

# And More Recursion



Computer Science Department  
University of Central Florida

*COP 3502 – Computer Science I*



# Announcements

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- Next Quiz: Monday 2/14/11
  
- Questions on grading for program
  - Most likely the grade given is indeed accurate
  - Check the input and respective output files
  - And the solution, B4 asking “why this” or “why that”
  
- **EXAM: START STUDYING NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



# Binary Search – A reminder

## ■ Array Search

- We are given the following **sorted** array:

index	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
value	2	6	19	27	33	37	38	41	118

- We are searching for the value, 19 (for example)
- Remember, we said that you search the middle element
  - If found, you are done
  - If the element in the middle is greater than 19
    - Search to the LEFT (cuz 19 MUST be to the left)
  - If the element in the middle is less than 19
    - Search to the RIGHT (cuz 19 MUST then be to the right)



# Binary Search – A reminder

## ■ Array Search

- We are given the following **sorted** array:

index	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
value	2	6	19	27	33	37	38	41	118

- We are searching for the value, 19
- So, we **MUST** start the search in the middle INDEX of the array.
- In this case:
  - The lowest index is 0
  - The highest index is 8
  - So the middle index is 4



# Binary Search

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## ■ Array Search

### ■ Correct Strategy

- We would ask, “is the number I am searching for, 19, greater or less than the number stored in index 4?”
  - Index 4 stores 33
- The answer would be “less than”
- So we would modify our search range to in between index 0 and index 3
  - Note that index 4 is no longer in the search space
- We then continue this process
  - The second index we’d look at is index 1, since  $(0+3)/2=1$
  - Then we’d finally get to index 2, since  $(2+3)/2 = 2$
  - And at index 2, we would find the value, 19, in the array



# Binary Search

## ■ Binary Search code:

```
int binsearch(int a[], int len, int value) {  
  
    int low = 0, high = len-1;  
    while (low <= high) {  
        int mid = (low+high)/2;  
        if (value < a[mid])  
            high = mid-1;  
        else if (value > a[mid])  
            low = mid+1;  
        else  
            return 1;  
    }  
  
    return 0;  
}
```



# Binary Search

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- Binary Search code:
  - At the end of each array iteration, all we do is update either low or high
  - This modifies our search region
    - Essentially halving it
  - As we saw previously, this runs in **log n** time
  - But this iterative code isn't the easiest to read
  - We now look at the recursive code
    - MUCH easier to read and understand



# Binary Search – Recursive

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- Binary Search using recursion:
  - We need a stopping case:
    - We need to STOP the recursion at some point
  - So when do we stop:
    - 1) When the number is found!
    - 2) Or when the search range is nothing
      - huh?
      - The search range is empty when `(low > high)`
  - So how let us look at the code...





# Binary Search – Recursive

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- Binary Search Code (using recursion):
  - We see how this code follows from the explanation of binary search quite easily

```
int binSearch(int *values, int low, int high, int searchval)
    int mid;
    if (low <= high) {
        mid = (low+high)/2;
        if (searchval < values[mid])
            return binSearch(values, low, mid-1, searchval);
        else if (searchval > values[mid])
            return binSearch(values, mid+1, high, searchval);
        else
            return 1;
    }
    return 0;
}
```



# Binary Search – Recursive

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- Binary Search Code (using recursion):
  - So if the value is found
    - We return 1
  - Otherwise,
    - `if (searchval < values[mid])`
      - Then recursively call `binSearch` to the LEFT
    - `else if (searchval > values[mid])`
      - Then recursively call `binSearch` to the RIGHT
  - If `low` ever becomes greater than `high`
    - This means that `searchval` is NOT in the array



# Brief Interlude: Human Stupidity

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# Recursive Exponentiation

- Example from Previous lecture
  - Our function:
    - Calculates  $b^e$ 
      - Some base raised to a power,  $e$
      - The input is the base,  $b$ , and the exponent,  $e$
      - So if the input was 2 for the base and 4 for the exponent
        - The answer would be  $2^4 = 16$
    - How do we do this recursively?
      - We need to solve this in such a way that part of the solution is a sub-problem of the EXACT same nature of the original problem.



# Recursive Exponentiation

## ■ Example from Previous lecture

### ■ Our function:

- Using  $b$  and  $e$  as input, here is our function
  - $f(b,e) = b^e$
- So to make this recursive, can we say:
  - $f(b,e) = b^e = b * b^{(e-1)}$
- Does that “look” recursive?
- YES it does!
- Why?
- Cuz the right side is indeed a sub-problem of the original
- We want to evaluate  $b^e$
- And our right side evaluates  $b^{(e-1)}$



# Recursive Exponentiation

## ■ Example from Previous lecture

### ■ Our function:

- $f(b,e) = b*b^{(e-1)}$
- So we need to determine the terminating condition!
- We know that  $f(b,0) = b^0 = 1$ 
  - So our terminating condition can be when  $e = 1$
- Additionally, our recursive calls need to return an expression for  $f(b,e)$  in terms of  $f(b,k)$ 
  - for some  $k < e$
- We just found that  $f(b,e) = b*b^{(e-1)}$
- So now we can write our actual function...



# Recursive Exponentiation

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- Example from Previous lecture
  - Code:

```
// Pre-conditions: e is greater than or equal to 0.  
// Post-conditions: returns be.  
int Power(int base, int exponent) {  
  
    if ( exponent == 0 )  
        return 1;  
    else  
        return (base*Power(base, exponent-1));  
}
```



# Recursive Exponentiation

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- Example from Previous lecture
  - Say we initially call the function with 2 as our base and 8 as the exponent
  - The final return will be
    - return  $2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2$
    - Which equals 256
  - You notice we have 7 multiplications (exp was 8)
  - The number of multiplications needed is one less than the exponent value
  - So if  $n$  was the exponent
    - The # of multiplications needed would be  $n-1$





# Fast Exponentiation

- Example from Previous lecture
  - This works just fine
  - BUT, it becomes VERY slow for large exponents
    - If the exponent was 10,000, that would be 9,999 mults!
  - How can we do better?
- One key idea:
  - Remembering the laws of exponents
    - Yeah, algebra...the thing you forgot about two years ago
  - So using the laws of exponents
    - We remember that  $2^8 = 2^4 * 2^4$



# Fast Exponentiation

- Example from Previous lecture
  - One key idea:
    - Remembering the laws of exponents
    - $2^8 = 2^4 * 2^4$
    - Now, if we know  $2^4$ 
      - we can calculate  $2^8$  with one multiplication
    - What is  $2^4$ ?
      - $2^4 = 2^2 * 2^2$
      - and  $2^2 = 2 * (2)$
    - So...  $2 * (2) = 4$ ,  $4 * (4) = 16$ ,  $16 * (16) = 256 = 2^8$
    - So we've calculated  $2^8$  using on three multiplications
      - MUCH better than 7 multiplications



# Fast Exponentiation

- Example of Fast Exponentiation
  - So, in general, we can say:
    - $b^n = b^{n/2} * b^{n/2}$
    - So to find  $b^n$ , we find  $b^{n/2}$ 
      - HALF of the original amount
    - And to find  $b^{n/2}$ , we find  $b^{n/4}$ 
      - Again, HALF of  $b^{n/2}$
  - This smells like a  $\log n$  running time
    - $\log n$  number of multiplications
    - Much better than  $n$  multiplications
  - But as of now, this only works if  $n$  is even



# Fast Exponentiation

- Example of Fast Exponentiation
  - So, in general, we can say:
  - $b^n = b^{n/2} * b^{n/2}$
  - This works when n is even
  - But what if n is odd?
  - Notice that  $2^9 = 2^4 * 2^4 * 2$
  - So, in general, we can say:

$$a^n = \begin{cases} a^{n/2} (a^{n/2}) & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ a^{n/2} (a^{n/2})(a) & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$



# Fast Exponentiation

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- Example of Fast Exponentiation
  - Also, this method relies on “integer division”
    - We’ve briefly discussed this
    - Basically if  $n$  is 9, then  $n/2 = 4$ 
      - Integer division
      - Think of it as dividing
      - AND then rounding down, if needed, to the nearest integer
    - So if  $n$  is 121, then  $n/2 = 60$
    - Finally, if  $n$  is 57, then  $n/2 = 28$
  - Using the same base case as the previous power function, here is the code...



# Fast Exponentiation

- Example of Fast Exponentiation
  - Code:

```
int powerB(int base, int exp) {
    if (exp == 0)
        return 1;
    else if (exp == 1)
        return base;
    else if (exp%2 == 0)
        return powerB(base*base, exp/2);
    else
        return base*powerB(base, exp-1);
}
```



# Recursion

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**WASN'T  
THAT  
BODACIOUS!**



# Daily Demotivator





# And More Recursion



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