



To understand recursion, first, one must understand recursion.

Iterative algorithms

- Definition: Algorithm where a problem is solved by iterating (going step-by-step) through a set of commands, often using loops

Algorithm power(a,n)

Input: non-negative integers a, n

Output: a^n

```
product ← 1
for i = 1 to n do
    product ← product * a
return product
```

Challenge question: Can you compute a^n without using loops?

Recursion - definition

- An algorithm is recursive if in the process of solving the problem, it calls *itself* one or more times
- Example:

Algorithm power(a,n)

Input: non-negative integers a, n

Output: a^n

?

?

Simulating power(a,n)

When you call power(7,4), what happens?

```

power(7,4) calls
  power(7,3), which calls
    power(7,2), which calls
      power(7,1), which calls
        power(7,0), which returns 1
      returns 7*1 = 7
    returns 7*7 = 49
  returns 7*49 = 343
returns 7*343 = 2401
  
```

Algorithm power(a,n)

```

if (n=0) then return 1
else
  previous ← power(a,n-1)
  return previous * a
  
```

Recursive binary search

Search for ??

0 0 2 3 3 3 4 5 5 6 6 6 6 7 9 9 9

Algorithm binarySearch(array, start, stop, key)

Input: - A sorted array

- the region start...stop (inclusively) of indices to be searched
- the key to be found

Output: returns the index at which the key k has been found, or -1 if it is not in array[start...stop].

Fibonacci sequence

- The Fibonacci sequence is a sequence of numbers where each number is the sum of the two that precede it:

$$F(0) = 0$$

$$F(1) = 1$$

$$F(n) = F(n-1) + F(n-2) \quad \text{if } n \geq 2$$

n	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
F(n)	0	1	1	2	3	5	8	13	21	34	55	89...

Iterative Fibonacci

Algorithm IterFib(n)

Input: an non-negative integer n

Output: the n-th Fibonacci number

if (n=0) **then return** 0;

if (n=1) **then return** 1;

previous \leftarrow 0 // used to store previous Fib term

current \leftarrow 1 // used to store current Fib term

for i = 2 **to** n **do**

 tmpCurrent \leftarrow current

 current \leftarrow current + previous

 previous \leftarrow tmpCurrent

return current

Recursive Fibonacci

Algorithm Fib(n)

Input: an non-negative integer n

Output: the n-th Fibonacci number

Recursion is not always efficient

Fib(5)

Question: When computing Fib(n), how many times are F(0) or F(1) called?