INTEX: An Introduction to Program Manipulation

Revisions: Feb 28: Added #run to the read-eval-print loop.
Mar 4: Fixed definition of checkExp to be fill-in-the-blank

1 Introduction

An interpreter is a program written in one language (the implementation language) that executes a program written another language (the source language). The source and implementation languages are typically different. For example, we might write an interpreter for OCAML in JAVA. We will call such an interpreter an “OCAML interpreter”, naming it after the source language, not the implementation language. It is possible to write an interpreter for a language in itself; such an interpreter is known as a meta-circular interpreter. For example, Chapter 4 of Abelson and Sussman’s Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs presents a meta-circular interpreter for Scheme. Such an interpreter does not by itself define the meaning of a language; it involves boot-strapping issues we considered earlier in our discussions of interpretation and compilation.

One of the best ways to gain insight into programming language design and implementation is read, write, and modify interpreters and translators. We will spend a significant amount of time in this course studying interpreters and translators. We begin with an interpreter for an extremely simple “mini” or “toy” language, an integer expression language we’ll call INTEX. To understand various programming language features, we will add them to INTEX to get more complex languages. Eventually, we will build up to more realistic source languages.

2 Abstract Syntax for INTEX

An INTEX program specifies a function that takes integer arguments and returns an integer result. Abstractly, an INTEX program is a tree constructed out of the following kinds of nodes:

- A program node is a node with two components: (1) A non-negative integer numargs specifying the number of arguments to the program and (2) A body expression.
- An expression node is one of the following:
  - A literal specifying an integer constant, known as its value;
  - An argument reference specifying an integer index that references a program argument by position;
  - A binary application specifying a binary operator (known as its rator) and two operand expressions (known as rand1 and rand2).
- A binary operator node is one of the following five operators: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, or remainder.

These nodes can be depicted graphically and arranged into trees. For example, Fig. 1 depicts the trees denoting three sample INTEX programs: (1) a program that squares its single input, (2) a program that averages its two inputs, and (3) a program that converts its single input, a temperature measured in Fahrenheit, to a temperature measured in Celsius. Such trees are known as abstract syntax trees (ASTs), because they specify the abstract logical structure of a program without any hint of how the program might be written down in concrete syntax. We leave discussion of the concrete syntax of INTEX programs until later in this handout (see Sec. 4).
Figure 1: Abstract syntax trees for three sample INTEX programs.

```
type pgm = Pgm of int * exp (* numargs, body *)
and exp =
  Lit of int (* value *)
  | Arg of int (* index *)
  | BinApp of binop * exp * exp (* rator, rand1, rand2 *)
and binop = Add | Sub | Mul | Div | Rem (* Arithmetic ops *)
```

Figure 2: OCAML datatypes for INTEX abstract syntax.

```
let sqr =
let avg =
let f2c =
```

Figure 3: Sample programs expressed using OCAML datatypes.
It is easy to express Intex ASTs using OCAML datatypes. Fig. 2 introduces three types to express the three different kinds of Intex AST nodes:

1. The \texttt{pgm} type has a single constructor, \texttt{Pgm}, with two components (numargs and body);

2. The \texttt{exp} type is a recursive type with three constructors: \texttt{Lit} (for integer literals), \texttt{Arg} (for argument references), and \texttt{BinApp} (for binary applications).

3. The \texttt{binop} type has five constructors, one for each of the five possible operators.

Using these datatypes, the three sample trees depicted in Fig. 1 can be expressed in OCAML as shown in Fig. 3.

3 Manipulating Intex Programs

Intex programs and expressions are just trees, and can be easily manipulated as such. Here we study three different programs that manipulate Intex ASTs.

3.1 Program Size

Define the size of an Intex program as the number of boxed nodes in the graphical depiction of its AST. For example:

```ocaml
# open Intex;;

# sizePgm sqr;;
- : int = 5

# sizePgm avg;;
- : int = 8

# sizePgm f2c;;
- : int = 11
```

The size of an Intex program can be determined as follows:

```ocaml
let rec sizePgm (Pgm(_,body)) =

and sizeExp exp =
```

Note that we write one function for each type of Intex node: a recursive function for expressions (because \texttt{exp} is recursively defined) and a nonrecursive function for programs (because \texttt{pgm} is not recursively defined). We do not process \texttt{binop} nodes using a separate function, instead choosing to process them as part of handling a \texttt{BinApp} expression node.
The tree manipulation performed by \texttt{sizeExp} is an instance of a general \texttt{fold} operator on \texttt{Intex} expressions that captures the essence of divide, conquer, and glue on these expressions:

\begin{verbatim}
let rec fold litfun argfun appfun exp =
  match exp with
  Lit i -> litfun i
  | Arg index -> argfun index
  | BinApp(op,rand1,rand2) ->
    appfun op
    (fold litfun argfun appfun rand1)
    (fold litfun argfun appfun rand2)
\end{verbatim}

Using \texttt{fold}, we can re-express \texttt{sizeExp} as:

\begin{verbatim}
let sizeExp exp = (* fold-based version *)
fold
  (* litfun *)
  (* argfun *)
  (* appfun *)
  exp
\end{verbatim}

### 3.2 Static Argument Checking

We can statically (i.e., without running the program) check if all the argument indices are valid by finding all argument indices in body expression tree and comparing them against the number of declared program arguments. For example:

```ocaml
# argCheck f2c;;
- : bool = true

# argCheck (Pgm(1,Arg(2)));;
- : bool = false
```

There are two basic strategies for checking the indices:

1. A \textbf{bottom-up} strategy that determines the minimum and maximum argument indices in any expression, and then checks that \((\text{min}, \text{max})\) for the program body satisfies \(1 \leq \text{min} \leq \text{max} \leq \text{numargs}\), where \text{numargs} is the number of program arguments.

2. A \textbf{top-down} strategy that passes \text{numargs} as an argument and checks that every argument index \text{index} satisfies \(1 \leq \text{index} \leq \text{numargs}\).

We will see that expression trees can often be processed in top-down or bottom-up ways. In fact, many expression tree algorithms combine both top-down and bottom-up aspects. Even the strategy we have labeled as “top-down” above really has a bottom-up phase that combines boolean values collected from below.
3.2.1 Static Argument Checking: Bottom-Up Strategy

Here is an implementation of the bottom-up strategy:

```ocaml
let rec argCheck (Pgm(n,body)) =
  let (lo,hi) = argRange body
  in (lo >= 1) && (hi <= n)

and argRange exp =
```

Because `argRange` is an example of divide-conquer-glue on INTEX expression trees, it can be re-expressed in terms of `fold`:

```ocaml
let argRange exp = (* fold-based version *)
  fold exp
  (fun _ -> (max_int, min_int)) (* litfun *)
  (fun index -> (index, index)) (* argfun *)
  (fun _ (lo1,hi1) (lo2,hi2) ->
    (min lo1 lo2, max hi1 hi2)) (* appfun *)
```

3.2.2 Static Argument Checking: Top-Down Strategy

Here is an implementation of the top-down strategy:

```ocaml
let rec argCheckTopDown (Pgm(n,body)) =
  checkExp body n

and checkExp exp numargs =
```
Rather than declaring `numargs` as the second argument to `checkExp`, we could instead have each `match` clause return a function that expects a `numargs` argument:

```ml
and checkExp exp =
 match exp with
  Lit i -> (fun numargs -> true)
| Arg index -> (fun numargs -> (1 <= index) && (index <= numargs))
| BinApp(_,r1,r2) -> (fun numargs -> (checkExp r1 numargs)
  && (checkExp r2 numargs))
```

This version makes it easier to see that the top-down `checkExp` can also be expressed in terms of `fold`:

```ml
and checkExpFold exp =
  (litfun)
  (argfun)
  (appfun)
  exp
```

### 3.3 Interpretation

#### 3.3.1 Evaluating Expressions

An interpreter specifies the meaning of expressions and programs in a language. We can express an interpreter for Intex expressions as an `eval` function that takes an expression and a list of integer arguments (used for resolving expressions of the form `Arg i`) and returns the integer that results from evaluating the expression relative to the argument list. For example:

```ml
# eval (Lit 17) [];;
- : int = 17

# eval (BinApp (Add, Lit 1, Lit 2)) [];;
- : int = 3

# eval (Arg 1) [3; 7];;
- : int = 3

# eval (Arg 2) [3; 7];;
- : int = 7

# eval (BinApp (Add, Arg 1, Arg 2)) [3; 7];;
- : int = 10

# eval (BinApp (Add, BinApp (Add, Arg 1, Arg 2), Lit 2)) [3; 7];;
- : int = 5
```

In certain situations, it is necessary to indicate an error; the `EvalError` exception is used for this. For example:

```ml
# eval (BinApp (Div, Arg 1, Arg 2)) [5;0];;
Exception: IntexInterp.EvalError "Division by 0: 5".

# eval (BinApp (Div, Arg 1, Arg 3)) [8;2];;
Exception: IntexInterp.EvalError "Illegal arg index: 3".
```
The `eval` function is defined in Fig. 4. As expected, `eval` is defined by case analysis on the kind of expression.

- For `Lit` expressions, the argument list `args` is ignored and the designated integer is simply returned.

- An `Arg` expression is evaluated by using the index to pick an element from the argument list. The OCAML `List.nth` function is used to find the value in the argument list `args`. Because `List.nth` uses 0-based indexing of lists, it is necessary to subtract 1 from the specified index. An `EvalError` exception is raised if the index is invalid.

- Binary applications are evaluated via divide/conquer/glue: both rands are recursively evaluated, and their values are combined by the `binApply` helper method, which defines the meanings of the binary operators. Although binary application expressions do not directly refer to the argument list, it must be passed down to both rands in case they contain argument references.

Even the `eval` function can be expressed in terms of `fold`!

```ocaml
let eval exp = (* fold-based version *)
  fold
  (* litfun *)
  (* argfun *)

  (* appfun *)

  exp
```

### 3.3.2 Running Programs

INTEX programs are executed via the `run` function, which determines the integer value that results from applying a program to a list of integer arguments. For example:

```ocaml
# run sqr [5];;
- : int = 25

# run sqr [-7];;
- : int = 49

# run avg [5;15];;
- : int = 10

# run f2c [212];;
- : int = 100

# run f2c [32];;
- : int = 0
```
module IntexInterp = struct

open Intex (* Module with intex syntactic data types and associated functions *)

exception EvalError of string

let rec run (Pgm(n,body)) ints =

  if n = List.length ints then eval body ints
  else raise (EvalError ("Program expected 
^^^^^ (string_of_int n) 
  ^ (string_of_int len)))

and eval exp args =

  match exp with
  | Lit i -> i
  | Arg index ->
    if (index <= 0) || (index > List.length args) then
      raise (EvalError("Illegal arg index: 
^^^^^ (string_of_int index) 
    else
      List.nth args (index - 1)
  | BinApp(op,rand1,rand2) ->
    binApply op (eval rand1 args) (eval rand2 args)

and binApply binop x y =
  match binop with
  | Add -> x + y
  | Sub -> x - y
  | Mul -> x * y
  | Div -> if y = 0 then
      raise (EvalError ("Division by 0: " ^ (string_of_int x)))
    else
      x / y
  | Rem -> if y = 0 then
      raise (EvalError ("Remainder by 0: " ^ (string_of_int x)))
    else
      x mod y
end

Figure 4: An interpreter for INTEX.
# run f2c [98];;
- : int = 36

As with `eval`, there are certain situations in which an error must be signaled, including some new situations where there is a mismatch between the expected and supplied number of arguments:

```ml
# run sqr [2;3];;
Exception: IntexInterp.EvalError "Program expected 1 arguments but got 2".
# run sqr [];;
Exception: IntexInterp.EvalError "Program expected 1 arguments but got 0".
# run (Pgm(2,BinApp(Div, Arg 1, Arg 2))) [7; 0];;
Exception: IntexInterp.EvalError "Division by 0: 7".
```

The `run` function is defined in Fig. 4. It first checks that number of supplied arguments matches the number of expected arguments. It then evaluates the body of the program using the `eval` function, which is the real workhorse of the interpreter.

## 4 A Concrete Syntax for INTEX

### 4.1 A Plethora of Options

We have seen that abstract syntax trees (ASTs) make it easy to write OCAML programs that manipulate INTEX programs. But it’s rather awkward to use the AST functions from Sec. 2 to create INTEX program trees. Moreover, we can’t very well expect that INTEX programmers are going to use AST functions written in OCAML to write INTEX programs!

To make programs easier to read and write, we can develop a **concrete syntax** that specifies how program trees can be written as sequences of characters. There are many design choices to make when defining concrete syntax. For example:

- **How should argument references be written?** Many languages have so-called positional arguments that are specified by a numeric index. For example:
  - the bash shell programming language uses `$i` to denote the `i`th argument (1-indexed) to a shell script.
  - the LA<TX> formatting language uses `#i` to denote the `i`th argument (1-indexed) to a macro.
  - The main method in a JAVA class refers to the `i`th command line argument as an index (0-based) of an array argument.

- **How are applications of binary operators written?** Suppose we want to represent the following INTEX expression tree:

![INTEX expression tree diagram]

```ml
tktor Add
  rand1
  Lit
    value 1
  rand2
  BinApp
    rator Mul
    rand1
    Lit
      value 2
    rand2
    Lit
      value 3
```
There are many possible notations. For instance:

- **In infix notation**, the operator is placed between the operands, as in \(1 + (2 \ast 3)\). If we specify that \(\ast\) has a higher **precedence** than \(+\) (as is usually assumed in mathematical notation), we can dispense with the explicit parentheses and write \(1 + 2 \ast 3\).

- **In prefix notation**, the operator is placed before the operands. This is the convention in LISP dialects, in which the example would be written \((+ 1 (* 2 3))\). But there are other variants as well; e.g., \((1,*(2,3))\).

- **In postfix notation**, the operator is placed after the operands, as in \(1 2 3 \ast +\) or \(2 3 \ast 1 +\). Postfix notation is unambiguous and can be written without any explicit parentheses.

• What should the top-level program structure be? How should the number of program arguments be declared? Again, there are many possibilities; here are a few:

  - We could use C and Java’s approach of using a distinguished **main** function to specify the entry point to a program:
    
    ```c
    int main(int a, int b) {return (a + b) / 2;}
    ```
    
    However, this uses named parameters rather than positional parameters. It would be more in line with INTEX to specify only the number of parameters:
    
    ```c
    int main(int, int) {return ($1 + $2) / 2;}
    ```
    
    In this case the main name, int type annotations, return keyword, and semi-colon are “noise” in the sense that they don’t have any meaning in INTEX and would be ignored. A syntax that mapped more straightforwardly onto INTEX would omit these:
    
    ```c
    main(2) {($1 + $2) / 2}
    ```
    
    - We could use a notation similar to that used to define mathematical functions:
      
      ```c
      avg[2] = div(+($1,$2),2)
      ```
      
      Here, the name avg has no semantic import (it would be ignored by INTEX), but it is a helpful comment.
      
    - We can represent the INTEX tree in s-expression notation, where each tree node is explicitly labelled by its type:
      
      ```c
      (program 2
       (binapp div
        (binapp add
         (arg 1)
         (arg 2))
        (lit 2)))
      ```
      
      Here we have adopted the simple **prefix convention** from Handout #21 for representing sum-of-product trees as s-expressions: the first s-expression in a parenthesized sequence is a token that is the summand node label and the remaining s-expressions are arbitrary s-expressions that represent the product components.

    - There are other notations for representing sum-of-product trees. The most popular of these are the XML and XML document description languages. In these languages, summand tags appear in begin/end markups and product components are encoded both in the association lists of markups as well as in components nested within the begin/end markups. For instance, Fig. 5 shows how the averaging program might be encoded in
XML. The reader is left to ponder why XML, which at one level is a verbose encoding of s-expressions, is a far more popular standard for expressing structured data than s-expressions.

4.2 Compressed S-expression Format

Because s-expressions are easy to parse, we will adopt an s-expression notation for our concrete Intex syntax. However, the notation used in the example above is more verbose than we’d like, so we’ll use some tricks to make the notation more concise/readable:

- If we assume that numbers stand for themselves, we can avoid the explicit lit tag. Thus, we will shorten \((\text{lit } 2)\) to 2.

- Since we must be able to distinguish argument references from integer literals, we cannot similarly shorten \((\text{arg } 1)\) to 1. But we can use a shorter tag name, such as $$, in which case \((\text{arg } 1)\) becomes \((\$ 1)\).\(^1\)

- The only non-leaf node is a binary application, so we can dispense with the binapp tag without introducing ambiguity. Using traditional operator symbols \((+, -, *, /, \%)\) in place of names \((\text{add}, \text{sub}, \text{mul}, \text{div}, \text{rem})\) further shortens the notation. For example, \((\text{binapp } \text{add } (\$ 1) (\$ 2))\) becomes \((+ (\$ 1) (\$ 2))\).

- To distinguish Intex program from other programs in other mini-languages we will study, we replace program by intex. This is not much shorter, but helps to disambiguate programs from different languages.

The result of applying all of the above tricks on our three sample Intex programs yields:

\[\frac{2 + (\$ 1) (\$ 2)}{2 + \$ 2}\]

\(^1\)If we’re willing to analyze the characters in a symbol name, we could shorten this even more to \(\$1\).
These are significantly shorter than the OCAML AST notation or the unoptimized s-expression notation. This is the s-expression notation that we will adopt for INTEX. We will make similar abbreviations in other languages. It’s worth noting that the syntax of LISP dialects is effectively determined by this process – prefix tags are used everywhere except for literals (e.g., numbers, booleans, strings, characters) and for applications (which are written without an explicit apply tag, as in (fact 5) rather than (apply fact 5)).

There are several advantages to using parenthesized prefix s-expression notation for concrete syntax of the mini-languages we will study:

- It is easy to parse s-expressions into trees using the functions in the Sexp module (Handout #21). We needn’t worry about defining lexical analyzers and parsers for each new language we consider.
- The notation is unambiguous and extremely regular.
- Emacs provides lots of nice features for manipulating s-expressions (such as parenthesis matching and automatic indentation).

There are some drawbacks as well:

- The mini-languages will end up looking a lot like a LISP dialect, such as SCHEME. We must be careful to keep in mind that they are very different languages from LISP even though they look like LISP on the surface.
- The mini-languages will all have a very similar syntax even though their semantics (meaning) may differ significantly. This can make it hard to differentiate between languages.
- For those used to programming in non-LISP languages like JAVA, C, and OCAML, the parenthesized prefix s-expression form can seem rather unnatural at first. Hopefully they will become natural with practice. (And you will be getting lots of practice!)

### 4.3 Unparsing and Parsing INTEX Programs

It is relatively straightforward to convert between INTEX ASTs (specified via OCAML data type constructors), sexp trees (also specified via OCAML data type constructors), and s-expression notation (strings with matching parenthesis). Fig. 6 presents functions that unparse an INTEX AST into an s-expression. For example:

```plaintext
# open Intex;; (* Unparsing functions are in Intex module *)
# let f2c = Pgm(1, BinApp(Div,
                BinApp(Mul,
                    BinApp(Sub,Arg(1),Lit(32)),
                    Lit(5)),
                Lit(9)));
  val f2c : Intex.pgm = Pgm (1,
              BinApp (Div, BinApp (Mul, BinApp (Sub, Arg 1, Lit 32), Lit 5), Lit 9))
```
let rec pgmToSexp p =

and expToSexp e =

and primopToString p =
  match p with
  | Add -> "+"
  | Sub -> "-"
  | Mul -> "*"
  | Div -> "/"
  | Rem -> "/" 

and expToString s = sexpToString (expToSexp s)
and pgmToString s = sexpToString (pgmToSexp s)

Figure 6: Unparsing INTEX programs to s-expressions.

# pgmToSexp f2c;;
- : Sexp.sexp =
  Sexp.Seq
  [Sexp.Sym "intex"; Sexp.Int 1;
   Sexp.Seq
    [Sexp.Sym "/";
     Sexp.Seq
      [Sexp.Sym "*";
       Sexp.Seq
        [Sexp.Sym "-"; Sexp.Seq [Sexp.Sym "+"; Sexp.Int 1]; Sexp.Int 32];
       Sexp.Int 5];
     Sexp.Int 9]]

# pgmToString f2c;;
- : string = "(intex 1 (/ (* (- ($ 1) 32) 5) 9))"
Fig. 7 presents functions for parsing an s-expression into an Intex AST. Let’s give them a spin:

```ml
# open Intex;; (* Parsing functions are in Intex module *)

# let f2cSexp = Sexp.stringToSexp "(intex 1 (/ (* (- ($ 1) 32) 5) 9))";;
val f2cSexp : Sexp.sexp =
  Sexp.Seq
  [Sexp.Sym "intex"; Sexp.Int 1;
   Sexp.Seq
    [Sexp.Sym "/";
     Sexp.Seq
      [Sexp.Sym "*";
       Sexp.Seq
        [Sexp.Sym "-";
         Sexp.Seq [Sexp.Sym "$"; Sexp.Int 1]; Sexp.Int 32];
        Sexp.Int 5];
    Sexp.Int 9]]

# sexpToPgm f2cSexp;;
- : Intex.pgm =
  Pgm (1,
    BinApp (Div, BinApp (Mul, BinApp (Sub, Arg 1, Lit 32), Lit 5), Lit 9))

# stringToPgm "(intex 1 (/ (* (- ($ 1) 32) 5) 9))";;
- : Intex.pgm =
  Pgm (1,
    BinApp (Div, BinApp (Mul, BinApp (Sub, Arg 1, Lit 32), Lit 5), Lit 9))
```
let rec sexpToPgm sexp =

and sexpToExp sexp =

and stringToPrimop s =
  match s with
  | "+" -> Add
  | "-" -> Sub
  | "*" -> Mul
  | "/" -> Div
  | "%" -> Rem
  | _ -> raise (SyntaxError ("invalid Intex primop: " ^ s))

and stringToExp s = sexpToExp (stringToSexp s)
and stringToPgm s = sexpToPgm (stringToSexp s)

Figure 7: Parsing s-expressions into INTEX programs.
5 All Together Now: A Read-Eval-Print Loop

We now have all the pieces to create an interactive read-eval-print loop (REPL) similar to those used in an OCAML interpreter, a SCHEME interpreter, or a bash shell. Fig. 8 presents the repl function, which launches a REPL for INTEX.

```ocaml
let repl () =

  let rec println = StringUtils.println
  and print = StringUtils.print

  and sexpToInt sexp = (* sexpToInt : sexp -> int *)
    match sexp with
    Sexp.Int(i) -> i
  | _ -> raise (Failure ("Not an int!: " ^ (Sexp.sexpToString sexp)))

  and getPgm sexp = (* get an intex program from a specification *)
    match sexp with
    (* Treat a symbol or string as the name of a file containing the program *)
    Sexp.Sym filename -> stringToPgm (File.fileToString filename)
  | Sexp.Str filename -> stringToPgm (File.fileToString filename)
  | _ -> sexpToPgm sexp

  and loop args =
    let _ = print "\nintex> " in
    let line = read_line () in
    match (Sexp.stringToSexp line) with
    Sexp.Seq [Sexp.Sym "#quit"] -> println "Moriturus te saluto!"
  | Sexp.Seq ((Sexp.Sym "#args") :: intxs) -> loop (List.map sexpToInt intxs)
  | Sexp.Seq ((Sexp.Sym "#run") :: pgmx :: intxs) ->
    let _ = try
      println (string_of_int (run (getPgm pgmx)
        (List.map sexpToInt intxs)))
    with
    EvalError s -> println ("Error: " ^ s)
  | SyntaxError s -> println ("Error: " ^ s)
  | Sys_error s -> println ("Error: " ^ s)
  | Failure s -> println ("Error: " ^ s)
    in loop args
  | _ -> let _ = try
    println (string_of_int (eval (stringToExp line) args))
    with
    EvalError s -> println ("Error: " ^ s)
  | SyntaxError s -> println ("Error: " ^ s)
  | Sys_error s -> println ("Error: " ^ s)
  | Failure s -> println ("Error: " ^ s)
    in loop args

  in loop []
```

Figure 8: A read-eval-print loop (REPL) for INTEX.
At its core, the Intex REPL:

1. **Reads** an Intex expression the user types at a prompt;
2. **Evaluates** the Intex expression;
3. **Prints** the resulting integer value.

For example:

```plaintext
# repl();

intex> (+ 1 2)
3

intex> (* (+ 3 4) (- 5 6))
-7
```

The `try ... with` construct specifies an **exception handler** similar to Java’s `catch`. In this case, it catches errors without leaving the REPL:

```plaintext
intex> (/ 5 0)
Error: Division by 0: 5

intex> (% 7 (- 3 3))
Error: Remainder by 0: 7

intex> (+ 2)
Error: invalid Intex expression: (+ 2)

intex> (+ 2 3 4)
Error: invalid Intex expression: (+ 2 3 4)
```

We have seen how the REPL evaluates literals and binary applications. But how can argument lists be specified? The `#args` directive introduces an argument list that can be used to evaluate the following expressions:

```plaintext
intex> (#args 10 20 30)

intex> (+ ($ 1) (* ($ 2) ($ 3)))
610

intex> (#args 5 2 7)

intex> (+ ($ 1) (* ($ 2) ($ 3)))
19

intex> ($ 4)
Error: Illegal arg index: 4

intex> ($ 0)
Error: Illegal arg index: 0
```

It is helpful to be able to run programs as well as evaluate expressions. The `#run` directive takes an Intex program specification and a sequence of integer arguments and runs the specified program on the arguments. The Intex program specification can be either the name (expressed as an s-expression symbol or string) of a file containing an Intex program, or the program expressed as an s-expression. For example, supposed that the file named `avg.itx` contains the
contents \((\text{intex} \ 2 \ (/ \ (+ \ ($ \ 1) \ ($ \ 2)) \ 2))\) and the file named \texttt{f2c.itx} contains the contents \((\text{intex} \ 1 \ (/ \ (* \ (- \ ($ \ 1) \ 32) \ 5) \ 9))\). Then we have the following interactions:

\begin{verbatim}
intex> (#run avg.itx 10 20)
15

intex> (#run "avg.itx" 3 7)
5

intex> (#run (intex \ 2 \ (/ \ (+ \ ($ \ 1) \ ($ \ 2)) \ 2)) \ 3 \ 7)
5

intex> (#run f2c.itx 212)
100

intex> (#run f2c 212)
Error: f2c: No such file or directory

intex> (#run f2c.itx 212 73)
Error: Program expected 1 arguments but got 2

intex> (#run f2c.itx (+ 50 40))
Error: Not an int!:(+ 50 40)

intex> (#run avg.itx ($ 1) ($ 2))
Error: Not an int!:$ 1
\end{verbatim}

Finally, we need a way to exit the interpreter. The \#quit directive does this:

\begin{verbatim}
intex> (#quit)
Moriturus te saluto!
- : unit = ()
# (* Now we're back in the OCaml interpreter *)
\end{verbatim}