

COP 3502 2/8/2024

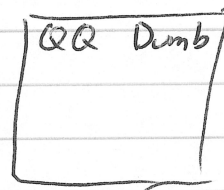
Backtracking

Brute Force → Permutation  
→ "Smart brute force"

8 Queens

Place 8 Queens on a chessboard so  
no 2 can attack each other!

Dumb Brute Force =  $\binom{64}{8}$  placements of 8  
queens on 64 spots.

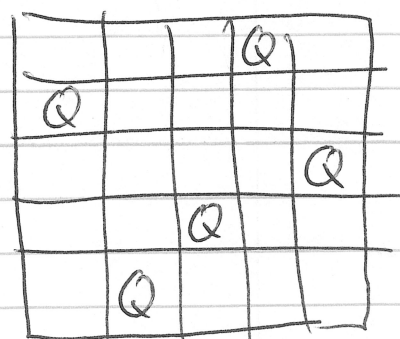
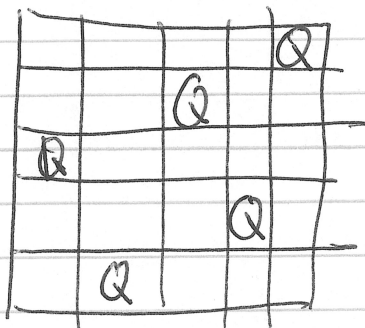


Simple Observation: each column can have  
at most one Queen. AND each row  
has to be unique. Map each permutation  
to a potential solution

$n=5$  [3, 5, 2, 4, 1]

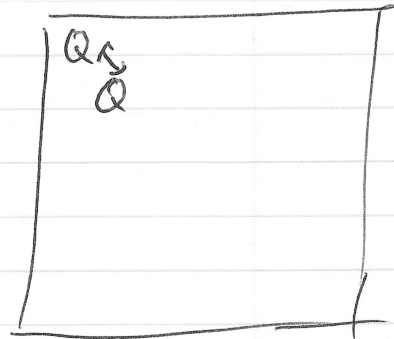
[2, 5, 4, 1, 3]

Smarter  
Brute  
Force  
Try each  
Permutation



All of these doomed to fail

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8  
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 7  
⋮  
1, 2, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3  
1, 3, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8



## Backtracking:

As you are creating your partial solution, skip over any choices that are "doomed to fail" (for this problem: placing a queen here will attack a previously placed queen)

// i = options

```
for (int i=0; i<n; i++) {
```

```
    if (used[i]) continue;
```

```
    if (doomedtofail(k, i)) continue;
```

```
    used[i] = 1;
```

```
    perm[k] = i;
```

```
    recursivefunction
```

```
    used[i] = 0;
```

BACKTRACK

⋮

Digit Divisibility // Prefix Prime

each prefix of a #  
is divisible by the  
# of digits

2333

32485

2 is pre

3 div 1

23 is pre

32 div 2

233 pre?

324 div 3

Right-Truncatable

3248 div 4

Primes

32485 div 5

City Spies  
James Pontir

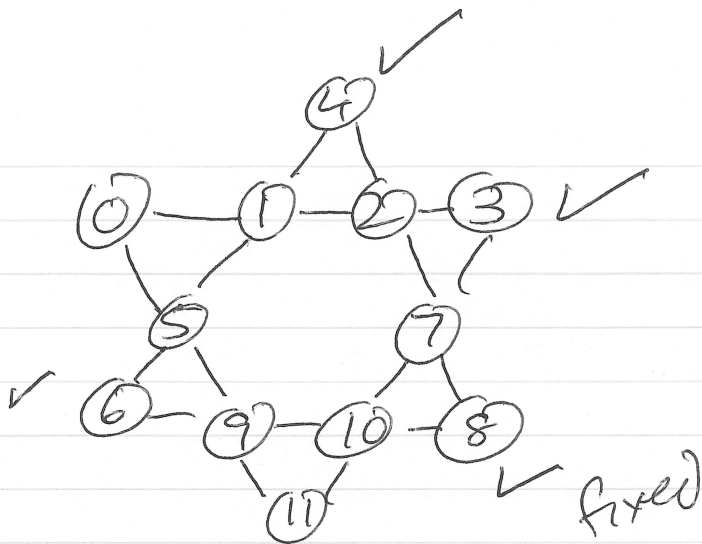
Hexagram

all 12 #s appear in  
exactly 2 rows

$$\sum 6 \text{ rows} = 2 \sum \#$$

$$\sum \text{row} = \frac{2 \sum \#}{6} = \frac{\sum \#}{3}$$

$$6x = 2a_1 + 2a_2 + 2a_3 + \dots + 2a_{12} \rightarrow x = \frac{2(a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_{12})}{6}$$



Rows = [0, 1, 2, 3]  
 [1, 4, 5, 6]  
 [2, 4, 7, 8]  
 [6, 8, 9, 10]  
 [0, 5, 9, 11]  
 [3, 7, 10, 11]

perm [0, 1, ..., 11]  
 nums {3, 17, ..., 13}

B.C.

if (conflict) return 0;