

# Construct Quad Tree

## Problem shape:

- Grid is  $n \times n$  with  $n = 2^x$ ,  $x \leq 6$  ( $\Rightarrow n \leq 64$ ).
- Each node covers a square subgrid.
- A node is a leaf iff its subgrid is uniform (all 0s from all 1s).
- Otherwise it's an internal node with four children:  
top Left, top Right, bottom Left, bottom Right (each size  $len/2$ ).

## How to test "uniform":

Two options:

A) Direct scan (perfectly fine here):

- Check the first cell, then scan the  $len \times len$  block; if any cell differs, it's not uniform.
- Time is still good because  $n \leq 64$ .

B) 2D prefix sum (micro-optimization):

- Precomputes  $pref[r][c] = \text{sum of grid } [0 \dots r-1][0 \dots c-1]$ .
- Sum of any subgrid is  $O(1)$ . A subgrid of size  $len \times len$  is:

$$S = \text{sum}(r, c, len)$$

if  $S == 0 \rightarrow$  all zeros

if  $S == len \times len \rightarrow$  all ones

else  $\rightarrow$  mixed

- This avoids rescanning the same cells in higher recursion levels.

## Invariants to keep straight:

- Leaf nodes:  $isLeaf = \text{true}$ ,  $val = (\text{subgrid value})$ ,  $children = \text{null}$ .
- Internal nodes:  $isLeaf = \text{false}$ ,  $val$  can be either, but many set it arbitrarily to true or to  $(\text{sum} \geq \text{half})$ ; it doesn't matter.
- Base case shortcut: if  $len == 1$ , the node is always a leaf with the cell's value (this is equivalent to the uniform check).

## Complexity:

- Without prefix sums: Each level touches each cell a constant number of

times overall  $\Rightarrow O(n^2)$ .

- With prefix sums: Build pref in  $O(n^2)$ , each node's uniform check is  $O(1)$ , total still  $O(n^2)$ .
- Recursion depth is  $O(\log n)$ .