

Recursion

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Definition

How does it work

Recursion and Iteration

What is Recursion

Recursion is a method of solving a problem where the solution depends on solutions to smaller instances of the same problem. To do these tasks the recursion involves a function calling itself.

Example

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

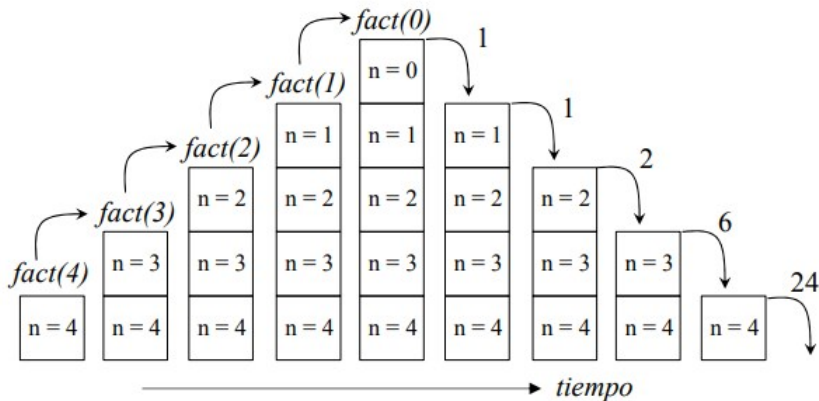
How Recursive methods works

To write a recursive method you need to know two parts:
A base case and a general case. The first one will make the recursive method reach an end, and the second one it is the operation.

Example

```
static int factorial(int n){  
    if (n == 0)  
        return 1;      //BASE CASE  
    else  
        return(n * factorial(n-1)); //GENERAL CASE
```

Graphic Representation



Important aspects to be taken into consideration when using recursion and iteration

The computing load Time of Ejecution and memory used.

Redundancy Sometimes Recursion resolves the same problem multiple times.

Solution Sometimes an iterative solution it is too complicate to find

Resultant code Using recursion, the final code might be more concise, elegant and easy to read and understand

Comparison between Recursion and Iteration

Recursion

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

Iteration

```
public static int factorial(int n) {  
    if (n == 0) {  
        return 1;  
    }else {  
        int factorial = 1;  
        for(int i=1;i<=n;i++) {  
            factorial = factorial * i;  
        }return factorial;  
    } }
```