

Understanding Mathematics through Puzzles

Arnab Chakraborty

Indian Statistical Institute

Jun 27, 2022

0+2=2

Get off the earth!



WHEN THE BUTTON IS DOWN, THERE ARE THIRTEEN WARRIORS. STUDY THEIR FACES, POSTURES, SWORDS AND PIG-TAILS. THEN MOVE THE BUTTON UP, AND TELL WHICH ONE HAS VANISHED. WHERE DOES HE GO TO?

0+2=2

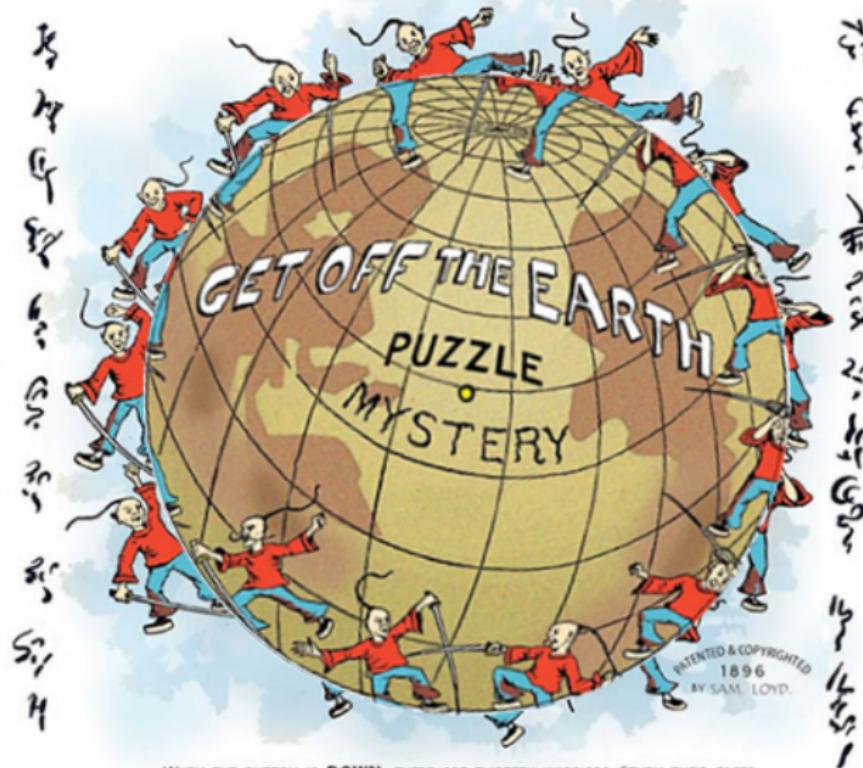
Get off the earth!



WHEN THE BUTTON IS DOWN, THERE ARE THIRTEEN WARRIORS. STUDY THEIR FACES, POSTURES, SWORDS AND PIG-TAILS. THEN MOVE THE BUTTON UP, AND TELL WHICH ONE HAS VANISHED. WHERE DOES HE GO TO?

0+2=2

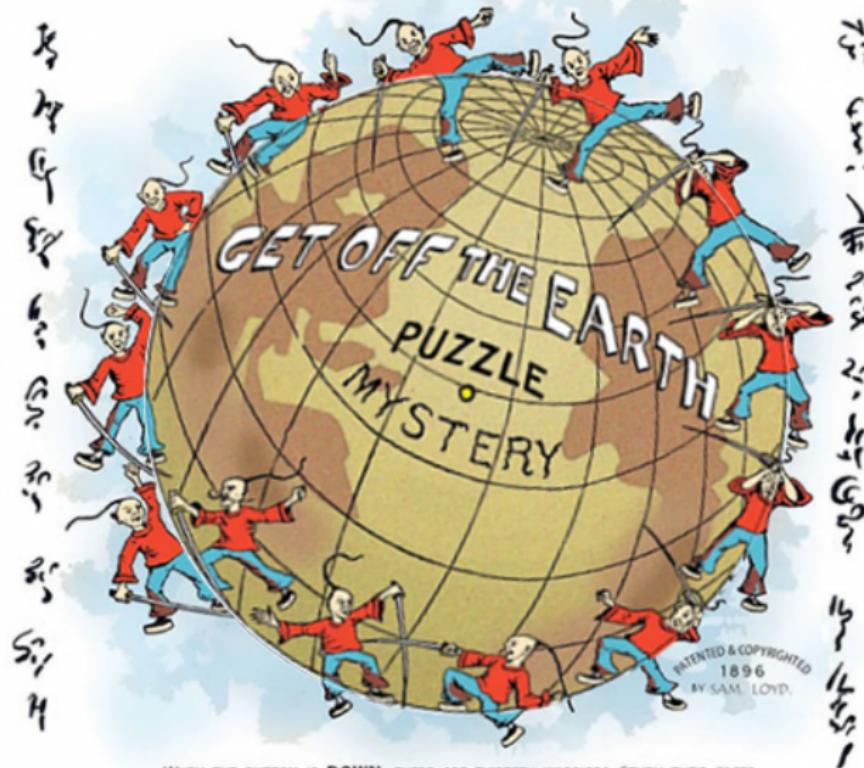
Get off the earth!



WHEN THE BUTTON IS DOWN, THERE ARE THIRTEEN WARRIORS. STUDY THEIR FACES, POSTURES, SWORDS AND PIG-TAILS. THEN MOVE THE BUTTON UP, AND TELL WHICH ONE HAS VANISHED. WHERE DOES HE GO TO?

0+2=2

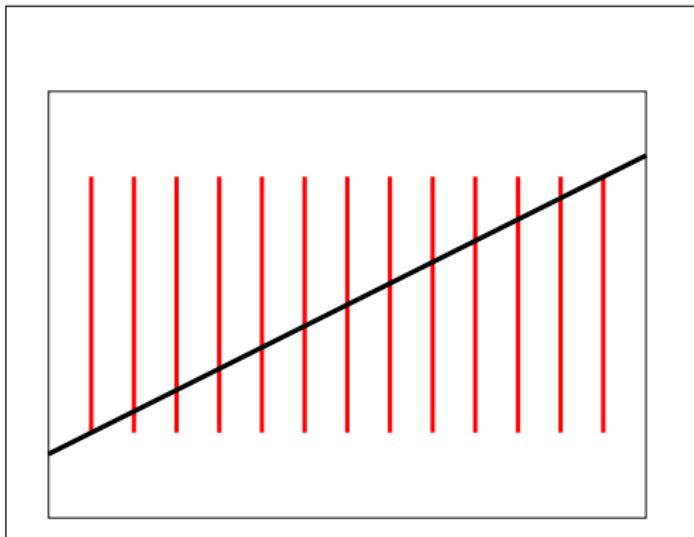
Get off the earth!



WHEN THE BUTTON IS DOWN, THERE ARE THIRTEEN WARRIORS. STUDY THEIR FACES, POSTURES, SWORDS AND PIG-TAILS. THEN MOVE THE BUTTON UP, AND TELL WHICH ONE HAS VANISHED. WHERE DOES HE GO TO?

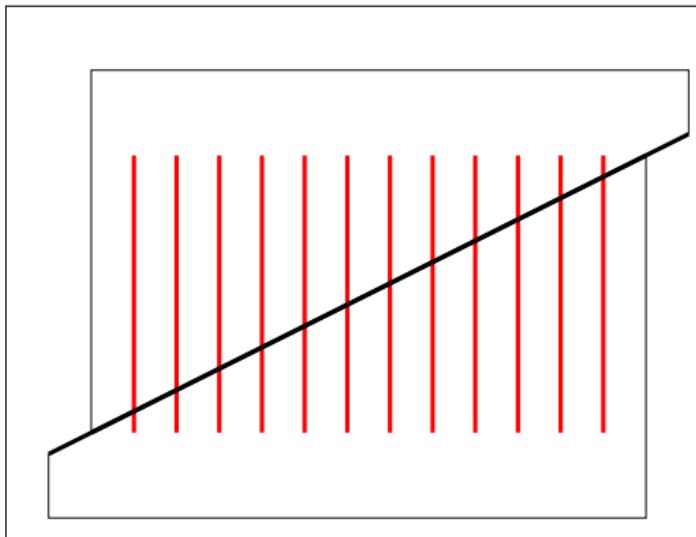
$$2+2=4$$

Mathematical perspective



$$2+2=4$$

Mathematical perspective



$$4+2=6$$

Making your own



$$4+2=6$$

Making your own



$$4+2=6$$

Making your own



$$4+2=6$$

Making your own



$$4+2=6$$

Making your own



$$4+2=6$$

Making your own



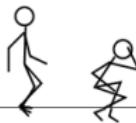
$$4+2=6$$

Making your own



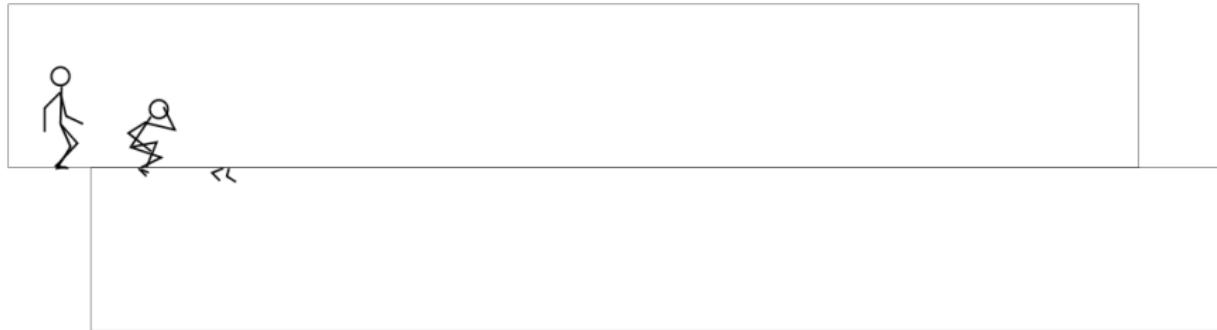
$$4+2=6$$

Making your own



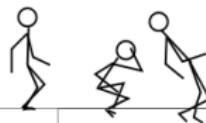
$$4+2=6$$

Making your own



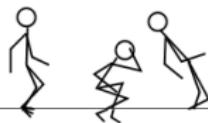
$$4+2=6$$

Making your own



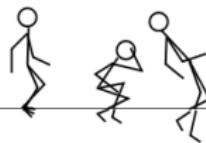
$$4+2=6$$

Making your own



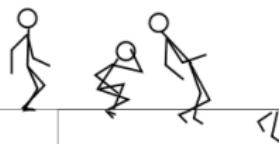
$$4+2=6$$

Making your own



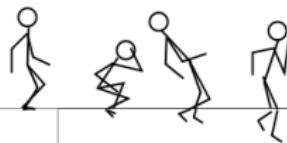
$$4+2=6$$

Making your own



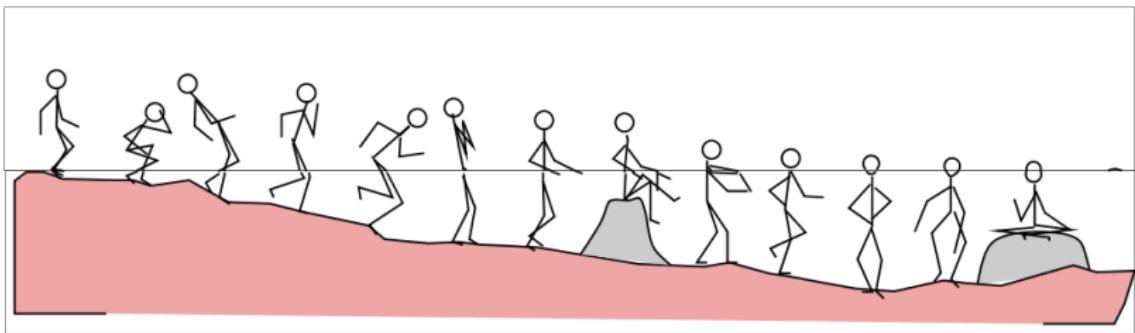
$$4+2=6$$

Making your own



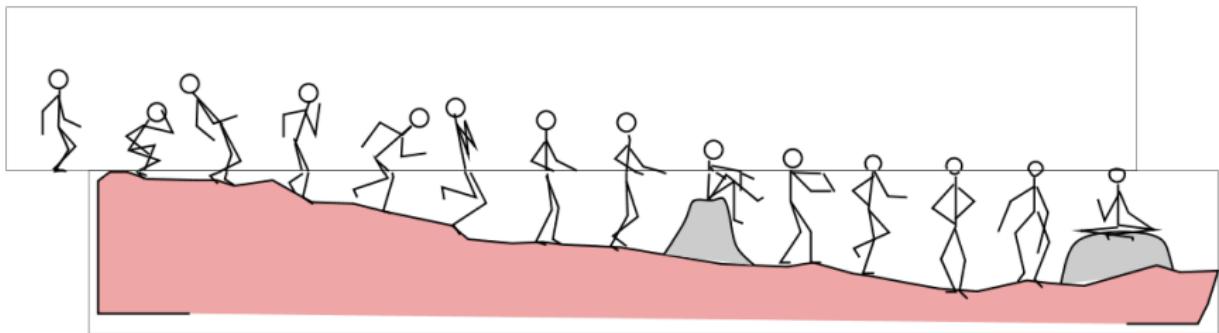
$$4+2=6$$

Making your own



$$4+2=6$$

Making your own



$$6+2=8$$

Invariance

$$6+2=8$$

Invariance

Puzzle of the five cups

$$6+2=8$$

Invariance

Puzzle of the five cups

Puzzle of the symbols

$$6+2=8$$

Invariance

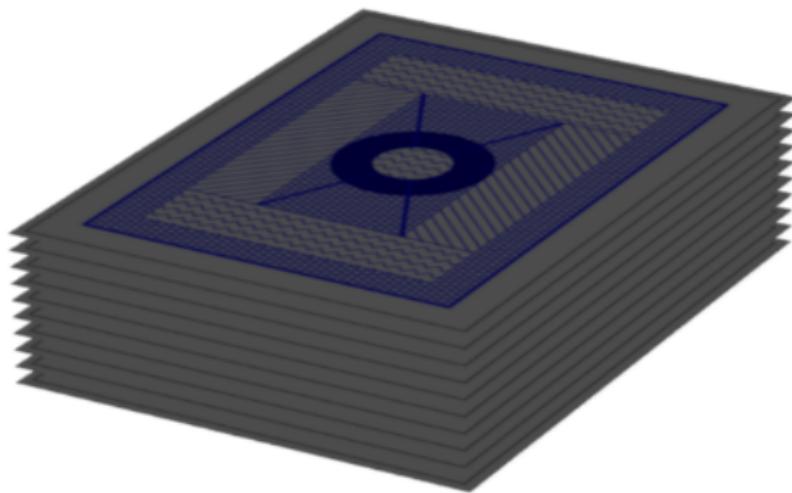
Puzzle of the five cups

Puzzle of the symbols

Magic of Bob Hummer

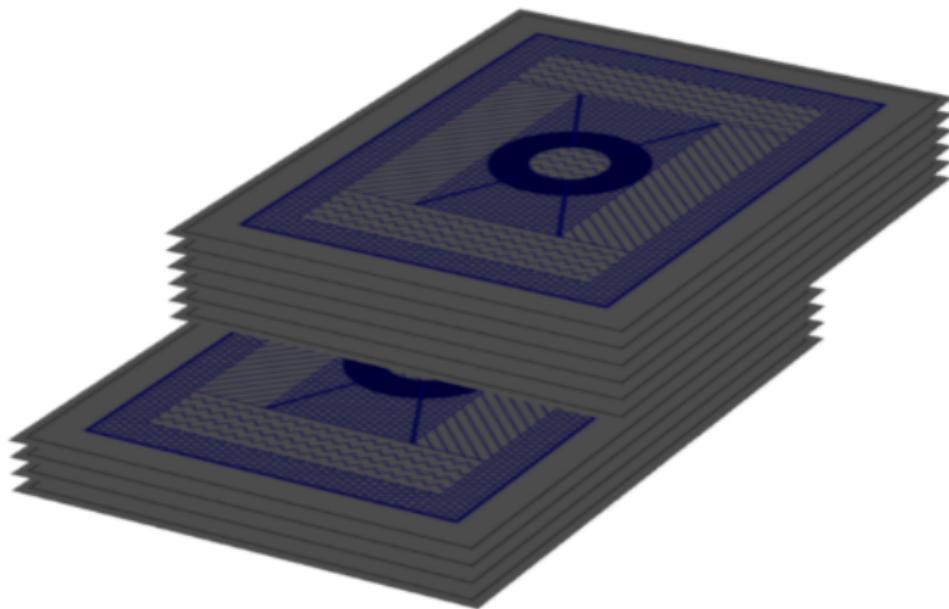
$8+2=10$

Cut



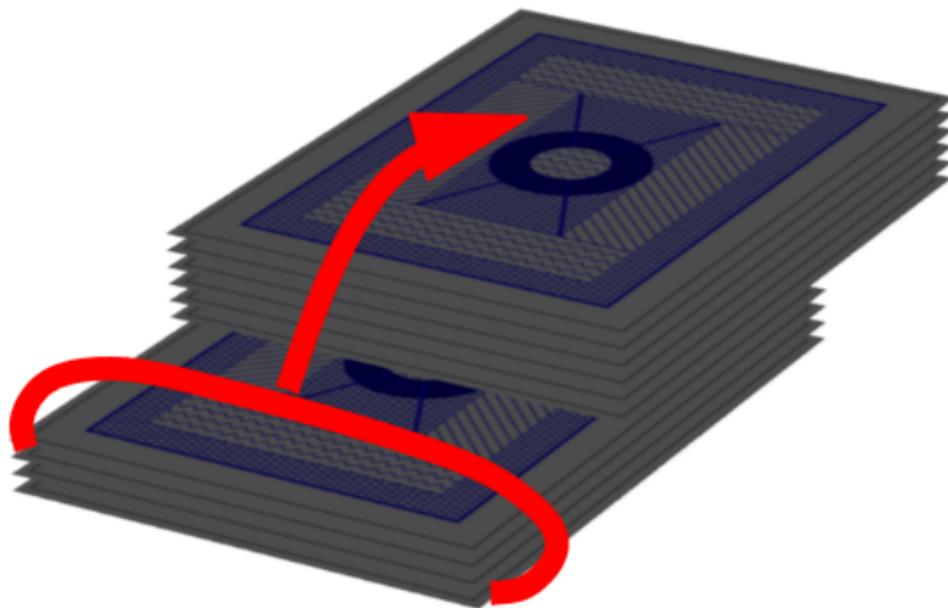
$8+2=10$

Cut



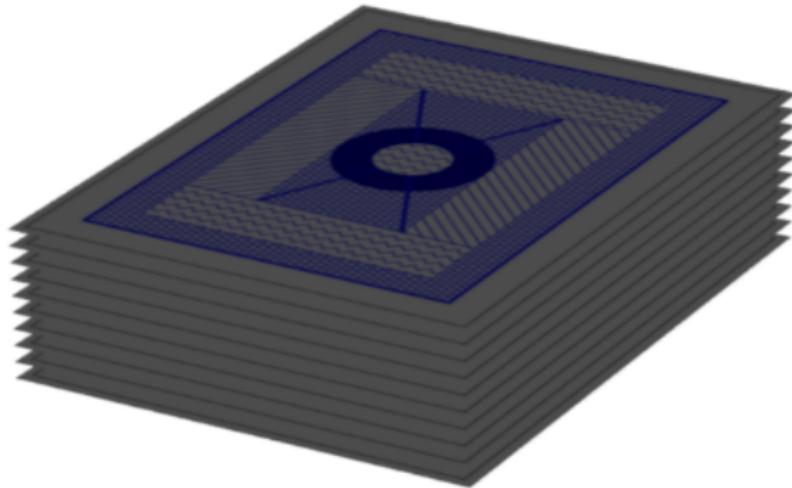
$8+2=10$

Cut



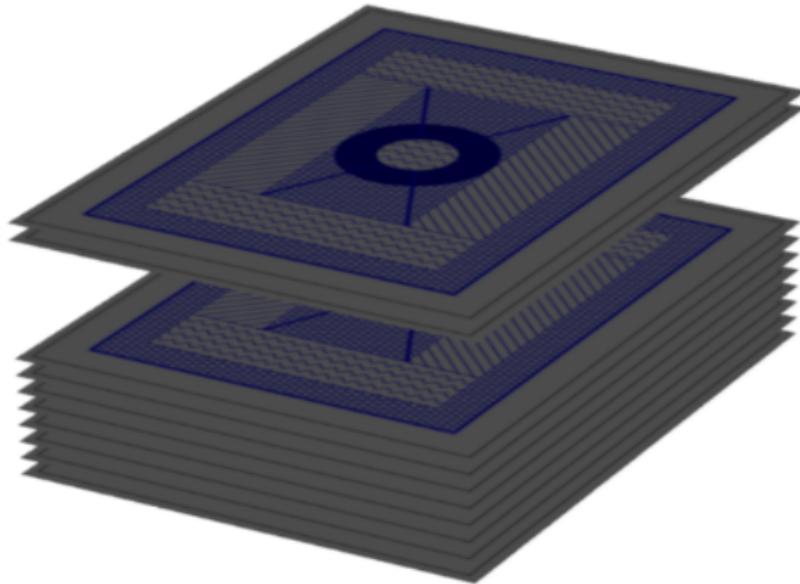
$$10+2=12$$

Flip top two together



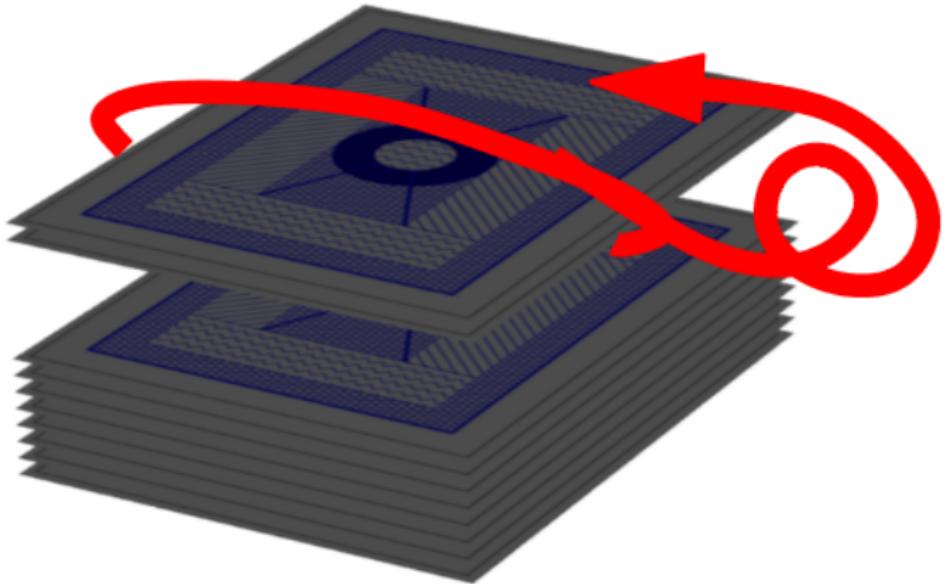
$$10+2=12$$

Flip top two together



$$10+2=12$$

Flip top two together



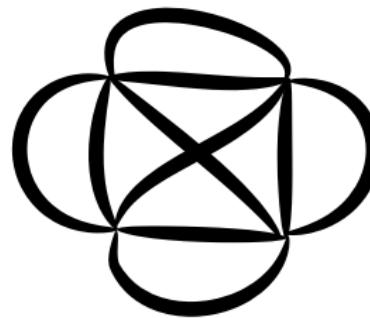
$$12+2=14$$

Instructions

- ▶ Give a random cut.
- ▶ Remember the bottom card.
- ▶ Take the top card to the bottom.
- ▶ Flip the top card.
- ▶ Random cut.
- ▶ Flip top two cards together.
- ▶ Repeat the above two steps 3 times.
- ▶ Give me the packet.

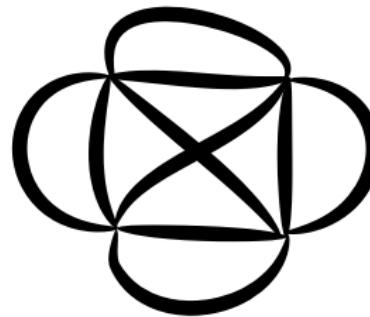
$14+2=16$

Looks familiar?



$14+2=16$

Looks familiar?



Draw this in one go without lifting pen and without retracing any line.

$$16+2=18$$

Euler's theorem

Consider a diagram consisting of some points joined by some lines such that you can go from any point to any other point. Then you can draw this diagram without lifting your pen and without reusing any line if and only if

either

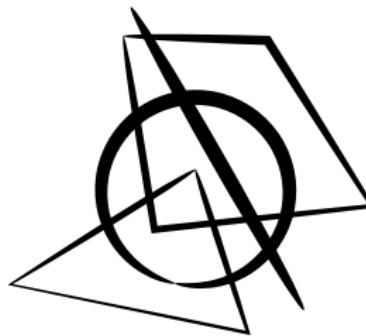
only an even number of lines meet at each point

or

an odd number of lines meet at exactly two points

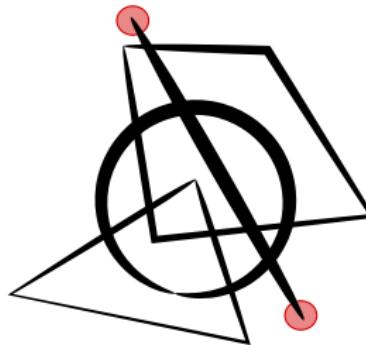
$$18+2=20$$

An example



$$18+2=20$$

An example



$$20+2=22$$

Mind reading magic

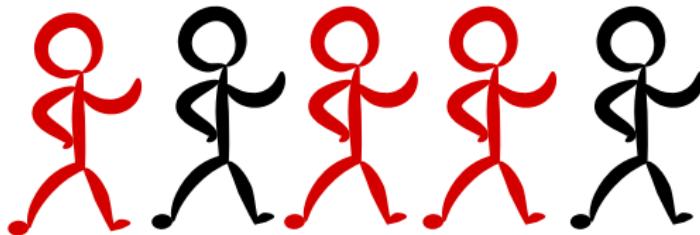
$$22+2=24$$

Did I do it without **any** information?



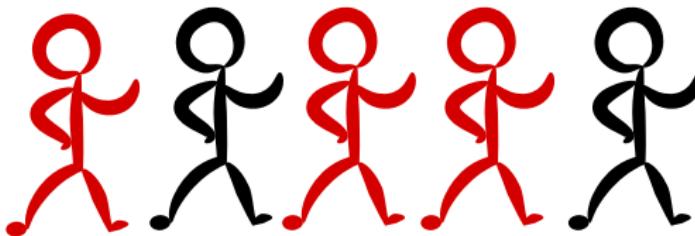
$$22+2=24$$

Did I do it without **any** information?



$$22+2=24$$

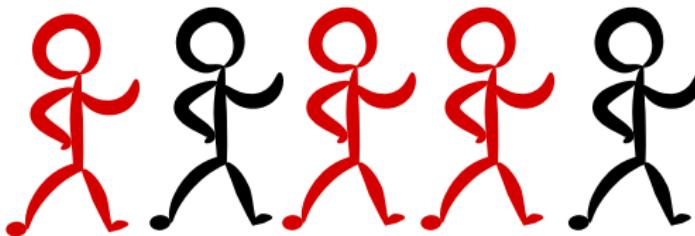
Did I do it without **any** information?



How many such patterns are possible?

$$22+2=24$$

Did I do it without **any** information?



How many such patterns are possible?

Ans: 2^5 .

$$24+2=26$$

A deck of (at most) 32 cards

$$24+2=26$$

A deck of (at most) 32 cards

Hmmm...so you used an arranged deck!

$$24+2=26$$

A deck of (at most) 32 cards

Hmmm...so you used an arranged deck!

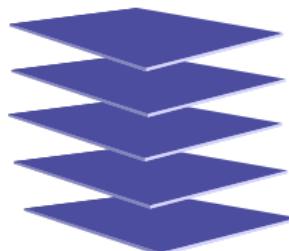
But did we not shuffle it thoroughly?

$$24+2=26$$

A deck of (at most) 32 cards

Hmmm...so you used an arranged deck!

But did we not shuffle it thoroughly?



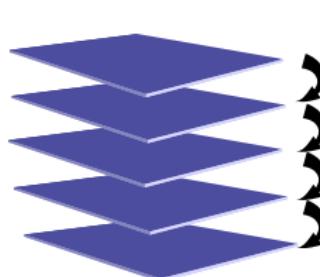
A
B
C
D
E

$$24+2=26$$

A deck of (at most) 32 cards

Hmmm...so you used an arranged deck!

But did we not shuffle it thoroughly?



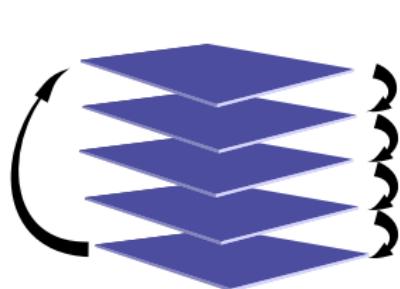
A
B
C
D
E

$$24+2=26$$

A deck of (at most) 32 cards

Hmmm...so you used an arranged deck!

But did we not shuffle it thoroughly?



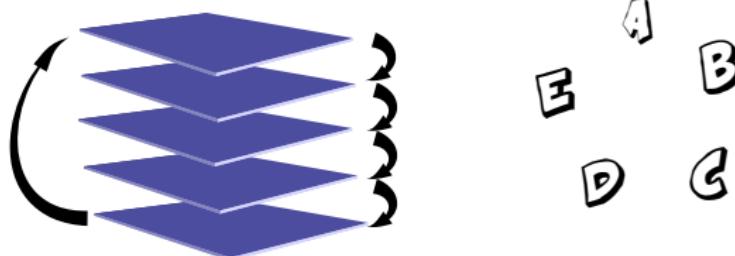
A
B
C
D
E

$$24+2=26$$

A deck of (at most) 32 cards

Hmmm...so you used an arranged deck!

But did we not shuffle it thoroughly?

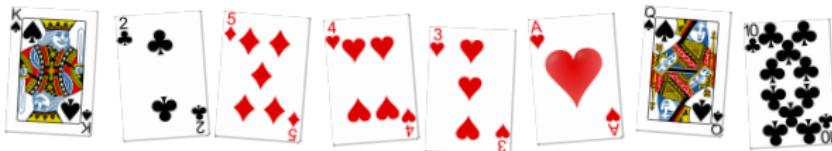


$$26+2=28$$

OK, cyclical arrangement. But how?

$26+2=28$

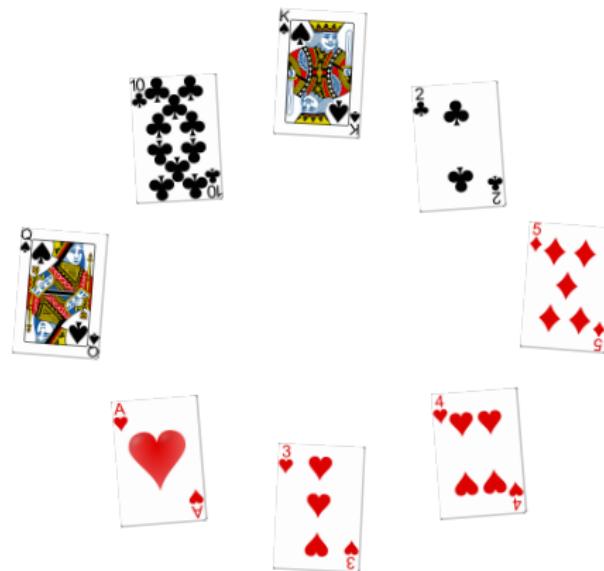
OK, cyclical arrangement. But how?



$$\underline{2^3 = 8 \text{ cards}}$$

$$26+2=28$$

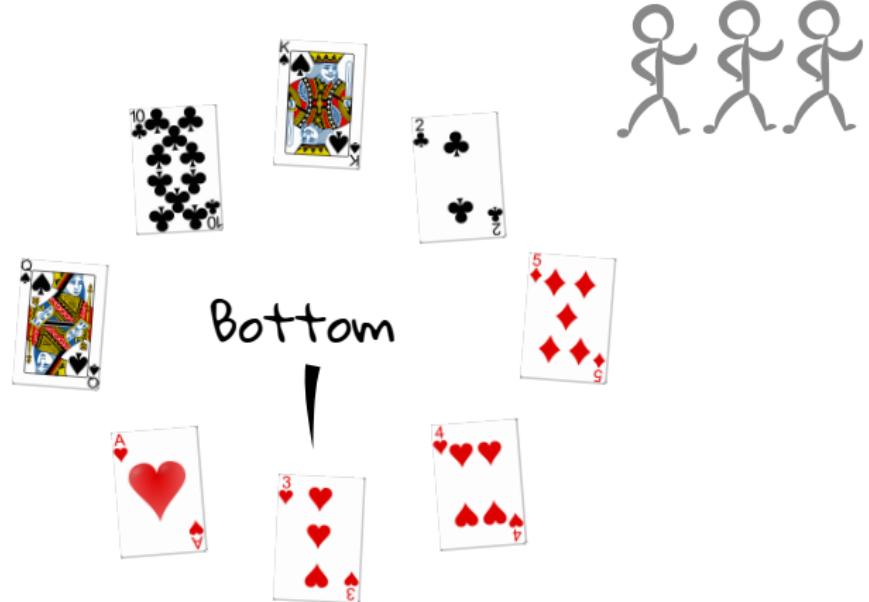
OK, cyclical arrangement. But how?



Is this arrangement OK?

$$26+2=28$$

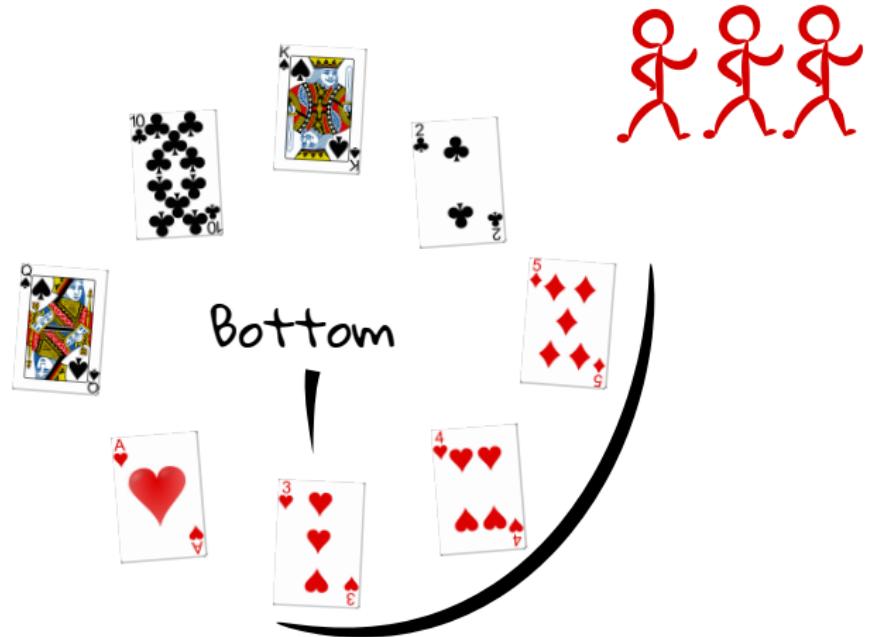
OK, cyclical arrangement. But how?



Is this arrangement OK?

$$26+2=28$$

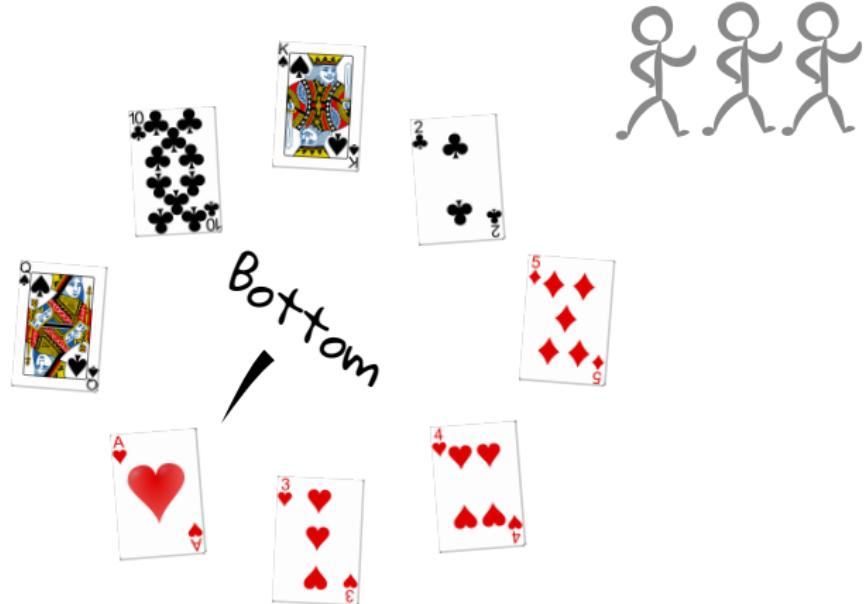
OK, cyclical arrangement. But how?



Is this arrangement OK?

$$26+2=28$$

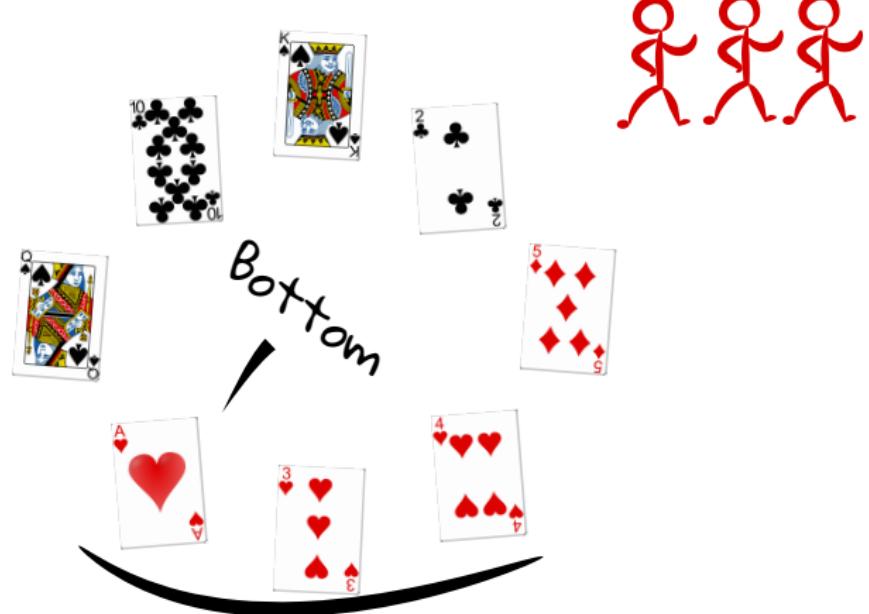
OK, cyclical arrangement. But how?



Is this arrangement OK?

$$26+2=28$$

OK, cyclical arrangement. But how?



Is this arrangement OK?

$$28+2=30$$

So we need...

...a cyclical pattern where all consecutive triples have distinct red-black patterns.



$$28+2=30$$

So we need...

...a cyclical pattern where all consecutive triples have distinct red-black patterns.



$$28+2=30$$

So we need...

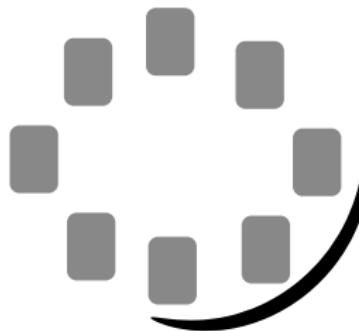
...a cyclical pattern where all consecutive triples have distinct red-black patterns.



$$28+2=30$$

So we need...

...a cyclical pattern where all consecutive triples have distinct red-black patterns.



$$28+2=30$$

So we need...

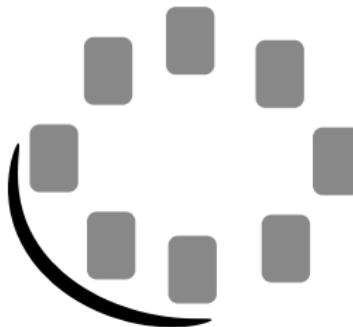
...a cyclical pattern where all consecutive triples have distinct red-black patterns.



$$28+2=30$$

So we need...

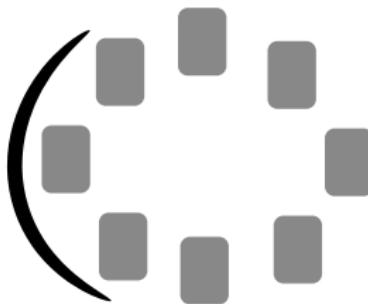
...a cyclical pattern where all consecutive triples have distinct red-black patterns.



$$28+2=30$$

So we need...

...a cyclical pattern where all consecutive triples have distinct red-black patterns.



$$28+2=30$$

So we need...

...a cyclical pattern where all consecutive triples have distinct red-black patterns.



$$28+2=30$$

So we need...

...a cyclical pattern where all consecutive triples have distinct red-black patterns.



How to find such a pattern?

$$28+2=30$$

So we need...

...a cyclical pattern where all consecutive triples have distinct red-black patterns.



**How to find such a pattern?
Does one really exist at all?**