

# DYALOG

Glasgow 2024

## Tacit Programming in Dyalog



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Rich Park



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Adám Brudzewsky · [xpqz.github.io/cultivations/Trains](https://xpqz.github.io/cultivations/Trains)



Rich Park · [youtu.be/Enlh5qwwDuY](https://youtu.be/Enlh5qwwDuY) “Train Spotting”



Stefan Kruger · [xpqz.github.io/learnapl/tacit](https://xpqz.github.io/learnapl/tacit)



# What is tacit programming?

Explicit code mentions arguments:

- Expression  $(\Gamma / N) - L / N \leftarrow 3 \quad 1 \quad 4 \quad 1 \quad 5$
- Tradfn  $\nabla R \leftarrow \text{Range } Y \dots$
- Dfn  $\{ (\Gamma / \omega) - (L / \omega) \}$

Tacit code implies arguments:

- Tacit  $(\Gamma / - L /)$

# You already know some

$f /$     $f''$     $\circ .g$     $f \backslash$     $A \circ g$     $f \boxminus$     $f \boxplus B$

*Operators derive tacit functions*

# Function composition

$f \circ g$     $f \cdot g$     $f \sim$     $fgh$     $f \circ g$

*Function composition is plumbing  
that guides arguments to functions*

# Benefits

- ◆ Arguments in operands
- ◆ Memorable (like  $\neq \subseteq \vdash$  and  $+ \neq \div \neq$ )
- ◆ Adjacency (like  $\times -$  and  $\vee / \underline{\epsilon}$ )
- ◆ Brevity (like  $F \ddot{\square} C$ )
- ◆ DRY (Don't Repeat Yourself; like  $\equiv \ddot{\rho}$ )
- ◆ Just a general feeling of superiority and awesomeness

# Overview

- ◆ Compositional operators (combinators)
- ◆ Trains (forks and atops)
- ◆ Tools
- ◆ Issues
- ◆ Reading

Plenty of  
exercises  
throughout

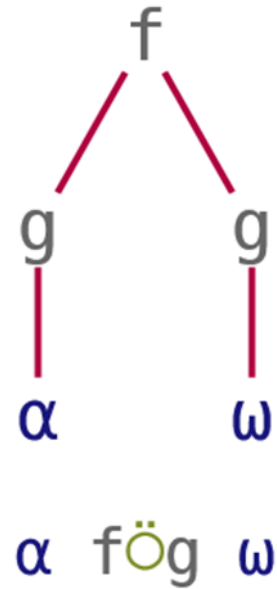


# ö Over

The shape of an outer product  $\alpha \circ . f \ \omega$  is  
 $(\rho\alpha) \ , \ (\rho\omega)$

We can write this as  
 $\alpha \ , \ \ddot{\rho} \ \omega$

*“pre-process both”*



- Beside

Location of  $\alpha^{\text{th}}$  1 in each element of  $\omega$  is

$$\alpha \triangleright \underline{\omega}$$

We can write this as

$$\alpha \triangleright \circ \underline{\omega}$$

*“pre-process right”*

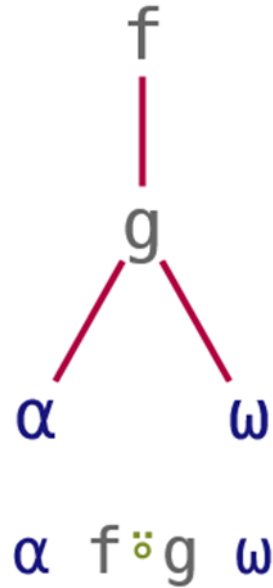


# ◌ Atop

Any-presence of  $\alpha$  in  $\omega$  is  
 $\forall / \alpha \underline{\in} \omega$

We can write this as  
 $\alpha \forall / \circ \underline{\in} \omega$

*“post-process result”*



# ☺ Commute

A multiplication table of N is  
 $(\iota\omega) \circ . \times (\iota\omega)$

We can write this as  
 $\circ . \times \smile \iota\omega$

“selfie”



# Tasks: Tacify!

1. 'Hello'  $\{(\neq\alpha)\equiv(\neq\omega)\}$  'World' 1
2. 'ab' 'cd' 'ab'  $\{+/\alpha\in\omega\}$  'ab' 'de' 2
3. 8 100 0  $\{\alpha\div\lfloor\omega\}$  2.5 4 50 0
4. 10 4 1 0  $\{\alpha\lfloor\lfloor\omega\}$  2.5 2 2 1 0
5.  $\{\neq\backslash\omega=\omega\}$  2 7 1 8 3 1 0 1 0 1

# Train Introduction

Also a type of composition

Sequence of functions in isolation

- Parenthesised:

$(+ / \div \neq) 3 1 4 1 5$

- Assigned

$Avg \leftarrow + / \div \neq$

$Avg 3 1 4 1 5$

Most common mistake

$+ / \div \neq 3 1 4 1 5$   
0.2

$(+ / \div \neq) 3 1 4 1 5$   
2.8

# Discussion: Writing Trains

$$(f\ Y) + (h\ Y) \rightarrow (f + h)\ Y$$
$$(f\ Y) + (\ \ Y) \rightarrow (f + \ )\ Y$$
$$(X\ f\ Y) + (X\ h\ Y) \rightarrow X\ (f + h)\ Y$$
$$(X\ \ ) + (X\ h\ Y) \rightarrow X\ (\ + h)\ Y$$

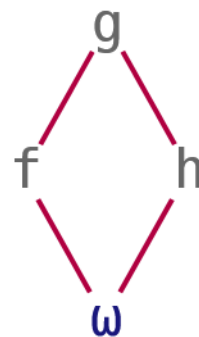
# Discussion: Writing Trains

$(f\ Y)\ g\ (h\ Y) \rightarrow (f\ g\ h)\ Y$

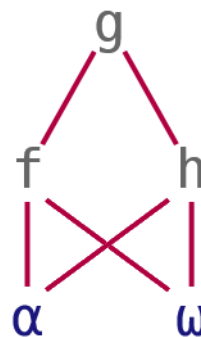
$(f\ Y)\ g\ (\ \ Y) \rightarrow (f\ g\ \_)\ Y$

$(X\ f\ Y)\ g\ (X\ h\ Y) \rightarrow X\ (f\ g\ h)\ Y$

$(X\ \ \ )\ g\ (X\ h\ Y) \rightarrow X\ (\_ \ g\ h)\ Y$



$(fgh)_w$



$\alpha(fgh)_w$



# Discussion: Writing Trains

$(f\ Y)\ g\ (h\ Y) \rightarrow (f\ g\ h)\ Y$

$(f\ Y)\ g\ (\ \ Y) \rightarrow (f\ g\ \ )\ Y$

$g\ (h\ Y) \rightarrow (\ g\ h)\ Y$

$(X\ f\ Y)\ g\ (X\ h\ Y) \rightarrow X\ (f\ g\ h)\ Y$

$(X\ \ )\ g\ (X\ h\ Y) \rightarrow X\ (\ \ g\ h)\ Y$

$g\ (X\ h\ Y) \rightarrow X\ (\ g\ h)\ Y$

# Discussion: Writing Trains

$(f\ Y)\ g\ (h\ Y) \rightarrow (f\ g\ h)\ Y$

$(f\ Y)\ g\ (\ \ Y) \rightarrow (f\ g\ \ )\ Y$

$f\ (g\ Y) \rightarrow (\ f\ g)\ Y$

$(X\ f\ Y)\ g\ (X\ h\ Y) \rightarrow X\ (f\ g\ h)\ Y$

$(X\ \ \ )\ g\ (X\ h\ Y) \rightarrow X\ (\ \ g\ h)\ Y$

$f\ (X\ g\ Y) \rightarrow X\ (\ f\ g)\ Y$

f  
|  
g  
|  
ω

(fg)ω

f  
|  
g  
/ \  
α ω

α(fg)ω

# Train Details

Some parts can be arrays:

- $A g h$  is  $\{A\} g h$

Two sub-types of trains:

- Fork:  $f g h$  and  $A g h$
- Atop:  $f g$

Longer trains:

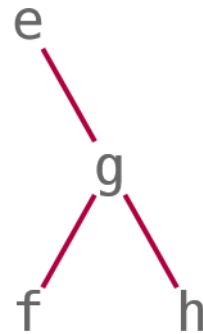
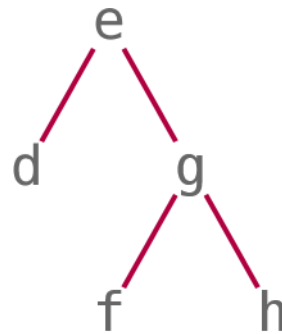
- $(d e f g h)$  is  $(d e (f g h))$
- $(e f g h)$  is  $(e (f g h))$



$(Agh)\omega$



$\alpha(Agh)\omega$



# Example: Writing a Train

1            { ^ / ( Γ \ ω ) = ω }    1 3 5 6 7

1            { ^ / ( Γ \ ω ) = ( ⊢ ω ) }    1 3 5 6 7

1            { ^ / ( Γ \ = ⊢ ) ω }    1 3 5 6 7

1            { ( ^ / Γ \ = ⊢ ) ω }    1 3 5 6 7

1            ( ^ / Γ \ = ⊢ )    1 3 5 6 7

# Tasks: Convert dfn to tacit

1.  $\{1+\omega\}$  2 7 1 8

3 8 2 9

2. 3 1 4  $\{(\alpha\cup\omega)\sim(\alpha\cap\omega)\}$  1 6 1

3 4 6

3.  $\{\cup\omega\vee\tau\omega\}$  10

1 2 5 10

4. 2  $\{(\alpha\supset\psi\omega)\supset\omega\}$  2 7 1 8 3

7

5.  $\{\omega*2\}$  2 7 1 8 3

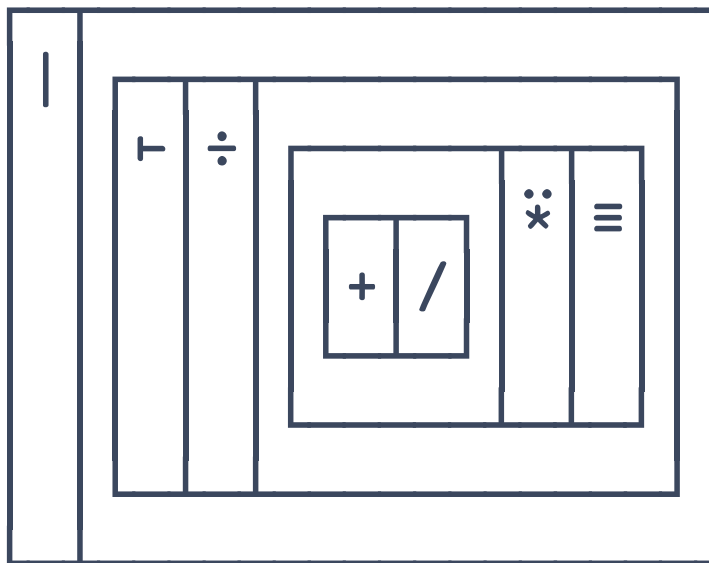
4 49 1 64 9

**Bonus:**  
Find 3 ways  
to do this!

# Amazing tool: ]box on

]box on

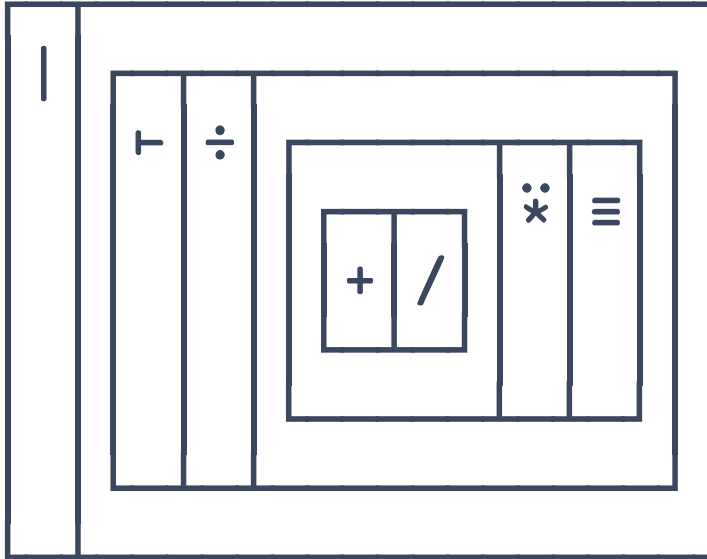
|┌÷+ / \* ≡



]box on -t=...

|┌÷+ / \* ≡

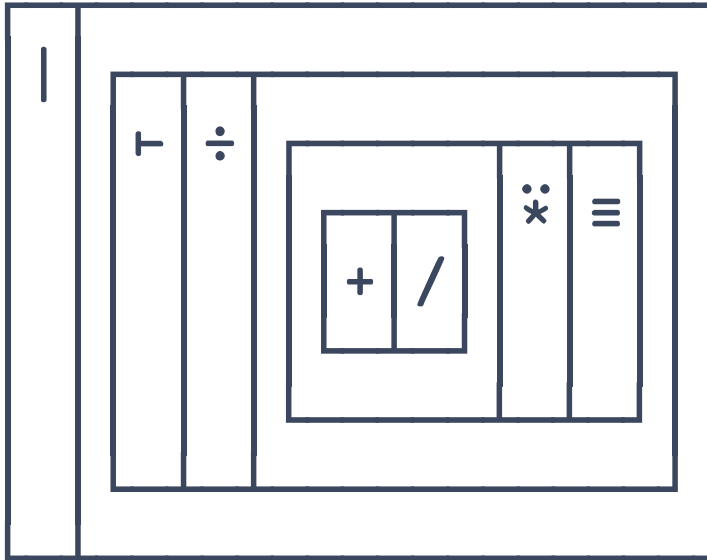
-t=box





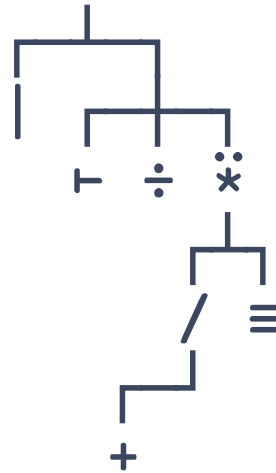
]box on -t=...

-t=box



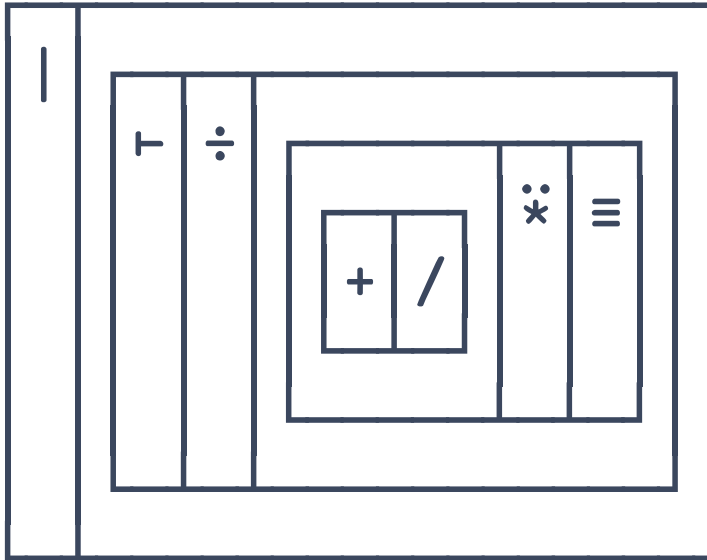
| t ÷ + / \* ≡

-t=tree



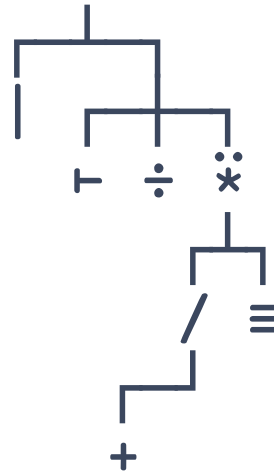
]box on -t=...

-t=box



|t ÷ + / \* ≡

-t=tree



-t=parens

| (t ÷ ((+ /) \* ≡))

# Tasks: Convert dfn to tacit

1.  $\{(\ominus\omega)\perp(\ominus\omega)\}$  1 1 1 0 1 1 0 0 3
2. ',;'  $\{(\sim\omega\in\alpha)\subseteq\omega\}$  'ab,de;fgh' ab de fgh  
nums←2 7 1 8 3
3. 4  $\{(\alpha+\neq\omega)\div\alpha\}$  nums 4.5 4.75
4.  $\{(\neq\omega)\div\neq\omega\}$  nums 4.2
5. **Bonus task:** Combine 3 & 4 into an ambivalent function.

# Issues

- ◆ Arguments in operands
- ◆ Lots of monadic functions
- ◆ Dotting, Assignment, Recursion
- ◆ Selection

# Issues: Arguments in operands

10 {x←α ◊ φ@{x<ω}ω} 1 2 13 14 5 16 7 18

1 2 18 16 5 14 7 13

10 { φ@(α<←)ω} 1 2 13 14 5 16 7 18

1 2 18 16 5 14 7 13

2 {(φ◊φ\*α)ω} 3 3ρι9

9 8 7

6 5 4

3 2 1

# Issues: Lots of monadic functions

$$\{\phi + / \uparrow \phi'' \omega\}$$
$$\phi \ddot{\circ} (+ /) \ddot{\circ} \uparrow \ddot{\circ} (\phi'')$$
$$\phi (+ / (\uparrow \phi''))$$
$$\phi + / \ddot{\circ} \uparrow \ddot{\circ} (\phi'')$$
$$\phi (+ / \ddot{\circ} \uparrow \phi'')$$

# Issues: Recursion, Assignment, Dotting

- Namespace “dotting”
- Assignment
- Recursion

`{9≠□NC'ω':ω◇n,τ▽''ω±''n←ω.□NL-2 9}`



# Issues: Selection

4 5       $\{(3 > \omega) \neq \omega\}$     3 1 4 1 5

$(3 \circ > \neq \vdash)$       3 1 4 1 5  
**SYNTAX ERROR**

$(3 \circ > \neq \vdash)$       3 1 4 1 5  
**SYNTAX ERROR**

4 5       $(3 \circ > \neq \ddot{\circ} \neq \vdash)$  3 1 4 1 5

$3 \circ > \underline{\circ} \neq$       3 1 4 1 5

20.0 Conference Edition



# Issues: Selection

```
'aeiou' {ω[αΔω]} 'hello world'  
eoo hll wrld
```

```
'aeiou' {ω[]~αΔω} 'hello world'  
LENGTH ERROR
```

```
'aeiou' {ω[]~cαΔω} 'hello world'  
eoo hll wrld
```

```
'aeiou' (cöΔ[]⊢) 'hello world'  
eoo hll wrld
```

```
'aeiou' (Δ≥⊢) 'hello world'
```

21.0?

# Reading Tacit

operator scope

trains

putting it all together

# Reading Tacit: operator scope

= o φ o 0 1 ~ o 5

# Reading Tacit: operator scope

= o φ o 0 1 ~ o 1 5

# Reading Tacit: operator scope

= o φ o 0 1 ~ o 5

# Reading Tacit: operator scope

= o φ o 0 1 z o 5

# Reading Tacit: operator scope

= o φ ö 0 1 ~ o ι 5

# Reading Tacit: operator scope

= o φ 0 1 ~ o 5



# Reading Tacit: operator scope

= o  $\phi$   $\ddot{o}$  0 1  $\ddot{\sim}$   $\circ$  1 5

# Reading Tacit: operator scope

= ◦ ϕ ◦ 0 1 ~ ◦ ι 5

# Reading Tacit: operator scope

=◦φ◦0 1~◦ι5

# Reading Tacit: operator scope

`= o φ o 0 1 ~ o ι 5`

`(( (( = o φ ) o 0 1 ) ~ ) o ι ) 5`

# Reading Tacit: operator scope

= ° φ ° 0 1 ~ ° ι 5  
( ( ( ( = ° φ ) ° 0 1 ) ~ ) ° ι ) 5

# Reading Tacit: operator scope

= ° φ ° 0 1 ⌈ 5  
(( ( ( = ° φ ) ° 0 1 ) ⌈ ) ° 5

# Reading Tacit: operator scope

= o φ ö 0 1 ~ o ι 5  
((( (= o φ) ö 0 1) ~) o ι) 5

# Reading Tacit: operator scope

= ◦ ϕ ◦ 0 1 ~ ◦ ι 5  
((( (= ◦ ϕ) ◦ 0 1 ) ~) ◦ ι ) 5



# Writing Tacit: operator scope

1 {α[+ /ω} 3 1 ^4 1 ^5

1 [◦+ / 3 1 ^4 1 ^5

1 [◦+ / 3 1 ^4 1 ^5

1 ([◦+ ) / 3 1 ^4 1 ^5

1 [◦ ( + / ) 3 1 ^4 1 ^5

1 {α[+ /ω} 3 1 ^4 1 ^5

# Tasks: Convert tacit to dfn

1. Monadic  $\neq \circ + \sim$
2. Monadic  $\uparrow \ddot{o}, \ddot{o}c$
3. Dyadic  $\uparrow \ddot{o}, \ddot{o}c$
4. Dyadic  $+ \circ \div * \equiv$

Bonus tasks:

5. Combine 2. and 3. into a single ambivalent function  
Hint: use the  $\{\alpha \leftarrow \dots \diamond \dots\}$  syntax

# Reading Tacit: trains

( + , - ) 4

4 -4

# Reading Tacit: trains

`((+4), (-4))`

`4 -4`

# Reading Tacit: trains

`(4, -4)`

`4 -4`

# Reading Tacit: trains

```
10 (+, -) 4  
14 6
```

# Reading Tacit: trains

```
((10+4), (10-4))
```

```
14 6
```

# Reading Tacit: trains

`(14,6)`

`14 6`



# Reading Tacit: trains

( | + / ÷ 1 [ ≠ ) 3 <sup>-1</sup> <sup>-4</sup> 1 <sup>-5</sup>

# Reading Tacit: trains

( | + / ÷ 1 [ ≠ ) 3 ^-1 ^-4 1 ^-5

# Reading Tacit: trains

```
( | +/ ÷ 1 [ ≠ ) 3 ^-1 ^-4 1 ^-5
( | (+/3 ^-1 ^-4 1 ^-5) ÷ 1 [ (≠3 ^-1 ^-4 1 ^-5) )
( | ^-6 ÷ 1 [ 5 )
( | ^-6 ÷ 5 )
( | ^-1.2 )
      1.2
```

# Reading Tacit: trains

```
(| +/ ÷ 1 | ≠) 3 ^-1 ^-4 1 ^-5
(| (+/3 ^-1 ^-4 1 ^-5) ÷ 1 | (≠3 ^-1 ^-4 1 ^-5))
(| ^-6 ÷ 1 | 5)
(| ^-6 ÷ 5)
(| ^-1.2)
1.2
```

# Reading Tacit: putting it all together

```
( c ö ? ~ ° ≠ [] ⌈ ) ' AEIOU '
```

# Reading Tacit: putting it all together

```
( c ö ? ~ o ≠ [] ⋮ ) ' AEIOU '
```

# Reading Tacit: putting it all together

```
(cö?~o≠          [] ⍥) 'AEIOU'  
((cö?~o≠ 'AEIOU') [] (⍥ 'AEIOU'))
```

# Reading Tacit: putting it all together

```
(cö?~o≠           [] ⍫) 'AEIOU'  
((cö?~o≠ 'AEIOU') [] (⍫ 'AEIOU'))  
((cö?~ 5           ) [] 'AEIOU' )
```



# Reading Tacit: putting it all together

```
( cö?~o≠           [] ⍒ ) 'AEIOU'  
( ( cö?~o≠ 'AEIOU' ) [] (⍒ 'AEIOU' ) )  
( ( cö?~ 5           ) [] 'AEIOU' )  
( (5 cö? 5)           [] 'AEIOU' )
```

# Reading Tacit: putting it all together

```
( c ö ? ~ ≠ □ ⋮ ) 'AEIOU'  
( ( c ö ? ~ ≠ 'AEIOU' ) □ ( ⋮ 'AEIOU' ) )  
( ( c ö ? ~ 5 ) □ 'AEIOU' )  
( ( 5 c ö ? 5 ) □ 'AEIOU' )  
( ( c 5 ? 5 ) □ 'AEIOU' )
```

# Reading Tacit: putting it all together

```
(cö?~o≠ [] ⍫) 'AEIOU'  
((cö?~o≠ 'AEIOU') [] (⍫ 'AEIOU'))  
((cö?~ 5) [] 'AEIOU')  
((5 cö? 5) [] 'AEIOU')  
((c 5 ? 5) [] 'AEIOU')
```

# Tasks: Convert tacit to dfn

1. Monadic  $\times \times \lfloor \ddot{\circ} \rfloor$
2. Dyadic  $\lfloor \circ \neq \uparrow \vdash$
3. Dyadic  $\equiv \ddot{\circ} (\square C \sim \circ ' ' )$
4. Monadic  $+ / \vdash > + / \div \neq$

Bonus task:

5. Monadic  $\phi \equiv \vdash \vdash \equiv \phi$

# Tasks: Determine valence

1.  $1 + \rho \perp^{-1} \circ +$
2.  $+ / \wedge \backslash \ddot{=}$
3.  $|^{-1} 1 | 1 \perp + \backslash$
4.  $1 \ 1 \phi \circ . +$
5.  $, \ddot{\phi}$
6.  $/ \ddot{,}$

# Reading Tacit: tacit.help

## Transform tacit APL into dfn form

$f \leftarrow$

$f \ Y \Leftrightarrow$

$X \ f \ Y \Leftrightarrow$

+

#

Arrays:  $A, B, C, \dots$     Functions:  $a, b, c, \dots$

# Task: Working with tacit code

This dyadic function is like `⌊` but gives 0 for “not found”:

$$(\ \iota \times \neq \circ \neg \geq \iota )$$

Make it more efficient by:

- ◆ Breaking out `⌊` from the parenthesis  
Hint: Pass all the data you need to the inner function

Then simplify it by:

- ◆ Using `∘` instead of `∘` and adjusting the rest as necessary

# Task: Working with tacit code

This function is applied to a non-empty numeric vector:

$$(+ \backslash \epsilon \ddot{\circ} \iota + /)$$

Make it more efficient by:

- Breaking out  $+ \backslash$  from the parenthesis
- Computing what would be  $+ /$  from  $+ \backslash$   
Hint:  $+ /$  is the last element of  $+ \backslash$



## Function composition:

- ◌ *Pre-process both*
- *Pre-process right*
- ◌◌ *Post-process*
- ◌◌◌ *Selfie*

**Operators:** long left scope

**Trains:** odd-even from right

**Tools:** ]box on -t=...  
tacit.help

## Issues with tacit:

- Arguments in operands
- Lots of monadic functions
- Namespace “dotting”
- Assignment
- Recursion
- Selection:  
┌◌◌≠  
◌◌◌... [] ...