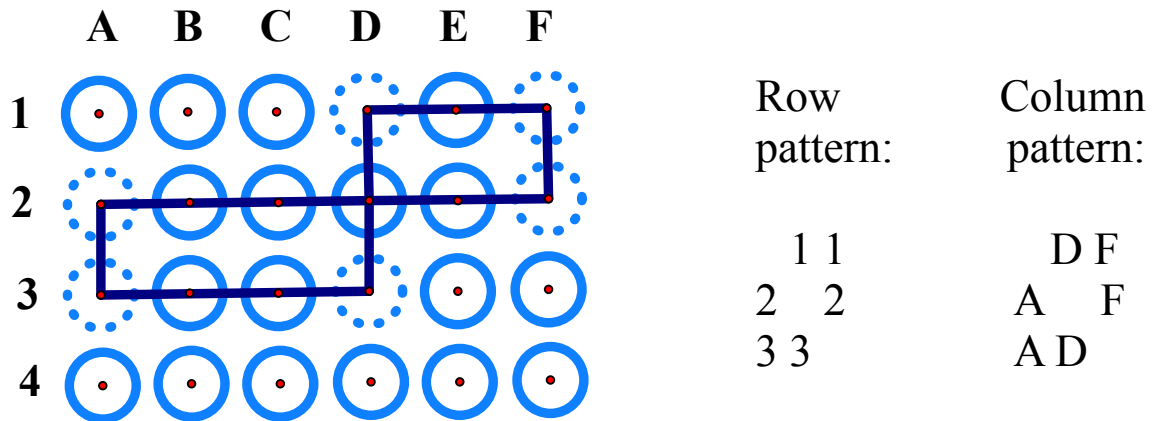


Topic: **Heuristics**

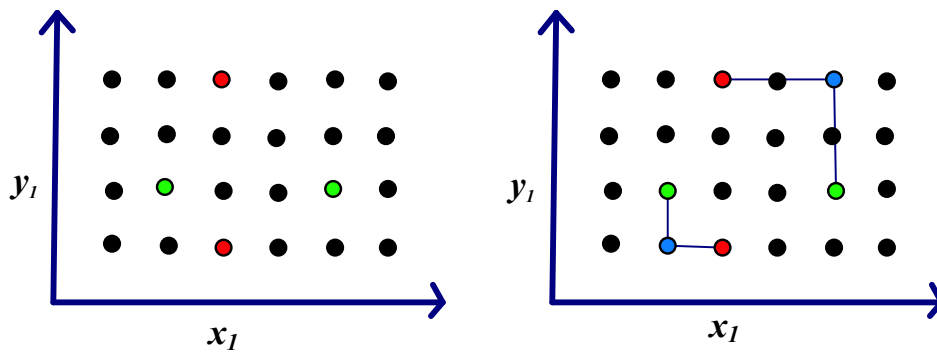
Station: **Christmas baubles**

The method suggested for solving the puzzle is to draw a pair of rectangles joined by a single vertex and to remove baubles from every vertex except the shared one. Why does it work?

As shown below, whether you look at the rows or the columns, the pattern is the same: three pairs of symbols, any two of which have one symbol in common.



We can also find a solution using x - and y - coordinates. We choose two (red) points with the same x -coordinate, and a different two (green) points with the same y -coordinate. We then take (blue) points which share an x -coordinate with a green point and a y -coordinate with a red point:



Notice we could have chosen a different red/green pairing:

