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Playing 20 Questions with an Unreliable Friend

by IEEEXtreme

Problem Submissions Leaderboard Discussions Editorial

Since there are ten balloons, and each balloon can be one of three colors, it is possible to consider all 3^{10} possible configurations within the time limits provided. One approach to this problem, then, would be to go run each of the possible configurations through the list of questions. If the answers to the questions given the candidate configuration differ from answers given in the test case by the number of lies told, then the candidate configuration is feasible. After finding all feasible configurations, one could determine the possible colors for each balloon across all configurations.

Statistics Difficulty: Hard Publish Date: Jun 23 2016

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