Each snake only has four available options for to choose from on each move (UP, DOWN, LEFT, RIGHT).

Elttab Ekans strategy in its most basic form will to verify which directions have no obstructions (snakes or walls) and move into an available space.

Although there are four directions to choose from, only three directions at most are viable for each move as one is occupied by the body of our snake.

So, our snake will verify which of the remaining three directions are without obstructions and those free spaces will become the basis of further computation to determine the move selected.