

# The SPL Language: Syntax

$x \in \text{Var}$	set of integer variables	$a \in \text{AExp}$	set of arithmetic expressions
$v \in \mathbb{Z}$	set of integer constants	$b \in \text{BExp}$	set of boolean expressions
$\ell \in \text{Lab}$	set of labels	$s \in \text{Stmt}$	set of statements

$x, a, b, s$  are called meta-variables

$a ::= v \mid x \mid a_1 + a_2 \mid a_1 - a_2 \mid a_1 * a_2$

$b ::= \text{true} \mid \text{false} \mid \neg b \mid b_1 \wedge b_2 \mid b_1 \vee b_2 \mid a_1 = a_2 \mid a_1 \leq a_2$

$s ::= x := a^\ell \mid \text{skip}^\ell \mid s_1; s_2 \mid \text{if } b^\ell \text{ then } s_1 \text{ else } s_2 \mid \text{while } b^\ell \text{ do } s$

- variables are not declared
- expressions have no side-effects, all side-effects in statements
- only basic statements: no functions, heap, exceptions,...
- semantics usually specified at abstract syntax level

# Grammars

$$Z \rightarrow 0 \mid 1 \mid -1 \mid 2 \mid -2 \mid \dots$$
$$Var \rightarrow x \mid y \mid z \mid \dots$$
$$A \rightarrow Z \mid Var \mid A + A \mid A - A \mid A * A$$
$$B \rightarrow true \mid false \mid \neg B \mid B \wedge B \mid B \vee B \mid A = A \mid A \leq A$$
$$S \rightarrow skip \mid Var := A \mid S; S \mid if\ B\ then\ S\ else\ S \mid while\ B\ do\ S$$

- ▶  $Z, Var, A, B, S$  are non-terminals
- ▶ To derive a program, we start with a non-terminal and use the rules until there is no non-terminal left

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$S \rightarrow$

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$S \rightarrow while\ B\ do\ S \rightarrow$

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$S \rightarrow while\ B\ do\ S \rightarrow while\ A \leq A\ do\ S \rightarrow$

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$S \rightarrow while\ B\ do\ S \rightarrow while\ A \leq A\ do\ S \rightarrow while\ A + A \leq A\ do\ S$   
 $while\ Var + A \leq A\ do\ S \rightarrow$

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 $while\ Var + A \leq A\ do\ S \rightarrow while\ x + A \leq A\ do\ S \rightarrow$



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 $while\ x + Z \leq A\ do\ S \rightarrow$

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 $while\ x + Z \leq A\ do\ S \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq A\ do\ S \rightarrow$

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 $while\ Var + A \leq A\ do\ S \rightarrow while\ x + A \leq A\ do\ S \rightarrow$   
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 $while\ x + 3 \leq Var\ do\ S \rightarrow$

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 $while\ x + Z \leq A\ do\ S \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq A\ do\ S \rightarrow$   
 $while\ x + 3 \leq Var\ do\ S \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ S \rightarrow$

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 $while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ Var := A \rightarrow$

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 $while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ Var := A \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := A \rightarrow$

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 $while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ Var := A \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := A \rightarrow$   
 $while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := A + A \rightarrow$

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$while\ x + 3 \leq Var\ do\ S \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ S \rightarrow$

$while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ Var := A \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := A \rightarrow$

$while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := A + A \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := Var + A \rightarrow$



$Z \rightarrow 0 \mid 1 \mid -1 \mid 2 \mid -2 \mid \dots$

$Var \rightarrow x \mid y \mid z \mid \dots$

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$while\ Var + A \leq A\ do\ S \rightarrow while\ x + A \leq A\ do\ S \rightarrow$

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$while\ x + 3 \leq Var\ do\ S \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ S \rightarrow$

$while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ Var := A \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := A \rightarrow$

$while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := A + A \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := Var + A \rightarrow$

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$while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ Var := A \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := A \rightarrow$

$while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := A + A \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := Var + A \rightarrow$

$while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := x + A \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := x + Z \rightarrow$

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$while\ Var + A \leq A\ do\ S \rightarrow while\ x + A \leq A\ do\ S \rightarrow$

$while\ x + Z \leq A\ do\ S \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq A\ do\ S \rightarrow$

$while\ x + 3 \leq Var\ do\ S \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ S \rightarrow$

$while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ Var := A \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := A \rightarrow$

$while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := A + A \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := Var + A \rightarrow$

$while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := x + A \rightarrow while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := x + Z \rightarrow$

$while\ x + 3 \leq y\ do\ x := x + 2$

# Operational Semantics

- Specifies **how** expressions and statements should be evaluated
- Evaluation depends on the shape of the expression/statement:
  - $1, 2, 3, \dots$  do not evaluate any further
  - $x + y$  is evaluated further
- Think of it as an interpreter

# Operational Semantics

- Evaluation depends on values of variables
  - what does  $x + y$  evaluate to ?
  - depends on the values of  $x$  and  $y$
- Values of variables at any moment in time are given by a function  $\sigma \in \text{Store} = \text{Var} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ 
  - $\mathbb{Z}$  is the set of integers
  - to simplify presentation we assume Store denotes total functions
  - if  $\sigma$  is such that  $x \mapsto 5$  and  $y \mapsto 3$ , then  $x + y$  is 8<sub>25</sub>

# Operational Semantics for SPL

- Configurations:  $c \in \Sigma$  where  $\Sigma = (\text{Stmt} \times \text{Store}) \cup \text{Store}$ 
  - $\langle S, \sigma \rangle$  is a configuration
  - $\sigma$  is also a configuration: a terminal configuration. All other configurations are non-terminal
- Transitions:  $\rightarrow \subseteq \Sigma \times \Sigma$ 
  - steps between configurations
- Transition system:  $(\Sigma, \rightarrow, I, F)$ 
  - $I \subseteq \Sigma$ : initial configurations
  - $F \subseteq \text{Store}$ : final configurations

# Operational Semantics for SPL

- We write  $c \rightarrow c'$  when  $(c, c') \in \rightarrow$
- $\rightarrow^*$  denotes the reflexive transitive closure of the relation  $\rightarrow$ . We say  $c \rightarrow^* c'$  when:
  - $c = c_0$  and  $c_n = c'$
  - there is a sequence  $c_0 \rightarrow c_1 \rightarrow \dots c_n$  for some  $n \geq 0$

# Notation: Rules of Inference

These are called  
evaluation rules

$\frac{\text{Hypothesis}_1 \dots \text{Hypothesis}_n}{\text{Conclusion}}$
---

Example:

$\frac{\text{A is true} \qquad \text{B is true}}{\text{A} \wedge \text{B is true}}$
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Evaluation rules  
with no premises  
are called axioms

$\frac{}{\text{Conclusion}}$
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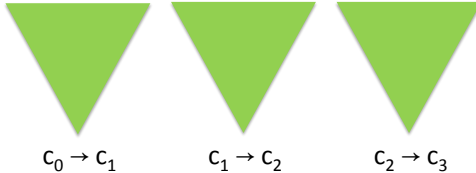
Next: operational semantics of SPL

# Operational Semantics of SPL

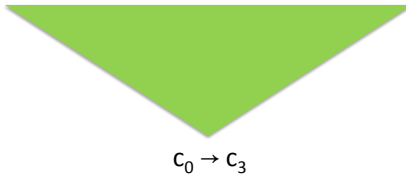
- There are two kinds: big-step and small-step
- Big-step
  - $c \rightarrow c'$  describes the **entire** computation
- Small-step
  - $c \rightarrow c'$  describes a **single step** of a larger computation

# Small Step vs. Big Step

small step



big step



# Operational Semantics of SPL

Next, we will give semantics of SPL. The statements will be evaluated in a small-step style, while the expressions will be evaluated in big-step style.

## Auxiliary Relations

- To describe the semantics of AExp and BExp we use two auxiliary relations

for AExp:  $\Downarrow_a \subseteq (\text{AExp} \times \text{Store}) \times \mathbb{Z}$   
for BExp:  $\Downarrow_b \subseteq (\text{BExp} \times \text{Store}) \times \{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$

- Judgments such as

$$\langle a, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a v$$

are read as: “expression  $a$  evaluates to  $v$  in store  $\sigma$ ”  
Boolean expressions read similarly

## Evaluation rules for AExp

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a v_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a v_2}{\langle a_1 + a_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a v_1 + v_2}$$

$$\frac{}{\langle x, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a \sigma(x)}$$

## Evaluation rules for BExp

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a v_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a v_2}{\langle a_1 \leq a_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_b \text{bv}} \quad \text{bv is } v_1 \leq v_2$$

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a v_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a v_2}{\langle a_1 = a_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_b \text{bv}} \quad \text{bv is } v_1 == v_2$$

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$$\langle b_1 \wedge b_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_b ???$$

What about this ?

## Evaluation rules for BExp

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a v_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a v_2}{\langle a_1 \leq a_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_b \text{bv}} \quad \text{bv is } v_1 \leq v_2$$

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a v_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a v_2}{\langle a_1 = a_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_b \text{bv}} \quad \text{bv is } v_1 == v_2$$

$$\frac{\langle b_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_b \text{true} \quad \langle b_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_b \text{true}}{\langle b_1 \wedge b_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_b \text{true}}$$

short-circuit  
evaluation

$$\frac{\langle b_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_b \text{false}}{\langle b_1 \wedge b_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_b \text{false}} \quad \frac{\langle b_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_b \text{false}}{\langle b_1 \wedge b_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_b \text{false}}$$



# How to read the rules

- Top-down: like inference rules
  - If we know hypothesis holds, conclusion holds
  - If  $\langle x, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a 5$  and  $\langle y, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a 6$  then  $\langle x + y, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a 11$
- Bottom-up: read by inversion
  - Suppose we want to evaluate  $\langle x + y, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a$
  - Lets look at rules with conclusion that has  $\langle x + y, \sigma \rangle$
  - Here: only 1 rule has it as a conclusion (the addition rule)
  - Repeat a recursive tree-walk

## Example: Derivation Tree

Evaluate this:  $\langle (x + 3) * (y + 4), \sigma \rangle$  where  $\sigma: x \mapsto 1, y \mapsto 2$

# Example: Derivation Tree

Evaluate this:  $\langle (x + 3) * (y + 4), \sigma \rangle$  where  $\sigma: x \mapsto 1, y \mapsto 2$

$$\frac{}{\langle x, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a 1}$$

$$\frac{}{\langle y, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a 2}$$

$$\frac{\langle x, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a 1 \quad \langle 3, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a 3}{\langle x + 3, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a 4}$$

$$\frac{\langle y, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a 2 \quad \langle 4, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a 4}{\langle y + 4, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a 6}$$

$$\frac{\langle x + 3, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a 4 \quad \langle y + 4, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a 6}{\langle (x + 3) * (y + 4), \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a 24}$$

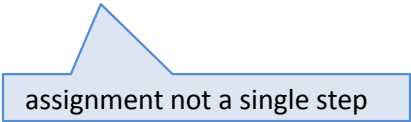
# Evaluation of Statements

- Evaluating a statement produces a new store
  - $\langle s, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle s', \sigma' \rangle$
- Evaluation order is important
  - In  $s_1 ; s_2$   $s_1$  is evaluated before  $s_2$
  - In  $\text{if true then } s_1 \text{ else } s_2$   $s_2$  is not evaluated
- Some constructs have multiple rules
  - conditionals and while

# Evaluation rules for Stmt I

$$\frac{\langle s_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle s_2, \sigma_1 \rangle}{\langle s_1 ; s_3, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle s_2 ; s_3, \sigma_1 \rangle} \quad \frac{\langle s_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma_1}{\langle s_1 ; s_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle s_2, \sigma_1 \rangle} \quad \frac{}{\langle \text{skip}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma}$$

$$\frac{\langle a, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_a v}{\langle x := a, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle x := v, \sigma \rangle} \quad \frac{}{\langle x := v, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma[x \mapsto v]}$$



assignment not a single step

# Evaluation rules for Stmt II

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$$\langle \text{if true then } s_1 \text{ else } s_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle s_1, \sigma \rangle \quad \langle \text{if false then } s_1 \text{ else } s_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle s_2, \sigma \rangle$$
$$\frac{\langle b_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_b bv}{\langle \text{if } b_1 \text{ then } s_1 \text{ else } s_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{if } bv \text{ then } s_1 \text{ else } s_2, \sigma \rangle}$$

---

$$\langle \text{while } b \text{ do } s, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow ???$$

# Evaluation rules for Stmt II

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$$\langle \text{if true then } s_1 \text{ else } s_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle s_1, \sigma \rangle \quad \langle \text{if false then } s_1 \text{ else } s_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle s_2, \sigma \rangle$$
$$\frac{\langle b_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow_b bv}{\langle \text{if } b_1 \text{ then } s_1 \text{ else } s_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{if } bv \text{ then } s_1 \text{ else } s_2, \sigma \rangle}$$

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$$\langle \text{while } b \text{ do } s, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{if } b \text{ then } (s; \text{while } b \text{ do } s) \text{ else skip}, \sigma \rangle$$

'while' expressed in terms of 'if'

# Sequences

Note that for a program  $S_0$  the steps are formed via the relation  $\rightarrow$

That is, sequences are  $\langle S_0, \sigma_0 \rangle \rightarrow \langle S_1, \sigma_1 \rangle \rightarrow \dots$

The relations  $\Downarrow_a$  or  $\Downarrow_b$  are only used to justify the step with  $\rightarrow$   
In other words,  $\Downarrow_a$  or  $\Downarrow_b$  are only used to build the relation  $\rightarrow$