

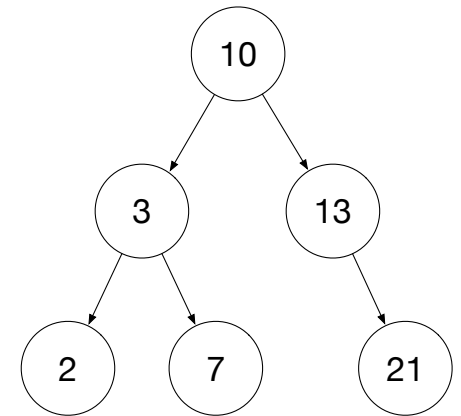
# A crash course in binary trees

We'll revisit in MSDS689 but we need binary trees for projects now

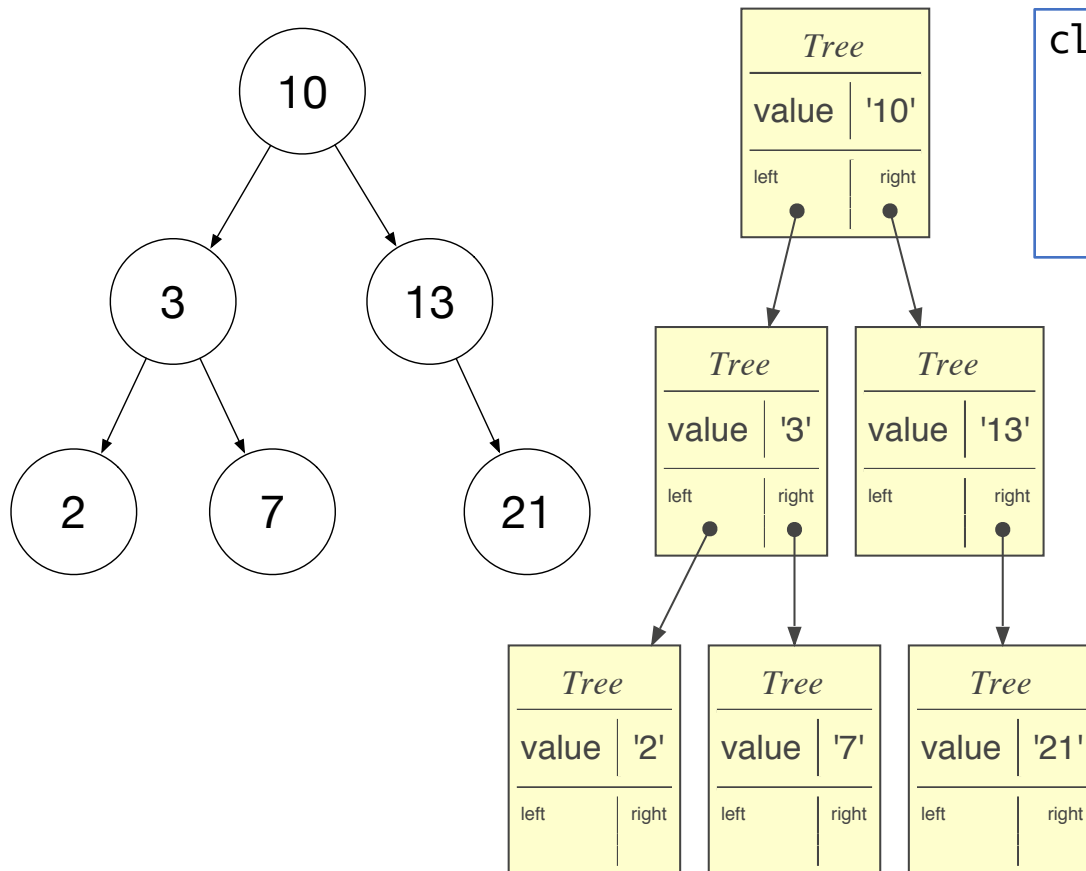
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# Binary tree abstract data structure

- A directed-graph with internal nodes and leaves
- No cycles and each node has at most one parent
- Each node has at most 2 child nodes
- For  $n$  nodes, there are  $n-1$  edges
- Nodes have payloads (values), can be anything
- A *full* binary tree: all internal nodes have 2 children
- Height of full tree with  $n$  internal nodes is about  $\log_2(n)$
- Height defined as number of edges along path root→leaf
- Level 0 is root, level 1, ...
- Note: binary tree doesn't imply *binary search tree*



# Concrete binary tree using pointers



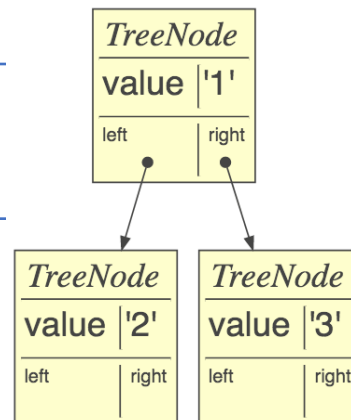
```
class TreeNode:
    def __init__(self, value, left, right):
        self.value = value
        self.left = left
        self.right = right
```

# Building binary trees

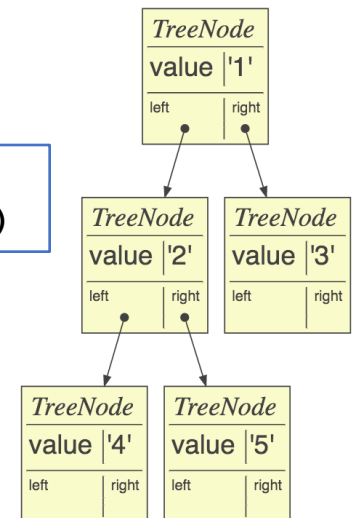
```
class TreeNode:
    def __init__(self, value, left, right):
        self.value = value
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```

- Manual construction is a simple matter of creating nodes and setting left/right child pointers or passing kids to init

```
root = TreeNode(1)
root.left = TreeNode(2)
root.right = TreeNode(3)
```



```
root.left.left = TreeNode(4)
root.left.right = TreeNode(5)
```



or

```
root = TreeNode(1, TreeNode(2), TreeNode(3))
```

# Recursion detour

# Math recurrence relations => recursion

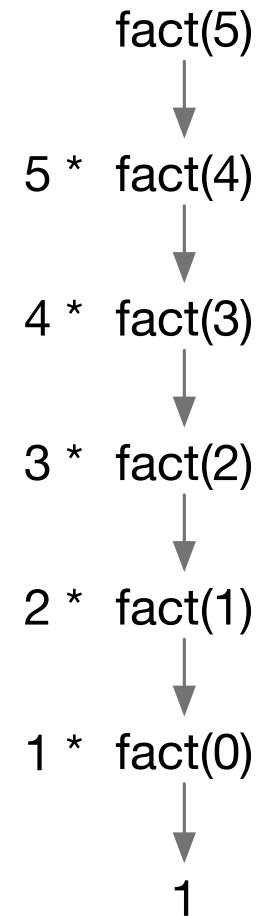
- Factorial definition:
  - Let  $0! = 1$
  - Define  $n! = n * (n-1)!$  for  $n \geq 1$
- Recurrent math function calls become recursive function call in Python
- Non-recursive version is harder to understand and less natural

```
def fact(n):  
    if n==0: return 1  
    return n * fact(n-1)
```

```
def factloop(n):  
    r = 1  
    for i in range(1,n+1):  
        r *= i  
    return r
```

# Recursion traces out a call graph

- Think of each call to function as node in chain or graph of calls
- Result of each function call is a piece of the result and each call combines subresult(s) to create more complete answer and passes it back



# Formula for writing recursive functions

```
def f(input):
```

1. check termination condition
2. process the active input region / current node, etc...
3. invoke f on subregion(s)
4. combine and return results

Steps 2 and 4 are optional

```
def fact(n):
```

```
    if n==0: return 1  
    return n * fact(n-1)
```

Terminology: *currently-active region* or *element* is what function is currently trying to process. Here, that is argument  $n$  (the “region” is the numbers  $0..n$ )



# Don't let the recursion scare you

- Just pretend that you are calling a different function
- Or, pretend that you are calling the same function except that it is known to be correct already
- We call this the *recursive leap of faith*
- Follow the “Formula for recursive functions” and all will be well!

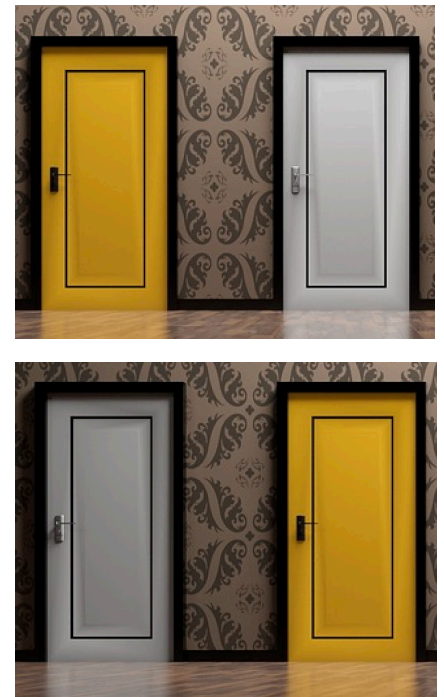
# Recursive tree procedures

# An analogy for recursive tree walking

- Imagine searching for an item in a maze of rooms connected by doors (no cycles)
- Each room has at most 2 doors, some have none
- Search procedure that works in ANY room:

```
def visit(room):  
    if item in room: print("rejoice!")  
    if room.left exists: visit(room.left)  
    if room.right exists: visit(room.right)
```

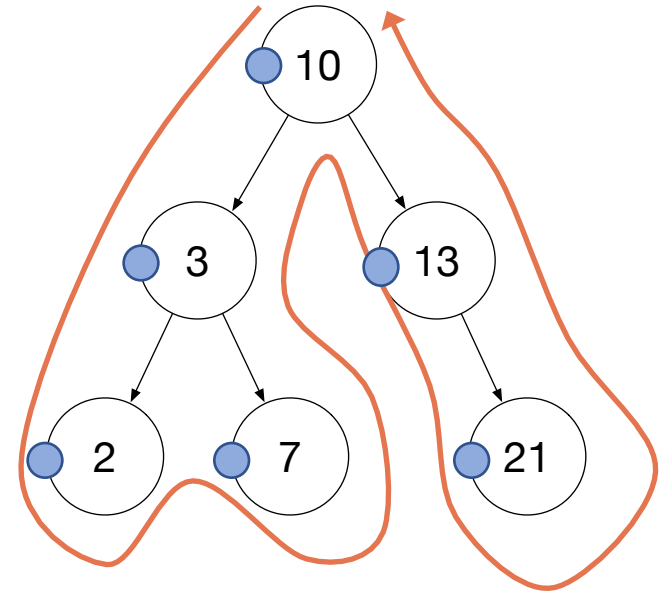
- This approach is called *backtracking*



# Recursive tree walk is natural

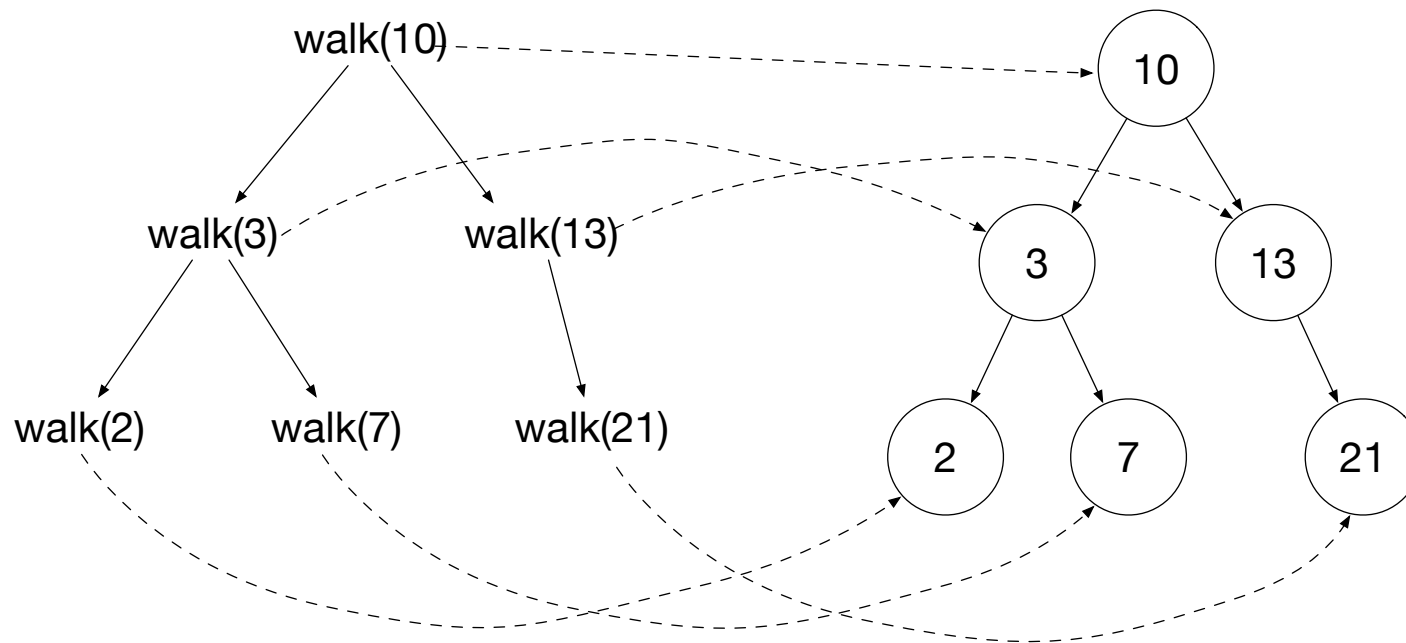
- *Depth-first search* is how we walk (visit) through nodes
- *Pre-order traversal*: executing an action at discovery time, before visiting kids

```
def walk(p:TreeNode):  
    if p is None: return  
    print(p.value) # preorder  
    walk(p.left)  
    walk(p.right)
```



# Recursion call tree vs tree

```
def walk(p:TreeNode):  
    if p is None: return  
    walk(p.left)  
    walk(p.right)
```



Exhaustive search of all nodes

# Searching in binary tree

- Let's modify the tree walker to search for an element and compare to unrestricted depth-first tree walk

```
def walk(p:TreeNode):  
    if p is None: return  
    walk(p.left)  
    walk(p.right)
```

```
def search(p:TreeNode, x:object):  
    if p is None: return None  
    if x==p.value: return p  
    q = search(p.left, x)  
    if q is not None: return q  
    q = search(p.right, x)  
    return q
```

# Decision tree stumps

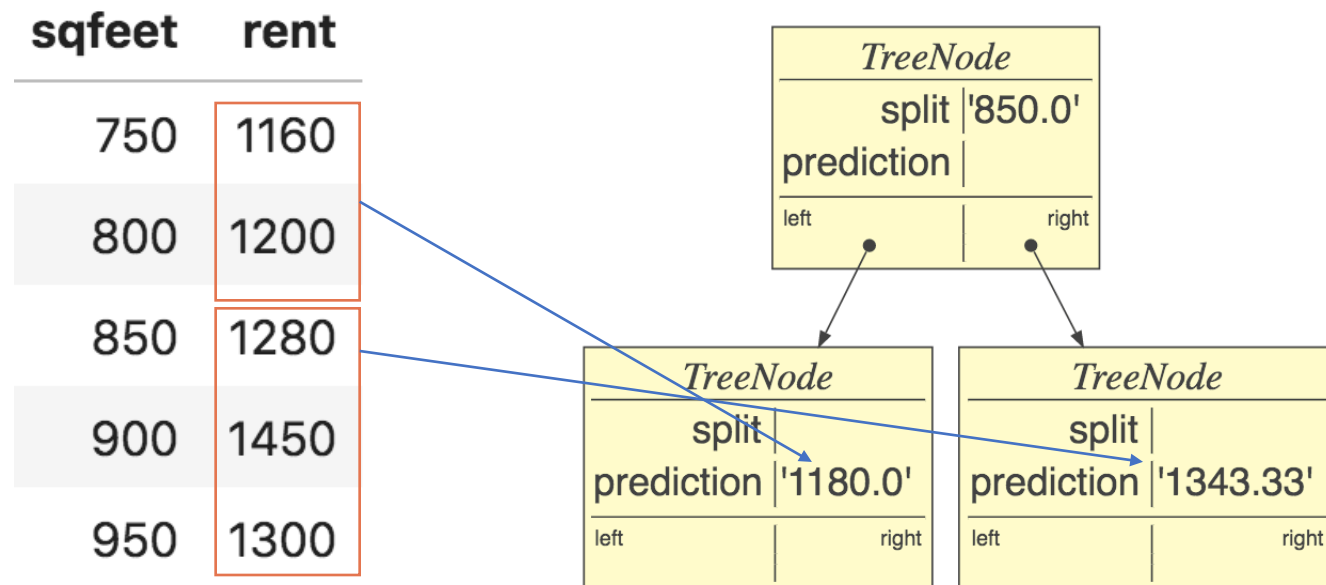
# Stumps

- A stump is a 2-level tree w/decision node root & 2 predictor leaves
- Used by gradient boosting machines as the “weak learners”
- If node has split, it’s a decision node else it’s a leaf

```
# Define a single-node type for simplicity
class TreeNode:
    def __init__(self, split=None, prediction=None,
                  left=None, right=None):
        self.split = split
        self.prediction = prediction
        self.left = left
        self.right = right
```



# Sample stump that picks midpoint as split



# Creating decision tree stumps

- For demonstration purposes, let's split  $x$  always at midpoint between min/max:

```
def stumpfit(x, y):  
    if len(x)==1 or len(np.unique(x))==1:  
        # if one x value, make leaf  
        return TreeNode(prediction=y[0])  
    split = (min(x) + max(x)) / 2 # midpoint  
    t = TreeNode(split)  
    t.left = TreeNode(prediction=np.mean(y[x<split]))  
    t.right = TreeNode(prediction=np.mean(y[x>=split]))  
    return t
```

# In practice, better to split node type

- See notebook for 1D decision tree implementation

<https://github.com/parr/msds621/blob/master/notebooks/trees/decision-trees.ipynb>

```
class DecisionNode:
    def __init__(self,split): # split chosen from x
        self.split = split

class LeafNode:
    def __init__(self,y):
        self.y = y
```

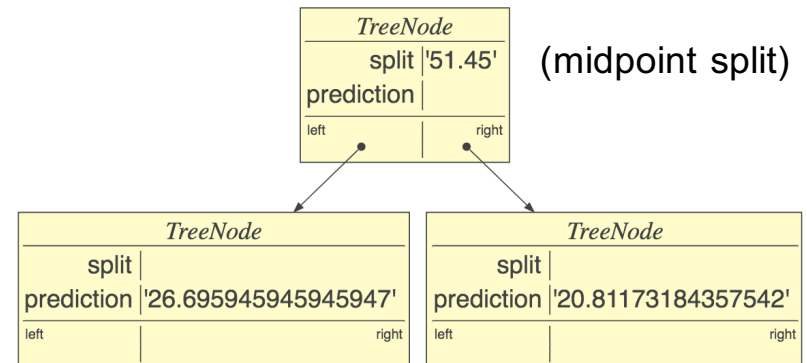
# The magic of recursion

- Demo converting `stumpfit()` to `treefit()`
- See “*Regress tree midpoint split for Boston dataset*” in notebook
- In `treefit(x,y)`, convert

```
t.left = TreeNode(prediction=np.mean(y[x<split]))
```

to

```
t.left = treefit(x[x<split], y[x<split])
```



Notebook: <https://github.com/parr/msds621/blob/master/notebooks/trees/decision-trees.ipynb>

# Key takeaways

- Binary tree: acyclic tree structure with at most two children, constructed by hooking nodes together (`root.left = TreeNode(2)`)
- Self-similar data structures walked and built with recursion
- Each recursive call does a piece of the work and returns its piece combined with results obtained from recursive calls
- Recursion traces out a tree that looks like the data structure
- Recursive call in `treefit()` returns newly-constructed subtree
- Remember the recursive function template!
- Depth-first-search visits each node through backtracking
- Study these recursive tree functions!