

# 61A Lecture 26

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Monday, October 31

# Programming Languages

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Computers have software written in many different languages

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Machine languages: statements can be interpreted by hardware

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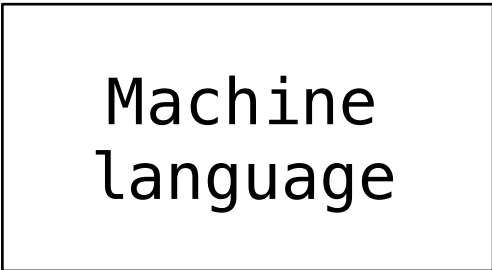
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# Metalinguistic Abstraction

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- An *interpreter* for a programming language is a function that, when applied to an expression of the language, performs the actions required to evaluate that expression

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In computer science, languages can be *implemented*:

- An *interpreter* for a programming language is a function that, when applied to an expression of the language, performs the actions required to evaluate that expression
- The *semantics* and *syntax* of a language must be specified precisely in order to allow for an interpreter

# The Calculator Language

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Prefix notation expression language for basic arithmetic

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Python-like syntax, with more flexible built-in functions



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```
calc> add(1, 2, 3, 4)  
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calc> sub(100, mul(7, add(8, div(-12, -3))))
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Demo

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- The {mul,\*} operator **returns** the product of its arguments
- The {div,/} operator **returns** the real-valued quotient of a dividend and divisor (i.e., a numerator and denominator)



# Expression Trees

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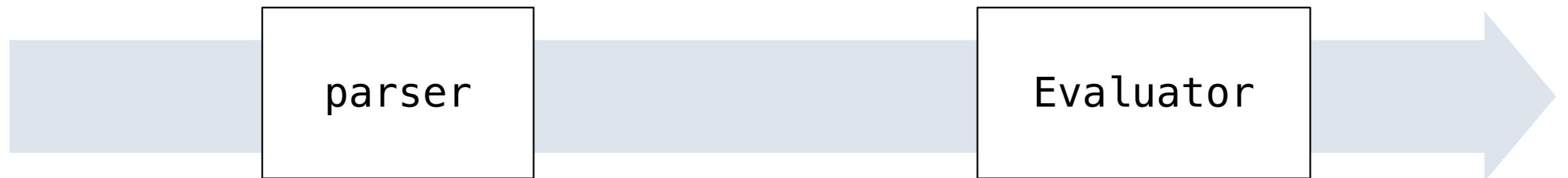
parser

Evaluator

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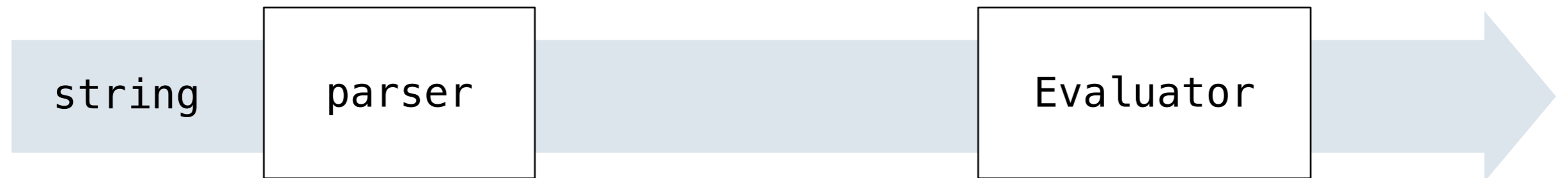
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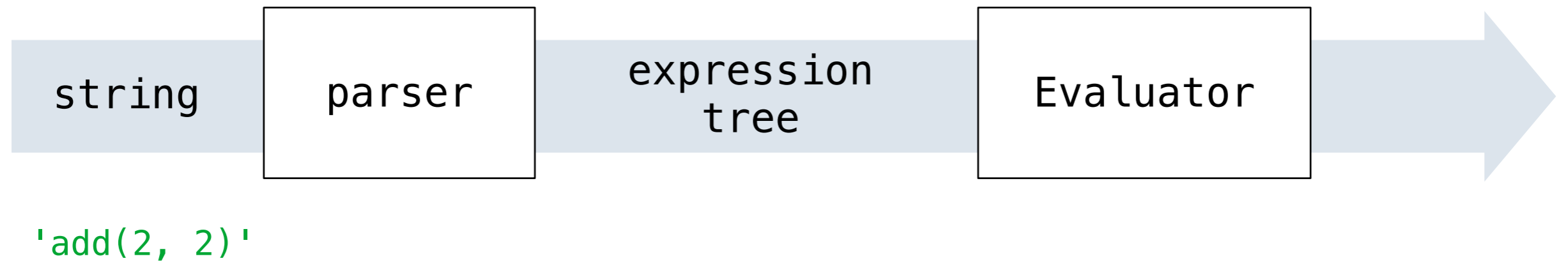
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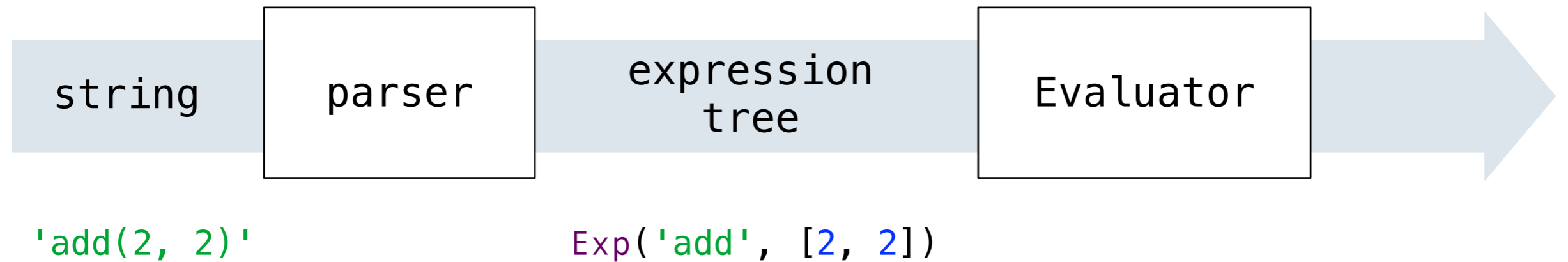




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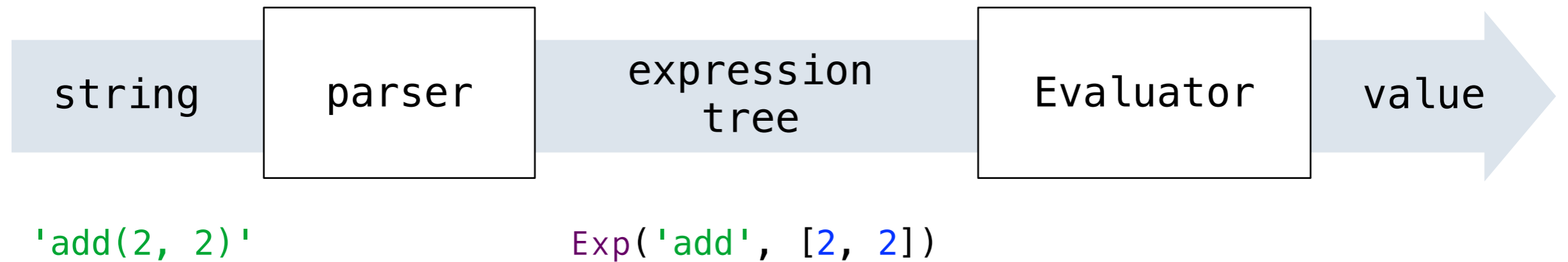
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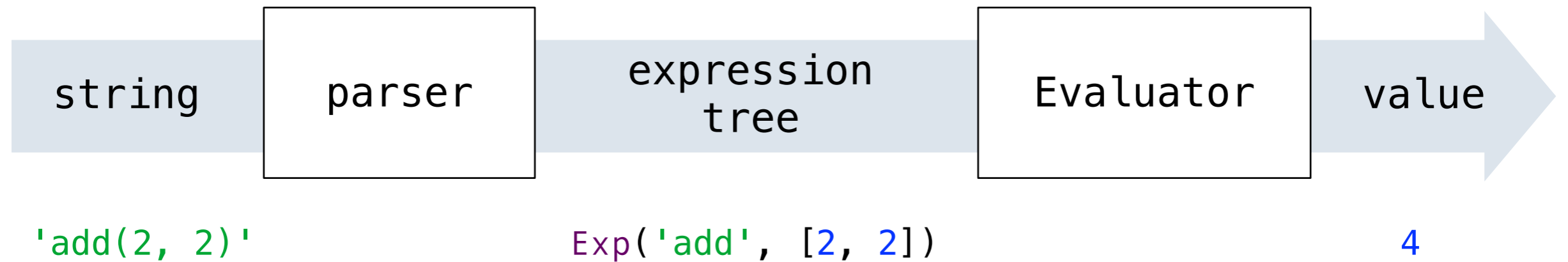
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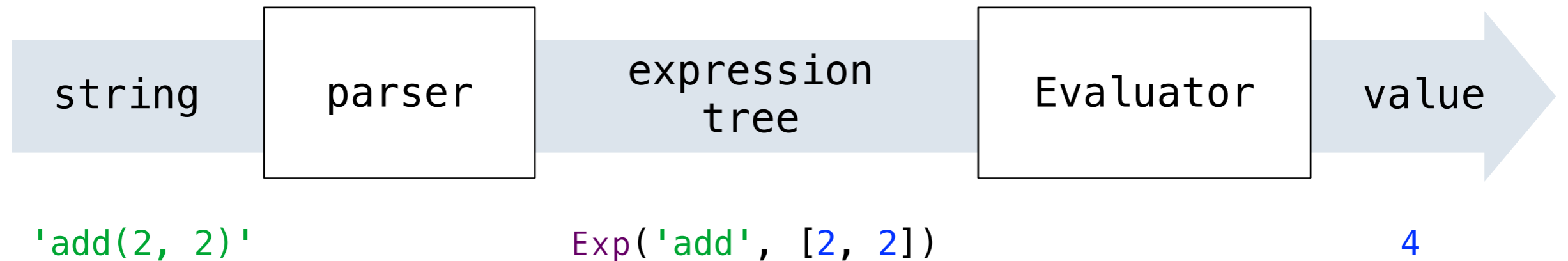
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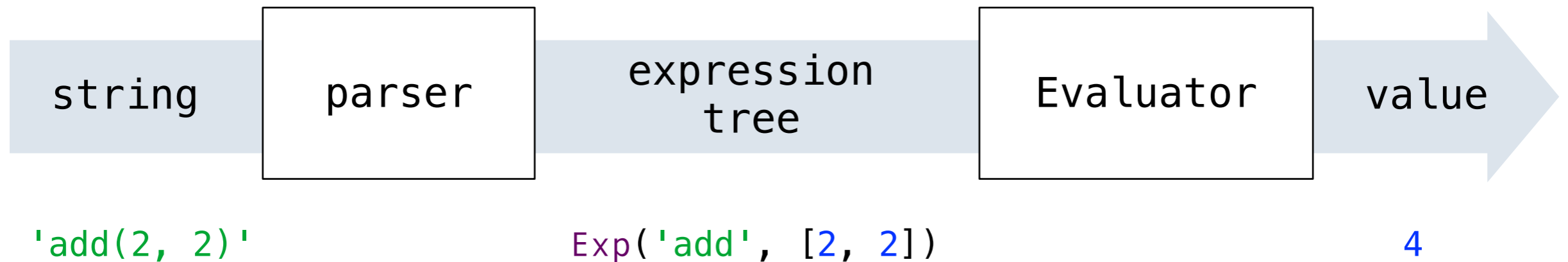


An *expression tree* is a (hierarchical) data structure that represents a (nested) expression

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```
class Exp(object):
    """A call expression in Calculator."""
    def __init__(self, operator, operands):
        self.operator = operator
        self.operands = operands
```

# Creating Expression Trees Directly

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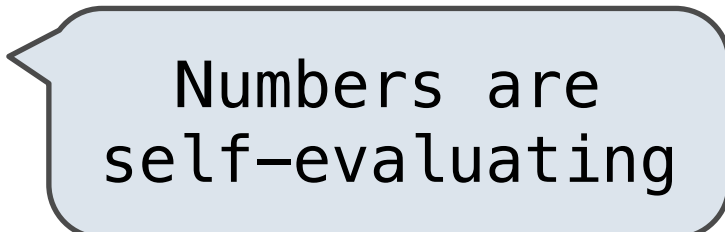
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Demo

# Read-Eval-Print Loop

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def read_eval_print_loop():  
    """Run a read-eval-print loop for calculator."""  
    while True:  
        expression_tree = calc_parse(input('calc> '))  
        print(calc_eval(expression_tree))
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Language-specific  
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Raising exceptions in `apply` can identify such issues

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    """Apply the named operator to a list of args."""  
    ...  
    if operator in ('sub', '-'):  
        if len(args) == 0:  
            raise TypeError(operator + ' requires at least 1 argument')
```

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Raising exceptions in `apply` can identify such issues

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def calc_apply(operator, args):  
    """Apply the named operator to a list of args."""  
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The `sub` and `div` operators have restrictions on argument number

Raising exceptions in `apply` can identify such issues

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Demo