

worked with no one; advised by no one

steps to a recursive solution

test cases and their answers

smallest case

1 student

1 way

next-to-smallest case

2 students

2 ways

larger case(s)

3 students

6 ways

the request that will start the processing

I am asked to calculate the number of ways to uniquely arrange n students in a linear line.

base case processing

1 way

decision rule

if $n = 1$

recursive case processing, in three sub-parts

recursive abstraction

When I am asked to calculate the number of ways to uniquely arrange n students in a linear line,

the recursive abstraction can calculate the number of ways to arrange the $n-1$ students in a linear line.

the leftover piece

Calculate the number of positions the n th student can be in, for every arrangement.

all the processing for a recursive case

When I am asked to calculate the number of ways to uniquely arrange n students in a linear line

and the recursive abstraction has provided the calculations for the number of ways to arrange $n-1$ students in a linear line,

then the remaining part of processing recursive cases requires multiplying the number of positions the n th student can be in for each arrangement by the number of ways to arrange $n-1$ students in a linear line.