

Tree Recursion

Announcements

Recursion Review

How to Know That a Recursive Implementation is Correct

Tracing: Diagram the whole computational process (only feasible for very small examples)

Induction: Check $f(0)$, then check that $f(n)$ is correct as long as $f(n-1) \dots f(0)$ are.

Abstraction: Assume f is correct (on simpler examples), then use it to implement f .

Streak (from Spring 2024's Midterm 1, A+ Question)

```
def streak(n):
    """Return True if all the digits in positive integer n are the same.

    >>> streak(22222)
    True
    >>> streak(4)
    True
    >>> streak(2222322) # 2 and 3 are different digits.
    False
    """
    return (n >= 0 and n <= 9) or (n > 9 and n % 10 == n // 10 % 10 and streak(n // 10))
```

Idea: In a streak, all *pairs* of adjacent digits are equal

Hint: floor division //
(divides, discards the remainder)

```
>>> 1234 // 10
123
```

Hint: modulo %
(divides, returns the remainder)

```
>>> 1234 % 10
4
```

Mutual Recursion

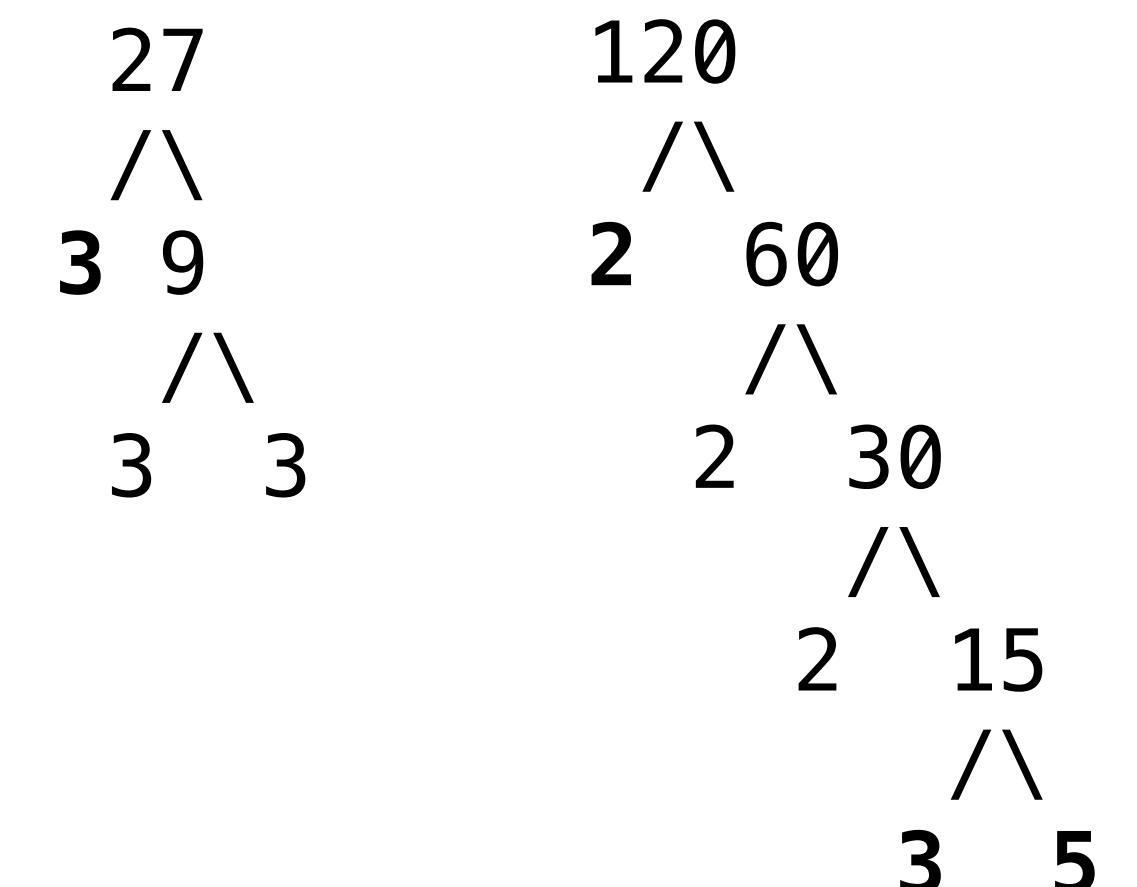
Mutually Recursive Functions

Two functions f and g are mutually recursive if f calls g and g calls f .

```
def unique_prime_factors(n):
    """Return the number of unique prime factors of n.

    >>> unique_prime_factors(51)      # 3 * 17
    2
    >>> unique_prime_factors(27)      # 3 * 3 * 3
    1
    >>> unique_prime_factors(120)      # 2 * 2 * 2 * 3 * 5
    3
    .....
    k = smallest_factor(n)
    def no_k(n):
        """Return the number of unique prime factors of n other than k."""
        if n == 1:
            return 0
        elif n % k != 0:
            return unique_prime_factors(n)
        else:
            return no_k(n // k)
    return 1 + no_k(n)
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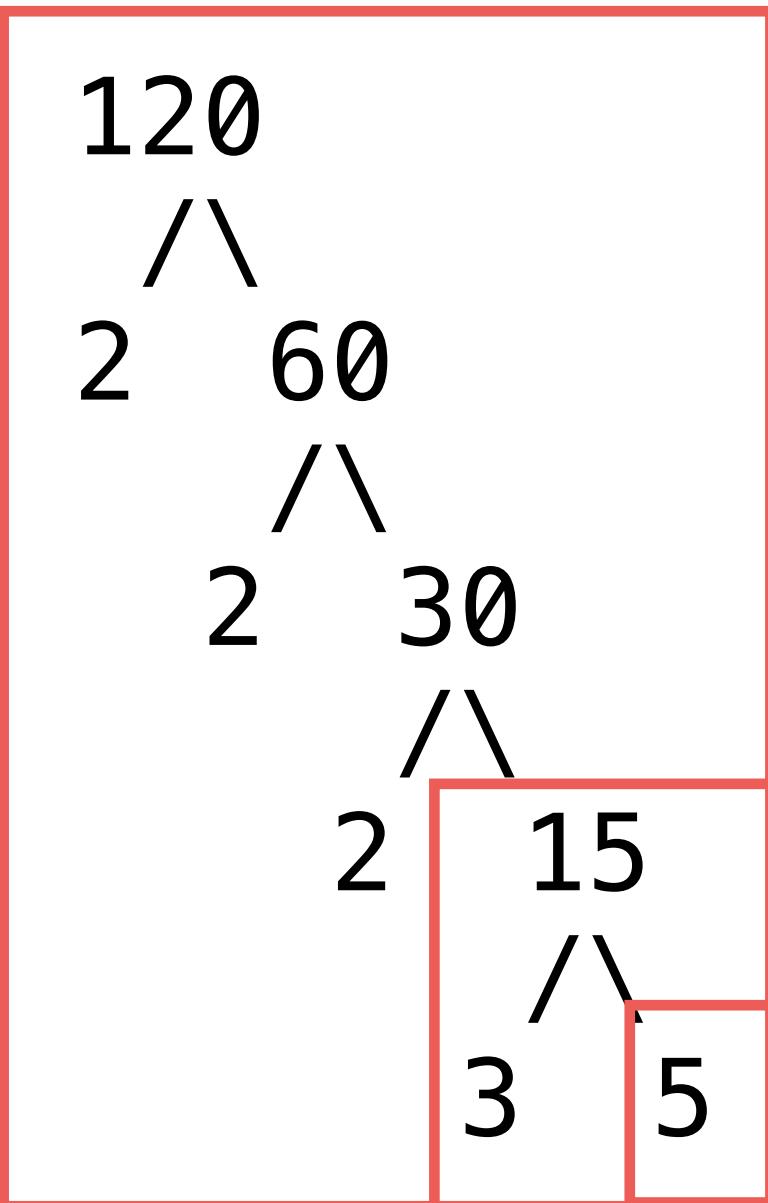
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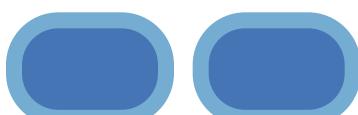
Tree Recursion

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 .

count_partitions(6, 4)

$$2 + 4 = 6$$



$$1 + 1 + 4 = 6$$



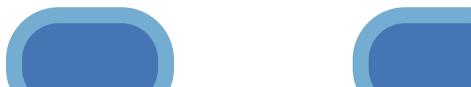
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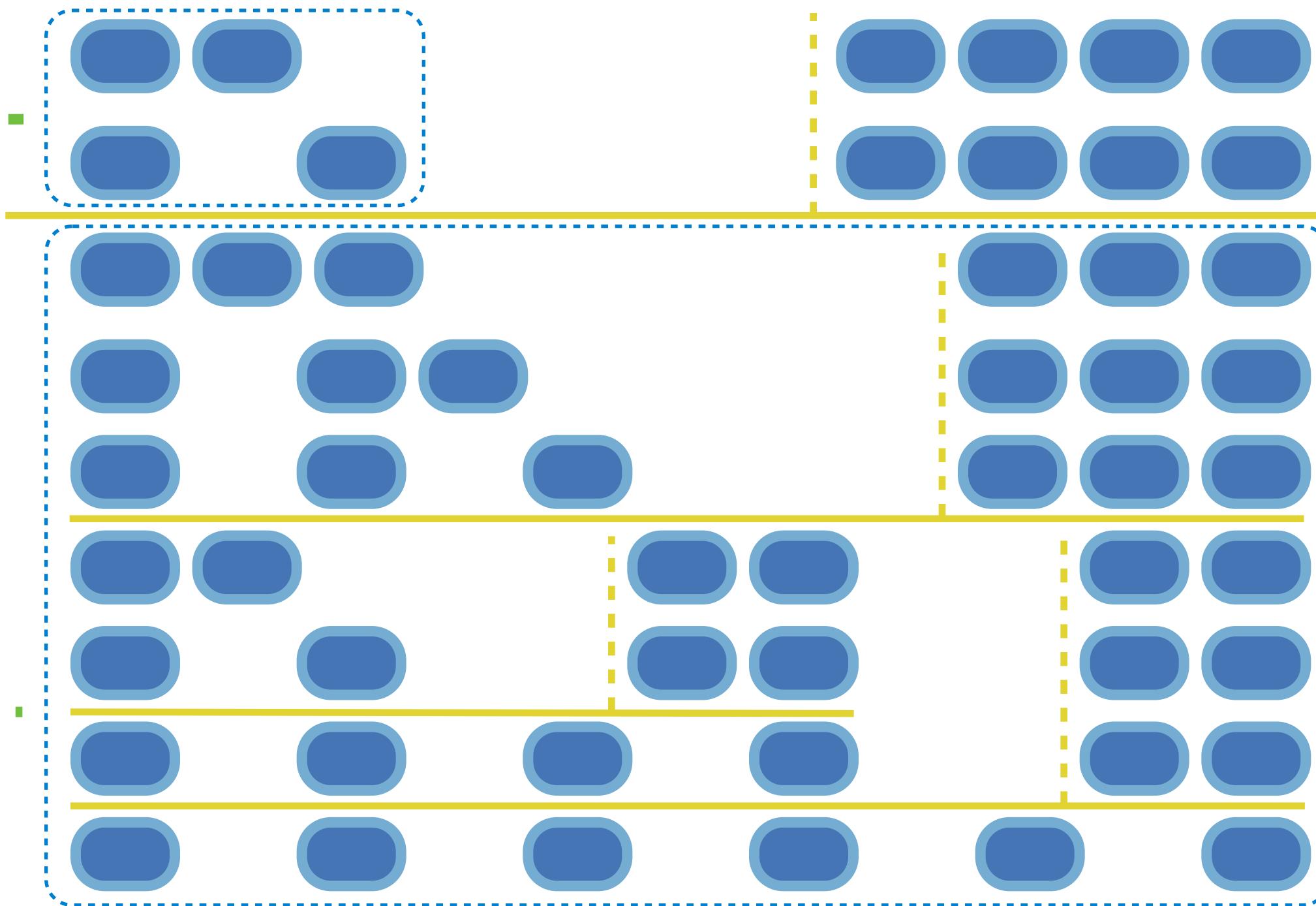


Counting Partitions

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 .

count_partitions(6, 4)

- 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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 - Explore two possibilities:
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 - `count_partitions(2, 4)` -----
 - `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)

Spring 2023 Midterm 2 Question 5

Definition. When parking vehicles in a row, a motorcycle takes up 1 parking spot and a car takes up 2 adjacent parking spots. A string of length n can represent n adjacent parking spots using `%` for a motorcycle, `<>` for a car, and `.` for an empty spot.

For example: `'.%<>%<>'` (Thanks to the Berkeley Math Circle for introducing this question.)

Implement `count_park`, which returns the number of ways that vehicles can be parked in n adjacent parking spots for positive integer n . Some or all spots can be empty.

```
def count_park(n):
    """Count the ways to park cars and motorcycles in n adjacent spots.
    >>> count_park(1) # '.' or '%'
    2
    >>> count_park(2) # '..', '.%', '%.', '%%', or '<>'
    5
    >>> count_park(4) # some examples: '<><>', '.%%.', '%<>%', '%.<>'
    29
    """
    if n < 0:
        return _____
    elif n == 0:
        return _____
    else:
        return _____
```

`'<><>'`, `'..%.'`, `'%<>%'`, `'%.<>'`