

How function calls work in languages

-X'

NOTE:- When the function is not finished executing, it remains in Stack Memory.

Example:-

main() {
 print();
}

print1() {

 print2();

}

print2() {

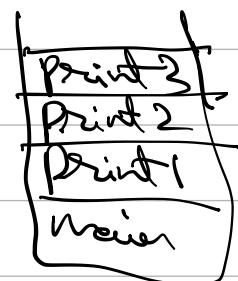
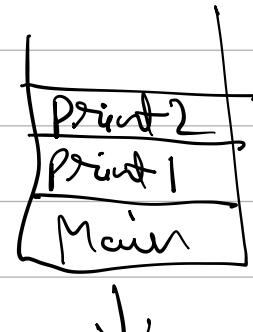
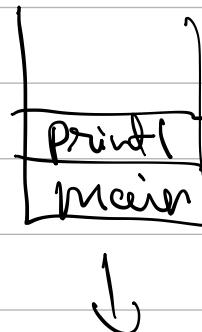
 print3();

}

print3() {

}

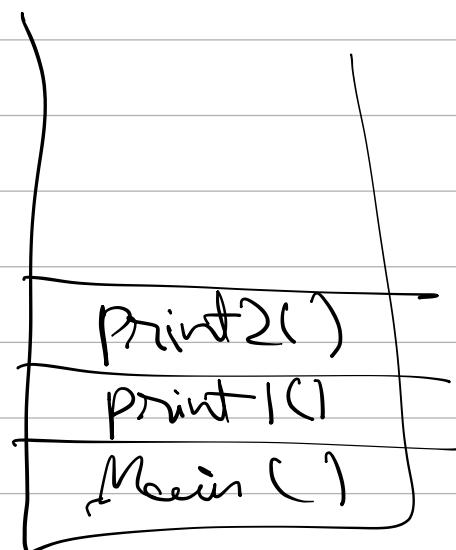
Here stack
works like this -



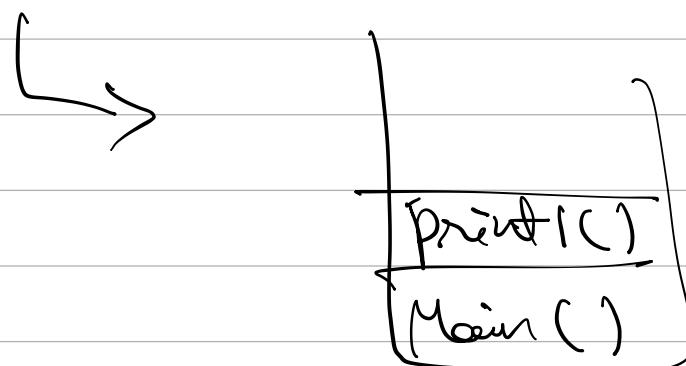
★ When a function finishes executing, it is removed from the stack and the flow of program is restored to where it was called.

For example:- `print3()` doesn't call any other function and it finishes executing. So,

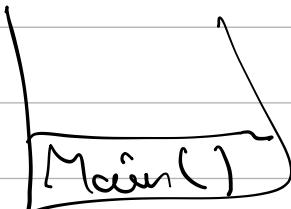
- Remove `print3()` →



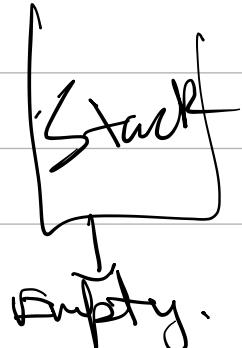
- Then remove `print2()` as nothing else need to be done.



- Then,



- Then,



Program to print first 5 numbers using Recursion.

psvm () {

 print (1);

}

 Static void print(int n)

 {

 If ($n == 5$) {

 System.out.println ();

 return;

}

 System.out.println (n);

}

 print (n+1);

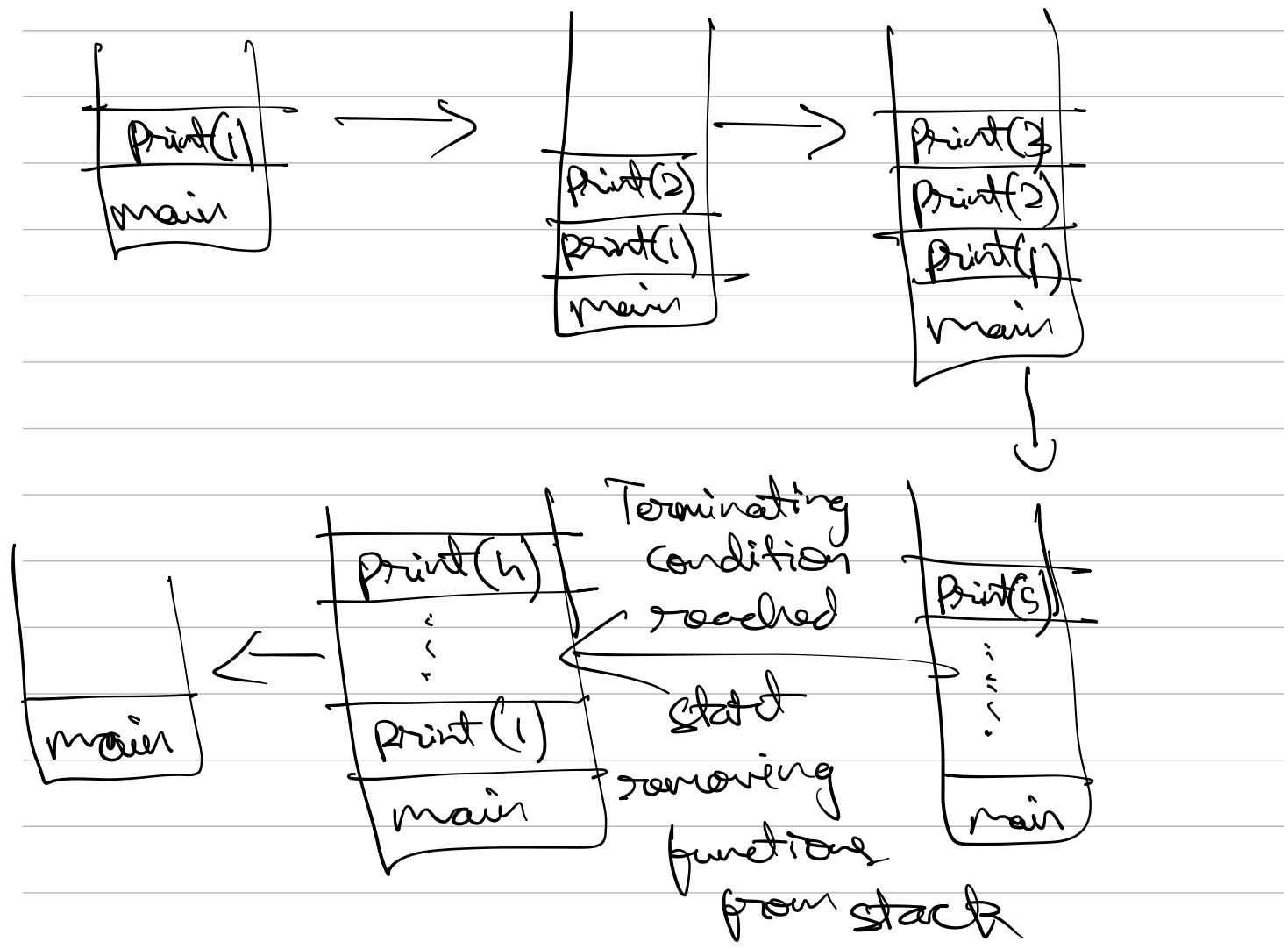
function calling
itself

Output:-



1
2
3
4
5

Stack diagram for above program



NOTE:- Even if you call same function
Each function call will take separate
memory in stack. (i.e print() will
be called again and again, with 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
as arguments).

★]. If there is no base condition (i.e terminating condition), the function keeps on calling, and stack gets filling and it overflows → Stack overflow error

Recursion

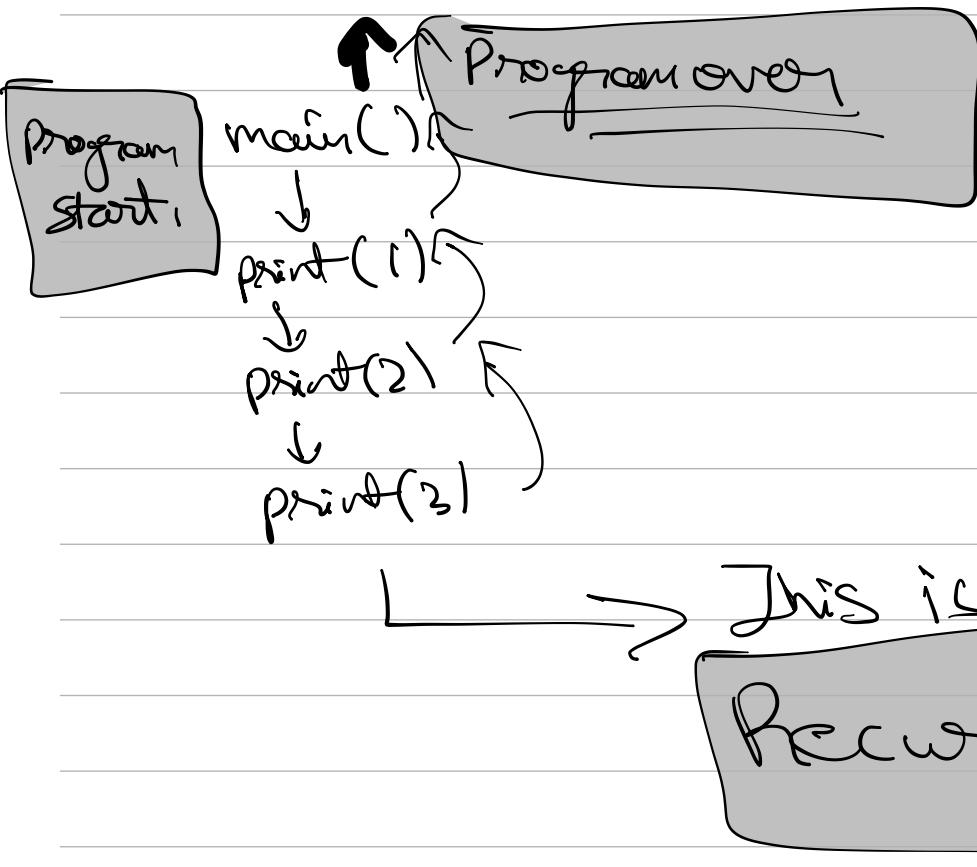
→ Function calling itself.

→ We can convert recursion to

iterative solution & vice versa.

→ i.e we convert recursive soln to loops, to reduce space complexity.
e.g. function calls occupy space.

Visualising Recursion



Q] Find n^{th} Fibonacci number.

0 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	n^{th}	5 th
0	1	1	2	3	5

$$\text{Fib}(n) = \text{Fib}(n-1) + \text{Fib}(n-2)$$

Recurrence Relation ↗

Ans:-

static void fib(int n)

{

if ($n == 0$)

return 0;

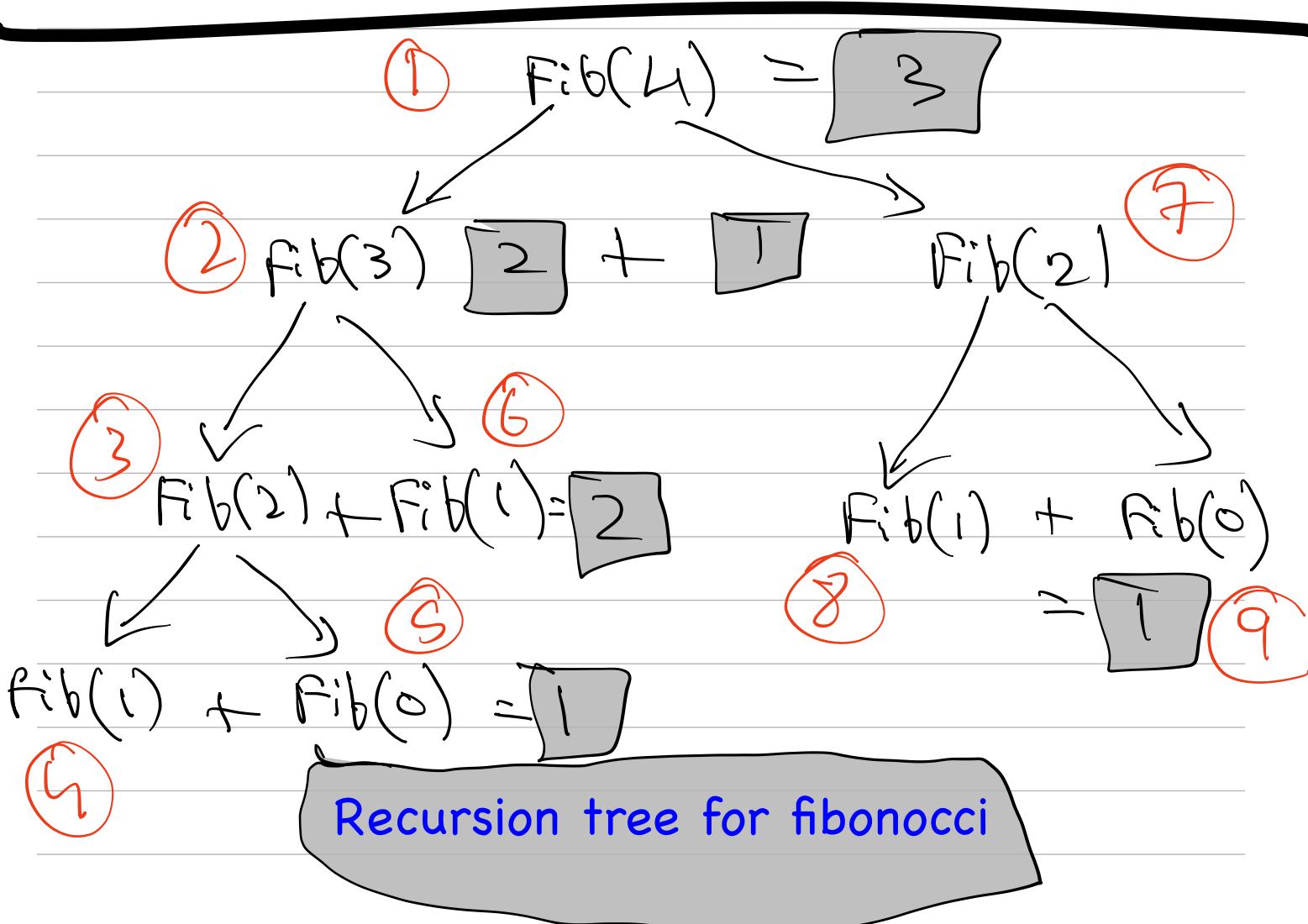
if ($n == 1$)

return 1;

else {

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

}



NOTE:- How to understand and approach a problem.

1]. Identify if you can break a problem to smaller problems

2]. Write the recurrence relation if needed.

3]. Draw the recursive tree.

4]. Analyze the tree.

*]. See the flow of functions. i.e how they are getting in the stack.

*]. Identify & focus on left tree calls and right tree calls.

In the above tree, the order of called functions are indicated in red.

5) See how the values are returned at each step. See where the function call will come out in the end, you will come out of the main function.

Variables :- ① Arguments
② Return type
③ Body of function.

For Example :-

static int fun(int a)
Variables & in body. } || Body Argument variable

Q) Binary search with recursion.

Step 1:

Recurrence relation

$$F(N) = O(1) + F\left(\frac{N}{2}\right)$$

Call
input
size-

Comparison

Dividing
array to
half -

Types of recursive relation

- ① Linear recursive relation \rightarrow Fibonacci
- ② Divide & Conquer recursive relation
 \rightarrow Binary Search

static int search (int arr, int target, int s, int e)

{

if ($s > e$) {

return -1;

}

int m = s + $(e-s)/2$;

if ($arr[m] == target$)

return m;

if ($target < arr[m]$) {

return search(arr, target, s, m-1);

}

else

return search(arr, target, m+1, e);

}

TIP:- for return variables,

include those variables which are useful for further function calls.

for example :- Here

s and c are returned

and also included in

function arguments.

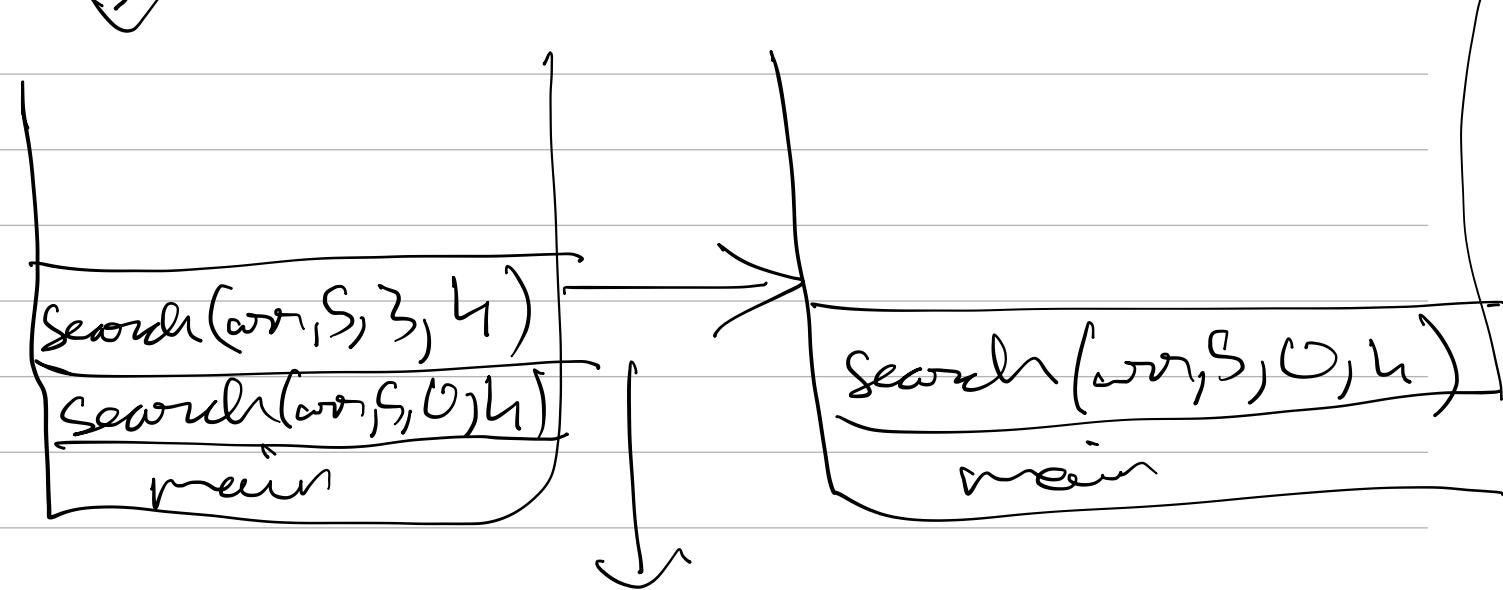
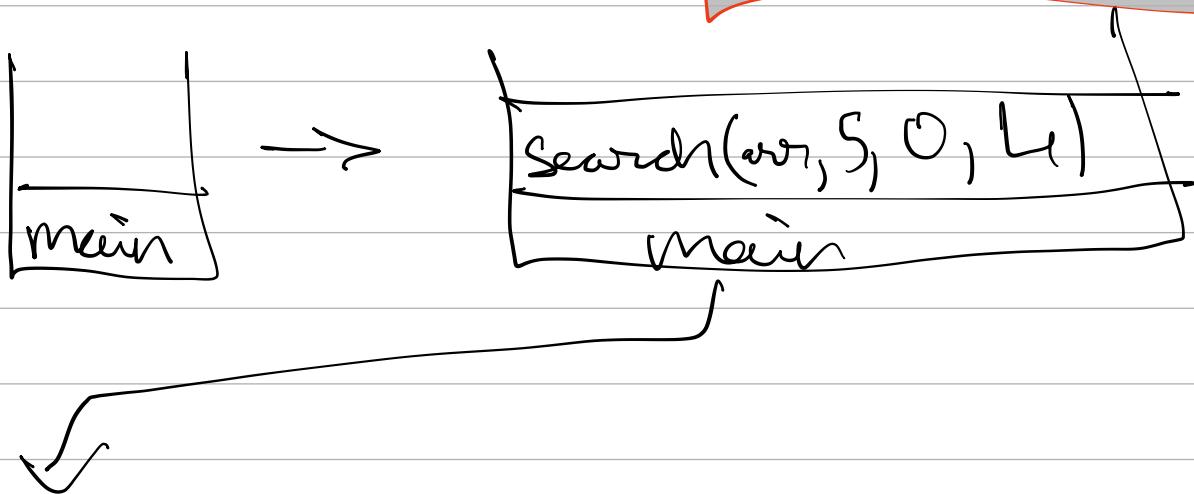
*]. Here 'm' is local variable, no need to

include in arguments or return variables.

For arr = [2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

target = 5.

Stack Implementation



element found at

$$m = \frac{3+h}{2} = \underline{\underline{3}} \text{ position}$$

So, $\text{Search}(arr, 5, 3, 4)$ returns 3 and function call exits stack.

