

Further Examples of Recursion

→ Linear Recursion:

- When a recursive function is designed so that each invocation of the body makes at most one new recursive call
- a consequence of this is that any recursion trace will appear as a singular sequence of calls

Reversing a Sequence w/ Recursion

→ consider problem of reversing n elements of a sequence, S , so first element becomes last, etc.

→ We can solve this using linear recursion, observing that the reversal of a sequence can be achieved by swapping first to last elements and recursively reversing remaining elements

def reverse(S , start, stop):

if start < stop-1:

$S[start], S[stop-1] = S[stop-1], S[start]$

reverse(S , start+1, stop-1)

→ outside of base cases; If n is even, we eventually reach start==stop case, if n is odd, we will eventually reach start==stop-1

→ this implies that the algorithm is guaranteed to terminate after $1 + \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ recursive calls

Recursive Algorithms for Computing Powers

→ a trivial recursive definition follows from the fact $x^n = x \cdot x^{n-1}$ for $n > 0$

$$\text{power}(x, n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n=0 \\ x \cdot \text{power}(x, n-1) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

def power(x, n):

if $n == 0$:

return 1

else:

return $x * \text{power}(x, n-1)$

→ a recursive call to power(x, n) runs in $O(n)$

→ parameter decreases by one w/ each call and constant work performed at each of n levels