

# Advanced Programming Techniques in Java

# Recursion

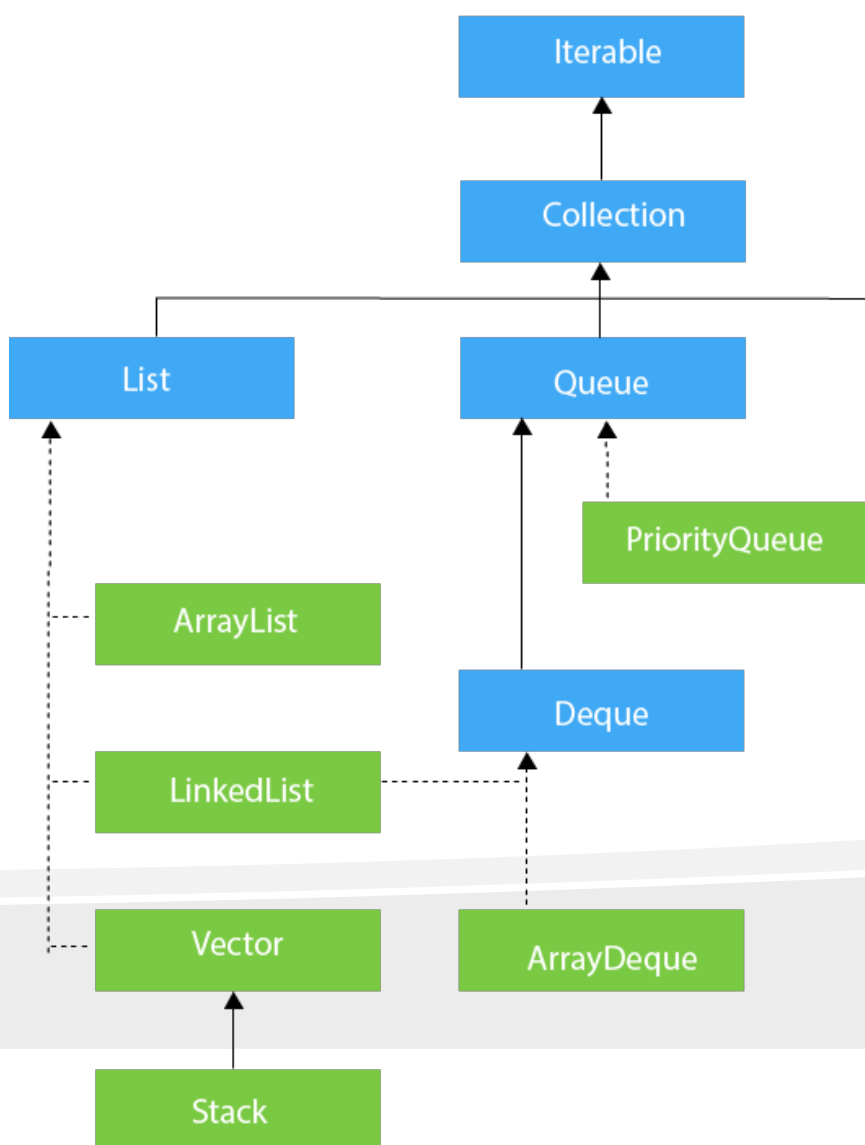
## Lecture 20

### Class Objectives

- 
- Recursion (Sections 12.1-12.3)



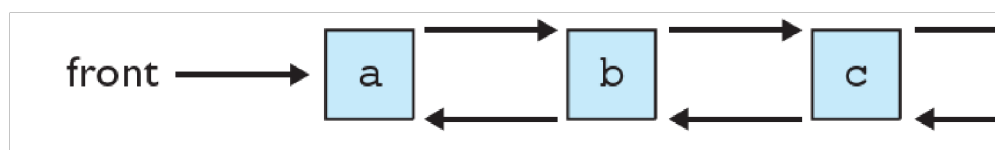
## Review: Collections Framework D





## Review: Linked list

- **Linked list** is a list implemented using a linked structure
- Each value is stored in a small object called a **node**, which contains a reference to the next neighbor nodes
- The list keeps a reference to the first and/or last node

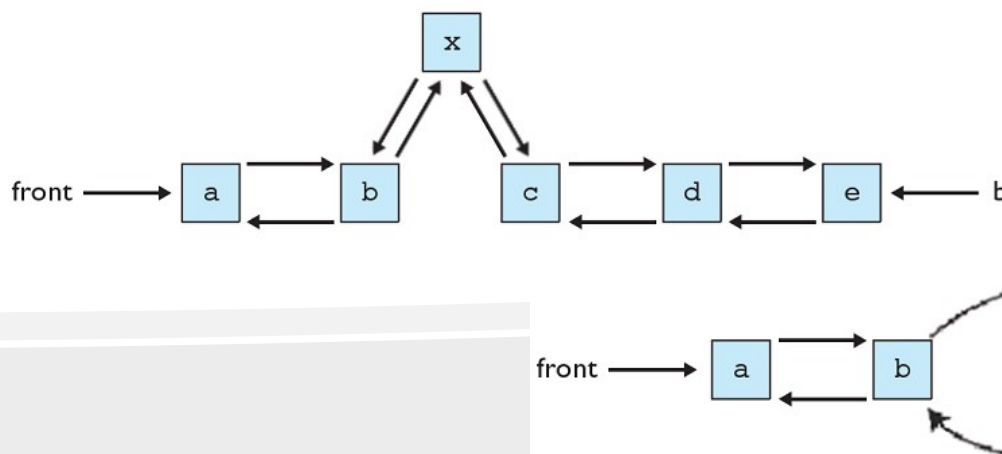


- In Java, represented by the class `LinkedList`



## Review: Linked list performance

- To add, remove, get a value at a given index:
- The list must advance through the list to the node just before the index
- For example to add a new value to the list, the list cannot jump to the proper index, the existing node links to the proper index, and attaches the new node and follow it






- This is very fast when adding to the front or back of references to these places), but slow elsewhere



## Review: Linked List Implementation



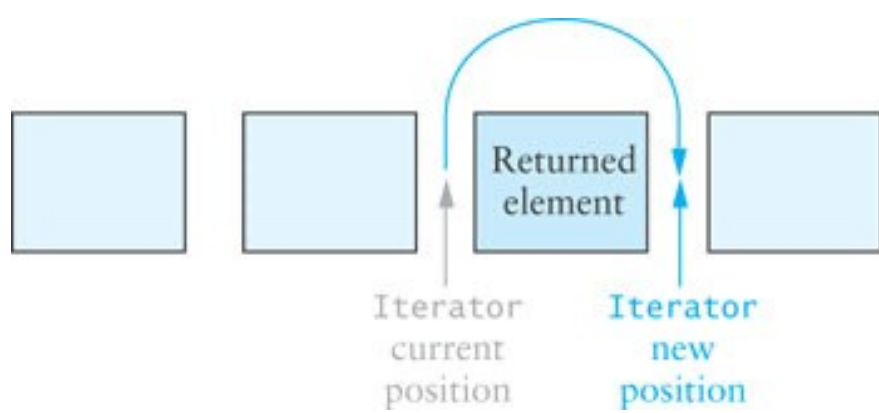


```
public class myLinkedList<E> {  
    private Node<E> head;  
    private Node<E> tail;  
    private int size;  
  
    private static class Node<E>{  
        private E data;  
        private Node<E> next;  
        private Node<E> previous;  
  
        private Node(E dataItem) {  
            data = dataItem;  
            next = null;  
            previous = null;  
        }  
    }  
}
```



## Review: Iterator Position

- An Iterator is conceptually *bound* to a container; it does not refer to a particular element in the container at a given time





## Review: Benefits of iterators

- Speed up loops over lists' elements
- Implemented for both `ArrayLists` and `LinkedLists`
- Makes more sense to use it for `LinkedLists` since getting an element from a `LinkedList` is slower than for an `ArrayList`
- A unified way to examine all elements of a collection
- Every collection in Java has an `iterator` method
- In fact, that's the *only* guaranteed way to examine the elements of a collection
- Don't have to use indexes



## Review: The `ListIterator<E>`

- Extends the `Iterator` interface
- The `LinkedList` class implements the `List<E>` interface
- Methods in `LinkedList` that return a `ListIterator`
  - `public ListIterator<E> listIterator()`
  - `public ListIterator<E> listIterator(int index)`
- Methods in the `ListIterator` interface:



- `add, hasNext, hasPrevious, next, previous, remove, set`

## Abstract Data Types (ADTs)

- **Abstract data type (ADT)** is a general specification
- Specifies what data the data structure can hold
- Specifies what operations can be performed on the data
- Does NOT know how the data structure holds the data or how to perform the operation
- Example ADT: **List**



- Specifies that a list collection will store elements in `o` (and null values)
- Specifies that a list collection supports `add`, `remove`, `isEmpty`, ...
- ...

## Abstract Data Types (ADTs)

- `ArrayList` and `LinkedList` both implement the ADT



- ADTs in Java are specified by interfaces
- `ArrayList` and `LinkedList` both implement `List`

## More on ADTs

- Good practice is to use the appropriate interface type
- `List<Integer> list = new LinkedList<Integer>()`
- Gives flexibility to change implementations of the list
- You can use the interface type `List` when declaring





## Strengths

- `ArrayList`
  - Random access; any element can be accessed
  - Adding or removing at the end of the list is fast
- `LinkedList`
  - Sequential access, `get/remove/add` fast on
  - Adding and removing at either end of the list is
  - No need to expand an array when full



## List limitation

- Slow to search
- You have to look for elements sequentially
- It is not easy to prevent a list from storing duplicates
- You have to sequentially search the list on every add operation
- Make sure you are not adding an element that is already in the list



## ArrayList vs. LinkedList

- Both implements `List` interface and maintains in

ArrayList	LinkedList
Uses a <b>dynamic array</b> to store the elements	Uses a <b>doubly link</b> elements
Manipulation with ArrayList is <b>slow</b> because it internally uses an array. If any element is removed from the array, shifting is required.	Manipulation with L ArrayList because it so no shifting is req
An ArrayList class can <b>act as a list</b> only because it implements List only.	LinkedList class can both because it imp interfaces.





ArrayList is **better for storing and accessing** data.

LinkedList is **better**

# Recursive Thinking


## Recursion

- 
- **recursion:** The definition of an operation in terms of itself.
  - Solving a problem using recursion depends on solving smaller occurrences of the same problem.

- 
- **recursive programming:** Writing methods themselves to solve problems recursively.
    - An equally powerful substitute for *iteration*
    - Particularly well-suited to solving certain problems

## Why learn recursion?

- "cultural experience" - A different way of thinking about problems

- 
- Can solve some kinds of problems better than iteration
  - Leads to elegant, simplistic, short code (used well)
  - Many programming languages ("functional languages such as Scheme, ML, OCaml, Haskell) use recursion exclusively (no iteration)



# Recursive Thinking

- Consider searching for a target value
  - Assume the array elements are in increasing order
  - We compare the target to the middle element. If the middle element does not equal the target, we search either the elements before the middle element or the elements after the middle element.
  - Instead of searching  $n$  elements, we search  $n/2$  elements.





# Recursive Thinking (co

**Recursive Algorithm to Search an**

**Array** **if** the array is empty

return -1 as the search result

**else if** the middle element matches th

return the subscript of the middl

result **else if** the target is less than th

recursively search the array eleme

middle element and return the result



**else**

recursively search the array element  
middle element and return the result

## Steps to Design a Recursive

- There must be at least one case for a small value of  $n$ , that can be solved.
- A problem of a given size  $n$  can be reduced to one or more smaller versions of the same problem (recursive case(s))



- ☐ Identify the base case and provide a solution
- ☐ Devise a strategy to reduce the problem to a smaller version of itself while making progress towards the base case
- ☐ Combine the solutions to the smaller problems to solve the larger problem



# Proving that a Recursive Method is Correct

- Proof by induction
  - Prove the theorem is true for the basecase
  - Show that if the theorem is assumed true for  $n$ , then it is true for  $n+1$
- Recursive proof is similar to induction
  - Verify the basecase is recognized and solved
  - Verify that each recursive case makes progress towards the base case

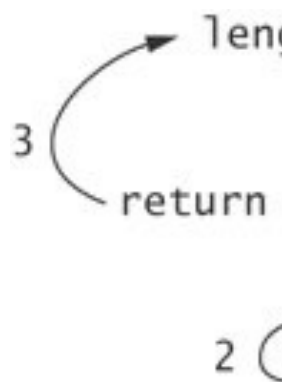


- Verify that if all smaller problems are solved, then the original problem also is solved.



# Tracing a Recursive Me

- The process of returning from recursive calls and computing the partial results is called *unwinding the recursion*





# Run-Time Stack and Activation

- Java maintains a run-time stack on which new information in the form of an activation record is added.
- The activation frame contains storage for
  - method arguments
  - local variables (if any)
  - the return address of the instruction that called the method.

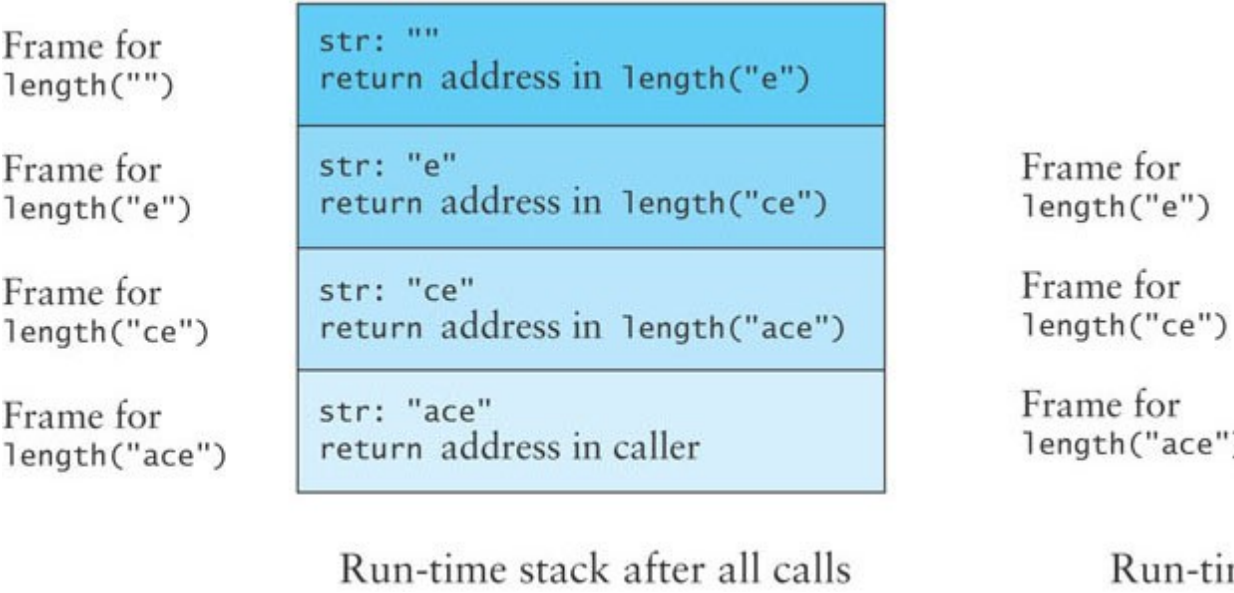


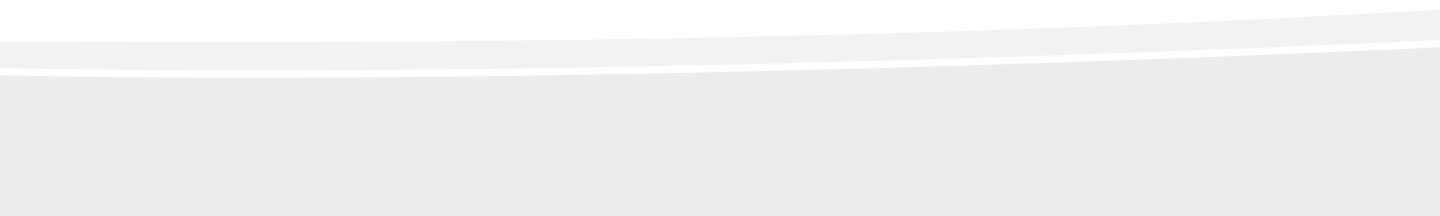
- ☐ Whenever a new method is called (new activation frame on stack)





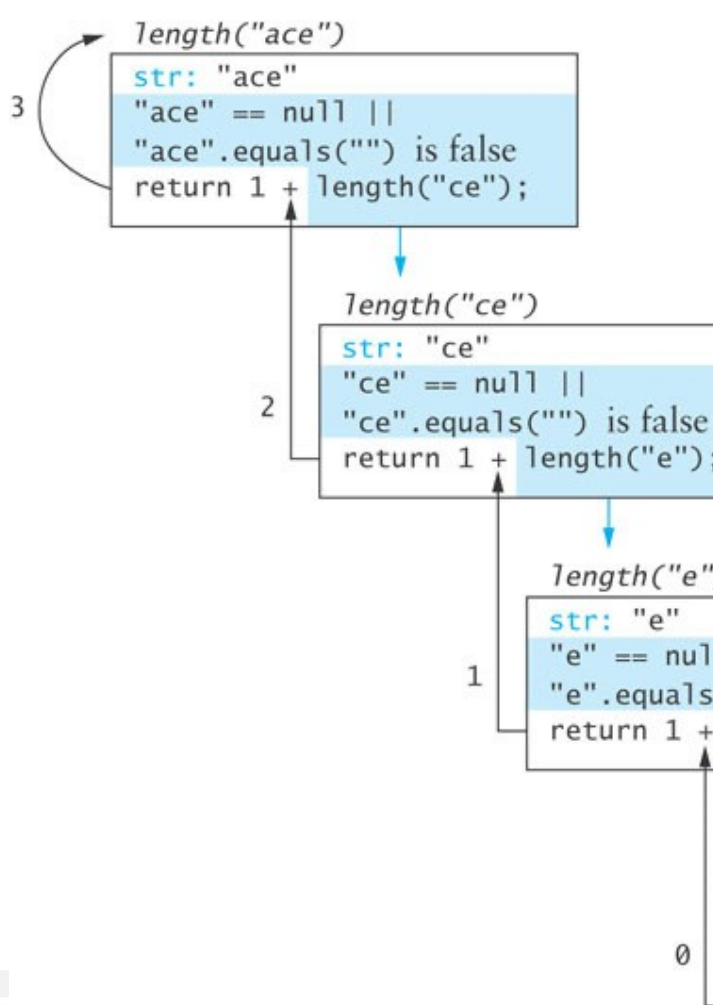
# Run-Time Stack and Activation Records (cont.)

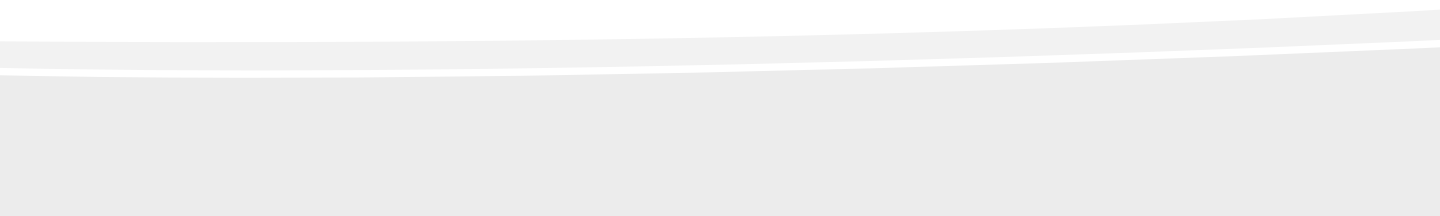






# Run-Time Stack and Activation Records





# Recursive Definitions of Mat Formulas





# Recursive Definitions of Mathematical Formulas

- Mathematicians often use recursive formulas that lead naturally to algorithms
- Examples include:
  - factorials
  - powers
  - greatest common divisors (gcd)



# Factorial of $n$ : $n!$

- The factorial of  $n$ , or  $n!$  is defined as:  
$$0! = 1$$
$$n! = n \times (n-1)! \quad (n > 0)$$
- The base case:  $n$  equal to 0
- The second formula is a recursive definition





# Factorial of $n$ : $n!$ (cont.)

- The recursive definition can be expressed algorithm:

`if  $n$  equals 0`



$n!$  is 1 **else**

$n! = n \times (n - 1)!$

24  
return

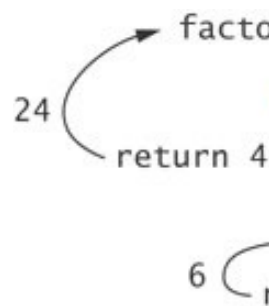
□ The last step can be implemented

as: `return n * factorial(n - 1);`

6



# Factorial of $n$ : $n!$ (cont.)



```
public static int factorial(int n)
{
    if (n == 0) return 1;
    else return n * factorial(n -
        1);
}
```



## Infinite Recursion and St

- ❑ If you call method `factorial` with a value less than or equal to 0, the recursion will not terminate because it will always be equal to 0.
- ❑ If a program does not terminate, it will throw the `StackOverflowError` exception.
- ❑ Make sure your recursive method has a stopping case that is always reached.
- ❑ In the `factorial` method, you could



`IllegalArgumentException` if `n` is

## Recursive Algorithm for

- The greatest common divisor (gcd) of two integers is the largest integer that divides both numbers
- The gcd of 20 and 15 is 5
- The gcd of 36 and 24 is 12



- The gcd of 38 and 18 is 2

## Recursive Algorithm for (cont.)

- Given 2 positive integers  $m$  and  $n$   
( $m > n$ ) **if**  $n$  is a divisor of  $m$



```
gcd(m, n) = n
else
gcd (m, n) = gcd (n, m % n)
```

## Recursive Algorithm for (cont.)

*/\*\* Recursive gcd method (in RecursiveM*



```
pre: m > 0 and n > 0
@param m The larger
number
@param n The smaller number
@return Greatest common divisor of
*/
public static double gcd(int m, int n)
{ if (m % n == 0) return n;
  else if (m < n) return gcd(n, m); /
    arguments.
  else return gcd(n, m % n);
}
```





# Recursion Versus Iteration


- ☐ There are similarities between recursion and iteration
- ☐ In iteration, a loop repetition controls whether to repeat the loop body or not
- ☐ In recursion, the condition usually tests for the base case
- ☐ You can always write an iterative solution for a problem that is solvable by recursion



- A recursive algorithm may be simpler algorithm and thus easier to write, read

## Iterative factorial M

```
/** Iterative factorial method.  
    pre: n >= 0  
    @param n The integer whose factorial is  
    @return n!  
*/
```



```
public static int factorialIter(int n) {  
    int result = 1;  
    for (int k = 1; k <= n; k++)  
        result = result * k;  
    return result;  
}
```

## Efficiency of Recursion

- Recursive methods often have slower relative to their iterative counterparts



- The overhead for loop repetition is less than the overhead for a method call and return
- If it is easier to conceptualize an algorithm using recursion, then you should code it as a recursive method
- The reduction in efficiency does not outweigh the advantage of readable code that is easier to maintain



# Fibonacci Numbers

- The Fibonacci numbers are a sequence that follows

$$\text{fib}_1 = 1 \quad \text{fib}_2 = 1$$

$$\text{fib}_n = \text{fib}_{n-1} +$$

$$\text{fib}_{n-2}$$

- 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144



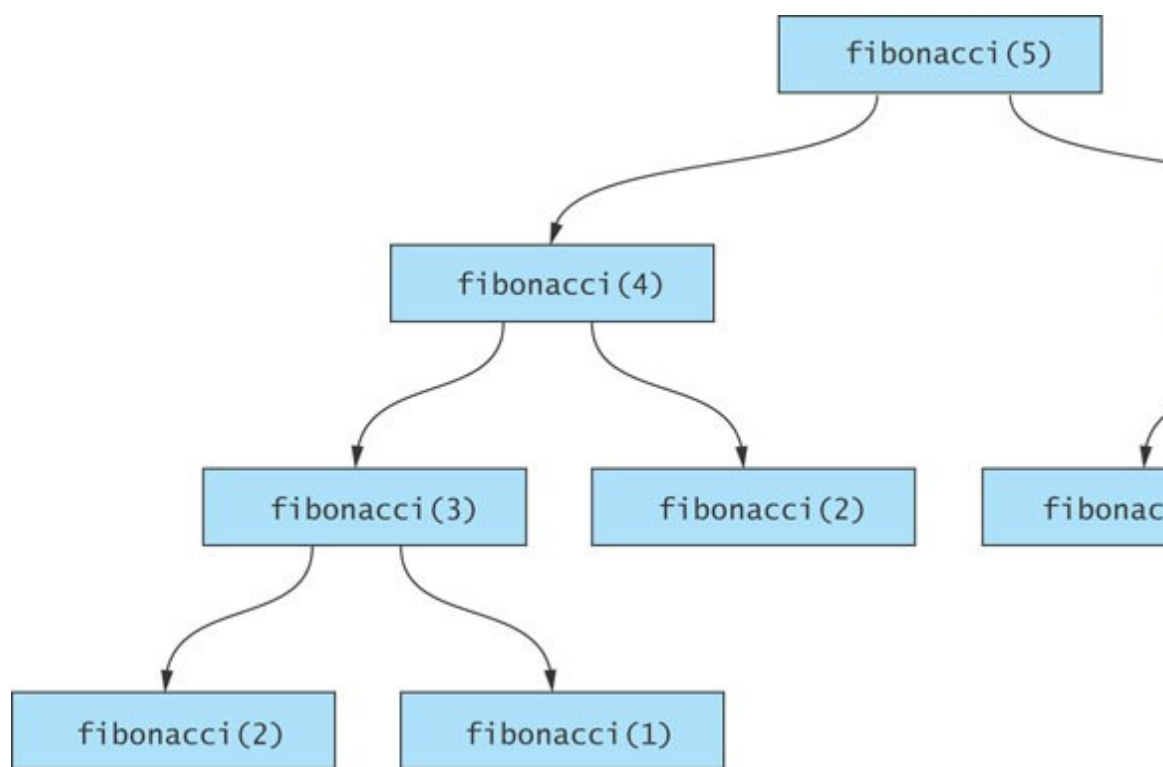
# An Exponential Recursive Method

```
/** Recursive method to calculate Fibonacci number  
    (in RecursiveMethods.java).  
    pre: n >= 1  
    @param n The position of the Fibonacci number  
    @return The Fibonacci number  
    */  
public static int fibonacci(int n) {  
    if (n <= 2)  
        return 1;  
    else  
        return fibonacci(n - 1) + fibonacci(n - 2);  
}
```



# Efficiency of Recursion: Ex

## fibonacci







## An $O(n)$ Recursive fibonacci

```
/** Recursive  $O(n)$  method to calculate Fibonacci
    (in RecursiveMethods.java).
    pre: n >= 1
    @param fibCurrent The current Fibonacci number
    @param fibPrevious The previous Fibonacci number
    @param n The count of Fibonacci numbers left
    @return The value of the Fibonacci number calculated
*/
private static int fibo(int fibCurrent, int fibPrevious, int n) {
    if (n == 1)
        return fibCurrent;
    else
        return fibo(fibCurrent + fibPrevious, fibCurrent, n - 1);
}
```



## An $O(n)$ Recursive fibonacci

(cont.)

- In order to start the method execution, we need a non-recursive wrapper method:

```
/** Wrapper method for calculating Fibonacci number  
RecursiveMethods.java).
```

```
pre: n >= 1
```

```
@param n The position of the desired Fibonacci number
```

```
@return The value of the nth Fibonacci number
```

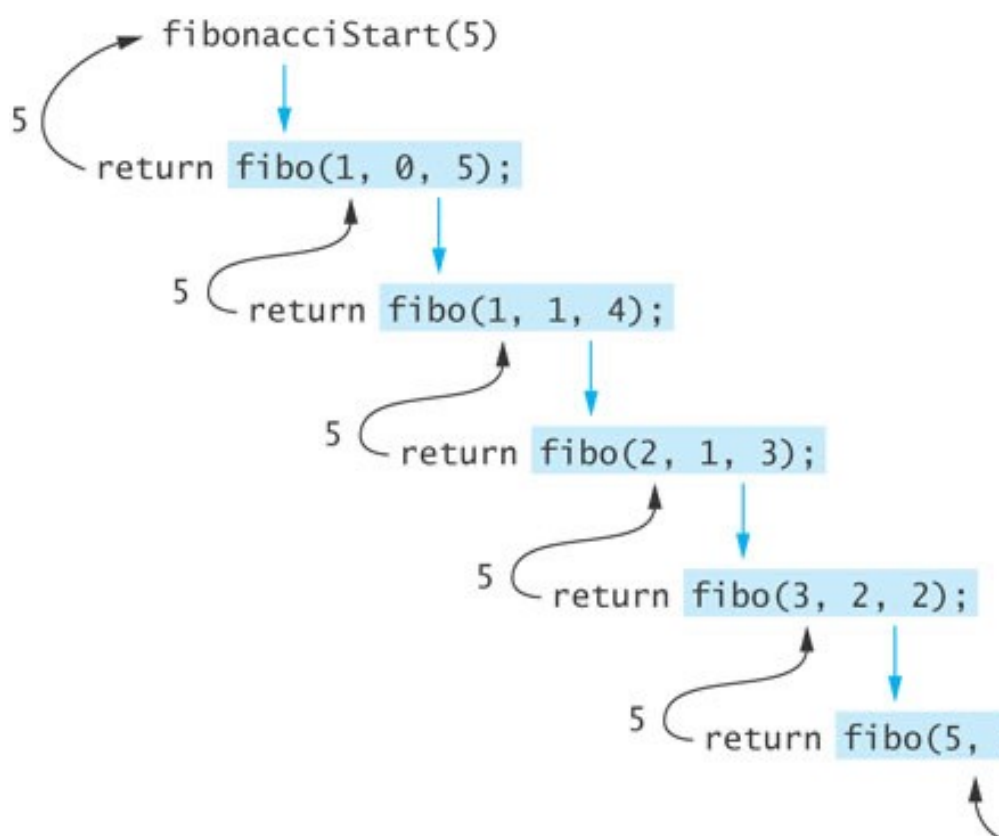
```
*/
```



```
public static int fibonacciStart(int n) {  
    return fibo(1, 0, n);  
}
```



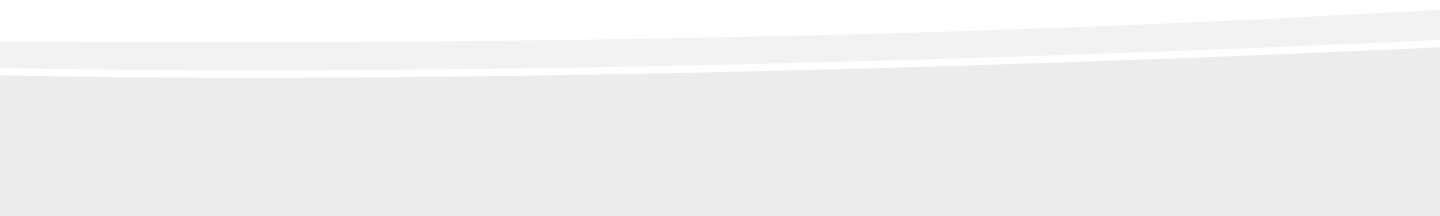
**Efficiency of Recursion: O**





# Efficiency of Recursion: O

- Method `fibonacci` is an example of *tail recursion*
- When recursive call is the last line of local variables do not need to be frame



# Recursive Array

## Recursive Array Search



- Searching an array can be accomplished
- Simplest way to search is a linear
  - Examine one element at a time starting from the beginning and ending with the last
  - On average,  $n/2$  elements are examined before the target is found in a linear search
  - If the target is not in the list,  $n$  elements are examined





- A linear search is  $O(n)$

## Recursive Array Search

- Base cases for recursive search:
  - Empty array, target can not be found
  - First element of the array being searched  
result is the subscript of first element



- The recursive step searches the rest of the array, excluding the first element

## Algorithm for Recursive Search

**Algorithm for Recursive Linear Array Search**  
if the array is empty then  
result is -1



```
else if the first element matches the  
        target the result is the subscript  
        the first element  
else  
        search the array excluding the first  
        the result
```



# Design of a Binary Search

- A binary search can be performed on an array that has been sorted
- Base cases
  - ▣ The array is empty
  - ▣ Element being examined matches the target
- Rather than looking at the first element, a binary search compares the middle element to the target
- A binary search excludes the half of the array in which the target cannot lie



# Design of a Binary Search (cont.)

## Binary Search Algorithm

```
if the array is empty
    return -1 as the
    search result
else if the middle element matches
    return the subscript of the middle
    the result
```



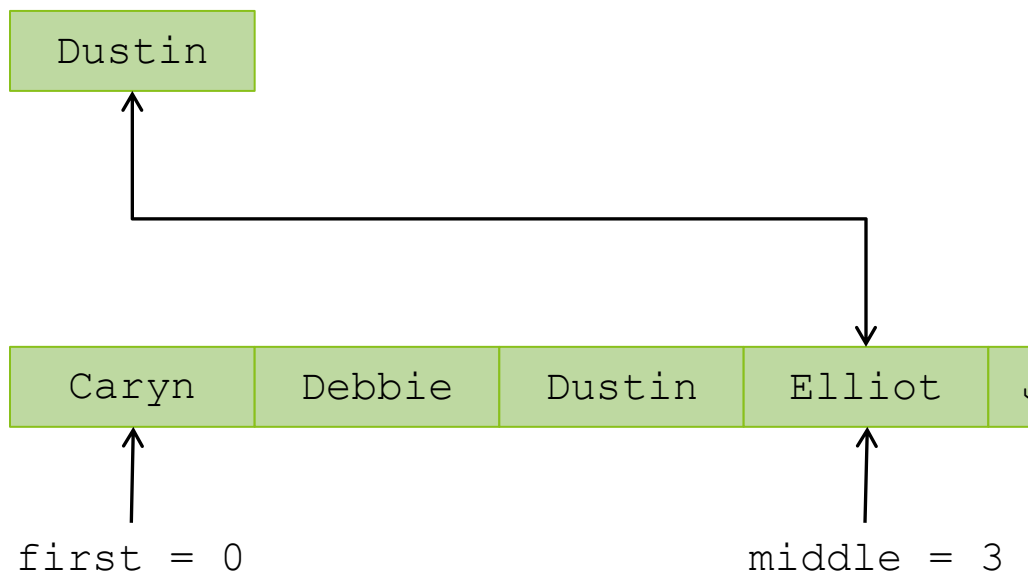
```
else if the target is less than the  
    recursively search the array ele  
    middle element and return the res  
else  
    recursively search the array ele  
    element and return the result
```

## Binary Search Algorithm

target



F

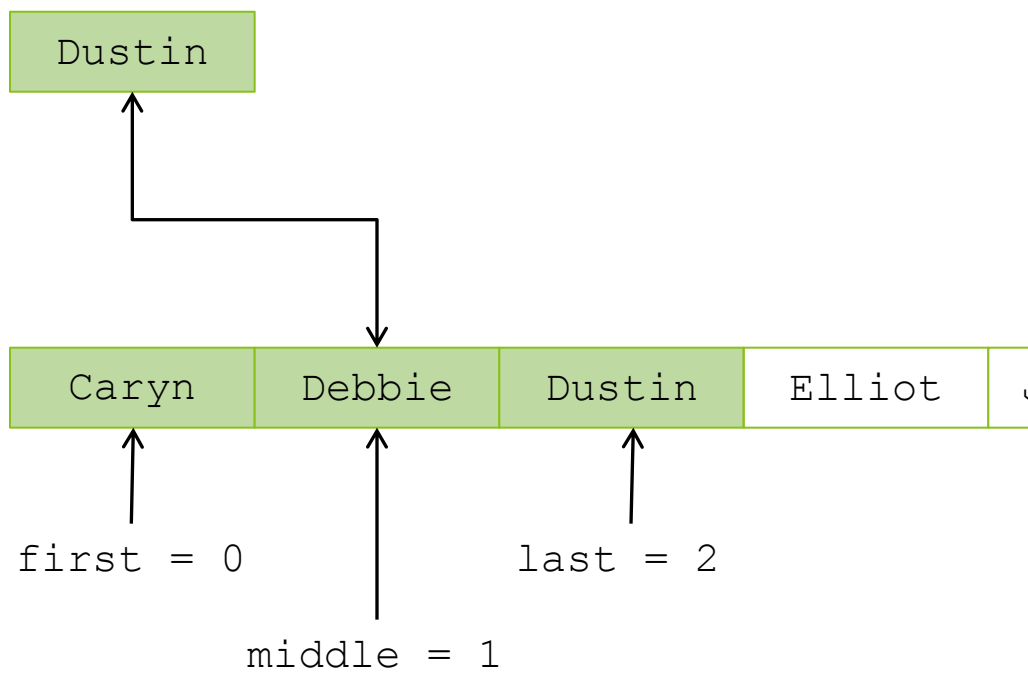




# Binary Search Algorithm

target

So

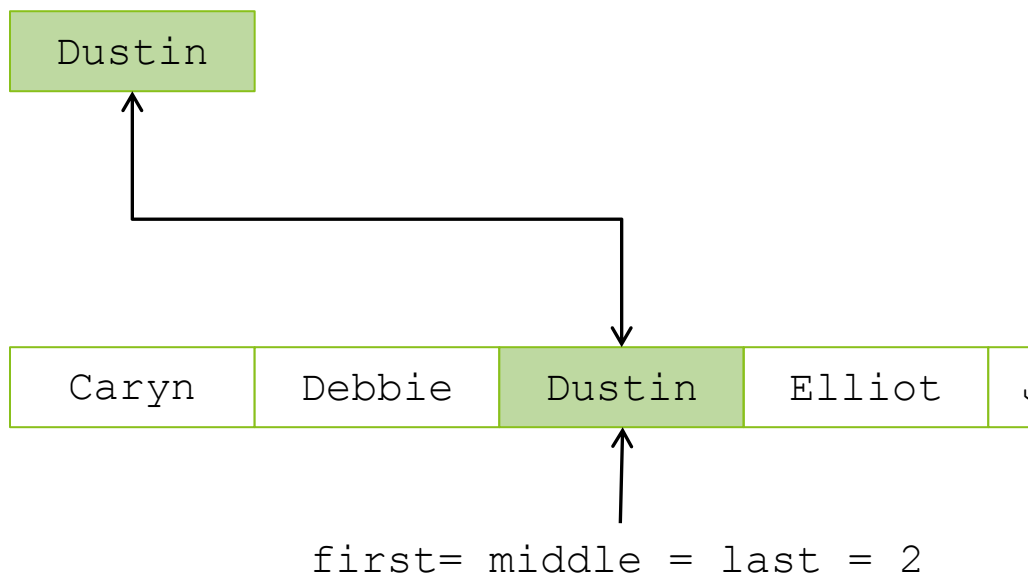






# Binary Search Algorithm

target





# Efficiency of Binary

- At each recursive call we eliminate half of the elements from consideration, resulting in a search time of  $O(\log n)$
- An array of size 16 would require at most 5 probes in the worst case
  - $16 = 2^4$
  - $5 = \log_2 16 + 1$
- A doubled array size would only require 5 probes in the worst case
  - $32 = 2^5$




□  $6 = \log_2 32 + 1$

□ An array with 32,768 elements  
( $\log_2 32768 = 15$ )

## Implementation of a Binary Search Algorithm



```
/** Recursive binary search method (in Recur  
    @param items The array being searched  
    @param target The object being searched  
    @param first The subscript of the first  
    @param last The subscript of the last el  
    @return The subscript of target if found  
*/  
private static int binarySearch(Object[] ite  
                                int first, i  
    if (first > last)  
        return -1;    // Base case for unsu  
    else {  
        int middle = (first + last) / 2; //  
        int compResult = target.compareTo(it  
        if (compResult == 0)  
            return middle;    // Base case fo  
        else if (compResult < 0)  
            return binarySearch(items, targe  
        else  
            return binarySearch(items, targe  
    }  
}
```



## Implementation of a Binary Search Algorithm (cont.)

```
/** Wrapper for recursive binary search method  
    @param items The array being searched  
    @param target The object being searched for  
    @return The subscript of target if found;  
*/  
public static int binarySearch(Object[] items,  
    return binarySearch(items, target, 0, item  
}
```



# Testing Binary Search

- You should test arrays with
  - an even number of elements
  - an odd number of elements
  - duplicate elements
- Test each array for the following
  - the target is the element at each position in the array, starting with the first position
  - the target is less than the smallest element in the array
  - the target is greater than the largest element in the array



□ the target is a value between  
in the array