

Problem Description (taken from assignment details):

This problem is based on the “Apollo and Diana” maze problem (from “MAD MAZES: Intriguing Mind Twisters for Puzzle Buffs, Game Nuts and Other Smart People” by Robert Abbott). The text of the problem is quoted below. A diagram of the maze appears on the next page.

Apollo, god of the sun, stole a set of arrows from his sister Diana, goddess of the moon. When Diana caught him shooting moonbeams instead of sunbeams, she was furious! She cast a mighty curse, and all his arrows fell around him in a terrible maze. That maze is shown here. Apollo’s sunbeams are the red arrows; Diana’s moonbeams are the blue arrows.

Diana spoke to Apollo: “You will remain here in this field of arrows until you solve this puzzle. You must find a route from the red arrow at the upper left to the bull’s-eye at the lower right. The first red arrow points to two blue arrows. Choose either of those blue arrows and move to it. You are now on a blue arrow that points to one or more red arrows. Choose one of those red arrows. and move to it. Continue in this fashion, alternating between red and blue arrows. If you are truly wise you will arrive at an arrow that points to the bull’s eye. You may then proceed to the bull’s eye and escape from the maze. It’s far more likely, though, that you will wander into a loop and find yourself going around endlessly. If that happens, you can admit that you are lost, go back to the red arrow at the upper left, and start the puzzle over again.”

So, how can Apollo find his way to the bull’s eye (without getting stuck in too many loops)?



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