

**Question 1.** *How do I write the expression that would take a number  $x$  and square it, and then square the result of the first operation and continue on for  $n$  generations?*

*Solution.* After the first operation we shall obtain  $x^2$ . Applying the same operation twice we get

$$(x^2)^2 = x^{2^2}.$$

We shall prove by induction that after  $n$  applications the result will be  $x^{2^n}$ .

The base of induction: for  $n = 1$  the result is  $x^2 = x^{2^1}$  as was mentioned above. The inductive step: suppose the formula is true for  $n$ , i. e. the result is  $x^{2^n}$ . We need to show that it is true for  $n + 1$ . Indeed,

$$(x^{2^n})^2 = x^{2^n \cdot 2} = x^{2^{n+1}}.$$

*Answer:* The result after  $n$  operations is  $x^{2^n}$ .

□