

# INDUCTION AND RECURSION

# Climbing an Infinite Ladder

Suppose we have an infinite ladder:

- 1) We can reach the first rung of the ladder.
- 2) If we can reach a particular rung of the ladder, then we can reach the next rung.

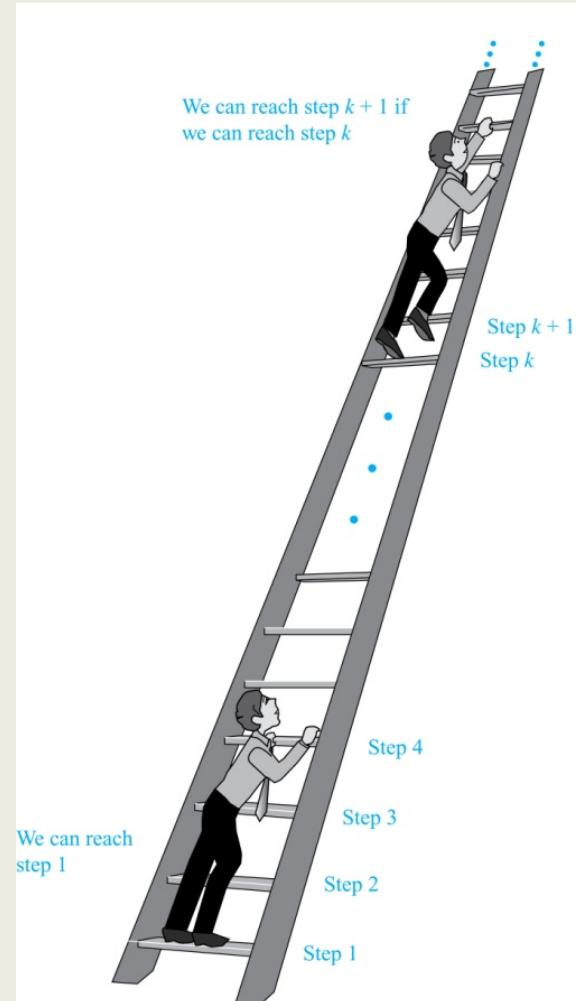
From (1), we can reach the first rung.

By applying (2), we can reach the second rung.

Applying (2) again, the third rung. And so on.

We can apply (2) any number of times to reach any particular rung, no matter how high up.

This example motivates proof by mathematical induction.



# MATHEMATICAL INDUCTION (KR 5.1)

- Introduction
- Examples

# Principle of Mathematical Induction

Prove that  $P(n)$  is true for all positive integers  $n$ .

- **Basis Step:**

Show that  $P(1)$  is true.

- **Inductive Step:**

Show that  $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$  is true for all positive integers  $k$ .

**How?**

Assuming the *inductive hypothesis*  $P(k)$  holds for an arbitrary integer  $k$ , show that  $P(k + 1)$  must be true.

# Principle of Mathematical Induction

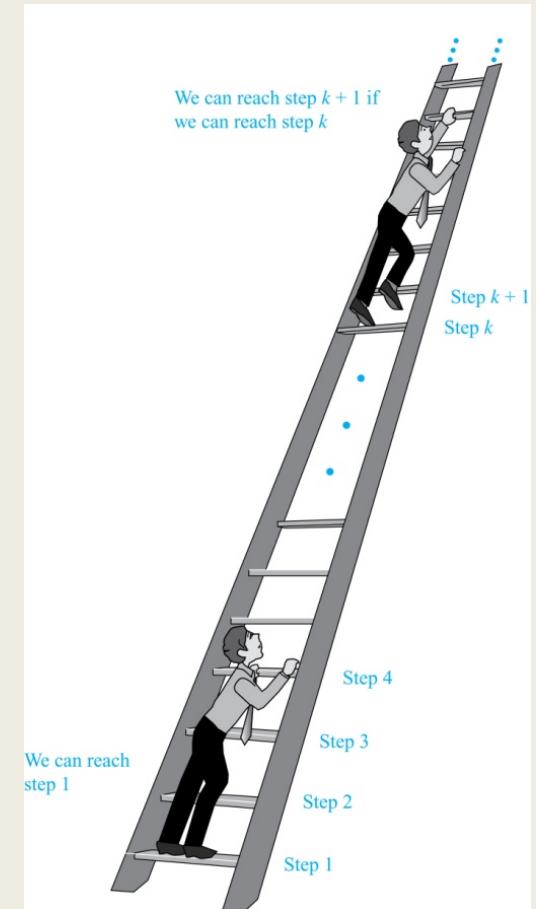
## Climbing an Infinite Ladder:

- Basis Step:  
By (1), we can reach rung 1.
- Inductive Step:  
Assume we can reach rung  $k$ .

Then by (2), we can reach rung  $k+1$ .

Hence,  $P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)$  is true for all positive integers  $k$ .

We can reach every rung on the ladder.



# Two Important Points About Using Mathematical Induction

- 1) In a proof by induction, we don't assume that  $P(k)$  is true for all positive integers!

We show: if we assume that  $P(k)$  is true, then  $P(k + 1)$  must also be true.

- 2) Proofs by mathematical induction do not always start at the integer 1.

The basis step can begin at integer  $b$ ,  $b > 1$ .

# Proving a Summation Formula by Induction

**Claim:**  $\sum_{i=1}^n i = n(n + 1)/2$

**Proof:**

BASIS STEP:  $P(1)$  is true since  $1(1 + 1)/2 = 1$ .

INDUCTIVE STEP: Assume claim is true for  $P(k)$ .

The inductive hypothesis is  $\sum_{i=1}^k i = k(k + 1)/2$

Under this assumption, show that  $P(k+1)$  is true:

$$\begin{aligned} 1 + 2 + \dots + k + (k + 1) &= \frac{k(k + 1)}{2} + (k + 1) \\ &= \frac{k(k + 1) + 2(k + 1)}{2} = \frac{(k + 1)(k + 2)}{2} \end{aligned}$$



# Sum of the first $n$ positive odd numbers

**Conjecture:** The sum of the first  $n$  positive odd integers is  $n^2$ .

We prove the conjecture correct using induction.

**Inductive Hypothesis:**  $1 + 3 + 5 + \cdots + (2k - 1) = k^2$

BASIS STEP:  $P(1)$  is true since  $1^2 = 1$ .

INDUCTIVE STEP:  $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$  for every positive integer  $k$ .

**Inductive Hypothesis:**  $1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + (2k - 1) = k^2$

Under this assumption, show that  $P(k+1)$  is true:

$$\begin{aligned}1 + 3 + \dots + (2k - 1) + (2k + 1) &= [1 + 3 + \dots + (2k - 1)] + (2k + 1) \\&= k^2 + (2k + 1) \quad (\text{by the induct. hyp.}) \\&= k^2 + 2k + 1 \\&= (k + 1)^2\end{aligned}$$

Hence, we have shown that  $P(k + 1)$  follows from  $P(k)$ .  
Therefore the sum of the first  $n$  positive odd integers is  $n^2$ .



# Proving Inequalities

**Example 1:** Use induction to prove that  $n < 2^n$  for all positive integers  $n$ .

**Solution:** Let  $P(n)$  be the proposition that  $n < 2^n$ .

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BASIS STEP:  $P(1)$  is true since  $1 < 2^1 = 2$ .

INDUCTIVE STEP: Assume  $P(k)$  holds, i.e.,  $k < 2^k$ , for every positive integer  $k$ .

To shows that  $P(k + 1)$  holds.

Since by the inductive hypothesis,  $k < 2^k$ , it follows that:

$$k + 1 < 2^k + 1 \leq 2^k + 2^k = 2 \cdot 2^k = 2^{k+1}$$

Therefore  $n < 2^n$  holds for all positive integers  $n$ . 

# Proving Inequalities

**Example 2:** Use induction to prove that  $2^n < n!$ , for every integer  $n \geq 4$ .

**Solution:** Let  $P(n)$  be the proposition that  $2^n < n!$

BASIS STEP:  $P(4)$  is true since  $2^4 = 16 < 4! = 24$ .

INDUCTIVE STEP: Assume  $P(k)$  holds, i.e.,  $2^k < k!$  for every integer  $k \geq 4$ . To show that  $P(k + 1)$  holds:

$$\begin{aligned} 2^{k+1} &= 2 \cdot 2^k \\ &< 2 \cdot k! \quad (\text{by the inductive hypothesis}) \\ &< (k + 1)k! \\ &= (k + 1)! \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $2^n < n!$  holds, for every integer  $n \geq 4$ . 

Note that the basis step is  $P(4)$ ;  $P(0)$ ,  $P(1)$ ,  $P(2)$ , and  $P(3)$  are false.

**Example:** Use induction to prove that  $n^3 - n$  is divisible by 3, for every positive integer  $n$ .

**Solution:** Let  $P(n)$  be the proposition that  $n^3 - n$  is divisible by 3.

**BASIS STEP:**  $P(1)$  is true since  $1^3 - 1 = 0$ , which is divisible by 3.

**INDUCTIVE STEP:** Assume  $P(k)$  holds, i.e.,  $k^3 - k$  is divisible by 3, for every positive integer  $k$ .

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**INDUCTIVE STEP:** Assume  $P(k)$  holds, i.e.,  **$k^3 - k$  is divisible** by 3, for every positive integer  $k$ .

Show that  $P(k + 1)$  follows:

$$\begin{aligned}(k + 1)^3 - (k + 1) &= (k^3 + 3k^2 + 3k + 1) - (k + 1) \\&= (k^3 - k) + 3(k^2 + k)\end{aligned}$$

By inductive hypothesis,  $(k^3 - k)$  is divisible by 3. The second term is divisible by 3 since it a multiple of 3. So,  $(k + 1)^3 - (k + 1)$  is divisible by 3.

Therefore,  $n^3 - n$  is divisible by 3.



# Number of Subsets of a Finite Set

**Example:** Use induction to show that if  $S$  is a finite set with  $n$  elements, then  $S$  has  $2^n$  subsets.

$S = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  has  $2^4 = 16$  subsets

**Solution:** Let  $P(n)$  be the proposition that a set with  $n$  elements has  $2^n$  subsets.

**BASIS STEP:**  $P(0)$  is true, because the empty set has only itself as a subset and  $2^0 = 1$ .

**INDUCTIVE STEP:** Assume  $P(k)$  is true for an arbitrary nonnegative integer  $k$ .

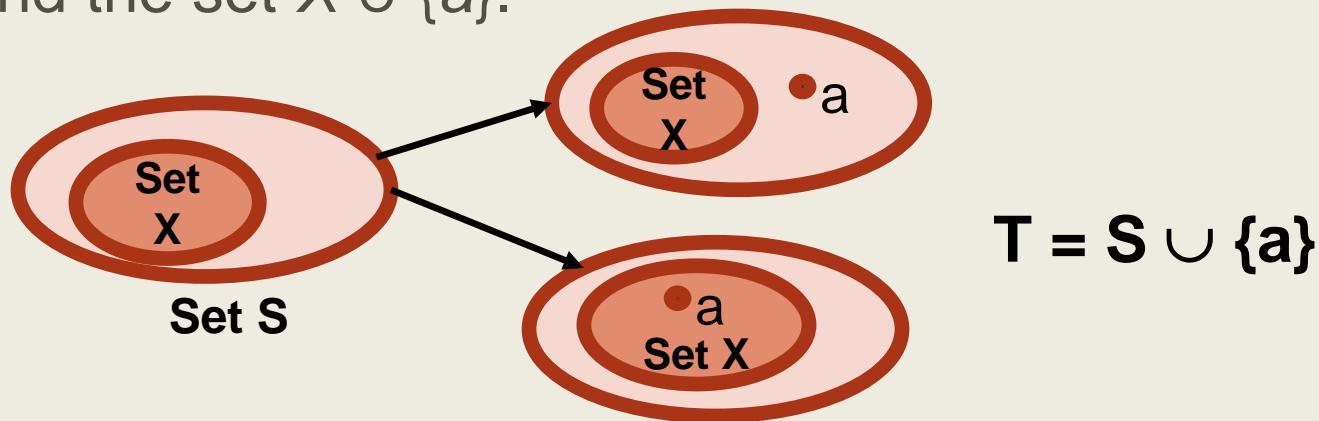
*continued →*

**Inductive Hypothesis:** For an arbitrary nonnegative integer  $k$ , every set with  $k$  elements has  $2^k$  subsets.

Let  $T$  be a set with  $k + 1$  elements.

Then,  $T = S \cup \{a\}$ ,  $a \in T$  and  $S = T - \{a\}$ . Hence  $|S| = k$ .

For each subset  $X$  of  $S$ , there are exactly two subsets of  $T$ : set  $X$  and the set  $X \cup \{a\}$ .

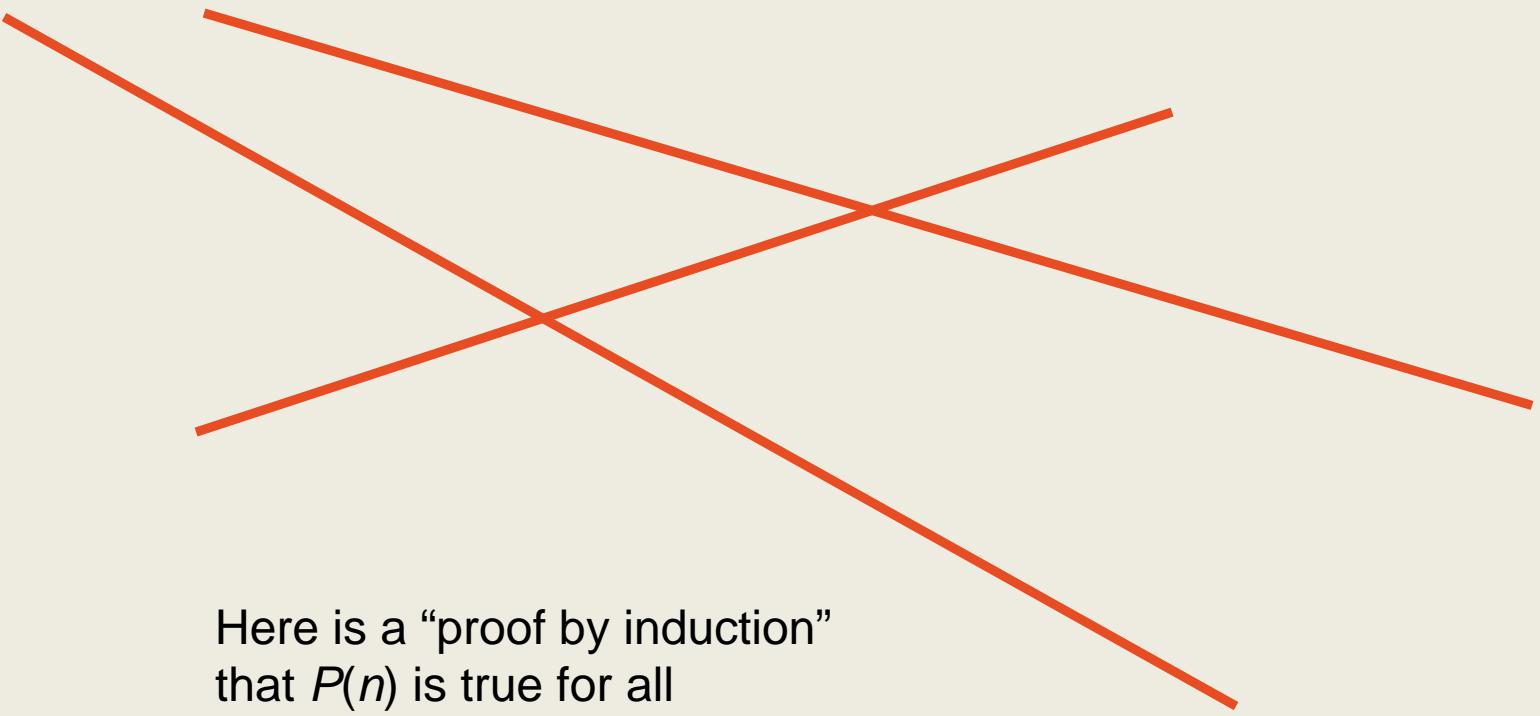


By the inductive hypothesis, set  $S$  has  $2^k$  subsets.

Since there are two subsets of  $T$  for each subset of  $S$ , the number of subsets of  $T$  is  $2 \cdot 2^k = 2^{k+1}$ .

# An Incorrect “Proof” by Induction

**Example:** Let  $P(n)$  be the statement that every set of  $n$  lines in the plane, no two of which are parallel, meet in a common point.



*continued →*

# An Incorrect “Proof” by Induction

**Example:** Let  $P(n)$  be the statement that every set of  $n$  lines in the plane, no two of which are parallel, meet in a common point.

BASIS STEP: The statement  $P(2)$  is true.

Any two lines in the plane that are not parallel meet in a common point.

INDUCTIVE STEP: The inductive hypothesis is the statement that  $P(k)$  is true for the positive integer  $k \geq 2$ :

Every set of  $k$  lines in the plane, no two of which are parallel, meet in a common point.

We show that if  $P(k)$  holds, then  $P(k + 1)$  holds, i.e., if every set of  $k$  lines in the plane, no two of which are parallel,  $k \geq 2$ , meet in a common point, then every set of  $k + 1$  lines in the plane, no two of which are parallel, meet in a common point.

**Inductive Hypothesis:** Every set of  $k$  lines in the plane, where  $k \geq 2$ , no two of which are parallel, meet in a common point.

Consider a set of  $k + 1$  distinct lines in the plane, no two parallel.

- By the inductive hypothesis, the first  $k$  of these lines meet in a common point  $p_1$ .
- By the inductive hypothesis, the last  $k$  of these lines meet in a common point  $p_2$ .

If  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  are different points, all lines containing both of them must be the same line since two points determine a line. This contradicts the assumption that the lines are distinct.

Hence,  $p_1 = p_2$  lies on all  $k + 1$  distinct lines, and therefore  $P(k + 1)$  holds. Assuming that  $k \geq 2$ , distinct lines meet in a common point, then every  $k + 1$  lines meet in a common point.

*There must be an error in this proof since the conclusion is absurd.*

## Where is the error?

**Answer:**  $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$  only holds for  $k \geq 3$ .

It is not the case that  $P(2)$  implies  $P(3)$ .

The first two lines must meet in a common point  $p_1$

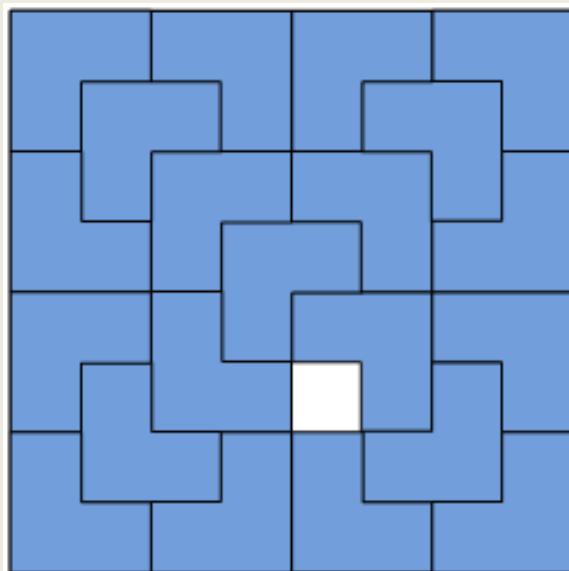
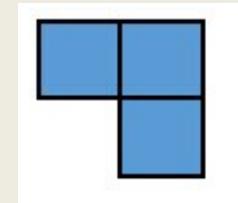
The second two lines must meet in a common point  $p_2$ .

They **do not** have to be the same point since only the second line is common to both sets of lines.

# Tiling Checkerboards

**Example:** Show that every  $2^n \times 2^n$  checkerboard with one square removed can be tiled using right triominoes.

A right triomino is an L-shaped tile which covers three squares at a time.



A tiling of an  $8 \times 8$  board

Show that every  $2^n \times 2^n$  checkerboard with one square removed can be tiled using right triominoes.

**Solution:** Let  $P(n)$  be the proposition that every  $2^n \times 2^n$  checkerboard with one square removed can be tiled using right triominoes.

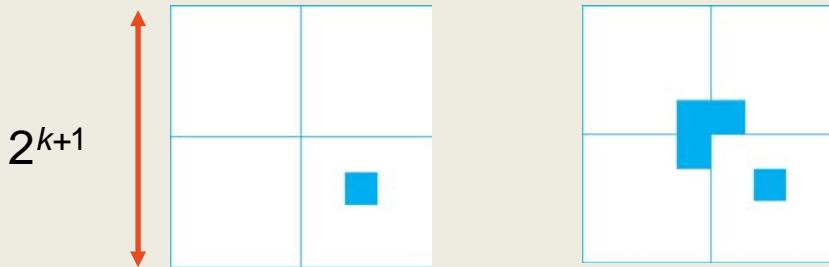
Use mathematical induction to prove that  $P(n)$  is true for all positive integers  $n$ .

**BASIS STEP:**  $P(1)$  is true, because each of the four  $2 \times 2$  checkerboards with one square removed can be tiled using one right triomino.

**INDUCTIVE STEP:** Assume that  $P(k)$  is true for every  $2^k \times 2^k$  board, for some positive integer  $k$ .

*continued →*

Consider a  $2^{k+1} \times 2^{k+1}$  board with one square removed.  
Split the board into four boards of size  $2^k \times 2^k$



- By the inductive hypothesis, a  $2^k \times 2^k$  board with the missing square can be tiled.
- Temporarily remove a corner square from each of the other three  $2^k \times 2^k$  board as shown.
  - By the inductive hypothesis, each of these three boards can be tiled.
  - We place a right triominoe on the three removed corner squares.
- Hence, the entire  $2^{k+1} \times 2^{k+1}$  checkerboard with one square removed can be tiled using right triominoes.



# Mathematical Induction Proofs Template

*Template for Proofs by Mathematical Induction*

1. Express the statement that is to be proved in the form “for all  $n \geq b$ ,  $P(n)$ ” for a fixed integer  $b$ .
2. Write out the words “Basis Step.” Then show that  $P(b)$  is true, taking care that the correct value of  $b$  is used. This completes the first part of the proof.
3. Write out the words “Inductive Step.”
4. State, and clearly identify, the inductive hypothesis, in the form “assume that  $P(k)$  is true for an arbitrary fixed integer  $k \geq b$ .”
5. State what needs to be proved under the assumption that the inductive hypothesis is true. That is, write out what  $P(k + 1)$  says.
6. Prove the statement  $P(k + 1)$  making use of the assumption  $P(k)$ . Be sure that your proof is valid for all integers  $k$  with  $k \geq b$ , taking care that the proof works for small values of  $k$ , including  $k = b$ .
7. Clearly identify the conclusion of the inductive step, such as by saying “this completes the inductive step.”
8. After completing the basis step and the inductive step, state the conclusion, namely that by mathematical induction,  $P(n)$  is true for all integers  $n$  with  $n \geq b$ .

# STRONG INDUCTION (KR 5.2)

- Definition
- Examples

# Strong Induction

*Strong Induction:* To prove that  $P(n)$  is true for all positive integers  $n$ , where  $P(n)$  is a propositional function, complete two steps:

**BASIS STEP:** Verify that the proposition  $P(1)$  is true.

**INDUCTIVE STEP:** Show the conditional statement

$$[P(1) \wedge P(2) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)] \rightarrow P(k + 1)$$

holds for all positive integers  $k$ .

Strong Induction is sometimes called the *second principle of mathematical induction* or *complete induction*.

# Which Form of Induction Should Be Used?

- We can always use strong induction instead of mathematical induction. But there is no reason to use it if it is simpler to use mathematical induction.
- In fact, the principles of mathematical induction, and strong induction are equivalent.

# A Proof using Strong Induction (1)

**Example:** Prove that every amount of postage of 12 cents or more can be formed using just 4-cent and 5-cent stamps.

**Solution:** Let  $P(n)$  be the proposition that postage of  $n$  cents can be formed using 4-cent and 5-cent stamps.

**BASIS STEP:**  $P(12)$ ,  $P(13)$ ,  $P(14)$ , and  $P(15)$  hold.

$P(12)$  uses three 4-cent stamps.

$P(13)$  uses two 4-cent stamps and one 5-cent stamp.

$P(14)$  uses one 4-cent stamp and two 5-cent stamps.

$P(15)$  uses three 5-cent stamps.

**INDUCTIVE STEP:** The inductive hypothesis states that  $P(j)$  holds for  $12 \leq j \leq k$ , where  $k \geq 15$ .



# A Proof using Strong Induction (2)

**Solution:** Let  $P(n)$  be the proposition that postage of  $n$  cents can be formed using 4-cent and 5-cent stamps.

## INDUCTIVE STEP:

The inductive hypothesis states  $P(j)$  holds for  $12 \leq j \leq k$  with  $k \geq 15$ .

Assuming the inductive hypothesis, we show that  $P(k + 1)$  holds.

# A Proof using Strong Induction (2)

**Solution:** Let  $P(n)$  be the proposition that postage of  $n$  cents can be formed using 4-cent and 5-cent stamps.

## INDUCTIVE STEP:

The inductive hypothesis states  $P(j)$  holds for  $12 \leq j \leq k$  with  $k \geq 15$ .

Assuming the inductive hypothesis, we show that  $P(k + 1)$  holds.

- Using the inductive hypothesis,  $P(k - 3)$  holds since  $k - 3 \geq 12$ .
- To form postage of  $k + 1$  cents, add a 4-cent stamp to the postage for  $k - 3$  cents.

Hence,  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n \geq 12$ .



# Proof of Same Example using Mathematical Induction

**Example:** Prove that every amount of postage of 12 cents or more can be formed using just 4-cent and 5-cent stamps.

**Solution:** Let  $P(n)$  be the proposition that postage of  $n$  cents can be formed using 4-cent and 5-cent stamps.

**BASIS STEP:** Postage of 12 cents can be formed using three 4-cent stamps.

**INDUCTIVE STEP:** The inductive hypothesis  $P(k)$  for any positive integer  $k$  is that postage of  $k$  cents can be formed using 4-cent and 5-cent stamps.

To show  $P(k + 1)$  where  $k \geq 12$ , consider two cases:

- If at least one 4-cent stamp has been used, then a 4-cent stamp can be replaced with a 5-cent stamp to yield a total of  $k + 1$  cents.
- If no 4-cent stamp have been used, at least three 5-cent stamps were used. Three 5-cent stamps can be replaced by four 4-cent stamps to yield a total of  $k + 1$  cents.

Hence,  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n \geq 12$ .

# RECURSIVE DEFINITIONS AND STRUCTURAL INDUCTION (KR 5.3)

- Introduction
- Examples

# Recursively Defined Functions & Sequences

*Define a function or sequence or set or object in terms of itself*

**Definition:** A *recursive* or *inductive definition* of a function consists of two parts.

**BASIS STEP:** Specify the value of the function at zero.

**RECURSIVE STEP:** A rule for finding the value of  $f(n)$  from preceding function values.

A function  $f(n)$  is the same as a sequence  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_i, \dots$  where  $f(i) = a_i$ .

(See recurrence relations as seen in Section 2.4.)

# Recursively Defined Functions

Suppose  $f$  is defined by:

$$f(0) = 3$$

$$f(n + 1) = 2f(n) + 3$$

Find  $f(1)$ ,  $f(2)$ ,  $f(3)$

- $f(1) = 2f(0) + 3 = 2 \cdot 3 + 3 = 9$
- $f(2) = 2f(1) + 3 = 2 \cdot 9 + 3 = 21$
- $f(3) = 2f(2) + 3 = 2 \cdot 21 + 3 = 45$

$$f(n) = 2^n$$

$$f(0) = 1$$

$$f(n+1) = 2 \times f(n)$$

$$f(n) = n!$$

$$f(0) = 1$$

$$f(n + 1) = (n + 1) \times f(n)$$

## Set S (natural numbers)

$$0 \in S, 1 \in S$$

If  $a, b \in S$ , then  $a+b \in S$

## Set T (elements are all powers of 2)

$$1 \in T$$

If  $a \in T$ , then  $2a \in T$

# Fibonacci Numbers

Fibonacci  
(1170- 1250)



**Example:** The Fibonacci numbers are defined as:

$$f_0 = 0$$

$$f_1 = 1$$

$$f_n = f_{n-1} + f_{n-2}$$

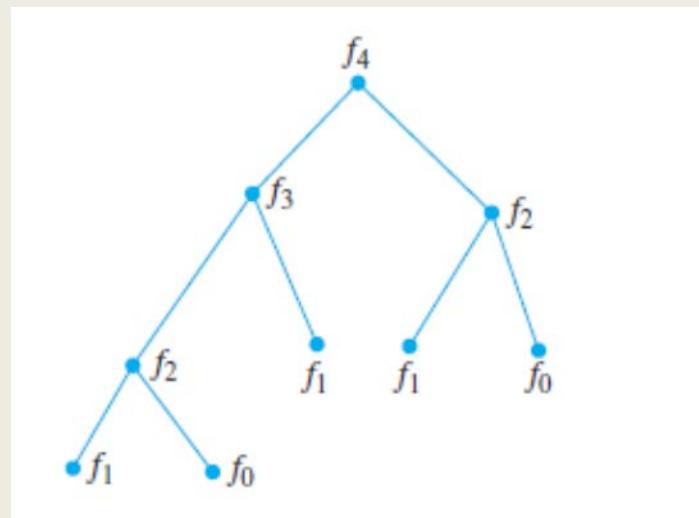
Find  $f_2, f_3, f_4, f_5$

$$f_2 = f_1 + f_0 = 1 + 0 = 1$$

$$f_3 = f_2 + f_1 = 1 + 1 = 2$$

$$f_4 = f_3 + f_2 = 2 + 1 = 3$$

$$f_5 = f_4 + f_3 = 3 + 2 = 5$$



# Fibonacci Numbers

Show that when  $n \geq 3$ ,  $f_n > \alpha^{n-2}$ , where  $\alpha = (1 + \sqrt{5})/2$ .

**Solution:** Let  $P(n)$  be the statement  $f_n > \alpha^{n-2}$ .

Use strong induction to show that  $P(n)$  is true when  $n \geq 3$ .

**BASIS STEP:**  $P(3)$  holds since  $\alpha < 2 = f_3$

$P(4)$  holds since  $\alpha^2 = (3 + \sqrt{5})/2 < 3 = f_4$

**INDUCTIVE STEP:**

Assume that  $P(j)$  holds; i.e.,  $f_j > \alpha^{j-2}$  for all integers  $j$  with  $3 \leq j \leq k$ , where  $k \geq 4$ .

Show that  $P(k+1)$  holds, i.e.,  $f_{k+1} > \alpha^{k-1}$ .

Show that  $P(k+1)$  holds, i.e.,  $f_{k+1} > \alpha^{k-1}$

Since  $\alpha^2 = \alpha + 1$  (because  $\alpha$  is a solution of  $x^2 - x - 1 = 0$ ),

$$\alpha^{k-1} = \alpha^2 \cdot \alpha^{k-3} = (\alpha + 1) \cdot \alpha^{k-3} = \alpha \cdot \alpha^{k-3} + 1 \cdot \alpha^{k-3} = \alpha^{k-2} + \alpha^{k-3}$$

By the inductive hypothesis, because  $k \geq 4$  we have

$$f_{k-1} > \alpha^{k-3}, \quad f_k > \alpha^{k-2}.$$

Therefore, it follows that

$$f_{k+1} = f_k + f_{k-1} > \alpha^{k-2} + \alpha^{k-3} = \alpha^{k-1}.$$

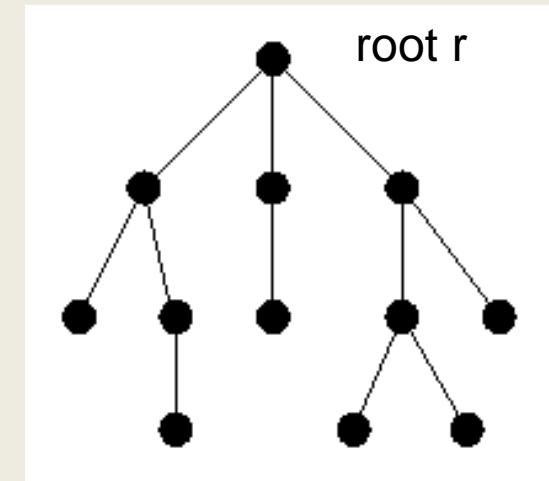
Why does this equality hold?

Hence,  $P(k+1)$  is true.



# Rooted Trees

**Definition:** A rooted tree consists of a set of vertices containing a distinguished vertex called the *root*, and edges connecting these vertices.



A rooted tree can be defined recursively.

**BASIS STEP:** A single vertex  $r$  is a rooted tree.

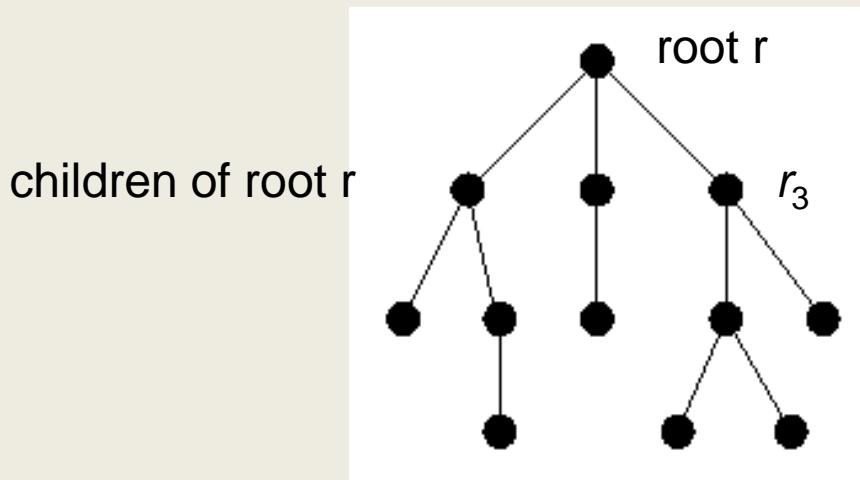
**RECURSIVE STEP:** Suppose that  $T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n$  are disjoint rooted trees with roots  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n$ , respectively.

# Rooted Trees

**BASIS STEP:** A single vertex  $r$  is a rooted tree.

**RECURSIVE STEP:** Suppose that  $T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n$  are disjoint rooted trees with roots  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n$ , respectively.

The rooted tree is formed by starting with a root  $r$ , which is not in any of the rooted trees  $T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n$ , and adding an edge from  $r$  to each of the roots  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n$ .

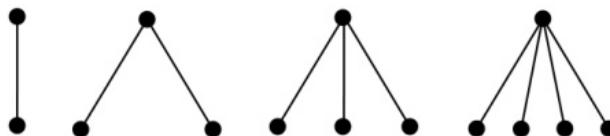


# Building Up Rooted Trees

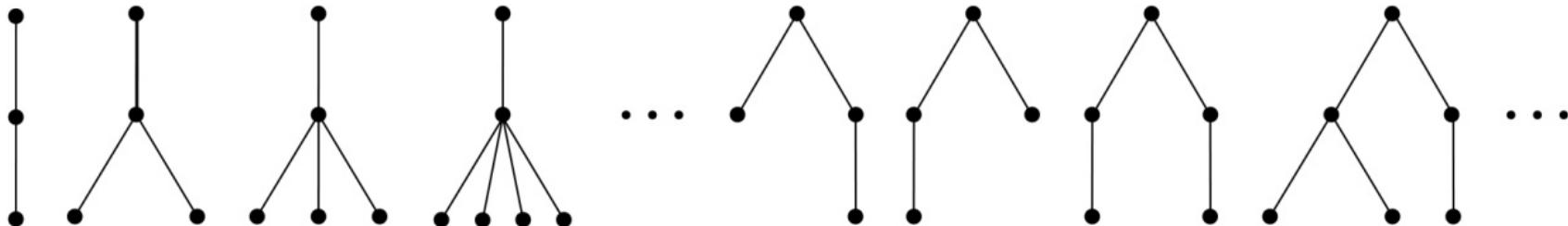
Basis step



Step 1



Step 2



Trees are studied in Chapter 11.

# Full Binary Trees

**Definition:** The set of *full binary trees* can be defined recursively by these steps.

**BASIS STEP:** A single vertex  $r$  is a full binary.

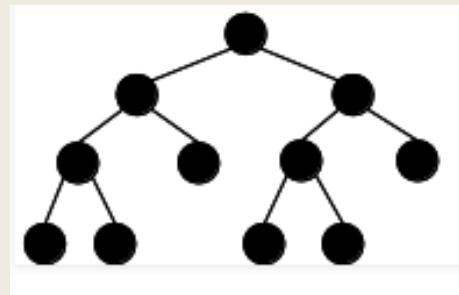
**RECURSIVE STEP:**

Assume  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are disjoint full binary trees.

Then, there is a full binary tree  $T$  consisting of

- a root  $r$
- an edge connecting  $r$  to the root of the left subtree  $T_1$
- an edge connecting  $r$  to the root of the right subtree  $T_2$ .

Denote  $T = T_1 \cdot T_2$

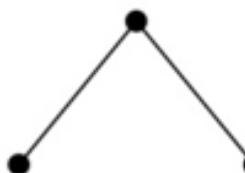


# Building Up Full Binary Trees

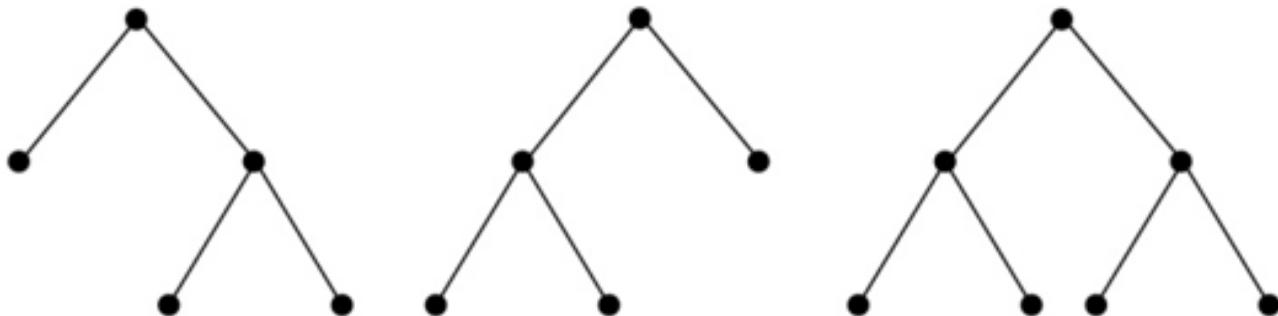
Basis step



Step 1



Step 2



Full binary trees and their properties play a central role in data structures and algorithms.

# Structural Induction

**Definition:** To prove a property of the elements of a recursively defined set, we use *structural induction*.

**BASIS STEP:** Show that the result holds for all elements specified in the basis step of the recursive definition.

**RECURSIVE STEP:** Show that if the statement is true for each of the elements used to construct new elements in the recursive step of the definition, the result holds for these new elements.

The validity of structural induction can be shown to follow from the principle of mathematical induction.

# Full Binary Trees: Height

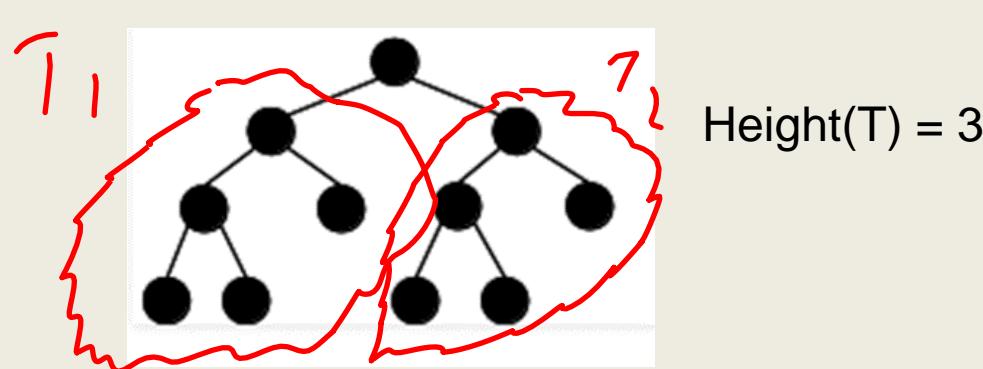
The **height  $h(T)$**  of a full binary tree  $T$  is defined recursively as follows:

BASIS STEP: The height of a full binary tree  $T$  consisting of only a root  $r$  is  $h(T) = 0$ .

$$T = T_1 \cdot T_2$$

RECURSIVE STEP:

If  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are full binary trees, then the full binary tree  $T = T_1 \cdot T_2$  has height  $\underline{h(T) = 1 + \max \{h(T_1), h(T_2)\}}$ .



# Full Binary Trees: Number of vertices

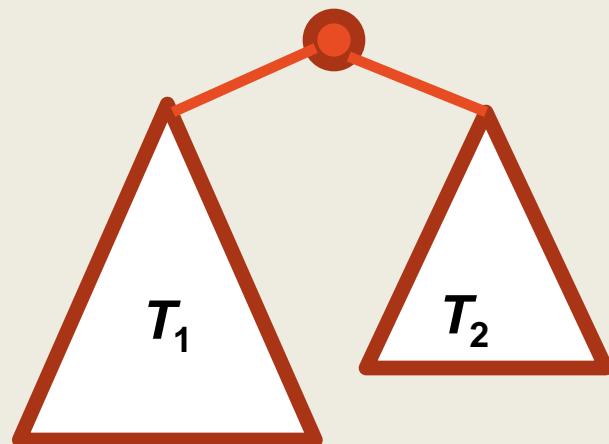
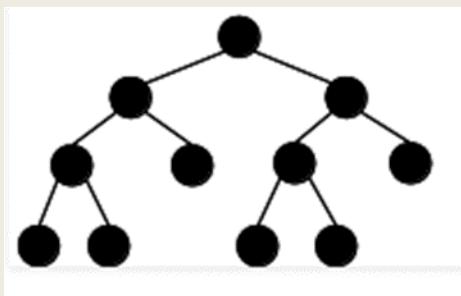
The **number of vertices**  $n(T)$  of a full binary tree  $T$  satisfies the following recursive formula:

**BASIS STEP:** The number of vertices of a full binary tree  $T$  consisting of only a root  $r$  is  $n(T) = 1$ .

**RECURSIVE STEP:**

If  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are full binary trees, then the full binary tree  $T = T_1 \cdot T_2$  has  $n(T) = 1 + n(T_1) + n(T_2)$  vertices.

$$n(T) = 5+5+1 = 11$$



# Structural Induction and Binary Trees

**Theorem:** If  $T$  is a full binary tree, then  $n(T) \leq \underline{2^{h(T)+1} - 1}$ .

**Proof:** Use structural induction.  $1 + h(T_1) + h(T_2) \leq$

**BASIS STEP:** The result holds for a full binary tree consisting of only the root:

$$n(T) = 1 \text{ and } h(T) = 0.$$

$$\text{Hence, } n(T) = 1 \leq 2^{0+1} - 1 = 1.$$

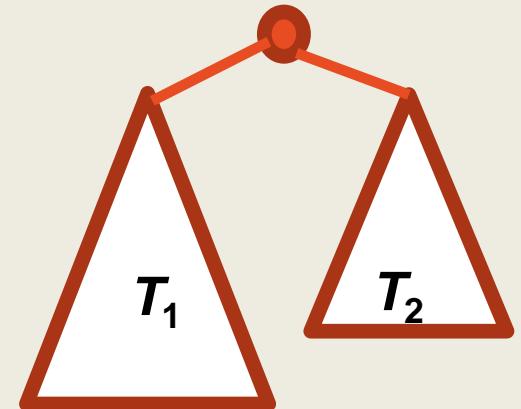
$$2^{h(T_1)+1} - 1 + 2^{h(T_2)+1} - 1$$

**RECURSIVE STEP:** Let  $T_1$  be the tree rooted at the left child of  $r$  and  $T_2$  be the tree rooted at the right child.



## RECURSIVE STEP:

As  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are full binary trees,  
 we have  $n(T_1) \leq 2^{h(T_1)+1} - 1$   
 and  $n(T_2) \leq 2^{h(T_2)+1} - 1$ .



$$\begin{aligned}
 n(T) &= 1 + n(T_1) + n(T_2) && (\text{by recursive formula of } n(T)) \\
 &\leq 1 + (2^{h(T_1)+1} - 1) + (2^{h(T_2)+1} - 1) && (\text{by induct. hyp.}) \\
 &\leq 2 \cdot \max\{2^{h(T_1)+1}, 2^{h(T_2)+1}\} - 1 \\
 &= 2 \cdot 2^{\max\{h(T_1), h(T_2)\} + 1} - 1 && (\max\{2^x, 2^y\} = 2^{\max\{x, y\}}) \\
 &= 2 \cdot 2^{h(T)} - 1 && (\text{by recursive definition of } h(T)) \\
 &= 2^{h(T)+1} - 1
 \end{aligned}$$



# RECURSIVE ALGORITHMS (KR 5.4)

- Introduction
- Examples
- Recursion versus iteration

# Recursive Algorithms

**Definition:** An algorithm is called *recursive* if it solves a problem by reducing it to an instance of the same problem with smaller input.

For the algorithm to terminate, the instance of the problem must eventually be reduced to some initial case for which the solution is known.

# Recursive Factorial Algorithm

A recursive algorithm for computing  $n!$  using the recursive definition of the factorial function.

```
procedure factorial(n: nonnegative integer)
if n=0 then return 1
else return n·factorial(n-1)
{output is n!}
```

Why use recursion?

A loop from 1 to *n* would be faster (if you have to compute  $n!$  at all;  $10! = 3,628,800$ ).

# Recursive Exponentiation Algorithm 1

A recursive algorithm for computing  $a^n$ , where  $a$  is a nonzero real number and  $n$  is a nonnegative integer.

**Solution:** Use the recursive definition of  $a^n = aa^{n-1}$

```
procedure power1(a,n)
  if n = 0 then return 1
  if n = 1 then return a
  else return a*power1(a,n-1)
{output is  $a^n$ }
```

# Recursive Exponentiation Algorithm 2

Another recursive definition of  $a^n$

$$a^n = \begin{cases} a^{n/2} a^{n/2} & \text{when } n \text{ is even} \\ a a^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} a^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} & \text{when } n \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

```
procedure power2(a,n)
if n = 0 then return 1
if n = 1 then return a
if n is even
then return power2(a,n/2)*power2(a,n/2)
else return a*power2(a,[n/2])*power2(a,[n/2])
{output is  $a^n$ }
```

$$a^n = \begin{cases} a & \text{if } n = 1 \\ a * a^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ a * a^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

$$\log_5 m = \frac{\log_2 m}{\log_2 5}$$

# Algorithm power1 versus power2

- Pseudocode of algorithm power1 is shorter
- Computing  $a^{15}$ 
  - power1 makes 14 multiplications
  - power2 makes  $2 + \text{power2}(7)$  multiplications:
    - $\text{power2}(7)=4$
    - total number of multiplications is  $4+2=6$
- Is algorithm power2 correct?
  - $\text{power2}(a, n/2) * \text{power2}(a, n/2) = (\text{power2}(a, n/2))^2$

# Proving Recursive Algorithms Correct

**Claim:** Algorithm `power2` computes  $a^n$

Proof: Uses strong induction

■ Basis step:

- $\text{power2}(a, 0) = 1$
- $\text{power2}(a, 1) = a$

■ Inductive Step:  $P(0), \dots, P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)$

Assume  $P(i)$ :  $\text{power2}(a, i) = a^i$  for nonzero real  $a$  and all nonnegative integer  $i \leq k$

We show that  $P(k+1)$ :  $\text{power2}(a, k+1) = a^{k+1}$

**Case 1:**  $k+1$  is even

$k+1 = 2j$  for nonnegative integer  $j$

$\text{power2}(a, k+1) = \text{power2}(a, 2j) =$

$= \text{power2}(a, 2j/2)^2 =$

$= \text{power2}(a, j)^2 = (a^j)^2 = a^{2j} =$

$= a^{k+1}$

**Case 2:**  $k+1$  is odd

$k+1 = 2j+1$  for nonnegative integer  $j$

$\text{power2}(a, k+1) = \text{power2}(a, 2j+1)$

$= a * \text{power2}(a, (2j+1-1)/2)^2$

$= a * \text{power2}(a, 2j/2)^2$

$= a * \text{power2}(a, j)^2$

$= a * (a^j)^2$

$= a * a^{2j} = a^{2j+1}$

$= a^{k+1}$

# How many multiplications does power2 do?

Recurrence for number of multiplications for power2

$$M(0) = M(1) = 0$$

$$M(n) = M(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + 1 \text{ when } n \text{ is even}$$
$$M(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + 2 \text{ when } n \text{ is odd}$$

$$M(n) = \mathcal{O}(\log(n))$$

# Recursive Linear Search (Algorithm 5 in KR 5.4)

```
procedure search( $i, j, x$ : integers,  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq n$ )
if  $a_i = x$  then
    return  $i$ 
else if  $i = j$  then
    return 0
else
    return search( $i + 1, j, x$ )
{output is the location of  $x$  in  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  if it appears; otherwise it is 0}
```

What is the benefit of recursion in this case?  
None.

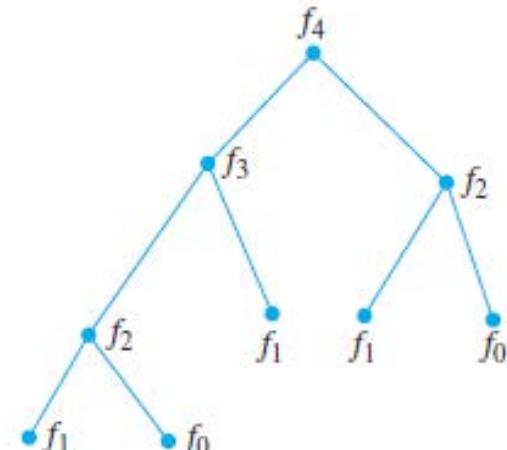
# When to not use recursion?

Write a recursive algorithm to calculate the  $n^{\text{th}}$  Fibonacci number

```
procedure fibonacci(n: nonnegative integer)
if n = 0 then return 0
else if n = 1 then return 1
else return fibonacci(n - 1) + fibonacci(n - 2)
{output is fibonacci(n)}
```

Takes exponential time

Simple linear time solution exists



# Recursive Binary Search

Array A contains n elements in non-decreasing order;  
search for x invoking *binarySearch(1,n,x)*

**Procedure** *binarySearch (i, j, x; 1≤i ≤n, 1≤j ≤n)*

**m** :=  $\lfloor (i+j)/2 \rfloor$

**if**  $x = A[m]$  **then** *return(m)*

**else if** ( $x < A[m]$  and  $i < m$ ) **then**

*return(binarySearch( i, m-1,x))*

**else if** ( $x > A[m]$  and  $j > m$ ) **then**

*return(binarySearch(m+1,j,x))*

**else** *return(0)*

# Analysis of Recursive Binary Search

**Example:**

$n=1023$

$1023 \rightarrow 511 \rightarrow 255 \rightarrow 127 \rightarrow 63 \rightarrow 31 \rightarrow 15 \rightarrow 7 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 1$

Number of comparisons made can be expressed as a recurrence relation:

Let  $\text{floor}(x) = [x]$ :

$T(n) \leq T(\text{floor}(n/2)) + 3, T(1) = 1$ , for worst case