

It is assumed that you know:

$\exists, \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{N}$

iff

$$n! = n \cdot (n-1) \cdot (n-2) \cdots 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1$$

$$0! = 1$$

$$\text{even} + \text{even} = \text{even}$$

$$\text{odd} + \text{odd} = \text{even}$$

$$\text{even} + \text{odd} = \text{odd}$$

$$\sum_{x=1}^0 x = 0$$

not critical

$$n\text{-choose-}k: \binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!k!}$$



PROOF by INDUCTION

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Suppose you have  $n$  dominoes in a row.



FACT:  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{If the } k\text{-th domino falls to the right,} \\ \text{then so does the } (k+1)\text{-st} \end{array} \right.$

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(again) ... if the 2nd domino falls, then so does the 3rd.



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...

... if the  $(n-1)$ -st domino falls, then so does the  $n$ -th.

Claim: if we tip the 1st domino, then eventually the  $n$ -th falls



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Assuming that our claim is true for  $n-1$ ...

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Apply FACT once: if the  $(n-1)$ -st domino falls, then so does the  $n$ -th.

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↪ "if we tip the 1st domino, then eventually the  $(n-1)$ -st falls"

Apply FACT once: if the  $(n-1)$ -st domino falls, then so does the  $n$ -th.

... we prove original claim.

Claim: if we tip the 1st domino, then eventually the  $n$ -th falls



assuming our claim is true for  $n-1$ , then...

we prove claim for  $n$

Claim: if we tip the 1st domino, then eventually the  $n$ -th falls



assuming our claim is true for  $n-2$ , then...

~~assuming~~ our claim is true for  $n-1$ , then...

we prove claim for  $n$



Claim: if we tip the 1st domino, then eventually the  $n$ -th falls



assuming our claim is true for 2, then...

⋮

~~assuming~~ our claim is true for  $n-2$ , then...

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we prove claim for  $n$

Claim: if we tip the 1st domino, then eventually the  $n$ -th falls



Using FACT,

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⋮

~~assuming~~ our claim is true for  $n-2$ , then...

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- Prove that this assumption helps solve the actual problem.  $n-1 \rightarrow n$

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- Don't forget to push the first domino!
  - ↳ Prove what you need for a small value  $1 \rightarrow 2$

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$$\sum_{i=0}^n 3^i = 3^n + \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 3^i \quad \dots ?$$

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$$\sum_{i=0}^n 3^i = 3^n + \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 3^i < 3^n + 3^{(n-1)+1} \quad \dots ?$$

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$$\sum_{i=0}^n 3^i = 3^n + \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 3^i < 3^n + 3^{(n-1)+1} = 3^n + 3^n < 3 \cdot 3^n = 3^{n+1}$$

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• Prove what you need for a small value ... ?

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• Prove what you need for a small value  $(n=0) \rightarrow \sum_{i=0}^0 3^i = 3^0 < 3^{0+1}$

# PROOF by INDUCTION

You want to prove something involving  $n$

- Assume that it's true if you have  $n-1$

Inductive hypothesis

- Prove that this assumption helps

Inductive step

- Prove what you need for a small value

Base case



Prove:  $3 \mid 4^n - 1$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  (if  $n > 0$ ,  $4^n - 1$  is divisible by 3)

Note: some sources define  $\mathbb{N}$  as  $1, 2, 3, \dots$  instead of  $0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Prove:  $3 \mid 4^n - 1$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  (if  $n \geq 0$ ,  $4^n - 1$  is divisible by 3)

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By definition, the assumption is:  $\exists a \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $3a = 4^{n-1} - 1$

...?

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$$\hookrightarrow \underline{4 \cdot 3a} = 4 \cdot \underline{(4^{n-1} - 1)}$$

Prove:  $3 \mid 4^n - 1$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  (if  $n > 0$ ,  $4^n - 1$  is divisible by 3)

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$$\hookrightarrow 4 \cdot 3a = 4 \cdot (4^{n-1} - 1) = \underline{4^n - 4}$$

$\hookrightarrow ?$

Prove:  $3 \mid 4^n - 1$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  (if  $n > 0$ ,  $4^n - 1$  is divisible by 3)

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$$\hookrightarrow 3 \cdot 4a + 3 = 4^n - 1$$

$\hookrightarrow ?$

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$$\hookrightarrow 3(4a+1) = 4^n - 1 \rightarrow ?$$

Prove:  $3 \mid 4^n - 1$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  (if  $n > 0$ ,  $4^n - 1$  is divisible by 3)

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$$\hookrightarrow 3 \underbrace{(4a+1)}_{\in \mathbb{Z}} = 4^n - 1 \rightarrow \text{By definition, } 3 \mid 4^n - 1 \quad \checkmark$$



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$$\hookrightarrow 3 \underbrace{(4a+1)}_{\in \mathbb{Z}} = 4^n - 1 \rightarrow \text{By definition, } 3 \mid 4^n - 1 \quad \checkmark$$

Base case:  $4^0 - 1 = 0$ , so  $3 \mid 0$  is true  $\checkmark$

□

Prove:  $2^n > n^2$  for all  $n \geq 5$

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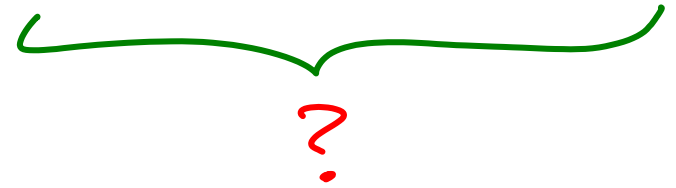
---

Assume  $2^{n-1} > (n-1)^2$  and  $n \geq 6$  because  $n=5$  will be base case

Prove:  $2^n > n^2$  for all  $n \geq 5$

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$$32 = 2^5 > 5^2 = 25$$

Prove:  $2^n > n^2$  for all  $n \geq 5$

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Assume  $2^{n-1} > (n-1)^2$  and  $n \geq 6$  because  $n=5$  will be base case

$$2^{n-1} > n^2 - 2n + 1$$



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$$2^n > n^2 + (n^2 - 4n + 2)$$

  
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$$= n^2 + (n-5) \cdot (n+1)$$

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$$2^n > n^2 + (n^2 - 4n + 2)$$

$$> n^2 + (n^2 - 4n - 5)$$

$$= n^2 + \underbrace{(n-5) \cdot (n+1)}_{> 0}$$

$$> n^2$$

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requiring more than one base case and  
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Fibonacci numbers:  $F_0 = 1$        $F_1 = 1$

$$F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2} \quad \text{for } n \geq 2$$

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Prove: for all  $n$ ,  $F_n \leq 1.7^n$

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Base cases:  $n=1$  &  $n=2$ , trivially true

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Base cases:  $n=1$  &  $n=2$ , trivially true

Hypothesis: for  $n \geq 2$  assume  $F_{n-1} \leq 1.7^{n-1}$ ,  $F_{n-2} \leq 1.7^{n-2}$



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Hypothesis: for  $n \geq 2$  assume  $\underline{F_{n-1} \leq 1.7^{n-1}}$ ,  $\underline{F_{n-2} \leq 1.7^{n-2}}$

$F_n \leq 1.7^{n-1} + 1.7^{n-2}$  by definition and substitution

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$$F_n \leq 1.7^{n-1} + 1.7^{n-2} = (1.7 + 1) \cdot 1.7^{n-2}$$

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□

Prove statement  $S(n)$ :  $F_n$  is even IFF  $F_{n+3}$  is even

0  
1  
1  
2  
3  
5  
8  
13  
21  
34  
55  
89  
⋮

Prove statement  $S(n)$ :  $F_n$  is even IFF  $F_{n+3}$  is even

Base cases:  $\begin{cases} (n=0) : F_0 \ \& \ F_3 \text{ are both even} : 0 \ \& \ 2 \\ (n=1) : F_1 \ \& \ F_4 \text{ are both odd} : 1 \ \& \ 3 \end{cases}$

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Assume  $S(n-1)$  and  $S(n-2)$  are true

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$\rightarrow F_{n-1}$  &  $F_{n+2}$  : both even or both odd

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Assume  $S(n-1)$  and  $S(n-2)$  are true

$F_{n-1}$  &  $F_{n+2}$  : both even or both odd

◇  $F_{n-2}$  &  $F_{n+1}$  : both even or both odd

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Prove statement  $S(n)$ :  $F_n$  is even IFF  $F_{n+3}$  is even

Base cases:  $\begin{cases} (n=0) : F_0 \text{ \& } F_3 \text{ are both even} : 0 \text{ \& } 2 \\ (n=1) : F_1 \text{ \& } F_4 \text{ are both odd} : 1 \text{ \& } 3 \end{cases}$

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of Fibonacci numbers (and integer addition)

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if both even then ...?

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by definition

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If both odd then ...?

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If both odd then by hypothesis  $F_{n+2}, F_{n+1}$  odd

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By definition, if  $F_n$  even then  $F_{n-1}, F_{n-2}$  both even or both odd.

If both even then by hypothesis  $F_{n+2}, F_{n+1}$  even  $\rightarrow F_{n+3}$  even.

If both odd then by hypothesis  $F_{n+2}, F_{n+1}$  odd  $\rightarrow F_{n+3}$  even.

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If both odd then by hypothesis  $F_{n+2}, F_{n+1}$  odd  $\rightarrow F_{n+3}$  even.

Prove statement  $S(n)$ :  $F_n$  is even IFF  $F_{n+3}$  is even

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Similar proof if  $F_n$  is odd.

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## Tips:

- You can't bridge the gap between  $(n-1)$  and  $n$  by picking some finite example (e.g.  $n=99 \rightarrow n=100$ )

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- You can't bridge the gap between  $(n-1)$  and  $n$  by picking some finite example (e.g.  $n=99 \rightarrow n=100$ )
- Sometimes you will see the inductive step assuming that  $\text{Claim}(n)$  is known and using it to show  $\text{Claim}(n+1)$ .

I tend to assume  $\text{Claim}(n-1)$  and prove  $\text{Claim}(n)$ .

This is a matter of style. Both are ok.

## Tips:

- The base case is not always "the smallest number"

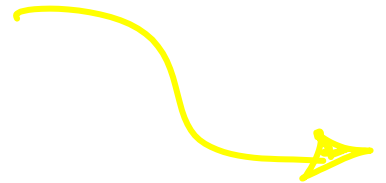
- ↳ Sometimes a claim is true only for larger values.  $2^n > n^5$

- ↳ Sometimes  $n$  just won't rely on "the smallest" instance.



## Tips:

- The base case is not always "the smallest number"
  - ↳ Sometimes a claim is true only for larger values.  $2^n > n^5$
  - ↳ Sometimes  $n$  just won't rely on "the smallest" instance.
- If  $\text{Claim}(n)$  relies on multiple "smaller" claims  
make sure you have enough base cases



For all  $n \geq 0$ ,  $2^n = 1$  (?!)

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Base case:  $n=0$ ,  $2^0 = 1$  ✓

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Base case:  $n=0$ ,  $2^0 = 1$  ✓

Hypothesis: assume  $2^{n-1} = 1$  and  $2^{n-2} = 1$

$$2^{2n-2} = 2^n \cdot 2^{n-2} = 2^{n-1} \cdot 2^{n-1}$$

(fact, for all  $n$ )

For all  $n \geq 0$ ,  $2^n = 1$  (?!)

Base case:  $n=0$ ,  $2^0 = 1$  ✓

Hypothesis: assume  $2^{n-1} = 1$  and  $2^{n-2} = 1$

$$2^{2n-2} = \underline{2^n \cdot 2^{n-2}} = 2^{n-1} \cdot 2^{n-1}$$

$$\text{So } 2^n = \frac{2^{n-1} \cdot 2^{n-1}}{2^{n-2}} = \frac{1 \cdot 1}{1} = 1$$

For all  $n \geq 0$ ,  $2^n = 1$  (?!)

What's wrong?

Base case:  $n=0$ ,  $2^0 = 1$  ✓

Hypothesis: assume  $2^{n-1} = 1$  and  $2^{n-2} = 1$

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missed this  
for  $n \geq 2$



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Needed base case  
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For all  $n \geq 0$ ,  $2^n = 1$  (?!)

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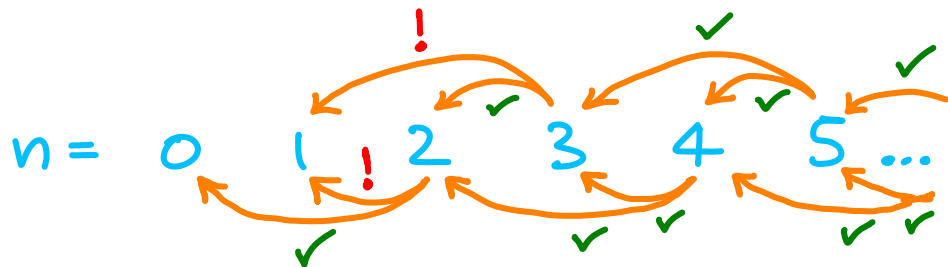
What's wrong?

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for  $n \geq 2$

Needed base case  
for  $n=1$

but  $2^1 \neq 1$



So if  $\text{Claim}(n)$  might need two "smaller" claims (e.g.  $n-1$  &  $n-2$ ),  
might we need even more? Yes, but that's often ok.

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FYI - Regular induction and strong induction are actually equivalent  
as is proof by smallest counterexample.

Prove: for all  $n \geq 2$ ,  $n$  is a product of prime numbers  
(possibly more than two of them)

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If  $n$  is prime then  $n = n \cdot 1$ , done.

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Apply hypothesis twice:  $a$  and  $b$  are each a product of primes

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e.g.,  $x \cdot y \cdot z$        $p \cdot q \cdot r \cdot s$

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Apply hypothesis twice:  $a$  and  $b$  are each a product of primes

Then  $a \cdot b$  is also. □

e.g.,  $x \cdot y \cdot z$     $p \cdot q \cdot r \cdot s$  }  $n = x \cdot y \cdot z \cdot p \cdot q \cdot r \cdot s$

Prove: for all  $n \geq 2$ ,  $n$  is a product of prime numbers  
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Then  $a \cdot b$  is also.  $\square$

Proved, without knowing exactly what  $n$  relied on.



Prove: for all  $n$ ,  $\sum_{x=1}^n x = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$

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Base case:  $n=0$  :  $\sum_{x=1}^0 x = 0 = \frac{0(0+1)}{2}$  ✓

Prove: for all  $n$ ,  $\sum_{x=1}^n x = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$

Base case:  $n=0$  :  $\sum_{x=1}^0 x = 0 = \frac{0(0+1)}{2}$  ✓

Assume  $\sum_{x=1}^{n-1} x = \frac{(n-1)((n-1)+1)}{2}$  for  $n \geq 1$

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$$\sum_{x=1}^n x = n + \sum_{x=1}^{n-1} x$$

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Assume  $\sum_{x=1}^{n-1} x = \frac{(n-1)((n-1)+1)}{2}$  for  $n \geq 1$

$$\sum_{x=1}^n x = n + \underbrace{\sum_{x=1}^{n-1} x}_{\frac{(n-1) \cdot n}{2}}$$

Prove: for all  $n$ ,  $\sum_{x=1}^n x = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$

Base case:  $n=0$  :  $\sum_{x=1}^0 x = 0 = \frac{0(0+1)}{2}$  ✓

Assume  $\sum_{x=1}^{n-1} x = \frac{(n-1)((n-1)+1)}{2}$  for  $n \geq 1$

$$\sum_{x=1}^n x = n + \underbrace{\sum_{x=1}^{n-1} x}_{\frac{(n-1) \cdot n}{2}} = \frac{2n + n^2 - n}{2}$$

Prove: for all  $n$ ,  $\sum_{x=1}^n x = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$

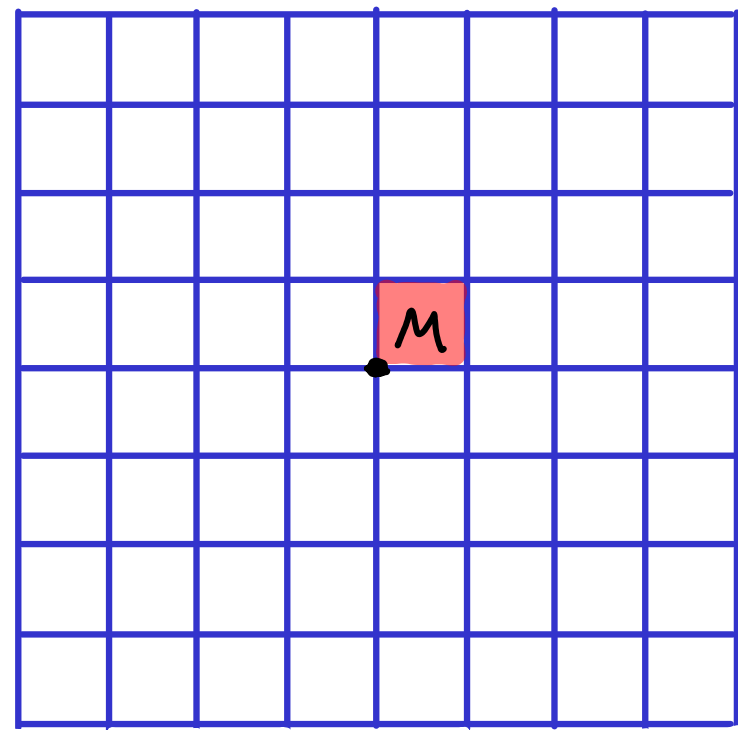
Base case:  $n=0$  :  $\sum_{x=1}^0 x = 0 = \frac{0(0+1)}{2}$  ✓

Assume  $\sum_{x=1}^{n-1} x = \frac{(n-1)((n-1)+1)}{2}$  for  $n \geq 1$

$$\sum_{x=1}^n x = n + \underbrace{\sum_{x=1}^{n-1} x}_{\frac{(n-1) \cdot n}{2}} = \frac{2n + n^2 - n}{2} = \frac{n + n^2}{2} = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

□

Let  $S(n)$  be a grid of  $2^n \times 2^n$  squares  
with one square in the "middle", marked.

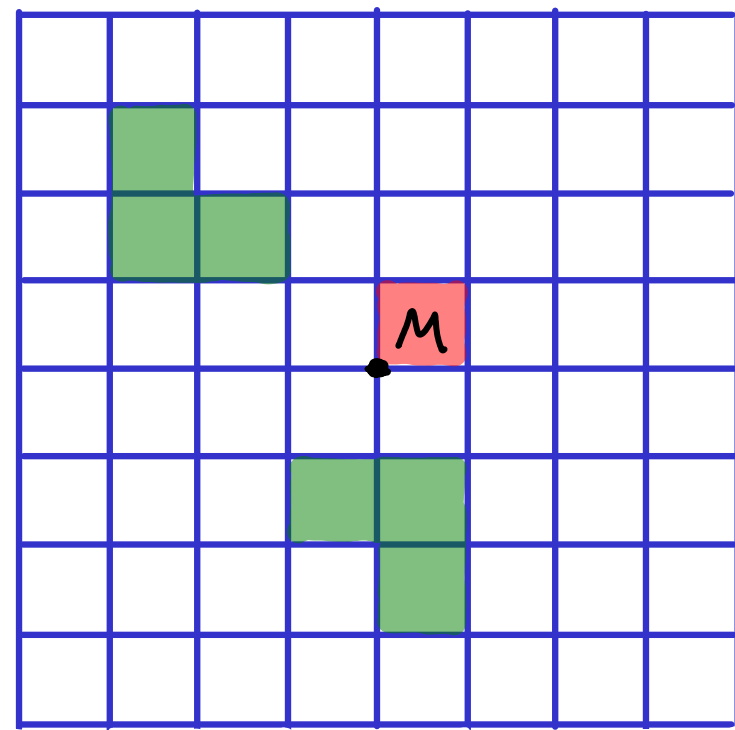
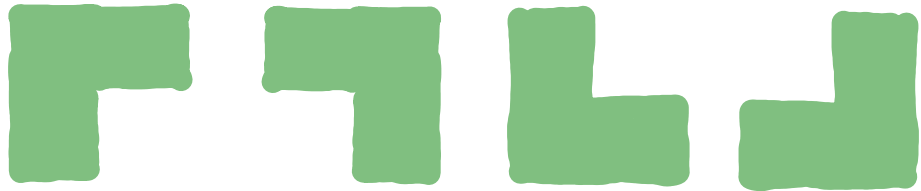


8x8



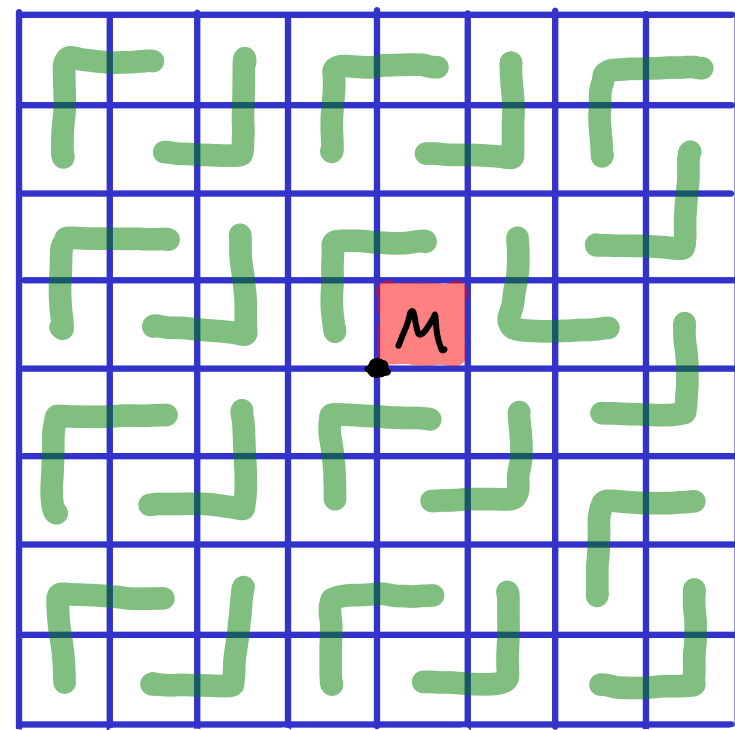
Let  $S(n)$  be a grid of  $2^n \times 2^n$  squares  
with one square in the "middle", **marked**.

You have L-shaped tiles that you  
can rotate and place on the grid.



Let  $S(n)$  be a grid of  $2^n \times 2^n$  squares with one square in the "middle", marked.

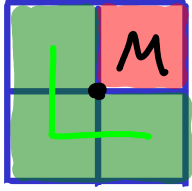
You have L-shaped tiles that you can rotate and place on the grid.



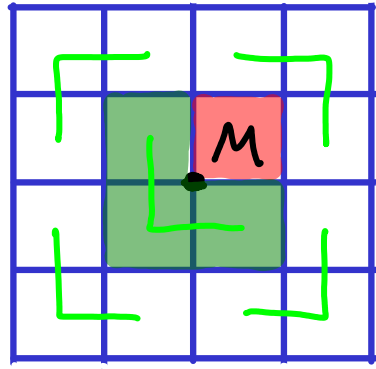
Prove that you can cover the grid with tiles, except for  $M$ .



$2^0$



$2^1$

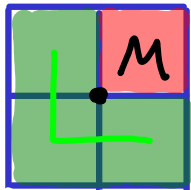


$2^2$

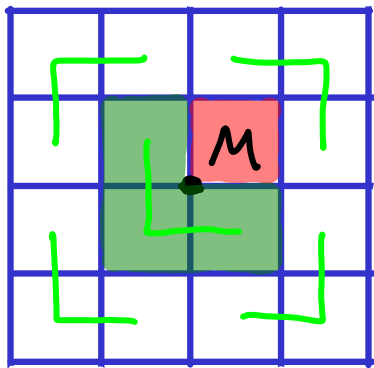
Works for small  $n$  (base case)



$2^0$



$2^1$



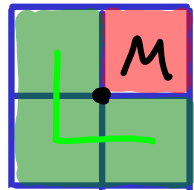
$2^2$

Works for small  $n$  (base case)

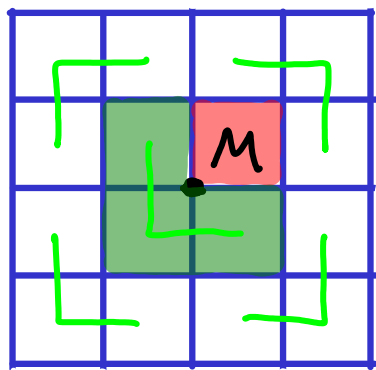
Hypothesis:  $2^{n-1} \times 2^{n-1}$  can be tiled ( $n \geq 1$ )



$2^0$

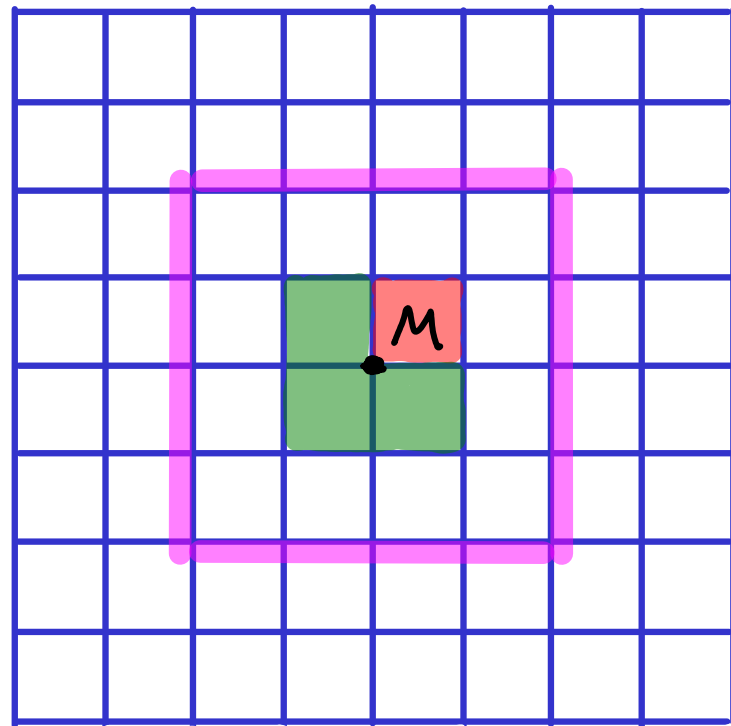


$2^1$



$2^2$

$2^3$



Works for small  $n$  (base case)

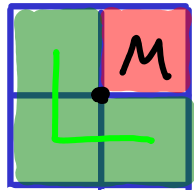
Hypothesis:  $2^{n-1} \times 2^{n-1}$  can be tiled ( $n \geq 1$ )

But there is no way to use this!

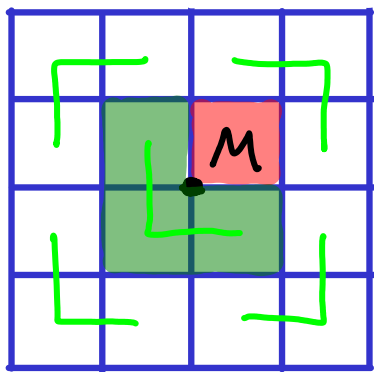
Actual hypothesis =  $2^{n-1} \times 2^{n-1}$  grid with M in the middle can be tiled



$2^0$

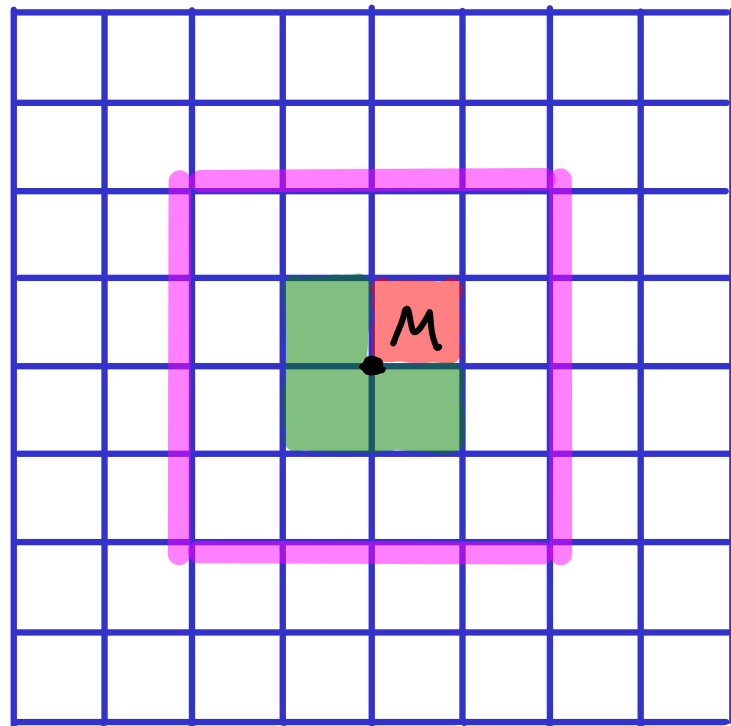


$2^1$



$2^2$

$2^3$



Works for small  $n$  (base case)

Hypothesis:  $2^{n-1} \times 2^{n-1}$  can be tiled ( $n \geq 1$ )

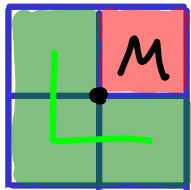
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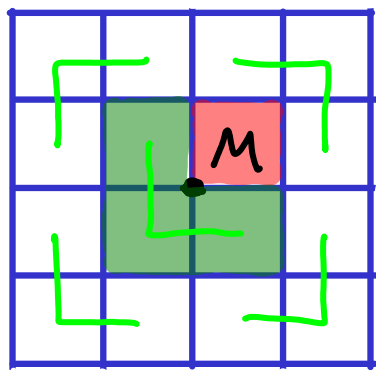
Hypothesis must match claim



$2^0$

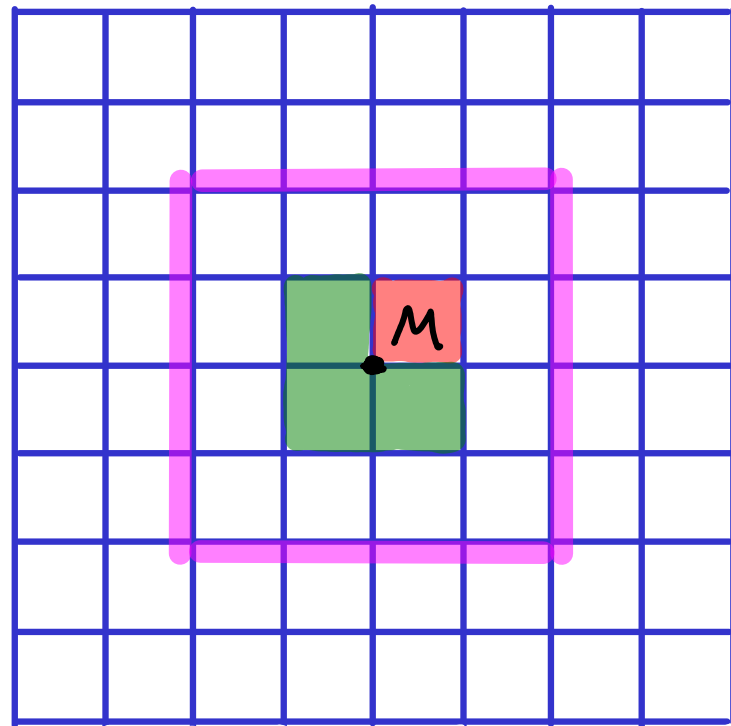


$2^1$



$2^2$

$2^3$



Works for small  $n$  (base case)

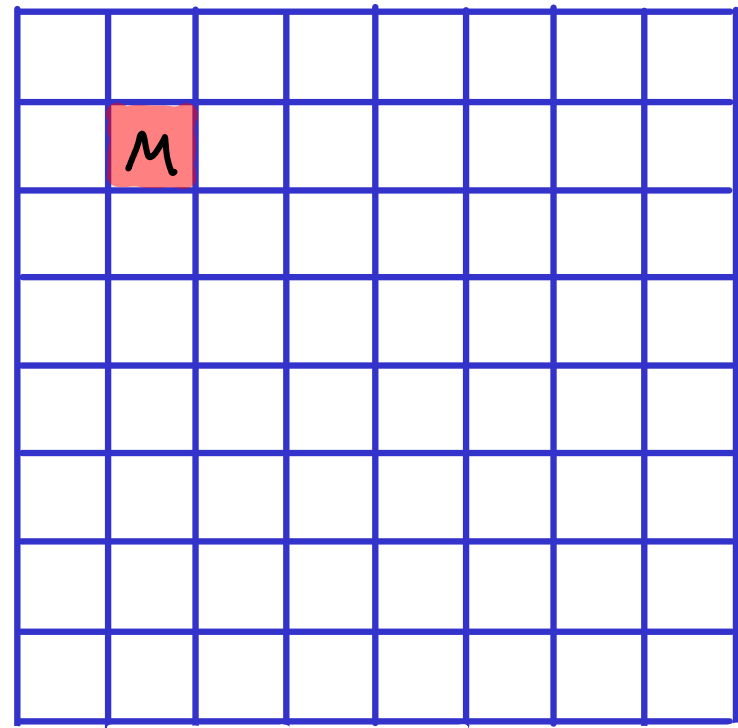
Hypothesis:  $2^{n-1} \times 2^{n-1}$  can be tiled ( $n \geq 1$ )

But there is no way to use this!

Actual hypothesis =  $2^{n-1} \times 2^{n-1}$  grid with  $M$  in the middle can be tiled

Solution: make problem harder...

Let  $S(n)$  be a grid of  $2^n \times 2^n$  squares  
with one square in the ~~"middle"~~, marked.  
~~Somewhere~~



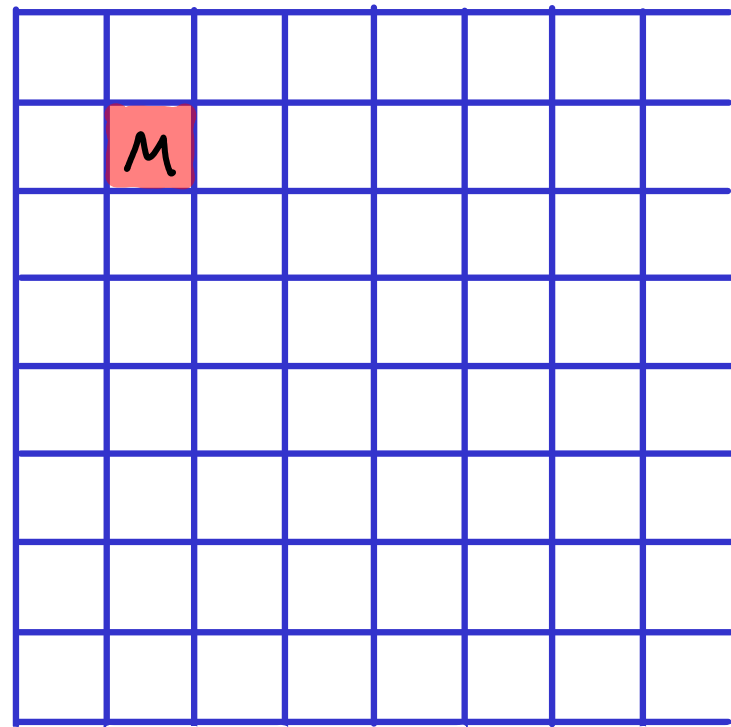
The new problem is harder.

We are given less information.



Let  $S(n)$  be a grid of  $2^n \times 2^n$  squares  
with one square in the ~~"middle"~~, marked.  
Somewhere

Prove: grid can be covered except for  $M$ .

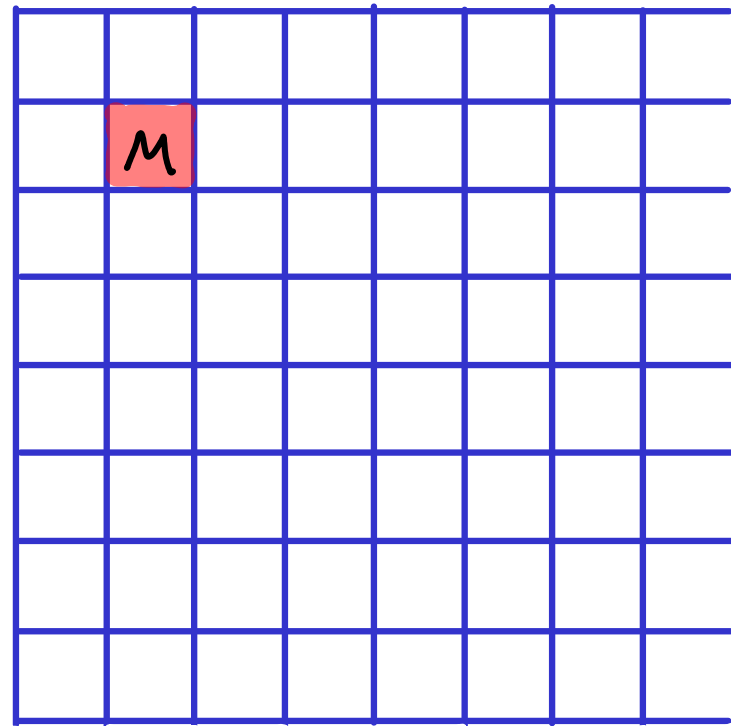


Let  $S(n)$  be a grid of  $2^n \times 2^n$  squares  
with one square in the ~~"middle"~~, marked.  
Somewhere

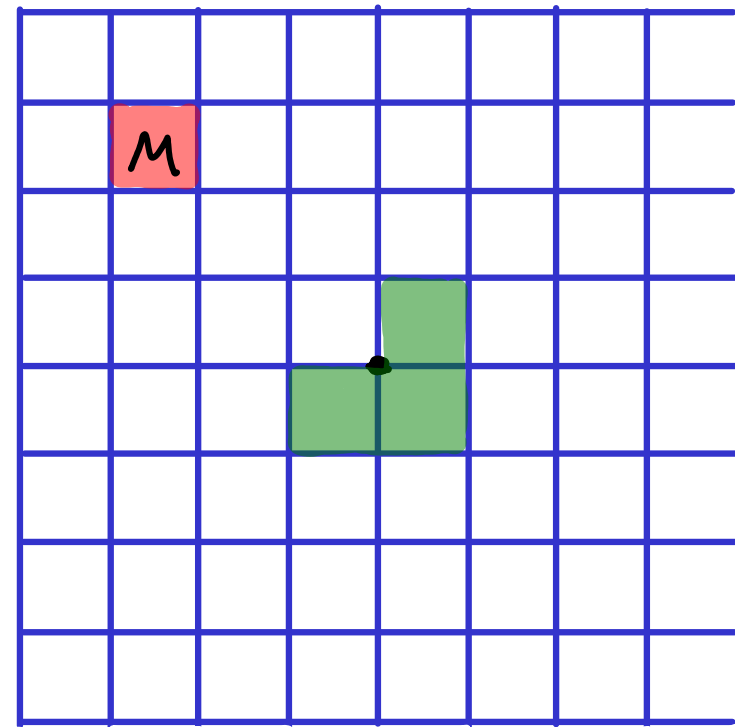
Prove: grid can be covered except for  $M$ .

Base case: easy

Hypothesis:  $2^{n-1} \times 2^{n-1}$  can be tiled ( $n \geq 1$ )



Let  $S(n)$  be a grid of  $2^n \times 2^n$  squares  
with one square in the "middle", marked.  
~~in the "middle"~~  
Somewhere



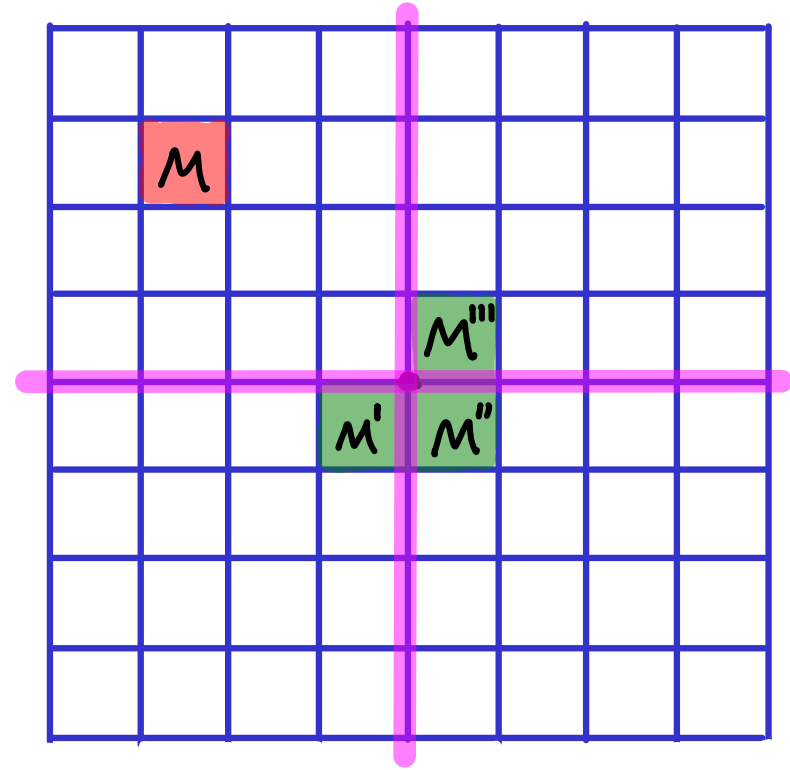
Prove: grid can be covered except for  $M$ .

Base case: easy

Hypothesis:  $2^{n-1} \times 2^{n-1}$  can be tiled ( $n \geq 1$ )

Place tile in the middle, avoiding quadrant with  $M$ .

Let  $S(n)$  be a grid of  $2^n \times 2^n$  squares  
with one square in the "middle", marked.  
~~in the "middle"~~  
Somewhere



Prove: grid can be covered except for  $M$ .

Base case: easy

Hypothesis:  $2^{n-1} \times 2^{n-1}$  can be tiled ( $n \geq 1$ )

Place tile in the middle, avoiding quadrant with  $M$ .

By hypothesis, each quadrant can be tiled.

□

Why was it easier to solve a harder problem?

The inductive hypothesis became more powerful.

Let's see another example...

Prove:  $\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^2} \leq 2$  for all  $n \geq 1$

Prove:  $\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^2} \leq 2$  for all  $n \geq 1$

Base case:  $n=1$  :  $1 \leq 2$  ✓

Prove:  $\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^2} \leq 2$  for all  $n \geq 1$

Base case:  $n=1$  :  $1 \leq 2$  ✓

Assume  $\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i^2} \leq 2$  for  $n \geq 2$



Prove:  $\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^2} \leq 2$  for all  $n \geq 1$

Base case:  $n=1$  :  $1 \leq 2$  ✓

Assume  $\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i^2} \leq 2$  for  $n \geq 2$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i^2} = \frac{1}{n^2} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i^2}$$

Prove:  $\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^2} \leq 2$  for all  $n \geq 1$

Base case:  $n=1$  :  $1 \leq 2$  ✓

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$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i^2} = \frac{1}{n^2} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i^2} \leq \frac{1}{n^2} + 2$$

Prove:  $\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^2} \leq 2$  for all  $n \geq 1$

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FAIL  
so let's prove  
something stronger...

Prove:  $\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^2} \leq 2 - \frac{1}{n}$  for all  $n \geq 1$

in fact  $<$  for  $n \geq 2$

Prove:  $\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^2} \leq 2 - \frac{1}{n}$  for all  $n \geq 1$

Base case:  $n=1$  :  $1 \leq 2 - \frac{1}{1}$  ✓

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Prove:  $\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^2} \leq \underbrace{2 - \frac{1}{n}}$  for all  $n \geq 1$

Base case:  $n=1$  :  $1 \leq \underbrace{2 - \frac{1}{1}}$  ✓

Assume  $\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i^2} \leq \underbrace{2 - \frac{1}{n-1}}$  for  $n \geq 2$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i^2} = \frac{1}{n^2} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i^2}$$

Prove:  $\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^2} \leq 2 - \frac{1}{n}$  for all  $n \geq 1$

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Base case:  $n=1$  :  $1 \leq \underbrace{2 - \frac{1}{1}}$  ✓

Assume  $\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i^2} \leq \underbrace{2 - \frac{1}{n-1}}$  for  $n \geq 2$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i^2} = \frac{1}{n^2} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i^2} \leq \frac{1}{n^2} + 2 - \frac{1}{n-1} < \frac{1}{n^2} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{n}{n-1}} + 2 - \frac{1}{n-1}$$

Prove:  $\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^2} \leq 2 - \frac{1}{n}$  for all  $n \geq 1$

Base case:  $n=1$  :  $1 \leq 2 - \frac{1}{1}$  ✓

Assume  $\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i^2} \leq 2 - \frac{1}{n-1}$  for  $n \geq 2$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i^2} &= \frac{1}{n^2} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i^2} \leq \frac{1}{n^2} + 2 - \frac{1}{n-1} < \underbrace{\frac{1}{n^2} \cdot \frac{n}{n-1}} + 2 \underbrace{- \frac{1}{n-1}} \\ &= \underbrace{\frac{1}{n \cdot (n-1)}} + 2 \underbrace{- \frac{n}{n \cdot (n-1)}} \end{aligned}$$

Prove:  $\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^2} \leq \underbrace{2 - \frac{1}{n}}$  for all  $n \geq 1$

Base case:  $n=1$  :  $1 \leq \underbrace{2 - \frac{1}{1}}$  ✓

Assume  $\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i^2} \leq \underbrace{2 - \frac{1}{n-1}}$  for  $n \geq 2$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i^2} &= \frac{1}{n^2} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i^2} \leq \frac{1}{n^2} + 2 - \frac{1}{n-1} < \frac{1}{n^2} \cdot \frac{n}{n-1} + 2 - \frac{1}{n-1} \\ &= \frac{1}{n \cdot (n-1)} + 2 - \frac{n}{n \cdot (n-1)} = 2 - \frac{n-1}{n \cdot (n-1)} \end{aligned}$$

Prove:  $\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^2} \leq 2 - \frac{1}{n}$  for all  $n \geq 1$

Base case:  $n=1$  :  $1 \leq 2 - \frac{1}{1}$  ✓

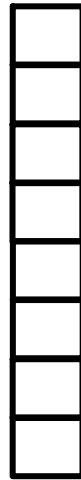
Assume  $\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i^2} \leq 2 - \frac{1}{n-1}$  for  $n \geq 2$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i^2} = \frac{1}{n^2} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i^2} \leq \frac{1}{n^2} + 2 - \frac{1}{n-1} < \frac{1}{n^2} \cdot \frac{n}{n-1} + 2 - \frac{1}{n-1}$$

$$= \frac{1}{n \cdot (n-1)} + 2 - \frac{n}{n \cdot (n-1)} = 2 - \frac{n-1}{n \cdot (n-1)} = 2 - \frac{1}{n}$$

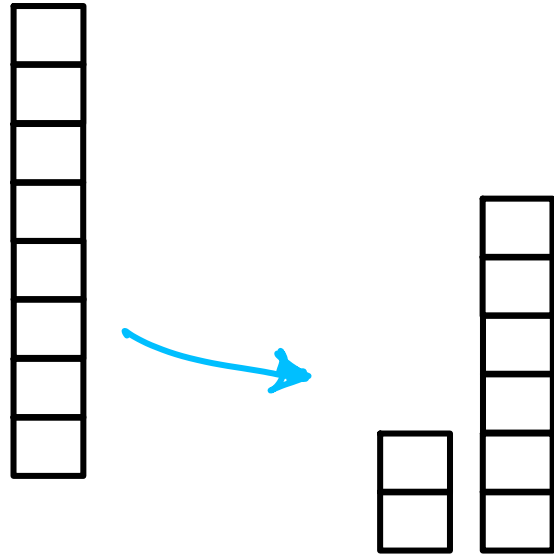
□

You have a stack of  $n$  boxes.



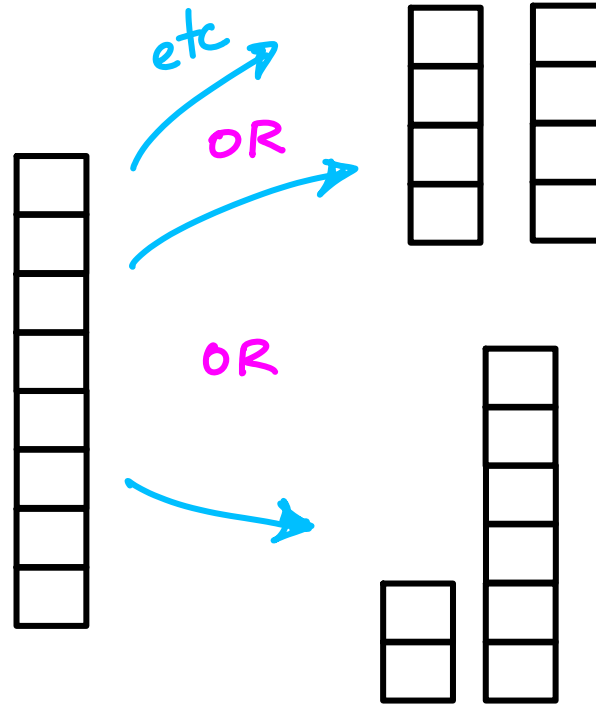
You have a stack of  $n$  boxes.

One move: split a stack into 2 new stacks of size  $a$  &  $b$ .



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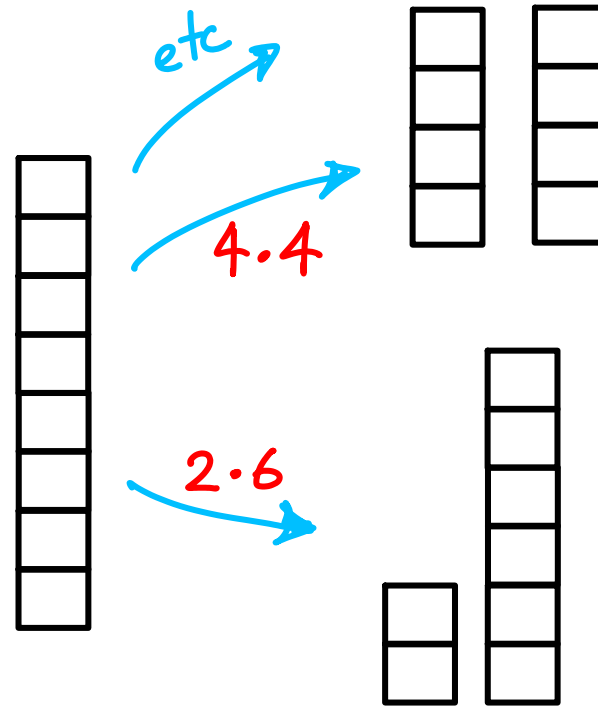
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You have a stack of  $n$  boxes.

One move: split a stack into 2 new stacks of size  $a$  &  $b$ .

↳ Reward:  $a \cdot b$





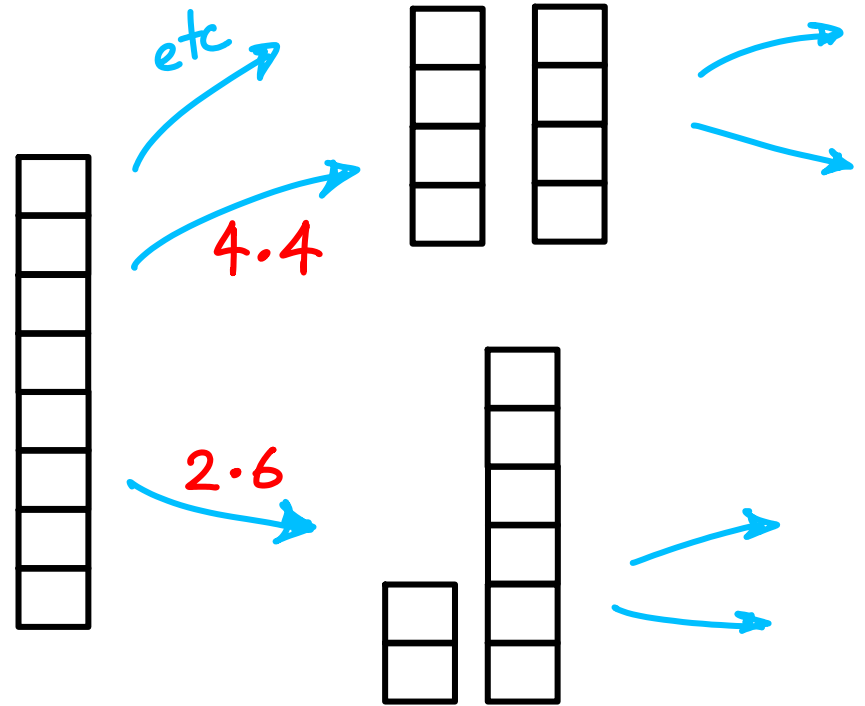
You have a stack of  $n$  boxes.

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Do this until all stacks have size 1.

Try to maximize reward.



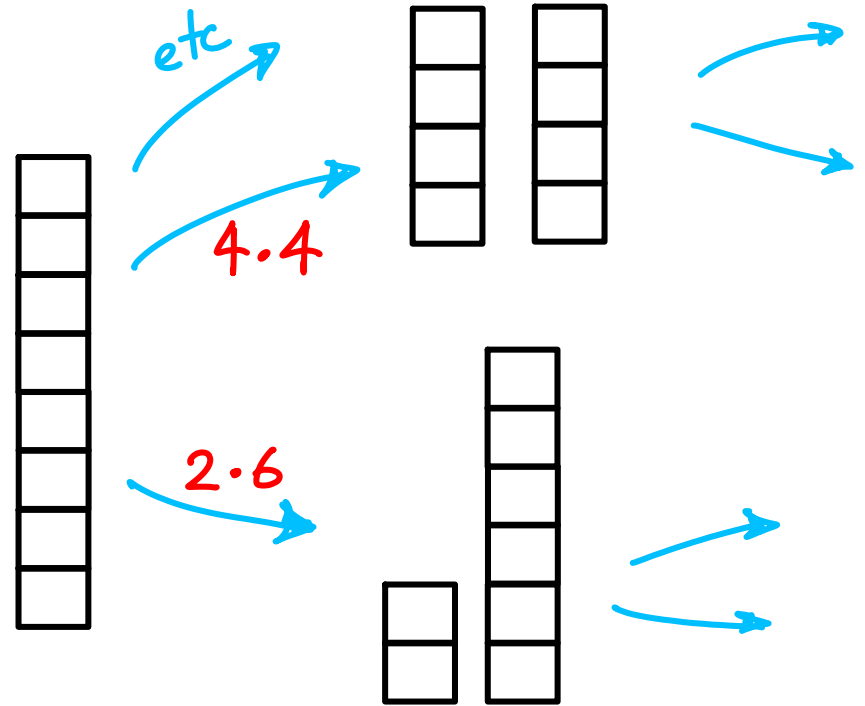
You have a stack of  $n$  boxes.

One move: split a stack into 2 new stacks of size  $a$  &  $b$ .

↳ Reward:  $a \cdot b$

Do this until all stacks have size 1.

Try to maximize reward.



Try to balance  $a, b$  always?

Product is maximized when equal

Claim: strategy is irrelevant. Reward is always  $\frac{n(n-1)}{2}$

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Base case: ( $n=1$ ). Reward = 0.

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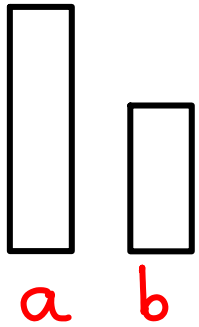
Assume reward =  $\frac{k(k-1)}{2}$  if we have a stack of size  $k < n$

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Base case: ( $n=1$ ). Reward = 0.

Assume reward =  $\frac{k(k-1)}{2}$  if we have a stack of size  $k < n$

Consider stack of  $n$  boxes. Let 1st move produce stacks  $a, b < n$ .  
 $a+b$



Claim: strategy is irrelevant. Reward is always  $\frac{n(n-1)}{2}$

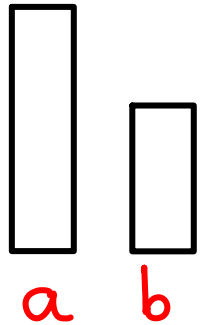
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$$\$ = ab$$

$$a+b$$



By hypothesis, future reward =  $\frac{a(a-1)}{2} + \frac{b(b-1)}{2}$

Claim: strategy is irrelevant. Reward is always  $\frac{n(n-1)}{2}$

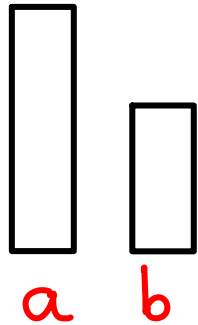
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$$a+b$$



By hypothesis, future reward =  $\frac{a(a-1)}{2} + \frac{b(b-1)}{2}$

$$\text{Total} = \frac{2ab + a^2 - a + b^2 - b}{2}$$



Claim: strategy is irrelevant. Reward is always  $\frac{n(n-1)}{2}$

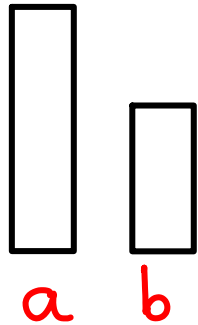
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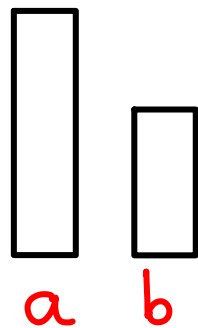
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Let  $\begin{cases} T(n) = T(\frac{n}{2}) + n \\ T(1) = 1 \end{cases}$  for all  $n \geq 2$  such that  $n = 2^d$ ,  $d \in \mathbb{N}$   
i.e.,  $n = 2, 4, 8, 16, \dots$

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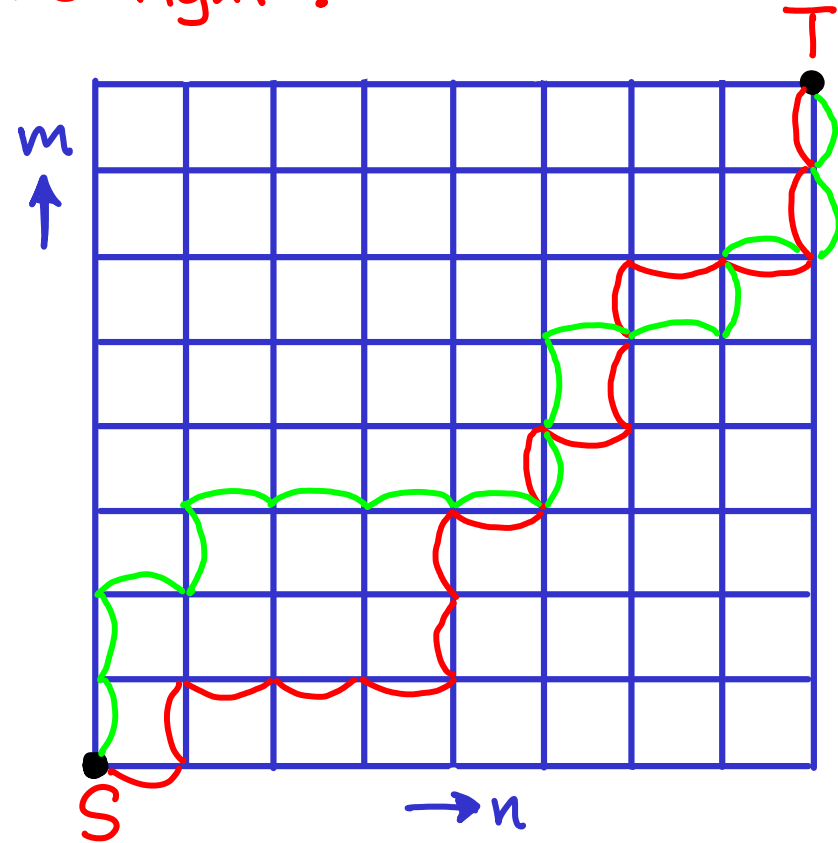
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strong induction,  
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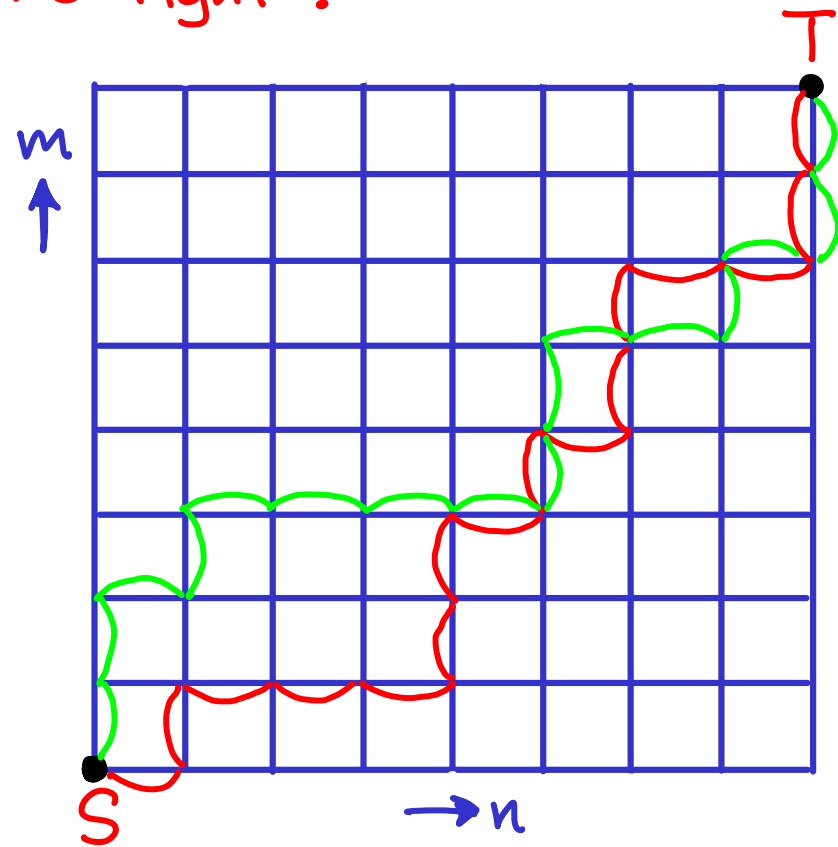
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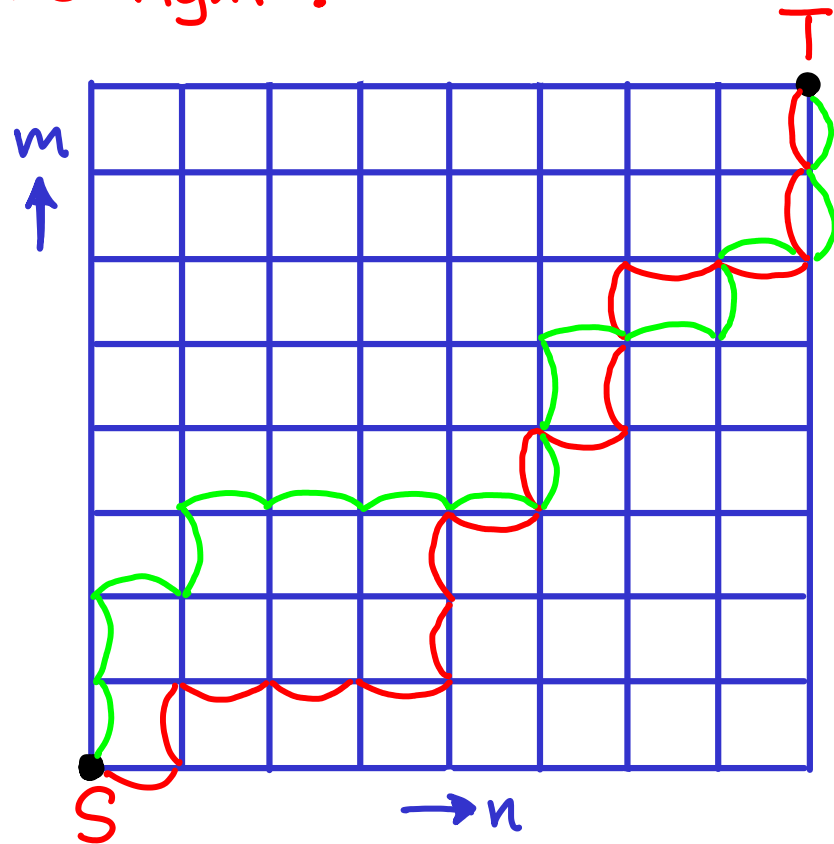
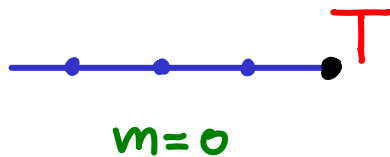
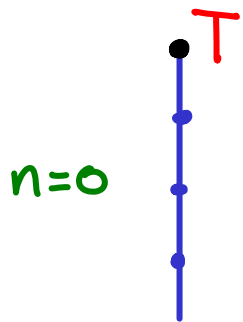


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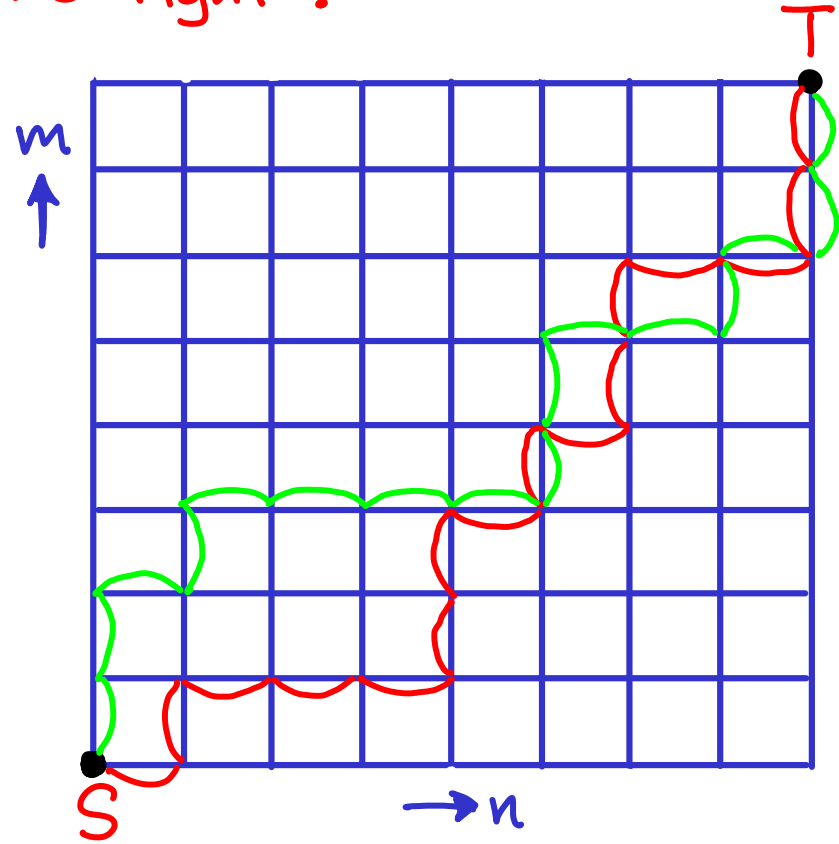
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(similar if  $n=0$ )



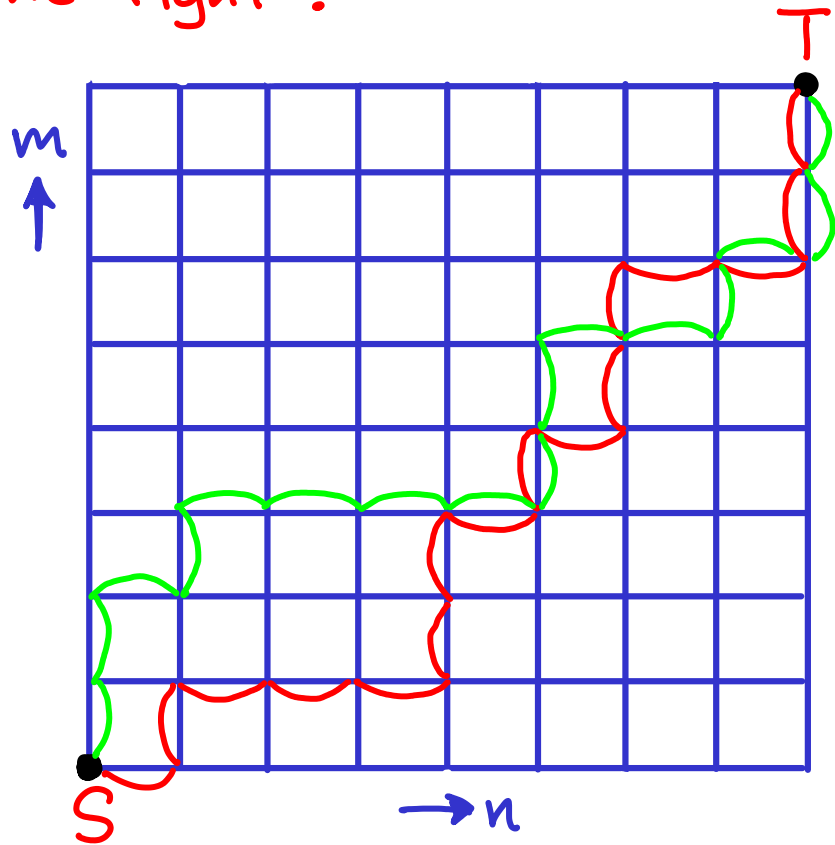
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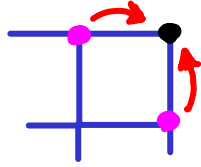
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Hypothesis: if  $1 \leq x \leq n$ ,  $1 \leq y \leq m$ ,  $x+y < n+m$ ,

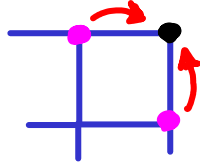
(i.e., if remaining grid is smaller) then 
$$W(x,y) = \frac{(x+y)!}{x!y!}$$

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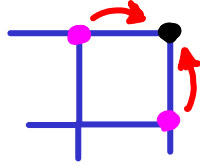
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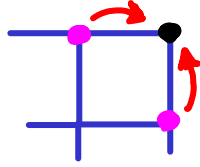
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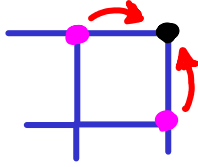
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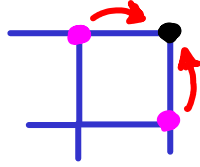
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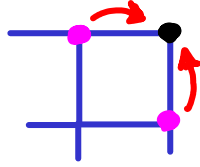
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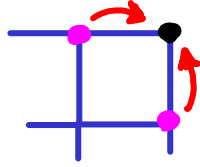
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- how a hypothesis can have creative conditions,  
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What went wrong? → Argument fails for  $n=2$

Be careful of  
general statements



