

# Recursion (Chapter 2)

- Iterative vs. Recursive Algorithms
  - Advantages – Conceptually simpler, Elegant, Easy to read
  - Tradeoffs – execution time and space
- Design of a recursive algorithm
  - Principles for designing recursive algorithms
  - Limitations
- When is recursion appropriate
  - Task is recursively defined
- Example of recursive functions
  - Factorial
  - Fibonacci numbers
  - Prefix to Postfix conversion
  - Towers of Hanoi

# 2-1 Factorial - A Case Study

*We begin the discussion of recursion with a case study and use it to define the concept.*

*This section also presents an iterative and a recursive solution to the factorial algorithm.*

- Recursive Defined
- Recursive Solution

$$\text{Factorial}(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 0 \\ n \times (n-1) \times (n-2) \times \dots \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 & \text{if } n > 0 \end{cases}$$

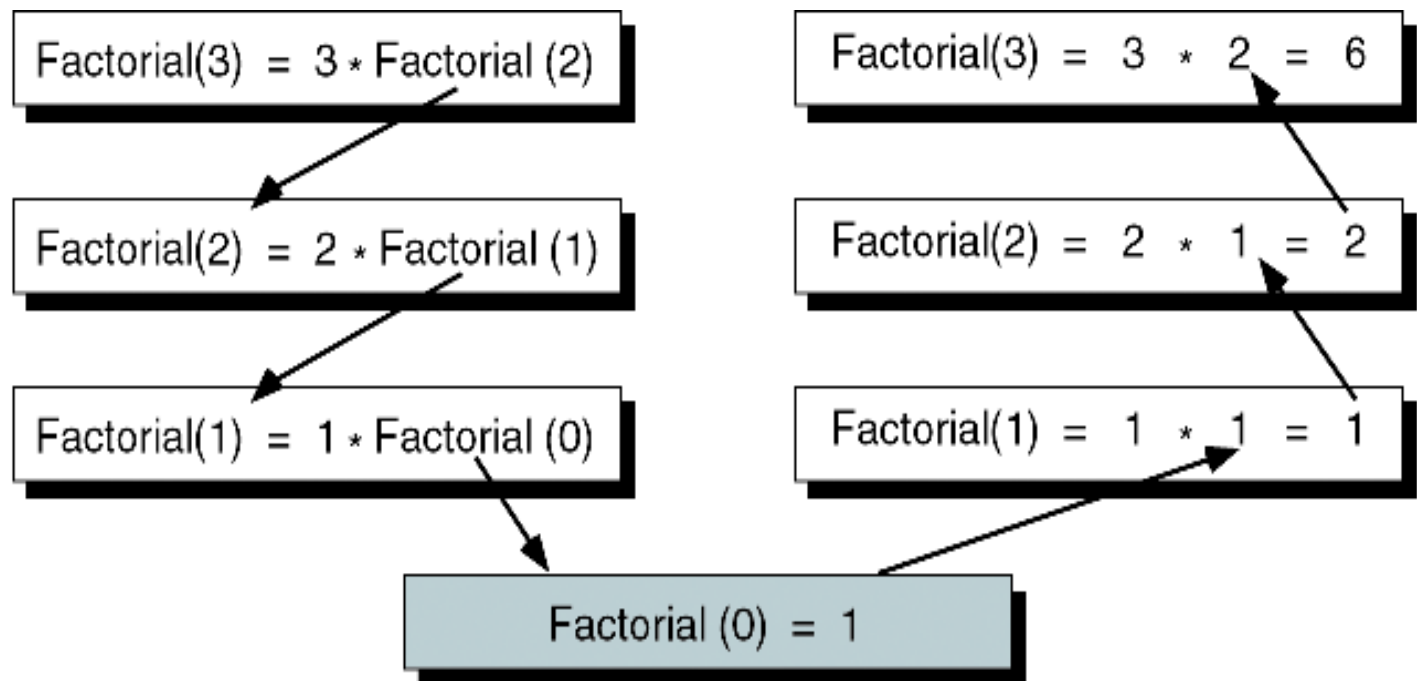
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**FIGURE 2-1** Iterative Factorial Algorithm Definition

$$\text{Factorial}(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 0 \\ n \times (\text{Factorial}(n - 1)) & \text{if } n > 0 \end{cases}$$

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**FIGURE 2-2** Recursive Factorial Algorithm Definition



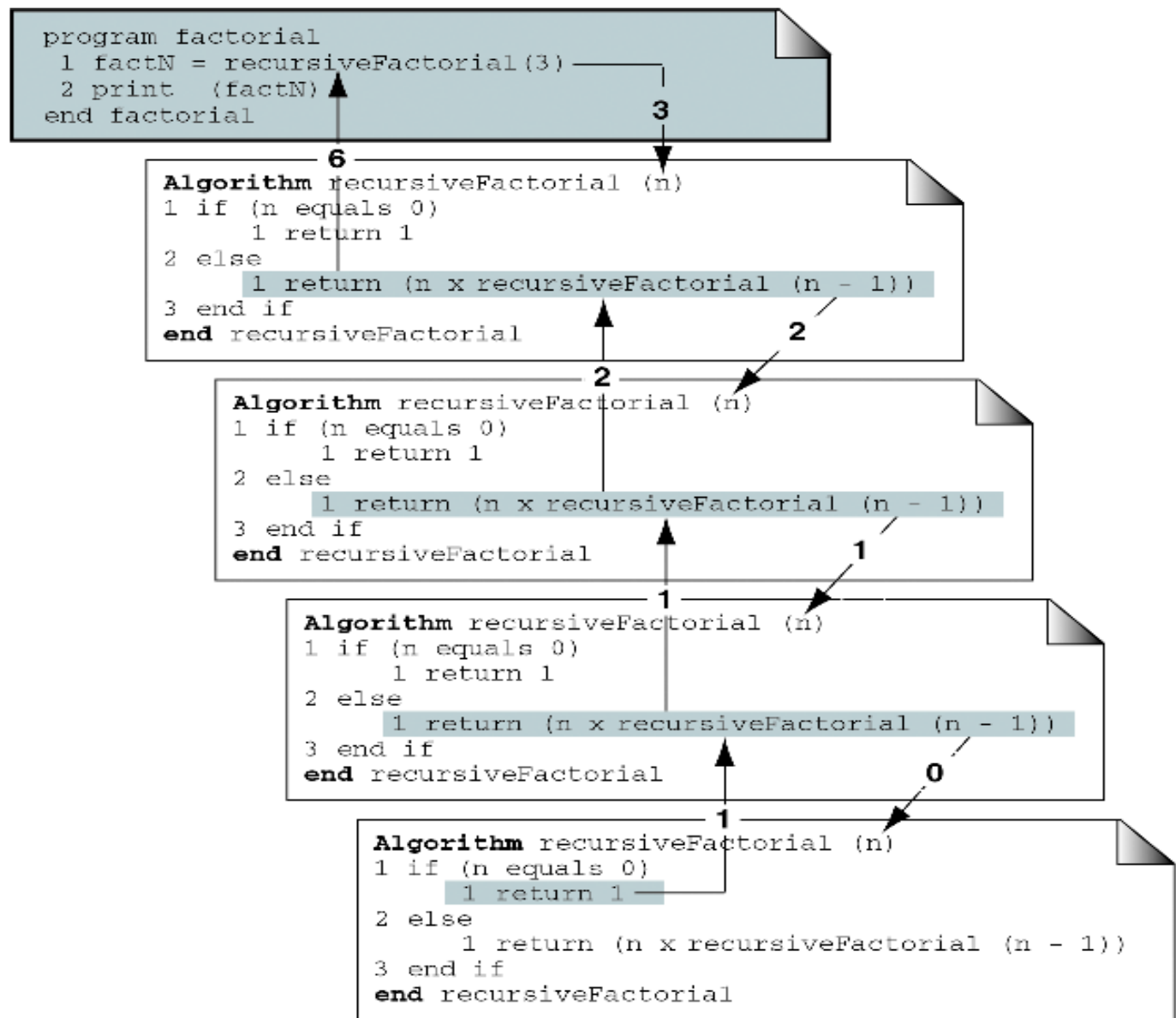
**FIGURE 2-3** Factorial (3) Recursively

## ALGORITHM 2-1 Iterative Factorial Algorithm

```
Algorithm iterativeFactorial (n)
Calculates the factorial of a number using a loop.
  Pre  n  is the number to be raised factorially
  Post n! is returned
1 set i to 1
2 set factN to 1
3 loop (i <= n)
    1 set factN to factN * i
    2 increment i
4 end loop
5 return factN
end iterativeFactorial
```

## ALGORITHM 2-2 Recursive Factorial

```
Algorithm recursiveFactorial (n)
Calculates factorial of a number using recursion.
  Pre    n is the number being raised factorially
  Post   n! is returned
1 if (n equals 0)
  1 return 1
2 else
  1 return (n * recursiveFactorial (n - 1))
3 end if
end recursiveFactorial
```



**FIGURE 2-4** Calling a Recursive Algorithm



## 2-2 Designing Recursive Algorithms

*In this section we present an analytical approach to designing recursive algorithms.*

*We also discuss algorithm designs that are not well suited to recursion.*

- The Design Methodology
- Limitation of Recursion
- Design Implementation

## ALGORITHM 2-3 Print Reverse

```
Algorithm printReverse (data)
Print keyboard data in reverse.
  Pre  nothing
  Post data printed in reverse
1 if (end of input)
  1  return
2 end if
3 read data
4 printReverse (data)
Have reached end of input: print nodes
5 print data
6 return
end printReverse
```

### Recursive calls (reads)

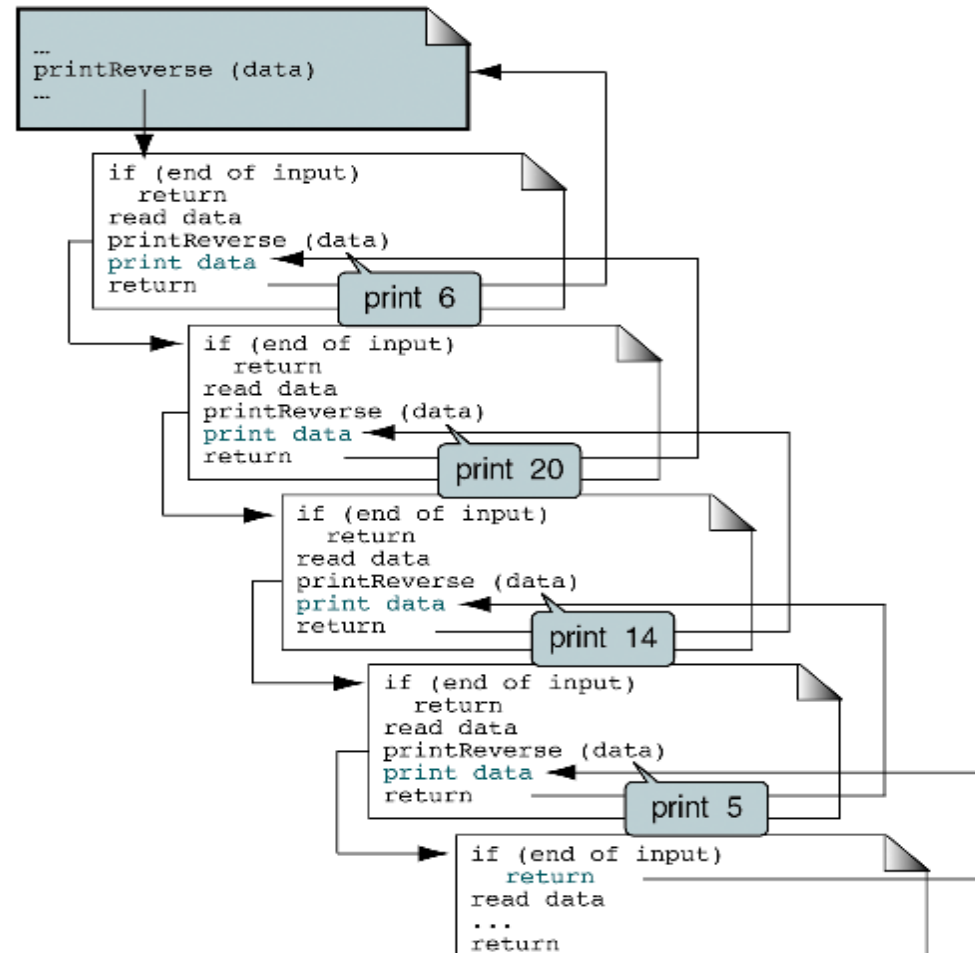
6  
data

20  
data

14  
data

5  
data

### Recursive returns (prints)



**FIGURE 2-5** Print Keyboard Input in Reverse

Data Structures: A Pseudocode  
Approach with C

## 2-3 Recursive Examples

*Four recursive programs are developed and analyzed. Only one, the Towers of Hanoi, turns out to be a good application for recursion.*

- Greatest Common Divisor
- Fibonacci Numbers
- Prefix to Postfix Conversion
- The Towers of Hanoi

## ALGORITHM 2-4 Euclidean Algorithm for Greatest Common Divisor

Algorithm gcd (a, b)

Calculates greatest common divisor using the Euclidean algorithm.

Pre a and b are positive integers greater than 0

Post greatest common divisor returned

```
1 if (b equals 0)
  1 return a
2 end if
3 if (a equals 0)
  2 return b
4 end if
5 return gcd (b, a mod b)
end gcd
```

## PROGRAM 2-1 GCD Driver

```
1  /* This program determines the greatest common divisor
2     of two numbers.
3     Written by:
4     Date:
5  */
6  #include <stdio.h>
```

*continued*

## PROGRAM 2-1 GCD Driver (continued)

```
7  #include <ctype.h>
8
9  // Prototype Statements
10 int gcd (int a, int b);
11
12 int main (void)
13 {
14     // Local Declarations
15     int  gcdResult;
16
17     // Statements
18     printf("Test GCD Algorithm\n");
19
20     gcdResult = gcd (10, 25);
21     printf("GCD of 10 & 25 is %d", gcdResult);
22     printf("\nEnd of Test\n");
23     return 0;
24 } // main
```

## PROGRAM 2-1 GCD Driver (continued)

```
25  /* ===== gcd =====
26     Calculates greatest common divisor using the
27     Euclidean algorithm.
28     Pre   a and b are positive integers greater than 0
29     Post  greatest common divisor returned
30  */
31  int gcd (int a, int b)
32  {
33      // Statements
34      if (b == 0)
35          return a;
36      if (a == 0)
37          return b;
38      return gcd (b, a % b);
39  } // gcd
```

### Results:

Test GCD Algorithm

GCD of 10 & 25 is 5

End of Test



$$\text{Fibonacci}(n) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n = 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ \text{Fibonacci}(n - 1) + \text{Fibonacci}(n - 2) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

---

**FIGURE 2-7** Fibonacci Numbers Recursive Definition

## PROGRAM 2-2 Recursive Fibonacci Series

```
1  /* This program prints out a Fibonacci series.
2      Written by:
3      Date:
4  */
5  #include <stdio.h>
6
7  // Prototype Statements
8      long fib (long num);
9
10 int main (void)
11 {
12     // Local Declarations
13     int seriesSize = 10;
14
15     // Statements
16     printf("Print a Fibonacci series.\n");
17
```

## PROGRAM 2-2 Recursive Fibonacci Series (Continued)

```
18     for (int looper = 0; looper < seriesSize; looper++)
19     {
20         if (looper % 5)
21             printf(", %8ld", fib(looper));
22         else
23             printf("\n%8ld", fib(looper));
24     } // for
25     printf("\n");
26     return 0;
27 } // main
28
29 /* ===== fib =====
30    Calculates the nth Fibonacci number
31    Pre   num identifies Fibonacci number
32    Post  returns nth Fibonacci number
33 */
34 long fib (long num)
35 {
36     // Statements
37     if (num == 0 || num == 1)
```

*continued*

## PROGRAM 2-2 Recursive Fibonacci Series (continued)

```
38         // Base Case
39         return num;
40     return (fib (num - 1) + fib (num - 2));
41 } // fib
```

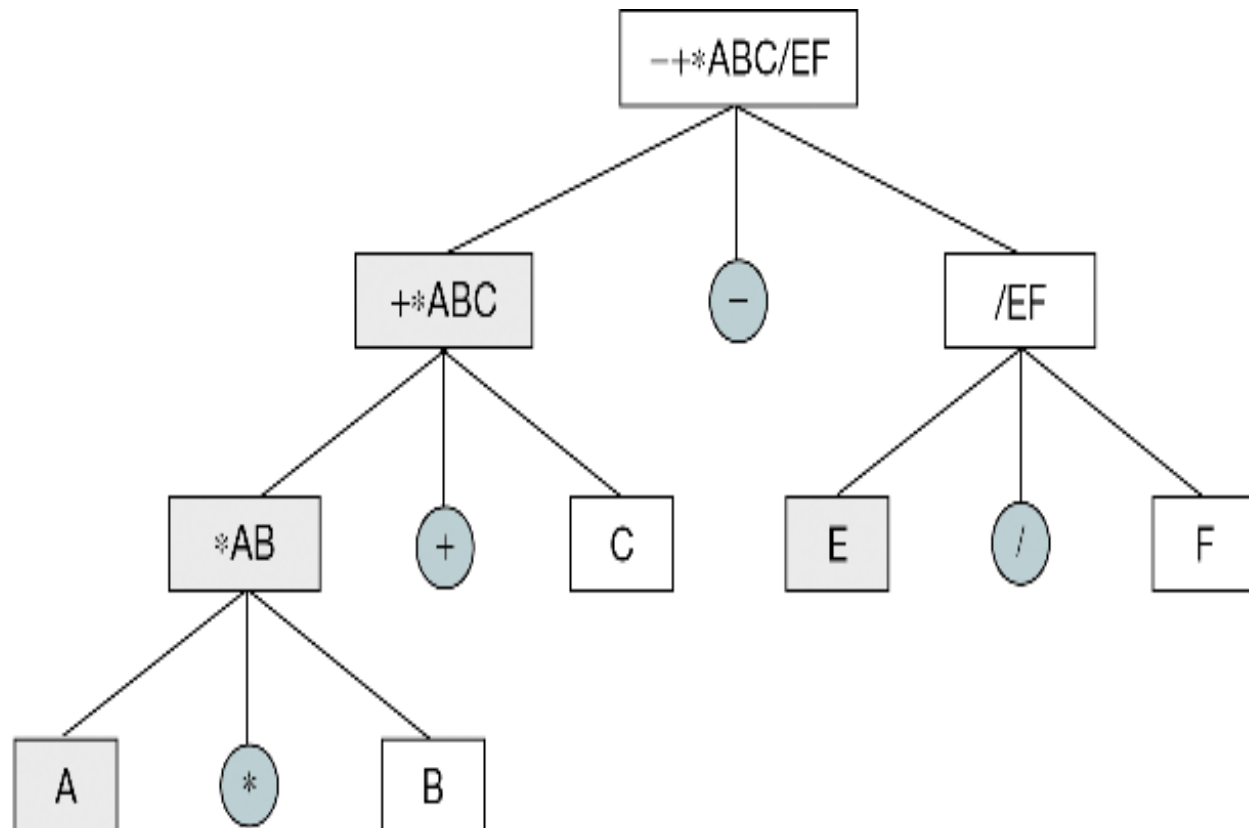
Results:

Print a Fibonacci series.

0,	1,	1,	2,	3
5,	8,	13,	21,	34

<b>fib(<i>n</i>)</b>	<b>Calls</b>	<b>fib(<i>n</i>)</b>	<b>Calls</b>
1	1	11	287
2	3	12	465
3	5	13	753
4	9	14	1219
5	15	15	1973
6	25	20	21,891
7	41	25	242,785
8	67	30	2,692,573
9	109	35	29,860,703
10	177	40	331,160,281

**TABLE 2-1** Fibonacci Calls



**FIGURE 2-9** Decomposition of  $-+*ABC/EF$

## ALGORITHM 2-5 Convert Prefix Expression to Postfix

```
Algorithm preToPostFix (preFixIn, postFix)
Convert a preFix string to a postFix string.
    Pre  preFix is a valid preFixIn expression
        postFix is reference for converted expression
    Post postFix contains converted expression
1  if (length of preFixIn is 1)
    Base case: one character string is an operand
    1  set postFix to preFixIn
    2  return
2  end if
    If not an operand, must be an operator
3  set operator to first character of preFixIn
    Find first expression
4  set lengthOfExpr to findExprLen (preFixIn less first char)
5  set temp to substring(preFixIn[2, lengthOfExpr])
6  preToPostFix (temp, postFix1)
    Find second postFix expression
7  set temp to preFixIn[lengthOfExpr + 1, end of string]
8  preToPostFix (temp, postFix2)
    Concatenate postfix expressions and operator
9  set postFix to postFix1 + postFix2 + operator
10 return
end preToPostFix
```

## ALGORITHM 2-6 Find Length of Prefix Expression

```
Algorithm findExprLen (exprIn)
  Recursively determine the length of a prefix expression.
    Pre  exprIn is a valid prefix expression
    Post length of expression returned
1  if (first character is operator)
  General Case: First character is operator
  Find length of first prefix expression
    1  set len1 to findExprLen (exprIn + 1)
    2  set len2 to findExprLen (exprIn + 1 + len2)
2  else
  Base case--first char is operand
    1  set len1 and len2 to 0
3  end if
4  return len1 + len2 + 1
end findExprLen
```



## PROGRAM 2-3 Prefix to Postfix

```
1  /* Convert prefix to postfix expression.
2      Written by:
3      Date:
4  */
5  #include <stdio.h>
6  #include <string.h>
7
8  #define OPERATORS "+-*/"
9
10 // Prototype Declarations
11 void preToPostFix (char* preFixIn, char* exprOut);
12 int  findExprLen  (char* exprIn);
13
14 int main (void)
15 {
```

*continued*

## PROGRAM 2-3 Prefix to Postfix (continued)

```
16 // Local Definitions
17 char preFixExpr[256] = "-+*ABC/EF";
18 char postFixExpr[256] = "";
19
20 // Statements
21 printf("Begin prefix to postfix conversion\n\n");
22
23 preToPostFix (preFixExpr, postFixExpr);
24 printf("Prefix expr:  %-s\n", preFixExpr);
25 printf("Postfix expr: %-s\n", postFixExpr);
26
27 printf("\nEnd prefix to postfix conversion\n");
28 return 0;
29 } // main
30
```

## PROGRAM 2-3 Prefix to Postfix (continued)

```
31  /* ===== preToPostFix =====
32      Convert prefix expression to postfix format.
33          Pre  preFixIn is string prefix expression
34              expression can contain no errors/spaces
35              postFix is string variable for postfix
36              Post expression has been converted
37  */
38  void preToPostFix (char* preFixIn, char* postFix)
39  {
40      // Local Definitions
41      char  operator [2];
42      char  postFix1[256];
43      char  postFix2[256];
44      char  temp      [256];
45      int   lenPreFix;
46
```

## PROGRAM 2-3 Prefix to Postfix (continued)

```
47 // Statements
48 if (strlen(preFixIn) == 1)
49 {
50     *postFix      = *preFixIn;
51     *(postFix + 1) = '\0';
52     return;
53 } // if only operand
54
55 *operator      = *preFixIn;
56 *(operator + 1) = '\0';
57
58 // Find first expression
59 lenPreFix = findExprLen (preFixIn + 1);
60 strncpy (temp, preFixIn + 1, lenPreFix);
61 *(temp + lenPreFix) = '\0';
62 preToPostFix (temp, postFix1);
```

*continued*

## PROGRAM 2-3 Prefix to Postfix *(continued)*

```
63
64     // Find second expression
65     strcpy (temp, preFixIn + 1 + lenPreFix);
66     preToPostFix (temp, postFix2);
67
68     // Concatenate to postFix
69     strcpy (postFix, postFix1);
70     strcat (postFix, postFix2);
71     strcat (postFix, operator);
72
73     return;
74 } // preToPostFix
75
```

## PROGRAM 2-3 Prefix to Postfix *(continued)*

```
76  /* ===== findExprLen =====
77      Determine size of first substring in an expression.
78      Pre  exprIn contains prefix expression
79      Post size of expression is returned
80  */
81  int findExprLen (char* exprIn)
82  {
83      // Local Definitions
84      int  len1;
85      int  len2;
86
```

## PROGRAM 2-3 Prefix to Postfix (continued)

```
87 // Statements
88     if (strcspn (exprIn, OPERATORS) == 0)
89         // General Case: First character is operator
90         // Find length of first expression
91         {
92             len1 = findExprLen(exprIn + 1);
93
94             // Find length of second expression
95             len2 = findExprLen(exprIn + 1 + len1);
96         } // if
97     else
98         // Base case--first char is operand
99         len1 = len2 = 0;
100     return len1 + len2 + 1;
101 } // findExprLen
```

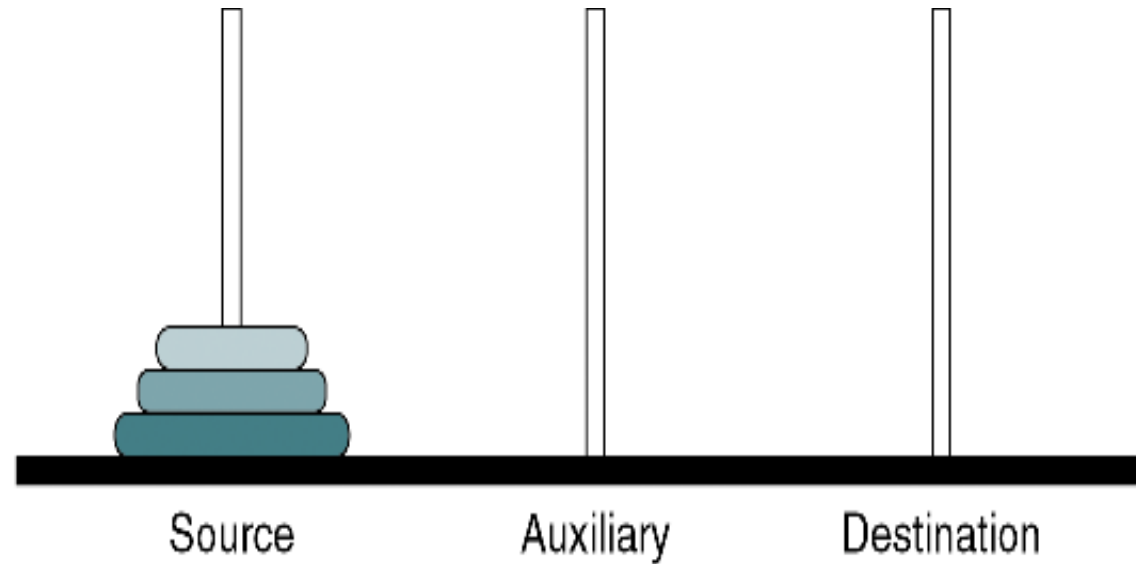
### Results:

Begin prefix to postfix conversion

Prefix expr: -+\*ABC/EF

Postfix expr: AB\*C+EF/-

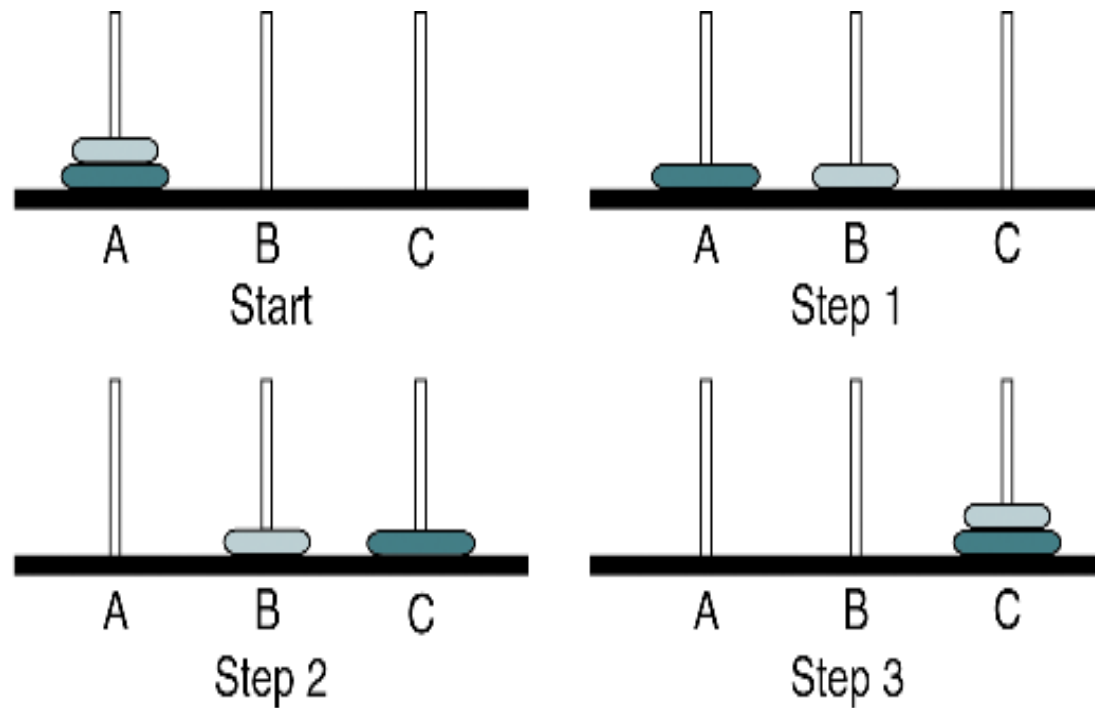
End prefix to postfix conversion



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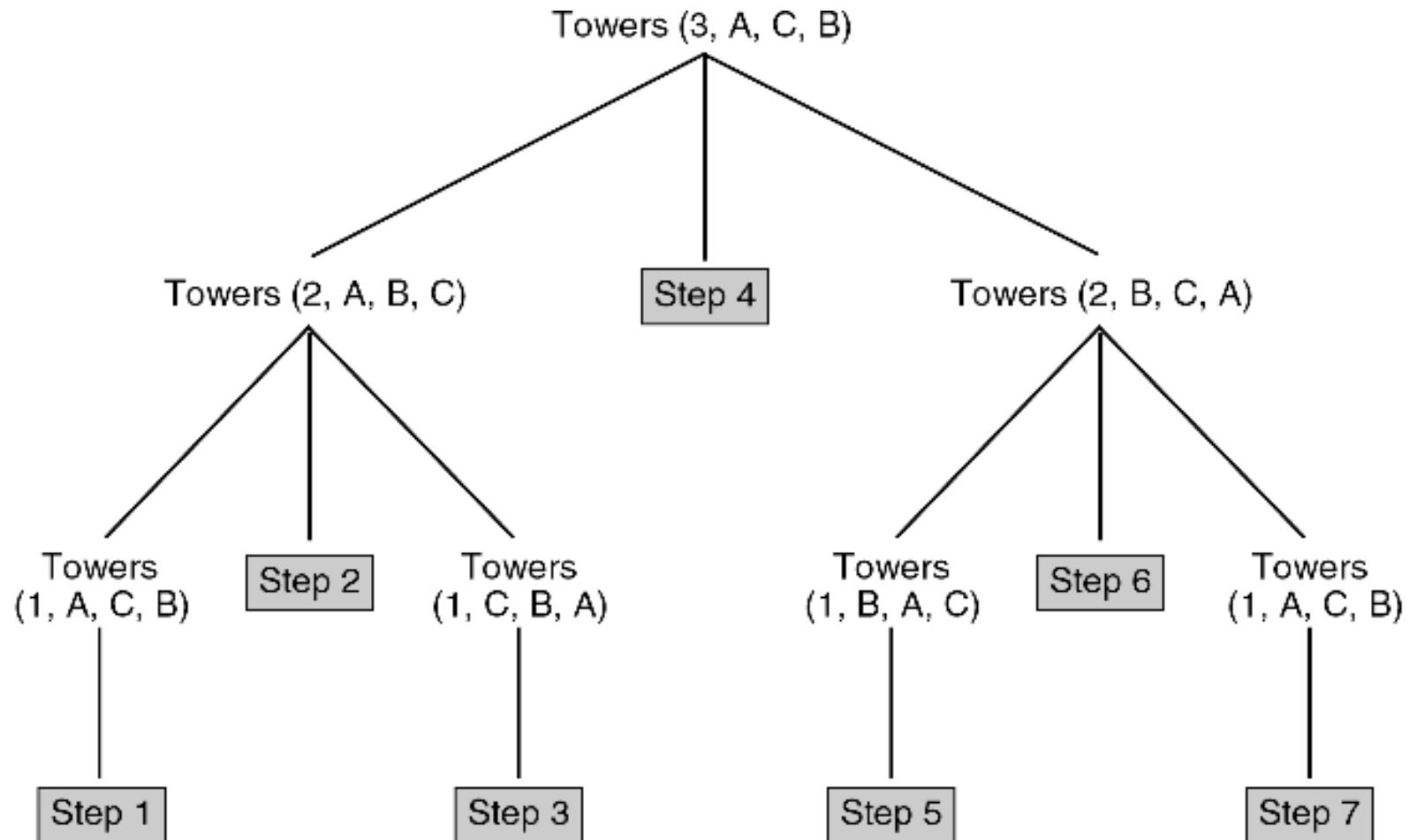
**FIGURE 2-11** Towers of Hanoi—Start Position



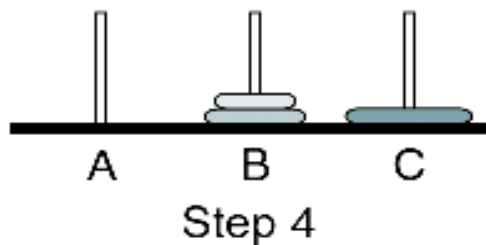
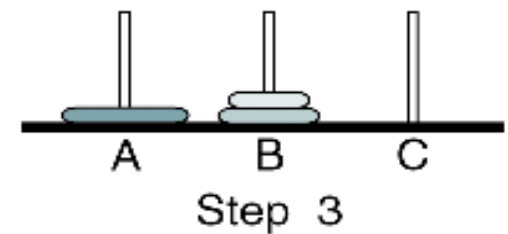
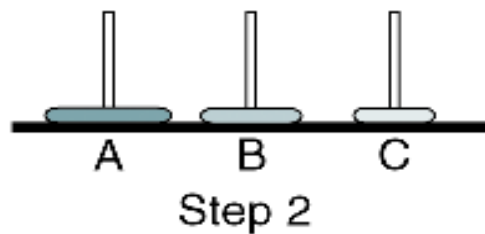
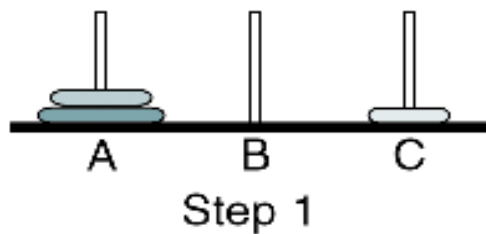
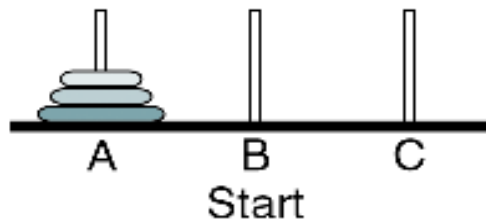


**FIGURE 2-12** Towers Solution for Two Disks

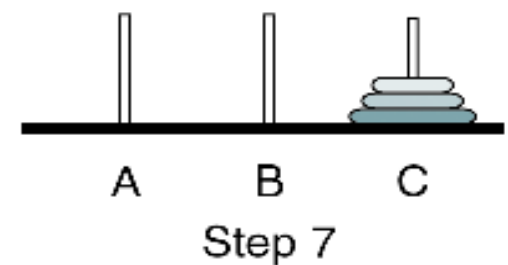
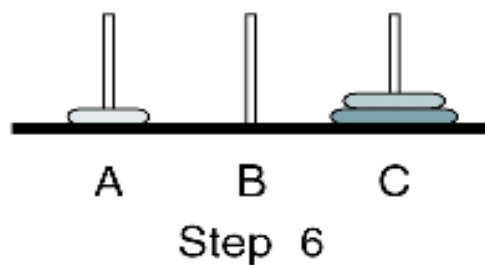
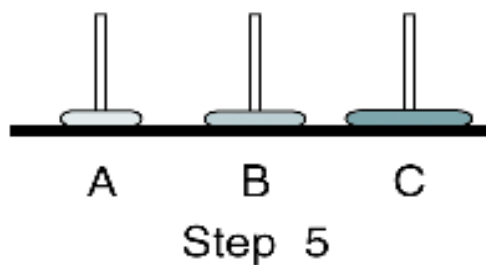
FIGURE 2-13 Towers Solution for Three Disks



## FIGURE 2-13 Towers Solution for Three Disks (Continued)



Move one disk from source to destination.



## ALGORITHM 2-7 Towers of Hanoi

```
Algorithm towers (numDisks, source, dest, auxiliary)
  Recursively move disks from source to destination.
    Pre  numDisks is number of disks to be moved
          source, destination, and auxiliary towers given
    Post steps for moves printed
1  print("Towers: ", numDisks, source, dest, auxiliary)
2  if (numDisks is 1)
    1  print ("Move from ", source, " to ", dest)
3  else
    1  towers (numDisks - 1, source, auxiliary, dest, step)
    2  print ("Move from " source " to " dest)
    3  towers (numDisks - 1, auxiliary, dest, source, step)
4  end if
end towers
```

**Calls:**

Towers (3, A, C, B)

Towers (2, A, B, C)

Towers (1, A, C, B)

Towers (1, C, B, A)

Towers (2, B, C, A)

Towers (1, B, A, C)

Towers (1, A, C, B)

**Output:**

Move from A to C

Move from A to B

Move from C to B

Move from A to C

Move from B to A

Move from B to C

Move from A to C

---

**FIGURE 2-14** Tracing Algorithm 2-7, Towers of Hanoi

## PROGRAM 2-4 Towers of Hanoi

```
1  /* Test Towers of Hanoi
2      Written by:
3      Date:
4  */
5  #include <stdio.h>
6
7  // Prototype Statements
8      void towers (int  n,      char source,
9                  char dest,  char auxiliary);
10
11  int main (void)
12  {
13      // Local Declarations
14      int numDisks;
15
```

*continued*

## PROGRAM 2-4 Towers of Hanoi (Continued)

```
16  // Statements
17  printf("Please enter number of disks: ");
18  scanf ("%d", &numDisks);
19
20  printf("Start Towers of Hanoi.\n\n");
21
22  towers (numDisks, 'A', 'C', 'B');
23
24  printf("\nI Hope you didn't select 64 "
25         "and end the world!\n");
26  return 0;
27 } // main
28
```

## PROGRAM 2-4 Towers of Hanoi (Continued)

```
29  /* ===== towers =====
30      Move one disk from source to destination through
31      the use of recursion.
32          Pre  The tower consists of n disks
33              Source, destination, & auxiliary towers
34          Post Steps for moves printed
35  */
36  void towers (int    n,    char  source,
37              char  dest, char  auxiliary)
38  {
39      // Local Declarations
40      static int step = 0;
41
```



## PROGRAM 2-4 Towers of Hanoi (Continued)

```
42 // Statements
43 printf("Towers (%d, %c, %c, %c)\n",
44         n, source, dest, auxiliary);
45 if (n == 1)
46     printf("\t\t\tStep %3d: Move from %c to %c\n",
47           ++step, source, dest);
48 else
49     {
50         towers (n - 1, source, auxiliary, dest);
51         printf("\t\t\tStep %3d: Move from %c to %c\n",
52               ++step, source, dest);
53         towers (n - 1, auxiliary, dest, source);
54     } // if ... else
55 return;
56 } // towers
```

squareRoot (num, ans, tol) =

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{ans} & \text{if } | \text{ans}^2 - \text{num} | \leq \text{tol} \\ \text{squareRoot}(\text{num}, (\text{ans}^2 + \text{num}) / (2 \times \text{ans}), \text{tol}) & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right]$$

---

**FIGURE 2-15** Newton's Method for Exercise 4

$$C(n, k) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } k = 0 \text{ or } n = k \\ C(n, k) = C(n-1, k) + C(n-1, k-1) & \text{if } n > k > 0 \end{cases}$$

---

**FIGURE 2-16** Selection Algorithm for Exercise 5

$$\text{Ackerman}(m, n) = \begin{cases} n + 1 & \text{if } m = 0 \\ \text{Ackerman}(m - 1, 1) & \text{if } n = 0 \text{ and } m > 0 \\ \text{Ackerman}(m - 1, \text{Ackerman}(m, n - 1)) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**FIGURE 2-17** Ackerman Formula for Problem 6