CSC 211: Computer Programming (Recursive) Backtracking

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Administrative Announcements

- MC05 due 07/10
- A03 due 07/09
- Exam# 02 07/13
- No make up day this Friday

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Recursion Reminder

- Problem solving technique in which we solve a task by reducing it to smaller tasks (of the same kind)
 - ' then use same approach to solve the smaller tasks
- Technically, a recursive function is one that calls itself
- · General form:
 - ✓ base case
 - solution for a trivial case
 - it can be used to stop the recursion (prevents "stack overflow")
 - every recursive algorithm needs at least one base case
 - ✓ recursive call(s)
 - divide problem into smaller instance(s) of the same structure

Recursion Reminder

- Recursive Checklist:
 - Find what information we need to keep track of. What inputs/outputs are needed to solve the problem at each step?
 - Find our base case(s). What are the simplest (nonrecursive) instance(s) of this problem?
 - Find our recursive step. How can this problem be solved in terms of one or more simpler instances of the same problem that lead to a base case?
 - Ensure every input is handled. Do we cover all possible cases? Do we need to handle errors?

Recursion Reminder

- Recursive Checklist:
 - Find what information we need to keep track of. What inputs/outputs are needed to solve the problem at each step?
 - Find our base case(s). What are the simplest (nonrecursive) instance(s) of this problem?
 - Find our recursive step. How can this problem be solved in terms of one or more simpler instances of the same problem that lead to a base case?
 - Ensure every input is handled. Do we cover all possible cases? Do we need to handle errors?

Backtracking

 Write a recursive function printAllBinary that accepts an integer number of digits and prints all binary numbers that have exactly that many digits, in ascending order, one per line

printAllBinary(2);	printAllBinary(3)			
00	000			
01	001			
10	010			
11	011			
	100			
	101			
	110			
	111			

6

Decision Trees

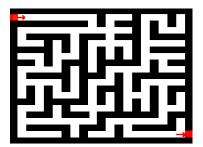
printAllBinary(2);

			digits	soFar			
			2	пп			
			0	<u> </u>			
	1	"0"		1	"1"		
	0	\frown	1		0	\frown	_ 1
0	"00"	0	"01"	0	"10"	0	"11"

- · This kind of diagram is called a call tree or decision tree
- · Think of each call as a choice or decision made by the algorithm:
- Should I choose 0 as the next digit?
- Should I choose 1 as the next digit?
- The idea is to try every permutation. For every position, there are 2 options, either '0' or '1'. Backtracking
 can be used in this approach to try every possibility or permutation to generate the correct set of strings.

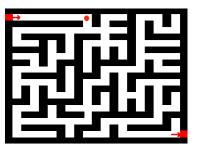
Backtracking

 Recursive Backtracking: using recursion to explore solutions to a problem and abandoning them if they are not suitable



• Recursive Backtracking: using recursion to explore solutions to a problem and abandoning them if they are not suitable

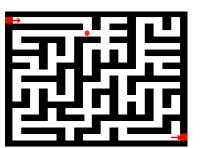
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Backtracking

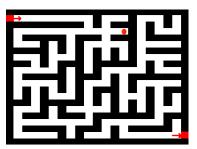
• Recursive Backtracking: using recursion to explore solutions to a problem and abandoning them if they are not suitable

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Backtracking

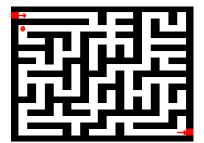
 Recursive Backtracking: using recursion to explore solutions to a problem and abandoning them if they are not suitable



Backtracking

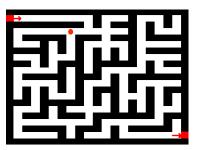
• Recursive Backtracking: using recursion to explore solutions to a problem and abandoning them if they are not suitable

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 Recursive Backtracking: using recursion to explore solutions to a problem and abandoning them if they are not suitable

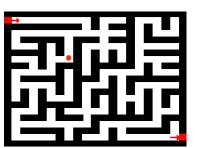
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Backtracking

 Recursive Backtracking: using recursion to explore solutions to a problem and abandoning them if they are not suitable

•



Backtracking

• Let's take a look at a problem similar to the binarySequence problem.

 Write a recursive function diceRoll that accepts an integer representing a number of 6-sided dice to roll, and output all possible permutations of values that could appear on the dice.

diceRoll(2)

{1,1}	{3, 1}	{5, 1}
{1, 2}	{3, 2}	{5, 2}
$\{1, 3\}$	{3, 3}	{5, 3}
$\{1, 4\}$	{3, 4}	{5, 4}
$\{1, 5\}$	{3, 5}	<i>{</i> 5 <i>,</i> 5 <i>}</i>
{1, 6}	{3, 6}	{5, 6}
$\{2, 1\}$	{4, 1}	{6, 1}
$\{2, 2\}$	{4, 2}	{6, 2}
$\{2, 3\}$	{4, 3}	{6, 3}
$\{2, 4\}$	{4, 4}	{6, 4}
$\{2, 5\}$	{4, 5}	{6, 5}
{2, 6}	{4, 6}	{6, 6}

Backtracking

Backtracking Checklist:

Find what choice(s) we have at each step. What different options are there for the next step?

For each valid choice:

- **Make it and explore recursively.** Pass the information for a choice to the next recursive call(s).
- **Undo it after exploring.** Restore everything to the way it was before making this choice.
- **Find our base case(s).** What should we do when we are out of decisions?

- Backtracking Checklist:
 - Find what choice(s) we have at each step. What different options are there for the next step?

What die value Make it and explore recurs should I choose next?

Undo it after exploring. Restore everything to the way

Backtracking

Backtracking Checklist:

For each valid choice:

- Make it and explore recursively. Pass the information for a choice to the next recursive call(s).

We need to communicate the dice chosen so far to the next recursive call

Backtracking

Backtracking Checklist:

We need to be able to remove the die we added to our first roll so far

For each valid choice:

- **Undo it after exploring.** Restore everything to the way it was before making this choice.

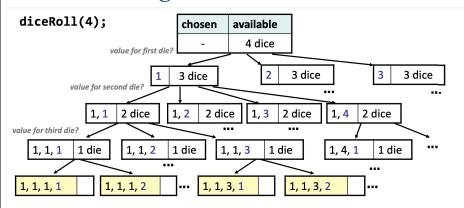
Backtracking

Backtracking Checklist:

- - left to choose, print them out

We have no dice

Find our base case(s). What should we do when we are out of decisions?



- · Observations?
- · This is a really big search space.
- Depending on approach, we can make wasteful decisions.
 Can we optimize it? Yes. Will we right now? No.

Backtracking

• Let's us write flexible code, allowing us to make a decision and "backtrack" if we need to

5 6	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
8 4 7			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

5	3	4	6	7	8	9	1	2
6	7	2	1	9	5	3	4	8
1	9	8	3	4	2	5	6	7
8	5	9	7	6	1	4	2	3
4	2	6	8	5	3	7	9	1
7	1	3	9	2	4	8	5	6
9	6	1	5	3	7	2	8	4
2	8	7	4	1	9	6	3	5
3	4	5	2	8	6	1	7	9

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Backtracking

- · Pseudocode
- function diceRolls(dice, chosenArr):if dice == 0:

Print current roll.

else:

 Write a recursive function diceRoll that accepts an integer representing a number of 6-sided dice to roll, and output all possible combinations of values that could appear on the dice.

// handle all roll values for a single die; let recursion do the rest. for each die value i in range [1..6]:

choose that the current die will have value i

// explore the remaining dice

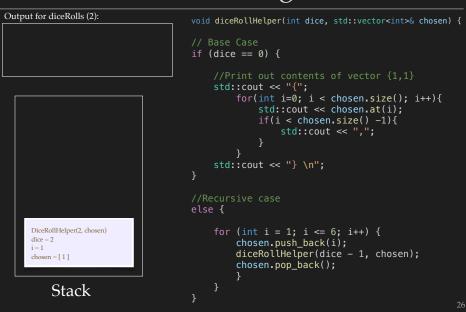
diceRolls(dice-1, chosenArr)

un-choose (backtrack) the value I

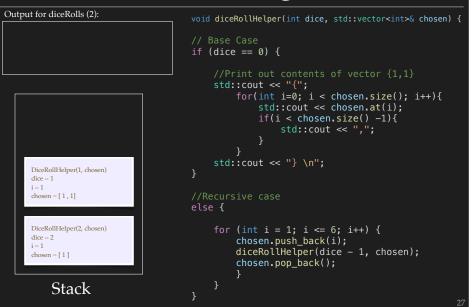
** Need to keep track of our choices somehow

Code Demo

Recursive Backtracking Trace



Recursive Backtracking Trace



Recursive Backtracking Trace



Output for diceRolls (2):



Recursive Backtracking Trace Output for diceRolls (2): Void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vector<int>& chosen) {

```
DiceRollHelper(0, chosen)
dice = 0
chosen = [1, 1]

DiceRollHelper(1, chosen)
dice = 1
i = 1
chosen = [1, 1]

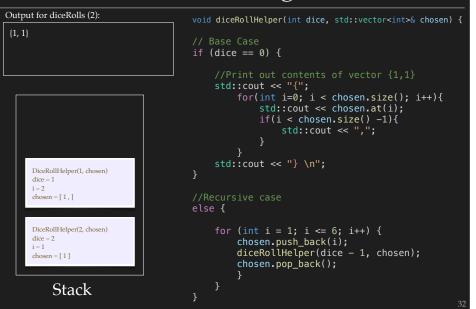
DiceRollHelper(2, chosen)
dice = 2
i = 1
chosen = [1]
```

Recursive Backtracking Trace

```
Output for diceRolls (2):
                                         void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vector<int>& chosen) {
 {1, 1}
                                         if (dice == 0) {
                                              std::cout << "{";</pre>
                                                   for(int i=0; i < chosen.size(); i++){</pre>
                                                        std::cout << chosen.at(i);</pre>
                                                        if(i < chosen.size() -1){</pre>
                                                             std::cout << ",";</pre>
                                              std::cout << "} \n";</pre>
     DiceRollHelper(1, chosen)
     dice = 1
     chosen = [1,1]
                                         else {
     DiceRollHelper(2, chosen)
                                              for (int i = 1; i \le 6; i++) {
     dice = 2
                                                   chosen.push_back(i);
                                                   diceRollHelper(dice - 1, chosen);
                                                   chosen.pop_back();
          Stack
```

Recursive Backtracking Trace

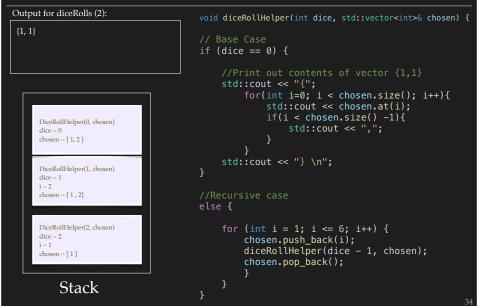
```
Output for diceRolls (2):
                                          void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vector<int>& chosen) +
 {1, 1}
                                          // Base Case
                                          if (dice == 0) {
                                              std::cout << "{";
                                                   for(int i=0; i < chosen.size(); i++){</pre>
                                                         std::cout << chosen.at(i);</pre>
                                                        if(i < chosen.size() -1){</pre>
                                                             std::cout << ",";</pre>
                                              std::cout << "} \n";</pre>
     DiceRollHelper(1, chosen)
     dice = 1
      chosen = [ 1 , ]
      DiceRollHelper(2, chosen)
                                              for (int i = 1; i \le 6; i++) {
     dice = 2
                                                   chosen.push_back(i);
                                                   diceRollHelper(dice - 1, chosen);
      chosen = [1]
                                                   chosen.pop_back();
          Stack
```



Recursive Backtracking Trace Output for diceRolls (2): void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vec

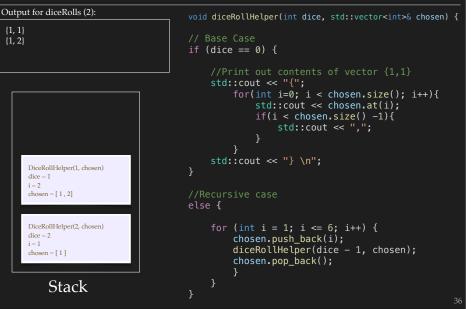
```
void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vector<int>& chosen) {
{1, 1}
                                        if (dice == 0) {
                                             std::cout << "{";</pre>
                                                  for(int i=0; i < chosen.size(); i++){</pre>
                                                       std::cout << chosen.at(i);</pre>
                                                       if(i < chosen.size() -1){</pre>
                                                            std::cout << ",";</pre>
                                             std::cout << "} \n";</pre>
    DiceRollHelper(1, chosen)
    i=2
    chosen = [1,2]
                                        else {
    DiceRollHelper(2, chosen)
                                             for (int i = 1; i \le 6; i++) {
    dice = 2
                                                  chosen.push_back(i);
                                                  diceRollHelper(dice - 1, chosen);
     chosen = [1]
                                                  chosen.pop_back();
         Stack
```

Recursive Backtracking Trace



Recursive Backtracking Trace

```
Output for diceRolls (2):
                                           void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vector<int>& chosen) +
                                           // Base Case
 \{1, 2\}
                                           if (dice == 0) {
                                                std::cout << "{";</pre>
                                                      for(int i=0; i < chosen.size(); i++){</pre>
                                                           std::cout << chosen.at(i);</pre>
                                                           if(i < chosen.size() -1){</pre>
      DiceRollHelper(0, chosen)
                                                                std::cout << ",";</pre>
      dice = 0
      chosen = [ 1, 2 ]
                                                std::cout << "} \n";</pre>
      DiceRollHelper(1, chosen)
      dice = 1
      chosen = [1,2]
      DiceRollHelper(2, chosen)
                                                for (int i = 1; i \le 6; i++) {
      dice = 2
                                                     chosen.push_back(i);
                                                     diceRollHelper(dice - 1, chosen);
      chosen = [1]
                                                     chosen.pop_back();
          Stack
```



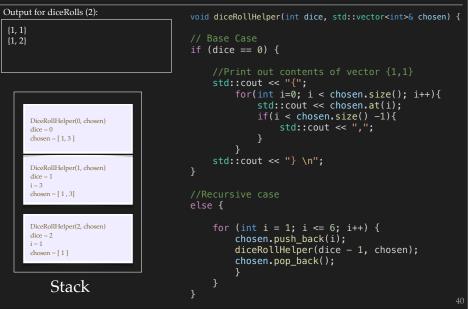
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Output for diceRolls (2):
                                         void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vector<int>& chosen) {
{1, 2}
                                         if (dice == 0) {
                                              std::cout << "{";</pre>
                                                   for(int i=0; i < chosen.size(); i++){</pre>
                                                        std::cout << chosen.at(i);</pre>
                                                        if(i < chosen.size() -1){</pre>
                                                             std::cout << ",";</pre>
                                              std::cout << "} \n";</pre>
     DiceRollHelper(1, chosen)
     i=2
     chosen = [1,]
                                         else {
     DiceRollHelper(2, chosen)
                                              for (int i = 1; i \le 6; i++) {
     dice = 2
                                                   chosen.push_back(i);
                                                   diceRollHelper(dice - 1, chosen);
      chosen = [1]
                                                   chosen.pop_back();
          Stack
```

Recursive Backtracking Trace

```
Output for diceRolls (2):
                                         void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vector<int>& chosen) {
{1, 2}
                                         if (dice == 0) {
                                              std::cout << "{";</pre>
                                                   for(int i=0; i < chosen.size(); i++){</pre>
                                                        std::cout << chosen.at(i);</pre>
                                                        if(i < chosen.size() -1){</pre>
                                                             std::cout << ",";</pre>
                                              std::cout << "} \n";</pre>
     DiceRollHelper(1, chosen)
     dice = 1
     chosen = [1,]
                                         else {
     DiceRollHelper(2, chosen)
                                              for (int i = 1; i \le 6; i++) {
     dice = 2
                                                   chosen.push_back(i);
                                                   diceRollHelper(dice - 1, chosen);
                                                   chosen.pop_back();
          Stack
```

Recursive Backtracking Trace

```
Output for diceRolls (2):
                                         void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vector<int>& chosen) +
                                          // Base Case
 \{1, 2\}
                                         if (dice == 0) {
                                              std::cout << "{";
                                                   for(int i=0; i < chosen.size(); i++){</pre>
                                                        std::cout << chosen.at(i);</pre>
                                                        if(i < chosen.size() -1){</pre>
                                                             std::cout << ",";</pre>
                                              std::cout << "} \n";</pre>
     DiceRollHelper(1, chosen)
     dice = 1
      chosen = [1,3]
      DiceRollHelper(2, chosen)
                                              for (int i = 1; i \le 6; i++) {
     dice = 2
                                                   chosen.push_back(i);
                                                   diceRollHelper(dice - 1, chosen);
      chosen = [1]
                                                   chosen.pop_back();
          Stack
```



```
Output for diceRolls (2):
                                           void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vector<int>& chosen) {
{1, 2}
                                           if (dice == 0) {
{1, 3}
                                                std::cout << "{";</pre>
                                                     for(int i=0; i < chosen.size(); i++){</pre>
                                                          std::cout << chosen.at(i);</pre>
                                                          if(i < chosen.size() -1){</pre>
      DiceRollHelper(0, chosen)
                                                               std::cout << ",";</pre>
      chosen = [ 1, 3 ]
                                                std::cout << "} \n";</pre>
     DiceRollHelper(1, chosen)
      chosen = [1,3]
                                          else {
     DiceRollHelper(2, chosen)
                                                for (int i = 1; i \le 6; i++) {
     dice = 2
                                                     chosen.push_back(i);
                                                     diceRollHelper(dice - 1, chosen);
      chosen = [1]
                                                     chosen.pop_back();
          Stack
```

Recursive Backtracking Trace

```
Output for diceRolls (2):
                                         void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vector<int>& chosen) {
{1, 2}
                                         if (dice == 0) {
{1, 3}
                                              std::cout << "{";</pre>
                                                   for(int i=0; i < chosen.size(); i++){</pre>
                                                        std::cout << chosen.at(i);</pre>
                                                        if(i < chosen.size() -1){</pre>
                                                             std::cout << ",";</pre>
                                              std::cout << "} \n";</pre>
     DiceRollHelper(1, chosen)
     chosen = [1,3]
                                         else {
     DiceRollHelper(2, chosen)
                                              for (int i = 1; i \le 6; i++) {
     dice = 2
                                                   chosen.push_back(i);
                                                   diceRollHelper(dice - 1, chosen);
                                                   chosen.pop_back();
          Stack
```

Recursive Backtracking Trace

Fastforward...

Recursive Backtracking Trace

```
1, 3 

{1, 4}

DiceRollHelper(0, chosen) dice = 0 chosen = [1, 6]

DiceRollHelper(1, chosen) dice = 1 i = 6 chosen = [1, 6]

DiceRollHelper(2, chosen) dice = 2 i = 1 chosen = [1]
```

Output for diceRolls (2):

{1, 5}

 $\{1, 2\}$

```
void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vector<int>& chosen) {

// Base Case
if (dice == 0) {

    //Print out contents of vector {1,1}
    std::cout << "{";
        for(int i=0; i < chosen.size(); i++){
            std::cout << chosen.size() -1){
                std::cout << ",";
        }
    }

    std::cout << "} \n";
}

//Recursive case
else {

    for (int i = 1; i <= 6; i++) {
        chosen.push_back(i);
        diceRollHelper(dice - 1, chosen);
        chosen.pop_back();
    }
}</pre>
```

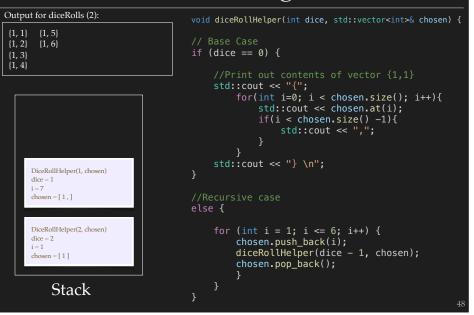
```
Output for diceRolls (2):
                                           void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vector<int>& chosen) {
       {1, 5}
{1, 2}
       {1, 6}
                                           if (dice == 0) {
{1, 3}
\{1, 4\}
                                                 std::cout << "{";</pre>
                                                      for(int i=0; i < chosen.size(); i++){</pre>
                                                           std::cout << chosen.at(i);</pre>
                                                           if(i < chosen.size() -1){</pre>
      DiceRollHelper(0, chosen)
                                                                std::cout << ",";</pre>
      chosen = [ 1, 6 ]
                                                 std::cout << "} \n";</pre>
     DiceRollHelper(1, chosen)
     dice = 1
     chosen = [1,6]
                                           else {
     DiceRollHelper(2, chosen)
                                                 for (int i = 1; i \le 6; i++) {
     dice = 2
                                                      chosen.push_back(i);
                                                      diceRollHelper(dice - 1, chosen);
      chosen = [1]
                                                      chosen.pop_back();
           Stack
```

Recursive Backtracking Trace

```
Output for diceRolls (2):
                                          void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vector<int>& chosen) {
       {1, 5}
{1, 2}
      {1, 6}
                                          if (dice == 0) {
{1, 3}
\{1, 4\}
                                               std::cout << "{";</pre>
                                                    for(int i=0; i < chosen.size(); i++){</pre>
                                                         std::cout << chosen.at(i);</pre>
                                                         if(i < chosen.size() -1){</pre>
                                                              std::cout << ",";</pre>
                                               std::cout << "} \n";</pre>
     DiceRollHelper(1, chosen)
     dice = 1
     chosen = [1,6]
                                          else {
     DiceRollHelper(2, chosen)
                                               for (int i = 1; i \le 6; i++) {
     dice = 2
                                                    chosen.push_back(i);
                                                    diceRollHelper(dice - 1, chosen);
                                                    chosen.pop_back();
          Stack
```

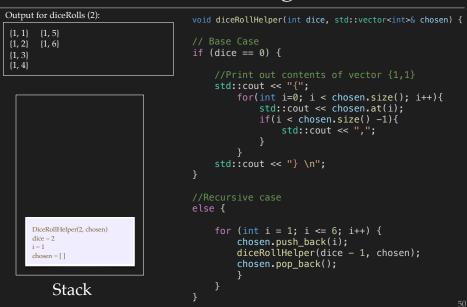
Recursive Backtracking Trace

```
Output for diceRolls (2):
                                          void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vector<int>& chosen) +
       {1, 5}
                                          // Base Case
 \{1, 2\}
      {1, 6}
                                          if (dice == 0) {
 {1, 3}
 {1, 4}
                                               std::cout << "{";
                                                    for(int i=0; i < chosen.size(); i++){</pre>
                                                         std::cout << chosen.at(i);</pre>
                                                         if(i < chosen.size() -1){</pre>
                                                              std::cout << ",";</pre>
                                               std::cout << "} \n";</pre>
     DiceRollHelper(1, chosen)
     dice = 1
      chosen = [ 1 , ]
      DiceRollHelper(2, chosen)
                                               for (int i = 1; i \le 6; i++) {
     dice = 2
                                                    chosen.push_back(i);
                                                    diceRollHelper(dice - 1, chosen);
      chosen = [1]
                                                    chosen.pop_back();
          Stack
```

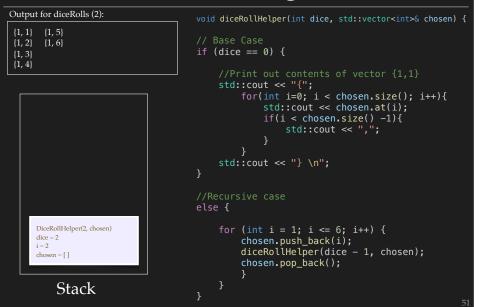


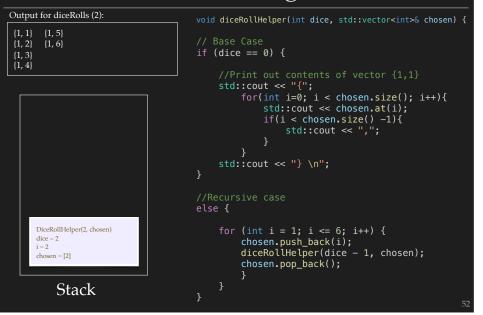
```
Output for diceRolls (2):
                                         void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vector<int>& chosen) {
      {1, 5}
{1, 2}
      {1, 6}
                                         if (dice == 0) {
{1, 3}
\{1, 4\}
                                              std::cout << "{";</pre>
                                                   for(int i=0; i < chosen.size(); i++){</pre>
                                                        std::cout << chosen.at(i);</pre>
                                                        if(i < chosen.size() -1){</pre>
                                                             std::cout << ",";</pre>
                                              std::cout << "} \n";</pre>
                                         else {
     DiceRollHelper(2, chosen)
                                              for (int i = 1; i \le 6; i++) {
     dice = 2
                                                   chosen.push_back(i);
                                                   diceRollHelper(dice - 1, chosen);
      chosen = [1]
                                                   chosen.pop_back();
          Stack
```

Recursive Backtracking Trace



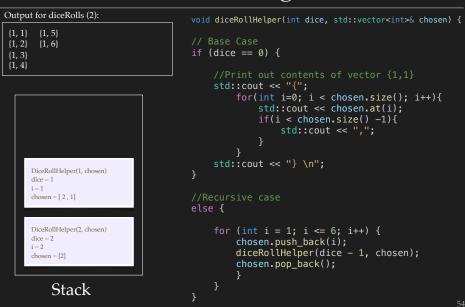
Recursive Backtracking Trace





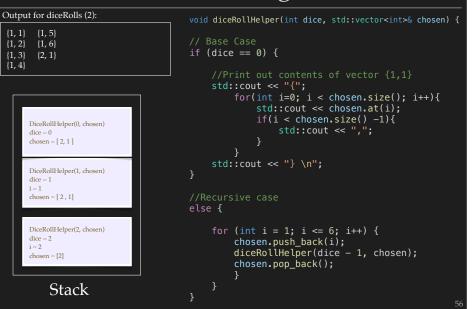
```
Output for diceRolls (2):
                                          void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vector<int>& chosen) {
       {1, 5}
{1, 2}
      {1, 6}
                                          if (dice == 0) {
{1, 3}
\{1, 4\}
                                               std::cout << "{";</pre>
                                                    for(int i=0; i < chosen.size(); i++){</pre>
                                                         std::cout << chosen.at(i);</pre>
                                                         if(i < chosen.size() -1){</pre>
                                                              std::cout << ",";</pre>
                                               std::cout << "} \n";</pre>
     DiceRollHelper(1, chosen)
     dice = 1
     chosen = [2,]
                                          else {
     DiceRollHelper(2, chosen)
                                               for (int i = 1; i \le 6; i++) {
     dice = 2
                                                    chosen.push_back(i);
                                                    diceRollHelper(dice - 1, chosen);
                                                    chosen.pop_back();
          Stack
```

Recursive Backtracking Trace



Recursive Backtracking Trace

```
Output for diceRolls (2):
                                           void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vector<int>& chosen) +
       {1, 5}
                                           // Base Case
 \{1, 2\}
       {1, 6}
                                           if (dice == 0) {
 {1, 3}
 {1, 4}
                                                //Print out contents of vector {1.1}
                                                std::cout << "{";
                                                     for(int i=0; i < chosen.size(); i++){</pre>
                                                          std::cout << chosen.at(i);</pre>
                                                          if(i < chosen.size() -1){</pre>
      DiceRollHelper(0, chosen)
                                                               std::cout << ",";</pre>
     dice = 0
      chosen = [ 2, 1 ]
                                                std::cout << "} \n";</pre>
     DiceRollHelper(1, chosen)
     dice = 1
      chosen = [2,1]
      DiceRollHelper(2, chosen)
                                                for (int i = 1; i \le 6; i++) {
     dice = 2
                                                     chosen.push_back(i);
     i = 2
                                                     diceRollHelper(dice - 1, chosen);
      chosen = [2]
                                                     chosen.pop_back();
          Stack
```



```
Output for diceRolls (2):
                                            void diceRollHelper(int dice, std::vector<int>& chosen) {
 {1, 1} {1, 5}
{1, 2} {1, 6}
                                            if (dice == 0) {
 {1, 3} {2, 1} {1, 4}
                                                 std::cout << "{";</pre>
                                                       for(int i=0; i < chosen.size(); i++){</pre>
                                                            std::cout << chosen.at(i);</pre>
                                                            if(i < chosen.size() -1){</pre>
                                                  std::cout << "} \n";</pre>
      DiceRollHelper(1, chosen)
      dice = 1
      chosen = [2,1]
                                            else {
      DiceRollHelper(2, chosen)
                                                  for (int i = 1; i <= 6; i++) {
                                                      chosen.push_back(i);
diceRollHelper(dice - 1, chosen);
      dice = 2
      i = 2
                                                       chosen.pop_back();
           Stack
```

