

# "Good" vs. "Bad" Expressions

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- Of course not!

# "Good" vs. "Bad" Expressions

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- Does `interp-expr` produce a value for all expressions?
- Of course not!
- `(interp-expr (parse '{5 5}))` etc ...

# "Good" vs. "Bad" Expressions

`; interp-expr FAE ... -> FAE-Value`

- Does `interp-expr` produce a value for all expressions?
- Of course not!
- `(interp-expr (parse '{5 5}))` etc ...
- But do we know enough about expressions to tell before actually calling `interp-expr`?

# Quiz

- **Question #1:** What is the value of the following expression?

{ + 1 2 }

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- **Wrong answer: 0**

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- **Wrong answer: 0**
- **Wrong answer: 42**



# Quiz

- **Question #1:** What is the value of the following expression?

{ + 1 2 }

- **Wrong answer: 0**
- **Wrong answer: 42**
- **Answer: 3**

# Quiz

- **Question #2:** What is the value of the following expression?

```
{+ fun 17 8}
```

# Quiz

- **Question #2:** What is the value of the following expression?

```
{+ fun 17 8}
```

- **Wrong answer: error**

# Quiz

- **Question #2:** What is the value of the following expression?

`{+ fun 17 8}`

- **Wrong answer: error**
- **Answer:** Trick question! `{+ fun 17 8}` is not an expression

# Language Grammar for Quiz

```
<MFAE> ::= <num>
| true
| false
| {+ <MFAE> <MFAE>}
| {- <MFAE> <MFAE>}
| {= <MFAE> <MFAE>}
| <id>
| {fun {<id>*} <MFAE>}
| {<MFAE> <MFAE>*}
| {if <MFAE> <MFAE> <MFAE>}
```

# Quiz

- Question #3: Is the following an expression?

```
{{fun {x y} 1} 7}
```

# Quiz

- Question #3: Is the following an expression?

```
{ { fun { x y } 1 } 7 }
```

- Wrong answer: **No**

# Quiz

- **Question #3:** Is the following an expression?

`{{fun {x y} 1} 7}`

- **Wrong answer: No**
- **Answer: Yes** (according to our grammar)



# Quiz

- **Question #4:** What is the value of the following expression?

```
{{fun {x y} 1} 7}
```

# Quiz

- **Question #4:** What is the value of the following expression?

```
{{fun {x y} 1} 7}
```

- **Answer:** `{fun {y} 1}` (according to some interpreters)

# Quiz

- **Question #4:** What is the value of the following expression?

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{{fun {x y} 1} 7}
```

- **Answer:** `{fun {y} 1}` (according to some interpreters)
- But no *real* language would accept `{{fun {x y} 1} 7}`

# Quiz

- **Question #4:** What is the value of the following expression?

`{{fun {x y} 1} 7}`

- **Answer:** `{fun {y} 1}` (according to some interpreters)
- But no *real* language would accept `{{fun {x y} 1} 7}`
- Let's agree to call `{{fun {x y} 1} 7}` an ***ill-formed expression*** because `{fun {x y} 1}` should be used only with two arguments
- Let's agree to never evaluate ill-formed expressions

# Quiz

- **Question #5:** What is the value of the following expression?

```
{{fun {x y} 1} 7}
```

# Quiz

- **Question #5:** What is the value of the following expression?

```
{{fun {x y} 1} 7}
```

- **Answer: None** - the expression is ill-formed

# Quiz

- **Question #6:** Is the following a well-formed expression?

```
{+ {fun {} 1} 8}
```

# Quiz

- **Question #6:** Is the following a well-formed expression?

```
{+ {fun {} 1} 8}
```

- **Answer: Yes**



# Quiz

- **Question #7:** What is the value of the following expression?

```
{+ {fun {} 1} 8}
```

# Quiz

- **Question #7:** What is the value of the following expression?

```
{+ {fun {} 1} 8}
```

- **Answer: None** - it produces an error:

*numeric operation expected number*

# Quiz

- **Question #7:** What is the value of the following expression?

```
{+ {fun {} 1} 8}
```

- **Answer: None** - it produces an error:

*numeric operation expected number*

- Let's agree that a **fun** expression cannot be inside a **+** form

# Quiz

- **Question #8:** Is the following a well-formed expression?

```
{+ {fun {} 1} 8}
```

# Quiz

- **Question #8:** Is the following a well-formed expression?

```
{+ {fun {} 1} 8}
```

- **Answer: No**

# Quiz

- **Question #9:** Is the following a well-formed expression?

`{+ {{fun {x} x} 7} 5}`

# Quiz

- **Question #9:** Is the following a well-formed expression?

`{+ {{fun {x} x} 7} 5}`

- **Answer:** Depends on what we meant by *inside* in our most recent agreement
  - *Anywhere inside* - **No**
  - *Immediately inside* - **Yes**

# Quiz

- **Question #9:** Is the following a well-formed expression?

{+ {{fun {x} x} 7} 5}

- **Answer:** Depends on what we meant by *inside* in our most recent agreement
  - *Anywhere inside* - **No**
  - *Immediately inside* - **Yes**
- Since our interpreter produces **12**, and since that result makes sense, let's agree on *immediately inside*



# Quiz

- **Question #10:** Is the following a well-formed expression?

```
{+ {{fun {x} x} {fun {y} y}} 5}
```

# Quiz

- **Question #10:** Is the following a well-formed expression?

```
{+ {{fun {x} x} {fun {y} y}} 5}
```

- **Answer: Yes**, but we don't want it to be!

# Quiz

- **Question #11:** Is it possible to define **well-formed** (as a decidable property) so that we reject all expressions that produce errors?

# Quiz

- **Question #11:** Is it possible to define **well-formed** (as a decidable property) so that we reject all expressions that produce errors?
- **Answer: Yes:** reject *all* expressions!

# Quiz

- **Question #12:** Is it possible to define **well-formed** (as a decidable property) so that we reject *only* expressions that produce errors?

# Quiz

- **Question #12:** Is it possible to define **well-formed** (as a decidable property) so that we reject *only* expressions that produce errors?
- **Answer: No**

# Quiz

- **Question #12:** Is it possible to define **well-formed** (as a decidable property) so that we reject *only* expressions that produce errors?

- **Answer: No**

```
{+ 1 {if ... 1 {fun {x} x}}}
```

- If we always knew whether ... produces true or false, we could solve the halting problem

# Types

- Solution to our dilemma
  - In the process of rejecting expressions that are certainly bad, also reject some expressions that are good

```
{+ 1 {if {prime? 131101} 1 {fun {x} x}}}
```



# Types

- Solution to our dilemma
  - In the process of rejecting expressions that are certainly bad, also reject some expressions that are good

```
{+ 1 {if {prime? 131101} 1 {fun {x} x}}}
```

- Overall strategy:
  - Assign a **type** to each expression *without evaluating*
  - Compute the type of a complex expression based on the types of its subexpressions

# Types

`1 : num`

`true : bool`

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`true : bool`

`{+ 1 2}`

# Types

`1 : num`

`true : bool`

`{+ 1 2}`

`num`

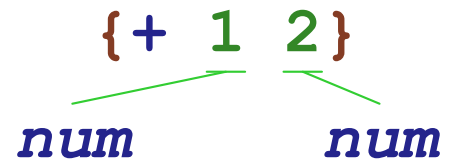


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`true : bool`

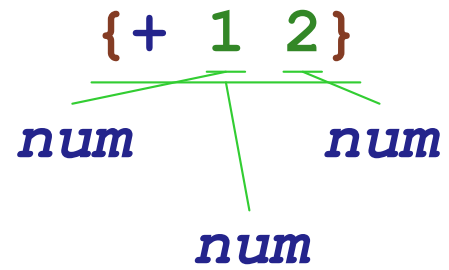
`{+ 1 2}`  
*num*                      *num*



# Types

`1 : num`

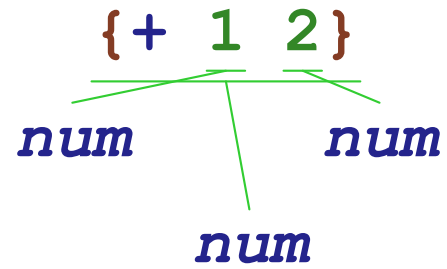
`true : bool`



# Types

`1 : num`

`true : bool`



`{+ 1 false}`

# Types

`1 : num`

`true : bool`

`{+ 1 2}`  
  
`num`                      `num`  
`num`

`{+ 1 false}`  
  
`num`



# Types

`1 : num`

`true : bool`

`{+ 1 2}`  
  
`num`                      `num`  
`num`

`{+ 1 false}`  
  
`num`                      `bool`

# Types

`1 : num`

`true : bool`

