

Semantics Intro

CIS700 — Fall 2022 Kris Micinski

Why Semantics?

- Semantics let us define what a language means
- How to do this?
 - Operationally define an "interpreter" for the language, semantics is whatever the interpreter produces.
 - Interpreter must be small to be trustworthy—otherwise hard to trust
 - Denotationally define a mapping from programs to mathematical objects (e.g., functions from/to probability distributions)

Operational Semantics

- We will focus on two kinds of operational semantics
 - "Big Step" define a recursive interpreter, which produces proofs of its correctness by recursively walking over terms / judgements
 - Output is "a big tree"
 - "Small Step"

```
 \frac{ \frac{(i) + (i) + (i)
```

- Output is a sequence of states; semantics is transitive closure of transition relation
- We will discuss both of these for a dirt-simple language, IfArith



Natural Deduction for IfArith

Kris Micinski

In this lecture, we'll introduce natural deduction

Natural deduction is a mathematical formalism that helps ground the ideas in metacircular interpreters

Natural deduction first used in mathematical logic, to specify **proofs** using inductive data

We will use natural deduction as a framework for specifying semantics of various languages throughout the course

Introduction Rules

Elimination Rules

$$\frac{P A}{P A} u$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\frac{P B}{P A \supset B} \supset I^{u}$$

$$\frac{P A \supset B}{P B} \supset E$$

$$\frac{P B}{P B} \supset E$$

When we specify the semantics of a language using natural deduction, we give its semantics via a set of **inference rules**

Rules read: if the thing on the **top** is true, then the thing on the **bottom** is also true.

This rule says: "if c is an integer (mathematically: $c \in \mathbb{Q}$), then c evaluates to c."

Const:
$$\frac{c \in \mathbb{Q}}{c \Downarrow c}$$

Note: the notation $e \Downarrow v$ is read "e evaluates to v."

Some rules will have more than one **antecedent** (thing on the top).

You read these: "if the first thing, and second thing, and ... are **all** true, then the thing on the bottom is true."

Plus:
$$\frac{e_0 \Downarrow n_0 \ e_1 \Downarrow n_1 \ n' = n_0 + n_1}{(\text{plus } e_0 \ e_1) \Downarrow n'}$$

"If $e_0 \Downarrow n_0$, and $e_1 \Downarrow n_1$, and $n' = n_0 + n1$, then I can say (plus $e_0 e_1) \Downarrow n'$."

Plus:
$$\frac{e_0 \Downarrow n_0 \ e_1 \Downarrow n_1 \ n' = n_0 + n_1}{(\text{plus } e_0 \ e_1) \Downarrow n'}$$

Const:
$$\frac{c \in \mathbb{Q}}{c \Downarrow c}$$
 Plus: $\frac{e_0 \Downarrow n_0 \quad e_1 \Downarrow n_1 \quad n' = n_0 + n_1}{(\text{plus } e_0 \ e_1) \Downarrow n'}$

Div:
$$\frac{e_0 \Downarrow n_0 \ e_1 \Downarrow n_1 \ n' = n_0/n_1}{(\text{div } e_0 \ e_1) \Downarrow n'}$$

The natural deduction rule for **div** is similar

Const:
$$\frac{c \in \mathbb{Q}}{c \Downarrow c}$$
 Plus: $\frac{e_0 \Downarrow n_0 \quad e_1 \Downarrow n_1 \quad n' = n_0 + n_1}{(\text{plus } e_0 \ e_1) \Downarrow n'}$

Div:
$$\frac{e_0 \Downarrow n_0 \ e_1 \Downarrow n_1 \ n' = n_0/n_1}{(\text{div } e_0 \ e_1) \Downarrow n'}$$

$$\mathbf{Not_0}: \frac{e \Downarrow 0}{(\mathsf{not}\ e) \Downarrow 1} \qquad \mathbf{Not_1}: \frac{e \Downarrow n \ n \neq 0}{(\mathsf{not}\ e) \Downarrow 0}$$

We have **two** rules for not

Natural Deduction Rules for IfArith

Const:
$$\frac{c \in \mathbb{Q}}{c \Downarrow c}$$
 Plus: $\frac{e_0 \Downarrow n_0 \quad e_1 \Downarrow n_1 \quad n' = n_0 + n_1}{(\text{plus } e_0 \ e_1) \Downarrow n'}$

Div:
$$\frac{e_0 \Downarrow n_0 \ e_1 \Downarrow n_1 \ n' = n_0/n_1}{(\text{div } e_0 \ e_1) \Downarrow n'}$$

$$\mathbf{Not_0}: \frac{e \Downarrow 0}{(\mathsf{not}\ e) \Downarrow 1} \qquad \mathbf{Not_1}: \frac{e \Downarrow n \ n \neq 0}{(\mathsf{not}\ e) \Downarrow 0}$$

$$\mathbf{If_{T}}: \frac{e_{0} \Downarrow 0 \quad e_{1} \Downarrow n'}{(\mathsf{if} \ e_{0} \ e_{1} \ e_{2}) \Downarrow n'} \qquad \mathbf{If_{F}}: \frac{e_{0} \Downarrow n \quad n = 0 \quad e_{2} \Downarrow n'}{(\mathsf{if} \ e_{0} \ e_{1} \ e_{2}) \Downarrow n'}$$

Question: Now that we have the rules, what can we do with them?

Answer: Use them to **formally prove** that some program calculates some result

Let's say I want to prove that the following program evaluates to 4:

What rule could go here..?

???
$$(if (plus 1 - 1) 3 4) \Downarrow 4$$

$$\mathbf{If_{T}}: \frac{e_{0} \Downarrow n \quad n \neq 0 \quad e_{1} \Downarrow n'}{(\mathsf{if} \ e_{0} \ e_{1} \ e_{2}) \Downarrow n'} \mathbf{If_{F}}: \frac{e_{0} \Downarrow 0 \quad e_{2} \Downarrow n'}{(\mathsf{if} \ e_{0} \ e_{1} \ e_{2}) \Downarrow n'}$$

???
$$(if (plus 1 - 1) 3 4) \Downarrow 4$$

$$\mathbf{If_{T}}: \frac{e_{0} \Downarrow n \quad n \neq 0 \quad e_{1} \Downarrow n'}{(\mathsf{if} \ e_{0} \ e_{1} \ e_{2}) \Downarrow n'} \mathbf{If_{F}}: \frac{e_{0} \Downarrow 0 \quad e_{2} \Downarrow n'}{(\mathsf{if} \ e_{0} \ e_{1} \ e_{2}) \Downarrow n'}$$

??? (if (plus 1 - 1) 3 4)
$$\Downarrow$$
 4

To apply a natural-deduction rule, we must perform **unification**

There can be no variables in the resulting unification!

$$\mathbf{If_F}: \frac{e_0 \Downarrow 0}{(\mathsf{if}\ e_0\ e_1\ e_2) \Downarrow n'}$$

$$\frac{\text{(plus 1} - 1) \Downarrow 0}{\text{(if (plus 1 - 1) 3 4)} \Downarrow 4}$$

We perform unification:

Not done yet, now we have to prove **these** things

$$\frac{(\text{plus } 1 - 1) \Downarrow 0}{(\text{if (plus } 1 - 1) \ 3 \ 4) \Downarrow 4}$$

Why can we say $4 \downarrow \downarrow 4$? Because of the **Const** rule

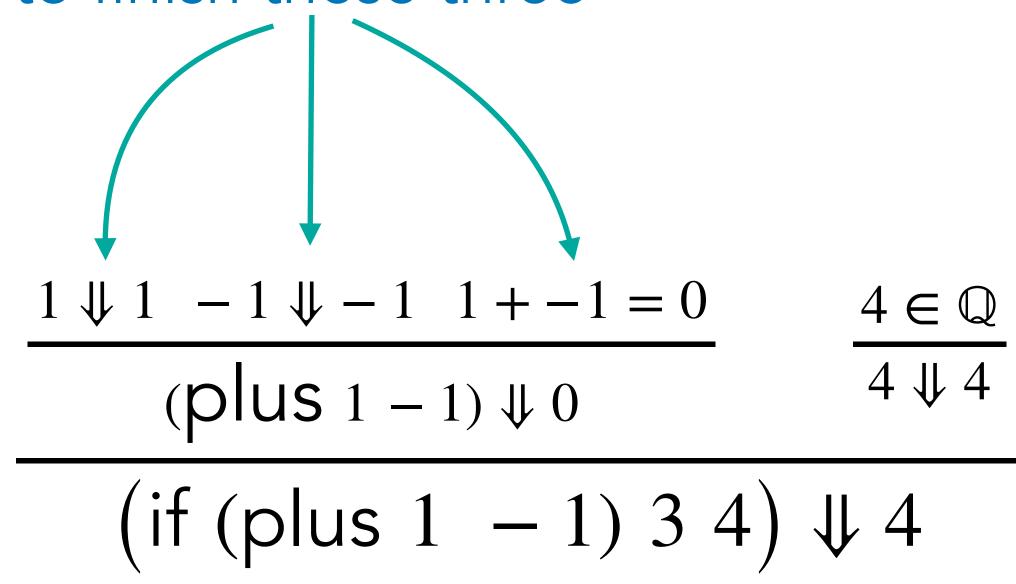
$$\frac{(\text{plus } 1 - 1) \Downarrow 0}{(\text{if (plus } 1 - 1) 3 4) \Downarrow 4}$$

We're not done yet, because **plus** requires an antecedent:

Plus:
$$\frac{e_0 \Downarrow n_0 \ e_1 \Downarrow n_1 \ n' = n_0 + n_1}{\text{(plus } e_0 \ e_1) \Downarrow n'}$$

$$\frac{(\text{plus } 1 - 1) \Downarrow 0}{(\text{if (plus } 1 - 1) 3 4) \Downarrow 4}$$

But we're **still** not done, because we need to finish these three



Things that are simply true from algebra require no antecedents, we take them as "axioms." \

This is a complete proof that the program computes 4

$$\frac{\stackrel{1 \in \mathbb{Q}}{1 \Downarrow 1} \stackrel{-1 \in \mathbb{Q}}{-1 \Downarrow -1} \stackrel{1+-1=0}{1+-1=0}}{(\text{plus } 1-1) \Downarrow 0} \stackrel{4 \in \mathbb{Q}}{\stackrel{4 \Downarrow 4}{}}$$

$$\left(\text{if (plus } 1 - 1) \stackrel{3}{4} \stackrel{4}{\downarrow} \stackrel{4}{\downarrow} \right)$$

Question: could you write this proof..? What would happen if you tried...?

$$\frac{???}{\text{(if (plus 1 - 1) 3 4 \square3)}}$$

$$\mathbf{If_{T}}: \frac{e_{0} \Downarrow n \quad n \neq 0 \quad e_{1} \Downarrow n'}{(\mathsf{if} \ e_{0} \ e_{1} \ e_{2}) \Downarrow n'} \mathbf{If_{F}}: \frac{e_{0} \Downarrow 0 \quad e_{2} \Downarrow n'}{(\mathsf{if} \ e_{0} \ e_{1} \ e_{2}) \Downarrow n'}$$

: (
$$(if (plus 1 - 1) 3 4) \Downarrow 3$$

Answer: you **can't** write this proof, because IfT will only let you evaluate e1 when e0 is non-0!

Const:
$$\frac{c \in \mathbb{Q}}{c \Downarrow c}$$
 Plus:
$$\frac{e_0 \Downarrow n_0 \quad e_1 \Downarrow n_1 \quad n' = n_0 + n_1}{(\text{plus } e_0 \ e_1) \Downarrow n'}$$

Div:
$$\frac{e_0 \Downarrow n_0 \ e_1 \Downarrow n_1 \ n' = n_0/n_1}{(\text{div } e_0 \ e_1) \Downarrow n'}$$

$$\mathbf{Not_0}: \frac{e \Downarrow 0}{(\mathsf{not}\ e) \Downarrow 1} \qquad \mathbf{Not_1}: \frac{e \Downarrow n \ n \neq 0}{(\mathsf{not}\ e) \Downarrow 0}$$

$$\mathbf{If_{T}}: \frac{e_{0} \Downarrow n \quad n \neq 0 \quad e_{1} \Downarrow n'}{(\mathsf{if} \ e_{0} \ e_{1} \ e_{2}) \Downarrow n'} \quad \mathbf{If_{F}}: \frac{e_{0} \Downarrow n \quad n = 0 \quad e_{2} \Downarrow n'}{(\mathsf{if} \ e_{0} \ e_{1} \ e_{2}) \Downarrow n'}$$



Small-Step Semantics of IfArith

CIS352 — Spring 2021 Kris Micinski Code in the description!

Last Week: Defined **Big-Step** semantics for IfArith

Last Week: Defined Big-Step semantics for IfArith

Two different, but similar, formulations:

- Metacircular Interpreter in Racket
- Natural Deduction

The metacircular interpreter is our "implementation" of natural deduction

```
(define (evaluate e)
    (match e
        [(? integer? n) n]
        [`(plus ,(? expr? e0) ,(? expr? e1))
          (+ (evaluate e0) (evaluate e1))]
        \Gamma'(div, (? expr? e0), (? expr? e1))
          (/ (evaluate e0) (evaluate e1))]
        [`(not ,(? expr? e-guard))
        (if (= (evaluate e-quard) 0) 1 0)
        [`(if ,(? expr? e0) ,(? expr? e1) ,(? expr? e2))
          (if (equal? 0 (evaluate e0)) (evaluate e2) (evaluate e1))
        [_ "unexpected input"]))
                                                                           Const: \frac{c \in \mathbb{Q}}{c \Downarrow c} Plus: \frac{e_0 \Downarrow n_0 \quad e_1 \Downarrow n_1 \quad n' = n_0 + n_1}{(\text{plus } e_0 \quad e_1) \Downarrow n'}
                                                                                    Div: \frac{e_0 \Downarrow n_0 \ e_1 \Downarrow n_1 \ n' = n_0/n_1}{(\text{div } e_0 \ e_1) \Downarrow n'}
                                                                           \mathbf{Not_0}: \frac{e \Downarrow 0}{(\mathsf{not}\ e) \Downarrow 1} \qquad \mathbf{Not_1}: \frac{e \Downarrow n \ n \neq 0}{(\mathsf{not}\ e) \Downarrow 0}
                                                                          \mathbf{Hf_T}: \frac{e_0 \Downarrow 0 \quad e_1 \Downarrow n'}{(\mathsf{if} \ e_0 \ e_1 \ e_2) \Downarrow n'} \qquad \mathbf{Hf_F}: \frac{e_0 \Downarrow n \quad n = 0 \quad e_2 \Downarrow n'}{(\mathsf{if} \ e_0 \ e_1 \ e_2) \Downarrow n'}
```

```
(define (evaluate e)
    (match e
        [(? integer? n) n]
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          (/ (evaluate e0) (evaluate e1))]
        [`(not ,(? expr? e-guard))
        (if (= (evaluate e-guard) 0) 1 0)]
        [`(if ,(? expr? e0) ,(? expr? e1) ,(? expr? e2))
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                                                                                    Div: \frac{e_0 \Downarrow n_0 \ e_1 \Downarrow n_1 \ n' = n_0/n_1}{(\text{div } e_0 \ e_1) \Downarrow n'}
                                                                           \mathbf{Not_0}: \frac{e \Downarrow 0}{(\mathsf{not}\ e) \Downarrow 1} \qquad \mathbf{Not_1}: \frac{e \Downarrow n \ n \neq 0}{(\mathsf{not}\ e) \Downarrow 0}
                                                                          \mathbf{If_{T}}: \frac{e_0 \Downarrow 0 \quad e_1 \Downarrow n'}{(\mathsf{if} \ e_0 \ e_1 \ e_2) \Downarrow n'} \qquad \mathbf{If_{F}}: \frac{e_0 \Downarrow n \quad n = 0 \quad e_2 \Downarrow n'}{(\mathsf{if} \ e_0 \ e_1 \ e_2) \Downarrow n'}
```

```
(define (evaluate e)
    (match e
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        [`(div ,(? expr? e0) ,(? expr? e1))
          (/ (evaluate e0) (evaluate e1))]
        [`(not ,(? expr? e-guard))
        (if (= (evaluate e-guard) 0) 1 0)
        [`(if ,(? expr? e0) ,(? expr? e1) ,(? expr? e2))
          (if (equal? 0 (evaluate e0)) (evaluate e2) (evaluate e1))]
        [_ "unexpected input"]))
                                                                            Const: \frac{c \in \mathbb{Q}}{c \Downarrow c} Plus: \frac{e_0 \Downarrow n_0 \quad e_1 \Downarrow n_1 \quad n' = n_0 + n_1}{(\text{plus } e_0 \ e_1) \Downarrow n'}
                                                                                    \mathbf{Div}: \frac{e_0 \Downarrow n_0 \quad e_1 \Downarrow n_1 \quad n' = n_0/n_1}{(\text{div } e_0 \ e_1) \Downarrow n'}
                                                                            \mathbf{Not_0}: \frac{e \Downarrow 0}{(\mathsf{not}\ e) \Downarrow 1} \qquad \mathbf{Not_1}: \frac{e \Downarrow n \ n \neq 0}{(\mathsf{not}\ e) \Downarrow 0}
                                                                          \mathbf{If_T}: \frac{e_0 \Downarrow 0 \quad e_1 \Downarrow n'}{(\mathsf{if} \ e_0 \ e_1 \ e_2) \Downarrow n'} \qquad \mathbf{If_F}: \frac{e_0 \Downarrow n \quad n = 0 \quad e_2 \Downarrow n'}{(\mathsf{if} \ e_0 \ e_1 \ e_2) \Downarrow n'}
```

This week we'll be looking at **small-step** interpreters

Implement and formalize textual reduction

Small-step interpreters specify execution as a sequence of **steps**, where each step makes only a small, local computation

```
(div (plus 2 2) (plus 3 -1))
→ (div 4 (plus 3 -1))
→ (div 4 2)
→ 2
```

We will define the rules precisely in a few slides...

This allows us to reason about, and implement, control over execution in a fine-grained way at each step.

```
(div (plus 2 2) (plus 3 -1))
→ (div 4 (plus 3 -1))
→ (div 4 2)
→ 2
```

Allows us to reason about traces of the program more easily. Useful for things like...

- Reasoning about finite prefix of infinitely-looping programs (servers)
- Temporal properties of the program (data-race freedom, etc...)

Our job is to define this step function / operator, written mathematically as $e_0 \rightarrow e_1$

```
(div (plus 2 2) (plus 3 -1))
→ (div 4 (plus 3 -1))
→ (div 4 2)
→ 2
```

First observation: can only take a step when both arguments to plus / div are **values**

```
(div (plus 2 2) (plus 3 -1))

→ (div 4 (plus 3 -1))

→ (div 4 2)

→ 2
```

We can immediately evaluate (plus 2 2) to 4, and then to step the whole expression, we substitute 4 in place of (plus 2 2)

```
(div (plus 2 2) (plus 3 -1))
→ (div 4 (plus 3 -1))
→ (div 4 2)
→ 2
```

We first identify a **redex** ("reducible expression")

Now two rules (so far)

- Immediately reduce plus/div when args are values
- When e_0 or e_1 is **not** a value, reduce one of them and replace it

```
(div (plus 2 2) (plus 3 -1))
→ (div 4 (plus 3 -1))
→ (div 4 2)
→ 2
```

- Immediately reduce plus/div when args are values

Let's translate this into the natural deduction style..

By the way, in this lecture we are defining a **new set** of rules for the small-step semantics, which I will call SmallIfArith

These rules are separate from the rules for IfArith

"Immediately reduce plus/div when args are values"

"Immediately reduce plus/div when args are values"

StepPlus
$$\frac{n_0 \in \mathbb{Q} \quad n_1 \in \mathbb{Q} \quad n' = n_0 + n_1}{(\text{plus } n_0 \quad n_1) \rightarrow n'}$$

"When e_0 or e_1 is **not** a value, reduce one of them and replace it"

PlusLeft
$$\frac{e_0 \rightarrow e'}{(\text{plus } e_0 \ e_1) \rightarrow (\text{plus } e' \ e_1)}$$

PlusRight $\frac{e_1 \rightarrow e'}{(\text{plus } n \ e_1) \rightarrow (\text{plus } n \ e')}$

The n here is a bit crucial: it adds determinism to our semantics!

"When e_0 or e_1 is **not** a value, reduce one of them and replace it"

StepPlus
$$\frac{n_0 \in \mathbb{Q} \quad n_1 \in \mathbb{Q} \quad n' = n_0 + n_1}{(\text{plus } n_0 \quad n_1) \rightarrow n'}$$

PlusRight
$$n \in \mathbb{Q}$$
 $e_1 \rightarrow e'$ (plus $n e_1$) \rightarrow (plus $n e'$)

PlusLeft
$$\frac{e_0 \rightarrow e'}{(\text{plus } e_0 \ e_1) \rightarrow (\text{plus } e' \ e_1)}$$

"To process (plus $e_0 e_1$), first check if is a value. If it is, then check if e_1 is a value. If both are, perform the addition."

"When e_0 or e_1 is **not** a value, reduce one of them and replace it"

StepPlus
$$\frac{n_0 \in \mathbb{Q} \quad n_1 \in \mathbb{Q} \quad n' = n_0 + n_1}{(\text{plus } n_0 \quad n_1) \rightarrow n'}$$

PlusRight
$$n \in \mathbb{Q}$$
 $e_1 \to e'$ (plus $n e_1$) \to (plus $n e'$)

PlusLeft
$$\frac{e_0 \rightarrow e'}{(\text{plus } e_0 \ e_1) \rightarrow (\text{plus } e' \ e_1)}$$

These are the three cases you need to consider for +

Very similar operation for division...

StepDiv
$$\frac{n_0 \in \mathbb{Q} \quad n_1 \in \mathbb{Q} \quad n' = n_0/n_1}{(\text{div } n_0 \ n_1) \rightarrow n'}$$
DivRight
$$\frac{n \in \mathbb{Q} \quad e_1 \rightarrow e'}{(\text{div } n \ e_1) \rightarrow (\text{div } n \ e')}$$
DivLeft
$$\frac{e_0 \rightarrow e'}{(\text{div } e_0 \ e_1) \rightarrow (\text{div } e' \ e_1)}$$

PlusLeft
$$\frac{e_0 \to e'}{(\text{plus } e_0 \ e_1) \to (\text{plus } e' \ e_1)}$$
PlusRight
$$\frac{e_1 \to e'}{(\text{plus } e_0 \ e_1) \to (\text{plus } e_0 \ e')}$$

What would happen if we did this instead...?

Semantics would be **nondeterministic**((plus 1 2) (plus 2 2)) -> (plus (plus 1 2) 4)

((plus 1 2) (plus 2 2)) -> (plus 3 (plus 2 2))

PlusLeft
$$\frac{e_0 \to e'}{(\text{plus } e_0 \ e_1) \to (\text{plus } e' \ e_1)}$$
PlusRight
$$\frac{e_1 \to e'}{(\text{plus } e_0 \ e_1) \to (\text{plus } e_0 \ e')}$$

What about not..?

StepNot₀
$$\frac{n \neq 0}{(\text{not } n) \to 0}$$
StepNot₁
$$\frac{n = 0}{(\text{not } n) \to 1}$$
StepNot
$$\frac{e \to e'}{(\text{not } e) \to (\text{not } e')}$$

Finally, if...

If_T
$$\frac{n \neq 0}{(\text{if } n \ e_1 \ e_2) \rightarrow e_1}$$
If_F
$$\frac{n = 0}{(\text{if } n \ e_1 \ e_2) \rightarrow e_2}$$
If
$$\frac{e_0 \rightarrow e'}{(\text{if } e_0 \ e_1 \ e_2) \rightarrow (\text{if } e' \ e_1 \ e_2)}$$

So many rules! Rules are overly complicated: next lecture we will refactor them to be more attractive...

$$\begin{aligned} \textbf{StepPlus} & \frac{n_0 \in \mathbb{Q} \quad n_1 \in \mathbb{Q} \quad n' = n_0 + n_1}{(\mathsf{plus} \ n_0 \ n_1) \to n'} \\ & \textbf{StepDiv} & \frac{n_0 \in \mathbb{Q} \quad n_1 \in \mathbb{Q} \quad n' = n_0/n_1}{(\mathsf{cliv} \ n_0 \ n_1) \to n'} \\ & \textbf{PlusRight} & \frac{n \in \mathbb{Q} \quad e_1 \to e'}{(\mathsf{plus} \ n \ e_1) \to (\mathsf{plus} \ n \ e')} & \textbf{DivRight} & \frac{n \in \mathbb{Q} \quad e_1 \to e'}{(\mathsf{cliv} \ n_0 \ n_1) \to n'} \\ & \textbf{PlusLeft} & \frac{e_0 \to e'}{(\mathsf{plus} \ e_0 \ e_1) \to (\mathsf{plus} \ e' \ e_1)} & \textbf{DivLeft} & \frac{e_0 \to e'}{(\mathsf{cliv} \ e_0 \ e_1) \to (\mathsf{cliv} \ e' \ e_1)} \\ & \textbf{StepNot}_0 & \frac{n \neq 0}{(\mathsf{not} \ n) \to 0} \\ & \textbf{StepNot}_1 & \frac{n = 0}{(\mathsf{not} \ n) \to 1} \\ & \textbf{StepNot}_1 & \frac{n = 0}{(\mathsf{not} \ n) \to 1} \\ & \textbf{StepNot}_0 & \frac{e \to e'}{(\mathsf{not} \ e) \to (\mathsf{not} \ e')} & \textbf{If}_T & \frac{e_0 \to e'}{(\mathsf{if} \ e_0 \ e_1 \ e_2) \to e_1} & \textbf{If}_T & \frac{e_0 \to e'}{(\mathsf{if} \ e_0 \ e_1 \ e_2) \to (\mathsf{if} \ e' \ e_1 \ e_2)} \end{aligned}$$

One very important omission: there is **no defined step** for values!

These rules only tell us how to step expressions. We need to keep doing that (in a loop) until we reach a value.

Now that we have the rules, let's code them up as a small-step interpreter

```
(define/contract (step e)
  (-> (lambda (x) (and (expr? x) (not (value? x))) expr?)
  'todo)
```