

CS 1037

Computer Science Fundamentals II

Part Eight:
Recursion

1

Recursive Definitions

- **Recursion:**
defining something *in terms of itself*
- **Recursive definition**
 - Uses the word or concept being defined *in the definition itself*
 - Includes a base case that is defined directly, *without* self-reference

Recursive Definitions

- A recursive definition consists of two parts:
 - The **base case**: this defines the “*simplest*” case or starting point
 - The **recursive part**: this is the “*general case*”, that describes all the other cases in terms of “*smaller*” versions of itself
- Why is a base case needed?
 - A definition without a non-recursive part causes *infinite recursion*

Recursive Definitions

- Mathematical formulas are often expressed recursively
- **Example:** the formula for **factorial**
for any positive integer n , $n!$ (n factorial) is defined to be the product of all integers between 1 and n inclusive
- Express this definition recursively
$$1! = 1 \text{ (the base case)}$$
$$n! = n * (n-1)! \quad \text{for } n \geq 2$$
- Now determine the value of **4!**

Discussion

- **Recursion** is an alternative to **iteration**, and can be a very powerful problem-solving technique
- What is **iteration**? repetition, as in a loop
- What is **recursion**? defining something in terms of a **smaller** or **simpler** version of itself (why smaller/simpler?)

8-5

Recursive Programming

- **Recursion** is a programming technique in which a method can **call itself** to solve a problem
- A function in C that invokes itself is called a **recursive method** and must contain code for
 - The **base case**
 - The **recursive part**

8-6

Example of Recursive Programming

- Consider the problem of computing the sum of all the numbers between **1** and **n** inclusive

e.g. if **n** is **5**, the sum is (in an iterative processes)

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5

- How can this problem be expressed recursively?

Hint: the above sum is the same as

5 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 1

8-7

Recursive Definition of Sum of **1** to **n**

$$\sum_{k=1}^n k = n + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} k \quad \text{for } n > 1$$

This reads as:

the sum of 1 to n = n + the sum of 1 to n-1

What is the base case?

the sum of 1 to 1 = 1

8-8


```
#include <stdio.h>

int SumIter(int );

int main()
{
    int i = 3 , x;

    x = SumIter(i);
    printf("\nIteration x: %d\n", x);

    return 0;
}

int SumIter(int ir)
{
    if (ir == 1)
        return (1);
    else
    {
        int totalSum = 0;
        for (int k = 1; k <= ir; k++)
        {
            totalSum = totalSum + k;
        }
        return (totalSum);
    }
}
```

Label	Address	Value
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i	400 - 403	3
x	404 - 407	
ir	440 - 443	3
totalSum	444 - 447	0
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ir	440 - 443	3
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    }
}
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Label	Address	Value
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i	400 - 403	3
x	404 - 407	
ir	440 - 443	3
totalSum	444 - 447	6
k	448 - 451	1
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
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x	404 - 407	6
	...	
	...	
	...	
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	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	

OUTPUT:
Iteration x: 6

```
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    return 0;
}

int SumRec(int ir)
{
    int result;
    if (ir == 1)
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    }
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    {
        result = (ir + SumRec(ir - 1));
    }
    return (result);
}
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result	444 - 447	
ir	444 - 447	2
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result	444 - 447	
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result	448 - 451	
ir	468 - 471	1
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result	444 - 447	
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result	448 - 451	
ir	468 - 471	1
result	472 - 475	
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	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	

OUTPUT:
Factorial x: 6

How Recursion Works

- What happens when **any** function is called?
 - A **call frame** is set up
 - That call frame is pushed onto the **runtime stack**
- What happens when a recursive method "**calls itself**"?

It's actually just like calling any other method!

 - A **call frame** is set up
 - That call frame is pushed onto the **runtime stack**

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How Recursion

- What happens when **any** function is called?
 - A **call frame** is set up
 - That call frame is pushed onto the **runtime stack**

```
#include <stdio.h>
int SumRec(int i);
int main()
{
    int i = 3, x;
    x = SumRec(i);
    printf("Factorial of: %d\n", x);
    return 0;
}

int SumRec(int ix)
{
    int result;
    if (ix == 1)
    {
        result = 1;
    }
    else
    {
        result = (ix + SumRec(ix - 1));
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	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	

onto the **runtime stack**

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How Recursion

- What happens when **any** function is called?
 - A **call frame** is set up
 - That call frame is pushed onto the **runtime stack**

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#include <stdio.h>
int SumRec(int i);
int main()
{
    int i = 3, x;
    x = SumRec(i);
    printf("Factorial of: %d\n", x);
    return 0;
}

int SumRec(int ix)
{
    int result;
    if (ix == 1)
    {
        result = 1;
    }
    else
    {
        result = (ix + SumRec(ix - 1));
    }
    return (result);
}
```

Label	Address	Value
	399	
i	400 - 403	3
x	404 - 407	
ix	440 - 443	3
result	444 - 447	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	

onto the **runtime stack**

8-43

How Recursion Works

- What happens when **any** function is called?
 - A **call frame** is set up
 - That call frame is pushed onto the **runtime stack**
- What happens when a recursive method "**calls itself**"?

It's actually just like calling any other method!

 - A **call frame** is set up
 - That call frame is pushed onto the **runtime stack**

8-44

How Recursion

```
#include <stdio.h>
int SumRec(int i);
int main()
{
    int i = 3, n;
    n = SumRec(i);
    printf("nFactorial n: %d\n", n);
    return 0;
}

int SumRec(int i)
{
    int result;
    if (i == 1)
    {
        result = 1;
    }
    else
    {
        result = (i * SumRec(i - 1));
    }
    return (result);
}
```

Label	Address	Value
	399	
i	400 - 403	3
x	404 - 407	
ir	440 - 443	3
result	444 - 447	
ir	444 - 447	2
result	448 - 451	
...	...	
...	...	
...	...	
...	...	
...	...	
...	...	

- What happens when a recursive function calls itself? It's actually just like calling any other function.
 - A **call frame** is set up
 - That call frame is pushed onto the **runtime stack**

8-45

How Recursion

```
#include <stdio.h>
int SumRec(int i);
int main()
{
    int i = 3, n;
    n = SumRec(i);
    printf("nFactorial n: %d\n", n);
    return 0;
}

int SumRec(int i)
{
    int result;
    if (i == 1)
    {
        result = 1;
    }
    else
    {
        result = (i * SumRec(i - 1));
    }
    return (result);
}
```

Label	Address	Value
	399	
i	400 - 403	3
x	404 - 407	
ir	440 - 443	3
result	444 - 447	
ir	444 - 447	2
result	448 - 451	
ir	468 - 471	1
result	472 - 475	1
...	...	
...	...	
...	...	
...	...	
...	...	

- What happens when a recursive function calls itself? It's actually just like calling any other function.
 - A **call frame** is set up
 - That call frame is pushed onto the **runtime stack**

8-46

How Recursion Works

- Note: For a recursive **function**, how many copies of the code are there?
 - Just one! (like any other **function**)
- When does the recursive function stop calling itself?
 - When the base case is reached
- What happens then?
 - That invocation** of the function completes, its call frame is popped off the runtime stack, and control returns to **the function that invoked it**

8-47

How Recursion Works

- But which function invoked it?
 - the **previous invocation** of the recursive function
 - This function now completes, its call frame is popped off the runtime stack, and control returns to **the function that invoked it**
- And so on until we get back to the first invocation of the recursive function

8-48

How Recursion Works

- But which function invoked it?
the *previous invocation* of the function
 - This function now completes its call frame is popped and control returns to the function
- And so on until we get back to the recursive function

Label	Address	Value
	399	
i	400 - 403	3
x	404 - 407	
ir	440 - 443	3
result	444 - 447	
ir	444 - 447	2
result	448 - 451	
ir	468 - 471	1
result	472 - 475	1
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	

8-49

How Recursion Works

- But which function invoked it?
the *previous invocation* of the function
 - This function now completes its call frame is popped and control returns to the function
- And so on until we get back to the recursive function

Label	Address	Value
	399	
i	400 - 403	3
x	404 - 407	
ir	440 - 443	3
result	444 - 447	
ir	444 - 447	2
result	448 - 451	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	

8-50

How Recursion Works

- But which function invoked it?
the *previous invocation* of the function
 - This function now completes its call frame is popped and control returns to the function
- And so on until we get back to the recursive function

Label	Address	Value
	399	
i	400 - 403	3
x	404 - 407	
ir	440 - 443	3
result	444 - 447	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	

8-51

How Recursion Works

- But which function invoked it?
the *previous invocation* of the function
 - This function now completes its call frame is popped and control returns to the function
- And so on until we get back to the recursive function

Label	Address	Value
	399	
i	400 - 403	3
x	404 - 407	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	

8-52

How Recursion

- But which function invoked it? the **previous invocation** of the function
 - This function now completes its call frame is popped and control returns to the function that invoked it
- And so on until we get back to the recursive function

[illegible]

8-53

```
#include <stdio.h>

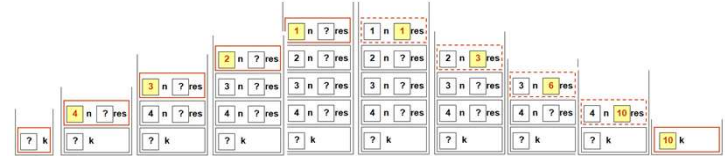
int SumRec(int i);

int main()
{
    int i = 4, k;

    k = SumRec(i);
    printf("\nFactorial k: %d\n", x);

    return 0;
}

int SumRec(int n)
{
    int res;
    if (n == 1)
    {
        res = 1;
    }
    else
    {
        res = (n + SumRec(n - 1));
    }
    return (res);
}
```



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

Data Structures: A Pseudocode Approach with C

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

FIGURE 2-1 Iterative Factorial Algorithm Definition

Data Structures: A Pseudocode Approach with C

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

FIGURE 2-2 Recursive Factorial Algorithm Definition

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
    
```

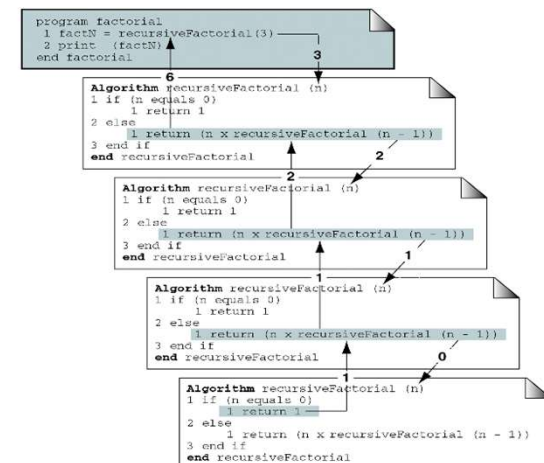


FIGURE 2-4 Calling a Recursive Algorithm

