

Advanced Data Structure and Algorithms for Problem Solving

Lecture # 04

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Recursion

- Recursion is a mathematical technique that evaluates a function by calling the same function repeatedly on smaller inputs.
 - Most programming languages support such a style of programming.
 - Often very elegant to study.
 - Helps in problem solving too.
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Recursion

- **Q:** How many twists does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A: Is it already screwed in? Then zero. If not, then twist it once, ask me again, and add 1 to my answer.

Recursion

- Relates to mathematical induction
- Divide and Conquer algorithms



Lets start with an examples

- A mathematical view of computer science

- $\text{factorial}(n) = n * \text{factorial}(n-1)$ *equation*

$$\text{factorial}(1) = 1$$

$$n \times (n-1 \times n-2 \times n-3 \times \dots \times 3 \times 2 \times 1)$$

Lets start with an examples

- A mathematical view of computer science

- $\text{factorial}(n) = n * \text{factorial}(n-1)$ *equation*

```
int fact (int n)
{
    if (n == 1) return 1;
    else return n * fact(n-1);
}
```

Three Laws of Recursion

- Recursion must have a base case
 - A recursive algorithm must change its state and move toward the base case.
 - A recursive algorithm must call itself, recursively.
-

Factorial – deeper look

$\text{fact}(5)$

$\text{if}(n==1)$ return 1

else return $n \times \text{fact}(n-1)$

	return	state
$\rightarrow F(5)$	$5 \times F(4)$	P.
$\rightarrow F(4)$	$4 \times F(3)$	P
$\rightarrow F(3)$	$3 \times F(2)$	P
$\rightarrow F(2)$	$2 \times F(1)$	R
$F(1)$	1	

Factorial – deeper look

$\text{fact}(5)$

$\text{if}(n == 1)$ return 1

else return $n \times \text{fact}(n-1)$

	return	state
$\rightarrow F(5)$	$5 \times F(4)$	R
$\rightarrow F(4)$	$4 \times F(3)$	R
$\rightarrow F(3)$	$3 \times F(2)$	R
$\rightarrow F(2)$	$2 \times F(1)$	R
$F(1)$	1	

Factorial – deeper look

$\text{if } (n == 1) \text{ return } 1$
 $\text{else return } n \times \text{fact}(n-1)$

$$T(n) = T(n-1) + 3$$

$$T(n) = T(n-2) + 6$$

$$T(n) = T(n-k) + k \cdot 3$$

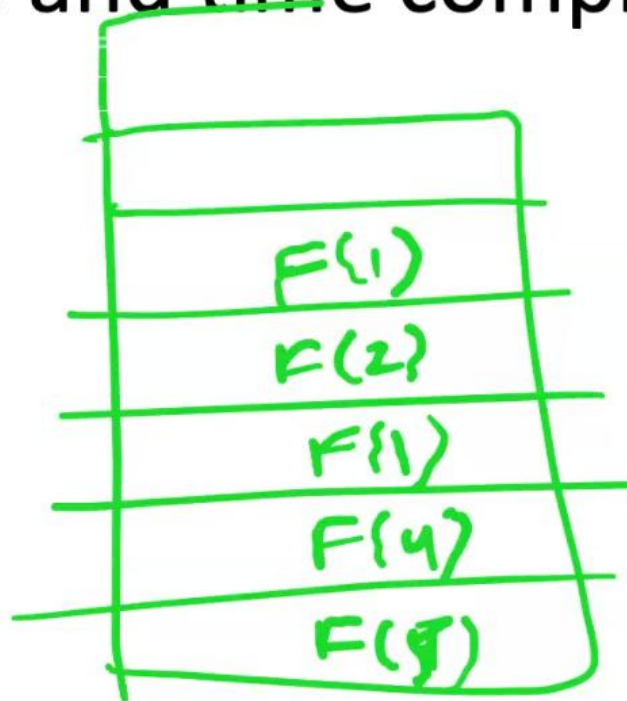
$$T(n) = T(0) + n \cdot 3$$

$\text{fact}(5)$

	return	state
$\rightarrow F(5)$	$5 \times F(4)$	R
$\rightarrow F(4)$	$4 \times F(3)$	R
$\rightarrow F(3)$	$3 \times F(2)$	R
$\rightarrow F(2)$	$2 \times F(1)$	R
$F(1)$	1	
$n-k=0$	$k=5$	

Factorial – deeper look

- Space and time complexity



Inductive Reasoning

$$\text{factorial}(n) = n \times \text{fact}(n-1)$$

- ~~A recursive algorithm must have a base case.~~
 - If I call factorial(n) with $n=1$, I am done
 - If I call factorial(n) with $n>1$, it makes a recursive call with a smaller value of n ; must eventually reach $n=1$.
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Recursion and Induction

$$\rightarrow 1 + 2 + 3 + \overset{\text{L.H.S}}{4} + \dots + n = \overset{\text{R.H.S}}{n(n+1)/2}$$

$$\rightarrow n=0 \quad 0 = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

$$\rightarrow \underbrace{1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + k + \overset{k+1}{k+1}} = \frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2}$$

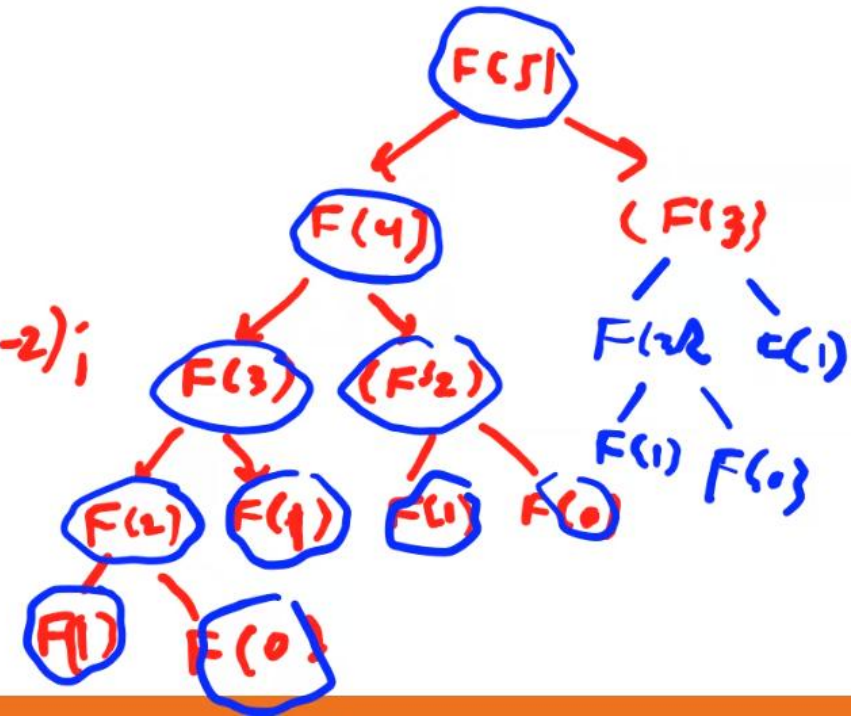
$$\frac{k(k+1)}{2} + (k+1)$$

$$= \frac{k(k+1) + 2(k+1)}{2} = \frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2}$$

Recursion with multiple base cases

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

```
fib(n) {  
  if (n <= 1) return n;  
  else return fib(n-1) + fib(n-2);  
}
```



Fibonacci deeper look

- Time and space complexity

$$T(n) = T(n-1) + T(n-2) + c$$

$$T(0) = T(1) = 1$$

$$T(n-1) \approx T(n-2)$$

$$T(n) = 2T(n-2) + c$$

$$T(n) = 2[2 \cdot T(n-4) + c] + c$$

$$T(n) = 2^k T(\underline{n-2k}) + (2^k - 1)c$$

$$2^{n/2}$$

This is lower bound as we have replaced $n-1$ with $n-2$. To find upper bound, replace $n-2$ with $n-1$ (2^n)

```
#include<stdio.h>
```

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

```
int main(){
```

```
    int a;  
    printf("Enter a number:");  
    scanf("%d",&a);  
    printf("%d\n",fib(a));  
    return 0;
```

```
}
```

```
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```
-- INSERT --
```



```
#include<stdio.h>
```

```
int fib(int n){  
    if(n<=1)  
        return n;  
    int i,sum=0, f0=0, f1=1;  
    for(i=2;i<=n;i++){  
        sum = f0+f1;  
        f0 = f1;  
        f1 = sum;  
    }  
    return sum;  
}
```

```
int main(){  
    int a;  
    printf("enter a number:");  
    scanf("%d",&a);  
    printf("%d \n",fib(a));  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
~  
~
```

```
"fib_iter.c" 21L, 265C
```

Recursion with memoization

```
Fib(n)
{
  if (n <= 1) return n; ✓
  if  $F_n$  is in memory return  $F_n$ 
  // return ← Fib(n-1) + Fib(n-2)
  Save  $F_n$  in memory
  return  $F_n$ 
}
```

Exponentiation

x^n

$$x^n = \begin{cases} n=0 & x_n = 1 \\ x \cdot x^{n-1} & n \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

$$x^n = \begin{cases} x^{n/2} \cdot x^{n/2} & n \text{ is even} \\ x \cdot x^{n-1} & n \text{ is odd} \\ 1 & n \leq 0 \end{cases}$$