# Project Euler #122: Efficient exponentiation



#### **Problem Statement**

This problem is a programming version of Problem 122 from projecteuler.net

The most naive way of computing  $n^{15}$  requires fourteen multiplications:

$$n \times n \times \cdots \times n = n^{15}$$

But using a "binary" method you can compute it in six multiplications:

$$n imes n = n^2 \ n^2 imes n^2 = n^4 \ n^4 imes n^4 = n^8 \ n^8 imes n^4 = n^{12} \ n^{12} imes n^2 = n^{14} \ n^{14} imes n = n^{15}$$

However it is yet possible to compute it in only five multiplications:

$$n imes n = n^2 \ n^2 imes n = n^3 \ n^3 imes n^3 = n^6 \ n^6 imes n^6 = n^{12} \ n^{12} imes n^3 = n^{15}$$

We shall define m(k) to be the minimum number of multiplications to compute  $n^k$ . For example m(15)=5.

For a given k, compute m(k), and also output the sequence of multiplications needed to compute  $n^k$ . See the sample output for more details.

#### **Input Format**

The first line of input contains T, the number of test cases.

Each test case consists of a single line containing a single integer, k.

#### **Constraints**

$$\begin{array}{c} 1 \leq T \leq 500 \\ 2 \leq k \end{array}$$

Input file #1:  $k \leq 111$ . Input file #2:  $k \leq 275$ .

#### **Output Format**

For each test case, first output m(k) in a single line. Then output m(k) lines, each of the form  $n^a * n^b = n^c$ , where a, b and c are natural numbers. You may also output n instead of  $n^1$ . Use the \*

(asterisk/star) symbol, not the letter x or something else.

The sequence of multiplications must be valid. Any valid sequence will be accepted.

## **Sample Input**

```
2
2
15
```

# **Sample Output**

```
1
n^1 * n^1 = n^2
5
n * n = n^2
n^2 * n = n^3
n^3 * n^3 = n^6
n^6 * n^6 = n^12
n^12 * n^3 = n^15
```

## **Explanation**

The second case, k=15, is the example given in the problem statement.

The sample output illustrates that you can use n instead of  $n^1$ .