LARSON—MATH 255–CLASSROOM WORKSHEET 14
Scatter Plots & Recursion.

1. (a) Start the Chrome browser.
   (b) Go to `http://cocalc.com`
   (c) Login using **your VCU email address** .
   (d) Click on our class Project.
   (e) Click "New", then "Worksheets", then call it **c14**.
   (f) For each problem number, label it in the Sage cell where the work is. So for Problem 2, the first line of the cell should be `#Problem 2`.

Step Functions and Scatter Plots

Given a list L of pairs (x, y) you can plot the *step function* that holds y constant from one x to the next with `plot_step_function(L)`.

2. Try `plot_step_function([(x,x) for x in [3..9]])`
3. Try `plot_step_function([(i,sin(i)) for i in [5..20]])`
4. Try `plot_step_function([(i*.2,sin(i*.2)) for i in [5..100]])`

   Given a list L of pairs (x, y) you can plot the *scatter plot* that consists just of those points with `scatter_plot(L)`.

5. Try `scatter_plot([(0,1),(2,4),(3.2,6)])`
6. Try `scatter_plot([(x,x) for x in [5..20]])`
7. Try `scatter_plot([(x,x**2) for x in [-5..5]])`
8. Try `scatter_plot([(i*.2,sin(i*.2)) for i in [5..100]])`
9. Define a function `points(x)` that plots all the points (1,2), (2,3), ... (x,x+1). Use `scatter_plot()`.

Recursion

A **recursive** function is a function that calls itself. It must always have a *base case* so that the recursion eventually stops.

10. Here is an example of a recursive definition of the *factorial* function. The base case here is the case where the input is 0 or 1.

```
def facto1(n):
    if n==0 or n==1:
        return 1
    else:
        return n*facto1(n-1)
```

Now try `facto1(0)`, `facto1(1)`, `facto1(2)`, `facto1(3)`, and `facto1(10)`.

11. It is often intuitive to define a function recursively, but usually the same function can be defined without recursion. Here is a function `facto2(n)` that does the same thing as `factorial(x)` but is **not** recursive. Test it to make sure it gives the same results.

```
def facto2(n):
    result=1
    if n==0:
        return result
    for i in [1..n]:
        result=result*i
    return result
```

Try `facto2(0)`, `facto2(1)`, `facto2(2)`, `facto2(3)`, and `facto2(10)`.

12. Write a function facto3(x) that prints x, and returns 1 if x=1 else returns x*facto3(x-1). Test it!

13. The *gcd* of 2 non-negative integers is their *greatest common divisor*. The following recursive function calculates the gcd of integers a and b using the fact (which can be proved) that, if $a \geq b$ then $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(a - b, b)$. It uses the fact that $\gcd(0, a) = \gcd(a, 0) = a$, for any non-negative integer a, as the base case.

```
def gcd(a,b):
  if a==0 or b==0:
      return max(a,b)
  else:
      return gcd(max(a,b)-min(a,b),min(a,b))
```

Try $\gcd(0, 5)$, $\gcd(2, 5)$, $\gcd(5, 5)$, $\gcd(10, 5)$, $\gcd(50, 51)$, $\gcd(50, 55)$, and $\gcd(1234, 5678)$.

14. The `gcd()` function does not actually test that the input numbers are non-negative. Add a test to your code, so that if either a or b is negative, the program prints an error message.

Getting your classwork recorded

When you are done, before you leave class...

(a) Click the "Make pdf" (Adobe symbol) icon and make a pdf of this worksheet. (If Cocalc hangs, click the printer icon, then "Open", then print or make a pdf using your browser).

(b) Send me an email with an informative header like "Math 255 - c14 worksheet attached" (so that it will be properly recorded).

(c) Remember to attach today's classroom worksheet!