The Fibonacci sequence

Eric Martin, CSE, UNSW

COMP9021 Principles of Programming

[1]:
```
from functools import lru_cache
from itertools import count, islice
from math import sqrt
```

The Fibonacci sequence, say $(F_n)_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$, is defined as $F_0 = 0$, $F_1 = 1$ and for all $n > 1$, $F_n = F_{n-2} + F_{n-1}$; so it is 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34...

A generator function is the best option to generate the initial segment of the Fibonacci sequence of a given length:

[2]:
```
def fibonacci_sequence():
    yield 0
    yield 1
    previous, current = 0, 1
    while True:
        previous, current = current, previous + current
        yield current
```

[3]:
```
S = fibonacci_sequence()
list(next(S) for _ in range(19))
```

[3]:
```
[0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144, 233, 377, 610, 987, 1597, 2584]
```

It can also be used to generate the member of the Fibonacci sequence of a given index, which is facilitated by the `islice()` function from the `itertools` module; that function provides a counterpart to the slices of built sequences:

[4]:
```
list(islice(count(), 10))
list(islice(count(), 2, 10))
list(islice(count(), 2, 10, 3))
```

[4]:
```
[0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
```

[4]:
```
[2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
```

[4]:
```
[2, 5, 8]
```

F_{18} can therefore be returned as follows:

[5]:
```
next(islice(fibonacci_sequence(), 18, 19))
```

[5]: 2584

In case only one or a few specific members of the Fibonacci sequence are needed, a simple function is more appropriate:

[6]:
```
def iterative_fibonacci(n):
    if n < 2:
        return n
    previous, current = 0, 1
    for _ in range(2, n + 1):
        previous, current = current, previous + current
    return current

iterative_fibonacci(18)
```

[6]: 2584

A naive recursive implementation is elegant, but too inefficient, as we will see:

[7]:
```
def recursive_fibonacci(n):
    if n < 2:
        return n
    return recursive_fibonacci(n - 2) + recursive_fibonacci(n - 1)

recursive_fibonacci(18)
```

[7]: 2584

Let an integer n greater than 1 be given. Then a call to `recursive_fibonacci(n)` involves:

- for all nonzero $k \leq n$, F_{n-k+1} calls to `recursive_fibonacci(k)`;
- F_{n-1} calls to `recursive_fibonacci(0)`.

In particular, `recursive_fibonacci(n)` calls `recursive_fibonacci(1)` F_n times. Proof is by induction on $k \leq n$:

- `recursive_fibonacci(n)` is called once indeed.
- `recursive_fibonacci(n)` directly calls `recursive_fibonacci(n - 1)` and does not call it indirectly, so calls it once indeed.
- For all $k < n$ with $k > 1$, `recursive_fibonacci(n - k)` is directly called by `recursive_fibonacci(n - k + 1)` and by `recursive_fibonacci(n - k + 2)`. By inductive hypothesis, the latter two are called directly or indirectly by `recursive_fibonacci(n)` F_k and F_{k-1} times, respectively. Hence `recursive_fibonacci(n - k)` is called by `recursive_fibonacci(n)` F_{k+1} times.
- `recursive_fibonacci(0)` is directly called by `recursive_fibonacci(2)`, hence it is called by `recursive_fibonacci(n)` F_{n-1} times.

Let us illustrate this for $n = 6$ with the following tracing function:

[8]:
```
def trace_recursive_fibonacci(n, depth):
    print('    ' * depth, 'Start of function call for n =', n)
```

```python
    if n >= 2:
        second_previous = trace_recursive_fibonacci(n - 2, depth + 1)
        previous = trace_recursive_fibonacci(n - 1, depth + 1)
        print('    ' * depth, f'End of function call for n = {n}, returning',
              second_previous + previous
             )
        return second_previous + previous
    print('    ' * depth, f'End of function call for n = {n}, returning', n)
    return n

trace_recursive_fibonacci(6, 0)
```

```
 Start of function call for n = 6
     Start of function call for n = 4
         Start of function call for n = 2
             Start of function call for n = 0
             End of function call for n = 0, returning 0
             Start of function call for n = 1
             End of function call for n = 1, returning 1
         End of function call for n = 2, returning 1
         Start of function call for n = 3
             Start of function call for n = 1
             End of function call for n = 1, returning 1
             Start of function call for n = 2
                 Start of function call for n = 0
                 End of function call for n = 0, returning 0
                 Start of function call for n = 1
                 End of function call for n = 1, returning 1
             End of function call for n = 2, returning 1
         End of function call for n = 3, returning 2
     End of function call for n = 4, returning 3
     Start of function call for n = 5
         Start of function call for n = 3
             Start of function call for n = 1
             End of function call for n = 1, returning 1
             Start of function call for n = 2
                 Start of function call for n = 0
                 End of function call for n = 0, returning 0
                 Start of function call for n = 1
                 End of function call for n = 1, returning 1
             End of function call for n = 2, returning 1
         End of function call for n = 3, returning 2
         Start of function call for n = 4
             Start of function call for n = 2
                 Start of function call for n = 0
                 End of function call for n = 0, returning 0
                 Start of function call for n = 1
                 End of function call for n = 1, returning 1
```

```
            End of function call for n = 2, returning 1
            Start of function call for n = 3
                Start of function call for n = 1
                End of function call for n = 1, returning 1
                Start of function call for n = 2
                    Start of function call for n = 0
                    End of function call for n = 0, returning 0
                    Start of function call for n = 1
                    End of function call for n = 1, returning 1
                End of function call for n = 2, returning 1
            End of function call for n = 3, returning 2
        End of function call for n = 4, returning 3
    End of function call for n = 5, returning 5
End of function call for n = 6, returning 8
```

[8]: 8

We can still save the recursive design by saving terms of the Fibonacci sequence as they get computed for the first time. As a result of processing the `def` statement below, a dictionary, `fibonacci`, is created and initialised with the values of the first two members of the Fibonacci sequence. Then the function `memoise_fibonacci()` is called, directly as `memoise_fibonacci(18)`, and indirectly as `memoise_fibonacci(18)` executes. For each of those calls, `memoise_fibonacci()` is given one argument only, so the second argument is set to its default value, namely, `fibonacci`, extended with a new key and associated value in case the condition of the `if` statement in the body of `memoise_fibonacci()` evaluates to `True`:

[9]:
```python
def memoise_fibonacci(n, fibonacci={0: 0, 1: 1}):
    if n not in fibonacci:
        fibonacci[n] = memoise_fibonacci(n - 2) + memoise_fibonacci(n - 1)
    return fibonacci[n]

memoise_fibonacci(18)
```

[9]: 2584

Let us illustrate the mechanism for $n = 6$ with the following tracing function:

[10]:
```python
def trace_memoise_fibonacci(n, depth, fibonacci={0: 0, 1: 1}):
    print('    ' * depth, 'Start of function call for n =', n)
    print('    ' * (depth + 1), f'fibonacci now is {fibonacci}; ', end = '')
    if n not in fibonacci:
        print('compute value')
        fibonacci[n] = trace_memoise_fibonacci(n - 2, depth + 1)\
                       + trace_memoise_fibonacci(n - 1, depth + 1)
    else:
        print('retrieve value')
    print('    ' * depth, f'End of function call for n = {n}, returning',
          fibonacci[n]
         )
```

```
    return fibonacci[n]

trace_memoise_fibonacci(6, 0)
```

```
Start of function call for n = 6
    fibonacci now is {0: 0, 1: 1}; compute value
    Start of function call for n = 4
        fibonacci now is {0: 0, 1: 1}; compute value
        Start of function call for n = 2
            fibonacci now is {0: 0, 1: 1}; compute value
            Start of function call for n = 0
                fibonacci now is {0: 0, 1: 1}; retrieve value
            End of function call for n = 0, returning 0
            Start of function call for n = 1
                fibonacci now is {0: 0, 1: 1}; retrieve value
            End of function call for n = 1, returning 1
        End of function call for n = 2, returning 1
        Start of function call for n = 3
            fibonacci now is {0: 0, 1: 1, 2: 1}; compute value
            Start of function call for n = 1
                fibonacci now is {0: 0, 1: 1, 2: 1}; retrieve value
            End of function call for n = 1, returning 1
            Start of function call for n = 2
                fibonacci now is {0: 0, 1: 1, 2: 1}; retrieve value
            End of function call for n = 2, returning 1
        End of function call for n = 3, returning 2
    End of function call for n = 4, returning 3
    Start of function call for n = 5
        fibonacci now is {0: 0, 1: 1, 2: 1, 3: 2, 4: 3}; compute value
        Start of function call for n = 3
            fibonacci now is {0: 0, 1: 1, 2: 1, 3: 2, 4: 3}; retrieve value
        End of function call for n = 3, returning 2
        Start of function call for n = 4
            fibonacci now is {0: 0, 1: 1, 2: 1, 3: 2, 4: 3}; retrieve value
        End of function call for n = 4, returning 3
    End of function call for n = 5, returning 5
End of function call for n = 6, returning 8
```

[10]: 8

`memoise_fibonacci()` illustrates the fact that when a function argument has a default value, that default value is not created at every function call, but when Python processes the function's `def` statement. This makes no difference for default values of a type such as `int`:

[11]:
```
def f(x=0):
    x += 1
    return x
```

```
# Create the argument 0 before calling f(); let x denote it.
# From the value denoted by x and 1, create 1; let x denote it.
f(0)
f(1)
f(2)
# Let x denote the 0 created when def was processed.
# From the value denoted by x and 1, create 1; let x denote it.
f()
f()
f()
```

[11]: 1

[11]: 2

[11]: 3

[11]: 1

[11]: 1

[11]: 1

But it makes a difference for default values of a type such as `list`:

[12]:
```
def g(x=[0]):
    x += [1]
    return x

# Create the argument [0] before calling g(); let x denote it.
# Then extend it to [0, 1]; let x denote the modified list.
g([0])
g([1])
g([2])
# Let x denote the list L created when def was processed, then and now
# equal to [0]. Then extend it to [0, 1]; let x denote the modified L.
g()
# Let x denote the list L created when def was processed, now equal to
# [0, 1]. Then extend it to [0, 1, 1], let x denote the modified L.
g()
g()
```

[12]: [0, 1]

[12]: [1, 1]

[12]: [2, 1]

[12]: [0, 1]

[12]: [0, 1, 1]

[12]: [0, 1, 1, 1]

What was good for `memoise_fibonacci()` might not be the intended behaviour for other functions, in other contexts: in case a function F is called without an argument for a parameter p that in F's definition, receives a default value v, one might want p to always be assigned that default value, not the value currently denoted by p and possibly modified from the original value of v following previous calls to F. One should then opt for a different design:

[13]:
```
def h(x=None):
    if x is None:
        x = [0]
    x += [1]
    return x

# Create the argument [0] before calling h(); let x denote it.
# Then extend it to [0, 1]; let x denote the modified list.
h([0])
h([1])
h([2])
# Let x denote None, then create [0]; let x denote it.
# Then extend it to [0, 1]; let x denote the modified list.
h()
h()
h()
```

[13]: [0, 1]

[13]: [1, 1]

[13]: [2, 1]

[13]: [0, 1]

[13]: [0, 1]

[13]: [0, 1]

The `lru_cache()` ("lru" is for *Least Recently Used*) function from the `functools` module returns a function that can be used as a **decorator** and applied to a function F to yield a memoised version of F. By default, the `maxsize` argument of `lru_cache()` is set to `128`, to record up to the last 128 used values of the function, as witnessed by the `cache_info()` attribute of the memoised version of f:

[14]:
```
@lru_cache()
def lru_fibonacci(n):
    if n < 2:
        return n
```

```
    return lru_fibonacci(n - 2) + lru_fibonacci(n - 1)

lru_fibonacci.cache_info()
```

[14]: CacheInfo(hits=0, misses=0, maxsize=128, currsize=0)

Suppose that `lru_fibonacci()` is called for the first time with 2 as argument. Since `lru_fibonacci(2)` has not been computed yet, `lru_fibonacci(0)` and `lru_fibonacci(1)` are called, which both have not been computed yet either: a total of 3 values fail to be retrieved (3 misses). The last two values are computed and recorded, then the former value is computed and recorded, and the cache eventually stores those 3 values:

[15]:
```
lru_fibonacci(2)
lru_fibonacci.cache_info()
```

[15]: 1

[15]: CacheInfo(hits=0, misses=3, maxsize=128, currsize=3)

Calling `lru_fibonacci(2)` again, the value is found in the cache (1 hit):

[16]:
```
lru_fibonacci(2)
lru_fibonacci.cache_info()
```

[16]: 1

[16]: CacheInfo(hits=1, misses=3, maxsize=128, currsize=3)

When calling `lru_fibonacci(3)`, the value fails to be found in the cache (1 more miss), so `lru_fibonacci(1)` and `lru_fibonacci(2)` are called and retrieved from the cache (2 more hits), and the computed value of `lru_fibonacci(3)` is added to the cache.

[17]:
```
lru_fibonacci(3)
lru_fibonacci.cache_info()
```

[17]: 2

[17]: CacheInfo(hits=3, misses=4, maxsize=128, currsize=4)

The cache can be cleared with the `cache_clear()` attribute of the memoised version of the function. Then calling `lru_fibonacci(3)` necessitates to call `lru_fibonacci(1)` and `lru_fibonacci(2)`, calling `lru_fibonacci(2)` necessitates to call `lru_fibonacci(0)` and `lru_fibonacci(1)`, for a total of 4 misses that are computed and all stored in the cache. The hit is for `lru_fibonacci(1)`, retrieved from the cache when computing `lru_fibonacci(2)`, assuming `lru_fibonacci(3)` first called `lru_fibonacci(1)`, or retrieved from the cache when computing `lru_fibonacci(1)`, assuming `lru_fibonacci(3)` first called `lru_fibonacci(2)`.

[18]:
```
lru_fibonacci.cache_clear()
lru_fibonacci(3)
lru_fibonacci.cache_info()
```

[18]: 2

[18]: CacheInfo(hits=1, misses=4, maxsize=128, currsize=4)

Clearing the cache again, calling `lru_fibonacci(128)` necessitates to eventually call `lru_fibonacci(0)` and `lru_fibonacci(1)`, in that order or the other way around. Either way, the last time `lru_fibonacci(0)` is used is when `lru_fibonacci(2)` is computed, while `lru_fibonacci(1)`, `lru_fibonacci(3)`, `lru_fibonacci(4)`… `lru_fibonacci(128)` will all be computed or used afterwards. This explains the output obtained by executing the following cell.

[19]:
```
lru_fibonacci.cache_clear()
lru_fibonacci(128)
lru_fibonacci.cache_info()
lru_fibonacci(1)
lru_fibonacci.cache_info()
lru_fibonacci(0)
lru_fibonacci.cache_info()
```

[19]: 251728825683549488150424261

[19]: CacheInfo(hits=126, misses=129, maxsize=128, currsize=128)

[19]: 1

[19]: CacheInfo(hits=127, misses=129, maxsize=128, currsize=128)

[19]: 0

[19]: CacheInfo(hits=127, misses=130, maxsize=128, currsize=128)

The capacity of the cache can be left unbounded by setting the value of the `maxsize` argument of `lru_cache()` to `None`:

[20]:
```
@lru_cache(None)
def unbounded_lru_fibonacci(n):
    if n < 2:
        return n
    return unbounded_lru_fibonacci(n - 1) + unbounded_lru_fibonacci(n - 2)
```

[21]:
```
unbounded_lru_fibonacci(150)
unbounded_lru_fibonacci.cache_info()
```

[21]: 9969216677189303386214405760200

[21]: CacheInfo(hits=148, misses=151, maxsize=None, currsize=151)

The argument `maxsize` of `lru_cache()` can also be set to any integer value. Let us set it to 4 and first call `bounded_lru_fibonacci(8)`. Then `bounded_lru_fibonacci(8)`, `bounded_lru_fibonacci(7)`, `bounded_lru_fibonacci(6)` and `bounded_lru_fibonacci(5)` are last called and recorded. If `bounded_lru_fibonacci(5)` is then called, its value is retrieved (1 more hit). And if `bounded_lru_fibonacci(4)` is thereafter called, `bounded_lru_fibonacci(4)`, …, `bounded_lru_fibonacci(0)` have to be recomputed (5 more misses), with `bounded_lru_fibonacci(1)` and `bounded_lru_fibonacci(2)` being retrieved in the process (2 more hits):

[22]:
```
@lru_cache(4)
def bounded_lru_fibonacci(n):
    if n < 2:
        return n
    return bounded_lru_fibonacci(n - 1) + bounded_lru_fibonacci(n - 2)
```

[23]:
```
bounded_lru_fibonacci(8)
bounded_lru_fibonacci.cache_info()
bounded_lru_fibonacci(5)
bounded_lru_fibonacci.cache_info()
bounded_lru_fibonacci(4)
bounded_lru_fibonacci.cache_info()
```

[23]: 21

[23]: CacheInfo(hits=6, misses=9, maxsize=4, currsize=4)

[23]: 5

[23]: CacheInfo(hits=7, misses=9, maxsize=4, currsize=4)

[23]: 3

[23]: CacheInfo(hits=9, misses=14, maxsize=4, currsize=4)

Set $\varphi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$ and $\psi = \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}$. For all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\left(\frac{1\pm\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{n+2} = \left(\frac{1\pm\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{n}\frac{1\pm2\sqrt{5}+5}{4} = \left(\frac{1\pm\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{n} + \left(\frac{1\pm\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{n}\frac{1\pm\sqrt{5}}{2}$, hence for $x = \varphi$ or $x = \psi$, $x^{n+2} = x^n + x^{n+1}$. Let real numbers a and b be given, and for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let s_n denote $a\varphi^n + b\psi^n$. It follows from the previous equalities (one for $x = \varphi$, one for $x = \psi$) that for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $s_{n+2} = s_n + s_{n+1}$. So $(s_n)_{n\in\mathbf{N}} = (F_n)_{n\in\mathbf{N}}$ iff $s_0 = 0$ and $s_1 = 1$, which is equivalent to the two equalities $a + b = 0$ and $a\varphi + b\psi = 1$, which is equivalent to $a = \frac{1}{\varphi-\psi}$ and $b = -a$, so $a = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$ and $b = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$. Hence for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$F_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}\Big[\big(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\big)^n - \big(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\big)^n\Big]$$

This is the *closed-form expression* of the Fibonacci numbers. Note that $\left|\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right| < \frac{1}{2}$, hence F_n can be computed as $\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n$ rounded to the closest integer, resulting in a simpler calculation:

[24]:
```
def closed_form_fibonacci(n):
    sqrt_5 = sqrt(5)
    return round(1 / sqrt_5 * ((1 + sqrt_5) / 2) ** n)
```

But of course, due to the limited precision of floating point computation, it does not need a large input for `closed_form_fibonacci()` to fail and produce the correct result:

[25]:
```
for n, correct in enumerate(fibonacci_sequence()):
    maybe_incorrect = closed_form_fibonacci(n)
    if maybe_incorrect != correct:
        print(f'{n}th term of the sequence is {correct}, '
              f'incorrectly computed as {maybe_incorrect}.'
             )
        break
```

```
71th term of the sequence is 308061521170129, incorrectly computed as
308061521170130.
```