

Attack of the Clones

ESC101: Fundamentals of Computing

Purushottam Kar

Recursion

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We used the proof for the case $n-1$ to prove the case n

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Disadvantage: loop solutions sometimes very difficult to write and read

Advantage: loop solutions can be much faster than recursion solution



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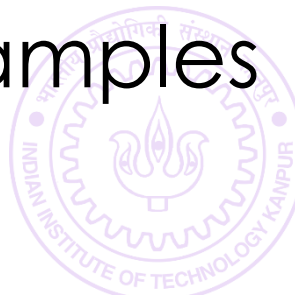
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Will see several examples of this in ESC101. More examples in advanced courses e.g. ESO207, CS345



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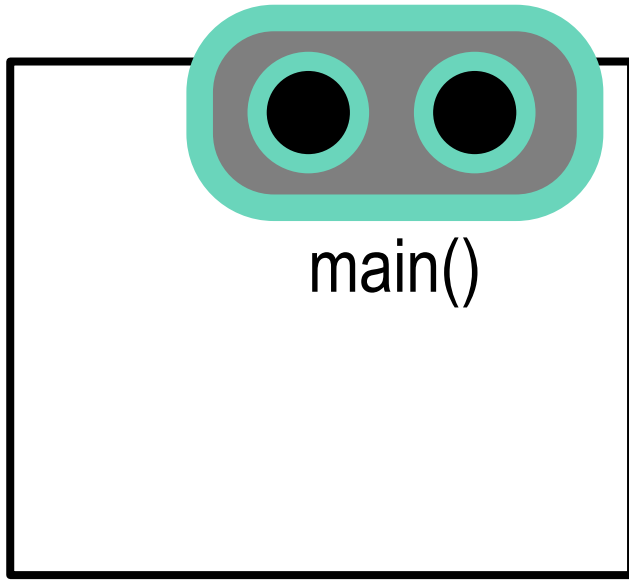
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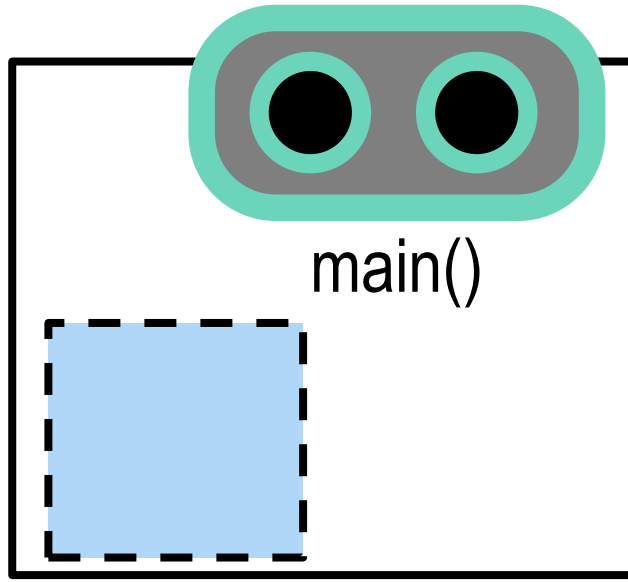
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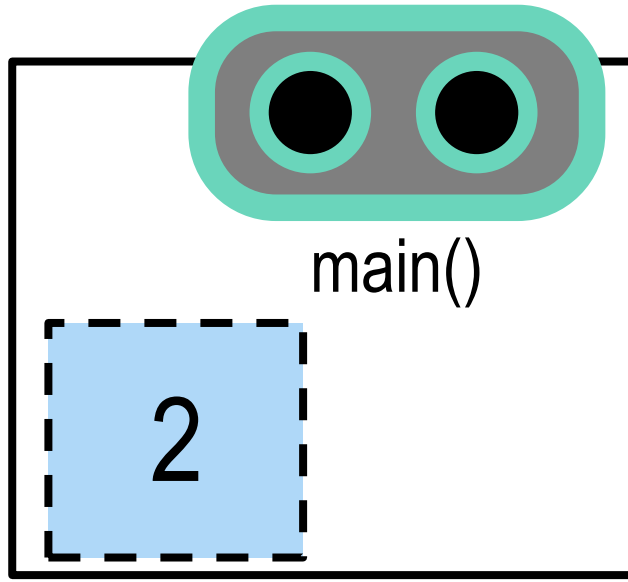
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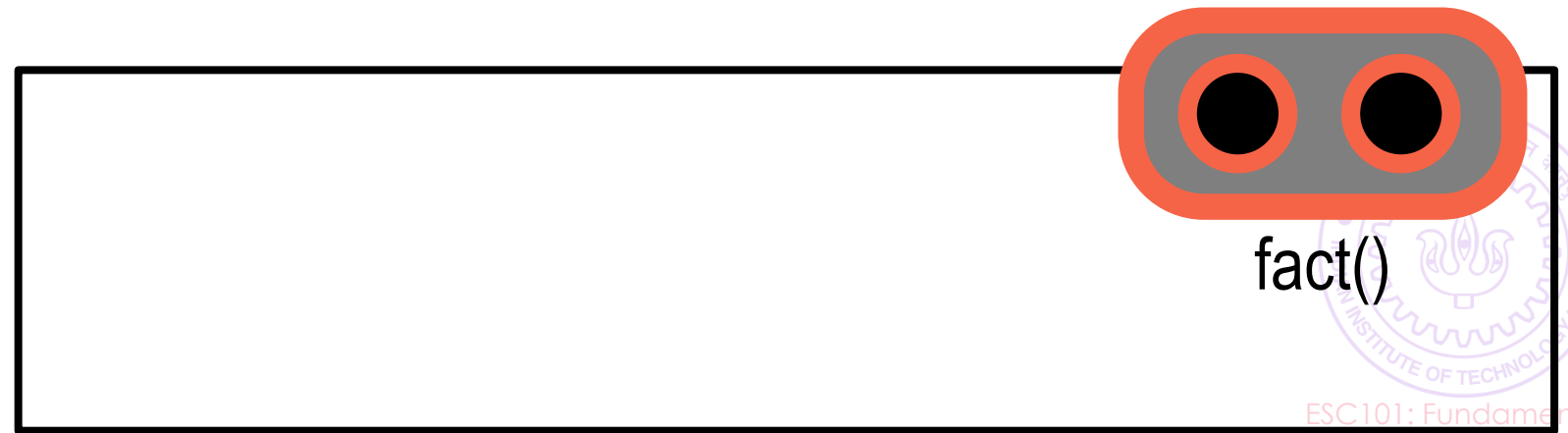
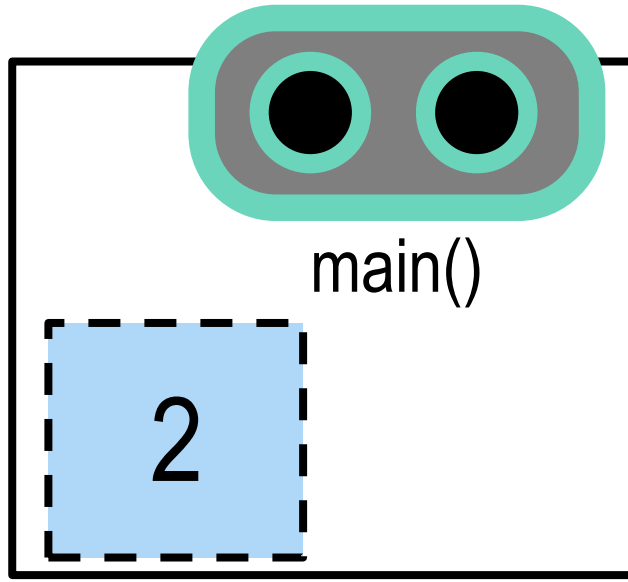
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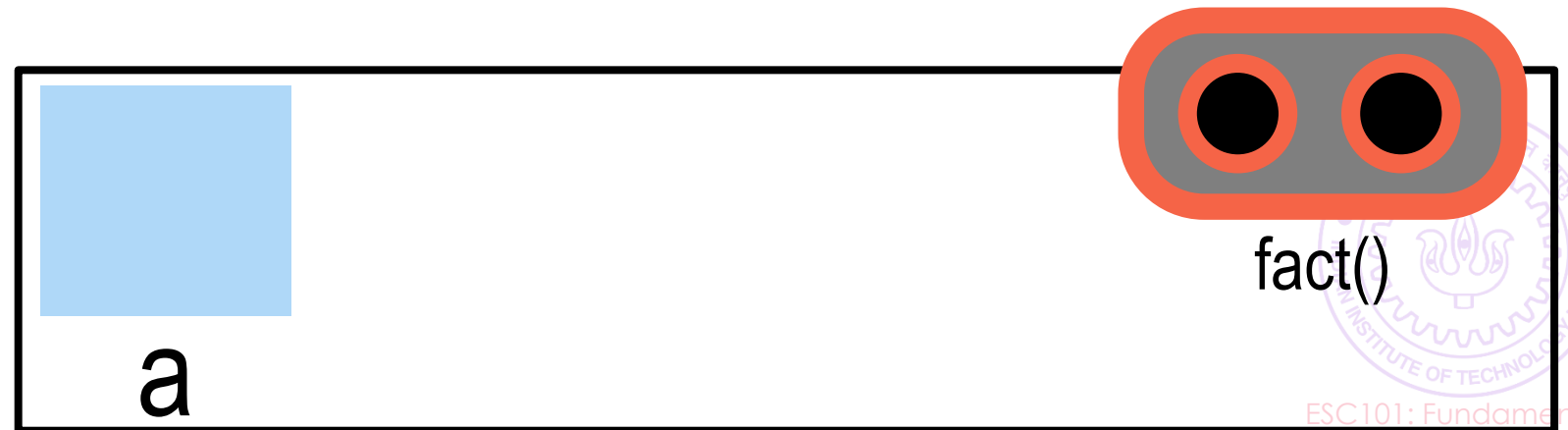
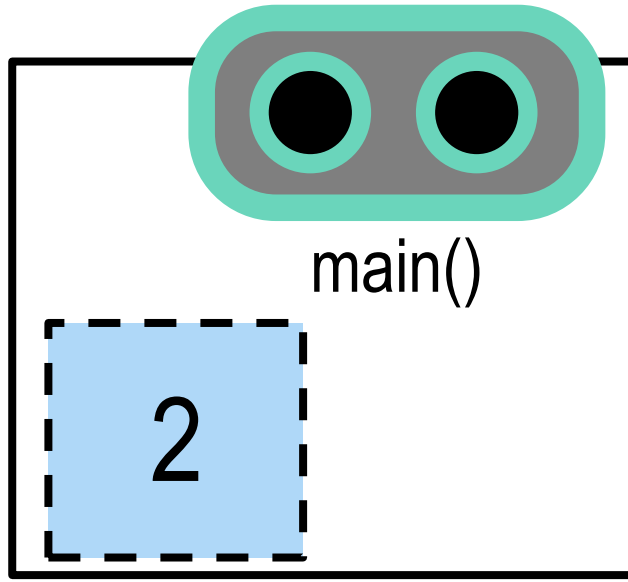
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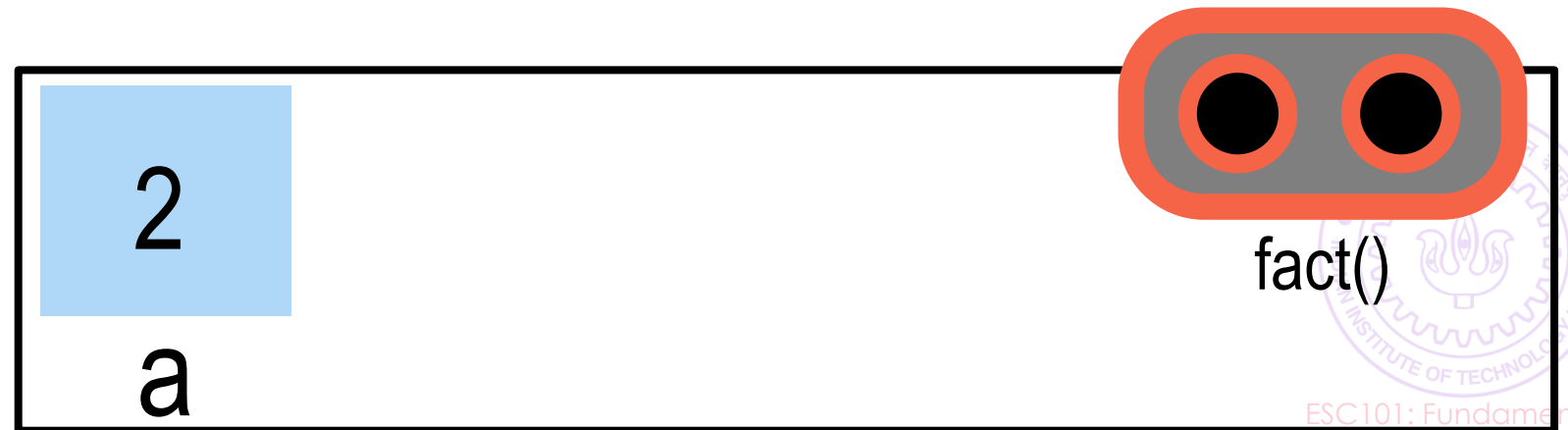
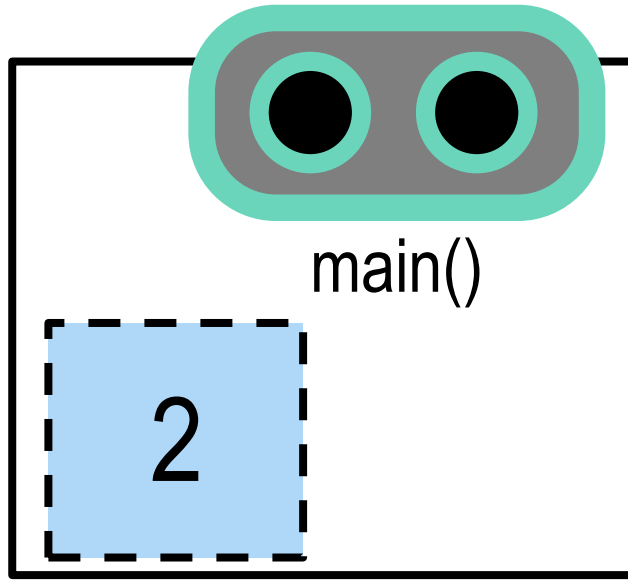
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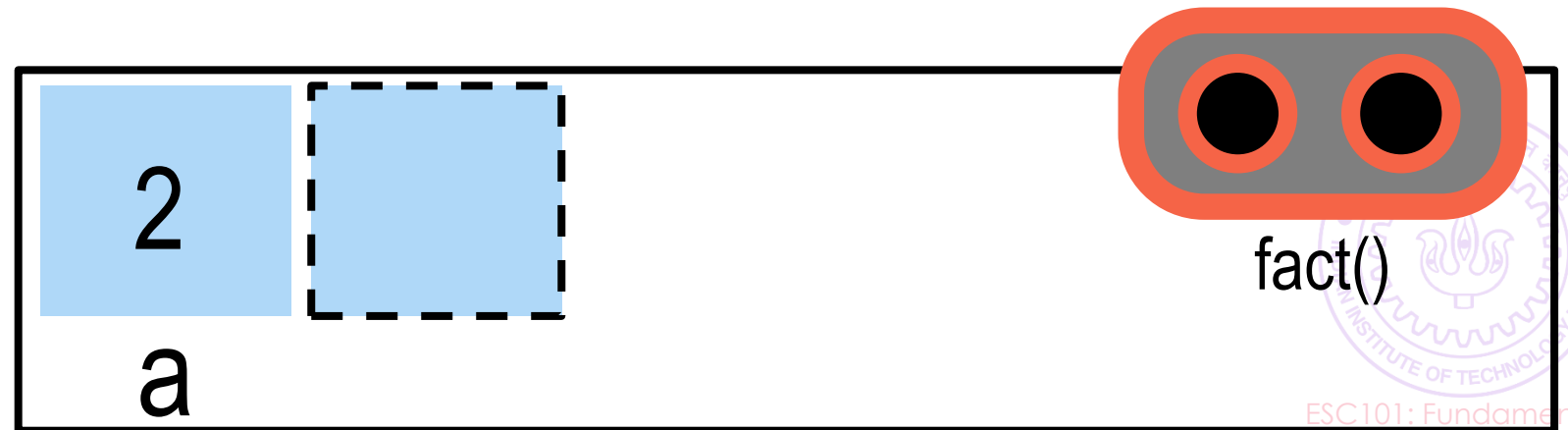
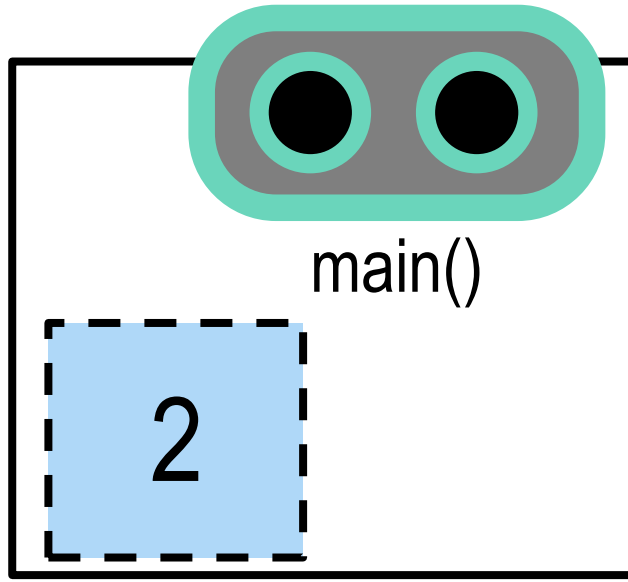
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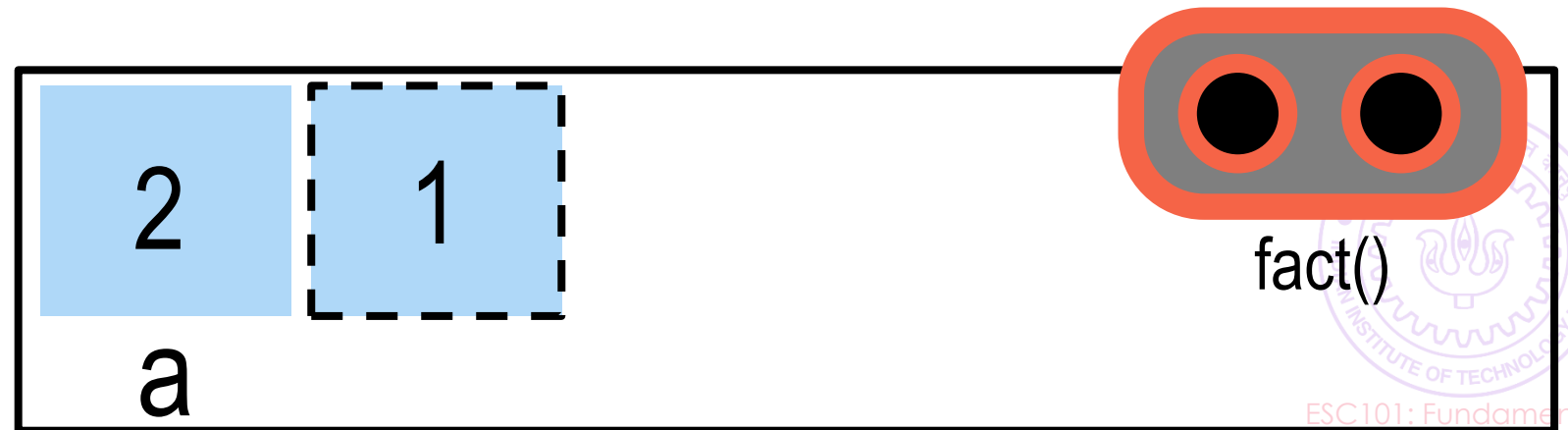
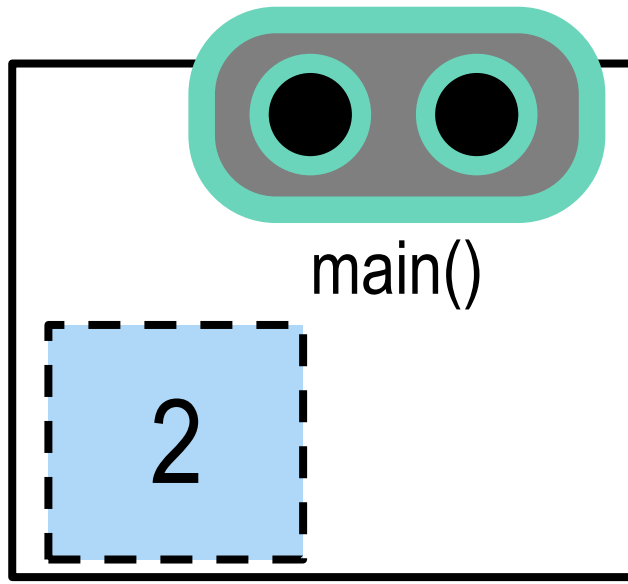
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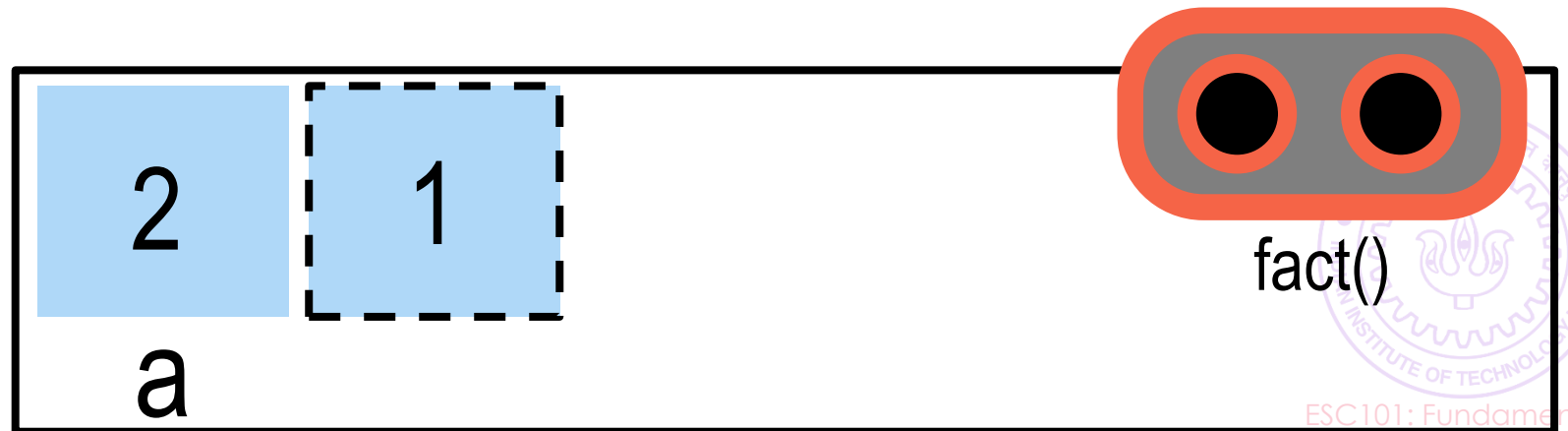
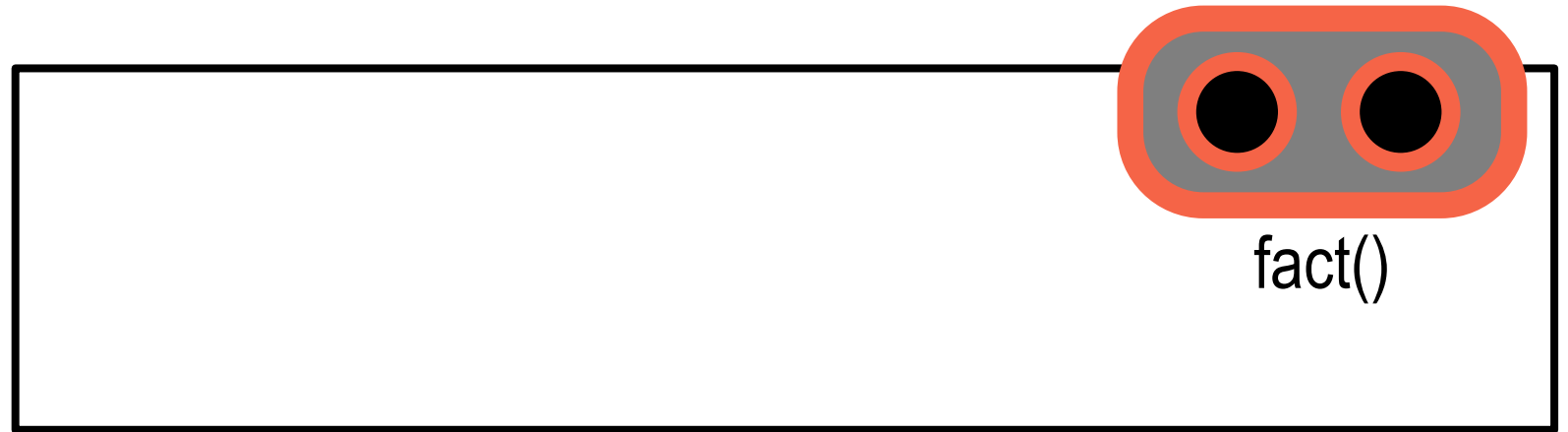
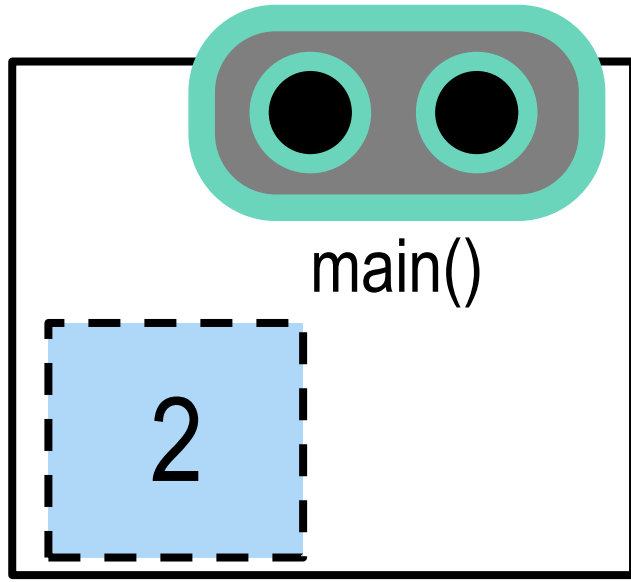
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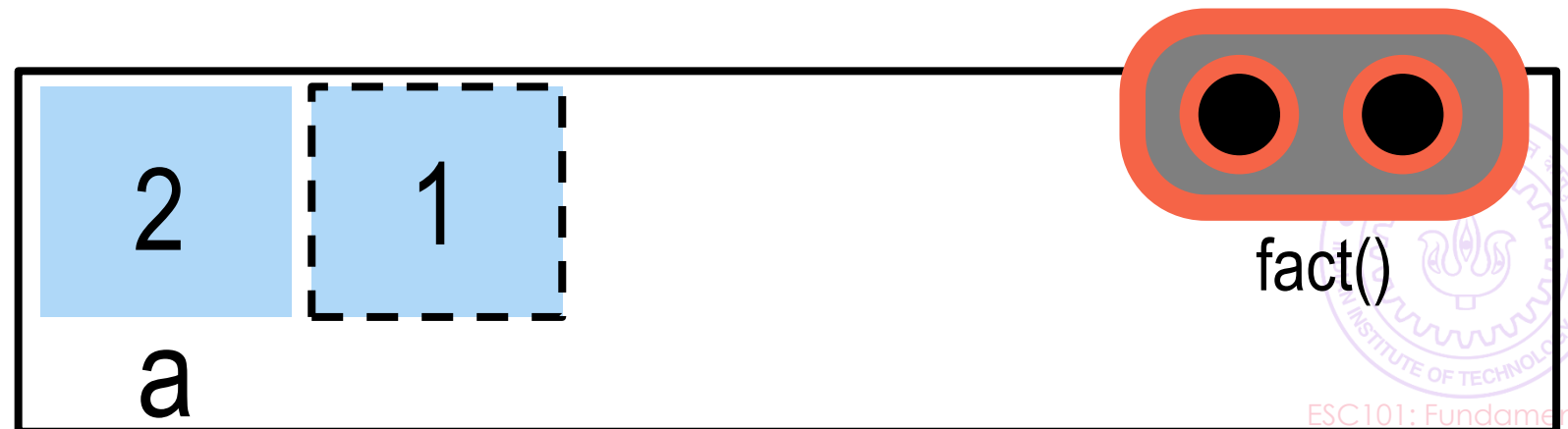
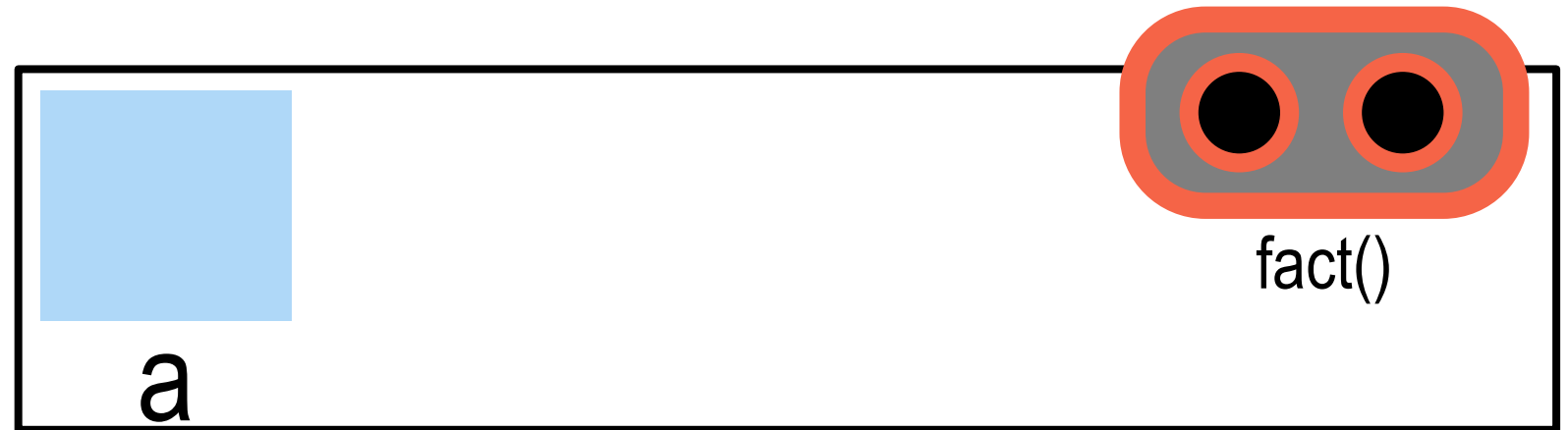
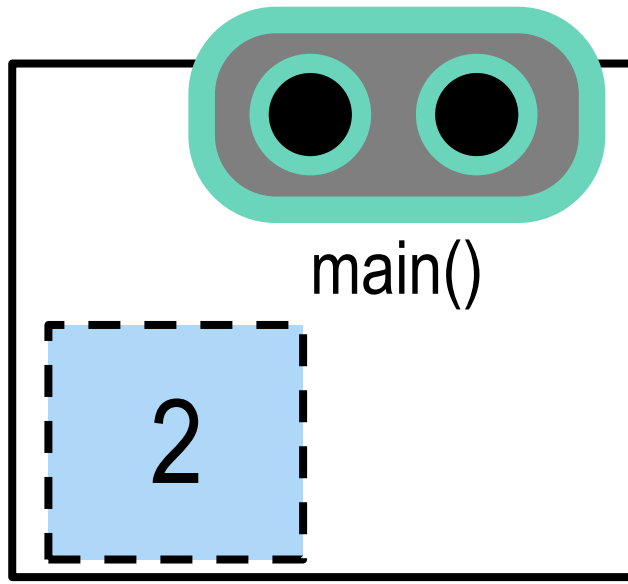
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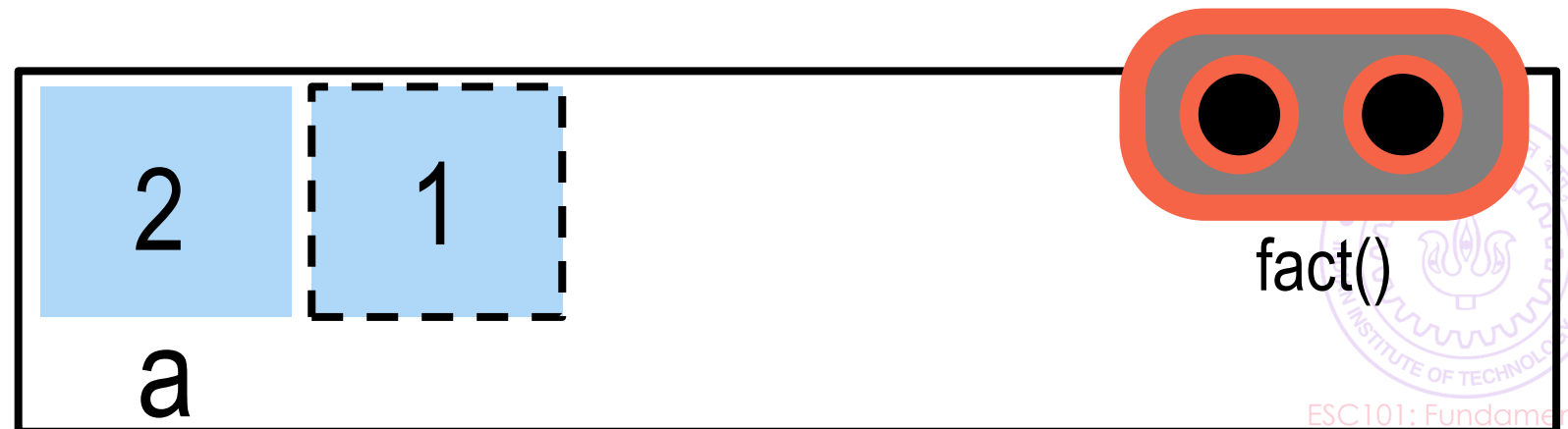
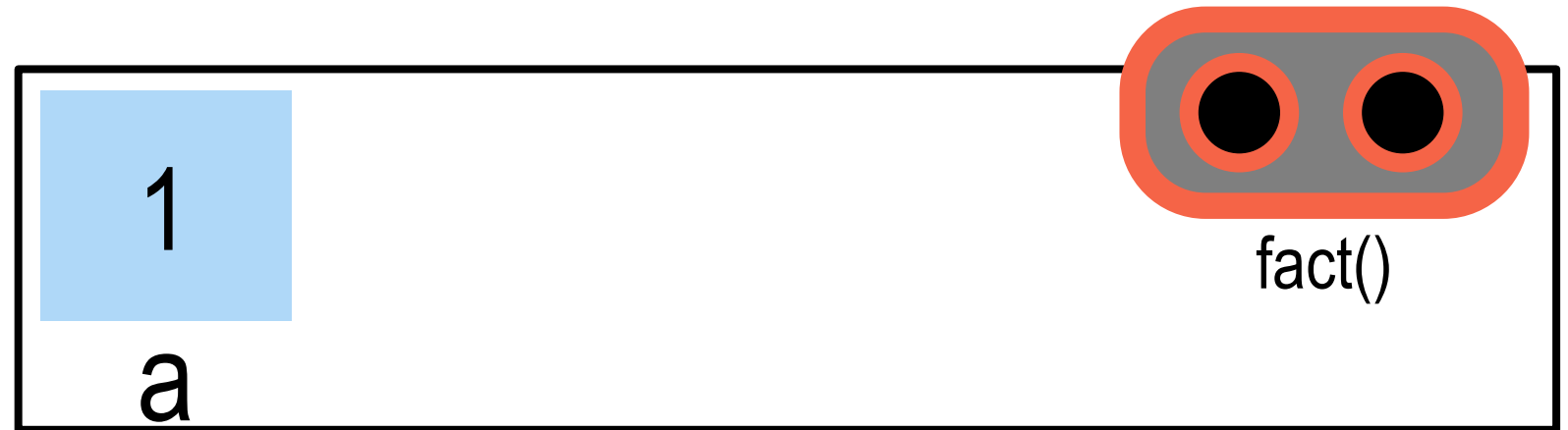
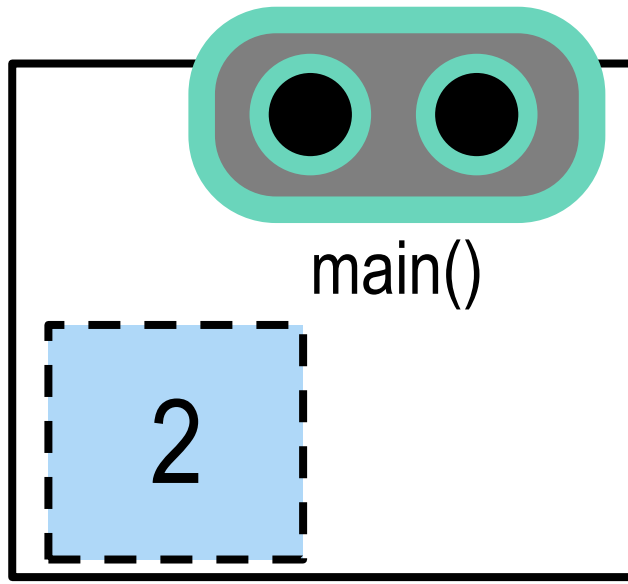
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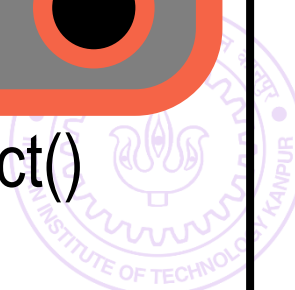
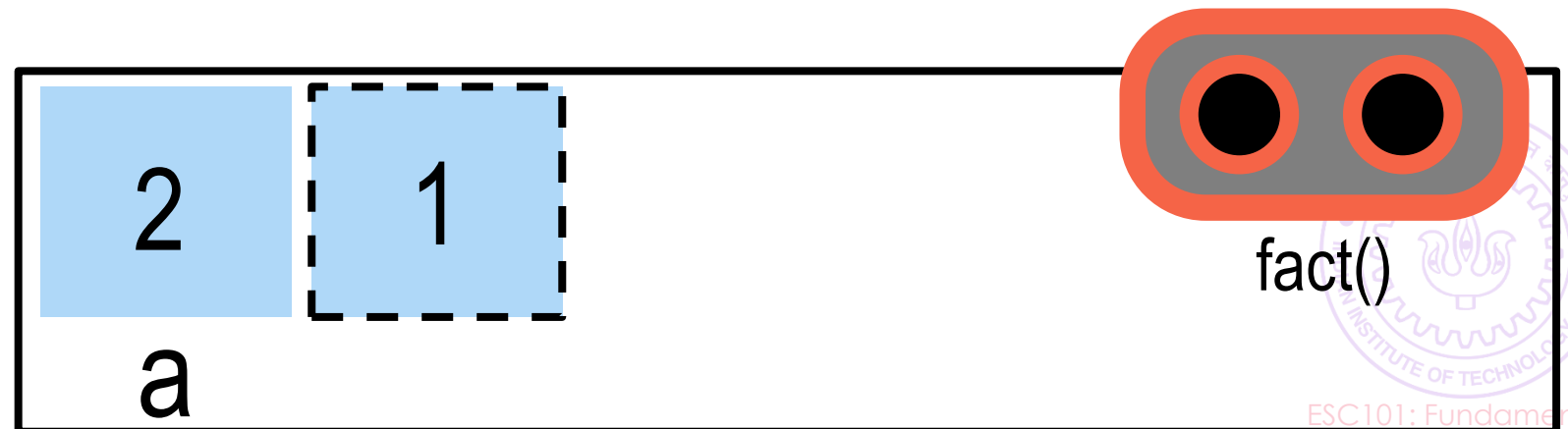
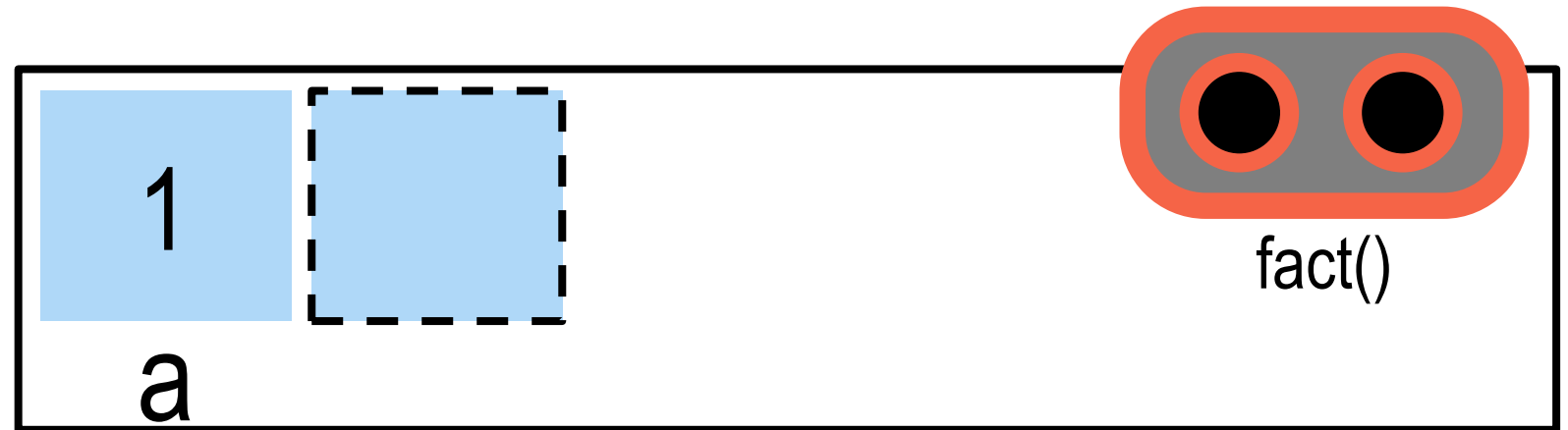
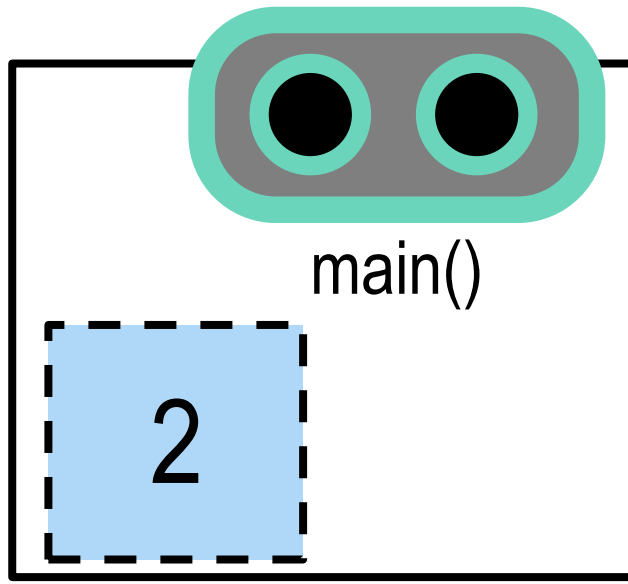


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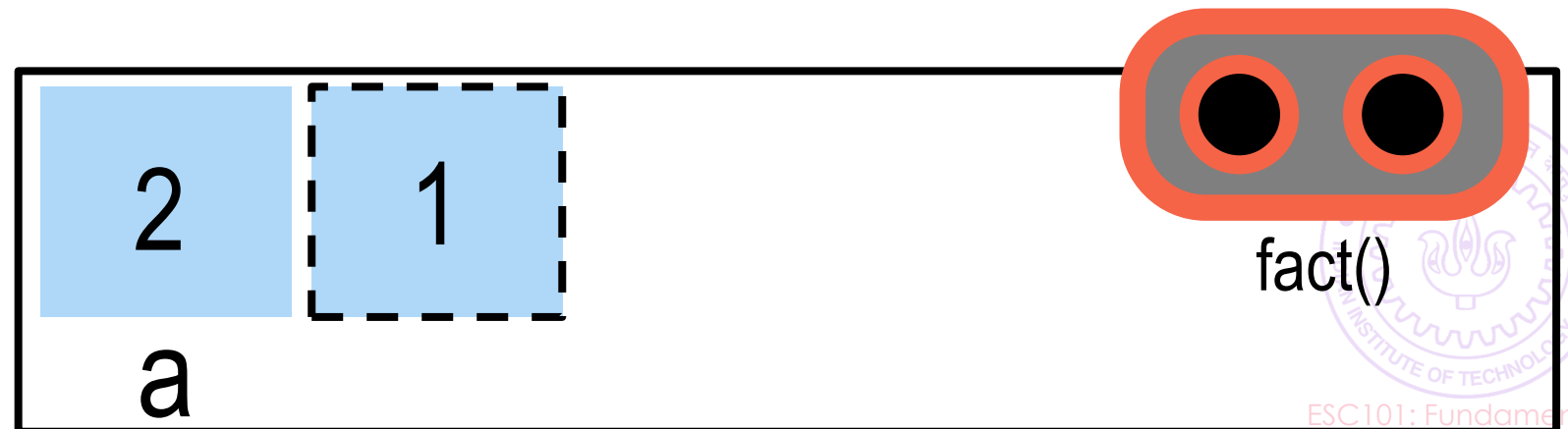
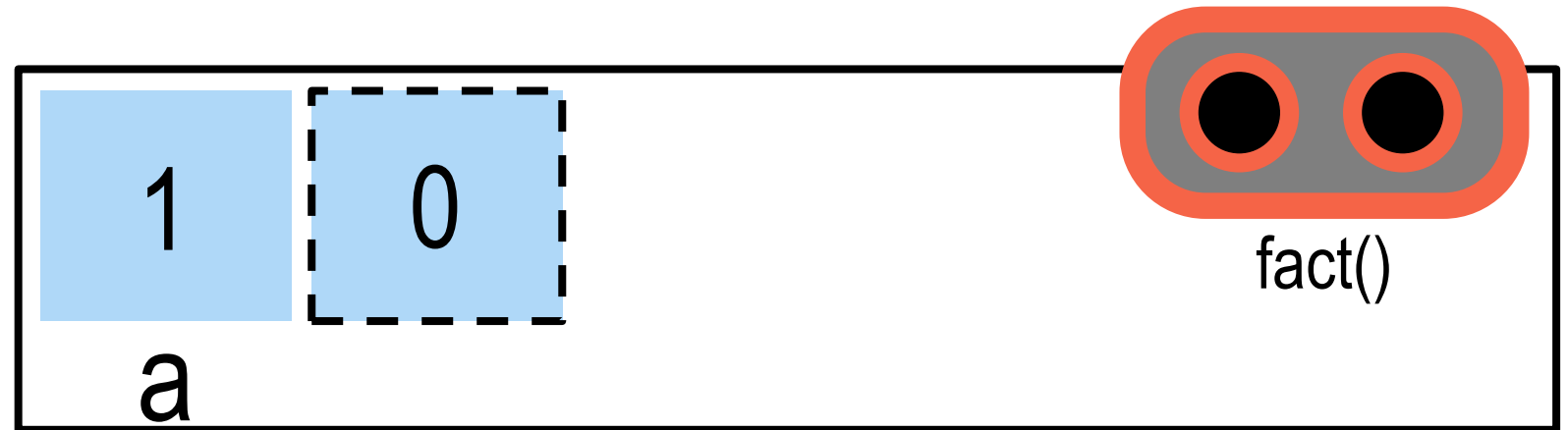
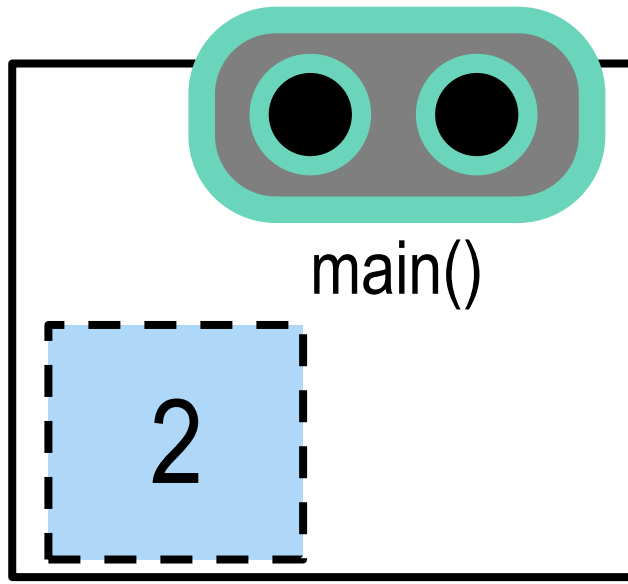


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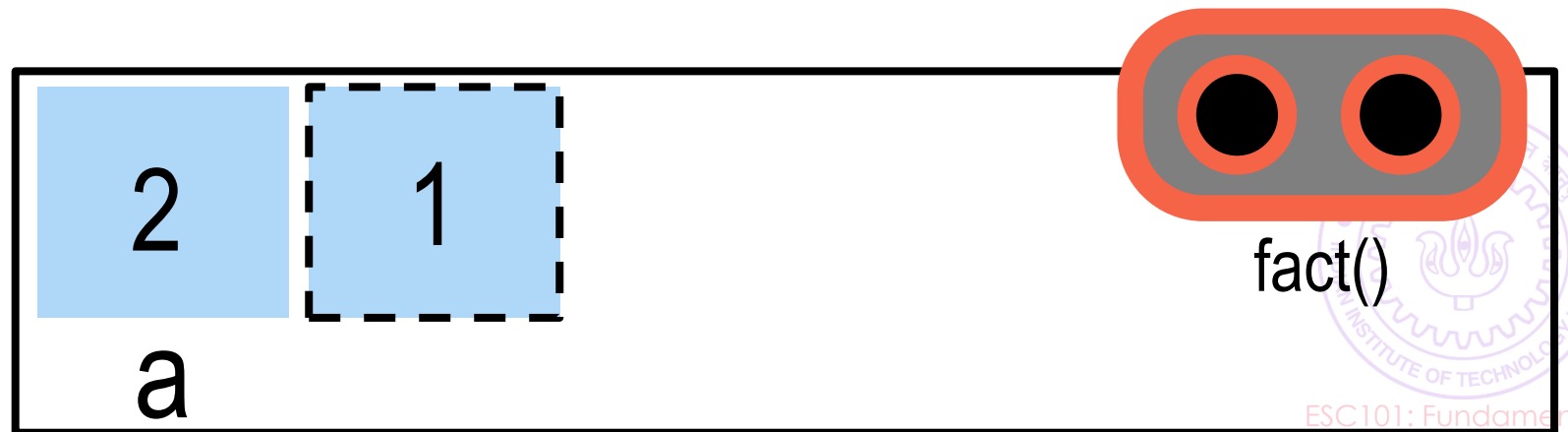
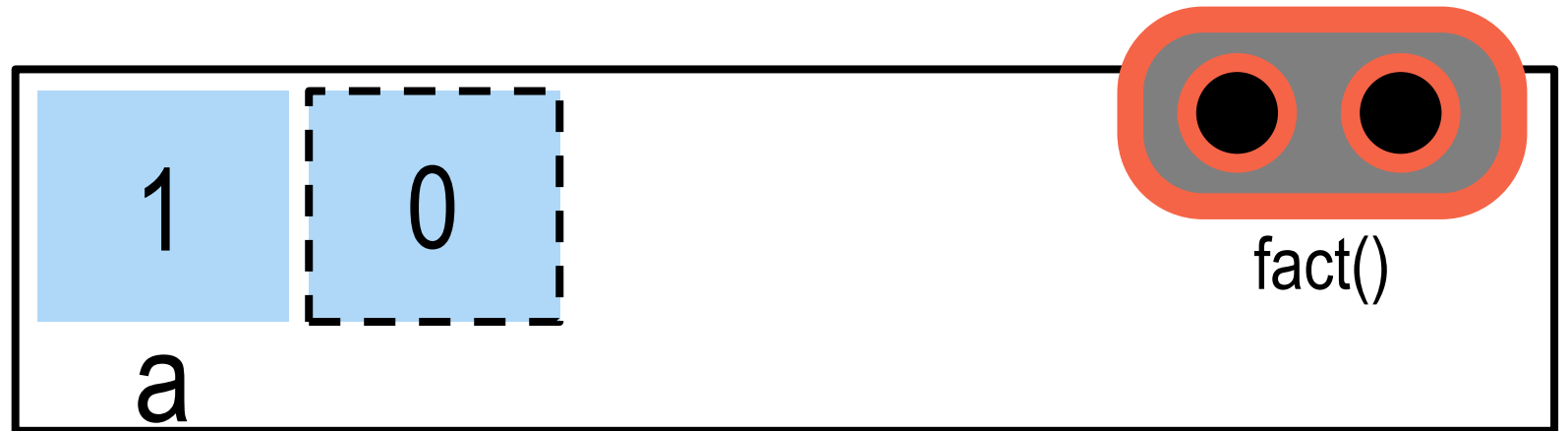
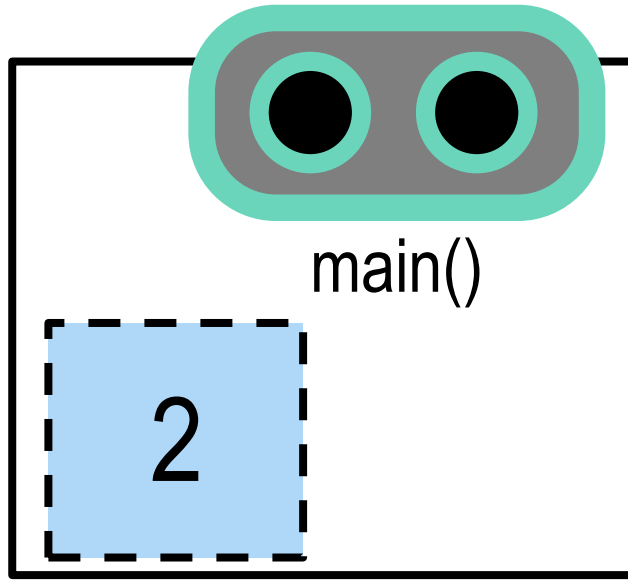
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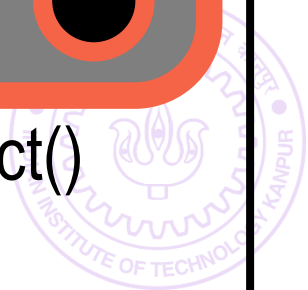
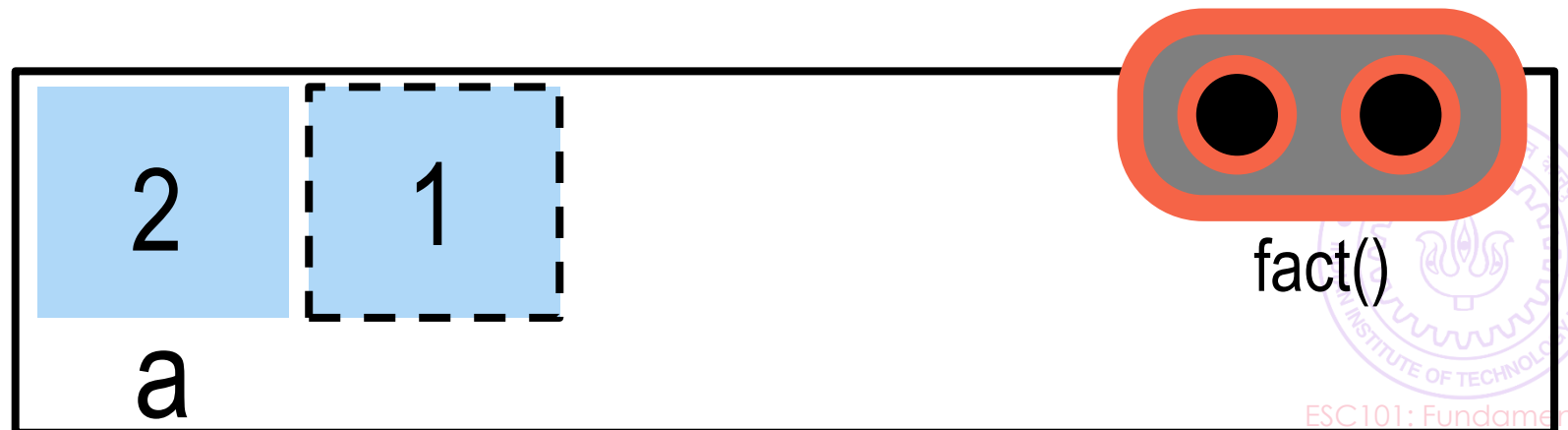
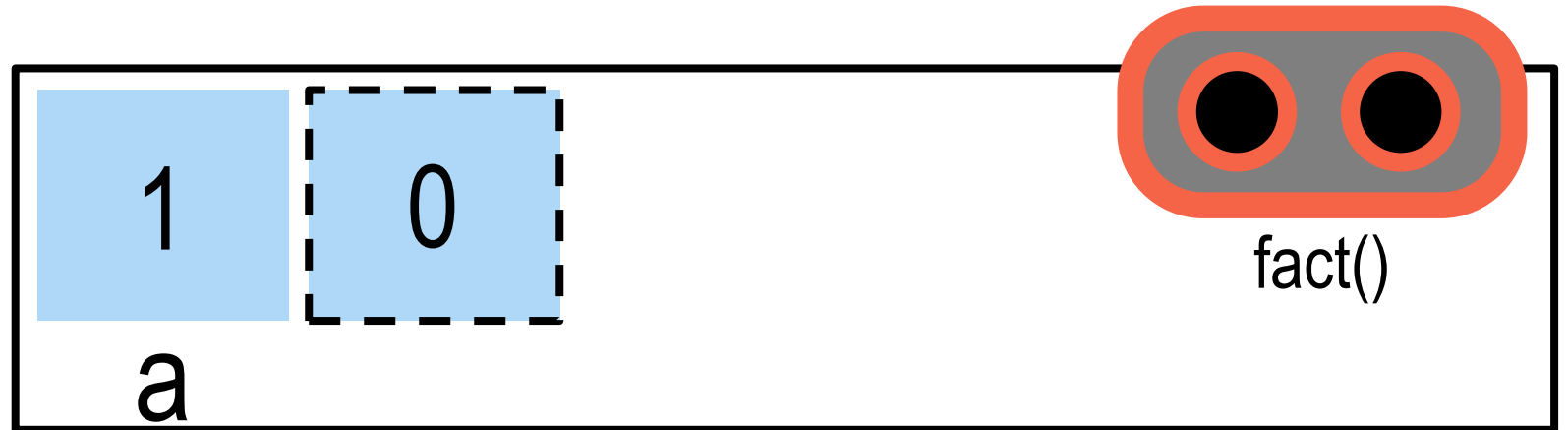
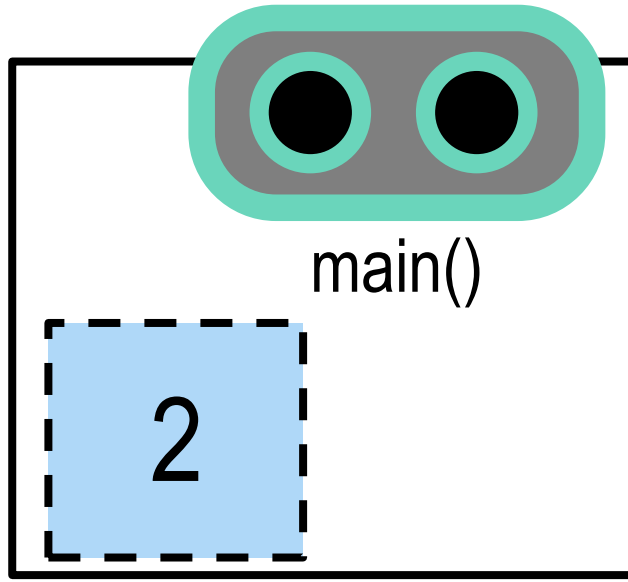
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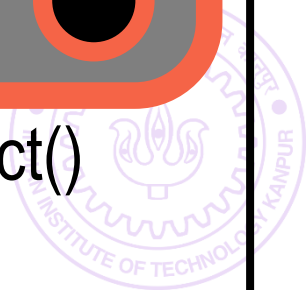
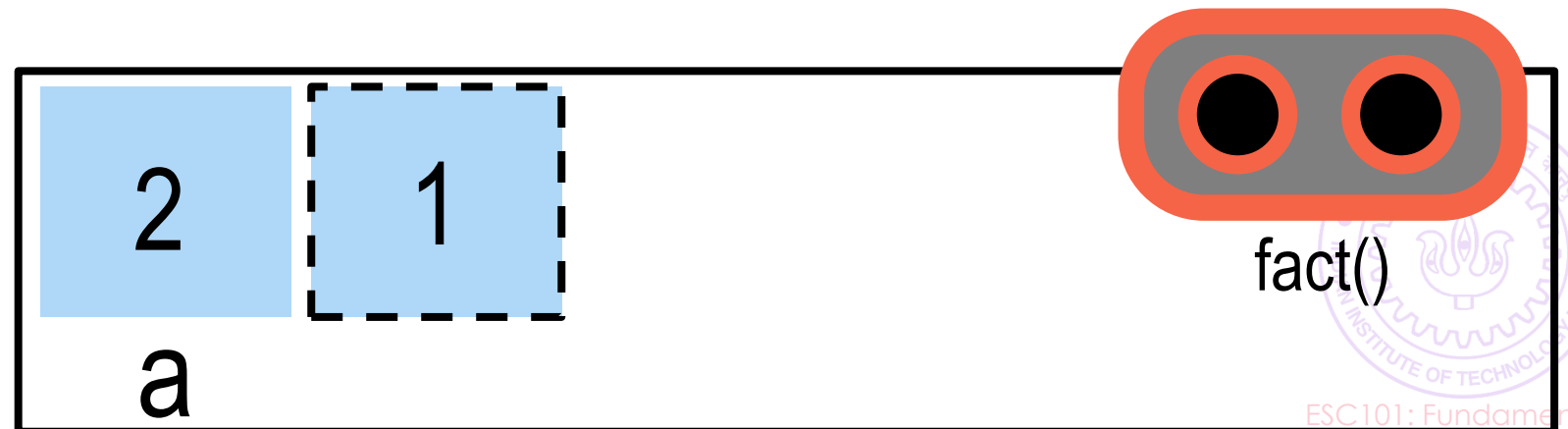
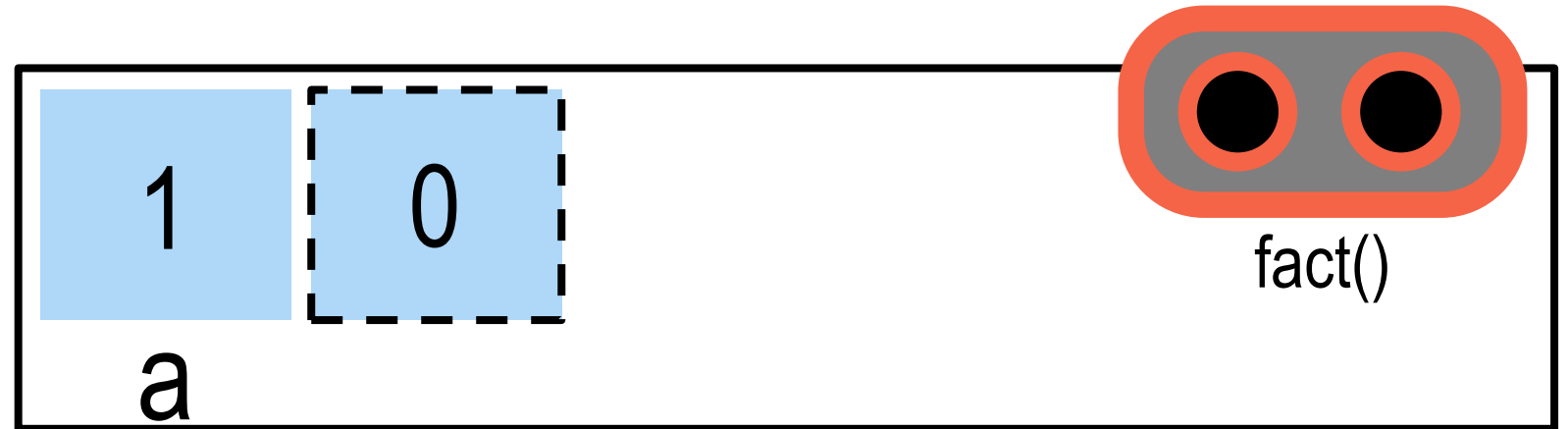
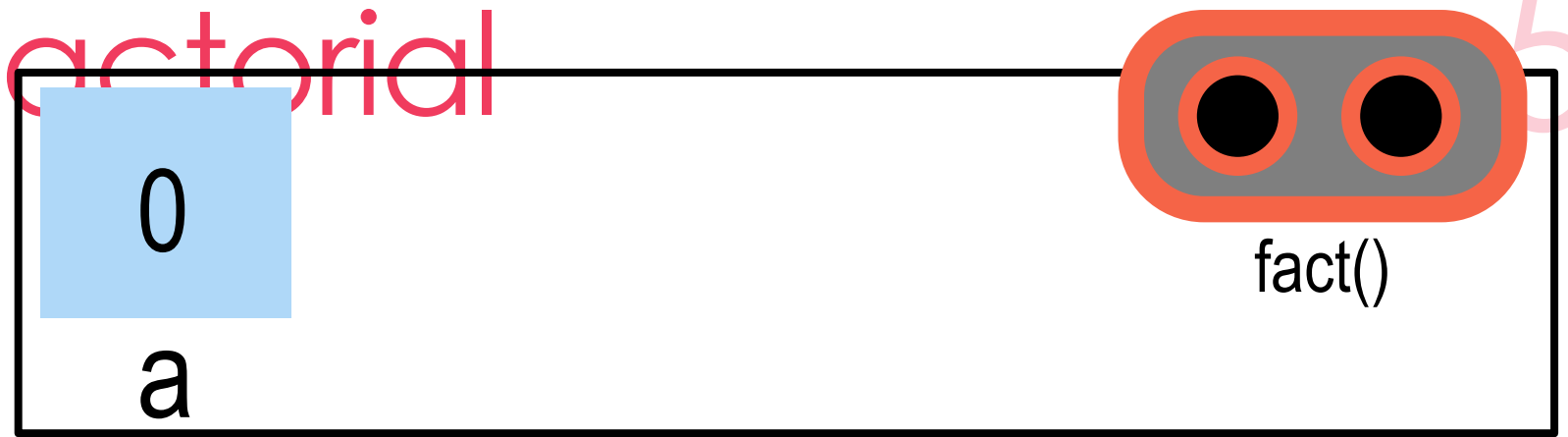
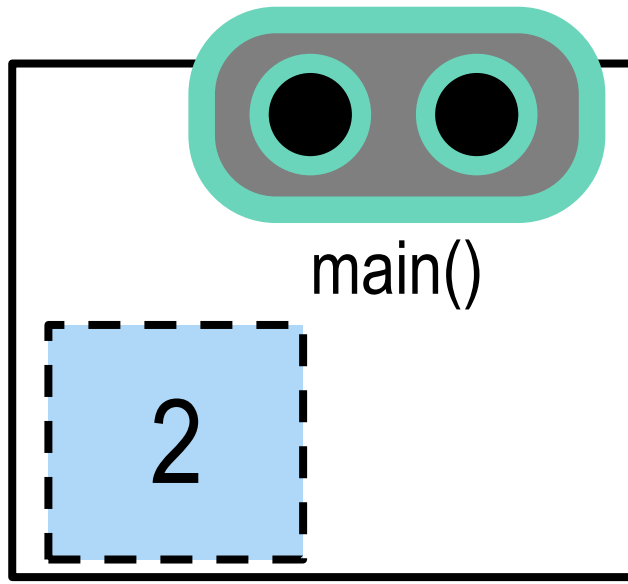
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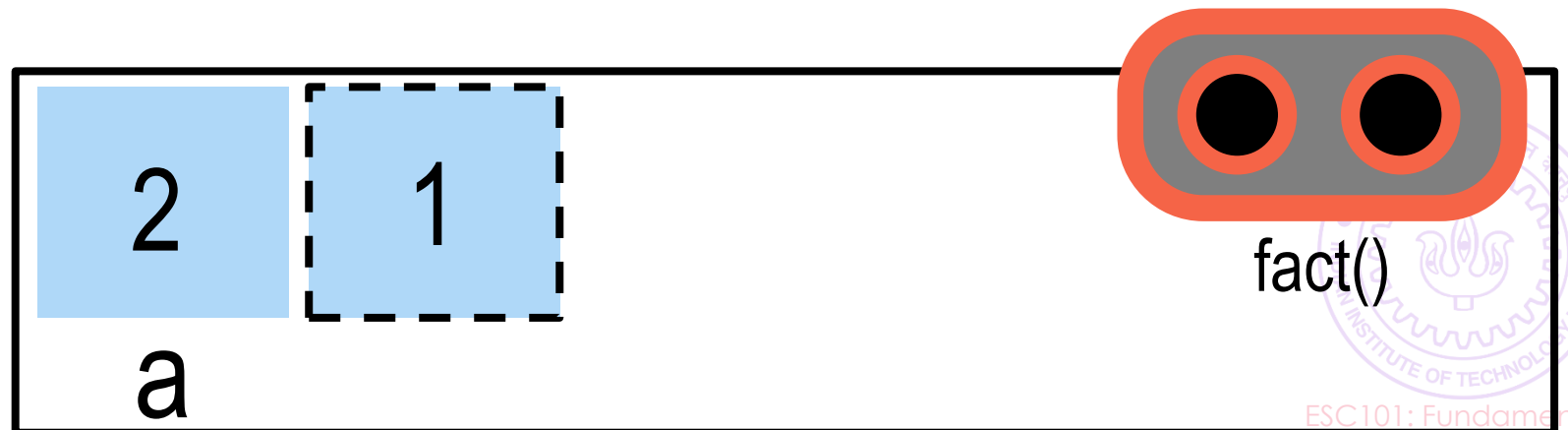
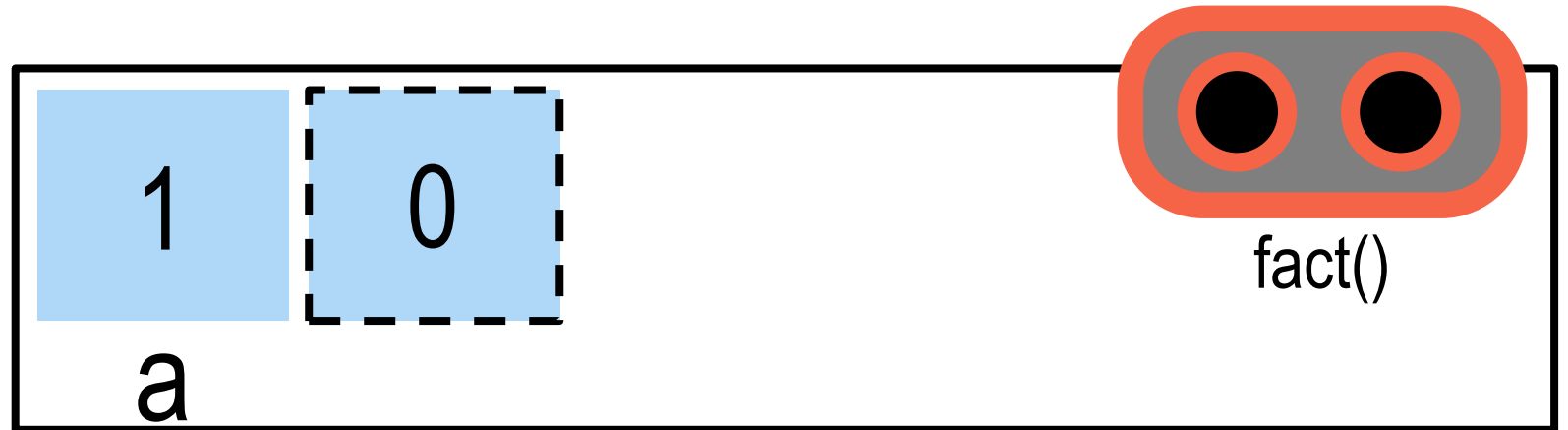
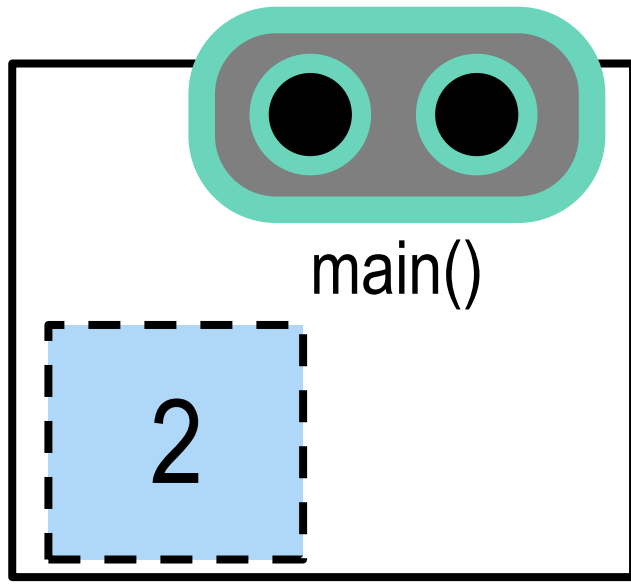
```
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fact(1+1));  
}
```



Example 1: Factorial

```
int fact(int a){  
    if(a == 0) return 1;  
    return a * fact(a - 1);  
}
```

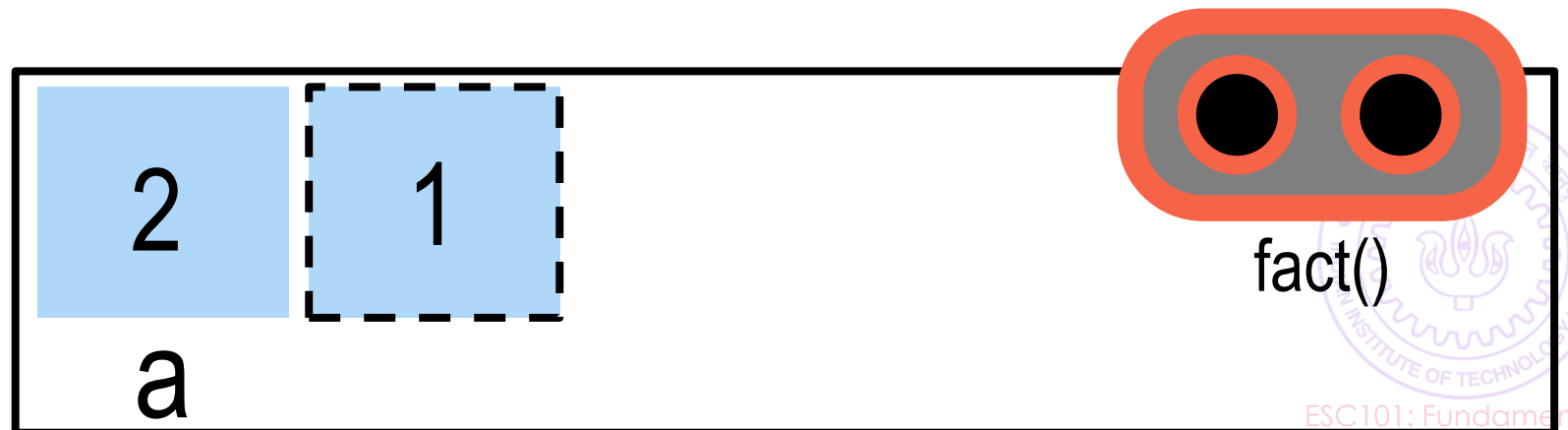
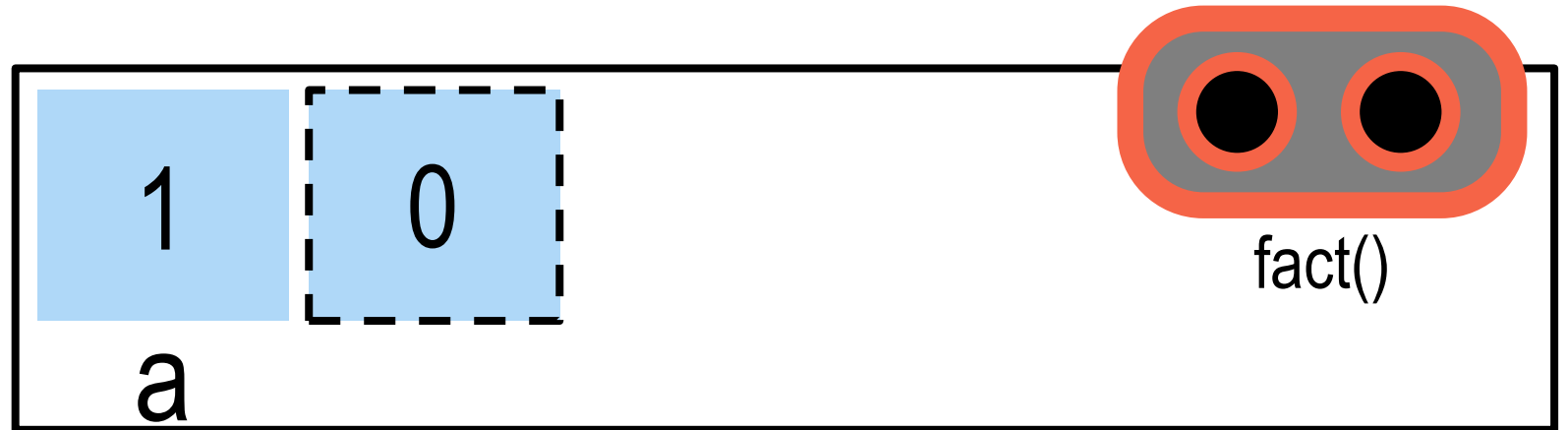
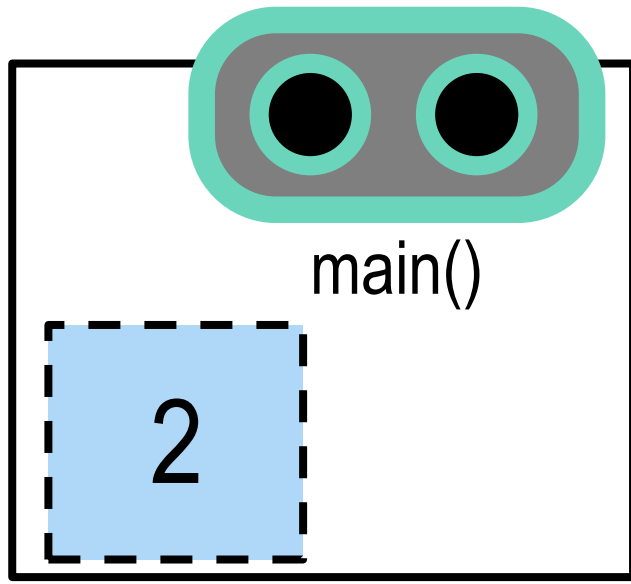
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Example 1: Factorial

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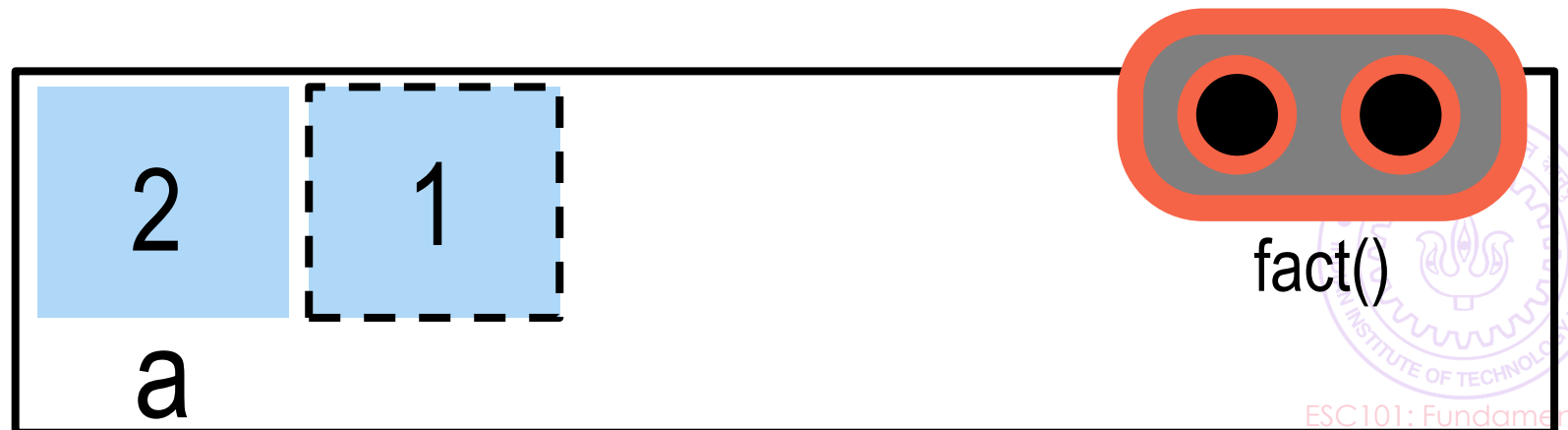
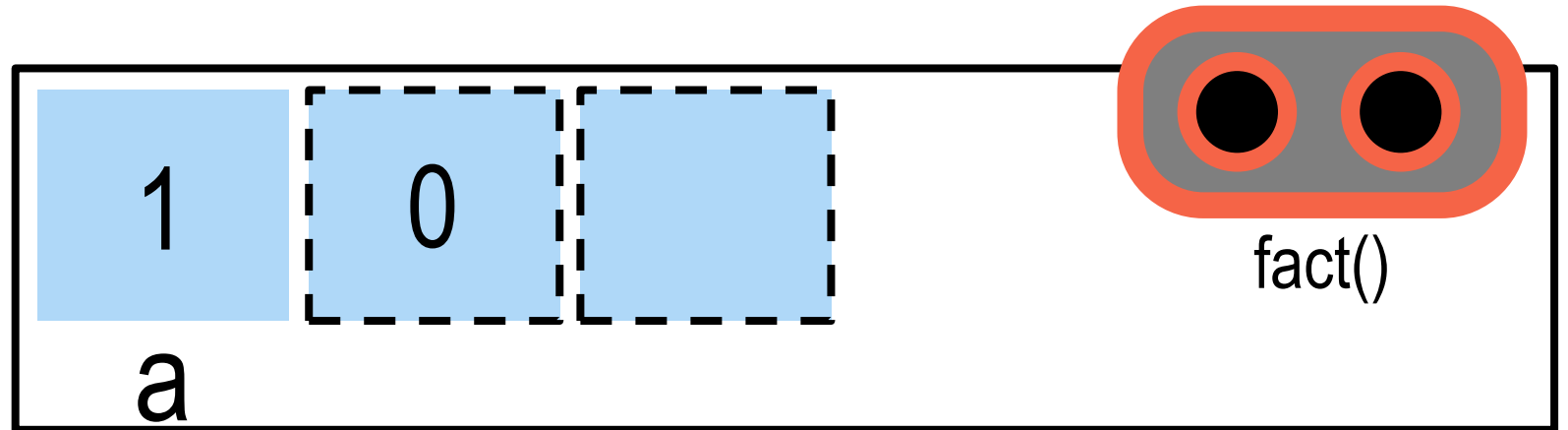
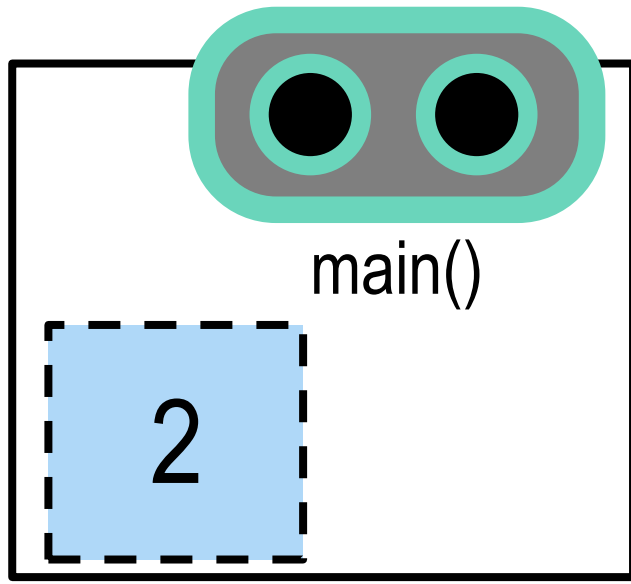
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Example 1: Factorial

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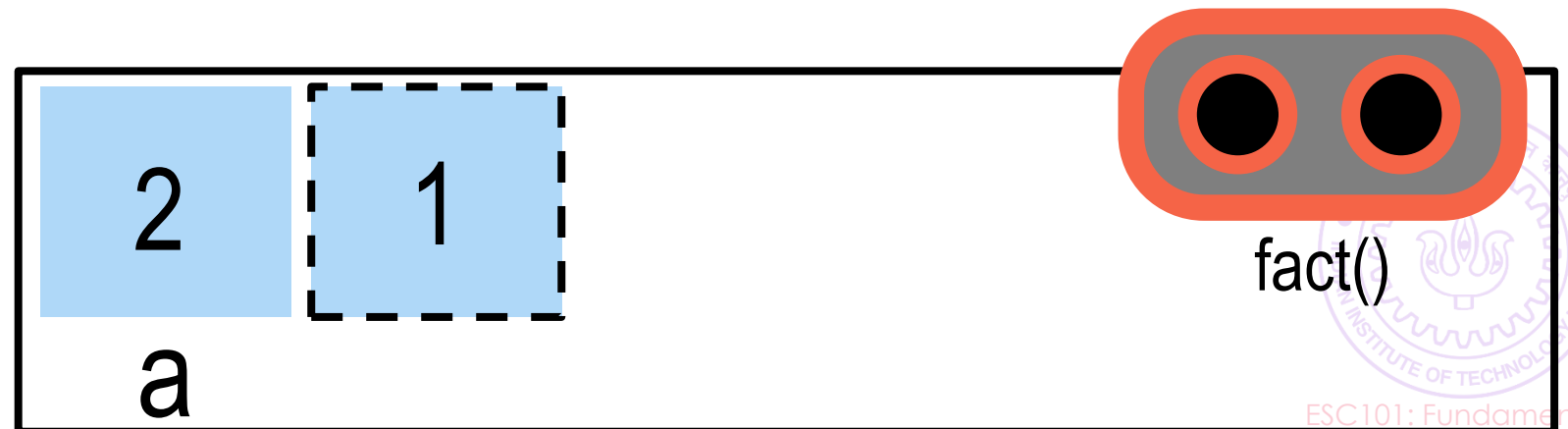
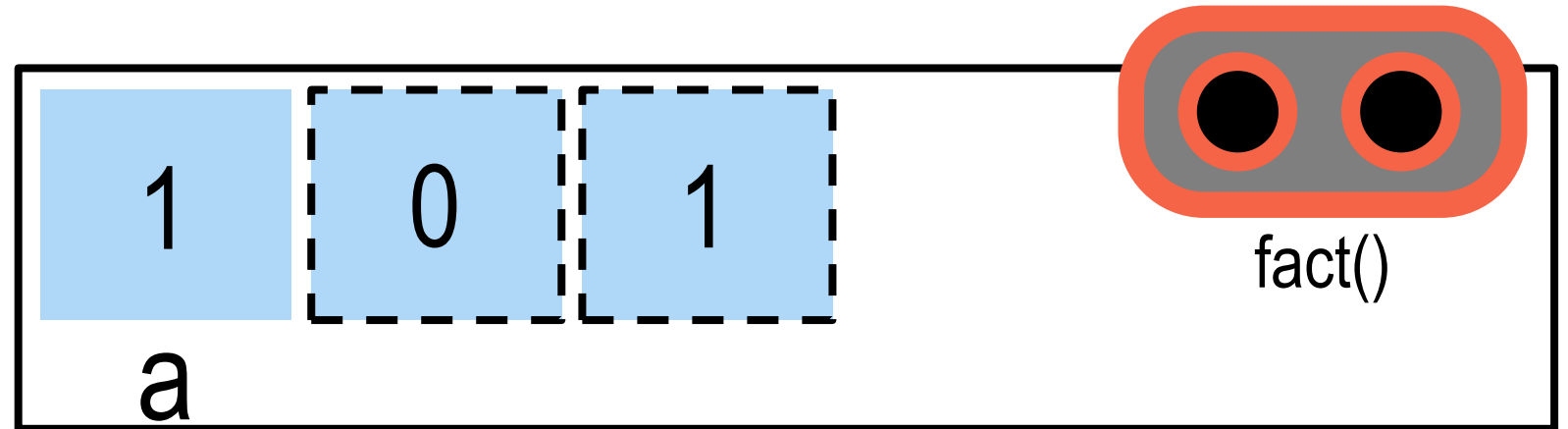
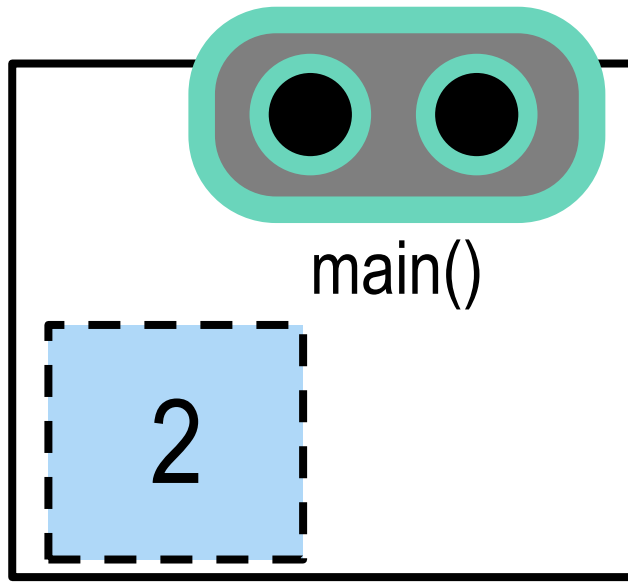
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int main(){  
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}
```



Example 1: Factorial

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```
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}
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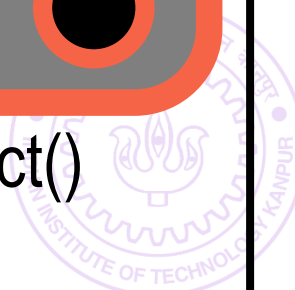
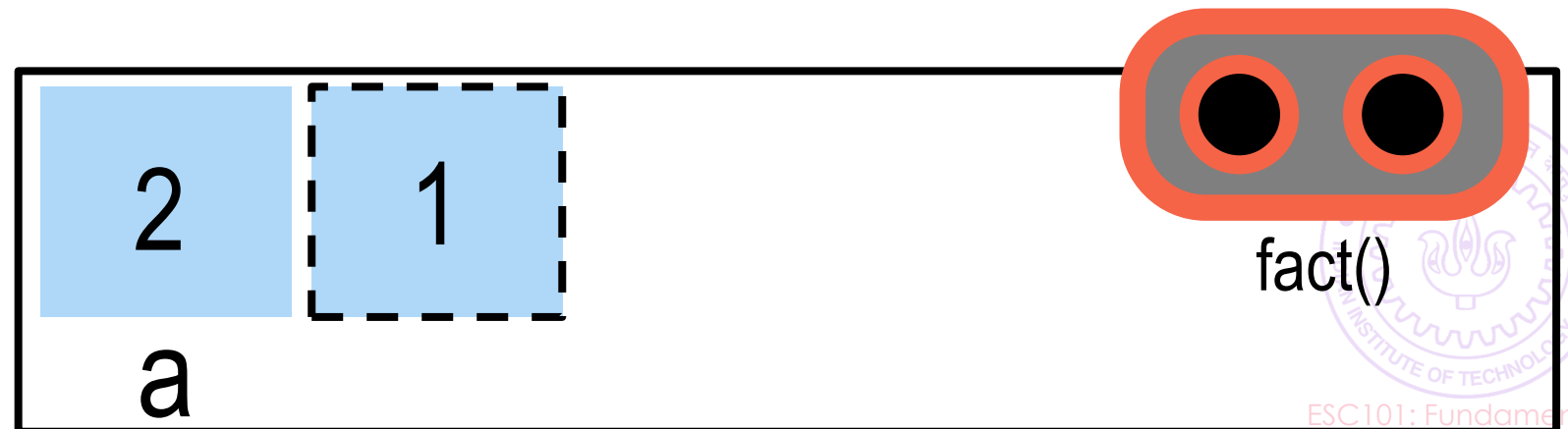
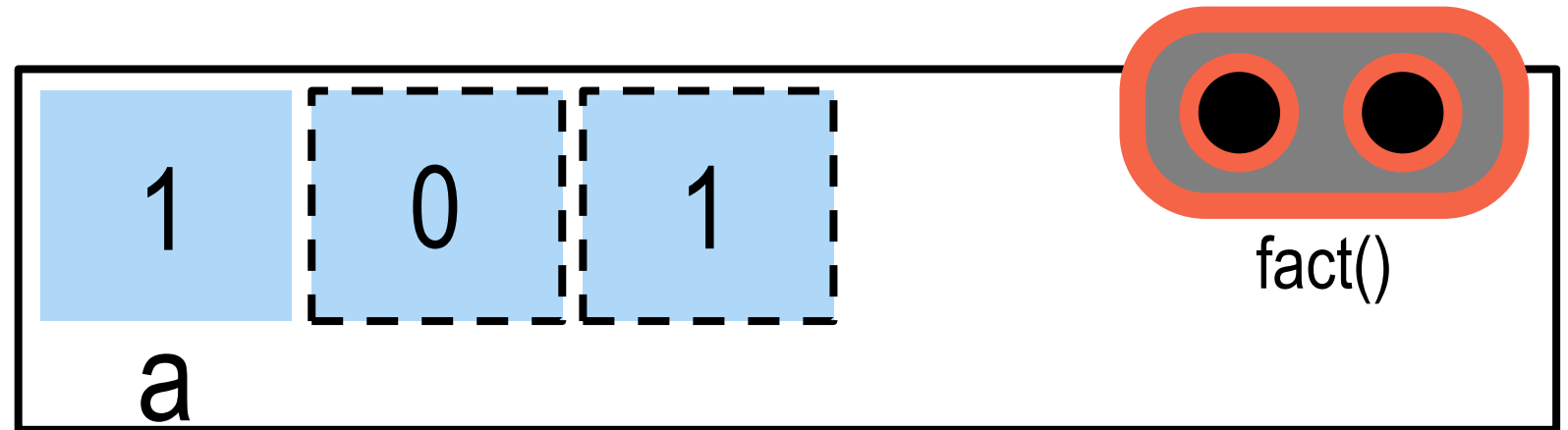
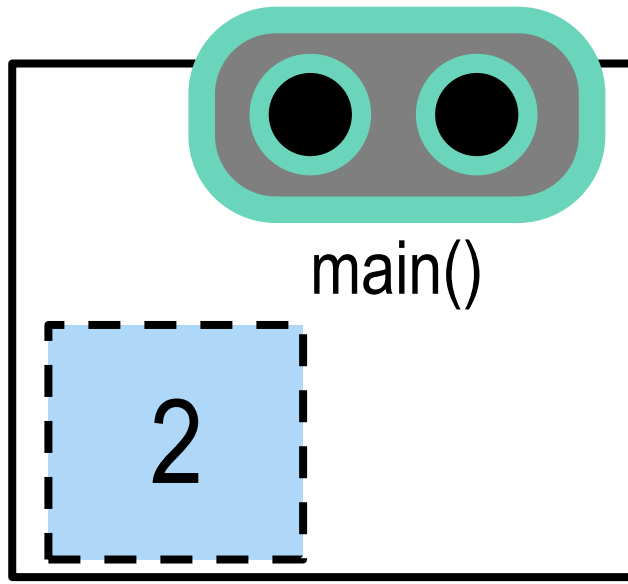


Example 1: Factorial

5

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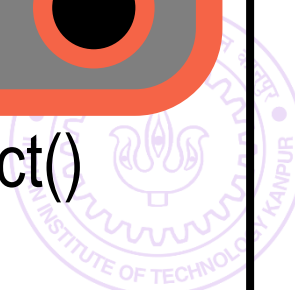
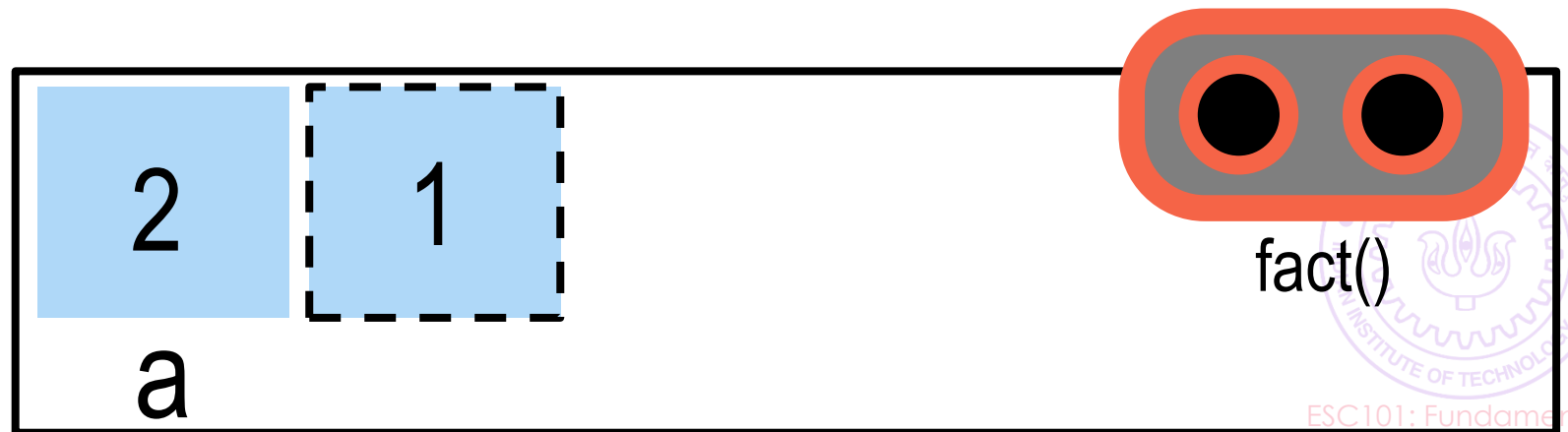
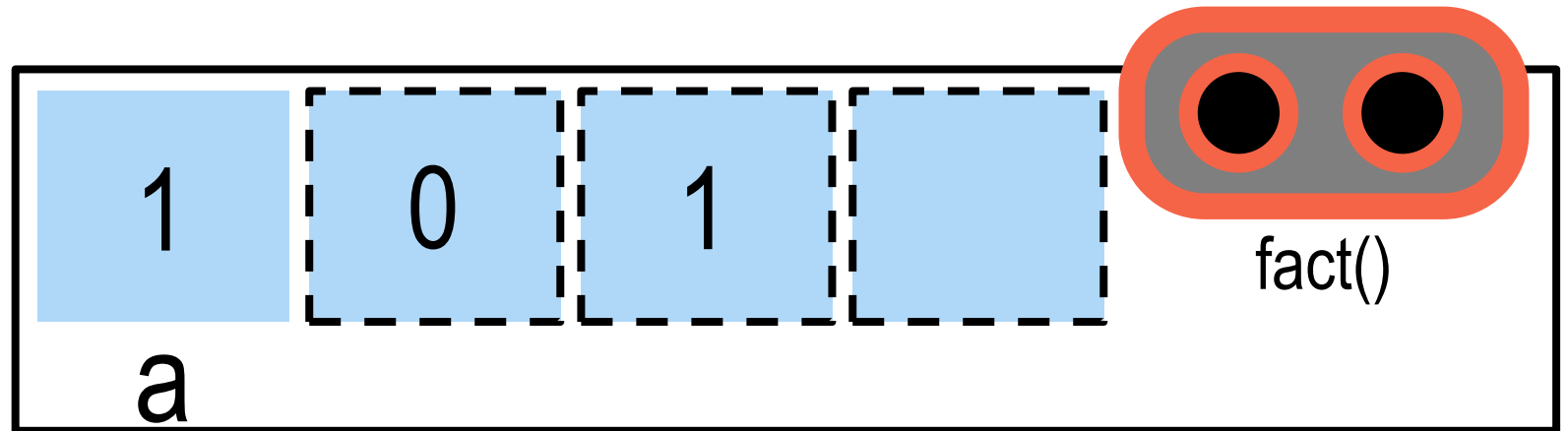
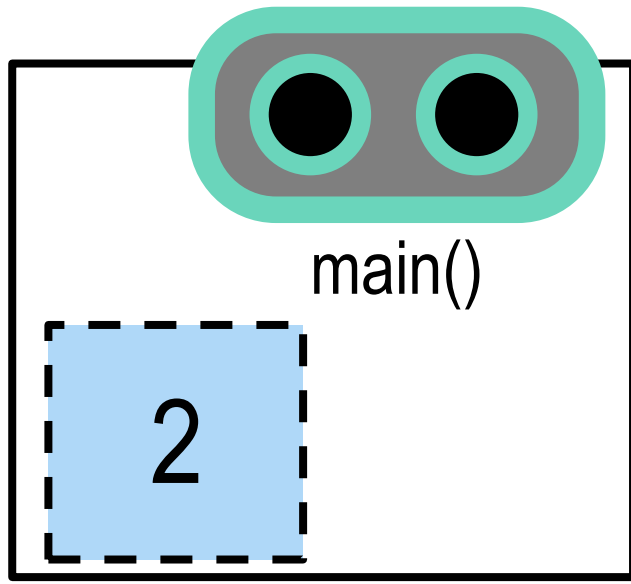
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Example 1: Factorial

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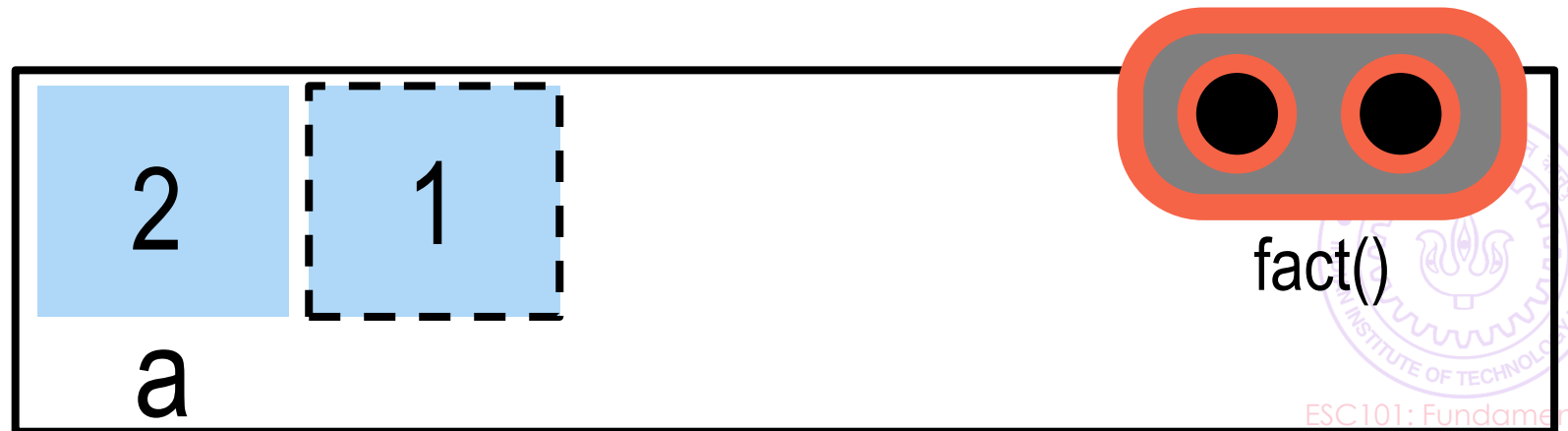
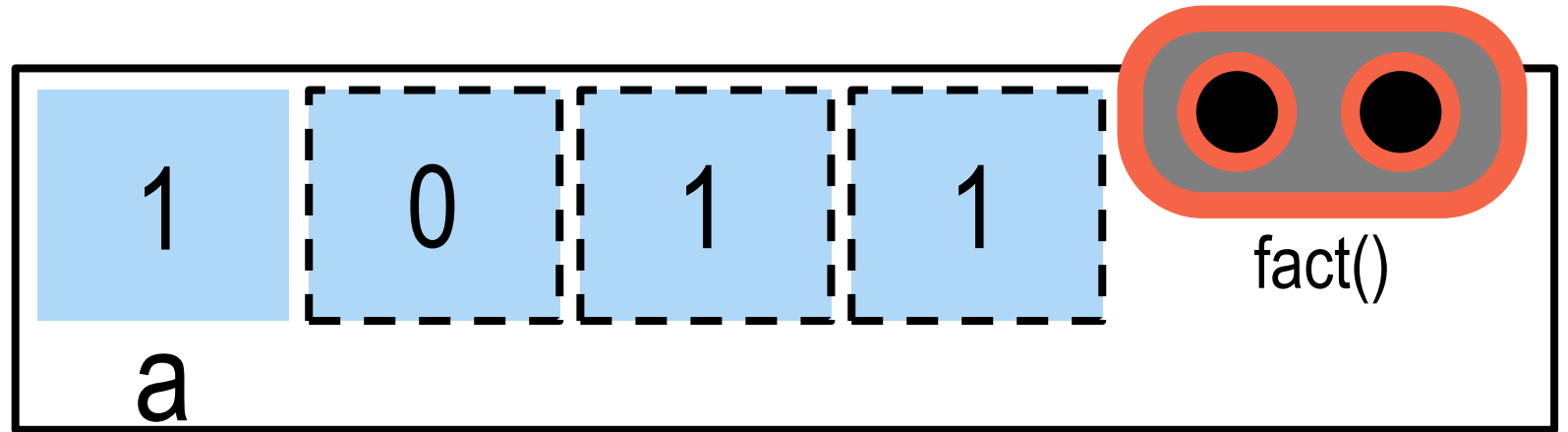
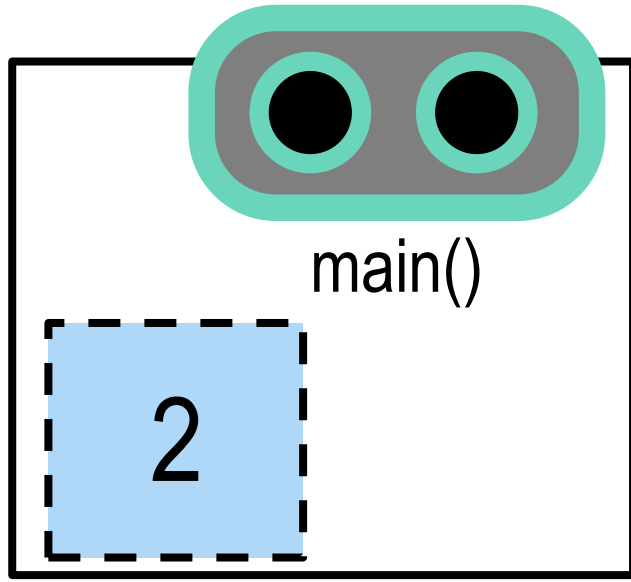


Example 1: Factorial

5

```
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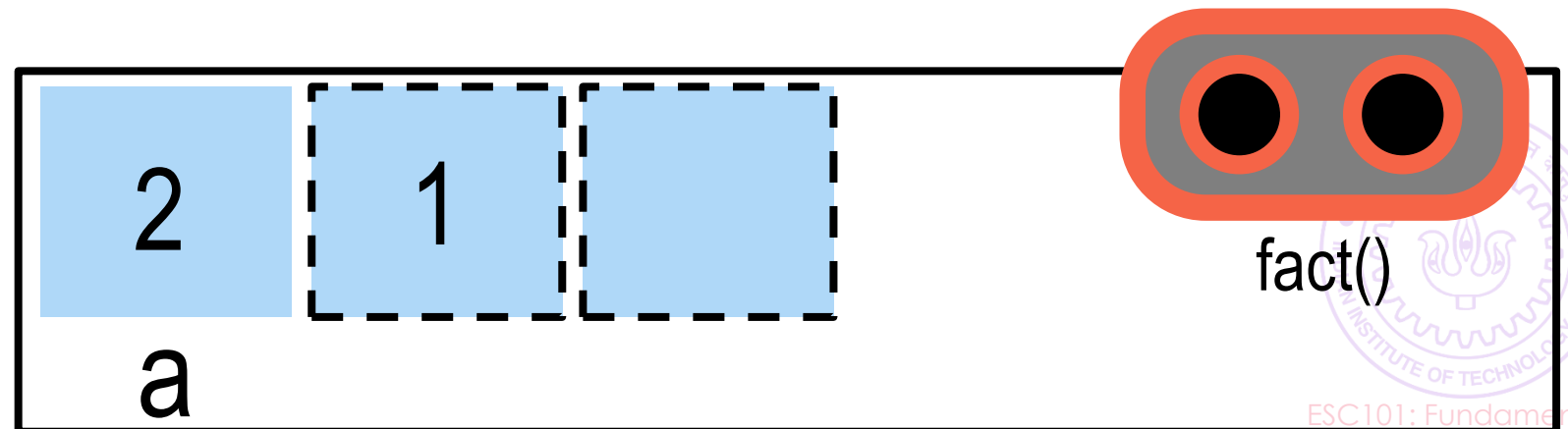
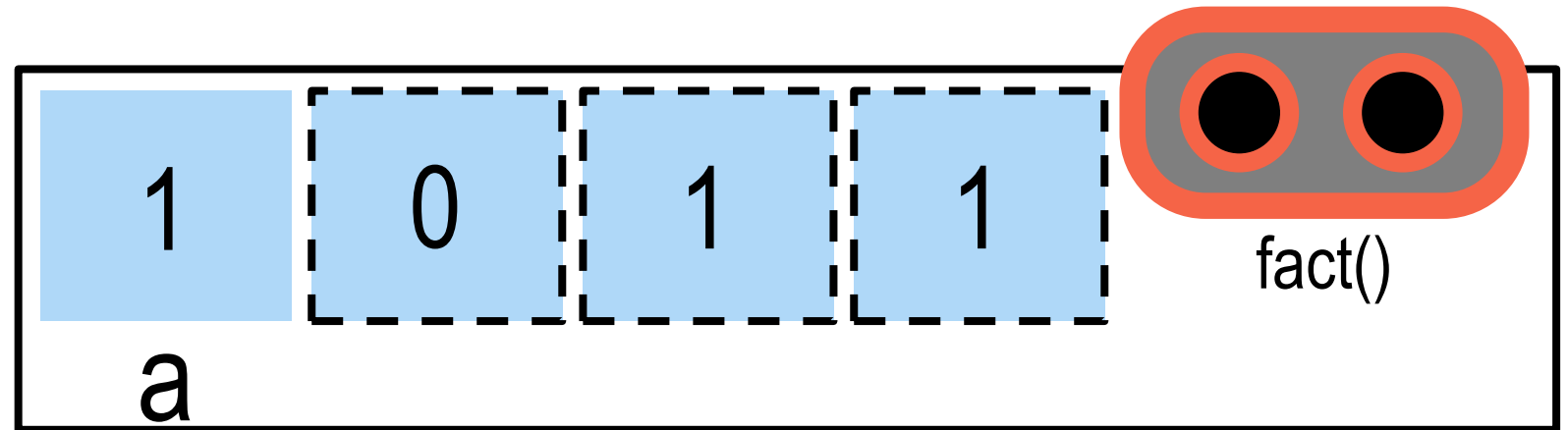
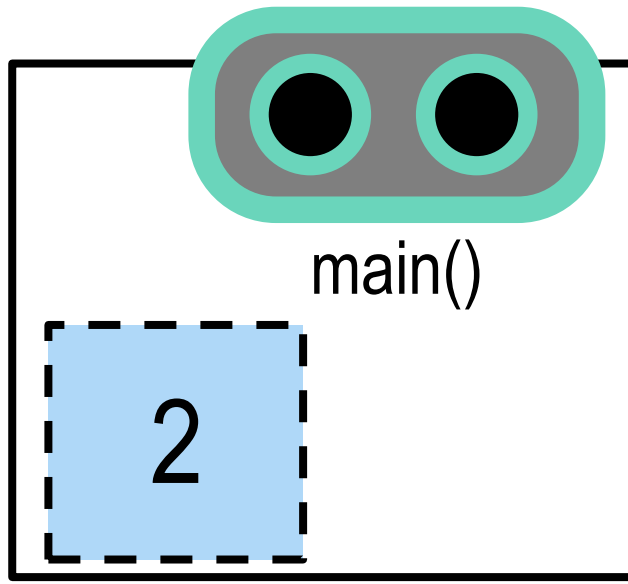


Example 1: Factorial

5

```
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    if(a == 0) return 1;  
    return a * fact(a - 1);  
}
```

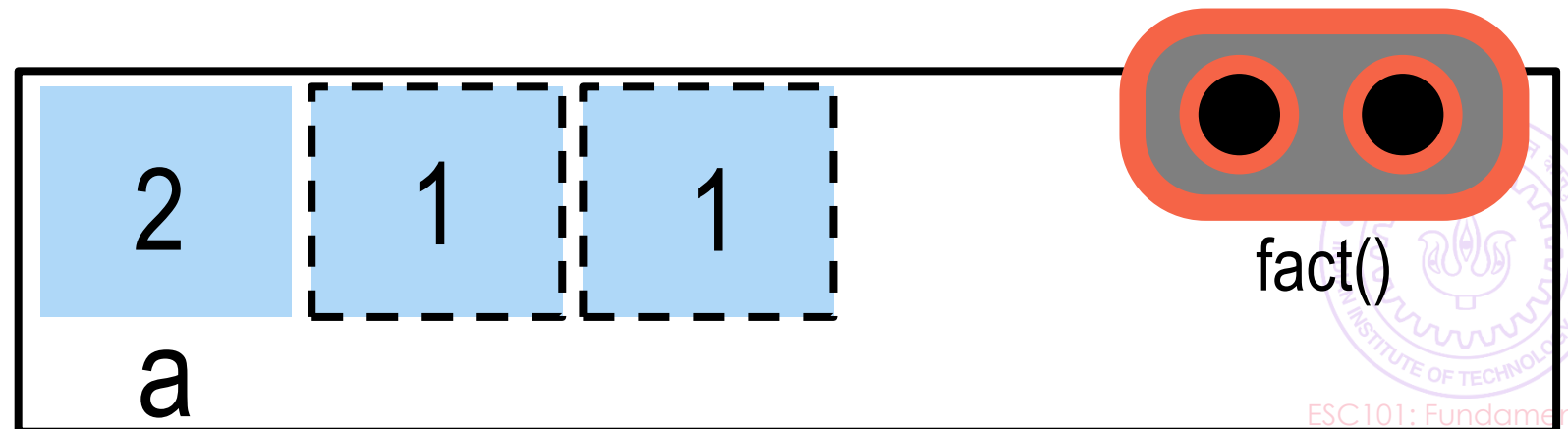
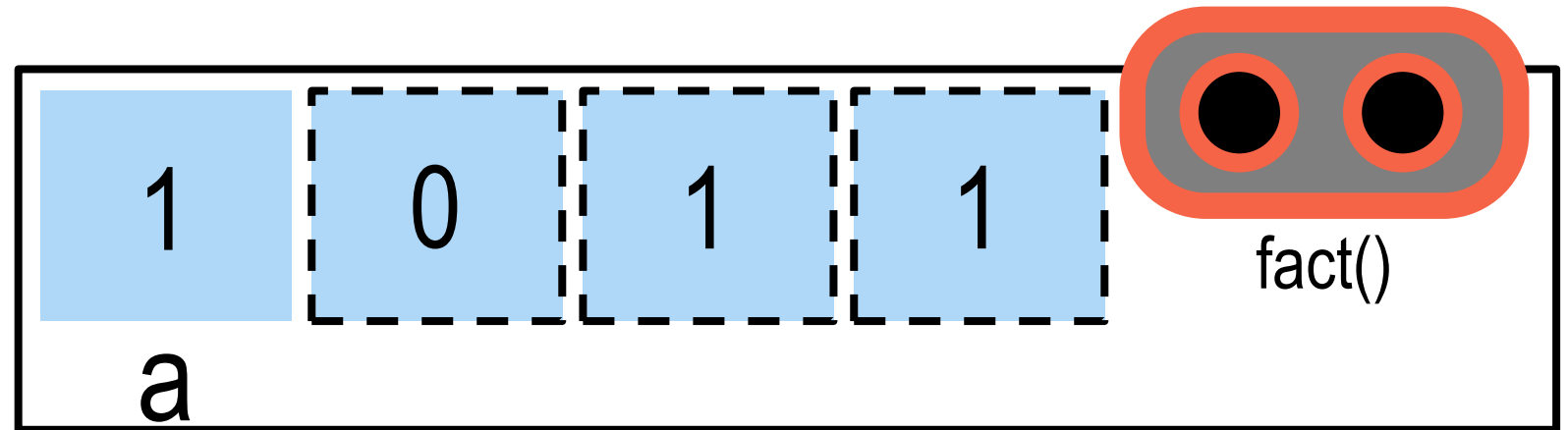
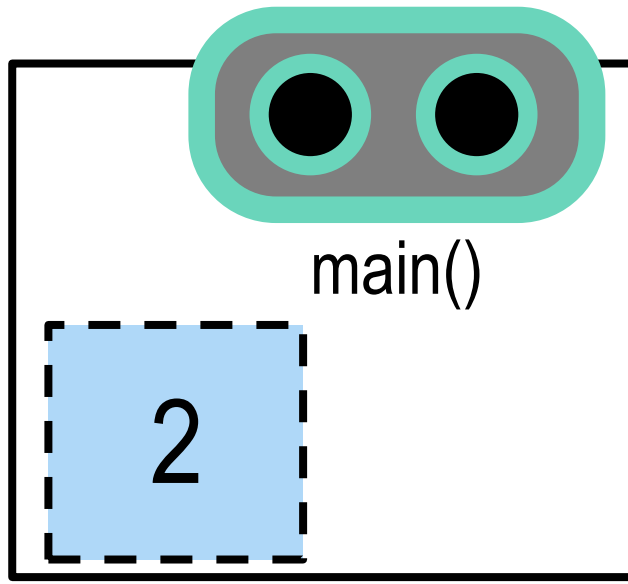
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Example 1: Factorial

5

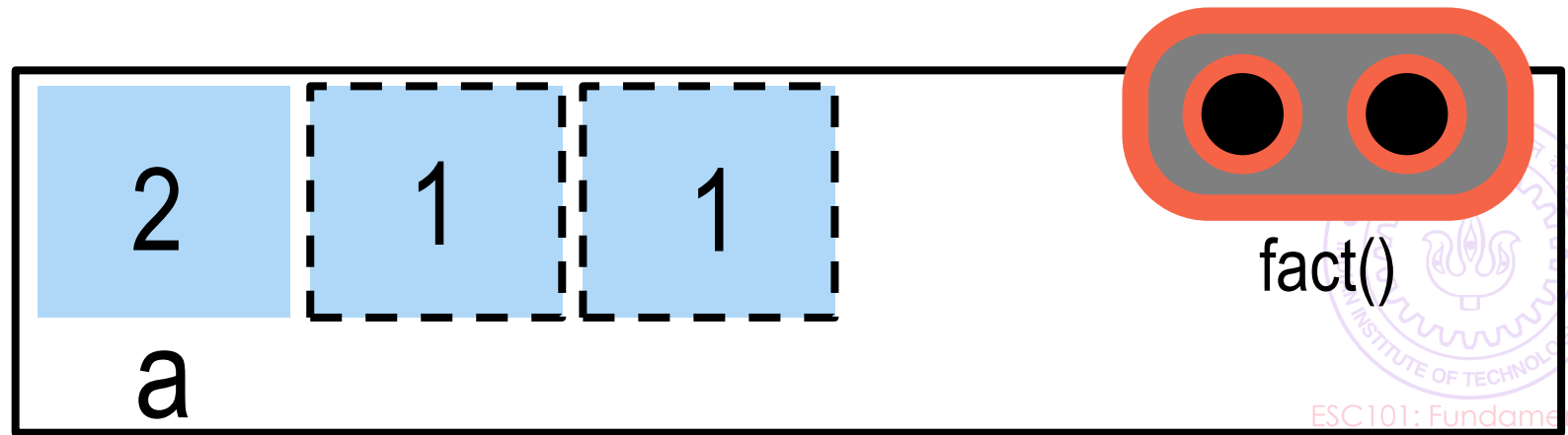
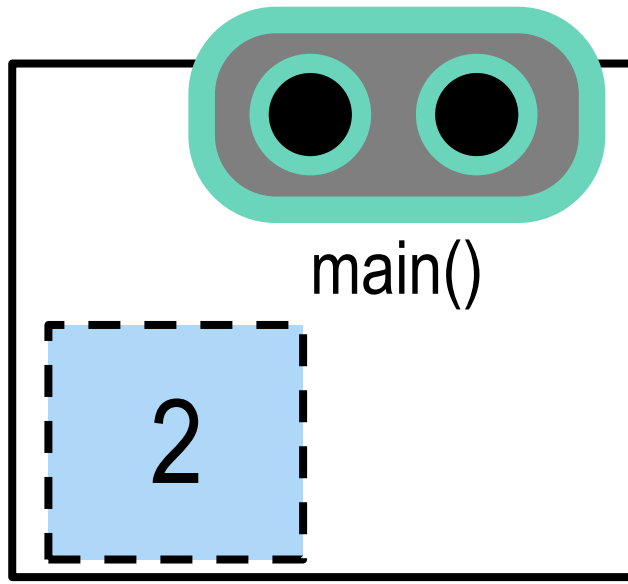
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}
```



Example 1: Factorial

5

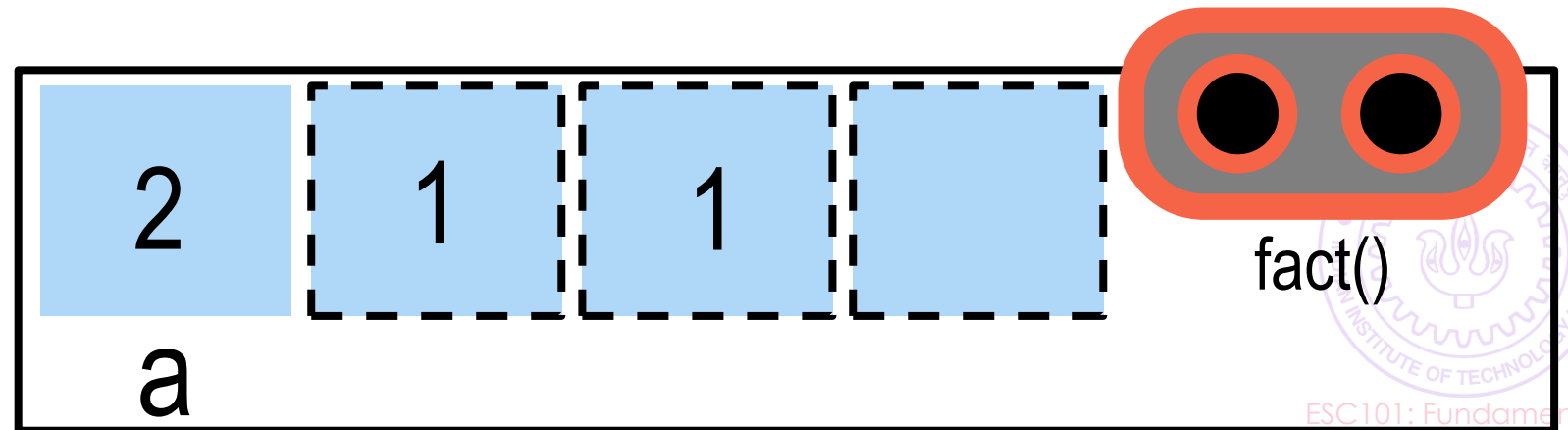
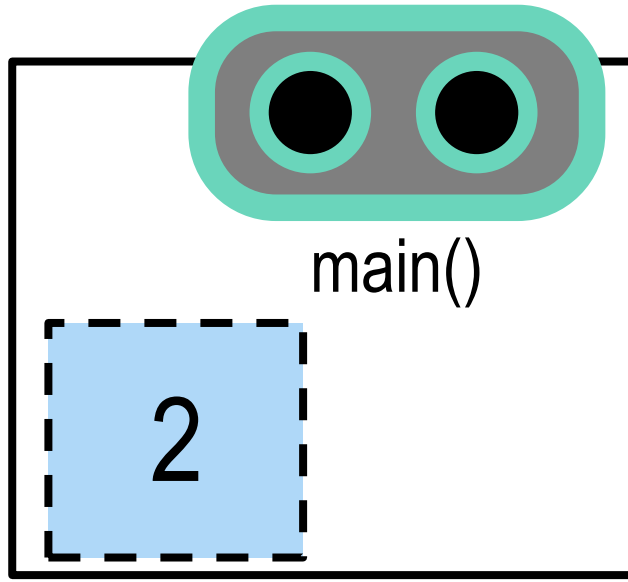
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}  
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Example 1: Factorial

5

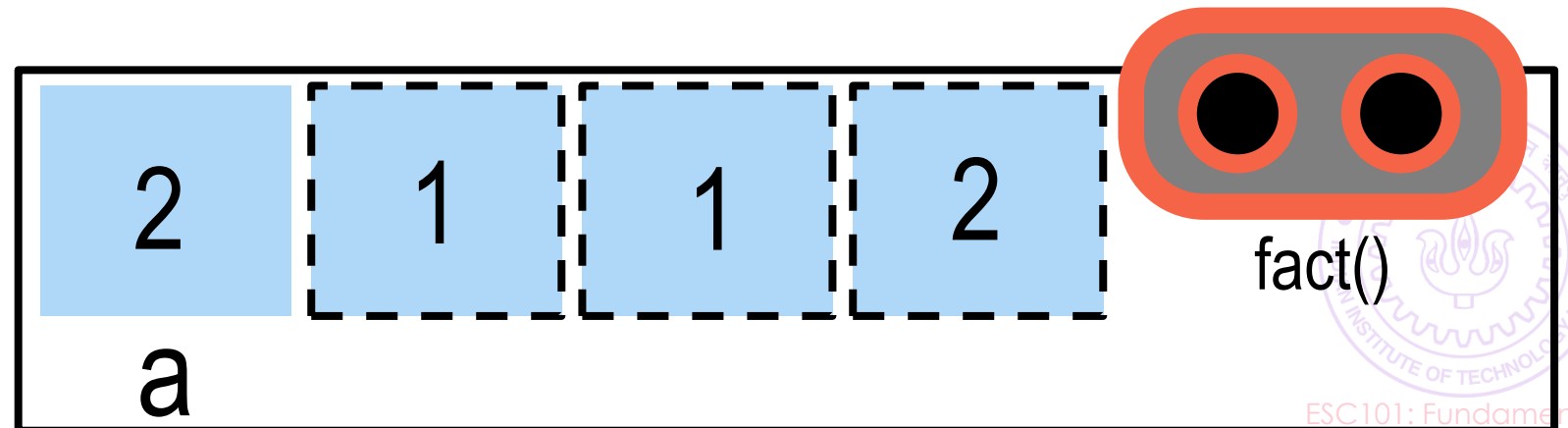
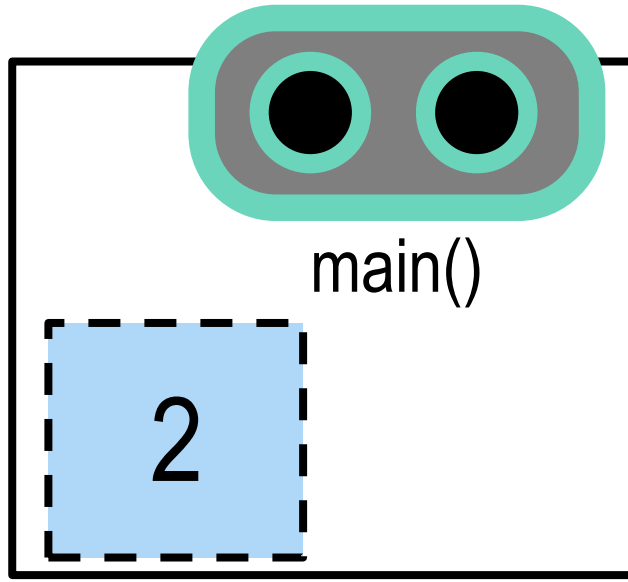
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Example 1: Factorial

5

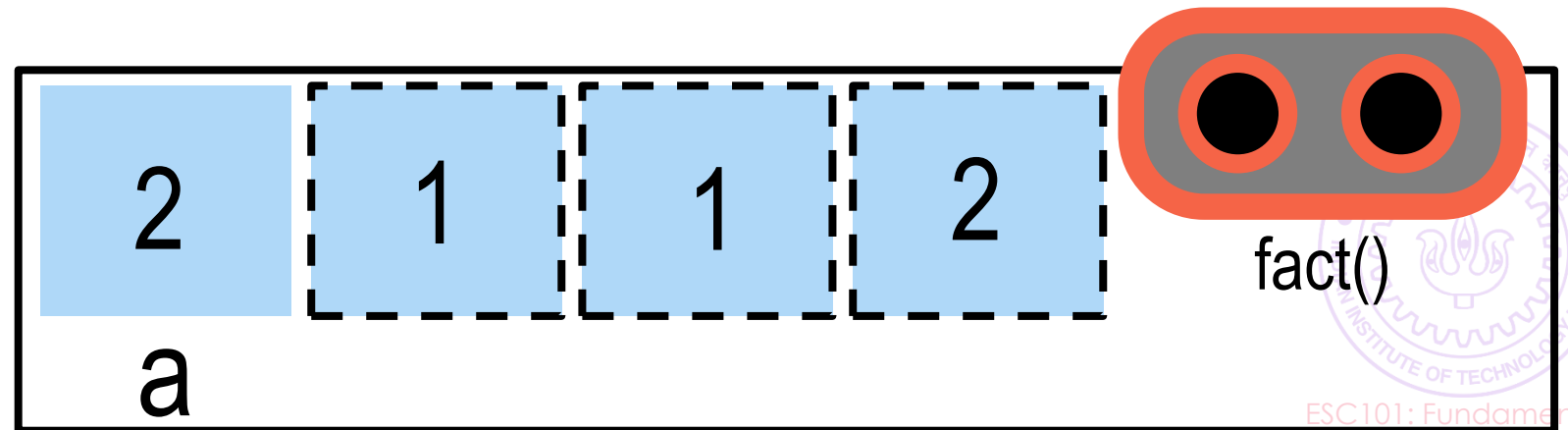
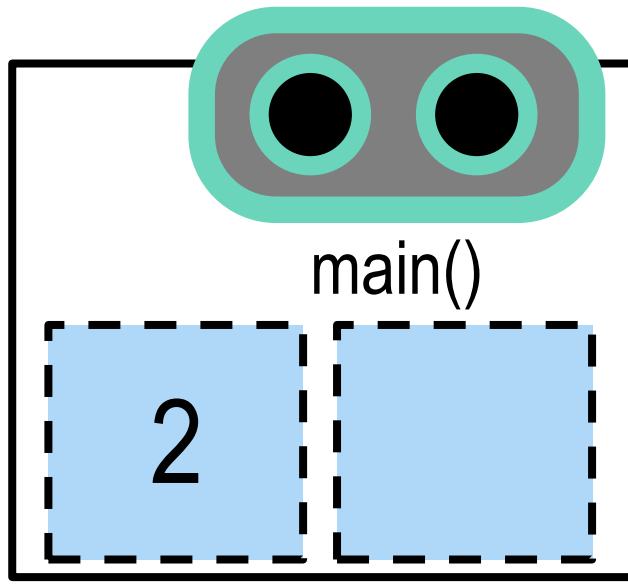
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Example 1: Factorial

5

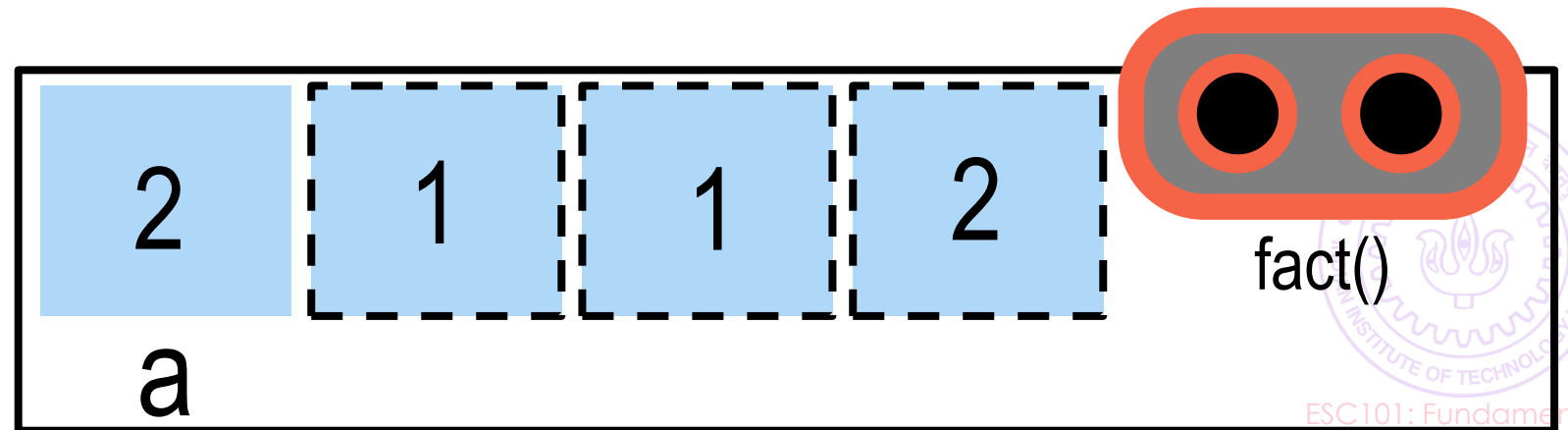
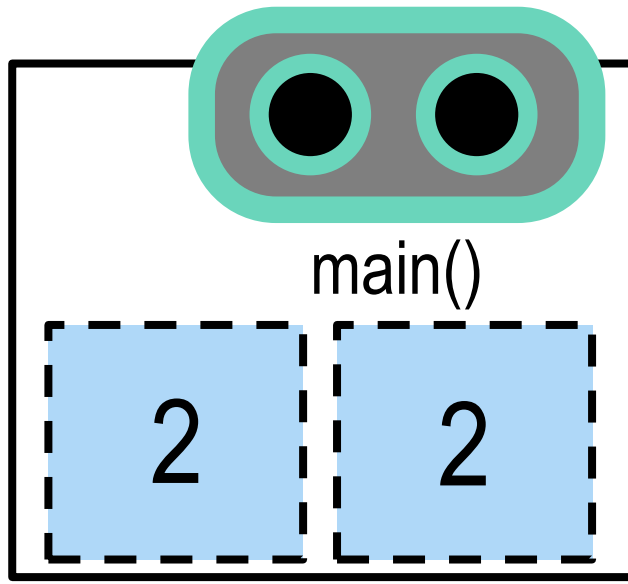
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Example 1: Factorial

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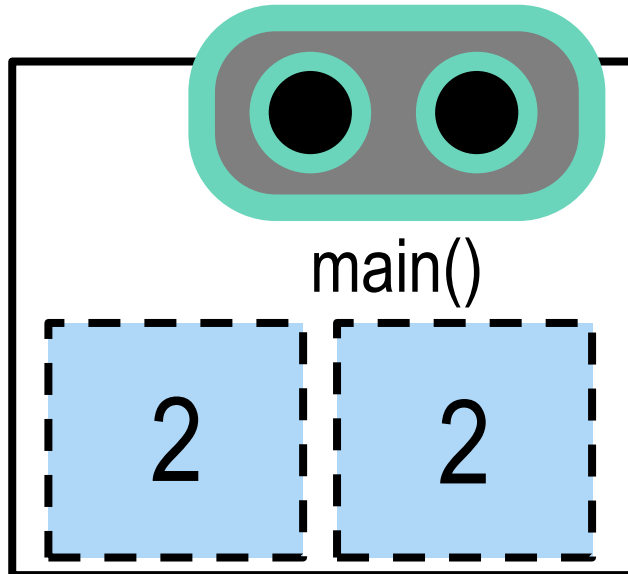
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Example 1: Factorial

5

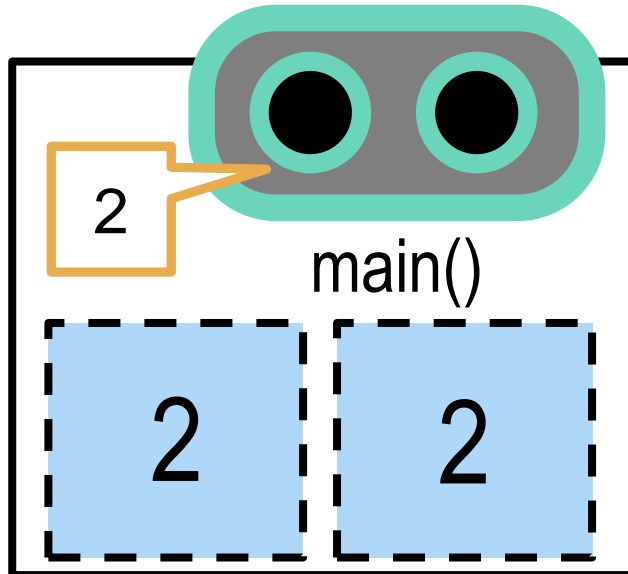
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Example 1: Factorial

5

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}
```



Example 1: Factorial



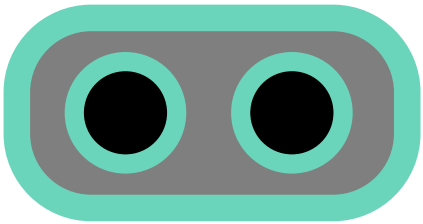
Example 1: Factorial

```
int fact(int a){  
    if(a == 0) return 1;  
    return a * fact(a - 1);  
}  
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fact(2*3));  
}
```



Example 1: Factorial

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int fact(int a){  
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}  
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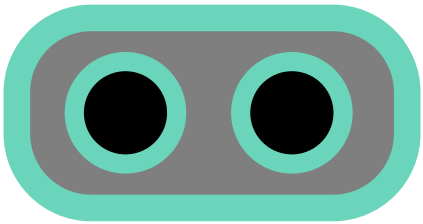


main()

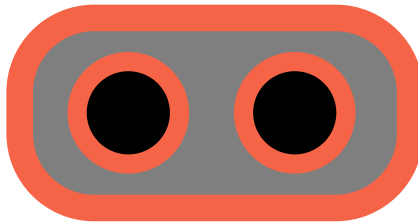


Example 1: Factorial

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main()

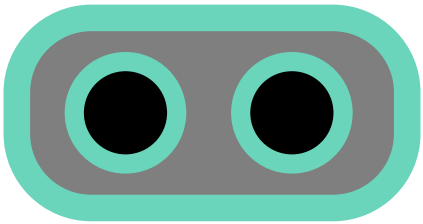


fact(6)

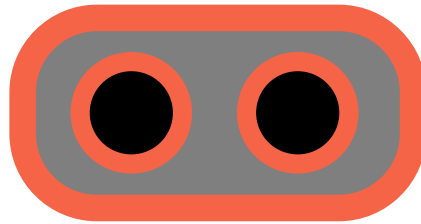


Example 1: Factorial

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main()

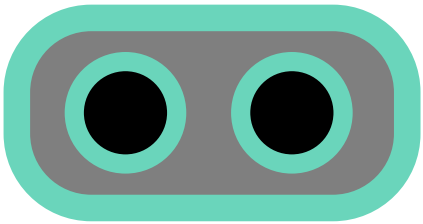


fact(6)
= 6 * fact(5)

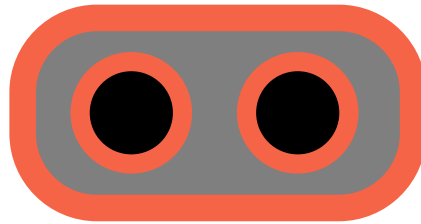


Example 1: Factorial

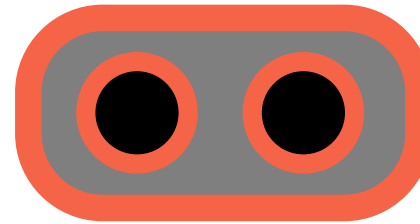
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main()



fact(6)
= 6 * fact(5)

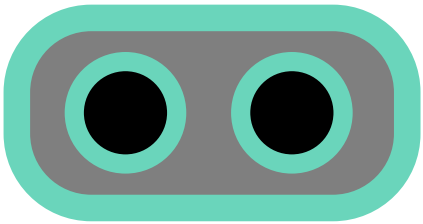


fact(5)

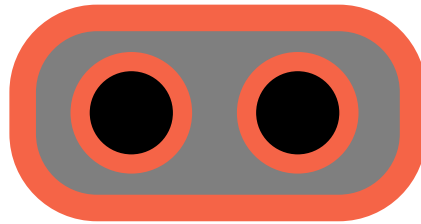


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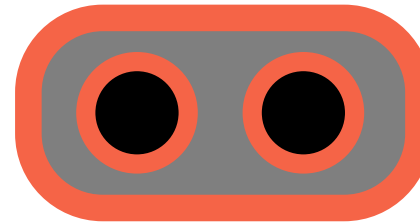
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main()



fact(6)
= 6 * fact(5)

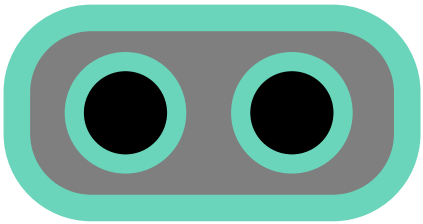


fact(5)
= 5 * fact(4)

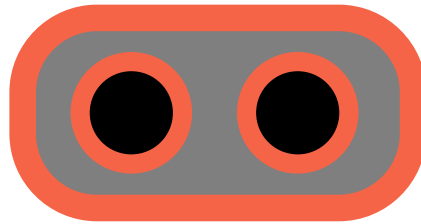


Example 1: Factorial

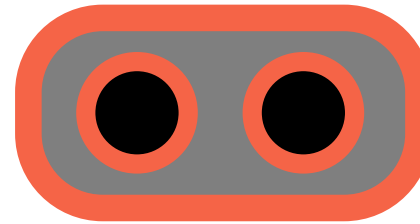
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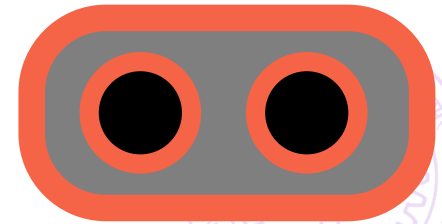
main()



fact(6)
= 6 * fact(5)



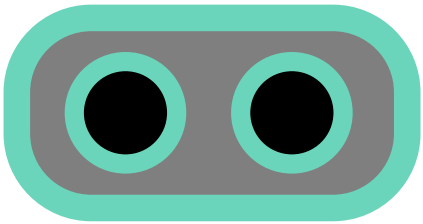
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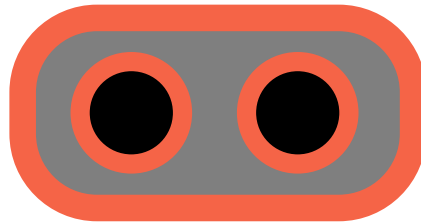
fact(4)

Example 1: Factorial

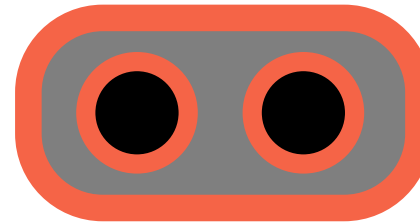
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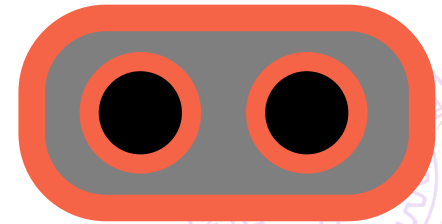
main()



fact(6)
= 6 * fact(5)



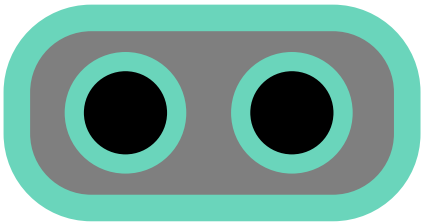
fact(5)
= 5 * fact(4)



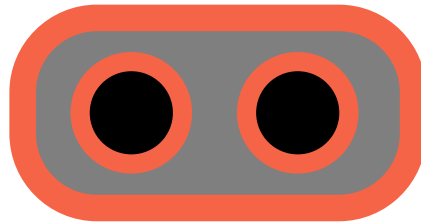
fact(4)
= 4 * fact(3)

Example 1: Factorial

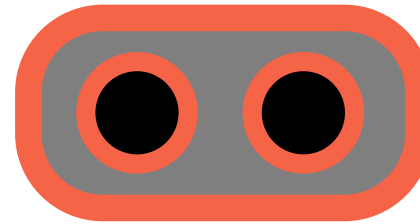
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int fact(int a){  
    if(a == 0) return 1;  
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}  
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fact(2*3));  
}
```



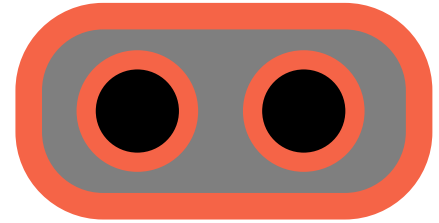
main()



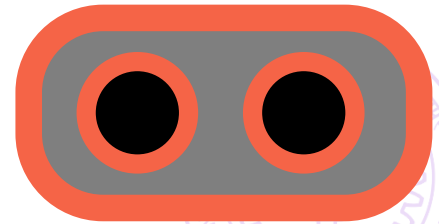
fact(6)
= 6 * fact(5)



fact(5)
= 5 * fact(4)



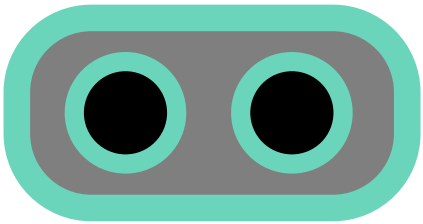
fact(3)



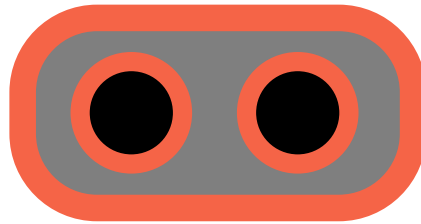
fact(4)
= 4 * fact(3)

Example 1: Factorial

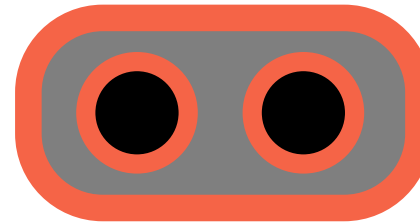
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int fact(int a){  
    if(a == 0) return 1;  
    return a * fact(a - 1);  
}  
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fact(2*3));  
}
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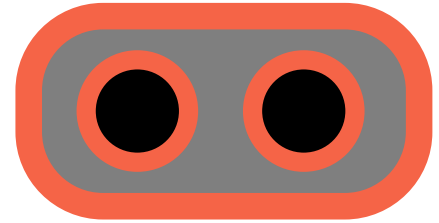
main()



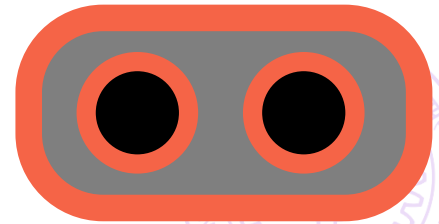
fact(6)
= 6 * fact(5)



fact(5)
= 5 * fact(4)



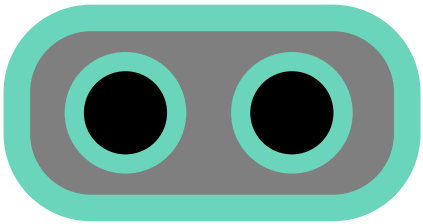
fact(3)
= 3 * fact(2)



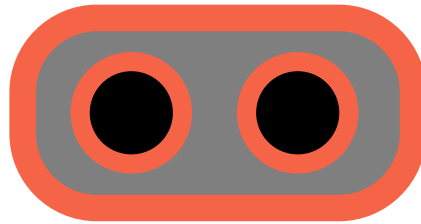
fact(4)
= 4 * fact(3)

Example 1: Factorial

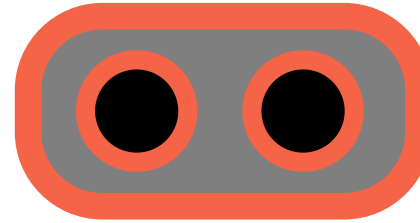
```
int fact(int a){  
    if(a == 0) return 1;  
    return a * fact(a - 1);  
}  
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fact(2*3));  
}
```



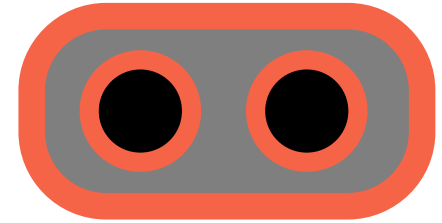
main()



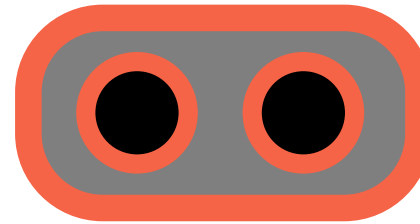
fact(6)
= 6 * fact(5)



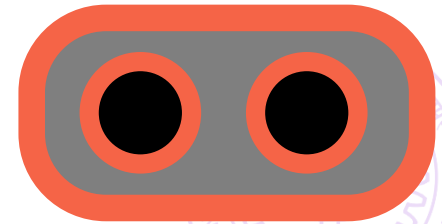
fact(2)



fact(3)
= 3 * fact(2)



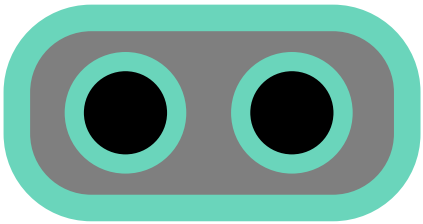
fact(5)
= 5 * fact(4)



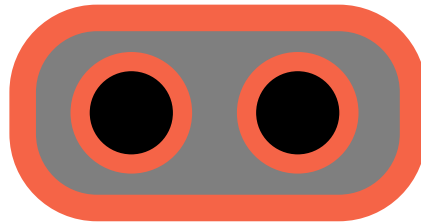
fact(4)
= 4 * fact(3)

Example 1: Factorial

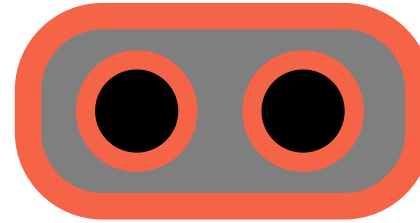
```
int fact(int a){  
    if(a == 0) return 1;  
    return a * fact(a - 1);  
}  
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fact(2*3));  
}
```



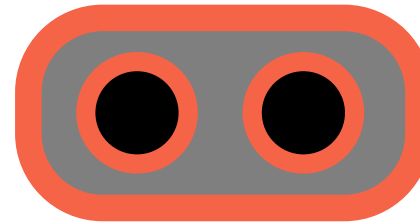
main()



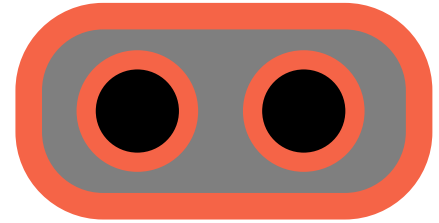
fact(6)
= 6 * fact(5)



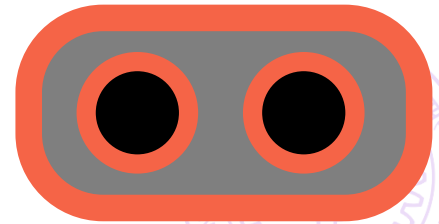
fact(2)
= 2 * fact(1)



fact(5)
= 5 * fact(4)



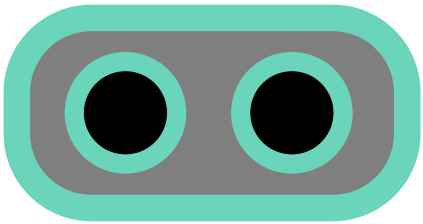
fact(3)
= 3 * fact(2)



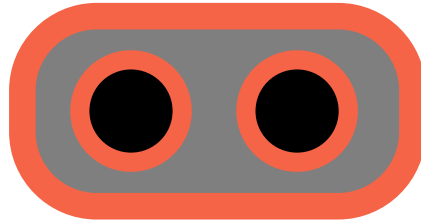
fact(4)
= 4 * fact(3)

Example 1: Factorial

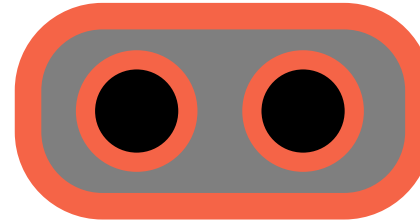
```
int fact(int a){  
    if(a == 0) return 1;  
    return a * fact(a - 1);  
}  
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fact(2*3));  
}
```



main()

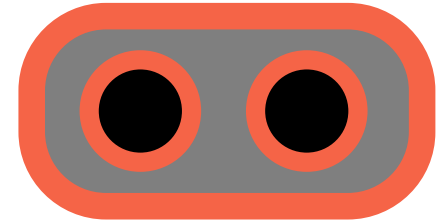


fact(1)



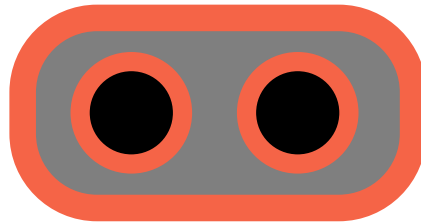
fact(2)

= 2 * fact(1)



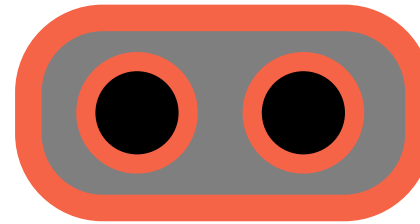
fact(3)

= 3 * fact(2)



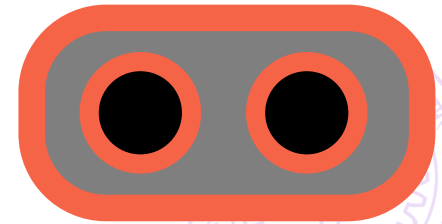
fact(6)

= 6 * fact(5)



fact(5)

= 5 * fact(4)

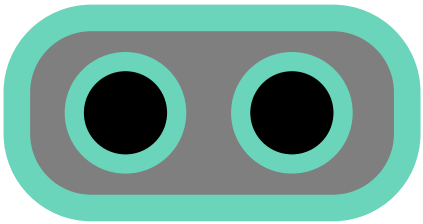


fact(4)

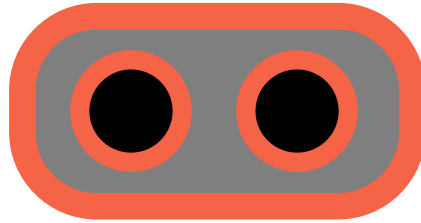
= 4 * fact(3)

Example 1: Factorial

```
int fact(int a){  
    if(a == 0) return 1;  
    return a * fact(a - 1);  
}  
  
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fact(2*3));  
}
```

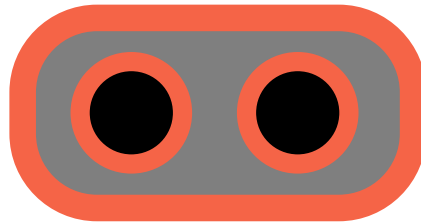


main()



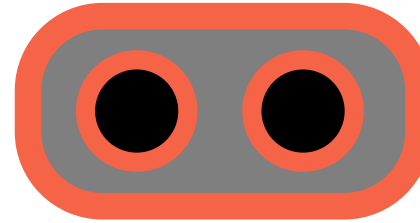
fact(1)

= 1 * fact(0)



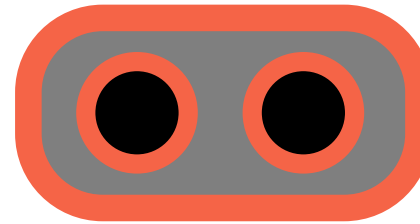
fact(6)

= 6 * fact(5)



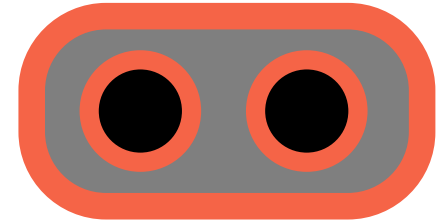
fact(2)

= 2 * fact(1)



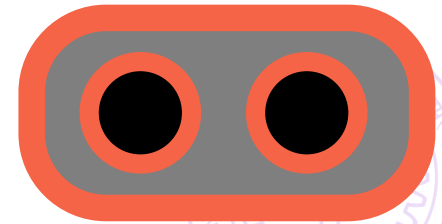
fact(5)

= 5 * fact(4)



fact(3)

= 3 * fact(2)



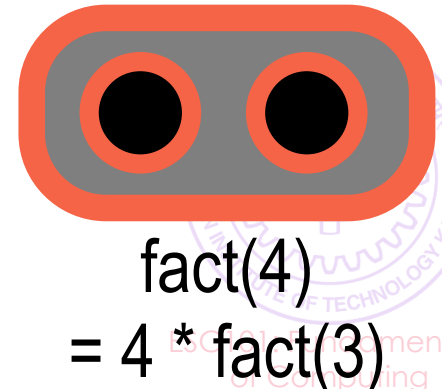
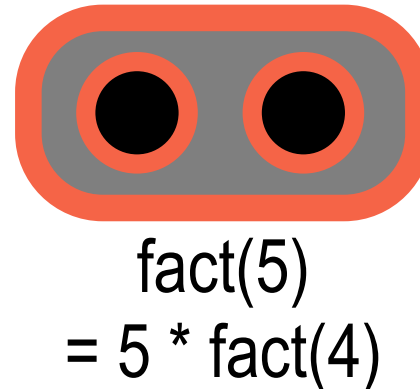
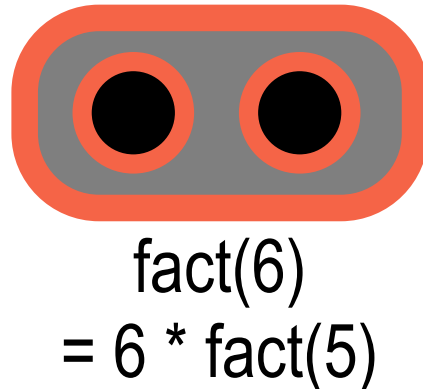
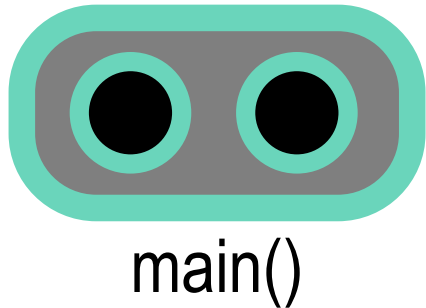
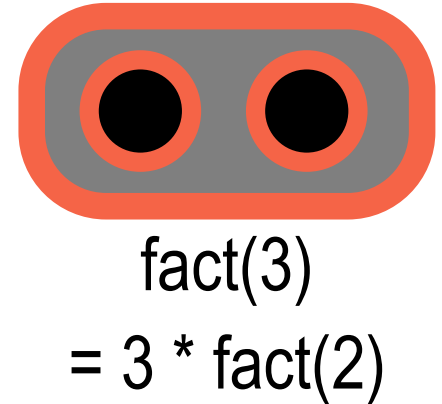
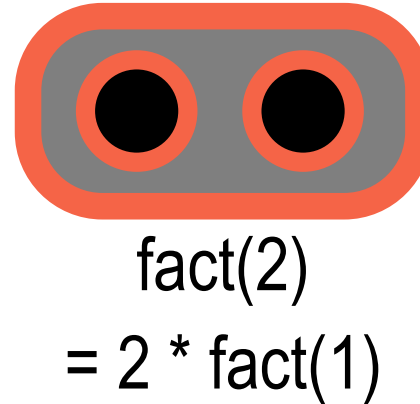
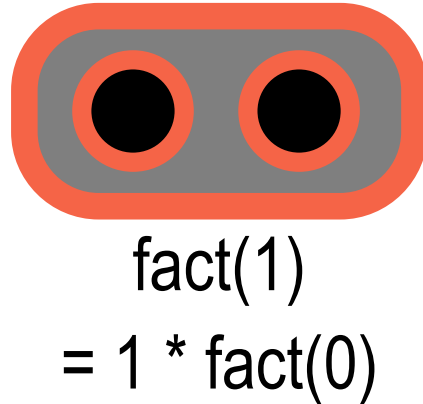
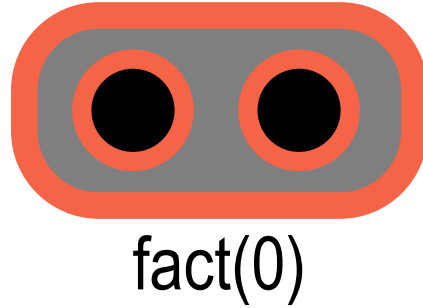
fact(4)

= 4 * fact(3)

Example 1: Factorial

```
int fact(int a){  
    if(a == 0) return 1;  
    return a * fact(a - 1);  
}
```

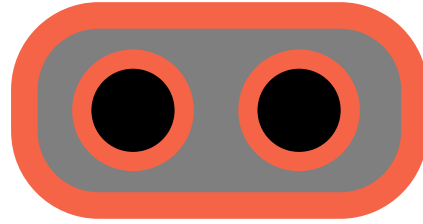
```
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fact(2*3));  
}
```



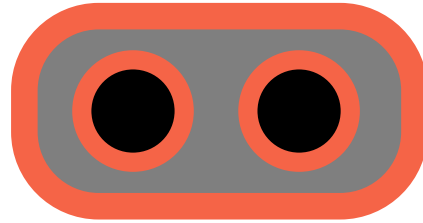
Example 1: Factorial

```
int fact(int a){  
    if(a == 0) return 1;  
    return a * fact(a - 1);  
}
```

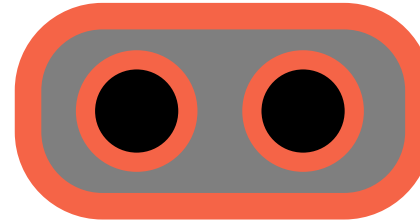
```
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fact(2*3));  
}
```



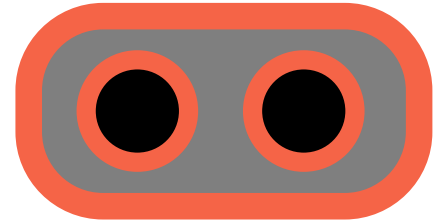
fact(0) = 1



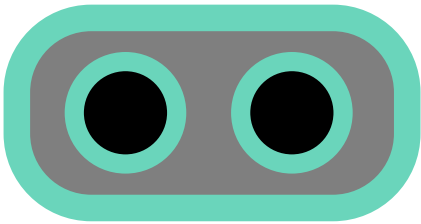
fact(1)
= 1 * fact(0)



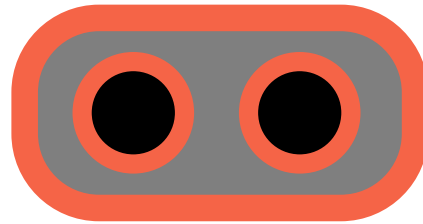
fact(2)
= 2 * fact(1)



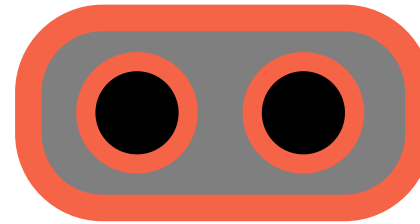
fact(3)
= 3 * fact(2)



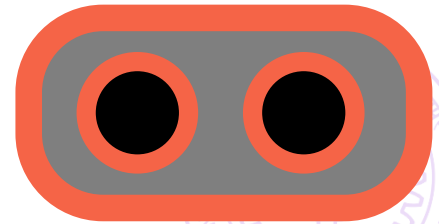
main()



fact(6)
= 6 * fact(5)



fact(5)
= 5 * fact(4)



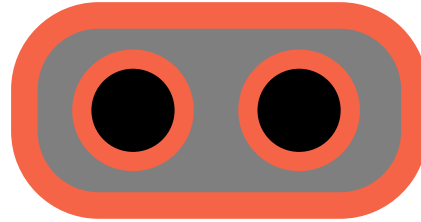
fact(4)
= 4 * fact(3)

Example 1: Factorial

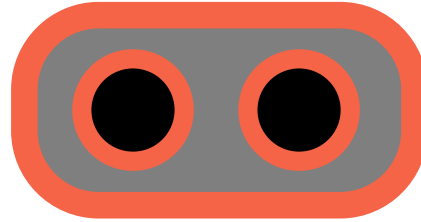


```
int fact(int a){  
    if(a == 0) return 1;  
    return a * fact(a - 1);  
}
```

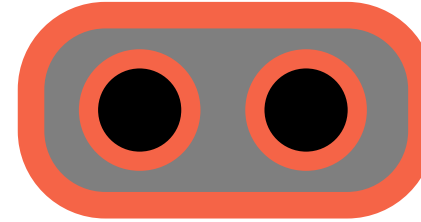
```
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fact(2*3));  
}
```



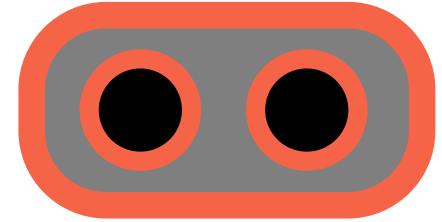
fact(0) = 1



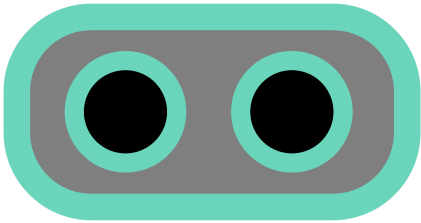
fact(1)
= 1 * fact(0)



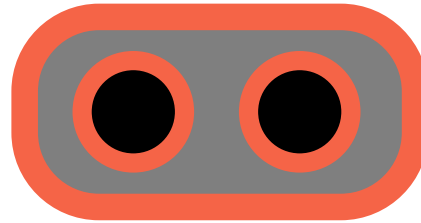
fact(2)
= 2 * fact(1)



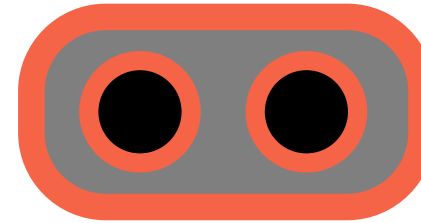
fact(3)
= 3 * fact(2)



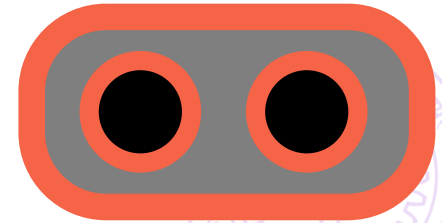
main()



fact(6)
= 6 * fact(5)



fact(5)
= 5 * fact(4)

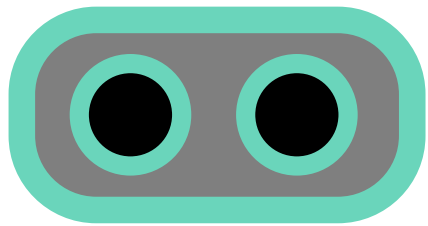


fact(4)
= 4 * fact(3)

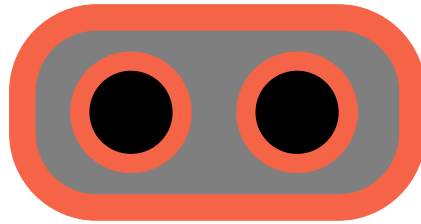
Example 1: Factorial

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    if(a == 0) return 1;  
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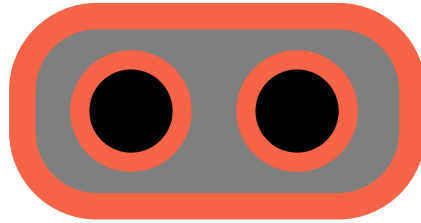
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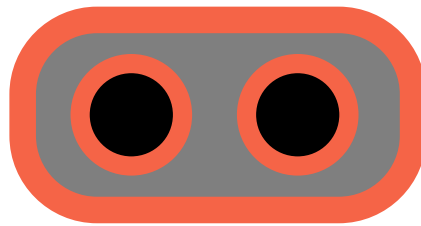
main()



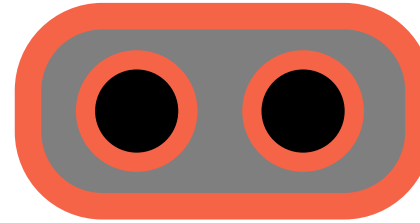
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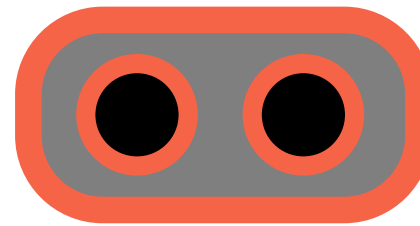
fact(1)
= 1 * fact(0)



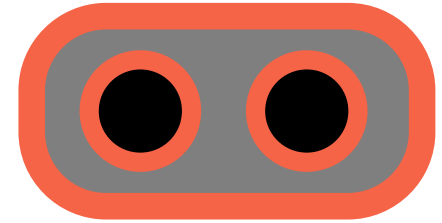
fact(6)
= 6 * fact(5)



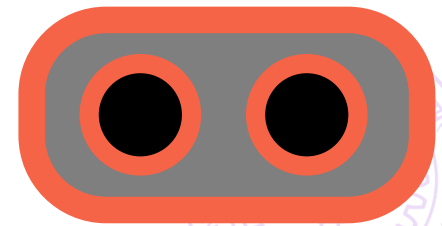
fact(2)
= 2 * fact(1)



fact(5)
= 5 * fact(4)



fact(3)
= 3 * fact(2)



fact(4)
= 4 * fact(3)

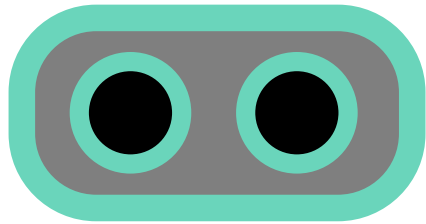
See how many
clones got created!



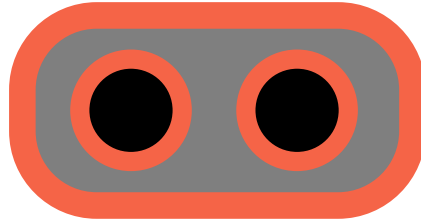
Example 1: Factorial

```
int fact(int a){  
    if(a == 0) return 1;  
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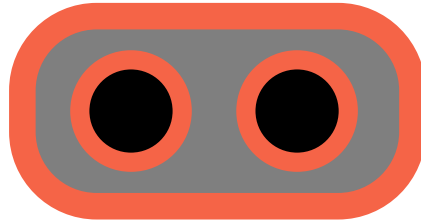
```
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fact(2*3));  
}
```



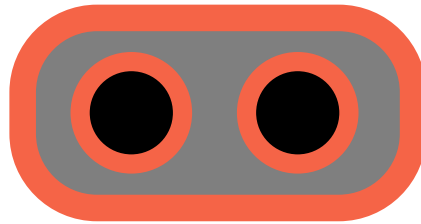
main()



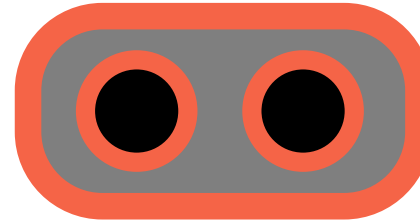
fact(0) = 1



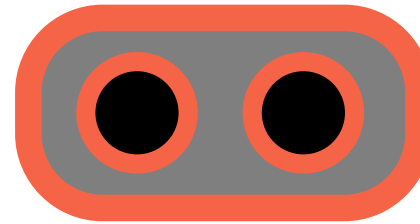
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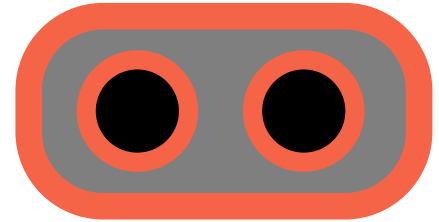
fact(6)
= 6 * fact(5)



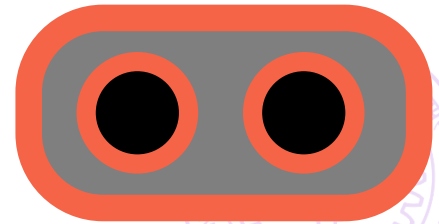
fact(2)
= 2 * fact(1)



fact(5)
= 5 * fact(4)



fact(3)
= 3 * fact(2)



fact(4)
= 4 * fact(3)

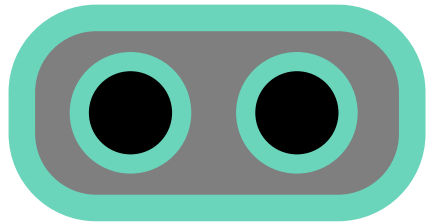
See how many clones got created!

Creating each clone takes time and memory

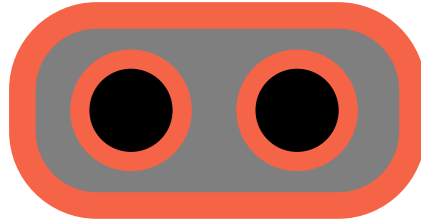


Example 1: Factorial

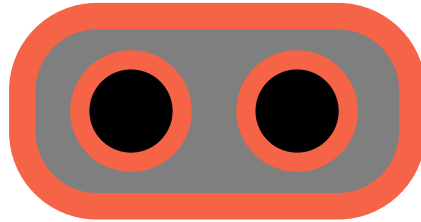
```
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    if(a == 0) return 1;  
    return a * fact(a - 1);  
}  
  
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fact(2*3));  
}
```



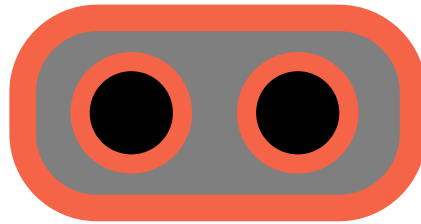
main()



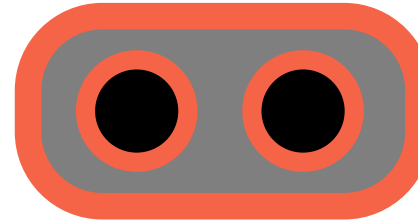
fact(0) = 1



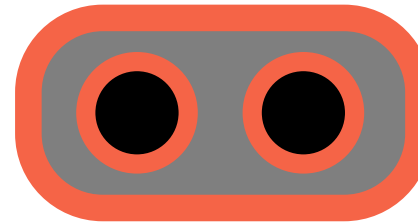
fact(1)
= 1 * fact(0)



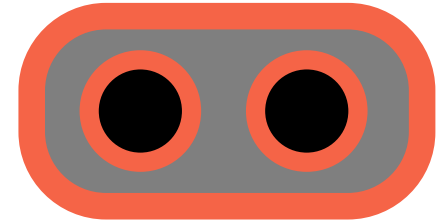
fact(6)
= 6 * fact(5)



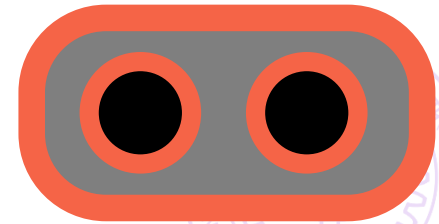
fact(2)
= 2 * fact(1)



fact(5)
= 5 * fact(4)



fact(3)
= 3 * fact(2)



fact(4)
= 4 * fact(3)

See how many clones got created!

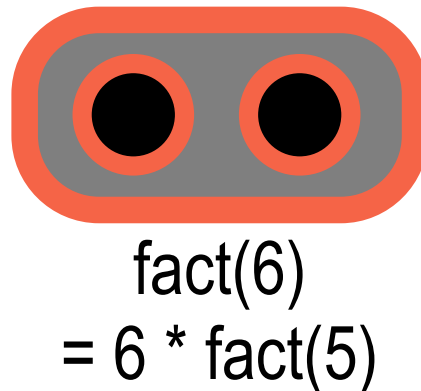
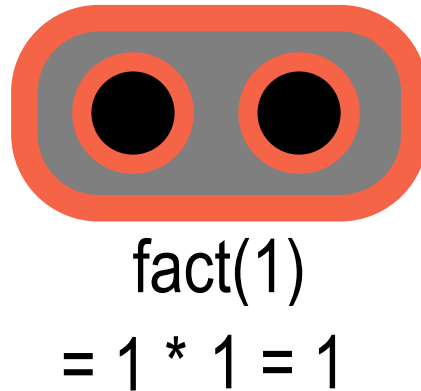
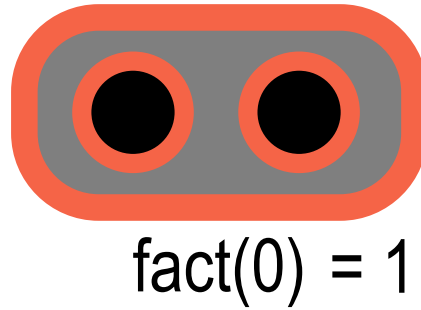
Creating each clone takes time and memory

This is why recursive programs can be a bit slower – be careful



Example 1: Factorial

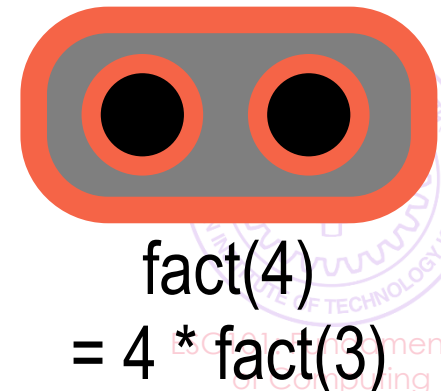
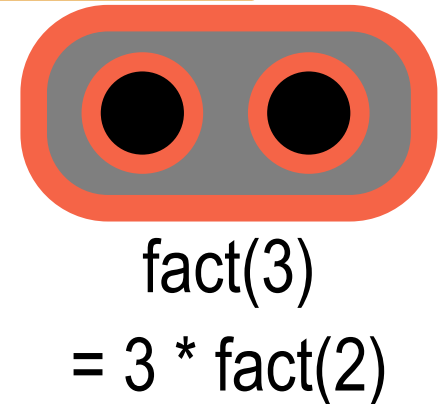
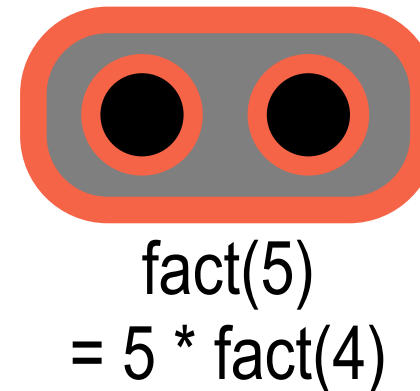
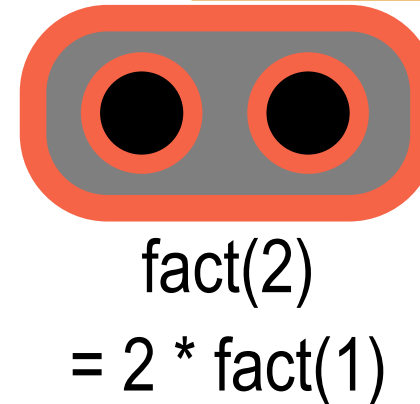
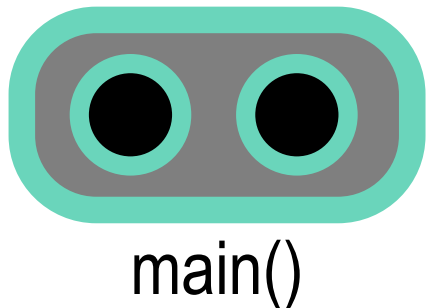
```
int fact(int a){  
    if(a == 0) return 1;  
    return a * fact(a - 1);  
}  
  
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fact(2*3));  
}
```



Creating each clone
takes time and memory

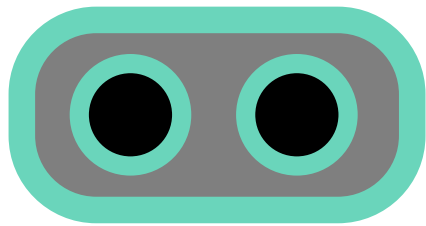
This is why recursive
programs can be a bit
slower – be careful

See how many
clones got created!

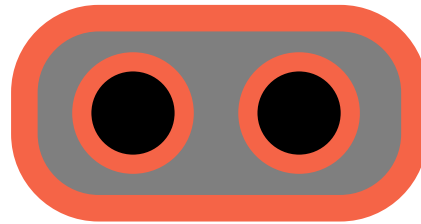


Example 1: Factorial

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```

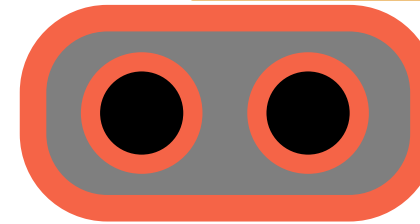


main()



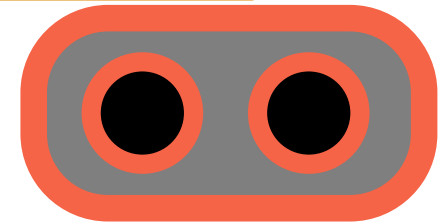
fact(1)

= 1 * 1 = 1



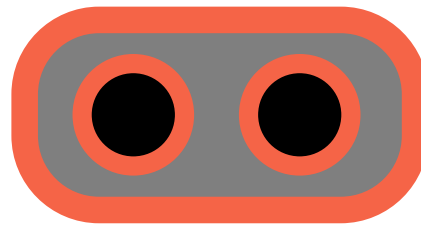
fact(2)

= 2 * fact(1)



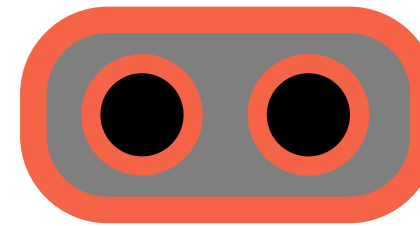
fact(3)

= 3 * fact(2)



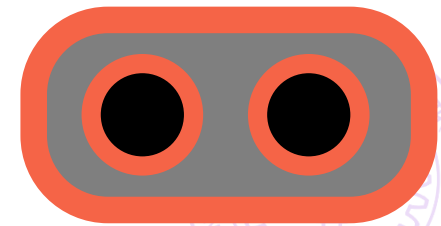
fact(6)

= 6 * fact(5)



fact(5)

= 5 * fact(4)



fact(4)

= 4 * fact(3)

See how many clones got created!

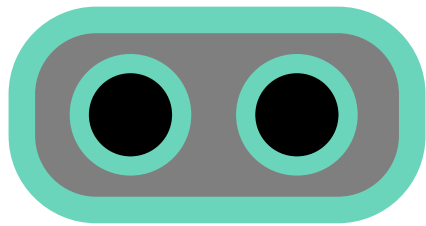
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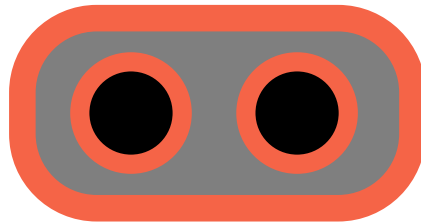


Example 1: Factorial

```
int fact(int a){  
    if(a == 0) return 1;  
    return a * fact(a - 1);  
}  
  
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fact(2*3));  
}
```

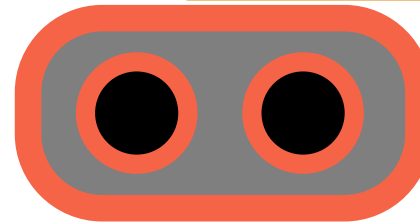


main()



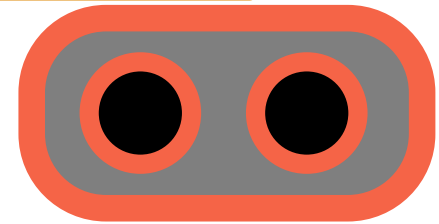
fact(1)

= 1 * 1 = 1



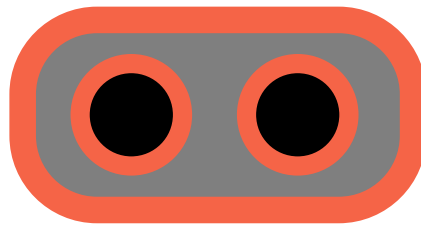
fact(2)

= 2 * 1 = 2



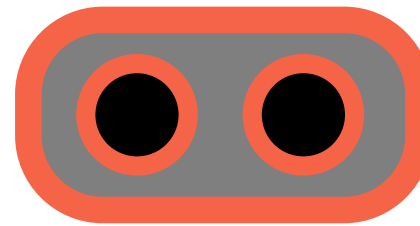
fact(3)

= 3 * fact(2)



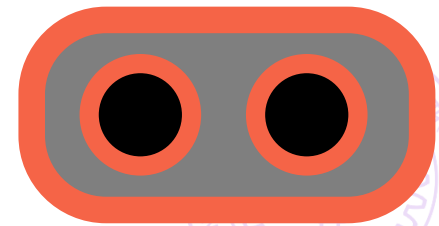
fact(6)

= 6 * fact(5)



fact(5)

= 5 * fact(4)



fact(4)

= 4 * fact(3)

See how many clones got created!

Creating each clone takes time and memory

This is why recursive programs can be a bit slower – be careful



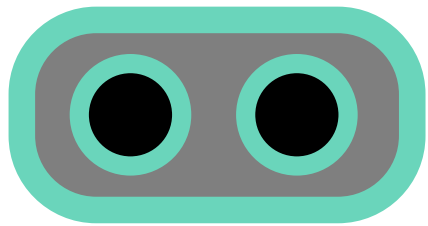
Example 1: Factorial

```
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}  
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fact(2*3));  
}
```

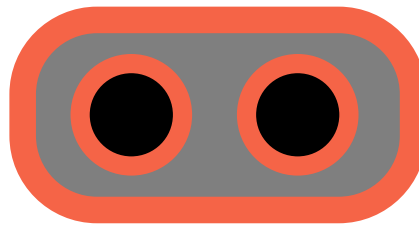
See how many clones got created!

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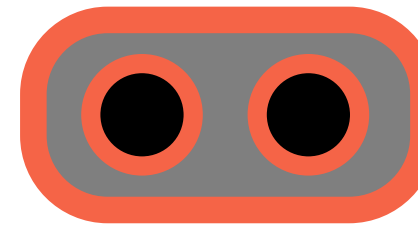
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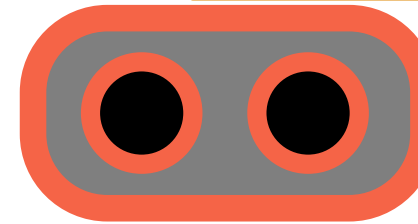
main()



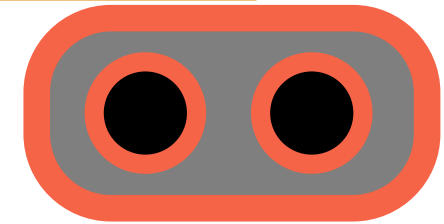
fact(6)
 $= 6 * \text{fact}(5)$



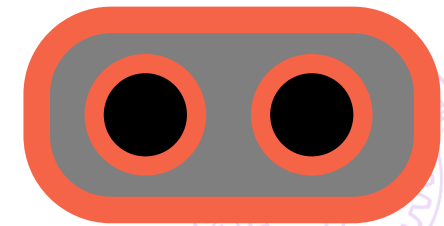
fact(5)
 $= 5 * \text{fact}(4)$



fact(2)
 $= 2 * 1 = 2$



fact(3)
 $= 3 * \text{fact}(2)$



fact(4)
 $= 4 * \text{fact}(3)$

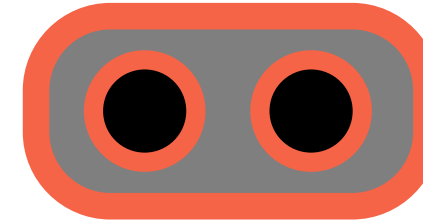
Example 1: Factorial

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}  
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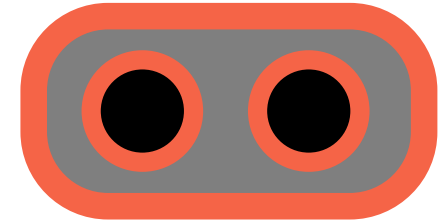
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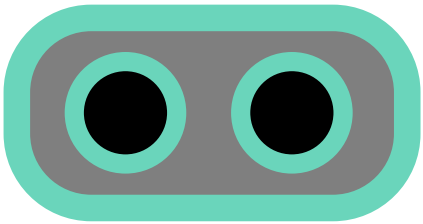
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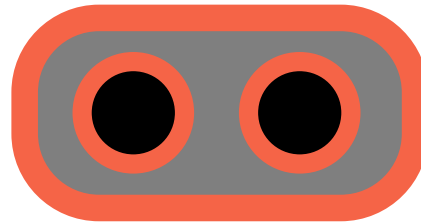
fact(2)
 $= 2 * 1 = 2$



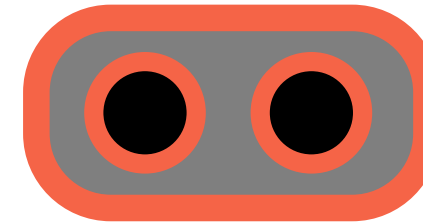
fact(3)
 $= 3 * 2 = 6$



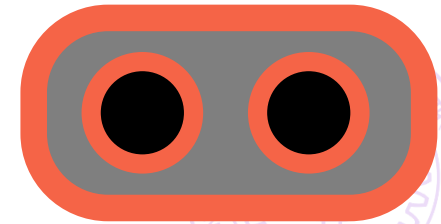
main()



fact(6)
 $= 6 * \text{fact}(5)$



fact(5)
 $= 5 * \text{fact}(4)$



fact(4)
 $= 4 * \text{fact}(3)$

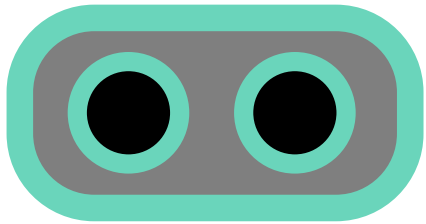
Example 1: Factorial

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int fact(int a){  
    if(a == 0) return 1;  
    return a * fact(a - 1);  
}  
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fact(2*3));  
}
```

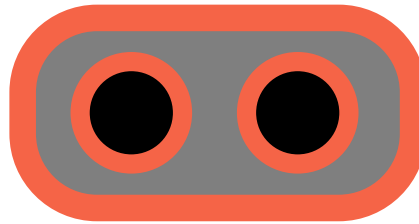
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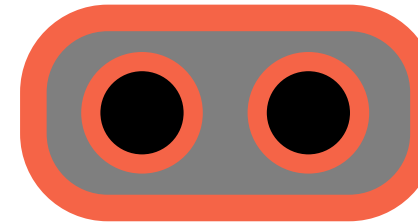
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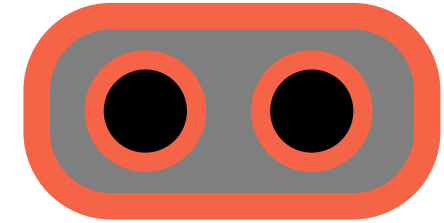
main()



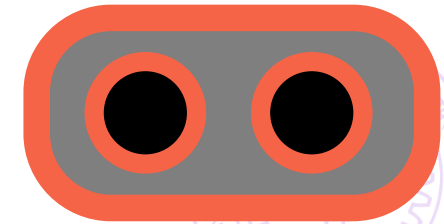
fact(6)
 $= 6 * \text{fact}(5)$



fact(5)
 $= 5 * \text{fact}(4)$



fact(3)
 $= 3 * 2 = 6$



fact(4)
 $= 4 * \text{fact}(3)$

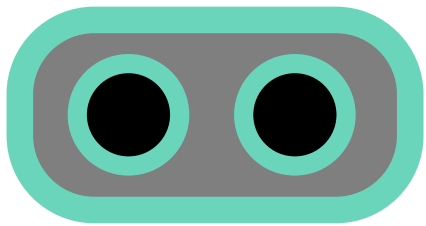
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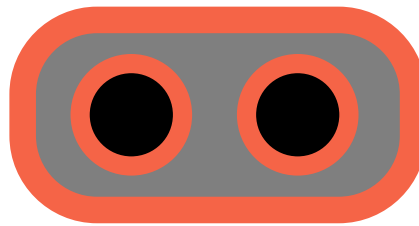
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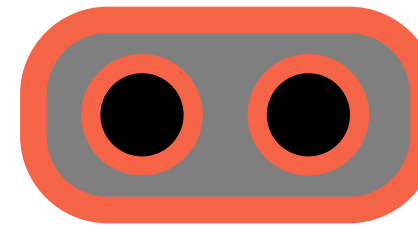
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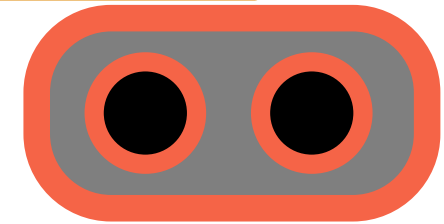
main()



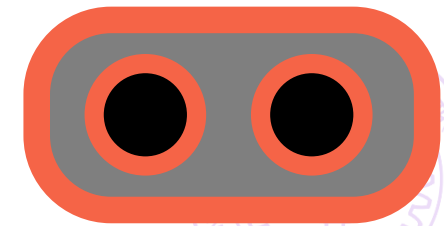
fact(6)
 $= 6 * \text{fact}(5)$



fact(5)
 $= 5 * \text{fact}(4)$



fact(3)
 $= 3 * 2 = 6$



fact(4)
 $= 4 * 6 = 24$

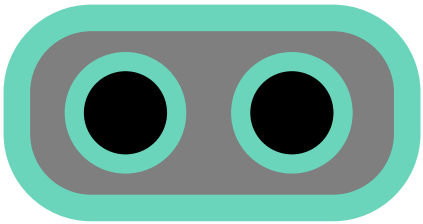
Example 1: Factorial

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int main(){  
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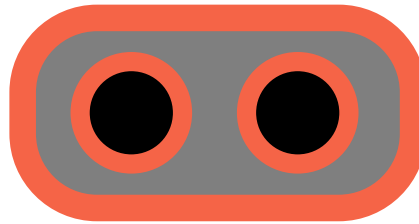
See how many clones got created!

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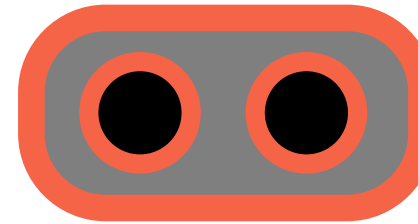
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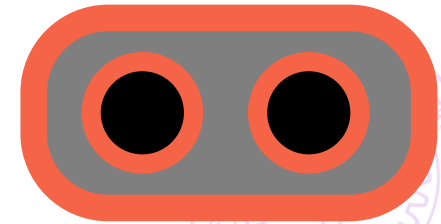
main()



fact(6)
= 6 * fact(5)



fact(5)
= 5 * fact(4)



fact(4)
= 4 * 6 = 24

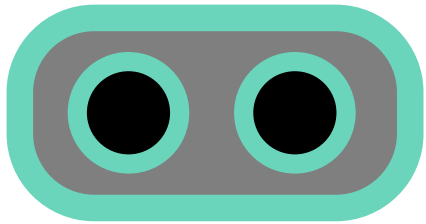
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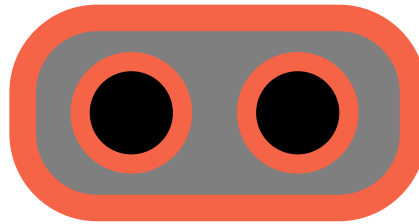
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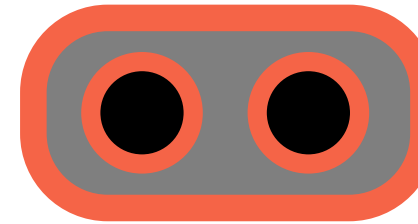
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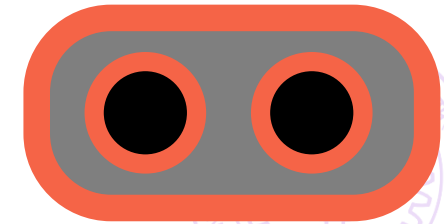
main()



fact(6)
= 6 * fact(5)



fact(5)
= 5 * 24 = 120



fact(4)
= 4 * 6 = 24

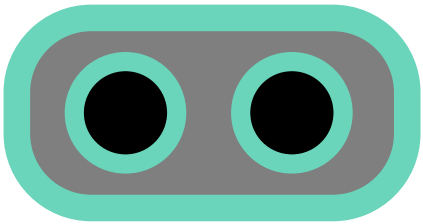
Example 1: Factorial

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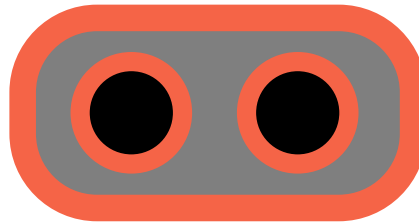
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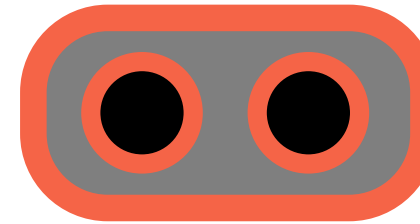
This is why recursive programs can be a bit slower – be careful



main()



fact(6)
= 6 * fact(5)



fact(5)
= 5 * 24 = 120



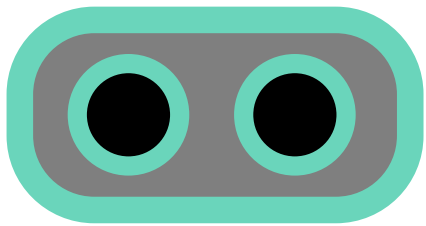
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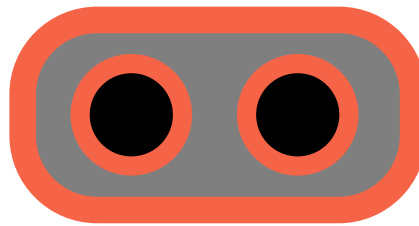
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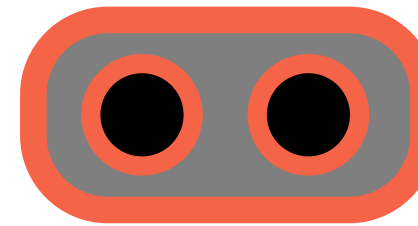
This is why recursive programs can be a bit slower – be careful



main()



fact(6)
 $= 6 * 120 = 720$



fact(5)
 $= 5 * 24 = 120$



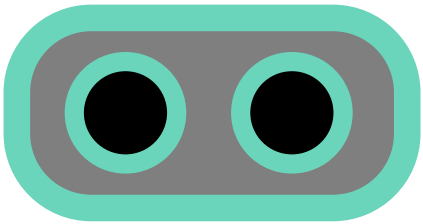
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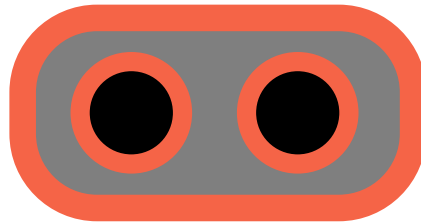
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main()

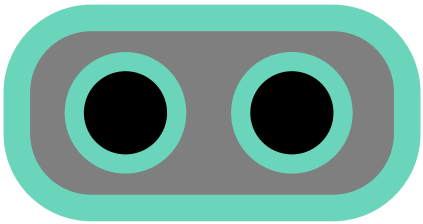


fact(6)
 $= 6 * 120 = 720$



Example 1: Factorial

```
int fact(int a){  
    if(a == 0) return 1;  
    return a * fact(a - 1);  
}  
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fact(2*3));  
}
```



main()

See how many clones got created!

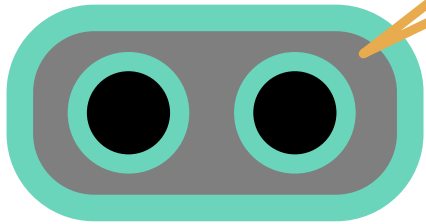
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Example 1: Factorial

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    printf("%d", fact(2*3));  
}
```



main()

720

See how many clones got created!

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This is why recursive programs can be a bit slower – be careful



Example 2: Fibonacci Numbers

7



Example 2: Fibonacci Numbers

7

There are two base cases for Fibonacci numbers



Example 2: Fibonacci Numbers

7

There are two base cases for Fibonacci numbers

The first Fibonacci number is defined to be 0



Example 2: Fibonacci Numbers

7

There are two base cases for Fibonacci numbers

The first Fibonacci number is defined to be 0

The second Fibonacci number is defined to be 1



Example 2: Fibonacci Numbers

7

There are two base cases for Fibonacci numbers

The first Fibonacci number is defined to be 0

The second Fibonacci number is defined to be 1

Recursive case: for $n > 2$, n -th Fibonacci number is the sum of the previous two Fibonacci numbers



Example 2: Fibonacci Numbers

7

There are two base cases for Fibonacci numbers

The first Fibonacci number is defined to be 0

The second Fibonacci number is defined to be 1

Recursive case: for $n > 2$, n -th Fibonacci number is the sum of the previous two Fibonacci numbers

```
int fib(int n){
    if(n == 1) return 0;
    if(n == 2) return 1;
    return fib(n-1) + fib(n-2);
}

int main(){
    printf("%d", fib(5));
}
```



Example 2: Fibonacci Numbers

7

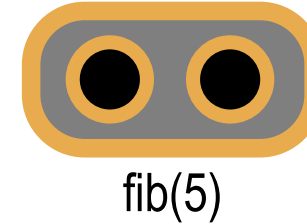
There are two base cases for Fibonacci numbers

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The second Fibonacci number is defined to be 1

Recursive case: for $n > 2$, n -th Fibonacci number is the sum of the previous two Fibonacci numbers

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}  
  
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fib(5));  
}
```



Example 2: Fibonacci Numbers

7

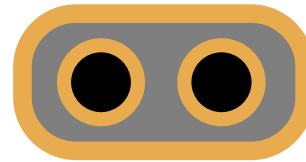
There are two base cases for Fibonacci numbers

The first Fibonacci number is defined to be 0

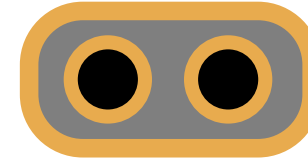
The second Fibonacci number is defined to be 1

Recursive case: for $n > 2$, n -th Fibonacci number is the sum of the previous two Fibonacci numbers

```
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    if(n == 1) return 0;  
    if(n == 2) return 1;  
    return fib(n-1) + fib(n-2);  
}  
int main(){  
    printf("%d", fib(5));  
}
```



fib(4)



fib(5)



Example 2: Fibonacci Numbers

7

There are two base cases for Fibonacci numbers

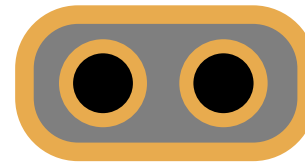
The first Fibonacci number is defined to be 0

The second Fibonacci number is defined to be 1

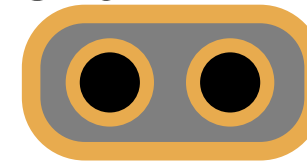
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    return fib(n-1) + fib(n-2);
}

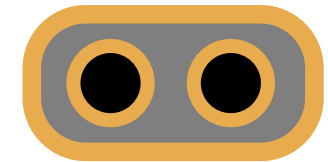
int main(){
    printf("%d", fib(5));
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```



fib(4)



fib(5)



fib(3)



Example 2: Fibonacci Numbers

7

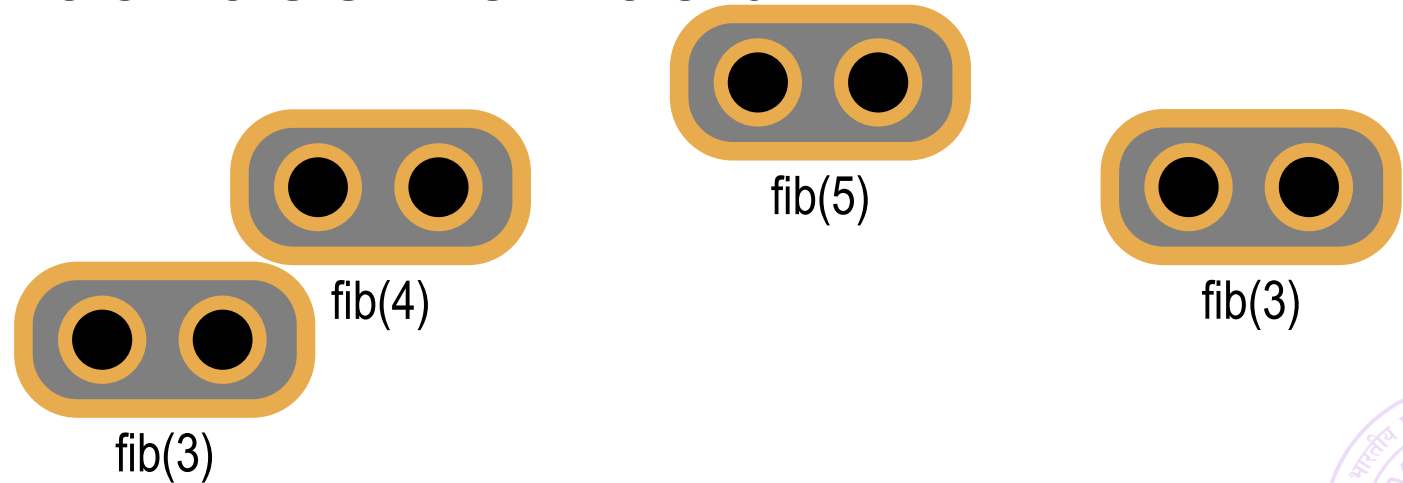
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Example 2: Fibonacci Numbers

7

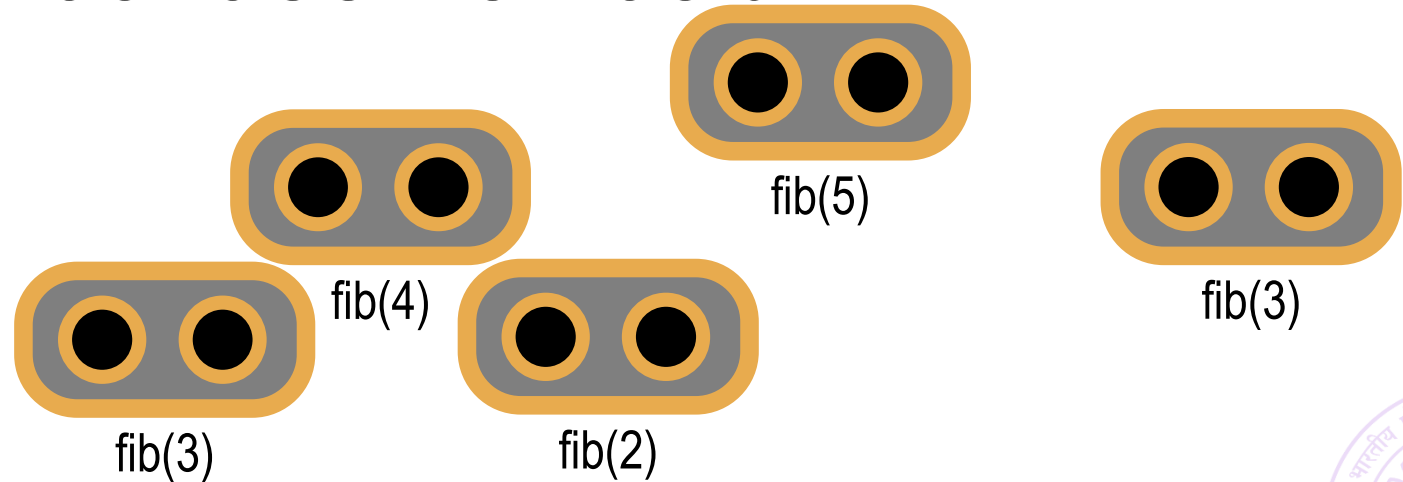
There are two base cases for Fibonacci numbers

The first Fibonacci number is defined to be 0

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Recursive case: for $n > 2$, n -th Fibonacci number is the sum of the previous two Fibonacci numbers

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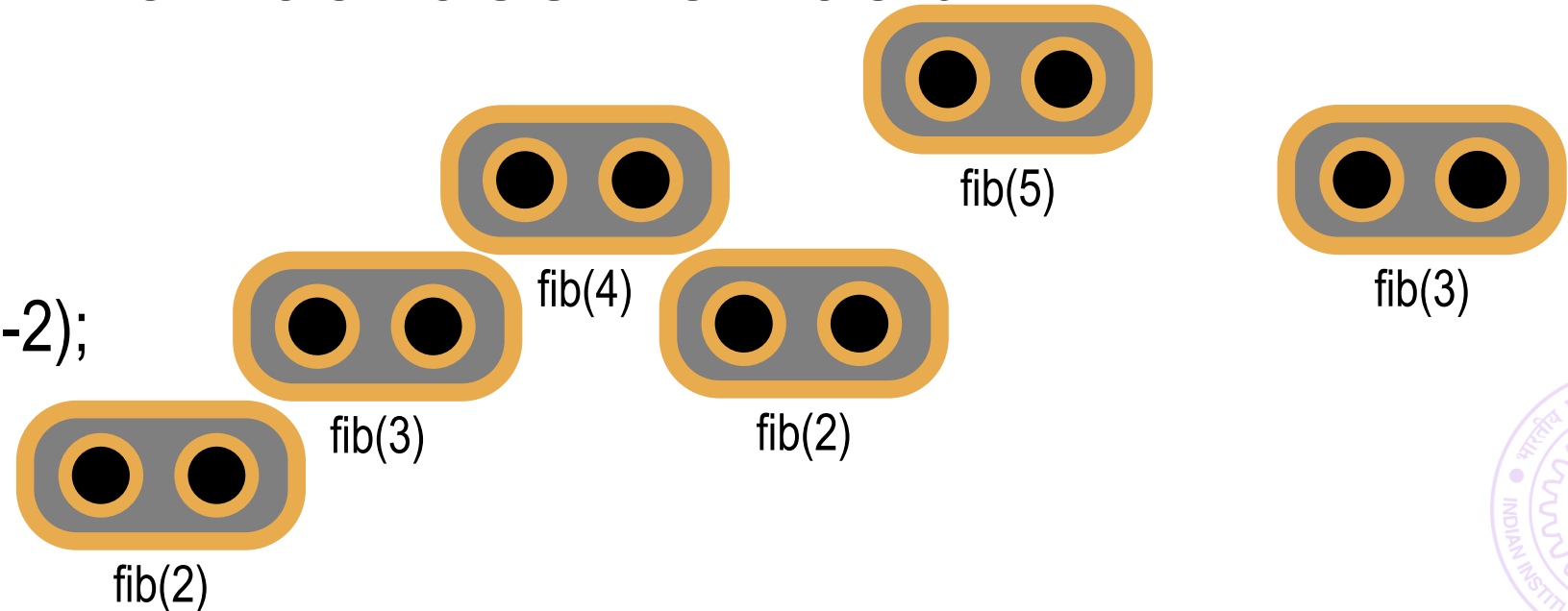
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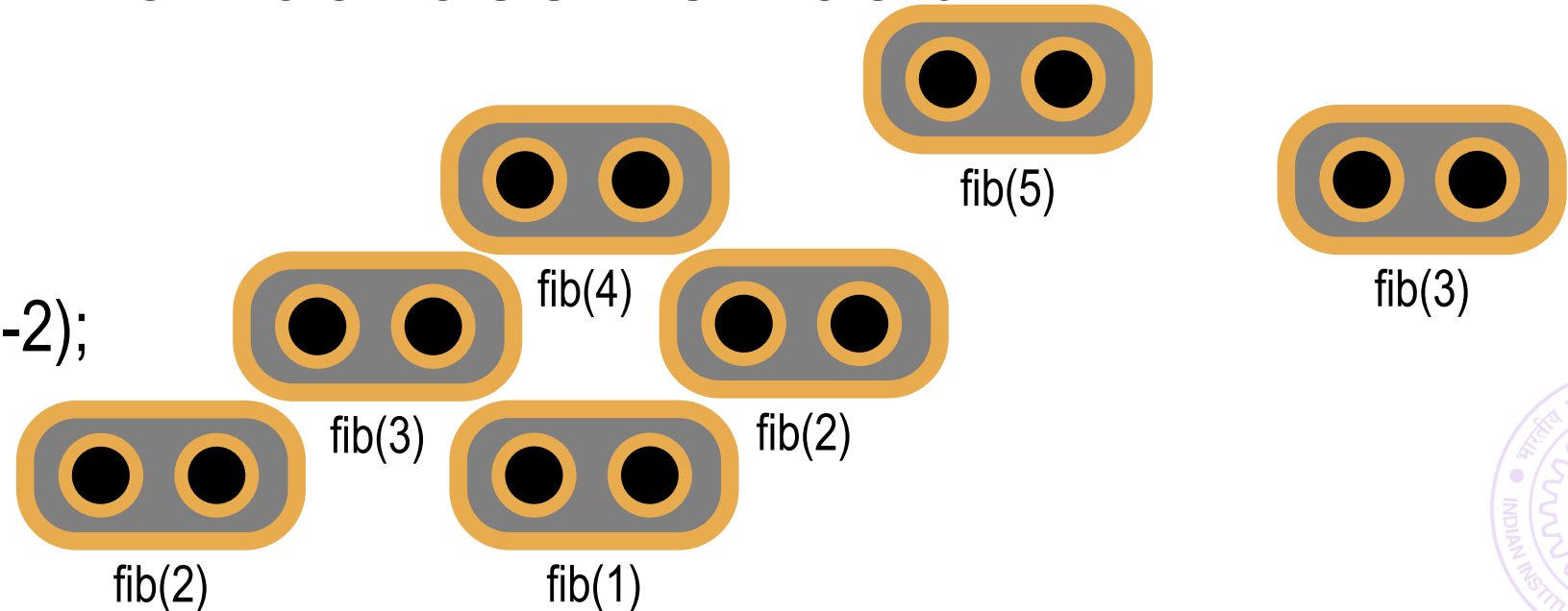
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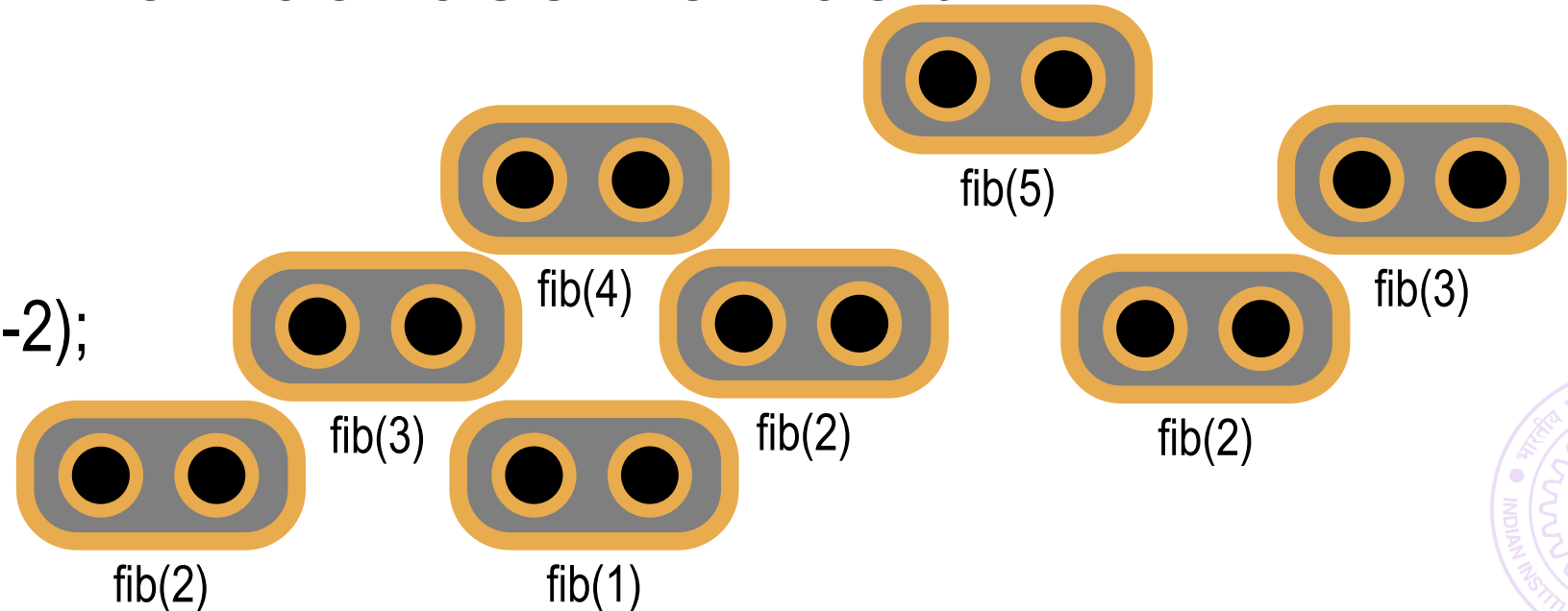
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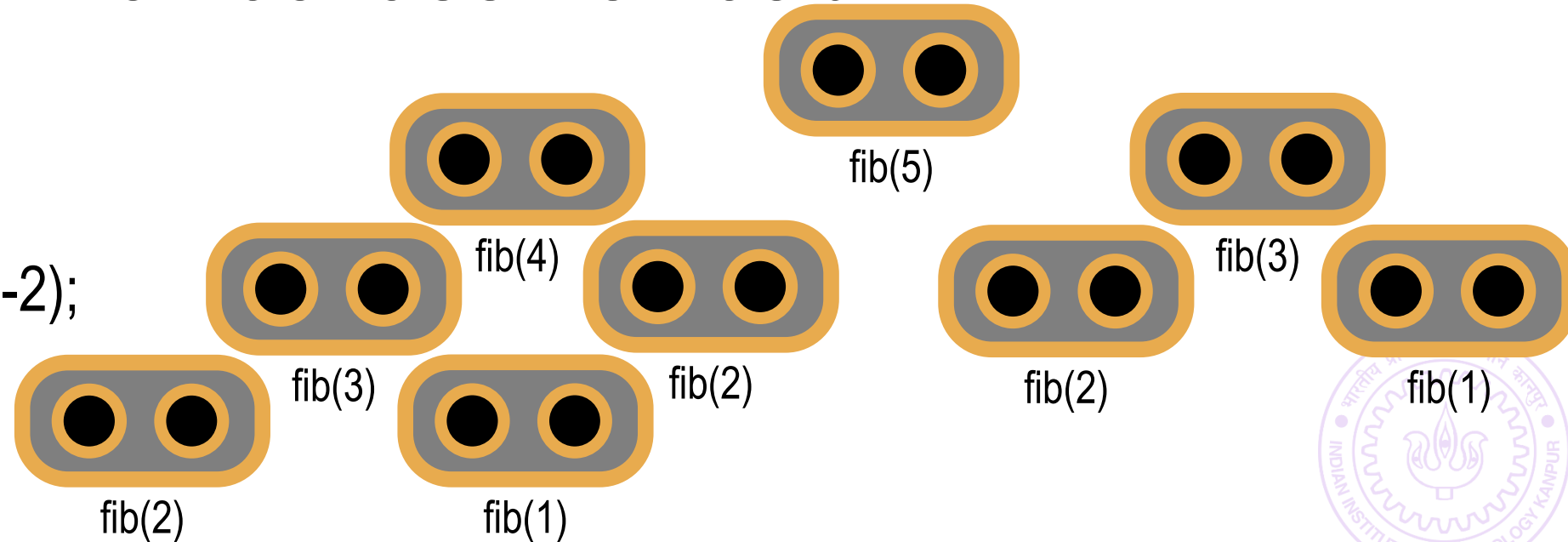
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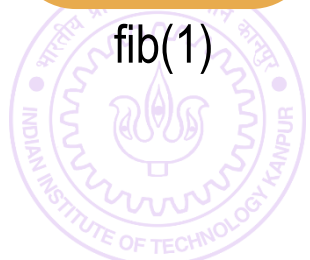
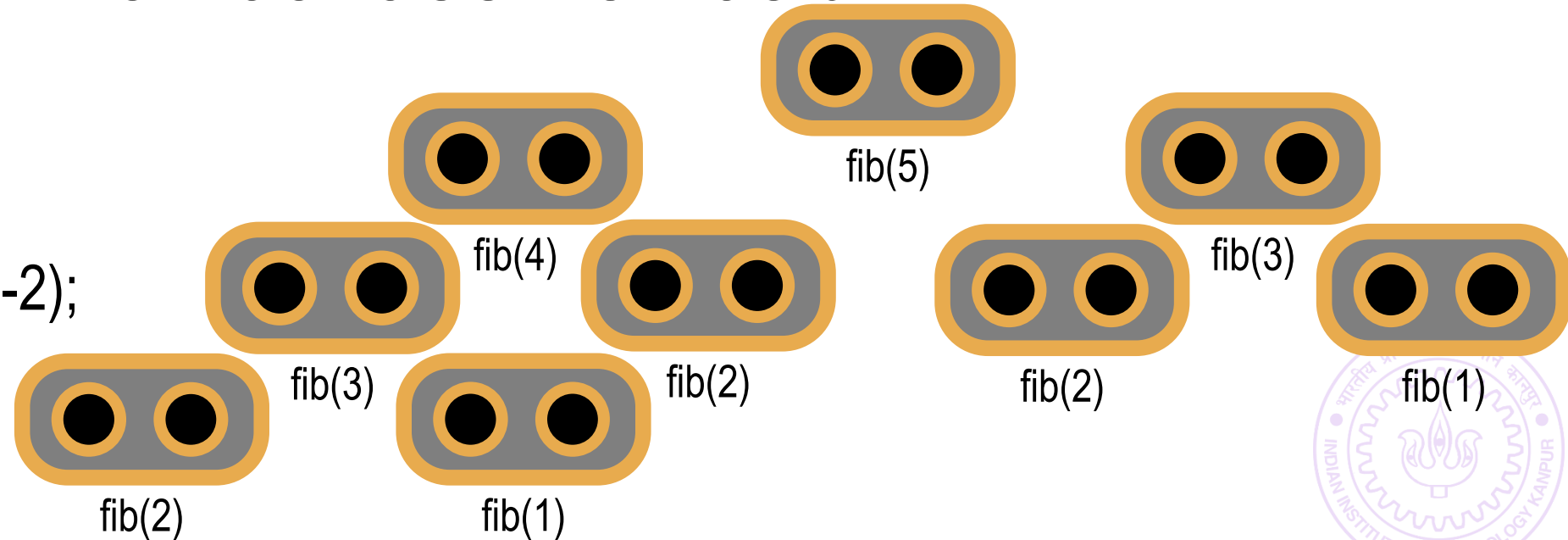
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Example 2: Fibonacci Number

Explosion
of clones!



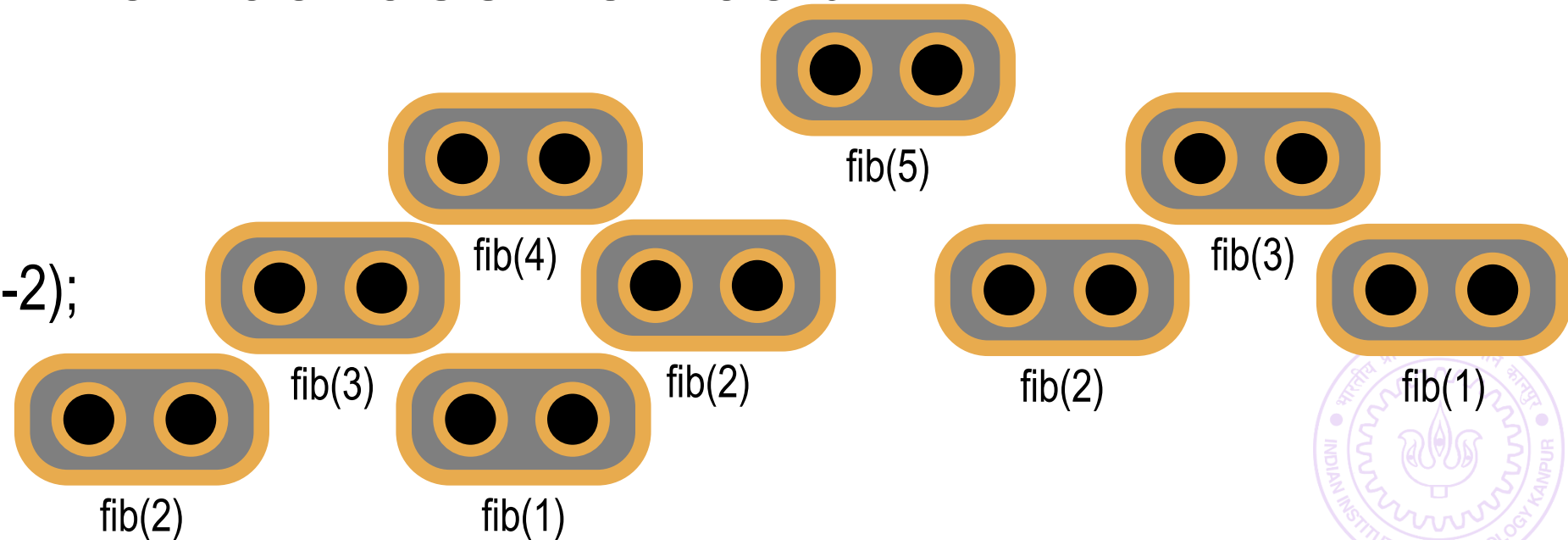
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Example 2: Fib

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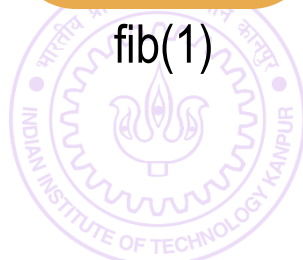
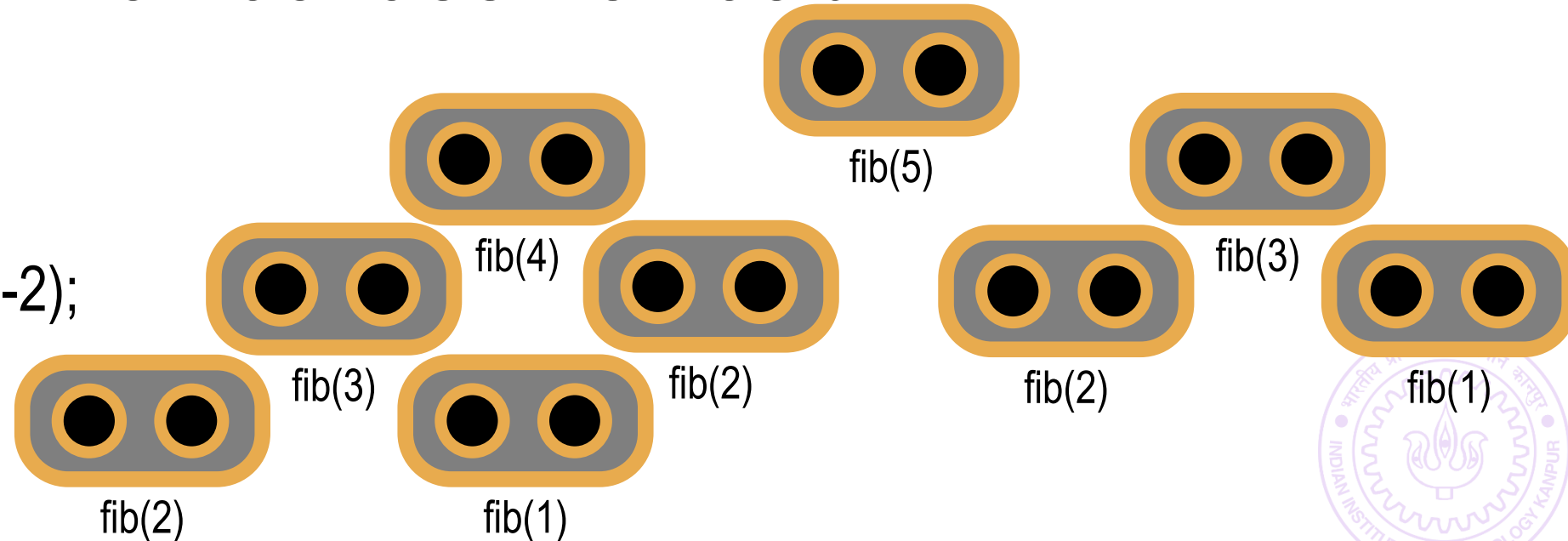
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Wasted effort too!
fib(1) calculated twice
fib(2) calculated 3 times
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Explosion of clones!



Imagine the number of clones to calculate fib(100). **Challenge:** don't imagine – find out 😊

There are two base cases

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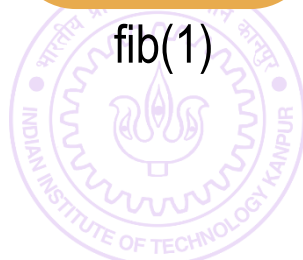
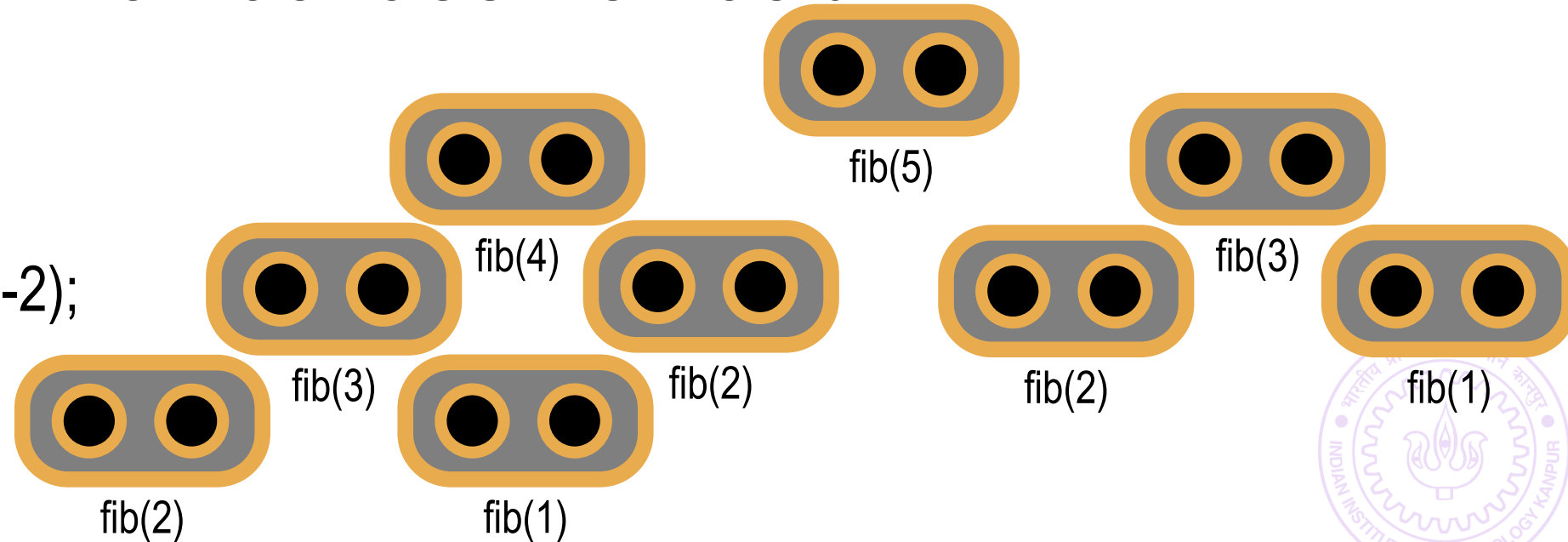
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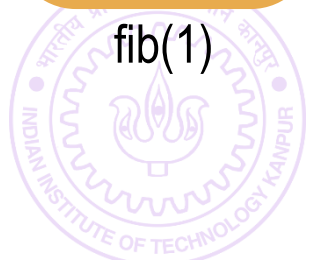
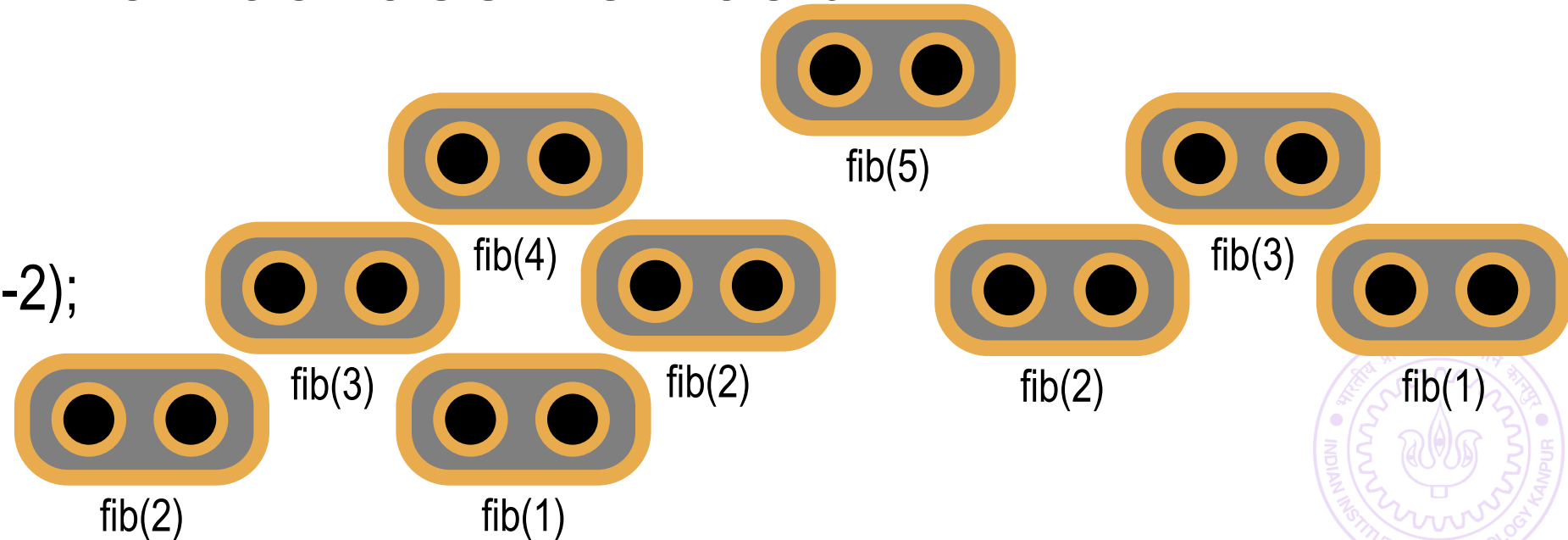
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```
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I could have easily solved this problem using a for loop – much faster and no clones

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Each Fibonacci number is the sum of the previous two Fibonacci numbers

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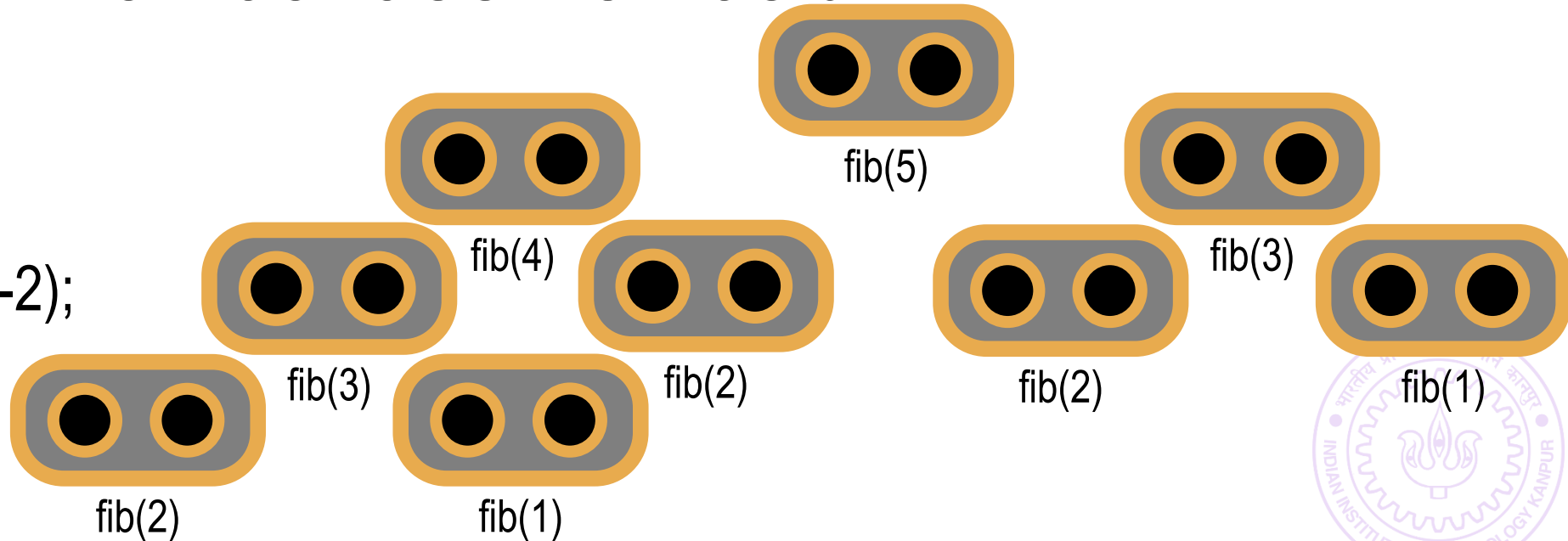
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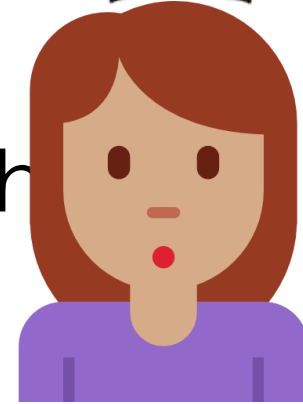


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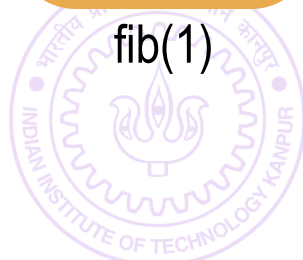
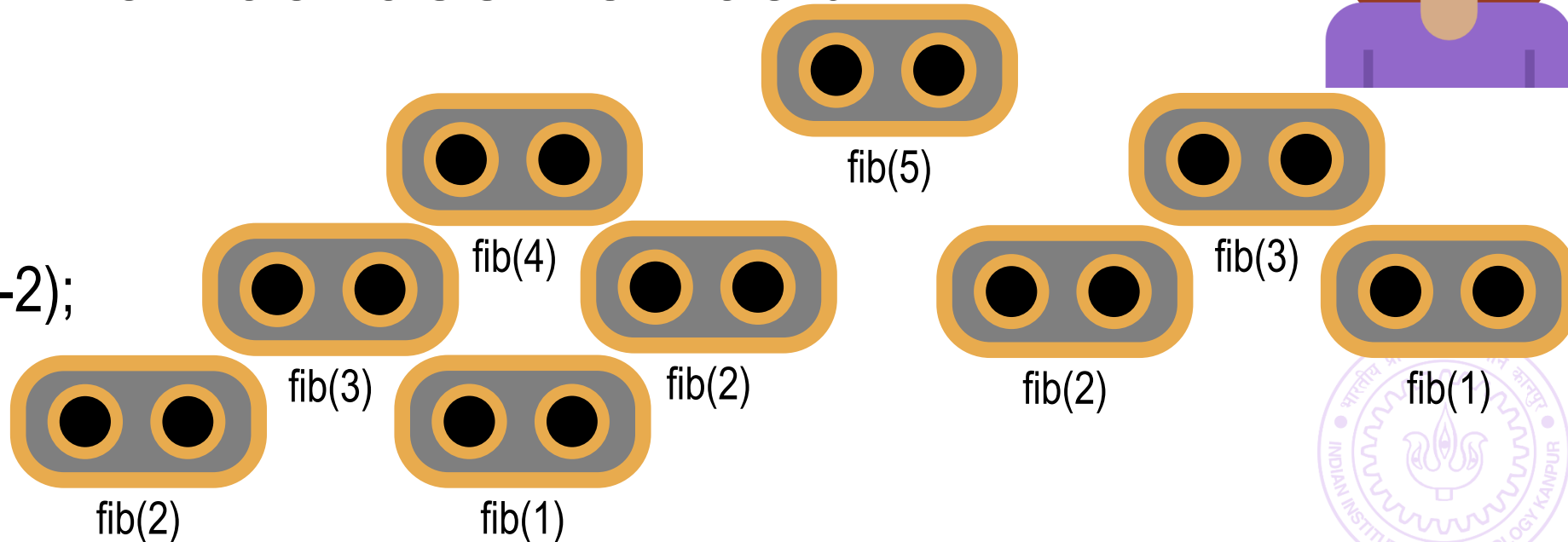
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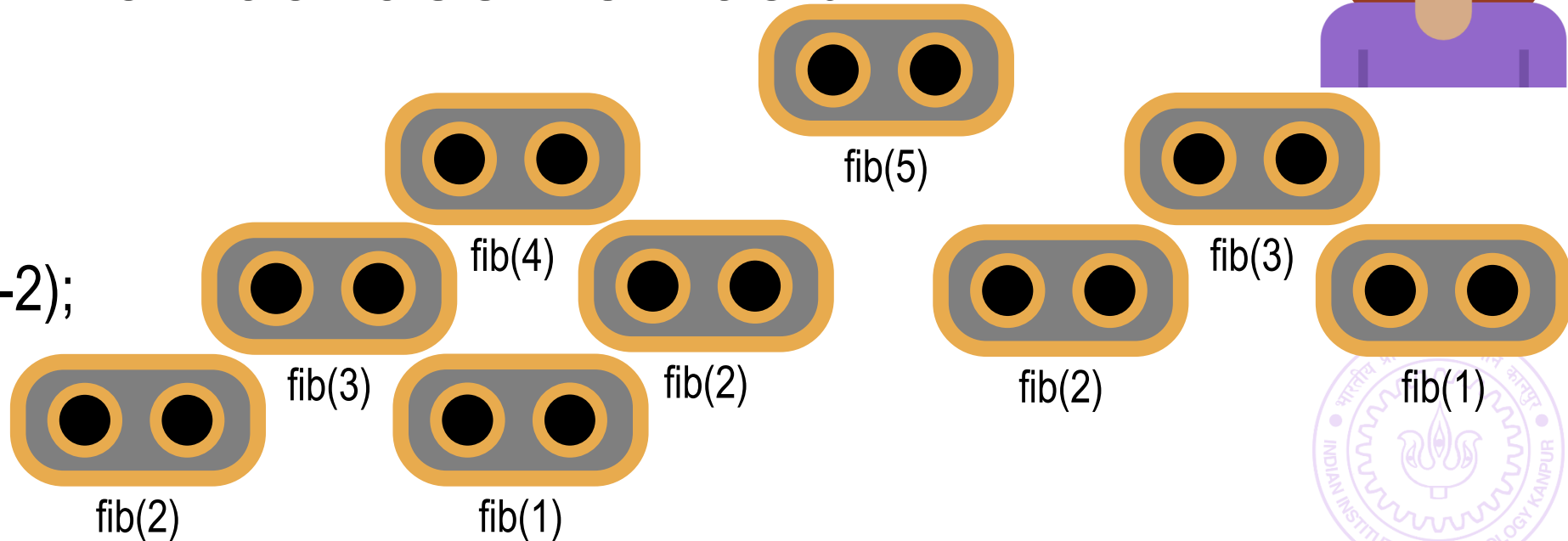
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That's why we were warned. Recursion allows neat code but sometimes can be slower



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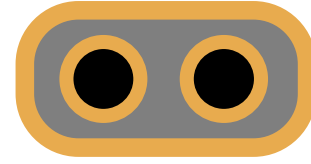
Attack of the Clones

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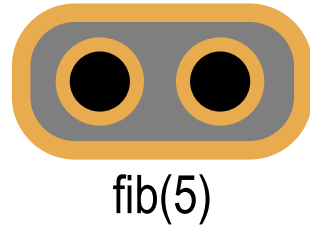


fib(6)

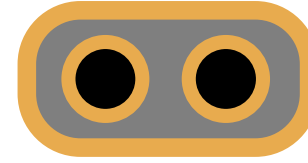


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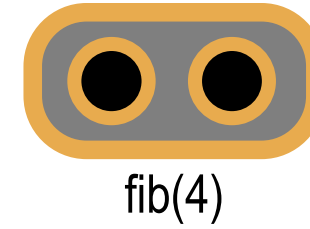
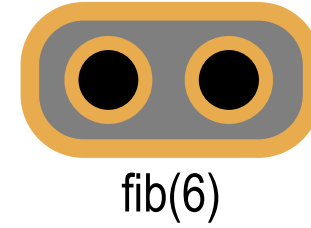
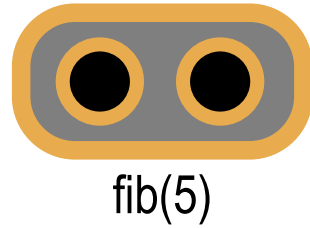


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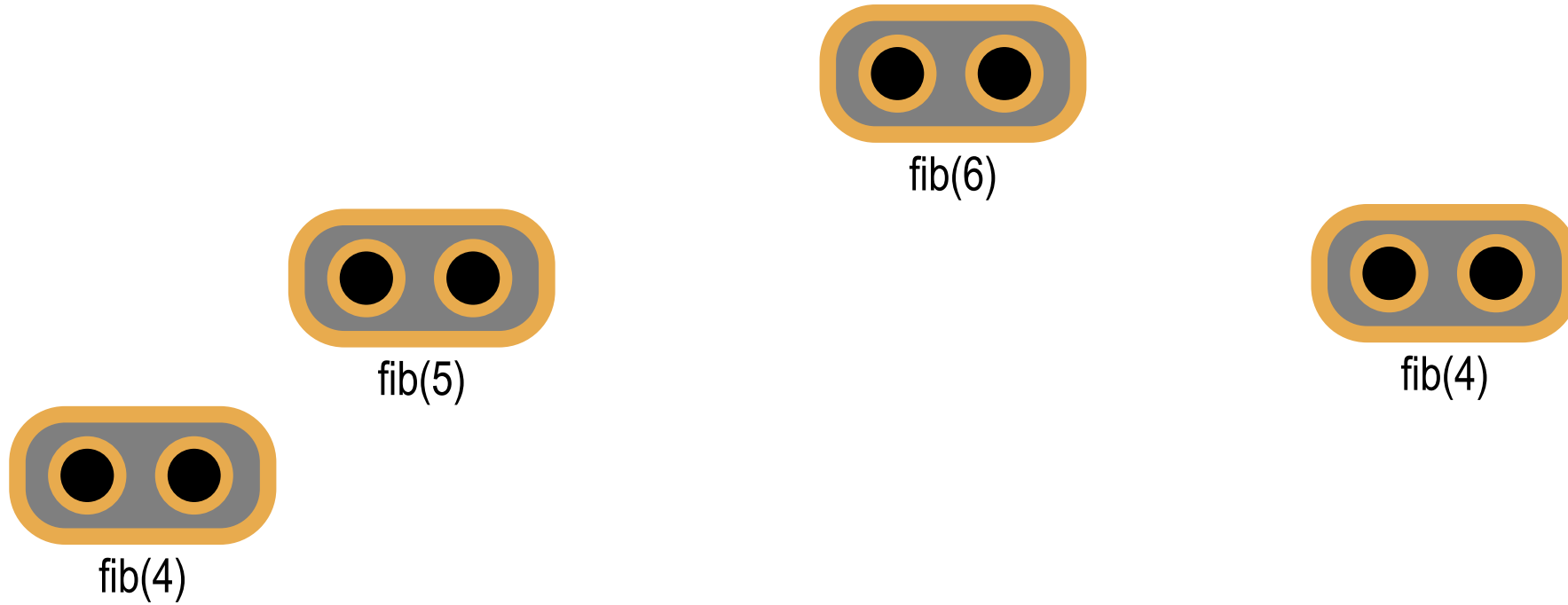
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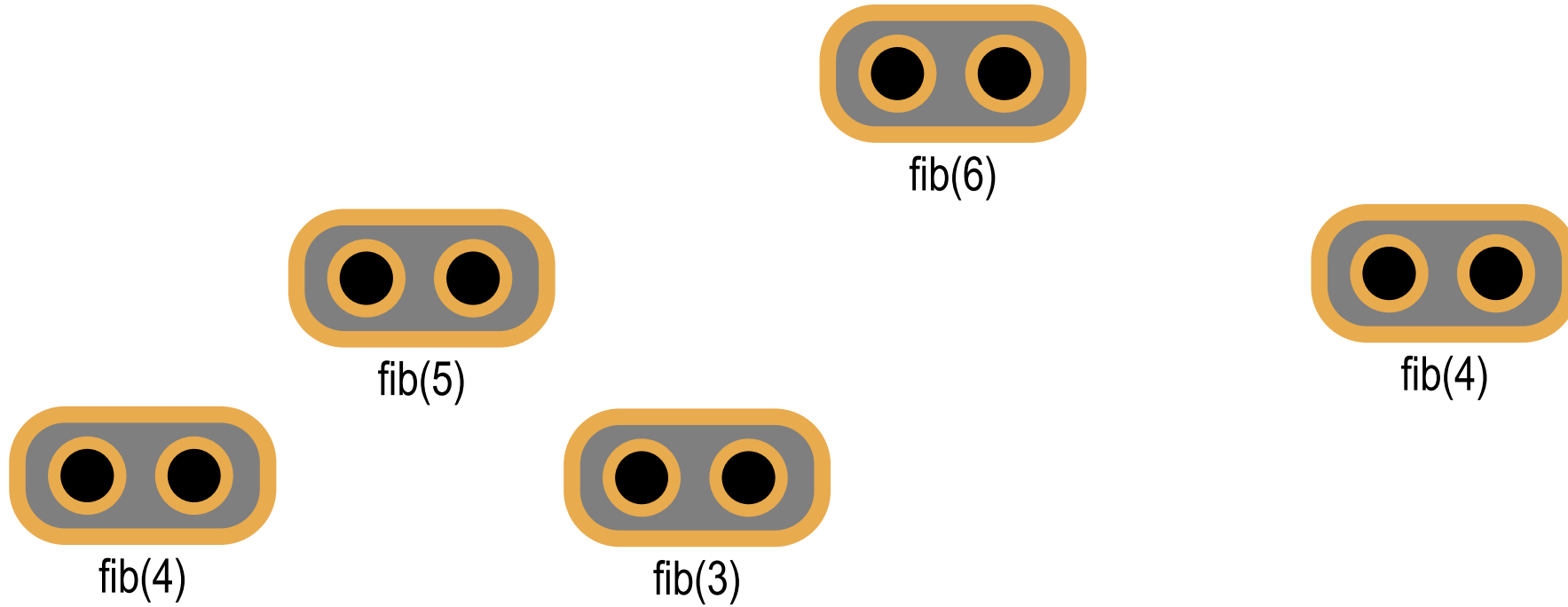
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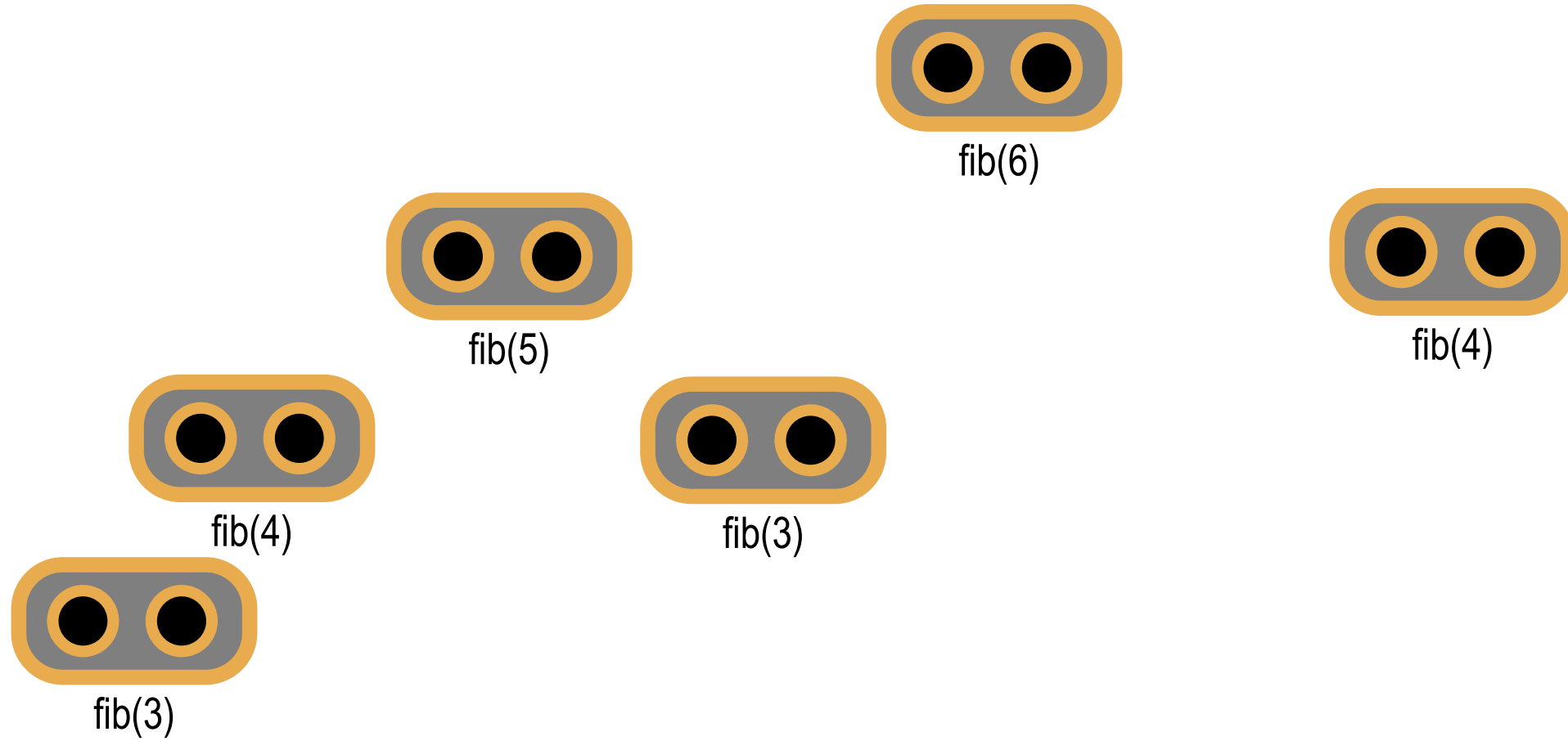
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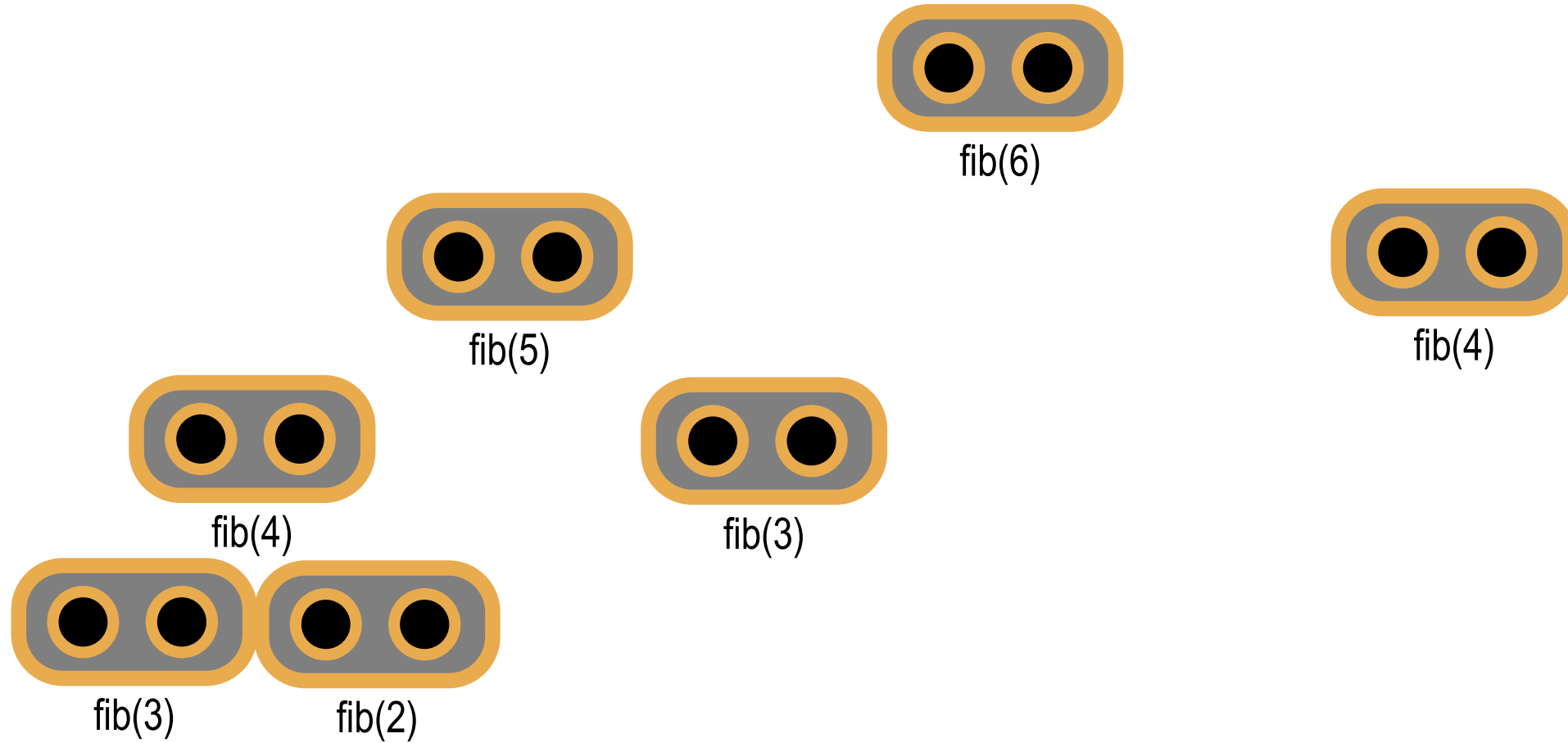
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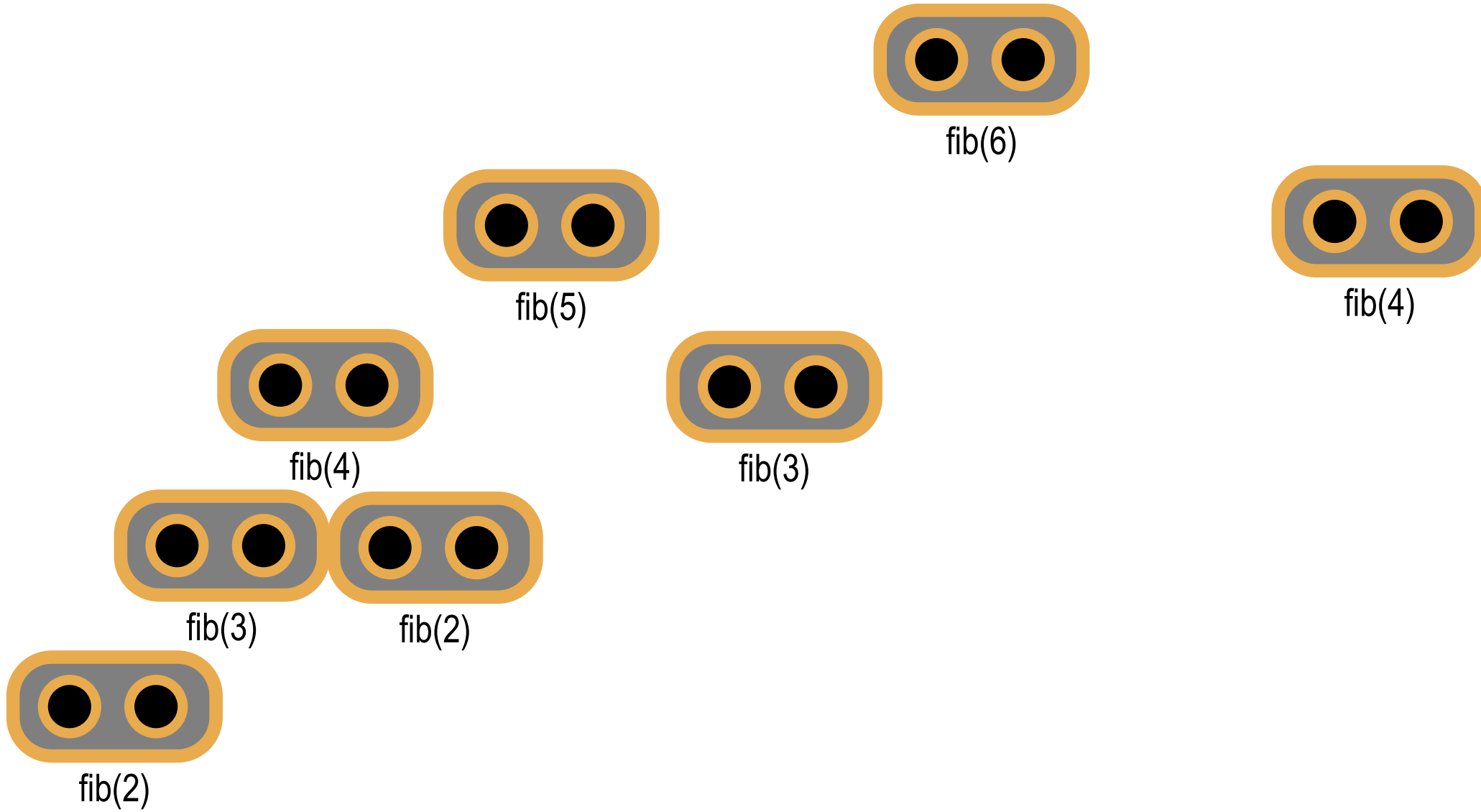
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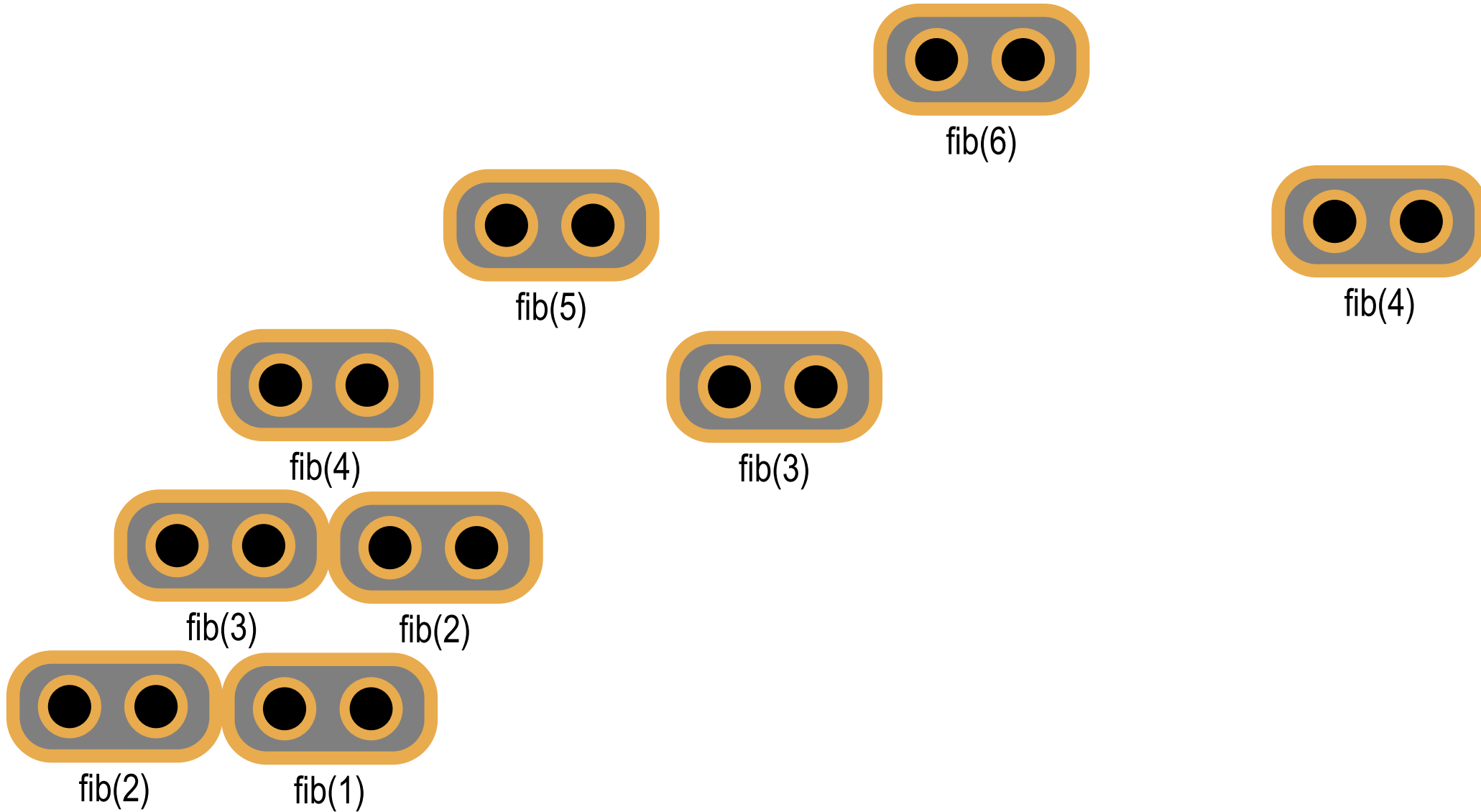
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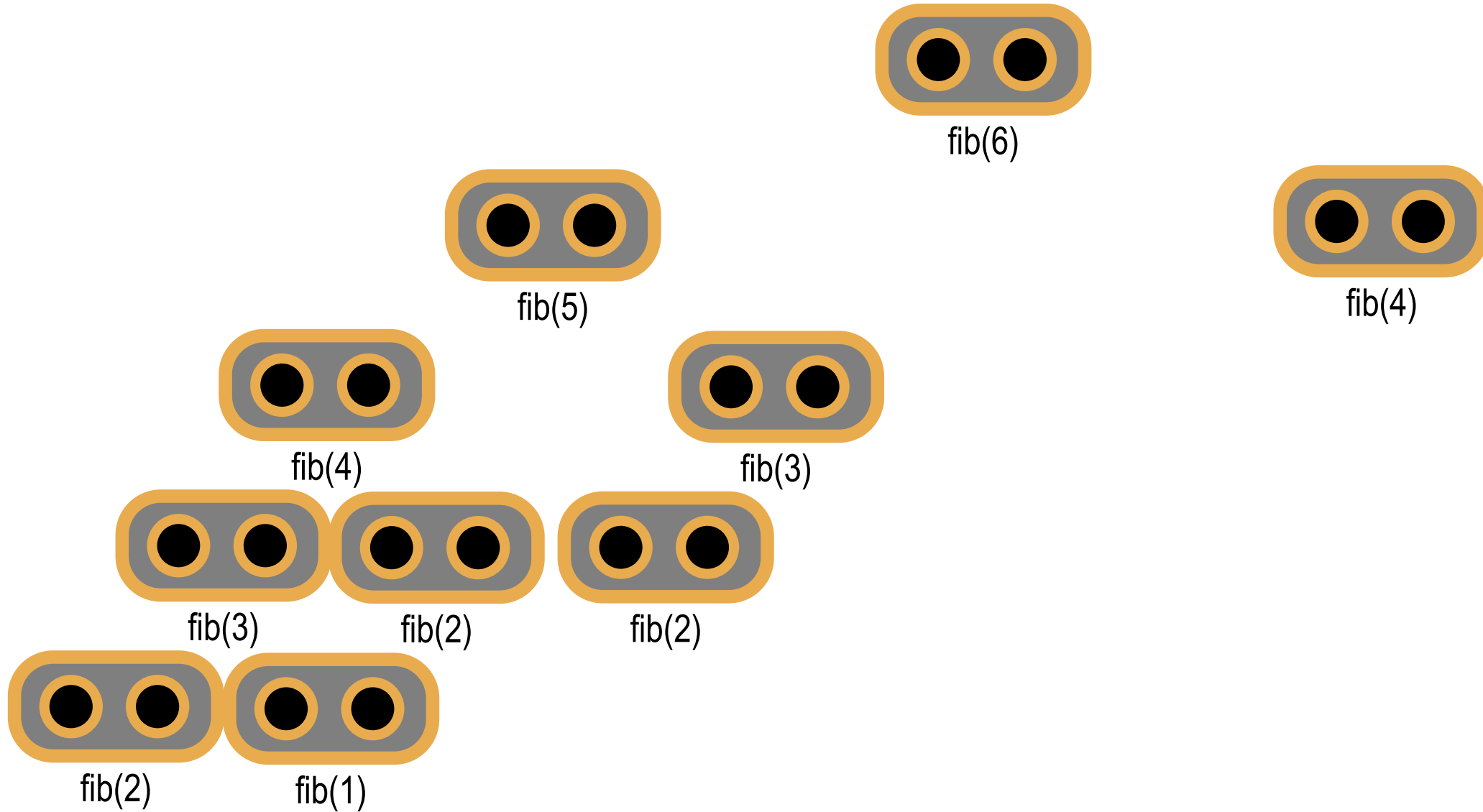
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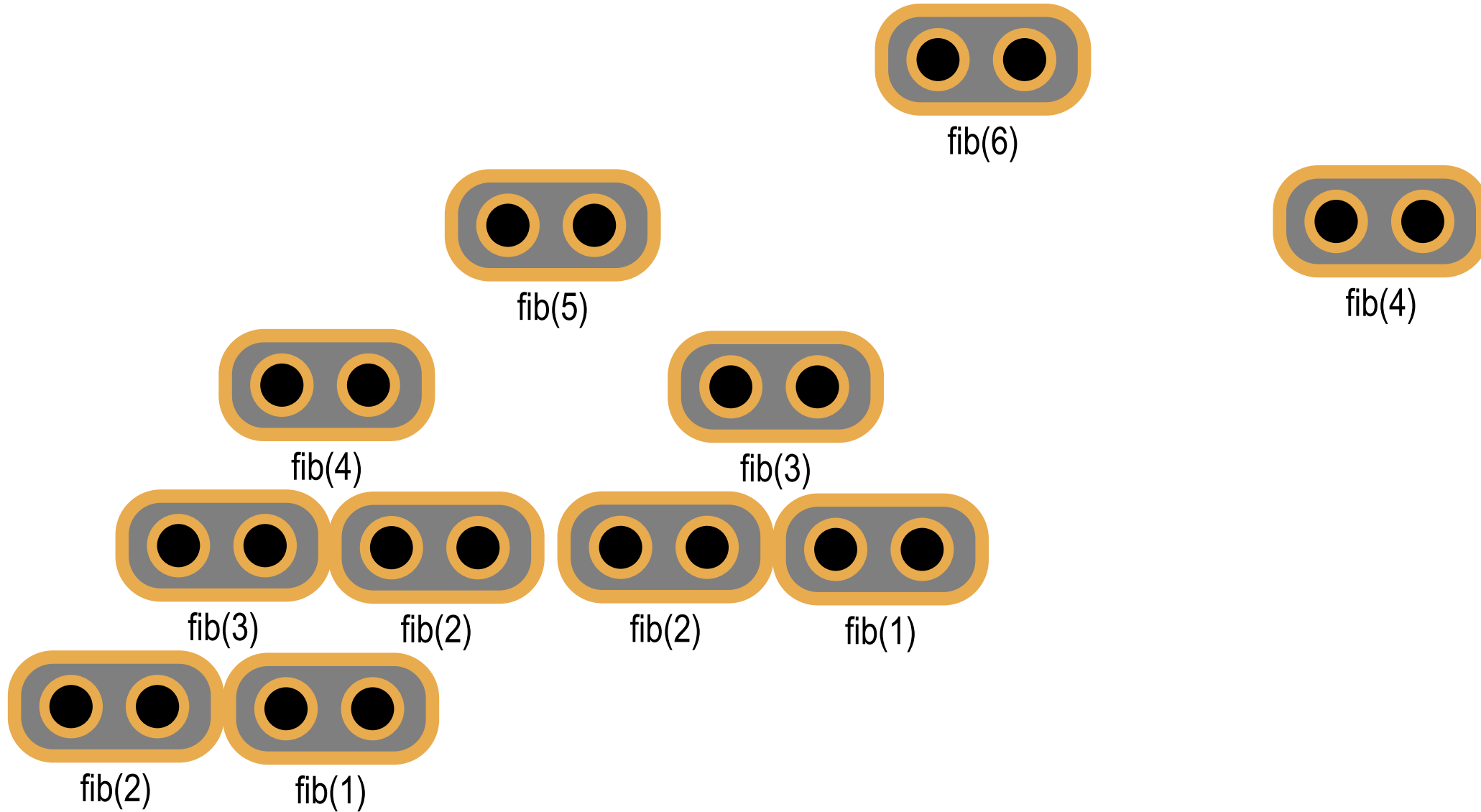
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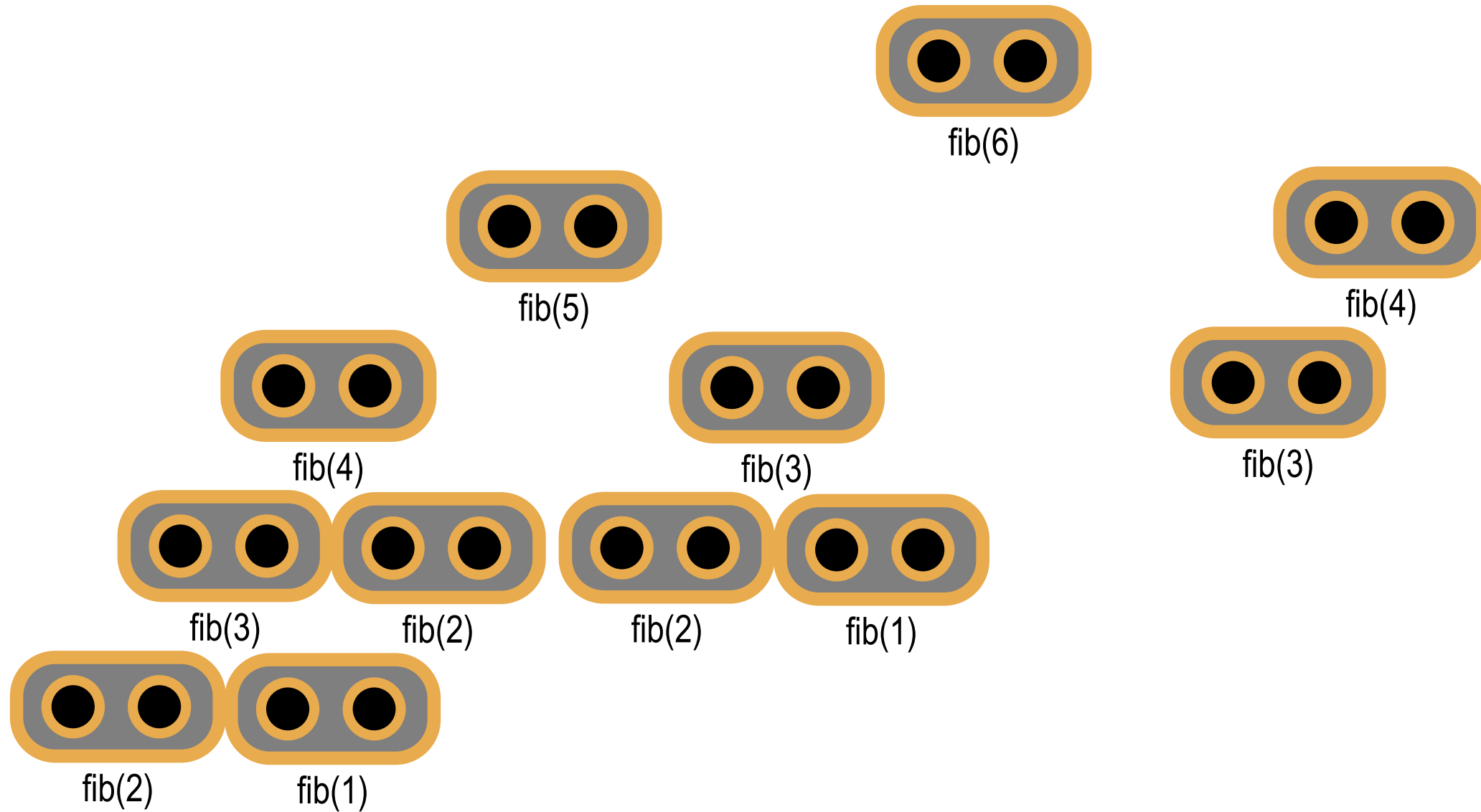
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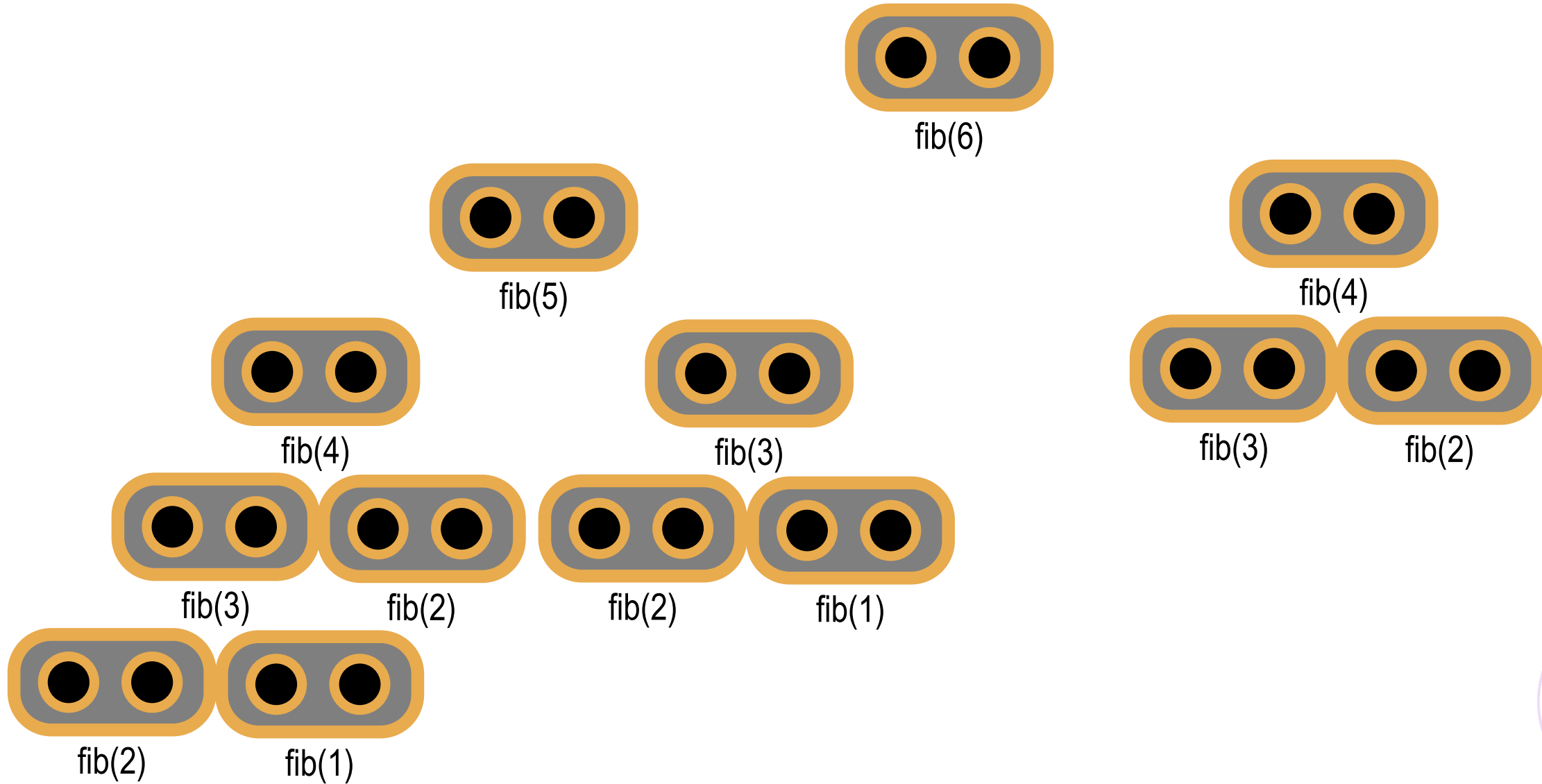
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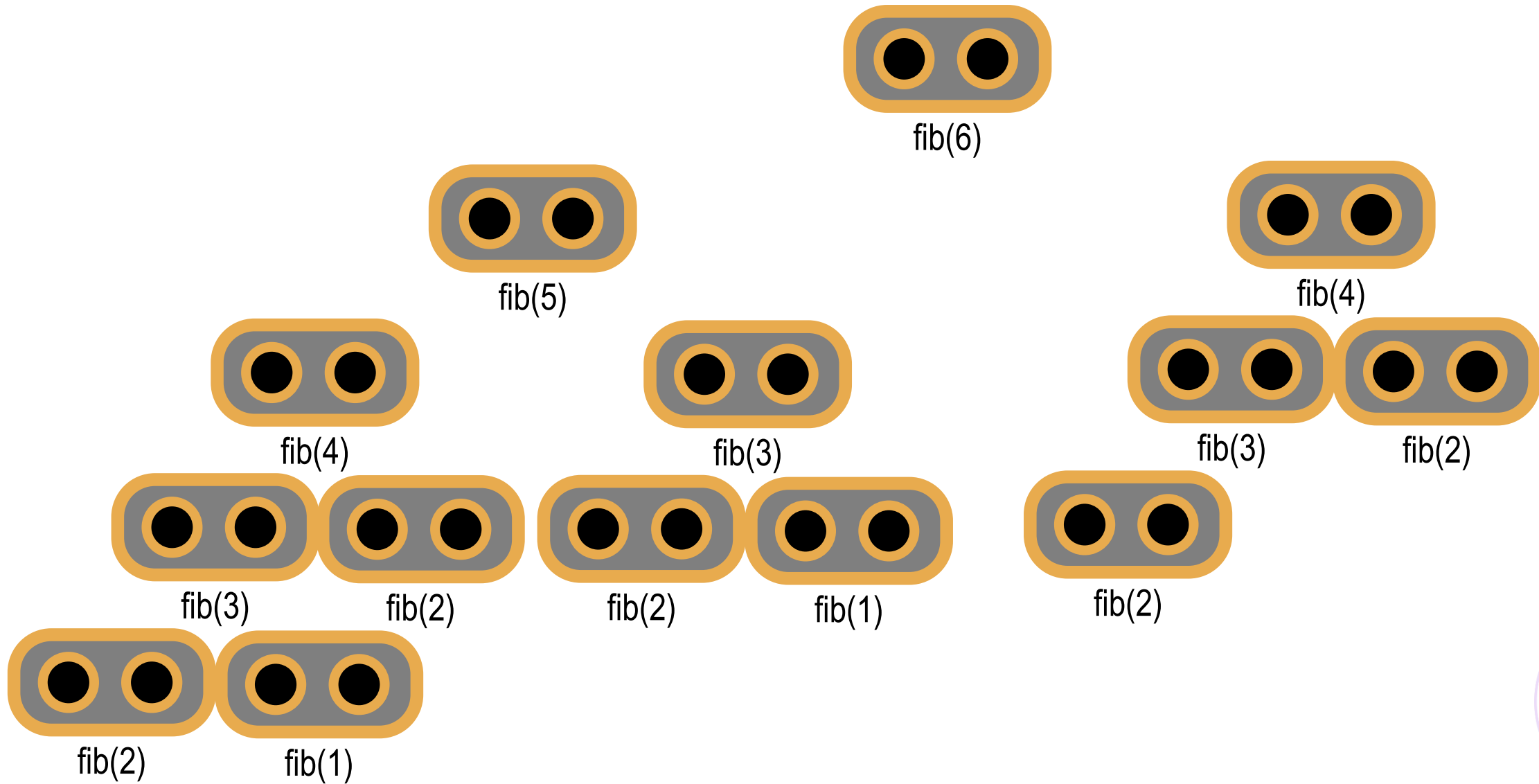
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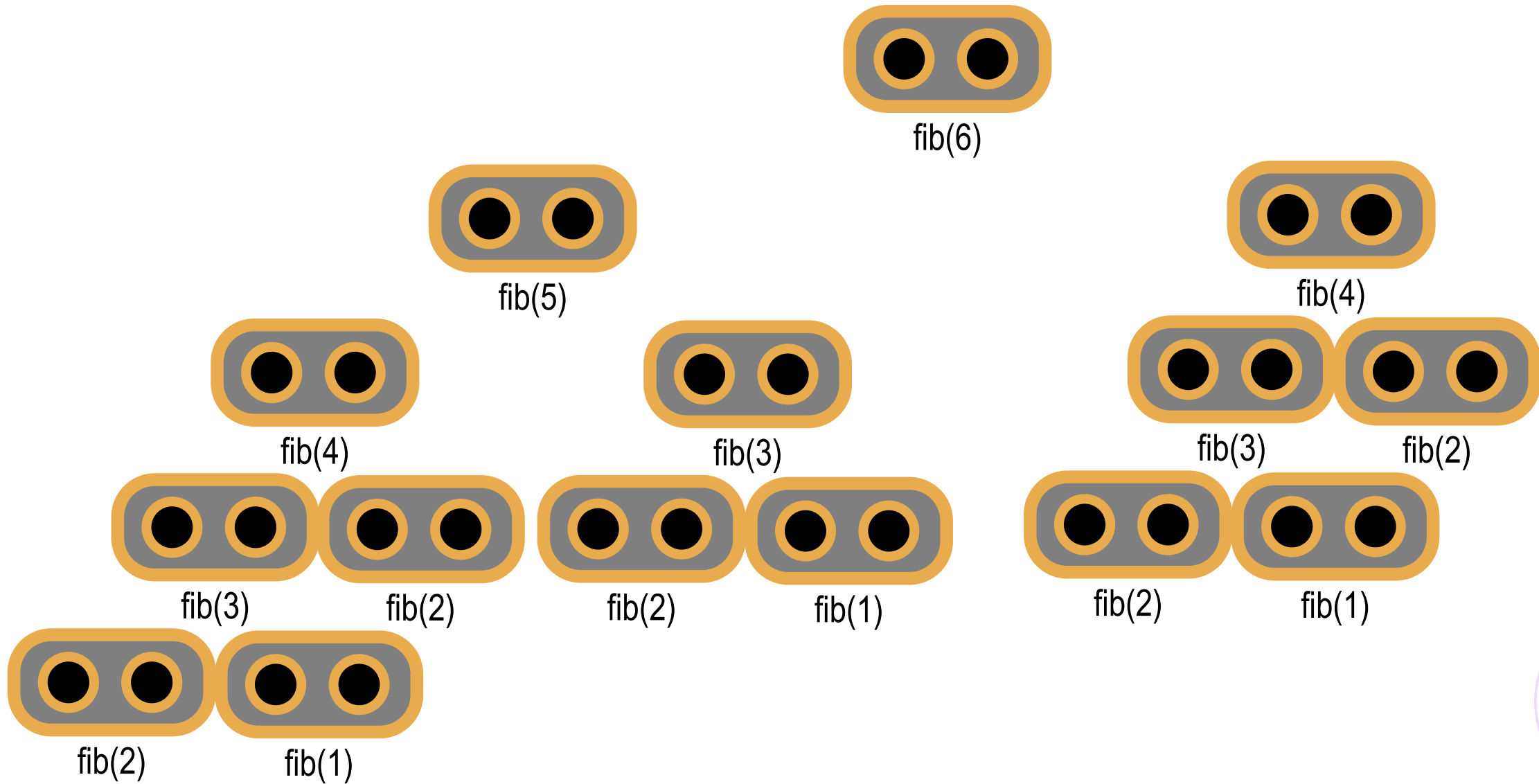
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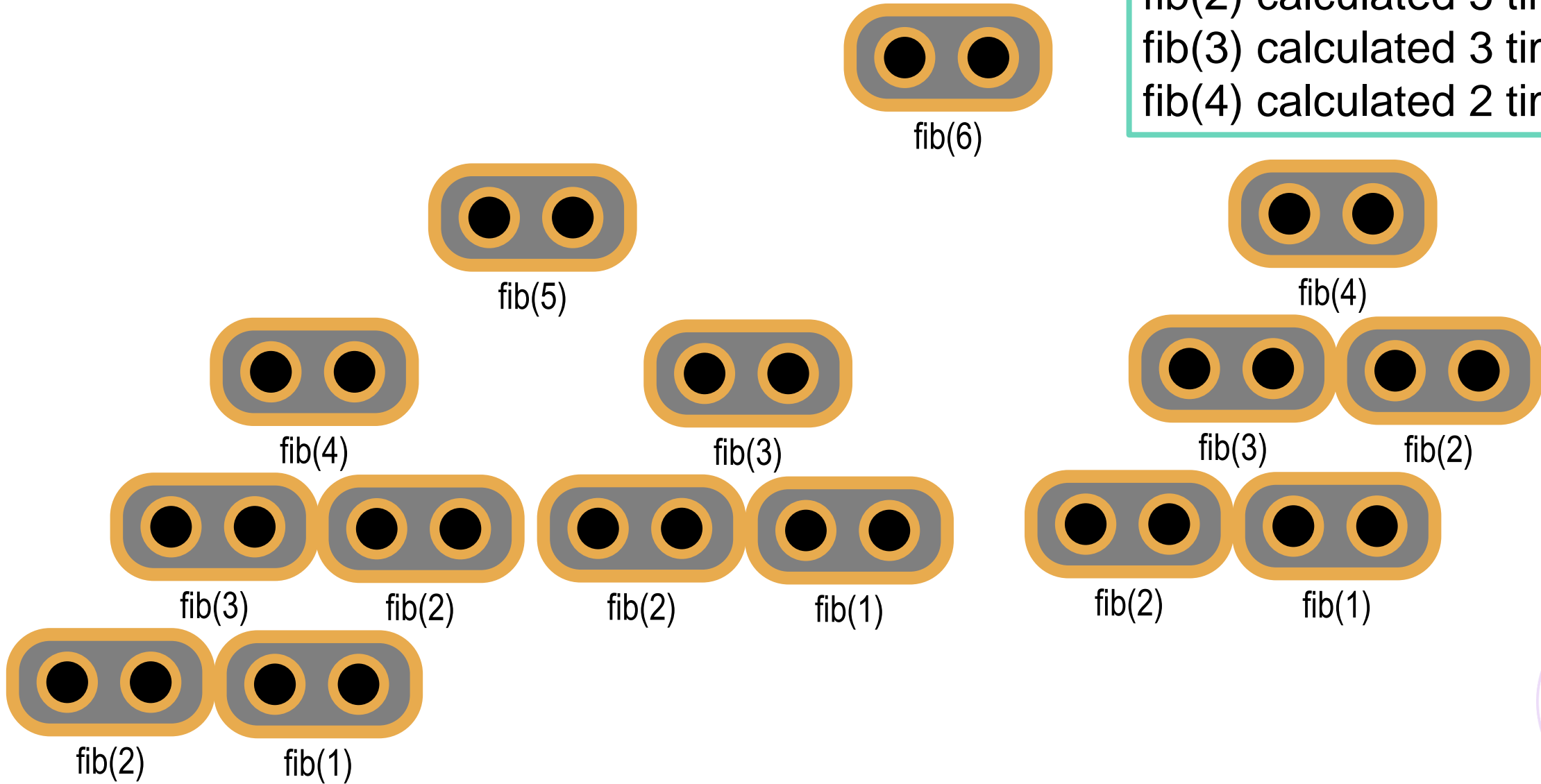
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Greatest common divisor

9



Greatest common divisor

9

Sometimes recursion can make code faster too 😊



Greatest common divisor

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Greatest common divisor

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Then we always have $\text{gcd}(a, b) = \text{gcd}(b, a \% b)$.



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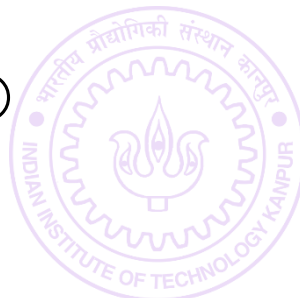
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We will prove this theorem in the next slide



The GCD Theorem

10



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Lemma 2. Suppose $p, q > 0$ are two numbers.
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The GCD Theorem

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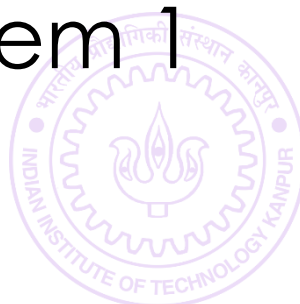
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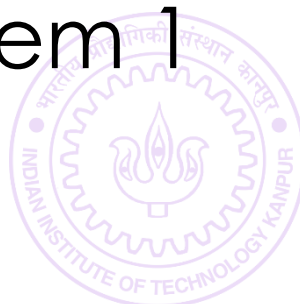
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The proof of Lemma 2 is left as an easy exercise.



Proof of Theorem 1

11



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$$\begin{aligned} \gcd(a, b) &= \gcd(a - b, b) = \gcd(a - 2b, b) = \gcd(a - 3b, b) \\ &= \dots = \gcd(a - k \cdot b, b) \end{aligned}$$



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Proof of Theorem 1

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Theorem 1. Suppose $a \geq b > 0$ are two numbers.

Then we always have $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(b, a \% b)$.

Suppose k is the largest positive integer s.t. $a - k \cdot b \geq 0$

Then repeatedly applying lemma 1 gives us

$$\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(a - b, b) = \gcd(a - 2b, b) = \gcd(a - 3b, b) \\ = \dots = \gcd(a - k * b, b)$$

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The proof is complete after noticing that $a - b = (m - n) * g$ and that $(m - n)$ and n must be coprime which means g must be gcd of $(m - n) * g$ and $n * g$ i.e. gcd of $(a - b)$ and b



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We can generate partitions of n using partitions of $n-1$ 😊

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Easy way of ensuring this – make sure that numbers are writing in increasing order so that $3 + 1$ is disqualified

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