

Assignment 1: 3 – Peer Review of the Definition of Recursion

To: Kevin Lapeyre

From: Xavier dela Cruz

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Subject: Review of your 'Definition of Recursion'

I have reviewed your definition of 'recursion' for students entering their first year in Computer Science. I found that you were effective in explaining recursion towards your targeted audience. Your use of simple terminology and a visual aid assisted in making students visualize the process in a programming language. Furthermore, you have also provided a solid step-by-step example problem which shows this concept in use. Moreover, your in-text citations were formatted properly. Thus, you effectively made a complex concept into something more understandable.

However, there are segments of the document that need minor formatting, punctuation, sentence structure, and simplification:

Formatting:

Spacing is inconsistent for many instances of your document. For example, the spacing between the title of your 'Sentence Definition of 'Recursion' section and its body are not consistent with other sections. Another instance includes the spacing within the body of your 'Expanded Definition of Recursion' section. Moreover, the figure was helpful, but may benefit from better formatting. I suggest to place the text underneath the figure, since this allows for better readability in comparison to Figure 1.



Figure 1. Formatting Error

Lastly, one can refer to your figures with ease when it is labelled. Labeling will also help separate or associate your figure with other sections. You could label it as "Figure 1. Racket language representation of recursion, using count-even" as a suggestion.

Punctuation and Structure:

There are run-on sentences in the document. For example.

- For example:
 - *This week we are practicing writing proper definitions while keeping our target audience in mind.*
- This can be rewritten as:
 - *This week, we are practicing writing proper definitions while keeping our target audience in mind.*

There are long-drawn sentences that could be shortened for better punctuation and structure.

There is minor redundancy with 'repeat' and 'repeatedly' used within the same sentence.:

- For example:
 - *Recursion is a type of function behavior that relies on repeating a specific set of rules repeatedly on an object or variable in order to reduce said object into its simplest form, often referred to as the base case.*
- This can be rewritten as:
 - *Recursion is a type of function behavior that relies on a specific set of rules which is used repeatedly on an object or variable. This will reduce the object into its simplest form, which often referred to as the base case.*

Simplification:

Some sentences can be improved by making them concise, and breaking them into smaller sentences. I found that some sentences used intensifiers such as 'solely' or 'very', which can be simplified using the examples below:

- For example:
 - *We will solve this problem using a program that relies solely on recursion (functions that, when used, call back on themselves, running in an apparent loop).*
- This can be rewritten as:
 - *We will solve this problem using a program that only relies on recursion (functions that, when used, call back on themselves, running in an apparent loop).*

There is also an example of contradiction in one of the sentences. Simplifying it will provide clarity in your intended message.

- I have found an instance where there is a contradiction. The section, entitled 'How does it work?', mentions that recursions work on data of 'large, and often unknown and or arbitrary, size'. The term 'arbitrary' would include any size of data, but contradicts the statement that it works on data of 'large' size:
 - *Recursion works on data of large, and often unknown or arbitrary, size.*
- This can be rewritten as:
 - *Recursion works on data that has an arbitrary (small or large) size.*

Overall, you have accomplished the goal of explaining 'recursion' to your target audience. I hope that my suggestions will make your document convey the definition more effectively. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.