

Recursion

Recursive Definitions

Recursive Definition

A definition is called *recursive* if the object is defined in terms of itself.

Base Case

Recursive definitions require a *base case* at which to either initiate or terminate the definition.

Otherwise recursive definitions would be circular.

Recursive Programs

Recursive Programs

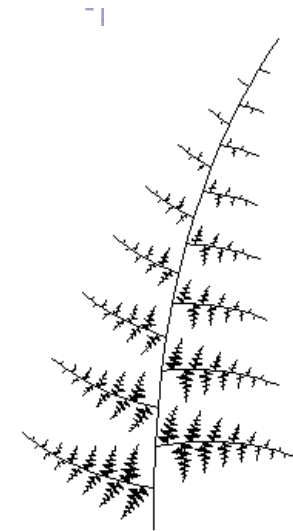
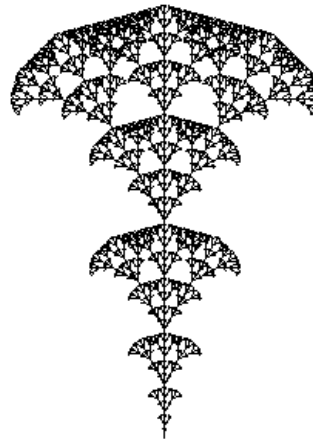
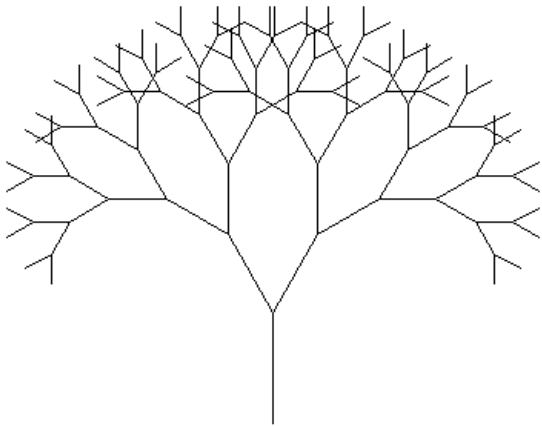
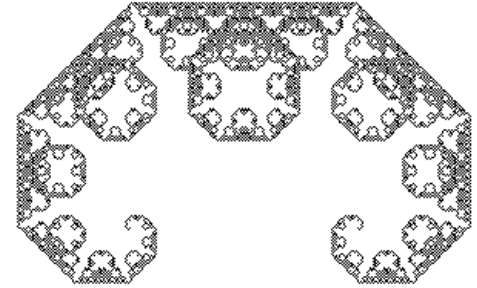
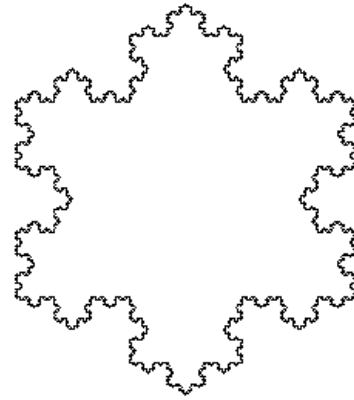
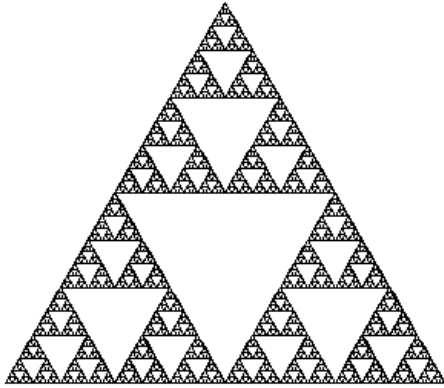
A program is called *recursive* if the program calls itself.

Base Case

Recursive programs require a *base case* at which to either initiate or terminate the program.

Otherwise recursive programs would never terminate.

Fractals



Fractals

Recursion Made Visible

Recursive Turtle Programs

- Sierpinski Triangle
- Koch Snowflake
- Fractal Trees

Turtles

What the Turtle Knows

- CURRENT_POSITION = (x, y) location -- where she is
- CURRENT_HEADING = (u, v) vector -- where she is going

(Slightly more than the average professor.)

Turtle Commands (Rice LOGO)

- FORWARD(D) -- change position, and draw a straight line of length D
- MOVE(D) -- same as FORWARD without drawing a line
- TURN(A) -- change heading by A , but do not change position
- RESIZE(S) -- change step size by a factor of S , but do not change position or direction
- Usual collection of control commands -- loops, conditionals,...

Turtle Programs

- Finite sequence of FORWARD, TURN, AND RESIZE commands
- Draws a piecewise linear curve

More Examples of Recursion

1. Sums and Differences
2. IQ-Tests
3. Binomial Coefficients
 - Pascal's Triangle
3. Fibonacci Numbers
 - Cat Problem
4. Tower of Hanoi
 - Animation
5. Natural Numbers
6. Polynomials
7. Rooted Binary Trees
 - Single Vertex
 - Root connected to two roots

IQ Tests

- 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, ?
- 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, ?
- 3, 13, 29, 51, 79, 113, ?
- 2, 3, 12, 35, 78, 147, ?

Forward Differencing

Forward Differencing

- $(\Delta F)(k) = F(k+1) - F(k)$
- $(\Delta^{n+1} F)(k) = \Delta(\Delta^n F)(k)$

Properties of First Difference

- $(\Delta(F + G))(k) = \Delta F(k) + \Delta G(k)$
- $\Delta(cF)(k) = c(\Delta F(k))$

Forward Differencing Monomials

Theorem 1

$$(\Delta x^p)(k) = (k+1)^p - k^p = pk^{p-1} + \text{lower order terms}$$

Proof: Binomial Theorem.

Theorem 2

$$(\Delta^n x^p)(k) = p \cdots (p-n+1)k^{p-n} + \text{lower order terms} \quad n \leq p$$

Proof: Induction on n .

$$\begin{aligned} (\Delta^{n+1} x^p)(k) &= \Delta \left(\Delta^n x^p \right)(k) \\ &= \Delta \left(p \cdots (p-n+1)k^{p-n} + \text{lower order terms} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Forward Differencing Polynomials

Corollaries

- $(\Delta^p x^p)(k) = p!$ (*constant*)
- $(\Delta^n x^p)(k) = 0$ $n > p$
- $\Delta^p (a_p x^p + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0)(k) = p! a_p$

IQ Tests -- Revisited

F 3, 13, 29, 51, 79, 113, ?

ΔF 10 16 22 28 34 ?

$\Delta^2 F$ 6 6 6 6 ?

F 2, 3, 12, 35, 78, 147, ?

ΔF 1 9 23 43 69 ?

$\Delta^2 F$ 8 14 20 26 ?

$\Delta^3 F$ 6 6 6 ?

IQ Tests -- Revisited

F 3, 13, 29, 51, 79, 113, **153?**

ΔF 10 16 22 28 34 **40?**

$\Delta^2 F$ 6 6 6 6 **6?**

F 2, 3, 12, 35, 78, 147, **248?**

ΔF 1 9 23 43 69 **101?**

$\Delta^2 F$ 8 14 20 26 **32?**

$\Delta^3 F$ 6 6 6 **6?**

Exponential Sequences

F 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, ?

ΔF 1 2 4 8 16 ?

Exponential Sequences

F 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, **64**

ΔF 1 2 3 8 16 **32**

$$\Delta F = F_{n+1} - F_n = 2^{n+1} - 2^n = 2^n(2 - 1) = 2^n$$

Theorem

There is no polynomial $p(x)$ for which $2^n = p(n)$ for all n .

Differences and Derivatives

Difference

$$(\Delta x^p)(k) = p k^{p-1} + \text{lower order terms}$$

$$(\Delta^p x^p)(k) = p!$$

$$(\Delta 2^k)(k) = 2^k$$

Derivative

$$\frac{d}{dx} x^p = p x^{p-1}$$

$$\frac{d^p}{dx^p} x^p = p!$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} e^x = e^x$$

Pounce the Cat

My cat, Pounce, can walk up steps either one or two at a time.

There are 21 steps from the first to the second floor of Duncan Hall.

In how many different ways can Pounce chase a mouse up the steps from the first to the second floor of Duncan Hall?

Fibonacci Sequences

Fibonacci Recurrence

- $f_1 = f_2 = 1$ (Base Cases)
- $f_{n+1} = f_n + f_{n-1}$ (Recursion)

Fibonacci Sequence

- 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, ...

Fibonacci Sequences

Fibonacci Sequence

f 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, ...

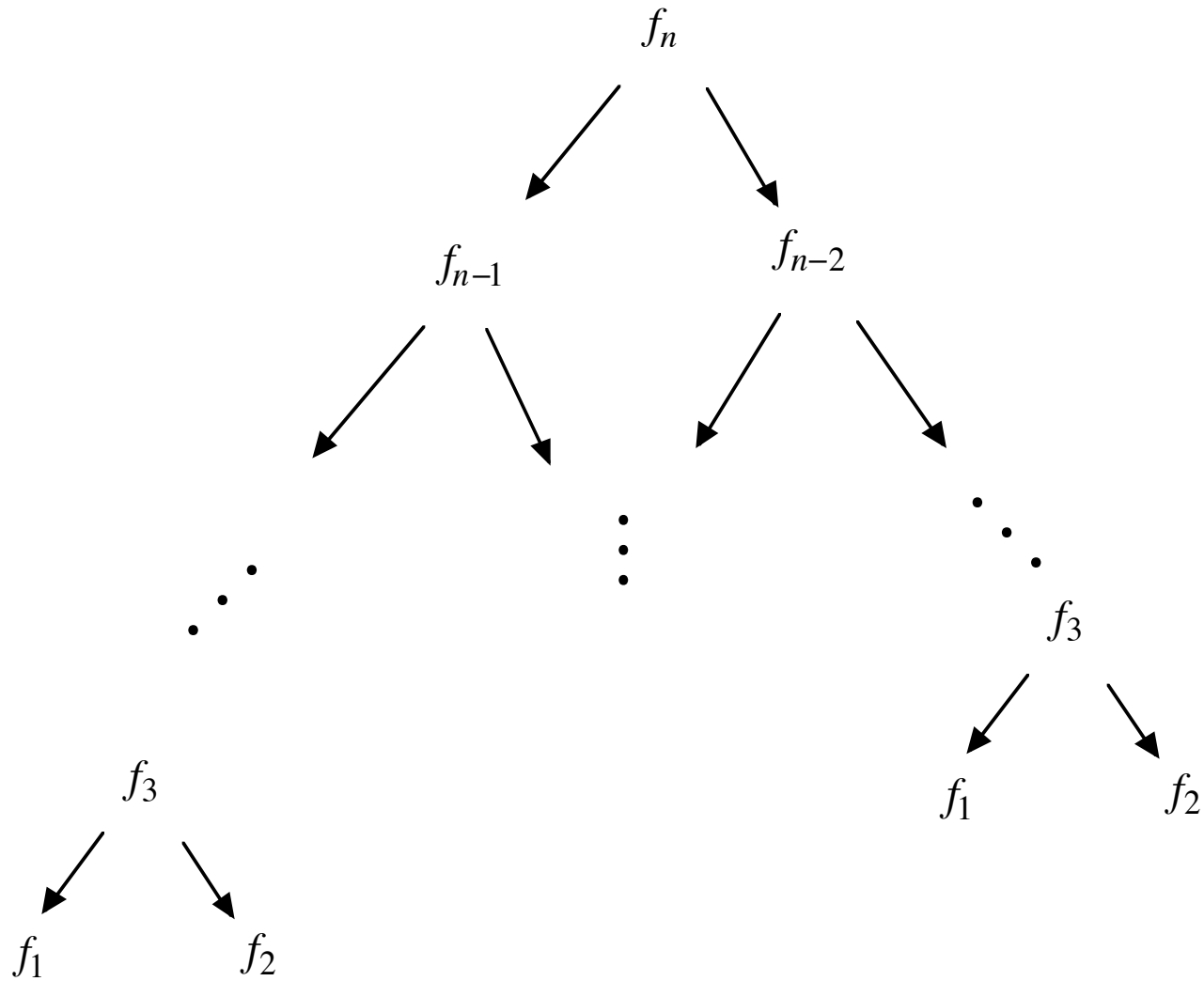
Δf 0 1 1 2 3 5 8 13 21 34

$$\Delta f = f_{n+1} - f_n = (f_n + f_{n-1}) - f_n = f_{n-1}$$

Theorem

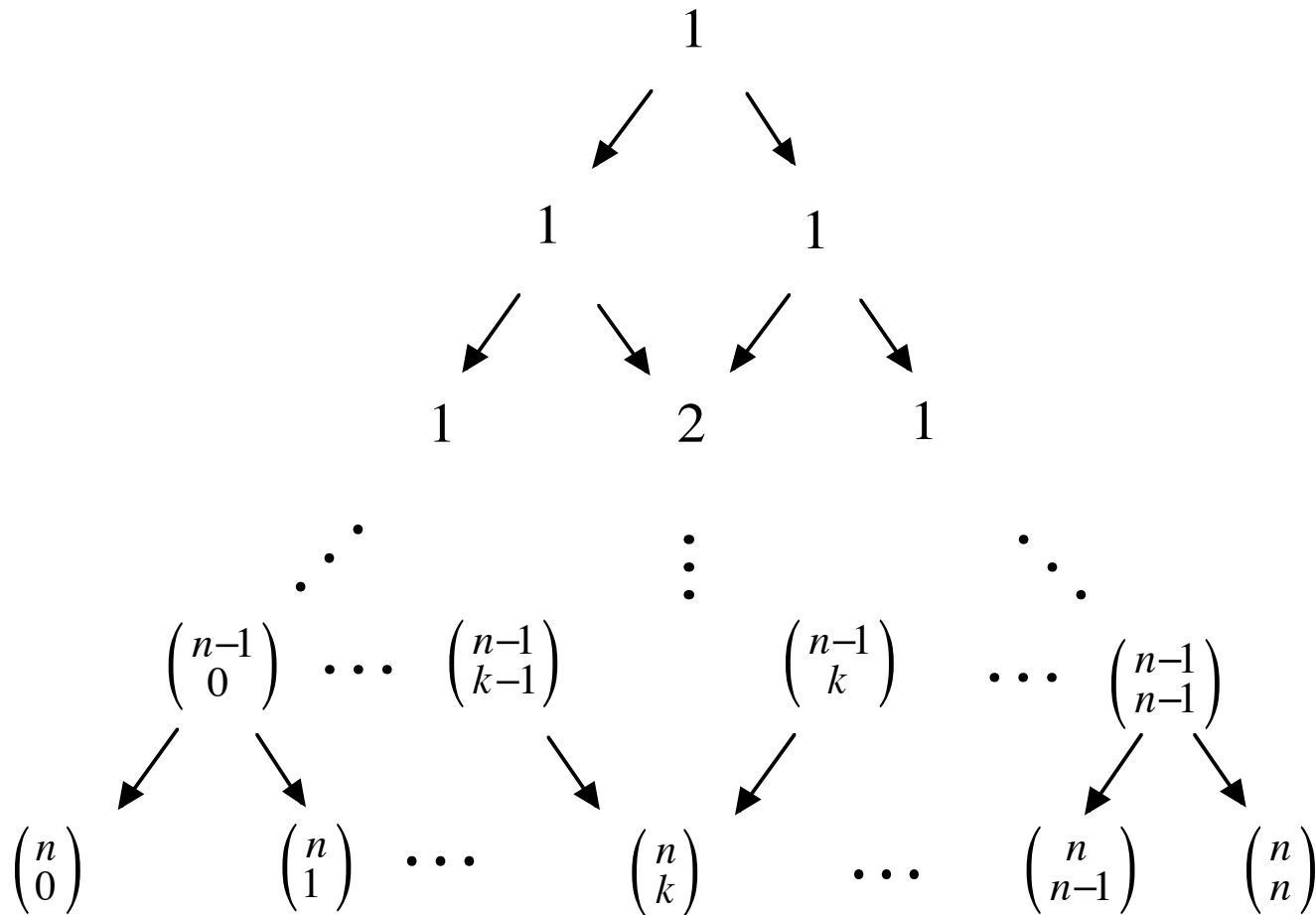
There is no polynomial $p(x)$ for which $f_n = p(n)$ for all n .

Recursive Computation of Fibonacci Numbers



Number of Additions = Exponential

Iterative Computation of Binomial Coefficients



$$\text{Number of Additions} = \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} k = \frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{2}$$

Neville's Algorithm

Linear Interpolation (Base Case)

$$I_{D_2}(x) = \frac{x_2 - x}{x_2 - x_1} y_1 + \frac{x - x_1}{x_2 - x_1} y_2$$

Recursion

$$I_{D_n}(x) = \frac{x_n - x}{x_n - x_1} I_{D_n^-}(x) + \frac{x - x_1}{x_n - x_1} I_{D_n^+}(x)$$

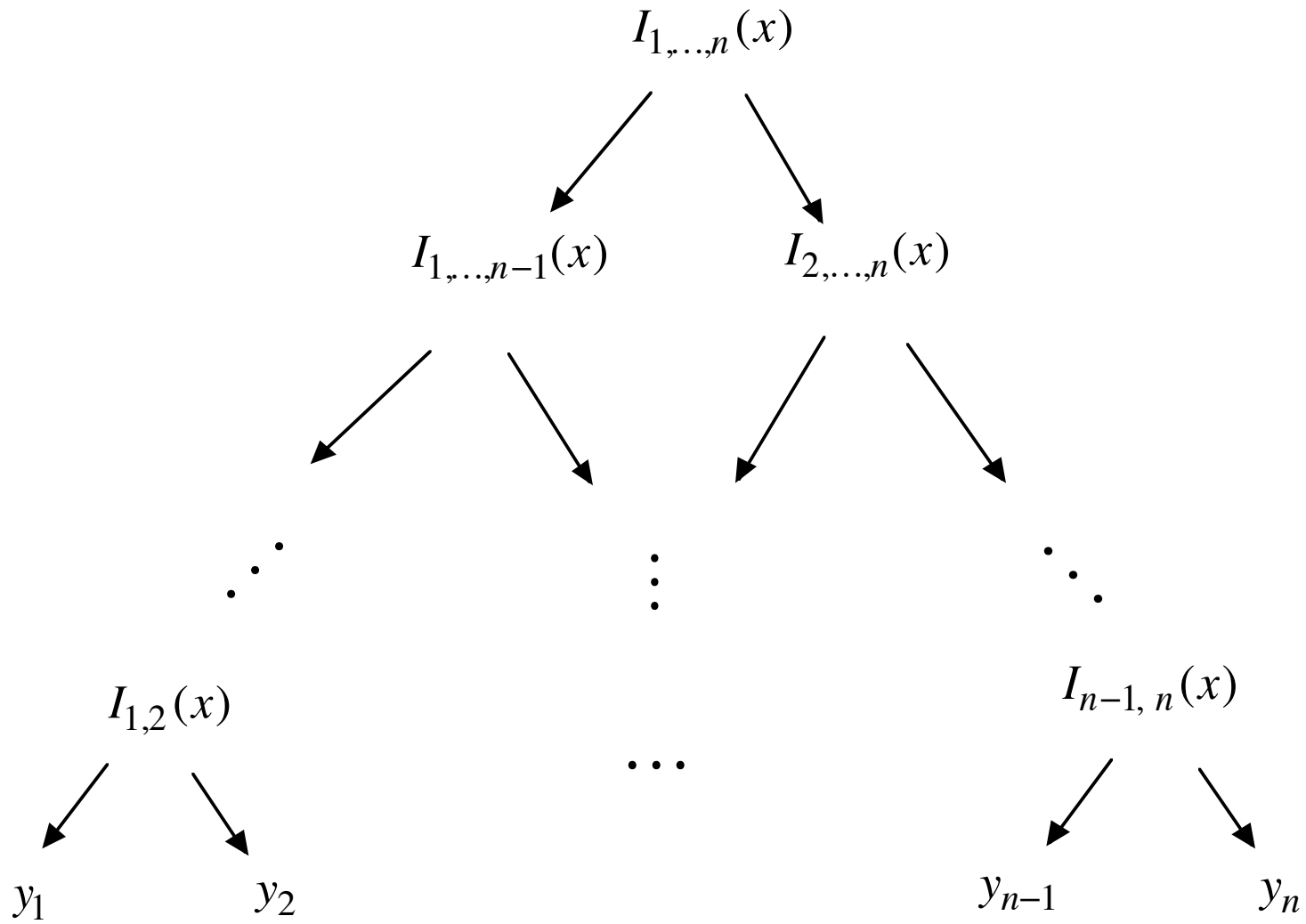
- $D_n = (x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$
- $D_n^- = (x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_{n-1}, y_{n-1})$
- $D_n^+ = (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$

Polynomial Interpolation and Neville's Algorithm

Questions

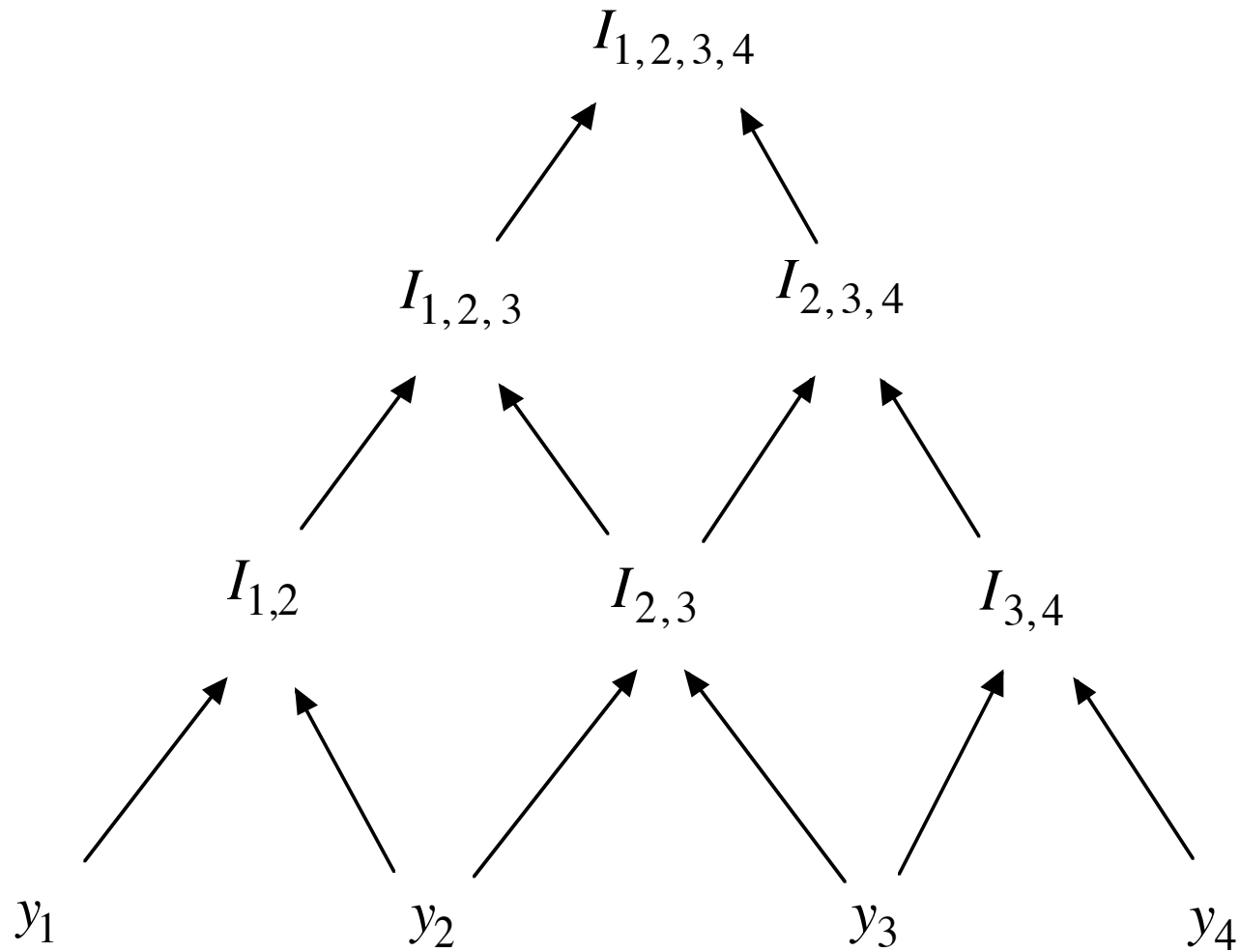
- i. How Fast is Neville's Algorithm?
- ii. What is the Best Way to Program Neville's Algorithm?

Neville's Algorithm -- Recursive Implementation



$n-1$ Levels $\leftrightarrow 2^n - 2$ multiplications

Neville's Algorithm -- Iterative Implementation



$$n-1 \text{ Levels} \leftrightarrow 2 \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} k = (n-1)n \text{ multiplications}$$

Tower of Hanoi

<http://www.cut-the-knot.org/recurrence/hanoi.shtml>

<http://www.dynamicdrive.com/dynamicindex12/towerhanoi.htm>

<http://www.mathsisfun.com/games/towerofhanoi.html>

Tower of Hanoi

Recursive Solution

- 1 Ring -- Trivial
- $N + 1$ Rings -- Solve N Ring Problem Twice

Number of Moves

- $M(1) = 1$
- $M(N + 1) = 2M(N) + 1$
-- $M(N) = 2^N - 1$

Program Correctness

Loop Invariant

- A *property* or *number* that is the same before and after each iteration of a loop.
- Used to prove program correctness.
- Proofs proceed by induction on the number of iterations.

Example

Integer Division

- Input: $m, n = \text{integers}$
- Output: $q, r = \text{integers}$ (quotient and remainder)
-- $n = mq + r$ with $0 \leq r < m$

Algorithm

$$q = 0$$

$$r = n$$

While $r \geq m$

$$q = q + 1$$

$$r = r - m$$

Loop Invariant

$$n = mq + r$$

Proofs

Proof of Loop Invariance

By induction on the number of iteration of the loop.

Base Case: $q = 0$ and $r = n \Rightarrow n = mq + r$.

Induction: Suppose that $n = mq + r$ after k iterations of the loop.

Must show that $n = mq + r$ after $k + 1$ iterations of the loop.

But after $k + 1$ iterations of the loop:

$$\begin{aligned}(mq + r)_{k+1} &= mq_{k+1} + r_{k+1} \\ &= m(q_k + 1) + r_k - m \\ &= mq_k + r_k && \text{(inductive hypothesis)} \\ &= n.\end{aligned}$$

Proof of Program Correctness

1. The loop will terminate with $r < m$.
2. When the loop terminates $n = mq + r$. (Loop Invariance)

Example

GCD -- Greatest Common Divisor

- Input: $m, n = \text{integers}$
- Output: $GCD(m, n)$

Euclidean Algorithm

$x = m$

$y = n$

While $y \neq 0$

$r = \text{remainder of } x \text{ divided by } y$
(use division algorithm)

$x = y$

$y = r$

Output: x is $GCD(m, n)$

Loop Invariant

$GCD(x, y) = GCD(m, n)$

Proof of Loop Invariance

By induction on the number of iteration of the loop.

Base Case: $x = m$ and $y = n \Rightarrow GCD(x, y) = GCD(m, n)$.

Induction: Suppose that $GCD(x, y) = GCD(m, n)$ after k iterations of the loop.

Must show that $GCD(x, y) = GCD(m, n)$ after $k + 1$ iterations.

After the first line of the $(k + 1)^{st}$ iteration of the loop:

$$x = yq + r \Rightarrow r = x - yq \Rightarrow GCD(y, r) = GCD(x, y)$$

and by the inductive hypothesis

$$GCD(x, y) = GCD(m, n) \text{ so } GCD(y, r) = GCD(m, n).$$

But after the $(k + 1)^{st}$ iteration of the loop:

$$x = y \text{ and } y = r$$

so

$$GCD(x, y) = GCD(y, r) = GCD(m, n).$$

Loop

While $y \neq 0$

$r = \text{remainder of } x \text{ divided by } y$
(use division algorithm)

$x = y$

$y = r$

Loop Invariant

$GCD(x, y) = GCD(m, n)$

Proof of Program Correctness

1. The loop will terminate when $y = r = 0$.
2. Therefore before the last iteration of the Loop, y divides x . Hence just before the start of the final iteration
 - a. $y = GCD(x, y)$
 - b. $y = GCD(m, n)$ (Loop Invariance)
3. But after the final iteration: $x = y$
so after the final iteration: $x = GCD(m, n)$.