

The initial call is made, and method `fact` begins execution:

```
n = 3
A: fact(n-1)=?
return ?
```

At point A a recursive call is made, and the new invocation of the method `fact` begins execution:

```
n = 3
A: fact(n-1)=?
return ?
```

A

```
n = 2
A: fact(n-1)=?
return ?
```

At point A a recursive call is made, and the new invocation of the method `fact` begins execution:

```
n = 3
A: fact(n-1)=?
return ?
```

A

```
n = 2
A: fact(n-1)=?
return ?
```

A

```
n = 1
A: fact(n-1)=?
return ?
```

At point A a recursive call is made, and the new invocation of the method `fact` begins execution:

```
n = 3
A: fact(n-1)=?
return ?
```

A

```
n = 2
A: fact(n-1)=?
return ?
```

A

```
n = 1
A: fact(n-1)=?
return ?
```

A

```
n = 0
return 1
```

This is the base case, so this invocation of `fact` completes:

```
n = 3
A: fact(n-1)=?
return ?
```

A

```
n = 2
A: fact(n-1)=?
return ?
```

A

```
n = 1
A: fact(n-1)=?
return ?
```

A

```
n = 0
return 1
```

The method value is returned to the calling box, which continues execution:

```
n = 3
A: fact(n-1)=?
return ?
```

A

```
n = 2
A: fact(n-1)=?
return ?
```

A

```
n = 1
A: fact(n-1)=1
return 1
```

```
n = 0
return 1
```

The current invocation of `fact` completes:

```
n = 3
A: fact(n-1)=?
return ?
```

A

```
n = 2
A: fact(n-1)=?
return ?
```

A

```
n = 1
A: fact(n-1)=1
return 1
```

```
n = 0
return 1
```

The method value is returned to the calling box, which continues execution:

```
n = 3
A: fact(n-1)=?
return ?
```

A

```
n = 2
A: fact(n-1)=1
return 1
```

```
n = 1
A: fact(n-1)=1
return 1
```

```
n = 0
return 1
```

The current invocation of `fact` completes:

```
n = 3
A: fact(n-1)=?
return ?
```

A

```
n = 2
A: fact(n-1)=1
return 1
```

```
n = 1
A: fact(n-1)=1
return 1
```

```
n = 0
return 1
```

The method value is returned to the calling box, which continues execution:

```
n = 3
A: fact(n-1)=2
return 2
```

```
n = 2
A: fact(n-1)=1
return 2
```

```
n = 1
A: fact(n-1)=1
return 1
```

```
n = 0
return 1
```

The current invocation of `fact` completes:

```
n = 3
A: fact(n-1)=2
return 2
```

```
n = 2
A: fact(n-1)=1
return 2
```

```
n = 1
A: fact(n-1)=1
return 1
```

```
n = 0
return 1
```

The value 6 is returned to the initial call.

FIGURE 2-5

(continued from previous)

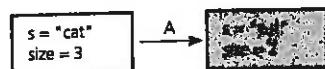
The initial call is made, and the function begins execution:



Output line: **t**

Point A (`writeBackward(s, size-1)`) is reached, and the recursive call is made.

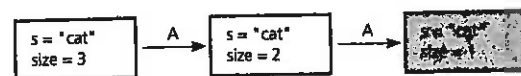
The new invocation begins execution:



Output line: **ta**

Point A is reached, and the recursive call is made.

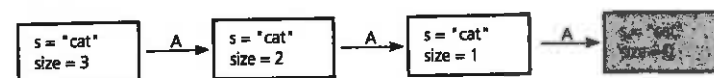
The new invocation begins execution:



Output line: **tac**

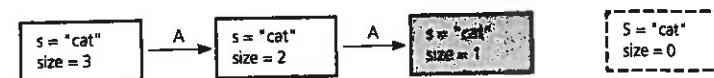
Point A is reached, and the recursive call is made.

The new invocation begins execution:



This is the base case, so this invocation completes.

Control returns to the calling box, which continues execution:



This invocation completes. Control returns to the calling box, which continues execution:



This invocation completes. Control returns to the calling box, which continues execution:



This invocation completes. Control returns to the statement following the initial call.

FIGURE 2-7

Box trace of `writeBackward("cat", 3)`

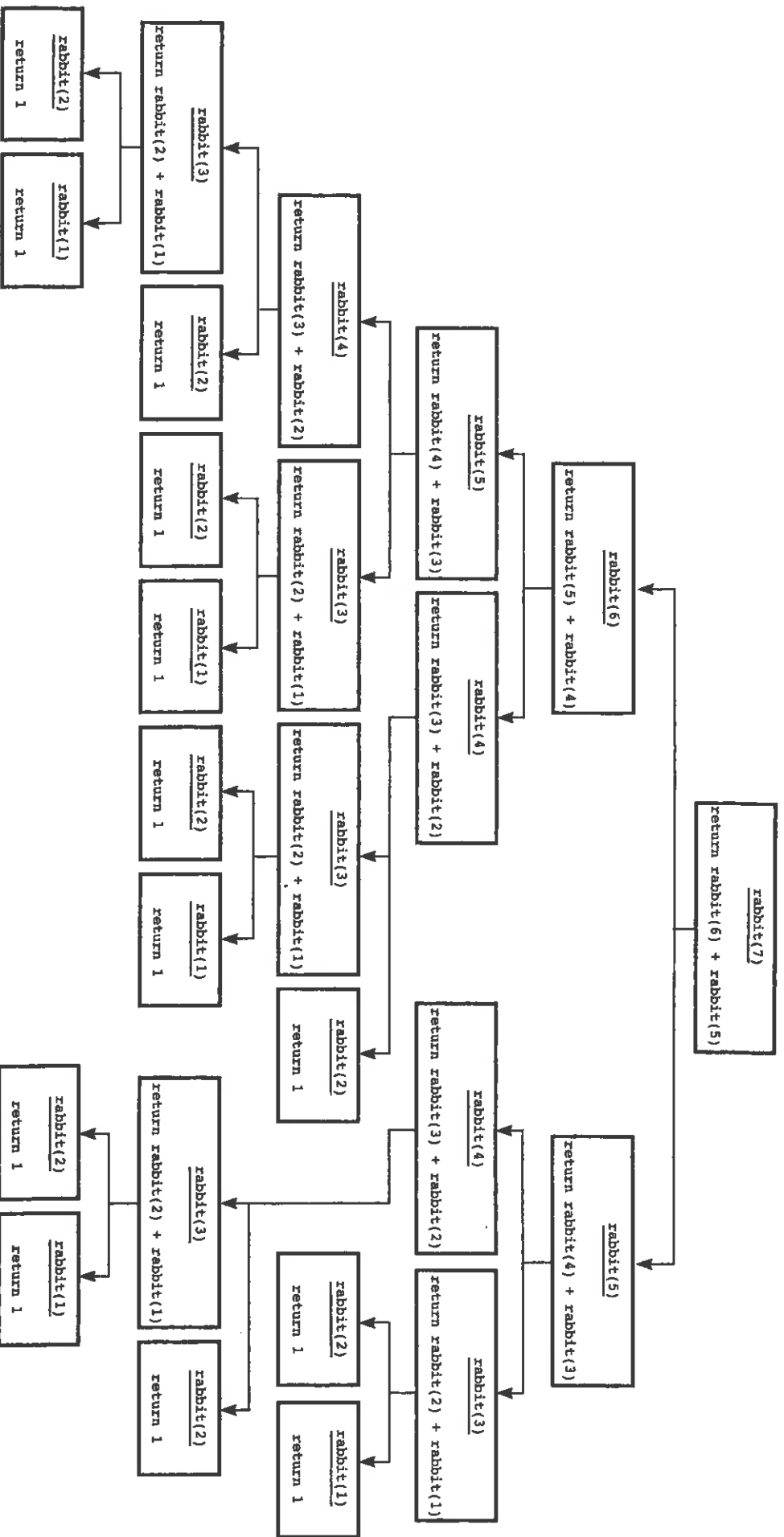


FIGURE 2-11

The recursive calls that `rabbit(7)` generates