

Divide and Conquer

Divide and Conquer

- **Divide:** Decompose an instance of a problem into smaller instances of the same problem
- **Conquer:** Solve each subproblem (recursively)
- **Recombine** the subproblems' solutions into a solution to the original problem



Polynomial Multiplication

Problem: Given two polynomials $P(x), Q(x)$ of degree n , compute $R(x) = P(x) \cdot Q(x)$

Instance:

- The coefficients $p_0, p_1, \dots, p_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ of $P(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n p_i x^i$.
- The coefficients $q_0, q_1, \dots, q_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ of $Q(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n q_i x^i$.

Solution:

- The coefficients $r_0, r_1, \dots, r_{2n} \in \mathbb{Z}$ of

$$R(x) = P(x) \cdot Q(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{2n} r_i x^i.$$

(Assume that arithmetic operations can be performed in $O(1)$ time).

Example

$$P(x) = 1 + 2x + 3x^2$$

$$Q(x) = 3 + 0x + 5x^2$$

$$R(x) = P(x) \cdot Q(x) = 3 + 6x + 14x^2 + 10x^3 + 15x^4$$

How to compute $R(x)$ efficiently?

Intermission: A More General Problem

Given two binary operations \oplus, \otimes and two functions $f, g : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, the (\oplus, \otimes) -discrete convolution of f and g is a function $(f * g) : \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$ defined as:

$$(f * g)(n) = \bigoplus_{m=-\infty}^{+\infty} \left(f(n - m) \otimes g(m) \right)$$

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Consider the arrays P and Q associated with the polynomials $P(x)$ and $Q(x)$. Define $f(n) = p_n$, $g(n) = q_n$ (and 0 elsewhere). The $(+, \cdot)$ convolution of P and Q is:

$$r_n = (f * g)(n) = \sum_{m=0}^n p_{n-m} q_m$$

Back to Polynomials: A Trivial Solution

$$r_i = \sum_{j=0}^i p_{i-j} q_j$$

- For $i = 0, \dots, 2n$:
 - $r_i \leftarrow 0$
 - For $j = \max\{0, i - n\}, \dots, \min\{i, n\}$:
 - $r_i \leftarrow r_i + p_{i-j} \cdot q_j$

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Time Complexity: $\Theta(n^2)$

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Can we do better?

Divide and Conquer: First Attempt

- Write P as: $P(x) = P'(x) + P''(x) \cdot x^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$, where:

$$P'(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} p_i x^i \quad \text{and} \quad P''(x) = \sum_{i=1+\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^n p_i x^{i-\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$$

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$$P(x) \cdot Q(x) = (P'(x) + P''(x) \cdot x^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}) \cdot (Q'(x) + Q''(x) \cdot x^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor})$$

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$$\begin{aligned} P(x) \cdot Q(x) &= (P'(x) + P''(x) \cdot x^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}) \cdot (Q'(x) + Q''(x) \cdot x^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}) \\ &= P'(x)Q'(x) + (P'(x)Q''(x) + P''(x)Q'(x))x^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} + P''(x)Q''(x)x^{2\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \end{aligned}$$

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The problem of computing the product of two polynomials of degree n is reduced to that of computing 4 products of polynomials of degree $\approx n/2$.

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Recurrence Equation:

$$T(n) = 4T(n/2) + O(n) \leftarrow$$



$O(n)$ time is needed to decompose the polynomials and to recombine the 4 sub-products.

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$$U = P'(x)Q'(x) \quad V = P''(x)Q''(x)$$

$$W = (P'(x) + P''(x))(Q'(x) + Q''(x))$$

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$$P'(x)Q'(x) + \underbrace{(P'(x)Q''(x) + P''(x)Q'(x))}_{\downarrow} x^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} + P''(x)Q''(x)x^{2\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$$

\downarrow \downarrow \downarrow

U V

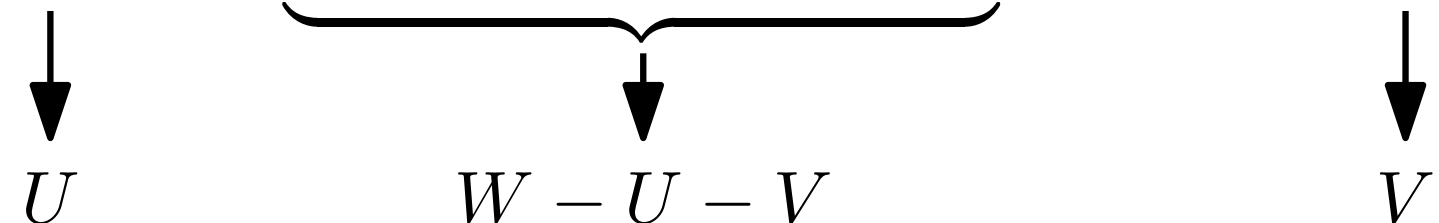
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U $W - U - V$ V

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Only requires 3 multiplications \implies 3 subproblems of size $\sim n/2$

Divide and Conquer: Second Attempt

- **Divide:**

$$U = P'(x) \cdot Q'(x) \quad (\text{subproblem 1})$$

$$V = P''(x) \cdot Q''(x) \quad (\text{subproblem 2})$$

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- **Conquer:** Compute U, V, W recursively

- **Recombine:** $U + (W - U - V)x^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} + Vx^{2\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$



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Solution: $O(n^{\log_2 3}) = O(n^{1.585})$



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Trick/Technique: Divide and Conquer

Decompose an instance into smaller instances of the same problem.

Solve recursively and recombine the solutions.

Recursion & Memoization

Fibonacci Numbers

Definition: $F_0 = 0$, $F_1 = 1$, and $F_i = F_{i-1} + F_{i-2}$ for $i > 1$

Problem: Given $n \in \mathbb{N}$, compute F_n

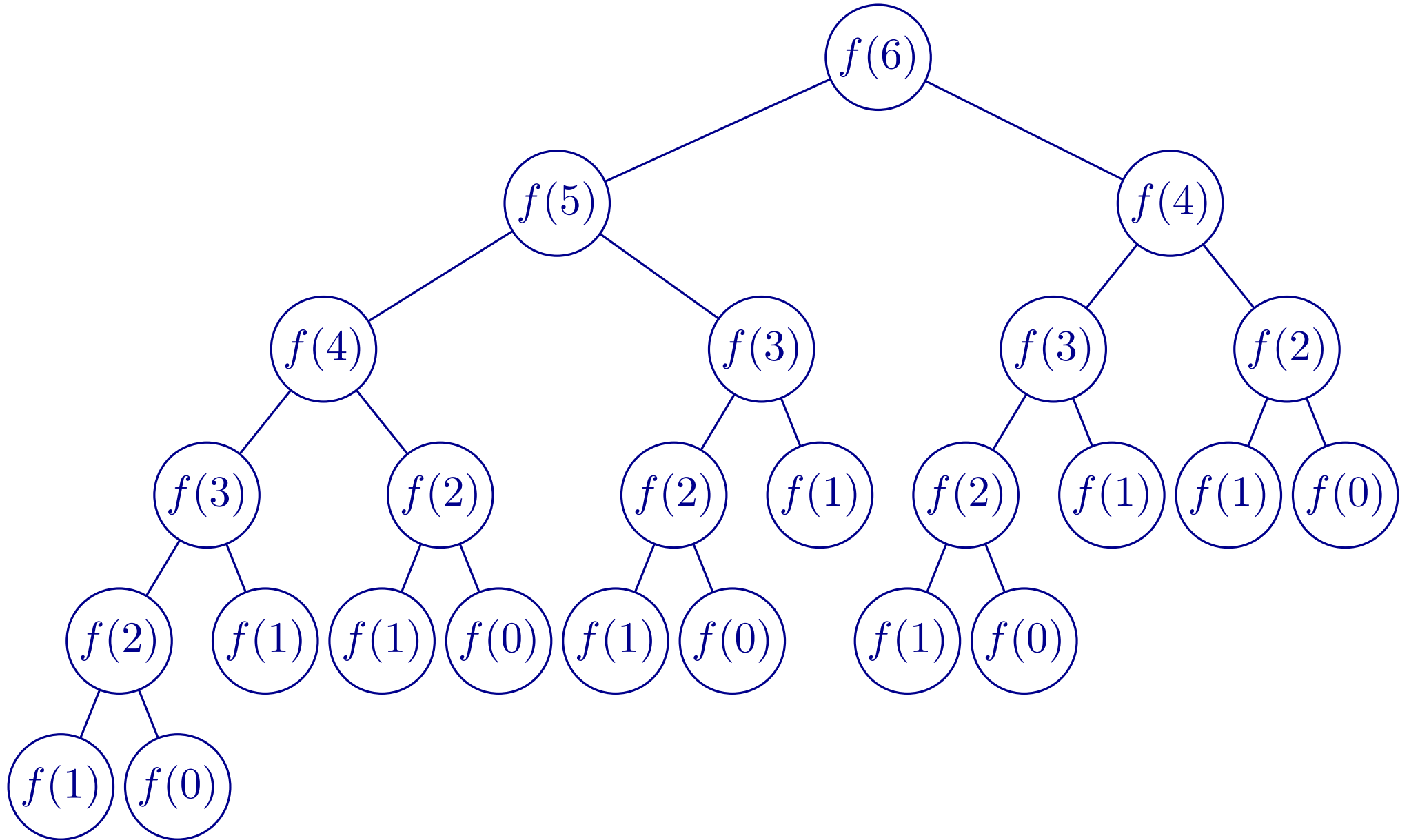
A trivial **recursive** solution:

```
int fibonacci(int n)
{
    if (n <= 1)
        return n;

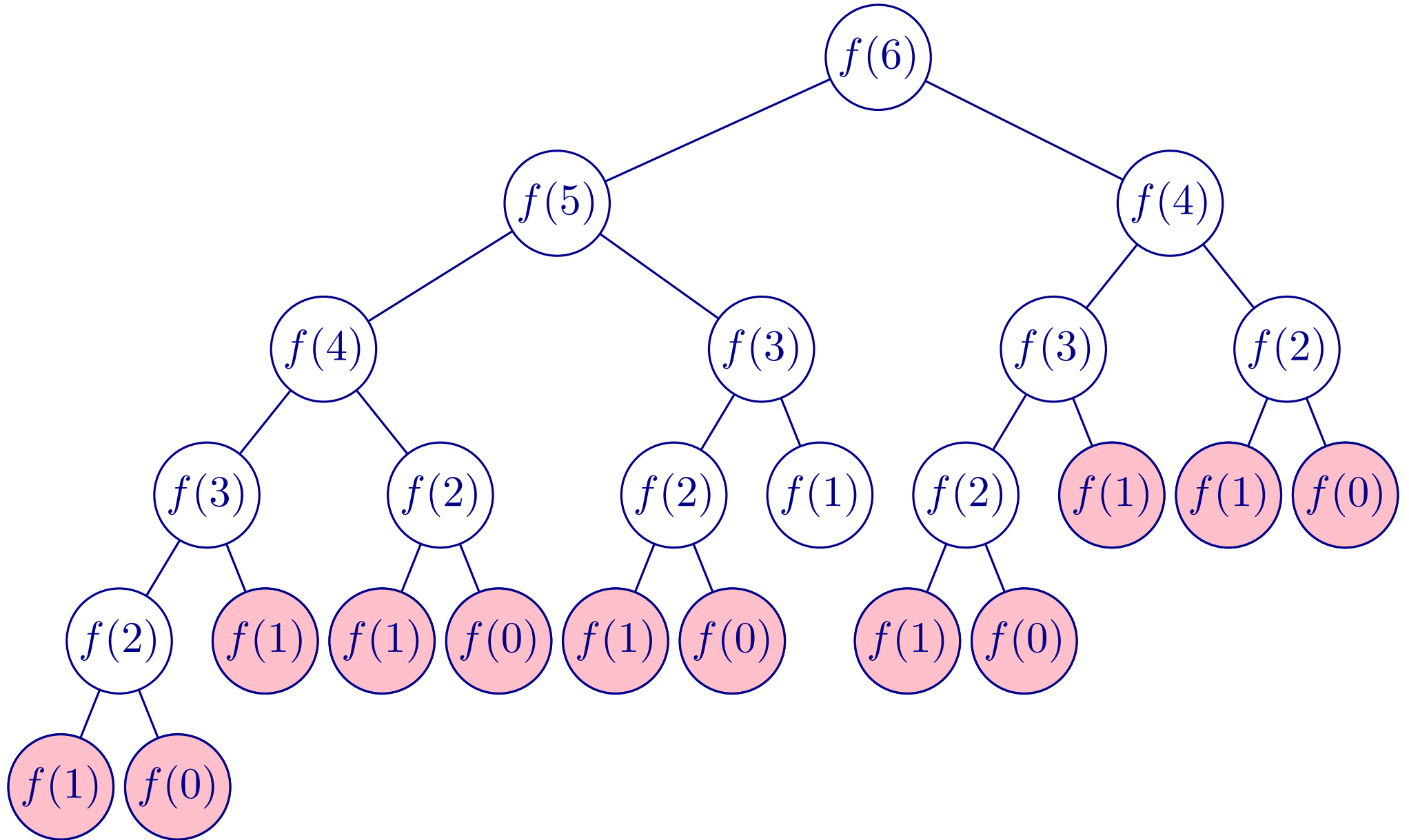
    return fibonacci(n-1) + fibonacci(n-2);
}
```

Computational complexity?

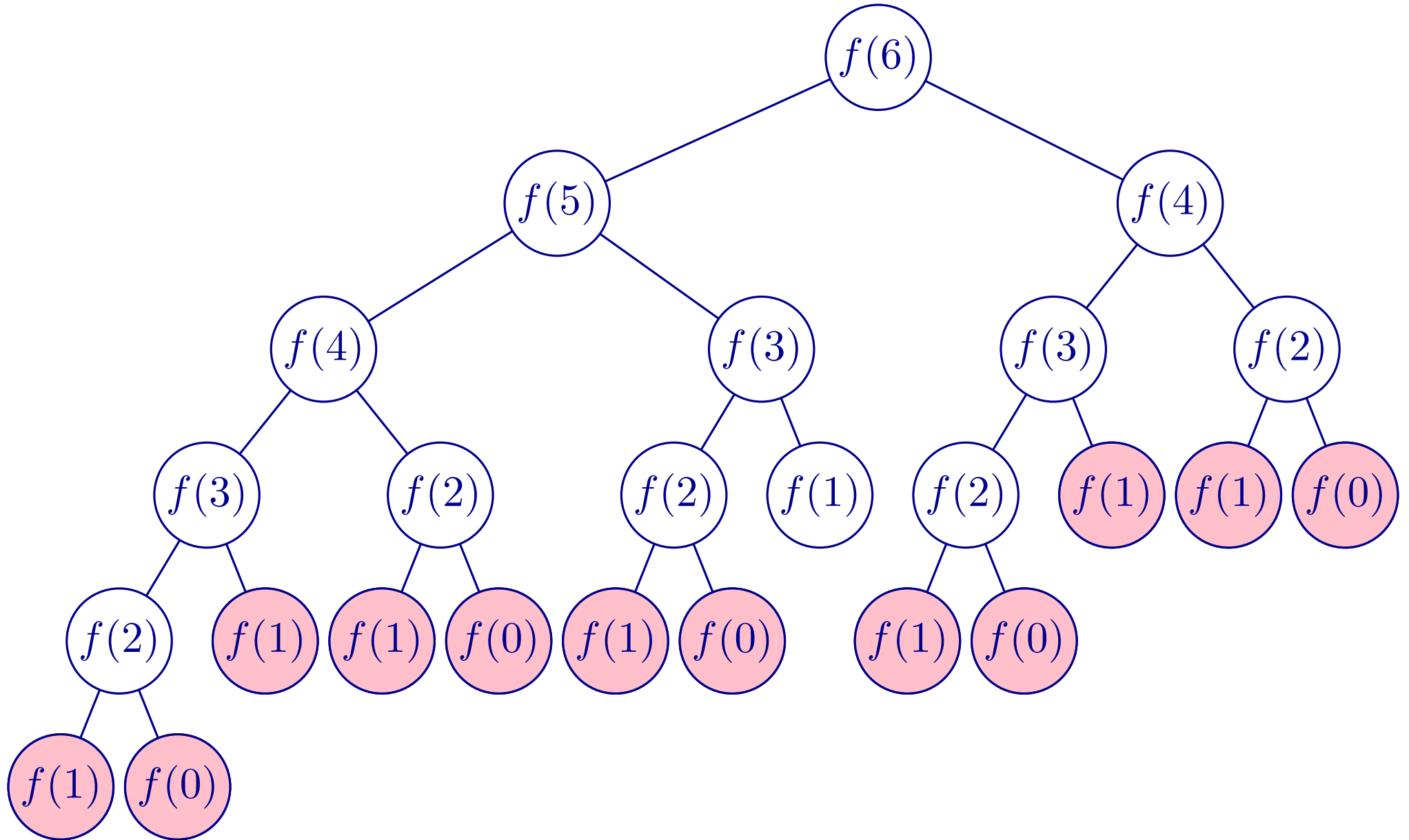
Fibonacci Numbers: Time Complexity



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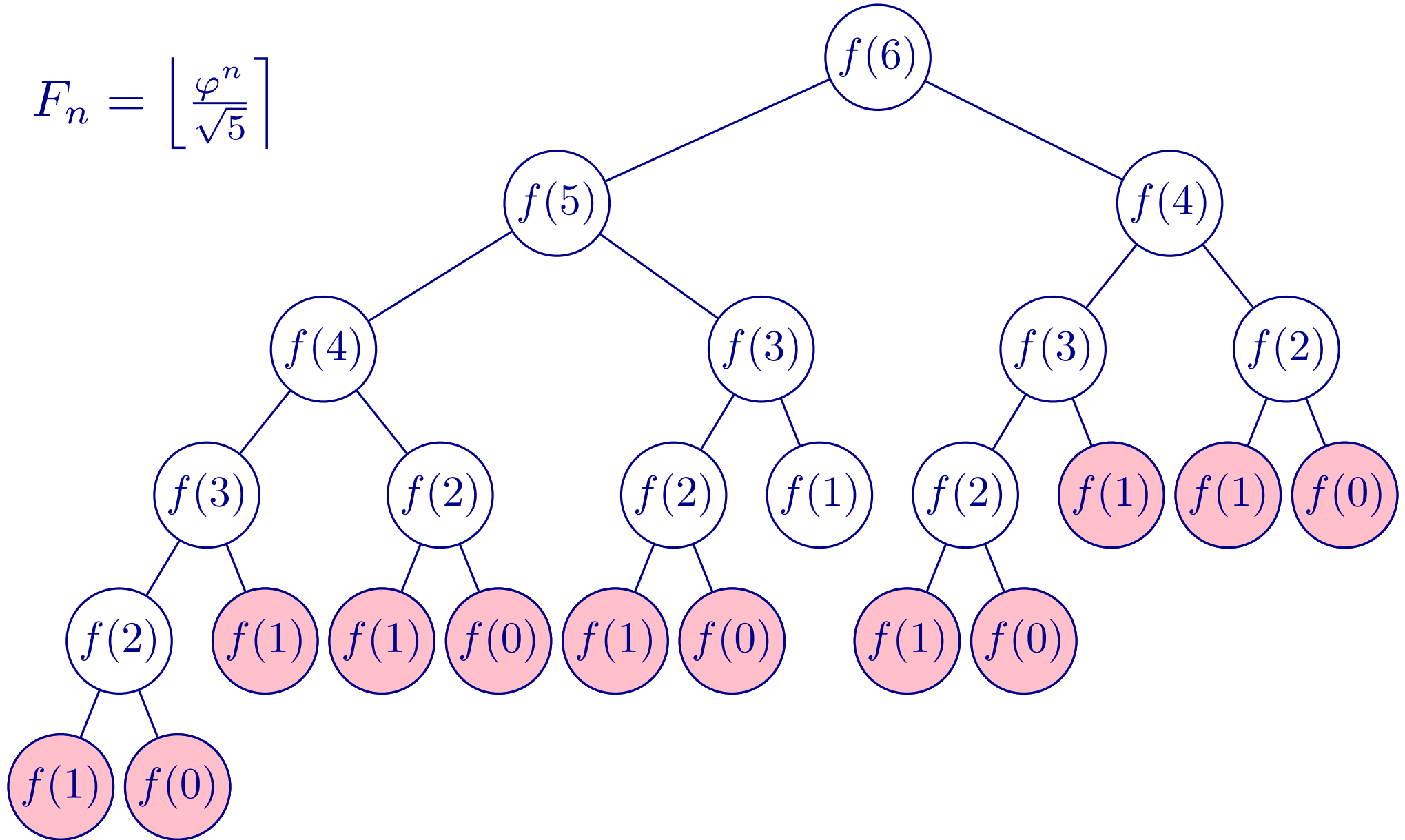
Fibonacci Numbers: Time Complexity



$$\text{Time} = \Theta(1) \cdot \# \text{Nodes} = \Theta(\# \text{Leaves}) = \Theta(F_n)$$

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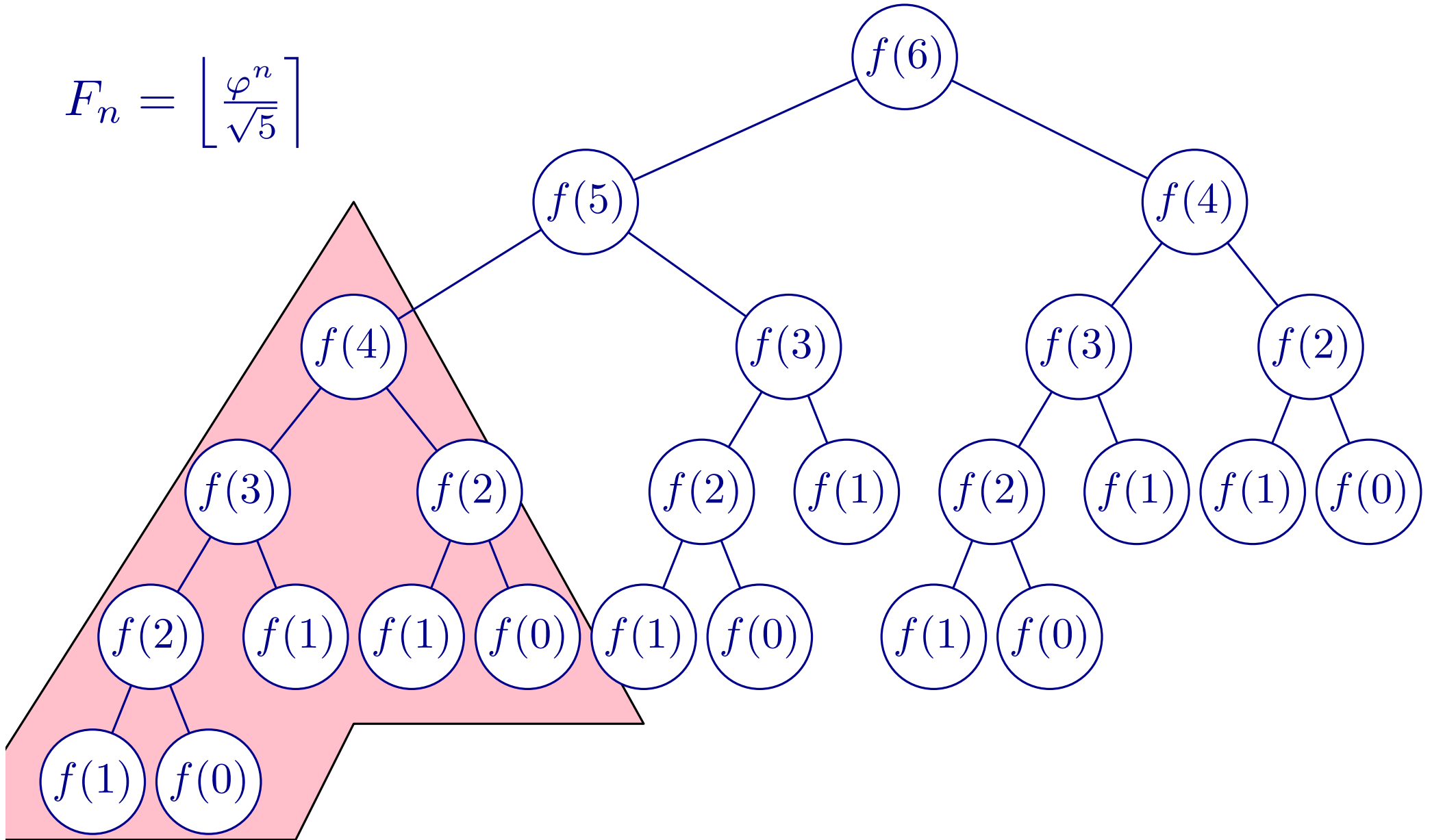
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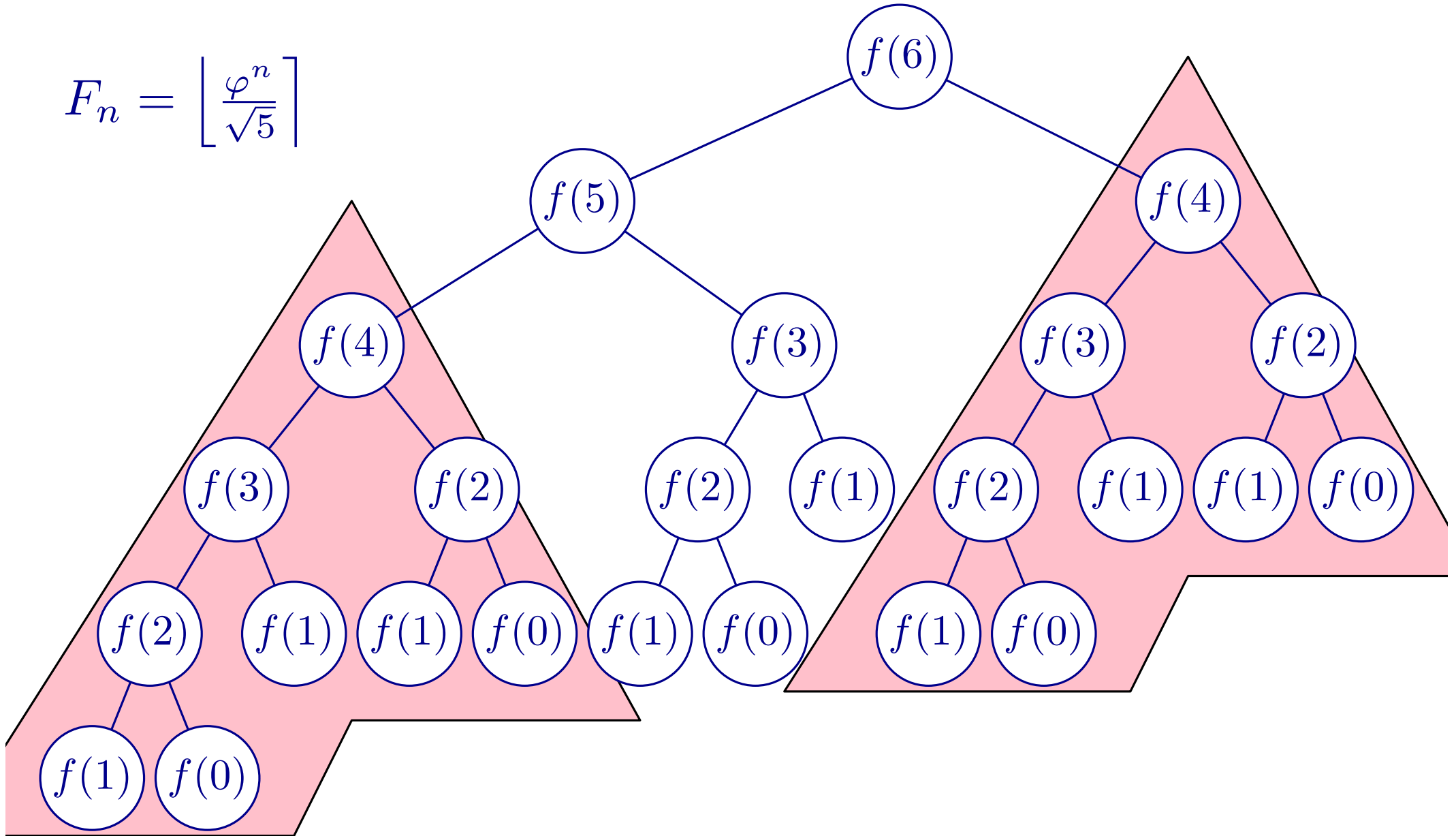
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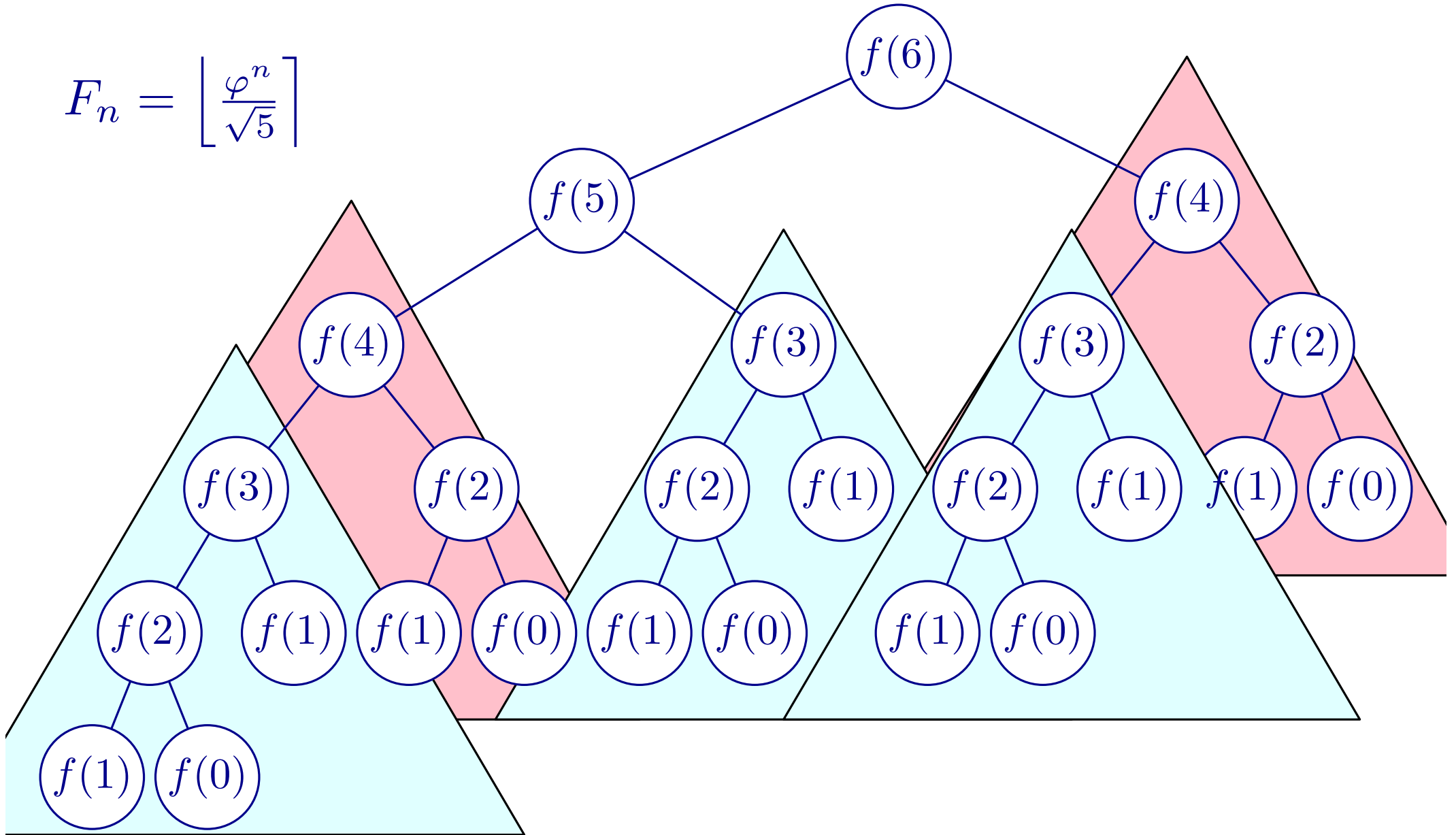
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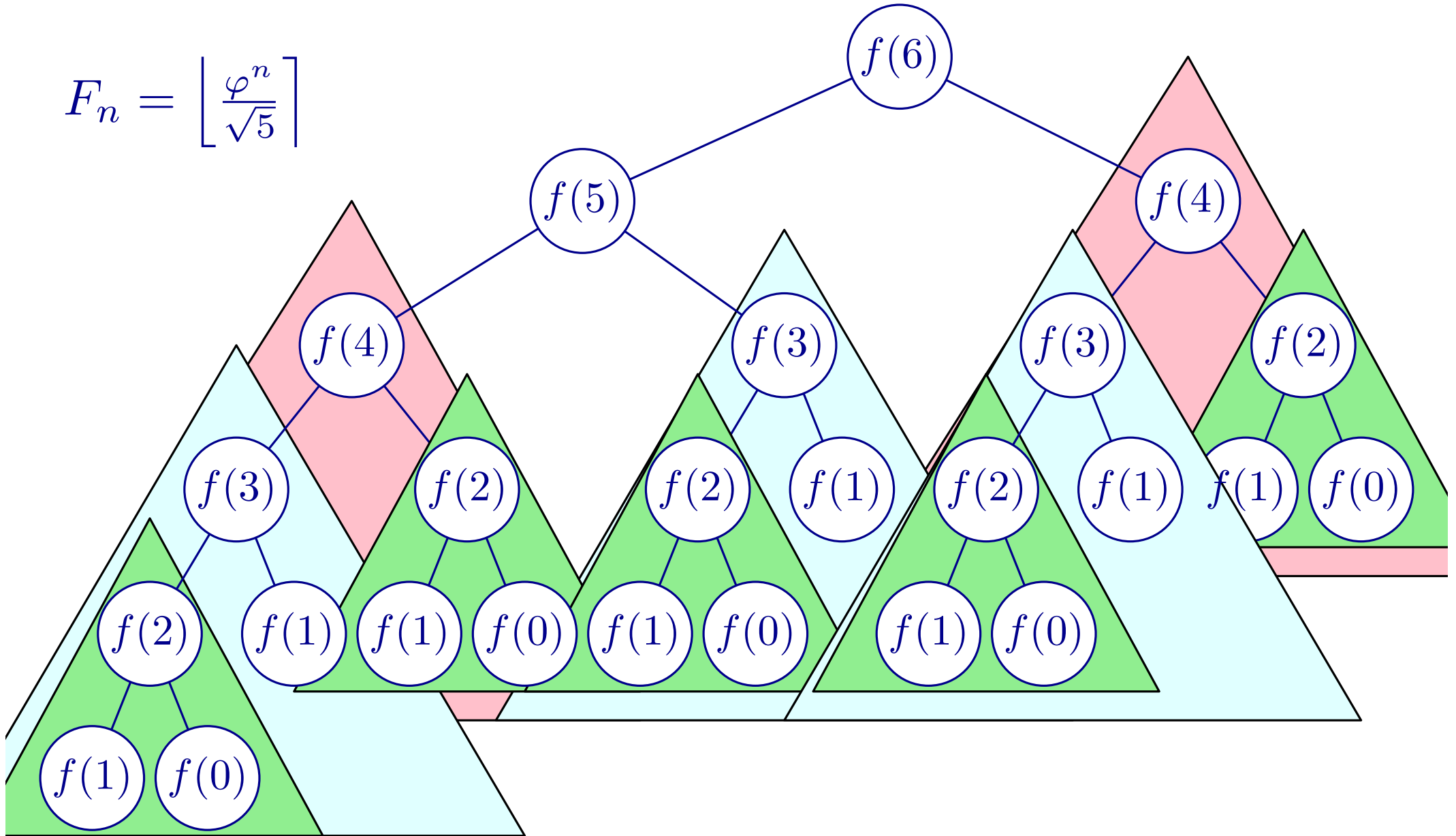
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Fibonacci Numbers: Memoization

Idea: Do not recompute duplicate values:

- Store values in memory
- If value is in memory, recall it
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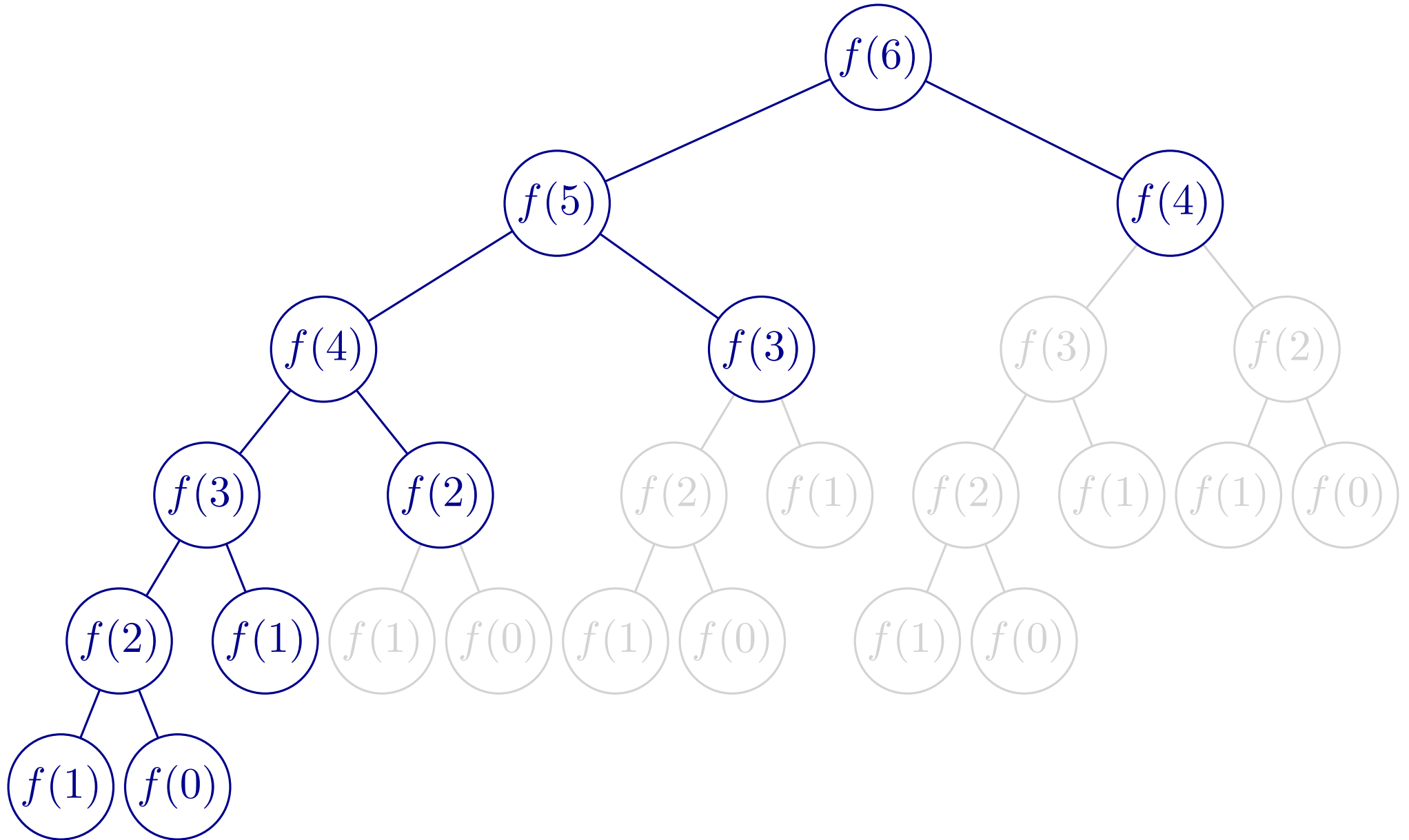
```
std::vector<int> memo(n+1, 0);

int fibonacci(int n)
{
    if(n<=1) return n;

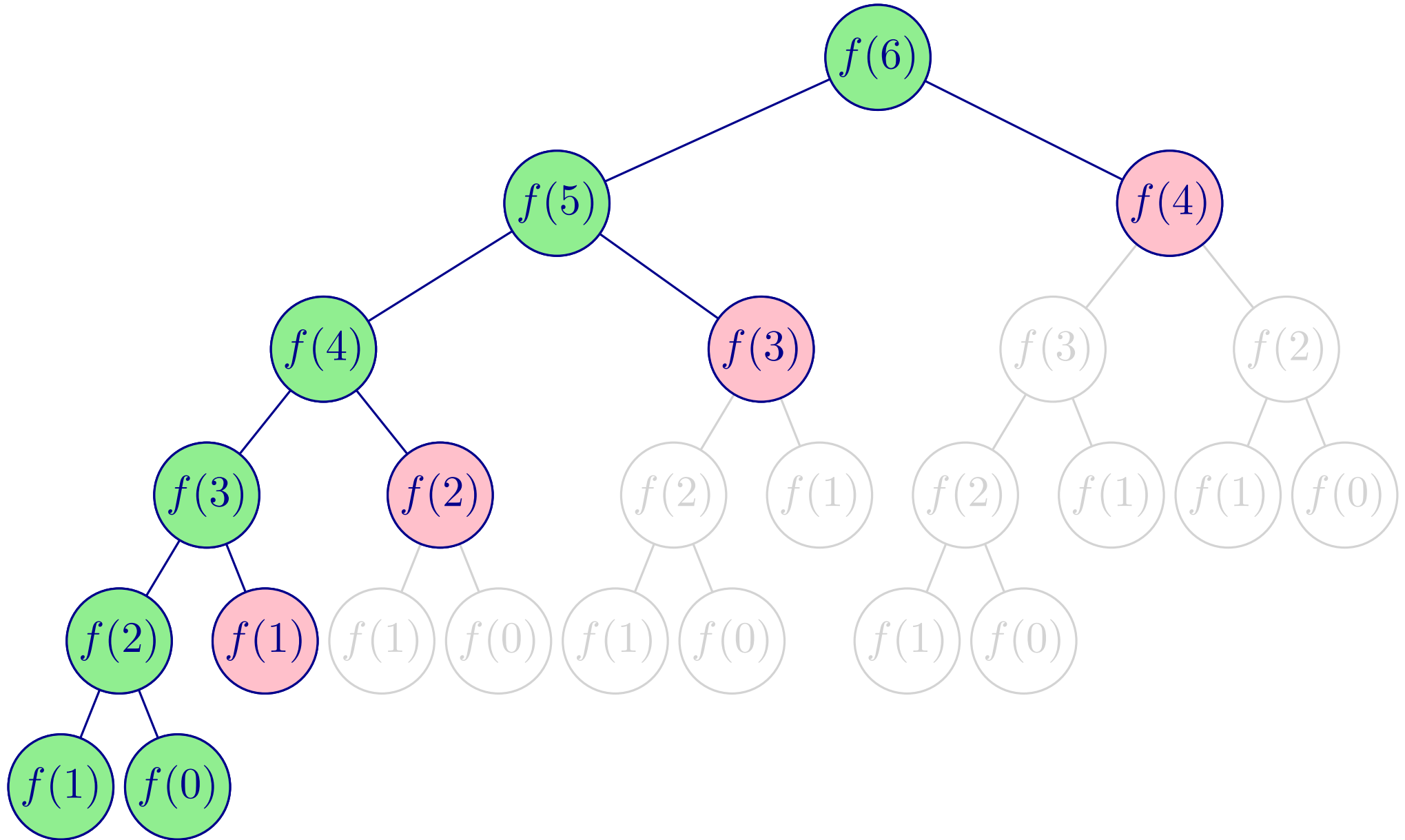
    if(memo[n]) return memo[n];

    memo[n] = fibonacci(n-1) + fibonacci(n-2);
    return memo[n];
}
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Time Complexity with Memoization



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- Design a recursive algorithm for the problem (hard)
- Add memoization (easy)

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Trick/Technique: Memoization

Avoid recomputing solutions to duplicate subproblems by storing results in memory.

Memoization: Pitfalls

Let $G_{-1} = G_0 = 1$, and $G_i = \begin{cases} 2G_{i-1} & \text{if } i \text{ is even} \\ G_{i-2} + 3 & \text{if } i \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$, for $i \geq 1$.

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std::vector<int> memo(n+1, 0);

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    return memo[n];
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Does this code work?

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```



Does this code work? **No! n can be -1!**

Solution: check base cases before the memo table.

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$G_0 = 0$, $G_1 = 1$, and $G_i = (G_{i-1} + G_{i-2} + 1) \bmod 2$, for $i \geq 1$.

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}
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Too slow! Why?

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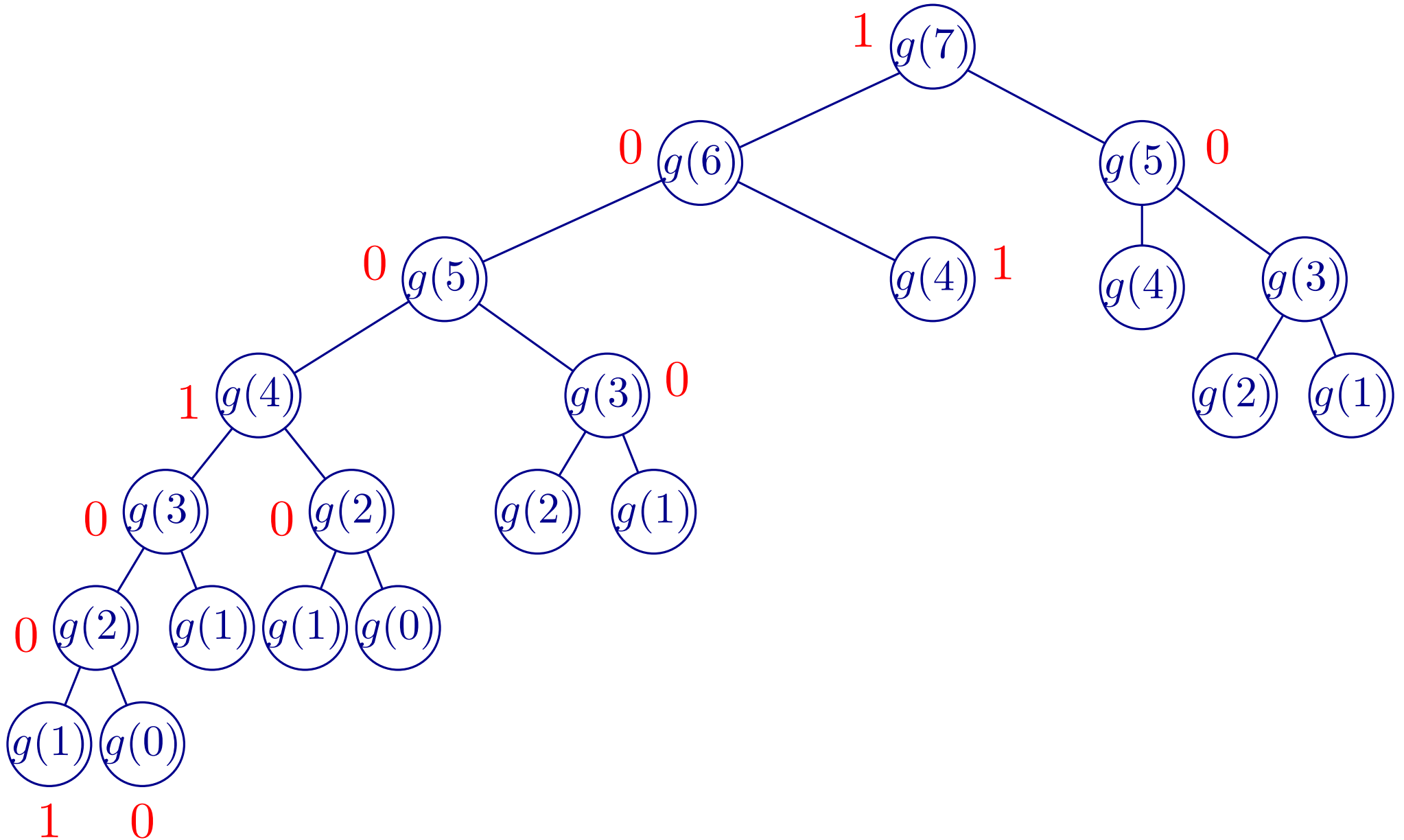
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Too slow! Why?

0 is a possible value of G_i !

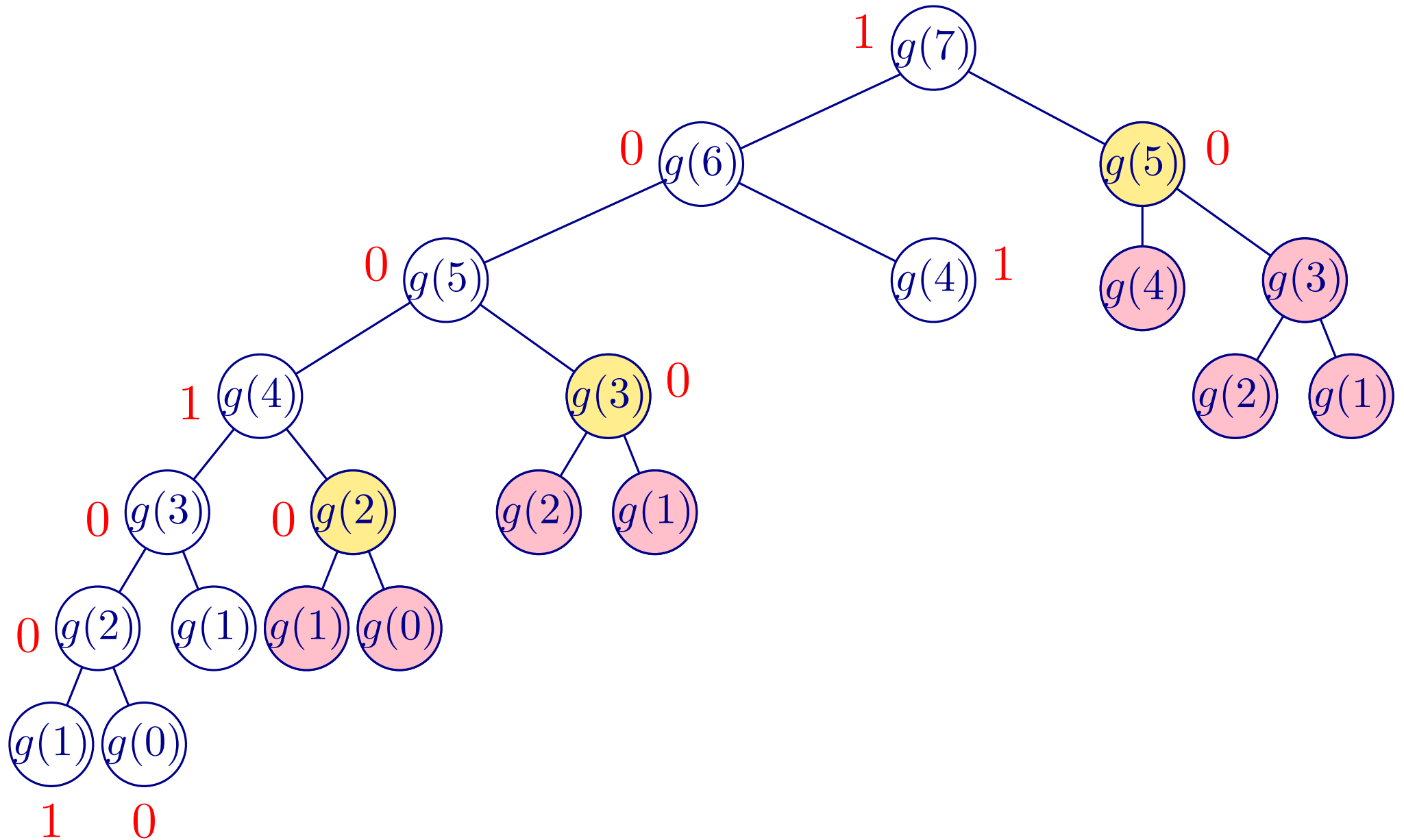
Memoization: Pitfalls

$n = 7$



Memoization: Pitfalls

$n = 7$



Dynamic Programming

Dynamic Programming

*I spent the Fall quarter (of 1950) at RAND. [...] We had a very interesting gentleman in Washington named Wilson. He was Secretary of Defense, and he actually had a pathological fear and hatred of the word research. [...] he would get violent if people used the term research in his presence. [...] The RAND Corporation was employed by the Air Force, and the Air Force had Wilson as its boss, essentially. Hence, I felt I had to do something to shield Wilson and the Air Force from the fact that I was really doing mathematics inside the RAND Corporation. [...] I decided therefore to use the word "programming". I wanted to get across the idea that this was dynamic, this was multistage, this was time-varying. [...] Let's take a word that has an absolutely precise meaning, namely dynamic, in the classical physical sense. It also has a very interesting property as an adjective, and that is it's impossible to use the word dynamic in a pejorative sense. [...] Thus, I thought **dynamic programming** was a good name. It was something not even a Congressman could object to.*



Richard E. Bellman,
Eye of the Hurricane: An Autobiography

Dynamic Programming: Idea

- Decompose a problem into a series of “overlapping” subproblems
- The solutions to the “smallest” subproblems are trivially known
- The optimal solution to a subproblem can be reconstructed from the optimal solutions of “smaller” subproblems
- Systematically solve subproblems in a suitable order (from the “smaller” to the “larger” ones)
- Eventually, either the solution to the original problem is explicitly computed or it can be reconstructed from the subproblem’s solutions

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- Decompose a problem into a series of “overlapping” subproblems (hard)
- The solutions to the “smallest” subproblems are trivially known (easy)
- The optimal solution to a subproblem can be reconstructed from the optimal solutions of “smaller” subproblems (hard)
- Systematically solve subproblems in a suitable order (from the “smaller” to the “larger” ones) (easy)
- Eventually, either the solution to the original problem is explicitly computed or it can be reconstructed from the subproblem’s solutions (easy)

Fibonacci, Revisited

- i -th subproblem: Compute the value of F_i
- Base cases: $i = 0, i = 1$.
- Compute F_i in increasing order of i : $F_i = F_{i-1} + F_{i-2}$
- Both F_{i-1} and F_{i-2} are already known when F_i is considered.
- Solution: F_n

```
std::vector<int> F(n+1);  
F[0]=0; F[1]=1;  
  
for(int i=2; i<=n; i++)  
    F[i] = F[i-1] + F[i-2];  
  
return F[n];
```

Fibonacci, Revisited

Trick to reduce space:

- Once we compute F_i , the values F_0, \dots, F_{i-2} will not be used anymore.
- Keep track of just two values x_0, x_1 .
- At the end of iteration i , $F_i = x_{i \bmod 2}$ and $F_{i-1} = x_{(i-1) \bmod 2}$.

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int x[2] = {0, 1};

for(int i=2; i<=n; i++)
    x[i%2] = x[(i-1)%2] + x[(i-2)%2];

return x[n%2];
```

Fibonacci, Revisited

Trick to reduce space:

- Once we compute F_i , the values F_0, \dots, F_{i-2} will not be used anymore.
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F_i

F_{i-1} F_{i-2}

Drink as much as possible

Robert wants to drink as much as possible.

- Robert walks through the streets of King's Landing and encounters n taverns t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n , in order
- When Robert encounters a tavern t_i , he can either stop for a drink or continue walking
- The wine served in tavern t_i has strength $s_i \in \mathbb{N}$ (the higher, the stronger)
- The strength of Robert's drinks must increase over time
- **Goal:** Compute the maximum number of drinking stops of Robert

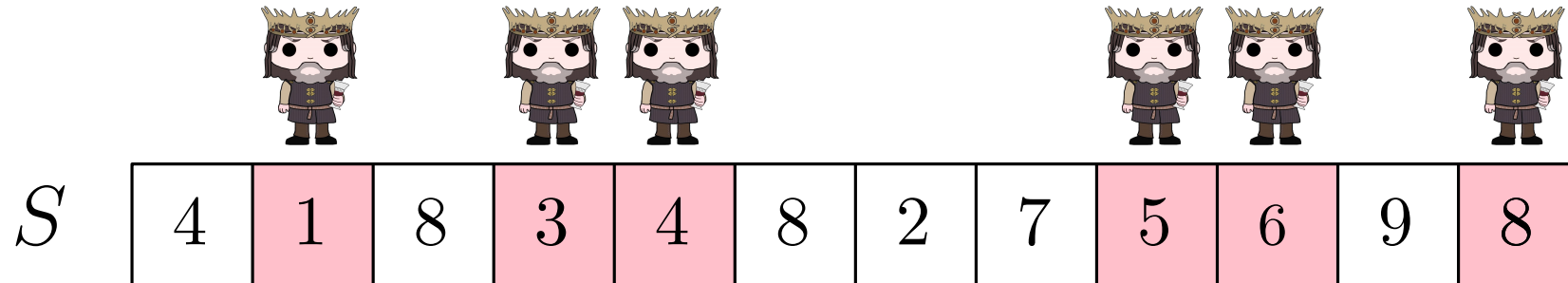


Example

S

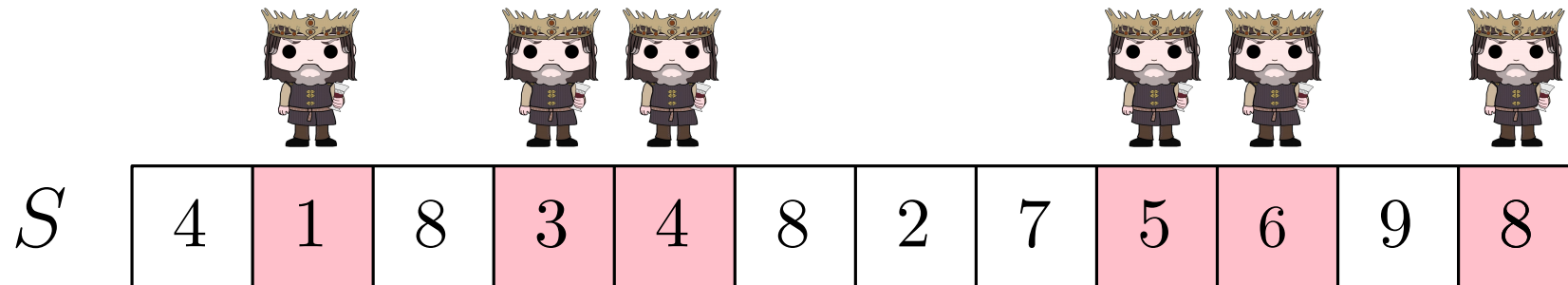
4	1	8	3	4	8	2	7	5	6	9	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Example



Solution: 6

Example



Solution: 6

This is a classic problem known as:
Longest Increasing Subsequence (LIS)

A DP Algorithm: First Attempt

- Subproblem definition

$$OPT[i] = \text{Length of the LIS in } S[1], \dots, S[i]$$

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$$OPT[i] = \text{Length of the LIS in } S[1], \dots, S[i]$$

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$$OPT[1] = 1$$

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$$OPT[n]$$

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- Recursive formula



A DP Algorithm: Second Attempt

Tip: Sometimes adding constraints to subproblems helps!

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OPT	1	1	2	2	3	4	2	4				

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Possible lengths: 3

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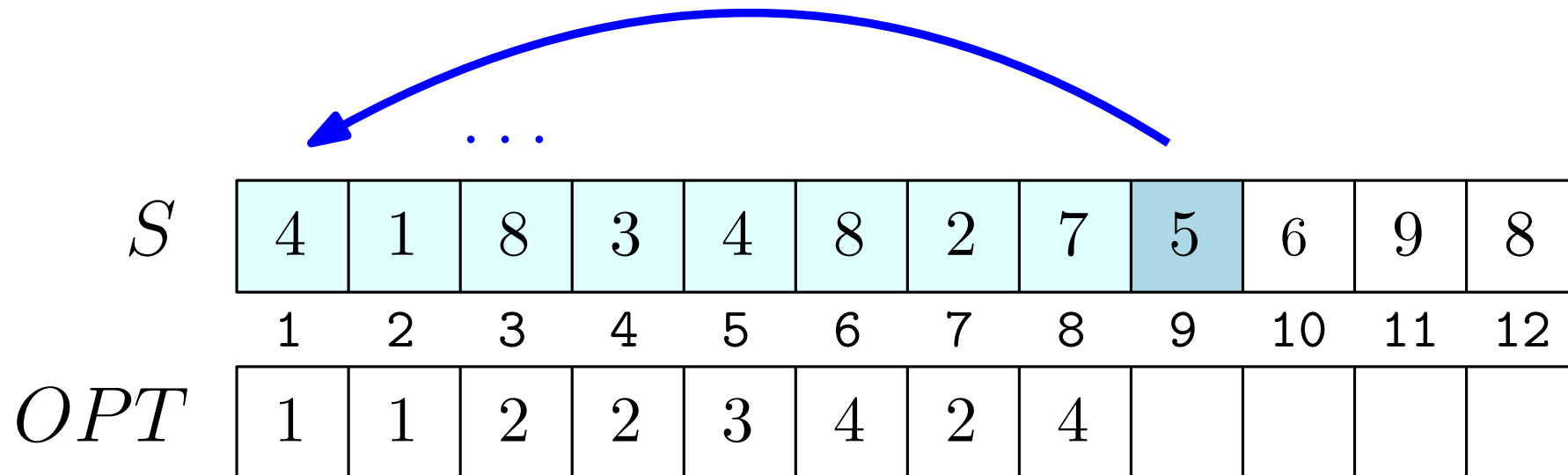
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Possible lengths: 3 4 3 2 2

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Possible lengths: 3 4 3 2 2 1

Sequence containing only $S[i]$

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OPT	1	1	2	2	3	4	2	4	4			

Possible lengths: 3 4 3 2 2 1 $OPT[9] = 4$

Sequence containing only $S[i]$

The Dynamic Programming Algorithm

- Subproblem definition

$$OPT[i] = \text{Length of the LIS that ends with } S[i]$$

- Base cases

$$OPT[1] = 1$$

- Recursive formula

$$OPT[i] = \max \left\{ 1, 1 + \max_{\substack{j=1, \dots, i-1 \\ S[j] < S[i]}} OPT[j] \right\}$$

- Subproblems' order

$$OPT[1], OPT[2], \dots, OPT[n]$$

- Solution:

$$\max_{i=1, \dots, n} OPT[i]$$

Time Complexity

- $O(n)$ subproblems
- Base cases are handled in constant time
- $OPT[i]$ is computed in time $\Theta(i)$

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$$OPT[i] = \max \left\{ 1, 1 + \max_{\substack{j=1, \dots, i-1 \\ S[j] < S[i]}} OPT[j] \right\}$$

Overall time: $O\left(\sum_{i=1}^n i\right) = O(n^2)$.

A possible implementation (DP)

```
std::vector<int> OPT(n+1);
OPT[1]=1;

for(int i=2; i<=n; i++)
{
    OPT[i]=1;
    for(int j=1; j<i; j++)
        if(S[j] < S[i])
            OPT[i] = std::max(OPT[i], 1+OPT[j]);
}

return std::max_element(OPT.begin()+1, OPT.end());
```

A possible implementation (Memo)

```
std::vector<int> memo(n+1, 0);

int LIS(std::vector &S, int i)
{
    if(i==1) return 1;

    if(memo[i]) return memo[i];

    int r=1;
    for(int j=1; j<i; j++)
        if(S[j]<S[i])
            r=std::max(r, 1+LIS(S, j));

    return memo[i]=r;
}
```

Memoization vs. DP

- ✓ Top-Down approach (more intuitive)
- ✓ Easier to index subproblems by other objects (e.g., sets).
- ✓ Only computes necessary subproblems
- ✗ Function calls overhead
- ✗ Call stack (recursion depth) is bounded
- ✗ Time complexity is harder to analyze

- ✗ Bottom-Up approach (harder to grasp)
- ✗ Need to index subproblems with integers
- ✗ Always computes all subproblems
- ✓ No recursion. Less overhead. More cache efficient.
- ✓ Short and clean code
- ✓ Time complexity analysis is easy(/ier)

Another DP Algorithm for LIS

- Subproblem definition

$OPT[i, \ell]$ = Index j of the smallest element $S[j]$ with $j \leq i$ that ends an increasing subsequence of length ℓ , or \perp if no such subsequence exists

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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$$OPT[8, 2] =$$

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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$$OPT[8, 2] = 7$$

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$$OPT[8, 2] = 7$$

$$OPT[8, 3] = 5$$

$$OPT[8, 5] = \perp$$

Computing $OPT[i, \ell]$

- If $OPT[i - 1, \ell - 1] = \perp$:

$$OPT[i, \ell] = \perp \quad (= OPT[i - 1, \ell])$$

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The above two cases can be merged into a single case.

Computing $OPT[i, \ell]$

- If $OPT[i - 1, \ell - 1] = \perp$ or $S[i] \leq S[OPT[i - 1, \ell - 1]]$

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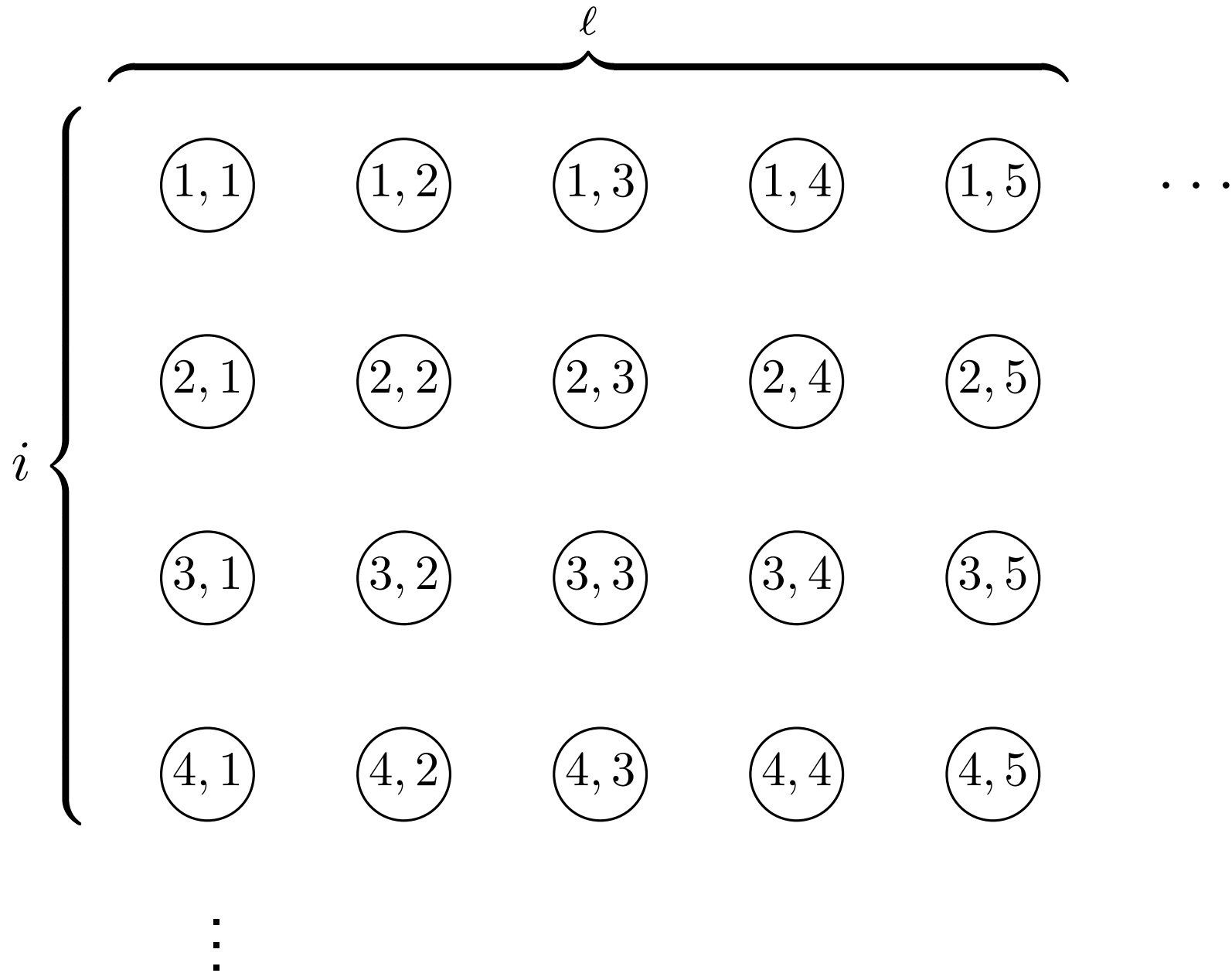
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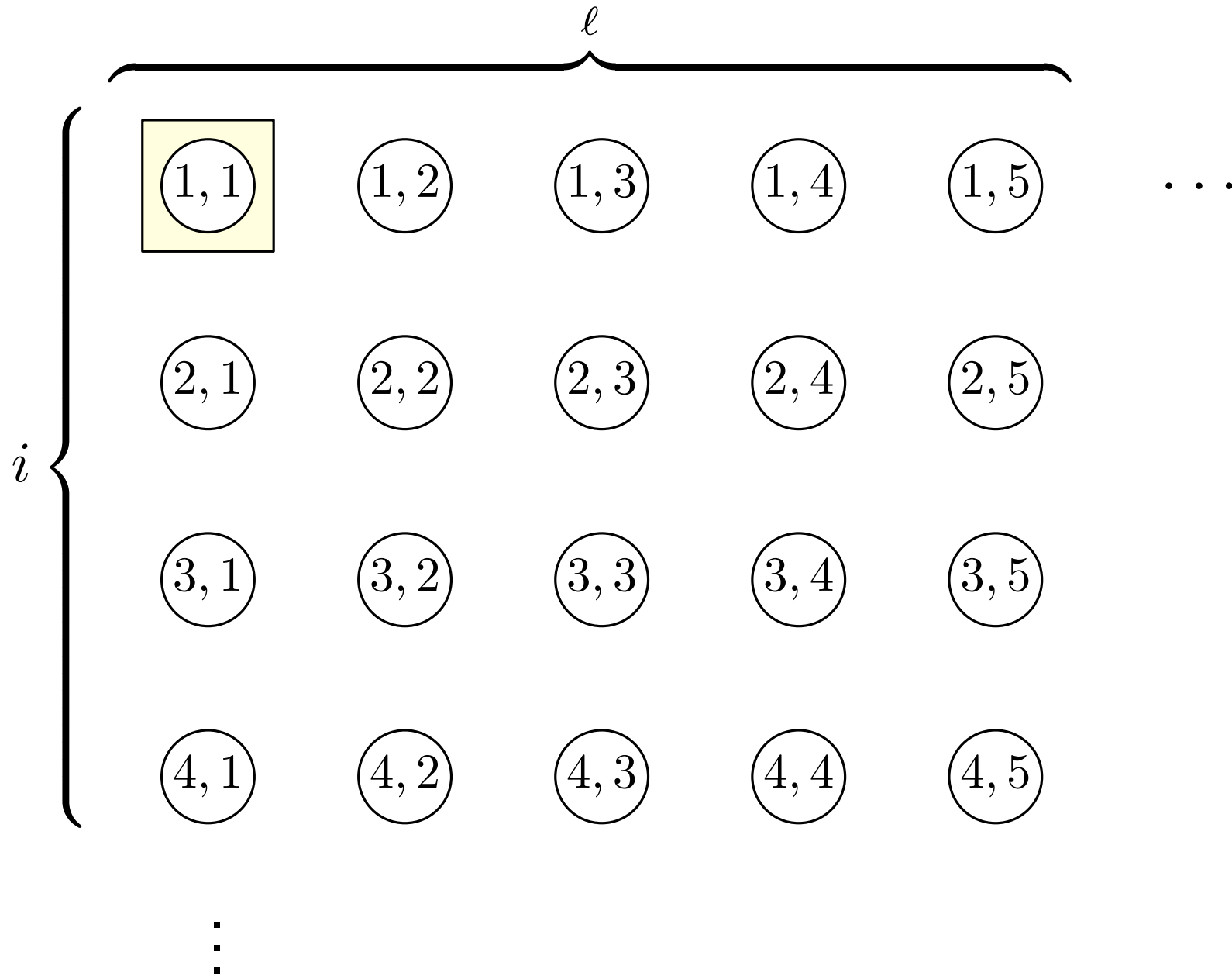
- Solution:

$$\max\{\ell = 1, \dots, n \mid OPT[n, \ell] \neq \perp\}$$

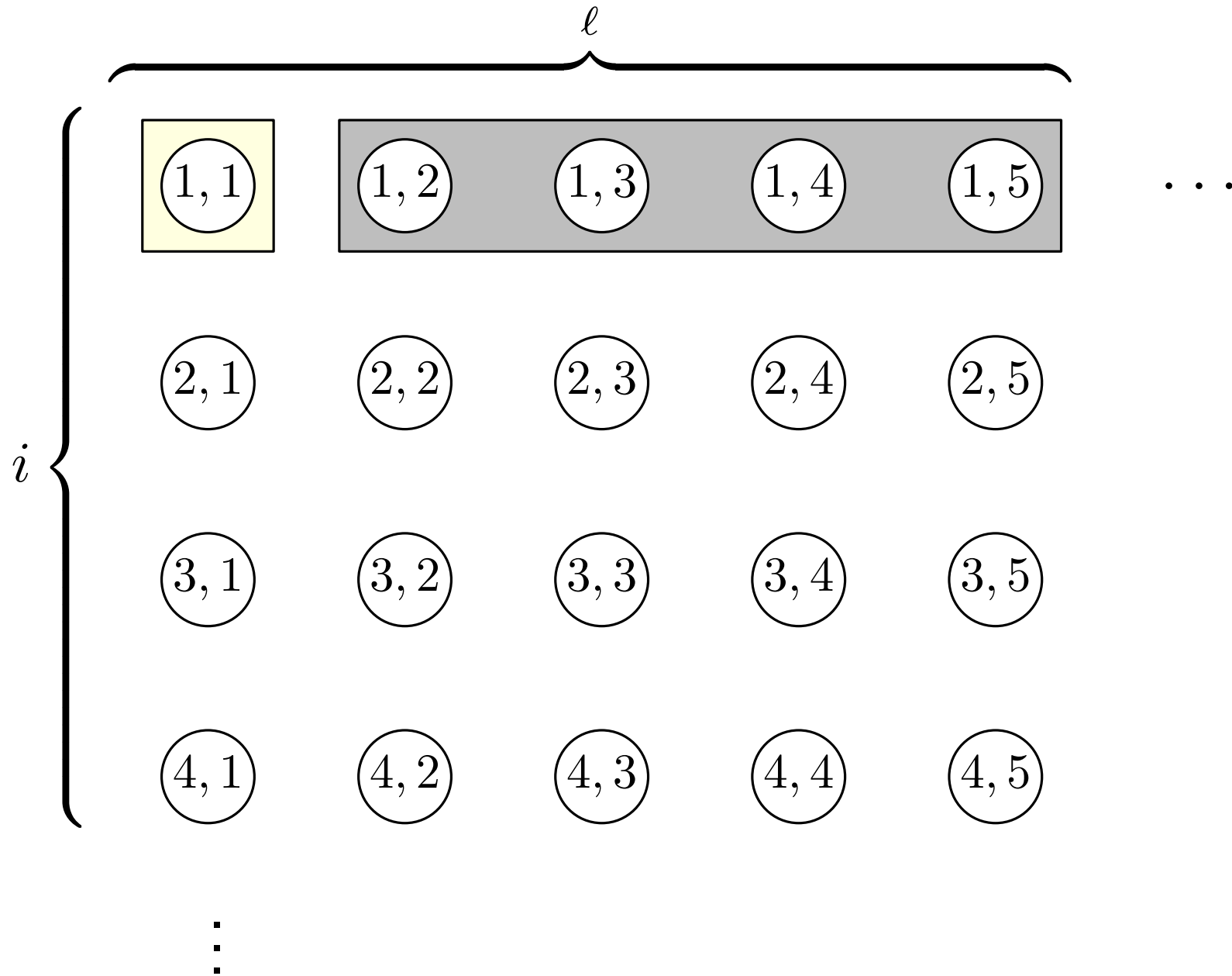
Base Cases / Order of Subproblems



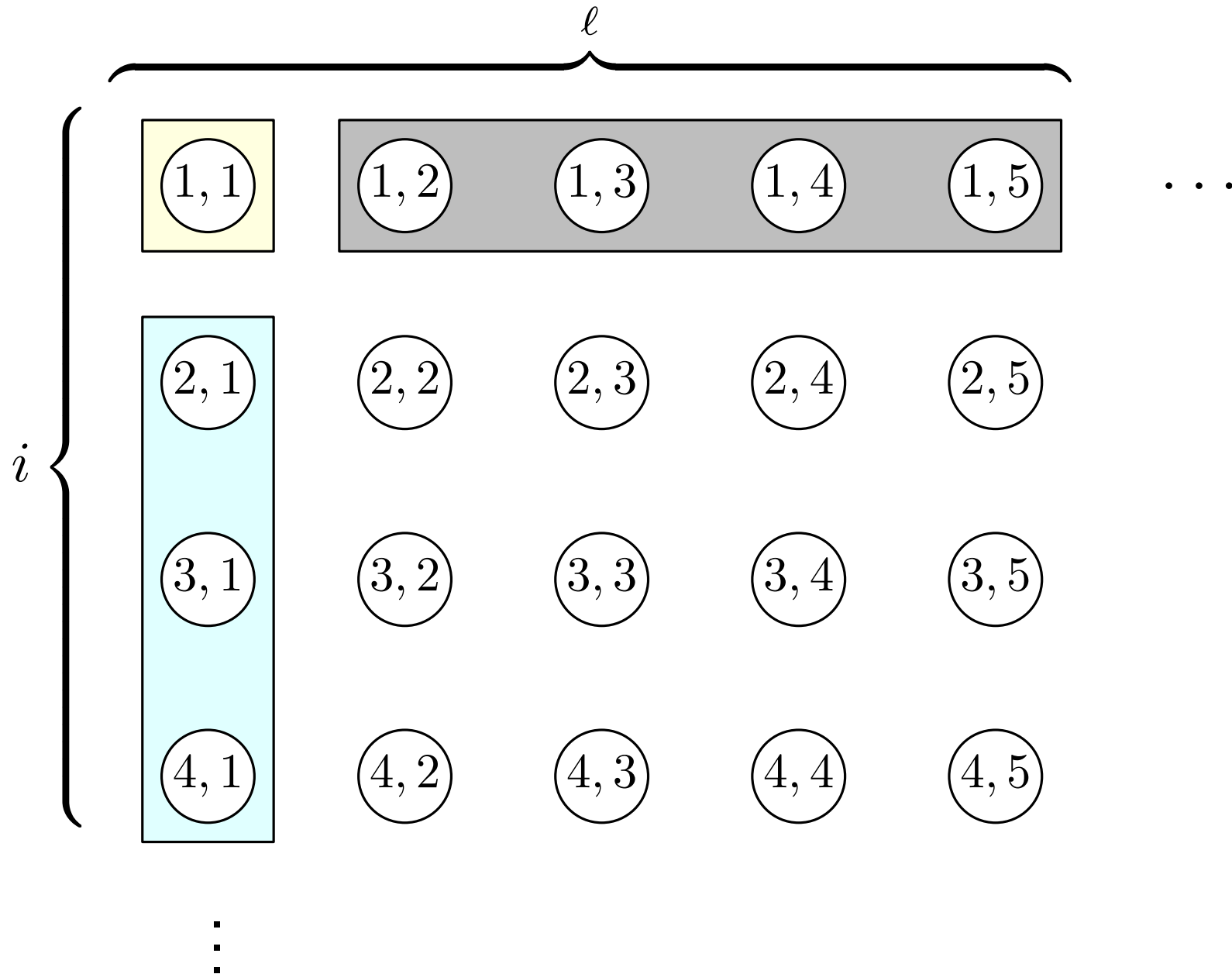
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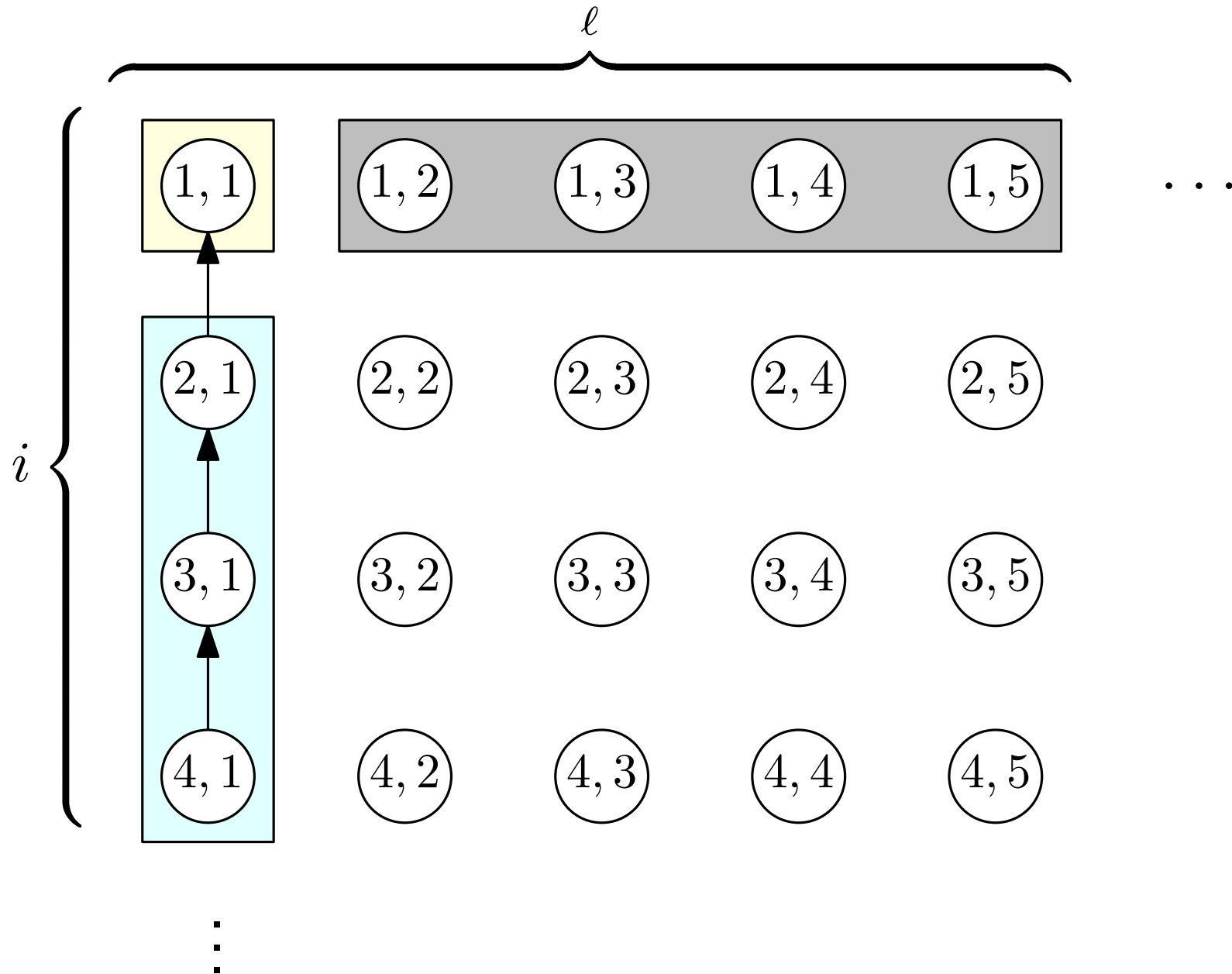
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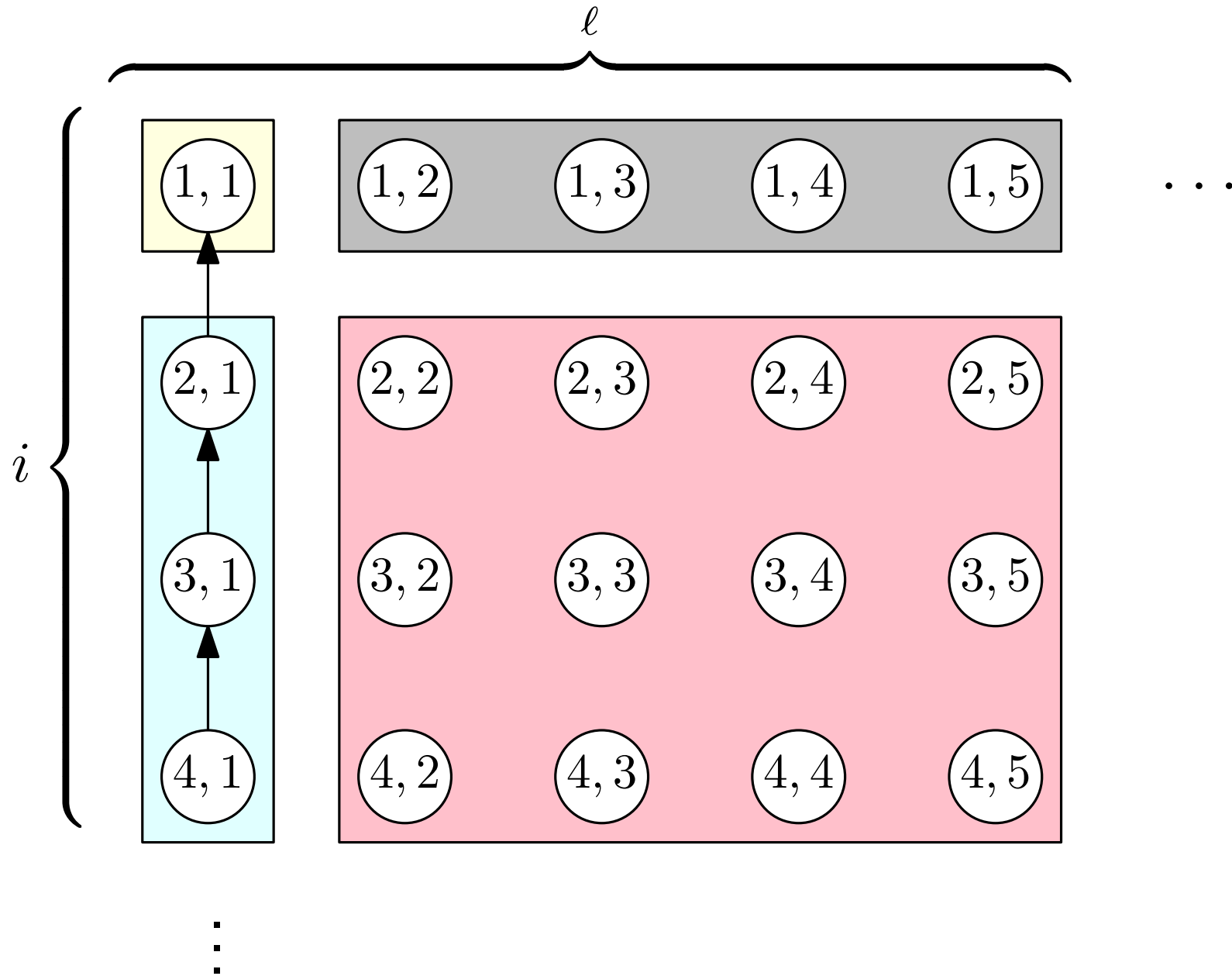
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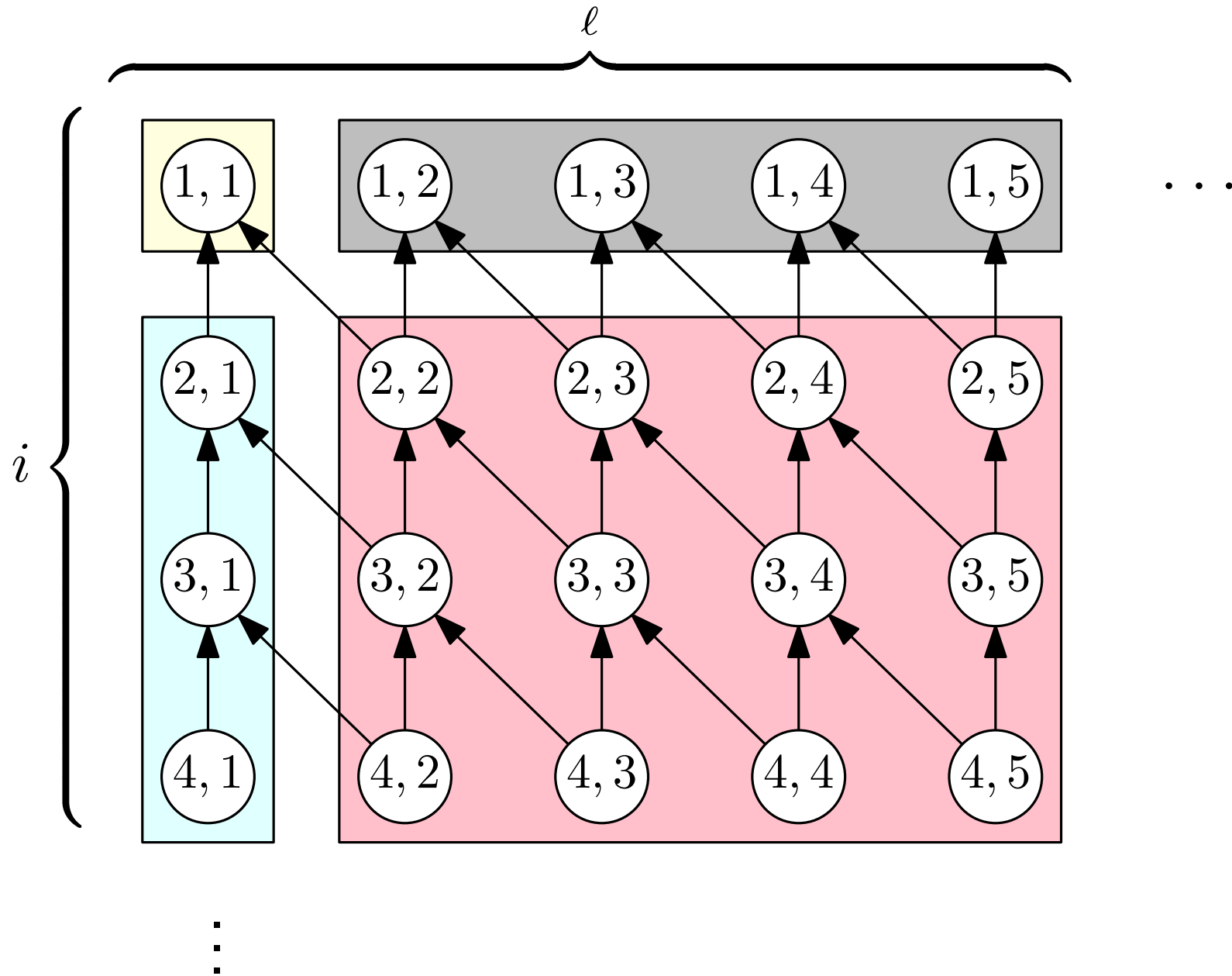
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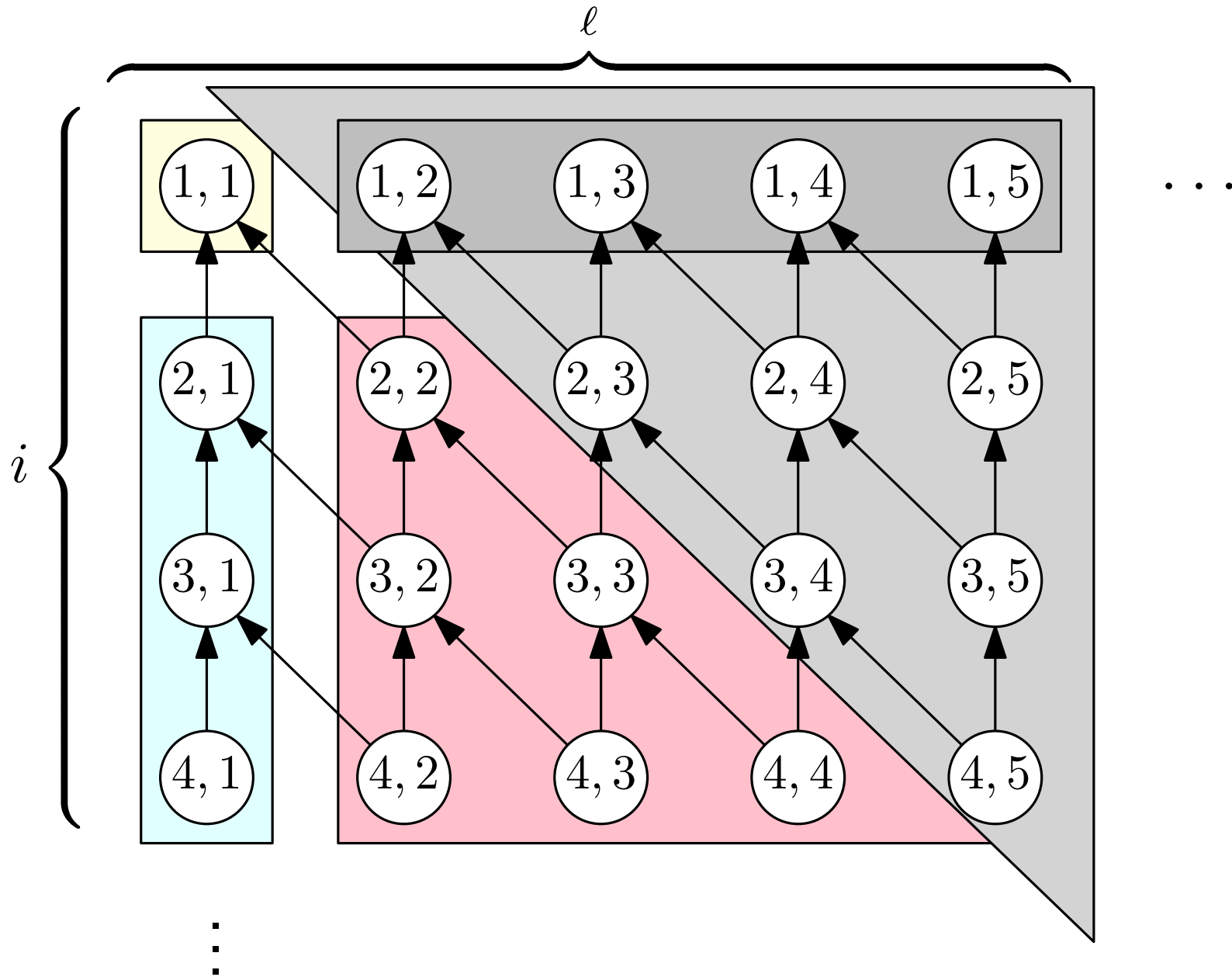
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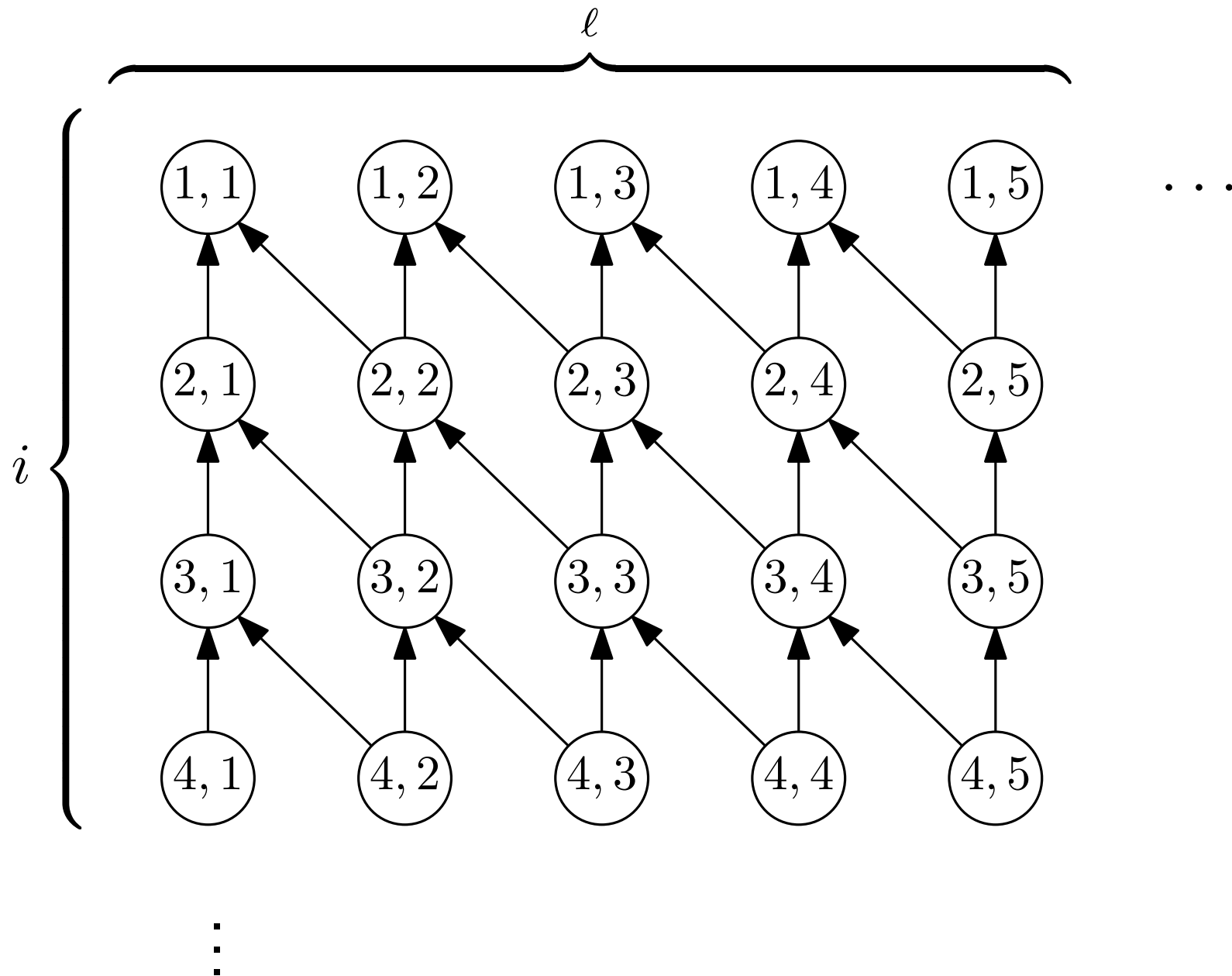
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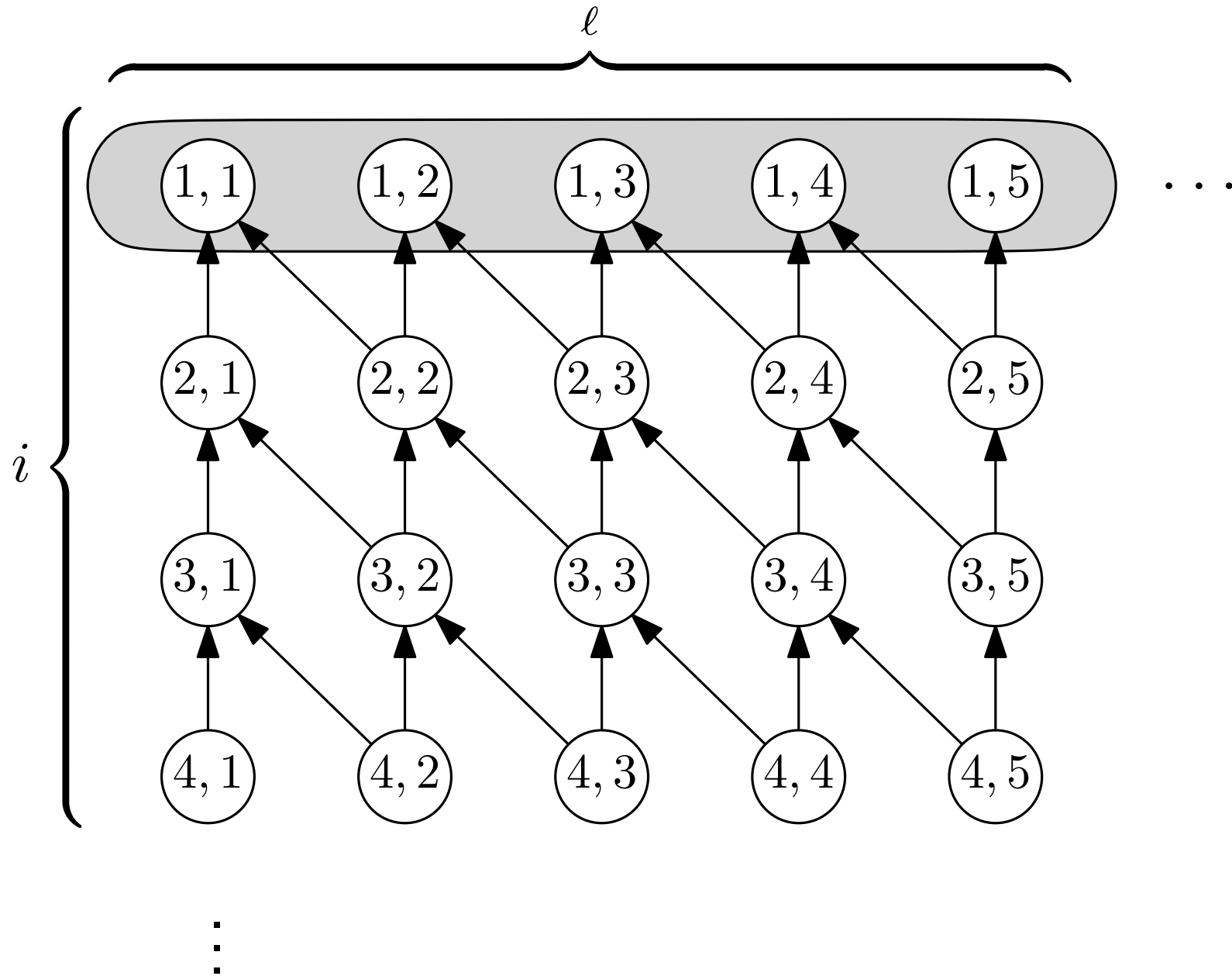
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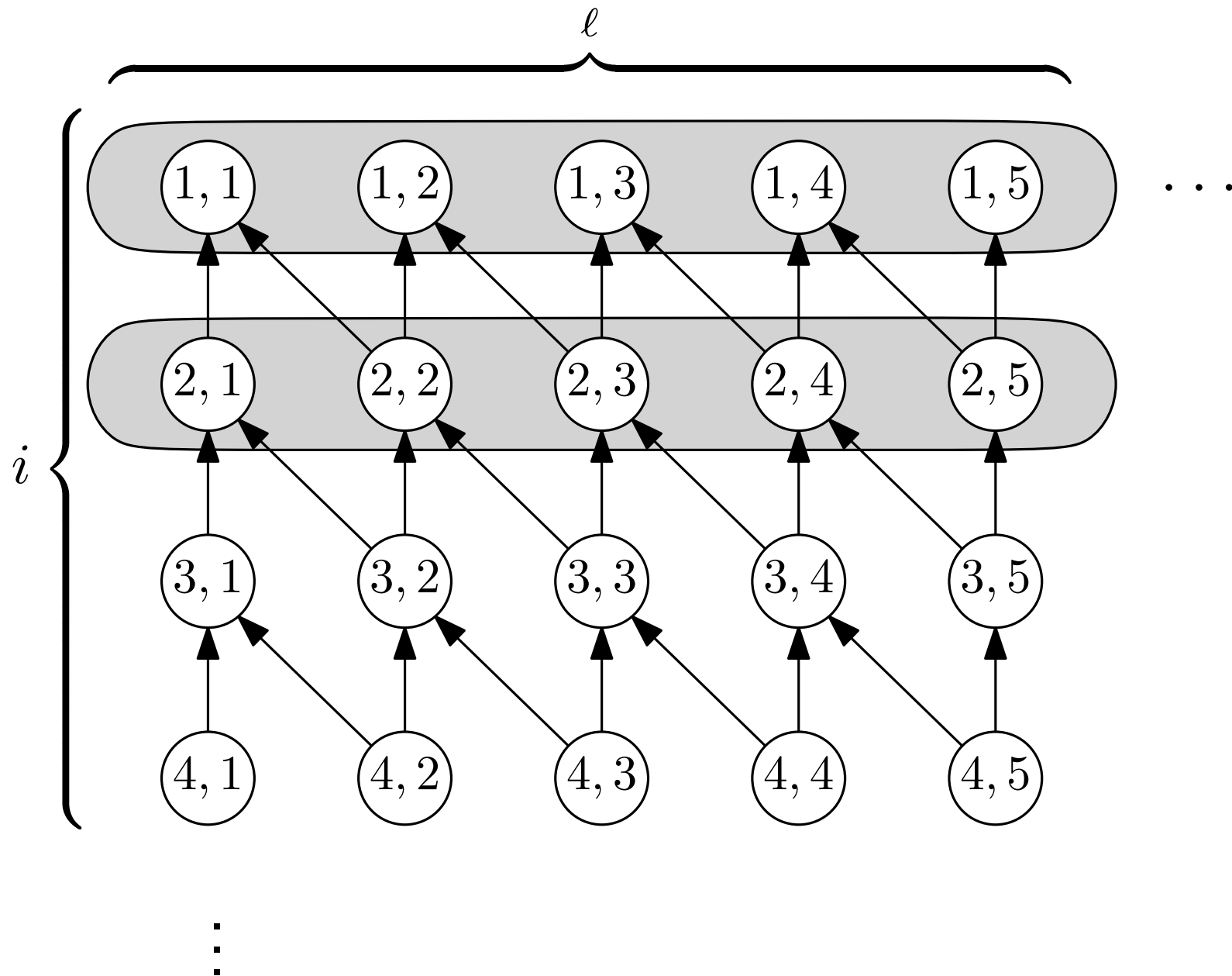
Base Cases / Order of Subproblems



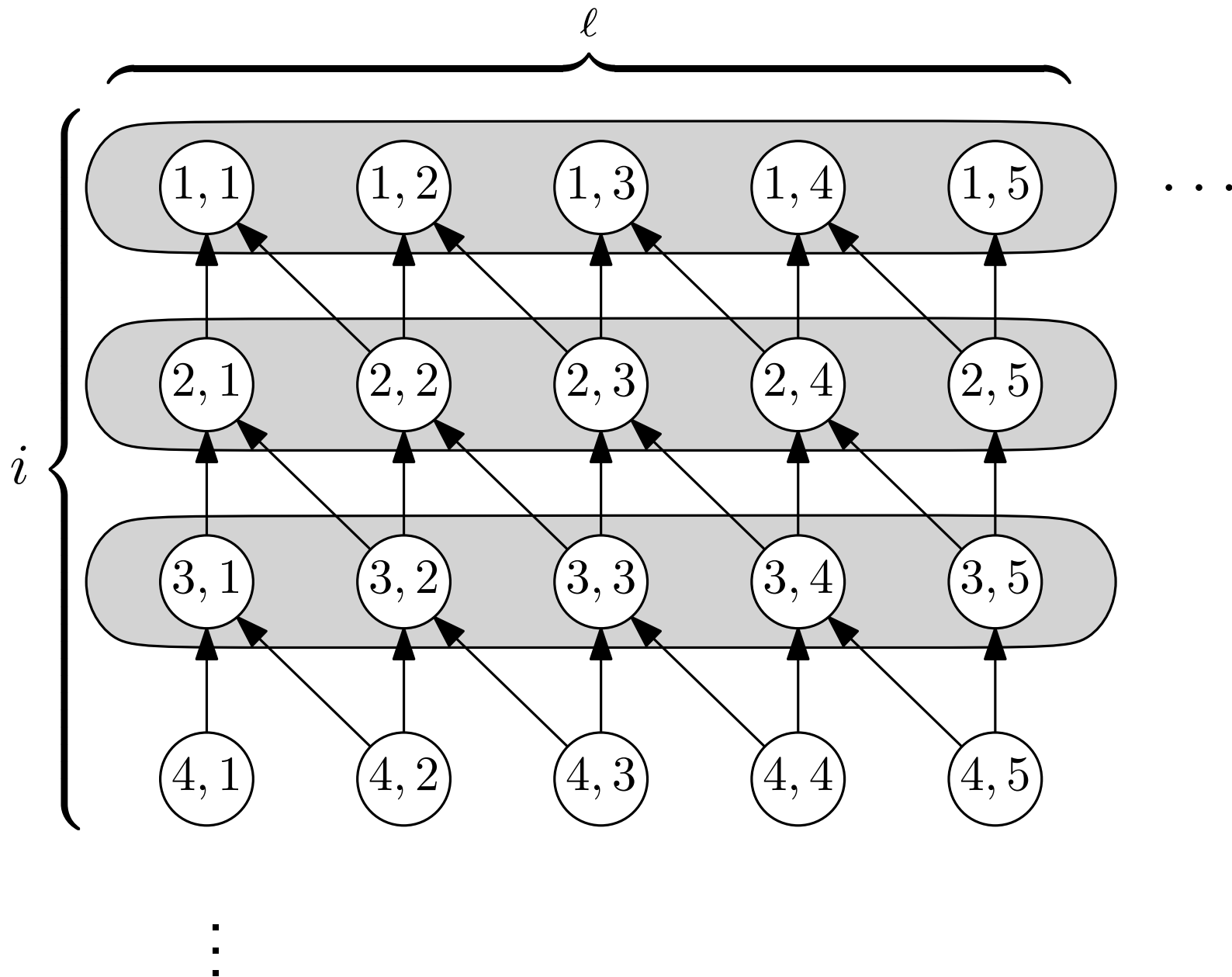
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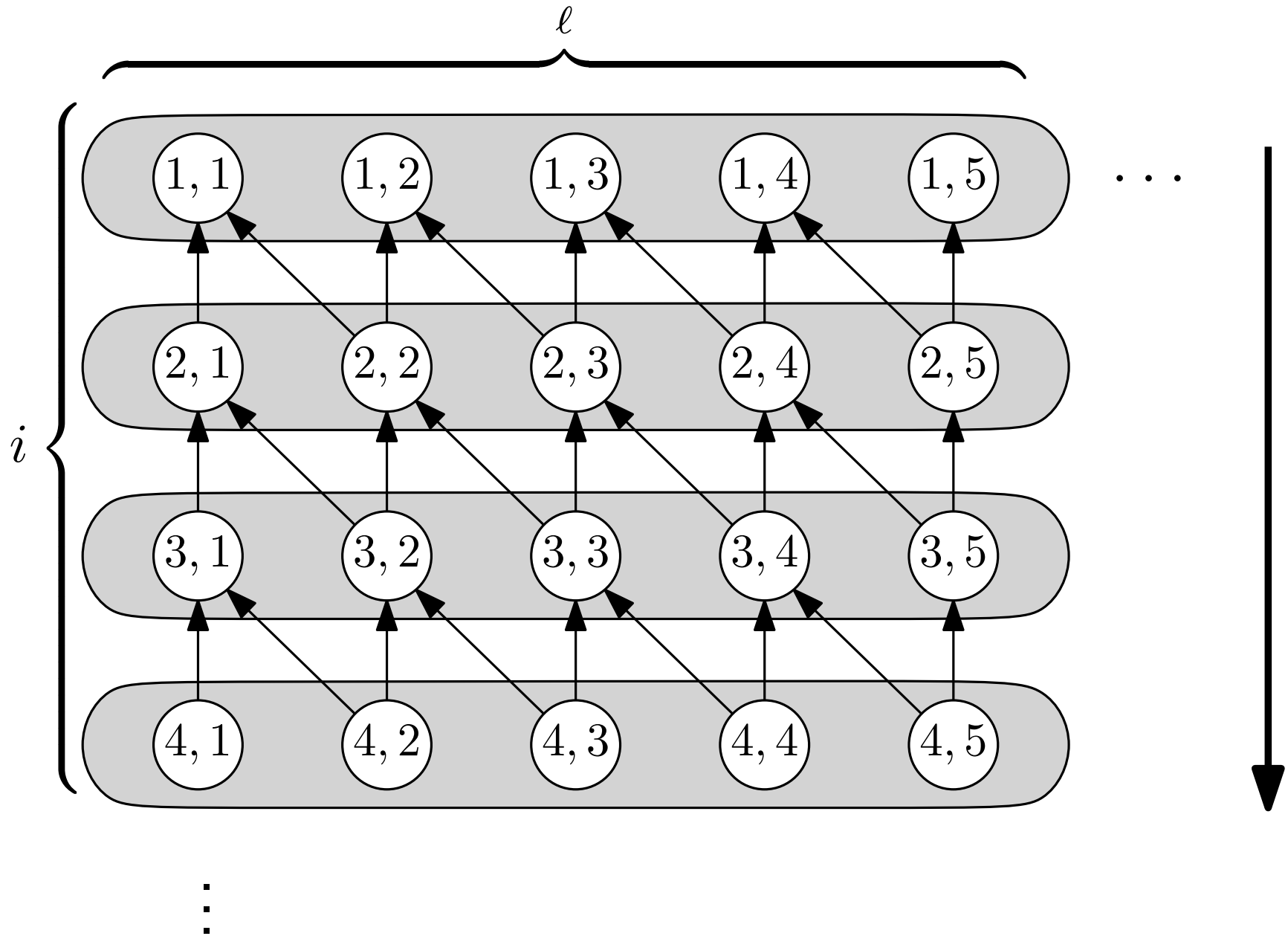
Base Cases / Order of Subproblems



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Time Complexity

- $O(n^2)$ subproblems
 - $O(1)$ time per subproblem
- } $O(n^2)$

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Can we do better?

Some Properties

Lemma: Given $i > 1$, let ℓ^* be the length of a LIS L of $S[1], \dots, S[i]$ that ends with $S[i]$.

1) $OPT[i, \ell^*] = i$.

2) For $\ell \neq \ell^*$: $OPT[i, \ell] = OPT[i - 1, \ell]$.

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- 2) For $\ell \neq \ell^*$: $OPT[i, \ell] = OPT[i - 1, \ell]$.

Proof of 1 (sketch): (Case $\ell^* \geq 2$)



- $j =$ index of the one-to-last element of L
- $S[i] > S[j] \geq \underbrace{S[OPT[i - 1, \ell^* - 1]]}_{\neq \perp}$

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Proof of 1 (sketch):

(Case $\ell^* \geq 2$)

$$OPT[i, \ell^*] = \begin{cases} i & \text{if } OPT[i - 1, \ell^*] = \perp \text{ or} \\ & S[i] \leq S[OPT[i - 1, \ell^*]] \\ OPT[i - 1, \ell^*] & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

• If $OPT[i, \ell^*] \neq i$ then:

$$OPT[i - 1, \ell^*] \neq \perp \text{ and } S[i] > S[OPT[i - 1, \ell^*]]$$

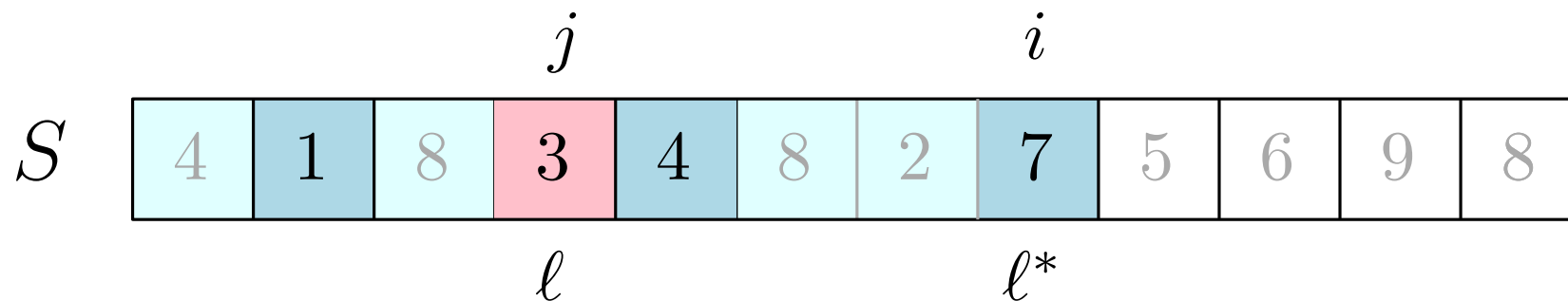
• Contradiction: wrong choice of ℓ^* !

Some Properties

Lemma: Given $i > 1$, let ℓ^* be the length of a LIS L of $S[1], \dots, S[i]$ that ends with $S[i]$.

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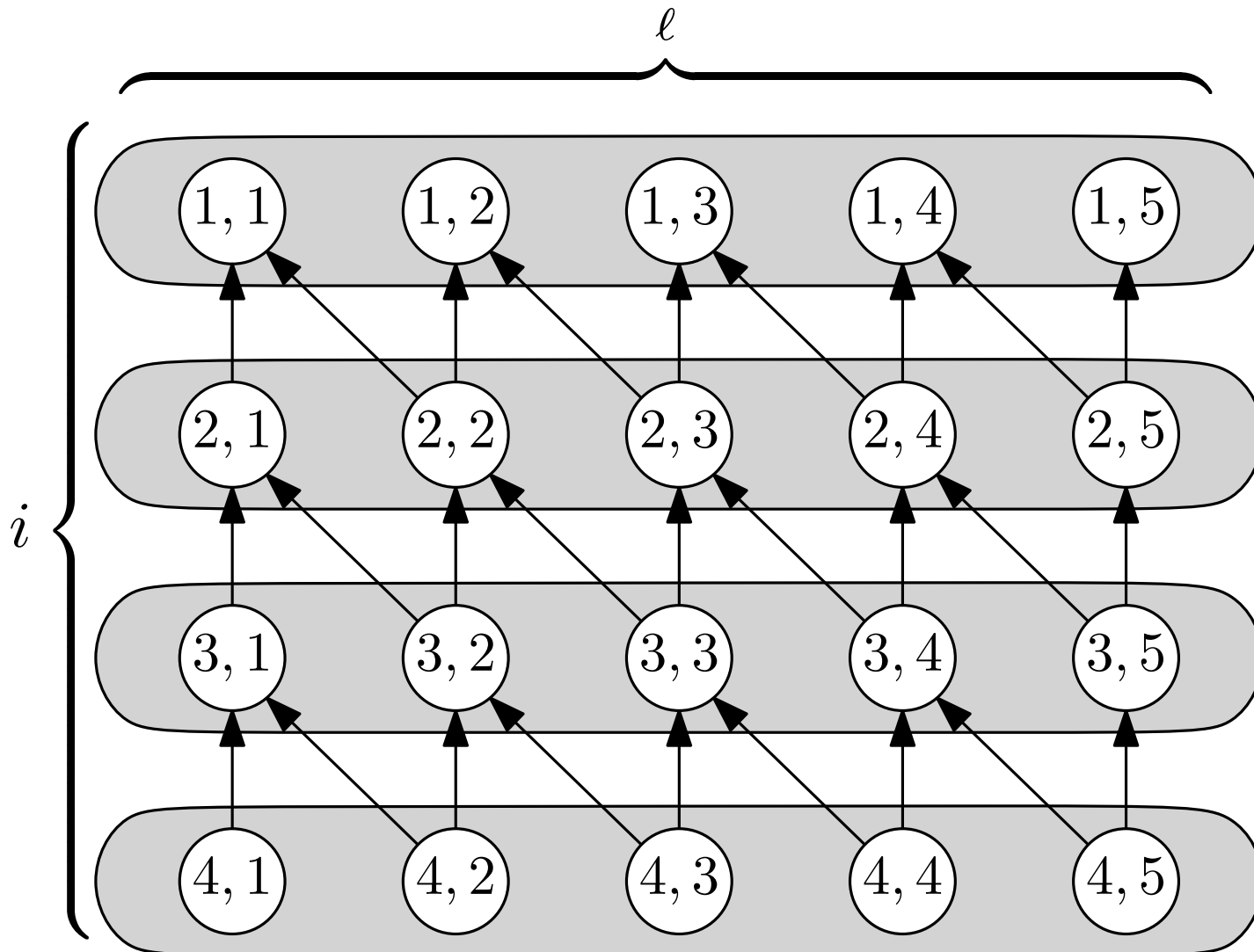
Proof of 2: Trivially true if $\ell > \ell^*$. Consider $\ell < \ell^*$:



- The ℓ -th term in the IS of length ℓ^* ending in $OPT[i, \ell^*] = i$ appears in some position $j < i$.
- $S[j] < S[i] \implies OPT[i, \ell] \neq i$

A possible implementation

Observation 2: After the i -th iteration, all values $OPT[1, \ell], \dots, OPT[i - 1, \ell]$ will never be used anymore!



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- $OPT[1] = 1, OPT[2] = \dots = OPT[n] = \perp$
- For $i = 2, \dots, n$:
 - $\ell^* \leftarrow 1$ // Find ℓ^*
 - For $\ell = 1, \dots, i - 1$:
 - If $OPT[\ell] \neq \perp$ and $S[OPT[\ell]] < S[i]$:
 - $\ell^* = \ell + 1$
 - $OPT[\ell^*] = i$
- Return $\max\{\ell = 1, \dots, n \mid OPT[\ell] \neq \perp\}$

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- $OPT[1] = 1 \quad OPT[2] = \dots = OPT[n] = \perp$

- A rectangular box with a thick black border. On the left side, there is a vertical pink bar. Inside the box, on the left, is a large black sad face icon (a circle with two dots for eyes and a downward-curving line for a mouth). To the right of the icon, the text "Still $O(n^2)$ time" is written in a black serif font. A blue parenthesis ")" is visible on the right edge of the box.

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- Return $\max\{\ell = 1, \dots, n \mid OPT[\ell] \neq \perp\}$

A possible implementation

Observation 3: $S[OPT[\ell]]$ is monotonically increasing w.r.t. ℓ (until $OPT[\ell] = \perp$).

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- For $i = 2, \dots, n$:

- $\ell^* \leftarrow 1$

- For $\ell = 1, \dots, i - 1$:

- If $OPT[\ell] \neq \perp$ and $S[OPT[\ell]] < S[i]$:

- $\ell^* = \ell + 1$

- $OPT[\ell^*] = i$

- Return $\max\{\ell = 1, \dots, n \mid OPT[\ell] \neq \perp\}$

$O(n)$

$O(n)$

A possible implementation

Observation 3: $S[OPT[\ell]]$ is monotonically increasing w.r.t. ℓ (until $OPT[\ell] = \perp$).

Idea: use binary search to find ℓ^* !

- $OPT[1] = 1, OPT[2] = \dots = OPT[n] = \perp$

- For $i = 2, \dots, n$:

- Binary search for largest value ℓ such that $OPT[\ell] \neq \perp$ and $S[OPT[\ell]] < S[i]$, if any.

- $\ell^* \leftarrow \ell + 1$, if ℓ exists, otherwise 1

- $OPT[\ell^*] = i$

- Return $\max\{\ell = 1, \dots, n \mid OPT[\ell] \neq \perp\}$

$O(n)$

$O(\log n)$

Total time: $O(n \log n)$

Recap

Trick/Technique: Divide and Conquer

Decompose an instance into smaller instances of the same problem.

Solve recursively and recombine the solutions.

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Trick/Technique: Dynamic Programming

Define overlapping subproblems (possibly w/additional constraints). Systematically solve subproblems using an order that allows previous solutions to be recombined. Compute solution to the original problem from the subproblems' solutions.