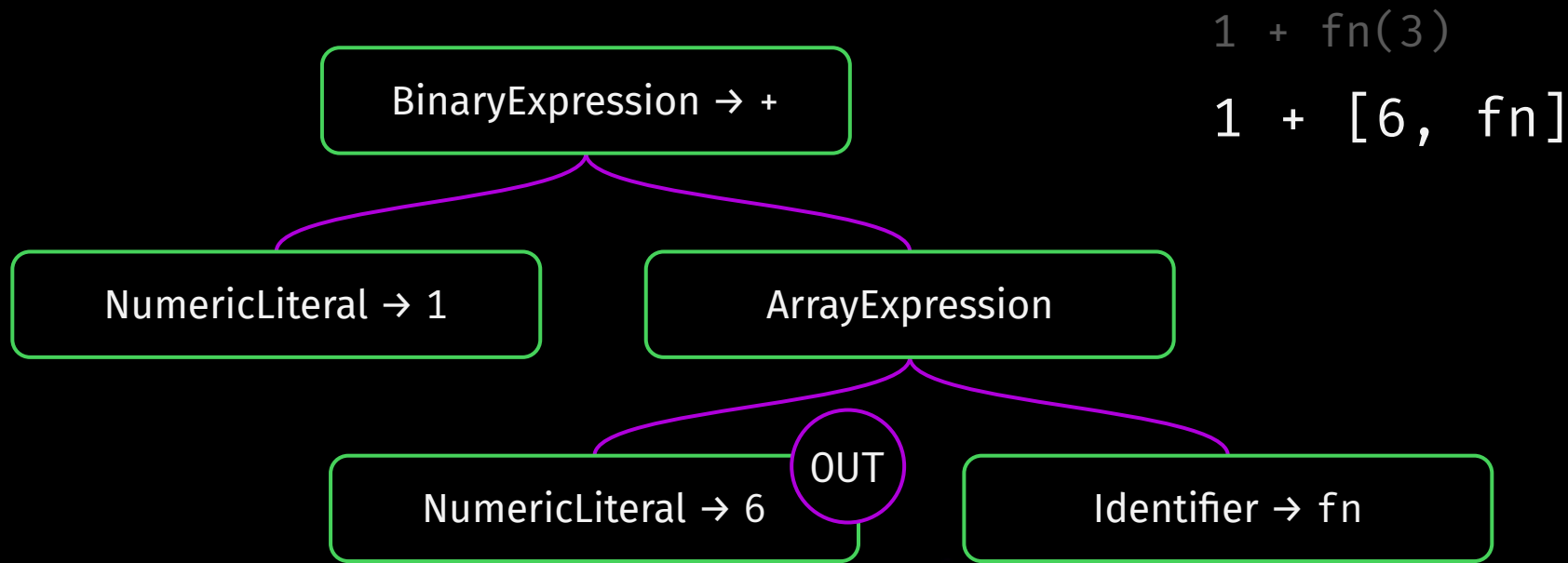
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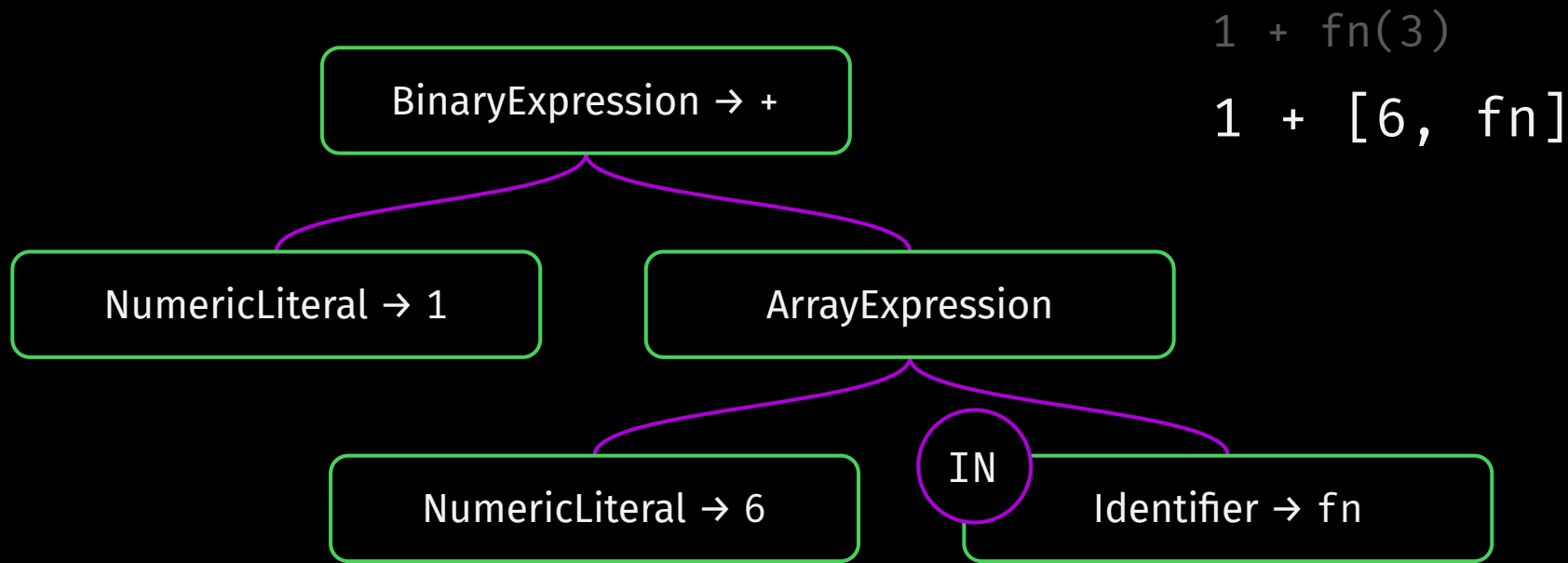
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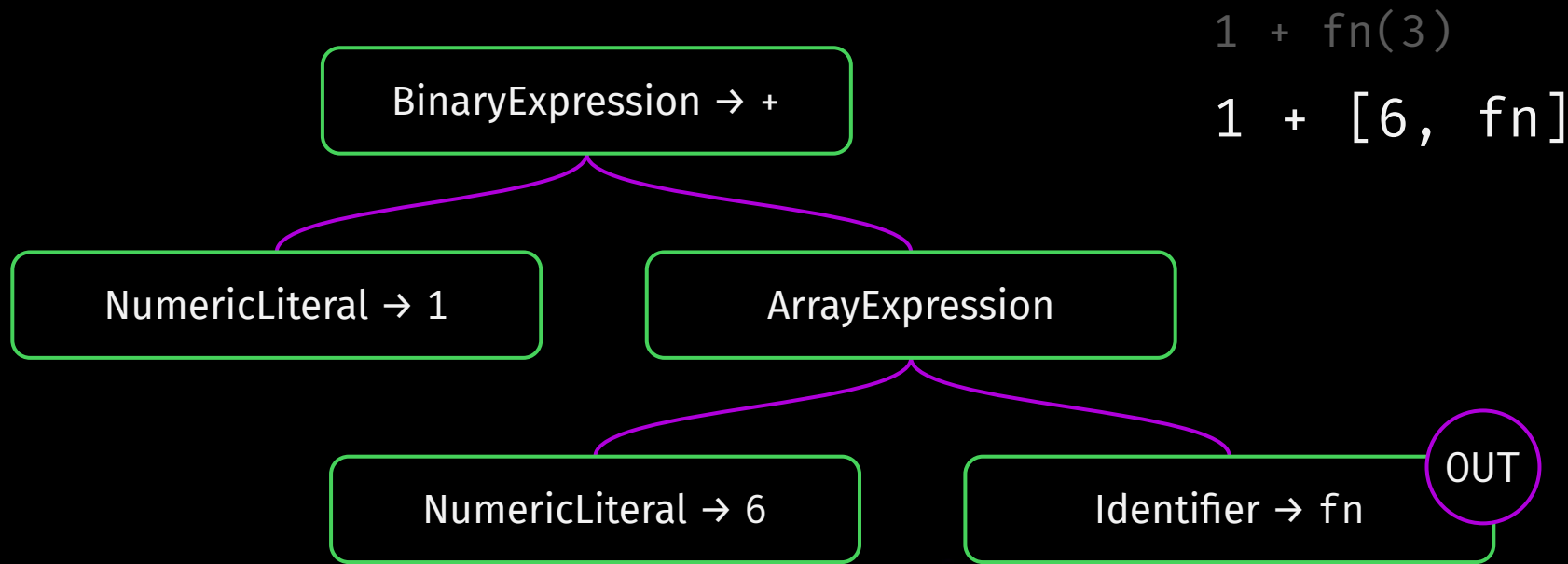
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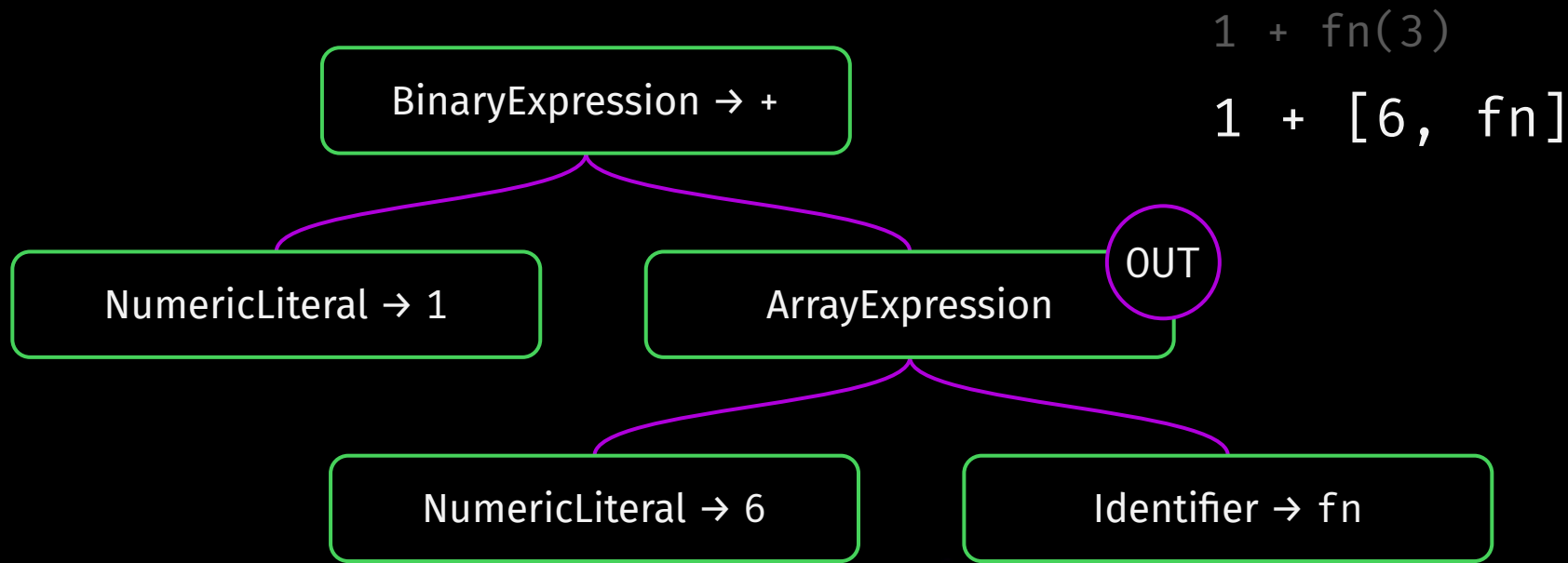
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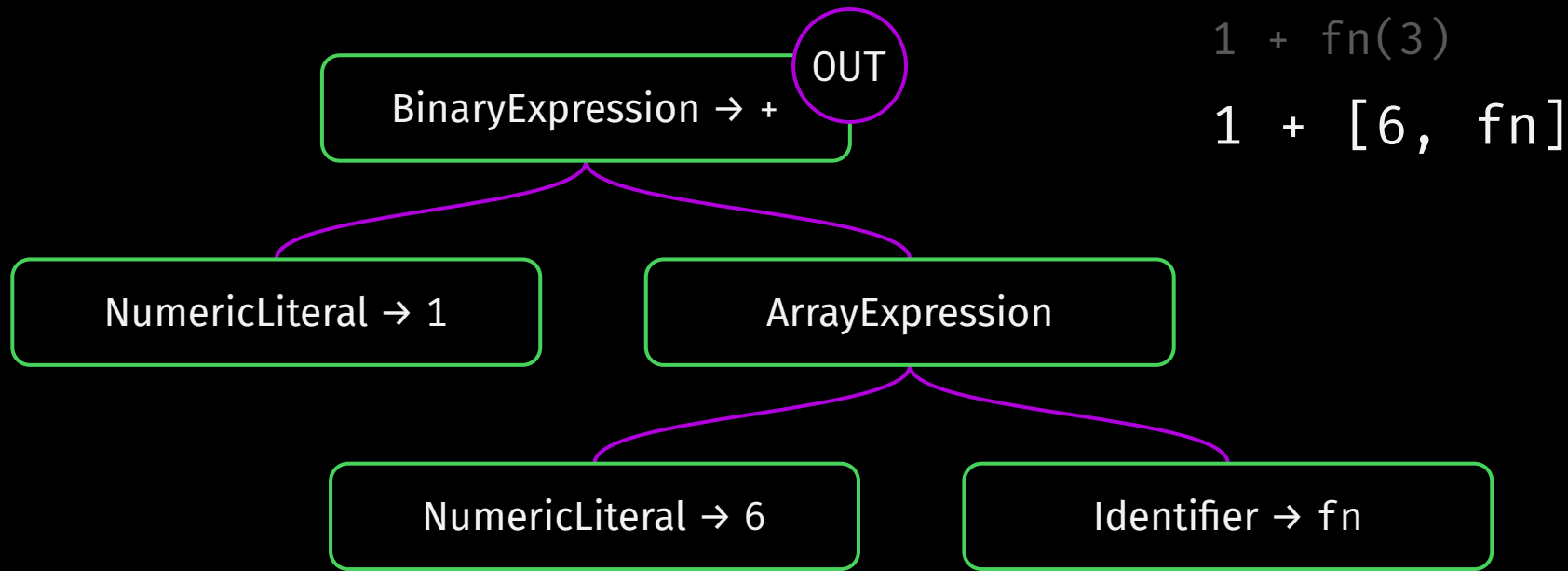
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Dynamic Abstract Syntax Tree





Utilities

NODES (AST)

Search

Introspection

Evaluation

Insertion

Removal

Replacement





Utilities

NODES (AST)

Search

Introspection

Evaluation

Insertion

Removal

Replacement

BINDINGS (SCOPE)

Validation

Tracking

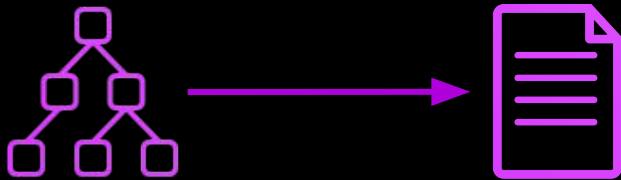
Creation

Renaming



A look inside Babel:

@babel/generator





Transform AST to source code

Insert parentheses, comments and indentation where needed



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 **IT'S NOT A PRETTY PRINTER** 

Transform AST to source code

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A look inside Babel:

@babel/core





Babel's entrypoint

Used by Babel integrations

`@babel/cli`

`@babel/register`

`babel-loader`

`gulp-plugin-babel`

`babelify`

Parcel





Babel's entrypoint

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`@babel/cli`

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Parcel

Merges configuration sources

`babel.config.js`

`.babelrc`

`package.json`

programmatic options





Babel's entrypoint

Used by Babel integrations

`@babel/cli`

`@babel/register`

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Parcel

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`.babelrc`

`package.json`

programmatic options

Runs plugins and presets





Bonus package: **@babel/types**





Nodes validation





Nodes validation

Is this node an expression?

```
t.isExpression(node)
```





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Is this node an expression?

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Is this node an identifier whose name is "test"?

```
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```



Nodes validation

Is this node an expression?

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t.isExpression(node)
```

Is this node an identifier whose name is "test"?

```
t.isIdentifier(node, { name: "test" })
```

Is this node a sum whose left operand is the child node?

```
t.isBinaryExpression(node, { operator: "+", left: child })
```



Nodes building

Given a `varId` node, how to increment
the value it represents by 2?



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Given a `varId` node, how to increment the value it represents by 2?

```
{  
  type: "AssignmentExpression",  
  operator: "+=",  
  right: varId,  
  left: {  
    type: "NumericLiteral",  
    value: 2,  
  },  
}
```

Nodes building

Given a `varId` node, how to increment the value it represents by 2?

```
t.assignmentExpression(
  "+=",
  varId,
  t.numericLiteral(2)
);
```

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```


Nodes building

Given a `varId` node, how to increment the value it represents by 2?

```
t.assignmentExpression(
  "+=",
  varId,
  t.numericLiteral(2)
);
```

```
{
  type: "AssignmentExpression",
  operator: "+=",
  right: varId,
  left: {
    type: "NumericLiteral",
    value: 2,
  },
}
```

Nodes building

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  varId,  
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  right: varId,  
  left: {  
    type: "NumericLiteral",  
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  },  
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```
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  operator: "+=",
  right: varId,
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    type: "NumericLiteral",
    value: 2,
  },
}
```



Bonus package: `@babel/template`





High level AST building

Given a `varId` node referencing an array, how to increment each of its elements by 2 and then take only the values greater than 10?



High level AST building

Given a `varId` node referencing an array, how to increment each of its elements by 2 and then take only the values greater than 10?

```
t.assignmentExpression("=", varId, t.callExpression(  
  t.memberExpression(t.callExpression(  
    t.memberExpression(varId, t.identifier("map")),  
    [t.arrowFunctionExpression([t.identifier("val")],  
      t.binaryExpression("+", t.identifier("val"), t.numericLiteral(2))  
    )]  
  ), t.identifier("filter")),  
  [t.arrowFunctionExpression([t.identifier("val")],  
    t.binaryExpression(">", t.identifier("val"), t.numericLiteral(10))  
  )]  
))
```

High level AST building

Given a `varId` node referencing an array, how to increment each of its elements by 2 and then take only the values greater than 10?

```
template.expression.ast`  
  ${varId} = ${varId}  
                .map(val => val + 2)  
                .filter(val => val > 10)  
`
```



High level AST building

Different parsing goals

`template.expression`

`template.statement`

`template.statements`

`template.program`



High level AST building

Different parsing goals

`template.expression`

`template.statement`

`template.statements`

`template.program`

Immediate usage...

```
ast = template.*.ast`${val} * 2`
```

... or deferred usage

```
build = template.*(`%%val%% * 2`)  
// ...  
ast = build({ val })
```



Plugins





Everything is a plugin





Everything is a plugin

ECMAScript features

@babel/plugin-transform-classes





Everything is a plugin

ECMAScript features

`@babel/plugin-transform-classes`

ECMAScript proposals

`@babel/plugin-proposal-private-methods`





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ECMAScript extensions

`@babel/plugin-transform-typescript`

`@babel/plugin-transform-react-jsx`





Everything is a plugin

ECMAScript features

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ECMAScript extensions

`@babel/plugin-transform-typescript`
`@babel/plugin-transform-react-jsx`

Optimization

`@babel/plugin-transform-runtime`





Everything is a plugin

babel-plugin-module-resolver

babel-plugin-macros

babel-plugin-transform-define

babel-plugin-emotion

babel-plugin-inferno

babel-plugin-add-module-exports

babel-plugin-istanbul

babel-plugin-react-css-modules

babel-plugin-react-intl-auto

babel-plugin-transform-async-to-promises





How to create a plugin



1. Create a function

```
function myPlugin(babel, options) {  
  return {  
    name: "my-plugin",  
    visitor: {  
      CallExpression(path) { /* ... */ }  
    },  
    manipulateOptions(babelOptions) {},  
    inherits: require("another-plugin"),  
  };  
}
```

1. Create a function

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function myPlugin(babel, options) {  
  return {  
    name: "my-plugin",  
    visitor: {  
      CallExpression(path) { /* ... */ }  
    },  
    manipulateOptions(babelOptions) {},  
    inherits: require("another-plugin"),  
  };  
}
```

The first parameter exposes all the public API and utilities

```
// @babel/types  
const t = babel.types;
```

1. Create a function

```
function myPlugin(babel, options) {  
  return {  
    name: "my-plugin",  
    visitor: {  
      CallExpression(path) { /* ... */ }  
    },  
    manipulateOptions(babelOptions) {},  
    inherits: require("another-plugin"),  
  };  
}
```

The second parameter contains the options for this plugin defined in the user's config

2. Choose a name

Required

```
function myPlugin(babel, options) {  
  return {  
    name: "my-plugin",  
    visitor: {  
      CallExpression(path) { /* ... */ }  
    },  
    manipulateOptions(babelOptions) {},  
    inherits: require("another-plugin"),  
  };  
}
```

Should match the plugin
package name

babel-plugin-my-plugin



3. Define traversal visitor

Optional

```
function myPlugin(babel, options) {  
  return {  
    name: "my-plugin",  
    visitor: {  
      CallExpression(path) { /* ... */ }  
    },  
    manipulateOptions(babelOptions) {},  
    inherits: require("another-plugin"),  
  };  
}
```



4. Modify Babel options

Optional

```
function myPlugin(babel, options) {  
  return {  
    name: "my-plugin",  
    visitor: {  
      CallExpression(path) { /* ... */ }  
    },  
    manipulateOptions(babelOptions) {},  
    inherits: require("another-plugin"),  
  };  
}
```

It also handles options for
@babel/parser and
@babel/generator

opts.parserOpts
opts.generatorOprs

5. Extend another plugin

Optional

```
function myPlugin(babel, options) {  
  return {  
    name: "my-plugin",  
    visitor: {  
      CallExpression(path) { /* ... */ }  
    },  
    manipulateOptions(babelOptions) {},  
    inherits: require("another-plugin"),  
  };  
}
```


How to create a plugin

```
function myPlugin(babel, options) {  
  return {  
    name: "my-plugin",  
    visitor: {  
      CallExpression(path) { /* ... */ }  
    },  
    manipulateOptions(babelOptions) {},  
    inherits: require("another-plugin"),  
  };  
}
```

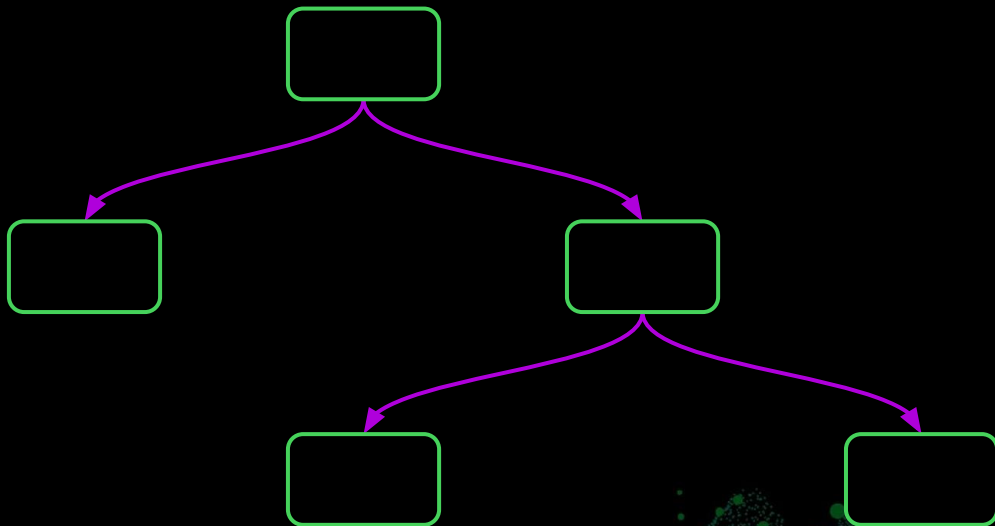


A node with superpowers: **NodePath**



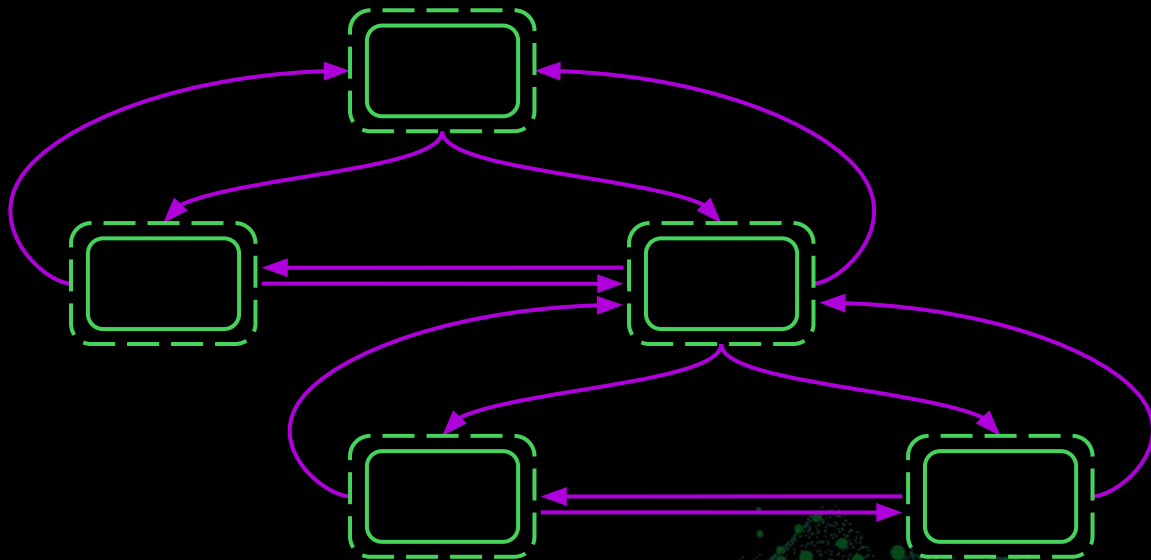
NodePath

Transformations need *context* and *ergonomics* for AST manipulation



NodePath

Transformations need *context* and *ergonomics* for AST manipulation





NodePath





NodePath

`path.node` Get the original, unwrapped, node



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`path.node` Get the original, unwrapped, node

`path.parentPath` Get the path of parent node ...
`path.get("body.0.id")` .. or of a child node

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`path.replaceWith(node)` Replace the current node with another one ...
`path.insertBefore(...nodes)` ... or just insert some new nodes before ...
`path.insertAfter(...nodes)` ... or after

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`path.replaceWith(node)` Replace the current node with another one ...
`path.insertBefore(...nodes)` ... or just insert some new nodes before ...
`path.insertAfter(...nodes)` ... or after

`path.toString()` Call `@babel/generator`, useful when debugging



@NicoloRibaud

Case study

throw expressions

```
name || throw new Error()
```

Cas Study
throw sions
name ! error()
EXPERIMENTAL



throw expressions

Allow using throw wherever an expression can be used:



throw expressions

Allow using throw wherever an expression can be used:

```
var num = typeof input === "string" ? parseInt(input)
      : typeof input === "number" ? input
      : throw new Error("input must be a number or a string");
```

throw expressions

Allow using throw wherever an expression can be used:

```
var num = typeof input === "string" ? parseInt(input)
      : typeof input === "number" ? input
      : throw new Error("input must be a number or a string");

function double(x = throw new Error("x is required")) {
  return x * 2;
}
```



throw expressions

They can be transformed using an $II \Rightarrow FE$ *

* *Immediately Invoked Arrow Function Expression*



@NicolòRibaudò





throw expressions

They can be transformed using an $II \Rightarrow FE$ *

```
var x =          throw new Error("Err!")          ;
```

* *Immediately Invoked Arrow Function Expression*



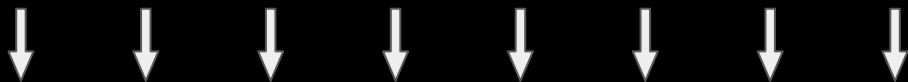
@NicolòRibaudò



throw expressions

They can be transformed using an $II \Rightarrow FE$ *

```
var x =          throw new Error("Err!")          ;
```



```
var x = (() => { throw new Error("Err!"); } )();
```

* *Immediately Invoked Arrow Function Expression*



@NicoloRibaud



babel-plugin-throw-expressions





babel-plugin-throw-expressions

```
export default function plugin() {
```

```
  /* ... */
```

```
  /* ... */
```

```
  /* ... */
```

```
}
```





babel-plugin-throw-expressions

```
export default function plugin() {  
  return {  
    /* ... */  
  
    /* ... */  
  
    /* ... */  
  };  
}
```





babel-plugin-throw-expressions

```
export default function plugin() {  
  return {  
    name: "throw-expressions",  
  
    /* ... */  
  
    /* ... */  
  };  
}
```





babel-plugin-throw-expressions

```
export default function plugin() {  
  return {  
    name: "throw-expressions",  
  
    manipulateOptions(opts) {  
      opts.parserOpts.plugins.push("throwExpressions");  
    },  
  
    /* ... */  
  };  
}
```





babel-plugin-throw-expressions

```
export default function plugin() {  
  return {  
    name: "throw-expressions",  
  
    manipulateOptions(opts) {  
      opts.parserOpts.plugins.push("throwExpressions");  
    },  
  
    visitor: { /* ... */ }  
  };  
}
```





babel-plugin-throw-expressions

```
visitor: {
```

```
  /* ... */
```

```
  /* ... */
```

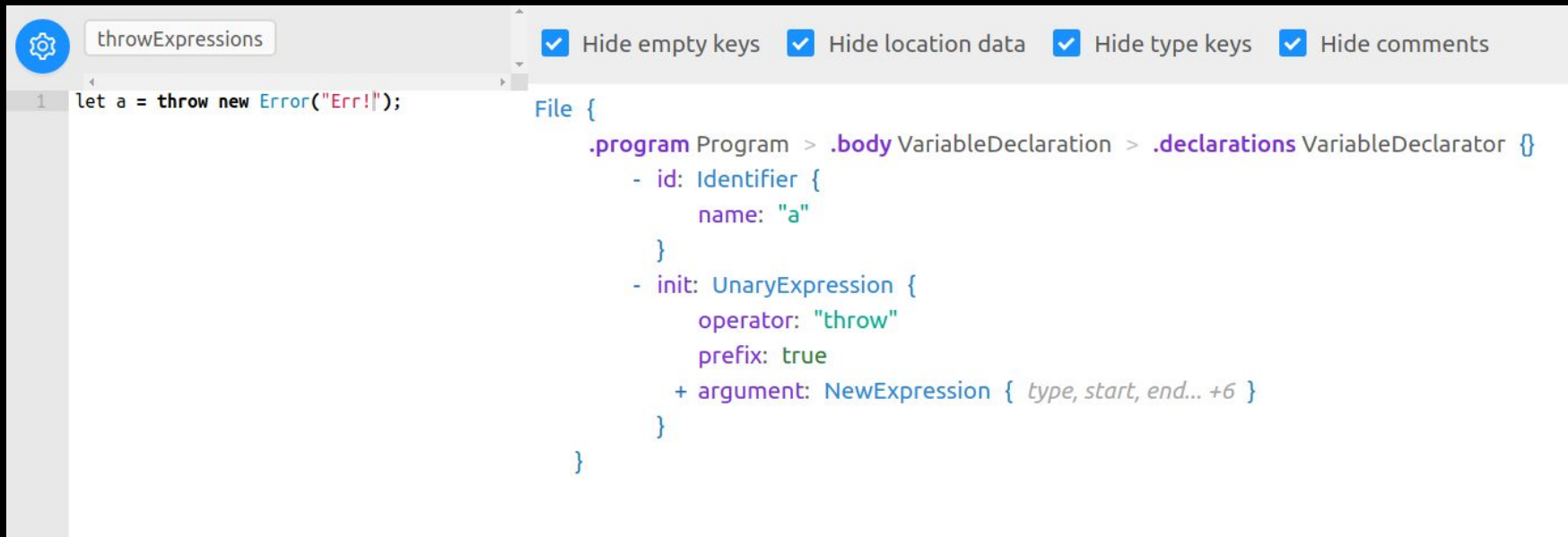
```
  /* ... */
```

```
},
```





babel-plugin-throw-expressions



<https://lihautan.com/babel-ast-explorer>

<https://astexplorer.net/>





babel-plugin-throw-expressions

```
visitor: {  
  UnaryExpression(path) {  
    /* ... */  
  
    /* ... */  
  
    /* ... */  
  },  
},
```





babel-plugin-throw-expressions

```
visitor: {  
  UnaryExpression(path) {  
    const { node } = path;  
    if (node.operator !== "throw") return;  
  
    /* ... */  
  
    /* ... */  
  },  
},
```





babel-plugin-throw-expressions

```
visitor: {  
  UnaryExpression(path) {  
    const { node } = path;  
    if (node.operator !== "throw") return;  
  
    const iife = template.expression.ast`  
      (() => { throw ${node.argument}; })()  
    `;  
  
    /* ... */  
  },  
},
```





babel-plugin-throw-expressions

```
visitor: {  
  UnaryExpression(path) {  
    const { node } = path;  
    if (node.operator !== "throw") return;  
  
    const iife = template.expression.ast`  
      (() => { throw ${node.argument}; })()  
    `;  
  
    path.replaceWith(iife);  
  },  
},
```



Try it out!

AST Explorer Snippet JavaScript </> babylon7 Transform

```
1 var a = throw new Error("Err!");
```

```
1 export default function plugin({ template }) {
2   return {
3     name: "throw-expressions",
4     manipulateOptions(opts) {
5       opts.parserOpts.plugins.push("throwExpressions");
6     },
7     visitor: {
8       UnaryExpression(path) {
9         const { node } = path;
10        if (node.operator !== "throw") return;
11
12        const iife = template.expression.ast`
13          (() => { throw ${node.argument}; })()
14        `;
15
16        path.replaceWith(iife);
17      },
18    },
19  };
20 };
```

```
1 var a = (() => {
2   throw new Error("Err!");
3 })();
```

<https://astexplorer.net/>

Try it out!

```
1  
2  
3 var a = throw new Error("Err!");
```

<https://astexplorer.net/>

```
1 export default function plugin({ template }) {  
2   return {  
3     name: "throw-expressions",
```




结束





结束？





One more thing ...





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Babel is a community based project:
it is not developed by a company.



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Babel's future and sustainability is guaranteed
thanks to the donations made by our users.

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Feedback

