

EECS 1028 M: Discrete Mathematics for Engineers

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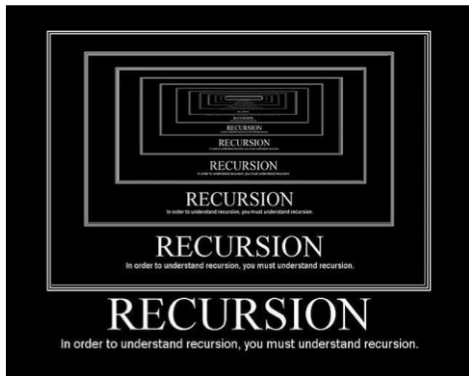
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Course page: <http://www.eecs.yorku.ca/course/1028>

Also on Moodle

Recursive definitions (Ch 5.3)

- Recursion: definition in terms of itself
- Design Pattern in Software Engineering
- Algorithm design strategy



From <https://www.cse.buffalo.edu/~hartloff/CSE250/images/recursion.png>

Recursive Programs

Recursively defined sequence: Fibonacci series.

$$f_0 = f_1 = 1, \forall n > 1, f_n = f_{n-1} + f_{n-2}$$

```
// recursive factorial function
public static int recursiveFactorial(int n) {
    // base case
    if (n == 0) || (n == 1) return 1;
    // recursive case
    else return n * recursiveFactorial(n - 1);
}
```

Recursively Defined Functions

- Non-recursive function: $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = 2x + x^2 - 3$
- Recursive function: $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$,
 $f(1) = 1$
 $\forall n > 1, f(n) = 2f(n-1) + 3.$

Relationship with Sums and Products

- Non-recursive:

$$S_n = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k$$

Recursive:

$$S_1 = a_1, \forall n > 1, S_n = S_{n-1} + a_n$$

- Non-recursive:

$$f(n) = n! = \prod_{k=1}^n k$$

Recursive:

$$f(1) = 1, \forall n > 1, f(n) = f(n-1) * n$$

Recursively Defined Sets

Set of prime numbers: the unique set of positive integers satisfying

- 1 is not a prime number
- any other positive integer is a prime number if and only if it is not divisible by any prime number smaller than itself

The set of even numbers:

- 0 is an even number
- For any even number n , $n + 2$ is even
- No number is even unless it is obtained from the previous rules

Recursively Defined Sets - 2

Set of natural numbers \mathbb{N} : the smallest set satisfying

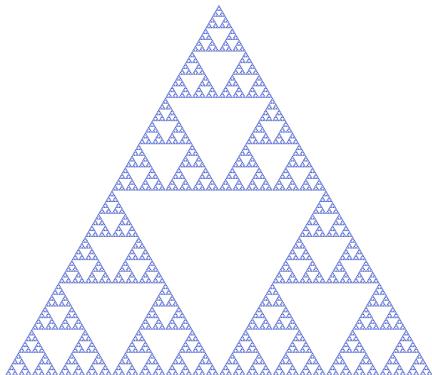
- $1 \in \mathbb{N}$
- $\forall m \in \mathbb{N}, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, m + n \in \mathbb{N}$

Set of all binary strings B :

Assume that λ is the empty string. Then

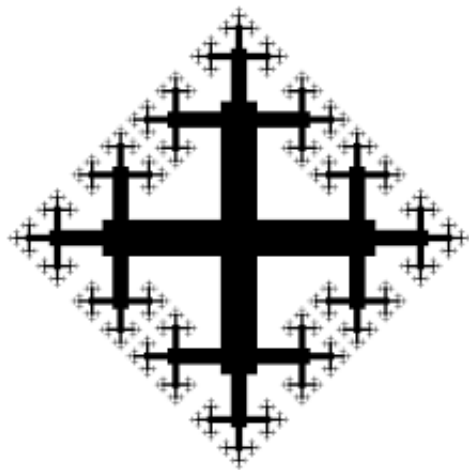
- $\lambda \in B$
- $\forall x \in B, (0x \in B) \wedge (1x \in B)$

Another Recursively Defined Set



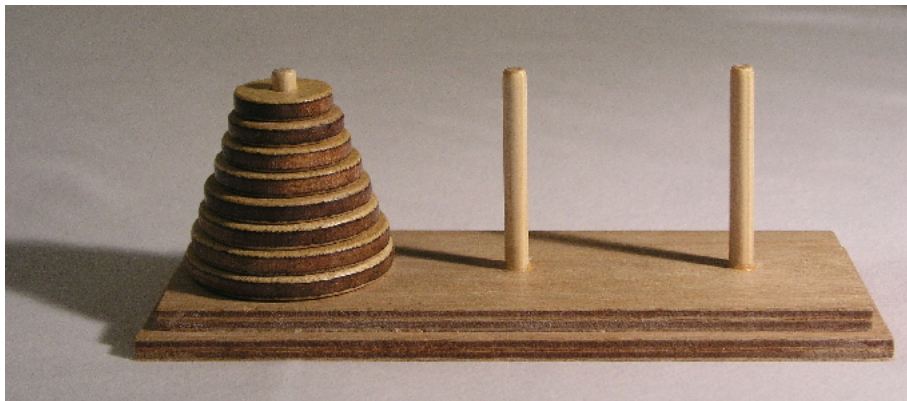
By Beojan Stanislaus, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=8862246>

Yet Another Recursively Defined Set



From <https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/plugins/fractalac/FLHelp/cross.htm>

A Game that is Played Recursively



From CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=228623>

Making Recursive Definitions Non-recursive

- Used a lot in the analysis of recursive programs
- Difficult for many recurrences, e.g. Fibonacci series definition
- Unrolling, or repeated expansion. E.g. $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$,
 $f(1) = 1, \forall n > 1, f(n) = 2f(n-1)$.

$$\begin{aligned} f(n) &= 2f(n-1) \\ &= 2(2f(n-2)) \\ &= 2^2 f(n-2) \\ &= 2^2 2f(n-3) \\ &= 2^3 f(n-3) \\ &= \dots \\ &= 2^{n-1} f(1) \\ &= 2^{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

Exercises

- Pg 358, Q9
- Pg 358, Q 25
- Write a recursive definition for the set of all binary strings of even length

Applications

- Recursion is a key concept in computation
- Fascinating connections to fractals
- Fractals are useful in computer graphics, image compression