

321 (coin) Repeatedly flip a coin until you get a head. Prove that it takes  $n$  flips with probability  $2^{-n}$ . With an appropriate definition of  $R$ , the program is

$R \Leftarrow t := t+1. \text{ if rand } 2 \text{ then ok else } R \text{ fi}$

§ Starting with the right side, using  $1/2$  for  $\text{rand } 2$  and  $(t' > t) \times 2^{t-t'}$  for  $R$ :

$t := t+1. \text{ if } 1/2 \text{ then } t' = t \text{ else } (t' > t) \times 2^{t-t'} \text{ fi}$	substitution law
$= \text{ if } 1/2 \text{ then } t' = t+1 \text{ else } (t' > t+1) \times 2^{t+1-t'} \text{ fi}$	replace <b>if</b>
$= (t' = t+1) / 2 + (t' > t+1) \times 2^{t+1-t'} / 2$	
$= (t' = t+1) \times 2^{t-t'} + (t' > t+1) \times 2^{t-t'}$	
$= (t' > t) \times 2^{t-t'}$	
$= R$	

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