

Warm-Up: What's an AST?

Prepared by Mark on March 15, 2026

Based on a true story.

Problem 1:

Say we have a valid string of simple arithmetic that contains no unary operators (like $3!$ or -4) and no parenthesis:

$$3 + 9 \times 8 \div 5 \wedge 6$$

You may assume that all numbers and operators in this string consist of exactly one character. Devise an algorithm that turns such strings into a tree (as shown below), respecting the order of operations $[\wedge, \times, \div, +, -]$.

