

Imagine a mini-Olympic torch tour running between 4 cities in the UK, with the following constraints:

- The torch starts and finishes in London
- The torch should pass each city once and only once
- The following table lists the distance between each city (in miles as measured by Google Maps)

	London	Cambridge	Bath	Coventry
London	0	50	96	86
Cambridge	50	0	120	70
Bath	96	120	0	80
Coventry	86	70	80	0

- What is the shortest route?
- How can you be sure it is the shortest?
- How many different routes are there?

Let's now try a slightly longer tour of 5 cities. We'll add Oxford to the list:

	London	Cambridge	Bath	Coventry	Oxford
London	0	50	96	86	60
Cambridge	50	0	120	70	65
Bath	96	120	0	80	54
Coventry	86	70	80	0	46
Oxford	60	65	54	46	0

- What is the shortest route now?
- How many different possible routes did you need to consider?

**Is there an efficient way to work out the number of different possible routes when there are 10 cities? 15 cities?...**

Suppose a computer could calculate one million routes per second. How long would it take to find the optimal route for 10 cities? 15 cities? 20 cities?