

Recursion

Data Structures
C++ for C Coders

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Data Structures

Chapter 1

- *algorithm specification*
recursive algorithm
- *data abstraction*
- *performance analysis - time complexity*

Algorithm Specification

- Input
- Output
- Definiteness – clear and unambiguous
- Finiteness – it terminates after a finite number of steps
- Effectiveness – it is carried out and feasible

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Recursion

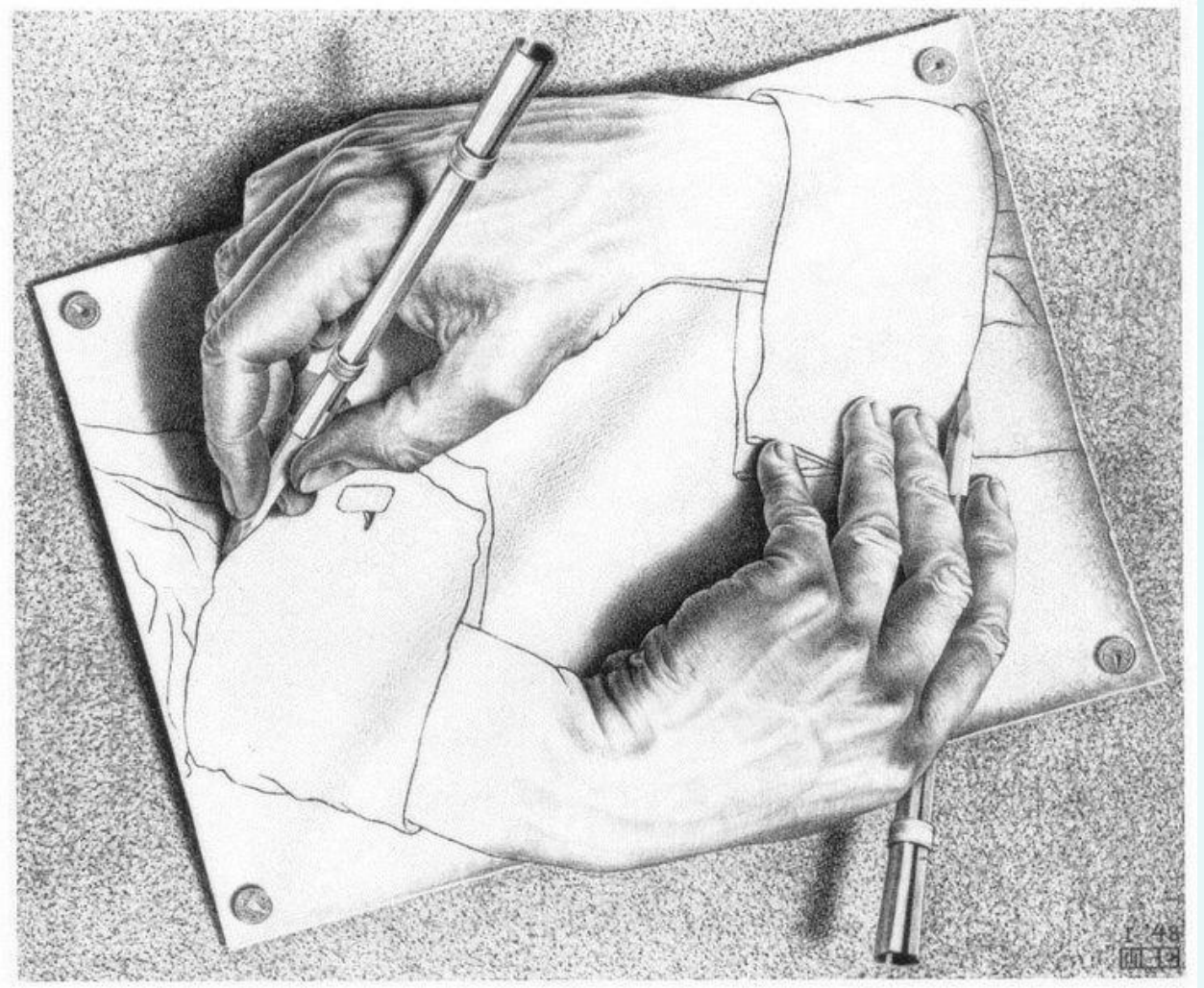
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- A process in which the result of each repetition is dependent upon the result of the next repetition
- Simplifies program structure at a cost of function calls

Algorithm Specification

- Input
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- Ex. **program = algorithms + data**
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Recursion

- See recursion
- A process in which the result of each step is used as input for the next repetition
- Simplifies program structure at a cost



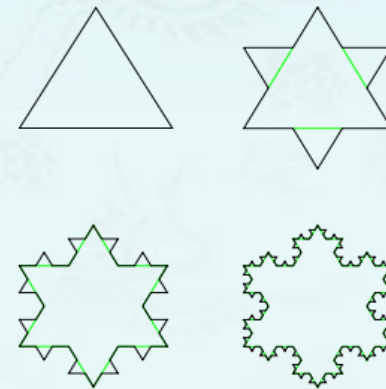
recursion is when a function calls itself

Recursive algorithms

Recursion is a method where the solution to a problem depends on solutions to **smaller** instances of the same problem (as opposed to iteration).

Recursive algorithm is expressed in terms of

1. **base case(s)** for which the solution can be stated **non-recursively**,



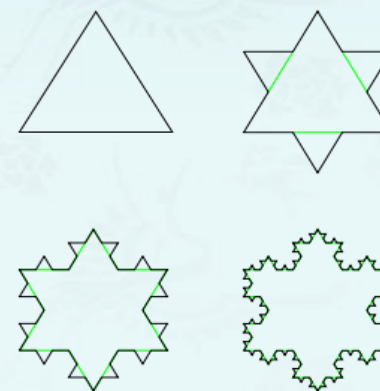
Four stages in the construction of a **Koch snowflake**. The stages are obtained via a recursive definition.

Recursive algorithms

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1. **base case(s)** for which the solution can be stated **non-recursively**,
2. **recursive case(s)** for which the solution can be expressed in terms of a **smaller version of itself**.



Four stages in the construction of a **Koch snowflake**. The stages are obtained via a recursive definition.

Recursive algorithms

Example: Factorial

$$\text{fact}(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 0 \\ n \cdot \text{fact}(n - 1) & \text{if } n > 0 \end{cases}$$

Recursive algorithms

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factorial(n)

function factorial

input: integer n such that $n \geq 0$

output: $[n \times (n-1) \times (n-2) \times \dots \times 1]$

1. if n is 0, **return** 1

2. otherwise, **return** $[n \times \text{factorial}(n-1)]$

end factorial

Exercise: With four students, compute $4!$ using recursion.

Recursive algorithms

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factorial ($n = 4$)

$$\begin{aligned} f_4 &= 4 * f_3 \\ &= 4 * (3 * f_2) \\ &= 4 * (3 * (2 * f_1)) \\ &= 4 * (3 * (2 * (1 * f_0))) \\ &= 4 * (3 * (2 * (1 * 1))) \\ &= 4 * (3 * (2 * 1)) \\ &= 4 * (3 * 2) \\ &= 4 * 6 \\ &= 24 \end{aligned}$$

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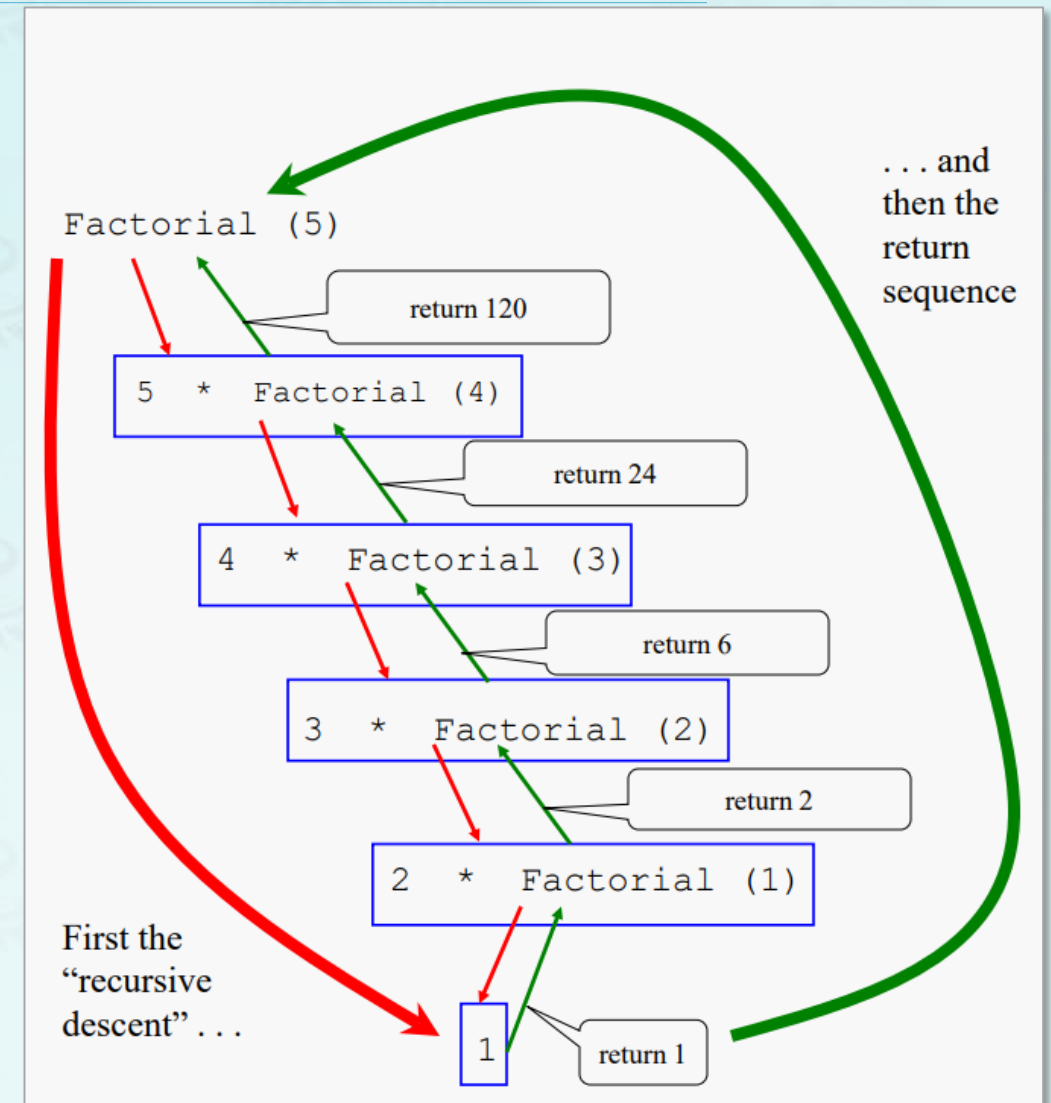
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Exercise: GCD recursively with $\text{gcd}(x=259, y=111) = ?$

Recursive algorithms

Example: GCD (Great common divisor)

$$\text{gcd}(x, y) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } y = 0 \\ \text{gcd}(y, \text{remainder}(x, y)) & \text{if } y > 0 \end{cases}$$

Recursive algorithms

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gcd(x, y)

function gcd

input: integer x, y such that $x \geq y$, $y > 0$

output: gcd of x and y

1. if y is 0, **return** x

2. otherwise, **return** [gcd (y, $x\%y$)]

end gcd

Recursive algorithms

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gcd (x=259, y=111)

gcd(259, 111)

= gcd(111, $259 \% 111$)

= **gcd(111, 37)**

= gcd(37, $111 \% 37$)

= **gcd(37, 0)**

= 37

Recursive algorithms

Example: GCD (Great common divisor)

$$\text{gcd}(x, y) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } y = 0 \\ \text{gcd}(y, \text{remainder}(x, y)) & \text{if } y > 0 \end{cases}$$

| gcd(x, y) |
|---|
| function gcd input: integer x, y such that x >= y, y > 0 output: gcd of x and y 1. if y is 0, return x 2. otherwise, return [gcd (y, x%y)] end gcd |

| gcd (x=259, y=111) |
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Exercises: gcd(91, 52)

Exercises: Fibonacci, Binomial coefficients(p.14), Akerman's function(p.17)

Recursive algorithms

Execution sequence of recursive functions:

Exercise: What is the output of the function (num=0)?

execution sequence

```
void recursiveFunction(int num) {  
    printf("%d\n", num);  
    if (num < 4)  
        recursiveFunction(num + 1);  
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```

Recursive algorithms

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| | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | recursiveFunction (0) | | |
| 2 | printf (0) | | |
| 3 | | recursiveFunction (0+1) | |
| 4 | | printf (1) | |
| 5 | | | recursiveFunction (1+1) |
| 6 | | | printf (2) |
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| 8 | | | printf (3) |
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Recursive algorithms

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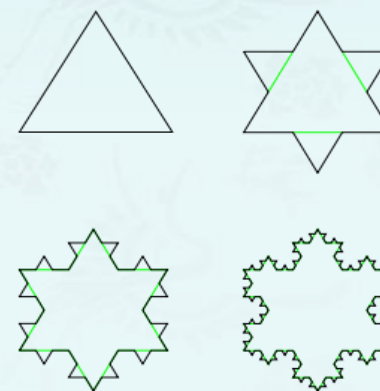
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Recursive algorithms

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Four stages in the construction of a **Koch snowflake**. The stages are obtained via a recursive definition.

Recursive algorithms

Example: Recursive binary search

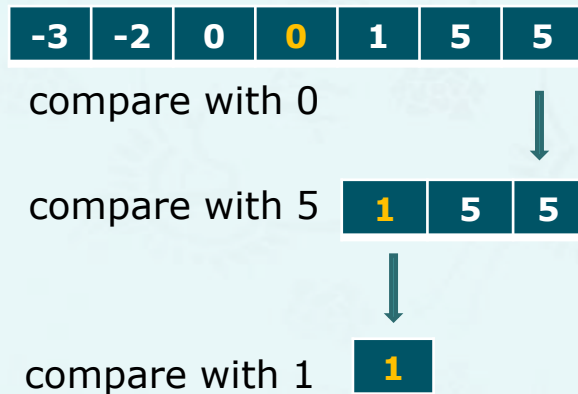
It searches a *sorted* array of **ints** for a particular **int**. Let **i** be an array of **ints** sorted from least to greatest. For instance, $\{-3, -2, 0, 0, 1, 5, 5\}$. We want to search **the array for the value** "wally". If we find "wally", we return its array *index*; otherwise, we return FAILURE(-1).
Let's suppose "wally" is 1.

Recursive algorithms



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Exercise: Base case(s) & recursive case(s):?

`int binarySearch(int list[], int wally, int lo, int hi)`

Recursive algorithms



Example: Recursive binary search

Exercise: Base case(s) & recursive case(s):?

```
int binarySearch(int list[], int wally, int lo, int hi)

if (lo > hi) return -1;                // base case

mid = (lo + hi)/2;
if (wally == list[mid]) return mid;    // base case
if (wally < list[mid])
    return binarySearch(list, wally, lo, mid-1 ); // recursive
else
    return binarySearch(list, wally, mid+1, hi ); // recursive
```

Recursive algorithms



Example: Recursive binary search

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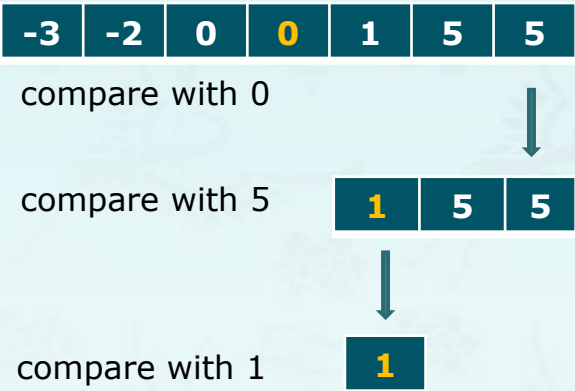
How long does the binarySearch() take?

In one call to binarySearch(), we eliminate at least half the elements from consideration. Hence, it takes $\log_2 n$ (the base 2 logarithm of n) binarySearch() calls to pare down the possibilities to one. Therefore binarySearch takes time proportional to $\log_2 n$.

Recursive algorithms



Example: Recursive binary search – revisited



| | Stack | Stack | Heap |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| binsearch() | lo[4] hi[4] mid[4] | wally[1] list[.] | |
| binsearch() | lo[4] hi[6] mid[5] | wally[1] list[.] | |
| binsearch() | lo[0] hi[6] mid[3] | wally[1] list[.] | |
| binsearch() | wally[1] | list[.] | [-3 -2 0 0 1 5 5] |
| main() | | args[.] | args[] |

Most operating systems give a program enough stack space for a few thousand stack frames. If you use a recursive procedure to walk through a million-node list, the program will try to create a million stack frames, and **the stack will run out of space**. The result is a run-time error.

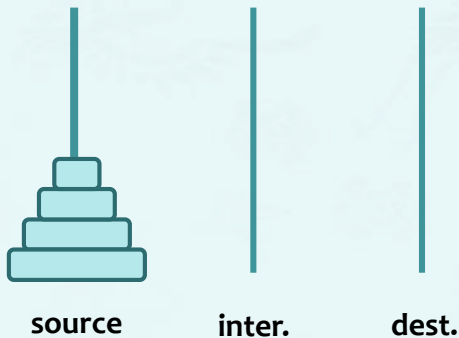
Recursive algorithms

Example: Tower of Hanoi (Refer to p.17, Ex11)

Given three pegs, one with a set of N disks of increasing size, determine the minimum (optimal) number of steps it takes to move all the disks from their initial position to a single **stack** on another peg *without placing a larger disk on top of a smaller one. Only one disk can be moved at any time.*

Recursive algorithm:

- (1) Move the top **$n-1$** disks from **source** to **intermediate**.
- (2) Move the remaining (**largest**) disk from **source** to **destination**.
- (3) Move the **$n-1$** disks from **intermediate** to **destination**.

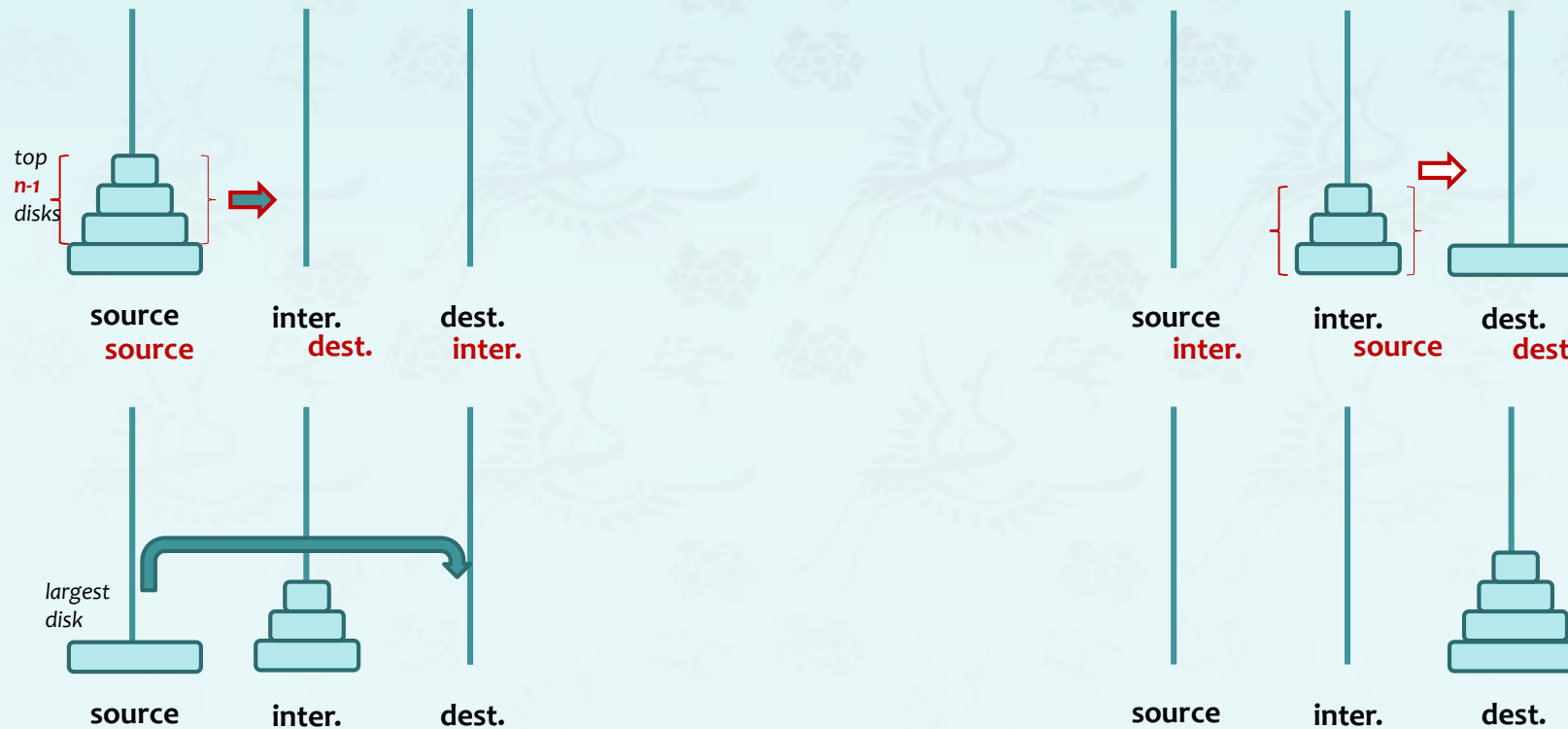


Recursive algorithms

Example: Tower of Hanoi

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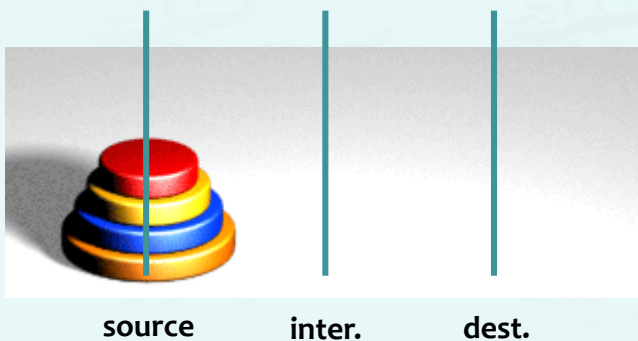


Recursive algorithms

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Recursive algorithms

Exercise: Tower of Hanoi – revisited

Recursive algorithm:

- (1) Move the top ***n-1*** disks from ***source*** to ***intermediate***.
- (2) Move the remaining (***largest***) disk from ***source*** to ***destination***.
- (3) Move the ***n-1*** disks from ***intermediate*** to ***destination***.

How do you program this to have the output as shown below?

Disk 1 from A to C
Disk 2 from A to B
Disk 1 from C to B
Disk 3 from A to C
Disk 1 from B to A
Disk 2 from B to C
Disk 1 from A to C

| hanoi() |
|---|
| <pre>void hanoi(int n, char from, char inter, char to) { if (n == 1) printf("Disk 1 from %c to %c\n", from, to); else { hanoi(n - 1, from, to, inter); printf("Disk %d from %c to %c\n", n, from, to); hanoi(n - 1, inter, from, to); } }</pre> |



Recursive algorithms

Exercise: How many moves for n disks in Tower of Hanoi, $\text{hanoi}(n)$?

Recursive algorithm:

- (1) Move the top $n-1$ disks from **source** to **intermediate**.
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$\text{hanoi}(n-1)$ move

$\text{hanoi}(1)$ move

$\text{hanoi}(n-1)$ move

$$\text{hanoi}(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ 2 \cdot \text{hanoi}(n-1) + 1 & \text{if } n > 1 \end{cases}$$

Exercise:

$\text{hanoi}(2) = 3$

$\text{hanoi}(4) = 15$

$\text{hanoi}(32) = 4,294,967,295$

$\text{hanoi}(64) = 18,446,744,073,709,600,000$

$\text{hanoi}(n = 4)$

```
hanoi(4)
= 2*hanoi(3) + 1
= 2*(2*hanoi(2) + 1) + 1
= 2*(2*(2*hanoi(1) + 1) + 1) + 1
= 2*(2*(2*1 + 1) + 1) + 1
= 2*(2*(3) + 1) + 1
= 2*(7) + 1 = 15
```

How many years will take to move 64 disks?

~ 584,942,417,355 years

https://hanoi.aimary.com/index_en.php

Recursive algorithms

Q: Is the recursive version usually faster?

A: No -- it's usually slower (due to the overhead of maintaining the stack)

Q: Does the recursive version usually use less memory?

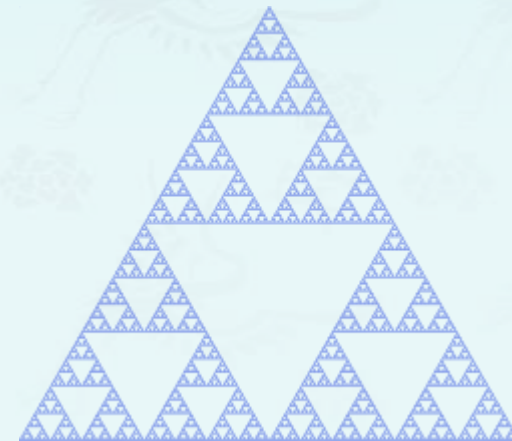
A: No -- it usually uses **more** memory (for the stack).

Q: Then **why** use recursion?

A: Sometimes it is much simpler to write the recursive version.

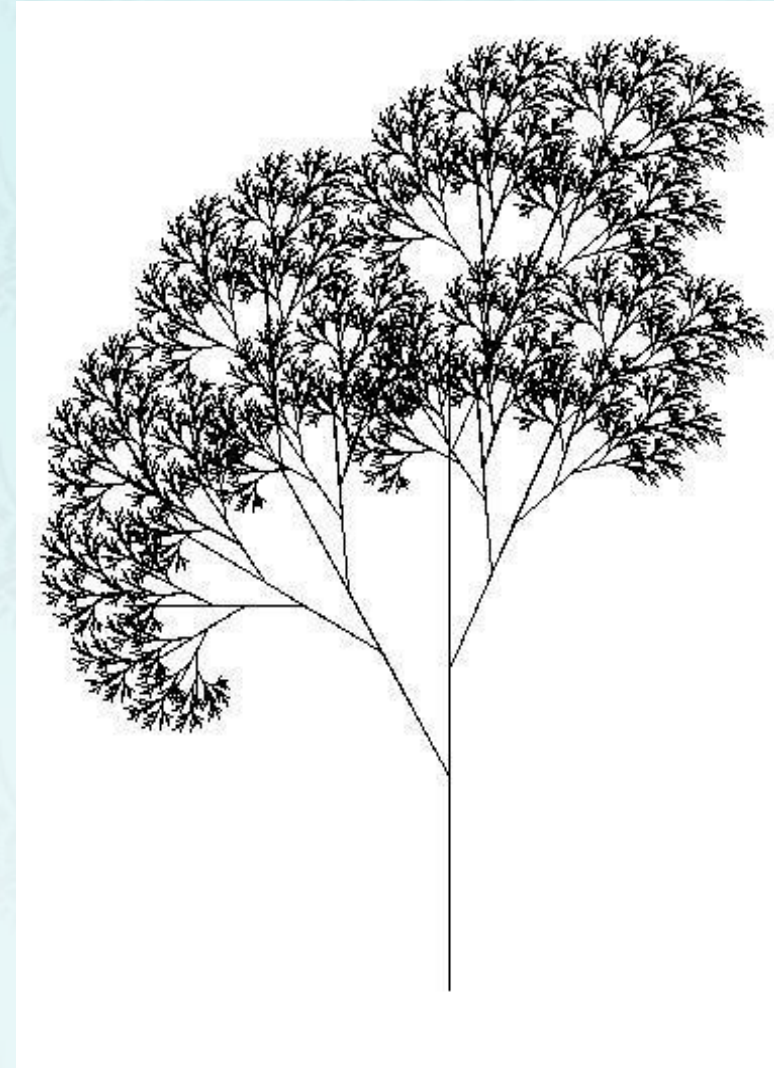
How the function call work? See[System Stack] in p.108.

*Because the recursive version causes an **activation record** to be pushed onto the system stack for every call, it is also more limited than the iterative version (it will fail, with a "stack overflow" error), for large values of N.*



Sierpinski Triangle:
a confined recursion of
triangles to form a
geometric lattice

Recursive algorithms



Recursion
GNU

see Recursion
GNU's not Unix.

Data Structures

Chapter 1

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 recursive algorithm
- ***data abstraction***
- *performance analysis - time complexity*