**Overview references to sections in text**

- Note: We’ve covered everything in JavaSummary.pptx!
- What is recursion? 7.1-7.39 slide 1-7
- Base case 7.1-7.10 slide 13
- How Java stack frames work 7.8-7.10 slide 28-32

**NEXT WEEK IS FEBRUARY BREAK**
1. No lecture on Tuesday.
2. No CS2111 on Tuesday.
3. No recitation/discussion sections on Tuesday/Wednesday
4. See you in lecture next Thursday

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**RECURSION**
Lecture 7
CS2110 – Spring 2015

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**A little about generics –used in A3**

```java
public class LinkedList<E> { /* ... */ // E is a type parameter
    /** Values in d1 can be ANY objects — String, JFrame, etc. */
    LinkedList d1 = new LinkedList();
    ...
    String x = ((String) d1.getFirst()).getValueOf(); // cast is needed

    /** The values in d2 are only objects of class String */
    LinkedList<String> d2 = new LinkedList<String>();
    ...
    String s = d2.getFirst().getValueOf(); // no cast is needed
```

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**What does generic mean?**

From Merriam-Webster online:

generic adjective
a : relating or applied to or descriptive of all members of a genus, species, class, or group : common to or characteristic of a whole group or class : typifying or subsuming : not specific or individual
generic applies to that which characterizes every individual in a category or group and may suggest further that what is designated may be thought of as a clear and certain classificatory criterion

---

**Sum the digits in a non-negative integer**

```java
/** return sum of digits in n.
* Precondition: n >= 0 */
public static int sum(int n) {
    if (n < 10) return n;
    // { n has at least two digits }
    // return first digit + sum of rest
    return sum(n/10) + n%10;
}
```

E.g. `sum(7) = 7`  
E.g. `sum(8703) = sum(870) + 3;`

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**Two issues with recursion**

```java
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* Precondition: n >= 0 */
public static int sum(int n) {
    if (n < 10) return n;
    // { n has at least two digits }
    // return first digit + sum of rest
    return sum(n/10) + n%10;
}
```

1. Why does it work? How does the method executed?
2. How do we understand a given recursive method, or how do we write/develop a recursive method?
Stacks and Queues

Stack: list with (at least) two basic ops:
* Push an element onto its top
* Pop (remove) top element

Like a stack of trays in a cafeteria

Queue: list with (at least) two basic ops:
* Append an element
* Remove first element

First-In-First-Out (FIFO)

Americans wait in a line, the Brits wait in a queue!

Example: Sum the digits in a non-negative integer

```java
public static int sum(int n) {
    if (n < 10) return n;
    return sum(n/10) + n%10;
}
```

Method main calls sum:
Example: Sum the digits in a non-negative integer

```java
public static int sum(int n) {
    if (n < 10) return n;
    return sum(n/10) + n%10;
}

public static void main(...) {
    int r = sum(824);
    System.out.println(r);
}
```

Using return value 8, stack computes 8 + 2 = 10, pops frame from stack, puts return value 10 on stack.

Using return value 10, stack computes 10 + 4 = 14, pops frame from stack, puts return value 14 on stack.

Using return value 14, main stores 14 in r and removes 14 from stack.

Summary of method call execution

- A frame for a call contains parameters, local variables, and other information needed to properly execute a method call.
- To execute a method call: push a frame for the call on the stack, assign arg values to pars, and execute method body. When executing method body, look in frame for call for parameters and local variables. When method body finishes, pop frame from stack and (for a function) push the return value on the stack.
- For function call: When control given back to call, it pops the return value and uses it as the value of the function call.
Questions about local variables

```
public static void m(...) {
    ...
    while (...) {
        int d = 5;
        ...
    }
}
```

In a call `m()`, when is local variable `d` created and when is it destroyed? Which version of procedure `m` do you like better? Why?

Recursion is used extensively in math

```
Math definition of n factorial
0! = 1
n! = n * (n-1)! for n > 0
```

E.g. 3! = 3*2*1 = 6

Easy to make math definition into a Java function!

```
public static int fact(int n) {
    if (n == 0) return 1;
    return n * fact(n-1);
}
```

Math definition of `b^c` for `c` >= 0
`b^0 = 1`
`b^c = b * b^{c-1}` for `c > 0`

Lots of things defined recursively: expression, grammars, trees, ….

We will see such things later

Two views of recursive methods

- How are calls on recursive methods executed?
  We saw that. Use this only to gain understanding / assurance that recursion works

- How do we understand a recursive method —
  know that it satisfies its specification? How do we write a recursive method?
  This requires a totally different approach.
  Thinking about how the method gets executed will confuse you completely! We now introduce this approach.

Understanding a recursive method

Step 1. Have a precise spec!

```
/** = sum of digits of n.
 * Precondition: n >= 0 */
public static int sum(int n) {
    if (n < 10) return n;
    // n has at least two digits
    return sum(n/10) + n%10;
}
```

Step 2. Check that the method works in the base case(s).

- If `n < 10`, then `n` consists of a single digit. Looking at the spec, we see that that digit is the required sum.

Step 3. Look at the recursive case(s).

- In your mind, replace each recursive call by what it does acc. to the spec and verify correctness.

Understanding a recursive method

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```
/** = sum of digits of n.
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Step 4. (No infinite recursion) Make sure that the args of recursive calls are in some sense smaller than the pars of the method.

```
n/10 < n
```
Understanding a recursive method

Step 1. Have a precise spec!  
Step 2. Check that the method works in the base case(s).  
Step 3. Look at the recursive case(s). In your mind, replace each recursive call by what it does according to the spec and verify correctness.  
Step 4. (No infinite recursion) Make sure that the args of recursive calls are in some sense smaller than the pars of the method.

Important! Can’t do step 3 without it.

Examples of writing recursive functions

For the rest of the class, we demo writing recursive functions using the approach outlined below. The java file we develop will be placed on the course webpage some time after the lecture.

Step 1. Have a precise spec!
Step 2. Write the base case(s).
Step 3. Look at all other cases. See how to define these cases in terms of smaller problems of the same kind. Then implement those definitions, using recursive calls for those smaller problems of the same kind.

Writing a recursive method

Step 1. Have a precise spec!
Step 2. Write the base case(s): Cases in which no recursive calls are needed. Generally, for “small” values of the parameters.
Step 3. Look at all other cases. See how to define these cases in terms of smaller problems of the same kind. Then implement those definitions, using recursive calls for those smaller problems of the same kind. Done suitably, point 4 is automatically satisfied.
Step 4. (No infinite recursion) Make sure that the args of recursive calls are in some sense smaller than the pars of the method.

The Fibonacci Function

Mathematical definition:  
\[ \begin{align*}  
\text{fib}(0) &= 0 \\
\text{fib}(1) &= 1 \\
\text{fib}(n) &= \text{fib}(n-1) + \text{fib}(n-2), \quad n \geq 2  
\end{align*} \]

Fibonacci sequence: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, ...

```java
/** = \text{fibonacci}(n). Pre: n >= 0 */
static int fib(int n) {
    if (n <= 1) return n;
    return fib(n-2) + fib(n-1);
}
```

Fibonacci (Leonardo Pisano) 1170-1240?

Statue in Pisa, Italy

Giovanni Paganucci 1863

Example: Is a string a palindrome?

```java
/** = \text{"s is a palindrome"} */
public static boolean isPal(String s) {  
    if (s.length() <= 1) return true;  
    // { s has at least 2 chars }
    int n = s.length()-1;  
    return s.charAt(0) == s.charAt(n) && isPal(s.substring(1, n));
}
```

isPal("racecar") returns true
isPal("pumpkin") returns false

Example: Count the e’s in a string

```java
/** = \text{number of times c occurs in s} */
public static int countEm(char c, String s) {  
    if (s.length() == 0) return 0;  
    // { s has at least 1 character }
    if (s.charAt(0) != c) return countEm(c, s.substring(1));  
    return 1 + countEm(c, s.substring(1));
}
```

- countEm(‘e’, ”It is easy to see that this has many e’s”) = 4
- countEm(‘e’, ”Mississippi”) = 0
Computing $a^n$ for $n \geq 0$

**Power computation:**
- $a^0 = 1$
- If $n \neq 0$, $a^n = a \times a^{n-1}$
- If $n \neq 0$ and even, $a^n = (a \times a)^{n/2}$

Java note: For ints $x$ and $y$, $x/y$ is the integer part of the quotient

Judicious use of the third property gives a logarithmic algorithm, as we will see

Example: $3^8 = (3 \times 3) \times (3 \times 3) \times (3 \times 3) = (3 \times 3)^4$

Tiling Elaine’s kitchen

Kitchen in Gries’s house is 8 x 8. A refrigerator sits on one of the 1 x 1 squares.

His wife, Elaine, wants the kitchen tiled with el-shaped tiles — every square except where the refrigerator sits should be tiled.

```java
/** tile a 2^n by 2^n kitchen with 1 square filled. */
public static void tile(int n) {
    if (n == 0) return;
    if (n%2 == 0)
        return tile(a*a, n/2);
    return a * tile(a, n-1);
}
```

We abstract away keeping track of where the filled square is, etc.

We can tile the upper-right $2^{n-1}$ by $2^{n-1}$ kitchen recursively. But we can’t tile the other three because they don’t have a filled square. What can we do? Remember, the idea is to tile the kitchen!
Tiling Elaine’s kitchen

/** tile a 2^n by 2^n kitchen with 1
    square filled. */
public static void tile(int n) {
    if (n == 0) return;
    Place one tile so that each kitchen has one square filled;
    Tile upper left kitchen recursively;
    Tile upper right kitchen recursively;
    Tile lower left kitchen recursively;
    Tile lower right kitchen recursively;
}

Conclusion

Recursion is a convenient and powerful way to define functions

Problems that seem insurmountable can often be solved in a “divide-and-conquer” fashion:
- Reduce a big problem to smaller problems of the same kind, solve the smaller problems
- Recombine the solutions to smaller problems to form solution for big problem