

61A Lecture 6

Announcements

Recursive Functions

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Definition: A function is called recursive if the body of that function calls itself, either directly or indirectly

Recursive Functions

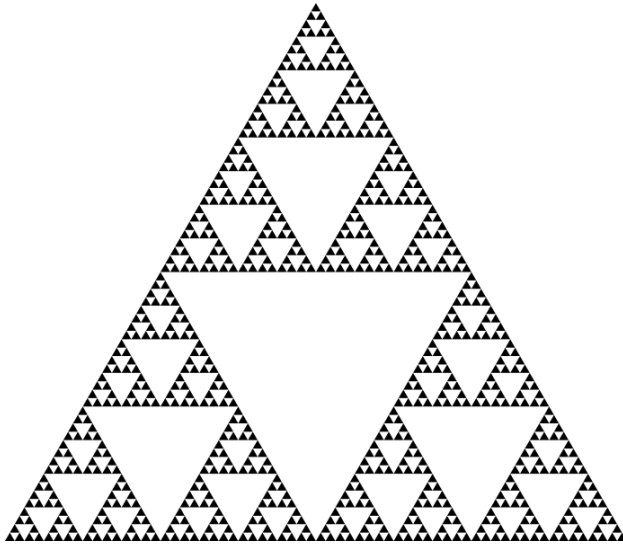
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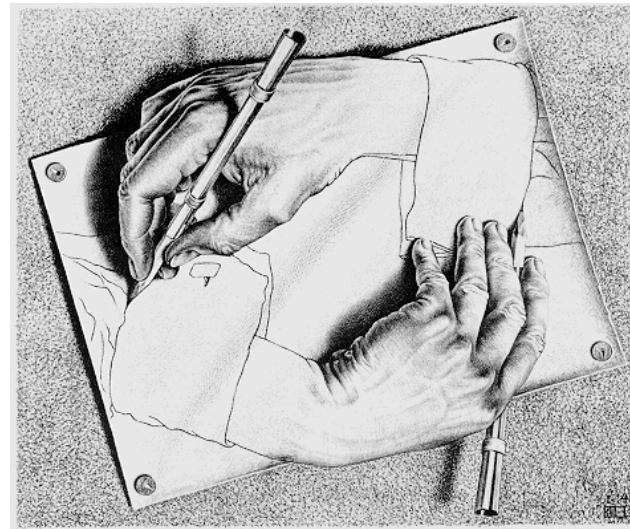
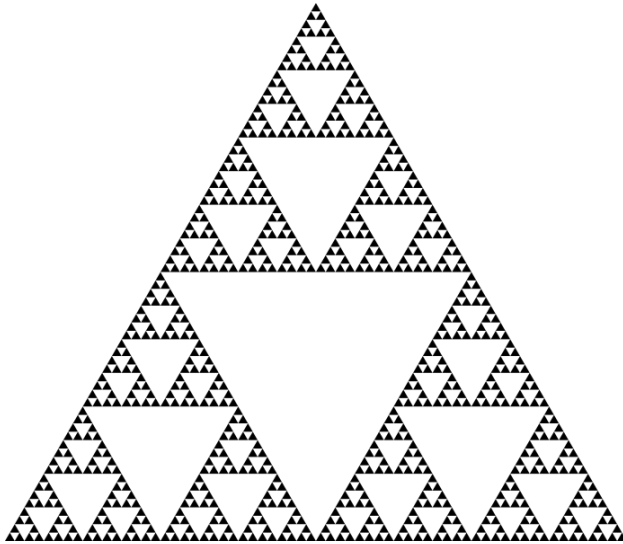
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Drawing Hands, by M. C. Escher (lithograph, 1948)

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The Bank of 61A

1234 5678 9098 7658

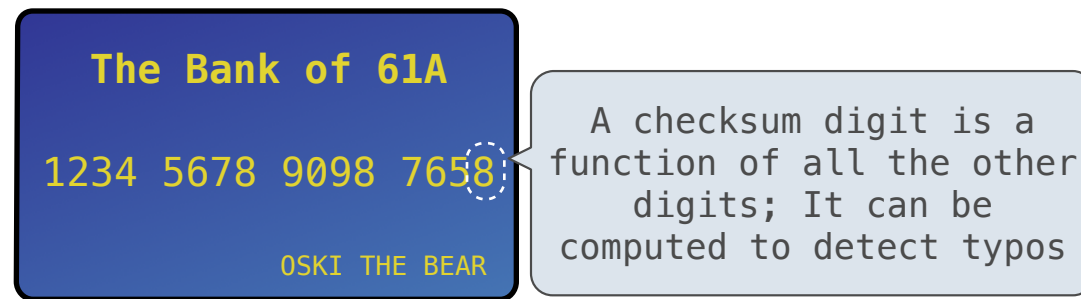
OSKI THE BEAR

A checksum digit is a function of all the other digits; It can be computed to detect typos

Digit Sums

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- Credit cards actually use the Luhn algorithm, which we'll implement after `digit_sum`

Sum Digits Without a While Statement

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(Demo)

Recursion in Environment Diagrams

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[Interactive Diagram](#)

Recursion in Environment Diagrams

(Demo)

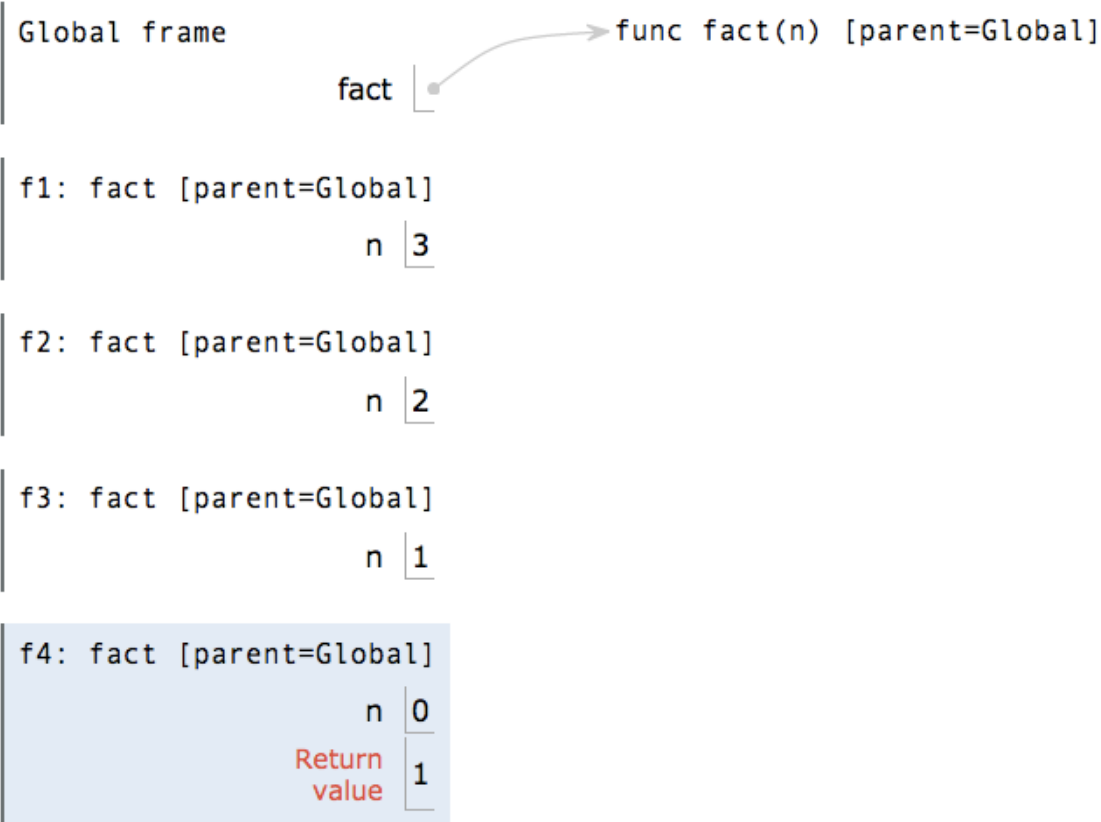
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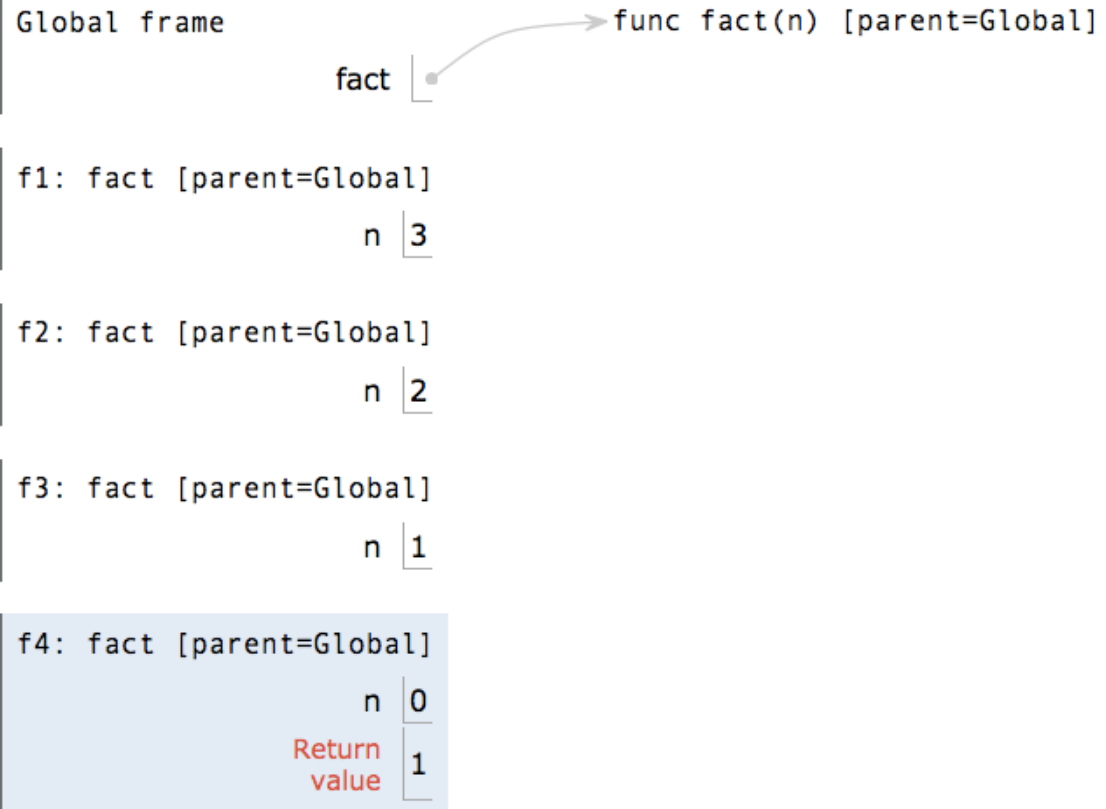
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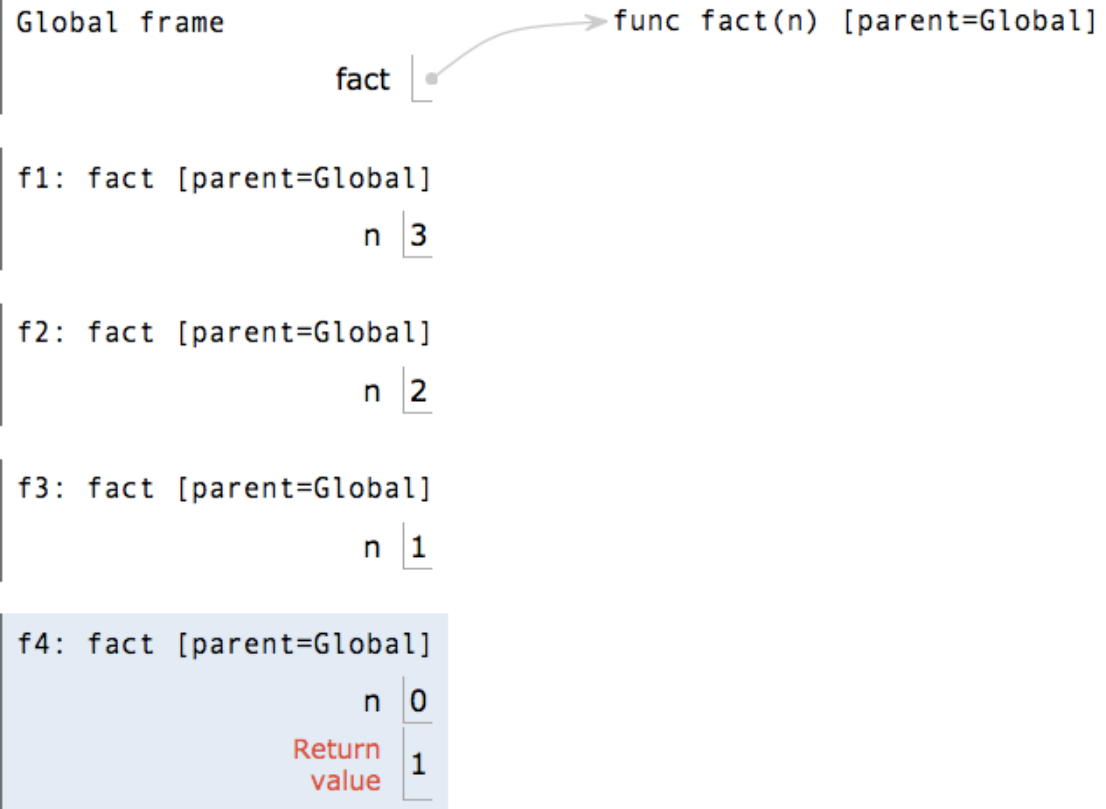
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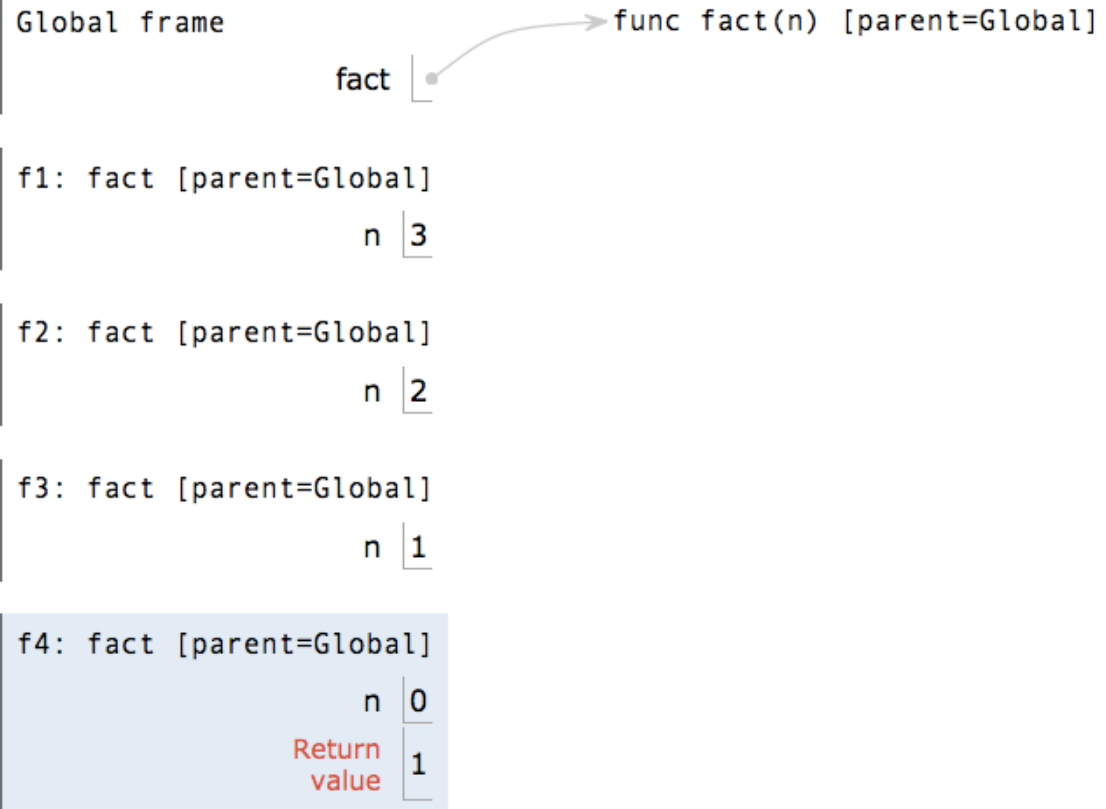
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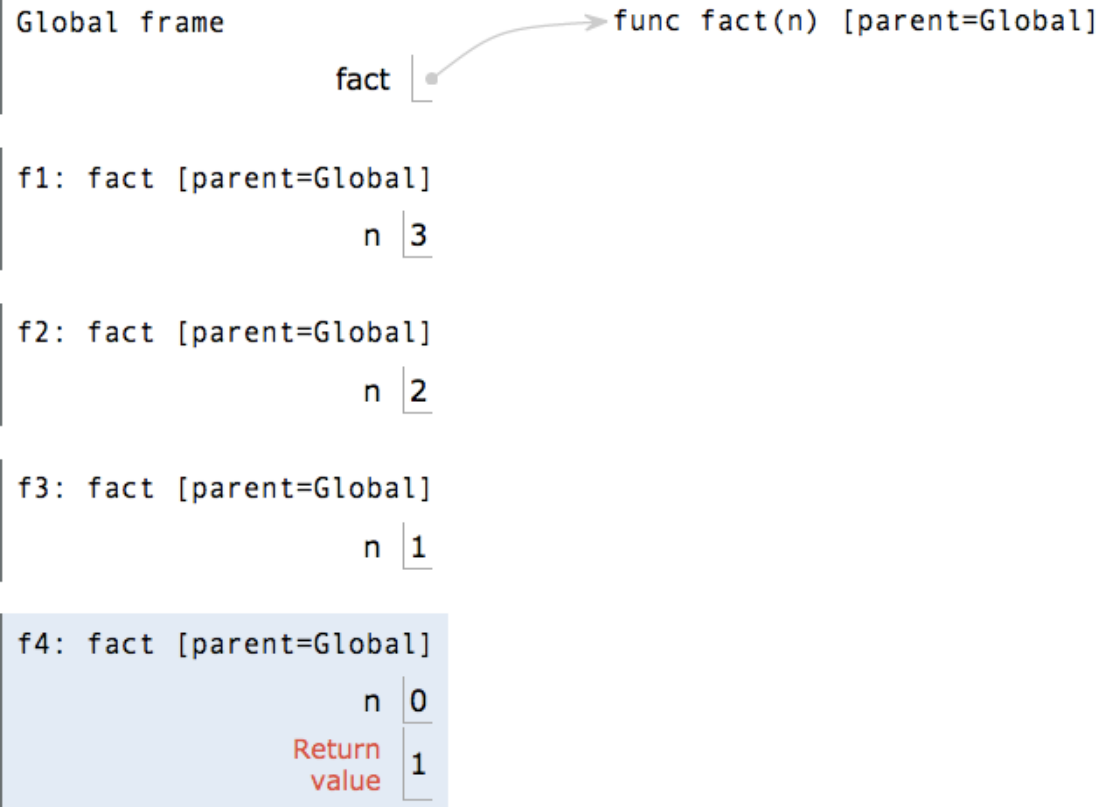
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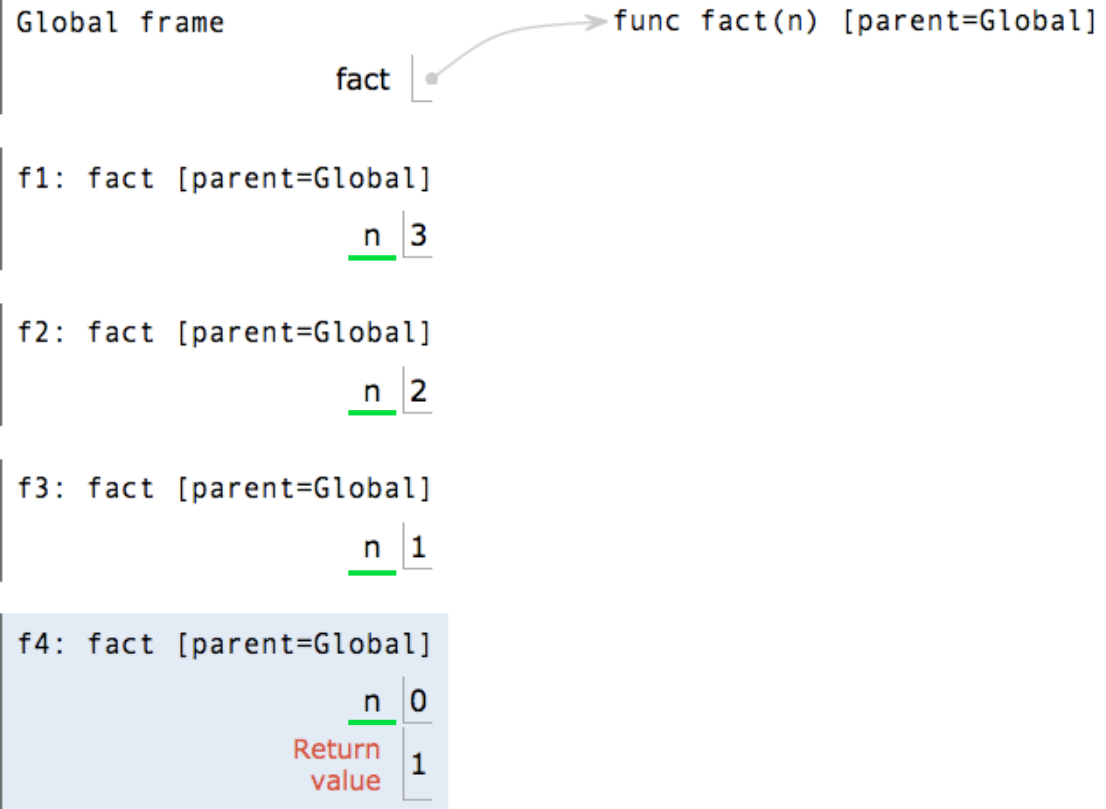
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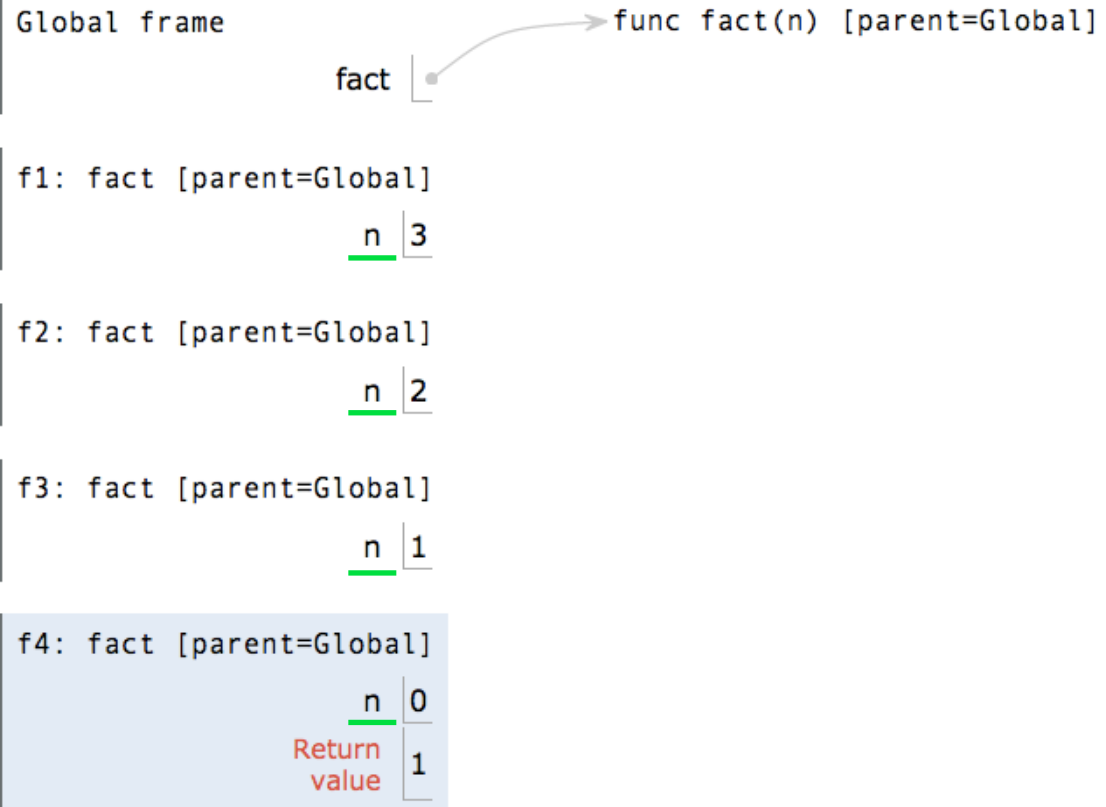
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- What **n** evaluates to depends upon the current environment
- Each call to **fact** solves a simpler problem than the last: smaller **n**

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Interactive Diagram

Iteration vs Recursion

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Verifying Recursive Functions

The Recursive Leap of Faith

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Photo by Kevin Lee, Preikestolen, Norway

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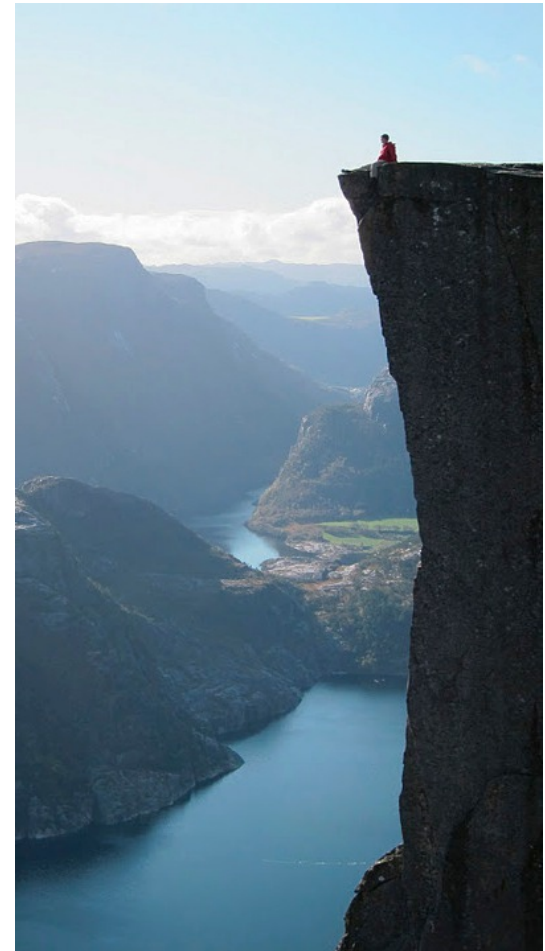


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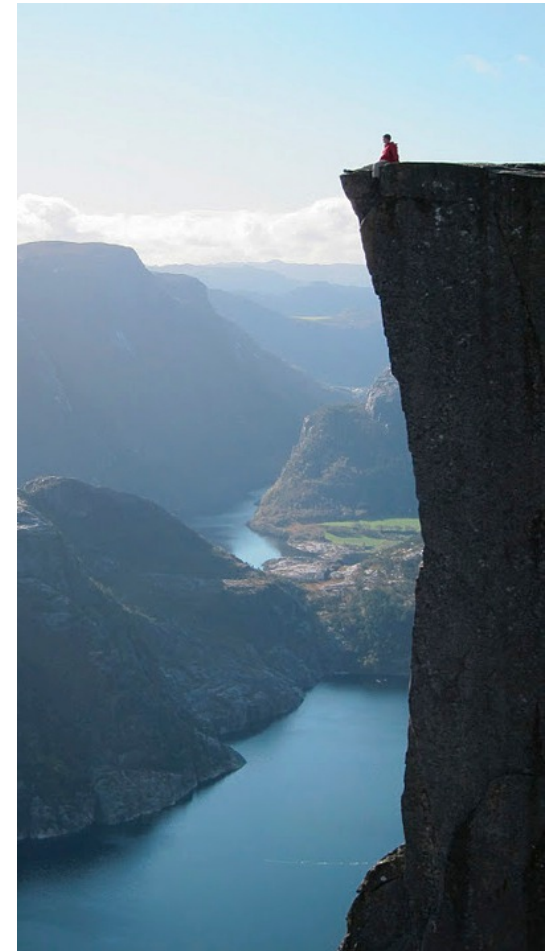


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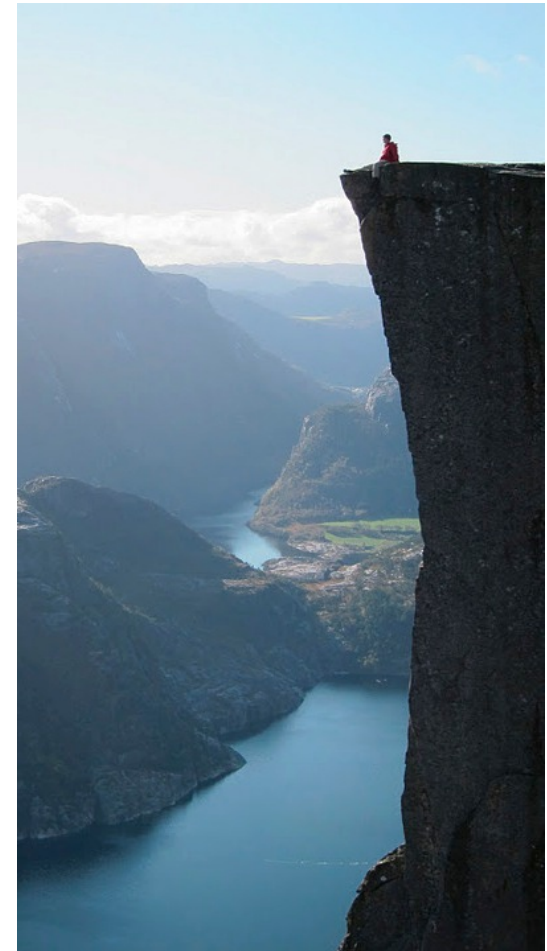


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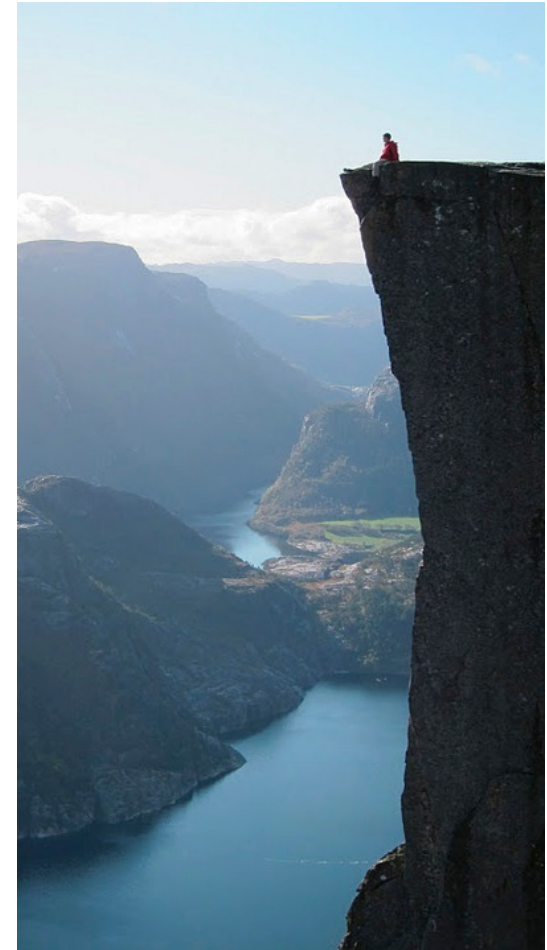


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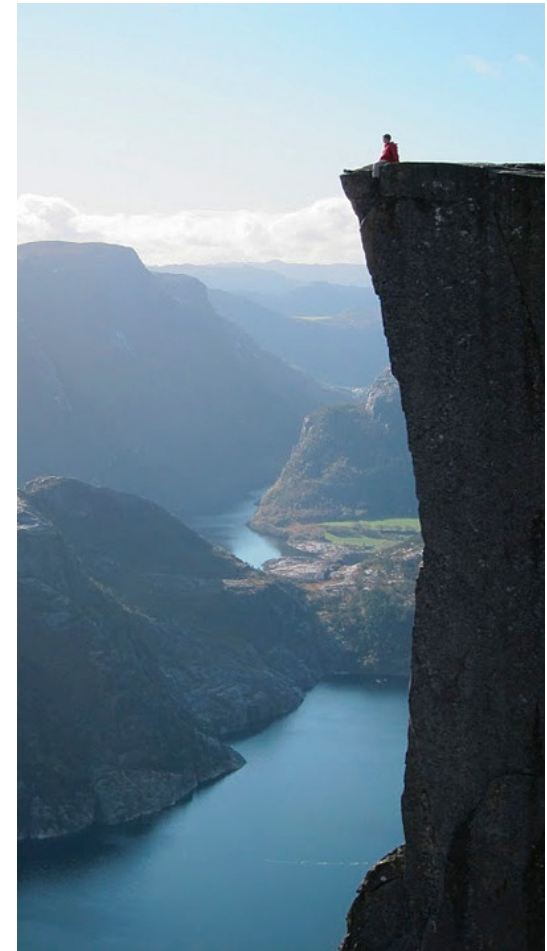


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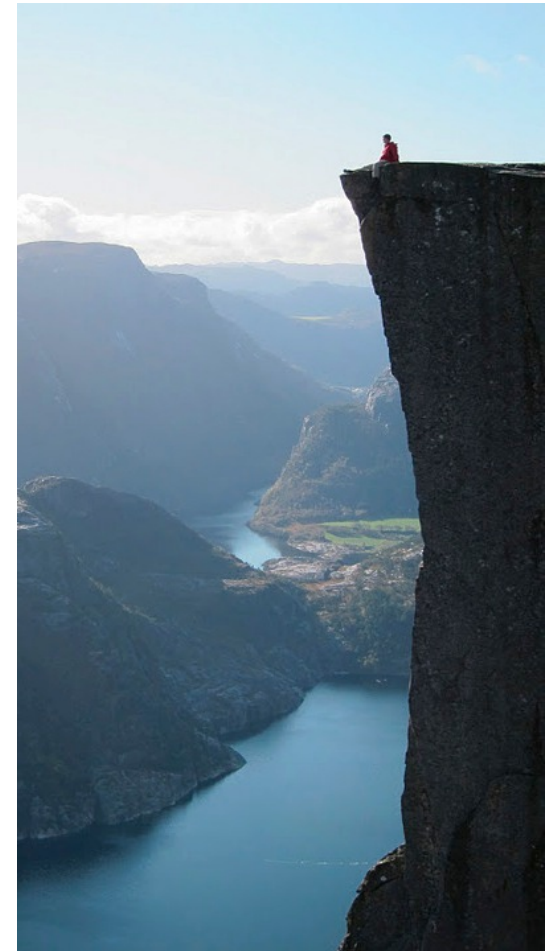


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Verifying Digit Sum



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for all [REDACTED],

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`sum_digits(n)` will [REDACTED]

(conclusion)

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(base case)

Assuming `sum_digits(k)` correctly sums the digits of `k`

(assume correct)

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Verifying Digit Sum

The `sum_digits` function computes the sum of positive `n` correctly because:

The sum of the digits of any `n < 10` is `n`. **(base case)**

Assuming `sum_digits(k)` correctly sums the digits of `k` **(assume correct)**

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`sum_digits(n)` will add the digit sum of `n // 10` to `n % 10` **(conclusion)**

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Mutual Recursion

The Luhn Algorithm

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Used to verify credit card numbers

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(Demo)

Recursion and Iteration

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