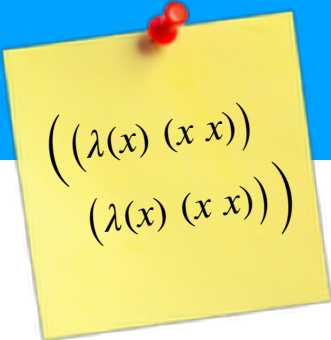


# Programming with Recursion and Symbolic Expressions

CS 401/501 — Spring 2020

<https://gilray.org/classes/spring2020/cs401/>



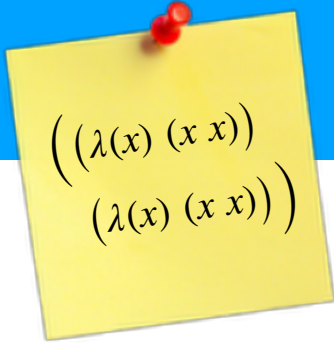


$((\lambda(x) (x x))$   
 $(\lambda(x) (x x)))$

## Calculating factorial in Racket

```
(define (factorial n)
  (if (= n 0)
      1
      (* n (factorial (sub1 n)))))
```

# Example

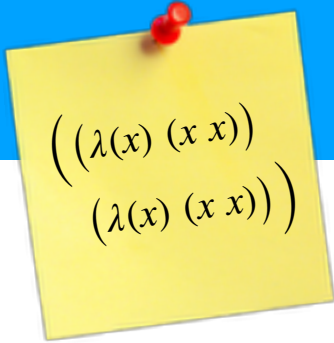


$((\lambda(x) (x x))$   
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## Calculating factorial in Racket

```
(define (factorial n)
  (if (= n 0)
      1
      (* n (factorial (sub1 n)))))
```

Defines **base case**



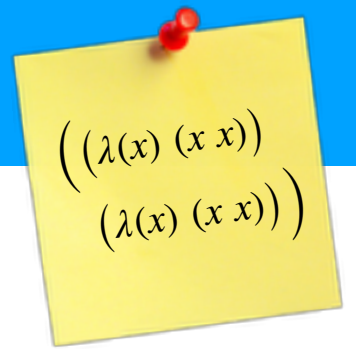
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## Calculating factorial in Racket

```
(define (factorial n)
  (if (= n 0)
      1
      (* n (factorial (sub1 n)))))
```

and **inductive / recursive** case

## Example

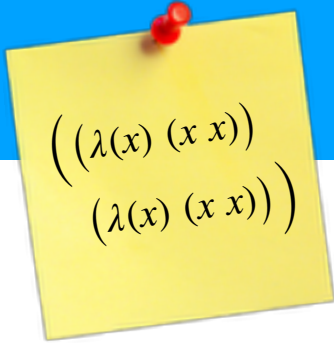


```
(define (factorial n)
  (if (= n 0)
      1
      (* n (factorial (sub1 n)))))
```

We can think of recursion as “substitution”

```
> (factorial 2)
```

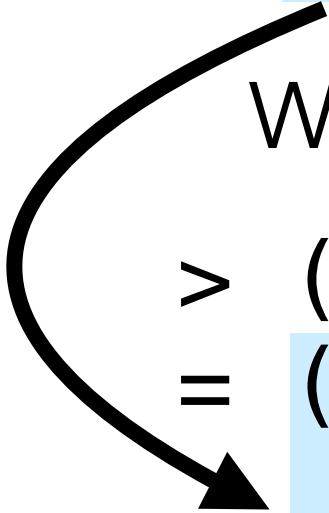
# Example



$((\lambda(x) (x x))$   
 $(\lambda(x) (x x)))$

```
(define (factorial n)
  (if (= n 0)
      1
      (* n (factorial (sub1 n)))))
```

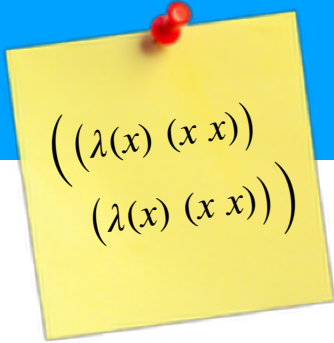
We can think of recursion as "substitution"



```
> (factorial 2)
= (if (= 2 0)
      1
      (* 2 (factorial (sub1 2))))
```

Copy defn, substitute for argument n

# Example



$((\lambda(x) (x x))$   
 $(\lambda(x) (x x)))$

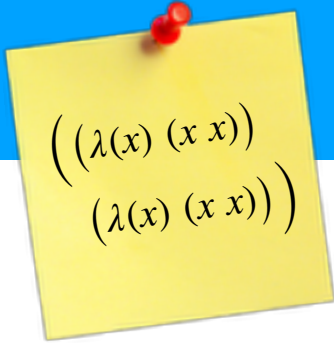
```
(define (factorial n)
  (if (= n 0)
      1
      (* n (factorial (sub1 n)))))
```

We can think of recursion as "substitution"

```
> (factorial 2)
= (if (= 2 0)
      1
      (* 2 (factorial (sub1 2))))
= (if #t 1 (* 2 (factorial (sub1 2))))
```

Evaluate if

# Example



$((\lambda(x) (x x))$   
 $(\lambda(x) (x x)))$

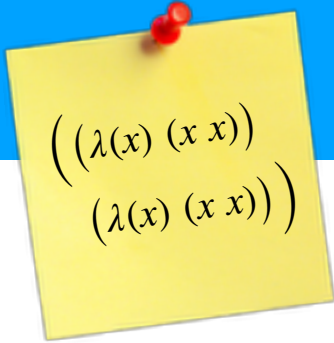
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(define (factorial n)
  (if (= n 0)
      1
      (* n (factorial (sub1 n)))))
```

We can think of recursion as "substitution"

```
> (factorial 2)
= (if (= 2 0)
      1
      (* 2 (factorial (sub1 2))))
= (if #t 1 (* 2 (factorial (sub1 2))))
= (* 2 (factorial (sub1 2)))
```



# Example



$((\lambda(x) (x x))$   
 $(\lambda(x) (x x)))$

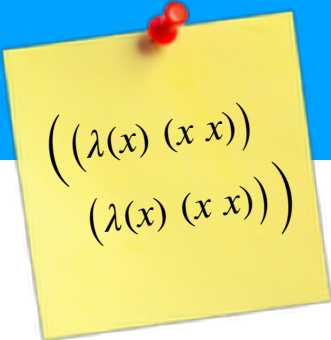
```
(define (factorial n)
  (if (= n 0)
      1
      (* n (factorial (sub1 n)))))
```

We can think of recursion as "substitution"

```
> (factorial 2)
= (if (= 2 0)
      1
      (* 2 (factorial (sub1 2))))
= (if #t 1 (* 2 (factorial (sub1 2))))
= (* 2 (factorial (sub1 2)))
= (* 2 (factorial 1))
```

Evaluate sub1

# Example



$((\lambda(x) (x x))$   
 $(\lambda(x) (x x)))$

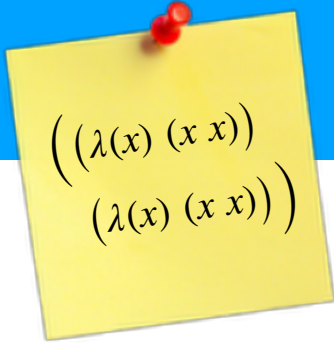
```
(define (factorial n)
  (if (= n 0)
      1
      (* n (factorial (sub1 n)))))
```

We can think of recursion as "substitution"

```
> (factorial 2)
= (if (= 2 0)
      1
      (* 2 (factorial (sub1 2))))
= (if #t 1 (* 2 (factorial (sub1 2))))
= (* 2 (factorial (sub1 2)))
= (* 2 (factorial 1))
= (* 2 (if (= 1 0)
            1
            (* n (factorial (sub1 1)))))
```

Substitute (again)

# Example

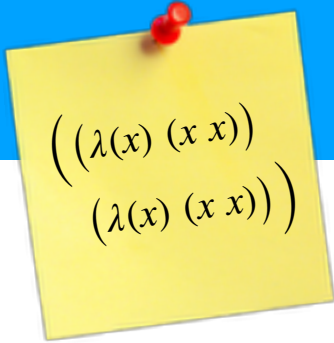


$((\lambda(x) (x x))$   
 $(\lambda(x) (x x)))$

```
(define (factorial n)
  (if (= n 0)
      1
      (* n (factorial (sub1 n)))))

= (* 2 (if (= 1 0)
           1
           (* 1 (factorial (sub1 1)))))
= (* 2 (* 1 (factorial (sub1 1))))
= (* 2 (* 1 (factorial 0)))
= (* 2 (* 1 (if (= 0 0) 1 ...)))
= (* 2 (* 1 (if #t 1 ...)))
= (* 2 (* 1 1))
= (* 2 1)
= 2
```

# Example



$((\lambda(x) (x x)) (\lambda(x) (x x)))$

```
(define (factorial n)
  (if (= n 0)
      1
      (* n (factorial (sub1 n)))))
```

```
= (* 2 (if (= 1 0)
           1
           (* 1 (factorial (sub1 1)))))
```

```
= (* 2 (* 1 (factorial (sub1 1))))
```

```
= (* 2 (* 1 (factorial 0)))
```

```
= (* 2 (* 1 (if (= 0 0) 1 ...)))
```

```
= (* 2 (* 1 (if #t 1 ...)))
```

```
= (* 2 (* 1 1))
```

```
= (* 2 1)
```

```
= 2
```


This is "textual reduction" semantics

More on this later

# Example

$((\lambda(x) (x x))$   
 $(\lambda(x) (x x)))$

```
...  
= (* 2 (if (= 2 0)  
           1  
           (* n (factorial (sub1 2)))))  
= (* 2 (factorial 1))  
= ...  
= (* 2 (* 1 1))  
= (* 2 1)  
= 2
```



Notice we're building a big  
stack of calls to \*

Then recursion "bottoms out:"  
returns back to finish the work  
(More on this next week...)

# Exercise



Complete the following substitution for  $(\log_2 2)$

```
(define (log2 n)
  (if (= n 1) 0 (+ 1 (log2 (/ n 2)))))
```

```
(log2 2)
= (if (= 2 1) 0 (+ 1 (log2 (/ 2 2))))
= ???
= ...
= ???
```

## Exercise



```
(define (log2 n)
  (if (= n 1) 0 (+ 1 (log2 (/ n 2)))))
```

```
(log2 2)
= (if (= 2 1) 0 (+ 1 (log2 (/ 2 2))))
= (+ 1 (log2 (/ 2 2)))
= (+ 1 (log2 1))
= (+ 1 (if (= 1 1) 0 (+ 1 (log2 (/ 1 2))...))
= (+ 1 (if #t 0 (+ 1 (log2 (/ 1 2))...))
= (+ 1 0)
= 1
```



Write the definition of (`fib n`) in Racket using the following definition:

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





Answer (one of many)

```
(define (fib n)
  (if (or (= n 0) (= n 1))
      n
      (+ (fib (- n 1)) (fib (- n 2)))))
```



**Question:** what is the big-O time complexity of this implementation?

```
(define (fib n)
  (if (or (= n 0) (= n 1))
      n
      (+ (fib (- n 1)) (fib (- n 2)))))
```

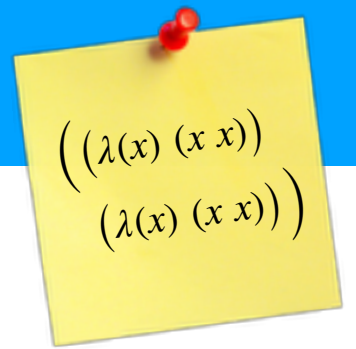


**Answer:  $O(2^n)$  or *exponential***

(Fun fact: actually  $\varphi^n$ , where  $\varphi$  is the golden ratio)

```
(define (fib n)
  (if (or (= n 0) (= n 1))
      n
      (+ (fib (- n 1)) (fib (- n 2)))))
```

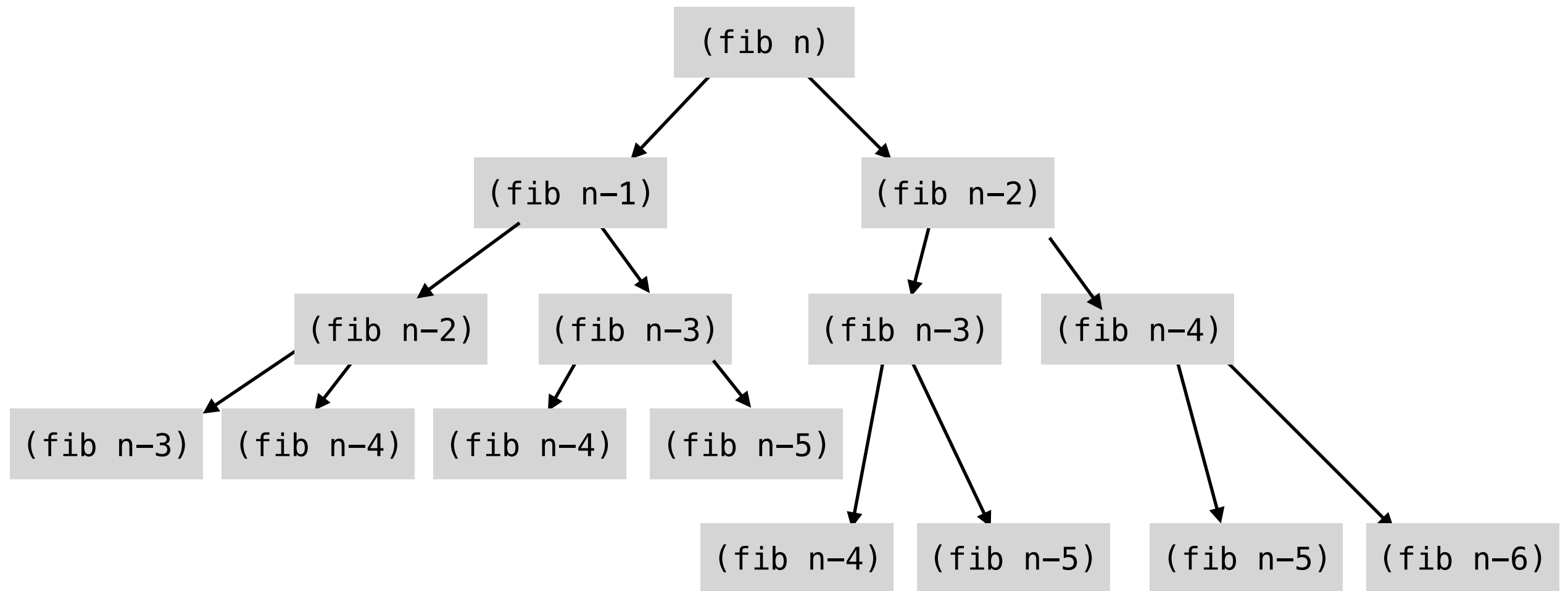
# Example

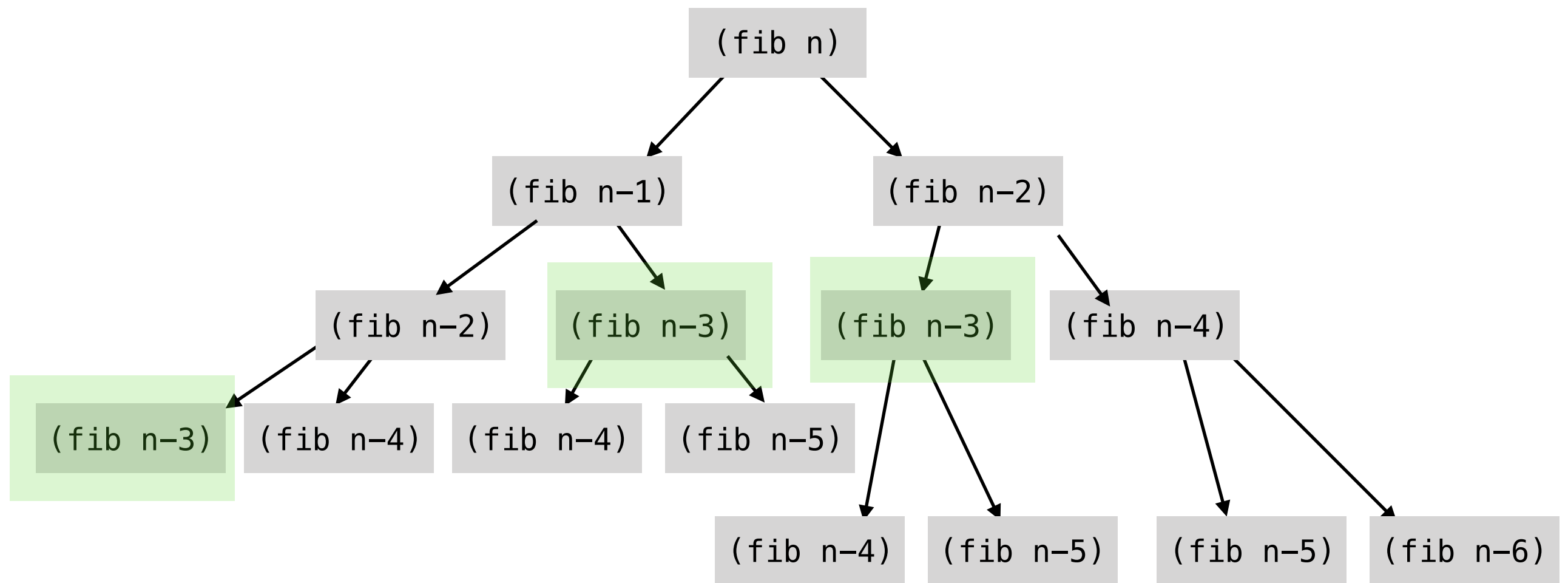


We say that this algorithm uses a “top-down” approach

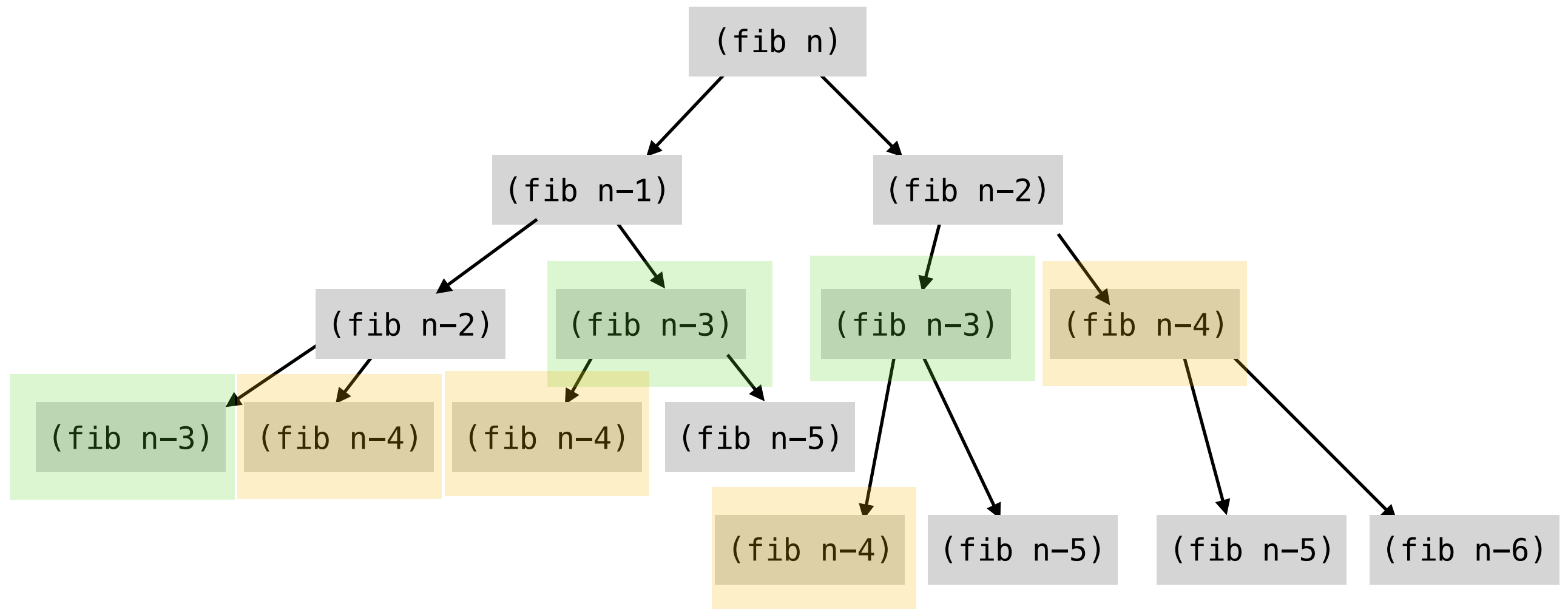
```
(define (fib n)
  (if (or (= n 0) (= n 1))
      n
      (+ (fib (- n 1)) (fib (- n 2)))))
```

Because it calculates each number by first calculating the previous two fibonacci numbers



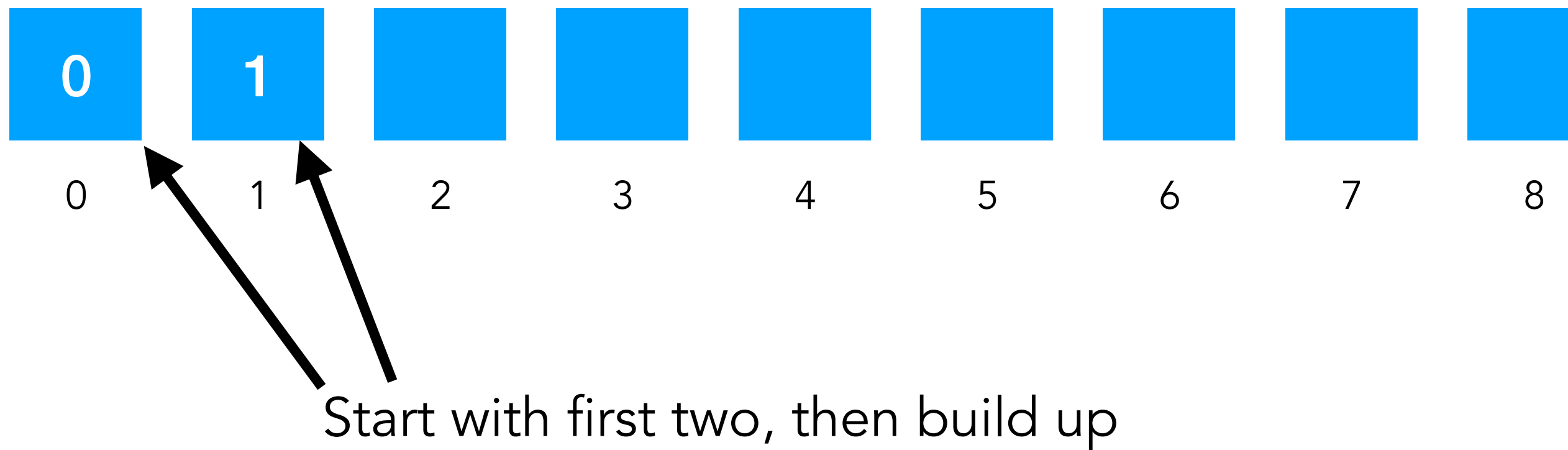


**etc...**



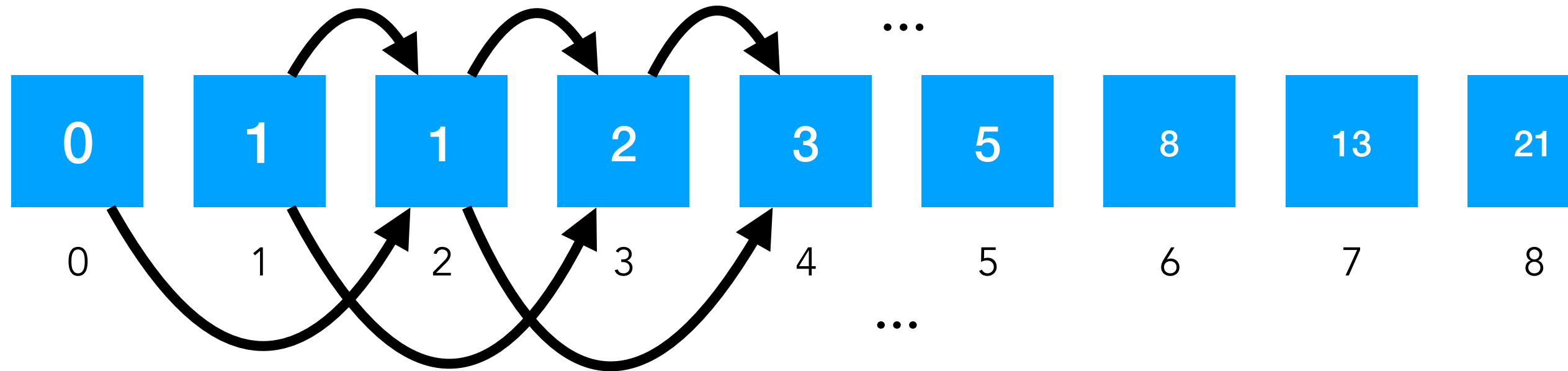
**Lots of redundant work**

Instead, use ***dynamic programming***:  
design a recursive solution top-down, but implement  
as a bottom-up algorithm!

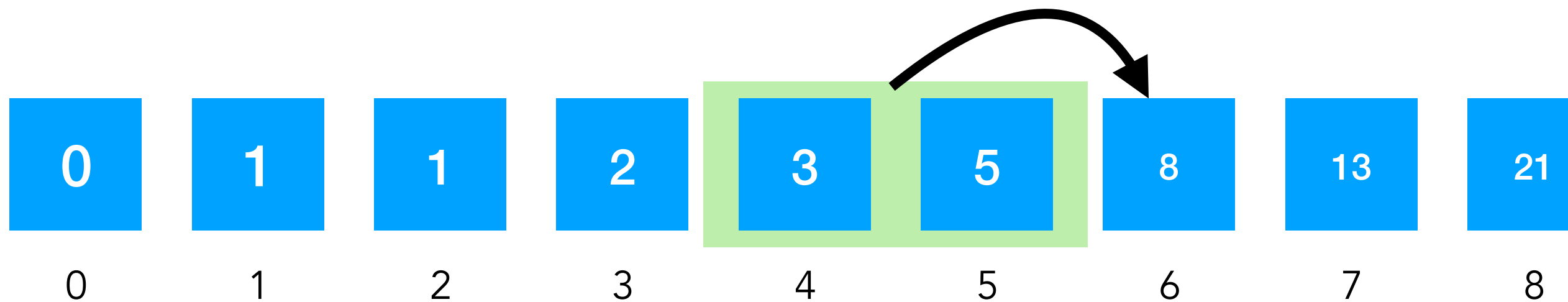




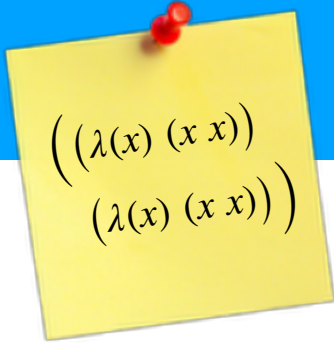
Instead, use ***dynamic programming***:  
design a recursive solution top-down, but implement  
as a bottom-up algorithm!



Key idea: only need to look at **two most recent** numbers



# Example



$((\lambda(x) (x x))$   
 $(\lambda(x) (x x)))$

Accumulate via arguments

```
(define (fib-h i n0 n1)
  (if (= i 0)
      n0
      (fib-h (- i 1) n1 (+ n0 n1))))
```

```
(define (fib n) (fib-h n 0 1))
```

## Exercise



```
(define (fib-h i n0 n1)
  (if (= i 0)
      n0
      (fib-h (- i 1) n1 (+ n0 n1))))
```

```
(define (fib n) (fib-h n 0 1))
```

**Question:** what is the runtime complexity of `fib`?

## Exercise



```
(define (fib-h i n0 n1)
  (if (= i 0)
      n0
      (fib-h (- i 1) n1 (+ n0 n1))))
```

```
(define (fib n) (fib-h n 0 1))
```

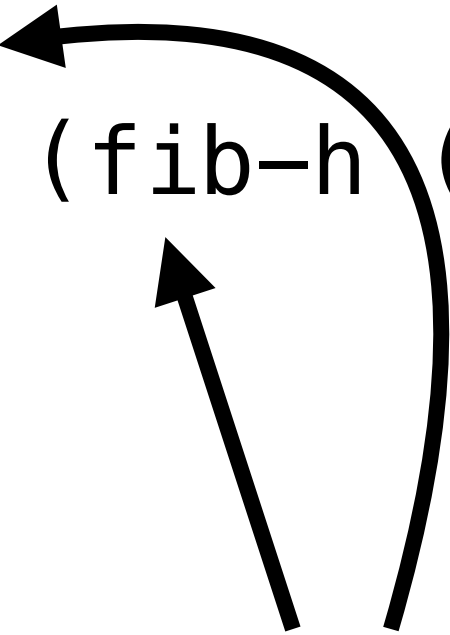
**Answer:**  $O(n)$ , fib-helper runs from  $n$  to  $0$

Consider how `fib-h` executes

```
(define (fib-h i n0 n1)
  (if (= i 0)
      n0
      (fib-h (- i 1) n1 (+ n0 n1))))
```

```
(define (fib n) (fib-h n 0 1))
```

```
(fib-helper 3 0 1)
= (if (= 3 0) 0 (fib-h (- 3 1) 1 (+ 0 1)))
= ...
= (fib-h 2 1 1)
= (if (= 2 0) 1 (fib-h (- 2 1) 1 (+ 1 1)))
= ...
= (fib-h 1 1 2)
```

A diagram illustrating tail recursion. Two curved arrows point from the recursive call expressions back to the preceding 'fib-h' function calls. The first arrow starts at '(fib-h (- 2 1) 1 (+ 1 1))' and points to '(fib-h 2 1 1)'. The second arrow starts at '(fib-h (- 3 1) 1 (+ 0 1))' and points to '(fib-h 2 1 1)'. This indicates that the return value of the recursive call is passed directly to the caller, without needing to be stored on the stack.

Notice that we don't get the "stacking" behavior:  
recursive calls don't grow the stack

This is because `fib-h` is **tail recursive**

```
(define (fib-h i n0 n1)
  (if (= i 0)
      n0
      (fib-h (- i 1) n1 (+ n0 n1))))
```

```
(define (fib n) (fib-h n 0 1))
```

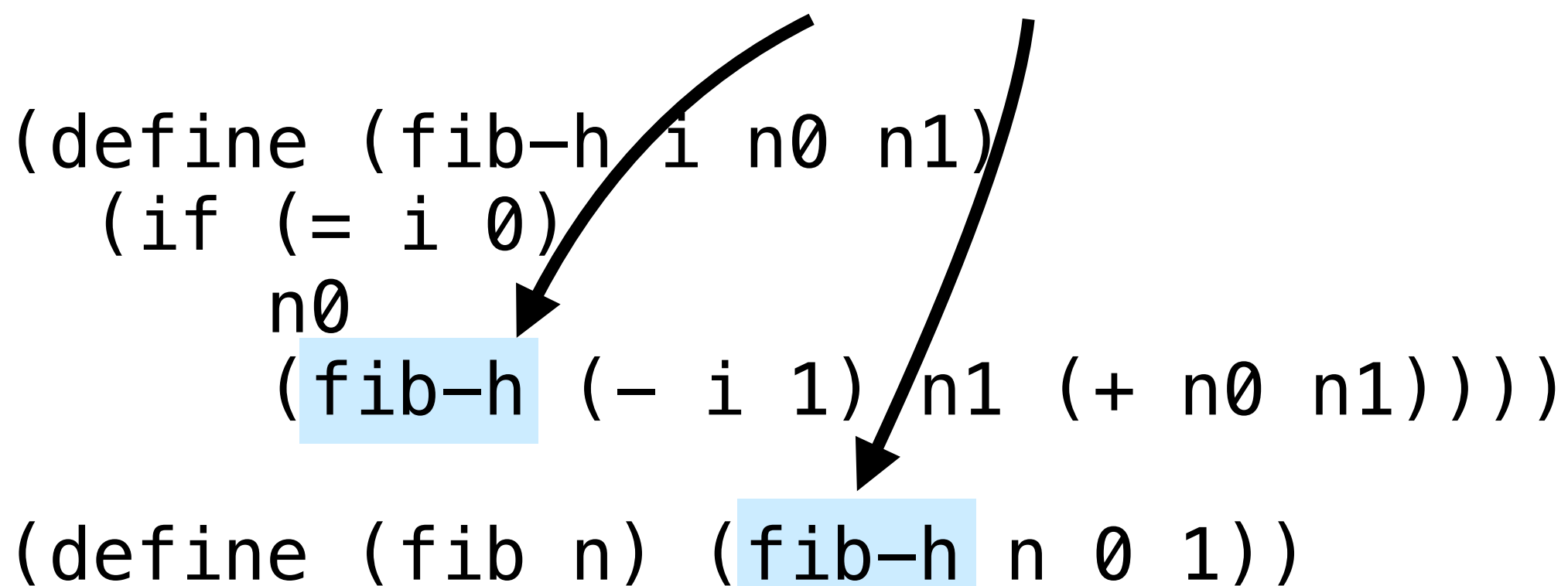
Intuitively: a callsite is in **tail-position** if it is the **last thing** a function will do before exiting

(We call these **tail calls**)



This is because `fib-h` is **tail recursive**

Both of these are tail calls



```
(define (fib-h i n0 n1)
  (if (= i 0)
      n0
      (fib-h (- i 1) n1 (+ n0 n1))))

(define (fib n) (fib-h n 0 1))
```

Intuitively: a callsite is in **tail-position** if it is the **last thing** a function will do before exiting

(We call these **tail calls**)

# Tail calls / tail recursion

- Unlike calls in general, **tail calls** do not affect the stack:
  - Tail calls *do not grow* (or shrink) the stack.
    - They are more like a goto/jump than a normal call.
- A subexpression is in **tail position** if it's the last subexpression to run, whose return value is also the value for its parent expression:
  - In (let ([x rhs]) body); body is in *tail position*...
  - In (if grd thn els); thn & els are in *tail position*...
- A function is **tail recursive** if all recursive calls in tail position
- Tail-recursive functions are analogous to loops in imperative langs

## Exercise



Which of the following is tail recursive?

```
(define (length-0 l)
  (if (null? l)
      0
      (+ 1 (length-0 (cdr l)))))
```

```
(define (length-1 l n)
  (if (null? l)
      n
      (length-1 (cdr l) (+ n 1))))
```



## Answer

```
(define (length-0 l)
  (if (null? l)
      0
      (+ 1 (length-0 (cdr l)))))
```

**Not tail recursive**  
**Adds (+ 1 \_) operation to stack**

```
(define (length-1 l n)
  (if (null? l)
      n
      (length-1 (cdr l) (+ n 1))))
```

**Is tail recursive!**  
**Call to length-1 in tail position**

# Structured Data

- A list is an example of a recursive data structure
  - Defined via a base case and inductive case:
    - A list is either the **empty list** / **null** / **'()**
    - Or a **cons cell** of any element and **another list**
- We can check whether it's `null?` or `cons?` or `list?`
- Can access via `car` and `cdr`; or `first` and `rest`
  - Many recursive functions on lists built using these



Write a function to calculate the sum of a list

```
; (sum-list '(1 2)) is 3  
(define (sum-list l)  
  ...)
```



Write a function to calculate the sum of a list

```
; (sum-list '(1 2)) is 3
(define (sum-list l)
  ...)
```

**Answer (one of many)**

```
(define (sum-list l)
  (if (eq? l '())
      0
      (+ (car l)
          (sum-list (cdr l)))))
```

# Accumulator Passing

- Many functions can be written by *passing an **accumulator***: a value that is repeatedly extended to obtain a final value.
- Esp. in tail-recursive / looping algorithms; e.g.:

```
(define (sum-list l)
  (define (sum-loop l acc)
    (if (empty? l)
        acc
        (sum-loop (rest l)
                    (+ acc (first l)))))
  (sum-loop l 0))
```



# S-exprs (*symbolic expressions*)

- The **S-expression** is our parenthesized notation for a list
  - Can use lists to group data common to some structure
- We can **tag** expressions with a symbol to note its “type”
  - `'(point 2 3)`
  - `'(square (point 0 1) 5)`
- Can define “constructor” functions

```
(define (mk-point x y)
  (list 'point x y))
```

```
(define (mk-square pt0 len)
  (list 'square pt0 len))
```

# quasi-quotes

- Racket offers **quasi-quotes** to build S-expressions fast
- ``(,x y 3)` is equivalent to `(list x `y `3)`
  - I.e., Racket splices in values that are unquoted via `,`
  - `(quasiquote ...)` will substitute any expression `,e` with the return value of `e` within the quoted S-expression
- Works multiple levels deep:
  - ``(square (point ,x0 ,y0) (point ,x1 ,y1))`
- Can unquote entire expressions:
  - ``(point ,(+ 1 x0) ,(- 1 y0))`



Define mk-point and mk-square using Quasi-quotation:

```
(define (mk-point x y)
  (list 'point x y))
(define (mk-square pt0 pt1)
  (list 'square pt0 pt1))
```



Define mk-point and mk-square using Quasi-quotation:


```
(define (mk-point x y)
  (list 'point x y))
(define (mk-square pt0 pt1)
  (list 'square pt0 pt1))
```

### Answer

```
(define (mk-point x y)
  `(point ,x ,y))
(define (mk-square pt0 pt1)
  `(square ,pt0 ,pt1))
```

# Pattern Matching

- Racket also has **pattern matching**
  - `(match e [pat0 body0] [pat1 body1]...)`
- Evaluates `e` and then checks each **pattern**, in order
- Pattern can bind variables, body can use pattern variables
- Many patterns (check docs to learn various useful forms)
- Patterns checked in order, first matching body is executed
  - Later bodies won't be executed, even if they also match!
- E.g., `(match '(1 2 3)`  
    `[` (,a ,b) b]`  
    `[` (,a . ,b) b]) ; returns '(2 3)`

Matching a literal  (match e

```
[ 'hello 'goodbye]  
[ (? number? n) (+ n 1) ]  
[ (? nonnegative-integer? n)  
  (+ n 2) ]  
[ (cons x y) x ]  
[ `( ,a0 ,a1 ,a2) (+ a1 a2) ] )
```

(binds n)

↓

(match e

['hello 'goodbye]

↓

[(? number? n) (+ n 1)]

←

[(? nonnegative-integer? n)

(+ n 2)]

Matches when e evaluates to some number?

[(cons x y) x]

[`( ,a0 ,a1 ,a2) (+ a1 a2)])

```
(match e
  ['hello 'goodbye]
  [(? number? n) (+ n 1)]
  [(? nonnegative-integer? n)
   (+ n 2)]
  [(cons x y) x]
  [`(,a0 ,a1 ,a2) (+ a1 a2)])
```

Never matches!

Subsumed by previous case!



```
(match e
  ['hello 'goodbye]
  [(? number? n) (+ n 1)]
  [(? nonnegative-integer? n)
   (+ n 2)]
  [(cons x y) x]
  [( ,a0 ,a1 ,a2) (+ a1 a2)])
```



Matches a cons cell, binds x and y

```
(match e
  ['hello 'goodbye]
  [(? number? n) (+ n 1)]
  [(? nonnegative-integer? n)
   (+ n 2)]
  [(cons x y) x]
  [`(,a0 ,a1 ,a2) (+ a1 a2)])
```



Matches a list of length three

Binds first element as `a0`, second as `a1`, etc...

Called a "quasi-pattern"

Can also test predicates on bound vars:

```
`(, (? nonnegative-integer? x) , (? positive? y))
```

```
(match e
  ['hello 'goodbye]
  [(? number? n) (+ n 1)]
  [(? nonnegative-integer? n)
   (+ n 2)]
  [(cons x y) x]
  [`(,a0 ,a1 ,a2) (+ a1 a2)]
  [else 23])
```



Can also have a **default case** written via **else**



Define a function `foo` that returns:

- twice its argument, if its argument is a number?
- the first two elements of a list, if its argument is a list of length three, as a list
- the string "error" if it is anything else

```
(define (foo x)
  (match x
    [(? ...) ...]
    ...))
```



Define a function `foo` that returns:

- twice its argument, if its argument is a number?
- the first two elements of a list, if its argument is a list of length three, as a list
- the string "error" if it is anything else

**Answer (one of many)**

```
(define (foo x)
  (match x
    [(? number? n) (* n 2)]
    [`(,a ,b ,_) `(,a ,b)]
    [else "error"])))
```



Define a function `foo` that returns:

- twice its argument, if its argument is a number?
- the first two elements of a list, if its argument is a list of length three, as a list
- the string "error" if it is anything else

**Answer (one of many)**

```
(define (foo x)
  (match x
    [(? number? n) (* n 2)]
    [`(,a ,b ,_) `(,a ,b)]
    [else "error"])))
```

Observe how quasipatterns and  
quasiquotes interact

# Structural Recursion

- **Structural recursion**
  - Recurs on some smaller piece of the input obtained by **destructing** (e.g., matching) on it.
- Easy to prove termination
  - Code is making input smaller at each recursive step, thus will eventually bottom out
- Much of the code you will write is structurally recursive
- But some things cannot be expressed in a structurally recursive way
  - E.g., *generative recursion*, other algorithms, ...



Consider that we define trees as follows:

```
(define (tree? t)
  (match t
    [`(leaf ,n) #t]
    [`(node ,(? tree? t0) ,(? tree? t1)) #t]
    [else #f]))
```

Assuming trees are sorted, write a recursive function using match patterns, `(least t)` to get the smallest element in the tree (i.e., bottom left leaf).

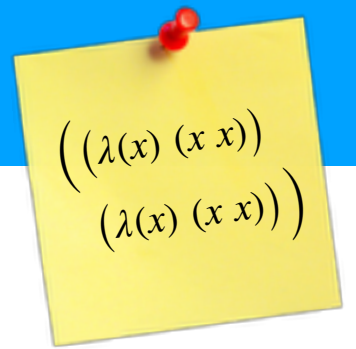
`(least (node (leaf 0) (leaf 1)))` should be 0

(Hint: look at the definition of `tree?`)



# Generative Recursion

- **Generative recursion**
  - Recurs on some structure built / calculated from input
- Not as easy (in general) to prove termination
  - How do we know it won't just loop forever?
- Strictly **more powerful** than structural recursion
  - Some programs we can't write w/ just structural recursion
  - E.g., QuickSort



**QuickSort** is a popular and fast sorting comparative sorting algorithm with  $O(n \cdot \log(n))$  complexity

- To sort list  $l$ , first choose a **pivot** element (arbitrary),  $p$ , from  $l$
- Next, construct  $l'$  of the elements in  $l$  that are  $< p$
- Also, construct  $l''$  of the elements in  $l$  that are  $> p$
- Now, return...
  - $\text{QuickSort}(l') ++ [p] ++ \text{QuickSort}(l'')$

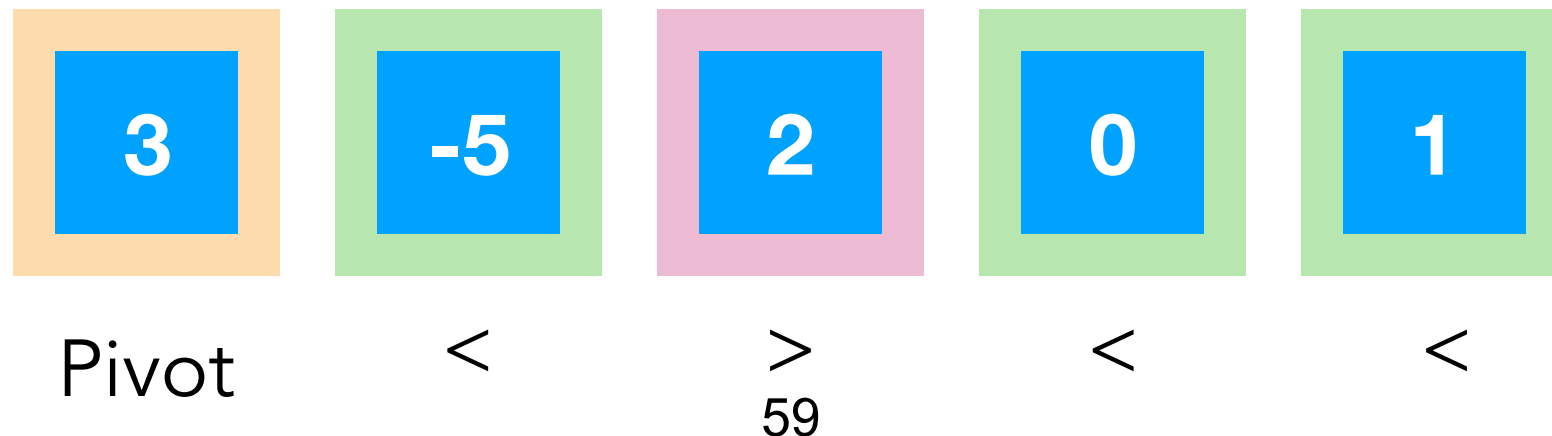


# Example

$\left( \begin{array}{l} (\lambda(x) (x x)) \\ (\lambda(x) (x x)) \end{array} \right)$

**QuickSort** is a popular and fast sorting comparative sorting algorithm with  $O(n \cdot \log(n))$  complexity

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# Example

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# Example

$((\lambda(x) (x x))$   
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- Now, return...
  - $\text{QuickSort}(l') ++ [p] ++ \text{QuickSort}(l'')$

-5

0

1

Now sort these!

3

Pivot

2

>

# Example

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**QuickSort** is a popular and fast sorting comparative sorting algorithm with  $O(n \cdot \log(n))$  complexity

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# Example

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-5

0

1

3

2

Now run quicksort on **these**

Pivot

>

# Example

$\left( \begin{array}{l} (\lambda(x) (x x)) \\ (\lambda(x) (x x)) \end{array} \right)$

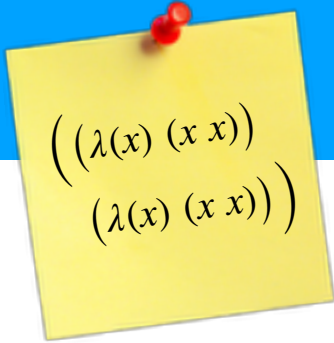
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# Example



$((\lambda(x) (x x))$   
 $(\lambda(x) (x x)))$

**QuickSort** is a popular and fast sorting comparative sorting algorithm with  $O(n \cdot \log(n))$  complexity

- To sort list  $l$ , first choose a **pivot** element (arbitrary),  $p$ , from  $l$
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- Now, return...
  - $\text{QuickSort}(l') ++ [p] ++ \text{QuickSort}(l'')$

**Now all sorted!**



Original pivot  
65

Just returns 2



Write a function which returns the elements in a list, `l`, which are less than some number `n`

```
(define (elements< l n)
  ...)
```

Hint: use `match`



Write a function which returns the elements in a list, `l`, which are less than some number `n`

Answer (one of many)

```
(define (elements< l n)
  (match l
    ['() '()]
    [`(,first ,rest ...)
     #:when (< first n)
     (cons first
           (elements< rest n))]
    [else (elements< (rest l) n)]))
```



Can also easily write `elements>`

```
(define (elements< l n)
  (match l
    ['() '()]
    [`(,first ,rest ...) #:when (< first n)
      (cons first (elements< rest n))]
    [else (elements< (rest l) n)]))
```

```
(define (elements> l n)
  (match l
    ['() '()]
    [`(,first ,rest ...) #:when (> first n)
      (cons first (elements> rest n))]
    [else (elements> (rest l) n)]))
```

**Redundant**, will fix next week



## Complete the definition

- To sort list  $l$ , first choose a **pivot** element (arbitrary),  $p$ , from  $l$
- Next, construct  $l'$  of the elements in  $l$  that are  $< p$
- Also, construct  $l''$  of the elements in  $l$  that are  $> p$
- Now, return...
  - $\text{QuickSort}(l') ++ [p] ++ \text{QuickSort}(l'')$

```
(define (quicksort l)
  (if (empty? l)
      '()
      (let* ([pivot (first l)]
              [restl (rest l)]
              [elements-lt (elements< restl pivot)]
              [elements-gt (elements> restl pivot)])
        ...)))
```



```
(define (quicksort l)
  (if (empty? l)
      '()
      (let* ([pivot (first l)]
             [restl (rest l)]
             [elements-lt (elements< restl pivot)]
             [elements-gt (elements> restl pivot)])
        (append
         (quicksort elements-lt)
         (list pivot)
         (quicksort elements-gt))))))
```

**Unfortunately, our implementation still has a bug!**



**Exercise: find a list  $l$  such that**

`(not (equal? (sort l <) (quicksort l)))`

```
(define (quicksort l)
  (if (empty? l)
      '()
      (let* ([pivot (first l)]
              [restl (rest l)]
              [elements-lt (elements< restl pivot)]
              [elements-gt (elements> restl pivot)])
        (append
         (quicksort elements-lt)
         (list pivot)
         (quicksort elements-gt)))))
```



## Our QuickSort “drops” numbers

```
(not (equal? (sort '(1 1) <)  
             (quicksort '(1 1))))
```

```
(define (quicksort l)  
  (if (empty? l)  
      '()  
      (let* ([pivot (first l)]  
              [restl (rest l)]  
              [elements-lt (elements< restl pivot)]  
              [elements-gt (elements> restl pivot)])  
        (append  
          (quicksort elements-lt)  
          (list pivot)  
          (quicksort elements-gt))))))
```





**Solution is to make pivot a list!**

```
(define (quicksort l)
  (if (empty? l)
      '()
      (let* ([pivot (first l)]
              [pivot-list (elements= l pivot)]
              [restl (remove pivot l)]
              [elements-lt (elements< restl pivot)]
              [elements-gt (elements> restl pivot)])
        (append
         (quicksort elements-lt)
         pivot-list
         (quicksort elements-gt))))))
```



Observe: QuickSort recursive on data **built from** input

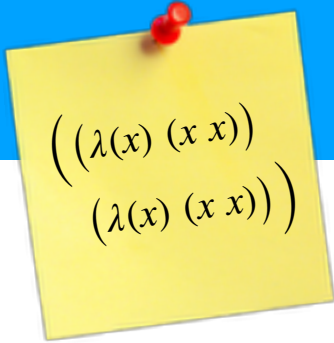
Thus, QuickSort uses **generative recursion**

```
(define (quicksort l)
  (if (empty? l)
      '()
      (let* ([pivot (first l)]
              [pivot-list (elements= l pivot)]
              [restl (remove pivot l)]
              [elements-lt (elements< restl pivot)]
              [elements-gt (elements> restl pivot)])
        (append
         (quicksort elements-lt)
         pivot-list
         (quicksort elements-gt))))))
```

# Differential / Random Testing

- Want to be **very sure** our code is right
- One strategy: **fuzzing** ("fuzz testing")
  - Generate huge amounts of input, throw it at our code
- One issue: need to check answer is correct
  - Idea one: compare against **known good** version
    - This is "differential" testing
    - Sometimes want a "slow" and "fast" version
      - Slow is obviously-correct but slow
  - Idea two: just check some **properties** of output
    - **Property-based** testing

## Example



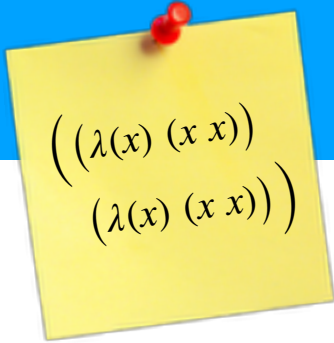
$((\lambda(x) (x x))$   
 $(\lambda(x) (x x)))$

Let's write a differential fuzzer for our QuickSort algorithm

```
(define (random-list i n)
  (if (= i 0)
      '()
      (cons (random 0 n)
              (random-list (- i 1) n))))
```

Generate random list of length  $i$ , whose elements are all in  $[0, n-1]$

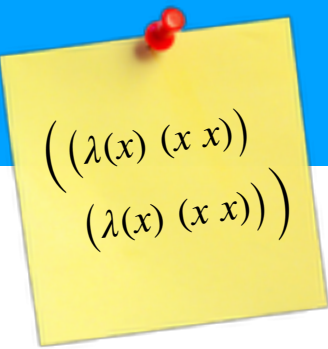
# Example



$((\lambda(x) (x x))$   
 $(\lambda(x) (x x)))$

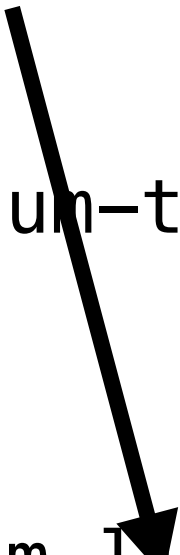
```
(define (counterexamples num-tries list-size max-n)
  (define (loop i l)
    (if (= i 0)
        l
        (let* ([lst (random-list list-size max-n)]
                [sorted-via-sort (sort lst <)]
                [sorted-via-qsort (quicksort lst)])
          (if (equal? sorted-via-sort sorted-via-qsort)
              (loop (- i 1) l)
              (loop (- i 1) (cons lst l))))))
  (loop num-tries '()))
```

# Example



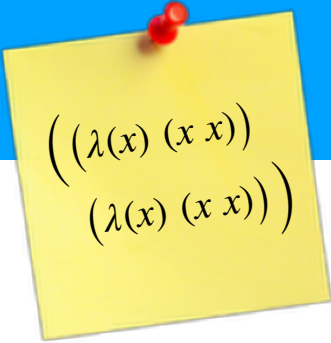
$((\lambda(x) (x x))$   
 $(\lambda(x) (x x)))$

Compare our quicksort against Racket's sort



```
(define (counterexamples num-tries list-size max-n)
  (define (loop i l)
    (if (= i 0)
        l
        (let* ([lst (random-list list-size max-n)]
                [sorted-via-sort (sort lst <)]
                [sorted-via-qsort (quicksort lst)])
          (if (equal? sorted-via-sort sorted-via-qsort)
              (loop (- i 1) l)
              (loop (- i 1) (cons lst l))))))
  (loop num-tries '()))
```

# Example



$((\lambda(x) (x x))$   
 $(\lambda(x) (x x)))$

```
(define (counterexamples num-tries list-size max-n)
  (define (loop i l)
    (if (= i 0)
        l
        (let* ([lst (random-list list-size max-n)]
                [sorted-via-sort (sort lst <)]
                [sorted-via-qsort (quicksort lst)])
          (if (equal? sorted-via-sort sorted-via-qsort)
              (loop (- i 1) l)
              (loop (- i 1) (cons lst l))))))
  (loop num-tries '()))

(counterexamples 300 300 1000)
```