Thinking Recursively Part I

Outline for Today

- Self-Similarity
 - Recursive patterns are everywhere!
- Recursive Trees
 - Elegant structures from simple code.
- Information Flow
 - How to send information around in recursion.

Self-Similarity

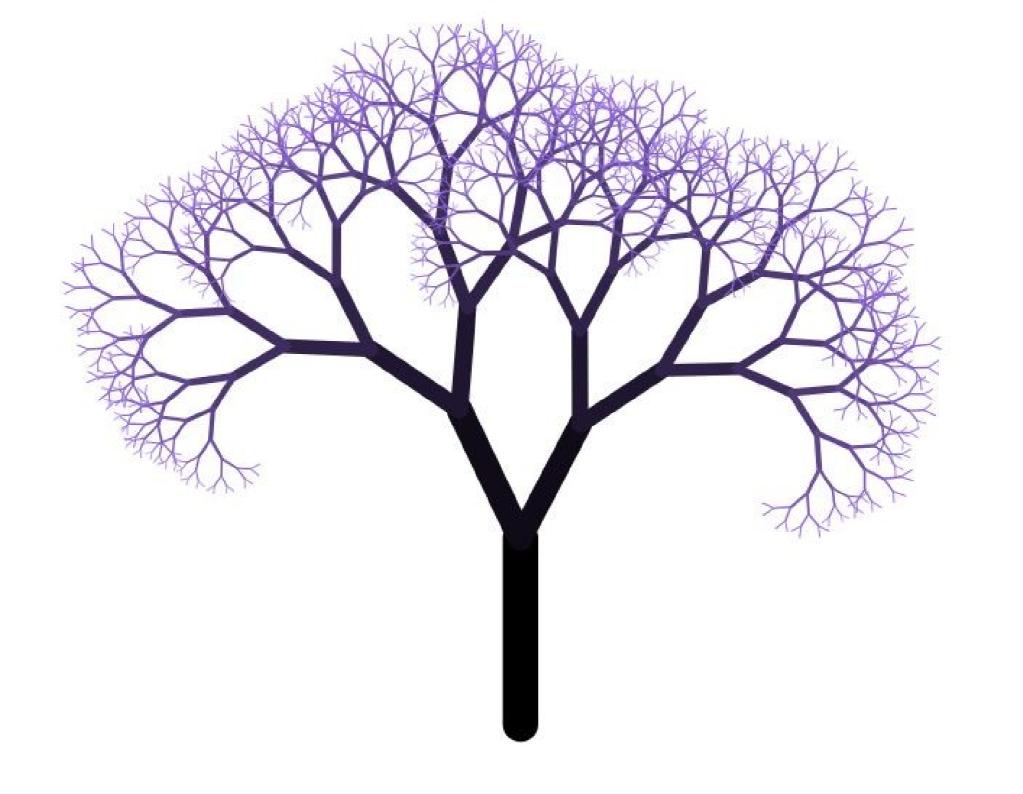


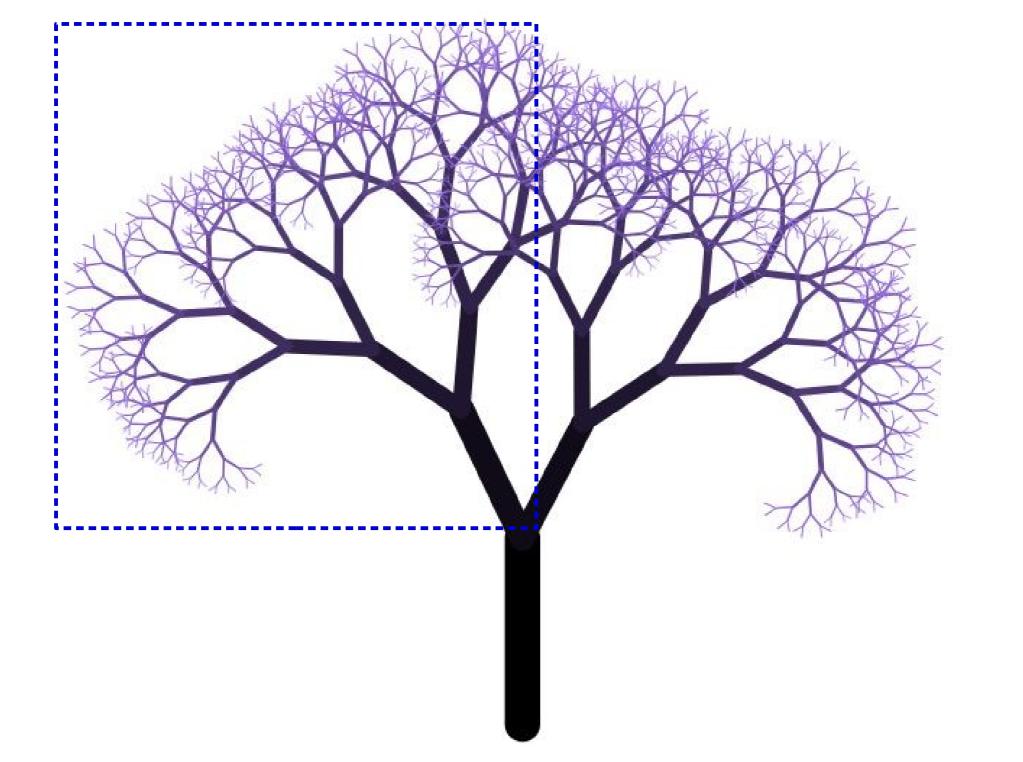
An object is *self-similar* if it contains a smaller copy of itself.

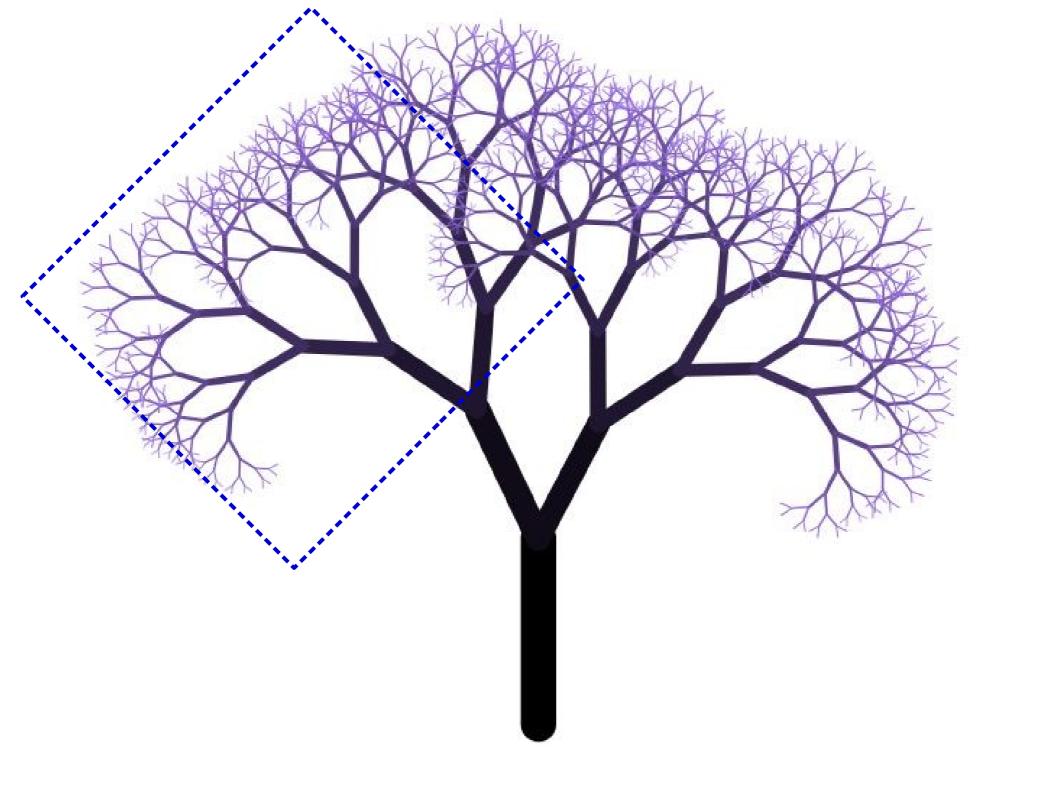


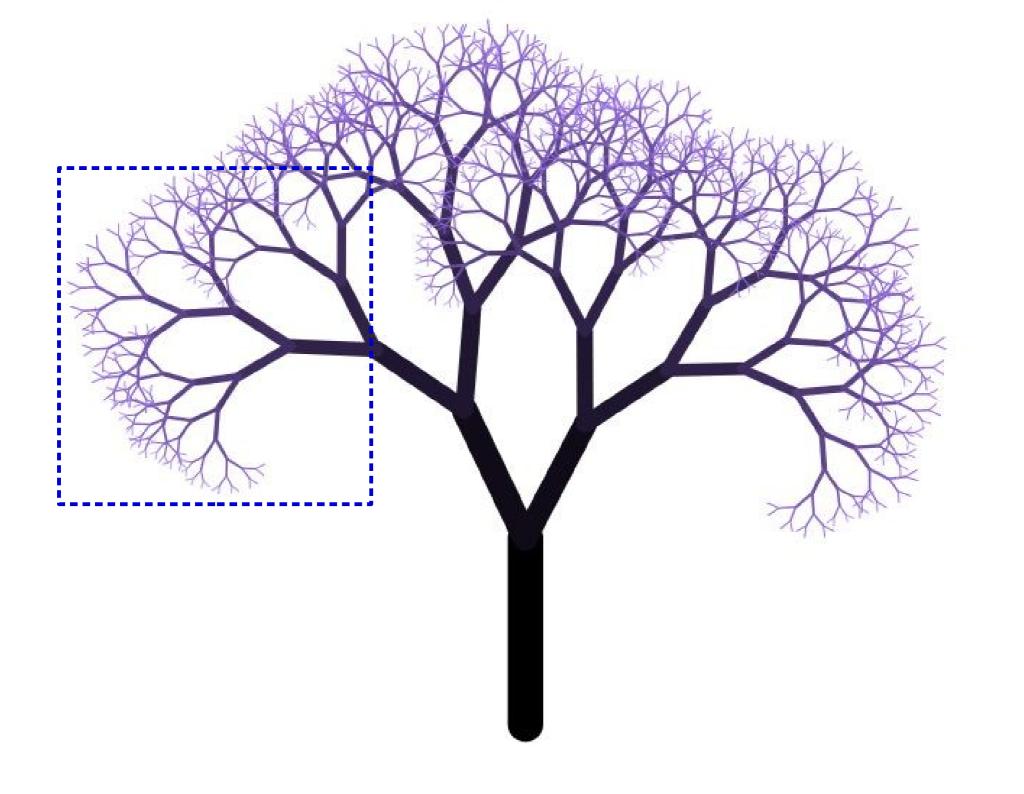
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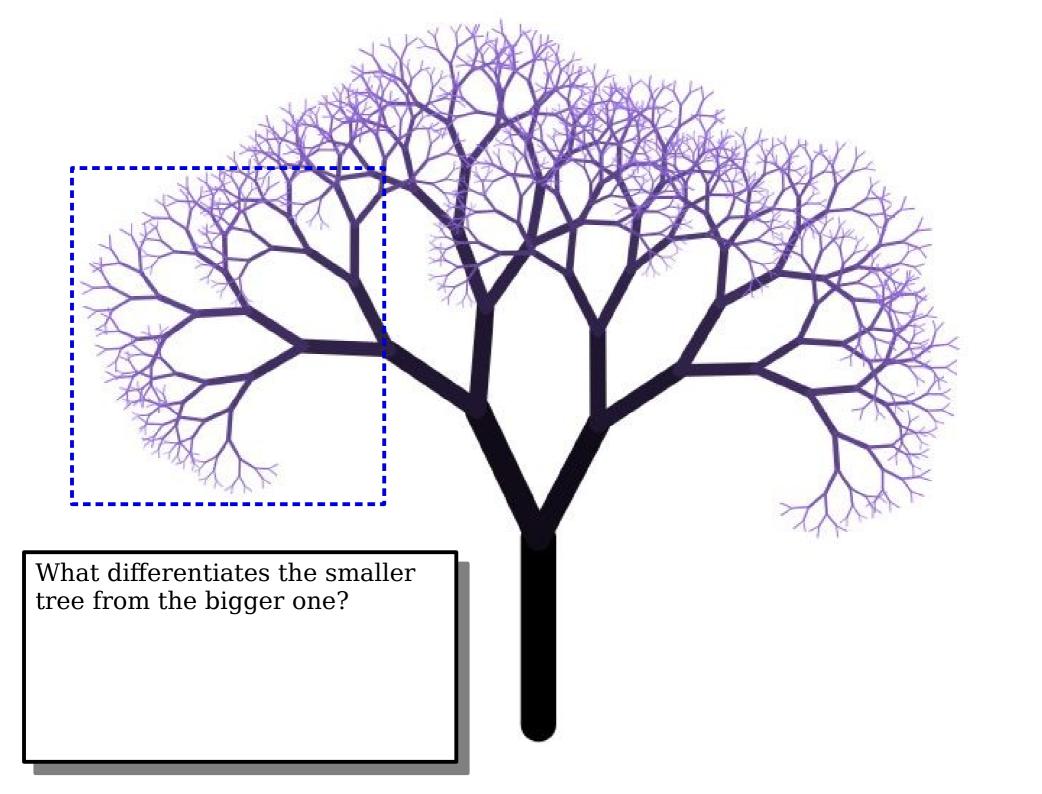
Drawing Self-Similar Shapes

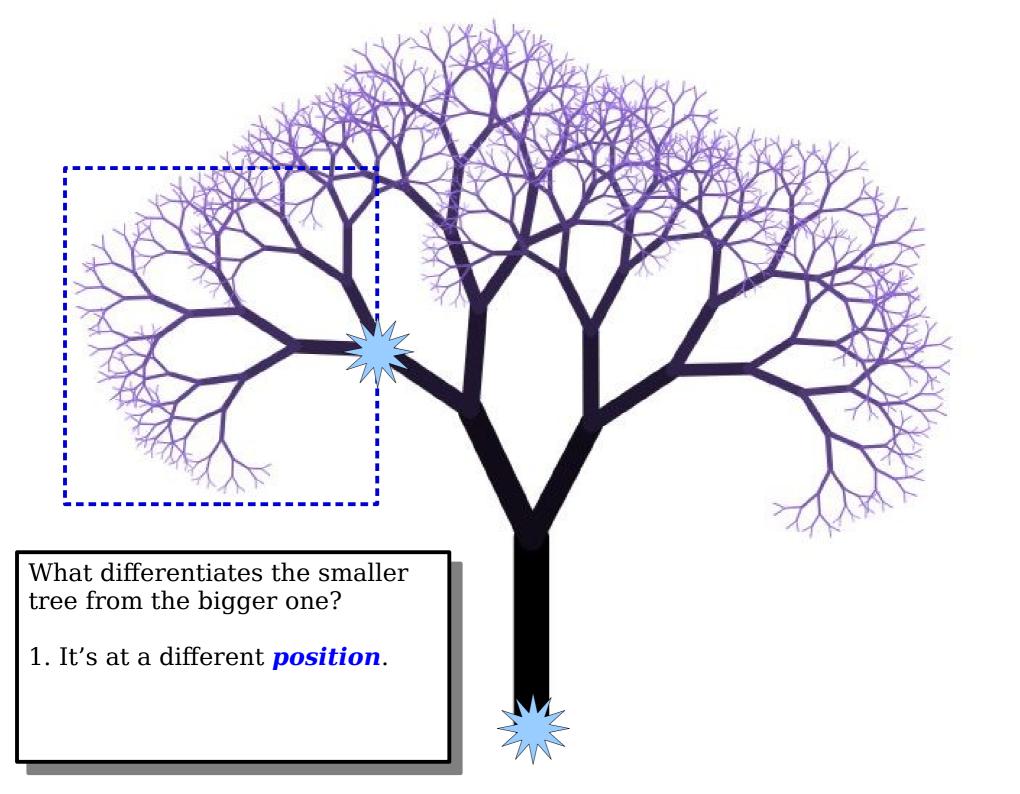


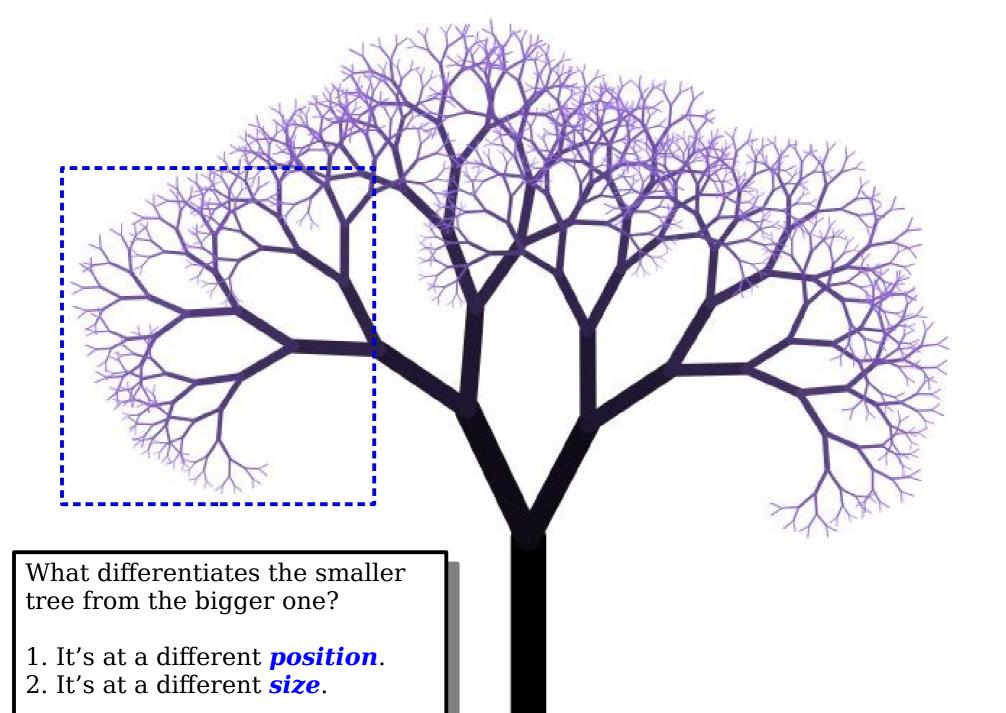


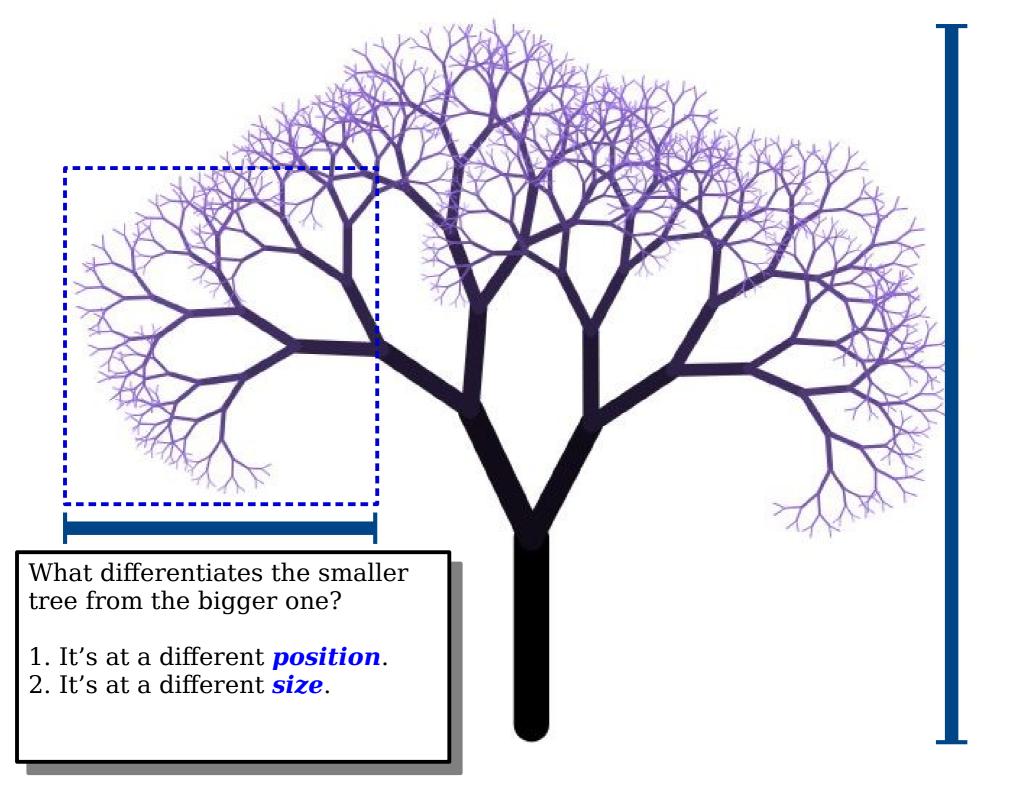


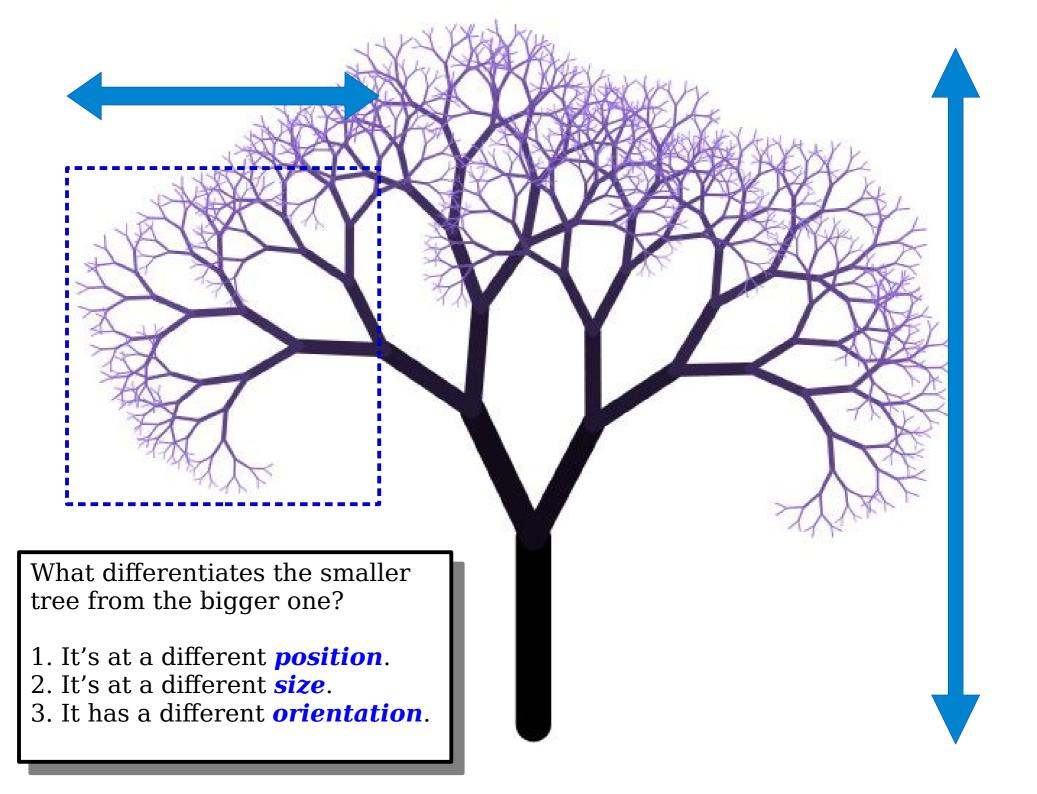


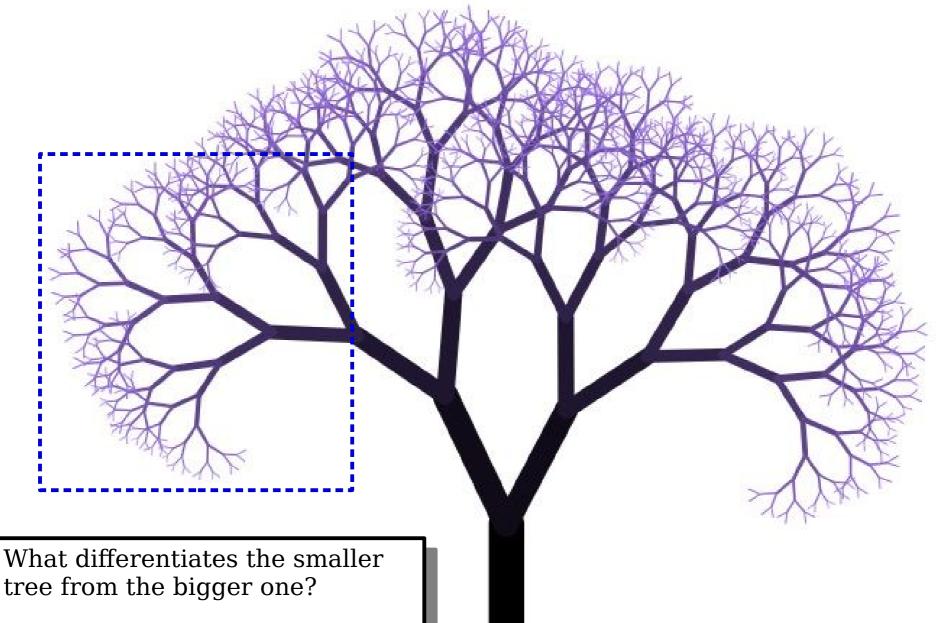






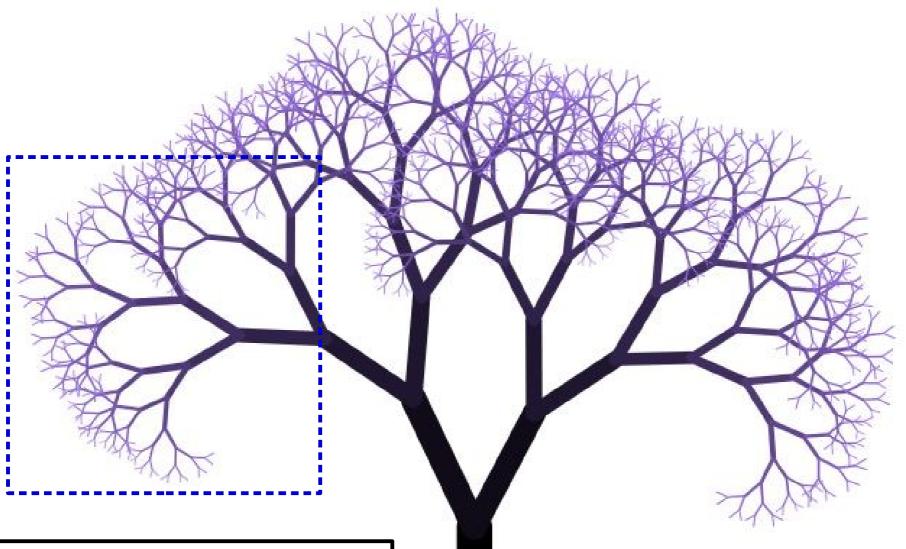






What differentiates the smaller

- 1. It's at a different *position*.
- 2. It's at a different **size**.
- 3. It has a different *orientation*.
- 4. It has a different *order*.



What differentiates the smaller tree from the bigger one?

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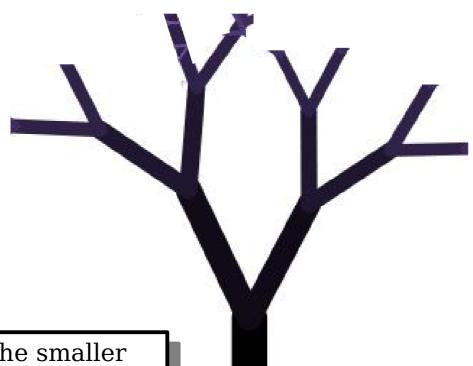
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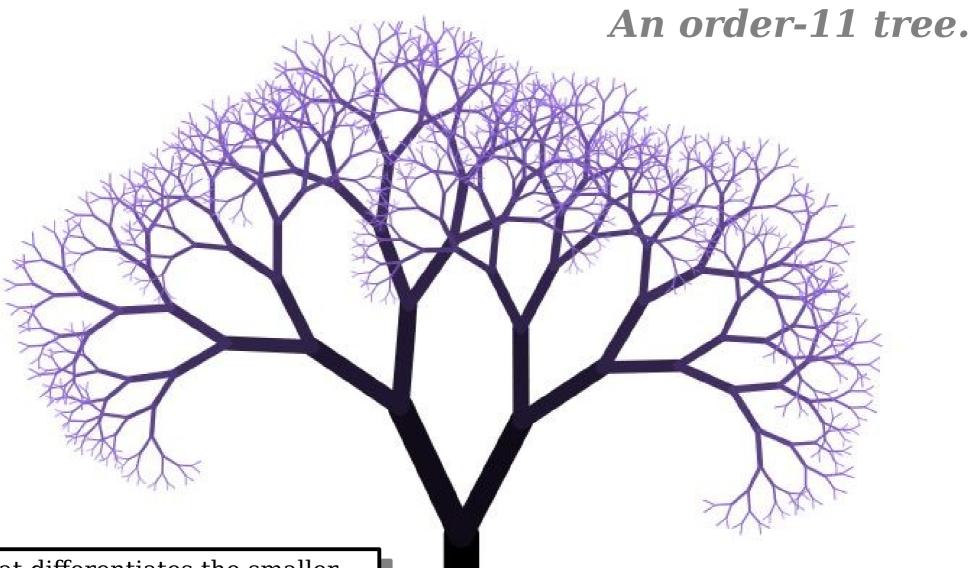
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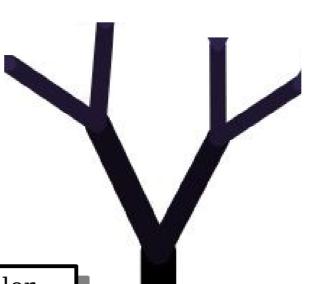
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An order-0 tree is nothing at all.

An order-n tree is a line with two smaller order-(n-1) trees starting at the end of that line.

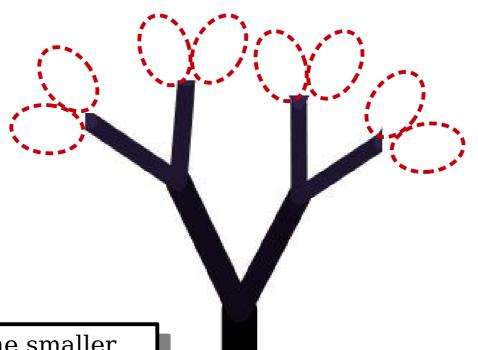


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We can call the function

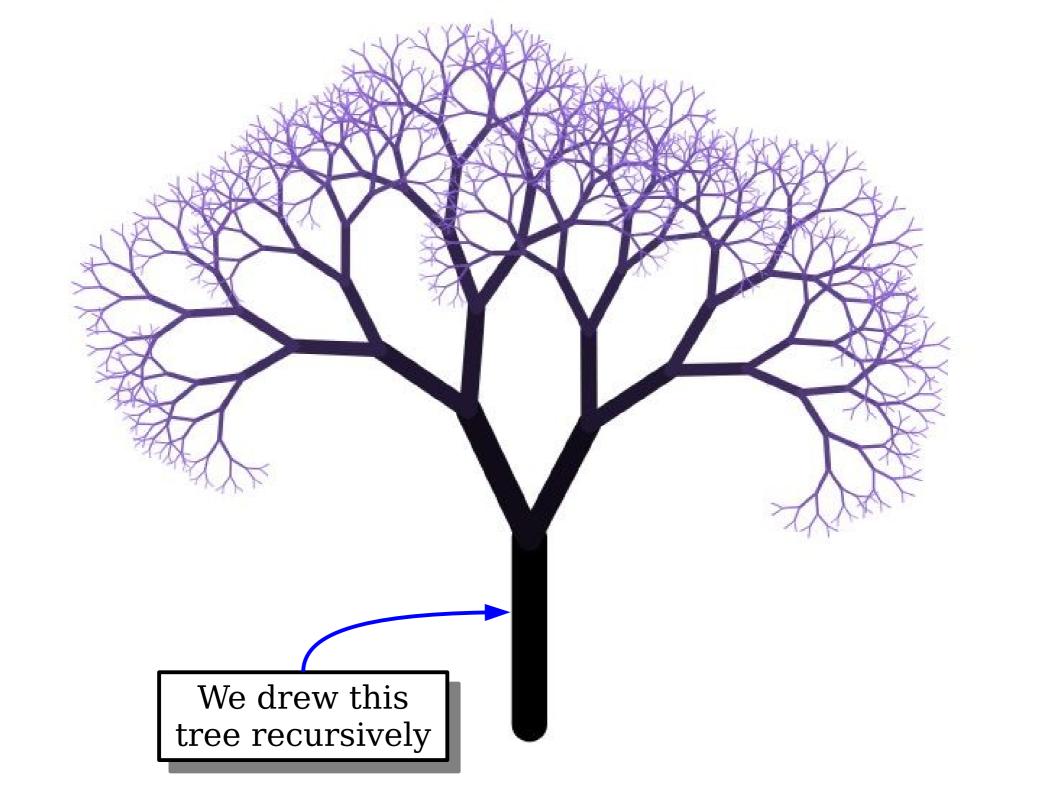
drawPolarLine(window, x, y, r, θ)

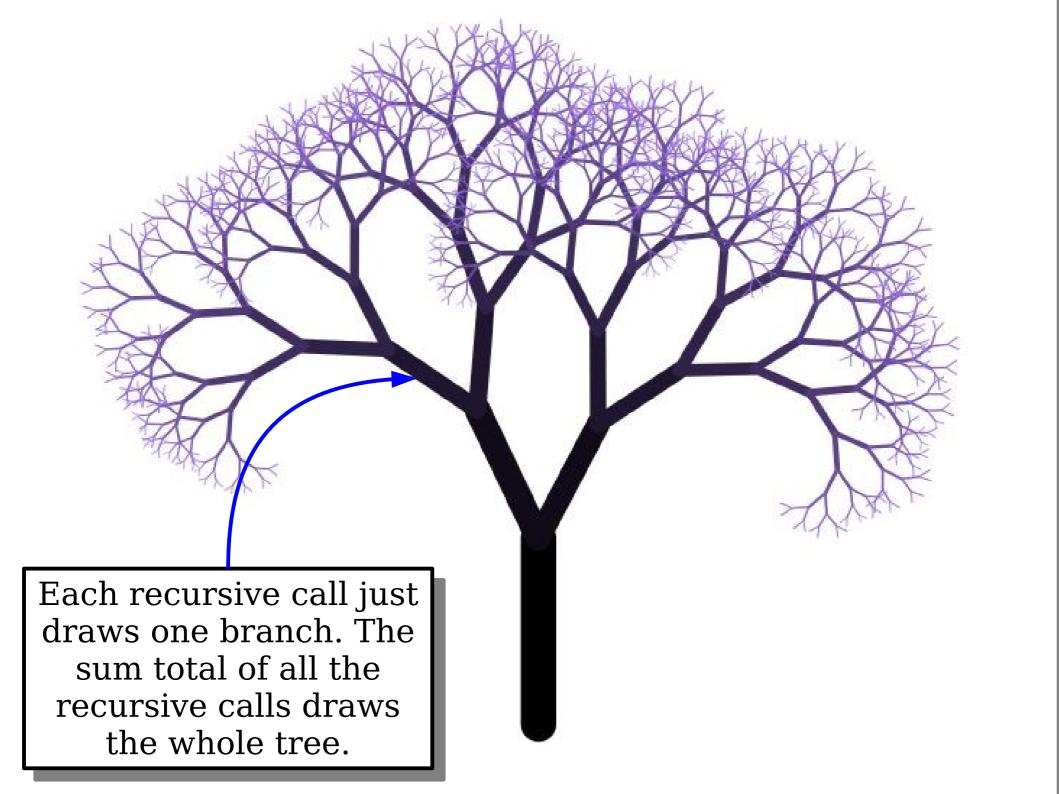
to draw a line of radius r and angle θ starting at (x, y). It then returns the endpoint of the line so we don't need to calculate it ourselves!

What differentiates the smaller tree from the bigger one?

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To Summarize





An Amazing Website

http://recursivedrawing.com/

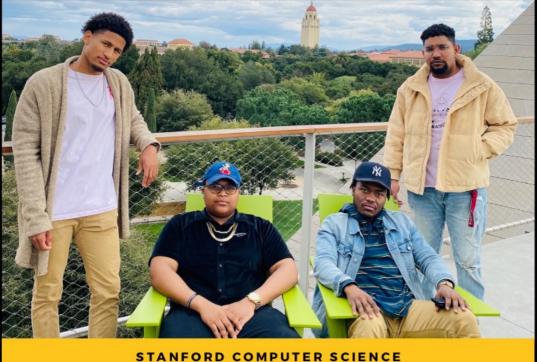
Time-Out for Announcements!

Assignment 2

- Assignment 2 is due on Friday.
 - If you're following our suggested timetable, you should be finishing up Rising Tides at this point and should be working on You Got Hufflepuff!.
- Have questions?
 - Call into the LaIR!
 - Email your section leader!
 - Ask on EdStem!
 - Visit Keith's or Chase's office hours!

Submitting Your Work

- Each assignment handout has a "Submission Instructions" section at the end with information about what files to submit.
- Please submit all the files listed there. Otherwise, we can't grade your work.
- Thanks!



DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

A CONVERSATION WITH

THE COME UP COLLECTIVE

moderated by Cynthia Lee

A conversation with the hosts of The Come Up Collective to discuss their experiences as students at Stanford and transition to young professionals after graduating

PANEL DISCUSSION 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

February 4

Garry Archbold Mekhi Jones Mamadou Diallo Sheck Mulbah Sign up using this link.

We're **Here.**We're **Queer.**We're **Engineers.**



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<mark>aa. bioe. Che. Ce. Cs. ee.</mark> Envse. Ms&e. Me. ad. BMe. Pd.

NECT. CELEBRATE. PROMOTE. EMPOWER. DEVELOP. NETW

Become a part of Stanford's burgeoning Society of Queer+ Engineers (SQE) to **connect** with other members of the community, join **social events**, participate in **career fairs**, and learn about opportunities for **networking**, and **professional development**.

Onward and Forward!

A Quick, Relevant Tangent

Reasoning By Analogy

What's wrong with this code?

```
double areaOfCircle(double radius) {
    return M_PI * radius * radius;
}
int main() {
    double radius = 1.61;
    areaOfCircle(radius);
    return 0;
}
```

Formulate a hypothesis!

But don't post it in chat
just yet.

Reasoning By Analogy

What's wrong with this code?

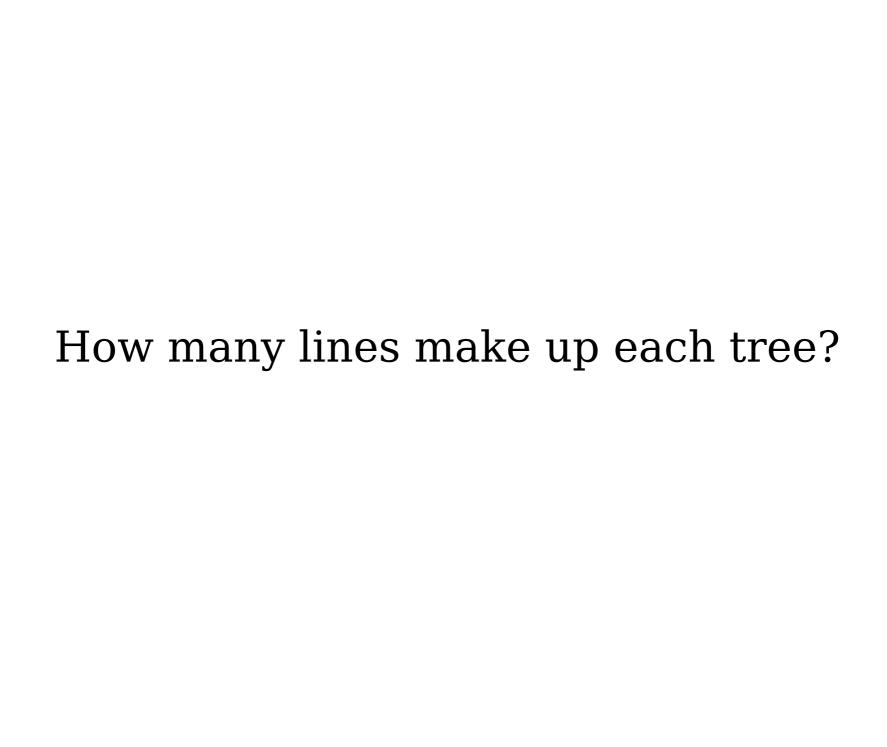
```
double areaOfCircle(double radius) {
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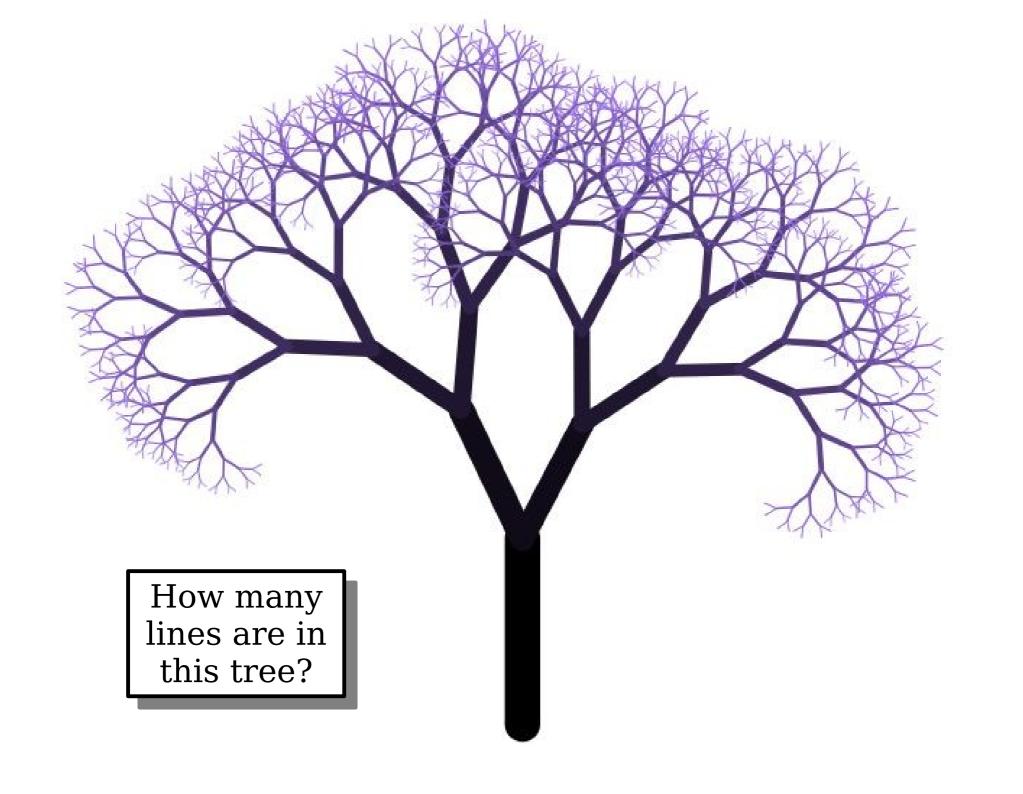
Okay, now post your hypothesis in chat.

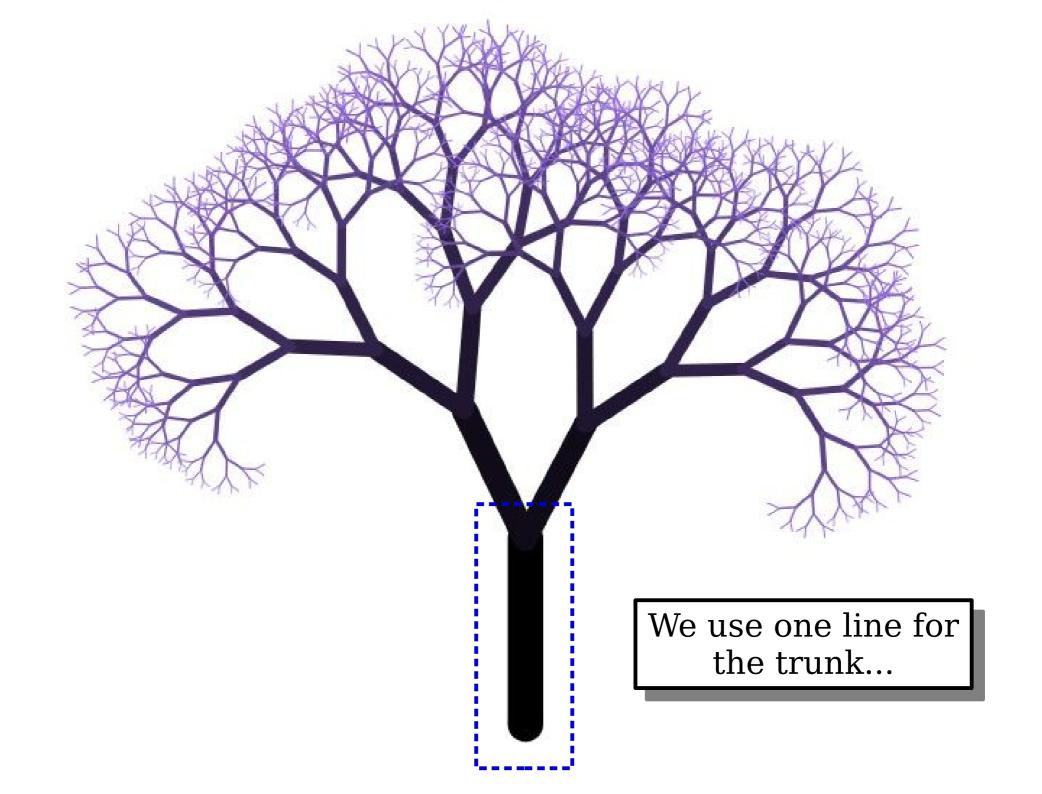
Back to Recursion...

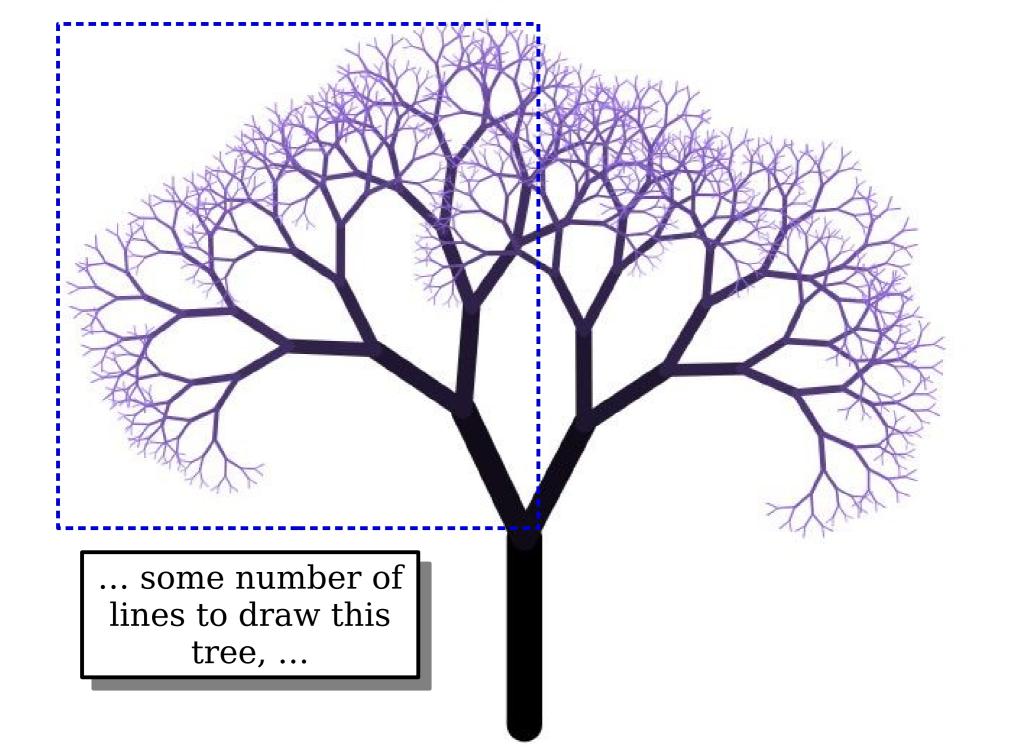
A Practical Application

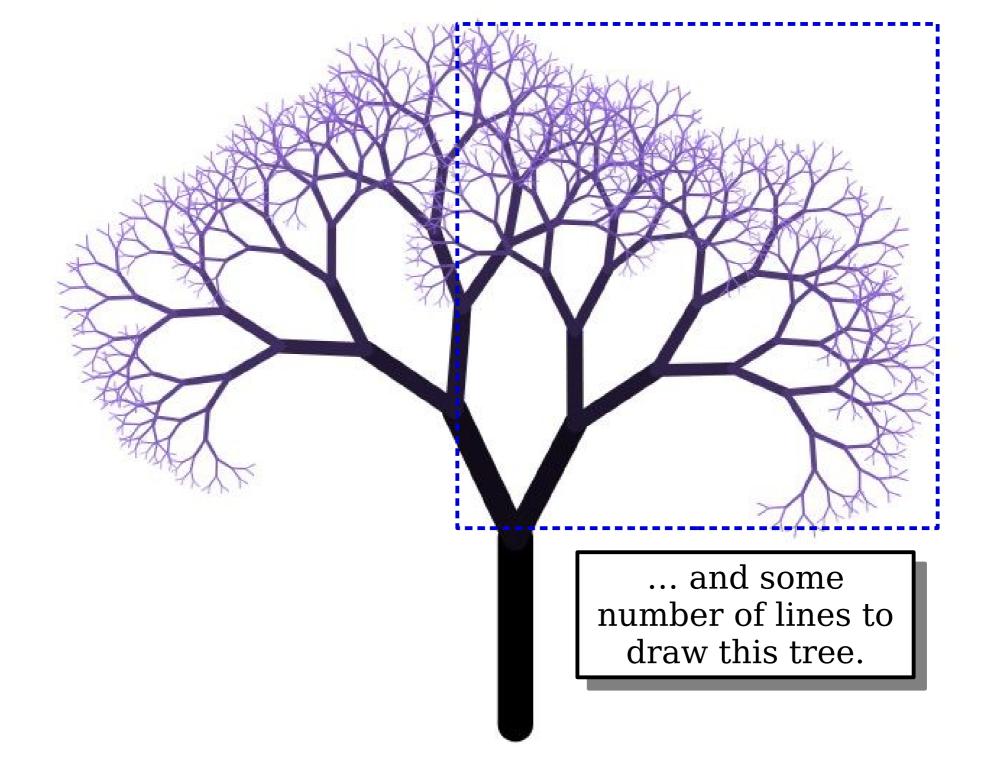












What Went Wrong?

Formulate a hypothesis!

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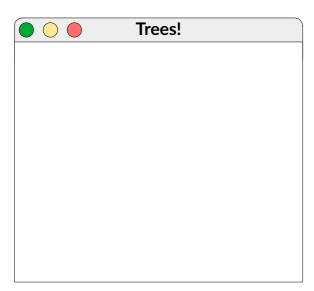
What Went Wrong?

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```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
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   }

   int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

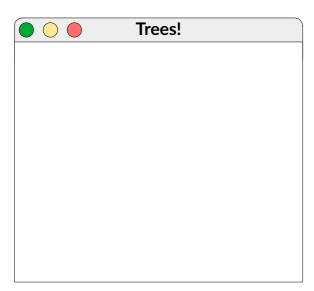
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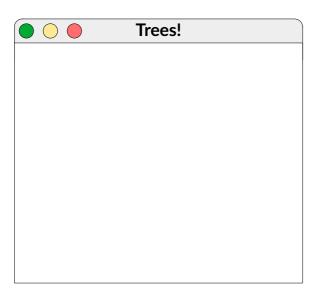


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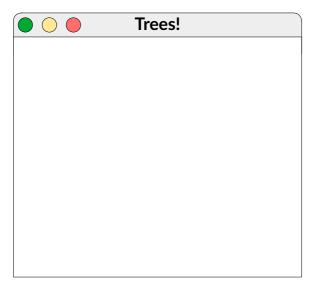




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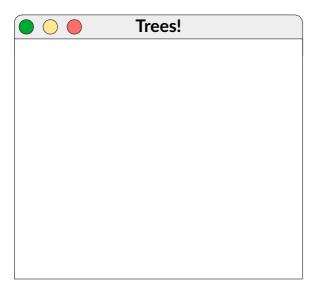
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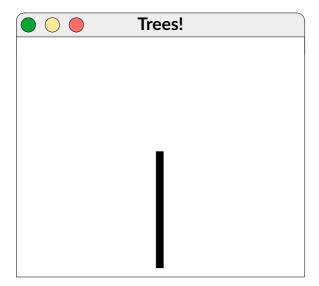
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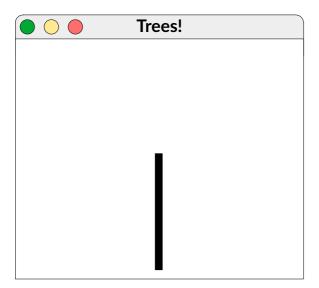
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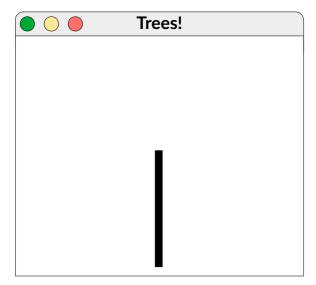
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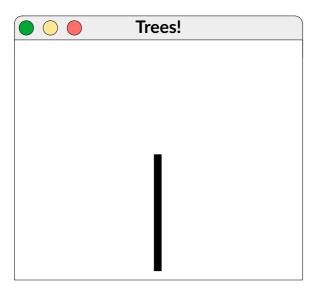
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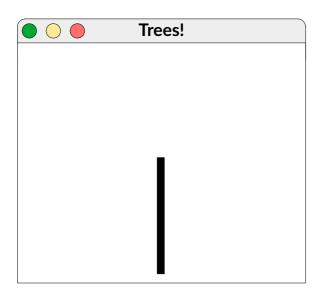
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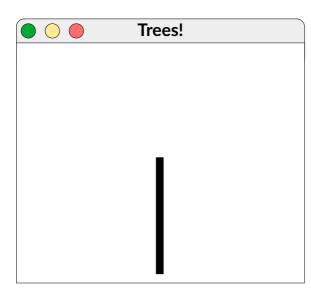
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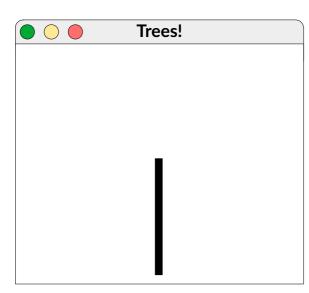
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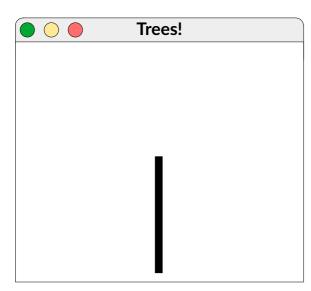
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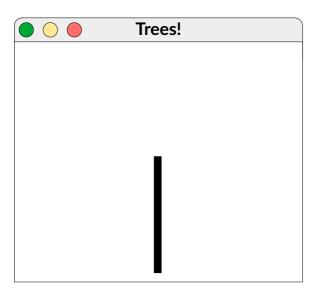
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int drawTree(/* ... */) {
    if (order == 0) {
        return 0:
                                                    numLines
    int numLines = 0:
    GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
    numLines++;
    drawTree(/* ... */);
    drawTree(/* ... */);
    return numLines;
```

Trees!

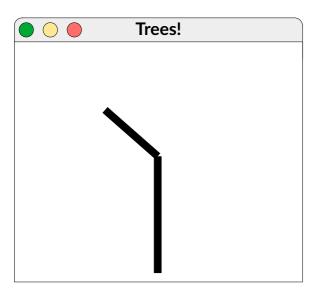
It's reasonable to guess that this line is the problem because it looks like it resets numLines to zero at each call.

But that's not actually the issue. Remember – every recursive call gets its own copies of all local variables.

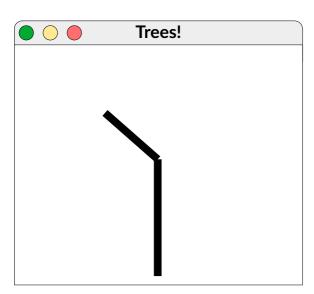
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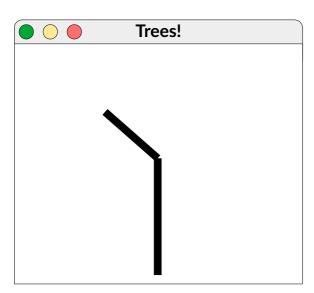
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int drawTree(/* ... */) {
                                                       0
    if (order == 0) {
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   }

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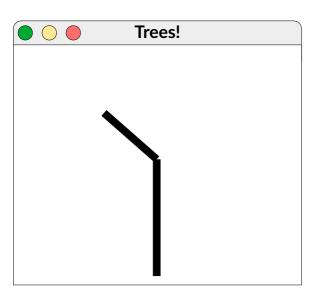
   drawTree(/* ... */);
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Trees!

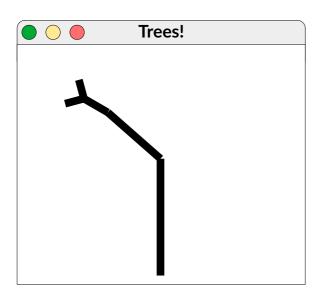
It's also reasonable to guess that the error is that this isn't incrementing the copy of numLines inside of the top-level call.

While it's true that this doesn't increment the top-level copy of numLines, that isn't an error *per se*. This function says it will return the number of lines drawn, not update a global total somewhere.

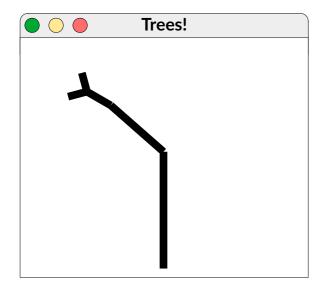
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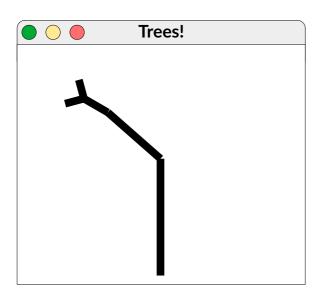
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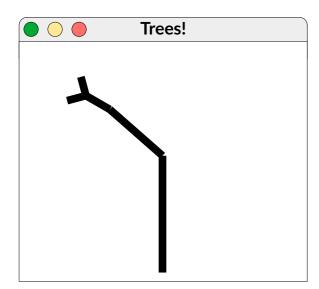
This function returns an integer, but we didn't do anything with that integer! It would be like writing this line of code:

This computes a square root, but doesn't store it anywhere. Oops! Our total is now wrong.

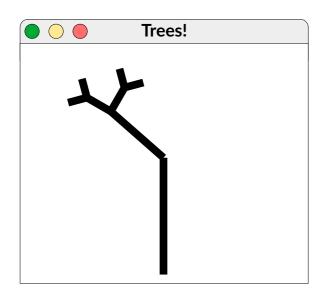
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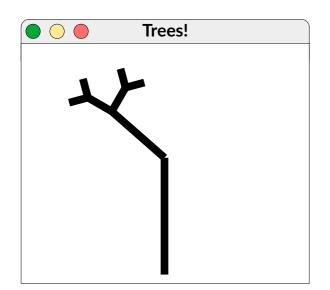
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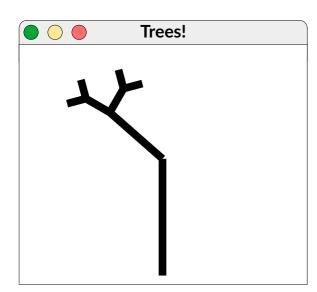


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int drawTree(/* ... */) {
    if (order == 0) {
         return 0;
                                                         numLines
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    numLines++;
    drawTree(/* ... */);
drawTree(/* ... */);
    return numLines;
```



Oops - we didn't do anything with the return value.

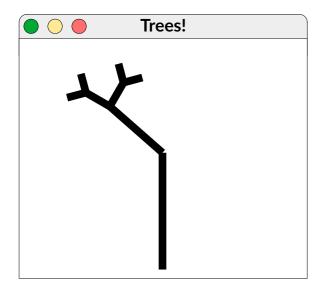
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                                                         numLines
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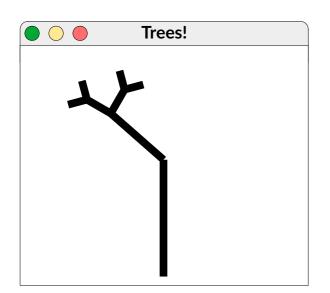
   drawTree(/* ... */);
   drawTree(/* ... */);
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```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

drawTree(/* ... */);
drawTree(/* ... */);
return numLines;
}
```

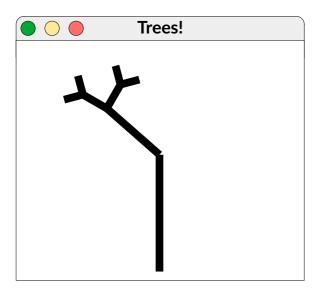


Oops - we didn't do anything with the return value.

```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
    if (order == 0) {
        return 0;
    }

    int numLines = 0;
    GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
    numLines++;

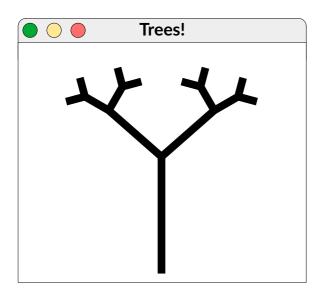
    drawTree(/* ... */);
    drawTree(/* ... */);
    return numLines;
}
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

   int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

   drawTree(/* ... */);
   drawTree(/* ... */);
   return numLines;
}
```



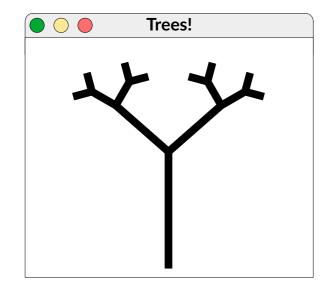
```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

   drawTree(/* ... */),
   drawTree(/* ... */);
}

return numLines;
}
```

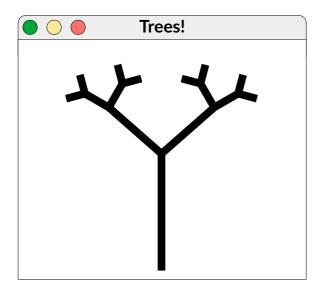
Oops - we didn't do anything with the return value.



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

   drawTree(/* ... */);
   drawTree(/* ... */);
   return numLines;
}
```



General Advice

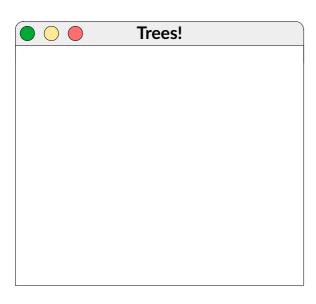
- If a function returns a value, you should, in general, do something with that value.
 - Otherwise, the function did all this hard work for you, and you just dropped it on the floor!
- If you're writing a recursive function that returns a value, you should explicitly do something with the value returned by each recursive call.
 - Otherwise, your recursive call is trying to tell you something, and you're ignoring it!

The Correction

```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

   int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

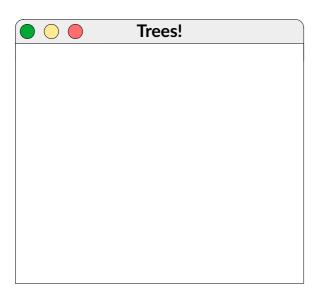
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   return numLines;
}
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

   int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

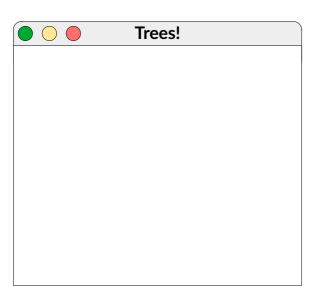
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   return numLines;
}
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

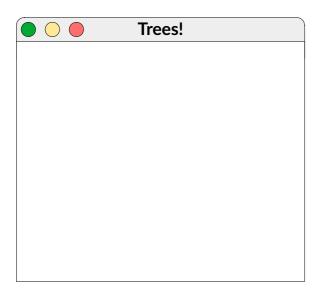
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   return numLines;
}
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

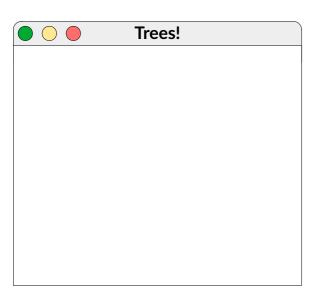
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   return numLines;
}
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

int numLines = 0;
GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
numLines++;

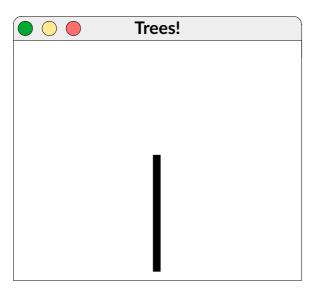
numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
return numLines;
}
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

int numLines = 0;
GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
numLines++;

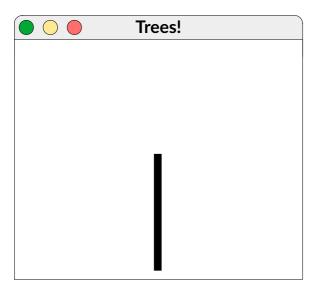
numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
return numLines;
}
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

   int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

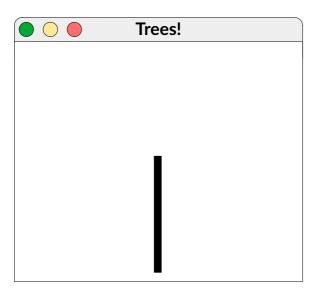
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   return numLines;
}
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

   int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

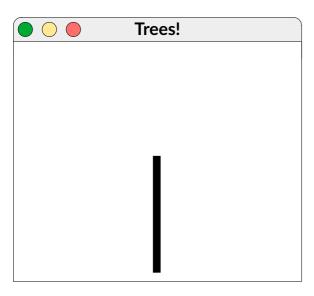
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   return numLines;
}
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

   int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

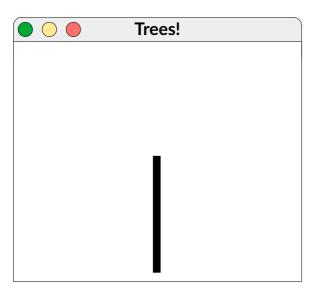
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   numLines i= drawTree(/* ... */);
   return numLines;
}
```



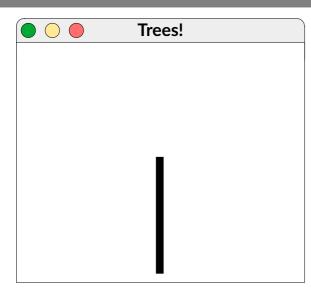
```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

   int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

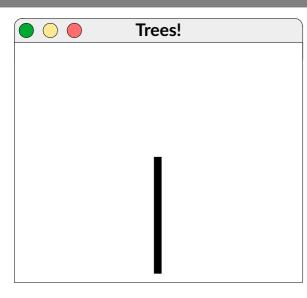
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   return numLines;
}
```



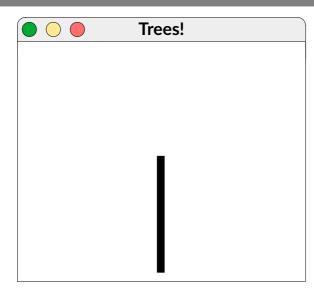
```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
    if (order == 0) {
        return 0;
    int numLines = 0;
    GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
    numLines++;
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    return numLines;
```



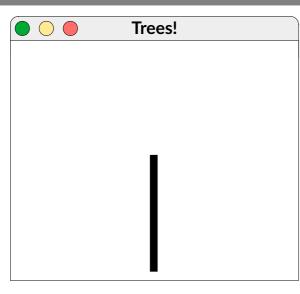
```
if (order == 0) {
int numLines = 0;
GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
numLines++;
numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
return numLines;
```



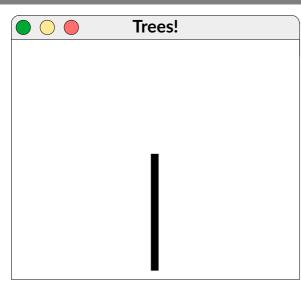
```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
    if (order == 0) {
        return 0;
    int numLines = 0;
    GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
    numLines++;
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    return numLines;
```



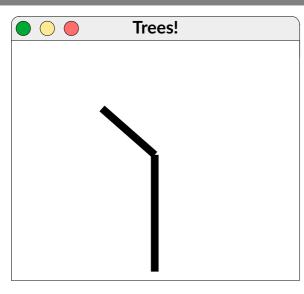
```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
                                                      0
    if (order == 0) {
        return 0;
                                                   numLines
    int numLines = 0;
    GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
    numLines++;
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    return numLines;
```



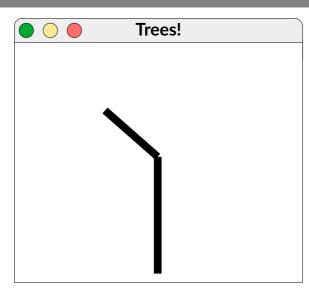
```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
    if (order == 0) {
        return 0;
                                                   numLines
    GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
    numLines++;
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    return numLines;
```



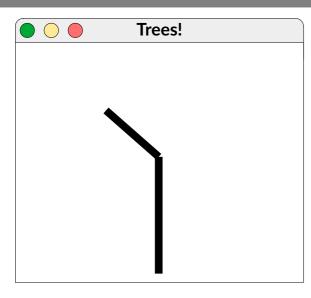
```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
    if (order == 0) {
        return 0;
                                                   numLines
    GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
    numLines++;
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    return numLines;
```



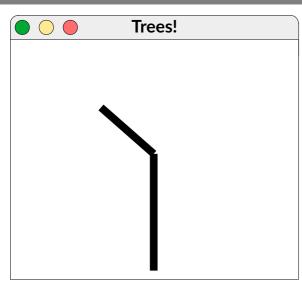
```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
                                                      0
    if (order == 0) {
        return 0;
                                                   numLines
    int numLines = 0;
    GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
    numLines++;
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    return numLines;
```



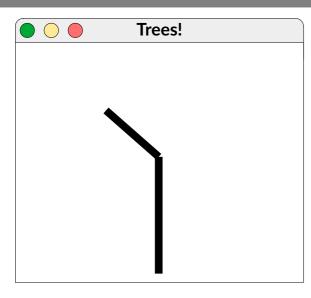
```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
    if (order == 0) {
        return 0;
                                                   numLines
    int numLines = 0;
    GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
    numLines++;
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    return numLines;
```



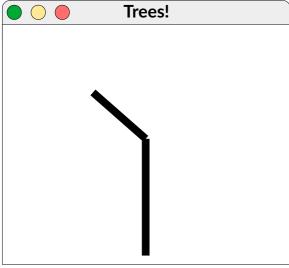
```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
     if (order == 0) {
         return 0;
                                                           numLines
     int numLines = 0;
     GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
     numLines++;
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    return numLines;
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
     if (order == 0) {
         return 0;
                                                           numLines
     int numLines = 0;
     GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
     numLines++;
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    return numLines;
```

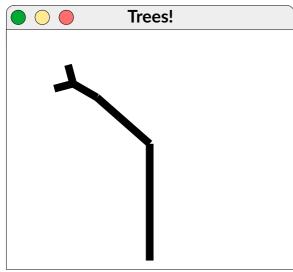


```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
    if (order == 0) {
         return 0;
                                                         numLines
    int numLines = 0;
    GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
    numLines++;
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    numLines += drawTree(/
    return numLines;
      Trees!
```



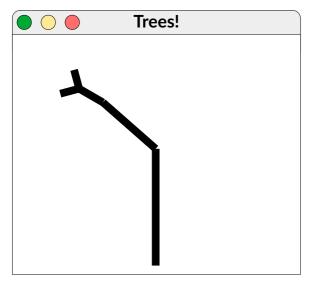
This call draws a recursive tree.

```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
    if (order == 0) {
        return 0;
                                                  numLines
    int numLines = 0;
    GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
    numLines++;
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    numLines += drawTree(//
    return numLines;
```



This call draws a recursive tree.

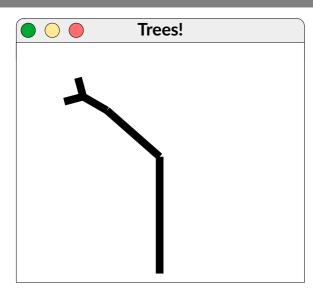
```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
    if (order == 0) {
         return 0;
                                                          numLines
    int numLines = 0;
    GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
    numLines++;
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    numLines += drawTree(/
    return numLines;
```



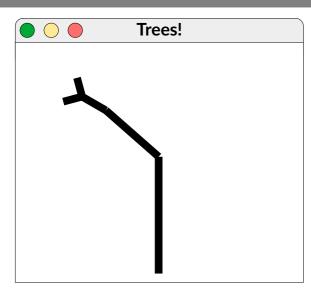
This call draws a recursive tree.

It then returns the number of lines drawn.

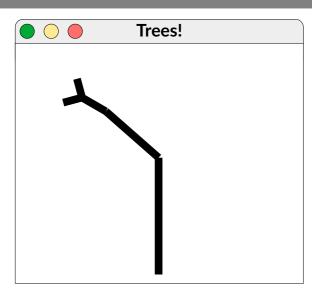
```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
     if (order == 0) {
         return 0;
                                                           numLines
     int numLines = 0;
     GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
     numLines++;
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    return numLines;
```



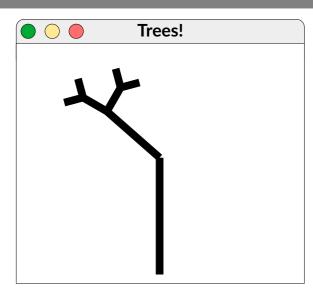
```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
     if (order == 0) {
         return 0;
                                                           numLines
     int numLines = 0;
     GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
     numLines++;
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    return numLines;
```



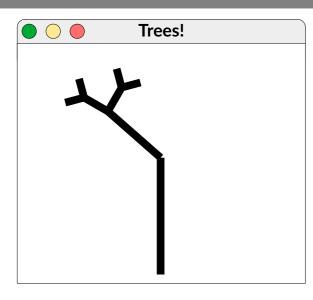
```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
    if (order == 0) {
        return 0;
                                                  numLines
    int numLines = 0;
    GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
    numLines++;
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    return numLines;
```



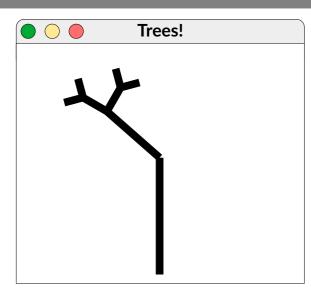
```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
    if (order == 0) {
        return 0;
                                                  numLines
    int numLines = 0;
    GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
    numLines++;
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    return numLines;
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
    if (order == 0) {
        return 0;
                                                  numLines
    int numLines = 0;
    GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
    numLines++;
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    return numLines;
```



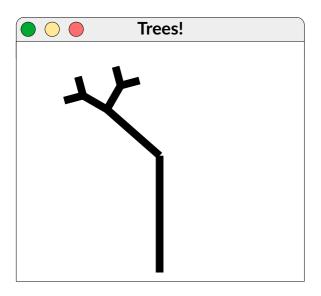
```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
    if (order == 0) {
        return 0;
                                                   numLines
    int numLines = 0;
    GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
    numLines++;
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
    return numLines;
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

   int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

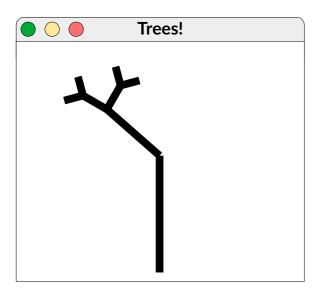
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   return numLines;
}
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

   int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

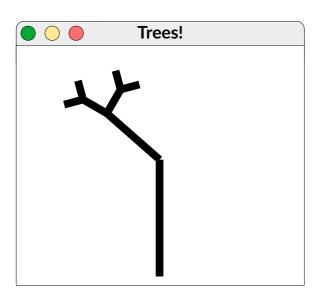
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   numLines i= drawTree(/* ... */);
   return numLines;
}
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

   int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

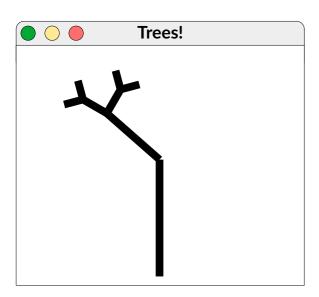
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   numLines i= drawTree(/* ... */);
   return numLines;
}
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

   int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

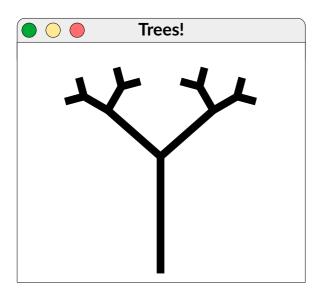
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   return numLines;
}
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

   int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

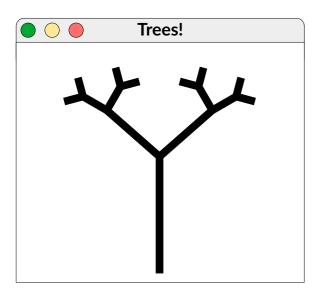
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   return numLines;
}
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

   int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

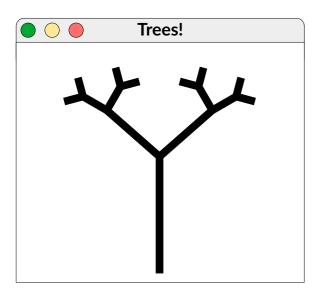
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   return numLines;
}
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

   int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

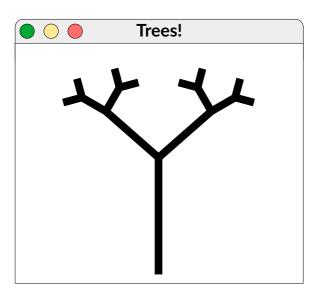
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   return numLines;
}
```



```
int drawTree(/* ... */) {
   if (order == 0) {
      return 0;
   }

   int numLines = 0;
   GPoint endpoint = drawPolarLine(/* ... */);
   numLines++;

   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   numLines += drawTree(/* ... */);
   return numLines;
}
```



Summary From Today

- Self-similar figures exist in many places, and recursion is a great way to draw them.
- When drawing a self-similar figure, identify what aspects of the figure are different at different scales.
- Assigning an order to a self-similar figure is a great way to make a base case.
- When writing a recursive function that returns a value, make sure you use the result of each recursive call. Otherwise, important data can get lost.

Your Action Items

Read Chapter 8.

 There's a ton of goodies in there! It'll help you solidify your understanding of recursion and recursive techniques.

• Keep Working On Assignment 2.

 Make slow and steady progress. Aim to get Rising Tides finished by next time and to have made good progress on You Got Hufflepuff!.

Next Time

- Recursive Enumeration
 - Finding all objects of a given type.
- Enumerating Subsets
 - A classic combinatorial problem!