

# Python Recursive Function

Anoop S Babu

Faculty Associate

Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering

[bsanoop@am.amrita.edu](mailto:bsanoop@am.amrita.edu)

# Function Call inside another Function

```
def mul(a,b):  
    return a*b  
def sum(x,y,z):  
    return x+mul(y,z)    # call for mul() function  
  
n1 = 4; n2 = 3; n3 = 2  
print("{}+{}*{} = {}".format(n1,n2,n3,sum(n1,n2,n3)))
```

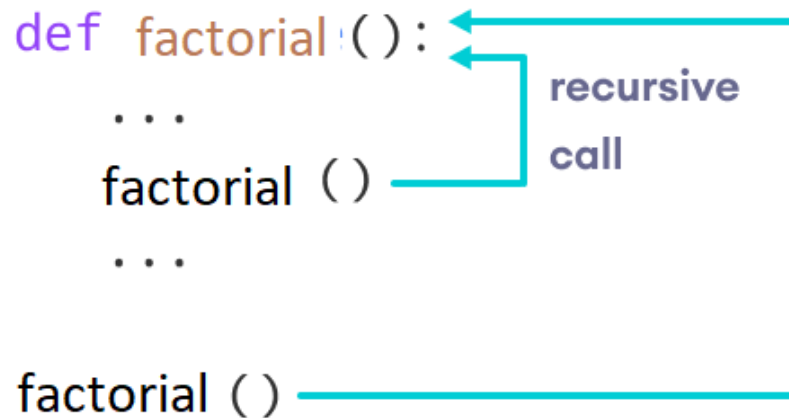
## Output

4+3\*2 = 10

# Python Recursive Function

- A recursive function is a function that **calls itself** during its execution.
- Best example of a recursive function – *factorial*.
  - $n! = n * (n-1)!$

## Working of Recursive Function



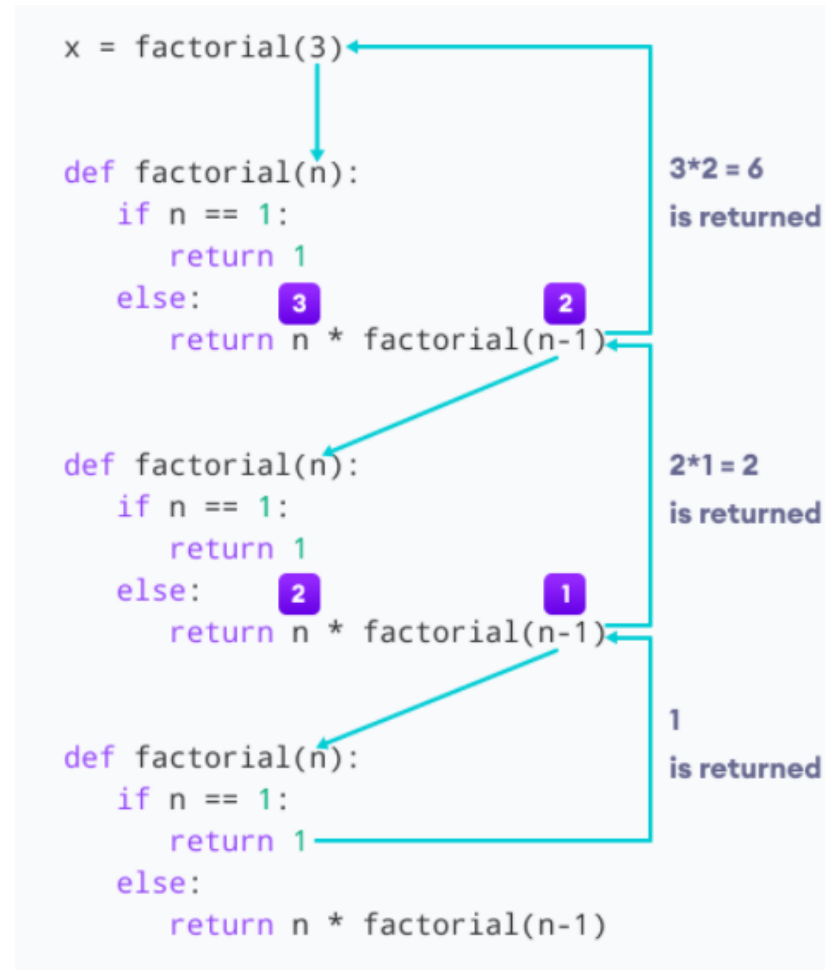
# Example of a Recursive Function

```
def factorial(number):  
    if number == 1 or number == 0:  
        return 1  
    else:  
        return (number * factorial(number - 1))  
  
n = 5  
print(n, "! = ", factorial(n))
```

## Output

```
5 ! = 120
```

# Working of a Recursive Factorial Function



# Depth of Recursion

- Python interpreter **limits the depths of recursion** to help avoid infinite recursions, resulting in stack overflows.
- By default, the maximum depth of recursion is 1000.
- If the limit is crossed, it results in **RecursionError**

## Example

```
def recursor():  
    recursor()  
recursor()
```

## Output

```
Traceback (most recent call last):  
  File "<string>", line 3, in <module>  
File "<string>", line 2, in recursor  
  File "<string>", line 2, in recursor  
  File "<string>", line 2, in recursor  
  [Previous line repeated 996 more times]  
RecursionError: maximum recursion depth exceeded
```