

# An Interactive Debugger for the JavaScript Specification

Arthur Charguéraud  
Inria

Joint work with: Alan Schmitt (Inria) and Thomas Wood (Imperial College London)

Building on prior work, joint with:

M. Bodin, D. Filaretti, P. Gardner, S. Maffei, D. Naudziuniene, and G. Smith.

2016/04/07

Verified trustworthy software systems, Specialist meeting

# Motivation

Equip JavaScript with:

1. A formal, executable specification,
2. Formal proofs of security properties,
3. Logics and tools for verification.

Goal: getting JavaScript committee to adopt a formal semantics.

# A glance at ECMA5 (280 pages)

The addition operator either performs string concatenation or numeric addition.

**Evaluation of:** *AdditiveExpression* : *AdditiveExpression* + *MultiplicativeExpression*

1. Let *lref* be the result of evaluating *AdditiveExpression*.
2. Let *lval* be *GetValue(lref)*.
3. Let *rref* be the result of evaluating *MultiplicativeExpression*.
4. Let *rval* be *GetValue(rref)*.
5. Let *lprim* be *ToPrimitive(lval)*.
6. Let *rprim* be *ToPrimitive(rval)*.
7. If *Type(lprim)* is String or *Type(rprim)* is String, then
  - ▶ Return the String that is the result of concatenating *ToString(lprim)* followed by *ToString(rprim)*
8. Return the result of applying the addition operation to *ToNumber(lprim)* and *ToNumber(rprim)*.

## A glance at ECMA6 (560 pages)

The addition operator either performs string concatenation or numeric addition.

**Evaluation of:** *AdditiveExpression* : *AdditiveExpression* + *MultiplicativeExpression*

1. Let *lref* be the result of evaluating *AdditiveExpression*.
2. Let *lval* be *GetValue(lref)*.
3. **ReturnIfAbrupt**(*lval*).
4. Let *rref* be the result of evaluating *MultiplicativeExpression*.
5. Let *rval* be *GetValue(rref)*.
6. **ReturnIfAbrupt**(*rval*).
7. Let *lprim* be *ToPrimitive(lval)*.
8. **ReturnIfAbrupt**(*lprim*).
9. Let *rprim* be *ToPrimitive(rval)*.
10. **ReturnIfAbrupt**(*rprim*).
11. If *Type(lprim)* is String or *Type(rprim)* is String, then
  - 11.1 let *lstr* be *ToString(lprim)*.
  - 11.2 **ReturnIfAbrupt**(*lstr*).
  - 11.3 let *rstr* be *ToString(rprim)*.
  - 11.4 **ReturnIfAbrupt**(*rstr*).
  - 11.5 Return the String that is the result of concatenating *lstr* and *rstr*.
12. let *lnum* be *ToString(lprim)*.
13. **ReturnIfAbrupt**(*lnum*).
14. let *rnum* be *ToString(rprim)*.
15. **ReturnIfAbrupt**(*rnum*).
16. Return the result of applying the addition operation to *lnum* and *rnum*.

# Definition of ReturnIfAbrupt

## 6.2.2.4 ReturnIfAbrupt

Algorithms steps that say

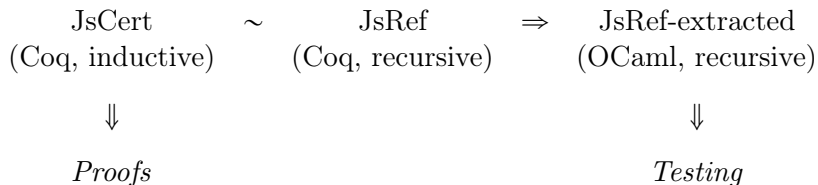
1. ReturnIfAbrupt(*argument*).

mean the same thing as:

1. If *argument* is an abrupt completion, return *argument*.
2. Else if *argument* is a Completion Record, let *argument* be *argument*.[[value]].

# POPL'14 formalization

ECMA5  
(English prose)



# A glance at JsCert (800 rules, 3000 loc)

(\*\* Binary op, common rules for non-lazy operators \*)

```
| red_expr_binary_op : ∀S C op e1 e2 y1 o ,  
  regular_binary_op op →  
  red_spec S C (spec_expr_get_value e1) y1 →  
  red_expr S C (expr_binary_op_1 op y1 e2) o →  
  red_expr S C (expr_binary_op e1 op e2) o
```

```
| red_expr_binary_op_1 : ∀S0 S C op v1 e2 y1 o ,  
  red_spec S C (spec_expr_get_value e2) y1 →  
  red_expr S C (expr_binary_op_2 op v1 y1) o →  
  red_expr S0 C (expr_binary_op_1 op (ret S v1) e2) o
```

```
| red_expr_binary_op_2 : ∀S0 S C op v1 v2 o ,  
  red_expr S C (expr_binary_op_3 op v1 v2) o →  
  red_expr S0 C (expr_binary_op_2 op v1 (ret S v2)) o
```

(\*\* Binary op : addition (11.6.1) \*)

```
| red_expr_binary_op_add : ∀S C v1 v2 y1 o ,  
  red_spec S C (spec_convert_twice (spec_to_primitive_auto v1)  
    (spec_to_primitive_auto v2)) y1 →  
  red_expr S C (expr_binary_op_add_1 y1) o →  
  red_expr S C (expr_binary_op_3 binary_op_add v1 v2) o
```

```
| red_expr_binary_op_add_1_string : ∀S0 S C v1 v2 y1 o ,  
  (type_of v1 = type_string ∨ type_of v2 = type_string) →  
  red_spec S C (spec_convert_twice (spec_to_string v1) (spec_to_string v2)) y1 →  
  red_expr S C (expr_binary_op_add_string_1 y1) o →  
  red_expr S0 C (expr_binary_op_add_1 (ret S (v1,v2))) o
```

```
| red_expr_binary_op_add_string_1 : ∀S0 S C s1 s2 s ,  
  s = String.append s1 s2 →  
  red_expr S0 C (expr_binary_op_add_string_1 (ret S (value_prim s1,value_prim s2)))  
    (out_ter S s)
```

```
| red_expr_binary_op_add_1_number : ∀S0 S C v1 v2 y1 o ,  
  ~(type_of v1 = type_string ∨ type_of v2 = type_string) →  
  red_spec S C (spec_convert_twice (spec_to_number v1) (spec_to_number v2)) y1 →  
  red_expr S C (expr_puremath_op_1 JsNumber.add y1) o →  
  red_expr S0 C (expr_binary_op_add_1 (ret S (v1,v2))) o
```

## A glance at JsRef (2000 loc)

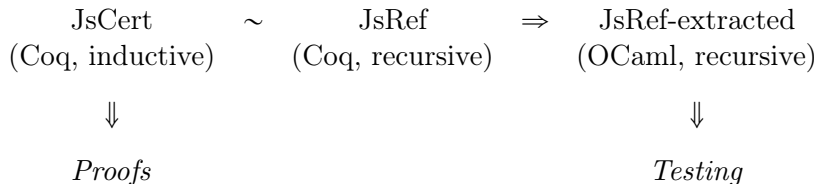
```
Definition run_expr_binary_op r S C op e1 e2 :=
  if not (is_lazy_op op) then
    if_spec (run_expr_get_value r S C e1) (fun S1 v1 =>
      if_spec (run_expr_get_value r S1 C e2) (fun S2 v2 =>
        run_binary_op r S2 C op v1 v2))
  else ...
```

```
Definition run_binary_op r S C op v1 v2 :=
  If op = binary_op_add then
    if_spec (convert_twice to_primitive r S C (v1,v2)) (fun S1 (w1,w2) =>
      If type_of w1 = type_string ∨ type_of w2 = type_string then
        if_spec (convert_twice to_string r S1 C (w1,w2)) (fun S2 (s1,s2) =>
          res_ter S2 (JsString.append s1 s2))
        else
          if_spec (convert_twice to_number r S1 C (w1,w2)) (fun S2 (n1,n2) =>
            res_ter S2 (JsNumber.add n1 n2)))
  else ...
```



# Obstacles to adoption by the JavaScript committee

ECMA5  
(English prose)



We need to:

- ▶ close the gap between the English prose and the Coq code,
- ▶ avoid the need to maintain JsCert and JsRef independently,
- ▶ provide tools for executing the specification step by step.



## NewJsRef: introduce monadic notation (future work)

```
let rec run_expr_binary_op S C op e1 e2 =  
  if not (is_lazy_op op) then  
    let%val (S1,v1) = run_expr_get_value r S C e1 in  
    let%val (S2,v2) = run_expr_get_value r S1 C e2 in  
    run_binary_op S2 C op v1 v2  
  else ...  
  
and run_binary_op S C op v1 v2 =  
  if op = binary_op_add then  
    let%op (S1,(w1,w2)) = apply_twice to_primitive r S C (v1,v2) in  
    if type_of w1 = type_string || type_of w2 = type_string then  
      let%op (S2,(s1,s2)) = apply_twice to_string r S1 C (w1,w2) in  
      return%val S2 (Value_string (JsString.append s1 s2))  
    else  
      let%op (S2,(n1,n2)) = apply_twice to_number r S1 C (w1,w2) in  
      return%val S2 (Value_number (JsNumber.add n1 n2))  
  else ...
```

## NewJsRef: implicit state and context (future work)

```
let rec run_expr_binary_op op e1 e2 =
  if not (is_lazy_op op) then
    let%val v1 = run_expr_get_value e1 in
    let%val v2 = run_expr_get_value e2 in
    run_binary_op op v1 v2
  else ...

and run_binary_op op v1 v2 =
  if op = binary_op_add then
    let%op (w1,w2) = apply_twice to_primitive (v1,v2) in
    if type_of w1 = type_string || type_of w2 = type_string then
      let%op (s1,s2) = apply_twice to_string (w1,w2) in
      return%val (Value_string (JsString.append s1 s2))
    else
      let%op (n1,n2) = apply_twice to_number (w1,w2) in
      return%val (Value_number (JsNumber.add n1 n2))
  else ...
```

# NewJsRef: generate English prose (future work)

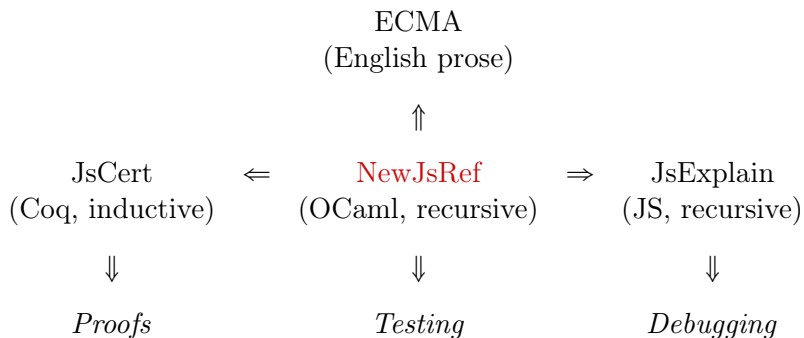
**Evaluation of:**  $expr1 + expr2$

1. Let'  $lval$  be  $EvalExpressionGetValue(expr1)$ .
2. Let'  $rval$  be  $EvalExpressionGetValue(expr2)$ .
3. Let'  $lprim$  be  $ToPrimitive(lval)$ .
4. Let'  $rprim$  be  $ToPrimitive(rval)$ .
5. If  $Type(lprim)$  is String or  $Type(rprim)$  is String, then
  - ▶ Let'  $lstr$  be  $ToString(lprim)$ .
  - ▶ Let'  $rstr$  be  $ToString(rprim)$ .
  - ▶ Return the value computed as the string concatenation of  $lstr$  and  $rstr$ .
6. Let'  $lnum$  be  $ToNumber(lprim)$ .
7. Let'  $rnum$  be  $ToNumber(rprim)$ .
8. Return the value computed as the number addition of  $lnum$  and  $rnum$ .

where "Let'  $x$  be  $e$ " is:

"Let  $c$  be  $e$ ; If  $c$  is abrupt Then return  $c$  Else Let  $x$  be  $c.[[value]]$ ".

# The new plan



# JsExplain

Execute the specification interactively, visualizing at the same time:

- ▶ the code of the interpreter (in OCaml, or JavaScript, or English),
- ▶ the code of the JavaScript interpreted program.

Intended users: JS committee members, VM developers, test engineers.

Demo.





# From JsRef to JsCert

```
let rec run_expr_binary_op S C op e1 e2 =
  if not (is_lazy_op op) then
    if_spec (run_expr_get_value S C e1) (fun S1 v1 =>
      if_spec (run_expr_get_value S1 C e2) (fun S2 v2 =>
        run_binary_op S2 C op v1 v2))
    else ...
and run_binary_op S C op v1 v2 =
  If op = binary_op_add then
    if_spec (convert_twice_to_primitive S C (v1,v2)) (fun S1 (w1,w2) =>
      If type_of w1 = type_string ∨ type_of w2 = type_string then
        if_spec (convert_twice_to_string S1 C (w1,w2)) (fun S2 (s1,s2) =>
          res_ter S2 (JsString.append s1 s2))
        else
          if_spec (convert_twice_to_number S1 C (w1,w2)) (fun S2 (n1,n2) =>
            res_ter S2 (JsNumber.add n1 n2)))
      else ...
| red_expr_binary_op : ∀S C op e1 e2 y1 o ,
  regular_binary_op op →
  red_spec S C (spec_expr_get_value e1) y1 →
  red_expr S C (expr_binary_op_1 op y1 e2) o →
  red_expr S C (expr_binary_op e1 op e2) o
| red_expr_binary_op_1 : ∀S0 S C op v1 e2 y1 o ,
  red_spec S C (spec_expr_get_value e2) y1 →
  red_expr S C (expr_binary_op_2 op v1 y1) o →
  red_expr S0 C (expr_binary_op_1 op (ret S v1) e2) o
| red_expr_binary_op_2 : ∀S0 S C op v1 v2 o ,
  red_expr S C (expr_binary_op_3 op v1 v2) o →
  red_expr S0 C (expr_binary_op_2 op v1 (ret S v2)) o
| red_expr_binary_op_add : ∀S C v1 v2 y1 o ,
  red_spec S C (spec_convert_twice
    (spec_to_primitive_auto v1)
    (spec_to_primitive_auto v2)) y1 →
  red_expr S C (expr_binary_op_add_1 y1) o →
  red_expr S C (expr_binary_op_3 binary_op_add v1 v2) o
| red_expr_binary_op_add_1_string : ∀S0 S C v1 v2 y1 o ,
  (type_of v1 = type_string ∨ type_of v2 = type_string) →
  red_spec S C (spec_convert_twice
    (spec_to_string v1) (spec_to_string v2)) y1 →
  red_expr S C (expr_binary_op_add_string_1 y1) o →
  red_expr S0 C (expr_binary_op_add_1 (ret S (v1,v2))) o
| red_expr_binary_op_add_string_1 : ∀S0 S C s1 s2 s ,
  s = String.append s1 s2 →
  red_expr S0 C (expr_binary_op_add_string_1
    (ret S (value_prim s1,value_prim s2)))
    (out_ter S s)
| red_expr_binary_op_add_1_number : ∀S0 S C v1 v2 y1 o ,
  ~ (type_of v1 = type_string ∨ type_of v2 = type_string) →
  red_spec S C (spec_convert_twice
    (spec_to_number v1) (spec_to_number v2)) y1 →
  red_expr S C (expr_puremath_op_1 JsNumber.add y1) o →
  red_expr S0 C (expr_binary_op_add_1 (ret S (v1,v2))) o
```

## Study of a similar code, with less noise

```
type 'a out = Res of 'a | Exn of value

let rec run (t:trm) : value out =
  match t with
  | Trm_add (t1,t2) →
    let' v1 = run t1 in
    let' v2 = run t2 in
    let' w1 = to_primitive v1 in
    let' w2 = to_primitive v2 in
    if is_string w1 || is_string w2 then
      let' s1 = to_string w1 in
      let' s2 = to_string w2 in
      Res (Val_string (string_append s1 s2))
    else
      let' n1 = to_number w1 in
      let' n2 = to_number w2 in
      Res (Val_number (float_add n1 n2))
  | ...

and to_primitive (v:value) : value out = ...
and to_number (v:value) : number out = ...
and to_string (v:value) : string out = ...
```

## Big-step rules

Big-step evaluation judgment without exceptions:  $t/m \Downarrow v/m'$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} t_1/m_1 \Downarrow v_1/m_2 \\ t_2/m_2 \Downarrow v_2/m_3 \\ (\text{to\_primitive } v_1)/m_3 \Downarrow w_1/m_4 \\ (\text{to\_primitive } v_2)/m_4 \Downarrow w_2/m_5 \\ (\text{is\_string } w_1 \vee \text{is\_string } w_2) \\ (\text{to\_string } w_1)/m_5 \Downarrow s_1/m_6 \\ (\text{to\_string } w_2)/m_6 \Downarrow s_2/m_7 \end{array}}{(\text{Trm\_add } t_1 t_2)/m_1 \Downarrow (\text{Val\_string } (\text{string\_append } s_1 s_2))/m_7}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} t_1/m_1 \Downarrow v_1/m_2 \\ t_2/m_2 \Downarrow v_2/m_3 \\ (\text{to\_primitive } v_1)/m_3 \Downarrow w_1/m_4 \\ (\text{to\_primitive } v_2)/m_4 \Downarrow w_2/m_5 \\ \neg(\text{is\_string } w_1 \vee \text{is\_string } w_2) \\ (\text{to\_number } w_1)/m_5 \Downarrow n_1/m_6 \\ (\text{to\_number } w_2)/m_6 \Downarrow n_2/m_7 \end{array}}{(\text{Trm\_add } t_1 t_2)/m_1 \Downarrow (\text{Val\_number } (\text{float\_add } n_1 n_2))/m_7}$$

## Big-step rules for exceptions

Extension of evaluation judgment to extensions:  $t/m \Downarrow o/m'$ .

$o := \text{Res } v \mid \text{Exn } v$  (Res is left implicit)

$$\frac{t_1/m_1 \Downarrow (\text{Exn } v)/m_2}{(\text{Trm\_add } t_1 t_2)/m_1 \Downarrow (\text{Exn } v)/m_2}$$

$$\frac{t_1/m_1 \Downarrow v_1/m_2 \quad t_2/m_2 \Downarrow (\text{Exn } v)/m_3}{(\text{Trm\_add } t_1 t_2)/m_1 \Downarrow (\text{Exn } v)/m_3}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} t_1/m_1 \Downarrow v_1/m_2 \\ t_2/m_2 \Downarrow v_2/m_3 \\ (\text{to\_primitive } v_1)/m_3 \Downarrow (\text{Exn } v)/m_4 \end{array}}{(\text{Trm\_add } t_1 t_2)/m_1 \Downarrow (\text{Exn } v)/m_4}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} t_1/m_1 \Downarrow v_1/m_2 \\ t_2/m_2 \Downarrow v_2/m_3 \\ (\text{to\_primitive } v_1)/m_3 \Downarrow w_1/m_4 \\ (\text{to\_primitive } v_2)/m_4 \Downarrow (\text{Exn } v)/m_5 \end{array}}{(\text{Trm\_add } t_1 t_2)/m_1 \Downarrow (\text{Exn } v)/m_5}$$

...

## Big-step rules for exceptions, continued

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} t_1/m_1 \Downarrow v_1/m_2 \\ t_2/m_2 \Downarrow v_2/m_3 \\ (\text{to\_primitive } v_1)/m_3 \Downarrow w_1/m_4 \\ (\text{to\_primitive } v_2)/m_4 \Downarrow w_2/m_5 \\ (\text{is\_string } w_1 \vee \text{is\_string } w_2) \\ (\text{to\_string } w_1)/m_5 \Downarrow (\text{Exn } v)/m_6 \end{array}}{(\text{Trm\_add } t_1 t_2)/m_1 \Downarrow (\text{Exn } v)/m_6}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} t_1/m_1 \Downarrow v_1/m_2 \\ t_2/m_2 \Downarrow v_2/m_3 \\ (\text{to\_primitive } v_1)/m_3 \Downarrow w_1/m_4 \\ (\text{to\_primitive } v_2)/m_4 \Downarrow w_2/m_5 \\ (\text{is\_string } w_1 \vee \text{is\_string } w_2) \\ (\text{to\_string } w_1)/m_5 \Downarrow s_1/m_6 \\ (\text{to\_string } w_2)/m_6 \Downarrow (\text{Exn } v)/m_7 \end{array}}{(\text{Trm\_add } t_1 t_2)/m_1 \Downarrow (\text{Exn } v)/m_7}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} t_1/m_1 \Downarrow v_1/m_2 \\ t_2/m_2 \Downarrow v_2/m_3 \\ (\text{to\_primitive } v_1)/m_3 \Downarrow w_1/m_4 \\ (\text{to\_primitive } v_2)/m_4 \Downarrow w_2/m_5 \\ \neg(\text{is\_string } w_1 \vee \text{is\_string } w_2) \\ (\text{to\_number } w_1)/m_5 \Downarrow (\text{Exn } v)/m_6 \end{array}}{(\text{Trm\_add } t_1 t_2)/m_1 \Downarrow (\text{Exn } v)/m_6}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} t_1/m_1 \Downarrow v_1/m_2 \\ t_2/m_2 \Downarrow v_2/m_3 \\ (\text{to\_primitive } v_1)/m_3 \Downarrow w_1/m_4 \\ (\text{to\_primitive } v_2)/m_4 \Downarrow w_2/m_5 \\ \neg(\text{is\_string } w_1 \vee \text{is\_string } w_2) \\ (\text{to\_number } w_1)/m_5 \Downarrow n_1/m_6 \\ (\text{to\_number } w_2)/m_6 \Downarrow (\text{Exn } v)/m_7 \end{array}}{(\text{Trm\_add } t_1 t_2)/m_1 \Downarrow (\text{Exn } v)/m_7}$$

# Pretty-big-step semantics (ESOP'13)

Pretty-big-step evaluation judgment:  $e/m \Downarrow o/m'$

$e :=$   $t$   
| Trm\_add\_1 o t | Trm\_add\_2 v o | Trm\_add\_3 o v | Trm\_add\_4 v o  
| Trm\_add\_5 o v | Trm\_add\_6 s o | Trm\_add\_5' n o | Trm\_add\_6' o v

$$\frac{t_1/m_1 \Downarrow o'/m_2 \quad (\text{Trm\_add\_1 } o' t_2)/m_2 \Downarrow o/m_3}{(\text{Trm\_add } t_1 t_2)/m \Downarrow o/m_3}$$

$$\frac{t_2/m_1 \Downarrow o'/m_2 \quad (\text{Trm\_add\_2 } v_1 o')/m_2 \Downarrow o/m_3}{(\text{Trm\_add\_1 } (\text{Res } v_1) t_2)/m_1 \Downarrow o/m_3}$$

$$\frac{}{(\text{Trm\_add\_1 } (\text{Exn } v) t_2)/m \Downarrow (\text{Exn } v)/m}$$

subsumed by:

$$\frac{\text{outcomeof } e = \text{Some } (\text{Exn } v) \quad \neg \text{is-exception-handler } e}{e/m \Downarrow (\text{Exn } v)/m}$$

## Pretty-big-step rules

$$\frac{(\text{to\_primitive } v_1)_{/m_1} \Downarrow o'_{/m_2} \quad (\text{Trm\_add\_3 } o' v_2)_{/m_2} \Downarrow o_{/m_3}}{(\text{Trm\_add\_2 } v_1 v_2)_{/m_1} \Downarrow o_{/m_3}}$$

$$\frac{(\text{to\_primitive } v_2)_{/m_2} \Downarrow o'_{/m_2} \quad (\text{Trm\_add\_4 } w_1 o')_{/m_2} \Downarrow o_{/m_3}}{(\text{Trm\_add\_3 } w_1 v_2)_{/m_1} \Downarrow o_{/m_3}}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} (\text{is\_string } w_1 \vee \text{is\_string } w_2) \\ (\text{to\_string } w_1)_{/m_1} \Downarrow o'_{/m_2} \\ (\text{Trm\_add\_5 } o' w_2)_{/m_2} \Downarrow o_{/m_3} \end{array}}{(\text{Trm\_add\_4 } w_1 w_2)_{/m_1} \Downarrow o_{/m_3}}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} \neg(\text{is\_string } w_1 \vee \text{is\_string } w_2) \\ (\text{to\_number } w_1)_{/m_1} \Downarrow o'_{/m_2} \\ (\text{Trm\_add\_5}' o' w_2)_{/m_2} \Downarrow o_{/m_3} \end{array}}{(\text{Trm\_add\_4 } w_1 w_2)_{/m_1} \Downarrow o_{/m_3}}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} (\text{to\_string } w_2)_{/m_1} \Downarrow o'_{/m_2} \\ (\text{Trm\_add\_6 } s_1 o')_{/m_2} \Downarrow o_{/m_3} \end{array}}{(\text{Trm\_add\_5 } s_1 w_2)_{/m_1} \Downarrow o_{/m_3}}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} (\text{to\_number } w_2)_{/m_1} \Downarrow o'_{/m_2} \\ (\text{Trm\_add\_6}' n_1 o')_{/m_2} \Downarrow o_{/m_3} \end{array}}{(\text{Trm\_add\_5 } n_1 w_2)_{/m_1} \Downarrow o_{/m_3}}$$

$$\frac{v = \text{Val\_string } (\text{string\_append } s_1 s_2)}{(\text{Trm\_add } 6 s_1 s_2)_{/m} \Downarrow v_{/m}}$$

$$\frac{v = \text{Val\_number } (\text{float\_add } n_1 n_2)}{(\text{Trm\_add } 6' n_1 n_2)_{/m} \Downarrow v_{/m}}$$

## Size and generation of pretty-big-step rules

- ▶ Total size of the rules improved from quadratic to linear.
- ▶ Intermediate forms correspond to the states of the interpreter.
- ▶ We should be able to generate pretty-big-step rules automatically.



# Summary

