61A Lecture 8

Wednesday, September 17

Announcements

- Project 1 is due Thursday 9/18 @ 11:59pm; Early bonus point for submitting on Wednesday!
  - Project Party in Stern Main Lounge (Stern Hall in Unit 4) 8pm–10pm on Wednesday 9/17
- Midterm 1 is on Monday 9/22 from 7pm to 9pm
  - 2 review sessions on Saturday 9/20 3pm–4:30pm and 4:30pm–6pm in 1 Pimentel
  - HKN review session moved to Sunday 9/21, time/location TBD
  - Includes topics up to and including this lecture
  - Closed book/note exam, except for one page of hand-written notes and a study guide
  - Cannot attend? Fill out the conflict form by Wednesday 9/17 @ 5pm!
- Optional Hog strategy contest ends Wednesday 10/1 @ 11:59pm

Hog Contest Rules

- Up to two people submit one entry; Max of one entry per person
- Your score is the number of entries against which you win more than 50% of the time
- All strategies must be deterministic, pure functions of the current player scores
- All winning entries will receive 2 points of extra credit
- The real prize: honor and glory

Fall 2011 Winners

Kaylee Mann
Yan Duan & Ziming Li
Brian Prike & Zhenghao Qian
Parker Schuh & Robert Chatham

Fall 2012 Winners

Chenyang Yuan
Joseph Hui

Fall 2013 Winners

Paul Bramsen
Sam Kumar & Kangsik Lee
Kevin Chen

Fall 2014 Winners

YOUR NAME COULD BE HERE... FOREVER!

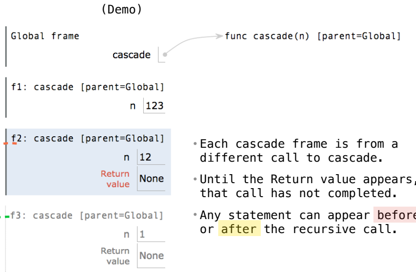
Order of Recursive Calls

The Cascade Function

(Demo)

```
def cascade(n):
    if n < 10:
        print(n)
    else:
        print(n)
        cascade(n//10)
        print(n)

cascade(123)
```



Program output:

```
123
12
1
12
```

- Each cascade frame is from a different call to cascade.
- Until the Return value appears, that call has not completed.
- Any statement can appear before or after the recursive call.

Interactive Diagram

Two Definitions of Cascade

(Demo)

```
def cascade(n):
    if n < 10:
        print(n)
    else:
        print(n)
        cascade(n//10)
        print(n)
```

```
def cascade(n):
    print(n)
    if n >= 10:
        cascade(n//10)
        print(n)
```

- If two implementations are equally clear, then shorter is usually better
- In this case, the longer implementation is more clear (at least to me)
- When learning to write recursive functions, put the base cases first
- Both are recursive functions, even though only the first has typical structure

Example: Inverse Cascade

Inverse Cascade

Write a function that prints an inverse cascade:

```
1
12
123
1234
123
12
1
```

```
def inverse_cascade(n):
    grow(n)
    print(n)
    shrink(n)

def f_then_g(f, g, n):
    if n:
        f(n)
        g(n)

grow =   lambda n: f_then_g(                    )
shrink = lambda n: f_then_g(                    )
```

Tree Recursion

Tree Recursion

Tree-shaped processes arise whenever executing the body of a recursive function makes more than one call to that function.

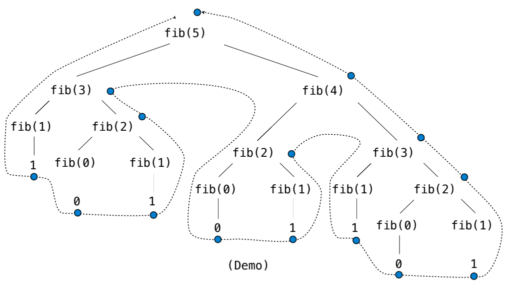
n:	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, ... , 35
fib(n):	0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, ... , 9,227,465

```
def fib(n):
    if n == 0:
        return 0
    elif n == 1:
        return 1
    else:
        return fib(n-2) + fib(n-1)
```

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Fibonacci.jpg

A Tree-Recursive Process

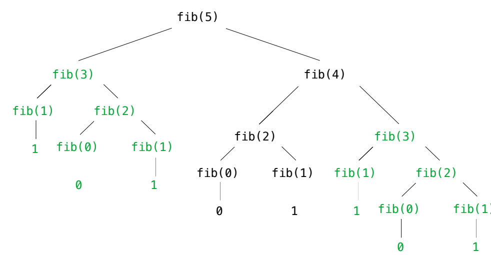
The computational process of fib evolves into a tree structure



(Demo)

Repetition in Tree-Recursive Computation

This process is highly repetitive; fib is called on the same argument multiple times.



We can speed up this computation dramatically in a few weeks by remembering results.

Example: Counting Partitions

Counting Partitions

The number of partitions of a positive integer n, using parts up to size m, is the number of ways in which n can be expressed as the sum of positive integer parts up to m in increasing order.

count_partitions(6, 4)

2 + 4 = 6
1 + 1 + 4 = 6
3 + 3 = 6
1 + 2 + 3 = 6
1 + 1 + 1 + 3 = 6
2 + 2 + 2 = 6
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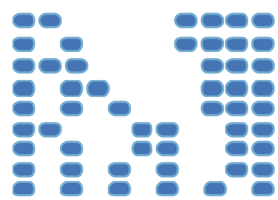
1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 2 = 6
1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 6



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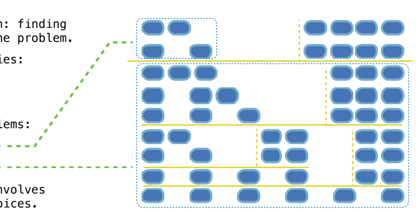
- Recursive decomposition: finding simpler instances of the problem.
- Explore two possibilities:
  - Use at least one 4
  - Don't use any 4
- Solve two simpler problems:
  - count_partitions(2, 4)
  - count_partitions(6, 3)
- Tree recursion often involves exploring different choices.



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  - count_partitions(6, 3)
- Tree recursion often involves exploring different choices.

```
def count_partitions(n, m):
    if n == 0:
        return 1
    elif n < 0:
        return 0
    elif m == 0:
        return 0
    else:
        with_m = count_partitions(n-m, m)
        without_m = count_partitions(n, m-1)
        return with_m + without_m
```

(Demo)

Interactive Diagram