

Polish notation does not mix well with decimal notation

User 2473 · 5 Jul 2025

This short post is about a curious observation I made. The observation is that mixing Polish notation with decimal notation results in ambiguity. As an example, consider the string $+321$. It could mean either $3 + 21$, or $32 + 1$. As another example, consider the string $= +12345$. It could mean a variety of things, like $1 + 2 = 345$, or $12 + 3 = 45$ or $12 + 34 = 5$, etc. I guess, then, that you need to put parentheses to disambiguate the expression, like this: $+(3, 21)$ versus $+(32, 1)$.