

# *Solvability of $N \times N - 1$ tile sliding problems*

February 18, 2018

## Solvability of $N \times N - 1$ tile sliding problems

NOTE: These conditions are valid for boards of width even!

- Let  $B$  be an initial board of dimension  $N \times N$ , with  $N$  even;
- Let the condition to reach from  $B$  to the **final standard configuration** be:

$$(Inv \% 2 == 0) == (blankRow \% 2 == 1)$$

where  $Inv$  is the number of inversions of  $B$ , and  $blankRow$  is the row of the blank space in  $B$

**Final standard configuration** ( $STD$ ):

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	

## Solvability of $N \times N - 1$ tile sliding problems

- Let  $Inv_i$  be the number of inversions of any initial configuration ( $C_i$ );
- Let  $Inv_f$  be the number of inversions of any final configuration ( $C_f$ );
- Let  $blankRow_i$  be the row of the blank space in the initial configuration counting from bottom (first row starts from 1);
- Let  $blankRow_f$  be the row of the blank space in the final configuration counting from bottom (first row starts from 1);

## Solvability of $N \times N - 1$ tile sliding problems

- If there is a solution from  $C_i$  to the final standard config (*STD*) **AND** there is a solution from  $C_f$  to the final standard config (*STD*), then there is a solution from  $C_i$  to  $C_f$  and vice-versa. Conversely,
- If there is **NO** solution from  $C_i$  to the final standard config **AND** there is **NO** solution from  $C_f$  to the final standard config, then there is a solution from  $C_i$  to  $C_f$  and vice-versa.

## Solvability of $N \times N - 1$ tile sliding problems: conditions

- Let  $Cond_i$  be the result of condition:

$$(Inv_i \% 2 == 0) == (blankRow_i \% 2 == 1)$$

- Let  $Cond_f$  be the result of condition:

$$(Inv_f \% 2 == 0) == (blankRow_f \% 2 == 1)$$

- There will be a solution from  $C_i$  to  $C_f$  and vice-versa, iff:

$$Cond_i == Cond_f$$