#### AN INTRODUCTION TO

# STACK BASED LANGUAGES

# USING THE FACTOR PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE

# **ABOUT FACTOR**

#### **ABOUT FACTOR**

Relatively New (started in 2003)

Multi-paradigm: Stack Based, Functional, OOP

Interactive: Integrated IDE + REPL

Thin Line between Language & Library

#### **ABOUT FACTOR**

- Relatively New (started in 2003)
- Multi-paradigm: Stack Based, Functional, OOP
- Interactive: Integrated IDE + REPL
- Thin Line between Language & Library

Programs = Literals + Words

```
"Strings"

Literals = Values 123.45 objects

{ 1 2 3 }
```

Words are named blocks of code

# THE BASICS (WORDS)

#### THE BASICS (WORDS)

Words = Functions

Operate on a Data Stack

Words have "Stack Effects"

Stack Effects = Function Signatures

add-3-numbers (xyz--sum)

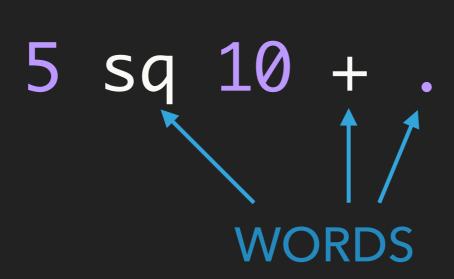
```
add-3-numbers (xyz--sum)
inputs
```

```
add-3-numbers (xyz--sum)

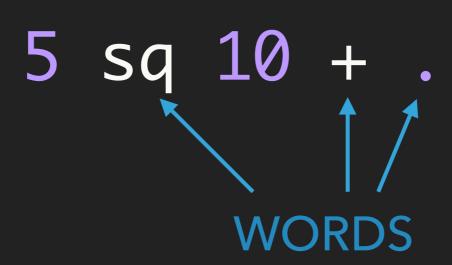
inputs outputs
```

$$5 \text{ sq } 10 + .$$





#### Example:



#### All Valid Word Names

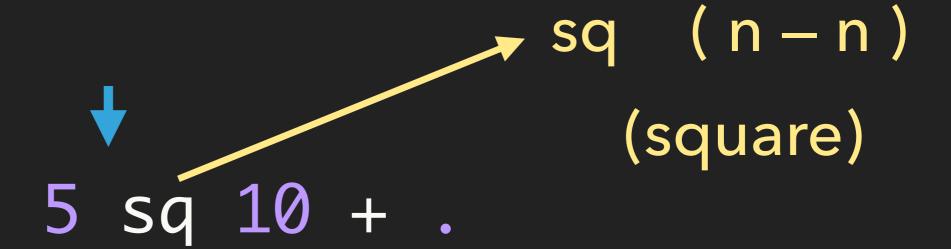


$$5 \text{ sq } 10 + .$$





DATA STACK 
$$\rightarrow$$
 5





DATA STACK 
$$\rightarrow$$
  $25$   $10$ 



DATA STACK 
$$\rightarrow$$
  $25$   $10$ 



$$\frac{1}{5} \text{ sq } 10 + \frac{1}{3}$$

DATA STACK 
$$\rightarrow$$
  $35$ 

#### Example:



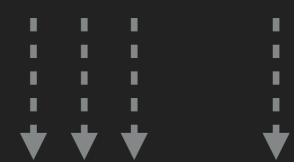


(35 is output on console)

add-3-numbers (xyz--sum)

NOT variable names!

add-3-numbers (xyz--sum)



names serve as documentation for the programmer

add-3-numbers (xyz--sum)

is the same as

add-3-numbers (xxx--x)

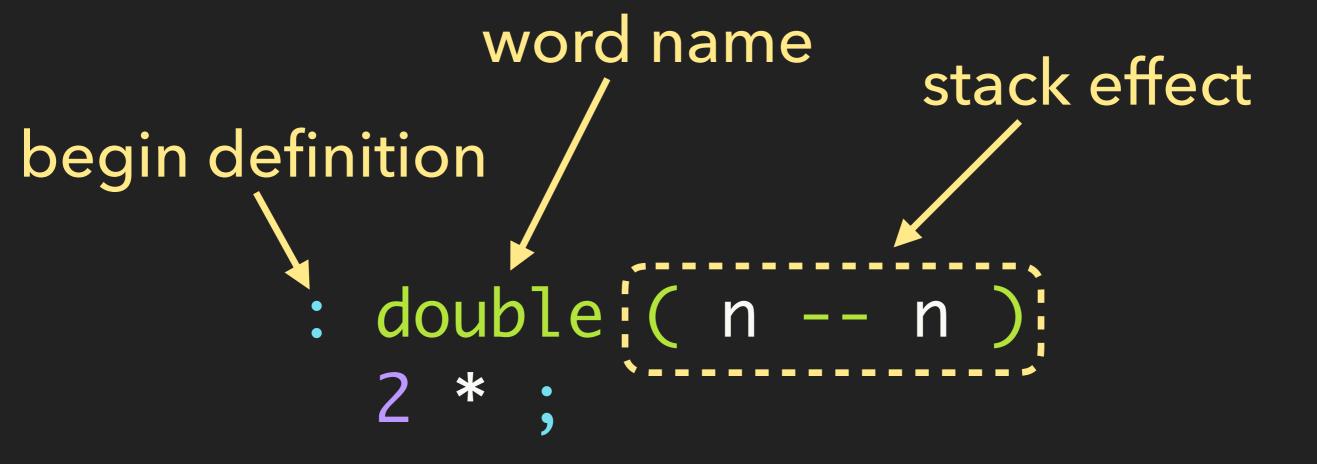
```
: double (n -- n)
2 *;
```

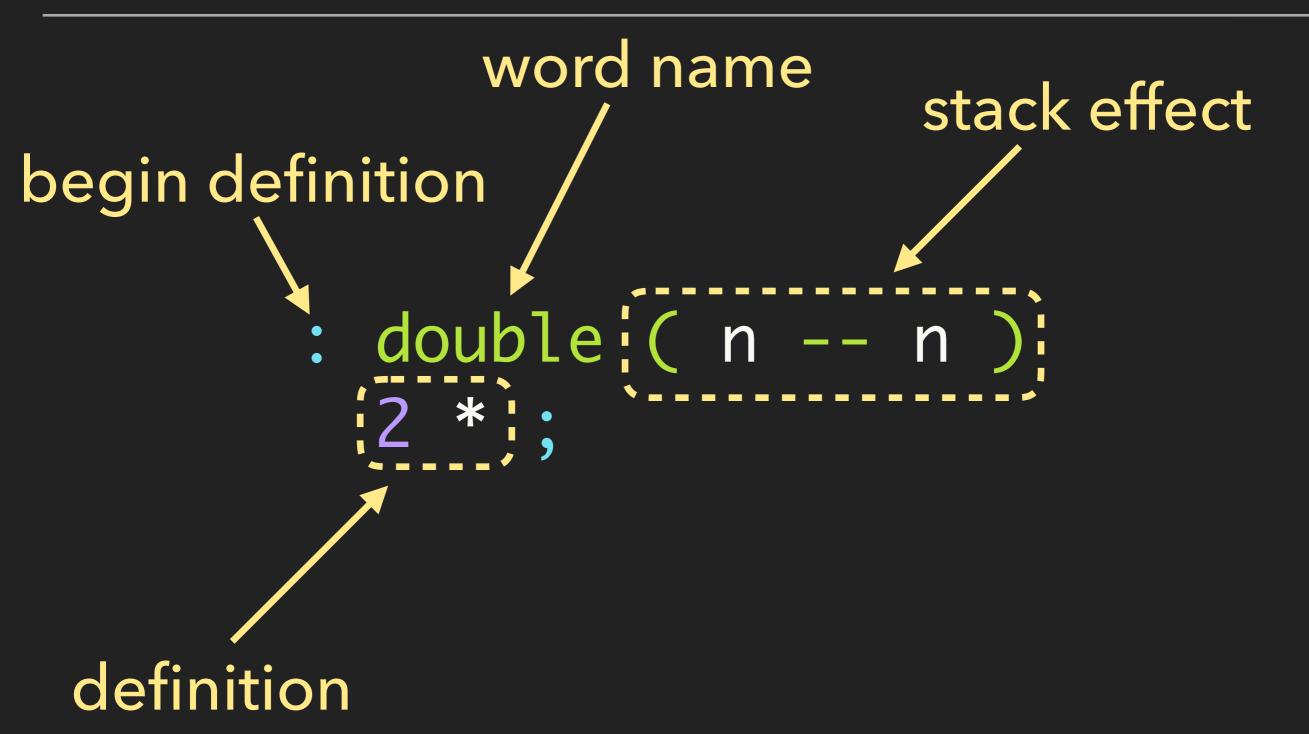
```
begin definition
```

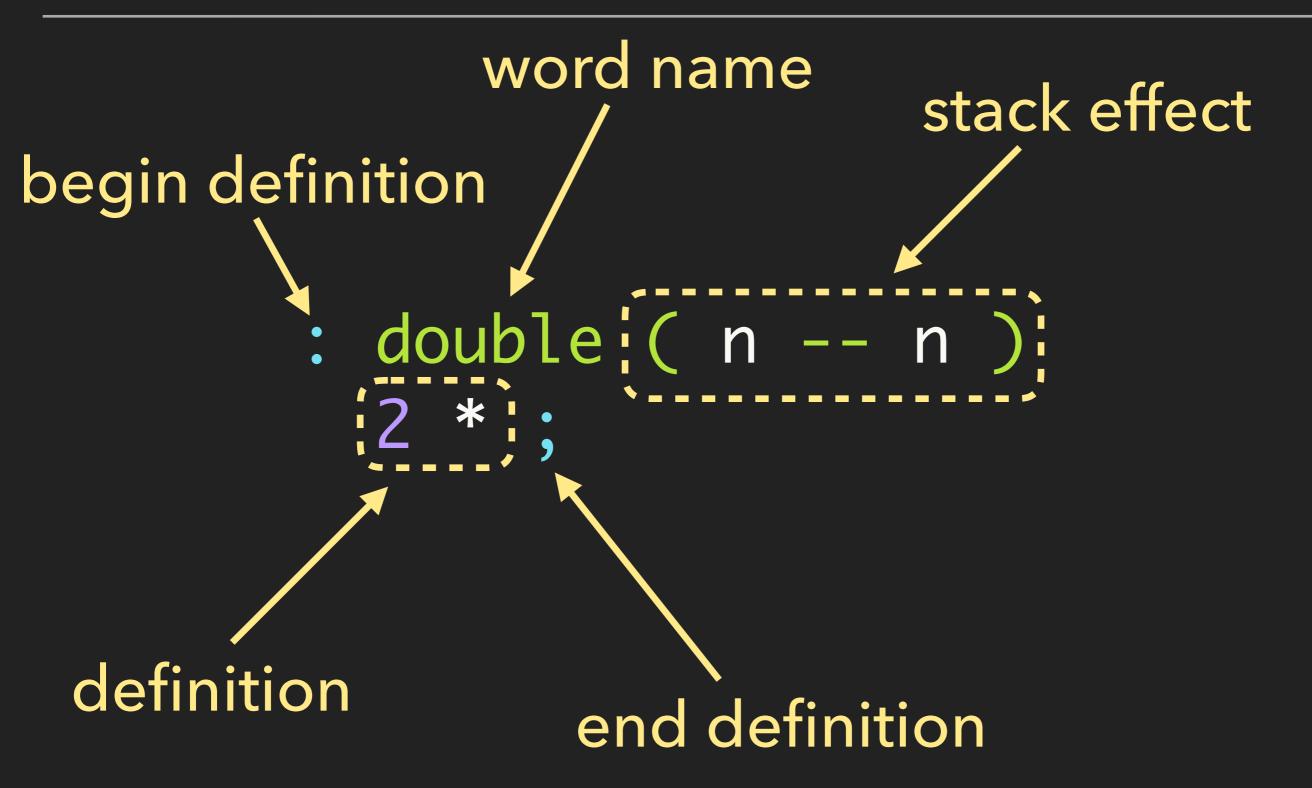
```
: double ( n -- n )
2 *;
```

```
word name
begin definition

: double (n -- n)
2 *;
```







# **DEFINING NEW WORDS**

```
: double (n -- n)
2 *;
```

### **DEFINING NEW WORDS**

```
: double (n -- n)
2 *;
```

5 double.

#### **DEFINING NEW WORDS**

```
: double ( n -- n )
2 *;
5 double .
```

(10 is output on console)

```
USING: math;
IN: utilities

: double ( x -- x )
2 *:
```

```
Import Vocabularies
USING: math;
IN: utilities
: double ( x -- x )
```

```
Import Vocabularies
USING: math;
IN: utilities
: double ( x -- x )
           the multiply word exists
           in the math vocab
```

```
USING: math;
IN: utilities
```

```
: double (x -- x)
2 *;

this word gets defined in the utilities vocabulary
```

Vocabulary systemimplemented in Factor

USING: and IN:

are just words

#### Cool Example:

```
USING: calendar calendar.english;
: what-was-yesterday ( -- )
  1 days ago
  day-of-week day-name
  print;
```

#### Cool Example:

```
USING: calendar calendar.english ;
: what-was-yesterday ( -- )
  1 days ago
  day-of-week day-name
  print ;
```

Lets Step Through This Interactively

```
USING: calendar calendar.english;
: what-was-yesterday ( -- )
  1 days ago
  day-of-week day-name
  print;
```

```
// assume these made up functions exist
import { days, ago, dayOfWeek } from 'calendar';
import { dayName } from 'english-calendar';
function whatWasYesterday() {
  let r0 = 1;
  let r1 = days(r0); // returns a duration object
  let r2 = ago(r1); // return a timestamp object
  let r3 = dayOfWeek(r2); // returns day-of-week as a number
  let r4 = dayName(r3); // returns day-name as string
  console.log(r4);
```

```
// assume these made up functions exist
import { days, ago, dayOfWeek } from 'calendar';
import { dayName } from 'english-calendar';
function whatWasYesterday() {
 let r0 = 1;
 let r1 = days(r0); // returns a duration object
 let r2 = ago(r1); // return a timestamp object
 let r3 = day0fWeek(r2); // returns day-of-week as a number
 let r4 = dayName(r3); // returns day-name as string
 console.log(r4);
```

Variables!

Lets remove all them Variables!

```
import { days, ago, dayOfWeek } from 'calendar';
import { dayName } from 'english-calendar';
function whatWasYesterday() {
  console.log(
    dayName(
      dayOfWeek(
        ago(
          days(
```

```
import { days, ago, dayOfWeek } from 'calendar';
import { dayName } from 'english-calendar';
function whatWasYesterday() {
  console.log(
   dayName(
     dayOfWeek(
       ago(
          days(
```

```
import { days, ago, dayOfWeek } from 'calendar';
        import { dayName } from 'english-calendar';
        function whatWasYesterday() {
          console.log(
OOKO, NOOO
            dayName(
                                        USING: calendar calendar.english
              dayOfWeek(
                ago(
                                         : what-was-yesterday ( -- )
                   days(
                                          1 days ago
                                          day-of-week day-name
                                          print;
```

```
import { days, ago, dayOfWeek } from 'calendar';
import { dayName } from 'english-calendar';
function whatWasYesterday() {
  console.log(
    dayName(
                               USING: calendar calendar.english
      dayOfWeek(
        ago(
                               : what-was-yesterday ( -- )
          days(
                                1 days ago
                                day-of-week day-name
                                print;
                In Stack Based Languages
      Sequence of Words = Function Composition
```

# Name Operations Not Variables

Lets refactor this...

```
USING: calendar calendar.english ;
: what-was-yesterday ( -- )
  1 days ago
  day-of-week day-name
  print ;
```

Lets refactor this...

Lets refactor this...

```
USING: calendar calendar.english;
: what-was-yesterday ( -- )
  1 days ago
  'day-of-week day-name
  print;
print-day-name
```

After refactoring...

```
USING: calendar calendar.english;
: yesterday ( -- timestamp )
 1 days ago;
: print-day-name ( timestamp -- )
  day-of-week day-name
  print;
: what-was-yesterday ( -- )
 yesterday print-day-name;
```

After refactoring...

```
USING: calendar calendar.english;
: yesterday ( -- timestamp )
 1 days ago;
: print-day-name ( timestamp -- )
  day-of-week day-name
  print;
: what-was-yesterday ( -- )
yesterday print-day-name;;
```

: sq (n -- n)

: sq (n -- n)
whats the definition ?

```
: sq (n -- n)
dup *;
```

```
: sq (n -- n) dup (x--xx) dup *;
```

DATA STACK → 5

```
DATA STACK \rightarrow 5
```

(xy--z)

```
: sq (n -- n)
dup *;
```

DATA STACK → 25

: sq (n -- n)

```
: sq (n -- n)
dup *;
```

Word	Stack Effect
dup	( x x x )

Word	Stack Effect
dup	( x x x )
swap	( x y y x )
drop	( x )
over	( x y x y x )
nip	( x y y )

Word	Stack Effect
dup	( x x x )
swap	( x y y x )
drop	( x )
over	( x y x y x )
nip	( x y y )

Word	Stack Effect
dup	( x x x )
swap	( x y y x )
drop	( x )
over	( x y x y x )
nip	( x y y )

Word	Stack Effect
dup	( x x x )
swap	( x y y x )
drop	( x )
over	(xy x y x)
nip	( x y y )



Word	Stack Effect
dup	( x x x )
swap	(xyyx)
drop	( x )
over	( x y x y x )
nip	(xy y)



### Multiple Return Values

$$/mod (xy--qr)$$

pronounced "slashmod"

### Multiple Return Values

```
/mod (xy--qr)
```

Divides x by y leaving quotient q and remainder r on the stack

## Multiple Return Values

```
/mod (xy--qr)
```

7 3 /mod

### Multiple Return Values

```
/mod (xy--qr)
```

7 3 /mod

(leaves 2 and 1 on the data stack)

### Multiple Return Values

/mod drop ;

```
/mod (xy--qr)
                7 3 /mod
       (leaves 2 and 1 on the data stack)
: quotient ( x y -- q )
```

### Multiple Return Values

```
/mod (xy--qr)
                 7 3 /mod
       (leaves 2 and 1 on the data stack)
: quotient ( x y -- q )
 /mod drop ;
```

### Multiple Return Values

```
/mod (xy--qr)
                  7 3 /mod
        (leaves 2 and 1 on the data stack)
: quotient ( x y -- q )
                             : remainder ( x y -- r )
 /mod drop ;
                              /mod nip ;
```

### Multiple Return Values

```
/mod (xy--qr)
                  7 3 /mod
        (leaves 2 and 1 on the data stack)
: quotient ( x y -- q )
                             : remainder ( x y -- r )
 /mod drop ;
                              /mod nip ;
```

Booleans t (true)

(false)

Numbers

123 1.25 22/7

Strings

"factor"

Arrays

{ 1 2 3 }

Arrays

```
{ 1 2 3 } sum . (seq -- sum)
```

Arrays

```
{ 1 2 3 } sum .
(outputs 6)
```

# Arrays

```
{ 1 2 3 } sum (outputs 6)
```

## Hashtables

```
Arrays
```

```
{ 1 2 3 } sum .
(outputs 6)
```

Hashtables

( key hashtable -- value )

# Arrays

```
{ 1 2 3 } sum (outputs 6)
```

## Hashtables

## Arrays

## Hashtables

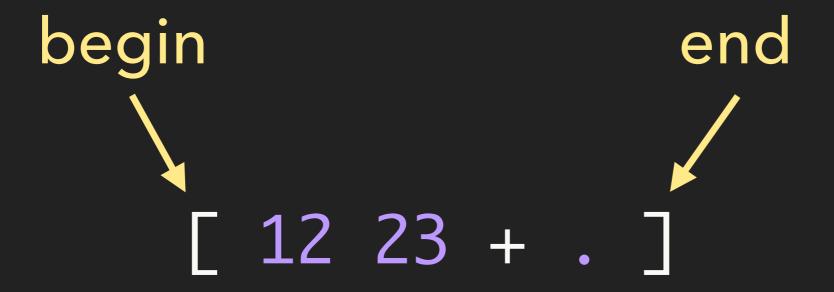
## Quotations

```
[12\ 23 + .]
```

```
\begin{bmatrix} 12 & 23 + . \end{bmatrix}
```

```
begin

[ 12 23 + . ]
```





#### LITERALS

# Quotations (anonymous functions)

```
begin end

[ 12 23 + . ] call

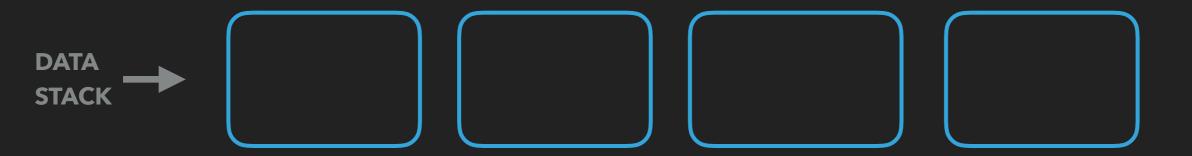
( outputs 35 )
```

Words that take Quotations as input

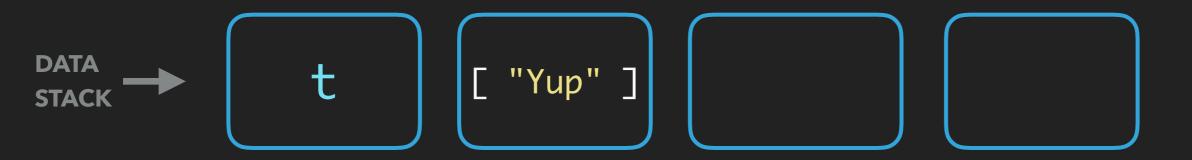
Words that take Quotations as input

- Example:
  - takes a boolean value
  - and a quotation for the true case
  - and a quotation for the false case
  - evaluates appropriate quotation

- Words that take Quotations as input
- Example:
  - takes a boolean value
  - and a quotation for the true case
  - and a quotation for the false case
  - evaluates appropriate quotation
- Stack effect: (..a ? true: (..a -- ..b) false: (..a -- ..b) -- ..b)

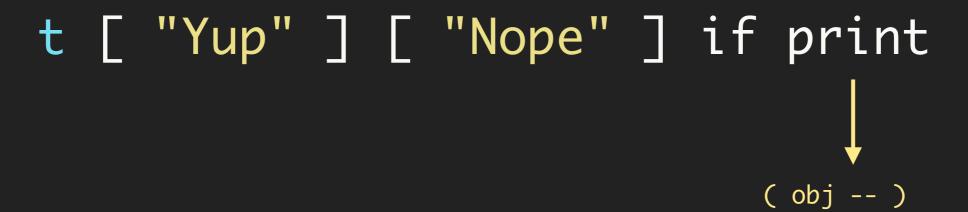




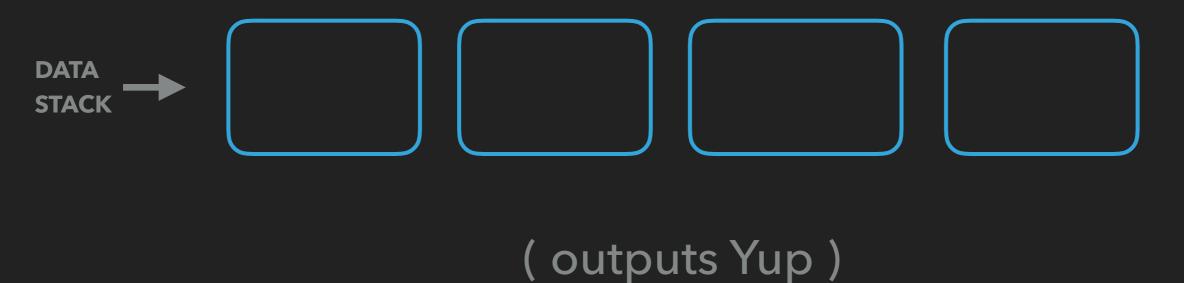


```
DATA → t [ "Yup" ] [ "Nope" ]
```

```
DATA STACK t [ "Yup" ] [ "Nope" ]
```







```
times (...n quot:(...-..)-...)

10 [

"Factor is terse!" print
] times
```

```
times (...nquot:(...-...)-...)
              10
                 "Factor is terse!" print
              ] times
while (..a pred: (..a – ..b?) body: (..b – ..a) – ..a)
              1 [ dup 10 <= ] [
                 dup sq . 1 +
              ] while drop
```

```
times (... n quot: (... – ...) – ...)
               10
                  "Factor is terse!" print
               ] times
while (..a pred: (..a – ..b?) body: (..b – ..a) – ..a)
               1 [ dup 10 <= ] [
                 dup sq . 1 +
               ] while drop
```

```
times (... n quot: (... – ...) – ...)
               10
                 "Factor is terse!" print
               ] times
while (..a pred: (..a – ..b?) body: (..b – ..a) – ..a)
               1 [ dup 10 <= ] [
                 dup sq . 1 +
               while drop
```

```
times (...nquot:(...-...)-...)
              10
                 "Factor is terse!" print
              ] times
while (..a pred: (..a – ..b?) body: (..b – ..a) – ..a)
              1 [ dup 10 <= ] [
                 dup sq . 1 +
              ] while drop
```

# **CONTROL FLOW WORDS**

 if, when, unless, while, until, times control flow words implemented as combinators

 Create your own control flow words by combining existing primitives

### COMBINATOR EXAMPLES (SEQUENCES)

```
map (...seq quot: (...x - ...mx) - ...newseq)
filter (...seq quot: (...x - ...?) - ...newseq)
: sum-of-squares-of-evens ( seq -- sum )
  [ even? ] filter
  [sq] map
  sum ;
```

### COMBINATOR EXAMPLES (SEQUENCES)

```
map (...seq quot: (...x - ...mx) - ...newseq)
filter (...seq quot: (...x - ...?) - ...newseq)
: sum-of-squares-of-evens ( seq -- sum )
  [ even? ] filter
  [ sq ] map
  Sum;
```

Lets Step Through This Interactively

dip	bi	bi*	bi@
2dip	2bi	2bi*	2bi@
keep	tri	tri*	tri@
2keep	2tri	2tri*	2tri@
curry	2curry	compose	with

### COMBINATOR EXAMPLES (SEQUENCE OPERATIONS)

each each-index

map map-index reduce

filter partition

2each 2map 3each 3map

any? all?

# And Many Many More

# LOCAL VARIABLES

#### LOCALS

### Area of a triangle using Herons formula

#### Area of a triangle using Herons formula

```
! given length of sides: a b c
! area = sqrt(p * p-a * p-b * p-c)
! where p = (a + b + c)/2 is perimeter
```

#### Area of a triangle using Herons formula

#### LOCALS

## Area of a triangle using Herry's formula

```
! given length of sides:
 area = sqrt(p * p)
 where p = (a + b + c)/2 is permeter
: triangle-area
 3dup + + 2
                              abcp
           keep [ rot
                        dip!p-cp-bap
   swap (-)
                [ ro
            keep
                             ! p-с p-b p-a p
            keep
       sart
```

#### LOCALS

```
! area = sqrt(p * p-a * p-b * p-c)
! where p = (a + b + c)/2 is perimeter
:: triangle-area ( a b c -- area )
   a b + c + 2 / :> p
   p a - :> p-a
   p b - :> p-b
   p c - :> p-c
   p p-a * p-b * p-c *
   sqrt;
```

```
! area = sqrt(p * p-a * p-b * p-c)
! where p = (a + b + c)/2 is perimeter
:: triangle-area ( a b c -- area )
    a b + c + 2 / :> p
    p a - :> p-a
    p b - :> p-b
    p c - :> p-c
    p p-a * p-b * p-c *
    sqrt;
Named local variables
```

```
! area = sqrt(p * p-a * p-b * p-c)
! where p = (a + b + c)/2 is perimeter
:: triangle-area ( a b c -- area )
   a b + c + 2 / :> p
   p a - :> p-a
   p b - :> p-b
   p c - :> p-c
   p p-a * p-b * p-c *
   sqrt;
```

```
! area = sqrt(p * p-a * p-b * p-c)
! where p = (a + b + c)/2 is perimeter
:: triangle-area ( a b c -- area )
   a b + c + 2 / :> p
   p a - :> p-a
   p b - :> p-b
   p c - :> p-c
   p p-a * p-b * p-c *
   sqrt;
Assignment operator
```

### Area of a triangle using Herons formula ( with locals )

## Area of a triangle using Herons formula ( with locals )

```
! area = sqrt(p * p-a * p-b * p-c)
! where p = (a + b + c)/2 is perimeter
:: triangle-area ( a b c -- area )
   a b + c + 2 / :> p
   p a - :> p-a
   p b - :> p-b
   p c - :> p-c
   p p-a * p-b * p-c *
   sqrt;
```

#### **LOCALS**

#### LOCALS

- are words
  implemented as syntax extensions
  in the locals vocabulary
- Less than 1%

  of words in the core distribution

  use Local Variables

## OBJECT ORIENTATION

- Tuples: collection of named slots
- Auto-generated slot accessor words
- Generic words dispatch on tuple type
- Methods implement generic word for specific

Tuple

```
TUPLE: rectangle length breath ;
length>> ( obj -- value )
breath>> ( obj -- value )
>>length ( obj value -- obj )
>>breath ( obj value -- obj )
```

```
TUPLE: rectangle length breath ;
length>> ( obj -- value )
breath>> ( obj -- value )
>>length ( obj value -- obj )
>>breath ( obj value -- obj )
```

```
TUPLE: rectangle length breath ;
length>> ( obj -- value )
breath>> ( obj -- value )
>>length ( obj value -- obj )
>>breath ( obj value -- obj )
```

```
TUPLE: rectangle length breath;
         length>> ( obj -- value )
breath>> ( obj -- value )
         >>length ( obj value -- obj )
>>breath ( obj value -- obj )
Getter Words
```

```
TUPLE: rectangle length breath ;
length>> ( obj -- value )
breath>> ( obj -- value )
>>length ( obj value -- obj )
>>breath ( obj value -- obj )
```

```
TUPLE: rectangle length breath;
        length>> ( obj -- value )
        breath>> ( obj -- value )
       >>length ( obj value -- obj )
>>breath ( obj value -- obj )
Setter Words
```

```
TUPLE: rectangle length breath;
TUPLE: circle radius ;
GENERIC: area ( obj -- n )
M: rectangle area
  [ length>> ] [ breath>> ]
  bi * :
M: circle area
  radius>> sq
  3.14 *;
```

```
TUPLE: rectangle length breath;
TUPLE: circle radius ;
GENERIC: area ( obj -- n )
M: rectangle area
  [length>>] [breath>>]
  bi * :
M: circle area
  radius>> sq
  3.14 *;
```

```
TUPLE: rectangle length breath;
TUPLE: circle radius;
GENERIC: area ( obj -- n )
M: rectangle area
  [ length>> ] [ breath>> ]
  bi * :
M: circle area
  radius>> sq
  3.14 *;
```

```
TUPLE: rectangle length breath;
          TUPLE: circle radius;
          GENERIC: area ( obj -- n )
          M: rectangle area
             [ length>> ] [ breath>> ]
            bi * ;
          M: circle area
            radius>> sq
            3.14 *;
Method Definitions
```

```
TUPLE: rectangle length breath;
TUPLE: circle radius;
GENERIC: area ( obj -- n )
M: rectangle area
  [ length>> ] [ breath>> ]
  bi * ;
M: circle area
  radius>> sq
  3.14 *;
```

```
TUPLE: rectangle length breath;
TUPLE: circle radius;
GENERIC: area ( obj -- n )
M: rectangle area
  [ length>> ] [ breath>> ]
  bi * :
M: circle area
  radius>> sq
  3.14 *;
```

```
: <rectangle> ( l b -- rect )
  rectangle new
  swap >>breath
  swap >>length ;

: <circle> ( r -- circle )
  circle new
  swap >>radius ;
```

```
: <rectangle> ( l b -- rect )
        rectangle new
        swap >>breath
        swap >>length;
      : <circle> ( r -- circle )
       circle new
        swap >>radius;
Constructor Words
```

```
: <rectangle> ( l b -- rect )
  rectangle new
  swap >>breath
  swap >>length ;

: <circle> ( r -- circle )
  circle new
  swap >>radius ;
```

```
: <rectangle> ( l b -- rect )
  rectangle new
  swap >>breath
  swap >>length ;

: <circle> ( r -- circle )
  circle new
  swap >>radius ;
```

10 5 <rectangle> area .

```
10 5 <rectangle> area . (outputs 50)
```

```
10 5 <rectangle> area .
( outputs 50 )
```

10 <circle> area.

```
10 5 <rectangle> area .
(outputs 50)

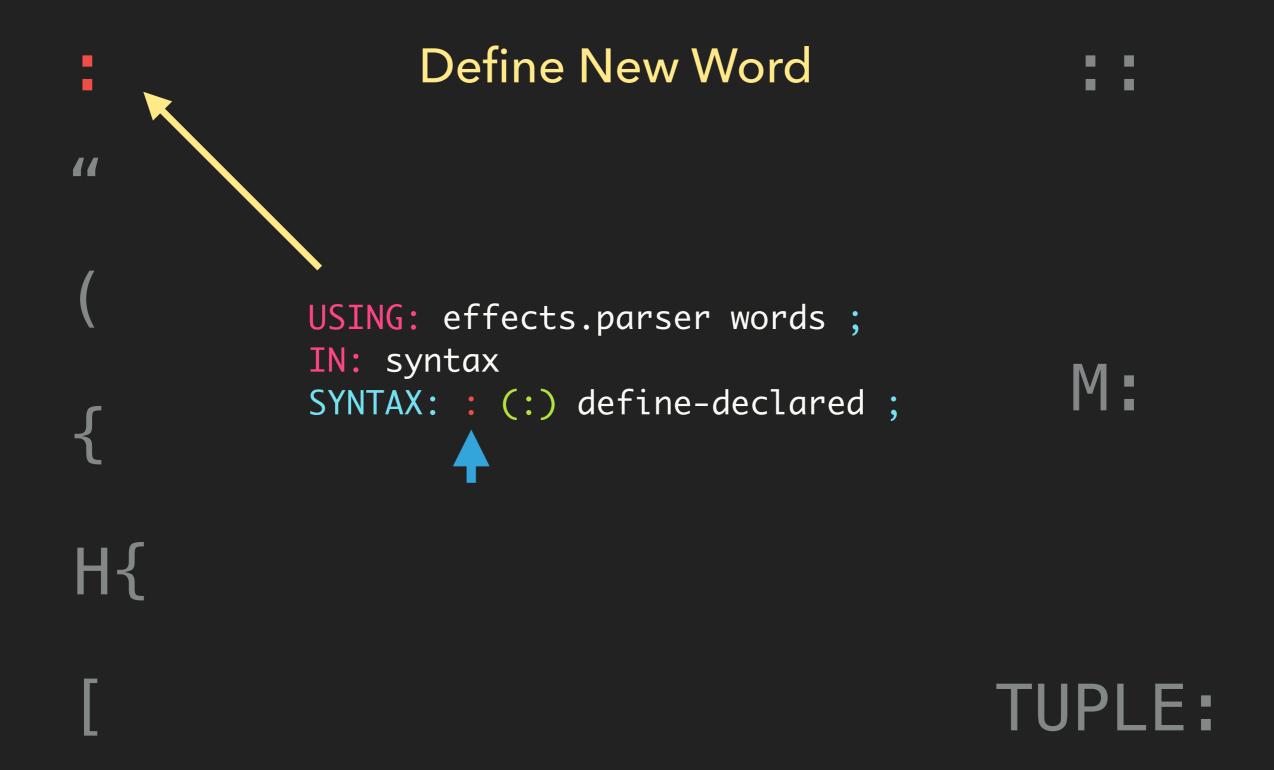
10 <circle> area .
(outputs 314)
```

TUPLE: GENERIC: M:

are words

implemented as syntax extensions

```
11
                                   M:
H{
                                TUPLE:
```



```
String Literal
11
          USING: sequences strings.parser ;
          IN: syntax
                                                 M:
          SYNTAX: " parse-string suffix! ;
H{
                                             TUPLE:
```

```
Hashtable Literal
11
         USING: hashtables parser ;
         IN: syntax
                                                 M:
         SYNTAX: H{ \ } [ parse-hashtable ]
         parse-liaral ;
H{
                                             TUPLE:
```

```
Define a New Tuple
11
             USING: classes.tuple classes.tuple.parser ;
             IN: syntax
                                                           M:
             SYNTAX: TUPLE: parse-tuple-definition
             define-tupl_-class ;
H{
                                                      TUPLE:
```

```
11
                                  M:
H{
                               TUPLE:
```

```
11
         Syntax == Words
                                 M:
H{
                              TUPLE:
```

```
11
          Syntax == Words
              defined
                                  M:
              in Factor
H{
                               TUPLE:
```

#### SYNTAX:

## SYNTAX: defines a new parsing word (i.e. syntax extension)

## SYNTAX: defines a new parsing word (i.e. syntax extension)

```
USING: bootstrap.syntax parser words ;
IN: syntax
SYNTAX: SYNTAX:
    scan-new-word mark-top-level-syntax parse-definition define-syntax;
```

## SYNTAX: defines a new parsing word (i.e. syntax extension)

```
USING: bootstrap.syntax parser words ;
IN: syntax
SYNTAX: SYNTAX:
    scan-new-word mark-top-level-syntax parse-definition
    define-syntax ;
```

```
SYNTAX: defines a new parsing word (syntax extension)
```

```
USING: bootstrap.syntax parser words ;
IN: syntax
SYNTAX: SYNTAX:
    scan-new-word mark-top-level-syntax parse-definition define-syntax;
```

(Factor is self hosted)

```
SYNTAX: defines a new parsing word (syntax extension)
```

```
USING: bootstrap.syntax parser words ;
IN: syntax
SYNTAX: SYNTAX:
    scan-new-word mark-top-level-syntax parse-definition define-syntax;
```

## (Factor is self hosted) meta-circularity

#### Factor: Language = Library

#### Factor: Language = Library

- Control FlowImplemented as combinators
- Module SystemImplemented as syntax extensions
- Local (variables)Implemented as a library
- Object OrientationImplemented as syntax extensions
- Interactive Help SystemImplemented as a DSL in a library

# STACK LANGUAGES ARE PRETTY COOL

## Questions?