Data Structures

---

14. Applications of Stacks

Algebraic Expressions

- An algebraic expression is combination of operands and operators
- Operand is the object of mathematical operation
  - Quantity that is operated on
- Operator is a symbol that signifies a mathematical or logical operation

Infix, Postfix and Prefix Expressions

- Infix
  - Expressions in which operands surround the operators
  - Example: A+B-C

- Postfix or Reverse Polish Notation (RPN)
  - Operators comes after the operands
  - Example: AB+C-

- Prefix or Polish Notation
  - Operator comes before the operands
  - Example: -+ABC

Example: Conversion From Infix to Postfix (1)

- Infix: `A+B*C`

- Conversion: Applying the rules of precedence
  - `A+(B*C)` Parentheses for emphasis
  - `A+(BC*)` Convert the multiplication
  - `ABC*+` Postfix Form

Example: Conversion From Infix to Postfix (2)

- Infix: `( (A+B)*C-(D-E) ) $ (F+G)`

- Conversion: Applying the rules of precedence

  `( (AB+)*C-(DE-) ) $ (FG+)`

  `( (AB+C*)-(DE-) ) $ (FG+)`

  `(AB+C*DE--) $ (FG+)`

  `AB+C*DE- -FG+$`

- Exercise: Convert the following to Postfix
  - `( A + B ) * ( C – D)`
  - `A / B * C – D + E / F / (G + H)`

Infix, Postfix and Prefix Expressions – Examples

Infix	PostFix	Prefix
A+B	AB+	+AB
(A+B)*(C + D)	AB+CD+*	*+AB+CD
A-B/(C*D^E)	?	?

Why Do We Need Prefix and Postfix? (1)

- Normally, algebraic expressions are written using Infix notation
  - For example: `(3 + 4) × 5 – 6`
- Appearance may be misleading, Infix notations are not as simple as they seem
  - Operator precedence
  - Associativity property
- Operators have precedence: Parentheses are often required
  - `(3 + 4) ×  5 – 6  =  29`
  - `3 + 4  ×  5 – 6  =  17`
  - `3 + 4  × (5 – 6) =  –1`
  - `(3 + 4) × (5 – 6) =  –7`

Why Do We Need Prefix and Postfix? (2)

- Infix Expression is Hard To Parse and difficult to evaluate

- Postfix and prefix do not rely on operator priority and are easier to parse
  - No ambiguity and no brackets are required

- Many compilers first translate algebraic expressions into some form of postfix notation
  - Afterwards translate this postfix expression into machine code

```
MOVE.L #$2A, D1       ; Load  42 into Register D1
MOVE.L #$100, D2      ; Load 256 into Register D2
ADD D2, D1            ; Add D2 into D1
```

Conversion of Infix Expression to Postfix

- Precedence function
  - `prcd(op1, op2)`
  - `op1` and `op2` are characters representing operators
- Precedence function returns `TRUE`
  - If `op1` has precedence over `op2`
  - Otherwise function returns `FALSE`
- Examples
  - `prcd('*','+')` returns `TRUE`
  - `prcd('+','+')` returns `TRUE`
  - `prcd('+','*')` returns `FALSE`

Algorithm to Convert Infix to Postfix

```
opstk = the empty stack;
while (not end of input) {
    symb = next input character;
    if (symb is an operand)
        add symb to the postfix string
    else {
        while (!empty(opstk) && prcd(stacktop(opstk),symb) ) {
            topsymb = pop(opstk);
            add topsymb to the postfix string;
        } /* end while */
        push(opstk, symb);
    } /* end else */
} /* end while */
/* output any remaining operators */
while (!empty(opstk) ) {
    topsymb = pop(opstk);
    add topsymb to the postfix string;
} /* end while */
```

Example: A+B*C

symb	Postfix string	opstk
A	A	

Algorithm to Convert Infix to Postfix

```
opstk = the empty stack;
while (not end of input) {
    symb = next input character;
    if (symb is an operand)
        add symb to the postfix string
    else {
        while (!empty(opstk) && prcd(stacktop(opstk),symb) ) {
            topsymb = pop(opstk);
            add topsymb to the postfix string;
        } /* end while */
        push(opstk, symb);
    } /* end else */
} /* end while */
/* output any remaining operators */
while (!empty(opstk) ) {
    topsymb = pop(opstk);
    add topsymb to the postfix string;
} /* end while */
```

Example: A+B*C

symb	Postfix string	opstk
A	A	
+	A	+

Algorithm to Convert Infix to Postfix

```
opstk = the empty stack;
while (not end of input) {
    symb = next input character;
    if (symb is an operand)
        add symb to the postfix string
    else {
        while (!empty(opstk) && prcd(stacktop(opstk),symb) ) {
            topsymb = pop(opstk);
            add topsymb to the postfix string;
        } /* end while */
        push(opstk, symb);
    } /* end else */
} /* end while */
/* output any remaining operators */
while (!empty(opstk) ) {
    topsymb = pop(opstk);
    add topsymb to the postfix string;
} /* end while */
```

Example: A+B*C

symb	Postfix string	opstk
A	A	
+	A	+
B	AB	+

Algorithm to Convert Infix to Postfix

```
opstk = the empty stack;
while (not end of input) {
    symb = next input character;
    if (symb is an operand)
        add symb to the postfix string
    else {
        while (!empty(opstk) && prcd(stacktop(opstk),symb) ) {
            topsymb = pop(opstk);
            add topsymb to the postfix string;
        } /* end while */
        push(opstk, symb);
    } /* end else */
} /* end while */
/* output any remaining operators */
while (!empty(opstk) ) {
    topsymb = pop(opstk);
    add topsymb to the postfix string;
} /* end while */
```

Example: A+B*C

symb	Postfix string	opstk
A	A	
+	A	+
B	AB	+
*	AB	+ *

Algorithm to Convert Infix to Postfix

```
opstk = the empty stack;
while (not end of input) {
    symb = next input character;
    if (symb is an operand)
        add symb to the postfix string
    else {
        while (!empty(opstk) && prcd(stacktop(opstk),symb) ) {
            topsymb = pop(opstk);
            add topsymb to the postfix string;
        } /* end while */
        push(opstk, symb);
    } /* end else */
} /* end while */
/* output any remaining operators */
while (!empty(opstk) ) {
    topsymb = pop(opstk);
    add topsymb to the postfix string;
} /* end while */
```

Example: A+B*C

symb	Postfix string	opstk
A	A	
+	A	+
B	AB	+
*	AB	+ *
C	ABC	+ *

Algorithm to Convert Infix to Postfix

```
opstk = the empty stack;
while (not end of input) {
    symb = next input character;
    if (symb is an operand)
        add symb to the postfix string
    else {
        while (!empty(opstk) && prcd(stacktop(opstk),symb) ) {
            topsymb = pop(opstk);
            add topsymb to the postfix string;
        } /* end while */
        push(opstk, symb);
    } /* end else */
} /* end while */
/* output any remaining operators */
while (!empty(opstk) ) {
    topsymb = pop(opstk);
    add topsymb to the postfix string;
} /* end while */
```

Example: A+B*C

symb	Postfix string	opstk
A	A	
+	A	+
B	AB	+
*	AB	+ *
C	ABC	+ *
	ABC*	+

Algorithm to Convert Infix to Postfix

```
opstk = the empty stack;
while (not end of input) {
    symb = next input character;
    if (symb is an operand)
        add symb to the postfix string
    else {
        while (!empty(opstk) && prcd(stacktop(opstk),symb) ) {
            topsymb = pop(opstk);
            add topsymb to the postfix string;
        } /* end while */
        push(opstk, symb);
    } /* end else */
} /* end while */
/* output any remaining operators */
while (!empty(opstk) ) {
    topsymb = pop(opstk);
    add topsymb to the postfix string;
} /* end while */
```

Example: A+B*C

symb	Postfix string	opstk
A	A	
+	A	+
B	AB	+
*	AB	+ *
C	ABC	+ *
	ABC*	+
	ABC*+	

Algorithm to Convert Infix to Postfix – Practice

```
opstk = the empty stack;
while (not end of input) {
    symb = next input character;
    if (symb is an operand)
        add symb to the postfix string
    else {
        while (!empty(opstk) && prcd(stacktop(opstk),symb) ) {
            topsymb = pop(opstk);
            add topsymb to the postfix string;
        } /* end while */
        push(opstk, symb);
    } /* end else */
} /* end while */
/* output any remaining operators */
while (!empty(opstk) ) {
    topsymb = pop(opstk);
    add topsymb to the postfix string;
} /* end while */
```

Example: A*B+C

symb	Postfix string	opstk

Algorithm to Convert Infix to Postfix – Practice

```
opstk = the empty stack;
while (not end of input) {
    symb = next input character;
    if (symb is an operand)
        add symb to the postfix string
    else {
        while (!empty(opstk) && prcd(stacktop(opstk),symb) ) {
            topsymb = pop(opstk);
            add topsymb to the postfix string;
        } /* end while */
        push(opstk, symb);
    } /* end else */
} /* end while */
/* output any remaining operators */
while (!empty(opstk) ) {
    topsymb = pop(opstk);
    add topsymb to the postfix string;
} /* end while */
```

Example: A*B+C

symb	Postfix string	opstk
A	A	
*	A	*
B	AB	*
+	AB*	+
C	AB*C	+
	AB*C+	

What If Expression Contains Parenthesis?

- Precedence function `prcd(op1, op2)` has to be modified
  - `prcd( '(' , op) = FALSE` For any operator `op`
  - `prcd( op, '(' ) = FALSE` For any operator `op` other than ')'
  - `prcd( op, ')' ) = TRUE` For any operator `op` other than '('
  - `prcd( ')' ,op ) = undef` For any operator `op` (an error)

Algorithm to Convert Infix to Postfix

```
opstk = the empty stack;
while (not end of input) {
   symb = next input character;
   if (symb is an operand)
      add symb to the postfix string
   else {
      while (!empty(opstk) && prcd(stacktop(opstk),symb) ) {
         topsymb = pop(opstk);
         add topsymb to the postfix string;
      } /* end while */
      if ( empty(opstk)|| symb != ')' )
         push(opstk, symb);
      else //pop the parenthesis & discard it
         topsymb = pop(opstk);
   } /* end else */
} /* end while */
while (!empty(opstk) ) { // remaining ops
   topsymb = pop(opstk);
   add topsymb to the postfix string;
} /* end while */
```

Example: (A+B)*C

symb	Postfix string	opstk

Algorithm to Convert Infix to Postfix

```
opstk = the empty stack;
while (not end of input) {
   symb = next input character;
   if (symb is an operand)
      add symb to the postfix string
   else {
      while (!empty(opstk) && prcd(stacktop(opstk),symb) ) {
         topsymb = pop(opstk);
         add topsymb to the postfix string;
      } /* end while */
      if ( empty(opstk)|| symb != ')' )
         push(opstk, symb);
      else //pop the parenthesis & discard it
         topsymb = pop(opstk);
   } /* end else */
} /* end while */
while (!empty(opstk) ) { // remaining ops
   topsymb = pop(opstk);
   add topsymb to the postfix string;
} /* end while */
```

Example: (A+B)*C

symb	Postfix string	opstk
(		(

Algorithm to Convert Infix to Postfix

```
opstk = the empty stack;
while (not end of input) {
   symb = next input character;
   if (symb is an operand)
      add symb to the postfix string
   else {
      while (!empty(opstk) && prcd(stacktop(opstk),symb) ) {
         topsymb = pop(opstk);
         add topsymb to the postfix string;
      } /* end while */
      if ( empty(opstk)|| symb != ')' )
         push(opstk, symb);
      else //pop the parenthesis & discard it
         topsymb = pop(opstk);
   } /* end else */
} /* end while */
while (!empty(opstk) ) { // remaining ops
   topsymb = pop(opstk);
   add topsymb to the postfix string;
} /* end while */
```

Example: (A+B)*C

symb	Postfix string	opstk
(		(
A	A	(

Algorithm to Convert Infix to Postfix

```
opstk = the empty stack;
while (not end of input) {
   symb = next input character;
   if (symb is an operand)
      add symb to the postfix string
   else {
      while (!empty(opstk) && prcd(stacktop(opstk),symb) ) {
         topsymb = pop(opstk);
         add topsymb to the postfix string;
      } /* end while */
      if ( empty(opstk)|| symb != ')' )
         push(opstk, symb);
      else //pop the parenthesis & discard it
         topsymb = pop(opstk);
   } /* end else */
} /* end while */
while (!empty(opstk) ) { // remaining ops
   topsymb = pop(opstk);
   add topsymb to the postfix string;
} /* end while */
```

Example: (A+B)*C

symb	Postfix string	opstk
(		(
A	A	(
+	A	(+

Algorithm to Convert Infix to Postfix

```
opstk = the empty stack;
while (not end of input) {
   symb = next input character;
   if (symb is an operand)
      add symb to the postfix string
   else {
      while (!empty(opstk) && prcd(stacktop(opstk),symb) ) {
         topsymb = pop(opstk);
         add topsymb to the postfix string;
      } /* end while */
      if ( empty(opstk)|| symb != ')' )
         push(opstk, symb);
      else //pop the parenthesis & discard it
         topsymb = pop(opstk);
   } /* end else */
} /* end while */
while (!empty(opstk) ) { // remaining ops
   topsymb = pop(opstk);
   add topsymb to the postfix string;
} /* end while */
```

Example: (A+B)*C

symb	Postfix string	opstk
(		(
A	A	(
+	A	(+
B	AB	(+

Algorithm to Convert Infix to Postfix

```
opstk = the empty stack;
while (not end of input) {
   symb = next input character;
   if (symb is an operand)
      add symb to the postfix string
   else {
      while (!empty(opstk) && prcd(stacktop(opstk),symb) ) {
         topsymb = pop(opstk);
         add topsymb to the postfix string;
      } /* end while */
      if ( empty(opstk)|| symb != ')' )
         push(opstk, symb);
      else //pop the parenthesis & discard it
         topsymb = pop(opstk);
   } /* end else */
} /* end while */
while (!empty(opstk) ) { // remaining ops
   topsymb = pop(opstk);
   add topsymb to the postfix string;
} /* end while */
```

Example: (A+B)*C

symb	Postfix string	opstk
(		(
A	A	(
+	A	(+
B	AB	(+
)	AB+	

Algorithm to Convert Infix to Postfix

```
opstk = the empty stack;
while (not end of input) {
   symb = next input character;
   if (symb is an operand)
      add symb to the postfix string
   else {
      while (!empty(opstk) && prcd(stacktop(opstk),symb) ) {
         topsymb = pop(opstk);
         add topsymb to the postfix string;
      } /* end while */
      if ( empty(opstk)|| symb != ')' )
         push(opstk, symb);
      else //pop the parenthesis & discard it
         topsymb = pop(opstk);
   } /* end else */
} /* end while */
while (!empty(opstk) ) { // remaining ops
   topsymb = pop(opstk);
   add topsymb to the postfix string;
} /* end while */
```

Example: (A+B)*C

symb	Postfix string	opstk
(		(
A	A	(
+	A	(+
B	AB	(+
)	AB+	
*	AB+	*

Algorithm to Convert Infix to Postfix

```
opstk = the empty stack;
while (not end of input) {
   symb = next input character;
   if (symb is an operand)
      add symb to the postfix string
   else {
      while (!empty(opstk) && prcd(stacktop(opstk),symb) ) {
         topsymb = pop(opstk);
         add topsymb to the postfix string;
      } /* end while */
      if ( empty(opstk)|| symb != ')' )
         push(opstk, symb);
      else //pop the parenthesis & discard it
         topsymb = pop(opstk);
   } /* end else */
} /* end while */
while (!empty(opstk) ) { // remaining ops
   topsymb = pop(opstk);
   add topsymb to the postfix string;
} /* end while */
```

Example: (A+B)*C

symb	Postfix string	opstk
(		(
A	A	(
+	A	(+
B	AB	(+
)	AB+	
*	AB+	*
C	AB+C	*

Algorithm to Convert Infix to Postfix

```
opstk = the empty stack;
while (not end of input) {
   symb = next input character;
   if (symb is an operand)
      add symb to the postfix string
   else {
      while (!empty(opstk) && prcd(stacktop(opstk),symb) ) {
         topsymb = pop(opstk);
         add topsymb to the postfix string;
      } /* end while */
      if ( empty(opstk)|| symb != ')' )
         push(opstk, symb);
      else //pop the parenthesis & discard it
         topsymb = pop(opstk);
   } /* end else */
} /* end while */
while (!empty(opstk) ) { // remaining ops
   topsymb = pop(opstk);
   add topsymb to the postfix string;
} /* end while */
```

Example: (A+B)*C

symb	Postfix string	opstk
(		(
A	A	(
+	A	(+
B	AB	(+
)	AB+	
*	AB+	*
C	AB+C	*
	AB+C*	

Conversion of Infix Expression to Postfix – Rules

- Token is an operand
  - Append it to the end of postfix string
- Token is a left parenthesis
  - Push it on the opstk
- Token is a right parenthesis
  - Pop the opstk until the corresponding left parenthesis is removed
  - Append each operator to the end of the postfix string
- Token is an operator, *, /, +, or –
  - Push it on the opstk
  - First remove any operators already on the opstk that have higher or equal precedence and append them to the postfix string
- Input expression has been completely processed
  - Any operators still on the opstk can be removed and appended to the end of the postfix string

Conversion of Infix Expression to Postfix – Practice

- Example: `((A-(B+C))*D) $ (E+F)`

symb	Postfix string	opstk

Conversion of Infix Expression to Postfix – Practice

- Example: `((A-(B+C))*D) $ (E+F)`

symb	Postfix string	opstk
(		(
(		((
A	A	((
-	A	((-
(	A	((-(
B	AB	((-(
+	AB	((-(+
C	ABC	((-(+
)	ABC+	((-
)	ABC+-	(
*	ABC+-	(*
D	ABC+-D	(*
)	ABC+-D*	
$	ABC+-D*	$
(	ABC+-D*	$(
E	ABC+-D*E	$(
+	ABC+-D*E	$(+
F	ABC+-D*EF	$(+
)	ABC+-D*EF+	$
	ABC+-D*EF+$	

Conversion To Prefix Expression (1)

- An Infix to Prefix Conversion Algorithm
  - Reverse the infix string
    - Adjust parenthesis, i.e., make every '(' as ')' and every ')' as '('
  - Perform infix to postfix algorithm on reversed string
  - Reverse the output postfix expression to get the prefix expression

- Example: `(A + B) * (B - C)`
  - `)C - B(*)B + A(` → **`(C - B) * (B + A)`** Reverse infix string
  - `C B - B A + *` Perform infix to postfix conversion
  - `* + A B - B C` Reverse postfix to get prefix expression

Conversion To Prefix Expression (2)

- Example: `(A+B^C)*D+E^5`
  - `5^E+D*)C^B+A(` → **`5^E+D*(C^B+A)`** Reverse infix string
  - `5E^DCB^A+*+` Perform infix to postfix conversion
  - `+*+A^BCD^E5` Reverse postfix to get prefix expression

- Why this method will not work for all cases?

Evaluating a Postfix Expression

```
opndstk = the empty stack
/* scan the input string reading one element */
/* at a time into symb */
while (not end of input) {
   symb = next input character;
   if (symb is an operand)
      push(opndstk, symb)
   else {
      /* symb is an operator */
      opnd2 = pop(opndstk);
      opnd1 = pop(opndstk);
      value = result of applying symb
              to opnd1 and opnd2;
      push(opndstk, value);
   } /* end else */
} /* end while */
return (pop(opndstk));
```

Each operator in postfix string refers to the previous two operands in the string.

Evaluating a Postfix Expression

```
opndstk = the empty stack
/* scan the input string reading one element */
/* at a time into symb */
while (not end of input) {
    symb = next input character;
    if (symb is an operand)
        push(opndstk, symb)
    else {
        /* symb is an operator */
        opnd2 = pop(opndstk);
        opnd1 = pop(opndstk);
        value = result of applying symb
                to opnd1 and opnd2;
        push(opndstk, value);
    } /* end else */
} /* end while */
return (pop(opndstk));
```

Example Postfix Expression:
6 2 3 + - 3 8 2 / + * 2 $ 3 +

symb	opnd1	opnd2	value	opndstk
6				6
2				6,2
3				6,2,3
+	2	3	5	6,5
-	6	5	1	1
3	6	5	1	1,3
8	6	5	1	1,3,8
2	6	5	1	1,3,8,2
/	8	2	4	1,3,4
+	3	4	7	1,7
*	1	7	7	7
2	1	7	7	7,2
$	7	2	49	49
3	7	2	49	49,3
+	49	3	52	52

Any Question So Far?