

19CSE100 Problem Solving and Algorithmic Thinking

Recursion

There is an old nerd joke about recursion which goes as follows: “To understand recursion you must first understand recursion”

1. Write a *recursive* flowgorithm function `add(a,b)` to find the sum of two numbers given as input to the function.

Hint: Adding `a` and `b` is equivalent to adding 1, `b` times and when `b` becomes zero add `a` by returning `a`.

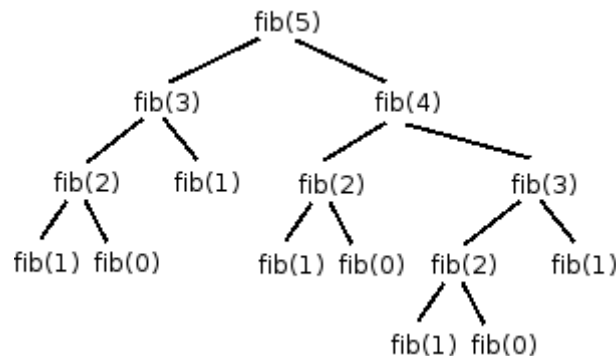
```
add(a,b)
  if (b==0)
    return a
  else
    sum = add(a,b-1)+1
  return sum
```

2. Write *recursive* flowgorithm function `isPrime(n,divisor)` that tests the primality of a given number.

Hint: The upper limit for the divisor shall be $n/2$ as you know. The recursive call keeps reducing the divisor checking the divisibility at each recursive call. If the divisibility check succeeds, `n` is not a prime number. If the divisor reaches 1, then `n` is a prime number. You can consider using a flag to capture the binary possibility.

3. Write a *recursive* flowgorithm function `nthFibNum(n)` that computes the n^{th} Fibonacci number.

Hint: Each Fibonacci number follows a pattern that is $\text{fib}(n) = \text{fib}(n-1) + \text{fib}(n-2)$ with seed values as $\text{fib}(0)=1$ and $\text{fib}(1)=1$ where $\text{fib}(n)$ represents n^{th} Fibonacci number. Using the above pattern if you notice taking $\text{fib}(5)$ as an example as shown below, the seed values becomes base cases.



4. Write a *recursive* flowgorithm function `isEven(num)` to find whether a given number is even.

Hint: If you successively subtract 2 from `num` and end up with a zero, `num` is an even number. If the successive subtraction ends with a 1, `num` is an odd number. Isn't it?! So your recursive call should be `isEven(num-2)` till either 1 or 0 reaches which happens to be the base cases to decide the outcome.

5. Write a *recursive* flowgorithm function `printEvenOdd(start, end)` that prints even or odd numbers in a given range. Depending on your `start` value either even or odd gets printed. If you give `start = 1` then 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, ... should get printed till the `end`.

Hint: Each successive recursive call should increment the `start` by 2 after printing it. The recursion should proceed as long as `start` is less than or equal to `end`.