

step-wise solution for Towers

test cases and their answers

smallest case

move 1 disk from NY to LA using Chi
solution: move the top disk from NY to LA

next-to-smallest case

move 2 disks from m hk to NYC using Anchorage
solution:

- move the top disk Hk \rightarrow A
- move the top disk Hk \rightarrow NYC
- move the top disk A \rightarrow NYC

larger case(s)

move 3 disk

the request that will start the processing

I am asked to create a string holding instructions to move n disks from *source* to *target* using *spare*

base case processing

return "move the top disk $S \rightarrow target$ "

decision rule

whether $n = 1 \Rightarrow$ use base
otherwise \Rightarrow recursive case

recursive case processing, in three sub-parts

recursive abstraction

When I am asked to create a string holding instructions to move n disks from *source* to *target* using *spare*,
the recursive abstraction can create a string holding instructions to move $n-1$ disks from *source* to *target* using *spare*.

the leftover piece

move the largest disk

all the processing for a recursive case

When I am asked to create a string holding instructions to move n disks from *source* to *target* using *spare*,
and the recursive abstraction has provided instructions to move $n-1$ disks from *source* to *target* using *spare*,
then the remaining part of processing recursive cases requires
instructions to move $n-1$ disks from *source* to *spare* using *target* if needed
move the large $S \rightarrow$ target
instructions to move $n-1$ disks from *spare* to *target* using *source*
combined by