

1 More Recursion

Questions

- 1.1 In discussion 1, we implemented the function `is_prime`, which takes in a positive integer and returns whether or not that integer is prime, iteratively.

Now, let's implement it recursively! As a reminder, an integer is considered prime if it has exactly two unique factors: 1 and itself.

```
def is_prime(n):  
    """  
    >>> is_prime(7)  
    True  
    >>> is_prime(10)  
    False  
    >>> is_prime(1)  
    False  
    """  
    def prime_helper(_____):  
  
        if _____:  
            _____  
  
        elif _____:  
            _____  
  
        else:  
            _____  
  
    return _____
```

2 Recursion & Tree Recursion

- 1.2 Define a function `make_fn_repeater` which takes in a one-argument function `f` and an integer `x`. It should return another function which takes in one argument, another integer. This function returns the result of applying `f` to `x` this number of times.

Make sure to use recursion in your solution.

```
def make_func_repeater(f, x):  
    """  
    >>> incr_1 = make_func_repeater(lambda x: x + 1, 1)  
    >>> incr_1(2) #same as f(f(x))  
    3  
    >>> incr_1(5)  
    6  
    """
```

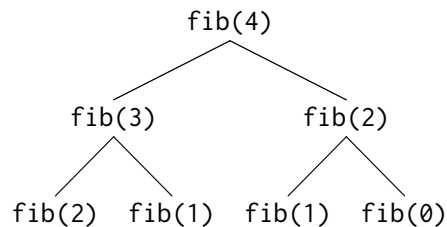
```
def repeat(_____):  
  
    if _____:  
  
        return _____  
  
    else:  
  
        return _____  
  
return _____
```

2 Tree Recursion

Consider a function that requires more than one recursive call. A simple example is the recursive `fibonacci` function:

```
def fib(n):
    if n == 0:
        return 0
    elif n == 1:
        return 1
    else:
        return fib(n - 1) + fib(n - 2)
```

This type of recursion is called *tree recursion*, because it makes more than one recursive call in its recursive case. If we draw out the recursive calls, we see the recursive calls in the shape of an upside-down tree:



We could, in theory, use loops to write the same procedure. However, problems that are naturally solved using tree recursive procedures are generally difficult to write iteratively. It is sometimes the case that a tree recursive problem also involves iteration: for example, you might use a while loop to add together multiple recursive calls.

As a general rule of thumb, whenever you need to try multiple possibilities at the same time, you should consider using tree recursion.

Questions

- 2.1 I want to go up a flight of stairs that has n steps. I can either take 1 or 2 steps each time. How many different ways can I go up this flight of stairs? Write a function `count_stair_ways` that solves this problem for me. Assume n is positive.

4 Recursion & Tree Recursion

Before we start, what's the base case for this question? What is the simplest input?

What do `count_stair_ways(n - 1)` and `count_stair_ways(n - 2)` represent?

Use those two recursive calls to write the recursive case:

```
def count_stair_ways(n):
```

- 2.2 Consider a special version of the `count_stairways` problem, where instead of taking 1 or 2 steps, we are able to take **up to and including** `k` steps at a time.

Write a function `count_k` that figures out the number of paths for this scenario. Assume `n` and `k` are positive.

```
def count_k(n, k):  
    """  
    >>> count_k(3, 3) # 3, 2 + 1, 1 + 2, 1 + 1 + 1  
    4  
    >>> count_k(4, 4)  
    8  
    >>> count_k(10, 3)  
    274  
    >>> count_k(300, 1) # Only one step at a time  
    1  
    """
```

2.3 Here's a part of the Pascal's triangle:

Column:	0	1	2	3	4	...
Row 0:	1					
Row 1:	1	1				
Row 2:	1	2	1			
Row 3:	1	3	3	1		
Row 4:	1	4	6	4	1	
...						

Every number in Pascal's triangle is defined as the sum of the item above it and the item that is directly to the upper left of it, use 0 if the entry is empty. Define the procedure `pascal(row, column)` which takes a row and a column, and finds the value at that position in the triangle.

```
def pascal(row, column):
```