

365 DataScience Recursion in Python - the Fibonacci sequence

Step 1 Create a recursive function

Create a function that would use recursion to calculate the n-th Fibonacci number.

Recursion is not very efficient since each call of the function asks the computer for some memory.

Therefore, calculating big Fibonacci numbers would fill up the memory very fast.

The iterative method (for-loops, for example) is often significantly faster.

In this problem, the Fibonacci sequence starts at 0 and the indexing also starts at 0.

```
def fib(n):
```

All recursive functions need a base case. In this problem, we have two of them - checking whether n is 0 or 1.

If n equals either of these numbers, the function will stop calling itself and start computing the

n-th Fibonacci number.

```
    if n == 0:
```

```
        return 0
```

```
    elif n == 1:
```

```
        return 1
```

```
    else:
```

When n = 0 (fib(0) = 0) or n = 1 (fib(1) = 1), we cannot take the sum of the two previous numbers because

*# fib(0) and fib(1) *are* the first two numbers. However, we can calculate the numbers that sit at positions*

n >= 2. In the case of n = 2, we will take the sum of the numbers at n = 0 and n = 1,

which are 0 and 1, as we have defined in the base cases above.

```
        return fib(n-1) + fib(n-2)
```

Step 2 Call the function

Return the Fibonacci number with index 20.

```
fib(20)
```

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