Recursive Backtracking 2

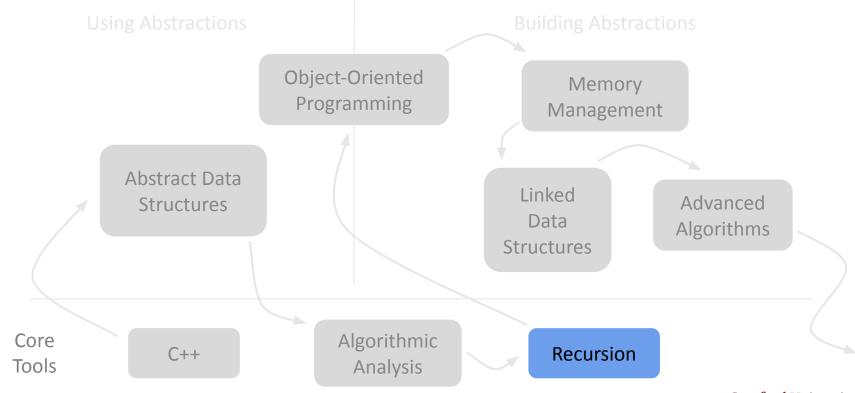
Amrita Kaur

July 19, 2023

Announcements

- Assignment 3, Part 2 will be released today after class
 - YEAH Hours are today at 3pm on <u>Zoom</u>

Roadmap



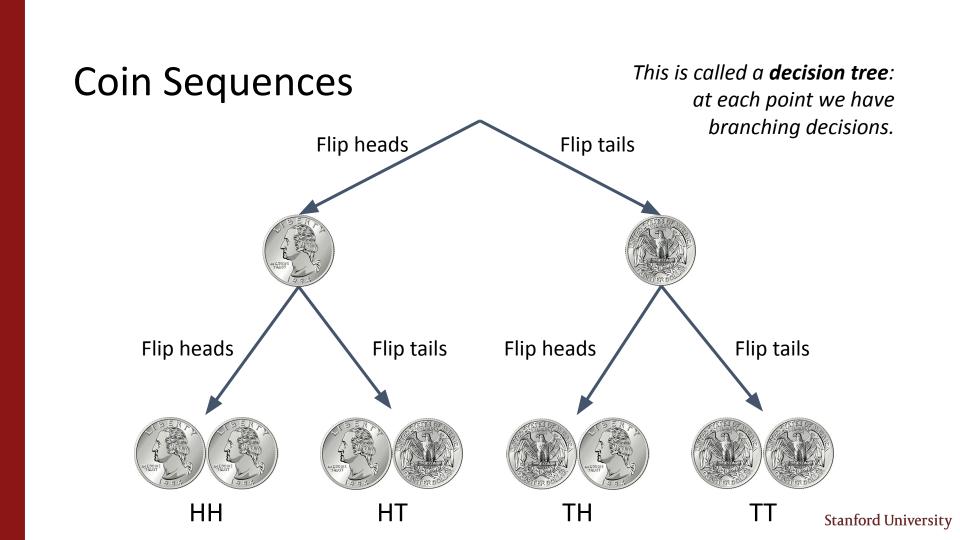
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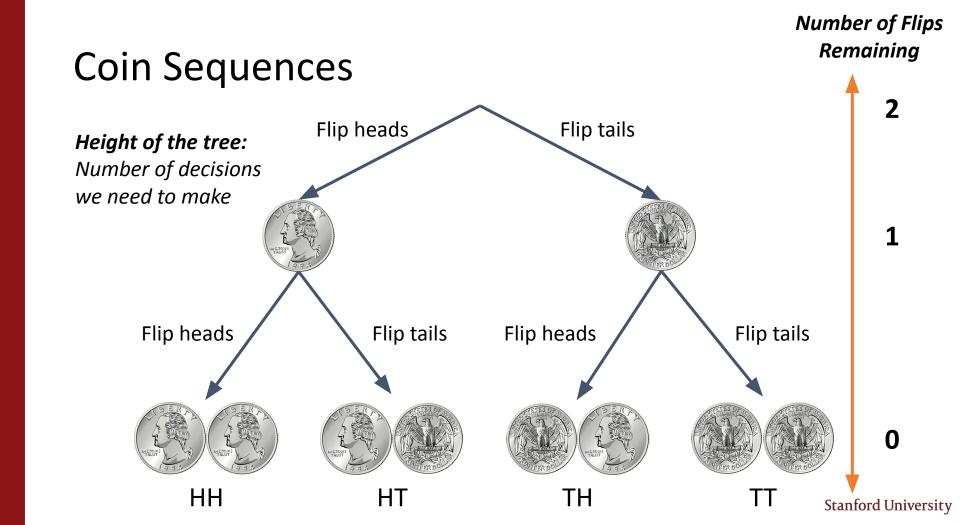
Review

Coin Sequences

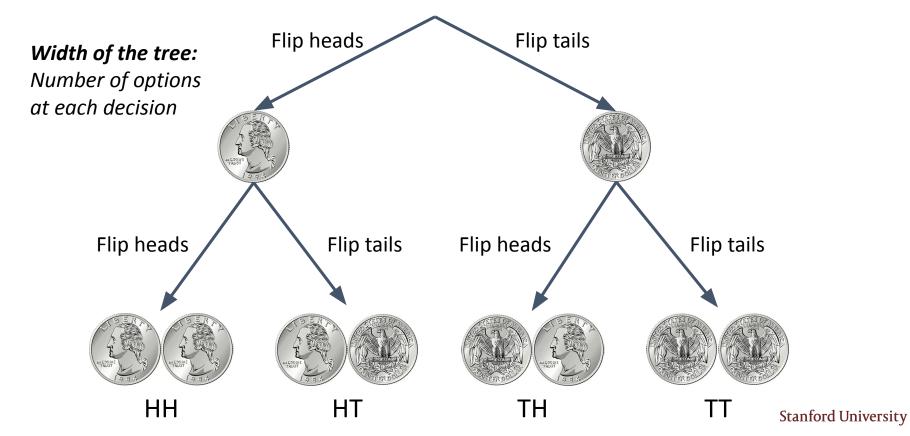


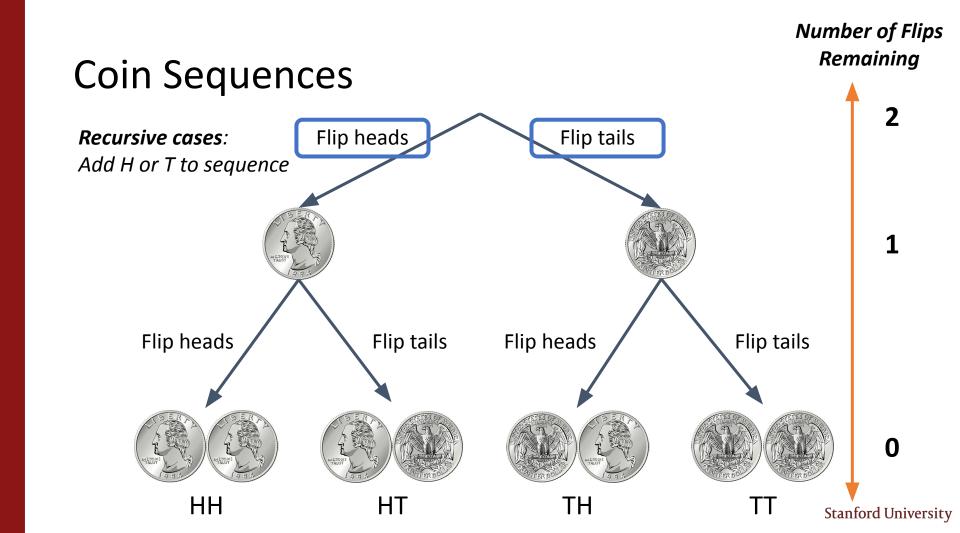
- You're playing a (rather boring) game in which you flip some number of coins one by one and see whether you get heads or tails
- You'd like to know all of the possible sequences you might flip

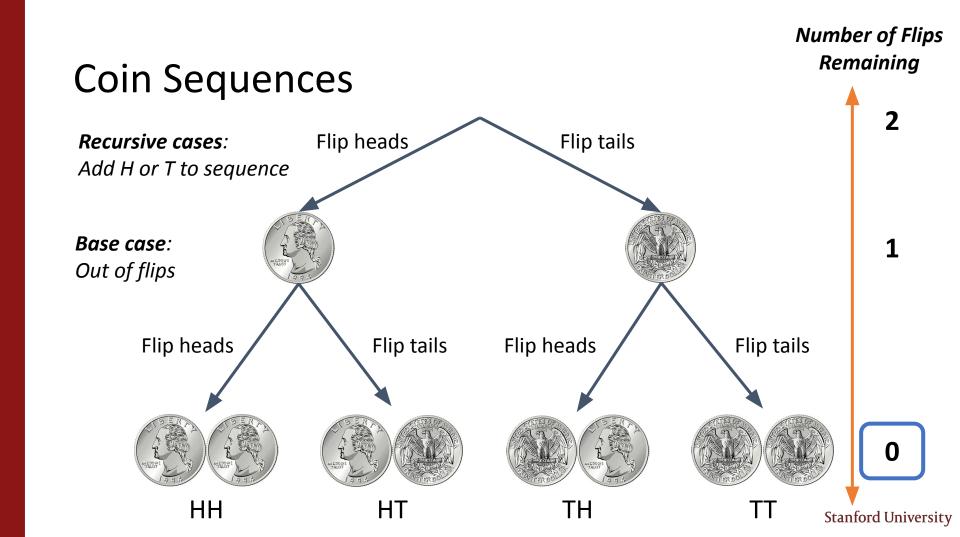




Coin Sequences



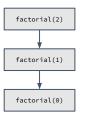




Two Types of Recursion

Basic recursion

- One repeated task that builds up a solution as you come back up the call stack
- The final base case defines the initial seed of the solution and each call contributes a little bit to the solution
- Initial call to the recursive function produces the final solution



Backtracking recursion

- Build up many possible solutions through multiple recursive calls at each step
- Seed the initial recursive call with an "empty" solution
- At each base case, you have a potential solution



Solution Code for Coin Sequences

```
void generateSequenceHelper(int flipsRemaining, string sequence) {
    // Base case: flipsRemaining = 0, no more flips
    if (flipsRemaining == 0) {
        cout << sequence << endl;</pre>
    } else {
        // Recursive cases (when flipsRemaining > 0)
        generateSequenceHelper(flipsRemaining - 1, sequence + 'H'); // Add H to the sequence
        generateSequenceHelper(flipsRemaining - 1, sequence + 'T'); // OR add T to the sequence
void generateSequences(int numCoins) {
    generateSequenceHelper(numCoins, "");
```

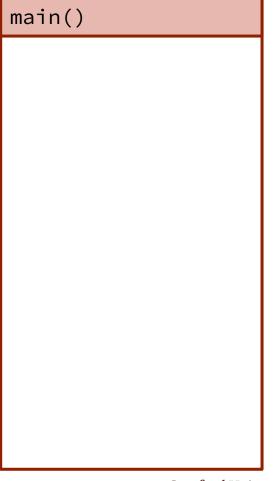
```
13
```

```
int main () {
    generateSequences(3);
    return 0;
}
```

```
int main () {
    generateSequences(3);
    return 0;
}
```

```
main()
```

```
int main () {
    generateSequences(3);
    return 0;
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```
void generateSequences (int numCoins) {
    genSeqsHepler(numCoins, "");
}
```

```
main()
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void generateSequences (int numCoins) {
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```
main()
generateSequences()
     numCoins:
```

```
void genSeqsHelper (int flipsRem, string seq) {
   if (flipsRem == 0) {
      cout << seq << endl;
   } else {
      generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'H');
      generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'T');
   }
}</pre>
```

```
main()

generateSequences()

numCoins: 3
```

```
void genSeqsHelper (int flipsRem, string seq) {
   if (flipsRem == 0) {
      cout << seq << endl;
   } else {
      generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'H');
      generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'T');
   }
}</pre>
```

```
main()

generateSequences()

numCoins: 3

genSeqsHelper()

flipsRem: 3

seq: ""
```

```
void genSeqsHelper (int flipsRem, string seq) {
   if (flipsRem == 0) {
      cout << seq << endl;
   } else {
      generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'H');
      generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'T');
   }
}</pre>
```

```
main()
generateSequences()
      numCoins:
genSeqsHelper()
       flipsRem:
                    66 99
            seq:
```

```
void genSeqsHelper (int flipsRem, string seq) {
    if (flipsRem == 0) {
         cout << seq << endl;</pre>
      else {
         generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'H');
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generateSequences()
      numCoins:
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main()
generateSequences()
      numCoins:
genSeqsHelper()
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                                                       generateSequences()
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                                                                 seq:
```

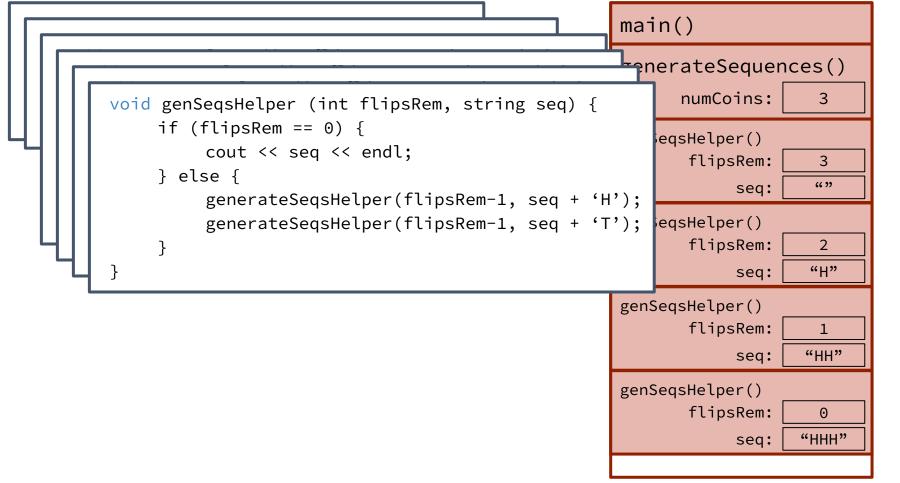
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                                                                          "H"
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                                                      genSeqsHelper()
                                                             flipsRem:
                                                                         "HH"
                                                                  seq:
```

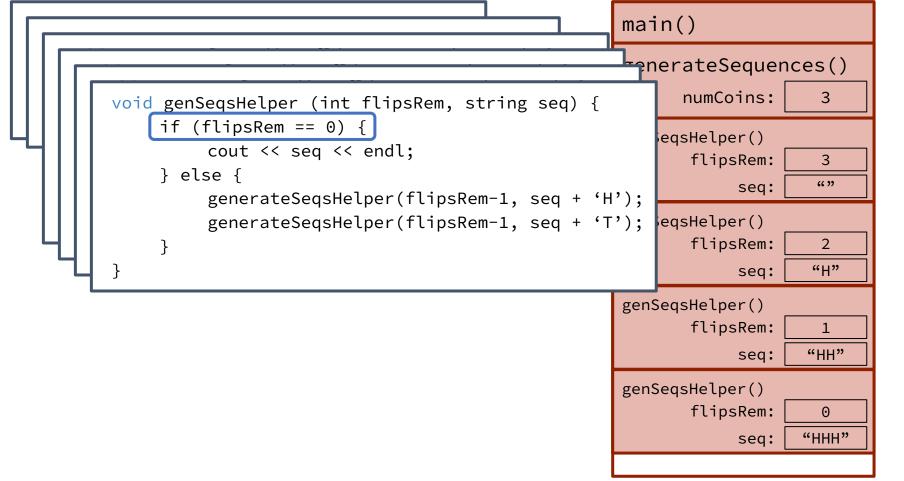
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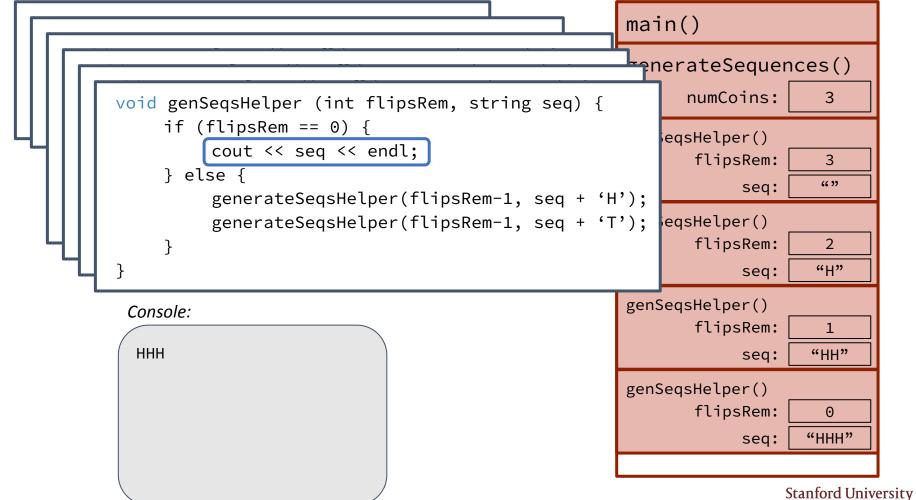
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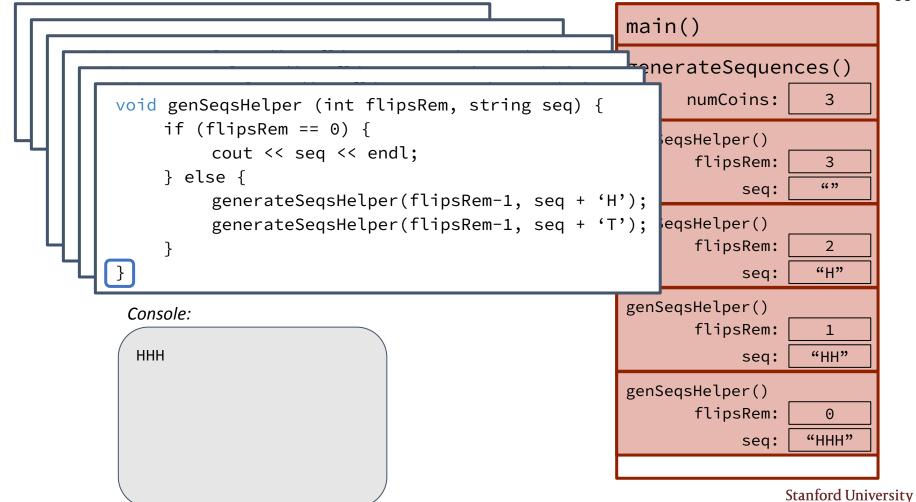
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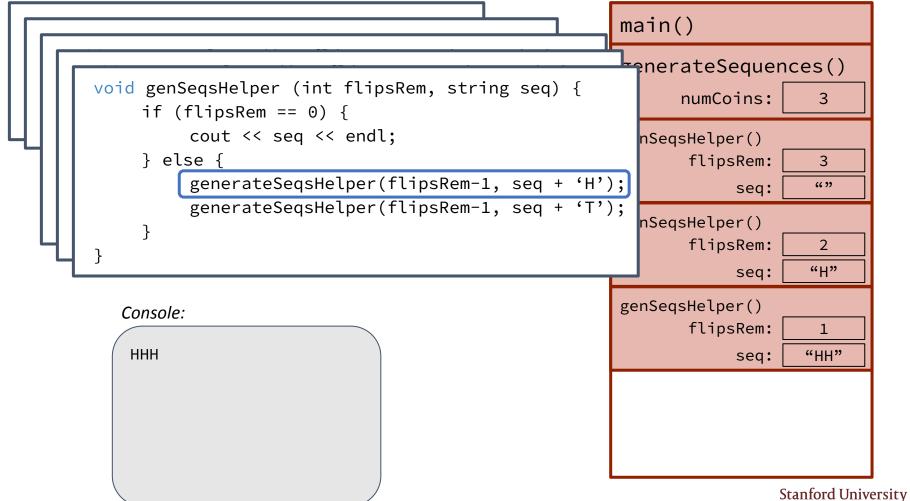


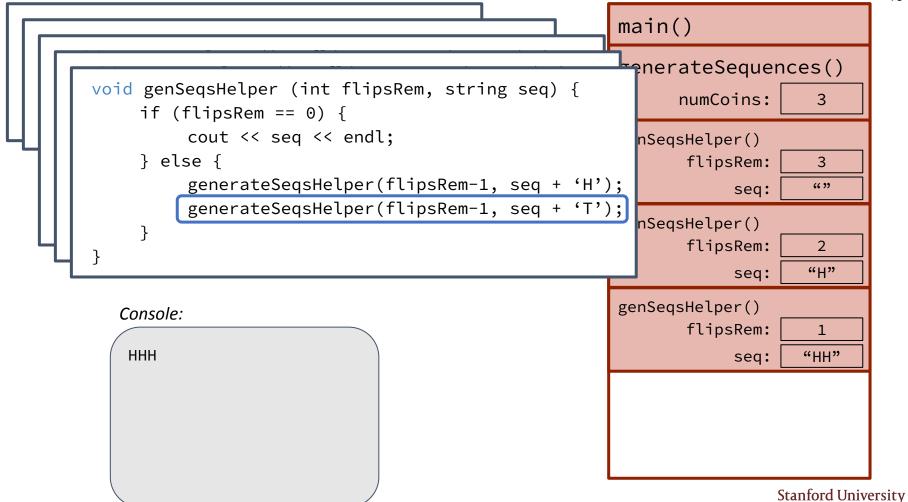


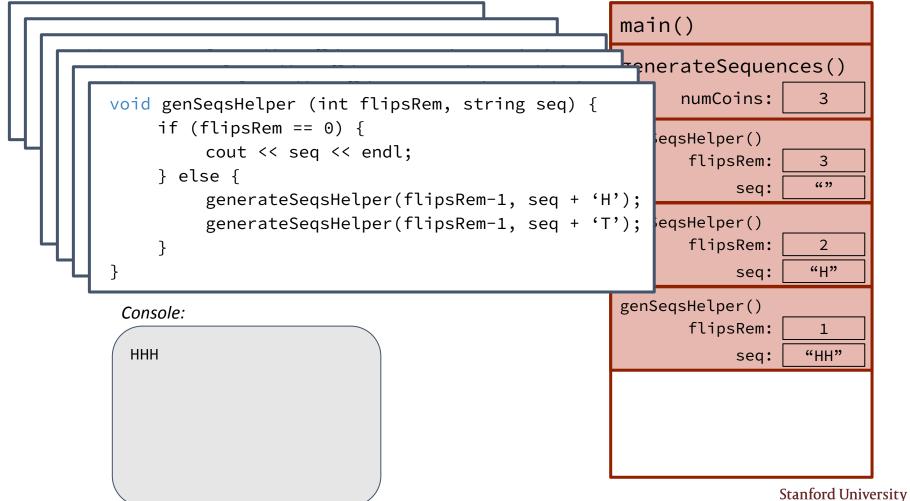
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```

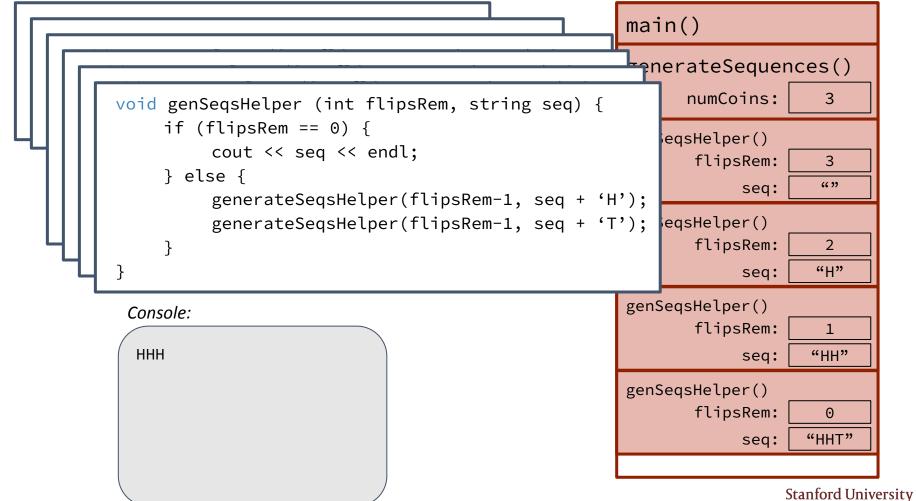


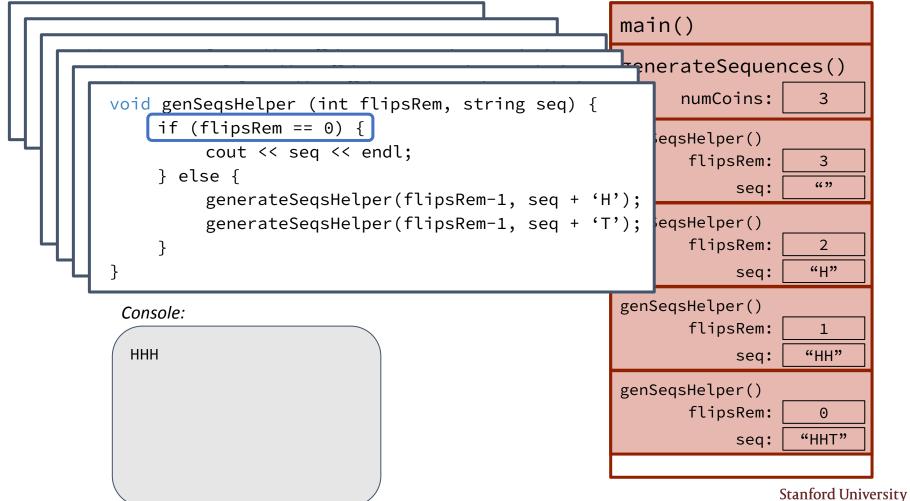


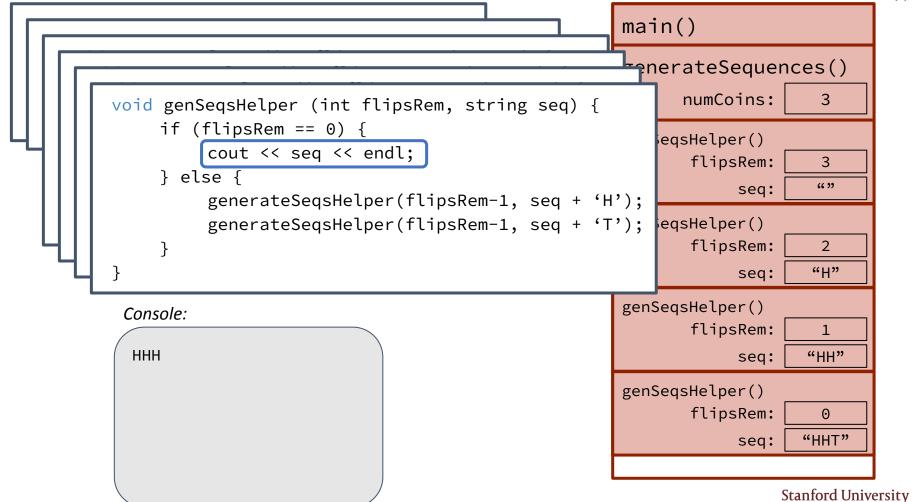


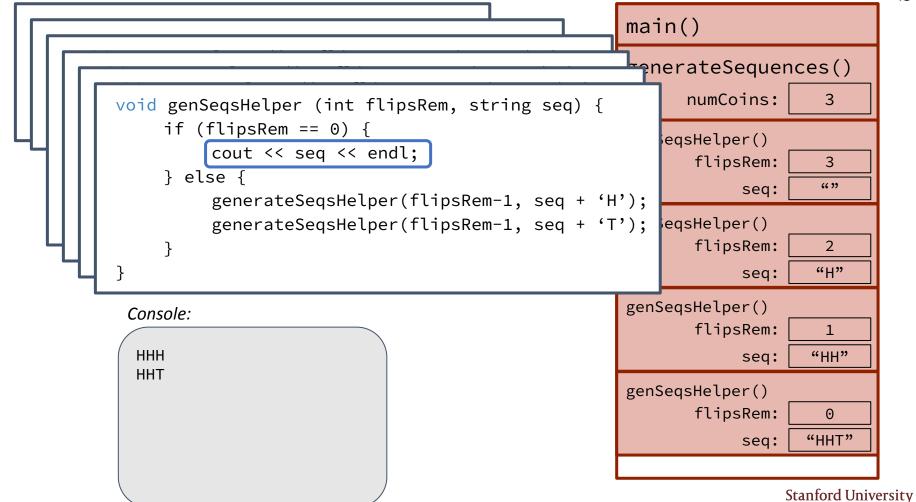


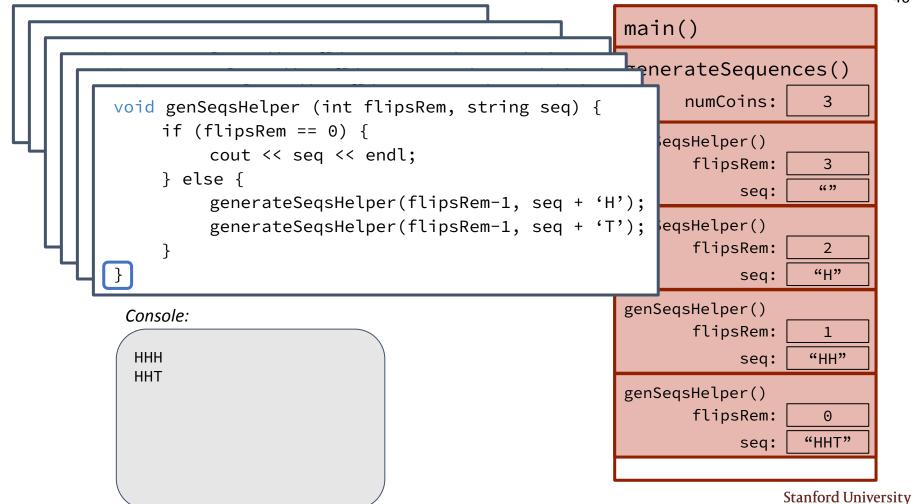


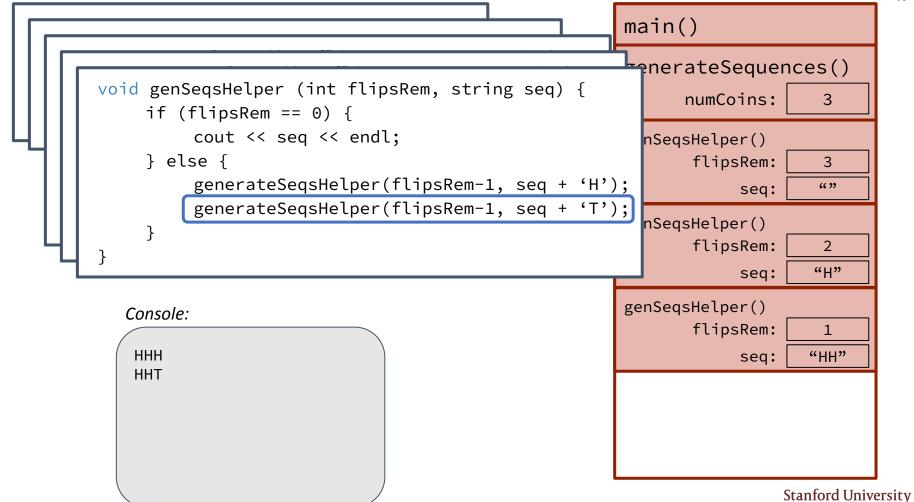


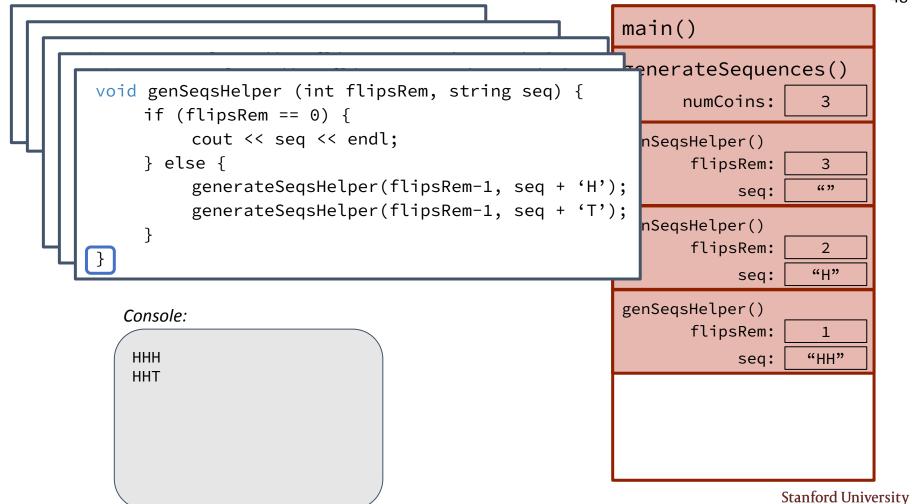




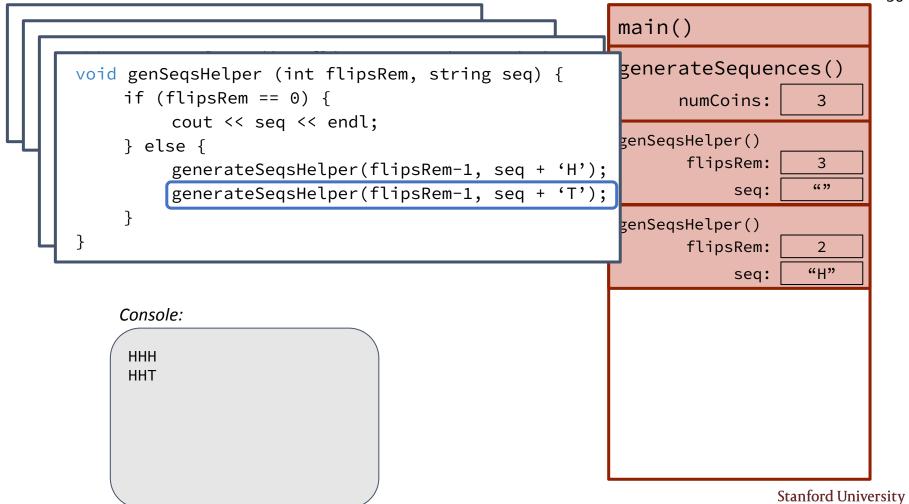


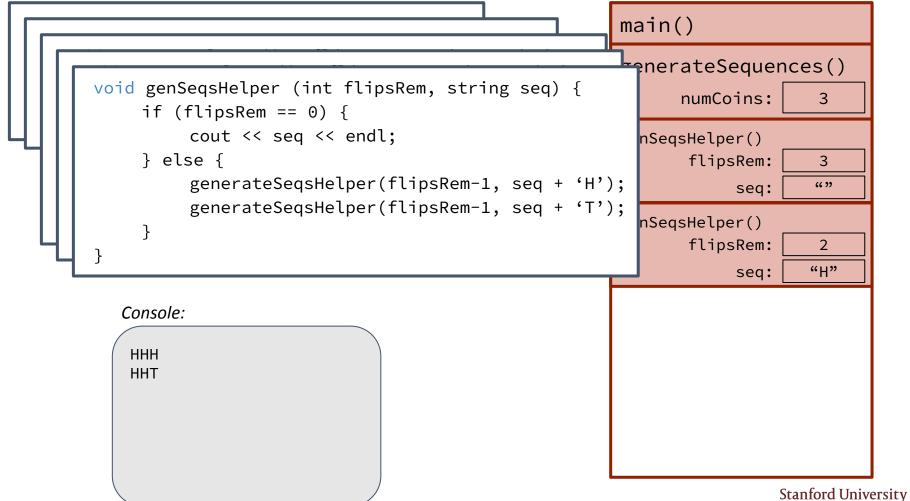


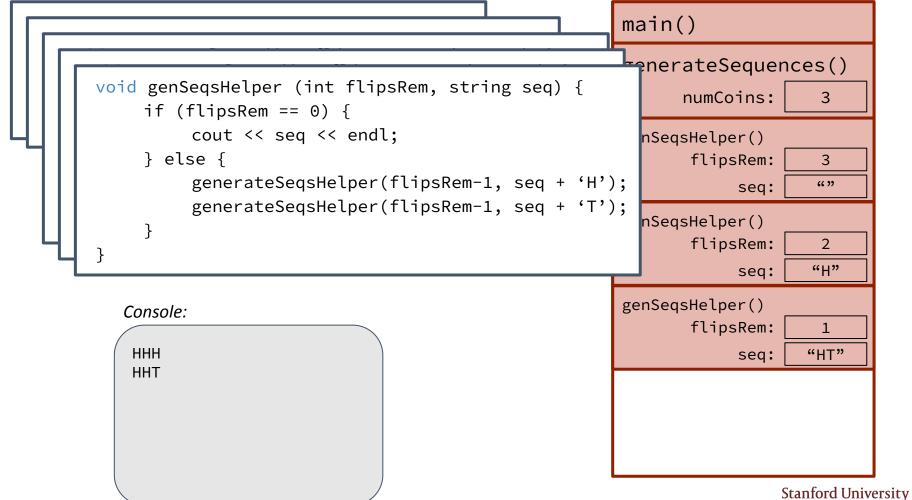


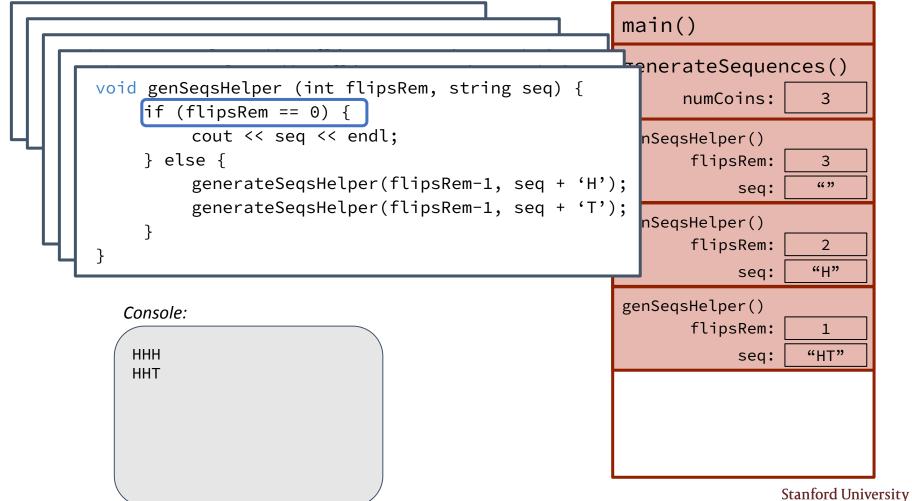


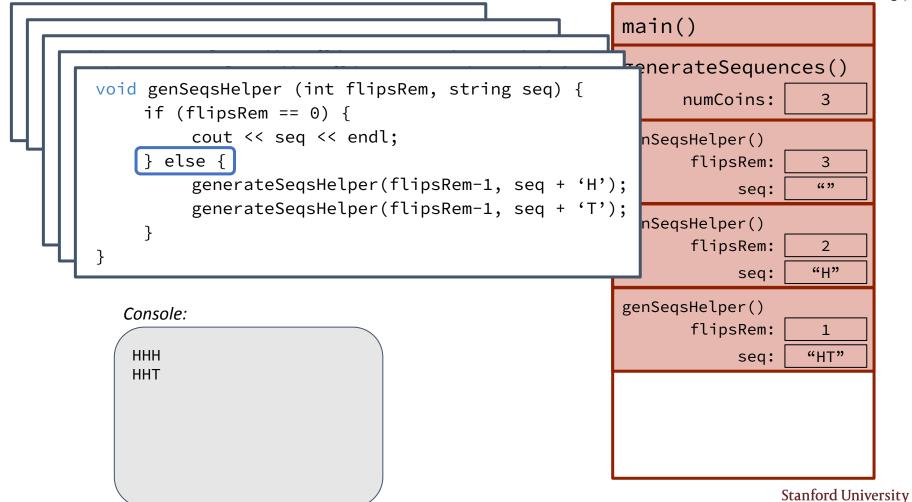
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                                                                     seq:
                                                         genSeqsHelper()
                                                                flipsRem:
                                                                             "H"
                                                                     seq:
    Console:
     HHH
     HHT
                                                                          Stanford University
```

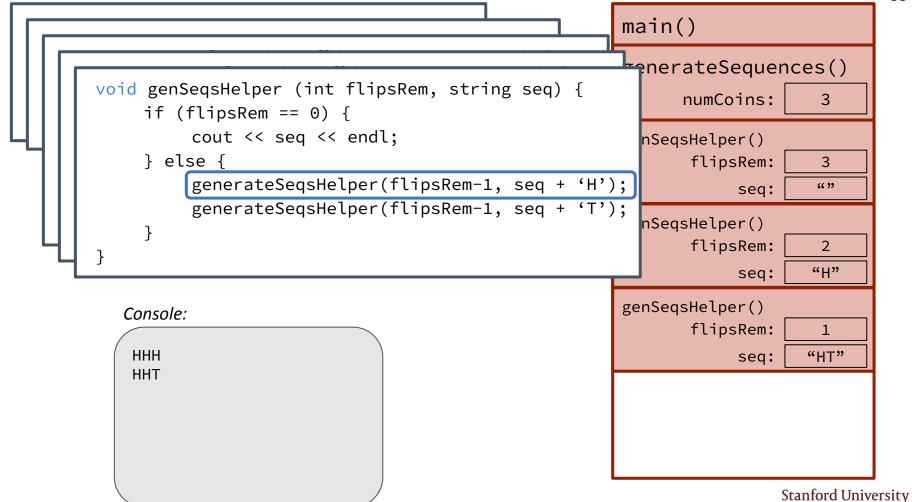


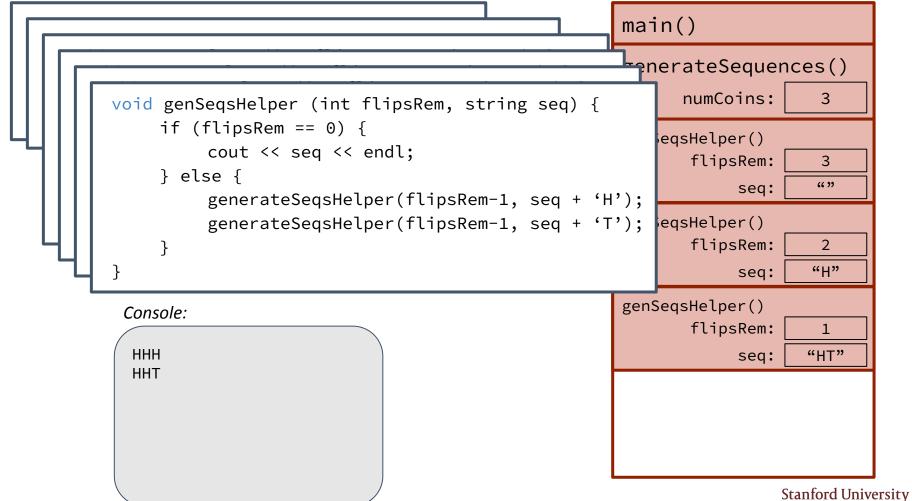


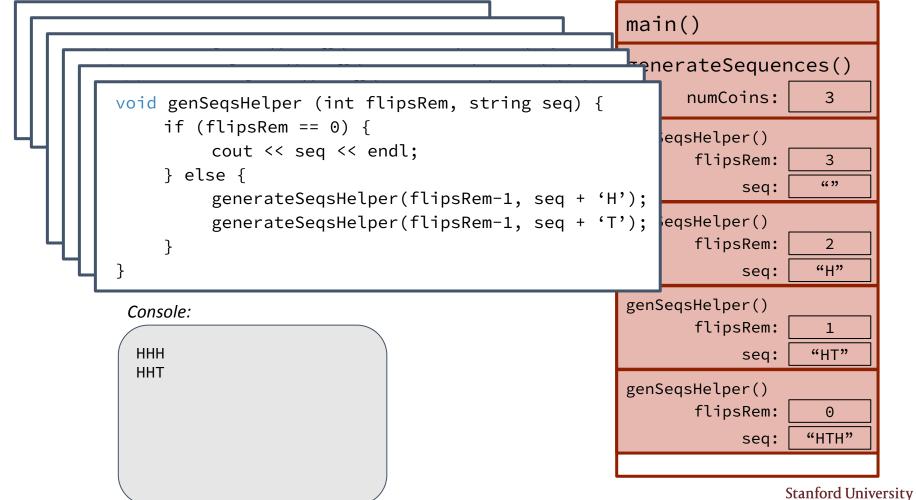


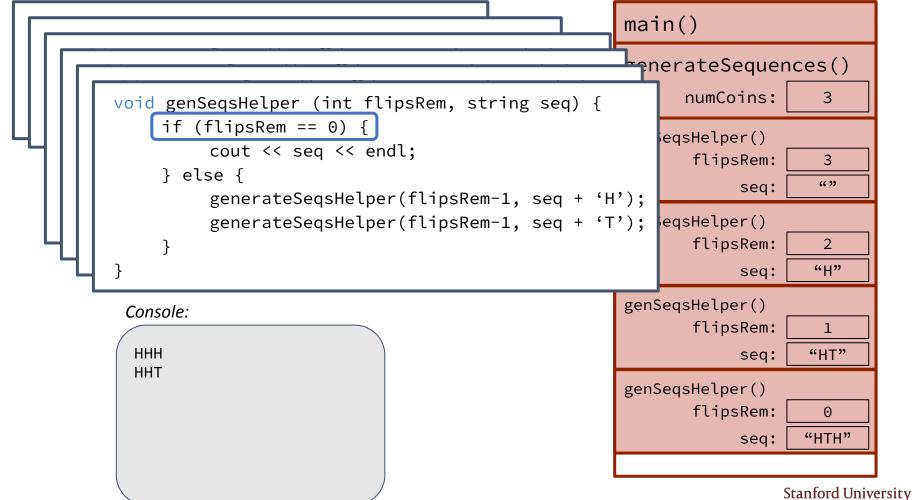


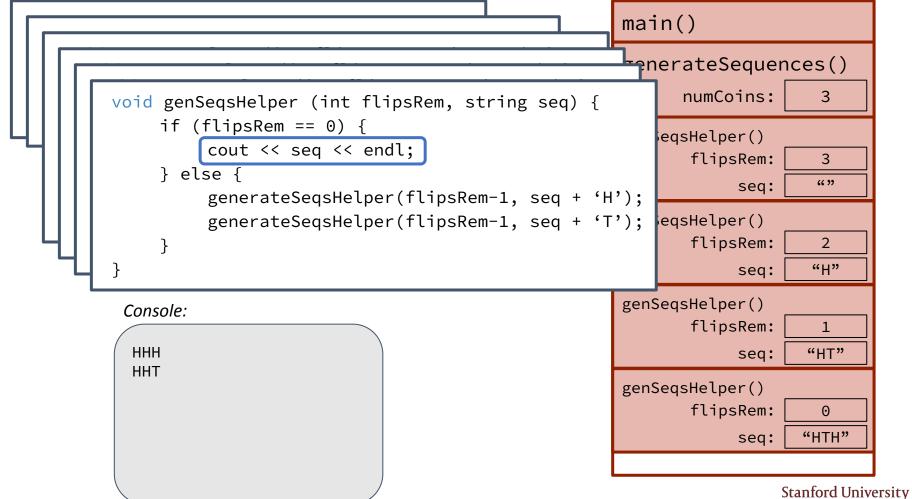


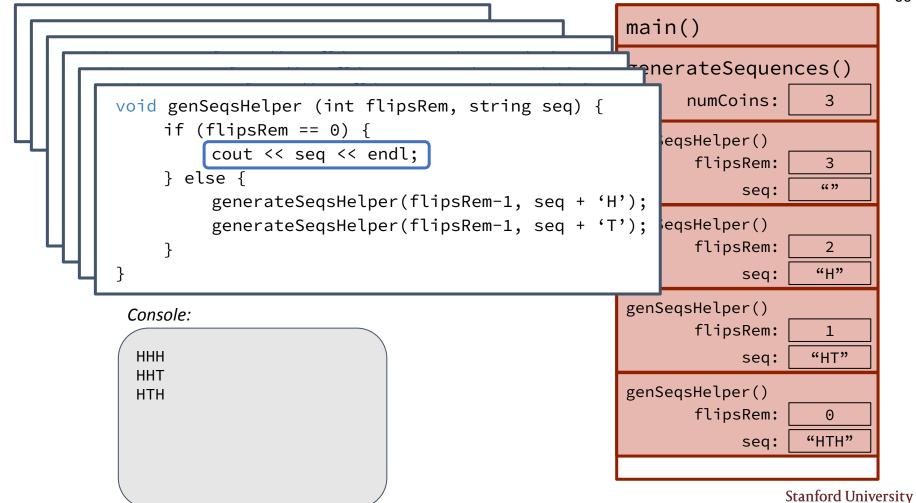


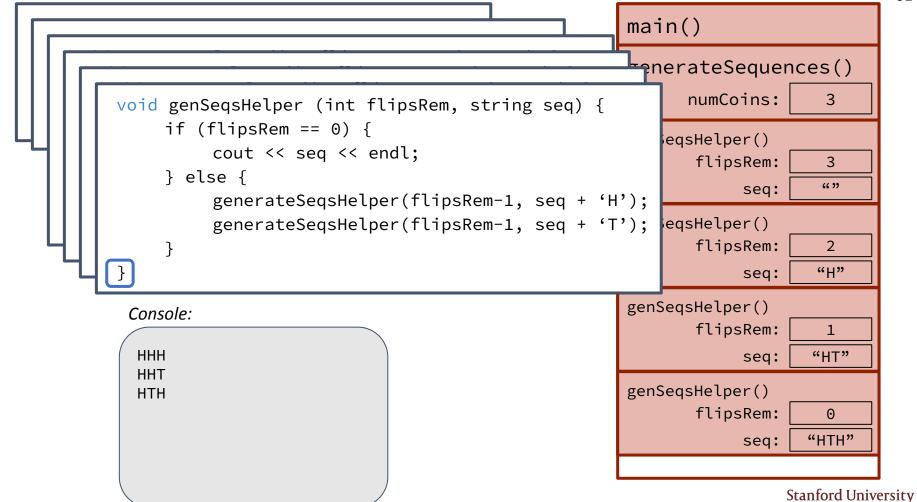


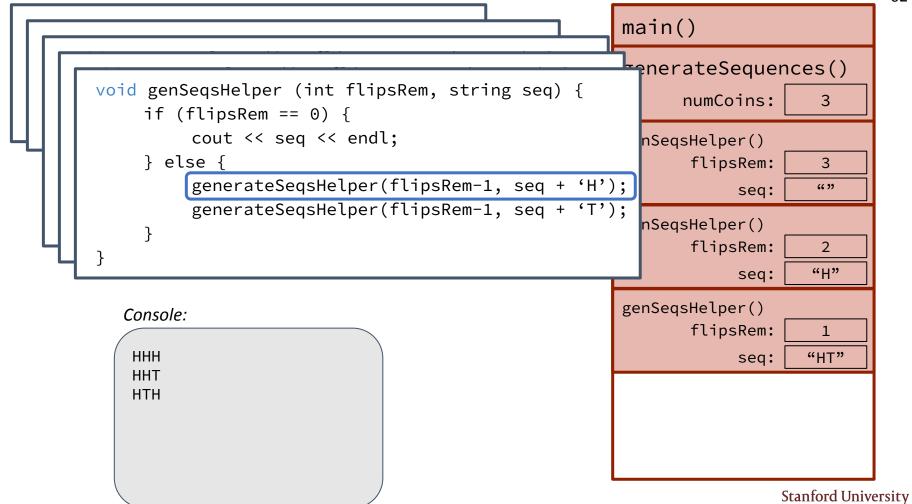


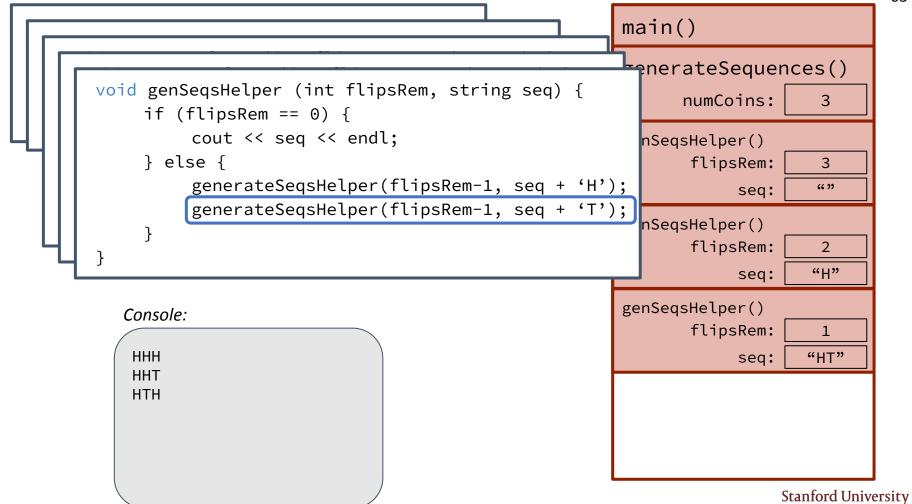


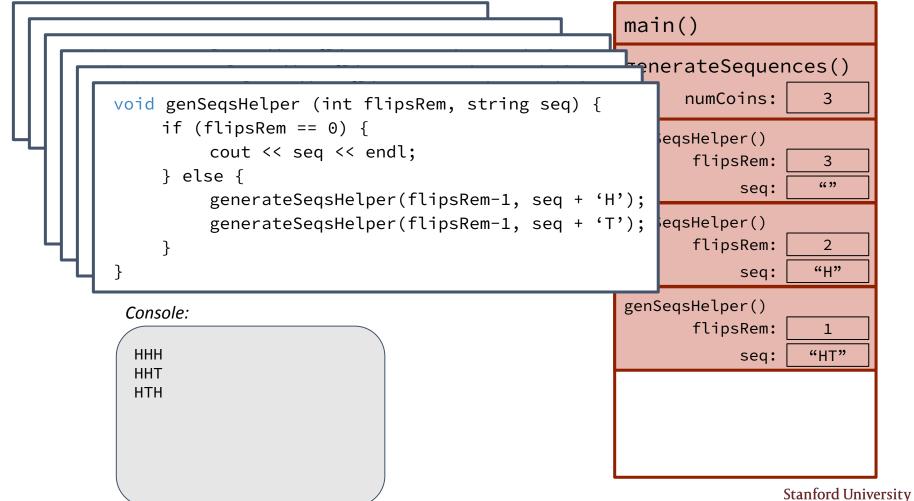


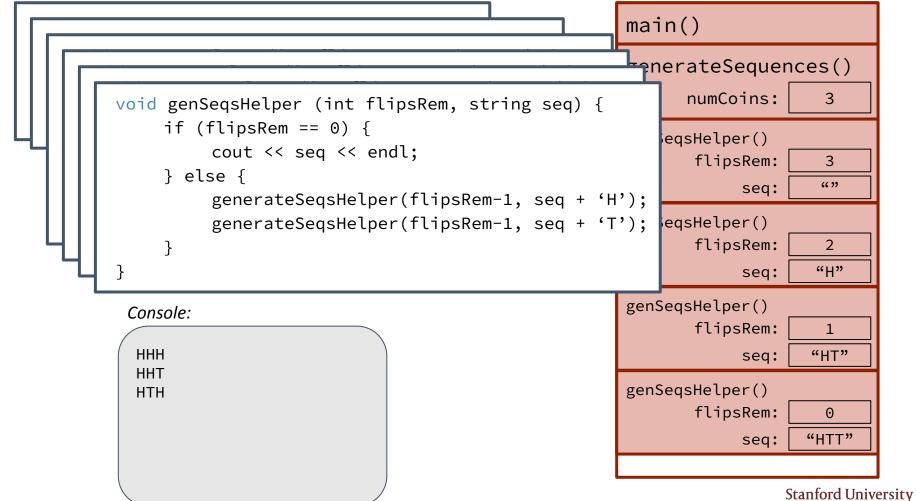


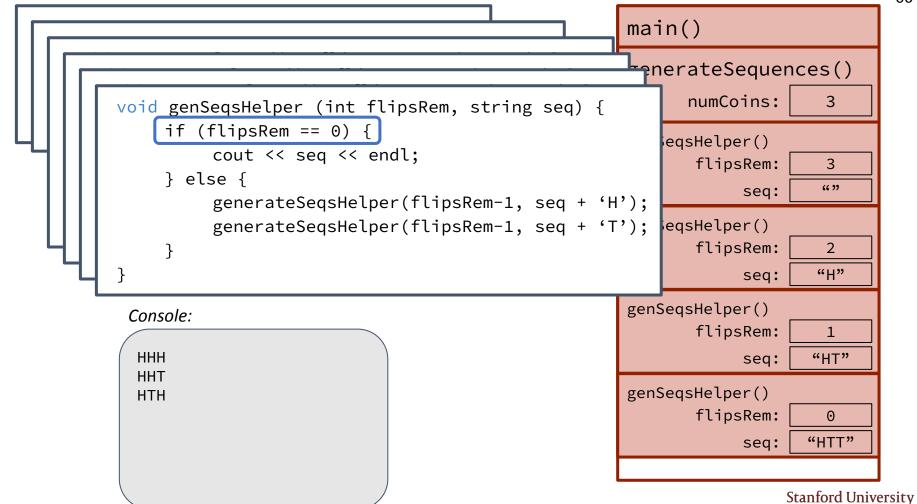


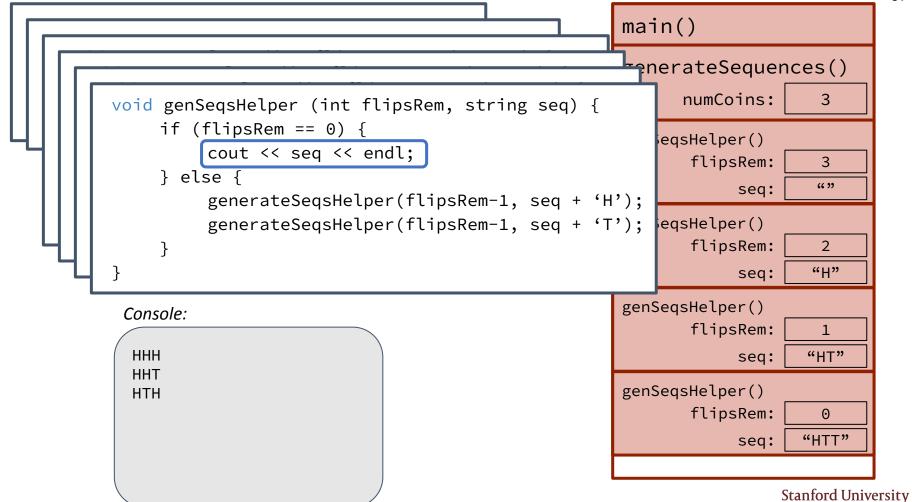


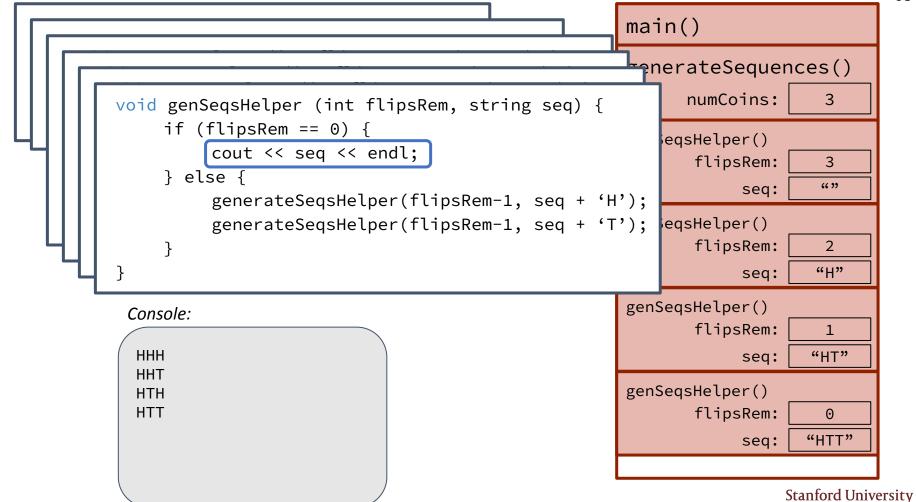


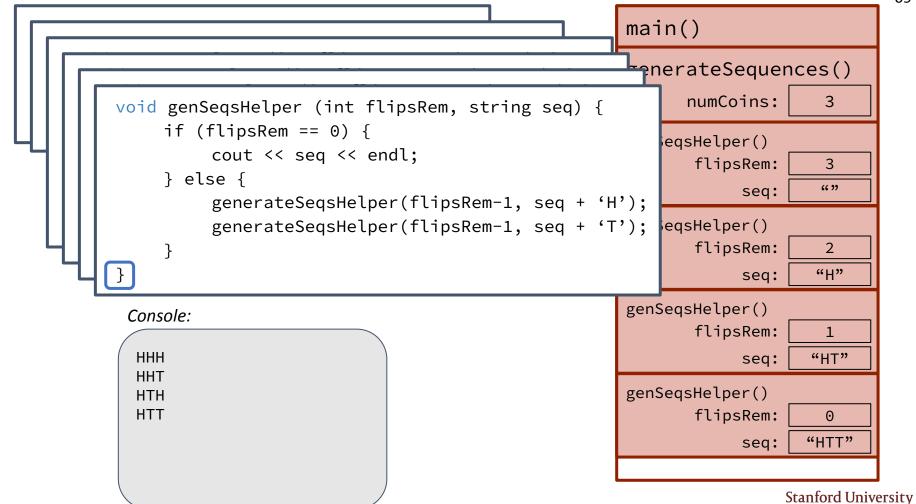


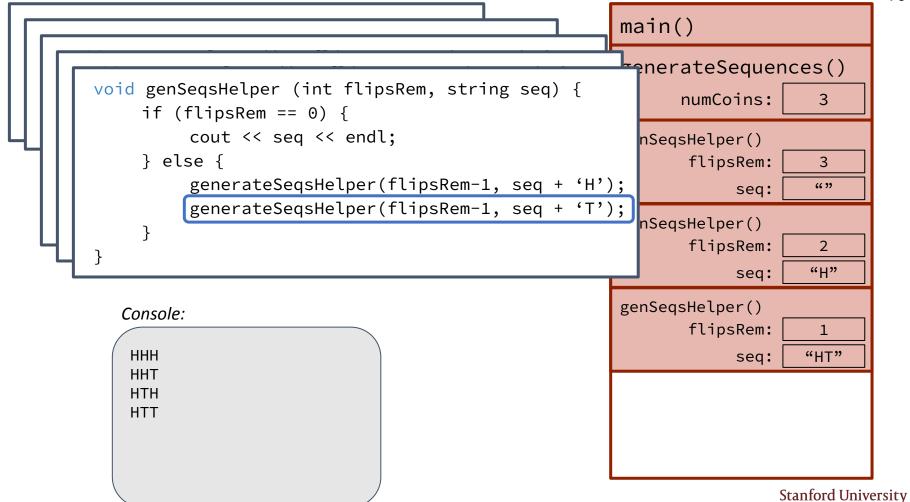


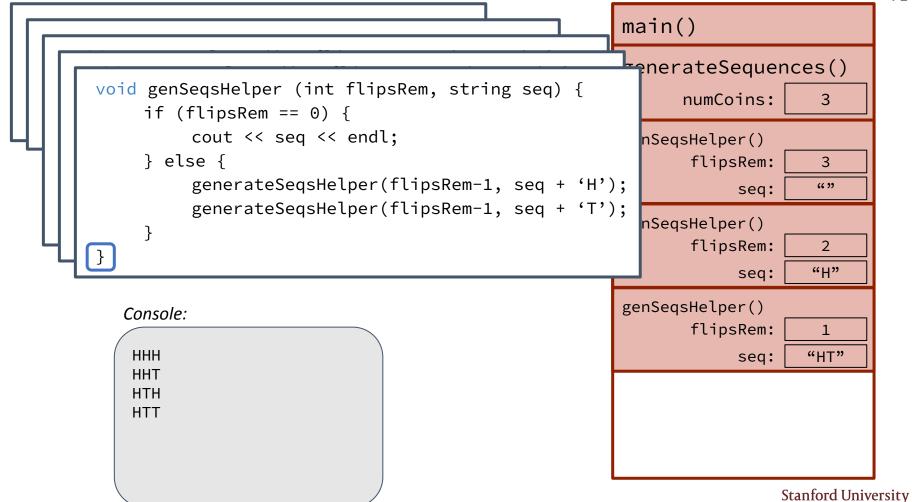












```
main()
                                                          generateSequences()
void genSeqsHelper (int flipsRem, string seq) {
     if (flipsRem == 0) {
                                                                numCoins:
          cout << seq << endl;</pre>
                                                          genSeqsHelper()
     } else {
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          generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'H');
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          generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'T');
                                                                      seq:
                                                          genSeqsHelper()
                                                                 flipsRem:
                                                                              "H"
                                                                      seq:
    Console:
     HHH
     HHT
     HTH
     HTT
                                                                          Stanford University
```

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main()
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   }
}</pre>
```

Console:

HHH HHT HTH HTT

```
main()
generateSequences()
numCoins: 3

genSeqsHelper()
flipsRem: 3
seq: ""
```

```
void genSeqsHelper (int flipsRem, string seq) {
   if (flipsRem == 0) {
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Console:

HHH HHT HTH HTT main()

generateSequences()
 numCoins: 3

genSeqsHelper()
 flipsRem: 3
 seq: ""

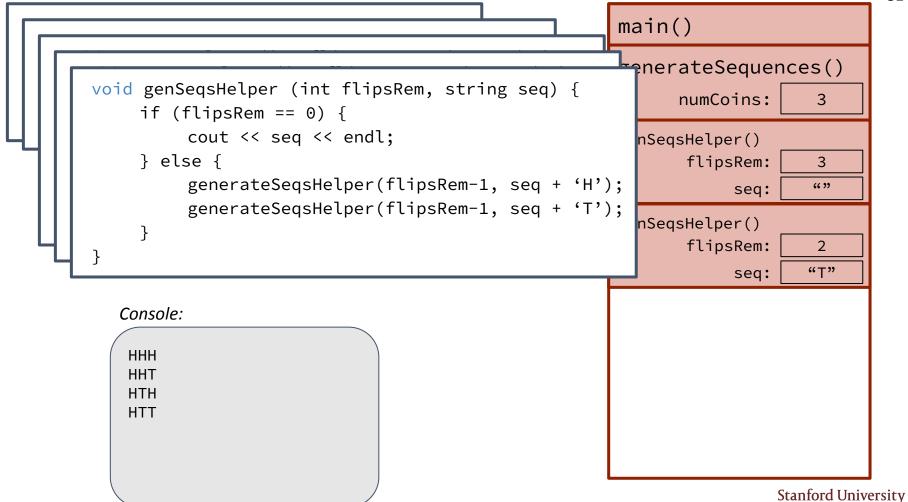
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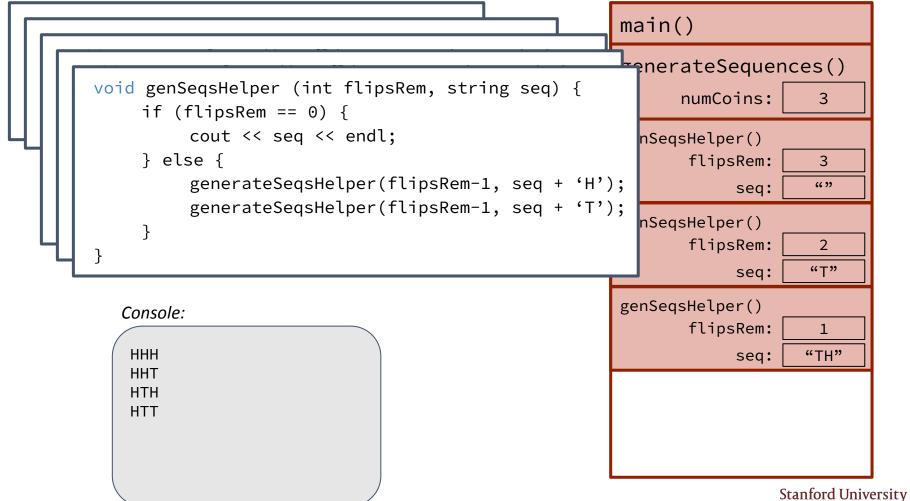
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void genSeqsHelper (int flipsRem, string seq) {
     if (flipsRem == 0) {
                                                                numCoins:
          cout << seq << endl;</pre>
                                                          genSeqsHelper()
     } else {
                                                                 flipsRem:
          generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'H');
                                                                              66 99
          generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'T');
                                                                      seq:
                                                          genSeqsHelper()
                                                                 flipsRem:
                                                                              "T"
                                                                      seq:
    Console:
     HHH
     HHT
     HTH
     HTT
                                                                          Stanford University
```

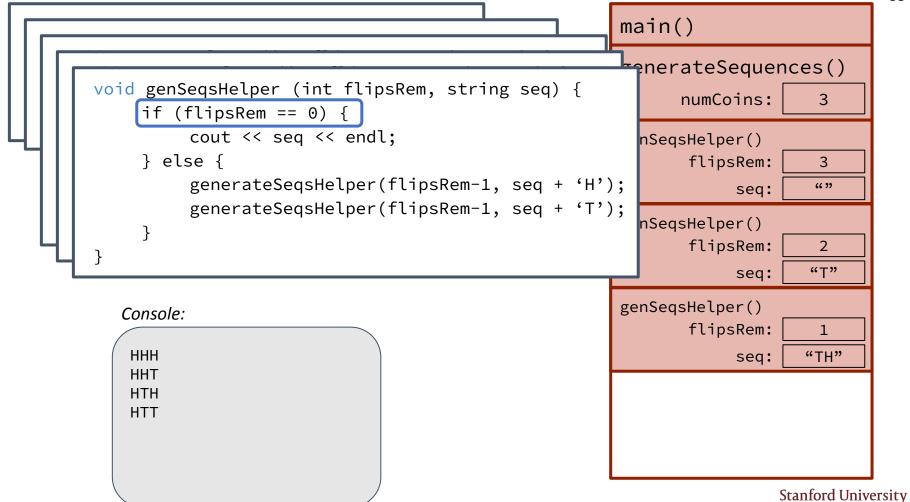
```
main()
                                                         generateSequences()
void genSeqsHelper (int flipsRem, string seq) {
     if (flipsRem == 0) {
                                                                numCoins:
          cout << seq << endl;</pre>
                                                         genSeqsHelper()
     } else {
                                                                 flipsRem:
          generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'H');
                                                                              66 99
          generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'T');
                                                                      seq:
                                                         genSeqsHelper()
                                                                 flipsRem:
                                                                              "T"
                                                                      seq:
    Console:
     HHH
     HHT
     HTH
     HTT
                                                                          Stanford University
```

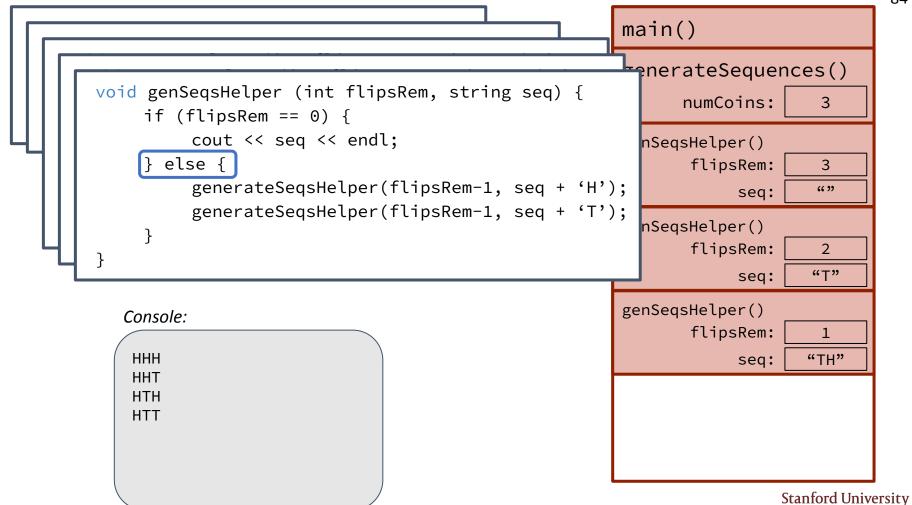
```
main()
                                                          generateSequences()
void genSeqsHelper (int flipsRem, string seq) {
     if (flipsRem == 0) {
                                                                numCoins:
          cout << seq << endl;</pre>
                                                          genSeqsHelper()
     } else {
                                                                 flipsRem:
          generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'H');
                                                                              66 99
          generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'T');
                                                                      seq:
                                                          genSeqsHelper()
                                                                 flipsRem:
                                                                              "T"
                                                                      seq:
    Console:
     HHH
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     HTT
                                                                          Stanford University
```

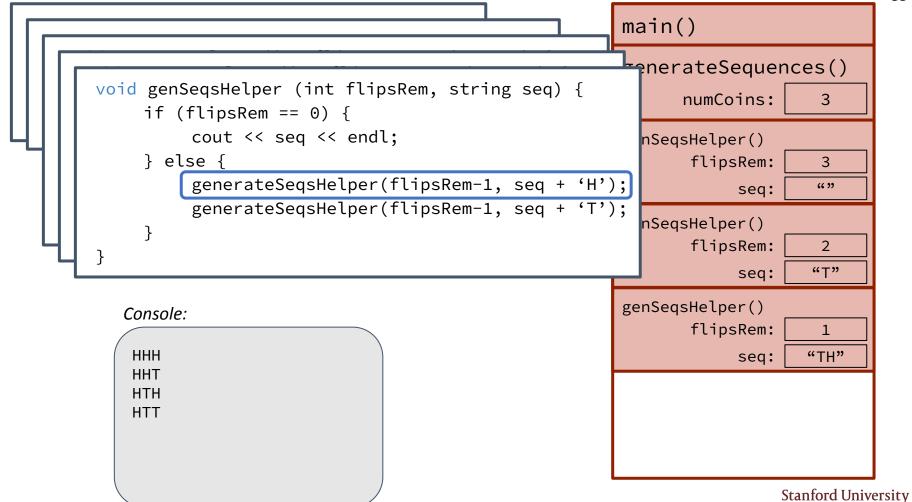
```
main()
                                                          generateSequences()
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     if (flipsRem == 0) {
                                                                numCoins:
          cout << seq << endl;</pre>
                                                          genSeqsHelper()
     } else {
                                                                 flipsRem:
          generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'H');
                                                                              66 99
          generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'T');
                                                                      seq:
                                                          genSeqsHelper()
                                                                 flipsRem:
                                                                              "T"
                                                                      seq:
    Console:
     HHH
     HHT
     HTH
     HTT
                                                                          Stanford University
```

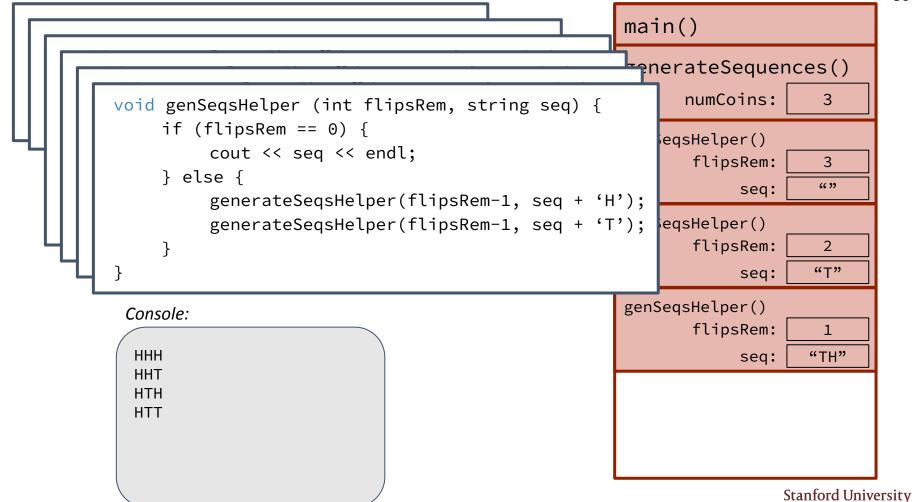


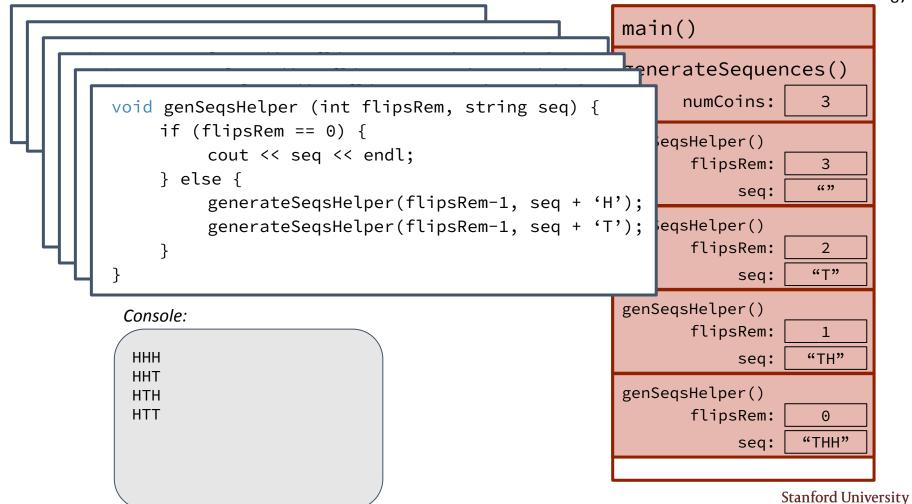


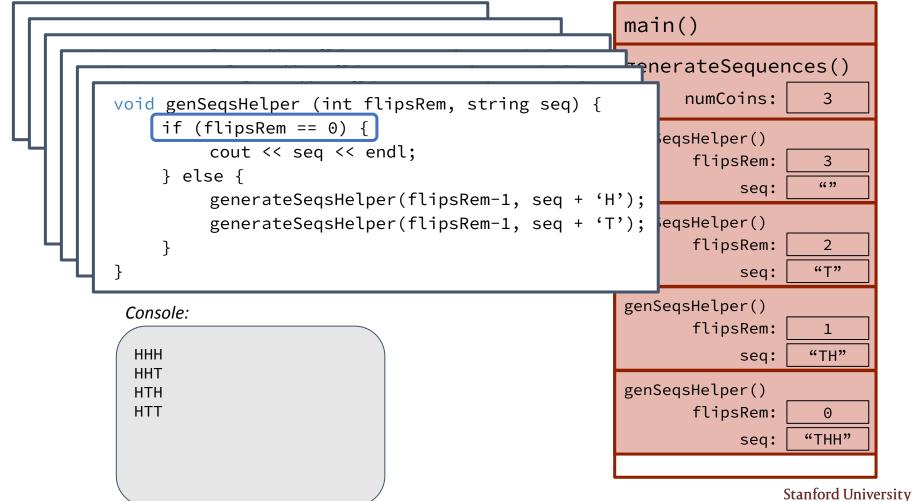


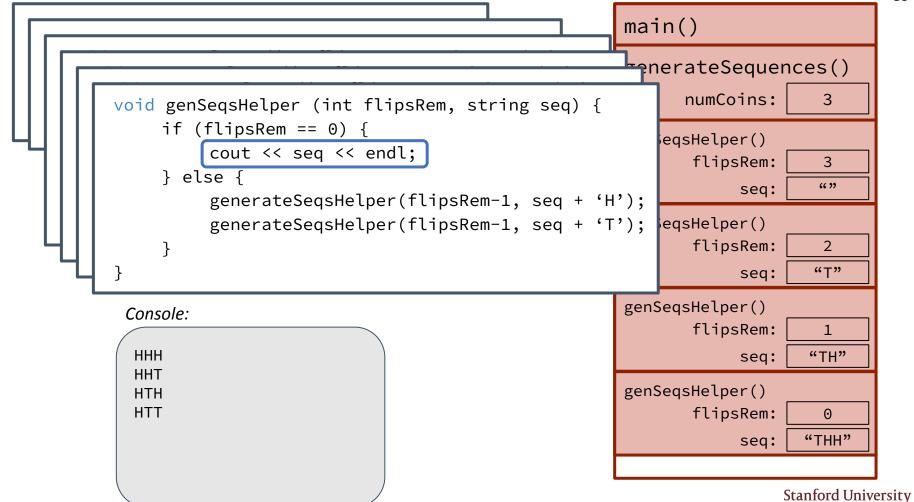


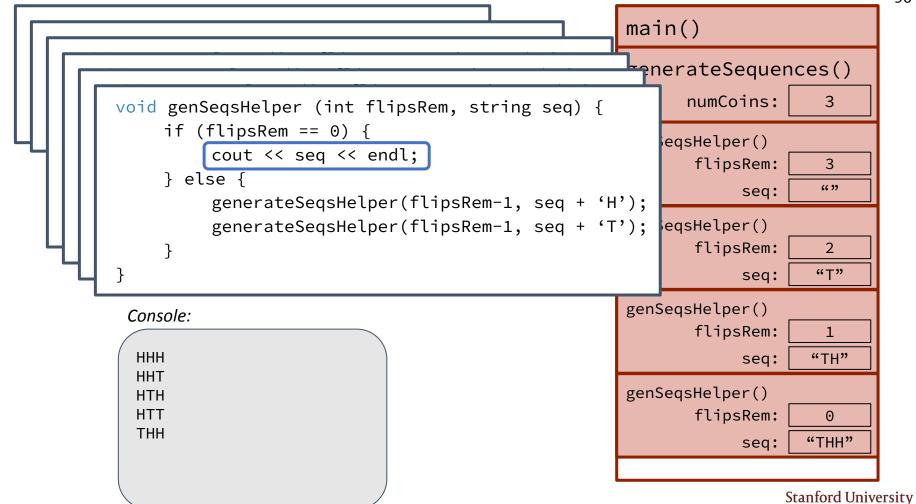


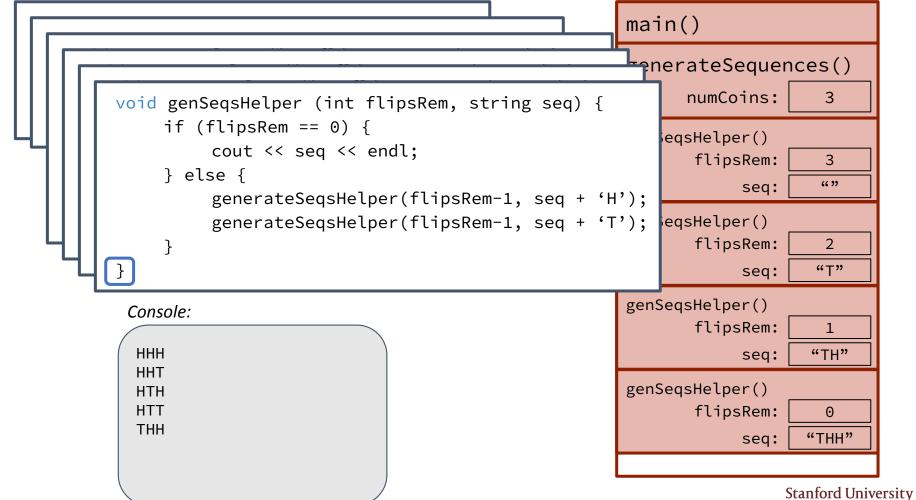


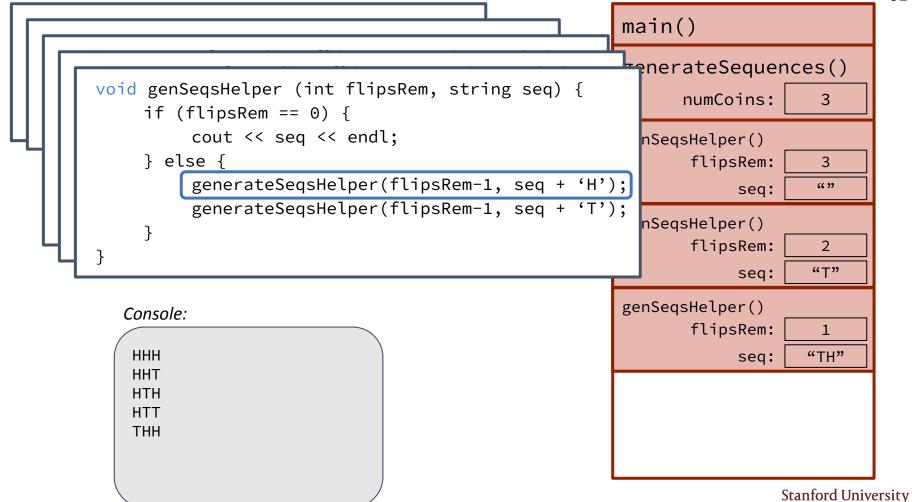


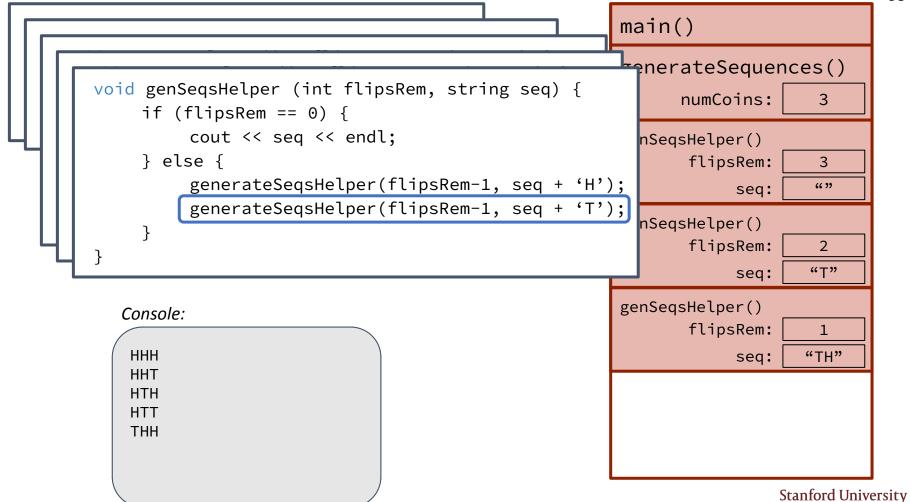


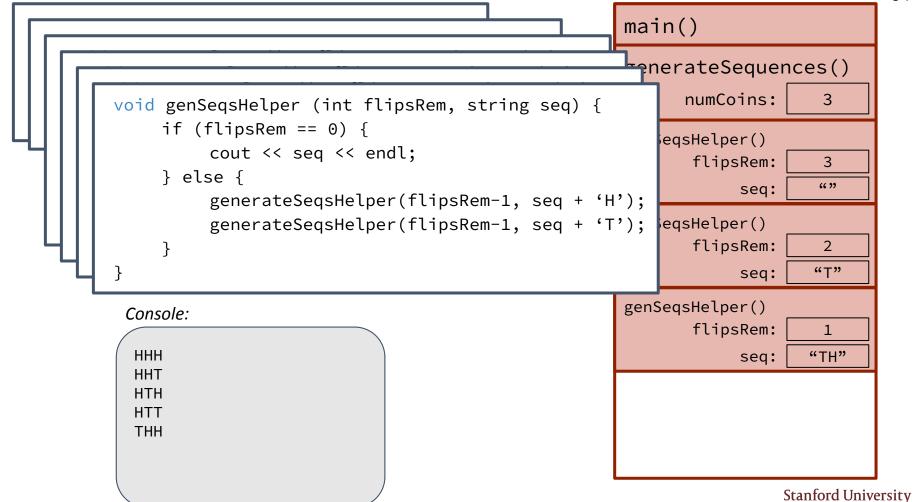


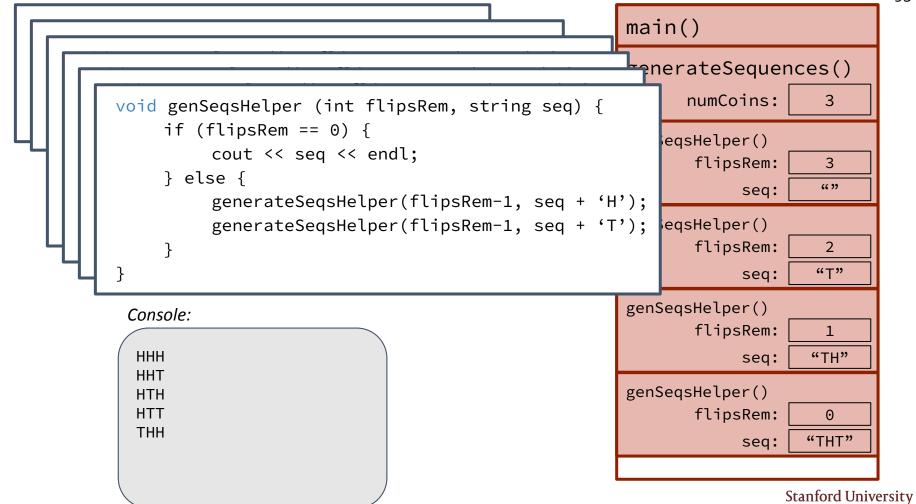


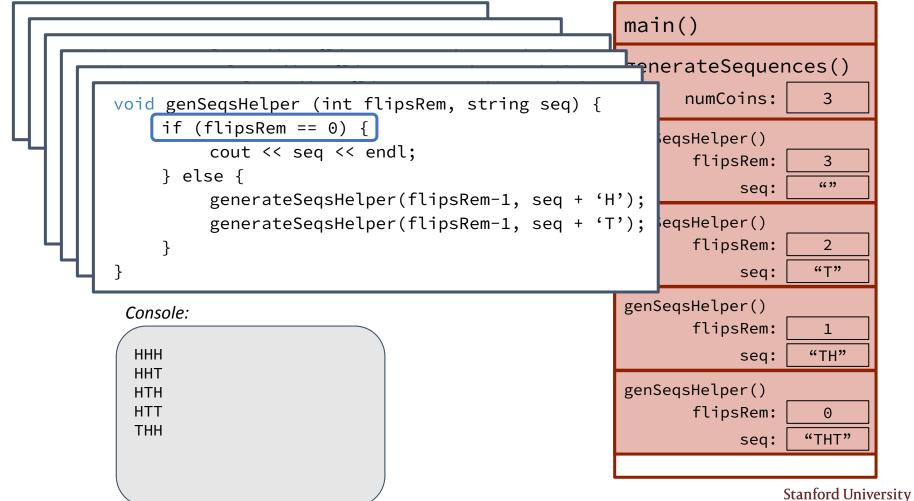


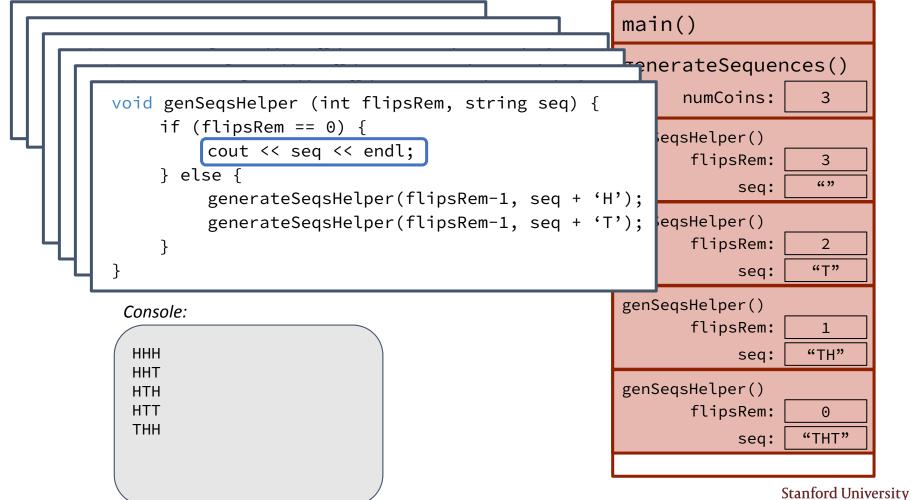


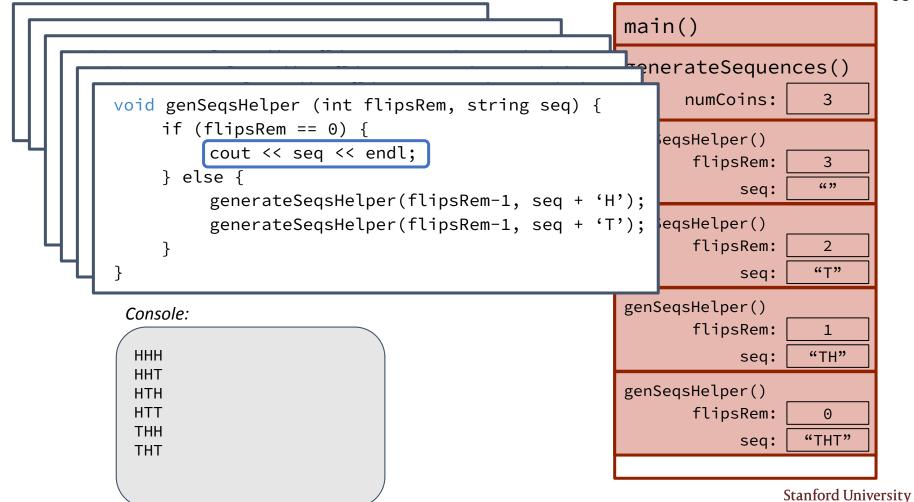


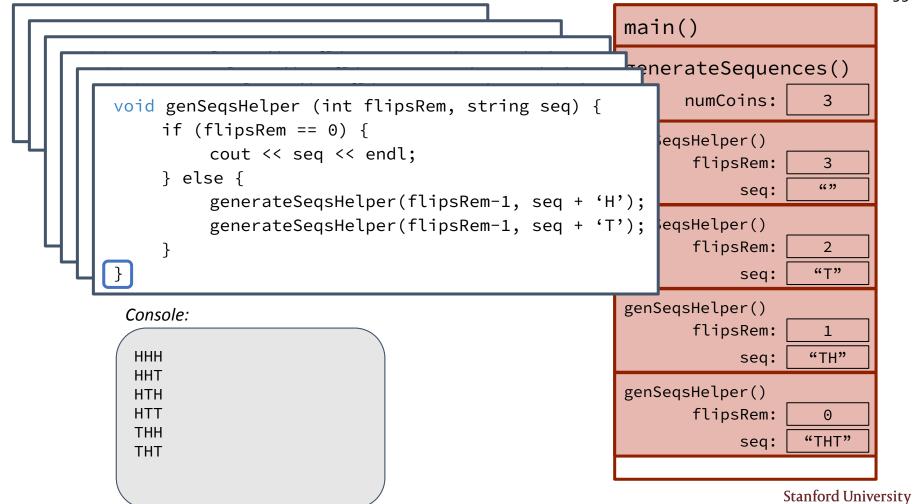


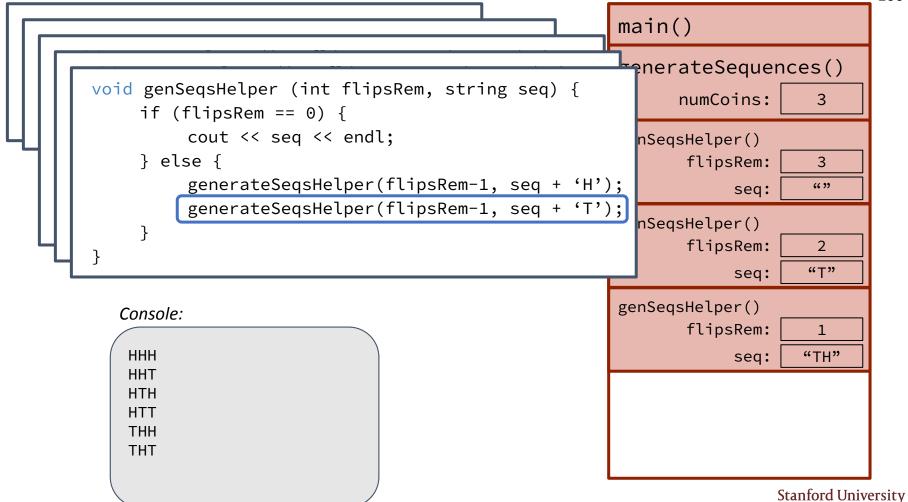


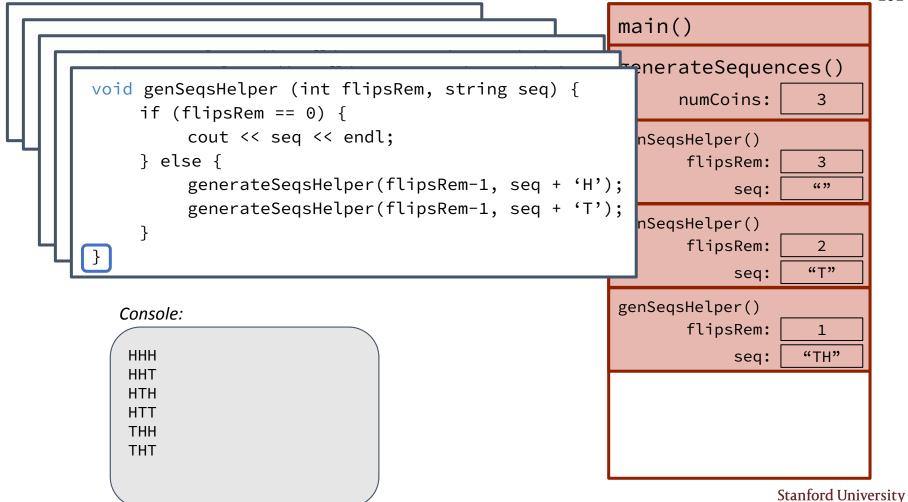


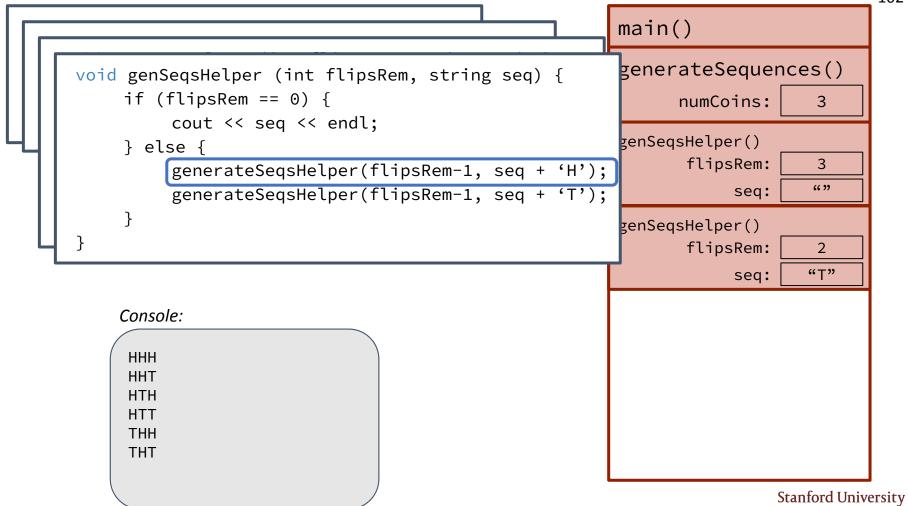




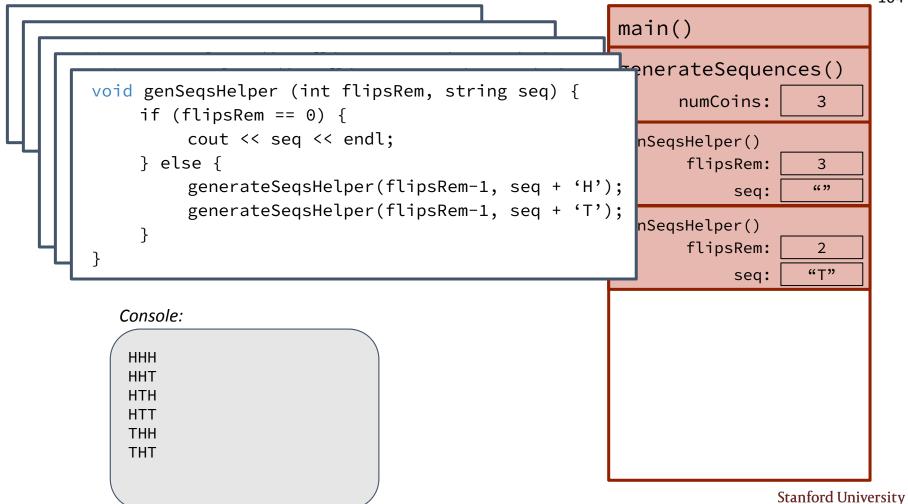


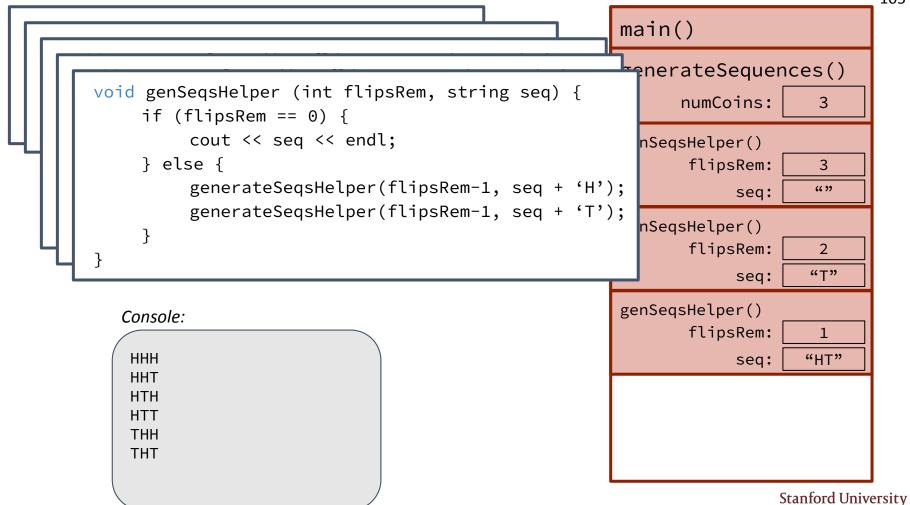


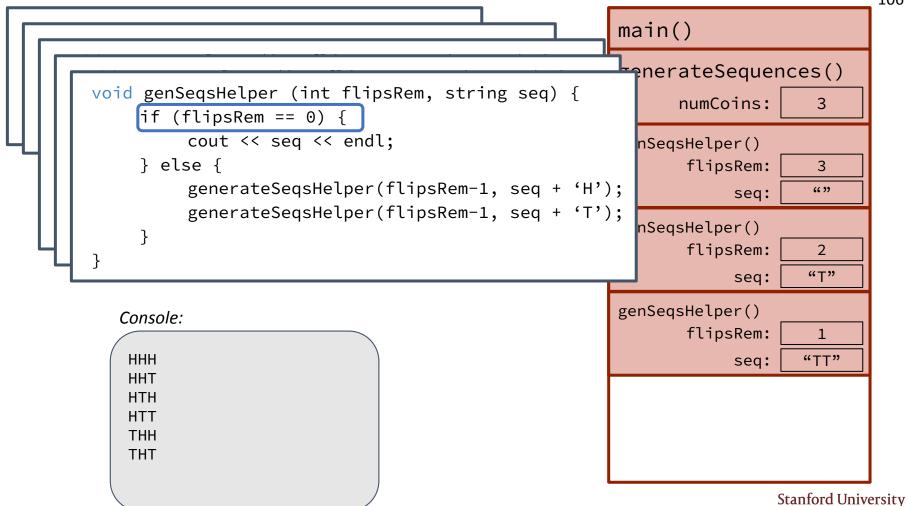


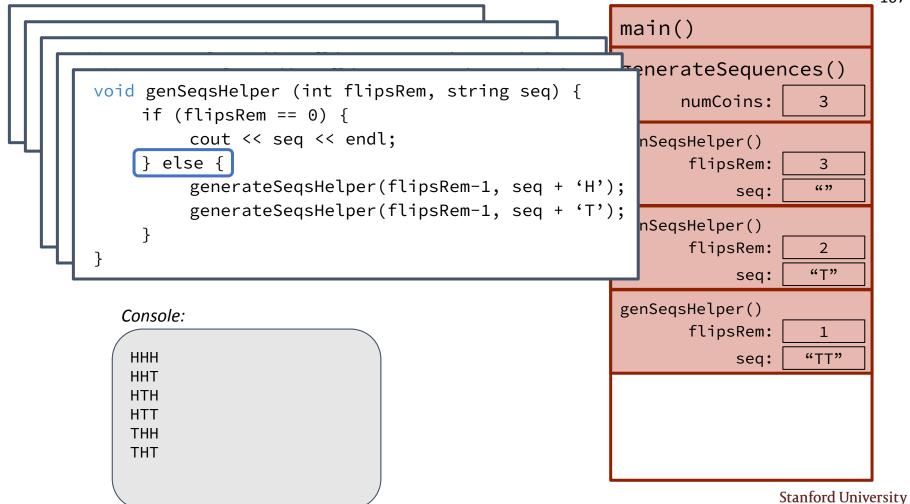


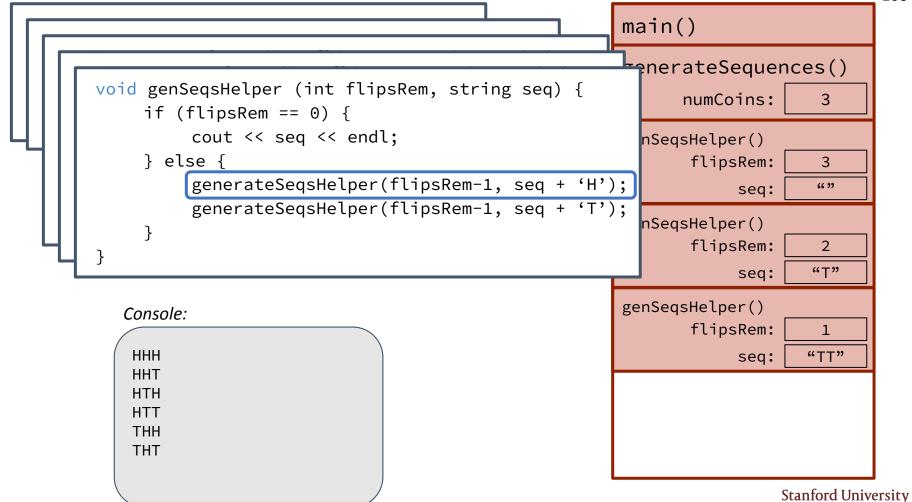
```
main()
                                                          generateSequences()
void genSeqsHelper (int flipsRem, string seq) {
     if (flipsRem == 0) {
                                                                numCoins:
          cout << seq << endl;</pre>
                                                          genSeqsHelper()
     } else {
                                                                 flipsRem:
          generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'H');
                                                                              66 99
          generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'T');
                                                                      seq:
                                                          genSeqsHelper()
                                                                 flipsRem:
                                                                              "T"
                                                                      seq:
    Console:
     HHH
     HHT
     HTH
     HTT
     THH
     THT
                                                                           Stanford University
```

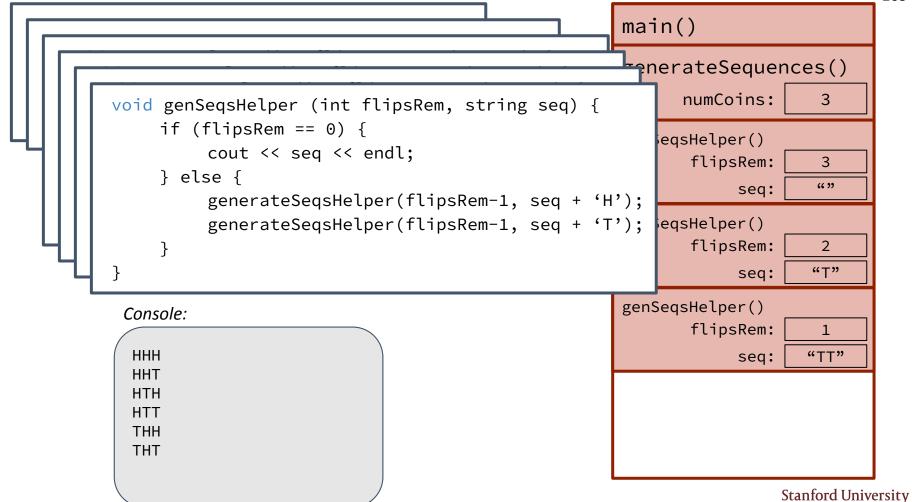


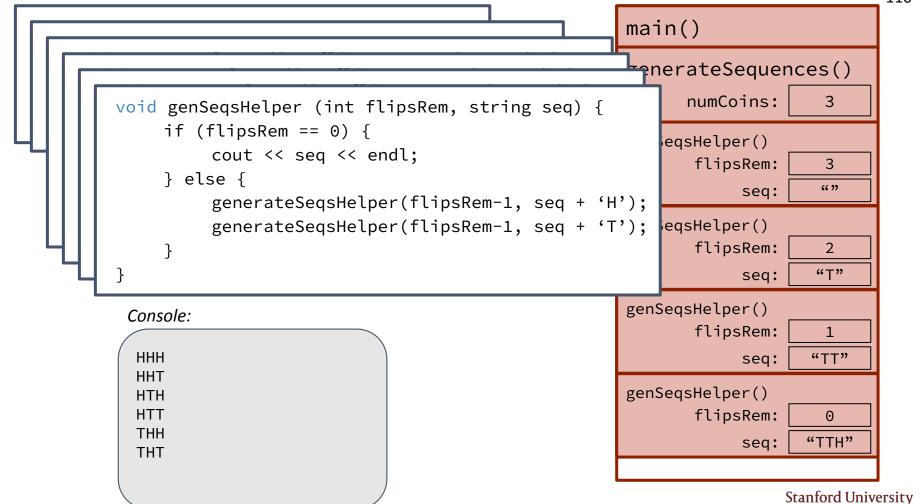


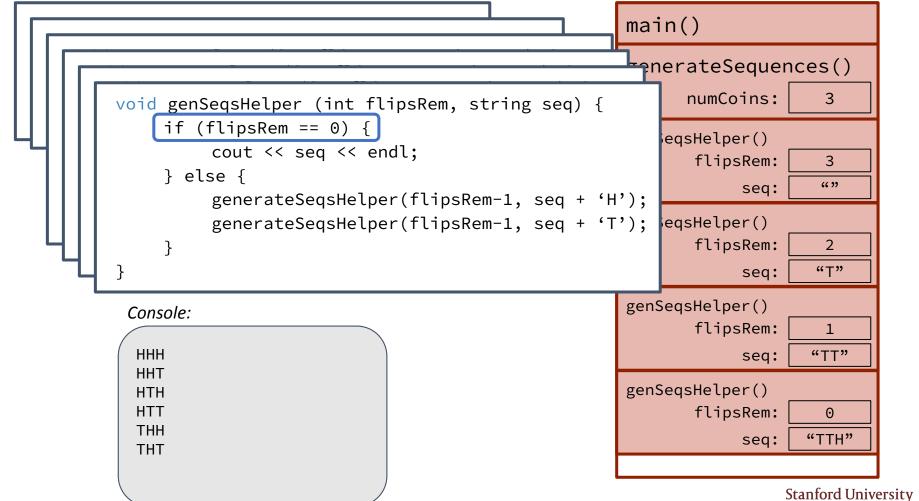


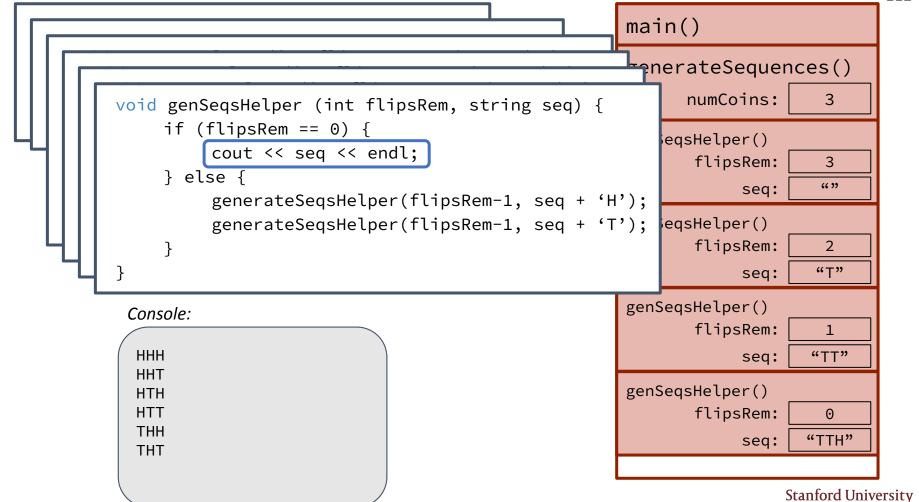


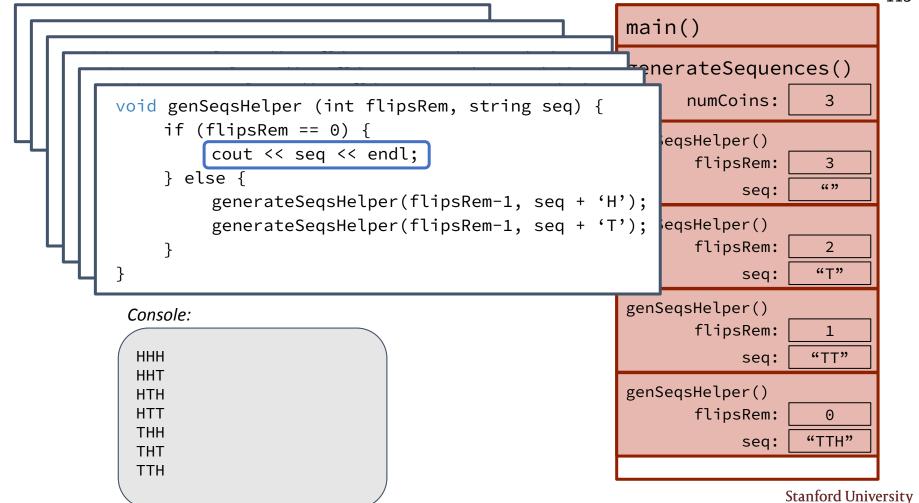


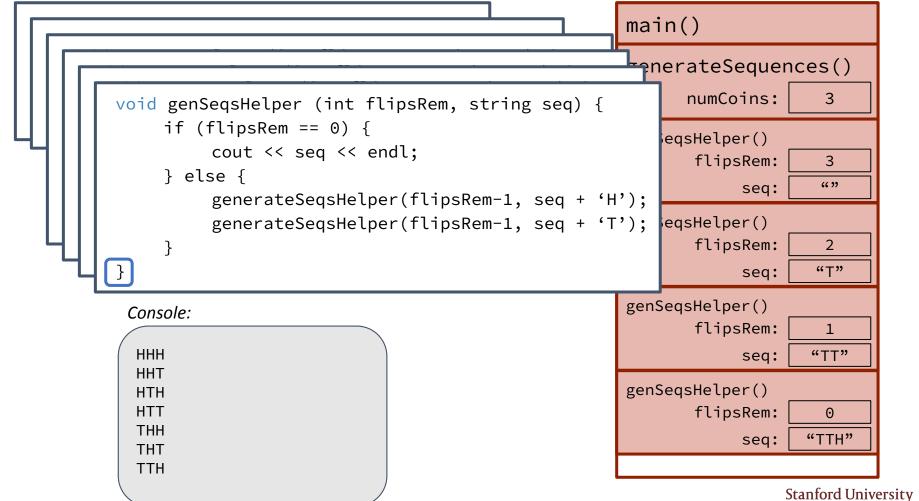


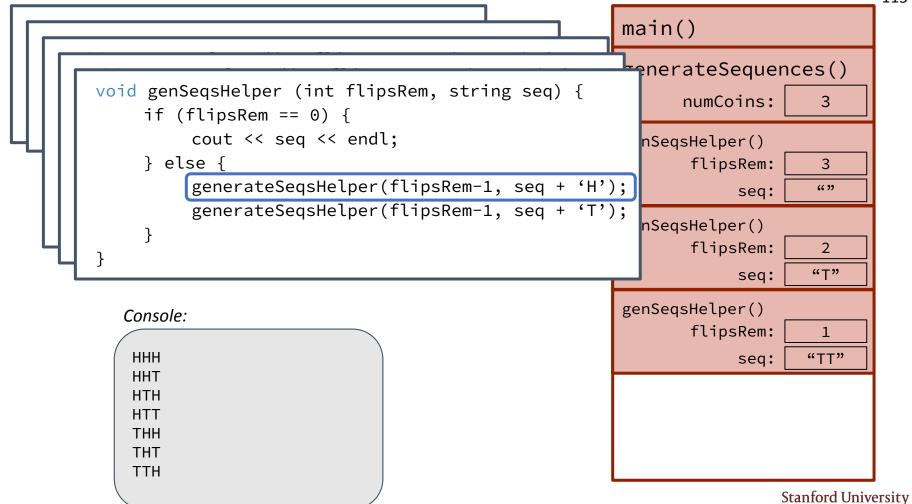


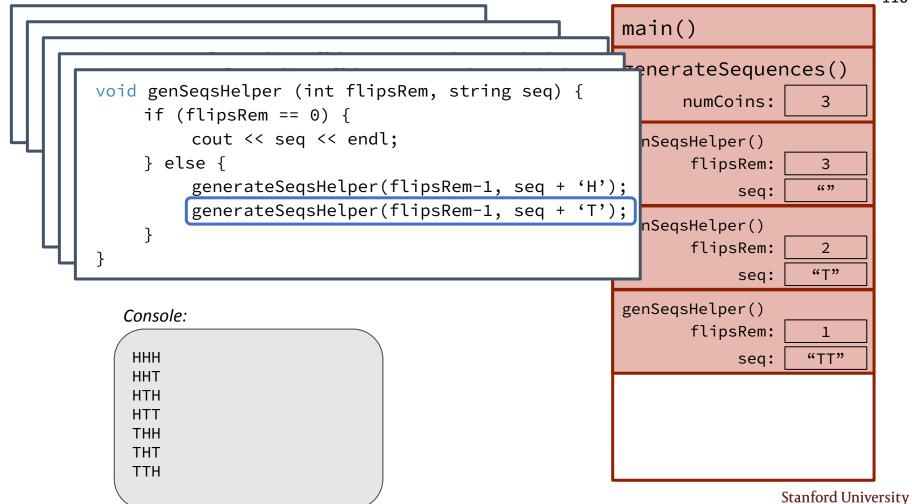


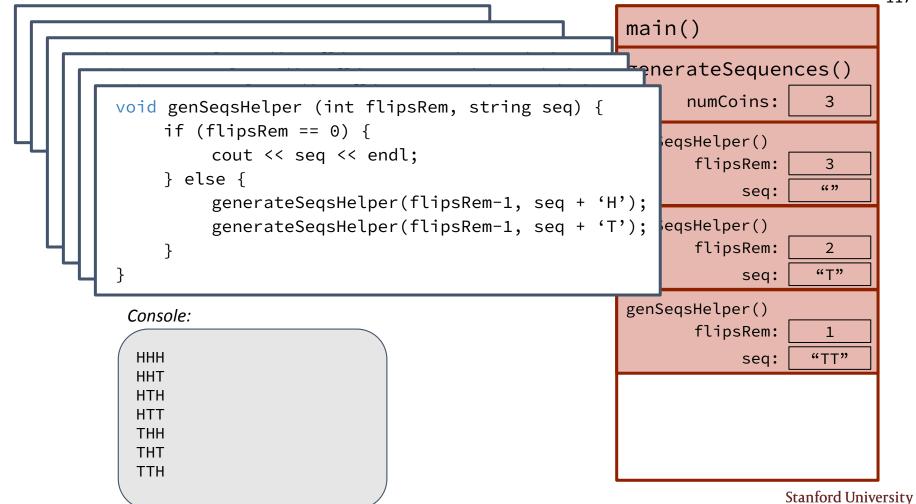


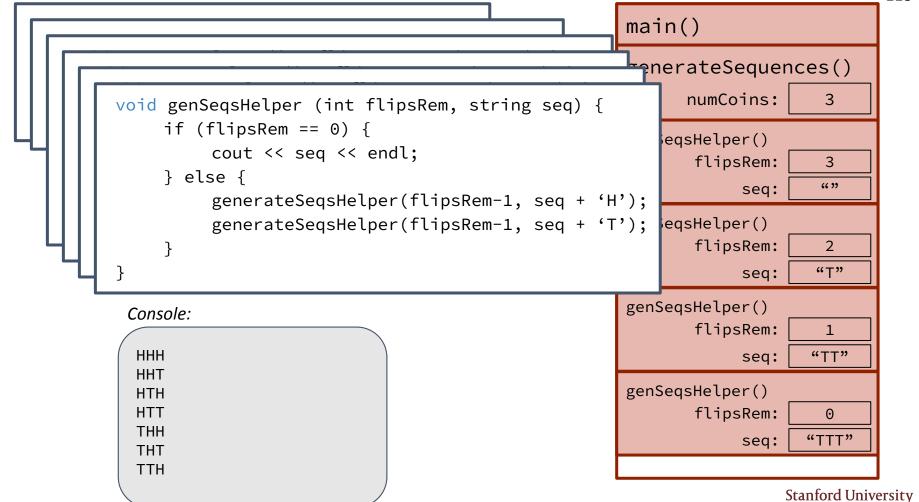


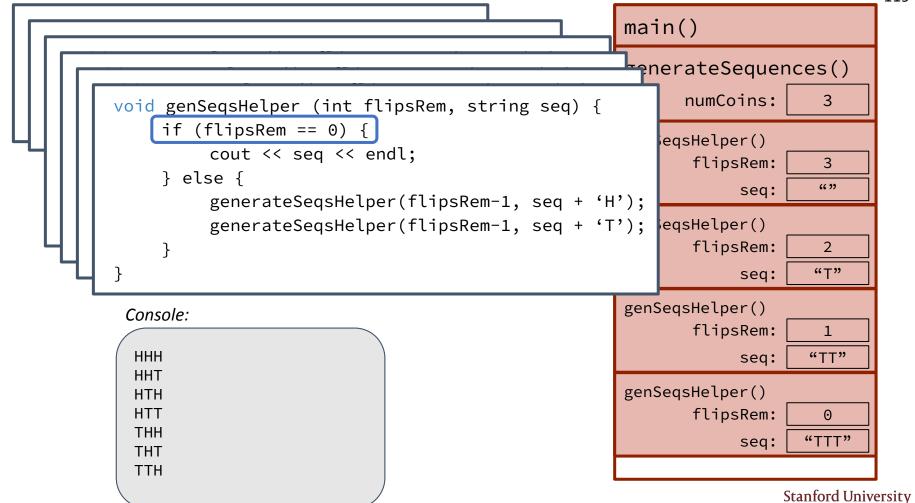


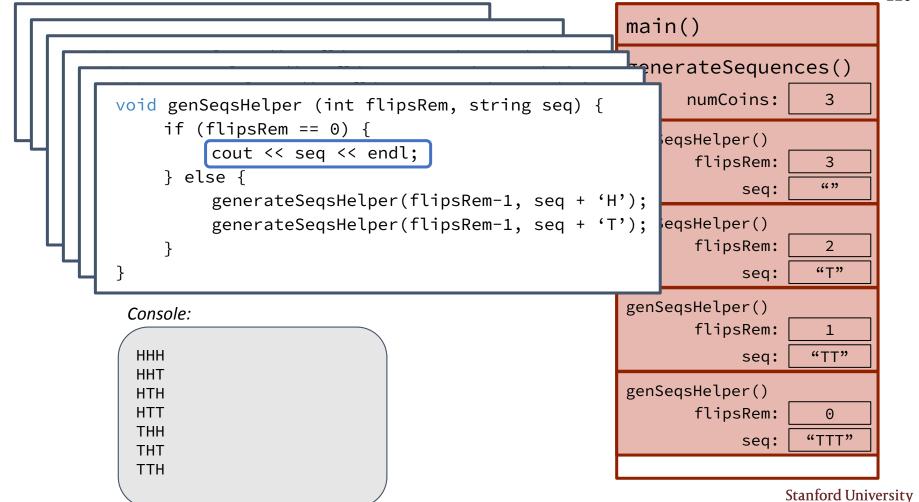


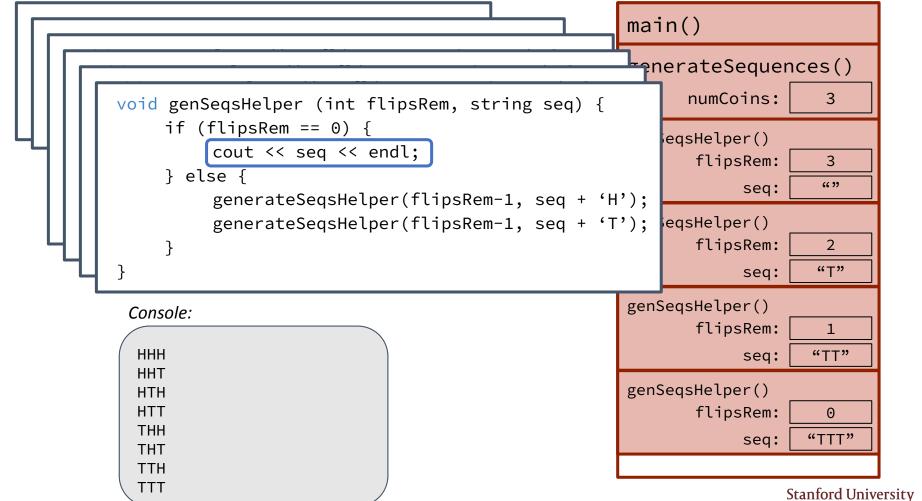


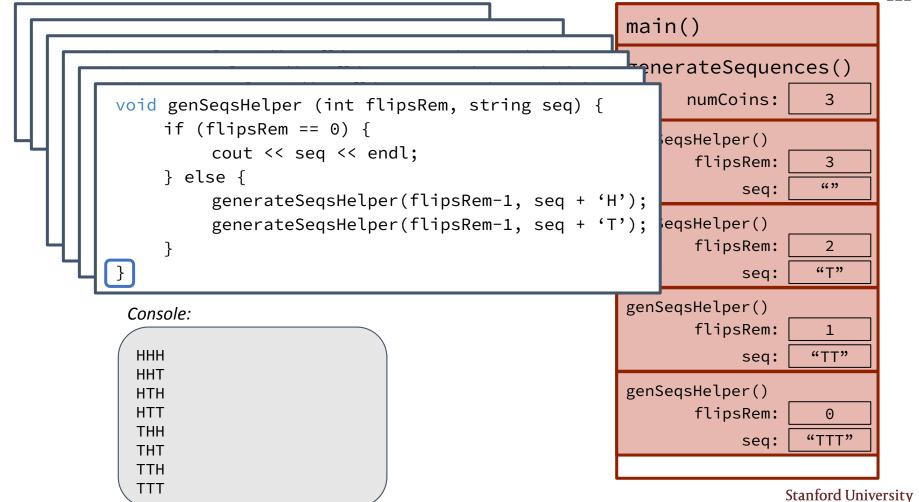


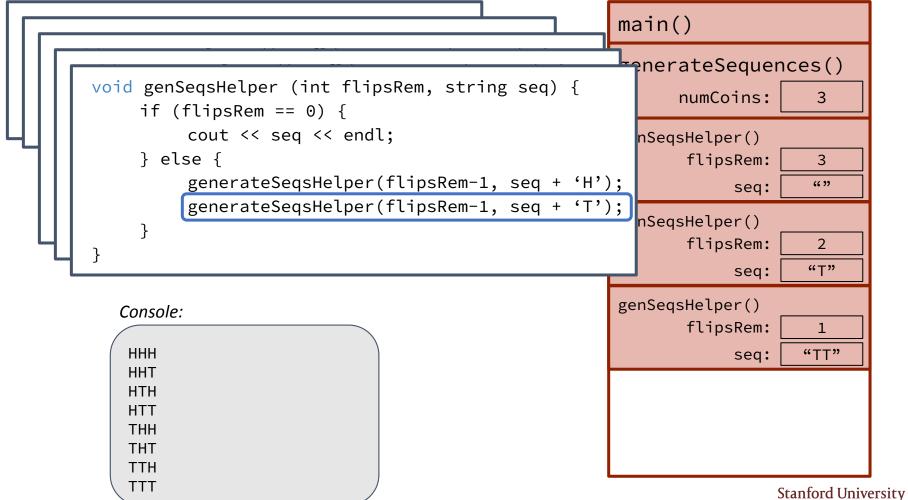


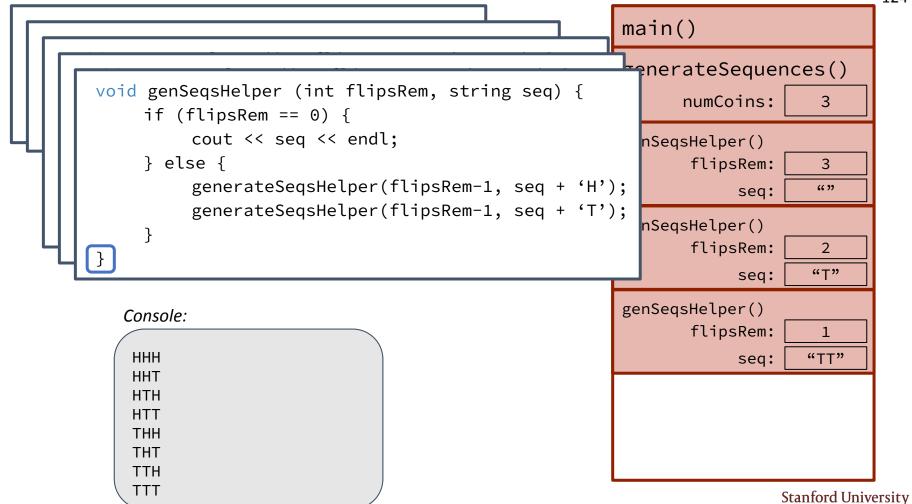




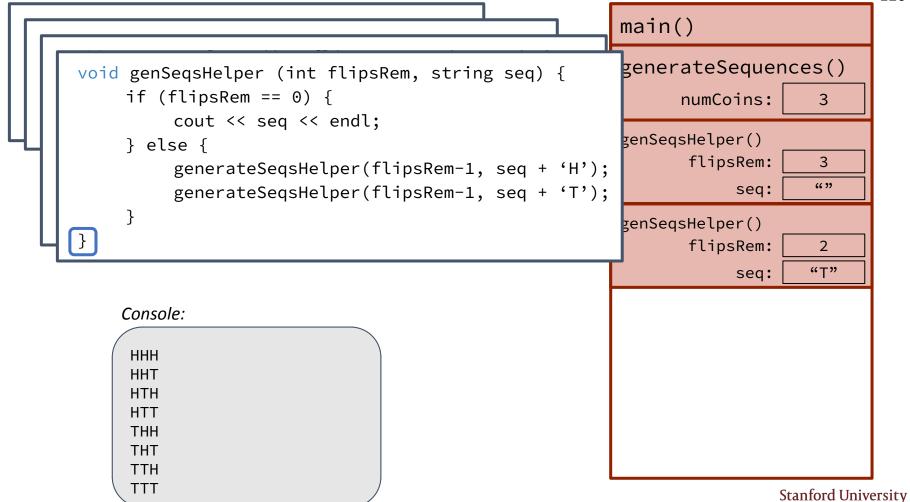








```
main()
                                                          generateSequences()
void genSeqsHelper (int flipsRem, string seq) {
     if (flipsRem == 0) {
                                                                numCoins:
          cout << seq << endl;</pre>
                                                          genSeqsHelper()
     } else {
                                                                 flipsRem:
                                                                               3
          generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'H');
                                                                               66 99
          generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'T');
                                                                      seq:
                                                          genSeqsHelper()
                                                                 flipsRem:
                                                                              "T"
                                                                      seq:
    Console:
     HHH
     HHT
     HTH
     HTT
     THH
     THT
     TTH
     TTT
                                                                           Stanford University
```



```
main()
void genSeqsHelper (int flipsRem, string seq) {
                                                          generateSequences()
     if (flipsRem == 0) {
                                                                numCoins:
          cout << seq << endl;</pre>
     } else {
                                                          genSeqsHelper()
          generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'H');
                                                                 flipsRem:
         generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'T');
                                                                              66 99
                                                                      seq:
      Console:
       HHH
       HHT
       HTH
       HTT
       THH
       THT
       TTH
```

TTT

```
void genSeqsHelper (int flipsRem, string seq) {
   if (flipsRem == 0) {
      cout << seq << endl;
   } else {
      generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'H');
      generateSeqsHelper(flipsRem-1, seq + 'T');
   }
}</pre>
```

```
HHH
HHT
HTH
HTT
THH
THT
TTH
TTH
```

main()

generateSequences()
 numCoins: 3

genSeqsHelper()
 flipsRem: 3
 seq: ""

```
void generateSequences (int numCoins) {
   genSeqsHepler(numCoins, "");
}
```

```
HHH
HHT
HTH
HTT
THH
THT
TTH
TTH
```

```
main()
generateSequences()
     numCoins:
```

```
int main () {
   generateSequences(3);
   return 0;
```

```
HHH
HHT
HTH
HTT
THH
THT
TTH
TTT
```

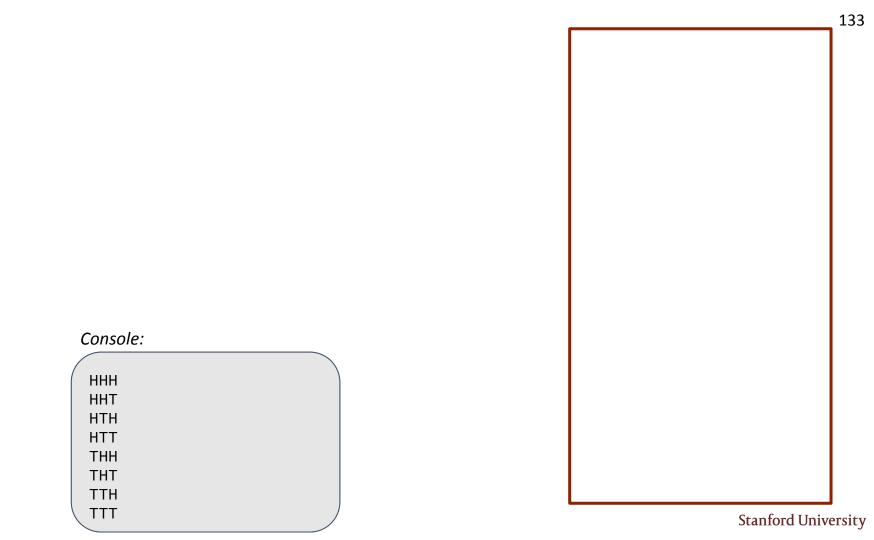
```
int main () {
    generateSequences(3);
    return 0;
}
```

```
HHH
HHT
HTH
HTT
THH
THT
TTH
TTT
```

```
132
```

```
int main () {
    generateSequences(3);
    return 0;
        Console:
         HHH
         HHT
         HTH
         HTT
         THH
         THT
         TTH
         TTT
```

```
main()
                   Stanford University
```



3 Problems to Solve with Backtracking

- 1. Generate all solutions to a problem or count number of solutions
- 2. Find one specific solution or prove that one exists
- 3. Find the best possible solution to a problem

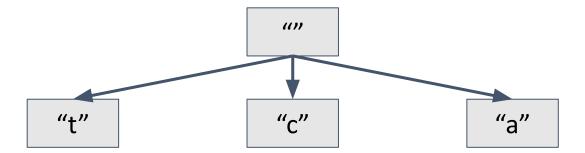
All of these involve exploring many possible solutions, rather than proceeding down a linear path towards one solution.

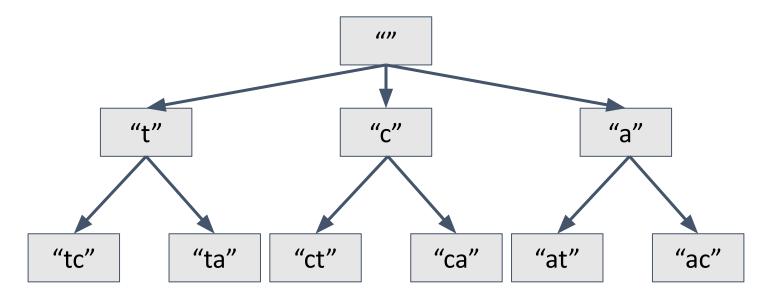
Word Jumble

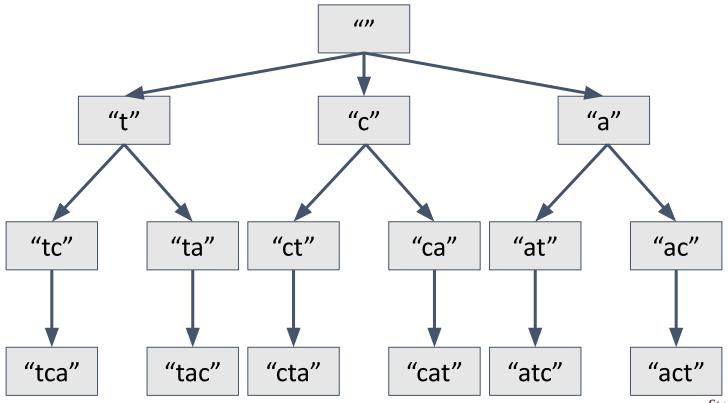
- We'd like to print every ordering of "TEYPT" to solve the puzzle
- This is much like coin sequences, but instead of choosing H or T, we are choosing a letter at each step

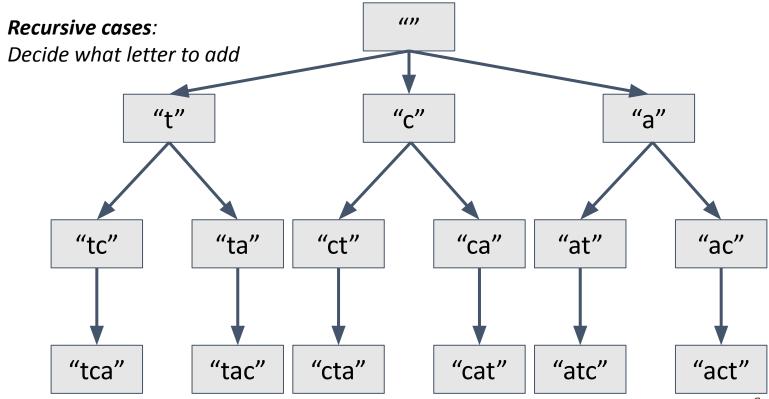


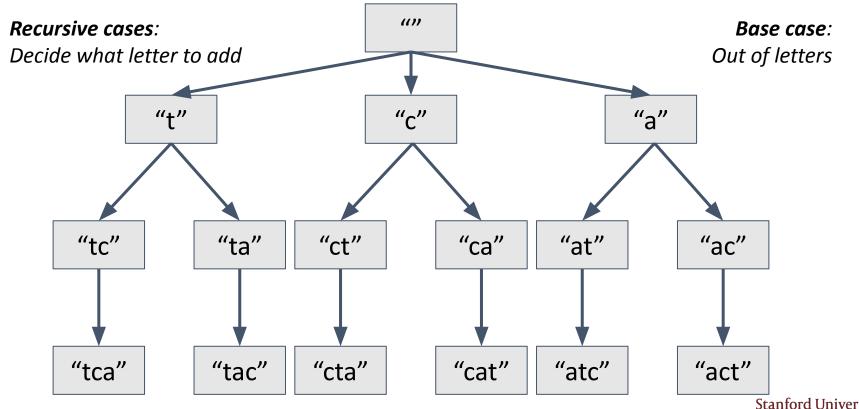
un











Permutations Solution Code

```
void generatePermutationsHelper(string lettersRemaining, string sequence) {
    // Base case: lettersRemaining = 0, no more letters to choose from
    if (lettersRemaining.length() == 0) {
        cout << sequence << endl;</pre>
    } else {
        // Many recursive cases (when lettersRemaining > 0)
        for (int i = 0; i < lettersRemaining.length(); i++) {</pre>
            char letter = lettersRemaining[i]; // choose one of our remaining letters to build on sequence
            generatePermutationsHelper(lettersRemaining.substr(0, i) + lettersRemaining.substr(i + 1),
                                           sequence + letter);
void generatePermutations(string word) {
    generatePermutationsHelper(word, "");
```

Takeaways

"Choose / explore / unchoose" pattern in backtracking

```
for (int i = 0; i < lettersRemaining.length(); i++) {</pre>
    // choose a letter
    char letter = lettersRemaining[i];
    // explore this choice by making a recursive call
    generatePermutationsHelper(lettersRemaining.substr(0, i) +
                                 lettersRemaining.substr(i + 1), sequence + letter)
    // unchoose this letter by not including it in our sequence next loop
```

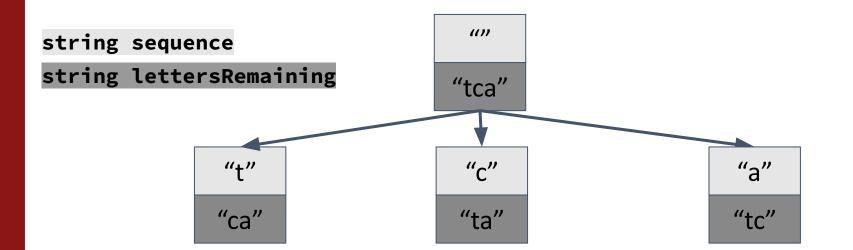
Takeaways

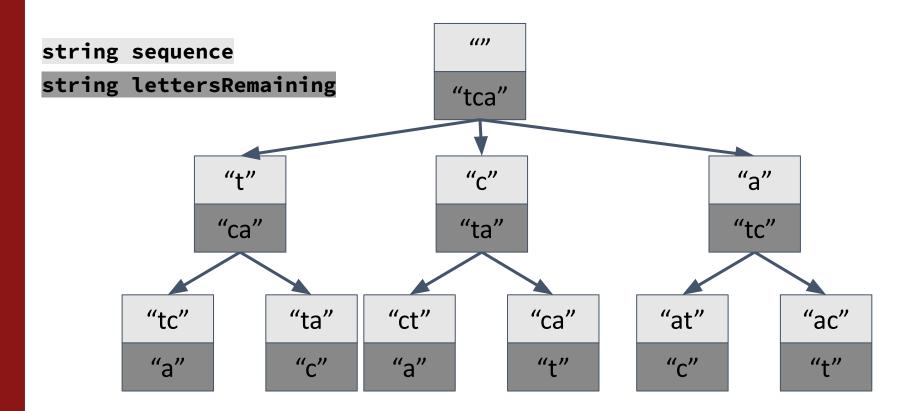
- "Choose / explore / unchoose" pattern in backtracking
- It is important to keep track of the decisions we've made so far and the decisions we have left to make

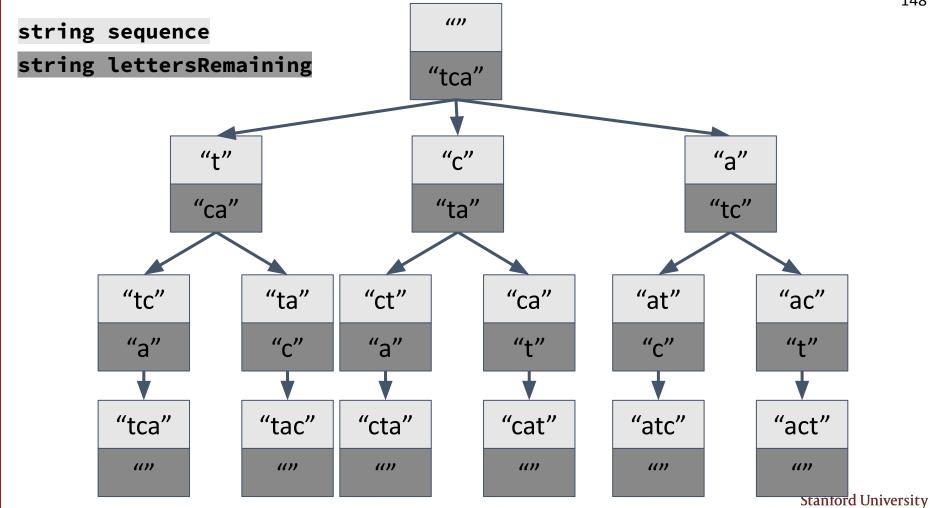
```
void generatePermutationsHelper(string lettersRemaining, string sequence) {
```

string sequence string lettersRemaining

"tca"







Takeaways

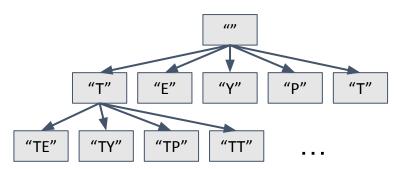
- "Choose / explore / unchoose" pattern in backtracking
- It is important to keep track of the decisions we've made so far and the decisions we have left to make

```
void generatePermutationsHelper(string lettersRemaining, string sequence) {
```

Takeaways

- "Choose / explore / unchoose" pattern in backtracking
- It is important to keep track of the decisions we've made so far and the decisions we have left to make
- Backtracking recursion can have variable branching factors at each level





3 Problems to Solve with Backtracking

- 1. Generate all solutions to a problem or count number of solutions
- 2. Find one specific solution or prove that one exists
- 3. Find the best possible solution to a problem

All of these involve exploring many possible solutions, rather than proceeding down a linear path towards one solution.

3 Problems to Solve with Backtracking

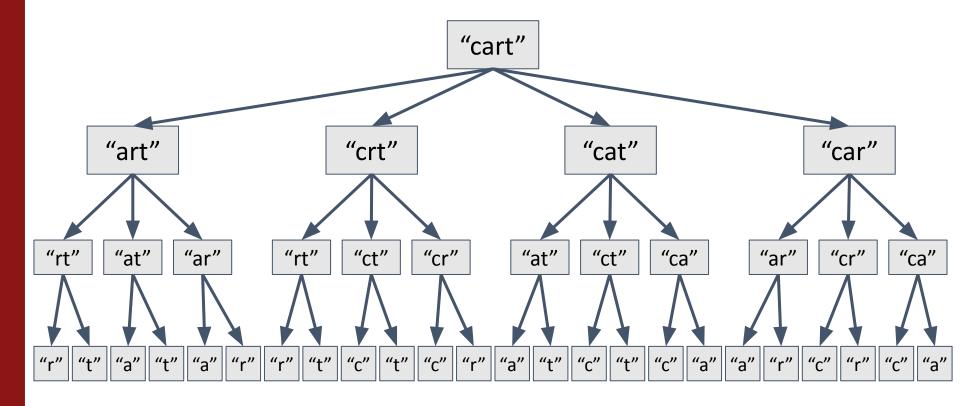
- 1. Generate all solutions to a problem or count number of solutions
- 2. Find one specific solution or prove that one exists
- 3. Find the best possible solution to a problem

All of these involve exploring many possible solutions, rather than proceeding down a linear path towards one solution.

Shrinkable Words

- A *shrinkable word* is a word that can be reduced down to one letter by removing one letter at a time, leaving a valid word at each step
- Idea: Let's use a decision tree to remove letters and determine if a word is shrinkabe!

Shrinkable Words Decision Tree



Shrinkable Words

Base cases:

- We reach an invalid word (failure)
- We get down to a single-letter word (success)

Recursive cases:

- The word is shrinkable if you can remove any letter and get a shrinkable word
- The word is not shrinkable if no matter what letter you remove, it's not shrinkable

Lexicon

How do we check if a word is valid? We have an ADT for that:

#include "lexicon.h" (documentation here)

```
Lexicon lex("res/EnglishWords.txt"); // create from file
lex.contains("koala"); // returns true
lex.contains("zzzzz"); // returns false
// returns true if there are any words starting with "fi" in the lexicon
lex.containsPrefix("fi");
```

Solution

```
bool isShrinkable(Lexicon& lex, string word) {
   // base case 1) reach invalid word 2) reach final letter
   if (!lex.contains(word)) {
        return false;
   if (word.length() == 1) {
        return true;
    }
   // recursive case: try removing every letter and if any succeeds, return true
   for (int i = 0; i < word.length(); i++) {</pre>
        string remainingWord = word.substr(0, i) + word.substr(i + 1);
        if (isShrinkable(lex, remainingWord)) {
            return true;
    return false;
```

Given a group of people, generate all possible teams, or subsets, of these people:







Subsets

Given a group of people, generate all possible teams, or subsets, of these people:







```
{}
{"Amrita"}
{"Elyse"}
{"Taylor"}
{"Amrita", "Elyse"}
{"Amrita", "Taylor"}
{"Elyse", "Taylor"}
{"Amrita", "Elyse", "Taylor"}
```

Given a group of people, generate all possible teams, or subsets, of those people:








```
{"Taylor"}
{"Amrita", "Elyse"}
{"Amrita", "Taylor"}
{"Elyse", "Taylor"}
{"Amrita", "Elyse", "Taylor"}
```

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Given a group of people, generate all possible teams, or subsets, of those people:







```
{}
{"Amrita"}
{"Elyse"}
{"Taylor"}
{"Amrita", "Elyse"}
{"Amrita", "Taylor"}
{"Elyse", "Taylor"}
{"Amrita", "Elyse", "Taylor"}
```

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Subsets

Given a group of people, generate all possible teams, or subsets, of those people:







Half the subsets contain {} {"Amrita"} "Amrita" {"Elyse"} {"Taylor"} {"Amrita", "Elyse"} {"Amrita", "Taylor"} {"Elyse", "Taylor"} {"Amrita", "Elyse", "Taylor"}

Subsets

Given a group of people, generate all possible teams, or subsets, of those people:







```
Half the subsets contain
{}
{"Amrita"}
                        "Elyse"
{"Elyse"}
{"Taylor"}
{"Amrita", "Elyse"}
{"Amrita", "Taylor"}
{"Elyse", "Taylor"}
{"Amrita", "Elyse", "Taylor"}
```

Subsets

Given a group of people, generate all possible teams, or subsets, of those people:







```
Half the subsets contain
{}
{"Amrita"}
                       "Taylor"
{"Elyse"}
{"Taylor"}
{"Amrita", "Elyse"}
{"Amrita", "Taylor"}
{"Elyse", "Taylor"}
{"Amrita", "Elyse", "Taylor"}
```

Given a group of people, generate all possible teams, or subsets, of those people:







Half the subsets that {} {"Amrita"} contain "Taylor" also {"Elyse"} contain "Amrita" {"Taylor"} {"Amrita", "Elyse"} {"Amrita", "Taylor"} {"Elyse", "Taylor"} {"Amrita", "Elyse", "Taylor"} **Stanford University**

Given a group of people, generate all possible teams, or subsets, of those people:







```
Half the subsets that
{}
{"Amrita"}
                  contain "Taylor" and
{"Elyse"}
                 "Amrita", also contain
{"Taylor"}
                         "Elyse"
{"Amrita", "Elyse"}
{"Amrita", "Taylor"}
{"Elyse", "Taylor"}
{"Amrita", "Elyse", "Taylor"}
                                Stanford University
```

Making a Decision Tree

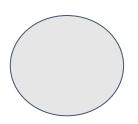
Decision at each step (each level of the tree)

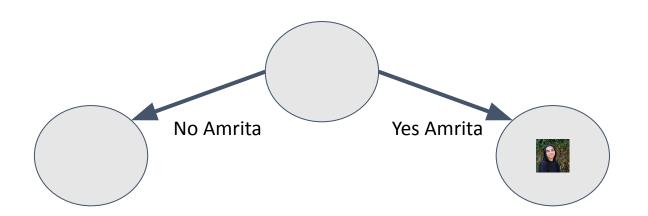
Options at each decision (branches from each node)

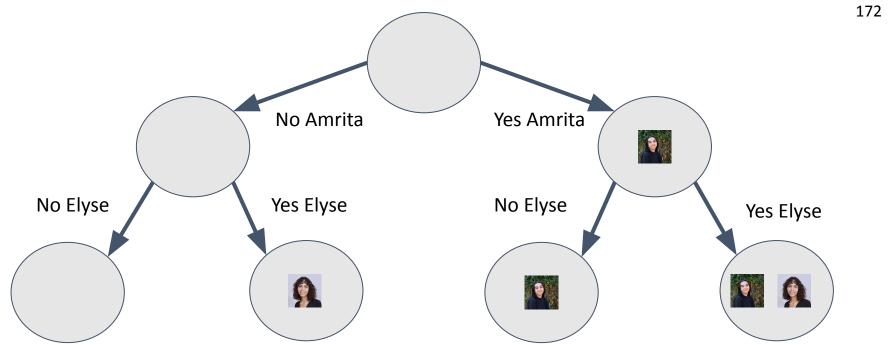
Information you need to store along the way

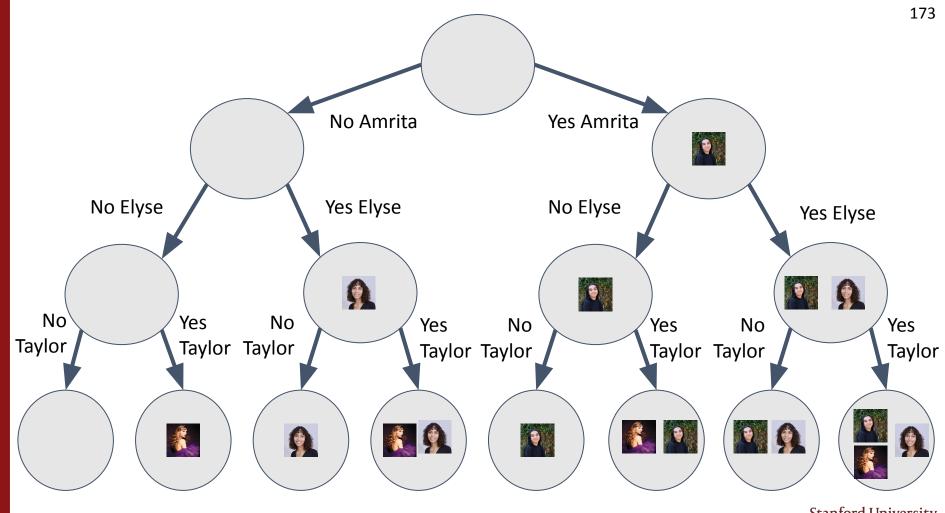
Making a Decision Tree

- Decision at each step (each level of the tree)
 - Are we going to include a given element in our subset?
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 - Include the element
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 - Set you've built so far





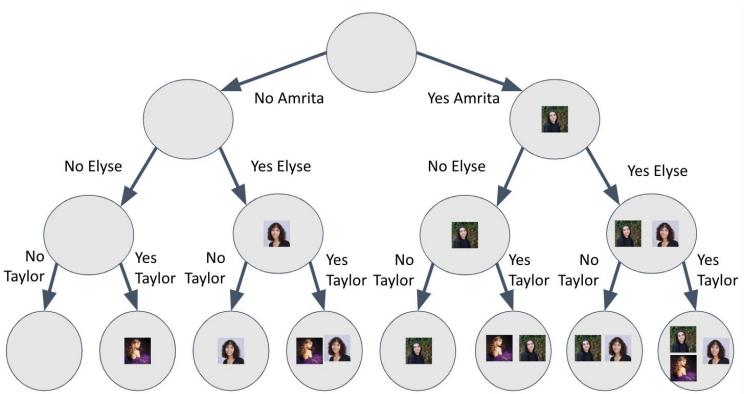


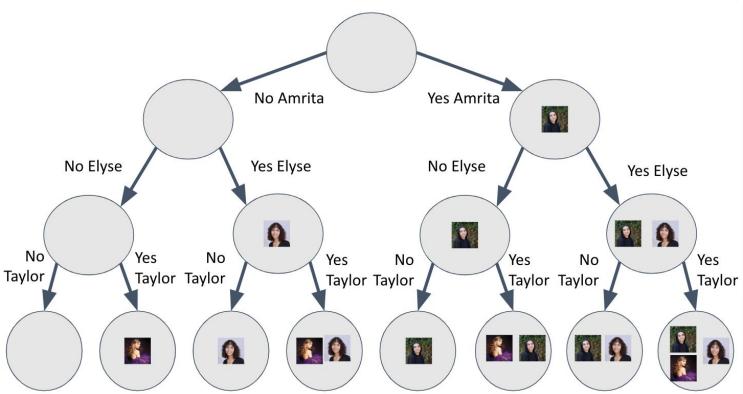


Stanford University

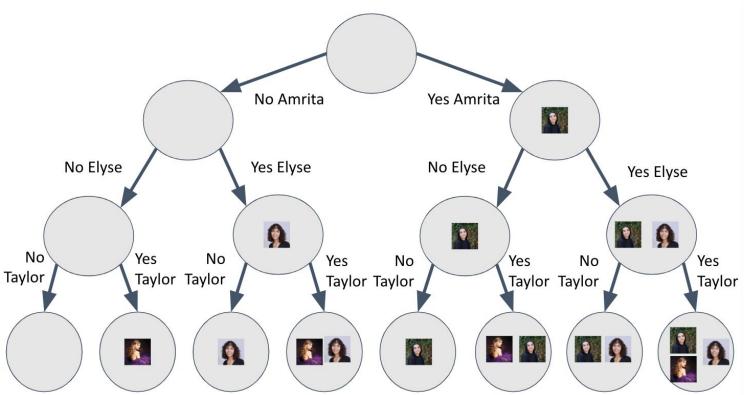
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- Information you need to store along the way
 - Set you've built so far
 - Remaining elements in original set

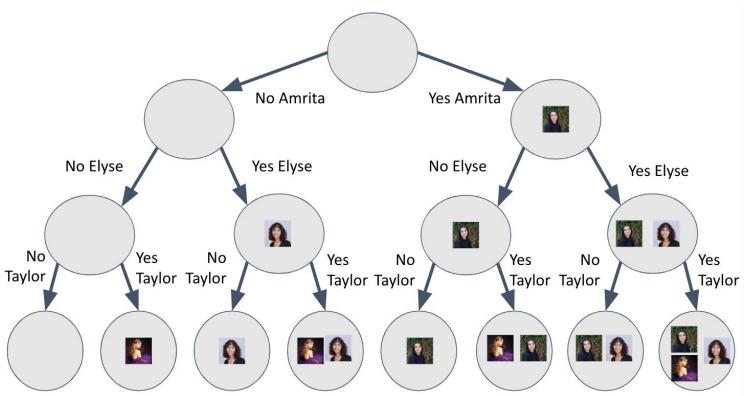




{"Amrita",
 "Elyse",
 "Taylor"}

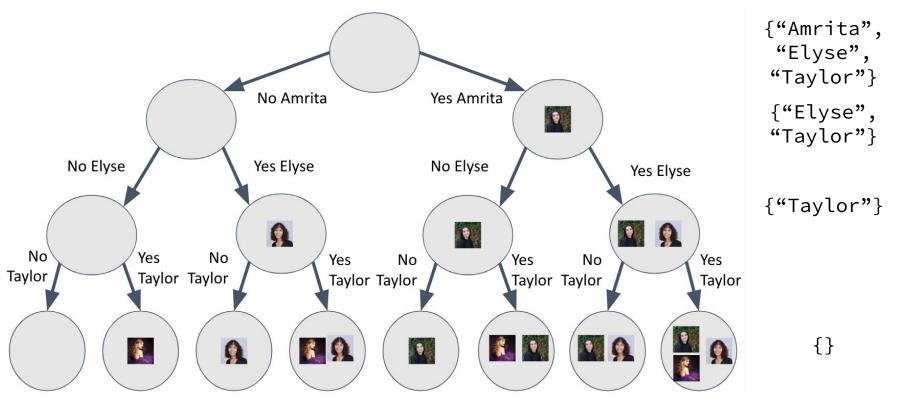


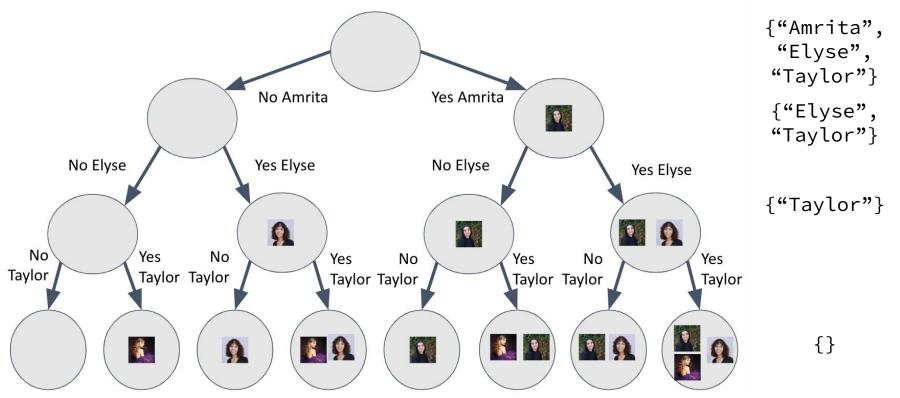
{"Amrita",
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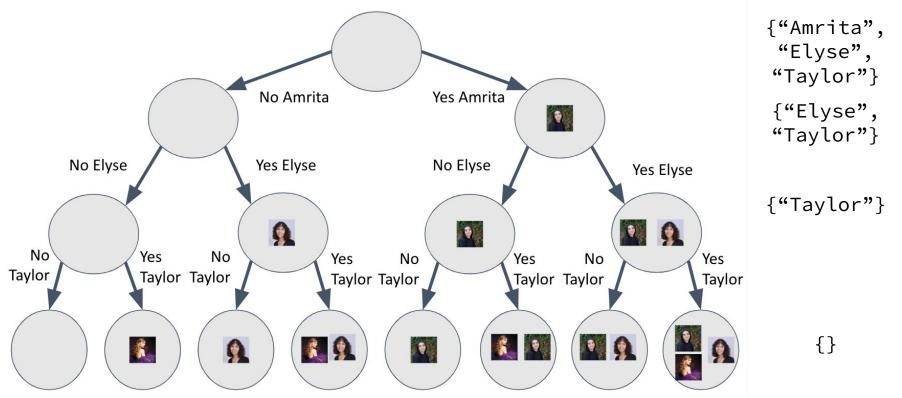
{"Taylor"}





Base Case: No remaining people to choose from

Remaining Elements:



Recursive Case: Pick someone from set. Choose whether to include them.

Let's Code It Up!

- "Choose / explore / unchoose" pattern in backtracking
 - This is our first time seeing an explicit "unchoose" step

```
// choose
string elem = remaining.first();
remaining = remaining - elem;
// explore
listSubsetHelper(remaining, chosen);
chosen = chosen + elem
listSubsetHelper(remaining, chosen);
// unchoose this letter by adding it back to possible choices
chosen = chosen - elem;
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listSubsetHelper(remaining, chosen); // do not add elem to chosen
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 - Necessary because we're passing sets by reference and editing them
- Our first example of using ADTs with recursion, and we'll see more today

Choose / explore / unchoose

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 - Pass by value; usually when memory constraints aren't an issue
 - Works because you're making edits to a copy
 - E.g. Building up a string over time
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 - "Undoing" prior modifications to structure
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Fixed-size Teams

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- What distinguishes a combination from a subset?
 - Combinations always have a specified size, unlike subsets (which can be any size)
 - We can think of combinations as "subsets with constraints"
- Could we use the code from before, generate all subsets, and then filter out all those of size 3?
 - We could, but that would be inefficient. Let's develop a better approach for combinations!

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Base cases

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 - Pick someone from set and choose whether or not to include them

Implicit or explicit unchoose step?

Implicit or explicit unchoose step?

- Explicit!
 - We're passing in our set by reference, so we need to undo any choices we make

Let's Code It Up!

Next Class

- Recursive backtracking to solve mazes!
- Misc.
 - Const reference
 - Structs
- Classes and Object-Oriented Programming