Tree Recursion
Class outline:

- Order of recursive calls
- Tree recursion
- Counting partitions
Order of recursive calls
The cascade function

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

cascade(123)
The cascade function

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

cascade(123)

What would this display?

Answer the poll: lecturepoll.pamelafox2.repl.co
def cascade(n):
    if n < 10:
        print(n)
    else:
        print(n)
        cascade(n//10)
        print(n)

cascade(123)

View in PythonTutor

- 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.
Print output:

```
123
12
1
12
123
```
Two definitions of cascade

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 the shorter one is usually better
• When learning to write recursive functions, put the base cases first
• Both are recursive functions, even though only the first has typical structure
Inverse cascade

How can we output this cascade instead?

1
12
123
12
1
def inverse_cascade(n):
    grow(n)
    print(n)
    shrink(n)

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

View in PythonTutor
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(

View in PythonTutor
Inverse cascade solution

```python
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(grow, print, n//10)
shrink = lambda n: f_then_g( )
```

View in PythonTutor
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(grow, print, n//10)
shrink = lambda n: f_then_g(print, shrink, n//10)

View in PythonTutor
Tree recursion
Tree Recursion

Tree-shaped processes arise whenever a recursive function makes more than one recursive call.

Sierpinski curve
Recursive Virahanka-Fibonacci

The $n$th number is defined as:

$$\text{virfib}(n) = \begin{cases} 
0 & \text{if } n = 0 \\
1 & \text{if } n = 1 \\
\text{virfib}(n - 1) + \text{virfib}(n - 2) & \text{otherwise}
\end{cases}$$

```python
def virfib(n):
    """Compute the nth Virahanka-Fibonacci number, for N >= 1."
    >>> virfib(2)
    1
    >>> virfib(6)
    8
    """
```
Recursive Virahanka-Fibonacci

The nth number is defined as:

\[
\text{virfib}(n) = \begin{cases} 
0 & \text{if } n = 0 \\
1 & \text{if } n = 1 \\
\text{virfib}(n - 1) + \text{virfib}(n - 2) & \text{otherwise}
\end{cases}
\]

def virfib(n):
    """Compute the nth Virahanka-Fibonacci number, for N >= 1."
    >>> virfib(2)
    1
    >>> virfib(6)
    8
    """
    if n == 0:
        return 0
    elif n == 1:
        return 1
    else:
        return virfib(n-2) + virfib(n-1)
A tree-recursive process

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>virfib(0)</td>
<td>ret: 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>virfib(1)</td>
<td>ret: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>virfib(2)</td>
<td>ret: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>virfib(3)</td>
<td>ret: 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>virfib(4)</td>
<td>ret: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>virfib(5)</td>
<td>ret: 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

```

Redundant computations

The function is called on the same number multiple times. 😞
(We will speed up this computation dramatically in a few weeks by
Counting partitions
Counting partitions problem

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.

$count\_partitions(6, 4)$

$2 + 4 = 6$
$1 + 1 + 4 = 6$
$3 + 3 = 6$
$1 + 2 + 3 = 6$
$1 + 1 + 1 + 3 = 6$
$2 + 2 + 2 = 6$
$1 + 1 + 2 + 2 = 6$
$1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 2 = 6$
$1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 6$
Counting partitions approach

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)`

Recursive decomposition: finding simpler instances of the problem.

Explore two possibilities:
Counting partitions approach

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)`

Recursive decomposition: finding simpler instances of the problem.

Explore two possibilities:

Use at least one 4

=  

=  

=  

=  

=  

=  

=  
Counting partitions approach

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.

```python
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
Counting partitions approach

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.

$count\_partitions(6, 4)$

Recursive decomposition: finding simpler instances of the problem.

Explore two possibilities:

- Use at least one 4
- Don't use any 4

Tree recursion often involves exploring different choices.
Counting partitions approach

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.

\[
\text{count\_partitions}(6, 4)
\]

Solve two simpler problems:

\[
\text{count\_partitions}(2, 4)
\]

\[
\text{count\_partitions}(6, 3)
\]
Counting partitions approach

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.

$count\_partitions(6, 4)$

Solve two simpler problems:

$count\_partitions(2, 4)$
$count\_partitions(n-m, m)$

$count\_partitions(6, 3)$
Counting partitions approach

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.

\[
\text{count_partitions}(6, 4)
\]

Solve two simpler problems:

\[
\text{count_partitions}(2, 4) \\
\text{count_partitions}(n-m, m)
\]

\[
\text{count_partitions}(6, 3) \\
\text{count_partitions}(n, m-1)
\]
Counting partitions code

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)`

Solve two simpler problems:

**with** parts of size $m$:

`count_partitions(2, 4)`
`count_partitions(n-m, m)`

**without** parts of size $m$:

`count_partitions(6, 3)`
`count_partitions(n, m-1)`

def `count_partitions`(n, m):
    """
    >>> count_partitions(6, 4)
Counting partitions code

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.

```python
count_partitions(6, 4)
```

Solve two simpler problems:

**with** parts of size \( m \):

```python
count_partitions(2, 4)  
count_partitions(n-m, m)
```

**without** parts of size \( m \):

```python
count_partitions(6, 3)  
count_partitions(n, m-1)
```

```python
def count_partitions(n, m):
    """
    >>> count_partitions(6, 4)
```
else:
    with_m = count_partitions(n-m, m)
    without_m = count_partitions(n, m-1)
    return with_m + without_m
Counting partitions code

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.

```python
count_partitions(6, 4)
```

Solve two simpler problems:

with parts of size $m$:

```python
count_partitions(2, 4)
count_partitions(n-m, m)
```

without parts of size $m$:

```python
count_partitions(6, 3)
count_partitions(n, m-1)
```

```python
def count_partitions(n, m):
    
    >>> count_partitions(6, 4)
```
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
Counting partitions process