

Level: Hard

Given an arithmetic expression with $*, /, -$ & $+$ operators and single digit numbers, evaluate it and return the result.

For example,

$1 + 2 / 1 + 3 * 2 ==> 9$

Questions to Clarify:

Q. Can the expression have parentheses - '()'

A. No, it will only have those 4 operators of single digit numbers.

Q. Can we assume the input to be an array of characters?

e.g, ['1','+','2','\','1'..]

A. Yes that's fine.

Q. When we divide two numbers, is the result an integer or can it be a fraction?

E.g, $\frac{1}{2}$ is 0 or 0.5?

A. Depends on your language. Here, we will use integer arithmetic, so $\frac{1}{2}$ will be 0.

Q. Can we assume that the expression is valid?

A. Yes, assume that the expression is valid.

Q. If the expression is empty, can I return 0?

A. Yes.

Solution:

In arithmetic expression evaluation, we use 2 stacks - an operator stack and an operand stack. Before that, we need to look at operator precedence. Multiplication (*) and Division(/) have higher precedence than + and -. The precedence is as follows:

Precedence 2 -> / , * (/ and * have same precedence)

Precedence 1 -> + , -

Back to using 2 stacks - operator stack and operand stack. We iterate through the expression.

If we encounter a number, we put it on the operand stack. If we encounter an operator, we put it on the operator stack. In our earlier example, let's say we have gone through

$1, +, 2, /, 1$. Our stacks look as follows:

Operand Stack: 1 -> 2 -> 1 <-- top of stack

Operator Stack: + -> / <-- top of stack

Now, we encounter a +. If we see a higher or equal precedence on top of the stack, we evaluate it before inserting this operator. So, we pop / from the operator stack, pop 1 and 2 from the operand stack and evaluate ' $2 / 1$ '. The result is 2, which we pop back into the operand stack. Now the stacks are as follows:

```
Operand Stack:  1 -> 2          <-- top of stack
Operator Stack:  +                <-- top of stack
```

We look at the top of the operator stack again. There is an operator that has equal precedence as +, so we evaluate the top operator again. The stack looks as follows now:

```
Operand Stack:  3                <-- top of stack
Operator Stack:  <-- top of stack
```

Now, there is no operator with higher precedence than +, so you can push the + operator. The stack will look as follows:

```
Operand Stack:  3                <-- top of stack
Operator Stack:  +                <-- top of stack
```

After we've gone through the expression, we end up with the following:

```
Operand Stack:  3 -> 3 -> 2      <-- top of stack
Operator Stack:  + -> *          <-- top of stack
```

After the loop, we can pop each operator, evaluate it and push the result back.

We do this until there is nothing left on the operator stack.

After evaluating the *,

```
Operand Stack:  3 -> 6          <-- top of stack
Operator Stack:  <-- top of stack
```

After evaluating the + operator, there is only one element left in the operand stack: 9. The operator stack is empty. At the end, there should only be one number left, and that is the result.

Pseudocode:

(Note: Never write pseudocode in an actual interview. Unless you're writing a few lines quickly to plan out your solution. Your actual solution should be in a real language and use good syntax.)

Helper Functions that you may not have to implement:

`process()` function - evaluates the operator on top of the operator stack and pushes the result onto the operand stack.

`precedence()` function - returns the precedence of an operator

Main function:

init operand, operator stack

loop through character `ch` in expression:

 if `ch` is operand:

 push into operand stack

```
    if ch is operator:
        while precedence(top of operator stack) >= precedence(ch)
            run process() function to evaluate the top operator
        push ch to operator stack

while operator stack is not empty
    run process() function
```

At the end result should be the only number on the operand stack.

Test Cases:

Edge Cases: Empty expression, single number in expression

Base Cases: Single operation (1+2, 1*2)

Regular Cases: Multiple operators

Time Complexity: O(n)

Space Complexity: O(n) because we store a copy of the operator/operands in the stacks

```
public static int evaluate(char[] expression) {
    if (expression == null || expression.length == 0)
        return 0;

    Stack<Integer> operand = new Stack<>();
    Stack<Character> operator = new Stack<>();
    for (char ch : expression) {
        if (isOperand(ch))
            operand.push(ch-'0');
        else if (isOperator(ch)) {
            while (!operator.isEmpty()
                && precedence(operator.peek()) >= precedence(ch)) {
                process(operator, operand);
            }
            operator.push(ch);
        }
    }

    while (!operator.isEmpty()) {
        process(operator, operand);
    }

    return operand.pop();
}

/*
 * Helper functions. Ask the interviewer if they want you to implement
 * these.
```

```
*/

private static boolean isOperand(char ch) {
    return (ch >= '0') && (ch <= '9');
}

private static boolean isOperator(char ch) {
    return ch == '+' || ch == '-' || ch == '*' || ch == '/';
}

private static int precedence(char ch) {
    switch(ch) {
        case '/':
        case '*': return 2;
        case '+':
        case '-': return 1;
        default: throw new IllegalArgumentException("Invalid operator: " + ch);
    }
}

private static void process(Stack<Character> operator, Stack<Integer> operand) {
    int num2 = operand.pop();
    int num1 = operand.pop();

    char op = operator.pop();

    int result = 0;

    switch(op) {
        case '/': result = num1 / num2;
            break;
        case '*': result = num1 * num2;
            break;
        case '+': result = num1 + num2;
            break;
        case '-': result = num1 - num2;
            break;
    }
    operand.push(result);
}
```

Level: Hard

Given an arithmetic expression with ***,/,- & +** operators and single digit numbers, evaluate it and return the result.

The expression can also contain parenthesis.

For example,

$1 + 2 / 1 + 3 * 2 ==> 9$

$1 + (1 + 3) * 2 ==> 9$

$1 + 2 / (1 + 3) * 2 \Rightarrow 1$

Solution:

As shown in the video, we add a few lines to the previous solution. The added lines are in bold:

```
public static int evaluateWithParenthesis(char[] expression) {
    if (expression == null || expression.length == 0)
        return 0;

    Stack<Integer> operand = new Stack<>();
    Stack<Character> operator = new Stack<>();
    for (char ch : expression) {
        if (isOperand(ch))
            operand.push(ch-'0');
        else if (isOperator(ch)) {
            while (!operator.isEmpty()
                && precedence(operator.peek()) >= precedence(ch)) {
                process(operator, operand);
            }
            operator.push(ch);
        } else if (ch == '(') {
            operator.push(ch);
        } else if (ch == ')') {
            while (operator.peek() != '(') {
                process(operator, operand);
            }
            operator.pop();
        }
    }

    while (!operator.isEmpty()) {
        process(operator, operand);
    }

    return operand.pop();
}
```

```
}

/*
 * Helper functions. Ask interviewer if they want you to implement.
 */

private static boolean isOperand(char ch) {
    return (ch >= '0') && (ch <= '9');
}

private static boolean isOperator(char ch) {
    return ch == '+' || ch == '-' || ch == '*' || ch == '/';
}

private static int precedence(char ch) {
    switch(ch) {
        case '/':
        case '*': return 2;
        case '+':
        case '-': return 1;
        case '(':
        case ')': return 0;
        default: throw new IllegalArgumentException("Invalid operator: " + ch);
    }
}

private static void process(Stack<Character> operator, Stack<Integer> operand) {
    int num2 = operand.pop();
    int num1 = operand.pop();

    char op = operator.pop();

    int result = 0;

    switch(op) {
        case '/': result = num1 / num2;
            break;
        case '*': result = num1 * num2;
            break;
        case '+': result = num1 + num2;
            break;
        case '-': result = num1 - num2;
            break;
    }
    operand.push(result);
}
```