

# RECURSION

The process of a function calling itself, to solve a small instance of the problem is known as recursion.

A recursive function should contain atleast 1 base condition to terminate it, otherwise, the function will enter an infinite loop of calling itself again and again.

basic syntax :

```
Type function (parameters) {
    if (base conditions) {
        1. ---
        2. function (parameter);
        3. ---
    }
}
```

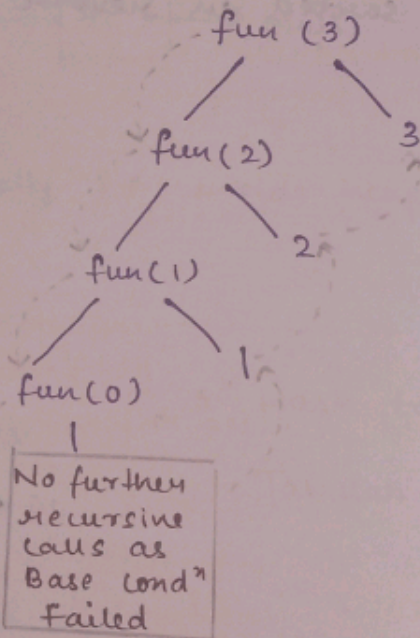
Q. write a recursive function to print first N numbers.

```
void fun (int n) {
    if (n > 0) {
        fun (n-1);
        cout << n;
    }
}

void main () {
    fun (3);
}
```

Output : 1 2 3

Time complexity :  $O(N)$



Note: we can apply Recursion in many algorithms like the Fibonacci sequence, Tower of Hanoi, binary search, tree Traversal, etc.

execution and Different phase in recursion

```
Type fun (params) {
    if (<base conditions>) {
        Ascending phase ← 1. --- executed at calling phase./Time
        2. fun (param) * (some other expression)
        Descending phase ← 3. --- executed during returning phase./Time
    }
}
```



- Q. What is the main difference between loops and recursion as both of them are repeating statements?
- As Both Recursion and loops are repeating statements but the main difference between them is that loops only have Ascending phase. where as recursion have both Ascending (calling) phase as well as Descending (returning) phase.

### Time Complexity of recursion

```
void fun(n) {
    if (n > 0) {
        printf('%d', n);
        fun(n-1);
    }
}
```

T(n)

using recurrence Relation

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & n = 0 \\ T(n-1) + 1 & n > 0 \end{cases}$$

$$T(n) = T(n-1) + 1 \quad \text{--- (I)}$$

$$T(n-1) = T(n-2) + 1 \quad \text{--- (II)}$$

from (I) and (II)

$$T(n) = T(n-2) + 2.$$

we can also say,

$$T(n) = T(n-k) + k$$

let  $k = n$

$$T(n) = T(n-n) + n$$

$$T(n) = T(0) + n$$

$$T(n) = n + 1 = n \quad \text{[as } T(0) = 1]$$

### Static Variables in Recursion (working)

```
int fun(int n) {
```

```
    static int x = 0;
```

```
    if (n > 0) {
```

```
        x++;
```

```
        return fun(n-1) + x;
```

```
    }
```

```
    return 0;
```

```
}
```

let  $n = 5$

$$x \quad \boxed{0} \times x \times x \times x \times x$$

$$fun(5) = 25$$

$$fun(4) + 5 = 20 + 5 = 25$$

$$fun(3) + 5 = 15 + 5 = 20$$

$$fun(2) + 5 = 10 + 5 = 15$$

$$fun(1) + 5 = 5 + 5 = 10$$



## Types of Recursion

### 1. Tail Recursion

If a recursive function is calling itself and the last operation in that recursive function, then it is known as Tail Recursion.

eg. void fun(int n) {  
    if (n > 0) {  
        printf("%d", n);  
        fun(n-1);  
    }  
}

In Tail Recursion, every operation is done at calling time (i.e. Ascending phase) with no descending phase.

example of what is not a Tail recursion.

```
void fun(int n) {  
    if (n > 0) {  
        printf("%d", n);  
        fun(n-1) + n;  
    }  
}
```

↙ This will be done at descending phase.

The Difference b/w Tail recursion and loop is that the stack will ~~create~~ <sup>have</sup>  $n$  activation record in case of Tail recursion and 1 in case of loop.

	Tail recursion	Loop
Time complexity	$O(n)$	$O(n)$
Space complexity	$O(n)$	$O(1)$

### 2. Head Recursion

If the recursive call is the first operation in a recursive function, then the recursion is called Head Recursion.

eg. void fun(int n) {  
    if (n > 0) {  
        fun(n-1);  
        printf("%d", n);  
    }  
}

In Head ~~of~~ Recursion, every operation is done at Returning Time (i.e. descending phase).



### 3. Indirect Recursion

In Indirect Recursion, First function calls Second function and the second function calls the first function again, creating a cycle.

eg. void function A (int n) {

if (n == 0) return;

function B (n-1);

}

void function B (int n) {

if (n == 0) return;

function A (n-1);

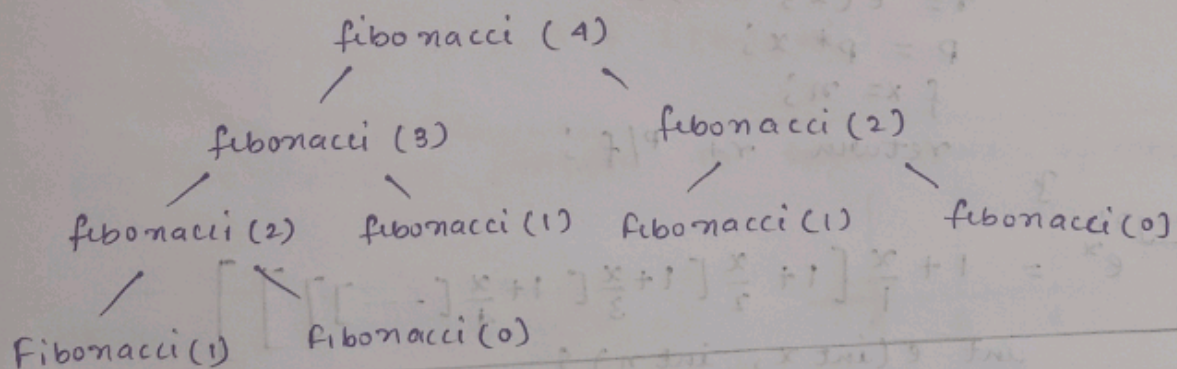
}

### 4. Tree Recursion

If a function makes more than one recursive call within itself, which results in a branching structure, is called Tree Recursion.

eg. int fibonacci (int n) {  
if (n <= 1) return n;  
return fibonacci (n-1) + fibonacci (n-2);  
}

let n = 4



Pros: - Simple

Cons: - inefficient  
- can cause memory stack overflow.

### 5. Nested Recursion

It is a Type of recursion where the recursive function call is made within another recursive call. In other words, the parameter of a recursive function itself is a recursive call.



```

eg. int fun (int n)
{
    if (n > 100) {
        return n - 10;
    } else {
        return fun(fun(n+11));
    }
}

```

let  $n = 98$

$fun(98)$

↓

$fun(fun(98+11))$   
↓  
 $fun(99)$

↓

$fun(fun(99+11))$   
↓  
 $fun(100)$

↓  
90

$fun(109) = 99$

$fun(110) = 100$

Q. Write a recursive function for Taylor Series:  
Taylor Series ( $e^x = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots$ )

```

int e(int x, int n) {
    static int p = 1, f = 1;
    int r;
    if (n == 0) return 1;
    r = e(x, n-1);
    p = p * x;
    f = f * n;
    return r + p/f;
}

```

way 2:

$$e^x = 1 + \frac{x}{1} \left[ 1 + \frac{x}{2} \left[ 1 + \frac{x}{3} \left[ 1 + \frac{x}{4} [\dots] \right] \right] \right]$$

```

int e(int x, int n) {

```

```

    static int s = 1;

```

```

    if (n == 0) return s;

```

```

    s = 1 + \frac{x}{n} * s;

```

```

    return e(x, n-1);
}

```



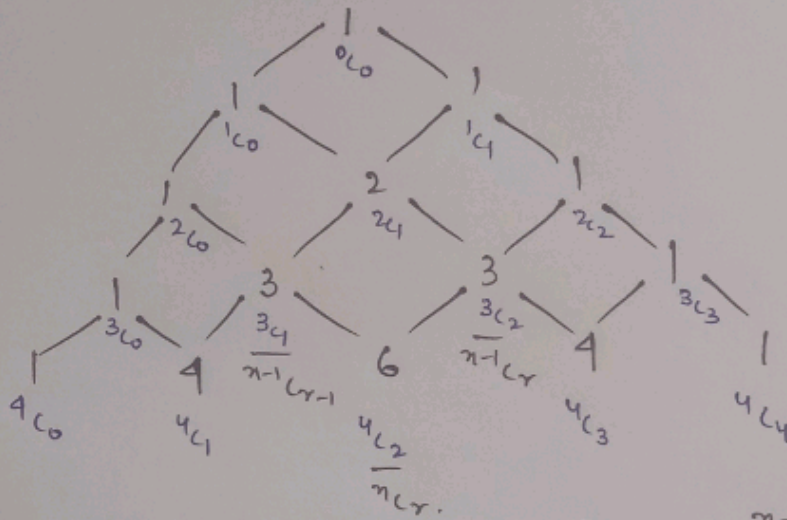
Q2. Write a recursive function for finding  $nCr = \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}$   
 way 1: use of recursive factorial function

```

int factorial (int n) {
    if (n <= 0) return 1;
    return n * factorial (n-1);
}

int C (int n, int r) {
    int a = factorial (n), b = factorial (n);
    int c = factorial (n-r);
    return a / (b * c);
}
    
```

way 2: with the help / study of pascal triangle



from this we can say that  $nCr = n-1C_{r-1} + n-1C_r$ .

```

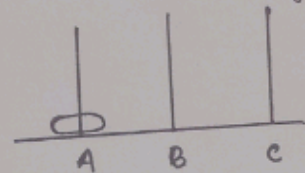
int C (int n, int r) {
    if (n == 0 || n == r) return 1;
    return C (n-1, r-1) + C (n-1, r);
}
    
```

Q3. Write a recursive function to solve Tower of Hanoi

When  $n = 1$ .  $TOH(1, A, B, C)$

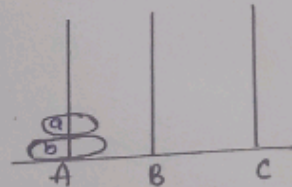
Here we can simply move disk from A to C

$TOH(1, A, B, C)$   
 from A to C



When  $n = 2$   $TOH(2, A, B, C)$

1. move a from A to B  $TOH(1, A, C, B)$
2. move b from A to C — Same as when  $n=1$
3. move a from B to C  $TOH(1, B, A, C)$





From this we can say the pseudocode will be

ToH ( $n$ , A, B, C)

1. ToH ( $n-1$ , A, C, B)
2. move disk from A to C using B
3. ToH ( $n-1$ , B, A, C)

Code :

```

void ToH (int n, int A, int B, int C) {
    if (n > 0) {
        ToH (n-1, A, C, B);
        printf ("from %d to %d\n", A, C);
        ToH (n-1, B, A, C);
    }
}
    
```

