**A** board-like [Le Monde mathematical puzzle](https://xianblog.wordpress.com/2011/09/03/le-monde-puzzle-website/) in the digit category:

*Given a (k,m) binary matrix, what is the maximum number S of entries with only one neighbour equal to one? Solve for k=m=2,…,13, and k=6,m=8.*

For instance, for k=m=2, the matrix

\begin{matrix} 0 &0\\ 1 &1\\ \end{matrix}

is producing the maximal number 4. I first attempted a brute force random filling of these matrices with only a few steps of explorations and got the numbers 4,8,16,34,44,57,… for the first cases. Since I was convinced that the square k² of a number k previously exhibited to reach its maximum as S=k² was again perfect in this regard, I then tried another approach based on Gibbs sampling and annealing (what else?):

gibzit=function(k,m,A=1e2,N=1e2){

temp=1 #temperature

board=sole=matrix(sample(c(0,1),(k+2)\*(m+2),rep=TRUE),k+2,m+2)

board[1,]=board[k+2,]=board[,1]=board[,m+2]=0 #boundaries

maxol=counter(board,k,m) #how many one-neighbours?

for (t in 1:A){#annealing

for (r in 1:N){#basic gibbs steps

for (i in 2:(k+1))

for (j in 2:(m+1)){

prop=board

prop[i,j]=1-board[i,j]

u=runif(1)

if (log(u/(1-u))maxol){

maxol=val;sole=board}}

}}

temp=temp\*2}

return(sole[-c(1,k+2),-c(1,m+2)])}

which leads systematically to the optimal solution, namely a perfect square k² when k is even and a perfect but one k²-1 when k is odd. When k=6, m=8, all entries can afford one neighbour exactly,

> gibzbbgiz(6,8)

[1] 48

[,1] [,2] [,3] [,4] [,5] [,6] [,7] [,8]

[1,] 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 1

[2,] 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1

[3,] 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0

[4,] 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0

[5,] 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1

[6,] 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 1

but this does not seem feasible when k=6, m=7, which only achieves 40 entries with one single neighbour.