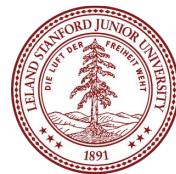




Introduction to Recursion

**What's been the most challenging part of
Assignment 2 for you so far?**
(put your answers the chat)



Roadmap

C++ basics

User/client

vectors + grids

stacks + queues

sets + maps

Object-Oriented Programming

Implementation

arrays

**dynamic memory
management**

linked data structures

**real-world
algorithms**

Life after CS106B!

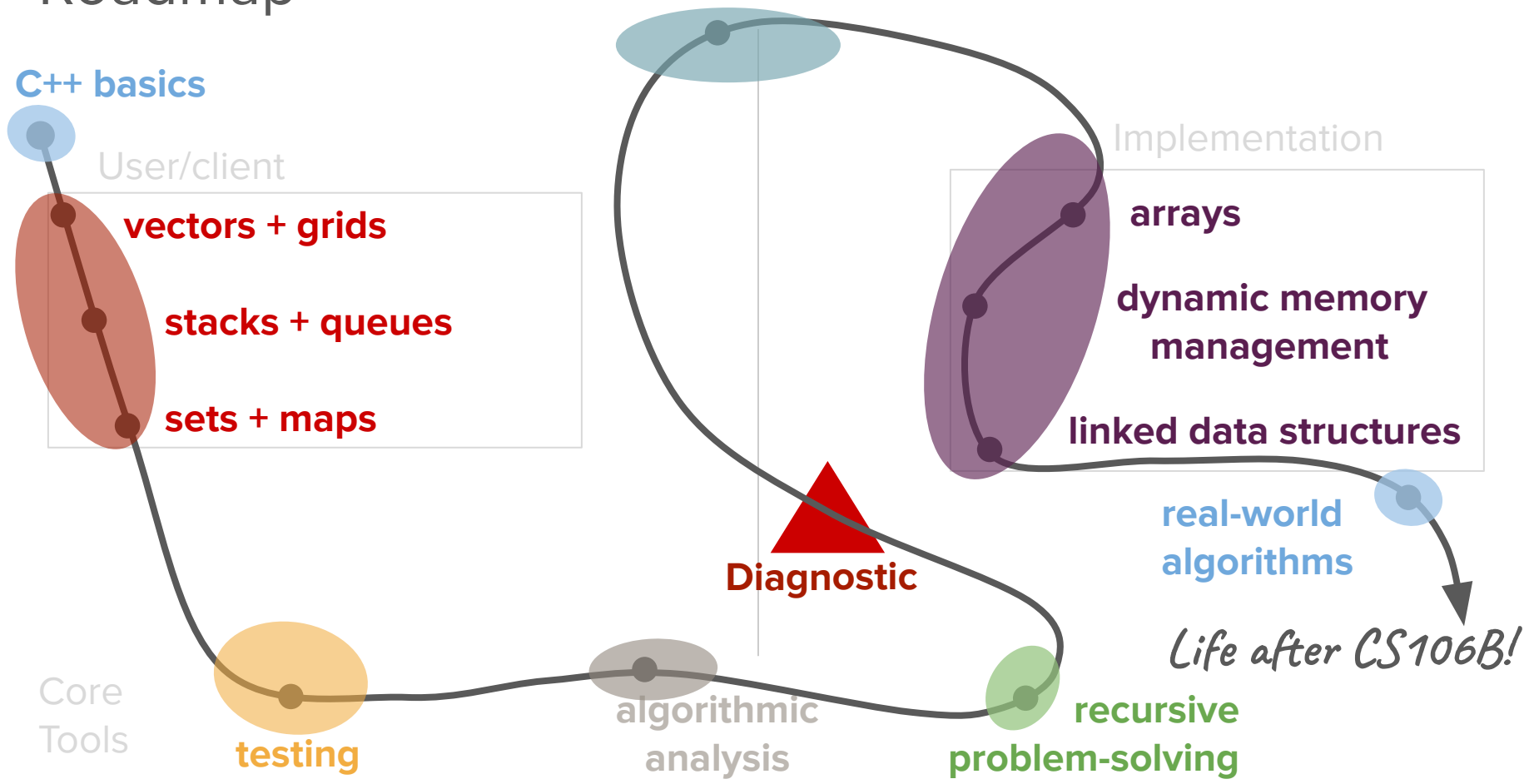
Diagnostic

Core
Tools

testing

algorithmic
analysis

**recursive
problem-solving**



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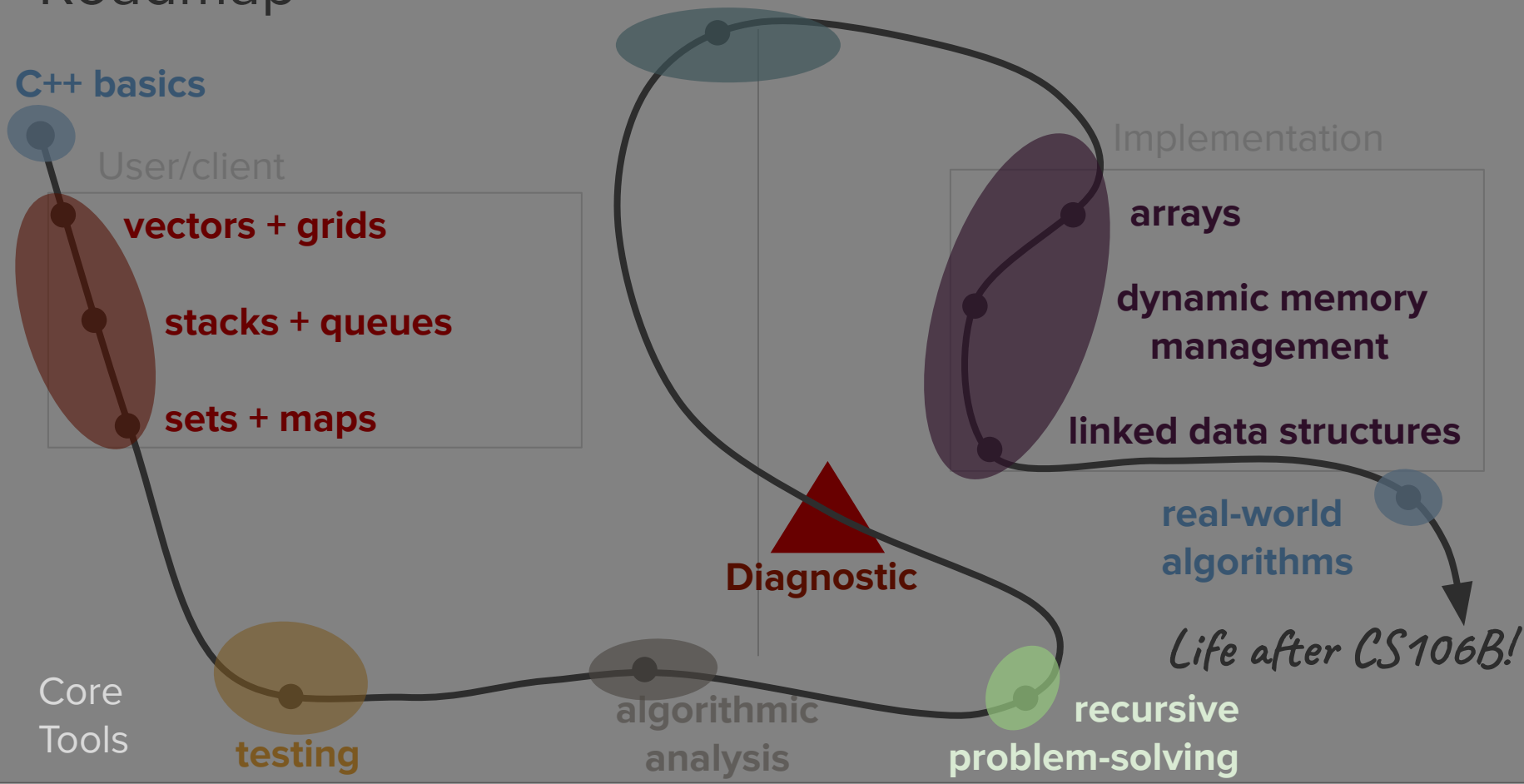
Diagnostic

Core
Tools

testing

**algorithmic
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**recursive
problem-solving**





Today's question

How can we take
advantage of self-similarity
within a problem to solve it
more elegantly?



Today's topics

1. Review
2. Defining recursion
3. Recursion + Stack Frames
(e.g. factorials) 阶乘
4. Recursive Problem-Solving
(e.g. string reversal)



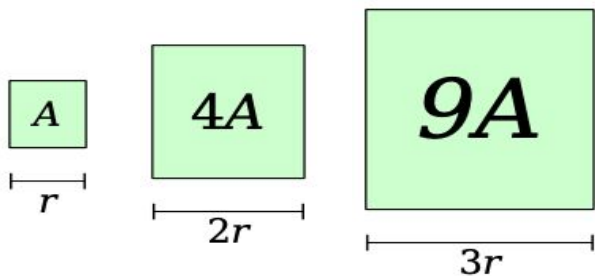
Review

(Big O)

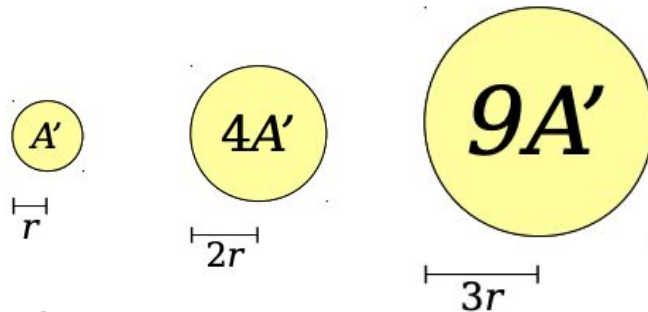
Big-O Notation

- **Big-O notation** is a way of quantifying the rate at which some quantity grows.
- Example:
 - A square of side length r has area $O(r^2)$.
 - A circle of radius r has area $O(r^2)$.

This just says that these quantities grow at the same relative rates. It does not say that they're equal!



*Doubling r increases area 4x
Tripling r increases area 9x*

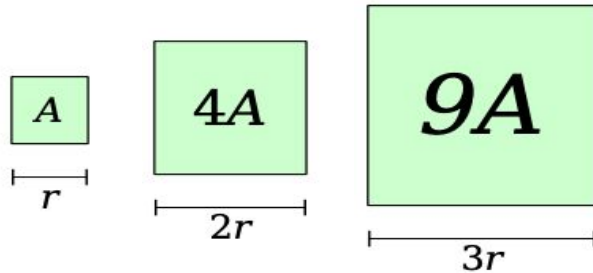


*Doubling r increases area 4x
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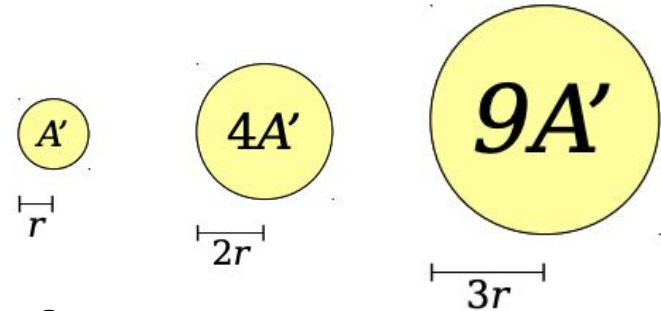
With respect to a given input variable.

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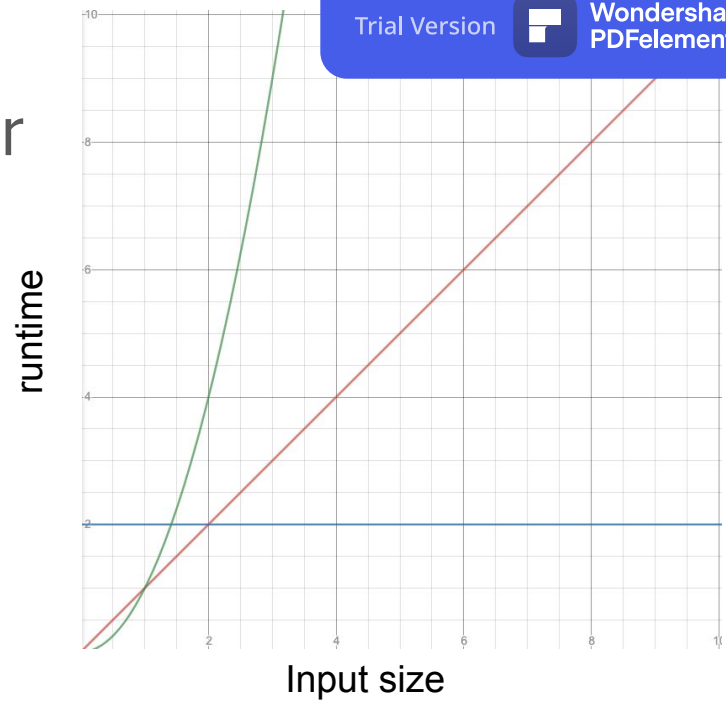
*Doubling r increases area 4x
Tripling r increases area 9x*



*Doubling r increases area 4x
Tripling r increases area 9x*

Efficiency Categorizations So Far

- Constant Time – $O(1)$
 - Super fast, this is the best we can hope for!
 - Euclid's Algorithm for Perfect Numbers
- Linear Time – $O(n)$
 - This is okay; we can live with this
- Quadratic Time – $O(n^2)$
 - This can start to slow down really quickly
 - Exhaustive Search for Perfect Numbers
- How do all the ADT operations we've seen so far fall into these categories?



ADT Big-O Matrix

● Vectors

- `.size()` - $O(1)$
- `.add()` - $O(1)$
- `v[i]` - $O(1)$
- `.insert()` - $O(n)$
- `.remove()` - $O(n)$
- `.clear()` - $O(n)$
- `traversal` - $O(n)$

● Grids

- `.numRows()` / `.numCols()`
- $O(1)$
- `g[i][j]` - $O(1)$
- `.inBounds()` - $O(1)$
- `traversal` - $O(n^2)$

● Queues

- `.size()` - $O(1)$
- `.peek()` - $O(1)$
- `.enqueue()` - $O(1)$
- `.dequeue()` - $O(1)$
- `.isEmpty()` - $O(1)$
- `traversal` - $O(n)$

● Stacks

- `.size()` - $O(1)$
- `.peek()` - $O(1)$
- `.push()` - $O(1)$
- `.pop()` - $O(1)$
- `.isEmpty()` - $O(1)$
- `traversal` - $O(n)$

● Sets

- `.size()` - $O(1)$
- `.isEmpty()` - $O(1)$
- `.add()` - ???
- `.remove()` - ???
- `.contains()` - ???
- `traversal` - $O(n)$

● Maps

- `.size()` - $O(1)$
- `.isEmpty()` - $O(1)$
- `m[key]` - ???
- `.contains()` - ???
- `traversal` - $O(n)$



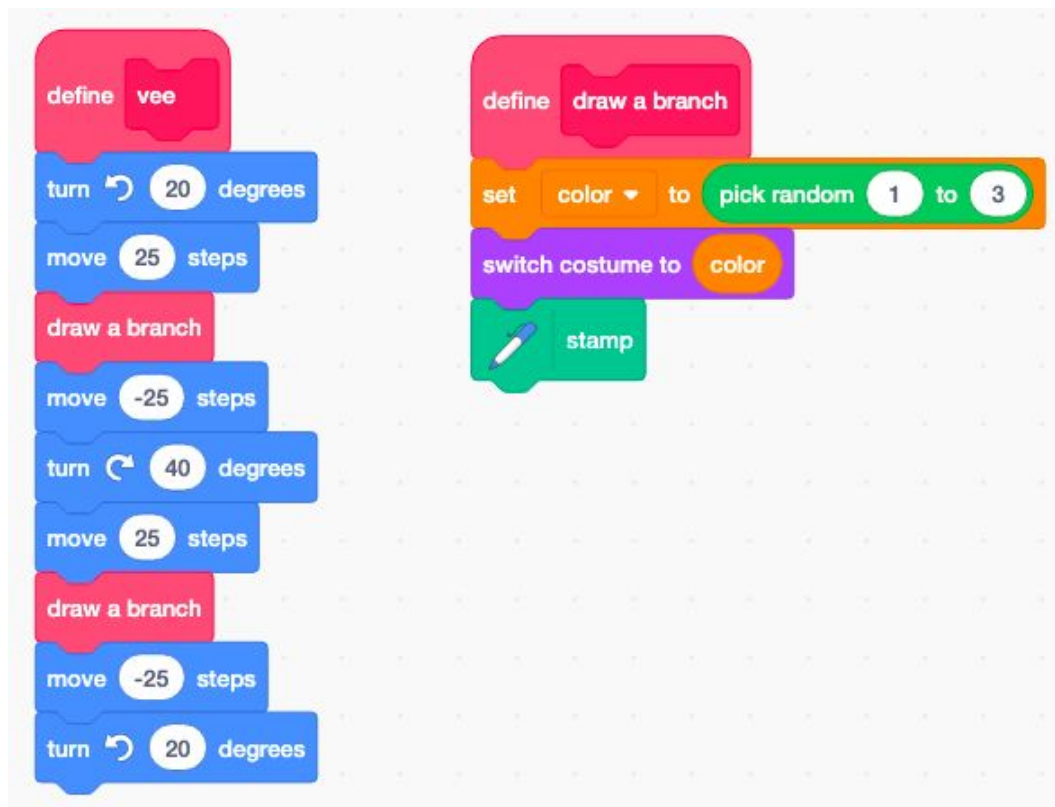
What is recursion?



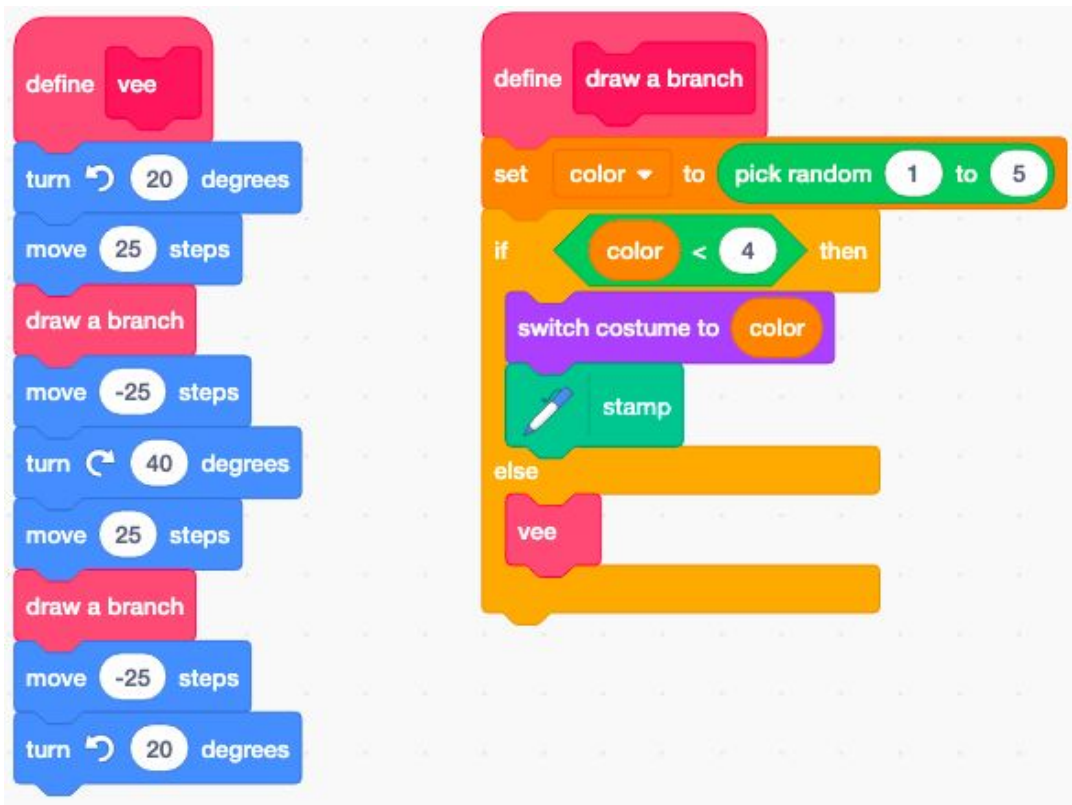
Activity: Vee

(<https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/409796637/>)

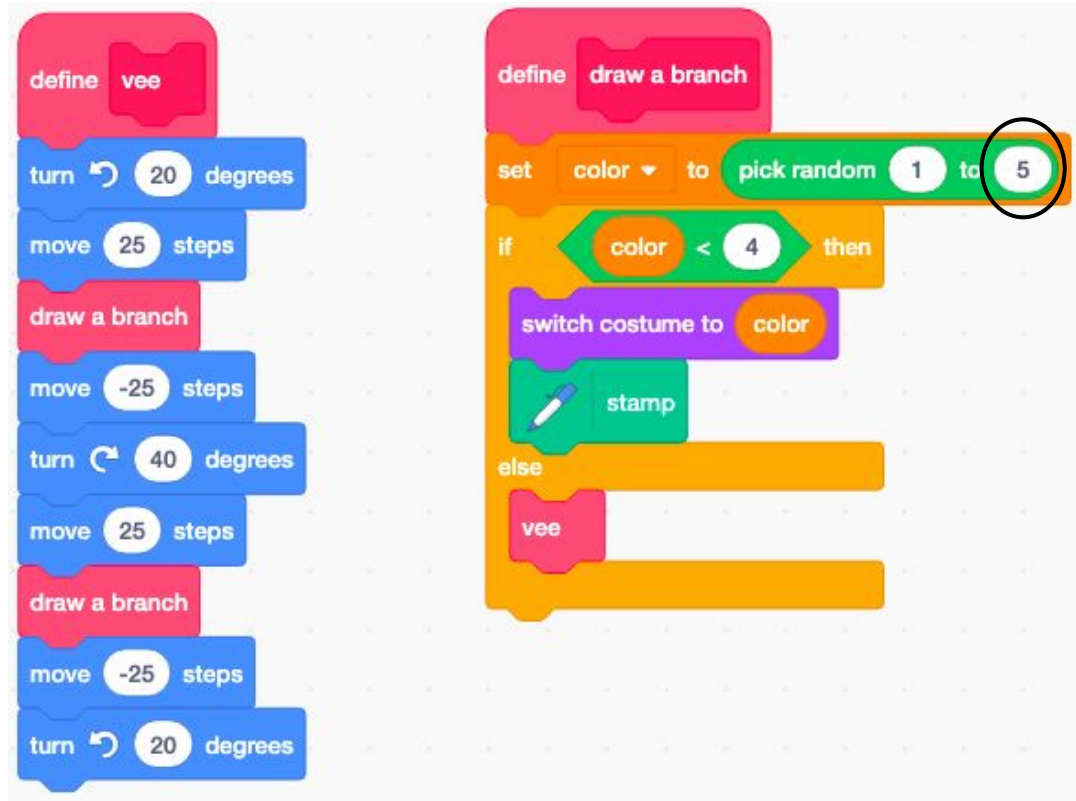
This code creates a “vee” shape with random colors.



Discuss in breakout rooms: What will this code do?



Discuss in breakout rooms: What will this code do?



*Notice the
differences*

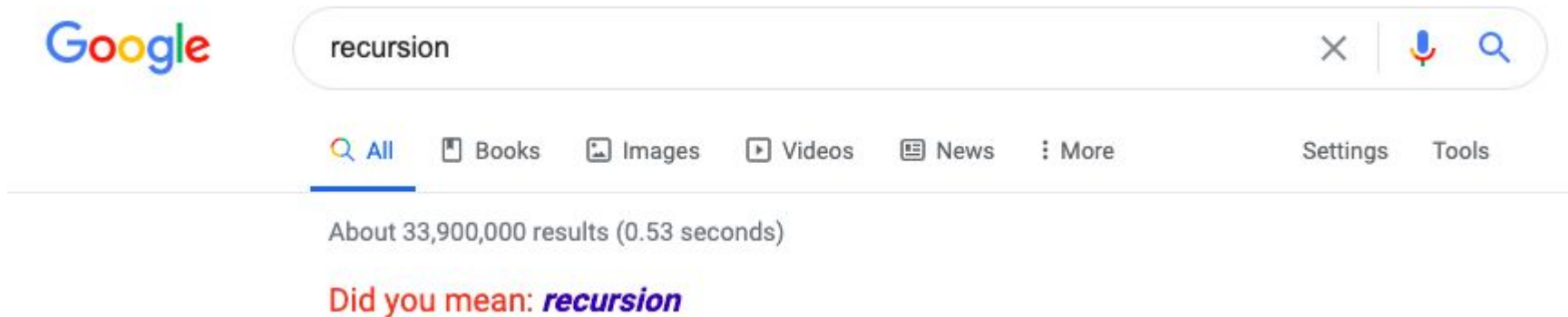


Demo: Recursive Vee

(<https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/409785610/>)

What is recursion?

Wikipedia: “Recursion occurs when a thing is defined in terms of itself.”





Definition

recursion

A problem-solving technique in which tasks are completed by reducing them into repeated, smaller tasks of the same form.



What is recursion?

- A powerful substitute for iteration (loops)
 - We'll start off with seeing the difference between iterative vs. recursive solutions
 - Later in the week we'll see problems/tasks that can only be solved using recursion
- Results in elegant, often shorter code when used well
- Often applied to sorting and searching problems and can be used to express patterns seen in nature
- Will be part of many of our future assignments!



How many students are in a lecture hall?

A [non-COVID] analogy



How many students are in the lecture hall?

- Let's suppose I want to find out how many people are at lecture today, but I don't want to walk around and count each person.
- I want to ^{招募}recruit your help, but I also want to minimize each individual's amount of work.

We can solve this problem recursively!

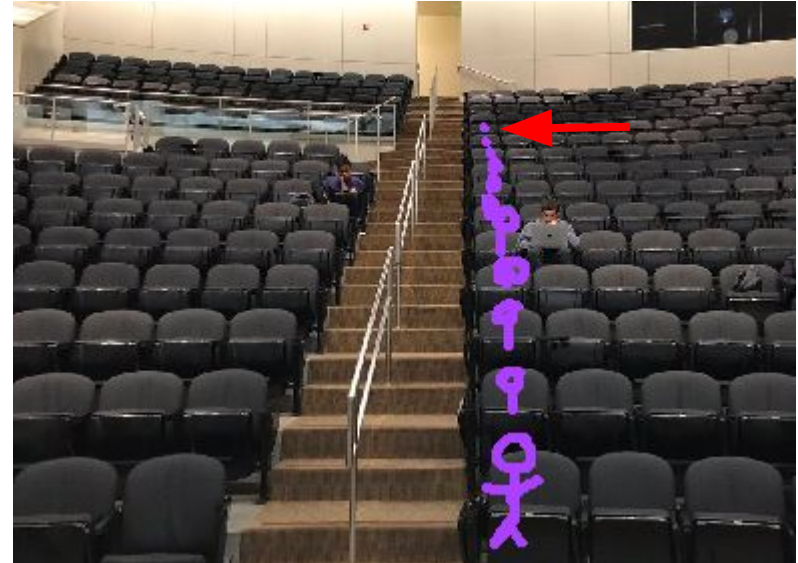
How many students are in the lecture hall?

- We'll focus on solving the problem for single “column” of students.
 - I go to the first person in the front row and ask: “How many people are sitting directly behind you in your ‘column’?”
 - Student's algorithm:
 - If there is no one behind me, answer 0.
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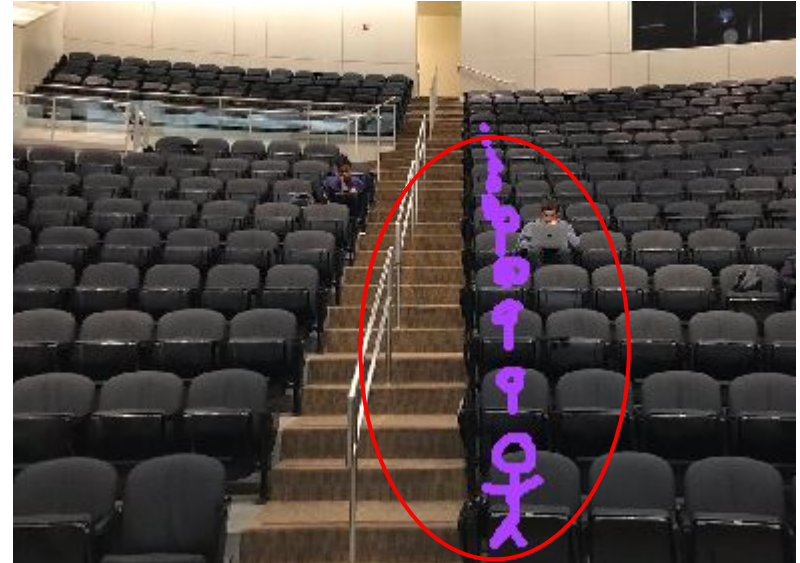
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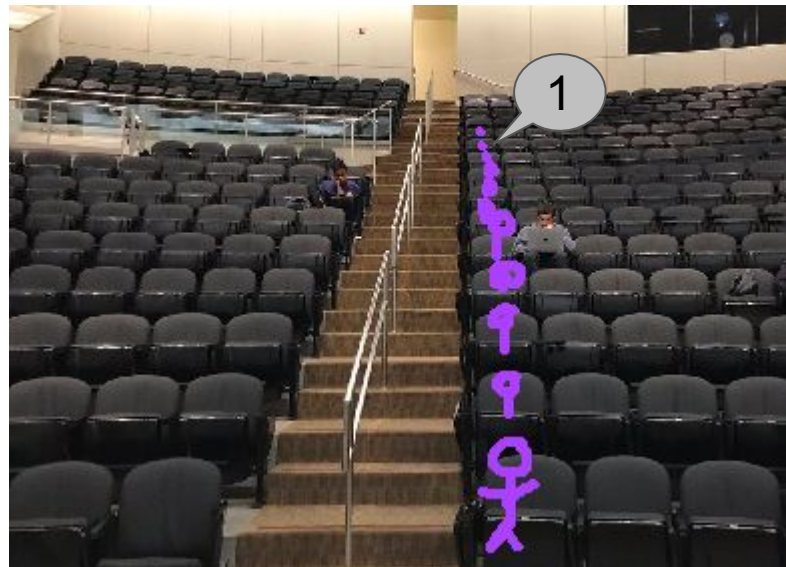
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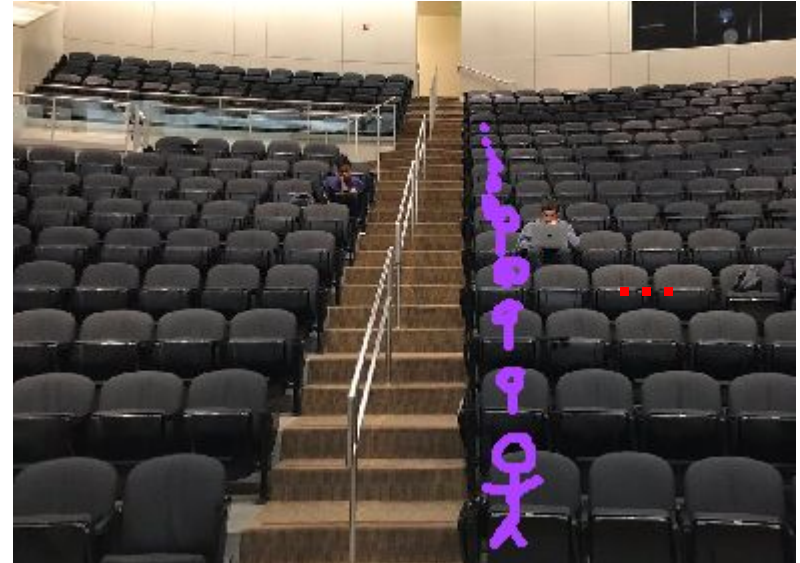
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 - Ask that person: How many people are sitting directly behind you in your "column"?
 - When they respond with a value N , respond $(N + 1)$ to the person who asked me.
- Can generalize to the entire lecture hall!





Definition

recursion

A problem-solving technique in which tasks are completed by reducing them into repeated, smaller tasks of the same form.



Two main cases (components) of recursion

- Base case
 - The simplest version(s) of your problem that all other cases reduce to
 - An occurrence that can be answered directly

"If there is no one behind me, answer 0"
- Recursive case
 - The step at which you break down more complex versions of the task into smaller occurrences
 - Cannot be answered directly
 - Take the "recursive leap of faith" and trust the smaller tasks will solve the problem for you!

"If someone is sitting behind me ..."



Announcements



Announcements

- Assignment 2 is due Wednesday, 7/8.
- Assignment 3 will be released by the end of the day on Thursday.
- The mid-quarter diagnostic will cover through the end of this week (Thursday will be the last day of content covered).
- Please remember to only ask questions in the chat that are necessary for your immediate understanding!



Factorial example

Factorials

- The number **n factorial**, denoted **n!**, is

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

- For example,
 - $3! = 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 6.$
 - $4! = 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 24.$
 - $5! = 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 120.$
 - $0! = 1.$ (by definition)
- Factorials show up in unexpected places. We'll see one later this quarter when we talk about sorting algorithms.
- Let's implement a function to compute factorials!

Computing factorials

$$5! = 5 \times 4!$$

$$4! = 4 \times 3!$$

$$3! = 3 \times 2!$$

$$2! = 2 \times 1!$$

$$1! = 1 \times 0!$$

$$0! = 1$$

By definition!



Another view of factorials

$$n! = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 0 \\ n \times (n - 1)! & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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

Recursion in action

```
int main() {  
    int n = factorial(5);  
    cout << "5! = " << n << endl;  
    return 0;  
}
```

This is a “^{堆栈结构}stack frame.” One gets created each time a function is called.

- The “stack” is where in your computer’s memory the information is stored.
- A “frame” stores all of the data (variables) for that particular function call.



Recursion in action

```
int main() {  
    int n = factorial(5);  
    cout << "5! = " << n << endl;  
    return 0;  
}
```

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        if (n == 0) {
```

```
            return 1;
```

```
        } else {
```

```
            return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```



n



When a function gets called, a new stack frame gets created.



Recursion in action

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





Recursion in action

```
int main() {
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```
    int factorial (int n) {
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```
        if (n == 0) {
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            return 1;
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Recursion in action

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n

5

Recursion in action

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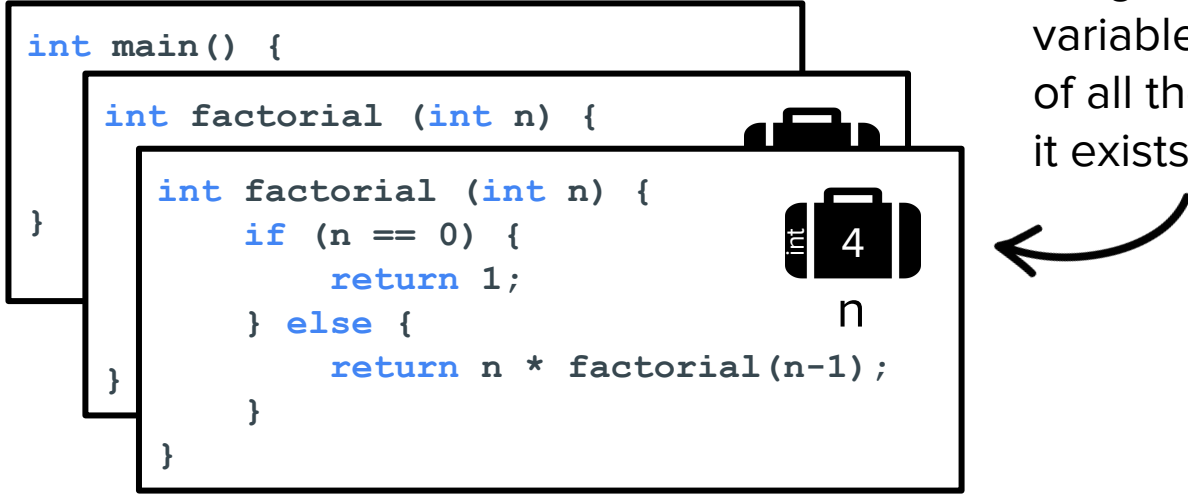
```
    }
```



5

Recursion in action

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



Every time we call **factorial()**, we get a new copy of the local variable **n** that's independent of all the previous copies because it exists inside the new frame.

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            if (n == 0) {
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```
                return 1;
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```
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```
                return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```



n

Recursion in action

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n

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n

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n



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```
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n

4

Recursion in action

```
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```
                return 1;
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```
            }
```

```
        }
```



n

4

Recursion in action

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```
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```
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n

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n

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                }
```

```
            }
```



n

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
    }
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                if (n == 0) {
```

```
                    return 1;
```

```
                } else {
```

```
                    return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```



n

3

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
    }
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    if (n == 0) {
```

```
                        return 1;
```

```
                    } else {
```

```
                        return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```



n

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    if (n == 0) {
```

```
                        return 1;
```

```
                    } else {
```

```
                        return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```



n

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    if (n == 0) {
```

```
                        return 1;
```

```
                    } else {
```

```
                        return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```



n

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    if (n == 0) {
```

```
                        return 1;
```

```
                    } else {
```

```
                        return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```



n

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    if (n == 0) {
```

```
                        return 1;
```

```
                    } else {
```

```
                        return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```



n

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    if (n == 0) {
```

```
                        return 1;
```

```
                    } else {
```

```
                        return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```



n

2

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    if (n == 0) {
```

```
                        return 1;
```

```
                    } else {
```

```
                        return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```



n

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                        if (n == 0) {
```

```
                            return 1;
```

```
                        } else {
```

```
                            return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                        }
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```



n

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                        if (n == 0) {
```

```
                            return 1;
```

```
                        } else {
```

```
                            return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                        }
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```



n

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                        if (n == 0) {
```

```
                            return 1;
```

```
                        } else {
```

```
                            return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```



n

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                        if (n == 0) {
```

```
                            return 1;
```

```
                        } else {
```

```
                            return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```



n

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                        if (n == 0) {
```

```
                            return 1;
```

```
                        } else {
```

```
                            return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                        }
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```



n

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                        if (n == 0) {
```

```
                            return 1;
```

```
                        } else {
```

```
                            return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                        }
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```



n

1

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                        if (n == 0) {
```

```
                            return 1;
```

```
                        } else {
```

```
                            return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                        }
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```



n

1

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                            if (n == 0) {
```

```
                                return 1;
```

```
                            } else {
```

```
                                return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                            }
```

```
                        }
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```



n

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                            if (n == 0) {
```

```
                                return 1;
```

```
                            } else {
```

```
                                return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                            }
```

```
                        }
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```



n

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                            if (n == 0) {
```

```
                                return 1;
```

```
                            } else {
```

```
                                return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                            }
```

```
                        }
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

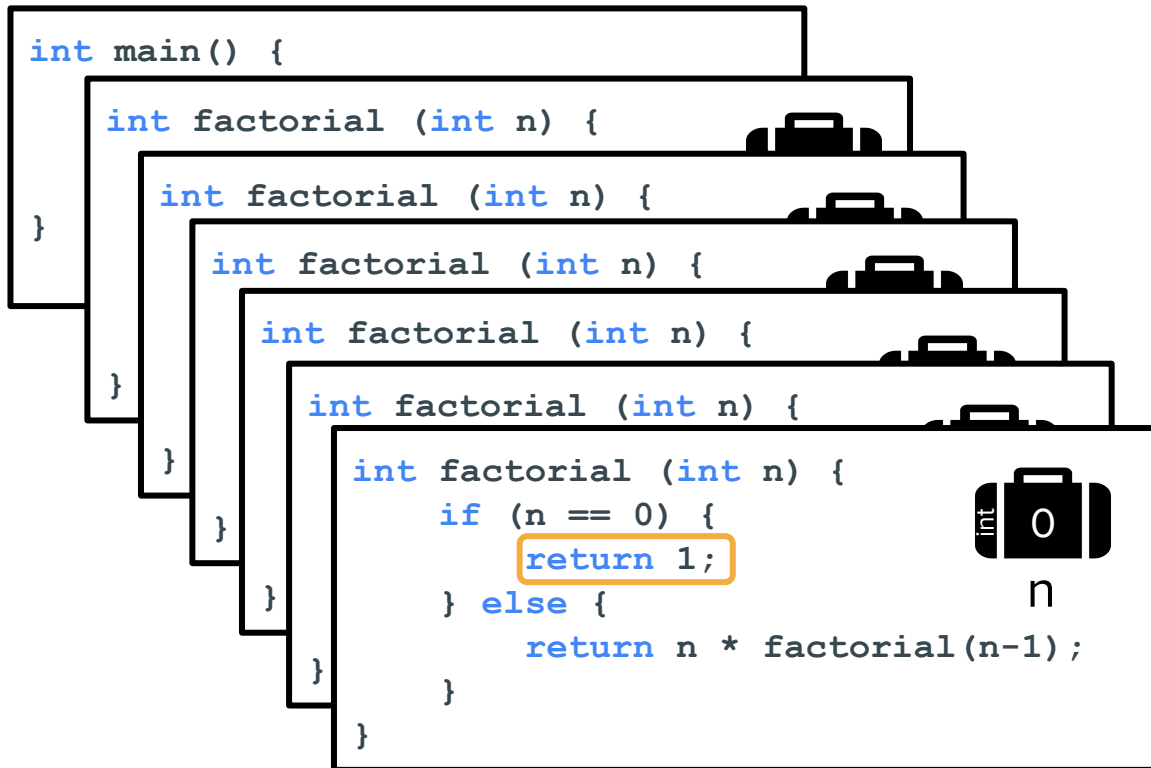
```
    }
```

```
}
```



n

Recursion in action



Stack frames go away (get cleared from memory) once they return.



Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                        if (n == 0) {
```

```
                            return 1;
```

```
                        } else {
```

```
                            return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                        }
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```



n

1

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                        if (n == 0) {
```

```
                            return 1;
```

```
                        } else {
```

```
                            return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                        }
                    }
                }
            }
        }
    }
```

```
1
```



n

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                        if (n == 0) {
```

```
                            return 1;
```

```
                        } else {
```

```
                            return n * factorial(n-1);
```

1

1



Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                        if (n == 0) {
```

```
                            return 1;
```

```
                        } else {
```

```
                            return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                        }
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```



n

1

x

1

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                        if (n == 0) {
```

```
                            return 1;
```

```
                        } else {
```

```
                            return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                        }
```

```
                    }
```



n

1

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    if (n == 0) {
```

```
                        return 1;
```

```
                    } else {
```

```
                        return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                    }
```

```
                2
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```



n

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    if (n == 0) {
```

```
                        return 1;
```

```
                    } else {
```

```
                        return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                    }
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```



n

2

1

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                    if (n == 0) {
```

```
                        return 1;
```

```
                    } else {
```

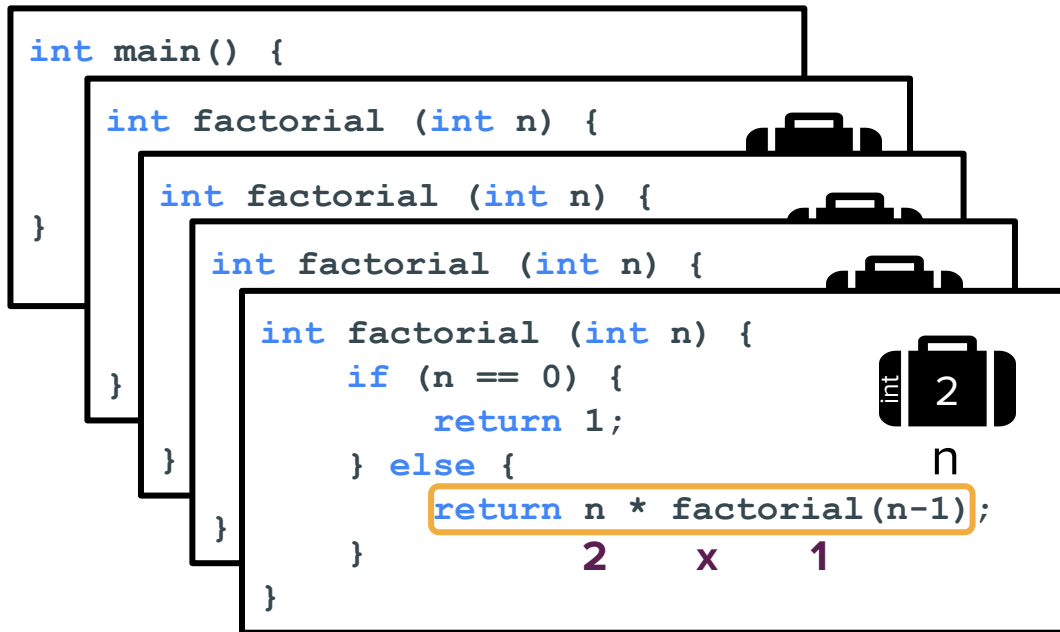
```
                        return n * factorial(n-1);
```

2

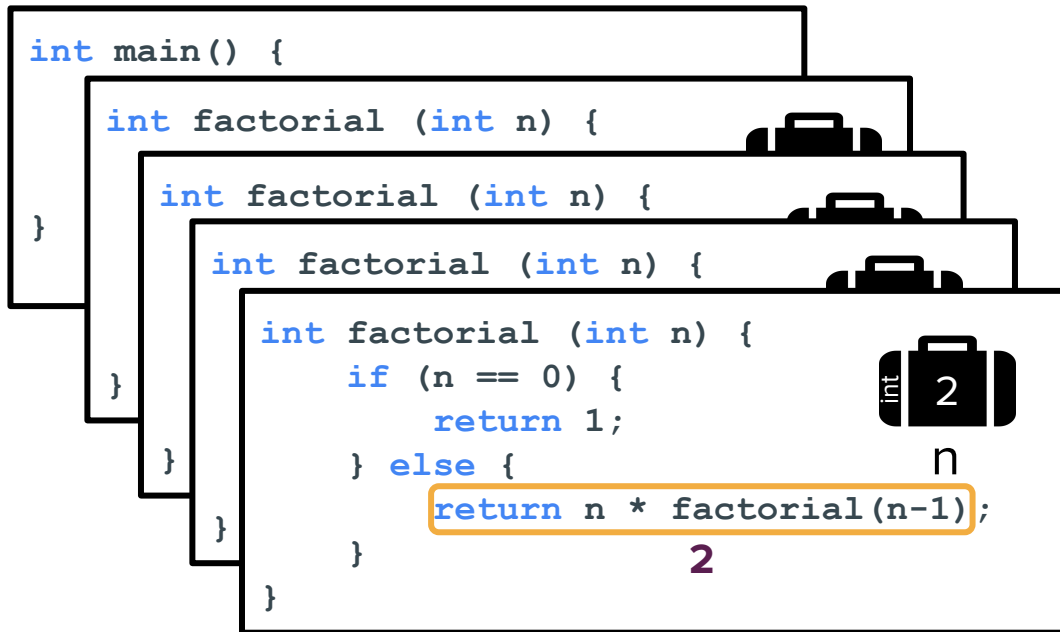
1



Recursion in action



Recursion in action



Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                if (n == 0) {
```

```
                    return 1;
```

```
                } else {
```

```
                    return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
                }
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```



n

3

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            int factorial (int n) {
```

```
                if (n == 0) {
```

```
                    return 1;
```

```
                } else {
```

```
                    return n * factorial(n-1);
```

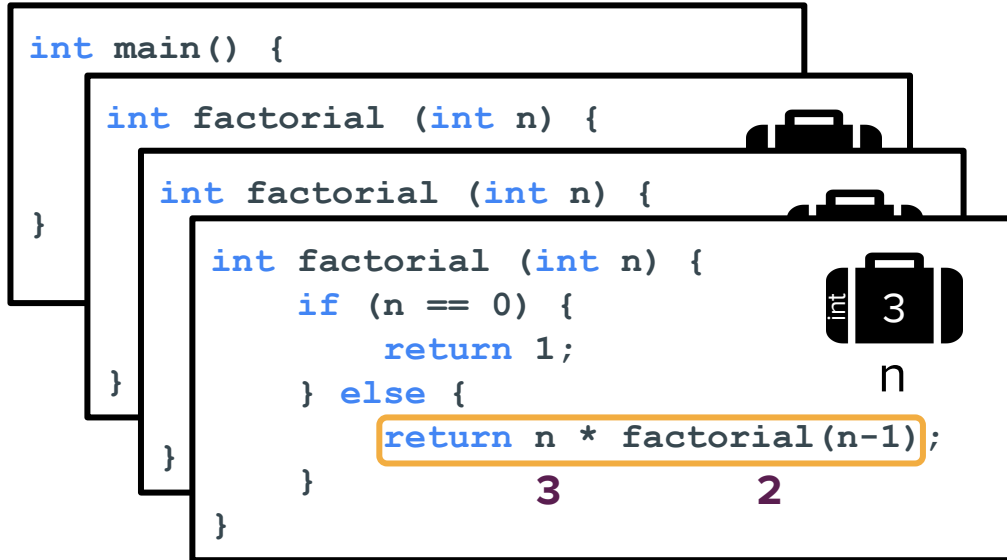
3

2

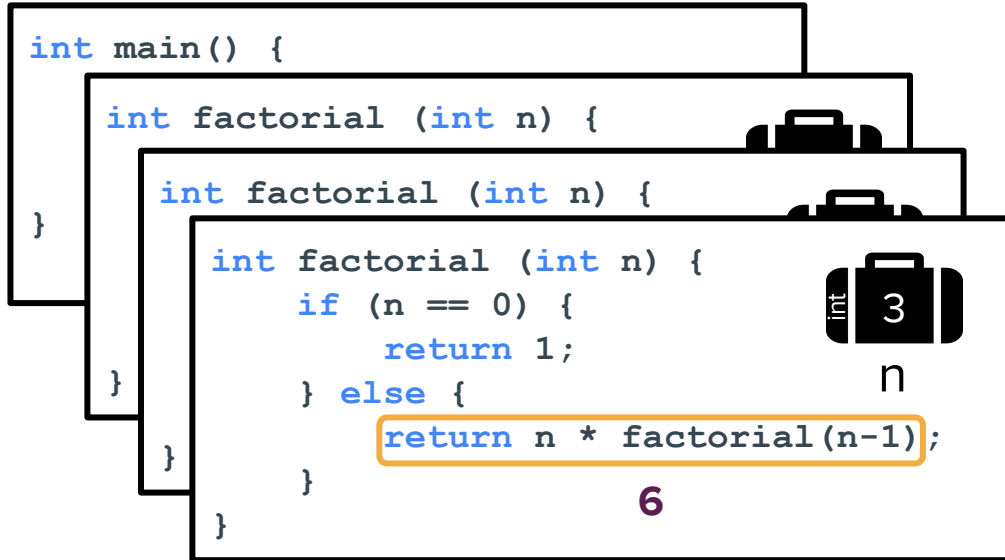


n

Recursion in action



Recursion in action



Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            if (n == 0) {
```

```
                return 1;
```

```
            } else {
```

```
                return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```



n

4

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            if (n == 0) {
```

```
                return 1;
```

```
            } else {
```

```
                return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
        }
```



4

6

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            if (n == 0) {
```

```
                return 1;
```

```
            } else {
```

```
                return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
            }
```

```
        }
```



n

4

6

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            if (n == 0) {
```

```
                return 1;
```

```
            } else {
```

```
                return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```



n

4

x

6

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        int factorial (int n) {
```

```
            if (n == 0) {
```

```
                return 1;
```

```
            } else {
```

```
                return n * factorial(n-1);
```

24



Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        if (n == 0) {
```

```
            return 1;
```

```
        } else {
```

```
            return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```



5

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        if (n == 0) {
```

```
            return 1;
```

```
        } else {
```

```
            return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```



5

24

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        if (n == 0) {
```

```
            return 1;
```

```
        } else {
```

```
            return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```



n

5

24

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        if (n == 0) {
```

```
            return 1;
```

```
        } else {
```

```
            return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```



n

5

x

24

Recursion in action

```
int main() {
```

```
    int factorial (int n) {
```

```
        if (n == 0) {
```

```
            return 1;
```

```
        } else {
```

```
            return n * factorial(n-1);
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```



n

120



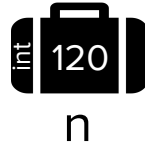
Recursion in action

```
int main() {  
    int n = factorial(5);  
    cout << "5! = " << n << endl;  
    return 0;  
}
```



Recursion in action

```
int main() {  
    int n = factorial(5);  
    cout << "5! = " << n << endl;  
    return 0;  
}
```





Recursive vs. Iterative

[Qt Creator]



Reverse string example



How can we reverse a string?

Suppose we want to reverse strings like in the following examples:

“dog” → “god”

“stressed” → “desserts”

“recursion” → “noisrucer”

“level” → “level”

“a” → “a”



Approaching recursive problems

- Look for self-similarity.
- Try out an example.
 - Work through a simple example and then increase the complexity.
 - Think about what information needs to be “stored” at each step in the recursive case (like the current value of **n** in each **factorial** stack frame).
- Ask yourself:
 - What is the base case? (What is the simplest case?)
 - What is the recursive case? (What pattern of self-similarity do you see?)



Discuss:

What are the base and recursive cases?

(breakout rooms)



How can we reverse a string?

*How can we
express the
recursive case?*

- Look for self-similarity: **stressed** → **desserts**
 - Take the s and put it at the end of the string.
 - Then reverse “tressed”:
 - Take the t and put it at the end of the string.
 - Then reverse “ressed”:
 - Take the r and put it at the end of the string.
 - Then reverse “essed”:
 - ...
 - Take the d and put it at the end of the string.
 - **Base case**: reverse “” → get “”

How can we reverse a string?

*How can we
express the
recursive case?*

- Look for self-similarity: **stressed** → **desserts**

- Take the s and put it at the end of the string.

$\text{reverse}(\text{"stressed"}) =$
 $\text{reverse}(\text{"tressed"}) + \text{'s'}$

- Then reverse "tressed":

- Take the t and put it at the end of the string.

$\text{reverse}(\text{"tressed"}) =$
 $\text{reverse}(\text{"ressed"}) + \text{'t'}$

- Then reverse "ressed":

- Take the r and put it at the end of the string.

$\text{reverse}(\text{"ressed"}) =$
 $\text{reverse}(\text{"essed"}) + \text{'r'}$

- Then reverse "essed":

$\text{reverse}(\text{"d"}) =$
 $\text{reverse}(\text{" "}) + \text{'d'}$

• ...

- Take the d and put it at the end of the string.

- Base case: reverse "" → get ""

$\text{reverse}(\text{" "}) = \text{" "}$



How can we reverse a string?

- **Recursive case:** $\text{reverse}(\text{str}) = \text{reverse}(\text{str without first letter}) + \text{first letter of str}$
- **Base case:** $\text{reverse}("") = ""$

Depending on how you thought of the problem, you may have also come up with:

- **Recursive case:** $\text{reverse}(\text{str}) = \text{last letter of str} + \text{reverse}(\text{str without last letter})$
- **Base case:** $\text{reverse}("") = ""$



Let's code it!

(live coding)



Summary

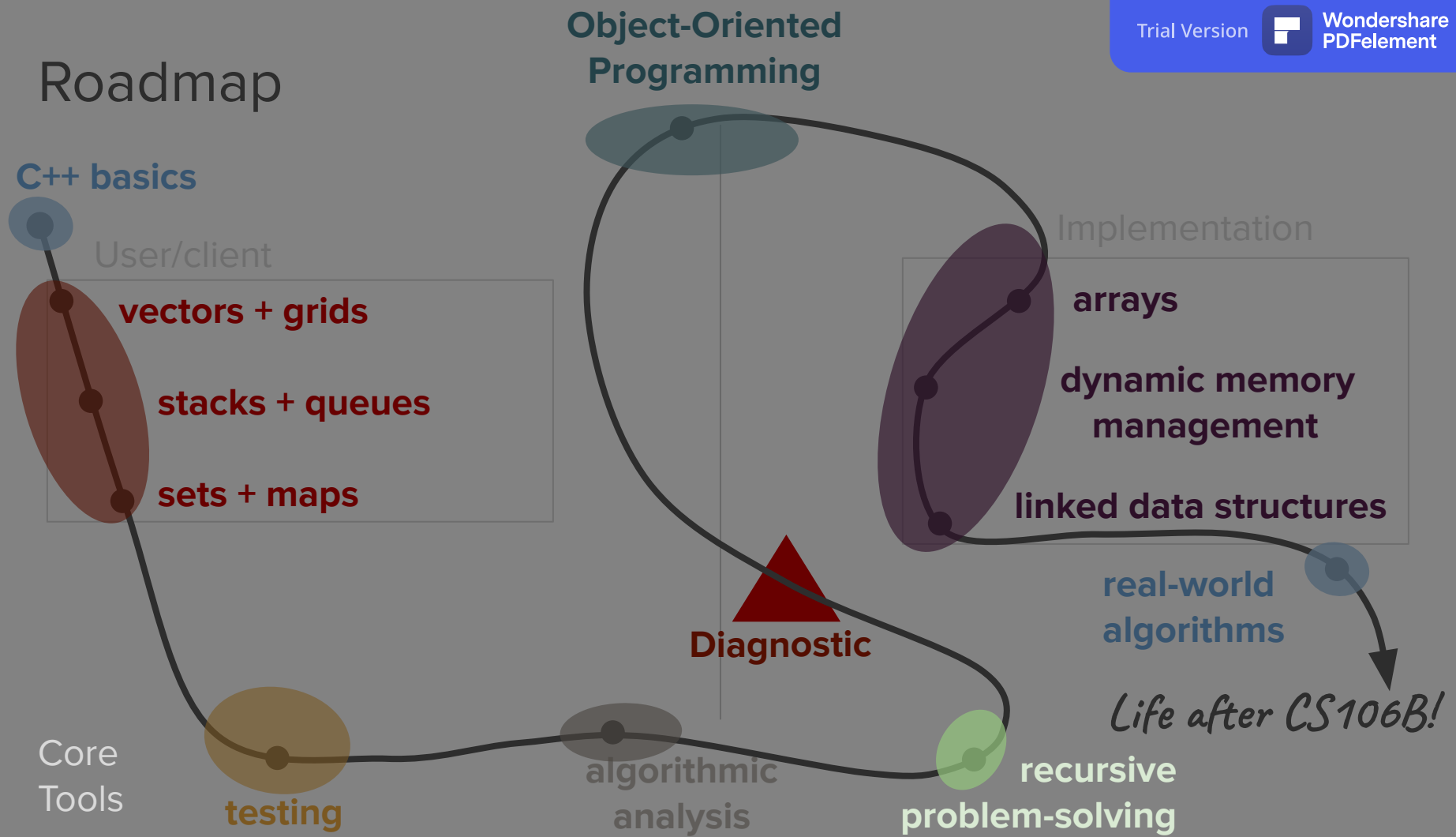
Summary

- Recursion is a problem-solving technique in which tasks are completed by reducing them into **repeated, smaller tasks of the same form**.
A recursive operation(function) is defined in terms of itself (i.e.it calls itself) .
- Recursion has two main parts: **the base case and the recursive case**.
Base case: Simplest form of the problem that has a direct answer.
Recursive case: The step where you break the problem into a smaller, self-similar task.
- **The solution will get built up as you come back up the call stack.**
The base case will define the “base” of the solution you’re building up.
Each previous recursive call contributes a little bit to the final solution.
The initial call to your recursive function is what will return the completely constructed answer
- When solving problems recursively, look for **self-similarity** and think about **what information is getting stored in each stack frame**.



What's next?

Roadmap



Fractals

