

# Re: Iteration for Factorials

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*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Python/comp.lang.python/2007-10/msg02715.html>

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- *From:* "Hendrik van Rooyen" <[mail@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:mail@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 23 Oct 2007 08:53:01 +0200
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"Marco Mariani" <[marc....arta.com](mailto:marc....arta.com)> wrote:

I don't see how my answer is in any way worse than those based on lambda. Maybe I'm just envious because when I was his age I couldn't google for answers. He should at least be able to do that, shouldn't he? But wait. That would mean understanding what a factorial is. That would require a second search, or a textbook, or an understanding of arithmetics before programming with or without recursion. Should we blame the teachers?

Yes. And burn their cars to get their attention!

Asking someone to write a factorial algorithm before he knows WTF a factorial "is", is either insane, or the ultimate demonstration of deliberate lack of cooperation and coordination between departments. I feel kind of strongly about this ever since, as a student, the physics people expected me to use mathematics that I had not been taught yet...

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I shall try to refrain from commenting on the concept of introducing recursion into a first course in CS – I am too much tainted by my ability to mentally "see" the stack growth in a small processor to be qualified to comment.

– Hendrik

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